



**January 22 – 31, 2019
Belize Birding & Nature
w/ Crooked Tree Extension**

With Carlos Sanchez, local guides, and 10 participants:
Claire, Stu, Mahlon, Troy, Roxanne, Daniel, Ginger, Marria, Kathleen, and Bob

Compiled by Carlos Sanchez

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

(I)= Introduced

(E)= Endemic

Summary: Belize is always a great trip, made even better with a fantastic group of avid birders and naturalists. The trip began with the Crooked Tree extension, where a combination of secondary growth, pine savannah, and wetlands provided a bumper crop of species including shy Ruddy Crake and Sungrebe. The pine savannah area was also special, and we got to see both the Endangered Yellow-headed Parrot and the endemic Yucatan Jay.

Onwards to Lamanai, we met up with the rest of our group and continued to this comfortable lodge. Built around (and sometimes upon!) ancient Mayan structures, this lodge and adjoining town always offer an amazing experience to our guests from cooking classes (tortillas from scratch!) to Mayan temples. During our time here, highlights included Agami Heron, Northern Potoo, Black Catbird, Jabiru, and Kinkajou.

Finally, we finished at the luxurious lodge of Chan Chich – a fantastic lodge set deep inside the Mayan Rainforest, the second largest continuous stretch of rainforest in the Americas. The lodge restaurant offered any food our hearts desired (within reason), as well as excellent homemade ice cream. Of course, the birding was superb, and we had a bevy of great sightings: Tody Motmot, White Hawk, Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Black-and-white Owl, Chestnut-colored Woodpecker, and Crimson-collared Tanager, just to name a few. Either for a quick birding vacation getaway or a stepping stone for even more birdy destinations such as Ecuador, our northern Belize tour offers some great memories!

BIRDS (243 species recorded, of which 8 were heard only; 5 Yucatan Endemics):

TINAMOUS: Tinamidae (1)

Great Tinamou *Tinamus major* (HO)—heard this shy species a couple times at Chan Chich

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae (2)

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors*—small numbers in wet areas around Crooked Tree

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*—a couple wintering in the Crooked Tree Lagoon

GUANS AND CURASSOWS: Cracidae (3)

Plain Chachalaca *Ortalis vetula*—three of these chicken-like birds at Chan Chich

Crested Guan *Penelope purpurascens*—seen on two days at Chan Chich

Great Curassow *Crax rubra*—two seen at Chan Chich and another two at Gallon Jug; an elegant, almost pheasant-like bird that often succumbs to hunting pressure in areas less pristine than Chan Chich

PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS AND ALLIES: Phasianidae (1)

Ocellated Turkey *Meleagris ocellata* (YE)—very common and widespread at Chan Chich – grotesquely beautiful!

GREBES: Podicipedidae (1)

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*—small numbers at Crooked Tree and Lamanai Maya site

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (7)

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis*—one in the pine savannah at Crooked Tree and another along the New River on our way to Lamanai

Red-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas flavirostris*—flock of 20 or so at Chan Chich

Short-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas nigrirostris* (HO)—heard a couple of times at Chan Chich

Ruddy Ground-Dove *Columbina talpacoti*—the common ground-dove of Crooked Tree and Lamanai

Blue Ground-Dove *Claravis pretiosa* (HO)—only heard in the morning at the pine savannah

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*—strangely, seen only once at Crooked Tree and heard a couple of times at Lamanai

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*—seen on the wires in the town of San Felipe en route to Chan Chich

CUCKOOS AND ALLIES: Cuculidae (3)

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris*—common around Crooked Tree with several more seen near then town of San Felipe en route to Lamanai; a black cuckoo that dwells in disturbed, deforested areas in social family groups

Striped Cuckoo *Tapera naevia*—incredible views of two birds sitting right by the road on our way from Lamanai to Chan Chich

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana*—we saw this charismatic and widespread cuckoo at Crooked Tree, Chan Chich, and Gallon Jug

NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae (2)

Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis*—seen at Crooked Tree and on the New River on our way to Lamanai

Common Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis* (HO)—only heard at Lamanai and Chan Chich

POTOOS: Nyctibiidae (1)

Northern Potoo *Nyctibius jamaicensis*—we saw three on our night boat ride at Lamanai with another one on our night ride at Chan Chich – always fun birds to see well!

