

# **HONDURAS: THE LODGE AT PICO BONITO**

**FEBRUARY 20–27, 2013**



Turquoise-browed Motmot, La Union, Honduras, February 2013 © Kevin J. Zimmer

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# HONDURAS: PICO BONITO

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc.

February 20–27, 2013

(Leaders: Kevin Zimmer & German Martinez)

Compiled by Kevin Zimmer

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 was the case this trip, when we saw Lovely Cotingas on each of the three days that we devoted to birding the Lodge property. Our first panic-inducing male was spotted from atop Tower #1, and offered only distant scope views. But before leaving the tower, we were treated to close studies of two different males that came in and perched briefly, allowing more soul-satisfying views. Before that first morning was out, we had seen 3 more males, for a total of 6. But that paled in comparison to the 15 seen a couple of days later at a fruiting *aguacatillo* tree just off the entrance road, and to the 6 males and 2 females in view simultaneously in that same tree on our last day!



Lovely Cotinga, The Lodge at Pico Bonito, Honduras, February 2013 © Kevin J. Zimmer

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. On previous trips we had worked hard for the motmot, always succeeding in finding one or two, but never without a tough climb, and sometimes not without at least two attempts. This time, acting on tips from the Lodge staff, we tried an off-site location on our second afternoon, and struck paydirt on our first attempt, netting walk-off, scope-filling views of a most cooperative individual less than 15 minutes into our search!



Keel-billed Motmot, Rio Santiago Reserve, Honduras, February 2013 © Kevin J. Zimmer

With both the cotinga and the motmot comfortably in tow, we could sit back, relax, and take the other birds as they came for the rest of the tour. 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 (although numbers of the latter were seemingly much lower compared to previous years), 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. 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. Three Vermiculated Screech-Owls (two of them lovely rufous morphs) on daytime roosts were among the prizes on our first afternoon, while two different day-roosting Great Potoos gave us yet another night bird that didn't require going out at night to see. A wild-crested Chestnut-colored Woodpecker near the butterfly garden on Day 3 (and another along the entrance road on Day 6) was a treat, as were the Collared Aracaries, Keel-billed Toucans, and noisy Brown Jays and Montezuma Oropendolas that seemed to be everywhere on the property. Rare scope views of a perched Bicolored Hawk along the entrance road on Day 6 were a true highlight, although the breathtakingly elegant pair of White Hawks that soared right over us that same morning was probably the bigger crowd-pleaser.



Vermiculated Screech-Owl (rufous morph), The Lodge at Pico Bonito, Honduras February 2013 © Kevin J. Zimmer

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 Rufous-tailed Jacamars and no fewer than 20 Black-headed Trogons to Cocoa Woodcreepers and scarlet-rumped Passerini's Tanagers. An all-day excursion to the arid, rain-shadow thorn-forest of the Aguan Valley eventually produced the requisite good views of the Honduran Emerald, the only bird species endemic to Honduras, but not without subjecting your leader to at least low-level anxiety. Salvin's (= Canivet's) Emeralds were actually more common and conspicuous than usual, and we were treated to a number of other species typical of the dry forest, including White-fronted Parrot, Cinnamon Hummingbird, White-bellied Wren and White-lored Gnatcatcher. We particularly enjoyed our two afternoon visits to Rio

Santiago, where we thrilled to a non-stop hummingbird show at the many feeders. There, we saw an amazing total of 10 species of hummingbirds (and hundreds of individuals), among them loads of spectacular Violet Sabrewings and Violet-crowned Woodnymphs, not to mention a sprinkling of species such as Band-tailed Barbthroat, Scaly-breasted Hummingbird, and Brown Violetear, that are much less frequently seen at feeding stations.



Violet Sabrewing, Rio Santiago Reserve, Honduras, February 2013 © Kevin J. Zimmer

A morning at Cuero y Salado refuge allowed us the rare opportunity to bird off a train that would actually stop for such treats as Turquoise-browed Motmot, Spot-breasted Oriole, and Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, as well as a fascinating boat trip through some of the most beautiful mangrove forest I have ever seen, the latter replete with all five possible species of kingfishers, including a pair of American Pygmy Kingfishers. Other highlights from the boat trip included a Bat Falcon, a Sungrebe, a day-roosting Northern Potoo and Lesser Nighthawk, and another Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, as well as Proboscis Bats, Mantled Howler Monkey, and White-faced Capuchin Monkey to add taxonomic balance. That afternoon, we returned to Rio Santiago for some more fabulous hummingbird watching, and capped things off with a post-dinner owling excursion around the Lodge grounds. The owls were not in a particularly cooperative mood in the beginning, but those who hung in there ended up with nice views of both Mottled and Black-and-white owls.



