

# Belize Birding & Nature | Species List

## March 9 – 18, 2018 | Compiled by Carlos Sanchez



**With Carlos Sanchez, expert local guides, and 6 participants: Pat, Jill, Lois, Valerie, Christine and Bjorne**

(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, each offering their own unique and wonderful natural history experiences — with a sprinkling of Mayan archeology, Belizean cuisine, and conservation issues. The group collectively recorded 244 species over the course of the tour, including great views of several of Central America’s most iconic and special bird species: Orange-breasted Falcon, Agami Heron, Spectacled Owl, Tody Motmot, and more. This year’s tour was a particularly special one for birds of prey, with over twenty species all told from the immaculate White Hawk to the stealthy Collared Forest-Falcon to the impressive Black-collared Hawk. We also experienced a memorable moment at Mountain Pine Ridge, where we got to see dozens of Plumbeous and Swallow-tailed Kites feeding on dragonflies to help them get through the next leg of their migration.

### **BIRDS (244 species recorded, of which 11 were heard only):**

#### **Tinamidae: Tinamous (2)**

**Great Tinamou** *Tinamus major* (1) (HO)—we heard the plaintive whistle of this shy species while having breakfast at Chan Chich one morning

**Thicket Tinamu** *Crypturellus cinnamomeus* (1) (HO)—this small and shy dweller of spiny thickets called a few times while we were loading into the boat after our pine savanna outing at Lamanai

#### **Anatidae: Ducks and Geese (2)**

**Blue-winged Teal** *Spatula discors* (2)—a brief flyby on the transfer boat trip into Lamanai and a distant pair in the scope at Laguna Seca at Chan Chich

**Lesser Scaup** *Aythya affinis* (1)—Carlos got a handsome drake in the scope when we arrived at the Lamanai boat dock

#### **Cracidae: Guans and Chachalacas (3)**

**Plain Chachalaca** *Ortalis vetula* (5)— these noisy birds were very common at the Belize Zoo and around Lamanai

**Crested Guan** *Penelope purpurascens* (2)— recorded on two days at Chan Chich, with especially good views at the coffee plantation on our second morning. They look too big to be arboreal!

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**Great Curassow** *Crax rubra* (2)— a male slinked away before everyone could get on it at the Lamanai ruins, but several females on an early morning drive near Chan Chich gave us all great views

### Phasianidae: Grouse, Pheasants and Partridges (1)

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

### Ciconiidae: Storks (1)

**Jabiru** *Jabiru mycteria* (1)— scope view of an individual standing on a nest during our late afternoon sunset cocktail cruise did not fail to impress. It is by far the biggest stork in the Americas.

### Phalacrocoracidae: Cormorants (1)

**Neotropic Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* (4)— common around the New River at Lamanai. We also saw a few birds fishing in the small river at Pook's Hill.

### Anhingidae: Anhingas (1)

**Anhinga** *Anhinga anhinga* (2)— very scarce this year, with one soaring on our way to Pook's Hill and another by the New River on our transfer to Lamanai

### Ardeidae: Herons and Egrets (10)

**Bare-throated Tiger-Heron** *Tigrisoma mexicanum* (2)— we had prolonged views at Chan Chich of an individual standing motionless near a stream, as well as a more distant individual scoped at Laguna Seca

**Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias* (3)—only a few individuals this year around Lamanai, and we also saw one at a small forest stream at Chan Chich. Most individuals in Belize of this familiar species are winter migrants from points north.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba* (5)— recorded in small numbers whenever we were near water

**Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula* (2)—one on the drive into Pook's Hill in a roadside pond, and a few more birds observed near Lamanai

**Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea* (5)—uncommon this year, with only a single or two recorded at each of the three lodges on this itinerary

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* (7)— away from thick forest, this widespread species was abundant in fields, pastures, and wetlands

**Green Heron** *Butorides virescens* (3)— our best views were around the New River near Lamanai. The unseasonably high water levels were undoubtedly a factor in our seeing fewer individual herons and egrets this year.

**Agami Heron** *Agamia agami* (1)—prolonged observations of two of these birds near Lamanai while spotlighting, arguably one of the world's most beautiful herons and a highlight of every Belize tour

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** *Nyctanassa violacea* (2)— present in small numbers along the New River near Lamanai, and we also saw one feeding at night in an open field near Chan Chich (weird!)

**Boat-billed Heron** *Cochlearius cochlearius* (1)— a few observed at close range at a roosting site near Lamanai. This atypical nocturnal heron was formerly considered to be a member of its own family.

### Threskiornithidae: Ibis and Spoonbills (1)

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**White Ibis** *Eudocimus albus* (1)— a flyover near the Lamanai Pine Savanna

### Cathartidae: New World Vultures (4)

**Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus* (10)—observed daily overhead, the most numerous vulture

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

**Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture** *Cathartes burrovianus* (1)— a single bird soared right over the pine savanna at Lamanai, showing off its brilliantly hued yellow head

**King Vulture** *Sarcoramphus papa* (2)— soaring birds observed in the Pine Ridge area and along the trail system at Lamanai. They figure prominently in the Mayan codices, ancient folding books filled with hieroglyphics.

### Pandionidae: Osprey (1)

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* (3)— this familiar, fish-eating raptor was common along the New River. We also saw one near Gallon Jug on our way back from the coffee plantation.

