

# **GRAND BELIZE**

**FEBRUARY 15 – 25, 2007**

**LEADERS: BARRY ZIMMER & VICTOR EMANUEL**

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February 15 - 25, 2007

Leaders: Barry Zimmer & Victor Emanuel

By Barry Zimmer

We left Chan Chich Lodge early in the morning on the eighth day of our trip in order to head up to an area known as the escarpment. At one point this site was going to be the location of a second lodge on the property. A small area was cleared on the edge of a ridge that overlooks roughly 300,000 acres of protected forest and provides superb raptor-viewing in addition to the wonderful scenery. We wanted to arrive in time to see the first raptors get up out of the forest and sail along the ridge line, but we kept getting distracted along the way. A pair of Great Curassows (we would see 17 during our trip) strolled across the road in front of us demanding our attention. Near Gallon Jug, several White-fronted Parrots alit in a roadside tree necessitating another quick stop. Scissor-tailed and Fork-tailed flycatchers darted off the fence line in front of our bus. A short while later an adult Great Black-Hawk was spotted perched nearly over our heads.

Focused on getting to the escarpment, we continued on. We began to climb upward when a pair of White-whiskered Puffbirds appeared on some hanging vines to our left. I was beginning to think we would never arrive at our destination at the best time for raptor viewing, but fortunately it was a cloudy morning and the raptors would likely be a little late. Suddenly a large bird flushed out of the forest in front of us and sailed up to a limb right over the road in full view. Incredibly it was an adult Spectacled Owl, a bird I had never seen at Chan Chich before. Everyone got off "the birdmobile" and we enjoyed fantastic scope views of this magnificent bird for several minutes.

Although we had yet to arrive at the escarpment, our morning was already a wild success. We ascended one final hill, passing a huge mahogany en route that has periodically been used as a nesting tree for a pair of Ornate Hawk-Eagles, and before us lay an incredible sweeping vista. From this vantage point of more than 180 degrees we could see nothing but forest below—no roads, no houses, no villages. We set up our scopes, had a quick snack, and then waited to see what might pass by. Someone quickly spotted a perched Brown-hooded Parrot behind us and we enjoyed wonderful views. A Bat Falcon sailed by, followed quickly by two King Vultures. Then our local guide, Raul, called my attention to a distant raptor way out to the left. I got my scope on it and realized that it was a Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle, a species that is hard to see almost anywhere. It was so far out that a scope view was required to identify the bird, but gradually it began sailing our way. Within minutes it came cruising in and perched atop a large tree about a half-mile away. Now we had very good scope views of this

incredible bird, only the third Victor had ever seen perched and only the fourth for me. Its snow-white underparts contrasted boldly with the blackish back, black mask, short black crest, and bright orange cere. Unbelievable luck!

Over the next hour we tallied a pair of Short-tailed Hawks (one light morph and one dark morph), a pair of Black Hawk-Eagles, two White Hawks, and a Double-toothed Kite. By 10:45 a.m. it was time to load up and begin heading back to the lodge for lunch. As we descended the hill, we made a stop to point out the old Ornate Hawk-Eagle nest in the mahogany tree. While pointing out an Olive-sided Flycatcher over our heads, I suddenly heard the distinctive calls of the Ornate just beyond the nest tree. Within a minute, this magnificent creature sailed up into the tree right in front of us; the nest was active again! We watched for over 15 minutes—spellbound, at what is surely one of the most beautiful raptors in the world. All three hawk-eagles and a Spectacled Owl in the same morning...such are the possibilities at Chan Chich!

Of course this was but one of many great mornings. For the trip we tallied nearly 300 species of birds. To the south near Hidden Valley we had walkaway views of Orange-breasted Falcon from about 30 feet, found a roosting Stygian Owl, watched eight King Vultures perched over King Vulture Falls, had twelve Swallow-tailed Kites in view at once, and had myriad colorful species such as Golden-hooded Tanager, Yellow-backed and Yellow-tailed orioles side by side, Green Jay, and Black-headed Siskin.

