

COSTA RICA: COMPLETE TOUR

28 MARCH - 12 APRIL 2023

By Eduardo Ormaeche



Snowcap was one of the highlights of the trip (photo Vernon Campos).

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<u>Overview</u>

Our Complete Costa Rica Tour 2023 was really memorable, a great success and a pleasure to guide, having all the ingredients for a great trip. The driver was remarkable and friendly, and we had a fantastic group of fun-filled and friendly participants who were good travelers, hyperenthusiastic, patient, and great spotters. The weather was favorable, the ground logistics wellplanned and executed, and everything seemed to come together perfectly. We fully enjoyed our Costa Rica experience, and saw some of its most remarkable avifauna, including country endemics, regional endemics and some iconic Neotropical birds.

This was a dream trip for those who were setting foot in Central America for the first time, with birds such as the most-wanted and representative **Resplendent Quetzal**, **Snowcap**, **Sunbittern**, **Sungrebe**, **Roseate Spoonbill**, **Jabiru**, **Scarlet** and **Great Green Macaws**, **Yellow-throated** and **Keel-billed Toucans**, **Turquoise-browed**, **Lesson's** and **Keel-billed Motmots**, **Rufous-tailed Jacamar**, **Crested**, **Spectacled**, **Striped** and **Black-and-white Owls**, **American Dipper**, **Baird's**, **Gartered**, **Black-headed** and **Black-throated Trogons**, **American Pygmy Kingfisher**, **Yellow-breasted Crake**, **Pinnated** and **Least Bitterns**, **White Hawk**, **Black Hawk-Eagle** and **Ornate Hawk-Eagle**.

Additionally, we saw regional endemics and country targets such as Yellow-billed, Snowy and Turquoise Cotingas, Black-cheeked Ant Tanager, Flame-throated, Black-cheeked and Blackeared Warblers, Buffy Tuftedcheek, Ruddy Treerunner, Wrenthrush, Spangled-cheeked Tanager, Prong-billed Barbet, Lesser Ground Cuckoo, Nicaraguan Grackle, Nicaraguan Seed Finch, and many more. We also saw a fine selection of wildlife, from colorful frogs to mammals like the charismatic Brown-throated Sloth, Baird's Tapir and Central America Spider Monkey.

Over the course of 17 days we explored from San Jose south to Golfito near the Peninsula de la Osa, through the Talamanca Mountains, to the Caribbean foothills and wetlands near the border with Nicaragua. We were serious about looking for birds, but this was well balanced with great relaxing times, enjoyable drinks and the euphoric feeling of being on tour. There was a good mixture of fun times, reflective thinking times, variety of habitats, breathtaking sunsets, starry nights, hot and cold weather, more drinks, Gallo Pinto again, and ending with the great satisfaction of having made new friends that one wants to tour with again in future.

Continue reading to get a glimpse of what our Costa Rica 2023 tour was like. Always "Pura Vida"!

Detailed Report

Day 1, 28th March 2023. Arrival in San Jose and transfer to the hotel Robledal

The group arrived in San Jose on different flights, with some of the participants deciding to arrive a day early to rest and avoid jet lag. We all met at Hotel Robledal in the afternoon, where we had the chance to do some preliminary birding around the gardens and get aquainted with each other. This was the first experience of Neotropical birding for some of the tour participants. Everyone was excited and happy. During our short birding session we saw **Ferruginous Pygmy Owl**, **Rufous-backed Wren** (also treated as **Rufous-naped Wren**), **Clay-colored Thrush** (Costa

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Rica's national bird), **Great-tailed Grackle**, **Melodious Blackbird**, **Tropical Kingbird**, **Great Kiskadee**, **Blue-grey Tanager**, **Hoffmann's Woodpecker** (named after Karl Hoffmann, a 19th century physician, naturalist and collector who lived in Costa Rica; other species named after him include Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth), and **White-winged Dove**. A joke turned our attention to the lyrics of US singer Stevie Nicks' well-known song *Edge of Seventeen*, where the White-winged Dove is mentioned several times in the main chorus. This chorus became our anthem for our trip:

"Just like the white-winged dove Sings a song, sounds like she's singing Ooh, ooh, ooh"

It felt great having such happy and enthusiastic tour participants. This tour was characterized by great camaraderie looking for birds, exploring new hunting grounds, and having fun together.

Costa Rica was calling!

Day 2, 29th March 2023. Birding Guacimo and transfer to Villa Lapas

This was one of the most amazing birding days of the entire trip. We started at 5am, birding the hotel grounds for an hour before breakfast was served. We had the same species from yesterday, and additionally spectacular views of **Spot-breasted Oriole, Cinnamon-bellied Saltator, White-fronted Parrot, Inca Dove, Red-billed Pigeon, Summer Tanager, Green-breasted Mango, Yellow Warbler, Boat-billed Flycatcher** and, at the last minute, great views of **Plain-capped Starthroat**. We checked the sky, looking for raptors, but we only got **Black Vultures** and some nice flocks of **Finsch's Parakeet** (also called Crimson-fronted Parakeet) flying low above the garden.

We ate breakfast and met Luis, our driver for the whole tour, and Vernon, a local guide who joined us for the first week of the trip. We loaded the truck and left the hotel towards the Pacific slope, with the intention of birding the dry habitats along the Guacimo road. The weather was pleasant and the birding outstanding. We started with species such as Cinnamon and Blue-vented Hummingbirds, Streak-backed Oriole, Blue Grosbeak, the beautiful Turquoise-browed Motmot (Nicaragua's national bird), Olive Sparrow, White-lored Gnatcatcher, Variable Seedeater, Buff-throated Saltator, Lesser Greenlet, Great Crested Flycatcher, Greenish Elaenia, Nutting's Flycatcher (named after Charles Nutting, a 19th century US zoologist), Mistletoe Tyrannulet, Streaked Flycatcher, Yellow-throated and Yellow-green Vireos, and Brown-crested Flycatcher. We managed to detect the elusive Banded Wren but only a few of us got silhouettes of this scrub skulker. We went calmly from one bird to another until excitement suddenly spiked with a Pacific Screech-Owl found on a daytime roost. Other highlights included a nice flock of Broad-winged Hawks, our first encounter with Zone-tailed Hawk, Orangefronted Parakeet, a King Vulture that flew by and gave decent views and, to crown the morning, spectacular views of the highly attractive Long-tailed Manakin (male). We also got good views of Southern Lapwing and Double-striped Thick-knee while scanning the open fields.

After this great session we arrived at a hot Villa Lapas, where we got lunch, had a short break and then went to explore the road above the lodge. During this afternoon session we managed to get great views of Fiery-billed Aracari, splendid Scarlet Macaws, Black-headed Trogon, Yellow-throated Toucan, Bat Falcon, Barred Antshrike, Dusky Antbird, Grey-headed Tanager, the first Green Honeycreeper, Grey-headed Chachalaca, Crested Guan, White-shouldered and



Golden-hooded Tanagers, and **Northern Mealy Amazon**. It was one amazing bird after another, and then exhilaration exploded when everybody saw **Painted Bunting** very nicely at the side of the road. After a long but productive day, we retired to the lodge, enjoyed supper, completed checklists and got nice views of the Pacific race of the **Red-eyed Tree Frog**.



We saw Pacific Screech-Owl along Guacimo Road.

Day 3, 30th March 2023. Villa Lapas Lodge and Carara National Park

We started the first hours of the early morning birding around the lodge, before breakfast was served and the park opened. The lodge was strategically close to the park - only a few minutes' drive. We got some nice species, including **Black-faced Antthrush**, **Scaly-throated Leaftosser** (watching leaves being tossed was a great experience for most), **Streak-headed Woodcreeper**, **Golden-crowned Spadebill**, **Pale-billed Woodpecker**, **Lesson's Motmot**, **Black-headed** and **Slaty-tailed Trogons**, **Buff-rumped Warbler**, **Red-crowned Ant-Tanager** (which proved difficult for most of the participants and only a few got good views as the bird was skulking really hard), **Orange-billed Sparrow**, **Grey-chested Dove**, and **Common Tody-Flycatcher** building a nest next to the bridge over the river. On the river we saw our first **Bare-throated Tiger Heron**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, and **Northern Waterthrush**.

We went to the Carara National Park as soon as it opened to the public to explore the lek of the **Orange-collared Manakin**. We met another group at the lek itself, which is located at one side of the trail in a corner, so it was an interesting experience not being able to move much and letting the birds come to us. We all had great views and, especially when the other group left, we were able to get better positions and take photos of this beautiful looking bird.





The most wanted **Orange-collared Manakin** was a highlight for all participants (photo Vernon Campos).

Other birds here included Grey-chested Dove, Cocoa, Wedge-billed and Streak-headed Woodcreepers, Scarlet Macaw, Squirrel Cuckoo, Blue-throated Sapphire (also known as Blue-throated Goldentail), Lesson's Motmot, Pale-billed and Lineated Woodpeckers, Chestnut-backed Antbird, Northern Royal Flycatcher, Sulphur-rumped Myiobius (also known as Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher), Eye-ringed Flatbill, the elusive Riverside Wren, and Chestnut-sided Warbler, which was seen throughout almost the entire trip. We tried hard for the Streak-chested Antpitta, but it remained calling distantly.

