

Point and Shoot Nature Photography in Costa Rica, December 2018



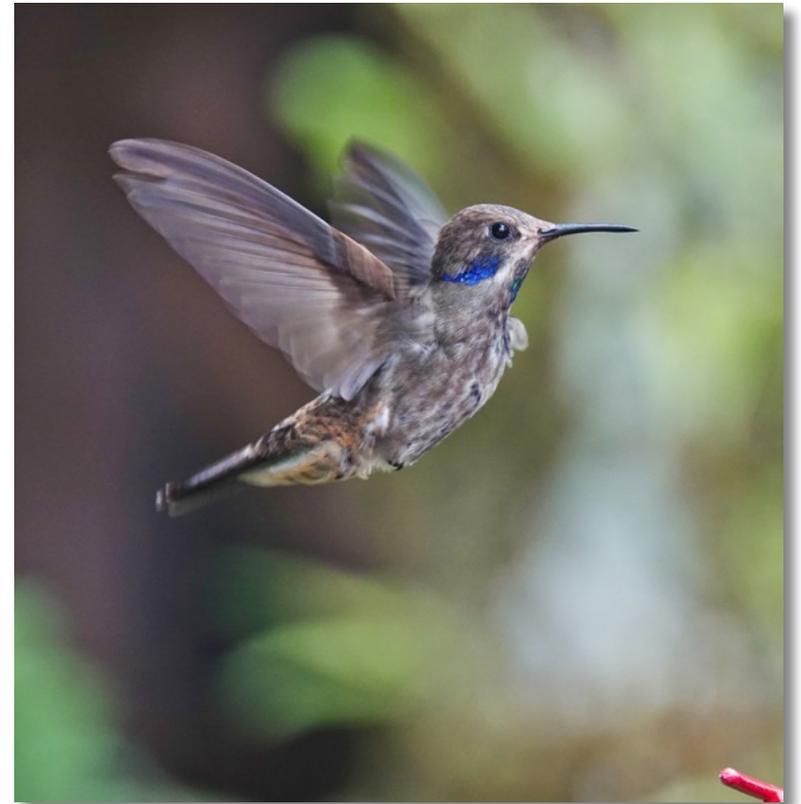


Among our first birds in Costa Rica: Lesson's Motmot, and Rufous-naped Wren. On the grounds of the Bueno Vista Hotel in hills above San Jose

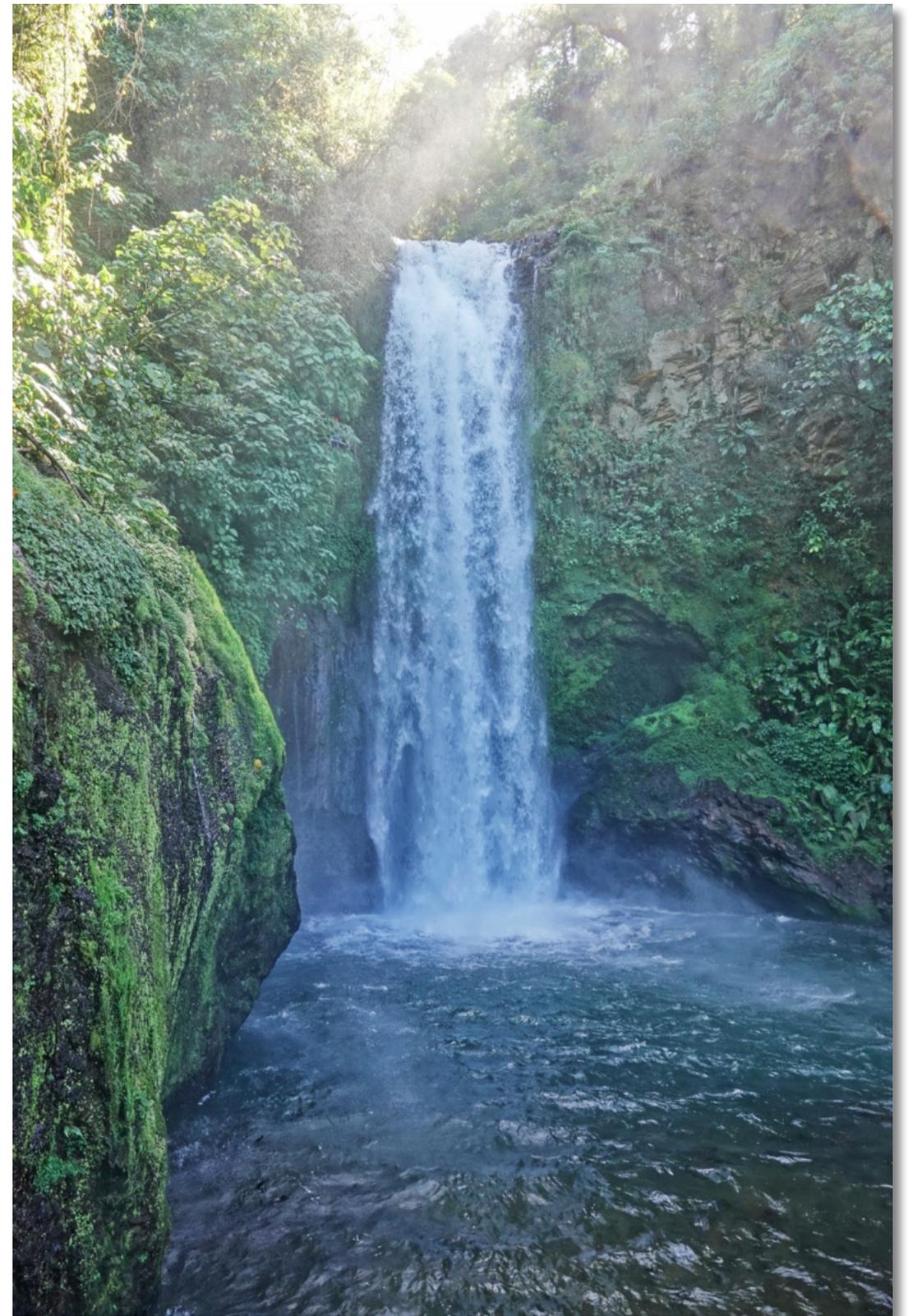
{All photographs taken with the Sony RX10iv and processed in Polarr on an iPad Pro.}



