

Best of Guatemala: Birding and Culture

March 5- 17, 2025 | Trip Report | by James Petersen



Compiled by guides James Petersen and Roland. Our clients included Paul, Ann, Robert, Kathy, Roger, Donna, Sandra, Marion, and Carl.



March 5, 2025: Marroquin-Cabana Suiza-Los Tarrales

Our first full day. After meeting for breakfast, we gathered up our luggage and left, with our end stop being Los Tarrales. We arrived at our first stop of the day, the local arboretum of the Marroquin college campus. Upon getting out of the bus, we were greeted with a large warbler flock. We quickly had a mix of both non migratory and migratory north American warblers. While we listened to the calls of Melodious Blackbirds and Clay-colored



Thrushes, we spotted a Black and White Warbler, a few Tennessee Warblers, a bright yellow Wilson's Warbler and a Townsends Warbler foraging in a semi leafed out tree. As the warbler flock moved to a bare tree, we picked out a few more Tennessee Warblers and a Magnolia Warbler.

As the flock dispersed, we scanned the rest of the parking lot, hearing more Clay-colored Thrushes, and a quick call note of the Slate-throated Redstart. A Lesson's Motmot, was than spotted silently perched in a nearby snag. Once it realized it had been spotted, it quickly flew, burying itself in some thick vegetation in the canopy of the trees. From here, we slowly worked our way down to a more open area of the campus.

While we walked, we had a massive flock of around 30 Vaux's swifts coursing overhead. In the more open area, we had some good looks at several Acorn Woodpeckers. A small flock of tiny birds was spotted working the far edge of the forest line, a small flock of Bushtits. The Bushtit race down here is a different race than the ones found in the United States, with these ones showing a black mask on the face. Mixed in with the Bushtits, were two bright Black-throated Green Warblers that moved in the opposite directions, searching for food. Meanwhile, above us, we had a Yellow-winged Tanager appear while a Golden Olive Woodpecker worked the snag for bugs. It was getting hot in the sun, so we slowly worked our way down to the shade where we spotted two bright orioles with black spots on their breasts—a regional bird here—a Spot-breasted Oriole. We watched as two followed each other around, almost glowing in the bright sunlight. In the process of following them, we got distracted by two other birds, all dark with teal backs and yellow eyes. A pair of Bushy-crested Jays. They flew across the path but eventually alighted to show a stunning green back in the direct sunlight. By now, it was time to move on to the two museums we were going to visit this morning.

The first museum was the Museo Ixchel. This one was one that described and showed many of the bright textiles of the Mayan culture. In the museum, we all marveled at the bright clothing that is a staple of the Mayan culture and of a map that showed different areas having different designs. The other museum was the Museo Popol Vuh—home to a large collection of both Mayan art and artifact collections. The collection was amazing including details on the start of the Mayan empire—from the Olmec people on the pacific coast. And working towards when they built their massive pyramids. From there is when the Spaniard conquistadors showed up and essentially converted a lot of them to Christianity and tried to get them to forget their culture. It went to the present day where the Mayans are just starting to relearn their almost forgotten language.

Once finished at the museum, we got back on the bus and headed to our lunch spot. Here, as we waited for the



table, we watched two nearby hummingbird feeders. We were enthralled as we watched many bright White-eared Hummingbirds zip in and out for the nectar. We had 4 other species of hummingbirds here as well, with good looks at both Beryline and Azure-fronted Hummingbirds. The star of the show was the Rufous Sabrewing. An extremely large hummingbird with bright orange underparts that all the other hummingbirds would fly away from. Everyone got good looks at this stunner of a hummingbird before lunch.

After a delicious lunch, we spent the rest of the afternoon in the bus headed to Los Tarrales Reserve. We watched as the road had us climb to over 5,000 feet and massive oaks and pines appeared before we dropped back down into the lake area, losing the pine forests.

Finally, upon arriving at Los Tarrales, we settled into our rooms and then came out for some pre dinner birding. The birding was fantastic with fantastic looks at a couple Yellow-naped Amazons. An orange breasted Cinnamon Hummingbird also worked the small flowers as we all gathered to listen to the evening chorus of the White-bellied Chachalacas. All the while, we had Red-billed Pigeons, White-fronted Parrots and a few Pacific Parakeets flying overhead. On our way down to dinner, a final Lesser Nighthawk was spotted flying high up in the evening sky. After a delicious dinner, we walked back to our rooms, serenaded by many Common Pauraques as we thought over today's fantastic day of birding.

Thursday March 6: La Isla- Road to San Pedro

After an early breakfast, we headed out for the morning, driving up the road to San Pedro. We had several stops as we made our way up to the furthest point on the road. Our first stop was extremely productive as we had an amazing total of 7 Crested Guans. They seemed to be everywhere, from watching them fly by the distant hillside to flying directly towards us. In addition to the Guans, we heard a Spotted Wood Quail in the vegetation below while all three species of parakeets flew by the far hillside (Orange-chinned, Orange-fronted and Pacific Parakeets). During all this, we got fantastic views of a White-throated Thrush. After a short walk up the road, we also had a Blue-tailed Hummingbird working the shorter trees while both an Ivory-billed Woodcreeper and Gartered Trogon called in the distance.

Our next stop was for breakfast. While we ate breakfast, we watched a large group of vines that surrounded a tree for birds. Here, in between bites from our breakfast, we had both male and female Painted buntings, and indigo Bunting and a Northern Tropical Pewee. This spot was also a good spot to see Red-legged



Honeycreepers.

At our next stop, we entered more of a higher elevation forest. Here we had our first experiences with hearing Guatemalan Tyrannulet and Common Tody-Flycatcher. They both remained unseen as did the Yellow-throated Euphonia and the Yellow-green Tanager. We did have amazing looks at a very obliging Lesser Greenlet as it came down to eye level while a few Tennessee Warblers and an Indigo Bunting were higher up in the canopy.

From here, we drove up to the last stop of the morning, a lookout over the tops of the neighboring ridges. As we relaxed here for the rest of the morning, we scanned the sky for raptors that were just starting to feel the rising thermals for the day. Our first raptor, an all-dark compact raptor came soaring up, a dark morph Short-tailed Hawk. Later in the morning we had a light morph Short-tailed hawk as well as a Crested Caracara that flew in front of us. The Caracara then obligingly perched in a dead snag, giving great scope views. The excitement came at the end of our time here, as our local guide spotted a massive vulture with dark primaries and a white body—a rare King Vulture! Everyone was able to get on this stunning bird. At almost the same time, a White-breasted Hawk subspecies of Sharp-shinned Hawk was also seen, giving everyone a two for one treat before heading down for lunch.

