

Tropical Birding Tours

Costa Rica: Photo Tour



Tour Guide: Ben Knoot

The photos in this report were captured by both the guide and the guests. Please view the photo captions for details. The day-to-day write-up isn't all inclusive but rather highlights from the day. Trip report written by **Ben Knoot**.

Tour Introduction

Ah...Costa Rica...for bird photographers, this is one of the best countries in central America. The country is packed with stupendous animals, amazing scenery and the most lovely people. This tour is truly a comprehensive tour of Costa Rica that aims to photograph not just the big names like Keel-billed Toucan, Resplendent Quetzal and a host of hummingbirds but is truly designed to capture a breadth of Costa Rican species.

We begin this tour in the capital city, San Jose. Our first section of the tour takes places in the north which can be described in many ways but I am sure if you were to ask the guests, they'd describe it as, "Tropical, beautiful, full of birds but hot, humid and...hot!" We spent the first week or so in the dense jungles visiting a variety of feeding stations, set-ups for frogs and snakes, and walking various trail systems to find some absolutely epic birds like the iconic Keel-billed Toucan, and fascinating creatures like Red-eyed Tree Frog.

As we began moving west towards the Pacific, the bird life began to change drastically. We spent a wonderful morning in the hills looking for and eventually photographing the unique Three-wattled Bellbird before moving towards Volcán Tenorio. Much cooler, a bit breezy and consistently rainy was a nice change of pace for many in the group. Our main target here was the stunning Snowcap which we found and photographed well. After this transitional zone, we moved completely into the Pacific region, the second to last zone of the tour.

The Pacific region is divided into two main locations for this tour, La Ensenada and Tárcoles. Here the drier (but still hot!) forests were packed with new species. The biggest target of this zone is the Turquoise-browed Motmot which we found and photographed numerous times. The Pacific is a fun zone to photograph in mainly because it is quite open so finding and getting the birds to perch and pose nicely is typically easier than in the tropical lowlands. After a few days of the dry Pacific we were all in need of some cooler weather and of course, more birds!

After a 3hr or so drive, we made it to our last section of the tour, the Talamanca Highlands. This is one of the most beautiful, relaxing and possibly my favorite zone of the entire tour. The cloud forests just south of San Jose are packed with special birds. None more so than the iconic Resplendent Quetzal. We spend a few days here to soak in the cool temps, incredible views and wonderful birds. Fourteen days, loads of habitats, wonderful food, great people and of course, epic birds!

The tour was a resounding success in my opinion. The group was amazing. Kind hearted people who genuinely loved birds and experiencing new things, just what Costa Rica is willing to provide. I also would like to thank all of the local guides, the incredible staff and people we dealt with and of course, our amazing Costa Rican driver who for 2-weeks took us all over the country, recommended amazing lunch stops and of course provided me with any necessary translations and help. A truly amazing team effort which laid the ground work for this incredible tour.



Itinerary

- February 18th.....Arrival in Costa Rica
- February 19th.....San Jose to Laguna del Lagarto via Cinchona Mirador
- February 20th.....Laguna del Lagarto
- February 21st.....Laguna del Lagarto
- February 22nd.....Laguna del Lagarto to Sarapiquí
- February 23rd.....Sarapiquí Area
- February 24th.....Sarapiquí to La Fortuna
- February 25th.....San Ramon to Hacienda la Pacifica
- February 26th.....Volcán Tenorio
- February 27th.....Hacienda la Pacifica to La Ensenada
- February 28th.....La Ensenada to Tárcoles (Villa Lapas)
- March 1st.....Tárcoles River Cruise/Orotina Hotspots (local guide)
- March 2nd.....Tárcoles (Villa Lapas) to Talamanca Highlands
- March 3rd.....Talamanca Highlands
- March 4th.....Talamanca Highlands to San Jose
- March 5th.....Guest Departures

Tour Summary

Day 1: February 18th - (Arrival in Costa Rica - Short walk around hotel grounds)

The tour officially started during the evening with dinner but since everyone had gotten in so early, I asked if they'd like to spend an hour or so walking around the hotel grounds to see what we could photograph. The afternoon wasn't overly productive as it was incredibly windy and sunny but we did see: **Rufous-naped Wren, Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, Clay-colored Thrush, Social Flycatcher, Lineated Woodpecker, Blue-gray Tanager, Great Kiskadee, Cinnamon Hummingbird, White-winged Dove, Inca Dove and Red-billed Pigeon**. No great photos this afternoon, time for a nice dinner and a good nights rest for tomorrow, we begin...!

Day 2: February 19th - (San Jose to Laguna del Lagarto via Cinchona Mirador)

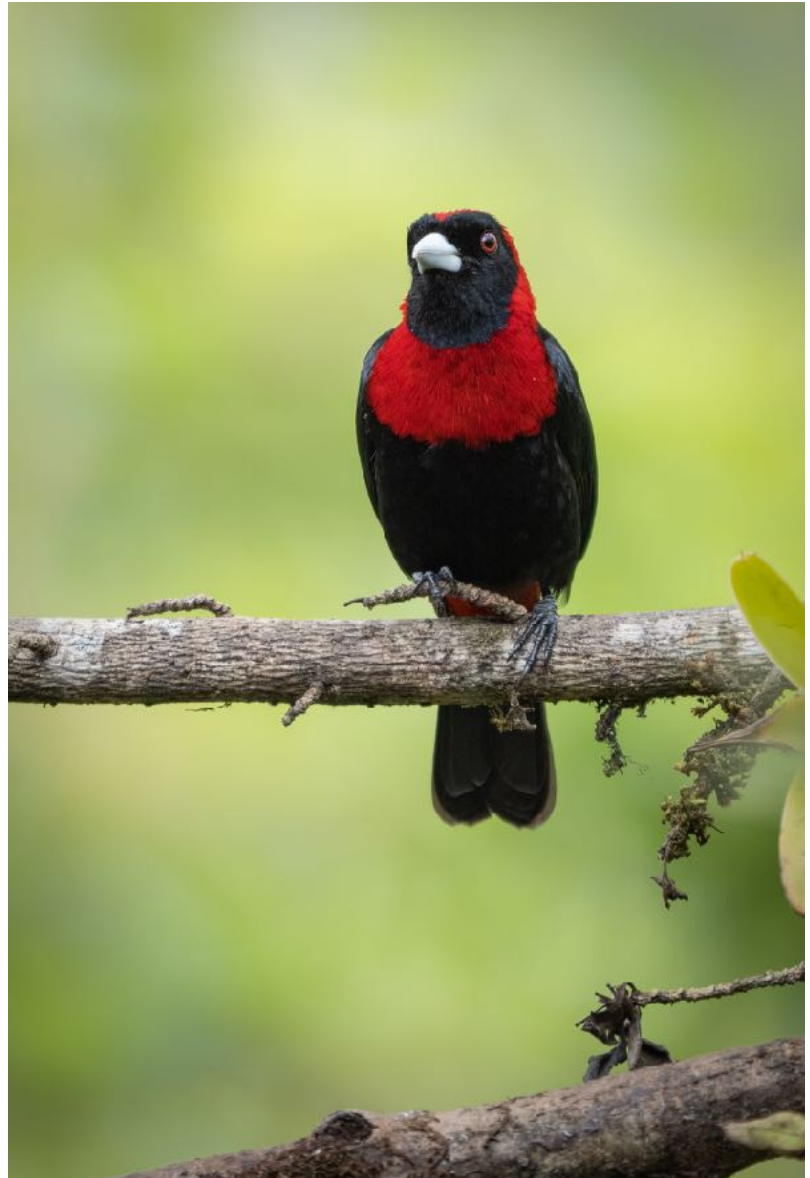
We began with a quick walk around the grounds that didn't yield much in the way of new birds, but did grant us a decent photo shoot with two singing **Rufous-naped Wrens**. Onward to our first stop of the morning, **Soda y Mirador Cinchona**. This wonderful little hole in the wall restaurant also feeds some really cool birds like; **Northern Emerald Toucanet, Crimson-collared Tanager, Prong-billed Barbet, Buff-throated Saltator, Red-legged Honeycreeper** and most of the common tanagers. They also have a few hummingbirds, chiefly; **Green-crowned Brilliant** and **Violet Sabrewing**. After a wonderful local lunch, we continued towards our next spot. Just a few minutes into the drive, I spotted two of the local **Bat Falcons** hanging out together during a light rain shower. We continued our long drive and arrived at **Laguna del Lagarto** where we'd spend the next three nights soaking up the local bird, amphibian and reptile life this tropical lowland habitat has to offer.



