

# Tropical Birding Tours

## *Costa Rica: Photo Tour*



King Vulture - Photo by guide Ben Knoot

## Tour Guide: Ben Knoot

The photos in this report were photographed by guide Ben Knoot unless otherwise stated.

**\*Note: While this tour was operating, our Costa Rican driver wanted to learn photography so I lent him my camera for a majority of the tour and so a lot of these photos will be from the guests. This is not standard on TB tours and is not to be expected.**

## *Tour Introduction*

Costa Rica truly one of a kind destination for bird and wildlife photographers. It is not only an excellent introduction to tropical bird photography but it is one of those countries you can repeatedly revisit and photograph new and beautiful species each time. This photo tour is an excellent combination of the Atlantic and Pacific Slopes as well as a combination of high and low elevations. In this report you will find summaries of our day-to-day activities, a few highlight photos from that day and of course, fun anecdotes from the guests, the guide and our overall experience while in this epic country. There were many excellent birds seen and photographed on this trip, but eventually the group was able to narrow down a list of their **TOP FIVE** and even a **TOP BIRD** of the trip.

## *Top Five Birds*

1. Resplendent Quetzal
2. Golden-browed Chlorophonia
3. King Vulture
4. Turquoise-browed Motmot
5. American Pygmy Kingfisher

## *Top Three Photographic Opportunities*

1. Resplendent Quetzal at Nest
2. King Vulture Hide
3. Golden-browed Chlorophonia feeding in a Berry Bush

*Bird of the Trip*



Resplendent Quetzal - Photo by guest Michel



*Itinerary*

February 15th.....	Arrival in San Jose
February 16th.....	Frog Heaven/Dave n’ Dave’s
February 17th.....	Cope’s Garden/Selva Verde
February 18th.....	Macaws/Cinchona/Bosque Paz
February 19th.....	Bosque Paz/Laguna del Lagarto
February 20th.....	Laguna del Lagarto
February 21st.....	Laguna Lagarto/Sen. Bogarin
February 22nd.....	Rancho Humo/Mata Redondo
February 23rd.....	San Joaquin/Ensenada/Lagoon
February 24th.....	Tarcoles River/Orotina Hotspots
February 25th.....	Cerro/Carara NP/Tolomuco
February 26th.....	Paraiso Quetzal
February 27th.....	Paraiso Quetzal/Sevegre/Batsu
February 28th.....	Sevegre/Bougainvillea
February 29th.....	Departures

## *Tour Summary*

### *Day 1 (February 15th)*

The tour began this evening with our introduction dinner. The dinner started with a terrific surprise when while at dinner, one of the guests showed me a photo she had taken that afternoon of a **White-eared Ground Sparrow**. This is a terrific bird and she really nailed the shot! We had a lovely dinner at Hotel Bougainvillea and went to bed eager to start our tour the next morning.



White-eared Ground Sparrow - Photo by guest Chantal

### *Day 2 (February 16th)*

On our first day, we left for Sarapiquí for our first activity of the tour; **Frog Heaven**. We were a bit worried as the entire drive was conducted in the rain but remarkably, as soon as we arrived on location the rain ceased and we were able to have a great photo session with seven species of frog; **Crowned Tree Frog, Splendid Leaf Frog, Flying Leaf Frog, Broad-headed Litter Frog, Red-eyed Tree Frog, Green and Black Poison Frog** and the iconic **Strawberry Poison Frog**.



Splendid Leaf Frog - Photo by guest Frederic



Splendid Leaf Frog - Photo by guest Frederic



Broad-headed Litter Frog - Photo by guide Ben Knott

Red-eyed Tree Frog - Photo by guide Ben Knott



Green-and-Black Poison Frog - Photo by guide  
Ben Knott



Crowned Tree Frog - Photo by guide Ben Knoot



Strawberry Poison Frog - Photo by guide Ben Knoot

We then went for a lovely lunch where the group was introduced to one of Costa Rica's great treats, the "Batidos" - local, fresh fruit juice. The group was awestruck with the freshness of their pineapple juice. Just before lunch arrived, a guest came and excitedly showed me a photo she had taken near the bathrooms. She quickly named her bird "the bathroom warbler" which was actually a **Buff-rumped Warbler** but the name stuck, so for the rest of the trip, it was dubbed "bathroom warbler".





Buff-rumped Warbler - Photo by guest Chantal

After lunch, we quickly checked into our hotel and then traveled 20-seconds down the road to our afternoon photography destination; *Dave & Dave's Nature Pavilion*. Here we witnessed a plethora of hummingbirds including; **Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer**, **White-necked Jacobin**, **Rufous-tailed Hummingbird**, **Scaly-breasted Hummingbird** and **Crowned Woodnymph**. There were also some epic tanagers like **Scarlet-rumped**, **Golden-hooded** and **Palm**. We were also treated to **Green Honeycreeper**, **Montezuma Oropendola**, **Chestnut-headed Oropendola** and **Olive-backed Euphonia** and even the iconic **Yellow-throated Toucan**. Towards the end of our time, we had an awesome photo shoot with a **Cocoa Woodcreeper**. We ended our evening in the stunning Sarapiquí Rainforest Lodge with a few Piña Coladas and a terrific meal.



Cocoa Woodcreeper - Photo by guide Ben Knoot

### *Day 3 (February 17th)*

Every mornings on this tour are essential and extremely rewarding but this morning is certainly a very special one that usually tops list of photographic locations. We visited the yard of ***Cope Arte***. This tiny yard in the heart of a small pueblo attracts a plethora of birds and some incredible birds to say the least. Birds like; **White-tipped Sicklebill, Orange-chinned Parakeet, Chestnut-headed Oropendola, Crimson-collared Tanager, Red-legged Honeycreeper, Pale-vented Pigeon, Wood Thrush and White-collared Manakin** were all present and readily photographable.



