

Belize Birding & Nature | Species List

January 15 – 23, 2022 | with Naturalist Journeys



With expert local guides Ruben Arevalo and Luis Romero and five participants: Andrew, Shirley, Gail, Judy and Jonathan with Kelly from Naturalist Journeys joining us for the Chan Chich portion of the trip.

Compiled by James P. Smith

(HO)= Distinctive enough to be counted as heard only
(LO)= Leader/Guide only observation

(I)= Introduced
(RE)= Endemic to the Central American region
(YE) = Endemic to the Yucatan region specifically



Agami Heron, Group, Ruins, Coati by James P. Smith.

Summary: this fabulous tour lived up to expectation in so many respects. True to form, Belize produced exceptional local guides, world class lodges, and delicious cuisine! We were blessed with largely favorable weather throughout and towards the end of the trip the dreamy tranquility of Chan Chich Lodge, surrounded by 275,000 acres of pristine wilderness, provided a fitting yet relaxing climax to a wonderful tour. In terms of highlights, well there were many but two exceptional night safaris would be difficult to beat, or perhaps it was the hawk-eagle trifecta that we witnessed at the spectacular Chan Chich escarpment?! Of course, such trips would not be possible without the excellent group camaraderie and humor that we shared throughout. Gracious thanks go to all of our participants, the talented local guides, and the warm, courteous lodge staff for which Belize is justly renowned.

Our itinerary at a glance: January 15th – 23rd;

15th – Arrivals | Black Orchid Resort | Burrell Boom

Late afternoon bird walk followed by welcome drinks and dinner at the resort.

16th - Black Orchid Resort | Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary | Transfer via the New River to Lamanai Outpost

Lodge – Early morning boat tour through Crooked Tree Lagoon. Twenty two mile boat transfer along the New River to Lamanai. Happy hour and species checklist by the bar at Lamanai Outpost Lodge.

17th – Lamanai Outpost Lodge | Lamamani Maya Archeological Reserve | Indian Church Village | Night Safari on the New River

Birding walks on the Lodge trails, at Lamanai Maya Archeological Reserve, Indian Church. Night safari by boat after dinner.

18th – Lamanai Savannah and Dawson Creek | Lamanai Outpost Lodge | Indian Church | Sunset Cocktail Cruise

Birding walks in the savannah, the Lodge trails, and Indian Church. Cocktail Cruise to Dawson Creek.

19th - Lamanai Outpost Lodge | Transfer to Chan Chich via Blue Creek | Chan Chich Road and Lodge

Birding walks from the Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the Airport and Jungle trails. Two hour vehicle transfer from Lamanai to Chan Chich with 20 minutes break in Blue Creek. Casual birding from the vehicle to Chan Chich Lodge.

20th – Chan Chich Lodge | Gallon Jug Farm | Sylvester Village Road | Night Safari to Gallon Jug fields

Birding walk from Chan Chich Lodge to staff housing area. 'Bird mobile' trip to Gallon Jug Farm. Birding walk along Sylvester Village Road. Night Safari toward Gallon Jug fields along Chan Chich entrance road atop the bird-mobile.

21st – Chan Chich Lodge | Chan Chich Escarpment via Sylvester Village | Gallon Jug Farm | Trisha's Hill

Bird-mobile excursion to the escarpment (also known as La Lucia escarpment) via Gallon Jug and Sylvester Village. Afternoon bird walk to Trisha's Hill from Chan Chich Lodge.

22nd - Chan Chich Lodge | Laguna Seca | King's Tomb Trail

Bird-mobile excursion to Laguna Seca via Gallon Jug fields. Afternoon bird walk on the King's Tomb Trail and Logger's Trails from Chan Chich Lodge.

23rd – Chan Chich Lodge | Departures to Belize City

Participants departed on small charter flights from Gallon Jug airfield during the course of the morning. We said our good-byes at Chan Chich with some of our party staying on in Belize City for one more night, whilst others departed from Philip S. W. Goldson International Airport later that afternoon.

BIRDS (237 species recorded, of which 10 were heard only, and two were leader only observations):

TINAMOUS: Tinamidae (1)

Great Tinamou *Tinamus major* — (HO) the most widespread species of this 'difficult-to-see' group was heard just the once, along the entrance road to Chan Chich Lodge on the 21st.

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae (2)

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis*— about 10 at Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 16th with another single over the New River at Lamanai the following day.

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors*— 8 -10 at Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 16th.

GUANS AND CURASSOWS: Cracidae (3)

Plain Chachalaca *Ortalis vetula*— Lamanai Outpost Lodge ultimately proved to be the key area for this species with half-a-dozen or so feeding around the dining area on the morning of the 17th.

Crested Guan *Penelope purpurascens*—these giant, arboreal *cracids* could be found on most of the mornings at Chan Chich Lodge, often within the grounds, or along the entrance road or along the trails leading out from the lodge. Also present in the Gallon Jug plantations.

Great Curassow *Crax rubra*— found only in the Rio Bravo Conservation area, a mostly terrestrial *cracid* and frequently encountered on the wide roadside verges. Surprisingly scarce until the 22nd when over 25 were seen from atop the 'bird-mobile' after a night of heavy rain and thunderstorms.

PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS AND ALLIES: Phasianidae (1)

Ocellated Turkey *Meleagris ocellata* (**YE**)—beautiful, common and difficult to miss being found all over Chan Chich Lodge, the approach road, the staff village and Gallon Jug fields. Often very approachable and a species that seems to have benefitted a great deal from the protection of the forest in the Rio Bravo Conservation Area.

GREBES: Podicipedidae (1)

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*—a single on Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 16th was the only one noted on this particular tour.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (11)

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis*— rather uncommon this year seen only in the areas of Burrell Boom, Crooked Tree and Lamanai and not noted at all Chan Chich.

Scaled Pigeon *Patagioenas speciosa*—Ruben called one as it flew over Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 17th, and Luis drew attention to a calling bird from Chan Chich escarpment on the 21st.

Red-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas flavirostris*— the largest of the pigeons seen on tour, a fairly widespread species in Belize but seen on only two days around Lamanai Outpost Lodge and Indian Church.

Short-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas nigrirostris*— a rather unobtrusive pigeon of mature tropical forests, seen or heard at Chan Chich on the last few days of the tour including several ground feeding along the Chan Chich approach road on the 21st.

Eurasian Collard-Dove *Streptopelia decaocta* (**I**) — an invasive species from the Old World that looks set to become a regular feature of birding trips to Belize in future with roadside individuals seen in Crooked Tree Village on the 16th, and in San Felipe Village during the transfer to Chan Chich on the 19th.

Common Ground-Dove *Columbina passerina*— found only at Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary where we had good views of about six birds ground feeding with Ruddy Ground-Doves.

Plain-breasted Ground-Dove *Columbina minuta*—three seen rather well with other ground-doves on the sandy tracks near Birds Eye View Lodge, Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary on the 16th.

Ruddy Ground-Dove *Columbina talpacoti*— common throughout the Crooked Tree, Lamanai and Indian Church portion of the tour but noted only once in the vicinity of Chan Chich at Gallon Jug on the 21st.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*— Lamanai Outpost Lodge and surroundings proved to be key for seeing or hearing this inconspicuous dove which was most often seen walking or flying across the trails in front of the group. Two were also noted Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary.

Gray-headed Dove *Leptotila plumbeiceps*— a rather difficult dove to actually see, but after one flew across the entrance road at Chan Chich on the 21st we had some luck in hearing then seeing two on the Logger's Trail at Chan Chich the very next day.

