
The feathered jewels of Finca Luna Nueva Lodge

A list and brief natural history of Luna Nueva's avifauna since 2007 to 2011

“Birds are so beloved that if they disappear from the forest all organisms are going to be so sad, that even plants and trees will have not a reason to produce their wonderful blossoms and delicious fruits anymore”

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Species Recorded: **213**
Last updated: February 24, 2011

The present list contains all the species of birds reliably recorded in the area of Luna Nueva Lodge up until the end of February 2011.

It covers the following birding areas:

- I. Gardens around buildings, which include the gorgeous gardens of Casa Luna, all semi-open areas and forest edge surrounding the bungalows, pool and canopy tower; with special mention to the Potterweed hummingbird garden.
- II. The deep primary, secondary and gallery forest adjacent to Casa Luna and Casa Sombra, which includes Cabalonga and Rainforest Mysteries trails.
- III. The “Esplendor” area, an open area with sparse trees or just grassland (potreros).
- IV. The organic, biodynamic cultivated areas.
- V. The mystical seasonal lagoon in the middle of the rain forest. (Present at certain times of the year)

Birds, especially migrants, naturally move between these different areas. Nevertheless many species have particular habitat preferences. The information given in the list provides indications of the habitats in which the various species are most frequently found.

Finally, it should be noted that the list is a working document. The author would be extremely grateful to receive reports of any sightings of species not included in the list or of those for which individual records are given, especially if they include full details of the sightings and/or any photographs or audio recordings.

Tinamous (*Tinamidae*)

Great Tinamu (*Tinamus major*)

Little Tinamu (*Crypturellus soui*)

Both species are relatively common residents in the primary forest of Luna Nueva – Little Tinamu is commoner than Great – although they are more frequently heard than seen. **Little Tinamu** (see Fig. 1) is regularly recorded in the secondary forest around casa Sombra and Casa Luna.

Curassows, Guans (*Cracidae*)

Gray-headed Chachalaca (*Ortalis cinereiceps*)

Crested Guan (*Penelope purpurascens*)

Great Curassow (*Crax rubra*)

All three species of cracids are fairly common residents in Finca Luna Nueva. The **Gray-headed Chachalaca** is often seen in big groups that prefer open areas and the areas surrounding the organic plantation, while the other two species are generally confined to primary forest and old secondary growth like along Cabalonga Trail. The **Great Curassow** is the rarest cracid of Luna Nueva. Found mainly in mature forest, this massive bird is generally not easy to see because of its secretive life in the primary forest floor. It is easier to find when large fruiting trees drop their ripe fruits on the forest floor.

Grebes (*Podicipedidae*)

Least Grebe (*Tachybaptus dominicus*)

The Finca Luna Nueva region does not have many shallow lakes and this may explain the relative scarcity of this species here. Only when the seasonal rainforest lagoon fills with water, do pairs settle in for a while.



Fig. 1 Little Tinamu.

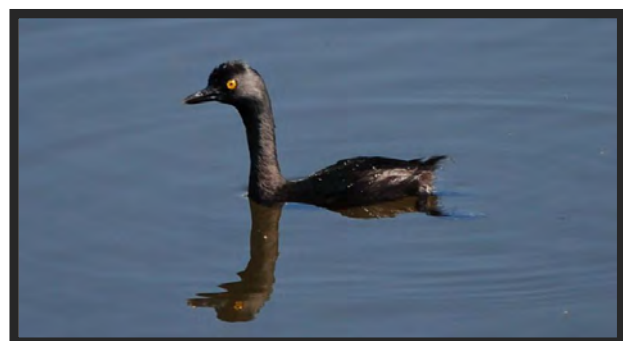


Fig. 2 Least Grebe.

Herons (*Ardeidae*)

Bare-throated Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma mexicanus*)

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*)

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)

The **Tiger Heron** is an uncommon resident of the seasonal rainforest lagoon, occasionally seen also in the gallery forest around Casa Luna. Of all the herons present in Luna Nueva, this one prefers the forested areas.

The other herons and egrets are fairly uncommon residents and/or migrants of Finca Luna Nueva. They are generally found feeding in moist, cleared areas, such as those near to the bamboo garden and the flooded pastures that appear during the rainy season. Their numbers increase in winter when they are joined by migrants from further north.

The **Cattle Egret** is one of the most common birds around the pastures of the Esplendor area. It's becoming more abundant around the country ever since it arrived in Costa Rica in 1954. It was one of the most rapid and wide-reaching natural expansions of any bird species in Costa Rica.

Vultures (*Cathartidae*)

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)

King Vulture (*Sarcoramphus papa*)

Black and **Turkey Vultures** are abundant residents and can be seen often soaring over all types of habitat.

The **King Vulture** is significantly less common, but single individuals are occasionally seen soaring high above the forest or over cleared areas.

Hawks and Eagles (*Accipitridae*)

Gray-headed Kite (*Leptodon cayanensis*)

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)

White Hawk (*Leucopternis albicollis*)

Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*)

The **Gray headed Kite** is uncommon, but may be easy to find on the organic farm (Granja de Juan section) where it used to make its nest in a lone Vochysia tree every year, according to local farmers.

The author saw just one **Swallow-tailed Kite** soaring over Casa Luna and the surrounding areas, but it is probably common and even more so during migration period.

The **White Hawk** is often recorded by Luna Nueva's farmers. It is common in forested areas, and occasionally found soaring over open areas.

