

**CHAN CHICH NEW YEAR**  
**December 28, 2007-January 3, 2008**

**HIDDEN VALLEY EXTENSION**  
**January 3-6, 2008**



Photo: King Vulture (Paul Wood)

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## **Chan Chich**

In my opinion, the length of a bird list at the end of a tour is a poor indicator of peoples' individual experiences, or of the relative success of a tour. However, given the constant interruptions to our daily activities by frequent and unpredictable showers, I admit that the list took on a greater importance this year. First, I was curious to see just how much the weather (most likely the result of a La Niña event) had really eaten into folks' potential lifers—one of the core experiences of the traveling birder (though not necessarily *the* most important). Second, as I never tire of pointing out in my reports, the ups and downs of bird abundances from one year to the next, and the annual batch of “mysterious absentees,” yearly fuels my conviction that large-scale changes in bird distributions could be taking place without anyone noticing. Unfortunately, without large-scale monitoring over a wide area, these patterns are difficult to verify.

Certainly, the weather was a constant irritation this year, since heavy rain repeatedly forced us under cover and turned trails into soup, and stubborn cloud cover kept the forest interior in a kind of constant twilight. This forced us to spend a lot of our time in relatively open areas, or along the forest edge. Overall, there is no doubt that the weather did depress bird activity and that our bird list was below average. Compared to last year, for example, we recorded 18 fewer species (including the Hidden Valley extension). This represents about an 8% difference, which, however, suggests a high degree of dependability despite the unusually adverse conditions.

All clouds, however, do have their silver linings and, as always, there were a few things to raise the eyebrows even of the veterans. For example, in all my years birding in the Maya forest, I have never had so many close encounters with the ethereal White Hawk. Our first encounter was a bird following a troop of spider monkeys through the canopy, in the hope of pouncing on insects or other prey disturbed by the boisterous primates. The next day, a bird perched at the edge of the forest by the bridge, providing scope views for all, and provoking a flurry of “digiscoping.” We even had a bird perched on our night drive, and saw the bird on four of the five days. These are the things that first-time visitors may take for granted, and why I am here to assure you that this was a rare event. Despite the general lack of good soaring weather for raptors, we also managed to record the rare King Vulture on four out of five days, with four together on the 30th, and an unusual perched bird in the plaza on the 2nd.

The plaza could be usually depended on for some local color, like public plazas anywhere in the world. The “downtown” tulip trees were a magnet for nectar junkies, with Green Honeycreepers, protesting hummingbirds, gaudy orioles, and the punk-crested Chestnut-colored Woodpecker. Ocellated Turkeys, though they rarely get a mention, are definitely the fashion setters and would turn the head of any peacock. Red-lored Parrots were a constant vocal backdrop, like vendors at an open-air market; trogons, toucans, and oropendolas snacked in fruiting trees, hermits made lightning visits to *heliconia* fuel

stations, and Crested Guans loafed in their arboreal park benches. Giant Cowbirds monitored the oropendolas' nests, like criminals "casing a joint," and Pale-billed Woodpeckers worked in small demolition crews dismantling dead limbs and tree trunks. At the restaurant, male Red-capped and White-collared manakins made cabaret appearances, while human onlookers were secretly wondering what had happened to their lunchtime specials!

I will always remember David's daily disbelief at the sheer size of the local Crested Guans, as well as their apparent indifference to people. Throughout much of Central and South America, guans are among the most endangered and elusive birds, and this is another experience first-time visitors might fail to appreciate. This is definitely not normal, and shows that tourism has at least had a positive impact on the quality of life for some rare and precious species. One of my personal favorites is the Brown-hooded Parrot, which was often around in the plaza and some years can be very hard to find or be absent altogether, and it was also unusual to see Royal Flycatcher almost every day. We also got some good looks at the rare Strong-billed Woodcreeper in the plaza.

