

SHORT COSTA RICA: TOUCANS TO QUETZALS

February 16-24, 2008



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Resplendent Quetzal

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Leaders: Andrew Whittaker and Gustavo Orozco

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 downslope to the rich Caribbean lowlands and then ending our trip in the beautiful and cool mountains of the Cerro de la Muerte.

At every location we visited, the birds fell into place. Our first stop, at the lovely La Paz Waterfall Garden, produced the endemic Prong-billed Barbets, a gorgeous male Scarlet-thighed Dacnis nearly close enough to touch, and stunning Silver-throated and Crimson-collared tanagers swarming the feeders. We had nonstop action with eight species of hummingbirds, including the awesome Violet Saberwing, diminutive Green Thorntail, and very local Black-bellied Hummingbird. At another feeding station we observed a cracking pair of Blue-throated Toucanets, two species of barbets, and the endemic Coppery-headed Emerald, while several mouthwatering Golden-browed Chlorophonias were among a host of multicolored birds feeding in a nearby fruiting fig.

Our two days birding at the world-famous La Selva Field Station were simply amazing, with a seemingly endless procession of tropical birds appearing along the entry road and at fruiting trees at the headquarters, including colorful parrots, toucans, trogons, and tanagers. Particularly noteworthy was a bare tree full of 20+ croaking Keel-billed Toucans. This was followed by great back-to-back studies of both Cinnamon and Chestnut-colored woodpeckers. This year's treats around the forested clearings included several intimate studies of Fasciated Antshrikes; stunning scope studies of Red-lored, White-crowned, and Mealy parrots as they fed; White-collared Manakins; Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher; White-ringed Flycatcher; both Yellow-tailed and Black-cowled orioles; and elegant Snowy Cotingas. Our shaded forest walks rewarded us with nice looks at Great Tinamou, Broad-billed and Rufous motmots, Violaceous Trogon, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Stripe-breasted Wren, and a White-necked Jacobin on its nest. Great studies of a group of feeding white-faced capuchins, the acrobats of the forest, added to our fun. A wonderful male Hooded Warbler that allowed repeated close looks was one of the highlights for many of us. Multiple male Great Curassows, including one that boldly strolled from the forest across the lawn to a fruiting guava tree, made for a dramatic ending to the day.

At La Quinta, our lovely lodge rewarded us not only with excellent cuisine, but also with a super pre-dawn study of a wonderful pair of Spectacled Owls. As usual the fruit feeders were busy with both Green and Red-legged honeycreepers, Black-cheeked Woodpeckers, and huge Montezuma Oropendolas. This year, even a Gray-necked Wood-Rail was picking up scraps below! Amongst exquisite and extensive gardens Paul and Pattie found a spectacular Rufous-winged Woodpecker at eye level. The bird was feeding so intently that we all got amazing close views and stunning photos of this regional endemic!

Our exploration of the lush foothills at Virgen del Socorro was highlighted by a stunning pair of Red-headed Barbets that were almost too close to focus on as they fed in a fruiting bush along the road. Several action-packed mixed species flocks kept us on our toes with Golden-bellied Flycatcher leading such gems as Golden-hooded, Emerald, and Bay-headed tanagers, and Golden-crowned Warbler. Tape-playback rewarded us with magnificent studies of the lovely Sooty-faced Finch, and a wonderful display of antiphonal duetting by a responsive pair of Bay Wrens. We also enjoyed close looks at Slaty Spinetail and an extremely responsive Olive-crowned Yellowthroat. The crystal-clear, fast-flowing waters of this region rewarded us with scope studies of Fasciated Tiger-Heron, American Dipper, and the cute Torrent Tyrannulet.

Then, it was on to the lush Caribbean foothills, the wettest environment in Central America, and difficult to bird, but home to some of the least-known species of the region. For us, a morning's stop produced a fabulous male Snowcap and an equally stunning male Black-crested Coquette dancing around the flowering shrubs. We split up the group for the lovely loop trail walk, where highlights included Dull-mantled Antbird coming into tape at our feet, wonderful studies of a Tawny-faced Gnatwren, a stunning Ocellated Antbird, brilliant scope views of an adult Ornate Hawk-Eagle, and a rarely seen male Lattice-tailed Trogon. A couple of immense mixed-flocks, the larger containing some 25+ species, rampaged through the forest around us, led by the rarely-seen White-throated Shrike-Tanager. Other flock members included such gems as Streak-crowned Antwren, and Emerald and Black-and-yellow tanagers, making for a frenetic 30 minutes of birding.

