



March 5th – 14th, 2020

**Belize Birding & Nature Tour: Lamanai & Chan Chich
w/ Crooked Tree Extension**

With host guide James P. Smith and seven participants: Ann, John, Martyn, Susan, Kathy, Sandy and Karen

Compiled by James P. Smith



Jabiru *Jabiru mycteria* - Crooked Tree Lagoon, Belize District, March 6th, 2020

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

(LO)= Leader only observation

(I)= Introduced

(RE)= Regional Endemic

Summary: a fabulous tour that exceeded expectation in every respect. We were blessed with immaculate weather, exceptional local guides and wonderful group camaraderie throughout the trip. For Kathy, Susan and

Martyn the tour began early amid the heat and humidity of Crooked Tree Sanctuary. Two days later we met Anne, John, Karen and Sandy at Kalamalita boat ramp, gateway to Lamanai Outpost Lodge where the main tour began in earnest. The passing of a cold front cooled down temperatures in the early part of the main tour, comfortable for the new arrivals and a welcome relief for those who'd been on the pre-tour extension. At Lamanai Outpost Lodge we explored jungle, village and riverine trails as well as the wonderfully preserved Mayan archaeological ruins nearby. The tour concluded at the World-renowned Chan Chich Lodge where we shared numerous intimate wildlife experiences often literally within meters of our stunning thatched cabanas and home for the final four nights of the trip. Surrounded by half a million acres of wilderness preserve we became immersed in the natural wonders of Belize and the dreamy tranquility of Chan Chich Lodge provided a fitting yet peaceful climax to a wonderful trip.

Our itinerary at a glance:

March 5th – 7th; Crooked Tree pre-tour extension -

5th – Martyn was already on site having arrived on the 4th. Susan and Kathy arrived in early afternoon. Birding at the savannah area around Beck's B&B in the morning and on foot from Crooked Tree Lodge in the afternoon.

6th – Crooked Tree Lodge followed by the boat tour on North Lagoon from Birds Eye View Lodge. Night walk with local guide Robert at Crooked Tree Lodge.

Main Tour 7th – 14th;

7th - Crooked Tree Lodge and the savannah near Beck's B&B, then transfer to Orange Walk dock at Kalamalita to meet Karen, Sandy, Ann and John. Transfer by boat 22 miles along the New River to Lamanai Outpost Lodge with local guides Ruben and Oscar. Birding walk to Indian Church village in the afternoon.

8th - Lamanai Outpost Lodge trails. Lamanai Mayan Ruins. Indian Church village. Night safari by boat after dinner.

9th - Lamanai Outpost Lodge trails. Indian Church village. Lamanai Mayan Ruins (Sugar Mill and Spanish Church).

10th – Lamanai Savannah via Dawson Creek. Lamanai Outpost Lodge and Indian Church. Transfer to Chan Chich via Blue Creek Ridge. Chan Chich Road and Lodge.

11th – Chan Chich Lodge trails and staff housing area. Laguna Seca. Norman's temple loop in afternoon. All daytime locations with Vidal. Night safari with Chris and Luis.

12th – Chan Chich Lodge and escarpment. Gallon Jug Farm. With Vidal all day.

13th - Chan Chich Lodge. Sylvester Road and Logger's Trail. Gallon Jug and Laguna Verde. With Vidal all morning and then Luis later in the day.

14th – Chan Chich Lodge. Karen and Susan take the early morning bird walk with Luis. Departures to Belize City from Gallon Jug airfield at 09:30 am. Karen and Sandy stay on in Belize for a few more days.

BIRDS (277 species recorded, of which 14 were heard only, and 3 were leader only observations):



Olive-throated (Aztec) Parakeet *Eupsittula nana* - Crooked Tree Village, Belize District, March 4th, 2020.

TINAMOUS: Tinamidae (4)

Great Tinamou *Tinamus major*—(HO) heard daily in the Chan Chich area, and especially vocal around Laguna Verde on the final evening. One flushed on the Sylvester Road was the only actual ‘sighting’ of the trip.

Little Tinamou *Crypturellus soui*— (LO) in flight-only views from the vehicle as we drove down Chan Chich Road during the transfer from Lamanai. About as close as we would get to the most common and widespread species of this difficult-to-see group.

Thicket Tinamou *Crypturellus cinnamomeus* – (HO) Ruben pointed out one or two calling as we stepped off the boat at Dawson Creek to enter Lamanai Savannah. The tinamous might have received more attention had we not been distracted by a Black Catbird at the same time!

Slaty-breasted Tinamou *Crypturellus boucardi*—(HO) heard wonderfully well and relatively close on the Sylvester Road at Chan Chich with Vidal.

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae (5)

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis*—relatively abundant at Crooked Tree Lagoon with up to 300 recorded on the boat tour.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*—common on Crooked Tree Lagoon, especially on the boat tour with over 150 noted.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*— ‘wild’ Muscovys were seen at Crooked Tree Lagoon (before the tour) and during the night safari at Lamanai. The birds hanging around the backyard puddle with the pigs at Indian Church weren’t quite so countable.

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors*— common/abundant at Crooked Tree Lagoon with over 100 on some days but scarce during the main tour with three a Laguna Seca being the only birds recorded.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*— a female popped into view in the midst of an American Coot flock on Crooked Tree Lagoon. Spotted by Martyn during the boat tour.

GUANS AND CURASSOWS: Cracidae (3)

Plain Chachalaca *Ortalis vetula*— Lamanai Outpost Lodge proved to be the key area for this species, otherwise notably scarce at Crooked Tree and seemingly absent from Chan Chich.

Crested Guan *Penelope purpurascens*—up to half a dozen of these giant *cracids* greeted us on most mornings in the dreamy grounds of Chan Chich Lodge.

Great Curassow *Crax rubra*— only at Chan Chich Nature Reserve, most frequently encountered on the wide roadside verges where small cohorts of females gathered, occasionally mixing with Ocellated Turkeys. The males were rather scarce and usually solitary though still seen well from atop the ‘bird-mobile’.

PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS AND ALLIES: Phasianidae (1)

Ocellated Turkey *Meleagris ocellata* (**YE**)— beautiful, noisy and abundant all over Chan Chich Lodge and Gallon Jug. Very much a signature species for Chan Chich and impossible to miss.

GREBES: Podicipedidae (1)

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*— scarce with singles at Crooked Tree Lagoon, Lamanai boat dock and a group observation spotlighted by Ruben on the night safari.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (12)

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis*— common in the low lying areas of Crooked Tree and Lamanai but distinctly scarce at Chan Chich where it was seen on just one day out of the four that we stayed there.

Scaled Pigeon *Patagioenas speciosa*— scarce and difficult to see well, most actual sightings coming from Chan Chich of birds flying over the forest. Aside from that, one perched up briefly for Ruben and Martyn close to Lamanai Outpost Lodge.

Red-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas flavirostris*— the largest and bulkiest of the pigeons seen on tour, and the species with the broadest distribution seemingly at home in the villages of Crooked Tree and Indian Church, as well as the expansive broad-leaved woodland surrounding Chan Chich.

Short-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas nigrirostris*— a fairly inconspicuous pigeon, seen/heard only at Chan Chich on the final three days of the tour.

Common Ground-Dove *Columbina passerina*— found only at Crooked Tree where we had good views of birds ground feeding with Ruddy Ground-Doves in the savannah near Beck's B&B.

Plain-breasted Ground-Dove *Columbina minuta*— one 'bolted' across the New River on the way to Lamanai Outpost Lodge and would certainly have been missed had it not be for Ruben's quick call and identification. Another seen rather well with other ground-doves on the sandy roads near Beck's B&B on the 5th, alas before Karen and Susan arrived for the pre-tour extension in mid-afternoon.

Ruddy Ground-Dove *Columbina talpacoti*— common throughout the lowlands and foothills of much of Central America, Belize proved no exception and we encountered this charming little dove on most days of the tour, particularly around the villages at Crooked Tree and Indian Church.

Blue Ground-Dove *Claravis pretiosa*—(HO) one of the most frustrating birds of the whole tour, frequently heard on the trails at Lamanai and Chan Chich but none of them could be seen well enough to count.

Ruddy Quail-Dove *Geotrygon montana*— Susan clinched good views of a male with Luis on the final morning at Chan Chich Lodge.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*— Lamanai Outpost Lodge and its surrounding trails proved to be key for this inconspicuous dove that was most often seen walking or flying across the trails in front of the group. Very scarce at Crooked Tree and Chan Chich.

Gray-headed Dove *Leptotila plumbeiceps*— difficult to see, but after hearing two on the Sylvester Road at Chan Chich we returned the next morning to have fine scope views of one, possibly two individuals walking along the Sylvester road itself.

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*— quite common around Crooked Tree Lagoon and village but surprisingly scarce after that with the best views being of a single bird teed up by Gallon Jug Farm on the 12th.

CUCKOOS AND ALLIES: Cuculidae (4)

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris*— seen almost daily with small family groups at Lamanai and Chan Chich but especially common at Crooked Tree Sanctuary.

Striped Cuckoo *Tapera naevia*— one of the bigger surprises from our boat tour on Crooked Tree Lagoon with about five heard, one of which was seen very well singing close to the top of a dense thicket.