Birding within the forest was harder and we searched in vain for ant swarms to provide us with entertainment. I am not the only one, it seems, to have noted that ant swarms have been scarce in recent years, and this is bad news for birds that follow them. This meant that certain woodcreepers, such as Northern Barred, Ruddy, and Tawny-winged, were harder to find, and only Merrill and Lynnette saw ant-following Gray-headed Tanagers on the last day. On the bright side, also thanks to a disbelieving Merrill, we kept up our impressive record of finding the taciturn and inscrutable Tody Motmot.

We were also lucky on our night drive with unexpected good looks at both Vermiculated Screech-Owl and Mottled Owl, perhaps the one time that the overcast conditions favored us, as owls are bolder on moonless nights. Nightjars, on the other hand, are more visual hunters and so there were fewer Pauragues and Northern Potoos. Gallon Jug also provided some daytime highlights with Laughing Falcon, copulating White-tailed Kites, streamer-tailed Fork-tailed and Scissor-tailed flycatchers, and droves of Ocellated Turkeys.

## **Hidden Valley**

At Hidden Valley, prayers for a break in the weather went unheeded and, to our chagrin, the rain got stubbornly worse over the next few days. Our first day up on the Pine Ridge, however, was not the expected washout. The rain was mainly a fine drizzle, and thanks to some patient searching and excellent local knowledge on the part of Rick, we managed to track down a pair of Stygian Owls. At Thousand Foot Falls, we had given up on the Orange-breasted Falcon and were beginning to bird our way back to the lodge when Rick's eavesdropping skills had us scurrying back to the lookout, in as dignified a manner as possible. A local guide had finally spotted a bird hidden among the pines, and Rick had overheard the "eureka." Though rather distant, and not at all obvious, the bird at least sat motionless until everyone had convinced themselves of what they were looking at.

In the afternoon, no King Vultures were apparent at the King Vulture Falls, but we did find a very distant pair of Black-and-white Hawk-Eagles perched atop an emergent tree in the forest across the spectacular valley. We also added other Pine Ridge "specialties" such as

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Plumbeous Vireo, Grace's and Rufous-capped warblers, Hepatic Tanager, and Yellow-backed and Yellow-tailed orioles.

With little respite from the rain, we set out for the Mayan site of Caracol under cover of darkness. Recently, all those traveling to Caracol are advised to do so accompanied by an army escort. The service can be arranged in advance for private groups; otherwise it means waiting till 9 a.m. for the official tourist convoy. We were the first to arrive, and for a couple of hours, at least, had the place all to ourselves. The rain did not deter us from climbing the enormous Sky Palace, and the cool drizzle was actually refreshing. At the top, we were rewarded with all three toucans, as an Emerald Toucanet appeared in a *cecropia* tree that had been visited by araçaries and a Keel-billed Toucan. However, on such a wet, overcast day there was little chance of raptors soaring over the forest, so we spent most of our time exploring the ruins and birding at ground level. Other highlights were scope views of a Blue-crowned Motmot, White-whiskered Puffbird, and close-ups of a very persistent Squirrel Cuckoo searching out and eventually catching a giant katydid. Philadelphia Vireo and Swainson's Thrush were also nice additions to the migrant list.

We departed with the official convoy at about 2 p.m., with the dirt road now converted into a slippery, treacherous surface. Having been forced to stop by a struggling vehicle in front of us, we were unable to regain traction and had to bail out while a generous passer-by winched us out of the mud. While we were waiting here, Merrill lost his footing on the glassy surface and his fall shook up all of us, as well as Merrill! Luckily, we got back without serious injury, but, as a result of this incident, we have reluctantly decided to withdraw Caracol from our future itineraries—at least until the Belizean government does something to improve the road. In our area, at least recently, climate change has resulted in fairly frequent rain, not to mention some impressive downpours, during the normally dry period, and we can no longer depend on the road being dry enough to guarantee a safe trip. This unpredictability means that, as a general rule, we can no longer depend on sunny conditions for our mid-winter trips to the Tropics, as in the past, and raingear will need to be packed along with the sunscreen for the foreseeable future!

