



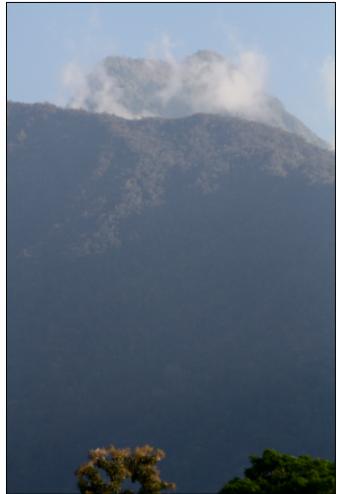




HONDURAS Pico Bonito Special March 9 – 14, 2013 TRIP REPORT

Photos & report by Frank Mantlik













Sunrise Birding LLC

HONDURAS TRIP REPORT

March 9 - 14, 2013

Pico Bonito Special!

Leader: Frank Mantlik and a local guide

HIGHLIGHTS

(Rarities, specialties, or simply a group favorite):

- Honduran Emerald (globally endangered)
- Lovely Cotinga
- Turquoise-browed Motmot
- Keel-billed Toucan
- Violet Sabrewing
- Collared Forest-Falcon
- Great Potoo
- Mantled Howler Monkeys
- West Indian Manatee
- 191 Bird Species

- Violet-crowned Woodnymph
- Kentucky Warbler
- White-necked Jacobin
- Agami Heron
- Bat Falcon
- Helmeted Lizard
- American Crocodile

Black-throated Trogon

- Northern Potoo
- Fabulous lodging and meals

Day 1 – Arrival San Pedro Sula – Pico Bonito

Today was a travel day with most people arriving on their flights to San Pedro Sula by mid-afternoon. The 2.5 hour van ride to Pico Bonito Lodge took us through extensive palm-oil plantations. Among the birds seen along the way were Roadside Hawks. White-fronted Parrot, Cattle Egrets, and Black-necked Stilt. In early evening, the group met for orientation and a scrumptious dinner.

Day 2 – Pico Bonito Lodge

After an early breakfast our local guide, Jose, led us on a morning walk in the Lodge gardens which are frequented by Central American Agoutis, a large member of the rodent family. Birds seen were Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Collared Aracari, Melodious Blackbird (on nest), Brown Jays, Wood Thrush, Ovenbird, Summer Tanager, Vaux's Swifts, and a massive sleeping Great Potoo. Atop the "Toucan Tower" observation platform overlooking the Rio Coloradito and upwards at the mountains, Jose located our first Lovely Cotinga - a spectacularly colorful bird - in a sunlit treetop. Also seen were Green Honeycreeper, Masked Tityra, Black Phoebe, and **Brown-hooded** and **White-crowned Parrots**. Further along, we observed a flock of six Lovely Cotingas feeding on the fruit of an avocado tree. Steve photographed

them and also a White-throated Robin. Nearby were a cooperative Blue-crowned Motmot, two Gartered Trogons, Red-billed Pigeons, and our first Keel-billed Toucan. Also enjoyed were two Squirrel Cuckoos, Black-headed Trogon, Long-billed Hermit, and White-eyed and Philadelphia Vireos. Up to four Little Tinamous called from near the trail, but these secretive forest birds would not be seen. We took a break from the mid-day heat and humidity.

During and after a fabulous lunch, we enjoyed the many feeder and garden birds including **Social Flycatchers**, **Great Kiskadees**, **White-necked Jacobin**, and **Stripe-throated Hermit**, as well as **Variegated Squirrels**. We met two women guests, one of which had won a holiday here with a winning photograph in *Audubon*. Jose then found for us a diurnal **Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl** (Photo: Frank Mantlik), which was calling as well as photogenic.

