

# Belize Birding & Nature | Species List

January 31 – February 9, 2018 | Compiled by Bob Behrstock



**With Bob Behrstock, local bird guides, and 10 participants:  
Ginger, Jody, Diane, Bill, Tim, Norma, Neil, Mary Ellen, Marie, and  
Tamara**

(HO) = Distinctive enough to be counted as heard only; some other species not included

(Y) = Yucatan regional endemics

(#) = Number of days encountered in parentheses

## Summary

This tour visited three popular lodges in the northern half of Belize: Pook's Hill Lodge, Lamanai Outpost Lodge, and Chan Chich Lodge. All provided us with competent birding guides, comfortable accommodations, good food, and, especially at Lamanai, insights into Mayan history and culture. Despite being scheduled during the dry season, the tour was rainy at the beginning and the end, which affected bird activity and hurt us a bit. Nonetheless, we saw some excellent birds, including 10 hummingbirds, 8 parrots, 16 raptors (Ornate Hawk-Eagle being the overall favorite), 18 warblers, all the toucans and trogons, Black-and white Owl, Tody Motmot, Sungrebe, Ocellated Turkey (common but spectacular), Agami Heron, Northern Potoo, Yucatan Nightjar, and the list goes on. We had a congenial group and no hiccups with flights or baggage, which made the tour even more pleasant.

## **BIRDS (about 228 species recorded, a few of which were heard only):**

### **Tinamidae: Tinamous (1)**

**Thicket Tinamou** *Crypturellus cinnamoneus* (1) (HO) — vocal, but (as is generally the case) invisible on the pine savanna at Lamanai.

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

**Plain Chachalaca** *Ortalis vetula* (5) — seen (and heard!) throughout the trip. They were especially numerous at the Belize Zoo (wild) and occasionally seen at roadside.

**Crested Guan** *Penelope purpurascens* (2) — seen twice in fruiting trees at Chan Chich.

**Great Curassow** *Crax rubra* (2) — glimpses of skittish individuals along the road at Chan Chich and finally an eleventh-hour female seen in a roadside clearing by those of us on the second airport shuttle leaving Chan Chich.

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

**Ocellated Turkey** *Meleagris ocellata* (Y) (3) — These beautiful birds were numerous at Chan Chich and present by the dozens (and clearly not persecuted) in agricultural land around the settlement of Gallon Jug.

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## **Ciconiidae: Storks (2)**

**Jabiru** *Jabiru mycteria* (2) — a distant individual during the boat ride to Lamanai and one on the nest along the New River near Lamanai.

**Wood Stork** *Mycteria americana* (3) — two were seen on several occasions at a pasture on the Pook's Hill Road.

## **Fregatidae: Frigatebirds (1)**

**Magnificent Frigatebird** *Fregata magnificens* (1) — not commonly seen inland, a wandering male was seen one morning as it flew over the dock at Lamanai.

## **Phalacrocoracidae: Cormorants (1)**

**Neotropic Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* (4) — small numbers seen along the New River and at the Lamanai docks.

## **Anhingidae: Anhingas (1)**

**Anhinga** *Anhinga anhinga* (2) — a couple were seen during the drive to Pook's Hill and one along the New River.

## **Ardeidae: Herons and Egrets (10)**

**Bare-throated Tiger-Heron** *Tigrisoma mexicanum* (1) — one was seen roosting in a bare tree at Laguna Verde near Gallon Jug.

**Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias* (2) — small numbers at marsh and river edge.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba* (9) — usually singles at marsh, river, and field edge, or in pastures.

**Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula* (2) — noted twice at river edge.

**Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea* (7) — a few (including white immatures) at marsh edge and in pastures, and then a flock of about a dozen during the boat trip to the savanna at Lamanai.

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* (9) — common at roadsides, villages, around pastures, and as fly-overs.

**Green Heron** *Butorides virescens* (2) — small numbers along the New River both day and night.

**Agami Heron** *Agamia agami* (1) — one individual of this very special heron was seen at close range during the night boat trip at Lamanai.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** *Nyctanassa violacea* (1) — a single bird was observed in the channel leading to the savanna opposite Lamanai.

**Boat-billed Heron** *Cochlearius cochlearius* (1) — several of these bizarre herons (formerly in their own family) were seen in trees along the New River during the boat trip to Lamanai.

## **Threskiornithidae: Ibis and Spoonbills (1)**

**White Ibis** *Eudocimus albus* (1) — one flying adult was seen rather quickly during the boat trip to Lamanai.

## **Cathartidae: New World Vultures (4)**

**Black Vulture** *Corabyps atratus* (9) — frequently seen overhead or roosting as they waited for some sunshine

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura* (9) — seen daily, never in large numbers

**Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture** *Cathartes burrovianus* (1) — One perched bird was approached, providing good views during the boat trip to Lamanai.

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**King Vulture** *Sarcoramphus papa* (3) — this curiously beautiful bird was seen at least three times — Lamanai, Chan Chich, and the overlook in the Pine Ridge.

## **Pandionidae: Osprey (1)**

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* (4) — several sightings along the New River and during the drives to Pook's Hill and Chan Chich.

## **Accipitridae: Hawks, Kites, and Eagles (13)**

**White-tailed Kite** *Elanus leucurus* (1) — During an afternoon truck trip to Laguna Verde, one was seen at Gallon Jug.

