# **COSTA RICA**

## 8th February to 23rd February 2014

Danish Ornithological Society Birdlife – Denmark



**DOF Travel** 

Trip report and photos by Ivan Olsen and Jesper Sonne



Orange-collared Manakin. Photo: Jesper Sonne



#### Introduction

DOF Travel arranged a trip to Costa Rica in the period  $8^{th} - 23^{rd}$  February 2014. Although there were two leaders from DOF Travel, only expenditures for one DOF Travel leader was incurred, and the second leader was covered by the leaders themselves.

The trip was arranged in cooperation with the local agency Tropical Feathers. Carlos Ureña was our local guide throughout the trip and during the first week, owner of Tropical Feathers, Noel Ureña, took part too. We thank the two competent guides who showed a special local knowledge, they knew exactly where the birds could be found and how, and had a special ability to listen to and find birds. In addition, their sympathetic nature and communication skills, plus their ability to work with the leaders of DOF Travel were a great gift. The daily transport was a 15 person's bus, driven by the driver Luis. Luis also had bird experience and in a few places helped to find and identify birds. The total numbers of observed bird species on this trip were 411.

We stayed at really good hotels. Breakfast, lunch and dinner, and usually coffee or local juices were included. On transportation days lunch packs were produced, or lunch stops were arranged at local restaurants. Drinking water was included in the price and could be taken from the icebox in the bus; nice especially on hot days.

Selected sites we visited were by DOF Travel manager's preliminary work and wants, as well as amendments and adjustments from Tropical Feathers.

The activity was high. There were daily morning walks before breakfast when the small birds were most active. After breakfast departure by bus to the various sites. Thus, there was a quite long lunch stop so we could resume bird watching to late afternoons. On transportation days we reached new hotels before dinner. After dinner there was a review of the daily bird watching and bird check list. On selected days, there were lectures of DOF Travel leaders about rainforest ecology.

In the lowlands the sun was fierce and the temperature above 30 degrees, but in the highlands a sweater could be needed in the morning.

Tour participants were Erik Bjerrehave, Poul Cappelørn, Ulla Cappelørn, Christian Martin Glahder, Carl Axel Henrichsen, Jimmy Lasse Hoen, Orla Hugger Jakobsen, Eigil Larsen, Arne Vinten Nielsen, Jette Reeh.

Finally, there must be sincere and heartfelt thanks to the entire group for the comradely and positive spirit. People wanted to find birds and were helpful in showing them to the other participants.

Thanks for a good trip

Jesper and Ivan



## **Tour participants Costa Rica 2014, DOF Travel**



From left: Eigil, Arne, Erik, Ulla, Ivan, Jesper, Jimmy, Poul, Jette, Carl Axel, Orla, Christian.

Tour leaders: Ivan Olsen and Jesper Sonne

Guides: Carlos and Noel Ureña (Tropical Feathers)

Local agent: Tropical Feathers



## Travel summary

8/2 Flights Copenhagen - New York - San Jose. Driving to Buena Vista Hotel Alajuela.

**9/2** Alajuela - Punta Morales. Bird watching Punta Morales. Bus to The Celeste Mountain Lodge is situated at half point, on the way to Tenorio Volcano National Park, 4 km east of Bijagua.

10/2 Celeste Mountain Lodge and surroundings.

**11/2** Celeste Mountain Lodge and surroundings, Bijagua. Tenorito River 3 mi south of Bijagua. Heliconias Trail and back to Celeste Mountain Lodge.

**12/2** Celeste Mountain Lodge and surroundings, Celeste-Las Canias and Sandillal Dam and then to Trapp Family Lodge Monteverde.

**13/2** Trapp Family Lodge Monteverde, Hummingbird garden and trail at the cheese factory Monteverde.

**14/2** Trapp Family Lodge Monteverde. Moteverde-Tilaran-Arenal Hanging Bridges - Hotel Tirimbina Biological Reserve Located in Chilamate, Sarapiqui.

