Costa Rica

An Enchanting Eden

A Greentours Tour Report

29th October – 14th November 2015 Led by Chris Gardner

Day 1 To Costa Rica

The long but necessary flight brought us to San Jose by late evening and we reached the lodge and hour and a half later, tucked away in the verdant hills to the north.

Day 2 Bosque de Paz

All was revealed in the morning, with no fewer than nine species of hummingbirds coming to the feeders and surrounding flowers – handsome Black-bellied Hummingbird, Green-crowned Brilliant, Green Violetear, big purple Violet Sabrewings, Purple-throated Mountain-gem, Magnificent Hummingbird, Scintillant Hummingbird, Green Hermit and a female Copperyheaded Hummingbird. Added to this was a very tame male White-nosed Coati, a couple of Central American Agoutis, Chestnut-capped Brush-finch, Yellow-thighed Finch and many Black Guans. The latter were waiting for their morning corn and quickly descended on it when it arrived a frantic chicken-like scramble. It was a sunny morning so butterflies were starting to appear with several skippers including the stunning Two-barred Flasher.

After breakfast we entered the forest finding and array of interesting things from damselflies with ruby-red wing patches and striking bromeliads in flower, to a fine orchid and Spotted Barbtail. A dazzling *Mesosemia grandis* appeared and settled for a time on a leaf. Climbing higher there were Common Bush-tanager, Slate-throated and Collared Redstarts, brief views of Silverfronted Tapaculo and then a couple of lovely transparent Glasswings *Greta annete*. Then we saw a camouflaged *Taygetis* species, a subtle *Pleurothallis sp* was in flower, as were several scarlet *Columnea microcalyx* and there were the spotted trumpets of *Solenophora calycosa* shortly before we arrived at the picturesque waterfall. Walking back down we found Grey-breasted Wood-wren, a peculiar red 'doughnut' fungus and then a dark shape on the path moved and produced a snout. It was a Collared Peccary and we had decent views as it ambled across the path. In fact Jean who had not come up with us had been lucky enough to see three of these when she walked past.

A shower arrived on time at 12.30 but this didn't seem to dampen hummingbird activity which continued as we ate lunch. The rain had ceased by the time we set off in the afternoon walking slowly out of the lodge and seeing Yellow-thighed Finch and Collared Redstart. Insect activity had effectively ended but the birds were good with a mixed flock of Golden-winged and

Blackburnian Warblers, with Spotted Barbtail and Yellowish Flycatcher. Silvery-throated Tanagers flew across and we found these again with an Eye-ringed Flatbill and a vivid male Summer Tanager for company. Rounding the bend there were three Prong-billed Barbets and then stopping to check a large fig we found an Emerald Toucanet and had some rather weak views of the lovely Golden-browed Chlorophonia in the same tree. There were also some interesting plants with a couple of *Begonia* species and the native *Gunnera insignis*. Shortly afterwards the mists really came down and made birding a challenge so we turned about and walked down, managing to find a Streak-headed Woodcreeper and a Slate-throated Redstart near the lodge.

A Paca came to the lawns after dark and was seen quite well as it fed and after dinner we took a short wander around finding a couple of exquisite little Emerald Glass Frogs and a variety of interesting moths, including a beautifully marked camouflaged hawkmoth *Manduca sp*.

Day 3 Bosque de Paz & to Laguna del Lagartos

Morning bridwatching produced a couple of Torrent Tyrannulets on the stream boulders and then a big Owl Butterfly *Caligo eurilochus* flew across and settled briefly beside the road. A mixed flock contained Brown-capped Vireo, Tropical Parula, Wilson's and Black-and-white Warblers, and Ochraceous Wren was seen further along. Walking back there was a circling Red-tailed Hawk. The usual dazzle of hummers were busy around the feeders with agoutis and Black Guans.

A shorter trail in the forest had some fine fungi with puffballs, massed *Mycena*, vivid red *Hygrocybe* as well as a fine stand of reddish-flowered *Alloplectus tetragonus* and plenty of the showy lilac flowers of *Poikilacanthus macranthus*. Animate life was decidedly scarce. Walking back to the lodge some of the group opted for hummingbird photography and some came with me into the orchid garden where there were many bizarre and exquisite little orchids in bloom as well as some showier species such as a *Miltoniopsis*.

Leaving thje cool confines of Bosque de Paz we descended into the warmer lowlands passing trees of *Wercklea insignis* with pink trumpet flowers and after a bit of shopping we started out on the road north, stopping first at a small marsh were we saw Purple Gallinule, Northern Jacana and Social Flycatcher. A second stop was very productive with a calling Keel-billed Toucan and then a flock of nine Collared Aracaris. Three species of parrot were seen with Red-Lored Parrot, Olive-throated Parakeet and Orange-chinned Parakeet, but topping all of tjhis was the stunning pure white Snowy Cotinga that perched in a nearby tree. Even when it flew away the starkness of the white was such we could see it from a long way off. The birds didn't end there as a bit further on a pair of Great Green Macaws flew into a tall Almendra tree and began feeding, giving decent scope views as both Masked and Black-crowned Tityras were seen.

We reached the lodge in time to watch half a dozen Scarlet Macaws fly across to roost shortly before Lesser Nighthawks appeared over the canopy and a pair of Short-tailed Nighthawks swooped acrobatically around the lakeside. Some of the group went to see the Spectacled Caiman 'show' after dinner.

Day 4 Laguna del Lagartos

Activity around the banana feeders began with a couple of early Keel-billed Toucans and over the course of the morning Red-legged and Green Honeycreepers, Northern Oriole, Montezuma's Oropendula and Black-cheeked Woodpecker showed up. A small band of coatis raided the last of the old bananas before the new ones were put out. We walked down to the lake briefly to see Great Blue Heron and Amazon Kingfisher.

The morning walk in the forest produced a diverse array of creatures beginning with a Strawberry Poision Frog and followed by Central American Whiptail, Wood Thrush, a fine forest dragonfly, another very obliging poison frog and a beautiful clearwing butterfly *Cithraea menander*. Descending a steep slope to a huge ceiba tree, Frank and Sue found a perfectly coiled Hog-nosed Pit-viper beside the path. Further on we saw a solitary Central American Spider Monkey, large red *Columnea* flowers with silky hairy backs to the petals, Crowned Woodnymph and a very long-abdomened Helicopter Damselfly. Butterflies included *Heliconius sapho*, *Pierella helvetia*, *Euptychia westwoodii* and a Cattleheart. A Green-and-black Poison Frog completed the walk. However, soon after we'd exited a spiralling flock of vultures included at least three King Vultures one of which swooped in low. Another could be seen perched in a nearby tree revealing all of its showy wattles.

Activity from the veranda never really ceased as during lunch Orange-chinned Parakeets arrived, along with more Red-legged Honeycreepers and then two Keel-billed Toucans. A superb Green Basilisk with magnificent crests posed perfectly on a tree trunk and Green Iguana was seen too, before three Collared Aracaris arrived to feed. Orion Cecropian and crackling Variable Crackers were also frequent visitors. We paid a short visit to the King Vulture hide for a close view of a couple of these along with many Black Vultures.

Setting off in the afternoon proper, there was a Pale-billed Woodpecker excavatng a nest hole beside the road and then wandering along beside the lagoon we saw two White-lipped Mud Turtles basking. A couple of species of showy Hotlips *Psychotria* species and the attractive trailing plant *Mandevillea hirsuta* with red-centred creamy trumpet-shaped flowers were along the road too and heading off along a side track we saw Eastern Wood-pewee and Willow Flycatcher. We had come out here to watch the Scarlet Macaws fly in to roost and sixteen duly arrived into the big almendra tree in front of us, with a further pair ousted for some reason. Pauraques were calling as we walked back.

A short nightwalk was productive with some fine crickets demolishing the flora, including a horned katydid *Copiphora rhinoceros*, flying stick insects, a sleeping Slender Anole, two superbly colourful Red-eyed Frogs and then to finish off a Snail-eating Snake.

Day 5 Laguna del Lagartos

There was good early activity from the feeders with Keel-billed Toucans, Collared Aracaris, honeycreepers, *et al.* Brown-hooded and White-fronted Parrots were also seen. Things continued in the same vein afterwards when we visited the flower-filled garden of Adolfo the lodge manager. On arrival there was a Chestnut-coloured Woodpecker feeding on hanging bananas

utterly oblvious to us arriving. Birds came in waves of activity with quiet periods in between, but this gave us time to check out the hummingbird feeders, which drew in five species with Crowned Woodnymph, White-necked Jacobin, Long-billed Hermit, Scaly-breasted and Rufoustailed Hummingbirds. Black-cowled Oriole were also seen nearby these feeders, whislt in the main area Black-cheeked Woodpecker, Shining, Red-legged and Green Honeycreepers, Blue-grey, Palm, Golden-hooded, Passerini's and Summer Tanagers were the players along with Olivebacked Euphonia, Northern Oriole, Bananaquit and a reappearance of the Chestnut-coloured Woodpecker. Streak-headed Woodcreeper and Black-striped Sparrow had walk on parts.

We returned to the lodge where activity had waned, but this gave us a chance of a breather. A big coati swept through the grounds during the afternoon and a bit later on one of the lodge staff showed us two Eyelash Pit-vipers he had found including the stunning yellow morph known as 'oropel' along with the regular green and red-spotted form. Some time was spent photographing these fascinating and highly venomous snakes. Then we were offered the chance to see a Boa Constrictor he had also found and this was placed among buttress roots for the ideal forest background. There was only a short time available for our forest walk, which was intended to find Owl Butterflies and roosting Morphos but drew a blank, not that we hadn't seen plenty today already. Instead we listened to roosting parrots and the mournful whistle of the Great Tinamou before dusk.

Post-dinner we went on another short night foray where humminbird feeders in the forest were attracting many nectar-feeding bats, of at least two species. There was a wonderful whirr of bats swooping into the feeders for brief slurps of sugar water and through binoculars many details of their wings and heads could be seen. The bats frequently whisked past our heads on their way to and from the feeders and at one point we were stood only two or three feet away for amazing close views. After this treat we searched the forest edge and little pools, finding a few Red-eyed Leaf Frogs, crickets and a fine orange moth.

Day 6 To La Ensenada

Early birding was quiet with Bare-throated Tiger-heron the main attraction although the feeders still had toucans and oropendulas attending. Today was a transfer day as we needed to cross the continental divide and reach the north-west Pacific region of Guanacaste. Driving out of Laguna del Lagartos we stopped for Bronzed Cowbirds and Green Ibis before reaching Pital, where we found we'd a puncture. Luckily there was a garage very closeby so we stopped there to effect repairs. It wasn't entirely time wasted as we got views of Variegated Squirrel, a juvenile male Orchard Oriole and a big male Green Iguana signalling to a rival from among the bright red African Tulip Tree flowers, quite a combination. In fact iguanas were a big feature of our next stop at a cafe next to a river where some huge beasts were lounging by the entrance and on the trees. Moving on to La Fortuna the clouds were fast disappearing on Volcan Arenal and whislt we ate lunch the peak appeared, revealing smoking fumaroles on the summit that were pumping out gases. Vultures circled across the view and the clouds parted for blue skies.

Our journey continued around the large Lake Arenal (that provides much of Costa Rica's hydroelectric power) and then down onto the Pacific slope where the landscape quickly changed to pasture and wide canopied, low trees. An Osprey was perched in a tree as we descended. Turning off towards our hotel we stopped in an open area for Scissortail Flycatcher, Stripe-

headed Sparrow, Rufous-naped Wren and Streak-backed Oriole, whilst a Turquoise-browed Motmot was only a silhouette against the sun as a big rainbow stretched across the grey sky. A Black Spiny Iguana and Bare-throated Tiger Heron were seen, and a squashed Hooded Skunk left a lasting impression in the air as we arrived.