A pair of Vermiculated Screech-Owls were roosting behind Frank's cabin providing a treat and an amazing Helmeted Basilisk Lizard clung to a tree trunk for extended views. During our afternoon walk, we saw Golden-hooded Tanagers, Olive-backed Euphonias, Golden-fronted and Black-cheeked Woodpeckers, a pair of Brown-crested Flycatchers, and large flocks of soaring White-collared Swifts. Under clear skies, we had a fabulous view of the nearby mountains, including 8,000-foot Pico Bonito itself. By a small pool, we patiently enjoyed the bathing behavior by several Kentucky and



Hooded Warblers. A variety of captive reptiles were studied at the Serpentarium. Dinner was followed by Frank reviewing the day's sightings and tomorrow's plans.

Day 3 – Cuero y Salado Refuge / Pico Bonito National Park

Today we took a morning excursion by van and then small-gauge train, to the Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge. Along the way we saw Yellow-winged Tanager, Groove-billed Anis, White Ibis, Ruddy Ground-Doves, Bronzed Cowbird, and had fantastic views of a beautiful Turquoise-browed Motmot. Train stops netted Bat Falcon, Roadside Hawk, Crested Caracara, Purple Gallinules, Northern Jacanas, Northern Waterthrush, and White-collared Seedeaters. After registering at the Park office, two skiffs took us on an enjoyable boat ride through the mangrove forests of the Rio Salado. Noteworthy birds seen included Common Black-Hawks, Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, Tricolored, Boat-billed, and Agami Herons (thanks, Jamie!), Anhinga, Scaled Pigeon, Lesser Nighthawk, Ringed, Belted, and Green Kingfishers, and a roosting **Northern Potoo**. Frank whistled to the latter, causing the Potoo to rotate its head ever so slowly. Of particular note was an odd-looking Prothonotary Warbler exhibiting a rusty-red cap; Steve obtained photos. Other animal highlights were family groups of Mantled Howler Monkeys, a group of Long-nosed Bats roosting on a tree trunk, a West Indian Manatee, a 13-foot American Crocodile, and numerous flashy Blue Morpho butterflies. After a picnic of cold fresh fruit, we spied a male American Redstart and two Orchard Orioles. Some walked to a nearby Caribbean beach, where a Blue-black Grassquit, a Whimbrel and Brown Pelicans were seen.

After a delightful lunch that included shrimp ceviche, some down time allowed us to explore the Lodge grounds, or to simply relax. Frank and Steve looked unsuccessfully for the Margay cat that had been around, but did have great views of two Masked Tityras (Photo: Frank Mantlik). Meanwhile Jamie had good birds and butterflies near the butterfly garden. Jose then led us on the forest loop trail, with much success: Red-capped and White-collared Manakins, a pair of Black-throated Trogons near a probable nest tree, White-shouldered Tanager, Rufous Mourner, White-bellied Emerald, and a group of eight Keel-billed Toucans. In addition we heard the earthy calls of Keel-billed and Tody Motmots, Slaty-breasted Tinamou, and an Ivory-billed Woodcreeper.



Day 4 – Rio Aguan Valley

About half of the group got an early 4 am start for the long drive south around the coastal mountains to the tropical dry forest of the Rio Aguan Valley. Our quest was for the endangered **Honduran Emerald** hummingbird, the only endemic species in Honduras. During a picnic breakfast in Olanchito, we saw **Purple Martins**, **Mangrove Swallows**, **White-winged Doves**, and **Yellow Warbler**. In the center of town, statues of the endemic Honduran Emerald and Spiny-tailed Iguana mark the significance of the

remaining tropical dry forest habitat of the region. Upon arriving at a special reserve, we walked into the thornforest, accompanied by a pair of burros. We saw many different species in this unique habitat, including Lesser Roadrunner, Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Common Ground-Dove, White-lored Gnatcatcher, White-bellied Wren, Long-billed Starthroat, and Salvin's Emerald. Having seen several males and females zip by, eventually we had stunning and extensive views of a male **Honduran Emerald** (Photo: Frank Mantlik), feeding on its favored species of pencil cactus. Following a lunch of local fare, we returned to Pico in late afternoon. Those who stayed at the lodge experienced a day of rain. Even so, they enjoyed birding and photographing. Gail got great photos of an immature Ornate Hawk-Eagle (initially identified as a Black-and-White Hawk-Eagle) in a tree over her head and mobbed by many Oropendolas.



