



G. Homel

Keel-billed Motmot



M. Calderwood



R. Toft

Blue-crowned Chlorophonia

Birding the Rain Forest of Pico Bonito National Park

\$30 per person

Guests are out of their cabins at 6:00 am, for a full morning of birding in Pico Bonito National Park. Our loop trail leads us up and past Tower #1 into the park, passing through secondary tropical wet forest and ultimately looping back through spectacular primary rainforest.

Our route will take us through a mosaic of microhabitats containing diverse tropical flora and fauna. Along the way we will visit The Lodge at Pico Bonito's ridge platform and Tower #3, in order to scan for bird's eye sightings of Pico Bonito National Park's 400+ avian inhabitants.

This dense forest habitat is where we find the Crested Owl; Great Curassow; Great, Little and Slaty-breasted Tinamous; and Highland and Crested Guans. The Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Green Shrike-Vireo, and Black-throated Shrike Tanager follow the richly mixed flocks we hope to encounter here, and which often include the Buff-throated Foliage Gleaner, Plain Xenops, Rufous Mourner, Rufous Piha and others. Higher in the canopy we may see Black-faced and Blue-black Grosbeaks and Common Bush Tanager. Rose-throated, White-winged, and Black and White Becard are often seen here during the winter months. Up to five Euphonia species (including Blue-Crowned Chlorophonia), five Motmot species, and five Trogon species, and a host of Tanagers and others have been noted along this trail system.

Among the spectacular Hummingbird species encountered here are; Green Mountain Gem, Purple-crowned Fairy, Violet Sabrewing, White-necked Jacobin, Crowned Woodnymph, Stripe-tailed Hummingbird, Violet-headed Hummingbird, Black-crested Coquette and others. We return to The Lodge around noon.

Our guides will try to modify the degree of difficulty for this hike to the level of fitness of our guests. Still it can be a little strenuous and guests should feel capable of some physical exertion before embarking on this excursion.