

Belize Birding & Nature

February 22 – March 3, 2017 | Species List



With Carlos Sanchez, expert local guides, and 10 participants: George, Laura, Barry, Theresa, Fred, Wendy, Elizabeth, Richard, Lynn, and Linda

Compiled by Carlos Sanchez

(HO) = Distinctive enough to be counted as heard only

(Y) = Yucatan regional endemics

(#) = Number of days encountered in parentheses

Summary

This tour featured three excellent lodges, Mayan culture, and high bird diversity. The group collectively recorded 255 bird species over the course of the tour, enjoying prolonged views of many of Central America's most iconic species: Orange-breasted Falcon, Agami Heron, Spectacled Owl, American Pygmy Kingfisher, Tody Motmot, and more. Other highlights included the spectacle of an army ant swarm with attendant birds at Chan Chich and an incredible spotlighting session on the New River near Lamanai.

BIRDS (255 species recorded, of which 9 were heard only):

Anatidae: Ducks and Geese (2)

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis* (2) — small flock along the New River near Lamanai followed by more prolonged views at the Yalbac Lagoon

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* (1) — brief flyby of a flock along the New River near Lamanai

Cracidae: Guans and Chachalacas (3)

Plain Chachalaca *Ortalis vetula* (2) — these noisy birds were regulars at Lamanai

Crested Guan *Penelope purpurascens* (2) — recorded on two days at Chan Chich. These large and heavy birds look awfully awkward high up in the trees!

Great Curassow *Crax rubra* (2) — a male and two females roosting on a branch over the New River during our spotlighting session at Lamanai, as well as several individuals along the road near Chan Chich

Phasianidae: Grouse, Pheasants and Partridges (1)

Ocellated Turkey *Meleagris ocellata* (4) (Y) — these remarkably colorful birds are incredibly tame and approachable at Chan Chich

Podicipedidae: Grebes (1)

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* (2) — small numbers present on the New River near Lamanai

Ciconiidae: Storks (2)

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Jabiru *Jabiru mycteria* (2) — scope views of individuals on active nests along the New River. These enormous birds are the tallest in Central America!

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana* (3) — several seen soaring around the New River and the lagoon at Yalbac

Phalacrocoracidae: Cormorants (1)

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* (4) — observed daily during our time at Lamanai

Anhingidae: Anhingas (1)

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga* (4) — regularly observed at Lamanai, as well as a few at Yalbac Lagoon

Ardeidae: Herons and Egrets (12)

Least Bittern *Ixobrychus exilis* (HO) (1) — a few individuals calling from the reeds during the sunset cocktail cruise at Lamanai would not reveal themselves

Bare-throated Tiger-Heron *Tigrisoma mexicanum* (3) — singles flushed on two dates at Lamanai. We finally obtained prolonged views at Chan Chich of an individual standing motionless near a stream.

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias* (4) — recorded whenever we were near water. Most individuals in Belize of this familiar species are winter migrants from points north.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* (5) — recorded whenever we were near water, even roadside puddles!

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* (1) — only a single flyby flock during our sunset cruise at Lamanai

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* (4) — recorded in small numbers whenever we were near water

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor* (1) — observed only once on our boat ride to Lamanai Lodge

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* (8) — away from thick forest, this widespread species was abundant in fields, pastures, and wetlands

Green Heron *Butorides virescens* (6) — recorded regularly near most bodies of water, although we had one immature bird sitting in a large fruiting tree far from water at Chan Chich

Agami Heron *Agamia agami* (1) — prolonged observations of this gorgeous species near Lamanai while spotlighting. This elegant heron was our local guide's "spark bird" that got him into birding.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* (2) — present in small numbers along the New River near Lamanai

Boat-billed Heron *Cochlearius cochlearius* (1) — many observed at close range at a roosting site near Lamanai. This atypical nocturnal heron, formerly considered to be in its own family, is a relative of the more familiar night-herons.

Threskiornithidae: Ibis and Spoonbills (1)

White Ibis *Eudocimus albus* (2) — small numbers observed at Lamanai and Yalbac Lagoon

Cathartidae: New World Vultures (4)

Black Vulture *Corabyps atratus* (9) — observed almost daily overhead

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* (10) — observed daily overhead

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes burrovianus* (1) — a single bird soared right over the boat at Lamanai, offering great views of its bright yellow head and distinct wing pattern

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King Vulture *Sarcoramphus papa* (2) — soaring birds observed in the Pine Ridge area and at the escarpment near Chan Chich

Pandionidae: Osprey (1)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (4) — this familiar, fish-eating raptor was ubiquitous near large bodies of water

Accipitridae: Hawks, Kites and Eagles (13)

Hook-billed Kite *Chondrohierax uncinatus* (1) — a dark morph individual soaring over the road at Chan Chich

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus* (2) — observed both perched and soaring overhead at Pine Ridge, with another at Chan Chich

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis* (3) — a few individuals observed hunting over the reeds along the New River. Both male and female observed at close range while spotlighting one night at Lamanai — incredible views of the hook-like bill and ruby-red eyes!

