

FIELD REPORT

**BEST OF BELIZE:
CROOKED TREE & CHAN CHICH LODGE**

MARCH 12–19, 2023



Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Chan Chich Escarpment, Belize, March 17, 2023, ©Brian Gibbons

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Best of Belize: Crooked Tree & Chan Chich Lodge March 12–19, 2023

By Barry Zimmer

The first day of our Best of Belize tour set the tone for the entire trip. We left our hotel in Belize City pre-dawn and made the turn off the Northern Highway towards Crooked Tree just as the sky lightened up enough to see. Crossing the causeway that bisects the Northern Lagoon, we paused for close studies of Limpkin and Snail Kite before we pressed on towards our breakfast at Bird's Eye View Lodge. It was important to get there as soon as possible, so that we could begin our roughly five-hour boat ride into the lagoon in a timely manner. Some perched Red-lored Parrots, however, caught our attention as we made our way through the village, so we stopped for a brief view. Just as we were about to pull away, I realized there were two Yellow-headed Parrots in with them. This uncommon and highly-sought species demanded that we get out for a scope view, no matter how much of a hurry we were in.



Yellow-headed Parrot, Crooked Tree, Belize, March 13, 2023, ©Barry Zimmer

As we soaked up the views of the two parrot species, a male Vermilion Flycatcher displayed overhead, a pair of comical Acorn Woodpeckers posed in an oak, and a noisy Great Kiskadee flashed by. Birds were everywhere. Doing our best to move on, we loaded up for the remaining short drive to the lodge. “Stop, Bare-throated Tiger-Heron

on the right,” I screamed. We backed up and had wonderful views of the heron in a small roadside pond. Were we ever going to make it to breakfast? After one more brief pause for Plain Chachalacas about ten feet away, we had finally arrived. Breakfast was ready, but we still had to fight our way through a flurry of new birds, including Northern Jacana, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Ringed Kingfisher, Ruddy Ground-Dove, Mangrove Swallow, and Gray-breasted Martin just to get to the dining room. As we ate breakfast, a handsome Yellow-throated Warbler hopped about under the tables!



Snail Kite, Crooked Tree Lagoon, Belize, March 13, 2023, ©Brian Gibbons

We finally finished breakfast and loaded into two boats for our journey into the North Lagoon and Spanish Creek. At first, we cruised slowly along the west edge of the lagoon, tallying a wonderful array of species. Stunningly close Snail Kites patrolled the marsh, a gorgeous pair of Russet-naped Wood-Rails scurried along the shoreline, a responsive pair of Barred Antshrikes and a Mangrove Vireo emerged from the thickets, a male Prothonotary Warbler followed, then a small flock of Olive-throated Parakeets, more Limpkins, Northern Jacanas by the dozen, and White and Glossy ibises. Where to look first? A flashy Black-collared Hawk was spotted, drawing gasps from the group. We picked up speed to get to Spanish Creek, where some of our main targets were most likely to be found. Roosting Boat-billed Herons were added as soon as we entered the creek, followed by a pair of Green Kingfishers. A perched adult Great Black Hawk let us float right up to it. A Morelet's Crocodile basked in the sun, and a Bare-throated Tiger-Heron sat up on its nest. Suddenly, the driver of Brian's boat spotted an Agami Heron on the right bank. This was our biggest target of the morning! The bird quickly

scrambled into some dense brush before my boat could pull up. We waited anxiously for several minutes without any luck. Brian decided to jump ashore and try to move the bird into view for everyone. His efforts paid off, as an absolutely magnificent Agami flushed out of the trees and gave everyone a great view in the morning sun as it flew a short distance to another patch of dense vegetation. The pressure was off now. We took a short detour up a small side creek and quickly found a pair of tiny American Pygmy Kingfishers. One of them seemed intent on trying to land in the boat I was in! A striking Squirrel Cuckoo was spotted overhead, in addition to our first Mexican Black Howler Monkeys. As we were soaking up all of this, I heard Brian shout "Jabiru!" I looked up to see the monstrous white form of a Jabiru flying directly at our boat no more than 40 yards away. It eventually passed almost right over us before veering off to the left. This was an embarrassment of riches.



Jabiru, Crooked Tree, Belize, March 13, 2023, ©Brian Gibbons

It was finally time to turn back toward the lodge for lunch. On the way back we encountered a second Agami. This one sat out in the open on the bank for a few minutes before disappearing. A Least Grebe (uncommon here) cruised right by our boat. As we headed back at full speed, I glimpsed a Sungrebe out of the corner of my eye, and after some effort, everyone had great views of this very uncommon species. This was truly the icing on the cake. Arriving back at the dock, we managed to see both Yucatan (regionally endemic) and Golden-fronted woodpeckers and a Laughing Falcon before we made it to the dining room for lunch. Simply put, this was an absolutely amazing morning!



Sungrebe, Crooked Tree, Belize, March 13, 2023, ©Brian Gibbons

But our day was not done. After lunch, we headed back to Belize City, making stops en route. A local shrimp farm produced ten species of shorebirds with four very rare American Avocets topping the list. Additionally, we had a spectacularly close Clapper Rail at the same location. Back in Belize City, a stunning pair of “Mangrove” Warblers allowed incredible views in a small patch of mangroves near the college. We ended the day with an optional short walk around our hotel grounds. Highlights included numerous Magnificent Frigatebirds, a very close pair of White-fronted Parrots, three Cinnamon Hummingbirds (one within fifteen feet), a half-dozen Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, and Common Tody-Flycatcher among others. For our first day, we would tally a staggering 124 species of birds! This was going to be a great trip!

On our second day, we returned to Crooked Tree, but this time to scour the pine-oak savanna just west of town. There we hoped to find another regional endemic, the stunning Yucatan Jay. For the first couple of hours, we failed to locate any jays but added a slew of other birds, including Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, another pair of Yucatan Woodpeckers, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Brown Jay, White-browed Gnatcatcher, Grace’s Warbler, and Blue-gray Tanager among others. Sometime around 9:30 AM, we finally found a pair of Yucatan Jays but had only quick views. But then the flood gates opened. Over the remainder of the morning, we saw five different groups of jays, totaling at least 24 individuals. Some of them were no more than 30 feet away. It was our best showing ever for this highly-sought species!



