

SHORT COSTA RICA: TOUCANS TO QUETZALS

February 10-18, 2007



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Resplendent Quetzal

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TOUR REPORT
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Leaders: David and Mimi Wolf

By David Wolf

It is no surprise that Costa Rica is one of the world's most popular birding destinations. With spectacular and varied terrain, birds in abundance, an astounding profusion of plants, and good facilities in a friendly setting, Costa Rica has it all. For one wonderful week we took full advantage of these offerings, birding our way down-slope to the rich Caribbean lowlands and then ending our trip in the beautiful and cool mountains.

Everywhere that we went the birds fell into place. Our first stop, at the lovely La Paz Waterfall Garden, produced Prong-billed Barbets almost close enough to touch, gorgeous Silver-throated Tanagers swarming the feeders, and eight species of hummingbirds to delight us. At another feeding station we found a stunning male Red-headed Barbet and a pair of Blue-throated Toucanets so close we had to back off to photograph them!

Our first day at the world-famous La Selva Field Station was simply amazing, with a seemingly endless feast of tropical birds appearing along the entry road and at fruiting trees at the headquarters, including colorful parrots, toucans, trogons, and tanagers. More secretive, but just as noteworthy, were the Cinnamon Woodpeckers, a Fasciated Antshrike in the scope for great views, and the Great Antshrike that popped up out of nowhere. A male Great Curassow that boldly strolled from the forest across the lawn to a fruiting guava tree made for an ecstatic ending to the day. Or so we thought, until we spotted the Crested Guan sitting right over the parking lot just before boarding the bus to leave!

After exploring the foothills at Virgen del Socorro for a day, highlighted by several pairs of elegant White Hawks perched and soaring right overhead, we returned to La Selva. Every day in a tropical forest is different, and on this visit we thrilled to a calm pair of roosting Crested Owls, while a Great Tinamou that boldly stepped onto the trail right in front of us was a wonderful surprise. Other highlights were a tiny Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant lured down from the canopy (we later found a nest of one), a mixed-flock with the rare Rufous-winged Woodpecker and elegant Black-striped Woodcreeper in it, and a surprise American Pygmy Kingfisher sitting motionless in a damp thicket while we watched displaying White-collared Manakins. As we left we spotted a pair of Rufous-tailed Jacamars dust-bathing in the road, reminding us that there is always more to see in a tropical forest as rich as this one.

The lush Caribbean foothills are the wettest environment in Central America, difficult to bird but home to some of the least-known species of the region. For us, a morning's stop here produced a fabulous male Snowcap dancing around the flowering shrubs, a brilliant Lattice-tailed Trogon that finally revealed himself, and an immense mixed-flock that rampaged through the forest around us in a veritable blizzard of birds. At least 25 species were foraging in the flock, led by the rarely-seen White-

throated Shrike-Tanager, and it made for a frenetic 30 minutes of birding.

From the foothills we moved up-slope to the delightfully cool mountains, descending from the oak forests on 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 that included beauties like the Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher, Flame-throated Warbler, Collared Redstart, and Spangle-cheeked Tanager—the books don't do their brilliant colors justice. Best of all, fruiting aguacatillo trees right in front of our cabins were attracting Resplendent Quetzals from far and wide. Considered by many to be the most beautiful bird in the world, we watched at least seven of these gems as they played in the trees, at times the males courting and chasing the females and at other times just sitting still digesting their meals. This is perhaps the ultimate Costa Rican bird experience!

Later we spent time tracking down the unique high-mountain endemics of very restricted range, including a Timberline Wren singing in our faces, Large-footed Finches scrambling around in the dense elfin forest, and stunning Fiery-throated Hummingbirds, before ending with the Volcano Junco, known from only a few sites at the highest elevations in these mountains. All too soon it was back to San Jose, our week in Costa Rica over but not forgotten.

Itinerary:

February 10: arrival in San Jose, Costa Rica.

February 11: a travel day from San Jose and the Meseta Central over the pass between Poas and Barba Volcanos and then down to the Saripiqui lowlands and La Quinta. Major stops were at the La Paz Waterfall and the “hummingbird house” at Cinchona.

