

GRAND BELIZE

**CROOKED TREE, HIDDEN VALLEY, &
CHAN CHICH**

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CROOKED TREE, HIDDEN VALLEY, & CHAN CHICH

February 12-22, 2008

Leaders: Barry Zimmer & Steve Hilty

We began our first morning at Hidden Valley with a short walk around the lodge grounds before breakfast. Birds were walking up in rapid procession. A family of Acorn Woodpeckers gathered on a dead snag. An Azure-crowned Hummingbird zipped into the hummingbird feeder outside the dining room. A pair of Hepatic Tanagers dropped into the fruit-covered tray nearby, while both Yellow-backed and Yellow-tailed orioles worked their way up the vine-covered antenna on the lodge roof to sing in the first rays of the morning sun. A pair of Ferruginous Pygmy-Owls began whistling a short distance down the driveway and were quickly spotted in a small sapling along the road; we had walkaway scope views from about 30 feet! From the thicket to our right, a group of Green Jays, several Melodious Blackbirds, and a pair of Black-headed Saltators clamored for our attention. A noisy pair of Red-lored Parrots passed overhead, as did a troop of raucous Brown Jays. A shrill rattle revealed the presence of a pair of Golden-olive Woodpeckers in the same tree as the saltators. Thirty minutes had passed and we had walked about 100 feet since we started! Finally, we managed to make some progress down the driveway, where we had excellent views of a pair of Rufous-capped Warblers, a singing Gray-crowned Yellowthroat, and a burly Rusty Sparrow—all this in the 40 minutes before breakfast!

As exciting as our pre-breakfast walk was, it was completely overshadowed by what was to come. We loaded up into the bus after breakfast to head toward scenic Thousand Foot Falls. We had driven about two miles when we stopped for a roosting Stygian Owl that our local guide had spotted earlier. This species is seldom seen anywhere, and Hidden Valley is perhaps the most reliable spot in the world to find one. We enjoyed fantastic scope views of this strange owl before pressing on towards the falls and our search for another rarely seen species, the Orange-breasted Falcon. More roadside birding delayed our progress, however, as a Lineated Woodpecker, dazzling Golden-hooded Tanagers, Plain Wren, Black-headed Siskins, Grace's Warbler, Yellow-faced Grassquits, and a rarely seen Red Crossbill demanded our attention. Finally, we arrived at the edge of the spectacular chasm that harbors the 1,600-foot waterfall. A scan of the dead snags above the falls revealed a pair of Orange-breasted Falcons surveying their domain. We had nice, though distant, views of these birds, and left elated.

We still had time to squeeze in one more stop before returning to the lodge for lunch, so we headed to nearby King Vulture Falls. As the name implies, this is a great spot for seeing magnificent King Vultures coming in to bathe and drink on the upper portions of the falls. As we approached the pullout we could see that several King Vultures were already gathering in the trees above the bathing area. Just as we were about to stop to put them in the scope, we spotted another pair of Orange-breasted Falcons no more than 100 feet away! What to look at first? Over the next half-hour or so, we alternated between the striking falcons so close by and the stunning black and white vultures with their multicolored heads at the falls. This would be a hard morning to top!

Our Grand Belize tour was filled with moments such as these. We began our trip at Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary where highlights included four Jabirus (one on a nest less than 100 yards away), two Agami Herons, Boat-billed Herons, a Crane Hawk at 30 feet, several Black-collared Hawks, Snail Kites galore, Yucatan Woodpecker, a pair of Yellow-headed Parrots, and a family of Yucatan Jays at about 15 feet! A quick flight out to nearby Caye Caulker yielded at least nine Rufous-necked Wood-Rails in view at once, in addition to regional endemics such as Black Catbird and Yucatan Vireo.

The final six days of our trip were spent at fabulous Chan Chich Lodge, thought by many to be one of the premier eco-tourist lodges in the world. Here, amidst over 300,000 acres of preserved forest, we encountered Black-and-white and Black hawk-eagles, White Hawk, Spotted Wood-Quail at 20 feet, Northern Potoo, Yucatan Nightjar, Pale-billed and Chestnut-colored woodpeckers, an ant swarm with Ruddy and Tawny-winged woodcreepers and Gray-headed Tanagers just feet away, regional specialties such as Gray-throated Chat and Rose-throated Tanager, bathing Purple-crowned Fairies, Great and Slaty-breasted tinamous actually seen, and a wonderful Sungrebe that came within 15 feet of the group.

