

SHORT COSTA RICA: TOUCANS TO QUETZALS

February 28 - March 8, 2009



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Resplendent Quetzal

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

Our first day out we traveled down through beautiful Braulio Carillo National Park under sunny skies, arriving at the Aerial Tram to find a soaring Barred Hawk there to greet us and a very cooperative White Hawk not long thereafter. By lunchtime the clouds had moved in and soon the restless mixed-flocks of tanagers became active between the intermittent drizzle. A flock of Collared Aracaris feeding at a fruiting liana captivated our group, but the undisputed highlight of the day—and perhaps the trip—was a young male Bare-necked Umbrellabird that appeared at the same fruit. It remained there at remarkably close range for 30 minutes, and in the end we walked away from it! This large cotinga has a very restricted range and is always a rare find.

In spite of the rainy days, our visits to the world-famous La Selva Field Station were simply amazing, with a seemingly endless feast of birds appearing along the entry road, including colorful parrots, toucans, and trogons. A fruiting guava tree right at the cafeteria provided close looks at a great number of species, including incredibly tame Crested Guans. Even more amazing were the six Great Curassows seen here on the first day. This spectacular game bird is highly threatened in most of its range and it has taken decades for them to re-colonize this part of the La Selva property. And if that weren’t enough, that day we also observed a Great Tinamou boldly “frozen” in position, almost too close to focus binoculars upon. A wonderful surprise this year was the presence of Great Green Macaws in the region. This spectacular bird is highly endangered, and the small number remaining in Costa Rica wander widely, so to see 14 flying by in one procession was truly remarkable.

There is always much to see in a tropical forest as rich as this one, and other highlights here included spectacular looks at Pale-billed and Chestnut-colored woodpeckers; a calm Broad-billed Motmot at close range; a Semiplumbeous Hawk perched in the open; male and female Snowy Cotingas at a fruiting tree; sparkling Rufous-tailed Jacamars; a stunning Black-striped Woodcreeper at the forest edge; Gray-necked Wood-Rails sneaking out to puddles in the road; a Vermiculated Screech-Owl at its day roost; a long study of a female Great Antshrike; a tiny male White-collared Manakin feeding actively in a fruiting bush; a colorful Yellow-tailed Oriole at close range; and much more. A stop at an open marsh produced seven rarely-seen Green Ibis strolling around, plus males of the very localized Nicaraguan Seed-Finch teed-up and singing. Each day when we arrived back at the lodge we relaxed by watching the parade of birds coming to the feeders, including tanagers (a brilliant Crimson-collared was the best), honeycreepers, and 3 species of saltators.

From the foothills we moved to the delightful mountains, descending through the oak forests of Cerro de la Muerte to our lodging along a rushing stream in a deep valley. In these pleasant surroundings we found a flower-filled garden swarming with hummingbirds, and mixed-flocks with a totally new set of birds, including beauties like the Ruddy Treerunner, Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher (so sleek and elegant), Flame-throated Warbler, and Spangle-cheeked Tanager. The charming Collared Redstarts (“amigos de hombre”) seemed to like us, landing right at our feet as they searched the leaf litter for insects, while the Buffy Tuftedcheek rummaging through the bromeliads high overhead challenged our necks to see it. Our rarest sighting here was an Ochraceous Pewee that gave us multiple views as it foraged in the last afternoon sunlight.

At the highest elevations we tracked down several endemics of very restricted range, including a bold Timberline Wren; odd-looking Large-footed Finches lurking in the stunted vegetation; and stunning Fiery-throated Hummingbirds, with their full rainbow of colors. Best of all were the fabulous Resplendent Quetzals, considered by many to be the most beautiful bird in the world. It took a while to find them, but an afternoon hike up a gorgeous valley produced a pair quietly sitting in the midstory, occasionally fluttering down to a fruiting tree to grab a bite. We had 30 wonderful minutes with them before they slipped away into the forest to digest their meal. This is perhaps the ultimate Costa Rican bird experience!

