

**FIELD REPORT**

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

**MARCH 10–18, 2025**



Northern Potoo, Gallon Jug, Belize, March 16, 2025, ©Barry Zimmer

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LIST COMPILED BY: BARRY ZIMMER**

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**By Barry Zimmer**

On the first morning of our tour, we headed north from Belize City towards the tiny village of Crooked Tree. At the first hint of light, we spied a perched Ringed Kingfisher over the causeway for our first bird of the trip. Despite our best efforts, however, we couldn't make it through the village without stopping. A perched Yellow-headed Amazon (rare and declining) demanded our attention. Once outside the vehicle, the floodgates opened up. Red-lored Amazon, Olive-throated Parakeet, Acorn Woodpecker, Great Kiskadee, and Social Flycatcher side by side; Clay-colored Thrush; Melodious Blackbird; Blue-gray Tanager—the birds came fast and furious. Tearing ourselves away, we arrived at Bird's Eye View Lodge a few minutes later, and again bird activity was high. Mangrove Swallows and Gray-breasted Martins cruised over the parking area; Black-cowled, Baltimore, Orchard, and Hooded orioles visited a hummingbird feeder; a Yellow-throated Warbler was spied on the lodge railing; and Ruddy Ground-Doves walked about the lawn. Our local guide, Leonard, spotted a pair of Russet-naped Wood-Rails in a small swale next to the lodge. Within minutes, the responsive pair was just feet away from our group making quite the racket. Scanning the shoreline, we quickly located Tricolored and Little Blue herons, a White Ibis, and a Northern Jacana. Birds were everywhere. Where to look first? With discipline, we broke away from the activity and headed to the restaurant for breakfast. We were scheduled for our five-hour boat ride into the lagoon and down to Spanish Creek, and thus, were eager to get out on the water. Dining on the outdoor patio led to many interruptions, as a myriad of new species were added while we downed our breakfast.

Finally, we made it onto the boat and began our cruise south through the lagoon. Several close, perched Snail Kites, many Northern Jacanas, a Purple Gallinule, Green and Ringed kingfishers, cooperative pairs of Barred Antshrikes and Mangrove Vireos, a flock of eight Fork-tailed Flycatchers, an adult Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, a Limpkin with a snail in its beak, and a fly-by pair of Yellow-lored Amazons were all seen in the first 30 minutes of our ride! As the lagoon narrowed and we neared Spanish Creek, a whole new group of birds appeared. Rufous-breasted Spinetail, Common Tody-Flycatcher, and Yellow-breasted Chat all appeared at one stop. Multiple Boat-billed Herons posed, quite uncharacteristically, in the open, providing good photographic opportunities. A Great Black Hawk soared overhead, as did two majestic Black-collared Hawks. An immature Agami Heron was spotted, but deep in the

mangroves where only a couple of folks could see it. Fear not, a short while later, two more Agamis (an adult and an immature) were found, and everyone had good views of the immature. With high water this year, we were very lucky to get this species at all. Yucatan Woodpecker, Spot-breasted Wren, Prothonotary and Hooded warblers . . . the list went on and on. In addition to the variety of species, the sheer number of individuals was mind-boggling. As an example, we tallied 61 Northern Jacanas and 49 Green Herons on the ride! This was, simply put, an epic boat trip.



Russet-naped Wood-Rail, Crooked Tree, Belize, March 11, 2025, ©Barry Zimmer

But our day was not done. After lunch, we headed back to Belize City for a visit to Bird's Isle. I wasn't even out of the bus when I spotted our primary target at this location, the "Mangrove" subspecies of Yellow Warbler with its striking chestnut head. This little warrior not only allowed superb views, but actually began attacking our bus and at least one other car that came by. He persistently attacked his image in both rear-view mirrors and just wouldn't leave the bus alone. After taking many pictures of this defiant little guy, we strolled around the small island adding several new birds, including an unexpected pair of Rufous-necked Wood-Rails, a Cinnamon Hummingbird, and a half-dozen Scissor-tailed Flycatchers. Many Magnificent Frigatebirds and Brown Pelicans sailed gracefully overhead, and a Green Kingfisher perched in the mangroves for scope views. We finished the day with a walk around the

hotel grounds. A magnificent Bat Falcon posed on a dead palm trunk, more Cinnamon Hummingbirds buzzed about the garden flowers, a pair of Golden-fronted Woodpeckers allowed scope study, and a rare Palm Warbler made an appearance. For our first day, we would tally a staggering 116 species of birds! It would be hard to get off to a better start.



“Mangrove” Yellow Warbler, Belize City, Belize, March 11, 2025, ©Barry Zimmer

On our second day, we returned to Crooked Tree, but this time to scour the pine-oak savanna just west of town. Before we could even make it to breakfast, we once again got side-tracked—this time by Pale-vented Pigeon, Vermilion Flycatcher, and Cinnamon-bellied Saltator among others. In the pine-oak savanna, we hoped to find another regional endemic, the stunning Yucatan Jay. Luck was on our side, as we rather quickly encountered a sizable group of jays (10+) that allowed repeated, wonderful views. We would continue to see the species throughout the morning with an estimated 40 or more tallied. It was arguably our best showing ever for this highly-sought species! With the pressure off, a host of other new species were added as we strolled through the forest, including Green-breasted Mango, Buff-bellied Hummingbird, Short-tailed Hawk, Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl (epic studies), Black-headed Trogon, White-fronted Amazon, Yellow-olive Flatbill, Rose-throated Becard, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Brown Jay, and Grace’s Warbler among others. Back at

Bird's Eye View Lodge, we had a little time before lunch. A half-dozen Lesser Yellow-headed Vultures sailed low over our heads, and then our good luck continued as a Jabiru came from the west and flew right over the lodge! With the high water, we had all but given up on this magnificent species.

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). Stops along the way produced a small pond filled with Wood Storks and Great Egrets in a feeding frenzy, and a Gray-headed Kite in an interesting immature plumage. We departed the municipal airport around 3:30 PM, flew over miles and miles of uninterrupted forest, and a short 25 minutes later we were landing at Gallon Jug. Appropriately, some Ocellated Turkeys greeted our arrival along the runway. The seven-mile drive to the lodge yielded, quite amazingly, a pair of Great Curassows in the middle of the road! What a welcome party! The amazing staff at Chan Chich greeted us with cold washcloths and a refreshing allspice tea when we arrived at the lodge. After checking in and settling into our luxurious rooms, we had time for a brief walk around the lodge grounds before dusk settled in. Once again, birds were plentiful, and we quickly added White-necked Jacobin, Long-billed Hermit, Gray Hawk, Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift, Black-cheeked Woodpecker, and a dazzling Blue Bunting to our rapidly growing list. Some Central American Spider Monkeys posed well overhead, and Ocellated Turkeys were everywhere right around our rooms! Another day, another 119 species seen—an astonishing 42 of them new from yesterday's list! We settled into our rooms, and after a delicious dinner drifted off to sleep to the sounds of Mexican Black Howler Monkeys and Common Pauraques right around our cabanas.



