

# Belize Birding & Nature | Species List

October 2 – 9, 2021 | with Naturalist Journeys



**With expert local guides Ruben Arevalo and Christian Ramirez (Lamanai), Luis Romero and Levy Blanco (Chan Chich) with participants; Beverly, Cyndy, David, David, Dawn, Mike, Margaret, Mark, Jessie, Nate and Wendy.**



Compiled by James P. Smith

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

(LO)= Leader/Guide only observation

(I)= Introduced

(YE) = Endemic to the Yucatan region

NB. Chan Chich Escarpment is also known as La Lucia Escarpment or the Rio Bravo Escarpment.

**Summary:** For many in our party the tour brought a welcome return to International travel since lockdown began in March 2020. Belize welcomed us with open arms and we received five star treatment at both Lamanai and Chan Chich lodges where the staff skillfully catered for us despite the challenge of strict Covid protocols being in place. It was wonderful to be back in tropics and meeting up with the fauna that had been so missed over the previous 18 months; toucans, trogons, kingfishers and parrots all provided some much anticipated 'eye candy' but in many respects it was the non-avian events that highlighted this 'green season' tour; a **Jaguar** in broad daylight, a family of **Tayra** bounding across the Maya ruins and close-up spotlight views of a **Fer-De-Lance**, all being particularly outstanding moments. No trip to be Belize would be complete without excellent local guidance and Ruben and Christian from Lamanai, and Luis and Levy from Chan Chich were all superb and deserving of much praise. Not only was it wonderful to be back in Belize, but to share the journey with such a cordial, friendly group made this particular tour especially memorable.

**The itinerary at a glance: October 2<sup>nd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>;**

**2<sup>nd</sup>** – Arrivals | Belize City Airport | Caribbean Shrimp Farm (Captain Hook's Restaurant) | transfer via the New River to Lamanai Outpost Lodge

**3<sup>rd</sup>** - Lamanai Outpost Lodge | Lamanai Savannah and Dawson Creek | Lamanai Outpost Lodge and the 'airport road'

**4<sup>th</sup>** – Lamanai Outpost Lodge | Lamamani Maya Archaeological Reserve | Sunset Cocktail Cruise | Night Safari on New River Lagoon

**5<sup>th</sup>** – Lamanai Outpost Lodge | Indian Church | transfer to Chan Chich via Blue Creek | Chan Chich access road and Lodge

**6<sup>th</sup>** – Chan Chich Lodge and staff housing area | Gallon Jug fields | Laguna Seca | Sylvester Village Road

**7<sup>th</sup>** – Chan Chich Lodge | Gallon Jug | Chan Chich Escarpment via Sylvester Village | King's Tomb Trail

**8<sup>th</sup>** - Chan Chich Lodge | Gallon Jug | Laguna Verde | Sylvester Village | Chan Chich River Trail

**9<sup>th</sup>** – Chan Chich Lodge | Gallon Jug | Departures to Belize City

**BIRDS (202 species recorded, of which five were heard only, and one was a leader only observation):**

**DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae (3)**

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna autumnalis*— some fairly flocks noted over the New River Lagoon and Dawson Creek at Lamanai on four days with especially nice pre-roost gatherings of up to 60 at Dawson Creek. A small number, perhaps six or so, were also at the Blue Creek rice fields on Oct 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Muscovy Duck** *Cairina moschata* (LO) – a lone individual flew up river past the dock at Lamanai at first light on Oct 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Blue-winged Teal** *Spatula discors*— large numbers of migrants (c.400) at Blue Creek rice fields on Oct 5<sup>th</sup>, plus a pair at Laguna Seca the next day and a lost looking individual at Chan Chich Creek on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

**GUANS AND CURASSOWS: Cracidae (3)**

**Plain Chachalaca** *Ortalis vetula*— Lamanai Outpost Lodge was key for this species with eight or so noted on the 3<sup>rd</sup> but decidedly scarce thereafter with just one seen at Gallon Jug on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Crested Guan** *Penelope purpurascens*—these giant arboreal beauties could be found crashing through the canopy on most mornings at Chan Chich Lodge, usually within the grounds but also present in the Gallon Jug plantations. We also had fine spotlight views of two roosting during the night safari with Luis.

**Great Curassow** *Crax rubra*— a roosting pair were beautifully spotlighted by Ruben on the night safari on the New River on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Those were followed by daily sightings of up to eight in the Rio Bravo Conservation area, mostly on the wide roadside grass verges.

**PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS AND ALLIES: Phasianidae (1)**

**Ocellated Turkey** *Meleagris ocellata* (YE) — abundant and beautiful, being found all over Chan Chich, the approach road, staff housing area and Gallon Jug fields. This species certainly seems to have benefitted from the protection of expansive tracts of forest in the Rio Bravo Conservation Area.

**GREBES: Podicipedidae (1)**

**Least Grebe** *Tachybaptus dominicus* — a small grebe popped up in front of the dock area at Laguna Verde just as we arrived for a picnic breakfast. Though initially thought to be a Pied-billed, Mike's photos clearly showed that it was a Least Grebe.

**PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (9)**

**Pale-vented Pigeon** *Patagioenas cayennensis*— rather uncommon but noted along the New River during the transfer to Lamanai, and then found in small numbers daily in the Lamanai area but seemingly absent from Chan Chich.

**Scaled Pigeon** *Patagioenas speciosa*— Luis drew attention to a flyover as we headed out on the King's Tomb trail from Chan Chich on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Red-billed Pigeon** *Patagioenas flavirostris*— a fairly widespread species in Belize but seen on only one day on this tour, behind the staff quarters at Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Short-billed Pigeon** *Patagioenas nigrirostris* (HO) — true to its nature, this unobtrusive pigeon of mature tropical forest was heard-only at Chan Chich on the last few days of the trip.

**Eurasian Collard-Dove** *Streptopelia decaocta* (I) — an invasive species originating from the Old World, two were noted on roadside wires in San Felipe Village during the transfer to Chan Chich on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Ruddy Ground-Dove** *Columbina talpacoti*— small numbers noted in the vicinity of Lamanai and Indian Church on two dates, but apparently absent from much of Chan Chich during our visit.

**Blue-Ground Dove** *Claravis pretiosa* — three sightings, all of them males and all of them seen in similar circumstances; flying across the New River during the transfer to Lamanai on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, one flying across the road at Blue Creek during the transfer to Chan Chich on the 5<sup>th</sup>, and another flying across the road by Gallon Jug fields on Oct 6<sup>th</sup>.

**White-tipped Dove** *Leptotila verreauxi*— found at Lamanai Outpost Lodge, Indian Church and nearby surroundings, a rather inconspicuous dove most often seen walking or flying across the trails in front of the group.

