

## BIRDING COSTA RICA NOVEMBER 12-26 2011

### Participants:

Jim law, Chris Dyett, Peter van der Veken, Graham Crick, Roger Bird, Brian and Liz Baltera, Bob and Tessa Hinge, Eileen Stimson, Sheila Creasey, Aline Cormier, Karen Chiasson.

Tour operator and guide ALFREDO PORRAS

Tour organiser John van der Dol

### November 12

Some of us left the observatory at the unearthly hour of 2am. We had a smooth ride up to Heathrow where we met Peter and Roger. We quickly checked in and before we knew it we were on our way to Madrid. We arrived a little late and had no time to do anything other than make our way to the gate for our next flight to San Jose, Costa Rica. Everything went very smoothly, just the way I like it.

The flight to San Jose was a long one, I think about ten hours. We arrived about half an hour late and were to meet Aline who had flown in from Canada and our guide Alfredo. Aline sensibly decided to get a cab to the hotel. We did spend some time looking for her but a phone call to the hotel resolved the situation.

We arrived at the hotel which was only 15 minutes from the airport after dark, checked in and had an early dinner. I think we are going to have to get used to large portions. The food was great though.

We all retired early to bed as most if not all were shattered.

### November 13

Dawn is about 5.30 and people were already out by that time. The first bird was a Common Nighthawk seen by some and as more people joined the group, excitement overcame any that had not travelled to Central or Southern America before. Common birds in the hotel gardens but beautiful nevertheless. Hoffman's Woodpecker went down well and Rufous-naped Wrens were magnificent. By breakfast time the list had already exceeded 30 species, and that was without moving from the balcony. Rain prevented any further exploration. That was going to be the theme of the day. Rain and more rain. However after breakfast we boarded the bus and drove out of town eastwards towards our first destination which was a bungalow known as Miriam's. Here the lady who owns the place had strategically positioned some feeders which attract loads of good birds. In the garden, a fruiting avocado tree attracts tanagers and Resplendent Quetzals. Our first bird seen was in fact a female of the species. About three or four females and an immature male with a short tail were seen in the hour or so we spent there. Other birds included Large-footed Finches which normally don't come out into the open, but here were walking on the lawn. Flame-coloured Tanagers were bright to say the least and Wilson's Warbler, Yellow-thighed Finch, Slaty Flowerpiercer, a small party Acorn Woodpeckers graced us with their presence and gave a magnificent show. Townsend's Warbler was a north American migrant and Sooty, Clay-coloured and Mountain Thrushes all gave great shows for us to compare. It was still raining and we moved on to our next lodge with a couple of stops for Collared Trogon, Black-headed Flycatcher and a pair of American Dippers

We arrived at the lodge and immediately sat down for a tremendous lunch after which we again sheltered from the rain and watched and photographed White-throated Mountain Gems, Magnificent Hummingbirds and Green Violetears. A Bat Falcon sat high up on a snag totally unperturbed about the rain and a Collared Redstart showing off its beautiful colours which were by now becoming common place in this tropical country.

Late afternoon we set off for a walk in the rain displaying our vast array of ponchos. It was difficult in those conditions but nevertheless



Resplendent Quetzal 1

we saw a few nice birds. A feeding flock consisted of a beautiful Black-and-white Warbler and a bunch of Common Bush and Spangled-cheeked Tanagers. A little further up the road we found a pair of Torrent Tyrannulets and a Black Phoebe. A noisy flock of Grey-breasted Woodwrens was the biggest congregation Alfredo has ever seen with probably a dozen birds involved. A Tennessee Warbler showed for no more than a second but a Yellowish Flycatcher gave good views. A couple of Spot-crowned Woodcreepers were found on the way back. A lovely meal again this evening was followed by yet another early night.

#### **November 14**

The day dawned relatively bright and dry. We had an early start and went straight back to Miriam's to see if we could get an adult male Quetzal. We were not disappointed as one was sitting in the tree awaiting our arrival. Mostly the same birds as yesterday were seen although a very brief view of Long-tailed Silky Flycatcher was had by some. We were to see a flock of half a dozen a little later on. It was again a stunning couple of hours which included a Black Guan, Band-tailed Pigeon, Yellow-winged Vireo and Tufted Flycatcher.

We returned for breakfast after which we took some 4 wheel drive vehicles up the mountain. We walked a trail which eventually got us back to the lodge for lunch. Not a huge amount was seen but we did add Buffy Tuftedcheek, Dark Pewee, Black-faced Warbler and Black-throated Green Warbler.

After lunch back at the lodge we had some Silver-throated Tanagers, Baltimore Oriole, Red-crowned Woodpecker and some people had a Great Blue Heron. Chris found a nice pair of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks which some of the group managed to get on to. A flock of about 20 Sulphur-winged Parakeets were constantly disturbed by a Black Vulture.

In the afternoon we took our bus up the mountain to 3500m. A lorry had broken down in the road stopping us going any further. We walked a while but saw nothing. Tessa had the only Volcano Junco of the trip which was of course one of the target species of this excursion. The rain set in and we retired to a cafe along the Pan-American highway where hummingbird feeders produced another new species, namely the Fiery-throated

hummer. Great views although appalling light for photography.



Flame-coloured Tanager 1

#### **November 15**

Breakfast at 7 and we were on our way to the coast by about 8am.

We had a couple of stops en route which produced a few water species in the form of herons and ducks and a Crested Caracara was seen perched up. A grassy area produced brief flight views of a couple of Sedge Wrens and a Grey Hawk.