Day 7 Bebedero River & La Ensenada

At daybreak White-throated Magpie Jays were roaming about sussing out what could be gleaned from the humans, and they duly gathered at breakfast to catch out the unwary. Along with these there were White-fronted Parrots, Cinnamon Hummingbird and Variegated Squirrels, and Gill saw an American Crocodile from the jetty. The morning was spent on the water exploring the mangroves and coast. A little group of waders before we left had three Surfbirds along with what was to become the staples of Whimbrel, Grey Plover, Willet, Spotted Sandpiper and Turnstone. The water was high so we found may waders perched among the mangroves or on what remained of the mud flats with a few Short-billed Dowitchers, Semipalmated Plovers and Western Sandpipers. A number of impressive Brown Pelican had gathered around two fisherman hauling in their catch to a small boat and we had superb views of these as they waited to be thrown the unwanted fish. Magnificent Frigatebirds circled overhead and we had good views of these perched in the trees too, included some of the red-pouched males. Moving on there was an impressive male Green Iguana and then at least four species of cacti including columnar Stenocereus aragonii growing on the limestone. As we lookd at these a juvenile Bare-throated Tiger Heron was seen and photographed. Searching for Boat-billed Heron we found some colourful crabs, a Common Basilisk and a stunning male Yellow Warbler, and then in a different patch there was a Northern Tamandua curled up in a tree, occasionally sticking out a head to see what all of the fuss was about. Mangrove Black Hawks added to the many Ospreys we had already seen and reaching the bridge over the Tempisque River we found a vivid-pink Roseate Spoonbill before turning for home on a beautiful clear day and over glassy calm water. On arrival at the jetty it was lined with dozens of Royal and Sandwich Terns for a delightful finale.

In the afternoon we took a walk through the mixed pasture and woodland finding Green-breasted Mango on the scarlet *Tristerix* flowers, as well as Hoffmann's Woodpeckers, Orange-fronted Parakeets, a Wood Stork flying over and some fine cacti for Frank. An area of ponds had a Little Green Heron, then moving to a different area we flushed a Double-striped Thick-knee and a Turquoise-browed Motmot. Another pond had another Little Green Heron and a Black-crowned Night-heron and reaching the gate four Yellow-naped Parrots flew across.

Day 8 To Savegre

Today involved a transfer to the heights of Cerro de la Muerte and a completely new envirnoment. However, before all of that there was time for more north-western wildlife and we began with a morning walk full of incident. A dead tree next to the lodge held a succession of birds with Eastern Meadowlark, Melodious Blackbird, Hoffmann's Woodpecker and Orange-fronted Parrot. Then one of our boatmen from yesterday pointed out a pair of roosting Pacific Screech Owls right next to the restaurant, with one in full view. Four Variegated Squirrels were charging about the trees whilst we photographed the owls. Another mammal completed the

morning with troop of Mantled Howlers showing well and hanging by their tails from branches or flashing their badges of authority.

Driving out of La Ensenada there was a pair of Crested Caracara stalking prey next to the road and then stopping in a woodland patch we found Rufous-naped Wren, some fine cacti with outsize fruits and a telltale chuckle led us to a male Black-headed Trogon. The same species was evident at another stop too and we rounded things off with a good views of the elegant Scissortail Flycatcher. We continued along the main road until we stopped at the Tarcoles River bridge to view the immense American Crocodiles that haul out there. Today's route followed the Pacific coast with some fine views and occasional natural history moments with a pair of Scarlet Macaws, Roadside Hawks and then a Tayra ambling across the road (though we only got a brief view). Reaching our lunchtime stop we pulled into the car park to see a big, battered alpha-male Black Spiny Iguana (Tyson) nodding his head. A second alpha-male crawled across and all seemed set for a big fight when the better looking rival (Pretty Boy) slunk away. A third smaller beta-male also appeared and moved in towards a female, but Tyson scuttled across to waggle his head in disapproval and in the end everyone went without and the female lost interest in all the male bravado. Cherrie's Tanagers were also seen before we left.

Unfortunately heavy rain arrived and continued throughout most of the journey all the way over the Cerro de la Muerte and down to the hotel. Hopefully the morning would be brighter.

Day 9 Savegre

Amazingly there were clear skies this morning and we started early driving up to a possible quetzal location. After a short climb up to the viewing area we waited and were soon seeing some great birds with Flame-throated Warbler, then Long-tailed Silky-Flycatchers, Townsend's Warbler, Yellow-winged Vireo and these were all topped by fabulous views of Golden-browed Chlorophonia feeding on ripe red peaches. The quetzal didn't show up so we went back down to breakfast. Before leaving once again the hummingbird feeders were a-buzz with birds with Green Violetear, Magnificent Hummingbird and White-throated Mountain Gem joined by a Striped-tailed Hummingbird and then a few Long-tailed Silky-Flycatchers came in very close to feed on nearby berries. Driving to another quetzal spot we searched the trees and yes, found a female Resplendent Quetzal. A mixed flock drew our attention with Black-cheeked Warbler, Sooty-capped Bush-tanager, Ruddy Treerunner, Spot-crowned Woodcreeper and Barred Becard, before a second female quetzal was seen in clear view.

We continued onto the highway and then a side road where we quickly found a Fiery-throated Hummingbird feeding on the yellow flowers of *Gaiadendron*. there were more interesting plants with club mosses, centropogons, *Bomarea talamancensis*, fuchsias, violets and *Calceolaria mexicana*, as well as the huge thistle *Cirsium subcoriaceum* and an orange *Loasaceae*. The overall luxuriance of the oakwoods was wonderful with graceful bamboos, anthuriums and bromeliads, but bird life was quiet as the rain began and dampened activity. Nevertheless we still saw Black-capped Flycatchers hawking for insects.

The rain continued until the afternoon, but at 2.45 there was a lull and we made the most of it and drove up to a pleasant flowery garden with bird feeders where a succession of Flame-coloured,

Silvery-throated and Blue-grey Tanagers were joined by Tenessee Warblers, Northen Oriole, Yellow-thighed Finches and on a couple of occasions very smart White-naped Brush-finches. Slaty-flowerpiercers were busy among the flowers, Acorn Woodpeckers in the adjacent tree and the familiar selection of hummers was joined by both Scintillants and Volcano Hummingbirds. A White-nosed Coati appeared on a slope and ambled over to a papaya, quickly climbing up and gathering a big fruit before disappearing into the undergrowth. Unfortunately the rain returned and had us huddling under a big umbrella photographing the birds, but we'd made the most of the afternoon and seen plenty.

Day 10 Cerro del la Muerte

An extra early start had us up to a quetzal tree by 5.15 where we saw Black-billed Nightingale Thrush while we waited. A female Resplendent Quetzal arrived first and then a stunning male with fine tail (actually rump) feathers, and he posed well for fifteen minutes before disappearing along with the female.

The rest of the morning was to be spent on the paramo of Cerro de la Muerte, but there was a slight delay to photograph the shiniest jewel beetle (Plusiotis replendens?) any of us had ever seen - you really could see your reflection in it. It was a fine clear day with views down the lushly forested Savegre Valley and reaching the top although some cloud was building on the Caribbean slope, the Pacific side (of the Continental Divide) was clear. Heading up towards the antennas we flushed a Baird's Sandpiper that was feeding in a stream. Reaching 3500m we parked and explored a flat area of bamboo and Escallonia paramo where there were hundreds of silvery Eryngium humile flowers, a smattering of mauve Lobelia irazuensis and some big clubmosses. A short way down the road there were two Volcano Juncos and on the rocks Hillary spotted a Green Spiny Lizard sunning itself. The flora was diverse and interesting with big silvery leaves Senecio sp, some dwarf Alchemilla, spiny fruited Acaena, a shrubby Hypericum. Among the mats of orange-fruited Nertera granadensis were the tiny cups of bird's-nest fungi. Further down and Jean had found a superb Juvenal's Duskywing (skipper), dark grey with a prominent white band on the hind wing. A Highland Alligator Lizard was also seen briefly. The stands of senecio grew larger, as did the huge Cirsium subcoriaceum and the remarkable 'tree parsnip' Myrrhidendron donnellsmithii. A fine large flowered Calceolaria and brief views of Timberline Wrens rounded off the walk. A morning coffee was needed and we had one in a nearby cafe whilst enjoying the many hummingbirds there at the same time. It was ideal for photography and an hour was spent trying to capture the dazzling colours of Fiery-throated Hummingbird, along with Green Violetear, Volcano and Magnificent Hummingbirds. A Large-footed Finch provided some alternative avian interest.

The afternoon was spent around Savegre, with a couple of handsome Yellow-bellied Siskins appearing very closeby just before we left. Time was spent mainly alongside the river where Grey-breasted Wood-wren was seen briefly, but good views were had of Acorn Woodpeckers and a stand of the giant *Dahlia imperialis* had both pink and white flowers. Overall it was very quiet with not even a dipper on the river and we returned to the feeders at the hotel for some last minute hummer photos.

Day 11 To Bosque del Cabo

One final roll of the quetzal dice had us up at the viewpoint by 5.30 but to no avail, though there were Golden-browed Chlorophonia, Townsend's Warbler and Yellow-faced Grassquit. Just as we were about to depart the hotel a last minute flock of Sulphur-winged Parakeet had us scampering up to the apple orchard for good views of them tucking into the fruits. The summit of Cerro de la Muerte was shrouded in mist this morning but we had some breaks and views down onto the cloud sea below. Reaching the coast we turned south and drove on to the airstrip at Palmar Sur. Our plane was (unusually) a bit late and arrived at 11.30 to take the first five of the group. Yellow-headed Caracara and yellow-bellied Elaenia were seen while we waited. Gill, Alison and I took the second one with the lugage and saw a King Vulture and two Bottlenosed (?) Dolphins from the air. The journey into the lodge had a variety of wildlife from Bare-throated Tiger-heron to White-tailed Kite and a family of coatis. We were all reunited after the short flight

A troop of White-faced Capuchins interrupted lunch and they continued to gambol through the grounds during the afternoon. Scarlet Macaws swooped past the cabins after lunch. Our afternoon walk found Mantled Howlers with very young babies as well as a few Central American Spider Monkeys and a distant flock of Black Terns feeding en mass. Elsewhere we found coatis, agoutis, Summer Tanager, Short-billed Pigeon and then a stunning male Redcapped Manakin. Great Curassows were jumping from banana plants as we walked back and four Crested Guans were readying to roost in a tree about one of the cabins.

The last wildlife moment of the day came as we got up from dinner to see a Northern Racoon arrive and raid the bins for a snack. It moved away a short distance to feed, but didn't like to be watched much and disappeared.

Day 12 Bosque del Cabo

An incident-packed day wildlife wise began with a couple of Green-and-black Poison Frogs, followed by a spider monkey, Bright-rumped Attila and Charming Hummingbird, then a stunning Bare-throated Tiger-heron standing on the path (apparently now a regular feature at the lodge). The usual assortment of coatis, agoutis and White-faced Capuchins were about and as we wandered down the main track there was a rather distant female Turquoise Cotinga and examining some collapsed palm leaves we found two gorgeous little Tent-making Bats underneath.

