

HONDURAS:
THE LODGE AT PICO BONITO
FEBRUARY 9–16, 2013

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TOUR REPORT

HONDURAS: THE LODGE AT PICO BONITO

February 9–16, 2013

By Brian Gibbons

The Lodge at Pico Bonito exceeded our expectations. The lodge, rooms, grounds, food, and let's not forget the birds, were all simply spectacular. And there was that cat too.

Beginning our first afternoon, we enjoyed the luxury of birding from one of Central America's great lodges. Lovely Cotinga must always be among the first birds listed when visiting Pico Bonito. The audacious combination of plum and electric-blue defies expectation, and to have them so common was a treat. That cooperative Margay that most of us enjoyed as it lounged on a limb before melting into the woods was marvelous. We watched the Great Potoo at our leisure, and enjoyed the feeder raids of the White-nosed Coati troop and the late evening appearance of the rare Highland Guan on the lodge grounds. Every day around the lodge we enjoyed the gurgling sounds of the local Montezuma Oropendolas. We also were able to observe a Boa Constrictor rest after what must have been a large meal; the Brown Jays pointed out this beautiful creature to us with their raucous calls.

Our first morning found us on the tower, expectant of our Lovely Cotinga; a few fly-bys and subsequent disappearing acts were tantalizing, but later in the morning we would catch up with many of these beauties and their ladies. Far below us in the clear rocky stream a pair of Sunbitterns stalked the shallows for unlucky critters. Keel-billed Toucans and Collared Aracaries enjoyed the same fruits that the cotingas feasted on. At the forest edge Little Tinamous called, hidden from view, and a White Hawk circled overhead. In the afternoon we birded the open regenerating forest and were rewarded with frugivores, warblers, flycatchers, and our first Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl.

The next morning we hiked into the quiet forest where a few small flocks mostly evaded us. A stunning White Hawk and a Black Hawk-Eagle soared overhead, Rufous Mourner sat quietly in the branches overhead, and both manakins came into view. A flock moved through with a female Collared Trogon, a White-shouldered Tanager, and the rare Slate-colored Solitaire down from the cloud forest for some fruit. Hiking back to the lodge we encountered a pair of calling Laughing Falcons; eventually we saw them in the scope across the valley.

Cuero y Salado Reserve was on our radar for this morning; we traveled by van, rail, and boat to see kingfishers, Mantled Howler Monkeys, herons, storks, kites, and a few iguanas. One of the favorites was a pair of Sungrebes that eventually came out for all to see well. Boat-billed Heron and Amazon Kingfisher were also excellent finds. In the afternoon we cruised around Pico Bonito, enjoying the birds of the forest and edge.

Our next adventure took us the long way around to the Aguan Valley where we sought and found the endemic Honduran Emerald in the hot thorn forest in the rain shadow of Pico Bonito. We also enjoyed some other birds that wouldn't be caught dead in the moisture of the rainy side. White-lored Gnatcatcher, Tropical Mockingbird, Eastern Meadowlark, displaying Roadside Hawks, Lesser Ground-Cuckoo teasing us with its nearby calls, and a stunning male Canivet's Emerald were all tallied in the dry Aguan Valley.

Lancetilla Botanical Garden hosts a wonderful variety of tropical birds. We enjoyed toucans, aracaries, parrots, orioles, woodcreepers, trogons, and flycatchers galore. After lunch we made VENT's inaugural visit to the hummingbird reserve at Rio Santiago Nature Resort. I have rarely seen so many hummers zipping around. We tallied nine species: Scaly-breasted, Violet-crowned Woodnymph, Band-tailed Barbthroat, Long-billed Hermit, Violet Sabrewing, White-necked Jacobin, Green-breasted Mango, and the common Rufous-tailed. The true star of the show was surely the Keel-billed Motmot that sat for several minutes allowing excellent scope views of this rare Central American beast.

