

FINCA ESPERANZA VERDE ECOLODGE

Supporting a rural Nicaraguan community one visit at a time.

Finca Esperanza Verde: Birding Guide

Birding groups recorded first official sightings at Finca Esperanza Verde of Yellow-Breasted Caracara in 2003 and Streaked Xenops in 2004.

The Yellow-Headed Caracara was identified by a group of bird watchers in the spring of 2003 during one of our ecotours. It was seen at the pond on the way to the Wabuli River. This sighting was an exciting surprise, considering that this bird is only common in South America and as far north as Panama.

The List: An asterisk * indicates a neo-tropical migrant species. In addition, species are listed at the point it was first observed. Birds are listed into groupings which make some sense for birders: species likely to be seen during a short stay; those that will require more work, or travel.

1) Bird species commonly seen in and near Finca Esperanza in San Ramón. These species could be found nearly every day with a little effort.

Black Vulture (Coragyps atratus)
American Swallow-tailed Kite (Elanoides forficatus)
American Kestrel (Falco sparverius)
Roadside Hawk (Buteo magnirostris)
* Broad-winged Hawk (Buteo platypterus)
Red-billed Pigeon (Columba lividirostris)
White-fronted Parrot (Amazona albifrons)
White-crowned Parrot (Pionus senilis)
Orange-chinned Parakeet (Brotogeris jugularis)
Squirrel Cuckoo (Piaya cayana)
Groove-billed Ani (Crotophaga sulcirostris)
Common Nighthawk (Nyctidromus albicollis)
Violet Sabrewing (Campylopterus hemileucurus)
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (Amazilia tzacatl)
Collared Trogon (Trogon collaris)
Violaceous Trogon (Trogon violaceus)
Blue-crowned Motmot (Momotus momota)
Keel-billed Toucan (Ramphastos sulfuratus)

Collared Aracari (Pteroglossus torquatus)
Lineated Woodpecker (Dryocopus lineatus)
Pale-billed Woodpecker (Campephilus guatemalensis)
Golden-olive Woodpecker (Piculus rubiginosus)
Acorn Woodpecker (Melanerpes formicivorus)
* Eastern Bluebird (Sialia sialis)
* Hepatic Tanager (Piranga lava)
Clay-colored Robin (Turdus grayi)
Masked Tityra (Tityra semifasciata)
Black-crowned Tityra (Tityra inquisitor)
Tropical Kingbird (Tyrannus melancholicus)
Social Flycatcher (Myiozetetes similis)
House Wren (Troglodytes aedon)
* Wood Thrush (Hylocichla mustelina)
Brown Jay (Cyanocorax morio)
* Black & White Warbler (Mniotilta varia)
* Wilson's Warbler (Wilsonia pusilla)
* Chestnut-sided Warbler (Dendroica pensylvanica)

* Black-throated Green Warbler (Dendroica virens)
* Northern Oriole (Icterus galbula)
Montezuma's Oropendola (Psarocolius montezuma)
Chestnut-headed Oropendola (Psarocolius wagleri)
* Summer Tanager (Piranga rubra)
Black-headed Saltator (Saltator atriceps)
Buff-throated Saltator (Saltator maximus)
Yellow-throated Brush-Finch (Atlapetes gutturalis)
White-collared Seedeater (Sporophila torqueola)
Yellow-faced Grassquit (Tiaris olivacea)
Blue-back Grassquit (Volatinia jacarina)
Lesser Goldfinch (Carduelis psaltria)
Melodious Blackbird (Dives dives)
* Yellow-throated Warbler (Dendroica dominica)
* Mississippi Kite (Ictinia mississippiensis)
Southern House Wren (Troglodytes aedon)
Rusty Sparrow (Amphispiza rufescens)

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2) Birds found in an around Finca Esperanza in San Ramón, which require more intense searching but can (reliably) be found:

