

# Belize Birding & Nature | Species List

January 15 – 23, 2023 | with Naturalist Journeys



## Lamanai & Chan Chich, Including Crooked Tree Sanctuary

With expert local guides Eduardo and Luis and participants: Andrea, Kathy, Trina, Barbara M, Dorothy, Barbara S, Gordon, Rick & Terry, Tom & Sarah.

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

### **BIRDS (226 species recorded, 13 of which were heard only, and two were leader only observations):**

#### **TINAMOUS: Tinamidae (1)**

**Great Tinamou** *Tinamus major* — singles along the entrance road to Chan Chich Lodge (briefly) on the 19<sup>th</sup> and scoped for all on the Sylvester Village Road on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Quite possibly the plumpest bird seen on the whole trip.

#### **DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae (1)**

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna autumnalis*— fairly sizeable flocks were seen and heard “whistling” at Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 16<sup>th</sup> and over Lamanai Lodge on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Plain Chachalaca** *Ortalis vetula*— we found this noisy *cracid* on at least three mornings in the Lamanai Outpost area.

**Crested Guan** *Penelope purpurascens*— wonderful views of this arboreal beauty on most days in and around Chan Chich Lodge including the main plaza. Also noted in the Gallon Jug plantations.

**Great Curassow** *Crax rubra*— surprisingly scarce, invariably found on the wide, grassy margins along the entrance roads to Chan Chich and Gallon Jug. One was also spotlighted at a roost by New River Lagoon during the Lamanai night safari.

### **QUAILS: Odontophoridae (1)**

**Black-throated Bobwhite** *Colinus nigrogularis* – a nice surprise as we walked back to the docking area at Lamanai Savannah on the 19<sup>th</sup>. About a half-dozen flushed in front of the group and rocketed across the grassland.

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

**Ocellated Turkey** *Meleagris ocellata* (YE) – impossible to miss in the Chan Chich/Gallon Jug area, and a species that appears to have benefitted directly from the protection afforded by the Rio Bravo Conservation Area.

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

**Pale-vented Pigeon** *Patagioenas cayennensis*— uncommon but seen well in the area of Lamanai Savannah and Dawson Creek on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Scaled Pigeon** *Patagioenas speciosa*— Eduardo picked one out as it flew over Lamanai Savannah on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Short-billed Pigeon** *Patagioenas nigrirostris*— a stocky pigeon of mature tropical forests, found once on the Logger's Trail on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Eurasian Collard-Dove** *Streptopelia decaocta* (I) – an invasive species encountered on roadside wires as we passed through San Felipe Village during the transfer to Chan Chich on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Plain-breasted Ground-Dove** *Columbina minuta*— seen rather well in Lamanai Savannah on the 19<sup>th</sup> with about three pairs noted.

**Ruddy Ground-Dove** *Columbina talpacoti*— scarce with just a handful of pairs noted at Crooked Tree, Lamanai and Indian Church. Seemingly absent from the Chan Chich area.

**Blue Ground-Dove** *Claravis pretiosa* - good views of a male as it flew across Spanish Creek during the boat trip on Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 16<sup>th</sup>, and another male heard on the airport trail at Lamanai on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**White-tipped Dove** *Leptotila verreauxi*— (HO) this inconspicuous dove was heard at Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Gray-headed Dove** *Leptotila plumbeiceps*— (HO) Eduardo pointed out the deep resonant calls of this species at Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Groove-billed Ani** *Crotophaga sulcirostris*— social groups of up to 12 were noted at Crooked Tree, Lamanai and Gallon Jug. Often conspicuous and most easily found along roadside wires and fields.

**Squirrel Cuckoo** *Piaya cayana*— nice views at Lamanai Archeological Reserve on the 17<sup>th</sup> plus several roadside sightings between Blue Creek and Chan Chich on the transfer day, and another on the way to Chan Chich escarpment on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae (3)**

**Lesser Nighthawk** *Chordeiles acutipennis* – great views of one roosting on a horizontal branch over the New River on the 16<sup>th</sup>, spotted by Eduardo.

**Common Pauraque** *Nyctidromus albicollis*— the most frequently encountered nightjar, more often heard than seen. Numerous at Chan Chich around the plaza and along the entrance road. Luis also spotlighted one or two during the night safari to Gallon Jug on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Yucatan Nightjar** *Antrostomus badius* (YE) – singles were found on each of the two night safaris, quite brilliantly spotlighted by Eduardo at Lamanai and Chris from Chan Chich respectively.

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

**Northern Potoo** *Nyctibius jamaicensi* – a bizarre, extraordinary species when seen up close. The Chan Chich night safari offered incredible views of one perched and spotlighted by Luis at Gallon Jug airfield, and a second bird was found in flight over the fields by Chris.

#### **SWIFTS: Apodidae (1)**

**Vaux's Swift** *Chaetura vauxi*— small numbers of *chaetura* swifts over Chan Chich and Gallon Jug on the 20<sup>th</sup> were thought to be this species.

#### **HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae (7)**

**White-necked Jacobin** *Florisuga mellivora*— this handsome hummingbird appeared in numbers and delighted the group every single day at the balcony feeders at Chan Chich Lodge.

**Long-billed Hermit** *Phaethornis longirostris*— a rather specular hummer with decurved bill and notably long white central tail feathers. Only found at Chan Chich where they worked the balcony feeders.

**Green-breasted Mango** *Anthracothorax prevostii*—found at Lamanai Archeological Reserve on the 17<sup>th</sup> with two or three noted during our two visits including one “insect-gleaning” by the Sugar Mill.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** *Archilochus colubris*— wintering birds were encountered in the Lamanai area on two dates including one at Lamanai Savannah on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**White-bellied Emerald** *Amazilia candida* – a rather brief sighting at Lamanai along the airport road on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Azure-crowned Hummingbird** *Amazilia cyanocephala*— a pine-savannah specialist, truly dazzling when seen well, and several in our party had great looks during the morning adventure in Lamanai Savannah on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Rufous-tailed Hummingbird** *Amazilia tzacatl*— such a well-named hummer and easily the most frequently seen of the family on the tour. Recorded every day in a wide variety of habitats.