Day 5 – Lancetilla Botanical Garden – Rio Santiago

After an early breakfast, we drove to the Lancetilla Botanical Garden. A pause in the rain showers allowed us to walk the entrance road. It was quite birdy, as we saw **Passerini's Tanagers**, **Gray Catbird**, **White-collared Seedeaters**, **Bat Falcon**, and heard a **Gray Hawk**. An alarm call caused us to look up, only to see a **Collared Forest-Falcon** with its freshly caught prey (**Gray-chested Dove**) flying close by us. Further along, we marveled at the dynamics of a large nest colony of **Montezuma Oropendolas**. At the visitor center, Frank spotted two **Lesser Swallow-tailed Swifts**, and we also had **Boat-billed Flycatcher**, **Buff-throated Saltator**, **Thick-billed Seed-**

Finch, and **Streak-headed Woodcreeper**. Just after Gail found a pair of **Chestnut-colored Woodpeckers**, the heavier rains resumed, and we aborted further birding.

We had a fabulous outdoor seafood lunch at a nearby restaurant on the Caribbean coast, while watching the stormy surf. Here we saw a variety of shorebirds, gulls, swallows, **Brown Pelicans**, and several **Royal Terns**. During the return drive, Jamie spotted 4 **Wood Storks** along the road, where we also had a **Roseate Spoonbill** and 2 **Neotropic Cormorants**. Still raining, the road along the raging Rio Santiago brought us to a fabulous place for hummingbirds. Under shelter we studied eleven species of 100+ hummingbirds, including **Band-tailed Barbthroat**, Scaly-breasted Hummingbird and the fantastic **Violet Sabrewing**. Back at the Lodge, manager James treated us to a wonderful digital photo presentation of the wildlife of Pico Bonito. Our last dinner together included many delicious entrees.

Day 6 - Pico Bonito - San Pedro Sula

Breakfast was followed by a last view of the feeder and garden birds, checkout, farewells, and van ride back to San Pedro Sula airport. All agreed it was a fabulous short getaway to the Neotropic. We'll be back!

Many thanks to all of the participants for joining us and for making this tour a very successful and enjoyable experience. We hope to see you on another Sunrise Birding tour!

Respectfully submitted, Frank Mantlik





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HONDURASPico Bonito Special!

SPECIES LIST Ma

March 9 – 14, 2013

Leader: Frank Mantlik and local guides

A – Number of days seen out of 6.

B – Maximum number per day (H = Heard)



	SPECIES	Scientific Name	A	В
1	Little Tinamou	Crypturellus soui	3	4 H
2	Slaty-breasted Tinamou	Crypturellus boucardi	1	1 H
3	Muscovy Duck	Cairina moschata	1	2
4	Blue-winged Teal	Anas discors	1	2
5	Lesser Scaup	Aythya affinis	1	2
6	Plain Chachalaca	Ortalis vetula	2	2
7	Brown Pelican	Pelecanus occidentalis	2	22
8	Neotropic Cormorant	Phalacrocorax brasilianus	3	3
9	Anhinga	Anhinga anhinga	1	1
10	Great Blue Heron	Ardea herodias	2	1
11	Great Egret	Ardea alba	4	4
12	Snowy Egret	Egretta thula	5	21
13	Little Blue Heron	Egretta caerulea	2	25
14	Tricolored Heron	Egretta tricolor	2	2
15	Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis	5	200
16	Green Heron	Butorides virescens	2	4
17	Agami Heron	Agamia agami	1	1
18	Black-crowned Night-Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax	1	1
19	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	Nyctanassa violacea	2	1
20	Boat-billed Heron	Cochlearius cochlearius	1	1
21	White Ibis	Eudocimus albus	1	3
22	Roseate Spoonbill	Platalea ajaja	1	1
23	Wood Stork	Mycteria americana	1	4
24	Black Vulture	Coragyps atratus	6	1000
25	Turkey Vulture	Cathartes aura	6	20
26	Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture	Cathartes burrovianus	1	1
27	Gray Hawk	Asturina nitida	2	1 H
28	Common (Mangrove) Black- Hawk	Buteogallus anthracinus subtilis	1	2
29	Roadside Hawk	Buteo magnirostris	3	2
30	Red-tailed Hawk	Buteo jamaicensis	1	1
31	Ornate Hawk-Eagle	Spizaetus ornatus	1	1