After lunch and a siesta to beat the heat of the day, we all gathered out front to walk down a road by the hotel. It was a very productive afternoon. We started by some bushes with small blue flowers that were attracting a few Cinnamon Hummingbirds and a Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Continuing down the road, a Lesson's Motmot was spotted while a small yellow breasted and bright-eyed Common Tody Flycatcher foraged in the shrubs. Further down the road, we came to a cavity that 2 Pacific Parakeets had landed on and were inspecting, probably for a nest. To their dismay, the lower cavity seemed to already be taken by a White-fronted Amazon, who would not give it up. We watched as the parakeets kept talking and putting their heads in the upper cavity before finally flying off. Once they left, the White-fronted Amazon also left its cavity. While this was going on, a pair of Band-backed Wrens foraged in some shrubs nearby, oblivious to the parakeet argument above.

As we continued down the road, the next big tree held a plethora of birds. This included multiple Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and 2 species of Euphonias: both Yellow-throated and Scrub. As we were watching the euphonias, a large woodpecker flew in, with a bright red mohawk. This turned out to be a Lineated Woodpecker. We watched as the woodpecker moved between the branches, finally turning out of sight at the top of the tree.



Continuing, we reached the furthest point of our walk.

Here was the edge of some thick, dense habitat, where a Cabanis's Wren was singing, only giving brief glimpses of itself as it stayed hidden. At the same time, we also had a rufous-breasted Spinetail that started singing as well. And, as with the wren, stayed hidden for the most part. Both species tend to be shy, so it stayed true to their nature. While waiting for either of these species to come out, a Morrelets Seedeater came out, perching for all to see. In the distance, a barred Antshrike called. By this time, dinner was approaching so we slowly made our way back to the lodge for a delicious dinner and species checklist for the day.

Friday March 7: Road to Vesueio- Lagoon Trail

After an early breakfast, we got into the trucks to do the mornings birding. The trucks took us back up the mountain to Vesueio, where there was a trail, we would hike up. At the parking lot, a Dusky-capped Flycatcher was singing his mournful song while a Southern House Wren chattered. While those two birds were singing, a Collared Trogon called, who despite looking for, never did reveal himself. As we started hiking up the trail, the calls of Pacific Parakeets came as they flew by us, and we heard the rambling song of a close Mockingbird. With a little bit of waiting, we were rewarded with the looks of a Blue and White Mockingbird as it stayed mostly hidden in a nearby shrub. This is typical for this extremely shy species.

A little way up the trail, we again heard the barking call of another Collared Trogon. This one was right above us, giving all excellent looks at this yellow-beaked, red-bellied Trogon. After putting on a little show for us, he flew off the perch and back into the forest. We continued to climb the trail after that sighting. A large hummingbird flitted in front of us, with large white tail corners. This being a stunning Purple Saberwing. As we continued walking, we stopped at one area when a low growling call was heard. After some patience waiting, a green bird with a large beak flew in—a Northern Emerald Toucanet!! Everyone got stunning looks at this bird as it sat out in the open for all to see. In the distance we could hear a second birds that was responding to the first birds' call. Continuing up the trail, we stopped for breakfast and enjoyed the calls of the birds as they were getting going after a cool night. We were surrounded by the calls of Brown-backed Solitaires—their calls sounding like someone breaking glass.



After breakfast, we continued to hike up for around 15- 20 more minutes before we got to our ending point of the upwards portion of the trail. We waited, and listened, hearing a distant Azure-rumped Tanager and hoped this extremely range limited tanager would make an appearance. While we waited, we listened to the calls of Brown-backed Solitaires and were able to find a Hooded Grosbeak that was perched in the tops of the tree. Everyone got great scope views of this dark headed grosbeak as it sat comfortably. Finally, we heard and found 3 Azure Rumped Tanagers as they flew in from where we were hearing them. These beautiful, teal-colored birds are only found in a small area from southern Mexico to Northern Guatemala. Everyone got looks at these stunning tanagers as they foraged in the tops of the trees.

By now, it was getting closer to lunch time, so we slowly started to make our way back to the cars. A little way down the trail, Ava, our local guide for the day, heard a high-pitched raptor call from above. She got everyone on a high-flying Ornate Hawk Eagle! We watched as they bird worked the thermals, before tucking and diving out of sight. Further down the trail, a White-eared Ground Sparrow called his raspy call, but stayed hidden in the undergrowth. Once back at the cars, we checked a nearby house for a Cacomistle. We found this raccoon relative curled up, sleeping underneath the roof. It must have been a long night because it was sleeping on its back!

From here, we started the journey back to the hotel. We had to stop halfway down, when Ava again, heard an Emerald-chinned Hummingbird. With some searching, we found this tiny hummingbird and watched as it flitted from tree branch to tree branch, picking what looked like insects from the trees. Behind us, a Long-tailed Manakin called, although it remained unseen, it allowed us to find and get scope views of a cooperative Green Shrike-Tanager. A rare feat for this shy bird. As we were getting ready to continue to head down, a Black Hawk-Eagle called from above us, the thick canopy keeping him unseen. We continued down, with a brief look at a Highland Guan as it glided out of a tree. Further down, we passed small flocks of birds that included Northern Tropical Pewees and Rufous-browed Peppershrikes. After a fantastic morning, we finally made it back to the hotel for lunch and an afternoon siesta.

The afternoon, we met up at 4 and with Ava, hiked down to the Lagoon trail. It was quite to start but we had a Black Phoebe catching insects by the pond and got great scope views of a Turquoise Browed Motmot. From the pond, we continued up the trail, arriving at a plantation that again, gave great looks at another Turquoise



Browed Motmot. We also had scope views of an obliging Ivory-billed Woodcreeper as well as one Long-billed Starthroat that was working the trees for bugs. Overhead flew multiple species of Parrots/Amazons including Yellow-naped Amazon, both Orange-fronted and Orange-chinned as well as many Clay-colored Thrushes. We continued down the trail and reached an opening, where we waited for sunset. As the light diminished, we were treated to wonderful looks and experiences with the Common Pauraque. We watched as they zoomed low over the vegetation, a couple times landing feet from us. There weird whistle call sounding in the distance as well. We also got views of a Lesser Nighthawk floating high above us in the setting sun. As darkness fully came in, Ava heard a low-pitched barking scream call. We ventured over to where it was and were treated to the looks of a large bird, mothlike in flight, flying over us. A Northern Potoo. After a little bit of waiting, the Potoo perched for us. This allowed us to get amazing scope views of this cryptic night bird, his big yellow eye a contrast to an otherwise brownish nocturnal bird. By now, it was time to head back to the lodge for dinner. Dinner was a delicious pizza dinner, and after the end of the evening checklist, we all went to bed after a fantastic day of birding.

