

FIELD REPORT

BELIZE
A RELAXED & EASY TOUR

MARCH 17–24, 2022



Agami Heron © Michael O'Brien

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By Michael O'Brien

After canceling this tour two years in a row, a top highlight this year was just being able to return to Belize, to see old friends, and meet some new ones. The joy of exploring the natural wonders of this beautiful country is something we never take for granted, and we are already looking forward to our next visit.

The birdlife at Crooked Tree Lagoon is constantly changing through the season, closely tied to changing water levels, so we never know what we will find one visit to the next. This year, water levels were quite low, serving to concentrate birds. Although navigation of the existing waterways was slower than usual, our boat trip here provided wonderful birds at every turn. The keystone species at Crooked Tree, Jabiru, was present in good numbers, and we had close views of these magnificent birds, which dwarfed nearby Wood Storks, egrets, and herons. We also had good luck finding all four expected kingfisher species, plus Boat-billed Herons, Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, Snail Kite, Black-collared Hawk, Great Black Hawk, large flocks of Caspian and Gull-billed terns, and a rare (very early) Black Tern. But top honors clearly go to the very secretive Agami Heron and Sungrebe, both of which gave us excellent views when we finally made it to Spanish Creek!



Jabiru © Michael O'Brien

Our short walks around the lodge and nearby trails were always outstandingly birdy, with such highlights as Striped and Squirrel cuckoos, Russet-naped Wood-Rail, Bat Falcon, three species of parrots, Olive-throated Parakeet, Barred Antshrike, Common Tody-Flycatcher, Yellow-billed Cacique, and Gray-throated Chat, all within a few steps of the lodge. And when we ventured to the pine savannah and West Causeway marshes, we were treated to the likes of Pinnated Bittern, Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Acorn and Yucatan woodpeckers, Yucatan Jay, and Scrub Euphonia. But perhaps the greatest delight at Crooked Tree was just hanging out around Bird's Eye View Lodge. Such "yard birds" as Ruddy Ground-Dove, Vermilion Flycatcher, Tropical Mockingbird, Gray-breasted Martin, Mangrove Swallow, Yellow-throated and Hooded warblers, Morelet's Seedeater, and four oriole species were ever-present. And scanning the lagoon, a constant flow of waterbirds, raptors, and other species made every moment interesting. To top things off, an evening walk on the lodge grounds provided close views of Common Pauraque, whose calls were constant through the night.



Sunrise over Crooked Tree Lagoon © Michael O'Brien

We had our first taste of Mayan ruins with a visit to Altun Ha. Our expert guide, Ann Marie, shared many insights into the history of this once thriving city, which peaked during the Classic Period, from about 400 to 900 AD. Birding was good at Altun Ha, with sightings of Short-tailed Hawk, Black-headed Trogon, Ivory-billed Woodcreeper, Masked and Black-crowned tityras, Rose-throated Becard, Bright-rumped Attila, Piratic Flycatcher, and Yellow-winged Tanager. And to cap things off, we enjoyed an excellent and authentic Belizean lunch there at Mayan Sunrise.

The next phase of our tour began with a boat ride down the New River as we transferred to Lamanai. In contrast to the relatively open habitats around Crooked Tree, the forested edge of the New River gave us the instant feeling of traveling deep into a remote jungle, and that sublime feeling remained with us during our entire stay.



Watching the “magic fig tree” at Lamanai © Michael O’Brien

Lamanai offers so much to the visiting naturalist that three full days hardly seem enough to do it justice. We made two visits to the Mayan ruins and a third to an old British Sugar Mill, all giving us wonderful opportunities to learn about this area’s fascinating history, and to find many birds typical of Belize’s tropical dry forest. Such specialties as Great Curassow, Double-toothed Kite, Tody and Lesson’s motmots, White-necked Puffbird, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, and Royal Flycatcher were clear highlights. But vying for top highlight was a massive strangler fig tree heavy with fruit and absolutely loaded with birds. For nearly an hour, we watched in awe as dozens of species came and went from that tree, including three species of trogons, Collared Aracari, Chestnut-colored Woodpecker, Red-capped Manakin, Scrub and Yellow-throated euphonias, ten species of warblers, Yellow-winged Tanager, and a dizzying frenzy of Red-legged Honeycreepers. Truly a sight to behold! Mammals were present there as well, and we saw both Howler and Spider monkeys, as well as White-nosed Coati, all taking part in the feast. When birds were not distracting us, our expert guide, Ruben, gave us several fascinating lectures about life at Lamanai for the ancient Mayans.

