

# **EL TRIUNFO**

**MARCH 20-30, 2010**

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Sumidero Canyon is a great way to introduce birders to the amazing and varied avifauna of Chiapas. Despite the wind, we found Russet-crowned Motmot just inside the gate. The endemic Red-breasted Chat was next, swinging his tail and singing from the thickets of the thorn forest at the lowest elevations of the national park. Our next stop produced the large White-throated Magpie-Jay and the tiny Canivet's Emerald and White-lored Gnatcatcher. A cooperative male Varied Bunting sat for scope views. The bird of the day was spotted by Ed; a male Slender Sheartail sat for a few seconds before zipping off with that spectacular tail trailing.

Finally we reached a promontory where we were able to admire the splendor of Sumidero Canyon's 2,000-foot limestone walls and the Rio Grijalva slicing through this amazing park. A Collared Trogon sat for scope views, and Yellow-backed Orioles ravaged the coralbean flowers. A white-nosed coati sauntered across the road after we mentioned his name. Our final bird for Sumidero was the handsome and range-restricted Belted Flycatcher, which prefers the dry forest with an understory of bamboo.

After a breezy lunch on the ledge of the canyon, we headed to Jaltenango. A few choice stops along the road swelled our bird list. We added Mangrove Swallow, Collared Aracari, Yellow-winged Cacique, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, hundreds of Scissor-tails, Laughing Falcon, four kingfishers at one bridge, and Limpkin just to name a few. We arrived in Jaltenango to discover the fair with its barkers hard at work.

At first light on our second day we were in the back of a truck for the long and very birdy ride to Finca Prusia. The bumps and dust were interrupted by some great birds. We had a field full of seedeaters which included Lesser Goldfinch, Black-headed Siskin, Painted and Indigo buntings, and, most importantly, a couple of Prevost's Ground-Sparrows. Also along the way as we climbed into the pine forest was a pair of Black-capped Swallows zipping about. Once at the trailhead we fueled up and were off on our several-mile-hike with a 2,000-foot elevation gain. One of our first new species was Emerald-chinned Hummingbird; several males were squeaking away on a lek. Another bend revealed a Tody Motmot wagging its tail. Higher still we encouraged a Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo to come in for a look, revealing its striking pattern.

Finally, we crested the trail and the rest was downhill to the El Triunfo clearing. Although tired, we never stopped looking for birds. Our first Horned Guan encounter was frustrating, as the bird was humming on a ridge, but we could never espy it. The Highland Guans were calling too, with their rising whistles and the ensuing wing rattles. With tree ferns, moss-wrapped branches, and bromeliad-encrusted limbs, there was no mistaking we were in the cloud forest. A Barred Forest-Falcon taunted us by barking for several minutes, but never revealed itself. With a huge sigh from everyone, we had made it to the clearing of El Triunfo.

Over the next three days we soaked in the cloud forest, which was sunny much of the time. The Horned Guans continued to baffle our eyes, and it wasn't until our last day that everyone had good looks at a very cooperative bird up the Palo Gordo trail. We enjoyed several sightings of Highland Guan too. Each morning we enjoyed the birds around the clearing: Blue-and-White Mockingbird, Gray Silky-flycatchers, Spotted Nightingale-Thrushes and an incredible array of other thrushes, Flame-colored Tanagers, Yellow Grosbeaks, Violet Sabrewing, and adding color were Elegant Euphonias and Blue-crowned Chlorophonias. Emerald Toucanets croaked from the forest, only occasionally revealing themselves. The crown jewel of the cloud forest finally presented itself in the form of a spectacular male Resplendent Quetzal. We had nice scope views of this beauty.

Swooping past late one afternoon in the dark of the forest was a pair of Fulvous Owls. Black-crested Coquette female, Wine-throated Hummingbirds, and Green-throated Mountain-gems were the smallest of the cloud forest birds. Behind the cafeteria there was usually a White-faced Quail-Dove to be found.

