

COSTA RICA March 21 – 28, 2025

Toucans & Tanagers Trip Report



Costa Rica Toucans & Tanagers 2025

TOUR SUMMARY:

Our third Costa Rica Toucans & Tanagers tour started at a lovely hotel near San Jose airport that featured nesting Ferruginous Pygmy Owls in the garden and great views of Spot-breasted Oriole among other more common birds. Under the expert direction of local guide Jose Pablo Castillo and star driver Ramon Vargas, and with help from Steve Bird, our itinerary included stays at Costa Rican, family-owned lodges supporting local communities and conservation initiatives.

Our day trip to Carara National Park had highlights of Marbled Wood Quail and dancing Orange-collared Manakins. A little more exploring on the Pacific coast yielded amazing views of the endangered Mangrove Hummingbird as well as Turquoise-browed Motmot and White-throated Magpie Jay. On the way to Arenal Observatory Lodge, we stopped in the cloud forest for a tanager festival that offered a colorful selection of brightly colored frugivores and hummingbirds. The Bogarin Trail in La Fortuna presented a ridiculously close Bare-throated Tiger Heron that ruled the pond and a pair of White-throated Crakes appeared out in the open for all to see. At Arenal, we explored the trails and gardens and went out at night to check the frog pond. A Black-and-white Owl in the parking lot and a Broad-billed Motmot along the entrance road were some of the favorites.

From Arenal, we dropped down to the Caribbean plains stopping at the new Nest Nature Center where a Striped Owl with a grown chick were a thrill to see, as were the dancing White-collared Manakins. Our last stop was at Laguna del Lagarto, a rustic family-owned lodge where we were mesmerized by the Keel-billed Toucans visiting the feeders right in front of us. One day there produced an incredible King Vulture show, Great Green Macaws cavorting and flying over us, a migration of Broad-winged Hawks, and spectacular, up-close views of Central American Pygmy Owl. In the end, this tour was much more than Toucans and Tanagers with fun experiences and lots of laughs shared by a fantastic group of people!



HIGHLIGHTS - Either for rarity value, excellent views or simply a group favorite.

- Central American Pygmy Owl – up close
- The King Vulture show
- Spot-breasted Oriole
- Marbled Wood Quail
- Orange-collared Manakin
- Mangrove Hummingbird – up close
- White-throated Crakes in the open
- Turquoise-browed Motmot spotted by Julie
- Frogging!
- Green-and-Black Poison Dart Frog
- Monkeys!
- Battling Scarlet Macaws and Collared Forest Falcon
- Great Green Macaw
- Moths
- All of the little extras
- White-collared Manakin dance
- Striped Owl with a chick
- Bright-rumped Atilla up close
- Visiting The Nest Nature Center
- Watching the Toucans up close
- Watching the Stripe-breasted Wrens making a nest
- Seeing raptor migration in real time (Broad-winged Hawks)
- The fabulous group – the laughs, the fun, the energy, and the appreciation of everything we saw
- The delicious food
- The stunningly colored Tanagers
- Steve’s jokes
- Jose’s brilliance
- Ramon’s driving and spotting the birds



Nesting Ferruginous Pygmy Owls in our hotel grounds was a nice start to the tour! Photo Steve Bird.



Later on in the trip, a Striped Owl with a large chick was a treat. Photo Gina Nichol.



One of the best views ever of the endangered Mangrove Hummingbird, a range restricted species endemic to the Pacific Coast of Costa Rica. Photo Gina Nichol.



A stop at a roadside ecopark yielded a colourful array of tanagers including Crimson-collared, Green Honeycreeper and Red-legged Honeycreeper at the feeders. Photos by Gina Nichol.



We were treated to point blank views of Emerald and Blue-and-gold Tanagers. Photos Gina Nichol.



A Black-and-white Owl on a day roost was a thrill at the Bogarin Trail while a Bare-throated Tiger Heron ruled the pond. Photos by Steve Bird.



To our delight, a White-throated Crake came right out in the open outside of Bogarin. Photo Steve Bird.



Special Hummingbirds at Arenal Observatory Lodge included this Black-crested Coquette (Photo Julie Blum), Violet-headed Hummingbird, White-necked Jacobin, Crowned Woodnymph, and others.



Broad-billed Motmot was a favorite at Arenal (Photo by Julie Blum) and we got our fill of Yellow-throated Toucans (Photo by Steve Bird).



Red-eyed Tree Frog was just one of the several amphibians we saw on our night walk at Arenal.
Photo by Steve Bird



Steve's moth trap provided a glimpse into other creatures not seen during the daytime. Photos Gina Nichol.



