

# **SHORT COSTA RICA: TOUCANS TO QUETZALS**

**February 27 - March 7, 2010**



*Resplendent Quetzal* © Anthony West

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*This trip will long be remembered as the wettest dry-season tour ever! Clouds hung over the Caribbean slope and lowlands for most of our time there, misting and raining frequently, but it did not dampen our spirits, and in fact helped make for a very successful visit to this region. Temperatures remained pleasantly cool, the birds responded by maintaining high levels of activity all day long, and in the end we saw a fantastic cross section of the species of this rich area. It was only when we traveled across the high mountains to the beautiful Savegre Valley that the clouds dissipated. Here we experienced sunny days and cool nights, and a wonderful parade of the mountain specialties. Tops among them had to be the fabulous Resplendent Quetzals, but there were many others, and by the end of the week we certainly understood why tiny Costa Rica is one of the world's premier birding destinations.*

*In spite of the rainy days, our visits to the world-famous La Selva Field Station were simply amazing, with a seemingly endless feast of birds appearing along the entry road, including colorful parrots, toucans, trogons, and many flycatchers. Incredibly tame Crested Guans were walking around under a fruiting guava tree right at the cafeteria, and we observed a Great Tinamou boldly "frozen" in position on the dark forest floor, almost too close to focus on. A wonderful surprise was the presence of Great Green Macaws in the region. This spectacular bird is highly endangered, and the small number remaining in Costa Rica wander widely, so to see seven flying by in one procession in gorgeous morning light was wonderful. That same morning produced a serendipitous male Snowy Cotinga that teed-up briefly while we were watching the rare Nicaraguan Seed-Finch in the scopes! There is always much to see in a tropical region as rich as this one, and other highlights here included spectacular looks at a Chestnut-colored Woodpecker foraging for ants on a dead bush; calm Broad-billed Motmots sitting close to the foot-bridge every time that we crossed it; a Semiplumbeous Hawk perched by the roadside; a sparkling Rufous-tailed Jacamar hawking insects; Gray-necked Wood-Rails sneaking around in a wooded swamp at the lodge; good looks at the clown-like Barred Antshrike while a more secretive pair of Great Antshrikes skulked nearby; a colorful Yellow-tailed Oriole at close range; and the parade of tanagers, saltators, and honeycreepers at the lodge feeders. Our time here ended with two spectacular Great Curassows strolling around in the open in the late afternoon. This spectacular game bird is highly threatened in most of its range and it has taken decades for them to re-colonize this part of the La Selva property.*

*From the Caribbean lowlands we moved to the delightful—and drier—mountains, descending through the oak forests of Cerro de la Muerte to our lodging along a rushing stream in a deep valley. In these pleasant surroundings we found a flower-filled garden swarming with hummingbirds, and mixed-flocks with a totally new set of birds, including beauties like the Ruddy Treerunner, Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher (so sleek and elegant), and Flame-throated Warbler. The charming Collared Redstarts ("amigos de hombre") seemed to like us, landing right at our feet as they searched the leaf litter for insects, while a scolding Streak-breasted Treehunter well-hidden in a vine tangle challenged us to see it. A tiny fledgling Torrent Tyrannulet repeatedly being fed by the adults was especially fun to watch. At the higher elevations we tracked down several endemics of very restricted range, including the fierce-eyed Volcano Junco that insisted on being looked at again and again; Silvery-throated Jays slipping*

*through the canopy of the old-growth oak forest; a bold Timberline Wren that climbed out of the thickets into the open; odd-looking Large-footed Finches lurking in the stunted vegetation; and stunning Fiery-throated Hummingbirds, with their full rainbow of colors. Best of all were the fabulous Resplendent Quetzals, considered by many to be the most beautiful bird in the world. This year they started their nesting season early, and we had repeated wonderful looks at males at or near four different nest-holes, while other males and females were seen silently biding their time in the forest or fluttering down to fruiting trees to grab a bite. This bird is perhaps the ultimate Costa Rican natural history experience!*

*All too soon it was time to head back to San Jose, our week in Costa Rica over, but certainly not forgotten.*

**ITINERARY:**

**February 27:** arrival in San Jose, Costa Rica.

**February 28:** travel from San Jose and the Meseta Central to the Aerial Tram in the Caribbean foothills, where we spent a rainy morning and early afternoon before continuing on to La Quinta de Sarapiquí, our headquarters for exploring this region.