Leaving the cloud forest behind, we headed to Canada Honda. Suddenly the world changed from everything draped in green to the crisp, fresh smell of a dry coniferous forest, the Ciprasol. We descended into the moist canyon that was Canada Honda and the home of the Azure-rumped Tanager. We found our first tanagers and the Rufous Sabrewing near camp. The Rufous-and-white Wrens were singing all around with their beautiful clear whistles. The next morning we saw Azure-rumped Tanagers again as we traveled to Limonar, our next camp. The tropical dry forest was rich with the new sounds of Long-tailed Manakins and Thicket Tinamous, though the tinamous would remain just sounds to us. New warblers were in the woods too, with Fan-tailed and Golden-crowned both fairly common. As we made our way to the Limonar camp, a troop of Central American spider monkeys was very perturbed by our arrival. They howled, chattered, and barked at us, much to our amusement. When that didn't drive us off, they came in for closer looks, shaking branches and vines.

After departing Limonar, Hector found an Azure-rumped Tanager nest under construction. Some of us had great looks as the pair made a few trips in and out, with the female working and the male lending encouragement. Edilberto located a very cooperative Crested Guan that stayed just long enough for everyone to get good looks at this typically shy species. Our previous two sightings of White Hawk were distant; today a bird sat under the canopy for a great study.

Our final morning was spent birding the open areas of Paval. Orange-fronted Parakeets and White-fronted Parrots were constantly squawking around the opening. A stunning Turquoise-browed Motmot popped into view for a moment in the sun. After one last walk out to the trucks, we were headed towards civilization. We enjoyed a relaxing lunch at the Arguetas and then air-conditioned vans to Tapachula. On the grounds of our hotel we got good looks at Giant Wren and White-bellied Chachalaca, as well as Spot-breasted Oriole. Pacific Screech-Owl was our last new bird.

During our amazing transect over the Sierra Madre de Chiapas we saw and heard 275 species of birds which included 5 species of motmots, 25 species of warblers, 17 species of hummingbirds, 5 owls, 7 parrots, and one amazing quetzal.

Itinerary:

March 20– Late afternoon arrival at Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Mexico.

March 21 – Morning birding at Sumidero Canyon, then drove to Jaltenango with a few birding stops enroute.

March 22 – After breakfast we rode trucks to Finca Prusia, a coffee growing area on the Atlantic slope of the mountains. From Finca Prusia we hiked to El Triunfo.

March 23-25 – Birded the El Triunfo cloud forest. A number of different trails available for birding here allowed us to thoroughly explore the area.

March 26 – Hiked from El Triunfo to Cañada Honda birding enroute. After leaving the cloud forest, we passed through pine-cypress forest before descending into the humid subtropical vegetation of Cañada Honda.

March 27 – Birded Cañada Honda in the morning, then birded our way to Limonal in the afternoon.

March 28 – Birded the Limonal area in the early morning, then hiked down to Paval. The hike down took us along a series of ridge through a distinctive zone of oaks. The oaks were just leafing out, loaded with catkins, and crowded with hummingbirds and migrating warblers. The transition into tropical deciduous forest closer to Paval brought us to the rich lowland avifauna of the coastal foothills of Chiapas.

March 29 – Birded near Paval in the early morning, then took the short hike to the dirt road where our truck met us. Ate lunch with our horsemen the Argueta brothers, and their families, and continued on by truck to Mapastepec where we transferred to vans for the final ride to our hotel in Tapachula. Birded the hotel grounds in the late afternoon

March 30 – Departure for home

Site codes:

- S – Sumidero Canyon near Tuxtla Gutierrez (tropical and montane dry forest, with bamboo; from 2500-4000 feet elevation)
- J – Jaltenango and nearby Rio Grijalva valley; includes stops along highways (tropical dry forest; 2100 feet and lower) and ride up to Finca Prusia
- ET – El Triunfo cloud forest (about 6500 feet elevation; summit of Cerro El Triunfo is 8000 feet)
- H – Cañada Honda and area; includes pine-cypress forest above H (montane moist forest; 4500 feet elevation at H)
- L – Limonal (montane dry forest; 4200 feet elevation)
- P – Pavál (tropical dry to moist forest; 1600 feet elevation)
- T – Tapachula, mainly at the Hotel Loma Real (near sea level); also includes birds seen along highway
- W – Widespread