**Hook-billed Kite** *Chondrohierax uncinatus* (1) — a stunning black morph individual was seen at forest edge in agricultural land near Pook's Hill.

**Black Hawk-Eagle** *Spizaetus tyrannus* (1) — A distant but dark and distinctively shaped bird was seen one morning at Pook's Hill.

**Ornate Hawk-Eagle** *Spizaetus ornatus* (1) — An absolutely gorgeous adult (that had killed a Great Curassow the previous day and was still feeding on the carcass) was seen in a roadside tree near Laguna Verde. The next morning, Bill returned with a guide and photographed the bird back on the carcass. This was deemed **Bird of the Trip** by several participants.

**Black-collared Hawk** *Busarellus nigricollis* (1) — Another beautiful raptor that's easily missed, we saw one with a turtle during the boat trip to Lamanai, and a second perched in waterside vegetation at Laguna Verde outside Gallon Jug.

**Snail Kite** *Rostrhamus sociabilis* (2) — a couple along the New River on the way to Lamanai and four during the night boat trip from Lamanai.

**Double-toothed Kite** *Harpagus bidentatus* (1) — one rather wet bird seen roosting below the overlook at the Pine Ridge.

**Northern Harrier** *Circus cyaneus* (3) — seen over the New River and once over forest.

**Bicolored Hawk** *Accipiter bicolor* (1) — we observed this rather dull Accipiter flying near forest edge during the cocktail cruise at Lamanai.

**Roadside Hawk** *Rupornis magnirostris* (9) — these little hawks were seen pretty much every day in both forest edge and agricultural situations.

**White Hawk** *Pseudastur albicollis* (2) — one was scoped perched on a distant hillside near Pook's Hill and another at the overlook at the Pine Ridge.

**Gray Hawk** *Buteo plagiatus* (3) — these were seen at forest edge and in open, agricultural settings with as many as five in one day.

**Short-tailed Hawk** *Buteo brachyurus* (2) — these neatly-plumaged raptors were seen on two days, first at Lamanai (multiple sightings) then at Chan Chich. All were light morph birds.

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

**Ruddy Crake** *Laterallus ruber* (HO) (1) — one was calling in the reeds along the channel leading to the Lamanai savanna.

**Russet-naped Wood-Rail** *Aramides cajanea* (2) — one was perched in a tree overhanging the water during the night boat trip at Lamanai. The fact that an Agami Heron was in the same tree was almost too much to process. Some participants saw another near the dock at Lamanai.

**Purple Gallinule** *Porphyrio martinica* (1) — three were seen in riverside vegetation during the boat ride to Lamanai.

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## Sungrebe: Heliornithidae (1)

**Sungrebe** *Heliornis fulica* (2) — surprisingly good looks during the boat trip to Lamanai and one sleeping bird buried in a riverside shrub during the night boat trip at Lamanai.

## Aramidae: Limpkin (1)

**Limpkin** *Aramus garauna* (3) — small numbers seen and heard along the New River during various boat trips and at the Lamanai docks.

## Plovers: Charadriidae (1)

**Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus* (2) — upwards of ten were present in a pasture near Pook's Hill.

## Jacanidae: Jacanas (1)

**Northern Jacana** *Jacana spinosa* (3) — these curious shorebirds were seen in riverside vegetation and wet pastures. Several striped young were seen near Pook's Hill.

## Scolopacidae: Sandpipers and snipes (1)

**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius* (1) — one flew across the New River during our boat ride to Lamanai.

## Columbidae: Pigeons and Doves (12)

**Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia* (1) — small numbers were noted on utility wires and roofs as we passed through villages.

**Pale-vented Pigeon** *Patagioenas cayennensis* (4) — a bird of open situations; we had scope looks on the way to the Mountain Pine Ridge area.

**Scaled Pigeon** *Patagioenas speciosa* (1) — one was scoped during the walk to the Pine Ridge area overlook.

**Red-billed Pigeon** *Patagioenas flavirostris* (6) — most sightings were around Lamanai; also seen on the way to the Mountain Pine Ridge area.

**Short-billed Pigeon** *Patagioenas nigrirostris* (2) — seen several times; the best looks (though a bit misty) were of three or four perched in the Pook's Hill lodge clearing.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto* (1) — numerous on utility wires as we drove from Belize City to Pook's Hill.

**Plain-breasted Ground-Dove** *Columbina minuta* (1) — the only sighting was a perched bird seen near the Barton Creek turnoff as we drove to the Pine Ridge area.

**Ruddy Ground-Dove** *Columbina talpacoti* (3+) — common in open areas especially near the village at Lamanai.

**Blue Ground-Dove** *Claravis pretiosa* (2) — heard a couple of days, several sightings of fly-bys at Pook's Hill.

**White-tipped Dove** *Leptotila verreauxi* (1) (HO) — heard only at Pook's Hill and perhaps elsewhere.

**Gray-headed Dove** *Leptotila plumbeiceps* (3) — heard only on two days and one was seen at Lamanai.

**White-winged Dove** *Zenaida asiatica* (1) — one bird was perched along the New River as we approached Lamanai.

## Cuculidae: Cuckoos (2)

**Squirrel Cuckoo** *Piaya cayana* (8) — this bird's piercing two-note call was often heard. Singles were encountered at all sites we visited.

