Best of Honduras
Trip Report
11th - 19th December 2015

Bushy-crested Jay by Alexander Alvarado

Guides: Alexander Alvarado (Copán area), Elmer Escoto (Pico Bonito Lodge) & Chris Sharpe (trip leader)

Trip report compiled by Chris Sharpe
Itinerary

11 December: Lago Yojoa: Finca La Gloria
12 December: La Laguna Road; Ruinas Copán; Rastrojón
13 December: Copán to Pico Bonito Lodge
14 December: Pico Bonito Lodge
15 December: Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge
16 December: Aguán Valley; La Ceiba
17 December: Río Santiago
18 December: Lancetilla Botanical Garden; Tela
19 December: 07h30 departure

Diary

Friday 11 December. A delayed American Airlines flight had left tour leader Chris stranded in Miami, but our quick-thinking guide Alex had already suggested visiting Lago Yojoa while Chris flew down to join the group. He arrived at the hotel just after dawn and the group was very quickly marshalled to the lake. This turned out to be a great decision, adding several species that we would not have been able to find elsewhere, such as White-throated Flycatcher (perhaps the best place anywhere to see what is usually a scarce and local Empidonax), Rufous-backed Wren and Spot-breasted Oriole. After a nice typical lunch and a trip to the airport to collect our wayward tour leader, the rest of the day was spent driving westwards to Copán, where we spent the night in a comfortable colonial style hotel.

Saturday 12 December. Our next morning was spent climbing by 4WD through coffee plantations along the La Laguna Road, which proved to be extremely birdy. By the time we reached the start of the pine-oak forest, our picnic breakfast stop provided an early highlight in the form of a flock of 20 Bushy-crested Jays. These gorgeous regional endemics were Joyce's 5000th world bird! At the same spot we saw one of the morning's 8 Ferruginous Pygmy-Owls and had fabulous looks at a male Collared Trogon. Our final bird of the morning, at the highest point on our trip, was Brown-backed Solitaire. After a traditional lunch, we enjoyed a tour of the magnificent Copán Ruins World Heritage Site with an expert guide who had to suffer our interruptions as we found Elegant Euphonias, White-throated Magpie-Jays and a flock of 70 Red-throated Parakeets at point-blank range. With some daylight still left, half of us headed to the smaller archaeological site of Rastrojón to end the day.

Sunday 13 December. The following morning was entirely taken up with the hour drive to Pico Bonito Lodge, the Sunday lack of traffic allowing us to complete the journey in under 7 hours. New birds greeted us on an afternoon bird walk, with the Violet Sabrewing and Violet-crowned Woodnymph being perhaps the favourites. A Geoffroy's Spider Monkey feeding noisily may have chased the cotingas from their wild avocado tree.
Monday 14 December. After meeting our local guide, Elmer, our entire day was dedicated to exploring the Pico Bonito Lodge trails. A super study of 4 male and 4 female Lovely Cotingas was hard to top. This is a hard bird to see satisfactorily elsewhere in its range, but is a signature bird for Pico Bonito Lodge. Almost as good was a scope study of a roosting Great Potoo. The afternoons are typically quiet here, but we found a selection of showy migrants at a small pool: Kentucky and Hooded Warbler, as well as Wood Thrush.

Tuesday 15 December. Today we took one of the most enjoyable and unusual train rides that any of us could remember, on our visit to the Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge, seeing a selection of widespread waterbirds along the way. Our boat trip into the mangroves produced a host of species including a dozen Boat-billed Herons, White-necked Puffbird, Black-crowned Antshrike and a Sungrebe, with a couple of showy Collared Plovers displaying at the beach. Mantled Howler Monkey and White-throated Capuchin were also seen well.

Wednesday 16 December. An early, pre-breakfast start for our day trip to the Aguán Valley, a dry pocket home to Honduras's only endemic species, the eponymous Emerald. After wonderfully close views of a soaring male Hook-billed Kite during some roadside birding, we headed into the Honduran Emerald reserve, a place of thorn-bushes, cacti, and ocotillos and temperatures to match. It only took us a short while, hurrying from one patch of shade to then next to chalk up half a dozen Honduran Emeralds and about the same number of Salvin's – nice to know that this endangered, restricted-range species is, at least, abundant here. A Zone-tailed Hawk added to the desert atmosphere. Lunch, cooked in a clay oven, was served in the dining room of a charming local house. On our way out we picked up a Lesser Roadrunner sheltering from the sun. Our final new bird of the day was Black-and-White Owl – three adults roosting in a park in La Ceiba, thanks to Elmer.