Another morning of birding the lodge grounds produced many more great sightings. Excellent views of the Vermiculated Screech-Owl on its day roost and a variety of North American warblers, vireos, and flycatchers were all had. I particularly enjoyed the pair of White-crowned Parrots trying out a natural cavity near the entrance station. First the female went in and out, out and in, head first then tail first. Then the male tried the same thing many times.

Before we knew it our time at the lodge was up. Dave and Vicki and I headed to Copan and others headed back to the frozen north. I hope everyone had a wonderful trip and that we bird together again soon.

The Lodge at Pico Bonito 2013

10 Feb 2013 - Lodge grounds & Tower #1

11 Feb 2013 - Lodge grounds & Tower #2 upstream

12 Feb 2013- Cuero y Salado reserve in the morning, Lodge grounds afternoon

13 Feb 2013- Aguan Valley for the Honduran Emerald, late afternoon lodge grounds

14 Feb 2013 - Lancetilla Botanical Garden, Rio Santiago Nature Resort, lodge grounds late afternoon

15 Feb 2013 - Pico Bonito grounds

16 Feb 2013 – Departures for home

Tinamous	Tinamidae	
Great Tinamou	<i>Tinamus major</i>	HO, PB lodge grounds
Little Tinamou	<i>Crypturellus soui</i>	HO, second growth
Guans, Chachalacas & Curassows	Cracidae	
Highland Guan	<i>Penelopina nigra</i>	A great bird down from the mtns
Storks	Ciconiidae	
Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	CS
Frigatebirds	Fregatidae	
Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	Along coast near Tela
Cormorants	Phalacrocoracidae	
Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>	CS
Anhinga	Anhingidae	
Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>	CS
Hérons, Egrets and Bitterns	Ardeidae	
Bare-throated Tiger-Heron	<i>Tigrisomamexicanum</i>	CS

Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	CS
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	CS
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	CS
Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	CS
Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	CS
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	CS and open country
Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	CS
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	PB, CS
Boat-billed Heron	<i>Cochlearius cochlearius</i>	CS
New World Vultures	Cathartidae	
Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	Common daily
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Common daily
Hawks, Eagles and Kites	Accipitridae	
White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	CS
Double-toothed Kite	<i>Harpagus bidentatus</i>	PB
White Hawk	<i>Pseudastur albicollis</i>	PB, great looks at these great birds
Roadside Hawk	<i>Buteo magnirostris</i>	AV
Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	PB
Gray Hawk	<i>Buteo plagiatus</i>	PB
Short-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo brachyurus</i>	PB
Zone-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo albonotatus</i>	PB
Black Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus tyrannus</i>	PB, calling bird from the 2nd tower
Sunbittern	Eurypygidae	
Sunbittern	<i>Eurypyga helias</i>	2 birds in the stream below tower 1
Rails, Gallinules and Coots	Rallidae	
Ruddy Crake	<i>Laterallus ruber</i>	HO, L

Sungrebe	Heliornithidae	
Sungrebe	<i>Heliornisfulica</i>	CS, finally good looks
Plovers and Lapwings	Charadriidae	
Collared Plover	<i>Charadriuscollaris</i>	CS, out near the beach
Jacanas	Jacanidae	
Northern Jacana	<i>Jacana spinosa</i>	CS
Sandpipers and Allies	Scolopacidae	
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitismacularius</i>	CS
Gulls, Terns and Skimmers	Laridae	
Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseusmaximus</i>	CS
Pigeons and Doves	Columbidae	
Rock Pigeon (I)	<i>Columba livia</i>	Towns
Pale-vented Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas cayennensis</i>	CS
Red-billed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas flavirostris</i>	PB
White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	Open country along rds, AV
Inca Dove	<i>Columbinainca</i>	Open country along rds, AV
Common Ground-Dove	<i>Columbinapasserina</i>	Open country along rds, AV
Ruddy Ground-Dove	<i>Columbinatalpacoti</i>	Open country along rds, AV
White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotilaverreauxi</i>	PB
Gray-chested Dove	<i>Leptotilacassini</i>	PB
Cuckoos	Cuculidae	
Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>	PB, L
Mangrove Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus minor</i>	CS
Lesser Ground-Cuckoo	<i>Morococcyxerythropygus</i>	HO, AV
Groove-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>	Common daily
Owls	Strigidae	

