

BIRD TREKS

COSTA RICA

A Wonderful Variety of Birds & Habitats & Spectacular **ARENAL VOLCANO**

Saturday, 10 March through Thursday, 22 March 2012: 13 days and 12 nights

Several nights at most locations give this tour a wonderfully relaxed pace.

Or you may choose to stay at only two or three locations for a shorter tour of 7 to 10 days.

We'll visit The beautiful **Orquideas Inn**, an easy drive from the San Jose Airport and the perfect way to begin our tour. We'll search for the resident **Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl**.

Rancho Naturalista Lodge on the Caribbean slope, famous for its beauty, incredible diversity of birds and wildlife, and the hummingbird pools that you have to see to believe. We'll visit the **Rio Tuis Valley** for a change of habitats and birds. Rancho has one of the **best porches in the world** from which to bird.



Crimson-fronted Parakeets -- Kevin Easley

Savegre Mountain Lodge, in a beautiful setting along the Savegre River high on the Pacific slope, with **Resplendent Quetzals** sometimes seen *from our front door*.

Punta Leona Beach Resort, located within easy driving distance of **Carara Biological Reserve** in Pacific lowland forest, the easiest location in Costa Rica to see **Scarlet Macaws**. We take an afternoon **boat ride on the Rio Tarcoles**, into the mangrove creeks.

Arenal Volcano, the *most active volcano in Central America*, is likely to put on a very nice show. We have found the rare and elusive **Bare-necked Umbrellabird** twice on nearby trails. Our boat ride on the **Rio Frio** will be a day to remember.

Species that we may observe include . . .

Boat-billed Heron	Rufous-tailed Jacamar	White-throated Spadebill
Roseate Spoonbill	Blue-crowned Motmot	Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant
King Vulture	Turquoise-browed Motmot	Northern Bentbill
Gray-headed Kite	White-whiskered Puffbird	Keel-billed Toucan
Double-toothed Kite	Golden-olive Woodpecker	Bay Wren
Common Black-Hawk	Pale-billed Woodpecker	Rufous-naped Wren
Short-tailed Hawk	Long-billed Gnatwren	Nightingale Wren
White Hawk	Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush
Bat Falcon	N. Barred-Woodcreeper	Mangrove Vireo
Ruddy Quail-Dove	Barred Antshrike	Brown-capped Vireo
Scarlet Macaw	Russet Antshrike	Rufous-browed Peppershrike
White-crowned Parrot	Dusky Antbird	Green Shrike-Vireo
Red-lored Parrot	Chestnut-backed Antbird	Rufous-capped Warbler
Mottled Owl	Cinnamon Becard	Mangrove Warbler
Spectacled Owl	Rose-throated Becard	Olive-backed Euphonia
Pacific Screech-Owl	Orange-collared Manakin	Green Honeycreeper
White-necked Jacobin	Blue-crowned Manakin	Crimson-collared Tanager
Snowcap	White-ruffed Manakin	Bay-headed Tanager
Black-crested Coquette	Bright-rumped Attila	Red-crowned Ant-Tanager
Purple-crowned Fairy	Streaked Flycatcher	Scarlet-thighed Dacnis
Gartered (Violaceous) Trogon	Northern Royal Flycatcher	Blue-black Grosbeak
Collared Trogon	Black-capped Flycatcher	Yellow-faced Grassquit

Other animals that we are likely to encounter include . . .

Mantled Howler, White-faced Capuchin & Spider Monkeys
Three-toed Sloth & Central American Coati
Tree Iguana, Basilisk & Amaiva Lizards
Leaf Cutter & Army Ants

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COSTA RICA & *Rancho Naturalista Lodge*

10-22 March 2012



Northern Potoo
- - Bob Schutsky

Day Agenda

- 1 We will arrive at **San Jose International Airport** in the afternoon or evening, then spend our first night at a fine hotel 30 minutes away. We could easily find our first few exciting species on the spacious grounds of the hotel, including **Crimson-fronted Parakeet**, **Rufous-collared Sparrow**, **Blue-crowned Motmot**, and **Gray-necked Wood-Rail**. Overnight at the Orquideas Inn.
- 2 We will travel by van to **Rancho Naturalista Lodge**, which is situated at about 3000 feet on the Caribbean slope. Rancho has the reputation of being *one of the finest birding lodges in the entire country*. We'll explore a trail or two and find several life birds, perhaps a **Keel-billed Toucan**, **Black-headed Saltator**, or **Yellow-billed Cacique**. Our first **Snowcap** and **Violet-crowned Woodnymph** are likely at the hummingbird pools and feeders. Perhaps Turrialba Volcano will be acting up a bit, at a safe distance

from the lodge. After a nice dinner we'll settle down to the sounds of **Mottled Owl** and **Pauraque**, and our first of three nights at Rancho. And it's always fun to check the bug sheet for exciting insects!