Turquoise-browed Motmot, La Union, Honduras, February 2013 © Kevin J. Zimmer

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:**

2/20 - arrive in San Pedro Sula (or continuing on from the Copán Pre-Trip), and transfer to The Lodge at Pico Bonito, with most of us arriving in time for some birding around the grounds in the late afternoon.

2/21 - breakfast at 0600 h, followed by 0645 h departure on foot for birding our way up to Tower #1, then back down along the entrance road to the butterfly garden and serpentarium, returning at 1130 h for lunch and break until 1530 h. Afternoon excursion back down the entrance road and side trails until 1730 h.

2/22 - 0500 h breakfast, with 0545 h departure for Lancetilla Botanical Gardens (arriving at 0715 h), where we birded the entrance road and the front of the botanical

gardens until 1145 h. Drove to Tela for lunch at a restaurant (Brisas del Mar) facing the beach until 1345 h, and then drove to Rio Santiago, arriving at 1510 h, where we watched feeders and made a short hike into the forest for the motmot, before leaving at 1700 h and returning to the Lodge at 1735 h.

2/23 - 0600 h breakfast, departing at 0645 h for hike up the Loop Trail to the Mermaid Falls Trail to Tower #4, returning to Lodge by 1115 h for lunch and break until 1530 h; followed by afternoon birding along the entrance road to butterfly gardens, until 1730 h.

2/24 - 0400 h breakfast, with 0440 h departure for the Aguan Valley, arriving at Olanchito at ca. 0700 h. We made numerous roadside birding stops en route to the Honduran Emerald Reserve, arriving there at 0945 h and birding there until 1130 h. Returned to Olanchito for lunch at Erica's (Casa Blanca) until 1350 h, then back to Pico Bonito by 1600 h.

2/25 - breakfast at 0530 h, with 0615 h departure to La Union, where we caught the train to Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge (9 kms), arriving at ca. 0745; then we birded by boats through the mangroves until ca. 1100 h, returning by train and vans to the Lodge for lunch & 1-hour break. Afternoon excursion back to Rio Santiago, leaving Lodge at 1430 h, arriving Rio Santiago at 1515 h, feeder watching until 1700 h, and then back to Lodge by 1740 h, with optional post-dinner owling excursion around Lodge grounds.

2/26 - breakfast at 0600 h, followed by 0645 h birding walk along entrance road for the remainder of the morning. After lunch & break, we had one more optional birding walk down the entrance road and associated trails. This was also the day that some participants opted for the snorkeling excursion option.

2/27 - 0600 h breakfast at The Lodge, departing at 0730 h for the drive to San Pedro Sula, where we caught our international flights home.

### **Key:**

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

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 and path to Butterfly Garden)

RS = Rio Santiago Lodge, grounds, forest trail & entrance road

SN = Snorkeling Excursion

SP = San Pedro Sula

T = Tela (A few species seen from our beachside restaurant.)

