

HOLIDAY COSTA RICA: RANCHO NATURALISTA

Dec 18, 2011 to Dec 26, 2011
Jesse Fagan



The Black-and-yellow Silky-Flycatcher is the odd bird out in its small family; whereas the 3 other silkies are all sleek, crested birds that like to sit out on prominent perches, this species lacks a crest, has a chunkier body, and generally shuns open branches and tree tops. In fact, it's doubtful it is a silky-flycatcher at all, and may be better placed in the thrush family! DNA analysis is clearly needed. (Photo by guide Jesse Fagan)

A fun holiday tour to Costa Rica with an excellent group and a nice list of birds for under the Christmas tree. Thanks for a great time. Despite some cold weather and a few days of misty rain (we made the most of EARTH!), the birds cooperated well for us. We will not soon forget the mega flock along Silent Mountain road with 27 species recorded, the male Resplendent Quetzal on the slopes of Volcan Irazu, or stalking the Sunbittern along La Mina Road. By the way, the Sunbittern took honors for "favorite bird of the tour." Followed closely by Snowcap and the quetzal.

Thanks also to Cali Rodriguez, our local guide, and Vernon Campos, our driver for the tour. Wonderful work, guys.

Abrazos (hugs) and Bird On!

--Jesse Fagan aka Motmot.

For more information about this tour, including future departures, please visit our website at www.fieldguides.com

KEYS FOR THIS LIST

One of the following keys may be shown in brackets for individual species as appropriate: * = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic, N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant

BIRDS

Tinamidae (Tinamous)

GREAT TINAMOU (*Tinamus major*) – Tinamous are tough to see. Dave and I (in the front of the group) were lucky enough to catch this bird sneak off into the understory.

Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)

BLUE-WINGED TEAL (*Anas discors*) – A few at the Birris reservoir. [b]

RING-NECKED DUCK (*Aythya collaris*) – At the Turire Lake, a group of 15. [b]

LESSER SCAUP (*Aythya affinis*) – Hundreds were on the Turire Lake. [b]

RUDDY DUCK (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) – A very rare bird for Costa Rica. We had a single bird on the Turire Lake. [b]

Cracidae (Guans, Chachalacas, and Curassows)

GRAY-HEADED CHACHALACA (*Ortalis cinereiceps*) – Numerous from the patio at Rancho.

CRESTED GUAN (*Penelope purpurascens*) – Nice looks at several tree-climbing birds above us at the moth cloth.

Podicipedidae (Grebes)

LEAST GREBE (*Tachybaptus dominicus*) – A couple on the Turire Lake.

Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) – Several flyovers at the Turire Lake.

Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

FASCIATED TIGER-HERON (*Tigrisoma fasciatum*) – Great looks at a bird hunting in the Tuis River. It's a regular spot for this species.

GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba*) – Just a few on this tour.

SNOWY EGRET (*Egretta thula*) – Not many, but a couple on several days.

LITTLE BLUE HERON (*Egretta caerulea*) – One adult working the edge at Turire Lake.

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*) – Seen every day of the tour.

GREEN HERON (*Butorides virescens*) – Singles over a couple of days including one at CATIE.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) – One at CATIE.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nyctanassa violacea*) – One was nicely spotted at Lake Turire and another at CATIE.

BOAT-BILLED HERON (*Cochlearius cochlearius*) – Such an odd-looking creature. We had an adult at a reliable spot in CATIE.

Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)

GREEN IBIS (*Mesembrinibis cayennensis*) – Cali had them flying right over us!

Cathartidae (New World Vultures)

BLACK VULTURE (*Coragyps atratus*) – Not sure who would win the beauty contest between the Black Vultures and Green Ibis? We will call it a draw.

TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*)

KING VULTURE (*Sarcoramphus papa*) – For a certain couple that went to La Mina Road. ;-)

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

GRAY-HEADED KITE (*Leptodon cayanensis*) – An immature was soaring over the Rio Tuis during our morning walk.



Yellowish Flycatcher has always seemed an odd name for the most yellow of all the Empidonax. Yellowest Flycatcher might be more appropriate. (Photo by guide Jesse Fagan)

WHITE-TAILED KITE (*Elanus leucurus*) – A few around at various places.

SNAIL KITE (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*) – At Lake Turire we had some distant birds.

DOUBLE-TOOTHED KITE (*Harpagus bidentatus*) – A really nice perched adult, which we scoped, was seen at Tapanti NP.

BICOLORED HAWK (*Accipiter bicolor*) – One daily around Rancho.

BARRED HAWK (*Leucopternis princeps*) – We had one soaring over us during our birding along Silent Mountain road.

ROADSIDE HAWK (*Buteo magnirostris*) – The common raptor on the tour.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK (*Buteo platypterus*) – A fairly common wintering visitor to Costa Rica. [b]

GRAY HAWK (*Buteo nitidus*) – Not common, just one on the tour.

SHORT-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo brachyurus*) – A few seen soaring, both light and dark morphs.

ZONE-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo albonotatus*) – One on our first day at Birris Reservoir.