**March 1:** morning and afternoon excursions to the La Selva Field Station of the Organization of Tropical Studies (OTS), with midday break at La Quinta.

**March 2:** birding the open country in the Puerto Viejo region and then a short distance up into the foothills. Afternoon birding at La Quinta.

**March 3:** morning and afternoon excursions to the La Selva Field Station of the OTS.

**March 4:** travel to Cerro de la Muerte and the Savegre Valley, after a stop in the wet Caribbean foothills.

**March 5:** the beautiful Savegre Valley on Cerro de la Muerte, in the general vicinity of the lodge and nearby forests, and then an afternoon excursion to the high country.

**March 6:** morning hike down from the old-growth oak forest above the lodge and then an afternoon drive back to San Jose

**March 7:** departure for flights home.

**KEY:**

MC = Meseta Central

CS = Aerial Tram; El Tapir Garden.

CL = Caribbean lowlands from La Quinta area to the La Selva Field Station and nearby.

CM = Cerro de la Muerte area, especially the Savegre Valley and nearby.

**eh** = endemic to the highlands of Costa Rica and western Panama

**ec** = endemic to the Caribbean lowlands and foothills centered on Costa Rica but in some cases extending as far as se. Honduras and central Panama.

**el** = endemic to both the Caribbean and Pacific lowlands and foothills of Costa Rica and Panama.

**BIRD LIST:** Follows “*The A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds, Seventh Edition*” and supplements. A few of our many highlights are **bolded**.

**Great Tinamou** (*Tinamus major*) - CL (incredibly close study inside the La Selva forest on a dark late afternoon).

Little Tinamou (*Crypturellus soui*) - CL (heard only).

**Crested Guan** (*Penelope purpurascens*) – CL (boldly walking around the guava tree picking up fallen fruit).

**eh** Black Guan (*Chamaepetes unicolor*) - CM

**Great Curassow** (*Crax rubra*) – CL (two females strolling around in the open in the late afternoon, a spectacular sight).

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) - CL

Bare-throated Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma mexicanum*) - CL

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) - CL

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) - CL

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) - CL

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) - CL

**Green Ibis** (*Mesembrinibis cayennensis*) – CL

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) - CL, CS, CM

**Turkey Vulture** (*Cathartes aura*) - CL, CS, CM (many migrants downed by the rains until March 2, when we saw spectacular flights kettling up and leaving when the sun came out).

**King Vulture** (*Sarcoramphus papa*) – CS (three adults playing back and forth over the Caribbean foothills).

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) - CL

Gray-headed Kite (*Leptodon cayanensis*) - CL

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) - CM

White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*) - CL, MC

Double-toothed Kite (*Harpagus bidentatus*) - CS

**Semiplumbeous Hawk** (*Leucopternis semiplumbeus*) – CL (perched in a roadside cecropia on a damp afternoon).

Great Black Hawk (*Buteogallus urubitinga*) - CS (not seen by all).

Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*) - CL

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) - CL, CM

**Gray Hawk** (*Buteo nitidus*) – CL

Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*) - CL

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) - CM

Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*) - CL

Laughing Falcon (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*) - CL

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) - CL

White-throated Crake (*Laterallus albigularis*) - CL (heard only).

**Gray-necked Wood-Rail** (*Aramides cajanea*) – CL (skulking pair at La Quinta).

Northern Jacana (*Jacana spinosa*) - CL

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) - feral birds in cities and towns