**Gray-headed Dove** *Leptotila plumbeiceps*— reasonable views of one foraging on the Sylvester Road down-slope from Chan Chich Lodge on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Some of our group also had luck in seeing one or two on the River Trail at Chan Chich on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Not a particularly easy species to see well.

### **CUCKOOS AND ALLIES: Cuculidae (2)**

**Groove-billed Ani** *Crotophaga sulcirostris*— small social groups at Lamanai Savannah, Indian Church and Gallon Jug, most easily found as they perched along fences and field edges.

**Squirrel Cuckoo** *Piaya cayana*— great views of this impressive species along the 'the airport road' from Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Otherwise scarce and limited to two 'heard-only' observations from Chan Chich.

### **NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae (2)**

**Common Pauraque** *Nyctidromus albicollis*— first seen when one was spotlighted by Ruben on the Lamanai night safari to be followed by a plethora of sightings and activity at Chan Chich Lodge where they could be heard and seen every evening along the paved walkways between the cabanas and the lodge.

**Yucatan Nightjar** *Antrostomus badius* (YE)—one quite brilliantly spotlighted by Ruben during the night safari on the New River from Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 4<sup>th</sup> - a treat for those interested in regional endemics!

### **POTOOS: Nyctibiidae (1)**

**Northern Potoo** *Nyctibius jamaicensi* — certainly one the weirdest birds of the trip, we saw four on each of the night safaris, all brilliantly spotlighted by our local guides as they perched on dead snags or fence posts, and all initially found in 'classic' potoo vertical posture. Flight views were even better revealing just how big the species really is!

### **SWIFTS: Apodidae (2)**

**Vaux's Swift** *Chaetura vauxi*— flocks of up to 20 *chaetura* swifts over the Chan Chich escarpment, Sylvester Village and Gallon Jug on the 7<sup>th</sup> were thought to be this species.

**Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift** *Panyptila cayennensis*— singles of this neat looking swift were noted over Gallon Jug fields and plantations on the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae (6)**

**Long-billed Hermit** *Phaethornis longirostris*— a large, perky hummer most often seen working the balcony feeders and gardens at Chan Chich during meal times. Equally at home along the forest trails announcing their presence with sharp, piercing call notes. Found only at Chan Chich where it was seen every day.

**Stripe-throated Hermit** *Phaethornis striigularis*— usually we had to be content with close-up 'naked eye' views of fast moving individuals in the beautiful gardens of Chan Chich Lodge. One or two were also sighted from the lodge balcony during breakfast and lunch.

**Purple-crowned Fairy** *Heliophryx barroti*— a stunning male gave fantastic views for some in our party around the lodge grounds and dining area at Chan Chich over the course of last three days.

**Azure-crowned Hummingbird** *Amazilia cyanocephala*— a dazzling species enjoyed by several in our party as they stood close to Ruben in Lamanai Savannah on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Rufous-tailed Hummingbird** *Amazilia tzacatl*— ubiquitous and the most abundant hummer of the whole tour. Seen on each and every day in a wide range of habitats but most easily found in the manicured gardens of both lodges.

**Buff-bellied Hummingbird** *Amazilia yucateensis* – at least two found during our morning adventure with Ruben to Lamanai Savannah on the 3rd.

#### **RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae (2)**

**Russet-naped Wood-Rail** *Aramides albiventris* —really good views of this large, bright rail in Dawson Creek on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and especially during the night safari with Ruben when he found several roosting in one of the smaller creeks off New River Lagoon.

**Ruddy Crake** *Laterallus ruber* (HO)— the distinctive descending trill of this skulking little crake was heard several times along Dawson Creek on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, especially during the Sunset Cocktail Cruise. Alas, none could be coaxed into view.

#### **SUNGREBE Heliornithidae: (1)**

**Sungrebe** *Heliornis fulica* – we may not have connected with this beauty in the daytime but we did find one at roost, expertly spotlighted by Ruben on the night safari from Lamanai on Oct 4<sup>th</sup>. One of the highlights of the tour.

#### **LIMPKIN: Aramididae (1)**

**Limpkin** *Aramus guarauna*—we found Limpkins in small numbers along the fresh water margins of the New River and at Dawson Creek near Lamanai with a nice pre-roost gathering of about 10 during the Cocktail Cruise on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Three or four were also present with concentrations of other large waders at Blue Creek rice fields on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### **STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae (1)**

**Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus* – though we saw this elegant shorebird at only two sites, they were present in good number with 40 – 50 each at the Caribbean Shrimp Farm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and Blue Creek rice fields on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### **PLOVERS: Charadriidae (2)**

**Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus* – a good number of migrants (c.25) at the Caribbean Shrimp Farm on the 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus* – a single on the first day with other shorebirds at the Caribbean Shrimp Farm on Oct 2nd.

#### **JACANAS: Jacanidae (1)**

**Northern Jacana** *Jacana spinosa*— a daily showing of this attractive species along the New River and Dawson Creek near Lamanai Outpost Lodge, plus a couple at Laguna Seca on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### **SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (4)**

**Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutus* – a flock of about 65 ‘peeps’ at the Caribbean Shrimp Farm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> were determined to be this species.

**Western Sandpiper** *Calidris mauri* – about 25 mixed with the Least Sandpipers and other shorebirds at the Caribbean Shrimp Farm on the 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius*— surprisingly, seen only at the Caribbean Shrimp Farm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> when we came across five or so migrants.

**Willet** *Tringa semipalmatus* – about 15 on the drained pools with other shorebirds at the Caribbean Shrimp Farm on the 2<sup>nd</sup>

#### **GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (1)**

**Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis* — four flew down river at New River Lagoon just we were about to dock at Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the very first afternoon of the tour. Scarce inland and a smart species to find so early in the tour.

#### **STORKS: Ciconiidae (1)**

**Wood Stork** *Mycteria americana*— wonderfully close views of 15 – 20 at the Caribbean Shrimp Farm on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> and at least one at the Blue Creek rice fields during the transfer to Cahn Chich on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### **ANHINGAS: Anhingidae (1)**

**Anhinga** *Anhinga anhinga*— super views of one carrying a fish in its bill along the New River during the transfer to Lamanai on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and another in New River Lagoon on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Later in the tour we came across about five around the edge of Laguna Seca near Chan Chich Lodge.

#### **CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (2)**

**Neotropic Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*—very common on the New River up to Lamanai and seen daily at New River Lagoon. Aside from two at Laguna Seca, almost absent from the Chan Chich area.

**Double-crested Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax auritus* – two were at the Caribbean Shrimp on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, the birds diving frequently in one of the deeper, partially flooded pools.