RED-TAILED HAWK (COSTA RICAN) (*Buteo jamaicensis costaricensis*) – This subspecies is very different from northern populations. It lacks the belly band and has rufous around the vents and undertail coverts.

ORNATE HAWK-EAGLE (*Spizaetus ornatus*) – An immature was soaring and calling at Tapanti NP.

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

BARRED FOREST-FALCON (*Micrastur ruficollis*) [*]

YELLOW-HEADED CARACARA (*Milvago chimachima*) – A couple were around Casa Turire. They like to stand on the cattle and pick ticks off of them.

AMERICAN KESTREL (*Falco sparverius*)

MERLIN (*Falco columbarius*) – One over the parking lot in Turrialba during our stop to buy souvenirs. [b]

Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)

WHITE-THROATED CRAKE (*Laterallus albigularis*) [*]

PURPLE GALLINULE (*Porphyrio martinica*) – Good looks at CATIE.

AMERICAN COOT (*Fulica americana*) – Numerous at Lake Turire.

Eurypygidae (Sunbittern)

SUNBITTERN (*Eurypyga helias*) – A splendid bird that we saw very well along La Mina Road.

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)

SOUTHERN LAPWING (*Vanellus chilensis*) – A recent immigrant to Costa Rica. We had four at Casa Turire.

KILLDEER (*Charadrius vociferus*) [b]

Jacanidae (Jacanas)

NORTHERN JACANA (*Jacana spinosa*)

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)

SPOTTED SANDPIPER (*Actitis macularius*) – A bunch at Birris Reservoir. [b]

LESSER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa flavipes*) – One at Birris Reservoir. [b]

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*) [I]

PALE-VENTED PIGEON (*Patagioenas cayennensis*) – We saw this pigeon in the Caribbean lowlands near EARTH.

RED-BILLED PIGEON (*Patagioenas flavirostris*)

RUDDY PIGEON (*Patagioenas subvinacea*) [*]

SHORT-BILLED PIGEON (*Patagioenas nigrirostris*)

WHITE-WINGED DOVE (*Zenaida asiatica*) – Now common in San Jose and Cartago. This one moved in from the north.



*It's not often you can see the notch on the bill that gives the Double-toothed Kite its name, but this bird gave us a great view of that feature at Tapanti NP.
(Photo by guide Jesse Fagan)*

MOURNING DOVE (*Zenaida macroura*) – Only on Volcan Irazu.

INCA DOVE (*Columbina inca*) [*]

RUDDY GROUND-DOVE (*Columbina talpacoti*)

WHITE-TIPPED DOVE (*Leptotila verreauxi*)

Psittacidae (Parrots)

SULPHUR-WINGED PARAKEET (*Pyrrhura hoffmanni*) – At least 25 birds in a flock way up on the hill during our outing to Silent Mountain.

CRIMSON-FRONTED PARAKEET (*Aratinga finschi*) – The common parakeet on this tour. Seen every day.

ORANGE-CHINNED PARAKEET (*Brotogeris jugularis*) – Only at EARTH.

BROWN-HOODED PARROT (*Pyrrhura haematotis*) – Fairly common around Rancho.

WHITE-CROWNED PARROT (*Pionus senilis*) – This is the common parrot seen on the tour. Common around Rancho. We had some good scope views.

RED-LORED PARROT (*Amazona autumnalis*) [*]

MEALY PARROT (*Amazona farinosa*) – A pair were scoped during our wet outing to EARTH.

YELLOW-NAPED PARROT (*Amazona auropalliata*) – Seen briefly in flight at our hotel in Santo Domingo.

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

SQUIRREL CUCKOO (*Piaya cayana*)

GROOVE-BILLED ANI (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*)

Strigidae (Owls)

FERRUGINOUS PYGMY-OWL (*Glaucidium brasilianum*) – Really nice studies of a responsive bird that we scoped at our hotel in Santo Domingo.

MOTTLED OWL (*Ciccaba virgata*) – A pair on a day roost at Rancho were fun to see.

Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)

COMMON PAURAUQUE (*Nyctidromus albicollis*) – Usually seen along the entrance road where we had a few on our early morning departures.

Apodidae (Swifts)

CHESTNUT-COLLARED SWIFT (*Streptoprocne rutila*)

WHITE-COLLARED SWIFT (*Streptoprocne zonaris*)

CHIMNEY SWIFT (*Chaetura pelagica*) – One seen well at EARTH where somewhat uncommon.

VAUX'S SWIFT (*Chaetura vauxi*) – A few flying over La Mina Road.

GRAY-RUMPED SWIFT (*Chaetura cinereiventris*)

LESSER SWALLOW-TAILED SWIFT (*Panyptila cayennensis*) – A couple were seen at EARTH.

Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)

WHITE-NECKED JACOBIN (*Florisuga mellivora*) – Numerous at the Rancho feeders.

GREEN HERMIT (*Phaethornis guy*) – A regular visitor to the feeders at Rancho.