Just before we set off after breakfast Gill and Alison showed us photos of the gruesome sight of a White-faced Capuchin eating a Chestnut-mandibled Toucan it had captured (quite a common event here), with just the beak and spine remaining. Cutesy monkeys they are not! Heading off we passed the lantana bushes with a few heliconids flying around and then came across a mixed flock with Summer Tanager, White-shouldered Tanager and Blue Dacnis in. Collared Peccary were seen by those driving up to the trail head. Entering the trail we saw the peculiar saprophyte toadstool-like *Helosia cayennensis* and the first of many huge leafcutter ant nests that spanned the path and had defoliated a substantial clearing. Then there was a Golden-crowned Spadebill, a flock with Black-throated Trogon and Cocoa Woodcreeper, Golfo Dulce Anole and some superb hairy cup fungi before we stopped for a *Pierella luna* that had settled on the ground. Some rustling and squeaking above revealed the cute face of a Central American Squirrel Monkey. A few

minutes later and several more arrived in a confusion of monkeys jumping across gaps, shinning up trees and tempting photographs at every turn. So much was going on that the spider monkeys that were also moving through the trees went unnoticed. Pale-billed Woodpecker was a bit further on as was *Heliconius pachinus*, both just before we reached the access road. Walking back we picked up Spot-crowned Euphonia and then a Chestnut-mandibled Toucan was feeding contentedly on some fruits overhanging the track. Suddenly a mixed flock arrived and the birding became very busy with Rufous Mourner, White-shouldered Tanager, the stunning Bayheaded Tanager, Tawny-crowned Greenlet, Ochre-bellied Flycatcher and even a Red-capped Manakin. To complete the morning a female howler and youngster were lounging in a nearby tree to give us a full set of Costa Rican primates for the day. Some showy dragonflies including *Orthetrum ferrugineum* were around the pond as we neared the lodge.

The Scarlet Macaws flew past the cabins at 3.18pm as they did yesterday! However, we were taking the chance to go down and see the rock pools on the only day the tide would allow. On the way down there was an immaculate White Hawk and along the base of the slope was masses of *Kohleria spicata* which attracted a male Charming Hummingbird. Spotted Sandpipers were among the rock pools, Brown Booby, Brown Pelican, Black and Royal Tern flew past and a Belted Kingfisher was sitting on a big rock as we arrived. Ideally the tide needed to be an hour further on and some pools were inaccessible, but there were still many small banded fish, camouflaged blennies, the odd bright blue neon, abundant orange and black hermit crabs, and Sally Lightfoot crabs scuttling about the rocks. As we turned back a small troop of White-faced Capuchins had come right down the slope to feed and they managed to flush out an *Opsiphanes tamarindi* owl butterfly. Some fine sunset colours was the reward back at the top of the slope.

After dinner we went to look around the small pool. We couldn't make it beyond the steps without finding Marine Toad and a Rain Frog and a slight deviation before the pond produced a big cricket, a formidable spider and a much smaller spider with an intricate central part to its web. At the pool were an amplexus pair of Hourglass Frogs, a freshly emerged dragonfly and two huge Savage's Thin-fingered Jungle Frogs. Searching elsewhere we found a pale green crab spider, a huge forest cockroach, a young Parachuting Red-eyed Frog and up in a tree a Red-eyed Leaf Frog. Perhaps best of all though were the three Northern Cat-eyed Snakes that were on the ribbed leaves around the pond with two beautifully curled and poised. When I returned to photograph some of these lovelies I saw a Paca ambling through the garden.

Day 13 Bosque del Cabo

The morning amble around the gardens produced the usual abundance of coatis along with Redlored Parrots, Blue Dacnis, Red-tailed Squirrel, Little Hermit and superb views of a Mangrove Black Hawk. A Flag Bug provided some invertebrate interest and a Bridal Veil Stinkhorn a fungal note.

We drove out to the teak plantation and began our walk back quickly seeing various butterflies with Yellow-based Saliana skipper, a Cattleheart, Teleus Long-tail skipper and a stunning Thoas Swallowtail sunning itself, wings spread. Charming Hummingbirds were feeding on the abundant *Heliconia latispatha* and Spotted-crowned Euphonias feeding in a cecropia. Great Crested Flycatcher followed and then superb and prolonged views of a male Red-capped Manakin. Walking on there was a well camouflaged Pug-nosed Anole on a buttress root, a

remarkable leafcutter ant highway up and down a big tree and then on the upper limbs and trunk of another half-dead tree the butterfly *Prepona omphale* with rich-blue bands across its wings. A rougher track led back to the lodge and along this were many Litter Skinks, outsize clubmoss, Black-hooded Antshrike and clusters of Bird's-nest Fungi. Reaching the larger pond there were many dragonflies hawking about and on the *Erythrina* flowers a gorgeous Purplecrowned Fairy came to feed, followed by a Long-billed Hermit not long after. Wandering back there was a Monkey Hopper.

During the interval two Crested Guans were feeding on palm fruits next to the path and Scarlet Macaws were seen superbly well from Gill and Alison's cabin. The rest of the afternoon was spent a few miles away from the lodge in an area where pasture and marsh meets the forest. Here birdlife was varied with White Ibis, Mangrove Swallow, Crimson-fronted Parakeet, Yellow-bellied Elaenia, Mangrove Black Hawk, Yellow-headed Caracara and great views of Red-lored Parrot and a more distant Scarlet Macaw. Walking on towards the secondary forest flanking the road we picked up Black-throated Trogon and then some saw a Purple-crowned Fairy bathing in a stream. Black-hooded Antshrike and Grey-headed Tanager were seen as a troop of Central American Squirrel Monkeys busied themselves around us, joined by two spider monkeys which crossed the road above us. Chestnut-backed Antbird was seen just as the light began to fade and then four more spider monkeys crossed over in a line, tails coiled above their backs.

Day 14 Bosque del Cabo

Never a dull moment at this place and this morning began (after the usual mammal fest, capuchins gamboling across the lawns and Great Curassows in the banana plants) with three stunning Fiery-billed Aracari. Behind one bird a Lineated Woodpecker was working the cecropia stems and at one point they were virtually sat together. A couple of acrobatic spider monkeys, Grey-hooded Tanager and a singular sheen of a Blue Morpho set us up for the day. As we were trying to finish breakfast the armadillo from yesterday reappeared and caused a delay as we all dashed down to photograph this engaging, though largely oblivious mammal which at one point ran between Frank's legs and stopped there.

Heading out on the trails almost immediately there was a lovely Velvet Ant, followed by Green-and-black Poison Frog. Across the bridge we took a side trail where we had excellent close views of Great Tinamou, and then a mixed flock with Plain Xenops, Blue Dacnis and Wedge-billed Woodcreeper. The trail crossed the stream where a Crowned Woodnymph was bathing and in the gully was a male Blue-crowned Manakin, and reaching the ridge we had superb close views of Chestnut-backed Antbird and then a Golden-crowned Spadebill. Howlers were roaring full on as we descended again, but we just couldn't see them. More spider monkeys were seen by the big pond where an abundance of dragonflies criss-crossed the water. One or two were settling on convenient sticks including the vivid pink *Orthetrum ferrugineum*. A female Black-throated Trogon appeared and then walking up a bit we found a wonderful roost of twelve Tent-making Bats all huddled together under a huge palm leaf.

Toucans, guans and macaws distracted us during lunch and afterwards, the later perching outside my cabin. Much later in the afternoon we took a last wander about the gardens and typically just when we thought things might quieten down they didn't. Everything was gentle at first with an unusual emerald green *Epidendrum* orchid, then two Red-lored Parrots flew in, one

of them perfectly lit and contentedly munching on another orchid. Further along there was a return of the morning's Fiery-billed Aracaris, Blue-throated Goldentail singing, Tropical Gnatcatcher and then an oh so elegant Swallow-tailed Kite sailed overhead and swept around a few times for good measure. A Yellow-headed Caracara was feeding on the ground as we walked back up. The finale was provided by a butterfly. Entering the forest as the light began to fade we soon saw three or four Owl Butterflies chasing each other along the path. Waiting a few minutes they began to settle to reveal their stunning patterned undersides and then every so often two would fly up and swirl around showing flashes of bright purple-blue in the torchlight. Well worth an extra cocktail at the bar.

Day 15 To La Cusinga

Sadly we had to say farewell to the consistently excellent Bosque del Cabo, a wildlife hotspot if ever there was one. Already this morning howlers had passed through, parrots were at full volume and another toucan had fallen prey to the capuchins. We drove out to Puerto Jiminez and met up with our driver Luis. After a bit of shopping we continued around the Golfo Dulce stopping at a riverside cafe with a large fig tree outside. The tree was heavily-laden with small orange figs and these were a magnet for birds. But we were after one or two very special ones; cotingas. It didn't take long to find the first Yellow-billed Cotinga, a beautiful bird with purest white plumage. A second one was found and we enjoyed seeing and photogrphing these, but alas the second species, Turquoise Cotinga didn't show up. From here we continued to our hotel with its superb view along the Pacific coastline. Blue-throated Goldentail, Costa Rican Swift, Orange-chinned Parakeet, Roadside Hawk and a passing skein of Brown Pelicans provided the avian entertainment after lunch, and some cute Greater White-lined Sac-winged Bats hanging from rafters in the common area and a lonesome male howler with some conspicuous boils was lounging in a small tree next to the restaurant (and looking distinctly off-colour), the mammal interest.

We took a forest walk in the late afternoon into woods which were quite different in character to those we'd seen so far, with lots of understorey herbs including red *Aphelandra sp*. Birdlife was scant with the briefest Riverside Wren (LOB), but this was compensated by some truly immense trees and some truly memorable lepidoptera. The handsome butterfly *Eurybia lysica* proved hard to get a good look at at first due to its habit of perching underneath leaves, but then one flashed past and landed the right way up on a leaf and stayed there for several minutes. On top of this there were two fine caterpillars including the extraordinary *Lophocampa sp*, largely black with long tufts of red and white. A large inflorescence on a *Bromelia sp* followed and then we arrived back as the rich scent of ylang-ylang filled the air and in time for a wonderful sunset across the Pacific.

Day 16 To San Jose for flights

At 5.30 birdlife was busy from the lookout and included White-crowned and Red-lored Parrots, Grey-headed Chachalaca, Bananaquit and Golden-naped Woodpecker.

We were off at 7am driving along the coast and up to San Jose airport arriving in good time. Formalities were formalities and we all made our flights.

Day 17 Arrival

Systematic List # 1 Birds

A total of 267 taxa were seen (+5 heard). Species in parenteses have been seen on previous tours and are included to give a complete picture of the birds that may be seen on this tour. LOB = leader only bird

It's fair to say that this 'El Nino year' was a little peculiar, with some normally common species absent, including a paucity of trogons and woodcreepers. Nonetheless many fine species were seen well.

