

SHORT COSTA RICA: TOUCANS TO QUETZALS

FEBRUARY 23–MARCH 3, 2019



Great Green Macaw © David Wolf

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February 23–March 3, 2019

By David Wolf

Even after many trips over many years, Costa Rica continues to amaze us. There is such an astounding wealth of things for the naturalist to see and do in this small, efficient, bird-friendly country! Our 2019 “Short Costa Rica” tour took full advantage of this abundance for an action-packed week of birding, all the while enjoying the spectacular scenery, fabulous vegetation, and non-avian wildlife almost as much as the birds themselves. We explored two very different environments: the wet Caribbean lowlands and the high temperate mountains. Every day brought highlights, and by the end of the week we had seen a wide variety of the birds of Central America. Just as important, we saw them well and learned a lot while doing so. The lodges where we stayed were comfortable and homey, open to the birds and flowers; we were lucky to have wonderful Santiago Morales as our driver; the people were friendly; and yes, the coffee was good too.

Every year is subtly different, and this one was no exception. Our birding got off to a great start right in the gardens of the Cariari Hotel, where amidst the common birds we found two species of hummingbirds from the dry forest, the Steely-vented and Cinnamon. Both are unexpected on this tour, and they were the harbingers of things to come—by the end of the trip we realized that this was one of our best ever for an incredible variety of delightful hummingbirds. Here too we enjoyed comical Rufous-naped Wrens and got our first lessons in sorting out look-alike flycatchers, with Social and Boat-billed flycatchers and Great Kiskadees in the same grove of trees.



Golden-bellied Flycatcher © David Wolf

From here our first stop was the La Paz Waterfall Garden in the lush subtropical zone. We had barely moved beyond the entry station when our first glittering Silver-throated Tanagers appeared, and then someone spotted a motionless Golden-bellied Flycatcher sitting quietly amidst them a few feet over our heads.



Prong-billed Barbet ©David Wolf

Endemic to the highlands of Costa Rica and Panama, this is the toughest of “the look-alikes” to find, and this one gave us an unusually long and close study. Nearby we found the hummingbird feeders abuzz with activity as we proceeded to sort out the 8 species present, including mid-elevation specialties like the Green Hermit, Black-bellied Hummingbird, Purple-throated Mountain-gem, and Green Thorntail. After lunch, as clouds formed over the mountains, the forest birds became more active, highlighted by a wonderful pair of the strange Prong-billed Barbets performing their whooping duets for us. As we descended to the lower foothills, an impromptu roadside stop produced scope studies of perched White-crowned and Red-



Three-toed Sloth © David Wolf

retreat to shelter when necessary, and we soon realized that the rain worked to our benefit, with bird activity very high just before and after each shower. The variety was almost overwhelming as we began sorting out the many species appearing in quick succession. There were four species of woodpeckers, impressive Yellow-throated and Keel-billed toucans, a huge Crested Guan, our first trogons, and numerous flycatchers and tanagers. Decidedly amusing was a very wet and bedraggled two-toed sloth carrying a baby.

Our second day at La Selva was drier, and initially we enjoyed a steady procession of forest birds along the entry road, beginning with a Russet-naped Wood-Rail that almost walked right up to us. Then loud raucous calls announced the arrival of a Great Green Macaw, which landed high overhead in a nearby tree and eventually moved into great view as it fed on the hard-shelled “almendro” (*Dipteryx*) fruit, its preferred food. This spectacular creature is one of the most endangered and unpredictable birds of Central America, greatly reduced in number by forest clearance and the illegal pet trade, and we were very lucky to see it so well. Soon thereafter our first motmot appeared, a lethargic Broad-billed, while nearby a Gray-headed Kite sat calmly in the midstory. By mid-morning we were ready to enter the forest on one of the trails, after everyone was coached on the importance of silence and slow movement inside the forest. We paused to watch an active pair of Buff-rumped Warblers along a tiny stream, and it was then that one of your leaders (the loud one) spotted a spectacular male Green Basilisk lizard and broke all of the rules of silence, yelling “Dinosaur. Come see it!” for the entire forest to hear. Later, as the sun broke through the clouds, a Semiplumbeous Hawk flew onto a very open cecropia branch and spread its wings and tail to dry, giving us such a long study that we eventually turned our backs on it to watch a pair of tiny Black-headed Tody-Flycatchers working on a nest suspended from the forest canopy. Here too we found the last of the five look-alike large flycatchers, the canopy-loving White-ringed. Soon it was time to head back to the lodge for lunch, but birds continued to hold us up, including an elegant male Black-throated Trogon, a calm Chestnut-colored Woodpecker diligently working over a snag, and an adult King Vulture that circled overhead.



