



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Guatemala

Central American Specialties

15th to 25th January 2016 (11 days)

Trip Report



Cabanis's Tanager – By Alasdair Hunter

Trip report compiled by Tour Leader Adam Walley

The group assembled in Guatemala City for dinner and to discuss plans for the coming trip. With a very early start ahead of us, it was off to bed early!

We began the tour heading east from Guatemala City very early to reach the thorn forests of the Motagua Valley before sunrise. Here we had access to a private *finca* and we started birding down a steep track at daybreak. At



Lesser Roadrunner by Stefan Obytz

first light, the silence was deafening, but as the sun came up so did the birds and small flocks contained White-lored Gnatcatcher, Northern Beardless Tyrannulet, Nutting's Flycatcher, Streak-backed Oriole and Varied Bunting. A Black Hawk Eagle was an unexpected bonus and soared overhead on a couple occasions. White-fronted Amazon also showed in flight, if a bit distant. As we neared the river, a Lesser Roadrunner darted across the road and we assumed that would be all we'd see of it. But after a patient wait it came walking back slowly through the area and then hopped up into a tree where it glared at us as it called, allowing fabulous scope views for all – wow! We carried on to the river where more verdant forests here had Squirrel Cuckoo, Cinnamon Hummingbird and a selection of boreal migrants.

With the heat of the day in full force we retreated to some shade and enjoyed a traditional lunch in a spectacular setting on a *mirador* overlooking the Rio Motagua. Post lunch, the majority of the group decided to persist through the heat and search out Russet-crowned Motmot which eventually gave itself up after quite an effort. With the sun slowly sinking towards the horizon we returned to the *finca's* pick-up and had a lively ride back up the steep track towards our bus and then carried on eastwards to Los Amates.

The next morning was spent wandering the Mayan ruins of Quirigua, very interesting in their own right but also a birdy place. A highlight here was scoping up several Turquoise-browed Motmot and we also saw a number of widespread Central American lowland species such as Keel-billed Toucan, Montezuma Oropendola and Laughing Falcon, alongside an impressive list of North American migrants that included Hooded Warbler, Ovenbird and Chestnut-sided Warbler.



Varied Bunting
by Stefan Obytz

We left the ruins just as our only rain of the trip started bucketing down and, after breakfast (admiring Cinnamon Hummingbirds feeding on the *Heliconias* as we ate), we boarded the bus for the long drive to Antigua. Fortunately it was a Sunday and traffic was light so, upon arrival, we headed straight for hummingbird feeders at El Pilar. Initially all seemed quiet here, but a patient wait produced 5 species including the main target here:



Rufous Sabrewing. Other good hummers were Rivoli's, Azure-crowned, Berylline and a brief Blue-tailed.

We then continued on to the upper reaches at El Pilar where the clearing near the top was full of Grey Silky-flycatchers, Rufous-collared Thrush, Black-headed Siskins and others. We did not linger here and instead headed for the oak forests where the late afternoon produced a Mountain Trogon in the scope and some brief sightings of Black Thrush. Waiting at a clearing for dusk to descend we had terrific views of Mexican Whip-poor-will and then turned our attention to owls. Despite a couple hours of effort we did not hear a single owl and so headed down to Antigua for dinner and some sleep!



Mexican Whip-poor-will by Alasdair Hunter

It was back up to El Pilar this morning where we had a delicious breakfast spread out for us in a superb setting, with Volcan Fuego spouting great plumes; a most impressive sight! Despite our breakfast being so tasty it was impossible to concentrate on eating with so many great birds around the clearing. Top pick was the difficult Hooded Grosbeak, a pair of which were perched up in the scopes for a few minutes. Other good birds included Bushy-crested Jay, Black-vented Oriole, Flame-colored Tanager, White-eared Hummingbird, Grey Silky-flycatcher, and both Rufous-collared and Black Thrush. We then took another walk through the oak forests which harboured Spot-crowned Woodcreepers, Pine, Hammond's and Tufted Flycatchers, Red-faced and Hermit Warblers, the local race of Plumbeous Vireo, yet more Black Thrushes and a Green-throated Mountaingem feeding up high on some flowering bromeliads. Upon returning to the clearing we lingered for a few more minutes, adding Greater Pewee and Buff-breasted Flycatcher. Just as we were boarding the vehicle to leave the place, Stefan called us over for a raptor which proved to be a soaring *Accipiter*.



Hooded Grosbeak surrounded by Grey Silky-flycatcher by Alasdair Hunter

To our shock, the bird proved itself to be a female of the elusive White-breasted Hawk and proceeded to give us incredible views as it soared towards and then overhead of us!! Then we noticed the male of the pair also overhead, mobbing the local pair of Red-tailed Hawks – just incredible!

From Pilar we had a bit of a drive to our lunch stop where we enjoyed a tasty meal and then explored a trail on some private property near Rincon Suizo. The very first bird we laid eyes on was the much-wanted Pink-headed Warbler and although it disappeared rather quickly, a small group of them eventually came back giving us unbeatable



views of this stunning warbler. They were part of a flock that also contained Olive, Hermit and Crescent-chested Warbler. A bit more birding here yielded a good but brief view of Amethyst-throated Mountaingem visiting a flowering tree and more Pink-headed Warblers! We left the area to drive to the shores of Lake Atitlan and settle into our very comfortable lodgings with a big day in store for some of us!

About half the group was up for the difficult hike to reach the altitude of the legendary Horned Guan and we had a very early start to board a boat, cross the lake, and take a pick-up truck to the trailhead of Volcan San Pedro. Here we split into two groups, where the advance party headed straight up the volcano, followed by the tail party who came along more slowly. The advance party made good time and arrived at the preferred area for the Horned Guan at daybreak where they were greeted by a sub-adult bird that was enjoyed for 45 minutes in the scope as the light improved – wow!! Sadly, the bird was long gone by the time the tail party arrived, but there was only time for a bit of angst as it was minutes later that a fully adult bird was found a couple hundred meters further up the volcano, this one giving great views for the entire group - a more successful result could hardly be possible!!



