HONDURAS:
THE LODGE AT PICO BONITO
FEBRUARY 8–15, 2014

LEADER: BRIAN GIBBONS
COMPILED BY: BRIAN GIBBONS

VICTOR EMMANUEL NATURE TOURS, INC.
2525 WALLINGWOOD DRIVE, SUITE 1003
AUSTIN, TX 78746
WWW.VENTBIRD.COM
The Lodge at Pico Bonito provides a wonderful base for exploration of the Caribbean lowlands of Honduras. On the days we left the lodge to bird other areas, we had to pry ourselves away from the myriad birds that call the lodge grounds home. When we did escape, we were thrilled by a miniature train ride (the burra), the mangrove lagoons of Cuero y Salado, the hummingbird show at Rio Santiago, the desert-like Aguan Valley, and the forests of the Lancetilla Botanical Garden. German Martinez provided local insight into much of our birding.

On our first afternoon we were mesmerized by the Violet Sabrewings, Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds, Long-billed Hermits, and White-necked Jacobins warring over the feeders. The next morning we barely made it 200 yards from the lodge, birding at glacial speed enjoying parrots, trogons, woodpeckers, manakins, motmots, and those Lovely Cotingas. Time and again we dined on great food while watching the comings and goings of agoutis and various beautiful avian life forms. A Black Hawk-Eagle soared up for us midmorning, proclaiming its territory over the landscape below. The roosting pair of camouflaged Great Potoos blended into the branch each time we passed; some of us even lucked into a potoo that was hunting from the tower one night during our Red-eyed Treefrog hunt.

The next morning found us cruising through agricultural fields on the way to Cuero y Salado. It was worth stopping the train for a Laughing Falcon spotted by Donna. We also saw our first Turquoise-browed Motmot and Lesser Yellow-headed Vultures during our journey to the lagoon. Once aboard, we cruised quiet waters, spotting jacanas, kingfishers, herons, and some Howler Monkeys. Each day we were delighted by the Keel-billed Toucans and Collared Aracaris that fed on Cecropia and Aguacatillo fruits around the grounds.
Our third morning found us traveling to Lancetilla Botanical Garden near Tela. Again, our walking was minimized by simply watching the birds that came to the roadside for us: Black-headed Trogon, Common Black-Hawk, Squirrel Cuckoo, and warblers galore, including a rare and cooperative Swainson’s Warbler. Along the road we observed the refurbishing of a Montezuma Oropendola colony; they were coming and going with long strands of grass to tidy up the pendant nests. Giant Cowbirds watched the process, waiting for an unattended nest in the coming weeks in which they could pawn off their eggs! Lunch at Rio Santiago Nature Resort was distracting to say the least. Hummingbirds of eleven species zipped about our heads as we enjoyed our lemonadas. Band-tailed Barthroa, Scaly-breasted Hummingbird, Brown Violetear, and Green-breasted Mango were new for us. In the woods, on the simple Keel-billed Motmot trek, we failed. On the longer march, after a strenuous hike, we called in a pair that watched us for fifteen minutes.

The Aguan valley is just 40 kilometers away, but it took us four hours to get there. Our quarry for this expedition was the endemic Honduran Emerald in the rain shadow valley. Acacias, cactus, and other succulents replaced the verdant forest of the Caribbean slope. The Emerald proved easy for us and we enjoyed the very different habitat. White-ored Gnatcatchers and White-bellied Wrens were a couple of the other goodies we found in the Emerald reserve. Along the way, a birding stop along a river produced several new birds for us. White-fronted Parrot, Common Tody-Flycatcher, Black-crowned Tityra, Tropical Mockingbird, Mangrove Swallow, and Gray-breasted Martins were all tallied. That night a few hardy souls went owling; we got great brief views of a Mottled Owl over the trail.
On our final morning we enjoyed the grounds of The Lodge at Pico Bonito again. Slaty-tailed and Gartered trogons plucked fruit from the trees and called their partners on this Valentine’s Day. We enjoyed great looks at many of the birds we had seen earlier in the week, but also managed a few new sightings like a very cooperative Emerald Toucanet eyeing the fruits like the other toucans we’d seen. After hearing the Gray-chested Dove daily, one finally obliged by walking down the trail in front of us. Our stealthy approach to the frog pond paid off as Gwen spotted a furtive Sunbittern sneaking away from us. As it flew, I thought that would be the last we’d see of it, but to our amazement it landed in the wide trail and then disappeared over the edge to stalk along the river. Also delighting us on this last day were a very cooperative Keel-billed Motmot and a Pale-billed Woodpecker that allowed great views. Wedge-billed Woodcreeper and Royal Flycatcher were a couple more confiding birds on our last morning.

Finally, after exceptional birding and eating well for several days, we were off to Copan and new sights and birds.

Thank you for traveling with VENT. I look forward to the next time!