Yucatan Jay, Crooked Tree, Belize, March 14, 2023, ©Barry Zimmer

In the early afternoon, we headed back to Belize City to catch our charter flight to Gallon Jug (where the airstrip for Chan Chich is located). We had planned on a little birding in Belize City before our departure, but that was short-circuited when our van broke down in Ladyville (yikes). Fortunately, Lascelle (our Belize agent) was able to get alternate transportation for us within 30 minutes, and we were back on track. We departed the municipal airport a little early, and a short 26 minutes later we were landing at Gallon Jug. Appropriately, some Ocellated Turkeys greeted our arrival along the runway. The amazing staff at Chan Chich greeted us with cold washcloths and a refreshing allspice tea when we arrived at the lodge. We had just enough time for a quick walk around the grounds (after checking in and settling into our luxurious rooms), and we added three very close Crested Guans, White-necked Jacobin, Long-billed Hermit, Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift, Black-cheeked Woodpecker, and Black-cowled Oriole to our rapidly growing list. Ocellated Turkeys were everywhere right around our rooms! Another day, another 107 species seen—35 of them new from yesterday's list! After a delicious dinner, we settled into our rooms and drifted off to sleep to the sounds of howler monkeys and Common Pauraques right around our cabanas.



Ocellated Turkey, Chan Chich Lodge, Belize, March 18, 2023, ©Barry Zimmer

Our first full day at Chan Chich was certainly a memorable one. We began the morning with a walk around the lodge clearing. A Gray Hawk, a pair of Pale-billed Woodpeckers, Boat-billed Flycatcher, and Blue-black Grosbeak were added in short order. Next in line were the fruiting custard apple trees in the east staff area. These trees were buzzing with bird activity representing a kaleidoscope of beautiful colors. Red-legged Honeycreepers, Green Honeycreeper, Yellow-throated and Olive-backed euphonias, and Yellow-winged Tanagers darted in and out of the custard apples feeding voraciously. A pair of Masked Tityras appeared nearby, and a Bat Falcon was spotted perched overhead. Both White-crowned and Mealy parrots allowed scope studies. A small pond at the base of the River Trail yielded another American Pygmy Kingfisher, a pair of Dusky Antbirds, and a brilliant Rufous-tailed Jacamar. We returned to the lodge for a quick break and a snack before walking the entry road down to the suspension bridge. Along the way, we enjoyed excellent studies of a Tawny-winged Woodcreeper and a troop of Central American Spider Monkeys with an adorable little baby. The first three of us to enter the clearing at the bridge were stunned to see a Mountain Lion crouched at the forest edge and apparently stalking two White-tailed Deer no more than 50 feet away! It was a brief but extremely memorable sighting! Birds seen near the suspension bridge included Blue Ground Dove, a group of Black-headed Trogons, and a lovely Cinnamon Becard among others.



Golden-hooded Tanager, Chan Chich Lodge, Belize, March 15, 2023, ©Barry Zimmer

While we were all sitting at lunch that day, both Golden-hooded and Yellow-winged tanagers visited the firebush off the veranda, and a male Blue Bunting visited the water fountain. After lunch and a midafternoon break, we loaded up the lodge's new safari-type vehicles and headed towards Gallon Jug. In the open fields there, we found White-tailed Kite, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, and Giant Cowbird. A back road connecting Laguna Verde to Silvester Village produced our first two Great Curassows (we would see an impressive ten for the tour) and, quite incredibly, epic views of a pair of Tody Motmots in a spot where I have never seen them before. We finished our awesome day with a stop in the coffee groves. There, a male Great Curassow actually allowed us to exit the vehicles and get lengthy scope views. While we were watching the curassow, we added our only Golden-olive Woodpecker of the trip and an Olivaceous Woodcreeper.

The next day we walked forest trails all morning. We always split up the group on trails, so that people in the back of the line aren't missing all of the birds. Before we could even split up, however, we saw a wonderful Keel-billed Toucan and a pair of rare Strong-billed Woodcreepers in the lodge clearing. I led one group out the Silvester Village Road, and Brian took the other group out the Xaxe Venic Trail. Both groups tallied three regional endemics—Yucatan Flycatcher, Gray-throated Chat, and Rose-throated Tanager! The group on the Silvester Village Road also saw a close, perched White Hawk, Short-billed Pigeon, Stub-tailed Spadebill, Eye-ringed Flatbill, Northern Schiffornis, Long-billed Gnatwren, and Spot-breasted Wren among others. The group

on the Xaxe Venic Trail added quick glimpses of Lesson's Motmot, Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet, and Dot-winged Antwren.



Gray-throated Chat, Chan Chich Lodge, Belize, March 18, 2023, ©Brian Gibbons

On this day, it was a Squirrel Cuckoo sunning itself on the roof of cabana #7 that interrupted our lunch. In the afternoon, one group headed back out to Gallon Jug and the coffee groves. They tallied a pair of Aplomado Falcons, nesting White-tailed Kites, Plumbeous Kite, Chestnut-colored Woodpecker (one of the best woodpeckers anywhere), and an early Piratic Flycatcher. The other half of our group visited the bathing spot at Barry's Bend. Every day, birds come in to bathe in the late afternoon at this bend in Chan Chich Creek, and on that day they did not disappoint. The fabulous water ballet of a bathing Purple-crowned Fairy topped the list, but other highlights included Stripe-throated Hermit, a male Collared Trogon, Red-capped Manakin, Northern Schiffornis, Ochre-bellied and Sulphur-rumped flycatchers, both waterthrushes, Hooded, Kentucky, Worm-eating and Wilson's warblers, and Black-throated Shrike-Tanager. A troop of howler monkeys with two tiny, squirrel-sized babies was also memorable. A night drive that evening yielded an impressive list of birds, including Common Pauraque, Yucatan Poorwill, Northern Potoo, Barn Owl, and three Mottled Owls (one of which was mantling a dead rat on a fence post no more than fifteen feet away). Another amazing day in paradise!