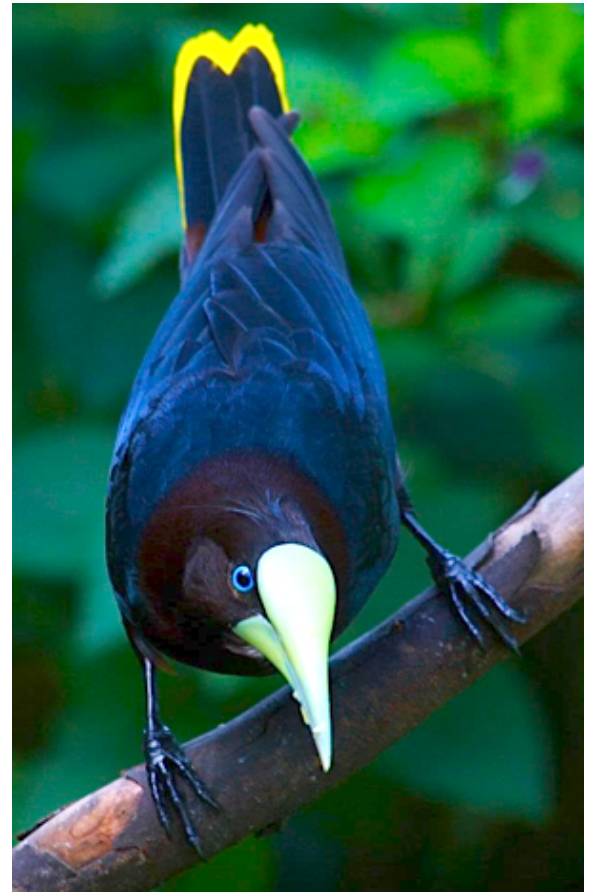
LONG-BILLED HERMIT (*Phaethornis longirostris*) – A few squeaked by during our time at EARTH.

STRIPE-THROATED HERMIT (*Phaethornis striigularis*) – Likes to visit the vervain below the feeders at Rancho.

GREEN-FRONTED LANCEBILL (*Doryfera ludovicae*) – A fun bird that we scoped at Tapanti. What a bill!

BROWN VIOLETEAR (*Colibri delphinae*) – Just a single bird at the Rancho feeders.

GREEN VIOLETEAR (*Colibri thalassinus*) – A couple on Volcan Irazu.



Both species of oropendola are regular visitors to the feeders at Rancho, but this species, the Chestnut-headed Oropendola, is by far the smaller and the less numerous of the two. (Photo by guide Jesse Fagan)

PURPLE-CROWNED FAIRY (*Heliothryx barroti*) – We had this species a couple of days. Good studies while along Silent Mountain. Also seen visiting the hummingbird pools.

GREEN-BREASTED MANGO (*Anthracothorax prevostii*) – Common at Rancho feeders.

GREEN THORNTAIL (*Discosura conversii*) – This tiny hummingbird was around the patio a couple of times.

BLACK-CRESTED COQUETTE (*Lophornis helenae*) – We found a female (or young male?) visiting the vervain down the road from Rancho.

GREEN-CROWNED BRILLIANT (*Heliodoxa jacula*) – Irregular to the feeders at Rancho.

MAGNIFICENT HUMMINGBIRD (*Eugenes fulgens*)

FIERY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD (*Panterpe insignis*) – A few times while birding the slopes of Volcan Irazu.

WHITE-BELLIED MOUNTAIN-GEM (*Lampornis hemileucus*) – At Tapanti NP.

PURPLE-THROATED MOUNTAIN-GEM (*Lampornis calolaemus*) – At Tapanti NP, but just one female.

VOLCANO HUMMINGBIRD (*Selasphorus flammula*) – Fairly common just below the crater at Volcan Irazu.

GARDEN EMERALD (*Chlorostilbon assimilis*) – One was visiting the vervain at Rancho Bajo.

VIOLET SABREWING (*Campylopterus hemileucurus*) – Irregular to the feeders at Rancho.

BRONZE-TAILED PLUMELETEER (*Chalybura urochrysis*) – This one had the lower feeders below the patio staked out. The red feet are unique in hummingbirds.

VIOLET-CROWNED WOODNYMPH (*Thalurania colombica*) – One of the most common hummers to the Rancho feeders.

BLACK-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD (*Eupherusa nigriventris*) – A few times (including males) at Tapanti NP.

SNOWCAP (*Microchera albocoronata*) – The prize of Rancho which we saw well on a couple of days.

RUFOUS-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD (*Amazilia tzacatl*) – Numerous. Seen every day of the tour.

Trogonidae (Trogons)

RESPLENDENT QUETZAL (*Pharomachrus mocinno*) – Wonderful views of a male on the slopes of Volcan Irazu.

GARTERED TROGON (*Trogon caligatus*) [*]

BLACK-THROATED TROGON (*Trogon rufus*) – One was seen on the trails at Rancho.

COLLARED TROGON (*Trogon collaris*) – Seen a couple of times on tour.