Northern Emerald Toucanet - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



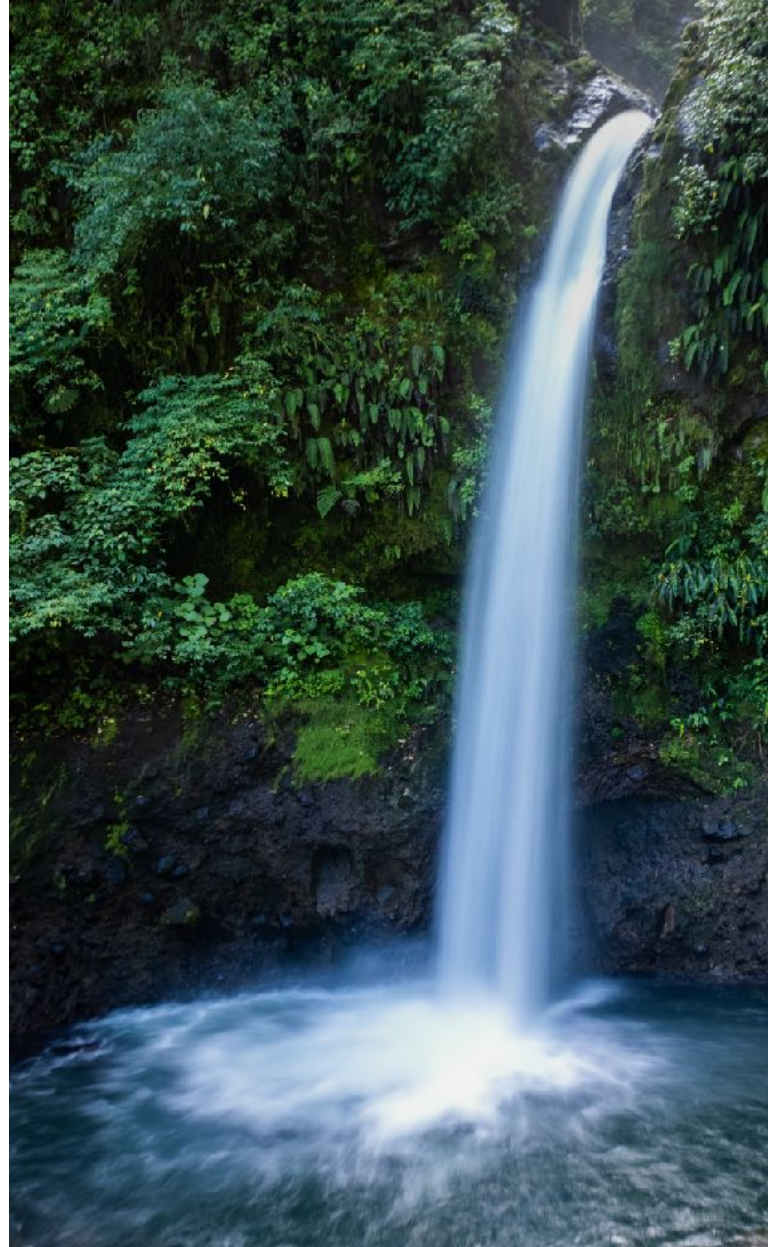
Prong-billed Barbet - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Crimson-collared Tanager - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Bat Falcon - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Cinchona Cascade - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot

Days 3 & 4: February 20th/21st - (Laguna del Lagarto Area)

The next two full days were spent enjoying the famous fruit feeders, snake and frog set-ups, milt-flash set-up for hummingbirds, the King Vulture hide and the grounds of this cool eco-lodge. Highlight birds included; **Keel-billed and Yellow-throated Toucan, Collared Aracari, Brown-hooded, Red-lored and White-crowned Parrot, Cinnamon Becard, Green Honeycreeper, Black-cheeked Woodpecker, Great Currasow, Summer Tanager, Golden-hooded Tanager, Olive-backed Euhponia, Great Green Macaw, King Vulture, Crested Caracara, Pale-billed Woodpecker, White-necked Jacobin, Green-breasted Mango, Gartered Trogon, Streak-headed and Plain-brown Woodcreeper, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Masked and Black-crowned Tityra, Black-cowled Oriole, Common Pauraque, Melodius Blackbird, Crimson-fronted Parakeet, Ringed Kingfisher, Squirrel Cuckoo and Dusky-capped Flycatcher.**

Whew! It really is a fantastic location...and those are just the highlights, there were plenty of more birds seen and photographed. We also did some studio photography with some frogs; **Strawberry Poison Dart Frog, Black-and-green Poison Dart Frog and Red-eyed Tree Frog.**



Keel-billed Toucan - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Crimson-fronted Parakeet - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Red-lore Parrot - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