March 8: Imap- San Juan La Laguna

Today was a travel day between hotels. After packing up and leaving after breakfast, we had a short birding stop. Our first stop was the IMAP—Sendero de Aves. It was a small park with trails right along Lake Atitlan. As we started down the trail, we had a Squirrel Cuckoo perched in a tree, giving all a quick look before it flew off. Continuing, we were greeted with great looks at a Morelet's Seedeater. This small black capped bird with a white belly posed for us, as we all got looks at this stubby-billed seedeater. Nearby the seedeater, a Tropical Mockingbird posed for us as well. By the lake, there was a pier that we walked out on. The edge of the lake had reeds that hid a small, yellow-billed Sora. After a bit of patience, we had the Sora walk out in the open, giving all scope views of this secretive rail. From here, there was an overlook of the lake. Here we learned a little about the lake itself. Lake Atitlan was formed around 80,000 years ago when a huge volcano blew its top. What remained, the caldera, filled with water making the lake we saw today. The eruption of the volcano was so powerful, there are traces of the eruption that has been found on both poles! From the viewpoint, we had a few Western Kingbirds, with their white edging on the tails. By now, it was time to head back to the buses.



On the way back, a Yellow-bellied Elania called from a nearby tree. This caused us all to go look for it. While looking for the Elaina, a large black bird with a long tail flushed nearby—flying quickly passed us—a Groove-billed Ani. At the same time, a Black-vented Oriole was also spotted perched in a tree. This bird also, took off quickly, a fleeting look. After finally locating the Yellow-bellied Elainia and getting good looks at this dull flycatcher, we headed back to the bus.

After loading back into the bus, we continued to the next hotel. After a delicious lunch, we loaded up into a boat and headed across Lake Atitlan to San Juan. The boat ride was uneventful, but we did pick up a few waterfowl species. By the San Juan dock, a few Aythya species bobbed in the water. With some careful scanning, we picked out several dark headed Lesser Scaups and some Ring-necked Ducks, showing off their ring bills. Also seen on the way over was a Brown Pelican. Upon getting to San Juan, we were greeted with a colorful sight. The street leading up to where we were heading was covered with hanging umbrellas. Underneath, the street was crowded with taxis and people visiting the stalls. The street itself was cobblestone, with the center of it painted in blue, black, yellow and red. There were white symbols in the reddish middle. Once we got to the top of the street, we reached the shop where we were heading.

The shop is made up of a collective of women, raising their children. The collective spins, dyes, makes and sells Mayan garments. Here we learned how they spun the cotton yarn and then dyed it. The dyes are all natural, with different plants giving the yarn different colors. The pre-washed yarn takes color quicker than non-washed yarn. The spinner she was using was 300 years old. Once we saw how the yarn was spun and dyed, she moved on to show us how they weave the colorful garments. If one works 8 hours a day, a scarf can take 5 days to make! By this time, it was time to head back. We slowly walked back down the street, back to the boat and back to delicious dinner at Bambu, after a fantastic day.

March 9: Lake Aitlan- Chichicastenago

After an early breakfast, we took the boat again across the lake to meet our bus driver. Once in the bus, we had a bus ride that took us to the Chichichamengo marketplace. This marketplace is only open on Thursday and Sundays. This market is one of the largest markets in Guatemala and the town itself is important to Mayans and Christians alike.



As we wove through the marketplace, we were in awe at the number of people in the marketplace and that you could probably buy anything here. From food being cooked, to brightly colored hand-woven Mayan tapestry to wood worked masks and leather shoes/candles. It had everything. One of the more impressive stops we were at was the indoor farmer's market. Here we could look down from above and see piles and piles of fruits in vegetables that had been grown outside the town and were being sold. It was remarked by almost everyone how large the carrots were that were being sold. But we spent a decent amount of time watching from above as people picked what produce they wanted, almost all dressed in bright Mayan clothing.

After wandering around the marketplace, our next two stops were the churches at either end. The churches are historical buildings that were built in the 1500's when the Spanish colonized the area. As the Spanish came here, they knocked down the Mayan temple that stood in the spot and erected the church. There are 18 steps that lead up to the church, and those are the original steps of what was left of the Mayan temple. This is the only church in Guatemala where you can practice Mayan rituals on the steps and have catholic mass inside. In front of the church was a large wooden pole that is part of the Mayan culture where they would climb it, tie their feet to the pole and then hang upside down.

Our last stop of the morning was the cemetery—or overview of the cemetery where we could look at all the brightly colored lots where anyone of the town could be buried.

From here, it was time to head back to lunch and then back to the hotel after a fantastic day.

March 10: Mirador rey Tepepul- Maximon

Today was an early morning. Our goal today was to hopefully find a Resplendent Quetzal. After a 30-minute drive, we reached Mirador Rey Tepepul. This spot was high in the mountains and in the morning was surrounded by dense fog. This added to the mystique as upon getting out of the van and starting down the trail, we were serenaded with dozens of Brown-backed Solitaires. Their otherworldly call sounding like breaking glass as they called from the tops of the trees. Our main goal was the quetzal, so we hiked out to the spot, if we missed them in the morning then they are elsewhere for the rest of the day. As we walked, the surrounding area was full of bird songs—from the blowing across the bottle of the White-tipped Doves, to the low-pitched



coo of White-faced Quail Doves. We took a short break halfway to the spot, where we heard the raucous shriek as 2 Barred Parakeets whizzed by, disappearing into the fog. Although commonly seen flying by, these are bamboo specialists and are hard to get good views of perched. Other birds such as Ruddy-foilage Gleaner and Gray-breasted Woodwren called from the undergrowth.

Once at the spot, the waiting started. The Quetzals had not been seen yet, so we pointed out nearby birds. We finally got views of the Brown-backed Solitaires, watching them do their display where they fly up, then sing their song as they float back to their perch. Finally, a Quetzal was spotted. Far in the distance, we caught a glimpse of one flying up and then racing back down into the canopy of the trees—a display flight. After a little bit of waiting, it came right out in the open. Everyone got great scope view of this stunning green bird with an extraordinary tail. It perched out in the open for what felt like 30 minuets. After everyone got scope views of the bird, we took turns getting pictures of the bird through the scope. One lucky client got a video of the bird as it took off, flying off to what seemed like the next ridge over.

After the bird left, we continued the trail, which was a loop trail. We shortly came to a clearing, where we stopped to view the birds coming into the trees. Here we had good looks at a Rose-throated Becard and great looks at a bright Flame-colored Tanager. Also in the tree was a few more well know eastern warblers such as a Black-and-White Warbler that was creeping up the tree and a Magnolia Warbler working the bare branches. Right before leaving, a woodcreeper flew in behind us. The spots on the crown identified it as a Spot-crowned Woodcreeper.