#### **HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (12)**

**Least Bittern** *Ixobrychus exilis* – another remarkable spotlight find by Ruben, a close range individual in the reeds by New River Lagoon during the night safari from Lamanai on Oct 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Bare-throated Tiger-Heron** *Tigrisoma mexicanum*— this cryptic heron showed well during the Cocktail Cruise to Dawson Creek on the 4<sup>th</sup>, and at the river crossing near Sylvester Village as we climb up to the Chan Chich Escarpment on the 7<sup>th</sup>. The latter bird was seen on the descent as well!

**Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias*— a winter visitor and transient from North America, noted on just two dates of the tour with singles along the New River on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Blue Creek rice fields on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba*— present but not especially common along the New River, with a few in the rice fields at Blue Creek during the transfer between Lamanai and Chan Chich. A couple were also at Laguna Seca on the 6<sup>th</sup> in the Chan Chich area.

**Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula*— the largest numbers (8+) were at the Caribbean Shrimp Farm on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, but we also came across a handful on the New River and at Dawson Creek.

**Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea*— perhaps the most widespread of the smaller herons being found from the Caribbean Shrimp Farm to the New River, along Dawson Creek, Blue Creek rice fields and at Laguna Seca.

**Tricolored Heron** *Egretta tricolor*— scarce with three individuals at the Caribbean Shrimp Farm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> being the only sightings for the whole tour.

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* – some fabulous flights of large flocks going to roost during the sunset cruise from Lamanai on the 4<sup>th</sup>, perhaps involving as many 120 individuals. Otherwise, a wide scatter of birds found around livestock at several sites during the transfer to Chan Chich on the 5<sup>th</sup>, and others at the Gallon Jug fields. Noted on five days of the trip.

**Green Heron** *Butorides virescens*— good numbers and often very good views along the New River and Dawson Creek in the first four days of the journey.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*— one at a day roost with several other herons during the fabulous Cocktail Cruise along at Dawson Creek on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** *Nyctanassa violacea*— stellar views along the New River during the transfer to Lamanai on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and at least four foraging in open meadows during the night safari at Gallon Jug on the 8<sup>th</sup>—very cool to see!

**Boat-billed Heron** *Cochlearius cochlearius*— a terrific tour for seeing this intriguing species with three seen well along the New River on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and again along Dawson Creek near Lamanai during the sunset Cocktail Cruise on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### **IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae (2)**

**White Ibis** *Eudocimus albus*— some very nice gatherings at the Caribbean Shrimp Farm (65+) and Dawson Creek (55+), the latter passing by our Cocktail Cruise in wavy lines as they headed to roost. Others were found at Blue Creek rice fields (15) and a lone bird at Laguna Verde on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Roeaste Spoonbill** *Platalea ajaja* – a treat for those that made it to the Caribbean Shrimp Farm on the first muggy afternoon of the tour where about 16 were resting and foraging on the pans with other large wading birds.

#### **NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae (4)**

**King Vulture** *Sarcophaga papa*— after an adult soaring with other raptors over Indian church on the 5<sup>th</sup> we had wonderful eye-level views of soaring and perched adults and immatures from Chan Chich escarpment as well as a single over Gallon Jug on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus*— widespread and common in the early portion of the tour, most often seen soaring in impressive 'kettles' but rather scarce in the Chan Chich area being found in small numbers around the Gallon Jug fields.

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura*— common and widespread throughout the tour possibly involving some migrants. Up to 110 seen on some days though numbers fluctuated wildly between different sites.

**Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture** *Cathartes burrovianus*— identified with great care due to its similarity to Turkey Vulture. We had close, rewarding looks at Ladyville, Indian Church, Lamanai Savannah, and during the transfer to Chan Chich. The slightly smaller size, blacker plumage, white primary shafts on the upperwing and multicolored facial skin helped to in separate them from Turkey Vultures in the field as well as the species' preference for grassland/savannah type habitats. Indeed, we couldn't have had better views than the perched adults seen in Dawson Creek during the Cocktail Cruise on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### **OSPREY: Pandionidae (1)**

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*— noted on just three dates of the tour, mostly around New River Lagoon at Lamanai but also of note, one taking a bath a Blue Creek rice fields on the 5<sup>th</sup> and two southbound migrants passing the Chan Chich escarpment on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### **HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (8)**

**Mississippi Kite** *Ictinia mississippiensis* – no sooner had we arrived at the wide open vista of Chan Chich escarpment than a stunning adult Mississippi Kite rose up on the thermals and drifted south with a few other raptors. This bird may have been missed by most of the group as the second vehicle hadn't quite made it the summit before the kite was unfortunately heading south.

**Black Hawk-Eagle** *Spizaetus tyrannus*— an immature seen soaring over Indian Church as Ruben escorted us on a mid-morning bird walk through his home village on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Ornate Hawk-Eagle** *Spizaetus ornatus* – distant views of an immature soaring over Indian Church on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Fortunately, very fortunately in fact, we had staggering views of a young, cooperative female perched close to its nest in a massive Mahogany along the Chan Chich access road on the same day. It gave stunning views and was certainly one of the highlights of the tour.

**Snail Kite** *Rostrhamus sociabilis*—a single immature seen along Dawson Creek near Lamanai on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, a few minutes after the Jaguar sighting!!

**Roadside Hawk** *Rupornis magnirostris*— scarce in the early days of the tour though we did see one very well along the New River during the boat transfer to Lamanai. Most were seen during transfer from Lamanai to Chan Chich with perhaps ten or so counted on fence posts through the Mennonite farmlands to Blue Creek and beyond. The species was also remarkably bold and photogenic at Gallon Jug fields being seen on every day in the latter half of the journey.

**White-tailed Hawk** *Geranoaetus albicaudatus* – fabulous views of a pair by the road in Ladyville as we exited Belize City Airport on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and super views of another adult over Ruben's home of Indian Church on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Gray Hawk** *Buteo plagiatus*— fantastic views of single adults teed up at the dock at Lamanai Archaeological site on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Indian Church on the 5<sup>th</sup>, and a juvenile at Laguna Seca on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Broad-winged Hawk** *Buteo platypterus* – two migrants rose up on the thermals, joined a small 'flurry' of raptors and drifted south past Chan Chich escarpment on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Luis expressed some surprise and mentioned that Broad-wings weren't especially common migrants on that route.

#### **OWLS: Strigidae (1)**

**Mottled Owl** *Ciccaba virgata*— incredible views of two or three, during the night safari from Chan Chich Lodge, spotlighted by Luis and Levy from the bird-mobiles.

