

# Belize: Three Great Lodges | Species List

## February 7 – 17, 2023 | with Naturalist Journeys



**With local guides; Isaias and Roque (Black Rock Lodge), Mario (Pook's Hill) and Steve (The Lodge at Big Falls) and participants; Barb, Liz, Julie, Kathy, John, Phyllis & Mike, Jan & Norm, Thea & Tom.**

Compiled by James P. Smith

A hugely enjoyable tour based at three unique lodges chosen for their general excellence, wonderful food and close proximity to a diverse range of habitats in beautiful surroundings. As a group we tallied some 254 bird species highlighted by three species of hawk-eagles, three regional endemics, 11 species of hummingbirds and giant Scarlet Macaws winging across the slopes of the Maya Mountains! Each lodge came with supremely talented local guides, all of whom shared their field skills with genuine enthusiasm to the delight of our cordial, well-humored group. This was such a fun tour and a fabulous group of folks to travel with!

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

(LO)= Leader/Guide only observation

(I)= Introduced

(YE) = Endemic to the Yucatan region

### **BIRDS (254 species recorded of which seven were heard-only and one was a leader-only observation).**

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

**Little Tinamou** *Crypturellus soui* (HO) — heard on two occasions at the Lodge at Big Falls with one bird calling unseen but agonizingly close to the group during the final afternoon with Steve.

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

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna autumnalis*— about 15 dropped into the small pond close to Maya Flats airfield on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Muscovy Duck** *Cairina moschata* – a completely random sighting of four flying across the Southern Highway as we drove back to Big Falls from Nim Li Punit on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Blue-winged Teal** *Spatula discors* – noted on just two dates with c.100 on the farm ponds at Spanish Lookout on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

There was also a pair on a small pond as we left Pook's Hill on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**\*Cinnamon x Blue-winged Teal** *Spatula cyanoptera x discors* – a male closely resembling a pure Cinnamon Teal at the farm ponds at Spanish Lookout on the 9<sup>th</sup>. However, closer inspection revealed several aberrant features including a partial white facial crescent, a white spot on the rear flanks and extensive spotting along the side of the body all pointing towards mixed parentage with Blue-winged Teal.

#### **GUANS AND CURASSOWS: Cracidae (1)**

**Plain Chachalaca** *Ortalis vetula*— noted almost daily with up to a dozen seen or heard at all three lodges, but most common at Big Falls.

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

**Ocellated Turkey** *Meleagris ocellata* (YE) - Isaias nearly fell off his chair when we found a flock of 20 – 25 in the fields at Spanish Lookout on the 9<sup>th</sup>, actually seen twice in the day just before and after lunch.

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

**Black-throated Bobwhite** *Colinus nigrogularis* – fortune definitely came our way when we stumbled across of covey of about 16 in the sandy pine-barrens on the way to Red Bank Village on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **GREBES: Podicipedidae (2)**

**Least Grebe** *Tachybaptus dominicus* – An unusual gathering of about eight in the farm ponds at Spanish Lookout on the 9<sup>th</sup>, plus one on a tiny cattle pond along the approach road to Pook's Hill on the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps*— one hanging out with the Least Grebe flock at the farm ponds at Spanish Lookout on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (11)**

**Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia* (1) – up to 10 in residential San Ygnacio on at least three dates of the tour.

**Pale-vented Pigeon** *Patagioenas cayennensis*— aside from one or two noted around Black Orchid Resort, curiously absent for the first half of the trip, but small flocks noted almost daily in the Big Falls area.

**Scaled Pigeon** *Patagioenas speciose* – Isaias worked some magic as he noted one resting in the sub-canopy on the walk down to Slate Creek, a rare opportunity to see the intricate breast scaling at close range.

**Red-billed Pigeon** *Patagioenas flavirostris*—noted on three dates, especially at Pook's Hill.

**Short-billed Pigeon** *Patagioenas nigrirostris*— a pigeon of mature tropical rainforest more often heard than seen, but on this tour we had great views around the parking lot and staff quarters at Black Rock Lodge as well as several sightings at Pook's Hill.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** *Streptopelia decaocta* (1) – an invasive species set to become a regular feature of birding trips to Belize. Up to 10 seen along the roadsides during travel days, though thankfully not present around the three lodges.

**Plain-breasted Ground-Dove** *Columbina minuta*—two seen rather well along a drainage at Spanish Lookout on Feb 9<sup>th</sup>, and later in the trip, one at Big Falls on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Ruddy Ground-Dove** *Columbina talpacoti*— pretty common throughout our travels, usually flushed up in villages, parking lots, field edges and so on.

**Blue Ground-Dove** *Claravis pretiosa* – males were heard calling on two dates after the first at Pook's on the 11<sup>th</sup> though actual sightings eluded us throughout the tour.

**White-tipped Dove** *Leptotila verreauxi*— heard well at all three lodges, but only seen around Black Rock on one date.

**White-winged Dove** *Zenaida asiatica*— common and widespread in the first half of the trip, especially at Spanish Lookout on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Far fewer in the Big Falls area with most seen on utility wires around Red Bank and Roseville.

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

**Groove-billed Ani** *Crotophaga sulcirostris*—found in social groups along fences and field edges in rural areas and noted almost every day.

**Squirrel Cuckoo** *Piaya cayana*— quite widespread during our travels but sometimes tricky to observe well, though we did secure good views at Black Rock, Pook's Hill and Tunich Ha as well as good views of one flying across the road at Mountain Pine Ridge.

### **NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae (1)**

**Common Pauraque** *Nyctidromus albicollis*— a brilliant vocalist, present in the vicinity of all three lodges but seen especially well at Black Rock where local guide Roque lined one up in the scope for some in our group for rare daytime views – how lovely!

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

**Northern Potoo** *Nyctibius jamaicensis* – a couple found by our local guides on the Black Rock night safari on the 8<sup>th</sup> including one that cooperated for long enough to be seen well in the scopes.

### **SWIFTS: Apodidae (3)**

**White-collared Swift** *Streptoprocne zonaris* – a stellar tour for this aerial beauty, flocks of Central America's largest swift were found over Belize Botanical Gardens, Mountain Pine Ridge, Green Hills, Pook's Hill and Tunich Ha.

**Vaux's Swift** *Chaetura vauxi*— small concentrations of *chaetura* swifts over Belize Botanical Gardens, Green Hills and Pook's Hill were all thought to be this species.

**Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift** *Panyptila cayennensis*—this handsome swift appeared briefly over Belize Botanical gardens on the 8<sup>th</sup>. The same evening Isaias showed us the hanging nest of a pair along the Black Rock entrance road...and the nest was occupied!

