

# Birding El Salvador

Jesse Fagan

Few birders think of El Salvador as a birding destination, but one of the Middle American country's biggest fans argues that this is a mistake: El Salvador teems with quality birds and deserves more visiting birders.

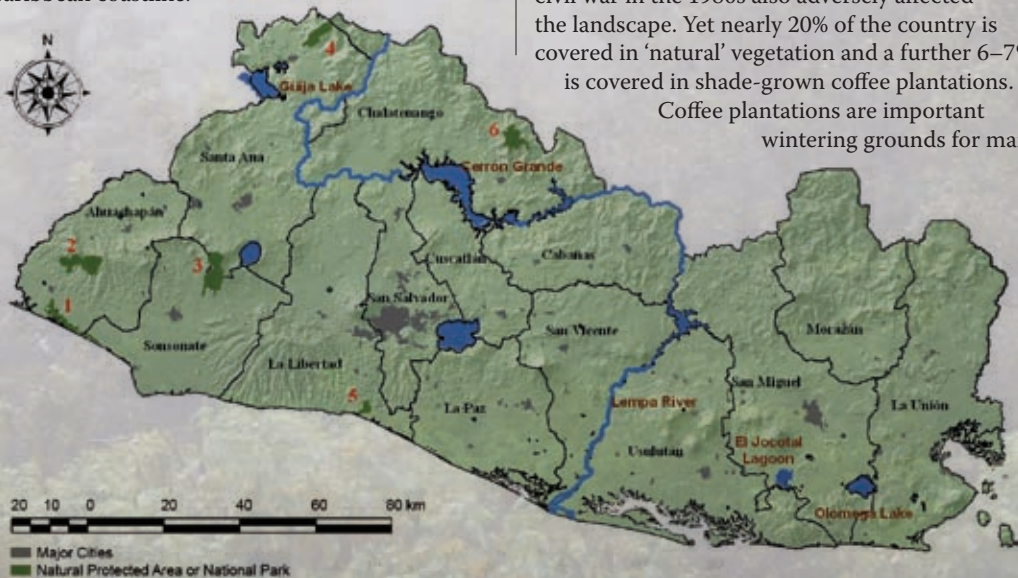
**E**l Salvador has largely been ignored by the international birding community. This is a shame for birders and El Salvador alike. Recent economic and social stability, good infrastructure, a burgeoning tourism industry and the continued creation and development of protected areas mean that El Salvador should be on the radar of any birder considering a visit to Central America. Below I summarise the country's geography and important bird species to give context for my suggestions for great birding sites.

## The lay of the land

El Salvador (Fig. 1) is the smallest country in Latin America. Its land area of 20,746 km<sup>2</sup> is roughly equivalent to Israel or to Massachusetts, USA. El Salvador borders Guatemala to the west and Honduras to the north (Fig. 2). It is the only Middle American country that lacks a Caribbean coastline.

Extending 320 km, El Salvador's (Pacific) coastline comprises long sandy beaches, rocky cliffs and mangrove forests. The coastal plain stretches 20 km inland, reaches 800 m altitude and comprises swamp or alluvial forests, patches of lowland scrub and dry forest, and fertile agricultural land. Heading higher, of the 25 volcanoes that add drama to the scenery, eight have been active recently and two have caldera lakes. The tallest volcano (Santa Ana) peaks at 2,365 m; several top 1,800 m.

Contrary to popular belief, El Salvador is not entirely devoid of forest. Granted, the advance of agriculture to feed its dense human population of seven million has denuded volcano slopes once largely cloaked in semi-deciduous and deciduous dry forest. The crash of the indigo market in the late 19th century resulted in the almost total conversion of mid-elevation humid forests (800–1,700 m) to coffee plantations. The civil war in the 1980s also adversely affected the landscape. Yet nearly 20% of the country is covered in 'natural' vegetation and a further 6–7% is covered in shade-grown coffee plantations. Coffee plantations are important wintering grounds for many



**Ahuachapán** 1 Barra de Santiago Natural Protected Area 2 El Imposible National Park  
**Sonsonate y Santa Ana** 3 Los Volcanes National Park **Santa Ana** 4 Montecristo National Park  
**La Libertad** 5 Walter Thilo Deininger Natural Protected Area **Chalatenango** 6 La Montaña