### Daily Itinerary

Date	Itinerary
December 29th, 2007	AM: Chan Chich plaza and road to bridge PM: Chan Chich Plaza to bridge
December 30th, 2007	AM: Chan Plaza to bridge, returning to lodge along Logger's Trail PM: Back Plaza
December 31st, 2007	AM: Chan Chich plaza to service area PM: Sylvester Village Road
January 1st, 2008	AM: Gallon Jug and Laguna Seca PM: Upper Plaza and Back Plaza
January 2nd, 2008	AM: Chan Chich plaza to bridge and beyond PM: Sylvester Village Road
January 3rd, 2007	AM: Chan Chich plaza to Gallon Jug for flight to Belize City PM: End of Chan Chich tour; start of Hidden Valley extension (Belize airport, Burrell Boom Road to Western Highway and Hidden Valley). Lunch at Cheers restaurant
January 4th, 2007	AM: Hidden Valley Lodge through pine ridge via Lake Lolly Folly to 1,600 Feet Falls. PM: Hidden Valley Lodge to King Vulture Falls
January 5th, 2008	AM/ P.M: Caracol Ruins

**Abbreviations used in list:**

**BC** = Belize City  
**CC** = Chan Chich  
**GJ** = Gallon Jug  
**LS** = Laguna Seca  
**HV** = Hidden Valley  
**CA** = Caracol

Common Name	Scientific Name	Localities	Notes
Great Tinamou	<i>Tinamus major</i>	CC	Heard 4 of 5 days
Crested Guan	<i>Penelope purpurascens</i>	CC/ HV	Daily at CC (up to 8); 2 at HV
Great Curassow	<i>Crax rubra</i>	CC	1 only on 29th
Ocellated Turkey	<i>Meleagris ocellata</i>	CC	Daily at CC with 20+ in plaza
Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	HV	1 over HV on 5th
Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>	LS	2 birds on 1st
Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	BC	Reports from Belize City
Bare-throated Tiger-Heron	<i>Tigrisoma mexicanum</i>	LS	Scope views at Laguna Seca
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	LS	2
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	GJ	1 only
Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	LS	1
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	GJ	Fairly common
Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	LS	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	LS	2 only
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	BC	1 Belize City on 3rd
Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	CC/HV	
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	CC/HV	Ubiquitous
Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture	<i>Cathartes burrovianus</i>	GJ	1 on first over GJ fields/ airstrip
King Vulture	<i>Sarcoramphus papa</i>	CC/LS	Seen 4 of 5 days (max 4 on 30th); 1 perched at CC 2nd
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	BC	1 report from Belize City
White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	GJ	Pair seen copulating on 2nd; photo opportunity for voyeurs
White Hawk	<i>Leucopternis albicollis</i>	CC	Four consecutive days at CC!! My personal trip highlight
Roadside Hawk	<i>Buteo magnirostris</i>	CC,GJ, CA	Recorded daily; pair nesting at GJ
Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	LS	1 at LS: scarce here at the northern limit of its winter range
Gray Hawk	<i>Asturina nitida</i>	GJ	One in fields at GJ
Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus melanoleucus</i>	HV	A very distant pair perched in tree tops at King Vulture falls
Laughing Falcon	<i>Herpetotheres cachinnans</i>	GJ	Scope views at GJ
Bat Falcon	<i>Falco ruficularis</i>	CC	Occasional only at CC
Orange-breasted Falcon	<i>Falco deiroleucus</i>	HV	One adult at Hidden Valley; thanks to some sharp eavesdropping!
Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinica</i>	LS	
Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>	LS	1 at LS
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	GJ	Common in fields and at airstrip (30+)
Northern Jacana	<i>Jacana spinosa</i>	LS	Adults and immatures at LS
Red-billed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas flavirostris</i>	CC	Daily at CC plaza; often perched and singing