Pheasant Cuckoo *Dromococcyx phasianellus*—(HO) Vidal pointed out one calling at dawn at Chan Chich Lodge though we never got around to chasing it for views.

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana*—an exceptional tour for views (and photos) of this distinctive species with a solid spread of sightings between Crooked Tree, Lamanai and Chan Chich.

NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae (3)

Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis*—Crooked Tree Lodge ultimately proved to be the key site for this crepuscular species with up to a dozen hawking over the lodge and cabanas on at least one evening. Ruben, in traditional Ruben style, casually pointed out one at a day-roost during the boat transfer from Kalamalita to Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 7th. Another was seen hawking along the roadside during the night safari with Luis at Chan Chich.

Common Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*— “common” indeed being seen or heard on every single day of the tour, the most (18 – 20 individuals) being noted on the evening drive back to Chan Chich Lodge after sunset refreshments at Laguna Verde.

Yucatan Nightjar *Antrostomus badius* (**YE**)—one brilliantly spotlighted by Ruben on the night safari from Lamanai Outpost Lodge. A regional endemic and most certainly one of the highlights of the tour.

POTOOS: Nyctibiidae (1)

Northern Potoo *Nyctibius jamaicensi* – another nocturnal highlight, especially for those who’d never seen a potoo of any kind before! One spotlighted by Ruben from the boat on the Lamanai night safari, and at least four spotlighted by Luis from the ‘bird-mobile’ at Chan Chich. One of these magnificent beasts flew right over our vehicle toward the forest as Luis skillfully followed it in the spotlight giving us the views of a lifetime!!

SWIFTS: Apodidae (2)

Vaux’s Swift *Chaetura vauxi*— small flocks of *chaetura* swifts over Laguna Seca and Gallon Jug were assumed to be this species, apparently both a migrant and a resident breeding species in Central America.

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift *Panyptila cayennensis*—scarce and not easy to see on this tour but some of the group met with success with birds over Indian Church, and later over the coffee plantations at Gallon Jug Farm while watching for pre-roost gatherings of parrots.

HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae (12)

White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga mellivora*— ever popular, the males especially with their striking tail pattern delighted the group every day on the veranda feeders at Chan Chich Lodge.

Long-billed Hermit *Phaethornis longirostris*— this large, smart hummingbird with a long decurved bill and notably long white central tail feathers became an instant favorite. Often present on the veranda feeders at Chan Chich Lodge but equally at home along any of the forest trails.

Stripe-throated Hermit *Phaethornis striigularis*— arguably the quickest of the hummingbirds seen on the entire tour! Trying to get binoculars on this little tyke was a mission in itself and most of the group had to be content

with close-up 'naked eye' views. Singles on the 'jungle trail' at Lamanai Outpost Lodge and on three days around the Chan Chich Lodge trails.

Purple-crowned Fairy *Heliodytes barroti*— at least one male (maybe two) foraging around blossoming Madre de Cacao trees in the staff quarters at Chan Chich Lodge on our first morning bird walk with Vidal.

Green-breasted Mango *Anthracothorax prevostii*— rather scarce with just three singles seen on the tour; Martyn saw one with local guide Robert near Beck's B&B at Crooked Tree, followed by group observations at Indian Church village and the coffee plantations at Gallon Jug Farm. And, although we saw no parents in attendance, Ruben pointed out an active nest suspended from an overhanging branch above the New River on our way to Lamanai. Karen had a peek inside and was rewarded with the sight of two chicks neatly cradled in the nest cup!

Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris*— a well-known North American breeding bird, fairly common and widespread as a winter transient throughout the tour, most frequently seen around blooming trees and shrubs especially flowering Cashews.

Canivet's Emerald *Chlorostilbon canivetii*— just two rather brief observations at Crooked Tree Sanctuary; Martyn noted a female near Beck's B&B with local guide Robert on the 5th, and a male was seen very well but all-too-briefly from the boat on Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 6th.

Scaly-breasted Hummingbird *Phaeochroa cuvierii*— a notable triumph for Susan as she skipped breakfast on the final morning of the tour and found one of these with Luis at Chan Chich Lodge.

Wedge-tailed Sabrewing *Campylopterus curvipennis*—this large, beautiful hummer appeared on the veranda feeders during the last breakfast of the tour, a sort of cosmic 'bon voyage' from Chan Chich Lodge!

White-bellied Emerald *Amazilia candida*— a couple were observed from the open top 'bird-mobile' as we climbed up to Chan Chich escarpment, but views of this species really came into their own when we stopped by a flowering Moringa in the coffee plantations at Gallon Jug the following evening. It was simply full of them with 10 – 15 individuals buzzing around the blossom – amazing!

Azure-crowned Hummingbird *Amazilia cyanocephala*— Martyn and Susan were fortunate in the extreme to glimpse this species with Ruben during our morning adventure into the Lamanai Savannah – and what a morning it was!

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia tzacatl*— a well-named species and the most ubiquitous hummer of the whole tour, seen on every single day within a broad range of habitats.

RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae (4)

Russet-naped Wood-Rail *Aramides albiventris* — a truly exceptional tour for seeing this species as follows; at Crooked Tree Lagoon (one), on the Lamanai night safari on the New River (three), the 'jungle trail' at Lamanai (one), and at Dawson Creek (two).

American Coot *Fulica americana*— common/abundant on Crooked Tree Lagoon but not seen thereafter.

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica*— one roosting bird remarkably spotlighted by Ruben on the night safari from Lamanai and two seen in daylight at Dawson Creek a couple of days later.

Ruddy Crane *Laterallus ruber*— (HO) two to three calling back and forth along Dawson Creek on the 10th not one of which was courteous enough to reveal itself.

SUNGREBE: Heliornithidae (1)

Sungrebe *Heliornis fulica*— the New River near Lamanai proved to be a happy hunting ground for this, perhaps the most rare and sought-after of all wetland birds on the tour! Distinctive and with no close relatives in Central America we were understandably ecstatic when Ruben pointed out the first bird swimming openly across the New River on the way to Lamanai Outpost Lodge. As if that wasn't enough the same bird then had the audacity to swim straight towards our boat and put on the most wonderful show just off the bow. Not content with that, Ruben then showed us how to find Sungrebes roosting at night when he spotlighted two in riverside vegetation during the Lamanai night safari. Unquestionably a highlight of the trip.

LIMPKIN: Aramidae (1)

Limpkin *Aramus guarauna*— a unique heron-like species closely associated with marshes and freshwater margins where, much like Snail Kite, they feed almost exclusively on apple snails (*Ampullariidae*). Crooked Tree Lagoon proved to be outstanding with around 30 recorded on the boat tour but no less impressive was Ruben's ability to spotlight them (about six in all) on the Lamanai night safari. At Chan Chich Nature Reserve we found just the one at Laguna Seca.

STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae (1)

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*— 15-20 seen up close on the boat tour through Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 6th, but just one observation on the main tour with a couple seen along the shores of the New River as we transferred to Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 7th.

JACANAS: Jacanidae (1)

Northern Jacana *Jacana spinosa*— common/abundant at Crooked Tree Lagoon whether it be from shore or by boat. Also present along the New River during our stay at Lamanai Outpost Lodge especially during our morning excursion into Dawson Creek.

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (3)

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*— a common wintering species in Central America but fairly scarce on this particular tour with just two seen from the boat in Crooked Tree Lagoon, one spotlighted by Ruben on the Lamanai night safari, and another watched at sunset feeding around the boat ramp at Laguna Verde.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*— three seen, or rather flushed, at close range on the Crooked Tree boat tour and at least two foraging at distance on Laguna Seca near Chan Chich.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*— at least nine seen (and heard) at close range on the Crooked Tree boat tour on March 6th.

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (2)

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*— up to half-a-dozen on the boat tour through Crooked Tree Lagoon, all of them adults in immaculate breeding condition quite often passing right over or alongside the boat – stunning!

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*— daily fare over and around Crooked Tree Lagoon with up to six patrolling the water in front of the lodge and further south during the boat tour.

STORKS: Ciconiidae (2)

Jabiru *Jabiru mycteria*— rare and local throughout much of its Central American range, the mighty, magisterial Jabiru was best seen at Crooked Tree Lagoon where those taking part in the pre-tour extension had remarkable close views of up to 30 birds at rest and in flight. We also had prolonged views of two birds soaring on warm air thermals over the New River at Lamanai Outpost Lodge as we boarded the boat to transfer for an afternoon bird walk through Lamanai Mayan Ruins.

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana*— virtually confined to Crooked Tree Lagoon where it was seemingly abundant with around 350 birds noted during the boat tour on the 6th.

ANHINGAS: Anhingidae (1)

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga*— fairly plentiful at Crooked Tree Lagoon, especially on the boat tour when 15-20 were seen. Also noted along the New River at Lamanai and Dawson Creek, and Laguna Seca near Chan Chich Lodge.

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (2)

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*—abundant on Crooked Tree Lagoon and fairly common on the New River up to Lamamai. Virtually absent from Chan Chich aside from a single circling over the group at sunset at Laguna Verde on the final evening.

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus*— a lone cormorant resting on snags at Laguna Seca, Chan Chich ultimately proved to be this species, the only Double-crested Cormorant of the entire trip.

