

**FIELD REPORT**

**BELIZE  
A RELAXED & EASY TOUR**

**MARCH 13–20, 2025**



*Black-collared Hawk © Michael O'Brien*

**LEADERS: MICHAEL O'BRIEN & LOUISE ZEMAITIS**  
**with local guides Michael Gillett (Crooked Tree)**  
**and Ruben Arevalo (Lamanai)**

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**BELIZE: A RELAXED & EASY TOUR  
MARCH 13–20, 2025**

**By Michael O'Brien**



*Victor Emanuel passed away just two days prior to the start of this tour. We thought of Victor often while we were out in the field enjoying nature, but particularly when we saw his favorite bird, the Hooded Warbler. This one graced our presence at Crooked Tree, and it almost seemed as though Victor was there with us. © Michael O'Brien*

For the naturalist wishing to have a quick winter getaway, Belize offers some of the most delightful environments, friendly people, and pleasant birding in the Neotropics, all within a quick flight from the U.S. In this bird-rich region, this year's tour proved to be amazingly productive, with some wonderful wildlife sightings, an excellent list of hard-to-see species, and a fun mix of Central American residents and North American migrants.

Beginning at Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary, we immediately noticed that water levels were much higher than normal, remnant floodwaters from Tropical Storm Sara back in November. But despite high waters, Crooked Tree was as birdy as ever. During our morning walks, we consistently gravitated toward a fruiting fig tree that was always loaded with birds: Yucatan and Golden-fronted woodpeckers, Red-lored and White-fronted amazons, Black-crowned Tityra, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Scrub and Yellow-throated euphonias, Black-cowled and Hooded orioles, Sumer and Blue-gray tanagers, and Red-legged Honeycreeper all took part in the feeding frenzy. And a nearby flowering tree was similarly attractive to a dozen species of warblers including stunning

Prothonotary, Hooded, and Black-throated Green. In the pine savanna, we were thrilled to see Acorn Woodpecker, Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, and the very local Yucatan Jay along with a good assortment of passerines. And on our boat trip around the lagoon and Spanish Creek, we scored big with excellent views of the stealthy Agami Heron along with Limpkin, Northern Jacana, Least Grebe (locally rare), Bare-throated Tiger Heron (one on a nest and another fighting with a snake), Boat-billed Heron, Pinnated Bittern, Black-collared Hawk, Snail Kite, and three species of kingfishers.



*Sunrise at Crooked Tree © Michael O'Brien*

But some of our top highlights at Crooked Tree were right around Bird's Eye View Lodge. Starting with beautiful sunrises, we often saw flocks of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks and various herons and egrets commuting back and forth, Russet-naped Wood-Rails lurking around the lawn, Least and Spotted sandpipers working the shoreline, a stately Ringed Kingfisher perched by the dock, Lesser Yellow-headed Vultures cruising by, Gray-breasted Martins and Mangrove Swallows always present overhead, a flowering tree constantly tended by orioles and hummingbirds, a confiding Yellow-throated Warbler foraging around the building (the restaurant patio is named for this bird), and so much more. Night walks here produced outstanding views of Common Pauraque, as well as Boat-billed Heron feeding along the shoreline, Greater Fishing Bat hunting over the lawn, Pallas's Long-tongued Bats feeding on flowers, numerous frogs and toads, and one night, a lunar eclipse!

A morning visit to Altun Ha was as enjoyable as ever. As we explored the ancient Maya temples, our expert guide, Ann Marie Arana, shared many insights into the history of this once thriving city, which peaked during the Classic Period, from about 400 to 900 AD.

An eye to the sky produced sightings of Vaux's and Lesser Swallow-tailed swifts, Short-tailed Hawk, numerous Wood Storks, and a pair of Jabirus! A perched Bat Falcon highlighted a walk down the pond trail, and a fruiting fig attracted Black-headed Trogon, Masked Tityra, and Yellow-winged Tanager.