SWIFTS: Apodidae (1)

Vaux's Swift *Chaetura vauxi*—a few feeding overhead at Chan Chich

HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae (11)

White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga mellivora*—common at the Chan Chich feeders while we were dining al fresco

Long-billed Hermit *Phaethornis longirostris*—another regular attendant at the Chan Chich feeders

Stripe-throated Hermit *Phaethornis striigularis*—seen a couple times at the Chan Chich feeders but far less dominant than the previous two species

Purple-crowned Fairy *Heliathryx barroti*—one regularly attending the flowering bushes at Chan Chich – always a beautiful sight

Green-breasted Mango *Anthracothorax prevostii*—seen on three days at Lamanai

Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris*—small numbers around Indian Church Village around Lamanai; one at Chan Chich

Canivet's Emerald *Chlorostilbon canivetii*—seen one morning at Lamanai

Scaly-breasted Hummingbird *Phaeochroa cuvierii*—one sitting on a nest at Lamanai was a nice treat for the group

White-bellied Emerald *Amazilia candida*—another feeder hummingbird at Chan Chich

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia tzacatl*—common and widespread

Cinnamon Hummingbird *Amazilia rutila*—one while waiting for our boat ride to Lamanai at the dock

RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae (2)

Russet-naped Wood-Rail *Aramides axillaris*—observed well at Crooked Tree and during our night boat ride on the New River

Ruddy Crane *Laterallus ruber*—one seen and another heard on our boat ride on the Crooked Tree Lagoon

SUNGREBE: Heliornithidae (1)

Sungrebe *Heliornis fulica*—we saw this bizarre relative of rails and crakes along the edge of thick vegetation at Crooked Tree Lagoon

LIMPKIN: Aramidae (1)

Limpkin *Aramus guarauna*—very common and noisy in wet areas around Crooked Tree and Lamanai; they specialize on eating aquatic molluscs

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (1)

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus*—a couple birds in the grassy expanse of Gallon Jug

JACANAS: Jacanidae (1)

Northern Jacana *Jacana spinosa*—common wetland species at Crooked Tree and Lamanai

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (3)

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*—one at Crooked Tree

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*—observed regularly at Crooked Tree and another one on the New River at Lamanai

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*—one on the New River en route to Lamanai

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (2)

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*—two hunting over the Spanish River near Crooked Tree

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*—observed fishing over the Spanish River near Crooked Tree

Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri*—two birds seen over the New River Lagoon – amazing sighting for this part of the world!

STORKS: Ciconiidae (2)

Jabiru *Jabiru mycteria*—one of these towering behemoths at Lamanai; tallest flying bird in the Americas

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana*—observed at Crooked Tree and Lamanai

ANHINGAS: Anhingidae (1)

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga*—several at Crooked Tree on our boat ride; a few seen along the lagoon at Lamanai

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (2)

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*—common near water at Crooked Tree and Lamanai

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus*—an uncommon vagrant to inland waterways in Belize; a continuing bird seen at Lamanai right off the dock

PELICANS: Pelecanidae (1)

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*—a total of four birds seen in the lagoon at Crooked Tree

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (13)

Least Bittern *Ixobrychus exilis*—one skulking along the edge of the reeds of the New River Lagoon while we were having our cocktail cruise at Lamanai – nice!

Bare-throated Tiger-Heron *Tigrisoma mexicanum*—small numbers at all three sites in Belize

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*—common at Crooked Tree and Lamanai near water; a winter visitor in Belize composed of migrants from the US and Canada

Great Egret *Ardea alba*—common near water at Crooked Tree and Lamanai

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*—a few at Crooked Tree and a nice flock of a couple dozen flying by at Lamanai

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*—very common at Crooked Tree and Lamanai near water

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor*—a few seen on the edge of the lagoon at Crooked Tree

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*—observed daily, common and widespread

Green Heron *Butorides virescens*—quite common and numerous at Crooked Tree and Lamanai; one seen at Chan Chich

Agami Heron *Agamia agami*—fantastic views of an individual during our nocturnal boat trip at Lamanai; Belize might be the best place to observe this rare and beautiful heron in Central America; **VOTED BIRD OF THE TRIP!**

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*—just one individual at Crooked Tree

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea*—several on the New River en route to Lamanai, roosting in the trees; a few birds hunting in the grassy fields of Gallon Jug at night

Boat-billed Heron *Cochlearius cochlearius*—several individuals on the New River en route to Lamanai; these bizarre herons are always a treat!

IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae (2)

White Ibis *Eudocimus albus*—very common at Crooked Tree

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*—common at Crooked Tree

NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae (4)

King Vulture *Sarcoramphus papa*—two in a kettle of vultures at Chan Chich was a nice find; largest of the New World Vultures in Central America with a wingspan of up to seven feet

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*—common and widespread

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*—common and widespread

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes burrovianus*—seen once at Crooked Tree and another at Lamanai – always good to check soaring Turkey Vultures in this area for this similar species

OSPREY: Pandionidae (1)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*—observed at Crooked Tree and Lamanai, including three birds seen en route to Lamanai along the New River

HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (12)

White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus*—we saw this elegant raptor at Crooked Tree and en route to Chan Chich near the town of San Felipe; a species that is spreading due to deforestation, as they prefer open fields where they can hunt for rodents during the dawn and dusk hours

Black Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus tyrannus*—one calling bird soaring and calling over Chan Chich

Ornate Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus ornatus*—we were fortunate with hawk-eagles on this tour! Another hawk-eagle soaring overhead turned out to be this large and attractive species

Black-collared Hawk *Busarellus nigricollis*—great views of this uncommon and local hawk at Crooked Tree and on the New River en route to Lamanai; this hawk specializes on catching fish like the distantly related Osprey

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis*—common at Crooked Tree and Lamanai; specializes on eating aquatic snails

Double-toothed Kite *Harpagus bidentatus*—one of these small raptors at Chan Chich

Great Black Hawk *Buteogallus urubitinga*—singles at Crooked Tree and on the New River en route to Lamanai
Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris*—the most common and widespread raptor in northern Belize
White-tailed Hawk *Geranoaetus albicaudatus*—one of these large and handsome hawks en route to Chan Chich
White Hawk *Pseudastur albicollis*—nice views of a soaring bird while we were having lunch at Chan Chich
Gray Hawk *Buteo plagiatus*—one at Chan Chich, perched at length in a tree for nice scope views
Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus*—one soaring over Crooked Tree was our only one

BARN OWLS: Tytonidae (1)

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*—one waiting for us at the dock one night at Lamanai

OWLS: Strigidae (4)

Middle American Screech-Owl *Megascops guatemalae*—observed during our night ride at Chan Chich, right along the entrance road to the lodge

Central American Pygmy-Owl *Glucidium griseiceps* (HO)—calling around the Chan Chich grounds at dawn and dusk but never showing itself

Mottled Owl *Ciccaba virgata*—a medium-sized owl, two observed hunting in the grassy open fields of Gallon Jug

Black-and-white Owl *Ciccaba nigrolineata*—one on the forest edge at Gallon Jug, significantly larger than the previous species

TROGONS: Trogonidae (3)

Slaty-tailed Trogon *Trogon massena*—really good looks at a calling male at the Lamanai Maya site; the largest trogon species in Belize

Black-headed Trogon *Trogon melanocephalus*—individuals at the Lamanai Maya site, Chan Chich, and Gallon Jug

Gartered Trogon *Trogon caligatus*—two sightings at Lamanai with a further single bird at Chan Chich

MOTMOTS: Momotidae (1)

Tody Motmot *Hylomanes momotula*—great views of this small and uncommon motmot at Chan Chich on one of our walks – never easy to see, so very special that we got good looks through the scope

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (4)

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*—noisy and numerous at Crooked Tree and Lamanai near the lagoons

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon*—a total of nine birds on the boat tour at Crooked Tree, two more at Lamanai on the New River Lagoon; this large kingfisher is a winter visitor to Belize and the rest of Central America

American Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle aenea*—one seen at close range on our boat ride at Crooked Tree

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana*—several at Crooked Tree and during our time at Lamanai but not as common or conspicuous as Ringed Kingfisher

PUFFBIRDS: Bucconidae (2)

White-necked Puffbird *Notharchus hyperrhynchus*—spectacular views of a family group at Chan Chich, so close we could almost reach out and touch them!

