

HONDURAS

WEDNESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2015 to WEDNESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2015

PICO BONITO AREA LOWLANDS

ALAN DALE HANDS

November 18th to November 25th 2015

The writer, a member of the Naturetrek tour to the Bonito National Park area, Honduras on the above dates, enjoyed the companionship of the following:

Elmer Escoto [Pico Bonito guide & ornithologist]

Olbin Bejarano [Pico Bonito guide & ornithologist]

Tod Likins---California, USA

Noreen Likins--- California, USA

Iris de Carteret---Middlesex

Brian Shepherd--- Middlesex

David Spilsbury---Worcestershire

Margaret Welby---Worcestershire

Albert Percival---Cambridgeshire

Hazel Percival---Cambridgeshire

Anne Pilkington---Somerset

Steve Pilkington---Somerset

Ian Rose---Bristol

ITINERARY

Wednesday 18th November: Arrive San Pedro Sula Airport, Honduras early afternoon and transport to Pico Bonito Lodge.

Thursday 19th November: Birding in the Pico Bonito Lodge area.

Friday 20th November: Drive to Cuero y Salado Wild Life Sanctuary where viewing from train and boat.

Saturday 21st November: Very early start for drive to the Rio Aguan Valley.

Sunday 22nd November: Santiago River Lodge area.

Monday 23rd November: Pico Bonito Lodge area.

Tuesday 24th November: Botanical Gardens at Laneilla, before lunch in the coastal town of Tela.

Wednesday 25th November: Drive to San Pedro Airport for lunchtime flight to Houston.

WEATHER

On the day of our arrival weather was sunny and comfortably warm, the following day at Pico Bonito Lodge however storms of thunder and lightning with heavy rain followed a lovely sunny morning. Every day for the remainder of our stay the weather performed in a similar pattern with dry fine mornings and afternoon showers.

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF BIRD SPECIES RECORDED

1. Neotropic Cormorant [*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*]: 2 at Cuero y Salado 20-11-15, 1 Santiago river 22-11-15 and several noted near Tela 24-11-15.
2. Anhinga [*Anhinga anhinga*]: 3+ birds noted at Cuero y Salado 20-11-15.
3. Magnificent Frigatebird [*Fregata magnificens*]: 1 Tela 24-11-15.
4. Great Blue Heron [*Ardea Herodias*]: Single birds noted 20, 21 and 24-11-15 at widespread locations.
5. Western Great White Egret (*Ardea alba*): Recorded most days, widespread and often high numbers.
6. Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*): Single noted 18-11-15 during drive from Airport and 2 seen Santiago River area 22-11-15.
7. Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*): Single birds recorded 20 to 22-11-15.
8. Western Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*): Widespread large numbers noted most days.
9. Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*): 2+ Cuero y Salado 20-11-15, 1 Aguan Valley 21-11-15 and 2 Santiago River 22-11-15.
10. Yellow-Crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*): 2 Cuero y Salado 20-11-15.
11. Black-Crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*): 1 Cuero y Salado 20-11-15.
12. Boat-billed Heron (*Cochlearius cochlearius phillipsi*): 3 Cuero y Salado 20-11-15.
13. White Ibis [*Eudocimus albus*]: c10 Cuero y Salado 20-11-15.
14. Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*): 4+ Aguan Valley 21-11-15.
15. Wood Stork [*Mycteria Americana*]: 2 Cuero y Salado 20-11-15, 6+ Aguan Valley 21-11-15 and 1 Laneilla 24-11-15.
16. Blue-winged Teal [*Anas discors*]: 10+ Cuero y Salado 20-11-15.
17. Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*): The most common Vulture recorded most days 18 to 25-11-15.
18. Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture (*Cathartes burrovianus*): 3 Aguan Valley 21-11-15.
19. Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*): Widespread recorded every day 18 to 25-11-15.
20. White-tailed Kite [*Elanus leucurus*]: 1 Cuero y Salado 20-11-15.