On the way to the next spot, we glimpsed a thrush that quickly disappeared in the under growth. The thrush had a yellow-throat making it the elusive Yellow-throated Nightengale thrush. At the same time, a Worm-eating warbler made an appearance, looking for food on the ground. Our final stop before finishing the trail yielded a Yellowish Flycatcher calling above us during our water break. Once back to the bus, we headed back to the hotel for lunch.

After lunch, we headed down to visit Maximilian. This is a Mayan judge who listens as a Mayan shaman argues cases over why a person should get something they would like. We were able to witness a shaman arguing a case before him. Maximillian was flanked on either side by two people of the brotherhood who take care of him for the year. During our time watching, the people of the brotherhood changed out his cigarettes and gave him



some run. Maximilian is depicted as half a person, and this one was wearing many ties. Afterwards we walked around the town square before heading back to the hotel for some down time before a fantastic dinner, ending a amazing day.

March 11: Caleras Chichavac

We started off the morning with an early morning and a distant Mexican Whip-poor-will. Upon finishing breakfast, we loaded up and headed off for the day. After a bit of a drive, we arrived at Finca Caleras. Here, after parking we started scanning, finding several Black-capped Swallows flying about in the cloudless sky. Upon heading towards the trail, we found several Rufous-collared Sparrows singing and flitting apart on some nearby farm fields, while an Eastern Bluebird was spotted near the start of the old road. As we reached the forest, we were greeted with the loud rattling songs of Crescent-chested Warblers, which would stay with us for the remainder of the morning. At the start of the forest, we also had two dark colored birds with rufous backs and yellow eyes—two yellow eyed juncos hopping about. As we ventured further into the forest, Roland heard a few chips notes that gave him pause. After 5 minutes of following the notes and seeing movements in the vegetation, out popped a light pink headed warbler with a deep red body. This was a Pink-headed Warbler and the target bird of the morning. We watched in awe as a 2nd bird joined the first one as they foraged out in the open.

Continuing, we slowly made our way up the trail, identifying not only the birds but some of the trees as well. The forest was mostly made up of pines, with several of them being Guatemalan Firs. This is the most southern representative of this north American family. In addition, there were also some large oaks with big leathery leaves—Netleaf Oak. This is a special oak because it's one of the few Oaks that grows its acorns on a stem.

Meanwhile, we were being serenaded by lots of Crescent-chested Warblers and fly over Gray Silky Flycatchers. In the large pines, we started hearing the tree-tree call of a Tufted Flycatcher, which soon showed itself. We watched as it sailed out to different perches right above us, catching insects. Continuing, we moved up the path and stopped at an opening to try and see the singing Blue and White Mockingbird. Some saw this shy bird as it sang away and then moved further down the trail. During this time, we also were able to observe 4 Band-backed Wrens. Their loud calls ringing through the forest. During this communion, a quite Rufous-collared Robin looked down from high up in the canopy.



As we slowly continued up, the Guatemalan Race of the Northern Pygmy Owl called in the distance as well as a distant Rufous-collared Robin. Some butterflies flew by, one being a American Lady.

After a bit more walking, we reached the furthest point on the trail that we were going to go. As we lounged in the shade, a Mountain Trogon started calling. After some searching, we finally located the birds and followed them as they were found and then flew, only to be found again. Everyone got nice scope views of this pair of trogons. By this time, it was time to head back to the bus. On the way back, we passed the towering pines that held the calling Pygmy Owl, as it called once again. Further down, we picked up the high-pitched call note of a Brown Creeper, which after a little bit of looking for, we found creeping up the bark of a nearby pine. All the while, some White-collared Swifts flew overhead.

Once we made it back to the bus, we headed back to a delicious lunch where almost everybody got some kind of Crepe. Once finished, we had the drive to our next hotel in Antigua. Clients had the afternoon to explore the city. After a delicious dinner, everyone dispersed after a fantastic day of birding.

March 12: Fina el Pilar- Jocotenando

After a delicious breakfast, we headed out to the morning. Our destination this morning was going to be to bird the Finca el Pilar area, about a 10-minute drive from the hotel. Upon arriving at the spot, we were greeted with several Eastern Bluebirds and multiple Social flycatchers flying across the property. As we continued down into an open area that was surrounded by forest, we had a rare Rufous and White Wren singing in the distance as well as an Azure-crowned Hummingbird working the flowers. At this point, we spread out keeping an eye out for a small buffy colored flycatcher that is sometimes found here. It was quickly found, perching on the dry stalks, a Buff-breasted Flycatcher. We all watched as the flycatcher sallied out for bugs, each time landing on a different part of the dried wood. Sometimes completely hidden and sometimes perched right out in the open. It was at this point we were distracted by two birds; a Ferruginous Pygmy Owl that started calling and would not stop for the next 25 minutes. We watched as it called and then would fly back and forth across the clearing, giving decent looks at times. The other bird was a loud meowing sound, a Collared Forest Falcon. These shy birds were more expected in the lowlands, but here this one was, calling up in the higher elevations.

As we headed over to a shady spot, a small bird was spotted in the top of one of the pine trees. With the scope

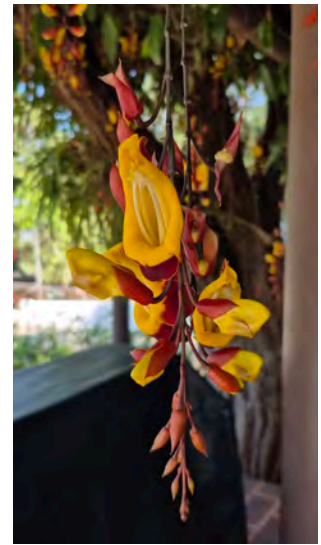


on this bird, it was mainly yellow with a dark head—a Black-headed Siskin. We watched as the siskin flew off, only to be replaced by a brighter Siskin. During all this, in the distance we heard a mix of species that included Barred Antshrike, Cabanis's Wren and Blue and White Mockingbird. Gray Silky Flycatchers called as they flew overhead as well.

We continued over to the area on the opposite side of the road. The Pygmy Owl continued to call, while Black-headed Swallows zoomed overhead. We got better looks at some more Social Flycatchers here while Boat-billed Flycatchers called. From here, it was time to take a walk in the forested area of the area.

As we walked slowly made our way down the road, the no hope call of distant Inca Doves and double low pitched woop-woop call of the Lesson's Motmots could be heard in the distance. At our first pause, we had an Olive Warbler singing high up in the pines, while a Rufous-browed Wren warbled in the undergrowth. Although he didn't show himself, some Band-backed Wrens did. Continuing further down the trail, a Gray-breasted Wood-wren and Swainson's Thrush called from the thick undergrowth while Crescent-chested Warblers buzzed their song from the canopy. At one point, a different song was heard, and it was tracked down to an Olive Warbler high up in the canopy. Further down, a flycatcher sailed in the underbrush on the right-hand side of the road, all yellow looking. Clients got quick looks at this Yellowish flycatcher. It was at this point, that we all heard a distant call that sounded like a meowing cat. This was a Chestnut-sided Shrike-vireo. We headed towards that direction and came to an opening where we heard the shredding call of the vireo closer before it flew off. Meanwhile, a melodic song was heard as well and after some searching, we noticed a vireo with brownish caps and dull yellowish breasts and a weak eyeline. These were Brown-capped Vireos- a first for the trip! We watched the one as it soon led to a second one on a nearby branch. By this time, it was time to head back to the van to head back to the hotel.