### Accipitridae: Hawks, Kites, and Eagles (14)

**Hook-billed Kite** *Chondrohierax uncinatus* (1)— a single bird soaring high overhead at the Slate Creek Lookout at Pine Ridge

**Swallow-tailed Kite** *Elanoides forficatus* (1)—large numbers gathered in the late morning at Slate Creek Lookout to feed on dragonflies

**Black-collared Hawk** *Busarellus nigricollis* (1)—we observed this spectacular, fish-eating hawk a couple times on the New River near Lamanai

**Snail Kite** *Rostrhamus sociabilis* (2)—a few individuals observed hunting over the reeds along the New River. We even saw a male while spotlighting at Lamanai — cool!

**Double-toothed Kite** *Harpagus bidentatus* (1)—one individual soared overhead in the Pine Ridge area

**Plumbeous Kite** *Ictinia plumbea* (5)— a summer migrant in Central America, we saw many gathering together with the Swallow-tailed Kites at the Slate Creek Lookout. We also saw several birds both perched and soaring overhead at Chan Chich.

**Northern Harrier** *Circus cyaneus* (1)—one individual hunting over fallow fields while driving through Mennonite country

**Great Black Hawk** *Buteogallus urubitinga* (2)—we saw this large and spectacular raptor along the trails at Pook's Hill, as well as the Slate Creek Lookout at Pine Ridge

**Roadside Hawk** *Rupornis magnirostris* (7)—no shortage of these raptors in more open woodland and agricultural areas throughout Belize. It is (marginally) the smallest of all the buteonine hawks.

**White-tailed Hawk** *Geranoaetus albicaudatus* (1)—a pair of these majestic raptors soaring over the airport entrance road on day one were our only ones of the entire trip – sure glad we stopped for them!

**White Hawk** *Pseudastur albicollis* (3)— a pair of these immaculate raptors calling and soaring over the valley at the Slate Creek Lookout at Pine Ridge – spectacular! We also saw soaring birds at Pook's Hill and Chan Chich.

**Gray Hawk** *Buteo plagiatus* (1) (HO)—a single bird called repeatedly in a grove of trees near Chan Chich's coffee plantation, but it would not show itself

**Broad-winged Hawk** *Buteo platypterus* (1)—we observed this boreal migrant at the pay station at Pine Ridge, sitting quietly in a grove of trees

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**Short-tailed Hawk** *Buteo brachyurus* (2)—a nice light morph soaring in the late morning at Pook's Hill and a tattered individual soaring over the New River Lagoon right before our sunset cocktail cruise

### Rallidae: Rails, Crakes, and Coots (3)

**Ruddy Crake** *Laterallus ruber* (1)— after some careful use of playback and proper positioning of the boat, Carlos reeled one in for the entire group during our sunset cocktail cruise. The field guide does not do the beautiful colors of this bird any justice.

**Russet-naped Wood-Rail** *Aramides cajanea* (2)—our best views were of two birds caught in the spotlight on our Lamanai spotlighting safari. This species is a recent split from the old Gray-necked Wood-Rail.

**Purple Gallinule** *Porphyrio martinica* (1)—a brightly colored bird seen well on our afternoon transfer to Lamanai Lodge

### Aramidae: Limpkin (1)

**Limpkin** *Aramus guarauna* (3)— good numbers observed at Lamanai, where they seemed to be one of the most numerous wetland bird species. Often the first bird heard in the morning at Lamanai!

### Recurvirostridae: Stilts and Avocets (1)

**Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus* (1)—a single bird seen on the shore right at Lamanai Lodge was surely a tired migrant on its way somewhere else

### Charadriidae: Plovers and Lapwings (1)

**Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferous* (1)—several seen in an open field along the entrance road to Pook's Hill

### Jacanidae: Jacanas (1)

**Northern Jacana** *Jacana spinosa* (2)—common along the river systems near Lamanai, wherever there were water lilies or other floating vegetation

### Laridae: Gulls (1)

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

### Columbidae: Pigeons and Doves (10)

**Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia* (3)—a few on the wire in one of the towns on our way to Pook's Hill and near the Belize Zoo

**Pale-vented Pigeon** *Patagioenas cayennensis* (6)—abundant around Lamanai along the river and in secondary growth around the village, with smaller numbers at Chan Chich in more open forest

**Red-billed Pigeon** *Patagioenas flavirostris* (3)—commonly seen zipping by or perched on bare snags in more open habitats at Lamanai

**Short-billed Pigeon** *Patagioenas nigrirostris* (2) (HO)—only heard in the wetter forest of Pook's Hill and Chan Chich but never perching in the open

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto* (1)—a few birds seen on the wires at San Felipe on our transfer day to Chan Chich. This Eurasian species is spreading very quickly through Central America.

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**Plain-breasted Ground-Dove** *Columbina minuta* (1)—a few cooperative birds perched on dry brush and fence posts on our drive through Mennonite country – a midget among the doves

**Ruddy Ground-Dove** *Columbina talpacoti* (5)— a common bird of roadsides, towns, and grassy areas in Belize

**Blue Ground-Dove** *Claravis pretiosa* (3)— although very common by voice, not easy to see well. We had wonderful views at Pook's Hill of a nagging juvenile being fed by an adult.