White-tipped Sicklebill - Photo by guide Ben Knoot

After a few great hours photographing birds at the feeders and even a fantastic view of a **Brown-throated Three Toed Sloth** shimmying down tree, we left to check out some of **Cope's Local Hotspots**. We trekked through a small patch of jungle and found; **Spectacled Owl, Black-throated Trogon, Ochre-bellied Flycatcher, Crested Owl, Long-billed Hermit, Great Potoo and Streak-headed Woodcreeper**. These areas are personal hotspots of Cope and those who work for him so out of respect, they will be kept as general locations. After this brilliant walk we ventured over to **Selva Verde Lodge** where we relaxed for a few minutes with a cup of coffee. We then took a walk on one of Selva Verde's excellent trails. We were able to locate; **Slaty-tailed Trogon, Red-throated Ant Tanager, Grey-capped Flycatcher, Smoky-brown Woodpecker and Rufous-tailed Jacamar**. On our way back to the hotel we had an excellent photo session with a **Roadside Hawk** in some absolutely gorgeous golden light. We then returned to our excellent hotel for the evening.



Roadside Hawk - Photo by guide Ben Knoot

#### *Day 4 (February 18th)*

We left this morning a bit early so we could get to our next location right as it opened. We visit a **Scarlet and Great Green Macaw sanctuary** to practice our birds in flight skills. We ran into some unfortunately rain early on so I improvised and took us for a bit of a walk around the grounds, hoping the rain would stop shortly. On our walk, we had some great success and found; **Great Potoo, Green Ibis, Common Tody Flycatcher and a wonderfully cooperative Gartered Trogon**. The rain then halted and we were able to photograph the stunning Scarlet Macaws and left feeling quite satisfied with our in flight photographs.



Gartered Trogon - Photo by guest Michel



Scarlet Macaw - Photo by guide Ben Knot

We then traveled to one of my favorite places along HWY 126, *Cinchona Mirador*. This local soda is not only an excellent place to take in a staggering view of Cascada Cinchona, have a delicious lunch, but also, to enjoy the feeders which are actually terrific for birds. Birds that can be tricky to photograph elsewhere are so easily photographed here. Birds like; **Northern Emerald Toucanet, Buff-fronted Quail Dove, Crimson-collared Tanager, Silver-throated Tanager, Red-headed Barbet, Summer Tanager and Baltimore Orioles** were available at the fruit feeders and birds like; **Coppery-headed Emerald, Green-crowned Brilliant, Black-bellied Hummingbird, Violet Sabrewing and Green Hermit** were buzzing around the feeders as we ate and soaked in the majesty of this beautiful place.



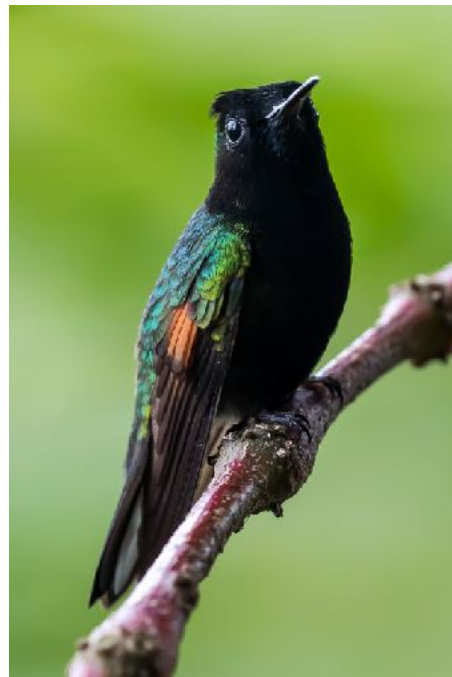
Prong-billed Barbet - Photo by guest Chantal



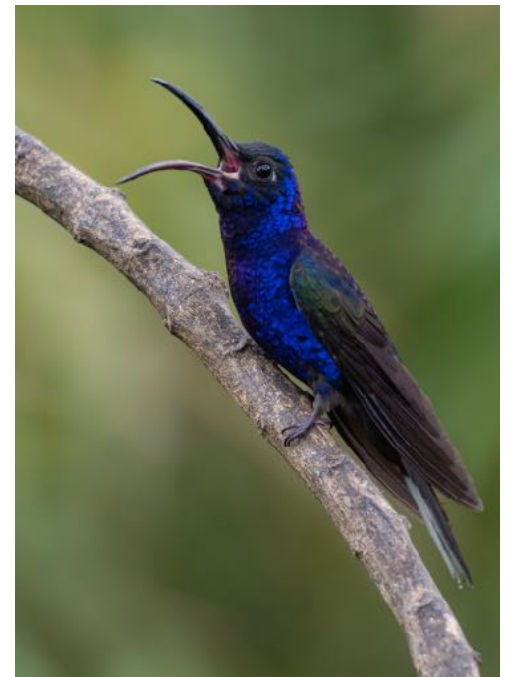
Northern Emerald Toucanet - Photo by guest Johanne



Red-headed Barbet - Photo by guest Wendy



Black-bellied Hummingbird - Photo by guest Wendy



Violet Sabrewing - Photo by guide Ben Knot

After lunch, we traveled back down *HWY 126* for a very specific and special little bird, the **Bat Falcon**. After some excellent views and photos of this ferocious little hunter, we moved on towards our overnight halt in *Bosque de Paz*. We arrived just in time for an hour or so of photography. We found **Orange-bellied Trogon, Purple-throated Mountain Gem and Black Guan**. As the wind picked up, the bird activity died down so we called it a day and had a delicious dinner and went to bed.



Bat Falcon - Photo by guide Ben Knoot



Black Guan - Photo by guest Chantal



Orange-bellied Trogon - Photo by guest Michel



Purple-throated Mountain Gem - Photo by guest Michel



***Day 5 (February 19th)***

For this morning in *Bosque de Paz*, we focused on photographing hummingbirds before breakfast. We worked again on **Black-bellied and Purple-throated Mountain Gem**. The staff at this lodge are amazing and we really enjoyed our time here and with them. We then ventured to one of my favorite photographic locations for this entire tour, *Laguna del Lagarto*. We arrived in time for lunch and the afternoon wave of bird activity. We were able to photograph a nesting pair of **Red-lored Parrots**, and **Masked Tityra**. It then began to pour down with rain which for our purposes worked out brilliantly when several **Yellow-throated and Keel-billed Toucan** visited the feeders. Not only did the rain increase bird activity but it also really cooled down the ambient temperature. **Red-legged Honeycreeper, Golden-hooded Tanager, Plain-colored Tanager and Montezuma Oropendola** were all numerous.