White-collared Manakins put on a great show at The Nest Nature Center. Photo by Steve Bird.



Spectacled Caiman and Amazon Sapphirewings were seen around the ponds at Laguna Lagarto.



The Keel-billed Toucans at Laguna del Lagarto posed repeatedly for us!



Raptor migration was starting in Costa Rica.
The best driver in Costa Rica - everybody loves Ramon!



The King Vulture show at Laguna del Lagarto was a highlight for sure! Photo Gina Nichol.



Birding from the deck at Laguna del Lagarto.



What a thrill to see a Central American Pygmy Owl up close like this. Photo by Gina Nichol.

Costa Rica Toucans & Tanagers

SPECIES LIST 2025 Follows Clements 2023 taxonomy

	BIRD SPECIES	Scientific Name	Notes
1	Great Tinamou	<i>Tinamus major</i>	
2	Gray-headed Chachalaca	<i>Ortalis cinereiceps</i>	
3	Crested Guan	<i>Penelope purpurascens</i>	
4	Great Curassow	<i>Crax rubra</i>	
5	Least Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i>	
6	Red-billed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas flavirostris</i>	
7	Short-billed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas nigrirostris</i>	Heard only
8	Inca Dove	<i>Columbina inca</i>	
9	Common Ground Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>	
10	Ruddy Ground Dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>	
11	White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>	
12	White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	
13	Groove-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>	
14	Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>	
15	White-collared Swift	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>	
16	Gray-rumped Swift	<i>Chaetura cinereiventris</i>	
17	White-necked Jacobin	<i>Florisuga mellivora</i>	
18	Green Hermit	<i>Phaethornis guy</i>	
19	Long-billed Hermit	<i>Phaethornis longirostris</i>	
20	Stripe-throated Hermit	<i>Phaethornis striigularis</i>	
21	Brown Violetear	<i>Colibri delphinae</i>	
22	Purple-crowned Fairy	<i>Heliothryx barroti</i>	

23	Green-breasted Mango	<i>Anthracothorax prevostii</i>	
24	Violet-headed Hummingbird	<i>Klais guimeti</i>	
25	Violet Sabrewing	<i>Campylopterus hemileucurus</i>	
26	Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer	<i>Chalybura urochrysia</i>	
27	Crowned Woodnymph	<i>Thalurania colombica</i>	
28	Coppery-headed Emerald	<i>Microchera cupreiceps</i>	<i>Endemic</i>
29	Scaly-breasted Hummingbird	<i>Phaeochroa cuvierii</i>	
30	Cinnamon Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia rutila</i>	
31	Rufous-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia tzacatl</i>	
32	Mangrove Hummingbird	<i>Chrysuronia boucardi</i>	<i>Endangered, Endemic</i>
33	Blue-throated Goldentail	<i>Chlorestes eliciae</i>	
34	Russet-naped Wood-Rail	<i>Aramides albiventris</i>	
35	Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinica</i>	
36	White-throated Crake	<i>Laterallus albigularis</i>	
37	Northern Jacana	<i>Jacana spinosa</i>	
38	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	
39	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	
40	Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	
41	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	
42	Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Nannopterum brasilianum</i>	
43	White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	
44	Green Ibis	<i>Mesembrinibis cayennensis</i>	
45	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	
46	Bare-throated Tiger-Heron	<i>Tigrisoma mexicanum</i>	
47	Fasciated Tiger-Heron	<i>Tigrisoma fasciatum</i>	
48	Boat-billed Heron	<i>Cochlearius cochlearius</i>	
49	Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	

50	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	
51	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	
52	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	
53	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	
54	King Vulture	<i>Sarcoramphus papa</i>	
55	Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	
56	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	
57	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	
58	Plumbeous Kite	<i>Ictinia plumbea</i>	
59	Roadside Hawk	<i>Rupornis magnirostris</i>	
60	White Hawk	<i>Pseudastur albicollis</i>	
61	Semiplumbeous Hawk	<i>Leucopternis semiplumbeus</i>	
62	Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	
63	Short-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo brachyurus</i>	
64	Zone-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo albonotatus</i>	
65	Spectacled Owl	<i>Pulsatrix perspicillata</i>	<i>Heard only</i>
66	Central American Pygmy-Owl	<i>Glaucidium griseiceps</i>	
67	Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>	
68	Black-and-white Owl	<i>Strix nigrolineata</i>	
69	Striped Owl	<i>Asio clamator</i>	
70	Slaty-tailed Trogon	<i>Trogon massena</i>	
71	Northern Black-throated Trogon	<i>Trogon tenellus</i>	
72	Lesson's Motmot	<i>Momotus lessonii</i>	
73	Rufous Motmot	<i>Baryphthengus martii</i>	
74	Broad-billed Motmot	<i>Electron platyrhynchum</i>	
75	Turquoise-browed Motmot	<i>Eumomota superciliosa</i>	
76	Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle torquata</i>	

