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Belize February 11 – 21, 2016 Trip Report

Guides: Peg Abbott & local experts, with 13 participants: Rich, Terry, Steve, Jane, Signe, Chuck, Alex, Bud, Gingy, Joan, Beth, Ed, and Dixie



SHORT SUMMARY:

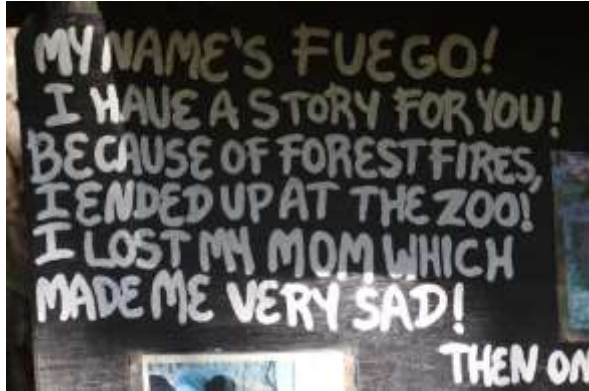
What would prove to be a most delightful group gathered to explore Belize, along the way helping Peg Abbott, owner of Naturalist Journeys & Caligo Ventures, to celebrate her 60th birthday. Peg chose three great ecolodges of Belize, and each one provided wonderful hospitality and bird and wildlife sightings almost too good to believe. Bright warblers and other wintering species we knew from home gave us a leg-up on identification. We had iconic and beautiful tropical birds at such close range, day after day – too much fun! We had good luck finding a number of difficult species. And some of the group got to see elusive cats: Marguay on a night

drive, and a Jaguar crossing our birding trail at Chan Chich, vanishing into lush forest all too quickly.
Read on for more details...

Early Arrivals

Almost everyone in the group arrived in Belize a day early, wanting to get settled and not be in trouble if flights were delayed by February snowstorms. Rich and Terry stayed two nights ahead at the D'Nest Inn and arranged a day trip to Altun Ha Mayan ruins; others enjoyed a night the Great House in the waterfront area where Magnificent Frigatebird, Royal Tern, and Brown Pelican were a welcoming sight. Peg planned to be there early, but alas was stranded (and thus delayed) off of I-10 due to a broken alternator belt, so she did not arrive until the next day, when she and Joan and Dixie met up at the airport, joining the group at the Zoo for the afternoon.





The Belize Zoo made for a fun start; animals in captivity intermingled with quite a few birds of the wild before our eyes. We had great looks at Wood Thrush, Hooded Warbler, Plain Chachalaca, and with some work, Brown Jay. The signage here is educational and entertaining; a great feature for the some 10,000 Belize school children who visit each year. Dixie commented this was a good start as we got to see various mammals close-up, preparation should we find them in the wild. Peg could tell it would be a congenial group for all the laughter and smiles.



Our Pook's Hill Lodge guides and drivers gave us good commentary as an introduction to the country as we ventured down the George Price Highway, but once we turned up to the lodge, wet road conditions demanded their attention. As workers with heavy road equipment had just graded the road after last weekend's storms, we navigated thick gumbo mud once we made the turn at Tea Kettle, the village where many of the lodge staff live.



We still arrived about an hour before sunset, and had a welcome drink and introductions by Ray (owner) and Kate (hospitality staff) as Rufous-tailed Hummingbird and Long-tailed Hermit came into feeders all around. An intense howling match ensued that drew us all outside, as two Black Howler Monkey troops came into view. Lighting was perfect on one troop. We could see their facial expressions and watched as two males gave repeated impressive howls. What a welcome! We would grow to love this sound, often our morning wake-up call.

Dinner was very good: chicken and fresh vegetables, a cake for dessert, and fruit. We sampled some of the local rum and there



was a good wine selection. Ray, Kate, and the staff were happy to answer our questions, and some of the group stayed up to catch up on news or adventures since we were last together. Jane commented how much the place felt like home, setting a nice tone for us from the start.