**15/2** La Selva Biological Station. Hotel Tirimbina Biological Reserve.

**16/2** Hotel Tirimbina Biological Reserve. By bus towards San Jose to rocky slopes near Trinidad. Short stay at Mirador de Quetzales and from there to Savegre Mountain Lodge San Gerardo de Dota.

17/2 All day in the area around Savegre Mountain Lodge San Gerardo de Dota Valley. In the afternoon drive to the Paramo altitude up to 3400 meter.

**18/2** Savegre Hotel. Bus to San Isidro. Bird observations at San Isidro Universidad Nasional. Lunch in Tina Maste. In the afternoon arrival at Cerro Lodge Carara.

**19/2** Cerro Lodge Carara. By boat along Tarcoles River. After this River Trail, Carara N.P. Lunch at Cerro Lodge. Afternoon Universal Trail, Carara N.P.

20/2 Cerro Lodge-Zarcero-Bosque de Paz.

**21/2** Bosque de Paz. Catarata del Torro waterfalls. El Martino Boutique Hotel & Spa Located at 15 minutes to the Juan Santamaria International Airport

**22/2** El Martino Boutique Hotel & Spa. Bus to the airport and flights from San Jose – Chicago-Copenhagen

23/2 Arrival Kastrup 13.20 local time



### **Accommodations**



Nomenclature and taxonomy follow Frank Gill exception of a few of the recent taxonomic changes; Howard and Moore 2013 Non-passerines. Ex: Falcons Literature: Garrigues, R. & Dean, R. (2007) *Birds of Costa Rica* and Wainwright, M. (2007) *The Mammals of Costa Rica*.



## Diary

**Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>** Departure Kastrup 12:20 pm with SAS to New York with arrival 3:15 pm local time. A flight of 8 hours and 55 minutes. Departure New York with United Airlines 5:45 pm to San Jose 10:15 pm local time, flight 5 hours and 30 minutes. Outside the airport we were greeted by Carlos and Noel Ureña from Tropical Feathers; they would be our local guides on the trip. The bus driver Luis packed our luggage in our 15 seated bus and we were taken to Buena Vista Hotel, San Isidro de Alajuela, 10 km from the airport. Hotel Buena Vista was a nice hotel on the slopes of the Central Volcanic Range with stunning views of the Central Valley. When we arrived we checked into the rooms and Noel had – beyond reckoning – arranged some food for us, since we only had a little food on the plane.

**Feb. 9**<sup>th</sup> Some participants were up early and had come to the hotel's garden to see the first species on the trip. It was not long before the whole team was assembled. Species like a flock of White-crowned Parrot, Blue-crowned Motmot, Tennessee Warblers, Baltimore Oriole and Flame-colored Tanager was seen here. After breakfast, the bus was packed, we went from Celeste Mountain Lodge. The Celeste Mountain Lodge is situated to half points on the way to Tenorio Volcano National Park, 4 km east of Bijagua.

The first stop on the road was Salinas at Punta Morales. We arrived at 11:30 am to this open area; the sun was burning and the temperature was high. By the Salinas there were many shorebirds and herons. Other birds were notably seen Mangrove Warbler, Panama Flycatcher and Mangrove Vireo. The lunch was taken at a restaurant on the way to Celeste Mountain Lodge, as we arrived to 6:30 pm.



**Feb. 10**<sup>th</sup> The whole day was spent around Celeste Mountain Lodge. Before breakfast we went for a walk on the roads around the lodge. In the rear of the garden there was a Helikonia plant and here White-tipped Sicklebill was seen. This very curved-billed hummingbird is specially adapted for sucking nectar on these rigid and tough flowers. In addition, in the area after breakfast King Vulture, White Hawk, Barred Forest-Falcon, Snowcap, Long-billed Hermit, Green Hermit, Keel-billed Toucan, Collared Aracari, Broad-billed Motmot, White-collared Manakin, White-ruffed Manakin, Thrushlike Schiffornis, Barred Antshrike, Dull-mantled Antbird, Northern Barred Woodcreeper, Tropical Parula were seen. After lunch we visited an open grass area, some distance from the lodge. In the area, the following interesting birds were seen, such as Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Black-crowned Tityra, Lovely Cotinga, Long-tailed Tyrant, Grey-crowned and Olive-crowned Yellowthroat.