La Paz Waterfall Gardens always provides a variety of hummingbirds and wonderful views of the falls. Green-throated, Green-crowned Brilliant, male and female, and another male on the second row. White-tailed Emerald.



Violet Sabrewing, one of the largest hummingbirds in Costa Rica, and the Brown Violet-ear.



Two of the waterfalls on the La Paz River at the Waterfall Gardens.

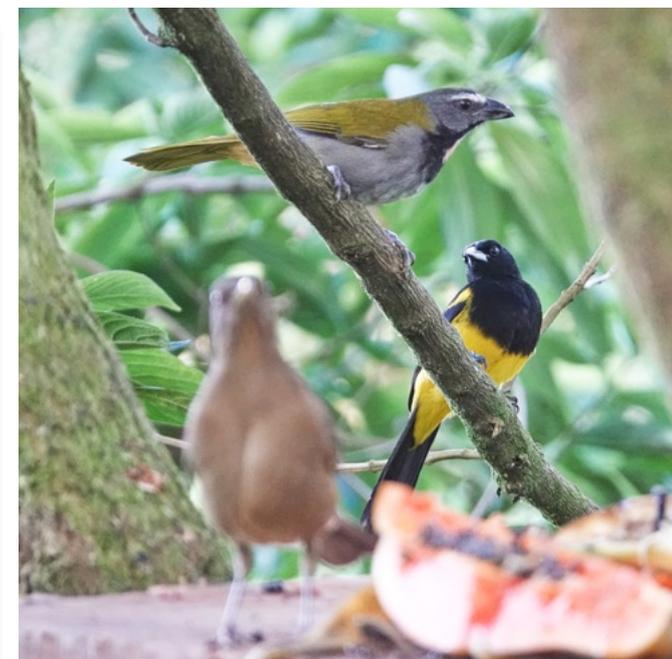


Bananaquit and Slate-throated Redstart. Bat Falcon from the highway.