Several pre-breakfast walks right around the lodge proved just as birdy as those at Crooked Tree. In the cool morning air, we enjoyed sightings of Keel-billed Toucan, Pale-billed and Lineated woodpeckers, Laughing Falcon, several parrot species, Black Catbird,

Altamira Oriole, Blue and Painted buntings, Black-headed and Cinnamon-bellied saltators, and numerous migrant warblers, flycatchers, and others. For a little open country birding, we took a drive into Mennonite farm country and found Plain-breasted Ground-Dove, Plumbeous Kite, Gray Hawk, Crested Caracara, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Eastern Meadowlark, and numerous swallows.



Cocktail Cruise on New River Lagoon © Michael O'Brien

But as much as anything we did at Lamanai, the boat trips captivated us the most. An early morning visit to Dawson's Creek and adjacent savannah produced Azure-crowned Hummingbird, White-tailed Kite, Yellow-lored Parrot, and Botteri's and Grasshopper sparrows. A delightful evening "Spotlight Safari" on the New River was highlighted by sightings of Kinkajou, Manatee, and Greater Fishing Bat, plus several Morelet's Crocodiles, a Purple Gallinule, roosting kingfishers, and a brief look at a Northern Potoo. And to cap things off, on our last evening we enjoyed a lovely "Cocktail Cruise" on New River Lagoon, where we watched the sun set over Lamanai, and even saw a trio of Jabirus fly right past us!

As always, a big thanks goes to the staff of both Bird's Eye View Lodge and Lamanai Outpost Lodge. Both were extremely friendly and accommodated our every need. And to our local guides, Michael Gillet and Rudy Crawford at Crooked Tree, and Ruben Arevalo at Lamanai, a big thank you for all the great work!

ITINERARY:

Day 1, 17 March: Arrivals and transfer to Bird's Eye View Lodge at Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary; 5:30 p.m. meeting; night walk around lodge; night at Bird's Eye View Lodge.

Day 2, 18 March: Early birding around Bird's Eye View Lodge; 8:30 am boat trip to Spanish Creek with Michael Gillet and Rudy Crawford; 3:30 pm drive to Pine Savannah with Michael and Rudy; night at Bird's Eye View Lodge.

Day 3, 19 March: Early birding around Bird's Eye View Lodge; birding and ruins tour at Altun Ha with Ann Marie Arana; lunch at Mayan Sunrise; afternoon lagoon-watch at Bird's Eye View Lodge; night at Bird's Eye View Lodge.

Day 4, 20 March: Early drive to Pine Savannah and West Causeway with Michael and Rudy; late morning birding around Bird's Eye View Lodge; 1:15 pm transfer to Tower Hill dock; boat transfer along New River to Lamanai with Ruben Arevalo; night at Lamanai Outpost Lodge.

Day 5, 21 March: Lamanai (all Lamanai outings with Ruben): early birding near lodge; morning birding and ruins tour at Lamanai Maya site to Jaguar Temple (and the magic fig tree!) with Ruben and Abdul Ramirez; afternoon walk to the Sugar Mill with Ruben and Abdul; night at Lamanai Outpost Lodge.

Day 6, 22 March: Lamanai, including early morning boat trip to Dawson's Creek and Lamanai savannah with Ruben and Mark Arevalo; late morning drive to Indian Creek Mennonite area with Ruben and Mark; 7:30 pm Spotlight Safari; night at Lamanai Outpost Lodge.



Sunrise at Lamanai © Michael O'Brien

Day 7, 23 March: Lamanai, including early birding around lodge; morning birding and ruins tour at Lamanai Maya site to Mask Temple, High Temple, and the Ballcourt with Ruben and Mark; 4:00 pm cocktail cruise; night at Lamanai Outpost Lodge.

