

Birds of Costa Rica - 1996

154 birds in a day

by George Wooten, Mary Poss, Shelly Ament and Alexander Villegas



This report describes birds observed by four travelers in Costa Rica on the following dates in 1996:

- November 25 - George and Mary fly down to Costa Rica and book a night at La Casita B and B.
- November 26 - Arrive in Tortuguero on the east coast.
- November 27 - Paddle a canoe up river from the COTERC biological station in Tortuguero.
- November 28 - Visit Tortuguero National Park with guide Castor ("Castro"). Have a Thanksgiving dinner and fake birthday party for Francis, the COTERC Station leader.
- November 29 - Climb Tortuguero Mountain.
- November 30 - Fly back San Jose and meet Shelly Ament. Drive to Monteverde and meet Alex.
- December 01 - Visit Santa Elena.
- December 02 - Visit the Monteverde cloud forest, and visit a local eco-farm with Alex guiding.
- December 03 - Drive from Monteverde to Carara via the Guacimal River road with Alex guiding.
- December 04 - Hike to Carara Park and identify shorebirds at dusk with Alex.
- December 05 - Return to Monteverde and drive north to Rincon de la Vieja.
- December 06 - Hike to the hot springs at Rincon de la Vieja.
- December 07 - Drive to Santa Rosa Park and stay the night.
- December 08 - Return to La Casita B & B in San Jose.
- December 09 - Fly home, and on the way, stop in El Salvador and stay a night at the Pacific Paradise Hotel on the beach.
- December 10 - Return to Seattle.

We observed between 223 and 227 birds on this trip. Of those, ten birds were only seen or heard by Alex, who was guiding the expedition. Our best day of birding was on December 4, during

which we observed a total of 154 species on only that day, just shy of Alex's record of 161 birds seen on a prior Christmas Bird Count.

The total list of 227 birds seen on this Costa Rica trip is listed below:

Table of birds observed in Costa Rica in 1996. The names of the birds given below follow Taylor. The sort order follows the plate numbers in Stiles and Skutch. The spellings in the names were standardized for consistency for entering into a database, e.g., all occurrences of "sulphur" or "sulfur" were spelled "sulphur", all examples of "banded-tailed" or "band-tailed" were spelled "band-tailed", etc.). The Brown-shouldered Parakeet is segregated from the Orange-chinned Parakeet here. *Notes on potential errors are listed after the table.

Key to the localities: T=Tortuguero; E=Santa Elena Reserve; M=Monteverde; G1=the road leading to Monteverde from the west; G2=Guacimal River area, and the road west from Monteverde to the Carara Coast; C=12/4, Carara Reserve, including waterfowl nearby on the coast in the evening; R=Rincon de la Vieja Park; S=Santa Rosa province. A trailing "?" in the Locality code signifies a suspected sighting; a trailing capital "A" in the Locality code signifies birds observed only by Alex; a trailing lowercase "a" following the Locality code signifies auditory observations made without seeing the bird.

No.	Plate No. (Stiles and Skutch)	Bird observed	Locality
1	03.08	Laughing Gull	C
2	03.11	Black Skimmer	C
3	04.01	Brown Pelican	C
4	04.03	Anhinga	TC
5	04.06	Wood Stork	C
6	04.07	Roseate Spoonbill	C
7	04.08	White Ibis	C
8	04.10	Green Ibis	T
9	05.02	Boat-billed Heron	Ca
10	05.03	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	C
11	05.04	Black-crowned Night-Heron	C
12	05.06	Great Blue Heron	G2C
13	05.08	Tricolored Heron	C
14	05.09	Little Blue Heron	TG2C
15	05.10	Snowy Egret	G2C
16	05.13	Cattle Egret	G2C
17	05.14	Great Egret	G2C
18	05.15	Fasciated Tiger-Heron	T
19	05.16	Bare-throated Tiger-Heron	C
20	05.17	Rufescent Tiger-Heron	C
21	06.01	Green-backed (Striated) Heron	C?

