

# Belize: Three Great Lodges Species List | February 19 – March 1, 2025 with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by Naturalist Journeys host guide **James P. Smith** with field observations contributed by our awesome group; Jan & Dave, Denise & Bill, Lori & Woody, and Sara. In addition, our remarkably talented local guides were instrumental in helping to compile this list; Isaias from Black Rock Lodge, Roni from Bocawina Rainforest Resort, and Steve Choco at Tanager Rainforest Lodge.

This sensational tour began in Belize district where the whole group met with our guides at the Black Orchid resort. We had enough time for a fabulous visit to the Belize Zoo, the start of our four day adventure in Cayo District where the tour began in earnest at the impressive Black Rock Lodge. The rather remote Bocawina Rainforest Resort in Stann Creek district followed and was our home for two nights where we not only explored the local Mayflower Rainforest forest but also incorporated a visit to Cockscomb Basin as well as the nearby cultural center at Maya Center. A very efficient transfer from Bocawina saw us arrive at Tanager Rainforest Lodge just in time for a sumptuous lunch, the first of many outstanding meals during our final four days in Belize.

While humid, we enjoyed mostly favorable weather and managed to move stealthily between the rain showers and drizzle as a belligerent rainy season dragged its heels right up until the final day. While the tour logged some 281 species (seen and heard) this trip was especially memorable for its group camaraderie, friendly atmosphere and loads of laughs! Of course, the warmth and friendliness of the Belizean people will always shine through, and did so on this trip.

The ebird species report link details over 280 species, some with photos and audio. 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 | Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> – Mar. 1st, 2025 | eBird Trip Report](#)

Other fauna noted on the tour included;

## **MAMMALS (12):**

**Proboscis Bat** *Rhynchonycteris naso* – sometimes seen around the cabanas at Tanager Rainforest Lodge where they emerged at dusk from the thatched roofs.

**Yucatan Black Howler Monkey** *Alouatta pigra*— heard quite frequently, on just about every day of the trip with the best views coming from the Black Orchid and the Chiquibul National Forest.

**Central American Spider Monkey** *Ateles geoffroyi* – a rare treat with one or two foraging in the canopy during a roadside stop in the Chiquibul National Forest. Uncommon on this particular tour loop.

**Gray Fox** *Urocyon cinereoargenteus* – nice views of one by the roadside in the Chiquibul National Forest.

**White-nosed Coati** *Nasua narica* – a bold male seen on the morning bird walk at Black Rock Lodge and another seen later in the tour at Cockscomb Basin.

**Tayra Eira Barbara** – a large male was nonchalantly ‘jogging’ down the access road at Mayflower Bocawina Rainforest as if were welcoming us to the resort!

**Neotropical River Otter** *Lontra longicaudis* – one or two sightings on the Rio Grande at Tanager Rainforest Lodge.

**Central American Red Brocket** *Mazama temama* – wonderful views of this small, forest-dwelling deer along the access road to Cockscomb Basin.

**Central American Agouti** *Dasyprocta punctata*— usually quite easy to see at all three lodges, particularly on the mowed lawns at Tanager Rainforest Lodge.

**Paca** *Cuniculus paca* – a major surprise at the beginning of the night safari at Black Rock Lodge as it ran across the road between the Riverview Cabins. Also known as ‘Gibnut’ in Belize, it’s a prized species for hunters and, as such, can be very difficult to see. We got so lucky!

**Deppe’s Squirrel** *Sciurus deppei* – smaller than Yucatan Gray Squirrel with nice views around the feeders at Black Rock Lodge, and along the trails at Cockscomb Basin and Tanager Rainforest Lodge. Often seen feeding on Cohune Nuts.

**Yucatan Gray Squirrel** *Sciurus yucatanensis*— found at the Belize Botanic Garden on the second day of the tour with several others noticed bounding across the Black Rock Road.

#### **REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS (7):**

**Asian House Gecko** *Hemidactylus frenatus* – often found in the cabins at Bocawina Rainforest Resort and Tanager Rainforest Lodge.

**Brown Basilisk** *Basiliscus vittatus* – frequently seen around feeders, water features and gardens at all three lodges.

**Black Spiny-tailed Iguana** *Ctenosaura similis* – a more ground-dwelling species than the Green Iguana, seemingly at home around boulder piles and roadsides. Seen on at least four days of the trip.

**Green Iguana** *Iguana iguana* – most numerous around the Black Orchid Resort along the Belize River and along the Rio Grande at Tanager Rainforest Lodge.

**Central American Slider** *Trachemys venusta* – several presumed ‘wild’ specimens noted on a small pond at the Belize Zoo on the first day of the tour.

**Yellow Tree Frog** *Dendropsophus microcephalus* – one at Bocawina Rainforest Resort, pointed out to us by Roni Martinez.

**Red-eyed Tree Frog** *Agalychnis callidryas* - one spotlighted at Bocawina Rainforest Resort, again pointed out to us by Roni Martinez.

#### **BUTTERFLIES (minimum of 5 species identified):**

**Banded Peacock** *Anartia fatima*

**Pale Owl-Butterfly** *Caligo telamonius*

**Common Morpho** *Morpho helenor* –

**Zebra Longwing** *Heliconius charithonia*

**Gulf Fritillary** *Dione vanilla* –