32 33 34 35 36 37	Collared Forest-Falcon Crested Caracara American Kestrel	Micrastur semitorquatus Caracara cheriway	1	1
34 35 36				
35 36	American Restrei	Falco sparverius	1	2
36	Bat Falcon	Falco rufigularis	2	1
	Purple Gallinule	Porphyrio martinica	1	3
7/	Black-bellied Plover	Pluvialis squatarola	1	4
-	Semipalmated Plover	Charadrius semipalmatus	<u> </u>	14
38	Black-necked Stilt	Himantopus mexicanus	1	14
-	Northern Jacana	Jacana spinosa	1	20
40	Spotted Sandpiper	Actitus macularius	2	20
41	Whimbrel	Numenius phaeopus	1	1
42		Calidris alba		
43	Sanderling Western Sandainer	Calidris mauri	1	12
44	Western Sandpiper	Larus atricilla	1	1
45	Laughing Gull		1	1
46	Herring Gull	Larus argentatus Sterna maxima	1	1
47	Royal Tern		1	3
48	Rock Pigeon	Patagioenas livia	5	10
49	Pale-vented Pigeon	Patagioenas cayennensis	3	2
50	Scaled Pigeon	Patagioenas speciosa	1	1
51	White-crowned Pigeon	Patagioenas leucocephala	1	1 H
52	Red-billed Pigeon	Patagioenas flavirostris	4	10
53	White-winged Dove	Zenaida asiatica	3	100
54	Inca Dove	Columbina inca	3	10
55	Common Ground-Dove	Columbina passerina	1	2
56	Ruddy Ground-Dove	Columbina talpacoti	3	20
57	Gray-chested Dove	Leptotila cassini	2	1
58	Olive-throated Parakeet	Aratinga nana	3	2
59	Brown-hooded Parrot	Pionopsitta haematotis	1	4
60	White-crowned Parrot	Pionus senilis	2	2
61	White-fronted Parrot	Amazona albifrons	3	4
62	Red-lored Parrot	Amazona autumnalis	1	1
63	Squirrel Cuckoo	Piaya cayana	2	2
64	Lesser Roadrunner	Geococcyx velox	1	3
65	Groove-billed Ani	Crotophaga sulcirostris	5	20
66	Vermiculated Screech-Owl	Megascops guatemalae	1	2
67	Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl	Glaucidium brasilianum	2	3
68	Lesser Nighthawk	Chordeiles acutipennis	2	1
69	Common Pauraque	Nyctidromus albicollis	1	1
70	Great Potoo	Nyctibius grandis	4	1
71	Northern Common Potoo	Nyctibius griseus jamaicencis	1	1
72	White-collared Swift	Streptoprocne zonaris	3	250
73	Vaux's Swift	Chaetura vauxi	2	10
74	Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift	Panyptila cayennensis	1	2
75	Band-tailed Barbthroat	Threnetes ruckeri	1	1
76	Long-billed Hermit	Phaethornis longirostris	4	2
77	Stripe-throated Hermit	Phaethornis striigularis	4	2

