



**January 30—February 8, 2017**  
**Belize Birding and Nature Tour *with Cave Creek Ranch***  
**Lamanai, Pook's Hill and the Lodge at Big Falls**  
**Species List**

**With tour host Reed Peters, local guides, and Suzanne, John (Kaiser), Kathleen, John (Newton), Marjorie, James, Sue, Jay, Cathy, Bob (Hill), and Bob (Meinke)**

Compiled by Bob Meinke

**(H)** = Unseen, but vocalization distinctive enough to be counted as “heard only.” **(Y)** = Yucatan regional endemics. **Parentheses following species names** include the number of days a species was recorded on the main trip. **Blue text** = Additional birds seen prior to Jan. 30 start of main trip (i.e., by early-arriving trip participants in Belize City, or by Reed and/or Bob Meinke during brief pre-trip visits to several areas).

**SUMMARY:** A very productive tour, featuring highly skilled guides and excellent lodges. We were fortunate to see 266 bird species (and clearly hear 14 more), ranging from immense jabiru storks to tiny yellow-bellied tyrannulets. Highlights included 26 raptors, 9 parrots, 10 woodpeckers, 11 hummingbirds, 30 flycatchers, 3 trogons, 3 becards, 7 tanagers, 19 wood warblers, and a mot-mot! We also saw puma, manatee, kinkajou, iguanas, otter, and howler and spider monkeys! We enjoyed post-birding refreshments and had excellent meals, shared evening comradery and many stories, and made some good friends. Overall a great trip!

## **BIRDS**

**Black-bellied Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna autumnalis* (1) Large flock seen by Reed and Bob flying over open water at Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary

**Muscovy Duck** *Cairina moschata* (2) Individual overflights seen on the Monkey River excursion, as well as over the Lodge at Big Falls the last day

**American Wigeon** *Anas americana* (1) Two individuals seen in ditch along the “Northern Causeway” leading west from Crooked Tree Village

**Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors* (1) Scattered individuals observed in the New River on the boat trip into Lamanai—Belize’s most common duck

**Lesser Scaup** *Aythya affinis* (1) Small group of mixed scaup and ring-neck ducks located at Crooked Tree

**Ring-necked Duck** *Anhinga melanogaster* (1) See above.

**Plain Chachalaca** *Ortalis vetula* (5) Seen on several days, but not really well until we arrived at Big Falls, where the raucous calls of the species were evident on at least two mornings

**Great Curassow** *Crax rubra* (1) Observed by all during our evening nautical excursion at Lamanai—two mature females were perched overhead on a branch extended over the water

**Ocellated Turkey** *Meleagris ocellata* (1) Small group observed by Bob, Black Rock Lodge, Macal River area

**Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* (4) Routinely seen diving every day in small numbers at Lamanai

**Jabiru** *Jabiru mycteria* (2) A memorable flyover the first day as we arrived at Lamanai; two standing birds were then seen well in a field near the river, the day we left by boat to rendezvous for the trip to Pook’s Hill

**Wood Stork** *Mycteria americana* (1) Surprisingly seen just once on the trip—two (or three) birds perched in a tree not far from where we observed the Jabirus (above), also on our departure day from Lamanai

**Magnificent Frigatebird** *Fregata magnificens* (2) Readily seen before the main trip in Belize City, but only on one day during the actual trip (a few birds at Monkey River, and then the same day a lone male was soaring over Big Falls, apparently having been blown inland by the prior evening's rainy windstorm)

**Neotropic Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* (5) Commonly observed during the first half of the trip

**Double-crested Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax auritus* (2) Mostly coastal in Belize—seen by the group as we left Belize City, and later along the Monkey River in Toledo District

**Anhinga** *Anhinga anhinga* (4) Related to cormorants and a similarly piscivorous species, frequently observed sunning itself near the shoreline at Lamanai as well as along the Monkey River

**Brown Pelican** *Pelecanus occidentalis* (1) Seen off the coast by those spending a pre-trip night in Belize City; a single, lonely bird was also seen paddling for three days in the lagoon at Lamanai

**Pinnated Bittern** *Botaurus pinnatus* (1) A great find for Bob and Reed, with two cryptic adults clearly observed after considerable fanfare (including much questioning of local Crooked Tree villagers about the location of the fabled “Northern Causeway”)

**Bare-throated Tiger-heron** *Tigrisoma mexicanum* (2) A single, skulking individual seen by most of the group in a forest pond at Florentino's cacao plantation; also found again at Monkey River

**Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias* (6) Seen in significant numbers, except during our stay at Pook's Hill

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba* (9) Predictably, one of the most common large birds of the trip

**Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula* (8) Ditto (see above)

**Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea* (8) Ditto again; we saw both adults and white-plumaged juveniles

**Tricolored Heron** *Egretta tricolor* (1) Several individuals were in a mixed flock of shorebird species and waders seen by Bob in an inland marsh, near the Guatemalan border outside San Ignacio

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* (9) As common as its namesake, seen in virtually every pasture we traveled by

**Green Heron** *Butorides virescens* (5) Observations were commonly accompanied by a squawk as the generally shy birds were flushed; that said, our most interesting sighting was of a seemingly indifferent adult actually perched on a phone line outside the American Embassy in Belmopan!

**Agami Heron** *Agamia agami* (2) A brief (but quality) nighttime sighting at Lamanai was quickly supplanted by an extended, truly world-class chance to observe this rare species first-hand in a sheltered creek below the Pook's Hill main lodge; everyone got very good looks and pics—astounding

**Black-crowned Night-heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* (1) A single immature bird was noted along the river as we cruised out of Lamanai on Day 4

**Yellow-crowned Night-heron** *Nyctanassa violacea* (4) Among mangroves at Belize City, as well as in riparian thickets near Lamanai and along the Monkey River

**Boat-billed Heron** *Cochlearius cochlearius* (3) With a visage unlike any other bird in the Americas, this daytime-roosting species looks like it means business; great looks at colonies along the New River by the entire group (on the water), with a remarkable bill-clapping display heard by Reed and Bob at Crooked Tree

**White Ibis** *Eudocimus albus* (1) See tricolored heron

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* (1) Several individuals feeding in ditches as we drove south along the Southern Highway approaching Big Falls

**Black Vulture** *Corabyps atratus* (10) Seen every—single—day (yet still very majestic)

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura* (10) Ditto (see above)

**Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture** *Cathartes burrovianus* (4) Much tougher to spot than its vulturous cousins, above, we learned the secrets of telling the lesser yellow-headed from the turkey by focusing on the coloration of the primary feathers (and ended up detecting several individuals in flight in the savannahs)

**King Vulture** *Sarcoramphus papa* (2) We missed our chance to potentially see perched birds when our trip to the Mountain Pine Ridge was washed out, but had good views of adults in flight at Pook's Hill as well as at Florentino's cacao plantation

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* (2) Only observed on two days, but dozens of birds were seen as we navigated through the New River area near Lamanai

**Hook-billed Kite** *Chondrohierax uncinatus* (1) While reviewing the checklist one night at Pook's Hill, Sue showed us a soaring raptor she had photographed from below earlier that day (while the rest of us were off sweating in the bush)—Mario determined it was a *hook-billed kite*, ironically the best bird of the day!