Figure 1. Map of El Salvador showing location of major birding sites



Figure 2. Map of Central America showing location of El Salvador

Neotropical migrants (such as Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*, Tennessee Warbler *Vermivora peregrina* and Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*) and can be very good for birding. Moreover, resident species such as Bushy-crested Jay *Cyanocorax melanocyaneus*, Buffy-crowned Wood Partridge *Dendrortyx leucophrys* and Prevost's Ground Sparrow *Melospiza biarctuata* have adapted fairly well to this anthropogenic habitat. A large proportion of coffee in El Salvador is shade-grown, but diversity of the protective canopy and understory management practices vary between properties.

Beyond the volcanic rim, there are relatively flat valleys at c.450 m. Like the coastal lowlands, most is cultivated land with scattered patches of dry forest, riparian forests, and a few lakes and reservoirs. The interior highlands are covered primarily in pine-oak forest from 800–1,800 m, above which lies cloud or humid evergreen forest. Outside protected areas, forests are often fragmented and degraded.

El Salvador's single large river, the río Lempa, empties into the Pacific Ocean west of the Bahía de Jalisco. Important waterbodies for birds include Lago Guija (in the north-west), Laguna de Jocotal and Laguna de Olomega (both in the south-east). Cerron Grande, a large reservoir created in the late 1960s by damming the upper río Lempa has become a nationally important site for herons, egrets, waterfowl and shorebirds.

## Key species of interest

Only three species that occur in El Salvador are globally threatened: Golden-cheeked Warbler *Dendroica chrysoparia* (Endangered), Highland Guan *Penelopina nigra* (Vulnerable) and Pink-footed Shearwater *Puffinus creatopus* (Vulnerable).

However, birders are interested in more than just threatened species, and El Salvador has plenty of species with limited distributions.

El Salvador forms part of two large zoogeographic regions: the Pacific Arid Slope and the Madrean Highlands<sup>12</sup>. The country also claims part of two Endemic Bird Areas: North Central American Highlands and North Central American Pacific Slope<sup>11</sup>. Accordingly El Salvador has a good selection (17) of restricted-range birds among the 545 species apparently documented in the country<sup>7</sup>. The same 17 species are among the 45 listed by Peterson et al.<sup>10</sup> as endemic to northern Central America (defined as “[in Mexico] the Isthmus of Tehuantepec and southern Veracruz south and east through the Yucatan Peninsula, Chiapas, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador and Honduras to western Nicaragua”). I indicate these 17 restricted-range (or regional endemic) species with an asterisk (\*).

I also focus on other taxa that are likely to interest birders. These include species with slightly larger ranges in Middle America, but which occur only locally, are Pacific Slope specialities, or are difficult to see anywhere in their range. Examples include Buffy-crowned Wood Partridge, restricted to mid-elevation humid forest and coffee plantations from southern Chiapas (Mexico) to Costa Rica, and Pacific Screech Owl *Megascops cooperi*, found in dry forest and open-country scrub along the Pacific slope from southern Mexico to north-west Costa Rica.

Additionally, I pay attention to sites for a number of taxa that some authorities consider full species and that may gain wider recognition in the future. One example is White-breasted Hawk (*Accipiter striatus chionogaster*), often recognised as a full species<sup>4</sup>, but currently listed as a distinctive subspecies by the AOU (and Clements<sup>2</sup>). Further, a recent analysis based on phylogenetic and evolutionary species concepts<sup>9</sup> found an additional 122 ‘new’ forms endemic to Mexico. If these findings were adopted, 39 splits or additional species would affect the Salvadoran avifauna. I include several of these forms in my discussion. Examples include: Berylline Hummingbird *Amazilia beryllina devillei*, Rufous-capped Warbler *Basileuterus rufifrons delatirii* and White-naped Brush Finch *Atlapetes albinucha griseipectus*.