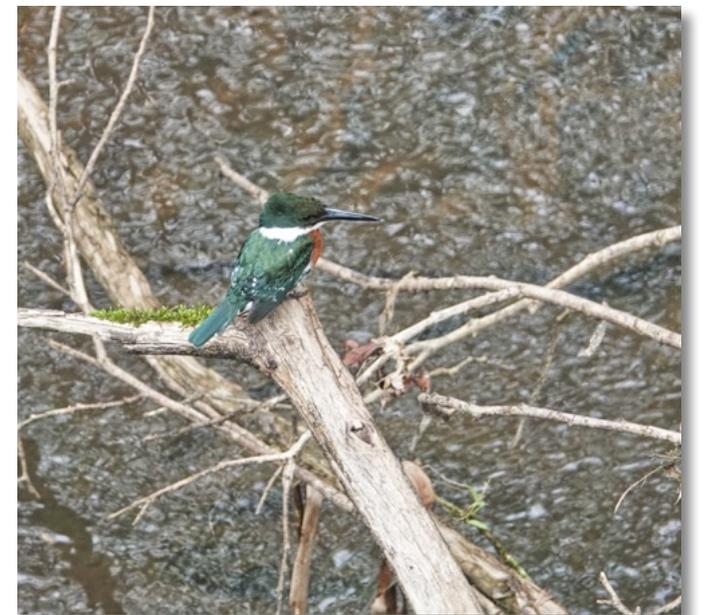
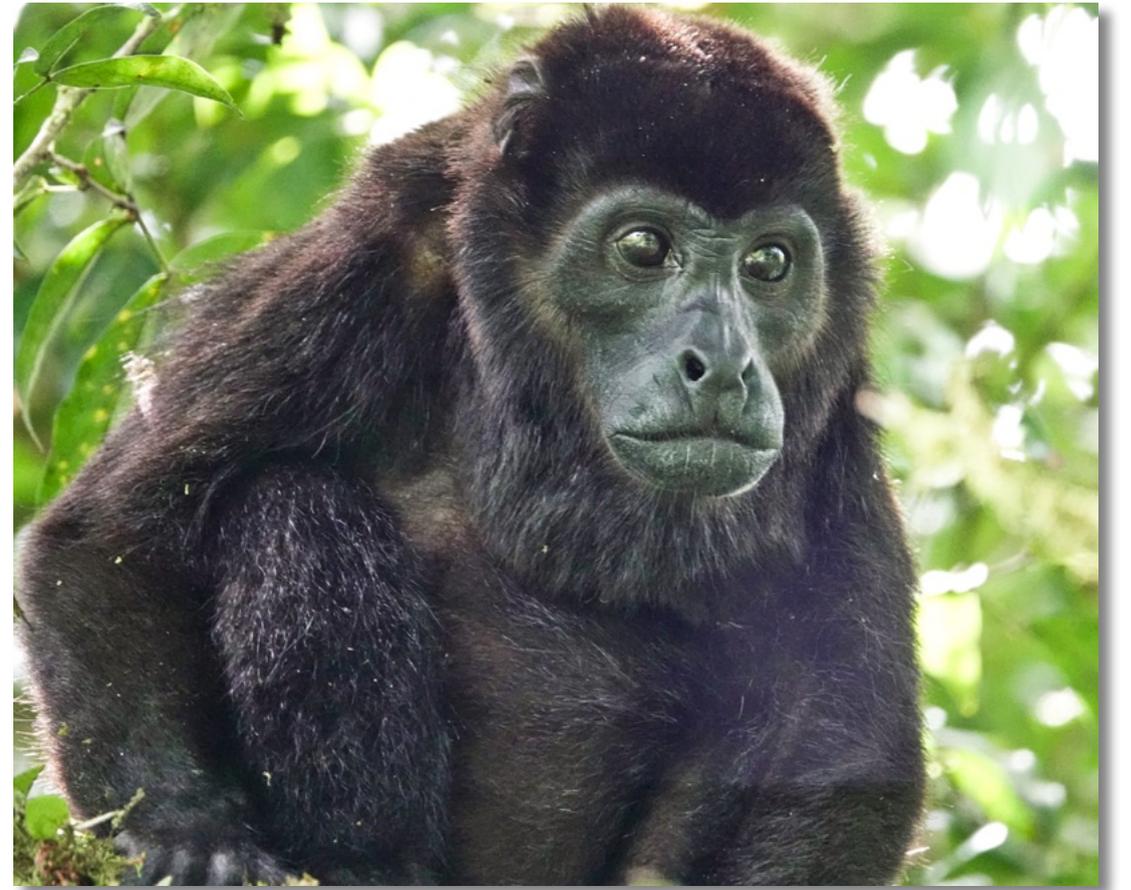
From the back deck of a little Soda along the road below the Waterfall Gardens, on the brink of the Sarapiquí River Canyon, we saw the Green Hermit, the Prong-billed Barbet, Buff-throated Saltator, Black-cowled Oriole, and San Fernando Waterfall, one of the tallest in Costa Rica.





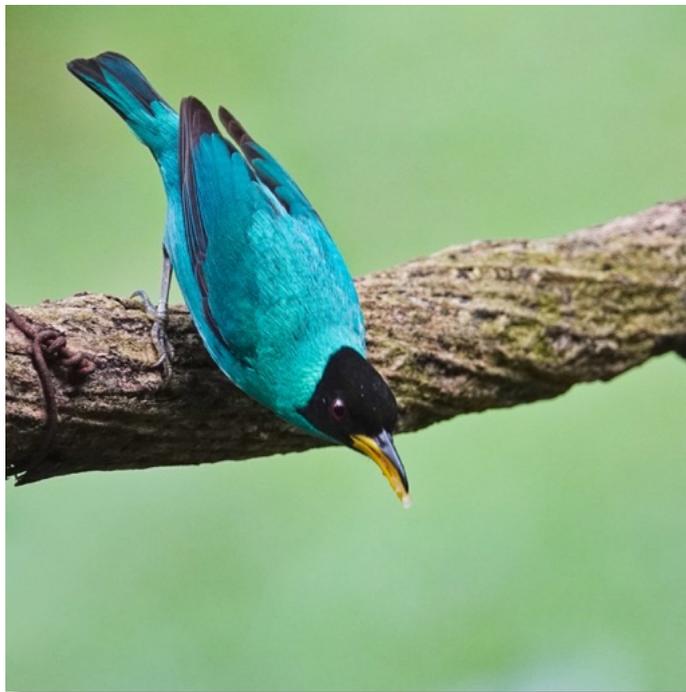
Early the next morning found us along the famous entrance road at La Selva Biological Research Station and later along the trails in the second growth rainforest. Pale-billed Woodpecker, Female Slaty-tailed Trogon and Rufous-tailed Jacamar. On the following page we have the Crested-guan, a Blue Dacnis, and a Howler Monkey, a Green Iguana, and a Green Kingfisher from the bridge.







