

JUNE 2024 COSTA RICA TRIP REPORT

BIRDS



- Saw a rainbow-like array of beautiful birds throughout our journey, including 4/7 Costa Rican toucans, the elusive and mystical Resplendent Quetzal, and the enchanting scarlet macaw, a lifetime bucket-list species for me.
- The Species count, though not my highest ever for a trip, was still highly respectable given the 55 species I added to my life list and the endless number of charismatic neotropical birds observed



Species List:

(70 Total Including 55 Lifers!)

1. **Scarlet Macaw**- gorgeous, vibrant bucket list species for Bennett and Celia, saw a number of times along the Pacific Coast of Costa Rica (especially around Quepos), including a lengthy observation of a pair at Crocodile Bridge in Tarcoles.
2. **Resplendent Quetzal**- charismatic and beautiful target species for Celia and Bennett; we visited a nesting hole with a pair of quetzals several times throughout the day at Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve and were rewarded with partial views of the male and female inside the nest
3. **Great-Tailed Grackle**- many seen while driving through Costa Rica, abundant in Monteverde
4. **White-Winged Dove**- several seen while driving from airport to La Fortuna, common in open land and human settlements we visited
5. **Clay-Colored Thrush**- abundant in many areas we visited
6. **Rufous-Tailed Hummingbird**- several individuals at hummingbird feeders at Treehouse Hotel, saw some in other locations like Quepos
7. **White-Necked Jacobin**- many individuals at hummingbird feeders at Treehouse Hotel
8. **Keel-Billed Toucan**- two seen in a bird wave on first and second mornings at Treehouse Hotel; one at Coati Treehouse in the morning; beautiful bird and a target species for Bennett
9. **Yellow-Throated Toucan**- one seen in a bird wave at first morning at Treehouse Hotel, same individual second morning; one on the side of the road on the way out of Tenorio Volcano NP in a tree
10. **Montezuma Oropendola**- many seen first and second mornings at Treehouse Hotel near breakfast area, fairly common elsewhere in forests
11. **Red-Lored Parrot**- one at the top of a dead tree first and second mornings at Treehouse Hotel
12. **Orange-Billed Sparrow**- two near our cabin on first morning at Treehouse Hotel, second morning saw some while walking to creek on hotel property
13. **Red-Throated Ant Tanager**- flock near our cabin on first morning at Treehouse Hotel
14. **Spectacled Owl**- one sleeping in a tree next to one of the cabins at Treehouse Hotel on first morning
15. **Collared Aracari**- one seen at first morning at Treehouse Hotel near breakfast area
16. **Blue-Gray Tanager**- fairly common; saw first morning at Treehouse Hotel near breakfast area; at Don Olivo chocolate farm, in La Fortuna, and other locations
17. **Hoffmann's Woodpecker**- brief observation of an individual at Don Olivo chocolate plantation
18. **Great Kiskadee**- common in many areas we visited
19. **Scarlet-Rumped Tanager**- a couple seen at Don Olivo chocolate plantation, common elsewhere
20. **Black Vulture**- two in a dead tree near Don Olivo chocolate plantation; two at a garbage dump in Quepos
21. **Red-Winged Blackbird**- on side of road in La Fortuna
22. **Common Pauraque**- 3-4 individuals spotted by Octavio in grassy areas near research buildings during our night walk in
23. **Lesson's Motmot**- two individuals perched on wires at Treehouse Hotel on second morning, one outside Coati Treehouse
24. **Crested Guan**- flock of three foraging for fishtail palm fruits in the mid-storey of the forest next to Sendero El Ceibo Trail in Arenal Volcano NP; saw another flock at Mirador el Silencio; saw one from afar at Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve
25. **Bicolored Antbird**- two seen foraging for insects next to Eciton trail at Sendero El Ceibo Trail in Arenal Volcano NP
26. **Turkey Vulture**- one in a dead tree at Villa Tucan, common in many areas we visited