Green Basilisk © David Wolf

lored parrots, confirming that we were definitely in the tropics now! Finally, after arriving at La Quinta, our headquarters for four nights, some of us watched a troop of howler monkeys settle down for the night in a tree right over the lodge pool and office, along with a three-toed sloth with a baby lower down in the same tree.

After a pre-dawn rain, we were awakened by an amazing chorus from the howler monkeys, and soon we were off to the world-famous La Selva Research Station for our first morning in the tropical lowlands. It proved to be a wet one. After two months of drought, an extreme condition in this high rainfall region, we had showers off and on all day. Fortunately, we were able to dodge the rain and

On our final morning at La Selva the sun came out early, temperatures rose, and the birds were noticeably quieter than on previous days. Nevertheless, persistence paid off, and we ended up with a great review of many tropical birds, highlighted by a pair of Pale-billed Woodpeckers, Cinnamon Becards working on their bulky nest, and a stunning Rufous Motmot sitting inconspicuously in the understory of the tall old-growth forest. As on previous days, lunch and a siesta break back at La Quinta gave us time to enjoy and photograph the parade of colorful birds coming to the feeders, the brilliant Golden-hooded and Passerini's tanagers and Red-legged and Green honeycreepers our favorites. A visit to the nearby Rio Sarapiquí that afternoon produced Amazon and Green kingfishers for comparison, a surprisingly responsive and close Chestnut-backed Antbird and, finally, a scarce Crimson-collared Tanager for everyone.



Semiplumbeous Hawk © David Wolf



Black-throated Trogon © David Wolf

The following day we left the lowlands for the mountains, but not before one final stop, at a special garden near Guapiles. Here White-necked Jacobins and Bronze-tailed Plumeleteers swarmed the hummingbird feeders, and saltators and oropendolas arrived to sample the bananas, but the big surprises were a tiny American Pygmy Kingfisher concealed in the shrubbery above a small pool of water and a motionless Helmeted Iguana “hiding in the open” on the trunk of a small shrub. Then our local guides led us to two more special sights, a weird Great Potoo high up on the forest edge, sunning with outstretched wings, and a well-camouflaged pair of Spectacled Owls at their day roost in the understory. A picnic lunch at Braulio Carillo National Park introduced us to the lush vegetation of the foothill forests, but few birds, and then we were off for the mountains, ending the day with the steep descent into the spectacular Savegre Valley.

No creature is more symbolic of the lush mountains of Costa Rica than the Resplendent Quetzal, one of the most beautiful birds in the world, and on our first morning in the Savegre Valley we began our search for them. In good habitat like this they are not rare, but they certainly can be elusive as they wander widely through the forest in search of fruiting trees, mates, and nest holes. Not far from the lodge, we stopped abruptly when a quetzal flashed across the road, followed by an obvious male with a full-length train, but only the female lingered within sight inside the forest, and not for long at that. This was all that we saw of quetzals on this first day, but while watching for them we were introduced to a whole new assortment of birds, many of them endemic to these highlands. Elegant Long-tailed Silky-Flycatchers perched in the treetops, occasionally descending

to feed in the berry bushes, while the mixed-flocks of smaller birds had Ruddy Treerunners scuttling all around us, Yellow-thighed Finches and Sooty-capped Chlorospingus shaking the bushes, and Yellow-winged Vireos and Flame-throated Warblers overhead in the canopy. Collared Redstarts fed at our feet, and subtly beautiful Spangle-cheeked Tanagers were spotted, while the musical songs of the Black-faced Solitaire and nightingale-thrushes provided a wonderful soundtrack. There were rare sightings too, like the 3 Spotted Wood-Quail feeding in the leaf litter behind our rooms, a flock of Sulphur-winged Parakeets that landed nearby and gave us great studies as they fed, and a Northern Emerald-Toucanet that appeared right next to us in a low bush as we gathered in the main parking area.



Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher © David Wolf



Northern Emerald-Toucanet © David Wolf

On our final morning we awoke early, with a definite mission in mind—better looks at quetzals. Leaving the lodge in the dawn chill, we joined the crowd forming at a specific curve in the road where the birds had been seen early the previous day. It wasn't long before one began calling in the half-light, but the forest was still dark, and the bird remained unseen and soon fell silent. Then it was heard back down the road, causing panic in the crowd as we hustled to a more open viewing spot. It was hard to counsel patience, but soon enough the bird called again and was spotted in the open trees on the hillside above us. Scopes were lined up, and finally a gorgeous male with full-length plumes was in view for all. For the next hour it played hide and seek with the enchanted observers as it moved between trees, yielding great views in the

scopes, while a much calmer female popped up surprisingly close to us for a few moments.

After returning for breakfast and packing up, we found it hard to leave idyllic Savegre Lodge, but we tore ourselves away and headed for our final major stop, the subalpine páramo on Cerro de la Muerte. Here the bamboo thickets and dwarf shrubs of this unique habitat are home to several of the most distinctive and range-restricted endemics of these mountains. Found only at the very highest elevations is the distinctive Volcano Junco, and we soon had them hopping around at our feet, glaring at us with their “fierce” orange eyes. Just below their home we piled out of the bus when a Timberline Wren broke into song as we passed by, and with considerable effort we finally got looks at bits and pieces of this skulker, only to be distracted by a rustling in the leaves that revealed a pair of the very odd Large-footed Finches. These latter two species are so different that they are put in their own monotypic genera, as are the spectacular Fiery-throated Hummingbirds that we watched at nearby feeders. It was almost impossible to get all of their colors to light up at once, but every movement revealed more of their rainbow iridescence.

All too soon it was time to head back to San Jose, our exciting week of birding in Costa Rica drawing to a close. You were a great, fun group to share Costa Rica with, and my apologies go out to you photographers who undoubtedly got far better pictures than I did.



Volcano Junco © David Wolf



Fiery-throated Hummingbird © David Wolf

ITINERARY:

February 23, 2019: group arrives at the Doubletree Cariari near San Jose (and the airport) for the night.

February 24, 2019: after some introductory birding at the Cariari we travelled from San Jose and the Meseta Central to the La Paz Waterfall Garden on the Caribbean slope, in the mid-afternoon continuing on to La Quinta de Sarapiquí, our headquarters for exploring the Caribbean lowlands.

February 25-26, 2019: morning and afternoon excursions to the La Selva Field Station of the Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS), with midday breaks at La Quinta.

February 27, 2019: morning excursion the La Selva and then a midday break at La Quinta, including watching the feeders. Late afternoon jaunt to the Rio Sarapiquí at Chilamate.

February 28, 2019: morning birding at Copey's feeders near Guapiles and nearby and then in the late morning an optional hike in the foothill forest at Quebrada Gonzales in Braulio Carillo National Park. After a picnic lunch here we continued on to Cerro de la Muerte and the Savegre Valley, arriving in the late afternoon.

March 1, 2019: all day birding in the beautiful Savegre Valley, both up and down the road from the lodge and in the beautiful gardens and woodlots.

March 2, 2019: a successful early morning quetzal hunt in the Savegre Valley and then departure for the high country and subalpine paramo on Cerro de la Muerte (to 11,400 ft). From here we stopped at the La Georgina in Villa Mills before driving to the Los Quetzales National Park office for a picnic lunch, afterwards driving back to the Doubletree Cariari.

March 3, 2019: departure for home or further travels.