Roadside and **Gray** Hawks stay in semi-open and open areas with scattered trees, like the habitat around

Gray Hawk (*Buteo nitidus*)

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*)

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)

Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*)

Black Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetus tyrannus*)

Casa Luna and the organic farm. **Gray Hawks** are regularly seen in the *Cordia alliodora* (Laurel) trees around Luna Nueva's pool. They are by far the most common raptor at Luna Nueva.

Broad-winged and **Swainson's Hawks** are fairly uncommon during the migration period, (Oct to mid Nov and from early March to May) the Broad-winged hawks are more numerous than the Swainson hawks. They are rarely seen flying in the typical huge migration flocks. The hawks are often found as lone individuals or in small groups soaring over all semi-open areas.

The Short-tailed Hawk is very common seen soaring over open areas, like in Potrerros Esplendor or nearby Casa Luna. The authors only saw dark morph individuals in Luna Nueva.

The powerful **Black Hawk-Eagle** is fairly uncommon in some areas of Luna Nueva. It can be heard and seen soaring over the primary and secondary forest surrounding the organic cultivated area and seasonal lagoon. There is one record of an individual possibly nesting in a lone tree right at the forest edge of the cultivated area called "Granja de Juan".

Falcons (*Falconidae*)

Laughing Falcon(*Herpetotheres cachinnans*)

Collared Forest-Falcon (*Micrastur semitorquatus*)

The Laughing Falcon (see Fig. 3) is a fairly common resident. It is generally heard more than seen with its typical and loud GWUA-co song at dusk from high lone trees in open areas like the Luna Nueva's farms and "potreros Esplendor"

The Collared Forest-Falcon is a well adapted forest hunter. Although uncommonly seen at Luna Nueva, it was heard several times from Casa Luna at night.

Sunbittern (*Eurypygidae*)

Sunbittern (*Eurypyga helias*)

There are several records of this marvelous and unique neotropical bird, mainly nearby or into the gallery forest of Luna Nueva. Like many other shy birds this one prefers dark habitats and feel safer moving outside of dense vegetation on cloudy days.

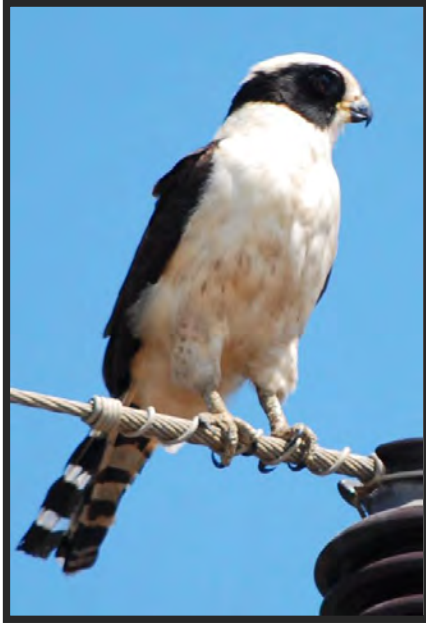


Fig. 3 Laughing Falcon



Fig. 4 Gray-necked Wood-Rail.

Rails, Crakes (*Rallidae*)

White-throated Crake (*Laterallus albigularis*)

Gray-necked Wood-Rail (*Aramides cajanea*)

Both prefer moist habitats, they like to feed in wet areas in clearings, especially in the wet open area with scattered trees in front of the LN's administrative offices. Here, the loud, descending "churr" of the **White-throated Crake** can be heard from the deep flooded pastures.

The Grey-necked Wood Rail (see Fig. 4) is also often heard and seen walking and feeding nearby the gallery forest around Casa Luna and once in a while, at dusk or during rainy days, this shy bird use to get closer of Casa Luna coffee area and with a bit of luck you might be able to see it meanwhile you are drinking your afternoon coffee.

Jacanas (*Jacanidae*)

Northern Jacana (*Jacana spinosa*)

A rare resident visitor of the moist areas in clearings, especially the area surrounding the small water ponds, like the sediments lagoons.

Pigeons and Doves (*Columbidae*)

Red-billed Pigeon (*Patagioenas flavirostris*)

These pigeons and doves are common to abundant in Luna Nueva. All are permanent residents of cleared areas and areas of secondary growth as well, although

Short-billed Pigeon (<i>Patagioenas nigrirostris</i>)	all avoid the interior of evergreen forests. Except the Gray-chested Dove and Short-billed Pigeon that are fairly common and readily heard in well forested areas.
Ruddy Ground-Dove (<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>)	
White-tipped Dove (<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>)	
Gray-chested Dove (<i>Leptotila cassini</i>)	

Parrots (*Psittacidae*)

Crimson-fronted Parakeet (<i>Aratinga finchi</i>)	These species prefer a dry open country habitat with scattered trees and once in a while forest edges. Both, especially the Orange-chinned Parakeet (see Fig. 6), have been affected by deforestation on the surrounding properties. Both are fairly common in organic cultivated areas of Luna Nueva and can be seen almost daily flying over the gardens.
Orange-chinned Parakeet (<i>Brotogeris jugularis</i>)	
Olive-throated Parakeet (<i>Aratinga nana</i>)	These species are more dependent on forests than the others parakeets, specially Brown-hooded Parrot , but regularly feed on agricultural areas and can commonly be seen in small groups in the cultivated areas of Luna Nueva and sometimes flying or perching in tree tops in the forest edges.
Brown-hooded Parrot (<i>Pyrilia haematotis</i>)	
White-crowned Parrot (<i>Pionus senilis</i>)	
Red-lored Parrot (<i>Amazona autumnalis</i>)	
Great Green Macaw (<i>Ara ambiguus</i>)	The lovely Great Green Macaw , unfortunately, is one of the rare species of Luna Nueva, because its small populations and increasing destruction of its habitat, the species is considered endangered. The presence of this beautiful bird is related to the ripening season of the protected Mountain Almond Tree (<i>Dipteryx panamensis</i>). There are just very few records made by the local farmers of Luna Nueva several years ago, of couples flying over the cultivated areas, probably looking for some Almond Trees in the protected area.

