

HONDURAS: PICO BONITO LODGE

February 23–March 2, 2011

**Leaders: Kevin Zimmer
German Martinez
(with a big assist from various Ferruginous Pygmy-Owls)**

Compiled by Kevin Zimmer

**VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS, INC.
2525 WALLINGWOOD DRIVE, SUITE 1003
AUSTIN, TX 78746
WWW.VENTBIRD.COM**

TOUR REPORT
HONDURAS: PICO BONITO LODGE
February 23–March 2, 2011

By Kevin Zimmer

Time was running out. We had just semi-succeeded in luring a male Tawny-faced Quail into the trail. I say “semi” because the quail materialized in the trail without most people in the group seeing it. It was only when I called out, “It’s in the trail!” that binoculars were raised, and, in that moment, the bird half-hopped, half-flew across the trail, not to be seen again. I was suddenly aware that the afternoon light was fading fast within the interior of the forest. It was now or never for our quest bird, the Keel-billed Motmot.

If one were forced to name a “signature bird” to identify with The Lodge at Pico Bonito, it would come down to a toss-up between the stunningly beautiful Lovely Cotinga and the enigmatic Keel-billed Motmot. Both of these iconic species are among the most sought-after specialties of Central America, and in a short period of time Pico Bonito has become synonymous with each. But that is not to say that either species is necessarily easy, at least not in all seasons. The cotinga is much easier when its preferred food trees are fruiting near the lodge. Such is usually the case at this season, and, indeed, we found three stunning males on our first morning. The motmot is a horse of a different color. It seems to prefer primary forest, leaving the second-growth and edge, in this region at least, to its cousins the Blue-crowned and Turquoise-browed motmots. In this part of Honduras, getting into primary forest generally means a climb, because most of the remaining forest is in the Pico Bonito National Park, whose jagged peaks rise steeply from the abutting lowlands. We had already made two previous attempts at seeing the motmot on the lower fringes, and neither attempt had produced even so much as a heard bird. Now, it was our last afternoon, and our large group had been pared to those determined souls who were hardy enough for the rather steep climb needed to reach prime Keel-billed Motmot terrain.

So, while about half of the group opted for birding on relatively level ground with our local guide, German Martinez, along the entrance road, I led the rest on the “motmot-or-bust” expedition. We made excellent time, huffing and puffing our way to my desired spot in 43 minutes. Once there, we settled in and alternated long periods of listening with periodic brief bursts of playback. Nothing. And then I heard the calls of some very close Tawny-faced Quail, which commanded our attention for the next 20 minutes or so. But by the time the quail had vanished, so had our bright, sunny afternoon. The gloom of the forest interior was palpable, and still, we had not even heard our quarry. I began moving up and down the trail, broadcasting motmot calls more frequently. And soon I had an answer, from far down in the valley below us. Within moments, I could hear three Keel-billed Motmots calling—what seemed to be a pair of birds and then another individual much farther up the valley. Over the next 10 minutes I slowly teased the responding pair closer, until, at last, I spotted one of the calling birds. It was not in the easiest place to see, and our position on a knife-ridge left us few options for moving closer, so it was a bit of a frantic scramble to get everyone on the bird. Once that had been achieved, I tried just a bit more playback, and suddenly both members of the pair flew up to much more open perches that were not only closer, but which were also virtually at eye level. For the next 15 minutes we admired these beautiful and decidedly rare birds from every angle, noting the rufous forehead, blue-green chin, broad bill, and large black chest spots that distinguish it from other members of the family. Finally, with light fading fast, we turned our backs on the motmot pair and made our way back down the mountain—mission accomplished!

The motmots provided a most dramatic finish to what had been a very successful tour to Pico Bonito. As usual, we were treated to first-rate accommodations, excellent food, and an attentive lodge staff. We also enjoyed the usual nice cross section of lowland Central American birds and Neotropical migrants (18 species of warblers, plus various migrant flycatchers, tanagers, buntings, grosbeaks, and orioles), all while experiencing nearly perfect weather.