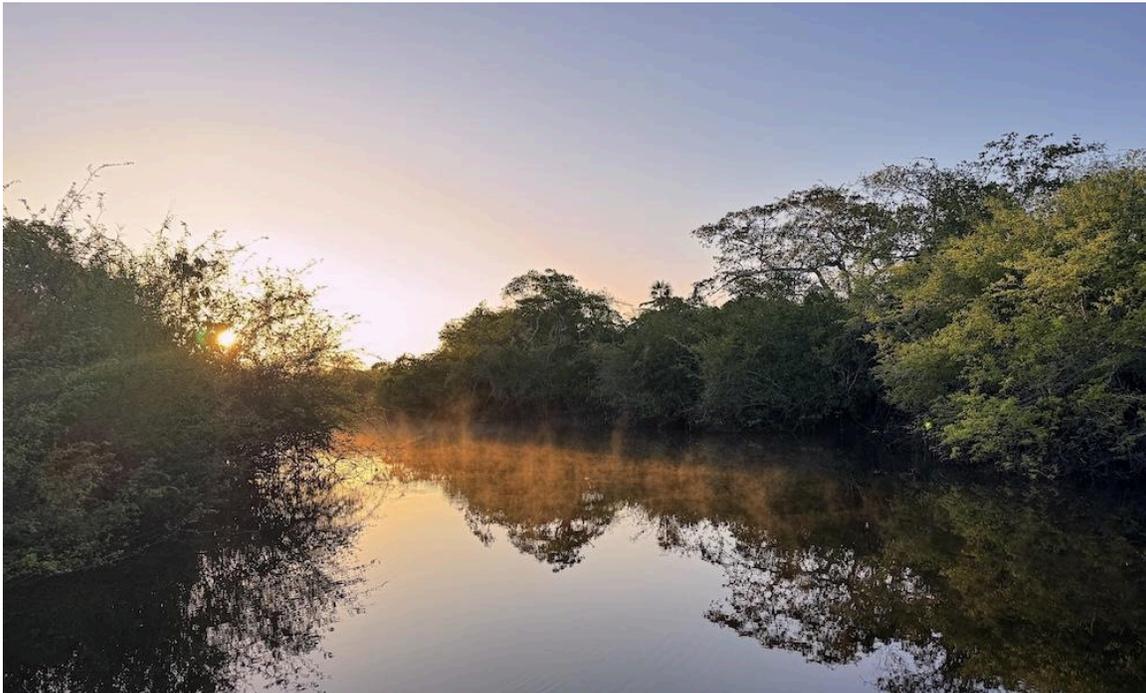
*Altun Ha © Michael O'Brien*

We began part two of our tour with a boat ride down the New River as we transferred to Lamanai. The ride was lovely as we navigated our way along the forested banks of this river, all the while feeling like we were traveling into a remote jungle. Sightings of kingfishers, herons, Limpkins, swallows, and other birds were constant, and our expert guide, Ruben Arevalo, who would be with us throughout our time at Lamanai, made a few stops along the way. Highlights included nice views of Green Kingfisher, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, and Yellow-tailed Oriole.

A central focus of our time at Lamanai (which means “submerged crocodile” in Yucatec Maya) was visiting the magnificent Maya temples, which we did on two mornings. Touring all the major sites, Ruben discussed this area's fascinating history, including the longevity of this site, occupied from at least the sixteenth century BC to the seventeenth century AD. As we explored the ruins, we also immersed ourselves in this rich lowland broadleaf forest, where howler monkeys roar and coatis and agoutis trot across trails. Some of the exciting birds here included Squirrel Cuckoo, Slaty-tailed and Gartered trogons, Pale-billed and Golden-olive woodpeckers, Laughing Falcon, White-crowned Parrot, Olivaceous and Ivory-billed woodcreepers, Red-capped Manakin, Yellow-olive Flatbill, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Worm-eating and Blue-winged warblers, and Wood Thrush.

A favorite part of our routine at Lamanai (as we did at Crooked Tree) was offering an optional pre-breakfast walk. These were always incredibly birdy and a delightful way to start the day. These walks always started at the feeding station (a new feature this year), where visitors included Plain Chachalaca, Gray Catbird, Clay-colored Thrush, Yellow-throated Euphonia, Yellow-breasted Chat, Baltimore Oriole, Tennessee and Prothonotary warblers, and Blue-gray Tanager. Other highlights of our walks included Green-breasted Mango, White-bellied Emerald, Black-headed Trogon, Keel-billed Toucan, Barred Antshrike, Yellow-throated Vireo, Yellow-billed Cacique, Blue Bunting, Buff-throated and Black-headed saltators, and numerous warblers.

For a change of pace, we took two short drives out to the rice fields and Mennonite farm country around Indian Creek, which were also very productive. Focusing on open-country and wetland species, we enjoyed sightings of Blue-winged Teal, Groove-billed Ani, Canivet's Emerald, Sora, Purple Gallinule, American Golden-Plover, Pectoral Sandpiper, Eastern Meadowlark, and impressive numbers of Indigo Bunting and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.