Red-lored Parrot - Photo by guide Ben Knoot



Keel-billed Toucan - Photo by guide Ben Knoot

We had a fantastic introductory afternoon to this wonderful place but we were far from finished. We like to have two full days in this location. One afternoon which we had just finished and then a full day to follow. This allows us to maximize our results in a relatively short time period. We took a quick walk around to try and find some owls but only managed to find Maria, one of the local **Spectacled Caiman**. We then settled in for the evening.

### *Day 6 (February 20th)*

Today was our full day in *Laguna del Lagarto* and we pack it full of fun activities. The first activity was the iconic King Vulture hide. Here we sat and watched over 14 **King Vultures**, **Crested Caracara's** and of course, the **Black Vulture** feast on a selection of pig and cow meat. And we had a fun treat just outside of the hide as three enormous **Great Green Macaws** landed in trees above us.



King Vulture - Photo by guide Ben Knot

The rest of the afternoon was spent photographing from the photo deck with the incredible highlight of a **Central American Pygmy Owl**. Occasionally, this bird will nest in the palm trunks just across from the restaurant. If you are lucky enough to be there when it's nesting, there are excellent photo opportunities. We were a bit early as it had just started checking out the site but we still managed some great pictures of this rare owl.



Hognose PitViper (female) - Photo by guide Ben Knoot



Fer-de-Lance - Photo by guide Ben Knoot



Satiny Parrot Snake - Photo by guide Ben Knoot



Eyelash Pitviper - Photo by guide Ben Knoot



Clouded Snail Eater - Photo by guest Wendy

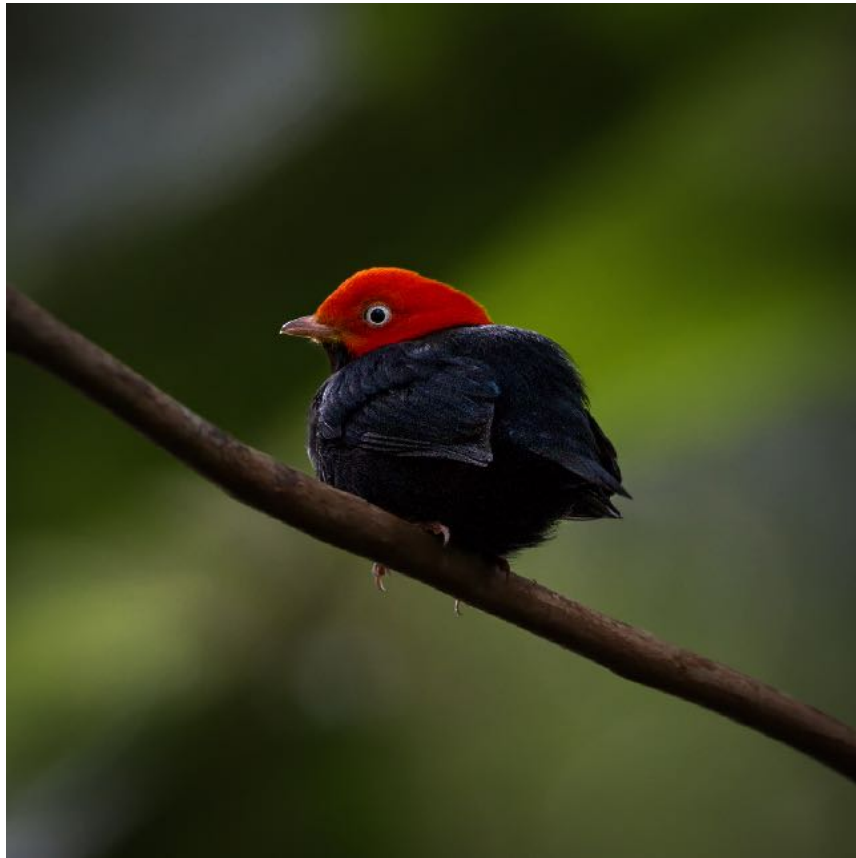


Eyelash Pitviper - Photo by guide Ben Knoot

After a terrific lunch, we left for the managers house for some snake photography. Some were more photogenic than others on this day but we were able to photograph nine species of snake (all from a safe distance); **Eyelash Pitviper (yellow and green)**, **Annulated Tree Boa**, **Hognose Pitviper**, **Satiny Parrot Snake**, **Clouded Snail Eater**, **Fer-de-Lance** and **Boa Constrictor** (above). After a few hours we called it an evening. We had another excellent dinner and a good nights rest in preparation for the next morning.

### ***Day 7 (February 21st)***

Today the morning in **Laguna del Lagarto** was spent on a muddy trail, where yes, I fell on my butt, looking for lekking **Red-capped Manakin**. Happily, we were able to find two lekking males and were able to get some decent photos of them before we needed to return to the lodge for our departure.



Red-capped Manakin - Photo by guest Michel

We left Laguna Lagarto for a fabulous little feeder set-up in the town of La Fortuna. When we arrived in **Sendero Bogarin**, I was met with a confusing state of mind as all of the perches had been taken down. A conversation with the owner revealed that they had been taken down because the owners and the managers were receiving too many photographers and were not happy with the crowded conditions of their deck. As this is an excellent photographic destination, that

answer surprised me but never the less we set-off along the trails hoping to find some of the birds that don't visit the feeding area. Along with the rain and light wind, we ran into; **Black-and-White Owl**, **Gray-cowled Wood-rail**, **Rufous-tailed Jacamar**, **Barred Antshrike**, **Keel-billed Motmot**, **Broad-billed Motmot** and a **Golden-winged Warbler**. After a nice walk, we left for *Rancho Humo*, a beautiful ranch for the evening.