**White-tipped Dove** *Leptotila verreauxi* (3)—seen briefly a few times around Pook's Hill and the Lamanai Ruins

**White-winged Dove** *Zenaida asiatica* (4)—common around the village of Indian Church and on the wires at San Felipe

### Cuculidae: Cuckoos (2)

**Groove-billed Ani** *Crotophaga sulcirostris* (5)—this social cuckoo was common in scrubby areas and fields near Lamanai and on our drive through Mennonite country

**Squirrel Cuckoo** *Piaya cayana* (6)—this attractive, long-tailed cuckoo was seen at each of the three lodges where we stayed, including two birds that perched mere feet from us while we were having lunch at Chan Chich

### Tytonidae: Barn Owls (1)

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba* (1)—one seen well at Lamanai Outpost Lodge at the end of our spotlighting safari

### Strigidae: Owls (4)

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

**Spectacled Owl** *Pulsatrix perspicillata* (2)—we saw this large and stunning owl a couple times at Pook's Hill, and we even got to hear its amazing call one morning at breakfast

**Central American Pygmy-Owl** *Glaucidium griseiceps* (1) (HO)—we heard this bird tantalizingly close at Chan Chich, but we could never manage to find it in the tall trees before it stopped calling

**Mottled Owl** *Ciccaba virgata* (1)—a total of five birds seen well on our spotlighting safari at Chan Chich — an amazing experience to say the least

### Caprimulgidae: Nighthawks and Nightjars (2)

**Common Pauraque** *Nyctidromus albicollis* (7)—heard every night at Chan Chich and Pook's Hill, and we even flushed a few during the day at Chan Chich while birding the forest trails. One bird kept flycatching right behind the dinner table at Lamanai every night.

**Yucatan Nightjar** *Antrostomus badius* (2) (Y)—nice 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* (1)— multiples seen while spotlighting Chan Chich, usually sitting on exposed snags

### Apodidae: Swifts (3)

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**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* (2)— scattered sightings overhead at Lamanai and Chan Chich

**Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift** *Panyptila cayennensis* (1)—a couple zipping quickly overhead on our last morning at Chan Chich for some of the group — their tails are long and pointed compared to the previous two species

### Trochilidae: Hummingbirds (10)

**White-necked Jacobin** *Florisuga mellivora* (8)—common around feeders and wetter forest around Pook's Hill and Chan Chich

**Long-billed Hermit** *Phaethornis longirostris* (6)—great views on our first afternoon at Pook's Hill, where a flowering tree attracted several species of hummingbird. Regular at the feeders at Chan Chich

**Stripe-throated Hermit** *Phaethornis striigularis* (1)—one of these tiny hermits came in to inspect us at close range on our last walk at Pook's Hill, but it kept moving too fast for most to really see well

**Purple-crowned Fairy** *Heliathryx barroti* (3)—great views on our first afternoon at Pook's Hill, where it was repeatedly visiting a large flowering tree. We also saw a couple at Chan Chich

**Green-breasted Mango** *Anthracothorax prevostii* (4)—not too uncommon around Lamanai

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** *Archilochus colubris* (3)— a couple of these migrants around the gardens at Lamanai Lodge and Chan Chich

**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

**White-bellied Emerald** *Amazilia candida* (4)—a bird sitting on its nest at the Lamanai Ruins was a nice treat for the entire group!

**Azure-crowned Hummingbird** *Amazilia cyanocephala* (1)—a few individuals perching and chasing each other in the pine savanna as a large feeding flock moved through

**Rufous-tailed Hummingbird** *Amazilia tzacatl* (10)—the generic hummingbird of Central America, observed daily in all habitats

### Trogonidae: Trogons (4)

**Slaty-tailed Trogon** *Trogon massena* (6)—a family group of this spectacular, large trogon was a daily morning feature at Pook's Hill right by the lodge restaurant. They were also very vocal and numerous at Chan Chich, where we even witnessed a pair nesting right by the pool!

**Black-headed Trogon** *Trogon melanocephalus* (7)—the most common and vocal trogon species at all sites, readily identified by the blue eye-ring and broad white tips in the undertail

**Gartered Trogon** *Trogon caligatus* (5)—a gorgeous trogon species that was delightfully common at Pook's Hill and Chan Chich, readily identified from the previous species by its yellow eye-ring and thin white striping to the tail

**Elegant Trogon** *Trogon collaris* (2) (HO)—heard well on the trail system at Pook's Hill and the Slate Creek Lookout, but this locally uncommon species would not cooperate for us

### Momotidae: Motmots (2)

**Tody Motmot** *Hylomanes momotula* (1)—several of the group got to see this bird by peering through the dense vegetation at Lamanai. This special species is not always easy to see well!

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**Lesson's Motmot** *Momotus lessonii* (2)—nice views on our pre-breakfast birding walk at Pook's Hill, visiting the trees right by the restaurant. We also saw one at the Lamanai Mayan site. It is one of the splits from the Blue-crowned Motmot species complex.

### **Alcedinidae: Kingfishers (4)**

**Ringed Kingfisher** *Megaceryle torquata* (7)—regularly observed in good numbers, sometimes even in flight over areas far from water

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

**Green Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle americana* (2)—observed a couple of times on the trip, once on our afternoon boat transfer to Lamanai Lodge and another on our way up a creek to the pine savanna

**American Pygmy Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle aenea* (1)—really nice views in the American Crocodile enclosure at the Belize Zoo, where a wild bird has taken up residence

### **Bucconidae: Puffbirds (2)**

**White-necked Puffbird** *Notharchus hyperrhynchus* (2)—great views of this large black-and-white canopy species at Pook's Hill and at the Lamanai Mayan Ruins site

**White-whiskered Puffbird** *Malacoptila panamensis* (2)—a male observed well at the Lamanai Mayan Ruins site was a treat for everyone, and we saw another on our morning drive to the coffee plantation. We did well with puffbirds this year!