## BIRDS OBSERVED

Common names in **bold** are species endemic to Mexico and northern Central America, as defined in Howell & Webb 1995 (A Guide to the Birds of Mexico and Northern Central America). This definition includes species ranging as far south as extreme northern Nicaragua, and, in a few cases, as far north as extreme SW USA. Common names in **bold italics** are narrow endemics, restricted almost entirely to Chiapas and adjacent Guatemala. Underlined species are rare or unusual for the area of the tour.

### TINAMOUS (Tinamidae)

Thicket Tinamou (*Crypturellus cinnamomeus*) – heard only, from H to P

Slaty-breasted Tinamou (*Crypturellus boucardi*) – heard only, J

### DUCKS, GEESE & SWANS (Anatidae)

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) – J, roadside marsh

Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moscata*) – J, distant flybys seen from the highway

### CHACHALACAS & GUANS (Cracidae)

Plain Chachalaca (*Ortalis vetula*) – S Heard at Sumidero

**White-bellied Chachalaca** (*Ortalis leucogastra*) – T, P On the hotel grounds at T on our last afternoon. Found only along the Pacific coast from Chiapas to northwestern Nicaragua. Some folks had one at Pavál

Crested Guan (*Penelope purpurascens*) – L, P Heard on multiple occasions and seen well once.

**Highland Guan** (*Penelopina nigra*) – ET, H, L, P A signature sound of the Chiapas highlands: a slow ascending whistle, followed by the sound of “ripping cloth” as the male dives from a high perch. Ripping sound is made with the flight feathers. Ranges from the highlands of Chiapas and Guatemala to northern Nicaragua.

**Horned Guan** (*Oreophasis derbianus*) – ET Heard several times seen a couple times on the Palo Gordo trail. One of the rarest and strangest of all Cracids.

NEW WORLD QUAILS (Odontophoridae)

**Singing Quail** (*Dactylortyx thoracicus*) – ET Heard several times, glimpsed by some folks

PELICANS (Pelecanidae)

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) – J Two distant birds at a reservoir on the way to J

CORMORANTS (Phalacrocoracidae)

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) – J Seen on the drive to Jaltenango.

HERONS, EGRETS & BITTERNES (Ardeidae)

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) – J

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) – J, P

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) – J, P

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) – J

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) – J, P, T

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) – At bridge stop on way to J.

AMERICAN VULTURES (Cathartidae)

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) – W

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) – W

STORKS (Ciconiidae)

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) – J from the bridge stop

HAWKS, EAGLES & KITES (Accipitridae)

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) – J

Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) – S

Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) – ET

White Hawk (*Leucopternis albicollis*) – H, L, P Excellent views during hike down to P

Common Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus antracinus*) J

Great Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus urubitinga*) P

Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*) – T

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) – J, H, L

Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*) – S, J, P Both light and dark morph individuals

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) – J

Gray Hawk (*Asturina nitida*) – J, P

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) – ET

CARACARAS & FALCONS (Falconidae)

Barred Forest-Falcon (*Micrastur ruficollis*) – ET Heard throughout our stay in the clearing at ET

Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*) – J  
Laughing Falcon (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*) – J scope views along the highway  
American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) – J

LIMPKIN (Ardeidae)  
Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*) – J

JACANAS (Jacanidae)  
Northern Jacana (*Jacana spinosa*) – J

PLOVERS (Charadriidae)  
Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferous*) – J roadside marsh

SANDPIPERS & ALLIES (Scolopacidae)  
Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) – J Highway bridge