\* = heard only

### **Birds:**

#### **TINAMIDAE (Tinamous):**

**Great Tinamou** (*Tinamus major*)\* - PB\*

**Little Tinamou** (*Crypturellus soui*) - PB\* (Heard daily, often from near our cabins.),  
LA\*

**ANATIDAE (Waterfowl):**

**Muscovy Duck** (*Cairina moschata*) - CS

**CRACIDAE (Guans, Chachalacas & Allies):**

**Plain Chachalaca** (*Ortalis vetula*) - AV

**PODICIPEDIDAE (Grebes):**

**Pied-billed Grebe** (*Tachybaptus dominicus*) - CS

**CICONIIDAE (Storks):**

**Wood Stork** (*Mycteria americana*) - LA, AV, CS

**FREGATIDAE (Frigatebirds):**

**Magnificent Frigatebird** (*Fregata magnificens*) - SN

**PHALACROCORACIDAE (Cormorants):**

**Neotropic Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) - T, CS

**ANHINGIDAE (Anhingas & Darters):**

**Anhinga** (*Anhinga anhinga*) - CS

**PELECANIDAE (Pelicans):**

**Brown Pelican** (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) - T, SN

**ARDEIDAE (Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns):**

**Bare-throated Tiger-Heron** (*Tigrisoma mexicanum*) - CS (2)

**Great Blue Heron** (*Ardea herodias*) - LA to PB

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

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

**Little Blue Heron** (*Egretta caerulea*) - AV (1), CS (40+)

**Tricolored Heron** (*Egretta tricolor*) - CS (2)

**Cattle Egret** (*Bubulcus ibis*) - SP to PB, PB, LA, AV, CS, RS

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



**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** (*Nyctanassa violacea*) - PB (Roosting on the Lodge grounds!)

### **THRESKIORNITHIDAE (Ibises & Spoonbills):**

**White Ibis** (*Eudocimus albus*) - CS

**Roseate Spoonbill** (*Platalea ajaja*) - AV, CS

### **CATHARTIDAE (New World Vultures):**

**Black Vulture** (*Coragyps atratus*) - daily

**Turkey Vulture** (*Cathartes aura*) - daily

**Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture** (*Cathartes burrovianus*) - CS (5)

### **PANDIONIDAE (Osprey):**

**Osprey** (*Pandion haliaetus*) - CS (1)

### **ACCIPITRIDAE (Hawks, Eagles & Kites):**

**White-tailed Kite** (*Elanus leucurus*) - AV (2), CS (1)

**Double-toothed Kite** (*Harpagus bidentatus*) - PB (1 seen soaring over Tower #4.)

**Bicolored Hawk** (*Accipiter bicolor*) - PB (1) (Nice, prolonged scope views of a perched adult. This species has a wide geographic distribution, but is not particularly common anywhere, and is seldom seen.)

**White Hawk** (*Leucopternis albicollis*) - PB (Nice views of a soaring pair.) {Our birds were all of the subspecies *costaricensis*, which differs from populations farther north/west in having extensively blackish remiges, with a broad white trailing edge to the secondaries.}

**Great Black-Hawk** (*Buteogallus urubitinga*) - LA (What was possibly a family group of 3 soaring birds), AV (1)

**Roadside Hawk** (*Buteo magnirostris*) - LA to PB, AV, CS (2)

**Gray Hawk** (*Buteo nitidus*) - LA, PB, AV, RS

**Short-tailed Hawk** (*Buteo brachyurus*) - PB (A pair seen soaring from Tower #1 consisted of one light-morph bird and one dark-morph bird.)

