

Guatemala

Highlands & Horned Guan

Sun 24th February–Wed 6th March 2019



Trip photos (clockwise from top left): Bird of the Trip: Pink-headed Warbler • White Hawk • Third: Lesser Ground Cuckoo • Fifth: Fulvous Owl • Mountain Elaenia • White-throated Chachalaca © tour leader Fernando Enrique Navarrete/Limosa Holidays

Guatemala | Highlands & Horned Guan

Report compiled by tour leader: Fernando Enrique Navarrete

Tour Leaders: Fernando Enrique *plus* local guides Melvin & Aaron

With: Roger & Liz Ackroyd, Miles Roberts, Sally Wearing and Rob Williams

Guatemala has many unique attractions, but it says something about a country when even its currency is named after a bird - the exquisite Resplendent Quetzal! Indeed, as a birding destination, this beautiful and incredibly scenic Central American destination is right up there with the best of them. Our 2019 tour concentrated on the central highlands to the west of Guatemala City, visiting the best locations and lodges for a wonderful range of speciality birds. From the fabulous Pink-headed Warbler, enigmatic Horned Guan and rare Azure-rumped Tanager, to the stunning Long-tailed Manakin and Fulvous Owl. Add Lesser Ground Cuckoo, a carnival of colourful hummingbirds, warblers and tanagers in between, plus great food and it was a tour never to forget!

Top 5 bird as voted for by participants:

- 1 - Pink-headed Warbler
- 2 - Horned Guan
- 3 - Lesser Ground-Cuckoo
- 4 - Long-tailed Manakin
- 5 - Fulvous Owl

Day 1

After an uneventful flight from Madrid, the group arrived nearly an hour ahead of schedule. With luggage collection completed, we headed to the arrivals hall, where Melvin and Aaron were waiting for us.

Skirting Guatemala in the late evening traffic with ease, we arrived to our destination: Antigua Guatemala. We enjoyed a lovely and copious dinner, big portions would become a common feature on the trip, enlivened by a group of local musicians and dancers.

Day 2

With a promising weather forecast for the next week, we awoke to a clear morning. Before breakfast we left the charming city of Antigua behind and headed straight for the pine-oak forest around San Cristobal El Alto. We spent the first couple of hours walking along a trail on top of the ridge, allowing us to look over the canopy.

Bird activity was great, with regional endemics like Black-capped Swallows, Bar-winged Oriole and Blue-throated Motmot. Other birds that we noted around this area included Bushy-crested Jay, 'Guatemalan Flicker' (a golden-brown-crowned race of the Northern Flicker), Acorn Woodpecker, Azure-crowned Hummingbird, Hammond's Flycatcher, Black-headed Siskin and Townsend's, Tennessee and Wilson's Warblers. Later on, we enjoyed a lovely breakfast in the terrace of a local restaurant overlooking Antigua and the active ash-blowing volcano Fuego.

On the way down to the hummingbird feeders, we lucked into a couple of Chestnut-capped Brushfinches and a MacGillivray's Warblers. Once we reached the feeders, we had to wait only for a few seconds until we found our main target, the Rufous Sabrewing - a regional endemic, found only in a narrow strip from Chiapas to El Salvador. Other hummingbirds included Berylline, Azure-crowned and Rivoli's. A short walk further up the trail produced Green-throated Mountaingem, Golden-browed Warbler and good views of several Singing Quails.

At lunch time we headed back to Antigua, where we had another lovely meal, this time including the famous traditional meaty, spicy stew, *pepian* - one of the most well-known of Guatemalan foods. After a short siesta, Melvin gave us a tour around Antigua. This town is the old capital of Guatemala and is now a world heritage site with its quaint, cobbled streets and Spanish colonial style. The birding was also great with some interesting birds such as Elegant Euphonia, Inca Dove or the ubiquitous Yellow-winged Tanager.

Day 3

Reluctantly, we left our hotel and the wonderful town of Antigua and we hit the road towards our next destination, Rincon Suizo. This area is covered by pine-oak-alder forest, resembling temperate area forest. But once you observe the composition of some of the mixed-species flocks, you realize that you are indeed in Central America!

After another breakfast of monstrous proportions, our idea was to head into the reserve in search of our main target here, the stunning Pink-headed Warbler. This near-endemic bird can only be found in Chiapas and Guatemala and Rincon Suizo is probably one of the best places in the world to see it. But the birding around the car park was so good that we had to postpone our plans. Birds such as Rufous-browed Wren, Rufous-collared Thrush, Black Thrush, Olive Warbler, Mountain Trogon or Olive Warbler made us forget about our “frosty-headed” friend for nearly an hour.

We didn't have to wait very long for our first Pink-headed Warbler, though; they were part of a mixed flock with several species of Nearctic migrants, but also resident species. Birds such as Townsend's Warbler, Red-faced Warbler, Slate-throated Redstart, Crescent-chested Warbler, Tufted Flycatcher, Bushtit and Brown Creeper. Other birds seen during our walk included Band-tailed Pigeon, White-naped Brushfinch and Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush.

We spent the rest of the day at Fuentes Georginas, a public hot spring within an area of cloud forest. We birded the entrance road looking for some of the specialities of this threatened habitat. Meanwhile Aaron went to check one of the trails further up. We were adding new birds like Unicoloured Jay, Northern Emerald Toucanet, Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer or Common Chlorospingus to our list, when we heard Aaron calling on the radio... Horned Guan! We followed Aaron's instructions and ten minutes later we were having our first looks at this enigmatic and prehistoric-looking bird. Amazing!

