

CHAN CHICH LODGE
December 30th, 2006 – January 5th, 2007

HIDDEN VALLEY EXTENSION
January 5th - 8th, 2007



Double-toothed Kite – Photo Wendy Roedell

Leader: Paul Wood

VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS
2525 Wallingwood Drive, Suite 1003
Austin, TX 78746
800-328-8368 or 512-328-5221
www.ventbird.com

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Chan Chich

Looking back over 18 years of leading trips to Chan Chich, there is a remarkable stability in the kinds of species seen on our New Year's tour. However, I learned long ago that there is no room for complacency, and there are no guarantees, since the abundance of certain species can fluctuate quite alarmingly from one year to the next. Species that may have been common one year may become scarce the next, or vice-versa. Some seem to disappear entirely, while others fluctuate. Quite a few are just plain rare! It is these changes, some dramatic, some more subtle, that keep the guide on his toes, and make it so worthwhile to keep coming back to the same place year after year.

Of course, the other thing that keeps a guide on his toes is the group, and this group was no exception. There were some sharp eyes amongst you, as well as much kindness, willingness to share, and the sense of humor necessary for any group field trip—qualities much appreciated by the guide and which contributed greatly to our overall success. Measured in terms of numbers, we recorded 220 species as a group, with 180+ on the Chan Chich portion of the trip—enough to deal with in a week's effective birding! Individuals' totals varied, as always, but some must have been approaching the 200 mark. A good list, however, is just part of the birding experience and forms only part of a good plot. I hope the table below will help you reconstruct your own stories, and again savor some of the highlights.

The warm, humid conditions at Chan Chich were a sharp contrast to last year's notable dryness. Though river levels were higher, they still in no way approached the record levels recorded during the mid 1990s, and river levels have generally been low in recent years. Though "warm and humid" might sound good to those shivering in Colorado, it did have some drawbacks. Most notable was the nuisance of black-flies at Chan Chich, unusual for this season, which led to some extreme preventive measures and much scratching. Benadryl sticks were in demand and received much unqualified praise, but no one was deterred from making the most of some wonderful birding. We had some heavy showers during our stay at Chan Chich, but mostly at night, pre-dawn, or during our midday siesta time. Once we arrived back at the lodge just minutes before a heavy downpour, and another time we huddled beneath umbrellas for a while along the road to the bridge. Generally, the weather did not impede our birding, though clear skies and thermals for soaring raptors were few and far between.

One of the keys to success to birding in tropical forest is staying alert during long periods of relative inactivity. The mind may wander to subjects of a more philosophical nature, and indulge in long periods of reflection (certainly one of the delights of being in tropical forest, and one we indulged in frequently!), but one must also be attentive to the most subtle of calls or slightest of movements if the more secretive birds are to be found, and much patient scrutiny is necessary. The other key to success is a resilient yet flexible neck to endure long periods staring into the canopy! I required some heavy medication after straining my neck on the first day, but the group was only too glad to share their pharmacopoeia to keep a wounded man going! It's nice to feel wanted! Indeed, modern drugs enjoyed the general approval of the group, figuring above shamanism and faith healing when it came to ailments or physical discomfort. Minor aches and pains are a rich source of conversation as one gets older, and cures are discussed with even

greater enthusiasm! Fortunately, no ailment was serious enough that it seemed to dampen our spirits at the bar or our enthusiasm for a sometimes challenging menu!

Spirits were also undoubtedly helped by some absorbing birding at Chan Chich, with plenty to occupy the mind and the notebook. Though there are typically long periods of relative inactivity, when each species represents a different challenge, these are interspersed with moments of sheer bewilderment as a dozen species flash before your eyes in the space of a few minutes, and are gone! Mixed canopy flocks are a birder's bread and butter at this time of the year, and it takes a number of flocks, and some serious neck work, before you catch up with all their member species. It can take several tries to pin down the fidgety Plain Xenops, the tireless Tawny-crowned Greenlets, or even the gaudy flock leader, the Black-throated Shrike-Tanager. Some flock members, such as Worm-eating and Blue-winged warblers, are never more than passing apparitions, and whole flocks seem to melt magically into the foliage, the silence in their wake leaving you wondering if you really witnessed what just happened!

Mixed species canopy flocks, maneuvered by Black-throated Shrike-Tanagers, were in reasonably good supply, as were the mid-level flocks of Dot-winged Antwrens, Tawny-crowned Greenlets, and Red-crowned Ant-Tanagers. But understory flocks of ant followers were scarce, and we failed to find a well-attended ant swarm during our stay at Chan Chich, for the first time I can remember. In turn, we had a harder time finding ant specialists such as Tawny-winged and Ruddy woodcreepers, and Gray-headed and Red-throated ant-tanagers, all of which were scarce. The Barred Woodcreeper simply escaped us.

