

Trip report: Birding Costa Rica (mostly) by bus (28/12/2018 – 8/1/2019)

By Sin Yong Chee Keita @ Okamoto Keita

After an exciting week-long introduction to Neotropical birdwatching at Panama, a fairly comfortable Avianca flight brought me to the country often hailed as the Poster Child of Ecotourism – Costa Rica.

I was mostly alone during my self-guided 12-day trip and travelled primarily by local bus. This trip report will focus more on the logistical aspect of my trip especially regarding transportation and less so on the birds themselves – I did not pursue any ground-breaking birdwatching and most details of the sites I visited are in many other (much better) birding reports anyway. Just like my Panama trip report, the level of expectation from this piece of document should be kept as close as possible to zilch as I did not know what I was doing half the time and was mostly just blindly bumming around.

I planned my itinerary to maximise the number of ecoregions visited – highlands (San Gerardo), Caribbean lowlands-foothills (La Selva), Sub-montane (Arenal) and Northern x Southern Pacific Lowlands (Carara), but this plan backfired slightly as I was unable to devote ample time to search for the key targets at each area especially due to my complete lack of experience in the region.

Main Locations Birded

San Gerardo da Dota, La Selva OTS, Arenal Observatory Lodge, Carara National Park



Resplendent Quetzal at San Gerardo da Dota

Itinerary

27 December	Arrive at Juan Santamaria Airport, travel to San Gerardo da Dota
28 December	Birding at San Gerardo da Dota
29 December	Birding at San Gerardo da Dota, travel to San Jose, then to Sarapiqui
30, 31 December	Birding at La Selva OTS
1 January	Birding at La Selva OTS, travel to La Fortuna
2, 3 January	Birding at Arenal
4 January	Birding at Arenal, travel to San Jose
5 January	Travel to Hotel Villa Lapas, Birding at Carara National Park
6 January	Birding at Carara National Park
7 January	Birding at Carara National Park, travel to San Jose
8 January	Depart Costa Rica through Juan Santamaria Airport

Accommodation

27, 28 December

San Gerardo da Dota: Los Lagos Lodge

Booked on booking.com. Breakfast provided, dinner optional. Gets quite cold at night but comfy blankets provided.

29 December

Sarapiqui: Airbnb - Hostel Casa Sarapiquí, by Mariano

Mariano was a fantastic Airbnb host. He gave me a lift from the Sarapiqui bus terminal to his Airbnb on day one, to La Selva Biological Lodge the next morning, and even took his time to pick me from La Selva and send me back to the bus terminal when I was departing three days later!

30, 31 December

La Selva OTS: La Selva Biological Lodge

Booked on booking.com. Breakfast provided, dinner optional. Hot water and free coffee available at the canteen throughout. Highly recommend staying here if you intend to spend several days at La Selva.

1 January

La Fortuna: Sagu Hostel La Fortuna

Simple dormitory room. Kitchen available.

2, 3 January

Arenal Observatory Deck: Arenal Observatory Lodge & Spa (La Casona Room)

Booked via the official website. Breakfast provided, dinner optional. Coffee makers available at the La Casona Rooms. Distance from La Casona room area to main reception is a little bit of a walk but shuttle services available.

4 January

San Jose: Airbnb - A Bed in Dormitory - A Hostel Nearby Bus Stations, by Sedat

Simple dormitory room. Very nice “backpacker” atmosphere. Kitchen available at shared area.

5, 6 January

Carara National Park: Villa Lapas Rainforest Eco-Resort

Breakfast provided, dinner optional. Hot water available at restaurant.

7 January

San Jose: Airbnb - A Bed in Dormitory - A Hostel Nearby Bus Stations, by Sedat

Same place that I stayed on 4 January. A convenient location as in the Airbnb title.

General Logistics

Language

I could not speak Spanish but learnt some basic survival phrases. Many in Costa Rica are able to speak English although less so in smaller towns. The Google Translate mobile application was a lifesaver.

SIM Card

Purchased at Juan Santamaria Airport baggage collection area. 10USD for 2GB effective for one month. Probably available at cheaper rates in the city?

Food

Mostly cup noodles, bread, cereals, fruits and canned food. I stockpiled food at supermarkets while travelling as there were no such places available near any of the (by “near” I mean walking distances). Breakfast was provided at most of the lodges.

Safety

San Gerardo de Dota, La Selva OTS, Arenal are all safe places even after sunset. La Fortuna is a rather touristy town. Carara National Park area is supposedly near the town of Tarcoles but I did not see many people there. There were “guards” looking after vehicles parked at outside the National Park – possibly an indicator that petty crime is present (?).

I spent minimal time in San Jose and visited the city only to get buses to subsequent birding sites. I was hence there mostly at night. The immediate vicinity of the bus terminals made me feel slightly uncomfortable. Not unsafe, just uncomfortable – shady (?) streets, homeless people, some street corners with literal mountains of trash. I am/was an Asian male in my early 20s for the record and took Ubers to my accommodation within San Jose, during which I saw the above described scenes. The locals did not seem to be bothered at all and kids were running around, so I likely felt uncomfortable only because I was alone in a foreign environment; these discomfort were likely all in my head. Just noting it here for anyone who might find the information useful and I don’t intend to imply in any way that San Jose is an unsafe place.

Weather

I experienced a short and heavy rain at La Selva on one afternoon and it was mostly cloudy and rainy at Arenal, but it was otherwise very sunny and dry throughout my trip.

Planning the trip

Given the lack of a vehicle and a poor understanding of the biogeography of Costa Rica, I first referred mainly to [Exotic Birding](#) and [Aratinga Tours](#) to determine the regions to cover. Following that, I referred to eBird – which is very extensively used in Costa Rica – to narrow down possible sites. Finally, I selected the sites to visit based on the transport feasibility

Field Guide used: Garrigues, R., & Dean, R. (2014). The birds of Costa Rica field guide. A Zona Tropical Publication. Cornell University Press. Ithaca, New York, EEUU.

There were several locations that I considered going but did not in the end due to poor logistic feasibility.

1. Tapanti National Park

I was hoping to stay at Kiri Lodge – the lodge nearest to the Tapanti National Park entrance – and walk to the national park every day. Taking a local bus to the nearest town Orosi, followed by a taxi up to the mountain, was a feasible plan. However, the lodge has apparently closed down (as of November 2018) and I thus scrapped this idea as there were no other nearby accommodations.

2. Braulio Carrillo National Park

It is possible to get to Braulio Carrillo National Park from San Jose by bus. However, getting back to the city might be a problem as it apparently requires flagging down buses with unconfirmed timings along the highway. I've read (and also heard from local birders) about birdwatchers getting robbed while birding along the highway near Braulio Carrillo and therefore scrapped the plan.

3. Villa Lapas Sky Way

The Villa Lapas website advertises that there is a Sky Way canopy walk as part of the resort's attraction, but this walkway is actually not in the resort grounds. I was initially keen on doing it and asked the resort online whether I could do it alone without a guide, to which a representative replied that I could. However, I was told otherwise upon reaching the resort – that I had to get a guide, pay an entrance fee (can't remember the price, but just remember that it seemed unjustifiable) AND get a mandatory taxi service (???) to the entrance, so I decided not to.

Transport

Taxi

Orange taxis are the official taxis that serve the Airports mainly, while Red taxis are their counterparts within San Jose city. Lots of unofficial taxi services are present too but they seem to have a bad rep based on online forums.

Uber is readily available in Costa Rica, at least within the Central Valley area, but apparently lies within a legal grey zone (as of January 2019). I used Uber services while in San Jose city but decided not to do so from the airport after reading several TripAdvisor comments advising against that (taxi drivers don't like "illegal" Uber drivers stealing their customers and might apparently turn violent).

