



*Honduran Emerald-the country's only known endemic (Robert Gallardo)*

# HONDURAS

**5 – 22 MARCH 2017**

**LEADER: ROBERT GALLARDO**

This year BirdQuest launched its groundbreaking tour to Honduras and it turned out to be an outstanding trip. This little known country, located in northern Central American, is visited by very few bird watchers. In fact, so few birders visit, that the tour leader has never crossed paths with another birding group while afield in 17 years! One can imagine how delightful it really is to bird watch there, often having an entire reserve to oneself, and not bumping into hordes of tourists. Across a wide array of landscapes we would record a total of 426 species; 54% of the country's total.

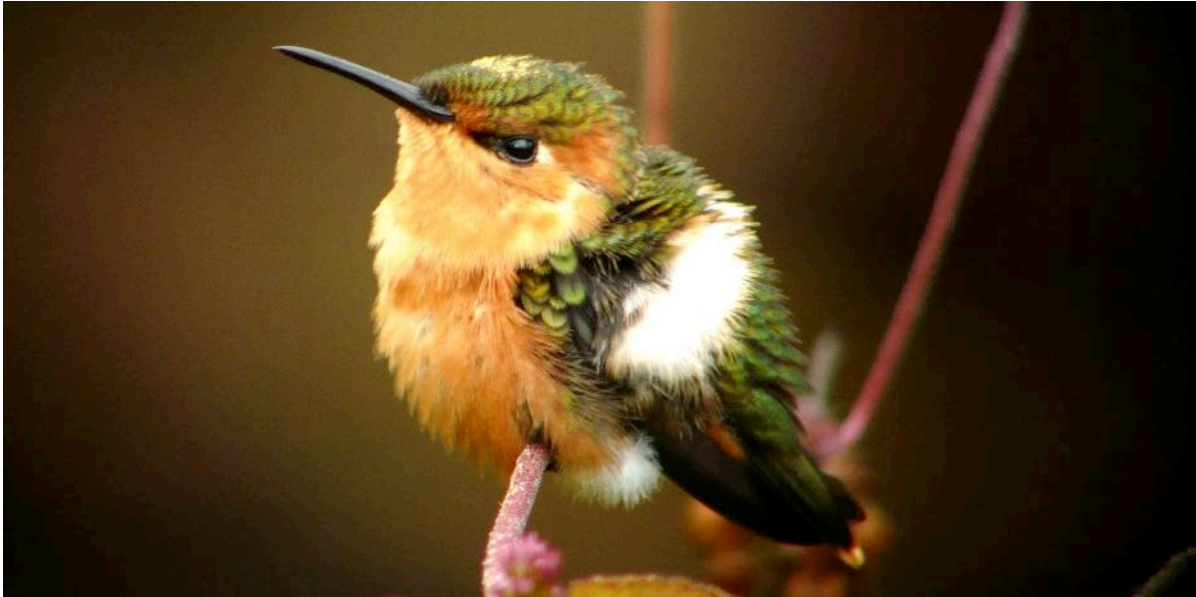
As late as 1968, very little was known about the avifauna of Honduras with most information being derived from a literary monograph (Monroe 1968). By 1993 the country list stood at a meager 701 species. In 2009 more attention was given to its birds and to date there are now 786 species confirmed with another forty to be expected. Species such as the Ocellated Quail, Keel-billed Motmot and Lovely Cotinga were once considered a rare find anywhere, when in fact each are locally common throughout much of Honduras in their appropriate habitats. At one point the Honduran Emerald was listed as 'critically endangered,' but we now know that it is spread out across various habitats in different regions.



*Male of the much-coveted Ocellated Quail (Robert Gallardo)*

Likewise, bird watching (as an industry) has started to gain a foothold as a permanent and integral part of the tourism sector. It has even drawn the attention of government ministers and the Honduran President himself. Previously, any bird watcher had to tote three different field guides from neighboring countries in order to identify all its birds. Now there is now an authoritative, in-depth guide that covers 770 species. Numerous formal bird guide training courses have also been implemented in order to give nationals basic knowledge of the avifauna and how to prepare and operate bird watching tours. Indeed, the country has come a long ways in so little time. The country's geopolitical boundaries place it on a major biogeographical divide (featured by the Honduran Depression), rendering its avifaunal composition similar to that of the Darien Gap between Panama and Colombia. Allopatric species such as the Black-faced and Mayan Antthrushes, as well as the Green-throated and Green-breasted Mountaingems, are but two examples of species that converge in the country. No less than 100 species have their typical northern and southern range limits in Honduras. The vast lowland forests of the east, known as "La Mosquitia," are home to at least fifty species which range no further north. Furthermore, its vast pine-oak highlands (which terminate in northern Nicaragua) provide ample refuge for an immeasurable quantity of migratory wood-warblers, especially those from western North America.

Honduras has one of the most varied conglomerations of ecosystems in Central America, and together with its extensive forest cover (the highest in the region), lends itself the predisposition of having a unique and diverse assemblage of bird species. In some places lowland rainforest gives way to montane forest or rainshadow valleys within a very short distance of each other. In one day it is fairly easy to visit three major habitats and possibly observe nearly 200 hundred species. Climate change affects the entire planet, including the tropics. This years' typical "summer" weather proved to be cool and at times we experienced a bit of rain. Although the odd weather did slow down the birding a bit at various sites and we had to work harder than normal, we were keen on finding and seeing the majority of the regional endemics and specialties.



*Female of the diminutive Sparkling-tailed Woodstar (Robert Gallardo)*

We began the tour in downtown Tegucigalpa with a three-day pre-tour extension to the remote corner of Olancho. The extension was designed to look for the coveted, range restricted Ocellated Quail; one of the 'holy grail' birds of Central America. Until only recently this bird never even appeared as being offered on bird tours, let alone seen. On the contrary, its preferred habitat of pine-oak forests comprises the largest ecosystem in Honduras and the quail has now been proven to be widespread and locally common. Being able to actually locate one, however, is a different story altogether. Landscapes changed during our drive through the scenic countryside as we passed through dry forest and then to pines. Our first birding stop was at the tilapia fish ponds of Río Suyapa in Olancho. There was an assortment of water birds including Blue-winged Teal, Roseate Spoonbill, Wood Stork, Amazon and Ringed Kingfishers, several Osprey, and an array of egrets and herons. A distant Laughing Falcon was also spotted as well as Northern Crested Caracaras. We continued northward to the town of La Union and spotted a soaring Zone-tailed Hawk along the way. Its similarity to the Turkey Vulture can render it quite cryptic. We finally reached town and got settled in to our quaint little hotel.



*Ideal habitat of the Ocellated Quail (Robert Gallardo)*

The following morning we made a short drive to the nearby pine forests along the approach to the La Muralla Wildlife Refuge. We discovered that last years' severe drought had taken its toll on the Honduran landscape as it allowed a species of pine bark beetle to take a stronghold on the weakened pines which quickly converted into a pandemic infestation. It was apparent that more than 50% of the pines had been affected and the area had the semblance as if a major forest fire had swept through. Although this would apparently affect the migrant wood-warblers and other species that forage in live pines, it does not seem to have a negative impact on the quail. Within less than thirty minutes of searching we flushed a male-female pair of the quail. On a typical flush they usually do not fly far. On a second or third flush they typically fly far and out of sight. For some odd (however fortunate) reason the male decided it wouldn't

fly far, even after numerous flushes. At one point we had it hunkered down in a small thicket and by that point everyone was satisfied with their views. When we finished our quest for the quail the male began to call out to the female with its slurred whistle. One of the most desirable birds of the region was now on our list in less than an hour on the first day of birding. We continued up the road and eventually arrived at the visitor's centre where we enjoyed a hearty outdoor picnic lunch. Nearby, a Pheasant Cuckoo called incessantly and tantalized us as we ate. A Stripe-tailed Hummingbird sipped nectar on a citrus tree next to the table. No sooner than we finished eating, we were onto the cuckoo and got up-close, breathtaking views. This reserve is by far the best place in the country to observe this otherwise stealthy bird. Overall, the park was quiet, but an adult Ornate Hawk-Eagle passed by low overhead as well as several Swallow-tailed Kites. A cooperative Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner made a showing near the parking lot. Far off in the distance, Buffy-crowned Wood-Partridges taunted us, but we would try and catch up with this desired bird later on. Just down the road we staked out a flowering Mountain Fuchsia (*Fuchsia paniculata*) and it paid off as a female Black-crested Coquette came in and fed, flying like a large bumblebee. Our first Keel-billed Motmot called repeatedly inside the forest, but would not present itself. It would be another bird we would have to catch up with later during the trip.



*Pheasant Cuckoo-great find at the La Muralla W.R. (Angie Cederlund)*

A pair of the stately Pale-billed Woodpecker was also seen and our first Green-breasted Mountain-gem made, but a brief showing as it gleaned insects amidst the thick foliage. The flute-like songs of the Slate-colored Solitaires echoed throughout the forests. Inside the forest itself, it was quiet and we got brief

looks at a Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush. Meanwhile, a Northern Nightingale-Wren titillated us from below the trail. Since everyone was satisfied with the Ocellated Quail we devoted the following day exploring the wildlife refuge and surroundings. We were sure to leave early enough to arrive at a favorite spot just after sunup. The primary motivation was to catch the brief perching behavior of the Lovely Cotinga. It paid off. Not only did one male appear, but yet another and an additional two females to boot. This was another one of the regional endemics that was a must-see. A White-breasted Hawk, Bat Falcon and a small group of the boisterous Band-backed Wrens also made a showing. The resident Tropical Parula appeared amidst a small mixed flock and a small group of White-crowned Parrots perched in a nearby tree. A pair of skulking Ruddy Foliage-Gleaners called from thickets adjacent to a house and we got a quick view of one as it flew across a clearing. It was a great start to a second full day of birding.

We also came across a pair of Emerald Toucanet in the parking lot during our lunch break. We finally got to view our first species of woodcreeper for the trip; the Spotted. A bit down the road we encountered a skulking Blue-and-white Mockingbird which is an unusual find for that part of the country. Bushy-crested Jays began to be a common sighting and would be seen across the Honduran highlands the remainder of the trip. We found a gorgeous male Flame-colored Tanager, a flock of the boisterous Yellow-backed Oriole, as well as White-winged Tanager males and females.

Wood-warblers are usually a conspicuous element of the Honduran avifauna which includes 54 species in all, as well as the Olive Warbler, which pertains to its own family. Along with the resident Tropical Parula, Slate-throated Redstart, and Grace's Warbler, we came across migrant Golden-winged, Tennessee, Black-throated Green, Chestnut-sided, Hermit, and Wilson's Warblers.



*Black-throated Green Warbler (Angie Cederlund)*

On the fourth day we packed our bags and said "good-bye" to the wide open skies of Olancho and made the return trip to Tegucigalpa where we would pick up another arriving client. We had a roadside picnic breakfast adjacent to a wooded ravine and were almost bewildered at the number of birds seen there. A pair of Black-vented Oriole came into view; there near its eastern range limit within the country. A pair of the lovely Spot-breasted Oriole also came in for a close view. A Rufous-browed Peppershrike was eventually seen by some,

but we would catch up with it later on. The resident Steller's Jay was on the road picking through some old cattle dung. We also got wonderful views of the resident Rufous-capped Warbler which sung in the thickets next to the road. Flocks of the range restricted Red-throated Parakeet flew overhead, and although common, we were never able to get close up views.



*Red-throated Parakeet (Robert Gallardo)*

Another stop down the road at a creek crossing produced even more birds. Native *Inga* trees were blooming which attracted various species of orioles and hummingbirds. To our surprise a tiny female Sparkling-tailed Woodstar came into view and briefly perched on a twig before disappearing. It would end up being the only one of the entire trip. We were also afforded our first views of the migratory Ruby-throated Hummingbird. A pair of Amazon Kingfishers chattered away while perched over the river. It was another great stop. We continued down the highway and checked out the tilapia ponds. One was being drained which tends to attract more birds so we stopped to check it out. We added Black-crowned Night Heron to the list as well as our first Spotted Sandpiper, Mangrove Swallow, and Rufous-backed Wren. We made our way back to the capital of Tegucigalpa where we picked up another client. With our group now complete we carried on to the next region; the southern Pacific lowlands of Choluteca. There was a large amount of road construction in preparation to widen the highway so the going was a bit slow. By late afternoon we arrived at the bustling city and checked in to our comfortable hotel. We were ready for the next set of birds which would be quite different than those seen in the interior highlands from where we came.