**Gray-headed Kite** *Leptodon cayanensis* (2) The group had an excellent, unobstructed view of this seldom seen raptor one morning at Indian Church Village near Lamanai; the bird was perched in full view for over a minute, no more than 40 feet away! Very satisfying...

**Black Hawk-eagle** *Spizaetus tyrannus* (2) Bob had a decent view of a soaring adult above the Macal River (before the main trip), but that was nothing compared to the enormous bird most of the group saw sitting in the open below the lodge at Pook's Hill; great views of those striped, uniquely feathered legs

**Black-collared Hawk** *Busarellus nigricollis* (2) Briefly glimpsed by a few of us the day we arrived at Lamanai, the entire group then (as we motored upriver to leave for Pook's Hill) got a prolonged, close-up view of a cooperative perched bird (near a Mennonite farm) along the New River

**Snail Kite** *Rostrhamus sociabilis* (4) Commonly seen by everyone along the waterways around Lamanai

**Plumbeous Kite** *Ictinia plumbea* (1) An early returning migrant spotted by Bob before the main trip, flying low over the taxiway at the Maya Flats Airport near San Ignacio

**Crane Hawk** *Geranospiza caerulescens* (2) Good looks (in flight) by the group near the Indian Church village at Lamanai; also seen by Bob and Reed earlier at Crooked Tree

**Common Black-hawk** *Buteogallus anthracinus* (1) A largely coastal species in Belize, seen from the boat by those on the Monkey River excursion

**Great Black-hawk** *Buteogallus urubitinga* (2) More commonly seen inland, this black-hawk species was observed by several of us along the New River, as well as over the Mayan site

**Roadside Hawk** *Buteo magnirostris* (8) Seen nearly every day by everyone—mostly on the roadside!

**White-tailed Hawk** *Geranoaetus albicaudatus* (2) Pointed out by Eduardo on the drive into Lamanai on Day 1, with a first-year bird also observed by Steve Chaco (Big Falls) and the group that visited Red Bank

**White Hawk** *Pseudastur albicollis* (2) A lone bird soaring over the forest below the lodge at Pook's Hill; a pair also seen from the plane (over the mountains) after departing the last day on Tropic Air from Punta Gorda!

**Gray Hawk** *Buteo nitidus* (4) Several birds over four days in southern Belize—the gray (versus rufous) ventral striping easily distinguishes this species from the slightly smaller Roadside Hawk

**Short-tailed Hawk** *Buteo brachyurus* (3) A few birds seen high in flight near Lamanai and Big Falls

**Ruddy crane (H)** *Laterallus ruber* (1) Diagnostic call heard well at Florentino's cacao farm near Red Bank

**Russet-naped Wood-rail** *Aramides cajanea* (2) Best view by the group was at the boat landing at the Lamanai Mayan site; also seen wandering the grounds of the Lodge at Big Falls

**Purple Gallinule** *Porphyrio martinica* (1) Seen strolling on floating vegetation in the New River

**Common Gallinule** *Gallinula galeata* (1) Along the shoreline at Crooked Tree, near the main causeway

**American Coot** *Fulica americana* (1) A few birds drifting along near Crooked Tree Lodge

**Sungrebe** *Heliornis fulica* (1) A unique species picked up by Reed and Bob at Crooked Tree, skulking and feeding in the water beneath overhanging brush

**Limpkin** *Aramus guarauna* (3) Seen (and heard!) by the group many times while at Lamanai

**Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus* (1) Brief glimpse of a flying bird along Macal River near San Ignacio (the day we had to bail on the Mountain Pine Ridge due to torrential rains)

**Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus* (2) A few birds feeding in flooded pastures outside Pook's Hill

**Northern Jacana** *Jacana spinosa* (4) Adults and juveniles seen daily while at Lamanai

**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius* (1) One bird in basic plumage in pasture near Pook's Hill

**Solitary Sandpiper** *Tringa solitaria* (1) One bird, same site as above

**Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca* (1) Two birds, see above

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* (1) Shoreline views by early-arriving trip participants in Belize City

**Least Sandpiper** *Calatris minutilla* (1) Small group noted in flooded pasture outside Pook's Hill

**Laughing Gull** *Leucophaeus atricilla* (1) Most commonly seen gull on coastline near Belize City

**Royal Tern** *Thalasseus maximus* (1) Dominant tern near Belize City; possibly mixed with Caspian

**Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia* (5) Often seen rocketing through urban areas and some villages

**Pale-vented Pigeon** *Patagioenas cayennensis* (8) Found most days, but generally in limited numbers

**Red-billed Pigeon** *Patagioenas flavirostris* (3) Typically seen as isolated birds in the canopy or on wires

**Short-billed Pigeon** *Patagioenas nigrirostris* (3) Related to pale-vented, small flocks of this darker forest pigeon were seen by the group several times in the woods around Pook's Hill

**Eurasian Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto* (5) Jones (*Birds of Belize* author) cited just two reports of ECD for Belize as of 2003—but he suggested that Belizean occurrences of this invasive species might increase in the coming years; based on the hundreds of birds we saw just during our trip, he was spot-on...

**Common Ground-dove** *Columbina passerina* (1) Scattered along roads and paths near Crooked Tree Lodge

**Ruddy Ground-dove** *Columbina talpacoti* (8) We were all well-acquainted with this species by the trip's end

**Blue Ground-dove** *Claravis pretiosa* (5) Much less accommodating than the ruddy ground-dove, the blue is often heard but rarely seen—a glimpse was had by a few of us at Pook's Hill on a single day

**White-tipped Dove** *Leptotila verreauxi* (4) The most readily seen of the *Leptotila* group of large, frequently ground-dwelling doves, we flushed this species several times in the forest understory

**Gray-headed Dove** *Leptotila plumbeiceps* (3) A close relative of the preceding species, most of us saw the occasional gray-headed dove loitering along shaded roads at Lamanai

**White-winged Dove** *Zenaidura macroura* (1) A single bird clearly identified by Bob on a wire at Big Falls (based on reports, this species may be expanding its range south in Belize)

**Squirrel Cuckoo** *Piaya cayana* (4) Seen several times—the most memorable sighting was probably the scope views we all had at Pook's Hill while on an early morning walk with Mario

**Groove-billed Ani** *Crotophaga sulcirostris* (7) Commonly seen flopped across hedgerows, etc. in all areas

**Barn Owl (H)** *Tyto alba* (1) Heard after dinner one night (while toad hunting) by the boat dock at Lamanai

**Spectacled Owl** *Pulsatrix pspeicillata* (1) Mario pointed out two roosting adults in late afternoon one day at Pook's Hill; some good pictures were taken by Bob Hill and others, despite the shade—great views!

