

Costa Rica

A Greentours trip report

4th – 21st April 2026

Led by Phil Benstead

Daily report

4/4 to San José

Our lengthy, and for most, disrupted journeys to Costa Rica all ended at various times through the late afternoon and night. Royner (our excellent driver) did good work picking up from each flight and transferring us to a nearby hotel to recover. We would meet in the morning.

5/4 San José to Bosque de Paz

The team were up early for a little birding in the excellent hotel grounds that were busy with birds and provided us with a number of species that were only seen at this location. Birds included crimson-fronted parakeet, rufous-backed wren, white-eared ground-sparrow and cinnamon-bellied saltator. North American migrants were represented too with good looks at yellow warbler, Tennessee warbler and Swainson's thrush. Overhead occasional white-fronted parrot and a variety of swifts.



After breakfast we drove out of town and uphill to Bosque de Paz under a blue sky but as we climbed we entered the clouds and light rain fell. A black guan batted past the windscreen in the mist. Arriving at reception we were introduced to a fine Costa Rican red leg tarantula (*Abdomegaphobema mesomelas*, left). After this diversion we were quickly settled into our comfortable rooms and under cover, out of the rain, enjoying the hummingbirds and other birds and mammals that were busy at the feeders.

The feeders were abuzz with dozens of hummingbirds including many green-crowned brilliants, as well as smaller numbers of magenta-throated woodstar and the always dazzling violet sabrewing. Black-bellied hummingbirds mostly worked the flowering *Verbena* nearby. Ian earned himself a Magnum by finding Phil a superb green hermit. On the lawns Central American agoutis and red-tailed squirrels were attracted to the scattered maize. Fruit left out for the birds attracted silver-

throated tanager and clay-coloured thrush. A short walk down the river trail produced chestnut-capped brush-finch and a noisy, surprise slaty-backed nightingale-thrush.

After lunch we hit the feeders again and potted about the garden and orchid show in light rain or got some sleep ahead of the night mothing which promised to be good. After dinner the moth team got busy and we had a stupendous haul at the moth light and the black light



run by the lodge. At the start we enjoyed excellent views of the resident paca feeding on the lawn as well. We found a stunning emerald glass frog (right) on the edge of the pond, perhaps the highlight of the session. The small frogs in the pool at the end of our block were eventually identified as meadow tree frogs. The moths arrived on site in a steady stream during the four hours allowed to us by the power bank. The staggering beauty of the single *Citheronia volcan* (left) that came to the light mid-session promoted it easily to moth of the night if not the trip. Fatigue got the best of us though after a while though and we drifted off to bed.



6/4 Bosque de Paz and on to Las Heliconias



Today dawned blue and before breakfast we bagged a few new birds including the splendid silvery-cheeked (left) and spangle-cheeked tanager and a pair of streaked flycatcher. A *Euglandina gigantea* (right), a huge predatory snail, was the easy highlight of the morning session.

With more than a little regret we said our goodbyes to one-and-all and started the four-hour journey to Bijagua through delightful weather. High up we glimpsed our first roadside variegated squirrel. Birds started to appear as we lowered our elevation and we trundled on in the van. A stop halfway at a café (*Las Iguanas*) produced our first green iguanas and some good ice cream. By now we were down in the lowlands 1200 metres lower than we had started and it was warmer (much appreciated)

and the landscape one of pastures, fields of cassava, pineapple and farms. Roadside birds were spotted in passing and included our first collared aracari and a grey hawk wrestling with prey.

Royner's plan for lunch was scuppered by the chosen restaurant being shut (Easter related no doubt), we motored on a short distance and found another at the gate of the nearby National Park. We lunched surrounded by North American tourists. Arriving in Bijagua we headed up the rough track to Heliconias and successfully got into our rooms. White-throated magpie-jays called from the garden and appeared near our rooms.



After a break we did a very short walk up the main trail. Birds were still active at the start and we did very well getting to grips with several tody motmots (left). A small, duller representative of a colourful family that lurks in the understory. Other birds included our first woodcreepers (including an obliging wedge-billed) and noisy ant-tanagers. A rufous mourner appeared briefly. As the light diminished, crested guan started to look for roosting spots in nearby trees. Drifting back as the sun fell we looked forward to getting into the forest properly in the morning.

The moth light was out before dinner and afterwards we were interested to see the impact of our change in elevation. The light

box was covered in beetles and smaller numbers of pearl moths (Spilomelidae), with a few other moth families represented by just a few individuals. At one point in the short session we were joined by an orizaba silk-moth, always stunning. Moth of the day was a beetle though, the stunning gold and guava scarab *Chrysina aurigans* (right). Phwoar! The beetle density was just too trying though and we all elected for an early night and some much-needed sleep after a short session.



7/4

Las Heliconias

A trek in the early morning before breakfast was rather quiet. At dawn a few troupes of howler monkeys were evident in the distance and ferruginous pygmy-owls called for a short time. At the start in the lodge clearing we watched white-throated magpie-jays snatching beetles from the lights. A small flock of grey-cheeked thrushes were on the lawn. Our walk on the Heliconias Trail with a diversion to the first suspension bridge was very quiet but produced a nice wet forest toad (*Incilius melanochlorus*). Bird activity and song was slight but we were walking so quietly on the way back we bumped into a very startled purplish-backed quail-dove, which quickly made itself scarce. Something to look for after breakfast...



Breakfast with the feeder producing some nice birds including olive-backed euphonia and red-legged honeycreeper (left). Nearby fruiting trees had Hoffmann's woodpecker, more grey-cheeked thrushes and Tennessee warbler.

Our walk after breakfast took us along the Three Bridges trail. At 2.5 km long a short trail but one that took us until lunchtime as we pottered along. At one point we briefly encountered a pair of spotted antbirds. The suspension bridges were great for canopy butterfly spotting and we spent a nice lull in foot traffic perched on the bridge exercising our cores as we tottered and tried to get images of nectaring and sunbathing nymphalids and longhorn beetles. A snazzy metallic green longhorn with red femurs drew the eye (a

Callistochroma) Butterflies here included *Heliconias sappho*, *Adelpha zina*, *Adelpha cocala* and the superb white-tipped cycadian. Nearby our first bronze-tailed plumeleteer fed in nearby canopy flowers. Meeting a large gang of fellow tourists we were introduced to a diverse array of plumages of the Middle American ameiva – our first photographable reptiles of the trip. A confusing array of colourations were present at one spot, from blue-tailed immature to bulky brown adult. Just before we got back for an on-time lunch, Peta found some very fresh tapir dung on the trail.

After lunch the garden was worthwhile with good views of chestnut-mandibled (right) and keel-billed toucans feeding on cecropia pods. The garden was good during the afternoon as we took it easy in the heat of the day and/or rested ahead of our night session.



Phil had a brief Central American tapeti on the lawn under the fruiting tree on the way to dinner. For our night session this evening we took the moth light out to the first shelter on the Three Bridges trail and set it up. At the start in the garden Peta found us a rather large marine toad. Scary. As we walked in on the trail our torches attracted a frenetic silk moth (*Caio championi*, left) which eventually settled for photographs. A scarce species and one that did not come to the light later on. With the light set we walked out to the first suspension bridge which produced a sad looking, rain-deprived unidentified tree frog and yet another longhorn beetle (*Deliathis?*). The dry conditions alerted us to



passing agouti but views were hard to get in the tangle. A hanging sloth got away from us somehow and we had poor views of a possible olingo. The thermal imager being useful but not guaranteeing good views sadly on this occasion. Finally, back at the moth light we had an enjoyable half hour cataloguing the haul which had some great things as usual, including a superb mint-condition *Apatelodes adrastia*.