In all, we totaled almost 300 species of birds, marveled at monkeys and tropical butterflies, and savored the treasures of Belize.

Itinerary:

February 12 - arrival in Belize City with brief birding around hotel for those who arrived early enough (19 species)

February 13 - land birding around Crooked Tree all morning; afternoon flight to Caye Caulker (118 species; 120 total)

February 14 - boat trip to south lagoon and Spanish Creek at Crooked Tree in the morning; drive to Hidden Valley with some late afternoon birding there (96 species; 146 total)

February 15 - Hidden Valley area all day including Thousand Foot Falls, King vulture Falls and areas around the lodge (49 species; 170 total)

February 16 - brief morning walk around Hidden Valley; charter flights to Gallon Jug; afternoon birding at Chan chich Lodge down to suspension bridge (79 species; 201 total)

February 17 - lodge clearing, walk to suspension bridge, & Back Plaza in am; afternoon Logger's Trail (jacamar group), Sac Be trail (trogon group) (89 species; 233 total)

February 18 - Silvester Village & River trails (jacamar group); Xaxe Venic & Bajo trails (trogon group); afternoon to Gallon Jug; night walk (118 species; 267 total)

February 19 - morning drive to Cedar crossing & Laguna Seca; afternoon Sac Be Trail (jacamars) or Logger's (trogons); night drive (102 species; 281 total)

February 20 - Xaxe Venic & Bajo trails (jacamars) or Silvester Village & River trails (trogons); afternoon to Xibal (117 species; 289 total)

February 21 - morning to escarpment; afternoon everyone to Back Plaza, Temple Loop, and Logger's Trail (76 species; 294 total)

February 22 - optional morning walks to either Logger's Trail or Trish's Hill; charter flight to Belize City; departures for home (299 total species)

Key:

H = Hidden Valley

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---incredibly this species was actually **seen** by some on consecutive days in the same place; normally heard only

Slaty-breasted Tinamou (*Tinamus boucardi*) C---**seen** by the jacamar group along the Bajo Trail; normally heard only

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) T

Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*) T---uncommon

Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moschata*) T---three each day at Crooked Tree; very uncommon

Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) T

Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*) T---very uncommon
 Plain Chachalaca (*Ortalis vetula*) H,C---less numerous than usual
 Crested Guan (*Penelope purpurascens*) C---many superb views with 19 total seen!
Great Curassow (*Crax rubra*) C---a total of 12 seen!
 Ocellated Turkey (*Meleagris ocellata*) C---very common right around the cabanas, including displaying males; up to 100 in one day!
Spotted Wood-Quail (*Odontophorus guttatus*) C---after a five year absence we had spectacular views of these skulky forest dwellers; voted the third favorite bird of the tour!
 Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) T
 Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) B
 Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) T
 Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) B
 Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) T,C
 Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*) B
Bare-throated Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma mexicanum*) T,C---several great views, especially on the boat trip at Crooked Tree
 Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) T
 Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) T,B,C
 Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) T,B
 Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) T,B,C
 Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*) T,B
 Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) T,B,C
 Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) T,C
Agami Heron T---two on our Crooked Tree boat trip; exceptional views of the first one; last minute find!
 Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) T
 Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax violacea*) B,T
 Boat-billed Heron (*Cochlearius cochlearius*) T---nice views of these comical birds
 White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) T,B
Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) T---uncommon
Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*) B---seen by some at hotel our first evening
Jabiru (*Jabiru mycteria*) T,B---adult on nest outside of Belize City was spectacular; three others on boat trip at Crooked Tree; missed the previous three years completely
 Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) T,H,C
 Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) daily
 Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) daily
 Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture (*Cathartes burrovianus*) T---about ten on our boat trip
 King Vulture (*Sarcoramphus papa*) H,C---a total of **39** seen including excellent scope views of perched birds at King Vulture Falls
 Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) T,B---nest with mostly grown young at Caye Caulker runway
Gray-headed Kite (*Leptodon cayanensis*) T,C---uncommon
Hook-billed Kite (*Chondrohierax uncinatus*) C---prolonged scope study of female from escarpment; very uncommon

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) H,C---just arriving migrants; two at escarpment watched foraging for about fifteen minutes looking down on them from less than 50 yards; voted the favorite bird of the tour!