Fri., Feb. 12 Pine Country on a Wet Day



We woke early, with breakfast at 5:30 AM, not the norm for the trip, but necessary as this was a big day. We planned a loop route into a specialty habitat of western Belize — pine forests of the Mountain Pine Ridge Preserve. It was our hope to see Orange-breasted Falcon, resident at a few locations at steep cliffs and waterfalls (we were trying for 10,000 ft. falls) but the road conditions worked against us. El Nino wet weather had turned roads to clay, and gremlins had not put pins in the new wiper blades of one of our vans, so they kept falling off, until we stopped to secure them with tape and twine. Then we had a flat tire. We kept on rolling, but mud was topping the window sills being thrown up from the road bed!

Plan B! As we were out anyway, we walked from the gate of the reserve up a quiet road and it proved to be just that in the day's weather conditions — quiet. A few good birds, but not enough to keep us occupied, so we bailed and drove farther up the road. Mist was descending, scenery lost, but we got into a great pocket of birds, with the trees full of life. Alas, lighting due to the mist was terrible and most birds appeared as silhouettes. With patience and time we sorted out some good species: Greater Pewee, Hepatic Tanager, Rusty sparrow....

As the increased elevation was bringing weather to itself, it made sense to retreat to lower forests. We went to the Green Hills Butterfly Farm for a tour and chance to see some great hummingbirds at feeders, including Violet and Wedge-tailed Sabrewings. Indeed it was delightful to be there.



We had a great picnic lunch prepared by the lodge in a sheltered spot, watching White-collared Manakin and a

Wilson's Warbler. This mixing of resident and migrant birds held true every day and was part of the fun of a winter trip to Belize. A young woman gave us a very informative tour on the grounds and in the butterfly house where they raise 18 species. She showed us cocoons that were as beautiful as gems. Cameras were clicking and smiles had reappeared!



We negotiated the ruts of the road back up to Pook's Hill and did our bird list, enjoyed dinner, and went to sleep to the sounds of Spectacled Owl in the thick forest surrounding our casitas.



Sat., Feb. 13 Trails of Pook's Hill

We had all day at Pook's Hill to explore their network of trails. We offered an early morning option which held one of the highest rates of activity for the entire trip: several trogons, two species of manakins, flycatchers, a very accommodating White-whiskered Puffbird, and more.

The morning walk after breakfast seemed to bring on an iconic tropical species parade, with both Keel-billed Toucan and Collared Aracari posing for our inspection. Blooming Firebush



was a magnet for many species,

from Gartered Trogon to Red-capped Manakin, joined by several species of warblers – quite the colorful array. Most plentiful were Magnolia Warbler and American Redstart; this would hold true for the trip. A real treat was close-up views of the normally secretive White-whiskered Puffbird.

With ample time, we were able to explore a lovely cleared meadow, adjacent

forest trails, and we had a view of the stream from a narrow bridge with height, all creating a great birding opportunity. We had excellent looks at Black-headed Saltator, several parrots, Golden-fronted and Black-cheeked Woodpeckers, and three species of doves.

Hummingbirds put on a constant show up by the bar, and relaxing at the open-air Great Room was nice for our meal breaks and cocktail hour.





Meals at Pook's Hill were good and home-cooked with care. We had a nice selection of fresh fruit, homemade tortillas were a hit, and so were the desserts. Our group already had good camaraderie, laughing and enjoying time after our full field days. A few snuck in some pleasant naps in the comfortable casitas.

Mario was an excellent guide, with a good knowledge of medicinal plants to add to the birding. Time went quickly here, but Signe commented on how long

ago our arrival seemed — how travel so richly extends your days!



Sun., Feb. 14 Valentine's Day in the Tropics



This morning we enjoyed another round of early morning birding, breakfast, and then said our good-byes as we headed off to the next part of our adventure at Lamanai Outpost Lodge.

Lunch en route at Cheers restaurant had to be early to time well for our boat ride into Lamanai, but we did some parking lot birding to span the time, finding Vermilion Flycatcher, Tropical Mockingbird, and watching a high-soaring kettle of Wood Storks. The food was good, the beer and sodas were cold — life was good!