### **Galbulidae: Jacamars (1)**

**Rufous-tailed Jacamar** *Galbula ruficauda* (3)— excellent study of this iridescently plumaged bird at Lamanai and again at Chan Chich. Their high pitched calls sound like a motor revving up.

### **Ramphastidae: Toucans (2)**

**Collared Aracari** *Pteroglossus torquatus* (5)—delightfully common wherever there were trees with ripening fruit, especially around Pook's Hill and Lamanai

**Keel-billed Toucan** *Ramphastos sulfuratus* (7)— this spectacular, large bird was conspicuous in wetter forest throughout. We witnessed an especially large congregation one afternoon at Chan Chich on our way back from Laguna Seca. This is the national bird of Belize.

### **Picidae: Woodpeckers (9)**

**Acorn Woodpecker** *Melanerpes formicivorus* (1)—only observed in the pine savanna accessed our Lamanai, where it was very common and conspicuous

**Black-cheeked Woodpecker** *Melanerpes pucherani* (4)—the common woodpecker in the wetter forest habitat at Pook's Hill and Chan Chich, often right around the rooms at the latter

**Yucatan Woodpecker** *Melanerpes pygmaeus* (1) (Y)—observed well on our morning in the pine savanna near Lamanai – a small but attractive little woodpecker.

**Golden-fronted Woodpecker** *Melanerpes aurifrons* (6)— the common woodpecker around Lamanai and Pook's Hill, preferring more open habitats to Black-cheeked. The subspecies present in Belize is sometimes split as Velasquez's Woodpecker.

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**Smoky-brown Woodpecker** *Veniliornis fumigatus* (1)—several of the more intrepid members of our group saw this one well on our last morning at Chan Chich

**Golden-olive Woodpecker** *Piculus rubiginosus* (2)—a pair observed at close range around the town of Indian Church was actually visiting a nest cavity

**Chestnut-colored Woodpecker** *Celeus castaneus* (1)—stunning views of this woodpecker on our last morning at Chan Chich, where we got to see a pair drumming on a dead palm and then begin feeding on berries

**Lineated Woodpecker** *Dryocopus lineatus* (3)—this widespread, large woodpecker showed well through the scope at Lamanai, and we heard it a couple of times at Chan Chich as well.

**Pale-billed Woodpecker** *Campephilus guatemalensis* (6)— we regularly observed singles and family groups of this largest of Belizean woodpeckers at all forested sites. A large family group drumming and feeding on a tree by the staff area clearing at Chan Chich was memorable.

### **Falconidae: Falcons and Caracaras (6)**

**Collared Forest-Falcon** *Micrastur semitorquatus* (2)—one brief flyby of a bird carrying a dead iguana at Pook's Hill generated a lot of excitement. We went to the same forest clearing the next afternoon, and Christine spotted it perched out in the open for all. Wow!

**Laughing Falcon** *Herpotheres cachinnans* (5)—a pair of this snake-eating specialist gave us great views on the New River near Lamanai, and we saw another on the forest edge at Chan Chich right behind their main building

**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius* (2)—a few on our drive through Mennonite country and another at Gallon Jug

**Aplomado Falcon** *Falco femoralis* (1)— a bird flying at full speed in front of the boat at Lamanai

**Bat Falcon** *Falco ruficularis* (2)—we saw this small falcon feeding on dragonflies together with the migrating kites at Pine Ridge. The early risers got much better views of a perched bird near Lamanai Lodge.

**Orange-breasted Falcon** *Falco deiroleucus* (1)—this large and rare falcon performed beautifully in the Pine Ridge area, where intensive conservation efforts are underway to save this declining species

### **Psittacidae: Parrots (6)**

**Brown-hooded Parrot** *Pyrilia haematotis* (1)—scope views of a small flock in the coffee plantation at Chan Chich, although the mist made it difficult to truly appreciate the plumage details

**White-crowned Parrot** *Pionus senilis* (5)— a noisy and common parrot, seen in the scope several times at both Pook's Hill and Chan Chich

**Red-lored Parrot** *Amazona autumnalis* (7)— the most common large parrot on this itinerary, seen at all three lodges in the early morning and late afternoon. The red and yellow facial pattern is quite striking.

**White-fronted Parrot** *Amazona albifrons* (3)—these small *Amazona* perched nicely for the scope in the pine savanna near Lamanai and in the coffee plantation near Chan Chich

**Mealy Parrot** *Amazona farinosa* (2)— this largest *Amazona* parrot perched briefly for the group at Pook's Hill, but we got much better views on our last morning at Chan Chich when a single bird perched low in a bare tree. The name refers to the dusting of white on the feathers, as if covered in a light coating of flour.

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**Olive-throated Parakeet** *Eupsittula nana* (5)—scope views of these cute little parakeets around Lamanai, although they seemed to be pretty common around Chan Chich as well

### Thamnophilidae: Antbirds (4)

**Barred Antshrike** *Thamnophilus doliatus* (3)— brief views at Pook's Hill, followed by a beautifully performing male at Lamanai. Love how the tail bobs as it calls!