PELICANS: Pelecanidae (1)

American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* — deserving of mention though not seen on the overall tour in the strictest sense. A party of four white pelicans spent some time soaring over Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 4th just before the extension began on the 5th. Seen by JPS that morning, and Martyn and JPS together in the evening when they were photographed. Described as “Rare on Caribbean slope in BZ” in the Birds of Central America (Vallely and Dyer 2018).

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (11)

Bare-throated Tiger-Heron *Tigrisoma mexicanum*— Crooked Tree Lodge often hosted one or two birds in the shallows right in front of the cabanas and at least 6 were seen on the boat tour on the 6th, all of them giving spectacular views and some photo opportunities. Otherwise rather scarce on the main tour with singles on the New River, Laguna Seca and even the grass verge along Chan Chich Road!

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*— winter visitor and transient from North America. We couldn't help but marvel at the sheer numbers of these Great Blue Herons concentrated on Crooked Tree Lagoon during the boat tour with a conservative estimate of over 100 birds. Later in the tour we experienced a more typical spread of singles along the New River, Laguna Seca and Laguna Verde.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*— common to abundant in several ‘sweet spots’ with especially large concentrations at Crooked Tree Lagoon (800+) and the rice fields below Blue Creek ridge (110+) as we transferred between Lamanai and Chan Chich.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*— abundant at Crooked Tree Lagoon with over 350 seen on the boat tour but surprisingly rare on the main tour with singles on the New River and at Dawson Creek being the only birds noted.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*— a slightly more even spread of sightings than some of the other herons with birds noted on seven days of the tour including the extension where the largest numbers (45+) came from the boat tour of Crooked Tree Lagoon.

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor*— far less frequently seen than other heron species on the trip but over 10 noted on the boat tour at Crooked Tree Lagoon and singles on the New River and Dawson Creek.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* – abundant. Pretty much anywhere with livestock; cows, horses, sheep, pigs.....they didn't seem particularly finicky!

Green Heron *Butorides virescens*— a small, retiring heron, often solitary and not a species that we'd expect to see in numbers but that all changed as we worked Crooked Tree Lagoon and its tributaries. We returned with about

55 Green Herons seen on the boat tour! In addition, Ruben managed to spotlight half-a-dozen on the Lamanai night safari and at least 9 were seen during the morning along Dawson Creek – not too shabby.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*— only found at Crooked Tree Lagoon where up to 20 individuals would lift out of day-time roosts and begin foraging in the shallows right in front of Crooked Tree Lodge.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea*— we found this night-heron rather more widespread than Black-crowned and had most of our success from boats on Crooked Tree Lagoon, the New River and Dawson Creek near Lamanai. Far less expected was the sight of three foraging in open meadows at night while on a night safari with Luis at Chan Chich.

Boat-billed Heron *Cochlearius cochlearius*— uncommon, somewhat night-heron like and highly distinctive when seen well we found roosting birds in the shade along Spanish Creek off Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 6th and along the New River on the 7th. Ruben excelled on the Lamanai night safari when he spotlighted at least 3 foraging birds for us!

IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae (3)

White Ibis *Eudocimus albus*— common/abundant at Crooked Tree Lagoon, especially on the boat tour with over 250 recorded. Rather scarce on the main tour with sightings restricted to the New River and Lamanai.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*— only found on the pre-tour extension to Crooked Tree with a flock of seven seen from the lodge on the 5th, and about 15 seen amid myriads of other waterbirds on Crooked Tree Lagoon during the boat tour.

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja*— one of the few species that could only be seen by boat though we found them a-plenty once we sailed into the heart of the wetlands at Crooked Tree Lagoon with about 30 seen on the 6th.

NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae (4)

King Vulture *Sarcoramphus papa*— wonderful views of adults, sub-adults and juveniles over Chan Chich escarpment as well as singles soaring over Gallon Jug and the Chan Chich entrance road.

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*—the most abundant raptor of the tour. Seen every day, often soaring in impressive 'kettles' particularly over Crooked Tree Sanctuary during the pre-tour extension.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*—only slight less common than Black Vulture though often joining the same kettles of birds rising up on warm air thermals during the heat of the day.

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes burrovianus*— very closely related to Turkey Vulture and identified with great care. We had a number of close individuals at Crooked Tree Lodge, Indian Church and Lamanai savannah, close enough in fact to clearly see the multicolored facial skin and other nuanced identification features such as

the smaller size, blacker plumage and white primary shafts on the upperwing that would separate them from Turkey Vultures.

OSPREY: Pandionidae (1)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*— such a cosmopolitan raptor most frequent at Crooked Tree Lagoon where we noted over 20 individuals during the boat tour on March 6th. A few more seen along the New River towards Lamanai but decidedly rare later in the tour with just a single migrating north over Chan Chich escarpment on the 11th.

HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (13)

White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus*— a wide scatter of sightings generally involving brief or distant views with singles at Crooked Tee Lodge, Indian Church and Laguna Seca. The latter was the only individual that could be scoped by the whole group as it perched on a stump in the middle of the marshes while Swallow-tailed, Plumbeous and Double-toothed Kites soared overhead!

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus*— arguably the most beautiful of raptors. Our tour may have just chanced upon a small ‘wave’ of migrants with northbound birds seen on three consecutive days; Lamanai Savannah (1), Laguna Seca (35) and Chan Chich escarpment (2).

Black Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus tyrannus*— a mid-morning visit to the stunning vista at Chan Chich escarpment proved to be crucial for viewing this uncommon forest raptor with several individuals observed during a 90 minute vigil. At least two adults and an immature female were scoped multiple times as they lifted up on warm air thermals above the forest.

Black-collared Hawk *Busarellus nigricollis*— a distinctive raptor closely tied to freshwater marshes and wetlands, found at Crooked Tree Lodge and Lagoon, and Laguna Seca where we scoped at least three individuals at the latter site on the 11th.

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis*— almost exclusively tied to freshwater margins and marshes and a diet composed almost entirely of apple snails. We found them in numbers on the boat tour of Crooked Tree Lagoon with over 35 counted. On the main tour, noted on three days around Lamanai Outpost Lodge, the boat dock and nearby Dawson Creek.

Double-toothed Kite *Harpagus bidentatus*— what an exceptional trip we had for observing this uncommon forest-dwelling kite! Several seen soaring with other kites at Laguna Seca on the 11th, one from the raptor watch at Chan Chich escarpment on the 12th and a remarkable study of a perched adult in the forest on the Logger’s Trail at Chan Chich on the 13th. Scope views of the latter bird revealed astonishing views of the unique bill structure for which the species is so aptly named.

Plumbeous Kite *Ictinia plumbea*— at least five ‘scoped’ with migrating Swallow-tailed Kites over Laguna Seca on the 11th, the rufous primaries and squared, banded tail pattern just about visible from range.

Great Black Hawk *Buteogallus urubitinga*— Crooked Tree Lagoon really provided the key venue for this species with a few adults and immatures foraging in front of Crooked Tree Lodge on most evenings, albeit distantly. However, the boat tour provided remarkably close-up views of about four adults, all of which seemed to be oblivious to our presence as we cruised right underneath them.

Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris*— such a well-named raptor, we did indeed find this species by the roadside on many occasions during the trip. Crooked Tree, Indian Church, Lamanai Savannah and Chan Chich all hosted them with the birds around Gallon Jug Farm being especially bold. Ruben even managed to spotlight three during the Lamanai night safari!

White Hawk *Pseudastur albicollis*— a rich reward for those that ventured out to the raptor watch at Chan Chich escarpment where at least two pairs spent much of the morning soaring on warm air thermals. Two others were seen by JPS soaring over the vast tracts of undisturbed forest during the short flight from Gallon Jug to Belize City Airport on the last morning – how often do you get to look down from an aircraft at a soaring White Hawk?!

Gray Hawk *Buteo plagiatus*— on the final evening of the tour we had wonderful views of a pair that appeared to be nesting right by Laguana Verde.

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus*— just the one sighting for the tour but what a view it was! One perched and totally unconcerned by all the attention in the forest at Lamanai Mayan Archaeological Reserve on the 8th.

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus*— widespread in small numbers throughout the trip and the most aerial of the ‘buteos’ seen on tour. Most were light morphs though the best scope views were actually of a juvenile dark morph perched above the ‘jungle trail’ at Lamanai Outpost Lodge. Later into the trip, several light morphs put on a memorable show at Chan Chich escarpment as they soared overhead with several King Vultures.

BARN OWLS: Tytonidae (1)

Barn Owl *Tyto alba* – acting on a tip from Ruben, Karen and Sandy decided to have a post-dinner wander down to the dock at Lamanai Outpost Lodge and found this beauty perched right above the “Welcome” sign!

OWLS: Strigidae (5)

Middle American Screech-Owl *Megascops guatemalae*— we couldn’t have wished for better views as Luis rounded off a brilliant night safari by spotlighting one of these close to the road at Chan Chich – simply staggering! Also, tentatively noted as a ‘heard-only’ at Crooked Tree Lodge and certainly heard by Kathy and Susan when out with Vidal on the very first night at Chan Chich.

Spectacled Owl *Pulsatrix perspicillata*— (HO) Martyn reported hearing one calling pre-dawn at Chan Chich Lodge, close to the cabanas on the final morning of the trip.



Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum* - Crooked Tree Sanctuary, Belize District, March 5th, 2020.