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

**Russet-naped Wood-Rail** *Aramides albiventris* — good views of one at Crooked Tree Lagoon during our early morning boat cruise on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Ruddy Crake** *Laterallus ruber* (HO) — a skulking little crake with a distinctive trill heard several times at Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 16<sup>th</sup> during the breakfast stop. Several more were heard along Dawson Creek during the Cocktail Cruise on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Limpkin** *Aramus guarauna*— a unique wading bird found in small numbers along fresh water margins where they feed on apple snails (*Ampullariidae*). Noted at Crooked Tree Lagoon and New River Lagoon on four days of the tour.

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

**Northern Jacana** *Jacana spinosa*— great views of adults and immatures from the boat on Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 16<sup>th</sup>, with several more seen along the New River on the same date. Also, one or two briefly at Laguna Seca on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (1)**

**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius*— one seen from the boat at Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 16<sup>th</sup> proved to be the only sighting on the whole tour.

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

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo* –the only tern seen on the tour just happened to be rare! Initially distant, this bird made a single pass of the boat at Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 16<sup>th</sup> when diagnostic photos were taken. It appeared to be an adult in non-breeding plumage and was apparently Glenn’s first in Belize!

### **STORKS: Ciconiidae (2)**

**Jabiru** *Jabiru mycteria*— the mighty Jabiru inspires awe throughout its Central American range. It was a shame to miss them at Crooked Tree Lagoon, but fortune was with us when at least six came soaring and gliding over our boat on the New River on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Wood Stork** *Mycteria americana*— relatively small numbers at Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 16<sup>th</sup>, perhaps due the high water levels? Also, two perched in a dead tree at Indian Church during the transfer on the 19<sup>th</sup> and another, also perched in a dead tree, in the fields at Gallon Jug on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

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

**Anhinga** *Anhinga anhinga*— a great tour for seeing this attractive species. Fairly plentiful at Crooked Tree Lagoon as well as a couple found along the New River during the transfer to Lamanai. We also had several soaring with raptors over Indian Church and the Lamanai Archeological site.

### **CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (1)**

**Neotropic Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*— most common at Crooked Tree Lagoon but fairly numerous along on the New River up to the Lamanai area. Noted on four days of the tour.

### **PELICANS: Pelicanidae (1)**

**Brown Pelican** *Pelicanus occidentalis* – the New River produced sightings on two consecutive days, the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, quite impressive for a species normally associated with coastal waters.

### **HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (14)**

**Pinnated Bittern** *Botarus pinnatus* – Luis did well to spot this one at distance in the extensive dry reedbeds at Laguna Seca on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Only the bill, head and neck could be seen as it moved along with typical bittern demeanor, but all the group had decent looks through the scope. Uncommon to rare throughout much of its fragmented Central American range.

**Least Bittern** *Ixobrychus exilis* – beautiful spotlight views at close range in the cattails during the Lamanai night safari on the 17<sup>th</sup> picked out, of course, by Eduardo.

**Bare-throated Tiger-Heron** *Tigrisoma mexicanum*— a great showing of this wonderfully cryptic species during the boat tour on Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias*— a familiar species and a winter visitor to Belize, we noted at least 10 during the Crooked Tree Lagoon boat tour on the 16<sup>th</sup> with up to four in the Lamanai area, and a single at Laguna Seca on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba* —fairly large concentrations at Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 16<sup>th</sup> though far fewer at Lamanai and decidedly scarce in the Chan Chich area.

**Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula*— more than a dozen at Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 16<sup>th</sup> with smaller numbers on the boat ride to Lamanai on the same day.

**Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea*— great views during the boat tour of Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 16<sup>th</sup>, plus small numbers found in the New River and along Dawson Creek near Lamanai, and at least two at Laguna Seca on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Tricolored Heron** *Egretta tricolor*— notably scarce compared to other herons, only seen on the boat tour at Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 16<sup>th</sup>, and at the dock by the Lamanai Archeological site on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* – up to 25 on Crooked Tree Lagoon followed by good numbers around livestock at the Blue Creek agricultural sites, and up to 60 at the Gallon Jug fields on the last five days of the tour.

**Green Heron** *Butorides virescens*— common at Crooked Tree Lagoon during the boat cruise on the 16<sup>th</sup> but otherwise a handful of sightings by the New River and in Dawson Creek.

**Agami Heron** *Agamia agami* – one of the less expected species on this year’s trip primarily because the water levels were thought to be too high at Crooked Tree Lagoon. Our Captain for the morning, Mr. Glenn Crawford, managed to pick out an adult lurking in the scrub and tangles overhanging Spanish Creek...quite an amazing spot from the rear of the boat!

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*— tricky to see but several were found in diurnal roosts at Crooked Tree Lagoon and along the New River on the 16<sup>th</sup>, as well as Dawson Creek during the Cocktail Cruise.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** *Nyctanassa violacea*— roosting birds noted in riverside trees at Crooked Tree Lagoon and the New River on the 16<sup>th</sup> and, most impressively of all, several foraging around livestock at night in the open meadows at Gallon Jug during the night safari from Chan Chich.

**Boat-billed Heron** *Cochlearius cochlearius* - small concentrations of this distinctive heron were found roosting in Spanish Creek and Crooked Tree Lagoon as well as a couple along the New River as we transferred to Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae (1)**

**White Ibis** *Eudocimus albus*— several flocks seen at Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 16<sup>th</sup> and over the New River on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

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

**King Vulture** *Sarcoramphus papa*— wonderful views of a soaring adult over Gallon Jug on the 20<sup>th</sup> followed by more adults, sub-adults and juveniles seen well from Chan Chich escarpment on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus*— seen every day, often forming impressive “kettles” on rising thermals that sometimes drew in other raptors in the process.

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura*—only slightly less numerous than Black Vultures, and often seen in the same kettles.

**Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture** *Cathartes burrovianus*— identified with caution, this Turkey Vulture look-alike was found at Crooked Tree, Lamanai Lodge and Savannah and Dawson Creek. We probably had the best views along the airport road at Lamanai where the smaller size, blacker plumage, white primary shafts and multicolored facial skin could be seen a close range in direct comparison with nearby Turkey Vultures.

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

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*— noted on four dates with sightings concentrated along the New River, Lamanai and Dawson Creek. Appeared to be absent from the areas we visited at Chan Chich.