Great Curassow, Chan Chich, Belize, March 12, 2025, ©Barry Zimmer

Our first full day at Chan Chich was certainly a memorable one. We began the morning with a Gartered Trogon and Cinnamon Becard during breakfast. A walk around the lodge clearing and then down to the east service area and a nearby small ponding area followed breakfast. A fledgling Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, White-crowned Parrot, Mealy Amazon, stunning Rufous-tailed Jacamars, equally stunning American Pygmy Kingfishers, Northern Barred and Olivaceous woodcreepers, Pale-billed Woodpecker, Smoky-brown Woodpecker, Blue-black Grosbeak, Black-headed Saltator, Yellow-winged Tanager, and Red-crowned Ant-Tanager were all quickly tallied. We returned to the lodge for a quick break and a snack before walking the entry road down to the suspension bridge. Again, the highlights were many, including Squirrel Cuckoo, Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet, Ochre-bellied Flycatcher, Dot-winged Antwren, Lesser Greenlet, and brief views of Green Shrike-Vireo. Lunch on the outside veranda yielded a pair of Crested Guans and a fabulous Slaty-tailed Trogon.



American Pygmy Kingfisher, Chan Chich, Belize, March 13, 2025, ©Barry Zimmer

After lunch and a midafternoon break, we loaded up in the lodge's new safari-type vehicles and headed towards Gallon Jug. A short distance from the lodge, a stunning White Hawk flushed from the roadside and perched in a tree for all to see. Two White-tailed Kites were spotted in a bare tree, while a stop in the coffee plantation produced a pair of Lineated Woodpeckers and a furtive Keel-billed Toucan. A forest road leading out of Sylvester Village yielded our best bird of the day, the highly-sought Tody Motmot. We finished with ten or more Montezuma Oropendolas late in the afternoon. On this day, we added another 44 species to our cumulative list.



Tody Motmot, Chan Chich, Belize, March 13, 2025, ©Max Breckenridge

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. I led one group out the Sylvester Village Road, and Max took the other group out the Xaxe Venic Trail. Both groups tallied the two key regional endemics—Gray-throated Chat and Rose-throated Tanager! The group on the Sylvester Village Road also saw Blue Ground Dove, Mayan Antthrush, Tawny-winged and Wedge-billed woodcreepers, Stub-tailed Spadebill, Northern Schiffornis, White-breasted Wood-Wren, White-browed Gnatcatcher, Long-billed Gnatwren, and Black-throated Shrike-Tanager among others. A rarely seen Red Brocket Deer was the icing on the cake. The group on the Xaxe Venic Trail found Gray-headed Dove, Chestnut-colored Woodpecker, Yucatan Flycatcher, Stub-tailed Spadebill, Northern Schiffornis, and a Red brocket Deer as well. It was a great morning for all!

In the afternoon, one group headed back out to Gallon Jug and the coffee groves. There they tallied Plumbeous Kite, Swallow-tailed Kite, White-whiskered Puffbird, Keel-billed Toucan, and a rare Gray-collared Becard among others. 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 (three visits)

topped the list, but other highlights included Stripe-throated Hermit, a male Red-capped Manakin, Northern Schiffornis, Ochre-bellied Flycatcher, Wood Thrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Hooded, Kentucky, and Magnolia warblers. A night drive that evening yielded an impressive list of birds, including a dozen Common Pauragues, three Northern Potoos (one just ten feet away!), three Yucatan Poorwills, and a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. Another amazing day in paradise!



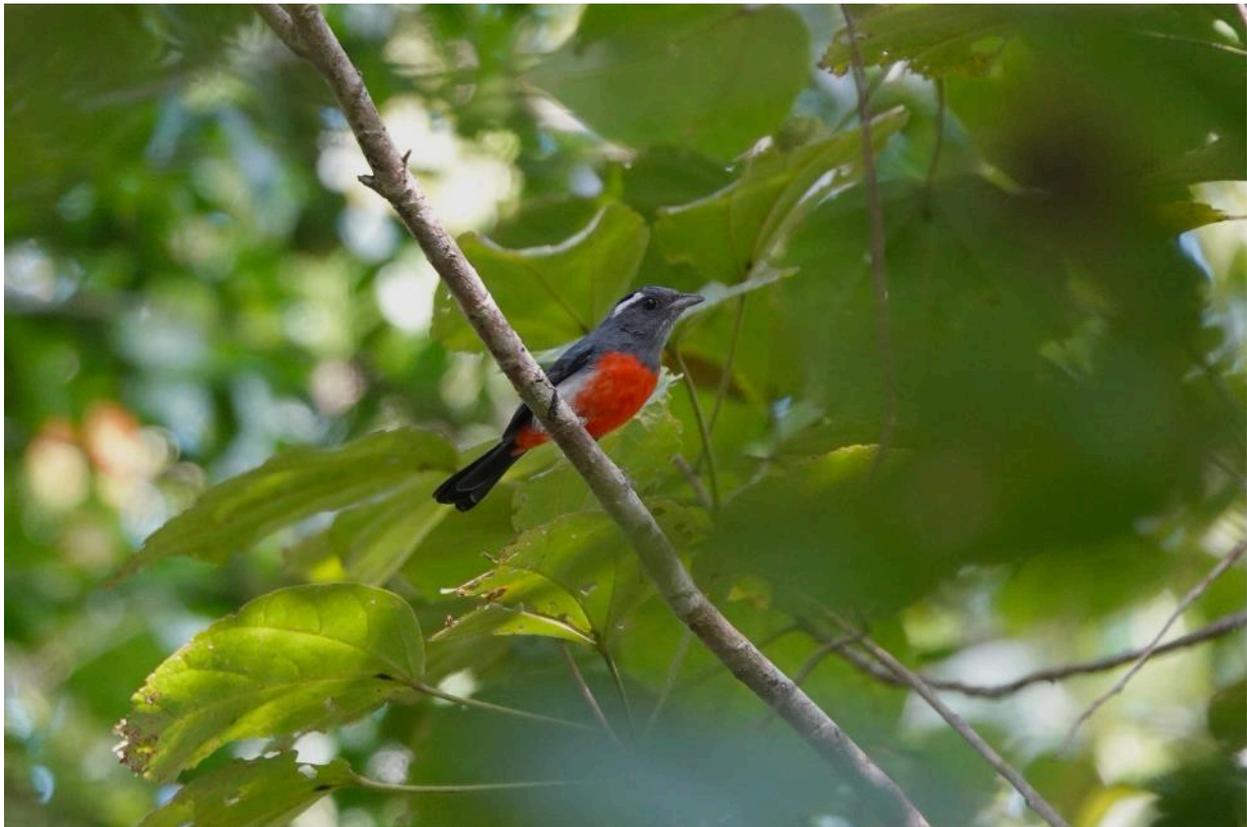
Kentucky Warbler, Chan Chich, Belize, March 14, 2025, ©Barry Zimmer