The plaza was constantly busy with large mixed flocks of Olive-backed and Yellow-throated euphonias in the abundant tangles of mistletoe, and larger fruit predators such as Red-lored, Mealy, and White-crowned parrots. Other spectacular fruit eaters such as the Crested Guans, Collared Araçaris, Keel-billed Toucans, and Slaty-tailed Trogons were not abundant—but all put in some stellar appearances. Violaceous and Black-headed trogons were more frequent, but we had to wait till the eleventh hour to see our first adult male White-collared and Red-capped manakins at Chan Chich. Pride of place among fruit eaters, though, must go to the female Lovely Cotinga on New Year's Day, which, for me, stole the show. I can think of no better way to start the New Year than to walk from the lodge to the suspension bridge, and then edge back home along the picturesque Logger's Trail. A male Rufous-tailed Jacamar was another highlight of this trail, allowing all to have a good drool, as well as a good study of a male Green Kingfisher.

Other birds, such as the Tody Motmot, can be harder to find and study. Though they will sometimes sit motionless for long periods, they may just as likely dematerialize before everyone gets a good scope view. Most were actually very lucky and hit gold on our first attempt for this plain, but charismatic species, though one or two had to wait patiently till the last afternoon for their turn. Blue-crowned Motmots are actually equally as difficult to see at Chan Chich outside the breeding season, when they are quiet and elusive, and we only heard this species on a few occasions.

Gallon Jug and Laguna Seca provide a welcome relief to the enclosed environment of the forest with the broad, open, breezy vistas that our species generally prefers. Though it was mostly cloudy, with even a little drizzle at times, this was a day with much to remember. A pair of Black-collared Hawks at Laguna Seca did much to make up for a scarcity of raptors, and we had great scope studies of Purple Gallinule, Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, Northern Jacanas, Ringed Kingfisher, and the blue-eyed Neotropic Cormorant.

Back at the lodge, a pair of Royal Flycatchers could often be seen quite easily from the porch of certain cabañas, prompting some “social” visits to cabaña 4. We also saw additional Royal Flycatchers in the service area and along the Sylvester Village Road. Having announced the Sylvester Village Road to be a frequently “birdy” walk, our first morning there was rather quiet, though we did linger in and near the service area for a while, enjoying Crested Guans, Black-headed Saltators, a Black-headed Trogon, another Royal Flycatcher, and a fleeting Worm-eating Warbler. It was a little late when we arrived at the road, and the deathly silence preceded what turned out to be an early downpour. When six Brown Pelicans soared over the road, I knew it was time to turn back! The second attempt, however, vindicated my original claims. Tore, he of the bionic stick, spotted an immature Double-toothed Kite preening atop a dead snag, where it soaked up the early morning sun for a full half hour, as we maneuvered the scope into better and better positions. While here, Keel-billed Toucan, Collared Araçari, and Violaceous Trogon provided further distractions, and we were again rewarded with a male Gray-throated Chat, as well as Rose-throated Tanager, Long-billed Gnatwren, and Tropical Gnatcatcher. These last four species are more typical of drier Yucatan forests to the north, as are Mangrove Vireo and Yucatan Flycatcher, which were heard only. Here they are confined to low forest known as “bajos.” Later, two Double-toothed Kites were seen soaring together above the canopy, and we found yet another Royal Flycatcher. The icing on the cake was a splendid male White-necked Jacobin that perched conveniently above the road and allowed some prolonged scope views, and a cooperative male Blue Bunting fed nonchalantly along the forest edge.

Back at the lodge, a sunny interlude brought our first adult King Vulture soaring over the lodge at lunchtime. In the afternoon, we stayed relatively close to home along the Temple Loop and Logger’s Trail. With the light fading fast, we made our last attempt for Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser and Tody Motmot, getting another good look at the Tody Motmot, but only shadowy glimpses of the scandalous Leaf-tosser.

Our night drive was blessed with good weather and a good moon, at least intermittently, but hampered by spotlights that waned all too rapidly. We did squeeze in a pair of Pauraques, and scope looks of at least one Northern Potoo before the lights left us with only the moon to guide us!

Chan Chich often has a sting in the tail, just when you think it’s all over...! Our first male White-collared Manakin turned up at the last breakfast, to everyone’s delight, and Ruth was further rewarded with male Red-capped Manakin and Cinnamon Becard on a final morning walk to the bridge. Even after all these years, leaving Chan Chich is always a hard thing to do—there’s a sense of leaving much behind, but also having much to go back for, a sense that if you could just stay one more day...

Hidden Valley Extension

With regret, we saw off Ruth, Alan, and Wendy at Belize airport, and consoled ourselves with the thought of new pastures ahead. Hidden Valley is a complete contrast to Chan Chich—a pine forest environment at 2,000 feet above sea level on an ancient granite outcrop that possibly was once an island. Birding at Hidden Valley can be a little unnerving. Though ostensibly in a completely different habitat from Chan Chich, lowland forest is never far away, and creeps up the steep valley sides carved by some spectacular waterfalls. One can therefore at once be in pine forest with Acorn Woodpecker, Grace’s Warbler, Hepatic Tanager, Yellow-backed Oriole, and Black-headed Siskin, but encounter lowland forest birds such as Northern Bentbill and Golden-hooded Tanager seemingly out of context. Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Azure-crowned Hummingbird, Rufous-capped

Warbler, Gray-crowned Yellowthroat, Rusty Sparrow, Yellow-faced Grassquit, and Yellow-backed Oriole add to the unusual mix of species.