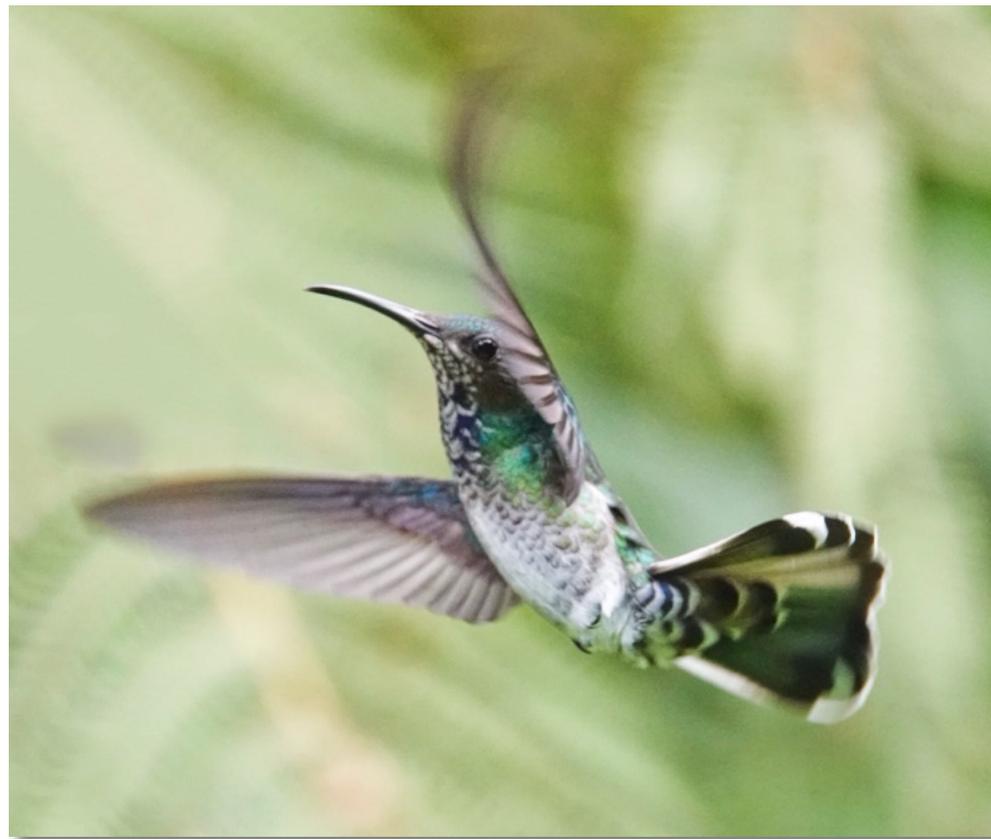
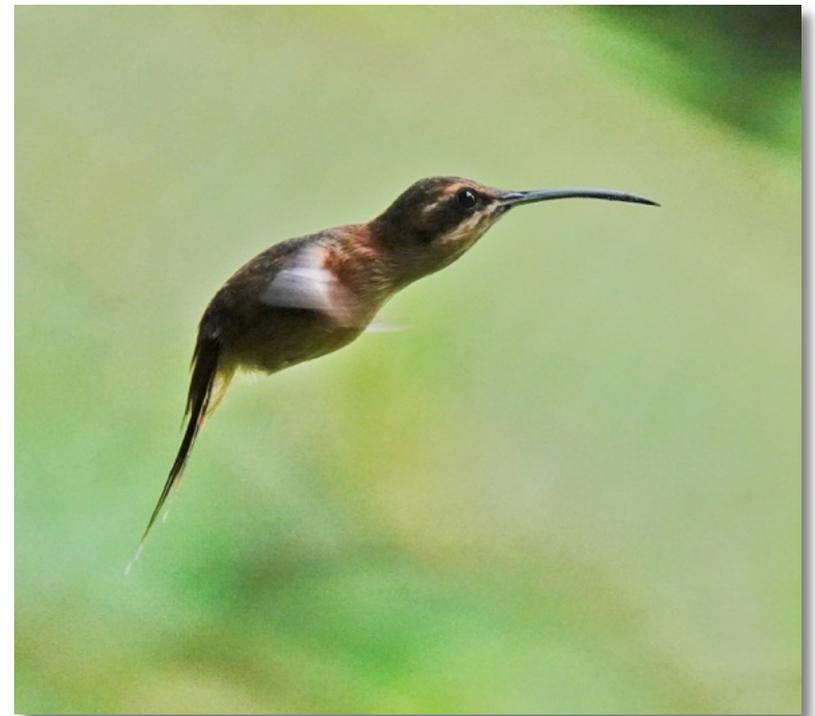
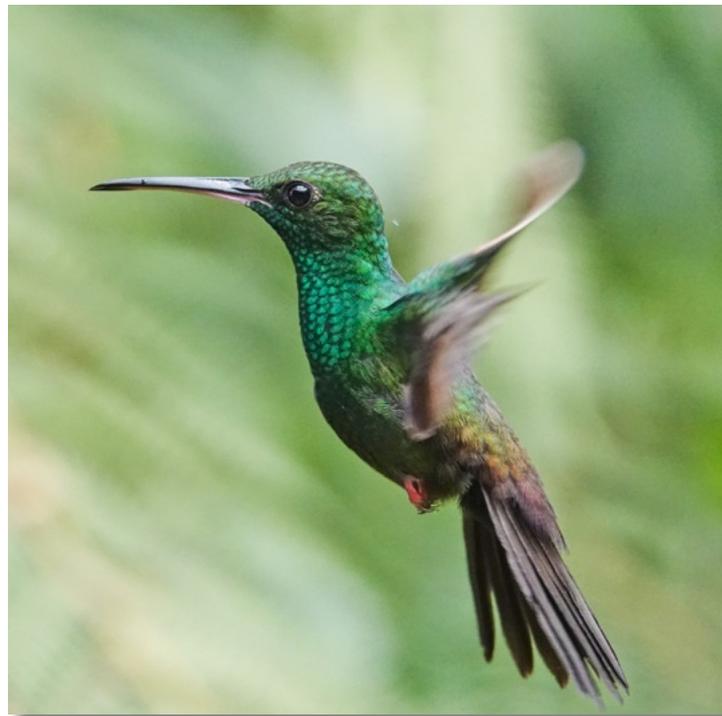
We spent a morning at Dave and Dave's Costa Rican Nature Park on a bluff above the Sarapiquí River. Their array of natural feeders attracts a wide variety of both canopy and understory birds. Chestnut-headed and Montezuma's Oropendolas, male and female Green Honeycreepers, Golden-hooded Tanager.