The following morning, we all headed up to an area known as the escarpment. Along the way we stopped for a few birds (most notably another Great Curassow, a Golden-olive Woodpecker, and a couple of Keel-billed Toucans), but we wanted to reach the escarpment before raptors started getting up. We arrived at the escarpment before 9 AM, and the view of the sea of uninterrupted forest that lay below us was worth the visit alone. After a short while two Hook-billed Kites flew right over us. Birds began rising up over the next hour-and-a-half, including three King Vultures, some high-flying Double-toothed Kites, three White Hawks, a Great Black Hawk, Short-tailed Hawk, and an Osprey. Hawk-watching at the escarpment is always fun!

In the afternoon, the groups switched areas from the day before. The bathing spot was once again amazing with new additions including Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher, Worm-eating Warbler, and Blue-winged Warbler. The group going to the coffee groves

added another Squirrel Cuckoo, Great Crested Flycatcher, Masked Tityra, and Northern Parula.

The next day, we split up again in the morning and hiked forest trails. Both groups experienced nice mornings again, but we had already cleaned up most of the area targets, so there wasn't a ton of totally new birds. On the Xaxe Venic Trail, we found Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser (mostly seen in rocketing flight), Chestnut-colored Woodpecker, Carolina Wren (the White-browed subspecies), and another Black-throated Shrike-Tanager. On the Sylvester Village Road, White-bellied Emerald, a female Lovely Cotinga gathering nest material, White-bellied Wren, and Green-backed Sparrow were encountered. That afternoon, we headed over to Sylvester Village and then on to scenic Laguna Verde. Along the way, a seemingly lost newborn fawn White-tailed Deer reuniting with its mother was quite heart-warming. In some forest along north of Sylvester Village, we had superb studies of a Great Black Hawk and a group of about ten Dot-winged Antwrens, while the area around Laguna Verde itself produced Tropical Royal Flycatcher and Boat-billed Flycatcher. The night drive on this evening repeated the earlier finds, plus a wonderful red morph Middle American Screech-Owl.



Gray-throated Chat, Chan Chich, Belize, March 16, 2025, ©Max Breckenridge

The morning of our last full day started out in grand fashion as two members of our group saw a Mountain Lion walking right through the lodge clearing at 6:40 AM. The rest of us missed this special moment by just minutes. We loaded up the safari vehicles and headed to Cedar Crossing and Laguna Seca. En route, we saw numbers of birds including a roosting Northern Potoo, two perched King Vultures, Laughing Falcon, and a pair of White-whiskered Puffbirds. At Cedar Crossing, we experienced a wonderful male White-collared Manakin displaying on his lek. He looked like popcorn popping in a machine as he bounced around. He was ultimately voted the favorite bird of the tour at our final checklist session! At the lake itself, we added a distant Sungrebe and Morelet's Crocodile.



White-collared Manakin, Cedar Crossing, Belize, March 17, 2025, ©Barry Zimmer

In the afternoon, one of our local guides, Luis, gave an interesting archaeological tour of the ruins above the lodge.

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 a very cooperative pair of Green-backed Sparrows and a very nice Squirrel Cuckoo, but little else of note. In all,

we tallied an impressive 272 species of birds (breaking the record number for the trip since it has been this length), 12 species of mammals, and had a wonderful overall 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!



Ocellated Turkey, Chan Chich, Belize, March 13, 2025, ©Barry Zimmer

## **ITINERARY**

March 10 - arrival in Belize City

March 11 – Crooked Tree Village, Bird's Eye View Lodge, four and a half hour boat trip into Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary, specifically to the south end of the Northern Lagoon and Spanish Creek; afternoon at Belize River (John Smith Road), Bird's Isle, Fort George Hotel grounds (116 species; 116 total)

March 12 – Bird's Eye View Lodge, pine-oak savanna west of Crooked Tree (around Beck's B & B and water tower areas), John Smith Road, midafternoon charter flight to Gallon Jug, brief afternoon birding at Chan Chich Lodge (119 species; 158 total)

March 13 - lodge clearing, east staff/ service area, walk to suspension bridge and Trish's Hill; afternoon to Gallon Jug, Sylvester Village and back road from Sylvester Village towards Laguna Verde and coffee groves (95 species; 202 total)

March 14 – **Jacamar group** - lodge clearing, west staff area, Sylvester Village Road and River Trail in AM; afternoon to Gallon Jug and newer coffee groves; night drive **Motmot group** – lodge clearing, Xaxe Venic Trail in AM; afternoon to Barry's Bend along Sac Be Trail (125 species; 241 total)

March 15 – entire group to Sylvester Village, Chan Chich Escarpment in the morning; **Jacamar group** - Barry's Bend along Sac Be Trail; **Motmot group** – drive to Gallon Jug and coffee groves. (103 species; 257 total)

March 16 – **Jacamar group** - lodge clearing, Xaxe Venic and Norman's Temple trails; **Motmot group** – west staff area, Sylvester Village Road, River Trail; afternoon to Sylvester Village, back road to Laguna Verde and Laguna Verde for entire group; night drive (122 species; 267 total)

March 17 – Cedar Crossing, Laguna Seca, Gallon Jug in the morning; afternoon archaeology tour to Upper Plaza (94 species; 272 total)

March 18 –east staff area, west staff area and lodge clearing briefly in the morning; charter flight to Belize City at 10 AM (34 species: 272 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; this species seems to be rebounding in numbers after declining since the 2012 hurricane

Slaty-breasted Tinamou (*Crypturellus boucardi*) C---heard only by the Jacamar group along the Silvester Village Road

### **Waterfowl:**

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) CT---about 27 at Crooked Tree

Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moschata*) CT---three in flight with a group of whistling-ducks; uncommon

Blue-winged Teal (*Spatula discors*) CT---30 or so near Belize City

### **Cracids:**

Plain Chachalaca (*Ortalis vetula*) CT,C--- several good views, including two that nearly bombed our bus at Crooked Tree