78	Scaly-breasted Hummingbird	Phaeochroa cuvieri	1	1
79	Violet Sabrewing	Campylopterus	1	3
	9	hemileucurus		10
80	White-necked Jacobin	Florisuga mellivora	5	10
81	Green-breasted Mango	Anthracothorax prevostii	1	1
82	Salvin's Emerald	Chlorostilbon salvini	1	6
83	(Violet) Crowned Woodnymph	Thalurania colombica	4	20
84	White-bellied Emerald	Amazilia candida	2	1
85	Honduran Emerald E	Amazilia luciae	1	4
86	Rufous-tailed Hummingbird	Amazilia tzacatl	5	50
87	Purple-crowned Fairy	Heliothryx barroti	2	1
88	Long-billed Starthroat	Heliomaster longirostris	1	1
89	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Archilochus colubris	1	3
90	Black-headed Trogon	Trogon melanocephalus	1	1
91	Gartered Trogon	Trogon caligatus	2	2
92	Black-throated Trogon	Trogon rufus	1	2
93	Tody Motmot	Hylomanes momotula	1	1 H
94	Blue-crowned Motmot	Momotus momota	1	3
95	Keel-billed Motmot	Electron carinatum	1	2 H
96	Turquoise-browed Motmot	Eumomota superciliosa	3	3
97	Ringed Kingfisher	Ceryle torquatus	1	1
98	Belted Kingfisher	Ceryle alcyon	2	1
99	Green Kingfisher	Chloroceryle americana	2	2
100	Collared Aracari	Pteroglossus torquatus	3	3
101	Keel-billed Toucan	Ramphastos sulfuratus	3	8
102	Black-cheeked Woodpecker	Melanerpes pucherani	2	2
103	Golden-fronted (Velasquez's)	Melanerpes aurifrons	4	4
	Woodpecker			
104	Smoky-brown Woodpecker	Veniliornis fumigatus	1	1
105		Celeus castaneus	1	2
106	•	Dryocopus lineatus	2	1
107	Tawny-winged Woodcreeper	Dendrocincla anabatina	1	1
108	Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	Glyphorynchus spirurus	2	1
109	Ivory-billed Woodcreeper	Xiphorhynchus flavigaster	1	1 H
110	Streak-headed Woodcreeper	Lepidocolaptes souleyetii	1	1
111	Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet	Ornithion semiflavum	1	1 H
112	Yellow-bellied Elaenia	Elaenia flavogaster	1	1
113	Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	Mionectes oleagineus	1	1 H
114	Sepia-capped Flycatcher	Leptopogon amaurocephalus	1	1 H
115	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Empidonax flaviventris	1	1
116	Black Phoebe	Sayornis nigricans	3	2
117	Bright-rumped Attila	Attila spadiceus	1	1 H
118	Dusky-capped Flycatcher	Myiarchus tuberculifer	1	1
119	Great Crested Flycatcher	Myiarchus crinitus	2	3
120	Brown-crested Flycatcher	Myiarchus tyrannulus	2	2
120	Great Kiskadee	Pitangus sulphuratus	4	6
121	Oreal Nishautt	gas caipitatata	4	U

122	Boat-billed Flycatcher	Megarhynchus pitangua	2	2
123	Social Flycatcher	Myioizetetes similis	4	6
124	Tropical Kingbird	Tyrannus melancholicus	5	10
125	Rufous Mourner	Rhytipterna holerythra	1	1
126		Tityra semifasciata	3	5
127	Black-crowned Tityra	Tityra inquisitor	3	1
	Lovely Cotinga	Cotinga amabilis	2	5
128	White-collared Manakin	Manacus candei	1	1
129		Pipra mentalis		
130	Red-capped Manakin	Vireo griseus	1	1
131	White-eyed Vireo	Vireo flavifrons	1	2
132	Yellow-throated Vireo	Vireo philadelphicus	1	1
133		Cyanocorax morio	1	1
134	Brown Jay	Progne subis	3	15
135	Purple Martin	•	3	80
136	Mangrove Swallow	Tachycineta albilinea	1	20
137	Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	2	77
138	Spot-breasted Wren	Thryothorus maculipectus	2	2 H
139	Southern House Wren	Troglodytes aedon	1	1
140	White-bellied Wren	Uropsila leucogastra	1	2
141	White-breasted Wood-Wren	Henicorhina leucosticta	1	2
142	White-lored Gnatcatcher	Polioptila albiloris	1	3
143	Slate-colored Solitaire	Myadestes unicolore	1	1 H
144	Swainson's Thrush	Catharus ustulatus	1	1
145	Wood Thrush	Hylocichla mustelina	4	4
146	Clay-colored Robin	Turdus grayi	6	10
147	White-throated Robin	Turdus assimilis	2	1
148	Gray Catbird	Dumetella carolinensis	4	3
149	Tropical Mockingbird	Mimus gilvus	1	2
150	Tennessee Warbler	Oreothlpis peregrina	2	1
151	Yellow Warbler	Setophaga petechia	3	2
152	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Setophaga pensylvanica	1	1
153	Magnolia Warbler	Setophaga magnolia	4	4
154	Black-throated Green Warbler	Setophaga virens	1	4
155	Yellow-throated Warbler	Setophaga dominica	1	1
156	American Redstart	Setophaga ruticilla	4	2
157	Hooded Warbler	Setophaga citrina	4	2
158	Black-and-white Warbler	Mniotilta varia	2	1
159	Prothonotary Warbler	Protonotaria citrea	2	1
160	Ovenbird	Seiurus aurocapilla	2	2
161	Northern Waterthrush	Parkesia noveboracensis	1	2
162	Kentucky Warbler	Geothlypis formosa	3	3
163	Common Yellowthroat	Geothlypis trichas	1	1
164	White-shouldered Tanager	Tachyphonus luctuosus	1	1
165	Red-throated Ant-Tanager	Habia fuscicauda	1	2
166	Summer Tanager	Piranga rubra	1	2
167	Passerini's Tanager	Ramphocelus passerinii	2	2
157		<u> </u>	1 -	<u> </u>