### **FALCONIDAE (Falcons & Caracaras):**

#### **Micrasturinae**

**Collared Forest-Falcon** (*Micrastur semitorquatus*)\* - PB\* (Heard one day at dusk.)

## **Caracarinae**

**Crested Caracara** (*Caracara cheriway*) - CS (Only 1, which is way down from previous trips.)

## **Falconinae**

**American Kestrel** (*Falco sparverius*) - AV (3)

**Bat Falcon** (*Falco ruficularis*) - LA (Thanks to good spotting by Mary.), CS

## **RALLIDAE (Rails, Gallinules & Coots):**

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

## **HELIORNITHIDAE (Sungrebes & Finfoots):**

**Sungrebe** (*Heliornis fulica*) - CS (Superb studies of a female.)

## **JACANIDAE (Jacanas):**

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

## **CHARADRIIDAE (Plovers & Lapwings):**

**Black-bellied Plover** (*Pluvialis squatarola*) - CS

## **SCOLOPACIDAE (Sandpipers & Allies):**

**Spotted Sandpiper** (*Actitis macularius*) - AV (2), CS (2)

**Ruddy Turnstone** (*Arenaria interpres*) - CS (4)

**Sanderling** (*Calidris alba*) - CS (15+)

**Least Sandpiper** (*Calidris minutilla*) - CS (8)

## **LARIDAE (Gulls & Terns):**

### **Sterninae**

**Royal Tern** (*Thalasseus maxima*) - T (3), CS (8)

## **COLUMBIDAE (Pigeons & Doves):**

**Rock Pigeon** (*Columba livia*) - All settled areas and towns.

**Pale-vented Pigeon** (*Patagioenas cayennensis*) - LA, CS

**Red-billed Pigeon** (*Patagioenas flavirostris*) - PB, AV  
**White-winged Dove** (*Zenaida asiatica*) - SP to PB, PB to LA, AV, CS  
**Inca Dove** (*Columbina inca*) - PB to LA, AV, CS, RS  
**Common Ground-Dove** (*Columbina passerina*) - AV (40+), CS  
**Ruddy Ground-Dove** (*Columbina talpacoti*) - AV, CS, RS  
**Blue Ground-Dove** (*Claravis pretiosa*) - LA (2), RS (1), PB (2)  
**White-tipped Dove** (*Leptotila verreauxi*) - AV  
**Gray-chested Dove** (*Leptotila cassini*) - RS, PB

### **PSITTACIDAE (Parrots, Macaws & Allies):**

**Olive-throated Parakeet** (*Aratinga nana*) -  
**Brown-hooded Parrot** (*Pyrilia haematotis*) - PB  
**White-crowned Parrot** (*Pionus senilis*) - PB (Great views of perched birds.), LA, CS  
**White-fronted Parrot** (*Amazona albifrons*) - AV (Including a nest prospecting pair.)  
**Red-lore Parrot** (*Amazona autumnalis*) - CS

### **CUCULIDAE (Cuckoos):**

#### **Cuculinae**

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

#### **Crotophaginae**

**Groove-billed Ani** (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) - PB to LA, AV, CS, PB

### **STRIGIDAE (Typical Owls):**

**Vermiculated Screech-Owl** (*Megascops guatemale*) - PB (Three roosting birds [2 rufous-morph and 1 gray morph] seen perched in daylight on our second afternoon, and heard several nights.)

**Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl** (*Glaucidium brasilianum*) - PB, LA, AV

**Mottled Owl** (*Ciccaba virgata*) - PB (Heard most nights from our cabins, but it played hard to get on our two nights of owling. The hardy few who hung in there that first night were rewarded with good views and photos.)

**Black-and-white Owl** (*Ciccaba nigrolineata*) - PB (Seen nicely by the few determined night-birders on our first night of owling. I was treated to spectacular views from my cabin deck one night.)

### **CAPRIMULGIDAE (Nightjars & Allies):**

**Lesser Nighthawk** (*Chordeiles acutipennis*) - AV (1 flushed and then perched in the Emerald Reserve), CS (A roosting bird in the mangroves.)

## **NYCTIBIIDAE (Potoos):**

**Great Potoo** (*Nyctibius grandis*) - PB (Excellent views of two different day-roosting individuals. Also heard calling frequently on either side of the full moon.)

**Northern Potoo** (*Nyctibius jamaicensis*) - CS (A day-roosting bird in the mangroves was seen nicely from our boats.)

## **APODIDAE (Swifts):**

### **Cypseloidinae**

**White-collared Swift** (*Streptoprocne zonaris*) - PB (These big swifts were a frequent sight over the Lodge, and were typically seen in large flocks of 100 or more.), LA

### **Chaeturinae**

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

## **TROCHILIDAE (Hummingbirds):**

### **Phaethornithinae**

**Band-tailed Barbthroat** (*Threnetes ruckeri*) - RS (It was a real treat to have repeated looks at this species. This was the first time I can recall ever seeing one at a feeder!)

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

**Stripe-throated Hermit** (*Phaethornis strigularis*) - PB (Seen nicely and repeatedly at the Lodge feeders. This is a split from what used to be called "Little Hermit".), LA, RS

### **Trochilinae**

**Brown Violetear** (*Colibri delphinae*) - RS (It was a real treat to see this uncommon hummer at the feeders.)

**Scaly-breasted Hummingbird** (*Phaeochroa cuvierii*) - RS

**Violet Sabrewing** (*Campylopterus hemileucurus*) - RS (20+, most of them flashy males.)

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

**Green-breasted Mango** (*Anthracothorax prevostii*) - RS (1 female and a couple of males)

**Violet-headed Hummingbird** (*Klais guimeti*) - PB (Those of us that were on the first transfer to the lodge on Day 1 were treated to views of a female foraging on flowering orange trees. We also heard several singing males at an exploded lek along the Loop Trail.)

