HONDURAS: THE LODGE AT PICO BONITO
FEBRUARY 7–14, 2015

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HONDURAS: THE LODGE AT PICO BONITO  
February 7–14, 2015  
By Brian Gibbons

We enjoyed fine weather for the duration of our trip to the beautiful Lodge at Pico Bonito. Early arrivers had to settle for absolute downpour for their first couple of days in Honduras. We even lucked into a cloudy morning in the normally hot and dry Aguan Valley of the interior. Fruit trees of a variety of species were luring the Lovely Cotingas into view, and on our first morning we were overrun with these beautiful denizens of the forests of Pico Bonito National Park. Cruising the mangrove-lined lagoons of Cuero y Salado Refuge got us close to Howler Monkeys, tiger-herons, and Boat-billed Herons. Rio Santiago Nature Resort produced hummingbirds galore, as usual. Lancetilla added tanagers, warblers, and trogons to the mix of our trip, which topped out at 191 species.

On our first morning we had excellent luck with trogons, tallying all four species that are right at the lodge: Collared, Gartered, Slaty-tailed, and Black-headed. Interrupting our viewing of the Lovely Cotingas were a Blue-crowned Motmot and a Slate-colored Solitaire that begged for attention. As the activity waned at this grove of fruit trees, a White Hawk soared up across the valley of the Rio Coloradito. Keel-billed Toucans were often in the area too, but proved tough to get a great look at.

Cuero y Salado train and boat trips proved very productive for birding and a very cooperative croc. A troop of Mantled Howler Monkeys lounged about as some dined on leaves, allowing point-blank views of these lethargic primates. Tiger-herons were sighted a couple of times in the
red mangroves of the refuge. In one mangrove tunnel we spied a pair of American Pygmy Kingfishers delivering tiny minnows to their young that were tucked into a tunnel they had excavated into the upturned root ball of a fallen tree. Our prize of the swamp had to be a very cooperative Sungrebe that everyone saw well; these birds are excellent at melting into their flooded forest homes. Also seen during our day were Northern Jacana, Gray-necked Wood-Rail, Mangrove Cuckoo, Wood Storks, and tons of herons and egrets in the flooded fields and marsh. For some the highlight was the rickety burra (a small narrow-gauge railcar that took us to the lagoon). Again we relaxed and birded the lodge grounds in the afternoon.

An early departure was necessary for the long drive over to the interior Aguan Valley, home of Honduras’s only endemic bird, the Honduran Emerald; we found many easily in the reserve, but I continue to be disturbed by the amount of grazing I see in the reserve each year. White-bellied Wren and White-lored Gnatcatchers also added to the diversity of this unique arid landscape. After we admired a Boat-billed Flycatcher, we were treated to a delicious lunch in a local woman’s home.

Rio Santiago Nature Resort is known for its hundreds of hummingbird feeders. This year they did not disappoint, giving us Band-tailed Barthroath, Scaly-breasted Hummingbird, and Green-breasted Mango among the ten species that regularly visit the feeders this time of year. After a short hike into the forest we found a Keel-billed Motmot calling away, and after some searching we got decent scope views looking up a steep slope. Flycatchers, tanagers, warblers, trogons, aracaris, and more all call the forest here home, and we saw a great variety of birds. Along the Rio Santiago we got good scope views of the Amazon Kingfisher.
Near Tela we visited the Lancetilla Botanical Garden famed for its collection of orchids and other tropical flora. The roadsides gave us great birding and we enjoyed the Montezuma Oropendola colony that was under reconstruction, under the watchful eyes of Giant Cowbirds, eager to shirk their parental responsibilities. Passerini’s and Crimson-collared tanagers brightened up the roadside vegetation with their glowing reds. Thick-billed Seed-Finch, while not stunning, was a good find too. Rufous-tailed Jacamar came out briefly for a look. As it was getting towards noon we came upon a great flock near a stream. White-collared Manakin, Worm-eating Warbler, flycatchers, woodcreepers, and even a Plain Xenops moved through as a throng. Eventually the birds moved off and we had to return to the lodge for another fantastic meal.
The Lodge at Pico Bonito provides an excellent base from which to explore northern Honduras. We enjoyed the comforts and excellent food of this top-rated lodge. Each day during lunch the hummingbirds were zipping all over the garden, and the Melostomes were full of tanagers, euphonias, flycatchers, and warblers. I hope you enjoyed Honduras, and I look forward to our next birding adventure.