White-whiskered Puffbird *Malacoptila panamensis*—a total of five birds during our time at Chan Chich; unlike the previous species, this puffbird prefers to live below the canopy in the midstory level of the forest

JACAMARS: Galbulidae (1)

Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula ruficauda*—we saw this beautiful metallic green and rufous bird at the Lamanai Maya site and Chan Chich; they specialize

TOUCANS: Ramphastidae (2)

Collared Aracari *Pteroglossus torquatus*—seen at Chan Chich and Lamanai, but our best views were in the shaded coffee plantation near Gallon Jug

Keel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos sulfuratus*—two seen around the village at Lamanai and a further four at the shaded coffee plantation near Gallon Jug; a large ‘fruit loops’ toucan with a croaking call

WOODPECKERS: Picidae (9)

Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus*—common around Crooked Tree Village, where there is a native ‘live oak’ or Encina Tree *Quercus oleoides* that produces acorns

Black-cheeked Woodpecker *Melanerpes pucherani*—a wet rainforest woodpecker equivalent of Red-bellied Woodpecker of the eastern USA; observed daily at Chan Chich

Yucatan Woodpecker *Melanerpes pygmaeus* (YE)—two of these tiny and range-restricted *Melanerpes* woodpeckers in the Lamanai pine savannah; always a great find!

Golden-fronted Woodpecker *Melanerpes aurifrons*—the most common woodpecker at Crooked Tree and Lamanai, replacing Black-cheeked Woodpecker in these drier and more open habitats

Smoky-brown Woodpecker *Dryobates fumigatus* (HO)—we heard these a couple times at Chan Chich (and we even got unsatisfactory flyover views over a forest trail) but not quite good enough for a life view!

Pale-billed Woodpecker *Campephilus guatemalensis*—we saw one of these Ivory-billed Woodpecker relatives at the Lamanai Maya site, working a tree cavity (nesting?); seen a couple times at Chan Chich, as well

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus*—observed at all three sites on our route; never abundant but always present in enough numbers to see at least every other day in the right habitat

Chestnut-colored Woodpecker *Celeus castaneus*—two of these beautiful and charming hummingbirds at Chan Chich; arguably, the most beautiful woodpecker in northern Central America

Golden-olive Woodpecker *Colaptes rubiginosus*—one at the Lamanai Maya site

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (4)

Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans*—one at Lamanai and another at Chan Chich, offering great scope views; a snake-eating specialist

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*—one bird at Chan Chich, hunting over the fields at Gallon Jug

Aplomado Falcon *Falco femoralis*—quick but solid views of a soaring bird right before the town of San Felipe

Bat Falcon *Falco ruficularis*—about ten or so individuals observed in total split among all three sites

PARROTS: Psittacidae (8)

Brown-hooded Parrot *Pyrilia haematotis*—couple sightings of these pretty parrots at Chan Chich

White-crowned Parrot *Pionus senilis*—a few at Lamanai but very common at Chan Chich, where we got excellent views in the scope of perched birds

Red-lored Parrot *Amazona autumnalis*—very common at all three sites, including scope views; the most common parrot species in northern Belize

Yellow-headed Parrot *Amazona oratrix*—distant but diagnostic scope views in the Lamanai pine savannah; an Endangered species according to CITES due to the ongoing illegal pet trade – Belize being a stronghold and one of the better places to see this species in the wild

White-fronted Parrot *Amazona albifrons*—nice flock of over a dozen birds in the Crooked Tree pine savannah and a further two at Chan Chich

Yellow-lored Parrot *Amazona xantholora* (YE)—brief views of this endemic *Amazona* parrot at the Lamanai pine savannah

Mealy Parrot *Amazona farinosa* (HO)—sadly, we only heard the rollicking calls of this large parrot at Chan Chich

Olive-throated Parakeet *Eupsittula nana*—small but almost daily flocks at all three sites

ANTBIRDS: Thamnophilidae (3)

Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus*—a pair in the corner of the lodge garden at Crooked Tree; two cooperative birds in the bushy thickets just beyond Lamanai Outpost Lodge near the village