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**Groove-billed Ani** *Crotophaga sulcirostris* (7) — seen at riverside, in fields, and villages.

## **Tytonidae: Barn Owls (1)**

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba* (1) — one bird, apparently nesting in the large tree by the Lamanai dock, was seen early one morning.

## **Strigidae: Owls (3)**

**Spectacled Owl** *Pulsatrix perspicillata* (2) (HO) — several of us heard this bird's distinctive call at Lamanai. Sadly, rain caused it to not be at a predictable roost site.

**Mottled Owl** *Ciccaba virgata* (2) — one bird was heard near the cabins at Lamanai, and one was seen at roadside during a night drive at Chan Chich.

**Black-and-white Owl** *Ciccaba nigrolineata* (1) — we were treated to a long look at this beautiful bird during the night drive at Chan Chich.

## **Caprimulgidae: Nighthawks and Nightjars (3)**

**Lesser Nighthawk** *Chordeiles acutipennis* (1) — one was seen roosting on a tree along the New River as we approached Lamanai.

**Common Pauraque** *Nyctidromus albicollis* (4+) — heard nearly every morning at all lodges. One was seen well during the night boat trip at Lamanai.

**Yucatan Nightjar** *Anrostomus badius* (1) (Y) — silent during February, and not as numerous as some of the other nightjars, we were lucky to see one perched along the New River during our night boat trip at Lamanai.

## **Nyctibiidae: Potoos (1)**

**Northern Potoo** *Nyctibius jamaicensis* (1) — two or three were seen well during the nighttime spotlighting drive at Chan Chich. One that flew toward our vehicle and passed just over us provided an exceptional view.

## **Apodidae: Swifts (1)**

**White-collared Swift** *Streptoprocne zonaris* (2) — a large flock was seen over agricultural land not far from Pook's Hill; several more were sighted at the lookout in the Pine Ridge area.

## **Trochilidae: Hummingbirds (10)**

**White-necked Jacobin** *Florisuga mellivora* (6) — common at the feeders at Pook's Hill, Lamanai, and Chan Chich; occasional in flowering trees

**Long-billed Hermit** *Phaethornis longirostris* (7) — present at all the lodge feeders and especially numerous at Chan Chich. Also seen feeding in coral bean trees, gingers, and Heliconia plants.

**Purple-crowned Fairy** *Heliodytes barroti* (1) — one appeared twice at feeders during our last breakfast at Chan Chich.

**Green-breasted Mango** *Anthracothorax prevostii* (1) — a pretty purple-tailed male was seen during a walk through the village at Lamanai.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** *Archilochus colubris* (2) — males and females were seen in shrubbery in the village at Lamanai.

**Scaly-breasted Hummingbird** *Phaeochroa cuvierii* (1) — a single bird was seen in flowering vines near the suspension bridge at Chan Chich.

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**Wedge-tailed Sabrewing** *Campylopterus curvipennis* (1) — one was seen during the morning walk at Pook's Hill.

**White-bellied Emerald** *Amazilia candida* (2) — singles were noted at Pook's Hill and the Chan Chich suspension bridge.

**Rufous-tailed Hummingbird** *Amazilia tzacatl* (9) — numerous at all the lodge feeders, at roadside and trailside vegetation, and forest edge.

**Buff-bellied Hummingbird** *Amazilia yucatanensis* (2) — a nice catch by Tamara, who spotted the first of two on the pine savanna at Lamanai. A nest with a nestling at Chan Chich was identified as this species by our guide Luis.

## **Trogonidae: Trogons (4)**

**Slaty-tailed Trogon** *Trogon massena* (4) — vocal, and seen a number of days; one male frequented the porch area at Chan Chich.

**Black-headed Trogon** *Trogon melanocephalus* (4) — vocal and numerous, frequently seen perched in the open.

**Gartered Trogon** *Trogon caligatus* (2) — largely invisible this trip, some participants saw them in the Mountain Pine Ridge area and one was seen in the forest at Lamanai.

**Collared Trogon** *Trogon collaris* (1) — generally the most difficult to find of the country's four trogons, we had very good looks in the ruins at Lamanai during a four-trogon morning.

## **Momotidae: Motmots (1)**

**Tody Motmot** *Hylomanes momotula* (2) — poor looks of one bird at Lamanai, and better looks by a couple members of the group who elected to do one of the pre-breakfast walks at Chan Chich.

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

**Ringed Kingfisher** *Megaceryle torquata* (4) — small numbers readily seen on the various boat trips and flying over the Lamanai lodge and village.

**Belted Kingfisher** *Megaceryle alcyon* (2) — a few were noted along the New River during various boat trips.

**Green Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle americana* (4) — seen during several boat trips near Lamanai.

**American Pygmy Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle aenea* (3) — a stunning male perched over one of the crocodile exhibits at the Belize Zoo provided us with long, satisfying views. Another was seen during the nighttime boat trip at Lamanai.

## **Bucconidae: Puffbirds (1)**

**White-whiskered Puffbird** *Malacoptila panamensis* (2) — one was found for the group by Tim near the lodge at Pook's Hill and a second individual was at the suspension bridge at Chan Chich.

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

**Rufous-tailed Jacamar** *Galbula ruficauda* (1) — one was seen and another heard during a pre-breakfast walk at Chan Chich.