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum*— stunning views of an exceptionally co-operative pair across the street from Beck’s B&B at Crooked Tree Sanctuary on the 5th. Sadly, at that point in the trip, Kathy and Susan were still in transit on their way to the pre-tour extension.

Mottled Owl *Ciccaba virgata*— stunning spotlight views during the night safari from Chan Chich Lodge, first spotted by Luis from atop the ‘bird-mobile’.

Black-and-white Owl *Ciccaba nigrolineata*— a remarkably cooperative bird spotlighted by Luis during the night safari from Chan Chich Lodge – unquestionably one of the highlights of the trip.

TROGONS: Trogonidae (4)

Slaty-tailed Trogon *Trogon massena*— a large bulky trogon with an orange bill, often found sitting motionless in the sub-canopy, and sometimes right off the veranda at Chan Chich Lodge – quite unbelievable!

Black-headed Trogon *Trogon melanocephalus*— fairly common and certainly widespread with 1 – 4 individuals seen or heard on six days of the tour.

Gartered Trogon *Trogon caligatus*— the smallest and usually the most cooperative of the trogons with 1 – 4 individuals seen on six days of the tour on the trails around Lamanai Outpost Lodge and especially at Chan Chich.

Collared Trogon *Trogon collaris*— (HO) Susan was fortunate enough to hear one while out with ace local guide Luis on her final morning at Chan Chich.

MOTMOTS: Momotidae (1)

Lesson’s Motmot *Momotus lessonii*— Kathy spotted one resting at eye-level along the trail around the shores of Laguna Seca, and another heard from Chan Chich Lodge the following day.

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (4)

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*— a real brute of a kingfisher, actually the largest kingfisher in the Americas. It was plentiful and relatively easy to find at Crooked Tree, sometimes flying high over the village and savannah giving characteristically gruff call notes. Also fairly frequent along the New River near Lamanai Outpost Lodge and Dawson Creek.

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon*— a common winter visitor and transient from North America, present in good numbers around Crooked Tree Lagoon, the New River and its tributaries.

American Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle aenea*—Fast asleep, and flatly refusing to wake up in all the commotion, these looked like emerald-green, cinnamon and white puffballs hanging in the vegetation. At just five inches in length Ruben somehow managed to spotlight not one but two of these beauties roosting in waterside shrubs during the Lamanai night safari. How did he do it?!



Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula ruficauda* — Lamamani Archaeological Reserve, Orange Walk District. March 9th, 2020.

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana*— a feisty little kingfisher most common in the vicinity of Crooked Tree Lagoon but also present along the New River where Ruben expertly spotlighted at least two birds roosting in waterside vegetation during the night safari on the 8th.

PUFFBIRDS: Bucconidae (2)

White-necked Puffbird *Notharchus hyperrhynchus*— large, bulky and distinctive but seen only twice on the tour, and both times in the Chan Chich area; Martyn saw one as we drove along the entrance road to the lodge and the group had another along the Sylvester Road with Vidal the next day.

White-whiskered Puffbird *Malacoptila panamensis*— this species might well have been missed had it not been so capably photographed by Susan on the last morning of the tour. Otherwise, notably aloof with just two sightings of individuals flying across the Chan Chich Road just inches above the asphalt. Vidal explained that they were

nesting at the time of our visit and, being ground nesters, they had a tendency to keep low even when flying across the road. All the sightings came from Chan Chich.

JACAMARS: Galbulidae (1)

Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula ruficauda*— a long tailed, long billed resident of the forest seen sallying for insects twice at Lamamani Mayan Archaeological Site (two pairs) with singles at Chan Chich on two consecutive days.

TOUCANS: Ramphastidae (2)

Collared Aracari *Pteroglossus torquatus*— Ruben and Karen were treated to a small flock in Indian Church village while attempting to chase a reported Painted Bunting. Chan Chich Lodge offered close up and personal views of a tight party of three birds feeding on fruits around the cabanas and another small flock was seen in the Gallon Jug Plantations the next day.

Keel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos sulfuratus*— large, bright and unmistakable (in range) we enjoyed nice scope views at Indian Church, Lamanai, Chan Chich and Gallon Jug on five days of the tour.

WOODPECKERS: Picidae (9)

Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus*— although bold and conspicuous this species could well have been missed on the main tour had it not been for a single bird at Lamanai savannah on the 10th. The Crooked Tree pre-tour extension fared much better and it was particularly plentiful near Beck's B&B with at least 18 there on the 5th and 10 on the 7th.

Black-cheeked Woodpecker *Melanerpes pucherani*— a really smart woodpecker, most closely associated with humid broadleaf forest and as such, found only at Chan Chich Lodge and area on three days of the tour.

Yucatan Woodpecker *Melanerpes pygmaeus* (YE)— identified with care at Crooked Tree Lodge on the 6th, and at Beck's B&B and adjacent savannah on the 7th. Remarkably similar to the larger and much more common Golden-fronted Woodpecker but will a smaller, more petite bill and notably yellow feathering around the base of the bill versus the red feathering of Golden-fronted Woodpecker.

Golden-fronted Woodpecker *Melanerpes aurifrons*— widespread, vociferous and attractive we found this species on seven days of the tour.

Smoky-brown Woodpecker *Dryobates fumigatus*— Lamanai Outpost Lodge provided the venue for two individual sightings of this unobtrusive woodpecker but it wasn't until Laguna Seca that we finally caught with the species as a group when we came across a pair feeding in close proximity to a mixed feeding flock.

Pale-billed Woodpecker *Campephilus guatemalensis*— the largest of the woodpeckers seen on tour, their distinctive 'double-wrap' was heard far more often than the birds themselves were seen. The forested areas at both Lamanai and Chan Chich proved to be good for them and we had good scope views of a cooperative male at Laguna Verde on the final evening. Recorded on five days of the trip.

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus*— only slightly smaller than the impressive Pale-billed Woodpecker, pairs were present at Crooked Tree Lodge and close to Beck's B&B but decidedly scarce after that with just one or two seen around Chan Chich Lodge on four consecutive days.

Chestnut-colored Woodpecker *Celeus castaneus*— stunning! One of the most beautiful woodpeckers in Central America and seen all-too-briefly near the staff quarters at Chan Chich on the 11th.

Golden-olive Woodpecker *Colaptes rubiginosus*— one of the more aloof birds of the whole tour, seen by some members of the group at Lamanai Mayan Archeological Reserve on the 8th with another heard calling but not seen at Chan Chich escarpment on the 12th.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (6)

Barred Forest-Falcon *Micrastur ruficollis*— (HO) among the more frustrating birds of the tour, this denizen of humid broadleaf forest was heard calling close to Chan Chich Lodge on two consecutive mornings including two birds calling back and forth over the Sylvester Road. We tried hard but alas couldn't even muster the briefest of glimpses.....and yet they were so close!

Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans*— a single heard 'laughing' at Lamanai Mayan Archaeological Reserve followed by actual sightings of one flying along the Chan Chich Road on the 10th and scope views of a single perched at Laguan Seca on the 11th.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*— scarce with 1 – 2 seen as we departed from Lamanai through the Mennonite agricultural lands and clear cuts, and others along the Chan Chich Road and at Gallon Jug Farm where we had our best views of the trip from the open top 'bird-mobile'.

Aplomado Falcon *Falco femoralis*— uncommon to rare throughout much of its range, we had phenomenal views of this beautiful grassland falcon on two consecutive days at Gallon Jug Farm.

Bat Falcon *Falco rufigularis*— a wonderful trip for this dynamic little falcon. Seen at all three major locations – Crooked Tree, Lamanai and Chan Chich and noted on at least six days of the tour.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*— at least three (two adults and an immature) seen over and around Crooked Tree Lodge and lagoon on the 4th. The immature showed characteristics of the Arctic breeding subspecies *F.p. tundrius*. Strictly speaking, seen before the pre-tour extension began but perhaps worthy of mention.

PARROTS: Psittacidae (8)

Brown-hooded Parrot *Pyrilia haematotis*— easily the most aloof parrot of our trip with just two sightings, both of which came from Chan Chich Lodge; four in flight during a morning bird walk with Vidal on the 11th, and Susan saw one with Luis on the final morning of the tour.

White-crowned Parrot *Pionus senilis*— plentiful and seen well at Lamanai (especially Indian Church), Chan Chich and Gallon Jug. Recorded on six days.

Red-lored Parrot *Amazona autumnalis*— who could forget the raucous shrieks and squawks of this large, broad-winged *Amazona* that accompanied us throughout much of the tour, especially at Chan Chich Lodge.

Yellow-headed Parrot *Amazona oratrix*— found only at Crooked Tree where 2 – 10 birds were recorded daily around Crooked Tree Lodge and the savannah near Beck's B&B. Something of a rarity, the population has been much reduced due by habitat loss and predation for the cage bird trade.

White-fronted Parrot *Amazona albifrons*— perhaps the most widespread and common of all the parrots that we saw on tour. Recorded on eight days of the trip.

Yellow-lored Parrot *Amazona xantholora* (YE)— at least two, possibly more, seen with Ruben at some distance at the Lamamai Savannah on the 10th. The scope views were nice but, being a regional endemic, the birds could have done with being a little bit closer!