Double-toothed Kite *Harpagus bidentatus* (2) — one individual soared overhead at close range in the Pine Ridge area, with another individual seen only in silhouette at Chan Chich

Plumbeous Kite *Ictinia plumbea* (1) — a summer migrant in Central America, a single bird returned on time for us at the butterfly ranch near Pine Ridge

Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus* (2) — two individuals on separate dates hunting over the reeds along the New River

Great Black Hawk *Buteogallus urubitinga* (1) — one of these majestic hawks posed beautifully for us on our final morning at Lamanai

Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris* (8) — this small raptor was recorded almost daily on our journey (usually, on a roadside!)

White-tailed Hawk *Geranoaetus albicaudatus* (1) — a pair of these majestic raptors were nesting near the road on our way to Yalbac Lagoon in a Mennonite agricultural field

White Hawk *Pseudastur albicollis* (2) — a pair of these immaculate raptors calling and soaring overhead at Pook's Hill against a cloudless sky — spectacular! Repeat views of another individual in the Pine Ridge area

Gray Hawk *Buteo plagiatus* (2) — our best views were of a perched individual in the Pine Ridge area

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus* (1) — this boreal migrant was observed soaring at close range at a lookout in the Pine Ridge area

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus* (1) — a dark morph individual soared in close at Pook's Hill

Rallidae: Rails, Crakes and Coots (2)

Ruddy Crake *Laterallus ruber* (1) — with great effort, observed skulking in the reeds by two of the group during our sunset cocktail cruise at Lamanai

Russet-naped Wood-Rail *Aramides cajanea* (3) — singles observed on most days at Lamanai, including one nicely posed individual on our spotlighting session on the New River. This species is a recent split from the old Gray-necked Wood-Rail.

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Aramidae: Limpkin (1)

Limpkin *Aramus guarauna* (5) — good numbers observed wherever there was water and some cover. Often the first bird heard in the morning at Lamanai!

Jacanidae: Jacanas (1)

Northern Jacana *Jacana spinosa* (5) — a common wetland bird in Belize, even along canals in towns

Laridae: Gulls (1)

Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla* (1) — two wayward birds flying over the New River Lagoon one afternoon

Columbidae: Pigeons and Doves (12)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* (1) — a few on the wire in one of the towns on our way to Pook's Hill

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis* (4) — seen often in flight or perched in the distance, we finally obtained great views of a wild bird in the pines at the Belize Zoo — we even got to walk right under it and see the pale vent

Scaled Pigeon *Patagioenas speciosa* (3)—Laura spotted our first one as it flushed from the ground onto a branch at about head height at Pine Ridge — not often does one get to observe this beautiful species so close to the ground and at such close range

Red-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas flavirostris* (5) — commonly seen zipping by or perched on bare snags in more open habitats at Lamanai and agricultural areas near Yalbac

Short-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas nigrirostris* (2) — our best sighting was of one bird that kept us company while we watched for raptors at a lookout in the Pine Ridge area

Plain-breasted Ground-Dove *Columbina minuta* (1) — a cooperative bird perched on a post a few feet from the road in the Yalbac area

Ruddy Ground-Dove *Columbina talpacoti* (6) — a common bird of roadsides, towns, and grassy areas in Belize

Blue Ground-Dove *Claravis pretiosa* (5) — although very common by voice, not easy to see well until we finally had scope views at Pook's Hill

Ruddy Quail-Dove *Geotrygon montana* (1) — a brief but definitive flyby of this secretive species on the New River as we were leaving. It is not often that you get to see the reddish tones in full sunlight!

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi* (2) — one flew right in front of the boat on our first day at Lamanai, with another heard the following day on grounds of the lodge

Gray-headed Dove *Leptotila plumbeiceps* (3) — singles observed at all three sites on our trip, usually early in the morning on a quiet trail

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica* (1) — only one bird seen flying in the pine savanna at Lamani

Cuculidae: Cuckoos (3)

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana* (4) —this attractive, long-tailed cuckoo was seen at each of the three lodges where we stayed, including one that perched nicely for us at lunch one day at Lamanai

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Pheasant Cuckoo *Dromococcyx phasianellus* (HO) (1) — we heard the whistled notes of this widespread but secretive species at Chan Chich one morning, but it would not budge from its spot

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris* (5) — this social cuckoo was common in scrubby areas and fields throughout the tour

Strigidae: Owls (3)

Vermiculated Screech-Owl *Megascops guatemalae* (1) — a bird perched by the roadside while spotlighting at Chan Chich

Spectacled Owl *Pulsatrix perspicillata* (1) — a pair of this large and stunning owl was found roosting right by the Pook's Hill Lodge. **VOTED BIRD OF THE TRIP!**

Mottled Owl *Ciccaba virgata* (2) — one bird carefully called in at Lamanai with another seen during our spotlighting excursion at Chan Chich

Caprimulgidae: Nighthawks and Nightjars (3)

Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis* (1) — one bird roosting on a branch over the New River on our way to Lamanai Lodge

Common Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis* (6) — heard every night at Chan Chich and Pook's Hill, with multiples seen on all night excursions. The white outer bands on the primaries are diagnostic.