21. Gray Hawk [*Buteo plagiatus*]: 1 Cuero y Salado 20-11-15.
22. Common Black-Hawk [*Buteogallus anthracinus*]: 2 Cuero y Salado 20-11-25.
23. Roadside Hawk (*Rupornis magnirostris*): 1+ Cuero y Salado 20-11-15 and a couple noted in the Aguan Valley 21-11-15.
24. Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*): 1 Botanical Gardens Laneilla 24-11-15.
25. Northern Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*): 1 Cuero y Salado 20-11-15 and 1 Aguan Valley 21-11-15.
26. American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*): 7+ birds noted about telegraph poles and wires in the Aguan Valley 21-11-15.
27. Bat Falcon (*Falco rufigularis*): 2 Cuero y Salado 20-11-15.
28. Limpkin (*Aramus guarana*): 1 Cuero y Salado 20-11-15.
29. Northern Jacana (*Jacana spinosa*): 3 Cuero y Salado 20-11-15 and 1 in the Aguan Valley the following day.
30. Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*): 2 Aguan Valley 21-11-15 and 1 Santiago River 22-11-15.
31. Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*): 2 Aguan Valley 21-11-15.
32. Sanderling (*Calidris alba*): c6 Tela beach 24-11-15.
33. Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*): 2 Aguan Valley 21-11-15.
34. Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*): c10 Tela beach 24-11-15.
35. Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*): c20 Tela beach 24-11-15.
36. Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*): 1 Cuero y Salado 20-11-15 and 10+ Tela beach 24-11-15.
37. Pale-vented Pigeon (*Patagioenas cayennensis*): 1 Botanical Gardens at Laneilla 24-11-15.
38. Red-billed Pigeon (*Patagioenas flavirostris*): Common in the Pico Bonito Lodge area, therefore recorded every day 19 to 24-11-15.
39. White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*): A widespread species small numbers noted each day 20 to 24-11-15.
40. Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*): Another widespread species recorded most days 18 to 25-11-11.
41. Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*): 3+ Cuero y Salado 20-11-15 and similar sightings in the Aguan Valley the next day.
42. Blue Ground-Dove (*Clavaria pretiosa*): 1 at the Botanical Gardens Laneilla 24-11-15.
43. Olive-throated Parakeet (*Eupsittula nana*): Fairly common flocks of up to c20 noted most days 19 to 24-11-15.

44. Brown-hooded Parrot (*Pytilia haematotis*): c10 Pico Bonito Lodge 19 and 20-11-15 and recorded Santiago River 22-11-15.
45. White-crowned Parrot (*Pionus senilis*): 1 Pico Bonito Lodge 19-11-15.
46. White-fronted Amazon (*Amazona albifrons*): 2+ Aguan Valley 21-11-15.
47. Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*): 2 Cuero y Salado 20th, 1 Santiago River 22nd and 1 Botanical Gardens Laneilla 24-11-15.
48. Lesser Roadrunner (*Geococcyx velox*): 1 Aguan Valley 21-11-15.
49. Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*): Parties of c10 birds noted every day 20 to 24-11-15.
50. Vermiculated Screech Owl (*Megascops guatemalae*): 1 Pico Bonito Lodge 22-11-15.
51. Spectacled Owl (*Pulsatrix perspicillata*): 1 Santiago River Lodge 22-11-15.
52. Ferruginous Pigmy Owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum*): 1 Pico Bonito Lodge 23-11-15.
53. Black-and-white Owl (*Ciccaba nigrolineata*): 3 at roost in tree experimental grounds near Pico Bonito 21-11-15.
54. Lesser Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*): 1 Cuero y Salado 20-11-15.
55. Great Potoo (*Nyctibius grandis*): 1 Pico Bonito Lodge 19-11-15.
56. Chestnut-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne rutila*): 4+ Pico Bonito 23-11-15.
57. White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*): Gatherings of 50+ birds often seen flying high over Pico Bonito 19 to 24-11-15.
58. Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*): A few noted Santiago River 22nd and Pico Bonito 23-11-15.
59. Band-tailed Barbthroat (*Threnetes ruckeri*): 1 Santiago River Lodge 22-11-15.
60. Long-billed Hermit (*Phaethornis longirostris*): Regular at feeders Pico Bonito Lodge and Santiago River Lodge 19 to 24-11-15.
61. Stripe-throated Hermit (*Phaethornis strigularis*): Regular at feeders Pico Bonito and Santiago River Lodge 19 to 24-11-15.
62. Scaly-breasted Hummingbird (*Phaeochroa cuvieri*): c5 Santiago River Lodge 22-11-15.
63. Violet Sabrewing (*Campylopterus hemileucurus*): Fairly regular at feeders Pico Bonito and Santiago River Lodge 19 to 24-11-15.
64. White-necked Jacobin (*Florisuga mellivora*): The most widespread "hummer" noted every day 19 to 24-11-15 in most places visited.
65. Violet-headed Hummingbird (*Klais guimeti*): 1 feeding on flowers away from sugar feeders at Pico Bonito Lodge 19-11-15.
66. Crowned Woodnymph (*Thalurania colombica*): Regular at feeders Pico Bonito Lodge and Santiago River Lodge 19 to 24-11-15.

67. Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (*Amazilia tzacatl*): Another common “hummer” at feeders Pico Bonito and Santiago River Lodge 19 to 24-11-15.
68. Cinnamon Hummingbird (*Amazilia rutila*): 1 Aguan Valley 21-11-15.23
69. Honduran Emerald (*Amazilia luciae*): 3 Aguan Valley 21-11-15.
70. Stripe-tailed Hummingbird (*Eupherusa eximia*): 1 Pico Bonito Lodge 22-11-15.
71. Purple-crowned Fairy (*Heliothryx barroti*): 2+ Pico Bonito Lodge 19-11-15.
72. Black-headed Trogon (*Trogon melanocephalus*): Singles seen Santiago River area 22nd, at Pico Bonito 23rd and 2 Botanical Gardens Laneilla 24-11-15.
73. Gartered Trogon (*Trogon caligatus*): 1 Santiago River Lodge 22-11-15.
74. Slaty-tailed Trogon (*Trogon massena*): 1 Pico Bonito Lodge 19-11-15.
75. Blue-diademed Motmot (*Momotus lessonii*): 1 Pico Bonito Lodge 22nd and 2+ there 23-11-15.
76. Turquoise-browed Motmot (*Eumomota superciliosa*): 1 Pico Bonito Lodge 23-11-15.
77. Ringed Kingfisher (*Ceryle torquatus*): 2 Cuero y Salado 20-11-15.
78. Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*): 2+ Cuero y Salado 20-11-15.
79. Amazon Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle amazona*): 1 the most common Kingfisher, often noted on telegraph wires and c4 at Cuero y Salado 20-11-15.
80. Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*): 2 Cuero y Salado 20th and 1 Santiago River 22-11-15.
81. Rufous-tailed Jacamar (*Galbula ruficauda*): 1 Botanical Gardens Laneilla 24-11-15.
82. Collared Aracari (*Pteroglossus torquatus*): Up to c10 birds seen on some days at Pico Bonito Lodge 19 to 24-11-15.
83. Keel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*): Several noted on most days at Pico Bonito and at Santiago River Lodge 22-11-15.
84. Black-cheeked Woodpecker (*Melanerpes pucherani*): 2 birds, probably the same individuals were viewed on their favourite [apparently] dead tree at Pico Bonito Lodge each day 19 to 24-11-15.
85. Golden-fronted Woodpecker (*Melanerpes aurifrons*): The most widespread Woodpecker, recorded every day 18 to 24-11-15.
86. Chestnut-colored Woodpecker (*Celeus castaneus*): 4 Pico Bonito Lodge 19th and 2 at the same location 23-11-15.
87. Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*): 2 Santiago River Lodge 22-11-15.
88. Pale-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus guatemalensis*): 3 Cuero y Salado 20-11-15.
89. Tawny-winged Woodcreeper (*Dendrocincia anabatina*): 1 Botanical Gardens Laneilla 24-11-15.
90. Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*): 1 Botanical Gardens Laneilla 24-11-15.