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*— surprisingly scarce with singles at Crooked Tree, Lamanai and Indian Church on three days of the tour.

CUCKOOS AND ALLIES: Cuculidae (2)

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris*— seen almost daily with numerous social groups at Burrell Boom, Lamanai and Gallon Jug and especially at Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary. Difficult to miss, easily found along roadside fences and vegetation.

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana*—an exceptional tour for views (and photos) of this impressive species with a real flurry of sightings over seven days at Crooked Tree, the Lamanai trails, Chan Chich and Gallon Jug.

NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae (2)

Common Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*— a 'common' nightjar seen or heard varying circumstances on every day (or night) of the tour. We had the best views when the birds were spotlighted by Ruben and Luis on the night safaris but the species could also be heard and sometimes seen on the walkways around both lodges.

Yucatan Nightjar *Antrostomus badius* (YE)—two, a male and a female, were found perched on snags and quite brilliantly spotlighted by Ruben during the night safari on the New River from Lamanai Outpost Lodge. A remarkably co-operative species under the spotlight, and a regional endemic! Most certainly one of the highlights of the tour.

POTOOS: Nyctibiidae (1)

Northern Potoo *Nyctibius jamaicensi* – simply stunning and certainly a strong candidate for the weirdest bird of the trip, all of them spotlighted by our local guides on the two night safaris and all originally found on dead snags or fence posts perched in typical vertical posture. No less than six (!!) spotlighted by Ruben from the boat along the New River during the Lamanai night safari, and at least four found from the 'bird-mobile' around the Gallon Jug fields by Luis and Levy from Chan Chich.

SWIFTS: Apodidae (2)

Vaux's Swift *Chaetura vauxi*— *chaetura* swifts over the New River on the 16th , and at Trisha's Hill, Chan Chich on the 21st were assumed to be this species.

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift *Panyptila cayennensis*—about eight of these handsome swifts over Trisha's Hill, Chan Chich on the afternoon of the 21st.

HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae (10)

White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga mellivora*—such a beautiful hummingbird, the spectacular males always seemed to be dressed for dinner and delighted the group every day on the balcony feeders at Chan Chich Lodge.

Long-billed Hermit *Phaethornis longirostris*— a large hummer with a long, decurved bill and notably long white central tail feathers. Often found working the balcony feeders at Chan Chich Lodge during meal times, but equally at home along the forest trails. Only found at Chan Chich where it was seen each day.

Stripe-throated Hermit *Phaethornis striigularis*— a ridiculously fast little hummer, most of the time we had to be content with close-up ‘naked eye’ views of single individuals in the beautifully landscaped gardens of Chan Chich Lodge.

Purple-crowned Fairy *Heliosthryx barroti*— two foraging males gave fantastic views at the blooming Madre de Cacao trees around the staff quarters at Chan Chich Lodge on the first early morning bird walk with Luis.

Green-breasted Mango *Anthracothorax prevostii*—found only in the Lamanai area with up to four at Lamamani Maya Archeological Reserve on the 17th with others at Indian Church and along the Lodge trails on the 18th and 19th.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris*— a fairly common winter/transient in Belize encountered mostly in the Lamanai area on this particular tour with sightings at Lamamani Maya Archeological reserve, and along the Lodge trails on three dates.

White-bellied Emerald *Amazilia candida* – after a brief single at Lamamani Maya Archeological Reserve on the 17th we enjoyed daily encounters with three or four individuals the vicinity of Chan Chich Lodge and Gallon Jug towards the end of the trip.

Azure-crowned Hummingbird *Amazilia cyanocephala*— the crown of this species ‘dazzled’ several in our party as they stood with Ruben during our morning adventure in the Lamanai Savannah on the 18th – a brief but close encounter.....and then it was gone!

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

Buff-bellied Hummingbird *Amazilia yucateensis* – a single during our morning adventure with Ruben to the pine savannah at Lamanai on the 18th.

RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae (4)

Russet-naped Wood-Rail *Aramides albiventris* —really good views at Crooked Tree Lagoon with perhaps as many as six seen during our early morning cruise on the 16th. The late afternoon bird walk from Black Orchid Resort also produced a couple scurrying across a partially dried pond in Burrell Boom on the 15th!

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata* – two on the early morning cruise at Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 16th.

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica*— one or two noted on the early morning cruise at Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 16th.

Ruddy Crake *Laterallus ruber*— the distinctive descending trill of this skulking little crake was heard several times at Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 16th and at least three or four calling back and forth with one ultimately walking into view (!!!) along Dawson Creek during the Cocktail Cruise on the 18th.

LIMPKIN: Aramidae (1)

Limpkin *Aramus guarauna*—much like the Snail Kite, this species feeds almost exclusively on apple snails (*Ampullariidae*) and we found them in very small numbers along the fresh water margins of Crooked Tree Lagoon and the New River near Lamanai.

PLOVERS: Charadriidae (1)

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus* – a single at Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary on the 16th

JACANAS: Jacanidae (1)

Northern Jacana *Jacana spinosa*— fairly common at Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 16th but fairly scarce afterwards with just a couple along the New River near Lamanai Outpost Lodge, and a single at Laguna Seca on the 22nd.

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (2)

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutus* – a flock of about 22 ‘peeps’ swirling around in a flock over the New River on the 16th, easily the most likely of the small peeps to be seen inland in mid-winter.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*— a single seen from the boat at Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 16th proved to be the only individual for the whole tour.

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (2)

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*—at least two at Crooked Tree Lagoon seen very well from the boat. Both birds appeared to be in non-breeding plumage.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*— Crooked Tree Lagoon saw perhaps as many as ten individuals patrolling over the water and perching on partially submerged fence posts.

STORKS: Ciconiidae (2)

Jabiru *Jabiru mycteria*— the mighty Jabiru is highly localized throughout much of its Central American range and it was delightful to see five or six very from the boat at Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 16th.

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana*— confined to Crooked Tree Lagoon on this particular tour with around 40 birds noted during the boat trip on the 16th.

ANHINGAS: Anhingidae (1)

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga*— fairly plentiful at Crooked Tree Lagoon with at least half-a-dozen noted on the boat tour as well as a couple along the New River during the transfer to Lamanai. Later in the tour we found a single at Laguna Seca near Chan Chich Lodge on the 22nd.

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (1)

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*—abundant on Crooked Tree Lagoon and fairly common on the New River up to Lamanai and at New River Lagoon. Absent from the Chan Chich area.

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (13)

Least Bittern *Ixobrychus exilis* (HO) – a single heard calling at close range in Dawson Creek near Lamanai on the 18th.

Bare-throated Tiger-Heron *Tigrisoma mexicanum*— an excellent tour for viewing this cryptic species with two at Crooked Tree Lagoon during the boat tour on the 16th, and perhaps as many as four on Dawson Creek on the 18th, some of them giving spectacular views and photo opportunities. Otherwise, just single were along the New River and at Laguna Seca.

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*— a winter visitor and transient from North America, we noted at least ten on Crooked Tree Lagoon during the boat tour on the 16th, and up to six in the New River/Lamanai area.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*— common in wetlands with concentrations at Crooked Tree Lagoon, and some in the rice fields at Blue Creek during the transfer between Lamanai and Chan Chich. One at Laguna Seca on the 22nd was the only individual noted in the Chan Chich area.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*— perhaps a dozen at Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 16th and three at Dawson Creek on the 18th being the only individuals noted aside from a single at the Black Orchid on the 15th.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*—the largest numbers (10+) seen on the boat tour of Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 16th, otherwise smaller numbers found in the New River and along Dawson Creek near Lamanai, plus a single at the Black Orchid Resort on the 15th right at the beginning of the tour.