Pale-vented Pigeon (*Patagioenas cayennensis*) - CL

**Scaled Pigeon** (*Patagioenas speciosa*) – CL (the scarcest of the pigeons of the area).

Red-billed Pigeon (*Patagioenas flavirostris*) - MC, CL

Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*) - CM

Ruddy Pigeon (*Patagioenas subvinacea*) - CM

Short-billed Pigeon (*Patagioenas nigrirostris*) - CL

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) - MC

Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*) - MC

Ruddy Ground Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*) - CL

White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*) - CL

Gray-chested Dove (*Leptotila cassini*) - CL

**eh** Sulphur-winged Parakeet (*Pyrrhura hoffmanni*) – CM (heard only by most).  
 Crimson-fronted Parakeet (*Aratinga finschi*) - MC, CL  
 Olive-throated Parakeet (*Aratinga nana*) - CL  
**Great Green Macaw** (*Ara ambiguus*) - CL (this highly-threatened species is a great wanderer, but was present in this region in some numbers this year).  
 Scarlet Macaw (*Ara macao*) – CL (an escaped bird but still spectacular).  
 Orange-chinned Parakeet (*Brotogeris jugularis*) - CL  
 White-crowned Parrot (*Pionus senilis*) - CL  
 Red-lored Parrot (*Amazona autumnalis*) - CL  
 Mealy Parrot (*Amazona farinosa*) - CL  
**Mangrove Cuckoo** (*Coccyzus minor*) – CM (one in the crown of the tall oak forest above Savegre at 8300 ft was the biggest surprise of the trip and seemed very out of place).  
 Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*) - CS, CL  
 Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) - CL  
 Costa Rican Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium costaricanum*) - CM (Chris and Mimi only).  
 Common Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*) - CL (heard only; by a few).  
 Chestnut-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne rutila*) - CL (swifts high over La Selva on a rainy afternoon were almost certainly this species, driven down from the mountains).  
 White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*) - CL, CM  
 Vaux's Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*) - CM  
 Gray-rumped Swift (*Chaetura cinereiventris*) - CL  
 Long-billed Hermit (*Phaethornis longirostris*) - CL (formerly considered a race of Long-tailed Hermit).  
 Stripe-throated Hermit (*Phaethornis striigularis*) - CL (formerly lumped with Little Hermit).  
 White-necked Jacobin (*Florisuga mellivora*) - CL  
 Green Violet-ear (*Colibri thalassinus*) - CM  
 Green-breasted Mango (*Anthracothorax prevostii*) - CL  
 Violet-headed Hummingbird (*Klais guimeti*) - CS  
 Violet-crowned Woodnymph (*Thalurania colombica*) - CS  
**eh Fiery-throated Hummingbird** (*Panterpe insignis*) - CM (stunning endemic of the highest elevations, but it takes a while to see all of the colors light up).  
 Blue-chested Hummingbird (*Amazilia amabilis*) - CL  
 Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (*Amazilia tzacatl*) - CL, CS  
 Stripe-tailed Hummingbird (*Eupherusa eximia*) - CM  
 Bronze-tailed Plumeteer (*Chalybura urochrysia*) - CL  
**eh** White-throated (Gray-tailed) Mountain-gem (*Lampornis castaneiventris*) - CM  
 Magnificent Hummingbird (*Eugenes fulgens*) - CM  
 Purple-crowned Fairy (*Heliothryx barroti*) - CL, CS  
**eh** Volcano Hummingbird (*Selasphorus flammula*) - CM  
**eh** Scintillant Hummingbird (*Selasphorus scintilla*) - CM  
 Violaceous Trogon (*Trogon violaceus*) - CL  
 Collared Trogon (*Trogon collaris*) - CM  
 Black-throated Trogon (*Trogon rufus*) - CS (heard only).  
 Slaty-tailed Trogon (*Trogon massena*) - CL  
 Lattice-tailed Trogon (*Trogon clathratus*) - CS (heard only).  
**Resplendent Quetzal** (*Pharomachrus mocinno*) – CM (who could even get enough of this spectacular bird? We saw males in the vicinity of four different nest sites and got to observe them often and well).  
 Rufous Motmot (*Baryphthengus martii*) - CL (heard only).  
**Broad-billed Motmot** (*Electron platyrhynchum*) – CL (calm birds present at either end of the footbridge at La Selva almost every time that we crossed it).  
 Ringed Kingfisher (*Megaceryle torquatus*) - CL  
 Amazon Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle amazona*) - CL  
 Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*) - CL

White-necked Puffbird (*Notharchus macrorhynchos*) - CL

**Pied Puffbird** (*Notharchus tectus*) – CL (hard to spot, but a great find).

**White-whiskered Puffbird** (*Malacoptila panamensis*) – CL (sitting out at point-blank range on a rainy morning; our first trip ever to La Selva to see all three puffbirds here).