Much of our birding was done right around the lodge grounds, or along the entrance road. Hummingbird feeders off the back deck treated us to point-blank views of White-necked Jacobin, Violet-crowned Woodnymph, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, and Long-billed and Stripe-throated hermits. Wood Thrushes, Gray Catbirds, and Hooded Warblers patrolled the lawns, while noisy pairs of Great Kiskadees and Social Flycatchers constructed nests in plain view from the deck, and Black-cheeked Woodpeckers alternated with Yellow-winged Tanagers at the fruit feeders. A lovely rufous-morph Vermiculated Screech-Owl on a daytime roost was the prize one afternoon, nicely complementing the pair of gray/brown-morph birds spotlighted before dinner later that evening. Three different day-roosting Great Potoos (one right near the cabins; one along the entrance road; and one across the valley that we scoped from the observation platform) gave us yet another night bird that didn't require going out at night. An Emerald Toucanet feeding on a fruiting *Cecropia* was a real treat, as were a bathing Kentucky Warbler and a calling Turquoise-browed Motmot at almost the same spot on other days. Nesting Red-lore Parrots along the entrance road showed off nicely, and noisy Brown Jays and Montezuma Oropendolas seemed to be everywhere on the property. The forest trails produced a number of goodies, from Royal Flycatcher and Rufous Mourner to Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner, Tawny-crowned Greenlet, and some spectacular male White-collared and Red-capped manakins.

In between birding the lodge grounds, we made a number of excursions to a variety of off-site locations, each with its own special set of birds. The entrance road to the Lancetilla Botanical Gardens produced lots of treats, from a responsive pair of snazzy Chestnut-colored Woodpeckers, to nesting Gray Hawks, Cocoa and Streak-headed woodcreepers, close views of Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet, four Shining Honeycreepers mobbing the pygmy-owl tape, and ridiculous numbers of Gray Catbirds. An all-day excursion to the arid, rain-shadow thorn-forest of the Aguan Valley produced stellar views of the Honduran Emerald, the only bird species endemic to Honduras. Along with seeing multiple Emeralds, we were treated to inquisitive pairs of White-bellied Wrens, feisty White-lore Gnatcatchers, dazzling Spot-breasted Orioles, Painted Bunting and loads of White-collared Seedeaters, Gray-crowned Yellowthroats, and other birds mobbing the pygmy-owl tape. Among the latter were Cinnamon Hummingbirds and glittering "Salvin's" Emeralds, as well as a few wintering Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. We also scored nice scope views of a singing Striped Cuckoo, and the folks in one van managed quick looks at a perched female Hook-billed Kite. An afternoon at Cuero y Salado refuge allowed us the rare opportunity to bird off a train (that would actually stop for such goodies as Short-tailed Hawk, Laughing Falcon, and the like), as well as a fascinating boat trip through some of the most beautiful mangrove forest I have ever seen, the latter replete with Boat-billed Herons, Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, and Sungrebe, as well as long-nosed bats, mantled howler monkey, white-faced capuchin monkey, and American crocodile to add taxonomic balance. Campamento Curula provided us with some memorable mob scenes, the best of which featured a pair of Ferruginous Pygmy-Owls (one rufous, the other gray-brown) as the targets, as well as more than a dozen species of small birds ranging from Yellow-throated Warblers and White-eyed Vireos to Yellow-bellied and Greenish Elaenias, as the mobbers. Particularly memorable was the family group of Spot-breasted Orioles that allowed such close studies.

All in all, it was a most enjoyable week of Central American birding, with a nice mix of typical tropical birds such as parrots, motmots, toucans, tanagers, hummingbirds, and oropendolas, along with an excellent assortment of wintering and migrant species that would soon be on their way north to breed in the U.S. and Canada. Along the way, we had close encounters with Honduras' only endemic bird, as well as two of the most iconic and sought-after of Central American birds, in the form of the Lovely Cotinga and the Keel-billed Motmot. You all were a lot of fun, and I hope to see you again on future trips.