The following morning we set out early to the nearby Cerro Guanacaure Multiple Use Area. One of the most threatened ecosystems in Honduras is the Pacific Monsoon Forest which is restricted to the Pacific lowlands of Choluteca and Valle and a narrow belt along the Honduran-El Salvadoran border in Lempira and Intibucá. These forests harbor numerous regional endemics and we were keen on seeing two of them: the Blue-tailed Hummingbird and White-bellied Chachalaca. At the picnic breakfast stop we found that the *Inga* trees were blooming, right on cue. But before we moved on, there was a peculiar bird singing close by. It was the resident Fan-tailed Warbler; another dry forest bird. In no time at all, this stunning warbler was right in front of us. Action at the first tree was slow, but the next two were constantly buzzing with different hummingbird species, a variety of orioles, grosbeaks, honeycreepers, warblers, euphonias, and saltators. Hummingbirds

included Cinnamon, Berylline, Ruby-throated, Plain-capped Starthroat and Green-breasted Mango. They were, however, all outnumbered by the stunning Blue-tailed Hummingbird.



*Blue-tailed Hummingbird (Robert Gallardo)*

After the show at the *Ingas* we continued up the trail and encountered both the Turquoise-browed and Blue-diademed Motmots. There were also Orange-chinned and Pacific Parakeets; the latter being range restricted. The Greenish Elaenia is a tough bird to pick up in Honduras, but we got several this morning. We also found the diminutive Northern Beardless Tyrannulet. We continued up the road to our next stop which was a trail that led up into the monsoon forest. We were greeted by a pair of the petite Common Tody-Flycatcher in a *citrus* tree. We were keen on locating the spectacular Long-tailed Manakin; another regional endemic. They are actually a common inhabitant there, but were unusually quiet. After a near-miss with one male we were able to pick one up on the return walk. We were also able to see the graceful White-throated Magpie-Jay and fleeting glimpses of Elegant Trogon.

Before midday the heat had turned off the bird activity and we returned to Choluteca for some lunch and a short break. We then decided to make a slight change of plans to the scheduled itinerary in order to go search for a special bird. In November 2010 Robert discovered a population of the Clapper Rail at a mangrove estuary in the region. Since then, it was lumped into the Mangrove Rail group, but was recently featured in a publication where it was being postulated to be given its own specific status; the Fonseca Rail. The Gulf of Fonseca, which is shared by Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua, would potentially be the place to harbor another range restricted species. First, we headed toward the peninsula of Punta Raton to try and catch the latter part of the high tide. Thousands of migrant and resident shorebirds and other waterfowl congregate along this isolated sandy peninsula where country records are still being found. We reached the end of the road and within a few minutes were at the peninsula. There were various species of terns, herons and egrets, American Oystercatcher, American White Ibis, an assortment of plovers and sandpipers, pelicans, and gulls. Although we didn't detect any rare species it was nonetheless a site worth visiting. We backtracked a ways to a section of the road where some young mangrove trees grew close to the track.

Within a very short time we detected several Mangrove Rails calling and were seen well by everyone. Now only time will tell if someday this will be converted (split) into a new species for science.



*The stunning resident Fan-tailed Warbler (Angie Pattison)*



*Close encounter with Mangrove Rail (Angie Pattison)*

The following day we departed Choluteca en route to our next destination. But before returning toward Tegucigalpa we had one more special bird to look for; the White-bellied Chachalaca. Down a bumpy track was our destination; a private property where a family protects a population of this range restricted species. The owners know the daily movements of the birds and it just so happened they were feeding nearby in “olive” trees adjacent to a small freshwater lagoon. And there they were: more than ten in total. We got good looks at them and also noted that other thirsty birds were arriving to drink in the pool which also harbored a large crocodile. The lively colors of Painted Buntings and Blue Grosbeaks lit up the muddy shoreline and migrant Scissor-tailed Flycatchers drifted in and out. Near the house, Canivet’s Emeralds fed on the tiny flowers of a tree. We thanked the land owners for their help and departed. We made one last stop at some roadside shrimp and salt ponds to observe some plovers, sandpipers, and Black-necked Stilts. By the end of the day we reached our mountain retreat hotel of Las Glorales which sits at the base of La Tigra N.P. Such would be the trip as we would encounter extreme differences in habitats from one moment to the next. After checking in to our rooms we did some bird watching on the grounds. Several hawks were observed including White-breasted, Zone-tailed, and the resident Red-tailed. There were also Squirrel Cuckoo, Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Azure-crowned Hummingbird and two cooperative Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers; the latter performing quite well for us. Flocks of Red-throated Parakeets flew over as well as great numbers of Violet-green Swallows and some American Black Swifts. We caught up again with the Bushy-crested Jays, Band-backed Wrens, Black-vented and Yellow-backed Orioles, and an assortment of wood-warblers.

The next morning we rose early and headed towards the nearby La Tigra N.P. We stopped en route at a nearby ravine filled with sedges and flowering *Salvias*. It was still quite cool so the activity was slow. Ruddy Crakes called from far below, but would not show. However, in a nearby thicket a Buffy-crowned Wood-Partridge was calling. We approached the area from where it was heard, but the vegetation was so thick that it would have been virtually impossible to see it there. We moved to a little higher vantage point along the road where the edge of the thicket met with a “clean” yard of a nearby house. After a bit of patience, and some coaxing, the bird appeared at the edge of the thicket whence it saw us and proceeded to run across the yard. When it reached the fence line it took off and glided across the road into another thicket. We were afforded such a spectacular show with such a prized and secretive bird.



*Singing Quail-male (Angie Pattison)*

We continued a bit further up the road and made one more stop before entering the park. There was a huge thicket consisting of various shrubs and small trees where native flowers often attract different species of hummingbirds. The one we were looking for was there, right on cue. The Green-breasted Mountain gem is almost a country endemic and occurs only from central Honduras to northern Nicaragua. Our views in Olancho were poor, at best, but today we all got good looks at it. We also saw White-eared Hummingbird, Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer, White-naped Brush Finch, and got good looks of the Plain Wren before moving on.

We finally reached the parking lot at La Tigra and had our picnic breakfast. We began our walk up an access road which passes through an old secondary forest consisting mostly of oaks. It was still cool and quiet, but we were determined to locate some of the target birds that could only be found there on this tour. Before we reached the summit (our final destination for the hike) we stumbled upon a pair of the magnificent Resplendent Quetzal. Unbeknownst even to park staff, the pair had taken residence right next to the main trail and rest area, and were nesting in a large decaying tree. Initially, the male flew out of sight then suddenly reappeared in plain view for all to enjoy. This subspecies has a slightly longer tail than the birds to the south of Honduras. When we finally reached the summit we came upon a small clearing where the trail continually slides away. It is there where we picked up another charmer; the wee Wine-throated Hummingbird. It was partially hidden behind some fern fronds, but after it left we were sure to open a small window for viewing if it decided to return to the same spot. And it did. When the light hit the gorget just right we were awestruck by its near-three dimensional bib.



*Wine-throated Hummingbird-male (Angie Pattison)*

Nearby, a Mountain Thrush and Rufous-browed Wren both made a brief showing and we would try to catch up with them later. On our way down the trail we were literally blown away by the explosive duet song of the Singing Quail which called right beside the trail. The male was crouched down right next to us and afforded outstanding views and photo opportunities. The more secretive female was not far behind the male. There are only three small populations of the Singing Quail in Honduras and La Tigra N.P. is the most accessible site. Fortunately for us, this quail also happens to be the most “cooperative” of all quail species in the country.



*Singing Quail-female (Robert Gallardo)*

We were also able to find the resident Crescent-chested Warbler and Olive Warbler, along with a few migrant wood-warblers including Townsend's and Hermit. Back at the visitor's centre we had lunch and a cooperative Mountain Trogon was foraging nearby. We decided to walk a short loop trail before departing La Tigra and it paid off. Foraging quietly within a flock of raucous Bushy-crested Jays were Black-throated Jays; the latter being another regional endemic. We missed it at La Muralla and it is rare elsewhere, so finding it at La Tigra was essential. We left the park and made a stop along the road. This time we would get great views of the Rufous-browed Wren which was known to inhabit a blackberry thicket. We made another visit to the marshy ravine and again no luck with the crane or the Sedge Wren. We spent the final night at Las Glorias before moving on to our next destination, but not before something peculiar happened. Robert had woken up an hour earlier than usual (the alarm clock time mysteriously changed) and proceeded to make the morning's coffee. He heard a strange sound outside

which he knew was an owl. He thought that maybe one of the clients was out there looking for an owl. A bit later he heard it again and poked outside and there was no one to be found. He listened to recordings on his iPod and quickly determined that it was the Unspotted Saw-whet Owl that he was hearing. Unfortunately, by then the bird had moved on. Upon conversing with one of the clients, he said he also heard the same bird during the evening. Although the bird was not seen, it was positively identified by voice and would represent a country record: number 786 for the country. In the morning we returned to the marshy ravine one last time and we were finally able to locate the minute and secretive Sedge Wren. This wren has an enormous distribution overall and for the time being it is still lumped under one species. This marsh presented our only chance on this trip to see this bird so we were happy to have observed it.



*Whiskered Screech-Owl (Angie Pattison)*

We left the mountain and continued on to the next region of the tour: the southwestern highlands of La Paz. Along the main paved highway we stopped at a summit above the Comayagua Valley to scan the skies. It paid off as a King Vulture was seen, albeit soaring far and high overhead. After a buffet lunch stop along the road we turned westward and up another highland massif. Honduras is nearly 85% mountainous so driving anywhere was a matter of going up and down a series of mountains and across valleys. By the end of the afternoon we reached Marcala and went directly to our hotel on the outskirts of town. Hotel La Casona is situated on a large property with dry upland pines, a perennial creek, and tilapia ponds. The property tended to be quite birdy.

We did a little birding on the grounds and although it was generally quiet we did see Green Kingfisher, Black Phoebe, Northern Waterthrush, Rusty Sparrow, Yellow-winged Tanager, Osprey, Red-billed Pigeon, and Black-vented Oriole. We went to town for dinner and upon returning to the hotel we did our first search for owls. We did see some Common Pauras along the road when we came in. Not far from our rooms we detected a rufous morph of the Whiskered Screech-Owl which typically inhabits drier pine woodland. It was a nice way to end the day. The following day we departed early and made our way up to the Opatoro-Guajiquiro highlands. This scenic area is an extended ridgeline that comprises part of the Pacific and Caribbean drainages and is the only place in Honduras where one can drive up to 2,100m. Although there is extensive farming atop much of the mountain, there are also fragments of highland pine-oak and broadleaf forests. The full day visit would be our last highland site for the tour and there would be great payoffs.

Our first stop included another picnic breakfast and our first chance at a highland regional endemic; the alluring Blue-throated Motmot which has its southernmost range limit in western Honduras. Many of their roadside burrow nests have been staked out and a pair was close at hand. Unlike most other motmots, this small species lacks the racquet-tipped tails and was a bird we just had to see as this was the only place on the tour where it was possible.



*Blue-throated Motmot-a highland regional endemic (Robert Gallardo)*

We continued bird watching along the long ridgeline and got brief views of single Black-capped Swallows, yet another regional endemic. Flocks of the wide ranging Band-tailed Pigeons came and went throughout much of the day. That day we had a shot at several more hummingbird species and ended up getting two of them. The Green-throated Mountaingem (the Green-breasted's allopatric counterpart west of the Honduran Depression) and the Amethyst-throated Mountaingem. We spotted the Green-throated as it fed on a blooming *Inga* tree in a coffee plantation and the Amethyst-throated as it fed on Mexican thistle. Other hummingbirds included Azure-crowned, White-eared, and Ruby-throated.

Small flocks were observed of early migrating Broad-winged Hawks. At certain times of the year tens of thousands can be observed migrating across this mountain. Two Zone-tailed Hawks were also seen later on in the day. Mountain Trogons were seen and heard throughout the day and are common in the area. Two more regional endemics occurring as common species there included the Rufous-collared Thrush and the exquisite Blue-and-white Mockingbird. We were afforded great views of both.

As we were driving along, a bird was spotted creeping up a tree; another woodcreeper. We hadn't had very much luck with this diverse family up until this point. We jumped out of the bus and soon realized that we had one of the toughest species to locate in Honduras; the Black-banded. It inhabits a thin belt of highland transition forest between pines and broadleaf. What a great find!