KEY:

MC = Meseta Central (especially at the Doubletree Cariari before leaving on Day 2).
CS = Caribbean slope, at the La Paz Waterfall Garden on February 24 (subtropical zone) and Quebrada Gonzales and nearby on February 28 (upper tropical zone of the foothills).
CL = Caribbean lowlands, from La Quinta to the La Selva Field Station and nearby.
CM = Cerro de la Muerte region, especially the Savegre Valley and nearby, plus the high country at “the towers” and the La Georgina Restaurant at Villa Mills.
hd = heard

BIRDS: the checklist order and common and scientific names follow “*The American Ornithologists Society (AOS) Check-list of North American Birds*” plus all supplements and updates. A few of our many highlights and favorite birds are **bolded**.

Great Tinamou (*Tinamus major*) – CL (heard only)
Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moschata*) - CL
Gray-headed Chachalaca (*Ortalis cinereiceps*) - CL
Crested Guan (*Penelope purpurascens*) – CL (huge forest birds, shy where heavily hunted but here quite bold).
Black Guan (*Chamaepetes unicolor*) – CM
Spotted Wood-Quail (*Odontophorus guttatus*) – CM (bold group of 3 scurrying in the woodlot by the lodge; to see any member of this genus well is a rare treat).
Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) – MC, CL (introduced species, in cities and towns).
Pale-vented Pigeon (*Patagioenas cayennensis*) – CL
Scaled Pigeon (*Patagioenas speciosa*) - CL
Red-billed Pigeon (*Patagioenas flavirostris*) – CS, CL
Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*) – CM
Short-billed Pigeon (*Patagioenas nigrirostris*) – CL
Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*) - MC
Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*) – CL
Blue Ground-Dove (*Claravis pretiosa*) – CL (great scopes views of 2 males counter-singing to a nearby female).
Olive-backed Quail-Dove (*Leptotrygon veraguensis*) – CL (a rarely-seen inhabitant of the forest interior).
White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*) – CL
Gray-chested Dove (*Leptotila cassinii*) - CL
White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) – MC
Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*) – CL (a group favorite).
Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) – CL
Great Potoo (*Nyctibius grandis*) – CL (this very strange bird was stretching and drying out on its day roost high up on the forest edge).
Chestnut-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne rutila*) - CM
White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*) – CS, CL, CM
Gray-rumped Swift (*Chaetura cinereiventris*) – CL
Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift (*Panyptila cayennensis*) – CL
White-necked Jacobin (*Florisuga mellivora*) – CL
Bronzy Hermit (*Glaucis aeneus*) - CL
Green Hermit (*Phaethornis guy*) – CS