We returned to the lodge for lunch, some cold refreshments and some rest before returning to the park again. The afternoon was rather quiet, but we managed to get better views of the **Chestnut-backed Antbird**. We walked to the forest stream to wait for birds coming to bath. We managed to get nice views of the striking **Red-capped Manakin** (a couple of males and a female). They close the park at 5pm and we had to rush almost nonstop to be out of the park in time, but we were lucky to spot a couple of excellent birds on the way: the recently split **Chiriqui Foliage-gleaner** (split from Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner and named after a province of Panama), and a few of us managed to get **Blue-crowned Manakin** (male) right near the exit of the park.

We returned to the lodge and, after supper, tried for **Parauque**, which we saw nicely. A couple of us got silhouettes of **Common Opossum** high in the top of the trees.



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Red-capped Manakin taking a bath in the Carara National Park (photo Paul Newman).

Day 4, 31st March 2023. Tarcoles River and transfer to Esquinas

Today we had a long day ahead, and we were full of excitement and anticipation. We had our first boat trip of the tour, exploring the Tarcoles River. We saw many aquatic species this morning, including Green, Belted, and Ringed Kingfishers, Magnificent Frigatebirds, Great and Snowy Egrets, and Striated, Little Blue and Tricolored Herons. We saw a few Caspian and Royal Terns and had our first encounter with American Crocodile.

We explored the mangrove habitat in search of other species, including **Boat-billed Heron**, **Yellow-crowned Night Heron**, **Anhinga**, **American Pygmy Kingfisher**, **Common Black Hawk**, **Scaly-breasted Hummingbird** and **Mangrove Warbler**. We had great views of all these species. After a successful boat trip, we checked the mangrove habitat along the river shores to find **American White Ibis**, a second **Turquoise-browed Motmot** and the endemic **Mangrove Hummingbird**.

With this species in the pocket, we left Tarcoles to start the long drive to Esquinas Lodge in the south of the country, near the Golfito area. We arrived at our lodge in the afternoon, with enough time to check in to the rooms, become familiar with the surrounding area, have supper, complete checklists and enjoy a few drinks. It was another great and hot day in Costa Rica.





The endangered **Black-cheeked Ant Tanager** is an endemic of Southern Costa Rica.

Day 5, 1st April 2023. Esquinas Lodge

We started the day exploring the lodge trails, looking for one of the most important targets for this area, the endemic **Black-cheeked Ant Tanager**. Fortunately, we managed to find a small flock foraging in the dark forest understory, getting good views of this species. Costa Rica offers the chance to see three of the world's five species of ant tanager (*Habia*). The other two species are endemic to Colombia and are often seen on our tours there. In the lodge we enjoyed views of **Golden-hooded**, **Palm**, **Scarlet-rumped** and **Blue-grey Tanagers**, and the widespread but often heard-only **Bright-rumped Attila** gave us good views. A pair of **Great Curassow** were seen daily around the lodge area. We enjoyed excellent views of both sexes. In addition to these we got **Spot-crowned Euphonia**, **Grey-chested Dove**, **Rufous Piha**, **Scarlet-rumped Cacique**, **Yellow-throated Toucan**, **Fiery-billed Aracari**, **Black-striped Woodcreeper**, **Red-crowned Woodpecker**, and **Slaty-tailed Trogon**.

Around the lodge clearing and the cabins we got hummingbirds such as **Violet-headed Hummingbird**, **Stripe-throated Hermit**, and **Rufous-tailed Hummingbird**. We relaxed during the afternoon and some participants stayed to enjoy the birds from their cabins whilst others went to the trails where they were rewarded with **Baird's Trogon** and **Blue-black Grosbeak**.

After supper we went to bed early because we would be having a very early start tomorrow.

Day 6, 2nd April 2023. Puente Jimenez and Coto 45

We left the lodge around 4.30 am to be at Puente Jimenez by dawn. When we arrived, we got a quick box breakfast and stood at one side of the bridge waiting for our targets for the day, including the exquisite **Yellow-billed Cotinga**. We managed to see the usual aquatic species, such as **Bare**-



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throated Tiger Heron, American White Ibis, Spotted Sandpiper, and Green Heron. Other interesting species showed up nicely, such as Fiery-billed Aracari and Scarlet Macaw. We got a Mourning Warbler skulking in the vegetation below the bridge. Suddenly we were excited to see the cotingas flying by, and one perched but it was far from ideal against the light. While waiting we got the only Turquoise Cotinga of the trip, although distantly, we got great scope views of one male. Then the great moment came, and we got a male Yellow-billed Cotinga which came and perched in a tree which allowed us great views. This was most definitely most satisfying!



Yellow-billed Cotinga was a highlight of our trip (photo Vernon Campos).

In addition to these species we also got great views of **Double-toothed Kite**, **Yellow-headed Caracara**, **Orange-chinned Parakeet**, **Red-lored Amazon**, **Black-crowned Tityra**, **Yellow-bellied Elaenia**, **Rusty-margined Flycatcher**, **Grey-capped Flycatcher**, **Southern Rough-winged Swallow** and **Grey-breasted Martin**. Later, near La Gamba, we stopped in a small marshy area where we got **Black-bellied Whistling Duck** and **Purple Gallinule**. Then, looking for suitable habitat, we found **Laughing Falcon**, **Striped Cuckoo**, **Pale-breasted Spinetail**, **White-winged Becard**, **Scrub** and **Tawny-crowned Greenlets**, **Fork-tailed Flycatcher**, **Bronzed Cowbird**, **Thick-billed Seed Finch**, **Yellow-bellied** and **Morelet's Seedeaters**, (named after Pierre Marie Arthur Morelet, a 19th century French naturalist and collector).

In the afternoon we drove through a huge plantation of oil palms to reach one of the last-remaining secondary growth habitats, where we found one of our two afternoon targets, the **Sapphire-throated Hummingbird**, which we all saw very well. We also had good views of a second Laughing Falcon, Black-striped Sparrow, Ruddy-breasted Seedeater, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Smooth-billed Ani and Tropical Mockingbird.

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We returned to the lodge, ate supper, completed checklists and then went out owling. We were rewarded with great views of the impressive **Striped Owl**, perched on telephone wires. We added more **Parauques** and, heading back to the lodge, we saw a **Northern Raccoon**.

Day 7, 3rd April 2023. Transfer to Savegre Lodge

We had a late start, getting ready for another long drive. Some of us showed up early in the dining room, to check feeders and catch up on any birds seen whilst everyone was apart. We also looked for **Tayra**, large mustelids which came to the feeders to steal bananas, a few of us saw them but never all of us as a group. **Great Curassow** was seen in the lodge clearing vicinity. After breakfast, we set off towards Savegre Lodge.



The impressive Striped Owl we saw at Esquinas Lodge (photo Alan Van Norman).

At San Gerardo de Dota, in the mountains, we said goodbye to our friend Vernon, who had travelled with us for the previous six days. The cool weather in the mountains was a very welcome change after a hot and humid week.

We arrived at the lodge and, after check-in, started heading to the cabins, when someone near the parking lot shouted "Quetzal" - the main target of the whole trip and one that often requires work to find. It was seen by some of us, and we were told that it had been feeding near the entrance along the main road. It was amazing that we got it without having left early in the morning, and the fact that it was seemingly unperturbed by the crowd.



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Day 8, 4th April 2023. Savegre Lodge

The next morning, before breakfast, we went near the entrance and it didn't take long before we got the most-wanted **Resplendent Quetzal** (male and female). This was our moment of glory, with the photographers trying for their best photos. Another great find near here was the **Black-faced Solitaire**, seen well by all of us. Very happy, we returned to the lodge for breakfast.

We enjoyed the bird feeders around the lodge clearing and parking area, with birds such as **Slaty Flowerpiercer**, **Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher**, and **Rufous-collared Sparrow**, and hummingbirds such as the common **Grey-tailed Mountaingem** (*Lampornis cinereicauda*, IOC considers this a country endemic different from **White-throated Mountaingem**, *Lampornis castaneoventris*, the species accepted by Cornel/Clements). We also got great views of **Talamanca Hummingbird** and **Fiery-throated Hummingbird**.



Seeing Resplendent Quetzal was a dream come true (photo Paul Newman).