February 12: morning and afternoon excursions to the La Selva Field Station of the Organization of Tropical Studies (OTS), with midday break at La Quinta.

February 13: Virgen del Socorro in the morning and around La Quinta de Sarapiqui in the afternoon.

February 14: morning and afternoon excursions to the La Selva Field Station of the OTS.

February 15: morning in the foothills in lower Braulio Carillo National Park and afternoon drive to the Savegre Valley on Cerro de la Muerte.

February 16: the Savegre Valley on Cerro de la Muerte and the slopes above.

February 17: morning birding in the Savegre Valley and afternoon side trip to higher elevations on Cerro de la Muerte before driving back to San Jose.

February 18: departure for flights home.

Key:

MC = Meseta Central

CS = Caribbean slope at La Paz Waterfall, hummingbird house, Virgen del Socorro, and Braulio Carillo National Park.

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

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

e = endemic to Costa Rica only

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 & 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 (one practically walked right up to us).

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

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) - CL

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) - CL

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) - CL

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) - CL

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) - all regions

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) - CL, CS

Green Ibis (*Mesembrinibis cayennensis*) - CL

Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moschata*) - CL

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) - all regions

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) - all regions

King Vulture (*Sarcorhamphus papa*) - CL, CS

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

Hook-billed Kite (*Chondrohierax uncinatus*) - CL
 Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) - CS, CL, CM
 Double-toothed Kite (*Harpagus bidentatus*) - CL (soaring birds)
Barred (Black-chested) Hawk (*Leucopternis princeps*) - CS
White Hawk (*Leucopternis albicollis*) - CS
 Gray Hawk (*Asturina nitida*) - CL (distant soaring bird)
 Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) - CS, CL
 Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*) - CL
 Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) - CM
 Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*) - CL
 Laughing Falcon (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*) - CL
 Bat Falcon (*Falco rufigularis*) - CL
 Gray-headed Chachalaca (*Ortalis cinereiceps*) - CL
Crested Guan (*Penelope purpurascens*) - CL
eh Black Guan (*Chamaepetes unicolor*) - CM (Tom's bird)
Great Curassow (*Crax rubra*) - CL
Gray-necked Wood-Rail (*Aramides cajanea*) - CL
 Northern Jacana (*Jacana spinosa*) - CL
 Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) - CL
 Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) - cities and towns (feral birds).
 Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*) - CM
 Pale-vented Pigeon (*Patagioenas cayennensis*) - CL
 Red-billed Pigeon (*Patagioenas flavirostris*) - CS
 Short-billed Pigeon (*Patagioenas nigrirostris*) - CL
 Ruddy Pigeon (*Patagioenas subvinacea*) - CM
 Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*) - CL
Blue Ground-Dove (*Claravis pretiosa*) - CL (nice look at a perched male)
 White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*) - CL
Gray-chested Dove (*Leptotila cassini*) - CL (out in the open several times).
eh Crimson-fronted Parakeet (*Aratinga finschi*) - CS, MC
 Olive-throated Parakeet (*Aratinga nana*) - CL
eh **Sulphur-winged Parakeet** (*Pyrrhura hoffmanni*) - CM
 Orange-chinned Parakeet (*Brotogeris jugularis*) - CL
 Brown-hooded Parrot (*Pionopsitta haematotis*) - CL
 White-crowned Parrot (*Pionus senilis*) - CL
 Red-lore Parrot (*Amazona autumnalis*) - CL
 Mealy Parrot (*Amazona farinosa*) - CL
 Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*) - MC, CS, CL
 Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) - CL
 Spectacled Owl (*Pulsatrix perspicillata*) - CL (heard only)
Crested Owl (*Lophotrix cristata*) - CL
 White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*) - CS, CL, CM
 Gray-rumped Swift (*Chaetura cinereiventris*) - CL
 Green Hermit (*Phaethornis guy*) - CS
 Long-billed (Western Long-tailed) Hermit (*Phaethornis longirostris*) - CL (formerly considered a race of Long-tailed Hermit).
 Stripe-throated Hermit (*Phaethornis striigularis*) - CL (formerly lumped with Little Hermit).