Long-billed Hermit (*Phaethornis longirostris*) – CL
 Stripe-throated Hermit (*Phaethornis striigularis*) – CL
 Lesser Violetear (*Colibri cyanotis*) – CM (the former Green Violetear (*Colibri thalassinus*) has now been split into several species).
 Purple-crowned Fairy (*Heliophryx barroti*) – CL
 Green-breasted Mango (*Anthracothorax prevostii*) – MC, CL
Green Thorntail (*Discosura conversii*) – CS (lots at the La Paz feeders).
 Green-crowned Brilliant (*Heliodoxa jacula*) - CS
 Talamanca Hummingbird (*Eugenes spectabilis*) – CM (the former Magnificent Hummingbird has now been split into two species, Rivoli's (*E. fulgens*) and Talamanca).
Fiery-throated Hummingbird (*Panterpe insignis*) – CM (rainbow iridescence on this specialty of the highest elevations of these mountains).
 Purple-throated Mountain-gem (*Lampornis calolaemus*) - CS
 White-throated Mountain-gem (*Lampornis castaneoventris*) – CM
 Volcano Hummingbird (*Selasphorus flammula*) – CM
 Scintillant Hummingbird (*Selasphorus scintilla*) – CM
 Violet-headed Hummingbird (*Klais guimeti*) – CL
 Scaly-breasted Hummingbird (*Phaeochroa cuvierii*) - CL
 Violet Sabrewing (*Campylopterus hemileucurus*) – CS
 Stripe-tailed Hummingbird (*Eupherusa eximia*) – CM
Black-bellied Hummingbird (*Eupherusa nigriventris*) – CS (beautiful velvety-black males of this mid-elevation regional specialty at the La Paz feeders).
 Coppery-headed Emerald (*Elvira cupreiceps*) – CS (endemic to Costa Rica).
Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer (*Chalybura urocrista*) – CL (best looks ever, red feet and all).
 Crowned Woodnymph (*Thalurania colombica*) – CL
 Blue-chested Hummingbird (*Amazilia amabilis*) - CL
 Steely-vented Hummingbird (*Amazilia saucerottei*) – MC
 Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (*Amazilia tzacatl*) – MC, CS, CL
 Cinnamon Hummingbird (*Amazilia rutila*) – MC
Russet-naped Wood-Rail (*Aramides albiventris*) – CL (part of the former Gray-necked Wood-Rail complex which has been split up).
 Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*) - CL
Bare-throated Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma mexicanum*) – CL (great look, thanks Bud!).
 Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) - CM
 Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) – CS, CL
 Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) – CL
 Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) - CL
 Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) – CS, CL
 Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) – all regions (one of the few birds seen daily).
 Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) – all regions (another of the birds seen daily).
King Vulture (*Sarcoramphus papa*) – CL (adult circling low overhead).
 Gray-headed Kite (*Leptodon cayanensis*) - CL
Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) – CS, CM (elegant!).
 White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*) – CL
 Great Black Hawk (*Buteogallus urubitinga*) - CL

Semiplumbeous Hawk (*Leucopternis semiplumbeus*) – CL (fully in the open as it spread its wings and tail and dried out).

Gray Hawk (*Buteo plagiatus*) – MC, CL

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

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

Spectacled Owl (*Pulsatrix perspicillata*) – CL (great looks at a pair roosting in the understory of tall rainforest).

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

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

Gartered Trogon (*Trogon caligatus*) – CL

Black-throated Trogon (*Trogon rufus*) – CL (especially good looks at this beauty).

Collared Trogon (*Trogon collaris*) - CS

Resplendent Quetzal (*Pharomachrus mocinno*) – CM (who could ever get enough of this spectacular bird?).

Rufous Motmot (*Baryphthengus martii*) – CL

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

Ringed Kingfisher (*Megaceryle torquata*) – CL

Amazon Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle amazona*) – CL

Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*) – CL

American Pygmy Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle aenea*) – CL (a surprise at the small pool of water in Cope's garden).

Rufous-tailed Jacamar (*Galbula ruficauda*) – CL (heard only)

Prong-billed Barbet (*Semnornis frantzii*) – CS (pair duetting with wild war whoops).

Northern Emerald-Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus prasinus*) – CS, CM

Collared Aracari (*Pteroglossus torquatus*) – CL

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

Yellow-throated Toucan (*Ramphastos ambiguus*) – CS, CL (the “Chestnut-mandibled” race is now lumped with the “Black-mandibled” of the Andes and called the Yellow-throated. A spectacular bird whatever you call them!).

Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*) - CM

Black-cheeked Woodpecker (*Melanerpes pucherani*) – CL

Hoffmann's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes hoffmannii*) – MC

Smoky-brown Woodpecker (*Picoides fumigatus*) - CL

Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*) – CM

Rufous-winged Woodpecker (*Piculus simplex*) – CL (this scarce specialty was seen a surprising number of times).

Chestnut-colored Woodpecker (*Celeus castaneus*) – CL (including one studied at length as it worked a dead branch just above us).

Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*) - CL

Pale-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus guatemalensis*) - CL

Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*) – CS, CL

Yellow-headed Caracara (*Milvago chimachima*) - MC

Sulphur-winged Parakeet (*Pyrrhura hoffmanni*) – CM (feeding at close range).

Olive-throated Parakeet (*Eupsittula nana*) – CL

Great Green Macaw (*Ara ambiguus*) – CL (pairs seen daily on their commutes to feeding trees, but only once did one land for scope studies of this magnificent – and rare – bird).