## Seasonality and sites

Seeking to optimise both your species list and weather conditions, I suggest late April or early November to be ideal for an El Salvador trip. The

country's climate is alternately dry (November–April) and wet (early May–late October). The rainy season accounts for 90% of precipitation, with a peak in July. December is the driest month, and March typically the hottest. April and May mark the start of the general breeding season, when birdsong peaks. Note, however that raptors and nectarivores (including hummingbirds and flowerpiercers) begin to breed in October–November. El Salvador's avifauna is swelled by Neotropical migrants during winter (September–April). Indeed, by my calculations, 172 species regularly winter in or migrate through El Salvador.

In the rest of this article, I give an overview of birding sites that offer the best opportunities to observe a number of the most interesting species. Each site mentioned has been classified as an Important Bird Area (IBA); in total, El Salvador's IBA network comprises 20 sites covering 3,164 km<sup>2</sup> (15% of the country and nearly 75% of the remaining natural habitat)<sup>7</sup>.

Most sites are within a few hours drive of the capital, San Salvador. Access to most sites is along paved roads, but I still recommend that you travel in a high-clearance vehicle. For each site I suggest how many full birding days would be appropriate to give you a realistic chance of seeing its speciality species (no guarantees, however!). I also mention any obvious accommodation choices at or near the site. Almost all sites have entrance fees (US \$0.50–10).

### Parque Nacional Montecristo

The third largest national park in El Salvador lies in the north-western *departamento* (dpto.) of Santa Ana along the border with Honduras and Guatemala. Montecristo contains 2,000 hectares of forest, primarily pine-oak forest with cloud forest at the highest elevations. Altitude ranges from 800–2,418 m; the park includes one of the country's highest points, Punto Trifinio. Approximately 250 species of birds have been recorded. The park entrance is c.3.5 hours from San Salvador. The park merits at least three days birding. You can camp or rent a cabin from the park administration (US\$50 per night for a 2-bedroom cabin; bring food and bedding). Alternatively, there are hotels in Santa Ana (1.5 hours away) and Metapan (30 minutes).

The pine-oak forest is home to several species not found elsewhere in El Salvador. Highland Guan is best located by voice, particularly at dawn. Other species to look for in the mossy and bromeliad-laden oaks include Emerald Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus prasinus*, Bushy-

crested Jay\* and Black-throated Jay *Cyanolitta pumilo*\*, Rufous-browed Wren *Troglodytes rufociliatus*\*, Slate-colored Solitaire *Myadestes unicolor*\* and Bar-winged Oriole *Icterus maculialatus*\*. Bushy-crested Jays are common and draw attention to their presence with their loud raucous voice. Listen for the wren's tinkling song or distinctive chatter (recalling the noise when one runs one's fingers over the teeth of a comb) emanating from bromeliads.

From September–February, check mixed flocks for Golden-cheeked Warblers wintering in the pine-oak forest. Look for a trio of thrushes around fruiting trees: Black *Turdus infuscatus*, Mountain *T. plebejus* and Rufous-collared *T. rufitorques*\*. Blue-throated Motmot *Aspatha gularis*\*, Blue-and-white Mockingbird *Melanotis hypoleucus*\* and White-naped Brush Finch *Atlappetes albinucha fuscipygius* inhabit understorey vegetation. The motmot is more common in pine-oak forest, where pines dominate the canopy. This specific habitat is also the best place to search for Belted Flycatcher *Xenotriccus callizonus*\* (Near Threatened), discovered at Montecristo in April 2004 (Mark Robbins pers. comm.) and mist-netted by the SalvaNATURA monitoring team in March 2009.

The end of the wet season coincides with an abundance of flowers in the pine-oak understorey. Little wonder that hummingbirds time their breeding cycle (October–January) to capitalise on this period. Peruse flowers for Green-throated Mountaingem *Lampornis viridipallens*\*, Amethyst-throated Hummingbird *L. amethystinus*, Sparkling-tailed Hummingbird *Tilmatura dupontii*, Wine-throated Hummingbird *Atthis ellioti*\* and Garnet-throated Hummingbird *Lamprolaima rhami*. Slender Sheartail *Doricha enicura*\* has been recorded, but it is very rare and unpredictable in El Salvador.

