

COSTA RICA ARACARI, TOUCANS AND TOUCANETS

When I arrived in Costa Rica for the twenty-day Birdwatching Tour hopes were high, but expectations held in reserve to avoid disappointment. I never expected to have so much luck in finding almost all the family of Costa Rica Toucans: Collared Aracari, Fiery-Billed Aracari, Keel-Billed Toucan, Black-mandibled Toucan, Emerald Toucanet. The only one missing is the Yellow-eared Toucanet.

Wikipedia says: "Toucans are members of the Neotropical near passerine bird family Ramphastidae. The Ramphastidae are most closely related to the American barbets. They are brightly marked and have large, often colorful bills. The family includes five genera and over forty different species."

Arriving at Savegre Lodge, 7,200 feet above sea level, I stepped out of the van, was about to handle the bags and there, a few meters away sat; the Emerald Toucanet. I could not believe it! How beautiful!

EMERALD TOUCANET



Figure 1 The Costa Rica Emerald Toucanet is distinguished with a green breast and belly and dark-blue throat

Figure 2 Beautiful shades of green and blue



ARACARI FIERY-BILLED AND COLLARED ARACARI

Cahuita beach turned out to be a bonus for observing the Aracari. They were often spotted around the beach but one evening chaos broke out and I learned a little about their very aggressive behavior. I had been watching a woodpecker family feed a growing chick.

This evening I saw seven Aracari launch an attack on the woodpeckers. They invaded the nest in the coconut palm tree. What followed saw the woodpeckers dive bombing the Aracari and creating as much fuss as possible. The chaos continued for many minutes. Eventually the main culprit emerged from the nest. The palm tree had several holes. I think the chick escaped as a week or so later I saw a young Woodpecker testing its wings. Alfred Hitchcock made a mistake when he used small crows for "The Birds". He should have used these *really scary* Aracari!



Figure 3 Aracari in black and white. Shades of Alfred Hitchcock: "The Birds"

Figure 4 I think the bill color lacking the red, identifies this sky raider as the Collared Aracari. The Fiery Aracari has a bright red upper bill. The photos are taken in late evening poor light. The red might be missing.



This Aracari above is launching an attack on the Woodpecker's nest. The chick is inside the hollow palm tree.



Figure 5 A number of aerial attacks were launched by the Aracari.

Figure 6 Collared Aracari outside Woodpecker's home





Figure 7 After a foray into the home this home invader exits the Woodpecker's nest. What happened inside?

Figure 8 Hitchcock would have loved this image. Is there a movie maker ready to do a remake?



Figure 9 Fiery-billed Aracari

Figure 10 Collared Aracari

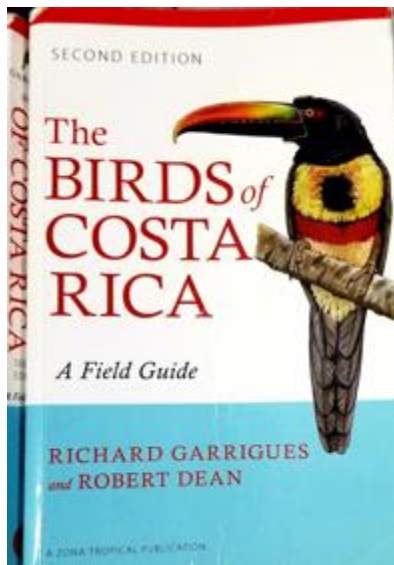


Figure 11 Without this wonderful Guide I would have completely at sea without a chance of identifying the beautiful birds of Costa Rica

TOUCANS KEEL BILLED AND BLACK-MANDIBLE

Figure 12 PAIR OF KEEL BILLED TOUCANS HAVING AN EVENING CHAT



Figure 13 KEEL- BILLED TOUCAN



Figure 14 KEEL BILLED TOUCAN WITH SEED



BLACK MANDIBLED TOUCAN



Figure 15 BLACK MANDIBLE TOUCAN

Figure 16 BEAUTIFUL KEEL- BILLED SAVEGRE LODGE AREA





Figure 17 EVENING PERCH TIRIMBINA

Figure 18 THE ANGLE DOES MAKE THE BEAK SEEM A LITTLE BIGGER



Figure 19 HIGH SPEED SHOT WORKED WELL IN LOW LIGHT

Figure 20 THIS EVENING PAIR ARE HAVING A BIG CHAT



Figure 21 EARLY MORNING IN CECROPIA TREE. THREE KEEL-BILLED OF SEVEN TOUCANS AT SURISE CAHUITA CABIN GARDEN

I hope you have enjoyed these beautiful birds of Costa Rica!

Cheers, Terry
Jaco Beach July 6 2020