PIGEONS & DOVES (Columbidae)  
Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) – S, J, T Widespread in cities and towns  
Red-billed Pigeon (*Columba flavirostris*) – J, P, T  
Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*) – ET  
White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) – S, J  
Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*) – S, J, P, T  
Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*) – S, J  
White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*) – S, J, L, P  
**White-faced Quail-Dove** (*Geotrygon albifacies*) – ET, H

PARROTS (Psittacidae)  
**Green Parakeet** (*Aratinga holochlora*) – J a few overhead during our drive to Finca Prusia a couple sat for scope views  
Orange-fronted Parakeet (*Aratinga canicularis*) – Common at P, T  
Orange-chinned Parakeet (*Brotogeris jugularis*) – P, T quick flybys and heard  
White-crowned Parrot (*Pionus senilis*) – J  
Red-lored Parrot (*Amazona autumnalis*) – J  
White-fronted Parrot (*Amazona albifrons*) – J, P, T  
Yellow-naped Parrot (*Amazona auropalliata*) – P Heard only

CUCKOOS (Cuculidae)  
Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*) – J, H, P  
Striped Cuckoo (*Tapera naevia*) – P Heard only  
Pheasant Cuckoo (*Dromococcyx phasianellus*) – S, P Heard only  
Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) – S, J, P, T Widespread in small numbers in lowlands

TYPICAL OWLS (Strigidae)  
Pacific Screech-Owl (*Otus cooperi*) – T great scope views at hotel  
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum*) – S, P, T

Mottled Owl (*Ciccaba virgata*) – H great scope views from our campsite  
Black-and-white Owl (*Ciccaba nigrolineata*) – P glimpsed mostly just heard only  
**Fulvous Owl** (*Strix fulvescens*) – Good views at ET. Endemic to cloud forests of Chiapas, Guatemala, and Honduras.

#### NIGHTJARS AND ALLIES (Caprimulgidae)

Common Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*) – Heard at P, seen by Dennis

#### SWIFTS (Apodidae)

Chestnut-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne rutila*) – ET seen daily high over the ET clearing

White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*) – seen from ET to the Pacific lowlands

Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) – ET

Vaux's Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*) – J, ET

#### HUMMINGBIRDS (Trochilidae)

**Rufous Sabrewing** (*Campylopterus rufus*) – H, L, and hike from L to P. A narrow endemic restricted to mid-elevation montane forest along the Pacific slope of the Sierra Madre of Chiapas and Guatemala.

Violet Sabrewing (*Campylopterus hemileucurus*) – ET, H, L Mostly in Heliconia groves

Green Violet-ear (*Colibri thalassinus*) – ET

**Emerald-chinned Hummingbird** (*Abeillia abeillei*) – J, H, L mostly in drier mid-montane forests

Black-crested Coquette (*Lophornis helenae*) – ET female, Finca Prusia for Barb's male

**Canivet's Emerald** (*Chlorostilbon canivetii*) – S

**White-eared Hummingbird** (*Hylocharis leucotis*) – ET (DB and BG only)

Buff-bellied Hummingbird (*Amazilia yucatanensis*) – S

**Azure-crowned Hummingbird** (*Agyrtria cyanocephala*) – J

**Berylline Hummingbird** (*Saucerottia beryllina*) – J, also seen in large numbers in the willow oak zone during the hike from L to P.

**Green-throated Mountain-Gem** (*Lampornis viridipallens*) – ET to H; the common cloud forest hummingbird at ET

Amethyst-throated Hummingbird (*Lampornis amethystinus*) – ET clearing

Magnificent Hummingbird (*Eugenes fulgens*) – ET

Long-billed Starthroat (*Heliomaster longirostris*) – P seen at our first Giant Wren spot

Slender Sheartail (*Doricha enicura*) – S A spectacular male spotted by Ed

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) – S, J, L

**Wine-throated Hummingbird** (*Atthis ellioti*) – ET Both males and females seen. One of the smallest hummingbirds in the world, restricted to the Chiapas-Guatemala highlands.