Overhead, scan for White-breasted Hawk and Black-capped Swallow *Notiochelidon pileata*\*, both not uncommon here. In cloud forest, interesting species include Fulvous Owl *Strix fulvescens*\*, Resplendent Quetzal *Pharomachrus mocinno* (Near Threatened), Black-banded Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes picumnus* and Spotted Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus dryas*. During the dry season, the quetzal often occurs at lower altitude in pine-oak forest, particularly near the orchid garden. Other species to look for throughout the park include Barred Parakeet *Bolborhynchus lineola*, Scaled Antpitta *Grallaria guatemalensis*, Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus frantzii*, the unpredictable Slaty





Clockwise, from top left:

Foraging in the dense understory of coffee plantations or in highland scrub, Prevost's Ground Sparrow *Melospiza biarcuata* can be difficult to see (Carlos Funes)

In El Salvador, it is best to try for Rufous-collared Thrush *Turdus rufitorques* at Montecristo (Renato Fernández-Ravelo)

Golden-cheeked Warbler *Dendroica chrysoparia* (Endangered) winters in El Salvador's pine-oak forests (Carlos Funes)





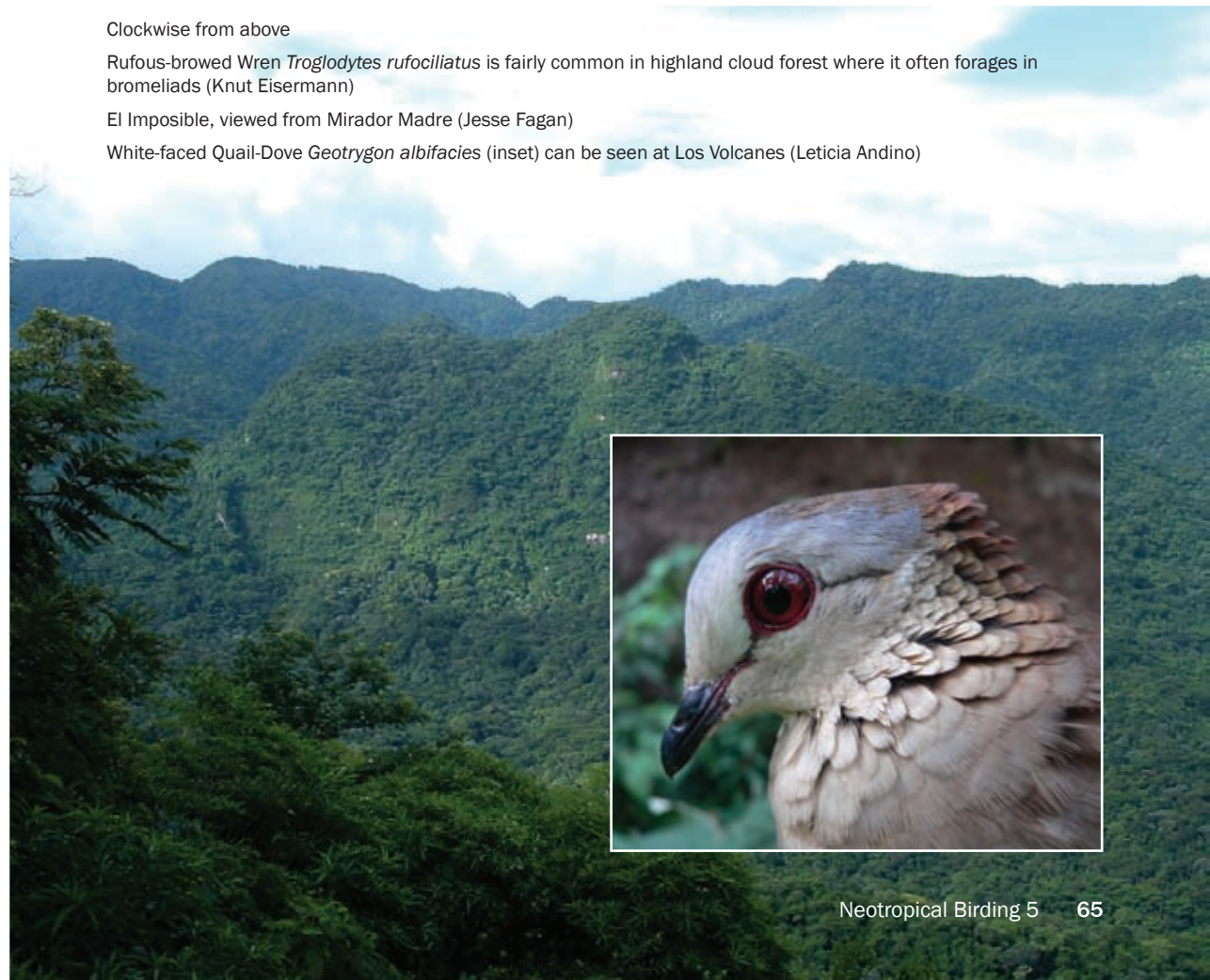


Clockwise from above

Rufous-browed Wren *Trogodytes rufociliatus* is fairly common in highland cloud forest where it often forages in bromeliads (Knut Eisermann)

El Imposible, viewed from Mirador Madre (Jesse Fagan)

White-faced Quail-Dove *Geotrygon albifacies* (inset) can be seen at Los Volcanes (Leticia Andino)



Finch *Haplospiza rustica* and Blue-crowned Chlorophonia *Chlorophonia occipitalis* (listen for the latter's distinctive mournful whistles).

### Parque Nacional El Imposible

Parque Nacional El Imposible is the country's second-largest protected area, covering nearly 4,000 ha in dpto. Ahuachapán in south-west El Salvador. Ranging from 250–1,425 m, the park mainly comprises deciduous and semi-deciduous tropical dry forest (some primary), and some moist montane forest. From San Salvador, the drive takes a little under three hours; the last half-hour is along a bumpy dirt road, so a high-clearance vehicle is best. You can camp inside the park or stay 800 m outside the entrance at the basic but pleasant Hostal El Imposible ([www.salvanatura.org](http://www.salvanatura.org)) which includes a restaurant; you might also bump into Pacific Screech Owl there. Allow three days to bird El Imposible, where nearly 300 species have been recorded. You can hire a Spanish-speaking guide at the visitor centre just past the park entrance.