The orange taxi ride from Juan Santamaria Airport to Terminal MUSOC, San Jose, was 31USD.

Buses

I referred mainly to <http://thebusschedule.com/EN/cr/index.php> and the “Birding Costa Rica by Bus” Facebook group for planning. The bus timings and locations on thebusschedule.com were very reliable apart from one section (see 6. La Fortuna to San Jose) where an alternative bus schedule available was not listed on the website.

I travelled with one camera bag and another moderately sized luggage. All the buses I boarded had luggage compartments under the bus but I did not use them. Instead, I left my bigger bag at a wheelchair space on the bus itself and sat somewhere where it was visible.

1. San Jose to San Gerardo da Dota

Departing terminal: Terminal MUSOC at San Jose

Bus to board: Towards San Isidro del General

Cost: 3525 Colones

Duration: 2 hours 5 minutes

Notes: The tickets towards San Isidro del General has bus numbers and assigned seat numbers. Inform the bus driver beforehand that you want to alight at the entrance of San Gerardo da Dota. Make sure that the bus driver fully understands you. About 15 minutes before reaching San Gerardo da Dota, the bus will make a 5-minute stop at a small stall along the highway. Here, ask the driver “how long more is it to San Gerardo?” just to serve as a reminder that you want to alight there. The bus driver might otherwise forget and bypass the entrance. I arranged with the lodge beforehand to provide transport from the valley entrance to the lodge.

2. San Gerardo da Dota to San Jose

I managed to get a lift back to San Jose from San Gerardo da Dota from a fellow birder, so I have absolutely no idea how people get back via bus. On one of my days birding there, I passed by the entrance and noticed that there were people standing beside the highway attempting to flag down all the buses that were passing by. The entrance to San Gerardo da Dota is designed in way that buses heading from San Jose would be able to stop by the road, while those heading towards San Jose would probably have no space to do so. Furthermore, the entrance is right after a sharp curve for the road towards San Jose. Thus, I don't know whether the bus driver would be able to notice a passenger, and if so, stop.

3. San Jose to Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí

Departing terminal: Terminal del Caribe

Bus to board: Towards Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí

Cost: 3000 colones

Duration: 1 hour 45 minutes

Notes: Tickets towards Sarapiquí did not have bus nor seat numbers, and the number of people boarding can exceed the seating space. Queue early.

4. Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí to La Fortuna

Departing terminal: Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí to Ciudad Queseda, then Ciudad Queseda to La Fortuna

Cost: 1680 and 1465 colones respectively.

Duration: 2 hours and 1 hour 15 minutes respectively

Notes: The Ciudad Queseda bus terminal is referred to as San Carlos. At Sarapiquí, I purchased the tickets to Ciudad Queseda (San Carlos) at the ticket booth. At Ciudad Queseda, there were many different bus operators and banners above the platforms to indicate the schedules and destinations. I approached one of the staffs at the terminal and repeated "La Fortuna" several times. He guided me to a queue and I paid the 1465 colones to the driver directly.

5. La Fortuna to Arenal Observatory Lodge and back

Cost: 8USD/one way

Duration: 30-40 minutes

A [shuttle service](#) available from the town of La Fortuna to the Arenal Observatory Lodge. It has to be booked and can be easily done by calling the Arenal Observatory Lodge reception. The staffs speak both Spanish and English.



Departure Time	From	To
8:20 a.m.	Arenal Observatory Lodge	La Fortuna
9:00 a.m.	La Fortuna Next to Hotel Las Palmas "Super Cristian N°1"	Arenal Observatory Lodge
12:20 p.m.	Arenal Observatory Lodge	La Fortuna
1:30 p.m.	La Fortuna Next to Hotel Las Palmas "Super Cristian N°1"	Arenal Observatory Lodge
4:20 p.m.	Arenal Observatory Lodge	La Fortuna
6:30 p.m.	La Fortuna Next to Hotel Las Palmas "Super Cristian N°1"	Arenal Observatory Lodge

Shuttle Fare / Tarifa: \$8 per person / Each way
REQUIRE RESERVATION IN ADVANCE
BOOK IT HERE!!!

6. La Fortuna to San Jose

Departing terminal: La Fortuna

Bus to board: Red Lava bus to San Jose

Cost: 2660 colones

Duration: 3 hours 50 minutes

Notes: The Red Lava bus company is located at the La Fortuna bus terminal. I could not find their bus schedule on thebusschedule.com but the bus timings towards San Jose were 910am, 1245pm, 245pm and 410pm as of 2nd January 2018. This bus passes by the Juan Santamaria International Airport and the final destination is Terminal 7-10 in San Jose.

7. San Jose to Hotel Villa Lapas

Departing terminal: Terminal 7-10 in San Jose

Bus to board: Transportes JACO S.A.

Cost: 2500 colones

Duration: 1 hour 50 minutes

Notes: Bus tickets can be purchased at the second floor of the bus terminal. There are bus numbers and assigned seats for this company. I wanted to go to Hotel Villa Lapas near the town Tarcoles and thus informed the driver before boarding the bus via Google translate. Approximately 1.5 hours after departing San Jose, I felt uneasy for some reason and decided to stare at the GPS on my phone. This turned out to be a crucial decision because about 20 minutes later, the bus just sped past the bus stop (there is a bus stop outside at the road where Hotel Villa Lapas is). I was unable to find a button to ring the bell and hence typed out "I wanted to alight the bus" on Google translate and showed it to a man who was standing in front of me. He helped by pulling a string located at the top corner of the bus (that rang the bell). The bus eventually stopped but I was dropped off at a random spot along the highway. Thankfully, I managed to get an Uber back to the Hotel.

8. Hotel Villa Lapas to San Jose

Bus to board: Transportes JACO S.A.

Cost: 2500 colones

Duration: 1 hour 45 minutes

Notes: I purchased my tickets back to San Jose at terminal 7-10 beforehand and waited at the bus stop outside the road leading to Hotel Villa Lapas. The bus arrived about 15 minutes late.

9. San Jose to Juan Santamaria Airport

Departing terminal: TUASA

Cost: 565 Colones

Duration: 40 minutes

Notes: Tickets need not be purchased beforehand – pay 565 colones directly to the bus driver.

Birding

San Gerardo da Dota

Birdwatching at San Gerardo da Dota without a car is probably not a smart option. In order to get the two higher altitude species, **Volcano Junco** and **Timberline Wren**, you will need transport to the Cerro Buenavista Communication Towers. Birding spots within the valley itself – the feeders at Miriam Restaurant, trails behind Savegre Hotel and the Waterfall Trail – are somewhat walkable but will likely be exhausting given that the entire road through San Gerardo da Dota is sloped.

For many birders, the main target at San Gerardo da Dota is the **Resplendent Quetzal**. I was no exception to this and had to see the green thing before leaving the valley. When checking-in at Los Lagos lodge, the staff told me about a reliable stake-out for this species right beside the lodge, and that he could bring me on a 2USD tour to look for the bird. A rather cheap price for a dream bird, I thought, so I signed-up for it.

The next morning, he brought me to an area beside the lodge which was not quite what I expected. Though primarily a birdwatcher rather than a photographer, what I envisioned was an area with clear unobstructed view and nice perches, but that was not the case. Rather, he brought me to a cluttered plantation and together with another staff, searched around for the Quetzal without even using any binoculars. **Yellow-winged Vireos**, **Rufous-collared Sparrows**, **Volcano Hummingbirds** and **Lesser Violetears**, among others, entertained me while waiting but an hour of standing around did not yield the target bird; the first dip of my Costa Rica trip was the species I wanted to see the most. I obviously didn't pay my 2USD and would strongly recommend against signing up for the Los Lagos "Quetzal Tour". You could just walk over to the spot – just 100 metres North of the lodge – and look for the bird yourself. A pair of Quetzals were apparently seen on the mornings both on the day before and after my experience, so the area is probably reliable, and the birds likely just didn't like my stupid face.