#### TROGONS (Trogonidae)

Violaceous Trogon (*Trogon violaceus*) – J, P

**Mountain Trogon** (*Trogon mexicanus*) – ET

Collared Trogon (*Trogon collaris*) – S, ET, H, P

Resplendent Quetzal (*Pharomachrus mocinno subsp. mocinno*) – ET This subspecies, restricted to the Chiapas-Guatemala highlands, has a noticeably longer tail (actually, upper tail coverts) than the subspecies in Costa Rica and Panama.

#### MOTMOTS (Momotidae)

Tody Motmot (*Hylomanes momotula*) – J, L, P

**Blue-throated Motmot** (*Aspatha gularis*) – ET, H Heard occasionally throughout our stay up at ET

**Russet-crowned Motmot** (*Momotus mexicanus*) – S

Blue-crowned Motmot (*Momotus momota*) – J, L, P

Turquoise-browed Motmot (*Eumomota superciliosa*) – Seen well at P

#### KINGFISHERS (Alcedinidae)

Ringed Kingfisher (*Megaceryle torquatus*) – J all kingfishers were at one bridge!

Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*) – J only seen by a couple folks

Amazon Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*) – J

Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*) – J

#### TOUCANS (Ramphastidae)

Emerald Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus prasinus*) – ET

Collared Aracari (*Pteroglossus torquatus*) – J good looks along the highway

#### WOODPECKERS (Picidae)

Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*) – J

Golden-fronted Woodpecker (*Melanerpes aurifrons*) – lowland areas: S, J, P

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) – Heard only on the hike to ET

Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*) – ET This dark brown subspecies is found south of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in Mexico and northern Central America.

Smoky-brown Woodpecker (*Veniliornis fumigatus*) – J

Golden-olive Woodpecker (*Piculus rubiginosus*) – J, ET, L

Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*) – P and at our hotel grounds in T

#### OVENBIRDS & WOODCREEPERS (Furnariidae)

Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser (*Sclerurus mexicanus*) – Heard at ET, seen by some

Rufous-breasted Spinetail (*Synallaxis erythrothorax*) – Barb only at P

Scaly-throated (Spectacled) Foliage-gleaner (*Anabacerthia variegaticeps*) – J, ET, H

Ruddy Foliage-gleaner (*Automolus rubiginosus*) – ET

Ruddy Woodcreeper (*Dendrocincla homochroa*) – P

Ivory-billed Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus flavigaster*) – J, P

Spotted Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*) – ET The common large cloudforest woodcreeper.

Streak-headed Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*) – P

Spot-crowned Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes affinis*) – ET The common small cloudforest woodcreeper.

TYPICAL ANTBIRDS (Thamnophilidae)

Barred Antshrike (*Thamnophilus doliatus*) – S, J, P

ANTPITTAS (Grallaridae)

Scaled Antpitta (*Grallaria guatemalensis*) – Finca Prusia trail, amazing sighting in a tree!

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS (Tyrannidae)

Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet (*Camptostoma imberbe*) – S, J, L

Greenish Elaenia (*Myiopagis viridicata*) – ET seen during hike down to P

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher (*Mionectes oleagineus*) – Hike from Finca Prusia

Paltry Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius vilissimus*) – ET, P Heard commonly in the cloud forest, and seen by several people. This inconspicuous flycatcher feeds mostly on mistletoe fruits in the canopy. Scoped at Paval

Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher (*Poecilotriccus sylvia*) – P

Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*) – P

Yellow-olive Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias sulphurescens*) – J, P

Stub-tailed Spadebill (*Platyrinchus cancrominus*) – ET, H, L heard only

Tufted Flycatcher (*Mitrephanes phaeocercus*) – ET; seen daily in the cloud forest

**Belted Flycatcher** (*Xenotriccus callizonus*) – S; this very local habitat specialist forages close to the ground in mid-elevation forests with an abundance of the bamboo *Chusquea*. Restricted to drier parts of the Guatemala-Chiapas highlands.

