

**BELIZE:  
BIRDS &  
BUTTERFLIES**

**MARCH 16 – 24, 2008**

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TOUR REPORT  
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By Michael O'Brien

Situated at the base of the Yucatan Peninsula, Belize offers an interesting mix of Neotropical residents and North American migrants, making it an ideal introduction to birding in the tropics. The fact that the country still holds 70% of its native habitat makes it an even more appealing destination for naturalists.

Our March 2008 Belize: Birds & Butterflies tour was a delight. We sampled a variety of habitats—lowland broadleaf forest, pine-savannah, freshwater marsh and lagoons, and agricultural fields—where we found a wonderful diversity of birds, butterflies, and other wildlife. And, for students of archaeology, our visits to Altun Ha, Lamanai, and Chan Chich each provided an interesting window into the civilization that thrived here until about 900 AD. Along the way, we stayed at two fabulous lodges—Bird's Eye View and Chan Chich—each with delicious food, a friendly, accommodating staff, and their own unique style and setting. We could have stayed much longer at each!

We began just north of Belize City and stopped first at Mayan Wells. This wonderful property is always a favorite of ours, both because the birding and butterflying are so good, and also because they serve the best "Belizean Plate" lunch we've had anywhere! But first the birding. We enjoyed nice views of Gray Hawk; Olive-throated Parakeet; Green-breasted Mango; Rufous-tailed Hummingbird; Golden-fronted and Golden-olive woodpeckers; Boat-billed, Social, and Piratic flycatchers; Couch's Kingbird; Rose-throated Becard; Masked Tityra; Blue-gray and Yellow-winged tanagers; Red-legged Honeycreeper; and Yellow-throated Euphonia. The grounds here are just as good for butterflies and some of our highlights included Broad-banded and Thoas swallowtails, Orange-barred Sulphur, Gold-bordered Hairstreak, Fox-face Lemmark, Mexican and Gulf fritillaries, Julia Heliconian, Ruddy Daggerwing, and Three-part Sister.

A new feature this year at Mayan Wells was a butterfly house where we were able to see all life stages of a variety of dazzling butterflies including Heart-spotted Heliconian, Mexican Bluewing, Malachite, and Common Morpho. We spent the afternoon exploring the Mayan ruins of Altun Ha and were given an informative tour by our guide Lacelle. We also found numerous interesting butterflies there including Regal Greatstreak (one of the most beautiful butterflies on earth!), Common Lemmark, Erato Heliconian, Theona Checkerspot, Orange Banner, and Mangrove and Tropical buckeyes. A walk through the woods to a little pond produced sightings of several interesting dragonflies, as well as Central American ameiva, Morelet's crocodile, a cooperative pair of Spot-breasted Wrens, and several warbler species.

At the end of this full day we headed to our lodge at Crooked Tree, but on the way we made a special detour off the Northern Highway to see a Jabiru nest. The birds were

present and performing well, but we were distracted by a number of other interesting sightings. For one thing, we saw our first Yucatan black howler, a species we would see or hear on every day of the tour. Also, butterflies were still active and we found a number of new species including Pale Ministreak, Chiapas Stripestreak, Banded Orange Heliconian, Brilliant Blue-Skipper, and Veined White-Skipper.

We spent our second day entirely at Crooked Tree Sanctuary, starting in the pine-savannah and cashew groves that dominate the uplands. Local expert Glenn Crawford accompanied us, and helped us find many nice birds. Highlights in this bird-rich area included Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, Pale-vented Pigeon, White-fronted and Yellow-headed parrots, Buff-bellied Hummingbird, Yucatan Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Elaenia, Common Tody-Flycatcher, Vermilion Flycatcher (they were just everywhere!), Yucatan Jay, Gray-breasted Martin, Yellow-throated and Grace's warblers (in the same tree!), and Yellow-backed Oriole. Some of the more interesting butterflies there included Ghost and Barred yellows, Band-celled Sister, Two-spotted Prepona, Plain Satyr, and Orange-spotted Skipper.

In the afternoon, we took a delightful boat ride through Crooked Tree Lagoon and Black Creek—an outing that was fondly remembered by many as the highlight of the trip. Due to perfect (falling) water levels, the number of wading birds in the lagoon was simply staggering: thousands of herons and egrets; hundreds of Neotropic Cormorants, White Ibises, Wood Storks, Roseate Spoonbills, Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, Blue-winged Teal, American Coots, and Northern Jacanas; and dozens of Jabirus, Limpkins, and other species. It was amazing to drift through the quiet waters past these vast numbers of birds, listening to them call and watching them feed. Not surprisingly, kingfishers were also abundant here, and we found four species including an amazing *five* American Pygmy Kingfishers (this tied our record count here!). Other highlights on the boat trip included Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Boat-billed Heron, Snail Kite, Great Black-Hawk, Sungrebe (heard only, but a really cool lifer vocalization for the leaders!), Prothonotary Warbler, and Yellow-tailed Oriole. Not exactly a highlight, but memorable just the same, was getting stuck in the shallows and watching Glenn jump overboard to push us free—thanks Glenn!