Throughout the day we observed migrant Townsend's and Hermit Warblers as well as Blue-headed Vireos. The resident Brown-capped Vireo inhabits the forest canopy and was also observed. Both the Brown-backed and Slate-colored Solitaires are common along the mountain and we got great views of them. Their songs are quite different from one another and we were enchanted by them throughout much of the day. By the end of the day we ended up at the first spot where we would try for our last regional endemic; the Fulvous Owl. It occurs in the highlands from southern Mexico to Honduras and it was a bird we just couldn't miss. As it got dark we noticed that a Blue-throated Motmot was sitting on a tree root right next to the bus. It was

going to its roost and we got great views of it. Shortly after that, a Fulvous Owl was heard in the forest nearby and it crossed the road, but remained totally hidden by dense foliage. It then decided to fly across the small valley and would not come back. We made two other attempts along the road on our way back and had no luck. There was one last stop to try. Nothing along the road, so we walked down a trail that led into a fairly large tract of cloud forest. Toward the end of the trail we were surprised with not just one, but three Fulvous Owls. They seemed upset so we decided to let them be and we were satisfied in acquiring the most sought after large owl in the region.



*Black-banded Woodcreeper (Angie Pattison)*

The next morning we explored the hotel grounds once more before continuing the trip. We added Greater Pewee to our list and observed numerous resident and migrant wood-warblers. The Grace's Warblers were foraging quite low in the pines and we were afforded excellent views.

We continued and headed east then northward to our next destination; Lake Yojoa. The lake basin harbors over 500 species and is the most species-rich area in the entire country. Our four nights would allow us to explore part of this area and see a wide array of birds in different habitats. After arriving and checking into our rooms within Cerro Azul Meambar N.P. we were anxious to do some bird watching. We found Short-billed Pigeon, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, White-bellied Emerald, Brown-hooded Parrot, Northern Barred Woodcreeper, Philadelphia Vireo and Yellow-throated Euphonia. A female Elegant Euphonia was spotted atop a tall tree and would end up being the only one observed on the trip. A Keel-billed Motmot was heard in the distance, but would have to wait yet another day to be seen.

That night a cold front moved in from the north and would make for some tough birding. Nonetheless, we were able to get some Ruddy Quail-Doves, Stripe-throated Hermits on leks, Gartered Trogon, Olive-throated Parakeet, Wedge-billed Woodcreeper, Crimson-collared Tanager, Buff-throated Saltator, Kentucky Warbler, and the resident Golden-crowned Warbler.



*The resident Grace's Warbler (Angie Pattison)*



*Prized Keel-billed Motmot (Angie Pattison)*

Down the waterfall trail we were fortunate to get great views of the Stub-tailed Spadebill. This tiny understory flycatcher is heard far more often than seen, but today we were afforded great views. A pair of Flammulated Attilas was foraging quietly low in the understory. They usually occupy the canopy from where they sing incessantly, often out of view. A few White-collared Manakins were also heard and seen.

After numerous attempts during the trip, we were finally able to catch up to the coveted Keel-billed Motmot. Years ago, until Honduras' avifauna became better known, this bird was considered another one of those Central American species that was usually difficult to observe anywhere. Honduras is, in fact, at the heart of its range and is actually quite common in its appropriate habitat. Although not as colorful as some of its counterparts, it is nonetheless a great find. We observed the first one a little ways up a trail, but the views weren't very good as the bird was perched high and in poor light. Then, while we were having lunch at the cafeteria, a pair was spotted foraging in the ravine at eye level. This time we were all afforded with breathtaking views. We made the best of the inclement weather.

The following day we headed west into a large rainshadow corridor on the other side of Santa Barbara N.P., hoping to not only escape some of the weather, but also to look for Honduras' only known endemic bird; the Honduran Emerald. It was once classified as 'Critically Endangered' until the Santa Barbara corridor population was discovered and has also since been found around Gracias, Lempira. We ended up visiting a large private property where Robert has been working with the owners in helping them conserve the emerald habitat. Upon arriving at the property entrance we had a picnic breakfast and noticed that there were a couple of blooming *Ingas* inside a neighboring property. It wasn't long before Honduran Emeralds were spotted feeding there. We got permission to enter and in no time had bagged our target bird for the day.



*Lesser Roadrunner (Angie Pattison)*

We continued down the path to see what other birds we could find. We were hoping to get the secretive Blue Bunting, but none could be located. We picked up more Honduran Emeralds as well as a Canivet's Emerald and Cinnamon Hummingbird. Surprisingly enough, we found our only Short-tailed Hawk of the trip and Least Flycatcher. The Green Jay inhabits a wide variety of habitats in Honduras, including dry forest, and we were

able to observe a pair of this gaudy bird. At the bottom of the hill we attempted to find the Lesser Ground-Cuckoo and did hear two amidst the thick brush. They were, however, uncooperative and would not come out. It started to rain lightly then suddenly a familiar sound echoed from nearby. It was a Lesser Roadrunner. Robert had never seen it on the property and the owner assured him that he had also never seen it there. But it was nearby, and it didn't take long to locate it by tracking its deep, mournful call. It was tucked away high up and inside a Crabbo tree. We positioned ourselves to find windows and got scope views of this wonderful bird. We were sure to show the property owner who had joined us. The roadrunner's blue and pink orbital skin colors were a treat.

We returned to a nearby village and had a delicious home style lunch at the owner's house. Our generous entry fees and visit are an essential incentive for them to help conserve this critical habitat. We departed the dry valley and returned to the humid lake basin. As we approached the southwest corner of the lake we turned onto a small elevated side road that overlooked the vast marshes. There, we would be rewarded with a vast array of waterfowl and other birds that inhabited the thickets. Ducks included the Black-bellied and Fulvous Whistling Ducks, wild Muscovy, American Wigeon, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Lesser Scaup and Ring-necked Duck. Numerous Bare-throated Tiger Herons and Limpkins haunted the tall grass. Snail Kites are common at the lake and were busy plucking Apple Snails from near the waters' surface. There was a wide variety of herons and egrets throughout. Amazon and Belted Kingfishers were also busy, but hunting fish. We also picked up the first Fork-tailed Flycatcher for the trip. Different species of swallows filled the air as they foraged for insects.



*Snail Kite (Robert Gallardo)*

We weren't finished with the day yet. We made a couple stops along the road back to Meambar N.P. At the cemetery we found Streak-headed Woodcreeper, Yellow-bellied Elaenia, Piratic Flycatcher, Black-headed Siskin, and our first Hooded Warbler. The one we were after, however, was a skulker, and some recent clearing of its former haunt made us look a bit farther down the hill. It paid off. We found a pair of the captivating Prevost's Ground Sparrow. This was another bird we just couldn't miss due to its recent split from the one that occurs in Costa Rica. That same evening we found the Mottled Owl just outside the restaurant and called it a day. What an incredible assortment of birds we found that day in three distinct ecosystems.



*Prevost's Ground Sparrow (Robert Gallardo)*

The following morning we descended down to the lake and visited the Los Naranjos archaeological site. We first stopped at a private property along the north shore to look for the Spotted Rail, but it was quiet there. We had breakfast then continued to the archaeological site. We checked out the marsh in front of the site and found some herons, egrets, and Common Yellowthroats. The raised boardwalk was closed due to repairs so we decided to walk the forest trail and cross to the other side where the bus would meet us. It was eerily quiet inside the park, but it echoed of Grey-headed Doves that called from the subcanopy. As a Central American Agouti caught everyone's attention, a rare Swainson's Warbler suddenly appeared and vanished. Robert was the only one to see it and would actually be a new bird for him. We reached the suspension bridge that led out of the site and crossed it. In the lighter woodland there was much more bird activity and we found a cooperative Green-backed Sparrow in a thicket. As we continued down the path we noticed a perched and motionless Northern Barred Woodcreeper. This type

of behavior for a woodcreeper is not very common so we took advantage of its presence to take photos. We met up with the bus and drove to the east side of the lake where we had a fish lunch on a pier that was situated over the marsh. It was an ideal way to end the morning. We then made our way back to Meambar N.P. On our way up we stopped to observe both the Montezuma and Chestnut-headed Oropendola colonies situated above the road. At both sites the oropendolas were busy fighting off the incessant, parasitic Giant Cowbirds.

On the morning of our departure we stopped at various points below Meambar N.P. in hopes of finding some birds we had previously missed. Little Tinamous called from thickets at various places and Plain Chachalacas were spied as they shouted from high in the trees. Our first Long-billed Hermit made an appearance as it was attracted to the calls of a nearby Ferruginous Pygmy Owl. The tiny Olivaceous Piculet was spotted and would end up being the only sighting of the trip. We also found a cooperative Northern Bentbill which is usually a difficult bird to observe. In a mixed flock of birds we saw our only Blue-winged Warbler and another male Golden-winged Warbler. Quite often these two species occur together in mixed species flocks.



*Northern Barred Woodcreeper (Angie Pattison)*

We said 'goodbye' to the lake and headed northward. After a buffet lunch in the outskirts of El Progreso we continued and made our way to the coastal city of Tela where we would spend one night. We reached our "high rise" hotel of Vista Maya and were greeted by a large *tundrius* Peregrine Falcon. This particular bird seems to return to the same perch on the large repeater tower year after year. Many of us enjoyed a nice seafood dinner at the hotel and we called it a day.



*Vista of Lake Yojoa from southeast corner (Robert Gallardo)*



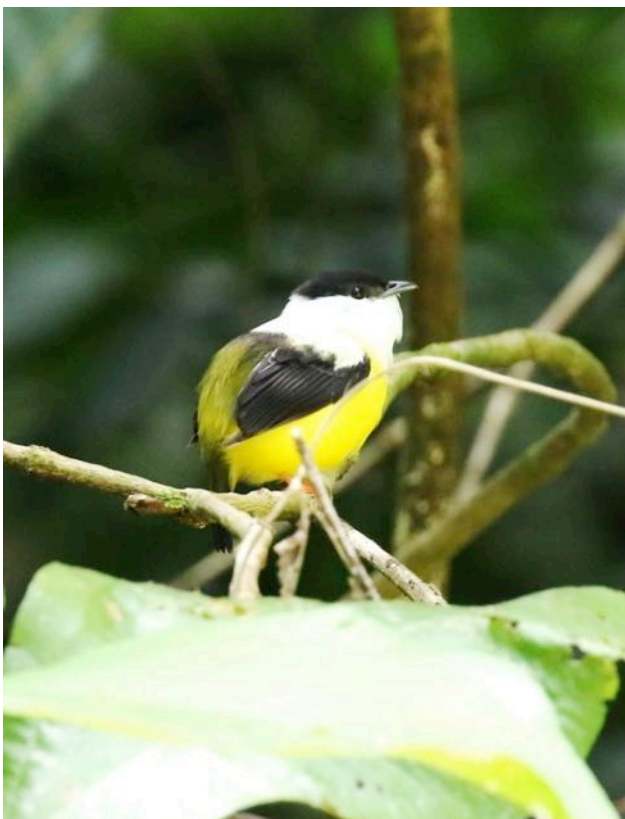
*Wonderful shot of the timid Great Antshrike-female (Angie Pattison)*

The next morning we drove to the nearby Lancetilla Botanical Gardens for a taste of lowland bird watching. This former experimental plantation from the mid 1900's is now in the hands of the Honduran forestry school. Although not much goes on in the way of enhancing fruit tree production, it does offer some great bird watching opportunities. We had our last picnic breakfast along the power line road and began our birding there. We quickly picked up the Thick-billed Seed Finch and after several attempts we missed the Black-striped Sparrows that called from deep within the secondary forest. This morning we were able to add three species of woodpecker to the trip list: Black-cheeked, Smoky-brown, and Chestnut-colored. From the nearby *Heliconia* thicket we heard several Great Antshrikes and one female showed nicely for us. A couple of us were able to get views of the Slaty-headed Tody-Flycatcher which escaped us at the lake. We also caught up to the Long-billed Gnatwren as one was probing inside a dense tangle and spotted a pair of Tropical Gnatcatchers that foraged high in a tree. A Yellow-breasted Chat was spotted as it called from a high vantage point in a tree. This was quite the unusual behavior for this species. Another pair of trip birds was the colorful Passerini's Tanager and Red-legged Honeycreeper.

We continued up the road and parked adjacent to the dormitory units. There was an access road that led into the forest toward the back side of the reserve and it often produced some good birds. Today was no exception. We quickly picked up a Black-crowned Tityra, Olive-backed Euphonias, Black-cowled Oriole, and Mistletoe Tyrannulet. Farther down the trail we got great views of the Cocoa Woodcreeper, formerly called the Buff-throated. A male White-collared Manakin was feeding on a fruiting melastome bush and it performed magnificently. Suddenly, a Northern Schiffornis appeared and posed for some photographs. This forest bird usually remains in the dark understory and doesn't afford this kind of view.