Long-tailed Silky Flycatcher

Breakfast back at the lodge was delicious and made up for the lack of a quetzal but I could not really focus on the meal as **Volcano** and **Talamanca Hummingbirds** as well as **Grey-tailed Mountaingems** were buzzing around the area. A **Slaty Flowerpiercer** allowed me to observe its peculiar feeding habitats and a splendid **Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher** was the icing on the cake.

I got a lift from the hotel staff to the waterfall trail at the end of the valley (eBird hotspot: [San Gerardo de Dota--Sendero Catarata](#)) after breakfast. Songs of the **Black-faced Solitaire** resonated through the forest and mixed flocks consisting of **Sooty-capped Bush Tanagers**, **Spangled-cheeked Tanagers** and **Black-cheeked Warblers** were common. **Flame-throated Warblers** and **Collared Whitestarts** occasionally participated as well. **Sulphur-winged Parakeets** constantly flew above the forest but the closed canopy made observation difficult. Scanning for activity along the tree trunks yielded **Spot-crowned Woodcreepers** and a single **Ruddy Treerunner**. I managed to whistle a pair of **Collared Trogons** out to view, and soon after, rustling from the ground alerted me to pair of extremely confiding **Spotted Wood Quails** foraging right beside the path. The trail eventually became muddy and



Spotted Wood Quail

waterlogged, and mosquitoes begun eating me alive at an altitude above 2,000 metres, so I made the choice of turning back.

On the way back, I met a Californian birder Kevin Schwartz together with his guide, Henry Sandi, and his friend Esteban. They were planning to visit the Cerro Buenavista Communication Towers and very kindly allowed me to join them on their expedition. On the way out of the trail, Henry found an **Elegant Euphonia** which was a very elegant looking bird indeed.

A short stop at Miriam Feeder (eBird hotspot: [San Gerardo de Dota--Miriam's Restaurant](#)) produced all of the common hummingbirds along with a single **Fiery-throated Hummingbird**. **Large-footed Finches**, **Flame-coloured Tanagers** and **Mountain Thrushes** enjoyed their fruit buffet at the feeders while **White-collared Swifts** circled above us.

At the Cerro Buenavista Communication Towers, the **Timberline Wrens** and **Volcano Juncos** both showed well after a series of playbacks. A big flock of **Band-tailed Pigeons** circled around the area several times too. We parted ways with Henry and Esteban after this. Henry was a fantastic guide who knew every call in the forest (and he was super friendly although I was just being a parasite). I would highly recommend getting in touch with him if you are ever in the region.

I was quite satisfied with the birds I picked up by 1600, but a particular green bird was still lacking from my life. Kevin thus brought me to a stake-out (GPS: 9.578117, -83.801819) where he saw the Quetzal just that morning. A birder who was already at the spot pointed to a tree as soon as we got out of the car and perched quietly on the tree was a massive bright green male **Resplendent Quetzal**. The bird was completely unperturbed by our presence, allowing us to move around and visually harass it from various angles. Its unnecessarily long tail formed sinusoidal waves as the wind blew but its occasional unsexy yelp was a great reminder that the bird was actually just an exaggerated trogon. The sun started to set after about 25 minutes, and the Quetzal probably had enough of us; it floated off into the valley, looking clumsy yet graceful at the same time. The feather's gloss is something that can be never captured on camera – this is a bird where the fame and advertisement it gets is fully justified.



Resplendent Quetzal

Kevin recounted to me that there were over 50 people observing the bird when he saw it in the morning. I do not know if this location is a regular stake out, nor whether it is a common birding itinerary to search for the Quetzals in the morning instead of in the afternoon. However, based on this one experience, I would recommend searching for the bird first in the morning and once more in the afternoon if time permits. The joy of being able to walk around freely without having to worry about offending other birders is worth the time.

Some of the sought-after nocturnal species at San Gerardo da Dota includes the Dusky Nightjar and Unspotted Saw-whet Owl but a brief night birding session at the waterfall trail and a slow drive back to Los Lagos Lodge produced nothing.

The next morning, Kevin and I visited the trail above Savegre Hotel (eBird hotspot: [Savegre Mt. Lodge-primary forest trails above lodge](#)) for a short while. **Mountain Elaenias** and **Yellowish Flycatchers** gave good views and a pair of **Sooty Thrush** made a brief appearance as well. The flowers around the hotel had the usual hummingbirds and we managed to find several **Scintillant Hummingbirds** and another beautiful **Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher** before departing the valley for a 2-hour drive to San Jose.

I was extremely fortunate to have met a fellow birder whom I could follow around, and would likely have dipped the **Resplendent Quetzal** if not for Kevin. I was quite lucky with people and with birds at San Gerardo da Dota but would not recommend birders to head there without a car.

La Selva OTS

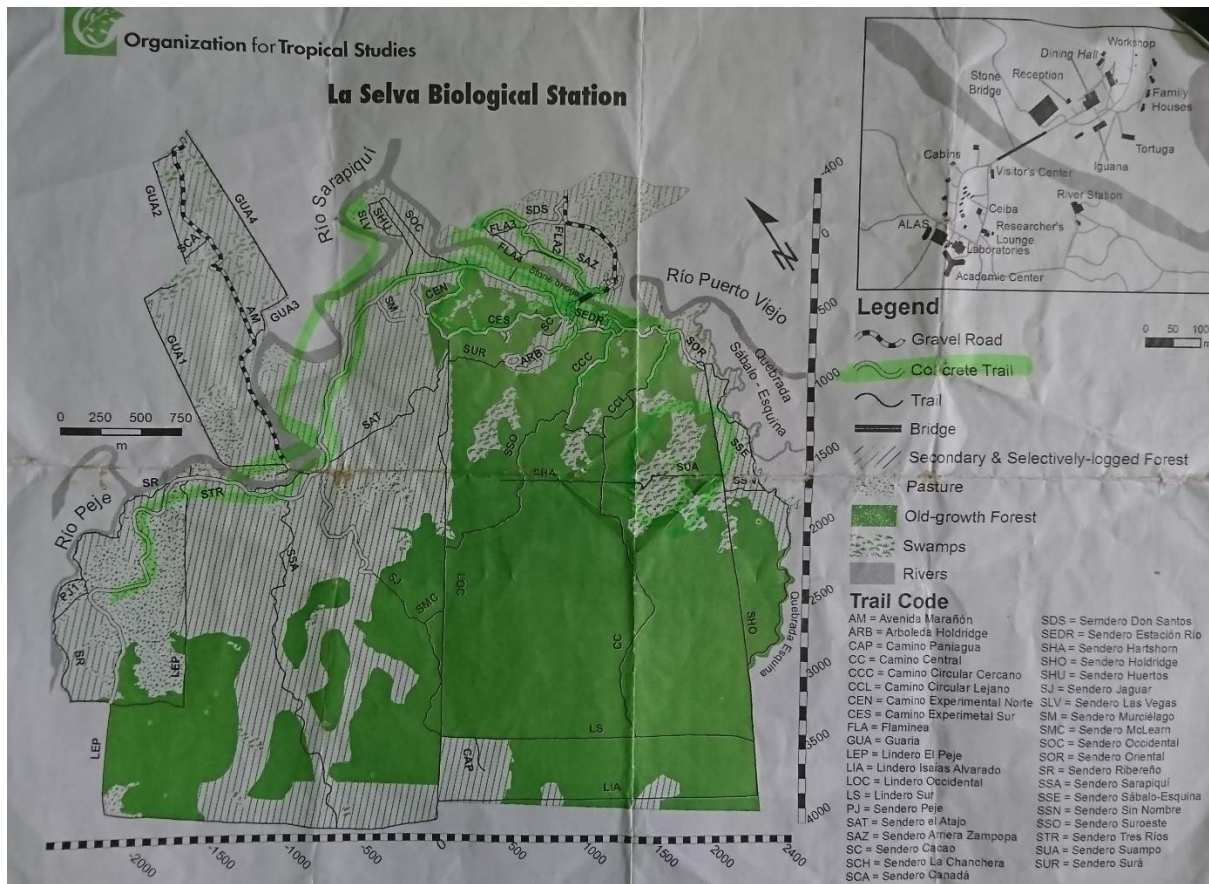
My Airbnb host, Mariano, fetched me to the accommodation once I reached the Sarapiquí bus terminal. I had about two hours to sunset. By virtue of being located right beside La Selva OTS, birding around the accommodation was fantastic. I saw my only **Groove-billed Anis** in Costa Rica here and at a forest patch beside the accommodation, a friendly **Rufous-tailed Jacamar**. The open habitat provided fantastic views of pre-roost flights of various species including **Montezuma Oropendolas**, **Scarlet-rumped Caciques**, **Brown Jays**, **Scaled Pigeons**, **Orange-chinned Parakeets**, **Brown-hooded Parrots**, **Grey-rumped Swifts** and **White-collared Swifts**. **Boat-billed Flycatchers** were abundant and the pond beside the house had a roost of **Western Cattle Egrets** as well as a single **Amazon Kingfisher**. Perhaps the most notable sighting was my main target in the region – the **Great Green Macaw**. A small flock floated above the treeline as the sun was setting. Mariano also showed me a photograph of a Fasciated Tiger-heron he found at the river within beside the accommodation but I did not have enough time to check the place out. This Airbnb I stayed in is obviously not a location birders visit but I would definitely recommend it to those who need an accommodation at Sarapiquí (La Selva was booked out on my first night).