### **HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae (11)**

**White-necked Jacobin** *Florisuga mellivora*— a regular balcony bird at Black Rock and Pook's Hill but the "jacobin experience" reached another level at Green Hills Butterfly Ranch where we must have seen 25 – 35 males contesting for limited space at the feeders, a truly mesmerizing experience with many of these beauties at arm's length oblivious to our presence.

**Long-billed Hermit** *Phaethornis longirostris*— plentiful at Black Rock, Green Hills and Pook's Hill but notably scarce around Big Falls.

**Stripe-throated Hermit** *Phaethornis striigularis*— a ridiculously fast hummer, less inclined to visit feeders than other species and best seen gleaning nectar from flowers. We had good views of this little dynamo at Black Rock, Big Falls and especially in the gardens of Tunich Ha.

**Green-breasted Mango** *Anthracothorax prevostii*— singles could be found in the flowering Quamwoods off the balcony at Black Rock, and several came into the feeders at Green Hills Butterfly Ranch on the 11th.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** *Archilochus colubris*— a wintering bird worked the ornamental flowers in the parking lot at Sisters Café, Spanish Lookout on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Wedge-tailed Sabrewing** *Pampa curvipennis* – only found at Green Hills Butterfly Ranch on the 11<sup>th</sup> where four or five of these beauties joined the melee at the feeding station.

**Violet Sabrewing** *Campylopterus hemileucurus* – this stunner was seen on just one day with about six joining other hummers at the feeders at Green Hills Butterfly Ranch on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Scaly-breasted Hummingbird** *Phaeochroa cuvierii* – most easily found at Black Rock where they were often heard singing at dawn and offered good views around the cabanas and in the parking area. We came across others at Green Hills Butterfly Ranch, and the Belize Spice Farm.

**Cinnamon Hummingbird** *Amazilia rutila* – devilishly difficult to see at times, one or two were present at Hopkins Bay Resort during our lunch stop, though we did go on to have slightly better views at the Scarlet Macaw B&B in Red Bank Village on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**White-bellied Emerald** *Amazilia candida* – most easily viewed at the feeders at Green Hills Butterfly Ranch and especially at the balcony feeders at Pook's Hill Lodge.

**Rufous-tailed Hummingbird** *Amazilia tzacatl*— ubiquitous, well-named and found each day in a wide variety of locations, most often around gardens with flowering plants.

### **RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae (6)**

**Russet-naped Wood-Rail** *Aramides albiventris* – three or more showed well as they strutted around the edge of the woodland and the pond at Green Hills Butterfly Ranch on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Sora** *Porzana carolina* – fine scope views of one out in the open at the farm ponds at Spanish Lookout on the 9<sup>th</sup> followed by many heard vocalizing with Ruddy Crakes at the "Dump" rice fields near Big Falls on the 14th.

**Common Gallinule** *Gallinula galeata* – one showed very well at Aguacate Lagoon near the Spanish Lookout on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Purple Gallinule** *Porphyrio martinica* – a single sub-adult frequented the small pond by the road at Maya Flats and was a pretty safe bet every time we drove past – quite the treat!

**American Coot** *Fulica americana* – a small group of three at the farm ponds at Spanish Lookout on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Ruddy Crake** *Laterallus ruber* (HO) – the descending trill of this smart little crake was heard frequently at Aguacate Lagoon on the 9<sup>th</sup>, plus a veritable chorus of them at the "Dump" near Big Falls on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **LIMPKIN: Aramidae (1)**

**Limpkin** *Aramus garauna*— one at the Spanish Lookout wetlands on the 9<sup>th</sup> and another by the Hopkins Wetlands during the transfer day on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus* – fairly numerous at Spanish Lookout on the 9<sup>th</sup> with perhaps a dozen seen that day.

### **PLOVERS: Charadriidae (1)**

**Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus* – an incursion year perhaps? About 15 flushed up from a meadow as we left Spanish Lookout on the 9<sup>th</sup> and at least three in a flooded meadow on the approach road to Pook's Hill on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Later in the tour we came across an early morning single standing (literally!) on the Southern Highway at Gold Stream on the 15<sup>th</sup>, and about four in a flooded meadow at Roseville on the same day.

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

**Northern Jacana** *Jacana spinosa*— adults and immatures of this highly attractive wading bird were found in wetlands and flooded meadows at Maya Flats, Spanish Lookout and Roseville on four days of the tour.

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

**Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla* – the only peep seen on the tour with nice scope views of four at the farm ponds at Spanish Lookout on the 9<sup>th</sup>

**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius*— several seen from Maya Flats south to the Uno Wharf at Punta Gorda, seemingly at home on small farm ponds, rivers or along the shore.

**Solitary Sandpiper** *Tringa solitaria* – such a nice surprise to find at least three on a small, flooded meadow at Roseville on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca* – the flooded meadows at Spanish Lookout and Roseville offered nice looks at this widespread *Tringa* on two days of the trip.

#### **GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (4)**

**Laughing Gull** *Leucophaeus atricilla* – two seen during the lunch break at Hopkins Bay on the 13<sup>th</sup> followed by better looks at three or more resting with terns and pelicans at the Uno Wharf, Punta Gorda on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Royal Tern** *Thalasseus maximus* – decent numbers (10+) at Hopkins Bay flying along the beach or resting on the sea front on the 13<sup>th</sup>, and similar numbers with other terns (and pelicans) at the Uno Wharf, Punta Gorda on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis* – fairly common at the coastal hotspots with up to a dozen at Hopkins Bay and larger numbers at Punta Gorda with up to 45 at rest with other terns at the Uno Wharf on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Forster's Tern** *Sterna forsteri* – nice views of four in non-breeding plumage with Sandwich and Royal Terns at the Uno Wharf in Punta Gorda on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Wood Stork** *Mycteria americana*— incredible views of fly-over and nesting Wood Storks in large numbers at Spanish Lookout on the 9<sup>th</sup> followed by a single at Hopkins Wetlands on the 13<sup>th</sup> and two soaring over Big Falls lodge on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### **FRIAGTEBIRDS: Fregatidae (1)**

**Magnificent Frigatebird** *Fregata magnificens* – these graceful ocean wanderers gave awe-inspiring views as they cruised over the shore riding warm sea breezes at Hopkins Bay and Punta Gorda, with a few drifting inland over Tunich Ha.