We met our next guides at the green building Lamanai guests gather at across from the airport, easy to recognize by its frog mural. We boarded a bus to drive up to the boat landing, boarding in about an hour's time.



It was lovely to be on the river, we all fit into one boat (barely!) so we were able to spot and enjoy the same sightings as we went along. Captain George was a keen spotter, finding a Lesser Nighthawk roosting, a Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, Osprey, and numerous other species. Herons and egrets were numerous and cooperative for views. We spied our first Morelet's Crocodile, named for the French naturalist who discovered it in Mexico. We admired numerous butterflies, one turtle, and we made

good time, reaching the lodge with daylight and time to settle in.

Arriving at our destination, we first passed the dock for the ruins of the temples at Lamanai, then very close by pulled up at our dock. It was obvious from that first enchanting view that the lodge takes great care of the grounds and facilities. We felt very welcome and would delight in the care our hosts and staff provided for the duration of our stay.





Rubin set a fun tone with his great sense of humor. He also had a keen eye for the birds. Levy was our other guide, patient and sharp-eyed. We all got along well.

We met ahead of dinner at the bar to do our bird list, and then enjoyed a gracious dinner in their covered, open air dining room with a fine view of the New River. The coconut pie was legendary and not equaled again on our trip!

Mon., Feb. 15 Lamanai Birding & Mayan Ruins

We had an optional early morning bird walk, well attended and really FUN. On a short walk behind the lodge at the edge of the village, we had so much activity it was tough to know which way to look. The light was stunning and Steve laughed heartily at Peg's comment, "You could take a picture of a paper bag in this light and it would be pretty."

We had plenty to focus on, Collared Aracari stretching up to harvest fruit, Blue-gray and Yellow-winged Tanagers, Boat-billed



and Social Flycatchers, Couch's Kingbird (calling), Summer Tanager, White-fronted, Red-lored, and White-crowned Parrots, comical Groove-billed Ani, and more.

We made a loop walk through the village, and no one seemed to mind the birders peering in their yards. Handsome roosters called out greetings to the day, a few dogs came to

check us out, and a steady stream of birds entertained. It was easy to fill the time until breakfast, our final birds being a pair of Blue Bunting in an area of tall grass.

This morning's plan was to visit the Mayan ruins at Lamanai, with a drop off by boat and a walk back. The ruins are impressive, and as Ed remarked, it is impossible to imagine 70,000 people once living in the area. We saw the grand



temples, were able to walk between them, climb up on them for a view, and just appreciate their size and grandeur. Almost all went up the first temple, but the High Temple only Terry scaled to the height where she and the Bat Falcon were equals. We had some fun taking photos of that little dynamo flying predator through the scope with our cameras. Some also saw King Vulture, signatures of a still-wild place, here just as they entered the plaza.

At the reserve, a small but very well done museum details the



era of occupation, showing artifacts and designs of the city

and sacred areas. Trees now reclaim most of the site, so birds are present everywhere, drawing our attention as we learned of history. The villagers maintain a couple of gift shops, where we had fun contributing to the local economy.



day!

Cocktails, the birds list, dinner (chicken tamales and salad, banana cream pie), and back we went out again, this time a night spotlight boat ride. Our captain was a wizard in the dark, whisking us around curves and canals with ease. We

About four in the afternoon, four of us ventured out again, into the village to walk a different loop. We passed a Mennonite family in a horse-drawn cart, all dressed up for their outing. We enjoyed the walk by a local restaurant, colorful homes, and our list of birds that included Yellow-throated Euphonia, new for our trip. Many of the other species were repeats, but who minds two

scope views of White-necked Puffbird in



a

for

found sleeping Green Kingfisher and several Snail Kite, a Sunbittern, two Yucatan Nightjar perched up, and a rare find, Agami Heron. The stars were just amazing, Orion straight over head reminded us it was still winter indeed. Beautiful was a night blooming plant with large, extraordinary blooms they called the Provision Tree.