**ITINERARY:**

8 February, Pico Bonito Lodge grounds (PBL)  
9 February, Cuero y Saldo Refuge (CS) morning, afternoon PBL grounds  
10 February, Aguan Valley (AV), late afternoon PBL  
11 February, Rio Santiago Nature Resort (RSNR), afternoon PBL grounds  
12 February, Lancetilla Botanical Garden (L), afternoon PBL grounds  
13 February, PBL grounds all day, afternoon outing very short due to rain

**BIRDS:**

**Tinamous**
- Great Tinamou  
- Little Tinamou

**Waterfowl**
- Muscovy Duck  
- Blue-winged Teal

**Storks**
- Wood Stork

**Cormorants**
- Neotropic Cormorant

**Herons, Egrets and Bitterns**
- 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

**Tinamidae**
- *Tinamus major*  
- *Crypturellus soui*

**Anatidae**
- *Cairina moschata*  
- *Anas discors*

**Ciconiidae**
- *Mycteria americana*

**Phalacrocoracidae**
- *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*

**Ardeidae**
- *Ardea alba*  
- *Egretta thula*  
- *Egretta caerulea*  
- *Egretta tricolor*  
- *Bubulcus ibis*  
- *Butorides virescens*  
- *Nyctanassa violacea*  
- *Cochlearius cochlearius*  
- *Coragyps atratus*  
- *Cathartes aura*  
- *Cathartes burrovianus*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Vulture</strong></th>
<th><strong>Osprey</strong></th>
<th><strong>Pandionidae</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Osprey</td>
<td>Pandion haliaetus</td>
<td>CS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Hawks, Eagles and Kites**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>White-tailed Kite</th>
<th>Elanus leucurus</th>
<th>Along the highway</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Common Black-Hawk</td>
<td>Buteogallus anthracinus</td>
<td>PBL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Hawk</td>
<td>Pseudastur albicollis</td>
<td>PBL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roadside Hawk</td>
<td>Buteo magnirostris</td>
<td>PBL &amp; AV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broad-winged Hawk</td>
<td>Buteo platypterus</td>
<td>PBL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gray Hawk</td>
<td>Buteo brachyrurus</td>
<td>PBL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-tailed Hawk</td>
<td>Spizaetus tyrannus</td>
<td>PBL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Hawk-Eagle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Rails, Gallinules and Coots**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coast Crake</th>
<th>Laterallus ruber</th>
<th>HO at L</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gray-necked Wood-Rail</td>
<td>Aramides cajaneus</td>
<td>CS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Coot</td>
<td>Fulica americana</td>
<td>AV</td>
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**Sungebre**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sungrebe</th>
<th>Heliornis fulica</th>
<th>CS</th>
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</thead>
</table>

**Jacanas**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Northern Jacana</th>
<th>Jacana spinosa</th>
<th>CS</th>
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</thead>
</table>

**Sandpipers and Allies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spotted Sandpiper</th>
<th>Actitis macularius</th>
<th>RSNR</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Solitary Sandpiper</td>
<td>Tringa solitaria</td>
<td>CS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Least Sandpiper</td>
<td>Calidris minutilla</td>
<td>CS</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Pigeons and Doves**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rock Pigeon (I)</th>
<th>Columba livia</th>
<th>Towns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pale-vented Pigeon</td>
<td>Patagioenas cayennensis</td>
<td>CS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-billed Pigeon</td>
<td>Patagioenas flavirostris</td>
<td>PBL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-winged Dove</td>
<td>Zenaida asiatica</td>
<td>Common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inca Dove</td>
<td>Columbina inca</td>
<td>Common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Ground-Dove</td>
<td>Columbina passerina</td>
<td>Common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruddy Ground-Dove</td>
<td>Columbina talpacoti</td>
<td>Common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Ground-Dove</td>
<td>Claravis pretiosa</td>
<td>Common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-tipped Dove</td>
<td>Leptotila verreauxi</td>
<td>PBL for some lucky folks</td>
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**Cuckoos**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Squirrel Cuckoo</th>
<th>Piaya cayana</th>
<th>PBL</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mangrove Cuckoo</td>
<td>Coccyzus minor</td>
<td>CS from the train</td>
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<tr>
<td>Groove-billed Ani</td>
<td>Crotophaga sulcirostris</td>
<td>Common along roadsides</td>
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</table>