Birding starts with hummingbirds: Canivet's Emerald *Chlorostilbon canivetii* at flowers in the car park and Berylline Hummingbird at the feeders by the visitor centre. There's also a two-storey tower at the centre, which is good for Turquoise-browed Motmot *Eumomota superciliosa*, Bushy-crested Jay and Rufous-capped Warbler. At night, try for Mottled Owl *Ciccaba virgata*.

Hike to the Madre Cacao viewpoint for a fantastic panorama of the south-east of the park and the gorge through which run the ríos Guayapa and Venado. This is a good vantage point for King Vulture *Sarcoramphus papa*, Black Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus tyrannus*, White Hawk *Leucopternis albicollis*, Pacific Parakeet *Aratinga strenua* and Orange-fronted Parakeet *Aratinga canicularis*. You can often hear White-bellied Chachalaca *Ortalis leucogastra* from here.

The surrounding forest is good for Great Curassow *Crax rubra* (Near Threatened), Long-tailed Manakin *Chiroxiphia linearis*, Rufous-capped Warbler and Blue Seedeater *Amaurospiza concolor*. Normally occurring in low numbers, the seedeater was numerous during 2004–06 in response to a bamboo-seeding event in 2005. The abundant understory *chimichaca* bamboo *Rhipidocladum racemiflorum* seeds once every 13 years.

A longer hike to Cerro Leon via the El Mulo viewpoint at 800 m brings you to taller, less disturbed forest offering a good chance of Crested Guan *Penelope purpurascens*, Singing Quail *Dactylortyx thoracicus*, Rufous-necked

Wood Rail *Aramides axillaris* (best around El Mulo in April–May), Blue Seedeater, White-eared Ground Sparrow and Bar-winged Oriole. Throughout the park, look for Pale-billed Woodpecker *Campephilus guatemalensis*, Tody Motmot *Hylomanes momotula* and Blue-throated Goldentail *Hylocharis eliciae*. El Imposible is the country's only site for Great Curassow and Tody Motmot, both Critically Endangered at a national level<sup>7</sup>.