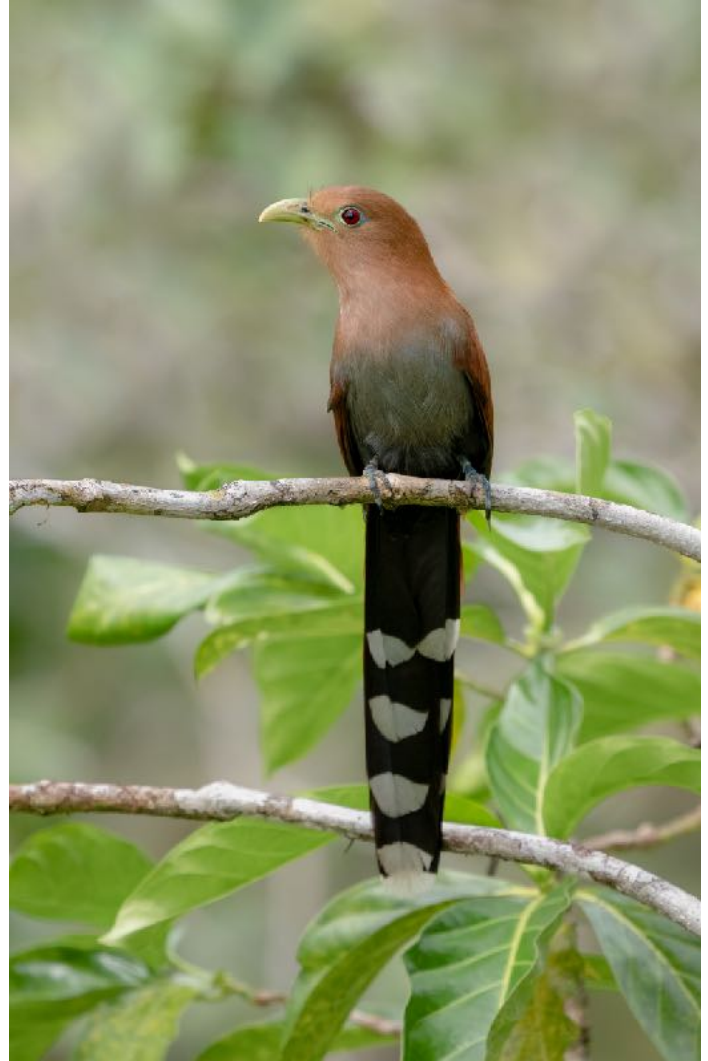
Black-crowned Tityra - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



White-crowned Parrot - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Ringed Kingfisher - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Squirrel Cuckoo - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



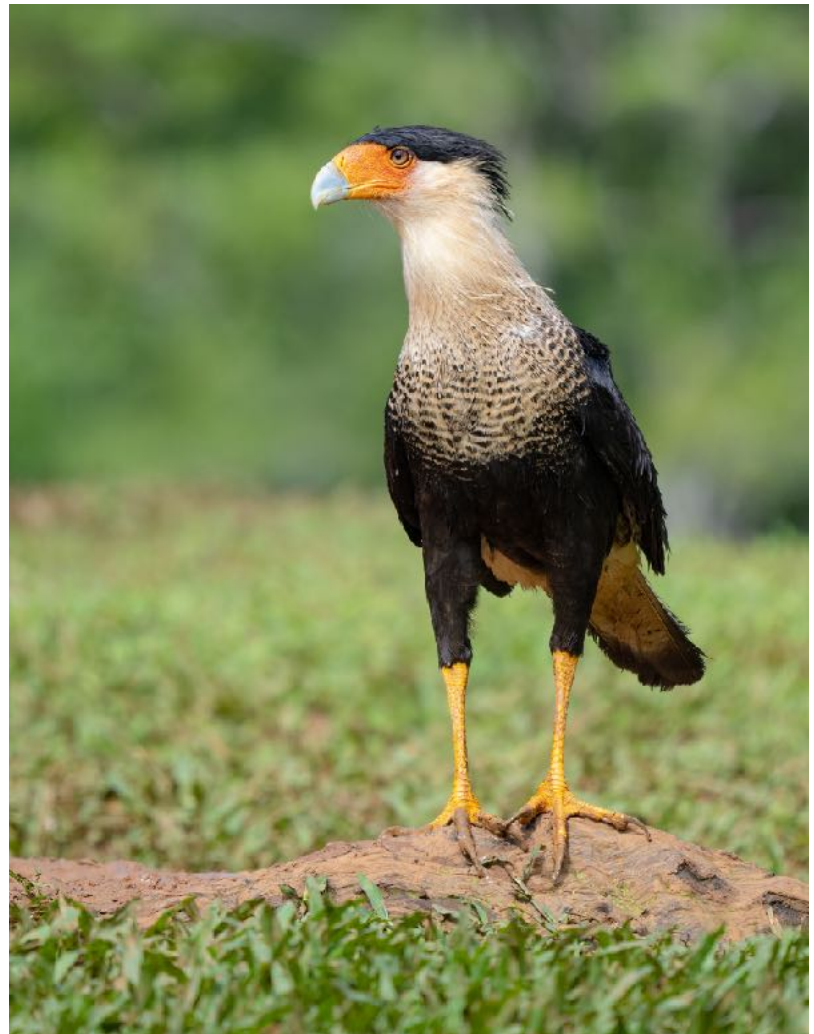
Dusky-capped Flycatcher - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Rufous-tailed Hummingbird - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Black-cowled Oriole - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Crested Caracara - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Brown-hooded Parrot - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Golden-hooded Tanager - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Pale-billed Woodpecker - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Gartered Trogon - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot

Day 5: February 22nd - (Laguna del Lagarto to Sarapiquí)

We spent one last morning at [Laguna del Lagarto](#) and then hit the road for our hotel in Sarapiquí. On the grounds of [La Quinta de Sarapiquí](#) we photographed; [Yellow-bellied Elaenia](#), [Common Tody Flycatcher](#), [Piratic Flycatcher](#) and the big surprise to me, a near eye-level [Purple-crowned Fairy](#). If you know this bird, you know why that is surprising and if you don't, it doesn't typically sit eye level and usually feeds on canopy flowers so to have one just 10ft off the ground was pretty special! After another great day, we called it an evening.



