

# Tapanti, Costa Rica

25-26 April 2009



*Scaled Antpitta*

**Björn Anderson**

## General

This was a brief one and a half day weekend trip in order to catch up with a couple of target birds. I decided to go to Tapanti, which would be a good bet on Scaled Antpitta and possibly Bare-necked Umbrellabird. Randall Ortega arranged all the logistics and guiding. We connected with the Antpitta rather easily, although the Umbrellabird escaped our effort. Eventually I also got my first Black Swifts in addition to some general great birding in the Costa Rican highlands, an area that I had not been visiting since 1997.



*Ochre-breasted Antpitta*

## Itinerary

Due to some flight issues, I did not manage to get in to San Jose until late Saturday morning, so it was already early afternoon when we arrived at Tapanti. We spent the rest of the day along the main road looking for mixed species flocks as well as checking all the Swifts in the valley.

The night was spent at the nearby Lodge (Kiri?), which paved the way for a convenient start the day after. At the crack of dawn we took off at Sendero La Oropendola, and even before starting to walk I lay my eyes on a stunning Scaled Antpitta. We could then follow it for a few minutes along the trail before it vanished into the forest. The main part of the morning was then spent along Sendero Arboles Caidos, where we looked in vain for Lanceolated Monklet. The birding was rather slow with few mixed species flocks. The remaining part of the day was spent along the main road trying, rather unsuccessfully, to connect with good flocks. By 17.00 we returned to San Jose.

## Weather

The weather was in general quite ok. The morning was sunny and clear, and both afternoons were overcast sometimes with light drizzle.

## Site descriptions

### Tapanti National Park

At Tapanti there are basically only two major trails, with a few additional shorter ones. Sendero Arboles Caidos (Fallen Tree Trail) leads up the slope to the left (going in) and seemed very good, although we encountered very few mixed flocks. Sendero La Oropendola is more level and leads down to the river with several picnic tables. This trail can be very noisy with people during day-time and is best explored at the crack of dawn, when Scaled Antpittas can be seen hopping on the trail.

Randall Ortega ([nativoscr@yahoo.com](mailto:nativoscr@yahoo.com) and his wife [harmony@daystar-properties.com](mailto:harmony@daystar-properties.com) ) arranged the logistics.

## Birds

Black Vulture, *Coragyps atratus brasiliensis*

Many.

Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura* ssp

Many.

Double-toothed Kite, *Harpagus bidentatus fasciatus*

One at Tapanti.

Barred Forest-Falcon, *Micrastur ruficollis interstes*

One heard at Sendero Arboles Caidos at Tapanti.

[Collared Forest-Falcon, *Micrastur semitorquatus naso*

One probable heard at Sendero Arboles Caidos at Tapanti.]

Black Guan, *Chamaepetus unicolor*

Two singles seen at Sendero Arboles Caidos at Tapanti.

Spotted Wood-Quail, *Odontophorus guttatus*

One heard at Sendero Arboles Caidos at Tapanti.

Band-tailed Pigeon, *Patagioenas fasciata crissalis*

Several small parties at Tapanti.

White-winged Dove, *Zenaida asiatica australis*

A few near San Jose.

Parakeet sp, *Aratinga* sp

Five in San Jose.

Brown-hooded Parrot, *Pionopsitta haematotis haematotis*

Four at Tapanti.

White-crowned Parrot, *Pionus senilis*

A few flying across the valley at Tapanti.

Short-tailed Nighthawk, *Lurocalis semitorquatus noctivagus*

A pair at the lodge at Tapanti.

Black Swift, *Cypseloides niger costaricensis*

Up to about ten. A long sought-after bird finally bagged!

[Spot-fronted Swift, *Cypseloides cherriei*

One probable at Tapanti lookout and later three seen briefly by Randall.]

Chestnut-collared Swift, *Streptoprocne rutila brunnitorques*

About five at Tapanti lookout.

White-collared Swift, *Streptoprocne zonaris bouchellii*

Perhaps up to a hundred at Tapanti.

Swift sp, *Chaetura* sp

Four at Tapanti lookout.

Green Hermit, *Phaetornis guy coruscus*

One at Sendero Arboles Caidos at Tapanti.

Violet Sabrewing, *Campylopterus hemileucurus mellitus*  
Four at Tapanti.

Black-bellied Hummingbird, *Eupherus nigriventris*  
Three at Tapanti.

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, *Amazilia tzacatl tzacatl*  
Two at Tapanti.