#### **TROGONS: Trogonidae (3)**

**Slaty-tailed Trogon** *Trogon massena*— two pairs at Lamamani Maya Archaeological site were the first seen on the journey but the species was scarce, and subsequently found only on the night safari at Chan Chich where Luis spotlighted a couple of roosting birds by the access road.

**Black-headed Trogon** *Trogon melanocephalus*— remarkably widespread in the humid, broadleaf woodlands and the only species of trogon seen each day of the tour.

**Gartered Trogon** *Trogon caligatus*— the smallest of the trogons, pairs found at Lamanai Archaeological site, near Sylvester Village and within the grounds at Chan Chich Lodge – noted on three days of the tour.

#### **MOTMOTS: Motmotidae (2)**

**Tody Motmot** *Hylomanes momotula* (HO) – singles were heard calling at Lamanai Archaeological site and near Sylvester Village but alas not seen.

**Lesson's Motmot** *Momotus lessonii* (HO) – another species of motmot heard but not seen, this one at Lamanai on Oct 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### **KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (4)**

**Ringed Kingfisher** *Megaceryle torquata*—the largest of all the kingfisher species in the region, it was plentiful and relatively easy to find along the New River, around Lamanai Outpost Lodge and Dawson Creek. Scarce in the vicinity of Gallon Jug but we still managed to see singles at Laguna Seca and Laguna Verde.

**Belted Kingfisher** *Megaceryle alcyon*— a fairly common winter visitor/transient to Belize, we found the first almost as soon as we boarded the boat for Lamanai on the New River! Subsequently found on two more dates at Lamanai including one spotlighted by Ruben on the night safari.

**American Pygmy Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle aenea*— Ruben's skill at spotlighting these little gems whilst simultaneously steering the boat through the narrow creeks was something to behold....somehow we managed to see four or five of these pocket dynamos at roost during the spectacular night safari of Oct 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Green Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle americana*— this smart little kingfisher was fairly common along the New River and Dawson Creek, as well as being neatly spotlighted by Ruben in the waterside vegetation during the night safari on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### **PUFFBIRDS: Bucconidae (1)**

**White-necked Puffbird** *Notharchus hyperrhynchus*— exceptional views of the largest and most distinctive puffbird in the region with three individuals seen. One at Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 5<sup>th</sup>, and another the same day along the access road toward Gallon Jug. Another was seen well as we departed from Laguna Seca on the 6<sup>th</sup>. All allowed for extended scope views.

#### **JACAMARS: Galbulidae (1)**

**Rufous-tailed Jacamar** *Galbula ruficauda*— this long billed denizen of the humid broadleaf forest was heard and seen at Lamamani Maya Archaeological Site on the 4<sup>th</sup> followed by two singles seen very well at Chan Chich on the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### **TOUCANS: Ramphastidae (2)**

**Collared Aracari** *Pteroglossus torquatus*— we didn't have many encounters with this colorful toucan but the few that we saw were very well received at Lamanai on the 4<sup>th</sup> and in the lodge grounds at Chan Chich on two days.

**Keel-billed Toucan** *Ramphastos sulfuratus*— a great showing from the National Bird of Belize! We enjoyed wonderful scope views of up to a dozen at Lamanai, Chan Chich and Gallon Jug.

#### **WOODPECKERS: Picidae (9)**

**Acorn Woodpecker** *Melanerpes formicivorus*—found in the mature oaks along the New River on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and at Lamanai Savannah on the 3<sup>rd</sup> where we encountered a couple of small social groups.

**Black-cheeked Woodpecker** *Melanerpes pucherani*— seemingly absent from the Lamanai area, we finally caught up with this handsome woodpecker in at Chan Chich where it was found in the lodge grounds and the staff housing area on most days of our stay.

**Yucatan Woodpecker** *Melanerpes pygmaeus* (YE)—identified with care. We had our best views of this regional endemic during the Cocktail Cruise along Dawson Creek on the 4<sup>th</sup> though it was seen briefly in Lamanai Savannah the previous day.

**Golden-fronted Woodpecker** *Melanerpes aurifrons*— small numbers encountered daily around Lamanai Outpost Lodge but the species was rather scarce at Chan Chich being found on only one day of our stay there.

**Smoky-brown Woodpecker** *Dryobates fumigatus*— exceptionally good views of this well-named species, feeding close to a mixed flock in the forested portion of the 'airport road' at Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Pale-billed Woodpecker** *Campephilus guatemalensis*— the distinctive 'double-wrap' was one of the more easily recognized sounds emanating from the broadleaf woodland during our week. After hearing a few at Lamanai it was the Chan Chich area that proved to be the charm where we ultimately had excellent views of this beauty on three consecutive days.

**Lineated Woodpecker** *Dryocopus lineatus*— smaller than the impressive Pale-billed Woodpecker, we had a fairly even spread of sightings at Lamanai and Chan Chich Lodges and found the species on five days of the journey.

**Chestnut-colored Woodpecker** *Celeus castaneus*— surely one of the most beautiful woodpeckers in Central America! This stunner was seen all-too-briefly at Lamanai Archaeological site on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Golden-olive Woodpecker** *Colaptes rubiginosus*— this species can be difficult to see but after hearing one with Ruben at the Mask Temple at Lamanai Archaeological site on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Nate and David managed to photograph a single in the 'Magic Tree' at Chan Chich Lodge just minutes before departure on the 9<sup>th</sup> – wow!

#### **FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (5)**

**Collared Forest-Falcon** *Micrastur cachinnans* – a single bird heard calling at Lamanai on the 4<sup>th</sup> was resoundingly usurped by staggering views of an immature on the track as we dropped down from Chan Chich escarpment on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius*— a single individual gave super views around the barns and farm buildings at Gallon Jug Farm on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Applomado Falcon** *Falco femoralis* – one unexpectedly appeared over Indian Church and began sparring with a Black Hawk-eagle during an impressive mid-morning showing of raptors over Ruben's home village on Oct 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Bat Falcon** *Falco rufigularis*— a wonderful tour for watching this compact little falcon; along the New River, at Lamanai, Gallon Jug and Chan Chich all had singles or pairs. Seen on six days of the tour.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus* – a migrant appeared briefly over Gallon Jug fields and plantations on Oct 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **PARROTS: Psittacidae (6)**

**Brown-hooded Parrot** *Pyrrhula haematotis*— nice views of small, noisy flocks showing the diagnostic underwing pattern (bluish-green with red arm pits) at Indian Church on the 5<sup>th</sup>, Chan Chich on the 6<sup>th</sup> and Gallon Jug on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

**White-crowned Parrot** *Pionus senilis*— excellent views of a party of seven resting and preening in the Gallon Jug plantations on Oct 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Red-lored Parrot** *Amazona autumnalis*—this noisy, broad-winged *Amazona* accompanied us throughout much of the tour. Flocks could be seen and heard at a wide range of locations on every day of the trip and were always part of the dawn chorus around Chan Chich Lodge.