## **Ramphastidae: Toucans (3)**

**Northern Emerald Toucanet** *Aulacorhynchus prasinus* (1) — we saw one of these curious little toucans along the main road not far from the entrance to the Chan Chich housing area.

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**Collared Aracari** *Pteroglossus torquatus* (4) — we had satisfying looks at these colorful toucans as they foraged in fruiting trees by the lodge at Pook's Hill, and roadside at several more sites.

**Keel-billed Toucan** *Ramphastos sulfuratus* (3) — we saw Belize's national bird at Pook's Hill and Chan Chich.

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

**Acorn Woodpecker** *Melanerpes formicivorus* (1) — this species was seen near the guard shack on the road leading into the Pine Ridge area.

**Black-cheeked Woodpecker** *Melanerpes pucherani* (4) — easily seen in the forest and at forest edge. One posed nicely below the bar porch at Pook's Hill.

**Yucatan Woodpecker** *Melanerpes pygmaeus* (3) (Y) — we noted this little endemic woodpecker twice at the Lamanai ruins and on the Lamanai savanna.

**Golden-fronted Woodpecker** *Melanerpes aurifrons* (5) — we saw this bird in open habitats at Pook's Hill and Lamanai. Curiously, this race lacks the namesake golden front. The Belize race *santacruzii* has been elevated to species level (as Velasquez's Woodpecker) by some taxonomists, but not (yet) by the American Ornithologists' Union.

**Smoky-brown Woodpecker** *Veniliornis fumigatus* (1) — two of these diminutive woodpeckers were present in the staff housing area at Chan Chich during a pre-breakfast walk.

**Golden-olive Woodpecker** *Piculus rubiginosus* (2) — this pretty woodpecker was heard at Pook's Hill and later seen during a truck ride through the cacao plantation at Chan Chich.

**Chestnut-colored Woodpecker** *Celeus castaneus* (4) — this colorful, floppy-crested woodpecker was seen well at Lamanai and Chan Chich.

**Lineated Woodpecker** *Dryocopus lineatus* (2) — although heard frequently, we only saw them at Pook's Hill and Lamanai.

**Pale-billed Woodpecker** *Campephilus guatemalensis* (3) — sparse this trip, we saw Pale-billeds at several sites. The best looks were of a pair in the staff housing area during a pre-breakfast walk at Chan Chich.

## **Falconidae: Falcons and Caracaras (4)**

**Barred Forest-Falcon** *Micrastur ruficollis* (1) — one bird was seen well at the beginning of the Trish's Hill Trail at Chan Chich.

**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius* (4) — we noted these dainty falcons on four days. They were easily seen on fence posts around Gallon Jug.

**Aplomado Falcon** *Falco femoralis* (1) — although easily missed, we had walk-up looks at a male on the pine savanna at Lamanai, seeing the bird several times during our walk.

**Bat Falcon** *Falco ruficularis* (2) — a pair of these lovely little hawks was observed flying and roosting near the boat dock at Lamanai.

## **Psittacidae: Parrots (8)**

**Brown-hooded Parrot** *Pyrrhuloxia haematotis* (2) — one perched bird near the museum at Lamanai gave us staggeringly good looks. A fly-by flock was seen later in the trip.

**White-crowned Parrot** *Pionus senilis* (3) — seen at all three lodges — usually fly-bys but a couple were scoped.

**Red-lored Parrot** *Amazona autumnalis* (9) — widespread and numerous, especially at Pook's Hill, we saw these everywhere we went.

**Yellow-headed Parrot** *Amazona oratrix* (1) — rather distant looks of two on the savanna at Lamanai.

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**White-fronted Parrot** *Amazona albifrons* (2) — fly-by flocks were seen on several occasions, generally well enough to appreciate the males' red wing patches.

**Yellow-lored (Yucatan) Parrot** *Amazona xantholora* (1) (Y) — about half a dozen were seen on the pine savanna at Lamanai, first rather far away but much closer just before we got back on the boat.

**Mealy Parrot** *Amazona farinosa* (3) — these raucous, large parrots were seen rather well at Chan Chich, scope looks revealing their powder-blue crowns.

**Olive-throated Parakeet** *Eupsittula nana* (3) — seen best near Pook's Hill and at Lamanai.

## **Thamnophilidae: Antbirds (3)**

**Great Antshrike** *Taraba major* (HO) (1) — sadly, heard only one morning at Pook's Hill.

**Barred Antshrike** *Thamnophilus doliatus* (4) — this attractive and somewhat comical-looking skulker was seen four days at forest edge.

**Dusky Antbird** *Cercomacroides tyrannina* (3) — this species was heard calling at Pook's Hill but seen well in the cacao plantation at Chan Chich.

## **Formicariidae: Antthrushes (1)**

**Black-faced Antthrush** *Formicarius analis* (HO) (5) — heard only on at least five days.

## **Furnariidae: Ovenbirds (2)**

**Olivaceous Woodcreeper** *Sittasomus griseicapillus* (1) — one was seen in a mixed flock at Chan Chich.

**Ivory-billed Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster* (5) — frequently heard, seen well on several occasions including Lamanai and Chan Chich.