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

ITINERARY:

February 28: arrival in San Jose, Costa Rica.

March 1: travel from San Jose and the Meseta Central down to the Aerial Tram, in the foothills at the lower edge of Braulio Carrillo National Park. The bulk of the day was spent birding here before continuing on to La Quinta de Sarapiquí, our headquarters for exploring this region.

March 2: morning and afternoon excursions to the La Selva Field Station of the Organization of Tropical Studies (OTS), with midday break at La Quinta.

March 3: a rainy day spent birding along the base of the foothills, with a major stop at the El Tapir Trail near the Aerial Tram.

March 4: morning and afternoon excursions to the La Selva Field Station of the OTS.

March 5: early morning birding around La Quinta, before travelling to Cerro de la Muerte.

March 6: the beautiful Savegre Valley on Cerro de la Muerte, in the general vicinity of the lodge and nearby forests.

March 7: morning hike down from the old-growth oak forest above the lodge; in the afternoon a side trip to the higher elevations on Cerro de la Muerte before driving back to San Jose.

March 8: departure for flights home.

KEY:

MC = Meseta Central

CS = Aerial Tram; El Tapir Garden.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Great Tinamou (*Tinamus major*) - CL (incredibly close study inside the La Selva forest).

Little Tinamou (*Crypturellus soui*) - CL (seen by a few when it scuttled across a trail).

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) - CL

Crested Guan (*Penelope purpurascens*) - CL (close-up looks all 3 days in the lowlands).

Great Curassow (*Crax rubra*) - CL (a phenomenal six in one day!).

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

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) - CL

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) - CL

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) - CL

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) - CL

Green Ibis (*Mesembrinibis cayennensis*) - CL (7 in one marshy field, a great find).

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) - all regions

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) - all regions (including some large flights of migrants, many of them downed by the rain).

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) - CL, CM

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

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) - CS, CM (gracefully flying right overhead as we watched a male quetzal).

White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*) - MC (the first bird of the trip).

Barred (Black-chested) Hawk (*Leucopternis princeps*) - CS

Semiplumbeous Hawk (*Leucopternis semiplumbeus*) - CL (an inconspicuous forest raptor seen twice along the La Selva entry road).

White Hawk (*Leucopternis albicollis*) - CS (perched for incredible looks!).

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

Gray Hawk (*Buteo nitidus*) - CL

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

Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*) - CL (seen in flight from the bus by some).

Laughing Falcon (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*) - CL

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) - CM (by a few).

Gray-necked Wood-Rail (*Aramides cajanea*) - CL (repeated out-in-the-open looks, perhaps due to all the rain).

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*) - CL

Northern Jacana (*Jacana spinosa*) - CL (adult with a tiny chick).

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

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

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

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

Ruddy Pigeon (*Patagioenas subvinacea*) - CM

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

Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*) - CL

White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*) - CL (around La Quinta by some).

Olive-backed Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon veraguensis*) - CS (by a few at the Aerial Tram).

eh Sulphur-winged Parakeet (*Pyrrhura hoffmanni*) - CM (conspicuous in the Savegre Valley this trip; a very distinctive regional endemic).

Crimson-fronted Parakeet (*Aratinga finschi*) - MC (on our way back to San Jose).

Olive-throated Parakeet (*Aratinga nana*) - CL

Great Green Macaw (*Ara ambiguus*) - CL (this highly-threatened species is a great wanderer, but was in this region in some numbers this year, including 14 in one morning).

Orange-chinned Parakeet (*Brotogeris jugularis*) - CL

Brown-hooded Parrot (*Pionopsitta haematotis*) - CL

White-crowned Parrot (*Pionus senilis*) - CL

Red-lored Parrot (*Amazona autumnalis*) - CL

Mealy Parrot (*Amazona farinosa*) - CL

Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*) - CL

Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) - CL

Vermiculated Screech-Owl (*Megascops guatemalae*) - CL (at it's day roost at La Selva).