Horned Guan by Stefan Obytz

With the main target of the trip, for many, having been seen so well, we could slowly walk down the mountain. Although the birding was rather quiet in these forests, we picked up a few nice birds like Rufous-browed Wren, female Wine-throated Hummingbird and Elegant Euphonia, while the drier areas lower down yielded the tricky Blue-and-white Mockingbird. We returned to the trailhead a little tired but certainly pleased with the results and had time to make a little detour to a small plantation where we soon connected with several Prevost's Ground Sparrows. We were now more than happy to return



Pink-headed Warbler by Stefan Obytz

across the lake and relax for the rest of the day at our lovely hotel. Here the rest of the group had been having a pleasant day watching the many garden birds and enjoying the hummingbird feeders which were buzzing with Azure-crowned and Berylline Hummingbirds. This morning we tried something a little different and went to a new site near Panajachel, which required another boat ride to cross the lake. We were here in search of Slender Sheartail, a very tricky



hummer to pin down. Our local man, Pablo, had a perch that he believed the sheartail regularly used, so we arrived early and waited. As we waited, a Blue-and-white Mockingbird showed quite well - a nice catch up for those who had not been up the mountain! Lots of boreal migrants were around, but no hummers and as the appointed time for the sheartail came and went we started to think about leaving. However, Gerald spotted the hummer in flight and so we hung in for a while longer. Suddenly, bang, there it was – a male Slender Sheartail in all its glory, sitting on the exact

perch Pablo said it would come to – wow!!

Well pleased, we returned to the boat, sped

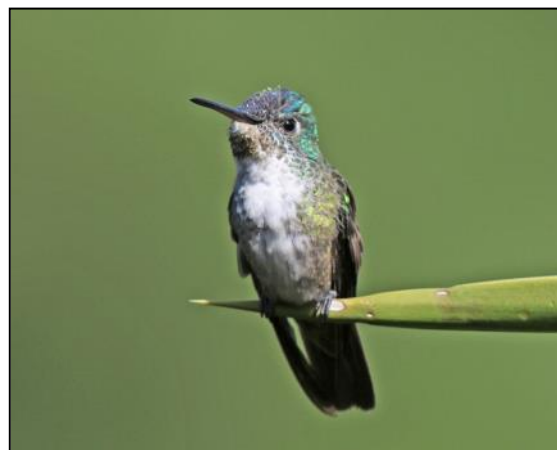
back to the hotel and continued on to the fabulous Los Tarrales Reserve where we were met by our excellent local guide, Josue. After finding a pair of White-bellied Chachalacas at the fruit feeders, we had lunch and then headed out to the surrounding forests and plantations. We quickly connected with fabulous views of the tricky Rufous-breasted Spinetail and also had Spot-breasted Wrens cooperating there. We carried on to a plantation where a stunning male Blue-throated Sapphire was scoped up as he proclaimed his territory. Other nice species before dark included Lineated Woodpecker, Collared Aracari and Ivory-billed Woodcreeper as well as a close fly-by of Yellow-naped Amazon. We also had a



Slender Sheartail by Alasdair Hunter

singing male Grey-crowned Yellowthroat and a lovely pair of White-winged Tanagers. We returned to a huge *Ceiba* tree at dusk where we scoped up a stunning Black-and-white Owl peering down at us and then, after a flyby Pauraque, had a great response from a Northern Potoo that came flying right in and landed not far from us. Another great day of birding and we were all smiles as we returned to the *finca* for dinner, with a Common Opposum showing nicely on the walk back.

We had a full day at Tarrales and started off in the pre-dawn gloom with Highland Guans displaying nearby. In the growing light, a male glided overhead and perched in an open tree before returning to his hidden display area. As the light



Azure-crowned Hummingbird
by Alasdair Hunter



Northern Potoo by Alasdair Hunter



improved, we could not refind this species although both Crested Guan and White-bellied Chachalaca were seen. Eventually we decided to move on and tried for the tricky Tody Motmot. The bird was typically furtive, but with persistence we all managed great scope views of this wonderful little motmot! We then found a roosting Mottled Owl before making it back to the *finca* for breakfast. A post-breakfast walk produced a sub-adult male Long-tailed Manakin and great views of three species of parakeet – Pacific, Orange-chinned and Orange-flanked. We also had a nice assortment of hummers which included Green-breasted Mango, White-bellied Emerald and Long-billed Starthroat. A pair of Spot-beasted Oriole was another a good find.



Pacific Parakeet
by Alasdair Hunter

waited, an adult and immature King Vulture flew past and landed. We also scoped up a Yellow-naped Amazon and heard Prevost's Ground Sparrow. Then we found the guan sitting out on an open perch where it stayed for a long time giving us all great scope views of this shy bird – a great end to the day!

Another early start saw us heading to the neighboring *finca* Los Andes. Here we boarded pick-ups for a bumpy ride up through the coffee and tea plantation to the edge of the forest. We were here in search of Cabanis' Tanager and split



Tody Motmot by Stefan Obytz



Highland Guan by Alasdair Hunter

into two groups, one heading straight for the best area to see it, while the second group came along more slowly. The lead group had Collared Trogon, Blue-crowned Chlorophonia and Crested Guan on the way up while the tail group flushed a White-faced Quail-Dove and had Paltry Tyrannulet, Spotted Woodcreeper and Emerald-chinned Hummingbird. By the time we all reunited at the favoured tree for the Cabanis's, it still had not been seen. But only minutes later it was calling and made some frustratingly brief appearances in the area.



After a slightly nervous wait, a flock of 6 finally came to the fruiting tree, where we could watch them at eye level – a great experience! Resplendent Quetzals were calling in the area but sadly could not be found. The hike down produced a brief Emerald-chinned Hummingbird and great looks at Green-throated Mountaingem plus Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner.

We took the pickups down to the *finca* where we had a lovely lunch and enjoyed the hummingbird feeders which were well-attended by Violet Sabrewings and Blue-tailed Hummingbirds. We then embarked on the fairly lengthy drive to Fuentes Georginas where we checked in for two night stay.