## **Tyrannidae: Tyrant Flycatchers (23)**

**Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet** *Camptostoma imberbe* (2) — one was seen by some participants near the museum at Lamanai and one by some participants on the pine savanna at Lamanai.

**Yellow-bellied Elaenia** *Elaenia flavogaster* (3) — this perky species was seen on the pine savanna at Lamanai and from the breakfast tables at Chan Chich.

**Ochre-bellied Flycatcher** *Mionectes oleagineus* (4) — seen well a number of times, including from the breakfast tables at Chan Chich while it, and we, fed on fruit.

**Sepia-capped Flycatcher** *Leptopogon amaurocephalus* (1) — one was seen during a rainy walk at Chan Chich.

**Eye-ringed Flatbill** *Rhynchocyclus brevirostris* (2) — singles were seen on trails at Lamanai and Chan Chich.

**Yellow-olive Flycatcher** *Tolmomyias sulphurescens* (1) — one individual was seen well during a morning walk in the village at Lamanai.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee** *Contopus virens* (1) — we encountered one on the pine savanna at Lamanai.

**Tropical Pewee** *Contopus cinereus* (3) — three individuals were seen one day at Chan Chich, their short wings and weak trill being distinctive.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** *Empidonax flaviventris* (2) — these little migrants were seen well at Lamanai and Chan Chich. As is often the case, wintering birds are noisy and occasionally, more than one could be heard calling.

**White-throated Flycatcher** *Empidonax albigularis* (1) — perhaps the queerest (and least appreciated) sighting of the trip: one was seen roosting in marsh grasses during the nighttime boat trip at Lamanai.

**Least Flycatcher** *Empidonax minimus* (4) — we had four or five sightings of this migrant. All were silent. Best looks were in the village at Lamanai.



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**Vermilion Flycatcher** *Pyrocephalus rubinus* (3) — seen a few days; a fence post bird during the drive to Chan Chich and around Gallon Jug.

**Bright-rumped Attila** *Attila spadiceus* (3) — heard at a number of sites, we enjoyed great looks along a forest trail at Lamanai and in the cabin clearing at Chan Chich.

**Yucatan Flycatcher** *Myiarchus yucatanensis* (1) (Y) — one was seen feeding with other flycatchers on the pine savanna at Lamanai.

**Dusky-capped Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tuberculifer* (4) — more often heard than seen, we had looks in the Pine Ridge area and in the service area at Chan Chich.

**Great Crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus crinitus* (3) — heard in a few places and seen in the village at Lamanai.

**Great Kiskadee** *Pitangus sulphuratus* (5) — this large and adaptable flycatcher was seen around Pook's Hill and Lamanai, in open country, and in towns.

**Boat-billed Flycatcher** *Megarynchus pitangua* (3) — one to three were seen at Lamanai and Chan Chich; most were silent.

**Social Flycatcher** *Myiozetetes similis* (9) — seen at all sites, generally in pairs and calling frequently.

**Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus* (5) — probably underestimated, heard frequently, but not every silent *Tyrannus* was diagnosed.

**Couch's Kingbird** *Tyrannus couchii* (4) — calling birds were heard/seen at Pook's Hill and Lamanai.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus forficatus* (1) — two were noted on a pasture fence at Gallon Jug as we drove to Chan Chich.

**Fork-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus savanna* (2) — two flocks of these delightful birds were encountered as we drove from Belize City to Lamanai and more were seen around Gallon Jug and near Laguna Verde outside Gallon Jug.

## **Pipridae: Manakins (2)**

**White-collared Manakin** *Manacus candei* (1) — sparse this trip; we had good scope looks at a male in the cacao plantation near Chan Chich.

**Red-capped Manakin** *Ceratopipra mentalis* (3) — small numbers were seen feeding on fruits in the cacao plantation near Chan Chich and in the cabin clearing at Chan Chich.

## **Tityridae: Tityras and Becards (2)**

**Masked Tityra** *Tityra semifasciata* (2) — seen only twice; our best views were at the old sugar mill at Lamanai.

**Cinnamon Becard** *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus* (1) — one was seen at the suspension bridge at Chan Chich.

## **Vireonidae: Vireos (4)**

**White-eyed Vireo** *Vireo griseus* (2) — this migrant was seen on at least two days. We had looks at Lamanai and Chan Chich where an accommodating bird foraged a few feet from the breakfast tables.

**Mangrove Vireo** *Vireo pallens* (1) — three responded to a recording in the channel leading to the pine savanna at Lamanai.

**Yellow-throated Vireo** *Vireo flavifrons* (1) — one was seen well in agricultural edge during the afternoon drive below Pook's Hill. Others were present but not always noted, especially around Lamanai.

**Tawny-crowned Greenlet** *Tunchiornis ocraceiceps* (1) (HO) — the plaintive whistles of this bird were heard in a mixed flock near the old Spanish church at Lamanai but Yellow-billed Caciques distracted people's attention before it was seen.

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## Corvidae: Jays and Crows (2)

**Brown Jay** *Psilorhinus morio* (8) — these large, noisy birds were readily seen at forest edge, crossing roads and trails, and on the pine savanna.

**Yucatan Jay** *Cyanocorax yucatanicus* (Y) (1) — two or three played hide and seek with us as we arrived on the pine savanna at Lamanai.

## Hirundinidae: Swallows and Martins (5)

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* (6) — common along the New River and at some pastures.