### **HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (16)**

**White-tailed Kite** *Elanus leucurus*— super views of this beautiful raptor at Gallon Jug fields on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> including a pair perched and hunting at close range on the latter date.

**Gray-headed Kite** *Leptodon cayanensis* – an immature was photographed by Kathy and Trina as we left Indian Church on the transfer day on the 19<sup>th</sup>, a wonderful sighting of a decidedly uncommon raptor neatly backed-up by photos – very cool!

**Hook-billed Kite** *Chondrohierax uncinatus* – a dark-morph adult offered some decent views as it rose up over the forest by Gallon Jug fields on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Though initially taken to be a Black Hawk-Eagle, subsequent study of the images clearly show a dark-morph Hook-billed Kite.

**Crane Hawk** *Geranospiza caerulescens* – incredible views of a perched adult during the boat tour of Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Just one element from a stellar day for raptors that continued all the way through to sunset!

**Black Hawk-Eagle** *Spizaetus tyrannus*— Eduardo did well to spot a high-flying, northbound adult as we traveled south along the New River on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Ornate Hawk-Eagle** *Spizaetus ornatus* – stunning views of a perched adult in a Mahogany close to the gated entrance of Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 16<sup>th</sup>. This, one of the most sought-after raptors in Central America, appeared to be handed to us on a plate!

**Double-tooted Kite** *Harpagus bidentatus* – super views of a perched adult at Lamanai Archeological site. Scoped so well that the unique double notch along the cutting edge of the bill could be seen clearly.

**Snail Kite** *Rostrhamus sociabilis*— two were found on the boat tour of Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 16th, one distant and one close, plus singles at Dawson Creek on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Northern Harrier** *Circus hudsonius* – a single female/immature passed low over Lamanai Outpost Lodge quite late in the day on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Great Black Hawk** *Buteogallus urubitinga*— rather brief views of two at Crooked Tree Lagoon during the latter stages of the boat cruise followed by a single near the Gallon Jug plantations on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Roadside Hawk** *Rupornis magnirostris*— this fairly common, well-named raptor featured in our checklists almost every day. Views and photo opportunities came into their own at Gallon Jug fields in the final few days of the trip.

**Black-collared Hawk** *Busarellus nigricollis*— a beautiful raptor closely associated with freshwater marshes and wetlands. Crooked Tree Lagoon provided exceptional views on the 16<sup>th</sup> when at least three were seen.

**White-tailed Hawk** *Geranoastur albicaudatus* – Kathy gave a great description of an adult seen in flight during the transfer from Philip Goldson International Airport to the Black Orchid, an area known to harbor this highly attractive raptor, although it's generally uncommon and local in Belize.

**White Hawk** *Pseudastur albicollis* – Luis spotted a pair soaring over the forest at distance from Chan Chich escarpment on the 21<sup>st</sup>. These were “scope birds” for sure, but worthy of the effort proving to be the only sighting of the tour.

**Gray Hawk** *Buteo plagiatus*— fantastic views of an adult perched by the Gallon Jug fields on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Little did we know that it would be the only sighting of the tour.

**Short-tailed Hawk** *Buteo brachyurus*— wonderful views of soaring light-morphs in perfect light on two consecutive days over Lamanai and Indian Church.

### **OWLS: Strigidae (3)**

**Middle American Screech-Owl** *Megascops guatemalae*— those traveling in Luis's vehicle had great views during the night safari from Chan Chich on the 21<sup>st</sup> with at least one of these beauties seen well in the spotlight.

**Central American Pygmy-Owl** *Glaucidium griseiceps* (HO) – a male gave classic tooting calls for prolonged periods by Chan Chich Creek on the final afternoon of the tour. Despite lots of effort from our small group, we simply couldn't pick out this tiny owl as it called in the canopy. Endemic to Central America.

**Mottled Owl** *Ciccaba virgata*— incredible views for those traveling with Luis with at least two seen during the night safari from Chan Chich Lodge on the 21st, spotlighted from the “game-ranger.”

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

**Black-headed Trogon** *Trogon melanocephalus*— Lamanai Archeological site proved to be the best spot for this beautiful trogon with at least six seen there including a concentration of four together on the 17<sup>th</sup>!

**Gartered Trogon** *Trogon caligatus*— the smallest of the trogons in the region. Found at Lamanai Archeological site and along the airport trail at Lamanai Lodge where we had really stunning views of a highly cooperative female.

**Collared Trogon** *Trogon collaris* – Eduardo picked this one out by its calls at Lamanai Archeological site on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Fortunately it flew in close to Mask Temple where we all had excellent scope views. Easily the rarest of the four possible trogon species to be found in Belize.

### **MOTMOTS: Momotidae (2)**

**Tody Motmot** *Hylomanes momotula* (HO) – one heard calling at Lamanai Archeological site on the 17<sup>th</sup>, but alas, it wouldn't come into view.

**Lesson's Motmot** *Momotus lessonii* – Rick managed to photograph one around the cabanas at Chan Chich Lodge early in the morning of the 21<sup>st</sup>. Perhaps the same individual was also heard calling from the pool area several mornings in a row.

### **KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (3)**

**Ringed Kingfisher** *Megaceryle torquata*—ever spectacular, the largest of the Central American kingfishers was quite easy to find at Crooked Tree Lagoon, but also along the New River around Lamanai and Dawson Creek. One was even spotlighted at close range during the Lamanai night safari! Another was at Laguna Seca on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Belted Kingfisher** *Megaceryle alcyon*— a common winter visitor and transient to Belize, we came across them in small numbers at Crooked Tree Lagoon, the New River and Dawson Creek near Lamanai.

**Green Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle americana*— not particularly common on the tour, but found in the vicinity of Crooked Tree Lagoon, the New River, Dawson Creek and near Sylvester Village on four days of the tour.

### **PUFFBIRDS: Bucconidae (2)**

**White-necked Puffbird** *Notharchus hyperrhynchus*— the largest of the puffbirds in the region was seen three times on the tour with wonderful scope views from the airport road at Lamanai Lodge on the 18<sup>th</sup>, and twice in the Chan Chich area on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

**White-whiskered Puffbird** *Malacoptila panamensis*— all our sightings came from the Chan Chich/Gallon Jug area with singles and pairs most often found perched low by the roadside in overhanging branches, thus behaving very differently to White-necked Puffbird.