Thursday 17 December. Our morning was spent at the Río Santiago private reserve. The forest trail was not in great shape, but provided us with views three species of woodcreeper as well as Keel-billed and Tody Motmots – two of the most difficult motmots to see and target birds for this excursion. However, the forest was eclipsed by the multitude of hummingbird feeders, which gave us looks at 11 species, including the uncommon Band-tailed Barthroat. After dinner, we spent a couple of hours looking for nocturnal wildlife. A small Fer-de-lance was found along the trail by the dining room, while a Great Potoo provided prolonged views as it perched on a corner of the platform. The most memorable experience of the night, however, came in the cocoa plantation, courtesy of two Middle American Screech Owls – we had to gradually work our way towards them by ear, but were finally rewarded with unforgettable views.

Friday 18 December. Our final full day began with a trip to Lancetilla Botanical Garden, another supremely birdy destination. Boreal migrant warblers were out in force, with good looks at
Blue-winged and Chestnut-sided and a nice Northern Parula. We had to fight for looks at White-collared Manakins and Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet. The sun created thermals for soaring raptors, and we had half a dozen species including both black hawks and a Black Hawk-Eagle. Lunch was a change of scene: a typical seafood restaurant at Tela serving the best food of the tour. A stroll along the beach afterwards was rewarded with several seabirds, the last of which was a probable Parasitic Jaeger, although our views were not quite good enough to clinch its identity.

Saturday 19 December. After a quick look around the gardens and a hearty breakfast, we departed together for the airport, pondering how nine days had slipped by so quickly. Top birding destinations, great local guides, fine lodges, super birds and great company are the elements of a perfect birding vacation!
Annotated List of Birds

**DUCKS GEES AND WATERFOWL** – Anatidae

American Wigeon *Anas americana* – Lago Yojoa

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* – Lago Yojoa; Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge; Aguán Valley

**GUANS CHACHALACAS AND CURASSOWS** – Cracidae

Plain Chachalaca *Ortalis vetula* – Rastrojón; Pico Bonito Lodge

**GREBES** – Podicipedidae

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* – Lago Yojoa

**STORKS** – Ciconiidae

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana* – Aguán Valley; Lancetilla Botanical Garden

**HERONS EGRETS AND BITTERNS** – Ardeidae

Bare-throated Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma mexicanum* – Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge (a superb adult and a tigered juvenile)

Boat-billed Heron *Cochlearius cochlearius* – Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge (super looks at a dozen or so)

Yellow-crowned Night Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* – an adult at Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge

Green Heron *Butorides virescens* – Lago Yojoa; Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge; Aguán Valley

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* – Lago Yojoa; Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge; Aguán Valley

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias* – Lago Yojoa; Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge; Aguán Valley

Great Egret *Ardea alba* – Lago Yojoa; La Laguna road; Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge; Aguán Valley

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* – Lago Yojoa; Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge; Aguán Valley

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* – La Laguna Road; Copán; Aguán Valley; Río Santiago

**PELICANS** – Pelecanidae

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* – Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge; Tela

**FRIGATEBIRDS** – Fregatidae

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens* – Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge; Tela

**CORMORANTS AND SHAGS** – Phalacrocoracidae

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* – Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge; Río Santiago

**ANHINGAS** – Anhingidae

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga* – Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge

**NEW WORLD VULTURES** – Cathartidae

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* – throughout

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes burrovianus* – Lago Yojoa; Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* – throughout

**HAWKS EAGLES AND KITES** – Accipitridae

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* – Lago Yojoa; Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge (all North American breeding subspecies *carolinensis*)

Hook-billed Kite *Chondrohierax uncinatus* – excellent close looks at an adult male soaring at the roadside in the Aguán Valley

Black Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus tyrannus* – singles at Pico Bonito Lodge and Lancetilla Botanical Garden