Birds of Costa Rica - 1996

22	06.02	Green-backed (Green) Heron	C?
23	06.18	Northern Jacana	TC
24	07.04	Least Grebe	C
25	08.07	Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	C
26	08.09	Fulvous Whistling-Duck	C
27	09.01	Black-bellied Plover	C
28	09.06	Willet	S
29	09.12	Black-necked Stilt	G2C
30	09.14	Whimbrel	CS
31	10.02	Wilson's Plover	T?
32	10.05	Semipalmated Plover	T?
33	11.02	Greater Yellowlegs	C
34	11.08	Spotted Sandpiper	G2C
35	11.11	Sanderling	T
36	11.12	Western Sandpiper	C
37	11.14	Least Sandpiper	C
38	12.03	Great Curassow	R
39	12.05	Black Guan	E
40	12.06	Great Tinamou	CAa
41	12.14	Crested Bobwhite	G2A
42	13.03	Turkey Vulture	TC
43	13.04	Black Vulture	TC
44	14.01	Short-tailed Hawk	G2A
45	14.12	Crested Caracara	G2C
46	15.08	Laughing Falcon	TC
47	15.09	Yellow-headed Caracara	C
48	15.13	American Kestrel	G1G2
49	16.01	Double-toothed Kite	C
50	16.12	Roadside Hawk	C?
51	16.14	Gray Hawk	G2C
52	17.14	Osprey	G2C
53	18.02	Red-billed Pigeon	G2AC
54	18.06	Blue Ground-Dove	C
55	18.07	Ruddy Ground-Dove	G2C
56	18.08	Common Ground-Dove	G2C
57	18.11	Inca Dove	G2C
58	18.12	White-winged Dove	G2C
59	18.13	Mourning Dove	C?
60	18.14	White-tipped Dove	G2C
61	18.15	Gray-fronted Dove	G1
62	18.16	Gray-chested Dove	C
63	19.01	Scarlet Macaw	G2C

Birds of Costa Rica - 1996

64	19.02	Great Green Macaw	T
65	19.03	Mealy Parrot	G2C
66	19.04	Red-lored Parrot	G1G2Ca
67	19.05	Yellow-naped Parrot	G2C
68	19.06	White-fronted Parrot	G2M
69	19.07	White-crowned Parrot	C
70	19.09	Brown-hooded Parrot	C
71	19.10	Crimson-fronted Parakeet	C
72	19.13	Orange-fronted Parakeet	G2S
73	19.14	Orange-chinned Parakeet	G2aCAa
74	19.14B	Brown-shouldered (Orange-chinned) Parakeet	G2
75	20.17	Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl	G2C
76	21.07	Squirrel Cuckoo	TMG2CR
77	21.09	Groove-billed Ani	MG2C
78	21.12	Lesser Nighthawk	C
79	21.18	Common Pauraque	G2
80	22.11	Band-rumped Swift	C
81	22.12	Barn Swallow	G2C
82	22.15	Gray-breasted Martin	C
83	22.18	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	G2AC
84	22.19	Southern Rough-winged Swallow	G2
85	22.20	Blue+-white Swallow	M
86	22.23	Mangrove Swallow	G2C
87	23.01	Little Hermit	C
88	23.02	Long-tailed Hermit	C
89	23.03	Green Hermit	EM
80	23.07	Green Violet-ear	M
91	23.09	Violet Sabrewing	M
92	23.10	Scaly-breasted Hummingbird	C
93	23.11	Green-fronted Lancebill	E
94	23.13	Green-breasted Mango	G2C
95	23.14	Purple-crowned Fairy	C
96	23.15	Green-crowned Brilliant	M
97	23.19	Plain-capped Starthroat	S
98	24.07	Purple-throated Mountain-gem	M
99	24.09	Blue-throated Goldentail	C
90	24.10	Rufous-tailed Hummingbird	MG2aC
101	24.15	Steely-vented Hummingbird	MC
102	24.18	Beryl-crowned Hummingbird	C
103	24.19	White-tailed Emerald	M
104	24.20	Coppery-headed Emerald	M
105	25.09	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	M