- Violet Sabrewing** (*Campylopterus hemileucurus*) - CS, CM (huge and colorful)
 White-necked Jacobin (*Florisuga mellivora*) - CL
 Green Violet-ear (*Colibri thalassinus*) - CM
 Violet-headed Hummingbird (*Klais guimeti*) - CS
Green Thorntail (*Discosura conversii*) - CS
- eh** **Fiery-throated Hummingbird** (*Panterpe insignis*) - CM
- e** **Coppery-headed Emerald** (*Elvira cupreiceps*) - CS (a true Costa Rican endemic, known from nowhere else in the world but common in the La Paz Garden).
- eh** Black-bellied Hummingbird (*Eupherusa nigriventris*) - CS
 Violet-crowned Woodnymph (*Thalurania colombica*) - CS, CL
 Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (*Amazilia tzacatl*) - CS, CL
 Blue-chested Hummingbird (*Polyerata amabilis*) - CL
- ec** **Snowcap** (*Microchera albocoronata*) - CS
 Bronze-tailed Plumeleeter (*Chalybura urochrysis*) - CL, CS
- eh** White-bellied Mountain-gem (*Lampornis hemileucus*) - CS
- eh** Purple-throated Mountain-gem (*Lampornis calolaema*) - CS
- eh** White-throated (Gray-tailed) Mountain-gem - (*Lampornis castaneoventris*) - CM
 Green-crowned Brilliant (*Heliodoxa jacula*) - CS
 Magnificent Hummingbird (*Eugenes fulgens*) - CM
 Purple-crowned Fairy (*Heliothryx barroti*) - CL, CS (quick looks at best).
- eh** Scintillant Hummingbird (*Selasphorus scintilla*) - CM
- eh** Volcano Hummingbird (*Selasphorus flammula*) - CM
 Violaceous Trogon (*Trogon violaceus*) - CL, CS
 Collared Trogon (*Trogon collaris*) - CS
Black-throated Trogon (*Trogon melanurus*) - CL, CS
 Slaty-tailed Trogon (*Trogon massena*) - CL
- ec** **Lattice-tailed Trogon** (*Trogon clathratus*) - CS
Resplendent Quetzal (*Pharomachrus mocinno*) - CM
 Ringed Kingfisher (*Ceryle torquata*) - CL (seen by a few)
 Amazon Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle amazona*) - CL
 Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*) - CL
American Pygmy Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle aenea*) - CL
 Blue-crowned Motmot (*Momotus momota*) - MC
Rufous Motmot (*Baryphthengus martii*) - CL
 Broad-billed Motmot (*Electron platyrhynchum*) - CL
Rufous-tailed Jacamar (*Galbula ruficauda*) - CL
White-necked Puffbird (*Notharchus macrorhynchos*) - CL
Red-headed Barbet (*Eubucco bourcierii*) - CS
- eh** **Prong-billed Barbet** (*Semnornis frantzii*) - CS
- eh** Blue-throated Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus caeruleogularis*) - CS, CM
 Collared Aracari (*Pteroglossus torquatus*) - CL, CS
 Keel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*) - CL, CS
Chestnut-mandibled Toucan (*Ramphastos swainsoni*) - CL (sometimes lumped with the Black-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos ambiguus*) of the Andes).
 Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*) - CM
 Black-cheeked Woodpecker (*Melanerpes pucherani*) - CL, CS (hd)
- eh** Hoffmann's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes hoffmannii*) - MC

- Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*) - CM
 Smoky-brown Woodpecker (*Veniliornis fumigatus*) - CL, CS
- el** **Rufous-winged Woodpecker** (*Piculus simplex*) - CL
Cinnamon Woodpecker (*Celeus loricatus*) - CL (rarely seen this well on this tour).
 Chestnut-colored Woodpecker (*Celeus castaneus*) - CL
 Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*) - CL
 Pale-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus guatemalensis*) - CL
 Red-faced Spinetail (*Cranioleuca erythrops*) - CS
 Spotted Barbtail (*Premnoplex brunnescens*) - CS
- eh** Ruddy Treerunner (*Magarornis rubiginosus*) - CM
 Striped Woodhaunter (*Hylocistis subulatus*) - CS (seen by a few in the huge mixed-flock).
 Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*) - CL, CS
 Cocoa Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus susurrans*) - CL (recent split from the Buff-throated Woodcreeper).
- Black-striped Woodcreeper** (*Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus*) - CL (great close looks at this most beautiful of the local woodcreepers, in the La Selva Arboretum).
 Spotted Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*) - CS
 Streak-headed Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*) - CL
 Spot-crowned Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes affinis*) - CM
 Brown-billed Scythebill (*Campylorhamphus*) - CS
Fasciated Antshrike (*Cymbilaimus lineatus*) - CL
Great Antshrike (*Taraba major*) - CL (skulker with the fierce bill and eye).
 Barred Antshrike (*Thamnophilus doliatus*) - CL
 Western Slaty-Antshrike (*Thamnophilus atrinucha*) - CL
 Russet Antshrike (*Thamnistes anabatinus*) - CS
 Chestnut-backed Antbird (*Myrmeciza exsul*) - CL (heard only)
 Black-crowned Antpitta (*Pittasoma michleri*) - CS (heard only)
- ec** Snowy Cotinga (*Carpodectes nitidus*) - CL
White-collared Manakin (*Manacus candei*) - CL
 Yellow Tyrannulet (*Capsiempis flaveola*) - CL
 Yellow-bellied Elaenia (*Elaenia flavogaster*) - CL
 Mountain Elaenia (*Elaenia frantzii*) - CS, CM
Torrent Tyrannulet (*Serpophaga cinerea*) - CS (cute; distinctive in appearance and habitat).
 Ochre-bellied Flycatcher (*Mionectes oleagineus*) - CL, CS
 Olive-striped Flycatcher (*Mionectes olivaceus*) - CS (by a few)
 Slaty-capped Flycatcher (*Leptopogon superciliaris*) - CS
 Paltry Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius villissimus*) - CL, CS, CM
Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant (*Myiornis atricapillus*) - CL (lured down from the canopy for great looks, and then a nest was discovered by the group two days later).
 Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher (*Poecilatriccus sylvia*) - CL
 Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum nigriceps*) - CS
 Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*) - CL
 Yellow-olive Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias sulphurescens*) - CL
 Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher (*Terenotriccus erythrurus*) - CS
 Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher (*Myiobius sulphureipygius*) - CS
 Tufted Flycatcher (*Mitrephanes phaenocercus*) - CS, CM
- eh** Dark Pewee (*Contopus lugubris*) - CM

- Tropical Pewee (*Contopus cinereus*) - CL
 Yellowish Flycatcher (*Empidonax flavescens*) - CM
eh **Black-capped Flycatcher** (*Empidonax atriceps*) - CM
 Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) - CL, CS
 Bright-rumped Attila (*Attila spadiceus*) - CL, CS (hd)
 Rufous Mourner (*Rhytipterna holerythra*) - CL
 Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) - CL (by a few)
 Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) - CS, CL
 Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarynchus pitangua*) - CL, CM
 Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) - MC, CS, CL
 Gray-capped Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes granadensis*) - CL
 Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) - CS, CL, CM
Cinnamon Becard (*Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*) - CL
 White-winged Becard (*Pachyramphus polychopterus*) - CL
 Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*) - CL
 Black-crowned Tityra (*Tityra inquisitor*) - CL
 Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*) - CL
 Mangrove Swallow (*Tachycineta albilinea*) - CL
 Blue-and-white Swallow (*Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*) - MC, CS, CM
 Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) - CS
 Southern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) - CL
 Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) - CL (an early migrant; perhaps leader only).
eh **Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher** (*Ptilogonys caudatus*) - CM
 American Dipper (*Cinclus mexicanus*) - CS, CM
 Band-backed Wren (*Campylorhynchus zonatus*) - CL
ec **Black-throated Wren** (*Thryothorus atrogularis*) - CL
 Bay Wren (*Thryothorus nigricapillus*) - CL
ec Stripe-breasted Wren (*Thryothorus thoracicus*) - CL
 Plain Wren (*Thryothorus modestus*) - CL
 House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) - MC, CL, CS
eh Ochraceous Wren (*Troglodytes ochraceus*) - CM
eh **Timberline Wren** (*Thryorchilus browni*) - CM
 White-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucosticta*) - CL
 Gray-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucophrys*) - CS, CM
 Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) - CL (by a few)
eh Black-faced Solitaire (*Myadestes melanops*) - CM
eh Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus gracilirostris*) - CM
 Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus frantzii*) - CM
 Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus mexicanus*) - CS (heard only)
 Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) - MC, CL
eh Sooty Robin (*Turdus nigrescens*) - CM
 Mountain Robin (*Turdus plebejus*) - CS, CM
 Pale-vented Thrush (*Turdus obsoletus*) - CS
Clay-colored Robin (*Turdus grayi*) - all regions (the national bird of Costa Rica, seen and heard daily in large numbers, sometimes singing a bit too early in the morning).
 Long-billed Gnatwren (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*) - CL (heard only)
 Tropical Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila plumbea*) - CL (seen by a few)