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis* – Lago Yojoa

Common Black Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus* – Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge; Río Santiago; Lancetilla Botanical Garden

Great Black Hawk *Buteogallus urubitinga* – one soaring at Pico Bonito Lodge and a pair displaying at Lancetilla Botanical Garden

Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris* – Lago Yojoa; La Laguna road; Rastrojón; Pico Bonito
Lodge; Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge; Aguán Valley; Lancetilla Botanical Garden
Grey Hawk *Buteo plagiatus* – Ruinas Copán; road; Pico Bonito Lodge; Lancetilla Botanical Garden
Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus* – an adult soaring at Lancetilla Botanical Garden
Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus* – La Laguna road; Ruinas Copán; Pico Bonito Lodge; Lancetilla Botanical Garden
Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus* – very nice looks at Aguán Valley and Lancetilla Botanical Garden
Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis* – Ruinas Copán; Aguán Valley (most likely resident subspecies *kemsiesi*, rather than migrants from North America)

**FINFOOTS – Heliornithidae**
Sungrebe *Heliornis fulica* – fairly good looks at a bird in the mangroves at Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge

**RAILS GALLINULES AND COOTS – Rallidae**
Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinicus* – Lago Yojoa
Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata* – Lago Yojoa

**LIMPKIN – Aramidae**
Limpkin *Aramus guarauna* – Lago Yojoa

**PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS – Charadriidae**
Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* – Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge (2); Tela (1)
Collared Plover *Charadrius collaris* – jaw-dropping looks at a feisty, fluffed up male driving a competitor from his stretch of flotsam-strewn tideline at the Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge

**JACANAS – Jacanidae**
Northern Jacana *Jacana spinosa* – Lago Yojoa; Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge

**SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES – Scolopacidae**
Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* – Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge; Aguán Valley
Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* – Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge (a dozen)
Sanderling *Calidris alba* – Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge (8); Tela (8)
Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* – Aguán Valley (3)

**SKUAS – Stercorariidae**
Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus* – our last bird at Tela, a single jaeger harassing a Royal Tern had the characteristic build and behaviour of this species; the view was not good enough to entirely eliminate Pomarine Jaeger *S. pomarinus* with certainty

**GULLS TERNs AND SKIMMERS – Laridae**
Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla* – Tela
Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus* – Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge (4); Tela (6)

**PIGEONS AND DOVES – Columbidae**
Feral (Rock) Dove *Columba livia* (Introduced) – all built-up areas
Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis* – Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge; Lancetilla Botanical Garden
Red-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas flavirostris* – a pigeon of drier areas, secondary habitats and forest edge throughout: La Laguna Road; Rastrojón; Pico Bonito Lodge; Lancetilla Botanical Garden
Inca Dove *Columbina inca* – Ruinas Copán; Pico Bonito Lodge; Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge; Aguán Valley; Río Santiago; Lancetilla Botanical Garden
Ruddy Ground Dove *Columbina talpaci* – Lago Yojoa; La Laguna road; Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge; Aguán Valley
Blue Ground Dove *Claravis pretiosa* – a pair at Lancetilla Botanical Garden
Grey-headed Dove *Leptotila plumbeiceps* – we tracked down a secretive singing bird Pico Bonito Lodge
White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica* – Lago Yojoa; La Laguna road; Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge; Aguán Valley; Río Santiago; Lancetilla Botanical Garden
CUCKOOS – Cuculidae
Groove-billed Ani *Crocophaga sulcirostris* – drier areas, secondary habitats and scrub throughout:
- Lago Yojoa; La Laguna road; Pico Bonito Lodge; Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge; Aguán Valley; Río Santiago; Lancetilla Botanical Garden

Lesser Roadrunner *Geococcyx velox* – an excellent view of one in the shade of a roadside bush along the Aguán Valley

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana* – Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge; Lancetilla Botanical Garden

OWLS – Strigidae
Middle American Screech Owl *Megascops guatemalae* – some of the best views of a screech-owl that any of us have had were provided by two birds in the cocoa plantation at Pico Bonito Lodge – we could have touched the second bird (these are subspecies *guatemalae*; often considered part of the vocally distinct Vermiculated Screech-Owl *Megascops vermiculatus* complex of Costa Rica, Panama and N South America)