*Cocoa Woodcreeper (Angie Pattison)*



*White-collared Manakin-male (Angie Pattison)*



*Northern Schiffornis (Angie Pattison)*

On our way back to the bus an odd bird was spotted hanging from a *philodendron* vine above the road. A couple of us were able to follow it with our binoculars as it flew down and briefly landed in view under a small tree. It was there just long enough to see that it had all the characteristics of the Grey-headed Piprites. This is one of the toughest birds to find in Central America so we were fortunate enough to have briefly glimpsed

it. With this great find we called it a morning and returned to the hotel to check out and have lunch before continuing on to our final destination of the trip; Pico Bonito N.P.

We made our way to the Lodge at Pico Bonito and checked in. Right off the bat we added several new hummingbird species that were coming to the feeders: White-necked Jacobin, Band-tailed Barbthroat and Crowned Woodnymph. The lodge's guides often know where to find roosting birds and we were pointed in the direction of one: the Great Potoo. There were two, likely a male-female pair, high up in a tree above one of the cabins. Near the restaurant a lone Prothonotary Warbler foraged in plain sight in a bush which seemed like odd behavior for this bird. We also caught up to the lovely Golden-hooded Tanager which was feeding on purple *Miconia* fruits. Northern Central America is not known for many gaudy-colored tanagers, but this one is a stunner.



*Chestnut-colored Woodpecker (Robert Gallardo)*

The following day was devoted entirely to exploring the lodge grounds and trails. We made sure to look out over the river valley and there was, in fact, a male Lovely Cotinga perched far away. We got a quick scope view before it tucked back into the dense canopy foliage. We slowly hiked up the main ridge trail to see what we could find. At the foot of the stairs we encountered several of the tiny, secretive Tawny-crowned Greenlets as they foraged. Farther up we got our last trogon species of the trip; the Black-throated, there at its northern range limit. A Purple-crowned Fairy made a brief showing as well as a Tawny-winged Woodcreeper in the forest below the trail. However, major highlights of the hike were encounters with numerous raptors. As the air warmed they started to appear and the first was a Great Black Hawk. Then two White Hawks soared majestically across the far ridge. A very large raptor soared up and over a ridgeline below us, but we didn't get a long enough view to identify it. As we sat on a bench by the overlook, Robert noticed something coming right toward them and asked everyone to be motionless. Upon seeing us it veered abruptly and landed on a nearby snag. It was an immature Ornate Hawk-Eagle. What a magnificent sight to

have this fierce bird of prey perched so close and it almost seemed unafraid of us. We eventually made our way back to the Lodge to have some lunch and a bit of downtime to wait out the midday heat. By late afternoon we were ready for more birding. The fruiting *Miconia* bushes kept attracting hordes of birds including Shining, Red-legged, and Green Honeycreepers as well as Olive-backed Euphonias and tanagers. Robert heard a strange, but familiar sound in one of the bushes, and recognized it as a White-vented Euphonia. We were happy to get this bird as it is the rarest of all euphonias in Honduras. Near the first tower we bumped into a Red-capped Manakin that was foraging at waist level on a small melastome bush. We also noticed that there was a huge commotion nearby and it attracted our attention. It was a group of Collared Aracaris defending a nest from marauding Brown Jays. These jays are famous for stealing eggs and chicks from nests from almost any other bird.



*Golden-hooded Tanager (Robert Gallardo)*

We ended up at the lower canopy tower and it was fairly quiet. Robert adeptly caught a Giant Owl's-Eye butterfly and showed everyone that it was a male. Its scent glands produce a mild aroma. The lodge guides knew where there was a pair of roosting Middle American Screech Owls so we took advantage of their knowledge and visited the birds. Down in the cocoa orchard the pair was tucked away amidst some foliage and were butted up against a tree. It was a bit odd as they represented both the rufous and gray morphs. Nonetheless, it was a nice addition to our list of owls.

On our last full day we decided to visit the Rio Santiago Nature Resort instead of going to the nearby coastal wetland reserve. Rio Santiago's miniature hummingbird feeders produce what is likely one of the biggest hummingbird shows in Central America and we didn't want to miss it. When we reached the site we decided to first hike one of the short loop trails to take advantage of the cool morning temperatures. We heard Slaty-breasted Tinamou calling in the distance as well as a Rufous-winged Woodpecker that remained high in the canopy.

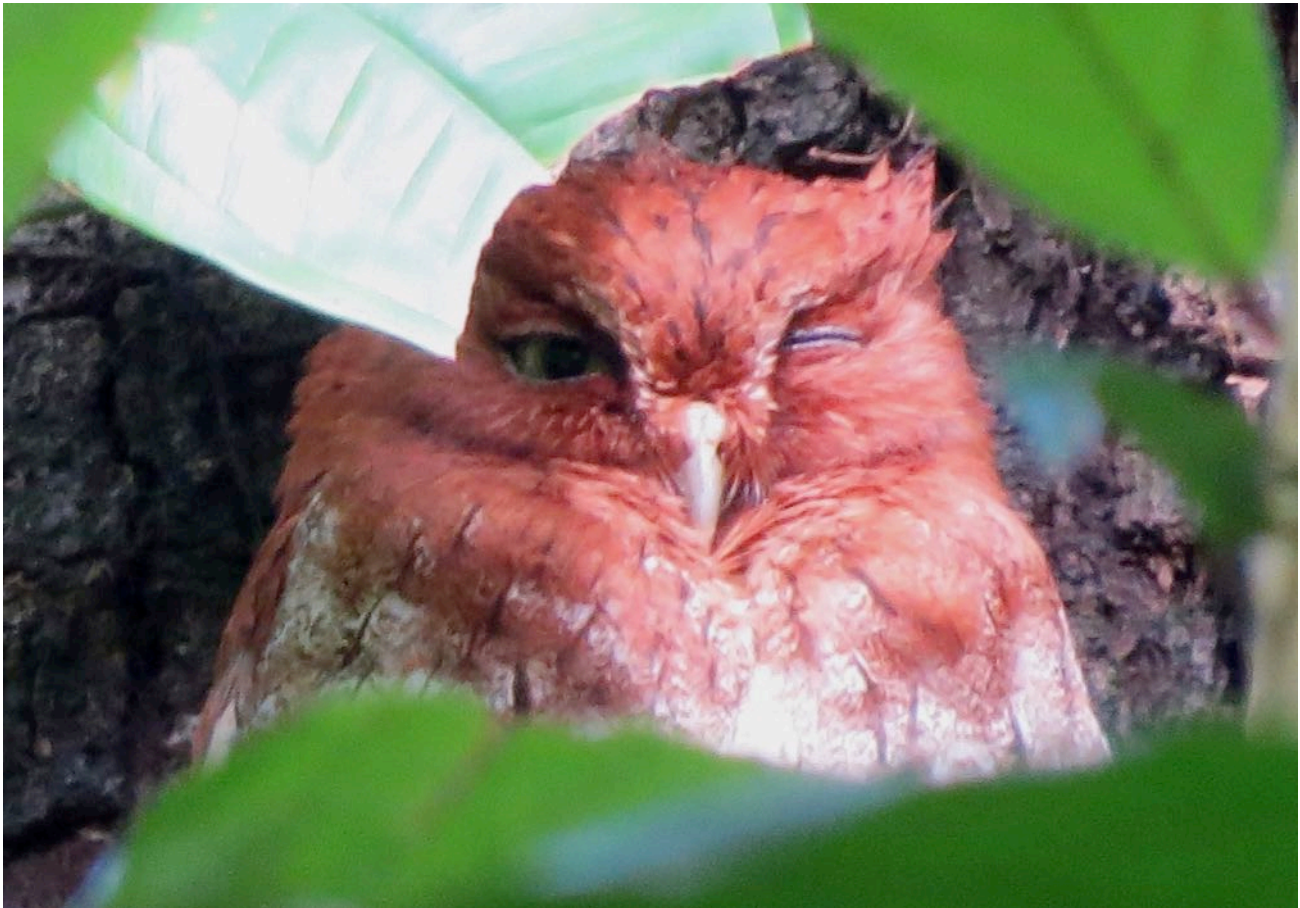


*Ornate Hawk-Eagle-immature (Robert Gallardo)*

A Tody Motmot haunted us from the dark understory and unfortunately we were unable to observe it. Amidst a mixed flock we were able to spot our only Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner for the trip. As we approached the crest, Robert heard a familiar sound coming from high overhead. It was a Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet which had escaped us thus far. We advanced quickly toward the clearing to try and get a better view of the canopy. We finally spotted this tiny flycatcher which has the appearance of a miniature Social Flycatcher. We started to descend the trail and came upon yet another surprise. One of the clients spotted something small off in the distance. We got it in a scope and it turned out to be a Central American Pygmy Owl that had its back to us. Although not rare by any means, this tiny rainforest owl inhabits the canopy and is often quite difficult to observe.

We returned to the hummingbird feeders to try and catch up on a few more hummingbirds. We were able to add the Scaly-breasted Hummingbird and Brown Violetear to our list of hummers. During the trip we observed an incredible 28 species of hummingbirds. Our last big “catch” of the day was another roosting owl. For the past several years the Spectacled Owl has nested in the crotch of a large tree. The staff took us directly to a thick part of the cocoa plantation where an adult was on a roost. What a way to end the visit.

Back at Pico Bonito Lodge we enjoyed a cocktail on our last afternoon together and recapped on some trip highlights. It seemed like everyone had different favorite birds for various reasons. Favorite species included: Buffy-crowned Wood Partridge, Ocellated Quail, Honduran Emerald, Green-breasted Mountaingem, Lovely Cotinga, Singing Quail, Wine-throated Hummingbird, Keel-billed Motmot, Mangrove Rail, Prothonotary Warbler, Lesser Roadrunner, Resplendent Quetzal, Central American Pygmy Owl, Pheasant Cuckoo, White-collared Manakin, Long-tailed Manakin, White Hawk, Band-tailed Barbthroat, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Stub-tailed Spadebill and Ornate Hawk Eagle.



*Middle American Screech Owl-rufous morph (Robert Gallardo)*

## SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H)

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL)

Species which were only recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO)

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered 'special' birds for some other reason (e.g. it is only seen on one or two BirdQuest; it's difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted range and may in future be treated as a full species).

The species names and taxonomy used in the report follows Gill F and D Donsker (Eds.) **IOC World Bird List. 2017 (v 7.1)**.

**Great Tinamou** *Tinamus major* (H) One at Pico Bonito Lodge

**Little Tinamou** *Crypturellus soui* Many heard and seen by some at Pico Bonito.

**Slaty-breasted Tinamou** ◊ *Crypturellus boucardi* (H) Only at Rio Santiago Nature Resort.

**Black-bellied Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna autumnalis* About 20 in marsh on southwest corner of Lake Yojoa.

**Fulvous Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna bicolor* About 4 in marsh on southwest corner of Lake Yojoa.

**Muscovy Duck** *Cairina moschata* Both domestic birds and wild birds. 3 wild birds at Lake Yojoa.

**American Wigeon** *Anas americana* 30+ from north shore of Lake Yojoa and marsh in southwest corner.

**Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors* 100+ at Olancho tilapia ponds and from various points at Lake Yojoa.

**Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata* A dozen or so at southwest corner of Lake Yojoa and along north shore.

**Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris* One female at Olancho tilapia farms. 200+ at Lake Yojoa.

**Lesser Scaup** *Aythya affinis* A few seen at the Olancho tilapia farms and various points at Lake Yojoa.

**Plain Chachalaca** ◊ *Ortalis vetula* Heard at a few spots and seen at Cerro Azul Meambar N.P.

**White-bellied Chachalaca** ◊ *Ortalis leucogastra* About 10 seen at Ojochal private property.



Spectacled Owl (Robert Gallardo)

**Buffy-crowned Wood Partridge** ♦ *Dendrortyx leucophrys* Heard near La Muralla. 1 seen well near La Tigra NP.

**Spot-bellied Bobwhite** ♦ *Colinus leucopogon* 1 small covey flushed along road en route to La Union.

**Spotted Wood Quail** ♦ *Odontophorus guttatus* (H) Near La Muralla.

**Singing Quail** ♦ *Dactylortyx thoracicus* Male/female pair seen well at La Tigra N.P.

**Ocellated Quail** ♦ *Cyrtonyx ocellatus* Male/female pair flushed numerous times on approach to La Muralla.

**Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* 15+ at various points at Lake Yojoa.

**Wood Stork** *Mycteria americana* 25+ seen at tilapia ponds in Olancho.

**American White Ibis** *Eudocimus albus* Few seen at tilapia ponds in Olancho. 30+ at Punta Raton.

**Roseate Spoonbill** *Platalea ajaja* Few seen at tilapia ponds in Olancho. 1 at Lake Yojoa.

**Bare-throated Tiger Heron** *Tigrisoma mexicanum* 7 seen at various points at Lake Yojoa.

**Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* Several at tilapia ponds in Olancho.

**Yellow-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax violacea* 1 near Punta Raton and (NL) at Tela beach.

**Green Heron** *Butorides virescens* 1 at Ojochal pond. Numerous birds at Lake Yojoa and 1 (NL) at Tela beach.

**Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* Common throughout most of trip.

**Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias* About 30 seen at tilapia ponds in Olancho, Lake Yojoa, and Punta Raton.