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



Crested Guan, Chan Chich, Belize, March 13, 2025, ©Max Breckenridge

Great Curassow (*Crax rubra*) C---a good year for this generally uncommon & shy species; we saw 5 individuals, including a pair in the road that greeted our arrival at Chan Chich

### **Pheasants, Grouse & Allies:**

Ocellated Turkey (*Meleagris ocellata*) C---very common right around the cabanas and elsewhere, including displaying males (and one crazed attack male); up to 40 in one day

### **Pigeons & Doves:**

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) B

Pale-vented Pigeon (*Patagioenas cayennensis*) CT---seven total

Scaled Pigeon (*Patagioenas speciosa*) C---flight views only this year

Red-billed Pigeon (*Patagioenas flavirostris*) C---good studies of perched birds in Gallon Jug

Short-billed Pigeon (*Patagioenas nigrirostris*) C---heard daily around Chan Chich, but never seen

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopilia decaocto*) B---this rapidly increasing species in Belize was seen at the Fort George hotel and near Bird's Isle

Common Ground Dove (*Columbina passerina*) CT---two pairs seen well in the pine-oak savanna

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

Blue Ground Dove (*Claravis pretiosa*) C---a male by the Jacamar group on the river Trail; uncommon

Ruddy Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon montana*) C---a quick view of a single male blasting across the road in front of the vehicles for some late one afternoon

White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*) CT---heard only on boat trip

Gray-headed Dove (*Leptotila plumbeiceps*) C---a few sightings of this largely terrestrial species

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

## **Cuckoos:**

Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) CT,C---best views in Crooked Tree

Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*) C---a couple nice views of this stunner; subspecies *thermophile*; seven total

## **Nightjars:**

Lesser Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*) C---one briefly over the landing strip at Gallon Jug, where very uncommon

Common Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*) C---superb studies on both night drives (with 12 or more on the first drive) and the night walk; heard at night around the rooms on a daily basis



Common Pauraque, Chan Chich, Belize, March 15, 2025, ©Barry Zimmer

**Yucatan Poorwill** (*Nyctiphrynus yucatanicus*) C---surprisingly seen on both night drives (four total); this species had not been seen on this tour in several years

### **Potoos:**

Northern Potoo (*Nyctibius jamaicensis*) C----unbelievable studies on both night drives from about ten feet away; three total; tied for the second favorite bird of the tour!

### **Swifts:**

Vaux's Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*) CT,C---seen on five days

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift (*Panyptila cayennensis*) C---a few over Chan Chich on three days

### **Hummingbirds:**

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



White-necked Jacobin, Chan Chich, Belize, March 17, 2025, ©Barry Zimmer

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

Stripe-throated Hermit (*Phaethornis striigularis*) C---four total; perhaps best at Barry's Bend for the Motmot group

Purple-crowned Fairy (*Heliodytes barroti*) C---wonderful views of bathing birds for the Motmot group at Barry's Bend; a spectacular water ballet; also seen by everyone feeding at the madre de cacao tree off the veranda on two days

Green-breasted Mango (*Anthracothorax prevostii*) CT---nice studies of a male in the pine oak-savanna feeding on an African tulip tree; generally uncommon

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) C---one female for a few folks at Cedar Crossing

Canivet's Emerald (*Chlorostilbon canivetii*) CT---male very briefly feeding in a cashew tree in the pine-oak savanna; uncommon

Scaly-breasted Hummingbird (*Phaeochroa cuvierii*) C---one that tried to visit the lodge feeders almost daily, but was constantly bullied by jacobins; scope views of it singing in lodge clearing the final morning; uncommon

Cinnamon Hummingbird (*Amazilia rutila*) B---three seen well at Bird's Isle & at Fort George Hotel on our afternoon walk

Buff-bellied Hummingbird (*Amazilia yucatanensis*) CT,C---scope study in the pine-oak savanna & another for the Motmot group along Sylvester Village Road

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

White-bellied Emerald (*Chlorestes candida*) C---scarcer than usual; two total

## **Rails & Allies:**

Russet-naped Wood-Rail (*Aramides albiventris*) CT,C---amazing display of a pair with three fuzzy, black young just feet away at Bird's Eye View Lodge in Crooked Tree; a total of eight seen; a recent split from the old "Gray-necked Wood-Rail" complex

**Rufous-necked Wood-Rail** (*Aramides axillaris*) B---a pair for a few at Bird's Isle was a nice bonus; rare

American Coot (*Fulica americana*) CT---just one

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*) CT---one immature on our boat trip spotted by Leonard

Ruddy Crake (*Laterallus ruber*) CT,C---heard only at Crooked Tre & Laguna Verde (quite close at the latter)

## **Finfoots:**

Sungrebe (*Heliornis fulica*) C---scope views of one distantly along the shore at Laguna Seca; very uncommon & often missed

### **Limpkin:**

Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*) CT---12 seen on the day of our boat trip, several very close



Limpkin, Crooked Tree, Belize, March 11, 2025, ©Barry Zimmer

### **Plovers:**

Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) B---Bird's Isle

American Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*) C---flock of 14 by Max's vehicle near the Gallon Jug runway; very uncommon, especially at this locale

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) B---three at a roadside pond near Belize City

### **Jacanas:**

Northern Jacana (*Jacana spinosa*) CT---**61** in one morning on our boat trip; repeated, excellent views

### **Sandpipers & allies:**

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitus macularius*) CT,B---eight total

Willet (*Tringa semipalmata*) B---behind our hotel; the western subspecies

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) B---behind our hotel in Belize City

Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) CT,B---six total

### **Gulls & Terns:**

Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) B

Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) CT---four in front of Bird's Eye View on Day Two

Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*) B---20 or behind our hotel

Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maximus*) B--- five behind our hotel

### **Grebes:**

Pied-billed Grebe. (*Podilymbus podiceps*) CT---just one

### **Storks:**

Jabiru (*Jabiru mycteria*) CT---one spotted flying over Crooked Tree in our last hour there; two more seen poorly by a few of us from our charter flight; high water made this species tough this year



Jabiru, Crooked Tree, Belize, March 12, 2025, ©Barry Zimmer

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) CT---11 total (low count due to high water)

### **Frigatebirds:**

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

### **Anhingas:**

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) CT,C---14 total

### **Cormorants:**

Double-crested Cormorant (*Nannopterum auritum*) CT,B---three total

Neotropic Cormorant (*Nannopterum brasilianus*) CT---over 300 in one day

### **Ibis & Spoonbills:**

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) CT

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) CT---one flock of about eight birds up Spanish Creek; uncommon

### **Herons, Egrets & Bitterns:**

Bare-throated Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma mexicanum*) CT,C---twelve total (a high count for this tour) with many great views, including a recently fledged young bird at Chan Chich

Boat-billed Heron (*Cochlearius cochlearius*) CT---about eight seen on our boat trip, a couple of which sat out in the open for great views



Boat-billed Heron, Crooked Tree, Belize, March 11, 2025, ©Barry Zimmer

**Agami Heron** (*Agamia agami*) CT---three total, with good looks at one immature tucked into the mangroves and quick views of an adult at the same spot; another immature was seen only briefly by a few; we were lucky to get this species at all with the high water

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) CT,B,C---eleven total

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

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) CT,B

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) CT,C---two total---one each at Crooked Tree and along Gallon Jug air strip on a night drive

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

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) CT---**60** in one day at Crooked Tree!