Black-and-white Owl *Strix nigrolineata* – fabulous looks at three adults roosting in a park in La Ceiba

Ferruginous Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum* – Lago Yojoa; La Laguna road; Ruinas Copán; Rastrojón (at least 15!); Pico Bonito Lodge (extraordinarily common in W Honduras, where they provided a somewhat monotonous sound track to our birding)

POTOOS – Nyctibiidae

Great Potoo *Nyctibius grandis* – one on a day roost and another perched atop the platform at night at Pico Bonito Lodge, there would appear to be no shortage of large insect prey here

NIGHTJARS AND ALLIES – Caprimulgidae

Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis* – one flushed off the trail at Río Santiago

SWIFTS – Apodidae

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris* – flocks of 100–120 seen every day at Pico Bonito Lodge

Vaux’s Swift *Chaetura vauxi* – flocks of up to c. 40 at Pico Bonito Lodge and Lancetilla Botanical Garden (these may have been resident subspecies *richmondi* [“Richmond’s Swift”] or migrant *vauxi*, which have been considered separate species and may yet prove to be such)

HUMMINGBIRDS – Trochilidae

Band-tailed Barthroat *Threnetes ruckeri* – great looks at a bird that usually gives only fleeting views, on the feeders at Río Santiago

Long-billed Hermit *Phaethornis longirostris* – a regular on the feeders at Pico Bonito Lodge and Río Santiago

Stripe-throated Hermit *Phaethornis striigularis* – La Laguna road; Pico Bonito Lodge; Río Santiago; Lancetilla Botanical Garden

Scaly-breasted Hummingbird *Phaechochroa cuvierii* – four on the feeders at Río Santiago

Violet Sabrewing *Campylopterus hemileucurus* – the largest species on the feeders at Pico Bonito Lodge and Río Santiago

White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga mellivora* – Río Santiago feeders

Brown Violetear *Colibri delphinae* – a single on the feeders at Río Santiago, just before we left

Violet-headed Hummingbird *Klais guimeti* – a male on *Stachytarpheta* in the early mornings at Pico Bonito Lodge

Salvin’s (Canivet’s) Emerald *Chlorostilbon (canivetii) salvini* – seen at the La Laguna road, but our best looks were in the Aguán Valley (*salvini* often considered a separate species from *C. canivetii)

Stripe-tailed Hummingbird *Eupherusa eximia* – one at the Pico Bonito Lodge platform and another on the Río Santiago feeders

Crowned Woodnymph *Thalurania colombica* – perhaps the most common hummingbird on the feeders at Pico Bonito Lodge and Río Santiago (*colombica* sometimes separated from green crowned South American taxa as Violet-crowned Woodnymph; Honduran birds are subspecies *townsendi*)
Cinnamon Hummingbird *Amazilia rutila* – Lago Yojoa; La Laguna road; Aguán Valley
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia tzacatl* – Lago Yojoa; Pico Bonito Lodge; Río Santiago; Lancetilla Botanical Garden (one of the two most numerous hummingbirds)
White-bellied Emerald *Amazilia candida* – a single bird on the feeders just before we left the Río Santiago brought the total to 9 species for this site
Azure-crowned Hummingbird *Amazilia cyanoccephala* – Lago Yojoa; Ruinas Copán
Honduran Emerald *Amazilia luciae* (Endemic, Endangered) – at least half a dozen in the eponymous reserve in the Aguán Valley – over the course of an hour or two of hot birding we accumulated some very good, close views of Honduras’s only endemic bird species
Purple-crowned Fairy *Heliotheryx barroti* – one of the most elegant of all hummingbirds, we saw them at the platform at Pico Bonito Lodge

**TROGONS – Trogonidae**
Black-headed Trogon *Trogon melanocephalus* – Pico Bonito Lodge (Joe found our first); Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge; Lancetilla Botanical Garden
Collared Trogon *Trogon collaris* – an obliging male along the La Laguna road

**KINGFISHERS – Alcedinidae**
Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana* – Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge; Aguán Valley; Río Santiago
Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona* – Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge; roadside view near La Ceiba
Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata* – Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge; Río Santiago
Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon* – Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge

**MOTMOTS – Momotidae**
Tody Motmot *Hylomanes momotula* – some of us were lucky to see this retiring motmot at the Río Santiago
Blue-diademed Motmot *Momotus lessonii* – excellent views, noting its bejewelled crown, at Pico Bonito Lodge (until recently, considered conspecific with Blue-crowned Motmot *M. momota*)
Keel-billed Motmot *Electron carinatum* (Vulnerable) – inexplicably scarce and declining, and a hard bird to see anywhere within its range, we found one at Río Santiago
Turquoise-browed Motmot *Eumomota superciliosa* – multiple spectacular looks at this showy species: Lago Yojoa; La Laguna road; Ruinas Copán; Rastrojón; Pico Bonito Lodge; Lancetilla Botanical Garden

**JACAMARS – Galbulidae**
Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula ruficauda* – a male at Lancetilla Botanical Garden

**PUFFBIRDS – Bucconidae**
White-necked Puffbird *Notharchus hyperrhynchus* – three in the mangroves at Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge

**TOUCANS – Ramphastidae**
Collared Aracari *Pteroglossus torquatus* – Pico Bonito Lodge; Río Santiago;
Keel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos sulfuratus* – Pico Bonito Lodge; Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge; Río Santiago

**WOODPECKERS – Picidae**
Black-cheeked Woodpecker *Melanerpes pucherani* – Río Santiago
Golden-fronted Woodpecker *Melanerpes aurifrons* – throughout, except in humid closed forest (*aurifrons* of Mexico and S USA is sometimes regarded as distinct based on recent molecular data, in which case the subspecies we saw – *santacruzi* of the Copán area and *pauper* of N Honduras – are separated as Velasquez’s Woodpecker *M. santacruzi*)
Golden-olive Woodpecker *Colaptes rubiginosus* – La Laguna road
Chestnut-colored Woodpecker *Celeus castaneus* – a close look at one at Pico Bonito Lodge (Mike’s find)
Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus* – Lago Yojoa; La Laguna road; Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge; Río Santiago
Refuge; Aguán Valley
Pale-billed Woodpecker *Campephilus guatemalensis* – Pico Bonito Lodge; Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge

**FALCONS AND CARACARAS – Falconidae**
Northern Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway* – Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge; Aguán Valley; Lancelitta Botanical Garden
American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* – La Laguna road; Aguán Valley
Bat Falcon *Falco rufigularis* – Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge

**AFRICAN & NEW WORLD PARROTS – Psittacidae**
Brown-hooded Parrot *Pyrrhura haematotis* – c. 10 studied in the scope at Pico Bonito Lodge
White-crowned Parrot *Pionus senilis* – Pico Bonito Lodge; Lancelitta Botanical Garden
White-fronted Amazon *Amazona albifrons* – Lago Yojoa; La Laguna road; Aguán Valley
Red-lored Amazon *Amazona autumnalis* – Lancelitta Botanical Garden

**OVENBIRDS AND WOODCREEPERS – Furnariidae**
Plain Xenops *Xenops minutus* – Lancelitta Botanical Garden
Tawny-winged Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla anabatina* – Río Santiago
Northern Barred Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae* – Río Santiago
Streak-headed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii* – Río Santiago; Lancelitta Botanical Garden

**ANTBIRDS – Thamnophilidae**
Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus* – Lancelitta Botanical Garden
Black-crowned Antshrike *Thamnophilus atrinucha* – Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge

**TYRANT FLYCATCHERS – Tyrannidae**
Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster* – Lago Yojoa
Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet *Ornithion semiflavum* – Lancelitta Botanical Garden
Mistletoe Tyrannulet *Zimmerius parvus* – Pico Bonito Lodge; Aguán Valley (often considered conspecific with the more northerly Paltry Tyrannulet *Z. vilissimus*, recent molecular data suggest that *parvus* deserves species status)
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher *Mionectes oleagineus* – Pico Bonito Lodge; Lancelitta Botanical Garden
Northern Bentbill *Oncostoma cinereigulare* – Lancelitta Botanical Garden
Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum* – Aguán Valley
Yellow-olive Flatbill *Tolmomyias sulphurescens* – Pico Bonito Lodge (*T. sulphurescens* is a wide-ranging species complex currently comprising 16 subspecies, many of which – to judge by plumage and vocalisations – are likely to be full species; we saw *cinereiceps*, which occurs from S Mexico to Costa Rica)