A bridge across the River Tarcoles was very productive. Huge American

crocodiles were noted lying around, like they do, waiting for us to be pushed over the side by the constant procession of massive American trucks, big enough to make the bridge shake like a kids party jelly. Birds of note were a superb male Turquoise-browed Motmot which gave excellent views, a Rose-breasted Becard, Mangrove Swallows and a pair of Scarlet Macaws flew over the river. We were now nearly at the next accommodation, Villa Lapas where we arrived for a late lunch.

We did not have time to check in as we had a boat trip booked for three o'clock. We travelled up and down the river Tarcoles and entered one of the mangrove creeks. It was a brilliant trip for about two hours. A long list of new species were recorded which included Zone-tailed and Common Black Hawks, Roseate Spoonbills looking as always like giant bags of candyfloss, Royal, Elegant and Least Terns, the magnificent Prothonotary Warbler, the endemic Mangrove Hummingbird, adult and juvenile Boat-billed Herons were possibly the best of the many species of herons present. Magnificent Frigatebirds harried the terns, and a pair of Yellow-headed Caracaras was seen mating. This very personal and private activity was recorded in digital format. A Raccoon was also seen climbing down a tree before disappearing in the undergrowth.

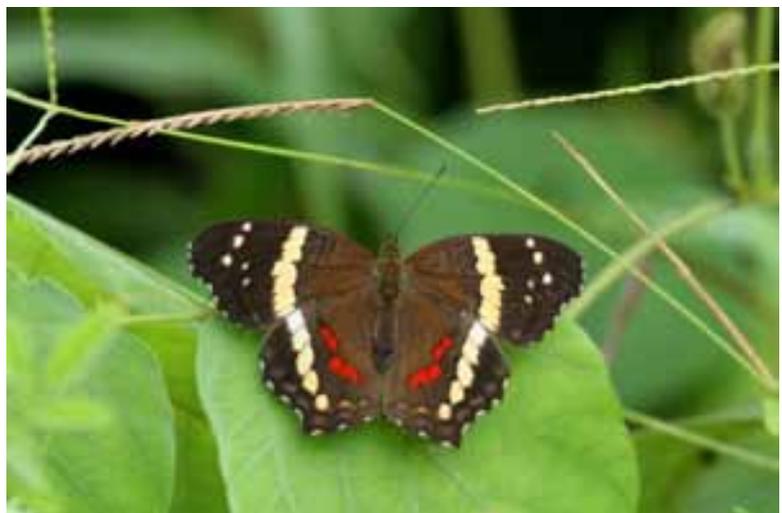
### **November 16**

Coffee at 05.30 was followed by a 6am departure for our pre-breakfast walk. We wandered along a trail starting from the lodge and productive it was too. Some Jamaican Tent-making Bats were seen in the lodge gardens and it wasn't long before we were seeing new species for the trip. A Rufous-tailed Hummingbird was followed by a beautiful Fiery-billed Aracari, a couple of Buff-rumped Warblers and a pair of White-necked Jacobins. A fantastic Blue-crowned Motmot was the second of the family to be noted and I was fortunate to see a male Blue-crowned Manakin. Real forest species started appearing with Chestnut-banded Antbird, Dusky Antbird and a fabulous Black-faced Anthrush. A female Orange-collared Manakin was in the same area as a Rufous-tailed Jacamar. On the way back we found a long-tailed Manakin and a few more of the commoner species. A Riverside Wren had the group dancing around on the path trying to locate it. Back for breakfast and already a long list in the book.

We went out immediately after our first meal of the day and it took rather longer to get to the mangroves due to the stops en route. We had got no distance from the hotel when a small red bird flew up from the road which turned out to be a male Painted Bunting. Unfortunately the group did not connect with it. In the same area appeared to be a small feeding flock consisting of Philadelphia and Yellow-green Vireos, Ochre-breasted Flycatchers, Lesser Greenlets and a female Blue Dacnis. An Ornate Hawk Eagle flew over high on a couple of occasions. Our next stop was for our first Bare-throated Tiger Heron and some Northern Jacanas while some Orange-cheeked Parakeets did a fly-by. A Violaceous (Gartered) Trogon was seen sitting on a wire.

We eventually got to the mangroves but apart from a bunch of Brown Pelicans and three Western Sandpipers there was nothing new from yesterday's boat trip to this area. On the way back a Squirrel Cuckoo gave good views and a couple of Melodious Blackbirds were seen.

Back at the lodge a Yellow-throated Euphonia was found by Jim and a Long-tailed Hermit visited the garden. After lunch we intended to visit the Carara forest but the trail was far too muddy so instead we ended up in an open agricultural area which was actually very good. Four Turquoise-browed Motmots, were seen close together, Stripe-headed Sparrow was new, a Black-headed Trogon disappeared before the rest of the party could see it, Green-breasted Mangos were present as was a Boat-billed Flycatcher. Four Red-lore Parrots flew over and four Scarlet Macaws kept us company for some time with their noisy "goings on". A couple of Roadside Hawks were added to the list.



### **November 17**

As yesterday we did a two hour walk before breakfast which produced a few new species such as Rufous-capped Warbler, Great Crested Flycatcher, Steely-vented Hummingbird, Yellow-crowned Euphonia, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blue-black Grassquit and Variable Seed-eater. The best bird of all, though, was a superb male Barred Antshrike which was thoroughly enjoyed by the group.

We returned for breakfast after which we left this wonderful paradise and moved on to Monteverde.

A couple of Masked Tityras flew along with the bus and along an estuary we found a load of Royal Terns with a few Laughing Gulls mixed in. It was slow drive to Monteverde especially the last part which is a minor road and goes on for at least 25 miles. A troop of Mantled Howling Monkeys allowed close approach and photography.