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)
Spotted-bellied Quail (*Colinus cristatus*)
Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*)
Barred Forest-Falcon (*Micrastur ru×collis*)
Bat Falcon (*Galco ru×gularis*)
Crested Owl (*Lophostrix cristata*)
* Whippoorwill (*Caprimulgus vociferus*)
Long-tailed Hermit (*Phaethornis superciliosus*)
Crowned Woodnymph (*Thalurania colombica*)
Blue-tailed Hummingbird (*Amazilia cyanura*)
Emerald Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus prasinus*)
* Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*)
Olivaceous Woodcreeper (*Sittasomus griseicapillus*)
Spotted Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*)
Rufous-browed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis*

gujanensis)
Yellow-green Vireo (*Vireo lavoiviridis*)
* Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*)
Green-breasted Mango (*Anthracothorax prevostii*)
Strong-billed Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus guttatus*)
Rufous-and-white Wren (*Thryothorus rufalbus*)
* Solitary Vireo (Blue-headed) (*Vireo solitarius*)
Rufous-capped Warbler (*Basileuterus culicivorus*)
Golden-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus culicivorus*)
Three-striped Warbler (*Basileuterus tristriatus*)
* Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*)
Buff-rumped Warbler (*Phaeothlypis fulvicauda*)
Tropical Parula (*Parula pitiayumi*)

* Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*)
* Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*)
* American Redstart (*Setophago ruticilla*)
* Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*)
* Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*)
* Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ru×capilla*)
* Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*)
* Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*)
Yellow-tailed Oriole (*Icterus mesomelas*)
Yellow-backed Oriole (*Icterus chrysater*)
* Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*)
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum*)
White-ruffed Manakin (*Corapipo leucorrhoa*)
* Purple Martin (*Progne subis*)
Black-headed Nightingale Thrush (*Catharus mexicanus*)
Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*)

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3) Birds found around Finca Esperanza in San Ramón that may be more difficult to find:

White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*)

* Black Swift (*Cypseloides niger*)

Yellow-eared Toucanet (*Selenidera spectabilis*)

Stub-tailed Spadebill (*Platyrinchus canromimus*)

Bushy-crested Jay (*Cyanocorax melanocyaneus*)

Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa baritula*)

Common-Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus ophthalmicus*)

Red-capped Manakin (*Pipra mentalis*)

Yellow-winged Tanager (*Thraupis abbas*)

Golden-browed Chlorophonia (*Chlorophonia callophrys*)

Crimson-collared Tanager (*Phlogothraupis sanguinolenta*)

Scarlet-rumped Tanager (*Ramphocelus passerinii*)

Red-crowned Ant-Tanager (*Habia rubica*)

Yellow-winged Tanager (*Thraupis abbas*)

*Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

Dusky Antbird (*Cercomacra tyrannina*)

*Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica*)

4) Birds found in and around San Ramon, Matagalpa Province along the Wabuli River, at Selva Negra, La Pita, etc. This included dry ravines, riverine woodlands with fig and mahogany, cloud forest at S. Negra. There are groves of *Erythrina* trees lining many roads here, and when in bloom they are an incredible draw for nectar/flower feeding birds; everything from Oropendolas to parakeets, hummers, orioles and warblers. Literally hundreds of birds, coming and going. There is an Oropendola Colony at La Pita.

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)

Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moschata*)

Collared Forest-Falcon (*Micrastur semitorquatus*)

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)

Inca Dove (*Scardafella inca*)

Common Ground-dove (*Columbina passerina*)

Orange-fronted Parakeet (*Aratinga canicularis*)

Orange-chinned Parakeet (*Brotogeris jugularis*)

* Vaux's Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*)

Southern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*)

Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*)

Violet Sabrewing (*Campyopterus hemileucurus*)

Cinnamon Hummingbird (*Amazilia rutila*)

Stripe-tailed Hummingbird (*Eupherusa eximia*)

Streak-headed Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes*)

Spotted-crowned Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes affinis*)

Long-tailed Manakin (*Chiroxiphia linearis*)