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

**Anhinga** *Anhinga anhinga*— good views at Spanish Lookout on the 9<sup>th</sup> mostly of birds in flight but also several nesting pairs plus a single noted off the causeway at Hopkins Bay on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Neotropic Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*—a dozen or so in the wetlands at Spanish Lookout on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Double-crested Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax auritus* – one seen in flight heading out to sea at Punta Gorda on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### **PELICANS: Pelecanidae (1)**

**Brown Pelican** *Pelecanus occidentalis* – strictly coastal, small numbers showed beautifully as they glided over the shoreline at Hopkins Bay Resort and Punta Gorda.

#### **HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (13)**

**Least Bittern** *Ixobrychus exilis* (HO) – the muffled calls of this tiny heron were heard at close range at the Dump rice fields on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias*— a familiar species on three dates at Spanish Lookout, Hopkins Wetlands and along the coast at Punta Gorda.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba* – numerous in large wetlands with smaller numbers in roadside meadows as well as along the Macal River on at least five days of the tour.

**Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula*— fairly widespread though not particularly numerous in wetlands and flooded fields on six days.

**Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea*— only plentiful at Spanish Lookout with around 40 seen on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Otherwise, a wide scattering of adults and immatures at sites such as Black Rock, Pook's Hill and the Dump rice fields.

**Tricolored Heron** *Egretta tricolor* – a lonely bird in a drainage ditch at Spanish Lookout on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* – abundant, found almost anywhere in pasture hosting livestock.

**Green Heron** *Butorides virescens*— good numbers found at Spanish Lookout on the 9th but otherwise a few on the small pond at Maya Flats and along the approach road to Pook's Hill.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*— an adult found roosting close to nesting Wood Storks and Anhingas at Spanish Lookout on the 9th.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** *Nyctanassa violacea*— one at the small pond at Maya Flats on the 9th with eight or more at Spanish Lookout on the same day. Towards the end of the tour, at least seven adults roosting/resting by the dock at Uno Wharf in Punta Gorda on the 16th.

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

**Roseate Spoonbill** *Platalea ajaja* – an immature seen in flight several times, beautifully illuminated by the late afternoon sunlight at the Dump rice fields on the 14th. One of the highlights of the tour.

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

**King Vulture** *Sarcoramphus papa*— the most majestic of vultures, we found a few at Belize Botanic Garden, Spanish Lookout, Slate Creek, Pook's Hill plus an awesome display of multiple birds soaring over Roseville on the 15th.

**Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus*— frequently seen soaring in kettles, one of the most visible birds of the entire tour.

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura*—only slightly less common than Black Vulture, often seen within the same kettles.

**Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture** *Cathartes burrovianus*— carefully identified due to its similarity to Turkey Vulture, we enjoyed glorious views at Spanish Lookout and at the Dump rice fields near Big Falls.

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

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*—singles on five days of the trip, mostly over rivers and wetlands.

#### **HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (14)**

**White-tailed Kite** *Elanus leucurus*— how lovely to see a pair hunting in early evening at the Dump rice fields near Big Falls on the 14th and one on the way to Punta Gorda airport on the 17th.

**Hook-billed Kite** *Chondrohierax uncinatus* - Isaias spotted a dark morph soaring with a couple of Black Vultures on the approach road to Pook's Hills on the 11th.

**Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle** *Spizaetus melanoleucus* – scope views of a perched adult drying its wings across the Macal River on our first morning at Black Rock Lodge, and another, or possibly the same bird, scoped by Roque for some of our group a couple of days later.

**Black Hawk-Eagle** *Spizaetus tyrannus*— high-flying displaying males were seen and heard over the Lodge at Big Falls on the 14th and Tunich Ha on the 16th, plus another was seen gliding over the Southern Highway on the way to Punta Gorda on the 17th.

**Ornate Hawk-Eagle** *Spizaetus ornatus* – the tour got off to a wonderful start early in the trip with stunning scope views of this species perched by its nest along Black Rock Road. One of the most sought-after raptors in Central America and a privilege to see it so well.

**Double-tooted Kite** *Harpagus bidentatus* – very much a raptor of mature tropical rainforest and found just once on the tour at Aguacate Lagoon on the 9th though we did have excellent views through the scopes.

**Common Black Hawk** *Buteogallus anthracinus* – one (briefly) along the causeway at Hopkins Wetlands resting on a roadside utility pole followed by a much more satisfactory experience at the Dump rice fields with one or two in view for much of the evening, and a pair displaying over Tunich Ha on the 16th.

**Zone-tailed Hawk** *Buteo albonotatus* – Isaias did well to pick out this Turkey Vulture mimic as it soared over the group at Spanish Lookout on the 9th. A scarce winter visitor in Belize and a good find for our tour.

**Roadside Hawk** *Rupornis magnirostris*— such a well-named hawk, found alongside roadsides as well as other habitats on at least six days with the most (12+) along the Southern Highway in the rain from Hopkins Bay to Big Falls.

**White-tailed Hawk** *Geranoatus albicaudatus* – fabulous views of a sub-adult and a juvenile over a freshly plowed field at Spanish Lookout on the 9th.

**White Hawk** *Pseudastur albicollis* —this stunner was seen perched across the Macal River at Black Rock on the 8th, at Mountain Pine Ridge and Slate Creek on the 10th and at Pook's Hill on the afternoon of the 12th.

**Gray Hawk** *Buteo plagiatus*— not especially common though seen well at Spanish Lookout on the 9th and at Pook's Hill on the 11th and 12th.

**Broad-winged Hawk** *Buteo platypterus* – adults soaring with other raptors were at Slate Creek on the 10th and Tunich Ha on the 16th.

**Short-tailed Hawk** *Buteo brachyurus*— found on three days with light-morphs seen on the approach to Pook's Hill on the 11<sup>th</sup>, and at Red Bank Village on the 15<sup>th</sup>, plus a couple of dark-morphs at Blue Hole National Park on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis* – an immature was one of several raptors following a tractor plowing a damp field at Spanish Lookout on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### **OWLS: Strigidae (5)**

**Spectacled Owl** *Pulsatrix perspicillata* – Mario conjured up a roosting pair by Roaring Creek at Pook's Hill on the 12<sup>th</sup>, most certainly one of the highlights of the tour.

**Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl** *Galucidium brasilianum* (HO) – one called continuously during the roadside stop at Corozalito near Maya Flats Airstrip on the 11<sup>th</sup> but, alas, it couldn't be coaxed in for views.

**Black-and-white Owl** *Ciccaba nigrolineata* – a male was heard calling several times during our stay at the Lodge at Big Falls and on the final evening Steve quite brilliantly spotlighted it in the big trees right above the swimming pool!