After breakfast, we drove the 4x4 vehicle in the forest above the lodge, looking for specials. It was quiet when we arrived, but after a while we started getting birds such as **Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush**, **Black-cheeked Warbler**, **Large-footed Finch**, **Yellow-thighed Brushfinch**, **Ruddy Pigeon**, **Spot-crowned Woodcreeper**, **Ochraceous Wren**, **Ruddy Treerunner**, **Mountain Elaenia**, **Yellowish Flycatcher**, **Yellow-winged Vireo**, **Grey-breasted Wood-Wren**, **Sooty-capped Bush Tanager** (also known as Sooty-capped Chlorospingus) which

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we saw repeatedly during the trip, the beautiful **Collared Redstart**, **Black-throated Green Warbler**, and **Wilson's Warbler**. The excitement continued with a mixed feeding flock, with **Flame-throated Warbler**, **Spangled-cheeked Tanager** (well spotted by Jeanne) and a **Buffy Tuftedcheek**, which we followed along the forest trails to get good views of this bromeliad special. We had our first glimpse of **Blue-throated Toucanet**, and a glimpse of a flock of **Barred Parakeet** which crossed in the typical Barred Parakeet flock formation, very fast, showing only silhouettes, and making their flying call and behavior. We saw **Red-tailed Hawk** and flocks of **White-collared Swifts.** We tried for Costa Rica Pygmy Owl and Silvery-fronted Tapaculo but, sadly, without success. It was lovely weather and we decided to hike back down to the lodge.

In the afternoon we visited the feeders at Miriam restaurant, where we had a great time enjoying species such as Acorn Woodpecker, Mountain Thrush, Mountain Elaenia, Sooty-capped Chlorospingus, Large-footed Finch, Yellow-thighed Brushfinch, Baltimore Oriole, Slaty Flowerpiercer, Flame-colored Tanager and Blue-throated Toucanet. We got excellent views of Hairy Woodpecker, here in the *extimus* race found only in western Panama and Costa Rica. We enjoyed hummingbirds as well, including Talamanca, Volcano and Fiery-throated Hummingbirds, and Grey-throated Mountaingem.

We left the restaurant and drove up the mountains, where we waited until sunset to try for the most-wanted **Unspotted Saw-whet Owl**. Amazingly, it responded and came towards us, but approaching bad weather and a fence separating us robbed us of the opportunity to feast our eyes on this amazing species. We also tried for **Dusky Nightjar**, which responded to the tape, but it remained distant and we only saw a couple of silhouettes flying, without being able to see the bird properly. We returned to the lodge after another great day.

Day 9, 5th April 2023. Birding in the Antennas and transfer to El Paraiso

We birded around the lodge before leaving to drive to Orocay. We were lucky to get excellent views of **Spotted Wood Quail**, and other birds along the river, such as **Black Phoebe** and **Torrent Tyrannulet**. We were hoping for American Dipper but didn't see any near the lodge entrance and we didn't have time to walk towards the waterfall, because our plan was to drive up to the antennas on top of the mountains. We looked for the secretive **Wrenthrush** on the way up. The Wrenthrush (*Zeledoniidae*) is a secretive monotypic found only in Costa Rica and Panama and even though the name suggests two different families (wren and thrush) it is neither. For some years it was believed to be a relative of Old World flycatchers (*Muscicapidae*) and today its closest relatives are considered the Spindalis (*Spindalidae*) and Cuban warblers (*Terestridae*). This skulker is always a challenge, but we gave it a try and ended up with the bird right near our feet and we were ecstatic!





Wrenthrush was a superb encounter on the trip (photo Paul Newman).

We continued and reached the treeline at the famous antennas, where we looked for two main targets, **Volcano Junco** and **Timberline Wren**. It took time to find the junco because it was not near the base of the towers where it's usually found, we only found it much later when it was almost time to leave, fortunately we had great views. Even though the wren was responding, it was behaving very secretively and not showing well, so we left the antennas and headed down to look in another place we knew. This time **Timberline Wren** came fully into view.

We headed to Paraiso Los Quetzales Lodge, where we planned to spend some time at the feeders and have lunch. The weather was great considering the time of day, it was not too sunny, and there was activity near the feeders. We found two new birds on the parking lot, **Sooty Thrush**, and **Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush**. At the feeders we got some new species and upgraded views of old friends, including eye-level and close views of **Flame-throated Warbler** and **Spangledcheeked Tanager**, as well as **Black-thighed Grosbeak**, **Black-capped Flycatcher**, and **Blackand-yellow Phainoptila** (also known as Black-and-yellow Silky-flycatcher). The hummingbird feeders were a blast, even though we had already seen all the species on previous days at different locations. The number of hummingbirds and how close the **Fiery-throated Hummingbirds** were approaching us was amazing. A couple of young **Volcano Hummingbird** males were noticed amongst all the hummers buzzing around.

After a tasty lunch, we started the long drive to El Paraiso. On the way, we took a detour to some coffee plantations, where we had splendid views of the endemic **Cabanis's Ground Sparrow**. It was previously considered part of Prevost Ground Sparrow (from northern Central America and Mexico) but was split not long ago. It's named after Jean Louis Cabanis, a 19th century German ornithologist. We also managed to see **Yellow-faced Grassquit**, **Buff-throated Saltator** and **Swallow-tailed Kite**. We went to El Paraiso's main town square, looking for Barn Owl roosting

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on palm trees, but sadly it wasn't there. The town was preparing for an upcoming religious celebration and there was quite a crowd, nevertheless, we managed views of **Finsch's Parakeet** and **White-winged Dove** (whoo-whoo). We retreated to our hotel to rest and prepare for another day full of adventure.

Day 10, 6th April 2023. Rio Macho and transfer to La Quinta Lodge

It didn't take long before we scored our first target, **White-eared Ground Sparrow**, on the coffee plantations on the way up to Rio Macho Reserve. The weather was good and we saw birds previously seen, like **Squirrel Cuckoo**, **Brown Jay**, and **Mountain Elaenia**. We also got some new birds, including the spectacular **White-winged Tanager**, a glimpse of **Speckled Tanager**, and **Golden-browed Chlorophonia**, a real treat for the whole group! Other birds included **Black-headed Saltator**, **Social**, **Piratic** and **Boat-billed Flycatchers**, **Tropical Parula**, **Red-faced Spinetail**, **Rufous-browed Peppershrike** was heard constantly but never came into full view, **Slate-throated Whitestart**, **Brown-capped Vireo**, **Masked Tityra**, **Chestnut-headed Oropendola**, and **Blackburnian**, **Tennessee** and **Wilson's Warblers**.

We started the drive towards the Caribbean foothills and had spectacular views of **White-tailed Kite** hovering for extended times, while we enjoyed a delicious lunch somewhere along the road. We arrived at our lodge in Sarapiquí in the afternoon.

Day 11, 7th April 2023. La Selva Biological Station and Sarapiquí

Today was a busy day. We left the lodge just before dawn in order to arrive at the entrance to the famous La Selva Biological Station at the right time. We spent a great couple of hours before the reserve opened, finding **Rufous Motmot**, **Chestnut-colored Woodpecker**, **Pale-billed Woodpecker**, **Fasciated Antshrike** (female), **Grey-capped Flycatcher**, **Cinnamon Becard**, **Buff-throated Saltator**, **Golden-hooded**, **Blue-grey**, **Palm** and **Scarlet-rumped Tanagers**, **Blue Dacnis**, **Green Honeycreeper**, **Cocoa Woodcreeper**, **Collared Aracari**, **Yellow-throated Toucan**, **Gartered Trogon**, and **Red-lored Amazon** flying-by. Around the parking lot we got two great species, the handsome **Keel-billed Toucan**, and **Snowy Cotinga** (male) giving great scope views.

We walked the forest trails with a resident guide who helped us find birds and wildlife. During three hours enjoyed on different trails, we found Crested Guan, Broad-billed Motmot, Hookbilled Kite, Purple-throated Fruitcrow, Buff-rumped Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-faced Grosbeak and Rufous-winged Woodpecker. We had good views of Hoffmann's two-toed Sloth, Panamanian White-faced Capuchin, Collared Peccary, Strawberry Poison Dart Frog and Green and Black Poison Dart Frog.

We returned to the hotel around 11.30am, and enjoyed a very welcome lunch. After the meal, some folks had a siesta, while others spent time at the lodge feeders and got the usual suspects, and also a new bird for the trip, **Red-throated Ant Tanager**.

In the afternoon we explored the Sarapiquí surroundings, where we looked for **Great Green Macaw** coming to roost, and we had great scope views of at least two couples flying and roosting nearby. I was unhappy to see that the whole area near the roosting tree is being transformed into a few plots, likely for building houses.



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Tiny Hawk was a welcome surprise at Tapirus Lodge (photo Paul Newman).

Day 12, 8th April 2023. Tapirus Lodge and Cope feeders

Today we went to explore the Tapirus Lodge zipline and cable car complex. This seems to be a good area for the Bare-necked Umbrellabird and Baird's Tapir, which are commonly seen in the area. Hummingbird activity was really poor, and the sunny weather did not provide much mixed feeding flock activity. We explored some of the trails, when suddenly we spotted a small raptor on a tree and were very happy to find it was the secretive **Tiny Hawk**, a seldom-seen Neotropical *Accipiter*. We had excellent views, little knowing that this was going to turn out to be a fine raptor morning.

We returned to near the lodge, where we saw a **Baird's Tapir** and a **Brown-throated Sloth**. We walked along the steep, paved main road up to the entrance, where we found a flock with **Carmiol's Tanager** (named after Julian and Francisco Carmiol, 19th century French ornithologists and collectors), together with **Tawny-crested Tanager**, which was unfortunately only seen by a few people, including Tim, because they kept far away inside the bushes. We arrived at the view point, where we got good views of **White Hawk**, which was new for the trip and, unexpectedly, **Black Hawk-Eagle**, which, after some persistence on our part, came down and perched for us. It was a really cool moment.