Feb. 11th At night there was a strong wind and pouring rain. The storm continued in the morning, but we took a short tour around the garden before breakfast and saw the local birds. After breakfast we decided to drive away from the storm, and we got lunch packs for today's trip. We drove by bus to the city Bijagua, less than 10 km from the lodge and here the weather was as predicted, dry and warm. We made a stop in the town and there was time to shop a little, and to photograph Keel-billed Toucan and Black-mandibled Toucan. After this stop we drove 5 km south of Bijagua to Tenorito River. In a grassy area we saw Canivet's Emerald and in the area around Brown-crested Flycatcher and White-throated Magpie-Jay. After that we drove to Las Heiconias Lodge near the stop at Tenorito River to visit the famous trail called Heliconias Trail and canope walk. Several places the trail is in treetop height and there are three long suspension bridges you have to









pass on the route. The trail takes about 1.5 hours to go through and is known to be the best place in Costa Rica to find Tody Motmot. Noel found a special place in the rain forest where we saw two Crested Owl, we also saw Black-hooded Antshrike, Spotted Antbird, Tawny-crowned Greenlet, Woodthrush and Yellow-throated Euphonia. At the second suspension bridge Tody Motmot was found by the bus driver Luis. When the team was called back from the other side of the suspension bridge, Jesper was the first to arrive, and unfortunately the only one who managed to see the bird. We drove back to Celeste Mountain Lodge where we arrived 18 o'clock. On the road to the lodge 10 Common Pauraques were seen, roosting on the road in front of the buslight.

Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> Before breakfast there was a walk around the hotel where the local birds were seen. After breakfast approx. 7:30 am we drove the bus for a while down the road to a wooded area with large trees. We called the forest area the Cotinga tree, because we had seen Lovely Cotinga a few days earlier right here. Of the many buckle birds we saw this morning were: Snowcap, Green Thorntail, Cinnamon Woodpecker, Smoky-brown Woodpecker, White-fronted Nunbird, Bare-necked Umbrellabird female, Lovely Cotinga, Black-striped Woodcreeper, Spotted Woodcreeper, Green Shrike-Vireo, Red-legged and Shining Honeycreepers, Scarlet-rumped Cacique. Especially Umbrellabird was a great joy to all of us, as it is one of the most difficult birds to see in Costa Rica. The trip went back to the hotel to pick up luggage and pack the bus as our next destination would be Monteverde. We drove south along route 6 to the city of Las Canias we arrived at. 12:30 and stopped at the levee Sandillal. We were met by a fantastic spectacle, since 40-60,000 Blue-winged Teals rested here. Suddenly there came unrest in the pack and all the brown ducks turned into a gaudy spectacle, as all the blue wings were visible on the flying ducks. In the flock was found a few Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, Lesser Scaups and one Northern Pintail. After visiting here we drove to the wet meadows at Canias where we saw Woodstorks, herons, Osprey and Snail Kite. We arrived at the Hotel Trapp Family Monteverde at 7:00 pm. The hotel is located only half mile from the Monteverde Reserve and 4 miles from Santa Elena Town.

**Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>** Before breakfast we had a walk around the Hotel Trapp Family where we saw Emerald Toucanet and heard Prong -billed Barbet. After breakfast we drove to the hummingbird garden at the entrance to the cloud forest. The following hummingbirds were seen: Magenta-throated Woodstar, Violet Sabrewing, Coppery-headed Emerald, Greencrowned Brilliant, Green Hermit, Green Violet-ear, Purple-throated Mountain-gem and Stripe-tailed Hummingbird. In the trees Prong-billed Barbet and Emerald Toucanet were seen. Three White-noased Coatis had learned to steal sugar water from feeders and stole the hummingbird's food. Then we went to the trail at the cheese factory down the mountain and we visited this trail between 10:30 am to 2:30 pm. Along the way Ornate Hawk-Eagle, female Resplendent Quetzal and Red Brocket Deer were seen. Between the hours 2:45 to 4:00 pm, we stayed in Santa Elena town, where we ate lunch. From 4 pm. and the rest of the day we resided at Hotel Trapp Family and enjoyed some relaxation hours before dinner. After dinner we went along the road and we saw and heard Mottled Owl very fine.







White-noased Coati. Photo: Ivan Olsen

Photo: Jesper Sonne

**Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>** After morning birding and breakfast the bus was packed and 8:15 we drove towards the La Selva area. We drove towards the city Tilarán and we arrived at 11:00 am and from there to the dam of the Arenal Hanging Bridges. During the trip 8 Swallow-tailed Kite, Zone-tailed Hawk and Keel-billed Toucan were seen. We made a stop at the dam 12:45 and from here there was a great view of Volcan Arenal. At the dam the following birds were seen: Anhinga, Osprey, and Ringed Kingfisher. Then we drove to Fortuna and stopped at Hotel Tilajari for lunch. Around the hotel was a great park, and the river Burio was running just below the restaurant. In the garden there were fruit-feeders with bananas which attracted some tanagers. Around the hotel feeders Scarlet Tanager, Passerine Tanager, Blue-gray Tanager and Red-legged Honeycreeper were seen. By the river Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, Great Blue Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, Green Kingfisher, Yellow-bellied Euphonia and American Crocodile and Green Iguana were seen. We had to stay overnight at Tirimbina Biological Reserve located in Chilamate, Sarapiqui. 17 km west of Puerto Viejo, which was some distance from La Selva Reserve. We reached our hotel at 18 o'clock.

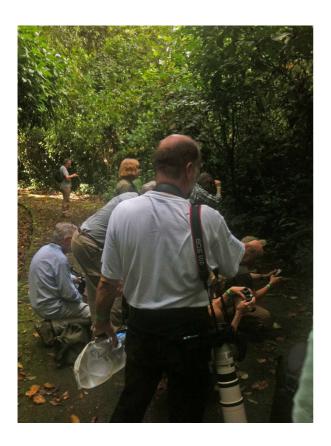




Volcán Arenal and Green Iguana. Photo: Ivan Olsen



**Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>** Before breakfast we went for a walk around in the large garden surrounding Hotel Tirimbina. A Great Green Macaw came flying across, and into the trees rested a Grey -headed Chachalaca. After breakfast we drove to La Selva Biological Station, which is one of tropical America's most important ecological research facilities. It is also one of Costa Rica's most renowned birding destinations, and it was an interesting site for birding. Lunch was eaten in the park itself. In the cafeteria, there was a buffet so that food could be brought to the terrace while watching the birds. We visited several trails in the park and we saw a lot of birds and animals: Great Tinamou, Slaty -breasted Tinamou, Great Curassow male and female, Vermiculated Screech-Owl, Long-billed Hermit, Mealy Parrot, Great Green Macaw, Collared Aracari Black-mandibled Toucan, Keel-billed Toucan, Rufoustailed Jacamar, Long-tailed Tyrant, Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant, Fasciated Antshrike, Dusky Antbird, Masked Tityra, Snowy Cotinga, Tree-wattled Bellbird, Purple-throated Fruit Crow, Two-, and Tree-toed Sloth, Collared Peccary and Mantled Howler Monkey. Late afternoon we drove back to the Hotel Tirimbina for dinner. From 7:30 to 9:00 pm, there was a Night Walk. By the river there was a suspension bridge leading to trails in the rainforest. We saw a variety of amphibians, Eyelash Pit Viper and we had to beware of Bullet Ant which was very active after dark. Of mammals were seen Kinkajou and Mexican Hairy Porcupine who crawled around on the suspension bridge wire.