Itinerary:

2/23 - arrive in San Pedro Sula (or continuing on from the Copán Pre-Trip), and transfer to The Lodge at Pico Bonito, with some late afternoon birding on the grounds right near Reception.

2/24 - breakfast at 0530 h, followed by 0630 h birding the Lodge grounds, the observation tower, and the entrance road until 1100 h. After lunch and a break until 1500 h, we drove to the adjacent property (across the river valley) and made an unsuccessful attempt at finding the Keel-billed Motmot.

2/25 - 0500 h breakfast, with 0600 h departure for Lancetilla Botanical Gardens (arriving at 0715), where we spent the remainder of the morning birding the entrance road and the front of the botanical gardens. Returned to the Lodge for lunch and a break, with late afternoon birding along the entrance road to the Lodge from 1530–1730 h.

2/26 - 0400 breakfast, with 0445 departure for the Aguan Valley, arriving at Olanchito at 0745 h. We made numerous roadside birding stops en route to the Honduran Emerald Reserve, arriving there at 1000 h and birding there until 1145. Returned to Olanchito for lunch at Erica's until 1430 hours, then back to Pico Bonito by 1700 h.

2/27 - breakfast at 0600 h, with entire morning (starting at 0700 h) birding the Loop Trail to the Mermaid Falls and back; lunch at 1200 h, with 1330 h departure for the Cuero y Salado Refuge (started the 9-km train ride at 1400 h, followed by boat trip through the mangroves), where we spent the rest of the afternoon, returning to the Lodge at 1900 h (just in time for dinner).

2/28 - breakfast at 0530, followed by 0630 departure for Campamento Curla, where we birded from 0715–1130 h. Back at the Lodge for lunch and break, followed by late afternoon birding along the entrance road to the Lodge and along the path to the Butterfly Garden. This was the day when roughly half of the group opted for the all-day snorkeling excursion. Brief (successful) pre-dinner owling excursion for Vermiculated Screech-Owl.

3/01 - breakfast at 0530 h with 0630 h departure for adjacent property (across the river valley) to try for the Keel-billed Motmot (without success). Back to the Lodge for lunch and break, with 1430 h options for final birding along the entrance road with German, or up the Loop Trail with Kevin to try for the motmot (GOALLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLL!)

3/02 - drive to San Pedro Sula to catch flights home.

Key:

AV = Aguan Valley (includes all birding between Olanchito and the Honduran Emerald Reserve)

CC = Campamento Curla

CS = Cuero y Salado Refuge (including the train ride there and back)

LA = Lancetilla Botanical Gardens and entrance road

PB = The Lodge at Pico Bonito (including lodge grounds, feeders, trails & entrance road)

SN = snorkeling excursion to the coast and offshore islands

SPS = San Pedro Sula

* = heard only

Birds:

TINAMIDAE (Tinamous):

Great Tinamou (*Tinamus major*)* - PB*, CC*

Little Tinamou (*Crypturellus soui*)* - PB*

Slaty-breasted Tinamou (*Crypturellus boucardi*)* - PB* (Seen only by KZ)

ANATIDAE (Ducks, Geese & Swans):

Anatinae

Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) - CS

CRACIDAE (Guans, Chachalacas & Allies):

Plain Chachalaca (*Ortalis vetula*) - LA, CS

ODONTOPHORIDAE (New World Quails):

Tawny-faced Quail (*Rhynchortyx cinctus*) - PB (A male taped in to the trail. This is the extreme northwestern edge of the range for this seldom-seen species.)