From the foothills we moved upslope to the delightfully cool oak forests of Cerro de la Muerte, before descending to our lodging along a rushing stream in the San Gerardo 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, odd-looking Yellow-thighed Finches, Flame-throated Warbler, Collared Redstart, Black-thighed Grosbeak, and stunning Flame-colored and Spangle-cheeked tanagers at eye level and so close—the books really don't do their brilliant colors justice! Best of all, fruiting aguacatillo trees were attracting Resplendent Quetzals from far and wide. We watched several of these gems, considered by many to be the most beautiful bird in the world, 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 some localized high-mountain endemics, including a singing Timberline Wren at point-blank range, Large-footed Finches scrambling around in the dense elfin forest, and the Volcano Junco, which is known from only a few sites at the highest elevations in these mountains. Our night excursion rewarded us with great scope studies of the range-restricted Dusky Nightjar, but hearing its lovely song echoing across the valley was nearly as exciting.

All too soon it was back to San Jose, our week in Costa Rica over but not forgotten. I'm already eagerly awaiting my return visit to this charming country with wonderful birds and great birding.

ITINERARY:

February 16: arrival in San Jose, Costa Rica.

February 17: 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 18: morning and afternoon excursions to the La Selva Field Station of the Organization of Tropical Studies (OTS), with midday break at La Quinta.

February 19: Virgen del Socorro in the morning and around La Selva in the afternoon.

February 20: morning and afternoon excursions to the La Selva Field Station of the OTS.

February 21: morning in the foothills in lower Braulio Carillo National Park and afternoon drive to the Savegre Valley on Cerro de la Muerte.

February 22: the Savegre Valley on Cerro de la Muerte and the slopes above up to the timberline in the afternoon with dusk birding for owls and nighthjars.

February 23: morning birding in the Savegre Valley and afternoon side trip to higher elevations on Cerro de la Muerte before driving back to San Jose. We had a fine fair well dinner at the hotel.

February 24: departure for flights home.

TOP 5 BIRDS (as voted by group)

- 1 - **Snowcap**
- 2 - **Resplendant Quetzal**
Spangle-cheeked Tanager
- 3 - **Black-crested Coquette**
- 4 - **Golden-browed Chlorophonia**
Ornate Hawk-Eagle
- 5 - **Dusky Nightjar**

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 **bold-faced**.

Tinamous (Tinimidae)

Great Tinamou (*Tinamus major*) - CL (One practically walked right up to us!).

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

Guans, Chachalacas & allies (Cracidae)

Gray-headed Chachalaca (*Ortalis cinereiceps*) - CL

Crested Guan (*Penelope purpurascens*) - CL

eh Black Guan (*Chamaepetes unicolor*) - CM (Stunning regional endemic.)

Great Curassow (*Crax rubra*) – CL (Wonderful studies of several males, including one singing its low pitched song above us.)

New World Quails (Odontophoridae)

Black-eared Wood-Quail (*Odontophorous melanotis*) (Heard only, but what a lovely voice!)

Cormorant (Phalacrocoracidae)

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) CL

Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns (Ardeidae)

Fasciated Tiger Heron (*Tigrisoma fasciatum*) – CL (Good scope looks at both the adult and the strikingly different juvenile.)

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) - CL

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) - CL

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) - all regions

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

Ibis & Spoonbills (Threskiornithidae)

Green Ibis (*Mesembrinibis cayennensis*) - CL

Storks (Ciconiidae)

Woodstork (*Mycteria americana*) – CL

New World Vultures (Cathartidae)

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) - all regions

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) - all regions

King Vulture (*Sarcorhamphus papa*) - CL

Hawks, Eagles & Kites (Accipitridae)

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) – CM (Seen by some at lunch break.)

Double-toothed Kite (*Harpagus bidentatus*) - CL (Great scope studies)

White Hawk (*Leucopternis albicollis*) - CS

Gray Hawk (*Asturina nitida*) - CL

Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*) - CL

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

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) – CM (Resident form here.)

Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*) - CL
Laughing Falcon (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*) – CL (Alas, heard only.)
Bat Falcon (*Falco ruficularis*) – CL
Ornate Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetus ornatus*) – CS (Scope views for half of the group; unfortunately only heard by the rest.)