Purple-crowned Fairy - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



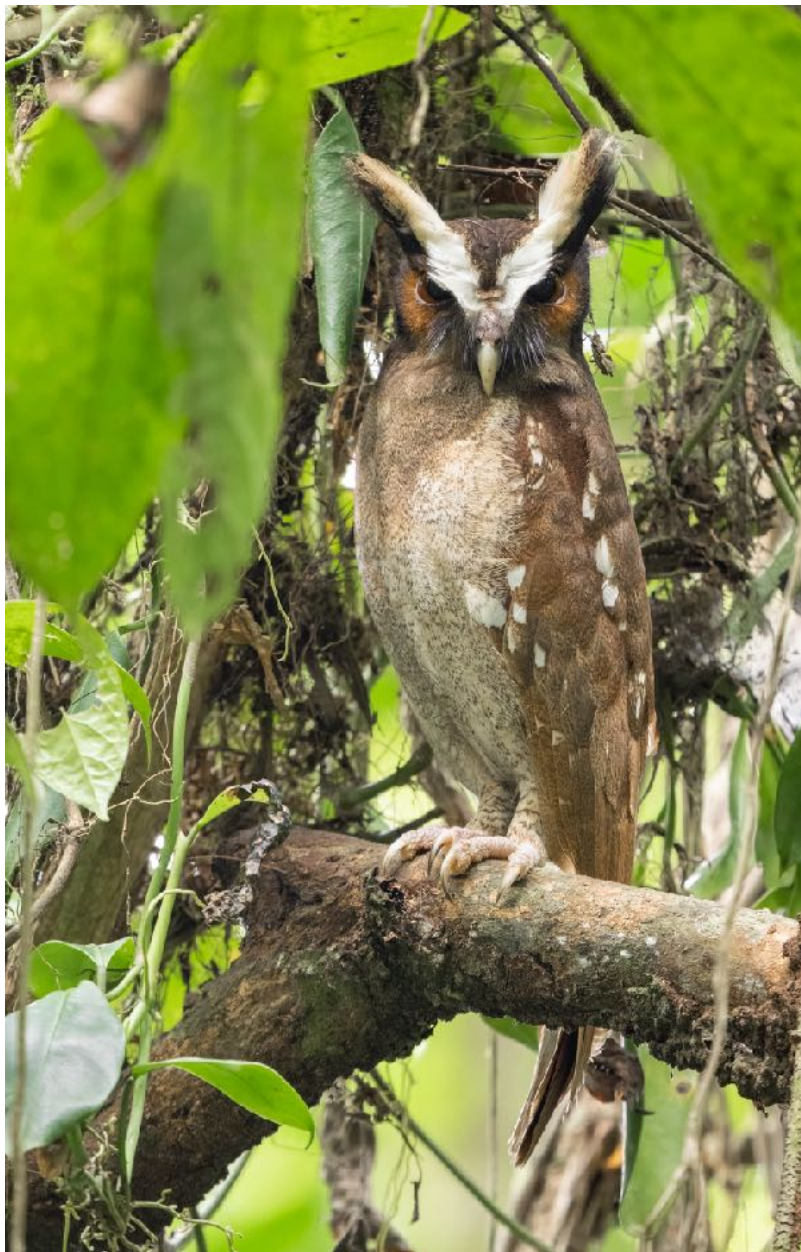
Yellow-bellied Elaenia - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Common Tody Flycatcher - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot

Days 6: February 23rd - (Sarapiquí Area/Donde Cope/Local Hotspots)

We spent the day with one of the premier local guides; Cope. His house “Donde Cope” is a serious hotspot for bird photography. His small pond and banana feeders attract a variety of birds like; **Snowy Egret**, **Pale-vented Pigeon**, **Crimson-rumped Tanager**, **Red-legged Honeycreeper**, and by far everyone’s favorite, the **Russet-naped Wood-Rail**. He also attracts a variety of hummingbirds like; **Long-billed Hermit**, **Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer** and the tricky **White-tipped Sicklebill** which unfortunately didn’t pose well for anyone to photograph this time. We also spent some time out in the field with Cope. He took us to his local patch and showed us; **Crested** and **Spectacled Owl**, **Great Potoo**, **Scarlet-rumped Cacique** and the adorable **Honduran White Tent Bat**.



Crested Owl - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Honduran White Tent Bat - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot

After a very fun morning, we returned to the hotel and we didn't add many new photographs except for a very feisty **Bananaquit**. We grabbed a delicious dinner and hit the hay for a good nights rest.



Bananaquit - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot

Day 7: February 24th - (Sarapiquí to La Fortuna)

The morning was spent walking around [La Quinta de Sarapiquí](#). Not much was photographed except [Streak-headed Woodcreeper](#), [Mistletoe Tyrannulet](#) and [Bright-rumped Attila](#).



Bright-rumped Attila - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Mistletoe Tyrannulet - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Streak-headed Woodcreeper - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot

We then moved on to [Frogs Heaven](#). Here we photographed the adorable little [Blue-jeans Poison Dart Frog](#), [Black-and-green Poison Dart Frog](#) and [Red-eyed Tree Frog](#) as studio set-ups. They now do snakes here too which was a treat! We added; [Side-striped Palm Pit-Viper](#), [Undulated Boa](#) and [Eyelash Pit-Viper](#) to our growing list of species. When we were done with the set-ups we went for a quick walk on their trail system to see a lekking [White-collared Manakin](#). He wasn't performing all that much but we were able to get some nice perched photos of him between him dashing around his territory.



Side-striped Palm Pit-Viper - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Black-and-Green Poison Dart Frog - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Red-eyed Tree Frog - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Red-eyed Tree Frog - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot

The afternoon was spent walking around [Sendero Bogarin](#). This is typically a fantastic spot with loads of birds and terrific photographic opportunities. We were met with several rain showers which lowered our photographic abilities but we did manage; **Orange-chinned Parakeet**, **Rufous-tailed Jacamar**, **Gray-headed Chachalaca**, **Black-headed Saltator** and **Red-legged Honeyeater**. We also saw a sleeping **Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth**. The light faded super quick as dark rain clouds rolled in so we called it a day and went back to the hotel for some chow. We got an early night as tomorrow was our date with the bellbird and an exceptionally early departure hour.



Orange-chinned Parakeet - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Rufous-tailed Jacamar - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Black-headed Saltator - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot

Day 8: February 25th - Three-wattled Bellbird/Canopy San Luis to Hacienda la Pacifica

What a morning! We met our guide Rodrigo and before we head out for the morning, we spent about 30min photographing at his feeders. We added the stupendous; **White-eared Ground Sparrow** and **Yellow-faced Grassquit** to our list. We also saw, **Slate-throated Redstart**, **Wilson's Warbler**, **Golden-winged Warbler** our first of many **Tennessee Warblers**. Then, it was time...