Crimson-fronted Parakeet (*Psittacara finschi*) – MC (from the bus on our final day).
 Orange-chinned Parakeet (*Brotogeris jugularis*) – CL
 Brown-hooded Parrot (*Pyrilia haematotis*) - CL
 White-crowned Parrot (*Pionus senilis*) – CS, CL
 Red-lored Parrot (*Amazona autumnalis*) – CS, CL
 Mealy Parrot (*Amazona farinosa*) – CL
 Fasciated Antshrike (*Cymbilaimus lineatus*) – CL (heard only by most).
 Black-crowned (Western Slaty) Antshrike (*Thamnophilus atrinucha*) – CL
 Dusky Antbird (*Cercomacroides tyrannina*) – CL (heard only)
Chestnut-backed Antbird (*Myrmeciza exsul*) – CL (very responsive male that came in quite closely).
 Olivaceous Woodcreeper (*Sittasomus griseicapillus*) - CS
 Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*) - CS
 Cocoa Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus susurrans*) – CL
 Spotted Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*) – CS
 Streak-headed Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*) – CL
 Spot-crowned Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes affinis*) – CM
 Spotted Barbtail (*Premnoplex brunnescens*) - CS
Ruddy Treerunner (*Margarornis rubiginosus*) – CM
 Red-faced Spinetail (*Cranioleuca erythroptis*) – CS
 Mountain Elaenia (*Elaenia frantzii*) – CM
Torrent Tyrannulet (*Serpophaga cinerea*) – CM (cute and distinctive little flycatcher found in a very specific habitat – along the rushing mountain streams).
 Paltry Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius vilissimus*) –CS, CL
 Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant (*Myiornis atricapillus*) – CL (heard only)
 Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*) – CL
Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum nigriceps*) – CL (pair with an almost completed hanging nest).
 Yellow-olive Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias sulphureus*) – CL
 Tufted Flycatcher (*Mitrephanes phaeocercus*) – CS, CM
 Dark Pewee (*Contopus lugubris*) – CS, CM
 Yellowish Flycatcher (*Empidonax flavescens*) – CM
 Black-capped Flycatcher (*Empidonax atriceps*) – CM
 Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) – CL
Long-tailed Tyrant (*Colonia colonus*) – CL (a favorite flycatcher, easy to identify!).
 Bright-rumped Attila (*Attila spadiceus*) – CL
 Rufous Mourner (*Rhytipterna holerythra*) – CL
 Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) – CL (heard only).
 Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) – CL
 Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) – MC, CL, CM
 Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarhynchus pitangua*) – MC, CL, CM
 Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) – MC, CL
 Gray-capped Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes granadensis*) – CL
 White-ringed Flycatcher (*Conopias albivittatus*) - CL
Golden-bellied Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes hemichrysus*) – CS (incredibly close bird at the La Paz entry station).