- Brown Jay (*Cyanocorax morio*) - MC (seen by some in the hotel garden the first morning).
House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) - CL (introduced)
- eh** Yellow-winged Vireo (*Vireo carmioli*) - CM
Brown-capped Vireo (*Vireo leucophrys*) - CM
Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*) - CM
Lesser Greenlet (*Hylophilus decurtatus*) - CL
Green Shrike-Vireo (*Vireolanius pulchellus*) - CS (heard only)
Rufous-browed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*) - CM (seen by a few; heard by all).
- el** Yellow-crowned Euphonia (*Euphonia luteicapilla*) - CL
Elegant Euphonia (*Euphonia elegantissima*) - CM
Olive-backed Euphonia (*Euphonia gouldi*) - CL
Tawny-capped Euphonia (*Euphonia anneae*) - CS
- eh** **Golden-browed Chlorophonia** (*Chlorophonia callophrys*) - CM
Yellow-bellied Siskin (*Carduelis xanthogastra*) - CM
Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) - CS
Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*) - all regions
- eh** **Flame-throated Warbler** (*Parula gutturalis*) - CM
Tropical Parula (*Parula pitaiyumi*) - CS
Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) - MC, CL
Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) - MC, CL, CS
Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) - CS, CM
Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) - CS, CL
American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) - CL
Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) - CL
Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) - CS
Gray-crowned Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis poliocephala*) - CS
Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) - CL
Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*) - MC, CS, CM
Slate-throated Redstart (*Myioborus miniatus*) - CS
- eh** **Collared Redstart** (*Myioborus torquatus*) - CM (tame and confiding).
Golden-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus culicivorus*) - CS
- eh** Black-cheeked Warbler (*Basileuterus melanogenys*) - CM
Buff-rumped Warbler (*Basileuterus fulvicauda*) - CL, CS (hd)
Bananaquit (*Coerebe flaveola*) - CS, CL
Common Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus ophthalmicus*) - CS, CM
- eh** Sooty-capped Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus pileatus*) - CM
Ashy-throated Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus canigularis*) - CS
- ec** **Black-and-yellow Tanager** (*Chrysothlypis chrysomelaena*) - CS
Dusky-faced Tanager (*Mitrospingus cassinii*) - CL (seen by a few)
Olive Tanager (*Chlorothraupis carmioli*) - CS
- el** **White-throated Shrike-Tanager** (*Lanio leucothorax*) - CS
White-shouldered Tanager (*Tachyphonus luctuosus*) - CS
Tawny-crested Tanager (*Tachyphonus delatrii*) - CS
Red-throated Ant-Tanager (*Habia fuscicauda*) - CL
Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) - CS, CL
Flame-colored Tanager (*Piranga bidentata*) - CM
Crimson-collared Tanager (*Ramphocelus sanguinolentus*) - CS, CL (stunning in color).