Tues., Feb. 16 Savanna Birding / Return to the Ruins Sugar Mill Area

We met early this morning for an adventure to a totally different habitat: a savanna found across the lagoon. Only three miles away by boat, we enjoyed seeing an Anhinga, two Green Kingfisher, Lineated Woodpecker, and other birds along the way to a trail, which then led us into an extensive clearing. Pines, palmettos, grasses, and sedges dotted the open landscape. Our first savanna specialty bird gave itself away with a few notes, Botteri's Sparrow. It teed up on a branch where we could get a scope view. Peg spotted an Aplomado Falcon at a distance, we studied it in the scope and then made our way closer, interrupted by fabulous views of a Yellow-backed Oriole duo that were calling and calling, hard to tell if we had dueling males or a pair. One was very bold, perching up on palm and shrub for good views.



We got reasonably close to the Aplomado which was preening away on a picturesque bare multi-branched snag. We watched several species of parrots, found a male and female Northern Cardinal, and looked intently for Yucatan Woodpecker which was calling from very dense forest cover, to no avail. The morning passed with speed; we returned at 9:00 AM for breakfast — hearty Huevos Rancheros, yum! Alex commented she thought it was lunch time; nothing like travel to expand your days!

After breakfast Levy offered to do a loop walk back over to the Lamanai Ruins, this time taking the Sugar

Mill trail and returning by road. We were all game, but were happy they shortened it a bit by dropping us off at the dock. Neotropical Cormorant and a Snowy Egret greeted us.



Up by the office and Visitor Center we hit a bird explosion, mainly North American migrants joined by resident Olive-backed

Euphonia — a handsome pair with a bright, yellow crown on the male. We got excellent looks at Northern Parula (in the same tree as yesterday), Black-and-white, Hooded, and Magnolia Warblers, Louisiana Waterthrush, and American Redstart. A Brown-crested Flycatcher joined in, along with a White-eyed Vireo.

Along the path, birds were high in the canopy with gray light behind, tough birding. We were fairly spread out when a Collared Forest Falcon started to call. Mobbed quickly by Brown Jay, it localized and we had a good chance to find it, barring the very thick vegetation. Levy crashed



into the brush, followed by Rich and Bud, who all got a

view. The rest of us got the drama and kept alert as it seemed to follow us 100 yards out as we walked up the trail.



The Sugar Mill was in very good shape, left from days of sugar cane as part of British control beginning in the 1860s. The bricks had been imported from England. Today a Strangler Fig is wrapping two sides of the building. Thick moss decorated old machinery and the waterwheels remained intact.

As we left this spot it started to rain, fairly hard, and a small mixed flock revealed an Ivory-billed Woodcreeper and a Smoky-brown Woodpecker in the understory. Good numbers of Clay-colored Thrush in the canopy fed on fruit.

A van from the lodge came to rescue us, and we drove back to a delicious and filling lunch of chicken or shrimp quesadillas. Several checked email or the news, others headed for a nap, and met up mid-way through the break as Howler Monkeys put on a rousing chorus, calling all those with cameras to the ready.



Tonight was our Sunset Cocktail Cruise, and we willed the sky to hold up its gray skirts full of rain for the hours we'd need to enjoy that. It did just that and this was fun for all. Bud said, "This is my kind of birding," as flocks of herons returned to roost and we sipped our rum punch. Snail Kite were particularly numerous along the canal to the heron roost area, as were Limpkin. This was a lot of fun.



Lamanai is so lovely and comfortable, giving us a true birding vacation!



Wed., Feb. 17 Mennonite Farm Area or Village Life Tour / Lamanai to Chan Chich Lodge

This morning for the early option, several of us walked a loop through the edge of the village and over to the air field. It was misty, so not as active as previous mornings, but still interesting. We tried to see more than a glimpse of Spot-breasted Wren, and we were able to show some that had missed the previous walk, babies in the tiny Rufous-tailed Hummingbird nest. The light shone off the river in the distance, and on a small pond we found a Morelet's Crocodile and a Green Heron. Vermilion Flycatcher brightened our day.