Yucatan Nightjar *Antrostomus badius* (2) (Y) — beautiful views while spotlighting along the New River at Lamanai, with another seen near Chan Chich on another spotlighting session

Nyctibiidae: Potoos (1)

Northern Potoo *Nyctibius jamaicensis* (2) — multiples seen while spotlighting at Lamanai and Chan Chich, usually sitting on exposed snags

Apodidae: Swifts (2)

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris* (1) — several of these aerodynamic birds were feeding over a valley at a lookout in the Pine Ridge area

Vaux's Swift *Chaetura vauxi* (4) — scattered sightings at all three lodges, feeding high overhead

Trochilidae: Hummingbirds (10)

White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga mellivora* (6) — common around feeders and wetter forest around Pook's Hill and Chan Chich

Long-billed Hermit *Phaethornis longirostris* (5) — beautiful study of this species at the butterfly ranch as it came to a feeder. The more intrepid half of the group got to enjoy this large hermit at a lek one afternoon at Chan Chich, where they surrounded us with their incessant "singing."

Purple-crowned Fairy *Heliodytes barroti* (1) — one individual observed feeding in the tree canopy at Chan Chich while we worked over a small feeding flock

Green-breasted Mango *Anthracothorax prevostii* (1) — both male and female at the butterfly ranch feeders

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Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris* (1) — a couple of these migrants around the gardens at Lamanai Lodge on our first morning

Scaly-breasted Hummingbird *Phaeochroa cuvierii* (4) — a singleton of this large hummingbird was visiting the coral bean tree at Pook's Hill during our stay, with an additional one visiting a feeder at Chan Chich

Wedge-tailed Sabrewing *Campylopterus curvipennis* (1) — both male and female at the butterfly ranch feeders — almost endemic to the region!

Violet Sabrewing *Campylopterus hemileucurus* (1) — brief, but excellent views of a male visiting the feeders at the butterfly ranch

White-bellied Emerald *Amazilia candida* (4) — present in smaller numbers than the more aggressive jacobin around feeders, both at the butterfly ranch and Chan Chich

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia tzacatl* (8) — the generic hummingbird of Central America, observed on nearly all days of the tour

Trogonidae: Trogons (3)

Slaty-tailed Trogon *Trogon massena* (2) — this spectacular, large trogon gave us walk-away views at Pook's Hill. A more subtle gray-and-red female on a forest trail at Chan Chich was nice for comparison with the gaudy male.

Black-headed Trogon *Trogon melanocephalus* (4) — the most common trogon species at all sites, readily identified by the blue eye-ring and broad white tips in the undertail

Gartered Trogon *Trogon caligatus* (3) — a gorgeous trogon species that was delightfully common at Pook's Hill and Chan Chich — one even posed with its verdant green-and-blue back facing the group for a different and much appreciated perspective!

Momotidae: Motmots (2)

Tody Motmot *Hylomanes momotula* (2) — most of the group got to enjoy good looks at this uncommon, toy-like bird on our first afternoon at Chan Chich. Not always easy to see well!

Lesson's Motmot *Momotus lessonii* (3) — the group got its best views of this bird near the old church ruins at Lamanai, where it came out onto an open branch. It is one of the splits from the recent disassembling of the Blue-crowned Motmot species complex.

Alcedinidae: Kingfishers (5)

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata* (5) — regularly observed in good numbers along the New River and Yalbac Lagoon

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon* (2) — a few of these boreal migrants seen on the New River and Yalbac Lagoon

Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona* (1) — only one bird seen briefly by a few at Pook's Hill

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana* (4) — observed in smaller numbers than Ringed Kingfisher along the New River, as well as at Pook's Hill

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American Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle aenea* (3) — we enjoyed repeated views of this lovely little kingfisher at Lamanai. The more intrepid of our group got to enjoy a prolonged study of this species at a quiet forest pool at Chan Chich.