**Mottled Owl** *Ciccaba virgate* – one seen very well by Roque and his group on the night safari from Black Rock on the 8<sup>th</sup> and there was a second (albeit brief) sighting from Isaias and his party on the same evening.

**Middle American Screech-Owl** *Megascops guatemalae* (HO) – heard twice during the night safari along Black Rock Road. One was frustratingly close, the rapid, monotone trill clearly audible only a few feet from the road!

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

**Slaty-tailed Trogon** *Trogon massena*— Isaias spotted the first close to the parking lot at Black Rock Lodge on the 8<sup>th</sup> with another two at Black Rock on the 10<sup>th</sup> and up to three seen while on foot at Pook's Hill on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Black-headed Trogon** *Trogon melanocephalus*—the most widespread trogon on the tour being found in humid, broadleaf forest at all three lodges as well as other locations such as the Belize Botanical Garden and Tunich Ha.

**Gartered Trogon** *Trogon caligatus*— stunning views of a male at the Belize Botanic Gardens on the 8<sup>th</sup> followed by singles at Black Rock and Pook's Hill Lodges.

#### **MOTMOTS: Motmotidae (1)**

**Lesson's Motmot** *Momotus lessonii* – aloof to say the least but hard work finally paid off at Red Bank Village on the 15<sup>th</sup> when Steve found one calling and successfully coaxed it towards the road for great views.

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

**Ringed Kingfisher** *Megaceryle torquata*— Central America's largest kingfisher was found in singles and pairs at Spanish Lookout, Pook's Hill and Big Falls.

**Belted Kingfisher** *Megaceryle alcyon*— this familiar winter visitor was found at Spanish Lookout and the Macal River at Black Rock Lodge.

**Amazon Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle amazona* – a regular feature by the Macal River at Black Rock Lodge and sometimes scoped from the restaurant balcony during the morning coffee hour. In addition, fabulous views of a pair attending a nest in the banks of Roaring Creek at Pook's Hill....a super tour for viewing this often aloof species.

**Green Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle americana*— a feisty little kingfisher found on the rivers at all three lodges as well as some of the outlying areas such as Spanish Lookout.

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

**White-necked Puffbird** *Notharchus hyperrhynchus*— the largest of the Puffbirds in the Central American region appeared only once on the trip but did offer excellent scope views at Black Rock Lodge on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

**White-whiskered Puffbird** *Malacoptila panamensis*— sensational looks at a highly cooperative female at Blue Hole National Park, one of the highlights of the tour, plus fine encounters with the species at Black Rock, Aguacate Lagoon and Pook's Hill.

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

**Rufous-tailed Jacamar** *Galbula ruficauda*— humid broadleaf forest is home to this beauty, and we had fine views by the pond at Belize Botanical Gardens on the 8<sup>th</sup> plus one calling on the access road to Pook's on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Collared Aracari** *Pteroglossus torquatus*—lots of enjoyable moments with this attractive toucan at Black Rock and Pook's Hill and even while waiting for the hand-cranked ferry by the Belize River at Baking Pot near Spanish Lookout!

**Keel-billed Toucan** *Ramphastos sulfuratus*— we found the National Bird of Belize on at least seven days of the trip, mostly at Black Rock and Pook's Hill.

### **WOODPECKERS: Picidae (7)**

**Acorn Woodpecker** *Melanerpes formicivorus*— distinctive and approachable, we came across this attractive woodpecker in the pine-savannah habitat at Douglas Da Silva forest camp on the 10<sup>th</sup>, and along the dirt road to Red Bank Village on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Black-cheeked Woodpecker** *Melanerpes pucherani*— very much a key species during our visit to Pook's Hill where it was seen well every day.

**Golden-fronted Woodpecker** *Melanerpes aurifrons*—easily the most common woodpecker seen on the tour and seemingly very much at home around our wonderful lodges.

**Smoky-brown Woodpecker** *Dryobates fumigatus*— the entrance road to the Lodge at Big Falls offered great views of this beauty on the 14<sup>th</sup> and again on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Pale-billed Woodpecker** *Campephilus guatemalensis*—the distinctive “double-knock” of this large woodpecker was heard on the first morning at Black Rock with birds subsequently seen in forested locations on five days of the trip.

**Lineated Woodpecker** *Dryocopus lineatus* — Barb and Liz found one at Black Orchid Resort, but otherwise inexplicably scarce on our trip with singles at Black Rock Lodge on the 8<sup>th</sup> and Num Li Punit on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Golden-olive Woodpecker** *Colaptes rubiginosus*— exceptional views of this aloof species at a nest hole at Pook's Hill on the 12<sup>th</sup>, and behind the swimming pool at the Lodge at Big Falls on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Laughing Falcon** *Herpetotheres cachinnans*—wonderful views of birds perched out in the open two days in a row. Viewed from the white roads around Black Rock Lodge on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, and another on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius*— open fields and meadows around Spanish Lookout proved to be prime habitat for this beautiful little falcon with over a dozen seen on the 9<sup>th</sup> closely followed by really wonderful views of one hunting over the uplands at Cooma Cairn on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Apomado Falcon** *Falco femoralis* – we were treated to stunning views of a perched bird at Spanish Lookout on the 9<sup>th</sup> followed by a much more distant pair at Dump rice fields near Big Falls on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Unquestionably one of the most beautiful falcons in the world!

**Bat Falcon** *Falco rufigularis* — we found this perky little falcon on four days at a variety of locations and habitats with views of a copulating pair by the meadow at Pook's Hill on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Orange-breasted Falcon** *Falco deiroleucus* – very rare in Central America, but with a stronghold in Belize/Guatemala, Isaias made a special effort to share his knowledge and found this beauty perched in the dramatic valley viewed from Slate Creek lookout on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

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

**White-crowned Parrot** *Pionus senilis*— great views of a party of three in a cecropia on the first morning with Isaias at Black Rock, and again at Black Rock Lodge on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Otherwise, views were limited to flyovers at Pook's Hill on the 13<sup>th</sup> and Red Bank Village on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Red-lored Parrot** *Amazona autumnalis*— stunning views of this large *Amazona* in perfect afternoon light on the first afternoon at Orange Gallery. Rather scarce at Black Rock but elsewhere flocks were seen and heard in a wide variety of locations on almost every day of the trip.

**White-fronted Parrot** *Amazona albifrons* — a large, noisy flock around the Mennonite Town Hall on the 9<sup>th</sup>, surprisingly the only sighting for the tour.

**Olive-throated (Aztec) Parakeet** *Eupsittula nana* – what a treat! Beautiful views of several feeding on Madre De Cacao flowers in perfect sunlight on the first afternoon at Orange Gallery east of San Ygnacio. Afterwards we came across fast-moving flocks of 4–25 on most days of the trip.

