



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

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



Dappled Daggerwing by Chris Sharpe

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.



Hook-billed Kite by Mike West



Boat-billed Heron by Chris Sharpe

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.



Lesser Roadrunner by Chris Sharpe

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 Barbthroat. After dinner, we spent a couple of hours



Great Potoo by Chris Sharpe

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

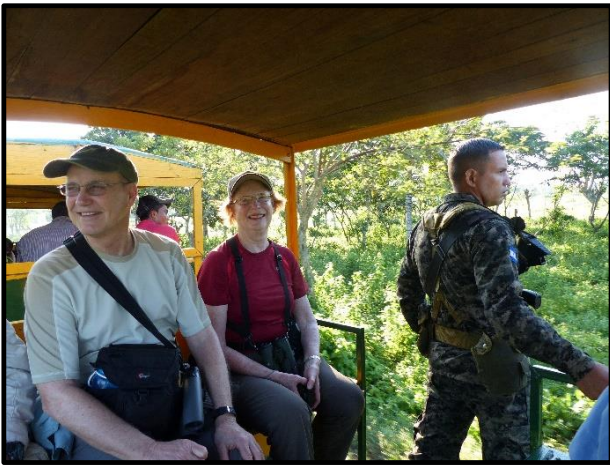


Middle American Screech Owl by Chris Sharpe

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.

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!

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



Train Ride to Mangroves by Chris Sharpe



Scope Views by Chris Sharpe



Birding Copán by Chris Sharpe



Lancetilla Botanical Gardens by Chris Sharpe

Annotated List of Birds

DUCKS GEESE 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* – Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge; Aguán Valley; Río Santiago

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 – Aramididae

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 talpacoti* – 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 *Crotophaga 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 Barbthroat *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 *Phaeochroa 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 cyanocephala* – La Laguna road; 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 *Heliothryx 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 – *santacruzii* of the Copán area and
pauper of N Honduras – are separated as Velasquez's Woodpecker *M. santacruzii*)
 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; 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; Lancetilla 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 *Pyrilia haematotis* – c. 10 studied in the scope at Pico Bonito Lodge

White-crowned Parrot *Pionus senilis* – Pico Bonito Lodge; Lancetilla Botanical Garden

White-fronted Amazon *Amazona albifrons* – Lago Yojoa; La Laguna road; Aguán Valley

Red-lored Amazon *Amazona autumnalis* – Lancetilla Botanical Garden

Olive-throated Parakeet *Eupsittula nana* – La Laguna road; Ruinas Copán; Pico Bonito Lodge; Lancetilla Botanical Garden

Scarlet Macaw *Ara macao* – a dozen birds that are apparently breeding in the wild at Ruinas Copán

Red-throated Parakeet *Psittacara rubritorquis* – a flock of c. 70 scoped in a tree at a distance of less than 100' at Ruinas Copán (usually considered conspecific with Green Parakeet *P. holochlorus*, *rubritorquis* is endemic to the highlands of Honduras and adjacent Guatemala and Nicaragua)

OVENBIRDS AND WOODCREEPERS – Furnariidae

Plain Xenops *Xenops minutus* – Lancetilla Botanical Garden

Tawny-winged Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla anabatina* – Río Santiago

Northern Barred Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae* – Río Santiago

Streak-headed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii* – Río Santiago; Lancetilla Botanical Garden

ANTBIRDS – Thamnophilidae

Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus* – Lancetilla 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* – Lancetilla 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; Lancetilla Botanical Garden

Northern Bentbill *Oncostoma cinereigulare* – Lancetilla 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)

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans* – Lago Yojoa; Pico Bonito Lodge; Aguán Valley

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher *Empidonax flaviventris* – Lago Yojoa; Pico Bonito Lodge

White-throated Flycatcher *Empidonax albigularis* – Lago Yojoa (perhaps the easiest place to see this species anywhere)

Least Flycatcher *Empidonax minimus* – Lago Yojoa; La Laguna road

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes 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; Lancetilla 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-eyed 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 melanocyaneus* – 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

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 maculipectus* – Río Santiago

Plain Wren *Cantorchilus modestus* – La Laguna road

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon* – Lago Yojoa

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

GNATCATCHERS – Polioptilidae

Long-billed Gnatwren *Ramphocaenus melanurus* – Río Santiago

White-lored Gnatcatcher *Polioptila albiloris* – Aguán Valley

Tropical Gnatcatcher *Polioptila plumbea* – Lancetilla Botanical Garden

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS – Mimidae

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

Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus* – Aguán Valley

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 Santiago; Lancetilla Botanical Garden
 White-vented Euphonia *Euphonia minuta* – a pair in mistletoe at the Río Santiago

NEW WORLD WARBLERS – Parulidae

Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia 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 tolmiei* – 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 *delatirii*, part of the more southerly group that is sometimes separated as Chestnut-capped Warbler *B. delatirii*)
 Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina pusilla* – La Laguna road; Lancetilla Botanical Garden
 Slate-throated Whitestart *Myioborus miniatus* – La Laguna road

FAMILY UNCERTAIN – Incertae 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 aurantirostris* – Lancetilla Botanical Garden

TANAGERS AND ALLIES – Thraupidae

Crimson-collared Tanager *Ramphocelus sanguinolentus* – 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

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

Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus* – Lago Yojoa

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

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina* – La Laguna road; Aguán Valley

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

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

Thick-billed Seed Finch *Oryzoborus funereus* – 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

Blue-black Grosbeak *Cyanocompsa cyanoides* – Río Santiago

Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea* – Lago Yojoa; La Laguna road

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea* – La Laguna road

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris* (Near Threatened) – 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

White-throated Capuchin *Cebus capucinus* – a dozen or more at Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge

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