Great Tinamou	Tinamus major	At Laguna Lagartos its' mournful whistle
		was heard each evening. Seen at Bosque
		del Cabo
Blue-footed Booby	Sula nebouxii	A few along the Tempisque
Brown Booby	Sula leucogaster	Colony on rock offshore from Bosque del
		Cabo
Brown Pelican	Pelecanus occidentalis	Common along Pacific coasts
Neotropic Cormorant	Phalacrocorax brasilianus	Common along Tempisque
[Anhinga	Anhinga anhinga	At Laguna Lagartos 2011, mangroves
-		along the Tempisque (2009)]
Magnificent Frigatebird	Fregata magnificens	Common along Pacific coast in general
Bare-throated Tiger-Heron	Tigrisoma mexicanum	Stunning bird seen at Laguna Lagartos,
		along Tempisque and Osa with a resident
		at Bosque del cabo lurking around the
		lodge
Great Blue Heron	Ardea herodias	Laguna Lagartos, Tempisque and other
		waterways
Great Egret	Casmerodius albus	Common along Tempisque, widespread
		in all waterways
Snowy Egret	Egretta thula	Common along Tempisque, wet fields,
		etc. Widespread
Little Blue Heron	Egretta caerulea	Common along Tempisque, also Tarcoles
		river, Puerto Jiminez
Tricoloured Heron		Tempisque
Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis	Common and widespread in open
		country, farms, etc
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	Nyctanassa violacea	Tempisque among mangroves (and at the
		Salinas at La Ensenada 2012)
Black-crowned Night Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax	A few along the Tempisque, also La
		Ensenada
[Boat-billed Heron	Cochlearius cochlearius	Two or three in mangroves along the
		Tempisque 2012]
Green Heron	Butorides virescens	A couple around ponds at La Ensenada
Green Ibis	Mesembrinibis cayennensis	One near Laguna Lagartos
White Ibis	Eudocimus albus	Along the Tempisque and Osa
Roseate Spoonbill	Ajaia ajaja	Tempisque. [Also near Puerto Jimenez
		2010]
Wood Stork	Mycteria americana	A few soaring along the Tempisque, [also
		La Cusinga 2012]

Black-bellied Whistling Duck Dendrocygna autumnalis At river mouth along Pacific coast. Usually more widespread. Tempisque, near Palmar Sur as well as Boca Tapada area (2010 TTL tour), en route to Puerto Jimenez (2010)] Muscovy Duck Cairina moschata A family of juvenile ducks on lake at Laguna Lagartos. Have to question their legitimacy given how close the village is. [Mallard Anas platyrhynchus Apparently rare in Costa Rica, but seemed to be this species at La Ensenada Salinas [Blue-winged Teal Anas discors One along the Tempisque 2012] Black Vulture Coragyps atratus Abundant and widespread Turkey Vulture Cathartes aura Abundant and widespread King Vulture Sarcoramphus papa Great views at Laguna Lagartos (and from light aircraft over Golfo Dulce! Pandion haliaetus Very common along Tempisque, Pacific Osprey coast American Swallow-tailed Kite Elanoides forficatus Bosque del Cabo Elanus caeruleus Formerly Black-shouldered. En route to White-tailed Kite Bosque del Cabo. Harpagtus bidentatus [Double-toothed Kite Osa area 2012] Accipiter striatus [Sharp-shinned Hawk One soaring above Savegre] White Hawk Bosque del Cabo, stunning views. Leucopternis albicollis [Great Black Hawk Buteogallus urubitunga One at Bosque de Paz 2012] [Black-chested Hawk Leucopternis princeps One near Lago Arenal 2011] Buteogallus anthracinus Common Black Hawk Along the Tempisque also frequent at Bosque del Cabo. Mangrove Hawk now subsumed once again into this species. Grey Hawk Buteo nitidus Laguna Lagartos area Roadside Hawk Buteo magnirostris Widespread and common, especially obvious at Bosque del Cabo Short-tailed Hawk Buteo brachyurus One at Bosque del Cabo **Broad-winged Hawk** Buteo platypterus Scattered, Savegre, Tilaran [Zone-tailed Hawk Buteo albonotatus Possibly this species near Tilaran 2012] Red-tailed Hawk Buteo jamaicaensis Bosque de Paz, San Gerardo Yellow-headed Caracara Milvago chimachima Common along Pacific slope Crested Caracara Polyborus plancus Widespread on Pacific slope Laughing Falcon Hepetotheres cachinnans Laguna Lagartos heard. [American Kestrel Falco sparverius Near Canas (La Ensenada 2009)] Bat Falcon Possibly this at Savegre. (One hawking Falco rufigularis dragonflies at Tarcoles bridge, Laguna Lagartos 2012, one soaring at Bosque del Cabo 2011) [Peregrine Falcon Falco peregrines One seen well along Tempisque 2011] Black Guan Chamaepetes unicolor Seen very well at Bosque de Paz Crested Guan Penelope purpurascens Very close views at Bosque del Cabo, also Laguna Lagartos **Great Curassow** Crax rubra Impressive bird, seen very well at Laguna Lagartos and Bosque del Cabo Grey-headed Chachalaca Ortalis cinereiceps La Cusinga

[Crested Bobwhite Colinus cristatus A covey at La Ensenada 2009] [Marbled Wood-quail Odontophorus gujanensis Six crossing the track at Bosque Rio Tigre 2012] [White-throated Crake Laterallus albigularis Heard at Bosque Rio Tigre 2012] Gray-necked Wood-Rail Aramides cajanea Roadkill along Pacific coast road (Laguna Lagartos, Bosque del; Cabo, Bosque Rio Tigre) Purple Gallinule Porphyrula martinica En route to Laguna Lagartos, also Palmar Sur [Black-necked Stilt Himantopus mexicanus La Ensenada 2012] Northern Jacana Jacana spinosa En route to Laguna Lagartos, (en route to Bosque del Cabo 2012) Double-striped Thick-knee Burhinus bistriatus La Ensenada Southern Lapwing Vanellus chilensis Near Bosque del Cabo Grey Plover Pluvialis squatarola Common along Tempisque, also Puerto **Iiminez** A few on sand bars along Tempisque Semipalmated Plover Charadrius semipalmatus [Greater Yellowlegs Tringa melanoleuca One by Villas Rio Mar 2010] [Lesser Yellowlegs Tringa flavipes La Ensenada] Willet Catoptrophorus semipalmatus Common along Tempisque Spotted Sandpiper Actitis macularia Common along Tempisque and most waterways Calidris mauri Western Sandpiper Mudflats along the Tempisque Baird's Sandpiper Calidris bairdii One feeding on roadside streamlets on Cerro de la Muerte at 3500m – a surprise! [Least Sandpiper Calidris minutilla Three at La Ensenada Salinas] [Stilt Sandpiper La Ensenada Salinas] Whimbrel Numenius phaeopus Very common along Tempisque Ruddy Turnstone Arenaria interpres Tempisque, La Ensenada Surfbird Aphriza virgata Three at La Ensenada Short-billed Dowitcher Limnodromus griseus A dozen along Tempisque Laughing Gull Larus atricilla Common along Tempisque, Pacific coast Royal Tern Sterna maxima Impressive tern, plentiful along Tempisque and perching on jetty at La Ensenada [Elegant Tern Sterna elegans Similar to Royal Tern and mingled in with them, but more slender bill but not 2012] [Caspian Tern Sterna caspica Very large with red bill, a few along Tempisque 2012.] Sandwich Tern Sterna sandvicensis Common along Tempisque Black Tern Tempisque and a feeding flock offshore at Chlidonias niger Bosque del Cabo [Black Skimmer Rynchops niger Tempisque] Feral Pigeon Columba livia Scattered in towns [Band-tailed Pigeon Columba fasciata Savegre] [Pale-vented Pigeon Columba cayennensis Scattered in lowlands] Red-billed Pigeon Columba flavirostris Common in Central Valley, La Ensenada Short-billed Pigeon Columba nigrirostris Laguna Lagartos. calling at Bosque del

Zenaida asiatica

Columbina passerina

White-winged Dove

[Common Ground-Dove

Cabo

La Ensenada]

En route to San Jose airport

Ruddy Ground-Dove Columbina talpacoti Common and widespread Inca Dove Columbina inca Scattered but common at La Ensenada [Blue Ground-Dove Claravis pretiosa Bosque Rio Tigre 2012] White-tipped Dove Leptotila verreauxi Widespread. [Ruddy Quail-Dove Geotrygon montana One at Bosque del Cabo] Scarlet Macaw Ara macao Laguna Lagartos, common too at Bosque del Cabo, Osa and two near Jaco Great Green Macaw Ara ambigua Laguna Lagartos, rare and local, a classy macaw with incredible colours. Orange-fronted Parakeet Aratinga canicularis La Ensenada Crimson-fronted Parakeet Aratinga finschi Near Bosque del Cabo Pyrrhura hoffmanni Sulphur-winged Parakeet Seen and photopgrahed at Savegre feeding in the orchards Orange-chinned Parakeet Brotogeris jugularis Widespread small parrot Brown-hooded Parrot Pionopsitta haematotis Laguna Lagartos Laguna Lagartos, La Cusinga White-crowned Parrot Pionus senilis White-fronted Parrot Amazona albifrons Common at La Ensenada Amazona auropalliata La Ensenada Yellow-naped Parrot Red-lored Parrot Amazona autumnalis Plenty at Laguna Lagartos, also Bosque del Cabo, La Cusinga [Mealy Parrot Amazona farinose One at Bosque de Cabo 2011 TTL] [Mangrove Cuckoo Coccyzus minor Superb views of one outside my cabin at La Cusinga (LOB)] Lago Arenal. Usually more widespread Squirrel Cuckoo Piaya cayana Smooth-billed Ani Crotophaga ani Common in open country in S Pacific Groove-billed Ani Crotophaga sulcirostris Common in Guanacaste and much of the north [Barn Owl Tyto alba Near Puerto Jimenez oil palms.] Pulsatrix perspicillata One at Bosque del Cabo on night drive [Spectacled Owl 2010] [Black and white Owl Strix nigrolineata Seen well at dawn at Laguna Lagartos 2010 TTL] [Mottled Owl Strix virgata Savegre, Laguna Lagartos and Bosque del Cabo 2011] [Bare-shanked Screech Owl Otus clarkia Stunning views on Providencia road.] Pacific Screech Owl Otus cooperi One seen very well at day-roost at La Ensenada [Ferruginous Pygmy Owl Glaucidium brasilianum One en route to La Ensenada 2010] Short-tailed Nighthawk Lurocalis semitorquatus Laguna Lagartos Nyctidromus albicollis Seen well at La Ensenada, also Laguna Pauraque Lagartos Common Nighthawk Chordeiles minor Laguna Lagartos (La Ensenada 2011) [Lesser Nighthawk Chordeiles acutipennis One at Bosque del Cabo 2012] [Chuck-will's Widow Caprimulgus carolinensis La Ensenada 2010] [Dusky Nightjar Caprimulgus saturatus A glimpse on Providencia road, heard well.1 [Chestnut-collared Swift Cypseloides rutilus Seen quite well at Savegre 2013] [White-collared Swift Streptoprocne zonaris Laguna Lagartos, Bosque Rio Tigre 2013] Gray-rumped Swift Chaetura cinereiventris Caribbean lowlands Costa Rican Swift Chaetura fumosa Palmar Sur, La Cusinga Green Hermit Phaethornis guy Seen well at Bosque de Paz