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor*— scarce and seen less frequently than some of the other heron species on the trip but six were noted on the boat tour at Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 16th, and up to five were on the New River and Dawson Creek on the 18th.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* – up to 15 on Crooked Tree Lagoon followed by a scatter of birds found around livestock at several sites with up to 60 at the Gallon Jug fields towards the end of trip.

Green Heron *Butorides virescens*— very good numbers at Crooked Tree Lagoon and Spanish Creek on the morning of the 16th - we returned with about 25 Green Herons seen on the boat tour! Otherwise, we came across just two to five individuals at Dawson Creek on the 18th and Laguna Seca on the 22nd.

Agami Heron *Agamia agami* – unquestionably one of the most beautiful herons to be found in the region and arguably one of the most beautiful herons in the world! Our boat cruise through Crooked Tree Lagoon and Spanish Creek was 'THE' trip to be on as Ruben spotted one lurking in the shadows of Spanish Creek followed immediately by another spotted by Michael, our boatman for the morning. Both were adults in total beauty and glory showing an incredibly long, dagger-like bill, and beautiful silvery-blue lattice patterning across the breast.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*— several found at Crooked Tree Lagoon where up to 10 individuals were found in day-time roosts, and several more were at Dawson Creek near Lamanai.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea*—rather more widespread than its Black-crowned cousin with up to six noted at Crooked Tree Lagoon, the New River, Dawson Creek near Lamanai, and foraging at night in open meadows during the night safari at Gallon Jug – very cool!

Boat-billed Heron *Cochlearius cochlearius*—we found an exceptional concentration of these at Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 16th perhaps involving as many as 50! Otherwise, a couple were seen along the New River and in Dawson Creek near Lamanai.

IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae (2)

White Ibis *Eudocimus albus*— remarkably scarce with just handful (4-10) at Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 16th being the only sightings of the tour.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*— only found at Crooked Tree Lagoon with two noted on the 16th.

NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae (4)

King Vulture *Sarcorampus papa*— wonderful views of soaring adults, sub-adults and juveniles over the Gallon Jug fields and plantations on the 20th as well as several seen well from Chan Chich escarpment.

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*—the most widespread and common raptor of the tour. Seen every day, often soaring in impressive 'kettles' and subsequently drawing in other raptors in the process.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*—only slight less common than Black Vulture though often joining the same kettles, and seen on every day of the tour.

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes burrovianus*— closely resembling Turkey Vulture and identified with great care. We saw several individuals at Crooked Tree, Indian Church, Lamanai savannah, and the Gallon Jug fields. In addition to favoring grassland habitats, the smaller size, blacker plumage, white primary shafts on the upperwing and multicolored facial skin were some of the key features in separating them from Turkey Vultures.

OSPREE: Pandionidae (1)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*— noted on four dates of the tour, mostly concentrated around the New River Lagoon at Lamanai.

HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (14)

White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus*— super views of a pair perched and hunting at the Gallon Jug fields on the 20th.

Hook-billed Kite *Chondrohierax uncinatus* - an adult gave some great looks as it drifted south over Chan Chich escarpment on the 21st.

Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus melanoleucus* – a visit to the wide open vista at Chan Chich escarpment only rarely passes without drama and this trip was no exception. No sooner had we arrived than a stunning adult Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle lifted out of the forest below and began soaring on thermals with a couple of Turkey Vultures....wow! Our fortune wasn't about to end there. After disappearing for a good five minutes or so, Shirley suddenly noticed the hawk-eagle was right behind us, this time riding the thermals even closer to the group, so close in fact that the iris color could be seen!! The bird put on the most remarkable show, perhaps a once in a lifetime view. A rare raptor throughout much of its Central American range including Belize.

Black Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus tyrannus*—the stunning vista at Chan Chich escarpment provided the backdrop for a remarkable 'hawk-eagle trifecta', this being the third of the three species possible in Belize - we saw all of them with an hour at the escarpment! A single adult Black Hawk-Eagle flew past only minutes after we'd been mesmerized by the Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle!

Ornate Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus ornatus* - super views of an adult attending a nest in a massive Mahogany tree close to Chan Chich escarpment on the 21st

Black-collared Hawk *Busarellus nigricollis*— Crooked Tree Lagoon provided good views of a pair of this distinctive raptor, a species closely associated with freshwater marshes and wetlands. Seen on just the one date, January 16th.

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis*— exclusively tied to freshwater margins and marshes, we found them in reasonable numbers on the boat tour of Crooked Tree Lagoon with over 10 counted as well as on three days around Lamanai, New River Lagoon and nearby Dawson Creek where we had incredibly close views of several during the evening Cocktail Cruise.

Northern Harrier *Circus hudsonius* – singles were noted quartering the Mennonite fields during the transfer day from Lamanai and Chan Chich on the 19th, and at Gallon Jug farm on the 20th. An uncommon winter/transient in Belize and not a species we see on every tour.

Great Black Hawk *Buteogallus urubitinga*— Crooked Tree Lagoon provided the first views of this species with several adults and immatures noted on the boat cruise on the 16th. A pair also bred in the Gallon Jug plantations this year with an adult and a begging juvenile noted there on the 21st. There was a very close, cooperative adult at Laguna Seca on the 22nd rounding off a really fine series of sightings.

Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris*— such a well-named raptor, we found this species by the roadside on many occasions during the trip with the most during transfer from Lamanai and Chan Chich when perhaps a dozen were counted through the Mennonite farmlands. This was a raptor that featured in our checklists every day.

White-tailed Hawk *Geranoaetus albicaudatus* – Ruben spotted a perched adult way across the grasslands at Lamanai Savannah on the 18th. While somewhat distant, it was readily identifiable through the spotting scopes. Uncommon and local in Belize.

White Hawk *Pseudastur albicollis* (LO) — two individuals seen in very similar circumstances while in the tour vehicle; one flew across the main entrance road to Chan Chich on the transfer day on the 19th, and another flew across the road to Gallon Jug after our visit the escarpment on the 21st. Both were seen briefly but well by JPS.

Gray Hawk *Buteo plagiatus*— really fantastic views of a single perched at Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 17th, and a pair soaring over the Gallon Jug fields on the 20th.

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus*— a relatively ‘quiet’ trip for this widespread *buteo* although a dark morph did put on a memorable show at Chan Chich escarpment on the 21st as it sparred with a soaring Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle – not too shabby!

BARN OWLS: Tytonidae (1)

Barn Owl *Tyto alba* – one was heard ‘squealing’ and sometimes seen at Lamanai Outpost Lodge on at least two nights of our stay but never showed when we were together as a group!

OWLS: Strigidae (3)

Middle American Screech-Owl *Megascops guatemalae*— we couldn’t have wished for better views as Luis led a brilliant night safari from Chan Chich with at least four of these beauties seen at close range in the spotlight. It was simply staggering! Also known as Vermiculated Screech-Owl.

Central American Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium griseiceps* **(RE)** – this was certainly the year to visit Chan Chich Lodge with a territorial Central American Pygmy-Owl advertising its presence at dawn within the main lodge grounds and the Mayan plaza. Hearing the ‘tooting’ calls notes in the muggy, pre-dawn air was one thing but picking out an owl the size of House Sparrow from the dense forested habitat was something else, and yet Andrew managed to do exactly that! Even Luis, who’d seen the pygmy-owl multiple times before, was impressed. The start to the morning bird walk that day couldn’t have gone better, and the pygmy-owl was still present in the lodge grounds the following day. Not only is Central American Pygmy-Owl quite rare within its range, it’s also endemic to the region.