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

**Rufous-tailed Jacamar** *Galbula ruficauda*— a long-billed denizen of humid broadleaf forest, heard and seen well at Lamanai Archeological Site on the 17<sup>th</sup> and on the loop trail by Laguna Seca on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Wonderful to watch them sallying for large insects inside the forest from an exposed perch!

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

**Collared Aracari** *Pteroglossus torquatus*—two observed at Chan Chich on the morning bird walk to the staff housing area on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Inexplicably scarce otherwise.

**Keel-billed Toucan** *Ramphastos sulfuratus*— we enjoyed fine scope views at Indian Church, Chan Chich and Gallon Jug on three days of the tour. The National Bird of Belize no less!

### **WOODPECKERS: Picidae (11)**

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** *Sphyrapicus varius* – a wintering individual was discovered on the late afternoon bird walk at Indian Church on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Acorn Woodpecker** *Melanerpes formicivorus*—only seen in the pine-oak habitat at Lamanai Savannah on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup> where two or three showed well.

**Black-cheeked Woodpecker** *Melanerpes pucherani*— a handsome woodpecker of humid broadleaf forest found only in the Chan Chich area, especially around the lodge and staff village where they appeared to be enjoying fruiting Custard Apples and other sweet treats!

**Yucatan Woodpecker** *Melanerpes pygmaeus* (**YE**) — when it rains, it pours! Just as we were about to leave Lamanai Savannah, Eduardo managed to coax in four or five of these endemic woodpeckers as we drifted along Dawson Creek. Similar in appearance to the larger and more abundant Golden-fronted Woodpecker, the Yucatan species is smaller, with a petite bill and 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 seen daily at many locations.

**Ladder-backed Woodpecker** *Dryobates scalaris* – rather localized in Central America and certainly not expected on every visit to Belize, Eduardo pointed out two to some of the group at Lamanai Savannah on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Smoky-brown Woodpecker** *Dryobates fumigatus*— heard and seen all-too-briefly at Lamanai Archeological site on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Pale-billed Woodpecker** *Campephilus guatemalensis* — scarce on this tour with a pair on the Logger's Trail on the 21<sup>st</sup> being the only sighting of Belize's largest woodpecker.

**Lineated Woodpecker** *Dryocopus lineatus*— similar to Pale-billed Woodpecker, though smaller, we found singles and pairs at Lamanai and Chan Chich on at least three days.

**Chestnut-colored Woodpecker** *Celeus castaneus*— great views of this cream-headed stunner at Lamanai Archeological site on the 17<sup>th</sup>, and again at Chan Chich staff village on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Without doubt one of the most beautiful woodpeckers in Central America.

**Golden-olive Woodpecker** *Colaptes rubiginosus*— fortune came our way with one seen very well just after leaving the Sugar Mill at Lamanai Archeological site on the 17<sup>th</sup>, and another heard along the airport road at Lamanai the following day.

#### **FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (6)**

**Barred Forest-Falcon** *Micrastur ruficollis* – travelers in Luis’s vehicle had the great fortune to see this shy, diminutive rainforest predator at fairly close range while heading back to Chan Chich on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Collared Forest-Falcon** *Micrastur cachinnans* (HO) – one heard calling from the airport trail at Lamanai Outpost Lodge on 18<sup>th</sup>, the nasal “oow...oow...oow” calls audible at considerable range.

**Laughing Falcon** *Herpetotheres cachinnans*—a fabulous trip for good views of this unique raptor, scoped at Lamanai Savannah on the 19<sup>th</sup> and Gallon Jug on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius*— scarce this year with a fast moving single over Indian Church on the 16<sup>th</sup>, and a couple seen by the roadside during the transfer from Lamanai to Chan Chich on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Apomado Falcon** *Falco femoralis* – our Belize trips often include views of this rare and beautiful falcon, and this year was no exception. We had stunning views from the boat at Crooked Tree Lagoon on the very first morning of the tour, and later saw a pair sparring with White-tailed Kites at Gallon Jug fields on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Bat Falcon** *Falco ruficularis*— this dynamic little falcon was seen at multiple locations; the New River, Indian Church, Lamanai and Chan Chich escarpment, and a pair were almost always on show at Lamanai Lodge, often viewed in perfect light.

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

**White-crowned Parrot** *Pionus senilis*— fairly widespread with small flocks at Lamanai, Chan Chich and Gallon Jug, and we had good scope views of several perched birds from the staff quarters at Chan Chich.

**Red-lored Parrot** *Amazona autumnalis*— rather scarce at Lamanai, but significantly more common (and seen daily) around Chan Chich Lodge, where we had exceptional views of a small, feeding group on the final morning of the trip.

**Yellow-headed Parrot** *Amazona oratrix*— two flew over the Crooked Tree Causeway on the 16<sup>th</sup> after the boat tour, and another pair flew by us at Lamanai Savannah on the 19<sup>th</sup>. A species that has sadly fallen victim to habitat loss and poaching for the illegal cage bird trade.

**White-fronted Parrot** *Amazona albifrons*—a party of five flew over at Lamanai Savannah on the 19<sup>th</sup>, the only sighting of the entire trip.

**Mealy Parrot** *Amazona farinosa*— the largest *Amazona* parrot in Central America. First spotted by Tom and Sarah at the Chan Chich staff quarters, followed by singles and pairs on three other mornings at Chan Chich Lodge.

**Olive-throated (Aztec) Parakeet** *Eupsittula nana* – an elegant parakeet usually heard in fast moving flocks of up to a dozen or so. Plentiful at Crooked Tree and the Lamanai area but rather scarce at Chan Chich.

#### **ANTBIRDS: Thamnophilidae (2)**

**Barred Antshrike** *Thamnophilus doliatus* (HO) — the distinctive “laughing” song of this species could be heard at Crooked Tree Lagoon and along the airport trail at Lamanai area but alas, we never caught sight of one of these beauties in the field.