Brian Gibbons

Itinerary

8 February 2014 Transfer from San Pedro Sula (SPS) to The Lodge at Pico Bonito
9 February 2014 Pico Bonito grounds and tower 1
10 February 2014 Cuero y Salado Refuge in the morning, afternoon second growth and tower of Pico Bonito grounds
11 February 2014 Lancetilla Botanical Garden morning, Lunch and afternoon at Rio Santiago Nature Resort
12 February 2014 Pico Bonito trails and grounds
13 February 2014 Aguan valley trip for Honduran Emerald
14 February 2014 Pico Bonito lodge grounds in the morning, 2pm transfer to SPS for most
183 species seen and heard

**Tinamous**
- Great Tinamou
- Little Tinamou

**Waterfowl**
- Blue-winged Teal

**Guans, Chachalacas & Curassows**
- Plain Chachalaca

**Storks**
- Wood Stork

**Cormorants**
- Neotropical Cormorant

**Heron, Egrets and Bitterns**
- Bare-throated Tiger-Heron
- Great Egret
- Snowy Egret
- Little Blue Heron
- Tricolored Heron
- Cattle Egret
- Green Heron
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
- Boat-billed Heron

**New World Vultures**
- Black Vulture
- Turkey Vulture
- Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture

**Osprey**

**Hawks, Eagles and Kites**
- White-tailed Kite
- Common Black-Hawk
- Roadside Hawk
- Broad-winged Hawk
- Gray Hawk
- Short-tailed Hawk
- Black Hawk-Eagle
- Black-and-White Hawk-Eagle

**Sunbittern**
- Sunbittern

**Rails, Gallinules and Coots**
- Ruddy Crake
- Gray-necked Wood-Rail

**Jacanas**
- Northern Jacana

**Sandpipers and Allies**
- Spotted Sandpiper
- Solitary Sandpiper

**Pigeons and Doves**
- Rock Pigeon (I)
Pale-vented Pigeon
Red-billed Pigeon
White-winged Dove
Inca Dove
Common Ground-Dove
Ruddy Ground-Dove
Gray-chested Dove

Cuckoos
Squirrel Cuckoo
Lesser Ground-Cuckoo
Lesser Roadrunner
Groove-billed Ani

Owls
Vermiculated Screech-Owl
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl
Mottled Owl
Black-and-white Owl

Potoos
Great Potoo

Swifts
White-collared Swift
Vaux's Swift

Hummingbirds
White-necked Jacobin
Band-tailed Barthroat
Long-billed Hermit
Stripe-throated Hermit
Brown Violetear
Purple-crowned Fairy
Green-breasted Mango
Scaly-breasted Hummingbird
Violet Sabrewing
Crowned Woodnymph
White-bellied Emerald
Honduran Emerald (E)
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird

Trogons
Slaty-tailed Trogon
Black-headed Trogon
Gartered Trogon

Motmots
Blue-crowned Motmot
Keel-billed Motmot
Turquoise-browed Motmot

Kingfishers
Ringed Kingfisher
Belted Kingfisher
Amazon Kingfisher
Green Kingfisher
American Pygmy Kingfisher

Patagioenas cayennensis
Patagioenas flavirostris
Zenaida asiatica
Columbina inca
Columbina passerina
Columbina talpaci
Leptotila cassinii

Cuculidae
Pia yacayana
Morococcyx erythropsyurus
Geococcyx velox
Crotophaga sulcirostris

Strigidae
Megasocypus guatemalae
Glaucidium brasiliense
Ciccaba virgata
Ciccabanigrolineata

Nyctibiidae
Nyctibius grandis

Apodidae
Streptoprocne zonaris

Chaetura vauxi

Trochilidae
Florisuga mellivora
Threnetes ruckeri
Phaethornis longirostris
Phaethornis striigularis
Colibri delphinae
Heliothryx barroti
Anthuracophox peregrinii
Phaeocrocuta coccinigaster
Campylopterus hemileucurus
Thalurania colombyca
Amazilia cantiana
Amazilia luciae
Amazilia coccinigaster

Trogonidae
Trogon massena
Trogon melanocephalus
Trogon caligatus

Momotidae
Momotus momota (coeruleiceps)
Electron carinatum
Eumomota superciliosa

Alcedinidae
Megaceryle torquata
Megaceryle alcyon
Chloroceryle amazona
Chloroceryle americana
Chloroceryla eana
Jacamars
Galbulidae
Rufous-tailed Jacamar
Galbularuficauda

Toucans
Ramphastidae
Emerald Toucanet
Aulacorhynchusprasinus
Collared Aracari
Pteroglossustorquatus
Keel-billed Toucan
Ramphastossulfuratus

Woodpeckers
Picidae
Black-cheeked Woodpecker
Melanerpespucheranii
Golden-fronted Woodpecker
Melanerpesaurifrons
Chestnut-colored Woodpecker
Celeuscastaneus
Lineated Woodpecker
Dryocopuslineatus
Pale-billed Woodpecker
Campephilusguatemalensis

Falcons & Caracaras
Falconidae
Crested Caracara
Caracara cheriway
Laughing Falcon
Herpetotherescachinnans
American Kestrel
Falco sparverius
Bat Falcon
Falco rufigularis
Peregrine Falcon
Falco peregrinus