Dot-winged Antwren *Microrhopias quixensis*—a family group of four birds were traveling with a feeding flock in the forest at Chan Chich

Dusky Antbird *Cercomacroides tyrannina*—one seen well at Chan Chich

OVENBIRDS AND WOODCREEPERS: Furnariidae (7)

Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus*—the second smallest woodcreeper, seen once at Lamanai and twice at Chan Chich

Ruddy Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla homochroa*—a total of four birds congregating around a small ant swarm at Chan Chich; this and Tawny-winged Woodcreeper are ‘ant-creepers’ in that they often follow army ants

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper *Glyphorhynchus spirurus*—we saw this smallest of woodcreepers at Chan Chich

Ivory-billed Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster*—the most common woodcreeper, observed multiple times at all three sites

Streak-headed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*—one seen by some of the group at Lamanai

Plain Xenops *Xenops minutus*—one of these tiny nuthatch-like birds at the Lamanai Maya site, associating with a mixed feeding flock

Rufous-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis erythrothorax*—one came in for nice views at Crooked Tree, right in the garden of the lodge

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (28)

Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet *Ornithion semiflavum*—we saw this colorful canopy flycatcher at Chan Chich; looks almost like a miniature Social Flycatcher or Great Kiskadee

Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet *Camptostoma imberbe*—seen well in the pine savannah walk while at Lamanai; the only tyrannulet species that ranges north beyond the tropics into the USA

Greenish Elaenia *Myiopagis viridicata*—two individuals at Crooked Tree and seen on two days at Chan Chich

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster*—we saw this widespread flycatcher at all three sites

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher *Mionectes oleagineus*—a common forest flycatcher at Lamanai Maya site and Chan Chich, including one visiting the bird bath right in front of the Chan Chich dining area

Northern Bentbill *Oncostoma cinereigulare*—one of these oddball flycatchers at Chan Chich

Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum*—couple sightings at Crooked Tree

Yellow-olive Flycatcher *Tolmomyias sulphurescens*—recorded a couple times at Lamanai

Stub-tailed Spadebill *Platyrinchus cancrominus* (HO)—heard only on two days at Chan Chich, this species can be frustratingly difficult to observe

Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher *Terenotriccus erythrurus*—recorded this tiny flycatcher in the interior of a forest trail on one of our walks at Chan Chich --- good looks for all! Taxonomic note: this species is no longer considered to be a Tyrant Flycatcher and belongs (with the Royal Flycatcher) in the Sharpbill family

Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher *Myiobius sulphureipygius*—a close relative of Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher with a feeding strategy similar to the American Redstart; one at Chan Chich

Tropical Pewee *Contopus cinereus*—one in the pine savannah and Lamanai and another at Chan Chich; this is a non-migratory version of our Wood-Pewees

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher *Empidonax flaviventris*—a wintering individual at Chan Chich; their core wintering range is in northern Central America

White-throated Flycatcher *Empidonax albigularis*—one in the reeds at Dawson Creek on our way to the pine savannah at Lamanai; this is an enigmatic, tropical *Empidonax* flycatcher with a weird distribution

Least Flycatcher *Empidonax minimus*—a common winter visitor in Belize; we saw singles at Crooked Tree and Chan Chich

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus*—these bright and beautiful flycatchers were very common at Crooked Tree; we also had sightings at the Lamanai pine savannah and half a dozen en route to Chan Chich in the agricultural Mennonite areas

Bright-rumped Attila *Attila spadiceus*—the fruiting tree in the staff housing area at Chan Chich would attract many bird species in the morning, including a pair of these fierce looking flycatchers

Rufous Mourner *Rhytipterna holerythra*—a great find on one of our longer forest walks at Chan Chich, this solid rufous flycatcher showed well by a sluggish forest stream

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer*—seen daily at Crooked Tree, where it seems to be quite common; pair seen at Chan Chich

Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus*—one seen at Lamanai

Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus*—the common *Myiarchus* at Lamanai and Crooked Tree, where it was seen daily

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*—very common and noisy around Crooked Tree and Lamanai

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua*—two sightings at Lamanai; very similar in appearance to Great Kiskadee but without rufous in the wings and a diagnostic ‘Roman nose’