We enjoyed a beautiful sunset in the cloud forest and waited for the night birds to come out. We quickly located a pair of Mexican Whip-poor-wills flying and calling nearby, but the star of the show was a local pair of Fulvous Owls, which provided amazing close views. What a day!

Day 4

The day started with an early drive back to Fuentes Georginas. Our main target here was trying to get better views of the Horned Guan that we saw yesterday, which had probably decided to roost in that area. These turkey-sized birds, restricted to the highlands of Guatemala and Chiapas, live in cloudforest at an altitude of 2,000-3,000 metres. This habitat is severely fragmented and most populations are isolated from each other. That's the reason why this bird is listed as *Endangered* and is considered as one of the rarest birds in the world.

To our surprise we found not one, but two different birds almost from the car park! Considering that you usually have to climb 3,000m volcanoes in order to see this bird, you could understand the relief of all the group members. We spent the rest of the morning birding along the entrance road, where we found another target bird, a male Wine-throated Hummingbird patrolling his favourite patch of flowers. A couple of Barred Parakeets, a lifer for most of us, and a very cooperative Pink-headed Warbler were highly appreciated.

We left Fuentes Georginas and we headed towards the Pacific lowlands, a completely different habitat with a new array of birds. Our destination, Los Tarrales, is one of the best birding destinations in the country, with over 350 species recorded inside this private reserve, which preserves primary rainforest and runs coffee and exotic flower plantations.

It was incredibly birdy when we arrived at the site at lunch time. After we enjoyed the fantastic home-made food that this place is famous for, we spent the rest of the evening walking around the property. Birds such as Yellow-naped Parrot, Orange-fronted and Orange-chinned Parakeets, White-bellied Chachalaca, Collared Forest Falcon, Cinnamon Hummingbird, Spot-breasted and Altamira Orioles, Tropical Pewee and a roosting pair of Black-and-white Owls were all new additions to our list.

It was dark by the time we arrived at the lodge, but we managed to find several Pauraques and a Northern Potoo on the way back to our cabins. We discussed the plan for the upcoming days and we went to bed for a deserved rest.

Day 5

Today we took our picnic lunches with us and we boarded several 4WD vehicles before dawn. The plan was to be at the right spot, an area of primary rainforest with fruiting Cecropia trees at first light. This is the best strategy to find our target bird: Cabanis's (Azure-rumped) Tanager. This localized tanager, only found in Chiapas and Guatemala, is typically seen in higher parts of the reserve and Cecropia trees are their most important food source. We didn't connect with the tanager at the first location, but did find a nice selection of other birds around this patch of Cecropias, birds such Collared Trogon, Red-legged Honeycreeper, Kentucky Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, White-winged Tanager, Painted Bunting and Violet Sabrewing amongst many others.

A second patch of *Cecropias* not far from the first one was more promising, since there were several mixed flocks in the area. Suddenly a high-pitched call alerted us of the proximity of Cabanis's Tanagers. A pair of these beautiful birds showed really well, surrounded by an unbeatable supporting cast with several species of other tanagers, warblers and vireos, including fantastic views of Green Shrike-vireo.

We drove further into the reserve to an area of shade-grown coffee known as La Isla. Shade-grown coffee is the most important economic resource at Los Tarrales. Nearly 60 Maya Kaqchikel families live within the reserve and work on these plantations. Here we enjoyed quite a few new and unique species, including several Long-tailed Manakin (voted one of the birds of the tour), amazing views of a White Hawk, Golden-tailed Sapphire and Blue-tailed Hummingbird, while in the sky the air was full of raptors, including several Short-tailed Hawks, King Vulture plus Grey Hawk.

Finally, our local guide lead us to a specific patch of flowering trees with very tiny flowers. These flowers were the feeding grounds of one of the smallest hummingbirds in Guatemala, the Emerald-chinned Hummingbird - a species endemic to northern Central America. In the bamboo thicket around this area we found one of the most enigmatic birds in the region, the Cabanis's (Blue) Seedeater, a bamboo specialist that can be absent for years before returning to the same patch of seeding bamboo.

After a short siesta we went for a relaxed walk around the flower plantations and the secondary forest in the lowest part of the reserve. The bird activity here was fantastic and we added lots of new species to our list for a total of nearly 100 species for the day. Some of the birds we saw included Lineated Woodpecker, Collared Araçari, Groove-billed Ani, Long-billed Starthroat, Lesson's Motmot, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and a singing Striped Cuckoo. And after a long but very successful day we returned to our cabins.

Day 6

An excellent cup of farm-produced coffee preceded our morning walk along an area of lowland forest, huge bamboo stands (or "tarrales") and coffee plantations. This habitat is home to a huge diversity of birds and by the time we were back for breakfast, we had recorded more than 50 species. White-bellied Chachalaca, Turquoise-browed Motmot, Tody Motmot, Plumbeous Vireo and the skulking White-eared Ground-Sparrow were some of the birds noted during the walk. Flyovers included Orange-chinned Parakeet, Orange-fronted Parakeet and Yellow-naped Parrot.

We left Los Tarrales after breakfast and took the scenic road towards our next destination, Lake Atitlán. Lake Atitlán is renowned as one of the most beautiful lakes in the world, and is Guatemala's most important national and international tourist attraction. We first stopped at San Lucas Toliman, where we couldn't find our main target, the Slender Sheartail. Instead, we added to our list a nice selection of ducks and other waterbirds: American Coot, Blue-winged Teal and Lesser Scaups; while the reeds and bushes near around it, were home to several Common Yellowthroat, Black Phoebe, Lesser Goldfinch and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.