Rufous-tailed Jacamar

I got a lift to the La Selva Biological Reserve the next morning from Mariano. Visitors staying at the La Selva Biological Reserve Lodge get free entry in addition to one free guided nature tour and are allowed to walk on the trails at any time of the day (and night) without a guide. Those who are not, on the other hand, have to pay an entrance fee of at least 30USD. I am unsure if there are restrictions to the visiting time for non-staying visitors but I highly recommend birders to stay here regardless.

Trails in La Selva were well marked. The trails marked in white (legend: concrete trail) are open to visitors while those in black are for researchers only. There was no one regulating the trails and I could probably have explored the entire forest if I wished too (I visited La Selva during New Year) but many of the black trails were muddy and not very walkable.



The guided tour was a general nature tour rather than a bird-centric one, but the guide was an expert in the region's birds along with everything else from plants to mammals. Many of the birds we saw during the tour were species I found to be fairly common in the reserve, but the guide knew a stake-out for a roosting **Vermiculated Screech Owl** and also found a pair of **Snowy Cotingas** perched on a bare tree at the SAZ trail right behind the visitor centre.

I spent the next 2 days walking around the various trails in La Selva. A car is not required to bird here as all the trails are within the Biological Reserve within walking distance. The forest was teeming with bird activity in the mornings but dead quiet after about 10 am – a surprise to me as I expected active mixed feeding flocks throughout the day. eBird records show sightings of Bare-necked Umbrellabirds but according to the guide, they are apparently only found deeper into the forest at regions restricted to visitors.



Snowy Cotinga

White-breasted Wood-wrens, Olive-backed Euphonias, Tropical Gnatcatchers, Black-crowned Antshrikes, Buff-rumped Warblers, Montezuma Oropendolas, Collared Aracari, Keel-billed and Yellow-throated Toucans were common throughout the reserve. **Great Green Macaws, Orange-chinned Parakeets** and **White-crowned Parrots** were common by call but getting views of them from the trails were not easy. Open areas around the visitor centre, stone bridge, and the garden after the stone bridge were good locations for flybys.

The stone bridge is apparently where people find the Green Ibis but I did not encounter any. Fruiting trees at the garden constantly attracted **Scarlet-thighed Dacnis**, **Shining**, **Green** and **Red-legged Honeycreepers** as well as **Crested Guans**.

The STR trail that runs along Rio Puerto Viejo was the most productive one for me – the relatively open trail made birdwatching much easier than the other trails that had thicker canopy cover (and with similar species composition). Sunbitterns are apparently reported here occasionally but I failed to connect with this species. A **White-collared Manakin** lek was near the start of the trail and I saw a **White-fronted Nunbird** and **Long-tailed Tyrant** along this trail too. I occasionally encountered **Stripe-breasted Wrens**, and a group of very vocal **Slaty-breasted Tinamous** were at the area slightly after the STR and SM junction.

Slaty-tailed and **Black-throated Trogons** were common throughout the forest and often perched quietly along the trails. At the end of the CCC trail I found a very unexpected **Central American Pygmy Owl** getting its soul mobbed out, and a **Great Curassow** along the SAZ trail was my first lifer of 2019.

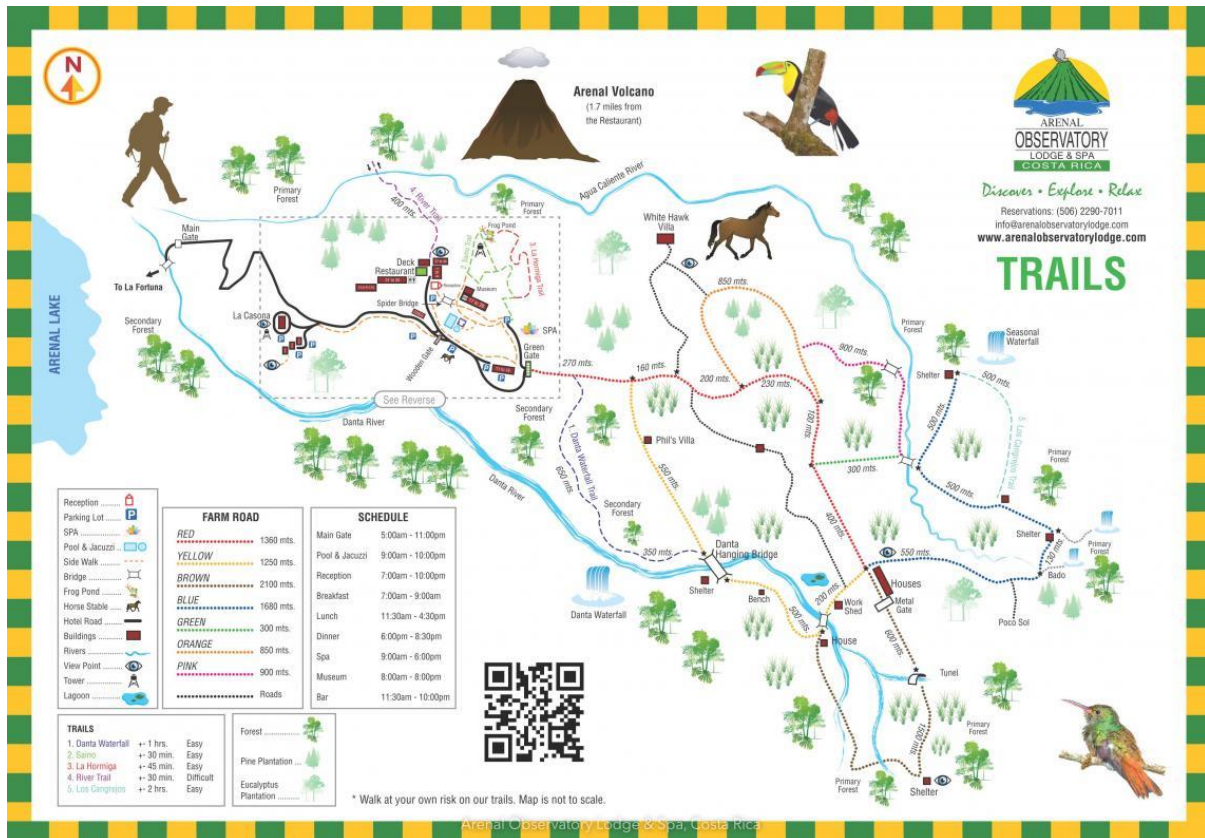
Raptors were up in the sky almost throughout the day and most of them were **Black** and **Turkey Vultures**. **Hook-billed Kite**, **Black Hawk-eagle** and **Grey-headed Kite** made appearances for me as well.