Barred Antshrike - Photo by guest Frederic



Gray-cowled Wood-rail - Photo by guest Johanne



Rufous-tailed Jacamar - Photo by guide Ben Knoot



Black-and-White Owl - Photo by guest Johanne

*Day 8 (November 22nd)*

We awoke in the golden glow of the Pacific, eager to take our wetland safari tour. The conditions in the field were dry but we did find some neat birds. From the bumpy dirt road and our off-road, double-decker jeep we spotted; **Spot-breasted Oriole**, **Streak-backed Oriole**, **Turquoise-Browed Motmot**, **Jabiru**, **Bare-throated Tiger Heron**, **Least Bittern**, **Mangrove Cuckoo** and by far the stars of the morning, a beautiful pair of **Laughing Falcon**.



Turquoise-browed Motmot - Photo by guide Ben Knoot



Laughing Falcon - Photo by guest Michel

Streak-backed Oriole - Photo by guest Michel



After a lovely lunch and bit of rest during the heat of the afternoon, we went out for our afternoon river boat tour. It is always great to be out on a river and having some nice birds like; **Cattle Egret, Ringed Kingfisher, Spotted Sandpiper, Anhinga, Neotropic Cormorant, Little Blue Heron, Zone-tailed Hawk** and a roosting **Lesser Nighthawk** and loads of **Green Iguana** makes the experience all the better.



Ringed Kingfisher - Photo by guest Michel



Lesser Nighthawk - Photo by guest Frederic

We had ourselves another fantastic dinner and then hit the sack, eager for another great day to follow.

### ***Day 9 (February 23rd)***

Before our departure we did a bit of photography around the grounds of **Rancho Humo**. We were able to get some photos of **Pacific Owl**, more **Turquoise-browed Motmot** and **Double-striped Thick-Knee**. We then drove towards our next destination, **Finca (farm) San Joaquin**. This was a brand new site we were trying out to replace an old site. We saw many of the same birds and were able to get photos of similar quality so that's excellent news for the new location. The birds we were able to add were; **Black-headed Trogon, Rose-throated Becard** and **Ferruginous Pygmy Owl**.



Rose-throated Becard - Photo by guest Frederic



Black-headed Trogon - Photo by guest Johanne

By the time the sweltering heat became too much for the local birds, and if we're honest, for us as well, we left San Joaquin to make our lunch appointment in *Enseñada*. We enjoy coastal views while we feasted on a delicious fish meal and the company of three **White-throated Magpie Jay**.



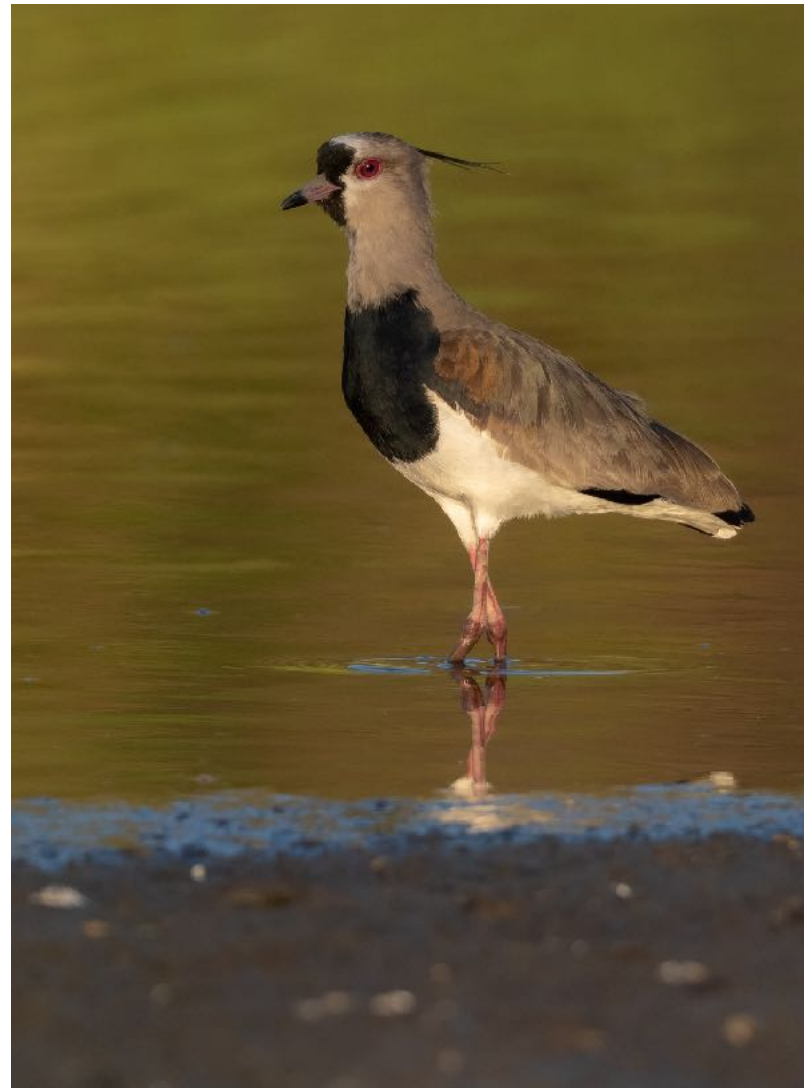
White-throated Magpie Jay - Photo by guest Michel



We took a quick afternoon walk around the grounds and found; **Semi-palmated Sandpiper**, **Mangrove Vireo** and **Royal Tern**. As the light began to sweeten we went to our photography location for the afternoon, a nearby lagoon. We visited the lagoon in the late afternoon, perfect for the golden light and were able to photograph; **Roseate Spoonbill**, **Southern Lapwing**, **Black-necked Stilt**, **Stilt Sandpiper**, **Great Egret**, **Blue-winged Teal**, **Common Black Hawk** and **Wood Stork**. We also had some lovely looks at some of the more massive **American Crocodiles**.