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) CT,C

Western Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) B,CT,C---daily; just recently split off from Eastern Cattle Egret

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) CT,C

### **Pelicans:**

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) B

### **New World Vultures:**

King Vulture (*Sarcoramphus papa*) C---ten total, including great flights views over the escarpment & perched birds near Cedar Crossing

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

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

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture (*Cathartes burrovianus*) CT---ten total with excellent views the second day at Crooked Tree right overhead

### **Ospreys:**

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) CT,C---eight total

### **Hawks, Eagles & Kites:**

White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*) C---a couple of pairs in Gallon Jug

Hook-billed Kite (*Chondrohierax uncinatus*) C---adult male and immature bird low over the escarpment; generally very uncommon

Gray-headed Kite (*Leptodon cayanensis*) B---an initially puzzling bird along John Smith Road was alight morph immature of this species; uncommon

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) C---for the Jacamar group over the coffee groves

Black Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetus tyrannus*) C---heard only by the Motmot group over the Xaxe Venic trail

Ornate Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetus ornatus*) C---heard by both groups high overhead, and seen by some in the Motmot group over the Sylvester Village Road

Double-toothed Kite (*Harpagus bidentatus*) C---three fairly high over the escarpment

Plumbeous Kite (*Ictinia plumbea*) C---just one by the Jacamar group at the coffee plantation; this species is just arriving back from South America in March

Crane Hawk (*Geranospiza caerulescens*) CT---one bird soaring over forest at our turn around point in Spanish Creek; generally uncommon

Black-collared Hawk (*Busarellus nigricollis*) CT---four on the boat trip with great views of birds in flight and one somewhat distant perched bird; a very handsome raptor

Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*) CT---about 25 total, including a nest with three nearly fledged young & a couple birds carrying snails; very close views

Common Black Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*) B---pair perched on a light poles over the highway north of Belize City, plus another along John Smith Road

Great Black Hawk (*Buteogallus urubitinga*) CT,C---five total; a very close adult near Laguna Verde was particularly memorable

Roadside Hawk (*Rupornis magnirostris*) B,CT,C---seen daily with 24 total

White Hawk (*Pseudastur albicollis*) C---one close perched bird near the lodge and three more distantly from the escarpment

Gray Hawk (*Buteo plagiatus*) C---a pair daily around the cabanas; great scope views

Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*) CT,C---light morph bird over the pine-oak savanna and single dark morph birds over the escarpment and near Cedar Crossing



Black-collared Hawk, Crooked Tree, Belize, March 11, 2025, ©Barry Zimmer

## **Owls:**

Middle American Screech-Owl (*Megascops guatemalae*) C---red morph bird on second night drive seen very well by the Motmot group; a fairly common resident, but seldom seen

**Central American Pygmy-Owl** (*Glaucidium griseiceps*) C---heard only by Marguerite and I as we waited for the lunar eclipse

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

Mottled Owl (*Strix virgata*) C---heard only on our night walk in the west service area



Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Crooked Tree, Belize, March 12, 2025, ©Barry Zimmer

### **Trogons:**

Slaty-tailed Trogon (*Trogon massena*) C---seemed less numerous than usual with only a handful seen, but nice views right in the lodge clearing

Black-headed Trogon (*Trogon melanocephalus*) CT,C---many good views of this species with about ten total seen

Gartered Trogon (*Trogon caligatus*) C---about five seen with many others heard

### **Motmots:**

Tody Motmot (*Hylomanes momotula*) C---after some effort, we had great views near Sylvester Village; uncommon, localized & easily missed

Lesson's Motmot (*Momotus lessoni*) C---scope views of one near the leader's cabanas; heard most days at the lodge; a locally scarce species

### **Kingfishers:**

Ringed Kingfisher (*Megaceryle torquata*) CT,C---ten total, including one with a large fish in its mouth a mile or more from water along the road to Laguna Seca; this was our first official bird of the tour en route to Crooked Tree!

Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*) CT,C

American Pygmy Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle aenea*) CT,C---one seen briefly in flight on the boat trip by some, but then great looks at a responsive pair below the lodge along the service road at Chan Chich

Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*) CT,B,C---scope studies; five total

### **Puffbirds:**

White-whiskered Puffbird (*Malacoptila panamensis*) C---great, prolonged scope studies for all of a male along the road between Chan Chich & Gallon Jug, plus two more briefly near the escarpment and two for the Jacamar group in the coffee groves ; uncommon



White-whiskered Puffbird, Chan Chich, Belize, March 17, 2025, ©Barry Zimmer

### **Jacamars:**

Rufous-tailed Jacamar (*Galbula ruficauda*) C---heard often, with wonderful looks at a pair at the pond near the River trail and another for the Jacamar group along the Sylvester village Road (their spirit animal)



Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Chan Chich, Belize, March 14, 2025, ©Barry Zimmer

## **Toucans:**

Collared Aracari (*Pteroglossus torquatus*) C---only six total this year, less numerous than usual

Keel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*) C--- the essence of the tropics; only about seven total (less numerous than usual); voted the third favorite bird of the tour

## **Woodpeckers:**

Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*) CT---fifteen or so in the pine-oak savanna; subspecies *lineatus*

Black-cheeked Woodpecker (*Melanerpes pucherani*) C---daily around our rooms at Chan Chich with many close views

Yucatan Woodpecker (*Melanerpes pygmaeus*) CT---nice studies of one from the boat ride in Spanish creek, plus another in the pine-oak savanna; regional endemic

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

Smoky-brown Woodpecker (*Dryobates fumigatus*) C---one near the base of the River Trail and another along the River Trail; a low density species

Pale-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus guatemalensis*) C---a pair the first morning along the service road; heard often in the lodge clearing

Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*) C---six total; best in the coffee plantation

Chestnut-colored Woodpecker (*Celeus castaneus*) C---excellent views for both groups; one of my personal favorites; tied for second favorite bird of the tour!