Long-billed (-tailed) Hermit Phaethornis longirostris Quite common at Bosque del Cabo, Laguna Lagartos [Band-tailed Barbthroat Threnetes ruckeri One at Bosque del Cabo 2013] Stripe-throated (Little) Hermit Phaethornis striigularis Bosque del Cabo, Laguna Lagartos [Green-fronted Lancebill Doryfera ludoviciae One bathing at Savegre 2012] Scaly-breasted Hummingbird Phaeochroa cuvierii Laguna Lagartos Violet Sabrewing Campylopterus hemileucurus Common at Bosque de Paz White-necked Jacobin Florisuga mellivora Laguna Lagartos Green Violet-ear Colibri thalassinus Common at Savegre, also Bosque de Paz Anthracothorax prevostii La Ensenada (Bosque del Cabo 2012) Green-breasted Mango [White-crested Coquette Lophornis adorabilis One at La Cusinga 2012] [Canivet's Emerald Chlorostilbon canivetii Formely Fork-tailed Emerald. Lovely species one seen well at La Ensenada 2011] Crowned Woodnymph Thalurania colombica Lovely species, Laguna Lagartos, Bosque del Cabo Fiery-throated Hummingbird Panterpe insignis Wonderful species seen on Cerro de la Muerte Blue-throated Goldentail Hylocharis eliciae Bosque del Cabo, La Cusinga Amazilia tzacatl Common and widespread Rufous-tailed Hummingbird Cinnamon Hummingbird Amazilia rutila La Ensenada Charming Hummingbird Also known as Beryl-crowned, Bosque del Amazilia decora Cabo Amazilia saucerrottei Steely-vented Hummingbird La Ensenada feeding on mistletoe Black-bellied Hummingbird Eupherusa nigriventris Bosque de Paz Stripe-tailed Hummingbird Eupherusa eximia Savegre Coppery-headed Emerald Elvira cupreiceps Female at Bosque de Paz [Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer Chalybura buffoni Laguna de Lagartos 2012] Purple-throated Mountain-Gem Lampornis calolema Common at Bosque de Paz White-throated Mountain-Gem Lampornis castaneoventris San Gerardo, male has blue-green head and white throat. Formerly called Greytailed Mountain-Gem Green-crowned Brilliant Heliodoxa jacula Bosque de Paz, large green, white spot behind the eye, small purple throat patch Magnificent Hummingbird Eugenes fulgens Another large green hummer purple crown, blue throat, Bosque de Paz, Savegre Purple-crowned Fairy Heliothryx barroti Bosque del Cabo (Laguna Lagartos 2009, 2011) a lovely species Long-billed Starthroat La Cusinga (Laguna Lagartos 2011) Heliomaster longirostris [Plain-capped Starthroat Heliomaster constantii Bosque Rio Tigre 2012, La Ensenada 2011] [Ruby-throated Hummingbird Archilochus colubris La Ensenada 2009] Scintillant Hummingbird Selasphorus scintilla Similar to the next species but lovely reddish-orange throat, Bosque de Paz Little beauty with violet purple throat, Volcano Hummingbird Selasphorus flammula San Gerardo Resplendent Quetzal Pharomachrus mocinno One of the world's great birds, seen well at Savegre (males seen at Bosque de Paz 2011 & 2012) [Baird's Trogon Bosque Rio Tigre 2013] Trogon bairdii Black-headed Trogon Trogon melancephalus La Ensenada area

Black-throated Trogon Trogon rufus Bosque del Cabo (usually also Laguna Lagartos), females only [Violaceous Trogon Trogon violaceus Laguna Lagartos 2012, Lago Arenal 2010] [Collared Trogon Trogon collaris Bosque de Paz 2013] [Orange-bellied Trogon Trogon aurantiiventris Bosque de Paz 2013] [Slaty-tailed Trogon Trogon massena Males at Bosque del Cabo, Bosque Rio Tigre 2012] Turquoise-browed Motmot Eumomota superciliosa La Ensenada [Blue-crowned Motmot Momotus momota Near Bosque del Cabo 2011] [Rufous-tailed Jacamar Galbula ruficauda Two at Bosque Rio Tigre 2012] [Ringed Kingfisher Ceryle torquata Laguna Lagartos 2013] Belted Kingfisher Commonest species along Tempisque, Ceryle alcyon also cost near Bosque del Cabo [Green Kingfisher Chlroceryle americana Bosque del Cabo 2012] Amazon Kingfisher Chloroceryle amazona Laguna Lagartos, (Tempisque 2011 and Osa Peninsula 2010) [Pied Puffbird Near Laguna Lagartos 2009] Bucco tectus [White-whiskered Puffbird Malactoptila panamensis A male at point blank range, Carara 2010] [White-necked Puffbird Bucco tectus Rio Tigre, Dominical 2010, Bosque del Cabo 2012 TTL] Bosque de Paz Prong-billed Barbet Smenornis frantzii **Emerald Toucanet** Aulacorhynchus prasinus Lovely little toucan. Bosque de Paz Collared Aracari Pteroglossus torquatus Superb views at Laguna Lagartos feeding on the bananas Fiery-billed Aracari Pteroglossus frantzii One seen at Bosque del Cabo Keel-billed Toucan Ramphastos sulfuratus A smasher, green and orange bill, Laguna Lagartos Chestnut-mandibled Toucan Ramphastos swainsonii Yellow and brown billed banana raider at Laguna Lagartos, also Bosque del Cabo, Pacific coast [Olivaceous Piculet Picumnus olivaceous Two at Rio Tigre 2013] Black-cheeked Woodpecker Melanerpes pucherani Laguna Lagartos Hoffmann's Woodpecker Melanerpes hoffmannii Common in north-western Costa Rica and central valley Red-crowned Woodpecker Melanerpes rubricapillus Osa Acorn Woodpecker Melanerpes formicivorus Handsome species, seen well at San Golden-naped Woodpecker Melanerpes chrysauchen Bosque del Cabo, La Cusinga. [Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Sphyrapicus varius One at Laguna Lagartos, a rare bird in the lowlands (LOB)] Picoides villosus Seen at Bosque de Paz 2013] [Hairy Woodpecker [Rufous-winged Woodpecker Piculus simplex Bosque del Cabo where a male was excavating a nest hole 2012, Laguna Lagartos 2011] Venilornis kirkii La Cusinga (Simon) (in mixed flock at Red-rumped Woodpecker Bosque del Cabo 2013) Chestnut-coloured Woodpecker Celeus castaneus Attending the feeders at Laguna Lagartos Lineated Woodpecker Classic woody Laguna Lagartos, Bosque Dryocopus lineatus del Cabo (two at La Ensenada 2012) Pale-billed Woodpecker Campephilus guatemalensis Bosque del Cabo, Laguna Lagartos Red-faced Spinetail Cranioleuca erythrops Bosque de Paz

[Streak-breasted Treehunter Thriptadectes rufobrunneus Bosque de Paz 2013] Plain Xenops Xenops minutus Bosque del Cabo, Laguna Lagartos [Striped Xenops Xenops rutilans Savegre 2011] Spotted Barbtail Premnoplex brunnescens Bosque de Paz Ruddy Treerunner Margarornis rubiginosus Savegre (Bosque de Paz 2011) with mixed **Buffy Tuftedcheek** Pseudocolaptes lawrenci Superbly named bromeliad searcher, Providencia road (Frank) [Lineated Foliage-gleaner Syndactyla subularis Bosque de Paz 2012, Providencia road 2011] [Striped Woodhaunter Bosque de Paz, although this seems a bit high, but seen well (LOB), heard at Bosque Rio Tigre 2012] [Plain Brown Woodcreeper Dendrocincla fuliginosus Laguna Lagartos] [Tawny-winged Woodcreeper Dendrocincla anabatina One with army ant swarm at Bosque del Cabo 2011] Dendrocincla homochroa With army ant swarm at Bosque del Cabo [Ruddy Woodcreeper 2011] Wedge-billed Woodcreeper Glyphorhynchus spirurus Laguna Lagartos also Bosque del Cabo Streak-headed Woodcreeper Lepidocolaptes souleyetii Laguna Lagartos, La Ensenada, Bosque del Cabo Spotted-crowned Woodcreeper Lepidocolaptes affinis One at San Gerardo Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus [Black-striped Woodcreeper Handsome species seen daily at Bosque del Cabo, Bosque Rio Tigre] Cocoa Woodcreeper Xiphoryhynchus susurrans Bosque del Cabo Bosque del Cabo 2011] [Spotted Woodcreeper Xiphorhynchus erythripygius [Barred Antshrike Thamnophilus doliatus Heard at La Ensenada 2009] Black-hooded Antshrike Thamnophilus bridgesi Bosque del Cabo where common Streak-crowned Antvireo Dysithamnus striaticeps Laguna Lagartos Plain Antvireo Dysithamnus mentalis Bosque del Cabo [Dusky Antbird Cercomacra tyrannina Bosque del Cabo 2009] Chestnut-backed Antbird Myrmeciza exsul Widespread e.g. Laguna Lagartos, common at Bosque del Cabo [Bicolored Antbird A few attending army ant swarms at *Gymnopithys leucaspis* Laguna Lagartos 2012, Bosque del Cabo 2011] [Spotted Antbird Hylophylax naevioides Wonderful markings – a classic understorey bird, Laguna Lagartos, seen well 2009] [Ocellated Antbird Phaenostictus mcleannani The big one! Two seen well attending army ant swarm at Laguna Lagartos 2012, also 2009] Silvery-fronted Tapaculo Bosque de Paz Scytalopus argentifrons Savegre Barred Becard Pachyramphus versicolor Pachyramphus polychopterus [White-winged Becard Laguna Lagartos 2012] [Rose-throated Becard Pachyramphus aglaiae La Ensenada, Rio Tigre 2013] Cinnamon Becard Pachyramphus cinnamomeus Laguna Lagartos Tityra semifasciata Laguna Lagartos (Bosque del Cabo 2012) Masked Tityra Black-crowned Tityra Tityra inquisitor Laguna Lagartos (Bosque del Cabo 2010] [Rufous Piha Lipaugus unirufus Bosque del Cabo, Bosque Rio Tigre 2012] Turquoise Cotinga Cotinga ridgwayi A female at Bosque del Cabo

Snowy Cotinga Carpodectes nitidus Stunning pure white bird en route to Laguna Lagartos Yellow-billed Cotinga Carpodectes antoniae Similar to the above, two in a fruiting tree Golfo Dulce [White-collared Manakin Manacus candei Male seen very briefly Laguna Lagartos [Orange-collared Manakin Manacus aurantiacus A female at Bosque Rio Tigre 2013] Blue-crowned Manakin Pipra coronate Seen quite well at Bosque del Cabo Red-capped Manakin Pipra mentalis Stunning views at Bosque del Cabo (heard Laguna Lagartos) Torrent Tyrannulet Serpophaga cinerea Bosque de Paz, Savegre Mountain Elaenia Elaenia frantzii Savegre Yellow-bellied Elaenia Elaenia flavogaster Pacific lowlands (near Laguna Lagartos 2012, mangroves at La Ensenada 2011) [Northern Scrub Flycatcher Sublegatus modestus Tempisque mangroves 2013] Zimmerius vilissimus Mistletoe Tyrannulet Bosque del Cabo, Bosque de Paz Ochre-bellied Flycatcher Mionectes oleagineus Bosque del Cabo (Laguna Lagartos 2013) Olive-striped Flycatcher Mionectes olvaceus Bosque de Paz (LOB) [Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher Todirostrum sylvia Villablanca 2009] Common Tody-Flycatcher Laguna Lagartos (Bosque Rio Tigre 2012) Todirostrum cinereum Eye-ringed Flatbill Rhynchocyclus brevirostris Bosque de Paz Golden-crowned Spadebill Platyrinchus coronatus Bosque del Cabo [Royal Flycatcher Onychorhynchus coronatus Laguna Lagartos 2009] [Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher Terenotriccus erythrurus Laguna Lagartos 2011] [Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher Bosque Rio Tigre 2012] Myiobius sulphureipygius [Tufted Flycatcher Mitrephanes phaeocercus San Gerardo 2013] [Olive-sided Flycatcher Contopus borealis Bosque del Cabo 2011] Tropical Pewee Contopus cinereus Laguna Lagartos Laguna Lagartos (La Ensenada 2012) Eastern Wood-Pewee Contopus virens Western Wood-Pewee Contopus sordidulus Bosque del Cabo Willow/Alder Flycatcher Empidonax sp One these two (hard to separate) species at Laguna Lagartos Yellowish Flycatcher Empidonax flavescens Bosque de Paz, Savegre Empidonax atriceps Black-capped Flycatcher Providencia road Bright-rumped Attila Attila spadiceus Laguna Lagartos, Bosque del Cabo [Dusky-capped Flycatcher Myiarchus tuberculfer Bosque del Cabo 2012] [Nutting's Flycatcher Myiarchus nuttingii La Ensenada mangroves 2012] [Brown-crested Flycatcher Myiarchus tyrannulus La Ensenada] Great-crested Flycatcher Myiarchus crinitus Bosque del Cabo Rufous Mourner Rhytipterna holerythra With mixed flock at Bosque del Cabo Great Kiskadee Pitangus sulphuratus Widespread, characteristic and vocal species of CR [White-ringed Flycatcher Coryphotriccus albovittatus A couple on the way out of Laguna Lagartos 2009] [Grey-capped Flycatcher Myiozetetes granadensis Villas Rio Mar 2010] Laguna Lagartos, La Ensenada, Bosque Social Flycatcher Myiozetetes similis Rio Tigre [Streaked Flycatcher Bosque del Cabol *Myiodynastes maculates* [Western Kingbird Tyrannus verticalis Widespread. Easily overlooked infavour of next species – we must have seen it!] Tropical Kingbird Tyrannus melancholicus Very common and widespread