**Owls**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vermiculated Screech-Owl</th>
<th>Megascops guatemalae</th>
<th>PBL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl</td>
<td>Glaucidium brasilianum</td>
<td>PBL</td>
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Victor Emanuel Nature Tours 6 Honduras: The Lodge at Pico Bonito 2015
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Order</th>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mottled Owl</td>
<td>Ciccaba virgata</td>
<td>HO PBL</td>
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<td>Black-and-white Owl</td>
<td>Ciccaba nigrolineata</td>
<td>HO PBL</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Potoos</td>
<td>Nyctibiidae</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Great Potoo</td>
<td>Nyctibius grandis</td>
<td>PBL at its day roost</td>
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<td>Swifts</td>
<td>Apodidae</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>White-collared Swift</td>
<td>Streptoprocne zonaris</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Vaux's Swift</td>
<td>Chaetura vauxi</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hummingbirds</td>
<td>Trochilidae</td>
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<td></td>
<td>White-necked Jacobin</td>
<td>Florisuga mellivora</td>
<td>PBL &amp; RSNR</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Band-tailed Barthroth</td>
<td>Threnetes ruckeri</td>
<td>RSNR</td>
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<td>Long-billed Hermit</td>
<td>Phaethornis longirostris</td>
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<td>Stripe-throated Hermit</td>
<td>Phaethornis striigularis</td>
<td>PBL &amp; RSNR</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Purple-crowned Fairy</td>
<td>Heliotheryx baroti</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Green-breasted Mango</td>
<td>Anthractothorax prevostii</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Violet-headed Hummingbird</td>
<td>Klais guimeti</td>
<td>PBL from the tower</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Scaly-breasted Hummingbird</td>
<td>Phaeochroa cuvierii</td>
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<td>Violet Sabrewing</td>
<td>Campylopterus hemileucurus</td>
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<td>Stripe-tailed Hummingbird</td>
<td>Eupherusa eximia</td>
<td>PBL</td>
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<td>Crowned Woodnymph</td>
<td>Thalurania colombica</td>
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<td>White-bellied Emerald</td>
<td>Amazilia candida</td>
<td>PBL &amp; RSNR</td>
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<td>Honduran Emerald (E)</td>
<td>Amazilia luciae</td>
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<td>Rufous-tailed Hummingbird</td>
<td>Amazilia tzacatl</td>
<td>PBL &amp; RSNR</td>
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<td>Trogons</td>
<td>Trogonidae</td>
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<td>Slaty-tailed Trogon</td>
<td>Trogon massena</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Black-headed Trogon</td>
<td>Trogon melanocephalus</td>
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<td>Gartered Trogon</td>
<td>Trogon caligatus</td>
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<td>Collared Trogon</td>
<td>Trogon collaris</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Motmots</td>
<td>Momotidae</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Blue-crowned Motmot</td>
<td>Momotus momota (coeruleiceps)</td>
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<td>Keel-billed Motmot</td>
<td>Electron carinatum</td>
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<td>Turquoise-browed Motmot</td>
<td>Eumomota superciliosa</td>
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<td>Kingfishers</td>
<td>Alcedinidae</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ringed Kingfisher</td>
<td>Megaceryle torquata</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Belted Kingfisher</td>
<td>Megaceryle alcyon</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amazon Kingfisher</td>
<td>Chloroceryle amazona</td>
<td>CS</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Green Kingfisher</td>
<td>Chloroceryle americana</td>
<td>CS</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>American Pygmy Kingfisher</td>
<td>Chloroceryle aenea</td>
<td>CS at a nest site!</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Jacamars</td>
<td>Galbulidae</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rufous-tailed Jacamar</td>
<td>Galbula ruficauda</td>
<td>PBL &amp; L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Toucans</td>
<td>Ramphastidae</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Collared Aracari  
**Pteroglossus torquatus**  
PBL & L