Black Hawk-Eagle gave us a great show at Tapirus Lodge (photo Paul Newman).



Black Hawk-Eagle at Tapirus Lodge (photo Paul Newman).

Good news was that the well-known Butterfly House (El Tapir garden) was open again for visitors and we arrived at the best time of the year for breathtaking views of the splendid **Snowcap**. Our



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short visit was rewarded with views of two males and one female. Barbara was happy with the Snowcap. Other (common) hummingbirds were **Violet-headed** and **Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds**, and **Green Thorntail**, which was new for the trip.

We went for lunch and then explored the classic "Donde Cope", where we looked for birds outside the property first, before going to the feeders. We drove to the forest and started the short but slow walk along the muddy trail where, with luck, we would find the usual targets. The effort paid off well, as we got great views of both **Crested** and **Spectacled Owls.** The group was happy and we enjoyed also finding **Honduran Ghost Bat**. We left the forest thinking about the Credence Clearwater Revival song "*Run through the Jungle*". We went to the open fields to look in a place where the rare Central American Pygmy Owl was seen last year, but sadly there was nothing.

On our way back to the house, we got our first **Crimson-collared Tanager**, and when we arrived, we had brilliant views of **Shining**, **Green** and lots of **Red-legged Honeycreepers**, all at eye-level. We enjoyed **Collared Aracari**, **Montezuma** and **Chestnut-headed Oropendolas**, **Orange-chinned Parakeets**, **Red-winged Blackbird**, **Pale-vented Pigeons**, **Rufous-naped Wood Rail** and **Giant Cowbird**.

The hummingbird feeders provided **White-necked Jacobins**, **Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer** and **Stripe-throated Hermit**, which had been missed by some at Esquinas Lodge. We also had views of the **Smooth Helmeted Iguana**, which is a classic find at Cope's property. After a long but rewarding day we returned to our lodge.

Day 13, 9th April 2023. La Virgen, Cinchona feeders, La Paz Waterfalls and transfer to Arenal

Today we left Sarapiqui and headed to La Virgen del Socorro area to look for our first target, with nine pairs of eyes scanning the river, and we scored good views of **American Dipper**. We also got **Torrent Tyrannulet**, **Black Phoebe** and **Northern Tufted Flycatcher**, which was unfortunately only seen by a few.

Birding the forest near the river provided good new species, including our first **Emerald Tanager**, followed by **Bay-headed**, **Silver-throated**, **Summer** and **Golden-hooded Tanagers**, **Black-throated Green** and **Golden-winged Warblers**, **Common Bush-Tanager** (also called Common Chlorospingus, here in the race *regionalis*), **Russet Antshrike**, and great views of our first **Scarlet-thighed Dacnis**. We got more **Blue Dacnis**, **Green** and **Red-legged Honeycreepers**, **Bananaquit**, **Black-faced Grosbeak**, and **Black-headed Saltator**. We got great views of the diminutive **Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant** and **Blue-throated Toucanet**.

We left the forest and headed to the Cinchona feeders, where we spent some exciting time enjoying birds such as **Prong-billed Barbet**, **Crimson-collared Tanager**, **Blue-throated Toucanet**, and other usual suspects, such as **Tennessee** and **Chestnut-sided Warblers**, **Baltimore Oriole**, **Squirrel Cuckoo** and **Cinnamon-bellied Saltator**. We also saw more of the birds we'd seen earlier in the morning at Virgen del Socorro, including several tanagers and saltators. Sadly, there was no sign of Red-headed Barbet, Black Guan or Buff-fronted Quail-Dove, but we consoled ourselves with great views of **Brown-billed Scythebill**, which was new for Eduardo's Costa Rica list.

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We moved to La Paz Waterfalls restaurant and tourist complex, where we spent some time birding around the area and enjoying the hummingbird feeders. Feeders have been returned to the complex (after being retired in 2021/2022) and we enjoyed views of Violet Sabrewing, Black-bellied Hummingbird, the endemic Coppery-headed Hummingbird, Green-crowned Brilliant, Purple-throated Mountaingem and Green Thorntail. Most of the other birds were the usual suspects, including good views of Red-tailed Hawk. We added Sooty-faced Finch, Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush, and Black-eared Warbler (also known as Costa Rican Warbler), which is a split from Three-striped Warbler *Basileuterus tristriatus* and is only found in Costa Rica and western Panama.

After a tasty lunch we headed towards La Fortuna and immediately went to Sendero Bogarin, where we tried for White-throated Crake. Sadly, the place was full of noisy visitors and staff and we didn't see the bird, just like on our previous trips. Nevertheless, we were compensated by the sight of a pair of **Black-and-white Owls** roosting at daytime. We knew the owls were in a tree and Christiane was first to spot them! Everyone was happy. We even tried for the elusive **Uniform Crake**, which did respond, but only Mary got a glimpse of it. Other birds seen here included **Smoky-brown Woodpecker** and **Streak-headed Woodcreeper**. We finished the day and went to the comfortable Arenal Observatory Lodge for two overnights.



Spotted Antbird was seen at El Arenal Lodge.

Day 14, 10th April 2023. Full day at Arenal Observatory Lodge

We spent the day birding around the lodge. We looked for army-ant swarms along the waterfall trail but despite all our efforts, the ants were not to be found. Nevertheless, **Spotted Antbird** was very active at the beginning of the trail and we had excellent views. During the walk we also found



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Golden-crowned Warblers, the elusive Stripe-breasted Wren, White-flanked Antwren, Russet Antshrike, and got great views of Song Wren.

When we returned to the lodge, we checked the feeders out. We managed birds such as **Greyheaded Chachalaca**, **Great Curassows**, **Emerald Tanager** (the best view of the trip), **Scarlet-thighed Dacnis**, and the usuals: **Bay-headed**, **Palm**, **Blue-grey**, **Scarlet**, **Scarlet-rumped** and **Golden-hooded Tanagers**, as well as **Green** and **Red-legged Honeycreepers**. In the late morning we spent some time looking for **Black-crested Coquette** in the lodge gardens, and we got a couple of females but struggled to find the male. A nice **Golden-olive Woodpecker** showed up in the area.

In the afternoon we left the lodge and explored a busy road where we managed to find another of our targets, **Keel-billed Motmot**, which showed nicely for everyone. We saw lots of birds at El Arenal and also had our first encounter with **Central American Spider Monkeys**. We needed to get ready for a long day next day, so we did the checklist before supper, and went to bed after supper.

Day 15, 11th April 2023. Arenal Skyline and transfer to Medio Queso and Caño Negro

Today was to be a very busy day. We started our morning birding the lodge grounds, looking for the male **Black-crested Coquette**. We found good birds near the old house, including **Long-tailed Tyrant**, **Black-crowned Tityra**, **Dusky Antbird**, **Grey-capped Flycatcher**, **Montezuma Oropendola** and at almost the last moment we found a male **Black-crested Coquette** to make everyone happy.

We returned to the lodge for breakfast and then left for the Arenal Skyline. This complex is in good forest and offers excellent birding opportunities but sadly only opens after 8am. The best plan was to spend the morning birding the trails and crossing the suspended bridges, where in the past I have had great success.

On this occasion, though, I had the added pressure of trying to repeat my 2020 achievement of finding the majestic **Ornate Hawk-Eagle**, even though this time we didn't have a full morning, we only had two hours to get there, try, and get out. Generally, one leaves birds like this to chance, or if you know they have been seen recently, or if there is an active nest. This trip was going so well, with such excellent people providing so many good vibes, and the birds were showing so well that I thought "If you want to see this one - which I can't guarantee but I promise I will do my best - we have a chance in the place where I saw it in front of me at eye-level about 3 years ago." Due to time constraints we would need to sacrifice other birds, including trying for **Thicket Antpitta** which was heard in the area, and other specials like Half-collared Gnatwren. We went directly to the viewpoint I knew, taking about 20 minutes to get there. Once there, I checked and scanned the whole area, and we didn't see any large bird roosting, but we managed to see **White Hawk** and **Great Black Hawk** flying high above the forest. I tried for Sharpbill and Yellow-eared Toucanet and then played for the Ornate Hawk-Eagle, but none of them responded. A real moment of frustration came when a crowd arrived and took over the viewpoint, so we had to leave and wait for them to get their selfies and go again. In the meantime, we were trying for birds outside the



viewpoint and some of us got **Carmiol's Tanager**, **Gartered Trogon** and **Ochre-bellied Flycatcher**. Once the place was ours again, we continued trying until we got an answer that made our hearts beat faster and our hopes soar. We kept trying - in reality it could not have been longer than an hour and a half - but it felt like we'd been there for centuries, especially when the whole group (including myself) were watching in one direction and, from behind, the bird flew in front of us, towards the forest, and disappeared among the trees. It was no more than a glimpse of a brown raptor.