We arrived to our hotel at Santiago de Atitlán, just by the shore of the lake, where we enjoyed a fantastic meal and after a short siesta we headed out again. This was our first visit to Rey Tepepul, an area of tropical forest overlooking the lake. Here, we noted some new species like Mountain Elaenia or Flame-coloured Tanager, plus a nice selection of other interesting birds such as Blue-and-white Mockingbird, Cabanis's Wren, Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush and Rusty Sparrow.

Day 7

Today we had a more relaxed day. Our plan was to bird the lower parts of Cerro Paquisis in the morning and then later in the afternoon a short walk around the lake. The weather was perfect and we enjoyed a lovely boat trip across the lake. Once we arrived to San Cristobal, we loaded our modified pick-up trucks and we drove 20 minutes to Cerro Paquisis. This is an area of secondary forest, pine-oak forest and avocado plantations. Such a diversity of habitat offers great birding; some of the most interesting birds we found were Rusty Sparrow, Hooded Grosbeak, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Yellow-billed Cacique and Yellow-backed Oriole. On the way back to the lake we lucked into one of the highlights of the trip, a Lesser Roadrunner, the bird showed extremely well on the dry slope of San Pedro volcano.

After another fantastic lunch and a good siesta, we visited the secondary forest and the plantations around Bahía de Santiago - a sheltered area near our hotel. The views from this part of the lake are beautiful, with three volcanoes surrounding us and reflecting in its clear water. The reeds along the shore were full of egrets and herons. Green Heron was the most common, but we also found good numbers of Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret and Little Blue Heron. Common and Purple Gallinules, American Coot and Laughing Gull were also noted.

The maize, potato and tomato fields were teeming with birds, including huge numbers of Bronze Cowbirds and Morelet's Seedeaters, smaller numbers of Rufous-collared Sparrow, Lesser Goldfinches, a couple of Yellow-bellied Elaenias and our target in this area, two pairs of Prevost's Ground Sparrow, a beautiful regional endemic.

The short walk back to the hotel was followed by another lovely dinner and a well-deserved rest.

Day 8

We loaded the van once again and headed towards Rey Tepepul for a second visit. We walked down into the gully, where we found a nice patch of fruiting trees with good bird activity. Birds such as Northern Emerald Toucanet, several Swainson's Thrushes, Brown-backed Solitaire, Brown-capped Vireo, Elegant Euphonia and a very showy pair of Blue-and-white Mockingbirds, which provided the best views we had of this secretive species. The star of the show though, was a pair of Blue-crowned Chlorophonias that were building their nest in a big tree right in front of us and produced amazing eye-level views for all of us. These were followed by great views of two Crested Guans and a pair of Collared Trogons, all from the same spot!

Our Guatemalan adventure continued with a longish drive to the Motagua Valley. We made a quick stop at Parque Regional Cayala in Guatemala City in order to find the elusive Buffy-crowned Wood-Partridge, since this is probably the best place in the world to see it: Melvin found a couple of birds near the car park that eventually showed very well in the open. Other birds noted were Bushy-crested Jay, Cabanis's Wren, Ovenbird and Hooded Warbler.

After a couple of hours we arrived to our hotel in the dry valley and discussed the plans for the next day.

Day 9

The middle valley of the Motagua river is the driest region of Central America. Located on the "rain shadow" side of the Sierra de las Minas mountain chain, just little precipitation reaches the Motagua valley. We arrived early to Reserva Heloderma, the sky was clear and the Acacia trees, cactus and spiny bushes were teeming with birds. There are several specialised bird species of the thorn scrub and dry forest and we found nearly all of them: birds such as Russet-crowned Motmot, one of the group's favourite - the elusive Lesser Ground Cuckoo, Elegant Trogon, the local race *aurantiacus* of Yellow Grosbeak, Nutting's Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, White-lored Gnatcatcher, Streak-backed Oriole and Varied Bunting.

We had also excellent views of Turquoise-browed Motmot and several White-fronted Parrot and Orange-fronted Parakeets. This reserve was created to protect the last remaining individuals of the endangered and endemic Guatemalan Beaded Lizard. This close relative of the Gila Monster, is one of the two venomous lizards in the world and is restricted to the Motagua valley. In the visitor centre, our local guide showed us an adult lizard. He also told us about the biology and current population of the species and all the effort that many people have put to protect these amazing creatures.

Our next destination was the cloudforest of the central highlands, where a totally different set of bird was waiting for us. Here we visited Ranchitos del Quetzal, a private reserve, family-owned in third generation. The reserve covers 40 hectares of cloud forest and a well-maintained network of trails. We took one of the two main trails into the reserve and spent one hour watching birds like Eye-ringed Flatbill, Green-throated Mountaingem, Grey-breasted Wood-Wren and Common Chlorospingus.

On the way back to the car park we heard the distinctive call of a Barred Forest Falcon, a secretive forest dweller. It took a bit of finding but we managed to get great views of this difficult species. We were ready to go back to the hotel when we found a displaying Highland Guan next to our van.

Day 10

We woke up early and loaded the bus for our last morning of birding in Guatemala. We arrived to Ranchitos del Quetzal before sunrise and we waited patiently in front of the main gate for our target birds. Shortly after that, a group of Azure-hooded Jays arrived to our position and had a feast on the insect attracted by the only lamp in the area. Another cloud forest specialist in the bag!