Day 8, 24 March: Early birding near Lamanai Outpost Lodge; 7:30 am (11:30 am for part of group) departure for Belize City via boat ride along New River from Lamanai to Tower Hill; afternoon departures from Phillip Goldson International Airport.

KEY TO SPECIES LISTS:

N = nest observed

Y = recently fledged young observed

CT = Crooked Tree

(I) = introduced species

BIRDS

WATERFOWL: ANATIDAE

Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moschata*) – One distant flyby at Dawson’s Creek.

Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) – Small numbers seen on four days, at both CT and Lamanai.

Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*) – One at New River Lagoon.

GUANS, CHACHALACAS & CURASSOWS: CRACIDAE

Plain Chachalaca (*Ortalis vetula*) – A few seen every day.



Plain Chachalaca © Michael O'Brien

Crested Guan (*Penelope purpurascens*) – Single fly-by at Lamanai.

Great Curassow (*Crax rubra*) – Three at Lamanai.

NEW WORLD QUAIL: ODONTOPHORIDAE

Black-throated (Yucatan) Bobwhite (*Colinus nigrogularis*) – One heard at the Lamanai savannah.

GREBES: PODICEPIDIDAE

Least Grebe (*Tachybaptus dominicus*) – One on the New River.

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) – One at CT.

PIGEONS & DOVES: COLUMBIDAE

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) – One at the Lamanai savannah, plus few at Indian Creek and near Belize City.

Pale-vented Pigeon (*Patagioenas cayennensis*) – A few seen most days; most numerous along the New River.

Scaled Pigeon (*Patagioenas speciosa*) – Several fly-overs at Lamanai.

Red-billed Pigeon (*Patagioenas flavirostris*) – A few at CT; numerous at Lamanai.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) (I) – Singles at Bird's Eye View Lodge and Indian Creek Village.

Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*) – Several at the CT savannah.

Plain-breasted Ground-Dove (*Columbina minuta*) – Several around Indian Creek Village; one at the Belize airport.

Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*) N – Numerous and seen every day.

Blue Ground-Dove (*Claravis pretiosa*) – One seen at CT; several heard at Lamanai.

White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*) – Heard most days and seen a few times at Lamanai.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) N – Numerous and seen daily.

CUCKOOS: CUCULIDAE

Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) – Numerous and seen daily.

Striped Cuckoo (*Tapera naevia*) – Nice views of one at CT.

Squirrel Cuckoo (*Tapera naevia*) – Seen at both CT and Lamanai.



Squirrel Cuckoo © Michael O'Brien

NIGHTJARS: CAPRIMULGIDAE

Lesser Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*) – Nice views of roosting birds along the New River during both of our transfers.

Common Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albigollis*) – Excellent views at Bird’s Eye View Lodge; audible every night at both CT and Lamanai.

POTOOS: NYCTIBIIDAE

Northern Potoo (*Nyctibius jamaicensis*) – We could see the distinctive orange eyeshine of one on our spotlight safari at Lamanai.

SWIFTS: APODIDAE

Vaux’s Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*) – A few seen at Altun Ha and along the New River.

HUMMINGBIRDS: TROCHILIDAE

Stripe-throated Hermit (*Phaethornis striigularis*) – One at Lamanai.

Green-breasted Mango (*Anthracothorax prevostii*) – Singles at CT and Indian Creek Village.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) – A few at CT.

White-bellied Emerad (*Amazilia candida*) – Two at Lamanai.

Azure-crowned Hummingbird (*Amazilia cyanocephala*) – One at the Lamanai Savannah.

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (*Amazilia tzacatl*) – Numerous and seen every day.

RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS: RALLIDAE

Russet-naped Wood-Rail (*Aramides albiventris*) – Seen several times at both CT and Lamanai.



Russet-naped Wood-Rail © Michael O'Brien

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinicus*) – Seen three times (maybe all the same bird) at New River Lagoon.

Ruddy Crake (*Laterallus ruber*) – Heard at Lamanai on the cocktail cruise.

SUNGREBES: HELIORNITHIDAE

Sungrebe (*Heliornis fulica*) – Excellent views at Spanish Creek.