Wood Stork - Photo by guide Ben Knoot



Southern Lapwing - Photo by guide Ben Knoot

**Day 10 (February 24th)**

We had a nice and early breakfast at *Enseñada* before heading off for our second boat tour of the trip. We arrived at our boat with a few minutes to grab a quick coffee and then off we went! The *Tarcóles River Cruise* is always excellent but this trip had one particular highlight, or should I say NINE?! That's right, our group was able to find nine **American Pygmy Kingfisher**. According to the boat captain, that was a record sighting. We were also able to see and photograph; **Plumbeous Kite, Common Black Hawk, Green Heron, Scarlet Macaw, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, White Ibis, Green Kingfisher, Ringed Kingfisher and Mangrove Swallow.**

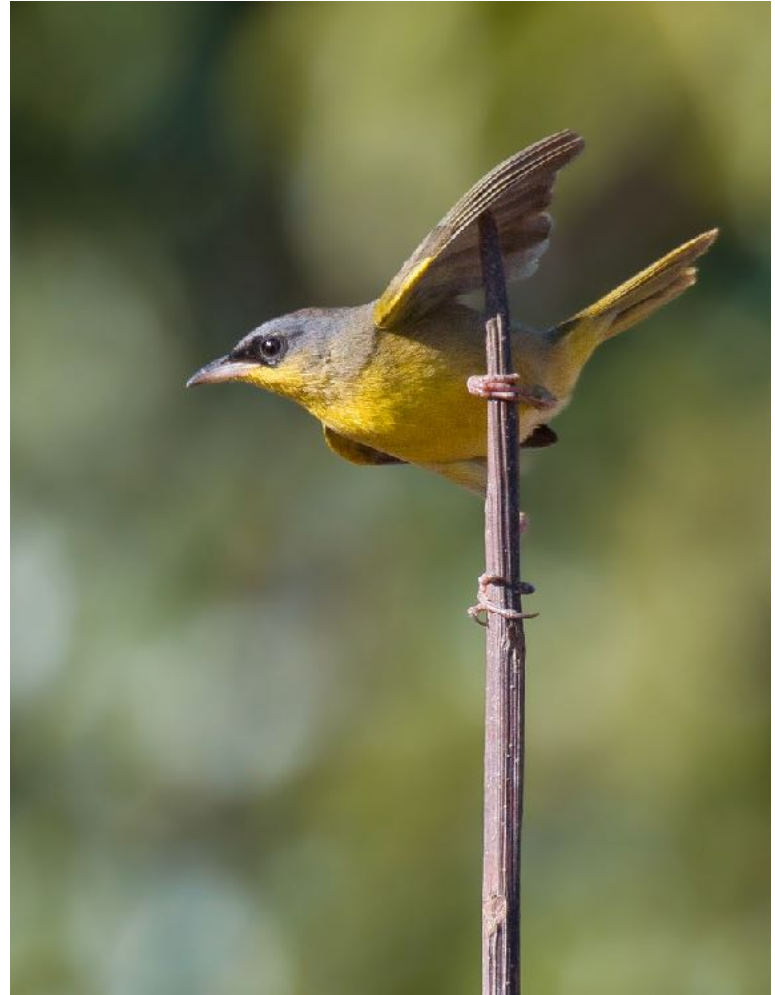


American Pygmy Kingfisher - Photo by guest Wendy

We then went into *Orotina* to photograph at a local photographers favorite hotspots. For his privacy and to respect his spots, they will kept as "*Orotina Hotspots*". The hotspots gave us photo opportunities at a few difficult species like; **Pearl Kite, Black-headed Trogon and Gray-crowned Yellowthroat.**



Pearl Kite - Photo by guide Ben Knoot



Gray-crowned Yellowthroat - Photo by guest Chantal

We then returned to our accommodations for the night, the lovely, recently renovated ***Cerro Lodge***. We settled in and enjoyed a fantastic sunset while macaws, caracara's and parrots flew around looking for their nightly roost.

### ***Day11 (February 25th)***

Today we had ourselves a bit of walk around ***Cerro Lodge***. The entire group agreed they'd really like to get a nice photograph of the Yellow-headed Caracaras that were flying around the previous night. I lead the troop up a hill to a very impressive overlook and there, with a stunning view of the pacific, we were able to photograph a perched and even a flying **Yellow-headed Caracara**.



Yellow-headed Caracara - Photo by guide Ben Knoot

Another great location just minutes away from *Cerro Lodge* is one of Costa Rica's most special national parks, *Carara*. This is an excellent birding destination, not a first choice for photographers but I thought I would give it a try considering this group very much enjoyed walking and trying their luck at field photography. Our efforts were rewarded just a few minutes in with a **Northern Tamandua**! A first for me personally, this small ant-eater type animal was a real treat, but we continued on to see what other treasures we could find. In about 2-miles we located some great birds like **White-whiskered Puffbird**, **Plain Xenops**, **Dot-winged Antwren**, **Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser** and another **Buff-rumped Warbler**. We heard one of the more familiar sounds of the jungle, a Streaked-chested Antpitta. We tried for thirty minutes or so to coax out the skulking creature from its hiding place and we could almost imagine it coming out onto this lovely moss covered log. It inched closer and closer but just as we started to get excited, it completely stopped calling. Unfortunately, we had to abandon this endeavor and continue down the trail. Photography was tough in the forest but we were able to have an awesome photoshoot with a **Riverside Wren** towards the end of our walk.



Northern Tamandua - Photo by guide Ben Knoot



Riverside Wren - Photo by guest Frederic

After this fantastic walk *Carara NP*, I took the group to *Bosque Tolomuco*. We came here for one bird in particular, the **White-crested Coquette**. Three minutes of waiting and we spotted the male, only to have our joy be ripped away by a ruthless **Rufous-tailed Hummingbird** that chased our target away. We assumed the coquette would return promptly but 3.5 hours later and still without another sighting, we had to move on. Other birds seen at this fantastic garden were; **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, **Violet Sabrewing**, **Snowy-bellied Hummingbird**, **Scintillant Hummingbird**, **White-throated Mountain-gem**, **White-tailed Emerald**, **Magenta-throated Woodstar**, **Tennessee Warbler**, **Ruddy Pigeon**, **Paltry Tyrannulet** and **Silver-throated Tanager**.