Cuckoos (*Cuculidae*)

Squirrel Cuckoo (<i>Piaya cayana</i>)	The very common resident Squirrel Cuckoo , moves around all forest edges and gardens like a squirrel, hopping between branches.
Striped Cuckoo (<i>Tapera naevia</i>)	The Striped Cuckoo is less often seen than the other two, it loves to stay in the thicket and just move to upper branches when is singing its peculiar ventriloquist whistles, which make good views hard work. They are most often heard in the secondary forest and edges.
Groove-billed Ani (<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>)	The Groove-billed Ani usually forage on ground in

small groups and rest on fences in the pasture areas, it is common in all pastures of Luna Nueva.

Owls (*Strigidae*)

Spectacled Owl (*Pulsatrix perspicillata*)

Mottled Owl (*Ciccaba virgata*)

Black-and-White Owl (*Ciccaba nigrolineata*)

The amazing and mysterious owls require an exceptional eye to be found in the middle of the night, but they are easily heard, almost every night, in the secondary forest near to Casa Luna and trails of Luna Nueva. The stunning **Spectacled Owl** has several records in the interior primary forest and old secondary of Cabalonga Trail, especially near the water stream.

The **Black-and-White Owl** (see Fig. 5) was seen for several days perching at night at the front of Casa Luna in one of the tall dry trees.

Fig. 5
Black and
White
Owl.



Fig.6
Orange-
chinned
Parakeet



Nightjars (*Caprimulgidae*)

Common Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*)

Short-tailed Nighthawk (*Lurocalis semitorquatus*)

The **Pauraque** is found almost every night along the street, from the entrance to Casa Luna, looking for small insects flying around the headlights.

The very vocal **Short-tailed Nighthawk** is occasionally heard at night flying over the open areas around Casa Luna.

Swifts (*Apodidae*)

White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*)

Gray-rumped Swift (*Chaetura cinereiventris*)

Chestnut-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne rutila*)

Black Swift (*Cypseloides niger*)

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift (*Panyptila cayennensis*)

The Swifts are by far the most aerial birds of all. At Luna Nueva they fairly common in good weather conditions, they suddenly appear and disappear, up in the sky forming spectacular flocks, sometimes with two or more species together.

The Black Swift is difficult to distinguish but it has been seen and photographed once flying with other swifts over Luna Nueva's farm.

A couple of **Lesser Swallow-tailed Swifts** were seen in a big flock with other Swifts; it only has only once been reported at Luna Nueva because it is probably overlooked.

Hummingbirds (*Trochilidae*)

Long-billed Hermit (*Phaethornis longirostris*)

Stripe-throated Hermit (*Phaethornis striigularis*)

Scaly-breasted Hummingbird (*Phaeochroa cuvierii*)

White-necked Jacobin (*Florisuga mellivora*)

White-tipped Sicklebill (*Eutoxeres aquila*)

Green-breasted Mango (*Anthracothorax prevostii*)

Black-crested Coquette (*Lophornis helenae*)

Green Thorntail (*Discosura conversii*)

These tiny birds stand out by their beautiful iridescent colors and fast flight; this family is by far one of the most impressive and well adapted of all the tropical birds.

The Hermits (see Fig. 8) prefer the dark forest understory usually feeding on conspicuous long tube-like flowers like Heliconias. At Luna Nueva they are especially common in all the gallery forests.

The **Scaly-breasted Hummingbird** and the **White-necked Jacobin** generally prefer higher flowers but are adaptable to almost all sources of nectar and are found in almost all forest edges of Luna Nueva. **Scaly-breasted Hummingbirds** are very vocal and the author even heard the individuals that imitate other bird songs from high perches in front of Casa Luna several times.

The **Sicklebill** and the **Mango** just have a single record by the author, which suggests that they are rare visitors. Both were seen feeding on Heliconia flowers near the sacred seeds garden and Cacao plantation.

The **Black-crested Coquette** and the **Green Thorntail** are two of the highlights for all birders that visit Luna Nueva Lodge, although they belong to the forest canopy and come down to lower flowers only when they are running out of nectar sources in tree tops. They are rarely found in the Porterweed garden. At Luna Nueva Lodge the author suggests that both species apparently alternate their feeding habits,

Violet-crowned Woodnymph (*Thalurania colombica*)

Blue-throated Goldentail (*Hylocharis eliciae*)

Purple-crowned Fairy (*Heliostyris barroti*)

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (*Amazilia tzacatl*)

Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer (*Chalybura urochrysis*)

Violet-headed Hummingbird (*Klais guimeti*)

spending the majority of their time in the higher flowers of the Laurel (*Cordia alliodora*) or Mayo (*Vochysia guatemalensis*) trees around Casa Luna and a while in the resource of Potterweed nectar in front of the hotel's reception. This gives Luna Nueva's birders a good chance to find these two lovely species.