White-bellied Chachalaca by Alasdair Hunter

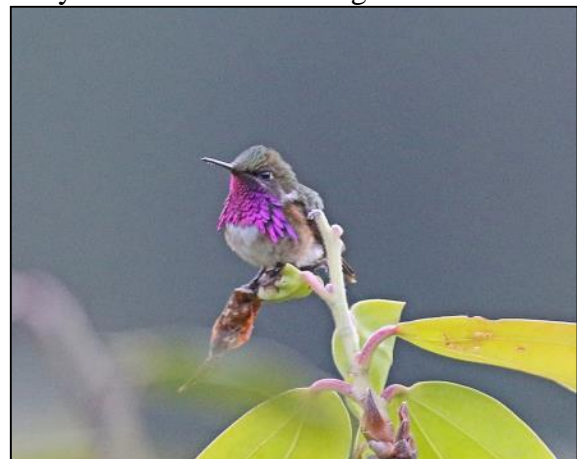


Blue-tailed Hummingbird by Alasdair Hunter

Flowerpiercer, White-naped Brush Finch and Amethyst-throated Mountaingem. A Maroon-chested Ground Dove whooping in a dense ravine below us was a surprise but proved impossible to see. As we turned around Gerald made a great spotting of the very tricky Black-throated Jay. It did not stay around for long, but thankfully we refound it a hundred meters further on and everyone got quite good views of a pair!!

We had a tasty lunch at the hot pools and then had an optional walk up a very steep ridge to an area where I had recently found good numbers of Black-capped Siskin, another very tricky

We started birding Fuentes Georginas at first light and were rewarded with good views of Brown-backed Solitaire, Chestnut-capped Brush Finch and Pine Flycatcher at the entrance gate, followed by Unicolored Jays in the ravine below us. After eating our packed breakfast we found our first stunning male Wine-throated Hummingbird, almost unbelievably tiny, perched and hovering at very close range. It would prove to be a very good morning for this species and we went on to see a few more very well! Other good species recorded through the morning in the scrubby habitat here were Cinnamon-bellied



Wine-throated Hummingbird by Alasdair Hunter

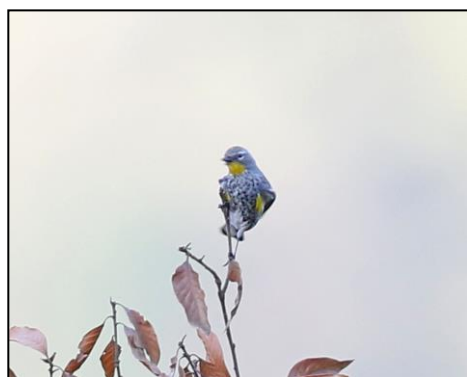


regional endemic. After a steep walk and a bit of a wait, the siskins showed up – admittedly a bit distant but the views were pretty good in the scope and everyone was very pleased to connect with this poorly known species! With the fog rolling in we headed down the hill and had a relatively early end to the day with a couple hours down time before dinner.

We returned to Fuentes very early and arranged for the entrance gate to be unlocked at daybreak for us. This was good as we were able to pick up several Ruddy-capped Nightingale Thrush feeding out in the open in the early morning light. We chased a calling Blue-throated Motmot up a nearby hill but could not find it, so returned to the hot pools area where several normally-shy Rufous-browed Wrens showed exceptionally well. We took another walk along the entrance road where we again saw the likes of Unicolored Jay and Wine-



Black-capped Siskins
by Alasdair Hunter



Mystery Warbler!
by Alasdair Hunter

throated Hummingbird and had a perplexing warbler from the “Yellow-rumped” complex that seemed too dark for Audubon’s Warbler yet also did not fit the currently-known identification criteria for Goldman’s Warbler.

We ended up in the steep ravine where the Maroon-chested Ground Dove was still calling away! The time was approaching for us to leave Fuentes, but we tried a last bit of playback before being distracted by some White-naped Brushfinches, only to realize that the ground dove was now very close. It was Alasdair who found the bird, a stunning male, on an open perch and one at a time we started to take views. Frustratingly it flew off before a couple people had

managed see it, however the bird came back in to a different perch where it could be enjoyed by all – a great result!!

Quite contentedly we boarded the van and undertook the lengthy drive to Antigua, again in Sunday traffic, we made good time. After a nice lunch in town, we drove up the now-familiar road up to El Pilar and walked up the hill into the oak forests one last time. This being our third visit we didn’t add anything new, but we had really come here to search for Fulvous Owl. Towards dusk we started listening out for the growling calls of this superb owl and after hearing several calls of Whip-poor-wills, did in fact hear a rather distant



Ruddy-capped Nightingale Thrush
by Alasdair Hunter



owl. We walked towards the source of the sound and after quite a long wait heard it calling again, closer, but still distant. So we walked one more time to where we thought was close to the sound and waited for about an hour with absolutely no response. Just as we were about to give up we noticed there was a clearing nearby and just couldn't resist one final attempt. After a little bit of playback, the Fulvous Owl was growling at us from just overhead! After seeing it glide between perches a couple of times, it was lit up on an open perch, staring down at us, calling in all its glory – a great moment!



Maroon-chested Ground Dove
by Alasdair Hunter



Busy-crested Jay –Alasdair Hunter

The final excursion of the trip saw us heading up to nearby Finca Filadelfia where we hoped we might finally catch up with our fifth and final motmot – Blue-throated Motmot. We boarded an army-style transportation up the hill and then took a walk to an area that our local guide promisingly called “Motmot Curve”. After a lengthy wait, the birds suddenly started calling, and it was Gerald's extremely sharp-eyes that spotted a bird perched on a branch, albeit in a darkly shaded area. Great views for those who got on the bird and everyone managed some sort of view as the bird moved around a bit in the tangles and then flew right overhead as it crossed down the valley. As the sun hit the treetops, we had an amazing few minutes as several scarce birds popped up briefly in a fast-moving flock, admittedly a bit frustrating as none of them stayed up for long! One after another we had Bar-winged Oriole, Chestnut-sided Shrike Vireo and Hooded Grosbeak. But the show stopper was a female Sparkling-tailed Woodstar that hovered right above our heads and then landed on an exposed perch a few meters in front of us – we could hardly believe our luck! Once the action quieted down and the morning heated up we wandered down the hill, finding another White-breasted Hawk, incredibly enough. We drove down the hill to the *finca* where we heard another elusive Bar-winged Oriole and added Blue Grosbeak – this would be our last new species for the trip.

We enjoyed one final lunch together and



White-breasted Hawk by Stefan Obytz



then drove down into the congestion of Guatemala City where we headed our separate ways.

This has to be considered an extremely successful tour with almost all regional endemics seen well and thanks go out to the group for being such an easy-going and fun bunch of people and with some of the keenest spotters I have ever travelled with!

Annotated list of Bird species recorded.