After stopping at the hotel, we headed out to a cooking class for lunch. Here we were going to make our own Guatemalan lunch. We arrived with all the ingredients out in front of us and we were soon set to work chopping and cutting different vegetables. Tomatoes needed to be cut, Potatoes needed to be as well. Another part of the group had to mix the dough with water to form a dough with the consistency of playdough. Once done, half of us joined in by slowly making tortilla sized circles by flattening the dough between our hands. Once flattened, we then put spoonfuls of potatoes in before sealing them up. As this was done, both a salsa and guacamole



were made, the leader showing us how to peel open a guacamole by hand. From here, we all sat at the table to enjoy our appetizers, Dobladas. The finished appetizers were fried and we all ate, piling guacamole, onions, and shredded cheese on the fried Dobladas. We were then told to come back into the kitchen to make dessert. This was Rellenitos which consisted of Plantains that were boiled, peeled and then mashed. We all went in, making balls of mashed Plantains, then making a hole in the center to pour chocolate in the center before sealing them up. These were then fried. Once finished with these, we went back to the table to enjoy the lunch part of the meal, which was Guatemala Tecas. This was a delicious stew of rice and chicken and different vegetables. Once the lunch portion of the meal was finished, we were served the fried plantains for dessert, with a bowl of melted chocolate mixed with plantain water for extra dipping sauce. It was a fantastic meal that left everyone completely stuffed.

Once back at the hotel, everyone had some down time, with some opting to go walk around the city. We met back at the hotel restaurant for a delicious dinner at 630 and ended the day after another fantastic day of birding.

March 13: Cerro de la Cruz- Tenedor del Cerro

Our last full day of the tour before the extension. We spent the morning heading to two spots, the first being a place called Cerro de la Cruz. Here the parking lot was full of bird life. Upon stepping out of the van we were greeted with huge amounts of Gray Silky Flycatchers! They were everywhere and all got decent looks at them. While sorting through the flycatchers, two birds flew over, identified as Elegant Euphonias. It took a little bit to sort through the Silky Flycatchers to relocate them, but a female was finally located, the light blue colored head contrasting with the yellow belly. In the background, Inca and White-tipped Doves called. While above, a flock of 30 White-collared Swifts wheeled overhead, catching low flying bugs before disappearing behind the canopy. While this was happening, a low growling call was heard to our right and we quickly tracked it down to reveal two Rusty Sparrows! By the time we got on the sparrows, we were above the parking lot and we followed the sparrows back to the parking lot we had just come from. These handsome sparrows were rust colored with dark malar marks underneath the throat. During this, the Euphonias were again relocated, this time the male was with the female as well. The male perched out in the open, showing off his stunning coloration of yellow breast



with a deep blue head and dark back. We watched the pair fly directly to a nest they were building! Soon, we all had scope views of the two Euphonias going back and forth, weaving the nest together. It was then noticed a little bit away that a pair of Gray Silky Flycatchers were also nest building and all had scope views of them as well. By now, it was time to continue down the trail.

We did not make it far down the trail before we heard the call of a Grace's warbler. That was the start of a small flock of birds that passed through as we stood there. The highlights of the flock were some fantastic looks at a several Bushtits—small flocking birds with black faces along with Blue-headed Vireos and a Black and White Warbler. After the flock moved on, we moved on, working our way down to the look out. The lookout gave fantastic views of Antigua surrounded by the tree volcanoes as well. From here, we worked our way down the trail, getting a very quick glimpse of a Macgillivray's Warbler.

By this time, it was time for lunch, so we continued back into town for a small lunch. After lunch, a few of us got a walking tour of Antigua while others broke off to explore on their own.

Later, we all met at the hotel, to walk to the dinner spot for the final dinner of the trip. At dinner, we all enjoyed fantastic food, while going over everyone's favorite sightings of the trip.

Paul's favorite was the hike to see the Quetzal, the Potoo night hike. Ann's was the Bambu lodge, Lake Atitlan, seeing the Quetzal and everyone in the group. Robert liked how welcoming the Guatemala people. Kathy's was the camaraderie of the group. Donna was the Pink-headed Warbler, the Blue and White Mockingbird from the balcony of her room and laughing with everybody. Sandra liked the Quetzal video, where it flew off the branch with its tail streaming behind it. Marion liked all the Trogons motmots, and Tarrales. Carl liked the amazing looks we had of the Potoo at night, how it came flying in and around us before perching. James liked sharing all the birds with everyone and the Pink-headed Warbler while Roland enjoyed laughing with everyone.

March 14: Road to Yaxha- Yaxha/El Remate- Lake Peten

The first day of the extension. Today was a travel and bird day. After getting up early to catch a morning flight to Flores. Once up in the air, the hour long flight didn't take long and we were down in Flores before we knew it.



It was quite apparent we were no longer in the mountains and now in a completely different habitat. As we walked across the tarmac, large, Gray-breasted Martins flew back and forth over the runway, catching insects in the morning sun. We were picked up and headed off, with the first stop being a grocery store to get some snacks as it was going to be a while before we ate lunch. In the store parking lot, a few Turkey and Black Vultures soared lazily while Roland spotted a large raptor moving by them. It turned out to be the 2nd Ornate Hawk Eagle of the trip, as we got on it just as it was winging its way just over the canopy before disappearing out of sight. As we made our way to our first birding stop, we drove past open fields. Here picked up a few birds along the way, with the first couple being 2 large black and white flycatchers with long tails—some Forked Tailed Flycatchers. They had unbroken tails, and we watched as they perched in the tall grass hawking insects before coming back to the same perch. On the other side of the road 2 flycatchers were spotted, one of which had dark wings and a bright red body. We watched as these two Vermillion Flycatchers perched for us. While this happened, a kingbird with an all-yellow breast came in and perched. There are two species of kingbirds here and they are nearly identical in plumage. The only way to tell them apart is by voice, where Couch's Kingbird has a down slurred "Beeer" and Tropical Kingbird has a high pitched twittering call. This bird thankfully called, its down slurred beeeer call- making it a Couch's Kingbird. Moving on we passed a small wetland pool that held 4 Black-necked Stilts in it.