27. **Violet-Headed Hummingbird**- one spotted at Mistico Hanging Bridges entrance
28. **Rufous Motmot**- observed an individual hunting at Mistico Hanging Bridges for several minutes
29. **Crowned Wood-Nymph**- spotted one singing on a mid-storey tree brach at Mistico Hanging Bridges
30. **Tawny-Faced Gnatwren**- one foraging in the undergrowth near trail at Mistico Hanging Bridges
31. **Blue-Backed Grosbeak**- a female in an open area at Mistico Hanging Bridges
32. **Crested Caracara**- two flying across a field at Jalapas restaurant outside La Fortuna
33. **Great Curassow**- got a glimpse of a shy individual as it retreated into the undergrowth at Mirador el Silencio
34. **Western Cattle Egret**- several flocks flying overhead at Mirador el Silencio
35. **Swallow-Tailed Kite**- one soaring overhead on the road leading to Río Celeste, one flying over the entrance to Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve
36. **Lesser Violet-Ear**- Many of this dazzling species around at Hummingbird Garden outside Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve; we were able to get up close with many of the hummingbirds there including this species
37. **Purple-Throated Mountain Gem**- common and beautiful species at Hummingbird Garden
38. **Green-Crowned Brilliant**- abundant at Hummingbird Garden; one seen singing on a branch inside Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve
39. **Violet Sabrewing**- several individuals of this large and vivid hummingbird seen at Hummingbird Garden
40. **Green Hermit**- one individual of this distinct hummingbird seen briefly at Hummingbird Garden; one seen feeding on heliconia flowers inside Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve
41. **Stripe-Tailed Hummingbird**- several around at Hummingbird Garden
42. **Emerald Toucanet**- two individuals seen in different locations within Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve
43. **White-Throated Thrush**- many heard and seen in various locations within Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve
44. **Black-Faced Solitaire**- often heard and seen briefly in Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve
45. **Common Chlorospingus**- common in Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve
46. **Black-Headed Nightingale-Thrush**- common in Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve
47. **Coppery-Headed Emerald**- several around at Hummingbird Garden
48. **Gray-Breasted Wood Wren**- one seen second morning at Coati Treehouse
49. **Yellow-Throated Euphonia**- one seen second morning at Coati Treehouse; a pair at their next outside Tenorio Volcano NP
50. **White-Eared Ground Sparrow**- one seen second morning at Coati Treehouse; one at Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve
51. **Yellowish Flycatcher**- probably common in Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve; however only one that was seen was confidently identified
52. **Costa Rican Warbler**- common in Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve
53. **Bananaquit**- several seen in Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve and around Coati Treehouse; also seen briefly in other locations
54. **House Wren**- One seen in the grassy area along the
55. **Morelet's Seedeater**- in a grassy field outside Tenorio Volcano NP
56. **Variable Seedeater**- in a grassy field outside Tenorio Volcano NP
57. **Thick-Billed Seed Finch**- in a grassy field outside Tenorio Volcano NP
58. **Tropical Kingbird**- multiple places including Jalapas Restaurant outside La Fortuna, Mirador el Silencio and Tenorio Volcano NP
59. **Yellow-Headed Caracara**- Individual pecking at roadkill along the road to Biesanz Beach in Quepos

60. **Gray-Cowled Wood Rail**- one poking around for food at Biesanz Beach; two individuals spotlighted on mangrove boat tour perched on vegetation at the water's edge
61. **Brown Pelican**- a number of flocks flew over our catamaran near Manuel Antonio NP coastline
62. **White Ibis**- one flock flew over our catamaran near Manuel Antonio NP coastline
63. **American Pygmy Kingfisher**- two individuals spotlighted on mangrove boat tour perched on vegetation at the water's edge
64. **Black-Hooded Antshrike**- one individual near an Eciton army ant trail in Manuel Antonio NP
65. **Plain Xenops**- One brief observation of this species as it flew through the forest on one of the quieter trails of Manuel Antonio NP
66. **Ochre-Bellied Flycatcher**- single sleeping individual spotlighted on a branch on final night tour near Quepos
67. **Black-Throated Trogon**- A dozing male and female spotlighted on tree branches on final night tour near Quepos.
68. **Purple Gallinule**- one seen on banks of Tarcoles River below Crocodile Bridge on final morning of trip
69. **Northern Rough-Winged Swallow**- perched on a wire outside Mirador el Silencio
70. **Gray-Headed Chachalaca**- one individual perched atop a dead tree outside Coati Treehouse in Monteverde