PODICIPEDIDAE (Grebes):

Least Grebe (*Tachybaptus dominicus*) - AV

PELECANIDAE (Pelicans):

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) - SN

PHALACROCORACIDAE (Cormorants):

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) - PB to LA, AV, CS

FREGATIDAE (Frigatebirds):

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*) - SN

ARDEIDAE (Herons, Egrets & Bitterns):

Bare-throated Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma mexicanum*) - CS (Nice studies of an adult.)

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) - AV, CS

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) - PB to LA, SPS to PB, AV, CS

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) - SPS to PB, PB to LA, AV, CS

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) - SPS to PB, AV, CS

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*) - CS

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) - daily

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

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) - CS

Boat-billed Heron (*Cochlearius cochlearius*) - CS

CICONIIDAE (Storks):

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) - AV

CATHARTIDAE (New World Vultures):

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) - daily

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) - daily

ACCIPITRIDAE (Hawks, Eagles & Kites):

Pandioninae

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) - CS

Accipitrinae

Hook-billed Kite (*Chondrohierax uncinatus*) - AV (A perched female that flew before everyone could get it in the scope.)

White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*) - AV, CC (perched)

Common Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*) - CC (A copulating pair!)

Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*) - AV, CS

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

Gray Hawk (*Buteo nitidus*) - LA, AV, CC (Sensational views of a couple of pairs, including one on the nest at LA.)

Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*) - CS (A soaring dark-morph bird seen from the train.)

Black Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetus tyrannus*) - PB

FALCONIDAE (Falcons & Caracaras):

Caracarinae

Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*) - AV, CS, CC

Falconinae

Laughing Falcon (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*) - CS, PB*

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) - AV

Bat Falcon (*Falco rufigularis*) - PB (Nice scope studies.)

RALLIDAE (Rails, Gallinules & Coots):

Ruddy Crake (*Laterallus ruber*)* - LA*

HELIORNITHIDAE (Sungrebes & Finfoots):

Sungrebe (*Heliornis fulica*) - CS

CHARADRIIDAE (Plovers & Lapwings):

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) - AV, CS

JACANIDAE (Jacanas):

Northern Jacana (*Jacana spinosa*) - AV, CS

SCOLOPACIDAE (Sandpipers & Allies):

Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) - AV

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*) - AV

Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*) - AV

Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) - CS

LARIDAE (Gulls & Terns):

Larinae

Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) - SN

Sterninae

Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maxima*) - SN

COLUMBIDAE (Pigeons & Doves):

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) - daily

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

Red-billed Pigeon (*Patagioenas flavirostris*) - PB, AV, CC
White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) - PB to LA, AV, CS
Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*) - (*Columbina inca*) - PB to LA, AV, CS, CC
Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*) - AV
Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*) - AV, CS
Blue Ground-Dove (*Claravis pretiosa*) - PB
Gray-chested Dove (*Leptotila cassini*) - PB, CC

PSITTACIDAE (Parrots, Macaws & Allies):

Olive-throated Parakeet (*Aratinga nana*) - PB, CC
Brown-hooded Parrot (*Pyrilia haematotis*) - PB
White-crowned Parrot (*Pionus senilis*) - PB, LA
White-fronted Parrot (*Amazona albifrons*) - AV
Red-lored Parrot (*Amazona autumnalis*) - LA, CS, PB

CUCULIDAE (Cuckoos):

Cuculinae

Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*)* - PB*

Crotophaginae

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

Neomorhinae

Striped Cuckoo (*Tapera naevia*) - AV (Great scope studies!)

STRIGIDAE (Typical Owls):

Vermiculated Screech-Owl (*Megascops guatemale*) - PB (Sensational views of a day-roosting rufous-morph bird for some, and point-blank spotlight views of a gray-brown morph bird for all.)
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum*) - PB, LA*, AV, CC (Lots of good views of this, my unofficial co-leader!)
Mottled Owl (*Ciccaba virgata*)* - PB* (Seen only by KZ.)