The three hummers; the **Woodnymph**, **Goldentail** and the **Purple-crowned Fairy**, prefer the forested areas and are commonly found feeding on gardens or insolated sources of nectar near forest's patches.

Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer, **Rufous** and **Violet-headed Hummingbirds** are among the most common hummers at Luna Nueva and are easily found feeding on Potterweed gardens, especially the **Rufous-tailed Hummingbird** that is quite abundant and territorial.



Fig. 7
Slaty-tailed
Trogon



Fig. 8 Long-billed Hermit

Trogons (*Trogonidae*)

Slaty-tailed Trogon (*Trogon massena*)

Gartered Trogon (*Trogon caligatus*)

Black-throated Trogon (*Trogon rufus*)

The **Slaty-tailed Trogon** (see Fig. 7) and **Gartered Trogon** are common and attractive due to their colors and constant song they are difficult to ignore. Both are often found in forest edges, gardens and secondary forest by Cabalonga trail.

The Black-throated trogon is a less common species, they favor lower and middle elevations of mature wet forest and adjacent advanced second growth.

Motmots (*Momotidae*)

Blue-crowned Motmot (*Momotus momota*)

Rufous Motmot (*Baryphthengus martii*)

Broad-billed Motmot (*Electron platyrhynchum*)

The Blue-crowned Motmot is uncommon, mainly seen in casa Luna's forest edge or gallery forest.

The Rufous Motmot is the largest motmot in CR and the **Broad-billed Motmot** (see Fig. 11) is a small version of Rufous Motmot, both are common, mainly in the mature forest and less seen in the secondary forest. A recommended place to find them is the Cabalonga trail.

Kingfishers (*Alcedinidae*)

Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*)

Ring Kingfisher (*Ceryle torquata*)

These beautiful fishers are common, where the habitat is allowed. Usually near any water pond or slow moving stream, making shallow dives from perches over open water to capture prey with their large bill.

The heavy **Ring Kingfisher** is less seen but is probably common in suitable habitats. Its presence at Luna Nueva consists of an individual heard flying over the Cabalonga trail in february 2011.

Puffbirds (*Bucconidae*)

Pied Puffbird (*Notharchus tectus*)

White-fronted Nunbird (*Monasa morphoeus*)

These generally uncommon tropical birds such as the **Pied Puffbird** are mostly seen by the organic biodynamic cultivated areas and from the tower. They usually sing from high expose perches. Among the most stunning and spectacular birds is **White-fronted Nunbird** seen in groups of 3 or more individuals frequently in mixed flocks with caciques birds, by primary forest edges like the one around Casa Sombra or the edges around the biodynamic farm, looking for large arthropods like cicadas, spiders and also frogs.

Jacamars (*Galbulidae*)

Rufous-tailed Jacamar (*Galbula ruficauda*)

This elegant and colorful species is common along the Cabalonga trail and can also be seen in the cocoa plantation.

Toucans (*Ramphastidae*)

Collared Aracari (*Pteroglossus torquatus*)

Keel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*)

Chestnut-mandibled Toucan (*Ramphastos swainsonii*)

Yellow-eared Toucanet (*Selenidera spectabilis*)

These amazing neotropical birds, light up our forest with their startling and brilliant colors. All these are quite common and are usually seen in large flocks gliding from one tree to another, looking for food like fruits, berries and sometimes bird's eggs, lizards and some insects. Seen in the organic biodynamic cultivated areas, gardens around buildings and along forest's trails (see Fig. 10 and Fig 14).

The Yellow-eared Toucanet is one of the most elusive and beautiful toucans in the country, also an endemic species from southeastern Honduras to northwestern Colombia. A very uncommon visitant, seen around Luna Nueva's gardens and by the organic biodynamic cultivated areas.

Woodpeckers (*Picidae*)

Olivaceous Piculet (*Picumnus olivaceus*)

Black-cheeked Woodpecker (*Melanerpes pucherani*)

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*)

Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*)

Pale-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus guatemalensis*)

Golden-olive Woodpecker (*Colaptes rubiginosus*)

By checking out every dry trunk it is possible to find some of the most beautiful members of this unique family.

The Olivaceous Piculet is one of the most unexpected adds to Luna's Birds List, an individual (or more) were seen and heard in July of 2010 being this the first report of the Piculet for the area. And the official proves of this bird expanding its range.

The Black-cheeked Woodpecker is abundant in most of the birding areas. The **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** is a rare and beautiful, north American migrant, seen once at the Esplendor area in November 2009, and a single female climbing an isolated tree. The **Lineated** and **Pale-billed Woodpeckers** are common birds mostly seen at the Esplendor area, forest's trails and the organic biodynamic cultivated areas.



Fig. 10 Chestnut-mandibled Toucan.