**Canivet's (Salvin's) Emerald** (*Chlorostilbon canivetii salvini*) - AV (4+) {The subspecies here is often treated as a distinct species, and called "Salvin's Emerald".}

**Violet-crowned Woodnymph** (*Thalurania colombica*) - PB (A fixture at the Lodge feeders, although we seldom saw the male.), RS (An estimated 50–100 swarming over the feeders – by far the most I have ever seen at one spot at one time!)

**White-bellied Emerald** (*Amazilia candida*) - PB, RS

**Honduran Emerald** (*Amazilia luciae*) - AV (By my count, we saw at least 6 of these birds – the only bird species endemic to Honduras – but it took uncomfortably long to get one that would sit long enough for everyone in the group to see it well. Definitely the most work we've ever had to put in to see this one.)

**Rufous-tailed Hummingbird** (*Amazilia tzacatl*) - PB, LA, RS (Seen daily in numbers of 20 or more, with ca. 100 swarming the RS feeders. The most common hummingbird in this region.)

**Cinnamon Hummingbird** (*Amazilia rutila*) - AV (Unusually scarce this trip.), LA\*

**Purple-crowned Fairy** (*Heliothryx barroti*) - PB (Seen by Junie and Catherine.)

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** (*Archilocus colubris*) - AV (4+, including 1 male), PB

## TROGONIDAE (Trogon & Quetzals):

**Black-headed Trogon** (*Trogon melanocephalus*) - PB, LA, CS (Seemingly the most common trogon in the region, particularly at LA, where we had 20+, and in the mangroves at CS, where we saw or heard at least 7.)

**Gartered Trogon** (*Trogon caligatus*) - PB, LA\* {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

## MOMOTIDAE (Motmots):

**"Blue-diademed Motmot"** (*Momotus lessonii*) - PB {"Blue-crowned Motmot" has recently been split into five species by the South American Classification 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*) - RS (For once, this one was easy. It took us a total of 13 minutes from the start of the hike until everyone had seen the bird in the scope! And then, it sat there until we walked away! This is one of the most-wanted, and least often seen birds of Central America.)

**Turquoise-browed Motmot** (*Eumomota superciliosa*) - PB, AV, CS (Always a show-stealer!)

### **ALCEDINIDAE (Kingfishers):**

**Ringed Kingfisher** (*Megaceryle torquata*) - PB, CS

**Belted Kingfisher** (*Megaceryle alcyon*) - AV, CS

**Amazon Kingfisher** (*Chloroceryle amazona*) - AV, CS, RS

**Green Kingfisher** (*Chloroceryle americana*) - CS

**American Pygmy Kingfisher** (*Chloroceryle aenea*) - CS (Initial, brief views of a pair that I taped in, followed by prolonged views of the male.)