CAPRIMULGIDAE (Nightjars & Allies):

Lesser Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*) - CS

NYCTIBIIDAE (Potoos):

Great Potoo (*Nyctibius grandis*) - PB (Excellent views of three different day-roosting individuals.)

APODIDAE (Swifts):

Cypseloidinae

White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*) - PB (These big swifts were a frequent sight over the Lodge, and were particularly conspicuous from the Loop Trail in the late afternoon.)

Chaeturinae

Vaux's Swift (*Chaetua vauxi*) - PB

TROCHILIDAE (Hummingbirds):

Phaethornithinae

Long-billed Hermit (*Phaethornis longirostris*) - PB (Seen nicely and repeatedly at the Lodge feeders. Formerly known as “Western Long-tailed Hermit”.)

Stripe-throated Hermit (*Phaethornis strigularis*) - PB (This is a split from what used to be called “Little Hermit”.)

Trochilinae

Violet Sabrewing (*Campylopterus hemileucurus*) - PB (A female was frequenting the Lodge feeders.)

White-necked Jacobin (*Florisuga mellivora*) - PB, CC (A fixture at the Lodge feeders.)

Green-breasted Mango (*Anthracothorax prevostii*) - CS (Seen briefly by KZ when we first got off the train.)

“Salvin's Emerald” (*Chlorostilbon [canivetii] salvini*) - AV, SN {The species-level taxonomy of this entire genus is in flux. Some taxonomists treat this subspecies as a distinct species, whereas others treat it as a subspecies of the more wide-ranging Canivet's Emerald.}

Violet-headed Hummingbird (*Klais guimeti*) - PB* (Singing males heard from the Loop Trail), CC (Nice views of a perched and then hovering female.)

Violet-crowned Woodnymph (*Thalurania colombica*) - PB (A fixture at the Lodge feeders.)

White-bellied Emerald (*Amazilia candida*) - LA

Honduran Emerald (*Amazilia luciae*) - AV (We saw at least 6 of these guys – the only bird species endemic to Honduras! Great views!)

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (*Amazilia tzacatl*) - PB, LA, CC (The most common hummingbird in this region.)

Cinnamon Hummingbird (*Amazilia rutila*) - AV, CC

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilocus colubris*) - AV (5+), LA {All females or sub-adult males.}

TROGONIDAE (Trogons & Quetzals):

Black-headed Trogon (*Trogon melanocephalus*) - PB, LA, CC

Gartered Trogon (*Trogon caligatus*) - PB, CC* {This is a recent split from what used to be called “Violaceous Trogon”. All “Violaceous Trogons” in Central America are referable to this species.}
Slaty-tailed Trogon (*Trogon massena*) - PB
Black-throated Trogon (*Trogon rufus*) - PB

ALCEDINIDAE (Kingfishers):

Ringed Kingfisher (*Megaceryle torquata*) - CS
Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*)* - AV*
Amazon Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle amazona*) - AV, CS
Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*) - CS
American Pygmy Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle aenea*)* - CS* (Singing from the mangroves within a few meters of our boats, but it just wouldn't come out!)

MOMOTIDAE (Motmots):

Tody Motmot (*Hylomanes momotula*)* - PB*
“Blue-diademed Motmot” (*Momotus lessonii*) - PB, LA* {“Blue-crowned Motmot” has recently been split into five species by the South American Checklist Committee of the AOU, following a vocal and morphometric analysis by Gary Stiles. Under this treatment, birds from Mexico south to western Panama are one species. The SACC has not adopted a new English name for this species, because its range is completely outside of the SACC area (= South America). The North American Checklist Committee has yet to act on this proposed split, and any new English name will have to be generated by that committee. That having been said, the name “Blue-diademed Motmot” has been gaining some traction in the birding community ever since the SACC accepted the split. That name is actually more accurate, because most populations of *M. lessonii* have a black crown surrounded by a blue diadem or tiara. The NACC will have to decide what to do regarding the Mexican subspecies *coeruliceps*, which does have an entirely blue crown. The Stiles analysis did not address the taxonomic status of the various Mexican subspecies. The other species generated by the split are Whooping Motmot (replaces Blue-diademed in c Panama), Trinidad Motmot of Trinidad, Andean Motmot of the Andes, and Amazonian Motmot, which occupies a large area of South America east of the Andes.}
Keel-billed Motmot (*Electron carinatum*) - PB (One of the “signature” birds of Pico Bonito. It was a stiff 45-minute climb, but we were rewarded with stunning prolonged views of a pair of birds on our last afternoon! This is one of the most-wanted, and least often seen birds of Central America.)
Turquoise-browed Motmot (*Eumomota superciliosa*) - PB, AV, CC