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). 2016. IOC World Bird List (v 6.1)

RE = Range Restricted Endemic

I = Introduced

Tinamous Tinamidae

Thicket Tinamou (RE)* *Crypturellus cinnamomeus*

Heard both days at Los Tarrales – extremely close on one occasion!

Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*

6 on Lake Atitlan.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*

50 on Lake Atitlan.

Chachalacas, Curassows & Guans Cracidae

White-bellied Chachalaca (RE) *Ortalis leucogastra*

Seen well at Los Tarrales.

Crested Guan (RE) *Penelope purpurascens*

Seen well at Los Tarrales, also at Los Andes.

Highland Guan (RE) *Penelopina nigra*

Excellent scope views of a male at Los Tarrales. Also seen briefly at Volcan San Pedro and El Pilar and the great display calls were heard daily in the highlands.

Horned Guan (RE) *Oreophasis derbianus*

An adult and a subadult seen very well on Volcan San Pedro - the iconic bird of Guatemala and well worth the effort of climbing the volcano!

New World Quail Odontophoridae

Singing Quail (RE)* *Dactylortyx thoracicus*

Heard at Volcan San Pedro.

Storks Ciconiidae

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana*

A single bird was seen en route to Los Amates.



Herons, Bitterns Ardeidae

Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>
Several at Lake Atitlan.	
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Seen during drives through agricultural areas.	
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>
A few at Lake Atitlan.	
Great Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>
We saw a number of individuals at various wetlands throughout the tour.	
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>
A single seen at Lake Atitlan.	

New World Vultures Cathartidae

Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>
Commonly recorded on most days of the tour.	
Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>
Commonly recorded on every day of the tour.	
King Vulture	<i>Sarcoramphus papa</i>
An adult and immature seen at Los Tarrales, both in flight and perched.	

Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae

Black Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus tyrannus</i>
Nice views of one soaring at Rio Motagua twice and also seen by Stefan at Los Andes.	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>
Seen at Los Tarrales and Fuentes Georginas.	
White-breasted Hawk (RE)	<i>Accipiter chionogaster</i>
Incredible views of a pair at El Pilar, the male was mobbing Red-tailed Hawks. Also seen at Finca Filadelfia – one of the most elusive regional endemics.	
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>
A distant bird at Rio Motagua.	
Roadside Hawk *	<i>Rupornis magnirostris</i>
Heard only at Quirigua.	
Grey Hawk	<i>Buteo nitidus</i>
Seen at Los Tarrales.	
Short-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo brachyurus</i>
A distant bird at Los Tarrales.	
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>
Seen regularly at El Pilar, Finca Filadelfia and Lake Atitlan.	

Rails, Crakes and Coots Rallidae

Common Gallinule	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>
Seen in small numbers at Lake Atitlan.	



American Coot*Fulica americana*

Seen in large numbers at Lake Atitlan.

Sandpipers, Snipes Scolopacidae**Spotted Sandpiper***Actitis macularius*

One at Lake Atitlan.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae**Laughing Gull***Leucophaeus atricilla*

Commonly seen at Lake Atitlan.

Ring-billed Gull*Larus delawarensis*

A single adult at Lake Atitlan.

Pigeons, Doves Columbidae**Rock Dove (I)***Columba livia***Band-tailed Pigeon***Patagioenas fasciata*

Seen at all highland sites, usually shy – best views at El Pilar.

Red-billed Pigeon (RE)*Patagioenas flavirostris*

Several seen at Los Tarrales.

Inca Dove*Columbina inca*

Regular sightings – Rio Motagua, El Pilar, Lake Atitlan and Finca Filadelfia.

Common Ground Dove*Columbina passerina*

A single bird at the Rio Motagua.

Ruddy Ground Dove*Columbina talpacoti*

Many at Quirigua and a single at Rio Motagua.

Maroon-chested Ground Dove*Claravis mondetoura*

Terrific views of a stunning male at Fuentes Georginas on our second day there – a widespread but always tricky species.

White-tipped Dove*Leptotila verreauxi*

Regularly heard and brief views at Fuentes Georginas and El Pilar.

White-faced Quail-Dove (RE)*Zentrygon albifacies*

Brief views for some at Los Andes, also heard there and at Volcan San Pedro.

Mourning Dove*Zenaida macroura*

A few at Rio Motagua.

White-winged Dove*Zenaida asiatica*

Many at Rio Motagua and also around Lake Atitlan.

Cuckoos Cuculidae**Groove-billed Ani***Crotophaga sulcirostris*

Seen at Rio Motagua.

Lesser Ground Cuckoo**Morococcyx erythropygus*

Heard distantly a couple times at Rio Motagua.

Lesser Roadrunner*Geococcyx velox*

Terrific scope views near the Rio Motagua.

Squirrel Cuckoo*Piaya cayana*

2 at Rio Motagua and 3 more at Tarrales.

Owls Strigidae

- Great Horned Owl** *Bubo virginianus*
 Heard distantly during the ascent up Volcan San Pedro.
- Fulvous Owl (RE)** *Strix fulvescens*
 Terrific views at El Pilar, after quite a bit of effort!
- Mottled Owl** *Strix virgata*
 Great views on a day roost at Tarrales and also heard at El Pilar.
- Black-and-white Owl** *Strix nigrolineata*
 Great views at dusk at Tarrales.
- Guatemalan Pygmy Owl*** *Glaucidium cobanense*
 Heard very distantly on Volcan San Pedro.
- Ferruginous Pygmy Owl** *Glaucidium brasilianum*
 Several heard at Rio Motagua.

Potoos Nyctibiidae

- Northern Potoo** *Nyctibius jamaicensis*
 Terrific views at night at Tarrales.

Nightjars Caprimulgidae

- Pauraque** *Nyctidromus albicollis*
 Good flight views at Tarrales.
- Mexican Whip-poor-will** *Antrostomus arizonae*
 Great views at El Pilar.

Swifts Apodidae

- Vaux's Swift** *Chaetura vauxi*
 Encountered on 3 dates.
- White-throated Swift** *Aeronautes saxatalis*
 Seen at the hotel gardens around Lake Atitlan.