Pottering in the garden and on the access track this morning produced a few things that were new for the trip. The fruiting tree was once again the epicentre of the action with feeding crested guan, green honeycreeper, palm tanager and scarlet tanager. A fresh banana offering at the feeders got things going again. Phil found yet another longhorn beetle by the gate, a red morph *Oedudes bifasciatus*.

The drive to Caño Negro was a largely uneventful journey. We stopped to photograph a beautiful flowering tree (*Tabebuia rosea*?). Another stop netted us a fantastic black river turtle (right) feeding in a shallow, sludgy roadside stream. The tarmac road eventually gave way to dirt as we barrelled along in the minibus. A small spectacled caiman by the road was nice (left below). Arriving at Caño Negro we searched out a local restaurant on the banks of a nice oxbow wetland. We ordered our lunches and searching for an



elusive black-headed trogon in the grounds



before drifting down to the wetland to see what was about. We were pleased to find a few North American waders and our first wildfowl – black-bellied whistling duck. Eventually we were called back for a tasty lunch and a look at the busy feeders. Moving on we checked into our nearby hotel, the

feeders here were busy too with a now familiar set of birds and mammals.

In the afternoon we walked along the shoreline of the oxbow wetland on the edge of village and enjoyed looking through the many birds and sinister, lurking caimans. Wetland birds were numerous and diverse and included the lovely roseate spoonbill. Leggy black-necked stilts stalked the margins.



Our first black-collared hawks flew along ahead of us. Herons of all sizes were present in small numbers and the occasional wood stork put in an appearance. North American waders featured heavily and we even had a dowitcher sp. this year. All this potential prey attracted the attention of a peregrine at one point. A distant flowering tree offered appalling views of our first howler monkeys.

After dinner the moth light was sparsely populated but the haul included a stunning *Xanthopastis moctezuma* (left) – a species that we were soon to become familiar with. A short night walk in the grounds produced very little; sleepy anoles slept on top of leaves and we found a few nectaring moths.



Our early morning session in the hotel grounds before breakfast produced a small well-habituated gang of spider monkeys (left) feeding in fruiting trees. Birds here included black-striped sparrow, black-cheeked woodpecker and more red-legged honeycreepers. A noisy male slaty-tailed trogon taunted us as it 'woofed' away when we departed for the boat.

After breakfast we met our boatman and took the minibus to the dock. The boat trip was very good as usual, the rain fell but barely touched us under the awning. We had a great time cataloguing the birds of this excellent wetland. We headed downstream seeing many anhingas, neotropical cormorant and our first ringed kingfishers. Water levels were low and this dictated what we could or could not find as some smaller streams could not be accessed by boat today. But the low water levels meant migrant waders were present along the edges and we found a superb sungrebe on the way back in the tangle of roots and branches (below right). Our boatman's first scheduled stop was for a small

boat-billed heron, one posing on a branch in clear view and perfect for photos. Kingfishers and caimans occupied much photographic time. Nicaraguan sliders loafed on fallen trees in the stream. All too soon our trip was over and the boat turned back to the dock. Lunch was taken back at the hotel and we enjoyed watching the feeders as more red-legged honeycreepers, palm tanagers and a black-cheeked woodpecker vied for fruit. A stripe-throated hermit put in a brief and elusive appearance.



Arriving at La Quinta we settled in and got our bearings in the grounds. Birds seen included our first orange-billed sparrows, feeding dumpy young. We also located two decent enough ponds for our planned evening frog foray.



Rain continued after dinner meaning just one thing – good frogging! Our night session took place mostly under cover as we shuttled between two reasonable frog ponds in the grounds of the resort. Steven

distinguished himself by finding a superb Cukra mushroom-tongued salamander (above). A Magnum moment! The frog ponds produced some great amphibians as predicted, including green-and-black poison dart frog, leaf litter toad, Boulenger's snouted tree frog, olive snouted tree frog, Fitzinger's robber frog, huge Savage's thin-toed frogs and of course the iconic, red-eyed tree frog. Many images were taken. Walking back to our rooms we found another pink *Xanthopastis moctezuma* in the lodge. A great session.

10/4

La Quinta



It rained heavily through the night – good weather for frogs this year. We met up at dawn for coffee and went through the night's frog haul. It was still raining when we steeled ourselves to walk. It was gloomy and wet as we patrolled the grounds and we mostly looked at plants but did get occasional glimpses of birds like red-throated ant-tanager and rufous-winged woodpecker and a miserable young howler monkey (left) hung around the back of our accommodation. The slaty-tailed trogons were uncharacteristically difficult to get to grips with. We all showed Peta interesting plants we had found during the previous nights ramble.

Breakfast complete we headed out again. A few more birds appeared for Phil with yellowish flycatcher and mistletoe tyrannulet being notable. But it was the poison dart frogs that stole the show this morning. At about 0900 the strawberry poison dart frogs (right) started to appear and became ridiculously commonplace very quickly. Last night's rain had done us a huge service. At about 1000 we started to find our first green-and-blacks but these retained their value, only appearing in small numbers during the morning. Many photos were taken. A squirrel cuckoo appeared high above us in the canopy at one point but otherwise birding was quiet.



Lunch came with added serpent today, when our attention was drawn to a large puffing snake (left) by an irate pair of clay-coloured thrushes. The thrushes continued their attack despite our photographic attentions, as the snake negotiated its way past us and the swimming pool.



A walk out the gate and down to the river produced a few butterflies hiding in the gloom and just before a big rain shower we found a broad-billed motmot. The feeder was hosting northern oriole and buff-throated saltator. Steven had a golden-hooded tanager at one point here during the day, amazingly the only record of the trip. More botany

ensued as we tried to track down the owner of the many sea-urchin-like monkey comb pods on the ground. The vine or tree must have been high in the canopy and bearing neither flowers or seed as we could not find it. Walking on we had a delightful encounter with a pair of wood-rails with one fluffy youngster. As darkness fell early due to the weather we watched the caiman in the pool as a buff-rumped warbler sallied from perches sticking out off the pool.

Before dinner we bumped into a large freshwater crab (notoriously difficult to identify sadly) sitting in the walkway to our rooms. After dinner we wandered again. The moth light did not produce a great deal of interest tonight but everyone enjoyed the huge dobsonfly (*Corydalus flavicornis*) and there were three pink *Xanthopastis* by the end of the night. Wandering the grounds was less productive than last night but we found a drab tree frog (right) near the bar at the start.



11/4 La Quinta, Tirimbina and on to Rancho Naturalista

More rain pre-dawn and onwards through first light. After breakfast today we loaded our bags up and said goodbye to the garden with its *Columnnea nicaraguensis* and a host of other beautiful plants, we all had our favourites. The site had been excellent for frogging.



Our walk this morning was inside the Tirimbina private reserve. The weather continued unfavourably for some time so we sheltered at reception, but eventually we got out on the trails. Superb

flowering *Aechmea marina-reginae* bromeliads greeted us from the big suspension bridge over the Sarapiquí. Peta found us a nice rufous motmot (left) as we took the track alongside the river. We walked out to the big ceiba tree. Fungus feeding flat millipedes (*Platydesmus* sp.) fed in flower-shaped formations on the trunks of trees. A female *Cannaphila*

insularis was our first and we all enjoyed the panda-style colouration of a jumping spider (*Phiale formosa*, right). Coming back over the suspension bridge Peta spotted another motmot on the wire – this time a keel-billed! In the river our only fasciated tiger-herons (left) of the trip were seen as usual.



Leaving the reserve we drove an hour to the famous daunting lunch restaurant, where deciding what to eat from the incredible array of food behind the counter was almost impossible, there was so much variety. It was pleasant to eat our lunch surrounded by locals enjoying their food and chatting away. From there it was on to Rancho Naturalista nestled in the foothills amidst stands of orange-flowered mountain immortelle (*Erythrina poeppigiana*). The road wound through undulating countryside with views across the patchwork landscape of farms, forest and sugar cane fields.

