

Belize: Three Great Lodges | Species List

March 6 – 16, 2024 | with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by Naturalist Journeys host guide James P. Smith with field contributions from an awesome group of Belize travelers; Alan & Susan, Mike & Nancy, Beth, Jeffery, Carol, Judy, Sharon and Shirley.

After traveling west from Belize City along the George Price Highway, the tour began in earnest in Cayo District amid the stunning environs of Black Rock Lodge. It was hot and would remain so throughout the trip as the dry season began to take a grip on Belize. But, the birding was sensational and we witnessed the arrival of many species that come to Belize only for the breeding season. Species such as Plumbeous and Swallow-tailed Kites, Pheasant Cuckoo, Piratic and Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers, and Yellow-green Vireo were all seen and had not been present during our earlier February tour. We enjoyed two nights at the remote Jade Jungle Resort before ultimately heading south to finish the tour at Tanager Rainforest Lodge in Toledo District. Thanks to all of our hard-working group we collectively tallied over 290 bird species! This trip was especially memorable trip for its fun and group camaraderie, as well as the warmth and friendliness of the people of Belize.

Special thanks go to our talented team of superb local guides; Isaias and Jeffry at Black Rock Lodge, Mario at Jade Jungle Resort, and Steve Choco at Tanager Rainforest Lodge. They helped us find an exceptional selection of birds and fauna during the tour.

The ebird species report link details over 290 species, some with photos and audio, and more to be added. If you click on "Show All Details" on the right side of the ebird list you will see the details of each sighting;

[Belize: Three Great Lodges | March 6-16, 2024 | eBird Trip Report](#)

MAMMALS (8 species):

Central American Woolley Opposum *Caluromys derbianus* – Mario spotlighted one on the night walk at Jade Jungle Resort for the lucky few who joined him.

Bat sp. *Rhynchocercus sp.* – often found around, or sometimes even inside, the cabanas at all three lodges. At least 65 species of bat exist in Belize making specific identification difficult in the field.

Yucatan Black Howler Monkey *Alouatta pigra*— heard fairly frequently throughout much of the trip with good views at Caracol, Jade Jungle Resort and even along the Southern Highway as we headed to Punta Gorda for the flights home on the 16th.

Gray Fox *Urocyon cinereoargenteus* – a couple seen briefly but well along Black Rock Road on the 9th.

Striped Hog-nosed Skunk *Conepatus semistriatus* – one seen briefly, spotlighted in the Citrus Grove off Black Road during the night drive on the 7th.

White-nosed Coati *Nasua narica* – a bold male entertained the group at the balcony feeders at Black Rock Lodge on the 9th, and a group of three crossed the highway just below Mountain Pine Ridge Reserve on the 10th.

Collared Pecary *Dicotyles tajacu* – two way out in the middle of the fields on a hot afternoon at Spanish Lookout on the 8th.

Deppe's Squirrel *Sciurus deppei* – noted at all three lodges with nice views around the feeders at Black Rock Lodge and Tanager Rainforest Lodge.

Central American Agouti *Dasyprocta punctata*— generally quite easy to see around all three lodges especially on the lawns around Tanager Rainforest Lodge where they could be found every day.

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS (7 species):

Green-headed Tree Snake *Dendrelaphis punctulatus* – a great find by Mario on the night walk at Jade Jungle Resort.

Green Iguana *Iguana iguana* – just the one single dropping into a large pond at Big Falls on the last afternoon.

Black Spiny-tailed Iguana *Ctenosaura similis* – a nice sequence of sightings including an especially bold male right next to the Rhum Shack Restaurant as we enjoyed lunch at Hopkins Bay on the 12th.

Brown Basilisk *Basiliscus vittatus* – several sightings around the water features at Black Rock plus others basking out in the open at Tunich Ha and Roseville.

Yucatan Banded Gecko *Coleonyx elegans* – this beauty was found by Mario on the night walk at Jade Jungle Resort, a complete triumph for those fortunate enough to join him.

Asian House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus* (1) – often in and around the thatched cabanas at all three lodges.

Giant Toad *Rhinella marina* – one hopping around the steps and water features at Black Rock Lodge on the first evening.

BUTTERFLIES (5 species identified):

Banded Peacock *Anartia fatima*

Pale Owl-Butterfly *Caligo telamonius*

Common (Blue) Morpho *Morpho helenor*

Zebra Longwing *Heliconius charithonia*

Gulf Fritillary *Dione vanilla*

Other fauna:

Mexican Red-rumped Tarantula *Tliltocatl vagans* – two large females joined us for lunch at Caracol on the 9th.

Tarantula Wasp *Pompilidae* – this impressive beast was seen flying around the meadow at Jade Jungle Resort on the evening of the 10th.