Seeing Ornate Hawk-Eagle was perhaps the most memorable moment of the tour (photo Christiane Maluche).

It was well-adapted to fly in the forest. How had it approached us so silently? Was that glimpse going to be all? No more chances? It seemed so, because it didn't respond again for some time. We didn't give up, we moved out from the viewpoint and started to call it from the forest. We checked other trees, and several minutes later, just before we would have to leave, I saw Paul motionless, almost in shock when he pointed out the bird he really wanted to see more than anything else on the trip. It was one of the highlights for several participants, there it was! The majestic **Ornate Hawk-Eagle** was sitting neither close nor far, we had to huddle together to see it between the trees, but we ended with the sweet taste of victory!

We left the place and had a tasty lunch on the way to Medio Queso wetlands, near the Nicaraguan border, where our boat man was waiting for us. This boat trip was another highlight of the trip, the birding was dynamite, with target after target and bird after bird. We started with all the expected aquatic species, which we had seen before at Tarcoles, including **Blue-winged Teal**, **Pied-billed Grebe**, **Common** and **Purple Gallinules**, **Black-necked Stilt**, **Northern Jacana**, **Jabiru**, **Wood**

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Stork, Anhinga, Neotropic Cormorant, Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, Green Ibis, Boat-billed Heron, Tricolored Heron, Ringed, Amazon and Green Kingfishers, Black-collared Hawk, as well as abundant numbers of Great Blue Heron, Great and Snowy Egrets, and Little Blue Heron. The targets didn't hesitate in showing up, and we started with great views of Pinnated Bittern showing well for all of us. Then we continued with views of Least Bittern and Olive-throated Parakeet, followed by "out of this world" views of Yellow-breasted Crake. We continued the boat ride to the opposite side of the wetland, where we found the near endemic Nicaraguan Grackle, we worked hard for the skulking Slaty Spinetail, we had great views of Canebrake Wren (the last from the three splits of the former Plain Wren), Grey-crowned Yellowthroat provided wonderful views, Ruddy-breasted Seedeater and, just before sunset, we crowned the day with a super adult male Nicaraguan Seed Finch and superb views of Sora walking among the water lilies.

We returned to the dock, where we said goodbye to the boat driver, and met Luis for the long drive to our final destination, Refugio Caño Negro Lodge. We arrived at dusk and went immediately to supper and then to bed.

Day 16, 12th April 2023. Boat trip to Caño Negro and transfer to La Ensenada Lodge

Today our last boat trip was planned, to explore the famous Caño Negro River. We didn't have much time but we did have the advantage that we had already visited Tarcoles and Medio Queso. This meant we could focus our efforts on only finding the specials, and this morning we were after Sungrebe, which, together with African Finfoot *Podica senegalensis* and Masked Finfoot *Heliopais personatus*, constitute the only three members in the whole world of the family *Heliornithidae*. Sungrebe would be a lifer for all participants.



Sungrebe was another highlight of the trip (photo Paul Newman).



We had views of classic aquatic species and the usual suspects, including some new species like **Muscovy Duck**, the monotypic **Limpkin**, **Green Ibis**, **American Pygmy Kingfisher**, and also **Olive-throated Parakeet**, **Slaty-tailed** and **Black-headed Trogons**, **Cinnamon Becard**, **Spot-breasted Wren**, and further views of **Roseate Spoonbill** flying by. We tried for the most-wanted **Bare-crowned Antbird** from the boat, but sadly it stayed away from the shore and there was nowhere for us to get out of the boat at the spot where it was calling. Nevertheless, we were compensated with first class views of **Sungrebe**, which quickly rose high on the list of trip highlights. Regarding wildlife, we found an adult **Green Basilisk** and we saw Jaguar tracks on the shore.

We returned to the lodge to fetch our luggage and started the drive towards La Ensenada Lodge, located on the shores of the Pacific Ocean. Albeit tricky to get to the lodge, its location was ideal, between the ocean and xerophytic and dry habitats. Before we arrived at the lodge we got a few **Stripe-headed Sparrows** along the road, one of the few birds we had missed on the first day at Guacimo. We arrived at the lodge and the first thing waiting for us was a **Pacific Screech Owl** roosting at day time!



We had a magical encounter with Lesser Ground Cuckoo (photo Paul Newman).

The group decided to relax in the afternoon. Nancy and Jack called me to join a party, and the celebratory atmosphere soon spread. We could indeed celebrate an amazing trip, but we were also well aware that we still had one more target to get.



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Day 17, 13th April 2023. La Ensenada Lodge and transfer to San Jose

Today we checked the mudflats near the lodge, normally host to many birds including waders, but at this time of the year many had already left. We managed to encounter **Stilt Sandpipers**, which are always interesting to see, and were new for some participants. Additionally, we saw **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Semipalmated Plover**, **Yellow-crowned Night Heron**, **Black-bellied Whistling Duck**, **Blue-winged Teal**, **Northern Jacanas**, **Southern Lapwings**, **Zone-tailed Hawk**, and **Wood Stork**.

After checking the mudflats we started looking for the secretive and most wanted **Lesser Ground Cuckoo**, a really hard bird to find. We looked for suitable habitat and tried and tried until we got a response. Adrenaline spiked, but the bird call sounded like it was far away, calling from a bush and not moving. Suddenly, a participant saw motion, adrenaline spiked again, and we managed to see a distant silhouette, which disappeared quickly. It seemed like the show was over but we wanted the tour to end on a high note, so we kept trying and changed position. Suddenly - we didn't even see it coming - the bird was sitting in front of us! That was surreal and we were ecstatic!

We returned to the lodge for breakfast, then started the drive back to San Jose and our hotel near the airport. We made a few stops along the way to try for Mangrove Cuckoo and Mangrove Rail, but it was too hot and too late. We arrived at a nice restaurant for lunch, and some participants did some shopping. Back at our hotel we said goodbye to our driver, who had done such a remarkable job for the last sixteen days.

We celebrated our last supper together as a group, enjoyed a few drinks, and reviewed our checklist, also slightly sad that our trip was finally over. It was the first time birding in Latin America for several participants, and we discussed potential future tours, perhaps to Ecuador or Brazil. It would indeed be a pleasure to travel with this group of people again, one of my best tours ever! Costa Rica Pura Vida!

Day 18, 14th April 2023. Transfer to the airport and international flights

This morning participants were taken to the airport at different times to catch their flights back home.



Bird List - Following IOC (12.2)

Birds 'heard only' are marked with (H) after the common name, all other species were seen.

The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following BirdLife International: VU = Vulnerable.

Common name	Scientific name
Tinamous (Tinamidae)	
Great Tinamou (H)	Tinamus major
Ducks, Geese, Swans (Anatidae)	
Black-bellied Whistling Duck	Dendrocygna autumnalis
Muscovy Duck	Cairina moschata
Blue-winged Teal	Spatula discors
Chachalacas, Curassows, Guans (Cracida	e)
Grey-headed Chachalaca	Ortalis cinereiceps
Crested Guan	Penelope purpurascens
Great Curassow - VU	Crax rubra
New World Quail (Odontophoridae)	
Spotted Wood Quail	Odontophorus guttatus
Sponed Wood Quan	
Nightjars (Caprimulgidae)	
Pauraque	Nyctidromus albicollis
Dusky Nightjar	Antrostomus saturatus
Potoos (Nyctibiidae)	
Common Potoo	Nyctibius griseus
Swifts (Apodidae)	
White-collared Swift	Streptoprocne zonaris
Grey-rumped Swift	Chaetura cinereiventris
Costa Rican Swift	Chaetura fumosa
Hummingbirds (Trochilidae)	
White-necked Jacobin	Florisuga mellivora
Bronzy Hermit	<i>Glaucis aeneus</i>
Stripe-throated Hermit	Phaethornis striigularis
Green Hermit	Phaethornis guy
Long-billed Hermit	Phaethornis longirostris
Brown Violetear	Colibri delphinae
Lesser Violetear	Colibri cyanotus