**Purple Martin** *Progne subis* (1) — one male was perched in a tall, bare tree near the edge of Laguna Verde outside Gallon Jug.

**Gray-breasted Martin** *Progne chalybea* (2) — a small flock was seen roosting in a pasture near Pook's Hill and a couple more were noted at Laguna Verde near Gallon Jug.

**Tree Swallow** *Tachycineta bicolor* (1) — two migrants were noted among Mangrove Swallows during the boat trip to Lamanai.

**Mangrove Swallow** *Tachycineta albilinea* (4) — common at various sites along the New River including the Lamanai docks.

## Troglodytidae: Wrens (4)

**House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon* (2) — seen a couple times — best in the village at Lamanai where singing.

**Band-backed Wren** *Campylorhynchus zonatus* (1) — an individual was seen in forest near the housing area at Chan Chich, apparently a recent addition to the Chan Chich avifauna.

**Spot-breasted Wren** *Pheugopedius maculipectus* (8) — frequently heard but seen just twice. Probably our best looks were of a pair foraging in vines at the Belize Zoo.

**White-breasted Wood-Wren** *Henicorhina leucosticta* (HO) (5) — heard in forest throughout the tour, I don't believe anyone actually got glass on one.

## Poliptilidae: Gnatcatchers (2)

**Long-billed Gnatwren** *Ramphocaenus melanurus* (HO) (2) — this species was heard calling on a number of occasions; one that was dancing around the group near the old Spanish church at Lamanai was successfully able to avoid being seen.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** *Poliptila caerulea* (1) — we saw only one of these diminutive migrants and that was on the pine savanna at Lamanai.

## Turdidae: Thrushes (4)

**Swainson's Thrush** *Catharus ustulatus* (3) — small numbers were easily seen, either on mowed lawns or hopping on forest trails.

**Wood Thrush** *Hylocichla mustelina* (3+) — these migrants were noted at Lamanai and Chan Chich, usually on shady forest paths, but also near the museum at Lamanai. Often, their chattering call could be heard emanating from the forest.

**Clay-colored Thrush** *Turdus grayi* (5) — we saw these common thrushes on at least five days. They were numerous at the Belize Zoo and at woodland edge.

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**White-throated Thrush** *Turdus assimilis* (3) — just a few were seen in the forest and from Cheers Restaurant in Belmopan. Somehow, Luis managed to scope a bird deeply buried in a vine tangle at Chan Chich.

## **Mimidae: Mockingbirds (2)**

**Gray Catbird** *Dumetella carolinensis* (8) — widespread and numerous in forest and more open situations; its whining call was heard frequently.

**Tropical Mockingbird** *Mimus gilvus* (2) — these were seen only two days in open village or agricultural habitats.

## **Parulidae: Wood-Warblers (18)**

**Worm-eating Warbler** *Helmitheros vermivorum* (1) — one was observed on the forest trail between the ruins and the old sugar mill at Lamanai.

**Louisiana Waterthrush** *Parkesia motacilla* (1) — one was seen foraging on the main road near the Chan Chich suspension bridge.

**Northern Waterthrush** *Parkesia noveboracensis* (6) — common and frequently in the open on lawns or trails where readily seen.

**Golden-winged Warbler** *Vermivora chrysoptera* (1) — one was observed alongside a Blue-winged Warbler in a mixed flock on the forest trail between the ruins and the old sugar mill at Lamanai.

**Blue-winged Warbler** *Vermivora cyanoptera* (1) — one was observed in a mixed flock at Lamanai.

**Black-and-white Warbler** *Mniotilta varia* (5) — one of the more common migrants and observed pretty much everywhere we went.

**Gray-crowned Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis poliocephala* (1) — one was seen by a few of us during an afternoon journey to agricultural land below Pook's Hill.

**Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas* (1) — two were seen at marsh edge during boat trips.

**Hooded Warbler** *Setophaga citrina* (4) — small numbers were seen and a few more heard on or close to forest trails.

**American Redstart** *Setophaga ruticilla* (4) — this was the most common migrant warbler we observed, especially around Pook's Hill and at the Belize Zoo. Only a couple mature males were seen.

**Northern Parula** *Setophaga americana* (2) — a couple were seen in mixed flocks, often in flowering vines.

**Magnolia Warbler** *Setophaga magnolia* (6) — along with American Redstart, this was our most frequently seen warbler, seen feeding from ground level to high in the canopy.

**Yellow Warbler** *Setophaga petechia* (4) — small numbers only and no brilliant males.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler** *Setophaga pensylvanica* (1) — one was seen at Pook's Hill.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** *Setophaga coronata* (3+) — one was seen along the New River, a flock was noted a couple different days in a pasture along Pook's Hill Road, and apparently one was foraging near the restaurant at Chan Chich.

**Yellow-throated Warbler** *Setophaga dominica* (4) — single birds were seen, often in palms.

**Black-throated Green Warbler** *Setophaga virens* (4) — seen a few times; sites included the Belize Zoo and Pine Ridge area.

**Rufous-capped Warbler** *Basileuterus rufifrons* (1) — a chatty party of about four was seen during the trail walk to the overlook in the Pine Ridge area.