Central American Pygmy Owl

Night walks got me a handful of roosting **Great Tinamous** and migratory **Wood Thrushes**. A family of **Mottled Owls** were calling at the end of the ARB trail but I never managed to see them.

Arenal



Map of Arenal Observatory Lodge & Spa, retrieved from <https://www.arenalobservatorylodge.com/en/property-map/>

My birding at the Arenal Observatory Lodge was done entirely on foot. Poor weather and strong winds caused bird activity to be low and I pretty much spent most of my time walking without a purpose. Despite spending almost 3 days at the observatory lodge, not once was I able to get a view of the volcano due to the clouds. Staying visitors are able to enter the Arenal Observatory Lodge for free while non-staying visitors at a price of apparently just 3USD. For those with cars, it'll likely make more sense to stay at the town of La Fortuna and make the early drive up (though I am not sure if there are "visiting hours").

Right beside the deck restaurant was a huge feeder that was refilled at 0700 every morning. **Montezuma Oropendolas** and **Brown Jays** queued up at the trees beside the feeder around 0650 and flooded the feeders as soon as the fruits were up. Other species that frequented the feeder were **Emerald Tanagers**, **Blue-grey Tanagers**, **Golden-hooded Tanagers** and **Melodious Blackbirds**. **Great Curassows** walked around the ground below to tackle the food waste problem. The feeder was disappointingly only topped up in the morning and therefore completely deserted in the afternoon.



Montezuma Oropendola

The gardens around the deck restaurant to the green gate area was full of hummingbirds. The most abundant species was the **Scaly-breasted**, followed by **Rufous-tailed** and **Violet-headed**. Despite devoting a large proportion of my time searching the area, I was never able to connect with other hummingbirds such as the Black-crested Coquette. In fact, those three were the only species of hummingbirds I saw at the gardens. eBird checklists just days before and after my trip reported other species – so I must either have been looking at the wrong places, was extremely unlucky, or perhaps just blind and horrible at identifying hummingbirds. **Tropical Parula, Orange-billed Sparrow, Greyish Saltator, Common Tody-flycatcher, Bananaquit** and **Band-backed Wren** were among the other birds I saw around the gardens.

There were three main forested area within the Observatory Lodge property that were productive. The La Hominiga trail behind the deck restaurant produced **Streak-crowned Antvireo, Golden-olive Woodpecker, Tawny-faced Gnatwren** and several (heard-only) **Dull-mantled Antbirds**. At the Danta Waterfall trail, **Thicket Antpittas** were vocal in the mornings although I never managed to get views of them. **Russet Antshrike** and **White-throated Shrike-tanager** were among those that participated in mixed flocks and a tiny **White-throated Spadebill** revealed its presence through a squeak. **Northern Nightingale Wrens** were singing their completely off-key songs and I managed to get fantastic views of one just before the stairs down to the waterfall. Finally, the short, forested area at the La Congrejos Trail produced a pair of **Great Curassows** and a very striking **Zeledon's Antbird**.

The rest of the trails within the Observatory Lodge had similar grassland habitat and the birds were more or less the same throughout. **Red-billed Pigeons** rested on wires while **Black Phoebes** and **Great Kiskadees** did so on fences. Flocks of **Variable Seedeaters** and **Yellow-faced Grassquits** were all over the place. Where there were trees, **Bay-headed Tanagers** and **House Wrens** hopped around, and **Grey Hawks** and **White Hawks** perched on bare branches.

The only night birding I did was just 50 metres from the room I was staying – the “cheap” 96USD/night La Casona room for “budget travellers” as advertised by Arenal Observatory Lodge. The cheap rooms are located at the La Casona area – isolated from all the other lodges, 600 metres downhill from the main reception area where everything else is concentrated at. However, this area turned out to be a regular stake out for extremely tame **Black-and-white Owls** and I managed to have a great time observing a pair. At one point I stood literally 2 metres under one of the individuals which just looked at me curiously. I saw the owls around 2200 but they were likely hanging around the area throughout the night as their calls never seemed to cease. They kept waking me up from my sleep and it got to a point where I honestly wished they could just fly off somewhere so that I could get some undisturbed rest.

There is probably no point walking the entire trail system in the Arenal Observatory Lodge. The grassland habitats more or less had the same birds throughout and many of the interesting species I saw were at the La Hominga and Danta Waterfall trail. Having said that, the weather was not in my favour so that might have contributed to my lack of bird sightings. There is an observatory tower called “The Nest” near the La Hominga trail and it was unproductive for me as all I saw were clouds, but it seemed like a promising spot for morning and evening flybys.



Black-and-white Owl

Carara National Park

My visit to Carara National Park was the most challenging one transport wise. The initial plan was to conduct a 4km march from my accommodation at Villa Lapas Rainforest Eco-Resort to Carara National Park and back for three days in a row, but I clearly overestimated my stamina as the fatigue from the travelling and birding piled up.

On the first day, I miraculously managed to book an Uber to Carara around 0940 and was managed to hitch a ride back to the resort from another visitor in the afternoon. On the second day, I got a lift from a group of birders to get to Carara. My return journey did not go as smoothly – a 30-minute attempt to book an Uber around 1630 failed and I thus decided to walk back to the hotel. Halfway through my journey, a familiar looking vehicle stopped by the road in front of me. They turned out to be the group of birders that I met in the morning and what would have been a 40-minute walk became a 3-minute ride instead. On the third and last day, after 30-minutes of failing to book an Uber, I ran out of options and requested for a two-way taxi service at the hotel reception (10USD each way).

The entrance fee to Carara National Park is 10USD per day and the opening hours were 0700 to 1600 during my visit (opening hours differ according to season). The gate to the main entrance was opened and locked promptly at the respective times, so for those driving, it is crucial to get out before the closing hour to avoid having the cars locked in. I saw people parking their cars along the road near the second and ungated exit of the HQ trails (see Point 6 on the map) so this could be an alternative worth considering, though I do not know what the general consensus about roadside parking safety in Costa Rica is.



There are two birding areas at Carara National Park – the trails around the HQ and the Sendero Laguna Meandrica trail. For the second trail, visitors apparently have to purchase the tickets at the main ticket office before heading over. Nobody actually checked my tickets and there were no staffs at the trailhead during my visit, but TripAdvisor showed that some people have been bounced out before, so I chose not to risk it. There are parking spaces outside the trail but since I did not have a car, I made the 2km walk along the road from the HQ area. It was not the safest of roads to walk as trucks were flying at over 80km/h and there was barely any path for walking. I walked it anyway and did not die, unlike the crushed baby sea turtle I saw on the road.



I did not have the chance to visit early or stay late enough for any night birding due to the lack of a vehicle, but I guess the presence of many eBird reports starting way before the opening hours indicates that birders do it anyway. There were many nature guides standing by the HQ throughout the day, busily engaging every visitor to the park. I did not hire any of them and thus do not know what their rates are, but they were friendly and somewhat open with sharing information when I met them in the field.