Keel-billed Toucan  
**Ramphastos sulfuratus**  
PBL delightfully common

**Picidae**

Black-cheeked Woodpecker  
**Melanerpes pucherani**  
PBL

Golden-fronted Woodpecker  
**Melanerpes aurifrons**  
PBL & L

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
**Sphyrapicus varius**  
L

Chestnut-colored Woodpecker  
**Celeus castaneus**  
PBL

Lineated Woodpecker  
**Dryocopus lineatus**  
PBL

Pale-billed Woodpecker  
**Campephilus guatemalensis**  
PBL

**Falcons and Caracaras**

Crested Caracara  
**Caracara cheriway**  
Along the highway & AV

American Kestrel  
**Falco sparverius**  
Along the highway & AV

Bat Falcon  
**Falco rufigularis**  
L

**Parrots**

Olive-throated Parakeet  
**Aratinga nana**  
PBL

Brown-hooded Parrot  
**Pyrilia haematotis**  
RSNR

White-crowned Parrot  
**Pionus senilis**  
PBL

White-fronted Parrot  
**Amazona albifrons**  
AV

Red-lored Parrot  
**Amazona autumnalis**  
CS

**Typical Antbirds**

Great Antshrike  
**Taraba major**  
PBL

Russet Antshrike  
**Thamnistes anabatinus**  
PBL

**Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers**

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper  
**Glyphorynchus spirurus**  
PBL

Ivory-billed Woodcreeper  
**Xiphorhynchus flavigaster**  
PBL

Streak-headed Woodcreeper  
**Lepidocolaptes souleyetii**  
PBL

Plain Xenops  
**Xenops minutus**  
L

Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner  
**Automolus ochrolaemus**  
PBL

**Tyrant Flycatchers**

Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet  
**Ornithion semiflavum**  
PBL

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher  
**Mionectes oleagineus**  
PBL

Paltry Tyrannulet  
**Zimmerius vilissimus**  
PBL

Yellow-olive Flycatcher  
**Tolmomyias sulphurescens**  
PBL

Royal Flycatcher  
**Onychorhynchus coronatus**  
HO at PBL

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher  
**Empidonax flaviventris**  
PBL, common overwinterer

Bright-rumped Attila  
**Attila spadiceus**  
PBL

Rufous Mourner  
**Rhytipterna holerythra**  
PBL

Dusky-capped Flycatcher  
**Myiarchus tuberculifer**  
PBL

Great Crested Flycatcher  
**Myiarchus crinitus**  
PBL
Brown-crested Flycatcher
Great Kiskadee
Boat-billed Flycatcher
Social Flycatcher
Tropical Kingbird
Fork-tailed Flycatcher

**Becards, Tityras & Allies**

N. Schiffornis
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

**Crow, Jays and Magpies**
Brown Jay

**Swallows**
Mangrove Swallow
Barn Swallow

**Wrens**
House Wren
Spot-breasted Wren
White-bellied Wren
White-breasted Wood-Wren

**Gnatcatchers**
White-lored Gnatcatcher
Tropical Gnatcatcher

**Thrushes and Allies**
Slate-colored Solitaire
Wood Thrush
Clay-colored Thrush
White-throated Thrush

**Mockingbirds and Thrashers**
Gray Catbird

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**Tityridae**

- Myiarchus tyrannulus
- Pitangus sulphuratus
- Megarynchus pitangua
- Myiopagurus similis
- Tyrannus melancholicus
- Tyrannus savana

**Cotingidae**

- Cotinga amabili

**Pipridae**

- Ceratopipra mentalis
- Manacus canedi

**Vireonidae**

- Vireo griseus
- Vireo flavifrons
- Hylophilus decurtatus

**Corvidae**

- Psilorhinus morio

**Hirundinidae**

- Tachycineta albilina
- Hirundo rustica

**Trogodytidae**

- Troglodytes aedon
- Pheugopedius maculipunctus
- Uropsila leucogaster
- Henicorhina leucosticta

**Polioptilidae**

- Polioptila albiloris
- Polioptila plumbea

**Turdidae**

- Myadestes unicolor
- Hylocichla mustelina
- Turdus grayi
- Turdus assimilis

**Mimidae**

- Dumetella carolinensis

---

PBL & AV
Common
PBL
Common
PBL
AV

CS
PBL
PBL
PBL

PBL, Excellent looks at many birds!
PBL
L
PBL & RSNR
PBL & L
L

Annoyingly loud at PBL and elsewhere
AV
San Pedro Sula airport
L
PBL, mostly HO
AV
PBL