Palm Tanager, Blue-grey Tanager, Melodious Blackbird, Baltimore Oriole, Olive-backed Euphonia





Dave and Dave's hummingbird feeding garden also attracts a variety of species. White-necked Jacobin, Bronzetailed Plumeleteer, Striped-throated Hermit, Crowned Woodnymph, and a female Green-crowned Brilliant.

The Poison Dart frog is from down by the river.

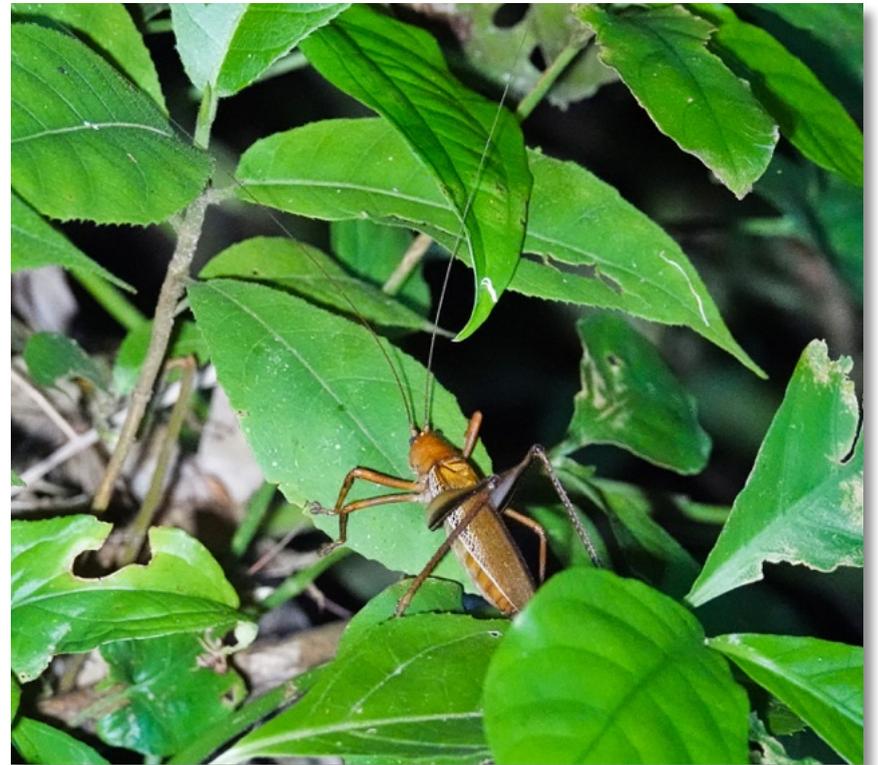




The feeders at Selve Verde attracted all sorts. Yellow-throated Toucan, Collared Aracari, Great Tinamou, Howler Monkey.



Our official night walk at Selve Verde Lodge turned up Red-eyed Leaf Frog a Basilisk Lizard, and two interesting insects.