**Rufous-tailed Jacamar** (*Galbula ruficauda*) - CL (a glittering gem).

Emerald Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus prasinus*) - CM (the endemic “Blue-throated” race is sometimes split as a separate species (*Aulacorhynchus caeruleogularis*)).

Collared Aracari (*Pteroglossus torquatus*) - CS, CL

Keel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*) - CL

**Chestnut-mandibled Toucan** (*Ramphastos swainsoni*) - CS, CL (common and conspicuous; sometimes lumped with Black-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos ambiguus*) of the Andes).

Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*) - CM

Black-cheeked Woodpecker (*Melanerpes pucherani*) - CS, CL

Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*) - CM

el Rufous-winged Woodpecker (*Piculus simplex*) - CL

**Chestnut-colored Woodpecker** (*Celeus castaneus*) – CL (great studies of a very close bird apparently getting ants from the branches of a dead bush inside the forest).

Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*) - CL

Spotted Barbtail (*Premnoplex brunnescens*) - CM (seen by a few).

eh **Ruddy Treerunner** (*Magarornis rubiginosus*) - CM (scurrying around the tree trunks in the mixed-flocks in the mountain forest).

Buffy Tuftedcheek (*Pseudocolaptes lawrencii*) - CM (heard only).

eh **Streak-breasted Treehunter** (*Thripadectes rufobrunneus*) – CM (repeatedly scolding us, but very challenging to see).

Plain-brown Woodcreeper (*Dendrocincla fuliginosa*) - CL

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*) - CL

Northern Barred-Woodcreeper (*Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae*) - CL

Cocoa Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus susurrans*) - CL

Streak-headed Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*) - CL

Spot-crowned Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes affinis*) - CM

Fasciated Antshrike (*Cymbilaimus lineatus*) - CL

**Great Antshrike** (*Taraba major*) - CL

**Barred Antshrike** (*Thamnophilus doliatus*) – CL (a feathered clown).

Russet Antshrike (*Thamnistes anabatinus*) - CS

Chestnut-backed Antbird (*Myrmeciza exsul*) - CL

Yellow-bellied Elaenia (*Elaenia flavogaster*) - CL

Mountain Elaenia (*Elaenia frantzii*) - CM

**Torrent Tyrannulet** (*Serpophaga cinerea*) – CM (especially cute was the tiny fledgling repeatedly being fed by the adults).

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher (*Mionectes oleagineus*) - CS

Paltry (Mistletoe) Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius villissimus*) - CS, CL, CM

Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant (*Myiornis atricapillus*) - CL

Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*) - CL

Black-headed Tody\_Flycatcher (*Todirostrum nigriceps*) - CL (seen by a few).

Yellow-olive Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias sulphurescens*) - CL

Yellow-margined Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias assimilis*) - CL

Tufted Flycatcher (*Mitrephanes phaenocercus*) - CM

Tropical Pewee (*Contopus cinereus*) - CL (calling to confirm the identification).