Mottled Owl, Gallon Jug, Belize, March 16, 2023, ©Barry Zimmer

The following morning, we all headed up to an area known as the escarpment. Along the way, we stopped for a pair of Lesson's Motmots, Slaty-tailed Trogon, Collared Aracari, the Aplomado pair, another Chestnut-colored Woodpecker, another Black-throated Shrike Tanager, and a pair of Green-backed Sparrows. We arrived at the escarpment around 9 AM. A few distant White Hawks and King Vultures were almost immediately spotted. The view of the sea of uninterrupted forest that lay below us was worth the visit alone. After a short while, a Black Hawk-Eagle was found overhead allowing good views. Following a lull in activity, Brian spotted an Ornate Hawk-Eagle. It was initially somewhat far away, but eventually it sailed low right over our heads. As it moved out of sight to the west, a second bird was spotted perched in a bare tree a few hundred yards away. The first bird returned to join the second, and both birds sailed around above us in a courtship display. This was a jaw-dropping experience, and Ornate Hawk-Eagle was eventually voted the favorite bird of the tour!

In the afternoon, the groups switched areas from the day before. The bathing spot was once again amazing, with the Purple-crowned Fairy coming in multiple times, instead of just once. The group going to the coffee groves added a perched Hook-billed Kite and both White-necked and White-whiskered puffbirds. The night drive on this evening

missed the Mottled Owl but got Middle American Screech-Owl from about ten feet away!



Hook-billed Kite, Chan Chich, Belize, March 17, 2023, ©Barry Zimmer

On our last full day, we split up again in the morning and hiked forest trails. More great views of Gray-throated Chat and Rose-throated Tanager were had. On the Xaxe Venic Trail, two very uncommon, skulking species were seen—Scaly-throated Leaftosser and Mayan Antthrush. On the Silvester Village Road, the only Plain Xenops of the trip was found, and a juvenile Lineated Woodpecker in a nest showed well. Both groups saw the locally uncommon Northern Emerald-Toucanet.

On our final afternoon, we headed over to Silvester Village and then on to scenic Laguna Verde. A stunning Swallow-tailed Kite right overhead, a very confident Great Black Hawk, nine Keel-billed Toucans in one tree, our only Montezuma Oropendolas of the trip, and a rarely seen Red Brocket Deer were among the highlights.



Red Brocket Deer, Laguna Verde, Chan Chich, Belize, March 18, 2023, ©Peter Hellman

We had a little time the next morning before we had to leave, so we birded around the lodge clearing and down to the staff areas. We had our best views of the trip for White-breasted Wood-Wren and Black-headed Saltator. In all, we tallied 270 species of birds (I believe a record number for the trip since it has been this length), twelve species of mammals, and had a wonderful Belizean experience. Simply put, our Best of Belize tour never fails to deliver a superb nature adventure. The combination of Crooked Tree and Chan Chich Lodge is really hard to beat. I can hardly wait for next year's trip!

ITINERARY

March 12 - arrival in Belize City

March 13 – Crooked Tree Village, Bird's Eye View Lodge, four-and-a-half-hour boat trip into Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary, specifically to North Lagoon and Spanish Creek; afternoon Caribbean Shrimp Farms, mangroves near St. Johns School, hotel grounds (124 species; 124 total)

March 14 – Bird's Eye View Lodge, pine-oak savanna west of crooked Tree, mid-afternoon charter flight to Gallon Jug, brief afternoon birding at Chan Chich Lodge (107 species; 159 total)

March 15 - lodge clearing, east staff area, walk to suspension bridge; afternoon to Gallon Jug, back road to Laguna Verde, Silvester Village and coffee groves; night walk (90 species; 204 total)

March 16 – **Motmot group** - lodge clearing, west staff area, Silvester Village Road and River Trail in AM; afternoon to Gallon Jug and newer coffee groves; night drive **Trogon group** – lodge clearing, Xaxe Venic Trail in AM; afternoon optional archaeology tour, Barry's Bend along Sac Be Trail (131 species; 250 total)

March 17 – entire group to Silvester Village, Chan Chich Escarpment; **Motmot group** - midday archaeology tour option, Barry's Bend along Sac Be Trail; **Trogon group** – drive to Gallon Jug and coffee groves; night drive (81 species; 260 total)

March 18 – **Motmot group** - lodge clearing, Xaxe Venic and Norman's Temple trails; **Trogon group** – west staff area, Silvester Village Road; afternoon to Silvester Village and Laguna Verde for entire group (128 species; 269 total)

March 19 – east staff area, west staff area and lodge clearing briefly in the morning; charter flight to Belize City at 10 AM (46 species: 270 total)

KEY

B = Belize City and surrounding areas

CT = Crooked Tree

C = Chan Chich

bold-faced species indicate birds of rare, casual, or accidental occurrence or species rarely seen even though they occur regularly

underlined species indicate birds of very uncommon occurrence or species which occur regularly, but in such low densities as to be easily missed

BIRDS

Tinamous:

Great Tinamou (*Tinamus major*) C--- heard only as is generally the case

Waterfowl:

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) CT---about twenty at Crooked Tree

Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moschata*) CT---pair flying right over Bird's Eye View Lodge; very uncommon here

Blue-winged Teal (*Spatula discors*) CT

Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*) B---female at the shrimp farm; uncommon

Cracids:

Plain Chachalaca (*Ortalis vetula*) CT,C---fourteen total

Crested Guan (*Penelope purpurascens*) C---an impressive twelve total; extraordinary views right around our rooms

Great Curassow (*Crax rubra*) C---a good year for this generally uncommon & shy species; we saw 10 individuals with scope views of one male at the coffee groves standing out



Great Curassow, Chan Chich, Belize, March 15, 2023, ©Barry Zimmer

Pheasants, Grouse & Allies:

Ocellated Turkey (*Meleagris ocellata*) C---very common right around the cabanas and elsewhere, including displaying males; up to 40 in one day; tied for the third favorite bird of the tour!