We didn't walk very far from the car park to find the birds. In the first 200m of the trail we found very interesting species such as Unicoloured jay, Violet Sabrewing, Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush, Brown-capped Vireo, Paltry Tyrannulet, a singing Slate-coloured Solitaire, Spotted Woodcreeper and a nice selection of warblers, including Black-throated Green and Black-and-white Warblers and Slate-throated Whitestart. However, the star of the morning was a female Golden-cheeked Warbler that posed really well. This Endangered species only breeds in Texas and winters in the highlands of southern Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras.

Unfortunately, it was time to say goodbye to this wonderful place and head back to Guatemala City in order to take our flight to London via Madrid. Packed and ready, we loaded the van for the drive, arriving at the airport in good time for flight home. Having said our goodbyes, we made our way to the departure gates.

Thanks to all party members for such good humour, enthusiasm and some exceptional birding skills too! I look forward to seeing everyone on another Limosa holiday in the very near future!

Annotated List of Birds Recorded

(n=261 species)

Thicket Tinamou *Crypturellus cinnamomeus*

Heard on two dates at Los Tarrales.

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors*

A flock of 20+ seen at San Lucas Tolimán.

American Wigeon *Anas americana*

A small flock seen at Lake Atitlán on 2nd.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*

The most numerous duck at Lake Atitlán.

White-bellied Chachalaca *Ortalis leucogastra*

Common, and noisy, around our cabins at Los Tarrales. Noted on three dates.

Plain Chachalaca *Ortalis vetula*

Three birds seen at Reserva Heloderma on 4th.

Crested Guan *Penelope purpurascens*

Two birds at Rey Tepepul.

Highland Guan *Penelopina nigra*

Heard on 4 dates and seen really well at Ranchitos del Quetzal, where a male displaying was one of the highlights of the trip.

Horned Guan *Oreophasis derbianus*

Another highlight of the trip. We found three different individuals of this endangered species at Fuentes Georginas. We didn't have to walk very far this year!

Buffy-crowned Wood Partridge *Dendrortyx leucophrys*

A tricky species to find. We had amazing views of several birds at Parque Ecológico Cayalá.

Crested Bobwhite *Colinus cristatus*

Heard at Reserva Heloderma.

Spotted Wood Quail *Odontophorus guttatus*

Heard on two dates.

Singing Quail *Dactylortyx thoracicus*

At least 3-4 birds were seen at Finca El Pilar. Heard on several dates.

Green Heron *Butorides virescens*

Common at Lake Atitlán.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Seen on route on three dates.

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*

Small numbers around Lake Atitlán.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Seen around Lake Atitlán and Motagua river.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*

Small numbers at Lake Atitlán.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*

Seen on most lakes and rivers.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*

Very common. Seen daily.

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*

Very common. Seen daily.

King Vulture *Sarcoramphus papa*

One adult bird seen at Los Tarrales.

White-breasted Hawk *Accipiter chionogaster*

One bird perched at Ranchitos del Quetzal.

Common Black Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus*

One adult bird at Los Tarrales.

Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris*

Several birds seen along the road...

White Hawk *Pseudastur albicollis*

Excellent views of one bird perched at Los Tarrales.

Grey Hawk *Buteo plagiatus*

Single birds recorded on two dates at Los Tarrales. The mystery raptor that we photographed at Los Tarrales was a juvenile of this species.

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus*

Single birds noted on two dates at Los Tarrales. Including one hunting a Clay-coloured Thrush.

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus*

A pair seen at Los Tarrales.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*

Noted on four dates. Mostly in pairs.

Sora *Porzana carolina*

A bird heard near San Lucas Tolimán.

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinicus*

Common in reedbeds around Lake Atitlán.

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata*

Common in reedbeds around Lake Atitlán.

American Coot *Fulica americana*

Very common at Lake Atitlán.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*

Small numbers seen at Lake Atitlán.

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla*

The only gull of the trip. Recorded at Lake Atitlán.

Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata*

Common. Seen on forest at higher elevations, especially pine-oak forest.

Red-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas flavirostris*

Common at Los Tarrales and the Central Highlands.

Inca Dove *Columbina inca*

Common. Seen on most days.

Common Ground Dove *Columbina passerine*

Two pairs were seen at Santiago Atitlán.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*

Seen or heard on most days.

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*

Very common. Seen daily.

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris*

Several flocks at Los Tarrales and the Motagua Valley.

Striped Cuckoo *Tapera naevia*

Fantastic views of this skulker, a nice male singing at Los Tarrales.

Lesser Ground Cuckoo *Morococcyx erythropygus*

Definitely one of the birds of the trip. We had a superb close encounter with one bird near the Heloderma visitor centre.

Lesser Roadrunner *Geococcyx velox*

One bird near San Pedro on the way down from Cerro Paquisis.

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana*

Small numbers recorded on three dates.

Fulvous Owl *Strix fulvescens*

We couldn't have asked for better views of this regional endemic. Amazing views of a pair at Fuentes Georginas.

Mottled Owl *Strix virgata*

Great views of a roosting birds in a bamboo stand at Los Tarrales.

Black-and-white Owl *Strix nigrolineata*

Two birds roosting at Los Tarrales.

Ferruginous Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum*

Its diagnostic call became a common feature during the trip, with several birds heard and at least a couple seen.

Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis*

One bird at dusk at Los Tarrales and one flying over the lake at Santiago Atitlan.

Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*

Great views of several birds at Los Tarrales.

Mexican Whip-poor-will *Antrostomus arizonae*

A couple of birds seen at Fuentes Georginas and several heard.