Other Chan Chich area highlights included Blue-crowned and Tody motmots, superb views of Mottled Owl and Vermiculated Screech-Owl on a night drive, the localized Rose-throated Tanager and Gray-throated Chat, and Collared Trogon. “Regular fare” such as toucans, jacamars, manakins (males of both Red-capped and White-collared were near daily fixtures at the restaurant), and Chestnut-colored Woodpecker also delighted the crowd. Great shows of Central American spider monkey and Mexican black howler monkey along with sightings of tamandua (lesser anteater) and tayra added to the fun.

Our tour ended with two days in the Crooked Tree/ Belize City area. Here we added two Agami Herons, 15 Rufous-necked Wood-Rails at once, an unexpected covey of Black-throated Bobwhite, and a pair of Yellow-headed Parrots among others.

As is usually the case with all our Belize tours, this one was a wild success. This country remains on the must-do list of every birder interested in the tropics.

## Itinerary:

February 15 - drive from Belize City to Hidden Valley with very brief roadside birding en route (14 species)

February 16 - Hidden Valley Lodge, Thousand Foot Falls, King Vulture Falls (38 species; 52 total)

February 17 - Caracol, King Vulture Falls, Tiger Creek Falls (77 species; 110 total)

February 18 - Hidden Valley area, drive to Chan Chich via the Yalbac property with arrival at Chan Chich around 12:30 pm; afternoon birding around lodge and down to suspension bridge (86 species; 142 total)

February 19 - walk to suspension bridge, Logger's Trail (motmot group); Sylvester Village road, River Trail (trogon group), Gallon Jug area, Xibal (140 species; 195 total)

February 20 - drive to Cedar Crossing, Laguna Seca in am: Sac Be Trail (motmots) and Xaxe Venic & Bajo trails (trogons) (130 species; 221 total)

February 21 - Back Plaza, Upper Plaza, Logger's Trail (trogons); Sylvester Village Road, River Trail (motmots); Sac Be Trail (trogons) and Back Plaza, Upper Plaza, Norman's Temple, Xaxe Venic (motmots); night drive (114 species; 229 total)

February 22 - drive to escarpment in morning; afternoon to Sac Be; night walk (102 species; 237 total)

February 23 - Back Plaza and Upper Plaza in morning; drive to Belize City via Blue Creek with afternoon birding around Crooked Tree (99 species; 252 total)

February 24 - Crooked Tree North Lagoon to Spanish Creek on boat, afternoon flight to Caye Caulker (99 species; 288 total)

February 25 - morning walk around hotel; departures for home (296 total species)

## Key:

H = Hidden Valley, Caracol

C = Chan Chich and surrounding areas

T = Crooked Tree Sanctuary and surrounding areas

B = Belize City, Caye Caulker, and surrounding areas

**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:**

Great Tinamou (*Tinamus major*) C---head only  
Slaty-breasted Tinamou (*Tinamus boucardi*) C---heard only  
Least Grebe (*Tachybaptus dominicus*) C---uncommon  
Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) C,T  
Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) B  
Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) T  
Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) B  
Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) C,T  
Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*) B  
Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) C,B,T  
Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) C,T,B  
Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) T,B  
Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) T,B  
Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*) T,B  
Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) H,C,T,B  
Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) C,T  
**Agami Heron** T---two on our Crooked Tree boat trip, the first spotted by Leonie; after some effort good views for all  
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax violacea*) C,B  
Boat-billed Heron (*Cochlearius cochlearius*) T---great views of these comical birds  
Bare-throated Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma mexicanum*) T---immature bird right next to the road in Crooked Tree  
Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) T  
White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) T,B  
Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) T---uncommon  
Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaja*) B---spotted by Leonie on plane ride into Caye Caulker  
Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) T  
Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) daily  
Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) daily  
Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture (*Cathartes burrovianus*) T  
King Vulture (*Sarcoramphus papa*) H,C---a total of 22 seen including excellent scope views of perched birds at King Vulture Falls  
Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) T,B  
Gray-headed Kite (*Leptodon cayanensis*) C---adult seen over short forest by some in each group  
Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) H,C---just arriving migrants; twelve visible at one time; always spectacular  
White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*) C---only two seen  
Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*) T---less numerous than usual due to high water