White-eared Ground Sparrow - Photo by Guide: Ben Knot



Yellow-faced Grassquit - Photo by Guide: Ben Knot



Golden-olive Woodpecker - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot

After navigating to where Rodrigo hoped we would see our target we picked our spots and began the wait. We started hearing the unique ring from far up the hill. Excitement grew as the sounds got closer, indicating the bird was moving towards the next perch. During our wait, Rodrigo pulled in a stunning **Golden-olive Woodpecker** for those interested. After about an hour and a half of shifting clouds, blazing sun, chilly winds we were finally rewarded. The clouds shifted, covered the sun (crucial to photograph this bird) and the low clouds faded...it was perfect! Ladies and gentleman, the **Three-wattled Bellbird**...



Three-wattled Bellbird - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot

We then visited [Canopy San Luis](#) for a little feeder photography. Most of the birds we'd seen before but we added [Emerald Tanager](#) and folks had another shot at [Crimson-collared Tanager](#), [Black-cheeked Woodpecker](#), [Silver-throated Tanager](#). We also saw a totally wild [Eyelash Pit-Viper](#)! After a lovely morning, we journeyed toward the pacific. Upon arrival in [Hacienda la Pacifica](#), we were met with much dryer but still incredibly hot forests. It was also incredibly windy so we didn't have much luck on the grounds. Mainly common birds like; [Rufous-naped Wren](#), [Ferruginous Pygmy Owl](#), [Social Flycatcher](#) and [Orange-fronted Parakeets](#). We also ran into many [Central American Agouti](#). We called it quits and went to bed, eager for our next day!



Double-striped Thick-Knee - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot

Day 9: February 26th - Volcán Tenorio

We left as early as possible this day for our hour long drive to Volcán Tenorio. On the way we scored with a [Double-striped Thick-knee](#). We have one target for this morning and then one or maybe two main targets for the afternoon. I am ecstatic to report that we absolutely crushed our morning target, the magnificent [Snowcap](#). We had several great encounters with the male at [El Tapir Nature Valley Reserve](#). Through the pouring rain, and stunning scenery we waited and waited. Some folks getting some great feeding shots while others getting some great perched images. Just look at this beauty! We also took advantage of the reserves feeders and photographed, [Yellow-throated Euphonia](#), [Great Kiskadee](#), [Collared Aracari](#), [Yellow-throated Toucan](#), [White-nosed Coati](#), and while we were waiting for the Snowcap a troop of [White-faced Capuchin](#) made an appearance to feast on the nature fruits during a light rain shower. A really cool experience in this place!



Snowcap - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



White-faced Capuchin - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Collared Aracari - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot

After a nice lunch, we visited our last location on Volcán Tenorio, [Bird Songs Garden](#). Here we had two targets, both again were hummingbirds. The first and should have been the easier of the two, the Blue-throated Golden-tail, unfortunately never made an appearance. The second was the stunning **Black-crested Coquette**. That did make one brief appearance but I think weather and timing played a critical role for why we didn't see more of this stunning hummingbird. The operator of the garden thought the bird might have been nesting in the forest and the consistent heavy rains were keeping the activity in the garden down. But anyway, it was another amazing day but it was time to head back to the hotel.

We spent the late afternoon and evening walking around [Hacienda la Pacifica](#) and added [Streak-backed Oriole](#), [White-throated Magpie-Jay](#), [Northern Jacana](#), [Ferruginous Pygmy Owl](#) and [Common Pauraque](#) to our growing list of species.



Streak-backed Oriole - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



White-throated Magpie Jay - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Ferruginous Pygmy Owl - Photo by Guide: Ben Knot



Common Pauraque - Photo by Guide: Ben Knot

Day 10: February 27th - Hacienda la Pacifica to La Ensenada

After another quick walk around [Hacienda la Pacifica](#), adding more of the same species including a pretty decent shoot with a **Black-headed Trogon and Rufous-naped Wren**, we continued west towards the Pacific Ocean. We arrived!! [La Ensenada](#) lodge lies just a hundred yards or so from the beautiful Pacific Ocean. Here, dry species specialists reign supreme. After lunch at the lodge and a quick rest, we set out for the afternoon. Highlights from the afternoon and the next morning included; **Boat-billed Flycatcher, Turquoise-browed Motmot, Groove-billed Ani, Orange-fronted Parakeet, White-necked Puffbird, White-tipped Dove, Pacific Screech Owl, White-throated Magpie Jay, Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, Black-headed Trogon** and the incredibly noisy and ever present **Mantled Howler Monkey**.



Black-headed Trogon - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Rufous-naped Wren - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



White-necked Puffbird - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Turquoise-browed Motmot - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



White-throated Magpie Jay - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Groove-billed Ani - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Pacific Screech Owl - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



White-tipped Dove - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Boat-billed Flycatcher - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Parrot Snake with Frog Kill - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot

Day 11: February 28th - La Ensenada to Tárcoles

Another great morning around [La Ensenada](#) for more of the same species and then we took to the road and after an amazing seafood lunch arrived at our next hotel in the Tárcoles region, [Villa Lapas](#). Here the Cicadas were so noisy that I could barely hear myself think but we had an amazing experience watching a [Parrot Snake \(Above\)](#) hunt, catch and then consume a poor little frog. Epic wildlife encounter! The guests also managed to photograph; [Black-hooded Antshrike](#), [Dusky Antbird](#), [Royal Flycatcher](#) and [White-whiskered Puffbird](#). The next morning is one of my favorites so we got an early night.



Royal Flycatcher - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



White-whiskered Puffbird - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot

Day 12: March 1st - Tárcoles River Cruise and Orotina Hotspots

The [Tárcoles River](#) cruise is one of my favorite activities of this whole tour. Our 3hr morning river cruise took us down the mangroves and main river for some terrific photographic opportunities like; [Amazon](#), [Ringed](#), [Belted](#) and [Green Kingfisher](#), [Common Black Hawk](#), [Yellow-headed Caracara](#), [Bare-throated Tiger-Heron](#), [Whimbrel](#), [Royal Tern](#), [Magnificent Frigatebird](#), [Osprey](#), [Brown Pelican](#), [Yellow-crowned Night-Heron](#), [Mangrove Swallow](#), [Neotropic Cormorant](#), [Spotted Sandpiper](#), [Green Heron](#), [Yellow \(Mangrove\) Warbler](#), [Southern Lapwing](#), [Turkey Vulture](#), [Roseate Spoonbill](#), [Little Blue Heron](#), and [Salt Water Crocodile](#). We saw a lot more species but those were the highlights...what a morning!