We were soon sorted into our rooms and enjoying the coffee and rain from the balcony for what remained of the afternoon. Here we slowly accumulated a variety of birds and mammals; agouti on the lawn and yellow-faced grassquit feeding on food put out for them. But it was the hummingbird feeders that really drew the attention of all with crowned woodnymph, rufous-tailed hummingbird and white-necked jacobin all putting on a show. Over time we got views both variegated and red-tailed squirrels – stealing bananas away. A nice introduction to the place.



After dinner the moth/frog team had a fantastic session, the large haul will take a few months to identify... It was the frogs that really appealed though. Walking a short section of the main trail we finally succeeded in seeing tink frog when Ian found one 'singing' from a trackside leaf. Lara found us an all too brief Cope's tropical ground snake, all black and iridescent. A nice mossy green phasmid (*Rhynchacris* sp.) appeared. More was to follow when a second examination of the giant bamboo clump in the garden produced the desired coronated tree frog (left). A dark, satanic brute of a tree frog. Nearby a net-casting spider (*Deinopsis longipes*) was nice. Beautiful *Cyphereotylus vicinus* fungus beetles munched away on a rotten log, one of which had succumbed to a fungus of it's very own...

12/4

Rancho Naturalista

We all woke to heavy rain and met up for much-needed coffee on the balcony before breakfast and didn't get any further because of the atmospherics. Birding was slow but pleasant enough with a reasonable selection of things to admire, including bronze-tailed plumeleteer (left). The bell summoned us downstairs. The best bird came during breakfast when a male snowcap arrived to check out the verbena, causing pandemonium amongst the grazing birders. Rain continued to be an issue but we eventually got on the trails, a nice close broad-billed motmot was nice. Peta and Lara fell prey to some angry paper wasps on a trailside nest we spotted during the evening walk yesterday. More torrential rain fell and the wasp victims transferred back to the lodge to recover. Phil and Steven eventually regrouped at the new observation deck and sat under the roof watching a stream of keel-billed toucans go across the valley and the cloud roll right into the building. Eventually we elected to head back and spent some time drinking tea and watching birds in the garden. The snowcap put on another show but otherwise it was quiet in the light rain.



After lunch a short drive took us to a stretch of river in a village where sunbittern were nesting. No sign of the bitterns but we had a brief encounter with a muscular Northern Neotropical river otter. It spooked, surfaced for a brief check on us and then vanished into the river. A splendid bonus.



With no sunbittern at our first stop we moved upriver to our normal site and we were soon watching sunbittern (left) in light rain. We had plenty of time here to enjoy the pair present and watch them quietly feeding along the banks of the river swollen with rain. Our afternoon session had produced two stunning animals but little else. Peta was kept busy with the flora as the banks here held a number of attractive plants.

After dinner the rain continued to fall and moth team had another good session at the lights and got better views of the excellent coronated tree frog. A superb male stood guard over water-filled bamboos that held a couple of females.

13/4

Rancho Naturalista and on to El Toucanet (Cerro de la Muerte)



The weather finally started to clear this morning and from the balcony we could see the surrounding mountains and a glorious view it was. Better still was our first and only look at the tayra gang as they raided bananas in the garden. Three in total. A speedy dusky rice rat was too fast for images this year. After breakfast we headed out down the hill to check out Lisa's garden. The verbena bank here was very good for hummingbirds with green thorntail (left) and more snowcap. Butterflies and other invertebrates were good here too with black-bordered crescent, tropical yellow and the Mesoamerican bumble bee (*Bombus ephippiatus*).

Moving down the road a little most of us headed up the road to Rancho Bajo. On the access track we found a patrolling malachite darter (right) on a bend in the track. The verbena at the house was full of hummingbirds again and we spent time trying to get images.



After another excellent lunch it was time to move on and we drove down and then through the extensive sugar cane and coffee



growing areas, on to Costa Rica's second city of Cartago and then beyond climbing into the lushly vegetated hills of the Cerro de la Muerte. Our lodge lay a few kilometres down on the drier Pacific slope. We checked in and had time to explore the garden area before dinner.

After dinner the moth team got busy again cataloguing a very different set of moths around the restaurant and the light produced more

including the *Pseudepimolis haemastica* pictured left. Wandering the grounds produced good views of a lone armadillo as we searched for the mythical cacomistle.

14/4 El Toucanet (Cerro de la Muerte)

We set off very early this morning walking up into the nearest quetzal territory. It was a stiff walk uphill but within 15 minutes we had a superb male in front of us. The bird appeared and worked its way towards us until it was perched very close on a wire crossing the road. Not a National Geographic shot by any means but still a great moment. Stephen had walked on ahead and missed this first encounter. Fortunately, we were to watch two pairs over the next few days.

After breakfast we walked back up for more trogon action. On the way Lara found us a nice torrent tyrannulet nest with two young and some active adults. Also at the bridge we had a patrolling *Brechmorrhoga pertinax*. The trogon pair was active and a visiting Canadian birder showed us the nest hole. Once we knew where it was we visited several times over the next few days. A roadside runnel and small stream produced some great odonates and some good mud-puddling butterflies.



After lunch Royner took us high up the road to Providencia and we walked down until close of play. En route we saw several new birds including dark pewee and tufted flycatcher (right). Much botanising occurred.

We just had the energy for a little light mothing in the evening after dinner. We hoped for the arrival of the cacomistle but it did not turn up in the trees by the gate tonight.



Taking to the minibus this morning we drove the short distance to Buena Vista under a blue sky. We drove up through lush cloudforest noting trees laden with bromeliads. Giant groundsel (*Telanthophora grandiflora*) was on the roadside. The road followed the continental divide then we turned off the main road and climbed a little higher to 3473 metres. It felt high here and our breathing felt a little strained. From here we walked downhill from the top car park picking up some great birds including close views of the volcano juncos hiding in the curious bamboo paramo that is unique to this part of Central America. Roadside bushes here had occasional sooty-capped bush-tanagers who seemed unconcerned by our presence and the wires supported a few sooty thrushes. But it was the flora that captured our attention. *Luzula denticulata* – a strange bromeliad-like rush was scattered in the gravel. Lower down a giant thistle (*Cirsium subcoriaceum*) was evident. Red *Castilleja talamancensis* lined the trail at intervals. We searched for and found *Gentiana sedifolia*. Steve found our first beautiful *Orthrosanthus chimboracensis* (left) and seeds were quietly harvested. Eventually Peta found the bonneted *Halenia*

(*aquilegiella*) we had been searching for. Also here we enjoyed the lovely *Viola (nannei)*. A red-tailed hawk circled high above. A black-billed nightingale-thrush appeared briefly trackside. Coyote scat was found on the trail.

Lunch was eaten at Georgina's a basic café with great hummingbird feeders. We had a great time photographing the four or five species here. Our first tiny volcano hummers, lesser violetears (right), magnificent and fiery-throated hummingbirds all demanding attention as they vied at the feeders just a few feet away from us through the open windows.

Fed and having made a start on our bird photography we headed the short distance to Miriam's for coffee and cake. Here we had more of the



same hummingbirds (including fiery-throated pictured left and our first white-throated mountain-gems) but with fruit and flowering plants on offer here we had some nice encounters with a different selection of birds. Flame-coloured tanagers were obvious. At one point a single emerald toucanet graced us with its presence. A female slaty flowerpiercer stealing nectar by the back door was great. Yellow-thighed brushfinch and strong-legged finch hopped about in a muscular fashion. Acorn woodpeckers swapped acorns for banana. Many images were taken and the cake was good.