Chestnut-colored Woodpecker, Chan Chich, Belize, March 16, 2025, ©Barry Zimmer

Golden-olive Woodpecker (*Colaptes rubiginosus*) C---scope study of a male in the coffee groves, plus a couple others; uncommon

## **Falcons:**

Laughing Falcon (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*) C---three total in Gallon Jug, one of which was studied at length by all

Barred Forest-Falcon (*Micrastur ruficollis*) C---heard only quite close at the entrance to the Logger's Trail

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

Bat Falcon (*Falco ruficularis*) B,CT,C---only six total this year; much scarcer than usual, but we had excellent scope views of one at the Fort George Hotel in Belize City; a striking species!



Bat Falcon, Belize City, Belize, March 10, 2025, ©Barry Zimmer

Large falcon species (*Falco sp.*) CT---thought to be a Peregrine, but ID was uncertain (Aplomado could not be ruled out)

## **Parrots:**

Brown-hooded Parrot (*Pyrilla haematotis*) C---one quick flight view of a pair was all we got on this species; generally uncommon

White-crowned Parrot (*Pionus senilis*) C---scope studies of perched birds; seen most days around Chan Chich in small numbers

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

**Yellow-headed Amazon** (*Amazona oratrix*) CT---scope views in Crooked Tree Village our first morning; seen on only about 25% of trips here

White-fronted Amazon (*Amazona albifrons*) CT,C----about fifteen total; best scope studies in the pine-oak savanna; a pair was also investigating nest cavities at the Fort George Hotel, but was only seen by Lynn, Max & I at that location

Yellow-lored Amazon (*Amazon xantholora*) CT---fly-by pair from the boat trip; uncommon

Mealy Amazon (*Amazona farinosa*) C---much less numerous than Red-lored, but heard or seen every day at Chan Chich; a couple of really nice scope studies

Olive-throated Parakeet (*Eupsittula nana*) CT,B,C---subspecies *astec*

### **Typical Antbirds:**

Barred Antshrike (*Thamnophilus doliatus*) CT,C---close views of a pair along Crooked Tree Lagoon, a very close male at Cedar Crossing and one or two right around Chan Chich

Dot-winged Antwren (*Microrhopias quixensis*) C---several excellent studies

Dusky Antbird (*Cercomacroides tyrannina*) C---seen on two days

### **Antthrushes:**

Mayan Antthrush (*Formicarius moniliger*) C---nice looks at this very secretive species for the Jacamar group along Sylvester Village Road



Barred Antshrike, Cedar Crossing, Belize, March 17, 2025, ©Barry Zimmer

### **Ovenbirds & Woodcreepers:**

Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser (*Sclerurus guatemalensis*) C---several flight views of this skulker on the Xaxe Venic trail for the Jacamar group as it rocketed past us; a real challenging bird

Olivaceous Woodcreeper (*Sittasomus griseicapillus*) C---five total

Tawny-winged Woodcreeper (*Dendrocincla anabatina*) C---six very close at the ant swarm along the River Trail for the Jacamar group

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*) C---singles for the Jacamar group in the west service area and along Xaxe Venic

Northern Barred-Woodcreeper (*Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae*) C---one by all along the service road the first morning, plus two more at the ant swarm for the Jacamar group; generally uncommon

Ivory-billed Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus flavigaster*) C---great views; four or five total

Rufous-breasted Spinetail (*Synallaxis erythrothorax*) CT---good looks at a pair from the boat in Spanish Creek; uncommon

### **Manakins:**

White-collared Manakin (*Manacus candei*) C---one very close male displaying on his lek at Cedar Crossing the last full day stole the hearts of the group; voted the favorite bird of the tour!

Red-capped Manakin (*Ceratopipra mentalis*) C---much scarcer than usual with only about three seen; single males for some at Barry's Bend and a female for the Motmot group in the coffee groves

### **Cotingas:**

**Lovely Cotinga** (*Cotinga amabilis*) C---a female carrying nesting material for the Motmot group along Sylvester Village Road; very uncommon to rare

Rufous Piha (*Lipaugus unirufus*) C---seen flying back and forth over road for everyone, and seen perched briefly by some; four total

### **Tityras & Allies:**

Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*) C---scarcer than usual with only about eight seen

Northern Schiffornis (*Schiffornis veraepacis*) C---several excellent views of this shy forest dweller, including at the bathing spot

Cinnamon Becard (*Pachyramphus cinnamoneus*) C---best near the dining room in the lodge clearing

**Gray-collared Becard** (*Pachyramphus major*) C---a male by the Motmot group along the road to Gallon Jug; rare in this region

Rose-throated Becard (*Pachyramphus algaiae*) CT,C---a good year for this species with four seen in and around crooked Tree and three more at Chan Chich; often missed completely

## Royal Flycatchers & Allies:

Tropical Royal Flycatcher (*Onychorhynchus coronatus*) C---best was one near Laguna Seca for all; also seen along Sylvester village Road; uncommon

Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher (*Terenotriccus erythrurus*) C---one seen well along the Sylvester Village Road by the Jacamars

Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher (*Myiobius sulphureipygius*) C---single birds at Trish's Hill and Barry's Bend

## Tyrant Flycatchers:

Stub-tailed Spadebill (*Platyrinchus cancrominus*) C---very good views for both groups of this generally difficult to see species

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher (*Mionectes oleagineus*) C---exceptional views at Barry's Bend, as well as elsewhere

Northern Bentbill (*Oncostoma cinereigulare*) C---heard on a couple of occasions

Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*) C---pair from the boat in Spanish Creek

Eye-ringed Flatbill (*Rhychocyclus brevirostris*) C---one along Sylvester Village Road by the Jacamar group

Yellow-olive Flatbill (*Tolmomyias sulphurescens*) CT---one in the pine-oak savanna

Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet (*Ornithion semiflavum*) C---six total

Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet (*Camptostoma imberbe*) C---for the both groups along Sylvester Village Road; uncommon

Greenish Elaenia (*Myiopagis viridicata*) C

Yellow-bellied Elaenia (*Elaenia flavogaster*) CT,C

Northern Tropical Pewee (*Contopus bogotensis*) C---one or regularly around the dining room

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*) C---about six seen

Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*) C---one in the lodge clearing

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



Vermilion Flycatcher, Crooked Tree, Belize, March 12, 2025, ©Barry Zimmer

Bright-rumped Attila (*Attila spadiceus*) C---this canopy dweller was seen by both groups

Rufous Mourner (*Rhytipterna holerythra*) C---excellent scope views for all along the road to the suspension bridge