Amazon Kingfisher - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Green Kingfisher - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Bare-throated Tiger Heron - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Common Black Hawk - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Osprey - Photo by Guide: Ben Knot



Mangrove Swallow - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Yellow-crowned Night-Heron - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Neotropic Cormorant- Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Royal Tern - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot

The afternoon was spent with a local guide in [Orotina](#) by the name of Alvaro. He is an excellent guide and took us to many of his stake-outs. We had some great photo opportunities at, [Lesser Nighthawk](#), [Pacific Owl](#), [Laughing Falcon](#), [Turquoise-browed Motmot](#), [Spectacled Owl](#), [Ferruginous Pygmy Owl](#), and a wonderful [Lineated Woodpecker](#). What a wonderful way to end this fantastic day.



Lineated Woodpecker - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Laughing Falcon - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Ferruginous Pygmy Owl - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Turquoise-browed Motmot - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Pacific Screech Owl - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Spectacled Owl - Photo by Guide: Ben Knot

Day 13: March 2nd - Tárcoles to Talamanca Highlands

Another spectacular morning walk around [Villa Lapas](#) gave us; [Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher](#), [Gray-chested Dove](#), [Royal Flycatcher](#), [White-whiskered Puffbird](#), [Black-hooded Antshrike](#), and an incredible photoshoot with a fantastic little forest bird, the [Mayan Antthrush](#)...awesome!



Mayan Antthrush - Photo by Guide: Ben Knot

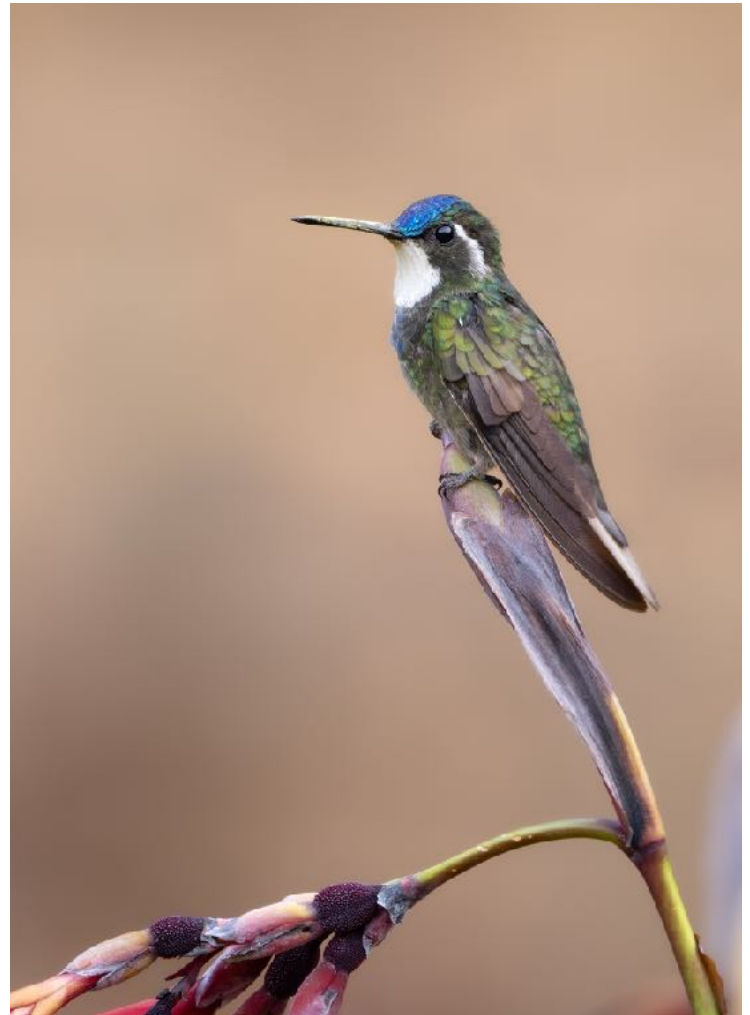


Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher - Photo by Guide: Ben Knot

A long, long drive ahead so we hit the road. We quickly checked into our accommodations in [Paraiso Quetzal](#), and after a quick lunch we drove down the valley to [Batsú Garden](#). Here we photographed; [Flame-colored Tanager](#), [Tennessee Warbler](#), [Silver-throated Tanager](#), [Chestnut-capped Brushfinch](#), [Yellow-thighed Brushfinch](#), [Large-footed Finch](#), [Rose-breasted Grosbeak](#), [Acorn Woodpecker](#), [Lesser Violetear](#), [White-throated Mountain Gem](#), [Volcano](#), [Scintillant](#), [Talamanca](#), and [Stripe-tailed Hummingbird](#). We even had a fun first encounter with a pair of [Resplendent Quetzal](#) feeding on a fruiting tree. As it was now getting pretty dark in the valley, we decided to call it an afternoon and went back up the valley and back to Paraiso Quetzal. A long slow drive out of [Savegre Valley](#) gave us a great photoshoot with a [Band-tailed Pigeon](#) for those who got out of the bus. We also saw but didn't get a chance to photograph a nice [Black Guan](#). When we arrived at our lodging in [Paraiso Quetzal](#) it was too dark for anything more that afternoon so after a nice dinner, we called it a day and prepped ourselves for the last section of this tour.



Lesser Violetear - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



White-throated Mountain Gem - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Band-tailed Pigeon - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Volcano Hummingbird - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot

Day 14 & 15: March 3rd/4th - Talamanca Highlands to San Jose and Departure

We spent the next full day and morning around the lodge of [Paraiso Quetzal](#) and on a few local farms. We saw some amazing birds and had some terrific photo opportunities. Highlights included; [Fiery-throated and Talamanca Hummingbird](#), [Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher](#), [Golden-browed Chlorophonia](#), [Flame-throated Warbler](#), [Resplendent Quetzal](#), [Yellow-thighed Finch](#), [Black-billed Nightingale Thrush](#), [Black-and-yellow Silky Flycatcher](#), [Sooty-capped Chlorospingus](#), [Collared Redstart](#) and [Slaty Flowerpiercer](#).

After our final morning, we took the long drive back to San Jose, checked into our hotel, said goodbye to our driver, had one last (and lovely) dinner together and then said our goodbyes. I would personally like to thank all of the guests on this tour...they were spectacular and I had an incredible time! See you next year Costa Rica...PURA VIDA! 🇸🇨



Collared Redstart - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Long-tailed Silky Flycatcher - Photo by Guide: Ben Knot



Flame-throated Warbler - Photo by Guide: Ben Knot



Slaty Flowerpiercer - Photo by Guide: Ben Knot



Sooty-capped Chlorospingus - Photo by Guide: Ben Knot



Resplendent Quetzal - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot

Guests Top 5 Birds of the Trip

The “Birds of Trip” for photographers is always fun because it isn’t necessarily the rarest, most colorful or out there bird...it is about the birds that they connected with and had a fun time photographing!