Mealy Parrot *Amazona farinosa*— a large, bulky *Amazona*, in fact the largest of all the parrots seen on our trip and found only in the vicinity of Chan Chich Lodge.

Olive-throated (Aztec) Parakeet *Eupsittula nana* – tight, noisy, fast-moving flocks of parakeets (5 – 35) were seen in flight on many days of the trip but far fewer individuals could actually be scoped and watched at close range. Crooked Tree village, perhaps, was the best place to watch them foraging.

ANTBIRDS: Thamnophilidae (2)

Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus*— heard much more often than seen but certainly widespread and fairly common at Crooked Tree Sanctuary and the Lamanai area.

Dusky Antbird *Cercomacroides tyrannina*— Ruben and Martyn watched a single bird as we departed from the Lamanai Mayan Archaeological Reserve on the 9th.

ANTTHRUSHES: Formicariidae (1)

Black-faced Antthrush *Formicarius analis*— (HO) two or more singing males played hide-and-seek with the group along the 'jungle trail' at Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 9th with one bird offering fleeting glimpses as it 'bolted' across the track. Susan heard another with Luis at Chan Chich on the final morning of the trip.

OVENBIRDS AND WOODCREEPERS: Furnariidae (6)

Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus*— a small, inconspicuous woodcreeper seen on four days of the tour most frequently on the trails leading out from Chan Chich Lodge.

Ruddy Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla homochroa*— remarkably close views of one attending an ant swarm with other woodcreepers on the Sugar Mill trail at Lamanai Mayan Archaeological Reserve on the 9th

Tawny-winged Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla anabatina*— one very capably photographed by Susan and seen relatively well by the group attending an ant swarm with other woodcreepers on the Sugar Mill trail at Lamanai Mayan Archaeological Reserve on the 9th

Northern Barred-Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae*— how fun it was to this brutish woodcreeper attend an ant swarm with others in the genus along the Sugar Mill trail at Lamanai Mayan Archaeological Reserve on the 9th.

Ivory-billed Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster*— the most widespread of the woodcreepers on this tour but not at all easy to see well. Up to four individuals at Crooked Tree Lagoon, the trails around Lamanai Outpost Lodge, and Chan Chich Lodge/Nature Reserve.

Plain Xenops *Xenops minutus*— one seen and heard off the Sugar Mill trail at Lamanai Mayan Archaeological Reserve on the 9th, and Susan and Karen had good views of another with Luis on the final bird walk of the trip at Chan Chich Lodge.

MANAKINS: Pipridae (2)

White-collared Manakin *Manacus candei*— notably scarce on this particular tour. A pair seen toward the end of our walk around Laguna Seca on the 11th, and Martyn noted a single male in the grounds of Chan Chich Lodge during ‘siesta time’ on the 13th.



Rose-throated Becard *Pachyramphus aglaiae* — male, Crooked Tree Village, Belize District, March 4th, 2020.

Red-capped Manakin *Ceratopipra mentalis*— seen three days in succession at Chan Chich Nature Reserve, most of which were females. We did, however, finally connect with a cracking adult male on the Sylvester Road, a bird that showed incredibly well to all that made the two-mile round trip that morning.

COTINGAS: Cotingidae (2)

Rufous Piha *Lipaugus unirufus*—(HO) heard on the decidedly sketchy uphill drive to Chan Chich escarpment as we stopped to check Vidal’s sweet spot for Lovely Cotinga.

Lovely Cotinga *Cotinga amabilis* - perhaps one of the most sought-after species and a bird that was on the mind of many in our group, especially after Ruben circulated photos of a male taken by his brother Vidal at Chan Chich Nature Reserve! To his credit, Vidal did stop at the spot where he'd seen a male a few days prior to our visit but the four days spent at Chan Chich Lodge failed to yield even a hint of a sighting. That was until Susan decided to trade breakfast for birding with Luis on the final morning. Together they saw a stunning male Lovely Cotinga right along the entrance road! How rare is Lovely Cotinga in Belize? Well Luis guides professionally almost every day at Chan Chich Lodge but only sees the Lovley Cotinga, at most, about three times a year! Kudos to Susan for making the most of every last minute of the tour!!

BECARDS AND TITYRAS: Tityridae (4)

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata*— distinctive, fairly common and widespread at Lamanai, Indian Church, Chan Chich and Gallon Jug. Almost always at tree-top level.

Northern Schiffornis *Schiffornis veraepacis*— the delightful, fluty and weirdly haunting song was heard on four days around Chan Chich. It was on the third of the four days that our small group absolutely nailed stunning views of this strange, large-headed understory species on the Sylvester Road. A trip highlight for some.

Cinnamon Becard *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*— with plenty of options for cinnamon-colored birds in the broadleaf forests, it was more than rewarding to have close, compelling views of a pair of Cinnamon Becards in the grounds of Chan Chich Lodge on the 12th.

Rose-throated Becard *Pachyramphus aglaiae*— scarce, difficult to see well and noted on just two days. However, we did eventually manage decent views at Crooked Tree Sanctuary and Laguna Seca.

SHARPBILL AND ALLIES: Oxyruncidae (1)

Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher *Terenotriccus erythrurus*— although we only saw the one, we actually had pretty good views of this small, furtive flycatcher on a memorable walk along the Logger's Trail at Chan Chich Lodge.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (27)

Stub-tailed Spadebill *Platyrinchus cancrominus*— small, chunky and inconspicuous. A short-tailed understory feeder seen only twice around Chan Chich Lodge, and then rather briefly. Also heard but not seen at Lamanai Mayan Archaeological Reserve.

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher *Mionectes oleagineus*—very much restricted to the wooded trails around Chan Chich Lodge where we found this furtive, understory flycatcher along the Sylvester Road and the Logger's Trail. That much said there was nothing furtive about the individual that Susan photographed at the water feature off the veranda at Chan Chich Lodge. She returned some incredible pictures while most of the group had taken a siesta during the heat of early afternoon – bravo Susan!

Sepia-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon amaurocephalus*— a handful of group members had rather brief views of one following a feeding flock at Laguna Seca, Chan Chich Nature Reserve.

Northern Bentbill *Oncostoma cinereigulare*— wonderful views of a pair toward the end of the ‘jungle trail’ at Lamanai Outpost Lodge with Ruben, and pretty good views of a single on the Logger’s Trail at Chan Chich Lodge. A fascinating forest flycatcher quite literally sporting a chunky ‘bent bill’ - unmistakable in Belize!

Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum*— not quite so “common” on this tour with just two rather brief observations of singles; one by Kathy near Beck’s B&B on the pre-tour extension and another with a feeding flock near the Masked Temple at Lamanai Mayan Archaeological Reserve on the 8th. However, just before the tour started in earnest a family group of five was seen the grounds of Crooked Tree Lodge on the 4th with a single individual there on the 3rd.

Eye-ringed Flatbill *Rhynchocyclus brevirostris*— an olive-green denizen of humid broadleaf forest, perhaps most easily identified by its bold white eye-ring. Seen just the once on the tour, amid a mixed feeding flock by Laguna Seca near Chan Chich Lodge.

Yellow-olive Flycatcher *Tolmomyias sulphurescens*— another difficult-to-identify forest flycatcher but at least the pale eye and gray head of this species offered some tangible field marks! Two or three individuals present around Crooked Tree Lodge and later in the main tour, along the trails around Lamanai Outpost Lodge.

Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet *Ornithion semiflavum*— those that made the trek to Chan Chich escarpment found reward not only in a fine selection of soaring raptors, but also in diminutive little scrub dwellers such as this species which showed briefly but well to a lucky few.

Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet *Camptostoma imberbe*—(HO) the strident, descending, distinctive song of this species was heard on the trails around Laguna Seca but, alas, no sighting of the author was made.

Greenish Elaenia *Myiopagis viridicata*— two or three seen/heard following a mixed feeding flock on the banks of Laguna Seca. Identified by Vidal and yet another one of those tricky, yellowish-green forest flycatchers!

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster*— one of the larger, longer tailed *elaenias* and not too difficult to see in open scrub where we had especially good views at Crooked Tree Sanctuary and Lamanai savannah.



Tropical Pewee *Contopus cinereus* — Crooked Tree Savannah, Belize District, March 5th, 2020.

Tropical Pewee *Contopus cinereus*— best identified by its distinctive voice, we ended up having pretty good views of this species at Crooked Tree savannah, Lamanai savannah and several spots around Chan Chich Nature Reserve.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher *Empidonax flaviventris*— fascinating to see the habitat choice of this hardy, Nearctic breeder, a bird often associated with dense spruce stands within the boreal forest zone. The few that we had stayed high in the mid to upper canopy, difficult to see and very easy to miss had it not been for their delicate, plaintive call notes. Seen on three consecutive days at Chan Chich Lodge.

White-throated Flycatcher *Empidonax albigularis*— one of the many benefits of having a local guide and his/her experience on tour. When asked, Ruben knew exactly where to find this difficult, highly localized *Empidonax* and came up with a vocalizing bird in Dawson Creek as we departed from an incredibly productive morning at Lamanai savannah. The dry, rasping and rather abrupt call was absolutely key in the identification as we watched just the one bird alighting in sedges by the creekside while Ruddy Crakes called close by.