Grebes:

Least Grebe (*Tachybaptus dominicus*) CT---seen by both boats, but exceptional views for one; uncommon

Pied-billed Grebe. (*Podilymbus podiceps*) CT---only two

Pigeons & Doves:

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) B

Pale-vented Pigeon (*Patagioenas cayennensis*) CT,C

Scaled Pigeon (*Patagioenas speciosa*) C

Red-billed Pigeon (*Patagioenas flavirostris*) CT,C---regular around lodge clearing

Short-billed Pigeon (*Patagioenas nigrirostris*) C---seen well by the motmot group in the west staff area; heard elsewhere

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopilia decaocto*) B---this rapidly increasing species in Belize was seen at the Radisson and elsewhere in Belize City

Common Ground Dove (*Columbina passerina*) CT---scope views of singing male in the pine oak savanna; uncommon

Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*) CT,B,C

Blue Ground Dove (*Claravis pretiosa*) C---three at the suspension bridge the first morning

Ruddy Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon montana*) C---a male blasted across the road in front of one vehicle

Gray-headed Dove (*Leptotila plumbeiceps*) C---heard only by the Motmot group along Silvester Village Road

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) B,CT---increasing at Crooked Tree and in Belize City; formerly a bird largely restricted to the keys

Cuckoos:

Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) CT,C

Mangrove Cuckoo (*Coccyzus minor*) B---one flyby along the Northern Highway north of Belize City at the “breakdown spot” for a handful of us; rarely seen on this tour

Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*) CT,C---multiple, nice views of this stunner, but exceptionally well around the cabanas at lunch one day; subspecies *thermophile*

Nightjars:

Common Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*) C---superb studies on our night walk and on both night drives; heard at night around the rooms on a daily basis



Common Pauraque, Chan Chich Lodge, Belize, March 15, 2023, ©Barry Zimmer

Yucatan Nightjar (*Antrostomus badius*) C---excellent scope views of this uncommon species on the night drive for the Motmot group

Potoos:

Northern Potoo (*Nyctibius jamaicensis*) C----nice studies on both night drives

Swifts:

Vaux's Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*) C---seemed much scarcer than usual

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift (*Panyptila cayennensis*) C---a few seen on most days at Chan Chich

Hummingbirds:

White-necked Jacobin (*Florisuga mellivora*) C---regular at lodge feeders; always stunning



White-necked Jacobin, Chan Chich Lodge, Belize, March 15, 2023, ©Barry Zimmer

Long-billed Hermit (*Phaethornis longirostris*) C---daily at lodge feeders; formerly Long-tailed Hermit

Stripe-throated Hermit (*Phaethornis striigularis*) C---exceptional views of one feeding in *Caesalpinia* shrubs behind the bar

Purple-crowned Fairy (*Heliodytes barroti*) C---wonderful views of bathing birds for both groups at Barry's Bend; spectacular water ballet; also a couple at the Madre de Cacao tree behind the bar; tied for the second favorite bird of the tour!

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) CT,C---one in the pine/oak savanna near Crooked Tree & another in the Madre de Cacao tree at Chan Chich

Scaly-breasted Hummingbird (*Phaeochroa cuvierii*) C---one in the Madre de Cacao tree behind the bar; uncommon



Cinnamon Hummingbird, Belize City, Belize, March 13, 2023, ©Barry Zimmer

Cinnamon Hummingbird (*Amazilia rutila*) B---three seen very well at the Radisson on our afternoon walk

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (*Amazilia tzacatl*) CT,C---seen daily

White-bellied Emerald (*Chlorestes candida*) C---three total

Rails & Allies:

Clapper Rail (*Rallus crepitans*) B---an incredible response at the shrimp farm; seen from as close as ten feet away!

Russet-naped Wood-Rail (*Aramides albiventris*) CT---great studies from the boat trip of this handsome bird; four total; a recent split from the old "Gray-necked Wood-Rail" complex



Russet-naped Wood-Rail, Crooked Tree Lagoon, Belize, March 13, 2023, ©Brian Gibbons

American Coot (*Fulica americana*) CT

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*) CT---seen briefly by Brian's boat at Crooked Tree

Ruddy Crake (*Laterallus ruber*) CT---heard only by my boat

Finfoots:

Sungrebe (*Heliornis fulica*) CT---superb views from the boat late in the morning; very uncommon & often missed

Limpkin:

Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*) CT---14 seen on the day of our boat trip

Shorebirds:

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) B---seven at the shrimp farm

American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) B---four at the shrimp farm were perhaps our rarest birds of the tour!

Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) B---five at the shrimp farm

American Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*) B---three at the shrimp farm

Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) B---36 at the shrimp farm

Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*) B---three at the shrimp farm

Northern Jacana (*Jacana spinosa*) CT---50 in one morning on our boat trip; repeated, excellent views

Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) B---two at the shrimp farm

Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*) B---three at the shrimp farm; uncommon

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*) CT

Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*) CT,B---four on boat trip, plus one at Silvester Village for some

Gulls & Terns:

Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) B

Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maximus*) B---two at the shrimp farm

(Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*) B—seen by many behind our hotel, but never when we were birding as a group)

Storks:

Jabiru (*Jabiru mycteria*) CT---one very dramatic flyby on our boat trip & another soaring high over the pine-oak savanna

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) CT,B----over 30 in a day

Frigatebirds:

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*) B---common around the Belize City hotel

Anhingas:

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) CT

Cormorants:

Neotropic Cormorant (*Nannopterum brasilianus*) CT,C---over 400 in a day

Pelicans:

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) B

Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns:

Pinnated Bittern (*Botaurus pinnatus*) B---flushed along the Northern Highway and flew across the road; not seen by all; very uncommon

Bare-throated Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma mexicanum*) CT,C---12 total with many great views

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) CT

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) CT,C---some big concentrations

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) CT,C

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) CT,C

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*) CT---four total

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) B,CT,C---seen daily

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) CT---82 in one day at Crooked Tree!

Agami Heron (*Agamia agami*) CT---two seen on our boat trip (the first was best seen in flight thanks to Brian's flushing and the second seen very well along the shore by one boat only); tied for the third favorite bird of the tour!

Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) CT---twenty total

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) C---three total, all on night drives

Boat-billed Heron (*Cochlearius cochlearius*) CT---about nine seen on our boat trip; great views

Ibis & Spoonbills:

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) CT

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) CT---good views of ten or so; uncommon

New World Vultures:

King Vulture (*Sarcoramphus papa*) C---five total

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) CT,B,C---daily

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) CT,B,C---daily

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture (*Cathartes burrovianus*) CT---13 total

Ospreys:

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) CT---seven total

Hawks, Eagles & Kites:

White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*) CT,C---a couple of nesting pairs in Gallon Jug; ten total

Hook-billed Kite (*Chondrohierax uncinatus*) C---close, scope views of perched bird about two miles from the lodge for the Trogon group; rarely seen perched & generally very uncommon

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) CT,C---best was one right over our heads at Laguna Verde; three total; one of the great birds of the world in my opinion

Black Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetus tyrannus*) C---adult flying fairly high over the escarpment parking area

Ornate Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetus ornatus*) C---fantastic looks at pair soaring right overhead at the escarpment; certainly one of the most handsome raptors in the world; voted the favorite bird of the tour!

Black-collared Hawk (*Busarellus nigricollis*) CT---wonderful studies of at least three on the boat trip; a very handsome raptor



Black-collared Hawk, Crooked Tree Lagoon, Belize, March 13, 2023, ©Brian Gibbons

Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*) CT---about fifteen total; very close views

Double-toothed Kite (*Harpagus bidentatus*) C---six total; most high over the escarpment

Plumbeous Kite (*Ictinia plumbea*) C---three total; this species is just arriving back from South America

Northern Harrier (*Circus hudsonius*) C---one in Gallon Jug for Brian and the Motmot group; very uncommon this far south

Common Black Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*) CT---one spotted by Brian high overhead and seen by a few

Great Black Hawk (*Buteogallus urubitinga*) CT,C---seven total (two adults and an immature on the boat trip, one over the pine oak savanna, two along the Xaxe Venic trail and one incredibly cooperative bird near Xibal Marsh the last full day); an extremely good count for this tour



Great Black Hawk, Chan Chich, Belize, March 18, 2023, ©Barry Zimmer

Roadside Hawk (*Rupornis magnirostris*) B,CT,C---seen daily; 13 total

White Hawk (*Pseudastur albicollis*) C---most noteworthy was one perched for a prolonged period in the west staff area for the Motmot group; another three were seen distantly from the escarpment, a pair over the Norman's Temple trail for the Motmot group, and one perched briefly in the lodge clearing for a few folks at lunch one day; tied for the third favorite bird of the tour!

Gray Hawk (*Buteo plagiatus*) CT,C---including a pair right around the cabanas



White Hawk, Chan Chich, Belize, March 16, 2023, ©Barry Zimmer

Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*) CT---light morph bird on our boat trip was the only one of the tour

Barn-Owls:

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) C---one on the first night drive with the Motmot group in Gallon Jug; uncommon

Owls:

Middle American Screech-Owl (*Megascops guatemalae*) C---unsurpassed looks at one from ten feet or closer on the night drive with the Trogon group; tied for second favorite bird of the tour!; a fairly common resident, but rarely seen

Central American Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium griseiceps*) C---although heard every single day we were at Chan Chich (mostly around 5 AM), this species was never seen; generally rare here



Middle American Screech-Owl, Chan Chich, Belize, March 17, 2023, ©Barry Zimmer

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum*) CT---superb looks at two in the pine oak savanna; uncommon

Mottled Owl (*Strix virgata*) C---three close, perched birds on the first night drive with the Motmot group; one bird, mantling a dead rat, was literally fifteen feet away!

Trogon:

Slaty-tailed Trogon (*Trogon massena*) C---less numerous than usual with only three seen; excellent scope study of one en route to Silvester Village

Black-headed Trogon (*Trogon melanocephalus*) C---many good views of this species with 13 total seen

Gartered Trogon (*Trogon caligatus*) C---three total; maybe best over the road on one of our drives

Collared Trogon (*Trogon collaris*) C---stunning male over Barry's Bend for the Trogon group; very uncommon here

Motmots:

Tody Motmot (*Hylomanes momotula*) C---we found a pair at a spot near Silvester Village, where I have never seen them before and enjoyed wonderful, prolonged looks for everyone; uncommon, localized & easily missed; tied for the third favorite bird of the tour!



Tody Motmot, Chan Chich, Belize, March 15, 2023, ©Barry Zimmer

Lesson's Motmot (*Momotus lessoni*) C---scope views of a pair near Silvester Village as we drove to the escarpment & another bird along the Xaxe Venic trail; a locally scarce species

Kingfishers:

Ringed Kingfisher (*Megaceryle torquata*) CT,C---up to a dozen in one day!

Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*) CT,C---ditto

American Pygmy Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle aenea*) CT,C---four on our boat trip (including one that kept trying to land in the boat!) & another in the pond near the River trail at Chan Chich



American Pygmy Kingfisher, Crooked Tree, Belize, March 13, 2023, ©Brian Gibbons

Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*) CT---six total

Puffbirds:

White-necked Puffbird (*Notharchus hyperhynchus*) C---pair near the coffee groves one afternoon by the Trogon group; very uncommon here

White-whiskered Puffbird (*Malacoptila panamensis*) C---four total, with great scope studies; uncommon

Jacamars:

Rufous-tailed Jacamar (*Galbula ruficauda*) C---heard often, with wonderful looks at the pond near the River trail

Toucans:

Northern Emerald-Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus prasinus*) C---one at the base of the Xaxe Venic trail for both groups; very uncommon to rare here

Collared Aracari (*Pteroglossus torquatus*) C---only four seen; much less numerous than usual

Keel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*) C---fifteen total; this species also seemed less numerous than usual; nine in one tree at Laguna Verde was exceptional; the essence of the tropics!