After our cake stop Royner drove us down into the San Gerardo de Dota valley to search out another quetzal nest. We were showed its location by a kindly farmer and some of us got great views of the pair here. The rest waited fruitlessly for over an hour for a look at the male. A pair of long-tailed silky flycatchers were a nice consolation. We drove home after a great day out.

After dinner some of us got out determined to track down the cacomistle. We did not have to walk far up the road before a speedy cacomistle (right) came running towards us using the powerlines as a rapid transit method. We followed it almost back to the garden before it diverted into the forest and it was calling above our huts later at 0145. Nice one!



16/4 to Bosque del Cabo

A long transfer to a special place, began with an early start and we were away by 0600, climbing back up to the main road and traversing the spine of Cerro de la Muerte, then down the Pacific side, with a non-view of the Cerro Chirripo (Costa Rica's highest point) and then down through verdant Pacific slope vegetation all the way to the shores of the ocean. We stopped at a service station en route to eat our packed breakfasts or get some proper food and coffee. Our route followed the coast and then turned towards the Osa Peninsula arriving a little late because of some awfully slow lorries in the mountains. Our drivers were waiting patiently for our final short transfer by 4WD. A reasonable road surface meant we made it to the superb Bosque del Cabo in time for our first lunch and some saw a tayra en route.



We just had time for a walk in afternoon and headed the short distance to the tropical garden. *Dythemis sterilis* and *Erythrodiplax fervida* were on the wing distracting the Odonata lovers. Here Stephen was surprised to find a Baird's tapir (left) wallowing in the pond and we were all soon enjoying a prolonged encounter with this excellent mammal. Overhead a small flock of graceful American fork-tailed kites hung effortlessly in the air.

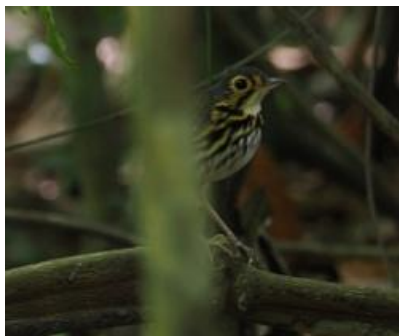
The moth light was set up inside the forest and the team were kept busy documenting the species present. Between looks at the light we walked to the tapir pond and back. Highlights included a Costa Rican orangemouth tarantula and a rufous-tailed hummingbird nest. We all became acquainted with the superb Halloween land crabs (*Hartnollius quadratus*, right) in the forest and garden.



17/4

Bosque del Cabo

Phil committed the cardinal sin of oversleeping this morning and had to be woken by Stephen. What was left of the morning session was spent around garden chasing butterflies which included Hewittson's heliconian. Mammals included good views of capuchin and both howler and spider



After an early breakfast we headed out along Golfo Dulce and had a very good look at an inquisitive streak-chested antpitta (left) at the start. The rest of the trail produced brown basilisk, black hooded antbird and a nice great tinamou. Seaching streams produced some nice odonates including a single shade-loving *Psaironeura angeloi* and an abundance of freshwater prawns. One small stream had an incredible diversity of *Argia* damselflies with *adamsi*, the spectacular red-eyed *cupraurea*, *popoleuca* and the restricted-range and seldom recorded *carolus*. Emerging from the forest by the tapir pond we

found a different set of odonates enjoying the hot sun. Zooming about were a few male *Protoneura amatoria*.

Our late afternoon session today took us through the garden clearing and we were treated to a afternoon singing session by the chestnut-mandibled toucan gang. In tree tops a migrant olive-sided flycatcher and our only perched views of mealy amazon.

Putting out the moth light gave Phil another brief tapir sighting at the end of the Golfo Dulce trail. After dinner our night session, alongside the resort's taciturn nature guide and his client, netted a superb milk frog (right), a brief kinkajou and a Derby's woolly opossum high in the canopy, plus of course some nice moths.



18/4

Bosque del Cabo



Dawn revealed the presence of a pair of great curassow in the garden – always exciting to see. The tides dictated a pre-breakfast sea hare safari this morning and we arrived perfectly down the bottom of the steps as the sea left the rocky shelf containing our target pools. The sun shone, the

Pacific looked anything but, with big rollers breaking off the reef just offshore but never getting to us somehow. Sally lightfoot crabs (*Grapsus grapsus*) scampered away from us as we approached the rock shelf holding some fantastic pools. We worked through the pools systematically photographing everything. Curious objects included orange fireworms and a



large anemone consuming a crab leg. The pools were hooching with excellent Nicaraguan sea hares (above left). Fish included the wonderfully named Panamic frillfin (*Bathygobius ramosus*). Photographing the mollusca revealed the presence of Ecuadorian hermit crabs (*Coenobita compressus*), many of which were racing on the beach on our return. Peta led the assault on the cliff on the return climb and we all appreciated her measured pace. We stopped to enjoy a gartered violaceous trogon and briefly saw a *Philogenia championi* before it hurled itself down the slope out of reach. Six hundred and twenty-three steps later we were back on top.

Our post-breakfast wanderings tackled the Creek trail. A nice *Caligo atreus* was a good start. By the tapir pond Ian found us a superb *Mecistogaster ornata* (right), a small helicopter damsel but no less impressive than the larger ones. Later *Cannaphila insularis* and *Tholymis citrina* were spotted. As we walked back through the clearing for lunch Peta found us a nice collection of matador bugs (*Bitta alipes*), madly waving their leg flags. Invertebrate of the trip? The pond had perched *Libellula herculea*.

Our 1600 walk, this afternoon netted us a view of a chatty female velvety manakin. We finally connected with our first dwarf squirrel, another gartered violaceous trogon and we met up with the tapir at the tropical garden pond again. This time he appeared behind us before jumping in the pond to cool off and loaf in the water.

19/4 Bosque del Cabo

This morning we tackled the Zapateros trail. The easy highlight being repeated contact with a large herd of white-lipped peccaries. The tooth-clacking alarms 'calls' were stunning as the pigs discovered our presence and scattered noisily.

After breakfast we did the Titi trail, getting a lift to the far end and working our way back towards the resort. At one point a bee assassin (*Apiomerus vexillarius*, right) posed on the trail for Stephen and Phil. We found lots of lots of monkeys of three species during the walk but not the hoped for squirrel monkeys. We had yet more encounters with the pygmy squirrels. Gartered violaceous trogons surrendered, giving great views. A great tinamou was elusive but sang beautifully for us at close range. Rain happened as we walked on but back in the garden we had a nice encounter with a feeding tamandua. Stephen had walked on ahead again but he caught up with the same animal later with help of the staff.





Phil had a tayra trotting past his house on the way up to coffee. Our late afternoon session was rather quiet but we found some rotting fruit that had attracted some nice morphos that sat quietly for photographs. We searched hard for poison dart frogs without success.

After dinner the moth light was put out behind Phil's bungalow and we caught a slightly different set of invertebrates from the garden and clifftop surroundings. Our frog walk was rather quiet though (not enough rain I guess) but we did find a fantastic, mint-condition white witch (*Thysania agrippina*, left) – a massive and very impressive moth.

20/4 Bosque del Cabo, Puerto Jimenez and on to La Cusinga

The indefatigable team joined Phil for a final pre-breakfast walk after yesterdays rain it was extraordinarily quiet. Although the mosquitoes were finally out. We walked the Manakin, Trogon, Golfo Dulce circuit and bumped into a great tinamou and had a fantastic encounter with a strolling tamandua. Whilst packing Phil noticed the flowering tree at the back of his cabana was attracting a large number of blue-throated goldentails.