*Dawson's Creek © Michael O'Brien*

For most of us, the top highlights at Lamanai were the boat trips. An early morning visit to Dawson's Creek and the Lamanai savanna was sublime, with peaceful waters, a beautiful sunrise, and loads of birds including Plain-breasted Ground-Dove, Crane Hawk, American Pygmy Kingfisher, Yellow-lored and Yellow-headed amazons, Yucatan Flycatcher, Black Catbird, Botteri's and Grasshopper sparrows, and Gray-crowned Yellowthroat. An evening spotlight safari was incredibly productive with nice views of the very local Yucatan Nightjar, plus Northern Potoo, Russet-naped Wood-Rail, and three species of kingfishers, all under a spectacular star-filled sky. And on our last evening, a

sunset cocktail cruise on New River Lagoon was a delightful way to bid farewell to Belize as we cruised a shoreline dotted with herons and Limpkins, watched hundreds of swallows migrating north, listened to the calls of Ruddy Crake just feet away, and enjoyed a beautiful sunset over Lamanai's High Temple.

As always, we thank 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 Gillett at Crooked Tree and Ruben Arevalo at Lamanai, a big thank you for all the great work. See you next year!

### **ITINERARY:**

**March 13:** Arrivals and transfer to Bird's Eye View Lodge at Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary; 5:30 p.m. introductory meeting; for some, a midnight lunar eclipse watch; night at Bird's Eye View Lodge.

**March 14:** Early birding around Bird's Eye View Lodge; 8:30 am boat trip to Spanish Creek with Michael Gillett; 3:30 pm drive to Pine Savannah with Michael Gillett; short night walk after dinner; night at Bird's Eye View Lodge.



*Celebrating seeing Agami Heron at Spanish Creek © Michael O'Brien*

**March 15:** Early birding around Bird's Eye View Lodge; birding and ruins tour at Altun Ha with Ann Marie Arana; lunch at Mayan Sunrise; 5:00 pm lagoon watch and checklist; short night walk after dinner; night at Bird's Eye View Lodge.

**March 16:** Early birding around Bird's Eye View Lodge; mid-morning drive to Pine Savannah with Michael Gillett; 12:30 pm transfer to Tower Hill dock; boat transfer along New River to Lamanai with Ruben Arevalo; night at Lamanai Outpost Lodge.

**March 17:** Lamanai (all Lamanai outings with Ruben): early birding near lodge; 8:30 am birding and ruins tour at Lamanai Maya site (museum and Jaguar Temple); 3:00 pm drive along Indian Church entrance road; night at Lamanai Outpost Lodge.

**March 18:** Lamanai, including early birding near lodge; 8:30 am birding and ruins tour at Lamanai Maya site (Mask Temple, High Temple, Ball Court, and Stela 9); 3:30 pm drive to Indian Creek rice fields; 7:30 pm Spotlight Safari on New River; night at Lamanai Outpost Lodge.

**March 19:** Lamanai, including 6:00 am boat ride to Dawson's Creek and the Lamanai savannah; 10:15 am walk to Floyd's Pond; 4:30 pm sunset cocktail cruise; night at Lamanai Outpost Lodge.



*Sunset Cocktail Cruise on New River Lagoon © Michael O'Brien*

**March 20:** 7:30 am departure from Lamanai for Belize City via New River with Eduardo Ruano (arriving 10:00 am); afternoon departures from Phillip Goldson International Airport.

**KEY:**

N = nest observed  
Y = recently fledged young observed  
CT = Crooked Tree  
(I) = introduced species

**BIRDS**

**WATERFOWL: ANATIDAE**

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) – Numerous at CT.  
Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moschata*) – Several at CT.  
Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) – Several at Indian Creek.  
Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*) – Six at New River Lagoon.

#### **GUANS, CHACHALACAS & CURASSOWS: CRACIDAE**

Plain Chachalaca (*Ortalis vetula*) – Seen on six days.

#### **PIGEONS & DOVES: COLUMBIDAE**

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) – A few around Belize City.  
Pale-vented Pigeon (*Patagioenas cayennensis*) – Seen every day.  
Red-billed Pigeon (*Patagioenas flavirostris*) – Seen every day at Lamanai.  
Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) ( I ) – One near Belize Airport.  
Plain-breasted Ground-Dove (*Columbina minuta*) – Two at the Lamanai savanna.  
Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*) N – Numerous and seen every day.  
Blue Ground-Dove (*Claravis pretiosa*) – Several flying across the road near Indian Church.  
White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*) – Heard on six days; seen a few times.  
White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) N, Y – Numerous and seen daily; this species continues to increase dramatically.

