



Wildlife of the World Newsletter

September 2025



Fiery-throated Hummingbird (Panterpe insignis), Costa Rica

Hi ,

Welcome to the September newsletter, and I hope you like the photo I've chosen to start with. It's a fiery-throated hummingbird in the mountains of Costa Rica, which was engaged in a particularly fiery dispute with another hummingbird at a feeder. I've always been impressed by the incredible, acrobatic flying skills of hummingbirds, but I hadn't realised just how aggressive they can be... dog-fighting like tiny fighter jets and even spitting streams of nectar into each other's faces!

With the second edition of my Costa Rica book out this week, it seemed a good opportunity to highlight this superb tropical American

country which is one of the best places in the world for wildlife. It was the first country to put a stop to deforestation and today over 25% of the land consists of nature reserves... protecting a whole host of animals from sleepy sloths to noisy howlers, poisonous frogs to exotic birds and all sorts of weird and wonderful reptiles and insects!

There are many famous locations for viewing wildlife in Costa Rica, such as the rainforest of Corcovado, mangroves of Tortuguero and cloud forest of Monteverde but I've chosen one of the less well-known national parks which I think beats them all...

Wildlife-watching Sites

Palo Verde National Park, Costa Rica

Palo Verde is best known for the large expanse of wetlands teeming with bird life... majestic storks and bright pink spoonbills jostling with noisy ducks and clown-footed jacanas. But away from the marshes, there are also large areas of tropical dry forest. As the name suggests, for much of the year there's no rain at all, so the only water available is from a few natural springs which are visited by a fascinating variety of animals.



Ocelot (Leopardus pardalis)

There's accommodation at the Biological Research station, which is basic but comfortable and has the advantage of being home to some of Costa Rica's best scientists and guides. Ulises Chavarria showed me around and I spent an excellent few days, including several hours hiding under my camouflage cape by one of the natural springs. I was treated to an impressive succession of thirsty animals including spiny-tailed iguana, huge curassows, coati, an opossum, deer, peccaries, tayra and the beautiful ocelot above... which wandered right up to

within touching distance of me, completely unaware of my presence!
[You can see a full report of my trip here...](#)



Black Spiny-tailed Iguana (Ctenosaura similis)

The Books

As I mentioned, the second edition of Wildlife of the World - Costa Rica is due to be published this week with lots of extra photos and media links, and again I have a few free review copies, so let me know if you're interested in one.

Next week I'm off on a month-long trip to Indonesia so there'll be no newsletter in October, but hopefully I'll have some photos from my trip to include in the November edition. Until then, stay safe...

Best Wishes,

Hugh



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