Bucconidae: Puffbirds (1)

White-whiskered Puffbird *Malacoptila panamensis* (2) — observed and heard well at Pook's Hill on our first morning there, with multiples flushed along the roadside at Chan Chich on our way to the escarpment

Galbulidae: Jacamars (1)

Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula ruficauda* (2) — excellent and prolonged study of this iridescently plumaged bird at a quiet forest pool at Chan Chich by the more intrepid members of our group

Ramphastidae: Toucans (2)

Collared Aracari *Pteroglossus torquatus* (5) — delightfully common wherever there were trees with ripening fruit

Keel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos sulfuratus* (7) — this spectacular, large bird was conspicuous in wetter forest throughout. This is the national bird of Belize.

Picidae: Woodpeckers (9)

Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus* (2) — observed a couple times in pine-dominated habitats

Black-cheeked Woodpecker *Melanerpes pucherani* (5) — the common woodpecker in the wetter forest habitat at Pook's Hill and Chan Chich, often joining tanagers and aracaris at fruiting trees

Yucatan Woodpecker *Melanerpes pygmaeus* (1) (Y) — observed well on our morning in the pine savanna near Lamanai

Golden-fronted Woodpecker *Melanerpes aurifrons* (4) — the common woodpecker around Lamanai, preferring more open habitats to Black-cheeked. The subspecies present in Belize is sometimes split as Velasquez's Woodpecker.

Smoky-brown Woodpecker *Veniliornis fumigatus* (2) — a family group by the roadside offered poor views on our first morning at Chan Chich, but we managed to get much better views the next afternoon by the quiet forest pool

Golden-olive Woodpecker *Piculus rubiginosus* (1) — a pair of these woodpeckers gave us good views at Pook's Hill

Chestnut-colored Woodpecker *Celeus castaneus* (3) — this was a great trip for this normally uncommon woodpecker, with birds seen both at Lamanai and Chan Chich

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus* (3) — this widespread, large woodpecker was present in small numbers around Lamanai.

Pale-billed Woodpecker *Campephilus guatemalensis* (5) — we regularly observed singles of this largest of Belizean woodpeckers at all forested sites. The double-knock was a regular feature of our walks.

Falconidae: Falcons and Caracaras (7)

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Collared Forest-Falcon *Micrastur semitorquatus* (1) — one briefly flew in front of the boat along the New River at Lamanai

Laughing Falcon *Herpotheres cachinnans* (1) — a pair of this snake-eating specialist gave us great scope views at the Yalbac Lagoon, as well as their characteristic “laughing” call

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* (1) — a single bird hunting over an agricultural field at Yalbac was our only one

Aplomado Falcon *Falco femoralis* (3) — we had astounding luck with this rare species on our trip, with three separate sightings! The one harrying the White-tailed Hawks at Yalbac was truly memorable as it easily out-maneuvered them.

Bat Falcon *Falco ruficularis* (3) — this small, striking falcon was seen daily at Lamanai

Orange-breasted Falcon *Falco deiroleucus* (1) — this large and rare falcon gave us a little trouble, but we finally caught up with it at the 1,000 Foot Falls overlook in the Pine Ridge area. The trip leader’s favorite bird of the trip!

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (1) — a single bird perched on a snag along the New River was one of the first birds of the trip

Psittacidae: Parrots (7)

Brown-hooded Parrot *Pyrilia haematotis* (1) — two birds perched for a spell one morning for scope views, although the mist made it difficult to truly appreciate the plumage details

White-crowned Parrot *Pionus senilis* (4) — a noisy but inconspicuous little parrot; a few at the Lamanai Mayan ruins early on were very cooperative

Red-lored Parrot *Amazona autumnalis* (9) — recorded at all sites throughout the trip, offering repeated views both perched and in flight. The red and yellow facial pattern is quite striking.

White-fronted Parrot *Amazona albifrons* (3) — common at Lamanai

Yellow-lored Parrot *Amazona xantholora* (1) (Y) — nice views of both males and females on our morning in the pine savanna near Lamanai. It is sometimes known as the Yucatan Parrot.

Mealy Parrot *Amazona farinosa* (2) — this large *Amazona* parrot perched nicely for us at both Pook’s Hill and Chan Chich. The unflattering name refers to the dusting of white on the feathers, as if covered in a light coating of flour.

Olive-throated Parakeet *Eupsittula nana* (7) — pleasantly common and widespread throughout our journey in Belize

Thamnophilidae: Antbirds (4)

Great Antshrike *Taraba major* (HO) (1) — a pair calling incessantly in the late afternoon at Pook’s Hill would not reveal themselves to us

Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus* (3) — brief views at Lamanai, followed by much improved views in the garden around Pook’s Hill Lodge

Dot-winged Antwren *Microrhopias quixensis* (1) — a pair of these little antbirds showed up at the eleventh hour on our final day at Chan Chich

Dusky Antbird *Cercomacroides tyrannina* (HO) (1) — heard calling by the edge of the forest near the suspension bridge at Chan Chich

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Formicariidae: Antthrushes (1)

Black-faced Antthrush *Formicarius analis* (1) — a couple of us saw this bird strolling casually in the dark background of the ant swarm scene at Chan Chich. This subspecies is sometimes split as Mexican Antthrush.