Vermiculated Screech-Owl	<i>Megascopsguatemalae</i>	PB grounds during the day!
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl	<i>Glaucidiumbrasilianum</i>	Common daily
Nightjars and Allies	Caprimulgidae	
Lesser Nighthawk	<i>Chordeilesacutipennis</i>	CS, roosting
Potoos	Nyctibiidae	
Great Potoo	<i>Nyctibiusgrandis</i>	PB, roosting
Swifts	Apodidae	
White-collared Swift	<i>Streptoprocnezonaris</i>	PB
Vaux's Swift	<i>Chaeturavauxi</i>	PB
Hummingbirds	Trochilidae	
White-necked Jacobin	<i>Florisugamellivora</i>	PB, RSNR
Band-tailed Barbthroat	<i>Threnetesruckeri</i>	RSNR
Long-billed Hermit	<i>Phaethornislongirostris</i>	PB, RSNR
Stripe-throated Hermit	<i>Phaethornisstriigularis</i>	PB, RSNR
Green-breasted Mango	<i>Anthracothoraxprevostii</i>	PB, RSNR
Canivet's Emerald	<i>Chlorostilboncanivetii</i>	PB
Scaly-breasted Hummingbird	<i>Phaeochroacuvierii</i>	RSNR
Violet Sabrewing	<i>Campylopterushemileucurus</i>	RSNR
Violet-crowned Woodnymph	<i>Thaluraniacolombica</i>	PB, RSNR
White-bellied Emerald	<i>Amazilia candida</i>	PB
Honduran Emerald (E)	<i>Amazilialuciae</i>	AV
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Amaziliatzacatl</i>	PB, RSNR
Cinnamon Hummingbird	<i>Amaziliarutila</i>	AV, briefly
Trogons	Trogonidae	
Slaty-tailed Trogon	<i>Trogon massena</i>	Sylvie only
Black-headed Trogon	<i>Trogon melanocephalus</i>	PB

Gartered Trogon	<i>Trogon caligatus</i>	PB
Collared Trogon	<i>Trogon collaris</i>	PB
Motmots	Momotidae	
Blue-crowned Motmot	<i>Momotusmomota (coeruliceps)</i>	PB
Keel-billed Motmot	<i>Electron carinatum</i>	RSNR great bird that is hard to find
Turquoise-browed Motmot	<i>Eumomotasuperciliosa</i>	PB
Kingfishers	Alcedinidae	
Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryletorquata</i>	CS
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megacerylealcyon</i>	CS
Amazon Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryleamazona</i>	CS
Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryleamericana</i>	CS
American Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryleaenea</i>	CS
Jacamars	Galbulidae	
Rufous-tailed Jacamar	<i>Galbularuficauda</i>	L
Toucans	Ramphastidae	
Collared Aracari	<i>Pteroglossustorquatus</i>	PB
Keel-billed Toucan	<i>Ramphastossulfuratus</i>	PB
Woodpeckers	Picidae	
Black-cheeked Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpespucherani</i>	PB
Golden-fronted Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpesaurifrons</i>	PB
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicusvarius</i>	AV
Smoky-brown Woodpecker	<i>Picoidesfumigatus</i>	L
Chestnut-colored Woodpecker	<i>Celeuscastaneus</i>	PB
Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopuslineatus</i>	PB
Falcons and Caracaras	Falconidae	
Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>	CS