GALBULIDAE (Jacamars):

Rufous-tailed Jacamar (*Galbula ruficauda*) - LA

BUCCONIDAE (Puffbirds):

White-necked Puffbird (*Notharchus hyperrhynchus*) - CS

RAMPHASTIDAE (Toucans, Aracaris & Toucanets):

Keel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*) - PB, LA, CC, AV
Emerald Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus prasinus*) - PB
Collared Aracari (*Pteroglossus torquatus*) - PB, LA

PICIDAE (Woodpeckers):

Black-cheeked Woodpecker (*Melanerpes pucherani*) - PB, LA
Golden-fronted Woodpecker (*Melanerpes aurifrons*) - PB, LA, AV, CC
Chestnut-colored Woodpecker (*Celeus castaneus*) - LA, PB (Sensational views, particularly of the pair along the Loop Trail.)
Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*) - CC
Pale-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus guatemalensis*)* - LA*, CS*

FURNARIIDAE (Ovenbirds & Woodcreepers):

Furnariinae

Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner (*Automolus ochrolaemus*) - PB (Seen only by KZ and Joanne.)
Plain Xenops (*Xenops minutus*) - PB

Dendrocolaptinae

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*) - PB, LA
Cocoa Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus susurrans*) - LA, CS* (This is a split from the more wide-ranging South American members of the complex, which still go by the English name of “Buff-throated Woodcreeper”. The taxonomic dust is far from settled where this complex is concerned, so look for more changes.)
Ivory-billed Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus flavigaster*) - PB, CS*, CC*
Streak-headed Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*) - LA, PB

THAMNOPHILIDAE (Typical Antbirds):

Great Antshrike (*Taraba major*)* - LA*
Barred Antshrike (*Thamnophilus doliatus*) - LA, CC
Western Slaty-Antshrike (*Thamnophilus atrinucha*)* - CS*
Dusky Antbird (*Cercomacra tyrannina*) - LA

TYRANNIDAE (Tyrant Flycatchers):

Elaeniinae

Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet (*Ornithion semiflavum*) - PB*, LA (Exceptional views of this canopy-dweller!)
Greenish Elaenia (*Myiopagis viridicata*) - PB, CC

Yellow-bellied Elaenia (*Elaenia flavogaster*) - CC
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher (*Mionectes oleagineus*) - PB
Paltry Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius vilissimus*) - PB

Platyrinchinae

Northern Bentbill (*Oncostoma cinereigulare*)* - PB*
Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*) - LA
Yellow-olive Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias sulphurescens cinereiceps*) - LA, CC*, PB* (Pay attention to where you've seen your "Yellow-olive Flycatchers", because this one is soon to be split multiple ways. The subspecies we saw ranges from Mexico to w Panama.)
Royal Flycatcher (*Onychorhynchus coronatus mexicanus*) - PB {Some authorities split "Royal Flycatcher" into as many as four species (Northern Royal-Flycatcher of Mexico through Panama + n Colombia & Venezuela; Pacific Royal-Flycatcher of sw Ecuador and nw Peru; Amazonian Royal-Flycatcher of most of the Amazon Basin; and Atlantic Royal-Flycatcher of e Brazil). There are plumage distinctions between each of these groups, with the "Pacific" and "Atlantic" populations being much brighter and tawnier overall, with relatively unmarked underparts, and the "Northern" and "Amazonian" populations being duller and more heavily scaled or barred below. There is also some indication of vocal differences between at least some of the populations, although all seem to be variations on a common theme. The two AOU checklist committees have yet to accept a split, primarily because there has been no real published analysis. Meanwhile, keep track of where you've seen your "Royal Flycatchers" because splits could be coming.}

