

COSTA RICA: RANCHO NATURALISTA

December 20, 2009 to December 26, 2009

Guided by
Jesse Fagan & Ernesto Carman

It was fun spending Christmas with non-family members in a foreign country. I know, I know, that sounded awful, but it is true and it was fun! We haven't run a holiday tour in some time to Costa Rica, but it was a big success and thanks to everyone that joined us this year. We saw a lot of birds. A few highlights mentioned by everyone included Rufous Motmot, Sunbittern, Golden-browed Chlorophonia, Snowcap, Lineated Woodpecker, and of course the group favorite, Resplendent Quetzal. We were down to the last few minutes of the tour when a brilliant male with full streamers put in an appearance. Whew! It was a memorable way to end the tour.

Thanks again to Ernesto for his great work and for allowing us to visit his family's coffee finca near Paraiso. Indeed, very good coffee. Also, thanks to Vernon, our driver, for his excellent work on the road and with his binoculars. Lastly, we appreciate the generous staff of Rancho Naturalista who always make us feel welcome. Great service and food. Abrazos, Jesse.

Wait, I think I hear a Paltry Tyrannulet.

List total: 303 bird taxa and 7 mammal taxa

*If marked to left of list, * = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic,
N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant*

crh09-JF

Tinamidae

- * GREAT TINAMOU (*Tinamus major*)
Difficult to see at Rancho, but heard on a few evenings.

Podicipedidae

- LEAST GREBE (*Tachybaptus dominicus*)
Two on the Birris Reservoir.

Ardeidae

- GREAT BLUE HERON (*Ardea herodias*)
- GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba*)
- LITTLE BLUE HERON (*Egretta caerulea*)
- SNOWY EGRET (*Egretta thula*)
- CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*)
There were a few nice individuals in high breeding plumage at the CATIE pond.
- BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)
- YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nyctanassa violacea*)
- BOAT-BILLED HERON (*Cochlearius cochlearius*)
A couple of day roosting birds within the thick bamboo stand on the CATIE pond.
- BARE-THROATED TIGER-HERON (*Tigrisoma mexicanum*)
Nice looks at an adult along Rio Dos Novillos near the entrance to EARTH.

Threskiornithidae

- GREEN IBIS (*Mesembrinibis cayennensis*)
Six or so individuals along the edges of the CATIE pond. Somewhat regular at this location.

Anatidae

- BLUE-WINGED TEAL (*Anas discors*)

Cathartidae

- BLACK VULTURE (*Coragyps atratus*)
- TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*)

Accipitridae

- WHITE-TAILED KITE (*Elanus leucurus*)
A couple of birds on our drive to Volcan Irazu the final day.
- COOPER'S HAWK (*Accipiter cooperii*)
One adult female dashed by as we descended Volcan Irazu in the bus.
- BICOLORED HAWK (*Accipiter bicolor*)
Nice looks for some of a perched adult in the early morning at Rancho.
- * GRAY HAWK (*Buteo nitidus*)
- ROADSIDE HAWK (*Buteo magnirostris*)
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK (*Buteo platypterus*)
A common wintering Buteo in Costa Rica.
- SHORT-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo brachyurus*)
- RED-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo jamaicensis*)
We saw the resident race, costaricensis, while birding the slope of Volcan Irazu. Very different plumage from northern populations.
- BLACK HAWK-EAGLE (*Spizaetus tyrannus*)
Vernon spotted a perched bird for us while at EARTH. Great studies in the scope. Nice work!
- ORNATE HAWK-EAGLE (*Spizaetus ornatus*)
A nice experience with a perched adult while we were at Tapanti NP.