At the lodge we found some Brown Jays, Yellow-bellied Elaenias, Canivets Emerald which surprised Alfredo as it should not really occur here. We had lunch and walked the trail down to the lake but apart from a Brown-crested Flycatcher the forest was empty. Not the best time of day though.

Alfredo decided we should visit a hummingbird gallery and here six new hummers were identified. There were just dozens of hummers there. It was amazing but photography was impossible in the bad light. Using the flash did produce some half decent results.

New species were Magenta-throated Woodstar, Stripe-tailed Hummingbird, Green-crowned Brilliant, Purple-throated Mountain Gem, Coppery-headed Emerald and the magnificent Violet Sabrewing. This must be what they mean with "paradise" if you're into hummers that is.

### **November 18**

We set off early for the famous Monteverde Reserve but no sooner had we got there the rain set in and continued for the most part of our next couple of hours on the trail. We walked this beautiful trail through prime rainforest but saw virtually nothing. A few Three-striped Warblers and a Black-faced Solitaire were the only new species. We then revisited the hummingbird gallery and added Green Hermit and Mountain Elaenia to the trip list.

As it was such terrible weather we were treated to a lovely Italian meal for lunch after which we walked one of the local forest roads which resulted in a Slaty-throated Redstarts, Olivaceous Woodcreeper, Spotted Barbtail and Red-faced Spinetail.

Just before returning to base we were treated to a troop of White-faced Capuchin Monkeys.

### **November 19**

Some good birds were seen by different members of the group before breakfast including Wrenthrush, Pale-billed Woodpecker and Grey-necked Woodrail. We set off immediately after breakfast towards the coast and the lodge Hacienda Solimar at Ensenada. Some nice birds were seen en route including some Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, Double-striped Thick-knee spotted by Tessa right next to the road, a small gang of Montezuma Oropendolas and some Northern Rough-winged Swallows.

On arrival at the lodge we were greeted by some White-throated Magpie Jays which are really rather beautiful and extremely obliging in terms of photography visiting us at the breakfast table in search of titbits.

Some of the group were lucky enough to find Spot-breasted Oriole and on our afternoon walk the third of the orioles, the Streak-breasted Oriole was located. Some White-collared Seedeaters were found and a party of White-fronted Parrots flew in while some Yellow-naped Parrots flew over.

Vaux Swift and about 20 Lesser Nighthawks were seen as the light was fading and just as we entered the lodge compound a Ferruginous Screech Owl was heard but not seen despite the fact it was just above us in the tree.

More Mantled Howler Monkeys were seen on two occasions today.

### **November 20**

We revisited the salinas (saltpans) for high tide before breakfast. This time there were some waders to sort through. All North American species including peeps such as Western, Least and Semi-palmated Sandpipers, both Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, a beautiful Wilson's Phalarope, a local rarity, Short-billed Dowitchers and a bunch of Semi-palmated Plovers. Three Yellow-crowned Night Herons graced us with their presence, and a Peregrine was the first of the tour. On the way back a Mangrove Vireo was another rarity, and a male Black-headed Trogon was joined by its mate. Two Crane Hawks were seen which too was a good record and

Karen found a Yellow-olive Flycatcher but nobody else saw it.

We returned for breakfast and a Central American Porcupine kept all amused for some time and many photographs were taken. This morning we visited a private farm which is also a reserve and which is stuffed with birds. We picked up our guide and spent the next two hours driving round the farm looking at Jabiru, of which three adults were noted on two nests, and just hundreds of egrets, herons and woodstorks. I would not like to be a frog in this area. A Muscovy Duck was found, two ringtail Northern Harriers were new to Costa Rica for Alfredo, and Harris's Hawk and a female American Kestrel were also seen.

We had a blow-out lunch in a steakhouse after which we returned to the lodge via another set of salt pans, but these were rather unproductive. A pond we stopped at this morning was a little busier this time and the Lesser Scaup was still present. A Wilson's Phalarope may well have been the same bird as this morning at the other pans. Alfredo took us up to a high view point for a sundowner. It was very pleasant sitting there sipping a glass of wine while watching Lesser Nighthawks against the setting sun. Two Paraques were seen in the headlights on the way home.

### **November 21**

The early birds got out in time to find the Ferruginous Pygmy Owl and although it was still around when the whole group had surfaced, it and maybe a second flew never to be seen again. A short walk before breakfast produced just two new birds for the trip in the shape of a beautiful Orchard Oriole and a not so pretty Yellow-olive Flycatcher.

We set off for our penultimate destination of La Selva Verde, the only place east of the Central Highlands on the Caribbean slope. As we got high to cross the mountains the fog set in and this turned to rain as we drove further east. It did not stop until well into the afternoon but at least allowed us enough time to do a short walk round the lodge grounds. This was very productive indeed with a Northern Waterthrush and Buff-rumped Warbler being seen just before lunch.

After our meal we set off and Green Honeycreeper, Olive Green Euphonia were soon located followed by some Collared Toucanets, Tropical Gnatcatchers and a Cocoa Woodcreeper visited the same tree as a Black-cheeked Woodpecker. A couple of Mealy Parrots flew over and a pair of Cinnamon Becards were in the same tree as a Golden-hooded Tanager. A Keel-billed Toucan gave great views while some Plain-coloured Tanagers were rather dull in comparison.

A fantastic lodge surrounded by amazing habitat. We shall look forward to the next couple of days.