Short-billed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas nigrirostris</i>	CC	Unusually rare; 1 seen only plus one other heard
White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	BC	Recorded in Belize City
Ruddy Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>	GJ	Common at GJ
White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>	HV	Hotel grounds
Gray-headed Dove	<i>Leptotila plumbeiceps</i>	CC	Also scarce; seen on one day only
Olive-throated Parakeet	<i>Aratinga nana</i>	CC	Fairly regular at CC
Brown-hooded Parrot	<i>Pionopsitta haematotis</i>	CC	Fairly frequent in plaza (up 6-7 birds); often a scarce bird
White-crowned Parrot	<i>Pionus senilis</i>	CC/HV/CA	Easily identified in flight (deep wing beats)
Red-lored Parrot	<i>Amazona autumnalis</i>	CC	Daily background noise in the plaza especially.
Mealy Parrot	<i>Amazona farinosa</i>	CC/HV/CA	Scarce at CC (recorded 1 day only); also HV & CA
Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>	CC/HV/CA	Daily records of this favorite; watched tracking and hunting cricket at CA
Groove-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>	GJ/ HV	Open farmland mainly
Vermiculated Screech-Owl	<i>Megascops guatemalae</i>	GJ	Great views on night drive
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>	HV	Great views on pine ridge
Mottled Owl	<i>Ciccaba virgata</i>	GJ	Another surprise on the night drive
Stygian Owl	<i>Asio stygius</i>	HV	After much searching, Rick finally spotted a pair!
Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>	GJ	A few on night drive; rather scarce.
Northern Potoo	<i>Nyctibius jamaicensis</i>	GJ	Fairly good looks on night drive
White-collared Swift	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>	CC	A flock of 30+ swept through at the bridge on 31st; nice surprise
Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift	<i>Panyptila cayennensis</i>	CC	Daily at CC; max 8 individuals
Long-billed Hermit	<i>Phaethornis longirostris</i>	CC	Frequent buzz-bys around the heliconias in the plaza
Stripe-throated (Little) Hermit	<i>Phaethornis striigularis</i>	CC	Often to be seen at flowers in the plaza
Scaly-breasted Hummingbird	<i>Phaeochroa cuvieri</i>	CC	Male perched singing not far from the plaza
Wedge-tailed Sabrewing	<i>Campylopterus curvipennis</i>	CC	A regular at the tulip tree in the plaza
Azure-crowned Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia cyanocephala</i>	HV	Pine ridge only; where it has almost a monopoly
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia tzacatl</i>	CC/CA	The most widespread and common hummer in lowland forest edge
Cinnamon Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia rutila</i>	BC	Reported from Belize City (a mainly coastal species)
Purple-crowned Fairy	<i>Heliothryx barroti</i>	CC	Recorded on 3 days; though impression was scarce
Black-headed Trogon	<i>Trogon melanocephalus</i>	CC	The least common of the three trogons at CC this trip
Violaceous Trogon	<i>Trogon violaceus</i>	CC	Almost daily
Collared Trogon	<i>Trogon collaris</i>	CA	Rarely seen at CC; heard only at CA where usually more common
Slaty-tailed Trogon	<i>Trogon massena</i>	CC	Recorded daily
Tody Motmot	<i>Hylomanes momotula</i>	CC	Merril surprised even himself! Sharp shooting!
Blue-crowned Motmot	<i>Momotus momota</i>	CA	Mysterious absentee from CC; though better luck at Caracol
Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle torquata</i>	LS/ BC	Laguna Seca and also from Western Highway heading out of Belize City
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	LS	Several individuals at LS
Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>	CC	Almost daily at the bridge
White-whiskered Puffbird	<i>Malacoptila panamensis</i>	CC/CA	Some good cooperation (3 seen on 30th)