**Black and White Owl** *Ciccaba virgate* (1) Heard and then called in by Steve Chaco, this was another nice owl find for the trip—our look was limited and spotlight-aided, but enough to visually confirm the ID

**Lesser Nighthawk** *Chordeiles acutipennis* (1) Perched (more or less asleep) on a branch along the New River as we glided past, en route to Lamanai on Day 1—Bob Hill got an excellent video!

**Common Pauraque** *Nyctidromus albicollis* (8) Heard or seen most evenings—John, Kathleen, Suzanne, and Reed studied a large adult fluttering and feeding early one morning on a sidewalk at Pook's Hill

**Yucatan Nightjar (Y)** *Antrostomus badius* (1) Glimpsed during the nighttime boat road at Lamanai, Day 2

**Northern Potoo (H)** *Nyctibius jamaicensis* (1) Heard late one night at Lamanai, echoing across the lagoon

**White-collared Swift** *Streptoprocne zonaris* (4) Large, mostly montane swift noted several times, including a huge, swirling flock above the Hummingbird Highway as we drove south from Pook's Hill towards Big Falls

**Vaux's Swift** *Chaetura vauxi* (5) Common at both Lamanai and Big Falls

**Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift** *Panyptila cayennensis* (1) Several birds pointed out by Eduardo—patrolling over the canopy on our last morning walk at Lamanai

**White-necked Jacobin** *Florisuga mellivora* (4) We all saw dozens of these at the feeders at the Green Hills Butterfly Ranch, active even in the pouring rain! (Also common at Pook's Hill)

**Long-billed Hermit** *Phaethornis longirostris* (4) Seen by everyone at both Pook's Hill and Big Falls—an elegant bird with an amazing bill

**Stripe-throated Hermit** *Phaethornis striigularis* (1) One individual located by Bob, perched on the grounds of the Lodge at Big Falls, near the swimming pool

**Green-breasted Mango** *Anthracothorax prevostii* (4) Seen by all of us at one time or another, either at Lamanai or the Pook's Hill area—best views (of male and striped female) at the Green Hills Butterfly Ranch

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** *Archilochus colubris* (3) North American migrant, common at Lamanai

**Scaly-breasted Hummingbird** *Phaeochroa cuvierii* (2) Large hummingbird seen a couple times at the feeders at Pook's Hill—we also all had great looks at the Green Hills Butterfly Ranch

**Wedge-tailed Sabrewing** *Campylopterus curvipennis* (1) Large male—Green Hills Butterfly Ranch feeders

**Violet Sabrewing** *Campylopterus hemileucurus* (1) Same location as above—no doubt many excellent photos (and video) were taken of this stunning hummingbird

**White-bellied Emerald** *Amazilia candida* (6) Small, rather plain, green-backed hummer seen occasionally on most days—seldom at feeders, more often in the open woods

**Rufous-tailed Hummingbird** *Amazilia tzacatl* (10) By far the most commonly recorded hummingbird of the trip—seen every day, usually in abundance

**Cinnamon Hummingbird** *Amazilia rutila* (1) A mostly coastal *Amazilia* observed by Reed and Bob in the mangroves outside the D'Nest Inn, Belize City

**Slaty-tailed Trogon** *Trogon massena* (5) Largest of the three trogons on the trip, we all got wonderful looks at this species, including some good scope views (with pics) at Pook's Hill

**Black-headed Trogon** *Trogon melanocephalus* (6) Most commonly found species of the three—viewed by all, and photographed by many

**Gartered Trogon** *Trogon caligatus* (3) Seen at Lamanai and also Blue Hole NP—equally as impressive as the other trogon species!

**Lesson's Motmot** *Momotus lessonii* (2) Prime views of this iconic bird at Pook's Hill one morning, in the scope—also seen by a few of us (in the rain) at the Green Hills Butterfly Ranch

**Ringed Kingfisher** *Megaceryle torquata* (8) Located nearly every day—especially common on the New River and its tributaries and side channels, but widely observed throughout the trip

**Belted Kingfisher** *Megaceryle alcyon* (3) Well-known species, seen fewer times than preceding taxon

**Amazon Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle amazona* (1) One confirmed sighting (by those who did not have to leave to find a bathroom!), along the Macal River in San Ignacio

**Green Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle americana* (4) Found on just four days, but several times overall (mostly along the New River at Lamanai, and once at the Macal River in San Ignacio in the rain)

**American Pygmy Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle aenea* (1) A real bonus, detected by Eduardo in the riparian scrub across the lagoon from Lamanai (where we were re-boarding our boat after the pine savannah walk)—with patience, eventually seen in the scope by everyone!

**White-necked Puffbird** *Notharchus hyperrhynchus* (1) An insect-hawking individual perched in the Lamanai compound—first detected by the crunching noise made as it battered and consumed a large katydid

**White-whiskered Puffbird** *Malacoptila panamensis* (2) Lone birds were seen at Pook's Hill, as well as on wires along the road near Big Falls

**Rufous-tailed Jacamar (H)** *Galbula ruficauda* (3) Cruelly taunted the group with calls on multiple occasions, but the birds never revealed themselves!

**Collared Aracari** *Pteroglossus torquatus* (6) Dozens of birds seen on multiple occasions—a group favorite

**Keel-billed Toucan** *Ramphastos sulfuratus* (7) Another common favorite, and the national bird of Belize!

**Acorn Woodpecker** *Melanerpes formicivorus* (2) Already known to most of us, seen at Lamanai twice

**Black-cheeked Woodpecker** *Melanerpes pucherani* (4) Common from Pook's Hill south

**Yucatan woodpecker (Y)** *Melanerpes pygmaeus* (1) A life bird for Bob and Reed, found in riparian forest at the Crooked Tree wildlife sanctuary

**Golden-fronted Woodpecker** *Melanerpes aurifrons* (8) Easily the most common woodpecker of the trip; reminiscent of the Gila and red-bellied woodpeckers in the States

**Smoky-brown Woodpecker** *Veniliornis furnigatus* (1) A nice find at Pook's Hill—only bird of the trip

**Golden-olive Woodpecker** *Piculus rubiginosus* (3) Sporadic, but locally common in places—seen by most of us at both Lamanai and Pook's Hill

**Chestnut-colored Woodpecker** *Celeus castaneus* (1) One of the very best birds we picked up—an apparent breeding pair located in deep forest in the Lamanai ruins (life bird for everyone!); great scope views

**Lineated Woodpecker** *Dryocopus lineatus* (3) More common than the following species in Belize, yet we saw this one far less on the trip—go figure; a remarkable woodpecker

**Pale-billed Woodpecker** *Campephilus guatemalensis* (6) Largest woodpecker in Belize (just smaller than our pileated); seen several times (and heard drumming) in mostly open forest at each of our lodging locations