**Plain Antvireo** *Dysithamnus mentalis* (1)—a male cooperated nicely for the more intrepid in our group on our last full day at Chan Chich. An uncommon member of feeding flocks at this site

**Dot-winged Antwren** *Microrhopias quixensis* (4)—a pair of these little antbirds could not have performed better for us at Pook's Hill. We also encountered this bird daily in feeding flocks at Chan Chich

**Dusky Antbird** *Cercomacroides tyrannina* (1)—a pair at Pook's Hill gave us a little trouble at first but eventually provided good views

### Furnariidae: Ovenbirds (4)

**Olivaceous Woodcreeper** *Sittasomus griseicapillus* (2)—small numbers of this tiny woodcreeper at the Lamanai Maya site and Chan Chich

**Tawny-winged Woodcreeper** *Dendrocincla anabatina* (1)— an excited bird on our walk back from the old sugar mill provided brief views for only a few

**Ivory-billed Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster* (4)—common by voice in all forest types, with excellent views at the Lamanai Maya site

**Plain Xenops** *Xenops minutus* (1)—nice views of this nuthatch look-alike in a mixed feeding flock at Chan Chich for the more intrepid in our group

### Tyrannidae: Tyrant Flycatchers (28)

**Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet** *Ornithion semiflavum* (2)— this canopy-dwelling “mini-Social Flycatcher” performed came down for close views at both Pook's Hill and Chan Chich

**Greenish Eleania** *Myiopagis viridicata* (2)—one really cooperative individual traveling with a feeding flock near the derelict sugar mill in the late afternoon

**Yellow-bellied Elaenia** *Elaenia flavogaster* (4)— common and vocal in the pine savanna near Lamanai and in clearings around Chan Chich

**Ochre-bellied Flycatcher** *Mionectes oleagineus* (4)—we observed this forest flycatcher feeding in open areas around Pook's Hill a couple times, followed by a couple additional observations at both Lamanai and Chan Chich

**Northern Bentbill** *Oncostoma cinereigulare* (1)—a rather cooperative individual at the Lamanai Maya site was our only one of the trip

**Common Tody-Flycatcher** *Todirostrum cinereum* (1)— only one observed in a mixed feeding flock at the Belize Zoo

**Eye-ringed Flatbill** *Rhynchocyclus brevirostris* (2)— this cute, duck-billed flycatcher was seen a couple times at Pook's Hill and Lamanai

**Yellow-olive Flycatcher** *Tolmomyias sulphurescens* (1)—vocal but inconspicuous, with scattered sightings of single birds at Pook's Hill, the Belize Zoo and Lamanai

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**Royal Flycatcher** *Onychorhynchus coronatus* (1)—all-too-brief views for only a handful of trip participants near the derelict sugar mill before it melted back into the forest

**Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher** *Myiobius sulphureipygius* (1)—one in a feeding flock at Chan Chich. This tyrant flycatcher shows incredible convergent evolution with many insect-eating birds around the world such as the American Redstart.

**Tropical Pewee** *Contopus cinereus* (2)—single observed in a scope in the staff area of Chan Chich in the early morning, followed by great views at the suspension bridge on our way to Gallon Jug

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** *Empidonax flaviventris* (3)—we observed this boreal migrant at both Pook's Hill and Chan Chich

**Least Flycatcher** *Empidonax minimus* (1)—one vocal and cooperative bird in the thick scrub around Indian Church at Lamanai

**White-throated Flycatcher** *Empidonax albigularis* (1)—a few got reasonable views of a calling individual in the marsh vegetation one morning

**Vermilion Flycatcher** *Pyrocephalus rubinus* (3)—we saw a female along the entrance road to Pook's Hill beating a grub against a wooden post, and several brilliant red males in Mennonite country on our way to Chan Chich

**Bright-rumped Attila** *Attila spadiceus* (4)—regularly heard at Pook's Hill as part of the dawn chorus followed by great views of an individual hopping around on a Mayan ruin at Lamanai

**Dusky-capped Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tuberculifer* (7)—we observed this small *Myiarchus* flycatcher at all forested sites. The dusky brown cap, overall size and thin bill is diagnostic.

**Great Crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus crinitus* (1)—a small flock of three at Pine Ridge were our only ones

**Brown-crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tyrannulus* (5)—the most commonly seen and heard *Myiarchus* flycatcher in the open secondary habitats around the village of Indian Church and Chan Chich

**Great Kiskadee** *Pitangus sulphuratus* (5)—only a single at Pook's Hill followed by many at the Belize Zoo and Lamanai. This is a common and noisy bird throughout the Neotropics

**Boat-billed Flycatcher** *Megarynchus pitangua* (1)—a calling pair in the late afternoon at the derelict sugar mill gave the entire group great views

**Social Flycatcher** *Myiozetetes similis* (8)—the common black-and-yellow flycatcher of Lamanai and Chan Chich, especially in open fields, agricultural areas, and townships

**Piratic Flycatcher** *Legatus leucophaeus* (1)—one actively calling bird seen well at the suspension bridge on our departure from Chan Chich to Gallon Jug. This austral migrant usurps the nests of other birds, hence the common name "Piratic"

**Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus* (6)—abundant and conspicuous

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

**Eastern Kingbird** *Tyrannus tyrannus* (1)—one of these passage migrants in a staff area clearing at Chan Chich was a nice surprise