Costa Rican Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium costaricanum*) - CM (heard only).

Mottled Owl (*Ciccaba virgata*) - CM (heard only).

Chestnut-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne rutila*) - CM

White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*) - 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).

White-necked Jacobin (*Florisuga mellivora*) - CL

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

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

Green Thorntail (*Discosura conversii*) - CS (a male of this tiny foothill specialty).

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

eh Fiery-throated Hummingbird (*Panterpe insignis*) - CM (stunning endemic of the highest elevations, but it takes a while to see all of the colors light up).

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

Bronze-tailed Plumbeater (*Chalybura urochrysa*) - CL

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

Magnificent Hummingbird (*Eugenes fulgens*) - CM

Purple-crowned Fairy (*Heliothryx barroti*) - CS, CL (including two different birds on their delicate nests).

eh Volcano Hummingbird (*Selasphorus flammula*) - CM

eh Scintillant Hummingbird (*Selasphorus scintilla*) - CM

Violaceous Trogon (*Trogon violaceus*) - CL

Slaty-tailed Trogon (*Trogon massena*) - CL

Resplendent Quetzal (*Pharomachrus mocinno*) - CM (we watched a fabulous pair in a beautiful forested valley for 30 minutes, and then enjoyed several more males the next morning).

Broad-billed Motmot (*Electron platyrhynchum*) - CL

Amazon Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle amazona*) - CL

Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*) - CL

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

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

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

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

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

Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*) - CM

Black-cheeked Woodpecker (*Melanerpes pucherani*) - CL
Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*) - CM
Smoky-brown Woodpecker (*Veniliornis fumigatus*) - CL
Chestnut-colored Woodpecker (*Celeus castaneus*) - CL
Pale-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus guatemalensis*) - CL
eh Ruddy Treerunner (*Magarornis rubiginosus*) - CM (scurrying around the tree trunks in the mixed-flocks in the mountain forest).
Buffy Tuftedcheek (*Pseudocolaptes lawrencii*) - CM (a great, if neck-breaking, study of one rummaging through the bromeliads in the high canopy).
Lineated Foliage-gleaner (*Syndactyla subalaris*) - CM
Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*) - CL
Northern Barred-Woodcreeper (*Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae*) - CL
Cocoa Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus susurrans*) - CL (a recent split from the Buff-throated Woodcreeper).
Black-striped Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus*) - CL (great looks at this most beautiful of the Central American woodcreepers).
Spotted Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*) - CS
Streak-headed Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*) - CL
Spot-crowned Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes affinis*) - CM
Fasciated Antshrike (*Cymbilaimus lineatus*) - CL (close study of a male).
Great Antshrike (*Taraba major*) - CL
Russet Antshrike (*Thamnistes anabatinus*) - CS, CL
Dusky Antbird (*Cercomacra tyrannina*) - CL
Chestnut-backed Antbird (*Myrmeciza exsul*) - CL (mostly heard; glimpsed).
Yellow-bellied Elaenia (*Elaenia flavogaster*) - CL
Mountain Elaenia (*Elaenia frantzii*) - CM
Torrent Tyrannulet (*Serpophaga cinerea*) - CM (a cute flycatcher, distinctive in appearance and habitat).
Olive-striped Flycatcher (*Mionectes olivaceus*) - CM
Paltry (Mistletoe) Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius villissimus*) - CS, CL, CM
Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*) - CL
Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum nigriceps*) - CL (heard only).
Yellow-margined Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias assimilis*) - CL
Tufted Flycatcher (*Mitrephanes phaenocercus*) - CM
Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*) - CS
eh Dark Pewee (*Contopus lugubris*) - CM
eh **Ochraceous Pewee** (*Contopus ochraceus*) - CM (one of the rarest of the highland endemics; we followed one down the forested valley for 15 minutes, getting many great looks).
Tropical Pewee (*Contopus cinereus*) - CL (calling to confirm the identification).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*) - CL
Yellowish Flycatcher (*Empidonax flavescens*) - CM
eh Black-capped Flycatcher (*Empidonax atriceps*) - CM
Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) - CL, CM
Long-tailed Tyrant (*Colonia colonus*) - CL (conspicuous around the La Selva clearings).
Bright-rumped Attila (*Attila spadiceus*) - CL
Rufous Mourner (*Rhytipterna holerythra*) - CS, CL
Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) - CL
Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) - CL
Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarynchus pitangua*) - CL
Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) - CS, CL
Gray-capped Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes granadensis*) - CL
White-ringed Flycatcher (*Conopias albobittatus*) - CL
eh **Golden-bellied Flycatcher** (*Myiodynastes hemichrysus*) - CM (scope studies of a bird calling loudly in the tall oak forest).

Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucophaeus*) - CL
Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) - all regions
Cinnamon Becard (*Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*) - CL
White-winged Becard (*Pachyramphus polychopterus*) - CL
Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*) - CS, CL
ec **Snowy Cotinga** (*Carpodectes nitidus*) - CL (great looks at this ethereal specialty, very restricted in range).
eh **Bare-necked Umbrellabird** (*Cephalopterus glabricollis*) - CS (fabulous close study of this spectacular and rarely-seen bird at the Aerial Tram, as if fed in the fruiting trees).
White-collared Manakin (*Manacus candei*) - CL
White-ruffed Manakin (*Corapipo altera*) - CS
Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*) - CS, CL
eh Yellow-winged Vireo (*Vireo carmioli*) - CM
Brown-capped Vireo (*Vireo leucophrys*) - CM
Lesser Greenlet (*Hylophilus decurtatus*) - CS
Brown Jay (*Cyanocorax morio*) - CL
Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) - CL (unexpected migrants at La Selva, more exciting for the local birders than for us).
Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*) - CL
Blue-and-white Swallow (*Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*) - CM
Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) - CM
Southern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) - CL
Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) - CL
Band-backed Wren (*Campylorhynchus zonatus*) - CL
ec Black-throated Wren (*Thryothorus atrogularis*) - CL (great songster but difficult to see).
Bay Wren (*Thryothorus nigricapillus*) - CL
ec Stripe-breasted Wren (*Thryothorus thoracicus*) - CL (by a few).
House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) - CS, CL
eh **Ochraceous Wren** (*Troglodytes ochraceus*) - CM (literally at our feet).
eh **Timberline Wren** (*Thryorchilus browni*) - CM (the final great bird of the trip, one eventually coaxed out into full view for all as it gave its complex song).
Gray-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucophrys*) - CM
American Dipper (*Cinclus mexicanus*) - CM (by a few).
Long-billed Gnatwren (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*) - CL
Tropical Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila plumbea*) - CS, CL
eh Black-faced Solitaire (*Myadestes melanops*) - CM
eh Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus gracilirostris*) - CM
Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus frantzii*) - CM
Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) - CL
eh Sooty Robin (*Turdus nigrescens*) - CM
Mountain Robin (*Turdus plebejus*) - CM
Clay-colored Robin (*Turdus grayi*) - CL, CM, MC (the national bird of Costa Rica, seen and heard in large numbers, sometimes singing a bit too early in the morning).
eh **Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher** (*Ptilogonys caudatus*) - CM (sleek, elegant birds reminiscent of waxwings).
Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) - CS
Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*) - CL, CM
eh **Flame-throated Warbler** (*Parula gutturalis*) - CM (oh what a beauty!).
Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) - CL
Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) - CS, CL
Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) - CS, CM
Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*) - CM (good study of a male).
Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) - CS, CM
Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) - CL
Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*) - CM

eh Collared Redstart (*Myioborus torquatus*) - CM (the incredibly tame and confiding “amigo de hombre”).

eh Black-cheeked Warbler (*Basileuterus melanogenys*) - CM

Buff-rumped Warbler (*Basileuterus fulvicauda*) - CL (by a few).

Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*) - CS, CL

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

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

Ashy-throated Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus canigularis*) - CS

Black-and-yellow Tanager (*Chrysothlypis chrysomelas*) - CS

Carmioli’s (Olive) Tanager (*Chlorothraupis carmioli*) - CS

White-shouldered Tanager (*Tachyphonus luctuosus*) - CS

White-lined Tanager (*Tachyphonus rufus*) - CL

Red-throated Ant-Tanager (*Habia fuscicauda*) - CL

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) - CL

Flame-colored Tanager (*Piranga bidentata*) - CM

Crimson-collared Tanager (*Ramphocelus sanguinolentus*) - CL (stunning in color).

Passerini’s Tanager (*Ramphocelus passerinii*) - CL (not too shabby either).

Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*) - CL, CM

Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*) - CL

Plain-colored Tanager (*Tangara inornata*) - CL

Emerald Tanager (*Tangara florida*) - CS

Silver-throated Tanager (*Tangara icterocephala*) - CS

Speckled Tanager (*Tangara guttata*) - CS

Golden-hooded Tanager (*Tangara larvata*) - CS, CL

eh Spangle-cheeked Tanager (*Tangara dowii*) - CM (beautiful and scarce endemic).

Blue Dacnis (*Dacnis cayana*) - CL

Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*) - CS, CL

Red-legged Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*) - CL

Variable Seedeater (*Sporophila corvina*) - CS, CL

ec Nicaraguan Seed-Finch (*Oryzoborus nuttingi*) - CL (several males of this very range-restricted endemic sitting up in the open marsh).

Thick-billed Seed-Finch (*Oryzoborus funereus*) - CL

Yellow-faced Grassquit (*Tiaris olivacea*) - CM

eh Slaty Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa plumbea*) - CM

eh Yellow-thighed Finch (*Psellophorus tibialis*) - CM

eh Large-footed Finch (*Pezopetes capitalis*) - CM (lurking in the thickets at high elevations).

Orange-billed Sparrow (*Arremon aurantiirostris*) - CS, CL

Rufous-collared Sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*) - CM

eh Volcano Junco (*Junco vulcani*) - CM

Grayish Saltator (*Saltator coerulescens*) - CL

Buff-throated Saltator (*Saltator maximus*) - CS, CL

Black-headed Saltator (*Saltator atriceps*) - CL

Black-faced Grosbeak (*Caryothraustes poliogaster*) - CS, CL

eh Black-thighed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus tibialis*) - CM

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

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) - CL

Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) - CL, MC

Melodious Blackbird (*Dives dives*) - CL

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) - CL, MC

Bronzed Cowbird (*Molothrus aeneus*) - CL

Black-cowled Oriole (*Icterus prothemelas*) - CL

Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) - CL

Yellow-tailed Oriole (*Icterus mesomelas*) - CL (beautiful in both plumage and song).

Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) - CL, CM

Scarlet-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus uropygialis*) - CS

Chestnut-headed Oropendola (*Psarocolius wagleri*) - CS, CL

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

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

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

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

eh **Golden-browed Chlorophonia** (*Chlorophonia callophrys*) - CM (glistening!).

Yellow-bellied Siskin (*Carduelis xanthogastra*) - CM

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

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*) - CS

sac-winged bat (*Saccopteryx sp?*) - CL (roosting on large tree beside base of the foot bridge).

insectivorous bats (several sizes)

Mantled Howler (*Alouatta palliata*) - CS, CL (hd)

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

Central American Agouti (*Dasyprocta punctata*) - CL (by a few).

Collared Peccary (*Tayassu tajacu*) - CL

White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) – CL

AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES:

“blue jeans” frog - CL

Green Iguana (*Iguana iguana*) - CL

anole sp? - CS (at the Aerial Tram).

Green Spiny Lizard (*Sceloporus malachiticus*) - CM (the “painted” form).

(And many other fascinating small creatures and plants)