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## **El Cielo: The Enchanted Mountain**

Gorgas Science Society, Inc.

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# About Gorgas Science Foundation



Gorgas Science Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit foundation committed to conservation and education. The Foundation evolved from a student organization, Gorgas Science Society, which began in 1948 on the campus of Texas Southmost College in Brownsville, Texas. In 1983 the Foundation was formally incorporated as a non-profit organization.

The mission of Gorgas Science Foundation, Inc. is to provide the highest quality educational opportunities, to foster greater awareness and understanding of ecological issues, and to encourage conservation of critical natural resources.

## EL CIELO

The Enchanted Mountain



# EL CIELO

## The Enchanted Mountain

**Track 1** **Dawn in the Lowlands** (4:26)  
*Clay-colored Robin*  
*Long-billed Thrasher*  
*White-tipped Dove*  
*Brown Jays and Pain Chachalaca*

**Track 2** **Along the River** (8:33)  
*Green Kingfisher*  
*Streaked Flycatcher*  
*Red-crowned Parrots*  
*Grayish Saltator*

**Track 3** **Rapids and Cascades** (5:59)  
*Elegant Trogon and insects*  
*Ivory-billed Woodcreeper*  
*Collared Forest-Falcon*  
*Plain Chachalaca*  
*Red-lored Parrot*

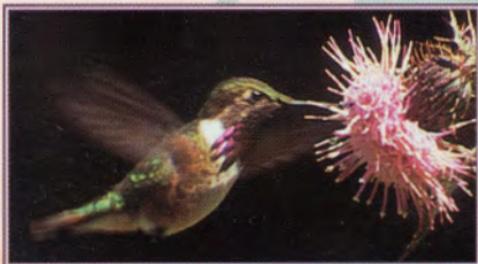
**Track 4** **El Cielo...The Cloud Forest Afternoon** (8:59)  
*Brown-backed Solitaire*  
*Black-headed Oriole*  
*White-tipped Dove*  
*Singing Quail*  
*Mountain Trogon*  
*Bronze-winged Woodpecker*  
*Insects*

**Track 5** **El Cielo Night & the Electric Storm** (11:29)  
*Owl is heard in the distance*

**Track 6** **El Cielo Dawn Chorus** (8:34)  
*Mountain Trogon*  
*Green Jay*  
*Brown-backed Solitaire*  
*Clay-colored Robin*  
*Black-headed Oriole*  
*Blue-crowned Motmot*  
*Blue Mockingbird*  
*Rufescent (Thicket) Tinimou*

**Track 7** **El Porvenir** (8:16)  
*Bumblebee Hummingbird Wings*  
*White-collared Seedeater*  
*Bumblebee Hummingbird*  
*House Wren*  
*Tropical Parula*  
*Rooster, cattle and rattlesnake*

**Track 8** **Canyon of the Macaws** (5:07)  
*Mountain Trogon*  
*Crested Guan*  
*Bat Falcon*  
*Military Macaw*



## PHOTO CREDITS

Cover: Jim Bones  
Others: John Bax

## LOCATION RECORDINGS

John Arvin  
Robert Bocking  
Will Carter  
Greg Lasley  
Consultant: F. P. Bennett, Jr.

## MUSIC

John Hunter



Produced for Gorgas Science Foundation  
By  
Robert Bocking Productions, LTD  
Toronto, Ontario

All times are from the Gold CD Master\*

Total Time 61:38

\*Note: While the Enchanted Mountain runs continuously, index times are presented so that the listener may more readily locate specific portions of the program.

# EL CIELO

## The Enchanted Mountain

Our journey in sound is set in northern Mexico at the foot of the eastern escarpment of the Sierra Madre Oriental Mountains. The trek from the lowlands to the highlands, promises an experience of natural sounds few other places in the world can orchestrate.

The music of John Hunter sets a dramatic mood for our journey and enhances the natural sounds. The strains of a classical Spanish guitar play as we walk above the river's edge. It helps us visualize the Bumblebee Hummingbirds in their courtship flights.

In the lowlands, we hear in the background the Clay-colored Robin and as we press onward, the Long-billed Thrasher accompanies a White-tipped Dove. Chachalacas create a fuss. We follow the river populated by Green Kingfishers calling and fishing. A Red-crowned Parrot is disturbed from its perch along the river and circles overhead as it investigates our presence. Along the river path we hear the Grayish Saltator and Elegant Trogon among the cascades created after a tumultuous thunderstorm. The Collared Forest-Falcon stakes out its territory.

In the mountain, high above the river's cascades, we enter the moist cloud forest. The Black-headed Oriole, Mountain Trogon and others sing late into the afternoon.

As night approaches, the insects take over where the birds leave off and in the distance we hear an owl calling as we set up camp and get our tent and sleeping bags ready for the night. It is the rainy season, so it is important to hurry.

In the distance, the thunder heralds the arrival of another one of the many thunderstorms so common in the cloud forest.

It's dry and warm inside our tent, while outside, the rain keeps coming down and one wonders "Will it ever stop?"

By morning the rain has cleared. The dawn chorus begins at first light. A multitude of birds begin to sing, including the Blue-crowned Motmot and the Blue Mockingbird.

The journey continues up the mountain toward our ultimate goal... the steep cliff of the Macaw canyon known as "La Encantada".

Along the way, the tiny Bumblebee Hummingbird provides a thrilling sight with its brilliant magenta gorget. We hear the drone of the male's wings during its courtship rituals.

We continue on our way... listening to the White-collared Seedeater and House Wren.

The trail passes a small isolated farm nestled in a forest clearing. Then, for a short time the trail is blocked by a deadly rattlesnake.

As we reach our destination near the top of the mountain range, the wind through the pine needles provides a soothing respite... a respite soon to be broken by the raucous calls of the Military Macaw. The view over the canyon is spectacular. To the west, rank on rank of mountain ranges fade into the distance.

Soon the Macaws fly up the canyon, their calls reverberating off the canyon walls. Our journey is complete.

There is something special in El Cielo. The spirit of the enchanted mountain is ours forever.

El Cielo serves as a success story of conservation...its treasures will be held in trust for future generations.

GORGAS

Stereo

[61:38]

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