## **Thraupidae: Tanagers and Allies (11)**

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**Gray-headed Tanager** *Eucometis penicillata* (2) — one or two were seen well at the sugar mill ruins at Lamanai; another was seen by some participants in the clearing at Chan Chich.

**Crimson-collared Tanager** *Ramphocelus sanguinolentus* (1) — we enjoyed prolonged looks at two of these stunners near the lodge at Pook's Hill.

**Blue-gray Tanager** *Thraupis episcopus* (4) — small numbers of this common and widespread tanager were noted, generally in more open situations.

**Yellow-winged Tanager** *Thraupis abbas* (4) — this subtly attractive bird was seen at several locations including the Belize Zoo and Chan Chich.

**Golden-hooded Tanager** *Tangara larvata* (2) — this lovely bird was seen twice in mixed flocks at Chan Chich.

**Red-legged Honeycreeper** *Cyanerpes cyaneus* (3) — seen several times at flowering vines at Pook's Hill and Chan Chich.

**Green Honeycreeper** *Chlorophanes spiza* (1) — frustratingly, this lovely bird was seen only once and that was at Chan Chich.

**Blue-black Grassquit** *Volatinia jacarina* (3) — seen on a number of occasions, occasionally with buntings or grosbeaks. Sites included the village at Lamanai and in agricultural land below Pook's Hill. A few males were displaying.

**White-collared Seedeater** *Sporophila torqueola* (10) — seen pretty much everywhere; its sweet song was heard throughout the trip.

**Black-headed Saltator** *Saltator atriceps* (4+) — seen frequently and easily found by their raucous calls. Our best looks were in the village at Lamanai.

**Grayish Saltator** *Saltator coerulescens* (2) — singing birds were seen twice in Lamanai village.

## **Emberizidae: Sparrows (3)**

**Botteri's Sparrow** *Peucaea botterii* (1) — at least five were seen on the pine savanna across from Lamanai; a couple posed nicely, seemingly curious at our presence.

**Grasshopper Sparrow** *Ammodramus savannarum* (1) — one was seen very well when it popped up into a shrub on the savanna at Lamanai. Birds in Belize belong to the race *A. s. cracens*.

**Green-backed Sparrow** *Arremonops chloronotus* (4) — seen one day and heard three others. We enjoyed long scope views along a side road near the guard shack at the Mountain Pine Ridge area.

## **Cardinalidae: Grosbeaks and Buntings (9)**

**Summer Tanager** *Piranga rubra* (8) — singles often present at flowering or fruiting trees, their distinctive call was frequently heard.

**Red-crowned Ant-Tanager** *Habia rubica* (8) — a few were in a mixed flock at Chan Chich.

**Red-throated Ant-Tanager** *Habia fuscicauda* (3) — small flocks were seen in forest understory, perhaps best near the old sugar mill at Lamanai.

**Black-faced Grosbeak** *Caryothraustes poliogaster* (1) — a flock of six or so popped up in front of us, providing nice looks at the overlook in the Pine Ridge area.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** *Pheucticus ludovicianus* (2) — singles at several sites including the Pook's Hill lodge, and a flock along the road leading to agricultural fields below Pook's Hill.

**Blue-black Grosbeak** *Cyanocompsa cyanooides* (1+) — singing males were heard daily at Pook's Hill; one male was seen by a few of us in the housing clearing at Chan Chich.

**Blue Bunting** *Cyanocompsa parellina* (1) — a male was seen by Ginger and a couple other participants near the cabins and restaurant at Chan Chich.

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**Blue Grosbeak** *Passerina caerulea* (2) — a dozen or so were in tall grasses in agricultural land below Pook's Hill and one or two were seen at Lamanai.

**Indigo Bunting** *Passerina cyanea* (3) — seen on several occasions near Laguna Verde outside Chan Chich, in the village at Lamanai, and in agricultural land below Pook's Hill.

## Icteriidae: Yellow-breasted Chat (1)

**Yellow-breasted Chat** *Icteria virens* (2) — we saw single chats in Lamanai Village and at the suspension bridge at Chan Chich.

## Icteridae: Blackbirds and Orioles (12)

**Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus* (2) — a few at the Belize airport and one along the New River.

**Eastern Meadowlark** *Sturnella magna* (3) — numerous around Gallon Jug.

**Melodious Blackbird** *Dives dives* (7) — pretty much ubiquitous in villages, scrubby fields, and forest edge; less common than the following species.

**Great-tailed Grackle** *Quiscalus mexicanus* (7) — generally around towns or in open agricultural land.

**Giant Cowbird** *Molothrus oryzivorus* (1) — one was seen hanging out with oropendolas in the cacao plantation at Chan Chich.

**Black-cowled Oriole** *Icterus prothemelas* (4) — small numbers at Lamanai and Chan Chich; very close looks by the restaurant porch at the latter.

**Orchard Oriole** *Icterus spurius* (4) — Lamanai village, Laguna Verde, etc., usually at flowering vines/trees at forest edge, occasionally in flocks of a dozen or more.

**Hooded Oriole** *Icterus cucullatus* (1) — one bright male was seen at Lamanai.

**Yellow-backed Oriole** *Icterus chrysater* (2) — one was seen at the Belize Zoo in the spider monkey exhibit and one later in the trip.