**Reddish Egret** *Egretta rufescens* 1 at Punta Raton.

**American Great Egret** *Egretta [alba] americana* Common throughout at wetlands, rivers, and Lake Yojoa.

**Tricolored Heron (Louisiana H)** *Egretta tricolor* Several in southern wetlands and a few at Lake Yojoa.

**Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea* Seen at tilapia ponds in Olancho, southern wetlands, and Lake Yojoa.

**Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula* Few at tilapia ponds, Olancho, Ojochal pond, Punta Raton, Lake Yojoa, and Rio Santiago.

**American White Pelican** *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* 2 at Punta Raton.

**Brown Pelican** *Pelecanus occidentalis* Few at Punta Raton and Tela beach.

**Magnificent Frigatebird** *Fregata magnificens* Several at Punta Raton.

**Neotropic Cormorant (Olivaceous C)** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* A few at several sites.

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura* Commonly observed throughout the trip. Few migrating individuals in Choluteca.

**Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture (Savanna V)** *Cathartes burrovianus* 1 only at Bella Vista lunch stop, Lake Yojoa.

**Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus* Commonly observed throughout the trip.

**King Vulture** *Sarcorampus papa* 1 above Comayagua Valley. 1 at Lancetilla Bot. Gardens.

**Western Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* 6 at Olancho tilapia ponds, and at Lake Yojoa and H. La Casona. All migrants?  
**Swallow-tailed Kite (American S-t K)** *Elanoides forficatus* Small groups and individuals seen throughout highlands.  
**Black Hawk-Eagle** *Spizaetus tryannus* (NL) Observed at Pico Bonito Lodge. Not uncommon there.  
**Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle** *Spizaetus melanoleucus* 1 soaring bird at Pico Bonito Lodge. Not uncommon there.  
**Ornate Hawk-Eagle** *Spizaetus ornatus* 1 immature seen close at Pico Bonito Lodge.  
**White-breasted Hawk** ♦ *Accipiter chionogaster* Ind. birds seen at La Muralla and La Tigra  
**Cooper's Hawk** *Accipiter cooperii* 1 winter plumage ind. seen soaring in front of bus leaving La Union.  
**Plumbeous Kite** *Ictinia plumbea* Several at La Muralla  
**Snail Kite** *Rostrhamus sociabilis* Fairly common at Lake Yojoa. Numbers may be recuperating from drought.  
**Common Black Hawk** *Buteogallus anthracinus* Several of the *rhizophorae* ssp. in Choluteca.  
**Great Black Hawk** *Buteogallus urubitinga* 1 ind. seen at Pico Bonito Lodge.  
**Roadside Hawk** *Rupornis magnirostris* Seen at Choluteca, La Tigra, Opatoro, Santa Barbara, and Pico Bonito.  
**Harris's Hawk** *Parabuteo unicinctus* 1 ind. seen perched near Ojochal.  
**White-tailed Hawk** *Geranoaetus albicaudatus* 1 en route to La Union  
**White Hawk** *Pseudastur albicollis* 2 at Pico Bonito Lodge. 2 (NL) at Meambar N.P.  
**Grey Hawk** *Buteo plagiatus* 2 (NL) at Meambar N.P. Also Pico Bonito Lodge and Rio Santiago.  
**Broad-winged Hawk** *Buteo platypterus* A few winterers in the highlands. Also migrant flocks inc. 60+ at Opatoro.  
**Short-tailed Hawk** *Buteo brachyurus* Surprisingly only one on entire trip. Santa Barbara.  
**Zone-tailed Hawk** *Buteo albonotatus* A total of six seen.  
**Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis* Individuals seen near La Tigra, Meambar N.P., including black morphs.  
**Ruddy Crake** *Laterallus ruber* (H) at marsh near La Tigra and (H) at Lake Yojoa.  
**Grey-breasted Crake** *Laterallus exilis* 2 (H) at Lake Yojoa, north shore.  
**Mangrove Rail** ♦ *Rallus longirostris* 3 at mangrove estuary nr Punta Raton, Choluteca (*berryorum* ssp.).  
**Purple Gallinule** *Porphyrio martinicus* Small numbers along Lake Yojoa.  
**Common Gallinule (Laughing G)** *Gallinula galeata* 15+ at Lake Yojoa.  
**American Coot** *Fulica americana* 1 at tilapia ponds in Olancho. 70+ at Lake Yojoa.  
**Limpkin** *Aramus guarauna* A few inds. at Lake Yojoa wetlands.  
**American Oystercatcher** *Haematopus palliatus* 2 ind. seen at Punta Raton. Likely breeding residents.  
**Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus* 2 at pond near Ojochal. Small flock at Lake Yojoa marsh.  
**Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus* 40+ seen at Punta Raton  
**Wilson's Plover** *Charadrius wilsonia* 40+ seen at Punta Raton. Most likely these were all migrants.  
**Northern Jacana** *Jacana spinosa* 2 at Olancho tilapia ponds and many at Lake Yojoa marshes.  
**Hudsonian Whimbrel** *Numenius [phaeopus] hudsonicus* 20+ at Punta Raton.  
**Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca* 1 at pond near Ojochal.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes* 1 at pond near Ojochal.  
**Willet** *Tringa semipalmata* 1 en route to Punta Raton.  
**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius* Ind. birds at ponds and river banks. Common resident migrant.  
**Sanderling** *Calidris alba* 50+ at Punta Raton.  
**Western Sandpiper** *Calidris mauri* 200+ at Punta Raton at 10 at pond near Ojochal.  
**Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla* 6 at pond near Ojochal  
**Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos* 1 at pond near Ojochal.  
**Stilt Sandpiper** *Calidris himantopus* 1 at pond near Ojochal.  
**Laughing Gull** *Leucophaeus atricilla* Many at Punta Raton and 2 at Lake Yojoa.  
**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia* 25+ at Punta Raton.  
**Royal Tern** *Thalasseus maximus* Many at Punta Raton and several at Tela beaches.  
**Elegant Tern** *Thalasseus elegans* At least 1 at Punta Raton.  
**Cabot's Tern** *Thalasseus acuflavidus* 10 at Punta Raton.  
**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo* 10 at Punta Raton.  
**Rock Dove (R Pigeon, introduced)** *Columba livia* Encountered throughout in all cities.  
**Band-tailed Pigeon** *Patagioenas fasciata* Numerous birds at La Muralla. Common at Opatoro highlands.  
**Pale-vented Pigeon** *Patagioenas cayennensis* Several birds around the edges of Lake Yojoa.  
**Red-billed Pigeon** *Patagioenas flavirostris* Seen at a good number of sites.  
**Short-billed Pigeon** *Patagioenas nigrirostris* (H) at La Muralla and Pico Bonito Lodge. Seen at Meambar N.P.  
**Mourning Dove** *Zenaida macroura* Migrants in southern lowlands. About 20 birds at Ojochal.  
**White-winged Dove** *Zenaida asiatica* Commonly observed throughout much of the trip.  
**Inca Dove** *Columbina inca* Numerous birds seen at various points along trip. Fairly common throughout.  
**Common Ground Dove** *Columbina passerina* Seen at Ojochal only.  
**Ruddy Ground Dove** *Columbina talpacoti* Many birds seen at various points along trip. Common throughout.  
**Blue Ground Dove** *Claravis pretiosa* (H) only at Lancetilla.  
**White-tipped Dove** *Leptotila verreauxi* Our most common *Leptotila*.

**Grey-headed Dove** ♦ *Leptotila plumbeiceps* Mostly heard at Meambar and along Lake Yojoa and Lancetilla.  
**Grey-chested Dove** ♦ *Leptotila cassini* Mostly heard at Meambar and one flushed on trail at Rio Santiago.  
**White-faced Quail-Dove** ♦ *Geotrygon albifacies* (H) Only 1 Heard at La Tigra.  
**Ruddy Quail-Dove** *Geotrygon montana* Mostly Heard at Meambar. 1 seen (NL).  
**Groove-billed Ani** *Crotophaga sulcirostris* Inds. and small groups seen at various sites in fields.  
**Striped Cuckoo** *Tapera naevia* (H) only at Gaunacaure, Los Naranjos and Opatoro highlands.  
**Pheasant Cuckoo** *Dromococcyx phasianellus* 1 seen well at La Muralla. 1 Heard at Meambar.  
**Lesser Ground Cuckoo** ♦ *Morococcyx erythropygus* (H) only at Punta Raton and Santa Barbara.  
**Lesser Roadrunner** ♦ *Geococcyx velox* 1 at Santa Barbara. Unexpected find at that site.  
**Squirrel Cuckoo** *Piaya cayana* Heard and seen at various sites on tour. Fairly common throughout.  
**Whiskered Screech Owl** ♦ *Megascops trichopsis* 1 rufous morph seen at H. La Casona.  
**Middle American Screech Owl** ♦ *Megascops guatemalae* A roosting pair (both color morphs) at Pico Bonito Lodge.  
**Fulvous Owl** ♦ *Strix fulvescens* 1 briefly seen at first stop at Opatoro highlands. 3 birds at last stop.  
**Mottled Owl** *Strix virgata* 2 seen at Meambar by visitor's center.  
**Spectacled Owl** *Pulsatrix perspicillata* 1 adult seen at day roost at Rio Santiago.  
**Central American Pygmy Owl** *Glaucidium griseiceps* 1 bird spotted by client at Rio Santiago.  
**Ferruginous Pygmy Owl** *Glaucidium brasilianum* Common throughout much of the country.  
**Unspotted Saw-whet Owl** *Aegolius ridgwayi* (H) One heard at Las Glorales. First country record.  
**Great Potoo** *Nyctibius grandis* 2 on day roost at Pico Bonito Lodge. Obvious size difference. Likely breeding pair.  
**Lesser Nighthawk** *Chordeiles acutipennis* 1 seen on day roost near Punta Raton (below).



Lesser Nighthawk (Angie Pattison)

**Common Nighthawk** *Chordeiles minor* 1 at dusk at Opatoro highlands.  
**Pauraque** *Nyctidromus albicollis* Several birds flushed along road to H. La Casona and 2 at Meambar.  
**Mexican Whip-poor-will** ♦ *Antrostomus arizonae* One bird (H) at H. Las Glorales.  
**American Black Swift** ♦ (Black S) *Cypseloides niger* 6 seen at H. Las Glorales.  
**Chestnut-collared Swift** *Streptoprocne rutila* Flock of about 30 at H. Las Glorales.  
**White-collared Swift** *Streptoprocne zonaris* Flock of 100+ at Opatoro highlands and others elsewhere.  
**Vaux's Swift** *Chaetura vauxi* Small to medium-sized flocks at various sites in lowlands and highlands.  
**Great Swallow-tailed Swift** ♦ *Panyptila sanctihieronymi* 3 briefly seen en route to La Tigra N.P.  
**Band-tailed Barbthroat** *Threnetes ruckeri* 1 seen at Pico Bonito Lodge and 1 Rio Santiago. Seen at feeders.  
**Long-billed Hermit** *Phaethornis longirostris* 1 below Meambar N.P., also at Pico Bonito Lodge and Rio Santiago.  
**Stripe-throated Hermit** *Phaethornis striigularis* Seen at Meambar N.P. and at Pico Bonito Lodge and Rio Santiago.