Birds of Costa Rica - 1996

106	26.02	Slaty-tailed Trogon	T
107	26.04	Orange-bellied Trogon	M
108	26.10	Black-headed Trogon	G1C
109	26.12	Rufous-tailed Jacamar	C
110	27.01	Ringed Kingfisher	TC
111	27.04	Amazon Kingfisher	TC
112	27.05	Green Kingfisher	G2C
113	27.06	American Pygmy Kingfisher	C
114	27.08	Blue-crowned Motmot	R
115	27.11	Turquoise-browed Motmot	G2C
116	27.13	Lineated Woodpecker	TC
117	27.14	Pale-billed Woodpecker	C
118	27.15	Collared Aracari	T
119	27.16	Fiery-billed Aracari	C
120	27.17	Emerald Toucanet	M
121	27.19	Chestnut-mandibled Toucan	C
122	28.11	Golden-olive Woodpecker	M
123	28.16	Hoffmann's Woodpecker	MCS
124	28.17	Red-crowned Woodpecker	C
125	28.18	Golden-naped Woodpecker	C
126	28.20	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	M
127	29.03	Plain Xenops	C
128	29.04	Ruddy Treerunner	M
129	29.05	Spotted Barbtail	M
130	29.06	Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	C
131	29.08	Streak-headed Woodcreeper	MG2C
132	29.14	Brown-billed Scythebill	E
133	29.17	Buff-throated Woodcreeper	C
134	30.08	Lineated Foliage-gleaner	M
135	30.12	Red-faced Spinetail	M
136	30.15	Black-faced Antthrush	CAa
137	31.03	Barred Antshrike	G2C
138	31.05	Slaty Antshrike	CAa
139	31.08	Dusky Antbird	C
140	31.10	Immaculate Antbird	E
141	31.11	Chestnut-backed Antbird	C
142	32.01	Dotted-winged Antwren	C
143	32.03	Slaty Antwren	T
144	32.04	Tawny-crowned Greenlet	C
145	32.09	Slaty Spinetail	CAa
146	32.15	Long-billed Gnatwren	C
147	33.04	Long-tailed Manakin	G2CA

Birds of Costa Rica - 1996

148	33.12	Rose-throated Becard	G2C
149	33.13	White-winged Becard	C
150	34.01	Masked Tityra	C
151	34.10	Rufous Piha	C
152	35.01	Tropical Kingbird	G2C
153	35.05	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	G2
154	35.12	Boat-billed Flycatcher	MCAa
155	35.13	Great Kiskadee	TG1G2
156	35.14	Social Flycatcher	M
157	35.17	Great Crested Flycatcher	G2CR
158	35.21	Dusky-capped Flycatcher	MC
159	35.23	Royal Flycatcher	C
160	36.07	Western Wood-Pewee	M
161	36.08	Eastern Wood-Pewee	C
162	36.09	Tropical Pewee	G2
163	36.14	Alder Flycatcher	C
164	36.20	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	CA
165	36.25	Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	C
166	37.06	Northern Bentbill	C
167	37.07	Common Tody-Flycatcher	G2C
168	37.11	Yellow Tyrannulet	CAa
169	37.16	Yellow-olive Flycatcher	G2C
170	37.20	Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet	C
171	37.26	Yellow-bellied Elaenia	C
172	38.02	Rufous-naped Wren	G1G2Ca
173	38.08	Rufous-breasted Wren	C
174	38.11	Black-bellied Wren	C
175	38.14	Gray-breasted Wood-Wren	M
176	38.17	Plain Wren	M
177	38.18	House (Southern) Wren	M
178	38.23	Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush	EM
179	39.04	Wood Thrush	C
180	39.06	Mountain Robin	M
181	39.08	Clay-colored Robin	C
182	39.17	Azure-hooded Jay	M
183	39.18	White-throated Magpie-Jay	G2CR
184	39.19	Brown Jay	G1MR
185	40.05	Yellow-green Vireo	M
186	40.06	Yellow-throated Vireo	MG2C
187	40.07	Lesser Greenlet	G2C
188	40.15	Philadelphia Vireo	G2
189	40.16	Rufous-capped Warbler	G2

Birds of Costa Rica - 1996

190	40.20	Three-striped Warbler	EM
191	40.22	Tennessee Warbler	MC
192	41.02	Tropical Gnatcatcher	C
193	41.05	Golden-winged Warbler	C
194	41.13	Black-+-white Warbler	MC
195	42.01	Prothonotary Warbler	C
196	42.02	Yellow Warbler	G2C
197	42.04	Wilson's Warbler	E?M
198	42.06	Collared Redstart	EM
199	42.07	Slate-throated Redstart	EM
200	42.13	Gray-crowned Yellowthroat	G2AaC
201	43.04	Chestnut-sided Warbler	G2C
202	43.09	Black-throated Green Warbler	M
203	43.12	Ovenbird	M
204	43.14	Northern Waterthrush	CA
205	44.07	Northern (Baltimore) Oriole	MG2C
206	44.08	Montezuma Oropendola	TG2
207	44.09	Chestnut-headed Oropendola	G2
208	44.16	Great-tailed Grackle	TG1C
209	45.01	Yellow-crowned Euphonia	C
210	45.04	Scrub Euphonia	C
211	45.05	Yellow-throated Euphonia	C
212	45.13	Common Bush-Tanager	EM
213	45.17	Gray-headed Tanager	C
214	45.19	Palm Tanager	C
215	46.12	Spangled-cheeked Tanager	M
216	46.15	Blue-gray Tanager	G2C
217	46.18	White-shouldered Tanager	C
218	47.04	Scarlet-rumped Tanager	T
219	47.05	Summer Tanager	MG2
220	48.02	Buff-throated Saltator	MC
221	48.17	Orange-billed Sparrow	C
222	48.19	White-eared Ground-Sparrow	M
223	49.02	White-collared Seedeater	G2C
224	49.03	Variable Seedeater	G2C
225	49.07	Blue-black Grassquit	C
226	50.07	Stripe-headed Sparrow	C
227	50.13	Rufous-collared Sparrow	E

*** Notes on the observations**

The following bird observations had typographical errors in my field notes, requiring further resolution; therefore the plate numbers may not be correct.