**Ladder-backed woodpecker** *Dryobates scalaris* (1) A single bird observed one day on a walk at Lamanai

**Barred Forest-falcon** *Micrastur ruficollis* (1) Seen by Bob navigating through heavy forest along the Macal River, from the observation deck at Black Rock Lodge (prior to our main trip)

**Collared Forest-falcon** *Micrastur semitorquatus* (3) Heard on two occasions, then seen (long-distance scoped view of a perched bird) by Mario and a few of us above Pook's Hill Lodge

**Laughing Falcon** *Herpotheres cachinnans* (2) Good views by the group at Indian Church village (Lamanai), and loud, protracted calling (but no visual) at Florentino's cacao plantation near Red Bank

**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius* (1) Several rain-soaked birds seen by the group on overhead wires along the Southern Highway, as we drove south to Big Falls

**Bat Falcon** *Falco rufigularis* (2) Excellent scope view of perched bird on exposed snag at Lamanai Mayan site; also at Big Falls

**Orange-breasted Falcon** *Falco deiroleucus* (1) Pre-breeding pairs scoped by Bob on cliffs near Black Rock Lodge (this was an unachieved target species of our washed-out day on the Mountain Pine Ridge!)

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus* (1) Briefly viewed flying near Lamanai

**Scarlet Macaw** *Ara macao* (1) Probably the main focus species of the trip, and we weren't disappointed—those of us who made the drive watched for 30-40 minutes as 30+ birds cruised over the Red Bank area

**Brown-hooded Parrot** *Pyrrhula haematotis* (2) Good looks at low-flying birds our first morning at Lamanai

**White-crowned Parrot** *Pionus senilis* (5) Second-most common parrot of the trip—good scope views with Eduardo (Lamanai) helped illustrate the differences between this taxon and white-fronted

**Red-lored Parrot** *Amazona autumnalis* (9) By far the most commonly encountered parrot of the trip—we had multiple, daily flyovers, and everyone was adept at its identification by trip's end

**Yellow-headed Parrot (!)** *Amazona oratrix* (1) *Should we include this one?* We did see that rather gloomy caged bird (presumably taken for a pet from the wild as a nestling) in Indian Church village, who chatted us up as we walked by—I think we were all tempted to open his little door...free at last!

**Yellow-lored Parrot (Y)** *Amazona xantholora* (1) By all accounts a common (if local) species, confined to high quality pine savannah country—finally got a good look in Eduardo's scope to compare with white-fronted

**White-fronted Parrot** *Amazona albifrons* (4) Fairly common species during first half of trip, strikingly similar to yellow-lored (see above)—this and the yellow-lored are unique among the *Amazona* species in Central America in having marked sexual dimorphism

**Mealy Parrot** *Amazona farinosa* (1) Flock seen by Bob flying briskly over the highway on trip down to Big Falls (confirmed by Mario)

**Olive-throated Parakeet** *Eupsittula nana* (6) Never seen perched, but there were many fly-overs of this easily recognized small parrot

**Great Antshrike** *Taraba major* (2) Seen overhead on a late afternoon road walk at Pook's Hill by Bob; also found by Reed, John, Kathleen, and others on a morning walk at Big Falls

**Barred Antshrike** *Thamnophilus doliatus* (4) We got excellent looks at both male and female birds, especially in thickets on the Lamanai Lodge compound—but the best was seen by John and Kathleen, who had a male sitting on their porch railing at Big Falls the last day of the trip (amazing!)

**Slaty Antwren** *Myrmotherula schisticolor* (1) Single female bird detected by Bob in mixed-species canopy flock along upper forest-margined road at Pook's Hill

**Dot-winged Antwren** *Microrhopias quixensis* (1) See previous species—this was a colorful male bird in the same flock

**Bare-crowned Antbird (H)** *Gymnocichla nudiceps* (2) Major target that we struck out on! Final day at Big Falls we had this species singing loud and clear, mere feet inside the brush at the back of the main lawn, but no luck—would have been a good one!

**Dusky Antbird** *Cercomacra tyrannina* (4) Clear looks by several in the group of female birds at the Lubanantun Mayan site; also male and female birds in the brush on the Big Falls lodge property

**Black-faced Antthrush** *Formicarius analis* (1) Vocalizes nicely, but a very tough bird to see—finally picked up by John, Reed, and others (with Steve Chaco) in the understory near Big Falls Lodge

**Olivaceous Woodcreeper** *Sittasomus griseicapillus* (3) The easiest of the woodcreepers to identify, this small, gray-rufous species was seen by most in the group at either Lamanai or Pook's Hill

**Wedge-billed Woodcreeper** *Glyphorhynchus spirurus* (2) Even smaller than the olivaceous, this stubby-beaked woodcreeper was seen twice—once at the Lubanantun site, and then in forest near the Monkey River

**Ivory-billed Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster* (5) The most commonly encountered woodcreeper, and also fairly easy to identify (i.e., large bird with pale bill)—seen by the group several times

**Streak-headed Woodcreeper** *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii* (1) Found by Reed and Bob at the Altun Ha Mayan ruins outside Belize City (*Trivia*: this is the site with the pyramid that's featured on the Belikin beer bottle...)

**Plain Xenops** *Xenops minutus* (1) Another fun find, this tiny acrobat was in a mixed flock of songbirds that were busy foraging on mites in the canopy during a late morning walk at Lamanai—everyone saw it well

**Rufous-breasted Spinetail** *Synallaxis erythrothorax* (1) Easy to hear, quite difficult to see—Bob finally got a diagnostic glimpse of the breast, throat, and tail in a thicket bordering the Big Falls Lodge main lawn

**Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet** *Ornithion semiflavum* (2) Tiny and very active—seen by a few of us in the canopy outside the main visitor center building at the Lamanai Mayan site

**Northern Beardless-tyrannulet** *Camptostoma imberbe* (1) Heard and finally briefly located during our early morning pine savannah walk across the river from Lamanai Lodge

**Greenish Elaenia** *Myiopagis viridicata* (2) Heard a few times, then seen best at the Blue Pool NP stop on the Hummingbird Highway (Mario gave a nice tutorial on separating this species from all the other flycatchers with yellowish undersides)

**Yellow-bellied Elaenia** *Elaenia flavogaster* (2) Heard at Lamanai, but a good look was finally had at Big Falls where its crest was in full view

**Ochre-bellied Flycatcher** *Mionectes oleagineus* (4) Often overlooked but not uncommon, we saw this species several times, getting our best looks at the “ball-court” site at Pook's Hill (where Mario gave us his cultural lecture)

**Sepia-capped Flycatcher** *Leptopogon amaurocephalus* (1) A life bird for Bob, but regrettably he was busy looking at a family of coatis and missed it—those who climbed the temple with Eduardo added this one to their list

**Northern Bentbill (H)** *Oncostoma cinereigulare* (1) Very elusive, we heard this species in the dense understory several times but never saw it (Bob managed a glimpse prior to the trip while at the Macal River)