Fluvicolinae

Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*) - LA, CC
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*) - PB
Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) - AV

Tyranninae

Bright-rumped Attila (*Attila spadiceus*)* - PB*, CC*
Rufous Mourner (*Rhytipterna holerythra*) - PB (Great looks along the Loop Trail.)
Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) - PB, CS*, CC*
Brown-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*) - LA, AV, CC
Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) - daily, at all sites
Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarhynchus pitangua*) - PB, LA, AV*, CC*, CS*
Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) - daily, at all sites
Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*) - PB
Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) - daily
Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*) - AV

TITYRIDAE (Tityras, Becards & Allies):

Rose-throated Becard (*Pachyramphus aglaiae*) - LA
Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*) - PB, LA, CC
Black-crowned Tityra (*Tityra inquisitor*) - PB

COTINGIDAE (Cotingas):

Lovely Cotinga (*Cotinga amabilis*) - PB (We had at least 3 males on our first morning, including some prolonged, scope-filling studies of one that was quite close. We had a lone male and a lone female on two of our other afternoon excursions along the entrance road. Along with the Keel-billed Motmot, this is the “signature” bird of Pico Bonito.)

PIPRIDAE (Manakins):

White-collared Manakin (*Manacus candei*) - PB

Red-capped Manakin (*Pipra mentalis*) - PB

VIREONIDAE (Vireos & Allies):

White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*) - PB, CC

Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*) - PB, CC

Tawny-crowned Greenlet (*Hylophilus ochraceiceps*) - PB

Lesser Greenlet (*Hylophilus decurtatus*) - PB

Green Shrike-Vireo (*Vireolanius pulchellus*)* - PB*

CORVIDAE (Crows, Jays & Magpies):

Green Jay (*Cyanocorax yncas*)* - AV*

Brown Jay (*Cyanocorax morio*) - PB, LA, AV, CS, CC (A noisy and conspicuous fixture at the Lodge.)

HIRUNDINIDAE (Swallows):

Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*) - LA, AV

Mangrove Swallow (*Tachycineta albilinea*) - AV

Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) - AV

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) - AV

TROGLODYTIDAE (Wrens):

Spot-breasted Wren (*Thryothorus maculipectus*) - PB, LA*, CS*, CC

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)* - LA*, AV*

White-bellied Wren (*Uropsila leucogastra*) - AV

White-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucosticta*) - PB

SYLVIIDAE (Old World Warblers):

Poliophtilinae

Long-billed Gnatwren (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*) - PB, LA

White-lored Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila albiloris*) - AV
Tropical Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila plumbea*) - LA

TURDIDAE (Thrushes & Allies):

Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) - PB (Daily on the lodge grounds.), LA*, CC*
Clay-colored Thrush (*Turdus grayi*) - daily, and at all sites

MIMIDAE (Mockingbirds & Thrashers):

Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) - PB, LA, AV, CC (High count of 50+ between lower entrance road to the Lodge and CC. A daily fixture on the Lodge grounds.)
Tropical Mockingbird (*Mimus gilvus*) - AV

PARULIDAE (New World Warblers):

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*) - LA, CC
Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) - PB
Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*) - AV, CC
Northern Parula (*Parula americana*) - LA, CC, PB
Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) - LA, AV, CC
Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) - PB, LA, CC
Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*) - PB, LA, AV, CC
Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) - PB, CC
Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*) - CC
Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) - PB, LA, CC
American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) - PB, LA, CS, CC
Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*) - PB
Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) - CS*
Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) - LA
Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*) - PB
Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) - CC
Gray-crowned Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis poliocephala*) - AV, CC (10+)
Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) - LA, PB