Hummingbirds Trochilidae

- Rufous Sabrewing (RE)** *Campylopterus rufus*
 Good views at and around the hummer feeders at El Pilar, also briefly at the feeders at Lake Atitlan.
- Violet Sabrewing (RE)** *Campylopterus hemileucurus*
 Seen briefly at Los Tarrales, much better at Los Andes where they visited the feeders.
- Green Violetear** *Colibri thalassinus*
 Very common at Fuentes Georginas and Volcan San Pedro.
- Green-breasted Mango** *Anthracothorax prevostii*
 Regularly seen perched at Los Tarrales.
- Emerald-chinned Hummingbird (RE)** *Abeillia abeillei*
 The lek at Los Andes was empty, but most of us got views of this wonderful little hummer



nearby in the forest.

Blue-throated Sapphire

Hylocharis eliciae

Great scope views of a male at Los Tarrales.

Cinnamon Hummingbird (RE)

Amazilia rutila

Best views as we ate breakfast at Los Amates, also seen at Rio Motagua and Los Tarrales.

White-bellied Emerald (RE)

Amazilia candida

Regularly seen perched at Los Tarrales.

Azure-crowned Hummingbird (RE)

Amazilia cyanocephala

Best views at the feeders of our hotel at Lake Atitlan, also seen at El Pilar and Finca Filadelfia.

Blue-tailed Hummingbird (RE)

Amazilia cyanura

Best views at the feeders at Los Andes, also seen at Los Tarrales and El Pilar.

Berylline Hummingbird (RE)

Amazilia beryllina

Many visited the feeders at our hotel at Lake Atitlan, also seen Los Tarrales and El Pilar.

Amethyst-throated Mountaingem (RE)

Lampornis amethystinus

Brief but good views for some near Rincon Suizo. Others seen briefly at Fuentes Georginas.

Green-throated Mountaingem (RE)

Lampornis viridipallens

Good views of birds seen feeding on flowering bromeliads at El Pilar, Finca Filadelfia, but the best views came at Los Andes. Also seen at Fuentes Georginas.

White-eared Hummingbird (RE)

Basilinna leucotis

Commonly encountered in the highlands with the best views coming at El Pilar.

Rivoli's Hummingbird

Eugenes fulgens

Seen well at El Pilar, Fuentes Georginas and Finca Filadelfia.

Long-billed Starthroat

Helimaster longirostris

Seen a couple times at Tarrales.

Plain-capped Starthroat

Helimaster constantii

Some brief views at Rio Motagua.

Sparkling-tailed Woodstar (RE)

Tilmatura dupontii

A species we never expected to encounter, we had stunningly good views of a female on our very last morning at Finca Filadelfia!!

Slender Sheartail (RE)

Doricha enicura

Another poorly known hummer we didn't expect to see, we had incredible views of a perched male after a long wait near Panajachel!!

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Archilochus colubris

Seen daily in the highlands.

Wine-throated Hummingbird (RE)

Atthis ellioti

We did extremely well on this species, seeing several tiny males at close quarters at Fuentes Georginas. We also scoped up a female at Volcan San Pedro.

Trogon Trogonidae

Resplendent Quetzal (RE)*

Pharomachrus mocinno

Heard only at Los Andes. Difficult this year in the very dry conditions.

Gartered Trogon

Trogon caligatus

Good scope views at Los Tarrales.

Mountain Trogon (RE)

Trogon mexicanus

Seen best at El Pilar, also Rincon Suizo and Fuentes Georginas.



Collared Trogon*Trogon collaris*

Seen by some and heard by the rest at Los Andes.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae**Green Kingfisher***Chloroceryle americana*

A single bird seen well at Los Tarrales.

Belted Kingfisher*Megaceryle alcyon*

Pair seen at Lake Atitlan.

Motmots Momotidae**Tody Motmot***Hylomanes momotula*

Everyone got a good scope view at Tarrales of this tricky little motmot!

Blue-throated Motmot (RE)*Aspatha gularis*

Another shy motmot – seen by all at Finca Filadelfia, also heard at Volcan San Pedro and Fuentes Georginas.

Russet-crowned Motmot (RE)*Momotus mexicanus*

After some persistence we all saw this species at Rio Motagua.

Blue-diademed Motmot (RE)*Momotus lessonii*

Seen on numerous occasions at Los Tarrales.

Turquoise-browed Motmot (RE)*Eumomota superciliosa*

Good views of 3 different birds at Quirigua.

Toucans Rhamphastidae**Emerald Toucanet (RE)***Aulacorhynchus prasinus*

Regularly seen in the highlands – Volcan San Pedro, Los Andes, El Pilar and Finca Filadelfia.

Collared Aracari*Pteroglossus torquatus*

Good views at Tarrales.

Keel-billed Toucan*Ramphastos sulfuratus*

A single bird seen at Quirigua.

Woodpeckers Piciidae**Acorn Woodpecker***Melanerpes formicivorus*

Several seen at Finca Filadelfia.

Velasquez's Woodpecker*Melanerpes santacruzi*

Commonly seen at Rio Motagua, Quirigua, Lake Atitlan area and Tarrales.

Hairy Woodpecker*Picoides villosus*

Several sightings at El Pilar and Fuentes Georginas – ssp *sanctorum*.

Smoky-brown Woodpecker*Picoides fumigatus*

A single bird seen well at Los Tarrales.

Golden-olive Woodpecker*Colaptes rubiginosus*

Seen at Los Tarrales and Los Andes.

Northern Flicker*Colaptes auratus*

Regular observations – El Pilar, near Rincon Suizo, Panajachel and Finca Filadelfia – of race *mexicanoides*.

Lineated Woodpecker*Dryocopus lineatus*

Pairs seen well on both days at Los Tarrales.

Carcaras, Falcons Falconidae

- Laughing Falcon** *Herpetotheres cachinnans*
 Heard and seen in flight at Quirigua.
American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*
 Regularly seen on roadside wires.

Parrots Psittacidae

- Orange-chinned Parakeet** *Brotogeris jugularis*
 Great views at Los Tarrales.
White-fronted Amazon *Amazona albifrons*
 Flight views of a lone bird at Rio Motagua.
Yellow-naped Amazon (RE) *Amazona auropalliata*
 Good views at Los Tarrales, one perched and many in flight.
Orange-fronted Parakeet (RE) *Eupsittula canicularis*
 Seen very well at Los Tarrales and also seen at Rio Motagua.
Pacific Parakeet (RE) *Psittacara strenuus*
 Excellent views at Los Tarrales and more in flight at El Pilar and Finca Filadelfia.