Mottled Owl *Ciccaba virgata*— incredible views and incredible experience with about four seen and heard during the night safari from Chan Chich Lodge, spotlighted by Luis from the ‘bird-mobile’.

TROGONS: Trogonidae (3)

Slaty-tailed Trogon *Trogon massena*— a pair at Lamamani Maya Archeological Site on the 17th were the first of the tour but this species really came into its own around Chan Chich where they were seen and heard almost every day around the lodge and staff village area.

Black-headed Trogon *Trogon melanocephalus*— rather widespread in humid, broadleaf woodland; Burrell Boom, Lamanai and Chan Chich all had individuals or pairs though they were only found on four days of the tour.

Gartered Trogon *Trogon caligatus*— the smallest of the trogons seen on the trip with up to four individuals on five days of the tour. Found most easily found on the trails around Lamanai Outpost Lodge and Maya Archeological site, and heard more frequently than seen at Chan Chich.

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (5)

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*—the largest of the kingfishers in the region and always spectacular to watch. It was plentiful and easy to find at Crooked Tree Lagoon, the New River around Lamanai Outpost Lodge and Dawson Creek, and even over Gallon Jug and Laguna Seca near Chan Chich.

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon*— a common winter visitor and transient to Belize, we had no trouble finding them in good numbers at Crooked Tree Lagoon, the New River and its tributaries near Lamanai. We even came across one at Laguna Seca near Chan Chich on the 22nd. .

Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona* – sensational views of one in Spanish Creek during the Crooked Tree Lagoon boat cruise and another, spotlighted by Ruben, on the night safari from Lamanai on the 17th.

American Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle aenea*— Ruben somehow managed to spotlight two of these little beauties roosting in waterside shrubs during the Lamanai night safari on the 17th. They looked like emerald-green, orange and white decorations hanging in the vegetation until we got close enough to see the black beady eye and relatively long dagger-like bill. Ruben's skill to spot these little gems whilst simultaneously steering the boat through a narrow creek was something to behold....and he did it without flushing the kingfishers!

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana*— this feisty little kingfisher was most common in the vicinity of Crooked Tree Lagoon but also present along Dawson Creek and the New River where Ruben expertly spotlighted at least two birds roosting in the waterside vegetation during the night safari on the 17th.

PUFFBIRDS: Bucconidae (2)

White-necked Puffbird *Notharchus hyperhynchus*— the largest and most distinctive puffbird in the region was seen twice on the tour and both times in the Chan Chich area; once as we drove along the entrance road to the lodge on the transfer day and another along the road toward Gallon Jug on the 22nd. Though both remained high in the tree line, they were remarkably cooperative and allowed for extended views.....very much in keeping with the species behavior.

White-whiskered Puffbird *Malacoptila panamensis*— fabulous, fabulous, fabulous! We enjoyed a plethora of sightings of this often discrete puffbird. Being ground nesters, they had a tendency to stay on low perches and even kept low when flying across the road. All the sightings came from Chan Chich where Luis, our main guide, felt that the birds were busy courting and scouting for potential nest sites. In this respect, the timing of the tour was just perfect because we saw this species on five consecutive days with up to six pairs on each of those days – quite amazing.

JACAMARS: Galbulidae (1)

Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula ruficauda*— this long billed denizen of humid broadleaf forest was heard at Lamamani Maya Archeological Site and seen well, very well in fact, at Chan Chich on two consecutive days.

TOUCANS: Ramphastidae (2)

Collared Aracari *Pteroglossus torquatus*— three in flight over Trisha's Hill, Chan Chich on the afternoon bird walk on the 22nd.

Keel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos sulfuratus*—the National Bird of Belize! We enjoyed nice scope views at Lamanai, Chan Chich and Gallon Jug though it was certainly scarcer than we would have liked being seen on just three days of the tour.

WOODPECKERS: Picidae (10)

Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus*—found only in the mature oaks at Lamanai Savannah where we encountered a small social group on the morning of the 18th.

Black-cheeked Woodpecker *Melanerpes pucherani*— a handsome woodpecker favoring humid broadleaf forest and, as such, found only in the Chan Chich area on this tour though we did see it on each day of our stay. We had excellent views around the lodge and staff village.

Yucatan Woodpecker *Melanerpes pygmaeus* (**YE**)—identified with great care and, with Ruben's field skills, we found at least three at Dawson Creek and Lamanai Savannah on the 18th. Very similar in overall appearance to the somewhat larger and more abundant Golden-fronted Woodpecker but with a smaller, more petite bill and

notably yellow feathering around the base of the bill versus the red feathering of Golden-fronted Woodpecker – very cool when seen up close.

Golden-fronted Woodpecker *Melanerpes aurifrons*— widespread, vociferous and definitely not shy, we found this to be a common woodpecker noting the species on each day of the tour in a wide range of locations.

Ladder-backed Woodpecker *Dryobates scalaris* – a rather localized woodpecker in Central America and not a species that we see on every visit to Belize. Therefore it was a delight to find one in the thickets at Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary on the 16th, and at least three at Dawson Creek and Lamanai Savannah on the 18th.

Smoky-brown Woodpecker *Dryobates fumigatus*— singles of this unobtrusive and well-named woodpecker were found close to mixed feeding flocks on the jungle trail at Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 19th, and close to Chan Chich on the 20th.

Pale-billed Woodpecker *Campephilus guatemalensis*— the largest of the woodpeckers to be found in Belize and Central America. The distinctive ‘double-wrap’ was one of the more easily recognized sounds of the woodland and heard more frequently than the birds were seen but the forested areas at both Lamanai and Chan Chich proved to be good for them and we ultimately had excellent views at both lodges. Noted on five days of the trip.

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus*— slightly smaller than the mighty Pale-billed Woodpecker, we had a really fine spread of almost daily sightings at Crooked Tree, Lamanai and Chan Chich Lodge, albeit slightly less frequently at the latter site.

Chestnut-colored Woodpecker *Celeus castaneus*— stunning! Surely one of the most beautiful woodpeckers in Central America. Great views at the Lamanai Maya Archeological site on the 17th, and another at Chan Chich on the 21st.

Golden-olive Woodpecker *Colaptes rubiginosus*— one of the most aloof woodpeckers on the Belize list! This species can be a devil to see but after hearing one at the Mask Temple at Lamanai Maya Archeological site we did actually manage some views at the end of the jungle trail at Lamanai on the 19th. Another was heard at Laguna Seca on the 22nd.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (4)

Collared Forest-Falcon *Micrastur cachinnans* (HO) – a single bird heard calling from Lamanai Outpost Lodge and Indian Church on the 17th and 18th, the low, resonant ‘oow....oow.....oow’ calls audible at some range. Alas, we never caught sight of the author but Ruben mentioned that a pair had been present in the area for a little while.

Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans*— quite simply, a fabulous trip for seeing this peculiar, large-headed raptor with singles found at Crooked Tree, Lamanai Maya Archeological site, Lamanai Savannah, Chan Chich entrance road and Laguna Seca.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*— one or two seen through the Mennonite agricultural lands as we departed from Lamanai during the transfer, and others found along the Chan Chich Road and at Gallon Jug Farm.

Bat Falcon *Falco ruficularis*— a wonderful tour for seeing this compact, dynamic little falcon. Seen at multiple locations; the New River, Lamanai and Chan Chich all had pairs or singles that showed extremely well.