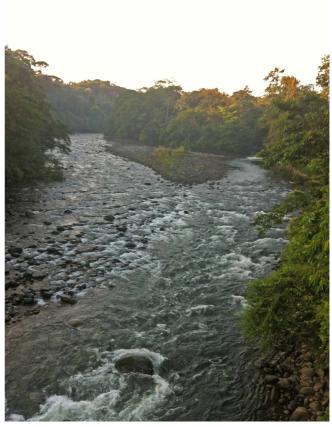


Mexican Hairy Porcupine, Photo: Jesper Sonne

Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> The morning birding was around Hotel Tirimbina. In the trees was seen a flock of Grey-headed Chacalacas and a Great Curassow male. Then we walked down to the river and stood for a long time observing on the suspension bridge. From here we saw Ringed Kingfisher, Amazon Kingfisher, Green Kingfisher, Black Phoebe and the River Otter. After breakfast, the bus was packed and we now set off for Savegre Mountain Lodge, location 55.3 miles south of San Jose, San Gerardo de Dota Valley. We drove towards the mountains and crossed the San Jose 11 am. In San Jose we said goodbye to Noel. He had tasks, so on the last part of the trip Carlos was alone as guide. We tried to find a good location for the Quetzal. Noel and Carlos had been told where there were trees that bore fruit of the avocado. If we wanted to be sure to see Quetzal there had to be fruit on the trees. We drove to some steep hillsides near Trinidad. We arrived to the site at 2:30 pm and we went on a tiring trip down the slope. The pace was low because there were many stones descending. Finally we reached the plateau where the trees were and here we found Quetzal male and female. The birds sat at low altitude and could be photographed for as long as we wanted. The good experience gave strength to the hard walk up the slope and back to the bus. 15 minutes further on, we stopped and stayed at the lodge Mirador de Quetzales. Here we drank coffee and photographed the many hummingbirds at the feeders. The most interesting birds were many Fiery-throated Hummingbirds, Green Violetear, Magnificent Hummingbird, Volcano Hummingbird, Black-capped Flycatcher. Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher, Mountain Thrush, Large-footed Finch, Flame-colored Tanager. After here we sat course for Savegre Mountain Lodge at 5:30 pm. When we arrived, we stopped in the darkness some distance from the lodge, where we heard Costa Rican Pigmy-Owl and Dusky Nightjar. We arrived at Savegre Mountain Lodge at 6:40 pm.







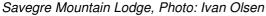
**Feb. 17**<sup>th</sup> Before breakfast we went for a walk around the lodge. In the area there were small trails into the forest and below the lodge ran a small river. After breakfast we went out to a large terrace where we could bring some coffee and breakfast while observing birds. There was a great view over the valley and the birds were seen well from here. From the morning sight following birds include: Black Guan, Swallow-tailed Kite, Red-tailed Hawk, Sulphur-winged Parakeet, Stripe-tailed Hummingbird, White-throated Mountaingem, Scintillant Hummingbird, Volcano Hummingbird, Resplendent Quetzal female, Acorn Woodpecker, Torrent Tyrannolet, Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher, Slaty Flower piercer, Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch Flame-colored Tanager. The lodge was in 2200 meters' altitude. We were now in Land Rover driving up the steep mountain road to 2450 meters

above sea level, and from there we decided to walk back to the lodge. On the way down were seen Quetzal male and female at nest entrance hole, Collared Trogon, 4 Acorn Woodpeckers, Ruddy Treerunner, Flame-throated Warbler, Black-faced Solitaire, Rufous-browed Peppershrike. In the afternoon 2:30 pm, we drove by bus to Paramoen above the tree line at 3400 meters' altitude. The temperature was around 9-10 degrees and Carlos froze. We saw Timberline Wren and Volcano Junco here, which are species we only could get to see by visiting this height and special nature. On the way back to the lodge we stayed in a little coffee place. In the backyard birds were fed and here we saw Acorn Woodpecker and Yellow-thighed Finch.