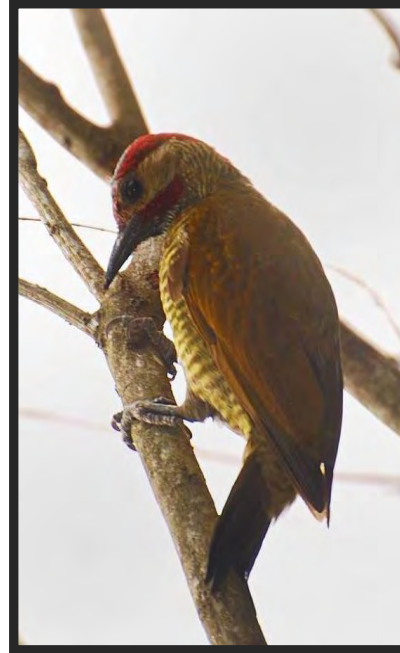


Fig. 9 Golden-olive Woodpecker.

Woodcreepers (*Furnariidae*)

Plain Xenops (*Xenops minutus*)

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*)

Northern-barred Woodcreeper
(*Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae*)

Cocoa Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus susurrans*)

Black-striped Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus*)

Spotted Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*)

Streak-headed Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*)

Woodcreepers are in general a challenge for our eyes, due to their behavior and brown colors, these amazing birds pass unnoticed by most. Main characteristics to ID them are melodic songs, bill shape and white marking patterns.

All woodcreepers listed here are fairly common in the primary forest, where they often associate with mixed-species flocks and army ant swarms. They also frequently enter secondary forests and occasionally even come into the gardens.

Among this species, the **Cocoa Woodcreeper** is most uncommon.

Antbirds (Thamnophilidae)

Barred Antshrike (*Thamnophilus doliatus*)

Western-slaty Antshrike (*Thamnophilus atrinucha*)

Checker-throated Antwren (*Epinecrophilla fulviventris*)

Dot-winged Antwren (*Microrhopias quixensis*)

Dusky Antbird (*Cercomacra tyrannina*)

Chestnut-backed Antbird (*Myrmeciza exsul*)

Dull-mantled Antbird (*Myrmeciza laemosticta*)

Bicolored Antbird (*Gymnopithys leucaspis*)

Hopping quickly on the ground and low levels of the forest, the elusive Antbirds usually have conspicuous patterns of dark colors that once mixed with the darkness of the ground make the sighting an interesting activity. An easier way to find them is by their constant monotonous whistles.

The Barred Antshrike is one of the few antbirds that prefer clear thickets and young second growth forests. At Luna Nueva, they are fairly common around gardens.

All other antbirds listed here by now, are usually forest lovers, where they often associate with mixed-specie flocks and mainly with army ant swarms. They sometimes frequently enter secondary forests. By far the most common of all is the **Chesnut-backed Antbird** (see Fig. 12); its double whistle voice is unstoppable during early morning at some tracts of Cabalonga and Rain Forest Mysteries Trails. Among these birds the **Bicolored Antbird** is the least seen, being uncommon on the Cabalonga trail and just when army ant swarms move nearby.



Fig. 11 Broad-billed Motmot.



Fig. 12 Chestnut-backed Antbird

Tyrant Flycatchers (*Tyrannidae*)

Yellow-bellied Elaenia (*Elaenia flavogaster*)

Yellow Tyrannulet (*Campsiempis flaveola*)

Paltry Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius vilissimus*)

Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*)

Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum nigriceps*)

Yellow-margined Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias assimilis*)

Yellow-olive Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias sulphurescens*)

Sulphur -rumped Flycatcher (*Myiobius sulphureipygius*)

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher (*Mionectes oleaginosa*)

Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant (*Lophotriccus pileatus*)

Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher (*Poecilatriccus sylvia*)

Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher (*Terentotriccus erythrurus*)

Western Wood-Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*)

Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*)

Tropical Pewee (*Contopus cinereus*)

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*)

Long-tailed Tyrant (*Colonia colonus*)

Bright-rumped Attila (*Attila spadiceus*)

Rufous Mourner (*Rhytipterna holerythra*)

Tyrannidae is the family with the most members at Luna Nueva. They are stylized birds that usually amaze with their spectacular aerial acrobatics displays when they are catching insects.

The **Paltry Tyrannulet**, **Common Tody** and **Yellow-margined Flycatcher** and **Yellow-olive Flycatcher** are the smallest and most common Flycatchers found in Luna Nueva's gardens and open areas. Often singing from exposed perches or nesting in conspicuous hanging nests.

On the other hand, the **Ochre-bellied**, **Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant** and **Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher** are among the smallest flycatchers that inhabit the second growth forest. Being the last mentioned quite more challenging to see because it stays high in trees.

Pewees (see Fig. 16) are fairly common north American migrants. They are quite difficult to distinguish but mainly recognized by vocalizations, usually found perched on isolated trees and along fences in all open areas. The **Tropical Pewee** is resident and quite recognizable by its typical rapid bubbly, trill.

An elegant and common resident, the **Long-tailed Tyrant** (see Fig. 13), common in open areas with isolated tree trunks, like in the potrero Esplendor area, feeding from exposed perches it habitually returns to the same perch after an outing.

The Yellow-bellied Elaenia, **Tropical Kingbird**, **Great Kiskadee**, **Boat-billed**, and **Social Flycatchers** are medium size, yellow patterned birds and quite common to abundant in all open and disturbed habitats in Luna Nueva.

The Bright-rumped Attila, **Rufous Mourner** and **Golden-bellied Flycatcher** are large sized tyrants and might be placed together by their similitude to stay in second growth and even get into primary. These birds have evolved in a specific way that made them morphologically different to their closer relatives. All are very vocal and have a wide range of habits and diet.