Falconidae

- CRESTED CARACARA (*Caracara cheriway*)
- LAUGHING FALCON (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*)

- * BARRED FOREST-FALCON (*Micrastur ruficollis*)
- BAT FALCON (*Falco rufigularis*)
We watched a pair diving bombing each other at EARTH. Was this a sort of pair bonding or maybe rival males?
- Cracidae**
- GRAY-HEADED CHACHALACA (*Ortalis cinereiceps*)
Very common at Rancho.
- CRESTED GUAN (*Penelope purpurascens*)
Rancho is a good place to try and see this large cracid. Everyone heard it, but most saw it in the forest on one or more occasions.
- Rallidae**
- * WHITE-THROATED CRAKE (*Laterallus albigularis*)
- * UNIFORM CRAKE (*Amaurolimnas concolor*)
Heard at EARTH. Not an easy one to see.
- PURPLE GALLINULE (*Porphyrio martinica*)
- AMERICAN COOT (*Fulica americana*)
- Eurypyidae**
- SUNBITTERN (*Eurypyga helias*)
Nice studies of one along the Rio Dos Novillos.
- Jacanidae**
- NORTHERN JACANA (*Jacana spinosa*)
- Charadriidae**
- KILLDEER (*Charadrius vociferus*)
- Scolopacidae**
- SPOTTED SANDPIPER (*Actitis macularia*)
- GREATER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa melanoleuca*)
One along the Birris Reservoir.
- Columbidae**
- ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*)
- BAND-TAILED PIGEON (*Patagioenas fasciata*)
A couple of quick flybys while birding Volcan Irazu.
- PALE-VENTED PIGEON (*Patagioenas cayennensis*)
Only on the Caribbean slope, we saw several at EARTH.
- RED-BILLED PIGEON (*Patagioenas flavirostris*)
- * SHORT-BILLED PIGEON (*Patagioenas nigrirostris*)
- MOURNING DOVE (*Zenaida macroura*)
A few along the powerlines on our final day while heading to Volcan Irazu.
- RUDDY GROUND-DOVE (*Columbina talpacoti*)
- WHITE-TIPPED DOVE (*Leptotila verreauxi*)
- GRAY-CHESTED DOVE (*Leptotila cassini*)
- RUDDY QUAIL-DOVE (*Geotrygon montana*)
Dawn may have been the only one to see this forest dove while birding the trails at Rancho.
- Psittacidae**
- CRIMSON-FRONTED PARAKEET (*Aratinga finschi*)
The common psittacid on this tour.
- OLIVE-THROATED PARAKEET (*Aratinga nana astec*)
- BARRED PARAKEET (*Bolborhynchus lineola*)
Great flyby views of roughly 30 individuals near the seeding bamboo on Volcan Irazu.
- ORANGE-CHINNED PARAKEET (*Brotogeris jugularis*)
- BROWN-HOODED PARROT (*Pionopsitta haematotis*)

WHITE-CROWNED PARROT (*Pionus senilis*)
Fairly commor, the next most common psittacid we see on this tour.

RED-LORED PARROT (*Amazona autumnalis*)
A pair flew over our group while we birded the paved entrance road at EARTH.

Cuculidae

SQUIRREL CUCKOO (*Piaya cayana thermophila*)

GROOVE-BILLED ANI (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*)

Strigidae

MOTTLED OWL (*Ciccaba virgata*)

Great looks at this bird, but we had to work a little at it! We ended up seeing one well and hearing 4 or 5 others.

* CENTRAL AMERICAN PYGMY-OWL (*Glaucidium griseiceps*)
EARTH.

* FERRUGINOUS PYGMY-OWL (*Glaucidium brasilianum*)

Caprimulgidae

PAURAUQUE (*Nyctidromus albicollis*)

We watched the regular visitor to the security lamp at Rancho.

Apodidae

WHITE-CHINNED SWIFT (*Cypseloides cryptus*)

A flyby of around 30 individuals while we birded outside Tapanti NP was unexpected. They were calling so the ID was supported by voice as well.

WHITE-COLLARED SWIFT (*Streptoprocne zonaris*)

GRAY-RUMPED SWIFT (*Chaetura cinereiventris*)

The common Chaetura at EARTH. This one is restricted to the Caribbean lowlands.

VAUX'S SWIFT (*Chaetura vauxi*)

LESSER SWALLOW-TAILED SWIFT (*Panyptila cayennensis*)

Trochilidae

BAND-TAILED BARBTHROAT (*Threnetes ruckeri*)

Just a few visiting the interior forest feeders at Rancho.