Rails, Gallinules & Coots (Rallidae)

White-throated Crake (*Laterallus albigularis*) – CL (Heard.)
Gray-necked Wood-Rail (*Aramides cajanea*) - CL

Plovers & Lapwing (Charadriidae)

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) - CL

Sandpiper & Allies (Scolopacidae)

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) – CL

Doves & Pigeons (Columbidae)

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) - cities and towns (Feral birds.)
Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*) - CM
Pale-vented Pigeon (*Patagioenas cayennensis*) – CL
Scaled Pigeon (*Patagioenas speciosa*) - CL
Red-billed Pigeon (*Patagioenas flavirostris*) - CS
Short-billed Pigeon (*Patagioenas nigrirostris*) - CL
Ruddy Pigeon (*Patagioenas subvinacea*) - CM
White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) – San Jose
Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*) - CL
Blue Ground-Dove (*Claravis pretiosa*) - CL
White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*) - CL
Gray-chested Dove (*Leptotila cassini*) - CL (Out in the open several times.)

Parrots, Macaws & Allies (Psittacidae)

eh Crimson-fronted Parakeet (*Aratinga finschi*) - CS, MC
Olive-throated Parakeet (*Aratinga nana*) – CL
Great Green Macaw (*Ara ambiguus*) – CL (Alas, all too brief a view for some folks.)
eh **Sulphur-winged Parakeet (*Pyrrhura hoffmanni*)** – CM (Simply stunning scope studies.)
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

Cuckoos (Cuculidae)

Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*) - MC, CS, CL
Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) - CL

Typical Owls (Strigidae)

Vermiculated Screech-Owl (*Megascops vermiculatus*) – CL (Heard only.)

Spectacled Owl (*Pulsatrix perspicillata*) - CL (Superb, predawn scope studies of a pair.)

Nightjars & Allies (Caprimulgidae)

Dusky Nightjar (*Caprimulgus saturatus*) – CM (Stunning scope looks of this range-restricted species with the great voice.)

Swifts (Apodidae)

White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*) - CS, CL, CM

Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) – CL, CS (A swirling, migrating flocks of several hundred.)

Gray-rumped Swift (*Chaetura cinereiventris*) – CL

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift (*Panyptila cayennensis*) - CL

Hummingbirds (Trochilidae)

Bronzy Hermit (*Glaucis aeneus*) - CL

Green Hermit (*Phaethornis guy*) - CS

Long-billed (Western Long-tailed) Hermit (*Phaethornis longirostris*) - CL (Heard; formerly considered a race of Long-tailed Hermit.)

Stripe-throated Hermit (*Phaethornis striigularis*) - CL (Formerly lumped with Little Hermit.)

Violet Sabrewing (*Campylopterus hemileucurus*) – CS (Huge and colorful!)

White-necked Jacobin (*Florisuga mellivora*) – CL (On the nest!)

Brown Violetear (*Colibri delphinae*) - CS

Green Violet-ear (*Colibri thalassinus*) - CM

Violet-headed Hummingbird (*Klais guimeti*) – CS

Black-crested Coquette (*Lophornis helenae*) – CS (A stunning male at point-blank range!)

Green Thorntail (*Discosura conversii*) - CS

e **Coppery-headed Emerald** (*Elvira cupreiceps*) - CS (We had multiple great studies of this Costa Rican endemic.).

eh Black-bellied Hummingbird (*Eupherusa nigriventris*) - CS

Violet-crowned Woodnymph (*Thalurania colombica*) - CS, CL

Blue-throated Goldentail (*Hylocharis eliciae*) – CL (Seen by some on the hotel grounds.)

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (*Amazilia tzacatl*) - CS, CL

Blue-chested Hummingbird (*Polyerata amabilis*) – CL (heard)

ec **Snowcap** (*Microchera albocoronata*) – CS (Must be one of the smartest looking hummers!)

Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer (*Chalybura urochrysis*) - CL, CS

eh Purple-throated Mountain-gem (*Lampornis calolaema*) - CS

eh White-throated (Gray-tailed) Mountain-gem - (*Lampornis castaneiventris*) - CM

Green-crowned Brilliant (*Heliodoxa jacula*) - CS

Magnificent Hummingbird (*Eugenes fulgens*) - CM

Purple-crowned Fairy (*Heliothryx barroti*) - CL, CS (Fighting with the Plumeleteer.)

eh Scintillant Hummingbird (*Selasphorus scintilla*) – CM

eh Volcano Hummingbird (*Selasphorus flammula*) – CM

Trogon (Trogonidae)

Violaceous Trogon (*Trogon violaceus*) - CL

Collard 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 (WOW; stunning scope views for all of this gem!)
- Motmots (Momotidae)**
Rufous Motmot (*Baryphthengus martii*) – CL
 Broad-billed Motmot (*Electron platyrhynchum*) – CL, CS (Lovely close studies, particularly the confiding pair perched close above their nesting burrow.)
- Kingfisher (Alcedinidae)**
 Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*) – CL (Seen by some along the river by the hotel.)
 Ringed Kingfisher (*Ceryle torquata*) - CL (heard)
 Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*) - CL
- Puffbirds (Bucconidae)**
White-necked Puffbird (*Notharchus macrorhynchos*) – CL (Great scope studies of this canopy species.)
- Jacamars (Galbulidae)**
Rufous-tailed Jacamar (*Galbula ruficauda*) – CL (Stunning looks.)
- Toucans (Ramphastidae)**
Red-headed Barbet (*Eubucco bourcierii*) – CS
- eh** **Prong-billed Barbet** (*Semnornis frantzii*) – CS (Close looks at this regional endemic, as it visited feeders!)
- eh** Blue-throated Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus caeruleogularis*) - CS, CM (A gem.)
 Collared Aracari (*Pteroglossus torquatus*) - CL, CS
 Keel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*) - CL, CS (Who will ever forget the bare tree full of these croakers?)
Chestnut-mandibled Toucan (*Ramphastos swainsoni*) - CL (Sometimes lumped with the Black-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos ambiguus*) of the Andes.)
- Woodpeckers & Allies (Picidae)**
 Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*) - CM
 Black-cheeked Woodpecker (*Melanerpes pucherani*) - CL, CS (heard)
- eh** Hoffmann’s Woodpecker (*Melanerpes hoffmannii*) - MC
 Smoky-brown Woodpecker (*Veniliornis fumigatus*) - CL, CS
- el** **Rufous-winged Woodpecker** (*Piculus simplex*) – CL (Great looks!)
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

Ovenbirds & Woodcreepers (Furnariidae)

Slaty Spinetail (*Synallaxis brachyura*) – CL, CS

Red-faced Spinetail (*Cranioleuca erythrops*) - CS

eh Ruddy Treerunner (*Magarornis rubiginosus*) - CM

Buff-throated Foliage-Gleaner (*Automolus ochrolaemus*) – CS (Several subspecies in this complex will probably be elevated to full species status. We saw the subspecies *hypophaeus*.)

Plain Xenops (*Xenops minutus*) – CS

Plain Brown Woodcreeper (*Dendocincla fuliginosa*) – CL

Olivaceous Woodcreeper (*Sittasomus griseicapillus*) – CL (This geographically widespread species is certain to be split multiple ways. We saw the race *sylvioides*.)

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

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

Cocoa Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus susurrans*) - CL (recent split from the Buff-throated Woodcreeper).

Black-striped Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus*) - CL (Heard only.).

Spotted Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*) - CS

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

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

Typical Antbirds (Thamnophilidae)

Fasciated Antshrike (*Cymbilaimus lineatus*) - CL

Great Antshrike (*Taraba major*) - CL (A skulker with a fierce bill and eye.)

Barred Antshrike (*Thamnophilus doliatus*) - CL

Western Slaty-Antshrike (*Thamnophilus atrinucha*) - CL

Russet Antshrike (*Thamnistes anabatinus*) - CS

Streak-crowned Antvireo (*Dysithamnus striaticeps*) – CS

Dusky Antbird (*Cercomacra tyrannina*) – CL (Heard only.)

Chestnut-backed Antbird (*Myrmeciza exsul*) - CL (Heard only.)

Dull-mantled Antbird (*Myrmeciza laemosticta*) – CS (Excellent point-blank looks by all of this beauty.)

Ocellated Antbird (*Phaenostictus mcleannani*) – CS (Antbirds rule! This obligate army ant follower is one of the sharpest of them all!)

Tapaculos (Rhinocrypidae)

Silvery-fronted Tapaculo (*Scytalopus argentifrons*) – CM (For those on the trail walk, great studies of this mouse-like forest phantom.)

Tyrant Flycatchers (Tyrannidae)

Yellow Tyrannulet (*Capsiempis flaveola*) – CL (Heard only.)