#### **CUCKOOS: CUCULIDAE**

Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) – Seen on six days.  
Squirrel Cuckoo (*Tapera naevia*) – Heard on six days; seen a few times.

#### **NIGHTJARS: CAPRIMULGIDAE**

Common Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*) – Excellent views at Bird's Eye View Lodge in the evenings, plus two on the Spotlight Safari at Lamanai.  
Yucatan Nightjar (*Antrostomus badius*) – Excellent views of this Yucatan endemic on the Spotlight Safari at Lamanai.



**POTOOS: NYCTIBIIDAE**

Northern Potoo (*Nyctibius jamaicensis*) – One seen on the Spotlight Safari at Lamanai.

**SWIFTS: APODIDAE**

Vaux's Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*) – Small group seen at Altun Ha.

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift (*Panyptila cayennensis*) – A few seen at Altun Ha and Lamanai.

**HUMMINGBIRDS: TROCHILIDAE**

Green-breasted Mango (*Anthracothorax prevostii*) – Several at Indian Church.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) – Several at Indian Church.

Canivet's Emerald (*Cynanthus canivetii*) – Two along the entrance road to Indian Church.

Buff-bellied Hummingbird (*Amazilia yucatanensis*) – One at the Lamanai savanna.

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

White-bellied Emerald (*Chlorestes candida*) – Several at Lamanai.

**RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS: RALLIDAE**

Russet-naped Wood-Rail (*Aramides albiventris*) Y – Seen on five days at both CT and Lamanai.



*Russet-naped Wood-Rail © Michael O'Brien*

Sora (*Porzana carolina*) – One at Indian Creek.

Common Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*) – One at CT.

American Coot (*Fulica americana*) – Three at CT.

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinicus*) – One at CT and about 18 at Indian Creek.

Ruddy Crake (*Laterallus ruber*) – Heard at Dawson's Creek and New River Lagoon.

**FINFOOTS: HELIORNITHIDAE**

Sungrebe (*Heliornis fulica*) – Three seen on New River during our departure.

**LIMPKIN: ARAMIDAE**

Limkin (*Aramus guarauna*) – Seen or heard every day; amazing concentration of more than 100 along the New River during our departure.

**STILTS & AVOCETS: RECURVIROSTRIDAE**

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) – Four at CT.

**PLOVERS & LAPWINGS: CHARADRIIDAE**

American Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*) – 20 at Indian Creek.

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) – 15 at Indian Creek.

Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) – Six at Indian Creek.

**JACANAS: JACANIDAE**

Northern Jacana (*Jacana spinosa*) Y – Numerous at CT; a few around Lamanai.

**SANDPIPERS & ALLIES: SCOLOPACIDAE**

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*) – A few seen every day at CT.

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

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) – Ten at Indian Creek.

Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*) – One at Indian Creek.

Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) – A few at CT, 25 at Indian Creek.

Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*) – 3 at CT, 70 at Indian Creek.

**GULLS, TERNS, & SKIMMERS: LARIDAE**

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

Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) – Two along the New River.

**GREBES: PODICEPIDIDAE**

Least Grebe (*Tachybaptus dominicus*) – One at CT.



*Least Grebe* © Michael O'Brien

**STORKS: CICONIIDAE**

Jabiru (*Jabiru mycteria*) – Fly-overs seen at Altun Ha, New River, and Indian Creek.

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) – Seen on six days.

**ANHINGAS: ANHINGIDAE**

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) – Seen on six days, including migrating flocks flying over.

**CORMORANTS: PHALACROCORACIDAE**

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) – Numerous and seen every day.

**IBISES & SPOONBILLS: THRESKIORNITHIDAE**

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) – Numerous and seen every day.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) – One at CT, two at Indian Creek.

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

**HERONS, EGRETS & BITTERNs: ARDEIDAE**

Bare-throated Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma mexicanum*) N – Several at CT including two nests plus one juvenile battling with a Western Ribbon Snake!

Boat-billed Heron (*Cochlearius cochlearius*) – Several at CT, both on our boat trip and feeding on the shoreline at night by Bird's Eye View Lodge.

Agami Heron (*Agamia agami*) – Two at CT offering excellent views.