White-tailed Emerald - Photo by guest Johanne



Rose-breasted Grosbeak - Photo by guest Michel

On the way up to our next accommodation, I decided to stop at the top of *Cerro del Muerte*, a hill high in the Costa Rican Paramo. Here we found our main target, the endemic **Volcano Junco**.



Volcano Junco - Photo by guest Wendy

We checked into our accommodations, *Paraiso Quetzal* for the evening.

### *Day 12 (February 26th)*

It is very hard to pick a favorite location for this tour and for this country. However, I have to say, *Paraiso Quetzal* is probably at the top of my list. The lodge grounds sit at 2700 meters hidden in the cloud forest and with a view from the top of their tower that is absolutely insane. The view, lodge grounds and staff are absolutely amazing but of course so are the birds. This is the home of the highland specialty birds like the Resplendent Quetzal, Golden-browed Chlorophonia, Fiery-throated Hummingbird and the Long-tailed Silky Flycatcher. So this is how we started our day in this fabulous place...

We awoke very early to meet our guide Oscar for the famous Quetzal Tour. We ventured to several of the farms that have nesting pairs of **Resplendent Quetzal**. The nesting pair was not very active so we traveled to another farm where we were treated with five individual quetzals flying around eating fruit.



Resplendent Quetzal - Photo by guide Ben Knoot

We returned to the lodge to enjoy a nice breakfast and then to continue our time in *Paraiso Quetzal*. I gave everyone some free time to explore the grounds while I set-up our Multi-Flash photo session. Here I set-up tripods, flowers and conduct a two and a half hour photography session with the local hummingbird species. These include; **Volcano Hummingbird**, **Fiery-throated Hummingbird**, **Talamanca Hummingbird** and **Lesser Violetear**. And just as the sun started its golden hour run, two **Golden-browed Chlorophonia** were spotted in their favorite berry bush. We spent a few minutes photographing this iconic and vibrant species.



Multi-Flash Setup - Photo by guest Wendy



Golden-browed Chlorophonia - Photo by guest Johanne

### *Day 13 (February 27th)*

Today I reserved our time in the morning for a walk around the grounds of *Paraiso Quetzal*. And boy oh boy did we have an excellent time...we were able to find; **Black-faced Solitaire**, **Black-and-Yellow Silky Flycatcher**, **Blue-and-white Swallow**, **Golden-browed Chlorophonia**, **Black-capped Flycatcher** and the usual birds like, **Rufous-collared Sparrow**, **Band-tailed Pigeon**, **Acorn Woodpecker**, **Clay-colored**, **Mountain** and **Sooty Thrush**. We walked the road before our breakfast reservation and were rewarded with even more epic birds like; **Collared Redstart**, **Tufted Flycatcher**, **Resplendent Quetzal**, **Gray-breasted Woodwren**, **Buffy Tuftedcheek** and **Mountain Elaenia**.





Collared Redstart - Photo by guest Michel



Black-and-Yellow Silky Flycatcher - Photo by guest Johanne



Long-tailed Silky Flycatcher - Photo by guest Johanne

After a lovely morning, we enjoyed a nice breakfast in Paraiso before visiting *Sevegre Grounds* for more field photography. We saw; **Spot-crowned Woodcreeper**, **Spangled-cheeked Tanager**, **Ruddy-capped Nightingale Thrush**, **Ochreaceous Wren**, **Yellowish Flycatcher** and a stunning male **Resplendent Quetzal**.

We enjoyed a spectacular lunch in Sevegre and then made our way to our next photographic mecca, *Batsu Gardens*. This place truly is a little paradise for photographers. The feeders are perfectly positioned and the perches are always beautifully prepared and fresh thanks to the excellent manager of the gardens. Here we were able to photograph a variety of birds including; **Volcano Hummingbird**, **Spotted Wood Quail**, **Stripe-tailed Hummingbird**, **Acorn Woodpecker**, **Flame-colored Tanager**, **Tennessee Warbler**, **Silver-throated Tanager**, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, **Yellow-thighed Finch**, **Chestnut-capped Brushfinch**, **Large-footed Finch**, **Talamanca Hummingbird**, **Scintillant Hummingbird**, **White-throated Mountain Gem**, **Sooty-capped Chlorospingus**, **Slaty Flowerpiercer** and **White-naped Brushfinch**.



Stripe-tailed Hummingbird - Photo by guest Wendy



Volcano Hummingbird - Photo by guest Frederic



Spotted Wood Quail - Photo by guide Ben Knoot

### *Day 14 (February 28th)*

Today was our last full day of activity. We began with a small walk around our lovely *Savegre Hotel*. We didn't find any new birds this morning but did enjoy the lovely forest once more before breakfast in the restaurant. We then attempted a daunting task of spotting a tough, skulky bird, the Buff-crowned Wood Partridge. Our location for this stakeout is the home of our ground agent, Mr. Arias. He just so happens to also make a delicious lunch he calls "sweaty chicken". It was indeed fantastic but unfortunately, we were skunked out on the wood partridge but did see a fantastic **Chestnut-capped Brushfinch**.



Chestnut-capped Brushfinch - Photo by guest Ben Knoot

We continued on and arrived at our starting point, *Hotel Bougainvillea*. We spent a very windy afternoon walking the gardens but unfortunately, the wind proved too much so we saw very little. We enjoyed a fantastic last dinner, compiled our final list and said our goodbyes.

***Day 15 (February 29th)***

Departures from *Hotel Bougainvillea*.