**Scarlet Macaw** *Ara macao* – over 20 of these magnificent beasts seen flying and squawking in twos and threes above the forested hillsides of Roseville. Afterwards we heard and saw several more when we returned to Red Bank Village later the same morning.

### **ANTBIRDS: Thamnophilidae (6)**

**Great Antshrike** *Taraba major* – this mighty antbird was heard and seen with Steve on the final afternoon of the tour at the Lodge at Big Falls.

**Barred Antshrike** *Thamnophilus doliatus*— after hearing them well at Pook's Hill, we finally clinched great views with Steve at the Lodge at Big Falls on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Black-crowned Antshrike** *Thamnophilus atrinucha* – Steve coaxed in a fine male for really excellent views at Tunich Ha on the 16<sup>th</sup>. A scarce bird in Belize that reaches the northern limit of its Central American range in Toledo District.

**Dot-winged Antwren** *Microrhopias quixensis* – pairs and/or family groups were seen at Pook’s Hill on the 12<sup>th</sup> and particularly well at Blue Hole National Park on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Dusky Antbird** *Cercomacroides tyrannina*— patience was rewarded with good views of this true skulker at Pook’s Hill and the Lodge at Big Falls.

**Bare-crowned Antbird** *Gymnocichla nudiceps* – very much a specialty of the Lodge at Big Falls, this strikingly plumaged antbird can be exceptionally difficult to find, but with Steve’s help several in our group had good looks at a male on the final afternoon of the tour.

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

**Mayan Antthrush** *Formicarius moniliger* —singing birds could be heard along the wooded entrance to the Lodge at Big Falls and, after fleeting glimpses on the 14<sup>th</sup>, a pair showed reasonably well to some of the group on the afternoon of the 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### **OVENBIRDS AND WOODCREEPERS: Furnariidae (5)**

**Olivaceous Woodcreeper** *Sittasomus griseicapillus*— nice looks at this inconspicuous woodcreeper around a mixed feeding flock at Belize Botanical Gardens on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Tawny-winged Woodcreeper** *Dendrocinia anabatina* – great views along the entrance road to Pook’s Hill on the 11<sup>th</sup> and again at the Lodge at Big Falls with Steve on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Wedge-billed Woodcreeper** *Glyphorhynchus spirurus* – delightful looks at this small, well-named woodcreeper at Num Li Punit and Tunich Ha on two consecutive days.

**Ivory-billed Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster*— the most widespread of the woodcreepers, with singles and/or pairs seen at various sites from Black Rock Lodge to Tunich Ha on at least five dates.

**Rufous-breasted Spinetail** *Synallaxis erythrothorax* – this reclusive, long-tailed skulker was seen pretty well at the Dump rice fields on the 14<sup>th</sup> and on the afternoon bird walk at the Lodge at Big Falls on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

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

**White-collared Manakin** *Manacus candei*— handsome males were found at all three lodges as well as the gardens at Tunich Ha where we probably had the best views of the whole tour on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Red-capped Manakin** *Ceratopipra mentalis*— always a treat, stunning, white-eyed males were found along the Slate Creek Trail at Mountain Pine Ridge on the 10<sup>th</sup>, and in the lush gardens at Tunich Ha on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Masked Tityra** *Tityra semifasciata* – Black Rock Lodge proved to be the only spot for this normally more widespread species.

**Northern Schiffornis** *Schiffornis veraepacis*— the haunting whistle of this difficult-to-see forest dweller was heard on four days with pretty good views along the entrance road to Pook’s Hill on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Rose-throated Becard** *Pachyramphus aglaiae* – nice looks at Belize Botanical Gardens on the 8<sup>th</sup> and the Lodge at Big Falls on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher** *Myiobius sulphureipygius* – this oft-alooof forest flycatcher showed delightfully well above the picnic area at Blue Hole National Park on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### **TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (22)**

**Stub-tailed Spadebill** *Platyrinchus cancrinus* (HO) - the ultra-distinctive call of this tiny forest flycatcher was heard well at Pook’s Hill on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Ochre-bellied Flycatcher** *Mionectes oleaginous* (LO) — great views of one just as we stepped out of the vehicles at Tunich Ha after which it simply vanished....sigh.

**Northern Bentbill** *Oncostoma cinereigulare* — after a couple of heard-only birds we finally clinched good views at the Maya site of Nim Li Punit on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Tody-Flycatcher** *Todirostrum cinereum*— despite its name, not “common” at all being seen on just two days with the best views at the Sisters Café in Spanish Lookout on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellow-olive Flycatcher** *Tolmomyias sulphurescens*— wonderful looks at Pook’s Hill Lodge on the early morning bird walk with Mario on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet** *Ornithion semiflavum* – unexpectedly good views of about four along the entrance road to Pook’s Hill with Mario on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Greenish Elaenia** *Myiopagis viridicata*— a subtly plumaged flycatcher seen well with Isaias at Black Rock Lodge on the 8<sup>th</sup> and at Tunich Ha with Steve on the 16<sup>th</sup>.



**Yellow-bellied Elaenia** *Elaenia flavogaster*— a long-tailed *elaenia* with a spiky hairdo most easily detected by its wheezy calls. Sensational views by the roadside at Corozalito near Maya Flats Airfield on the 11<sup>th</sup> with equally good views at the Lodge at Big Falls, Red Bank Village and Tunich Ha.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** *Contopus cooperi* – one perched high in typical fashion giving fine scope views at Black Rock Lodge on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. An unusual occurrence in mid-winter.

**Northern Tropical Pewee** *Contopus bogotensis* – a resident pewee seen well at Belize Botanical Gardens, Black Rock Lodge and Pook's Hill. Most easily identified by its liquid trilling calls.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** *Empidonax flaviventris*— this wintering *empidonax* was usually detected by calls and seen well at Pook's Hill, Red Bank Village and the Lodge at Big Falls.

**Least Flycatcher** *Empidonax minimus* — wintering birds noted at Pook's Hill on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, and the Lodge at Big Falls on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Vermilion Flycatcher** *Pyrocephalus rubinus*— multiple males and females at the Spanish Lookout fields on the 9<sup>th</sup> were positively upstaged by a stunning male putting on quite the show at Blue Hole National Park on the 13<sup>th</sup> – wow!

**Bright-rumped Attila** *Attila spadiceus* – heard and seen on five days with excellent views coming from Nim Li Punit and the Lodge at Big Falls.