Yellowish Flycatcher (*Empidonax flavescens*) - CM

eh Black-capped Flycatcher (*Empidonax atriceps*) - CM

Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) - CM

**Long-tailed Tyrant** (*Colonia colonus*) - CL (this group favorite was conspicuous around the La Selva clearings).

Bright-rumped Attila (*Attila spadiceus*) - CL  
Rufous Mourner (*Rhytipterna holerythra*) - CS  
Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) - CL, CS  
Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) - CL  
Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarynchus pitangua*) - CL  
Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) - CL  
Gray-capped Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes granadensis*) - CL  
White-ringed Flycatcher (*Conopias albobittatus*) - CL  
**eh Golden-bellied Flycatcher** (*Myiodynastes hemichrysus*) - CM (scope studies of a bird calling loudly in the all oak forest).  
Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucophaeus*) - CL  
Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) - CL, CS, CM  
Cinnamon Becard (*Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*) - CL, CS  
Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*) - CL  
Black-crowned Tityra (*Tityra inquisitor*) - CL  
**ec Snowy Cotinga** (*Carpodectes nitidus*) – CL (ethereal male that teed-up briefly for us).  
White-collared Manakin (*Manacus candei*) - CL  
White-ruffed Manakin (*Corapipo altera*) - CS  
Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*) - CS  
**eh Yellow-winged Vireo** (*Vireo carmioli*) - CM  
Brown-capped Vireo (*Vireo leucophrys*) - CM  
Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*) - CM  
Lesser Greenlet (*Hylophilus decurtatus*) - CL, CS  
Rufous-browed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*) - CM (heard only).  
**Silvery-throated Jay** (*Cyanolyca argentigula*) – CM (one of the toughest of the mountain endemics to find; slipping through the canopy of the tall oaks).  
Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*) - CL  
Mangrove Swallow (*Tachycineta albilinea*) - CL  
Blue-and-white Swallow (*Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*) - CM  
Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) - CL  
Southern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) - CL  
Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) - CL  
Band-backed Wren (*Campylorhynchus zonatus*) - CL  
Rufous-naped Wren (*Campylorhynchus rufinucha*) - MC  
**ec Black-throated Wren** (*Thryothorus atrogularis*) - CL (heard only).  
Bay Wren (*Thryothorus nigricapillus*) - CL  
**ec Stripe-breasted Wren** (*Thryothorus thoracicus*) - CL  
Plain Wren (*Thryothorus modestus*) - CL  
House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) - CL, CS  
**eh Ochraceous Wren** (*Troglodytes ochraceus*) - CM  
**eh Timberline Wren** (*Thryorchilus browni*) - CM (in full view as it gave its complex song).  
White-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucosticta*) - CS (heard only).  
Gray-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucophrys*) - CM  
American Dipper (*Cinclus mexicanus*) - CM  
Long-billed Gnatwren (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*) - CS, CL (hd)  
Tropical Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila plumbea*) - CL  
**eh Black-faced Solitaire** (*Myadestes melanops*) – CM (the music of the mountain forests, along with the next two species).  
**eh Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush** (*Catharus gracilirostris*) - CM  
Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus frantzii*) - CM  
Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*) - CS (by a few).  
Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) - CL

**eh** Sooty Thrush (*Turdus nigrescens*) - CM  
 Mountain Thrush (*Turdus plebejus*) - CM  
 Pale-vented Thrush (*Turdus obsoletus*) - CS  
**Clay-colored Thrush** (*Turdus grayi*) - MC, CL, CM (the national bird of Costa Rica, seen and heard in large numbers, sometimes singing a bit too early in the morning).  
**eh Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher** (*Ptilogonys caudatus*) - CM (sleek, elegant birds reminiscent of waxwings).  
 Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*) - MC, CL, CM  
**eh Flame-throated Warbler** (*Parula gutturalis*) - CM (oh what a beauty!).  
 Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) - MC, CL  
 Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) - CS, CL  
 Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) - CS, CM  
 Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*) - CL (seen by a few).  
 Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*) - CL (seen by a few at La Quinta; unexpected).  
 Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) - CS, CL, CM  
 American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) - CS, CL  
 Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) - CL  
 Olive-crowned Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis semiflava*) - CL  
 Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*) - CM  
**eh Collared Redstart** (*Myioborus torquatus*) - CM (the incredibly tame and confiding "amigo de hombre").  
**eh** Black-cheeked Warbler (*Basileuterus melanogenys*) - CM  
 Buff-rumped Warbler (*Basileuterus fulvicauda*) - CL, CS  
 Wrenthrush (*Zeledonia coronata*) - CM (heard only).  
 Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*) - CL, CS  
 Common Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus ophthalmicus*) - CM  
**eh** Sooty-capped Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus pileatus*) - CM  
 Carmiol's Tanager (*Chlorothraupis carmioli*) - CS  
 Red-throated Ant\_Tanager (*Habia fuscicauda*) - CL  
 Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) - CL, CM  
 Flame-colored Tanager (*Piranga bidentata*) - CM  
**Crimson-collared Tanager** (*Ramphocelus sanguinolentus*) - CL (stunning in color).  
 Passerini's Tanager (*Ramphocelus passerinii*) - CS, CL (not too shabby either).  
 Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*) - MC, CL, CM  
 Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*) - CL  
 Plain-colored Tanager (*Tangara inornata*) - CL  
 Emerald Tanager (*Tangara florida*) - CS  
 Silver-throated Tanager (*Tangara icterocephala*) - CS, CL  
 Speckled Tanager (*Tangara guttata*) - CS  
 Golden-hooded Tanager (*Tangara larvata*) - CL, CS  
**eh** Spangle-cheeked Tanager (*Tangara dowii*) - CM  
 Scarlet-thighed Dacnis (*Dacnis venusta*) - CL  
 Blue Dacnis (*Dacnis cayana*) - CL  
 Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*) - CL, CS  
 Shining Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes lucidus*) - CL  
 Red-legged Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*) - CL  
 Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*) - CL  
 Variable Seedeater (*Sporophila corvina*) - CL, CS  
**ec Nicaraguan Seed-Finch** (*Oryzoborus nuttingi*) - CL (a male of this very range-restricted endemic sitting up in the open marsh).  
 Thick-billed Seed-Finch (*Oryzoborus funereus*) - CL  
 Yellow-faced Grassquit (*Tiaris olivacea*) - CM  
**eh** Slaty Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa plumbea*) - CM  
**eh** Yellow-thighed Finch (*Psellophorus tibialis*) - CM