168	Blue-gray Tanager	Thraupis episcopus	2	2
169	Yellow-winged Tanager	Thraupis abbas	3	3
170	Golden-hooded Tanager	Tangara larvata	1	4
171	Green Honeycreeper	Chlorophanes spiza	2	1
172	Olive-backed Euphonia	Euphonia gouldi	3	6
173	Blue-black Grassquit	Volatinia jacarina	1	1
174	Variable Seedeater	Sporophila americana	2	2
175	White-collared Seedeater	Sporophila torqueola	3	8
176	Thick-billed Seed-Finch	Oryzoborus funereus	1	1
177	Grayish Saltator	Saltator coerulescens	1	1
178	Buff-throated Saltator	Saltator maximus	2	1
179	Black-headed Saltator	Saltator atriceps	1	1
180	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Pheucticus Iudovicianus	2	1
181	Melodious Blackbird	Dives dives	4	6
182	Great-tailed Grackle	Quiscalus mexicanus	6	300
183	Bronzed Cowbird	Molothrus aeneus	2	4
184	Giant Cowbird	Molothrus oryzivorus	1	1
185	Black-cowled Oriole	Icterus prosthemelas	1	1
186	Orchard Oriole	Icterus spurius	2	2
187	Spot-breasted Oriole	Icterus pectoralis	1	1
188	Altamira Oriole	Icterus gularis	1	2
189	Baltimore Oriole	Icterus galbula	3	2
190	Chestnut-headed Oropendola	Psarocolius wagleri	3	5
191	Montezuma Oropendola	Psarocolius montezuma	4	30

	OTHER ANIMAL SPECIES	Scientific Name		
1	Central American Agouti	Dasyprocta punctata	6	4
2	Variegated Squirrel	Sciurus variegatoides	6	3
3	Virginia Opossum	Didelphis virginiana	1	1
4	Mantled Howler Monkey	Alouatta palliata	2	12
5	West Indian Manatee	Trichecus manatus	1	1
6	Long-nosed Bat	Leptonycteris, sp.	1	8
7	Helmeted Basilisk Lizard (Iguana)	Corytophanes cristatus	1	1
8	Brown Basilisk Lizard	Basiliscus, sp.	3	2
9	Turnip-tailed Gecko	Thecadactylus rapicauda	2	1
10	American Crocodile	Crocodylus acutus	1	1

BUTTERFLIES	
Common Blue Morpho	Morpho helenor
Purple-washed Eyemark	Mesosemia lamachus
Bordered Patch	Chlosyne lacinia
Brownish Cracker	Hamadryas ipthime
Erato Heliconian	Heliconius erato
Heart-spotted? Heliconian	Heliconius, sp.
Large Saturnidae Moth	