We had already used up all our lunch vouchers at the lodge so instead of paying for another go at the menu here we elected to leave slightly earlier and have lunch by the sea in Puerto Jimenez. So, we left the supremely relaxing Bosque del Cabo and headed down across the dry pastureland and on into town. Our first stop was for a pair of roosting mottled owls (right) in a tree along the track. Kevin (our chatty driver) had promised us Hoffmann's two-toed sloth (to fill a gaping hole in our mammal list) and sure enough halfway back to town he



stopped and there was one! Sleeping extremely high in a tall tree. A fur rug with claws. Sadly, we could not find another in town at the beach this year. Lunch at a nearby beachside restaurant was good and suitably fishy.

Meeting up with the excellent Roy again we drove the three hours to La Cusinga, stopping for essential supplies en route. We arrived just before dusk in time for a short walk before we set up the moth light before dinner. The walk was rather quiet but the place felt very birdy, riverside wrens were our constant companion and there were mangrove cuckoos (left) in the garden. The sun fell into the sea gloriously on our last full day in this fantastic country.

Our last dinner was a noisy affair in the bustling restaurant and then it was on with the job of documenting the life attracted to the moth light. Not sure how many moths we found during this tour as it will take a long time to process the images but the moth team felt pretty proud of their work-rate, we did not miss a night after we left San José.

21/4 to San José

Another early start for the team with some early flights to contend with this year. We picked up breakfast packets pre-dawn and drove to the airport. The fantastic scenery brightened up the drive along the coast and then we turned inland and climbed up through the forested foothills towards San José. At the airport we said our final farewell to the Royner. The team all went off and through pretty quickly and Phil sat down to wait the six hours till his check-in opened...

Birds recorded in Costa Rica between 4th and 21st April

Great tinamou	<i>Tinamus major</i>	Frequently observed at Bosque del Cabo, a delightful species.
Brown pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	A few noted along the Pacific coast.
Neotropic cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasiliensis</i>	Only at Caño Negro.
Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>	Only recorded at Caño Negro, where abundant.
Magnificent frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	Small numbers along the Pacific coast.
Fasciated tiger-heron	<i>Tigrisoma fasciatum</i>	Good view of two at Tirimbina from the long suspension bridge.
Bare-throated tiger-heron	<i>Tigrisoma mexicanum</i>	Caño Negro and Bosque del Cabo.
Great blue heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Only recorded at Caño Negro.
Great egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	Small numbers in suitable habitat throughout.
Snowy egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	Scattered records.
Little blue heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	Only recorded at Caño Negro and Tirimbina.
Tricolored heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	One or two at Caño Negro.
Cattle egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Common and widespread.
Green heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	Only recorded at Caño Negro.
Yellow-crowned night-heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	An immature at Caño Negro.
Boat-billed heron	<i>Cochlearius cochlearius</i>	Great views of this engaging heron at Caño Negro.
White ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	Only at Caño Negro this year.
Green ibis	<i>Mesembrinibis cayennensis</i>	Small numbers at Caño Negro.
Glossy ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Two at Caño Negro.
Roseate spoonbill	<i>Ajaia ajaja</i>	Small numbers at Caño Negro. One en route to Osa.
Wood stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	Recorded only at Caño Negro this year.
Black-bellied whistling duck	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>	Caño Negro.
Blue-winged teal	<i>Anas discors</i>	Abundant and widespread.
Black vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	Abundant and widespread.
Turkey vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	One for Ian at Bosque del Cabo.
King vulture	<i>Sarcorampus papa</i>	Small numbers recorded coming off the ridge en route to Osa (Bosque del Cabo). A few in the evenings at Bosque del Cabo.
American swallow-tailed kite	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>	Two at Bosque del Cabo.
Bicolored hawk	<i>Accipiter bicolor</i>	A few at Caño Negro.
Black-collared hawk	<i>Busarellus nigricollis</i>	Widespread and common.
Roadside hawk	<i>Buteo magnirostris</i>	Single past Buena Vista.
Red-tailed hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	

Broad-winged hawk	<i>Buteo platynerus</i>	Evidence of migration whilst driving to Bosque de Paz on the first day.
Grey hawk	<i>Buteo plagiatus</i>	One en route to Bijagua.
Yellow-headed caracara	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>	Recorded at Caño Negro, Bosque del Cabo and the Pacific coast. The tame youngster in the restaurant at Bosque del Cabo was a noisy neighbour at mealtimes.
Crested caracara	<i>Polyborus plancus</i>	Widespread.
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	One hunting the oxbow at Caño Negro.
Gray-headed chachalaca	<i>Ortalis cinereiceps</i>	Widespread.
Crested guan	<i>Penelope purpurascens</i>	Small numbers at Heliconias and Rancho Naturalista.
Black guan	<i>Chamaepetes unicolor</i>	One over the road in the clouds just before Bosque de Paz.
Great curassow	<i>Crax rubra</i>	One of the highlights of Bosque del Cabo were the occasional encounters with this species.
(Spotted wood-quail)	<i>Odontophorus guttatus</i>	Heard at El Toucanet.
Russet-naped wood-rail	<i>Aramides albiventris</i>	Small numbers at Caño Negro and La Quinta.
Sungrebe	<i>Heliornis fulica</i>	Good views at one during the boat ride at Caño Negro.
Sunbittern	<i>Eurypyga helias</i>	Excellent views of two birds near Rancho Naturalista.
Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>	Just one at Caño Negro.
Black-necked stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	Only recorded at Caño Negro.
Northern jacana	<i>Jacana spinosa</i>	Seen well at Caño Negro and occasionally in transit by roadsides.
Southern lapwing	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>	Scattered records, mostly from the vehicle.
Dowitcher sp.	<i>Limnodromus</i> sp.	One at Caño Negro.
Solitary sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	Caño Negro.
Greater yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	One at Caño Negro.
Lesser yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	Small numbers at Caño Negro.
Spotted sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	Scattered records from suitable riverine, coastal and marshy habitat.
Least sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	Caño Negro.
Pale-vented pigeon	<i>Columba cayennensis</i>	An open country species only noticed on the last day.
Band-tailed pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>	Buena Vista and El Toucanet.
Red-billed pigeon	<i>Columba flavirostris</i>	Widespread and common.
Short-billed pigeon	<i>Columba nigrirostris</i>	Widespread in lowlands.
White-winged dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	Widespread.
Inca dove	<i>Columbina inca</i>	San José.
Ruddy ground-dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>	Occasionally noted from the vehicle in transit and at petrol stations. Also Caño Negro.

White-tipped dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>	Widespread.
Purplish-backed ground-dove	<i>Zentrygon lawrencii</i>	One at Heliconias in the early morning.
Scarlet macaw	<i>Ara macao</i>	Two at La Quinta, frequently encountered at Bosque del Cabo and along the Pacific coast road.
Crimson-fronted parakeet	<i>Aratinga finschi</i>	San José.
Orange-chinned parakeet	<i>Brotogeris jugularis</i>	Widespread.
Brown-hooded parrot	<i>Pionopsitta haematotis</i>	Rancho Naturalista.
White-crowned parrot	<i>Pionus senilis</i>	San José.
Red-lore parrot	<i>Amazona autumnalis</i>	Caño Negro.
Mealy parrot	<i>Amazona farinosa</i>	Heard frequently at Bosque del Cabo and seen a few times.
Mangrove cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus minor</i>	La Cusinga.
Squirrel cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>	Singles at La Quinta and Rancho Naturalista.
Groove-billed ani	<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>	Common in the north.
Smooth-billed ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>	This species seen badly from the vehicle on the Osa and along the southern Pacific coast
Mottled owl	<i>Strix virgata</i>	Nice couple on the drive out of Bosque del Cabo.
Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>	Heard occasionally. One on the lawn at night at Bosque del Cabo.
White-collared swift	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>	Widespread.
Vaux's swift	<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>	Recorded at San José.
Black swift	<i>Cypseloides niger</i>	San José.
Stripe-throated hermit	<i>Phaethornis longuemareus</i>	A few at Caño Negro, Tirimbina and Rancho Naturalista.
Green hermit	<i>Phaethornis guy</i>	Bosque de Paz.
Violet sabrewing	<i>Campylopterus hemileucurus</i>	Abundant at Bosque de Paz. One at Rancho Naturalista
White-necked jacobin	<i>Florisuga mellivora</i>	Good numbers at Rancho Naturalista. A few at Bosque del Cabo.
Lesser violetear	<i>Colibri cyanotus</i>	A highlight of the feeders in the Cerro de la Muerte.
Green thorntail	<i>Discosura conversii</i>	In the lower gardens at Rancho Naturalista.
Crowned woodnymph	<i>Thalurania colombica</i>	Recorded at Rancho Naturalista.
Fiery-throated hummingbird	<i>Pantherpe insignis</i>	Another highlight at the feeders in the Cercomela de la Muerte.
Blue-throated goldentail	<i>Hylocharis eliciae</i>	A few in the garden at Bosque del Cabo on the morning.
Scaly-breasted hummingbird	<i>Phaeochroa cuvierii</i>	Caño Negro and La Quinta.
Rufous-tailed hummingbird	<i>Amazilia tzacatl</i>	Common and widespread.