Yucatan Flycatcher (*Myiarchus yucatanensis*) C---good looks for the Motmot group of this regional endemic ; uncommon

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

Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) C---for the Motmot group in the coffee plantation

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

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

Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarhynchus pitangua*) C---best near Laguna Seca

Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) CT,B,C---seen daily with up to 10 in a day

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

Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus couchii*) CT,C---a pair each day in the lodge clearing, plus others elsewhere

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*) C---eleven total; excellent views of this spectacular species on the boat trip at Crooked Tree, plus one near the air strip at Gallon Jug

### **Vireos:**

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



Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Crooked Tree, Belize, March 12, 2025, ©Barry Zimmer

Green Shrike-Vireo (*Vireolanius pulchellus*) C---this species was actually seen on two occasions though never particularly cooperative; generally only heard high overhead

Tawny-crowned Greenlet (*Tunchiornis ochraceiceps*) C---by the Motmot group along the Xaxe Venic Trail

Lesser Greenlet (*Pachysylvia decurtatus*) C---several good views

White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*) CT,C---almost daily

Mangrove Vireo (*Vireo pallens*) CT,C---especially great looks on our boat trip

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



Yucatan Jay, Crooked Tree, Belize, March 12, 2025, ©Max Breckenridge

### **Corvids:**

Brown Jay (*Psilorhinus morio*) CT,C---seen every day except the first; the southern race *fuliginosus*

Yucatan Jay (*Cyanocorax yucatanicus*) CT---our best luck ever with this regional endemic; we had a flock within our first fifteen minutes of birding the pine-oak savanna with many excellent, close views; overall we estimated 40 birds seen throughout the morning (a record for this tour); can be quite hard to find

### **Swallows:**

Mangrove Swallow (*Tachycineta albilinea*) CT,B,C

Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) CT,C

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

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) C---lone bird flying past the escarpment

### **Gnatcatchers:**

Long-billed Gnatwren (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*) C---good views for all (exceptional along the Sylvester Village Road); another skulker

White-browed Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila bilineata*) C---seen on the Sylvester Village Road & Xaxe Venic trails and at Laguna Seca by each group formerly called Tropical Gnatcatcher

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*) CT

### **Wrens:**

Southern House Wren (*Troglodytes musculus*) CT---a recent split from the House wren complex

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) C---a hard to see individual along the Xaxe Venic trail; the subspecies *albinucha*, the “White-browed Wren, a possible future split; very uncommon in this region

Spot-breasted Wren (*Pheugopedius maculipectus*) CT,C---seen or heard daily; nice views for all; yet another skulker

White-bellied Wren (*Uropsila leucogastra*) C---one on the Sylvester village Road for the Motmot group; heard elsewhere; another skulker

White-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucosticta*) C---with some effort, good views for all; why are all these wrens skulkers?

### **Mimids:**

Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) CT,C---14 total

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

### **Thrushes:**

Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) C---several at Barry’s Bend, a few elsewhere; declining



Wood Thrush, Chan Chich, Belize, March 14, 2025, ©Barry Zimmer

White-throated Thrush (*Turdus assimilus*) C---heard only

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

### **Finches, Euphonias & Allies:**

Yellow-throated Euphonia (*Euphonia hirundinacea*) C---less numerous than usual with only six total

Olive-backed Euphonia (*Euphonia gouldi*) C---also less numerous than usual with only one seen

### **New World Sparrows:**

Green-backed Sparrow (*Arremonops chloronotus*) C---a largely uncooperative pair along the Sylvester Village Road for the Motmot group followed by a very cooperative pair on the last morning in the west service area; uncommon

Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) CT---flock of about ten in the pine-oak savanna

### **Yellow-breasted Chat:**

Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icterina virens*) CT,C---very good views of this uncommon species up Spanish Creek and in the lodge clearing

### **Icterids:**

Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) C---a relatively recent invader to Gallon Jug that is now fairly common

Montezuma Oropendola (*Psarocolius montezuma*) C---a dozen or so in Silvester Village on two occasions; this species has declined greatly in the Gallon Jug area in the last decade

Black-cowled Oriole (*Icterus prothemelas*) CT,C---more common than usual with 21 total; many wonderful views

Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) CT,B,C---seen all but one day

Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*) CT,C---seven total

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

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) CT,C---13 total

Bronzed Cowbird (*Molothrus aeneus*) C—three in the duck pen in Gallon Jug for the Motmot group

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

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) B,CT,C



Black-cowled Oriole, Crooked Tree, Belize, March 12, 2025, ©Barry Zimmer

### **New World Warblers:**

Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorum*) C---one at Barry's Bend for the Jacamar group; uncommon

Louisiana Waterthrush (*Parkesia motacilla*) C---seven total; particularly nice views at Barry's Bend

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora cyanoptera*) C---one by the Jacamar group at Barry's Bend; very uncommon

Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) CT,C---13 total

Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) CT---one spotted by Max on our boat trip

Tennessee Warbler (*Leiothlypis peregrina*) CT,C---four total

Kentucky Warbler (*Geothlypis formosa*) C---six or more each evening at Barry's Bend, plus a couple others elsewhere

Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) CT---three on boat trip

Hooded Warbler (*Setophaga citrina*) C---many good looks, but none better than the one along Spanish Creek that came right up to our boat; nine total



Hooded Warbler, Spanish Creek, Belize, March 11, 2025, ©Barry Zimmer

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

**“Barry’s” Warbler** (*Setophaga* hybrid) C---incredibly the same hybrid warbler that I found last year at Barry’s Bend was present at the same location again; believed by a consensus of experts to be an American redstart x Chestnut-sided warbler hybrid

Northern Parula (*Setophaga americana*) CT,C---an impressive five seen; very uncommon

Magnolia Warbler (*Setophaga magnolia*) CT,C---26 total

Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*) CT,B---including two stunning males of the “Mangrove” Warbler subspecies (*erithachorides*) in Belize City (thought by some to be a distinct species); one of the male “Mangrove” Warblers at Bird’s Isle was a warrior that battled our bus, plus other vehicles to drive them out of his territory!