3-4 We have two entire days to explore the trails, forests, gardens, and ponds at Rancho Naturalista. There is the possibility of many different walks and the option of birding from the Upper Porch. More than **130 different birds** have been seen from the Porch, including **Black-crested Coquette**, **Blue-crowned Motmot**, and **Chestnut-headed Oropendola**. The hummingbird pools were discovered 19 years ago and have become one of Rancho's biggest attractions. The pools regularly attract six or more different hummingbird species for their daily baths: **Snowcap**, **Violet-headed Hummingbird**, and **Violet Crowned Woodnymph** are a few of the regulars. It has also produced rarities such as **Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser** and the endemic **Coppery-headed Emerald**. Woodland walks are likely to yield great birds such as **Broad-billed Motmot**, **Brown-billed Scythebill**, **Ashy-throated Bush-Tanager**, **Black-and-yellow Tanager**, **White-crowned Manakin**, and **Black-headed Antthrush**. **Sunbittern** is fairly regular on a nearby river. Much of our birding will be with the help of a resident guide, an expert who birds the area daily. A few excursions after dark may yield **Short-tailed Nighthawk**, **Mottled or Spectacled Owl**, and a nocturnal mammal or two.



Blue-crowned Motmot
- - Kim Schutsky

5 We'll have some time this morning to bird from the Porch, check the pools, and look for a few more forest species. We then ride to Cartago and into some exciting highland habitat to look for one of *the most beautiful birds in the new world*, the **RESPLENDENT QUETZAL**. We'll arrive in the Talamanca Mountains along the Savegre River late in the day. Trogon Lodge will be our home for the next two nights. After a superb dinner we may go out to look for **Bare-shanked Screech-Owl** or **Dusky Nightjar**.

6 This is probably the easiest place in the country to see **Resplendent Quetzal**: we've found them feeding and nesting *less than 100 feet* from our cabins! We will have a wonderful time exploring the woodland trails and birding along the Rio Savegre. This area may yield **Sulphur-winged** and **Barred Parakeets**, **Collared Trogon**, **Ruddy Treerunner**, **Dark Pewee**, and **Golden-browed Chlorophonia**. We were once treated to a nesting **Streak-breasted Treehunter** and we often find a hummingbird nest. We'll search for **Ochraceous Pewee**, a very uncommon forest species. The feeders at the lodge abound with hummingbirds including **Green Violetear**, **Gray-tailed Mountain-gem**, and **Fiery-throated**, **Magnificent**, **Scintillant**, and **Volcano Hummingbirds**. Walks along the Rio Savegre may yield **Yellow-bellied Siskin**, **Sooty-capped Bush-Tanager**, **American Dipper**, **Torrent Tyrannulet**, and **Rufous-browed Peppershrike**. In the orchard we can usually find **Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher** and **Acorn Woodpecker**. We have seen **Ornate Hawk-Eagle** here by day and **Bare-shanked Screech-Owl** at night. A second night along the Rio Savegre.

[Day 7 begins on page 4]

7 After breakfast we'll begin the next leg of our adventure. We will leave the mountains and drive to Punta Leona, strategically situated along the coast in the Pacific Lowlands. Some of the birds that we may see on the grounds of the lodge include **White-whiskered Puffbird**, **Turquoise-browed Motmot**, **Bare-throated Tiger-Heron**, and **Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl**. Recently we were lucky enough to find **TWO** Tamanduas (anteaters) very close to our lodge. Late in the afternoon we'll go to the Tarcol River Bridge for the flight of **Scarlet Macaws** and **Red-lored** and **Yellow-naped Parrots**. The **Central American Crocodiles** are always a big favorite, as was the **Spotted Rail** we found there on one of our tours, the first record for the entire Carara region. Sometimes a **Yellow-billed Cotinga** puts on an excellent show. Our next three nights are all at **Punta Leona Beach Resort**, possibly drifting off to the intriguing sound of a **Northern Potoo.....ZZZZZ**.



Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl - - Kim Schutsky

8-9 Birding excursions will be planned for the entire day, with a nice siesta after lunch. The River Trail at Carara is famous for its incredible birding walks which may include a **Yellow-billed Cotinga**, the **White-whiskered Puffbird**, **Boat-billed Heron**, **Northern Royal Flycatcher**, **King Vulture**, a lek of **Orange-collared Manakins**, and a **Three-wattled Bellbird**. You should get great views of **FOUR** different species of trogons. The habitat at the Figure Eight Trail is good for **Crested Guan**, **Great Tinamou**, **Ruddy Quail-Dove**, and the rare **Spectacled Antpitta**. A whole new group of birds is likely on our Tarcol River/Mangrove boat ride, including the endemic **Mangrove Hummingbird**, **Mangrove Vireo**, **Turquoise-browed Motmot**, and perhaps **Double-striped Thick-knee**. A recent boat ride yielded an exceedingly unusual **Rufous-necked Wood-Rail!** After dark a few possibilities include either **Spectacled Owl**, **Striped Owl**, or **Pauraque**.