However, one of the main draws of Hidden Valley is a chance to see the Orange-breasted Falcon, one of the rarest birds of prey in the Americas. Though we have had a remarkable success rate with these impressive birds, many make the trek and fail to see them. By the laws of probability, it ought to get tougher as time goes on, and so I am never confident by any means.

At the 1,600 Feet Falls, conditions were promising: good visibility, a little heat haze, but none of the dense mist that often hides the falls from view. The unshaded lookout was too exposed to the midday sun, so we retreated to the top of the hill and set up the scope under cover. The local keeper, Don Pedro, swears on the birds' appearance at 1200 and 1400 every day. This, of course, only increases the tension! Initial scanning yielded nothing, so there was nothing for it but to start combing the hillside systematically with the scope. I was rewarded much more quickly than I thought when after only a few minutes, to my own and everyone's disbelief, I latched on to a distant bird sheltering beneath the canopy of a pine tree. Closer inspection revealed a second bird, and there was ample time to fine-focus as the birds sat out the hottest part of the day in the shade. Later, one of them zipped by the waterfall below and was gone, but one bird still remained until we left. A little icing on the cake came in the form of Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Golden-hooded Tanager, and a perky Plain Wren.

Our search for the Stygian Owl, another very rare bird found on the Mountain Pine Ridge, had so far turned up fruitless, however. After counting at least six King Vultures sunning themselves at the falls of the same name, and watching a flock of around 50 White-collared Swifts slicing through the ravine in tightly coordinated formation, in the afternoon we resumed our search for the owl until dusk, but to no avail. Our next day, would take us to Caracol, away from the owl's habitat, and so we were cutting it fine. As a last resort, I sent word out among the lodge workers that a reward would be forthcoming for finding an owl at roost. Maybe, we would have time for a last minute search on our last morning, failing all else.

Our next day was to be a long day out to Caracol ruins. We set off around 5:30 am to be sure to arrive at the site in time to catch the early morning activity. However, a military checkpoint at Douglas da Silva, about half way to Caracol, advised us not to travel further without an escort. Recent hold ups had, not surprisingly, made everyone jumpy, and the soldier was adamant we should wait for "the convoy" at 0930. Not wanting to take any risks or miss the early morning birding, we quickly agreed to look for a nearby alternative. Fortunately, a very good alternative was available in the form of the road to the Río Frio caves, and we spent a productive early morning birding lowland forest along this ravine that ends in an impressive cavern.

We were lucky with a pair of gorgeous Orange-billed Sparrows, and then did well with a whole series of "difficult" flycatchers such as Eye-ringed Flatbill, Greenish Elaenia, Northern Bentbill, and Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet. Dusky Antbird and Plain Antwren were added to the list of skulkers, while Dick and Rick sneaked off and saw a White-whiskered Puffbird. We also had scope views alternately of Scaly-breasted Hummingbird, and White-bellied Emerald, two hummingbirds not seen at Chan Chich. Another unexpected addition here was the endemic Ridgway's Rough-winged Swallow.

After a picnic brunch, activity died down and we decided to head back to the lodge for a midday break, and spend the rest of the afternoon in search of the Stygian Owl. After a welcome rest, we were greeted by the news that a Stygian Owl had been found, and within a few minutes we were

all lining up for scope views not far from the lodge. Word of a reward had certainly done the trick, and brought a broad smile to Carlos' face, as well as ours. This bird is worth every cent!

The black flies made it hard for us to savor a late afternoon walk along the edge of Lake Lolly Folly, though those who persevered were rewarded with "sprinkles" in the form of a smart pair of endemic Black-headed Siskins.

On the way to the airport the final morning, we were all hopeful of seeing a Jabiru (or two!) as we traversed the savanna between the pine ridge and Belize City. Instead, the "sting in the tail" was a flat tire along the last leg to the airport, not far from the Belize prison. The group was, characteristically, single-minded and, while some of us were more worried about directing speeding traffic, others were glued to a sparkling male Canivet's Emerald hovering low at the side of a track.