Greater Pewee (*Contopus pertinax*) – Seen from truck near Finca Prusia

Western Wood-Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*) – heard obly near L

Tropical Pewee (*Contopus cinereus*) – P

Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) – ET

Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*) – S, J, P

Hammond's Flycatcher (*Empidonax hammondi*) – ET seen daily in small numbers in the cloud forest

**Yellowish Flycatcher** (*Empidonax flavescens*) – ET, H, L the common forest flycatcher at ET

Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) – J near streams

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) – J

Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) – S, J, P heard commonly at middle and lower elevations

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) – S

Brown-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*) – J, P

Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) – common in lowlands at S, J, P, and T

Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarynchus pitangua*) – S, J, P, T

Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) – S, J, P, T

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*) – J, P, T

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) – S, J, T

Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus couchii*) – S

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) – J 100's going to roost late evening

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*) – J mixed in with STFL

Genera incerta sedis

Rose-throated Becard (*Pachyramphus aglaiae*) – ET, P

Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*) – S, J, P

MANAKINS (Pipridae)

Long-tailed Manakin (*Chiroxiphia linearis*) – the “toledo” call made by duetting males is one of the characteristic sounds of the drier forests from H down to P.

VIREOS & ALLIES (Vireonidae)

White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*) – S

Plumbeous Vireo (*Vireo plumbeus*) – J the subspecies resident south of the isthmus is much more Cassin’s-like in plumage, seen during ride to Finca Prusia

Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) – S, J, ET, H, L Seen at many locations

Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*) – S, J, L, P

Brown-capped Vireo (*Vireo leucophrys*) – J, H, L. Essentially a darker, browner, non-migratory version of the Warbling Vireo.

Yellow-green Vireo (*Vireo flavoviridis*) – common at P

**Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo** (*Vireolanus melitophrys*) – Seen by some people during hike up to ET. Also heard once or twice around the ET clearing. A spectacular regional endemic.

Green Shrike-Vireo (*Vireolanus pulchellus*) – Heard during hike up to ET

Rufous-browed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*) – J,P

JAYS (Corvidae)

White-throated Magpie-Jay (*Calocitta formosa*) – S, J, P, T

Green Jay (*Cyanocorax yncas*) – S, J, P

**Black-throated Jay** (*Cyanolyca pumilo*) – this shy *Cyanolyca* jay was heard commonly and seen occasionally during our stay in the cloud forest as ET, we had really good luck seeing this species this year

SWALLOWS (Hirundinidae)

Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*) – J in town

Mangrove Swallow (*Tachycineta albilinea*) – J in mixed swallow flock along highway

Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*) – J in mixed species flock along highway

**Black-capped Swallow** (*Notiochelidon pileata*) – J, ET Endemic to the highlands of Chiapas & Guatemala.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) – S, J

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) – J

WRENS (Troglodytidae)

**Giant Wren** (*Campylorhynchus chiapensis*) – First seen on a small ranch near P also seen on our hotel grounds at T. This large, noisy wren is restricted entirely to the coastal plain of Chiapas

Rufous-naped Wren (*Campylorhynchus rufinucha*) – P

Spot-breasted Wren (*Thryothorus maculipectus*) – L, P heard only for most folks

Rufous-and-white Wren (*Thryothorus rufalbus*) – One of the beautiful bird songs of the world. H, L, P

Banded Wren (*Thryothorus pleurostictus*) – S only seen by a few folks

Plain Wren (*Thryothorus modestus*) – S, J, L, P

(Southern) House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) – ET

**Rufous-browed Wren** (*Troglodytes rufociliatus*) – ET

White-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucosticta*) – Heard only near H

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucophrys*) – ET common cloud forest song

GNATCATCHERS (Poliopitilidae)

**White-lored Gnatcatcher** (*Poliopitila albilorus*) – S restricted to the arid thorn forests of southern Mexico and Central America.