**White-fronted Parrot** *Amazona albifrons*— seen only in the pine-oak savannah at Lamanai where we saw a party of four on Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Mealy Parrot** *Amazona farinosa*— the largest *Amazona* seen on the tour, found only on our first full morning at Chan Chich Lodge.

**Olive-throated (Aztec) Parakeet** *Eupsittula nana* – noisy, fast-moving flocks of parakeets (5 – 30) were seen in flight on most days of the trip though few individuals actually landed and perched for views at Lamanai and the Gallon Jug plantations.

### **ANTBIRDS: Thamnophilidae (3)**

**Barred Antshrike** *Thamnophilus doliatus*— heard frequently, seen far less often but this species certainly appeared to be fairly common in the Lamanai area where we ultimately had excellent views. Noted on only one day in the Chan Chich area, near Sylvester Village on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Dot-winged Antwren** *Microrhopias quixensis* – exquisite views of this gregarious little antwren with two family groups found along one of the roads to Sylvester Village near Gallon Jug on Oct 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Dusky Antbird** *Cercomacroides tyrannina*— sensational views of a pair along one of the roads to Sylvester Village near Gallon Jug on Oct 8<sup>th</sup> rounding off an ‘antbird trifecta’, all in the same spot on the same morning.

### **OVENBIRDS AND WOODCREEPERS: Furnariidae (3)**

**Olivaceous Woodcreeper** *Sittasomus griseicapillus*— a small woodcreeper seen on four days of the tour with a single at Lamanai Archaeological site on the 4<sup>th</sup> singles or pairs at several trails around Chan Chich Lodge including the Sylvester Village Road and the King’s Tomb Trail.

**Northern Barred Woodcreeper** *Dendrocolaptes sanctithormae* – a super find for those in Luis’s vehicle as we left Laguna Seca on Oct 6<sup>th</sup>, this bird being one of number of exciting (and uncommon) species found within a mixed feeding flock that day.

**Ivory-billed Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster*— the most widespread woodcreeper on the tour, seen in a variety of habitats ranging from broadleaf woodland to pine-oak savannah. Up to five individuals noted in the Lamanai area, Gallon Jug and the vicinity of Chan Chich Lodge.

### **MANAKINS: Pipridae (2)**

**White-collared Manakin** *Manacus candei*— slightly less numerous than Red-capped Manakin and found on only three days of the tour. Males were seen at Lamanai on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, and especially good views by Laguna Seca on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Red-capped Manakin** *Ceratopipra mentalis*— nice views of a female foraging by the ‘airport road’ at Lamanai on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, and a fine adult male at Lamanai Archaeological site on 4<sup>th</sup>. We fared even better at Chan Chich where small numbers often showed in the lodge grounds, especially in the ‘Magic Tree’.

### **COTINGAS: Cotingidae (1)**

**Rufous Piha** *Lipaugus unirufus*— one seen briefly but well by Luis and a few others in our group as it associated with a large mixed feeding flock on the climb to Chan Chich escarpment on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **BECARDS AND TITYRAS: Tityridae (4)**

**Masked Tityra** *Tityra semifasciata*— small numbers were found at Lamanai Lodge and Archaeological site, as well as Chan Chich, Laguna Seca and Gallon Jug. Most fed high up at tree-top level, often close to mixed feeding flocks.

**Northern Schiffornis** *Schiffornis veraepacis*— heard well near Sylvester Village on the 8<sup>th</sup>, the songster ultimately giving itself up for reasonable views to a lucky few in our group.

**Cinnamon Becard** *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus* – great views of this uncommon becard at Chan Chich on the 6<sup>th</sup> and the Gallon Jug plantations area on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Rose-throated Becard** *Pachyramphus aglaiae*— a male within a mixed flock on the climb to Chan Chich escarpment on the 7<sup>th</sup>, surprisingly the only individual seen on the whole tour.

### **SHARPBILL AND ALLIES: Oxyruncidae (1)**

**Royal Flycatcher** *Onychorhynchus coronatus* – Nate spotted one during lunch at Chan Chich Lodge on the 7<sup>th</sup> and again the following day though it proved to be a difficult and aloof bird for most in our party.

### **TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (20)**

**Stub-tailed Spadebill** *Platyrinchus cancrominus*— one of the more difficult forest-dwellers to see well in the dank humid, woodlands surrounding Chan Chich Lodge but a few of us did have really great views of pair zipping back and forth across the King's Tomb Trail on Oct 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Ochre-bellied Flycatcher** *Mionectes oleagineus*— really nice views this species at Chan Chich Lodge, Laguna Seca and during the drive up to Chan Chich escarpment.

**Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher** *Poecilotriccus sylvia* – one called persistently at close range along the airport road at Lamanai on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and eventually, after some effort, offered reasonably good looks.

**Common Tody-Flycatcher** *Todirostrum cinereum*— a feisty group of three came in to Ruben's sound recording along Dawson Creek during the sunset cruise on Oct 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellow-olive Flycatcher** *Tolmomyias sulphurescens*— single individuals found and seen well along the airport trail at Lamanai Outpost Lodge and behind the staff lodging area there, both birds associating with mixed feeding flocks.

**Yellow-bellied Elaenia** *Elaenia flavogaster*— heard and seen reasonably well at Chan Chich escarpment on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee** *Contopus virens* – our tour coincided with peak migration for this species and we came across migrants in all sorts of situations and habitats especially around Gallon Jug and Chan Chich on Oct 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Found on all eight days of the journey.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** *Empidonax flaviventris*— the plaintive call notes of this migrant/winterer was often the only indicator of the species presence with singles heard at Lamanai Archaeological site, along the access road to Chan Chich Lodge, and others found around the lodge and trail system. Most encounters were of the 'heard-only' type.

**Least Flycatcher** *Empidonax minimus*— a familiar North American *empidonax* and a winterer/transient in Belize.

Encountered at Lamanai boat dock on the 5<sup>th</sup>, and extended views in the open at Gallon Jug fields on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Vermilion Flycatcher** *Pyrocephalus rubinus*— a stellar tour for seeing this highly attractive little flycatcher with a male seen at Philip Goldson International Airport, quite literally as we pulled out of the parking lot on our way to the Caribbean Shrimp Farm. Further excellent views of males came from Lamanai Savannah on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and during the transfer to Chan Chich on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Bright-rumped Attila** *Attila spadiceus* (HO) – the distinctive calls of this large flycatcher were heard on the trails at Lamanai Outpost Lodge and Lamanai Archaeological site but, alas, we never had views.