**Dot-winged Antwren** *Microrhopias quixensis* – a small family group of four was feeding around a mixed passerine flock on the Sylvester Village Road on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### **ANTTHRUSHES: Formicariidae (1)**

**Black-faced (Mayan) Antthrush** *Formicarius analis*— an intense experience with two or more calling birds playing hide-and-seek with the group along the jungle trail at Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Luckily, a few in our group did have fleeting glimpses as the birds bolted back-and-forth across the trail!

#### **OVENBIRDS AND WOODCREEPERS: Furnariidae (7)**

**Olivaceous Woodcreeper** *Sittasomus griseicapillus*— a small, inconspicuous woodcreeper found on just one day at Lamanai Archeological site on the 17<sup>th</sup>.



**Ruddy Woodcreeper** *Dendrocincla homochroa*— we had the great fortune to discover an ant swarm at Lamanai Archeological site on the 17<sup>th</sup> and found at least two of these beauties in the subsequent feeding frenzy, but Eduardo thought there may have been as many as six!

**Tawny-winged Woodcreeper** *Dendrocincla anabatina* - one seen very well around the ant swarm activity at Lamanai Archeological site on the 17<sup>th</sup>

**Northern Barred Woodcreeper** *Dendrocolaptes sactithomae* – this brute of a woodcreeper showed well during the ant swarm action at Lamanai Archeological site on the 17<sup>th</sup>

**Ivory-billed Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster*— more widespread than other woodcreepers, found at Lamanai Archeological site on the 17<sup>th</sup> and around Chan Chich Lodge on at least three days of the trip.

**Plain Xenops** *Xenops minutus* – a diminutive member of the woodcreeper family seen rather briefly near the museum at Lamanai Archeological site on the 17<sup>th</sup>

**Rufous-breasted Spinetail** *Synallaxis erythrothorax* – a genuine skulker with a taste for dense thickets. A pair gave tantalizing calls and fleeting glimpses in Dawson Creek during the Cocktail Cruise on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

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

**White-collared Manakin** *Manacus candei* (LO) — a male was noted by Eduardo and then James near the water feature at Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Red-capped Manakin** *Ceratopipra mentalis*—a fabulous male brought plenty of excitement during meals at Chan Chich Lodge, and was often visible in the Fruiting Firebush and Breadnut Tree right off the lodge balcony. One of the highlights of the tour.

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

**Rufous Piha** *Lipaugus unirufus*— seen pretty well within mixed feeding flocks along the Chan Chich entrance road and on the steep uphill drive to Chan Chich escarpment.

### **BECARDS AND TITYRAS: Tityridae (3)**

**Masked Tityra** *Tityra semifasciata*—up to six noted around the Chan Chich staff quarters on the 20<sup>th</sup> as they fed voraciously on Red Gumbo Limbo and Custard Apple fruits.

**Northern Schiffornis** *Schiffornis veraepacis*— the far-carrying whistle of this species was heard on two days around Chan Chich with decent views of a singing bird at Laguna Seca on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Rose-throated Becard** *Pachyramphus aglaiae*— a pair fed in the canopy with a mixed feeding flock along the airport trail Lamanai Lodge on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher** *Myiobius sulphureipygius* – good views of one foraging above the Logger's Trail on the afternoon bird walk from Chan Chich on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (21)**

**Stub-tailed Spadebill** *Platyrinchus cancrominus*—a tricky little flycatcher very much at home in dark, humid, broadleaf forests. A few of us had views of one calling at Lamanai Archeological site on the 17<sup>th</sup> and another was heard on the road below Chan Chich escarpment on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Ochre-bellied Flycatcher** *Mionectes oleagineus*— nice views of one by the museum at the Lamanai Archeological site on the 17<sup>th</sup> and another by the staff quarters at Chan Chich on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Northern Bentbill** *Oncostoma cinereigulare* — heard at Lamanai Lodge and Savannah, plus one heard and seen briefly along the Sylvester Village Road at Chan Chich on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Tody-Flycatcher** *Todirostrum cinereum*— one or two along Dawson Creek during the sunset cruise on the 18<sup>th</sup>, and several at Lamanai Savannah on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellow-olive Flycatcher** *Tolmomyias sulphurescens*— singles along the trails around Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, plus one very vocal individual calling at dusk at Chan Chich on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet** *Ornithion semiflavum* – at least one was seen and heard around the museum at Lamanai Archeological site on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet** *Camptostoma imberbe* – a fast-moving little sprite, heard and seen around Lamanai Outpost Lodge and Savannah on three consecutive dates.

**Greenish Elaenia** *Myiopagis viridicata* (HO) – Eduardo pointed out the calls of one of these from a feeding flock near the museum at Lamanai Archeological site on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Northern Tropical Pewee** *Contopus bogotensis* – located by their distinctive calls, heard and seen well at Lamanai Savannah and the Chan Chich staff housing area.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** *Empidonax flaviventris*— the plaintive call of this species was often the best indicator of its presence, but we had views of two at Lamanai Archeological site on the 17<sup>th</sup>, and along the Sylvester Road at Chan Chich Lodge on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Least Flycatcher** *Empidonax minimus* – perhaps the most familiar of all the North American *Empidonax*, we found wintering singles at Lamanai Lodge, Lamanai Savannah and Indian Church

**Vermilion Flycatcher** *Pyrocephalus rubinus*— always a joy to see, especially on the first morning of a tour! Fairly plentiful around Crooked Tree on the 16<sup>th</sup> plus one or two males noted during the transfer to Chan Chich on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Bright-rumped Attila** *Attila spadiceus* – although we heard this species quite frequently at sites such as Crooked Tree, Lamanai Outpost Lodge and the Savannah, we had to wait until Chan Chich for views where two showed remarkably well around the staff housing area on the morning of the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Dusky-capped Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tuberculifer*—a fairly widespread flycatcher found in wooded habitats in the Lamanai area and at Chan Chich. The drawn-out, plaintive call was usually the first indication of their presence.

**Great Crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus crinitus* – wintering individuals were at Lamanai Lodge and Archeological site, and at Chan Chich on three days of the tour.

**Great Kiskadee** *Pitangus sulphuratus*— large, bold and bright, this flycatcher was heard and seen quite frequently at Crooked Tree, the New River and the greater Lamanai area, but more or less absent from Chan Chich.