Daily Itinerary

Date	Itinerary
December 31st, 2006	AM: Chan Chich plaza to bridge returning along river by Sac-Be Trail PM: Upper Plaza, returning to lodge via Back Plaza Trail.
January 1st, 2007	AM: Chan Plaza to bridge, returning to lodge along Logger's Trail PM: Temple Loop/ Logger's Trail
January 2nd, 2007	AM: Chan Chich to Gallon Jug farm and Laguna Seca PM: Sylvester Village Road
January 3rd, 2007	AM: Chan Chich plaza through service area to Sylvester Village Road/ River Trail PM: Chan Chich plaza to bridge and up to Trish's Hill
January 4th, 2007	AM: Chan Chich plaza to Sylvester Village Road and back through service area PM: Temple Loop returning by Logger's Trail. Night drive around Gallon Jug (2030-1030 hrs)
January 5th, 2007	AM: Chan Chich plaza to Gallon Jug for flight to Belize City PM: End of Chan Chich tour; start of Hidden Valley extension (Belize airport, Burrell Boom Road to Western Highway and Hidden Valley). Lunch at Cheers restaurant
January 6th, 2007	AM: Hidden Valley Lodge through pine ridge via Lake Lolly Folly to 1,600 Feet Falls. PM: HV Lodge to King Vulture Falls, returning by Macadamia plantation.
January 7th, 2007	AM: Hidden Valley Lodge to Douglas da Silva Checkpoint, road to Río Frío cave PM: Pine ridge and Lake Lolly Folly
January 8th, 2007	AM: Morning transfer from Hidden Valley Lodge to Belize City airport; end of tour.

Key to abbreviations for localities mentioned in table

- A = Belize Airport
- BB = Burrell Boom Road (Belize Penitentiary)
- BC = Belize City
- CC = Chan Chich (includes upper plaza/central plaza to suspension bridge)
- LT = Logger's Trail
- SV = Sylvester Village Road
- TL = Temple Loop
- BP = Back Plaza
- GJ = Gallon Jug
- LS = Laguna Seca
- WHwy = Western Highway from Belize City to Hidden Valley turn off
- HV = Hidden Valley (includes lodge, pine ridge, 1,600 Feet Falls, King Vulture Falls; Lake Lolly Folly)
- KVF = King Vulture Falls
- RF = Road to Río Frío Caves
- L.O. = Seen or heard by leader only.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Localities	Notes
Great Tinamou	<i>Tinamus major</i>	CC/ SV	H only (dusk/ early morning)
Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	SV	6 over east
Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>	LS	Micky blue-eyes
Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>	LS	Male/ female
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	LS	2
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	A/GJ/LS	
Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	GJ/LS/WHwy	Adults and an immature
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	A	
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	GJ/WHwy	
Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	LS	1 at edge
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	GJ	2 on night drive
Bare-throated Tiger-Heron	<i>Tigrisoma mexicanum</i>	LS	1 adult through scope
Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	Widespread	Esp. near human dwellings
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Widespread	More at home in forest than above
Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture	<i>Cathartes burrovianus</i>	Airport/BB	Scarce
King Vulture	<i>Sarcoramphus papa</i>	CC/HV/WHwy	1 ad CC; 3 ad/ 3 imm KVF/ 6 ad HV
White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	WHwy	1 in agricultural area
Double-toothed Kite	<i>Harpagus bidentatus</i>	SV	Imm preening, 1 other soaring
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	GJ	1 circling above forest
Black-collared Hawk	<i>Busarellus nigricollis</i>	LS	Great discovery by the ladies; 2 adults
Gray Hawk	<i>Asturina nitida</i>	GJ	2 individuals
Roadside Hawk	<i>Buteo magnirostris</i>	CC/SV/HV	Especially common at forest edge
Laughing Falcon	<i>Herpetotheres cachinnans</i>	CC/SV/HV	Heard only at Chan Chich; scope at HV
Barred Forest-Falcon	<i>Micrastur ruficollis</i>	CC	H only; dusk on road from bridge
Collared Forest-Falcon	<i>Micrastur semitorquatus</i>	CC	Coy/ courtship on Trish's Hill
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	GJ	1 Male
Bat Falcon	<i>Falco ruficularis</i>	CC/LS/HV	Pairs at CC/LS; L.O. at HV
Orange-breasted Falcon	<i>Falco deiroleucus</i>	HV	Good find at 1,600 F falls. Distant but cooperative pair, escaping the midday sun.
Plain Chachalaca	<i>Ortalis vetula</i>	CC	2 near service area
Crested Guan	<i>Penelope purpurascens</i>	LT/CC/SV	2 LT; 2 SV; 5 preening near service area
Great Curassow	<i>Crax rubra</i>	CC	1M/ 2FF on trip in; H along SV
Ocellated Turkey	<i>Meleagris ocellata</i>	CC/GJ	Regular flock 15+ at lodge; all through GJ
Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarana</i>	LS	2 at lake edge
Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinica</i>	LS	1 adult perched in scope; 1 imm.
Northern Jacana	<i>Jacana spinosa</i>	LS	At least 3ad/ 3imm.
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	CC/GJ	H only at CC; common at GJ
Scaled Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas speciosa</i>	SV	H only ("wooo-hu" a good imitation of its song!)
Red-billed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas flavirostris</i>	CC/HV/WHwy	Up to 5 in CC plaza; song & display
Short-billed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas nigrirostris</i>	CC/SV	Fairly regular at CC in groups of 3-5
Ruddy Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>	GJ	Common at GJ.
White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>	HV	Shy and not vocalizing; Sandy in lodge garden
Gray-fronted Dove	<i>Leptotila rufaxilla</i>	CC	Heard a few times on road to bridge;
Olive-throated Parakeet	<i>Aratinga nana</i>	A/GJ/SV	Scarce in forest; small flock GJ 10+
White-crowned Parrot	<i>Pionus senilis</i>	CC/GJ/HV/RF	Most often flying over; perched at CC
Red-lored Parrot	<i>Amazona autumnalis</i>	CC/HV/RF	Most frequently seen parrot; unruly gatherings in the plaza
Mealy Parrot	<i>Amazona farinosa</i>	CC/SV	Noisy but scarce.
Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>	CC/HV/RF	Cameo appearances; bird singing along SV is very early.
Groove-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>	GJ/ WHwy	Small numbers
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>	HV	Scope views at 1,600 F Falls
Stygian Owl	<i>Asio stygius</i>	HV	Definitely good for business! Scope shots
Northern Potoo	<i>Nyctibius jamaicensis</i>	GJ	At least 3 on night drive

Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>	CC	Often encountered around cabañas at night; good looks on night drive.
White-collared Swift	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>	HV	Flock of c. 50 at KVF; exhilarating fliers
Vaux's Swift	<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>	HV	2+ near start of Mountain Pine Ridge. L.O.
Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift	<i>Panyptila cayennensis</i>	CC/SV	4+ at times at over CC plaza; scarce tropical swift
Long-billed Hermit	<i>Phaethornis longirostris</i>	CC/SV/RF	Innumerable "fly-byes"; disembodied white tail tip.
Stripe-throated (Little) Hermit	<i>Phaethornis striigularis</i>	CC/LT	Frequent around CC plaza but rarely lingers long!
Scaly-breasted Hummingbird	<i>Phaeochroa cuvieri</i>	RF	Good scope look at one bird; absent at CC
Wedge-tailed Sabrewing	<i>Campylopterus curvipennis</i>	CC	One regular at the tulip tree in main plaza
White-necked Jacobin	<i>Florisuga mellivora</i>	SV	A cooperative male perched above trail for scope views
Canivet's Emerald	<i>Chlorostilbon canivetti</i>	BB	A great male entertained after tire blowout.
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia tzacatl</i>	CC/RF	The common hummingbird in lowland forest edge
White-bellied Emerald	<i>Amazilia candida</i>	RF	Scarce in this area; scope views.
Azure-crowned Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia cyanocephala</i>	HV	Judith to the rescue!
Purple-crowned Fairy	<i>Heliothryx barroti</i>	CC	Remarkably scarce; one only along Sac-Be trail nr river
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilocus colubris</i>	HV	Sandy only; good sighting.
Black-headed Trogon	<i>Trogon melanocephalus</i>	LT/CC/SV	Scope views in service area; occasional song
Violaceous Trogon	<i>Trogon violaceus</i>	CC/LT/LS/SV	Most commonly seen trogon (daily at CC)
Slaty-tailed Trogon	<i>Trogon massena</i>	CC/LS/SV	Frequent song but only seen well (scope) on first day
Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle torquata</i>	LS	Scope filler of this imposing fisher.
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	LS	At least two at lake edges
Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>	CC/LT	Several "fly-byes" along Sac Be. Scope views of M along LT
Tody Motmot	<i>Hylomanes momotula</i>	LT/TL	Responded to tape calls; scope views in the dimness of the forest underworld
Blue-crowned Motmot	<i>Momotus momota</i>	CC/TL/LS	Elusive and only occasional heard just after dawn
Rufous-tailed Jacamar	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>	LT/SV	Scope views of this beauty along LT. H only SV
White-whiskered Puffbird	<i>Malacoptila panamensis</i>	RF	Crushing one-upmanship by the two Richards!
Collared Araçari	<i>Pteroglossus torquatus</i>	CC/SV	Rather scarce (3 on two days; heard at Trish's Hill
Keel-billed Toucan	<i>Ramphastos sulfuratus</i>	CC/LS/SV/RF	1-2 daily; breathtaking eye level views from Upper Plaza
Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>	HV	Backyard bullies but hard not to admire
Black-cheeked Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes pucherani</i>	CC	Most commonly seen woodpecker at CC; esp. in plaza
Golden-fronted Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes aurifrons</i>	HV	A male bird at lodge.
Smoky-brown Woodpecker	<i>Veniliornis fumigatus</i>	RF	Heard only once in whole trip; scarce
Golden-olive Woodpecker	<i>Piculus rubiginosus</i>	HV	Good scope looks at lodge
Chestnut-colored Woodpecker	<i>Celeus castanea</i>	CC	More one-upmanship - this time from the venerable Ron Hawkes!
Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>	CC/GJ/HV	Scope looks at GJ; also calling on occasion
Pale-billed Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus guatemalensis</i>	CC/SV	Some good looks but generally not very cooperative
Plain Xenops	<i>Xenops minutus</i>	CC/LT/LS/SV/RF	Usually on the move with mixed canopy flocks; can be elusive
Buff-throated Foliage-Gleaner	<i>Automolus ochrolaemus</i>	RF	Gave itself away by call; responded quickly to tape
Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser	<i>Sclerurus guatemalensis</i>	CC/LT/TL	Shadowy flyby at dusk; heard on 4 days at dusk
Tawny-winged Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocincla anabatina</i>	LT/TL	Couple of sightings; also full song heard on couple of occasions
Ruddy Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocincla homochroa</i>	LT/SV	Only 3 sightings; occasional song heard but generally scarce
Olivaceous Woodcreeper	<i>Sittasomus griseicapillus</i>	CC/LT/TL/HV/RF	Most widespread woodcreeper and most seen on this trip
Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Glyphorhynchus spirurus</i>	BP	Heard only once at CC (L.O.)
Strong-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus</i>	CC/LT	Very rare woodcreeper; heard on two mornings
Ivory-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus flavigaster</i>	CC/LT/TL/HV/RF	Also widespread; often on the move with mixed flocks
Plain Antvireo	<i>Dysithamnus mentalis</i>	RF	A pair responded briefly to taping; vine-tangle specialist
Dot-winged Antwren	<i>Microrhopias quixensis</i>	CC/LT/TL/LS/SV	Often with mixed flocks, though sometimes in groups of 3-6
Dusky Antbird	<i>Cercomacra tyrannina</i>	CC/RF	Heard only at CC; pair seen.
Black-faced Antthrush	<i>Formicarius analis</i>	CC/TL	Heard only on two occasions. Elusive.
Rufous Piha	<i>Lipaugus unirufus</i>	CC/LT	Heard on several occasions along river (Sac-Be) and LT.
Lovely Cotinga	<i>Cotinga amabilis</i>	CC	A female perched briefly atop a cecropia above road to bridge on New Year's Day. Happy New Year!!