**Dusky-capped Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tuberculifer*— one of the more widespread flycatchers in the early part of the tour, found in a broad range of habitats at Lamanai, Dawson Creek and Indian Church. Often present around mixed feeding flocks with some of the best views coming from behind the staff quarters at Lamanai.

**Great Crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus crinitus* – migrant/wintering individuals were seen well at the airport road, Lamanai on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the King's Tomb Trail at Chan Chich on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Great Kiskadee** *Pitangus sulphuratus*— as if to welcome us to the tropics, familiar “kis-ka-dee” calls could be heard around Captain Hook's at the Caribbean Shrimp Farm on the first afternoon followed by relatively small numbers along the New River and the greater Lamanai area on four days of the journey.

**Boat-billed Flycatcher** *Megarynchus pitangua*— so similar to Great Kiskadee in overall appearance and yet vocally so very different, we came across singles and pairs at Lamanai Savannah, Indian Church and Dawson Creek.

**Social Flycatcher** *Myiozetetes similis*— this was indeed a social flycatcher, found in a wide variety of habitats and situations on all eight days of the tour.

**Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus*—widespread and common, this species was seen and heard on all days of the tour and often present some in good number, most frequently near habitation and farmland.

**Couch's Kingbird** *Tyrannus couchii*— vocalizing birds could be found at most of the Lamanai birding sites including the main lodge and across the New River at Lamanai Savannah. Rather scarce at Chan Chich though we did hear and see a pair near the staff housing area on the first morning.

**Eastern Kingbird** *Tyrannus tyrannus* – the tour coincided with an excellent 'wave' of migrants with up to 15 noted on six days of the tour, usually in more open habitats such as Lamanai Savannah and the Gallon Jug fields.

**Fork-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus savana*— immaculate views of this most elegant of flycatchers at Lamanai Savannah on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, and good numbers during the transfer to Chan Chich on the 5<sup>th</sup> where they gave wonderful looks by the roadside near San Felipe and Blue Creek.

### **VIREOS: Vireonidae (7)**

**Green Shrike-Vireo** *Vireolanius pulchellus*— the immaculate camouflage of this canopy dweller will always make it difficult to spot but in this case we were blessed with remarkably good views of one in the broadleaf forest as we left Laguna Seca on Oct 6th.

**Tawny-crowned Greenlet** *Tunchiornis ochraceiceps* – an uncommon resident of humid broadleaf, we had super looks at a family group during an afternoon bird walk along the Sylvester Road below Chan Chich Lodge.

**Lesser Greenlet** *Pachysylvia decurtata*— a small member of the vireo family often present amid feeding flocks and encountered at Lamanai Outpost Lodge and Archaeological site, and subsequently at Laguna Seca near Chan Chich Lodge where we found the largest numbers. Seen on at least four days of the tour.

**White-eyed Vireo** *Vireo griseus*— one at the Chan Chich escarpment on the 7<sup>th</sup> was quite vocal giving song fragments and scolding notes, and another singing bird was seen during breakfast at Laguna Verde on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Mangrove Vireo** *Vireo pallens*— super views of this skulking vireo along Dawson Creek during the Cocktail Cruise from Lamanai on Oct 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Red-eyed Vireo** *Vireo olivaceus* – one of several North American migrants passing through Belize during the time of our visit. This species popped up in feeding flocks at Lamanai, the Chan Chich staff housing area, Laguna Seca and the Gallon Jug plantations.

**Yellow-throated Vireo** *Vireo flavifrons*— seen on just two dates, this breeding species from North America was found in mixed feeding flocks by the Mask Temple at Lamanai Archaeological site on the 4<sup>th</sup>, and by Laguna Seca near Chan Chich Lodge on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### **CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (1)**

**Brown Jay** *Psilorhinus morio*— social and vocal, this common jay gave fabulous views at Lamanai and Gallon Jug and was found in good numbers on at least six days of the tour.

#### **SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (4)**

**Purple Martin** *Progne subis* – migrant flocks of five or six passed over Lamanai Savannah on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and New River Lagoon on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Gray-breasted Martin** *Progne chalybea*— quite possibly overlooked but this large *hirundine* was only noted during the first afternoon near the Caribbean Shrimp Farm and the dock area as we boarded the boat to Lamanai.

**Mangrove Swallow** *Tachycineta albilinea*— this charming little swallow was a delight to see on our boat tours, present in numbers along the New River to Lamanai with a pair or two always present around the dock at Lamanai Outpost Lodge. Rather scarce in the Chan Chich area with the exception of Gallon Jug.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*— migrant flocks were encountered fairly frequently along the New River and at Lamanai but after the transfer to Chan Chich it was rather scarce though we did see a few migrants at the escarpment on the Gallon Jug fields.

#### **GNATCATCHERS: Polioptilidae (2)**

**Long-billed Gnatwren** *Ramphocaenus melanurus* – great views of a single working through vines and tangles near the staff housing area at Chan Chich on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila caerulea*— about half-a-dozen migrants at Lamanai Savannah on the 3<sup>rd</sup> followed by singles and pairs at Lamanai on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### **WRENS: Troglodytidae (2)**

**Spot-breasted Wren** *Pheugopedius maculipectus*— this extremely vocal wren was heard on each day of our stay at Lamanai Outpost Lodge though getting decent views required patience but with a bit of luck which we managed to have some views along the 'airport road' with Ruben. A few in our group even had views around their cabanas in the lodge grounds. Decidedly scarce at Chan Chich where it was heard on just two days.

**White-breasted Wood-Wren** *Henicorhina leucosticte* (HO) — an understory species and subsequently rather difficult to observe with our experience limited to a 'heard-only' observation at Chan Chich on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### **MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae (2)**

**Black Catbird** *Melanoptila glabrirostris* (YE) (HO) - a single heard calling and sub-singing along Dawson Creek on Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>. This bird was very close to the boat but, despite Ruben's best efforts, it couldn't be coaxed in for views.

**Tropical Mockingbird** *Mimus gilvus*— one of the first birds of the tour being seen at Philip Goldson International Airport and at the Caribbean Shrimp Farm. Later it was found to be fairly common in the Lamanai area, Indian Church and Blue Creek but virtually absent from Chan Chich.

### **THRUSHES: Turdidae (1)**

**Clay-colored Thrush** *Turdus grayi*— puzzling scarce on this particular tour after a good start with several being noted around Ladyville on the way to the Caribbean Shrimp Farm and also at the dock area on the New River before we boarded the boat for Lamanai. In the following days we saw just a couple at Lamanai Lodge on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and a single photographed by Mike and Dawn in the grounds of Chan Chich Lodge on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae (3)**

**Scrub Euphonia** *Euphonia affinis* – a single pointed out by Ruben at Lamanai on Oct 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellow-throated Euphonia** *Euphonia hirundinacea*—the most common *euphonia* seen on the trip and noted on four days of the tour. Both lodges provided especially close views of small flocks as they came into the gardens and water features.