Sungrebe © Michael O'Brien

LIMPKIN: ARAMIDAE

Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*) – Seen or heard every day.

STILTS & AVOCETS: RECURVIROSTRIDAE

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) – Several on the boat trip at CT.

JACANAS: JACANIDAE

Northern Jacana (*Jacana spinosa*) – Numerous at CT; a few at Lamanai and elsewhere.

SANDPIPERS & ALLIES: SCOLOPACIDAE

Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) – Two at CT.

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*) – A few at CT and Lamanai.

Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*) – Two at CT.

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) – One at CT.

GULLS, TERNS, & SKIMMERS: LARIDAE

Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) – Numerous at CT.

Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) – Numerous at CT.

Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*) – One immature at CT was an exceptionally early migrant and a first for this tour.

STORKS: CICONIIDAE

Jabiru (*Jabiru mycteria*) N – Seen multiple times, including up to six at CT, three at Lamanai.

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) – Numerous at CT; a few elsewhere.



Wood Storks © Michael O'Brien

ANHINGAS: ANHINGIDAE

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) – Several at CT, one at Altun Ha.

CORMORANTS: PHALACROCORACIDAE

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) – Up to 700 at CT; we frequently saw large flocks flying back and forth in front of our lodge early and late in the day; also numerous along the New River.

PELICANS: PELICANIDAE

American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) – Several at CT.

HERONS, EGRETS & BITTERNS: ARDEIDAE

Pinnated Bittern (*Botaurus pinnatus*) – Two stealthy birds along the West Causeway at CT.

Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*) – One seen briefly at Dawson's Creek; others heard along the edge of New River Lagoon.

Bare-throated Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma mexicanum*) – Small numbers seen most days at both CT and Lamanai.

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) – Numerous at CT and a few at Lamanai.

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) – Seen every day; abundant at CT.

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) – Numerous at CT; a few at Lamanai.

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) – Seen most days; up to 20 at CT.

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*) – small numbers at CT; up to seven seen from Bird's Eye View Lodge.

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) – Seen every day.

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) – Seen most days; numerous at Spanish Creek.

Agami Heron (*Agamia agami*) – Three at Spanish Creek; it's always a triumph to see this skulking species!

Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) – Several at CT.

Boat-billed Heron (*Cochlearius cochlearius*) – Excellent views of roosting birds at Spanish Creek and New River, plus feeding birds at night at Bird's Eye View Lodge.



Boat-billed Heron © Michael O'Brien

IBISES & SPOONBILLS: THRESKIORNITHIDAE

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) – Numerous at CT.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) – Several at CT.

Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*) – One at CT.

NEW WORLD VULTURES: CATHARTIDAE

King Vulture (*Sarcorampus papa*) – Singles at Altun Ha and Lamanai.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) – Seen daily, usually in large numbers.

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) – Seen daily, but less abundant than Black Vulture.

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture (*Cathartes burrovianus*) – Numerous around CT; a few at Lamanai.

OSPREY: PANDIONIDAE

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) – Numerous at CT; a few along the New River; all of these were of the migratory North American subspecies (*P. h. carolinensis*).

HAWKS, EAGLES, & KITES: ACCIPITRIDAE

White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*) – One at the Lamanai savannah.

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) – One migrant flying high, northbound, over Bird's Eye View Lodge.

Black-collared Hawk (*Busarellus nigricollis*) – Several at CT.

Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*) – Small numbers at CT plus a few along the New River.



Snail Kite © Michael O'Brien

Double-toothed Kite (*Harpagus bidentatus*) – Wonderful views of a perched bird at Lamanai; we were so close, we could even see it's "double tooth"!

Plumbeous Kite (*Ictinia plumbea*) – One near Lamanai.

Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) – One at West Causeway, CT.

Great Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus urubitinga*) – Seen daily at CT, plus one at Lamanai.

Roadside Hawk (*Rupornis magnirostris*) N – A few seen daily, including one carrying nesting material at Lamanai.

Gray Hawk (*Buteo plagiatus*) – Two at Indian Creek Village.

Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*) – One or two seen daily at CT, plus one along the New River.

OWLS: STRIGIDAE

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum*) – Nice views of a calling bird at the CT savannah.