Furnariidae: Ovenbirds (7)

Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus* (4) — small numbers of this tiny woodcreeper recorded in wetter forest at Pook's Hill and Lamanai

Ruddy Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla homochroa* (1) — an excited bird seen feeding on the ground at the army ant swarm at Chan Chich — an excellent way to experience this species!

Tawny-winged Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla anabatina* (1) — an excited bird seen feeding at the army ant swarm at Chan Chich, showing off its crest and golden throat. Much more spectacular than the bland brown bird in the field guide.

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper *Glyphorhynchus spirurus* (2) — observed twice at Chan Chich in taller forest

Northern Barred-Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae* (1) — this large woodcreeper appeared and left quickly along a trail at Chan Chich, giving only some in the group good views

Ivory-billed Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster* (2) — our first one at Lamanai cooperated nicely for the entire group

Streak-headed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii* (1) — a brief view of a single bird on our first morning at Lamanai was the only one of the trip

Tyrannidae: Tyrant Flycatchers (29)

Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet *Ornithion semiflavum* (2) — this canopy-dwelling “mini-Social Flycatcher” performed nicely for us at the Lamanai Mayan ruins

Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet *Camptostoma imberbe* (HO) (1) — one heard on our morning in the pine savanna near Lamanai

Greenish Elaenia *Myiopagis viridicata* (2) — one really cooperative individual traveling with a feeding flock of migratory warblers and vireos at the Lamanai Mayan ruins

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster* (1) — the individual observed in the pine savanna near Lamanai impressed one tour participant enough to make it one of his favorite birds of the trip!

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher *Mionectes oleagineus* (6) — the most commonly seen small forest flycatcher and the only one feeding at fruiting trees

Sepia-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon amaurocephalus* (1) — this uncommon flycatcher posed nicely for the group at the Lamanai Mayan ruins

Northern Bentbill *Oncostoma cinereigulare* (1) — the only one of the trip was visible all too briefly before darting back into the forest

Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum* (1) — the only one was seen by Laura at Pook's Hill while we were distracted by colorful tanagers

Eye-ringed Flatbill *Rhynchocyclus brevirostris* (2) — this cute, duck-billed flycatcher was seen a couple times at Chan Chich

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Yellow-olive Flycatcher *Tolmomyias sulphureus* (1) — several birds on our first day in the gardens around Lamanai were the only ones of the tour

Stub-tailed Spadebill *Platyrinchus cancrominus* (HO) (4) — common by voice but never offered much of a view, despite concerted efforts

Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher *Myiobius sulphureipygius* (3) — small numbers daily at Chan Chich. This tyrant flycatcher shows incredible convergent evolution with many insect-eating birds around the world such as the American Redstart.

Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi* (1) — a single bird on our drive to the escarpment at Chan Chich

Tropical Pewee *Contopus cinereus* (3) — singles observed here and there in wetter forest at Pook's Hill and Chan Chich

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher *Empidonax flaviventris* (HO) (2) — heard on a couple days at Chan Chich

Least Flycatcher *Empidonax minimus* (2) — one very cooperative individual in the pine savanna at Lamanai was quickly ignored in favor of the much rarer Yucatan Flycatcher nearby

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus* (3) — this brilliantly colored flycatcher was seen on a couple days in more open country around Pook's Hill and Chan Chich

Bright-rumped Attila *Attila spadiceus* (3) — the fruiting trees in the service area at Chan Chich gave us walk-away views of this distinctive flycatcher

Rufous Mourner *Rhytipterna holerythra* (1) — the only one of the trip was reeled in by Carlos at the suspension bridge at Chan Chich

Yucatan Flycatcher *Myiarchus yucatanensis* (1) (Y) — one furtive individual feeding low in the oaks in the pine savanna near Lamanai

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer* (2) — observed in the forest at Lamanai and Chan Chich

Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus* (2) — singles observed at Pook's Hill and Chan Chich

Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus* (8) — the most commonly seen and heard *Myiarchus* flycatcher at all sites on the trip

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus* (2) — only a few on two dates at Lamanai of this normally conspicuous and numerous species

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua* (1) — single birds at Lamanai and Pook's Hill

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis* (6) — the common black-and-yellow flycatcher of Lamanai and Chan Chich, especially in open fields, agricultural areas, and townships

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus* (10) — abundant and conspicuous everywhere

Couch's Kingbird *Tyrannus couchii* (1) — a pair vocalizing and perching nicely for us at Lamanai

Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savanna* (2) — multiples of these neat flycatchers showed well at Yalbac. One of the group's favorite birds of the tour.