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus forficatus* (1)—one individual (with an impressive tail) along the fence at Gallon Jug

**Fork-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus savanna* (2)—good views on our first afternoon while transferring from the airport to Pook's Hill. We also saw a handful in Mennonite country while transferring to Chan Chich

### Pipridae: Manakins (2)

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**White-collared Manakin** *Manacus candei* (2)—one near the derelict sugar mill and another near a staff area clearing on our final morning, both sightings of the less colorful female

**Red-capped Manakin** *Ceratopira mentalis* (3)—the best views were in the service area at Chan Chich, where both male and females were keeping to cover right on the edge of a clearing

### Tityridae: Tityras and Becards (3)

**Masked Tityra** *Tityra semifasciata* (5)—small numbers of these conspicuous birds at Pook's Hill, Lamanai and Chan Chich

**Northern Schiffornis** *Schiffornis veraepacis* (2) (HO)—we heard this shy forest denizen at Pine Ridge and Chan Chich

**Cinnamon Becard** *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus* (1)—one in a mixed feeding flock at Chan Chich on a post-breakfast outing

### Vireonidae: Vireos (5)

**Green Shrike Vireo** *Vireolanius pulchellus* (2) (HO)—this emerald green, canopy-dwelling vireo was common by voice at Chan Chich—reminiscent of the smaller, mostly green barbets of Asian rainforest

**Lesser Greenlet** *Pachysylvia decurtata* (3)—this inconspicuous little bird was a regular of canopy flocks of migrant warblers in Belize

**White-eyed Vireo** *Vireo griseus* (4)—this boreal migrant was common at all sites visited

**Mangrove Vireo** *Vireo pallens* (1)—a pair seen working the dense vegetation on the edge of the New River, where this secretive species is very common by voice. Very similar in appearance to White-eyed Vireo but with uniformly creamy yellow underparts

**Yellow-throated Vireo** *Vireo flavifrons* (2)—singles of this boreal migrant at Pook's Hill and Chan Chich

### Corvidae: Jays and Crows (1)

**Brown Jay** *Psilorhinus morio* (8)—these large, noisy and conspicuous corvids were present in all habitats

### Hirundinidae: Swallows and Martins (6)

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* (3)—large numbers of these dusky brown swallows on the transfer by boat to Lamanai Lodge, as well as along the entrance road to Pook's Hill

**Purple Martin** *Progne subis* (1)—a few passage migrants in the village near Lamanai Lodge

**Gray-breasted Martin** *Progne chalybea* (1)—we stopped to observe a group of these martins lined up on a wire while on our way to Chan Chich

**Tree Swallow** *Tachycineta bicolor* (1)—several dozen of these migrants mixed in with Barn Swallows in a fallow agricultural field

**Mangrove Swallow** *Tachycineta albilinea* (3)—these white-rumped swallows were common near water around Lamanai

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* (2)—big numbers of these elegant swallows were staging together with Tree Swallows in the agricultural fields between Lamanai and Pook's Hill

### Troglodytidae: Wrens (4)

**House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon* (2)—we saw these little energetic bundles of energy a couple of times around the village of Indian Church

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**Band-backed Wren** *Campylorhynchus zonatus* (1)—we ran into a couple family groups of these large and noisy wrens at Pook's Hill

**Spot-breasted Wren** *Pheugopedius maculipectus* (6)— although common by voice, this was a tricky species to see well. We saw them well at Pook's Hill in a stand of bamboo and in the village of Indian Church.

**White-bellied Wren** *Uropsila leucogastra* (1)—a pair working up a leafy tangle on the trail system at Chan Chich. Although rather featureless, it is genetically unique enough to be in its own genus.

### **Poliptilidae: Gnatcatchers (1)**

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** *Poliptila caerulea* (1)— small numbers of the resident race in the pine savanna near Lamanai, looking and sounding quite different from the familiar migratory race in the eastern USA

### **Turdidae: Thrushes (3)**

**Wood Thrush** *Hylocichla mustelina* (4)—our best views of this lovely songster were at the Lamanai Maya site and the Belize Zoo (their grounds were especially birdy this year!)

**Clay-colored Thrush** *Turdus grayi* (5)— the default thrush in most wooded habitats in Belize

**White-throated Thrush** *Turdus assimilis* (1) (HO)—one caroling away high up in a tree at Chan Chich would not reveal itself

### **Mimidae: Mockingbirds (3)**

**Black Catbird** *Melanoptila glabrirostris* (1) (**Y**)—nice views of this glossy-black Yucatan endemic in the pine savanna near Lamanai

**Gray Catbird** *Dumetella carolinensis* (7)— a common winter resident in Belize

**Tropical Mockingbird** *Mimus gilvus* (2)—inadvertently, always seen on the wires on longer travel days between lodges; it is similar to Northern Mockingbird but lacks the white wing panels

### **Parulidae: Wood-Warblers (21)**

**Ovenbird** *Seiurus aurocapilla* (1)—one seen briefly on our last morning walk at Pook's Hill

**Worm-eating Warbler** *Helmitheros vermivorum* (1)—one in a mixed feeding flock along the trail system at Chan Chich; they often poke at bunches of dead foliage while foraging