Woodpeckers:

Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*) CT,B---subspecies *lineatus*

Black-cheeked Woodpecker (*Melanerpes pucherani*) C---daily around Chan Chich; many close views

Yucatan Woodpecker (*Melanerpes pygmaeus*) CT---nice studies in the pine-oak savanna & near Bird's Eye View Lodge; regional endemic



Yucatan Woodpecker, Crooked Tree, Belize, March 14, 2023, ©Brian Gibbons

Golden-fronted Woodpecker (*Melanerpes aurifrons*) B,CT,C---subspecies *dubius*

Smoky-brown Woodpecker (*Dryobates fumigatus*) C---singles for the Motmot group along the Silvester Village Road and the Xaxe Venic trail; a low density species

Pale-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus guatemalensis*) C---eight total; great views of a pair right around our rooms

Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*) CT,C---five total; exceptional was a nearly fledged juvenile in a nest cavity along the Silvester Village Road for the Trogon group

Chestnut-colored Woodpecker (*Celeus castaneus*) C---pair seen by both groups near the coffee groves, as well as a few elsewhere; one of my personal favorites!

Golden-olive Woodpecker (*Colaptes rubiginosus*) C---lengthy scope study of one in the coffee groves for all; uncommon

Falcons:

Laughing Falcon (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*) CT---a pair was apparently nesting in a large palm just west of Bird's Eye View Lodge; uncommon

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) C---a few in and around Gallon Jug

Aplomado Falcon (*Falco femoralis*) C---a pair near the beehives in Gallon Jug was a nice bonus; great scope views; very uncommon

Bat Falcon (*Falco ruficularis*) C---only five total this year; much scarcer than usual; a striking species!

Parrots:

Brown-hooded Parrot (*Pyrilla haematotis*) C---pair flying over Laguna Verde the last afternoon; generally uncommon

White-crowned Parrot (*Pionus senilis*) C---scope studies of perched birds

Red-lored Parrot (*Amazona autumnalis*) CT,C---very common at Chan Chich & around Crooked Tree; many great views

Yellow-headed Parrot (*Amazona oratrix*) CT---good scope views of two birds in nice morning light in Crooked Tree Village on our first morning, plus a few other flyovers in the pine oak savanna the next day; seen on only about 25% of trips here

White-fronted Parrot (*Amazona albifrons*) CT,B,C---a pair confiscated a nest cavity from a Golden-fronted Woodpecker at our Belize City hotel; several people enjoyed wonderful scope views of this pair before we officially met & again the next afternoon on our optional walk; about ten others were seen at Crooked Tree & around Gallon Jug

Mealy Parrot (*Amazona farinosa*) C---much less numerous than Red-lored, but heard every day at Chan Chich and seen on a couple of occasions

Olive-throated Parakeet (*Eupsittula nana*)

CT,B,C---subspecies *astec*



Olive-throated Parakeet, Belize City, Belize, March 13, 2023, ©Barry Zimmer

Manakins:

White-collared Manakin (*Manacus candei*) C---heard only near the coffee groves

Red-capped Manakin (*Ceratopipra mentalis*) C---five total, including a brilliant male bathing at Barry's Bend

Cotingas:

Rufous Piha (*Lipaugus unirufus*) C---by a couple of people who went on the archaeology option at midday

Tityras & Allies:

Black-crowned Tityra (*Tityra inquisitor*) C---uncommon

Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*) C---fifteen total

Northern Schiffornis (*Schiffornis veraepacis*) C---one for the Motmot group along the Silvester Village Road and another seen at point blank range for the Trogon group at Barry's Bend; others heard

Cinnamon Becard (*Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*) C---especially well by the suspension bridge

Tyrant Flycatchers:

Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher (*Myiobius sulphureipygius*) C---single bird at Barry's Bend for both groups

Stub-tailed Spadebill (*Platyrinchus cancrorninus*) C---one for each group (not seen well by all); always a challenging bird to see at all

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher (*Mionectes oleagineus*) C---five total

Northern Bentbill (*Oncostoma cinereigulare*) C---singles on two different days for the Motmot group

Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*) CT---great views near Bird's Eye View Lodge; eight total on the first day

Eye-ringed Flatbill (*Rhychocyclus brevirostris*) C---one spotted by Karen along Silvester Village Road for the Motmot group, and one by the Trogon group two days later in the same area

Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet (*Ornithion semiflavum*) C---seen by the Trogon group on the Xaxe Venic trail; heard only by the Motmot group

Greenish Elaenia (*Myiopagis viridicata*) CT,C---three total, perhaps best at Norman's Temple

Yellow-bellied Elaenia (*Elaenia flavogaster*) CT---close looks at Bird's Eye View Lodge

Northern Tropical Pewee (*Contopus bogotensis*) C---eight total

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*) C---by some in the Trogon group

Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*) CT,C---scarcer than usual with only three seen

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) CT---up to 12 in one day at Crooked Tree; always spectacular



Vermilion Flycatcher, Crooked Tree, Belize, March 13, 2023, ©Barry Zimmer

Bright-rumped Attila (*Attila spadiceus*) C---heard often; one pair seen low down and close by part of the Motmot group near Norman's Temple

Rufous Mourner (*Rhytipterna holerythra*) C---one for the Motmot group along the Xaxe Venic trail

Yucatan Flycatcher (*Myiarchus yucatanensis*) C---good looks for both groups along the Silvester Village Road of this regional endemic ; uncommon

Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) CT,C---subspecies *lawrencei*

Brown-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*) CT,C---regularly right around our rooms at Chan Chich

Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) B,CT---common

Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarhynchus pitangua*) C---a pair in the lodge clearing

Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) B,CT,C---seen daily with up to 6 in a day

Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucophaeus*) C---seen by the Motmot group in the coffee groves one afternoon; just arriving from South America

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) B,CT,C---abundant

Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus couchii*) CT---a vocal pair in the pine-oak savanna; less numerous than usual

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) B---six or so at our Belize City hotel eating palm fruit; uncommon

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*) C---five total; excellent views of this spectacular species on the road to Laguna Verde

Typical Antbirds:

Barred Antshrike (*Thamnophilus doliatus*) CT,C---nice views of a pair from our boat trip

Dot-winged Antwren (*Microrhopias quixensis*) C---by the Trogon group along the Xaxe Venic trail; spotted by Carolyn