77	Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>	
78	Rufous-tailed Jacamar	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>	
79	Red-headed Barbet	<i>Eubucco bourcierii</i>	
80	Northern Emerald-Toucanet	<i>Aulacorhynchus prasinus</i>	
81	Fiery-billed Aracari	<i>Pteroglossus frantzii</i>	
82	Yellow-throated Toucan	<i>Ramphastos ambiguus</i>	
83	Keel-billed Toucan	<i>Ramphastos sulfuratus</i>	
84	Black-cheeked Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes pucherani</i>	
85	Hoffmann's Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes hoffmannii</i>	
86	Pale-billed Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus guatemalensis</i>	
87	Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>	
88	Golden-olive Woodpecker	<i>Colaptes rubiginosus</i>	
89	Collared Forest-Falcon	<i>Micrastur semitorquatus</i>	
90	Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara plancus</i>	
91	Yellow-headed Caracara	<i>Daptrius chimachima</i>	
92	Bat Falcon	<i>Falco ruficularis</i>	
93	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	
94	Orange-chinned Parakeet	<i>Brotogeris jugularis</i>	
95	Brown-hooded Parrot	<i>Pyrilia haematotis</i>	
96	White-crowned Parrot	<i>Pionus senilis</i>	
97	Red-lored Parrot	<i>Amazona autumnalis</i>	
98	Great Green Macaw	<i>Ara ambiguus</i>	
99	Scarlet Macaw	<i>Ara macao</i>	
100	Crimson-fronted Parakeet	<i>Psittacara finschi</i>	<i>Heard only</i>
101	Black-hooded Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus bridgesi</i>	
102	Chestnut-backed Antbird	<i>Poliocrania exsul</i>	
103	Ocellated Antbird	<i>Phaenostictus mcleannani</i>	<i>Heard only</i>

104	Streak-chested Antpitta	<i>Hylopezus perspicillatus</i>	<i>Heard only</i>
105	Thicket Antpitta	<i>Myrmothera dives</i>	<i>Heard only</i>
106	Plain-brown Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocincla fuliginosa</i>	
107	Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Glyphorhynchus spirurus</i>	
108	Black-striped Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus</i>	
109	Streak-headed Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes souleyetii</i>	
110	White-collared Manakin	<i>Manacus candei</i>	
111	Orange-collared Manakin	<i>Manacus aurantiacus</i>	
112	Black-crowned Tityra	<i>Tityra inquisitor</i>	
113	Masked Tityra	<i>Tityra semifasciata</i>	
114	Cinnamon Becard	<i>Pachyramphus cinnamomeus</i>	
115	Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher	<i>Myiobius sulphureipygius</i>	
116	Northern Bentbill	<i>Oncostoma cinereigulare</i>	<i>Heard only</i>
117	Common Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>	
118	Yellow-olive Flatbill	<i>Tolmomyias sulphurescens</i>	
119	Torrent Tyrannulet	<i>Serpophaga cinerea</i>	
120	Mistletoe Tyrannulet	<i>Zimmerius parvus</i>	
121	Eastern Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	<i>Heard only</i>
122	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	
123	Bright-rumped Attila	<i>Attila spadiceus</i>	
124	Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>	
125	Boat-billed Flycatcher	<i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>	
126	Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>	
127	Gray-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes granadensis</i>	
128	Streaked Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>	
129	Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes luteiventris</i>	
130	Piratic Flycatcher	<i>Legatus leucophaeus</i>	