Momotidae (Motmots)

BLUE-CROWNED MOTMOT (LESSON'S) (*Momotus coeruliceps lessonii*)

RUFOUS MOTMOT (*Baryphthengus martii*) – This large motmot was seen well on the trails at Rancho.

Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)

AMAZON KINGFISHER (*Chloroceryle amazona*)

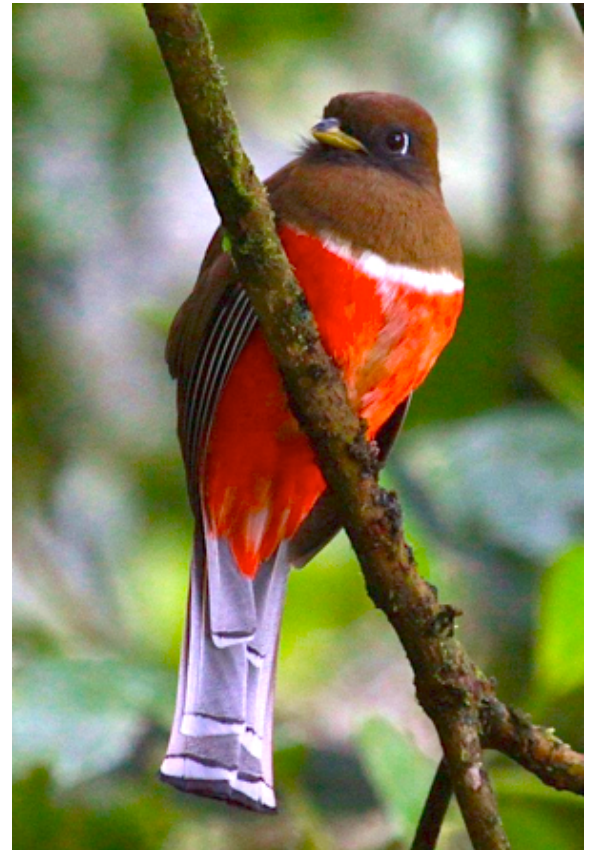
GREEN KINGFISHER (*Chloroceryle americana*)

Bucconidae (Puffbirds)

WHITE-NECKED PUFFBIRD (*Notharchus hyperrhynchus*) – Great studies of several different individuals in the rain at EARTH.

PIED PUFFBIRD (*Notharchus tectus*) – Ditto above, but just one bird.

Galbulidae (Jacamars)



Most of the trogons in Costa Rica are lowland forest birds; Collared Trogons (like this female) are an exception, inhabiting montane forest up to about 9000' in elevation. (Photo by guide Jesse Fagan)

RUFOUS-TAILED JACAMAR (*Galbula ruficauda*) – One was seen near Rancho Bajo.

Semnornithidae (Toucan-Barbets)

PRONG-BILLED BARBET (*Semnornis frantzii*) – The Chiriqui highland endemic that we saw foraging in the fruiting trees at Tapanti NP. Their call makes me laugh. :-)

Ramphastidae (Toucans)

COLLARED ARACARI (*Pteroglossus torquatus*) – A somewhat regular visitor to the banana feeders at Rancho.

KEEL-BILLED TOUCAN (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*) – Seen well at EARTH, but also heard and seen at Rancho.

Picidae (Woodpeckers)

ACORN WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes formicivorus*) – One at Volcan Irazu.

BLACK-CHEEKED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes pucherani*) – A visitor to the banana feeders at Rancho.

HOFFMANN'S WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes hoffmannii*) – A Pacific slope endemic from Honduras to Costa Rica, it crosses over to the Caribbean side near San Jose.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus varius*) – An rare to uncommon winter visitor to CR. We saw one at Volcan Irazu. [b]

RUFOUS-WINGED WOODPECKER (*Piculus simplex*) – One was seen along the Rancho entrance road.

GOLDEN-OLIVE WOODPECKER (*Colaptes rubiginosus*)

LINEATED WOODPECKER (*Dryocopus lineatus*) – A fun, large woodpecker. A guide favorite since it is usually pretty responsive.

PALE-BILLED WOODPECKER (*Campephilus guatemalensis*) – One male seen well at Rancho near the interior forest feeders.

Furnariidae (Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers)

TAWNY-THROATED LEAFTOSSER (*Sclerurus mexicanus*) [*]

SLATY SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis brachyura*)

RED-FACED SPINETAIL (*Cranioleuca erythroptera*) – A Chiriqui highland endemic that we saw in the oaks at Tapanti NP.

SPOTTED BARBTAIL (*Premnoplex brunnescens*) – One was seen at Tapanti NP.

RUDDY TREERUNNER (*Margarornis rubiginosus*) – All to briefly in a mixed-species flock at Volcan Irazu.

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

PLAIN XENOPS (*Xenops minutus*)

STREAKED XENOPS (*Xenops rutilans*) – One was seen in the mega-flock at Silent Mountain and again at Tapanti NP.

PLAIN-BROWN WOODCREEPER (*Dendrocincla fuliginosa*) – One on the trails at Rancho.

OLIVACEOUS WOODCREEPER (*Sittasomus griseicapillus*) – A few here and there over several days. Fairly common on this tour.