Least Flycatcher *Empidonax minimus*— a familiar North American species wintering in Belize, we came across a wide scatter of individuals in a broad range of habitats at both Crooked Tree and Lamanai.

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus*— delightfully common at Crooked Tree Sanctuary but far less so in other parts of the tour being most numerous at Lamanai savannah on the 10th. Curiously absent from Chan Chich.

Bright-rumped Attila *Attila spadiceus*—(HO) a steady series of rather unsatisfactory heard-only observations of a bird that was clearly widespread but evidently reluctant to give itself up for views. Heard around Crooked Tree Lodge and savannah, the trails at Lamanai Outpost Lodge, and especially at Chan Chich.

Rufous Mourner *Rhytipterna holerythra*— a single was heard, seen and then scoped on the Sylvester Road at Chan Chich.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer*— one of the more widespread flycatchers on the tour, found in a broad range of habitats at Crooked Tree, Lamanai and Chan Chich though mostly heard-only at the latter location.

Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus*— similar to Dusky-capped Flycatcher and recorded on almost every day of the tour.

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*— a large, bold, bright flycatcher especially common at Crooked Tree and the Lamanai area.

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua*— very similar to Great Kiskadee in overall appearance, we took some time to scope-study the features and listen carefully to the vocalizations of a pair at Indian Church village.

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis*— a 'social flycatcher' indeed, seen on every single day of the tour in a wide variety of locations but often around gardens, villages and at all three lodges.

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*— very common, seen on all days of the tour, often in numbers and a species worth getting to know thoroughly.

Couch's Kingbird *Tyrannus couchii*— extremely similar to the much more widespread Tropical Kingbird and while the subtly different plumage features were of some value in the field, separation by voice was the only truly reliable means of identification. Only relatively common at Crooked Tree though we did hear/see others at Lamanai and Chan Chich.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus*— one of the first birds of the whole tour for those on the Crooked Tree extension as local guide Robert would love to drive the perimeter fence of Belize International Airport counting Scissor-tailed Flycatchers! For example, Susan and Karen counted about a dozen with Robert on the 5th. Otherwise, the fields and fences at Gallon Jug Farm was the best place to view this beautiful flycatcher.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana*— a stunning flycatcher that thrilled us, often in numbers, at Crooked Tree Lagoon and right along the taxi-way at Gallon Jug Airfield!

VIREOS: Vireonidae (7)

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis*—(HO) the tuneful yet monotonous warbling song of this species could be heard coming from scrubby thickets on several days at Crooked Tree Sanctuary but the chances of actually seeing one, despite much effort, eventually dwindled to zero – maybe next year!

Green Shrike-Vireo *Vireolanius pulchellus*— not a rare bird, at least within the broadleaf woodlands surrounding Chan Chich Lodge. Heard singing there on a daily basis around the lodge grounds and the myriad of trails. Seeing one, however, proved to be an entirely different matter. This 'leafy-green' species was nearly always singing from the 'leafy-green' canopy and had it not be for Susan and Karen's decision to go out with Luis on the final morning an actual sighting for the tour might have been missed altogether. But they saw two, and Susan even managed to get a photo!

Tawny-crowned Greenlet *Tunchiornis ochraceiceps*—(HO) not seen but pointed out by local guides at Lamanai Mayan Archaeological Reserve, Lamanai Outpost Lodge and Chan Chich Lodge.

Lesser Greenlet *Pachysylvia decurtata*— much more often heard than seen this small 'vireo' was fairly common at Lamanai Outpost Lodge and surroundings, and at Chan Chich Lodge with the best views being around mixed feeding flocks of warblers, honeycreepers and other species.

White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus*— surprisingly frequent, we encountered this winter/transient at all three lodge locations and sometimes in numbers (6 – 8 individuals per day). Many of them were practicing song, perhaps in preparation for imminent departure to breeding areas in the eastern USA.

Mangrove Vireo *Vireo pallens*— quite similar in overall appearance to White-eyed Vireo but safely identified by the uniform sulphur-yellow wash through the whole of the underparts and by voice. Found to be fairly common in the scrub and yards near Crooked Tree Lodge and by the New River at Lamanai where Ruben, quite astonishingly, managed to spotlight several roosting birds on the night safari and even found one asleep on a nest!

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons*— distinctive in appearance and voice, this winter visitor from the eastern US was seen or heard following feeding flocks on the trails at Lamanai and at Chan Chich Lodge on five days of the trip with the best views around the water features and cabanas at Chan Chich.

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (3)

Brown Jay *Psilorhinus morio*— loud, ubiquitous and not unattractive when seen close-up, this gregarious jay was found on every single day of the tour.

Green Jay *Cyanocorax yncas*—(HO) local guide Robert drew our attention to a calling bird in the savannah close to Beck's B&B at Crooked Tree Village. We never did catch a glimpse due, at least in part, to being surrounded by a close group of Yucatan Jays!

Yucatan Jay *Cyanocorax yucatanicus* (**YE**)— wonderful views in the savannah at Crooked Tree close to Beck's B&B. While this spectacular regional endemic wasn't especially shy, the flocks were always mobile and difficult to follow but with patience we did have excellent views of a sizeable flock (15) on the 7th. Later in the tour, a distant group (7) roamed through the Lamanai savannah on the 10th.

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (6)

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*— scarce. Small flocks noted at Crooked Tree Lodge and along the New River between Kalamalita and Lamanai. Otherwise, just a couple of singles seen with other swallows around Gallon Jug airfield. The birds weren't seen well enough to ascertain whether or not they were of the darker, resident breeding subspecies (*S. s. ridgewayi/stuarti*) or migrants from North America, but most likely they were the latter.

Purple Martin *Progne subis*— the largest *hirundine* of the trip and found in small numbers at Crooked Tree, Lamanai savannah and Laguna Verde. We actually had fabulous views of up to half-a-dozen including several adult males swooping down to drink at the latter spot on the final evening of the trip.

Gray-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*— widespread though not especially common at any of our locations with perhaps the most seen at Laguna Verde on the final evening of the trip.

Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor*—sometimes present in flocks over Crooked Tree Lagoon though care was needed to separate them from the similar and much more widespread Mangrove Swallow.

Mangrove Swallow *Tachycineta albilinea*—a charming little swallow, often close to rivers and wetlands, and an absolute delight to see on every single day of the trip.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*— Gallon Jug airfield and farm appeared to be the favored locations for this migrant species where we had 5 – 35 birds feeding with Mangrove and Northern Rough-winged Swallows on two consecutive days.

GNATCATCHERS: Polioptilidae (2)

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Polioptila caerulea*— singles and pairs noted at Crooked Tree and Lamanai usually feeding around mixed flocks. A breeding species in Belize, as well as a common migrant, and seen on just four days of the trip.

Tropical Gnatcatcher *Polioptila plumbea*— far less frequent than Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, a pair in the sub-canopy at Lamanai savannah being our first sighting, closely followed by another near the staff quarters at Chan Chich the following day.



Spot-breasted Wren *Pheugopedius maculipectus* - Crooked Tree Lodge, Belize District, March 4th, 2020.

KINGLETS: Regulidae (1)

Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Regulus calendula* – Kathy drew our attention to a tiny passerine flicking through the oaks at Lamanai savannah on March 10th. It was a bird she knew well from the winter time in her Florida backyard but little did we know in that moment that the bird in question would turn out to be the first Ruby-crowned Kinglet discovered in Belize! It was a fast mover and wasn't photographed at the scene but luckily everyone in the group, including our local guides, had reasonably good views. In fact, the views were so compelling as to set the local grapevine in motion and two days later the kinglet was photographically documented in the same patch of savannah by several of the Lamanai guides. This species has been recorded in the highlands of neighboring Guatemala as well as the Yucatan peninsula in Mexico, and at least once in Honduras. It's fair to say that its appearance in Belize had long been anticipated by the locals but even so, the discovery of a new species for the country was simply not on the radar for our Naturalist Journeys group and a major scoop for the tour - nice work Kathy!

WRENS: Troglodytidae (4)

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*— not especially common or widespread and seen mostly around dwellings and disturbed areas at Crooked Tree Village and Indian Church.

Spot-breasted Wren *Pheugopedius maculipectus*— an extremely vocal wren that we heard on every single day of the tour including the pre-tour extension. Seeing one, however, was a different ball game altogether and there was a distinct air of euphoria when we eventually glimpsed a pair on the trails around Lamanai Outpost Lodge. Naturally, sightings came along a little more frequently after that.

White-bellied Wren *Uropsila leucogastra*— we watched a couple of pairs of this small attractive wren climb up through vine tangles and thickets two days in succession at Lamanai Outpost Lodge; once on the ‘jungle trail’ and then the following day at Lamanai savannah. Later in the tour, Martyn found one in the grounds at Chan Chich Lodge.

White-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucosticta*— a ground-dwelling, understory species very difficult to see well though a few of the group managed to get views of a pair on the ‘jungle trail’ at Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 9th. Otherwise, limited to a couple of heard-only observations at Chan Chich Lodge.

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae (3)

Black Catbird *Melanoptila glabrirostris* (YE)—an early morning visit to Lamanai savannah with Ruben provided us with decent views of this well-named regional endemic.

Gray Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis*— found wintering in small numbers at all three bases on the tour. Most were shy and skulking, best detected their familiar kitten-like mewing calls.

Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus*— a common songster in the yards, gardens and paddocks of Crooked Tree Sanctuary but distinctly scarce after that with just a few singles and pairs noted at Indian Church and Lamanai savannah.

THRUSHES: Turdidae (3)

Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina*— recorded on only two days of the tour but seen pretty well at Lamanai including the afternoon walk from Lamanai Mayan Archaeological Reserve back to Lamanai Outpost Lodge. We also had a single with Vidal along the Sylvester Road at Chan Chich.

White-throated Thrush *Turdus assimilis*— an extremely shy bird feeding on fruiting shrubs along the Sylvester Road at Chan Chich on the 13th.

Clay-colored Thrush *Turdus grayi*— the most common and widespread Central American member of the genus *Turdidae*. Seen on almost every day of the tour and especially common around Crooked Tree Lodge.

FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae (2)

Yellow-throated Euphonia *Euphonia hirundinacea*— a small bright passerine, rather common and seen on every day of the tour. Especially close views could be had around the water features at Chan Chich Lodge.

Lesser Goldfinch *Spinus psaltria*— two small flocks seen, both times with Morrelet's Seedeaters at Crooked Tree Lodge and Indian Church respectively. It wasn't until after the tour was over that the Crooked Tree flock in particular generated some interest from the local e-bird reviewers. H. Lee Jones, author of the Birds of Belize field guide offered the following summary; "Lesser Goldfinch is a relatively recent arrival in Belize from the Yucatan. The first record was in 1999 in northern Orange Walk District. From there, records increased rapidly as it spread in all directions; however, until recently remaining confined to Orange Walk and Corozal districts. It is now reported regularly, and no doubt resident, at Lamanai just west of Crooked Tree, but it was not recorded in Crooked Tree until early 2019. Yours is still one of only a few records from there, but I expect its numbers to continue to increase at Crooked Tree and regions south, perhaps eventually being found throughout the lowlands of Belize."

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae (4)

Botteri's Sparrow *Peucaea botterii*— a single sang and showed pretty well to the early morning group in the grasslands at Lamanai savannah.

Grasshopper Sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum*— a familiar North American grassland species, we were treated to close views of an especially territorial singing bird in the Lamanai savannah on the 10th. However, rather than being a migrant from the USA, this bird was of the darker, richer and much more localized sub-species breeding in Belize; *Ammodramus savannarum cracens*.

Green-backed Sparrow *Arremonops chloronotus*— something of an Olive Sparrow look-alike but rather more strikingly marked. We worked hard for the most fleeting of glimpses on the 'jungle trail' at Lamanai Outpost Lodge one morning only to find several feeding in the open on the Lamanai Mayan Sugar Mill trail on the same afternoon! A few were also present on the wooded trails at Chan Chich.

Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina*— a feeding flock of a dozen or more were encountered with many other species close to Beck's B&B during the Crooked Tree pre-tour extension, but remarkably proved to be the only sighting of the tour.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Icteriidae (1)

Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens*—(LO) two different singles from Lamanai, neither of which were seen/heard by the whole group. Ruben mentioned seeing one at Indian Church village, and James and Ruben heard one calling at Lamanai savannah just before the focus shifted to Grasshopper Sparrows.

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS AND ORIOLES: Icteridae (13)

Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna*— very close views of a pair in Lamanai savannah, and plentiful but mostly distant around Gallon Jug farm.

Yellow-billed Cacique *Amblycercus holosericeus*— right up there among the most frustrating birds of the tour, primarily because we heard plenty of them around Lamanai Outpost Lodge and the Mayan Ruins on three consecutive days but had only the briefest of glimpses. Susan, however, used a window of ‘quiet’ time at Lamanai to take a wander and returned boasting good views of them along the jungle trail.

Montezuma Oropendola *Psarocolius montezuma*— small numbers found on just three days of the tour at Indian Church village, Chan Chich and Laguna Verde.

Black-cowled Oriole *Icterus prothemelas*— an attractive oriole recorded on every day of the tour including the Crooked Tree extension. Quite often found around mixed flocks especially where there were flowering trees and shrubs.

Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius*— the smallest of the orioles and very a common winter visitor/migrant from North America. We found them on every day of the tour, often in numbers and most frequently around mixed feeding flocks.

Hooded Oriole *Icterus cucullatus*— arguably the most beautiful of the orioles seen on tour, most frequent and visible at Crooked Tree with smaller numbers at Lamanai/Indian Church though rather scarce at Chan Chich.

Yellow-backed Oriole *Icterus chrysater*—close views of an immature male offering prolonged looks in the scopes at Lamanai savannah, the only sighting of the whole tour.

Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula*— a fairly common winter visitor/transient, especially around Crooked Tree and Lamanai.

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*— decidedly scarce being noted only at Crooked Tree Lagoon, the wetlands adjacent to the savannah near Beck’s B&B, and along Dawson Creek near Lamanai savannah.

Bronzed Cowbird *Molothrus aeneus*— at least 10 with a mixed blackbird flock by the New River on the way to Lamanai Outpost Lodge and another carefully identified alongside Giant Cowbirds at Gallon Jug Farm on the 12th.

Giant Cowbird *Molothrus oryzivorus*—fabulous views of 2 – 3 with grackles and blackbirds around the paddocks at Gallon Jug farm.

Melodious Blackbird *Dives dives*—surprisingly common throughout the tour being found at all three of our lodges and often present in good numbers.

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*— one of the first species seen around Belize City Airport and subsequently on each and every day of the trip. Most commonly found around habitation and disturbed areas.

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (19)

Worm-eating Warbler *Helmitheros vermivorum*— a few of the group managed to see one within a mixed feeding flock at Lamanai Mayan Archaeological Reserve – initially spotted by Ruben.

Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis*— surprisingly common and not always close to water, most birds detected by their hard, metallic ‘spik’ call notes. Most abundant around Crooked Tree Lagoon and Lodge.

Blue-winged Warbler *Vermivora cyanoptera*— seen on just one day of the tour with 2 -3 found in a mixed feeding flock along the ‘jungle trail’ at Lamanai Outpost Lodge. With some patience we managed to obtain views for all in our party.

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia*— not especially numerous but this, arguably the most distinctive of wood-warblers, was found amid mixed feeding flocks on at least seven days of the trip.

Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea*— one spotted by a lucky few as we cruised up Dawson Creek by boat on the way to Lamanai savannah on the 10th.

Tennessee Warbler *Leiothlypis peregrina*— nice looks at a single bird with a mixed feeding flock in blossoming Madre de Cacao trees at Chan Chich Lodge on the penultimate morning of the tour.

Gray-crowned Yellowthroat *Geothlypis poliocephala*—(HO) Ruben pointed one out as it sang for a while in Lamanai savannah on the 10th but alas it could not be coaxed in to the open for a view.

Kentucky Warbler *Geothlypis formosa*— very good views of a single male working along fallen tree trunks and leaf litter near the staff quarters on Chan Chich on the 11th.

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas*—fairly common, particularly around wetland sites and seen/heard on at least six days of the tour.

Hooded Warbler *Setophaga citrina*— a smart little warbler usually most active in the understory and always showing distinctively white outer tail feathers. Seen wonderfully well at all three of our bases but particularly obliging right off the veranda at Chan Chich Lodge!

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*— fairly common and noted sallying for insects at Crooked Tree, Lamanai and Chan Chich. Recorded on at least seven days.

Northern Parula *Setophaga americana*— just two singles seen and both were within mixed flocks; one near Beck’s B&B on the 7th, and one along the ‘jungle trail’ at Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 9th.

Magnolia Warbler *Setophaga magnolia*— commonly encountered around mixed flocks, this delightful Nearctic breeder was noted on at least seven days of the tour.

Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechia*— common, most frequent at Crooked Tree Sanctuary though not without identification challenges as some individuals were simply not that yellow! Seen on at least eight days of the tour

Palm Warbler *Setophaga palmarum*—(LO) one of the paler western form (*S.p. palmarum*) was seen ‘pumping’ its tail just as we departed from the savannah by jeep at Beck’s B&B on the 7th.

Yellow-throated Warbler *Setophaga dominica*— always a treat, this most beautiful of North American wood-warblers was found daily at Crooked Tree Sanctuary and further west around Lamanai Outpost Lodge. Puzzlingly absent from Chan Chich.

Grace's Warbler *Setophaga graciae*— scarce and very much tied to fragments of pine woodland within dry savannah, we could only find this species close to Beck's B&B at Crooked Tree Sanctuary where 4 – 6 were noted on the 5th and 7th.



Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis* — Crooked Tree Lodge, Belize District, March 5th, 2020.

Black-throated Green Warbler *Setophaga virens*— decent views of a single with a mixed flock along the 'jungle trail' at Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 9th.

Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus*— nice views of a single by Norman's Temple during an afternoon bird walk from Chan Chich Lodge with Vidal. The only species of warbler that we saw that wasn't a winter transient.

CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae (11)

Rose-throated Tanager *Piranga roseogularis* (YE)— beautiful views of a singing male along the Sylvester Road on the 11th and another male heard along a different portion of the same road on the 13th.

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*— wintering 'summer' tanagers proved to be fairly common, being found on at least seven days of the tour with especially good views around the water features at Chan Chich Lodge.