GREEN HERMIT (*Phaethornis guy*)

WESTERN LONG-TAILED HERMIT (*Phaethornis longirostris*)

A few quick flybys of calling birds at EARTH.

STRIPE-THROATED HERMIT (*Phaethornis striigularis*)

GREEN-FRONTED LANCEBILL (*Doryfera ludovicae*)

One at Tapanti NP.

VIOLET SABREWING (*Campylopterus hemileucurus*)

WHITE-NECKED JACOBIN (*Florisuga mellivora*)

BROWN VIOLET-EAR (*Colibri delphinae*)

Finally caught up with this hummer from the Rancho patio. Thanks to Rick and gang for spotting it.

GREEN VIOLET-EAR (*Colibri thalassinus*)

Fairly common on the slopes of Volcan Irazu where it was coming to feeders.

GREEN-BREASTED MANGO (*Anthracothorax prevostii*)

BLACK-CRESTED COQUETTE (*Lophornis helenae*)

Thanks to the flowering tree above Rancho we finally got everyone on a female. Sorry, Joanna, it wasn't a male! ;-)

GREEN THORNTAIL (*Discosura conversii*)

GARDEN EMERALD (*Chlorostilbon assimilis*)

We staked out the vervain below Rancho and were eventually rewarded with a visit by this species.

E FIERY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD (*Panterpe insignis*)

A few nice looks while on Volcan Irazu.

- E** BLACK-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD (*Eupherusa nigriventris*)
Several nice studies at Tapanti NP where it is fairly common.
- VIOLET-CROWNED WOODNYMPH (*Thalurania colombica*)
- RUFIOUS-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD (*Amazilia tzacatl*)
- BLUE-CHESTED HUMMINGBIRD (*Polyerata amabilis*)
A couple of birds were visiting a flowering tree along the entrance road to EARTH.
- SNOWCAP (*Microchera albocoronata*)
Rancho is a great place to see this special bird.
- BRONZE-TAILED PLUMELETEER (*Chalybura urochrysis*)
Also known as the "Red-footed" Plumeleteer. Check out those red feet!
- E** WHITE-BELLIED MOUNTAIN-GEM (*Lampornis hemileucus*)
The common mountain-gem at Tapanti NP. We saw a number.
- E** PURPLE-THROATED MOUNTAIN-GEM (*Lampornis calolaema*)
- GREEN-CROWNED BRILLIANT (*Heliodoxa jacula*)
- MAGNIFICENT HUMMINGBIRD (*Eugenes fulgens*)
Birds here have the longest bills of this taxon. The subspecies in CR is spectabilis.
- LONG-BILLED STARHROAT (*Heliomaster longirostris*)
- SCINTILLANT HUMMINGBIRD (*Selasphorus scintilla*)
One at Finca Cristina and another female on the slopes of Volcan Irazu.
- VOLCANO HUMMINGBIRD (*Selasphorus flammula*)
Common on Volcan Irazu, especially around the crater.

Trogonidae

- VIOLACEOUS TROGON (*Trogon violaceus*)
- COLLARED TROGON (*Trogon collaris*)
- RESPLENDENT QUETZAL (*Pharomachrus mocinno*)
We had to work for it, but it was well worth it. A splended male on the slopes of Volcan Irazu!

Alcedinidae

- RINGED KINGFISHER (*Ceryle torquatus*)
- AMAZON KINGFISHER (*Chloroceryle amazona*)
- GREEN KINGFISHER (*Chloroceryle americana*)

Momotidae

- BLUE-CROWNED MOTMOT (*Momotus momota*)
- RUFIOUS MOTMOT (*Baryphthengus martii*)
This large motmot was seen a few times on the forest trails at Rancho.

Bucconidae

- WHITE-NECKED PUFFBIRD (*Notharchus macrorhynchos*)
A responsive bird was scoped and enjoyed in the lowlands at EARTH.
- * PIED PUFFBIRD (*Notharchus tectus*)

Capitonidae

- E** PRONG-BILLED BARBET (*Semnornis frantzii*)
This snazzy endemic was seen well at Tapanti NP on our first day of birding.