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher Tyrannus forficatus Seen superbly at La Ensenada (also near Bosque del Cabo 2011) [Long-tailed Tyrant Colonia colonus Two at Laguna Lagartos 2013] Black Phoebe Sayornis nigricans Bosque de Paz and Savegre Blue-and-white Swallow Notiochelidon cyanoleuca Common in highlands Gray-breasted Martin Progne chalybea Lowlands e.g. Pital town Tachycineta albilinea Scattered, Osa (near Laguna Lagartos, Mangrove Swallow Tempisque 2013) Northern Rough-winged Stelgidopteryx serripennis Scattered Swallow [Southern Rough-winged Stelgidopteryx ruficollis One near Bosque del Cabo 2011] Swallow Barn Swallow Hirundo rustica La Ensenada [Cliff Swallow Hirundo pyrrhonota La Ensenada 2012] [Brown Jay Cyanocorax morio Seen well at Bosque de Paz, also La Ensenada 20121 White-throated Magpie-Jay Calocitta Formosa Lovely bird, habituated and highly visible at La Ensenada [Azure-hooded Jay Cyanolyca argenticula Heard at Bosque de Paz 2011] American Dipper Cinclus mexicanus Streams at Savegre as we drove (LOB) Rufous-naped Wren Camplyorhynchus rufinucha Common and vocal in north-west CR as far south as Carara Riverside Wren Thryothorus semibadius Bosque del Cabo, La Cusinga (LOB) Ochraceous Wren Troglodytes ochraceus Bosque de Paz Troglodytes aedon House Wren Common and widespread Henicorhina leucophrys Grey-breasted Wood-Wren Bosque de Paz, Savegre, heard commonly in highlands, struggled to see this year [Bay Wren Thyrothorus nigicapillus Laguna Lagartos 2013, explosive song] White-breasted Wood-Wren Henicorhina leucosticta Heard at Laguna Lagartos Timberline Wren Thryorchilus browni Cerro de la Muerte paramo [Scaly-breasted Wren Microcerculus Philomela Formerly Southern Nightingale Wren, a terrestrial species seen well near an army at swarm at Bosque del Cabo 2011] Bosque del Cabo (Laguna Lagartos 2012) **Tropical Gnatcatcher** Polioptila plumbea [White-lored Gnatcatcher Polioptila albiloris La Ensenada 2012] Wood Thrush Hylocichla mustelina Laguna Lagartos (Bosque de Paz 2012) Bosque de Paz, Laguna Lagartos Swainson's Thrush Catharus ustulatus [Grey-cheeked Thrush Catharus minimus Laguna Lagartos (LOB) 2010] Bosque de Paz (LOB)] [Slaty-backed Nightingale-Catharus fuscater Thrush Ruddy-capped Nightingale Catharus frantzii Savegre Thrush Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush Catharus gracilirostris Savegre Cerro de la Muerte and Savegre Sooty Robin Turdus nigrescens [White-throated Robin Turdus assimilis Possible at Bosque del Cabo 2012, seen 2011] Mountain Robin Turdus plebejus Savegre Clay-colored Robin Turdus grayi Common and widespread, national bird of Costa Rica Black-faced Solitaire Myadestes melanops One at Bosque de Paz (LOB) Dumatella carolinensis Heard at Bosque de Paz] [Grey Catbird

[Black-and-yellow Silky Phainoptila melanoxantha Providencia road 2013] Flycatcher Long-tailed Silky Flycatcher Phainoptila caudatus A stunner, seen well at Savegre Brown-capped Vireo Vireo leucophrys Bosque de Paz [Yellow-throated Vireo Vireo flavifrons La Ensenada, Bosque del Cabo 2013] [Philadelphia Vireo Vireo philadelphicus Bosque de Paz 2012] [Red-eyed Vireo Vireo olivaceous Bosque de Paz 2012] Yellow-winged Vireo Vireo carmioli Savegre [Green Shrike Vireo Vierolanius pulchellus Bosque del Cabo with mixed flock (LOB)] Tawny-crowned Greenlet Hylophilus ochraceiceps Bosque del Cabo Hylophilus decuratatus Laguna Lagartos, Bosque del Cabo 2013] [Lesser Greenlet Rufous-browed Peppershrike Cyclarhis gujanensis Heard at Savegre (La Ensenada 2009) Bosque de Paz, Savegre Golden-winged Warbler Vermivora chrysoptera Tennessee Warbler Vermivora peregrina Common and widespread Yellow Warbler Dendroica petechia La Ensenada mangroves (resident race), Bosque del Cabo migrant race Chestnut-sided Warbler Dendroica pensylvanica Widespread Black-throated Green Warbler Dendroica virens Bosque de Paz, (Savegre 2013) [Blackburnian Warbler Dendroica fusca Savegre 2012, Bosque de Paz 2011] Dendroica townsendii Townsend's Warbler Savegre Bosque de Paz, Bosque del Cabo Black-and-white Warbler Mniotilta varia Setophaga ruticilla La Ensenada 2011] [American Redstart Myioborus torquatus Savegre, Bosque de Paz 2012) Collared Redstart Myioborus miniatus Bosque de Paz Slate-throated Redstart Basileuterus tristriatus Three-striped Warbler Bosque de Paz [Rufous-capped Warbler Basileuterus rufifrons Handsome species seen en route to San Jose 2009] Black-cheeked Warbler Basileuterus melanogenys Savegre, (Cerro de la Muerte, Providencia road 2011) [Ovenbird Seiurus aurocapillus One at Laguna Lagartos 2012] Northern Waterthrush Seiurus noveboracensis Bosque de Paz, (La Ensenada among mangroves, Bosque del Cabo 2013). [Lousiana Waterthrush Seiuris motacilla Savegre 2010] [Kentucky Warbler One at Bosque del Cabo 2012] Oporornis formosus [Prothonotary Warbler Protonotaria citrea Gorgeous lemon-yellow warbler, La Ensenada mangroves 2012] Wilson's Warbler Wilsonia pusilla Highlands Buff-rumpedWarbler Phaeothlypis fulvicauda Bosque del Cabo (LOB) Zeladonia coronata Also known as Zeladonia. Providencia [Wrenthrush road 2010] Coereba flaveola caboti Laguna lagartos, La Cusinga Bananaquit Red-legged Honeycreeper Cyanerpes cyaneus Little blue stunner. Laguna Lagartos, (Bosque del Cabo 2013) Shining Honeycreeper Cyanerpes lucidus Laguna Lagartos Green Honeycreeper Chlorophanes spiza Laguna Lagartos [Scarlet-thighed Dacnis Dacnis venusta Seen at Laguna Lagartos 2011, also Puerto Jimenez 2010] Blue Dacnis Bosuqe del Cabo (Laguna Lagartos 2013) Dacnis cayana [Elegant Euphonia Euphonia elegantissima 5 at Savegre 2012] [Scrub Euphonia Euphonia affinis Two at La Ensenada 2013] Spotted-crowned Euphonia Euphonia imitans Bosque del Cabo

Yellow-crowned Euphonia Euphonia luteicapilla En route to La Cusinga Euphonia minuta [White-vented Euphonia Bosque Rio Tigre 2012] [Yellow-throated Euphonia Euphonia hirundinacea La Ensenada 2009, Bosque del Cabo 2010] Olive-backed Euphonia Euphonia gouldii Laguna Lagartos Golden-browed Chlorophonia Chlorophonia Simply stunning. Savegre Blue-Gray Tanager Thraupis episcopus Common and widespread Thraupis palmarum Palm Tanager Widespread Silver-throated Tanager Tangara icterocephala Lovely species seen at Bosque de Paz and Savegre Tangara larvata Golden-hooded Tanager A beauty, widespread Tangara dowii Bosque de Paz (LOB) 2013] [Spangle-cheeked Tanager Lovely bird, Bosque del Cabo Bay-headed Tanager Tangara gyrola Common Bush-Tanager Chlorospingus ophthalmicus Common at Bosque de Paz Sooty-capped Bush-Tanager Chlorospingus pileatus Savegre, Cerro de la Muerte Grey-headed Tanager Eucometis penicillata Bosque del Cabo [White-lined Tanager Tachyphonus rufus Laguna Lagartos 2013] White-shouldered Tanager Tachyphonus luctosus Bosque del Cabo [Tawny-crested Tanager Tachyphonus delattrii Laguna Lagartos 2012] [Black-cheeked Ant-tanager Habia atrimaxillaris Bosque Rio Tigre 2013] [Olive Tanager Chlorospingus carmioli Laguna Lagartos 2012] Summer Tanager Piranga rubra Widespread A beauty, San Gerardo Flame-coloured Tanager Piranga bidentata Ramphocelus passerinii Laguna Lagartos Passerini's Tanager Ramphocelus Bosque del Cabo, La Cusinga Cherries Tanager **Buff-throated Saltator** Saltator maximus Laguna Lagartos Slate-coloured Grosbeak Pitylus grossus Laguna Lagartos [Black-faced Grosbeak Caryothraustes poliogaster Flocks at Laguna Lagartos 2012] [Rose-breasted Grosbeak Pheucticus ludovicianus Widespread in Costa Rica. But only a glimpse at Savegre 2011. 2010 at Bosque del Cabo] [Black-thighed Grosbeak Pheuticus tibialis Stunning yellow, one in flight Providencia road 2013] [Painted Bunting Passerina ciris Stunning little bird in mangroves at La Ensenada 2012] Indigo Bunting Passerina cyanea A juvenile at Laguna Lagartos Black-striped Sparrow Arremonops conirostris Laguna Lagartos Blue-black Grassquit Volatinia jacarina La Ensenada Variable Seedeater Sporophila aurita Pastureland, grassy areas e.g. Laguna Lagartos all black, Pacific coast black and white somehow absent this year! [White-collared Seedeater Sporophila torqueola La Ensenada, Osa 2013] [Peg-billed Finch Acanthidops bairdii Cerro de la Muerte 20131 Slaty Flowerpiercer Diglossa plumbea Savegre, Cerro de la Muerte Pselliophorus tibialis Savegre and Bosque de Paz Yellow-thighed Finch Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch Bosque de Paz Atlapetes brunneinucha Yellow-throated Brush-Finch Atlapetes gutturalis Savegre Large-footed Finch Pezopetes capitalis Savegre, Cerro de la Muerte [Orange-billed Sparrow Arremon aurantiirostris Bosque Rio Tigre 2013, Bosque del Cabo 2009]

Aimophila ruficauda

Zonotricha capensis

Stripe-headed Sparrow

Rufous-collared Sparrow

Common around La Ensenada

Highlands

Volcano Junco Junco vulcani Cerro de la Muerte paramo [Dickcissel Spiza americana La Ensenada 2011] [Red-breasted Blackbird Strunella militaris En route to Puerto Jimenez 2012] [Red-winged Blackbird Agelaius phoeniceus Common in rural Caribbean lowlands] Eastern Meadowlark Sturnella magna Near Laguna Lagartos, where displaying Melodius Blackbird Dives dives Savegre, La Ensenada Great-tailed Grackle Quiscalus mexicanus Very common and widespread in open areas and towns in Costa Rica Black-cowled Oriole Icterus dominicensis Adolfo's garden, Laguna Lagartos Streak-backed Oriole Icterus pustulatus La Ensenada Icterus pectoralis La Ensenada with Streak-backed Oriole [Spot-breasted Oriole for instant comparison 2013] Orchard Oriole Icterus spurius A juvenile at Pital garage Northern Oriole Icterus pustulatus Widespread in Costa Rica [Scarlet-rumped Cacique Cacicus uropygialus Laguna Lagartos (LOB), Bosque del Cabo Montezuma Oropendula Psarocolius montezuma Laguna Lagartos, Caribbean lowlands

and La Ensenada

Yellow-bellied Siskin *Carduelis xanthogastra* Savegre [House Sparrow *Passer domestica* Towns – where were they!?]