Just after breakfast, a Laughing Falcon came and perched for quite some time on a prominent bare Cecropia, long enough for Peg to run around and try to gather all to see it.

Nine of our group went on a tour of the village, learning more from Levy about medicinal plants, visiting the school and community center, and learning about local life and Mayan heritage. They had a tortilla cooking demonstration and lunch at a local restaurant.



Five hopped aboard the Toyota cruiser bus and drove around the adjacent Mennonite farm country, looking for open country birds. We found ample numbers of handsome Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Vermilion Flycatcher, Groove-billed Ani, and



several new species as well: Eurasian Collared Dove, Yellow Warbler, Plain-breasted Ground Dove, and Eastern Meadowlark. We

learned about the Mennonite customs and admired their healthy-looking cattle, goats, and horses. Several horse-drawn carriages passed by. We could see wooden wheels on the tractors, bicycles without pedals, and we noted the carriage posts at local churches, of which there were two on our short route around the area. Both church and school had separate entrances for men and women, boys and girls. This area had all been forest when Peg first visited, now it was all farms — big farms. A landscape transformed. We all wondered just how much more wild land would go to farming, as the Mennonites prosper and extend their operations.



We met back at the lodge, settled up our bar tabs, watched the Rufous-tailed Hummingbird defend territory from his perch one more time, and then said our good-byes to Levy and Ruben, who had been our two remarkable guides. All the staff was wonderful, we thanked them for myriad kindnesses and bright smiles as well.

The drive to Chan Chich was uneventful; we saw a few species, had some ice-cream at the farm store at Blue Creek, and reached our destination of the Rio Bravo Conservation area and Chan Chich Lodge in about three hours' time.

Ocellated Turkey strut about the site, each feather a wonder of color and pattern so bold. We decided that they were the official greeting committee. Leticia gave us an orientation, got us settled into our lodgings, and Ed and Beth (soon to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary) got casita 3, which we dubbed the Honeymoon Suite. We enjoyed dinner and a good rest with sounds of the forest all around.





What a place to wake up to! Chuck was happy to find they provided coffee pots and fresh Gallon Jug coffee in our rooms, a great way to start the day with sounds of the rainforest. So many comforts at Chan Chich add up to make it a very special place.

Gilberto, senior guide of over twenty years, walked up the road to meet us at 6:30 AM, his kind and knowing smile familiar to Ed and Beth who had been here twice before, some twenty years ago and in 2007. It was raining lightly and thus still quite dark, so he suggested we work the garden area where light was coming in. We did not get far, as a fruiting tree by the dining room was



loaded with activity, Cinnamon Becard, Yellow-winged Tanager, Yellow-throated Euphonia and then, new

for the tour, a huge Crested Guan. We found Red-capped Manakin very close, both Violaceous and Slaty-tailed Trogons, and had a great time watching active Central American Spider Monkeys. Time went quickly as we made a loop through the staff housing area, where despite having to take cover under twin rain sheds for a cloudburst, we saw Bright-rumped Attila, Ochre-bellied and Yellow-olive Flycatchers, and more. We enjoyed breakfast on the porch very much — the fresh air, colors of flowers, and sights and sounds of butterflies and birds.



After breakfast, we walked down the road and back on the River Trail, seeing so many species! Indigo Bunting and three species of parrots started the show. We had a Black-cheeked Woodpecker fly in and then another confiding Black-headed Trogon. A real hit was seeing the Band-backed Wren in red bromeliad flowers. Beth exclaimed at its size — one big wren! Gingy's favorite were parrots, "I can see them!" We watched a male Slaty-tailed Trogon successfully ingest a custard-apple seed seemingly too large to fit through its beak, amazing!