Rufous-tailed Jacamar	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>	CC/CA	Good prolonged scope looks at CC; heard only at CA
Collared Araçari	<i>Pteroglossus torquatus</i>	CC/CA	Unusually scarce; we had to wait till last day at CC when 5 birds turned up
Keel-billed Toucan	<i>Ramphastos sulfuratus</i>	CC/CA	In contrast to above - daily encounters with the big boy!
Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>	HV	Biggest bully on the Pine Ridge
Black-cheeked Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes pucherani</i>	CC/CA	Daily at CC - many nectar junkies at the tulip tree
Smoky-brown Woodpecker	<i>Veniliornis fumigatus</i>	CC	Brief encounters on two days
Golden-olive Woodpecker	<i>Piculus rubiginosus</i>	CC	Heard more often than seen
Chestnut-colored Woodpecker	<i>Celeus castanea</i>	CC	Exquisite "punk" nectar junkies
Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>	CC/HV	Recorded most days, but less common than below
Pale-billed Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus guatemalensis</i>	CC/ CA	Common at CC; heard only CA.
Plain Xenops	<i>Xenops minutus</i>	CC	Frequently a member of mixed species flocks, but often hard to follow
Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser	<i>Sclerurus guatemalensis</i>	CC	Played hard to get; a couple of shadowy figures in undergrowth
Tawny-winged Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocincla anabatina</i>	CC/ CA	Several sightings (3 days); but no antswarms
Olivaceous Woodcreeper	<i>Sittasomus griseicapillus</i>	CC/ CA	Fairly common (daily sightings)
Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Glyphorhynchus spirurus</i>	CA	Recently rare at CC (not seen this trip); fairly common at CA
Strong-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus</i>	CC	Great looks at this rare bird; a CC specialty
Ivory-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus flavigaster</i>	CC/ CA	Also fairly common; seen daily
Plain Antvireo	<i>Dysithamnus mentalis</i>	CC	Obscure little vine dweller seen x2; unobtrusive unless singing.
Dot-winged Antwren	<i>Microrhoppias quixensis</i>	CC	Unusually scarce; recorded on one day only
Dusky Antbird	<i>Cercomacra tyrannina</i>	CC	Also playing hard to get and heard only x1
Black-faced Antthrush	<i>Formicarius analis</i>	CC	Extremely quiet; heard only x1 day
Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet	<i>Ornithion semiflavum</i>	CC	Diminutive canopy dweller; recorded only x1
Greenish Elaenia	<i>Myiopagis viridicata</i>	CC	Often with other species; seen x2
Yellow-bellied Elaenia	<i>Elaenia flavogaster</i>	BC/GJ	Alert birds showed us their crests at GJ
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Mionectes oleagineus</i>	CC/ CA	Often at heliconias and fruiting trees in plaza; occasional in forest
Sepia-capped Flycatcher	<i>Leptopogon amaurocephalus</i>	CC	Two encounters with this tough-to-see mid-story flycatcher
Northern Bentbill	<i>Oncostoma cinereigulare</i>	CC	Unusually scarce and heard only x1
Common Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>	BC	Reported from Belize City; mainly coastal or wetlands
Eye-ringed Flatbill	<i>Rhynchocyclus brevirostris</i>	CC	Several good looks at this sluggish understory flycatcher
Yellow-olive Flycatcher	<i>Tolmomyias sulphurescens</i>	CC	Similar to the above but lives higher in the canopy and is less frequently seen well.
Stub-tailed Spadebill	<i>Platyrichus cancrorninus</i>	CC	A matter of luck; recorded almost daily (calls)
Northern Royal Flycatcher	<i>Onychorhynchus mexicanus</i>	CC	Exceptional to see this bird so frequently (almost daily)
Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Terentriccus erythrurus</i>	CC	Cute, diminutive understory flycatcher but can be elusive.
Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher	<i>Myiobius sulphureipygius</i>	CC	Frequent member of understory assemblages; forest butter-but
Tropical Pewee	<i>Contopus cinereus</i>	CA	Mysteriously absent at CC. 1 at Caracol
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	CC	The "every-day" Empid at CC