Dusky Antbird (*Cercomacroides tyrannina*) C---cooperative pair in the bamboo around the pond at the base of the River trail

Antthrushes:

Mayan Antthrush (*Formicarius moniliger*) C---very nice views of this ground dwelling, skulker along the Xaxe Venic trail for the Motmot group; others heard; uncommon

Ovenbirds & Woodcreepers:

Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser (*Sclerurus guatemalensis*) C---excellent looks at another skulker on the Xaxe Venic trail for the Motmot group

Olivaceous Woodcreeper (*Sittasomus griseicapillus*) C---only three seen this year; best in the coffee groves

Tawny-winged Woodcreeper (*Dendrocincla anabatina*) C---one seen very well along the road to the suspension bridge our first morning at Chan Chich; uncommon

Strong-billed Woodcreeper (*Xiphocolaptes promeropyrhynechus*) C---a pair right in the lodge clearing one morning for both groups thanks to Brian; very uncommon to rare in Belize, although a pair has frequented Chan Chich for many years, they are often heard (dawn & dusk), but seldom seen

Ivory-billed Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus flavigaster*) C---seen particularly well near the pool our first morning at Chan Chich; three total

Plain Xenops (*Xenops minutus*) C---for the Trogon group along the Silvester Village trail

Vireos:

Rufous-browed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*) CT---close scope views in the pine-oak savanna

Green Shrike-Vireo (*Vireolanius pulchellus*) C---heard on several occasions, but the Motmot group actual had brief views of two high in the canopy at Norman's Temple

Tawny-crowned Greenlet (*Tunchiornis ochraceiceps*) C---two our first morning at Chan Chich as we walked down to the suspension bridge

Lesser Greenlet (*Pachysylvia decurtatus*) C---a few, but less numerous than usual

White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*) CT,C---seven total

Mangrove Vireo (*Vireo pallens*) CT---especially great looks from our boat trip

Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*) C---two total

Corvids:

Brown Jay (*Psilorhynchus morio*) CT,C---the southern race *fuliginosus*

Green Jay (*Cyanocorax yncas*) CT---heard only; a real skulker here

Yucatan Jay (*Cyanocorax yucatanicus*) CT---perhaps our best luck ever with this species; we had none until about 9:15 AM on our morning in the pine-oak savanna, but then we had a total of 24 individuals in five separate groups; superb views of this regional endemic; can be quite hard to find

Swallows:

Mangrove Swallow (*Tachycineta albilinea*) CT,C

Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) CT

Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*) CT,C

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) CT,C

Gnatcatchers:

Long-billed Gnatwren (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*) C---nice views of a pair along Silvester Village Road for the Motmot group; heard elsewhere; another skulker

White-browed Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila bilineata*) CT,C---one in the pine oak savanna & others seen well on the Silvester Village Road & Xaxe Venic trail; formerly called Tropical Gnatcatcher

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*) CT

Wrens:

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) CT,C---the “Southern” House Wren of some authors (*T. musculus*)

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) C---one of the “White-browed” subspecies was heard along the Xaxe Venic trail by Brian and the Trogon group; very uncommon

Spot-breasted Wren (*Pheugopedius maculipectus*) C---nice views for both groups; yet another skulker

White-bellied Wren (*Uropsila leucogastra*) C---heard only; another skulker

White-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucosticta*) C---best views the last morning just below Cabana #12 at the base of the hill (a nest building pair); why are all these wrens skulkers?

Mimids:

Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) CT,C---five or six total

Tropical Mockingbird (*Mimus gilvus*) B,CT---common the first two days

Thrushes:

Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) C---two at Barry’s Bend and another around the cabanas; declining

Clay-colored Thrush (*Turdus grayi*) B,CT,C--- subspecies *grayi*

Finches, Euphonias & Allies:

Yellow-throated Euphonia (*Euphonia hirundinacea*) CT,C---fairly common; best studies at the custard apple trees

Olive-backed Euphonia (*Euphonia gouldi*) C---less numerous than preceding species, but still very good views at the custard apple trees

New World Sparrows:

Olive Sparrow (*Arremonops rufivirgatus*) CT---heard only in the pine-oak savanna

Green-backed Sparrow (*Arremonops chloronotus*) C---on the way up to the escarpment; uncommon

Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) CT---one harassing the Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl

Yellow Breasted Chat:

Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*) CT---also harassing the pygmy-owl; uncommon

Icterids:

Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) C---a relatively recent invader to Gallon Jug

Yellow-billed Cacique (*Amblycercus holosericeus*) CT---mostly heard from the boat, but glimpsed by two of us

Montezuma Oropendola (*Psarocolius montezuma*) C---three over Silvester village the final afternoon were our only ones; this species has declined greatly in the Gallon Jug area in the last decade

Black-cowled Oriole (*Icterus prosthemelas*) CT,C---superb looks at quite a few; more numerous than usual with 13 seen

Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) CT,B,C

Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*) CT---three total

Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) CT,C---stunning males; nine total

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) CT

Bronzed Cowbird (*Molothrus aeneus*) B,C---sadly, more numerous than usual

Giant Cowbird (*Molothrus oryzivorus*) C---one riding on a horse's butt in Gallon Jug!

Melodious Blackbird (*Dives dives*) CT,C---almost daily

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) B,CT,C---our first bird of the trip; quite the cacophony at the Radisson!