### **November 22**

We left the lodge at 06.00 and drove with our packed breakfasts to the La Selva Research Station where we were met by our guide for the morning, Joel. While tucking into our first meal of the day a beautiful White-collared Manakin was getting a number of females very excited. The place here was stuffed with good birds and as he took us out our lists were growing rapidly. Two new woodpeckers in succession namely Rufous-winged and Chestnut-coloured whilst a little later some of the group caught up with Pale-billed Woodpecker. Great Tinamou was a lovely surprise as it just pecked around at five metre from the path oblivious to our presence. Crested Guan did similarly but in the trees and great views of Rufous Mourner, Bright-rumped Atilla, Paltry Tyrannulet, Stripe-breasted and Band-backed Wrens were obtained. It had been a great morning possibly highlighted by two sightings of Three-toed Sloths one of whose only movements was to open its eye while the other one at least showed it was alive by eating a leaf. I wondered if any of the group ever felt any



Central American Porcupine 1

affinity with this species.

We returned to our lodge beside the Sarapiquí River which seemed to be more in flood than yesterday.

A brief walk by Jim, Roger and I was quite rewarding with a nice Wood Thrush and a small migration of about about 40 turkey Vultures and about 30 Broad-winged Hawks was witnessed. Amongst them was a nice Collared Forest Falcon.

We visited a marshy area this afternoon but not a great deal was added here. A flock of Red-winged Blackbirds flew by but not many people saw them but they did connect with a party of Bronzed Cowbirds which contained about four Giant Cowbirds. Another Bare-throated Tiger Heron was seen here.

### **November 23**

The day started with rain but by the time we arrived at the Braulio Carrillo National Park it had stopped. We started on the trail on the opposite side of the road from the entrance building and we were soon seeing a few birds. A female Black-throated Trogon was first on the list and was later followed by a party of Black-faced Grosbeaks, a couple of Wedge-billed Woodcreepers and some saw Spotted Woodcreeper. A Brown-billed Scythebill put in a very brief appearance and was unfortunately only seen by myself. A Dull-mantled Antbird was noted and a Stripe-breasted Wren was seen too. Some of the group saw a tree-living Anteater also known as a Tamandur.

The trail was steep and slippery with many rocks covered in algae and my worst fears came true that someone would slip and hurt themselves. Tessa slipped on one such rock and broke her upper arm. She was in severe pain and still had to climb back up to the road via the steep slippery rock-strewn trail. Eventually we managed to get her into hospital in San Jose where she underwent surgery. Bob and she stayed at the hospital and we hoped to meet up again at the hotel in San Jose tomorrow.

The afternoon was mostly wasted. The group did walk the trail on the other side of the road but rain stopped play. We did however find a Broad-billed Motmot and back at base a Bronzy Hermit, a Green Hermit and a Violet-headed Hummingbird were seen. Karen had a Collared Forest Falcon.



White-nosed Coati 1

### **November 24**

It rained hard all night and did not really let up this morning which rather stopped play again. We visited a

lodge on the way back to San Jose with the intention of doing some birding. The rain only stopped long enough for us to be shown a magnificent pair of Spectacled Owls. They were quite close and although the light was poor we managed some decent photographs.

We continued on our way and stopped at an abandoned piece of land and building where some nutcase appeared to be living. It never stopped raining but at least we were able to shelter under the overhanging roof of the building. We came to see some hummingbirds and after an hour had seen just Rufous-tailed Hummers. We were about to give up when a party of Passerini's Tanagers started fiddling about and eventually a Bay Wren was added to the list. Some Black-faced Grosbeaks were found and then behind the building a Rufous Mourner turned up, followed by a Violet-headed Hummingbird and eventually our target species of a fantastic male Snowcap. Alfredo reckoned there were two but I was too busy to keep my bins on just the one to notice a second one. As soon as they had arrived from nowhere they disappeared the same way. This could well be the bird of the trip for some.

We continued back to the Rodeo Hotel in San Jose and blow-out lunch.

### **November 25**

Today we visited the La Paz waterfall gardens. Waterfall being the appropriate word as the rain never stopped falling and hard at that. It did not stop the group walking the trail but of course nothing was seen. I stayed behind as I had no decent waterproofs, my poncho had completely disintegrated the day before and I had left the remnants with the nutcase who appeared to be delighted with his new acquisition. I stood and attempted to get some photos of hummers but with little success due to appalling light and the sheer speed of these little blighters. I do however have some delightful foliage photographs. Green Thorntail and Black-bellied Hummer were added to the list and Green Hermit at last gave excellent views to all. We had lunch here and watched a Black-throated Green Warbler in a tree next to the restaurant. After a brief inspection of the butterfly house and the large cat enclosures where perhaps the only Jaguars I am ever likely to see were housed we set off to a very lush and green valley just down the road. Rain actually stopped and we were able to walk for half an hour without getting wet. We had a very brief view of a White Hawk as it glided down the valley and a party of Red-collared Tanagers were new. There was some discussion as to whether the red under parts of a trogon were red or orange. There was no consensus but as the male arrived it was clear that we had been looking at a female Collared Trogon.

We returned to the hotel and Bob went off with Max to the hospital to collect Tessa. Traffic was bad and this took a long time and by the time they got back she was too exhausted to join us for dinner. Instead we had a guy called Richard, the co-author of the new Helm guide to the Birds Costa Rica, to give us a brief talk on how the book came about. He signed a few copies for those who had already purchased a copy.

### **November 26**

Some of us took a brief morning excursion to the Peace University grounds and trail where we added Red-crowned Ant tanagers which were part of a feeding flock including Lesser Greenlets and some Chestnut-sided Warblers and a Streak-headed Woodcreeper. A Ferruginous Pygmy Owl was in attendance but never seen despite continuous whistling by Alfredo.

We still had time to visit a lake on the outskirts of the city where we added Green-winged Teal, Southern Lapwing and Purple Gallinule to the list.