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis*—a very common flycatcher in northern Belize, observed daily

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*—the default kingbird in Belize, observed daily

Couch’s Kingbird *Tyrannus couchii*—several great sightings, identified by call, at Crooked Tree, Lamanai and Chan Chich; a pair at Lamanai Maya site even posed for great photos right over the souvenir shops

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus*—one wintering individual in the Gallon Jug area of Chan Chich

Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana*—spectacular and delightfully common flycatcher at Gallon Jug in Chan Chich, with over half a dozen birds observed in the fields

COTINGAS: Cotingidae (1)

Rufous Piha *Lipaugus unirufus*—we heard one of these calling on one of the road tracks, so we quickly got out of the vehicle and had quick but solid views of this uncommon cotinga

MANAKINS: Pipridae (2)

White-collared Manakin *Manacus candei*—a female observed at Lamanai and another at Chan Chich

Red-capped Manakin *Ceratopipra mentalis*—observed at the Lamanai Maya site; three birds including colorful males at Chan Chich

BECARDS AND TITYRAS: Tityridae (4)

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata*—we saw four at Lamanai, then seen daily in numbers at Chan Chich

Northern Schiffornis *Schiffornis veraepacis*—a calling bird on one of the forest trails eventually gave everyone really good views; a shy thrush-sized bird with deep mossy-green plumage and a distinctive call

Cinnamon Becard *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*—two seen at Chan Chich

Rose-throated Becard *Pachyramphus aglaiae*—a pair at Crooked Tree and another at Chan Chich

VIREOS: Vireonidae (6)

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis*—seen twice at Crooked Tree, especially good and close views in the pine savannah habitat

Green Shrike-Vireo *Vireolanius pulchellus*—a couple sightings of this colorful canopy vireo at Chan Chich, where it is pretty common by voice

Lesser Greenlet *Pachysylvia decurtata*—a couple sightings at Chan Chich, including a flock of about six birds traveling and feeding with other insect-eating birds in the rainforest

White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus*—common winter visitor in Belize, observed at all three sites

Mangrove Vireo *Vireo pallens*—two sightings at Crooked Tree and another of a sleeping bird on the Lamanai nocturnal boat ride

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons*—reasonably common winter visitor in Belize; seen at all three sites in small numbers

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (2)

Brown Jay *Psilorhinus morio*—the ‘forest police’ was common and noisy at Lamanai and Chan Chich!

Yucatan Jay *Cyanocorax yucatanicus* (**YE**)—a family group was regular in the pine savannah at Crooked Tree, an excellent site for this species in Belize

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (4)

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*—a flock of these birds flying around in the pine savannah at Lamanai

Gray-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*—a couple sightings of singles and duos at Crooked Tree and Chan Chich, respectively

Mangrove Swallow *Tachycineta albilinea*—the common swallow in Belize, especially near water

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*—a single bird feeding over the fields at Gallon Jug was our only one

WRENS: Troglodytidae (4)

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*—singles observed daily at Crooked Tree; once at Lamanai

Spot-breasted Wren *Pheugopedius maculipectus*—observed a few times at both Crooked Tree and Lamanai; heard singing at Chan Chich, as well; a medium-sized wren of northern Central America

White-bellied Wren *Uropsila leucogastra*—observed twice at Chan Chich along the forest trails, offering nice and quick views each time; almost endemic to the Yucatan Peninsula!

White-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucosticta*—mostly heard at Lamanai and Chan Chich; we did manage reasonable but fleeting views at Chan Chich – not always an easy bird to see really well

GNATCATCHERS: Polioptilidae (3)

Long-billed Gnatwren *Ramphocaenus melanurus*—two birds in a feeding flock at Chan Chich; very long bill compared to its gnatcatcher relatives

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Polioptila caerulea*—observed several times at Crooked Tree, where it is a rather common breeding resident

Tropical Gnatcatcher *Polioptila plumbea*—two individuals at Chan Chich

THRUSHES: Turdidae (2)

Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina*—only two individuals seen at Chan Chich on one day; an odd low count for this species, as it is usually quite common

Clay-colored Thrush *Turdus grayi*—very common at Crooked Tree; a single bird observed at Lamanai