**Common tody-flycatcher** *Todirostrum cinereum* (3) Picked up earlier by Reed and Bob in mangroves at the D'Nest Inn in Belize City, the group variously saw this tiny flycatcher in shrubs at the Belize Zoo, at Florentino's cacao farm near Red Bank, and at Big Falls

**Eye-ringed Flatbill** *Rhynchocyclus brevirostris* (1) One of the birds we saw in the mixed species flock going after mites in the canopy at Lamanai (see plain xenops, above)—this is a bird that typically sits still for long periods, so it was interesting to see it actively competing with other species for food

**Yellow-olive Flycatcher** *Tolmomyias sulphureus* (3) Another small, highly mobile flycatcher of the forest edge—we noted single birds several times, at Lamanai as well as Big Falls

**Stub-tailed Spadebill (H)** *Platyrinchus cancrornis* (2) A target bird for some of us, we heard its call in several thickets right in front of us (Pook's Hill as well as Lamanai), but no cigar—it was frustrating to have such a challenging species literally within arm's length, calling, yet never see it!

**Royal Flycatcher** *Onychorhynchus coronatus* (2) A nice find at Lamanai—Eduardo saw the species first in Indian Church village, then we found it again the next morning on a hike in the forest (no raised crest!)

**Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher** *Myiobius sulphureipyglus* (1) Yet another of the one-shot wonders we picked up in the mixed-species foraging flock in the canopy at Lamanai (see plain xenops)—a unique-looking bird

**Tropical Pewee** *Contopus cinereus* (6) Always lone birds, but not uncommon—regularly seen by most of us

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** *Empidonax flaviventris* (1) The *Empidonax* we mostly saw was the least (next species), but we did see this one a couple times one day near the boat dock at Lamanai

**Least Flycatcher** *Empidonax minimus* (9) Another “every-day bird”—if you saw a small flycatcher out of the corner of your eye, it was invariably this one

**Black Phoebe** *Sayornis nigricans* (1) One bird flitting around in the rain at the Blue Pool NP

**Vermilion Flycatcher** *Pyrocephalus rubinus* (3) Not real common, but readily stands out—we saw males, females, and first-years in several places, especially at Lamanai (savannah) and Pook's Hill (pastures)

**Bright-rumped Attila** *Attila spadiceus* (2) Reed had an adult hanging around his cabaña at Big Falls (others may have seen it), and Bob picked up a first-year bird in the forest at the Lamanai Mayan site

**Yucatan Flycatcher (Y)** *Myiarchus yucatanensis* (1) After asking “how about a Yucatan endemic?” Eduardo produced! Great looks at this elegant species as we ended our morning pine savannah walk at Lamanai

**Dusky-capped Flycatcher (H)** *Myiarchus tuberculifer* (2) Distinctive call heard at Lamanai, but not seen

**Great-crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus crinitus* (1) One bird at Lamanai definitely identified as this species (vocalization clinched it)

**Brown-crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tyrannulus* (6) This was the more typical *Myiarchus* spotted during the trip—we all saw it multiple times

**Great Kiskadee** *Pitangus sulphuratus* (8) Very common, and also very conspicuous (loud and colorful), so hard to miss! We all knew this one by Day 2

**Boat-billed Flycatcher** *Megarynchus pitangua* (3) Almost as common as the preceding species at Lamanai, but not seen elsewhere

**Social Flycatcher** *Myiozetetes similis* (10) In the running for the most commonly seen bird on the trip.....

**Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus* (10) .....but this species probably has it beat

**Couch's Kingbird** *Tyrannus couchii* (X) Saying how many days we saw this bird is hard, since it's all but identical with tropical kingbird (only the call separates them)—but we definitely heard a few Couch's

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus forficatus* (2) Adult birds seen on our initial drive out of Belize City, and then on roadside fences during the bumpy trip in to catch the Monkey River boat ride

**Fork-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus savanna* (4) Same locations as the previous species, plus perched on pasture fences at Pook's Hill

**White-collared Manakin** *Manacus candei* (4) Very good looks at Pook's Hill (scope), plus nice views in the thickets surrounding the main lawn at Big Falls

**Black-crowned Tityra** *Tityra inquisitor* (1) Surprisingly scarce, seen just once at Florentino's cacao farm

**Masked Tityra** *Tityra semifasciata* (4) More common than the previous taxon, with some very nice scope views at Lamanai and Big Falls

**Northern Shiffornis** *Schiffornis turdina* (2) A taxonomic puzzle, this tough-to-see understory species was first seen by Suzanne along the trail at Pooks' Hill—others got good looks at another bird later on, by crawling under the cacao trees at Florentino's farm near Red Bank (Bob Hill got a fabulous video of the bird singing!)

**White-winged Becard** *Pachyramphus polychopterus* (1) Very definitive look by Bob at a perched male bird from a catwalk at the Belize Zoo

**Gray-collared Becard** *Pachyramphus major* (2) Most of the group got a decent look at a male along the main road in Indian Church village near Lamanai—a rare bird! (Picked up earlier by Bob along the Macal River)

**Rose-throated Becard** *Pachyramphus aglaiae* (4) We had several sightings of this species (both males and females), with at least one view at each of the three lodging destinations (but primarily at Lamanai)

**White-eyed Vireo** *Vireo griseus* (10) Possibly the most dependably encountered petite song-bird of the trip (outside least flycatcher)

**Tawny-crowned Greenlet (H)** *Hylophilus ochraceiceps* (2) Heard by some of the group in the forest at Pook's Hill (and spotted by Bob prior to the main trip during a visit to Tikal, Guatemala)

**Lesser Greenlet** *Hylophilus decurtatus* (1) Pointed out by Eduardo in the canopy at the Lamanai Mayan site

**Rufous-browed Peppershrike (H)** *Cyclarhis gujanensis* (1) Heard once during the pine savannah walk, across the New River Lagoon from Lamanai

**Brown Jay** *Psilorhinus morio* (10) Boisterous gangs of this species seen by all of us every day

**Yucatan Jay (Y)** *Cyanocorax yucatanicus* (1) Definitely a target bird for us—picked up just after starting the Lamanai pine savannah hike with Eduardo (reasonably prolonged views of an apparent family group)

**Gray-breasted Martin** *Progne chalybea* (1) Sitting on wires along the Southern Highway on way to Big Falls

**Purple Martin** *Progne subis* (1) Same site as above! A 60 mph observation...in the rain

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* (9) Very common, seen most days by everyone

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* (1) Not very exciting, but seen flying by Bob and Reed at Crooked Tree

**House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon* (4) At Pook's Hill and especially Big Falls—a pair spent much of their time skittering around the lodge deck at Big Falls while we had coffee or punch...