WEDGE-BILLED WOODCREEPER (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*) – One at Tapanti NP.

COCOA WOODCREEPER (*Xiphorhynchus susurrans*) – A regular visitor to the moth cloth. Nice looks.

SPOTTED WOODCREEPER (*Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*)

STREAK-HEADED WOODCREEPER (*Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*) – This low to mid-elevation woodcreeper is fairly common on the grounds at Rancho. Seen or heard most days.

Thamnophilidae (Typical Antbirds)

BARRED ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnophilus doliatus*) – One briefly near Rancho Bajo.



Many species of birds are restricted to the highlands of Costa Rica and Panama, and are collectively referred to as "Chiriqui endemics". Among these is the Volcano Junco, a bird of the highest mountain tops, like at the crater on Volcan Irazu, where this one crashed our picnic lunch. (Photo by guide Jesse Fagan)

RUSSET ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnistes anabatinus*) – Several in the mega flock on Silent Mountain Road. Also on the trails at Rancho.

PLAIN ANTVIREO (*Dysithamnus mentalis*) – Male and female were visiting the moth cloth.

CHECKER-THROATED ANTWREN (*Epinecrophylla fulviventris*) – Just one on the forest trails foraging in a dead leaf cluster.

SLATY ANTWREN (*Myrmotherula schisticolor*) – A pair on the forest trails.

DULL-MANTLED ANTBIRD (*Myrmeciza laemosticta*) – Heard a few times, but eventually seen well along the Rio Tuis.

IMMACULATE ANTBIRD (*Myrmeciza immaculata*) – A responsive bird was seen nicely by the upper forest trail group at Rancho.

Grallariidae (Antpittas)

THICKET ANTPITTA (*Hylopezus dives*) [*]

Rhinocryptidae (Tapaculos)

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

Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)

YELLOW-BELLIED ELAENIA (*Elaenia flavogaster*)

MOUNTAIN ELAENIA (*Elaenia frantzii*) – One on the slopes of Volcan Irazu.

TORRENT TYRANNULET (*Serpophaga cinerea*) – A few times along the Rio Tuis.

OLIVE-STRIPED FLYCATCHER (*Mionectes olivaceus*) – One was seen well in the mega flock.

OCHRE-BELLIED FLYCATCHER (*Mionectes oleagineus*)

SLATY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Leptopogon superciliaris*) – Another species seen in the mega flock.

RUFOUS-BROWED TYRANNULET (*Phylloscartes superciliaris*) – A real goodie that we found in the mega flock. It came in close, so close you could even make out the little bit of rufous on the face.

PALTRY TYRANNULET (*Zimmerius vilissimus*) – Formerly called "Mistletoe Tyrannulet" because it eats a lot of mistletoe berries, helping to spread the parasite from tree to tree. I prefer the old name!

SCALE-CRESTED PYGMY-TYRANT (*Lophotriccus pileatus*) – We worked on this little guy at Rancho, but our best looks were at Tapanti NP.

COMMON TODY-FLYCATCHER (*Todirostrum cinereum*)

BLACK-HEADED TODY-FLYCATCHER (*Todirostrum nigriceps*) – Heard a lot b/c it has such a big voice for such a tiny body. It was also seen well a few times.

EYE-RINGED FLATBILL (*Rhynchocyclus brevirostris*)

YELLOW-OLIVE FLYCATCHER (*Tolmomyias sulphurescens*) [*]

SULPHUR-RUMPED FLYCATCHER (*Myiobius sulphureipygius aureatus*) – Just singles on two days.

TAWNY-CHESTED FLYCATCHER (*Aphanotriccus capitalis*) – The near endemic (also found in southern Nicaragua) seen very well at the moth cloth.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER (*Contopus cooperi*) [b]

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE (*Contopus virens*) – Just one. This is an uncommon winter visitor in Costa Rica. [b]

TROPICAL PEWEE (*Contopus cinereus*) – Seen on several days. It has much shorter primary projections than Eastern or Western, due to the fact that it is resident and doesn't migrate.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax flaviventris*) – Fairly common by voice at Rancho, also came to the moth cloth. [b]

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax virescens*) – We had one in the rain at EARTH. [b]

WHITE-THROATED FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax albigularis*) – In the marsh near Cali's hometown!

YELLOWISH FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax flavescens*) – We had one close (nice photos and studies) at Tapanti NP.

BLACK-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax atriceps*) – This Chiriqui highland endemic was seen on the slopes of Volcan Irazu.

BLACK PHOEBE (*Sayornis nigricans*) – The birds in Central America have extensive black below.

LONG-TAILED TYRANT (*Colonia colonus*) – A cool-looking flycatcher that we saw well near Rancho Bajo.

BRIGHT-RUMPED ATTLA (*Attila spadiceus*) – Heard lots of times and seen well down the entrance road near Rancho Bajo. The bright rump showed nicely.

RUFOUS MOURNER (*Rhytipterna holerythra*) – One in the mega flock!

DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*)

GREAT KISKADEE (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) – Seen or heard everyday.