### **GALBULIDAE (Jacamars):**

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

### **RAMPHASTIDAE (Toucans, Aracaris & Toucanets):**

**Collared Aracari** (*Pteroglossus torquatus*) - PB, LA

**Keel-billed Toucan** (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*) - PB, CS

### **PICIDAE (Woodpeckers):**

#### **Picuminae**

**Olivaceous Piculet** (*Picumnus olivaceus*) - LA\*, PB (Terry and KJZ only.)

#### **Picinae**

**Black-cheeked Woodpecker** (*Melanerpes pucherani*) - PB, RS

**Golden-fronted Woodpecker** (*Melanerpes aurifrons*) - PB, LA, AV, CS, RS (Seen daily.)

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (*Sphyrapicus varius*) - AV

**Smoky-brown Woodpecker** (*Veniliornis fumigatus*) - LA, PB

**Chestnut-colored Woodpecker** (*Celeus castaneus*) - PB (Sensational views!)

**Lineated Woodpecker** (*Dryocopus lineatus*) - PB, LA, AV

## **THAMNOPHILIDAE (Typical Antbirds):**

**Great Antshrike** (*Taraba major*) - LA

**Western Slaty-Antshrike** (*Thamnophilus atrinucha*) - CS

## **FURNARIIDAE (Ovenbirds & Woodcreepers):**

### **Furnariinae**

**Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner** (*Automolus ochrolaemus*) - PB

**Plain Xenops** (*Xenops minutus*) - PB

### **Dendrocolaptinae**

**Wedge-billed Woodcreeper** (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*) - PB

**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, LA\*

**Streak-headed Woodcreeper** (*Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*) - LA

## **TYRANNIDAE (Tyrant Flycatchers):**

### **Elaeniinae**

**Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet** (*Ornithion semiflavum*) - PB, LA\*

**Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet** (*Camptostoma imberbe*) - AV, CS

**Ochre-bellied Flycatcher** (*Mionectes oleagineus*) - PB

**Paltry Tyrannulet** (*Zimmerius vilissimus*) - PB (Including as many as 10 birds mobbing the owl tape at once on our last morning!), LA

### **Platyrrhinae**

**Common Tody-Flycatcher** (*Todirostrum cinereum*) - AV

**Eye-ringed Flatbill** (*Rhynchocyclus brevirostris*)\* - PB\*

**Yellow-olive Flycatcher** (*Tolmomyias sulphurescens cinereiceps*) - LA, PB, AV (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.)

## Fluvicolinae

**Least Flycatcher** (*Empidonax minimus*) - AV (One calling bird seen only by KJZ, when we were trudging back to the bus with only cold drinks and air conditioning on our minds!)

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** (*Empidonax flaviventris*) - PB (Seen/heard almost daily around the lodge, including not only along the forest trails, but also in the cacao and other second growth.)

**Black Phoebe** (*Sayornis nigricans*) - PB (Oddly, the only one we saw this year was in a most unusual location: teed-up in the top of a canopy emergent tree in the middle of the forest along the Mermaid Falls trail, as seen from Tower #4!)

## Tyranninae

**Bright-rumped Attila** (*Attila spadiceus*) - PB, LA

**Rufous Mourner** (*Rhytipterna holerythra*) - PB (Particularly good looks along the Mermaid Falls Trail [eye-level from Tower #4].)

**Dusky-capped Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*)\* - CS\*

**Great Crested Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus crinitus*) - PB, AV

**Brown-crested Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*) - PB, AV

**Great Kiskadee** (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) - Daily, and recorded at all sites (A pair had an active nest just off the dining room deck at the Lodge.).

**Boat-billed Flycatcher** (*Megarhynchus pitangua*) - Daily, and recorded at all sites.

**Social Flycatcher** (*Myiozetetes similis*) - Daily, and recorded at all sites (A pair was also nesting near the dining room deck at the Lodge.).

**Tropical Kingbird** (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) - SP to PB, LA, RS, CS, PB

## TITYRIDAE (Tityras, Becards & Allies):

**Rose-throated Becard** (*Pachyramphus aglaiae*) - PB (Nice looks at a pair. The males of populations this far south typically do not have rose throats [as do populations from n Mexico and the sw United States.]

**Masked Tityra** (*Tityra semifasciata*) - PB, RS

**Black-crowned Tityra** (*Tityra inquisitor*) - PB, LA

## COTINGIDAE (Cotingas):

**Lovely Cotinga** (*Cotinga amabilis*) - PB (This species put on a stellar show this trip. Starting with 3 males seen from Tower #1 on our first morning, and continuing with a daily parade of individuals [up to 15 in one morning, and at least 6 males and 2 females in view at once] to the fruiting *aguacatillo* tree and the adjacent fruiting mistletoe 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 (A few females were seen, and we heard sporadic bursts of male display while we were atop Tower #4, but this species was not faithfully attending any of the traditional leks that we have visited on previous trips.)