Upon getting to the first stop, we had a flurry of activity. A Ferruginous Pygmy Owl was calling and had attracted quite the flock. As we finally saw the Pygmy Owl fly across the road, it was followed by a ball of songbirds that included 3-4 Yellow-faced Grassquits. These birds were greenish colored with bold yellow eyebrows. In the distance we heard the high-pitched calls of a Blue-black Grassquit. The mobbing action also attracted a Fork-tailed Flycatcher which posed nicely as it watched the screech owl. We continued working our way through the flock-finding a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Northern Parula and Morelets seedeater, while a distant Laughing Falcon called. From here, we continued down the road to Yaxha.

We had one final stop before lunch, an area that looked good for a few species that we could see. Right as we got out of the vans, we heard the soft, metallic chip note of a Green-backed Sparrow. While searching for the sparrow, a flycatcher flew in and perched above us. This bird was very plain with a couple of splotches of brown around the eye—a Sepia-Capped Flycatcher. While looking at the flycatcher, a soaring bird caught our attention—a gray bird with whiteish head and rufous outer primaries. A Plumbeous Kite, who soared out of view



from the narrow road. By this time, it was getting near lunch time, and we continued to head down the road towards the Yaxha-Nakum-Naranjo hotel.

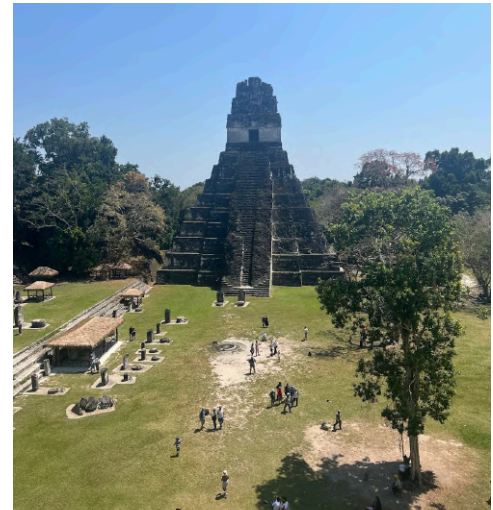
Before settling into a delicious lunch, we were able to get good views of several species that would be harder to see elsewhere. The first one that was heard was a Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet. This species tends to stay high up in the canopy, but with some patience, we were able to get to to come down, with everyone being able to see this “mini” Social Flycatcher complete with white eyebrow and yellow belly. When returning to the table, a small dark blue bunting was observed—a Blue Bunting. Everyone got looks at this bunting as it perched nearby. In Guatemala, these buntings show up in the dry season, only to disappear once the rain starts. After lunch, we took a short boat ride to El Remate.

On the boat, we got good views of several Mangrove Swallows flying near the water’s edge, their white rumps showing off in the bright afternoon sun. As we got to the dock, a Green Kingfisher was perched by the water’s edge, giving all fantastic views. From here, we got our first looks at some ancient Mayan pyramids. Upon climbing up the hill, we weaved around the grounds, seeing these large pyramids for the first time. We also learned that the Mayans built pyramids on top of pyramids. Each generation covering up the older one with a new one. Upon returning to the first pyramid, we had a fantastic view of a Pale-billed Woodpecker as it hammered away on the edge of the tree. During our slow walk back to the boat, we were also treated to a fantastic view of a Gray Fox, as it slowly walked towards us before realizing there was a group of people there. Once that happened, he turned and walked off into the forest.

We took the boat back across the lake and started our journey up to the jungle lodge, but with one last stop. We stopped on the shores of Lake Peten for a fantastic sunset. This was added to with a few new birds, one of which was a fantastic look at a high flying Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift. We also had good looks at a Ringed Kingfisher as well as a distant Caspian Tern as the sun slowly faded from our view. From here, we continued to the jungle lodge and a fantastic dinner and start to the extension.

March 15: Tikal (Temple 4, Lost World, Great Plaza)- Old Runway

Our first full day in Tical. After an early breakfast at the Jungle Lodge, we got our bracelets, met up with our local guide, Byron, and in 10 minuets where at the base of Temple four. Our ride over was quick, but we had 5



species including one gorgeous Ocellated Turkey. These turkeys are named for their “occeli” or eyes that are on their tail features and are truly stunning turkeys. After the turkey, we did come across one White-nosed Coatiundi walking away from the road.

At the base of pyramid 4 is where some of the best birding of the morning took place. At the start, a Black-throated Shrike Tanager and a Black Cowled Oriole were spotted in the top of the tree. At one point, we had both very similar looking species in one binocular frame. While this was happening, a Slaty-tailed Trogon called in the distance. While trying to locate the trogon, Byron scanned the top of the pyramid and spotted a medium sized falcon. This was the Orange-breasted Falcon. A rare resident for Tikal and one that has about 50 pairs left in Central America. All got excellent vies of this dark hooded falcon with orange legs. While we were all gawking at the falcon, it sat there for a bit before taking off and flying directly over us and disappearing behind the canopy.

As we turned around, the front of an Army Ant swarm was noticed, marching along. This boded well as the ant swarms cause all insects to flee. They are then in turn picked off by multiple species that follow the swarm. We were not disappointed. The swarm attracted at least 4 Gray-headed Tanagers, who we watched fly to the ground picking off fleeing prey. The tanagers were soon joined by two species of woodcreeper, Northern Barred and Ruddy Woodcreeper. The latter being hard to come by if you don’t have a swarm. We watched as one Northern Barred and up to 4 Ruddy Woodcreepers both flew to the ground, picking off prey before returning to the bark of the tree. Some eastern warblers joined in the action with both Gray Catbird and an eye blinding Hooded Warbler in full breeding plumage also followed the woodcreepers pattern. A while, later, a Wood thrush joined in as well, stabbing multiple times at a large spider, looking for a tasty meal. We watched until the ant swarm moved on before we moved on. Before moving on, the Trogons than decided to put on a show with a Gartered Trogon attempting to feed on the fruit tree above us while a Slatey-tailed Trogon dive bombed it, both fighting over a food source neither one wanted to share.