THRUSHES (Turdidae)

**Brown-backed Solitaire** (*Myadestes occidentalis*) – heard and seen from ET down to P; the strange, jumbled song of this species is a characteristic sound of the Mexican highlands

**Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush** (*Catharus aurantiirostris*) – Heard during hike up to ET, seen a few times near L and above P.

Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus frantzii*) – ET

**Spotted Nightingale-Thrush** (*Catharus dryas*) – ET

Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) – J, ET, H, L, P; the common migrant thrush from H down to the Pacific foothills.

Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*) – ET

Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) – ET, H, L

**Black Robin** (*Turdus infuscatus*) – ET

Mountain Robin (*Turdus plebejus*) – ET

Clay-colored Robin (*Turdus grayi*) – seen at all locations, including the clearing at ET

White-throated Robin (*Turdus assimilis*) – ET, H, L, P

MOCKINGBIRDS & THRASHERS (Mimidae)

Tropical Mockingbird (*Mimus gilvus*) – During drive to J

**Blue-and-white Mockingbird** (*Melanotus hypoleucus*) – ET Endemic to highlands of Chiapas, Guatemala and Honduras.

WAXWINGS (Bombycillidae)

Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) – S, P

SILKY-FLYCATCHERS (Ptilgonatidae)

**Gray Silky-flycatcher** (*Ptilogonys cinereus*) – seen daily at ET

WOOD-WARBLEDERS (Parulidae)

Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*) – S, J, H, L, P a common migrant at middle elevations on the Pacific slope, especially abundant in the willow oak zone.

Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*) – S, L to P

**Crescent-chested Warbler** (*Parula superciliosa*) – ET A characteristic warbler of the Mexican highlands

Northern Parula (*Parula americana*) – J, roadside

Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) – S

Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*) – S, J, P

Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) – S, J, ET, H, L, P

Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*) – J, ET, H, L

Hermit Warbler (*Dendroica occidentalis*) – J on drive to Finca Prusia

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*) – J on drive to Finca Prusia

Grace's Warbler (*Dendroica graciae*) – In pines above the road during the drive up to Finca Prusia.

Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) – S, J, H, L, P

American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) – J drive to Finca Prusia

Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) – ET heard only

MacGillivray's Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*) – ET, P

Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) – J from the birdy bridge

Gray-crowned Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis poliocephala*) – S seen only by a few folks

Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*) – Ubiquitous at higher elevations.

Painted Redstart (*Myioborus pictus*) – J seen by a few folks on the drive to Finca Prusia

Slate-throated Redstart (*Myioborus miniatus*) – J, ET, H, L common at middle and higher elevations

**Fan-tailed Warbler** (*Euthlypis lachrymosa*) – H, L, P

Golden-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus culicivorus*) – H, L, P This is the common *Basileuterus* warbler at middle elevations below cloud forest.

Golden-browed Warbler (*Basileuterus belli*) – ET daily in the cloud forest

Chestnut-capped Warbler (*Basileuterus delatrii*) – H, P Generally regarded as a subspecies of the Rufous-capped Warbler; distinctive plumage, song and habitat suggest recognition as a separate species is warranted.

Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*) – J one seen at the bunting field on drive to Finca Prusia

#### TANAGERS & ALLIES (Thraupidae)

Common Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus ophthalmicus*) – common at ET

Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*) – J

Yellow-winged Tanager (*Thraupis abbas*) – W

**Azure-rumped Tanager** (*Tangara cabanisi*) – H, L A narrow endemic, restricted to moist, middle-elevation canyons along the Pacific slope of Chiapas and nearby Guatemala

Red-legged Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*) – J, H, L, P

#### BUNTINGS, SPARROWS & SEEDEATERS (Emberizidae)

Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*) – J

White-collared Seedeater (*Sporophila torqueola*) – J

**Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer** (*Diglossa baritula*) – H

White-naped (Yellow-throated) Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes albinucha*) – ET

Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch (*Buarremon brunneinucha*) – ET, H

**Prevost's Ground-Sparrow** (*Melospiza biarcuatum*) – J

White-eared Ground-Sparrow (*Melospiza leucotis*) – Heard commonly and occasionally seen from H to P.