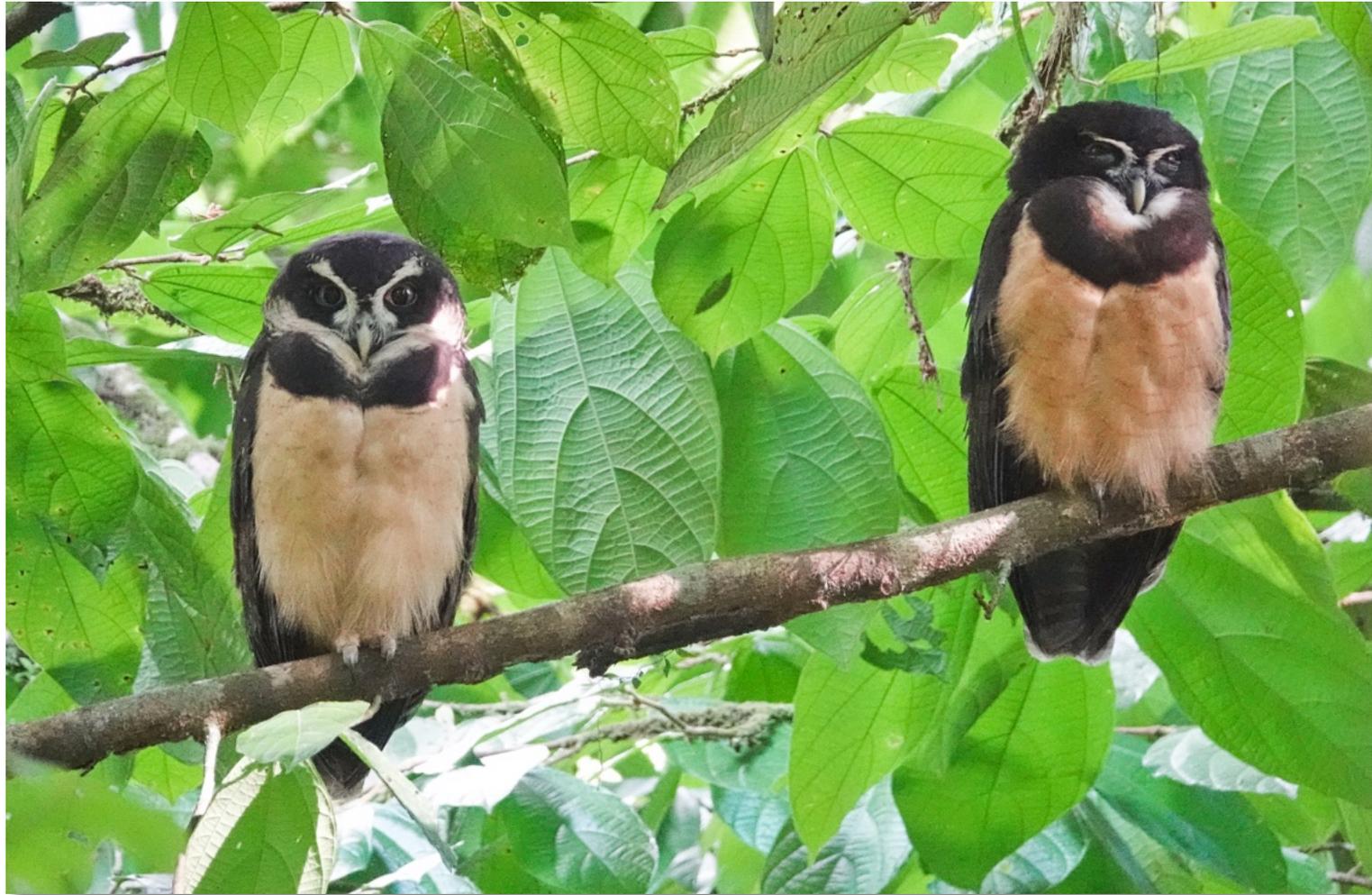


The Howlers came to visit and came close several times while we were at Selva Verde.