Parrots
Psittacidae
Olive-throated Parakeet
Aratinganana
Brown-hooded Parrot
Pyriliahaematotis
White-crowned Parrot
Pionussenilis
White-fronted Parrot
Amazonaalbifrons

Typical Antbirds
Thamnophilidae
Great Antshrike
Taraba major
Barred Antshrike
Thamnophilusdoliatus

Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers
Furnariidae
Tawny-winged Woodcreeper
Dendrocinclaanabatina
Wedge-billed Woodcreeper
Glyphorynchusspirurus
Ivory-billed Woodcreeper
Xiphorhynchusflavigaster
Streak-headed Woodcreeper
Lepidocolaptessouleyetii

Tyrant Flycatchers
Furnariidae
Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet
Ornithionsemiflavum
Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet
Camptostomaimberbe
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher
Mionectesoleagineus
Paltry Tyrannulet
Zimmeriusvilissimus
Common Tody-Flycatcher
Todirostrumcinereum
Yellow-olive Flycatcher
Tolmomyiassulphurescens
Royal Flycatcher
Onychorhynchuscoronatus
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
Empidonaxflaviventris
Black Phoebe
Sayornisnigricans
Bright-rumped Attila
Attilaspadiceus
Rufous Mourner
Rhytipternaholerythra
Great Crested Flycatcher
Myiarchuscirratus
Brown-crested Flycatcher
Myiarchustyrannulus
Great Kiskadee
Pitangussulphuratus
Boat-billed Flycatcher
Megarynchuspitangus
Social Flycatcher
Myiozetetessimilis
Tropical Kingbird
Tyrannusmelancholicus

Becards, Tityras & Allies
Tityridae
Rose-throated Becard
Masked Tityra
Black-crowned Tityra

Cotingas
Lovely Cotinga

Manakins
Red-capped Manakin
White-collared Manakin

Vireos
White-eyed Vireo
Yellow-throated Vireo
Lesser Greenlet

Cotingaamabilis

Pipridae
Ceratopiprimentalis
Manacusascandei

VIREOIDS
Vireo griseus
Vireo flavifrons
Hylophilusdecurtaltus

Corvidae
Psilorhinusmorio

Hirundinidae
Prognechalybea
Tachycinetaalbilinea
Hirundorustica

Troglodytidae
Troglydotes aedon
Pheugopediusmaculicuimpus
Uropsilaleucogastra
Henicorhinaleucosticta

Polioptilidae
Polioptilaalbiloris

Turdidae
Hylocichlamustelina
Turdusgrayi
Turdussimilis

Mimidae
Dumetellaasciiuens
Mimusgilvus

Parulidae
Seiurasaurocapilla
Helmitherosvermivorum
Parkesianoveboracensis
Vermivoracyanoptera
Mniotiltavaria
Limnothyrippsswainsonii
Oreothlypisperegrina
Geothlypisformosa
Geothlypitrichas
Setophagacitrina
Setophagaranticella
Setophagaamericana
Setophaga magnolia
Setophagapetechina
Setophagapensylvanica
Setophagadominica
Setophagavirens
Tanagers and Allies
Black-throated Shrike-Tanager
White-shouldered Tanager
Passerini’s Tanager
Blue-gray Tanager
Yellow-winged Tanager
Green Honeycreeper

Genus IncertaeSedis
Black-headed Saltator

Buntings, Sparrows and Allies
Blue-black Grassquit
Variable Seedeater
White-collared Seedeater
Thick-billed Seed-Finch

Cardinals and Allies
Summer Tanager
Red-crowned Ant-Tanager
Red-throated Ant-Tanager
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Blue-black Grosbeak

Troupials and Allies
Eastern Meadowlark
Melodious Blackbird
Great-tailed Grackle
Giant Cowbird
Orchard Oriole
Baltimore Oriole
Chestnut-headed Oropendola
Montezuma Oropendola

Siskins, Crossbills and Allies
Scrub Euphonia
Olive-backed Euphonia

Thraupidae
Lanioaurantius
Tachyphonusluctuosus
Ramphoceluspasserinii
Thraupisepiscopus
Thraupisabbas
Chlorophanesspiza

Genus IncertaeSedis
Saltatoratriceps

Emberizidae
Volatiniajacarina
Sporophilaamericana (corvina)
Sporophilatorqueola
Oryzoborusfinereus

Cardinalidae
Pirangarubra
Habiarubica
Habiafuscicauda
Pheucticusludovicianus
Cyanocompsacyanoides

Icteridae
Sturnella magna
Dives dives
Quiscalusmexicanus
Molothrusoryzivorus
Icterus spurius
Icterus galbula
Psarocoliuswagleri
Psarocoliusmontezuma

Fringillidae
Euphoniaspiza
Euphoniaspiza

Large Monkeys
Mantled Howler Monkey

Squirrels, Prairie Dogs & Marmot
Variegated Squirrel
Agoutis
Central American Agouti

Atelidae
Alouattapalliata

Sciuridae
Sciurusvariegatoides

Dasyproctidae
Dasyproctapunctata

Other Fauna
American Crocodile
Brown Basalisk
Boa Constrictor
Coral Snake
White-lipped Mud Turtle
Craig’s green snake, vine?