Rusty Sparrow (*Aimophila rufescens*) - J

Rufous-collared Sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*) – A couple of individuals, resident in the clearing at ET.

SALTATORS, GROSBEAKS, & BUNTINGS (Cardinalidae)

Red-breasted Chat (*Granatellus venustus*) – S a beautiful male came in

Red-throated Ant-Tanager (*Habia fuscicauda*) – S, L, P

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) – S, J, L, P

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) – S, J, L, P

Flame-colored Tanager (*Piranga bidentata*) – fairly common at ET, also H

White-winged Tanager (*Piranga leucoptera*) – L, P only

Grayish Saltator (*Saltator coerulescens*) – S, J, P

Black-headed Saltator (*Saltator atriceps*) – S, J, P

Yellow Grosbeak (*Pheucticus chrysopleus*) – common in the clearing at ET

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) – S, J, H, L, P

Blue Bunting (*Cyanocompsa parvifrons*) – S

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*) – J in the bunting field

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) – S, J

Varied Bunting (*Passerina versicolor*) – S beautiful male in scope

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) – J, P

ORIOLES, BLACKBIRDS, & ALLIES (Icteridae)

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) – J agricultural fields during drive to J.

Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) – J

Melodious Blackbird (*Dives dives*) – J, ET, P, T

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) – S, J, P, T; throughout in the lowlands, especially in towns and cities.

Bronzed Cowbird (*Molothrus aeneus*) – J, P

Black-vented Oriole (*Icterus wagleri*) – J

Bar-winged Oriole (*Icterus maculialatus*) – Limonar to Paval hike

Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) – S, J, P, T

Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*) – S

Yellow-backed Oriole (*Icterus chrysater*) – S, J

Streak-backed Oriole (*Icterus pustulatus*) – several seen from S to J

Spot-breasted Oriole (*Icterus pectoralis*) – P, T

Altamira Oriole (*Icterus gularis*) – P, T

Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) – S, J, P, T

Yellow-billed Caticue (*Amblycercus holosericeus*) – P

Yellow-winged Caticue (*Cacicus melanicterus*) – J during drive to J

SISKINS, CROSSBILLS & ALLIES (Fringillidae)

Scrub Euphonia (*Euphonia affinis*) – L, P

Yellow-throated Euphonia (*Euphonia hirundinacea*) – P

Elegant Euphonia (*Euphonia elegantissima*) – ET, H, L  
**Blue-crowned Chlorophonia** (*Chlorophonia occipitalis*) – Mainly ET, down to L  
**Black-headed Siskin** (*Carduelis notata*) – J at the bunting field  
Lesser Goldfinch (*Carduelis psaltria*) – S, J in the bunting field  
Hooded Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes abeillei*) – ET a single female as we left ET

OLD WORLD SPARROWS (Passeridae)  
House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) – S, J

265 Bird species seen  
10 Species heard only

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275 Total species

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## OTHER OBSERVATIONS

### REPTILES

Green Iguana – J seen by some folks at the bridge  
Sierra Madre de Chiapas Alligator Lizard – ET  
Godman's Pit-Viper – ET seen by some along the Prusia trail

### MAMMALS

Central America Spider Monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi*) – L an excellent encounter  
Mexican Gray Squirrel (*Sciurus aureogaster*) – S The common large squirrel of lowland areas in southern Mexico.  
Deppe's Squirrel (*Sciurus deppei*) – ET The common small squirrel of the cloud forest  
Cacomixtle, or Southern (Tropical) Ring-tailed Cat (*Bassariscus sumichrasti*) ET, L. The strange cries of this tropical relative of the racoon were heard at several locations  
Gray Fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) – ET  
White-nosed Coati (*Nasua narica*) – This social, long-nosed relative of the raccoon was seen at S  
Collared Peccary (*Tayassu tajacu*) – ET seen by Dick , smelled by most folks