TROGONS: TROGONIDAE

Slaty-tailed Trogon (*Trogon massena*) – Two at Lamanai.

Black-headed Trogon (*Trogon melanocephalus*) – Seen at Altun Ha, and daily at Lamanai.

Gartered Trogon (*Trogon caligatus*) – Several at Lamanai.

MOTMOTS: MOMOTIDAE

Tody Motmot (*Hylomanes momotula*) – Nice views at Lamanai.



Tody Motmot © Michael O'Brien

Lesson's Motmot (*Momotus lessoni*) – Nice views at Lamanai.

KINGFISHERS: ALCEDINIDAE

Ringed Kingfisher (*Megaceryle torquata*) – Seen most days.

Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*) – Seen most days.

American Pygmy Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle aenea*) – Singles at CT and on the spotlight safari at Lamanai.

Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*) – Seen multiple times at CT and Lamanai.

PUFFBIRDS: BUCCONIDAE

White-necked Puffbird (*Notharchus hyperrhynchus*) – Nice views at Lamanai.

JACAMARS: GALBULIDAE

Rufous-tailed Jacamar (*Galbula ruficauda*) – Several at Lamanai.

TOUCANS: RAMPHASTIDAE

Collared Aracari (*Pteroglossus torquatus*) – A few at Lamanai.

Keel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*) – One near Altun Ha and a few at Lamanai.

WOODPECKERS: PICIDAE

Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*) – Several in the savannah areas of CT and Lamanai.

Yucatan Woodpecker (*Melanerpes pygmaeus*) – Several at CT.

Golden-fronted Woodpecker (*Melanerpes aurifrons*) – Seen every day.
 Ladder-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides scalaris*) – A few at both CT and Lamanai.
 Smoky-brown Woodpecker (*Picoides fumigatus*) – Heard at Lamanai.
 Pale-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus guatemalensis*) – Seen at Lamanai.
 Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*) – Heard at CT, seen at Lamanai.
 Chestnut-colored Woodpecker (*Celeus castaneus*) – Seen at Lamanai.
 Golden-olive Woodpecker (*Colaptes rubiginosus*) – Seen at Lamanai.

FALCONS & CARACARAS: FALCONIDAE

Collared Forest-Falcon (*Micrastur semitorquatus*) – One heard at CT, quick views of one near its nest at Lamanai, and another flying across New River on one of our transfers.
 Crested Caracara (*Caracara plancus*) – Two at Indian Creek.
 Laughing Falcon (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*) – Pair seen and heard multiple times around Lamanai Outpost Lodge, plus another along the New River.



Laughing Falcon © Michael O'Brien

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) – One at Indian Creek.
 Aplomado Falcon (*Falco femoralis*) – Singles at CT and the Lamanai savannah.
 Bat Falcon (*Falco ruficularis*) – Seen at several locations at both CT and Lamanai.
 Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) – Singles at Bird's Eye View Lodge and Lamanai.

AFRICAN & NEW WORLD PARROTS: PSITTACIDAE

White-crowned Parrot (*Pionus senilis*) – Several at Lamanai.
 Red-lored Parrot (*Amazona autumnalis*) – At least a few seen on most days.
 Yellow-headed Parrot (*Amazona oratrix*) – Seen several times at CT.
 White-fronted Parrot (*Amazona albifrons*) N – Seen several times at both CT and Lamanai.
 Yellow-lored (Yucatan) Parrot (*Amazona xantholora*) – Numerous at the Lamanai savannah.

Olive-throated Parakeet (*Eupsittula nana*) – Seen every day.

MANAKINS: PIPRIDAE

Red-capped Manakin (*Ceratopipra mentalis*) – Seen in the magic fig tree at Lamanai.

BECARDS, TITYRAS & ALLIES: TITYRIDAE

Black-crowned Tityra (*Tityra inquisitor*) – One at Altun Ha.

Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*) – A few seen at Altun Ha and Lamanai.

Rose-throated Becard (*Pachyramphus aglaiae*) – One at Altun Ha and several at Lamanai.