**Dusky-capped Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tuberculifer*— good views at Pook's with Mario on the 12<sup>th</sup>, and at Red Bank Village on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Great Crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus crinitus* (HO) — a familiar North American breeder, wintering birds were heard on several mornings at Black Rock Lodge.

**Great Kiskadee** *Pitangus sulphuratus*— a large, gaudy flycatcher synonymous with trips to the tropics and present throughout much of the tour – seen or heard every day.

**Boat-billed Flycatcher** *Megarynchus pitangua*— a kiskadee look-alike, best identified by its unique call. Found at several locations in Mountain Pine Ridge on the 10<sup>th</sup>, and nice views along the woodland edge at Green Hills Butterfly Ranch on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Social Flycatcher** *Myiozetetes similis*— found around gardens, villages and habitations and seen almost daily on this trip.

**Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus*— TKs were seen on all the days of the tour.

**Couch's Kingbird** *Tyrannus couchii*— vocalizing pairs were successfully picked out from Tropical Kingbirds at Corozalito near Maya Flats on the 11<sup>th</sup> and at the Lodge at Big Falls on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Fork-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus savana*— immaculate views at Spanish Lookout on the 9<sup>th</sup> where we came across 50 or more sharing the same meadow as a flock of Ocellated Turkeys! One of the highlights of the trip.

#### **VIREOS: Vireonidae (2)**

**Lesser Greenlet** *Pachysylvia decurtata*— a tiny vireo first encountered at Black Rock Lodge and later found within mixed feeding flocks on four days of the tour.

**White-eyed Vireo** *Vireo griseus*— a fairly common winter visitor found on six days with especially nice views at Pook's Hill Lodge.

#### **CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (2)**

**Brown Jay** *Psilorhinus morio*— found almost every day being especially visible in and around Big Falls.

**Yucatan Jay** *Cyanocorax yucatanicus* (**YE**) – what an extraordinary experience! Around 20 of these beautiful endemic jays hopping about on the highway just after a rain shower as we approached Spanish Lookout. They soon moved off the road and filtered through scrub offering fine views of adults and juveniles – wow!!

#### **SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (6)**

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*— small flocks of up to 20 noted on five days at sites such as Black Rock, Spanish Lookout and Roseville, most easily seen over open fields and meadows.

**Purple Martin** *Progne subis* – a high-flying, northbound migrant over Green Hills Butterfly Ranch on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Gray-breasted Martin** *Progne chalybea*— a large non-descript *hirundine* quite easily overlooked but noted at Hopkins Bay, Roseville, Tunich Ha and Big Falls.

**Tree Swallow** *Tachycineta bicolor*—fairly large numbers (60+) over the wetlands and fields at Spanish Lookout on the 9<sup>th</sup> and Roseville on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Mangrove Swallow** *Tachycineta albilinea*— a charming little swallow found close to rivers and wetlands on four days of the journey with the most at Spanish Lookout on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*— small flocks of winterers noted over wetland sites on three days with up to 25 at Spanish Lookout, the Dump near Big Falls and Tunich Ha.

### **GNATCATCHERS: Polioptilidae (3)**

**Trilling Gnatwren** *Ramphocaenus melanurus* – fine views of one above the picnic area at Blue Hole National Park on the 13<sup>th</sup> plus a heard-only at Pook's Hill the day before, and another heard-only at Big Falls on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**White-browed Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila bilineata* – exceptional views of this beauty by the pond at Green Hills Butterfly Ranch on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila caerulea*— singles on three days in the vicinity of Black Rock Lodge and once at Red Bank Village.

### **WRENS: Troglodytidae (6)**

**Nightingale Wren** *Microcerculus philomela* (HO) – what a treat to hear this unique vocalist singing only feet away in the dense understory along the lowland trail at Blue Hole National Park on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon*— found only at Big Falls on two days of the tour.

**Band-backed Wren** *Campylorhynchus zonatus* – despite being large, vocal and heavily banded, a pair of these skulkers managed to remain well hidden in the vines and tangles bordering the meadow at Pook's Hill Lodge on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Spot-breasted Wren** *Pheugopedius maculipectus*— loud and feisty but devilishly difficult to see, we got lucky with fine views along the entrance road to the Lodge at Big Falls on the 14<sup>th</sup> with others around the lodge cabanas in the following days.

**Cabanis's Wren** *Cantorchilus modestus* – a rich reward for the long drive out to Cooma Cairn on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Isaias worked especially hard to ensure that everyone in our small party was treated to good views.

**White-breasted Wood-Wren** *Henicorhina leucosticta*— an understory species often difficult to see well but we had decent views at Blue Hole National Park and the Lodge at Big Falls on consecutive days.

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

**Gray Catbird** *Dumetella carolinensis*— widespread and found at all of our bases being seen on every day of the tour.

**Tropical Mockingbird** *Mimus gilvus*— fairly widespread though not that common, perhaps with the exception of the farmland at Red Bank and Roseville on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Wood Thrush** *Hylocichla mustelina*— seen each day mostly in wooded locations as well as at the water features at all three lodges.

**Clay-colored Thrush** *Turdus grayi*— small numbers in various locations throughout the tour.

### **FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae (4)**

**Scrub Euphonia** *Euphonia affinis* – great views of up to half-a-dozen with other seedeaters by the roadside at Corozalito near Maya Flats on the 11<sup>th</sup>, and several around the meadow at Pook's Hill the following day.

**Yellow-throated Euphonia** *Euphonia hirundinacea*— relatively common around the lodge gardens, feeders and water features at Black Rock and Pook's Hill but decidedly scarce or absent further south.

**Olive-backed Euphonia** *Euphonia gouldi* – this beauty was a favorite at the balcony feeders at Black Rock and in the grounds at Pook's Hill Lodge.

**Black-headed Siskin** *Spinus notatus* – a beautiful finch of higher elevation pine habitat at Mountain Pine Ridge with perhaps as many as 15 at Douglas Da Silva Camp on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Green-backed Sparrow** *Arremonops chloronotus* – one of those difficult-to-see sparrows but noted in the grounds at Black Rock Lodge and along the entrance road to Pook's Hill.

**Orange-billed Sparrow** *Arremon aurantirostris* – such a beautiful, well-named sparrow seen well at Nim Li Punit on the 15<sup>th</sup> and foraging in the leaf litter on at least two dates at the Lodge Big Falls.

**Rusty Sparrow** *Aimpholia rufescens* – this large 'rusty' sparrow that frustrated us with poor quality fleeting views in the open dry forest between Hidden Valley Reserve and Cooma Cairn on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Yellow-breasted Chat** *Icteria virens* - lone wintering singles were seen or heard at Black Rock, Pook's Hill, and behind the swimming pool at the Lodge at Big Falls on five dates.