PARROTS: Psittacidae (7)

Brown-hooded Parrot *Pyrilia haematotis*— a very good trip for seeing this small parrot if only in flight. We had nice views of flocks showing the diagnostic underwing pattern (bluish-green with red arm pits) at Lamanai and Indian Church on the 17th, and Chan Chich on the 20th and 21st.

White-crowned Parrot *Pionus senilis*— fairly plentiful and seen well at Lamanai (especially Indian Church), Chan Chich and the Gallon Jug plantations where we had good scope views of perched flocks. Noted on at least six days.

Red-lored Parrot *Amazona autumnalis*—the raucous screeching of this large, broad-winged *Amazona* accompanied much of the tour. Flocks were seen and heard at a broad range of locations on every day of the trip, but appeared to be especially common around Chan Chich Lodge.

Yellow-headed Parrot *Amazona oratrix*—something of a rarity nowadays, the population has declined considerably due to a combination of habitat loss and human predation for the cage bird trade. We did have good views of a single calling loudly as it flew by us at Lamanai Savannah on the 18th.

White-fronted Parrot *Amazona albifrons*— seen only at Lamanai Outpost Lodge and Indian Church with pairs noted on the 16th and 17th.

Mealy Parrot *Amazona farinosa*— the largest and bulkiest *Amazona* seen on the tour, found only in the vicinity of Chan Chich Lodge and quite possibly the same pair seen in the plaza area each morning.

Olive-throated (Aztec) Parakeet *Eupsittula nana* – noisy, fast-moving flocks of parakeets (5 – 20) were seen in flight on all the days of the trip though far fewer individuals landed and perched up at close range for views. Still, a smart little *psittacid* and the only parakeet species seen on the tour.

ANTBIRDS: Thamnophilidae (3)

Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus*— heard much more frequently than seen, this species certainly appeared to be fairly common at Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary and the Lamanai area though noted on only one day at Chan Chich.

Dot-winged Antwren *Microrhopias quixensis* – two small family groups of this gregarious little antwren were noted on two consecutive days along the road to Sylvester Village from Gallon Jug on the 20th and 21st.

Dusky Antbird *Cercomacroides tyrannina*— sensational views of a pair along the King's Tomb Trail at Chan Chich on the 22nd, the final afternoon of the tour.

ANTTHRUSHES: Formicariidae (1)

Black-faced (Mayan) Antthrush *Formicarius analis*—a couple of singing birds played hide-and-seek with the group along the jungle trail at Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 19th. Our patience was eventually rewarded with really excellent views on this ground-dwelling antbird walking across the forest floor like a crane – wow!

OVENBIRDS AND WOODCREEPERS: Furnariidae (4)

Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus*— a small, inconspicuous woodcreeper seen on two days of the tour with a pair at Lamanai Maya Archeological site on the 17th and a pair on the King's Tomb Trail at Chan Chich Lodge on the 22nd.

Ruddy Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla homochroa*— Jonathan noted a single from one of the trails at Chan Chich on the 21st.

Ivory-billed Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster*— remarkably widespread and the only woodcreeper on the tour that was relatively easy to see. Up to five individuals at Crooked Tree, Lamanai and at Chan Chich Lodge. Noted on eight days of the tour.

Rufous-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis erythrothorax* – with a reputation for being reclusive and favoring dense thickets and secondary growth, the chances of us seeing this long-tailed skulker seemed pretty minimal but remarkably our group had decent views of a pair working the scrub alongside Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 16th.

MANAKINS: Pipridae (2)

White-collared Manakin *Manacus candei*— more widespread and more numerous than the Red-capped and found on three dates in the Lamanai area, but we had especially good views by Laguna Seca on the 22nd.

Red-capped Manakin *Ceratopipra mentalis*—a cracking adult male posed for prolonged views by High Temple at Lamanai Maya Archeological site on the 17th and another was found at Chan Chich on the 20th.

COTINGAS: Cotingidae (1)

Rufous Piha *Lipaugus unirufus*— seen pretty well within a large mixed feeding flock on the slightly sketchy uphill drive to Chan Chich escarpment on the 21st.

BECARDS AND TITYRAS: Tityridae (4)

Black-crowned Tityra *Tityra inquisitor* - a handsome single showed up in Indian Church during one of several bird walks through the village.

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata*— two to four noted at Lamanai, Indian Church, Chan Chich and Gallon Jug. Almost all were at tree-top level and we even had them above the Mask Temple at Lamanai Maya Archeological site on the 17th

Northern Schiffornis *Schiffornis veraepacis*— the weirdly haunting whistled song of this species was heard on four days around Chan Chich with our group having stunning views of this understory skulker along the Sylvester Road on the 20th.

Rose-throated Becard *Pachyramphus aglaiae*— a stellar showing of this species throughout the tour from Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary through Lamanai, Chan Chich and Gallon Jug Farm. Up to six seen on some days including several stunning males, and in a wide variety of habitats.

SHARPBILL AND ALLIES: Oxyruncidae (3)

Royal Flycatcher *Onychorhynchus coronatus* – one showed very well along the approach road to Chan Chich Lodge during the transfer from Lamanai on the 19th but we didn't see another until the morning of departure on the 23rd.

Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher *Terenotriccus erythrurus* (HO) — one heard calling fairly frequently at Trisha's Hill, Chan Chich on the 21st, a bird that we would have certainly missed had it not been pointed out by Luis.

Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher *Myiobius sulphureipygius* – Luis spotted one foraging above the Logger's Trail on our final afternoon bird walk at Chan Chich on the 22nd. The light was poor and the bird itself heavily backlit so the views were not the best.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (25)

Stub-tailed Spadebill *Platyrinchus cancrominus*—a fast moving, short-tailed 'flycatcher' and one of the more difficult species to see well in the dark, humid, broadleaf forests around Chan Chich...but, a few of us did have some views at Trisha's Hill on the evening of the 21st.

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher *Mionectes oleagineus*— fortune again came our way with really nice views of at least one pair in the broadleaf forest at the Lamanai Maya Archeological site on the 17th and a single near Chan Chich Lodge on the 20th.

Northern Bentbill *Oncostoma cinereigulare* (HO) — a steady, frustrating series of 'heard-only' observations; twice at Lamanai Outpost Lodge with Ruben, and twice with Luis at Chan Chich Lodge!

Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher *Poecilotriccus sylvia* (HO) – one called persistently at close range along the jungle trail at Lamanai on the 19th and, aside from zipping across the track and crashing through the foliage, the bird flatly refused to give itself up for views...despite some effort.

Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum*— far from ‘common’ on this trip, we found a pair in the gardens at the Black Orchid Resort on the 15th and two or three along Dawson Creek during the sunset cruise on the 18th.

Eye-ringed Flatbill *Rhynchocyclus brevirostris*— a real denizen of the humid broadleaf forests, best identified by its bold white eye-ring. Seen just the once on the tour with two birds close to a mixed feeding flock at Lamanai Maya Archeological site on the 17th

Yellow-olive Flycatcher *Tolmomyias sulphurescens*—two or three individuals found along the trails around Lamanai Outpost Lodge on three consecutive dates, plus two at Crooked Tree Sanctuary on the 16th. Often close to mixed feeding flocks.

Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet *Camptostoma imberbe* – singles heard and seen at Lamanai Outpost Lodge and Savannah on two consecutive dates.

Greenish Elaenia *Myiopagis viridicata*— a stellar tour for views of this smart, little *elaenia*, a species more often heard than seen on our tours. We had fabulous views at Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary, three sites at Lamanai, and at Chan Chich escarpment.