Laughing Falcon	<i>Herpetotherescachinnans</i>	PB
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	AV
Bat Falcon	<i>Falco ruficularis</i>	PB
Parrots	Psittacidae	
Olive-throated Parakeet	<i>Aratinga nana</i>	PB
Brown-hooded Parrot	<i>Pyrihaema haematotis</i>	PB
White-crowned Parrot	<i>Pionus senilis</i>	PB
White-fronted Parrot	<i>Amazona albifrons</i>	AV
Typical Antbirds	Thamnophilidae	
Great Antshrike	<i>Taraba major</i>	PB, HO for most folks
Barred Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus doliatus</i>	PB, glimpsed by some
Western Slaty-Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus atrinucha</i>	HO, CS
Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers	Furnariidae	
Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Glyphorhynchus spirurus</i>	PB
Cocoa Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus susurrans</i>	L
Ivory-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus flavigaster</i>	PB, L
Streak-headed Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes souleyetii</i>	PB
Plain Xenops	<i>Xenops minutus</i>	PB
Tyrant Flycatchers	Tyrannidae	
Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet	<i>Ornithion semiflavum</i>	L, these tiny guys were nest-building
Greenish Elaenia	<i>Myiopagis viridicata</i>	PB
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Mionectes oleagineus</i>	Sylvie only
Paltry Tyrannulet	<i>Zimmerius vilissimus</i>	PB
Northern Bentbill	<i>Oncostomatinereigulare</i>	HO, PB
Common Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>	AV
Yellow-olive Flycatcher	<i>Tolmomyias sulphurescens</i>	PB, L

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Empidonaxflaviventris</i>	Common daily
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornisnigricans</i>	PB, along streams
Bright-rumped Attila	<i>Attila spadiceus</i>	HO, PB daily
Rufous Mourner	<i>Rhytipternaholerythra</i>	PB
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchustuberculifer</i>	PB, L
Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchuscrinitus</i>	PB
Brown-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchustyrannulus</i>	PB
Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangussulphuratus</i>	PB
Boat-billed Flycatcher	<i>Megarynychuspitangua</i>	PB, L
Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetessimilis</i>	PB, L
Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannusmelancholicus</i>	Open country along rds
Becards, Tityras& Allies	Tityridae	
Thrush-like Schiffornis	<i>Schiffornisturdina</i>	HO, L
Rose-throated Becard	<i>Pachyramphusaglaiae</i>	AV, L
Masked Tityra	<i>Tityrasemifasciata</i>	PB, L
Black-crowned Tityra	<i>Tityra inquisitor</i>	CS, PB
Cotingas	Cotingidae	
Lovely Cotinga	<i>Cotingaamabilis</i>	PB, WOW! What a show!
Manakins	Pipridae	
White-collared Manakin	<i>Manacuscandei</i>	PB
Red-capped Manakin	<i>Pipramentalis</i>	PB
Vireos	Vireonidae	
White-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo griseus</i>	PB
Philadelphia Vireo	<i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>	PB
Lesser Greenlet	<i>Hylophilusdecurtatus</i>	PB
Crows, Jays and Magpies	Corvidae	
Brown Jay	<i>Psilorhinusmorio</i>	PB

Swallows

Gray-breasted Martin	<i>Prognechalybea</i>	AV
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Mangrove Swallow	<i>Tachycinetaalbilinea</i>	AV
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Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryxserripennis</i>	AV
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Wrens**Troglodytidae**

House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	L
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Spot-breasted Wren	<i>Pheugopediusmaculipectus</i>	L
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White-breasted Wood-Wren	<i>Henicorhinaleucosticta</i>	PB
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Gnatcatchers**Poliptilidae**

Long-billed Gnatwren	<i>Ramphocaenusmelanurus</i>	PB
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White-lored Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliptilaalbiloris</i>	AV
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Thrushes and Allies**Turdidae**

Slate-colored Solitaire	<i>Myadestes unicolor</i>	PB, rare this low
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Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichlamustelina</i>	PB
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Clay-colored Thrush	<i>Turdusgrayi</i>	PB and everywhere
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White-throated Thrush	<i>Turdusassimilis</i>	PB
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Mockingbirds and Thrashers**Mimidae**

Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetellacarolinensis</i>	Abundant PB
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Tropical Mockingbird	<i>Mimusgilvus</i>	AV
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New World Warblers**Parulidae**