*Agami Heron* © Michael O'Brien

- Pinnated Bittern (*Botaurus pinnatus*) – One at CT.  
 Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*) – Heard at Dawson's Creek and New River Lagoon.  
 Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) – A few each at CT and Lamanai.  
 Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) – A few at CT, one along the New River.  
 Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) – At least a few seen every day.  
 Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*) – Small numbers at CT, one at Indian Creek.  
 Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) – Seen on five days; often in good numbers.  
 Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) – At least a few seen every day; numerous at CT.  
 Western Cattle-Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) – Seen every day; most numerous around Indian Creek.  
 Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) – Seen on five days; often in good numbers.  
 Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) – Small numbers seen on six days.

#### **NEW WORLD VULTURES: CATHARTIDAE**

- King Vulture (*Sarcoramphus papa*) – Two at Lamanai.  
 Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) – Abundant and seen every day.  
 Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) – Seen daily, but less abundant than Black Vulture.  
 Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture (*Cathartes burrovianus*) – A few seen every day at CT; one at Indian Creek.

#### **OSPREY: PANDIONIDAE**

- Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) – Small numbers seen on six days; all of these were of the migratory North American subspecies (*P. h. carolinensis*).

#### **HAWKS, EAGLES, & KITES: ACCIPITRIDAE**

- Bicolored Hawk (*Accipiter bicolor*) – Fly-by seen near Indian Church.  
 Double-toothed Kite (*Harpagus bidentatus*) – One at Lamanai.  
 Crane Hawk (*Geranospiza caerulescens*) – Fly-by seen at Dawson's Creek.  
 Black-collared Hawk (*Busarellus nigricollis*) – Two at CT.

Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*) – Seen on five days; up to 15 at CT.  
Great Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus urubitinga*) – Two at CT.  
Roadside Hawk (*Rupornis magnirostris*) – Seen on six days.  
White-tailed Hawk (*Geranoaetus albicaudatus*) – One adult at Dawson’s Creek.  
Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*) – Singles at Altun Ha and Indian Church.

**BARN-OWLS: TYTONIDAE**

American Barn Owl (*Tyto furcata*) – Heard at Lamanai.

**OWLS: STRIGIDAE**

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum*) – Excellent views of two different birds (and a third heard) at CT.



*Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl* © Michael O'Brien

**TROGONS: TROGONIDAE**

Slaty-tailed Trogon (*Trogon massena*) – One at Lamanai.  
Black-headed Trogon (*Trogon melanocephalus*) – Seen on six days.  
Gartered Trogon (*Trogon caligatus*) – Several at Lamanai.

**KINGFISHERS: ALCEDINIDAE**

Ringed Kingfisher (*Megaceryle torquata*) – Seen every day.  
Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*) – Small numbers seen on four days.  
American Pygmy Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle aenea*) – Two roosting birds seen on the Spotlight Safari and one at Dawson’s Creek.



*American Pygmy Kingfisher* © Michael O'Brien

Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*) – Small numbers seen on six days.

**JACAMARS: GALBULIDAE**

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

**TOUCANS: RAMPHASTIDAE**

Keel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*) – Two at Altun Ha, four at Lamanai.

**WOODPECKERS: PICIDAE**

Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*) – Numerous at CT; two at the Lamanai savanna.

Yucatan Woodpecker (*Melanerpes pygmaeus*) – Seen on five days.

Golden-fronted Woodpecker (*Melanerpes aurifrons*) – Seen every day.

Ladder-backed Woodpecker (*Dryobates scalaris*) – Heard at Lamanai savanna.

Pale-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus guatemalensis*) – Seen on three days at Lamanai.

Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*) – Seen every day.

Chestnut-colored Woodpecker (*Cealeus castaneus*) – Two at Lamanai.

Golden-olive Woodpecker (*Colaptes rubiginosus*) N – Seen peering out of its nest at Lamanai.

**FALCONS & CARACARAS: FALCONIDAE**

Laughing Falcon (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*) – Cooperative pair Lamanai; two days in a row we saw one with a Mexican Parrot Snake!

Collared Forest-Falcon (*Micrastur semitorquatus*) – Heard at New River Lagoon on cocktail cruise.

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) – Singles at Indian Church and Indian Creek.

Bat Falcon (*Falco ruficularis*) – Nice views of a perched bird at Altun Ha; also a few fly-bys at Lamanai.

**AFRICAN & NEW WORLD PARROTS: PSITTACIDAE**

White-crowned Parrot (*Pionus senilis*) N – Several at Lamanai including one peering out of its nest hole. This species is confined to forested habitats while most of the other parrots are more numerous in edge or savanna habitats.