Passerini's Tanager (*Ramphocelus passerinii*) - CS, CL (not too shabby either).
 Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*) - all regions
 Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*) - CS, CL
Blue-and-gold Tanager (*Bangsia arcaei*) - CS
 Plain-colored Tanager (*Tangara inornata*) - CL
 Emerald Tanager (*Tangara florida*) - CS
Silver-throated Tanager (*Tangara icterocephala*) - CS, CM (colorful swarms of them at several feeding stations).
 Speckled Tanager (*Tangara guttata*) - CS
 Bay-headed Tanager (*Tangara gyrola*) - CS
 Golden-hooded Tanager (*Tangara larvata*) - CS, CL
eh **Spangle-cheeked Tanager** (*Tangara dowii*) - CM
 Blue Dacnis (*Dacnis cayana*) - CL
 Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*) - CS, CL
 Shining Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes lucidus*) - CL
Red-legged Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*) - CL (stunning male visiting the feeders at La Quinta; scarce in this region).
 Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*) - CS
 Variable Seedeater (*Sporophila corvina*) - CS, CL
 White-collared Seedeater (*Sporophila torqueola*) - CS
 Thick-billed Seed-Finch (*Oryzoborus funereus*) - CS
 Yellow-faced Grassquit (*Tiaris olivacea*) - CL, CM
eh Slaty Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa plumbea*) - CM
eh **Sooty-faced Finch** (*Lysurus crassirostris*) - CS (came out into the open for us).
eh **Yellow-thighed Finch** (*Psellophorus tibialis*) - CS, CM
eh **Large-footed Finch** (*Pezopetes capitalis*) - CM
 Orange-billed Sparrow (*Arremon aurantiirostris*) - CL
 Black-striped Sparrow (*Arremonops conirostris*) - CL
 Rufous-collared Sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*) - MC, CS, CM
eh **Volcano Junco** (*Junco vulcani*) - CM
 Buff-throated Saltator (*Saltator maximus*) - CS, CL
 Black-headed Saltator (*Saltator atriceps*) - CL
 Slate-colored Grosbeak (*Saltator grossus*) - CS (heard only)
 Black-faced Grosbeak (*Caryothraustes poliogaster*) - CL
eh **Black-thighed Grosbeak** (*Pheucticus tibialis*) - CM
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) - CS, CM
 Blue-black Grosbeak (*Cyanocompsa cyanoides*) - CL
 Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) - CS
 Melodious Blackbird (*Dives dives*) - CS
 Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) - all regions
 Bronzed Cowbird (*Molothrus aeneus*) - CL (seen from the bus)
 Giant Cowbird (*Molothrus oryzivorus*) - CL
Yellow-tailed Oriole (*Icterus mesomelas*) - CL
 Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) - CS, CL, CM
 Black-cowled Oriole (*Icterus prothemelas*) - CL
 Scarlet-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus uropygialis*) - CL, CS
 Chestnut-headed Oropendola (*Psarocolius wagleri*) - CL

Montezuma Oropendola (*Gymnostinops montezuma*) - CL, CS (takes the prize for the most-interesting sound effects, not to mention the behavior that goes with them).

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

Hoffmann’s Two-toed Sloth (*Choloepus hoffmanni*) - MC, CS, CL

Lesser White-lined (Sac-winged) Bat (*Saccopteryx leptura*) - CL
insectivorous bats (several sizes)

Mantled Howler (*Alouatta palliata*) - CL (barely heard this trip)

Variiegated Squirrel (*Sciurus variegatoides*) - MC, CL (several color patterns seen; found in the more open, dry and secondary woodland sites).

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

Central American Agouti (*Dasyprocta punctata*) - CL

Collared Peccary (*Tayassu tajacu*) - CL (feeding boldly in the lab clearing at La Selva).

Amphibians & Reptiles: follows “*A Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles of Costa Rica*” by Twan Leenders.

Giant Toad (*Bufo marinus*)

Spectacled Caiman (*Caiman crocodilus*)

House Gecko (*Hemidactylus frenatus*) - introduced

Green Basilisk (*Basiliscus plumifrons*)

Green Iguana (*Iguana iguana*)

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

ground anole sp? (*Norops sp?*) - tiny, in the leaf litter

Blunt-nosed Parrot Snake