We left the hotel at lunchtime to go to the airport. As soon as we stepped on the bus the rain started and this turned into a torrential downpour as if a reminder to what rain really means was necessary. May be it was a farewell gesture by the gods. We arrived at the airport well in time to go through all the usual procedures and eventually we arrived at the gate. It was immediately obvious that there was a problem as the stand was empty and our plane was nowhere to be seen. It was in fact stuck in Salvador. Apparently it was unable to land a few hours earlier due to fog and so was diverted. Now the crew had run out of flying time and all the passengers were transferred to different hotels. We ended up at the very plush Barceló San Jose Palacio Hotel for the night. They struggled with the huge sudden influx of guests but eventually we received our room and had a very mediocre evening buffet meal. Fighting with a load of Germans for every last scrap of the deserts was quite amusing and became the order of the evening.

### **November 27**

A lousy breakfast for such a big hotel and we were on our way to the airport but not before Liz reported a new species for the trip in the hotel garden. She apparently saw a Clay Pigeon, *Columba stickysolus*, in the

garden.

Our flight had a slight delay but we were not worried as we were due for a long layover in Madrid.

## SYSTEMATIC LIST

Photos by Karen, Graham and myself.

### **Tinamidae**

Great Tinamou *Tinamus major*

### **Podicipedidae**

Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus*

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*

### **Pelecanidae**

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*

### **Phalacrocoracidae**

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*

### **Anhingidae**

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga*

### **Fregatidae**

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*



Anhinga 1

### **Ardeidae**

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*

[Great Egret](#) *Ardea alba*

[Tricolored Heron](#) *Egretta tricolor*

[Little Blue Heron](#) *Egretta caerulea*

[Snowy Egret](#) *Egretta thula*

[Cattle Egret](#) *Bubulcus ibis*

[Green Heron](#) *Butorides virescens*

[Black-crowned Night-Heron](#) *Nycticorax nycticorax*

[Yellow-crowned Night-Heron](#) *Nyctanassa violacea*

[Boat-billed Heron](#) *Cochlearius cochlearius*

[Bare-throated Tiger-Heron](#) *Tigrisoma mexicanum*

[Least Bittern](#) *Ixobrychus exilis*

## **Ciconiidae**

[Wood Stork](#) *Mycteria americana*

[Jabiru](#) *Jabiru mycteria*

## **Threskiornithidae**

[Green Ibis](#) *Mesembrinibis cayennensis*

[White Ibis](#) *Eudocimus albus*

[Roseate Spoonbill](#) *Platalea ajaja*

## **Anatidae**

[Black-bellied Whistling-Duck](#) *Dendrocygna autumnalis*

[Muscovy Duck](#) *Cairina moschata*

[Blue-winged Teal](#) *Anas discors*

[Lesser Scaup](#) *Aythya affinis*



Boat-billed Heron 1

## Cathartidae

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*

## Pandionidae

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

## Accipitridae

White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus*

Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Crane Hawk *Geranospiza caerulescens*