Louisiana Waterthrush	<i>Parkesiamotacilla</i>	HO, PB
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Northern Waterthrush	<i>Parkesianoveboracensis</i>	CS
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Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotiltavaria</i>	PB, CS
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Gray-crowned Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypispoliocephala</i>	AV, L
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Kentucky Warbler	<i>Geothlypisformosa</i>	PB
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Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypistrichas</i>	CS
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Hooded Warbler	<i>Setophagacitрина</i>	PB
American Redstart	<i>Setophagaruticilla</i>	PB, CS, L
Northern Parula	<i>Setophagaamericana</i>	PB
Magnolia Warbler	<i>Setophaga magnolia</i>	PB, The commonest N Am warbler
Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophagapetechia</i>	PB, AV
Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Setophagapensylvanica</i>	PB, L
Yellow-throated Warbler	<i>Setophagadominica</i>	PB
Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Setophagavirens</i>	PB

Tanagers and Allies Thraupidae

White-shouldered Tanager	<i>Tachyphonusluctuosus</i>	PB
Passerini's Tanager	<i>Ramphoceluspasserinii</i>	PB, L
Yellow-winged Tanager	<i>Thraupisabbas</i>	PB
Golden-hooded Tanager	<i>Tangaralarvata</i>	PB
Green Honeycreeper	<i>Chlorophanesspiza</i>	PB

Genus IncertaeSedis Genus IncertaeSedis

Buff-throated Saltator	<i>Saltatormaximus</i>	PB
Black-headed Saltator	<i>Saltatoratriceps</i>	PB

Buntings, Sparrows and Allies Emberizidae

Blue-black Grassquit	<i>Volatiniajacarina</i>	CS
Variable Seedeater	<i>Sporophilaamericana (corvina)</i>	L
White-collared Seedeater	<i>Sporophilatorqueola</i>	CS, L
Thick-billed Seed-Finch	<i>Oryzoborusfunereus</i>	L
Black-striped Sparrow	<i>Arremonopsconirostris</i>	L

Cardinals and Allies Cardinalidae

Summer Tanager	<i>Pirangarubra</i>	PB, L
Red-crowned Ant-Tanager	<i>Habiarubica</i>	PB

Red-throated Ant-Tanager	<i>Habiafuscicauda</i>	PB
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	PB
Blue-black Grosbeak	<i>Cyanocopsacyanoides</i>	PB, L
Troupials and Allies	Icteridae	
Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	AV
Melodious Blackbird	<i>Dives dives</i>	PB
Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	Common daily
Giant Cowbird	<i>Molothrus oryzivorus</i>	L at the Montezuma Oropendola colony
Black-cowled Oriole	<i>Icterus prothemelas</i>	PB, L
Orchard Oriole	<i>Icterus spurius</i>	PB
Spot-breasted Oriole	<i>Icterus pectoralis</i>	CS
Altamira Oriole	<i>Icterus gularis</i>	AV
Baltimore Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	PB, AV, L
Yellow-billed Cacique	<i>Amblycercus holosericeus</i>	PB, L
Chestnut-headed Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius wagleri</i>	PB common daily
Montezuma Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius montezuma</i>	PB common daily
Siskins, Crossbills and Allies	Fringillidae	
Yellow-throated Euphonia	<i>Euphonia hirundinacea</i>	PB
Olive-backed Euphonia	<i>Euphonia gouldi</i>	PB
White-vented Euphonia	<i>Euphonia minuta</i>	PB
Old World Sparrows	Passeridae	
House Sparrow (I)	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	towns
MAMMALS		
Large Monkeys	Atelidae	
Mantled Howler Monkey	<i>Alouatta palliata</i>	CS
Squirrels, Prairie Dogs &	Sciuridae	

Marmot

Variegated Squirrel *Sciurusvariegatoides* PB

Agoutis**Dasyproctidae**

Central American Agouti *Dasyproctapunctata* PB, common on the grounds

Sheath-tailed Bats**Emballonuridae**

Long-nosed (Proboscis) Bat *Rhynchonycterisnaso* CS

Raccoons**Procyonidae**

White-nosed Coati *Nasuanarica* PB, feeder raiders

Cats**Felidae**

Margay *Leopardusweidii* Excellent encounter, PB