**BOAT-BILLED FLYCATCHERS – Megarynchidae**
Least Flycatcher *Empidonax minimus* – Lago Yojoa; La Laguna road
Social Flycatcher *Myiopetes similis* – throughout
Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus* – most locations
Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua* – throughout
Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus* – throughout
Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer* – Lago Yojoa; Rastrojón; Río Santiago; Lancelitta Botanical Garden
Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus* – La Laguna road; Aguán Valley

**COTINGAS – Cotingidae**

Lovely Cotinga *Cotinga amabilis* – less easy to see in the rest of its range, at least 5 males and 4 females observed in the canopy on two occasions at Pico Bonito Lodge

**MANAKINS – Pipridae**

White-collared Manakin *Manacus candei* – Pico Bonito Lodge; Río Santiago; Lancetilla Botanical Garden (and heard at other locations)

Red-capped Manakin *Dixiphia mentalis* – Pico Bonito Lodge

**TITYRAS BECARDS – Tityridae**

Black-crowned Tityra *Tityra inquisitor* – Pico Bonito Lodge

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata* – Lago Yojoa; La Laguna road; Ruinas Copán; Pico Bonito Lodge; Lancetilla Botanical Garden

Rose-throated Becard *Pachyramphus aglaiae* – La Laguna road; Rastrojón; Pico Bonito Lodge (this subspecies, *hypophaeus*, shows very little or no colour on the throat)

**VIREOS – Vireonidae**

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis* – La Laguna road; Rastrojón

White-throated Vireo *Vireo griseus* – La Laguna road

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons* – Lago Yojoa; Lancetilla Botanical Garden

Lesser Greenlet *Hylophilus decurtatus* – Lancetilla Botanical Garden

**CROWS JAYS AND MAGPIES – Corvidae**

Bushy-crested Jay *Cyanocorax melanocyanus* – La Laguna road (Joyce's 5000th world bird! Endemic to the highlands of Honduras and adjacent Guatemala and Nicaragua, as well as El Salvador)

Brown Jay *Psilorhinus morio* – this conspicuous bird made its presence felt throughout Honduras and adjacent Guatemala and Nicaragua, as well as El Salvador

White-throated Magpie-Jay *Calocitta formosa* – in the forest at Ruinas Copán

**SWALLOWS – Hirundinidae**

Mangrove Swallow *Tachycineta albilinea* – Ruinas Copán; Aguán Valley

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* – Lago Yojoa; La Laguna road

**WRENS – Troglodytidae**

Rufous-backed Wren *Campylorhynchus capistratus* – Lago Yojoa (usually considered conspecific with Rufous-naped Wren *C. rufinucha*)

Spot-breasted Wren *Pheugopedius maculipictus* – Río Santiago

Plain Wren *Cantorchilus modestus* – La Laguna road

House Wren *Troglytes aedon* – Lago Yojoa

White-bellied Wren *Uropsila leucogastra* – Aguán Valley (subspecies *hawkinsi* is endemic to the Aguán Valley)

**GNATCATCHERS – Polioptilidae**

Long-billed Gnawren *Ramphocerus melanurus* – Río Santiago

White-crested Gnawren *Polioptila albiloris* – Aguán Valley

Tropical Gnawren *Polioptila plumbea* – Lancetilla Botanical Garden

**MIMICS – Mimidae**

Grey Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis* – (La Laguna road); Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge; Río Santiago; Lancetilla Botanical Garden

**THRUSHES AND ALLIES – Turdidae**

Brown-backed Solitaire *Myadestes occidentalis* – wonderful looks at two in pines at our highest stop along the La Laguna road

Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina* – Pico Bonito Lodge

Clay-colored Thrush *Turdus grayi* – throughout

**OLD WORLD SPARROWS – Passeridae**

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (Introduced) – Copán; towns in the Aguán Valley

**FINCHES EUPHONIAS – Fringillidae**
Lesser Goldfinch *Spinus psaltria* – La Laguna road
Scrub Euphonia *Euphonia affinis* – La Laguna road; Aguán Valley
Yellow-throated Euphonia *Euphonia hirundinacea* – Rastrojón
Elegant Euphonia *Euphonia elegantissima* – Ruinas Copán
Olive-backed Euphonia *Euphonia gouldi* – Pico Bonito Lodge; Río Santiagao; Lancetilla Botanical Garden