Ovenbirds Furnariidae

- Rufous-breasted Spinetail (RE)** *Synallaxis erythrothorax*
 Great views of a pair of these skulkers at Los Tarrales.
Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner *Anabcerthia variegaticeps*
 Seen at Los Andes and Fuentes Georginas.
Ivory-billed Woodcreeper (RE) *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster*
 Seen well on our first afternoon at Los Tarrales.
Spotted Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*
 Seen high above us at Los Andes.
Spot-crowned Woodcreeper (RE) *Lepidocolaptes affinis*
 Several sightings at El Pilar and one at Fuentes Georginas.

Antbirds Thamnophilidae

- Barred Antshrike** *Thamnophilus doliatus*
 Female seen on both days at Los Tarrales.

Tyrant Flycatchers Tyrannidae

- Yellow-bellied Elaenia** *Elaenia flavogaster*
 Only seen in the hotel gardens at Lake Atitlan.
Paltry Tyrannulet *Zimmerius vilissimus*
 One seen about 30 meters above our heads at Los Andes – not exactly a great view!!
Northern Beardless Tyrannulet *Camptostoma imberbe*
 Seen well near Rio Motagua.
Northern Bentbill *Oncostoma cinereigulare*
 Reasonable views at Los Tarrales.



Common Tody-Flycatcher

One seen at Los Tarrales.

Todirostrum cinereum

Yellow-olive Flatbill

Single bird seen at Quirigua.

Tolmomyias sulphurescens

Black Phoebe

Seen at Lake Atitlan and Panajachel.

Sayornis nigricans

Northern Tufted Flycatcher

An attractive flycatcher seen at El Pilar and Volcan San Pedro.

Mitrephanes phaeocercus

Greater Pewee

A distinctive *Contopus* flycatcher seen regularly at mid to high elevations.

Contopus pertinax

Tropical Pewee

Several seen at Los Tarrales.

Contopus cinereus

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

Two seen and heard near Rio Motagua were a bit of a surprise.

Empidonax flaviventris

Least Flycatcher

Regularly recorded around Rio Motagua and Lake Atitlan.

Empidonax minimus

Hammond's Flycatcher

A couple of these boreal migrants were seen in the oak/pine forests at El Pilar.

Empidonax hammondii

Pine Flycatcher

Best views at Fuentes Georginas, also seen at El Pilar and Finca Filadelfia.

Empidonax affinis

Yellowish Flycatcher

Brief views at Fuentes Georginas.

Empidonax flavescens

Buff-breasted Flycatcher

A distinctive *Empidonax*, great views of a pair at El Pilar.

Empidonax fulvifrons

Social Flycatcher

Seen at Quirigua, El Pilar, Lake Atitlan and Los Tarrales.

Myiozetetes similis

Great Kiskadee

Seen at Rio Motagua, Quirigua and Los Tarrales.

Pitangus sulphuratus

Boat-billed Flycatcher

Seen at Quirigua, Los Tarrales and Finca Filadelfia.

Megarynchus pitangua

Tropical Kingbird

Seen at Quirigua and Los Tarrales.

Tyrannus melancholicus

Western Kingbird

Large numbers at Rio Motagua, Lake Atitlan and Los Tarrales..

Tyrannus verticalis

Dusky-capped Flycatcher

Single birds seen at Quirigua and Finca Filadelfia.

Myiarchus tuberculifer

Nutting's Flycatcher

A couple of these localized *Myiarchus* seen well at Rio Motagua.

Myiarchus nuttingi

Brown-crested Flycatcher

Very common at Rio Motagua with another at Los Tarrales.

Myiarchus tyrannulus

Manakins Pipridae

Long-tailed Manakin (RE)

Good views of a sub-adult male, replete with tail streamers, at Los Tarrales; also brief views of a couple females.

Chiroxiphia linearis



Tityras, Becards Tityridae**Masked Tityra***Tityra semifasciata*

A few seen at Los Tarrales.

Rose-throated Becard (RE)*Pachyramphus aglaiae*

Seen at several locations: near Rincon Suizo, Volcan San Pedro, Los Andes and Finca Filadelfia.

Vireos, Greenlets Vireonidae**Rufous-browed Peppershrike***Cyclarhis gujanensis*

One bird skulking around at Los Tarrales.

Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo (RE)*Vireolanius melitophrys*

Brief views of this shy species at Finca Filadelfia for some.

Yellow-throated Vireo*Vireo flavifrons*

Seen at Los Tarrales.

Plumbeous Vireo*Vireo plumbeus*Seen at El Pilar and Fuentes Georginas, this locally breeding race *montanus* looks very distinctive from birds further north.**Blue-headed Vireo***Vireo solitarius*

Seen at Rio Motagua and Los Andes.

Hutton's Vireo*Vireo huttoni*

A single bird seen near Rincon Suizo.

Warbling Vireo*Vireo gilvus*

Seen at Los Tarrales and Los Andes.

Crows, Jays Corvidae**Black-throated Jay (RE)***Cyanolyca pumilo*

Great find by Gerald allowed us good views of a pair at Fuentes Georginas – one of the trickiest regional endemics!

Bushy-crested Jay (RE)*Cyanocorax melanocyaneus*

We encountered flocks of this lovely jay at El Pilar, Panajachel and Finca Filadelfia.

White-throated Magpie-Jay (RE)*Calocitta formosa*

Seen well several time at Los Tarrales, also at a restaurant stop in the eastern part of the country.

Steller's Jay*Cyanocitta stelleri*Several seen at Finca Filadelfia – race *coronata*.**Unicolored Jay (RE)***Aphelocoma unicolor*

A pair seen on both dates around the gate at Fuentes Georginas.

Silky-flycatchers Ptilonotidae**Grey Silky-flycatcher (RE)***Ptilonotus cinereus*

Abundant at El Pilar and Finca Filadelfia, with more seen at Volcan San Pedro and Fuentes Georgina – a wonderful species.

Swallows, martins Hirundinidae**Violet-green Swallow***Tachycineta thalassina*

A few at Rio Motagua and a few around Lake Atitlan.

Grey-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*

Seen distantly at Los Tarrales.

Black-capped Swallow (RE) *Notiochelidon pileata*

Regularly seen in the highlands with the best views at Fuentes Georginas..

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*

Good numbers seen around Lake Atitlan and Los Tarrales.

Bushtits Aegithalidae

American Bushtit *Psaltiriparus minimus*

Small flocks seen at El Pilar and Finca Filadelfia.