BOAT-BILLED FLYCATCHER (*Megarynchus pitangua*) – Also seen or heard everyday. Similar to a kiskadee, but with less rufous in wings and tail. Of course, the call is very different.

SOCIAL FLYCATCHER (*Myiozetetes similis*)

GRAY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Myiozetetes granadensis*) – Similar to previous species, Social Fly, but with grayish head and pale eyes. Seen well at EARTH among other places.

GOLDEN-BELLIED FLYCATCHER (*Myiodynastes hemichrysus*) – Seen along Silent Mountain and again at Tapanti.

TROPICAL KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)

Pipridae (Manakins)

WHITE-RUFFED MANAKIN (*Corapipo altera*) – Seen on the trails at Rancho.

WHITE-COLLARED MANAKIN (*Manacus candei*) – Their snapping could be heard along the entrance road to Rancho where we also got some good looks at "snappy" males.

WHITE-CROWNED MANAKIN (*Pipra pipra*) – Higher up on the upper forest trails. The males are striking with their white crowns.

Tityridae (Tityras and Allies)

BLACK-CROWNED TITYRA (*Tityra inquisitor*)

MASKED TITYRA (*Tityra semifasciata*)

BARRED BECARD (*Pachyramphus versicolor*) – One in a mixed flock at Tapanti.

CINNAMON BECARD (*Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*) – A common becard on the grounds at Rancho. More often heard.

ROSE-THROATED BECARD (*Pachyramphus aglaiae*) – One in the tall tree behind our hotel in Santo Domingo.

Vireonidae (Vireos)

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO (*Vireo flavifrons*) – A common wintering visitor, seen nearly everyday, also in the mega flock. [b]

BROWN-CAPPED VIREO (*Vireo leucophrys*) – Tapanti NP.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO (*Vireo philadelphicus*) – Singles were seen at Rancho, and also in the mega flock at Silent Mountain. [b]

LESSER GREENLET (*Hylophilus decurtatus*)

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

AZURE-HOODED JAY (*Cyanolyca cucullata*) [*]

BROWN JAY (*Psilorhynchus morio*) – Seen everyday and a regular to the feeders at Rancho.

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

BLUE-AND-WHITE SWALLOW (*Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*) – This is the common swallow in the highlands.

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) – We had nice comparisons on the wire of both Southern and Northern perched next to each other. Southern's have the real tawny throat and pale rump.

SOUTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*)

GRAY-BREASTED MARTIN (*Progne chalybea*)

MANGROVE SWALLOW (*Tachycineta albilinea*) – At EARTH, perched on the soccer goal. Typical Mangrove Swallow habitat.

Troglodytidae (Wrens)

BAND-BACKED WREN (*Campylorhynchus zonatus*) – Along the entrance road to Rancho. These guys like to get up in the trees.

RUFOUS-NAPED WREN (*Campylorhynchus rufinucha*) – On the grounds at our hotel in Santo Domingo.

BLACK-THROATED WREN (*Pheugopedius atrogularis*) [*]

STRIPE-BREASTED WREN (*Cantorchilus thoracicus*) – Fairly common on the trails at Rancho and other places. Can be tough to see.

PLAIN WREN (*Cantorchilus modestus*) [*]

BAY WREN (*Cantorchilus nigricapillus*) – A nice looking wren that we saw along the Tuis River.

HOUSE WREN (*Troglodytes aedon*)

OCHRACEOUS WREN (*Troglodytes ochraceus*) – We had one briefly on Irazu, but managed to get everyone caught up with nice looks at Tapanti. A Chiriqui highland endemic.

TIMBERLINE WREN (*Thryorchilus browni*) [*****]

WHITE-BREASTED WOOD-WREN (*Henicorhina leucosticta*) – One of the highlights of the moth cloth is seeing these little critters so well.

GRAY-BREASTED WOOD-WREN (*Henicorhina leucophrys*) – Came in close for great looks while at Tapanti NP.

SCALY-BREASTED WREN (WHISTLING) (*Microcerculus marginatus lusciniia*) – Heard a lot at Rancho, but difficult to see. Some of us managed to see it.

Poliophtilidae (Gnatcatchers)

LONG-BILLED GNATWREN (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*)

TROPICAL GNATCATCHER (*Poliophtila plumbea*)

Cinclidae (Dippers)

AMERICAN DIPPER (*Cinclus mexicanus*) – A couple of you got your lifer "American" Dipper in Costa Rica, but, yes, it is Central "America." :-)

Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

BLACK-BILLED NIGHTINGALE-THRUSH (*Catharus gracilirostris*) – Seen well on Volcan Irazu. A Chiriqui highland endemic.

ORANGE-BILLED NIGHTINGALE-THRUSH (*Catharus aurantiirostris*)

SLATY-BACKED NIGHTINGALE-THRUSH (*Catharus fuscater*) [*****]

WOOD THRUSH (*Hylocichla mustelina*) [**b***]

SOOTY THRUSH (*Turdus nigrescens*) – On Volcan Irazu. A Chiriqui highland endemic.