**Olive-backed Euphonia** *Euphonia gouldi* – a subtly attractive *euphonia* rather scarce on the tour but seen well near Laguna Seca on the 6<sup>th</sup> and near Chan Chich escarpment on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae (2)**

**Botteri's Sparrow** *Peucaea botterii* — two individuals gave nice views as they sang from low perches during the early morning grasslands visit to Lamanai Savannah on the 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Green-backed Sparrow** *Arremonops chloronotus*— very good views of this beauty behind the staff lodging area at Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Icteridae (1)**

**Yellow-breasted Chat** *Icteria virens* - heard along at Lamanai Savannah on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, and two showed well in the early morning around the dock area at Lamanai on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS AND ORIOLES: Icteridae (7)**

**Eastern Meadowlark** *Sturnella magna*—plentiful around Gallon Jug farm near Chan Chich where we had excellent, close views of many perched along fences close to the track on two days. As many as 35 were present there on the 7<sup>th</sup>, perhaps relating to a post-breeding gathering or an incursion of migrants.

**Yellow-billed Cacicue** *Amblycercus holosericeus*— often heard calling from rank vegetation but rather difficult to see. We had some decent luck with views near the staff lodging area at Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, and found several in the reeds by the Lamanai dock on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Montezuma Oropendola** *Psarocolius montezuma*— three, two adults and a recently fledged juvenile, appeared and then disappeared rather suddenly in a fruiting fig tree favored by Keel-billed Toucans in Sylvester Village on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Black-cowled Oriole** *Icterus prothemelas*— not only the most attractive oriole seen on the tour but also the most widespread being recorded on six days and found in good number at Lamanai/Indian Church, and slightly less frequently at Chan Chich Lodge/Gallon Jug.

**Baltimore Oriole** *Icterus galbula*— a fairly common winter visitor and transient in Belize though we may been a bit early in the fall to see the larger numbers. We found them near mixed feeding flocks on three days of the journey at Lamanai, the Chan Chich access road and Gallon Jug.

**Melodious Blackbird** *Dives dives*— this rich vocalist was always a welcome sound being first heard at Lamanai boat dock on the 4<sup>th</sup> and then much more frequently at Chan Chich Lodge and the nearby surroundings through to the end of the tour.

**Great-tailed Grackle** *Quiscalus mexicanus*— one of the first species encountered at Philip Goldson International Airport but scarce at both lodges being found in number only on the transfer day on Oct 5<sup>th</sup> when we came across flocks in San Felipe and Blue Creek as well as the surrounding farmland.

### **NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (11)**

**Louisiana Waterthrush** *Parkesia motacilla* – being an early migrant from North America, this species can appear in Belize as early as mid-July to spend the winter. As such, it was present in fairly good numbers at the time of our visits and noted on at least seven days of the tour with particularly good views in the Chan Chich area where it could often be seen in the open on the main access road and nearby tracks.

**Northern Waterthrush** *Parkesia noveboracensis*— singles carefully identified at Lamanai Archaeological site on the 4<sup>th</sup> and Chan Chich Lodge on the 7<sup>th</sup> but decidedly outnumbered by Louisiana Waterthrush at this time of year.

**Black-and-white Warbler** *Mniotilta varia*— singles of this distinctive little wood-warbler were found amid mixed feeding flocks at Lamanai and Chan Chich on at least three days of the trip.

**Prothonotary Warbler** *Protonotaria citrea* – an absolutely stellar tour for seeing this bright, distinctive warbler with wonderful views at Dawson Creek and Laguna Seca and, quite remarkably, a couple of roosting individuals captured in the spotlight during both of our night safaris – wow!

**Kentucky Warbler** *Geothlypis formosa*— we enjoyed good views of a single males working along fallen tree trunks and in the leaf litter near the staff housing at Chan Chich, as well as along the King's Tomb Trail and other trails heading out from the lodge. Seen or heard on four days of the trip.

**Hooded Warbler** *Setophaga citrina*— handsome males were seen wonderfully well in low understory at Lamanai Lodge, Laguna Seca and the King's Tomb Trail at Chan Chich on three days of the tour.

**American Redstart** *Setophaga ruticilla*— fairly common in the Lamanai area, most often found amid mixed feeding flocks but curiously absent or perhaps overlooked at Chan Chich.

**Magnolia Warbler** *Setophaga magnolia*— the most commonly encountered wood-warbler on the tour, very much a regular feature of mixed flocks. Found in good numbers on at least six days of the trip especially at Lamanai Lodge and its trail system as well as Laguna Seca near Chan Chich.

**Yellow Warbler** *Setophaga petechia*— plentiful at Lamanai Savannah on Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> with perhaps a dozen or so present but found on only two days after that with singles seen on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler** *Setophaga pensylvanica* – singles at Lamanai Archaeological site on the 4<sup>th</sup>, and along the 'airport trail' on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellow-throated Warbler** *Setophaga dominica*— this beauty turned up for us at Lamanai Archaeological site as we waited in the shade for the boat to arrive and take us back to the lodge. Well worth the delay and surely one of the most attractive of all the North American warblers!

#### **CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae (7)**

**Rose-throated Tanager** *Piranga roseogularis* (YE) – trips to the Chan Chich escarpment rarely pass without incident and our trip on Oct 7<sup>th</sup> was no exception when the call notes of this highly localized species could be heard coming from the scant scrub at the top of the escarpment. Although no male was in attendance, three female/immatures came close to our group and gave pretty good views. One of the least expected avian events of the trip and one that surprised both of our local guides Luis and Levy.

**Summer Tanager** *Piranga rubra*— scarce, being noted only at Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with Blue-gray and Yellow-winged Tanagers, and another at Chan Chich on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Red-throated Ant-Tanager** *Habia fuscicauda*— only at Chan Chich where we came across vocal pairs at the Sylvester Road and the River Trail, both sites being within walking distance of the main lodge building.

**Black-faced Grosbeak** *Caryothraustes poliogaster* – a noisy party of about four individuals showed with a mixed flock in the sub-canopy as we climbed up the road toward the Chan Chich escarpment on Oct 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Northern Cardinal** *Cardinalis cardinalis*— a female appeared briefly by some housing in Indian Church on Oct 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Blue-black Grosbeak** *Cyanoloxia cyanooides*— fortunately for us a pair were present and willing to offer views on most days around the cabanas and lodge grounds at Chan Chich until the finale of the tour.