Red-lored Amazon (*Amazona autumnalis*) – Seen on six days; most numerous at CT.



*Red-lored Amazon © Michael O'Brien*

Yellow-headed Amazon (*Amazona oratrix*) – One at CT, four at the Lamanai savanna.

White-fronted Amazon (*Amazona albifrons*) – Seen on six days.

Yellow-lored (Yucatan) Amazon (*Amazona xantholora*) – Excellent views at the Lamanai savanna.

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

#### **TYPICAL ANTBIRDS: THAMNOPHILIDAE**

Barred Antshrike (*Thamnophilus doliatus*) – Several seen at Lamanai.

#### **OVENBIRDS & WOODCREEPERS: FURNARIIDAE**

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

Ivory-billed Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus flavigaster*) – Seen at CT; heard at several locations.

#### **MANAKINS: PIPRIDAE**

Red-capped Manakin (*Ceratopipra mentalis*) – Two at Lamanai.

#### **TITYRAS & ALLIES: TITYRIDAE**

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

Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*) – Seen at Altun Ha and Lamanai.

Northern Schiffornis (*Schiffornis veraepacis*) – Heard at Lamanai.

#### **TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: TYRANNIDAE**

Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*) – Several seen at CT; heard elsewhere.

Yellow-olive Flatbill (*Tolmomyias sulphurescens*) – Seen at Lamanai; heard elsewhere.

Northern Beardless Tyrannulet (*Camptostoma imberbe*) – A few seen at CT and Lamanai.

Greenish Elaenia (*Myiopagis viridicata*) – A few seen at CT and Lamanai.  
 Yellow-bellied Elaenia (*Elaenia flavogaster*) – Seen or heard on five days.  
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*) – A few at Lamanai.  
 Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*) – Seen at CT, Altun Ha, and Lamanai.  
 Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) – Seen on six days.  
 Bright-rumped Attila (*Attila spadiceus*) – Seen at Dawson’s Creek; heard elsewhere.  
 Yucatan Flycatcher (*Myiarchus yucatanensis*) – Seen at the Lamanai savanna.  
 Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) – Seen every day.



*Dusky-capped Flycatcher* © Michael O’Brien

Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) – Heard at Lamanai.  
 Brown-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*) – Seen on five days.  
 Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) – Seen every day.  
 Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) N – Numerous and seen every day.  
 Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucophaius*) – Heard at Altun Ha.  
 Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) – Numerous and seen every day in both edge habitat and open country.  
 Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus couchii*) – Small numbers seen or heard on six days. This species is very similar to Tropical Kingbird and differs mainly by voice. Couch's prefers forest openings and edge habitat but is generally absent in open country where Tropical Kingbird is common.  
 Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*) – One at CT, two at Indian Creek.

**VIREOS: VIREONIDAE**

Rufous-browed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*) – Seen along the New River; heard elsewhere.  
 Lesser Greenlet (*Pachyslyvia decurtatus*) – A few seen at Altun Ha and Lamanai; many heard.  
 White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*) – Seen or heard every day.  
 Mangrove Vireo (*Vireo pallens*) – Seen briefly at CT, heard elsewhere.  
 Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*) – Several seen around Lamanai.

### **CROWS, JAYS & MAGPIES: CORVIDAE**

Brown Jay (*Psilorhinus morio*) N – Seen every day.

Yucatan Jay (*Cyanocorax yucatanicus*) – Nice views at CT.

### **SWALLOWS: HIRUNDINIDAE**

Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*) – Small numbers along the New River.

Mangrove Swallow (*Tachycineta albilinea*) N – Seen every day.



*Mangrove Swallow* © Michael O'Brien

Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) – Small numbers at CT and Lamanai.

Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*) N – Seen every day at CT; most numerous at Bird's Eye View Lodge.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) – A few at CT; numerous along the New River.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) – A few at CT; numerous along the New River and at Indian Creek.

### **GNATCATCHERS: POLIOPTILIDAE**

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*) – Small numbers around CT and the Lamanai savanna; based on vocalizations and bill color, most of these seem to be of the resident subspecies (*P. c. deppei*).

### **WRENS: TROGLODYTIDAE**

Southern House Wren (*Troglodytes musculus*) – Seen or heard every day.

Carolina (White-browed) Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus albinucha*) – Heard at Dawson's Creek; 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-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucosticta*) – Heard at Altun Ha and Lamanai.