White Hawk *Leucopternis albicollis*

Common Black-Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus*

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*

Gray Hawk *Asturina nitida*

Roadside Hawk *Buteo magnirostris*

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus*

Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus*

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*

Ornate Hawk-eagle *Spizaetus ornatus*

## Falconidae

Northern Caracara *Caracara cheriway*

Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima*

Collared Forest-falcon *Micrastur semitorquatus*

Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans*



Yellow-headed Caracara 1

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*

Bat Falcon *Falco ruficularis*

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

## **Cracidae**

Crested Guan *Penelope purpurascens*

Black Guan *Chamaepetes unicolor* Near-threatened

## **Aramidae**

Limpkin *Aramus guarauna*

## **Rallidae**

White-throated Crake *Laterallus albigularis* heard only

Gray-necked Wood-Rail *Aramides cajanea*

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica*

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

American Coot *Fulica americana*

## **Jacanidae**

Northern Jacana *Jacana spinosa*

## **Haematopodidae**

American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus*

## **Recurvirostridae**

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*

## **Burhinidae**

Double-striped Thick-knee *Burhinus bistriatus*

## Charadriidae

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*  
Rare/Accidental

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus*



Double-striped Thick-knee 1

## Scolopacidae

Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus*

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia*

Willet *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri*

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*

## Laridae

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla*

## Sternidae

Elegant Tern *Sterna elegans* Near-threatened

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Royal Tern *Sterna maxima*

Least Tern *Sternula antillarum*

## Columbidae

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* Introduced species

Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata*

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis*

Red-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas flavirostris*

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*

Common Ground Dove *Columbina passerina*

Ruddy Ground Dove *Columbina talpacoti*

Inca Dove *Columbina inca*

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*

Grey-chested Dove *Leptotila cassini*

## Psittacidae

Great Green Macaw *Ara ambigua* Vulnerable



Scarlet Macaw 1

Scarlet Macaw *Ara macao*

[Crimson-fronted Parakeet](#) *Aratinga finschi*

[Orange-fronted Parakeet](#) *Aratinga canicularis*

[Sulphur-winged Parakeet](#) *Pyrrhura hoffmanni*

[Orange-chinned Parakeet](#) *Brotogeris jugularis*

[White-crowned Parrot](#) *Pionus senilis*

[White-fronted Amazon](#) *Amazona albifrons*

[Red-lored Amazon](#) *Amazona autumnalis*

[Yellow-naped Amazon](#) *Amazona auropalliata*

[Mealy Amazon](#) *Amazona farinosa*

## **Cuculidae**

[Squirrel Cuckoo](#) *Piaya cayana*

[Groove-billed Ani](#) *Crotophaga sulcirostris*

## **Strigidae**

[Spectacled Owl](#) *Pulsatrix perspicillata*



Spectacled Owl 1

[Ferruginous Pygmy-owl](#) *Glaucidium brasilianum*

## Caprimulgidae

Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis*

Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor*

Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*

## Apodidae

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris*

Gray-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris*

Vaux's Swift *Chaetura vauxi*

## Trochilidae

Bronzy Hermit *Glaucis aenea*

Band-tailed Barbthroat *Threnetes ruckeri*

Green Hermit *Phaethornis guy*

Long-billed Hermit, *Phaethornis longirostris*

Stripe-throated Hermit *Phaethornis striigularis*



White-throated Mountain-gem Female 1

Scaly-breasted Hummingbird *Phaeochroa cuvierii*

Violet Sabrewing *Campylopterus hemileucurus*

White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga mellivora*

Green Violet-ear *Colibri thalassinus*



Green Violetear 1

[Green-breasted Mango](#) *Anthracothorax prevostii*

[Violet-headed Hummingbird](#) *Klais guimeti*

[Green Thorntail](#) *Discosura conversii*

[Fiery-throated Hummingbird](#) *Panterpe insignis*

[Coppery-headed Emerald](#) *Elvira cupreiceps* Endemic

[Stripe-tailed Hummingbird](#) *Eupherusa eximia*

[Black-bellied Hummingbird](#) *Eupherusa nigriventris*

[Violet-crowned Woodnymph](#) *Thalurania colombica*



Green-crowned Brilliant juvenile 1

[Rufous-tailed Hummingbird](#) *Amazilia tzacatl*

[Cinnamon Hummingbird](#) *Amazilia rutila*

[Blue-chested Hummingbird](#) *Polyerata amabilis*

[Mangrove Hummingbird](#) *Polyerata boucardi*

Endemic Endangered

[Steely-vented Hummingbird](#) *Saucerottia saucerrottei*

[Snowcap](#) *Microchera albocoronata*

[Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer](#) *Chalybura urochrysis*

[Purple-throated Mountain-gem](#) *Lampornis calolaema*

[Gray-tailed \(White-throated\) Mountain-gem](#) *Lampornis cinereicauda* Endemic

[Green-crowned Brilliant](#) *Heliodoxa jacula*



Volcano Hummingbird female 1

[Magnificent Hummingbird](#) *Eugenes fulgens*

[Magenta-throated Woodstar](#) *Calliphlox bryantae*

[Ruby-throated Hummingbird](#) *Archilochus colubris*

[Scintillant Hummingbird](#) *Selasphorus scintilla*

[Volcano Hummingbird](#) *Selasphorus flammula*

## [Trogonidae](#)



Violaceous Trogon 1

[Black-headed Trogon](#) *Trogon melanocephalus*

[Violaceous Trogon](#) *Trogon violaceus*  
(Gartered Trogon)

[Collared Trogon](#) *Trogon collaris*

[Black-throated Trogon](#) *Trogon rufus*

[Slaty-tailed Trogon](#) *Trogon Massena*

[Resplendent Quetzal](#) *Pharomachrus mocinno* Near-threatened

## [Alcedinidae](#)

Ringed Kingfisher *Ceryle torquatus*

Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona*

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana*

## Momotidae

Blue-crowned Motmot *Momotus momota*



Amazon Kingfisher 1

Rufous Motmot *Baryphthengus martii*

Broad-billed Motmot *Electron platyrhynchum*

Turquoise-browed Motmot *Eumomota superciliosa*

## Galbulidae

Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula ruficauda*

## Capitonidae

Prong-billed Barbet *Semnornis frantzii*

## Ramphastidae

Collared Aracari *Pteroglossus torquatus*

Fiery-billed Aracari *Pteroglossus frantzii*

Keel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos sulfuratus*

Chestnut-mandibled Toucan *Ramphastos swainsonii*

## Picidae



Acorn Woodpecker 1

[Acorn Woodpecker](#) *Melanerpes formicivorus*

[Black-cheeked Woodpecker](#) *Melanerpes pucherani*

[Red-crowned Woodpecker](#) *Melanerpes rubricapillus*

[Hoffmann's Woodpecker](#) *Melanerpes hoffmannii*

[Yellow-bellied Sapsucker](#) *Sphyrapicus varius*

[Smoky-brown Woodpecker](#) *Veniliornis fumigatus*

[Rufous-winged Woodpecker](#) *Piculus simplex*

[Chestnut-colored Woodpecker](#) *Celeus castaneus*

[Pale-billed Woodpecker](#) *Campephilus guatemalensis*

## Furnariidae

[Red-faced Spinetail](#) *Cranioleuca erythroptera*

[Spotted Barbtail](#) *Premnoplex brunnescens*

[Buffy Tuftedcheek](#) *Pseudocolaptes lawrencii*

## Dendrocolaptidae

[Spot-crowned Woodcreeper](#)

[Olivaceous Woodcreeper](#) *Sittasomus griseicapillus*

[Wedge-billed Woodcreeper](#) *Glyphorynchus spirurus*

[Northern Barred-Woodcreeper](#) '*Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae*

[Cocoa Woodcreeper](#) *Xiphorhynchus susurrans*

[Spotted Woodcreeper](#) *Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*

[Streak-headed Woodcreeper](#) *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*

[Spot-crowned Woodcreeper](#) *Lepidocolaptes affinis*'