Purple-crowned Fairy	Heliothryx barroti
Green-breasted Mango	Anthracothorax prevostii
Green Thorntail	Discosura conversii
Black-crested Coquette	Lophornis helenae
Talamanca Hummingbird	Eugenes spectabilis
Fiery-throated Hummingbird	Panterpe insignis
Plain-capped Starthroat	Heliomaster constantii
Purple-throated Mountaingem	Lampornis calolaemus
Grey-tailed Mountaingem (Endemic)	Lampornis cinereicauda
Volcano Hummingbird	Selasphorus flammula
Violet-headed Hummingbird	Klais guimeti
Violet-headed Hummingbild	Campylopterus hemileucurus
Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer	Chalybura urochrysia
Crowned Woodnymph	Thalurania colombica
	Microchera albocoronata
Snowcap Coppery-headed Emerald (Endemic)	Microchera cupreiceps
White-tailed Emerald	Microchera chionura
Stripe-tailed Hummingbird	Eupherusa eximia
Black-bellied Hummingbird Scaly-breasted Hummingbird	Eupherusa nigriventris Phaeochroa cuvierii
Cinnamon Hummingbird	Amazilia rutila
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird	Amazilia tzacatl
Mangrove Hummingbird (Endemic) - EN	Amazilia boucardi
Sapphire-throated Hummingbird	Chrysuronia coeruleogularis
Charming Hummingbird	Polyerata decora
Blue-throated Sapphire	Chlorestes eliciae
Cuckoos (Cuculidae)	
Smooth-billed Ani	Crotophaga ani
Groove-billed Ani	Crotophaga sulcirostris
Striped Cuckoo	Tapera naevia
Lesser Ground Cuckoo	Morococcyx erythropygus
Squirrel Cuckoo	Piaya cayana
Pigeons, Doves (Columbidae)	1
Rock Dove (Introduced)	Columba livia
Pale-vented Pigeon	Patagioenas cayennensis
Red-billed Pigeon	Patagioenas flavirostris
Ruddy Pigeon - VU	Patagioenas subvinacea
Short-billed Pigeon	Patagioenas nigrirostris
Inca Dove	Columbina inca
Common Ground Dove	Columbina passerina
Ruddy Ground Dove	Columbina talpacoti
Blue Ground Dove	Claravis pretiosa
White-tipped Dove	Leptotila verreauxi



Grey-chested Dove	Leptotila cassinii
White-winged Dove	Zenaida asiática
6	
Finfoots (Heliornithidae)	
Sungrebe	Heliornis fulica
Rails, Crakes & Coots (Rallidae)	
Uniform Crake	Amaurolimnas concolor
Russet-naped Wood Rail	Aramides albiventris
Grey-cowled Wood Rail	Aramides cajaneus
Sora	Porzana carolina
Common Gallinule	Gallinula galeata
Purple Gallinule	Porphyrio martinica
Yellow-breasted Crake	Laterallus flaviventer
White-throated Crake (H)	Laterallus albigularis
Limpkin (Aramidae)	
Limpkin	Aramus guarauna
Grebes (Podicipedidae)	
Pied-billed Grebe	Podilymbus podiceps
Stone-curlews, Thick-knees (Burhinidae)	
Double-striped Thick-knee	Burhinus bistriatus
Stilts, Avocets (Recurvirostridae)	
Black-necked Stilt	Himantopus mexicanus
Black-necked Stilt	
Plovers (Charadriidae)	
Southern Lapwing	Vanellus chilensis
Semipalmated Plover	Charadrius semipalmatus
Jacanas (Jacanidae)	
Northern Jacana	Jacana spinosa
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Sunbittern (Eurypygidae)	
Sunbittern	Eurypyga helias
Sandpipers, Snipes (Scolopacidae)	
Hudsonian Whimbrel	Numenius hudsonicus
Stilt Sandpiper	Calidris himantopus
Least Sandpiper	Calidris minutilla
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Calidris pusilla
Spotted Sandpiper	Actitis macularius
Greater Yellowlegs	Tringa melanoleuca



Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae)	
Caspian Tern	Hydroprogne caspia
Royal Tern	Thalasseus maximus
Storks (Ciconiidae)	
Jabiru	Jabiru mycteria
Juonu	
Frigatebirds (Fregatidae)	
Magnificent Frigatebird	Fregata magnificens
Great Frigatebird	Fregata minor
Anhingas, Darters (Anhingidae)	
Anhinga	Anhinga anhinga
Cormorants, Shags (Phalacrocoracidae)	
Neotropic Cormorant	Nannopterum brasilianum
Ibises, Spoonbills (Threskiornithidae)	
Green Ibis	Mesembrinibis cayennensis
American White Ibis	Eudocimus albus
Roseate Spoonbill	Platalea ajaja
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Herons, Bitterns (Ardeidae)	
Rufescent Tiger Heron	Tigrisoma lineatum
Fasciated Tiger Heron	Tigrisoma fasciatum
Bare-throated Tiger Heron	Tigrisoma mexicanum
Boat-billed Heron	Cochlearius cochlearius
Pinnated Bittern	Botaurus pinnatus
Least Bittern	Ixobrychus exilis
Black-crowned Night Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	Nyctanassa violácea
Green Heron	Butorides virescens
Western Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis
Great Blue Heron	Ardea herodias
Great Egret	Ardea alba
Tricolored Heron	Egretta tricolor
Little Blue Heron	Egretta caerulea
Snowy Egret	Egretta thula
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Pelicans (Pelecanidae)	
Brown Pelican	Pelecanus occidentalis
New World Vultures (Cathartidae)	



Black Vulture	Coragyps atratus
Turkey Vulture	Cathartes aura
Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture	Cathartes burrovianus
Ospreys (Pandionidae)	
Western Osprey	Pandion haliaetus
Kites, Hawks, Eagles (Accipitridae)	
White-tailed Kite	Elanus leucurus
Hook-billed Kite	<i>Chondrohierax uncinatus</i>
Swallow-tailed Kite	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>
Black Hawk-Eagle	Spizaetus tyrannus
Ornate Hawk-Eagle	Spizaetus ornatus
Double-toothed Kite	Harpagus bidentatus
Tiny Hawk	Accipiter superciliosus
Plumbeous Kite	Ictinia plúmbea
Black-collared Hawk	Busarellus nigricollis
Snail Kite	Rostrhamus sociabilis
Common Black Hawk	Buteogallus anthracinus
Savanna Hawk	Buteogallus meridionalis
Great Black Hawk	Buteogallus urubitinga
Roadside Hawk	Rupornis magnirostris
White Hawk	Pseudastur albicollis
Grey Hawk	Buteo plagiatus
Grey-lined Hawk	Buteo nitidus
Broad-winged Hawk	Buteo platypterus
Short-tailed Hawk	Buteo brachyurus
Zone-tailed Hawk	Buteo albonotatus
Red-tailed Hawk	Buteo jamaicensis
Owls (Strigidae)	· · · · · ·
Unspotted Saw-whet Owl (H)	Aegolius ridgwayi
Ferruginous Pygmy Owl	Glaucidium brasilianum
Striped Owl	Asio clamator
Pacific Screech Owl	Megascops cooperi
Spectacled Owl	Pulsatrix perspicillata
Crested Owl	Lophostrix cristata
Black-and-white Owl	Strix nigrolineata
Trogons (Trogonidae)	
Resplendent Quetzal	Pharomachrus mocinno
Slaty-tailed Trogon	Trogon massena
Black-headed Trogon	Trogon melanocephalus
Baird's Trogon	Trogon bairdii
Gartered Trogon	Trogon caligatus



Black-throated Trogon	Trogon Rufus
Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)	
Amazon Kingfisher	Chloroceryle amazona
American Pygmy Kingfisher	Chloroceryle aenea
Green Kingfisher	Chloroceryle americana
Ringed Kingfisher	Megaceryle torquata
Belted Kingfisher	Megaceryle alcyon
Motmots (Momotidae)	
Lesson's Motmot	Momotus lessonii
Rufous Motmot	Baryphthengus martii
Keel-billed Motmot - VU	<i>Electron carinatum</i>
Broad-billed Motmot	Electron platyrhynchum
Turquoise-browed Motmot	Eumomota superciliosa
Jacamars (Galbulidae)	
Rufous-tailed Jacamar	Galbula ruficauda
	Gaiolina Aufreditada
Puffbirds (Bucconidae)	
White-whiskered Puffbird	Malacoptila panamensis
Toucan Barbets (Semnornithidae)	
Prong-billed Barbet	Semnornis frantzii
Toucans (Ramphastidae)	
Blue-throated Toucanet	Aulacorhynchus caeruleogularis
Collared Aracari	Pteroglossus torquatus
Fiery-billed Aracari	Pteroglossus frantzii
Keel-billed Toucan	Ramphastos sulfuratus
Yellow-throated Toucan	Ramphastos ambiguus
Woodpeckers (Picidae)	
Olivaceous Piculet	Picumnus olivaceus
Acorn Woodpecker	Melanerpes formicivorus
Golden-naped Woodpecker	Melanerpes chrysauchen
Black-cheeked Woodpecker	Melanerpes pucherani
Red-crowned Woodpecker	Melanerpes rubricapillus
Hoffmann's Woodpecker	Melanerpes hoffmannii
Smoky-brown Woodpecker	Leuconotopicus fumigatus
Hairy Woodpecker	Leuconotopicus villosus
Rufous-winged Woodpecker	Piculus simplex
Golden-olive Woodpecker	Colaptes rubiginosus
Chestnut-colored Woodpecker	Celeus castaneus
Lineated Woodpecker	Dryocopus lineatus