Pipridae: Manakins (2)

White-collared Manakin *Manacus candei* (1) — the fruiting trees in the service area at Chan Chich gave us great views of both a male and female

Red-capped Manakin *Ceratopipra mentalis* (3) — the best views were in the service area at Chan Chich, feeding in a fruiting gumbo limbo tree

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Tityridae: Tityras and Becards (5)

Black-crowned Tityra *Tityra inquisitor* (1) — one pair came in briefly to the fruiting trees at Chan Chich

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata* (5) — common and conspicuous at all three lodges, but our best experience was at the fruiting trees at Chan Chich

Northern Schiffornis *Schiffornis veraepacis* (3) — common by voice at Chan Chich, it took a little while for everyone to finally get good views of this inconspicuous brown bird

Cinnamon Becard *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus* (1) — a pair at the suspension bridge at Chan Chich

Rose-throated Becard *Pachyramphus aglaiae* (1) — a male performed nicely for the entire group in the service area at Chan Chich on our final morning before flying out

Vireonidae: Vireos (6)

White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus* (4) — this boreal migrant was common around Lamanai

Mangrove Vireo *Vireo pallens* (1) — only seen once while spotlighting on the New River near Lamanai, looking more like a puffball than a sleeping bird

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons* (4) — singles of this boreal migrant at all three sites visited, preferring taller and wetter forest than White-eyed

Lesser Greenlet *Pachysylvia decurtata* (5) — this inconspicuous little bird was a regular of canopy flocks of migrant warblers in Belize

Green Shrike Vireo *Vireolanus pulchellus* (2) — beautiful views of this vocal, canopy-dwelling vireo at Chan Chich on our first full day — reminiscent of the smaller, mostly green barbets of Asian rainforest

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis* (HO) (1) — heard only in the pine savanna

Corvidae: Jays and Crows (2)

Brown Jay *Psilorhinus morio* (8) — noisy and conspicuous in all habitats. Known as the “forest police” in some parts of Central America

Green Jay *Cyanocorax yncas* (1) — a couple seen briefly in the pinelands at Pine Ridge

Hirundinidae: Swallows and Martins (5)

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* (4) — always near water

Purple Martin *Progne subis* (2) — a few passage migrants at Pine Ridge and the Yalbac Lagoon were a nice surprise

Gray-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea* (1) — observed flying overhead as we were boarding the charter flight from Chan Chich to Belize City

Mangrove Swallow *Tachycineta albilinea* (5) — these white-rumped swallows were common near water

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* (2) — a few passage migrants at Pine Ridge and the Yalbac Lagoon of this familiar bird

Troglodytidae: Wrens (5)

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon* (1) — one near a house on our first morning at Lamanai

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Band-backed Wren *Campylorhynchus zonatus* (2) — a pair at Pook's Hill with another at Chan Chich. A strikingly patterned, large, and bold wren!

Spot-breasted Wren *Pheugopedius maculipectus* (6) — although common by voice, this was a tricky species to see well. Our best view was of a pair at the Belize Zoo that began preening each other on a branch right over our heads.

White-bellied Wren *Uropsila leucogastra* (1) — one beating a worm against a branch on our morning in the pine savanna near Lamanai; nearly endemic to the Yucatan region

White-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucosticta* (4) — frustratingly brief views at Pook's Hill one afternoon, with many more heard in the wetter forest of Chan Chich

Poliptilidae: Gnatcatchers (3)

Long-billed Gnatwren *Ramphocaenus melanurus* (HO) (1) — heard calling on a forest trail near the Lamanai Mayan ruins but would not come in

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Poliptila caerulea* (3) — this familiar boreal migrant was present in small numbers at Lamanai and Pook's Hill

Tropical Gnatcatcher *Poliptila plumbea* (1) — a pair performed beautifully for us in the taller forest near the Lamanai Mayan ruins

Turdidae: Thrushes (3)

Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina* (7) — this lovely songster was very common in all forested habitats

Clay-colored Thrush *Turdus grayi* (7) — the default thrush in most habitats in Belize

White-throated Thrush *Turdus assimilis* (1) — two different individuals of this very attractive thrush on our last birding walk at Chan Chich

Mimidae: Mockingbirds (3)

Black Catbird *Melanoptila glabrirostris* (1) (Y) — brief views of one flying in the pine savanna

Gray Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis* (9) — an abundant winter resident in Belize; inescapable!

Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus* (2) — a few individuals seen at Lamanai and on our longer drive to Pook's Hill; similar to Northern Mockingbird but lacks the white wing panels

Parulidae: Wood-Warblers (22)

Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapilla* (4) — singles seen daily at Lamanai strolling across the forest trails, with our last one at the ant swarm at Chan Chich

Worm-eating Warbler *Helmitheros vermivorum* (4) — present in taller forest on the grounds of all three lodges but never easy to see; they often poke at bunches of dead foliage while foraging

Louisiana Waterthrush *Parkesia motacilla* (2) — singles near running water at Pook's Hill and Chan Chich

Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis* (8) — incredibly common and confiding, especially at Chan Chich where they were often seen foraging on open lawns

Blue-winged Warbler *Vermivora cyanoptera* (3) — one sighting at each of the three lodges of this colorful and dainty warbler

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia* (7) — a common winter resident in forest habitats

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- Prothonotary Warbler** *Protonotaria citrea* (2) — our first one kept coming back to forage on the same branch at Pook's Hill for just under an hour, providing everyone with extended views
- Tennessee Warbler** *Oreothlypis peregrina* (1) — two seen at Pook's Hill one afternoon by the river
- Kentucky Warbler** *Geothlypis formosa* (1) — one was strolling along in the undergrowth just outside the service area at Chan Chich; a second joined the ant swarm on our final afternoon
- Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas* (4) — present in small numbers in rank grass and scrub
- Hooded Warbler** *Setophaga citrina* (7) — a common winter resident in forest habitats, although not always easy to observe
- American Redstart** *Setophaga ruticilla* (5) — mostly seen around Lamanai with smaller numbers elsewhere
- Northern Parula** *Setophaga americana* (1) — an uncommon winter migrant in Belize; just once at Lamani
- Magnolia Warbler** *Setophaga magnolia* (9) — abundant and conspicuous winter resident in Belize, recorded everywhere in all habitats
- Yellow Warbler** *Setophaga petechia* (4) — common only around wetlands and scrub
- Chestnut-sided Warbler** *Setophaga pensylvanica* (1) — a drab individual at Pook's Hill was our only one
- Yellow-rumped Warbler** *Setophaga coronata* (1) — a lone bird in the pinelands at 1,000 Foot Falls
- Yellow-throated Warbler** *Setophaga dominica* (4) — this winter resident has a penchant for the palm trees around Lamanai, but we also had one at the Belize Zoo associating with the Grace's Warbler for comparison
- Grace's Warbler** *Setophaga graciae* (1) — a single bird at the Belize Zoo in a mixed feeding flock
- Black-throated Green Warbler** *Setophaga virens* (6) — a regular component of mixed warbler flocks in Belize — truly lovely with the golden head and velvety black throat
- Golden-crowned Warbler** *Basileuterus culicivorus* (2) — observed on two days at Chan Chich — very lucky with this species!
- Wilson's Warbler** *Cardellina pusilla* (1) — a male appeared to us on a forest trail at Pook's Hill

Thraupidae: Tanagers and Allies (14)

- Gray-headed Tanager** *Eucometis penicillata* (2) — a pair seen early on the first morning at Pook's Hill right before the Spectacled Owls, with another attending the ant swarm at Chan Chich
- Black-throated Shrike-Tanager** *Lanio aurantius* (2) — a very confiding individual perched at close range for a quarter of an hour, allowing a fantastic study; another individual seen at Chan Chich on a misty morning
- Crimson-collared Tanager** *Ramphocelus sanguinolentus* (2) — a pair gave quick but good views on the grounds of Pook's Hill Lodge, with a repeat performance of another individual in the service area at Chan Chich — beautifully colored and striking Central American tanager
- Blue-gray Tanager** *Thraupis episcopus* (2) — just a couple sightings in secondary growth of this classic tanager, here reaching the northern edge of its vast range
- Yellow-winged Tanager** *Thraupis abbas* (4) — common near fruiting trees in wetter forested areas, this species is restricted to northern Central America and the southern half of Mexico

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Golden-hooded Tanager *Tangara larvata* (2) — a pair of this stunning species was feeding on ripening berries mere feet from the lodge restaurant on two days

Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus* (6) — we saw a few at Lamanai at Pook's Hill, but these beauties were very numerous around all the fruiting trees at Chan Chich

Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza* (1) — only one male at Chan Chich on a mid-morning walk, but it remained motionless long enough for everyone to really enjoy the brilliant green hues

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina* (2) — a couple individuals seen in rank grass mixed in with White-collared Seedeater

White-collared Seedeater *Sporophila torqueola* (10) — this sharp little bird was the most abundant bird of the trip! Nice song.

Yellow-faced Grassquit *Tiaris olivaceus* (2) — a very feeding on the path at Pook's Hill one afternoon offered a few distant views, but a more confiding pair at Pine Ridge cooperated nicely for the group

Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus* (1) — one of these birds was singing away when the following species made a noisy entrance, offering a nice comparison study. Much smaller with a sweeter song and buffy throat were diagnostic.