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*) - CL
 Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucophaeus*) - CL
 Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) – all regions
Cinnamon Becard (*Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*) – CL (including a pair working on their bulky nest).
 White-winged Becard (*Pachyramphus polychopterus*) - CL
 Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*) – CS, CL
 White-collared Manakin (*Manacus candei*) – CL
Rufous-browed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*) – CM (surprisingly good looks at this bird with the loud voice).
 Lesser Greenlet (*Pachyslyvia decurtatus*) – CL
 Yellow-winged Vireo (*Vireo carmioli*) – CM
 Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*) - CM
 Brown-capped Vireo (*Vireo leucophrys*) – CM
 Brown Jay (*Psilorhinus morio*) – MC
 Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*) - CL
 Mangrove Swallow (*Tachycineta albilinea*) – CL
 Blue-and-white Swallow (*Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*) – MC, CM
 Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) – CL
 Southern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) – CL
 House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) – CS, CL
 Ochraceous Wren (*Troglodytes ochraceus*) – CM
Timberline Wren (*Thryorchilus browni*) – CM (in the dense stunted bamboo thickets).
 Band-backed Wren (*Campylorhynchus zonatus*) - CL
 Rufous-naped Wren (*Campylorhynchus rufinucha*) – MC
 Black-throated Wren (*Phaegopedius atrogularis*) – CL (heard only).
Stripe-breasted Wren (*Cantorchilus thoracicus*) – CL, CS (a skulker with loud, rich and varied songs and calls).
 White-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucosticta*) – CL (heard only).
 Gray-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucophrys*) – CS, CM
 Long-billed Gnatwren (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*) – CL (heard only).
 Tropical Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila plumbea*) – CL
American Dipper (*Cinclus mexicanus*) - CM
 Black-faced Solitaire (*Myadestes melanops*) – CS (hd), CM
 Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus gracilirostris*) – CM
 Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus fuscater*) - CS
 Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus frantzii*) – CM
 Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus mexicanus*) – CS (heard; glimpsed).
 Sooty Thrush (*Turdus nigrescens*) - CM
 Mountain Thrush (*Turdus plebejus*) – CM
Clay-colored Thrush (*Turdus grayi*) – MC, CS, CL, CM (the national bird of Costa Rica and present every day and everywhere that we went, singing at the first hint of light).
Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher (*Ptilogonys caudatus*) - CM
 House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) – CL
 Golden-browed Chlorophonia (*Chlorophonia callophrys*) – CS
 Yellow-crowned Euphonia (*Euphonia luteicapilla*) - CL

Olive-backed Euphonia (*Euphonia gouldi*) – CL
Tawny-capped Euphonia (*Euphonia anneae*) – CS
Yellow-thighed Finch (*Pselliophorus tibialis*) – CS, CM (odd-looking active finches of the tangled edges of the mountain forest).
Large-footed Finch (*Pezopetes capitalis*) – CM (strange skulker in the high mountain thickets and bamboo; quite unique and the only member of its genus).
Orange-billed Sparrow (*Arremon aurantirostris*) – CL
Sooty-faced Finch (*Arremon crassirostris*) – CS
Chestnut-capped Brushfinch (*Arremon brunneinucha*) - CS
Rufous-collared Sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*) – MC, CS, CM
Volcano Junco (*Junco vulcani*) – CM (fierce-eyed specialty of the highest elevations, hopping around at our feet).
Common Chlorospingus (Bush-Tanager) (*Chlorospingus ophthalmicus*) – CS, CM
Sooty-capped Chlorospingus (*Chlorospingus pileatus*) – CM
Chestnut-headed Oropendola (*Psarocolius wagleri*) – CS, CL
Montezuma Oropendola (*Psarocolius montezuma*) – CS, CL (this entertaining bird takes the prize for most unusual sound effects).
Scarlet-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus uropygialis*) – CL
Black-cowled Oriole (*Icterus prothemelas*) – CL
Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) – all regions
Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*) – CL (a recent colonist in this region, now becoming more frequent).
Bronzed Cowbird (*Molothrus aeneus*) - CL
Melodious Blackbird (*Dives dives*) – seen or heard in all regions.
Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) – all regions
Northern Waterthrush (*Parkesia noveboracensis*) - CL
Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) – CS, CL
Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) – CS, CM
Flame-throated Warbler (*Oreothlypis gutturalis*) – CM (a real beauty).
Tennessee Warbler (*Oreothlypis peregrina*) – MC, CS, CM
American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) – CL
Tropical Parula (*Setophaga pitiayumi*) – CS (heard only).
Blackburnian Warbler (*Setophaga fusca*) - CS
Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*) – MC
Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Setophaga pennsylvanica*) – CS, CL
Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Setophaga caerulescens*) – CL (a rarity; Steve & Barbara).
Townsend's Warbler (*Setophaga townsendi*) – CM (another rarity; Steve & Mimi).
Black-throated Green Warbler (*Setophaga virens*) – CS, CM
Buff-rumped Warbler (*Myiothlypis fulvicauda*) – CL
Black-cheeked Warbler (*Basileuterus melanogenys*) – CM
Wilson's Warbler (*Cardellina pusilla*) –CS, CM
Slate-throated Redstart (*Myioborus miniatus*) - CS
Collared Redstart (*Myioborus torquatus*) – CM (tame and confiding birds practically at our feet at times).
Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) – MC, CL, CM
Flame-colored Tanager (*Piranga bidentata*) – CM (colorful and bold).