THRAUPIDAE (Tanagers & Allies):

Crimson-collared Tanager (*Ramphocelus sanguinolentus*) - LA, CC
Passerini's Tanager (*Ramphocelus passerinii*) - LA, CC, PB
Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*) - LA, AV
Yellow-winged Tanager (*Thraupis abbas*) - PB, CC
Golden-hooded Tanager (*Tangara larvata*) - LA, PB
Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*) - PB
Shining Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes lucidus*) - LA (2 males & 2 females mobbing a pygmy-owl.)

GENUS INCERTAE SEDIS

Buff-throated Saltator (*Saltator maximus*) - LA, CC, PB

Black-headed Saltator (*Saltator atriceps*) - PB, CC

EMBERIZIDAE (Buntings, Sparrows & Allies):

Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*) - AV, CC

Variable Seedeater (*Sporophila americana corvina*) - LA

White-collared Seedeater (*Sporophila torqueola*) - LA, AV, CS, CC

Thick-billed Seed-Finch (*Oryzoborus funereus*) - LA, CC

Black-striped Sparrow (*Arremonops conirostris*) - LA

CARDINALIDAE (Cardinals & Allies):

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) - PB, CC

Red-crowned Ant-Tanager (*Habia rubica*) - PB

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

Black-faced Grosbeak (*Caryothraustes poliogaster*)* - PB* (Calling just below us, but at that point, the motmot was more important.)

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) - LA, CC

Blue-black Grosbeak (*Cyanocompsa cyanooides*) - PB*, CC

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) - AV

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) - LA, AV, CC

ICTERIDAE (Troupials, Orioles, Blackbirds & Allies):

Melodious Blackbird (*Dives dives*) - PB, LA

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) - daily & all sites

Bronzed Cowbird (*Molothrus aeneus*) - PB

Giant Cowbird (*Molothrus oryzivorus*) - LA (A female that we watched going in-and-out of at least 3 Montezuma Oropendola nests.)

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

Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) - LA (A single sub-adult male was our only one this year; a big drop-off from last year, and paralleling the drop-off in migrant orioles that I noted on my January trips to Panama.)

Spot-breasted Oriole (*Icterus pectoralis*) - AV, CC (Outstanding close views.)

Altamira Oriole (*Icterus gularis*) - AV

Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) - PB, LA, AV (Nowhere near the numbers of last year, when we had high counts of 30+ at LA and 10+ at PB; this year we had no more than 5 or 6 in any one day.)

Chestnut-headed Oropendola (*Psarocolius wagleri*) - PB

Montezuma Oropendola (*Psarocolius montezuma*) - PB, LA, AV, CS, CC (Active nest-building at a couple of colonies.)

FRINGILLIDAE (Siskins, Crossbills & Allies):

Euphoniinae

Scrub Euphonia (*Euphonia affinis*) - PB (Nest-building.)

Yellow-throated Euphonia (*Euphonia hirundinacea*) - LA

Olive-backed Euphonia (*Euphonia gouldi*) - PB, LA

White-vented Euphonia (*Euphonia minuta*) - PB

PASSERIDAE (Old World Sparrows):

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) - PB to LA, AV

Mammals & Significant Others:

Variegated Squirrel - PB

Central American Agouti (a.k.a. Watusa) - PB

Long-nosed Bat - CS

White-faced Capuchin Monkey - CS

Mantled Howler Monkey - CS

Leaf litter toad - PB

Anole - PB

Basilisk Lizard - PB

Iguana - CS

American Crocodile - CS

Turtle sp. - CS

Pink Boa Constrictor - SN

Morpho sp. - widespread

Morpho cypris - CS (This was the endemic morpho of the mangroves.)