## Species Account

\*Seen - We saw this species but from the guides perspective, it was not a good photo opportunity

\*Photographed - This species was photographed with a good opportunity according to the guide

Species	Seen	Photographed
<b>Birds</b>		
<i>Ducks, Geese and Waterfowl</i>		
Black-bellied Whistling Duck		
Muscovy Duck		
Blue-winged Teal		
<i>Guan, Chachalaca and Curassow</i>		
Gray-headed Chachalaca		
Crested Guan		
Black Guan		
Great Curassow		
<i>New World Quail</i>		
Spotted Wood Quail		
<i>Storks</i>		
Wood Stork		
<i>Frigatebirds</i>		
Magnificent Frigatebird		
<i>Cormorants and Shags</i>		
Neotropic Cormorant		
<i>Pelicans</i>		
Brown Pelican		
<i>Heron, Egrets and Bitterns</i>		
Bare-throated Tiger Heron		
Great Blue Heron		

Species	Seen	Photographed
Great Egret		
Snowy Egret		
Little Blue Heron		
Tricolored Heron		
Cattle Egret		
Green Heron		
Black-crowned Night Heron		
Yellow-crowned Night Heron		
Boat-billed Heron		
<i>Ibises and Spoonbills</i>		
White Ibis		
Green Ibis		
Roseate Spoonbill		
<i>New World Vultures</i>		
Black Vulture		
Turkey Vulture		
King Vulture		
<i>Osprey</i>		
Osprey		
<i>Hawks, Eagles and Kites</i>		
Swallow-tailed Kite		
Pearl Kite		
Plumbeous Kite		
Common Black Hawk		
Snail Kite		
Swainson's Hawk		
Roadside Hawk		

Species	Seen	Photographed
Harris's Hawk	Yes	No
Gray Hawk	Yes	No
Broad-winged Hawk	Yes	No
Short-tailed Hawk	Yes	No
Zone-tailed Hawk	Yes	No
Red-tailed Hawk	Yes	No
<i>Rails, Gallinules and Coots</i>	No	No
Rufous-naped Wood Rail	No	Yes
<i>Limpkin</i>	No	No
Limpkin	No	Yes
<i>Thick-Knees</i>	No	No
Double-striped Thick-Knee	Yes	No
<i>Stilts and Avocets</i>	No	No
Black-necked Stilt	No	Yes
<i>Plovers and Lapwings</i>	No	No
Semi-palmated Plover	No	Yes
Southern Lapwing	No	Yes
<i>Jacanas</i>	No	No
Northern Jacana	No	Yes
<i>Sandpipers and Allies</i>	No	No
Spotted Sandpiper	No	Yes
Solitary Sandpiper	Yes	No
Lesser Yellowlegs	Yes	No
Whimbrel	No	Yes
Ruddy Turnstone	Yes	No
Sanderling	Yes	No
Least Sandpiper	Yes	No

Species	Seen	Photographed
Semi-palmated Sandpiper		
Western Sandpiper		
<i>Gulls, Terns and Skimmers</i>		
Laughing Gull		
Royal Tern		
<i>Pigeons and Doves</i>		
Rock Pigeon		
Pale-vented Pigeon		
Red-billed Pigeon		
Band-tailed Pigeon		
Inca Dove		
Common Ground Dove		
Ruddy Ground Dove		
White-tipped Dove		
Buff-fronted Quail Dove		
White-winged Dove		
<i>Cuckoos</i>		
Squirrel Cuckoo		
Mangrove Cuckoo		
Lesser Ground Cuckoo		
Groove-billed Ani		
<i>Owls</i>		
Pacific Screech Owl		
Crested Owl		
Spectacled Owl		
Central American Pygmy Owl		
Ferruginous Pygmy Owl		



Species	Seen	Photographed
Black and White Owl		
<i>Nightjars and Allies</i>		
Lesser Nighthawk		
<i>Potoos</i>		
Great Potoo		
<i>Swifts</i>		
White-collared Swift		
<i>Hummingbirds</i>		
White-necked Jacobin		
Green Hermit		
Long-billed Hermit		
Stripe-throated Hermit		
Lesser Violetear		
Great-breasted Mango		
Green Thorntail		
Green-crowned Brilliant		
White-crested Coquette		
Talamanca Hummingbird		
Fiery-throated Hummingbird		
Purple-throated Mountain-gem		
White-throated Mountain-gem		
Magenta-throated Woodstar		
Ruby-throated Hummingbird		
Volcano Hummingbird		
Scintillant Hummingbird		
Scaly-breasted Hummingbird		
Violet Sabrewing		

Species	Seen	Photographed
Bronze-tailed Plumateer		
White-tipped Sicklebill		
Crowned Woodnymph		
Snowy-bellied Hummingbird		
Stripe-tailed Hummingbird		
White-tailed Emerald		
Coppery-headed Emerald		
Blue-chested Hummingbird		
Black-bellied Hummingbird		
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird		
Cinnamon Hummingbird		
<i>Trogons</i>		
Resplendent Quetzal		
Slaty-tailed Trogon		
Black-headed Trogon		
Black-throated Trogon		
Gartered Trogon		
Orange-bellied Trogon		
<i>Motmots</i>		
Lesson's Motmot		
Broad-billed Motmot		
Keel-billed Motmot		
Turquoise-browed Motmot		
<i>Kingfishers</i>		
Ringed Kingfisher		
Belted Kingfisher		
Amazon Kingfisher		

Species	Seen	Photographed
Green Kingfisher		
American Pygmy Kingfisher		
<i>Puffbirds</i>		
White-whiskered Puffbird		
<i>Jacamars</i>		
Rufous-tailed Jacamar		
<i>New World Barbets</i>		
Red-headed Barbet		
<i>Toucan Barbets</i>		
Prong-billed Barbet		
<i>Toucans</i>		
Northern Emerald Toucanet		
Collared Aracari		
Yellow-throated Toucan		
Keel-billed Toucan		
<i>Woodpeckers</i>		
Acorn Woodpecker		
Black-cheeked Woodpecker		
Hoffmann's Woodpecker		
Smoky-brown Woodpecker		
Hairy Woodpecker		
Lineated Woodpecker		
Pale-billed Woodpecker		
<i>Falcons and Caracaras</i>		
Crested Caracara		
Yellow-headed Caracara		
Laughing Falcon		