HQ Trails

On my first day at Carara, I bumped into Jon Dunn – the author of the National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America – and his bird tour group. Jon was a very friendly man and their tour group allowed me to tag along them. Parasiting the group for about 2 hours got me species such as the **Northern Schiffornis** and **Northern Bentbill** – both were bird I did not encounter afterwards.

I spent the rest of my time in Carara birding completely alone. The trails around the HQ area that were closer to the visitor centre (Sendero Acceso Universal) were more degraded and species such as **Red-legged Honeycreepers**, **Rose-throated Becard**, **Barred Antshrike** and **Rufous-naped Wren** were here. The forests deeper into the trails (Sendero Quebrada Bonita) had better forests. I could not connect with one of my targets, the **Tawny-crowned Greenlet**, despite scanning every mixed flock diligently. However other targets such as the recently split **Chiriqui Foliage-gleaner** was rather common and I encountered **Black-striped Woodcreeper** at various places although they were difficult to see. **Lesser Greenlets** and **Riverside Wrens** were all over the place, **Long-billed Hermits** leks were at random spots along the trail, and **Blue-throated Sapphire** was abundant although the supposed “Goldentail” was never visible due to the horrible forest lighting. I heard the **Baird’s Trogon** and **Rufous Piha** several times but they never showed. One of the main targets here – the **Scarlet Macaw** – was abundant although it was very difficult to see them through the closed canopy of the trails. I did find a (probable) nesting pair at the beginning of the Sendero Quebrada Bonita trail.



Scarlet Macaw

Near the Sendero Quebrada Bonita – Sendero Las Araceas junction, I found a group of **Marbled Wood Quails**. During the quieter times of the day, **Black-faced Antthrushes** foraged on the trails. They were usually hard to detect and flushed with a hurried and shallow flight but could be easily tracked down as they only flew short distances.



Marbled Wood Quail (left) and Black-faced Antthrush (right)

Somewhere within the Sendero Quebrada Bonita loop, there was a very obvious slow flowing stream with a small stone bridge across it (I unfortunately did not get a GPS coordinate of the spot, but the loop is very short and the stream is pretty unmistakable). Here, birds came to bathe in the afternoons (especially around 3pm) and several **Red-capped Manakins** and a single **Long-tailed Manakin** were among the species I saw here. **Orange-collared Manakins** are known to come to this stream as well. This is apparently a very consistent stakeout according to the guides I spoke to and I highly recommend spending some time here to engage in bird voyeurism.

Sendero Laguna Meandrica trail

The second trail – Sendero Laguna Meandrica trail – looked like a former plantation and was more open compared to the trails at the HQ side. I was unable to find any spot along the trail to look out towards the river although the map seemed to suggest that there was a lookout point.

Short-billed Pigeons were calling throughout the entire trail. Right after the first (and only) concrete bridge was an **Orange-collared Manakin** lek. **Rufous-naped** and **Rufous-breasted Wrens** were common and **Black-hooded Antshrikes** were all over. Several **Turquoise-browed Motmots** and **Rufous-tailed Jacamars** hunted by the side of the trails and I also found a **Black-headed Trogon** participating in a mixed flock. A single **Bare-throated Tiger-heron** perched quietly at the end of the trail. Fiery-billed Aracaris are apparently best seen along this trail rather than at the HQ side according to a guide, but I never managed to connect with any. However, I found my best bird in Carara, and possibly of the trip, here – a single male **Yellow-billed Cotinga** that perched quietly on a bare tree about 1km in from the entrance.



Yellow-billed Cotinga

Villa-Lapas Eco Resort

The Villa-Lapas Eco Resort that I stayed in was also fruitful although I only birded here on the early mornings before breakfast and in the evenings after returning from Carara. Most of the activity was concentrated at the clearing behind the swimming pool. Continuing down this open area lead to a rather productive-looking trail along the Rio Tarcoles, however, I did not venture too far in due to time constraints and thus have no idea where it leads to. In the mornings, **Bare-throated Tiger-herons** produced weird pigeon-like noises from the trees around the clearing. A juvenile **Grey Hawk** hung around the area and **Scarlet Macaws** could be easily seen in the resort. **Blue-vented Hummingbirds** were common and along the road on the way out of the resort I found an unexpected **White-ruffed Manakin** that seemed to be foraging together with a **Yellow-olive Flatbill**. Other birders I met saw Fiery-billed Aracaris within the resort as well.

Birding Carara without a car is doable although transport is going to be a little bit of a hassle. A 20USD daily taxi ride for what was essentially a 3-minute ride felt a quite steep for me but probably can be considered cheap if shared among several people.

Systematic List of Birds

261 species seen, 10 heard only

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). 2019. IOC World Bird List (v9.2). doi : 10.14344/IOC.ML.9.2.

1 = Seen, HO = Heard Only

SG = San Gerardo da Dota, LS = La Selva OTS, AR = Arenal, CA = Carara National Park

No.	English Name	Latin Name	SG	LS	AR	CA
1	Great Tinamou	<i>Tinamus major</i>		1		1
2	Little Tinamou	<i>Crypturellus soui</i>		HO		
3	Slaty-breasted Tinamou	<i>Crypturellus boucardi</i>		1		
4	Grey-headed Chachalaca	<i>Ortalis cinereiceps</i>		1		
5	Crested Guan	<i>Penelope purpurascens</i>		1	1	
6	Great Curassow	<i>Crax rubra</i>		1	1	1
7	Marbled Wood Quail	<i>Odontophorus gujanensis</i>				1
8	Spotted Wood Quail	<i>Odontophorus guttatus</i>	1			
9	White-collared Swift	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>	1	1	1	1
10	Costa Rican Swift	<i>Chaetura fumosa</i>				1
11	Grey-rumped Swift	<i>Chaetura cinereiventris</i>		1		
12	Long-tailed Hermit	<i>Phaethornis superciliosus</i>				1
13	Stripe-throated Hermit	<i>Phaethornis striigularis</i>		1		1
14	Scaly-breasted Hummingbird	<i>Phaeochroa cuvierii</i>			1	1
15	Lesser Violetear	<i>Colibri cyanotus</i>	1			
16	Violet-headed Hummingbird	<i>Klais guimeti</i>			1	
17	Fiery-throated Hummingbird	<i>Panterpe insignis</i>	1			
18	Crowned Woodnymph	<i>Thalurania colombica</i>			1	
19	Blue-throated Sapphire	<i>Hylocharis eliciae</i>				1
20	Rufous-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia tzacatl</i>		1	1	1
21	Blue-chested Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia amabilis</i>		1		
22	Blue-vented Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia hoffmanni</i>				1
23	Grey-tailed Mountaingem	<i>Lampornis cinereicauda</i>	1			
24	Talamanca Hummingbird	<i>Eugenes spectabilis</i>	1			
25	Purple-crowned Fairy	<i>Heliodytes barroti</i>		1	1	1
26	Volcano Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus flammula</i>	1			
27	Scintillant Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus scintilla</i>	1			
28	Groove-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>		1		
29	Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>		1		
30	Scaled Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas speciosa</i>		1		
31	Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>	1			
32	Red-billed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas flavirostris</i>			1	
33	Short-billed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas nigrirostris</i>		1		1
34	Ruddy Ground Dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>		1		1
35	Blue Ground Dove	<i>Claravis pretiosa</i>				1
36	White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>		1	1	1
37	Grey-chested Dove	<i>Leptotila cassinii</i>		1	1	1