Pale-billed Woodpecker	Campephilus guatemalensis
Caracaras, Falcons (Falconidae)	
Crested Caracara	Caracara plancus
Yellow-headed Caracara	Milvago chimachima
Laughing Falcon	Herpetotheres cachinnans
Collared Forest Falcon (H)	Micrastur semitorquatus
Bat Falcon	Falco rufigularis
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African & New World Parrots (Psittae	
Barred Parakeet	Bolborhynchus lineola
Orange-chinned Parakeet	Brotogeris jugularis
Blue-headed Parrot	Pionus menstruus
White-crowned Parrot	Pionus senilis
White-fronted Amazon	Amazona albifrons
Red-lored Amazon	Amazona autumnalis
Northern Mealy Amazon	Amazona guatemalae
Olive-throated Parakeet	Eupsittula nana
Orange-fronted Parakeet - VU	Eupsittula canicularis
Brown-throated Parakeet	Eupsittula pertinax
Great Green Macaw - CR	Ara ambiguus
Scarlet Macaw	Ara macao
Finsch's Parakeet	Psittacara finschi
Ovenbirds (Furnariidae)	
Scaly-throated Leaftosser	Sclerurus guatemalensis
Tawny-winged Woodcreeper	Dendrocincla anabatina
Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	Glyphorynchus spirurus
Northern Barred Woodcreeper	Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae
Black-banded Woodcreeper	Dendrocolaptes picumnus
Cocoa Woodcreeper	Xiphorhynchus susurrans
Black-striped Woodcreeper	Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus
Brown-billed Scythebill	Campylorhamphus pusillus
Streak-headed Woodcreeper	Lepidocolaptes souleyetii
Spot-crowned Woodcreeper	Lepidocolaptes affinis
Plain Xenops	Xenops minutus
Buffy Tuftedcheek	Pseudocolaptes lawrencii
Chiriqui Foliage-gleaner	Automolus exsertus
Ruddy Treerunner	Margarornis rubiginosus
Red-faced Spinetail	Cranioleuca erythrops
Slaty Spinetail	Synallaxis brachyura
Pale-breasted Spinetail	Synallaxis albescens
Antbirds (Thamnophilidae)	
Russet Antshrike	Thamnistes anabatinus



Dot-winged Antwren	Microrhopias quixensis
Slaty Antwren	Myrmotherula schisticolor
Barred Antshrike	Thamnophilus doliatus
Black-hooded Antshrike	*
Black-crowned Antshrike	Thamnophilus bridgesi
	Thamnophilus atrinucha
Fasciated Antshrike	Cymbilaimus lineatus
Great Antshrike (H)	Taraba major
Dusky Antbird	Cercomacroides tyrannina
Spotted Antbird	Hylophylax naevioides
Chestnut-backed Antbird	Poliocrania exsul
Bare-crowned Antbird (H)	Gymnocichla nudiceps
Antthrushes (Formicariidae)	
Black-faced Antthrush	Formicarius analis
Antpittas (Grallariidae)	
Streak-chested Antpitta (H)	Hylopezus perspicillatus
Thicket Antpitta (H)	Hylopezus dives
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Tyrant Flycatchers, Calyptura (Tyran	,
Greenish Elaenia	Myiopagis viridicata
Yellow-bellied Elaenia	Elaenia flavogaster
Mountain Elaenia	Elaenia frantzii
Southern Beardless Tyrannulet	Camptostoma obsoletum
Torrent Tyrannulet	Serpophaga cinérea
Yellow Tyrannulet	Capsiempis flaveola
Mistletoe Tyrannulet	Zimmerius parvus
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	Mionectes oleagineus
Northern Bentbill	Oncostoma cinereigulare
Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant	Lophotriccus pileatus
Common Tody-Flycatcher	Todirostrum cinereum
Eye-ringed Flatbill	Rhynchocyclus brevirostris
Yellow-margined Flatbill	Tolmomyias flavotectus
Golden-crowned Spadebill	Platyrinchus coronatus
Black Phoebe	Sayornis nigricans
Northern Tufted Flycatcher	Mitrephanes phaeocercus
Dark Pewee	Contopus lugubris
Tropical Pewee	Contopus cinereus
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Empidonax flaviventris
Yellowish Flycatcher	Empidonax flavescens
Black-capped Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax atriceps</i>
Long-tailed Tyrant	Colonia colonus
Piratic Flycatcher	Legatus leucophaius
Rusty-margined Flycatcher	Myiozetetes cayanensis
Social Flycatcher	Myiozetetes similis
	myiozeieles summis



Grey-capped Flycatcher	Myiozetetes granadensis
Great Kiskadee	Pitangus sulphuratus
Streaked Flycatcher	Myiodynastes maculatus
Boat-billed Flycatcher	Megarynchus pitangua
Tropical Kingbird	Tyrannus melancholicus
Fork-tailed Flycatcher	Tyrannus savana
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	Myiarchus tuberculifer
Panamanian Flycatcher	Myiarchus panamensis
Nutting's Flycatcher	Myiarchus nuttingi
Great Crested Flycatcher	Myiarchus crinitus
Brown-crested Flycatcher	Myiarchus tyrannulus
Bright-rumped Attila	Attila spadiceus
Cotingas (Cotingidae)	
Purple-throated Fruitcrow	Querula purpurata
Rufous Piha	Lipaugus unirufus
Turquoise Cotinga - VU	Cotinga ridgwayi
Yellow-billed Cotinga - EN	Carpodectes antoniae
Snowy Cotinga	Carpodectes anonae Carpodectes nitidus
Showy Counga	
Manakins (Pipridae)	
Long-tailed Manakin	Chiroxiphia linearis
Blue-crowned Manakin	Lepidothrix coronata
White-collared Manakin	Manacus candei
Orange-collared Manakin	Manacus aurantiacus
Red-capped Manakin	Ceratopipra mentalis
Tityras, Becards, Sharpbill (Tityridae)	
Northern Royal Flycatcher	Onychorhynchus mexicanus
Sulphur-rumped Myiobius	Myiobius sulphureipygius
Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher	Terenotriccus erythrurus
Black-crowned Tityra	Tityra inquisitor
Masked Tityra	Tityra semifasciata
Cinnamon Becard	Pachyramphus cinnamomeus
White-winged Becard	Pachyramphus polychopterus
Black-and-white Becard	Pachyramphus albogriseus
Rose-throated Becard	Pachyramphus aglaiae
Vireos, Greenlets, Shrike-babblers (Vir	reonidae)
Rufous-browed Peppershrike (H)	Cyclarhis gujanensis
Scrub Greenlet	Hylophilus flavipes
Tawny-crowned Greenlet	Tunchiornis ochraceiceps
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Lesser Greenlet	Pachysylvia decurtata
Yellow-green Vireo	Vireo flavoviridis
Red-eyed Vireo	Vireo olivaceus



Brown-capped Vireo	Vireo leucophrys
Yellow-throated Vireo	Vireo flavifrons
Yellow-winged Vireo	Vireo carmioli
Mangrove Vireo	Vireo pallens
Crows, Jays (Corvidae)	
Brown Jay	Psilorhinus morio
White-throated Magpie-Jay	Calocitta Formosa
Silky-flycatchers (Ptiliogonatidae)	
Black-and-yellow Phainoptila	Phainoptila melanoxantha
Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher	Ptiliogonys caudatus
Swallows, Martins (Hirundinidae)	
Mangrove Swallow	Tachycineta albilinea
Blue-and-white Swallow	Pygochelidon cyanoleuca
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Stelgidopteryx serripennis
Southern Rough-winged Swallow	Stelgidopteryx ruficollis
Brown-chested Martin	Progne tapera
Grey-breasted Martin	Progne chalybea
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica
Wrens (Troglodytidae)	
Rufous-backed Wren	Campylorhynchus capistratus
Spot-breasted Wren	Pheugopedius maculipectus
Banded Wren	Thryophilus pleurostictus
Cabanis's Wren	Cantorchilus modestus
Canebrake Wren	Cantorchilus zeledoni
Isthmian Wren	Cantorchilus elutus
Riverside Wren	Cantorchilus semibadius
Stripe-breasted Wren	Cantorchilus thoracicus
House Wren	Troglodytes aedon
Ochraceous Wren	Troglodytes ochraceus
Timberline Wren	Thryorchilus browni
Grey-breasted Wood Wren	Henicorhina leucophrys
Song Wren	Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus
Gnatcatchers (Polioptilidae)	
Trilling Gnatwren	Ramphocaenus melanurus
White-browed Gnatcatcher	Polioptila bilineata
White-lored Gnatcatcher	Polioptila albiloris
Maakinghinda Thrashang (Mimidas)	
Mockingbirds, Thrashers (Mimidae)	Mimus ailwa
Tropical Mockingbird	Mimus gilvus