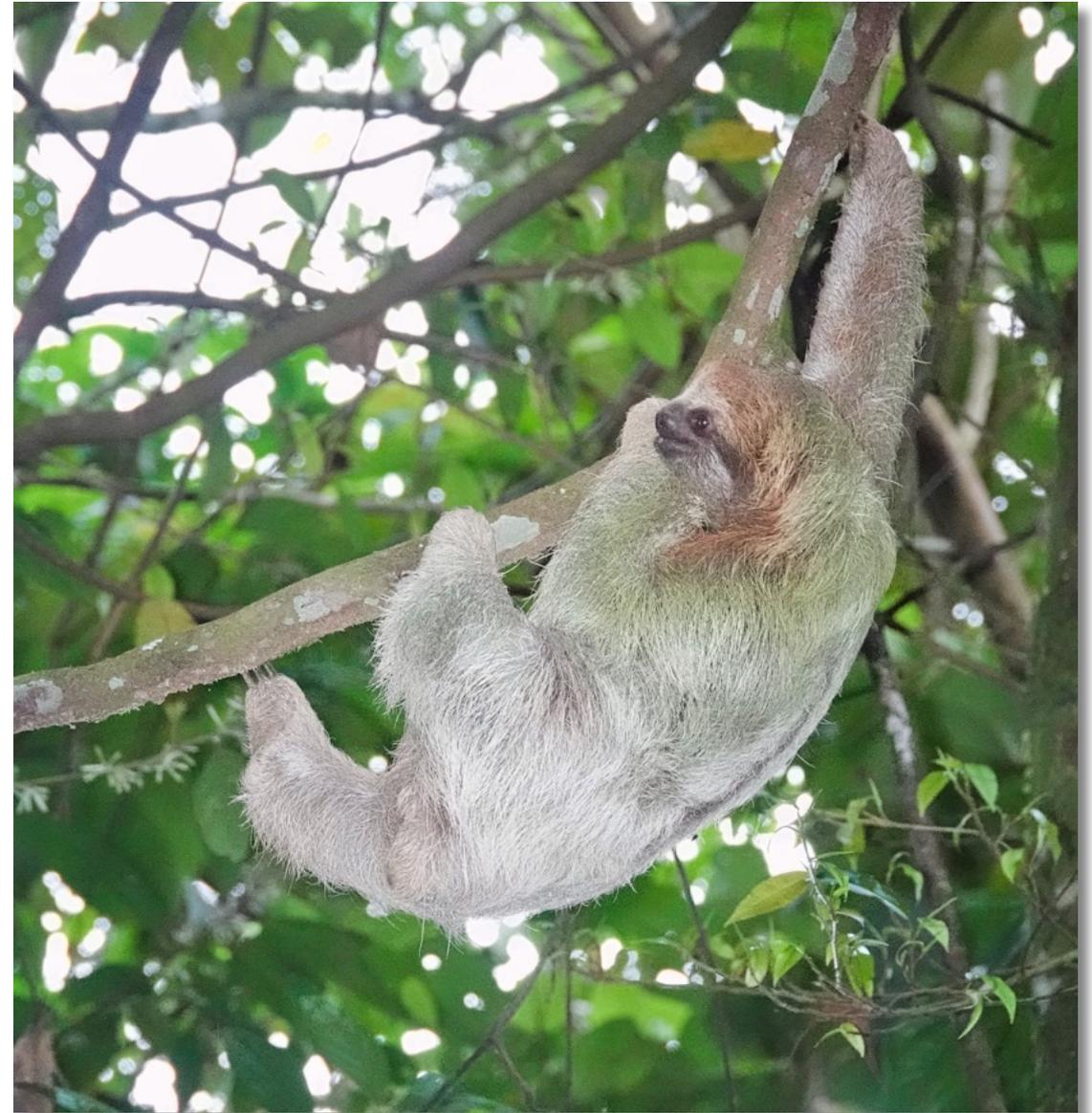
Howler and infant. Yellow-throated Toucan, Grey-headed Chachalaca. All near the feeders at Selva Verde.





A visit to Cope, a self-taught naturalist, artist, and photographer in the tiny town of La Union is always a real treat. He knows where the local owls (Spectacled Owl) and bats (Honduran White Tent-making Bats) roost, as well as a Great Potoo. He is always a great host.





This year Cope has a pair of Three-fingered Sloths living around his home sanctuary. The male was crossing one of Cope's little paths through the thicket when we got back from looking at Owls.



From our visit to Cope's the week before, the Female Three-fingered Sloth with her baby, and a Grey-headed Wood Rail from Cope's little stream.





Also from the week before, the Ghost Glass Frog which Cope posed for us in his little outdoor photo studio.





A boat trip on the Sarapique and Puerto Viejo rivers is relaxing, even in the rain. We were surprised and delighted to encounter a River Otter, along with the expected Bare-throated Tiger Heron, Amazon Kingfisher, and another Green Iguana.