- 1) Three-wattled Bellbird
- 2) Resplendent Quetzal
- 3) Russet-naped Woodrail
- 4) *Two-way Tie!!
 - i. Keel-billed Toucan
 - ii. Collared Aracari
- 5) *Two-way Tie!!
 - i. Fiery-throated Hummingbird
 - ii. Great Blue Heron

Species Account

*Below is a summary of our trip.

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

*Photographed - Whether it was captured or not, there was a good photo opportunity

Summary:

- 277 Bird species seen overall
- 191 Bird species with a photographic opportunity (roughly 69% of species seen!)
- 007 Bird species seen only by the guide

Species	Seen	Photographed
Birds		
<i>Ducks, Geese and Waterfowl</i>		
Black-bellied Whistling Duck	Yes	No
Muscovy Duck	Yes	No
<i>Guans, Chachalacas and Currasows</i>		
Gray-headed Chachalaca	No	Yes
Crested Guan	No	Yes
Great Currasow	No	Yes
Buffy-crowned Wood Partridge	No	Heard Only
<i>New World Quail</i>		
Spotted Woodquail	No	Yes
Marbled Woodquail	Yes	No
<i>Storks</i>		
Wood Stork	No	Yes
<i>Frigatebirds</i>		
Magnificent Frigatebird	No	Yes
<i>Cormorants and Shags</i>		
Neotropic Cormorant	No	Yes
<i>Aningas</i>		
Anhinga	No	Yes
<i>Pelicans</i>		
Brown Pelican	No	Yes
<i>Hérons, Egrets and Bitterns</i>		

Species	Seen	Photographed
Bare-throated Tiger Heron		
Great Blue Heron		
Great Egret		
Snowy Egret		
Little Blue Heron		
Tricolored Heron		
Cattle Egret		
Green 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		
Hook-billed Kite		
Gray-headed Kite		
Plumbeous Kite		
Common Black Hawk		
Great Black Hawk		

Species	Seen	Photographed
Roadside Hawk	Yes	No
Gray Hawk	Yes	No
Broad-winged Hawk	Yes	No
Short-tailed Hawk	Yes	No
Harris's Hawk	Yes	No
<i>Rails, Gallinules and Coots</i>	No	No
Russet-naped Wood Rail	No	Yes
<i>Thick-Knees</i>	No	No
Double-striped Thick-Knee	No	Yes
<i>Stilts and Avocets</i>	No	No
Black-necked Stilt	No	Guide Only
<i>Plovers and Lapwings</i>	No	No
Collared Plover	Yes	No
Southern Lapwing	No	Yes
<i>Jacanas</i>	No	No
Northern Jacana	No	Yes
<i>Sandpipers and Allies</i>	No	No
Spotted Sandpiper	No	Yes
Whimbrel	No	Yes
Willet	No	Yes
Ruddy Turnstone	Yes	No
Sanderling	Yes	No
Least Sandpiper	Yes	No
<i>Gulls, Terns and Skimmers</i>	No	No
Royal Tern	No	Yes
<i>Pigeons and Doves</i>	No	No
Rock Pigeon	Yes	No

Species	Seen	Photographed	
Pale-vented Pigeon			
Band-tailed Pigeon			
Short-billed Pigeon			
Red-billed Pigeon			
Common Ground Dove			
Gray-chested Dove			
Inca Dove			
Ruddy Ground Dove			
White-tipped Dove			
White-winged Dove			
<i>Cuckoos</i>			
Squirrel Cuckoo			
Groove-billed Ani			
Lesser Ground Cuckoo			
<i>Owls</i>			
Pacific Screech Owl			
Crested Owl			
Ferruginous Pygmy Owl			
Central American Pygmy Owl			Guide Only
Spectacled Owl			
Black-and-white Owl			Guide Only
<i>Nightjars and Allies</i>			
Lesser Nighthawk			
Dusky Nightjar			Heard Only
Common Pauraque			
<i>Potoos</i>			
Great Potoo			

Species	Seen	Photographed
<i>Swifts</i>		
White-collared Swift	Yes	No
Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift	Yes	No
Vaux's Swift	Yes	No
<i>Hummingbirds</i>		
Green Hermit	No	Yes
Purple-crowned Fairy	No	Yes
Long-billed Hermit	No	Yes
White-necked Jacobin	No	Yes
Stripe-throated Hermit	No	Guide Only
Black-crested Coquette	No	Yes
Scaly-breasted Hummingbird	No	Yes
Green-breasted Mango	No	Yes
Lesser Violetear	No	Yes
Snowcap	No	Yes
Green-crowned Brilliant	No	Yes
Talamanca Hummingbird	No	Yes
Fiery-throated Hummingbird	No	Yes
White-throated Mountain-gem	No	Yes
Volcano Hummingbird	No	Yes
Scintillant Hummingbird	No	Yes
Violet Sabrewing	No	Yes
Bronze-tailed Plumateer	No	Yes
White-tipped Sicklebill	Yes	No
Plain-capped Starthroat	Yes	No
Canivet's Emerald	Yes	No
Crowned Woodnymph	No	Yes

Species	Seen	Photographed
Stripe-tailed Hummingbird		
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird		
Blue-chested Hummingbird		
Ruby-throated Hummingbird		
Cinnamon Hummingbird		
<i>Trogons</i>		
Resplendent Quetzal		
Slaty-tailed Trogon		
Black-headed Trogon		
Black-throated Trogon		
Gartered Trogon		
<i>Motmots</i>		
Lesson's Motmot		
Broad-billed Motmot		
Turquoise-browed Motmot		
<i>Kingfishers</i>		
Ringed Kingfisher		
Belted Kingfisher		
Amazon Kingfisher		
Green Kingfisher		
American Pygmy Kingfisher		
<i>Puffbirds</i>		
White-necked Puffbird		
White-whiskered Puffbird		
<i>Jacamars</i>		
Rufous-tailed Jacamar		
<i>Toucan Barbets</i>		

Species	Seen	Photographed
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		
Hairy Woodpecker		
Lineated Woodpecker		
Pale-billed Woodpecker		
Golden-olive Woodpecker		
<i>Falcons and Caracaras</i>		
Crested Caracara		
Yellow-headed Caracara		
Laughing Falcon		
American Kestrel		
Bat Falcon		
<i>New World & African Parrots</i>		
Orange-chinned Parakeet		
Olive-throated Parakeet		
Brown-hooded Parrot		
White-crowned Parrot		
Red-lored Parrot		
Yellow-naped Parrot		