PBL a rare find, down from cloud forest
PBL common overwintering bird
PBL and elsewhere, Common
PBL

PBL and elsewhere, Common
Tropical Mockingbird

**New World Warblers**

Worm-eating Warbler
Louisiana Waterthrush
Northern Waterthrush
Golden-winged Warbler
Blue-winged Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler
Tennessee Warbler
Kentucky Warbler
Hooded Warbler
American Redstart
Magnolia Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler

**Tanagers and Allies**

White-shouldered Tanager
Crimson-collared Tanager
Passerini’s Tanager
Blue-gray Tanager
Yellow-winged Tanager
Golden-hooded Tanager
Green Honeycreeper
Shining Honeycreeper

**Genus Incertae Sedis**

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
Indigo Bunting

**Parulidae**

*Mimus gilvus*  
Parulidae

*Helmitheros vermivorum*

*Parkesia motacilla*

*Parkesia noveboracensis*

*Vermivora chrysoptera*

*Vermivora cyanoptera*

*Mniotilta varia*

*Oreothlypis peregrina*

*Geothlypis formosa*

*Setophaga citrina*

*Setophaga ruticilla*

*Setophaga magnolia*

*Setophaga petechia*

*Setophaga pensylvanica*

*Setophaga virens*

**Thraupidae**

*Tachyphonus luctuosus*

*Ramphocelus sanguinolentus*

*Ramphocelus passerinii*

*Thraupis episcopus*

*Thraupis abbas*

*Tangara larvata*

*Chlorophanes spiza*

*Cyanerpes lucidus*

**Genus Incertae Sedis**

Saltator atriceps

**Emberizidae**

*Volatinia jacarina*

*Sporophila americana (corvina)*

*Sporophila torqueola*

*Oryzoborus funereus*

**Cardinalidae**

*Piranga rubra*

*Habia rubica*

*Habia fuscicauda*

*Pheucticus ludovicianus*

*Cyanocompsa cyanoides*

*Passerina cyanea*
**Troupials and Allies**
- Melodious Blackbird
- Great-tailed Grackle
- Bronzed Cowbird
- Giant Cowbird
- Black-cowled Oriole
- Spot-breasted Oriole
- Altamira Oriole
- Baltimore Oriole
- Yellow-billed Cacique
- Chestnut-headed Oropendola
- Montezuma Oropendola

**Icteridae**
- *Dives dives* Common
- *Quiscalus mexicanus* Common
- *Molothrus aeneus* San Pedro Sula along the highway
- *Molothrus oryzivorus* L at the large Oropedola colony
- *Icterus prothestelas* PBL for some lucky folks
- *Icterus pectoralis* PBL and area
- *Icterus gularis* AV
- *Icterus galbula* PBL, RSNR & L
- *Amblycercus holosericeus* HO at PBL
- *Psarocolius wagleri* PBL
- *Psarocolius montezuma* PBL, RSNR & L

**Siskins, Crossbills and Allies**
- Scrub Euphonia
- Olive-backed Euphonia
- Blue-crowned Chloropophnia

**Fringillidae**
- *Euphonia affinis* PBL
- *Euphonia gouldi* PBL
- *Chlorophonia occipitalis* HO at PBL

**Mammals:**

**Monkeys**
- White-throated Capuchin

**Large Monkeys**
- Mantled Howler Monkey

**Squirrels**
- Variegated Squirrel

**Agoutis**
- Central American Agouti

**Rabbits & Hares**
- Brazilian Rabbit

**Weasels**
- Neotropical Otter

**Raccoons**
- White-nosed Coati

**Other Fauna**
- American Crocodile
- Brown Basalisk
- Green Iguana
- Slider Turtle sp

**Cebidae**
- *Cebus capuchinus* PBL

**Atelidae**
- *Alouatta palliata* CS, an incredibly cooperative troop

**Sciuridae**
- *Sciurus variegatoides* PBL, Common

**Dasyproctidae**
- *Dasyprocta punctata* PBL, Common

**Leporidae**
- *Sylvilagus brasiliensis* PBL

**Mustelidae**
- *Lontra longicaudus* CS

**Procyonidae**
- *Nasua narica* PBL raiding bird feeders

**Crocodylus acutus*** CS

**Basiliscus vittatus*** PBL

**Iguana iguana*** CS

**Iguana iguana*** CS