### Parque Nacional Los Volcanes

Los Volcanes is El Salvador's largest national park. Covering three important sites—Cerro Verde, Santa Ana Volcano and Izalco Volcano—the protected area comprises more than 6,000 ha if one includes its buffer zone. Habitat is primarily cloud forest above coffee plantations at 1,600–2,300 m. Being just one hour's drive from San Salvador, Los Volcanes is ideal for a long day-trip, although two days would be better particularly because day-visitors cannot enter until 08h00. You can stay overnight in new cabins at Cerro Verde ([www.istu.gob.sv](http://www.istu.gob.sv)), but bring food and bedding. Cerro Verde is the most developed of the three sites within the national park and includes a small *comedor* (food stall) and a picnic area with a few trails.

Start birding on the long entrance road, which climbs through coffee plantations and offers commanding views. From one of the large viewpoints over Lago de Coatepeque (a caldera), search mixed flocks in the canopy for White-throated Magpie-Jay *Calocitta formosa* and Bar-winged Oriole. In the coffee understory, look for Buffy-crowned Wood Partridge and both Prevost's and White-eared Ground Sparrows.

Once inside the park entrance at Cerro Verde, check the flower garden near the guard booth for Green-throated Mountaingem, and look for Bushy-crested Jay, Rufous-browed Wren and Blue-and-white Mockingbird, all often around the car park. Consider hiring a guide to accompany you along the small loop trail. The top of the trail is good for White-faced Quail-Dove *Geotrygon albifacies*, Rufous Sabrewing *Campylopterus rufus*<sup>\*</sup>, Emerald Toucanet, Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush, Blue-and-white Mockingbird and Prevost's and White-eared Ground Sparrows.

You can also arrange a longer hike to the top of Santa Ana Volcano. The trail passes through coffee plantations, cloud forest and interesting xerophytic vegetation that comprises a heath *Gaultheria* sp. and agaves *Agave* sp.<sup>13</sup>, where Wine-throated Hummingbirds have displayed and possibly breed. To see the distinctive race of Rock Wren *Salpinctes obsoletus guttatus*, your best bet is to

arrange a hike from Cerro Verde up the treeless Izalco Volcano; the wren is fairly common along its slopes. In the park as a whole, other birds to look out for include Singing Quail, Emerald-chinned Hummingbird *Abellia abellei*, Slender Sheartail, Sparkling-tailed Hummingbird, Scaled Antpitta, Rufous-collared and Black Thrushes, White-naped Brush-Finch and Blue-crowned Chlorophonia.

### Parque Nacional Walter Thilo Deinger

Lying due south of San Salvador along the Pacific coast plain in dpto. La Libertad, this park holds 730 ha of riparian and deciduous dry forest below 125 m. It makes an ideal day-trip, being just 45 minutes drive from the capital. Officially, the park only opens at 08h00, although you may be able to arrange earlier access with park employees.

Look for Orange-fronted Parakeet, Turquoise-browed Motmot, White-throated Magpie-Jay and White-lored Gnatcatcher during the short walk to the viewpoint. From October–December, chances are high of a singing Blue-throated Goldentail (perched in the mid-strata or above) or Berylline Hummingbird. Spectacled Owl *Pulsatrix perspicillata* often roosts by day in taller trees by the river; park guards may have up-to-date knowledge. Other interesting species include Gray-headed Kite *Leptodon cayanensis*, Pacific Screech-Owl, three species of trogons and Violet Sabrewing *Campylopterus hemileucurus*.

### Área Protegida Barra de Santiago

In dpto. Ahuachapán in south-west El Salvador, Barra de Santiago protects c.2,000 ha of coastal mangroves, mudflats and forest patches. Although ostensibly protected, a long attractive beach has been almost completely developed for holiday homes and fishermen's huts. Barra de Santiago is worth at least a half-day's birding. As the site is 1h 45 drive from San Salvador, you may wish to stay overnight at La Cocotera Ecolodge ([www.lacocoteraresort.com](http://www.lacocoteraresort.com)) or Capricho Beach House ([www.ximenasguesthouse.com/capricho.html](http://www.ximenasguesthouse.com/capricho.html)). Alternatively, you can bird Barra de Santiago on a day trip from Hostel El Imposible, 45 minutes away.

