

JAGUAR The king of cats in Central America, others are the jaguarundi, puma, oncilla, maragay and ocelot. The jaguar is a strong, agile predator, but is endangered from poaching. Conservationists are trying to create a corridor through Central America of wilderness to help the Jaguar survive. This is one cat that likes to swim.

VIOLET SABREWING HUMMINGBIRD There are 52 different hummingbirds in Costa Rica. The violet sabrewing landed right next to us, bold as brass, and sounded off. So I said, "Hey little guy, you are going to be the one to tip over the umbrella in my book!"

WHITE-FACED CAPUCHIN Truth be told, the monkey is not my favorite animal. When I was three, a chimp all dressed up in girl's clothes gave me a hug and kiss and wouldn't let go. I put the monkey in my book because he could swing the umbrella around. Of the three kinds of monkeys in Costa Rica this one is considered the most intelligent. The other two are spider and howler monkeys.

RESPLENDENT QUETZAL Many feel the quetzal is the most beautiful bird in the world. Its rich colors of scarlet and green make it unusual, but on top of that, it has a fluffy crest and sweepingly long tailfeathers, three feet long. The quetzal takes good care of its tail. It jumps off its perch backwards to protect his feathers.

KINKAJOU One of the few raccoon relatives with a prehensile or grasping tail. Can you see those large eyes? Needs to see at night when he hunts in trees for insects and plants to eat.

RED-EYED TREE FROG Looking at frogs in Costa Rica is a rewarding experience, because they come in wild colors. My favorite was the blue-jean frog or strawberry poison dart frog. It's orange-red on its head and front legs, but where pants would go, it's denim blue. He doesn't live in the Monteverde forest though, so I drew the red-eyed tree frog. There is also a glass frog, which is see-through.

TOUCAN You could almost use all your colors painting a toucan's beak! When I first saw a pair, I thought, "What does that bird have stuck on its head?" Its beak of course.

BAIRD'S TAPIR The tapir is a shy animal that lives in deep jungle. It has three toes and has no close relative. The babies are spotted to blend in with the underbrush, but moms and dads are gray-brown. It's the biggest land animal in Central America and it eats plants.