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster*— a large, long tailed *elaenia* heard and seen rather well at Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary and Lamanai Savannah.

Tropical Pewee *Contopus cinereus* – single pewees at Lamanai Savannah, Lamanai Outpost Lodge and by the suspension bridge at Chan Chich were thought most likely to be this species as Eastern Wood-Pewee is not expected in Belize in mid-winter but is a common transient during migration. The bird at Lamanai Savannah was also confirmed from photos.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher *Empidonax flaviventris*— easy to miss except for their plaintive call notes which was often the only indicator of their presence. Two at Lamanai Maya Archeological site on the 17th, one or two along the entrance road to Chan Chich Lodge, plus nice views of a single at Laguna Seca on the 22nd.

Least Flycatcher *Empidonax minimus*— the most familiar North American *Empidonax* to be found wintering in Belize, present in small numbers in a broad range of habitats at Crooked Tree, Lamanai and Chan Chich, most frequently around mixed feeding flocks.

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus*—always attractive and always wonderful to see. Fairly plentiful at Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary on the 16th, plus excellent views at Lamanai Savannah on the 18th and during the transfer to Chan Chich on the 19th.

Bright-rumped Attila *Attila spadiceus* – an excellent tour for this species being recorded on four dates. Heard at Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary, the trails at Lamanai Outpost Lodge, and especially at Chan Chich where two showed remarkably well at the staff housing area on the morning of the 20th.

Yucatan Flycatcher *Myiarchus yucatanensis* (**YE**) – Ruben first heard and then spotted this tricky *Myiarchus* during our walkabout in Lamanai Savannah on the 18th. Though closely resembling Dusky-capped Flycatcher (which was also present that morning) this species has grayer fringes to the greater coverts, tertials and secondaries, less rufous in the wings and tail, a paler lore and a more rufous-toned crest – all of which showed up to some degree in the record shots taken at the scene.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer*— one of the most widespread flycatchers on the tour, found in a broad range of habitats at Burrell Boom, Crooked Tree, Lamanai and Chan Chich the plaintive call notes usually being the first sign of their presence. Often found around mixed feeding flocks where we had most of our good views of this species.

Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus* – wintering individuals were recorded at Crooked Tree, Lamanai and Chan Chich on five days of the tour.

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*— a large, bold, brightly colored flycatcher heard and seen frequently at Burrell Boom, Crooked Tree, the New River and the greater Lamanai area. Mostly absent from Chan Chich.

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua*— similar to Great Kiskadee in overall appearance but vocally very different, we did eventually find a calling pair along the Sylvester Road near Gallon Jug on the 20th.

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis*— often around gardens, villages and at all three bases of the tour, this was indeed a ‘social flycatcher’ and found in a wide variety of situations on seven days of the tour.

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*— simply ubiquitous, ‘TKs’ were seen on all nine days of the tour, often in numbers and most frequently around habitation.

Couch’s Kingbird *Tyrannus couchii*— extremely similar to the more widespread Tropical Kingbird with some subtly different plumage features but, really, only reliably separable by voice. Vocalizing birds could often be found at the Lamanai sites including the main lodge and across the New River at Lamanai Savannah.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus*—the fields and fence lines at Gallon Jug Farm ultimately proved to be the best and only place to view this beautiful flycatcher with nice views of a single as we drove out to Laguna Seca on the 22nd.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana*—really immaculate views at Crooked Tree Lagoon when at least six could be watched flycatching from the reeds and sedges. Otherwise, two singles gave nice views in the fields and along the fence lines at Gallon Jug Farm on the 20th and 22nd.

VIREOS: Vireonidae (6)

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis*—the monotonous warbling song of this species could be heard coming from the oak scrub and thickets throughout much of our time at Lamanai Savannah. Most often recorded as a ‘heard-only’, we could hardly believe our luck when a pair popped into in the crown of one of the larger oaks before us and put on the most fabulous show.

Green Shrike-Vireo *Vireolanius pulchellus*— seen and heard in the broadleaf forest surrounding Chan Chich Lodge on the 20th and the 22nd, the leaf green and yellow plumage always made this species difficult to spot.

Lesser Greenlet *Pachysylvia decurtata*— this tiny ‘vireo’ was first encountered at Lamanai Outpost Lodge and Archeological site, and subsequently at Gallon Jug and Chan Chich Lodge. Almost always found around mixed feeding flocks of warblers, honeycreepers and other species.

White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus*— a winter/transient found to be fairly common at all three lodge/resort locations though absent from some of the Rio Bravo Conservation area. Quite vocal, with many of them in song.

Mangrove Vireo *Vireo pallens*— somewhat similar in appearance to White-eyed Vireo but safely identified by the uniform yellow wash on the whole of the underparts, and by voice. The best views (by far) were of several pairs in the scrub and fields by Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary but also, surprisingly, singles on the jungle trail at Lamanai on the 19th and at the top of the Chan Chich escarpment on the 21st!

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons*— seen on just two dates, this winter visitor from North America was found in broadleaf forest following mixed feeding flocks at Lamanai Archeological site and at Chan Chich Lodge.

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (3)

Brown Jay *Psilorhinus morio*— bold, raucous and not unattractive when seen up close, this social jay gave fabulous views at Lamanai Archeological site and as well as being found on every single day of the tour.

Yucatan Jay *Cyanocorax yucatanicus* (RE)(HO) — a distant group could be heard roaming through Lamanai Savannah on the 18th but, sadly, they couldn’t be coaxed towards the group for views.

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (5)

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*— sizeable flocks (up to 60) noted at Crooked Tree Lagoon, New River Lagoon, Lamanai area and Dawson Creek. Seemingly absent from the Chan Chich area.

Gray-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*—the largest *hirundine* of the trip was well seen at Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary, Indian Church, Lamanai Archeological site, and Sylvester Village.

Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor*—present in reasonably large flocks over Crooked Tree Lagoon (150+) and Dawson Creek (25+) on two dates. Care was taken to separate them from the similar but much more widespread Mangrove Swallow.

Mangrove Swallow *Tachycineta albilinea*—always close to rivers and wetlands, this charming little swallow was a sure sign of the tropics and a delight to see on all our boat tours. Present in numbers at Crooked Tree Lagoon (60+), and along the New River to Lamanai. One or two pairs were always present around the dock at Lamanai Outpost Lodge. Also found at Laguna Seca near Chan Chich.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*— scarce on this mid-winter trip with three at Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 16th, and about five over the Mennonite farmland on the transfer between Lamanai and Chan Chich on the 19th.

GNATCATCHERS: Polioptilidae (2)

Long-billed Gnatwren *Ramphocaenus melanurus* – this proportionately long-billed passerine was seen at Black Orchid Resort on the 15th and the jungle trail at Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 19th and on the trails around Chan Chich on two dates.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Polioptila caerulea*— about half-a-dozen at Crooked Tree on the 16th and 3 at Dawson Creek on the 18th. This is a breeding species in Belize, as well as a winterer and migrant. Seen on four days of the trip.

WRENS: Troglodytidae (5)

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*— uncommon found only at the Black Orchid Resort, Crooked Tree Sanctuary, Dawson Creek and Indian Church.

Carolina Wren *Thryothorus ludovicianus* (HO) – a male singing loud and clear in Dawson Creek on the 18th.

Spot-breasted Wren *Pheugopedius maculipectus*— a large, extremely vocal wren that we heard or saw on every single day of the trip with our best views from the trails around Lamanai Outpost Lodge.