38	White-throated Crake	<i>Laterallus albigularis</i>		HO		HO
39	Grey-necked Wood Rail	<i>Aramides cajaneus</i>		1		
40	Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>				1
41	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>			1	1
42	Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>			1	
43	American White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>				1
44	Bare-throated Tiger Heron	<i>Tigrisoma mexicanum</i>				1
45	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>		1	1	
46	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>		1		
47	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	1	1	1	1
48	Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	1	1	1	1
49	King Vulture	<i>Sarcoramphus papa</i>				1
50	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	1			1
51	Grey-headed Kite	<i>Leptodon cayanensis</i>		1		
52	Hook-billed Kite	<i>Chondrohierax uncinatus</i>		1		
53	Black Hawk-eagle	<i>Spizaetus tyrannus</i>		1		
54	White Hawk	<i>Pseudastur albicollis</i>			1	
55	Grey Hawk	<i>Buteo plagiatus</i>		1	1	1
56	Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	1		1	
57	Short-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo brachyurus</i>		1		
58	Vermiculated Screech Owl	<i>Megascops vermiculatus</i>		1		
59	Mottled Owl	<i>Strix virgata</i>		HO		
60	Black-and-white Owl	<i>Strix nigrolineata</i>			1	
61	Central American Pygmy Owl	<i>Glaucidium griseiceps</i>		1		
62	Resplendent Quetzal	<i>Pharomachrus mocinno</i>	1			
63	Slaty-tailed Trogon	<i>Trogon massena</i>		1		
64	Black-headed Trogon	<i>Trogon melanocephalus</i>				1
65	Baird's Trogon	<i>Trogon bairdii</i>				HO
66	Gartered Trogon	<i>Trogon caligatus</i>		1	1	1
67	Black-throated Trogon	<i>Trogon rufus</i>		1		1
68	Collared Trogon	<i>Trogon collaris</i>	1			
69	Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>		1		1
70	Amazon Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>		1		
71	Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle torquata</i>		1		
72	Rufous Motmot	<i>Baryphthengus martii</i>		1	1	
73	Broad-billed Motmot	<i>Electron platyrhynchum</i>		1		
74	Turquoise-browed Motmot	<i>Eumomota superciliosa</i>				1
75	Rufous-tailed Jacamar	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>		1		1
76	White-whiskered Puffbird	<i>Malacoptila panamensis</i>		1		1
77	White-fronted Nunbird	<i>Monasa morphoeus</i>		1		
78	Collared Aracari	<i>Pteroglossus torquatus</i>		1	1	
79	Keel-billed Toucan	<i>Ramphastos sulfuratus</i>		1		
80	Yellow-throated Toucan	<i>Ramphastos ambiguus</i>		1	1	1
81	Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>	1			
82	Golden-naped Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes chrysauchen</i>				HO
83	Black-cheeked Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes pucherani</i>		1	1	
84	Hoffmann's Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes hoffmannii</i>				1

85	Rufous-winged Woodpecker	<i>Piculus simplex</i>		1	1	1
86	Golden-olive Woodpecker	<i>Colaptes rubiginosus</i>			1	
87	Cinnamon Woodpecker	<i>Celeus loricatus</i>		1		
88	Chestnut-colored Woodpecker	<i>Celeus castaneus</i>		1		
89	Pale-billed Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus guatemalensis</i>		1		1
90	Northern Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>		1		
91	Orange-chinned Parakeet	<i>Brotogeris jugularis</i>		1		1
92	Brown-hooded Parrot	<i>Pyrilia haematotis</i>		1	1	1
93	White-crowned Parrot	<i>Pionus senilis</i>		1		
94	Red-lored Amazon	<i>Amazona autumnalis</i>		1		1
95	Southern Mealy Amazon	<i>Amazona farinosa</i>		1		
96	Sulphur-winged Parakeet	<i>Pyrrhura hoffmanni</i>	1			
97	Great Green Macaw	<i>Ara ambiguus</i>		1		
98	Scarlet Macaw	<i>Ara macao</i>				1
99	Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser	<i>Sclerurus mexicanus</i>			1	
100	Plain-brown Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocincla fuliginosa</i>		1		
101	Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Glyphorhynchus spirurus</i>		1		1
102	Northern Barred Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae</i>		1		
103	Cocoa Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus susurrans</i>		1		1
104	Black-striped Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus</i>				1
105	Spotted Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus erythropygius</i>			1	
106	Streak-headed Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes souleyetii</i>		1		1
107	Spot-crowned Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes affinis</i>	1			
108	Plain Xenops	<i>Xenops minutus</i>		1	1	1
109	Chiriqui Foliage-gleaner	<i>Automolus exsertus</i>				1
110	Ruddy Treerunner	<i>Margarornis rubiginosus</i>	1			
111	Russet Antshrike	<i>Thamnistes anabatinus</i>			1	
112	Dot-winged Antwren	<i>Microrhopias quixensis</i>			1	1
113	Streak-crowned Antwren	<i>Dysithamnus striaticeps</i>			1	
114	Barred Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus doliatus</i>		1		1
115	Black-hooded Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus bridgesi</i>				1
116	Black-crowned Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus atrinucha</i>		1		
117	Fasciated Antshrike	<i>Cymbilaimus lineatus</i>		1		
118	Bicolored Antbird	<i>Gymnopithys bicolor</i>		1	1	
119	Dusky Antbird	<i>Cercomacroides tyrannina</i>				1
120	Spotted Antbird	<i>Hylophylax naevioides</i>		1	1	
121	Chestnut-backed Antbird	<i>Poliocrania exsul</i>		1		1
122	Dull-mantled Antbird	<i>Sipia laemosticta</i>			HO	
123	Zeledon's Antbird	<i>Hafferia zeledoni</i>			1	
124	Black-faced Antthrush	<i>Formicarius analis</i>				1
125	Thicket Antpitta	<i>Hylopezus dives</i>			HO	
126	Greenish Elaenia	<i>Myiopagis viridicata</i>				1
127	Mountain Elaenia	<i>Elaenia frantzii</i>	1			
128	Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Mionectes oleagineus</i>		1		1
129	Black-capped Pygmy Tyrant	<i>Myiornis atricapillus</i>		1		
130	Northern Bentbill	<i>Oncostoma cinereigulare</i>				1
131	Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant	<i>Lophotriccus pileatus</i>			1	

132	Slaty-headed Tody-flycatcher	<i>Poecilatriccus sylvia</i>				1
133	Common Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>			1	1
134	Eye-ringed Flatbill	<i>Rhynchocyclus brevirostris</i>				1
135	Yellow-olive Flatbill	<i>Tolmomyias sulphurescens</i>				1
136	Yellow-margined Flatbill	<i>Tolmomyias flavotectus</i>			1	
137	White-throated Spadebill	<i>Platyrinchus mystaceus</i>			1	
138	Golden-crowned Spadebill	<i>Platyrinchus coronatus</i>				1
139	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>			1	
140	Northern Tufted Flycatcher	<i>Mitrephanes phaeocercus</i>	1		1	
141	Tropical Pewee	<i>Contopus cinereus</i>			1	
142	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>		1	1	1
143	Yellowish Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flavescens</i>	1			
144	Long-tailed Tyrant	<i>Colonia colonus</i>		1		
145	Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>		1	1	
146	Grey-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes granadensis</i>		1	1	1
147	Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>		1	1	1
148	White-ringed Flycatcher	<i>Conopias albivittatus</i>		1		1
149	Streaked Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>				1
150	Boat-billed Flycatcher	<i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>		1		1
151	Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	1			
152	Rufous Mourner	<i>Rhytipterna holerythra</i>		HO		
153	Dusky-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>		1	1	1
154	Bright-rumped Attila	<i>Attila spadiceus</i>		1		
155	Rufous Piha	<i>Lipaugus unirufus</i>				HO
156	Snowy Cotinga	<i>Carpodectes nitidus</i>		1		
157	Yellow-billed Cotinga	<i>Carpodectes antoniae</i>				1
158	Long-tailed Manakin	<i>Chiroxiphia linearis</i>				1
159	White-ruffed Manakin	<i>Corapipo altera</i>				1
160	White-collared Manakin	<i>Manacus candei</i>		1		
161	Orange-collared Manakin	<i>Manacus aurantiacus</i>				1
162	Red-capped Manakin	<i>Ceratopipra mentalis</i>				1
163	Northern Royal Flycatcher	<i>Onychorhynchus mexicanus</i>				1
164	Sulphur-rumped Myiobius	<i>Myiobius sulphureipygius</i>			1	1
165	Black-tailed Myiobius	<i>Myiobius atricaudus</i>				1
166	Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Terenotriccus erythrurus</i>			1	
167	Masked Tityra	<i>Tityra semifasciata</i>		1		
168	Northern Schiffornis	<i>Schiffornis veraepacis</i>				1
169	Cinnamon Becard	<i>Pachyramphus cinnamomeus</i>			1	
170	White-winged Becard	<i>Pachyramphus polychopterus</i>		1		1
171	Rose-throated Becard	<i>Pachyramphus aglaiae</i>				1
172	Green Shrike-vireo	<i>Vireolanius pulchellus</i>				HO
173	Yellow-throated Vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>		1		1
174	Yellow-winged Vireo	<i>Vireo carmioli</i>	1			
175	Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>				1
176	Philadelphia Vireo	<i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>	1			
177	Lesser Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus decurtatus</i>		1		1
178	Brown Jay	<i>Psilorhinus morio</i>		1		1