Least Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	CC	Also fairly common in clearings and edge, but prefers drier country
Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>	BZ	At the Cheers restaurant
Bright-rumped Attila	<i>Attila spadiceus</i>	CC	Good looks on first day; elusive thereafter
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>	CC/ HV	Heard daily; less frequently seen
Great-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	CC	Several sightings of this winter visitor
Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>	BC/ HV	Belize City and Hidden Valley hotel; absent at GJ
Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>	CC/ GJ/ HV	Common and widespread in open situations
Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	GJ	Common at GJ; prefers open country
Couch's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus couchii</i>	CC	Less common; prefers forest edge
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>	GJ	Scarce but regular winter visitor here at GJ
Fork-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus savana</i>	GJ	One of the most spectacular birds of the area.
Thrush-like Schiffornis	<i>Schiffornis turdinus</i>	CC	Another one heard much more often than seen
Rufous Piha	<i>Lipaugus unirufus</i>	CC	Brief glimpses on the Loggers Trail; much calling
Cinnamon Becard	<i>Pachyramphus cinnamomeus</i>	CC	A pair at the bridge; a scarce species in this region
Masked Tityra	<i>Tityra semifasciata</i>	CC	A daily canopy bird; fond of fruit
Black-crowned Tityra	<i>Tityra inquisitor</i>	CC	A close cousin of above; much rarer and seen on first day only
White-collared Manakin	<i>Manacus candei</i>	CC	Seen almost daily from the restaurant
Red-capped Manakin	<i>Pipra mentalis</i>	CC	Another restaurant "special"
White-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo griseus</i>	CC	Fairly common winter visitor; especially edge/ clearings
Yellow-throated Vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	HV	Recorded Hidden Valley only
Plumbeous Vireo	<i>Vireo plumbeus</i>	HV	A pine ridge specialty and most likely endemic
Tawny-crowned Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus ochraceiceps</i>	CC	Common understory bird with Red-crowned Ant-Tanagers, though tough to follow
Lesser Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus decurtatus</i>	CC	The "canopy" greenlet; lives much higher than its cousin
Green Shrike-Vireo	<i>Vireolanius pulchellus</i>	CC	A usual "heard only"; sluggish canopy dweller
Green Jay	<i>Cyanocorax yncas</i>	HV	Relatively rare in lowland forest; seen only HV
Brown Jay	<i>Cyanocorax morio</i>	GJ	Common in edge and agricultural areas; avoids forest
Mangrove Swallow	<i>Tachycineta alibilinea</i>	GJ	Lined up on fences at GJ
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	GJ	A few over airstrip and open country
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	GJ	A few at GJ
Spot-breasted Wren	<i>Thryothorus maculipectus</i>	CC	Tough to make out among vine tangles
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	CC	Daily around the cabañas
White-bellied Wren	<i>Uropsila leucogastra</i>	CC	Really a dry forest bird; scarce here and heard only
White-breasted Wood-Wren	<i>Henicorhina leucosticta</i>	CC	Common understory wren but requires patience to be seen well
Long-billed Gnatwren	<i>Ramphocelus melanurus</i>	CC	Recorded one day only; good looks for some
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliptila caerulea</i>	CC/ HV	A regular in the plaza; avoids dense forest
Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	CA	A couple of smart birds at CA
Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	CC	Wood Thrush heaven in winter