**MOCKINGBIRDS & THRASHERS: MIMIDAE**

Black Catbird (*Melanoptila glabrirostris*) – Seen at Dawson’s Creek.

Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) – Seen every day.

Tropical Mockingbird (*Mimus gilvus*) – Seen every day.

**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*) – Several at CT.

Yellow-throated Euphonia (*Euphonia hirundinacea*) – Seen every day; the most numerous visitor to feeders at Lamanai.



*Yellow-throated Euphonia* © Michael O'Brien

Olive-backed Euphonia (*Euphonia gouldi*) – Heard at Lamanai.

**NEW WORLD SPARROWS: PASSERELLIDAE**

Botteri’s Sparrow (*Peucaea botterii*) – Six at the Lamanai savanna.

Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) – Fout at the Lamanai savanna.



Grasshopper Sparrow © Michael O'Brien

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

**YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: ICTERIIDAE**

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

**TROUPIALS & ALLIES: ICTERIDAE**

Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) – Several at Indian Creek.

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

Black-cowled Oriole (*Icterus prothemelas*) – Small numbers seen on five days.

Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) – Seen every day.

Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*) – Seen on five days.

Yellow-tailed Oriole (*Icterus mesomelas*) – Three seen along the New River.

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

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) – Seen on five days.

Giant Cowbird (*Molothrus oryzivorus*) – Ten at Indian Creek.

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

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) – Seen on five days; numerous in open country.

**NEW WORLD WARBLERS: PARULIDAE**

Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorum*) – Seen at Lamanai.

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

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora cyanoptera*) – Two at Lamanai.

Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) – Seen on five days.

Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) – Seen on five days.

Tennessee Warbler (*Oreothlypis peregrina*) – Seen on six days.

Gray-crowned Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis poliocephala*) – Seen at the Lamanai savanna.

Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) – Seen or heard at several locations.

Hooded Warbler (*Setophaga citrina*) – Seen on five days.

American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) – Seen on six days.

Northern Parula (*Setophaga americana*) – Seen on four day.

Magnolia Warbler (*Setophaga magnolia*) – Seen every day; probably the most numerous wintering warbler in Belize.

Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*) – Seen on four days.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Setophaga coronata*) – Several of the “Myrtle” subspecies (*S. c. coronata*) at CT.

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Setophaga dominica*) – A few seen every day; one of our favorite yard birds at Bird’s Eye View Lodge! All were of the expected “Sycamore” subspecies (*S. d. albilora*), which breeds primarily in the Midwest.



*Yellow-throated Warbler* © Michael O’Brien

Black-throated Green Warbler (*Setophaga virens*) – Seen on five days.

#### **CARDINALS & ALLIES: CARDINALIDAE**

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) – Seen every day.

Red-throated Ant-Tanager (*Habia fuscicauda*) – Heard at Lamanai.

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) – Several each at CT and the Lamanai savanna.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) – Impressive flock of 34 counted as they flew across the road, one-by-one, near Indian Church.

Blue Bunting (*Cyanocompsa parellina*) – Several around Lamanai.

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*) – Several around Lamanai and Indian Church.

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) – Foraging flock of more than 50 seen along the roadside and flying across the road near Indian Creek.

#### **TANAGERS & ALLIES: THRAUPIDAE**

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

Yellow-winged Tanager (*Thraupis abbas*) – Seen on four days.

Red-legged Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*) – Small flock feeding in the figs at Crooked Tree; two at Lamanai.

Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*) – Numerous around Indian Creek and Indian Church.

Morelet's Seedeater (*Sporophila torqueola*) – Seen every day.

Buff-throated Saltator (*Saltator maximus*) – One at Lamanai. This species is normally found farther south in Belize but has been moving northward in recent years. A pair has been present at Lamanai since July 2022.

Black-headed Saltator (*Saltator atriceps*) – Seen on four days.

Cinnamon-bellied Saltator (*Saltator grandis*) – Seen at CT; heard at Indian Church.

## **MAMMALS**

Yucatan Black Howler Monkey (*Alouatta pigra*) – Seen or heard on five days.



*Yucatan Black Howler Monkey* © Michael O'Brien

Yucatan Squirrel (*Sciurus yucatanensis*) – Seen on six days; apparently increasing.

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

Proboscis (Long-nosed) Bat (*Rhynchonycteris naso*) – Several roosting on our pontoon boat at Lamanai.

Greater Sac-winged Bat (*Saccopteryx bilineata*) – Two roosting in a building at Lamanai.

