

WINTER IS FOR THE BIRDS COSTA RICA EDITION

Photographing Birds & Wildlife in Costa Rica

Following our presentation on Sandhill Cranes, which documents three January trips to Bosque del Apache, NM, a Federal Wildlife Management area along the Rio Grande River, we have recently spent 8 February days photographing the tropical wildlife and birds of Costa Rica. The country is blessed with an extremely diverse assortment of colorful birds and insects as well as a wide range of other animals – the country is covered by low-elevation tropical rain forests in the Caribbean coastal plains and extends to cloud forests reaching elevations above 10,000 feet close to the Pacific coast.

The majority of our time in Costa Rica was spent in or in close proximity to two ecological nature preserves, one in the Sarapiquí region of the Caribbean rain forest, the other in the Savegre Valley of the Talamanca Mountain range, an area of cloud forests close to San Gerardo de Dota. Our days in the Sarapiquí region were spent photographing some of the 460 species of local and migratory birds found in the region; highlights included being able to get close to toucans, macaws, a sloth and a group of capuchin monkeys. Our time in the Savegre Valley and the surrounding Talamanca Mountain range resulted in two opportunities to photograph various species of hummingbirds, the elusive Resplendent Quetzal as well as wonderful vistas along the Costa Rican section of the Pan-American Highway.

This presentation will review some of the highlights of our trip and show a selection from our photos illustrating the diversity of Costa Rica's fauna and flora.

Photographers **Wolf & Linnea Koch** travel extensively; their interests in photography and history have taken them to many sites in European countries, and throughout the US. Dr. Koch, a Sterling resident, is a consultant to the oil and petrochemical industry and has been a professor of chemical engineering. He lectures on energy-related topics and offers various historical presentations. Linnea Koch is a graphic designer and photographer, known for her photos of local landmarks; she has documented the first decade of the Whiteside County Barn Tours with multimedia DVDs and has produced numerous interpretive signs on historic landmarks in the Sterling area. Linnea is an Illinois Master Gardener with a special interest in native shade plants, and has given many presentations on local landmarks, shade gardening and some of the wonderful gardens here and in Europe. Together, the Kochs teach photography seminars: ***See with an Artist's Eye*** covers art, expression and the essential aspects of digital photography technology, ***Capturing Birds & Other Wildlife with Your Camera*** extends the first presentation to photographing fast moving subjects, while ***Taking Great Travel Photos*** is a short workshop which includes suggestions on cameras and other lightweight equipment suitable for travel.