**Boat-billed Flycatcher** *Megarynchus pitangua*— vocally different than Great Kiskadee, but plumage-wise very similar and easily overlooked. First noted at the gated entrance to Lamanai Lodge on the 17<sup>th</sup> and later followed by several sightings in the Chan Chich/Gallon Jug area where it proved to be more numerous than Great Kiskadee.

**Social Flycatcher** *Myiozetetes similis*— small, attractive and a delight to watch, this ubiquitous flycatcher was found in a variety of situations on each day of the tour, often near habitation.

**Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus*— “TKs” were seen on all nine days of the tour most frequently around habitation.

**Couch’s Kingbird** *Tyrannus couchii*— identified with care, vocalizing birds could be found in the Lamanai area including around the main lodge and at Chan Chich by the staff housing area.

**Fork-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus savana*—immaculate views of this stunner at the Gallon Jug Farm fields on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> where loose flocks of up to 15 could be found perching on weeds, fence posts and shrubs. One of the highlights of the tour.

### **VIREOS: Vireonidae (5)**

**Tawny-crowned Greenlet** *Tunchiornis ochraceiceps* (LO) – two or three foraging along the Logger’s Trail by Chan Chich Lodge on the afternoon bird walk with Luis.

**Lesser Greenlet** *Pachysylvia decurtata*— a small, unobtrusive “vireo” encountered at Lamanai Archeological site, the mature forest along the airport trail at Lamanai as well as the Sylvester Road at Chan Chich Lodge. Always found around mixed feeding flocks.

**White-eyed Vireo** *Vireo griseus*— wintering singles were seen/heard on three dates in the Lamanai area and atop Chan Chich escarpment on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Mangrove Vireo** *Vireo pallens*— similar in appearance to White-eyed Vireo, best identified by the yellow wash on the underparts and by its distinctive vocalizations. A pair was seen at Crooked Tree on the 16<sup>th</sup> and heard along the airport road at Lamanai on the 18<sup>th</sup> as well as Dawson Creek during the sunset cocktail cruise.

**Yellow-throated Vireo** *Vireo flavifrons*— a wintering individual was present in a mixed feeding flock at Lamanai Archeological site on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (3)**

**Brown Jay** *Psilorhinus morio*— raucous and gregarious, this attractive jay was found every day of the tour.  
**Yucatan Jay** *Cyanocorax yucatanicus* (YE) — a roaming flock crossed Dawson Creek as they passed through Lamanai Savannah on the 19<sup>th</sup> offering fabulous views to all present on the boat that morning.

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

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*— sizeable flocks of up to 50 were noted at Crooked Tree Lagoon, New River Lagoon and Dawson Creek, though it was apparently absent from the Chan Chich area.

**Gray-breasted Martin** *Progne chalybea*—this large *hirundine* might have been missed altogether had it not been for a pair hanging around the dock area at Birds Eye View Lodge on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Tree Swallow** *Tachycineta bicolor*— small flocks of winterers were present over Dawson Creek and Lamanai Savannah on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Mangrove Swallow** *Tachycineta albilinea*— one or two pairs were always present around the dock at Lamanai Outpost Lodge and usually offered great views. Larger numbers were found at Crooked Tree Lagoon, along the New River and at Dawson Creek, with a few at Gallon Jug and Laguna Seca.

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

**Trilling Gnatwren** *Ramphocaenus melanurus* (HO) – alas, we had to be content with hearing the tuneful trill of this species along the airport trail at Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 18<sup>th</sup>, despite Eduardo’s best efforts to coax one in.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila caerulea*— a pair in the oak scrub at Lamanai Savannah on the 19<sup>th</sup>. This is a resident species in Belize as well as being a winterer and migrant.

#### **WRENS: Troglodytidae (3)**

**House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon*—found only at Indian church on the afternoon bird walk on the 16<sup>th</sup> where we played hide and seek with a lone bird in a brush pile.

**Spot-breasted Wren** *Pheugopedius maculipectus*— though not uncommon, this vociferous wren was only heard until we finally caught up with two on the Logger’s Trail at Chan Chich on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**White-breasted Wood-Wren** *Henicorhina leucosticte* (HO) — this furtive, understory dweller was limited to two heard-only observations on the Logger’s Trail on the 21<sup>st</sup> and by Laguna Seca on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae (3)**

**Black Catbird** *Melanoptila glabrirostris* (YE) – Sarah and Tom did well to get eyes on this skulking regional endemic in Dawson Creek during the sunset cocktail cruise on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Gray Catbird** *Dumetella carolinensis*—a rather common wintering species found at all three bases on each day of the tour. Chan Chich offered the best views as they were often present around the fruiting bushes and the water feature right off the lodge’s balcony.

**Tropical Mockingbird** *Mimus gilvus*— usually around habitation but easily overlooked with just a handful noted on the drive from Crooked Tree to Bat’s Landing on the 16<sup>th</sup>, as well as Lamanai Savannah and during the transfer through San Felipe and Blue Creek on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### **THRUSHES: Turdidae (2)**

**Wood Thrush** *Hylocichla mustelina*— heard in wooded areas on at least four days of the tour, particularly at Lamanai Archeological site on the 17<sup>th</sup> and around Chan Chich towards the end of the tour. Always a treat to see this North American breeder spending the winter in Belize!

**Clay-colored Thrush** *Turdus grayi*— widespread though rather scarce being noted on five days with the best views around the plaza at Chan Chich Lodge.

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

**Yellow-throated Euphonia** *Euphonia hirundinacea*—a small, brightly colored “yellow-throated” passerine most easily seen in the Lamanai area, especially around the lodge gardens and water features.

**Olive-backed Euphonia** *Euphonia gouldi* – this attractive little *euphonia* proved rather scarce on the tour with one or two at Lamanai Archeological site on the 17<sup>th</sup> and occasional singles around the plaza at Chan Chich Lodge.  
**Lesser Goldfinch** *Spinus psaltria*— Kathy picked out a pair on the way back to Lamanai Lodge from the Sugar Mill in late afternoon on the 17<sup>th</sup>. An uncommon bird in Belize, absent from much of the country though expanding its range in the north, especially in Belize and Orange Walks Districts.