Ramphastidae

- COLLARED ARACARI (*Pteroglossus torquatus*)
- KEEL-BILLED TOUCAN (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*)

Picidae

- BLACK-CHEEKED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes pucherani*)
- HOFFMANN'S WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes hoffmannii*)
- YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus varius*)
A rare bird in Costa Rica. We had one female on Irazu.

HAIRY WOODPECKER (*Picoides villosus*)

This subspecies, sanctorum, is very different from birds in the US. They are dirty brown below, with little or no spotting on the wings, and smaller bills. We saw it on Volcan Irazu.

SMOKY-BROWN WOODPECKER (*Veniliornis fumigatus*)

* RUFIOUS-WINGED WOODPECKER (*Piculus simplex*)

GOLDEN-OLIVE WOODPECKER (*Piculus rubiginosus*)

This one is now placed in the genus Colaptes, along with flickers.

CINNAMON WOODPECKER (*Celeus loricatus*)

Lovely studies in the lowlands at EARTH.

CHESTNUT-COLORED WOODPECKER (*Celeus castaneus*)

Ditto above. We swept the possible Celeus for the tour. Not too shabby.

LINEATED WOODPECKER (*Dryocopus lineatus*)

PALE-BILLED WOODPECKER (*Campephilus guatemalensis*)

Furnariidae

SLATY SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis brachyura*)

RED-FACED SPINETAIL (*Cranioleuca erythroptis*)

This arboreal spinetail was seen in the highlands at Tapanti.

SPOTTED BARBTAIL (*Premnoplex brunnescens*)

E RUDDY TREERUNNER (*Margarornis rubiginosus*)

PLAIN XENOPS (*Xenops minutus*)

* LINEATED FOLIAGE-GLEANER (*Syndactyla subalaris*)

BUFF-THROATED FOLIAGE-GLEANER (*Automolus ochrolaemus*)

Fairly common at Rancho especially at the moth cloth where it is easily viewed.

TAWNY-THROATED LEAFTOSSER (*Sclerurus mexicanus*)

There was one nesting along the path at Rancho.

Dendrocolaptidae

PLAIN-BROWN WOODCREEPER (*Dendrocincla fuliginosa*)

WEDGE-BILLED WOODCREEPER (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*)

NORTHERN BARRED-WOODCREEPER (*Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae*)

Seen well at EARTH.

COCOA WOODCREEPER (*Xiphorhynchus susurrans*)

We saw this one at EARTH, but it was also fairly common at Rancho, sometimes visiting the moth cloth.

SPOTTED WOODCREEPER (*Xiphorhynchus erythrogygius*)

STREAK-HEADED WOODCREEPER (*Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*)

Common at Rancho and the surrounding lowlands.

SPOT-CROWNED WOODCREEPER (*Lepidocolaptes affinis*)

This one replaces Streak-headed in the highlands. We saw it on Volcan Irazu.

Thamnophilidae

GREAT ANTSHRIKE (*Taraba major*)

Quick studies of a bird that popped into view while we were looking for the Yellow-billed Cacique.

RUSSET ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnistes anabatinus*)

PLAIN ANTVIREO (*Dysithamnus mentalis*)

Always a pair visiting the moth cloth.

CHECKER-THROATED ANTWREN (*Myrmotherula fulviventris*)

SLATY ANTWREN (*Myrmotherula schisticolor*)

* DUSKY ANTBIRD (*Cercomacra tyrannina*)

CHESTNUT-BACKED ANTBIRD (*Myrmeciza exsul*)

Seen by most in the group within the taller forest at EARTH.

DULL-MANTLED ANTBIRD (*Myrmeciza laemosticta*)

IMMACULATE ANTBIRD (*Myrmeciza immaculata*)

Fairly common, at least by voice, at Rancho. Most people saw it within the forest, and a few while visiting an army ant swarm.

BICOLORED ANTBIRD (*Gymnopithys leucaspis*)

Nice looks at two individuals: one on territory and another visiting an army ant swarm.