“Mangrove” Yellow Warbler, Belize City, Belize, March 11, 2025, ©Barry Zimmer

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Setophaga pensylvanica*) C---one by Ron & May at the lodge

**Palm Warbler** (*Setophaga palmarum*) B---one found by Max at our hotel allowed great views; rarely seen on this trip, as they mostly winter on the islands

Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Setophaga coronata*) CT,B,C---“Myrtle” types

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Setophaga dominica*) CT,C---several great views; five total

Grace’s Warbler (*Setophaga graciae*) CT---pair seen well in pine forest

Black-throated Green Warbler (*Setophaga virens*) CT,C---three total

### **Cardinals & Allies:**

Rose-throated Tanager (*Piranga roseogularis*) C---great views for each group along the Sylvester Village Road & Xaxe Venic trail over two days; another regional endemic



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

Red-crowned Ant-Tanager (*Habia rubica*) C---nice studies

Red-throated Ant-Tanager (*Habia fuscicauda*) C---somewhat less numerous than the preceding species

Black-faced Grosbeak (*Caryothraustes poliogaster*) C---seen at the coffee plantation by the Jacamars, heard elsewhere

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) CT---heard only from our boat trip;  
*yucatanensis* subspecies (a possible future split)

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) C---one for the Jacamar group  
in the coffee grove; uncommon on this trip

Gray-throated Chat (*Granatellus sallaei*) C---great luck with this regional endemic  
for both groups; best views along the Sylvester Village Road; can be very tough

Blue-black Grosbeak (*Cyanoloxia cyanooides*) C---six total; scope views

Blue Bunting (*Cyanocompsa parellina*) CT,C---one stunning male present on a few  
days right in the lodge clearing; four total



Blue Bunting, Chan Chich, Belize, March 12, 2025, ©Barry Zimmer

## **Tanagers & Allies:**

Black-throated Shrike-Tanager (*Lanio aurantius*) C---scope views of single males  
along Sylvester village road & Xaxe venic for the Jacamar group; the flock leader

Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*) CT---two in Crooked Tree village the first morning

Yellow-winged Tanager (*Thraupis abbas*) B,C---11 total; several nice views, almost daily at the firebush off the veranda



Black-throated Shrike-Tanager, Chan Chich, Belize, March 14, 2025, ©Barry Zimmer

Golden-hooded Tanager (*Stilpnia larvata*) C---seen by several people in the lodge clearing on three days; stunning!

Red-legged Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*) C---far less numerous than usual with only about a half dozen total seen

**Yellow-faced Grassquit** (*Tiaris olivaceus*) C---one in Sylvester Village was quite a surprise; while regular in the southern half of Belize, it does not normally occur in this part of the country; my first ever at Chan Chich and a first for this tour in its current format; probably the result of deforestation to the south

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

Black-headed Saltator (*Saltator atriceps*) C---nice looks in the lodge clearing & service areas on several days

Cinnamon-bellied (Grayish) Saltator (*Saltator grandis*) CT---one in Crooked Tree village was our only one seen

**total species - 272**



"Barry's" Warbler, Chan Chich, Belize, March 14, 2025, ©Barry Zimmer

### **LEADER ONLY BIRDS**

Striped Cuckoo  
Rufous Mourner  
Northern Rough-winged Swallow  
Ovenbird  
Northern Waterthrush

## **FAVORITE BIRDS OF THE TOUR**

1. White-collared Manakin (seven and a half votes)
2. Chestnut-colored Woodpecker & Northern Potoo (five votes each)
3. Keel-billed Toucan (four and a half votes)
4. Gray-throated Chat (four votes)

## **MAMMALS**

Mexican Black Howler Monkey (*Alouatta pigra*)---heard daily at Chan Chich Lodge with several good sightings; also a few at Crooked Tree; about 16 total seen, including babies

Central American Spider Monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi*)---excellent views on many occasions, including babies; some right in the lodge clearing; about 49 total seen



Central American Spider Monkey, Chan Chich, Belize, March 17, 2025, ©Barry Zimmer

Deppe's Squirrel (*Sciurus deppei*)----a couple at Chan Chich for the Motmot group

Yucatan Squirrel (*Sciurus yucatanensis*)---a couple at Crooked Tree

Greater Sac-winged Bat (*Saccopteryx bilineata*)----hanging on manager's residence at Chan Chich

Seba's Short-tailed Bat (*Carollia perspicillata*)----a group of fifteen or so roosting in the thatch between the bar and the restaurant at Chan Chich; thanks to Emil

Various unidentified bats on night drives and walks

**Mountain Lion** (*Puma concolor*)---one walked right through the lodge at Chan Chich at 6:40 AM one day and was seen by Brent & Susan; WOW!

Gray Fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*)---one on the Sylvester Village Road by the Jacamar group & another seen on several days on the lodge grounds

Tayra (*Eira barbara*)---one seen bolting across the Sylvester Village Road by Max only

White-nosed Coati (*Nasua narica*)---one on the road between service areas our first morning at Chan Chich

Red Brocket Deer (*Mazama americana*)---great looks at one on the Sylvester Village Road by the Jacamar group and another seen by the Motmot group on the Xaxe Venic Trail; though regular in the forests, only rarely seen here

White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)---common; including an incredibly adorable fawn looking for (and finding) his mother in Gallon Jug



White-tailed Deer fawn, Gallon Jug, Belize, March 16, 2025, ©Barry Zimmer

total species – 12+

## **REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS**

Giant Toad---a split from Cane Toad; seen by the Motmot group on night drive  
Frog species---on night walk  
Morelet's Crocodile---one briefly on boat trip, then two distantly at Laguna Seca  
Meso-American Slider  
Common House Gecko  
Black (Spiny-tailed) Iguana  
Green Iguana  
Neotropical Green Anole  
Brown Anole  
Brown (Striped) Basilisk  
Rainbow Ameiva

total species - 11

### **BUTTERFLIES**

Mexican Kite Swallowtail  
Giant/ Thoas Swallowtail  
Polydamas Swallowtail  
Cattleheart species (*Parides* sp.)  
Cloudless Sulphur  
Large Orange Sulphur  
Small yellow species  
Florida White  
Blue species  
Mexican Cycadian  
Julia Heliconian  
Zebra Heliconian  
Erato Heliconian (aka Red Postman)  
Malachite  
Banded Peacock  
White Peacock  
Buckeye  
Many-banded Daggerwing  
Monarch  
Queen  
Brown Longtail

plus many others left unidentified

total species – 21+



Erato Heliconian, Cedar Crossing, Belize, March 17, 2025, ©Barry Zimmer

### **SIGNIFICANT OTHERS**

Mexican Red-rumped Tarantula----Max only  
leafcutter ants

army ants

the scorpion incident

Sean's margaritas

Coffee & coconut ice creams

Plastic cake----as delicious as it sounds!

Snacks appearing in the jungle

Piles of rocks in the road at Crooked Tree!

The lunar eclipse (which unfortunately got covered by clouds at the exact moment of totality...)--the blood worm moon



Ocellated Turkey, Chan Chich, Belize, March 18, 2025, ©ax Breckenridge