## **VIREONIDAE (Vireos & Allies):**

**White-eyed Vireo** (*Vireo griseus*) - PB, LA\*, AV

**Yellow-throated Vireo** (*Vireo flavifrons*) - PB (1)

**Philadelphia Vireo** (*Vireo philadelphicus*) - PB (2)

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

**Lesser Greenlet** (*Hylophilus decurtatus*) - PB, LA, CS\*

## **CORVIDAE (Crows, Jays & Magpies):**

**Brown Jay** (*Cyanocorax morio*) - PB, LA, AV, CS

## **HIRUNDINIDAE (Swallows):**

**Gray-breasted Martin** (*Progne chalybea*) - AV (10)

**Mangrove Swallow** (*Tachycineta albilinea*) - AV (6) (Swallows in general were notable by their absence.)

## **TROGLODYTIDAE (Wrens):**

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

**House Wren** (*Troglodytes aedon*) - LA, CS\*

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

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

## **POLIOPTILIDAE (Gnatcatchers & Gnatwrens):**

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

**White-lored Gnatcatcher** (*Polioptila albiloris*) - AV

**Tropical Gnatcatcher** (*Polioptila plumbea*) - PB, LA\*

## **TURDIDAE (Thrushes & Allies):**

**Wood Thrush** (*Hylocichla mustelina*) - PB, LA\* (Much less conspicuous than usual. I've noticed a seeming decline in numbers of this species over the years, at least on the wintering grounds. Although we heard this species on several days, the only one I saw all week was at the Lodge one afternoon.)

**Clay-colored Thrush** (*Turdus grayi*) - Seen daily, and at all sites.

**White-throated Thrush** (*Turdus assimilis*) - PB

### **MIMIDAE (Mockingbirds & Thrashers):**

**Gray Catbird** (*Dumetella carolinensis*) - PB, LA, AV (High counts of 15 at Lancetilla, and 12 between the lower entrance road and the Lodge on the last day. This is compared to similar daily counts of 50+ in those areas on previous trips. Numbers were conspicuously lower at all sites than in the previous several years.)

**Tropical Mockingbird** (*Mimus gilvus*) - AV

### **PARULIDAE (New World Warblers):**

**Ovenbird** (*Seiurus aurocapilla*) - PB (1 [compared to a total of 6 in 2012])

**Worm-eating Warbler** (*Helmitheros vermivorum*) - PB (1) (Missed this bird in 2012.)

**Northern Waterthrush** (*Parkesia noveboracensis*) - LA (1), CS (1) (Why this species isn't conspicuous in the mangroves at Cuero y Salado is beyond my explanation.)

**Black-and-white Warbler** (*Mniotilta varia*) - PB (7), LA (1) (Compared to a total of 3 in 2012.)

**Prothonotary Warbler** (*Protonaria citrea*) - PB (1 male seen from Tower #4 was a surprise!)

**Tennessee Warbler** (*Oreothlypis peregrina*) - LA (3), PB (5) (This seems much lower than usual.)

**Gray-crowned Yellowthroat** (*Geothlypis poliocephala*) - AV (2)

**Kentucky Warbler** (*Geothlypis formosa*)\* - PB\*

**Common Yellowthroat** (*Geothlypis trichas*) - CS (5+), PB (1)

**Hooded Warbler** (*Setophaga citrina*) - PB (4)

**American Redstart** (*Setophaga ruticilla*) - PB (12), LA (2)

**Northern Parula** (*Parula americana*) - PB (2)

**Magnolia Warbler** (*Dendroica magnolia*) - PB (Daily high count of 12, compared with daily high of 40+ in 2012.), LA (10, compared to 20+ in 2012), AV (8), CS (2) (The most common migrant warbler in this region, but numbers were still much lower than usual.)

**Yellow Warbler** (*Dendroica petechia*) - PB (2), LA (2), AV (5), CS (10)

**Chestnut-sided Warbler** (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) - PB (11), LA (2)

**Yellow-throated Warbler** (*Setophaga dominica*) - PB (3)

**Black-throated Green Warbler** (*Setophaga virens*) - PB (10)

### **THRAUPIDAE (Tanagers & Allies):**

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

**Passerini's Tanager** (*Ramphocelus passerinii*) - LA, PB

**Yellow-winged Tanager** (*Thraupis abbas*) - PB, LA

**Golden-hooded Tanager** (*Tangara larvata*) - PB, LA

**Green Honeycreeper** (*Chlorophanes spiza*) - PB, LA

## GENUS *INCERTAE SEDIS*

**Buff-throated Saltator** (*Saltator maximus*) - LA  
**Black-headed Saltator** (*Saltator atriceps*) - LA, PB

## EMBERIZIDAE (Buntings, Sparrows & Allies):

**Blue-black Grassquit** (*Volatinia jacarina*) - LA, AV, CS, PB  
**Variable Seedeater** (*Sporophila americana corvina*) - LA, CS  
**White-collared Seedeater** (*Sporophila torqueola*) - LA, AV, CS, PB  
**Thick-billed Seed-Finch** (*Oryzoborus funereus*) - LA (6), PB  
**Yellow-faced Grassquit** (*Tiaris olivaceus*) - AV  
**Black-striped Sparrow** (*Arremonops conirostris*)\* - LA\*