Formicariidae

- * FULVOUS-BELLIED ANTPITTA (*Hyllopezus dives*)

Rhinocryptidae

- * SILVERY-FRONTED TAPACULO (*Scytalopus argentifrons*)

Cotingidae

PURPLE-THROATED FRUITCROW (*Querula purpurata*)

Good looks at a flyover pair at EARTH. Heard a few more times.

Pipridae

WHITE-COLLARED MANAKIN (*Manacus candei*)

The most common manakin seen or heard on tour. Quite a few lekking below the Rancho house.

WHITE-RUFFED MANAKIN (*Corapipo altera*)

WHITE-CROWNED MANAKIN (*Dixiphia pipra*)

Just one seen on the Rancho grounds. This one is not lekking at this time of year and so is more spread out and difficult to find.

Tyrannidae

YELLOW-BELLIED ELAENIA (*Elaenia flavogaster*)

TORRENT TYRANNULET (*Serpophaga cinerea*)

One along the stream just before entering Tapanti NP.

OLIVE-STRIPED FLYCATCHER (*Mionectes olivaceus*)

SLATY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Leptopogon superciliaris*)

PALTRY TYRANNULET (*Zimmerius vilissimus*)

Yes, we did see and hear Paltry Tyrannulet a number of times this tour. Thanks Dawn for reminding me!

SCALE-CRESTED PYGMY-TYRANT (*Lophotriccus pileatus*)

NORTHERN BENTBILL (*Oncostoma cinereigulare*)

Seen nicely just after our picnic lunch at EARTH.

BLACK-HEADED TODY-FLYCATCHER (*Todirostrum nigriceps*)

This little guy was heard more often than seen, but it did give us "out in the open" looks while perched in a Cycropia tree at EARTH.

COMMON TODY-FLYCATCHER (*Todirostrum cinereum*)

EYE-RINGED FLATBILL (*Rhynchocyclus brevirostris*)

YELLOW-OLIVE FLYCATCHER (*Tolmomyias sulphurescens*)

- * WHITE-THROATED SPADEBILL (*Platyrinchus mystaceus*)

RUDDY-TAILED FLYCATCHER (*Terenotriccus erythrurus*)

For a few of us on the lower trails at Rancho. Not all that common.

- E TAWNY-CHESTED FLYCATCHER (*Aphanotriccus capitalis*)

Nearly an endemic to Costa Rica (a few are also found in Nicaragua), but Rancho is one of the best places to see it.

TUFTED FLYCATCHER (*Mitrephanes phaeocercus*)

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER (*Contopus cooperi*)

- E DARK PEWEE (*Contopus lugubris*)

TROPICAL PEWEE (*Contopus cinereus*)

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax flaviventris*)

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax virescens*)

A few wintering birds were seen and heard at EARTH.

- E** BLACK-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax atriceps*)
 BLACK PHOEBE (*Sayornis nigricans*)
 LONG-TAILED TYRANT (*Colonia colonus*)
We finally caught up with this bird while going down the entrance road to Rancho on the second to last day. Whew!
 BRIGHT-RUMPED ATTLA (*Attila spadiceus*)
 RUFIOUS MOURNER (*Rhytipterna holerythra*)
 DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*)
 GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus crinitus*)
 GREAT KISKADEE (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)
 BOAT-BILLED FLYCATCHER (*Megarhynchus pitangua*)
 SOCIAL FLYCATCHER (*Myiozetetes similis*)
 GRAY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Myiozetetes granadensis*)
 TROPICAL KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)
- * CINNAMON BECARD (*Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*)
 WHITE-WINGED BECARD (*Pachyramphus polychopterus*)
Chishun was the only one to see this species. It was heard on another day.
 MASKED TITYRA (*Tityra semifasciata*)
 BLACK-CROWNED TITYRA (*Tityra inquisitor*)
- 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**
- E** BLACK-AND-YELLOW SILKY-FLYCATCHER (*Phainoptila melanoxantha*)
A few female plumaged birds on our first day of birding at Tapanti.
- Cinclidae**
 AMERICAN DIPPER (*Cinclus mexicanus*)
Nice to get your lifer American Dipper in Costa Rica. We had a pair at Tapanti NP.
- Troglodytidae**
 BAND-BACKED WREN (*Campylorhynchus zonatus*)
 BLACK-THROATED WREN (*Thryothorus atrogularis*)
 BAY WREN (*Thryothorus nigricapillus*)
This striking wren was first seen well while birding the Rio Tuis.
 STRIPE-BREASTED WREN (*Thryothorus thoracicus*)
 PLAIN WREN (*Thryothorus modestus*)
- * PLAIN ("CANEBRAKE") WREN (*Thryothorus modestus zeledoni*)
 HOUSE WREN (*Troglodytes aedon*)
- E** OCHRACEOUS WREN (*Troglodytes ochraceus*)
This arboreal wren was seen well feeding in the bromeliads at Tapanti NP.
 TIMBERLINE WREN (*Thryorchilus browni*)
Great looks while birding the side road at Volcan Irazu.
 WHITE-BREASTED WOOD-WREN (*Henicorhina leucosticta*)
- * GRAY-BREASTED WOOD-WREN (*Henicorhina leucophrys*)
 * SCALY-BREASTED WREN (*Microcerculus marginatus luscini*)