Clay-colored Robin	<i>Turdus grayi</i>	CC/ HV	The local robin; more common in human disturbed areas than forest
Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	BC/ CC/ HV	Common winter visitor; prefers bajos/ edges
Tropical Mockingbird	<i>Mimus gilvus</i>	BC/ GJ	Uncommon sight at GJ
Blue-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora pinus</i>	CC/ CA	Several encounters with this beautiful forest warbler
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	BC/ GJ	Avoids forest; edges & cultivated areas
Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Dendroica castanea</i>	CC/ CA	Common forest warbler
Magnolia Warbler	<i>Dendroica magnolia</i>	CC/ CA	Perhaps the commonest warbler; variety of habitats
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	HV	Seen on pine ridge only
Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Dendroica virens</i>	CC/ HV/ CA	More common in pines than wet forest
Yellow-throated Warbler	<i>Dendroica dominica</i>	GJ/ HV	Avoids forest; edges & cultivated areas/ palms
Grace's Warbler	<i>Dendroica graciae</i>	HV	Pine ridge specialty
Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	CC/ HV/ CA	Another common warbler in a variety of forest habitats
American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	CC/ CA	Seen daily bit scarce by my reckoning
Worm-eating Warbler	<i>Helmitheros vermivorum</i>	CC	Two encounters on one day; then nothing!
Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>	CC	Heard only; unusually scarce!
Northern Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>	CC/ CA	Good weather for waterthrushes
Louisiana Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus motacilla</i>	CC	Perhaps the commoner of the two; prefers streams
Kentucky Warbler	<i>Oporornis formosus</i>	CC/ CA	Fairly common in understory; beautiful skulker
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	LS	Lake edge only; much prefers marshy areas
Gray-crowned Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis poliocephala</i>	HV	Fairly common in pine ridge, but spirits damp
Hooded Warbler	<i>Wilsonia citrina</i>	CC/ CA	Another understory beauty
Golden-crowned Warbler	<i>Basileuterus culicivorus</i>	CC	Seemingly scarce; recorded two days
Rufous-capped Warbler	<i>Basileuterus rufifrons</i>	HV	Pine ridge specialty
Gray-headed Tanager	<i>Eucometis penicillata</i>	CC	Saved by Merrill & Lynette last morning!
Black-throated Shrike-Tanager	<i>Lanio aurantius</i>	CC	Males and females lead canopy flocks; several flocks seen; none very large
Red-crowned Ant-Tanager	<i>Habia rubica</i>	CC/ CA	The common understory tanager; most often with T-C Greenlets
Red-throated Ant-Tanager	<i>Habia fuscicauda</i>	CC/ HV	More of an ant follower than its cousin; scarce
Hepatic Tanager	<i>Piranga flava</i>	HV	Fairly common on pine ridge
Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>	CC	Uncommon but seen daily
Blue-gray Tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>	GJ	Good looker at GJ
Yellow-winged Tanager	<i>Thraupis abbas</i>	CC/ CA	Most often in mistletoe in plaza; reduced numbers
Golden-hooded Tanager	<i>Tangara larvata</i>	CC	Two days only; usually more regular
Green Honeycreeper	<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>	CC	Dependable nectar junkie at the tulip trees; both sexes
Blue-black Grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>	GJ/ HV	Common in fields with tall grass
White-collared Seedeater	<i>Sporophila torqueola</i>	BC/ GJ/ HV	Common in grassy and weedy areas
Yellow-faced Grassquit	<i>Tiaris olivacea</i>	HV	Pine ridge only
Rusty Sparrow	<i>Aimophila rufescens</i>	HV	Common on pine ridge
Black-headed Saltator	<i>Saltator atriceps</i>	CC	Prefers edge and dense second growth; relatively scarce at CC
Black-faced Grosbeak	<i>Caryothraustes polioaster</i>	CA	Heard only; mysterious absentee at CC
Blue-black Grosbeak	<i>Cyanocompsa cyanooides</i>	CC	Likes dense forest edge, hence scarce

			currently at CC
Blue Grosbeak	<i>Passerina caerulea</i>	GJ	A few smart birds in fields at GJ
Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	GJ	Fairly common; no many blue at this time of year
Melodious Blackbird	<i>Dives dives</i>	CC/ HV/ CA	Noisy and conspicuous endemic around human habitation
Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	BC/ GJ	Almost exclusively open areas
Bronzed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus aeneus</i>	GJ	Open areas only
Giant Cowbird	<i>Molothrus oryzivorus</i>	CC	Visitors to oropendola colony in plaza on a couple of occasions
Black-cowled Oriole	<i>Icterus prothemelas</i>	CC	Daily at CC; only common resident oriole in forest
Orchard Oriole	<i>Icterus spurius</i>	GJ	Nice males at GJ
Hooded Oriole	<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>	BC/ Cheers	Mainly coastal; prefers palms
Yellow-backed Oriole	<i>Icterus chrysater</i>	HV	Pine ridge only
Yellow-tailed Oriole	<i>Icterus mesomelas</i>	HV	Pine ridge only
Baltimore Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	CC	Daily nectar junkies at CC
Yellow-billed Cacique	<i>Amblycercus holosericeus</i>	HV	In streamside broadleaf forest in pine ridge
Montezuma Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius montezuma</i>	CC	Daily antics in the plaza
Yellow-throated Euphonia	<i>Euphonia hirundinacea</i>	CC	Common in mistletoe in plaza
Olive-backed Euphonia	<i>Euphonia gouldi</i>	CC/ CA	Abundant in mistletoe in plaza; also CA

**Total species: 202**