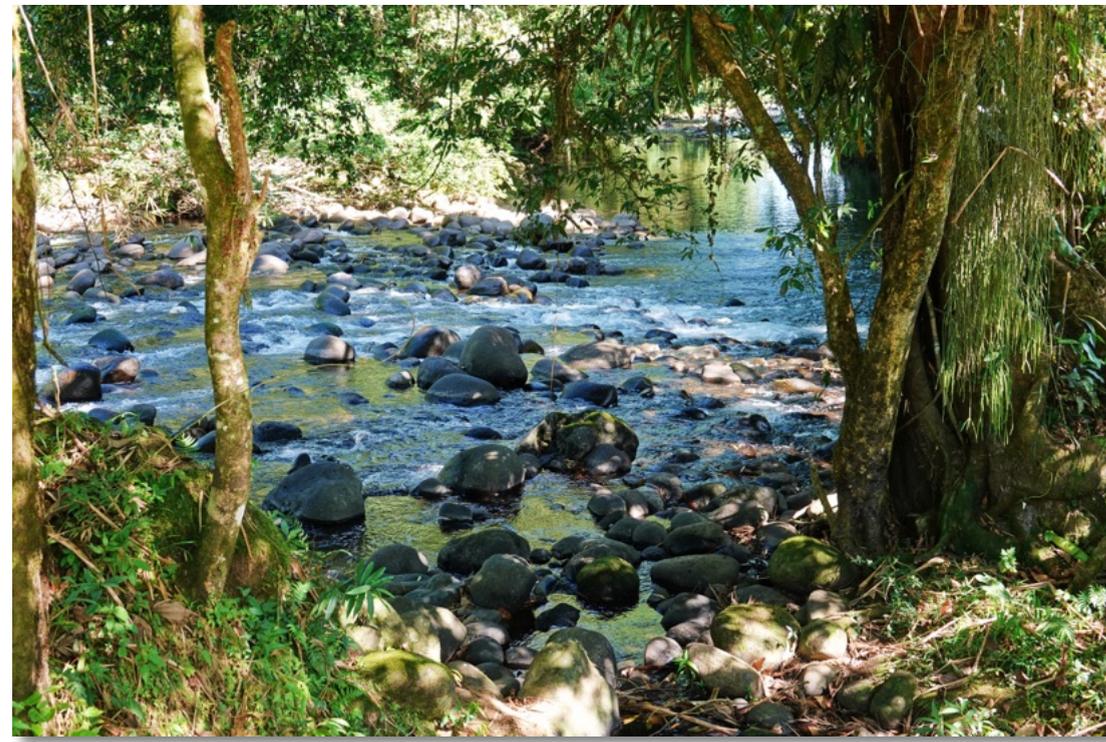


When we got back to the boat dock, my daughter Sally spotted a small flock of Great Green Macaws in a tree just at the limits of sight. We got on the bus and tracked them down in a neighborhood by the river. (The sky with clouds has been added over the plain grey rain sky in the original image :)



A giant beetle, another night shot of Red-eyed Leaf Frog, maybe one of the Flesh-bellied Frogs, and a sunlit shot of a Golden-hooded Tanager, all from Selva Verde Lodge.





We made a brief stop at a river between Selva Verde and Savegre, and picked up Lineated Woodpecker, a sunning Bare-throated Tiger Heron, and both King and Black Vultures.





We stopped at Miriam's Quetzals for a few moments. Bird IDs on following page.





Probably the primary reason for visiting San Gerardo de Dota in the Talamanca Mountains is to see the Resplendent Quetzal. A single male was still coming to a mostly bare wild Avacado tree a short climb up from the road.

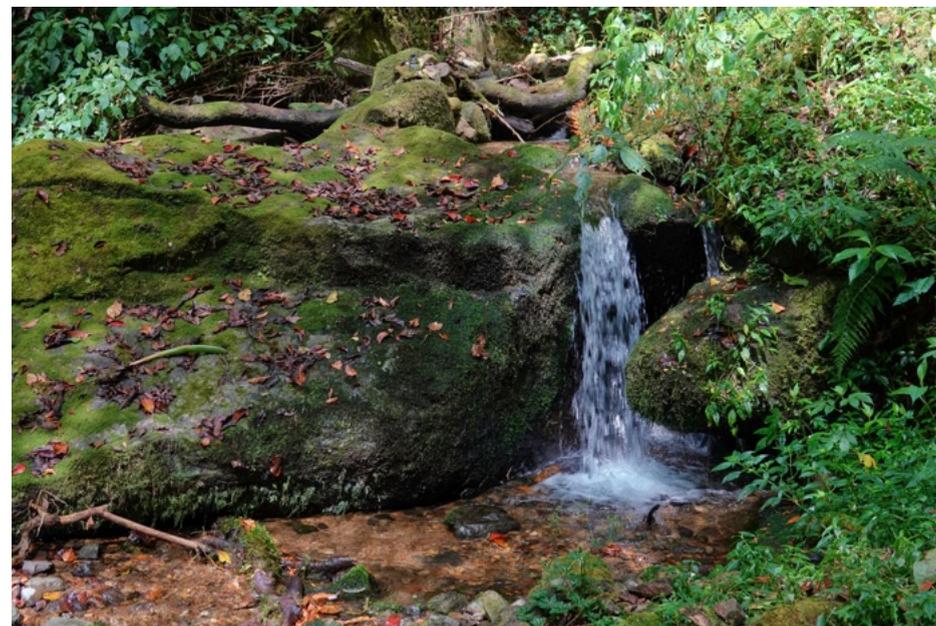
(Previous page: Flame-throated Warbler, Flame-colored Tanager, and Volcano Hummingbird)

(Following page: another view of the Resplendent Quetzal)





We took a hike in the old-growth Cloud Forest above Savegre Mountain Resort. A mixed feeding flock brought us Collared Redstart and Ruddy Treerunner, as well as some lovely scenery.





We saw this Emerald Toucanet, Lesser Violet Ear, and Volcano Hummingbird at Batsu Garden above Savegre .



Talamanca Hummingbird (formerly the Magnificent Hummingbird), also at Batsu Gardens.



A visit to the Paramo above 11,000 feet, gave us great views, interesting sub-alpine plants and flowers, and Black-cheeked Warbler, Volcano Junco, and Timberline Wren.



After the Paramo we dropped down a thousand feet to the highest restaurant in Costa Rica, Georginas, where we found Fire-throated Hummingbirds, along with the more common Lesser Violet Ears, coming to the feeders in the gardens behind. One of my favorite Hummers.



The Savagre River in San Gerardo de Dota, just down the road from the the Savegre Mountain Resort where we stayed.



Three more high altitude specialties: Yellow-thighed Finch, and Long-tailed Silky Flycatcher, around the grounds at Savegre. and a White-throated Mountain Gem from Batsu Garden.



The Point and Shoot Nature Photography group ready to head back to San Jose and the airport. Our guide, Edwin Ramirez on the left.