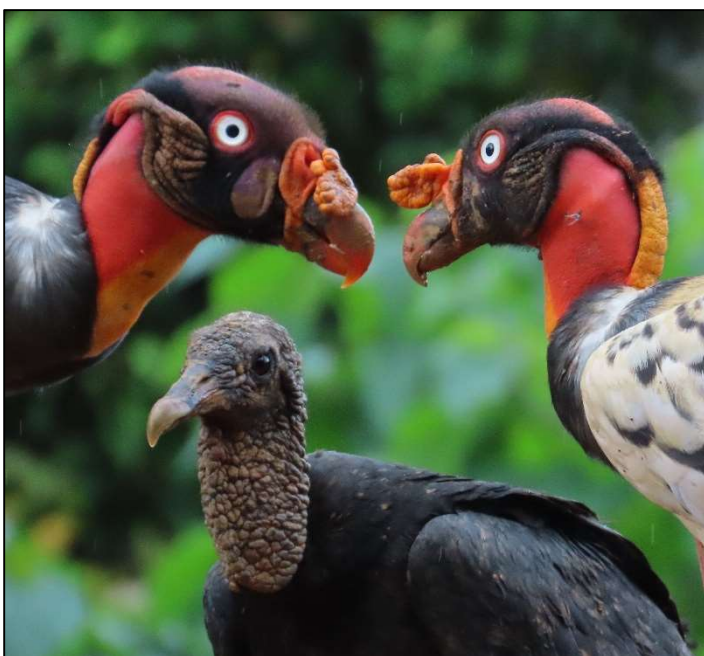
131	Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	
132	Lesser Greenlet	<i>Pachysylvia decurtata</i>	
133	Philadelphia Vireo	<i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>	
134	Yellow-green Vireo	<i>Vireo flavoviridis</i>	<i>Heard only</i>
135	White-throated Magpie-Jay	<i>Cyanocorax formosus</i>	
136	Mangrove Swallow	<i>Tachycineta albilinea</i>	
137	Gray-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>	
138	Southern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>	
139	Blue-and-white Swallow	<i>Pygochelidon cyanoleuca</i>	
140	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	
141	Long-billed Gnatwren	<i>Ramphocaenus melanurus</i>	
142	Southern House Wren	<i>Troglodytes musculus</i>	
143	Rufous-backed Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus capistratus</i>	
144	Black-bellied Wren	<i>Pheugopedius fasciatoventris</i>	
145	Rufous-and-white Wren	<i>Thryophilus rufalbus</i>	
146	Stripe-breasted Wren	<i>Cantorchilus thoracicus</i>	
147	Song Wren	<i>Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus</i>	
148	Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	
149	Tropical Mockingbird	<i>Mimus gilvus</i>	
150	Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush	<i>Catharus fuscater</i>	<i>Heard only</i>
151	Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	
152	Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	
153	Clay-colored Thrush	<i>Turdus grayi</i>	
154	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	
155	Scrub Euphonia	<i>Euphonia affinis</i>	
156	Yellow-throated Euphonia	<i>Euphonia hirundinacea</i>	
157	Olive-backed Euphonia	<i>Euphonia gouldi</i>	

158	Tawny-capped Euphonia	<i>Euphonia anneae</i>	
159	Common Chlorospingus	<i>Chlorospingus flavopectus</i>	
160	Chestnut-capped Brushfinch	<i>Arremon brunneinucha</i>	
161	Orange-billed Sparrow	<i>Arremon aurantirostris</i>	
162	Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	
163	Red-breasted Meadowlark	<i>Leistes militaris</i>	
164	Montezuma Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius montezuma</i>	
165	Spot-breasted Oriole	<i>Icterus pectoralis</i>	
166	Baltimore Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	
167	Melodious Blackbird	<i>Dives dives</i>	
168	Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	
169	Northern Waterthrush	<i>Parkesia noveboracensis</i>	
170	Golden-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	
171	Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	
172	Tennessee Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis peregrina</i>	
173	Tropical Parula	<i>Setophaga pitiayumi</i>	
174	Blackburnian Warbler	<i>Setophaga fusca</i>	
175	Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga petechia</i>	
	Mangrove Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga petechia bryanti</i>	
176	Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Setophaga pensylvanica</i>	
177	Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Setophaga virens</i>	
178	Canada Warbler	<i>Cardellina canadensis</i>	
179	Wilson's Warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>	
180	Blue-black Grosbeak	<i>Cyanoloxia cyanoides</i>	
181	Hepatic Tanager	<i>Piranga flava</i>	
182	Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>	
183	Scarlet Tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	