Yucatan Yellow Bat (*Rhogeessa aenea*) – One roosting in a building at Lamanai.

Pallas's Long-tongued Bat (*Glossophaga soricina*) – Several seen visiting flowers at night at CT and two roosting in a building at Lamanai.

Greater Bulldog (Fishing) Bat (*Noctilio leporinus*) – Normally we only see this large bat species flying over open water where they hunt fish swimming near the surface, but this year we saw two hunting over a lawn at CT, maybe catching frogs.

Gray Fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) – Three at Indian Creek.

Neotropical Otter (*Lontra longicaudis*) – One seen briefly at the Lamanai dock.

White-nosed Coati (*Nasua narica*) – Two at Lamanai.

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



Kinkajou © Michael O'Brien

### **AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES**

Central American Gulf Coast Toad (*Incilius valliceps*) – Seen on six days.

Giant Toad (*Rhinella horribilis*) – Seen every day.

Yellow Treefrog (*Dendropsophus microcephalus*) – Heard at CT.

Stauffer's Treefrog (*Scinax staufferi*) – A few at CT.

Mexican Smilisca (Treefrog) (*Smilisca baudinii*) – Heard at CT.

Sabinal Frog (*Leptodactylus melanonotus*) – Seen at CT.

Brown's Leopard Frog (*Lithobates brownorum*) – Seen or heard on five days.

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

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

Meso-American Slider (*Trachemys venusta*) – Seen on six days.

Common (Asian) House Gecko (*Hemidactylus frenatus*) ( I ) – Numerous around our lodgings, seen and heard daily.

Black Spiny-tailed Iguana (*Ctenosaura similis*) – Seen on five days.

Green Iguana (*Iguana iguana*) – Seen every day.

Brown Anole (*Anolis sagrei*) – Several at Lamanai.

Yucatan Silky Anole (*Anolis ustus*) – One at Lamanai.

Brown Basilisk (*Basiliscus vittatus*) – Seen on four days.

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

Central American Boa (*Boa imperator*) – Singles at CT and Lamanai.

Central American (Black-tailed) Indigo Snake (*Drymarchon melanurus*) – One at Lamanai.

Mexican Parrot Snake (*Leptophis mexicanus*) – Two on consecutive days, seen in the talons of a Laughing Falcon at Lamanai.

Western Ribbon Snake (*Thamnophis proximus*) – One at CT in the bill of a Bare-throated Tiger-Heron.



Central American Boa © Michael O'Brien

### **BUTTERFLIES**

Polydamas Swallowtail (*Battus polydamas*)  
Transandean Cattleheart (*Parides iphidamas*)  
Thoas Swallowtail (*Heraclides thoas*)  
Florida (Tropical) White (*Appias drusilla*)  
Yellow Angled-Sulphur (*Anteos maerula*)  
White Angled-Sulphur (*Anteos clorinde*)  
Large Orange sulphur (*Phoebis agarithe*)  
Mimosa Yellow (*Eurema mimosa*)  
Mexican Cycadian (*Eumaeus toxea*)  
Pale Ministreak (*Ministrymon una*)  
Common Lemmark (Molpe Metalmark) (*Juditha caucana*)  
Northern Green-Heliconian (*Philaethria diatonica*)  
Julia Heliconian (*Dryas iulia*)  
Erato Heliconian (Red Postman) (*Heliconius erato*)  
Zebra Heliconian (*Heliconius charithonia*)  
White Peacock (*Anartia jatrophae*)  
Banded Peacock (*Anartia fatima*)  
Gray Cracker (*Hamadryas februa*)  
Variable Cracker (*Hamadryas feronia*)  
Small Beauty (*Colobura dirce*)  
Common Morpho (*Morpho helenor*)  
Pale (Yellow-fronted) Owl-Butterfly (*Caligo telamonius*)  
Split-banded Owlet (*Opsiphanes cassina*)  
Double-white Satyr (*Pareuptychia ocirrhoe*)  
Plain Satyr (*Cissia pompilia*)  
Hermes Satyr (*Hermeuptychia hermes*)

Monarch (*Danaus plexippus plexippus*)  
Queen (*Danaus gilippus thersippus*)  
Tropical Checkered-Skipper (*Burnsius oileus*)  
Veined White-Skipper (*Heliopetes arsalte*)  
Plain Longtail (*Spicauda simplicius*)  
Redundant Skipper (*Corticea corticea*)



*Pale Owl-Butterfly* © Michael O'Brien