Gilberto knows where each bird of the forest can be found and where it had been over the last few days, and he took us to these spots. Not all showed up on appointment, nature's fickle ways, but many did. Most impressive to us was an American Pygmy Kingfisher that hunted over a small pond, and a Bare-throated Tiger Heron that stayed motionless as we enjoyed scope views. A Green Heron and a small crocodile joined it.

Back to lunch, time to talk, relax, savor the good food, and get ready for the next outing. Peg and Alex kept a leisurely watch at the water feature, friends and colleagues now for forty years. Neither wanted to miss a thing!

At 3:00 PM some met with Luis to view the mounds, examining the looting trenches of the Upper Plaza Mayan Ruins around which Chan Chich was built. Jane had expertise in archeology of another region, but enjoyed learning more about this site. Joan commented that it was worth the climb to see the view of our casitas, built in what would have been the Lower Plaza. Steve, creative with his camera, enjoyed the beauty of things large and small.



Others went on a birding walk, this one pretty quiet as we made our way down to the Suspension Bridge, where we had more action in the clearing. We had good views of Golden-hooded Tanager, Red-legged Honeycreeper, Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, Ringed Kingfisher, and Olive-throated Parakeet perched and preening at day's end. The light grew soft, and a real treat was watching a Cinnamon Becard come in to roost in a small tree, anticipated by Gilberto. Signe delighted when over a dozen Yellow-throated Euphonia tucked themselves into leaves of a low-hanging branch like Christmas ornaments on a decorated



tree.

Wood Thrush were surprisingly common here, a lovely reminder of home.

Today was Peg's 60th birthday, and the staff was thoughtful to make a delicious rum raisin cake, yum! Half of our group ventured out in the open-air vehicle to see what they could find at night. They saw Paraque, Northern Potoo, Yucatan Nightjar, White-tailed Deer, and a Raccoon. No cats, but a lovely night to be out.



Fri., Feb. 19 Trails of Chan Chich

We had a bit of a "lie-in" in this morning, meeting at 7:00 AM for breakfast and an 8:00 AM departure. Breakfast was a buffet, and we soon boarded the open-air Kia truck and an accompanying truck to go down to the Hillbank Road and old Cocoa plantation area in search of birds. It was sunny, so that



meant butterflies as well, and Marvin added his expertise with identifying these. We found a fascinating Leafcutter Ant trail, full of activity, and we took time to study and note behavior. How lucky to have Alex, our entomologist along!

Birding brought out some special species, but was work along the dense canopy. The scope came in handy for Brown-hooded Parrot, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Montezuma Oropendola, and more.

Furtive but spotted along the way were Northern Schiffornis, Bare-throated Tiger Heron, Ruddy Woodcreeper, and Green-backed Sparrow. We walked a little over a mile in several hours, but were happy to have the vehicles come to us for the return. It was a lush forest, interesting to walk, and we added a number of species.



Lunch was leisurely, and the bird show continued at the feeders and water feature with Long-billed Hermit, White-tailed Jacobin, Stripe-throated Hermit, and Rufous-tailed Hummingbird putting on a spectacular show. Magnolia and Yellow Warblers popped in, as did Black-cheeked Woodpecker and Black-headed Trogon.

Afternoon called on many of our group to relax or explore on their own. Three ventured out with Gilberto to try for a harder to find species, the Tody Motmot. With patience and some skill, they had wonderful success and striking views of this secretive species. They also found Dusky Antbird and Plain Antvireo, a number of tanagers,

and finally got looks rather than just “listens” to White-breasted Wood Wren. Ed took a more extensive hike, and Jane and Dixie enjoyed the gardens and all the bird activity there.

The night drive with Marvin proved to be productive, the other half of our group finding a Fer de Lance, a Margay, and a Vermiculated Owl! Margays are so difficult to see, all of us that were NOT on the truck were certainly envious, but what a thrill for those so lucky!!

Sat., Feb. 20 More Trails of Chan Chich



We could have ventured out to a lagoon area known to be productive for birds, but as we'd seen a lot of these species at Lamanai, all voted to just stay close to “home” and enjoy the trails. Our feet by now had tread on many of them...