White-bellied Wren *Uropsila leucogastra*— we watched this small, attractive, long-tailed wren climb up the vine tangles and thickets over the ‘jungle trail’ at Lamanai Outpost Lodge on 19th.

White-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucosticta*— a mostly ground-dwelling, understory species and subsequently rather difficult to observe but we did get views of one at Lamanai Maya Archeological site on the 17th followed by a pair on the ‘jungle trail’ at Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 19th. Otherwise, limited to a series of heard-only observations at Chan Chich Lodge.

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae (2)

Gray Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis*— found wintering in modest numbers at all three bases on the tour. Most were shy and skulking but quite easily detected their familiar ‘knut’ and ‘mew’ calls.

Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus*— a common songster in the yards, gardens and paddocks of Burrell Boom, Crooked Tree Sanctuary, and Indian Church but decidedly scarce at Chan Chich.

THRUSHES: Turdidae (2)

Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina*— generally shy and retiring, this North American breeder was detected (mostly by vocals) in wood lots and forest on at least six days of the tour, especially at Lamanai and Chan Chich but also noted in more built up areas such as the Black Orchid Resort in Burrell Boom.

Clay-colored Thrush *Turdus grayi*— widespread but not abundant by any means being noted on six days of the tour with one to four individuals in a wide variety of locations.

FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae (3)

Yellow-throated Euphonia *Euphonia hirundinacea*— a small bright passerine, relatively common and found on five days of the tour. Especially close views could be had around the gardens and water features at Chan Chich Lodge.

Olive-backed Euphonia *Euphonia gouldi* – this rather attractive *euphonia* was scarce on the tour, with a single at Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 18th and about three along the Sylvester Road near Gallon Jug on the 20th.

Lesser Goldfinch *Spinus psaltria*— two singles at Lamanai/Indian church on the 18th and 19th.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae (2)

Botteri's Sparrow *Peucaea botterii* (HO) — at least two sang for a while on the early morning grasslands visit to Lamanai Savannah but, alas, they couldn't be coaxed in for views.

Green-backed Sparrow *Arremonops chloronotus*—we worked hard to secure good views of this Olive Sparrow look-alike at Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 19th, but thanks to Ruben's patience we were rewarded with decent views.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Icteriidae (1)

Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens* (HO) - a single heard singing/calling along the Airport Trail at Lamanai on the 19th.

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS AND ORIOLES: Icteridae (10)

Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna*—first heard singing in Lamanai savannah on the 18th, and fairly plentiful around Gallon Jug farm near Chan Chich. Noted on four days of the tour.

Yellow-billed Cacique *Amblycercus holosericeus*— one of the more frustrating birds of the tour, often heard calling from rank vegetation but rather difficult to actually see. However, we did see a couple of small groups at Crooked Tree Sanctuary, Lamanai Outpost Lodge and Indian Church though generally had only brief glimpses.

Montezuma Oropendola *Psarocolius montezuma*— a late afternoon bird walk from the Black Orchid Resort produced a very nice flight of 15 – 20 birds along the banks of the Belize River in Burrell Boom on the 15th. Surprisingly, this was to be the only sighting of the entire tour.

Black-cowled Oriole *Icterus prothemelas*— a most attractive oriole recorded on five days of the tour and found at Crooked Tree, Lamanai/Indian Church and Chan Chich/Gallon Jug. Often close to mixed feeding flocks, especially where ever there was flowering trees and shrubs.

Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius*— inexplicably scarce with a singles at Crooked Tree on the 16th and one to four at Lamanai on the 17th and 18th.

Hooded Oriole *Icterus cucullatus*— a beautiful resident oriole, frequently seen in small numbers at Lamanai and Indian Church.

Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula*— a fairly common winter visitor/transient found around Burrell Boom, Crooked Tree and Lamanai on at least five days.

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*— rather scarce overall, being noted only at Crooked Tree Lagoon (15+) and along Dawson Creek near Lamanai Savannah.

Melodious Blackbird *Dives dives*— the fluty, liquid song of this species was one of the more welcoming audio cues that we'd made it to the tropics! First heard at the Black Orchid Resort, it proved to be common throughout the tour - found at all three lodges and often in good numbers.

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*— one of the very first species to be seen on the tour around Belize City Airport, Burrell Boom and subsequently found on most days of the trip until we reached Chan Chich where it was more or less absent. Most common around habitation, roadsides and disturbed areas.

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (18)

Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapilla* - a single at Chan Chich just downslope from the lodge on the Sylvester Village Road on the 20th.

Worm-eating Warbler *Helmitheros vermivorum*— great views of a single within a mixed feeding flock at Lamanai Maya Archeological Reserve on the 17th.

Louisiana Waterthrush *Parkesia motacilla* – singles encountered on three days at Chan Chich in a variety of locations, sometimes foraging on the entrance road or the staff village road, and in Chan Chich Creek near the suspension bridge.

Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis*— a rather common wintering species, not always close to water and often 'popping' into view on lawns and manicured areas such as those at Lamanai Archeological site and Chan Chich Lodge. Seen on every single day of the tour.

Blue-winged Warbler *Vermivora cyanoptera*— really great views of at least two in a mixed feeding flock behind Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 17th and another along the Sylvester Road near Gallon Jug on the 20th.

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia*— one of the most distinctive wood-warblers and a fairly common sight amid mixed feeding flocks on at least six days of the trip being especially numerous the Lamanai area.

Gray-crowned Yellowthroat *Geothlypis poliocephala*—(HO) Ruben pointed two different singing individuals in Lamanai Savannah on the 18th but neither bird could be coaxed into view, other than a couple of fleeting glimpses.

Kentucky Warbler *Geothlypis formosa*— good views of a single male working along fallen tree trunks and leaf litter near the staff quarters at Chan Chich on the 20th and two around the King's Tomb Trail on the afternoon bird walk from Chan Chich on the 22nd.

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas*—fairly common around wetland sites but also found in drier, scrubby habitats as well. Seen or heard on at least six days of the tour though a single at Laguna Seca was the only one noted from the Chan Chich area.

Hooded Warbler *Setophaga citrina*— a smart little warbler generally most active in the low understory, the males sporting a 'ninja' style mask. Seen wonderfully well at the Lamanai sites and at Chan Chich on at least seven days.

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*— fairly common amid mixed feeding flocks, often noted sallying down from the sub-canopy for insects at Crooked Tree, Lamanai and Chan Chich. Recorded each day of the tour.

Northern Parula *Setophaga americana*— another North American breeding warbler that featured in mixed flocks at Crooked Tree, Lamanai Outpost Lodge, Lamanai Archeological site and Dawson Creek with up to four noted on five dates.

Magnolia Warbler *Setophaga magnolia*— easily the most commonly encountered wintering wood-warbler on this tour and often present in mixed flocks, found in numbers on every day of the trip.

Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechia*— most frequent at Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary and in the vicinity of Lamanai Outpost Lodge. Seen on at least four days of the tour.

Chestnut-sided Warbler *Setophaga pensylvanica* - a single was at Trisha's Hill, Chan Chich on the 21st.

Palm Warbler *Setophaga palmarum*—(LO) one of the pale bellied western subspecies (*S.p. palmarum*) was seen hopping around on the lawn and 'pumping' its tail just as we prepared to depart from Birds Eye View Lodge at Crooked Tree Sanctuary on the 16th.

Yellow-throated Warbler *Setophaga dominica*— one of the most attractive of the wintering North American wood-warblers in Belize and found at Black Orchid Resort, Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary, Dawson Creek, Lamanai Outpost Lodge and Chan Chich on at least five days of the tour.