Northern Potoo *Nyctibius jamaicensis*

Two birds seen really well at Los Tarrales.

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris*

Small numbers noted on three dates. Especially at Los Tarrales.

Vaux's Swift *Chaetura vauxi*

Common, seen almost daily.

Rufous Sabrewing *Campylopterus rufus*

Another regional endemic. This large hummingbird was seen extremely well around the hummingbird feeders at Finca El Pilar, where it was fairly common. Another bird seen near Cerro Paquisis.

Violet Sabrewing *Campylopterus hemileucurus*

Seen at Los Tarrales and Ranchitos del Quetzal.

Mexican Violetear *Colibri thalassinus*

Several birds at Fuentes Georginas.

Green-breasted Mango *Anthracothorax prevostii*

A female at Posada Santiago.

Emerald-chinned Hummingbird *Abeillia abeillei*

We had good views of this seldom seen species in the upper part of Los Tarrales.

Canivet's Emerald *Chlorostilbon canivetii*

Four or five birds at Reserva Heloderma.

Blue-throated Sapphire *Hylocharis eliciae*

One male seen well at Los Tarrales.

Cinnamon Hummingbird *Amazilia rutila*

Very common around our cabins in Los Tarrales, also seen in the dry forest.

Azure-crowned Hummingbird *Amazilia cyanocephala*

One of the most widespread hummingbirds, seen on four dates.

Berylline Hummingbird *Amazilia beryllina*

Common near the feeders at Finca El Pilar.

Blue-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia cyanura*

The most common hummingbird in the upper part of Los Tarrales and around Lake Atitlán.

Green-throated Mountaingem *Lampornis viridipallens*

Another regional endemic hummer, noted on five dates.

White-eared Hummingbird *Basilinna leucotis*

A common resident of the pine-oak forest. Seen very well at Finca El Pilar and Rincon Suizo.

Rivoli's Hummingbird *Eugenes fulgens*

Common in the pine-oak forest. Seen on four dates.

Long-billed Starthroat *Heliomaster longirostris*

A couple of birds seen at Los Tarrales.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris*

Several females seen on two dates.

Wine-throated Hummingbird *Atthis ellioti*

An astonishing male patrolling his patch of flowers at Fuentes Georginas.

Gartered Trogon *Trogon caligatus*

Heard a couple of times at Los Tarrales.

Elegant Trogon *Trogon elegans*

Two males and two females at Reserva Heloderma.

Mountain Trogon *Trogon mexicanus*

Male and female near Rincón Suizo.

Collared Trogon *Trogon collaris*

Heard almost daily in suitable habitat, but we only managed to see it a couple of times at Rey Tepepul and Ranchitos del Quetzal.

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle Americana*

Single birds noted on two dates.

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon*

This migratory kingfisher was seen around Lake Atitlán.

Tody Motmot *Hylomanes momotula*

Brief views of a very vocal individual at Los Tarrales.

Blue-throated Motmot *Aspatha gularis*

We had really good views of at least six different birds during the trip. Heard on several dates

Russet-crowned Motmot *Momotus mexicanus*

This mostly Mexican species has a small isolated population in the Motagua Valley, where we saw at least three different birds.

Lesson's Motmot *Momotus lessonii*

Four birds at Los Tarrales.

Turquoise-browed Motmot *Eumomota superciliosa*

Two birds seen at Los Tarrales and two at Reserva Heloderma.

Emerald Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus prasinus*

Several birds seen on three dates.

Collared Aracari *Pteroglossus torquatus*

Several small flocks at Los Tarrales.

Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus*

The most common woodpecker in pine-oak forest. Good numbers noted on three dates.

Golden-fronted Woodpecker *Melanerpes aurifrons*

The most widespread woodpecker, seen daily.

Smoky-brown Woodpecker *Leuconotopicus fumigatus*

One bird heard at Los Tarrales.

Hairy Woodpecker *Leuconotopicus villosus*

A couple of birds at Rincon Suizo.

Golden-olive Woodpecker *Colaptes rubiginosus*

Seen at San Cristobal and Santiago de Atitlán.

Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus mexicanoides*

This distinctive race was common in the pine-oak forest and around Lake Atitlán, with birds seen on three dates. Distributed from Mexico to Nicaragua, it is treated as a full species by Birdlife/IBW as 'Guatemala Flicker'.

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus*

Two birds seen at Los Tarrales.

Northern Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway*

Single birds were noted at San Cristobal and Los Tarrales.

Barred Forest Falcon *Micrastur ruficollis*

This secretive and difficult to see raptor was noted at Ranchitos del Quetzal, where two birds provided excellent views.

Collared Forest Falcon *Micrastur semitorquatus*

Great views of a perched individual at Los Tarrales.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*

One bird perched on a post on the way to Lake Atitlán.

Barred Parakeet *Bolborhynchus lineola*

Two birds in flight at Fuentes Georginas.

Orange-chinned Parakeet *Brotogeris jugularis*

Common, and very noisy, at Los Tarrales.

White-fronted Amazon *Amazona albifrons*

Several birds at Reserva Heloderma.

Yellow-naped Amazon *Amazona auropalliata*

Several small flocks at Los Tarrales.

Orange-fronted Parakeet *Eupsittula canicularis*

Several noisy flocks at Los Tarrales and the Motagua valley.

Pacific Parakeet *Psittacara strenuous*

Seen in good numbers at Los Tarrales.

Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner *Anabacerthia variegaticeps*

One bird heard at Rey Tepepul.