### **NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae (3)**

**Botteri's Sparrow** *Peucaea botterii* – fortune came our way when we had nice views of at least three singing males during the early morning visit to Lamanai Savannah on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Olive Sparrow** *Arremonops rufivirgatus* – another feature of the early morning visit to Lamanai Savannah, Eduardo located one by its “bouncing ball” song and managed to point it out to several in our group.

**Green-backed Sparrow** *Arremonops chloronotus* (HO) – a singing male that didn't want to show along airport trail at Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS AND ORIOLES: Icteridae (10)**

**Eastern Meadowlark** *Sturnella magna*— a few were heard and seen in Lamanai savannah on the 19<sup>th</sup>, but this species came into its own at Gallon Jug farm, where it proved to be plentiful and obliging. Seen on five days of the tour.

**Yellow-billed Cacique** *Amblycercus holosericeus*—more often heard than actually seen, but we did get lucky with views at Lamanai Outpost Lodge and Dawson Creek. Noted on three days of the tour.

**Montezuma Oropendola** *Psarocolius montezuma*— this stunning species was seen most often in flight and found at Black Orchid Resort, Lamanai Outpost Lodge and Gallon Jug fields.

**Black-cowled Oriole** *Icterus prothemelas*— widespread though not abundant, this attractive oriole was found on seven days of the tour at Lamana and Indian Church, with the best views in the vicinity of Chan Chich Lodge.

**Orchard Oriole** *Icterus spurius*— noted on only one day, with three at Lamanai/Indian Church on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Hooded Oriole** *Icterus cucullatus*— a most handsome oriole, seen around the gardens of Indian Church on two dates.

**Baltimore Oriole** *Icterus galbula*— inexplicably scarce or possibly overlooked with just a single noted at Lamanai on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus*—about half-a-dozen at Crooked Tree Lagoon on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Melodious Blackbird** *Dives dives*— though visually unassuming, the pleasant, liquid song of this species was a near-constant at all three bases, and sometimes in good numbers.

**Great-tailed Grackle** *Quiscalus mexicanus*—usually the first species to be seen at Belize International Airport and most often found around habitation.

### **NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (16)**

**Ovenbird** *Seiurus aurocapilla* – singles walking in the leaf litter at Lamanai on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Louisiana Waterthrush** *Parkesia motacilla* – a rather quiet trip for this attractive wood-warbler with one found below the suspension bridge at Chan Chich Creek on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Northern Waterthrush** *Parkesia noveboracensis*— a common wintering species, most easily seen on lawns and manicured areas at Lamanai Archeological site and the plaza at Chan Chich Lodge.

**Black-and-white Warbler** *Mniotilta varia*— perhaps the most distinctive of the wood-warblers and seen amid mixed feeding flocks at Lamanai and the forests around Chan Chich.

**Gray-crowned Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis poliocephala*— remarkably good views of two or three individuals at Lamanai Savannah on the 19<sup>th</sup>, a lucky day indeed!

**Kentucky Warbler** *Geothlypis formosa*—more often heard than seen, single males worked the leaf litter and understory at Lamanai Archeological site on the 17<sup>th</sup>, and on several of the bird walks from Chan Chich Lodge.

**Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas*— rather scarce with singles at Crooked Tree Lagoon and Dawson Creek/Lamanai Savannah.

**Hooded Warbler** *Setophaga citrina*— always a treat, this smart little warbler graced Lamanai Archeological site and the Black Orchid Resort.

**American Redstart** *Setophaga ruticilla*— most often found amid mixed feeding flocks sallying for insects at several of the Lamanai sites, but only once at Chan Chich.

**Northern Parula** *Setophaga Americana* —singles featured in mixed flocks on four dates around Lamanai Outpost Lodge.

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

**Yellow Warbler** *Setophaga petechia*— several at Crooked Tree on the 16<sup>th</sup>, and two in the vicinity of Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler** *Setophaga pensylvanica* - a single gave decent views by the Sugar Mill at Lamanai on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** *Setophaga coronata* – an extraordinary winter incursion of this species with 6 – 15 recorded on six days of the tour from Crooked Tree, Lamanai and especially the Gallon Jug fields.

**Yellow-throated Warbler** *Setophaga dominica*— this beauty wowed us at Crooked Tree, Lamanai Savannah and Chan Chich Lodge with unforgettable views at the water feature at the latter.

**Black-throated Green Warbler** *Setophaga virens*— a scattering of wintering singles with mixed feeding flocks at Lamanai on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, and Laguna Seca on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae (10)**

**Summer Tanager** *Piranga rubra*— quite a common wintering species in Belize, 2 – 5 individuals were recorded on eight days of the tour.

**Red-crowned Ant-Tanager** *Habia rubica* (HO) — very similar to the closely related Red-throated Ant-tanager, heard at Lamanai Archeological site on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Red-throated Ant-Tanager** *Habia fuscicauda*— Lamanai Outpost Lodge and the surrounding area hosted several groups, most of which were heard though we did have good views around the ant swarm at Lamanai Archeological site on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Black-faced Grosbeak** *Caryothraustes poliogaster* – up to six visited the fruiting Fire Bush just off the balcony at Chan Chich Lodge for mesmerizing views at point blank range. One of the highlights of the tour.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** *Pheucticus ludovicianus* – a fine male appeared just off the balcony at Chan Chich Lodge during lunchtime on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Northern Cardinal** *Cardinalis cardinalis*— singing males were noted at Dawson Creek on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Blue Grosbeak** *Passerina caerulea* – good views of a male, albeit briefly, along the airport trail at Lamanai on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Blue-black Grosbeak** *Cyanoloxia cyanooides*— a good showing of this large, brutish grosbeak at Chan Chich Lodge on four dates including a fine male that visited the water feature several times during the heat of the day.

**Blue Bunting** *Cyanocompsa parellina*— this beauty was seen well at Indian Church and the airport trail at Lamanai, as well as frequenting the water feature and the plaza area by the main lodge building at Chan Chich.

**Painted Bunting** *Passer ciris* – a nice little gift during the afternoon bird walk at Indian Church on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **TANAGERS AND ALLIES: Thraupidae (9)**

**Gray-headed Tanager** *Eucometis penicillata* – another reward for sticking close to the ant swarm at Lamanai Archeological site on the 17<sup>th</sup>. This bird came in to join the melee of woodcreepers and ant-tanagers and offered great views to most of our group.