The Golden-bellied Flycatcher is endemic of Costa Rica and western Panamá and on Luna Nueva Cabalonga's Trail it is a common visitor.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*)

Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*)

Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)

Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarhynchus pitangua*)

Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*)

Golden-bellied flycatcher (*Myiodynastes hemichrysus*)

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*)

Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucophaeus*)

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)

The **Sulphur-bellied** and **Piratic Flycatcher** have migratory and resident populations that occupy Luna Nueva's territory. Both species are very vocal and common in open areas and gardens being more numerous from April to September.

The **Piratic Flycatcher** has an appropriated name for its habit to steel other birds' nests by disturbing the nest's owners until they abandoned it.

Becards and other uncertain family (*INCERTAE SEDIS*)

Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*)

Black-crowned Tityra (*Tityra inquisitor*)

Watch the white spots on treetops twice; they could be one of the uncertain Tityras. These birds are mainly seen around Luna Nueva's gardens and by the organic biodynamic cultivated areas, feeding on insects or fruits like Cecropia.

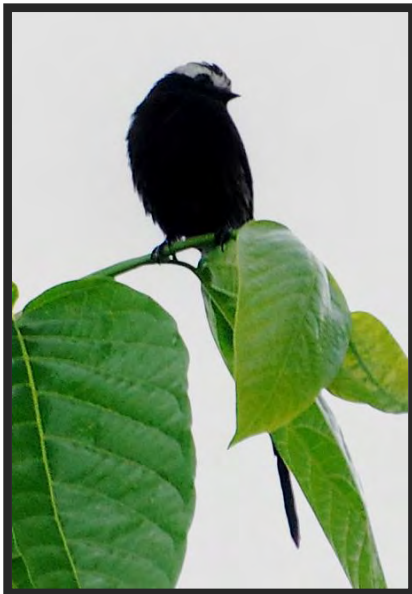


Fig. 13 Long-tailed Tyrant.

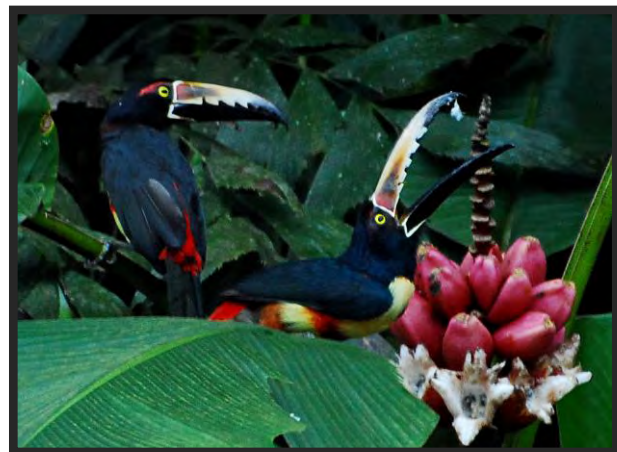


Fig. 14 Collared Araçari.

Contingas (*Cotingidae*)

Three-wattled Bellbird (*Procnias tricarunculatus*)

One of the most stunning sounds of birds in nature, a very loud EENK! And an extremely high - pitched utterance. This beautiful and unique species, disperse to lower elevations after breeding, mainly looking for the fruit of Lauraceae family.

Manakins (*Pipridae*)

White-collared Manakin (*Manacus candei*)

This dapper and colorful bird calls our attention not just for its colors, but also because the displaying males produce loud snapping and popping noises with their wings. Usually seen in lower levels of second growth on Cabalonga and Rainforest Mysteries trails.

Red-capped Manakin (*Pipra mentalis*)

A female **Red-capped Manakin** was seen once feeding on little fruits at Cabalonga Trail.

Vireos (*Vireonidae*)

Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*)

Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*)

Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*)

Tawny-crowned Greenlet (*Hylophilus ochraceiceps*)

Lesser Greenlet (*Hylophilus decurtatus*)

Some members of this family resemble wood-warblers generally attired in drab olive along with green, yellow and white, hooked bills. The **Yellow-throated, Red-eyed and Philadelphia Vireo** are NA migrants, frequently seen in mixed flocks with other migrants and resident birds on Cabalonga and Rainforest Mysteries trails and Luna Nueva's gardens; looking deliberately for insects and spiders in the foliage. The **Tawny-crowned and Lesser Greenlet**, are common resident species and regularly join the same mixed flocks of birds above.

Jays (*Corvidae*)

Brown Jay (*Cyanocorax morio*)

This large and beautiful bird calls our attention by its shrill and agitated sound. It makes an audible popping noise with its special throat sac. They move in large flocks, and are seen in Luna Nueva's gardens and by the organic biodynamic cultivated areas.

Swallows (*Hirundinidae*)

Unidentified Martin (Progne sp)

Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*)

Southern Rough-winged Swallow

These fast flying birds, are regular visitors of open areas in Luna Nueva, some possible sites to find them are the potrero Esplendor, along fences, electric wires or flying in medium size groups.

The **Northern Rough-winged and Southern Rough-**

(Stelgidopteryx ruficollis)

Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*)

Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*)

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

winged Swallows have resident populations and are found in pairs or small groups and forage over open areas, plantations and frequently near water.

Wrens (Troglodytidae)

Black-throated Wren (*Thryothorus atrogularis*)

Bay Wren (*Thryothorus nigricapillus*)

Stripe-breasted Wren (*Thryothorus thoracicus*)

Plain Wren (*Thryothorus modestus*)

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)

White-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucosticta*)

Among the best adapted birds to interact in the dark understory with melodious and extremely complex vocalizations.