After moving on, we continued down the trail to the lost world tower. Compared to the ruckus we had just left, the trail was quiet, but we did have a Tropical Royal Flycatcher calling, as well as a Chestnut-sided Warbler seen in the surrounding forest. Once at the next pyramid, we climbed up it, heading for the top which gave a fantastic lookout to scan for birds and see some of the other pyramids of the area. The first couple birds to



greet us as we got to the top of the platform were two large Montezuma Oropendolas, the first of a handful of the day. Their large bodies and yellow tail outlines showing as they flew. We then had a quick look at a Keel Billed Toucan following suite, while a Yellow-throated Vireo sang right next to us. Several large Brown Jays also foraged on the pyramid's steep sides. Once situated, we started scanning the surrounding area, finding a lone adult Purple Martin that was mixed in with the Gray-breasted Martins, the Purples dark plumage showing well. With the sky being scanned, a large white bird with a big, forked tail was spotted, a Swallow-Tailed Kite. We watched as this bird came directly over us, not flapping a single time. Behind the kite came the 2nd species of kite for the day, a dark colored bird with light head and rufous showing in the outer primaries—a Plumbeous Kite. These birds winter down in South America and come up here to breed. Unlike the Swallow-tailed Kite, this bird did not fly overhead us this time. Our attention was then turned to a fruiting tree with red flowers, which had multiple small birds on it. Some of the birds were a deep blue color, while others were green. Both turned out to be Red-legged Honeycreepers. We watched as these small birds foraged throughout the flowers on the tree and was soon joined by another Black-cowled Oriole. This bird was more cooperative this time and the plumage was a blinding yellow with an all-black head—making the bird really stand out behind the reddish flowers.

Our attention was again diverted away from the flowering plant and in the sky again. As a small light-colored bird with light outer primaries rocketed by and landed in a dead tree. Scope views showed a small tan falcon with a dark eye patch—a Laughing Falcon. We had been hearing these birds call for a while now, and indeed it does sound like a bird laughing.

As 2 accipiter like birds had been spotted behind a close Plumbeous Kite. This turned out to be the 3rd kite species of the day, with their white rumps showing—a pair of Double-toothed Kites! We watched as these kites whirled about, using the thermals to get higher in the sky. Some more scanning revealed two large vultures by pyramid four. These large white birds with black primaries were King Vultures, although distant, they allowed us scope views of these large neotropical vultures. Roland suggested renaming these birds Central American Condors. With more scanning, we managed to find a number of different parrots/amazons flying by, which included Red-ored, White-crowned and Olive-throated Parakeets. Two Red-oreds came screeching by and decided to land on a nearby tree only to be flushed away at the last second. This was due to the fact, where they were going to land was right by a raptor nest. The small gray raptor with reddish breast must have been so startled but settled back down. This was a Roadside Hawk nest. Everyone got great scope views of the incubating female while the



male perched on the opposite side of the pyramid.

We were again distracted from the Roadside hawk to see a low Plumbeous kite dive bombing a tree. With a scope view showed a perched raptor. Its breast was streaky brown and after a little bit of viewing, it turned its head showing a dark stripe going down the throat. This is a dead giveaway field mark for another Double-toothed Kite, a young one. Everyone got great looks at this perched bird after the Plumbeous decided to leave it alone. By this time, we slowly made our way down the tower and worked our way over to the next stop. At the bottom of the tower, we were greeted with close looks at an Ocellated Turkey, its feathers shining with green and blue iridescence. While the top of its blue head was covered with yellow warts.

Finally moving on, we reached what was a ball court. Here, we watched Byron clap. When we were positioned just right, the claps echoed back, sounding like the call of a quetzal. There were several pyramids here. They were lined up with the sun during both winter and spring solstices. Continuing, we slowly worked our way to behind the temples. The backside of the next temple was flat, with a big drop off. It used to be a quarry, but after they were finished getting rock from it, they painted it with lime and turned it into a cistern to hold water since there is no surface water here when it isn't raining. We had a small flock of birds here, one of which was a wood creeper that had tawny colored wings—a Tawny-winged Woodcreeper. By the cistern, we had several flycatchers which included getting looks at a small plain flycatcher with a bold white eye ring—an Eyeringed Flatbill. A Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet also made an appearance, coming down to almost eye level which is unusual for this bird.

Continuing, we made our way to the Grand Plaza. Here were several stunning pyramids- one of which you could climb to get views of the whole area. Up top, gave a view that was unrivaled, really demonstrating how high the pyramids are. Once back down, we ventured into the main plaza, surrounded by pyramids. Here two King Vultures soared lazily overhead while some Yellow-throated Euphonias moved through the branches of a nearby tree. By this time, it was getting hot, so we ventured back to the lodge for a delicious lunch and a siesta before the evening's activities.

We met back up at 4 pm, to take a short walk down to the old runway. As we made our way down the trail, the forest soon closed in on us, creating a dense thicket that surrounded the trail. We had several Indigo Buntings foraging on the sides of the trail; each in varying stages of molting. Some were ready for breeding with entirely



blue colors, while others were more dull. A Black and White Warbler crept overhead, while both American Redstart, Hooded Warbler and Magnolia warblers worked the thick tangles for bugs.

At the furthest point, we came to a watering hole. This had lots of activity here due to the fact there was very little water elsewhere. In the middle of the watering hole was a small Island that held a rookery for Boat-billed Herons. There must have been 30 Boat-billed Herons as these nocturnal herons were getting up, flying to and away from the Island. There were many light-colored adults with their capped appearance, dark head plumes and white bodies. Some immatures were also around, more a dark brownish color than the adults. A few young birds also clamored about, begging from any adult that would land near them. These birds were aptly named as their giant bills are truly large. Between their squawks, we could hear their loud clap of the bills. Working the edge of the watering hole was also a yellow legged rail with red eyes, a yellow beak and a gray head—a Russet napped Wood Rail. We watched as it slowly made its way halfway around the pond, picking prey from the sides. While this was happening, a tiny dark kingfisher perched motionless, an American Pygmy Kingfisher. There were a few songbirds coming into the water as well, with an all-dark Melodious Blackbird, Gray Catbird and a bright Kentucky Warbler that took a bath while many were looking at it.

Unfortunately, it was time to head back. As we walked the trail out, a Pheasant Cuckoo called. Eventually, after flying above us multiple times, this large cuckoo came in and perched, with all getting scope views of this large cuckoo with a small head and a large wedge-shaped tail. The back was brown with white spots. As we continued down the trail, a far-off Yucatan Flycatcher called his mournful one noted call, while both a Stub-tailed Spadebill and Northern Schiffornis called closer by. One of the last birds of the walk was a single pitched bouncing call—a Middle American Screech Owl that was just waking up from his sleep. We continued back to the restaurant and had dinner while going over the checklist after a long and fantastic day.

March 16: Tikal (Complex Q)- Visitor Center

We met for breakfast before heading out for some more exploring Tikal for the day. While eating breakfast, we had good looks at both a Kentucky Warbler that was walking on the edge of the building and a Long-billed Hermit as it fed from some nearby flowers.