CLAY-COLORED THRUSH (*Turdus grayi*) – The national bird of Costa Rica. Seen, not surprisingly, every day of the tour.

Mimidae (Mockingbirds and Thrashers)

TROPICAL MOCKINGBIRD (*Mimus gilvus*) – A couple of birds at Casa Turire. Expanding into Costa Rica from the north.

Ptilogonatidae (Silky-flycatchers)

BLACK-AND-YELLOW SILKY-FLYCATCHER (*Phainoptila melanoxantha*) – A great bird that we saw close while on Volcan Irazu. Chiriqui highland endemic.

Parulidae (New World Warblers)

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) – Fairly common wintering visitor in Costa Rica. [**b**]

TENNESSEE WARBLER (*Oreothlypis peregrina*) [**b**]

FLAME-THROATED WARBLER (*Oreothlypis gutturalis*) – A Chiriqui highland endemic, this is a sharp looking bird. Seen on Volcan Irazu.

TROPICAL PARULA (*Parula pitiayumi*)

YELLOW WARBLER (*Dendroica petechia*) [**b**]

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) – Probably the most common wintering warbler during our tour. [**b**]

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER (*Dendroica virens*) [**b**]

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER (*Dendroica fusca*) [**b**]

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER (*Mniotilta varia*) [**b**]

AMERICAN REDSTART (*Setophaga ruticilla*) [**b**]

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH (*Parkesia noveboracensis*) [**b**]

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH (*Parkesia motacilla*) – A nice find was this species along La Mina Road. Generally speaking, this species likes faster moving water on both winter and breeding grounds, in comparison, with Northern. [**b**]

MOURNING WARBLER (*Oporornis philadelphia*) [**b**]

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT (*Geothlypis trichas*) [b*]

OLIVE-CROWNED YELLOWTHROAT (*Geothlypis semiflava*) – We had a close encounter with a singing individual at Lake Turire.

GRAY-CROWNED YELLOWTHROAT (*Geothlypis poliocephala*) – In the marshes near Cali's hometown.

WILSON'S WARBLER (*Wilsonia pusilla*) [b]

SLATE-THROATED REDSTART (*Myioborus miniatus*)

GOLDEN-CROWNED WARBLER (*Basileuterus culicivorus*)

RUFOUS-CAPPED WARBLER (*Basileuterus rufifrons*)

BUFF-RUMPED WARBLER (*Phaeothlypis fulvicauda*) – Pretty common along the Rio Tuis. Seen on two days.

Coerebidae (Bananaquit)

BANANAQUIT (*Coereba flaveola*)

Emberizidae (Buntings, Sparrows and Allies)

COMMON BUSH-TANAGER (*Chlorospingus ophthalmicus*) – Only at Tapanti NP.

SOOTY-CAPPED BUSH-TANAGER (*Chlorospingus pileatus*) – We got excited about our first, then they started to invade our picnic table near the Irazu crater!

ASHY-THROATED BUSH-TANAGER (*Chlorospingus canigularis*) [*]

Thraupidae (Tanagers and Allies)

BLACK-AND-YELLOW TANAGER (*Chrysothlypis chrysomelas*) – This sharp looking tanager blasted through all too quickly in the mega flock.

WHITE-SHOULDERED TANAGER (*Tachyphonus luctuosus*) – Also in the mega flock, but seen on another day.

WHITE-LINED TANAGER (*Tachyphonus rufus*) – A pair was visiting the feeders at Rancho.

CRIMSON-COLLARED TANAGER (*Ramphocelus sanguinolentus*) – One of my favorites, and thankfully a regular visitor to the feeders at Rancho.

PASSERINI'S TANAGER (*Ramphocelus passerinii*) – Another nice one (at least the males) that is a regular visitor to the Rancho feeders. Love that rump! (did I just say that?)

BLUE-GRAY TANAGER (*Thraupis episcopus*)

PALM TANAGER (*Thraupis palmarum*)

PLAIN-COLORED TANAGER (*Tangara inornata*) – We had this one near Rancho Bajo where it is very uncommon.

EMERALD TANAGER (*Tangara florida*) – A couple on the walk along Silent Mountain Road. They were working the Melastome trees.

SILVER-THROATED TANAGER (*Tangara icterocephala*) – Surprisingly, not around very much. We had them nicely in the mega-flock, however.

SPECKLED TANAGER (*Tangara guttata*) – Also in the mega-flock. Costa Rica is the first country where you begin to see a nice variety of *Tangara* tanagers. In S.A. the diversity explodes.

BAY-HEADED TANAGER (*Tangara gyrola*)

GOLDEN-HOODED TANAGER (*Tangara larvata*)

SPANGLE-CHEEKED TANAGER (*Tangara dowii*) – Just one at Tapanti NP which was tough to get on.

SCARLET-THIGHED DACNIS (*Dacnis venusta*) – One was perched in the rain at CATIE.