Wrens Troglodytidae

Band-backed Wren *Campylorhynchus zonatus*

Seen near Rincon Suizo and at Finca Filadelfia.

Rufous-backed Wren (RE) *Campylorhynchus rufinucha*

Seen well at Los Tarrales and briefly at Rio Motagua – the latter race *xerophilus* is restricted to that valley.

Spot-breasted Wren *Thryophilus maculipectus*

This skulking species showed pretty well at Los Tarrales.

Rufous-and-white Wren *Thryophilus rufalbus*

The beautiful song was heard at Los Tarrales and it was poorly seen as it skulked through the undergrowth.

Plain Wren* *Cantorchilus modestus*

Heard only at Volcan San Pedro and Panajachel.

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*

Seen at a number of locations throughout the tour.

Rufous-browed Wren (RE) *Troglodytes rufociliatus*

Heard at all highland sites with great views of numerous birds at Fuentes Georginas and also seen on Volcan San Pedro.

Grey-breasted Wood Wren *Henicorhina leucophrys*

Heard regularly in the highlands and glimpsed by some at El Pilar.

Gnatcatchers Polioptilidae

Blue-grey Gnatcatcher *Polioptila caerulea*

Seen a couple times at Los Tarrales.

White-lored Gnatcatcher *Polioptila albiloris*

Several seen well at Rio Motagua.

Treecreepers Certhiidae

Brown Creeper *Certhia americana*

Seen near to Rinco Suizo.

Mockingbirds, Thrashers Mimidae

Grey Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis*



This migrant was seen at Quirigua and Volcan San Pedro.

Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus*

Seen at Rio Motagua, El Pilar and around Lake Atitlan.

Blue-and-white Mockingbird (RE) *Melanotis hypoleucus*

A very skulking and stunning mocker that we saw fairly well on the lower slopes of Volcan San Pedro, and better at Panajachel!

Thrushes Turdidae

Eastern Bluebird *Sialia sialis*

Lots at El Pilar and also at Panajachel.

Brown-backed Solitaire (RE) *Myadestes occidentalis*

The beautiful song was heard daily in the highlands, and we regularly saw it both perched and in display flight.

Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus aurantirostris*

Brief views on the lower slopes of Volcan San Pedro and at Los Tarrales.

Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush (RE) *Catharus frantzii*

Seen on the trail of Volcan San Pedro, and then great views of several out in the open at daybreak at Fuentes Georginas.

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*

Seen at Volcan San Pedro, Los Tarrales and Finca Filadelfia.

Black Thrush (RE) *Turdus infuscatus*

Several encounters with this furtive species at El Pilar and also briefly at Finca Filadelfia.

Clay-colored Thrush *Turdus grayi*

Commonly seen throughout the tour.

White-throated Thrush (RE) *Turdus assimilis*

We eventually got good views at Los Tarrales

Rufous-collared Thrush (RE) *Turdus rufitorques*

A very attractive thrush, commonly seen at El Pilar, Volcan San Pedro, Fuentes Georginas and Finca Filadelfia.

Old World Sparrows Passeridae

House Sparrow (I) *Passer domesticus*

Olive Warbler Peucedramidae

Olive Warbler *Peucedramus taeniatus*

A pair seen up in the pines at Rincon Suizo.

Finches Fringillidae

Hooded Grosbeak *Hesperiphona abeillei*

Great scope views of a pair at El Pilar, also seen briefly at Finca Filadelfia.

Lesser Goldfinch *Spinus psaltria*

A handful seen at Lake Atitlan, Panajachel and Finca Filadelfia.

Black-headed Siskin *Spinus notatus*

Good numbers seen well at El Pilar and more briefly at Volcan San Pedro and Finca Filadelfia.

Black-capped Siskin (RE) *Carduelis atriceps*



A steep walk at Fuentes Georginas resulted in scope views of 6 – one of the most poorly known of the regional endemics.

Scrub Euphonia*Euphonia affinis*

Seen well at Los Tarrales.

Yellow-throated Euphonia*Euphonia hirundinacea*

Great views at Los Tarrales.

Elegant Euphonia*Euphonia elegantissima*

Pairs were seen at Volcan San Pedro and Fuentes Georginas.

Blue-crowned Chlorophonia*Chlorophonia occipitalis*

The lead group at Los Andes saw this stunning species.

New World Warblers Parulidae

Ovenbird*Seiurus aurocapilla*

Seen well at Quirigua.

Worm-eating Warbler*Helmitheros vermivorum*

A furtive bird seen at Los Tarrales.

Louisiana Waterthrush*Parkesia motacilla*

Seen at Los Tarrales.

Northern Waterthrush*Parkesia noveboracensis*

Seen a couple times at Quirigua.

Black-and-white Warbler*Mniotilta varia*

Seen regularly in the highlands and hills.

Crescent-chested Warbler (RE)*Oreothlypis superciliosa*

Great views near Rincon Suizo with more seen at Fuentes Georginas.

Tennessee Warbler*Leiothlypis peregrina*

Seen daily, extremely common in the highlands.

Nashville Warbler*Leiothlypis ruficapilla*

A single seen at Panajachel.

Grey-crowned Yellowthroat (RE)*Geothlypis poliocephala*

Very nice looks at a singing male at Los Tarrales.

MacGillivray's Warbler*Geothlypis tolmiei*

Seen at Volcan San Pedro and Fuentes Georginas.

Kentucky Warbler*Geothlypis formosus*

A skulking bird seen by some at Los Tarrales.

Hooded Warbler*Setophaga citrina*

Great views at Quirigua.

American Redstart*Setophaga ruticilla*

Several seen well at Quirigua.

Northern Parula*Setophaga americana*

A single bird seen at Quirigua.

Magnolia Warbler*Setophaga magnolia*

Several at Los Tarrales.

American Yellow Warbler*Setophaga aestiva*

Seen at Quirigua, Lake Atitlan and Los Tarrales.



Chestnut-sided Warbler*Setophaga pensylvanica*

A couple seen at Quirigua.

Myrtle Warbler*Setophaga coronata*

Seen at Los Tarrales.

Audubon's Warbler*Setophaga auduboni*

A single bird seen on the ridge at Fuentes Georginas. Another bird seen and photographed at Fuentes was intriguing – it was much darker than a typical Audubon's Warbler and thus could have been a Goldman's Warbler; however it did not fit all known identification features of this taxon either!