The Paramo, Photo Ivan Olsen

**Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>** Between 6 and 8 am we had breakfast and went out on the terrace at the restaurant and observed birds. Then the bus was packed and we drove to the Carara N.P., which would be our next destination. We drove south to the town of San Isidro, where we observed birds at the University. Around the parking lot were part tall trees and a wooded area behind the parking lot. Here we found a lot of interesting birds and the following should be noted: Snowy-bellied Hummingbird, Olivaceous Piculet, Streaked Flycatcher, Piratic Flycatcher, Turquoise Cotinga and Cherrie's Tanager at nest. Outside the resort, we stayed in several places and so Peal Kite, Smooth-billed Ani, Red-crowned Woodpecker, Fork-tailed Flycatcher and Red-breasted Blackbird. We ate lunch at the town Tina Mastre where we sat at a cafeteria with a nice view of a large open area. In the skies were seen King Vulture, Short-tailed Hawk and Crested Caracara. The final road to the Carara and Cerro Lodge were seen Least Grebe, 450 Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, White-tailed Kite, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Jacana, Southern Lapwing, Green Kingfisher, Amazon Kingfisher, Ringed Kingfisher and Mealy Parrot. We arrived at Cerro Lodge Located in Tarcoles, Central Pacific, just 10 minutes from Carara National Park at 7 pm.

**Feb. 19**<sup>th</sup> Cerro Lodge was built with a lot of small isolated houses where the rooms were, as well as a round restaurant. In addition to being able to eat there we also could look at birds. From here we could enjoy the birds frequently visiting fruit feeders, and there was a nice view over a large forested area where all the time birds were seen in the sky. Between the lodge houses were footpaths with planting trees that attracted some interesting birds. We were staying here until 8 am and we saw birds like: Cinnamon



Hummingbird, White-fronted Parrot, Red-lored Parrot, Turquoise Motmot, Lineated Woodpecker and long distance Yellow-billed Cotinga. Between 8-10 am we were going on a boat trip along the Tarcoles River. We rode the bus down to the boat bridge by the river and jumped into the long boat. On this exciting tour 60 Magnificent Frigatebirds, 200 Brown Pelicans, Anhinga, Neotropical Cormorant, Rosy Spoonbill, White Ibis, herons, Mangrove Black Hawk, Royal Tern, shorebirds, 4 Scarlet Macaw flying over the river, Mangrove Hummingbird, kingfishers, Kaiman and American Crocodile were seen. After the boat trip we drove to Carara N. P. and went for a walk along River Trail. On this trail Pauraque, Black-hooded Antshrike, Dusky Antbird, Dot-winged Antwren, Royal Flycatcher, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, 5 Orange-collared Manakins, Black-bellied Wren and Rufousbrested Wren were seen. After visiting here we drove to Cerro Lodge for lunch. We were staying at the lodge area between 1 and 2:30 pm. After the lunch break we drove back to Carara NP. This time we visited Universal Trail. It was guite an exciting trail with magnificent ancient rainforest trees, but there were several tourist groups and the place seemed a bit crowded. We saw the following interesting birds: Great Tinamou, scarlet macaws, 2 White-whiskered Puffbirds, Black-hooded Antshrike, Chestnut-backed Antbird, Golden-crowned Spade Bill, Northern Bent Bill, Red-capped Manakin male and female bathing in a stream, Riverside Wren. We were back at the lodge 5:30 pm. Late afternoon at least 20 Lesser Nighthawks flew around and above the lodge area.