Red-throated Ant-Tanager (*Habia fuscicauda*) - CL
 Black-faced Grosbeak (*Caryothraustes poliogaster*) – CL, CS (hd)
 Blue-black Grosbeak (*Cyanocompsa cyanooides*) – CL
 Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*) – all regions and seen daily.
 Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*) – MC, CS, CL
 Golden-hooded Tanager (*Tangara larvata*) – CL
Spangle-cheeked Tanager (*Tangara dowii*) – CM (subtly beautiful highland endemic).
 Plain-colored Tanager (*Tangara inornata*) – CL
 Bay-headed Tanager (*Tangara gyrola*) - CS
 Silver-throated Tanager (*Tangara icterocephala*) – CS, CM
 Slaty Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa plumbea*) – CS, CM
 Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*) – CL
Crimson-collared Tanager (*Ramphocelus sanguinolentus*) - CL
Passerini's Tanager (*Ramphocelus passerinii*) – CS, CL (colorful and common).
 Shining Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes lucidus*) – CL
 Red-legged Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*) – CL
 Blue Dacnis (*Dacnis cayana*) - CL
 Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*) – CS, CL
 Yellow-faced Grassquit (*Tiaris olivaceus*) - CM
 Thick-billed Seed-Finch (*Sporophila funerea*) – CL
 Variable Seedeater (*Sporophila americana*) – CL
Black-headed Saltator (*Saltator atriceps*) – CL (noisy!).
 Buff-throated Saltator (*Saltator maximus*) – CS, CL
 Grayish Saltator (*Saltator coerulescens*) – CL

MAMMALS:

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth (*Bradypus variegatus*) – CL (both species of sloths were seen carrying babies).

Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth (*Choloepus hoffmanni*) – CL
 Northern Tamandua (*Tamandua mexicana*) - CS
Mantled Howler Monkey (*Alouatta palliata*) – CL (amazing vocalizations!).
 Central American Dwarf Squirrel (*Microsciurus alfari*) - CS
 Red-tailed Squirrel (*Sciurus granatensis*) – CM
 Variegated Squirrel (*Sciurus variegatoides*) – MC, CL
 Central American Agouti (*Dasyprocta punctate*) – CL, CS
 Long-nosed Bat (*Rhynchonycteris naso*) – CL
Honduran White (Tent-making) Bat (*Ectophylla alba*) – CL
 insectivorous bats sp? – CL
 bat sp? in termitarium - CL
 White-nosed Coati (*Nasua narica*) - CS
 Collared Peccary (*Tayassu tajacu*) – CL

AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES:

Smooth-skinned Toad (*Rhaebo haematiticus*) – CL (the toads on the sidewalks at La Quinta; formerly placed in the genus *Bufo*).

Green-and-black Poison Dart Frog (*Dendrobates auratus*) – CL (La Quinta).

Strawberry Poison Dart Frog (*Oophaga pumilio*) – CL (the “blue jeans” frog; formerly placed in the genus *Dendrobates*).

Red-eyed Leaf Frog (*Agalychnis callidryas*) – CL (La Quinta).

Spectacled Caiman (*Caiman crocodilus*) – CL (semi-captive at La Quinta).

Black Wood Turtle (*Rhinoclemmys funerea*) – CL (below the La Selva bridge).

House Gecko (*Hemidactylus frenatus*) – CL (introduced from the Old World tropics).

Green Basilisk (*Basiliscus plumifrons*) – CL (spectacular, like a miniature dinosaur).

Helmeted Iguana (*Corytophanes cristatus*) – CL (strange casque-headed lizard in Copey’s garden).

Green (Common) Iguana (*Iguana iguana*) – CL

anole sp? – CL (the very small lizards).

Green Spiny Lizard (*Sceloporus malachiticus*) – CM (basking on the rocks at the very top of Cerro de la Muerte).

Central American Whip-tailed Lizard (*Ameiva festiva*) – CL, CS