Turdidae

- E** BLACK-FACED SOLITAIRE (*Myadestes melanops*)
Wonderful close views at Tapanti NP.
- ORANGE-BILLED NIGHTINGALE-THRUSH (*Catharus aurantiirostris*)
- E** BLACK-BILLED NIGHTINGALE-THRUSH (*Catharus gracilirostris*)
Volcan Irazu.
- * RUDDY-CAPPED NIGHTINGALE-THRUSH (*Catharus frantzii*)
 SWAINSON'S THRUSH (*Catharus ustulatus*)
One individual was a regular visitor to the moth cloth.
- WOOD THRUSH (*Hylocichla mustelina*)
- E** SOOTY ROBIN (*Turdus nigrescens*)
Mainly flybys during our time on Volcan Irazu. A few people got decent looks.
- CLAY-COLORED THRUSH (*Turdus grayi*)
The national bird of Costa Rica was (thankfully) seen every day.

Poliotilidae

- LONG-BILLED GNATWREN (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*)
 TROPICAL GNATCATCHER (*Poliotila plumbea*)

Corvidae

- BROWN JAY (*Cyanocorax morio*)
Like the Clay-colored Robin, this bird was heard or seen every day. Very common.

Passeridae

- HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*)

Vireonidae

- YELLOW-THROATED VIREO (*Vireo flavifrons*)
 YELLOW-WINGED VIREO (*Vireo carmioli*)
Just a couple in a big mixed-species flock on Volcan Irazu (while we attempted to eat our picnic lunch!).
- * TAWNY-CROWNED GREENLET (*Hylophilus ochraceiceps*)
 LESSER GREENLET (*Hylophilus decurtatus*)

Fringillidae

- YELLOW-CROWNED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia luteicapilla*)
This tour can be quite good for euphonia species. We tallied 5 on this trip, but we have seen all seven in years past.
- YELLOW-THROATED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia hirundinacea*)
 ELEGANT EUPHONIA (*Euphonia elegantissima*)
 OLIVE-BACKED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia gouldi*)
 TAWNY-CAPPED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia anaeae*)
By far the most common euphonia species seen on this trip. Recorded everyday.
- E** GOLDEN-BROWED CHLOROPHONIA (*Chlorophonia callophrys*)
Chishun spotted a pair while we birded Tapanti that we were able to scope for short period.

Parulidae

- GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (*Vermivora chrysoptera*)
This one seems to winter in pretty good numbers down in Costa Rica.
- TENNESSEE WARBLER (*Vermivora peregrina*)
- E** FLAME-THROATED WARBLER (*Parula gutturalis*)
Seen within the large mixed-species flock at Irazu.
- TROPICAL PARULA (*Parula pitiayumi*)
 YELLOW WARBLER (*Dendroica petechia*)
 CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (*Dendroica pensylvanica*)
The most common parulid wintering in Costa Rica (at least on this trip).
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER (*Dendroica virens*)

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER (*Dendroica fusca*)
BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER (*Mniotilta varia*)
AMERICAN REDSTART (*Setophaga ruticilla*)
WORM-EATING WARBLER (*Helmitheros vermivorus*)
LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH (*Seiurus motacilla*)
MOURNING WARBLER (*Oporornis philadelphia*)
OLIVE-CROWNED YELLOWTHROAT (*Geothlypis semiflava*)
A female was seen along the entrance road to Tapanti NP.