SHARPBILL, ROYAL FLYCATCHER, AND ALLIES: OXYRUNCIDAE

Royal Flycatcher (*Onychorhynchus coronatus*) – One at Lamanai.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: TYRANNIDAE

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher (*Mionectes oleagineus*) – Two seen at Lamanai.

Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*) – Several at CT.

Eye-ringed Flatbill (*Rhynchocyclus brevirostris*) – One at Lamanai.

Yellow-olive Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias sulphurescens*) – Several at CT and Lamanai.



Yellow-olive Flycatcher © Michael O'Brien

Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet (*Ornithion semiflavum*) – Heard at Lamanai.

Northern Beardless Tyrannulet (*Camptostoma imberbe*) – Nice views at Lamanai.

Greenish Elaenia (*Myiopagis viridicata*) – One at Lamanai.

Yellow-bellied Elaenia (*Elaenia flavogaster*) – Numerous at CT; also seen at the Lamanai savannah.

Tropical Pewee (*Contopus cinereus*) – One at the CT savannah.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*) – One at Lamanai.

Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*) – A few seen at both CT and Lamanai.
Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) – Numerous at CT; a few elsewhere.



Vermilion Flycatcher © Michael O'Brien

Bright-rumped Attila (*Attila spadiceus*) – Nice views of a pair at Altun Ha.
Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) – Seen or heard most days.
Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) – One at Lamanai.
Brown-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*) – One at CT; several at Lamanai.
Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) – At least a few seen every day.
Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarynchus pitangua*) – One at Altun Ha and a few at Lamanai.
Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) – Seen every day.
Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*) – Several at Lamanai; these are newly arrived migrants from the south.
Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucophaius*) – One at Altun Ha; another newly arrived migrant from the south.
Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) – Numerous and seen every day.
Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus couchii*) – Small numbers at both CT and Lamanai. This species is very similar to Tropical Kingbird and differs mainly by voice. Couch's prefers forest openings and edge habitat and is generally absent in open country where Tropical Kingbird is common.
Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*) – Seen at several locations.

TYPICAL ANTIBIRDS: THAMNOPHILIDAE

Barred Antshrike (*Thamnophilus doliatus*) – Seen at both CT and Lamanai.

OVENBIRDS & WOODCREEPERS: FURNARIIDAE

Olivaceous Woodcreeper (*Sittasomus griseicapillus*) – One at Lamanai.

Northern Barred-Woodcreeper (*Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae*) – One at Lamanai.
Ivory-billed Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus flavigaster*) – Seen at several locations.

VIREOS: VIREONIDAE

Rufous-browed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*) – Seen at CT; heard at Lamanai.
Lesser Greenlet (*Pachysylvia decurtatus*) – Seen at Altun Ha and Lamanai.
White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*) – Seen or heard at several locations.



White-eyed Vireo © Michael O'Brien

Mangrove Vireo (*Vireo pallens*) – Seen at CT; heard at Dawson's Creek.

CROWS, JAYS & MAGPIES: CORVIDAE

Brown Jay (*Psilorhinus morio*) – Seen every day.
Green Jay (*Cyanocorax yncas*) – Heard at the CT savannah.
Yucatan Jay (*Cyanocorax yucatanicus*) – Two different fly-by groups at CT.

SWALLOWS: HIRUNDINIDAE

Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*) – Small flock at Indian Creek plus one at the Belize Airport.
Mangrove Swallow (*Tachycineta albilinea*) – Seen every day.
Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) – A few at CT; numerous along the New River.
Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) – A few singles at CT and Lamanai.
Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*) N – Numerous at CT; a few elsewhere.
Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) – Small numbers around Indian Creek and along the New River.

GNATCATCHERS: POLIOPTILIDAE

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila caerulea*) – Numerous at CT.

WRENS: TROGLODYTIDAE

(Southern) House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon musculus*) – Numerous at CT; a few around Lamanai. These birds likely represent a different species from birds in the U.S.
Carolina (White-browed) Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus albinucha*) – Heard at the Lamanai savannah; these birds likely represent a different species from birds in the U.S.
Spot-breasted Wren (*Pheugopedius maculipectus*) – Seen a few times and heard every day.
White-bellied Wren (*Uropsila leucogastra*) – Heard at Lamanai.
White-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucosticta*) – Heard at Altun Ha and Lamanai.