New World Warblers:

Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorum*) C---one or two at Barry's Bend on both visits; uncommon

Louisiana Waterthrush (*Parkesia motacilla*) C---five total; great views at Barry's Bend of one catching bugs just feet away

Northern Waterthrush (*Parkesia noveboracensis*) CT,C---seven total

Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) CT,C---nine total

Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) CT---three on our boat trip

Tennessee Warbler (*Leiothlypis peregrina*) CT,C

Kentucky Warbler (*Geothlypis formosa*) C---five or more each evening at Barry's Bend

Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) CT

Hooded Warbler (*Setophaga citrina*) C---best at Barry's Bend; five total

American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) CT,C---nine total

Northern Parula (*Setophaga americana*) CT---one in the pine oak savanna for some

Magnolia Warbler (*Setophaga magnolia*) CT,C---eleven total

Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*) B,CT--including a stunning pair of "Mangrove" Warblers in Belize City (thought by some to be a distinct species)

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Setophaga pensylvanica*) C---by Brian and the Trogon group along the Silvester Village Road

Palm Warbler (*Setophaga palmarum*) CT---mobbing the pygmy-owl; rarely seen on this trip

Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Setophaga coronata*) CT,C—"Myrtle" types

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Setophaga dominica*) CT,C---four at Crooked Tree (including one milling about the dining area at BEVL) & two at Chan Chich

Grace's Warbler (*Setophaga graciae*) CT---two seen well in pine forest mobbing the pygmy-owl

Black-throated Green Warbler (*Setophaga virens*) CT,C---four in the pine-oak savanna and one at Chan Chich

Wilson's Warbler (*Cardellina pusilla*) C---one both evenings at Barry's Bend; uncommon

Cardinals & Allies:

Rose-throated Tanager (*Piranga roseogularis*) C---great views of seven total between the Sylvester Village Road & Xaxe Venic trail over two days; another regional endemic

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) CT,B,C---nine total

Red-crowned Ant-Tanager (*Habia rubica*) C---perhaps best at Barry's Bend

Red-throated Ant-Tanager (*Habia fuscicauda*) C----eight total



Rose-throated Tanager, Chan Chich, Belize, March 18, 2023, ©Brian Gibbons

Black-faced Grosbeak (*Caryothraustes poliogaster*) C---good views for the Motmot group along the Xaxe Venic trail

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) CT---pair in the pine-oak savanna; *yucatanensis* subspecies (a possible future split)

Gray-throated Chat (*Granatellus sallaei*) C---great luck with this regional endemic for both groups; we had at least eight birds total, including excellent looks at males & females; can be very tough

Blue-black Grosbeak (*Cyanoloxia cyanoides*) C---present most mornings at breakfast right off the veranda

Blue Bunting (*Cyanocompsa parellina*) C---four total; one bathing in the small pond next to the dining area was particularly stunning

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) C---one at the east staff area the final morning

Tanagers & Allies:

Black-throated Shrike-Tanager (*Lanio aurantius*) C---incredible views of a male at Barry's Bend for the Trogon group & another male seen on the way up to the escarpment



Black-throated Shrike-Tanager, Chan Chich, Belize, March 16, 2023, ©Barry Zimmer

Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*) CT---two total

Yellow-winged Tanager (*Thraupis abbas*) C---nine total; several nice views, especially at the firebush off the veranda

Golden-hooded Tanager (*Stilpnia larvata*) C---this stunning species was seen on three occasions, best in the firebush at lunch time

Red-legged Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*) C---always stunning!; up to 12 in one day

Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*) C---an immature male in the custard apple trees our first morning at Chan Chich; very uncommon at this season

Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*) C---one male in Silvester Village

Morelet's Seedeater (*Sporophila moreletii*) CT,B,C---seen daily

Black-headed Saltator (*Saltator atriceps*) C---nice looks at the final morning in the lodge clearing

Cinnamon-bellied (Grayish) Saltator (*Saltator grandis*) CT,C---two from the boat in Crooked Tree & another in Silvester Village

total species - 270

LEADER ONLY BIRDS

Yucatan Poorwill---by Brian pre-dawn near the bridge
Barred Forest-Falcon---heard by Brian near his room
Rufous-breasted Spinetail---heard by me from the boat

FAVORITE BIRDS OF THE TOUR

1. Ornate Hawk-Eagle. (seven votes)
2. Purple-crowned Fairy & Middle American Screech-Owl (six votes each)
3. Agami Heron, Ocellated Turkey, White Hawk & Tody Motmot (five votes each)

MAMMALS

Common Opossum (*Didelphis marsupialis*)

West Indian Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*)---several (six total) seen from our charter plane as we took off from municipal airport; probably not seen by all, but many spied them from the plane

Mexican Black Howler Monkey (*Alouatta pigra*)---seen & heard daily at Chan Chich with many excellent studies; perhaps best was the troop near Barry's Bend with two squirrel-sized babies in tow; at least 16 total

Central American Spider Monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi*)---excellent views on several occasions, including right in the lodge clearing; an adorable mother and baby along the road to the suspension bridge; at least 20 total seen (daily at Chan Chich)

Deppe's Squirrel (*Sciurus deppei*)

Yucatan Squirrel (*Sciurus yucatanensis*)---a couple at Crooked Tree & one near the hotel in Belize City



Central American Spider Monkey, Chan Chich, Belize, March 15, 2023, ©Brian Gibbons

Central American Agouti (*Dasyprocta punctata*)---the Trogon group saw “the booty of an agouti” along the Xaxe Venic trail

Bat species----we saw several unidentified bats on the night drives

Mountain Lion (*Puma concolor*)---three of us had very close, though brief views of one stalking deer by the suspension bridge on our first morning at Chan Chich; WOW!

Gray Fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*)—excellent studies of four total

Red Brocket Deer (*Mazama americana*)---great looks at one just before Laguna Verde; only rarely seen here

White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)---common; including several adorable fawns

total species - 12

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

Cane Toad

Sheep Frog---by Brian only on his daily pre-dawn walk

Morelet's Crocodile---close views of two on boat trip
Meso-American Slider
Common House Gecko
Black (Spiny-tailed) Iguana
Green Iguana
Brown (Striped) Basilisk
Ameiva species

total species - 8

BUTTERFLIES

Dark Kite Swallowtail
Cattleheart species (*Parides* sp.)
Cloudless Sulphur
Large Orange/ Apricot Sulphur
Small yellow species
Florida White
Banded Peacock
White Peacock
Buckeye
Monarch
Queen
Julia Heliconian
Zebra Heliconian
Erato Heliconian
White Satyr
Blue-gray Satyr
Satyr species---large brown and quite plain
White-veined Skipper
Polygonus species---possibly Hammock or Manuel's Skipper
plus many others left unidentified

total species – 19+

SIGNIFICANT OTHERS

leafcutter ants
Emil's margaritas
Breaking down in Ladyville