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae (3)

Black Catbird *Melanoptila glabrirostris* (YE)—nice views of this skulking bird species at Dawson Creek as we were leaving the Lamanai pine savannah

Gray Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis*—common winter visitor in northern Belize, seen at all three sites

Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus*—very common in the open habitats around Crooked Tree; also seen at the Lamanai pine savannah and along the road to Chan Chich in Mennonite country

FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae (2)

Yellow-throated Euphonia *Euphonia hirundinacea*—the default euphonia in northern Belize, observed almost daily at Lamanai and Chan Chich; euphonias in the Americas are actually colorful finches that feed on

Olive-backed Euphonia *Euphonia gouldi*—one of these oddly colored euphonias at Chan Chich

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae (5)

Botteri's Sparrow *Peucaea botterii*—several birds singing in the Lamanai pine savannah, with a couple offering great scope views; the subspecies resident in Belize is sometimes split as 'Peten Sparrow' along with several other subspecies in southern Mexico and Guatemala

Grasshopper Sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum*—nice views of one bird in the Lamanai pine savannah morning

Olive Sparrow *Arremonops rufivirgatus*—one in the Lamanai pine savannah, a specialist in this part of its range

Green-backed Sparrow *Arremonops chloronotus*—two birds feeding on the dirt track next to the restaurant at Lamanai offered great views; this sparrow is endemic to northern Central America and the Yucatan Peninsula

Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina*—an isolated breeding population at Crooked Tree, we saw many of them around the garden at Beck's

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Icteriidae (1)

Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens*—a winter visitor in Belize; two of these unusual songbirds at Chan Chich, always on the edge of thick growth or under a brush pile

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS AND ORIOLES: Icteridae (10)

Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna*—observed in the Lamanai pine savannah and in the cattle pastures at Gallon Jug

Yellow-billed Cacique *Amblycercus holosericeus*—one secretive individual in the secondary growth near Lamanai Outpost Lodge; not a true cacique species, exhibits more of a leaf-gleaning feeding behavior and a classic cup nest instead of a pendulous one

Montezuma Oropendola *Psarocolius montezuma*—small numbers at Chan Chich and Gallon Jug; we got to hear their fantastic bugling calls

Black-cowled Oriole *Icterus prothemelas*—singles or pairs seen at all three sites

Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius*—a few birds at Crooked Tree and a further sighting of three at Chan Chich

Hooded Oriole *Icterus cucullatus*—common at Crooked Tree and Lamanai, especially around the villages

Yellow-backed Oriole *Icterus chrysater*—two coming to the sugar feeder at Beck's Bed and Breakfast

Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula*—a common winter visitor in Belize, observed at all three sites

Melodious Blackbird *Dives dives*—common and widespread, observed daily

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*—common and widespread, observed daily

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (16)

Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapilla*—three seen strutting on the various forest paths at the Lamanai Maya site

Louisiana Waterthrush *Parkesia motacilla*—seen twice at Chan Chich

Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis*—common winter visitor in Belize, observed at all three sites – sometimes walking out in the open on mowed lawns!

Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera*—one observed at Lamanai Maya site

Blue-winged Warbler *Vermivora cyanoptera*—one winter visitor in the parking lot area of Lamanai Lodge

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia*—very common winter visitor in Belize, seen daily

Gray-crowned Yellowthroat *Geothlypis poliocephala*—a resident warbler species, seen only in the pine savannah at Lamanai but seen very well

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas*—seen at all three sites but especially common at Lamanai

Hooded Warbler *Setophaga citrina*—always a lovely bird to see with their striking yellow and black plumage; seen at all three sites on our route

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*—common winter visitor in Belize; observed daily

Northern Parula *Setophaga americana*—a few seen at Crooked Tree and Lamanai

Magnolia Warbler *Setophaga magnolia*—perhaps the most common wintering warbler species in Belize, which is part of its core wintering range; observed daily at all three sites

Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechia*—common at Crooked Tree and Lamanai

Black-throated Blue Warbler *Setophaga caerulescens*—a rare winter visitor to Belize, as most winter in the Caribbean; a male observed at Crooked Tree was a nice surprise!