White-bellied Mountain-gem, *Lampornis hemileucus*  
Two at Tapanti.

Purple-throated Mountain-gem, *Lampornis calolaemus calolaemus*  
Four at Tapanti.

Collared Trogon, *Trogon collaris puella*  
Three at Tapanti.

[Lanceolated Monklet, *Micromonacha lanceolata*  
One probably heard at Sendero Arboles Caidos at Tapanti and when playback was made, a bird landed briefly just above our heads before flying off again, without us being lucky enough to lay our eyes on it...]

Red-headed Barbet, *Eubucco bourcierii salvini*  
Three at Tapanti.

Prong-billed Barbet, *Semnornis frantzii*  
One seen and two more heard at Sendero Arboles Caidos at Tapanti.

Black-cheeked Woodpecker, *Melanerpes pucherani*  
One heard between San Jose and Tapanti.

Red-faced Spinetail, *Cranioleuca erythrops rufigenis*  
Two at Sendero Arboles Caidos at Tapanti.

Spotted Barbtail, *Premnoplex brunescens brunneicauda*  
One at Sendero Arboles Caidos at Tapanti.

Ruddy Treerunner, *Margarornis rubiginosus rubiginosus*  
One at Tapanti.

Streak-breasted Treehunter, *Thripadectes rufobrunneus*  
Two at Sendero Arboles Caidos at Tapanti.

Tawny-throated Leaf Tosser, *Sclerurus mexicanus pullus*  
Two at Tapanti.

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper, *Glyphorhynchus spirurus pectoralis*  
One at Tapanti.

Spotted Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus erythropygius punctigula*  
One at Sendero Arboles Caidos at Tapanti.

Brown-billed Scythebill, *Campylorhamphus pusillus borealis*  
One seen and one heard at Sendero Arboles Caidos at Tapanti.

Scaled Antpitta, *Grallaria guatemalensis princeps*  
One bird was hopping on the trail at the start of Sendero La Oropendola at Tapanti at the crack of dawn. Target bird of the weekend and much appreciated. This is one of the big fat antpittas!

Ochre-breasted Antpitta, *Grallaricula flavirostris costaricensis*  
One was seen exceedingly well in the understorey at Sendero Arboles Caidos at Tapanti. This is one of the tiny ping-pong-ball-on-two-legs antpittas!

Silvery-fronted Tapaculo, *Scytalopus argentifrons*  
Three heard at Tapanti.

Yellow-bellied Ealania, *Elaenia flavogaster subpagana*  
One at Tapanti.

Slaty-capped Flycatcher, *Leptopogon superciliaris superciliaris*  
One at Tapanti.

Paltry Tyrannulet, *Zimerius vilissimus parvus*  
One at Tapanti.

Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant, *Lophotriccus pileatus luteiventris*  
A few at Tapanti.

Eye-ringed Flatbill, *Rhynchocyclus brevirostris brevirostris*  
Two at Tapanti.

White-throated Spadebill, *Platyrinchus mystaceus neglectus*  
One heard at Sendero Arboles Caidos at Tapanti.

Tufted Flycatcher, *Mitrephanes phaeocercus aurantiiventris*  
One at Sendero Arboles Caidos at Tapanti.

Dark Pewee, *Contopus lugubris*  
Two at Tapanti.

Yellowish Flycatcher, *Empidonax flavescens flavescens*  
One at Tapanti.

Black Phoebe, *Sayornis nigricans amnicola*  
Two at Tapanti.

Bright-rumped Attila, *Attila spadiceus*  
Four at Tapanti.

Social Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes similis columbianus*  
Two at Tapanti.

Great Kiskadee, *Pitangus sulphuratus guatemalensis*  
A few around San Jose.

Tropical Kingbird, *Tyrannus melancholicus*  
A few seen along the roads.

Barred Becard, *Pachyramphus versicolor*  
One heard at Tapanti.

Thrush-like Schiffornis, *Sciffornis turdinus veraepacis*  
One heard at Tapanti.

Gray-chested Martin, *Progne chalybea chalybea*  
Large flocks moving past at high heights.

Blue-and-white Swallow, *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca cyanoleuca*  
A few near Tapanti.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow, *Stelgidopteryx serripennis fulvipennis*  
A few at between San Jose and Tapanti.

House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon intermedius*  
One at between San Jose and Tapanti, and one at Tapanti.