Townsend's Warbler*Setophaga townsendi*

Commonly seen in the highlands.

Hermit Warbler*Setophaga occidentalis*

Seen well at El Pilar and near Rincon Suizo.

Black-throated Green Warbler*Setophaga virens*

Seen at Quirigua, Los Tarrales and Los Andes.

Rufous-capped Warbler*Basileuterus rufifrons*

Seen by some at Los Tarrales.

Golden-browed Warbler (RE)*Basileuterus belli*

Seen at Volcan San Pedro, but better views at Fuentes Georginas.

Golden-crowned Warbler*Basileuterus culicivorus*

Eventually seen by all at Los Tarrales and Los Andes.

Wilson's Warbler*Cardellina pusilla*

Seen on almost every day of the tour.

Red-faced Warbler*Cardellina rubifrons*

A stunning warbler, seen well at El Pilar and Finca Filadelfia.

Pink-headed Warbler (RE)*Cardellina versicolor*

Terrific views of several – both at Fuentes Georginas and near Rincon Suizo. One of the iconic birds of Guatemala!

Slate-throated Whitestart*Myioborus miniatus*

The bright orange-bellied form of this species was seen on several occasions in the highlands.

Family Uncertain Incertae Sedis**Yellow-breasted Chat***Icteria virens*

Seen quite well at Panajachel.

Oropendolas, Orioles & Blackbirds Icteridae**Montezuma Oropendola (RE)***Psarocolius montezuma*

Good numbers at Quirigua.

Altamira Oriole*Icterus gularis*

Seen well at Rio Motagua, Los Tarrales and Los Andes.

Streak-backed Oriole*Icterus pustulatus*Several seen at Rio Motagua where the local race *alticola* has an almost solidly dark back.**Baltimore Oriole***Icterus galbula*

Seen in good numbers most days.

Spot-breasted Oriole (RE)*Icterus pectoralis*

Scoped up at Lost Tarrales.

Bar-winged Oriole (RE)

Icterus maculialatus

A male was seen by most of the group at Finca Filadelfia – a tricky species to catch up with!

Black-vented Oriole (RE)

Icterus wagleri

Seen well at El Pilar and again at Panajachel.

Orchard Oriole

Icterus spurius

Several seen at Quirigua and Los Tarrales, but best at our hotel at Lake Atitlan where it raided the hummingbird feeders!

Melodious Blackbird (RE)

Dives dives

Seen only at Los Tarrales where it was common.

Great-tailed Grackle

Quiscalus mexicanus

Seen on every day of the tour.

Buntings, New World Sparrows & Allies Emberizidae

Lincoln's Sparrow

Melospiza lincolnii

A brief sighting at Panajachel.

Rufous-collared Sparrow

Zonotrichia capensis

Seen on a handful of occasions, including el Pilar and Lake Atitlan.

Prevost's Ground Sparrow (RE)

Melospiza biarcuata

Excellent views of a small group on the shores of Lake Atitlan, also heard at Los Tarrales.

Chestnut-capped Brush Finch

Arremon brunneinucha

Great views at Fuentes Georginas and on Volcan San Pedro.

White-naped Brush Finch

Atlapetes albinucha

Brief views at El Pilar and Volcan San Pedro, everybody then caught up with it at Fuentes Georginas where it showed well.

Common Bush Tanager

Chlorospingus ophthalmicus

Large flocks encountered at Volcan San Pedro, Los Andes, and Fuentes Georginas.

Tanagers & Allies Thraupidae

Blue-grey Tanager

Thraupis episcopus

Regularly seen at the lower and mid-elevation sites: Quirigua, Los Tarrales, Los Andes and Lago Atitlan.

Yellow-winged Tanager (RE)

Thraupis abbas

Commonly seen at Quirigua, Los Andes, Los Tarrales and Lago Atitlan.

Cabanis's Tanager (RE)

Tangara cabanisi

One of the most-wanted species of the tour. A flock of about 6 was seen extremely well visiting a favoured fruiting tree at Los Andes

Red-legged Honeycreeper

Cyanerpes cyaneus

Common at Los Tarrales, with another at our hotel near Lake Atitlan.

Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer (RE)

Diglossa baritula

Several seen at Fuentes Georginas with another at El Pilar.

White-collared Seedeater

Sporophila torqueola

Seen at Quirigua, Lake Atitlan and Los Tarrales.

Grosbeaks, Saltators & Allies Cardinalidae



Flame-colored Tanager	<i>Piranga bidentata</i>
Males seen briefly on a couple occasions at El Pilar.	
Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>
A few seen throughout the tour.	
Western Tanager	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>
Seen almost daily.	
White-winged Tanager	<i>Piranga leucoptera</i>
Great views of a pair at Los Tarrales, seen again at Lost Andes.	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>
A common migrant that was recorded on almost every day of the tour.	
Black-headed Saltator	<i>Saltator atriceps</i>
Common at Los Tarrales, especially in the gardens.	
Greyish Saltator	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>
Seen only at Los Tarrales, mainly in the gardens.	
Blue Grosbeak	<i>Passerina caerulea</i>
Nice views of a male at Finca Filadelfia.	
Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>
Drab winter-plumaged birds seen at El Pilar and Fuentes Georginas.	
Varied Bunting	<i>Passerina versicolor</i>
Seen well at Rio Motagua.	

Annotated list of Mammal species recorded.

Common Oposum	<i>Didelphis marsupialis</i>
Seen very well at night at Los Tarrales.	
Least Sac-winged Bat	<i>Balantiopteryx io</i>
Gerald photographed this species in a bat cave near Rio Motagua.	
Gray Sac-winged Bat	<i>Balantiopteryx plicata</i>
Gerald also photographed this species in a bat cave near Rio Motagua.	
Central American Agouti	<i>Dasyprocta punctata</i>
Commonly seen at Los Tarrales.	
Deppe's Squirrel (RE)	<i>Sciurus deppei</i>
The most common squirrel of the trip – several seen at El Pilar and Fuentes Georginas	
Variegated Squirrel (RE)	<i>Sciurus variegatoides</i>
Seen at Los Tarrales – raiding the fruit feeders.	
Mexican Gray Squirrel (RE)	<i>Sciurus aureogaster</i>
Seen at El Pilar and Volcan San Pedro.	
White-tailed Deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>
Several seen at Los Tarrales.	



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