**Band-backed wren** *Campylorhynchus zonatus* (2) Heard well the first day we got to Pook's Hill, then great scoped views were had the next day—a seldom seen bird that's a "sister species" to Arizona's cactus wren

**Spot-breasted Wren** *Pheugopedius maculipectus* (9) Constantly heard (in one vocal iteration or another), but hard to see—we got a couple decent peek-through-the-leaves looks at Pook's Hill and Lamanai, but usually just glimpses

**White-bellied Wren** *Uropsila leucogastra* (1) Seen before the main trip by Bob up in the Macal River area

**White-breasted Wood-wren (H)** *Henicorhina leucosticta* (2) Heard several times in the woods at Lamanai

**Long-billed Gnatwren** *Ramphocaenus melanurus* (5) Called off and on throughout the trip, but finally seen well by Bob, John, and Steve Chaco *just minutes before we left for the airport on the last day!* (Good timing)

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila caerulea* (2) Seen briefly at Lamanai, and then in the trees along the Macal River during the rainy day we ended up unexpectedly in San Ignacio

**Tropical Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila plumbea* (1) Picked up ahead of the main trip by Reed and Bob on the Crooked Tree sanctuary grounds near the lodge

**Wood Thrush** *Hylocichla mustelina* (9) A common sight everywhere along wooded trails and understory

**Clay-colored Thrush** *Turdus grayi* (10) A bit more secretive than our robin at home, but still easily seen

**Gray Catbird** *Dumetella carolinensis* (9) The mewing and flitting of this species was a constant for us in wooded and riparian areas throughout the trip

**Tropical Mockingbird** *Mimus gilvus* (7) An open country bird, widespread and similar to our own mockingbird back home, though not nearly as chatty

**Ovenbird** *Seiurus aurocapilla* (5) Typically seen as lone birds bobbing along wooded trails and roadsides

**Worm-eating Warbler** *Helmitheros vermivorum* (1) Several birds found among the Mayan ruins at Lamanai

**Northern Waterthrush** *Seiurus noveboracensis* (9) Vying for most “common warbler status” on the trip, this ground-dweller is neck-and-neck for that honor with black-and-white, American redstart, and magnolia

**Black-and-white Warbler** *Mniotilta varia* (10) Equally common as preceding species, but always in the trees

**Prothonotary Warbler** *Protonotaria citrea* (1) Excellent, prolonged view for Bob and Reed along a pond at the Altun Ha Mayan site, the day before we started the main trip

**Tennessee Warbler** *Oreothlypis peregrine* (3) Seen irregularly in the lower canopy at Pook’s Hill and Big Falls

**Gray-crowned Yellowthroat (H)** *Geothlypis poliocephala* (1) Heard (with Eduardo) calling in the pine savannah during our early morning (but misty) walk on the east side of the New River lagoon at Lamanai

**Kentucky Warbler** *Geothlypis formosa* (3) Occasional in the understory at Lamanai and Big Falls

**Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas* (5) Seen (and heard) several times at both Lamanai and Big Falls

**Hooded Warbler** *Wilsonia citrina* (6) Fairly common and in excellent plumage—most noteworthy sighting was of a brilliant male “dumpster diving” in a trash can while we had our picnic lunch at the Belize Zoo!

**American Redstart** *Setophaga ruticilla* (9) Another of our four “most sighted” wood warblers—also see northern waterthrush, magnolia, and black-and-white

**Northern Parula** *Setophaga americana* (3) Very occasional; we had quick views at Lamanai and Big Falls

**Magnolia Warbler** *Setophaga magnolia* (10) The default warbler during winter in much of Belize—seen (mostly not quite in breeding plumage) on virtually every outing we took!

**Yellow Warbler** *Setophaga petechia* (5) Occasional migrant in trees, also still in largely basic plumage

**Chestnut-sided Warbler** *Setophaga fusca* (3) Best view at the Greenhill Butterfly Ranch near Pook’s Hill, of a full breeding-plumaged male showing off his chestnut patch

**Yellow-throated Warbler** *Setophaga dominica* (6) Also reasonably common, generally seen mid-canopy

**Black-throated Green Warbler** *Setophaga virens* (4) Scattered individuals at all three places we stayed

**Wilson’s Warbler** *Cardellina pusilla* (1) Seen once by just a few of us on the Pook’s Hill forest walk (after we saw the spectacled owls)

**Yellow-breasted Chat** *Icteria virens* (1) A single flying bird in the rain at the Green Hills Butterfly Ranch

**Gray-headed Tanager** *Eucometis penicillata* (1) Seen well by John and Bob in the understory one afternoon (while on a mission for the bare-crowned antbird at Big Falls Lodge)—an extended view from 15 feet away!

**Black-throated Shrike-tanager** *Lanio aurantius* (1) Beautiful male bird seen by all, as a component of a very active mixed-species flock gleaning mites and small insects from canopy leaves during a walk at Lamanai

**Crimson-collared Tanager** *Ramphocelus sanguinolentus* (3) Highest on John’s wish list, we all had a good view of this bird the last morning at Pook’s Hill—we then saw it again twice during excursions at Big Falls

**Passerini’s Tanager** *Ramphocelus passerinii* (2) Also at Big Falls, this species was picked up on the lodge grounds, as well as at Florentino’s cacao plantation—both this and the preceding related species are stunning

**Blue-gray Tanager** *Thraupis episcopus* (5) The subtle coloration of this species is something to appreciate—we all got excellent looks (and many photos) at Lamanai as well as Big Falls

**Yellow-winged Tanager** *Thraupis abbas* (5) About as frequently seen as the blue-gray, this close relative of that species was found primarily at Lamanai and Pook’s Hill (spotted from the observation deck at Pook’s)

**Golden-hooded Tanager** *Tangara larvata* (1) Bob noticed a pair of this exceptional species above the swimming pool at Big Falls, foraging among some low-hanging branches

**Red-legged Honeycreeper** *Cyanerpes cyaneus* (8) The plumage of this frequently seen tanager-relative was interesting in early February, as many birds were in the midst of molting—especially good views were had by most of us from the observation deck at Pook’s Hill

**Blue-black Grassquit** *Volatinia jacarina* (4) Preferring heavy grass and sitting still when we saw it, this bird was seen best by the group on a walk near Indian Church village, just outside the Lamanai lodge grounds

**Thick-billed Seedfinch** *Sporophila funera* (1) Small, all black plumage, very similar to the next species—one flock seen in Big Falls village near Coleman’s Café (our lunch stop); also a bird at Florentino’s cacao farm

**Variable Seedeater** *Sporophila corvina* (3) More frequent than preceding species, but still uncommon—may just be inconspicuous (seen along roadsides and in brushy waste areas near Big Falls, and at Florentino’s)

**White-collared Seedeater** *Sporophila torqueola* (8) Widespread and common, and seen by all in the group many times—very active and less secretive than the other seedeaters

**Yellow-faced Grassquit** *Tiaris olivaceus* (4) More obliging than its blue-black cousin, we had fine views of this species on fence wires near Pook’s Hill, and the lawn at Big Falls (looks like it dipped its face in mustard!)