Black-headed Saltator *Saltator atriceps* (4) — reasonably common and noisy in wetter forest areas — very large by tanager standards

Grayish Saltator *Saltator coerulescens* (1) — one singing individual provided scope views at Lamanai

Emberizidae: Sparrows (2)

Botteri's Sparrow *Peucaea botterii* (1) — a few singing in the pine savanna near Lamanai, sounding a little different from the ones in Arizona

Green-backed Sparrow *Arremonops chloronotus* (1) — a few feeding along the trails early in the morning at the Lamanai Mayan ruins were are only ones

Cardinalidae: Grosbeaks and Buntings (11)

Hepatic Tanager *Piranga flava* (1) — a lovely pair gave us a nice performance at 1,000 Falls

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra* (3) — a common winter resident at Lamanai and Pook's Hill

Red-throated Ant-Tanager *Habia fuscicauda* (6) — common in the understory of all forested habitats; this species really does remind one more of a Northern Cardinal than a tanager in behavior and song

Black-faced Grosbeak *Caryothraustes poliogaster* (3) — a nice group gave us great views early in the morning at Pook's Hill with a few more at the fruiting trees at Chan Chich. They are often an important component of mixed feeding flocks.

Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis* (1) — this classic North American species was common by voice in the pine savanna near Lamanai, with a few brief sightings that morning

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus* (3) — a small flock of these pretty birds were regulars at the Coral Bean Tree by the main building at Pook's Hill

Gray-throated Chat *Granatellus sallaei* (1) (Y) — a pair of these Yucatan endemics gave us a solid quarter of an hour of entertainment near Lamanai as they bounced around in the scrubby bushes

Blue-black Grosbeak *Cyanocompsa cyanooides* (2) — a glossy male came in at Lamanai with a female for comparison at Pook's Hill

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Blue Bunting *Cyanocompsa parellina* (6) — these iridescent blue birds were feeding right out on the lawns at Chan Chich

Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea* (1) — a few around the buildings at Lamanai in the morning

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea* (4) — common at Lamanai in the scrubrier habitat with many already showing a considerable amount of blue

Icteridae: Blackbirds and Orioles (10)

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus* (3) — this familiar bird was reasonably common in wetlands

Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna* (3) — a couple observed at the Yalbac Lagoon with many heard near the open fields at Gallon Jug

Melodious Blackbird *Dives dives* (7) — present in small numbers on most days in all habitats

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus* (8) — present in larger numbers than the preceding species

Black-cowled Oriole *Icterus prothemelas* (5) — small numbers at all sites but the regular flock in the Coral Bean Tree at Pook's Hill gave the best views and photo opportunities

Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius* (3) — abundant only at Lamanai

Hooded Oriole *Icterus cucullatus* (2) — small numbers at Lamanai

Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula* (4) — singles and small family groups at all sites

Yellow-billed Cacique *Amblycercus holosericeus* (3) — these shy birds gave us good views at Lamanai on our last day there

Montezuma Oropendola *Psarocolius montezuma* (2) — our best views were at Lamanai, with only a distant flyover at Pook's Hill

Fringillidae: Euphonias and Finches (3)

Scrub Euphonia *Euphonia affinis* (1) — a single male at Pook's Hill made a nice comparison with its dark throat

Yellow-throated Euphonia *Euphonia hirundinacea* (7) — the default euphonia of Belize

Olive-backed Euphonia *Euphonia gouldi* (2) — a pair feeding low at Pook's Hill with another pair at the fruiting trees at Chan Chich — note the bright chestnut vent!

MAMMALS (14 species)

Proboscis Bat *Rhynchonycteris naso* — often seen roosting on trees right by the river at Lamanai

Fishing (Greater Bulldog) Bat *Noctilio leporinus*

Yucatan (Mexican) Black Howler-Monkey *Alouatta pigra*

Central American Spider-Monkey *Ateles geoffroyi* — common and enjoyable at Chan Chich

Collared Peccary *Pecari tajacu* — a small number by the edge of the forest at Chan Chich Lodge

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*

Deppe's Squirrel *Sciurus deppei*

Yucatan Squirrel *Sciurus yucatanensis*

Central American Agouti *Dasyprocta punctata*

Mexican Hairy Dwarf Porcupine *Coendou mexicanus* — we saw a few of these feeding in a tree while spotlighting at Lamanai Lodge. Fantastic little mammal!

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Kinkajou *Potos flavus* — we saw one at Lamanai one night and another at Pook's Hill on another

White-nosed Coati *Nasua narica*

Gray Fox *Urocyon cinereoargenteus*

Coyote *Canis latrans*

REPTILES (8 species)

Meso-American Slider *Trachemys venusta*

Black Iguana *Ctenosaura similis*

Green Iguana *Iguana iguana*

Striped Basilisk *Basiliscus vittatus*

House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus*

Boa Constrictor *Boa constrictor* — this four-foot snake crossing the road on our way to Pook's Hill was a solid highlight of the day!

Green-headed Tree Snake *Leptophis mexicanus* — we had one while spotlighting at Lamanai Lodge

Morelet's Crocodile *Crocodylus moreletii*