Red-crowned Ant-Tanager *Habia rubica*— remarkably similar to the closely related Red-throated Ant-tanager, we were exceptionally fortunate to see and hear a small family group of about three birds at Norman's Temple near Chan Chich Lodge on the 11th.

Red-throated Ant-Tanager *Habia fuscicauda*— The Lamanai area hosted several family groups following mixed feeding flocks along the 'jungle trail' and along the Spanish Church trail at the Mayan Archaeological Reserve, both at Lamanai on March 9th. Rather scarce at Chan Chich but well seen on the Lodge's trails on the 13th and 14th.

Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis*— surprisingly scarce being seen only on the pre-tour extension, and noted at both Crooked Tree Lodge and the savannah adjacent to Beck's B&B.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*— Karen spotted a nice male on the 'jungle trail' at Lamanai Outpost Lodge, and there was a female at Indian Church village later the same day. One seen at Chan Chich Lodge was an especially cooperative female scoped for a while on the morning of the 12th.

Gray-throated Chat *Granatellus sallaei* (YE)— heard well but distantly on the Sylvester Road and, to his credit, Vidal did his best to coax that bird in to view but it wasn't to be. True to form, Susan took her chances and birded right down to the wire in the final hours of the tour and came back with stunning photos of a male seen with Luis along the entrance road to the lodge. Perhaps the only one of the Yucatan Endemics on tour that wasn't seen by the majority of the group.

Blue-black Grosbeak *Cyanoloxia cyanooides*— shy, retiring and not at all common, the best technique for seeing this heavy-billed species was to simply stake out the water feature off the veranda at Chan Chich Lodge, especially during the heat of early afternoon. Noted on just two days of the tour.

Blue Bunting *Cyanocmpsa parellina*— a really beautiful bunting seen exceptional well at Indian Church, heard and seen singing in the forest at Lamanai Outpost Lodge, and a regular visitor to the water features at Chan Chich Lodge during the heat of the day. One of the more photogenic passerines of the tour.

Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea*— good views of single males at Indian Church and the beginning of the 'jungle trail' at Lamanai Outpost Lodge.

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris*— Sandy and Ruben saw a male in flight around a feeding flock of seedeaters in Indian Church village. Despite lingering at the site for a while and subsequent visits in the following days, Sandy's sighting would remain the only one for the whole tour.

TANAGERS AND ALLIES: Thraupidae (12)

Black-throated Shrike-Tanager *Lanio aurantius*— a staggering encounter with this brutish, black-and-yellow tanager at Chan Chich Lodge, what Vidal called the "lead boy" (a primary indicator species to the presence of ant-swarms and/or feeding flocks). Found on a post-breakfast walk along the rugged 'Logger's Trail', and a true denizen of the forest, it was seen and heard well by the entire group.

Blue-gray Tanager *Thraupis episcopus*— a familiar Central American resident, this uniquely pastel blue tanager was plentiful at Crooked Tree, scarce at Lamanai and virtually absent from Chan Chich.

Yellow-winged Tanager *Thraupis abbas*— after rather distant views of two at Indian Church village on the 7th, this attractive and well-named tanager came into its element at Chan Chich Lodge where we enjoyed close views of 3 – 6 on most days within the grounds of the lodge.

Golden-hooded Tanager *Tangara larvata*— another beautiful and much sought-after tanager, found on two mornings around the staff quarters at Chan Chich Lodge.

Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus*— having had a taster of this smart little passerine with several pairs at Indian Church village we went on to find them especially numerous around Chan Chich Lodge. Indeed, Martyn could barely contain his excitement when we watched upwards of 20 feeding in blossoming Madre de Cacao trees on the penultimate morning of the tour!

Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza*— unmistakable; we noted just two individual males, both of them within the immediate area of Chan Chich Lodge.

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina*— fairly common but often unobtrusive with 3 – 6 birds seen on five days of the tour, most often around areas of rank grass.

Thick-billed Seed-Finch *Sporophila funerea*— singles at Crooked Tree Lodge on the 4th (female) and 6th (male) proved to be the only sightings for the whole tour.

Morelet's Seedeater *Sporophila moreletii*— common to abundant throughout much of the tour and always pleasant to watch them in small roadside flocks.

Black-headed Saltator *Saltator atriceps*— a 'beast' of a saltator seen well at Lamanai Outpost Lodge, Indian Church village and Chan Chich Lodge. Noted on five days of the tour.

Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus* – unambiguous views (and photos) of one clearly sporting a "buff-throat" in the grounds of Chan Chich Lodge on March 12th. A surprising but welcome 'write-in' for our checklists.

Grayish Saltator *Saltator coerulescens*— somewhat underrated, this subtly attractive saltator cropped up just once on the main tour with 2 -3 individuals seen during our first afternoon bird walk up to Indian Church village from Lamanai Outpost Lodge. In addition, there was a single at Crooked Tree Lodge on the 4th before the pre-tour extension got underway.

Species mentioned by our local guides but not seen or confirmed by members of the group. Therefore, these species do not appear in the overall list and totals;

White-tailed Hawk - claimed by Ruben and other guides over Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 9th.

Yellow-tailed Oriole – claimed by Ruben at Indian Church village on March 8th.

Yucatan Flycatcher (YE)— claimed as a 'heard-only' by Ruben at Lamanai savannah on the 10th.

Royal Flycatcher - Ruben and JPS heard one at Lamanai Mayan Archaeological Reserve near the Spanish Church on the 9th.

MAMMALS (12 species recorded):

Proboscis Bat *Rhynchonycteris naso*— fairly numerous on the Ruben's Lamanai night safari including a small group that he spotted roosting under a leaning tree trunk over the water.

Greater Fishing Bat *Noctilio liporinus* – what a thrill it was to watch one of the largest bats in Central America hawking over the New River, characteristically dipping its feet in to the water. Most certainly a highlight of the tour, about of eight them were seen on Ruben's Lamanai night safari.

Greater Fruit-Eating Bat *Artibeus lituratus* – one noted at Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 8th.

Yucatan Black Howler Monkey *Alouatta pigra*— very much the signature mammal of the tour, recorded every day at all three of our lodge locations in the forested areas. Quite tame, numerous and vocal at Lamanai Outpost Lodge and its neighboring trail system. Rather shy and wary at other locations.

Central American Spider Monkey *Ateles geoffroyi*— the massive tracts of undisturbed forest surrounding Chan Chich Lodge provided the ideal venue for this large, rangy monkey and we came across several agile groups within the grounds of the lodge. Fun to watch, especially as they nervously scampered, one-by-one across the tracks.

Yucatan Squirrel *Sciurus yucatanensis*— a large, dark squirrel encountered around Crooked Tree Lodge and the Mayan Archaeological Reserve at Lamanai.

Central American Agouti *Dasyprocta punctata*— shy and scarce being found only along the trails and roads close to Chan Chich Lodge.

Collared Peccary *Pecari tajacu*— a familiar pig-like mammal present throughout Central America, we came across small groups along the trails at Lamanai, Chan Chich Lodge and Gallon Jug.

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*— numerous around Chan Chich Lodge and Gallon Jug with Luis spotting several on our night safari.

Central American Red Brocket *Mazama temama*— one walked across the Chan Chich Road in the middle of the morning on the 11th, quite unexpected for a small, crepuscular, forest-dwelling deer.

White-nosed Coati *Nasua narica*— a noisy foraging group of about eight on the Sylvester Road as we waited in vain for a singing Gray-throated Chat to appear.

Gray Fox *Urocyon cinereoargenteus*— one dashed across the road in late morning as we drove back from our vigil at Chan Chich escarpment.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (7 species recorded):

Morelet's Crocodile *Crocodylus moreletii*— quite widespread with a scatter of singles noted at Crooked Tree Lagoon, the New River, Dawson Creek and Laguna Seca.

Green Iguana *Iguana iguana*— most frequent on Crooked Tree Lagoon where we saw a massive male during our highly successful boat trip.

Black Spiny-tailed Iguana *Ctenosaura similis*— wonderful views of a male on Crooked Tree Lagoon with other singles noted at Lamanai Outpost Lodge and along the New River.

Brown Basilisk *Basiliscus vittatus*— found on at least four days of the tour and especially photogenic in the grounds of Chan Chich Lodge.

Giant Toad *Rhinella horribilis*— two seen in the grounds of Crooked Tree Lodge on a night walk with Robert on the 6th, and at least six observed with Ruben during the Lamanai night safari.

Mexican Tree Frog *Smilisca baudinii* – one spotlighted by Ruben during the night safari from Lamanai Outpost Lodge.

Ghost Anole *Anolis lemurinus* – yet another highlight from the Lamanai night safari, spotlighted by Ruben.

Other fauna seen on the tour mentioned here in brief;

Banded Peacock *Anartia Fatima*

White Peacock *Anartia jatrophae*

Common Morpho Butterfly *Morpho peleides*

Queen *Danaus gilippus*

Red Postman *Heliconius erato*

Zebra Longwing *Heliconius charithonia*

Julia *Dryas Julia*

Monarch *Danaus plexippus*

Thoas Swallowtail *Papilio thoas*

Orange Tiger *Dryadula phaetusa*

Mexican Red-rump *Tliltocatl vagans*

Scorpion sp; *Scorpionidae*

Photo Credits: A huge thank you to James P. Smith for providing the photos for the species list.