White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*) C

Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*) T---many great views

Double-toothed Kite (*Harpagus bidentatus*) C---more numerous than usual with 9 total, including a perched adult our last morning

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

Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) C---very rare was an adult male in Gallon Jug

Crane Hawk (*Geranospiza caerulescens*) T---amazing views of this uncommon forest raptor at Crooked Tree

White Hawk (*Leucopternis albicollis*) C---six in one morning from the escarpment, one at Cedar Crossing, and a pair overhead by jacamar group along Sylvester Village Road

Common Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*) B---very poor backlit views on Caye Caulker

Great Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus urubitinga*) T,C---our first thanks to Bob

Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*) T,C---almost daily

Gray Hawk (*Asturina nitida*) T

Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*) H---oddly only two distant birds seen

Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle (*Spizastur melanoleucus*) H,C---extremely distant views of adult on nest at King Vulture Falls; much better views of one flying over near Cedar Crossing

Black Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetus tyrannus*) C---overhead in display flight two days in a row

Laughing Falcon (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*) T---nice scope studies of two

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) C

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

Orange-breasted Falcon (*Falco deiroleucus*) H---prolonged, close scope study of a pair at King Vulture Falls; another distant pair at 1000 Foot Falls; generally rare & local everywhere!

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) C---our last new bird

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

Rufous-necked Wood-Rail (*Aramides axillaris*) B---a truly amazing sight with about 9 birds in view at once, some as close as 15 feet away!

Gray-necked Wood-Rail (*Aramides cajanea*) T---great views on the boat trip and around the town

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*) C---uncommon

American Coot (*Fulica americana*) T

Sungrebe (*Heliornis fulica*) C---unsurpassed studies of a male at literally fifteen feet at Laguna Seca; voted the second favorite bird of the tour!

Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*) T---a dozen in one day

Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) B

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) T,C

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) T

Northern Jacana (*Jacana spinosa*) T,C---wonderfully common
Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) T,B
Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*) T---uncommon
Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*) B
Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) B---nice views
Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) T
Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*) B
Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) T---unexpected was one near Crooked Tree
Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) B
Gull-billed Tern (*Sterna nilotica*) T
Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*) T
Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*) B
Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) B---only two seen
Pale-vented Pigeon (*Patagioenas cayennensis*) T---oddly, only flight views were had
Scaled Pigeon (*Patagioenas speciosa*) H,C---very good scope views
Red-billed Pigeon (*Patagioenas flavirostris*) C---this species has become common
right around the lodge at Chan Chich
Short-billed Pigeon (*Patagioenas nigrirostris*) C--- nice studies
White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) B---only on Caye Caulker
Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*) T,B,C
White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*) T,H,C---heard more often than seen
Gray-headed Dove (*Leptotila plumbeiceps*) C---seen well by some
Olive-throated Parakeet (*Aratinga nana*) T,C---many good views; subspecies *astec*
Brown-hooded Parrot (*Pionpsitta haematotis*) C---scope views of perched birds in
the lodge clearing at Chan Chich
White-crowned Parrot (*Pionus senilis*) H,C---superb scope views at Hidden Valley
White-fronted Parrot (*Amazona albifrons*) T,C
Red-lored Parrot (*Amazona autumnalis*) T,H,C---daily; abundant at Chan Chich
Mealy Parrot (*Amazona farinosa*) H,C---more numerous than usual
Yellow-headed Parrot (*Amazona oratrix*) T---a nice bonus!
Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*) C---subspecies *thermophila*
Striped Cuckoo (*Tapera naevia*) T---heard only
Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) T,C
Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) C
Spectacled Owl (*Pulsatrix perspicillata*) C---heard only two nights in a row
Central American Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium griseiceps*) C---heard only
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum*) H---wonderful views on Hidden
Valley grounds
Stygian Owl (*Asio stygius*) H---roosting bird near Hidden Valley from about 100 feet
thanks to Rick; rarely seen anywhere
Common Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*) C---wonderful views
Yucatan Nightjar (*Caprimulgus badius*) C---good scope views; uncommon
Northern Potoo (*Nyctibius jamaicensis*) C---excellent scope study
White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*) H---two big flocks over King Vulture
Falls
Vaux's Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*) C