GREEN HONEYCREEPER (*Chlorophanes spiza*)

RED-LEGGED HONEYCREEPER (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*)

GRAYISH SALTATOR (*Saltator coerulescens*)

BUFF-THROATED SALTATOR (*Saltator maximus*) – Both Buff-throated and Black-headed are regular visitors to the Rancho feeders. They look similar, but their calls are very different.

BLACK-HEADED SALTATOR (*Saltator atriceps*)

Emberizidae (Buntings, Sparrows and Allies)

VARIABLE SEEDEATER (*Sporophila corvina*)

WHITE-COLLARED SEEDEATER (*Sporophila torqueola*)

THICK-BILLED SEED-FINCH (*Oryzoborus funereus*) – Finally caught up with this species near La Mina road in the big grassy field. We scoped a couple of females.

YELLOW-FACED GRASSQUIT (*Tiaris olivaceus*)

SLATY FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossa plumbea*) – On the slopes of Volcan Irazu.

LARGE-FOOTED FINCH (*Pezopetes capitalis*) [*]

SOOTY-FACED FINCH (*Arremon crassirostris*) – One that we often miss on tour. We had very nice looks at a responsive bird while birding the road in Tapanti NP.

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

ORANGE-BILLED SPARROW (*Arremon aurantiirostris*) – One was usually hopping around underneath the vervain below the Rancho porch.

BLACK-STRIPED SPARROW (*Arremonops conirostris*)

WHITE-EARED GROUND-SPARROW (*Melospiza leucotis*) – A pair were foraging in the leaf litter along the wall behind our hotel in Santo Domingo. This is really the only spot on the tour where we can see this species. We miss it some years.

RUFOUS-COLLARED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia capensis*)

VOLCANO JUNCO (*Junco vulcani*) – Very nicely near the crater of Volcan Irazu. A couple were also around our picnic table! A Chiriqui highland endemic.

Cardinalidae (Cardinals and Allies)

HEPATIC TANAGER (*Piranga flava*) – One in the big mega-flock. A little unusual for this site and elevation.

SUMMER TANAGER (*Piranga rubra*) [b]

WHITE-WINGED TANAGER (*Piranga leucoptera*) – The males are striking and we had three birds perched in the open while birding at Tapanti NP. I don't really like the name for this species, however.

RED-THROATED ANT-TANAGER (*Habia fuscicauda*) – Very nice studies at the moth cloth. A regular.

CARMIOL'S TANAGER (*Chlorothraupis carmioli*) [*]

BLACK-THIGHED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus tibialis*) – We had one perched way up in a tree which we scoped while birding at Tapanti NP.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) [b]

Icteridae (Troupials and Allies)

RED-BREASTED BLACKBIRD (*Sturnella militaris*) – Two were in the fields near Turire Lake. A recent invader from the south.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK (*Sturnella magna*)

MELODIOUS BLACKBIRD (*Dives dives*)

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE (*Quiscalus mexicanus*)

BRONZED COWBIRD (*Molothrus aeneus*)

GIANT COWBIRD (*Molothrus oryzivorus*)

BLACK-COWLED ORIOLE (*Icterus prosthemelas*) – This nice looking oriole was seen well along the entrance road at EARTH.

ORCHARD ORIOLE (*Icterus spurius*) – Another oriole seen along the entrance road at EARTH. [b]

BALTIMORE ORIOLE (*Icterus galbula*) – Seen every day of the tour. A common wintering species in CR. [b]

YELLOW-BILLED CACIQUE (*Amblycercus holosericeus*) [*]

SCARLET-RUMPED CACIQUE (*Cacicus uropygialis*) – An irregular visitor to the Rancho feeders.

CHESTNUT-HEADED OROPENDOLA (*Psarocolius wagleri*) – Both species of oropendolas were regular at the feeders, but Chestnut-headed was by far the less common of the two.

MONTEZUMA OROPENDOLA (*Psarocolius montezuma*) – I love it when the alpha males do their "dip" display.

Fringillidae (Siskins, Crossbills, and Allies)

YELLOW-CROWNED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia luteicapilla*)

YELLOW-THROATED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia hirundinacea*)

OLIVE-BACKED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia gouldi*) – In general, this is a good tour for euphonias. We saw/heard 5 species.

WHITE-VENTED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia minuta*) [*]

TAWNY-CAPPED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia anae*) – The common one around the Rancho area.

Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*) [I]

MAMMALS

WHITE-THROATED CAPUCHIN (*Cebus capucinus*)

CENTRAL AMERICAN SPIDER MONKEY (*Ateles geoffroyi*)

NINE-BANDED ARMADILLO (*Dasypus novemcinctus*)

VARIEGATED SQUIRREL (*Sciurus variegatoides*)

RED-TAILED SQUIRREL (*Sciurus granatensis*)

ALFARO'S PYGMY SQUIRREL (*Microsciurus alfari*)

DUSKY RICE RAT (*Melanomys caliginosus*) – Yes! We got the Dusky Rice Rat underneath the feeders below the porch.

NORTHERN RACCOON (*Procyon lotor*)

TAYRA (*Eira barbara*)

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Totals for the tour: 306 bird taxa and 9 mammal taxa