**Black-throated Shrike-Tanager** *Lanio aurantius* —always a thrill, this gaudy, black-and-yellow tanager was seen well at Lamanai Archeological site on the 17<sup>th</sup> and by the suspension bridge at Chan Chich Creek on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Blue-gray Tanager** *Thraupis episcopus*— decidedly scarce, with just one or two noted at the Black Orchid and a single photographed by Barbara at Lamanai Lodge on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellow-winged Tanager** *Thraupis abbas*—a highly attractive and appropriately named tanager seen on at least six days and often featuring amid the excitement off the lodge balcony at Chan Chich during meal times.

**Golden-hooded Tanager** *Tangara larvata*— much sought-after, this species oozed the “wow” factor and was found off the balcony at Chan Chich Lodge on at least three days.

**Red-legged Honeycreeper** *Cyanerpes cyaneus*— a smart little passerine with up to six occurring in and around mixed flocks at Lamanai and Indian Church.

**Blue-black Grassquit** *Volatinia jacarina*— good scope views of an immature male during the village walk to Indian Church on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Morelet's Seedeater** *Sporophila moreletii*— fairly common though unobtrusive, usually found in small flocks along fences and field edges with rank grasses, but also visiting the water features at Lamanai and Chan Chich Lodge.

**Black-headed Saltator** *Saltator atriceps*— a real brute of a passerine, most often found in noisy groups at Lamanai Outpost Lodge, Indian Church and the plaza at Chan Chich Lodge.

**Cinnamon-bellied Saltator** *Saltator grandis* (HO) – a singing bird was heard though not seen along the airport trail from Lamanai Outpost Lodge on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **MAMMALS (14 species recorded):**

**Southern Opossum** *Didelphis marsupialis* – Luis pointed one out from the game-ranger vehicle on the night safari to Gallon Jug fields on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Proboscis Bat** *Rhynchonycteris naso*— fairly numerous, with roosts found in a variety of situations at Black Orchid Resort, along the New River and during the Lamanai night safari on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Greater Fishing Bat** *Noctilio liporinus* – one of the largest bats in Central America found majestically hawking over the New River during the Lamanai night safari on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Vesper Bat** *Glossophaginae sp.* - Chris spotlighted several in flight over the Gallon jug fields during the night safari on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Northern Ghost Bat** *Diclidurus albus* – several of these beauties were pointed out by Chris on the night safari over the Gallon Jug fields on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Yucatan Black Howler Monkey** *Alouatta pigra*—widespread, vocal and quite approachable at times, we had wonderful views at Lamanai Archeological site on the 17<sup>th</sup> and around Chan Chich Lodge.

**Central American Spider Monkey** *Ateles geoffroyi*— present though scarce in the mature rainforest around Chan Chich where we had our best views of small family groups on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Deppe's Squirrel** *Sciurus deppi* – this small, brownish squirrel was noted at Lamanai on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Central American Agouti** *Dasyprocta punctata*— shy and retiring with a few singles noted along the trails at Lamanai and by the roadsides close to Chan Chich Lodge.

**White-tailed Deer** *Odocoileus virginianus*— fairly numerous around Chan Chich Lodge and Gallon Jug, and often seen inside the lodge grounds.

**White-lipped Pecary** *Tayassu pecari* – a huge herd, perhaps 25+, spotted foraging in the forest close to the entrance road to Chan Chich on the afternoon of the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Despite being pig-like and large, they were actually quite difficult to see well, best detected by the foul odor emanating from their scent glands!

**Northern Raccoon** *Procyon lotor* – Luis spotlighted a family group from his game-ranger vehicle on the night safari to the Gallon Jug fields on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**White-nosed Coati** *Nasua narica*— a small group treated us to great views at the Spanish Church at Lamanai Archeological Reserve on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Gray Fox** *Urocyon cinereoargenteus*— one dashed across the road as we drove along the entrance road to Chan Chich during the transfer on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (9 species recorded):**

**Morelet's Crocodile** *Crocodylus moreletii*— a few noted at Crooked Tree Lagoon, the New River and at Chan Chich Creek. Eduardo spotlighted one of these swimming below the surface of the water during the night safari on the 17<sup>th</sup>, surely one of the highlights of the tour.

**Green Iguana** *Iguana iguana*— plenty at Crooked Tree Lagoon including a couple of massive males and several more quite easily spotted along the New River.

**Brown Basilisk** *Basiliscus vittatus* – a wide scattering of singles at Lamanai and Chan Chich, plus a tiny juvenile at Laguna Seca on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Black Spiny-tailed Iguana** *Ctenosaura similis*—nice looks at one basking on a pile of breeze blocks at Indian Church on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Cat's Eye Snake** *Leptodeira septentrionalis* – one was beautifully photographed by Barbara at Chan Chich, a rare daytime sighting of this largely nocturnal snake.

**Gecko sp** – quite frequently spotted in the cabanas and around the dining areas at both lodges. Some were thought to be Asian House Geckos, a non-native species.

**Marine (or Cane) Toad** *Rhinella marina* —heard calling and sometimes seen around the water feature at Lamanai Outpost Lodge.

**Gulf Coast Toad** *Incillus valliceps* – one pointed out by Luis in the leaf litter at Chan Chich on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Rio Grande Leopard Frog** *Lithobates berlandieri* – another amphibian that was heard/seen on two days around the water feature at Lamanai Outpost Lodge. Also known as Mexican Leopard Frog.

**Common Slider** *Trachemys scripta* – singles basking out in the open at Crooked Tree Lagoon and the New River on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**BUTTERFLYS: 9 species recorded.**

**Banded Peacock** *Anartia Fatima*

**White Peacock** *Anartia jatrophae*

**Yellow-bordered Owl-Butterfly** *Caligo uranus* –

**White Florida** *Ascia monuste*

**Queen** *Danaus gilippus*

**Zebra Longwing** *Heliconius charithonia*

**Julia** *Dryas Julia*

**Orange Tiger** *Dryadula phaetusa*

**Monarch** *Danaus plexippus*