**Louisiana Waterthrush** *Parkesia motacilla* (1)— one very confiding individual right on the entrance road to Chan Chich provided a great study of all the fieldmarks – the white supercilium, buffy rear flanks, more substantial bill and more exaggerated bobbing

**Northern Waterthrush** *Parkesia noveboracensis* (5)—a common ground dwelling, observed on quiet forest trails and near water at all sites

**Golden-winged Warbler** *Vermivora chrysoptera* (1)—one preening in a dense tangle at the Lamanai Mayan Ruins site; this species is threatened by hybridization with the following species

**Blue-winged Warbler** *Vermivora cyanoptera* (1)—a colorful male moving about energetically in a low tree by a house near Lamanai

**Black-and-white Warbler** *Mniotilta varia* (6)— a common winter resident in forest habitats

**Tennessee Warbler** *Oreothlypis peregrina* (3)—scattered sightings of individuals at Pook's Hill, Pine Ridge and Chan Chich – Belize is north of their core wintering range

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**Kentucky Warbler** *Geothlypis formosa* (1)—a brightly colored male popped up on a branch while we were watching a feeding flock at the Lamanai Mayan ruins

**Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas* (3)—quite common around the grassy edges of the New River Lagoon, including several seen while roosting during our spotlighting safari

**Hooded Warbler** *Setophaga citrina* (3)—singles at Pook's Hill, Belize Zoo and Lamanai, although not always easy to observe

**American Redstart** *Setophaga ruticilla* (7)—common around Lamanai and Chan Chich

**Northern Parula** *Setophaga americana* (2)—an uncommon winter resident in Belize; just singles on two dates at Lamanai

**Magnolia Warbler** *Setophaga magnolia* (8)—abundant and conspicuous winter resident in Belize, recorded everywhere in all habitats

**Yellow Warbler** *Setophaga petechia* (6)—common in secondary growth around Lamanai with smaller numbers present at Chan Chich

**Chestnut-sided Warbler** *Setophaga penylvanica* (3)—one at Pook's Hill with singles seen on two dates at Chan Chich as well, still in their less showy fall plumage

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** *Setophaga coronata* (3)—common in the fallow agricultural fields on the drive to Chan Chich from Lamanai; there were several hanging around on the grassy lawns at Chan Chich, as well

**Yellow-throated Warbler** *Setophaga dominica* (6)—this winter resident has a penchant for the palm trees around Lamanai, even coming into the dining room one afternoon to pick bugs off the ceiling! Also seen in the palm trees around Pook's Hill and in the pines of the Pine Ridge area

**Grace's Warbler** *Setophaga graciae* (1)—several singing and seen well at Thousand Foot Falls at Mountain Pine Ridge

**Black-throated Green Warbler** *Setophaga virens* (4)—a regular component of mixed winter warbler flocks in Belize – truly lovely with the golden head and velvety black throat

**Wilson's Warbler** *Cardellina pusilla* (1)—a male at Pook's Hill was our only one

### **Thraupidae: Tanagers and Allies (12)**

**Black-throated Shrike-Tanager** *Lanio aurantius* (2)—a very confiding individual perched in plain view for several minutes, providing a great study of its lovely plumage, at Chan Chich

**Crimson-collared Tanager** *Ramphocelus sanguinolentus* (1)—a single bird in a *Cecropia* on our first morning at Pook's Hill gave us great views – a 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

**Golden-hooded Tanager** *Tangara larvata* (3)—several of these stunning tanagers were feeding in a fig tree only a few feet from us at Chan Chich; we saw them a few more times during our stay there

**Red-legged Honeycreeper** *Cyanerpes cyaneus* (5)—we saw a few at Pook's Hill, but these beauties were very numerous around all the fruiting trees at Chan Chich – a stunning combination of red, black and blue

**Green Honeycreeper** *Chlorophanes spiza* (1)—a pair in the fruiting fig in the staff area at Chan Chich, another classic Neotropical tanager

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**Blue-black Grassquit** *Volatinia jacarina* (2)—good numbers in the scrubby growth around the village of Indian Church

**White-collared Seedeater** *Sporophila torqueola* (7)—this sharp little bird was the most abundant bird of the trip, always in open grassy areas and secondary growth

**Buff-throated Saltator** *Saltator maximus* (1)—we saw this species only once at Pook's Hill. Much smaller with a sweeter song and buffy throat compared to the following species

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

**Grayish Saltator** *Saltator coerulescens* (2)—a pair at the Belize Zoo mixed in with a passing feeding flock; one singing individual provided scope views at Lamanai

### Emberizidae: Sparrows (3)

**Botteri's Sparrow** *Peucaea botterii* (1)—one singing at close range in the pine savanna near Lamanai provided beautiful views

**Olive Sparrow** *Arremonops rufivirgatus* (1)—seen briefly in a scrubby bush in the pine savanna near Lamanai

**Green-backed Sparrow** *Arremonops chloronotus* (2)—observed on the trail system at Pook's Hill and the Lamanai Maya site

### Icteriidae: Yellow-breasted Chat (1)

**Yellow-breasted Chat** *Icteria virens* (1)—seen briefly in the village of Indian Church and again in the brush pile at the Chan Chich coffee plantation. It is no longer considered to be a warbler, belonging in its own unique family

### Cardinalidae: Grosbeaks and Buntings (12)

**Rose-throated Tanager** *Piranga roseogularis* (1) (Y) (HO)—one singing sweetly along the Sylvester Road trail at Chan Chich, but it would not come forward to provide any views