Yellow-throated Warbler *Setophaga dominica*—a striking warbler, observed at all three sites in small numbers

Black-throated Green Warbler *Setophaga virens*—an individual observed at the Lamanai Maya site

CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae (8)

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*—a common winter visitor in Belize; both males and females observed at all three sites, usually first detected by their characteristic 'pit-uck' call

Red-crowned Ant-Tanager *Habia rubica*—observed on two dates at Chan Chich, once with a feeding flock at a small ant swarm

Red-throated Ant-Tanager *Habia fuscicauda*—one male clearly seen at Chan Chich; as their name implies, these ant-tanagers often associate with army ant swarms alongside the 'ant-creeper' woodcreepers. The Mayan Rainforest of northern Central America lacks the 'professional antbirds' of Amazonia, so these two species groups fill an ecological niche here

Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis*—common at Crooked Tree, a familiar species to American birders that reaches the southern edge of its range here

Blue-black Grosbeak *Cyanoloxia cyanooides*—one feeding in the ornamental ginger right in front of the restaurant at Chan Chich, offering amazing views of this normally secretive species!

Blue Bunting *Cyanocompsa parrellina*—always a big target on this route; a male seen well at the Lamanai Maya site, showing off its blue highlights against its dark blue body

Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea*—two birds seen at Chan Chich, including one at the coffee plantation

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea*—one bird seen at the coffee plantation at Chan Chich

TANAGERS AND ALLIES: Thraupidae (11)

Gray-headed Tanager *Eucometis penicillata*—seen on a forest walk at Chan Chich

Black-throated Shrike-Tanager *Lanio aurantius*—we saw this colorful Central American tanager on one of our forest walks at Chan Chich

Crimson-collared Tanager *Ramphocelus sanquinolentus*—the group that remained at Chan Chich for a few extra hours managed to see this species in the staff housing area – nice!

Blue-gray Tanager *Thraupis episcopus*—very common at Lamanai with small numbers elsewhere

Yellow-winged Tanager *Thraupis abbas*—very common at Chan Chich, especially around the immediate lodge grounds near the rooms and restaurant; endemic to northern Central America

Golden-hooded Tanager *Tangara larvata*—two in the staff housing area at Chan Chich, visiting a fruiting *Ficus* tree; always spectacular with its technicolor palette of colors

Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus*—another very colorful bird species; seen both at Lamanai and Chan Chich, but we got our best views in the staff housing area at the latter location

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina*—small numbers at Crooked Tree and Lamanai

Morelet's Seedeater *Sporophila moreletii*—very common at Crooked Tree and Lamanai, preferring disturbed weedy areas

Black-headed Saltator *Saltator atriceps*—we saw these giant tanagers at Lamanai and Chan Chich

Grayish Saltator *Saltator coerulescens*—two in the town of Indian Church at Lamanai

MAMMALS (11 species recorded):

Gray Four-eyed Opossum *Philander opossum*

Proboscis Bat *Rhynchonycteris naso*—seen along the New River en route to Lamanai, camouflaged against a tree

Yucatan Black Howler Monkey *Alouatta pigra*—great views of these noisy primates at Lamanai and Chan Chich

Central American Spider Monkey *Ateles geoffroyi*—seen at Chan Chich

Deppe's Squirrel *Sciurus deppei*

Yucatan Squirrel *Sciurus yucatanensis*

Central American Agouti *Dasyprocta punctata*

Collared Peccary *Pecari tajacu*

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*—common around Chan Chich, a favorite prey animal of the Jaguar

Kinkajou *Potos flavus*—seen on our night boat ride at Lamanai

Common Raccoon *Procyon lotor*—we spotlighted a family group in Gallon Jug and watched as they came down the tree, one by one

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (6 species recorded):

Morelet's Crocodile *Crocodylus moreletii*—quite common in the New River Lagoon at Lamanai, especially visible at night

Green Iguana *Iguana iguana*—common in the trees along the New River at Lamanai

Black Spiny-tailed Iguana *Ctenosaura similis*

Brown Basilisk *Basiliscus vittatus*

Rose-bellied Lizard *Sceloporus variabilis*

Giant Toad *Rhinella horribilis*—seen on one of our night walks at Lamanai