White-collared Manakin	<i>Manacus candei</i>	CC	A male appeared for breakfast on the last day at CC
Red-capped Manakin	<i>Pipra mentalis</i>	CC/LT	Several immature males only at CC. Brief adult male RF
Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet	<i>Ornithion semiflavum</i>	SV/RF	Heard only at CC but seen well along road to RF
Greenish Elaenia	<i>Myiopagis viridicata</i>	CC/SV/RF	Heard more often than seen. One sighting CC/ 1 RF
Yellow-bellied Elaenia	<i>Elaenia flavogaster</i>	GJ/HV	Scope views at GJ/ another in Mountain Pine Ridge
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Mionectes oleagineus</i>	CC/LT	Frequent visitor in plaza; also seen Sac Be & LT.
Sepia-capped Flycatcher	<i>Leptopogon amaurocephalus</i>	CC/LT	Heard Back Plaza and LT; apparently nesting behind cabaña 13.
Northern Bentbill	<i>Oncostoma cinereigulare</i>	LS/SV/TL/HV/RF	Diminutive understory flycatcher; Heard only at CC/ Seen RF. One on pine ridge unusual
Common Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>	BC/WHwy	Pair seen at Cheers restaurant; Sandy & Tore Belize City
Eye-ringed Flatbill	<i>Rhynchocycclus brevirostris</i>	RF	Finally caught up with this one at RF
Yellow-olive Flycatcher	<i>Tolmomyias sulphurescens</i>	CC	Heard once only at CC (L.O.). Unusually scarce.
Stub-tailed Spadebill	<i>Platyrichus cancrinus</i>	CC/LT/LS/SV	Common but elusive. Heard only.
Northern Royal Flycatcher	<i>Onychorhynchus mexicanus</i>	CC/SV	Seen daily at CC; pair in plaza, 1 in service area and also SV.
Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Terentotriccus erythrurus</i>	LT	Heard once only along LT (L.O.)
Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher	<i>Myiobius sulphureipygius</i>	CC/LS	Another bird constantly on the move with mixed flocks
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	CC/LT/TL/LS/SV/RF	Scope filler at bridge; the common forest empid in this region.
Least Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	CC	Scarce; one only at CC.
Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>	WHwy	Pair at Cheers restaurant
Bright-rumped Attila	<i>Attila spadiceus</i>	CC/TL	Good looks in CC plaza/ also heard TL
Rufous Mourner	<i>Rhytipterna holerythra</i>	LS/CC	Seen with flock in LS; best looks on Trish's Hill
Yucatan Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus yucatanensis</i>	SV	Yucatan endemic; heard only
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>	CC/HV/RF	Lowland forest edges; also on pine ridge.
Great-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	CC/LT/TL/HV	Good looks in CC plaza; mainly heard in forest canopy.
Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>	GJ/WHwy/HV	Open areas, gardens
Boat-billed Flycatcher	<i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>	CC/GJ/HV/RF	Various sightings in forest edge; heard only at CC
Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>	CC/GJ/SV/HV	Forest clearings, edges, gardens and open areas.
Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	GJ/WHwy	Mainly open agricultural areas, gardens
Couch's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus couchii</i>	CC/RF	Tends to favor forest clearings and edge; distinctive calls
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>	BC/GJ	At least 3 at GJ; also Sandy & Tore Belize City
Fork-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus savana</i>	GJ/WHwy	Seen at GJ and at Cheers restaurant
Thrush-like Schiffornis	<i>Schiffornis turdinus</i>	CC/LT/TL/SV	Great conversationalist! Seen along LT.
Cinnamon Becard	<i>Pachyramphus cinnamomeus</i>	CC	Ruth sneaked this one in at the bridge on last morning.
Masked Tityra	<i>Tityra semifasciata</i>	CC	Often in tree tops in plaza
Black-crowned Tityra	<i>Tityra inquisitor</i>	CC/GJ	Pair at CC/ 2MM & 1F GJ (a flock of tityras!)
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	A	Several hundred over airport
Mangrove Swallow	<i>Tachycineta alibilinea</i>	GJ	Common at Gallon Jug farm
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	GJ/WHwy	Rather scarce; few at GJ farm & Cheers restaurant
Ridgway's Rough-w. Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ridgwayi</i>	RF	Endemic cave dweller; seen over forest at RF
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	GJ	Mainly a passage migrant in our area; 2+ at GJ farm
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	CC/HV	Up to 6 in CC plaza; also one over HV
Spot-breasted Wren	<i>Thryothorus maculipectus</i>	CC/RF	Seen well at bridge; heard more often than seen though not as vocal as Wood-Wren
Plain Wren	<i>Thryothorus modestus</i>	HV	Seen at 1,600 F Falls thanks to Rick; Heard at Lake Lolly Folly
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	CC	One in CC plaza; the "southern" variety.
White-bellied Wren	<i>Uropsila leucogastra</i>	LT	Relatively scarce in these parts; a good look along LT.
White-breasted Wood-Wren	<i>Henicorhina leucosticta</i>	CC/LT/SV	Common near forest floor; talented singer but tough to see.
Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	SV/HV	Rather scarce this year. CC only in bajo along SV. Also pine ridge
Tropical Mockingbird	<i>Mimus gilvus</i>	BC/WHwy	Common Belize City and along WHwy
Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	CC/LT/TL/SV	Common on forest floor; more often heard than seen
Clay-colored Robin	<i>Turdus grayi</i>	CC	Unusually scarce; a couple in the main plaza