Yellow-bellied Elaenia (*Elaenia flavogaster*) – CL, CS

Mountain Elaenia (*Elaenia frantzii*) - CS, CM

Torrent Tyrannulet (*Serpophaga cinerea*) - CS (Cute; distinctive in appearance and habitat.)

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

Olive-striped Flycatcher (*Mionectes olivaceus*) - CS

Slaty-capped Flycatcher (*Leptopogon superciliaris*) – CS

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

Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant (*Myiornis atricapillus*) - CL
 Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum nigriceps*) - CS (Lured down from the canopy for great looks!)
 Scale-crested Pygmy –Tyrant (*Lophotriccus piliatus*) – CS (Heard only.)
 Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*) - CL
 Yellow-olive Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias sulphurescens*) – CL (Several splits forthcoming in this complex; we saw the race *cinereiceps*.)
 Yellow-margined Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias assimillis*) - CS
 White-throated Spadebill (*Platyrhynchus mystaceus*) - CS
 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
 Long-tailed Tyrant (*Colonia colonus*) - CL
 Bright-rumped Attila (*Attila spadiceus*) - CL, CS (Heard only.)
 Rufous Mourner (*Rhytipterna holerythra*) - CL
 Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) - CL (By a few.)
 Great crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) - CL
 Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) - CS, CL
 Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarynchus pitangua*) - CL, CM
 Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) - MC, CS, CL
Golden-bellied Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes hemichrysus*)- CS
White-ringed Flycatcher (*Conopias albobittatus*) - CL
 Gray-capped Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes granadensis*) - CL
 Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucophaeus*) – CL (The pirate.)
 Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) - CS, CL, CM

Tityras, Becards & Allies (Tityridae)

Cinnamon Becard (*Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*) - CL
 White-winged Becard (*Pachyramphus polychopterus*) - CL
 Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*) - CL
 Black-crowned Tityra (*Tityra inquisitor*) – CL

Incertae Sedis (= of uncertain placement)

Gray-headed Piprites (*Piprites griseiceps*) - CS (Heard only.)

Cotingas (Cotingidae)

Ec Snowy Cotinga (*Carpodectes nitidus*) - CL

Manakins (Pipridae)

White-collared Manakin (*Manacus candei*) – CL (Simply stunning! The loud clapping noises they make when displaying was confirmed recently at La Selva by high speed film to be made by the bird’s wingtips hitting at high speed over the back!)

White-ruffed Manakin (*Corapipo altera*)- CS (Heard only.)

Red-capped Manakin (*Pipra mentalis*) – CL (Heard only.)

Vireos & Allies (Vireonidae)

eh Yellow-winged Vireo (*Vireo carmioli*) – CM (Great close looks at eye-level.)

Brown-capped Vireo (*Vireo leucophrys*) - CM

Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*) – CM (I was pleased to see so many this year; more than I have ever seen on previous trips.)

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.)

Crows, Jays & Magpies (Corvidae)

Brown Jay (*Cyanocorax morio*) - CL

Swallows (Hirundinidae)

Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*) - CL

Mangrove Swallow (*Tachycineta albilinea*) - CL

Blue-and-white Swallow (*Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*) - MC, CS, CM

Southern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) – CL

Wrens (Troglodytidae)

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, CS

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

Dippers (Cinclidae)

American Dipper (*Cinclus mexicanus*) - CS, CM

Old World Warblers (Sylviidae)

Tawny-faced Gnatwren (*Microbates cinereiventris*) – CS (Stunning views.)

Long-billed Gnatwren (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*) - CL (Heard only.)

Tropical Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila plumbea*) - CL (Seen by a few.)

Thrushes & Allies (Turdidae)

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!)

Mockingbirds & Thrashers (Mimidae)

Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) - CL (By a few.)

Silky-Flycatchers (Ptilonotidae)

- eh** **Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher** (*Ptilonotus caudatus*) - CM

New World Warblers (Parulidae)

Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) - CS

Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*) - all regions

- eh** **Flame-throated Warbler** (*Parula gutturalis*) – CM (What a looker! We had amazingly low- down close views.)

Tropical Parula (*Parula pitiayumi*) - CS

Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) - CL

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) - MC, CL, CS (Lower numbers than normal.)

Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) - CS, CM

Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*) – CM (Rare in Costa Rica. Some of us saw a stunning male.)

Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*) – CS, CM

Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) - CS, CL

Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) - CL

Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) – CS, CM

Mourning Warbler (*Opornis philadelphia*) – CS

Olive-crowned Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis semiflava*) – CS (Great show by a responsive male.)