MOCKINGBIRDS & THRASHERS: MIMIDAE

Black Catbird (*Melanoptila glabrirostris*) – Seen at the Lamanai on our last morning.
Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) – Seen most days.
Tropical Mockingbird (*Mimus gilvus*) – Numerous at CT; a few elsewhere.

THRUSHES & ALLIES: TURDIDAE

Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) – Seen at Lamanai.
Clay-colored Thrush (*Turdus grayi*) – Seen every day.

FINCHES, EUPHONIAS & ALLIES: FRINGILLIDAE

Scrub Euphonia (*Euphonia affinis*) – Normally a scarce bird on this tour, we were surprised to see them several times, at the West Lagoon and at Lamanai.



Scrub Euphonia © Michael O'Brien

Yellow-throated Euphonia (*Euphonia hirundinacea*) – Numerous at Lamanai.
Olive-backed Euphonia (*Euphonia gouldi*) – Heard at Lamanai.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: PASSERELLIDAE

Botteri's Sparrow (*Peucaea botterii*) – Several at the Lamanai savannah

Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) – Two at the Lamanai savannah.

Olive Sparrow (*Arremonops rufivirgatus*) – Heard at Lamanai.

Green-backed Sparrow (*Arremonops chloronotus*) – Seen at Lamanai.

Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) – One at CT.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: ICTERIIDAE

Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*) – One at Lamanai.

TROUPIALS & ALLIES: ICTERIDAE

Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) – Seen at Indian Creek and along the Northern Highway.



Eastern Meadowlark © Michael O'Brien

Yellow-billed Cacique (*Amblycercus holosericeus*) – Seen at CT; a few others heard.

Black-cowled Oriole (*Icterus prothemelas*) – Seen on most days.

Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) – Seen every day, often in flocks of 15+

Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*) – Seen daily at CT; one at Lamanai.

Altamira Oriole (*Icterus gularis*) – One at Lamanai.

Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) – Seen on most days.

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) – Small numbers seen on most days.

Bronzed Cowbird (*Molothrus aeneus*) – A few seen at several locations.

Melodious Blackbird (*Dives dives*) – Seen every day.

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) – Seen every day.

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: PARULIDAE

Northern Waterthrush (*Parkesia noveboracensis*) – Seen or heard on most days.

Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) – Seen every day.
 Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) – One on our boat trip at CT.
 Tennessee Warbler (*Oreothlypis peregrina*) – One at CT; numerous at Lamanai.
 Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) – Seen a few times near wetlands at CT and Lamanai.
 Hooded Warbler (*Setophaga citrina*) – Several at both CT and Lamanai.
 American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) – Seen every day.
 Northern Parula (*Setophaga americana*) – Seen on five days.
 Magnolia Warbler (*Setophaga magnolia*) – Seen every day; probably the most numerous wintering warbler in Belize.
 Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*) – One or two seen every day.
 Yellow-throated Warbler (*Setophaga dominica*) – A few seen every day; one of our favorite yard birds at Bird's Eye View Lodge!



Yellow-throated Warbler © Michael O'Brien

Grace's Warbler (*Setophaga graciae*) – Heard at the CT savannah.
 Black-throated Green Warbler (*Setophaga virens*) – Seen on several occasions at both CT and Lamanai.

CARDINALS & ALLIES: CARDINALIDAE

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) – Several at Lamanai.
 Red-throated Ant-Tanager (*Habia fuscicauda*) – One at Lamanai.
 Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) – Several at CT, and one at the Lamanai savannah
 Gray-throated Chat (*Granatellus sallaei*) – Nice views of a pair at CT.
 Blue Bunting (*Cyanocompsa parellina*) – Seen at Lamanai.
 Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) – A few at CT and Lamanai.
 Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) – one at Lamanai.

TANAGERS & ALLIES: THRAUPIDAE

Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*) – Seen on most days.

Yellow-winged Tanager (*Thraupis abbas*) – Seen at Altun Ha and Lamanai.

Red-legged Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*) – Numerous at Lamanai, particularly at the magic fig tree!

Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*) – Seen daily around Lamanai.