**Baltimore Oriole** *Icterus galbula* (5) — seen at several sites; singles or small groups at flowering vines or fruit.

**Yellow-billed Caciue** *Amblycercus holosericeus* (1) — frequently heard, we had our best looks near the old Spanish church at Lamanai.

**Montezuma Oropendola** *Psarocolius montezuma* (4) — small numbers were seen on several occasions (none nesting); our best views were from the open truck at the cacao plantation outside Chan Chich.

## Fringillidae: Euphonias and Finches (3)

**Yellow-throated Euphonia** *Euphonia hirundinacea* (5) — seen several times, the best looks near the lodge at Pook's Hill and at the Chan Chich suspension bridge.

**Olive-backed Euphonia** *Euphonia gouldi* (1) — a couple feeding near the lodge at Pook's Hill provided our only good looks.

**Lesser Goldfinch** *Spinus psaltria* (1) — one was seen briefly during a morning walk to Lamanai Village.

## **MAMMALS (9):**

**Proboscis Bat** *Rhynchonycteris naso* — several were seen one morning from the Lamanai dock.

**Yucatan (Mexican) Black Howler-Monkey** *Alouatta pigra* — this regional endemic was seen and/or heard pretty much daily. We enjoyed great looks as they foraged from coral bean trees at Lamanai.

**Central American Spider-Monkey** *Ateles geoffroyi* — a few seen at the Lamanai ruins and at Chan Chich.

**Collared Peccary** *Pecari tajacu* — several were seen in the road during a drive out of Chan Chich.

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**White-tailed Deer** *Odocoileus virginianus* — present by the dozens around Gallon Jug.

**Deppe's Squirrel** *Sciurus deppei* — one was seen from the porch at Lamanai.

**Central American Agouti** *Dasyprocta punctata* — these curious rodents were encountered at most sites. They were numerous and rather confiding on the grounds of the Belize Zoo.

**Mexican Hairy Dwarf Porcupine** *Coendou mexicanus* — we encountered one, likely a female, in a riverside tree during the nighttime boat trip at Lamanai; its purple nose and belly skin showing well in the spotlight.

**Gray Fox** *Urocyon cinereoargenteus* — one walked into the road as we began the drive from Lamanai to Chan Chich.

## REPTILES (5):

**Black (Spiny) Iguana** *Ctenosaura similis* — a large individual was seen at the Belize Zoo.

**Green Iguana** *Iguana iguana* — several were seen, including some riverside or roadside and a monster sunning at the Belize Zoo.

**House Gecko** *Hemidactylus frenatus* — difficult to see but heard clicking at all locations we visited.

**Boa Constrictor** *Boa constrictor* — one, apparently injured, was in the road as we returned from the Pine Ridge area.

**Morelet's Crocodile** *Crocodylus moreletii* — this endangered species was seen several times on the New River near Lamanai and another two were sunning on river banks near Chan Chich.

## BUTTERFLIES (Butterfly activity was minimal due to rain and overcast):

### Papilionidae: Swallowtails (1)

**Pink-checked Cattleheart** *Parides eurimedes* — one trailside during the Pook's Hill meadow hike

### Pieridae: Whites and Sulphurs

Several species seen in flight only

### Lycaenidae: Hairstreaks and Blues (3)

**Mexican Cycadian** *Eumaeus toxea* — Several of these black, orange, and iridescent blue stunners were seen along the side road by the Mountain Pine Ridge reserve guard shack. Their caterpillars eat cycads.

**Zebra Stripe** *Panhiades battus* — one trailside during an afternoon walk at Lamanai.

**Togarna Hairstreak** *Arawacus togarna* — one roosted trailside in shady understory at the Belize Zoo

### Nymphalidae: Brushfoots (10+)

**Queen** *Danaus gilippus* — a few were seen in roadside shrubbery in Lamanai village.

**Erato Heliconian** *Heliconius erato* — one at the side road by the Mountain Pine Ridge reserve guard shack.

**Red Rim** *Biblis hyperia* — several were seen along the side road by the Mountain Pine Ridge reserve guard shack.

**Gray Cracker** *Hamadryas februa* — several roosting on tree trunks during an afternoon walk at Lamanai.

**Many-banded Daggerwing** *Marpesia chiron* — one was seen at a location not noted at the time.

**Banded Peacock** *Anartia fatima* — common at open edges, i.e., Chan Chich suspension bridge.

**White Peacock** *Anartia jatrophae* — common on lawns and open trail edges.

**Silver Emperor** *Doxocopa laure* — one was photographed at Chan Chich near the dining room.

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**Yellow-fronted Giant-Owl** *Caligo memnon* — this was the huge butterfly seen at Pook's Hill in front of the bar as we were checking in.

**Satyrs spp.** — several species were flitting in the forest understory

## **Hesperiidae: Skippers (1)**

**Common Bentwing** *Ebrietas anacreon* — one seen along the side road by the Mountain Pine Ridge reserve guard shack.

## **MOTHS:**

### **Saturniidae: Silk moths (1)**

**Rothschild's silk moth** *Rothschildia erycina* — the huge moth roosting under a light at the outside dining area at Chan Chich.

## **BEETLES:**

### **Curculionidae: Weevils (1)**

**Bearded or Bottlebrush Weevil** *Rhinostomus barbirostris* — this was the pinkie finger-sized beetle found by Ginger just after we checked into Pook's Hill. They breed in palm trunks.