184	Crimson-collared Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus sanguinolentus</i>	
185	Scarlet-rumped Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus passerinii</i>	
186	Blue-and-gold Tanager	<i>Bangsia arcaei</i>	
187	Blue-gray Tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>	
188	Palm Tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>	
189	Speckled Tanager	<i>Ixothraupis guttata</i>	
190	Golden-hooded Tanager	<i>Stilpnia larvata</i>	
191	Plain-colored Tanager	<i>Tangara inornata</i>	
192	Bay-headed Tanager	<i>Tangara gyrola</i>	
193	Emerald Tanager	<i>Tangara florida</i>	
194	Silver-throated Tanager	<i>Tangara icterocephala</i>	
195	Scarlet-thighed Dacnis	<i>Dacnis venusta</i>	
196	Blue Dacnis	<i>Dacnis cayana</i>	
197	Red-legged Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i>	
198	Green Honeycreeper	<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>	
199	Black-and-yellow Tanager	<i>Chrysothlypis chrysomelas</i>	
200	Blue-black Grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>	
201	Variable Seedeater	<i>Sporophila corvina</i>	
202	Morelet's Seedeater	<i>Sporophila moreletti</i>	
203	Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>	
204	Buff-throated Saltator	<i>Saltator maximus</i>	
205	Black-headed Saltator	<i>Saltator atriceps</i>	
206	Cinnamon-bellied Saltator	<i>Saltator grandis</i>	<i>Heard only</i>
	MAMMAL SPECIES	Scientific Name	Notes
1	Central American Agouti	<i>Dasyprocta punctata</i>	
2	White-nosed Coatimundi	<i>Nasua narica</i>	
3	Variegated Squirrel	<i>Sciurus variegatoides</i>	

4	Red-tailed Mountain Squirrel	<i>Sciurus granatensis</i>	
5	Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth	<i>Bradypus variegatus</i>	
6	Hoffman's Two-toed Sloth	<i>Choloepus hoffmanni</i>	
7	Central American Spider Monkey	<i>Ateles geoffroyi</i>	
8	Mantled Howler Monkey	<i>Alouatta palliata</i>	
9	White-faced Capuchin	<i>Cebus imitator</i>	
	REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS	Scientific Name	Notes
1	Black River Turtle	<i>Rhinoclemmys funerea</i>	
2	Strawberry Poison-Dart Frog	<i>Oophaga pumilio</i>	"Blue Jeans"
3	Green & Black Poison-Dart Frog	<i>Dendrobates auratus</i>	
4	Brilliant Forest Frog	<i>Lithobates warszewitschii</i>	
5	Swamp Tree Frog	<i>Tlalocohyla sp</i>	
6	Hour Glass Tree Frog	<i>Dendropsophus ebraccatus</i>	
7	Red-eyed Tree Frog	<i>Agalychnis callidryas</i>	
8	Common Dink Frog	<i>Diasporus diastema</i>	
9	Central American Bull Frog	<i>Leptodactylus savagei</i>	
10	Afro-American House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus mabouia</i>	
11	Common/Emerald Basilisk	<i>Basiliscus basiliscus</i>	
12	Brown Basilisk	<i>Basiliscus vittatus</i>	
13	Black Spiny-tailed Iguana	<i>Ctenosaura similis</i>	
14	Green Iguana	<i>Iguana iguana</i>	
15	American Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus acutus</i>	
16	Spectacled Caiman	<i>Caiman</i>	
17	Stream Anole	<i>Anolis oxylophus</i>	
18	Highland Eyelash-pitviper	<i>Bothriechis schlegelii</i>	
19	Green Vine Snake	<i>Oxybelis fulgidus</i>	
20	Central American Whiptail	<i>Holcosus festivus</i>	

	INVERTEBRATES	Scientific Name	Notes
1	Lemon-tipped Helicopter Damselfly	<i>Mecistogaster ornata</i>	
2	Amazonian Sapphirewing	<i>Zenithoptera fasciata</i>	Dragonfly
3	Carmine Skimmer	<i>Orthemis discolor</i>	
4	Hercules Skimmer	<i>Libellula herculea</i>	
5	Andagoya Dragonlet	<i>Erythrodiplax andagoya</i>	
6	Common Wood Skimmer	<i>Uracis imbuta</i>	
7	Oculate Dancer	<i>Argia oculata</i>	
8	Many-banded Daggerwing	<i>Marpesia chiron</i>	
9	Pearly Gray Hairstreak	<i>Strephonota tephraeus</i>	
10	Cream-spotted Tigerwing	<i>Tithorea tarricina</i>	
11	Banded Tiger Wing	<i>Aeria eurimedia</i>	
12	Banded Peacock	<i>Anartia fatima</i>	
13	Copaxa Simson	<i>Copaxa Simson</i>	Moth on Jose's face
14	Harlequin Beetle	<i>Acrocinus longimanus</i>	
15	Golden Orb Spider	<i>Nephila clavipes</i>	
16	Leaf Cutter Ant, sp		



Beauty in the eye of the beholder!