Black-throated Green Warbler *Setophaga virens*— excellent views of wintering singles with mixed feeding flocks at Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary on the 16th and Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 17th.

CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae (9)

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*— summer tanagers spending the winter in Belize proved to be fairly common, being found in good numbers on all nine days of the tour.

Red-crowned Ant-Tanager *Habia rubica*— very similar in overall appearance to the closely related Red-throated Ant-tanager, we were fortunate to find two small family groups on the trails near Chan Chich Lodge on the 19th and 20th.

Red-throated Ant-Tanager *Habia fuscicauda*— Lamanai Outpost Lodge area hosted several family groups following mixed feeding flocks and offered close views along the jungle trail on the 19th with several more near the Chan Chich escarpment on the 21st.

Black-faced Grosbeak *Caryothraustes poliogaster* – a noisy party of around ten individuals showed up in the sub-canopy along on the Sylvester Road near Gallon Jug on the 20th and stayed around long enough for most of the group to have decent views to then be followed by another small flock farther along the same road!

Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis*— surprisingly scarce, noted only Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary and once at Lamanai Outpost Lodge.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*— Andrew spotted a nice male at Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 18th.

Blue-black Grosbeak *Cyanoloxia cyanooides*— a female of this front heavy species was seen well, very well in fact, on the Logger's Trail at Chan Chich on the 22nd.

Blue Bunting *Cyanocompsa parellina*— this beautiful bunting was seen exceptionally well at Indian Church Village on the 19th, and close to the main lodge building at Chan Chich on two dates later in the tour. Certainly one of the more photogenic passerines of the tour!

Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea*— singles were found in patches of weedy vegetation at Indian Church on the 17th, and the Sylvester Road near Gallon Jug on the 20th.

TANAGERS AND ALLIES: Thraupidae (9)

Black-throated Shrike-Tanager *Lanio aurantius* — we had a brief encounter with this brutish, smart, black-and-yellow tanager on the King's Tomb Trail at Chan Chich Lodge on the 22nd. It couldn't be coaxed in for closer views and spent most of its time in the canopy but was eventually seen and heard by most of the small group that ventured out that afternoon.

Blue-gray Tanager *Thraupis episcopus*— a familiar Central American resident tanager that proved rather scarce at Lamanai and Indian Church and was virtually absent from Chan Chich with just one noted during our four day stay there.

Yellow-winged Tanager *Thraupis abbas*—a most attractive (and well-named) tanager seen on three days of the tour at Lamanai, Chan Chich and by the suspension bridge along the entrance road to Chan Chich.

Golden-hooded Tanager *Tangara larvata*— beautiful and much sought-after but rather scarce being found on just two mornings around Chan Chich Lodge including by the staff village.

Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus*—this smart little passerine graced our bird lists on six days of the tour occurring in small flocks at Lamanai, Indian Church village and Chan Chich Lodge.

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina*— some nice views of several in roadside grasses and along fences as we crossed the Mennonite farmland during the transfer from Lamanai to Chan Chich on the 19th, as well a single male seen in Indian Church on the 18th.

Morelet's Seedeater *Sporophila moreletii*— fairly common throughout much of the tour, found in small roadside flocks and often along fence lines and field edges.

Black-headed Saltator *Saltator atriceps*— a large saltator often seen in noisy groups at Lamanai Outpost Lodge, Indian Church village and Chan Chich. Noted on five days of the tour.

Cinnamon-bellied Saltator *Saltator grandis* – a subtly attractive saltator found just once on the tour with an individual seen during a bird walk up to Indian Church village from Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 18th.

MAMMALS (15 species recorded):

Gray Four-eyed Opossum *Philander opossum* – one was beautifully spotlighted by Ruben during the Lamanai night safari along the New River on the 17th. A life mammal for quite a few in our party.

Proboscis Bat *Rhynchonycteris naso*— fairly numerous on the Lamanai night safari including a small group spotlighted roosting under a leaning tree trunk directly 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 to catch prey. One of the highlights of the tour with about five being seen on the Lamanai night safari.

Nectar-feeding Bat *Glossophaginae* – Ruben pointed out at least half-a-dozen during the Lamanai night safari along the New River on the 17th.

Northern Ghost Bat *Diclidurus albus* – Luis pointed out one of these beauties at Chan Chich on the 21st.

Yucatan Black Howler Monkey *Alouatta pigra*— remarkably widespread being seen or heard every day of the tour, at all three of resort/lodge locations, even the Black Orchid! Quite approachable at times, and especially numerous and vocal at Lamanai Outpost Lodge and the neighboring trail system. The unearthly growls of this animal served as a nice alarm clock in the predawn hours, sometimes right over our cabanas at Lamanai.

Central American Spider Monkey *Ateles geoffroyi*— the massive tracts of undisturbed forest surrounding Chan Chich Lodge provided ideal habitat for this large, rangy monkey and we came across multiple groups within the grounds of the lodge. It was also present, though scarce, in the woodlands around Lamanai. Fun to watch, though the young males could be aggressive crashing through the canopy growling and barking, doing their best to make it known that we weren't welcome!

Deppe's Squirrel *Sciurus deppei* – a small, brownish squirrel noted at Lamanai and Chan Chich on two days of the tour.

Yucatan Squirrel *Sciurus yucatanensis*— a fairly large, dark squirrel found just once at the Lamanai Maya Archeological Reserve on the 17th.

Mexican Dwarf Porcupine *Coendou mexicanus* – absolutely sensational views of two on the Lamanai night safari along the New River on the 17th. One of the highlights of the tour.

Central American Agouti *Dasyprocta punctata*— rather shy being found only in singles along the trails at Lamanai Maya Archeological Reserve and the roads close to Chan Chich Lodge on three days.

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*— extremely numerous around Chan Chich Lodge and Gallon Jug, in the fields, along the grass verges and sometimes inside the lodge grounds as well.

Kinkajou *Potos flavus* – another extraordinary highlight from the night safari with Luis and Levi at Chan Chich. Amazing spotlight views of one, perhaps two, foraging in trees close to the Gallon Jug fields.

White-nosed Coati *Nasua narica*— a bold male spent time with us around the Mask Temple at Lamanai Maya Archeological Reserve on the 17th.

Gray Fox *Urocyon cinereoargenteus*— one dashed across the road in late afternoon as we drove along the entrance road to Chan Chich on the 19th.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (7 species recorded):

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

Green Iguana *Iguana iguana*— most frequent at Crooked Tree Lagoon where we saw a couple of massive males during our highly successful boat cruise.

Brown Basilisk *Basiliscus vittatus* – a single found at Chan Chich on the 22nd.

Black Spiny-tailed Iguana *Ctenosaura similis*— several seen at Lamanai Outpost Lodge and Indian Church.

Boa Constrictor *Boa Constrictor* – fabulous views of one on the track in front of the vehicle during the night safari from Chan Chich on the 20th.

Black-tailed Indigo Snake *Drymarchon melanurus* – one pointed out by Luis at Laguna Seca on the 22nd.

Campbell's Rainforest Toad *Incilius campbelli* – one pointed out by Luis at Chan Chich on the 20th.

Additional fauna found on the tour;

Banded Peacock *Anartia Fatima*

White Peacock *Anartia jatrophae*

Pale Owl-Butterfly *Caligo telamonius*

Yellow-bordered Owl-Butterfly *Caligo uranus*

Queen *Danaus gilippus*

Zebra Longwing *Heliconius charithonia*

Julia *Dryas Julia*

Orange Tiger *Dryadula phaetusa*

Mexican Red-rump *Tliltocatl vagans*