**Scaly-breasted Hummingbird** *Phaeochroa cuvierii* Numerous birds, all at feeders at Rio Santiago.  
**Violet Sabrewing** ♦ *Campylopterus hemileucurus* A female at La Muralla in forest, then many others at feeders.  
**White-necked Jacobin** *Florisuga mellivora* Only seen at feeders at Rio Santiago and Pico Bonito Lodge.  
**Brown Violetear** *Colibri delphinae* Only 1 at feeders at Rio Santiago.  
**Green Violetear** *Colibri thalassinus* Only 1 along approach to La Tigra.  
**Green-breasted Mango** ♦ *Anthracothonax prevostii* 1 at Guanacaure and Lake Yojoa at *Ingas*. A few others...  
**Black-crested Coquette** ♦ *Lophornis helenae* A female at La Muralla and 1 male (NL) at Meambar N.P.  
**Canivet's Emerald** ♦ (Fork-tailed E) *Chlorostilbon canivetii* A few at Ojochal and 1 at Santa Barbara.  
**Stripe-tailed Hummingbird** ♦ *Eupherusa eximia* Numerous birds at La Muralla feeding on *citrus* flowers.  
**Crowned Woodnymph** *Thalurania colombica* Many seen mostly at feeders at Pico Bonito Lodge and Rio Santiago.  
**Cinnamon Hummingbird** ♦ *Amazilia rutila* Few seen in Choluteca, 1 at Santa Barbara, and 1 near Meambar N.P.  
**Rufous-tailed Hummingbird** *Amazilia tzacatl* Common at Meambar NP., Lake Yojoa, Pico Bonito, and Rio Santiago.  
**White-bellied Emerald** *Amazilia candida* Fairly common, mostly at feeders at various sites.  
**Azure-crowned Hummingbird** ♦ *Amazilia cyanocephala* Seen at a number of sites.  
**Berylline Hummingbird** ♦ *Amazilia beryllina* Few seen at blooming *Ingas* at Guanacaure.  
**Honduran Emerald** ♦ *Amazilia luciae* Many seen well. Now downgraded to Endangered.  
**Blue-tailed Hummingbird** ♦ *Amazilia cyanura* Many at blooming *Ingas*, also at feeders at Rio Santiago.  
**Green-throated Mountaingem** ♦ *Lampornis viridipallens* At least 4 birds at Oporoto highlands.  
**Green-breasted Mountaingem** ♦ *Lampornis sybillae* 1 at La Muralla. Several at La Tigra and along entrance road.  
**Amethyst-throated Mountaingem** ♦ (A-t Hummingbird) *Lampornis amethystinus* 1 male at Oporoto highlands.  
**White-eared Hummingbird** ♦ *Basilinna leucotis* Commonly at H. Las Glorias, La Tigra, and Oporoto highlands.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** *Archilochus colubris* At least 15 at *Ingas* Guanacaure and at least 5 at Oporoto.  
**Purple-crowned Fairy** *Heliophryx barroti* 1 briefly at Pico Bonito Lodge. Generally, a difficult bird in Honduras.  
**Plain-capped Starthroat** *Heliothryx constantii* 1 at blooming *Inga* at Guanacaure.  
**Sparkling-tailed Woodstar** ♦ *Tilmatura dupontii* 1 female along road to La Union. Feeding on blooming *Inga*.  
**Wine-throated Hummingbird** ♦ *Atthis ellioti* 1 male along ridgeline at La Tigra. Photographed well.



Mountain Trogon-a common sighting in the Oporoto highlands (Robert Gallardo)

**Resplendent Quetzal** ♦ *Pharomachrus mocinno* 1 breeding pair seen at La Tigra. Nest site observed along trail.  
**Slaty-tailed Trogon** ♦ *Trogon massena* Observed only at Rio Santiago.  
**Black-headed Trogon** ♦ *Trogon melanocephalus* Widespread in various habitats.  
**Gartered Trogon (Northern Violaceous T)** *Trogon caligatus* Also widespread in more humid habitats.  
**Black-throated Trogon** *Trogon rufus* Male/female pair only on upper trail at Pico Bonito Lodge.  
**Elegant Trogon** ♦ *Trogon elegans* 2 briefly seen at Guanacaure. (H) at Santa Barbara.  
**Mountain Trogon** ♦ *Trogon mexicanus* 2 near La Tigra. Many seen and heard at Opatoro highlands.  
**Collared Trogon** *Trogon collaris* 1 female at La Muralla. 2 seen at Opatoro highlands. (H) at Meambar.  
**Green Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle americana* 2 at Guanacaure creek. 1 at H. La Casona tilapia ponds. 1 at Lancetilla.  
**Amazon Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle amazona* Seen at several sites.  
**Ringed Kingfisher** *Megaceryle torquata* 2 at Olancho tilapia ponds. 2 near Los Naranjos, Lake Yojoa.  
**Belted Kingfisher** *M. alcyon* Several at Punta Raton and Ojochal area. 2 at sw corner of Lake Yojoa.  
**Tody Motmot** ♦ *Hylomanes momotula* (H) Heard only at Rio Santiago. Generally a hard bird to see in Honduras.  
**Blue-throated Motmot** ♦ *Aspatha gularis* Several seen in Opatoro highlands, including one going to roost.  
**Blue-diademed Motmot** ♦ *Momotus lessonii* Heard and observed frequently at all humid forest sites.  
**Keel-billed Motmot** ♦ *Electron carinatum* Several seen at Meambar. Actually quite common across Honduras.  
**Turquoise-browed Motmot** ♦ *Eumomota superciliosa* Seen at Guanacaure, Ojochal, and Los Naranjos.  
**Emerald Toucanet** ♦ *Aulacorhynchus prasinus* Seen at La Muralla, La Tigra, and at least 10 at Opatoro highlands.  
**Collared Aracari** *Pteroglossus torquatus* Seen at Meambar, Lake Yojoa, Los Naranjos and Pico Bonito Lodge.  
**Keel-billed Toucan (Rainbow-billed T)** *Ramphastos sulfuratus* Observed at a number of sites.  
**Olivaceous Piculet** *Picumnus olivaceus* 1 pair observed near Meambar. Usually more common on trips.  
**Acorn Woodpecker** *Melanerpes formicivorus* Fairly common in pine-oak forests.  
**Black-cheeked Woodpecker** ♦ *Melanerpes pucherani* Seen at Lancetilla, Lodge at Pico Bonito, and Rio Santiago.  
**Hoffmann's Woodpecker** ♦ *Melanerpes hoffmannii* Seen at Guanacaure and Ojochal, at its northern range limit.



Blue-diademed Motmot (Angie Pattison)

**Velasquez's Woodpecker** ◇ *Melanerpes santacruzi* Commonly observed throughout. Various ssp. in Honduras.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** *Sphyrapicus varius* 2 birds seen well and photographed at H. Las Gloriales.  
**Hairy Woodpecker** *Picoides villosus* Numerous birds heard and seen near La Muralla.  
**Smoky-brown Woodpecker** *Picoides fumigatus* 4 seen and heard at Lancetilla.  
**Rufous-winged Woodpecker** ◇ *Piculus simplex* 1 (H) at Rio Santiago, there at its northernmost range.  
**Golden-olive Woodpecker** *Colaptes rubiginosus* Frequently heard and seen at most sites during the tour.  
**Northern Flicker** *Colaptes auratus* Heard and seen near La Muralla, La Tigra, Opatoro highlands, and H. La Casona.  
**Chestnut-colored Woodpecker** *Celeus castaneus* Several seen at Lancetilla, Pico Bonito Lodge and Rio Santiago.  
**Lineated Woodpecker** *Dryocopus lineatus* Frequently heard and seen at most locations during the tour. Common.  
**Pale-billed Woodpecker** *Campephilus guatemalensis* 2 at La Muralla. 2 near La Tigra and 1 at Pico Bonito Lodge.  
**Northern Crested Caracara (Northern C)** *Caracara cheriway* Plenty seen.  
**Laughing Falcon** *Herpetotheres cachinnans* 1 seen at Olancho tilapia ponds and heard at H. Las Gloriales.  
**Barred Forest Falcon** *Micrastur ruficollis* (H) at Opatoro highlands and Meambar.  
**Collared Forest Falcon** *Micrastur semitorquatus* (H) at La Muralla, Opatoro highlands and Meambar.  
**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius* Numerous birds on wires en route to La Union and Opatoro highlands.  
**Bat Falcon** *Falco ruficularis* Seen near La Muralla, Lake Yojoa, Pico Bonito Lodge and Rio Santiago.  
**Peregrine Falcon (Peregrine)** *Falco peregrinus* 1 at Punta Raton, Meambar, and H. Maya Vista in Tela.  
**Olive-throated Parakeet** ◇ *Eupsittula nana* Small flocks at Meambar, Lancetilla and Lodge at Pico Bonito.  
**Orange-fronted Parakeet** *Eupsittula canicularis* Small numbers at Punta Raton and Ojochal.  
**Red-throated Parakeet** ◇ *Psittacara rubritorquis* Flocks in flight at La Muralla, H. Las Gloriales and H. La Casona.  
**Pacific Parakeet** ◇ *Psittacara strenuus* Flock of 8 at Guanacaure.  
**Barred Parakeet** *Bolborhynchus lineola* Couple flocks of 60+ (NL) at Meambar.  
**Orange-chinned Parakeet** *Brotheria jugularis* Inds. and small groups at Guanacaure and Ojochal.  
**Brown-hooded Parrot** *Pyrilia haematotis* Small flocks at Meambar, Pico Bonito Lodge and Rio Santiago.  
**White-crowned Parrot** ◇ *Pionus senilis* Small flocks at La Muralla, Meambar, Pico Bonito, and Rio Santiago.  
**White-fronted Amazon (W-f Parrot)** ◇ *Amazona albifrons* Flock of 8 en route to La Union and Meambar.  
**Red-lored Amazon (R-l Parrot)** *Amazona autumnalis* Only 2 near Meambar.  
**Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner** *Anabacerthia variegaticeps* Several observed well at La Muralla.  
**Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner** *Automolus ochrolaemus* 1 detected in mixed flock at Rio Santiago.  
**Ruddy Foliage-gleaner** *Automolus rubiginosus* Pair near La Muralla. One observed as it flushed from bush.  
**Plain Xenops** *Xenops minutus* (H) Heard along trail at Pico Bonito Lodge.  
**Tawny-winged Woodcreeper** ◇ *Dendrocincla anabatina* 1 observed along upper trail at Pico Bonito Lodge.  
**Wedge-billed Woodcreeper** *Glyphorhynchus spirurus* 1 below Meambar and 1 at Pico Bonito Lodge.  
**Northern Barred Woodcreeper** *Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae* Seen at Meambar and Los Naranjos.  
**Black-banded Woodcreeper** ◇ *Dendrocolaptes picumnus* 1 seen and photographed at Opatoro highlands.  
**Cocoa Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus susurrans* Several at Lancetilla and heard at Rio Santiago.  
**Strong-billed Woodcreeper** *Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus* (H) Only at La Muralla. Usually seen on tours.  
**Ivory-billed Woodcreeper** ◇ *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster* Most common and widespread woodcreeper in Honduras.  
**Spotted Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus erythropygius* 3 at La Muralla and (H) at La Tigra.  
**Streak-headed Woodcreeper** ◇ *Lepidocolaptes souleyetti* Seen at Lake Yojoa, Meambar and Lancetilla.  
**Spot-crowned Woodcreeper** *Lepidocolaptes affinis* Briefly seen only at Opatoro highlands.  
**Great Antshrike** *Taraba major* Several heard and female observed (and photographed) at Lancetilla.  
**Barred Antshrike** *Thamnophilus doliatus* Seen and heard at a few sites.  
**Dusky Antbird** *Cercomacra tyrannina* (H) only at Meambar and Rio Santiago.  
**Mayan Antthrush** ◇ (Mexican A) *Formicarius moniliger* (H) only at La Muralla and Meambar.  
**Grey-headed Piprites** ◇ *Piprites griseiceps* 1 briefly observed at Lancetilla behind dormitory units.  
**Greenish Elaenia** *Myiopagis viridicata* Several observed only at Guanacaure.  
**Yellow-bellied Elaenia** *Elaenia flavogaster* Frequently heard and some seen at Lake Yojoa basin where common.  
**Mountain Elaenia** *Elaenia frantzii* 2 seen near La Tigra. Common, heard and seen all day at Opatoro highland.  
**Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet** ◇ *Ornithion semiflavum* A pair observed only at Rio Santiago.  
**Northern Beardless Tyrannulet** *Camptostoma imberbe* 2 seen only at Guanacaure.  
**Mistletoe Tyrannulet** ◇ *Zimmerius parvus* 1 at Lancetilla, 1 (H) at Pico Bonito Lodge and Rio Santiago.  
**Ochre-bellied Flycatcher** *Mionectes oleaginous* Various inds. found at Meambar and Lancetilla.  
**Northern Bentbill** ◇ *Oncostoma cinereigulare* 2 heard at La Muralla, 1 seen at Meambar, 1 heard at Rio Santiago.  
**Slaty-headed Tody-Flycatcher** *Poecilatriccus sylvia* Heard by entire group at Lancetilla and seen by some.  
**Common Tody-Flycatcher** *Todirostrum cinereum* 2 seen well at Guanacaure. Also near Meambar.  
**Yellow-olive Flatbill (Y-o Flycatcher)** *Tolmomyias sulphurens* 1 at Guanacaure; two nest building at Lancetilla.