10-11 Our final destination is **Arenal Volcano**. Arenal is considered the most active volcano in Central America; we will see and hear it many times during our stay. We may also see **Olive (Carmioli's) Tanager**, **Broad-billed Motmot**, **Pale-billed Woodpecker**, **Tropical Parula**, and **Green Honeycreeper** as we walk the Waterfall Trail and watch the feeders near the dining room. We'll spend our days exploring these and other trails near Arenal.

You can expect flocks of **tanagers** mixed with migrant **warblers** and **vireos**. There are many forest birds including **Great Currawong**, **Crested Guan**, **Little Tinamou**, and a variety of **antbirds**. On two different occasions our tour group had the privilege of finding a male **Bare-necked Umbrellabird**; one was only 50 feet away for a prolonged scope view! We'll search for **Slaty-tailed Trogon**, **Muscovy Duck**, **Double-toothed Kite**, and **Bay Wren** near Lake Arenal. We will spend three nights at the Hotel San Bosco in Fortuna, with a beautiful and safe view of the volcano. **Barn Owl** is possible in the bell tower.



Volcan Arenal, what a sight!

12 This morning we will drive north toward the Nicaraguan border and spend the day aboard a comfortable, shaded boat exploring the Cano Negro Wildlife Preserve on the Rio Frio, where birdlife abounds. Expect wonderful looks at **Sungrebe**, **Boat-billed Heron**, **Bare-throated Tiger-Heron**, **American Pygmy Kingfisher**, and **Great Potoo**. Other more difficult possibilities include **Green Ibis**, **Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture**, and **Northern Potoo**. The photographic opportunities are excellent and the boat captain is very knowledgeable. This will be the grand finale to a wonderful tour. We will spend one more night at the Hotel San Bosco in Fortuna with a great dinner in one of the local restaurants.

13 This morning we'll drive to San Jose to arrive at the International Airport in time for our mid-day flights home, the end of nearly two weeks of incredible birding adventures in beautiful exciting **COSTA RICA**.

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PLEASE REMEMBER that if two weeks is too long for you to be away, we will adjust the length of your tour to your specific needs. Contact the **BIRD TREKS** office for details.

Click on this link for a map of the tour route:

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&msa=0&msid=117812928873209532533.000465df630de66d473ce&ll=10.260871,-84.418945&spn=0.951324,1.760559&z=10>

[Important details on page 6]

Leader The **Costa Rica Special** will be led by **Bob Schutsky** who has led more than **40 previous tours** to this beautiful, friendly country. Bob knows the birds and the habitats and how to be in the right place at the right time. He will do his best to give you a bird-filled, worry-free tour.

Price: \$4495 per person based upon double occupancy. Single accommodations are available at an extra charge of \$825. If single accommodations are unavailable at a particular location, as sometimes occurs, you will be refunded that portion of your extra charge.



at home and see many birds in **Costa Rica**.

Includes Expert guide service with Bob and the resident guides, transfers to and from the airport and transportation between lodges, entrance fees, **ALL meals** beginning with breakfast on 11 March, and lodging for 12 nights. **ALL tips** are also included in the tour fee, except for anything that you may wish to give to your driver, boat captains, and tour leader(s). Does not include the cost of alcoholic beverages, items of a personal nature, airport departure tax, or international airfare to and from San Jose. Upon request BIRD TREKS will help you obtain the best possible airfare. Also not included is the cost of dinner the night that you arrive (10 March).

Extra Services We offer the services of our Bird Treks travel agent, **Lori Heathcote**, in arranging your air travel. Lori has 26 years of experience in the travel industry and is a veteran birder. Contact her through Bailey Travel at **1-800-224-5399**, or you can e-mail her at **lori@baileytravel.com**. By dealing with Lori you have the security of a 24-hour toll-free telephone number in case of any travel emergency. She can also assist you with all pre- and post-tour travel plans.

Deposit A \$1000 deposit will assure your reservation on the tour. The balance is due 10 December 2011. Send your deposit SOON so that we can secure the least expensive airfare to San Jose and reserve your spot on this great tour.

Refund and Cancellation Policy With written notice more than 90 days prior to the first day of the tour, 100% of your deposit will be refunded, minus a \$100 service fee. With 30-90 days notice, you will receive a 50% refund of the full cost of the tour. No refund can be made with less than 30 days notice. You will receive a full refund if you provide a replacement for your spot on the tour. No partial refund can be given once the tour begins. We **STRONGLY RECOMMEND** that you purchase trip cancellation insurance to protect your investment. Contact **Allianz Global Assistance** (formerly Access America) and mention **BIRD TREKS ACCAM # F021096**. You can apply via the Internet at this website address, **www.allianztravelinsurance.com** or by phone at **1-800-284-8300**.

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