I suggest hiring a boat to access the mangrove forest; boatmen wait for customers at the river's edge. Expect to pay US\$20pp for groups of three or more. Look for Boat-billed Heron *Cochlearius cochlearius*, Rufous-necked Wood Rail (rare), Yellow-naped Parrot *Amazona auropalliata*, American Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle aenea* and Yellow (Mangrove) Warbler *Dendroica petechia xantholora*. In dry scrub, try for White-bellied Chachalaca,

## Birding resources

Howell and Webb<sup>4</sup> remains the preferred field guide. A site guide is available for El Imposible<sup>1</sup>. Though slightly outdated, birders will want a copy of *Lista de Aves de El Salvador*<sup>5</sup> which contains a checklist of all species recorded up to that time (522), a site guide and map. The country's Red List<sup>7</sup> will be a useful source of information.

A list-serve (ObservadoresAvesELSALVADOR@gruposyahoo.com) established in 2007 as the communication tool of the national chapter of Partners in Flight (PIF) enables local biologists, ornithologists and birders to share information about birds in El Salvador. Visiting birders should share their sightings with the list-serve or, in due course, the national eBird portal ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org)). Tom Jenner's website ([www.mayanbirding.com](http://www.mayanbirding.com)) contains much information about the wider region, although was last updated in October 2007 (when Tom moved to Mongolia!).

SalvaNATURA's annual 'bird-a-thon', held at the end of October, provides a good opportunity to meet fellow birders and to participate in a worthwhile fundraising event (<http://birdathones.blogspot.com/>). All proceeds support the bird monitoring efforts of SalvaNATURA, BirdLife Affiliate in El Salvador ([www.salvanatura.org](http://www.salvanatura.org)). Some SalvaNATURA ornithologists guide birders around the country. At present, the only North American or European tour company that offers birding trips to El Salvador is Field Guides Inc ([www.fieldguides.com](http://www.fieldguides.com)).

Turquoise-browed Motmot and Rufous-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis erythrothorax* by day, and Pacific Screech-Owl in the evening.

## Quests for the intrepid birder

Three species of particular interest to birders have not been recorded at the above sites but are discussed here to inspire the intrepid. Ocellated Quail *Cyrtonyx ocellatus* was last reported in El Salvador at Cerro El Pital, dpto. Chalatenango, in 1927<sup>3</sup>. Habitat for this poorly known highland quail persists in many parts of the Salvadoran highlands along the Honduran border: a good bet for its rediscovery would be around Montecristo. The only El Salvador records of Unspotted Saw-whet Owl *Aegolius ridgwayi* comprise four individuals at Cerro El Pital in March 1942; these included only the third and fourth specimens ever collected<sup>8</sup>. Blue-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia cyanura* was recently discovered in south-east El Salvador<sup>6</sup> in Las Colinas de Jucuaran, just east of



Amethyst-throated Hummingbird  
*Lampornis amethystinus* is found at  
Montecristo (Knut Eisermann)



Above: Turquoise-browed Motmot *Eumomota  
supercilliosa* is one to look for at El Imposible and  
Walter Thilo Deininger (Vicky Galán)

Right: Bushy-crested Jay *Cyanocorax melanocyaneus*  
is a common regional endemic that has adapted well  
to coffee plantations (Carlos Funes)







Clockwise from top:

Volcán Izalco in Los Volcanes (Jesse Fagan)

Lucky birders have seen Belted Flycatcher *Xenotriccus callizonus* (Near Threatened) in El Salvador; this bird was trapped there in March 2009 (Roselvy Juárez/ SalvaNATURA)

White-breasted Hawk *Accipiter striatus chionogaster* is sometimes treated as a full species (Carlos Funes)

Bahía de Jiquilisco, dpto. Usulután. This area is easily accessible from San Salvador although there are no modern tourist facilities. Most previous records of this species come from this broad area.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I greatly appreciate the comments and thoughts of Oliver Komar, John Rowlett, and Leticia Andino who graciously helped with early drafts. Many thanks to Vladlen Henriquez for helping create the maps. Leticia Andino, Knut Eisermann, Renato Fernández-Ravelo, Carlos Funes, Vicky Galán, Roselvy Juárez and Oliver Komar offered photographs that add immensely to this article. The editor thanks Joe Taylor for suggesting an article on El Salvador.