**Buff-throated Saltator** *Saltator maximus* (2) Nice looks at small flocks on the grounds at Big Falls Lodge, as well as birds foraging in trees at Red Bank village (where we were watching the scarlet macaws)

**Black-headed Saltator** *Saltator atriceps* (8) The most common of the saltators for us, we saw and heard this species almost daily

**Grayish Saltator** *Saltator coerulescens* (2) Seen by Reed, John, and others during a morning walk with Steve Chaco—was also picked up at the last minute on the grounds of Big Falls, just prior to leaving for the airport

**Botteri’s Sparrow** *Peucaea botterii* (1) This uncommon sparrow has a fragmented distribution in Belize, and is closely tied to pine savannah habitats—we had an excellent view of a singing male during our savannah walk with Eduardo during our stay at Lamanai (Bob Hill shot a nice video)

**Chipping Sparrow (H)** *Spizella passerina* (1) Reportedly heard at Lamanai near the main lodge—seems odd you could repeatedly hear this species without seeing it, but that’s what we’ve got

**Olive sparrow (H)** *Arremonops rufivirgatus* (1) Heard calling in shaded brush at the Lamanai Mayan site

**Green-backed Sparrow** *Arremonops chloronotus* (2) We had a quick (but clear) look at this species in dappled light along a trail the last morning at Lamanai, as well as near the lower lawn area at Pook’s Hill

**Orange-billed Sparrow** *Arremon aurantirostris* (1) After considerable coaxing, this species finally revealed itself by flying back and forth across a forest gap near Red Bank—its brilliant orange bill helped with the ID!

**Summer Tanager** *Piranga rubra* (6) Several bright male and female birds, seen at each of our lodging stops

**Red-crowned Ant-tanager** *Habia rubica* (1) Seen clearly by Bob before the main trip (Black Rock area near the Macal River)—possible females later seen by the group at Blue Hole NP, but not definitive

**Red-throated Ant-tanager** *Habia fuscicauda* (5) Infrequent at Lamanai, this species (with its distinctive raspy call) was more commonly seen by the group in forests during our stays at Pook’s Hill and Big Falls

**Black-faced Grosbeak** *Carythaustes poliogaster* (3) Encounters with this beautiful grosbeak were limited to Pook’s Hill—we saw a large flock in the trees near our lodgings the last morning there (great scope views)

**Northern Cardinal** *Cardinalis cardinalis* (1) One sighting from the boat at Lamanai while in a narrow channel

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** *Pheucticus ludovicianus* (2) Seen on two days at Pook’s Hill—both times were of a brightly-colored male bird (once close to the observation deck, as we indulged in post-birding refreshments)

**Gray-throated Chat** *Granatellus sallaei* (1) Another sought-after target species for many of us—detected in riparian brush by Eduardo as we finished our pine savannah walk; the bird emerged and ended up singing, and we got some excellent images

**Blue-black Grosbeak** *Cyanocompsa cyanoides* (3) On two days we only heard birds (at Pook’s Hill), but we eventually had a nice look at this shy species while at Big Falls (out at Florentino’s cacao plantation)

**Blue Bunting** *Passerina parellina* (3) A predictable bird at Lamanai, we had several nice views of this colorful species there, near grassy waste areas and thickets heading up towards the village area—very photogenic!

**Blue Grosbeak** *Passerina caerulea* (1) A good view by Bob before the main trip, along the Macal River

**Indigo Bunting** *Passerina cyanea* (1) A molting bird was seen in trees near the Mountain Pine Ridge guard station (where we were taking turns running to use the facilities during a monsoonal downpour!)

**Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus* (1) A small flock was pointed out by Eduardo clinging to some tall reeds, as we sped along a narrow creek just east of the New River

**Eastern Meadowlark** *Sturnella magna* (1) Several birds were noted perched on fence posts, etc., as we drove south towards Belize City during our transit between Lamanai and Pook's Hill

**Melodious Blackbird** *Dives dives* (10) Battling it out for our most frequently seen icterid, this species probably has the edge over the grackle (below); seen each and every day

**Great-tailed Grackle** *Quiscalus mexicanus* (9) Certainly common and widespread, but seemingly not quite as ubiquitous as the melodious blackbird—nonetheless, a very conspicuous and mouthy bird

**Bronzed Cowbird** *Molothrus aeneus* (2) Seen in a mixed flock, in cow pastures along the muddy road leading out of Pook's Hill—relatively few cowbirds were present compared to the many melodious blackbirds

**Black-cowled Oriole** *Icterus prothemelas* (7) Most frequently seen of the orioles, easily recognized by its extensive, all-black hood and yellow underparts—we saw this species many times on morning walks

**Orchard Oriole** *Icterus spurius* (4) Also relatively common, this distinctively colored species was seen in the forests and also at feeders (found at all three places we stayed)

**Hooded Oriole** *Icterus cucullatus* (3) Common during our visit to Lamanai, not seen after that

**Yellow-tailed Oriole** *Icterus mesomelas* (1) Picked up by Reed and others on a morning outing with Steve Chaco at Big Falls—a comparatively scarce species for the trip

**Baltimore Oriole** *Icterus galbula* (4) Another migrant that breeds in the U.S.—an active species, seen intermittently by most of the group at several locations

**Yellow-billed Cacique** *Amblycercus holosericeus* (8) Often heard, rarely seen—unlike many other cacique species, this one is a real skulker; we saw it several times, but the views were usually fleeting

**Montezuma Oropendola** *Psarocolius montezuma* (5) Mostly seen in morning or afternoon overflights, such as the large flocks (perhaps heading to roost) we saw late in the day at Pook's Hill—we also ran across a couple established breeding trees, with the amazing pendulous nests

**Scrub Euphonia** *Euphonia affinis* (1) Very similar to the next species, but much less common—seen once at Pook's Hill

**Yellow-throated** *Euphonia holosericeus* (6) The most common *Euphonia* species for us, readily seen as birds restively foraged in trees at Lamanai and Pook's Hill

**Olive-backed Euphonia** *Euphonia gouldi* (2) Sporadic, but easily recognized when seen—we picked this species up at both Lamanai (Mayan site) and Big Falls

## Mammals

**Puma** *Puma concolor* (1) An impressive male crossed our path (Eduardo, Bob, John, and likely Suzanne at least got good looks) maybe 40 feet ahead on the trail; it stared us down for a bit, twitched its tail, and then kept going—was unsettlingly reminiscent of how a cat sizes up a rat, shrugs, and moves on

**Manatee** *Trichechus manatus* (1) Observed from the boat by the group that opted for the Monkey River excursion—nice!

**Neotropical River Otter** *Lontra longicaudis* (1) Swimming—same location as above

**Kinkajou** *Potos flavus* (2) Beautiful animal, seen twice at Lamanai—once (spotlighted) from the boat during our night ride; and the other time an extended view during a morning hike, of a large adult scrambling down from a low perch and disappearing into the brush (seen clearly and close-up by most of the group)

**Gray Fox** *Urocyon cinereoargenteus* (2) Close-up nocturnal view near the fruit feeding station at Lamanai, just before going over our bird list for the day; also during the day outside the fences at the Belize Zoo, while having our picnic lunch (great video by Bob Hill)

**White-lipped Peccary (H)** *Tayassu pecari* (1) Reported as heard somewhere at Big Falls (species is a bit of a guess)

**Central American Agouti** *Dasyprocta punctata* (4) Seen rummaging around every morning and evening on the lawns at Lodge at Big Falls

**Gibnut** *Agouti paca* (1) Possibly seen on a pre-dawn walk by Bob, running across the forested road leading into the Big Falls lodge area—however, there was a confirmed sighting later on, at Coleman’s Café (in the stewpot, on the lunch table—ha!)