Double-toothed Kite (*Harpagus bidentatus*) H,C---more numerous than usual with 11 total

Plumbeous Kite (*Ictinia plumbea*) H,C---just arriving from South America; great views of several

Black-collared Hawk (*Busarellus nigricollis*) T---stunning!

White Hawk (*Leucopternis albicollis*) H,C---distant birds from temples at Caracol and from the escarpment, but seen right overhead by motmot group along Sylvester Village Road

Great Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus urubitinga*) C,T---great studies around Gallon Jug

Gray Hawk (*Asturina nitida*) H,C,T

Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*) H,C,T

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) C

Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*) H,C--- light & dark morphs

White-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albicaudatus*) B---unexpected was a pair just outside of Belize City on our drive to Hidden Valley; very uncommon

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) C---uncommon

**Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle** (*Spizaetus melanoleucus*) C---nice views of perched adult at the escarpment; one of my favorites of the tour; stunning!

Black Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetus tyrannus*) C

Ornate Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetus ornatus*) C---unsurpassed views of perched bird near escarpment for all; voted the second favorite bird of the tour

Laughing Falcon (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*) H,C---nice scope studies with an impressive six seen

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) C

Bat Falcon (*Falco rufigularis*) H,C,T---seen daily at Chan Chich with a pair almost constantly around the lodge

**Orange-breasted Falcon** (*Falco deiroleucus*) H---prolonged, close scope study at King Vulture Falls of this very rare raptor thanks to Leonie's spotting; voted the third favorite bird of the tour!

Plain Chachalaca (*Ortalis vetula*) H,C---less numerous than usual

Crested Guan (*Penelope purpurascens*) C---several great views including on the night drive

Great Curassow (*Crax rubra*) C---a total of 17 seen!

Ocellated Turkey (*Meleagris ocellata*) H,C---very common right around the cabanas

**Black-throated (Yucatan) Bobwhite** (*Colinus nigrogularis*) covey of about 15 flushed from the roadside near Blue Creek; a lifer for me!!!

Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*) T

Ruddy Crake (*Laterallus ruber*) C---heard only, as is usually the case

Gray-necked Wood-Rail (*Aramides cajanea*) T---great view in Sam's yard

**Rufous-necked Wood-Rail** (*Aramides axillaris*) B---a truly amazing sight with about 15 birds in view at once, some as close as 15 feet away!

American Coot (*Fulica americana*) T

Northern Jacana (*Jacana spinosa*) C,T---wonderfully common

Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) B

Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*) one bird in with Semipalmateds en route to airport the last morning by late departers

Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) B---flock of 68 seen by the late departing group en route to the airport  
 Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) C  
 Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*) C  
 Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) B---one from plane for some on Caye Caulker  
 Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) C, T  
 Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*) B  
 Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) B---nice views  
 Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) B  
 Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) B---two in flight for some  
 Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*) B---seen in with plovers by late departers on last morning  
 Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) T  
 Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*) B  
 Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) B  
 Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) B---uncommon  
Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) B---very uncommon  
 Gull-billed Tern (*Sterna nilotica*) T  
 Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*) T  
 Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*) B  
 Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*) B---distant flight views  
 Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) B  
**White-crowned Pigeon** (*Columba leucocephala*) B---a good find at this season on Caye Caulker  
 Scaled Pigeon (*Patagioenas speciosa*) H,C  
 Pale-vented Pigeon (*Patagioenas cayennensis*) T---oddly only flight views were had  
 Red-billed Pigeon (*Patagioenas flavirostris*) H,C---this species has become common right around the lodge at Chan Chich  
 Short-billed Pigeon (*Patagioenas nigrirostris*) C--- nice study thanks to Victor  
 White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) B  
 Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*) B---by a few only  
 Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*) C,T,B  
 Blue Ground-Dove (*Claravis pretiosa*) C---scope views for some  
 White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*) H,C,T---heard more often than seen  
 Gray-headed (Gray-fronted) Dove (*Leptotila plumbeiceps*) C---seen by some; *L. rufaxilla* of some authors  
 Olive-throated Parakeet (*Aratinga nana*) C,T  
 Brown-hooded Parrot (*Pionopsitta haematotis*) C---several nice views of perched birds  
 White-crowned Parrot (*Pionus senilis*) H,C---superb scope views at Caracol & Chan Chich  
Yellow-lored (Yucatan) Parrot (*Amazona xantholora*) T---fly-by only in pine forests  
 White-fronted Parrot (*Amazona albifrons*) C,T  
 Red-lored Parrot (*Amazona autumnalis*) H,C,T---almost daily  
 Mealy Parrot (*Amazona farinosa*) C  
Yellow-headed Parrot (*Amazona oratrix*) T---a nice bonus!

Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*) H,C---unbelievable study of one at an antswarm in Caracol

Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) H,T

**Vermiculated Screech-Owl** (*Megascops guatemalae*) C---fantastic views of rufous morph bird on night drive; rarely seen

**Spectacled Owl** (*Pulsatrix perspicillata*) C---prolonged scope views of bird flushed from roadside in daytime on way up to escarpment; this was my first ever at Chan Chich; voted the favorite bird of the tour!!!

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum*) H---close pair at Tiger Creek and another on Hidden Valley grounds

Mottled Owl (*Caccaba virgata*) C---one on our night drive from about 15 feet was my favorite sighting of the trip!

**Stygian Owl** (*Asio stygius*) H---roosting bird near Hidden Valley from about 60 feet spotted by Leonie of course; rarely seen anywhere

Common Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*) C---wonderful views

Vaux's Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*) C

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift (*Panyptila cayennensis*) C---oddly only one seen

Long-billed Hermit (*Phaethornis longirostris*) C---formerly Western Long-tailed Hermit; a daily sighting around Chan Chich

Stripe-throated Hermit (*Phaethornis striigularis*) H,C---formerly Little Hermit

Scaly-breasted Hummingbird (*Phaeochroa cuvierii*) C---very surprisingly this usually common species was heard only

Wedge-tailed Sabrewing (*Campylopterus curvipennis*) C---one seen well by trogon group in short forest

White-necked Jacobin (*Florisuga mellivora*) C---stunning

Green-breasted Mango (*Anthracothorax prevostii*) C,T,B

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (*Amazilia tzacatl*) H,C,T---the most common hummer in the area; excellent studies of one on a nest in Caracol

Cinnamon Hummingbird (*Amazilia rutila*) B---common around our hotel

White-bellied Emerald (*Agyrtria candida*) C

Azure-crowned Hummingbird (*Agyrtria cyanocephala*) H---common at the lodge feeders

Purple-crowned Fairy (*Heliostyris barroti*) C

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) C,T

Black-headed Trogon (*Trogon melanocephalus*) H,C

Violaceous Trogon (*Trogon violaceus*) H,C---many great views

Collared Trogon (*Trogon collaris*) C---male in Back Plaza the last morning; very uncommon

Slaty-tailed Trogon (*Trogon massena*) C

Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*) B,C,T

Ringed Kingfisher (*Ceryle torquata*) C,T

Amazon Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle amazona*) C---at Cedar Crossing

Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*) C,T---unusually scarce

Tody Motmot (*Hylomanes momotula*) C---great views of this uncommon species

Blue-crowned Motmot (*Momotus momota*) C

Rufous-tailed Jacamar (*Galbula ruficauda*) C---always spectacular

White-whiskered Puffbird (*Malacoptila panamensis*) C---great looks  
 Collared Aracari (*Pteroglossus torquatus*) H,C  
 Keel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*) H,C--- the essence of the tropics!  
 Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*) H,T---southern race *lineatus*  
 Black-cheeked Woodpecker (*Melanerpes pucherani*) H,C  
Yucatan (Red-vented) Woodpecker (*Melanerpes pygmaeus*) T  
 Golden-fronted Woodpecker (*Melanerpes aurifrons*) H---missed by most; the southern, red-capped race *dubius*  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) H,C,T---an impressive four seen; usually missed entirely  
 Smoky-brown Woodpecker (*Veniliornis fumigatus*) C  
 Golden-olive Woodpecker (*Piculus rubiginosus*) H  
 Chestnut-colored Woodpecker (*Celeus castaneus*) C---great views for all  
 Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*) H,C  
 Pale-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus guatemalensis*) H,C---spectacular  
 Rufous-breasted Spinetail (*Synallaxis erythrothorax*) T  
 Plain Xenops (*Xenops minutus*) C  
 Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser (*Sclerurus guatemalensis*) C---the last morning in the Back Plaza area; it was of course tossing leaves  
 Tawny-winged Woodcreeper (*Dendrocincla anabatina*) C---nice views at ant swarm  
Ruddy Woodcreeper (*Dendrocincla homochroa*) C---uncommon  
 Olivaceous Woodcreeper (*Sittasomus griseicapillus*) C  
Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*) H,C---best views ever  
Strong-billed Woodcreeper (*Xiphocolaptes promeropyrhynchus*) C---heard only  
 Northern Barred Woodcreeper (*Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae*) C  
 Ivory-billed Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus flavigaster*) H,C  
 Barred Antshrike (*Thamnophilus doliatus*) C---fantastic looks at this comical species  
Plain Antvireo (*Dysithamnus mentalis*) C---a pair of this uncommon species near the Back Plaza  
 Dot-winged Antwren (*Microrhophias quixensis*) H,C---oddly scarce this year  
 Dusky Antbird (*Cercomacra tyrannina*) C  
 Black-faced (Mexican) Antthrush (*Formicarius analis*) C---heard only; split by some authors as *F. moniliger*  
 Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet (*Ornithon semiflavum*) C  
 Greenish Elaenia (*Myiopagis viridicata*) C  
 Yellow-bellied Elaenia (*Elaenia martinica*) C,T,B  
 Ochre-bellied Flycatcher (*Mionectes oleagineus*) H,C  
 Northern Bentbill (*Oncostoma cinereigulare*) C---heard only  
 Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinerum*) B---one of our last new birds  
 Eye-ringed Flatbill (*Rhynchocyclus brevirostris*) C  
 Yellow-olive Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias sulphurescens*) H,C  
 Stub-tailed Spadebill (*Platyrinchus cancrominus*) C---actually seen well by one group  
 Northern Royal Flycatcher (*Onychorhynchus mexicanus*) C---good views  
 Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher (*Terenotriccus erythrurus*) C  
 Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher (*Myiobius sulphureipygius*) C  
 Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*) C