Ruddy Foliage-gleaner *Automolus rubiginosus*

One bird seen at Rey Tepepul. Heard on three dates.

Ivory-billed Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster*

A couple of birds at Los Tarrales.

Spotted Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*

A couple of birds at Ranchitos del Quetzal.

Spot-crowned Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes affinis*

Relatively common in pine-oak forest. Noted on three dates.

Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus*

Heard on a couple of dates.

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster*

Great views of two birds at Santiago Atitlán.

Mountain Elaenia *Elaenia frantzii*

Excellent views of several birds near Rey Tepepul.

Northern Beardless Tyrannulet *Camptostoma imberbe*

A couple seen well at Reserva Heloderma.

Paltry (Guatemalan) Tyrannulet *Zimmerius vilissimus*

Small numbers noted on two dates.

Northern Bentbill *Oncostoma cinereigulare*

Single birds noted on two dates at Los Tarrales.

Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum*

Common at Los Tarrales.

Eye-ringed Flatbill *Rhynchocyclus brevirostris*

Single birds noted on two dates at Ranchitos del Quetzal.

Yellow-olive Flatbill *Tolmomyas sulphurens*

One bird on 27th and two on 4th.

Belted Flycatcher *Xenotriccus callizonus*

This range-restricted species was heard at Cerro Paquisis.

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans*

Common around Lake Atitlán.

Northern Tufted Flycatcher *Mitrephanes phaeocercus*

Five or six birds in a mixed-species flock at Rincon Suizo.

Greater Pewee *Contopus pertinax*

A common species of the pine-oak forest. Noted on three dates.

Tropical Pewee *Contopus cinereus*

Several birds seen at Los Tarrales.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher *Empidonax flaviventris*

Seen in small numbers around Los Tarrales.

Least Flycatcher *Empidonax minimus*

Common throughout the trip. Noted on six dates.

Hammond's Flycatcher *Empidonax hammondii*

Fairly common in the pine-oak forest of Finca El Pilar, Rincón Suizo and Cerro Paquisis.

Yellowish Flycatcher *Empidonax flavescens*

One bird in our hotel at the Central Highlands.

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis*

Very common. Seen daily.

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*

Surprisingly uncommon this year. Seen a couple of times only.

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua*

Common. Seen almost daily.

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*

Common. Seen almost daily.

Western Kingbird *Tyrannus verticalis*

One bird at Reserva Heloderma.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer*

Great views of several birds near Finca El Pilar, Los Tarrales and Cerro Paquisis.

Ash-throated Flycatcher *Myiarchus cinerascens*

Two or three birds seen and heard in the dry forest.

Nutting's Flycatcher *Myiarchus nuttingi*

Two or three birds seen and heard at Reserva Heloderma.

Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus*

Heard at Los Tarrales.

Long-tailed Manakin *Chiroxiphia linearis*

Amazing views of a male and a female at Los Tarrales. Several more heard.

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata*

Several birds seen at Los Tarrales.

Rose-throated Becard *Pachyramphus aglaiae*

One bird at Finca El Pilar, a pair at Rincon Suizo and a few more noted at Los Tarrales.

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis*

Two at Los Tarrales and four at Cerro Paquisis.

Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo *Vireolanius melitophrys*

Heard on three dates.

Green Shrike-Vireo *Vireolanius pulchellus*

Excellent views of this beautiful bird at Los Tarrales.

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons*

Single birds noted on two dates at Los Tarrales.

Plumbeous Vireo *Vireo plumbeus*

One bird at Los Tarrales.

Blue-headed Vireo *Vireo solitarius*

Several birds seen in the pine-oak forest on four dates.

Hutton's Vireo *Vireo huttoni*

Especially common at Rincon Suizo, where we found six or seven birds.

Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus*

Seen around San Cristobal and Los Tarrales on three dates.

Brown-capped Vireo *Vireo leucophrys*

Great views of two birds at Rey Tepepul.

Azure-hooded Jay *Cyanolyca cucullata*

A very localized cloud forest specialist and a bird that eludes most visitors. A small flock was noted at Ranchitos del Quetzal on the last day.

Bushy-crested Jay *Cyanocorax melanocyaneus*

A rather common regional endemic. Noted on five dates.

White-throated Magpie-Jay *Calocitta Formosa*

Common in the Pacific Slope, especially Los Tarrales.

Unicoloured Jay *Aphelocoma unicolor*

Another attractive range-restricted species. We had very close encounters with them near Fuentes Georginas and Ranchitos del Quetzal.

Steller's Jay *Cyanocitta stelleri*

Seen at higher elevations in the pine-oak forest of Rincón Suizo and Cerro Paquisis.

Grey Silky-flycatcher *Ptiliogonys cinereus*

Fairly common in pine-oak forest. Good numbers noted at Finca El Pilar, Rincón Suizo, Rey Tepepul and Cerro Paquisis.

Violet-green Swallow *Tachycineta thalassina*

This year we only found a few birds at Lake Atitlán.

Mangrove Swallow *Tachycineta albilinea*

Several seen along the Motagua river.

Grey-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*

A few birds along the Motagua river.

Black-capped Swallow *Notiochelidon pileata*

Very common regional endemic. Seen on five dates.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*

The most widespread swallow. Seen daily.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Common around Lake Atitlán and Motagua Valley.

Band-backed Wren *Campylorhynchus zonatus*

Small flocks were seen on four dates.

Rufous-backed Wren *Campylorhynchus capistratus*

Good views on the bird feeders at Los Tarrales, around Lake Atitlán and Reserva Heloderma.