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

**Eastern Meadowlark** *Sturnella magna*—seen in open grasslands and meadows at Spanish Lookout on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Douglas Da Silva Camp on the 10<sup>th</sup> and in the south at Roseville on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellow-billed Cacique** *Amblycercus holosericeus*— so often difficult to see well, we actually acquired reasonable views of this skulker at Pook's Hill Lodge and the Lodge at Big Falls on three dates.

**Montezuma Oropendola** *Psarocolius montezuma*— up to half-a-dozen at Black Orchid Resort got the trip off to a nice start although we didn't see any more until the trolley tour of the Belize Spice Farm on the 14<sup>th</sup>!

**Black-cowled Oriole** *Icterus prothemelas*— how fortunate to have this most attractive oriole grace our lists on eight days of the trip, and at all three lodges.

**Orchard Oriole** *Icterus spurius*— found feeding with other orioles in fruiting and flowering trees on four days of the trip.

**Baltimore Oriole** *Icterus galbula*— increasingly common the further south we went with a sizeable flock mixed with other orioles near Red Bank Village on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Sometimes favored the lodge feeders.

**Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus*— concentrated in the fields and wetlands at Spanish Lookout with about 45 noted on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Bronzed Cowbird** *Molothrus aeneus* – great views of about three pairs during the birding mayhem at the roadside stop at Corozalito near Maya Flats Airfield on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Melodious Blackbird** *Dives dives*—the familiar fluty song was heard at many locations especially in the early morning at all three lodges.

**Great-tailed Grackle** *Quiscalus mexicanus*— found daily throughout the trip though absent from woodland locations but even there they could be seen flying over the forest clearings!

### **NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (21)**

**Ovenbird** *Seiurus aurocapilla* – always close to the forest floor most frequently seen walking the tracks and trails ahead of the group. Seen at all three lodges.

**Worm-eating Warbler** *Helmitheros vermivorum*— Jan and Norm scored great views of one with a mixed feeding flock around the cabanas at the Lodge at Big Falls on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Louisiana Waterthrush** *Parkesia motacilla* – a favorite along the Macal River and in the grounds at Black Rock Lodge, and sensational views of one strutting around the ruins at Num Li Punit on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Northern Waterthrush** *Parkesia noveboracensis*— widespread and common, found in a wide variety of habitats including the manicured lawns around all three lodges.

**Blue-winged Warbler** *Vermivora cyanoptera*—great views of one at Blue Hole National Park with another noted at Big Falls on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Black-and-white Warbler** *Mniotilta varia* – singles popped up in mixed feeding flocks at all three lodge locations.

**Tennessee Warbler** *Leiothlypis peregrina* - good views of two around the pond at Green Hills Butterfly Ranch on the 11<sup>th</sup> with other birds being found at Big Falls and Tunich Ha.

**Gray-crowned Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis poliocephala*— unexpectedly prolonged views of two in the open at the roadside stop at Corozalito by Maya Flats on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Kentucky Warbler** *Geothlypis formosa*— widespread though rather thinly distributed at forested locations. Males were seen on four days of the tour at all three lodges.

**Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas*— wintering birds were seen and heard at wetland sites including Spanish Lookout (six on the 9<sup>th</sup>) as well as field edges with rank grasses such the Dump rice fields.

**Hooded Warbler** *Setophaga citrina*— a smart little warbler found in the low understory with especially good views at Green Hills, the Lodge at Big Falls and Num Li Punit.

**American Redstart** *Setophaga ruticilla*— commonly encountered at all three lodges as well as other locations throughout the tour.

**Magnolia Warbler** *Setophaga magnolia*— common in mixed flocks in a wide variety of locations in the northern part of the trip, much less so further south.

**Yellow Warbler** *Setophaga petechia*— several from all three lodge locations on five days of the tour.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler** *Setophaga pensylvanica* – recorded on three days from Mountain Pine Ridge, Green Hills and Pook's Hill, all of them singles.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** *Setophaga coronate* – a remarkable winter for this species, evidently an incursion year with large numbers seen in fields and meadows throughout the tour even as far south as Punta Gorda.

**Yellow-throated Warbler** *Setophaga dominica*— this beauty dazzled us at Black Rock Lodge, Mountain Pine Ridge and Hopkins Bay on at least four days of the tour.

**Grace's Warbler** *Setophaga graciae* – super views of this of pine-savannah specialist with other warblers at Douglas Da Silva Camp on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Black-throated Green Warbler** *Setophaga virens*— great views of wintering individuals with mixed feeding flocks at Mountain Pine Ridge on the 10th and Green Hills Butterfly Ranch on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Rufous-capped Warbler** *Basileuterus rufifrons* – a victory for perseverance with a pair of these scrub-dwellers seen in the pine scrub habitat at high elevation at Cooma Cairn on the 10th.

**Wilson’s Warbler** *Cardellina pusilla* – seen amid mixed feeding flocks with especially good views at Black Rock and by the meadow at Pook’s Hill.

#### **CARDINALS, GROSBEEKS AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae (9)**

**Gray-throated Chat** *Granatellus sallaei* – not easy to see but Isaias managed to coax in a pair close to the trail at the Mountain Pine Ridge reserve gate on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Endemic to the Yucatan region.

**Hepatic Tanager** *Piranga flava* – fine views of a cooperative male in the pines at Douglas Da Silva Camp on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Summer Tanager** *Piranga rubra*— a widespread, wintering tanager seen or heard daily throughout the tour.

**Red-throated Ant-Tanager** *Habia fuscicauda*— though not always easy to see well, we had plenty of success with noisy, chattering groups of this species in humid, broadleaf forest at all three lodges.

**Black-faced Grosbeak** *Caryothraustes poliogaster* – up to a dozen or so of these beautiful grosbeaks was rich reward for some in our party at Black Rock Lodge on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** *Pheucticus ludovicianus*— several seen on four days with about five, including a couple of males, at the Scarlet Macaw B&B in Red Bank Village on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Blue-black Grosbeak** *Cyanoloxia cyanoides* – fantastic views for all along the entrance road to the Lodge at Big Falls with a pair keeping company with several Barred Antshrikes!