Species	Seen	Photographed
White-fronted Parrot		
Orange-fronted Parakeet		
Great Green Macaw		
Scarlet Macaw		
Crimson-fronted Parakeet		
<i>Typical Antbirds</i>		
Barred Antshrike		
Dusky Antbird		
Black-hooded Antshrike		
Black-crowned Antshrike		
Dot-winged Antwren		
Chestnut-backed Antbird		Guide Only
<i>Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers</i>		
Plain-brown Woodcreeper		
Wedge-billed Woodcreeper		
Cocoa Woodcreeper		
Streak-headed Woodcreeper		
Spot-crowned Woodcreeper		
Ruddy Treerunner		
<i>Tyrant Flycatchers</i>		
Mountain Elaenia		
Yellow-bellied Elaenia		
Mistletoe (Paltry) Tyrannulet		
Common Tody Flycatcher		
Tropical Pewee		
Acadian Flycatcher		
Northern Bentbill		

Species	Seen	Photographed
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher		Guide Only
Yellow-olive Flycatcher	Yes	
Eye-ringed Flatbill	Yes	
Black-capped Flycatcher		Yes
Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher		Yes
Dusky-capped Flycatcher		Yes
Bright-rumped Atilla		Yes
Great Kiskadee		Yes
Boat-billed Flycatcher		Yes
Piratic Flycatcher		Yes
Social Flycatcher		Yes
Gray-capped Flycatcher		Yes
Streaked Flycatcher		Yes
Tropical Kingbird		Yes
Long-tailed Tyrant		Yes
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Yes	
Manakins		
White-collared Manakin		Yes
Tityras and Allies		
Masked Tityra		Yes
Black-crowned Tityra		Yes
Cinnamon Becard		Yes
Rose-throated Becard	Yes	
Cotingas		
Three-wattled Bellbird		Yes
Crows, Jays and Magpies		
White-throated Magpie Jay		Yes

Species	Seen	Photographed
Brown Jay	Yes	No
<i>Swallows</i>		
Blue-and-white Swallow	No	Yes
Southern Rough-winged Swallow	Yes	No
Gray-breasted Martin	Yes	No
Mangrove Swallow	No	Yes
Barn Swallow	Yes	No
<i>Wrens</i>		
House Wren	No	Yes
Rufous-naped Wren	No	Yes
Ochraceous Wren	Yes	No
Bay Wren	No	Guide Only
<i>Mockingbirds</i>		
Tropical Mockingbird	Yes	No
<i>Thrushes and Allies</i>		
Black-billed Nightingale Thrush	No	Yes
Wood Thrush	No	Yes
Sooty Thrush	No	Yes
Mountain Thrush	No	Yes
Clay-colored Thrush	No	Yes
<i>Silky-Flycatchers</i>		
Black and Yellow Silky-Flycatcher	No	Yes
Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher	No	Yes
<i>New World Warblers</i>		
Northern Waterthrush	No	Yes
Golden-winged Warbler	Yes	No
Prothonotary Warbler	Yes	No

Species	Seen	Photographed
Black-throated Green Warbler	Yes	No
Tennessee Warbler	No	Yes
Yellow Warbler	No	Yes
Yellow Warbler (Mangrove)	No	Yes
Chestnut-sided Warbler	No	Yes
Buff-rumped Warbler	Yes	No
Wilson's Warbler	Yes	No
Black-cheeked Warbler	Yes	No
American Redstart	Yes	No
Collared Redstart	No	Yes
Slate-throated Redstart	No	Yes
Flame-throated Warbler	No	Yes
<i>Tanagers and Allies</i>		
Rufous-winged Tanager	Yes	No
White-shouldered Tanager	Yes	No
Spangled-cheeked Tanager	Yes	No
Carmioli's Tanager	Yes	No
Scarlet-rumped Tanager	No	Yes
White-lined Tanager	No	Yes
Blue-gray Tanager	No	Yes
Palm Tanager	No	Yes
Golden-hooded Tanager	No	Yes
Crimson-collared Tanager	No	Yes
Emerald Tanager	No	Yes
Bay-headed Tanager	No	Yes
Plain-colored Tanager	No	Yes
Silver-throated Tanager	No	Yes

Species	Seen	Photographed
Red-legged Honeycreeper		
Shining Honeycreeper		
Green Honeycreeper		
Slaty Flowerpiercer		
Variable Seedeater		
Morelet's Seedeater		
Thick-billed Seedfinch		
Bananaquit		
Blue-black Grassquit		
Yellow-faced Grassquit		
Buff-throated Saltator		
Black-headed Saltator		
Cinnamon-bellied Saltator		
<i>Buntings and New World Sparrows</i>		
Sooty-capped Chlorospingus		
Common Chlorospingus		
Orange-billed Sparrow		
Dickcissel		
White-eared Ground Sparrow		
Chestnut-capped Brushfinch		
White-naped Brushfinch		
Rufous-collared Sparrow		
Large-footed Finch		
Yellow-thighed BrushFinch		
<i>Cardinals and Allies</i>		
Summer Tanager		
Flame-colored Tanager		

Species	Seen	Photographed
Rose-breasted Grosbeak		Yes
Slate-colored Grosbeak	Yes	Yes
Black-faced Grosbeak	Yes	
Red-throated Ant-Tanager	Yes	Yes
<i>Troupials and Allies</i>		
Eastern Meadowlark	Yes	Yes
Red-winged Blackbird	Yes	
Melodious Blackbird	Yes	Yes
Great-tailed Grackle		Yes
Black-cowled Oriole	Yes	Yes
Streak-backed Oriole		Yes
Spot-breasted Oriole	Yes	Yes
Baltimore Oriole		Yes
Scarlet-rumped Cacique	Yes	Yes
Yellow-billed Cacique		Yes
Montezuma Oropendola	Yes	Yes
<i>Euphonias</i>		
Yellow-throated Euphonia	Yes	Yes
Yellow-crowned Euphonia	Yes	
Olive-backed Euphonia	Yes	Yes
Golden-browed Chlorophonia		Yes
Yellow-bellied Siskin	Yes	Yes
<i>Old World Sparrows</i>		
House Sparrow	Yes	Yes
Mammals/Other Fauna		
Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth	Yes	Yes
Honduran White Tent Bat		Yes

Species	Seen	Photographed
White-faced Capuchin		
Mantled Howler Monkey		
Red-tailed Squirrel		
Variegated Squirrel		
White-nosed Coati		
Central American Agouti		
Red-eyed Tree Frog		
Black-and-green Poison Frog		
Blue Jeans Poison Frog		
Common (Plumed) Basilisk		
Spinytail Iguana		
Green Iguana		
Common House Gecko		
Boa Constrictor		
Eyelash Pit Viper (Green)		
Eyelash Pit Viper (Yellow)		
Side-striped Palm Pit Viper		
Undulated Boa Constrictor		
Spectacled Caiman		
American Crocodile		
Common Blue Morpho		

Guests Top 5