Morelet's Seedeater (*Sporophila torqueola*) N – Seen every day; a female was sitting on a nest right at the base of the stairs at Bird's Eye View Lodge.

Black-headed Saltator (*Saltator atriceps*) – Several at Lamanai.

Cinnamon-bellied Saltator (*Saltator grandis*) – A few at both CT and Lamanai.

MAMMALS

Common Opossum (*Didelphis marsupialis*) – One at Bird's Eye View Lodge.

West Indian Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) – One seen on the New River spotlight safari was a pleasant surprise, and the first one we've ever seen on this tour.

Yucatan Black Howler Monkey (*Alouatta pigra*) – Seen (and heard!) every day.



Yucatan Black Howler Monkey © Michael O'Brien

Central American Spider Monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi*) – A few at Lamanai.

Yucatan Squirrel (*Sciurus yucatanensis*) – Seen at CT and Lamanai.

Central American Agouti (*Dasyprocta punctata*) – Seen at Lamanai.

Long-nosed (Proboscis) Bat (*Rhynchonycteris naso*) – Seen several times along the New River.

White-lined Sac-winged Bat (*Saccopteryx bilineata*) – Seen at Lamanai.

Greater Bulldog (Fishing) Bat (*Noctilio leporinus*) – Seen on spotlight safari at Lamanai.

White-nosed Coati (*Nasua narica*) – A few seen at Lamanai.

Kinkajou (*Potos flavus*) – One seen on the spotlight safari at Lamanai.

AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES

Cane Toad (*Rhinella marina*) – Seen and heard at CT and Lamanai.

Brown's Leopard Frog (*Lithobates brownorum*) – Seen at Lamanai and heard elsewhere.

Morelet's Crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii*) – Seen at CT and Lamanai.

White-lipped Mud Turtle (*Kinosternon leucostomum*) – One at Lamanai.

Meso-American Slider (*Trachemys venusta*) – Seen at both CT and Lamanai.

Common (Asian) House Gecko (*Hemidactylus frenatus*) (I) – Numerous around our lodgings (most often heard).

Black (Spiny-tailed) Iguana (*Ctenosaura similis*) – Seen at CT, Altun Ha, and Lamanai.

Green Iguana (*Iguana iguana*) – Seen on most days.

Ghost Anole (*Anolis lemurinus*) – One at CT.

Brown Anole (*Norops sagrei*) – One at CT.

Brown Basilisk (*Basiliscus vittatus*) – Seen at CT and Lamanai.

Yellow-spotted (Yucatan) Spiny Lizard (*Sceloporus chrysostictus*) – Seen at Altun Ha.



Yellow-spotted Spiny-Lizard © Michael O'Brien

Rose-bellied Lizard (*Sceloporus variabilis*) – Seen at Lamanai.

BUTTERFLIES

Thoas Swallowtail (*Heracles thoas*)

Florida (Tropical) White (*Appias drusilla*)

Yellow Angled-Sulphur (*Anteos maerula*)

Orange-barred Sulphur (*Phoebis philea*)

Apricot/Large Orange sulphur (*Phoebis argante/agarithe*)
Mimosa Yellow (*Eurema mimosa*)
Mexican Cycadian (*Eumaeus toxea*)
Ceraunus Blue (*Hemiargus ceraunus*)
Monarch (*Danaus plexippus plexippus*)
Queen (*Danaus gilippus thersippus*)
Isabella's Heliconian (*Eueides isabella eva*)
Theona Checkerspot (*Thessalia theona*)
Ruddy Daggerwing (*Marpesia petreus*)
Banded Peacock (*Anartia fatima*)
White Peacock (*Anartia jatrophae*)
Carolina Satyr (*Hermeuptychia sosybius*)
Dorantes Longtail (*Urbanus dorantes*)
Mazans Scallopwing (*Staphylus mazans*)
Tropical Checkered-Skipper (*Pyrgus oileus*)
Laviana White-Skipper (*Heliopetes laviana*)
Veined White-Skipper (*Heliopetes arsalte*)
Redundant Skipper (*Corticea corticea*)



Redundant Skipper © Michael O'Brien