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

**Summer Tanager** *Piranga rubra* (5)— a common winter resident at Lamanai, Pook's Hill and Chan Chich

**Red-throated Ant-Tanager** *Habia fuscicauda* (4)—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* (2) (HO)—sadly, heard only at Pook's Hill and Chan Chich. They are often an important component of mixed feeding flocks.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** *Pheucticus ludovicianus* (2)—a small flock of these pretty birds were regular around the main lodge clearing at Pook's Hill. We also had one at Lamanai

**Gray-throated Chat** *Granatellus sallaei* (1) (Y)—an immature male eventually gave everyone good views on our morning in the pine savanna

**Blue-black Grosbeak** *Cyanocompsa cyanoides* (1)—a glossy male showed briefly at Pook's Hill

**Blue Bunting** *Cyanocompsa parellina* (3)—a brilliant blue male came in to drink and bathe at the water feature at Chan Chich on two separate dates, providing us with great views of this species; we also observed a brown female at Lamanai

**Blue Grosbeak** *Passerina caerulea* (4)—observed in the scope at Pook's Hill and Lamanai, showing off their deep blue plumage

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**Indigo Bunting** *Passerina cyanea* (2)—singles at Pook's Hill and the Chan Chich coffee plantation, usually in mixed flocks with other seed eating birds

**Painted Bunting** *Passerina ciris* (1)—a few in the group got to see a brightly colored male at Lamanai one morning

### **Icteridae: Blackbirds and Orioles (11)**

**Eastern Meadowlark** *Sturnella magna* (2)—common in the agricultural fields in Mennonite Country and Gallon Jug

**Montezuma Oropendola** *Psarocolius montezuma* (3)—great views of a several individuals building their pendulous nests in the coffee plantation at Chan Chich

**Black-cowled Oriole** *Icterus prothemelas* (6)—small numbers at all sites, often with migratory orioles

**Orchard Oriole** *Icterus spurius* (5)—good numbers of these migratory orioles at Pook's Hill and Lamanai

**Hooded Oriole** *Icterus cucullatus* (3)—good numbers around Lamanai, including several very brightly plumaged males

**Yellow-backed Oriole** *Icterus chrysater* (1)—great views and photo opportunities at Lamanai on our last morning, where it is a very uncommon species

**Baltimore Oriole** *Icterus galbula* (7)—singles and small family groups at all sites, perhaps the most common and numerous oriole in Belize in winter

**Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus* (2)—a few of these familiar birds in the wetlands along the New River

**Bronzed Cowbird** *Molothrus aeneus* (1)—three birds in the distance provided reasonable scope views at Lamanai

**Melodious Blackbird** *Dives dives* (7)—present in small numbers on most days in all habitats; their loud ringing calls were a common sound of cleared areas

**Great-tailed Grackle** *Quiscalus mexicanus* (7)— these large and bold blackbirds were very common around Pook's Hill and Lamanai

### **Fringillidae: Euphonias and Finches (2)**

**Yellow-throated Euphonia** *Euphonia hirundinacea* (5)—these tiny yellow and glossy purple birds were common in all forested habitats in Belize

**Olive-backed Euphonia** *Euphonia gouldi* (2)—these pretty little euphonias showed well at Lamanai right in the village; we also saw a male in a mixed feeding flock at Chan Chich

## **Mammals (14 species)**

**Common Opossum** *Didelphis marsupialis*—we saw two individuals while spotlighting around Lamanai Lodge

**Yucatan (Mexican) Black Howler-Monkey** *Alouatta pigra*—noisy and endearing at the Lamanai Maya site and Chan Chich

**Central American Spider-Monkey** *Ateles geoffroyi*—great views near Laguna Seca at Chan Chich

**Collared Peccary** *Pecari tajacu*

**Red Brocket Deer** *Mazama americana*—brief views of one on the trail at the Lamanai Maya site

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**White-tailed Deer** *Odocoileus virginianus*

**Deppe's Squirrel** *Sciurus deppei*—one of these small squirrels at Chan Chich

**Yucatan Squirrel** *Sciurus yucatanensis*

**Central American Agouti** *Dasyprocta punctata*—the most commonly observed mammal on our trip

**Mexican Hairy Dwarf Porcupine** *Coendou mexicanus*—we saw a couple on our spotlighting safari at Lamanai. Fantastic little mammal!

**Kinkajou** *Potos flavus*— we saw one at Lamanai feeding on fruit while spotlighting

**White-nosed Coati** *Nasua narica*

**Northern Raccoon** *Procyon lotor*—several feeding in a fruiting tree at Gallon Jug while spotlighting

**Gray Fox** *Urocyon cinereoargenteus*

### Reptiles (7 species)

**Meso-American Slider** *Trachemys venusta*

**Rose-bellied Lizard** *Sceloporus variabilis*—the common small garden lizard at Lamanai

**Black Spinytail Iguana** *Ctenosaura similis*—several sightings of this more terrestrial and carnivorous relative of the Green Iguana

**Green Iguana** *Iguana iguana*—best sighting was of one sleeping right by the New River while spotlighting

**Striped Basilisk** *Basiliscus vittatus*

**Boa Constrictor** *Boa constrictor*—a small one curled up in a hole at the Lamanai boat dock

**Morelet's Crocodile** *Crocodylus moreletii*—a small individual in a stream at Chan Chich