Three-wattled Bellbird (*Procnias tricarunculata*)

* Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*)

Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarhynchus pitangua*)

Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)

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4) Birds found in and around San Ramon, Matagalpa Province—Along the Wabuli River, at Selva Negra, La Pita (CONTINUED)

Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myriarchus tuberculifer*)
Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*)
Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*)
Yellow-headed Caracara (*Milvago chimachima*)
* Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*)
Streaked Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes maculatus*)
* Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*)
* Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*)

* Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*)
Grayish Saltator (*Saltator coerulescens*)
Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*)
Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*)
Variable Seedeater (*Sporophila aurita*)
Stripe-headed Sparrow (*Aimphila ruficauda*)
Common Gallinule (*Gallinula chloropus*)
Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*)
White-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albicaudatus*)

Plain-breasted Ground-Dove (*Columbina minuta*)
Band-tailed Barbthroat (*Threnetes ruckeri*)
Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*)
* Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*)
* Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*)
* Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*)
* Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*)

5) Birds along the highway, Managua to San Ramon including at La Playita (the pond) and near a bay where there were 1000s of swallows by the water, and attracted to brush fires were many vultures, raptors and caracaras. Also in dry tropical forests near Masaya Volcano, Granada/Lake Nicaragua, Domitila, and El Chocoyero.

Olivaceous Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax olivaceus*)
Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*)
* Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*)
* Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*)
Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*)
Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*)
Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*)
Green-backed Heron (*Butorides striatus*)
Northern Jacana (*Jacana spinosa*)
Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*)

Least Grebe (*Tachybaptus dominicus*)
* American Coot (*Fulica americana*)
* Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)
Mangrove Swallow (*Tachycineta albilinea*)
Hoffman's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes hoffmanii*)
Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*)
Pacific Parakeet (*Aratinga strenua*)
Mangrove Cuckoo (*Coccyzus minor*)
Ringed Kingfisher (*Ceryle torquata*)

Brown-crested Flycatcher (*Myriarchus tyrannulus*)
Mountain Elaenia (*Elaenia frantzii*)
* Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*)
* Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*)
* Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*)
* American Wigeon (*Anas americana*)
* Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)
Fulvous Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*)
Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

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5) Birds along the highway, Managua to San Ramon including at La Playita (the pond) (CONTINUED)

* Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*)
Crested Caracara (*Polyborus plancus*)
Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)
Blue-throated Goldentail (*Hylocharis eliciae*)
Turquoise-browed Motmot (*Eumomota superciliosa*)
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)

Spotted-breasted Oriole (*Icterus pectoralis*)
Altamira Oriole (*Icterus gularis*)
Fork-tailed flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*)
Pinnated Bittern (*Botaurus pinnatus*)
Black-bellied Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)
White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*)
Lesser Roadrunner (*Geococcyx velox*)

Black-headed Trogon (*Trogon melanocephalus*)
* Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus borealis*)
Yellow-olive Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias sulphureus*)
* Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)
Banded Wren (*Thryothorus pleurostictus*)

6) Other

Double-toothed Kite – *Harpagus bidentatus*
Brown-hooded Parrot – *Pionopsitta haematotis*
Black-and-White Owl – *Ciccaba nigrolineata*
Streaked Xenops – *Xenops rutilans*
Olivaceous Woodcreeper – *Sittasomus griseicapillus*

Streak-headed Woodcreeper – *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*
Barred Woodcreeper – *Dendrocolaptes certhia*
Strong-billed Woodcreeper – *Xiphorhynchus guttatus*
Spot-bellied Bobwhite – *Colinus leucopogon*
Pheasant Cuckoo – *Dromococcyx phasianellus*

Smoky-brown Woodpecker – *Veniliornis kirkii*
Plain Wren – *Thryothorus modestus*
* Swainson's Thrush – *Catharus ustulatus*
* Veery – *Catharus fuscescens*
Olive-backed Euphonia – *Euphonia gouldi*
Rufous-winged Tanager – *Tangara lavinia*