



COSTA RICA ANIMAL FIELD GUIDE

Take some time to look at what the animals in the Glasshouse are eating, for example at the plates of food for the birds and the butterflies on the flowers. Also notice where the bird nests are located.

When you go home, take a few lessons in gardens and wildlife with you. Create a garden that will be shared by butterflies and birds. Create a safe space free of chemical pesticides and fertilizers. Conserve water, build a rain barrel and capture and use the rainwater for your gardening and landscaping needs. Join Cleveland Botanical Garden and participate in our rain barrel classes.



Red-legged Honeycreeper

Cyanerpes cyaneus

Also called the blue honeycreeper, it spends most of the year in small flocks. Males are violet-blue, while females and the young are green (male pictured).



Violaceous Euphonia

Euphonia violacea

The Violaceous Euphonia is a member of the finch family. This very social bird mainly feasts on fruit. Ours are fed nectar, mango, papaya, grapes and bananas. They are found in forests as well as cocoa and citrus plantations (male pictured).



Bananaquit

Coereba flaveola

It cannot hover like a hummingbird, but it can hang and climb at all angles to forage small insects and spiders from foliage.



Common Ground Dove

Columbina passerine

Small and stocky, this dove gathers seeds, berries and sometimes insects from ground. Listen for its low, soft, clear, "cooOOP" or "cowoot".



Ruddy Quail Dove

Geotrygon montana

This dove is usually found on the ground picking up fallen fruits and seeds. When alarmed, it freezes or flies noisily to a low perch (female pictured).



Blue Ground Dove

Claravis pretiosa

Usually seen individually or in pairs, the Blue Ground Dove is commonly found in humid areas. The male's song is a loud "boop."



Ruddy Ground Dove

Columbina talpacoti

A common bird in Costa Rica, it's found in pairs or in flocks of 10-20 birds. Doves and pigeons are found on every continent but Antarctica. Smaller species are called doves. The larger ones are called pigeons.

White Wing Dove

Zenaida asiatica

Where abundant, it is very gregarious in its preferred habitat of cacti, thorny scrub and scattered trees. When alarmed, it takes flight with loudly flapping wings.



Costa-Rican Tiger-rump Tarantula

Cyclosternum fasciata

This colorful tarantula feeds on crickets and lives mainly in the ground.



Emerald Swift

Sceloporus malachiticus

This small lizard forages for insects in the early morning and will move to a burrow or under a rock or log if it gets too hot (male pictured).



Marine Toad

Bufo marinus

The adult toad has large poison glands and can be lethal if bitten by other small animals. The tadpoles and eggs of the toad are also toxic.



*Red-eyed Tree frog

Agalychnis callidryas

The Latin name of this well-known frog means "beautiful wood nymph." The meaning is fitting given that the frog remains hidden in the treetops during the day.



Leaf-cutter Ants

Atta cephalotes

The path to the leaf-cutter ant nest looks like a narrow trail of coffee grounds. Large nests can house up to 5 million workers.



Giant South American Roach

Blaberus giganteus

One of the world's largest cockroaches, it eats fungus, fruit and decaying plants. Females produce about 30 offspring a year. The males can fly.



* Appears in Glasshouse on select days



MADAGASCAR ANIMAL FIELD GUIDE

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Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec

Echinops telfairi

This nocturnal spiny desert native can communicate with other tenrecs by vibrating its tiny spines together.



Red Fody

Foudia madagascarensis

The bright red feathers of the male fody fade to brown once the mating season ends (male pictured).



Gold-breasted Waxbill

Amandava subflava

The surprisingly loud, piercing song of this small bird can be heard across the African savannah.



Green Singing Finch (Yellow-Fronted Canary)

Serinus mozambicus

This social seedeater finds its breeding grounds south of the Sahara Desert in Africa.



Red-billed Fire Finch

Lagonosticta senegala

“Chick-pea-pea-pea” is the familiar song that resounds from the pink bills of these beautiful African songbirds (male pictured).



Red-cheeked Cordon Bleu Waxbill

Uraeginthus bengalus

The red cheeks of the male Cordon Bleu Waxbill look as though this African songbird is the long lost pet of Raggedy Ann and Andy (male pictured).



Namaqua dove (Cape dove)

Oena capensis

These small doves are solitary dwellers found in the dry brush areas of Kenya (male pictured).



Madagascar Turtle dove

Streptopelia picturata

This swift and powerful dove of Madagascar and surrounding islands is recognized for its maroon plumage and soft “dae-woo, dae-woo dae-woo” song.



Panther Chameleon*

Furcifer pardalis

The panther chameleon’s range is widespread across Madagascar. Colors vary greatly between males and females (with females being typically duller) and from one geographic region to another (male pictured).



Oustalets Chameleon*

Furcifer oustaleti

Oustalets chameleons, the worlds largest, can reach lengths in excess of 30 inches. They will feed on insects, reptiles and small mammals (male pictured).

Spiny-tailed Iguana

Oplurus cyclurus

While most Malagasy iguanas are terrestrial rock-dwellers, the spiny-tailed iguana lives an arboreal life in the trees.



*Standings Gecko

Phelsuma standingi

The standings gecko changes its body color to absorb or reflect sunlight, turning dark when its body temperature drops and light when it becomes too hot.



*Madagascar Ground Gecko

Parodura pictus

These small, nocturnal ground geckos can be found amongst the leaf litter on the forest floors of Madagascar.



*Yellow-throated Plated lizard

Gerrhosaurus flavigularis

These lizards inhabit dry, rocky habitats and can often be found in termite mounds. They eat a variety of small invertebrates, as well as greens and fruit. They can grow to 24 inches in length.



Radiated Tortoise

Geochelone radiata

This Malagasy native earns its name from the delicate star pattern that radiates from each dark plate on its shell.



*Blue-legged Mantella

Mantella expectata

It would be difficult to distinguish the males and females of this species without the cricket-like chirp of the males.



*Brown Mantella

Mantella betsileo

Unlike many frog species, the brown mantella lays its eggs on land under stones near streams or slow moving water. Newly hatched mantella tadpoles wriggle out from under the rocks to seek the nearby water.



African Black Millipede

Spirostreptis sp.

Millipedes act as nutrient recyclers by breaking down dead and decaying matter and returning the nutrients to the soil.



Hissing Cockroach

Gromphadorina portentosa

Despite its large size and ability to make hissing noises, this native Malagasy roach is relatively harmless.



* Appears in Glasshouse on select days