The early morning option chose the Sylvester Village Road trail, wide and beckoning, a good place to find forest species including Gray-throated Chat and Rose-throated Tanager, two regional specialties. We heard a number of species such as Scaly-throated Leaftosser and Black-faced Antthrush, and saw a number of new species such as Tawny-capped Greenlet.

But Rich scored the biggest thrill, when at 8:30 in the morning we heard him say, “Jaguar crossing the road!” Peg had stepped off the trail to investigate the call of a Black-headed Shrike Tanager, so missed it, but four of the group were very lucky this day! A two-cat trip, WOW!

After breakfast we did a loop trail around the Back Plaza, up by Norman's temples, watching Central American Spider Monkeys, a Rufous Piha, finding some fabulous mushrooms (thanks to Gingy for sharing her hand lens) and Black Howler Monkeys as well.

Back to lunch, afternoon siestas, or a swim in the beautiful pool, and back out for some.

In the afternoon we went down to a quiet pool off the Sac Be Trail where we found Worm-eating and Kentucky Warblers, and had super views of a Purple-crowned Fairy taking a bath. We gathered at the Suspension Bridge where Ed spied a Bare-throated Tiger Heron hunting. It just captivated us. It was oblivious to an extreme, intent on hunting. It caught two fish, one quite large; this was one intent fisherman!

It was an early dinner for those that wanted to try one more night drive — just in case they could also be lucky with cats. They did not find that, but had a Common Opossum and a Mottled Owl. The rest of us lounged over a long enjoyable dinner, sad that our adventure was coming to a close. How would we sleep without the sound of Howlers?



Sun., Feb. 21 Flights Out



We left in two shifts, with a small plane taking seven and luggage at a time for the quick flight back to Belize City and our international connections. Those leaving later enjoyed one last morning walk with Raul and Gilberto, what a team of guides! Wild and creature-comforts combine so well at Chan Chich — truly one of the world's great eco-lodges.

Until the next adventure!

Photo Credits:
All photos by
Peg Abbott
Pg. 1: Red-capped
Manakin,
Belize Airport.
Pg. 2: Zoo
Sign, Central
American
Spider
Monkey, Plain
Chachalaca,
Hooded



Warbler, Road to Pook's Hill, Pook's Hill Dining area. Pg. 3: Road trouble, Walk in Pine Country, Green Hill butterfly farm, Signe and Chuck. Pg. 4: White-collared Manakin, White-necked Jacobin, Bud, Gingly, Steve & Beth, Gartered Trogon, White-whiskered Puffbird. Pg.

5: Ed and Beth birding, Mario, our guide from Pook's, Belikin Beer, Lesser Nighthawk, Lamanai Greeting. Pg. 6: Lamanai Lagoon, Lamanai Dining, Sunlit cottage, Collared Aracari, Lamanai Ruins Museum Visit. Pg. 7: Ruins and museum (several), Group atop the ruins, Mennonite Country, Provision Flower. Pg. 8: Green Kingfisher sleeping, Yucatan Nightjar, Linneated Woodpecker, Yellow-backed Oriole, Snowy Egret Landing. Pg. 9: Northern Parula, Old Sugar Mill, Sunset Cocktails. Pg. 10: Snail Kites, flying and perched, Cattle Egret flight, Dusk on the Water, Laughing Falcon. Pg. 11: Mennonite Traffic, Eastern Meadowlark, Vermilion Flycatcher, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird Stretch, Ocellated Turkey (several). Pg. 12: Chan Chich Vistas, several, Happy Beth to Return, Dixie and Gilberto, Golden-headed Tanager. Pg. 13: Slaty-tailed Trogon eating Custard Apple, Long-tailed Hermit, Trogon preening, Cinnamon Becard. Pg. 14: Wood Thrush, Jane and Dixie, Leaf-cutter Ants, Tody Motmot. Pg. 15: Alex's Socks, Bare-throated Tiger Heron Hunting, Howler Monkey. Pg. 16: Leaving Chan Chich, Our Group!