[Brown-billed Scythebill](#) *Campylorhamphus pusillus*

## **Thamnophilidae**

[Great Antshrike](#) *Taraba major*

[Barred Antshrike](#) *Thamnophilus doliatus*

[Black-hooded Antshrike](#) *Thamnophilus bridgesi*

[White-flanked Antwren](#) *Myrmotherula axillaris*

[Dot-winged Antwren](#) *Microrhophias quixensis*

[Dusky Antbird](#) *Cercomacra tyrannina*

[Chestnut-backed Antbird](#) *Myrmeciza exsul*

[Dull-mantled Antbird](#) *Myrmeciza laemosticta*

## **Formicariidae**

[Black-faced Antthrush](#) *Formicarius analis*

## **Rhinocryptidae**

[Silvery-fronted Tapaculo](#) *Scytalopus argentifrons* heard only

## **Pipridae**

[White-collared Manakin](#) *Manacus candei*

[Orange-collared Manakin](#) *Manacus aurantiacus*

[White-ruffed Manakin](#) *Corapipo altera*

[Long-tailed Manakin](#) *Chiroxiphia linearis*

[Blue-crowned Manakin](#) *Lepidothrix coronata*

## **Tyrannidae**

[Northern Beardless Tyrannulet](#) *Camptostoma imberbe*

[Yellow-bellied Elaenia](#) *Elaenia flavogaster*

[Mountain Elaenia](#) *Elaenia frantzii*

[Torrent Tyrannulet](#) *Serpophaga cinerea*

[Golden-crowned Spadebill](#) *Platyrinchus coronatus*

[Common Tody-Flycatcher](#)

[Ochre-bellied Flycatcher](#) *Mionectes oleagineus*

[Paltry Tyrannulet](#) *Zimmerius vilissimus*

[Common Tody-Flycatcher](#) *Todirostrum cinereum*

[Yellow-olive Flycatcher](#) *Tolmomyias sulphurescens*

[Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher](#) *Myiobius sulphureipygius*

[Tufted Flycatcher](#) *Mitrephanes phaeocercus*

[Olive-sided Flycatcher](#) *Contopus cooperi*

[Dark Pewee](#) *Contopus lugubris* Endemic

[Eastern Wood-Pewee](#) *Contopus virens*

[Yellow-bellied Flycatcher](#) *Empidonax flaviventris*

[Alder Flycatcher](#) *Empidonax alnorum*

[Black-capped Flycatcher](#) *Empidonax atriceps*

[Black Phoebe](#) *Sayornis nigricans*

[Long-tailed Tyrant](#) *Colonia colonus*

[Bright-rumped Attila](#) *Attila spadiceus*

[Rufous Mourner](#) *Rhytipterna holerythra*

[Dusky-capped Flycatcher](#) *Myiarchus tuberculifer*

[Great Crested Flycatcher](#) *Myiarchus crinitus*

[Brown-crested Flycatcher](#) *Myiarchus tyrannulus*

[Great Kiskadee](#) *Pitangus sulphuratus*

[Boat-billed Flycatcher](#) *Megarynchus pitangua*

[Social Flycatcher](#) *Myiozetetes similis*



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher 1

[Grey-capped Flycatcher](#) *Myiozetetes granadensis*

[Streaked Flycatcher](#) *Myiodynastes maculatus*

[Tropical Kingbird](#) *Tyrannus melancholicus*

[Scissor-tailed Flycatcher](#) *Tyrannus forficatus*

[Cinnamon Becard](#) *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*

[White-winged Becard](#) *Pachyramphus polychopterus*

[Rose-throated Becard](#) *Pachyramphus aglaiae*

[Masked Tityra](#) *Tityra semifasciata*

## **Hirundinidae**

[Gray-breasted Martin](#) *Progne chalybea*

[Mangrove Swallow](#) *Tachycineta albilinea*

[Blue-and-white Swallow](#) *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*

[Northern Rough-winged Swallow](#) *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*

[Southern Rough-winged Swallow](#) *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*

[Barn Swallow](#) *Hirundo rustica*

## **Ptilonotidae**

[Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher](#) *Ptilonotus caudatus*