**Blue Grosbeak** *Passerina caerulea*— seen on four days with birds favoring open fields and meadows such as those at Spanish Lookout and especially the Dump rice fields near Big Falls where 15–220 came into a pre-roost gathering on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Indigo Bunting** *Passerina cyanea* – small numbers in the fields at Spanish Lookout on the 9<sup>th</sup> and good views, including several pristine males, at the Dump rice fields near Big Falls on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### **TANAGERS AND ALLIES: Thraupidae (14)**

**Gray-headed Tanager** *Eucometis penicillata* – known to follow ant swarms, we had good views of this attractive species on three days: at Green Hills Butterfly Ranch, Pook’s Hill and the Lodge at Big Falls.

**Crimson-collared Tanager** *Ramphocelus sanguinolentus* – wonderful scope views of this stunner in the meadow at Pook’s Hill Lodge on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Scarlet-rumped Tanager** *Ramphocelus passerinii* – a dazzling tanager seen well at the Dump rice fields near Big Falls on the 14<sup>th</sup> and again at Tunich Ha on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Blue-gray Tanager** *Thraupis episcopus*— relatively scarce being found on three dates after the first at the Black Orchid Resort on the 7<sup>th</sup> and others at Tunich Ha and the Lodge at Big Falls.

**Yellow-winged Tanager** *Thraupis abbas*— these beauties entertained birders and photographers alike as they came to sliced fruits at the balcony feeders every day at Black Rock with several more found at Pook’s Hill and the Lodge at Big Falls.

**Red-legged Honeycreeper** *Cyanerpes cyaneus*— Black Rock Lodge was the easiest spot to see this beauty, but we also came across small numbers at Belize Botanical Gardens, Pook’s Hill and Big Falls. Noted on at least six days.

**Green Honeycreeper** *Chlorophanes spiza* – two or three fabulous males were at Tunich Ha on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Blue-black Grassquit** *Volatinia jacarina*— not quite as common as Morelet’s Seedeater, but occupying similar grassy habitats, especially along the entrance roads to Black Rock Lodge and the Lodge at Big Falls.

**Thick-billed Seed-Finch** *Sporophila funereal* – fleeting singles were spotted and called out by Steve at Nim Li Punit on the 15<sup>th</sup> and the Tunich Ha entrance road on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Morelet’s Seedeater** *Sporophila moreletii*— common throughout much of the tour, generally found in grasses and fields by the roadside and seen almost every day.

**Yellow-faced Grassquit** *Tiaris olivaceus* – Barb picked out a couple on the side of the road at Corozalito, near Maya Flats, on the 11<sup>th</sup>, after which we found small numbers on three days in the Big Falls area, usually around other seed-eating species.

**Buff-throated Saltator** *Saltator maximus* – singles were found at Pook’s Hill on two days, and Jan and Norm had one on the feeders at the Lodge at Big Falls on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Black-headed Saltator** *Saltator atriceps*— noisy, babbling groups were detected at all three lodges as well as multiple other sites on at least eight days of the trip.

**Cinnamon-bellied Saltator** *Saltator grandis* – super views of singing males at Sisters Café in Spanish Lookout on the 9<sup>th</sup>, the Dump rice fields on the 14<sup>th</sup> and Tunich Ha on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### **OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (1)**

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* – a quick spin around urban Punta Gorda turned up a nice male hopping down the street on the last full day of the trip.

## **MAMMALS (7 species recorded):**

**Proboscis Bat** *Rhynchonycteris naso* – at least a dozen roosting under a stairwell at the Black Orchid Resort, and several visited the hummingbird feeders at Pook's Hill.

**Yucatan Black Howler Monkey** *Alouatta pigra*— heard frequently and sometimes seen at Black Rock Lodge and Pook's Hill close to the cabins.

**Deppes's Squirrel** *Sciurus deppi* – much smaller than Yucatan Squirrel, occasionally seen around the feeders at Black Rock Lodge and the Lodge at Big Falls.

**Yucatan Squirrel** *Sciurus yucatanensis*— sometimes found in the grounds or along the approach road at Black Rock Lodge.

**Central American Agouti** *Dasyprocta punctata*— shy but seen often in the vicinity of all three lodges, especially on the lawns around the lodge at Big Falls.

**Kinkajou** *Potos flavus* – sensational views of this arboreal beauty spotlighted by the guides during the night safari from Black Rock Lodge on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Local names include "Night Walker" and "Tree Lion!"

**Gray Fox** *Urocyon cinereoargenteus*— prolonged views spotlighted by Isaias along Black Rock Road during the night safari on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

**NB.** We also identified the fresh footprints of an **Ocelot** at Pook's Hill on the 12<sup>th</sup> and a **Jaguarundi** at the Dump rice fields on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

## **REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS (6 species identified):**

**Morelet's Crocodile** *Crocodylus moreletii*— a monstrous specimen basking in the shallows at Spanish Lookout on the 9<sup>th</sup> plus a much smaller one at a stream crossing in Mountain Pine Ridge on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Mesoamerican Slider** *Trachemys venusta*—seen on several wetlands in the vicinity of Spanish Lookout on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Green Iguana** *Iguana iguana* – quite numerous along waterways such as the Belize River at Black Orchid Resort and the Rio Grande at the Lodge at Big Falls. Some were simply huge including a massive male by the Uno Wharf in Punta Gorda.

**Black Spiny-tailed Iguana** *Ctenosaura similis*— seen on Black Rock Road and in the grounds of the lodge, and later at the Belize Spice Farm on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Brown Basilisk** *Basiliscus vittatus* – several sightings from the Black Orchid through to Tunich Ha, with especially good views during the trolley tour at the Belize Spice Farm on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Rose-bellied Lizard** *Sceloporus variabilis* – spotted around the cabanas at all three lodge locations.

**Gecko sp** *Gekkoninae* – seen by some in our group at the Lodge at Big Falls.

**Anole sp** *Dactyloidae* – noted at the Lodge at Big Falls.

## **BUTTERFLIES (6 species identified):**

**Banded Peacock** *Anartia fatima* – at Green Hills Butterfly Ranch on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Pale Owl-Butterfly** *Caligo telamonius* – at Nim Li Pumit on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Morpho** *Morpho helenor* – at Green Hills Butterfly Ranch on the 11<sup>th</sup> and several times at the Lodge at Big Falls and Tunich Ha.

**Zebra Longwing** *Heliconius charithonia* – at Black Rock Lodge, Blue Hole National Park and Tunich Ha among other locations.

**Gulf Fritillary** *Dione vanilla* – spotted by some of our group at Black Rock Lodge.

**Navy Eighty-eight** *Diaethria astala* – Isaias pointed out one of these beauties by the trail on the walk down to Slate Creek on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Other fauna:**

**Mexican Red-rumped Tarantula** *Tiiltocatl vagans* – one could usually be found by the bar area at Pook's Hill Lodge!