After breakfast, we gathered up for a morning of exploring the Tikal Ruins, this time, we were going to bird the Q complex of the ruins. Before heading to the ruins, we slowly worked our way down to by the visitor center, where we were looking for Great Curassows. Although, we missed them this time, we heard a Blue-black Grosbeak, Mayan Antthrush and a Gartered Trogon. We stopped on the way down to scan the large pond by the visitor center and were rewarded with several Russet-naped Woodrails walking about while a Purple Gallinule fed deeper in the marsh. Further back from the Gallinule, a Green Heron sat motionless, waiting for a fish to come within range. The trees surrounding the pond had a few eastern warblers, with good looks at both a Magnolia Warbler and a Philadelphia Vireo. Way in the back, a Keel-billed Toucan perched, giving good scope views of it. We continued to the curassow spot. At the spot, we had a breeding pair of Lineated Woodpeckers feeding young. Everyone enjoyed watching the adults come back and forth to the nesting cavity, while the baby stuck its head out of the cavity, screaming for more food.

From here, we started our slow walk over to the Q complex. As we walked the road, Roland motioned us over to a dead tree. Setting up the scope that revealed a roosting Northern Potoo. We saw this bird earlier on in the trip flying around at night. During the day, this bird looked smaller while he snoozed on the dead tree, almost looking like just another dead branch itself. Further down, a few Olive-throated Parakeets were spotted in the trees by the visitor center. Their white ringed eye giving them away. Everyone got brief looks before they lifted off, flying away. Back on the trail through the forest, we heard a Pheasant-tailed Cuckoo. We slowly tracked this bird down through the undergrowth, eventually getting fantastic looks at this long-tailed cuckoo as it sang, oblivious to all the pairs of binoculars and scopes that had been trained on it. After everyone got their fill of the bird, we let it be, leaving as it sang from the same perch. We continued onwards, reaching the point where some clients turned off to explore the areas of Tikal. We watched at the fork as a Spider Monkey came swinging through then forest. We watched in awe is it moved from branch to branch without a hint of hesitation. The monkey proceeded to swing across the road, before doubling back and continuing further into the jungle.

Continuing further, we made it to the ruins. We spent the rest of the morning exploring these different parts of the ruins. One of the more interesting things were, a few of the ruins were spaced so that when one clapped, the echo's from the clap sounded exactly like the call of the Resplendent Quetzal. We were also told; the ruins were mainly for the wealthy and rulers, which amounted to a population of around 30,000 people. Ordinary Mayans lived way outside of Tikal. The birding highlights from our morning were some more King Vultures, one



of which being a young bird, the brown replacing the brilliant white of the adults. We also were able to get great views of Bright-rumped Attila, a chunky bird that stayed put for us as well as an Ivory-billed Woodcreeper.

While walking between ruins we came across a second ant swarm, that allowed us more incredible views of Ruddy and Tawny-winged Woodcreepers and more Gray-headed Tanagers as well as a Pale-billed Woodcreeper. By this time, it was time to head back to the lodge for another delicious lunch. After lunch and some down time, we planned to meet for an afternoon of birding the property, but that was delayed by a rainstorm that came up. The plan was changed to waking up early and birding the road before breakfast the next day. Dinner was delicious as usual, and we all prepared for our final day in Tikal afterwards.

March 17: Road to Uaxactun- Tikal Visitor Center- El Remate-Villa Maya

Our last day. We started it by waking up to meet before breakfast to bird the road that we were going to bird yesterday. We had a fantastic morning birding! As we walked, Great Tinamou, scaled Pigeon and Short-billed pigeon called in the backdrop. Highlights from the walk were quick looks at a Canivets Emerald that zipped by, a close look at a Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Wedge-billed Woodcreeper and lots of Northern Bentbill, a weird flycatcher with a bill that curves down. We also got quick glimpses of a Gray-throated Chat through a tangle of vines and fantastic looks at some Green-backed Sparrows that they played hide and seek through the thick tangle of the forest floor. We ended the morning walk with an amazing 46 species and headed back to breakfast. After a fantastic breakfast, everyone left to finish packing and we met up shortly to head back to the airport for our flight to Guatemala City.

After leaving the Jungle lodge, we drove back to Flores, making a stop at El Remate for some birding and lunch. At El remate, we walked out on the dock, surrounded by the lake. We watched as a Morelet's Crocodile sunbathed itself on one of the side docks. We walked past it, continuing to the end of the pier, while seeing Northern Jacana walking by the edge of the reeds. Out on the lake, we had a mixed group of Royal Terns, Laughing Gulls perched together. A Belted Kingfisher flew by and the laughing Gulls took turns harassing the poor bird as they tried to get the kingfisher to give up its meal. The Kingfisher was able to fly into the water a couple times and flew off with its well-earned meal. By now, it was time to head back to lunch, but not before one more bird species.



We waited on the docks as Roland played for a bird, eventually getting a Ruddy Crake to come out. Everyone got fantastic views of this secretive brownish crake as it wove its way through the reeds, ducking in and out of cover before coming out in the open briefly. After it left, we headed back to the bus to head for lunch.

Lunch was delicious as usual, the restaurant had feeders where they put out bananas for the birds. This attracted a whole array of species from light blue colored Blue-gray Tanagers to some of the brightest Baltimore Orioles ever seen! They were almost fluorescent orange colored. We also scanned the lake, finding some more Northern Jacana as well as both Belted and Ringed Kingfishers. During the scanning, several Groove-billed Anis flew by, their long black tails making them distinctive in flight. By now, it was time to head to our last stop before the airport.

Our last stop was Village Maya. Here, we all enjoyed sitting overlooking the lagoon. As brief showers passed over us, we watched 2 Crocodiles, one of which came half out of the water just below us. While watching the crocodiles, we had numerous Pale-vented Pigeons zoom over us. Meanwhile, a few Mangrove Swallows, small green swallows with white rumps flew low over the water as a number of both Snowy and Great Egrets flew past us. The bird of the stop turned out to be a brief look at an Amazon Kingfisher, as it flew past us. Later, we had good looks at the smaller, but similar Green Kingfisher as well. As our time ended, we left heading to the airport after a fantastic tour and extension. As we got back to Guatemala City later in the afternoon, we bid each other goodbye after a fantastic time in Guatemala.

Photos: Group (Sandra Leskauskas - SL), Red-lore Amazon (James Petersen - JP), Occelated Turkey (JP), Ruddy Woodcreeper (JP), Gartered Trogon (JP), Group Birding (Donna Wieting - DW), Purple Flowers (SL), Turquoise-browed Motmot (JP), Scenic (DW), Scenic (DW), Mural (DW), Scenic (SL), The Market (SL), Flower Vendors (SL), Panoramic (JP), Group Birding (JP), Resplendent Quetzal (JP), Scenic (JP), Street Life (DW), Group (SL), Good times (SL), Gardens (SL), Hanging flower (Carl Hearn - CH), Architecture (JP), Hummingbird Mural (JP), Group (SL), Tikal (SL), Gray-headed Tanager (JP), Plumbeous Kite (JP), Occelated Turkey (JP), Lineated Woodpecker (JP), Pheasant Cuckoo (JP), Limpkin (JP), Coati (CH), Tour Van (SL), Spider Monkey (CH)