179	Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher	<i>Ptiliogonys caudatus</i>	1			
180	Grey-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>		1		
181	Blue-and-white Swallow	<i>Notiochelidon cyanoleuca</i>	1			
182	Southern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>			1	
183	Band-backed Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus zonatus</i>			1	
184	Rufous-breasted Wren	<i>Pheugopedius rutilus</i>				1
185	Rufous-and-white Wren	<i>Thryophilus rufalbus</i>				1
186	Riverside Wren	<i>Cantorchilus semibadius</i>				1
187	Bay Wren	<i>Cantorchilus nigricapillus</i>		1		
188	Stripe-breasted Wren	<i>Cantorchilus thoracicus</i>		1	1	
189	House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>		1	1	1
190	Timberline Wren	<i>Thryorchilus browni</i>	1			
191	White-breasted Wood Wren	<i>Henicorhina leucosticta</i>		1		
192	Grey-breasted Wood Wren	<i>Henicorhina leucophrys</i>	HO			
193	Northern Nightingale-wren	<i>Microcerculus philomela</i>			1	
194	Song Wren	<i>Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus</i>			1	
195	Tawny-faced Gnatwren	<i>Microbates cinereiventris</i>			1	
196	Trilling Gnatwren	<i>Ramphocaenus melanurus</i>		1		1
197	Tropical Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila plumbea</i>		1		1
198	Black-faced Solitaire	<i>Myadestes melanops</i>	1			
199	Black-billed Nightingale-thrush	<i>Catharus gracilirostris</i>	1			
200	Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>		1	1	
201	Sooty Thrush	<i>Turdus nigrescens</i>	1			
202	Mountain Thrush	<i>Turdus plebejus</i>	1			
203	Clay-colored Thrush	<i>Turdus grayi</i>	1	1	1	1
204	Yellow-bellied Siskin	<i>Spinus xanthogastrus</i>	1			
205	Yellow-crowned Euphonia	<i>Euphonia luteicapilla</i>		1	1	1
206	Thick-billed Euphonia	<i>Euphonia laniirostris</i>				1
207	Yellow-throated Euphonia	<i>Euphonia hirundinacea</i>				1
208	Elegant Euphonia	<i>Euphonia elegantissima</i>	1			
209	Spot-crowned Euphonia	<i>Euphonia imitans</i>				1
210	Olive-backed Euphonia	<i>Euphonia gouldi</i>		1		
211	Tawny-capped Euphonia	<i>Euphonia anae</i>			1	
212	Rufous-collared Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>	1			
213	Volcano Junco	<i>Junco vulcani</i>	1			
214	Black-striped Sparrow	<i>Arremonops conirostris</i>			1	
215	Orange-billed Sparrow	<i>Arremon aurantirostris</i>		1	1	1
216	Large-footed Finch	<i>Pezopetes capitalis</i>	1			
217	Yellow-thighed Finch	<i>Pselliophorus tibialis</i>	1			
218	Common Bush Tanager	<i>Chlorospingus flavopectus</i>	1			
219	Sooty-capped Bush Tanager	<i>Chlorospingus pileatus</i>	1			
220	Chestnut-headed Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius wagleri</i>		1		
221	Montezuma Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius montezuma</i>		1	1	
222	Scarlet-rumped Cacique	<i>Cacicus microrhynchus</i>		1		
223	Baltimore Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>		1	1	1
224	Melodious Blackbird	<i>Dives dives</i>	1	1	1	
225	Northern Waterthrush	<i>Parkesia noveboracensis</i>		1		1

26	Golden-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>		1	1	
227	Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	1	1	1	1
228	Prothonotary Warbler	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>				1
229	Flame-throated Warbler	<i>Oreothlypis gutturalis</i>	1			
230	Tennessee Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis peregrina</i>	1		1	1
231	Grey-crowned Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis poliocephala</i>			1	
232	Kentucky Warbler	<i>Geothlypis formosa</i>		1		
233	Tropical Parula	<i>Setophaga pitaiayumi</i>			1	1
234	Bay-breasted Warbler	<i>Setophaga castanea</i>		1	1	
235	American Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga aestiva</i>			1	1
236	Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Setophaga pensylvanica</i>		1	1	1
237	Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Setophaga virens</i>	1			
238	Buff-rumped Warbler	<i>Myiothlypis fulvicauda</i>		1	1	1
239	Black-cheeked Warbler	<i>Basileuterus melanogenys</i>	1			
240	Golden-crowned Warbler	<i>Basileuterus culicivorus</i>			1	
241	Wilson's Warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>	1		1	
242	Collared Whitestart	<i>Myioborus torquatus</i>	1			
243	Dusky-faced Tanager	<i>Mitrospingus cassinii</i>		1		
244	Flame-colored Tanager	<i>Piranga bidentata</i>	1			
245	Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>	1	1	1	1
246	Red-throated Ant Tanager	<i>Habia fuscicauda</i>		1		1
247	Carmioli's Tanager	<i>Chlorothraupis carmioli</i>			1	
248	Black-faced Grosbeak	<i>Caryothraustes poliogaster</i>		1		
249	Blue-black Grosbeak	<i>Cyanocompsa cyanooides</i>		1		
250	White-shouldered Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus luctuosus</i>				1
251	White-throated Shrike-tanager	<i>Lanio leucothorax</i>			1	
252	Crimson-collared Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus sanguinolentus</i>			1	
253	Scarlet-rumped Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus passerinii</i>		1	1	1
254	Blue-grey Tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>	1	1	1	1
255	Palm Tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>		1	1	
256	Emerald Tanager	<i>Tangara florida</i>			1	
257	Silver-throated Tanager	<i>Tangara icterocephala</i>	1			
258	Bay-headed Tanager	<i>Tangara gyrola</i>			1	1
259	Golden-hooded Tanager	<i>Tangara larvata</i>		1	1	1
260	Spangle-cheeked Tanager	<i>Tangara dowii</i>	1			
261	Scarlet-thighed Dacnis	<i>Dacnis venusta</i>		1		1
262	Shining Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes lucidus</i>		1		
263	Red-legged Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i>		1		1
264	Green Honeycreeper	<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>		1	1	
265	Slaty Flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossa plumbea</i>	1			
266	Buff-throated Saltator	<i>Saltator maximus</i>		1	1	1
267	Greyish Saltator	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>			1	
268	Variable Seedeater	<i>Sporophila corvina</i>		1	1	
269	Thick-billed Seed Finch	<i>Oryzoborus funereus</i>		1		
270	Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>		1	1	
271	Yellow-faced Grassquit	<i>Tiaris olivaceus</i>			1	