Species	Seen	Photographed
Merlin	Yes	No
Bat Falcon	No	Yes
<i>New World &amp; African Parrots</i>	No	No
Orange-chinned Parakeet	No	Yes
Brown-hooded Parrot	No	Yes
White-crowned Parrot	Yes	No
Red-lored Parrot	No	Yes
Yellow-naped Parrot	No	Yes
White-fronted Parrot	No	Yes
Olive-throated Parakeet	No	Yes
Orange-fronted Parakeet	No	Yes
Great Green Macaw	No	Yes
Scarlet Macaw	No	Yes
Crimson-fronted Parakeet	Yes	No
<i>Typical Antbirds</i>	No	No
Barred Antshrike	No	Yes
Dot-winged Antwren	Yes	No
<i>Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers</i>	No	No
Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser	Yes	No
Plain-brown Woodcreeper	No	Yes
Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	No	Yes
Northern Barred Woodcreeper	No	Yes
Cocoa Woodcreeper	No	Yes
Streak-headed Woodcreeper	No	Yes
Spot-crowned Woodcreeper	No	Yes
Plain Xenops	Yes	No
Buffy-tuftedcheek	No	Yes

Species	Seen	Photographed
<i>Tyrant Flycatchers</i>		
Mountain Elaenia		
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher		
Mistletoe (Paltry) Tyrannulet		
Common Tody Flycatcher		
Tropical Pewee		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher		
Yellowish Flycatcher		
Black-capped Flycatcher		
Black Phoebe		
Tufted Flycatcher		
Dusky-capped Flycatcher		
Brown-crested Flycatcher		
Great Kiskadee		
Boat-billed Flycatcher		
Social Flycatcher		
Gray-capped Flycatcher		
Streaked Flycatcher		
Tropical Kingbird		
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher		
<i>Manakins</i>		
White-collared Manakin		
Red-capped Manakin		
<i>Tityras and Allies</i>		
Masked Tityra		
Cinnamon Becard		
Rose-throated Becard		

Species	Seen	Photographed
<i>Vireos, Shrike-Babblers and Erpornis</i>		
Mangrove Vireo		
Yellow-throated Vireo		
Philadelphia Vireo		
<i>Crows, Jays and Magpies</i>		
White-throated Magpie Jay		
<i>Swallows</i>		
Blue-and-white Swallows		
Northern Rough-winged Swallow		
Gray-breasted Martin		
Mangrove Swallow		
Barn Swallow		
<i>Wrens</i>		
House Wren		
Ochraceous Wren		
Rufous-naped Wren		
Riverside Wren		
Gray-breasted Wood Wren		
<i>Gnatcatchers</i>		
White-lored Gnatcatcher		
<i>Thrushes and Allies</i>		
Black-faced Solitaire		
Black-billed Nightingale Thrush		
Ruddy-capped Nightingale Thrush		
Wood Thrush		
Sooty Thrush		
Mountain Thrush		

Species	Seen	Photographed
Clay-colored Thrush		
<i>Silky-Flycatchers</i>		
Black and Yellow Silky-Flycatcher		
Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher		
<i>New World Warblers</i>		
Louisiana Waterthrush		
Prothonotary Warbler		
Flame-throated Warbler		
Tennessee Warbler		
Gray-crowned Yellowthroat		
Yellow Warbler		
Bay-breasted Warbler		
Blackburnian Warbler		
Chestnut-sided Warbler		
Black-throated Green Warbler		
Buff-rumped Warbler		
Wilson's Warbler		
Slate-throated Redstart		
Collared Redstart		
<i>Tanagers and Allies</i>		
White-lined Tanager		
Crimson-collared Tanager		
Scarlet-rumped Tanager		
Blue-gray Tanager		
Palm Tanager		
Golden-hooded Tanager		
Spangled-cheeked Tanager		

Species	Seen	Photographed
Plain-colored Tanager		
Silver-throated Tanager		
Shining Honeycreeper		
Red-legged Honeycreeper		
Green Honeycreeper		
Slaty Flowerpiercer		
Thick-billed Seed-Finch		
Variable Seedeater		
Morrelett's Seedeater		
Bananaquit		
Yellow-faced Grassquit		
Buff-throated Saltator		
Black-headed Saltator		
<i>Buntings and New World Sparrows</i>		
Sooty-capped Chlorospingus		
Common Chlorospingus		
Stripe-headed Sparrow		
Orange-billed Sparrow		
Chestnut-capped Brushfinch		
Rufous-collared Sparrow		
Volcano Junco		
Large-footed Finch		
Yellow-thighed Finch		
White-naped Brushfinch		
<i>Cardinals and Allies</i>		
Summer Tanager		
Western Tanager		



Species	Seen	Photographed
Flame-colored Tanager		
Red-throated Ant Tanager		
Rose-breasted Grosbeak		
Indigo Bunting		
<i>Troupials and Allies</i>		
Red-winged Blackbird		
Eastern Meadowlark		
Melodious Blackbird		
Great-tailed Grackle		
Bronzed Cowbird		
Black-cowled Oriole		
Streak-backed Oriole		
Spot-breasted Oriole		
Baltimore Oriole		
Chestnut-headed Oropendola		
Montezuma Oropendola		
<i>Finches, Euphonias and Allies</i>		
Yellow-throated Euphonia		
Olive-backed Euphonia		
Golden-browed Chlorophonia		
Lesser Goldfinch		
Yellow-bellied Siskin		
<i>Old World Sparrows</i>		
House Sparrow		
<b>Mammals/Other Fauna</b>		
Northern Tamandua		
Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth		

Species	Seen	Photographed
Honduran White Bat		
Sackwing Bat		
White-throated Round-eared Bat		
White-throated Capuchin		
Mantled Howler Monkey		
Red-tailed Squirrel		
Variegated Squirrel		
White-nosed Coati		
Central American Agouti		
Paca		
Collared Peccary		
Flying Leaf Frog		
Red-eyed Tree Frog		
Masked Treefrog		
Green and Black Poison Frog		
Strawberry Poison Frog		
Common (Plumed) Basilisk		
Spinytail Iguana		
Green Iguana		
Common House Gecko		
Boa Constrictor		
Eyelash Viper		
Rainforest Hognosed Pitviper		
Spectacled Caiman		
American Crocodile		
Common Blue Morpho		

*Guests Top 5*