Black-bellied hummingbird	<i>Eupherusa nigriventris</i>	A few at the feeders at Bosque de Paz.
Bronze-tailed plumeleteer	<i>Chalybura urochrysis</i>	A few from the canopy walkways at Heliconias. One male in the garden at Rancho Naturalista and another at the forest feeder.
Purple-throated mountain-gem	<i>Lampornis calolaema</i>	Common at the feeders at Bosque de Paz.
White-throated mountain-gem	<i>Lampornis castaneoventris</i>	Common at the feeders in the Cerro de la Muerte.
Green-crowned brilliant	<i>Heliodoxa jacula</i>	Common at Bosque de Paz.
Blue-throated goldetail	<i>Chlorestes elicae</i>	Bosque de Paz.
Talamanca hummingbird	<i>Eugenes spectabilis</i>	Common at sites in the Cerro de la Muerte.
Purple-crowned fairy	<i>Heliothryx barroti</i>	Small numbers at Bosque del Cabo.
Snowcap	<i>Microchera albocoronata</i>	A sub-adult male in the verbena at Rancho Naturalista. More at Lisa's garden nearby and Rancho Bajo.
Magenta-throated woodstar	<i>Calliphlox bryantae</i>	Common at the feeders at Bosque de Paz.
Scintillant hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus scintilla</i>	A few in the garden verbena at El Toucanet.
Volcano hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus flammula</i>	Recorded at feeders in the Cerro de la Muerte.
Resplendent quetzal	<i>Pharomachrus mocinno</i>	Excellent views of several birds above El Toucanet.
Black-headed trogon	<i>Trogon melanocephalus</i>	Single male at the restaurant at Caño Negro. Another at the lodge there.
Gartered violaceous trogon	<i>Trogon violaceus</i>	A few at Bosque del Cabo.
Slaty-tailed trogon	<i>Trogon massena</i>	Heard at Caño Negro and elsewhere.
Rufous motmot	<i>Baryphthengus martii</i>	One by the river at Tirimbina.
Broad-billed motmot	<i>Electron platyrhynchum</i>	Very good views at La Quinta in the rain... Another in similar conditions at Tirimbina.
Tody motmot	<i>Hylomanes momotula</i>	At least two seen at Heliconias.
Ringed kingfisher	<i>Ceryle torquata</i>	Seen well at Caño Negro. Occasionally seen on larger rivers whilst in transit.
Amazon kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>	Recorded at Caño Negro and Tirimbina.
Northern emerald toucanet	<i>Aulacorhynchus prasinus</i>	Great views of one at Miriam's Café.
Collared araçari	<i>Pteroglossus torquatus</i>	Scattered records, scarce this year.
Fiery-billed araçari	<i>Pteroglossus frantzii</i>	Just one pair at Bosque del Cabo.
Keel-billed toucan	<i>Ramphastos sulfuratus</i>	Widespread in north.
Chestnut-mandibled toucan	<i>Ramphastos ambiguus swainsonii</i>	Widespread and noisy.
Hairy woodpecker	<i>Leuconotopicus villosus</i>	Singles at Bosque de Paz and Miriam's (San Gerado de Dota).

Black-cheeked woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes pucherani</i>	Caño Negro. La Quinta, Tirimbina and Rancho Naturalista.
Hoffmann's woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes hoffmannii</i>	Common in north.
Acorn woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>	Seen above El Toucanet and at nearby Miriam's Café and San Gerado de Dota.
Golden-naped woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes chrysauchen</i>	Only at Bosque del Cabo.
Rufous-winged woodpecker	<i>Picus simplex</i>	Singles at Caño Negro and La Quinta.
Pale-billed woodpecker	<i>Campephilus guatemalensis</i>	Commonly heard at Bosque del Cabo, a few seen.
Chiriqui foliage-gleaner	<i>Automolus exsertus</i>	One at Bosque del Cabo.
Northern barred woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocolaptes certhia</i>	A few at Bosque del Cabo.
Streak-headed woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes souleyetii</i>	Widespread.
Cocoa woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus susurrans</i>	Rancho Naturalista and Bosque del Cabo.
Wedge-billed woodcreeper	<i>Glyphorhynchus spirurus</i>	Only at Heliconias and Tirimbina.
*Spotted barbtail	<i>Premnoplex brunnescens</i>	El Toucanet.
Streak-chested antpitta	<i>Hylopezus perspicillatus</i>	One at Bosque del Cabo.
Barred antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus doliatus</i>	Seen at Caño Negro, heard elsewhere.
Black-hooded antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus bridgesi</i>	Bosque del Cabo.
Chestnut-backed antbird	<i>Myrmeciza exsul</i>	Widespread in lowland forests.
Bicolored antbird	<i>Gymnopithys leucaspis</i>	One or two seen poorly at ant swarm at Bosque del Cabo on one day.
Spotted antbird	<i>Hylophylax naevoides</i>	Pair at Heliconias.
Masked tityra	<i>Tityra semifasciata</i>	Widespread.
White-barred becard	<i>Pachyramphus polychopterus</i>	One at Rancho Naturalista.
White-collared manakin	<i>Manacus candei</i>	Female at Heliconias. Heard at Caño Negro and Rancho Naturalista.
Velvety manakin	<i>Lepidothrix velutina</i>	Bosque del Cabo, a single female.
Torrent tyrannulet	<i>Serpophaga cinerea</i>	A pair and a nest with two young at El Toucanet.
Mountain elaenia	<i>Elaenia frantzii</i>	One at Bosque de Paz.
Yellow-bellied elaenia	<i>Elaenia flavigaster</i>	Bosque del Cabo.
Common tody-flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>	Widespread.
Tufted flycatcher	<i>Mitrephanes phaeocercus</i>	One near El Toucanet.
Yellowish flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flavescens</i>	La Quinta. El Toucanet.
Olive-sided flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	One at Bosque del Cabo.