White-vented Euphonia *Euphonia minuta* – a pair in mistletoe at the Río Santiago

**NEW WORLD WARBLERS** – *Parulidae*

Northern Waterthrush *Parkezia noveboracensis* – Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge; Aguán Valley; Río Santiago
Blue-winged Warbler *Vermivora cyanoptera* – singles at La Laguna road and Lancetilla Botanical Garden
Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia* – La Laguna road; Pico Bonito Lodge; Lancetilla Botanical Garden
Tennessee Warbler *Leiothlypis peregrina* – Rastrojón
Grey-crowned Yellowthroat *Geothlypis poliocephala* – Lago Yojoa; La Laguna road; Aguán Valley
MacGillivray’s Warbler *Geothlypis tolmei* – one in undergrowth along the La Laguna road
Kentucky Warbler *Geothlypis formosa* – Pico Bonito Lodge; Río Santiago
Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas* – Lago Yojoa; Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge;
Hooded Warbler *Setophaga citrina* – Lago Yojoa; Ruinas Copán; Pico Bonito Lodge; Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge; Pico Bonito Lodge; Lancetilla Botanical Garden
American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla* – throughout
Northern Parula *Setophaga americana* – one at Lancetilla Botanical Garden
Magnolia Warbler *Setophaga magnolia* – throughout
Yellow Warbler *Setophaga aestiva* – Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge; Aguán Valley; Lancetilla Botanical Garden
Chestnut-sided Warbler *Setophaga pensylvanica* – Pico Bonito Lodge; Río Santiago; Lancetilla Botanical Garden
Black-throated Green Warbler *Setophaga virens* – La Laguna road; Ruinas Copán; Rastrojón; Pico Bonito Lodge
Rufous-capped Warbler *Basileuterus rufifrons* – La Laguna road; Ruinas Copán (we saw subspecies *delattrii*, part of the more southerly group that is sometimes separated as Chestnut-capped Warbler *B. delattrii*)
Wilson’s Warbler *Cardellina pusilla* – La Laguna road; Lancetilla Botanical Garden
Slate-throated Whitestart *Myioborus miniatus* – La Laguna road

**FAMILY UNCERTAIN** – *Icertae Sedis*
Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens* – Lancetilla Botanical Garden

**TROUPIALS AND ALLIES** – *Icteridae*
Chestnut-headed Oropendola *Psarocolius wagleri* – Lago Yojoa; Río Santiago
Montezuma Oropendola *Psarocolius montezuma* – Lago Yojoa; La Laguna road; Pico Bonito Lodge; Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge (c. 50); Río Santiago; Lancetilla Botanical Garden
Yellow-backed Oriole *Icterus chrysater* – La Laguna road
Altamira Oriole *Icterus gularis* – Lago Yojoa; La Laguna road; Ruinas Copán; Aguán Valley
Streak-backed Oriole *Icterus pustulatus* – La Laguna road (the subspecies here, *alticola*, has a virtually solid black back)
Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula* – Lago Yojoa; La Laguna road; Pico Bonito Lodge; Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge; Aguán Valley; Lancetilla Botanical Garden
Spot-breasted Oriole *Icterus pectoralis* – Lago Yojoa
Black-cowled Oriole *Icterus prosthemelas* – Pico Bonito Lodge
Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius* – La Laguna road; Aguán Valley
Giant Cowbird *Molothrus oryzivorus* – La Laguna road
Melodious Blackbird *Dives dives* – throughout
Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus* – throughout; Aguán Valley; Río Santiago; Lancetilla Botanical Garden

**BUNTINGS SPARROWS AND ALLIES – Emberizidae**

Rusty Sparrow *Aimophila rufescens* – a pair seen at the roadside on our drive between Copán and Pico Bonito Lodge

Orange-billed Sparrow *Arremon aurantiiostris* – Lancetilla Botanical Garden

**TANAGERS AND ALLIES – Thraupidae**

Crimson-collared Tanager *Ramphocelus sanguinolenus* – Lancetilla Botanical Garden