Common Tody-Flycatcher (Angie Pattison)

**Stub-tailed Spadebill** ♦ *Platyrinchus cancrominus* 1 very cooperative bird seen well near cabins at Meambar.  
**Black Phoebe** *Sayornis nigricans* 2 at H. Las Casona tilapia ponds, several at Lake Yojoa, and 1 near Rio Santiago.  
**Olive-sided Flycatcher** *Contopus cooperi* 1 seen at La Muralla.  
**Greater Pewee** *Contopus pertinax* Heard in pine forests near La Muralla. 4 seen at H. La Casona.  
**Eastern Wood Pewee** *Contopus virens* 1 identified by voice at La Muralla.  
**Tropical Pewee** *Contopus cinereus* 3 seen at Guanacaure only.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** *Empidonax flaviventris* Most abundant migrant *Empidonax* in Honduras.  
**Willow Flycatcher** *Empidonax traillii* Identified by voice at Lake Yojoa marshes.  
**Least Flycatcher** *Empidonax minimus* 2 identified by voice at Ojochal and Santa Barbara.  
**Yellowish Flycatcher** *Empidonax flavescens* Heard and seen at La Muralla and La Tigra. Common resident.  
**Piratic Flycatcher** *Legatus leucophaeus* 1 seen well on approach to Meambar, other heard at Bella Vista restaurant.  
**Social Flycatcher** *Myiozetetes similis* Observed at most sites during the trip except highlands.  
**Great Kiskadee** *Pitangus sulphuratus* Observed at most sites during the trip except highlands.  
**Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** *Myiodyanstes luteiventris* 1 (NL) at Lancetilla. 1 at Pico Bonito Lodge.  
**Boat-billed Flycatcher** *Megarynchus pitangua* Observed at most sites during the trip except highlands.  
**Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus* Observed at most sites during the trip.  
**Western Kingbird** *Tyrannus verticalis* 1 seen at Guanacaure and 2 at Ojochal.  
**Rufous Mourner** *Rhytipterna holerythra* 1 observed at Pico Bonito Lodge.  
**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus forficatus* Common resident migrant in Pacific lowlands.  
**Fork-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus savana* Two observed at different sites along Lake Yojoa wetlands.  
**Dusky-capped Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tuberculifer* Heard and seen throughout trip at most elevations.  
**Ash-throated Flycatcher** *Myiarchus cinerascens* Numerous birds observed in Pacific lowlands.  
**Nutting's Flycatcher** ♦ *Myiarchus nuttingi* (H) Heard only at Olancho tilapia ponds.  
**Great Crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus crinitus* Mostly heard but a few seen.  
**Brown-crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tyrannulus* 2 seen at Ojochal. 2 at Santa Barbara. 1 at Meambar.  
**Flammulated Attila** *Attila [spadiceus] flammulatus* Seen at Meambar. Heard at several other sites.  
**Lovely Cotinga** ♦ *Cotinga amabilis* 2 males, 2 females seen en route to La Muralla. 1 male at Pico Bonito Lodge.  
**White-collared Manakin** *Manacus candei* Seen at Meambar, Lancetilla, Lodge at Pico Bonito and Rio Santiago.  
**Long-tailed Manakin** ♦ *Chiroxiphia linearis* 2 males seen at Guanacaure.  
**Red-capped Manakin** *Dixiphia mentalis* 1 female at La Muralla and a male on fruiting Melastome at Pico Bonito.  
**Black-crowned Tityra** *Tityra inquisitor* 1 male at Lancetilla. Uncommon in most of Honduras.  
**Masked Tityra** *Tityra semifasciata* Small numbers observed at most sites during the trip. Common.

Northern Schiffornis ◇ *Schiffornis veraepacis* 1 observed well (and photographed) at Lancetilla behind dorm units.

Cinnamon Becard *Pachyrampus cinnamomeus* (H) Heard only at Rio Santiago.

Rose-throated Becard *Pachyrampus aglaiae* 1 at Guanacaure, 2 at Lancetilla, 1 at Rio Santiago, 1 at Pico Bonito.

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis* Inds. heard and seen at many locales during trip.

Green Shrike-vireo ◇ *Vireolanius pulchellus* (H) Heard on upper trail at Pico Bonito Lodge.

White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus* 1 seen at Santa Barbara and another at Los Naranjos.

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons* Numerous sightings including: Guanacaure, Meambar, and Lancetilla.

Blue-headed Vireo *Vireo solitarius* Single birds at Meambar and H. La Casona.

Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus* 2 at Guanacaure.

Brown-capped Vireo *Vireo leucophrys* 4 at Opatoro highlands.

Philadelphia Vireo *Vireo philadelphicus* Several birds at Meambar and 2 at Rio Santiago.

Tawny-crowned Greenlet *Hylophilus ochraceiceps* Group of 3 at Pico Bonito Lodge and 1 at Rio Santiago.

Lesser Greenlet *Hylophilus decurtatus* Small numbers at: La Muralla, Guanacaure, Meambar, and Lancetilla.

Black-throated Jay ◇ *Cyanolyca pumilo* 1 small flock seen at La Tigra. Foraging with Bushy-crested Jays.

Bushy-crested Jay ◇ *Cyanocorax melanocyaneus* Common throughout highlands. Flocks of different sizes seen.

Green Jay *Cyanocorax luxuosus* 3 seen at Santa Barbara and Meambar.

Brown Jay *Psilorhinus morio* Observed at most sites during the trip except highlands.

White-throated Magpie-Jay ◇ *Calocitta formosa* Inds. observed at Guanacaure and Ojochal.

Steller's Jay *Cyanocitta stelleri* Small numbers around La Muralla and south of La Union. 3 at Opatoro highlands.

Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor* 1 on wire near Ojochal. Fairly large numbers over marshes at Lake Yojoa.

Mangrove Swallow *Tachycineta albilinea* 2 at Olancho tilapia ponds. Nearly 40 at Punta Raton and a few others.

Violet-green Swallow *Tachycineta thalassina* Good numbers at several sites.

Grey-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea* Small numbers at several sites.

Black-capped Swallow ◇ *Notiochelidon pileata* Brief and distant glimpses of 2 inds. at Opatoro highlands.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* Frequently observed in small numbers at most sites.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Small numbers in Pacific lowlands. Larger quantities at Lake Yojoa.

American Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* 1 at Punta Raton and several at Bella Vista restaurant.

Band-backed Wren *Campylorhynchus zonatus* Small groups near La Muralla and H. Las Glorales.

Rufous-backed Wren ◇ *Campylorhynchus capistratus* Small numbers at Olancho tilapia ponds, Guanacaure etc.

Spot-breasted Wren *Pheugopedius maculipectus* Seen at Meambar, Lake Yojoa, Lancetilla, Pico Bonito etc

Banded Wren ◇ *Thryophilus pleurostictus* 2 seen at Ojochal.

Plain Wren ◇ *Cantorchilus modestus* Heard near La Muralla and Opatoro highlands. Seen en route to La Tigra.

Southern House Wren *Troglodytes [aedon] modestus* Heard and seen throughout except Pacific lowlands.

Rufous-browed Wren ◇ *Troglodytes rufociliatus* Recorded only at La Tigra.

White-breasted Wood Wren *Henicorhina leucosticta* Recorded at most lowland rainforest sites. Mostly heard.

Grey-breasted Wood Wren *Henicorhina leucophrys* (H) Heard only at Opatoro highlands. Very local in Honduras.

Northern Nightingale-Wren ◇ *Microcerculus philomela* (H) Heard only at La Muralla.

Long-billed Gnatwren *Ramphocaenus melanurus* Several at Lancetilla and 1 heard at Pico Bonito Lodge.

White-lored Gnatcatcher ◇ *Poliophtila albiloris* Numerous birds recorded in Pacific lowlands. Common in the region.

Tropical Gnatcatcher *Poliophtila plumbea* 2 at Lancetilla and 2 on upper trail at Pico Bonito Lodge.

Brown Creeper *Certhia americana* 1 near La Union and 2 at H. La Casona. Fairly widespread and common.

Grey Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis* Recorded near La Muralla, H. Las Glorales, marsh at Lake Yojoa etc.

Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus* Recorded at Olancho tilapia ponds and Pacific lowlands.

Blue-and-white Mockingbird ◇ *Melanotis hypoleucus* Pair at La Muralla, 1 at H. Las Glorales, several at Opatoro.

Eastern Bluebird *Sialia sialis* Recorded at most highland sites. Common resident.

Brown-backed Solitaire ◇ *Myadestes occidentalis* At least 14 at Opatoro highlands. Seen well.

Slate-colored Solitaire ◇ *Myadestes unicolor* Heard and seen at all highland sites during tour.

Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus aurantirostris* Mostly heard at Olancho ponds and H. Las Glorales.

Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus frantzii* Seen briefly at La Tigra. Also Opatoro highlands.

Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus mexicanus* Several birds heard and briefly seen at La Muralla.

Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina* 1 near La Muralla. Several birds at Meambar. More common along north coast.

Mountain Thrush ◇ *Turdus plebejus* 1 at La Tigra and 1 seen well at Opatoro highlands.

Clay-colored Thrush *T. grayi* Common at most sites in Honduras.

White-throated Thrush *T. assimilis* (H) only at Meambar.

Rufous-collared Thrush ◇ *T. rufitorques* Many birds seen at Opatoro highlands. Common in that area.

House Sparrow (introduced) *Passer domesticus* Commonly observed at most towns.

Olive Warbler ◇ *Peucedramsu taeniatus* Heard at La Tigra, then several seen at Opatoro highlands where common.

Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* 1 in pine forest near La Muralla. Often in large flocks there.

Lesser Goldfinch (Dark-backed G) *Spinus psaltria* Group of 4 at Opatoro highlands.

Black-headed Siskin ◇ *Spinus notata* A few at La Muralla, Opatoro, and H. La Casona; 12+ en route to Meambar.



*Rufous-collared Thrush*-a southwestern highland specialty (Robert Gallardo)



*Olive-backed Euphonia*-male (Robert Gallardo)