Dark pewee	<i>Contopus lugubris</i>	Copey de Dota.
Dusky-capped flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>	Recorded at Rancho Naturalista and Bosque del Cabo.
Great kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>	Abundant and widespread.
Social flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>	Common and widespread.
Piratic flycatcher	<i>Legatus leucophaeus</i>	San José.
Gray-capped flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes granadensis</i>	Recorded at Bosque del Cabo.
Streaked flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>	A pair at Bosque de Paz. Also, a pair at Bosque del Cabo.
Rufous mourner	<i>Rhytipyerna holerythra</i>	Heliconias.
Mistletoe tyrant	<i>Zimmerius parvus</i>	One at La Quinta.
Tropical kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	Abundant and widespread.
Black phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Bosque de Paz and thereafter scattered records.
Gray-breasted martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>	Widespread.
Purple martin	<i>Progne subis</i>	En route to Osa.
Mangrove swallow	<i>Tachycineta albilinea</i>	Caño Negro.
Southern rough-winged swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>	Recorded.
Blue-and-white swallow	<i>Notiochelidon cyanoleuca</i>	Widespread in mid-altitudes.
Barn swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Small numbers throughout.
Brown jay	<i>Cyanocorax morio</i>	Recorded at San José and Rancho Naturalista.
White-throated magpie-jay	<i>Calocitta formosa</i>	Heliconias.
White-necked puffbird	<i>Notharchus hyperrhynchus</i>	One from the van en route to Osa.
Rufous-backed wren	<i>Campylorhynchus capistratus</i>	San José.
Riverside wren	<i>Cantorchilus semibadius</i>	Seen well at Bosque del Cabo.
Southern house wren	<i>Troglodytes musculus</i>	Common and widespread.
Grey-cheeked thrush	<i>Catharus minimus</i>	Only at Heliconias.
Swainson's thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	Widespread.
Slaty-backed nightingale-thrush	<i>Catharus fuscater</i>	A surprise at Bosque de Paz.
Black-billed nightingale-thrush	<i>Catharus gracilirostris</i>	Buena Vista and Copey de Dota.
Clay-colored thrush	<i>Turdus grayi</i>	Widespread and frequently encountered on the Caribbean slope.
Mountain thrush	<i>Turdus plebejus</i>	Small numbers daily around El Toucanet.
Sooty thrush	<i>Turdus nigrescens</i>	On the high bits around Copey de Dota and Buena Vista.
Long-tailed silky-flycatcher	<i>Phainoptila caudatus</i>	A pair in San Gerado de Dota.

Lesser greenlet	<i>Pachysylvia decurtata</i>	Only recorded at La Quinta.
Tennessee warbler	<i>Vermivora peregrina</i>	Abundant, often seen at fruit on feeders.
Flame-throated warbler	<i>Parula gutturalis</i>	Glimpsed at Buena Vista.
Northern yellow warbler	<i>Setophaga aestiva</i>	Common in the first week.
Chestnut-sided warbler	<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>	Common and widespread.
Blackburnian warbler	<i>Dendroica fusca</i>	Small numbers at El Toucanet.
Prothonotary warbler	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>	One from the boat at Caño Negro.
American redstart	<i>Septophaga ruticilla</i>	La Quinta.
Slate-throated redstart	<i>Myioborus miniatus</i>	Pair at El Toucanet.
Rufous-capped warbler	<i>Basileuterus rufifrons</i>	One at El Toucanet.
Northern waterthrush	<i>Parkesia noveboracensis</i>	One at La Quinta.
Wilson's warbler	<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>	Small numbers in the El Toucanet area.
Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola caboti</i>	Widespread.
Green honeycreeper	<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>	Small numbers at Heliconias and Bosque del Cabo.
Red-legged honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i>	Widespread.
Yellow-throated euphonia	<i>Euphonia hirundinacea</i>	Recorded at San José, Heliconias and Caño Negro.
Olive-backed euphonia	<i>Euphonia gouldi</i>	Only seen at Heliconias and Rancho Naturalista.
Blue-gray tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>	Widespread.
Palm tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>	Widespread.
Spangle-cheeked tanager	<i>Tangara dowii</i>	One at Bosque de Paz.
Silver-throated tanager	<i>Tangara icterocephala</i>	Only recorded at Bosque de Paz.
Golden-hooded tanager	<i>Tangara larvata</i>	Only Stephen saw this, at La Quinta.
Common chlorospingus	<i>Chlorospingus ophthalmicus</i>	Only recorded at Bosque de Paz.
Sooty-capped bush-tanager	<i>Chlorospingus pileatus</i>	Frequently recorded at sites from El Toucanet.
Gray-headed tanager	<i>Eucometis penicillata</i>	Recorded at Bosque del Cabo, a habitual army ant-follower.
Red-throated ant-tanager	<i>Habia fuscicauda</i>	La Quinta and Rancho Naturalista.
Black-cheeked ant-tanager	<i>Driophlox atrimaxillaris</i>	Bosque del Cabo.
Summer tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>	San José.
Scarlet tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	Heliconias.
Flame-coloured tanager	<i>Piranga bidentata</i>	Sites from El Toucanet.
Scarlet-rumped tanager	<i>Ramphocelus passerinii</i>	Widespread and common.
Peg-billed finch	<i>Acanthidops bairdii</i>	One male near El Toucanet.

Slaty flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossa plumbea</i>	Miriam's Café (Cerro de la Muerte).
Buff-throated saltator	<i>Saltator maximus</i>	Widespread.
Cinnamon-bellied saltator	<i>Saltator grandis</i>	San José.
Black-striped sparrow	<i>Arremonops conirostris</i>	Occasional at Rancho Naturalista and Caño Negro.
Blue-black grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>	Caño Negro.
Yellow-faced grassquit	<i>Tiaris olivacea</i>	A small flock at the feeding station at Rancho Naturalista
Variable seedeater	<i>Sporophila aurita</i>	Common and widespread.
Large-footed finch	<i>Pezopetes capitalis</i>	A few at Buena Vista and nearby at Miriam's Café.
Yellow-thighed brushfinch	<i>Pselliophorus tibialis</i>	A few at El Toucanet and Miriam's Café.
Chestnut-capped brush-finch	<i>Atlapietes brunneinucha</i>	One in the garden at Bosque de Paz was elusive.
Orange-billed sparrow	<i>Arremon aurantirostris</i>	Recorded at La Quinta, Tirimbina and Rancho Naturalista.
White-eared ground-sparrow	<i>Melospiza leucotis</i>	San José.
Volcano junco	<i>Junco vulcani</i>	Small numbers on our walk down from Buena Vista.
Rufous-collared sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>	Common in the highlands.
Red-winged blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	Caño Negro and roadsides.
Red-breasted blackbird	<i>Sturnella militaris</i>	A fine male on a roadside post near Puerto Jimenez.
Melodious blackbird	<i>Dives dives</i>	Widespread.
Great-tailed grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	Abundant.
Bronzed cowbird	<i>Molothrus aeneus</i>	A few in transit.
Baltimore oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	Widespread.
Chestnut-headed oropendula	<i>Psarocolius wagleri</i>	A few at Heliconias Rancho Naturalista.
Montezuma oropendula	<i>Psarocolius montezuma</i>	Common in north.