Passerini’s Tanager *Ramphocelus passerinii* – Lancetilla Botanical Garden

Blue-grey Tanager *Thraupis episcopus* – Lago Yojoa; Aguán Valley; Lancetilla Botanical Garden

Yellow-winged Tanager *Thraupis abbas* – Lago Yojoa; La Laguna road; Ruinas Copán; Pico Bonito Lodge; Lancetilla Botanical Garden

**CARDINALS AND ALLIES – Cardinalidae**

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra* – La Laguna road; Rastrojón; Pico Bonito Lodge; Aguán Valley; Río Santiago; Lancetilla Botanical Garden

White-winged Tanager *Piranga leucoptera* – Lancetilla Botanical Garden (Marcia’s find)

Red-throated Ant Tanager *Habia fuscicauda* – Pico Bonito Lodge; Lancetilla Botanical Garden

Dickcissel *Spiza americana* – 2 along La Laguna road

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus* – a female on La Laguna road

Black-headed Saltator *Saltator atriceps* – La Laguna road; Lancetilla Botanical Garden

Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus* – Pico Bonito Lodge

Greyish Saltator *Saltator coerulescens* – La Laguna road

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Blue-grey Tanager *Thraupis episcopus* – Lago Yojoa; Aguán Valley; Lancetilla Botanical Garden

Yellow-winged Tanager *Thraupis abbas* – Lago Yojoa; La Laguna road; Ruinas Copán; Pico Bonito Lodge; Lancetilla Botanical Garden

Golden-hooded Tanager *Tangara larvata* – Pico Bonito Lodge

Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus* – Lago Yojoa

Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza* – Pico Bonito Lodge; Río Santiago

Variable Seedeater *Sporophila corvina* – Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge

White-collared Seedeater *Sporophila torquena* – Lago Yojoa; La Laguna road; Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge; Aguán Valley; Lancetilla Botanical Garden

Thick-billed Seed Finch *Oryzoborus funereus* – Lancetilla Botanical Garden

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Blue-grey Tanager *Thraupis episcopus* – Lago Yojoa; La Laguna road

**WAXBILLS MUNIAS AND ALLIES – Estrildidae**

Tricoloured Munia *Lonchura malacca* (Introduced) – Lago Yojoa;

**Annotated list of Mammals**

**RACCOONS AND RELATIVES – Procyonidae**

Northern Raccoon *Procyon lotor* – 1 in the mangroves at Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge

**HOWLER SPIDER AND WOOLLY MONKEYS – Atelidae**

Mantled Howler Monkey *Alouatta palliata* – 2 at Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge

Geoffroy's Spider Monkey *Ateles geoffroyi* – 1 feeding in a wild avocado tree at Pico Bonito Lodge

**NEW WORLD MONKEYS – Cebidae**

Central American Agouti *Dasyprocta punctata* – Ruinas Copán; Pico Bonito Lodge

**AGOUTIS – Dasyproctidae**

Central American Agouti *Dasyprocta punctata* – Ruinas Copán; Pico Bonito Lodge

**SQUIRRELS – Sciuridae**

Variegated Squirrel *Sciurus variegatoides* – La Laguna road; Pico Bonito Lodge; Lancetilla Botanical Garden
Annotated list of Amphibians & reptiles

Cane Toad *Bufo marinus* – Pico Bonito Lodge
Gulf Coast Toad *Bufo valliceps* – Pico Bonito Lodge
American Crocodile *Crocodylus acutus* – some very large individuals at Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge
Black River Turtle *Rhinoclemmys funerea* – Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge
House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus* – Pico Bonito Lodge
Brown (= Striped) Basilisk *Basiliscus vittatus* – Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge
Black-chested Spiny-tailed Iguana *Ctenosaura melanosterna* (Endemic) – Aguán Valley
Green Iguana *Iguana iguana* – Pico Bonito Lodge; Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge
Whip-tail sp. *Ameiva sp.* – Aguán Valley
Milk Snake *Lampropeltis triangulum* – Pico Bonito Lodge
Central American Coral Snake *Micrurus nigrocinctus* – Pico Bonito Lodge
Fer-de-lance *Bothrops asper* – a foot long youngster at Pico Bonito Lodge