The Bay Wren and **White-breasted Wood-Wren** are fairly common Wrens, found in low levels of second growth forest on the other hand; the **House Wren** is one of the most common wrens and serve as the alarm clock every morning for guests in Casa Luna.

Luna Nueva is an excellent place to see some endemic species to Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. They are the **Black-throated Wren** and the **Stripe-breasted Wren**, two unique birds present in thickets and second growth.

Gnatwren and Gnatcatchers (Poliopitidae)

Long-billed Gnatwren (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*)

Tawny-faced Gnatwren (*Microbates cinereiventris*)

Tropical Gnatcatcher (*Poliopitila plumbea*)

Both are small and active birds, the **Long-billed Gnatwren** pokes about in thickets and tangled vines at forest edges and openings. The **Tawny-faced Gnatwren** is more common in old secondary or primary forests. Both Gnatwrens are very vocal all day long.

The Tropical Gnatcatcher usually forages in pairs actively at all levels in second growth.

Thrushes (Turdidae)

Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*)

Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*)

These are two north American migrants, the **Swainson's Thrush** occurs in a wide range of habitats, more common than the **Wood Thrush**, which prefers mature forest or advance second growth like the one in the Cabalonga trail.

A classic song on Costarican farms is the one sung by

Pale-vented Thrush (*Turdus obsoletus*)

Clay-colored Thrush (*Turdus grayi*)

the **Clay-colored Thrush**, its complex vocalization, a wide range of distribution and popular beliefs made of this species, it is the national bird of Costa Rica; the dark bill distinguishes the **Pale-vented Thrush** from the **Clay-colored Thrush**, besides its habitat, mostly arboreal in advance second growth in the Cabalonga trail.



Fig. 15 Tennessee Warbler.



Fig. 16 Eastern Wood-Pewee.

Wood-Warblers (*Parulidae*)

Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*)

Tennessee Warbler (*Oreothlypis peregrina*)

Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*)

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*)

Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*)

The north Americans guests of Luna Nueva, from September to late May. The **American Redstart**, **Tennessee** (see Fig. 15), **Yellow**, **Chestnut-sided** and **Black-and-white Warblers** are the most common species in gardens around buildings, cultivated areas and secondary growth.

The stunning **Golden-winged Warbler** is a species of special concern at Luna Nueva because its populations are declining dramatically in the Northeastern United States. In the area is an uncommon passage migrant with a single record in the early 2010; joined a mixed flock in the cacao plantation area.

American Redstart (<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>)	The only resident warbler is the Buff-rumped Warbler a common species in gallery forest and forest's floor of Luna Nueva.
Nothern Waterthrush (<i>Parkesia noveboracensis</i>)	
Ovenbird (<i>Parkesia aurocapilla</i>)	
Kentucky Warbler (<i>Oporornis formosus</i>)	
Buff-rumped Warbler (<i>Phaeothlypis fulvicauda</i>)	

Bananaquit (*INCERTAE SEDIS*)

Bananaquit (<i>Coereba flaveola</i>)	A fairly common resident usually seen in the potterweed garden, stealing nectar from flowers by perforating the corolla.
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Tanagers (*Thraupidae*)

White-shouldered Tanager (<i>Tachyphonus luctuosus</i>)	In Luna Nueva's woodlands and gardens no other bird family provides such lovely combinations of color. The Tanagers recorded are widespread within the area.
White-lined Tanager (<i>Tachyphonus rufus</i>)	
Crimson-collared Tanager (<i>Ramphocelus sanguinolentus</i>)	Crimson-collared, Passerini's (see Fig. 17), Blue-gray, Palm, and Golden-hooded Tanager are usually quite "friendly" and coexist well with human disturbed areas like gardens and young second growth forest. In Luna Nueva's gardens these tanagers are quite common to abundant depending on fruits abundance and weather.
Passerini's Tanager (<i>Ramphocelus passerinii</i>)	
Blue-gray Tanager (<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>)	
Palm Tanager (<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>)	
Golden-hooded Tanager (<i>Tangara larvata</i>)	
Bay-headed Tanager (<i>Tangara gyrola</i>)	The White-shouldered, White-lined, Bay-headed and Silver-throated Tanagers are forest lovers. Usually restricted to mixed flocks foraging inside the deep primary or old second growth forest like the one around all Luna Nueva's forest trails.
Scarlet-thighed Dacnis (<i>Dacnis venusta</i>)	
Green Honeycreeper (<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>)	Green (see Fig. 18), Shining, Red-legged Honeycreepers and Scarlet-thighed Dacnis , spend the majority of their time in second growth forests and gardens, looking for nectar and fruit. The honeycreepers delight even the more demanding guest with their vibrant colors and contrasts. These groups of tanagers have evolved with longer and more slender bill shapes in order adapt to the tropical flowers and get their potential source of food; the sweet nectar.
Shining Honeycreeper (<i>Cyanerpes lucidus</i>)	
Red-legged Honeycreeper (<i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i>)	
Silver-throated Tanager (<i>Tangara icterocephala</i>)	

Saltators (INCERTAE SEDIS)

Buff-throated Saltator (*Saltator maximus*)

Black-headed Saltator (*Saltator atriceps*)

Slate-colored Grosbeak (*Saltator grossus*)

The **Buff-throated** and **Black-headed Saltator**, are common inhabitants of forest edges, shady plantations and gardens. The **Slate-colored Grosbeak** is a fairly uncommon resident, seen in forest edges of old secondary forests.