**White-nosed Coati** *Nasua narica* (1) Seen well a couple of times, including a good look at a family of adults and two juveniles tightrope along lianas near one of the main structures at the Lamanai Mayan site

**Proboscis Bat** *Rhynchonycteris naso* (3) Most everyone got daylight looks (and images) of these odd bats, clinging in tight formation to the trunk of the enormous tree (maybe a fig) that shaded the path as we stepped off the dock at Lamanai—they were intriguing

**Greater Bulldog (Fishing) Bat** *Noctilio leporinus* (1) Seen well on the wing during our nighttime boat ride at Lamanai, once we left the main lagoon—these were large bats that repeatedly dipped the water surface

**Yucatan (Mexican) Black Howler Monkey** *Alouatta pigra* (5) Heard and seen—howlers are reputedly the loudest mammal in the western hemisphere, and were best “experienced” during our evenings at Pook’s Hill; also seen along the Monkey River

**Central American Spider-Monkey** *Ateles geoffroyi* (1) Reasonable looks at Lamanai as we walked into the Mayan site—high in the canopy

**White-tailed Deer** *Odocoileus virginianus* (1) Seen twice in fields during the drive down the Hummingbird Highway from Pooks Hill to Big Falls

**Yucatan Squirrel (Y)** *Sciurus yucatanensis* (3) Seen frequently in the compound and surrounding forests at Lamanai; possibly also outside the Belize Zoo and at Big Falls (species was uncertain here)

**Common Opossum** *Didelphis marsupialis* (1) The possum was definitely reported, but I’m not entirely sure where it was seen—based on where it showed up on my draft checklist, I’m guessing Big Falls!

## Reptiles and Amphibians

**Red-eyed Treefrog** *Agalychnis callidryas* (1) Attractive species on dripping leaves outside lodging at Lamanai in early morning

**Yellow Cricket Treefrog** *Hyla microcephala* (3) Inside cabaña at Big Falls; remarkably agile and tough for such a delicate-looking, almost translucent frog—after a standoff during which they rebuffed capture, they returned to their habitat in the shower

**Marine Toad** *Bufo marinus* (1) Nocturnal toad seen hopping along gravel paths near dock at Lamanai

**Morelet’s Crocodile** (4) Briefly seen on the surface at Lamanai (though maybe on Monkey River, too)—apparently once again a more-or-less plentiful species in Belize, but not seen much by our group

**Central American Ribbon Snake** *Thamnophis proximus rutiloris* (1) Only snake of the trip—seen close-up, crossing the path on an early morning bird walk with Eduardo at Lamanai

**Black Spiny-tailed Iguana** *Ctenosaura similis* (2) Along the shoreline and rocks at Lamanai

**Green Iguana** *Iguana iguana* (4) Very common in the riparian brush and overhanging vegetation along rivers and creeks—we got plenty of images of the colorful adults sunning themselves in Belize City and Lamanai

**Striped Basilisk** *Basiliscus vittatus* (6) Seen (and photographed) at Lamanai and also at least at Big Falls (where they hung around the pool some)—both large adults and juveniles were evident

**Brown Anole** *Norops sagrei* (6) Occasionally encountered along the paths and on vegetation at both Lamanai and Pook's Hill—sun loving

**Neotropical Green Anole** *Anolis biporcatus* (1) In trees by the river, within lower lodging area at Big Falls  
**House (Asian) Gecko** (5) Inside rooms by the lights at Pook's Hill; outside rooms at Lamanai and Big Falls

**Rosebelly Lizard** *Sceloporus variabilis* (5) Related to fence and spiny lizards in the U.S., seen sunning themselves several times at all three lodging locations

**Lundell's Spiny Lizard** *Sceloporus lundellii* (1) Another relative of U.S. spiny lizards, seen on fencepost outside lodge compound at Big Falls during rare sunbreak

**Yucatan Whiptail (Y)** *Cnemidophorus angusticeps* (1) Seen once at Lamanai, slinking around vegetation and dry leaves along dirt road heading towards the village, in full sun

**Barred Whiptail** *Ameiva festiva* (2) Fast-moving lizard observed (when not raining) in open areas on lower lawn area at Pook's Hill

**Metallic Ameiva** *Ameiva undulata* (2) A colorful whiptail relative seen moving quickly and apparently hunting along the edges of paths at Lamanai

**Brown Forest Skink** *Shenomorphus cherriei* (1) Dark skink (probably this species) in leaf litter at Big Falls

**Meso-American Slider** *Trachemys venusta* (1) Large turtle observed during Monkey River boat trip

### Arthropods of Note

**Owl Butterfly** *Caligo* sp. (1) Found several times at Pook's Hill and maybe elsewhere; one landed on Suzanne for pictures during a Pook's Hill afternoon walk

**Blue Morpho** *Morpho* sp. (4) Showy blue-metallic butterfly seen by most of us occasionally flapping around the shaded paths below the main lodge at Pook's Hill

**Firefly beetles** (likely *Photinus* sp.) (5) Fireflies flashed several evenings at both Pook's Hill and Big Falls—always interesting to see some bioluminescence!

**Army ants** (possibly *Eciton* sp.) (1) A swarm was found moving across the path during a walk in the forest at Pook's Hill—we searched for an accompanying frenzy of ant-following birds, but none were to be seen!

### Wildflower of the Trip



Although not much was blooming yet in the pine savannah habitat near Lamanai (it was still winter, after all), one striking species on our hike with Eduardo stood out—an unusual type of native passionflower (left). A few of us took pictures (and some are no doubt much better images than this one).

Being a university botanist specializing in native species conservation, Bob, upon returning home, looked into this plant a bit more, for fun—it had some features that often characterize rare and range-restricted species, relating to soil characteristics, plant community, habitat quality, etc.

Sure enough, turns out this is *Passiflora urbaniana*, one of *only 41 plant species* (out of 3,408 in the country, at last count), *that is known only from Belize!* Just 41 endemic plants in Belize, and

this is one of them. And it has been seen very few times! We'll have to let Eduardo know!

Passionflower species (*Passiflora urbaniana*), endemic to Belize

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