Systematic List # 2 Mammals

A good mammal haul with some memorable bats in particular.

Species in parentheses have been seen at the locations visited during previous trips at this season.

Common Opossum	Didelphis marsupialis	Road Kill en route to Savegre
[Grey Four-eyed Opossum	Philander opossum	Seen well during 2010 TTL]
[Central American Woolly	Caluromys derbianus	One in Chris's cabin! 2010]
Opossum		
Northern Tamandua	Tamandua mexicana	One sleeping among mangroves long
		Tempisque (Bosque del Cabo 2013)
[Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth	Bradypus variegates	En route to Laguna Lagartos 2013]
[Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth	Choloepus hoffmanni	One at Laguna Lagartos 2010]
Nine-banded Armadillo	Dasypus novemcinctus	Two very cooperative individual on lawn
	17 1 171 .	at Bosque del Cabo
Common Tent-making Bat	Uroderma bilobatum	Seen beautifully at Bosque del Cabo with 12 in one roost
Silky Short-tailed Bat	Carollia brevicauda	One at Bosque del Cabo
Jamaican Fruit Bat	Artibeus jamaicensis	One narrowly escaping a Roadside Hawk
	·	at Bosque del Cabo
Nectar-feeding Bats	Glossophaga soricina	Two species probably including this one
		attending hummingbird feeders at
		Laguna Lagartos and the close proximity
		made for an enchanting experience
Western Red Bat	Lasiurus blossevillii	One at Bosque de Paz at roost
[Honduran White Bat	Ectophylla alba	Lovely little bats under a heliconia
		Laguna Lagartos
[Spix's Sucker-footed Bat	Thyroptera tricolour	Two pairs in separate leaves at Bosque del Cabo 2010]
White-throated Capuchin	Cebus capuchinus	A cooperative troop at Bosque del Cabo,
•	,	also seen eating freshly killed toucan.
Mantled Howler	Alouatta palliate	Seen and heard very well at La Bosque del
	,	Cabo, also La Ensenada (Laguna Lagartos
		2012)
Central American Spider	Ateles geoffroyi	Very common at Bosque del Cabo and
Monkey		also one at Laguna Lagartos
Central American Squirrel	Saimiri oerstedii	Seen well at Bosque del Cabo
Monkey		
Red-tailed Squirrel	Sciurus granatensis	Common and widespread
Variegated Squirrel	Sciurus variegatoides	La Ensenada
Central American Dwarf	Microsciurus alfari	Bosque del Cabo (LOM)
Squirrel		
Alston's Singing Mouse	Scotinomys teguina	One seen by Jean at Bosque de Paz
Central American Agouti	Dasyprocta punctata	Widespread and common
Paca	Agouti paca	Two at Bosque de Paz, also Bosque del Cabo
[Brazilian Rabbit	Sylvilagus brasiliensis	Bosque de Paz also near Savegre 2009]
Eastern Cottontail	<i>JO</i>	La Ensenada
Northern Racoon	Procyon lotor	One seen, plus several prints at Bosque
	V	1 1

del Cabo

Nasua narica White-nosed Coati Seen well in several places Eira barbara One along Pacific coast road Tayra

Hooded Skunk

Dead one near La Ensenada - still with a

tremendous smell!

Collared Peccary Tayassu tajacu Bosque de Paz and Bosque del Cabo

Herpailurus yaguarondi Seen by Moira in rain while climbing trail [Jaguarundi

up from beach at Bosque del Cabo (lucky

[Puma Panthera onca girl)]

[Baird's Tapir Tapirus bairdii Fresh tracks, plus alarm calls from

monkeys - We had to be fairly close at

Bosque del Cabo]

Tracks at Laguna Lagartos 2012]

Bottlenose Dolphin Tursiops truncatus Two from the air and one at Bosque del

Cabo, probably this species

Systematic List # 3 Reptiles

An excellent total of at least thirty five (live) species of reptiles and amphibians were seen during the tour. Species from previous tours are included to provide a complete record of what may be seen during the tour.

White-lipped Mud Turtle	Kinosternon leucostomum	Two at Laguna Lagartos
[Brown Wood Turtle	Rhinoclemmys annulata	One on a forest trail at Laguna Lagartos
[blown wood furtic	Minocienniys annana	somehow it wasn't trodden on! 2011]
House Gecko	Hemidatylus frenatus	Widespread in buildings, an Asian
Trouse Geeko	11emmingtus fremuius	import
Common Basilisk	Basiliscus basiliscus	Sleek and swift lizard capable of
		sprinting across water. Bosque del Cabo.
		Big one at Bosque Rio Tigre
Green Basilisk	Basiliscus	Juvenile at Laguna Lagartos
[Striped Basilisk	Basiliscus	Seen at Laguna Lagartos 2013]
Black Spiny Iguana (Ctenosaur)	Ctenosaura similis	Fighting males at Hacienda Baru, also La
1 7 0 (, ,		Ensenada
Green Iguana	Iguana iguana	Magnificent lizard with both bright
Ç		green juveniles and larger older
		specimens at Laguna Lagartos, near
		Arenal and along the Tempisque
[Green Tree Anole	Norops biporcatus	A juvenile at Villa Blanca 2010]
Anoles	Norops spp	Several other species seen but not
		identified, the genus as a whole are
		difficult and individuals need to be
		carefully examined
Ground Anole	Norops humilis	Bosque del Cabo, well marked species
		generally seen on or near the ground.
		Yellow margined red dewlap
Slender Anole	Norops limifrons	Laguna Lagartos
Golfo Dulce Anole	Norops polylepis	Common at Bosque del Cabo, orange
		dewlap
[Norops pentaprion	Red dewlap, La Cusinga 2014]
Pug-nosed Anole	Norops capito	Bosque del Cabo, superb camouflage
Litter Skink	Sphenomorphus cherrei	Small critter with red tail Bosque del
		Cabo
Highland Alligator Lizard	Mesaspis monticola	One on Cerro de la Muerte
Central American Whip-tailed	Ameiva festiva	Widespread, but most notable at Bosque
Lizard		del Cabo, Laguna Lagartos
Four-striped Whip-tailed Lizard	Ameiva quadrilineata	Easily overlooked in favour of festiva
Deppe's Whip-tailed Lizard	Ameiva deppei	La Ensenada
Green Spiny Lizard	Sceloporus malachiticus	One sunning itself on high (3500m) on
		Cerro de la Muerte
[Mussurana	Clelia clelia	A large dead one en route to Baru, this
		species preys on Fer-de-lance! 2010]
[Mica	Spilotes pullatus	Dead one near Laguna Lagartos 2010]
Northern Cat-eyed Snake	Leptodeira septentriomalis	Common around ponds at Bosque del
		Cabo
[Barred Forest Racer	Dendrophidian vinitor	Bosque del Cabo]
Snail-eating Snake		Laguna Lagartos

One neatly coiled on forest floor at Hog-nosed Pit-viper

Laguna Lagartos

Eye-lash Pit-viper Botroides schengelii Both typical green-and-red and the

> stunning pure yellow form at Laguna Lagartos – captured by gardening staff

and posed for our enjoyment

A beauty at Bosque del Cabo 2011. Two Bothrops asper

> at Laguna Lagartos, one smallish the other huge 2010! Two metres at least] One found by staff at Laguna Lagartos Seen very well at Laguna Lagartos

Tarcoles (close haul out views) and

Tempisque rivers

Boa Constrictor Spectacled Caiman American Crocodile Boa constrictor Caiman crocodiles Crocodylus americanus

Systematic List # 4 Amphibians

Giant Toad	Bufo marinus	The infamous Cane Toad, here in its' native habitat but no less rare or huge,
		Laguna Lagartos and Bosque del Cabo
Emerald Glass Frog	Centrolenella prosoblepon	Bosque de Paz
[Granular Glass Frog	Cochranella granulosa	One at Villa Blanca, unusual at this altitude 2010]
Green-and-black Poison Frog	Dendrobates auratus	What a beauty! Laguna Lagartos and locally common at Bosque del Cabo
Strawberry Poison Frog	Dendrobates pumilio	Gorgeous little red frog common at Laguna Lagartos
[Golfo Dulce Poison Frog	Phyllobates vittatus	One in the forest at Bosque del Cabo, a stunner with orange stripes on black and bluish legs 2013]
Red-eyed Leaf Frog	Agalychnis callidryas	The quintessential Costa Rican frog seen at close quarters at Laguna Lagartos, also Pacific form at Bosque del Cabo
Parachuting Red-eyed Frog	Agalychnis	A small juvenile at Bosque del Cabo
[Brilliant Forest Frog	Rana warszewitschii	Brown frog with some colourful
1		markings, Villa Blanca 2010, Laguna
		Lagartos 2011 (leader only frog)]
Hourglass Tree Frog	Hyla ebraccata	Pretty little yellowish frog at Bosque del
8	J	Cabo variable markings, scarce this year
[Masked Tree Frog	Smilisca phaeota	Medium-sized frog, but with an
	•	immense loud call. Only heard (a few in
		the flooded lawns at Bosque del Cabo
		2010)]
	Smilisca sp	Mystery frog found at Bosque de Paz (LOF)
Bransford's Litter Frog	Eleutherodactylus bransfordii	Bosque del Cabo
Rain Frogs	Eleutherodactylus spp	Various species of this difficult genus
8	······································	seen.
Savage's Thin-fingered Frog	Leptodactylus savageii	Truly huge frog (four times the bulk of a giant toad!) with red eyeshine. Bosque del Cabo (also Laguna Lagartos 2010). Formerly known as Central American Bullfrog or Smoky Jungle Frog L.
[Milk Frog	Phrynohyas venulosa	pentadatylus A large one at Bosque del Cabo (also one climbing a tree at La Ensenada 2010)]
		chimonig a tice at La Eliseilada 2010)]

Systematic List #5 Butterflies, etc

A somewhat quiet trip for butterflies, peculiar weather had undoubtedly influenced the abundance of some species with an absence of *Adelpha* and lycaenids notable examples.

Species from previous years are included in parentheses for a complete picture of what may be seen on the tour.

Papilionidae

Parides iphidamas Bosque del Cabo, large pale red hindwing patch

Parides arcas? Cattleheart A species of Cattleheart was seen at Laguna

Lagartos and Bosque de Paz. Scarce this year.