Gray-crowned Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis poliocephala*) – CS (Heard only.)

Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) – CL (A crippling adult male put on a great show.)

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

Three-striped Warbler (*Basileuterus tristriatus*) - CS

Buff-rumped Warbler (*Basileuterus fulvicauda*) - CL, CS (Heard)

Wrenthrush (*Zeledonia cornata*) – CM (Alas, only heard after much effort.)

Genus incertae sedis

Bananaquit (*Coerebe flaveola*) - CS, CL

Tanagers & Allies (Thraupidae)

Common Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus ophthalmicus*) - CS, CM

- eh** Sooty-capped Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus pileatus*) - CM

- ec** **Black-and-yellow Tanager** (*Chrysothlypis chrysomelaena*) – CS

- Olive Tanager (*Chlorothraupis carmioli*) - CS
- el** **White-throated Shrike-Tanager** (*Lanio leucothorax*) - CS
- White-lined Tanager (*Tachyphonus rufus*) - 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
- Passerini's Tanager (*Ramphocelus passerinii*) - CS, CL
- Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*) - all regions
- Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*) - CS, CL
- 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 (The colors glowed in the sunlight – WOW!)
- Scarlet-thighed Dacnis** (*Dacnis dowii*) – CS (Fantastic studies of a crippling male on the fruit feeder.)
- Blue Dacnis (*Dacnis cayana*) - CL
- Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*) - CS, CL
- Shining Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes lucidus*) - CL
- Red-legged Honeycreeper** (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*) - CL (A stunning male visiting the feeders at La Quinta.)

Buntings, Sparrow & Allies (Emberizidae)

- Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*) – CL, CS
- Variable Seedeater (*Sporophila corvina*) - CS, CL
- Yellow-faced Grassquit (*Tiaris olivacea*) - CL, CM
- Peg-billed Finch** (*Acanthidops bairdii*) - CM
- eh** Slaty Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa plumbea*) - CM
- eh** **Sooty-faced Finch** (*Lysurus crassirostris*) - CS (It came out into the open for us after tape-playback.)
- eh** **Yellow-thighed Finch** (*Psellophorus tibialis*) - CS, CM (Puffy yellow leggings.)
- eh** **Large-footed Finch** (*Pezopetes capitalis*) – CM (After some work, seen well by all.)
- White-naped Brush-Finch** (*Atlapetes albinucha*) – CS
- Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch (*Buarremon brunneinucha*)- CS
- 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

Saltators, Cardinals & Allies (Cardinalidae)

- 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 (Great studies, and a neat songster.)

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) - CS, CM

Blue-black Grosbeak (*Cyanocompsa cyanooides*) – CL (heard)

Troupials & Allies (Icteridae)

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!)

Siskins, Crossbills & Allies (Fringillidae)

el Yellow-crowned Euphonia (*Euphonia luteicapilla*) - CL

Olive-backed Euphonia (*Euphonia gouldi*) - CL

Tawny-capped Euphonia (*Euphonia annae*) - CS

eh **Golden-browed Chlorophonia** (*Chlorophonia callophrys*) – CM (What a gem!)

Yellow-bellied Siskin (*Carduelis xanthogastra*) – CM (Spectacular, in-your-face views of a responsive male in the orchard.)

Old World Sparrows (Passeridae)

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) - CL (introduced)

Total 313 Species

MAMMALS: 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
White-nosed Coati (*Nasua narica*) - CL, CS
Tayra (*Eira barbara*) - CL
Lesser White-lined (Sac-winged) Bat (*Saccopteryx leptura*) - CL
insectivorous bats (several sizes)
Mantled Howler (*Alouatta palliata*) - CL
White-faced Capuchin (*Cebus capucinus*) – CL
Eastern Cottontail (*Sylvilagus brasiliensis*) - CM
Variegated 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.)
White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) – CL

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

Giant Toad (*Bufo marinus*)
Smoky Jungle Frog
Blue Jeans poison arrow frog
Spectacled Caiman (*Caiman crocodilus*)
House Gecko (*Hemidactylus frenatus*) - introduced
Green Basilisk (*Basiliscus plumifrons*) (Including x-rated scenes by the pool!)
Green Iguana (*Iguana iguana*)
Central American Whip-tailed Lizard (*Ameiva festiva*)
ground anole sp? (*Norops sp?*) - tiny, in the leaf litter
Green Spiny Lizard

Other notable observations
Blue Morpho