Thrushes (Turdidae)	
Black-faced Solitaire	Myadestes melanops
Wood Thrush	Hylocichla mustelina
Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush	Catharus fuscater
Swainson's Thrush	Catharus ustulatus
Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush	Catharus gracilirostris
Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush	Catharus frantzii
Sooty Thrush	Turdus nigrescens
Mountain Thrush	Turdus plebejus
Clay-colored Thrush	Turdus grayi
Dippers (Cinclidae)	
American Dipper	Cinclus mexicanus
Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches (Pass	eridae)
House Sparrow (Introduced)	Passer domesticus
Finches, Euphonias (Fringillidae)	
Yellow-bellied Siskin	Spinus xanthogastrus
Golden-browed Chlorophonia	Chlorophonia callophrys
Yellow-crowned Euphonia	Euphonia luteicapilla
Yellow-throated Euphonia	Euphonia hirundinacea
Thick-billed Euphonia	Euphonia laniirostris
Spot-crowned Euphonia	Euphonia imitans
Olive-backed Euphonia	Euphonia gouldi
New World Sparrows (Passerellidae)	
Sooty-capped Bush Tanager	Chlorospingus pileatus
Common Bush Tanager	Chlorospingus flavopectus
Stripe-headed Sparrow	Peucaea ruficauda
Black-striped Sparrow	Arremonops conirostris
Olive Sparrow	Arremonops rufivirgatus
Orange-billed Sparrow	Arremon aurantiirostris
Sooty-faced Finch	Arremon crassirostris
Volcano Junco	Junco vulcani
Rufous-collared Sparrow	Zonotrichia capensis
Large-footed Finch	Pezopetes capitales
White-eared Ground Sparrow	Melozone leucotis
Cabanis's Ground Sparrow (Endemic)	Melozone cabanisi
Yellow-thighed Brushfinch	Atlapetes tibialis
Wrenthrush (Zeledoniidae)	
Wrenthrush (Zeledoniidae) Wrenthrush	Zeledonia coronata

Oropendolas, Orioles, Blackbirds (Icteridae)



Chestnut-headed Oropendola	Psarocolius wagleri
Crested Oropendola	Psarocolius decumanus
Montezuma Oropendola	Psarocolius Montezuma
Scarlet-rumped Cacique	Cacicus microrhynchus
Streak-backed Oriole	Icterus pustulatus
Baltimore Oriole	Icterus gálbula
Spot-breasted Oriole	Icterus galoula Icterus pectoralis
Black-cowled Oriole	Icterus prosthemelas
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Red-winged Blackbird	Agelaius phoeniceus
Giant Cowbird	Molothrus oryzivorus
Bronzed Cowbird	Molothrus aeneus
Melodious Blackbird	Dives dives
Nicaraguan Grackle	Quiscalus nicaraguensis
Great-tailed Grackle	Quiscalus mexicanus
New World Warblers (Parulidae)	
Northern Waterthrush	Parkesia noveboracensis
Golden-winged Warbler	Vermivora chrysoptera
Black-and-white Warbler	Mniotilta varia
Flame-throated Warbler	Oreothlypis gutturalis
Tennessee Warbler	Leiothlypis peregrina
Grey-crowned Yellowthroat	Geothlypis poliocephala
Mourning Warbler	<i>Geothlypis philadelphia</i>
Kentucky Warbler	Geothlypis Formosa
American Redstart	Setophaga ruticilla
Tropical Parula	Setophaga pitiayumi
Blackburnian Warbler	Setophaga fusca
American Yellow Warbler	Setophaga aestiva
Mangrove Warbler	Setophaga petechia
Chestnut-sided Warbler	
Black-throated Green Warbler	Setophaga pensylvanica Setophaga virens
Buff-rumped Warbler	
	Myiothlypis fulvicauda
Chestnut-capped Warbler	Basileuterus delattrii
Black-cheeked Warbler	Basileuterus melanogenys
Golden-crowned Warbler	Basileuterus culicivorus
Black-eared Warbler	Basileuterus melanotis
Canada Warbler	Cardellina canadensis
Wilson's Warbler	Cardellina pusilla
Slate-throated Whitestart	Myioborus miniatus
Collared Whitestart	Myioborus torquatus
Cardinals & Allies (Cardinalidae)	I
Flame-colored Tanager	Piranga bidentata
Summer Tanager	Piranga rubra
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Western Tanager	Piranga ludoviciana
White-winged Tanager	Piranga leucoptera
Red-crowned Ant Tanager	Habia rubica
Red-throated Ant Tanager	Habia fuscicauda
Black-cheeked Ant Tanager (Endemic) - EN	Habia atrimaxillaris
Carmiol's Tanager	Chlorothraupis carmioli
Black-thighed Grosbeak	Pheucticus tibialis
Black-faced Grosbeak	Caryothraustes poliogaster
Blue-black Grosbeak	Cyanoloxia cyanoides
Painted Bunting	Passerina ciris
Tanagers & Allies (Thraupidae)	
Green Honeycreeper	Chlorophanes spiza
Red-legged Honeycreeper	Cyanerpes cyaneus
Shining Honeycreeper	Cyanerpes lucidus
Scarlet-thighed Dacnis	Dacnis venusta
Blue Dacnis	Dacnis cayana
Cinnamon-bellied Saltator	Saltator grandis
Streaked Saltator	Saltator striatipectus
Buff-throated Saltator	Saltator maximus
Black-headed Saltator	Saltator atriceps
Bananaquit	Coereba flaveola
Yellow-faced Grassquit	Tiaris olivaceus
Blue-black Grassquit	Volatinia jacarina
Grey-headed Tanager	Eucometis penicillata
White-shouldered Tanager	Loriotus luctuosus
Tawny-crested Tanager	Tachyphonus delatrii
Crimson-collared Tanager	Ramphocelus sanguinolentus
Scarlet-rumped Tanager	Ramphocelus passerinii
Morelet's Seedeater	Sporophila morelleti
Variable Seedeater	Sporophila corvina
Yellow-bellied Seedeater	Sporophila nigricollis
Thick-billed Seed Finch	Sporophila funérea
Nicaraguan Seed Finch	Sporophila nuttingi
Ruddy-breasted Seedeater	Sporophila minuta
Slaty Flowerpiercer	Diglossa plúmbea
Speckled Tanager	Ixothraupis guttata
Blue-grey Tanager	Thraupis episcopus
Palm Tanager	Thraupis opticopus Thraupis palmarum
Golden-hooded Tanager	Stilpnia larvata
Spangle-cheeked Tanager	Tangara dowii
Bay-headed Tanager	Tangara gyrola
Emerald Tanager	Tangara florida
Silver-throated Tanager	Tangara icterocephala



Total seen	432
Total heard only	9
Total recorded	441

Mammal List

The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: EN = Endangered.

Common name	Scientific name
Didelphidae	
Common Opossum	Didelphis marsupialis
Sciuridae	
Red-tailed Squirrel	Sciurus granatensis
Variegated Squirrel	Sciurus variegatoides
Dasyproctidae	
Central American Agouti	Dasyprocta punctate
Emballonuridae	
Northern Ghost Bat	Diclidurus albus
Greater sac-winged Bat	Saccopteryx bilineata
Phyllostomidae	
Honduran White Bat	Ectophylla alba
Common Tent-making Bat	Uroderma bilobatum
Choloepodidae	
Hoffmann's two-toed Sloth	Choloepus hoffmanni
Bradypodidae	
Brown-throated Sloth	Bradypus variegatus
Cebidae	
Panamanian white-faced capuchin	Cebus imitator
Atelidae	
Mantled Howler	Alouatta palliata
Geoffroy's spider monkey	Ateles geoffroyi
Procyonidae	
Northern Raccoon	Cerdocyon lotor
White-nosed Coati	Nasua narica
Mustellidae	
Тауга	Eira barbara
Neotropical Otter	Lontra longicaudis
Cervidae	
White-tailed Deer	Odocoileus virginianus



Tapiridae	
Baird's Tapir - EN	Tapirus bairdii
Tayassuidae	
Collared Peccary	Dicotyles tajacu
Total seen	20

<u>Reptile List</u>

The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: VU = Vulnerable.

Common name	Scientific name	
Crocodylidae (Crocodiles)		
American Crocodile - VU	Crocodylus intermedius	
Alligatoridae (Caimans and Alligators)		
Common [Spectacled] Caiman	Caiman crocodilus	
Colubridae (Typical Snakes)		
Green Parrot Snake	Leptophis ahaetulla	
Viperidae (Vipers)		
Eyelash Viper	Bothriechis schlegelii	
Iguanidae (Iguanas)		
Green Iguana	Iguana iguana	
Spiny-tailed Iguana	Ctenosaura similis	
Corytophanidae (Helmeted Lizards, Basilisl	<u>(s)</u>	
Smooth helmeted Iguana	Corytophanes cristatus	
Green Basilisk	Basiliscus plumifrons	
Common Basilisk	Basiliscus basiliscus	
Whiptails and Tegus (Teiidae)		
Central American Whiptail	Holcosus festivus	



Podocnemididae (South American River Turtle)	
Black Wood Turtle	Rhinoclemmys funereal
Emydidae (Marsh Turtles)	
Nicaraguan Slider	Trachemys emolli
Gekkonidae (Geckos)	
Tropical House Gecko	Hemidactylus mabouia

Total seen	13

Amphibian List

Common name	Scientific name
Dendrobatidae (Dart Frogs)	
Strawberry poison-dart frog	Oophaga pumilio
Green-and-black poison-dart frog	Dendrobates auratus
Hylidae (Tree Frogs)	
Red-eyed tree frog	Agalychnis callidryas
Leptodactylidae (Bull Frogs)	
Smoky jungle frog	Leptodactylus pentadactylus
Bufonidae	
Cane toad	Rhinella marina

Total seen	5