WILSON'S WARBLER (*Wilsonia pusilla*)
SLATE-THROATED REDSTART (*Myioborus miniatus*)
Birds in this part of the world have yellow underparts.

GOLDEN-CROWNED WARBLER (*Basileuterus culicivorus*)
This one was pretty common in the forest at Rancho.

RUFOUS-CAPPED WARBLER (*Basileuterus rufifrons*)
A few times from the balcony at Rancho. It liked to hang out in the tree fern.

E BLACK-CHEEKED WARBLER (*Basileuterus melanogenys*)
All too briefly in the mixed-species flock on Volcan Irazu.

BUFF-RUMPED WARBLER (*Phaeothlypis fulvicauda*)

Coeribidae

BANANAQUIT (*Coereba flaveola*)

Thraupidae

COMMON BUSH-TANAGER (*Chlorospingus ophthalmicus postocularis*)
The subspecies in this part of CR, regionalis, has a brown-gray head. Pay attention to this group for future splits within Central America and Mexico.

E SOOTY-CAPPED BUSH-TANAGER (*Chlorospingus pileatus*)

E BLACK-AND-YELLOW TANAGER (*Chrysothlypis chrysomelas*)

DUSKY-FACED TANAGER (*Mitrospingus cassinii*)
We had a nice encounter with a vocal pair at EARTH.

OLIVE TANAGER (*Chlorothraupis carmioli*)

WHITE-SHOULDERED TANAGER (*Tachyphonus luctuosus*)

WHITE-LINED TANAGER (*Tachyphonus rufus*)

RED-THROATED ANT-TANAGER (*Habia fuscicauda*)
This one was pretty easy at the Rancho moth cloth.

SUMMER TANAGER (*Piranga rubra*)

FLAME-COLORED TANAGER (*Piranga bidentata*)

WHITE-WINGED TANAGER (*Piranga leucoptera*)

CRIMSON-COLLARED TANAGER (*Ramphocelus sanguinolentus*)
Some nice views of this one in the scope (along with a Passerinis) on the first day at Tapanti.

PASSERINI'S TANAGER (*Ramphocelus passerinii*)
This is such a gorgeous bird. Common at the Rancho feeders.

BLUE-GRAY TANAGER (*Thraupis episcopus*)

PALM TANAGER (*Thraupis palmarum*)

PLAIN-COLORED TANAGER (*Tangara inornata*)
Jesse and a few others had a pair while some people were making a bathroom break in Siquirres.

SILVER-THROATED TANAGER (*Tangara icterocephala*)

SPECKLED TANAGER (*Tangara guttata*)

BAY-HEADED TANAGER (*Tangara gyrola*)

GOLDEN-HOODED TANAGER (*Tangara larvata*)
Not a bad trip for Tangara tanagers. This one is by far the most common on the trip.

E SPANGLE-CHEEKED TANAGER (*Tangara dowii*)
Really nice studies at Tapanti NP.

SCARLET-THIGHED DACNIS (*Dacnis venusta*)

GREEN HONEYCREEPER (*Chlorophanes spiza*)

Emberizidae

BLUE-BLACK GRASSQUIT (*Volatinia jacarina*)

VARIABLE SEEDEATER (*Sporophila corvina*)

WHITE-COLLARED SEEDEATER (*Sporophila torqueola*)

THICK-BILLED SEED-FINCH (*Oryzoborus funereus*)

This one was pretty common on our walk along the Rio Tuis. Nice comparisons with the very similar Variable Seedeater.

YELLOW-FACED GRASSQUIT (*Tiaris olivacea*)

E SLATY FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossa plumbea*)

One bird at the Volcan Irazu crater perched for what seemed like hours. Very close views.