**Blue Bunting** *Cyanocompsa parellina*— beautiful males were seen exceptionally well at Indian Church Village on the 5<sup>th</sup>, and close to the main lodge building at Chan Chich on several dates.

#### **TANAGERS AND ALLIES: Thraupidae (10)**

**Black-throated Shrike-Tanager** *Lanio aurantius* — it's always nice to see a bird that excites the local guides and this brutish black-and-yellow tanager did exactly that, not once, but twice! The first encounter was pair leading a mixed flock as we departed from Laguna Seca on the 6<sup>th</sup>, and the following day three were found among a mixed flock on the climb to Chan Chich escarpment on the 7<sup>th</sup>. In both cases we had good views of the handsome males.

**Blue-gray Tanager** *Thraupis episcopus*— a resident tanager that proved rather scarce on this tour being seen only at Lamanai and Indian Church on three days of the tour.

**Yellow-winged Tanager** *Thraupis abbas*— a well-named tanager seen on three days of the tour after the first behind the staff lodging area at Lamanai on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Chan Chich Lodge hosted up to five in the grounds as well as near the staff quarters, and near the suspension bridge along the entrance road.

**Golden-hooded Tanager** *Tangara larvata*— much sought-after, this beauty was a feature of the 'Magic Tree' in the grounds of Chan Chich Lodge sometimes being seen from the lodge balcony during meal times. Noted on four days, all from the Chan Chich area.

**Red-legged Honeycreeper** *Cyanerpes cyaneus*— a single within a mixed feeding flock at Lamanai on Oct 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Blue-black Grassquit** *Volatinia jacarina*— excellent views of up to ten in roadside grasses and along fences as we crossed the Mennonite farmland during the transfer from Lamanai to Chan Chich on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Also, single males at Lamanai on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the Gallon Jug fields on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Thick-billed Seed-finch** *Sporophila funerea* – a nice surprise on the Sunset Cocktail Cruise when Ruben coaxed in a family group of four for us to enjoy close to the boat on Oct 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Morelet's Seedeater** *Sporophila moreletii* – we came across small numbers in rank vegetation on three dates at Lamanai but just the once at Chan Chich.

**Black-headed Saltator** *Saltator atriceps* – a large, noisy saltator seen during the afternoon bird walk from Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and heard again the following day. At least one was also near Laguna Seca on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Cinnamon-bellied Saltator** *Saltator grandis* – the subtle beauty of this species was enjoyed at close range when a singing male was seen during the afternoon bird walk from Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **MAMMALS (12 species recorded):**

**Proboscis Bat** *Rhynchonycteris naso* – a small group roosting under a tree trunk over the water in Dawson Creek and another roosting group spotlighted on the Lamanai night safari the following day.

**Greater Fishing Bat** *Noctilio liporinus* – one of the highlights of the tour with about three seen and spotlighted as they hawked over New River Lagoon during the Lamanai night safari.

**Yucatan Black Howler Monkey** *Alouatta pigra* – numerous and quite approachable at times, these noisy beauties were there to greet us upon arrival at Lamanai Outpost Lodge with some in the trees right over the cabanas! Their deep growls became a familiar sound over the journey especially in the predawn hours, and the species appeared to be equally widespread at both Lamanai and Chan Chich Lodges.

**Central American Spider Monkey** *Ateles geoffroyi* – the undisturbed forest surrounding Chan Chich Lodge provided ideal habitat for this lanky, rangy monkey where it appeared to be fairly common. The younger males could be aggressive, crashing through the canopy growling and barking and making us feel decidedly unwelcome!

**Depp's Squirrel** *Sciurus deppi* – a small, brownish squirrel noted near the staff quarters at Chan Chich on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Central American Agouti** *Dasyprocta punctata* – rather shy, just a single along the access road to Chan Chich on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

**White-tailed Deer** *Odocoileus virginianus* – abundant around Chan Chich Lodge and Gallon Jug. Found in the fields and along the wide grass verges, and sometimes within the lodge grounds as well.

**Kinkajou** *Potos flavus* – amazing spotlight views of one foraging in Cecropia trees close to the dining room at Lamanai on 3<sup>rd</sup> – all in a day's work for Ruben!

**Tayra** *Eira barbara* – absolutely fantastic views of the blond-headed form, a family group of about four bounding through the ruins at Lamanai Maya Archaeological site on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Jaguar** *Panthera onca* – one of those absurdly rare, perhaps 'once in a lifetime', moments when a large male Jaguar swam across Dawson Creek right in front of our boat as we cruised downriver looking for Black Catbirds and Mangrove Cuckoos! Not only was it a life mammal for many on the trip but it was also Ruben's first at that location in 20 years of guided field outings to Dawson Creek – wow!

**White-nosed Coati** *Nasua narica* – a remarkably bold male spent time around the Mask Temple at Lamanai Maya Archaeological site on the 4<sup>th</sup> with another male, or perhaps the same, seen around High Temple on the same day.

**Gray Fox** *Urocyon cinereoargenteus* – we were fortunate indeed to have one or two foxes around the cabanas every day at Chan Chich. They were not especially shy often giving excellent views and photo opportunities. The staff at Chan Chich felt that some of the forest mammals had become especially bold and unusually visible during the pandemic due to the absence of tourists on site. As it happened, we were the full first tour group to be back at Chan Chich since the lockdown began in March 2020.

#### **REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (6 species recorded):**

**Morelet's Crocodile** *Crocodylus moreletii* – a scatter of singles noted around New River Lagoon, and really nice views at Laguna Seca where one cruised along close to bank close to the footpath.

**Green Iguana** *Iguana iguana* – first noted at the Caribbean Shrimp Farm on the first afternoon followed by frequent sightings along the New River and around the dock at Lamanai.

**Black Spiny-tailed Iguana** *Ctenosaura similis* – this beauty was sometimes found basking at Lamanai Outpost Lodge, Lamanai Savannah and Lamanai Archaeological site.

**Brown Basilisk** *Basiliscus vittatus* – quite widespread with singles noted at the Caribbean Shrimp Farm, Lamanai and Chan Chich on at least three days of the tour. Ruben also referred to this species as 'Striped Basilisk'.

**Fer-De-Lance** *Bothrops asper* – fabulous views of this beautiful viper on the track, spotlighted from the safety of the vehicles during the night safari from Chan Chich on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Giant Toad** *Rhinella horribilliss* – Ruben spotlighted one during the Lamanai night safari on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

Some 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* –

**Thoas Swallowtail** *Papilo thaos* -

**Mexican Red-rump Turantula** *Tliltocatl vagans*

**Rhinoceros Beetle** (*Scarabaeidae*) -

*Photos by Nathan Welch, Michael Freeman, and David Welch.*