## **Cinclidae**

[American Dipper](#) *Cinclus mexicanus*

## **Troglodytidae**

[Band-backed Wren](#) *Campylorhynchus zonatus*

[Rufous-naped Wren](#) *Campylorhynchus rufinucha*

[Riverside Wren](#) *Thryothorus semibadius*

[Bay Wren](#) *Thryothorus nigricapillus*

[Stripe-breasted Wren](#) *Thryothorus thoracicus*

[House Wren](#) *Troglodytes aedon*

[Sedge Wren](#) *Cistothorus platensis*

[White-breasted Wood-Wren](#) *Henicorhina leucosticta*

[Gray-breasted Wood-Wren](#) *Henicorhina leucophrys*

## **Mimidae**

[Tropical Mockingbird](#) *Mimus gilvus*

## **Turdidae**

[Black-faced Solitaire](#) *Myadestes melanops*

[Slaty-backed Nightingale-thrush](#) *Catharus fuscater*

[Black-billed Nightingale-thrush](#) *Catharus gracilirostris*

[Ruddy-capped Nightingale-thrush](#) *Catharus frantzii*

[Wood Thrush](#) *Hylocichla mustelina*

[Sooty Robin](#) *Turdus nigrescens*

[Mountain Robin](#) *Turdus plebejus*

[Clay-colored Robin](#) *Turdus grayi*

## **Poliophtilidae**

[Tropical Gnatcatcher](#) *Poliophtila plumbea*



White-throated Magpie Jay 1

## **Corvidae**

White-throated Magpie-Jay *Calocitta formosa*

Brown Jay *Cyanocorax morio*

## **Vireonidae**

Mangrove Vireo *Vireo pallens*

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons*

Yellow-winged Vireo *Vireo carmioli*

Philadelphia Vireo *Vireo philadelphicus*

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*

Yellow-green Vireo *Vireo flavoviridis*

Lesser Greenlet *Hylophilus decurtatus*

## **Parulidae**

Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera*

Tennessee Warbler *Vermivora peregrina*

Flame-throated Warbler *Parula gutturalis*

Tropical Parula *Parula pitiayumi*

Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia*

Chestnut-sided Warbler *Dendroica pensylvanica*

Black-throated Green Warbler *Dendroica virens*

Townsend's Warbler *Dendroica townsendi*

Blackburnian Warbler *Dendroica fusca*

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia*

Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea*

Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapilla*

Northern Waterthrush *Seiurus noveboracensis*

Kentucky Warbler *Oporornis formosus*

Wilson's Warbler *Wilsonia pusilla*

Slate-throated Redstart *Myioborus miniatus*

Collared Redstart *Myioborus torquatus*

Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus*

Rufous-capped Warbler *Basileuterus rufifrons*

Black-cheeked Warbler *Basileuterus melanogenys*

Three-striped Warbler *Basileuterus tristriatus*

Buff-rumped Warbler *Basileuterus fulvicauda*

Wrenthrush *Zeledonia coronata*

Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens*

## Coerebidae

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola*



Bananaquit 1

Tawny-crested Tanager *Tachyphonus delatrii*

Red-crowned Ant-Tanager *Habia rubica*

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*

## Thraupidae

Common Bush-Tanager *Chlorospingus ophthalmicus*

Sooty-capped Bush-Tanager *Chlorospingus pileatus*



[Western Tanager](#) *Piranga ludoviciana*

[Flame-colored Tanager](#) *Piranga bidentata*

[White-winged Tanager](#) *Piranga leucoptera*

[Crimson-collared Tanager](#) *Ramphocelus sanguinolentus*

[Passerini's Tanager](#) *Ramphocelus passerinii*

[Cherrie's Tanager](#) *Ramphocelus costaricensis* Endemic

[Blue-gray Tanager](#) *Thraupis episcopus*

[Palm Tanager](#) *Thraupis palmarum*

[Yellow-crowned Euphonia](#) *Euphonia luteicapilla*

[Yellow-throated Euphonia](#) *Euphonia hirundinacea*

[Olive-backed Euphonia](#) *Euphonia gouldi*

[Tawny-capped Euphonia](#) *Euphonia anaeae*

[Plain-colored Tanager](#) *Tangara inornata*

[Emerald Tanager](#) *Tangara florida*

[Silver-throated Tanager](#) *Tangara icterocephala*

[Golden-hooded Tanager](#) *Tangara larvata*

[Spangle-cheeked Tanager](#) *Tangara dowii*

[Blue Dacnis](#) *Dacnis cayana*

[Green Honeycreeper](#) *Chlorophanes spiza*

[Shining Honeycreeper](#) *Cyanerpes lucidus*

[Red-legged Honeycreeper](#) *Cyanerpes cyaneus*



Green Honeycreeper 1

## Emberizidae

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarin*

Variable Seedeater *Sporophila corvina*

White-collared Seedeater *Sporophila torqueola*

Yellow-faced Grassquit *Tiaris olivacea*

Slaty Flowerpiercer *Diglossa plumbea*

Yellow-thighed Finch *Pselliophorus tibialis*

Large-footed Finch *Pezopetes capitalis*

Orange-billed Sparrow *Arremon aurantiistrotris*

White-eared Ground-Sparrow *Melospiza leucotis*

Stripe-headed Sparrow *Aimophila ruficauda*

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis*

Volcano Junco *Junco vulcani*



Rufous-collared Sparrow 1

## Cardinalidae

Grayish Saltator *Saltator coerulescens*

Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus*

Black-faced Grosbeak *Caryothraustes poliogaster*

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*

Blue-black Grosbeak *Cyanocompsa cyanooides*

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea*

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris*

## Icteridae

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*

Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna*

Melodious Blackbird *Dives dives*

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*

Bronzed Cowbird *Molothrus aeneus*

Giant Cowbird *Molothrus oryzivorus*

Spot-breasted Oriole *Icterus pectoralis*

Streak-backed Oriole *Icterus pustulatus*

Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula*

Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius*

Black-cowled Oriole *Icterus prothemelas*



Slaty Flowerpiercer 1

Scarlet-rumped Cacique *Cacicusur opygialis*



Montezuma Oropendola 1

Montezuma Oropendola *Gymnostinops montezuma*

## Fringillidae

Yellow-bellied Siskin *Carduelis xanthogastra*

## Passeridae

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*  
Introduced species

## Mammals

Northern Tamandua *Tamandua mexicana*

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth *Bradypus variegates*

Eastern Cottontail *Sylvilagus floridanus*

Red-tailed Squirrel *Sciurus granatensis*

Variegated Squirrel *Sciurus variegatoides*

Mexican Hairy Dwarf Porcupine *Coendou mexicanus*

Central American Agouti *Dasyprocta prymnolopha*

Striped Hog-nosed Skunk *Conepatus semistriatus*

White-nosed Coati *Nasua narica*

Northern Raccoon *Procyon lotor*

White-faced Capuchin Monkey *Cebus capucinus*

Mantled Howler Monkey *Alouatta palliata*

Collared Peccary *Dicotyles tajacu*



**Mantled Howler Monkey 1**

**Bird of the trip survey**

At the end of the tour we had people write down their three favourite birds of the tour. The favourite one got scored ten points and numbers two and three got five and three respectively.

The top five birds were as follows

Spectacled Owl 30 points, Quetzal 25 points, Snowcap and Turquoise-browed Motmot were joined third with 23 points and in fifth place Boat-billed Heron and Keel-billed Toucan both with 15 points.

John van der Dol

Sandwich Bird Tours January 2012





































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