#### REFERENCES

1. Alvarez, J. M. & Komar, O. (2003) *El Imposible National Park and its wildlife*. San Salvador: SalvaNATURA.
2. Clements, J. F. (2007) *The Clements checklist of birds of the world*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
3. Dickey, D. R. & van Rossem, A. J. (1938) *The birds of El Salvador*. Chicago: Field Museum of Natural History.
4. Howell, S. N. G. & Webb, S. (1995) *A guide to the birds of Mexico and northern Central America*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
5. Komar, O. & Domínguez, J. P. (2001) *Lista de aves de El Salvador*. San Salvador: SalvaNATURA.
6. Komar, O. & Fagan, J. (2007) Inventario de avifauna de Salamar, cuenca sur de Sierra de Jucuarán, Departamento de Usulután, El Salvador. In: Komar, O. (ed.) *Inventario rápido de flora y fauna del Proyecto Salamar, Cuenca Sur, Colinas de Jucuarán, El Salvador*. San Salvador: SalvaNATURA.
7. Komar, O., Herrera, N., Girón, L. & Ibarra Portillo, R. (in press) *The El Salvador Red List of birds*. San Salvador: SalvaNATURA.
8. Marshall, J. T. (1943) Additional information concerning the birds of El Salvador. *Condor* 45: 21–33.
9. Navarro-Sigüenza, A. G. & Peterson, A. T. (2004) An alternative species taxonomy of the birds of Mexico. *Biota Neotrop.* 4: 161–192.
10. Peterson, A. T., Escalona-Segura, G. & Griffith, J.A. (1998) Distribution and conservation of birds of northern Central America. *Wilson Bull.* 110: 534–543.
11. Stattersfield, A. J., Crosby, M. J., Long A. J. & Wege, D. C. (1998) *Endemic Bird Areas of the world: priorities for biodiversity conservation*. Cambridge, UK: BirdLife International.
12. Stotz, D. F., Fitzpatrick, J. W., Parker, T. A. & Moskovits, D. K. (1996) *Neotropical birds: ecology and conservation*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
13. Thurber, W. A., Francisco Serrano, J., Sermeño, A. & Benitez, M. (1987) Status of uncommon and previously unreported birds of El Salvador. *Proc. West. Found. Verteb. Zool.* 3: 109–293.

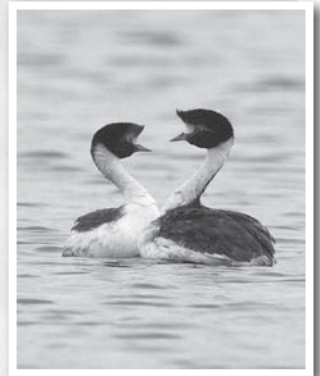
#### JESSE FAGAN

Field Guides Inc., 1561 Ocean Neighbors Blvd.,  
Charleston, SC USA 29412, E-mail: heliomaster76@  
yahoo.com

## Coming soon in *Neotropical Birding*...

A quick look ahead to future issues of *Neotropical Birding*, now published twice-yearly.

- Capital birding around Santiago de Chile and Bogotá (Colombia)
- Birding sites in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico
- Seabirding off Peru
- Identification workshops for pipits and *Progne martins*
- On the trail of the Kinglet *Calypturna calypturna cristata*
- The rise and fall of the Hooded Grebe *Podiceps gallardoi*
- The thrill of discovering new species for science



Displaying Hooded Grebes *Podiceps gallardoi*  
(James C. Lowen; [www.pbase.com/james\\_lowen](http://www.pbase.com/james_lowen))