Mammals recorded in Costa Rica between 4th and 21st April

Northern tamandua	<i>Tamandua mexicana</i>	Great views of this anteater in the garden at Bosque del Cabo.
Hoffmann's two-toed sloth	<i>Choloepus hoffmanni</i>	One seen high in a tree on the day we left Bosque del Cabo.
West Andean long-nosed armadillo	<i>Dasypus fenestratus</i>	One seen on both nights at El Toucanet. This taxon was formerly part of nine-banded armadillo.
insectivorous bat sp.	??	Moribund individual photographed at Bosque de Paz.
Central American white-faced capuchin	<i>Cebus imitator</i>	Seen in numbers on most days at Bosque del Cabo.
Mantled howler monkey	<i>Alouatta palliata</i>	Seen well at Caño Negro and common thereafter.
Central American spider monkey	<i>Ateles geoffroyi</i>	A troop seen very well at Caño Negro. Frequently encountered thereafter, with excellent encounters at Bosque del Cabo.
Red-tailed squirrel	<i>Sciurus granatensis</i>	Common and widespread.
Variegated squirrel	<i>Sciurus variegatoides</i>	Common and widespread.
Kinkajou	<i>Potos flavus</i>	One at Bosque del Cabo at night.
Central American dwarf squirrel	<i>Microsciurus alfari</i>	Several seen well at Bosque del Cabo.
Dusky rice rat	<i>Melanomys caliginosus</i>	Around bird feeders at Rancho Naturalista
Central American tapeti	<i>Sylvilagus gabbi</i>	One below the fruiting tree at night at Heliconias.
Spotted paca	<i>Cuniculus paca</i>	A nice view of one at night at Bosque de Paz.
Central American agouti	<i>Dasyprocta punctata</i>	Widespread and common.
White-nosed coati	<i>Nasua narica</i>	Seen well in several places.
Cacomistle	<i>Bassariscus sumichrasti</i>	One seen well above El Toucanet. A trip highlight.
Tayra	<i>Eira barbara</i>	Three in the garden at Rancho Naturalista.
Northern Neotropical river otter	<i>Lutra annectans</i>	One in the Rio Minna near Rancho Naturalista, whilst searching for sunbittern.
Derby's woolly opossum	<i>Caluromys derbianus</i>	One at night at Bosque del Cabo.
Collared peccary	<i>Pecari tajacu</i>	Seen daily and very well at Bosque del Cabo.
White-lipped peccary	<i>Tayassu pecari</i>	A large and noisy herd encountered at Bosque del Cabo.

Baird's tapir

Tapirus bairdii

Dung at Heliconias. One on the first evening at Bosque del Cabo. Another two sightings followed incredibly.

Reptiles recorded in Costa Rica between 4th and 21st April

House gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>	Widespread in buildings, an Asian import.
Common basilisk	<i>Basiliscus basiliscus</i>	Bosque del Cabo.
Green basilisk	<i>Basiliscus plumifrons</i>	Caño Negro, La Quinta.
Green iguana	<i>Iguana iguana</i>	Magnificent lizard with both bright green juveniles and larger older specimens at Caño Negro and Las Iguanas café, others elsewhere.
Anoles	<i>Norops</i> spp.	Several species seen but not identified, the genus as a whole are difficult and individuals need to be carefully examined
Osa anole	<i>Anolis osa</i>	Recorded at Bosque del Cabo, a very restricted-range endemic.
Middle American ameiva	<i>Ameiva festinus</i>	Heliconias.
Delicate ameiva	<i>Holcosus leptophrys</i>	Bosque del Cabo.
Four-lined whiptail	<i>Holcosus quadrilineatus</i>	Bosque del Cabo.
Emerald swift	<i>Sceloporus malachiticus</i>	El Toucanet.
Cope's tropical ground snake	<i>Trimetopon pliolepis</i>	One small individual on the first night walk at Rancho Naturalista.
Ornate cat-eyed snake	<i>Leptodeira ornata</i>	One at night for Lara at Bosque del Cabo.
Puffing snake	<i>Phrynonax poecilonotis</i>	One large one at lunch at La Quinta.
Nicaraguan slider	<i>Trachemys grayi</i>	Seen in small numbers from the boat at Caño Negro.
Black river turtle	<i>Rhinoclemmys funerea</i>	One en route to Caño Negro.
Spectacled caiman	<i>Caiman crocodilus fuscus</i>	Seen well at Caño Negro, aka brown caiman.

Amphibians recorded in Costa Rica between 4th and 21st April

Giant toad	<i>Rhinella horribilis</i>	One at Heliconias in the garden. Frequently encountered at Caño Negro, La Quinta and Bosque del Cabo.
Wet forest toad	<i>Incilius melanochlorus</i>	One at Heliconias.
Leaf litter toad	<i>Rhaebo haemeticus</i>	A few nightly at La Quinta.
Green-and-black poison dart frog	<i>Dendrobates auratus</i>	Small numbers daily at La Quinta and Bosque del Cabo.
Strawberry poison dart frog	<i>Dendrobates pumilio</i>	La Quinta and Tirimbina.
Red-eyed tree frog	<i>Agalychnis callidryas</i>	The quintessential Costa Rican frog, seen only at the ponds at La Quinta.
Meadow tree frog	<i>Isthmohyla pseudopuma</i>	A few in one of the ponds at Bosque de Paz.
Coronated treefrog	<i>Triprrion spinosus</i>	Rancho Naturalista.
Drab treefrog	<i>Smilisca sordida</i>	One in the bar at La Quinta.
Harlequin treefrog	<i>Dendropsophus ebraccatus</i>	La Quinta.
Boulenger's snouted treefrog	<i>Scinax boulengeri</i>	One at La Quinta.
Olive snouted treefrog	<i>Scinax elaochroa</i>	Common at La Quinta.
Emerald glass frog	<i>Espadarana prosoblepon</i>	One seen at Bosque de Paz. Frequently heard during the night.
Chiqui glass frog	<i>Teratohyla pulverata</i>	One at Bosque del Cabo.
Tink frog	<i>Diasporus diastema</i>	Heard frequently at La Quinta. Finally seen at Rancho Naturalista.
Milk frog	<i>Trachycephalus macrotis</i>	One at the pond at Bosque del Cabo.
Fitzinger's robber frog	<i>Craugastor fitzingeri</i>	One at La Quinta.
	<i>Craugastor</i> sp.?	Bosque del Cabo.
Spotted foam-nest frog	<i>Leptodactylus insularum</i>	Bosque del Cabo.
Savage's thin-toed frog	<i>Leptodactylus savagei</i>	A few at La Quinta and Bosque del Cabo.
Cukra mushroom-tongued salamander	<i>Bolitoglossus striatula</i>	One at La Quinta. One of the trip highlights.

Odonata recorded in Costa Rica between 4th and 21st April

<i>Mecistogaster ornata</i>	One photographed at Bosque del Cabo.
<i>Heteragrion erythrogastrium</i>	Frequently encountered when looked for at Bosque del Cabo.
<i>Philogenia championi</i>	One elusive individual at Bosque del Cabo on the small stream on the walk up from the rockpool beach.
<i>Hetaerina cruentata</i>	El Toucanet.
<i>Protoneura amatoria</i>	A few on the clearing pond at Bosque del Cabo.
<i>Anisagrion allopterum</i>	One in the garden at El Toucanet.
<i>Acanthagrion trilobatum</i>	Small numbers at the clearing pond at Bosque del Cabo.
<i>Argia adamsi</i>	Pacific slope at Bosque del Cabo.
<i>Argia chelata</i>	El Toucanet.
<i>Argia carolus</i>	Another great find at Bosque del Cabo was a male of this poorly-known and recently described species.
<i>Argia elongata</i>	El Toucanet.
<i>Remartinia luteipennis</i>	One hunting at Rancho Bajo (Rancho Naturalista).
<i>Brechmorhoga pertinax</i>	A patrolling male on the Pedregoso (El Toucanet).
<i>Cannaphila insularis</i>	Small numbers at Tirimbina and Bosque del Cabo.
<i>Dythemis sterilis</i>	Small numbers at Bosque del Cabo.
<i>Erythrodiplax fervida</i>	A few at Bosque del Cabo.
<i>Erythrodiplax umbrata</i>	A few at Bosque del Cabo.
<i>Perithemis domitia</i>	Small number on pools in the open and in the forest at Bosque del Cabo.
<i>Perithemis tenera</i>	Caño Negro.
<i>Libellula herculea</i>	A few at Bosque del Cabo.
<i>Micrathyria aequalis</i>	Caño Negro.
<i>Orthemis discolor</i>	A few at Bosque del Cabo.
<i>Pantala flavescens</i>	Incidental sightings, mostly in car parks, no photos.
<i>Paltothemis lineatipes</i>	A female at El Toucanet was a surprise.
<i>Tamea darwinii</i>	Caño Negro.