Ochraceous Wren, *Troglodytes ochraceus ochraceus*  
One at Tapanti.

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren, *Henicorhina leucophrys collina*  
Three heard at Tapanti.

Black-faced Solitaire, *Myadestes melanops*  
Several at Tapanti.

Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush, *Catharus fuscater hellmayri*  
Several at Tapanti.

Swainson's Thrush, *Catharus ustulatus ssp*  
Two at Tapanti.

Mountain Thrush, *Turdus plebejus plebejus*  
Many at Tapanti.

Pale-vented Thrush, *Turdus obsoletus obsoletus*  
A few at Tapanti.

Clay-colored Thrush, *Turdus grayi casius*  
Many at Tapanti.

White-throated Thrush, *Turdus assimilis oblitus*  
A few at Tapanti.

Brown Jay, *Cyanocorax morio cyanogenys*  
 One at the lunchstop between San Jose and Tapanti.

House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus* ssp  
 A few seen in villages.

Brown-capped Vireo, *Vireo leucophrys chiriquensis*  
 Three at Tapanti.

Tropical Parula, *Parula pitiayumi speciosa*  
 Two at Tapanti.

Chestnut-sided Warbler, *Dendroica pensylvanica*  
 One at Tapanti.

Blackburnian Warbler, *Dendroica fusca*  
 Three at Tapanti.

Louisiana Waterthrush, *Seiurus motacilla*  
 One heard at Tapanti.

Slate-throated Redstart, *Myioborus miniatus aurantiacus*  
 Four at Tapanti.

Three-striped Warbler, *Basileuterus tristriatus chitrensis*  
 Two at Sendero Arboles Caidos at Tapanti.

Bananaquit, *Coereba flaveola Mexicana*  
 One at Tapanti.

Common Bush-Tanager, *Chlorospingus ophthalmicus regionalis*  
 Many at Tapanti.

White-shouldered Tanager, *Tachyphonus luctuosus axillaris*  
 One at the lunchstop between San Jose and Tapanti.

White-winged Tanager, *Piranga leucoptera latifasciata*  
 One pair at Tapanti.

Crimson-collared Tanager, *Ramphocelus sanguinolentus apricus*  
 One at Tapanti.

Passerini's Tanager, *Ramphocelus passerinii*  
 Several at Tapanti.

Blue-gray Tanager, *Thraupis epicopus cana*  
 Several seen at Tapanti.

Palm Tanager, *Thraupis palmarum atripennis*  
 One at the lunchstop between San Jose and Tapanti.

Elegant Euphonia, *Euphonia elegantissima vincens*  
 A few at Tapanti.

Tawny-capped Euphonia, *Euphonia anneae anneae*  
 A few at Tapanti.

Golden-browed Chlorophonia, *Chlorophonia callophrys*  
 A few heard at Tapanti.

Silver-throated Tanager, *Tangara icterocephala frantzii*  
 Many seen at Tapanti.

Bay-headed Tanager, *Tangara gyrola bangsi*  
 Several at Tapanti.

Spangle-cheeked Tanager, *Tangara dowii*  
 Several at Tapanti.

Scarlet-thighed Dacnis, *Dacnis venusta venusta*  
 Three at Tapanti.

Yellow-faced Grassquit, *Tiaris olivacea pusillus*  
 A few at Tapanti.

White-naped Brush-Finch, *Atlapetes albinucha parvirostris*  
 One at Tapanti.

Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch, *Buarremon brunneinucha elsae*

Two at Tapanti.

Rufous-collared Sparrow, *Zonotrichia capensis costaricensis*

Several heard between San Jose and Tapanti.

Black-headed Saltator, *Saltator atriceps atriceps*

Three at the lunchstop between San Jose and Tapanti.

Melodious Blackbird, *Dives dives*

Several between San Jose and Tapanti.

Great-tailed Grackle, *Quiscalus mexicanus peruvianus*

Commonly seen, except at Tapanti.

Bronzed Cowbird, *Molothrus aeneus aeneus*

A few between San Jose and Tapanti.

Black-cowled Oriole, *Icterus prothemelas praecox*

One in San Jose.

Chestnut-headed Oropendola, *Psarocolius wagleri ridgwayi*

Several at Tapanti.

Montezuma Oropendola, *Gymnostinops montezuma*

A few near Tapanti.

### **Mammals**

Cottontail Rabbit

One at Tapanti.

Coyote

Heard calling at dawn from the lodge at Tapanti.