**eh Large-footed Finch** (*Pezopetes capitalis*) - CM (lurking in the thickets at high elevations).  
 Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch (*Arremon brunneinucha*) - CM (heard only).  
 Orange-billed Sparrow (*Arremon aurantirostris*) - CL  
 Black-striped Sparrow (*Arremonops conirostris*) - CL  
 Rufous-collared Sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*) - MC, CM

**eh Volcano Junco** (*Junco vulcani*) – CM (fierce-eyed specialty of the paramo thickets at the highest elevations).  
 Grayish Saltator (*Saltator coerulescens*) - MC, CL  
 Buff-throated Saltator (*Saltator maximus*) - CL, CS  
 Black-headed Saltator (*Saltator atriceps*) - CL  
 Black-faced Grosbeak (*Caryothraustes poliogaster*) - CS, CL

**eh Black-thighed Grosbeak** (*Pheucticus tibialis*) - CM (heard only).  
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) - CM  
 Blue-black Grosbeak (*Cyanocompsa cyanoides*) - CL  
 Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) - CL  
 Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) - MC  
 Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) - CL, MC  
 Bronzed Cowbird (*Molothrus aeneus*) - CL  
 Black-cowled Oriole (*Icterus prothemelas*) - CL  
 Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) - CL

**Yellow-tailed Oriole** (*Icterus mesomelas*) - CL (beautiful in both plumage and song).  
 Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) - CL, CS, CM  
 Scarlet-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus uropygialis*) - CL  
 Chestnut-headed Oropendola (*Psarocolius wagleri*) - CL

**Montezuma Oropendola** (*Gymnostinops montezuma*) - CS, CL (always entertaining, this species takes the prize for the most-interesting sound effects).

**el Yellow-crowned Euphonia** (*Euphonia luteicapilla*) - CL  
 Olive-backed Euphonia (*Euphonia gouldi*) - CS, CL  
 Yellow-bellied Siskin (*Carduelis xanthogastra*) - CM  
 House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) - CL (introduced).

**MAMMAL LIST:** follows the nomenclature in “*A Field Guide to the Mammals of Central America and Southeastern Mexico*” by Fiona Reid.

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth (*Bradypus variegatus*) - CL

insectivorous bats (several sizes) - CL

Mantled Howler (*Alouatta palliata*) - CL (heard only)

Red-tailed Squirrel (*Sciurus granatensis*) - CL, CM (widespread inside moister forests, including at higher elevations).

Variegated Squirrel (*Sciurus variegatoides*) - CL

Collared Peccary (*Tayassu tajacu*) - CL

**AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES:**

Cane (Giant) Toad (*Bufo marinus*) - CL

Green-and-black Poison-dart Frog (*Dendrobates auratus*) - CL

Strawberry Poison-dart (“blue jeans”) Frog – CL

“singing frogs in the ditch” – CL

Spectacled Caiman (*Caiman crocodilus*) - CL

House Gecko (*Hemidactylus frenatus*) - CL

Green Basilisk (*Basiliscus plumifrons*) – CL

Green (Common) Iguana (*Iguana iguana*) - CL

Tiny anole sp? – CL

Green Spiny Lizard (*Sceloporus malachiticus*) - CM

Central American Whip-tailed Lizard (*Ameiva festiva*) – CL

**(And many other fascinating butterflies, small creatures and plants)**