## CARDINALIDAE (Cardinals & Allies):

**Summer Tanager** (*Piranga rubra*) - PB (6), LA\* (1)  
**Red-crowned Ant-Tanager** (*Habia rubica*) - PB  
**Red-throated Ant-Tanager** (*Habia fuscicauda*) - LA, PB  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) - PB (high count of 8), LA, AV  
**Blue-black Grosbeak** (*Cyanocompsa cyanooides*) - LA, PB  
**Blue Grosbeak** (*Passerina caerulea*) - AV (2 females)  
**Indigo Bunting** (*Passerina cyanea*) - LA (2), AV (4), PB (1) [versus high count of 30+ in Aguan Valley in 2012]

## ICTERIDAE (Troupials, Orioles, Blackbirds & Allies):

**Melodious Blackbird** (*Dives dives*) - PB, LA (Seen daily around the Lodge.)  
**Great-tailed Grackle** (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) - SP to PB, PB to T, LA, AV, CS, RS  
**Bronzed Cowbird** (*Molothrus aeneus*) - PB to LA  
**Giant Cowbird** (*Molothrus oryzivorus*) - LA (Several hanging around the Montezuma Oropendola colony.), PB, CS  
**Black-cowled Oriole** (*Icterus prothemelas*) - PB\*, LA  
**Orchard Oriole** (*Icterus spurius*) - AV (1 female), CS (1 male) [Way down from previous years.]  
**Yellow-backed Oriole** (*Icterus chrysater*)\* - PB\*  
**Spot-breasted Oriole** (*Icterus pectoralis*) - CS (2)  
**Baltimore Oriole** (*Icterus galbula*) - PB (3), LA (3), AV (2), CS (4) (Numbers about 40% of 2012, which, in turn, was way down from previous years.)  
**Chestnut-headed Oropendola** (*Psarocolius wagleri*) - PB, LA  
**Montezuma Oropendola** (*Psarocolius montezuma*) - PB, LA, CS (Active nest-building at a couple of colonies, and lots of song and display around the Lodge.)

## **FRINGILLIDAE (Siskins, Crossbills & Allies):**

### **Euphoniinae**

**Scrub Euphonia** (*Euphonia affinis*) - AV

**Yellow-throated Euphonia** (*Euphonia hirundinacea*) - PB\*, RS

**Olive-backed Euphonia** (*Euphonia gouldi*) - PB (Multiple nice studies.), LA\*

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

## **PASSERIDAE (Old World Sparrows):**

**House Sparrow** (*Passer domesticus*) - AV (The Texaco Station stake-out!)

**Total = 215 species**

### **Mammals:**

**Variegated Squirrel** (*Sciurus variegatoides*) - PB

**Central American Agouti** (a.k.a. Watusa) (*Dasyprocta punctata*) - PB

**Proboscis Bat** (*Rhynchonycteris naso*) - CS (These are the bats that we saw roosting in the mangroves that the local guides persist in calling “Long-nosed Bats”. In looking up the Latin name for Long-nosed Bat, I noticed that the Southern Long-nosed Bat occurs only in w Honduras. Furthermore, it is a nectar-feeding species (which didn’t make sense for a bat that habitually roosts in mangroves) and it didn’t look like my photos taken at Cuero y Salado in previous years. Once I started looking in the field guide, I made the ID pretty rapidly.)

**White-faced Capuchin Monkey** (*Cebus capucinus*) - CS, PB

**Mantled Howler Monkey** (*Alouatta palliata*) - CS

**White-nosed Coati** (*Nasua narica*) - PB

**Opossum sp.** - PB

### **Significant others:**

Anole - PB

Basilisk Lizard - PB

Iguana - CS

Ameiva Lizard - PB

Mexican (Baudin’s) Tree Frog (*Smilisca baudinii*) - PB (This was the wild “honking” frog that we could hear nightly from the vicinity of the swimming pool.)

Morpho sp. - widespread

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