- a. Yellow-headed Tanager (Tortuguero) was not found in the references and was not recorded here. This may possibly refer to a Yellow-winged Tanager.
- b. Wilson's or Semipalmated Plover (Tortuguero). This single observation was recorded by entering both and marking each with a "?".
- c. Hummingbirds at Monteverde. My notes are incomplete. This was a short visit.
- d. Elena's Flycatcher or Elaenias Flycatcher? (Monteverde). This was not found in the references and was not recorded here.
- e. Hoffmann's Tanager (Guacimal River). This name was not found in the references and was not recorded here.
- f. Chestnut-sided Flycatcher (Guacimal River). This name was not found in the references and was not recorded here. (Chestnut-sided Warbler?), not marked.
- g. Orange-fronted Vireo (Guacimal River - heard by Alex). This name was not found in the references and was not recorded here..
- h. Black-footed Antbird (Carara no. 44). This name was not found in the references and was not recorded here. This may have been a Black-hooded Antshrike or a Bicolored Antbird.
- i. Black-hooded Antbird (Carara no. 68) This name was not found in the references and was not recorded here. This may have been a Black-hooded Antshrike or a Bicolored Antbird.
- j. Gray-crested Flycatcher (Carara no. 85). This name was not found in the references. This may have been a Gray-capped Flycatcher or a Great-crested Flycatcher. It was recorded as the latter.
- k. Honey-crowned Greenlet (Carara no. 123) This name was not found in the references. It was recorded as a Tawny-crowned Greenlet.
- l. Collared Seedeater (Carara no. 176) This name was not found in the references. This may be a Slate-colored Seedeater or a White-collared Seedeater. It was recorded as a White-collared Seedeater.
- m. Roadside Hawk (Carara no. 33). This entry was scribbled in my notes. It may refer to a Rough-legged hawk, but it was recorded here as a Roadside Hawk.
- n. Mourning Dove (Carara no. 194). This may have been a White-winged Dove, but it was recorded here as a Mourning Dove.
- o. Black Hawk (?) (Santa Rosa). This was recorded as Black (unreadable) and may be a Black Hawk but it was not counted here.
- p. Caracara (Santa Rosa). This entry did not record which species of Caracara was observed, so it was not recorded here.
- q. Green-backed Heron. This bird was entered twice in our list, with each entry followed by a "?" because the striated Heron is sometimes segregated from the Green-backed, but that wasn't noted.

Rarity

The rarity of the birds we observed in Costa Rica is summarized below, based on the information in Taylor.

Birds listed by Taylor as having only limited information are the following:

www.okanogan1.com/wildlife/birds-costa-rica-1996.pdf

Fasciated Tiger-Heron (Tortuguero)
Crested Bobwhite (Guacimal River).

The following birds observed on the hike to Carara Park and the nearby coast are marked in Taylor as rare for the Carara area.

Anhinga
Beryl-crowned Hummingbird
Fulvous Whistling-Duck
Least Sandpiper
Long-tailed Manakin
Rufescent Tiger-Heron
Tawny-crowned Greenlet
Turquoise-browed Motmot
Yellow Tyranulet

The following bird observed on the hike to Carara Park and the nearby coast is marked in Taylor as accidental for the Carara area.

Scrub Euphonia

The following birds observed on either the hike to Santa Elena Park or to the Monteverde Cloud Forest are marked in Taylor as rare (for Monteverde).

Brown-billed Scythebill
Green-fronted Lancebill
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

The following bird observed near Tortuguero is marked in Taylor as rare for that area.

Green Ibis

References

- Taylor, Keith, rev. 1993. *A Birder's Guide to Costa Rica; an Introduction to Birdfinding; a Self-Made Tour for the Independent Birder*, Keith Taylor Birdfinding Guides. 238 pp.
- Stiles, F. Gary and Alexander F. Skutch, 1992. *A Guide to the Birds of Costa Rica*, illustrated by Dana Gardner, Cornell Univ. Press. 511 pp.