White-throated Robin	<i>Turdus assimilis</i>	CC	Heard once only near King's Tomb
Long-billed Gnatwren	<i>Ramphocelus melanurus</i>	SV	Seen well along SV in bajo; also heard at forest edge RF.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	HV	Seen at HV only; 3+ with mixed flock.
Tropical Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila plumbea</i>	SV	Good looks at a male along SV. Also singing.
Green Jay	<i>Cyanocorax yncas</i>	HV	Frequent in gardens and on feeders.
Brown Jay	<i>Cyanocorax morio</i>	GJ/SV/HV	Mainly forest edge and bajo habitat. Avoids interior of humid forest at CC.
White-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo griseus</i>	CC/SV	More frequently encountered in bajo habitat; sings during winter.
Mangrove Vireo	<i>Vireo pallens</i>	SV	Heard only in bajo habitat.
Yellow-throated Vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	SV/RF	Individuals at both locations. Distinctive call.
Tawny-crowned Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus ochraceiceps</i>	LT/LS/SV	Often in understory flocks with Red-crowned Ant-Tanagers; constantly on the move
Lesser Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus decurtatus</i>	CC/LT/LS/SV	Common in small flocks in canopy; often with mixed species flocks
Green Shrike-Vireo	<i>Vireolanius pulchellus</i>	RF	Song only at RF; rarely seen.
Blue-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora pinus</i>	SV/CC	Scarce; one along SV. Another seen by Ron at CC.
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	CC	Scarce; one only at CC plaza; another at Cheers restaurant.
Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Dendroica castanea</i>	RF	Scarce this winter; one only at RF. None seen CC.
Magnolia Warbler	<i>Dendroica magnolia</i>	CC/LT/LS/SVHV// RF	Most common forest warbler; also in edge and second growth.
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	CC/LS/WHWy	Uncommon in forest clearings; also Cheers.
Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Dendroica virens</i>	CC/SV/HV/RF	Fairly common in forest canopy.
Yellow-throated Warbler	<i>Dendroica dominica</i>	CC/GJ/HV	Uncommon; singles at each location
Grace's Warbler	<i>Dendroica graciae</i>	HV	Mountain pine ridge; isolated population.
Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	CC/LT/SV/HV/RF	Most commonly seen warbler after Magnolia.
American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	CC/LS/LT/SV/HV/ RF	Fairly common in forest canopy; broadleaf
Worm-eating Warbler	<i>Helmitheros vermivora</i>	CC/SV	Fairly good looks at bird with mixed flock in service area; Alan found another along SV.
Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>	LT/SV	Rather scarce; heard only.
Northern Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>	CC/SV	Also scarce this winter; individuals on road to bridge and SV.
Louisiana Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus motacilla</i>	CC	The sexier of the two species; often seen on road to bridge.
Kentucky Warbler	<i>Oporornis formosus</i>	CC/LT/RF	Glimpses along Sac-Be; occasionally herd in forest undergrowth.
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	LS/HV	Lakesides (Laguna Seca & Lolly Folly).
Gray-crowned Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis poliocephala</i>	HV	Good looks on pine ridge.
Hooded Warbler	<i>Wilsonia citrina</i>	CC/LT/SV	Fairly common near forest floor.
Golden-crowned Warbler	<i>Basileuterus culicivorus</i>	LT/RF	Only seen on LT at CC (2birds); 5+ birds at RF.
Rufous-capped Warbler	<i>Basileuterus rufifrons</i>	HV	Several good looks on the pine ridge; however, not vocal.
Gray-throated Chat	<i>Granatellus sallaei</i>	SV	Male seen on 3 occasions along SV in bajo habitat.
Gray-headed Tanager	<i>Eucometis penicillata</i>	SV	Scarce; only along SV. Reflects lack of antswarms.
Black-throated Shrike-Tanager	<i>Lanio aurantius</i>	CC/LT/LS/SV	Orchestrates canopy flocks; males mostly seen; one female also.
Red-crowned Ant-Tanager	<i>Habia rubica</i>	CC/LT/SV/RF	Encountered more frequently than Red-throated in understory.
Red-throated Ant-Tanager	<i>Habia fuscicauda</i>	CC/LT/SV/RF	Uncharacteristically scarce; not seen till 4th day! Reflects lack of antswarms.
Rose-throated Tanager	<i>Piranga roseogularis</i>	SV	Good looks at an immature male on SV.
Hepatic Tanager	<i>Piranga flava</i>	HV	Common in pine ridge; also frequent at feeders.
Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>	CC/RF	Forest edge and clearings (male and females seen).
Blue-gray Tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>	GJ	3+ at GJ farm.
Yellow-winged Tanager	<i>Thraupis abbas</i>	CC	Uncommon in CC plaza; 2 singles only.
Golden-hooded Tanager	<i>Tangara larvata</i>	HV	Pair of this gaudy tanager at 1,600 F Falls.
Green Honeycreeper	<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>	CC/SV	Only two sightings (one male/ 1 female)
Red-legged Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i>	CC	L.O. 3 on tulip tree first day.
Blue-black Grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>	GJ	Song and display at GJ; males still in basic plumage.
White-collared Seedeater	<i>Sporophila torqueola</i>	CC/GJ	Open areas and forest clearings.
Yellow-faced Grassquit	<i>Tiaris olivacea</i>	HV	Scrubby vegetation on pine ridge.