Spot-breasted Wren *Pheugopedius maculipectus*

Two birds on 27th and one on 28th at Los Tarrales.

Cabanis's Wren *Cantorchilus modestus*

More often heard than seen, although we managed to get good views at Rey Tepepul.

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*

Common. Seen on most days.

Rufous-browed Wren *Troglodytes rufociliatus*

Excellent views of this regional endemic in the pine-oak forest near Rincon Suizo and at Fuentes Georginas.

White-breasted Wood Wren *Henicorhina leucosticte*

Heard only. One bird at Los Tarrales.

Grey-breasted Wood Wren *Henicorhina leucophrys*

Good views of this little skulker at Fincal El Pilar, where we saw a pair, and Fuentes Georginas.

Nightingale Wren *Microcercus philomela*

Two birds were heard at Ranchitos del Quetzal the last morning.

Long-billed Gnatwren *Ramphocaenus melanurus*

Single birds on two dates at Los Tarrales.

White-lored Gnatcatcher *Polioptila albiloris*

A dry forest specialist. At least two pairs seen well at Reserva Heloderma.

Bushtit *Psaltriparus minimus*

Several birds noted as part of a mixed flock with warblers and vireos at Rincon Suizo.

Brown Creeper *Certhia Americana*

One bird at Rincon Suizo.

Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus*

Small numbers on three dates.

Blue-and-white Mockingbird *Melanotis hypoleucus*

We were very lucky with this regional endemic on this trip. We saw six individuals in four dates including prolonged views of two birds at Fuentes Georginas.

Eastern Bluebird *Sialia sialis*

Seen on route to Lake Atitlán.

Brown-backed Solitaire *Myadestes occidentalis*

Soundtrack of the trip. Seen or heard on six dates, especially common at Fuentes Georginas.

Slate-coloured Solitaire *Myadestes unicolor*

One bird heard and seen at Ranchitos del Quetzal in the central highlands.

Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus aurantiirostris*

One bird at Los Tarrales and one bird at Rey Tepepul

Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus frantzii*

Great views of three birds at Rincon Suizo and one at Fuentes Georginas.

Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus mexicanus*

Great views of two birds in our last morning of the trip.

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*

Common along the Pacific Slope, with good numbers noted at Los Tarrales, Cerro Paquisis and Rey Tepepul.

Black Thrush *Turdus infuscatus*

A pair at Rincón Suizo and one bird at Fuentes Georginas.

Mountain Thrush *Turdus plebejus*

Single birds on two dates at Fuentes Georginas.

Clay-coloured Thrush *Turdus grayi*

One of the most common birds in Guatemala. Seen daily.

White-throated Thrush *Turdus assimilis*

Seen on both days at Los Tarrales, where it was a common sighting.

Rufous-collared Thrush *Turdus rufitorques*

Regional endemic. Usually found in high elevations forest. Noted on three dates.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Common.

Olive Warbler *Peucedramus taeniatus*

Two or three birds at Rincon Suizo and one near our hotel in the Central Highlands.

Hooded Grosbeak *Hesperiphona abeillei*

One male at Rincon Suizo and a pair feeding on the ground at Cerro Paquisis.

Lesser Goldfinch *Spinus psaltria*

A fairly common birds around Lake Atitlán. Seen on two dates.

Black-headed Siskin *Spinus notatus*

Small numbers seen at Finca El Pilar, Rincón Suizo, Lake Atitlán and Cerro Paquisis.

Yellow-throated Euphonia *Euphonia hirundinacea*

Small numbers noted on 3 dates, more numerous at Los Tarrales.

Elegant Euphonia *Euphonia elegantissima*

Quite common this year. We found at least four pairs on three dates.

Blue-crowned Chlorophonia *Chlorophonia occipitalis*

A nesting pair provided amazing views at Rey Tepepul.

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis*

Two at our hotel near Fuentes Georginas and several at Cerro Paquisis.

Stripe-headed Sparrow *Peucaea ruficauda*

Half a dozen birds at Reserva Heloderma.

Rusty Sparrow *Aimophila rufescens*

Seen a few times around Lake Atitlán.

Prevost's Ground Sparrow *Melospiza biarcuata*

Two pairs near Santiago Atitlán.

White-eared Ground Sparrow *Melospiza leucotis*

Single birds noted on two dates at Los Tarrales.

Chestnut-capped Brushfinch *Arremon brunneinucha*

Several birds at Fuentes Georginas.

White-naped Brushfinch *Atlapetes albinucha*

A pair was seen at San Cristobal on the first day and one bird at Fuentes Georginas.

Common Bush Tanager *Chlorospingus flavopectus*

A common bird of the cloudforest. Noted on four dates.

Yellow-billed Cacique *Amblycercus holosericeus*

One bird seen well at Cerro Paquisis.

Chestnut-headed Oropendola *Psarocolius wagleri*

A small flock seen on both days at Ranchitos del Quetzal.

Yellow-backed Oriole *Icterus chrysater*

Two bird at Cerro Paquisis.

Altamira Oriole *Icterus gularis*

A common bird during the second half of the trip. Especially in Los Tarrales and the Motagua Valley.

Streak-backed Oriole *Icterus pustulatus*

At least half a dozen birds were seen at Reserva Heloderma.

Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula*

A common winter visitor. Noted on six dates.

Spot-breasted Oriole *Icterus pectoralis*

We only saw it at Los Tarrales, where it was fairly common.