**Scrub Euphonia** *Euphonia affinis* 1 at Guanacaure and 5 at Ojochal. 1 at Santa Barbara.  
**Yellow-throated Euphonia** *Euphonia hirundinacea* Fairly common at Meambar, Lake Yojoa, and Pico Bonito.  
**Elegant Euphonia** *Euphonia elegantissima* Only 1 female seen at Meambar.  
**Olive-backed Euphonia** *Euphonia gouldi* Common at Lancetilla, Pico Bonito Lodge and Rio Santiago.  
**White-vented Euphonia** *Euphonia minuta* 1 pair at Pico Bonito Lodge. Most difficult euphonia to locate in Honduras.  
**Blue-crowned Chlorophonia** *Chlorophonia occipitalis* (H) Very few; heard only at La Muralla and Opatoro.  
**Louisiana Waterthrush** *Parkesia motacilla* Only 1 ind. recorded at Meambar.  
**Northern Waterthrush** *Parkesia noveboracensis* Small numbers at a few sites.  
**Golden-winged Warbler** *Vermivora chrysoptera* Around six, all males observed.  
**Blue-winged Warbler** *Vermivora cyanoptera* Only 1 observed near Meambar.  
**Black-and-white Warbler** *Mniotilta varia* Inds. seen at most sites throughout the trip. Common resident migrant.  
**Prothonotary Warbler** *Protonotaria citrea* 1 ind. foraging in bush at Pico Bonito Lodge.  
**Swainson's Warbler** *Limnethlypis swainsonii* 1 ind. observed (LO) at Los Naranjos.  
**Crescent-chested Warbler** *Oreothlypis superciliosa* About 8 at La Tigra and 3 at Opatoro.  
**Tennessee Warbler** *Leiothlypis peregrina* Commonly observed at most locales on trip. Often in small groups.  
**Grey-crowned Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis poliocephala* Recorded near La Union, Punta Raton, and near La Tigra.  
**Kentucky Warbler** *Geothlypis formosa* Inds. recorded at Meambar, Los Naranjos, and Pico Bonito Lodge.  
**Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas* A few near La Tigra and H. La Casona. Common around Lake Yojoa.  
**Hooded Warbler** *Setophaga citrina* Numerous males recorded at Lake Yojoa, Pico Bonito Lodge, and Rio Santiago.  
**American Redstart** *Setophaga ruticilla* Males and females observed at nearly every locale on the trip. Common.  
**Tropical Parula** *Setophaga pitaiyumi* Few inds. recorded around La Muralla.  
**Magnolia Warbler** *Setophaga magnolia* Small numbers at various sites.  
**American Yellow Warbler (Yellow W)** *Setophaga eastiva* Inds. observed at most locales during the trip.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler** *Setophaga pensylvanica* Inds. observed at most locales with broadleaf forest.  
**Grace's Warbler** *Setophaga graciae* Smaller numbers than expected at most pine forests due to pine die-off.  
**Townsend's Warbler** *Setophaga townsendi* Relatively small numbers at La Tigra and Opatoro highlands.  
**Hermit Warbler** *Setophaga occidentalis* 2 at La Muralla pine forests; a few near La Tigra and Opatoro highlands.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler** *Setophaga virens* Moderate numbers at high and mid-elevation forests.  
**Fan-tailed Warbler** *Basileuterus lachrymosus* 3 seen at Guanacaure. Great find.  
**Rufous-capped Warbler** *Basileuterus rufifrons* Small numbers in Olancho, Guanacaure, and Santa Barbara.  
**Golden-crowned Warbler** *Basileuterus culicivorus* Group of 3 seen at Meambar during a light rain.  
**Wilson's Warbler** *Cardellina pusilla* Common across Honduran highlands.  
**Slate-throated Whitestart (S-t Redstart)** *Myioborus miniatus* Small numbers across Honduran highlands.  
**Yellow-breasted Chat** *Icteria virens* Surprisingly few recorded during trip. 1 at Lake Yojoa and 1 at Lancetilla.  
**Chestnut-headed Oropendola (Wagler's O)** *Psarocolius wagleri* Commonly observed during the trip.  
**Montezuma Oropendola** *Psarocolius Montezuma* Many; active colonies along approach to Meambar and Lancetilla.  
**Yellow-billed Cacique** *Amblycercus holosericeus* Small numbers recorded, mostly by voice, at several sites.  
**Spot-breasted Oriole** *Icterus pectoralis* 4 near La Union, 2 at H. La Casona, Los Naranjos, and Tela.  
**Black-cowled Oriole** *Icterus prothemelas* Few recorded at Lancetilla (NL) and Pico Bonito Lodge.  
**Orchard Oriole** *Icterus spurius* Fairly large numbers at Guanacaure and Lake Yojoa where often at blooming *Ingas*.  
**Black-vented Oriole** *Icterus wagleri* Small numbers across various highland sites. Fairly common.  
**Yellow-backed Oriole** *Icterus chrysater* Fairly common at most highland sites. Often in small same-species flocks.  
**Baltimore Oriole** *Icterus gularis* Fairly large numbers during most of the trip. Often at blooming *Ingas*.  
**Streak-backed Oriole** *Icterus pustulatus* Small numbers in Pacific lowlands where fairly common.  
**Altamira Oriole** *Icterus gularis* Few recorded; mostly Pacific lowlands, also at H. La Casona and Santa Barbara.  
**Giant Cowbird** *Molothrus oryzivorus* Mostly observed at oropendola colonies.  
**Bronzed Cowbird** *Molothrus aeneus* Ind. birds recorded at Ojochal and Santa Barbara. 40+ near Punta Raton.  
**Melodious Blackbird** *Dives dives* Common across the country. Many heard and seen.  
**Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus* Few recorded (LO) at Lake Yojoa marsh.  
**Great-tailed Grackle** *Quiscalus mexicanus* Abundant across Honduras, especially near human settlements.  
**Eastern Meadowlark** *Sturnella magna* (H) Heard only along road to La Union.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow** *Melospiza lincolnii* Several in wet ravine en route to La Tigra.  
**Rufous-collared Sparrow** *Zonotrichia capensis* Few near La Tigra and common at Opatoro highlands.  
**Chipping Sparrow** *Spizella passerina* Flock of at least 20 in pines near La Muralla. Common across highlands.  
**Stripe-headed Sparrow** *Peucaea ruficauda* At least 12 around Punta Raton. Common in Pacific lowlands.  
**Rusty Sparrow** *Aimophila rufescens* Many recorded across the highlands. Common.  
**Prevost's Ground Sparrow** *Melospiza biarcuata* 2 seen en route to Meambar. Common around Lake Yojoa.  
**Green-backed Sparrow** *Arremonops chloronotus* Only 1 observed near canal at Los Naranjos.  
**Black-striped Sparrow** *Arremonops conirostris* (H) Heard only at Lancetilla.  
**Orange-billed Sparrow** *Arremon aurantirostris* (H) Heard only at Rio Santiago.



*Spot-breasted Oriole (Robert Gallardo)*



*Black-cowled Oriole (Robert Gallardo)*

**Chestnut-capped Brush Finch** *Arremon brunneinucha* 1 only at La Tigra.  
**White-naped Brush Finch** ◇ *Atlapetes albinucha* 2 en route to La Tigra.  
**Common Bush Tanager** *Chlorospingus flavopectus* Common at all highlands sites. Often in flocks from 4-10 birds.  
**White-shouldered Tanager** *Tachyphonus luctuosus* 1 observed at Rio Santiago. There at its northern range limit.  
**Crimson-collared Tanager** ◇ *Ramphocelus sanguinolentus* Seen at several sites around Lake Yojoa and Lancetilla.  
**Passerini's Tanager** ◇ (Scarlet-rumped T) *Ramphocelus passerinii* At least 7 seen at Lancetilla where common.  
**Blue-grey Tanager** *Thraupis episcopus* 1 at H. La Muralla. 6 at Guanacaure. Many at Lake Yojoa and elsewhere.  
**Yellow-winged Tanager** ◇ *Thraupis abbas* 4 at H. La Casona. Many at Lake Yojoa and north coast where common.  
**Golden-hooded Tanager** *Tangara larvata* Few sightings at Pico Bonito Lodge and Rio Santiago.



*Crimson-collared Tanager (Robert Gallardo)*

**Shining Honeycreeper** *Cyanerpes lucidus* Few inds. at Pico Bonito Lodge.  
**Red-legged Honeycreeper** *Cyanerpes cyaneus* Around 19 at Guanacaure on blooming Ingas. Other at Lancetilla.  
**Green Honeycreeper** *Chlorophanes spiza* Few males and females at Pico Bonito Lodge.  
**Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer** ◇ *Diglossa baritula* Seen en route to La Tigra and commonly at Opatoro highlands.  
**Blue-black Grassquit** *Volatinia jacarina* Surprisingly small numbers at Guanacaure and Lancetilla.  
**Variable Seedeater** *Sporophila corvina* Pair at sw corner of Lake Yojoa and small numbers at Lancetilla.  
**White-collared Seedeater** *Sporophila torqueola* Small numbers in open areas at various sites.  
**Ruddy-breasted Seedeater** *Sporophila minuta* Common in Pacific lowlands. Most males not yet in breeding dress.  
**Thick-billed Seed Finch (Lesser S F)** *Oryzoborus funereus* Several birds at Lancetilla.  
**Yellow-faced Grassquit** *Tiaris olivaceus* Widespread. Seen at many sites  
**Flame-colored Tanager** ◇ *Piranga bidentata* Single birds at La Muralla and several at Opatoro highlands.  
**Hepatic Tanager (Northern H T)** *Piranga hepatica* Seen and heard at most highlands sites.  
**Summer Tanager** *Piranga rubra* 1 at Guanacaure and H. La Casona where unusual.  
**Western Tanager** *Piranga ludoviciana* 1 near Choluteca and 2 at Guanacaure.  
**White-winged Tanager** *Piranga leucoptera* 4 in a mixed species flock below La Muralla and 1 at Meambar.  
**Red-crowned Ant Tanager** *Habia rubica* Only sighting at Meambar. Much less common than *H. fuscicauda*.  
**Red-throated Ant Tanager** ◇ *Habia fuscicauda* Four at Guanacaure and numerous sightings at Lake Yojoa etc.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** *Pheucticus ludovicianus* Pair at Guanacaure, 3 at Opatoro highlands, and Lancetilla.  
**Black-headed Saltator** *Saltator atriceps* Observed at most locales along trip. Most common of the three saltators.  
**Buff-throated Saltator** *Saltator maximus* Recorded only along Caribbean slope. Common in rainforest habitats.  
**Greyish Saltator** *Saltator coerulescens* Seen at Gaunacaure and north shore of Lake Yojoa.  
**Blue-black Grosbeak** *Cyanocompsa cyanoides* Recorded at Meambar, Lancetilla, and Pico Bonito Lodge.  
**Blue Grosbeak** *Passerina caerulea* Seen en route to La Union. At least 10 at Ojochal. 2 near Meambar.  
**Indigo Bunting** *Passerina cyanea* Seen near La Union, at Guanacaure, near La Tigra, and at Lake Yojoa.  
**Painted Bunting** ◇ *Passerina ciris* Numerous birds at Guanacaure, Punta Raton and Ojochal. Lovely bird!



*Flame-colored Tanager-male (Robert Gallardo)*

## Mammals

**Long-tailed Weasel** *Mustela frenata* 1 briefly observed at La Muralla.

**Neotropical River Otter** *Lutra longicaudis* 1 seen along north shore of Lake Yojoa in an inlet.

**Kinkajou** *Potos flavus* 1 seen on day roost at Pico Bonito Lodge.

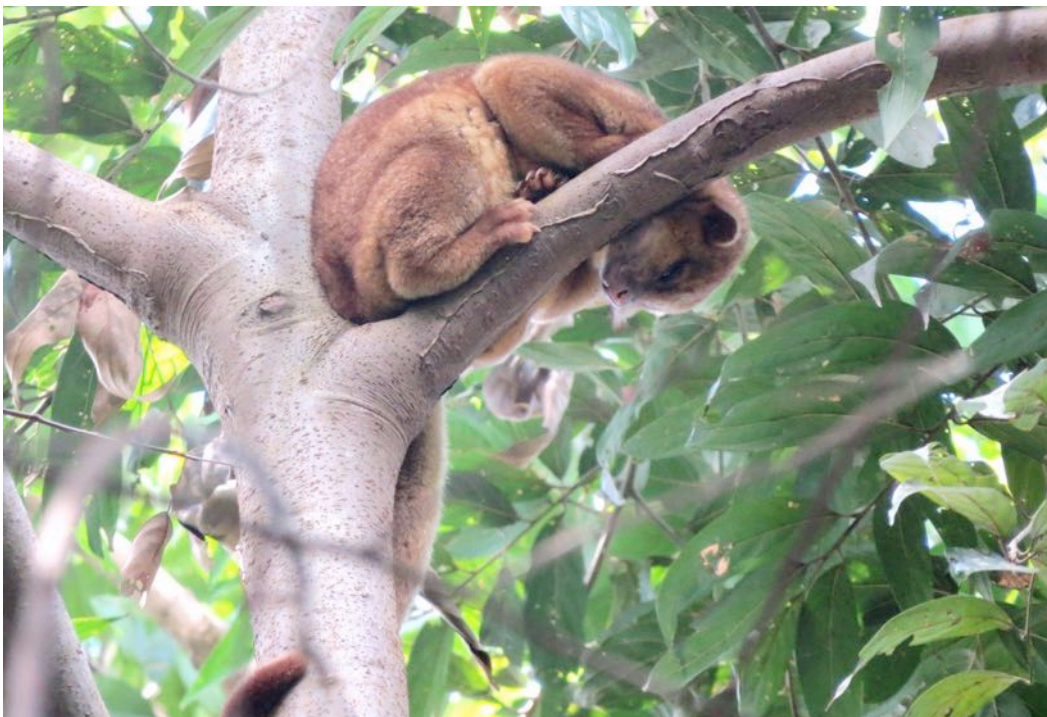
**White-nosed Coati** *Nasua narica* Observed (NL) at Pico Bonito Lodge.

**Forest Rabbit** *Sylvilagus brasiliensis* 1 at Ojochal and 1 at Los Naranjos.

**Variegated Squirrel** *Sciurus variegatoides* Several seen at La Muralla, Lake Yojoa, and Guanacaure.

**Deppe's Squirrel** *S. deppei* 1 at La Muralla and Opatoro highlands.

**Central American Agouti** *Dasyprocta punctata* Several observed including Los Naranjos y Pico Bonito Lodge.



*Kinkajou-Lodge at Pico Bonito (Robert Gallardo)*