Tarcoles River, Photo: Ivan Olsen



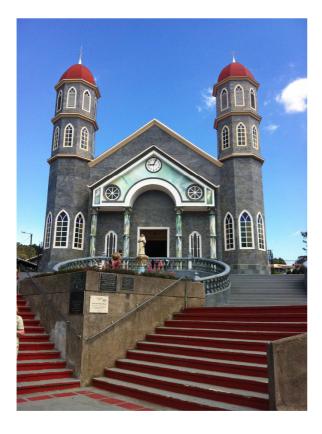
American Crocodile. Photo: Ivan Olsen



Black Spiny-tailed Iguana, Photo: Jesper Sonne



Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> After breakfast we walked along the dirt road outside the lodge. We went in a southerly direction, and from the road open meadows were in sight; we passed wet land areas. Along the road there were higher and lower trees that gave good opportunity to see many interesting birds such as: White-crowned Parrot, Mealy Parrot, Orange-fronted Parakeet, Common Pauraque, Green-breasted Mango, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Streaked Flycatcher, Black-crowned Tityra, Rose-throated Becard and Eastern Meadowlark. After this trip the bus was packed then we should go to the next destination Bosque de Paz Rain / Cloud Forest Lodge & Biological Reserve located in Bajos de Toro, Alajuela, west of the Poas Volcano. We drove from Cerro Lodge 10 am. and drove to San Ramon. Shortly before San Ramon city we stopped at a large cafeteria for lunch. From San Ramon, we drove to the city Zarcero. In the town center we visited the church from the year 1895 and the park sitting in front of the church to the town center. Shrubs in the park have been trimmed into the shapes of various animals, including some which are quite abstract and bizarre. Above the churchroof 8 Vaux's Swifts were seen. From here we headed directly to the Bosque de Paz. At first we drove through cultivated fields and open meadows with cattle. The last part of the road went down steeply through woodland, before we arrived at the lodge at 3 pm. Bosque de Paz is a cosy place with a lovely garden and a stream running through, there are many feeders for hummingbirds and there were some good rainforest trails which we visited later in the afternoon. The following birds should be emphasized here: Black Guan, Green Hermit, Violet Sabrewing, Magentathroated Woodstar, Purple-throated Mountain-gem, Stripe-tailed Hummingbird, Scintillant Hummingbird, Red-faced Spinetail, Spotted Barbtail, Black Phoebe, Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch. In the evening, after dark, the special rodents "Agouti and Paca" could be seen in the garden.







**Feb. 21**<sup>st</sup> From morning until noon we resided around the lodge. The time was mostly used for relaxation and photography of hummingbirds at the feeders as well as shorter trips into the paths of the forest. The most interesting new birds were Black-bellied Hummingbird, but also 2 Great Black Hawk, Prong-billed Barbet, Spot-crowned Woodcreeper, Spotted Barbtail, Silvery-fronted Tapaculo, Black-throated Green Warbler, Flame-throated Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Scarlet thighed Dacnis, Golden-browed Chlorophonia. Lunch was taken here and the bus departed at 1:05 pm for our last hotel near the Juan Santamaria Airport. On the way we stopped at Catarata del Toro waterfall. At the entrance there was a cafe with some feeders for hummingbirds. From here one could go out on a large terrace and garden overlooking the waterfall. On the way to the hotel several feeders were visited. We arrived at El Martino Boutique Hotel & Spa located 15 minutes from the airport. The evening was closing dinner, wine, coffee and socializing.





Bosque de Paz, Photo: Ivan Olsen

Catarata del Toro waterfall, Photo: Ivan Olsen

**Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>** Departure from the hotel 11:30 am. There were Arrive Maria / San Jose at 12:00 Departure 2:01 pm with United Airlines. Arrival O'Hare Chicago 7:23 pm local time. Flytime 5:22. Departure O'Hare 10:05 pm with SAS to Copenhagen. Flytime 8:15.

Feb. 23<sup>th</sup> Arrival Copenhagen Airport at 1:20 pm.