Bar-winged Oriole *Icterus maculialatus*

Great views of this regional endemic at San Cristobal, where we saw two males and two females.

Black-vented Oriole *Icterus wagleri*

The counterpart of Black-cowled Oriole on the Pacific Slope. We had good views of this colourful bird at Finca El Pilar and around Lake Atitlán.

Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius*

Small numbers at Los Tarrales and around Lake Atitlán.

Bronzed Cowbird *Molothrus aeneus*

Huge numbers around Lake Atitlán and single birds near the Motagua Valley.

Melodious Blackbird *Dives dives*

A common bird in Los Tarrales.

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*

They were everywhere! Seen daily.

Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapilla*

Great views of a single bird at Parque Ecologico Cayala.

Worm-eating Warbler *Helmitheros vermivorum*

Three different birds seen at Finca El Pilar.

Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis*

Great views of a foraging bird at Los Tarrales.

Blue-winged Warbler *Vermivora cyanoptera*

A single bird at Finca El Pilar on the first day.

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia*

A personal favourite, small numbers of this attractive warbler showed very well on six dates.

Crescent-chested Warbler *Oreothlypis superciliosa*

Commonly heard in the pine-oak forest, with very nice views of several birds at Rincon Suizo and Fuentes Georginas.

Tennessee Warbler *Leiothlypis peregrine*

Very common warbler. Noted on seven dates.

Nashville Warbler *Leiothlypis ruficapilla*

Single birds noted on three dates.

MacGillivray's Warbler *Geothlypis tolmiei*

A couple of birds near San Cristobal and one bird at Parque Ecologico Cayala.

Kentucky Warbler *Geothlypis formosa*

One bird at Los Tarrales.

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas*

Several birds noted in the reed beds around Lake Atitlán.

Hooded Warbler *Setophaga citrina*

A nice male was found at Parque Ecologico Cayala.

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*

Single birds noted on two dates at Los Tarrales.

Magnolia Warbler *Setophaga magnolia*

One near San Cristobal and small numbers at Los Tarrales.

American Yellow Warbler *Setophaga aestiva*

Small numbers noted on two dates.

Townsend's Warbler *Setophaga townsendi*

The most common warbler of the trip. Seen everywhere, except in the central highlands.

Hermit Warbler *Setophaga occidentalis*

A couple of birds near San Cristobal and one male at Fuentes Georginas.

Golden-cheeked Warbler *Setophaga chrysoparia*

We found a beautiful female of this endangered species at Ranchitos del Quetzal.

Black-throated Green Warbler *Setophaga virens*

Recorded on four dates, but was very common in the central highlands.

Rufous-capped Warbler *Basileuterus rufifrons*

Small numbers at Fuentes Georginas and Los Tarrales on three dates.

Golden-browed Warbler *Basileuterus belli*

One bird at Fuentes Georginas.

Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus*

Two or three birds noted at Finca El Pilar.

Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina pusilla*

Very common. Seen daily

Pink-headed Warbler *Cardellina versicolor*

One of the group's favourites and one of the highlights of the trip. Several birds were seen at Rincon Suizo and a few more at Fuentes Georginas where they provided really good photo opportunities.

Red-faced Warbler *Cardellina rufrifrons*

A couple of birds at Rincón Suizo.

Slate-throated Whitestart *Myioborus miniatus*

Another common resident warbler, noted on seven dates.

Flame-coloured Tanager *Piranga bidentata*

Noted on three dates around Lake Atitlán

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*

Small numbers seen on four dates.

Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana*

The most common *Piranga* tanager. Noted on seven dates.

White-winged Tanager *Piranga leucoptera*

Good views of several birds at Los Tarrales.

Red-throated Ant Tanager *Habia fuscicauda*

One bird at Los Tarrales.

Yellow Grosbeak *Pheucticus chrysopheplus aurantiacus*

The local race "*aurantiacus*" was fairly common at Reserva Heloderma

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*

A common winter visitor, noted on six dates.

Cabanis's Seedeater *Amaurospiza concolor*

Previously called Blue Seedeater, but now 'split', this bamboo specialist was seen at La Isla.

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea*

A couple of birds at Los Tarrales.

Varied Bunting *Passerina versicolor*

Four or five birds, including some brightly coloured males were seen at Reserva Heloderma.

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris*

Small numbers noted on three dates.

Blue-grey Tanager *Thraupis episcopus*

Common. Recorded on most habitats, including towns. Noted on five dates.

Yellow-winged Tanager *Thraupis abbas*

Even more common and ubiquitous than the previous species. Noted almost daily.

Cabanis's (Azure-rumped) Tanager *Tangara cabanisi*

A very rare bird, restricted to Chiapas and Guatemala and another highlight of the trip. We had excellent and prolonged views of at least 2 birds preening and feeding in the Cecropia trees at Los Tarrales.

Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus*

Fairly common at Los Tarrales.

Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer *Diglossa baritula*

Single birds noted on four dates.

Black-headed Saltator *Saltator atriceps*

Fairly common at Los Tarrales.

Greyish Saltator *Saltator coerulescens*

Single birds in various places around Lake Atitlán.

Morelet's Seedeater *Sporophila moreletii*

Fairly common on the Pacific Slope, especially at Los Tarrales.

Mammals

Central American Agouti *Dasyprocta punctata*

Deppe's Squirrel *Sciurus deppei*

Mexican Grey Squirrel *Sciurus aureogaster*

Variigated Squirrel *Sciurus variegatoides*

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*

Grey Fox *Urocyon cinereargentatus*

Kinkajou *Potos flavus*