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift (*Panyptila cayennensis*) C
 Long-billed Hermit (*Phaethornis longirostris*) C---formerly Western Long-tailed Hermit; a daily sighting around Chan Chich
 Stripe-throated Hermit (*Phaethornis striigularis*) C---formerly Little Hermit
 Scaly-breasted Hummingbird (*Phaeochroa cuvierii*) C---numerous
 White-necked Jacobin (*Florisuga mellivora*) C---stunning
 Green-breasted Mango (*Anthracothorax prevostii*) C---scope views of female building nest in Gallon Jug
Canivet's Emerald (*Chlorostilbon canivetii*) C---female along Silvester Village road was a surprise
 White-bellied Emerald (*Agyrtia candida*) C
 Azure-crowned Hummingbird (*Agyrtia cyanocephala*) H---common at the lodge feeders
 Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (*Amazilia tzacatl*) T,H,C---the most common hummer in the area; excellent studies of one on a nest in Caracol
Buff-bellied Hummingbird (*Amazilia yucatanensis*) T,B---one along the Silvester Village road may have been a first for Chan Chich
 Cinnamon Hummingbird (*Amazilia rutila*) B---common around our hotel
 Purple-crowned Fairy (*Heliostyris barroti*) C---amazing bathing display for the trogon group along the creek
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) T
 Black-headed Trogon (*Trogon melanocephalus*) C
 Violaceous Trogon (*Trogon violaceus*) C---many great views
 Slaty-tailed Trogon (*Trogon massena*) C---ditto
 Ringed Kingfisher (*Ceryle torquata*) T,C
 Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*) T,B
Amazon Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle amazona*) T---uncommon
 Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*) C,T---unusually scarce with only 3 seen
White-whiskered Puffbird (*Malacoptila panamensis*) C---one by the jacamar group along the Logger's trail & another for others on the way to the escarpment
 Rufous-tailed Jacamar (*Galbula ruficauda*) C---always spectacular
Tody Motmot (*Hylomanes momotula*) C---great views, after much effort, of this uncommon species
 Blue-crowned Motmot (*Momotus momota*) H---nice scope study; *lessonii*
 Collared Aracari (*Pteroglossus torquatus*) C---many good views
 Keel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*) C--- the essence of the tropics!
 Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*) T,H---southern race *lineatus*
 Black-cheeked Woodpecker (*Melanerpes pucherani*) C
Yucatan (Red-vented) Woodpecker (*Melanerpes pygmaeus*) T---*rubricomus*
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) B,C---uncommon winterer
 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*) C---spectacular
 Rufous-breasted Spinetail (*Synallaxis erythrothorax*) T

Plain Xenops (*Xenops minutus*) C
 Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser (*Sclerurus guatemalensis*) C---heard only
 Tawny-winged Woodcreeper (*Dendrocincla anabatina*) C---superb views at ant swarm, as well as elsewhere
Ruddy Woodcreeper (*Dendrocincla homochroa*) C---from ten feet at ant swarm!
 Olivaceous Woodcreeper (*Sittasomus griseicapillus*) C---the most common woodcreeper in this area
Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*) C
Strong-billed Woodcreeper (*Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus*) C---excellent close views of pair along the River Trail by the jacamar group; very uncommon
 Ivory-billed Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus flavigaster*) C
 Barred Antshrike (*Thamnophilus doliatus*) C---fantastic looks at this comical species
 Dot-winged Antwren (*Microrhoptias quixensis*) C---close studies for both groups
 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---not seen by all
 Yellow-bellied Elaenia (*Elaenia martinica*) T,B,H,C
 Ochre-bellied Flycatcher (*Mionectes oleagineus*) C
 Sepia-capped flycatcher (*Leptopogon amaurocephalus*) C---uncommon
 Northern Bentbill (*Oncostoma cinereigulare*) C---mostly heard
 Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinerum*) T,C
 Eye-ringed Flatbill (*Rhynchocyclus brevirostris*) C---added the last morning
 Yellow-olive Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias sulphurescens*) C
 Stub-tailed Spadebill (*Platyrinchus cancrominus*) C---actually seen well by one group
 Royal Flycatcher (*Onychorhynchus coronatus*) C---great views; northern subspecies *mexicanus* sometimes considered a separate species Northern Royal Flycatcher
 Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher (*Terentotriccus erythrurus*) C
 Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher (*Myiobius sulphureipygius*) C
 Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*) C---heard the last morning
 Tropical Pewee (*Contopus cinereus*) T
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*) C
 Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*) C---less numerous than usual
 Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) T---up to 10 in one day!
 Bright-rumped Attila (*Attila spadiceus*) C---good studies; subspecies *gaumeri*
 Rufous Mourner (*Rhytipterna holerythra*) C---scope views
Yucatan Flycatcher (*Myiarchus yucatanensis*) C---seen by trogon group; heard only by jacamars
 Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) T,H,C---subspecies *lawrencei*
 Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) C---heard only
 Brown-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*) T---heard only
 Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) T,B,H
 Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarhynchus pitangua*) C---only one
 Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) T,B,H,C---common; seen every day
 Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) T,B,H,C

Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus couchii*) C---many of the kingbirds heard around Chan
 Chich were of this species
 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) B,C
 Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*) T,C---spectacular
 Thrush-like Schiffornis (*Schiffornis turdinus*) C
 Rufous Piha (*Lipaugus unirufus*) C---seen well by jacamar group; heard by trogons
 Cinnamon Becard (*Pachyramphus*) C---uncommon
Gray-collared Becard (*Pachyramphus major*) C---female at Trish's Hill the last
 morning; very uncommon; subspecies *major*
 Rose-throated Becard (*Pachyramphus aglaiae*) T---uncommon; subspecies
sumichrasti
 Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*) C
 White-collared Manakin (*Manacus candei*) C---finally an adult male seen the last
 morning at lek site; oddly scarce this trip
 Red-capped Manakin (*Pipra mentalis*) C---seen several places, but one male was
 frequently in the firebush outside the restaurant; stunning!
 White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*) T,C
 Mangrove Vireo (*Vireo pallens*) T,C
 Plumbeous Vireo (*Vireo plumbeus*) H
 Yucatan Vireo (*Vireo magister*) B---up close on Caye Caulker
 Tawny-crowned Greenlet (*Hylophilus ochraceiceps*) C
 Lesser Greenlet (*Hylophilus decurtatus*) C
 Green Shrike-Vireo (*Vireolanius pulchellus*) C---mostly heard, but one bird kept
 bombing overhead near the escarpment
 Rufous-browed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*) T---good views
 Green Jay (*Cyanocorax yncas*) H---common around Hidden Valley; the yellow-eyed
 race *maya*
 Brown Jay (*Cyanocorax morio*) T,H,C---daily; the southern race *fulginosus*
 Yucatan Jay (*Cyanocorax yucatanensis*) T ---perhaps the best views ever of this
 often difficult and shy species
 Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) T,C
 Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*) T,C
 Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*) T---one on boat ride
 Mangrove Swallow (*Tachycineta albilinea*) T,B,C
 Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) T,C
 Spot-breasted Wren (*Thryothorus maculipectus*) T,C
 Plain Wren (*Thryothorus modestus*) H---exceptional views
 House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) C,T---the "Southern" House Wren of some authors
 (*T.musculus*)
 White-bellied Wren (*Uropsila leucogastra*) C
 White-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucosticta*) C---superb views for all
 Long-billed Gnatwren (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*) C
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*) T,H
 Tropical Gnatcatcher (*Poioptila plumbea*) C
 Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) C---heard only
 Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) C

Clay-colored Robin (*Turdus grayi*) B,T,H,C---subspecies *grayi*
 White-throated Robin (*Turdus assimilis*) C---the southern race *leucauchen*
 Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) T,C
 Black Catbird (*Melanoptila glabrirostris*) B---great views on Caye Caulker
 Tropical Mockingbird (*Mimus gilvus*) T,B
 Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*) C---by a few only
 Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*) C
 Northern Parula (*Parula americana*) T
 Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) B,T,C---including the stunning "Mangrove"
 Warblers on Caye Caulker
 Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) C---scarcer than usual
 Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*) T,C---almost daily
 Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) T,C---Myrtle types
 Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) H---only one seen
 Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*) T,H,C,B
 Grace's Warbler (*Dendroica graciae*) T,H---side-by-side with Yellow-throated at one
 point
 Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) T,H,C
 American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) T,H,C
 Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorus*) C
 Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) T,C
 Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) C---more numerous than Northerns this
 year
 Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*) C
 Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) T,C
 Gray-crowned Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis poliocephala*) H---nice views
 Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) C
 Golden-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus culicivorus*) C---by some the last morning
 Rufous-capped Warbler (*Basileuterus rufifrons*) H---exceptional views
 Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*) C---a daily visitor to the birdbath
Gray-throated Chat (*Granatellus sallaei*) C---great views of this regional specialty
Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*) B---uncommon
 Gray-headed Tanager (*Eucometis penicillata*) C---especially well at the ant swarm
 Black-throated Shrike-Tanager (*Lanio auranitus*) C---the flock leader; several great
 views
 Red-crowned Ant-Tanager (*Habia rubica*) C
 Red-throated Ant-Tanager (*Habia fuscicauda*) C
Rose-throated Tanager (*Piranga roseogularis*) C---another regional specialty; seen
 by both groups in the bajo forest
 Hepatic Tanager (*Piranga flava*) H---the southern race *figlina*
 Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) C,T,B
 Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*) T,C---scarce this year
 Yellow-winged Tanager (*Thraupis abbas*) C---also scarcer than usual
 Golden-hooded Tanager (*Tangara larvata*) H,C
Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*) C---by some near the escarpment
 Red-legged Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*) C---stunning!

Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*) C
 White-collared Seedeater (*Sporophila torqueola*) T,B,H,C---daily; *moreletti*
 Thick-billed Seed-Finch (*Oryzoborus funereus*) C---heard only at Xibal
 Yellow-faced Grassquit (*Tiaris olivacea*) H
 Green-backed Sparrow (*Arremonops chloronotus*) C---heard only
 Rusty Sparrow (*Aimophila rufescens*) H---big, hulking *Aimophila*, some might say
 burly; subspecies *pyrgatoides*
 Grayish Saltator (*Saltator coerulescens*) T---thanks to George
 Black-headed Saltator (*Saltator atriceps*) T,H,C
 Black-faced Grosbeak (*Caryothraustes poliogaster*) C
 Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) T
 Blue-black Grosbeak (*Cyanocompsa cyanoides*) C
Blue Bunting (*Cyanocompsa parellina*) C---by both groups in the short forest
Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*) H
 Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) C---scarce this year
 Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) T
 Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) C---a recent invader to Gallon Jug
 Melodious Blackbird (*Dives dives*) B,T,H,C---seen daily
 Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) B,T,H,C
 Bronzed Cowbird (*Molothrus aeneus*) C
 Giant Cowbird (*Molothrus oryzivorus*) C
 Black-cowled Oriole (*Icterus prothemelas*) T
 Yellow-backed Oriole (*Icterus chrysater*) H---superb views
 Yellow-tailed Oriole (*Icterus mesomelas*) T,H---ditto
 Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) C,T,B
 Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*) B,T
 Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) T,C
 Yellow-billed Cacique (*Amblycercus holosericeus*) T---unusually good studies from
 the boat
 Montezuma Oropendola (*Gymnostinops montezuma*) C---large nesting colony
 behind the bar at Chan Chich
 Yellow-throated Euphonia (*Euphonia hirundinacea*) C
 Olive-backed Euphonia (*Euphonia gouldi*) H,C
Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) H---a first for me for Belize!
 Black-headed Siskin (*Carduelis notata*) H---superb views

total species - 299 (a new tour record)

Leader only birds:

Merlin
 Wilson's Warbler

Mammals:

Central American Spider Monkey---repeated, excellent views
Mexican Black Howler Monkey---one of the great sounds of Central America; great views on our first full morning at Chan Chich
(Tayra---one by Mark on his side trip to Lamanai)
Tamandua (Lesser or Collared Anteater)---one seen the last morning along the Logger's Trail
White-nosed Coati---one lone male at Hidden Valley was our only one
Deppe's Squirrel
Yucatan Squirrel---by some en route to the escarpment
White-tailed Deer
various bat species left unidentified

total species - 9+

Reptiles & Amphibians:

Striped Basilisk
Spiny-tailed Iguana
Green Iguana
Brown Anole
Mediterranean or House Gecko
Turnip Tail Gecko---leaders only
Green-headed Snake
Tiger Tree Snake---leader only
Black Blind Snake (Worm Snake)
Yucatan Whiptail
Gulf Coast Toad
Common Slider
Morelet's Crocodile
American Crocodile

total species - 14

Butterflies:

Julia
Banded Peacock
Monarch
Queen
Blue Morpho
Ceraunus Blue
Cloudless Sulphur
gemmed-satyr species
Zebra Longwing (Heliconian)

white species
cracker species (Guatemalan or Gray)
kite-swallowtail species
Polydamas Swallowtail
White Satyr
plus many others left unidentified

Significant others:

Bullhorn Acacia Ant
army ants
leafcutter ants
scorpion species
Vinegaroon species
Southern Stingray---from plane to Caye Caulker by some
total lunar eclipse from Chan Chich
spectacular view of 1000 foot falls from the airplane