* SOOTY-FACED FINCH (*Lysurus crassirostris*)

E YELLOW-THIGHED FINCH (*Pselliophorus tibialis*)

E LARGE-FOOTED FINCH (*Pezopetes capitalis*)

Smashing views of a pair that sat up for a few seconds then skulked in towards us. Volcan Irazu.

WHITE-NAPED (YELLOW-THR.) BRUSH-FINCH (*Atlapetes albinucha gutturalis*)

CHESTNUT-CAPPED BRUSH-FINCH (*Buarremon brunneinucha*)

A pair regularly visited the corn feeders at Rancho.

ORANGE-BILLED SPARROW (*Arremon aurantiirostris*)

BLACK-STRIPED SPARROW (*Arremonops conirostris*)

* WHITE-EARED GROUND-SPARROW (*Melospiza leucotis*)

RUFIOUS-COLLARED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia capensis*)

E VOLCANO JUNCO (*Junco vulcani*)

The one we saw feeding at the watermelon, was that countable? ;-)

Cardinalidae

BUFF-THROATED SALTATOR (*Saltator maximus*)

BLACK-HEADED SALTATOR (*Saltator atriceps*)

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*)

BLUE-BLACK GROSBEAK (*Cyanocompsa cyanoides*)

INDIGO BUNTING (*Passerina cyanea*)

Ernesto was really happy to see this one. Uncommon in CR during the winter.

Icteridae

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE (*Quiscalus mexicanus*)

BRONZED COWBIRD (*Molothrus aeneus*)

GIANT COWBIRD (*Scaphidura oryzivora*)

Almost always a flyover. We saw it a few times at EARTH...in flight.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE (*Icterus galbula*)

ORCHARD ORIOLE (*Icterus spurius*)

Female-plumaged birds at EARTH. Compare with the similar female-plumaged Black-cowled Oriole.

BLACK-COWLED ORIOLE (*Icterus prothemelas*)

YELLOW-BILLED CACIQUE (*Amblycercus holosericeus*)

Pretty good looks within the cane patch at the entrance to EARTH.

SCARLET-RUMPED CACIQUE (*Cacicus microrhynchus microrhynchus*)

CHESTNUT-HEADED OROPENDOLA (*Psarocolius wagleri*)

MONTEZUMA OROPENDOLA (*Gymnostinops montezuma*)

Both oropendolas are seen well at the Rancho feeders. Montezuma is by far the more common one. Alpha males are much bigger than females, nearly twice the size!

MAMMALS

MANTLED HOWLER MONKEY (*Alouatta palliata*)

A couple of primates at EARTH aint too shabby.

CENTRAL AMERICAN SPIDER MONKEY (*Ateles geoffroyi*)

BROWN-THROATED THREE-TOED SLOTH (*Bradypus variegatus*)

The sloth was a good find near Ernesto's farm.

VARIEGATED SQUIRREL (*Sciurus variegatoides*)

RED-TAILED SQUIRREL (*Sciurus granatensis*)

DUSKY RICE RAT (*Melanomys caliginosus*)

Yesss, we got the rice rat!

WHITE-NOSED COATI (*Nasua narica*)

Okay, so it wasn't a lowland yeti or a howler monkey. ;-)

Additional Comments

A few other critters seen while on tour.

- 1) Central American Whip-tailed Lizard (*Ameiva festiva*) = the young have the blue tails. We saw this one at EARTH.
- 2) Yellow-headed Gecko (*Gonatodes albigularis*) = seen at EARTH.
- 3) Green Iguana (*Iguana iguana*) = one large one at CATIE.
- 4) Slender Anole (*Norops limifrons*) = the most common "small lizard" seen on the trip.
- 5) Basiliscus sp. = an individual on a rock in the stream while birded the La Mina road was probably Striped Basilisk (*B. vittatus*).
- 6) Green Spiny Lizard (*Sceloporus malachiticus*) = the individual we saw at Ernesto's finca was very brown and well marked. Often they are green.
- 7) Strawberry Poison-Dart Frog (*Dendrobates pumilio*) = several heard and one seen at EARTH.
- 8) [Bransford's] Litter Frog (*Eleutherodactylus bransfordii*) = lots of variation in this one.

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