Orange-billed Sparrow	<i>Arremon aurantirostris</i>	RF	Beautiful understory sparrow; pair at RF.
Green-backed Sparrow	<i>Arremonops chloronotus</i>	GJ/SV	Good looks at forest edge GJ; heard only SV.
Rusty Sparrow	<i>Aimophila rufescens</i>	HV	Common on pine ridge, but not vocalizing.
Black-headed Saltator	<i>Saltator atriceps</i>	CC/HV	Small noisy flocks in service area at CC and also at HV lodge.
Black-faced Grosbeak	<i>Caryothraustes polioaster</i>	LT/HV/RF	Flocks on LT and on pine ridge; heard at RF.
Blue Bunting	<i>Cyanocompsa parellina</i>	SV	Male seen well on 3 occasions along SV:
Blue-black Grosbeak	<i>Cyanocompsa cyanoides</i>	SV/RF	Scarce; one female nr King's Tomb; song at RF.
Painted Bunting	<i>Passerina ciris</i>	HV	Male seen by Ron at the lodge.
Melodious Blackbird	<i>Dives dives</i>	CC/GJ/WHwy/HV	Regular at CC plaza and rural gardens.
Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	A/GJ/WHwy/HV	Common in disturbed areas.
Bronzed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus aeneus</i>	GJ	1 male only at GJ.
Giant Cowbird	<i>Molothrus oryzivorus</i>	CC/GJ	One at CC plaza; several at GJ farm.
Yellow-backed Oriole	<i>Icterus chrysater</i>	HV	Frequent on feeders at lodge.
Yellow-tailed Oriole	<i>Icterus mesomelas</i>	HV	Less numerous than above, but also frequent at feeders.
Baltimore Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	CC	Regular in tulip trees at CC plaza.
Orchard Oriole	<i>Icterus spurius</i>	GJ	One adult male, 1 imm. male, 1 female at GJ farm - only sighting.
Black-cowled Oriole	<i>Icterus prothemelas</i>	CC	Most frequently seen oriole in CC plaza.
Montezuma Oropendola	<i>Gymnostinops montezuma</i>	CC/GJ	Common at CC plaza and around GJ farm; frequent gurgler.
Scrub Euphonia	<i>Euphonia affinis</i>	CC	One only heard in plaza (L.O.)
Yellow-throated Euphonia	<i>Euphonia hirundinacea</i>	CC	Common at CC plaza on mistletoe
Olive-backed Euphonia	<i>Euphonia gouldi</i>	CC	Abundant on mistletoe at CC plaza; also forest edge.
Black-headed Siskin	<i>Carduelis notata</i>	HV	A pair at Lake Lolly Folly on last evening; sprinkles on the ice-cream!

220 Species