[Parides euryleon Laguna Lagartos 2011]

Papilio thoas Phoas Swallowtail Bosque del Cabo, La Cusinga, Laguna Lagartos

Pieridae

Anteos chlorinde La Cusinga

[Eurema salomeBosque de Paz 2013]Eurema xanthochloraLaguna Lagartos

Eurema diara La Ensenada, Bosque del Cabo

Archionas eurytele Bosque de Paz

Phoebis argante Apricot Sulphur Bosque de Paz, Laguna Lagartos, large orange-

yellow species

Phoebis rurina Laguna Lagartos, large yellow species

Phoebis sennae Cloudless Sulphur Widespread, yellow, female much paler. Both

heavily speckled brown on underside

Pieriballia mandela Bosque de Paz

[Catasticta strigosa Bosque de Paz, stunning underside markings

2011]

[Leodonta dysoni Handsome white upperside, striking underside,

Bosque de Paz 2011]

Bosque de Paz

Leptophobia aripa Common green-eyed

white

Leptophobia caesia Bluish White Bosque de Paz

tenuicornis

Nymphalidae Charaxinae

Prepona omphale Stunning blue upperwing, perching on large

tree at Bosque del Cabo

Nymphalinae

[Marpesia merops

[Doxocopa laurentia A dead one at Bosque de Paz, electric blue

oands]

Historis odius Orion Cecropian Laguna Lagartos feeding on bananas

Hamadryas feronia Variable Cracker Laguna Lagartos, La Cusinga

[Hamadryas amphinome Red Cracker Laguna Lagartos 2010] [Leptophobia caesia Bosque de Paz 2011]

Daggerwing Laguna Lagartos 2010]

[Marpesia iole Bosque de Paz 2011]

[Marpesia berrania Guatemalan Daggerwing Bosque del Cabo, several narrow brown bands,

long tails]

[Marpesia marcella Striking orange species with large blue marking

on hindwing, Bosque del Cabo]

Siproeta stelenes Malachite Bosque del Cabo Anartia fatima Banded Peacock Abundant and widespread Anartia jatrophae White Peacock Laguna Lagartos, Bosque del Cabo Hypanartia arcaei Higher altitudes, Cerro de la Muerte (Savegre 2012, Bosque de Paz 2011) [Hypanartia lethe Orange Mapwing Bosque de Paz] Hypanartia kefersteinii Bosque de Paz (LOB) [Adelpha cytherea Laguna Lagartos 2010] [Adelpha iphicla Confusing sister Laguna Lagartos] [Adelpha basiloides Bosque del Cabo. All brown with white band amd small orange spot on forewing.] Lovely species at Braulio Carillio 2013] [Tigridia acesta Tiger Beauty [Diaethria clymena marchalii Cramer's Eighty-eight Bosque de Paz 2013] Heliconiinae Agraulis vanillae **Gulf Fritillary** La Ensenada, including pair 'in cop' Bright orange, sickle-shaped wings with Dione juno distinctive silver and brown spotted underwing. Bosque de Paz. Laguna Lagartos 2012. [Dione moneta Handsome orange species, akin to a monarch but distinctly bi-coloured orange with pale band 2013] Handsome orange and black striped species at [Dryadula phaetusa Banded Orange Laguna Lagartos 2012] Heliconian Dryas iulia ssp.moderata Julia Heliconian Widespread, orange sickle-shaped wings Heliconius ismenius Tiger Heliconian Common at Bosque del Cabo ssp.clarescens Heliconius hecale ssp.zuleika Heart-spotted Heliconian (Laguna Lagartos 2011), Bosque del Cabo Heliconius pachinus Black and cream banded species Bosque del Cabo Heliconius erato Erato Heliconian Smallish black with red (vertical) barred ssp.petiverana forewing and cream banded hindwing, Bosque del Cabo [Heliconius charitonius Zebra Heliconian Laguna Lagartos, horizontal black and cream stripes 2013] Heliconius clysonymus Widespread black, red (horizontal) band and cream Bosque de Paz Heliconius sapho Laguna Lagartos, black with white on forewing and blue hindwing, no red bars on hindwing underside [Heliconius cydno Similar to the above except red bands on hindwing, more widespread 2013] [Philaethria dido Green Heliconian A beauty. Laguna Lagartos, Bosque del Cabol Miletaeninae Chlosyne lacinia One at Bosque del Cabo Chlosyne narva bonpland Bosque del Cabo Narva Checkerspot Anthanassa crithona Crithona Crescent Bosque de Paz Acraeinae Actinote guatemalana Fluttery little grey species, somewhat moth-

like, common in forest at Laguna Lagartos

Ithomiinae

[Godyris zavaleta Glasswing at Bosque de Paz 2011]

Greta anette Bosque de Paz Pteronymia simplex Bosque de Paz (Jean)

[Oleria vicina Common at Bosque de Paz 2013] Mechanitis polymnia Bosque del Cabo, like a small heliconid

Brassolinae

[Caligo atreus Giant Owl Butterfly Bosque de Paz 2013 (also caterpillar 2011 and

Bosque del Cabo 2010)]

Caligo eurilochus Bosque del Cabo, where at least four chasing

> each other at dusk, also Bosque de Paz. One at dusk below cliffs at Bosque del Cabo

Opsiphanes tamarindi

Morphinae

[Catoblepia orgetorix Handsome owl butterfly at Laguna Lagartos

2011]

Bosque del Cabo, magnificent species, the Morpho amathonte Blue Morpho

male lacks a black margin, females a broad

brown margin

Morpho peleides Common Morpho Widespread, the both sexes have a dark

blackish margin. Laguna Lagartos, Bosque del

Cabo

[Morpho granadensis Rare species, photographed well at Laguna

> Lagartos. Stunning underside markings. 2010] One in the understorey at Laguna Lagartos, prominent white band on underwing 2010]

Satyrinae

[Antirrhea miltiades

Cissia spp Various little brown satyrids were seen but various

not identified

Cissia confusa Laguna Lagartos, white and red bands, yellow

patch on forewing. (LOB)

[Cissia pseudoconfusa Bosque del Cabo. Very similar to confusa but

has two small red stripes at tip of hindwing

2013]

[Cissia hesione

Laguna Lagartos 2013] [Chloreuptychia arnaea Blue-smudged Satyr Braullio carillio? 2013]

Drucina leonata Bosque de Paz Bosque del Cabo Euptychia westwoodii

Hermenptychia hermes Bosque del Cabo, common in grassy areas,

non-descript.

[Magneuptychia (Cissia)

libve

Blue-grey Satyr

Laguna Lagartos 2013]

One at Bosque del Cabo, cryptic underwing [Manataria hercyna maculata

2013]

Pierella luna Quiet Diaph Well camouflaged species that flies close to

forest floor. Bosque del Cabo

Pierella helvetica Similar to above but has reddish-pink area on

hind wing Laguna Lagartos, Bosque del Cabo

[Paraptychia ocirrhoe White Satyr Quite common white and brown striped

understorey species, Bosque del Cabo 2013]

Taygetis andromeda Bosque de Paz (LOB) (Laguna Lagartos 2011) [Taygetis thamyra Bosque del Cabo 2013]

Lycaenidae

[Arawacus togarna Pretty striped species with typical false head

markings on rear wing that wiggle constantly.

Bosque del Cabo 2013]

[Theritas sp Stunning deep metallic blue, Laguna Lagartos

2013]

[Eumaeus toxea. Mexican Cycadian Intriguing black winged species with red flash

and white dots, hovering around bromeliads

at Laguna Lagartos 2013]

[Strymon rufofusca Red-crescent Scrub- One at Bosque del Cabo, very pale almost

Haristreak white with red markings 2013]

[Calycopis drusilla Field's Groundstreak Small brown species with red hindwing spot

2013]

Riodinidae

[Mesosemia carissima

Eurybia lysica Shining blue hindwing, La Cusinga (Laguna

Lagartos, Braulio Carillio, Bosque del Cabo 2013) Has habit of settling underneath leaves Shiny blue patches on upperside, perched underneath leaves, Laguna Lagartos – very similar to previous species – may be this

species 2013]

Mesosemia zonalis White bars on brown, Braulio Carillio Mesosemia grandis Stunner with electric blue bands in

understorey at Bosque de Paz

[Rhetus periander Stunning blue species with red spots on hind

wing, Laguna Lagartos 2010]

[Semomesia croesus Croesus Eyemark Bosque del Cabo 2013]

Hesperiidae

Astraptes fulgerator

Epargyreus sp

Many more species of skippers have now been

identified thanks to Ian Small, but they are still a challenging group! The list demonstrated how rich the area around Bosque de Paz is in

September.

[Aides dysoni Dyson's Silverpatch Laguna Lagartos 2013]

[Anthoptus Trailside or Yellow- Undecided as to which of these two this is, Epictetus/Buzyges idothea clubbed Skipper both similar, but does have pronounced

yellow clubs and the underside lends more towards the latter. Bosque de Paz 2013]
Two distinct forms of this species seen one at

Bosque de Paz the other at Bosque del Cabo. Shining blue upperwing, prominent white

bars

[Bolla cupriecepsGolden-headed BollaLaguna Lagartos 2013][Calpodes ethliusBrazilian SkipperBosque de Paz 2013]

[Carystoides hondura? Honduran Ruby-eye Quite probably this species at Bosque del

Cabo, Titi trail 2013]

[Celaenorrhinus similis Similis Flat Skipper Bosque de Paz 2013]

spots on hindwing. Bosque de Paz 2013]

Bosque de Paz

Erynnis juvenalis Juvenal's Duskywing Cerro de la Muerte at 3300m

[Mylon pelopidas Pale Mylon Skipper Bosque de Paz 2013] [Nascus solon corilla Great Scarlet-eye Bosque del Cabo teak trail 2013] Nascus paulliniae Least Scarlet-eye Bosque de Paz [Ouleus fredericus salvinus Geyer's Zera Bosque del Cabo teak trail [Poanes zabulon Zabulon Skipper Bosqued de Paz [Phocides polybius Guava Skipper Bosque de Paz Subreticulate Skipper [Polites subreticulata Bosque de Paz Saliana antoninus Yellow-based Saliana Bosque del Cabo (teak trail) [Thespieus aspernatus Aspernatus Skipper Bosque de Paz Chestnut-marked Skipper Bosque de Paz [Thespieus macereus Silver-plated or Cloud [Vettius coryna conka Bosque de Paz Forest Fantastic Skipper Urbanus teleus Long-tailed Skipper, widespread in lowlands, e.g. Bosque del Cabo Urbanus procne A brown long tailed skipper, Bosque de Paz [Urbanus dorantes Laguna Lagartos 2011] [Urbanus pronus Bosque de Paz, long-tailed blue skipper 2011] [Pyrgus oileus Tropical Checkered Widespread in lowlands 2013] Skipper [Poares zabulori Yellow and brown skipper, Bosque de Paz [Coreopyge creon Iridescent blue-black skipper with two red dots at Bosque de Paz 2013] Orange-rimmed Firetip Iridescent blue-black with orange rim to [Pyrrhopyge chalybea chloris hindwing, Bosque de Paz 2013] Jonaspyge aesculapus Other significant Some outstanding moths, odonata and other invertebrates were also seen invertebrates Ascalapha odorata Black Witch Moth Widespread large moth with variable markings, seen well at Bosque de Paz Hawkmoth Large camouflaged sphinx at Bosque de Paz Manduca sp Lophandra sp Striking caterpillar at La Cusinga **Hooded Mantis** Two at Laguna Lagartos Plusiotis replendens Shiny Beetle Amazing reflective beetle at Savegre, maybe this species, certainly this genus. Nephila clavipes Orb-web Spider Laguna Lagartos and Bosque del Cabo, Large webs, colourful abdomen. Argiope savigyne Orb-web Spider Pretty little white bull's-eye web centre (or stabilimentum), overall white abdomen and dark legs, Bosque del Cabo Orthemis ferrugineus Stunning pink bodied dragonfly at Bosque del

Drythemis multipunctata

Perithemis mooma

Cabo

Blue-eyed dragonfly at Bosque del Cabo

Small orange species at Bosque del Cabo