Tropical Pewee (*Contopus cinereus*) C  
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*) H,C  
 Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*) C  
 Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) H---one at Guacamayo bridge  
 Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) T,B---up to 10 in one day  
 Bright-rumped Attila (*Attila spadiceus*) C  
 Rufous Mourner (*Rhytipterna holerythra*) C  
Yucatan Flycatcher (*Myiarchus yucatanensis*) C---nice views for one group along the Xaxe Venic trail  
 Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) H,C,T  
 Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) H,C,T  
 Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) H,C,T,B  
 Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarhynchus pitangua*) T  
 Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) H,C,T,B---common; seen every day  
 Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) H,C,T,B  
 Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus couchii*) C---most of the kingbirds heard around Chan Chich were of this species  
 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) C,B  
 Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*) C---spectacular  
 Thrush-like Schiffornis (*Schiffornis turdinus*) C  
 Rufous Piha (*Lipaugus unirufus*) C  
 Cinnamon Becard (*Pachyramphus*) C---uncommon  
 Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*) H,C  
Black-crowned Tityra (*Tityra inquisitor*) H,C---generally uncommon  
 White-collared Manakin (*Manacus candei*) C---a male frequented the firebush just outside the restaurant; impressive  
 Red-capped Manakin (*Pipra mentalis*) C---seen several places but one male was almost always in the firebush outside the restaurant; stunning!  
 Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) C  
 Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*) C,T---much scarcer than usual  
 Mangrove Swallow (*Tachycineta albilinea*) C,T,B  
 Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) C  
 White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*) C  
 Mangrove Vireo (*Vireo pallens*) C,T  
 Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*) C---wonderful scope views in front of lodge  
 Yucatan Vireo (*Vireo magister*) B---up close on Caye Caulker  
 Tawny-crowned Greenlet (*Hylophilus ochraceiceps*) C---by one group only  
 Lesser Greenlet (*Hylophilus decurtatus*) H,C  
 Green Shrike-Vireo (*Vireolanus pulchellus*) C---heard only as is usually the case  
 Green Jay (*Cyanocorax yncas*) H---common around Hidden Valley; the yellow-eyed race *maya*  
 Brown Jay (*Cyanocorax morio*) H,C,T---daily; the southern race *fuliginosus*  
 Yucatan Jay (*Cyanocorax yucatanensis*) T  
Band-backed Wren (*Campylorhynchus zonatus*) H---a lucky find of a family group building a nest

Spot-breasted Wren (*Thryothorus maculipectus*) H,C,T---seen well by motmots, heard only by trogons

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

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

White-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucosticta*) H,C---superb views by both groups

Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) H,C,T---almost daily

Black Catbird (*Melanoptila glabrirostris*) B---good views on Caye Caulker

Tropical Mockingbird (*Mimus gilvus*) T,B

Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) C

Clay-colored Robin (*Turdus grayi*) H,C,T

Long-billed Gnatwren (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*) C

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*) H,T

Tropical Gnatcatcher (*Poioptila plumbea*) C

**Cedar Waxwing** (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) H,C,B---not often seen on this trip, but this winter they had invaded south in numbers

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*) C---uncommon; Leonie only

**“Brewster’s Warbler”** C---a real surprise find was this hybrid between Blue-winged and Golden-winged in the Program for Belize land just north of Cedar Crossing; very rare in Belize

Northern Parula (*Parula americana*) B---unusually scarce

Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) B,C,T---including the stunning “Mangrove” Warblers on Caye Caulker

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica penslyvanica*) C

Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*) H,C,T

Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) H,C,T---Myrtle types

Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) H,C

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*) H,C,T,B

Grace’s Warbler (*Dendroica graciae*) H

Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum*) B---spotted by Victor

Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) H,C

American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) H,C,T,B

Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorus*) C

Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) C,T---somewhat scarce

Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) C

Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*) C---five bathing at once!

Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) C,T,B

Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) C

Wilson’s Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*) H

Golden-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus culicivorus*) H,C

Rufous-capped Warbler (*Basileuterus rufifrons*) H---exceptional views

Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*) C---by some

Gray-throated Chat (*Granatellus sallaei*) C---great views of this regional specialty

Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*) B---uncommon

Gray-headed Tanager (*Eucometis penicillata*) C---many great views

Black-throated Shrike-Tanager (*Lanio auranitus*) C---the flock leader; more numerous than usual  
 Red-crowned Ant-Tanager (*Habia rubica*) C---less numerous than usual  
 Red-throated Ant-Tanager (*Habia fuscicauda*) H,C  
Rose-throated Tanager (*Piranga roseogularis*) C---another regional specialty; seen by both groups in the bajo forest  
 Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) C,T,B  
 Hepatic Tanager (*Piranga flava*) H---the southern race *albifacies*  
 Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*) C,T---unbelievably scarce this year  
 Yellow-winged Tanager (*Thraupis abbas*) H,C  
 Scrub Euphonia (*Euphonia affinis*) C---uncommon  
 Yellow-throated Euphonia (*Euphonia hirundinacea*) C---only three seen the whole trip  
 Olive-backed Euphonia (*Euphonia gouldi*) C  
 Golden-hooded Tanager (*Tangara larvata*) H---at 1000 Foot Falls; spectacular  
 Red-legged Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*) H,C---stunning!  
 Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*) C---oddly scarce  
 White-collared Seedeater (*Sporophila torqueola*) B,H,C,T---daily  
 Thick-billed Seed-Finch (*Oryzoborus funereus*) C---one female briefly by some at Xibal  
 Yellow-faced Grassquit (*Tiaris olivacea*) H  
 Green-backed Sparrow (*Arremonops chloronotus*) C---heard only  
 Rusty Sparrow (*Aimophila rufescens*) H---big, hulking *Aimophila*  
 Grayish Saltator (*Saltator coerulescens*) heard only  
 Black-headed Saltator (*Saltator atriceps*) H,C  
 Black-faced Grosbeak (*Caryothraustes poliogaster*) C---by one group almost in Guatemala  
 Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) B---by Lang & Marilyn at the airport our last day  
 Blue-black Grosbeak (*Cyanocompsa cyanoides*) C  
Blue Bunting (*Cyanocompsa parellina*) C---nice male just north of Cedar Crossing; uncommon  
 Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) H,C,T,B  
 Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) T  
 Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) C---a recent invader to Gallon Jug  
 Melodious Blackbird (*Dives dives*) H,C,T,B---seen daily  
 Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) B,C,T  
 Bronzed Cowbird (*Molothrus aeneus*) C  
 Giant Cowbird (*Molothrus oryzivorus*) C  
 Yellow-backed Oriole (*Icterus chrysater*) H---nice views  
 Yellow-tailed Oriole (*Icterus mesomelas*) H,T---side-by-side with preceding species!  
 Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*) B  
 Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) H,C,T  
 Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) C,T,B  
 Black-cowled Oriole (*Icterus prothemelas*) C,B  
 Yellow-billed Cacique (*Amblycercus holosericeus*) H,T---heard only

Montezuma Oropendola (*Gymnostinops montezuma*) H,C,T---large nesting colony behind the bar at Chan Chich  
Black-headed Siskin (*Carduelis notata*) H---superb views

**total species - 296** (a new tour record)

**Leader only birds:**

Common Black-Hawk  
Barred Forest-Falcon heard only

**Mammals:**

Central American Spider Monkey---repeated, excellent views  
Mexican Black Howler Monkey---one of the great sounds of Central America; many great views  
Tayra---one crossing Sylvester Village Road  
Tamandua (Lesser or Collared Anteater)---two seen; one in Upper Plaza and another at Crooked Tree; superb studies  
Central American Agouti---only one seen  
White-nosed Coatiundi  
Collared Peccary  
Deppe's Squirrel  
Variegated Squirrel  
Gray Fox---good views of several  
White-tailed Deer  
various bat species left unidentified

total species - 12+

**Reptiles & Amphibians:**

Striped Basilisk  
Spiny-tailed Iguana  
Green Iguana  
anole species  
gecko species  
toad species---*Bufo valliceps*?  
mud turtle species  
Morelet's Crocodile

total species - 8

**Significant others:**

Bullhorn Acacia Ant

army ants

leafcutter ants

praying mantis

various gorgeous butterflies including Julia, sulphur species, Owl-eyed Butterfly, Fatima or Banded Peacock, Monarch, Queen, plus many, many more left unidentified  
the phenomenal spotting skills of Leonie!!!