91. Ivory-billed Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus flavigaster*): 1 Pico Bonito Lodge 19-11-15.
92. Streak-headed Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*): 1 Pico Bonito 19th and 1 Botanical Gardens Laneilla 24-11-15.
93. Ochre-bellied Flycatcher (*Mionectes oleagineus*): 1 Pico Bonito Lodge 23-11-15.
94. Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*): 1 Santiago River 22nd and 1 Botanical Gardens Laneilla 24-11-15.
95. Yellow-olive Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias sulphurescens*): 1 Pico Bonito Lodge 23-11-15.
96. Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*): 2 Pico Bonito 23rd and 2 Botanical Gardens Laneilla 24-11-15.
97. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*): A widespread species, singletons noted on four days 19 to 24-11-15.
98. Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*): 2 Santiago River 22-11-15.
99. Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*): Widespread singletons noted on four days 19 to 23-11-15.
100. Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*): Recorded every day 19 to 24-11-15 mainly because of resident birds at Pico Bonito Lodge, however noted elsewhere.
101. Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarhynchus pitangua*): 1 Santiago River Lodge 22-11-15.
102. Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*): Recorded every day as the species is resident at Pico Bonito Lodge 24-11-15.
103. Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*): Appeared to be the most common Kingbird, noted every day 18 to 25-11-15.
104. Rose-throated Becard (*Pachyramphus aglaiae*): 4+ Santiago River Lodge 22-11-15.
105. Lovely Cotinga (*Cotinga amabilis*): 2 Pico Bonito 19-11-15.
106. Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*): 1 Pico Bonito Lodge 19-11-15.
107. Red-capped Manakin (*Dixiphia mentalis*): 2 Pico Bonito Lodge 19th and 1 Santiago River Lodge 22-11-15.
108. Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireoolivaceus*): The only Vireo seen this long distance migrant noted most days 19 to 24-11-15.
109. Brown Jay (*Psilorhinus morio*): Widespread recorded every day 19 to 24-11-15.
110. Mangrove Swallow (*Tachycineta albilinea*): 2+ Aguan Valley 21-11-15.
111. Spot-breasted Wren (*Pheugopedius maculipectus*): 1 Pico Bonito 19-11-15.
112. White-bellied Wren (*Uropsila leucogastra*): 2 Aguan Valley 21-11-15.
113. Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*): 2 Pico Bonito Lodge 23rd and 2 Botanical Gardens 24-11-15.

114. Tropical Mockingbird (*Mimus gilvus*): 2 Aguan Valley 21-11-15.
115. Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*): 1 Pico Bonito 19-11-15.
116. Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*): 2 Santiago River Lodge 22-11-15.
117. Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*): This species found most days rummaging amongst the leaf litter at Pico Bonito River Lodge 19 to 23-11-15.
118. Clay-colored Thrush (*Turdus grayi*): Widespread and common noted every day 18 to 25-11-15.
119. Tennessee Warbler (*Leiothlypis peregrina*): 1 Santiago River Lodge 22-11-15.
120. Northern Parula (*Setophaga Americana*): 1 Pico Bonito 23-11-15.
121. Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga aestiva*): 1 Aguan Valley 21st and 1 Santiago River 22-11-15.
122. Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Setophaga pensylvanica*): Single birds noted on most days at Pico Bonito Lodge 19 to 23-11-15.
123. Magnolia Warbler (*Setophaga magnolia*): Another widespread American Warbler recorded 20 to 24-11-15.
124. Yellow-throated Warbler (*Setophaga dominica*): 1 Pico Bonito Lodge 23-11-15.
125. Bay-breasted Warbler (*Setophaga castanea*): 2 Pico Bonito Lodge 19-11-15.
126. Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*): Common and widespread noted most days 18 to 25-11-15.
127. American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*): Again a lovely widespread American Warbler recorded most days 18 to 24-11-15.
128. Kentucky Warbler (*Geothlypis formosa*): 1 Pico Bonito Lodge 20-11-15.
129. Gray-crowned Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis poliocephala*): 1 Aguan Valley 21-11-15.
130. Hooded Warbler (*Setophaga citrina*): 1+ Pico Bonito Lodge 19 to 24-11-15.
131. Red-throated Ant Tanager (*Habia fuscicauda*): 1 Pico Bonito 19th and 1 Botanical Gardens Laneilla 24-11-15.
132. Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*): Widespread singletons noted most days 18 to 24-11-15.
133. Crimson-collared Tanager (*Ramphocelus sanguinolentus*): 1 Pico Bonito Lodge 23-11-15.
134. Passerini's Tanager (*Ramphocelus passerinii*): 3 Pico Bonito Lodge 23-11-15.
135. Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*): Several noted Aguan Valley 21st, at Santiago River 22nd and Botanical Gardens Laneilla 24-11-15.
136. Yellow-winged Tanager (*Thraupis abbas*): Single birds noted most days 18 to 11-11-15.
137. Golden-hooded Tanager (*Tangara larvata*): 1 Santiago River Lodge 22-11-15.

138. Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*): 1 handsome male of this beautiful little bird viewed from the tower at Pico Bonito Lodge 19th, 2 were seen Cuero y Salado 20th and a couple Santiago River 22-11-15.
139. Scrub Euphonia (*Euphonia affinis*): 2+ Pico Bonito Lodge 24-11-15.
140. Olive-backed Euphonia (*Euphonia gouldi*): 4+ were of daily interest from the lounge/restuarant at Pico Bonito Lodge 19 to 23-11-15.
141. White-vented Euphonia (*Euphonia minuti*): 2 Pico Bonito Lodge 23-11-15.
142. Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*): 1 Aguan Valley 21-11-15.
143. Variable Seedeater (*Sporophia americana*): 1 Botanical Gardens Laneilla 24-11-15.
144. White-collared Seedeater (*Sporophia torqueola*): 2+ Aguan Valley 21st and 2 Botanical Gardens Laneilla 24-11-15.
145. Thick-billed Seed-Finch (*Oryzoborus funereus*): 1 Botanical Gardens Laneilla 24-11-15.
146. Buff-throated Saltator (*Saltator maximus*): 1 Santiago River Lodge 22nd, 2 Pico Bonito Lodge 23rd and 6+ Botanical Gardens Laneilla 24-11-15.
147. Black-headed Saltator (*Saltator atriceps*): 1 Pico Bonito Lodge 23-11-15.
148. Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*): 1 Cuero y Salado 20th and 1 Aguan Valley 21-11-15.
149. Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*): 2+ Aguan Valley 21-11-15.
150. Melodious Blackbird (*Dives dives*): Several noted Aguan Valley 21st and also along the Santiago River 22-11-15.
151. Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*): Common, many encountered every day 18 to 25-11-15.
152. Black-Cowled Oriole (*Icterus prothemelas*): 4 birds resident at Pico Bonito Lodge noted each day 19 to 24-11-15.
153. Spot-breasted Oriole (*Icterus pectoralis*): 1 Santiago River Lodge 22-11-15.
154. Altamira Oriole (*Icterus gularis*): 1 Aguan Valley 21-11-15.
155. Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*): 3 noted during journey from Airport 18th, 2 Cuero y Salado 20th and 3+ Botanical Gardens Laneilla 24-11-15.
156. Yellow-billed Cacique (*Amblycercus holosericeus*): 1 Pico Bonito Lodge 23-11-15.
157. Chestnut-headed Oropendola (*Psarocolius wagleri*): c10 Santiago River 22nd a couple Pico Bonito Lodge 23rd and 2 Botanical Gardens Laneilla 24-11-15.
158. Montezuma Oropendola (*Psarocolius montezuma*): 4+ birds were often met with at Pico Bonito Lodge 19 and 20th as were several at Santiago River Lodge 22-11-15.

Other Animals

Central American Agouti were present every day at Pico Bonito Lodge, Green Iguana noted at Cuero y Salado as were Long-nosed Bats, Howler Monkey and an American Crocodile.

A large Squirrel at Pico Bonito Lodge, and the writer briefly saw a small Mongoose shaped animal in the Aguan Valley, a long striped tail and an overall colour of orange/brown, a Coati?

Summary

With a large party Elmer and Olbin sensibly split us into two groups, Olbin leading the "Cotingas", and Elmer the "Geriatric Toucans" [at least three or four of us were over 80]. Such an arrangement inevitably led to groups seeing different birds and the above list is only those viewed by the writer. Not included are birds heard as more often than not, it was only Elmer that could hear them. Little Tinamou however called every day at Pico Bonito and refused to show even though Elmer made great effort to draw them out.

The Pico Bonito Lodge employees and management were very good, nothing being too much trouble for them to deal with and making our stay most enjoyable.

Thank you Naturetrek, for me tour number twelve and I have enjoyed every one.

Alan Dale Hands
37, Tower View Crescent
Nuneaton
Warwickshire
CV10 8pp

Tel No 024 76385467