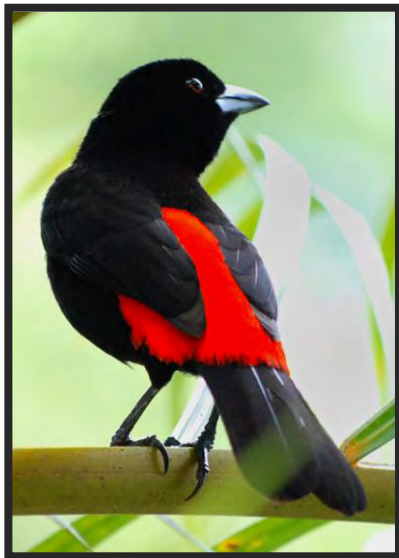


Fig. 17 Passerini's Tanager.



Fig. 18 Green Honeycreeper.

Seed eater, Finches and Sparrows (Emberizidae)

Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*)

Variable Seed eater (*Sporophila americana*)

White-collared Seed eater (*Sporophila torqueola*)

Yellow-faced Grassquit (*Tiaris olivaceus*)

Orange-billed Sparrow (*Arremon aurantiirostris*)

Black-striped Sparrow (*Arremonops conirostris*)

These ground-dwelling, often secretive birds are mostly streaked with conical bills.

Most are common species, mainly stay in thickets, pastures and agricultural land, like in the Esplendor area. Feeding on grass seeds.

The **Orange-billed Sparrow** usually forages in pairs or small groups in the understory of mature forest or secondary growth all year long.

Rufous-collared Sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*)

Saltator, Grosbeaks and Buntings (*Cardinalidae*)

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)

Red-throated Ant-Tanager (*Habia fuscicauda*)

Carmioli's Tanager (*Chlorothraupis carmioli*)

Black-faced Grosbeak (*Caryothraustes
poliogaster*)

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus
ludovicianus*)

Blue-black Grosbeak (*Cyanocompsa cyanoides*)

The **Black-faced Grosbeak** and **Carmioli's Tanager** are usually seen in small groups or in mixed flocks, in the secondary forest along the Cabalonga and Rainforest Mysteries trail.

The **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** (see Fig. 20), and **Summer Tanagers** are colorful north American migrants mostly from oct to april, found in gardens and forest edges. The Summer Tanager is very vocal during the afternoon in Luna Nueva's gardens.

The **Red-throated Ant-Tanager** and **Blue-black Grosbeak** are common residents in the understory of forested areas. The **Red-throated Ant-Tanager** is one of the most common understory dweller. Usually foraging in small noisy groups.

Blackbirds and Orioles (*Icteridae*)

Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*)

Melodious Blackbird (*Dives dives*)

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*)

Black-cowled Oriole (*Icterus prothemelas*)

Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*)

Montezuma Oropendola (*Psarocolius
montezuma*)

Yellow-billed Cacique (*Amblycercus
holosericeus*)

Scarlet-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus uropygialis*)

The **Great-tailed Grackle** is by far one of the most adapted species to human disturbed habitats, abundant in all towns and cities within the country, curiously at Luna Nueva is fairly uncommon.

From Sep to May is common find **Baltimore Oriole** in gardens around buildings and the organic biodynamic farms feeding on almost every nectar resource available.

The **Montezuma Oropendola** prefers to forage, in small to medium size groups and high levels of trees. On the other hand, the **Black-cowled Oriole** forages in pairs, at low levels of semi-open habitats. These two species are very common in open habitats throughout the area.

The **Yellow-billed Cacique** and **Scarlet-rumped Cacique** are often found with mixed flocks in the secondary forest and mainly along the Cabalonga trail.



Fig. 19 Olive-backed Euphonia.



Fig. 20 Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Euphonias (*Fringillidae*)

Yellow-crowned Euphonia (*Euphonia luteicapilla*)

Olive-backed Euphonia (*Euphonia gouldi*)

White-vented Euphonia (*Euphonia minuta*)

Tawny-capped Euphonia (*Euphonia anaeae*)

Euphonias are very vocal and are mainly fruit eaters that usually move long distances depending on fruit abundance. There are few species still expected to reach the area but the author only had the chance to record 4 species due to lack of time and continually year round observations.

At Luna Nueva the **Yellow-crowned Euphonia** forages and sings around the gardens and forest edges, it is also the most frequently heard Euphonia within the area.

The Tawny-capped and **Olive-backed Euphonia** (see Fig. 19), are often seen following mixed flocks in the old secondary forest of the Cabalonga Trail. The **White-vented Euphonia** is common and often seen in forest edges and the cultivated areas.

Additional species

This list is a working document. The authors would be extremely grateful to receive reports of any sightings of species not included in the list or of those for which individual records are given, especially if they include full details of the sightings and/or any photographs or audio recordings.

New species records

Date	Observer / e-mail
_____	_____

Species	Additional comments
_____	_____

Date	Observer / e-mail
_____	_____

Species	Additional comments
_____	_____

Date	Observer / e-mail
_____	_____

Species	Additional comments
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Date	Observer / e-mail
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Species	Additional comments
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Date	Observer / e-mail
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Species	Additional comments
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