On our third day we visited Lamanai, again accompanied by Glenn Crawford. En route, we passed through the Mennonite farm country and saw a very different set of birds including White-tailed Kite, Northern Harrier, Mourning Dove, Plain-breasted Ground-Dove, hundreds of swallows, Gray-crowned Yellowthroat, Blue-black Grassquit, Variable Seedeater, and Eastern Meadowlark. A real highlight was stopping by a little pond that was packed with ducks and shorebirds along with two beautiful Gray-necked Wood-Rails. At Lamanai we had our first taste of forest birding and found many dazzling birds such as Violaceous and Black-headed trogons, White-whiskered Puffbird, Keel-billed Toucan, Chestnut-colored and Lineated woodpeckers, Tawny-winged and Ivory-billed woodcreepers, Barred Antshrike, and a nice warbler flock including both Blue-winged and Golden-winged. We also found Lamanai to be excellent for butterflies with highlights including Mexican Cycadian; Confused and Rusty-banded groundstreaks; Tiger-eye Hairstreak; Tiger Heliconian; Orion Cecropian; Red Rim, Gray, Variable, and

Guatemalan crackers; Malachite; Pearly Leafwing; Potrillo Skipper; and an unidentified skipper that we named (for now) the “Lamanai Silverpatch.”

After a final morning at Crooked Tree, highlighted by more Yucatan Jays and a stunning Black-collared Hawk, we took a late morning flight to Gallon Jug and thus entered a completely different world. For those who have not been to Chan Chich, there are few words to describe how marvelous it is: vast wilderness, natural beauty, and abundant wildlife juxtaposed with first-rate accommodations and restaurant and an incredibly friendly staff. It is always a delight to visit here, no matter what we see. But we saw plenty! During just four days, we found nearly 200 species of birds and about 75 species of butterflies. Every morning and evening we were greeted by the raucous calls of Mealy and Red-lored parrots as they traveled to and from roosts near the main plaza. Montezuma Oropendolas did their bizarre acrobatic displays and bubbling calls at their nest tree. Long-billed and Stripe-throated hermits visited blooming *heliconians* by the verandah (and occasionally our lunch table!). The very rare Ocellated Turkeys wandered around the main plaza, seemingly oblivious to our presence. Bat Falcons and Plumbeous Kites perched on sticks above our cabanas while Black Hawk-Eagle, Roadside Hawk, and Double-toothed Kite soared overhead. Keel-billed Toucans, Collared Aracaris, and Masked Tityras appeared on treetops during the cooler hours. Rival troops of Yucatan black howlers broke the nighttime silence to roar. All this and much more right at the main plaza!

The marvelous trail system at Chan Chich brought us to surprisingly varied habitats. The Sac Be and Loggers Trails along Chan Chich Creek provided access to pools where a variety of birds came to bathe. Here we were treated to excellent views of Agami Heron, Purple-crowned Fairy, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Royal and Ochre-bellied flycatchers, Rufous Piha, Red-capped Manakin, Wood Thrush, Northern and Louisiana waterthrushes, Kentucky and Hooded warblers, and Gray-headed Tanager. Along forest trails we found several small ant swarms that were tended by Plain Xenops; Tawny-winged, Ruddy, Northern Barred, and Ivory-billed woodcreepers; Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher; Lesser and Tawny-crowned greenlets; Dot-winged Antwren; and Red-crowned and Red-throated ant-tanagers. Among the unexcavated temples at the Upper Plaza we had wonderful views of Blue-crowned Motmot, and also found numerous Seba's short-tailed bats roosting in the looter's trench. Our night drive to Gallon Jug was just marvelous, with sightings of Great Curassow, Barn Owl, Common Pauraque, Yucatan Nightjar, Northern Potoo, and gray fox highlighting a two-hour trip.

Despite cloudy weather on our first day, butterflying was also excellent. At Chan Chich Creek and Rio Bravo we saw hundreds of puddling Florida Whites, along with Apricot Sulphur, Ruddy and Many-banded daggerwings, and a stunning Bow-lined Kite-Swallowtail (the latter beat out the pair of White Hawks soaring overhead at the same time!). At the Escarpment, an isolated hilltop meadow surrounded by forest, we saw an interesting array of butterflies including Bordered Patch, Green Heliconian, One-spotted Prepona, Plain and Teleus longtails, and Dyson's Silverpatch. Along Sylvester Road and the nearby service area we found Painted White, Black-barred Cross-streak, Mayan Crescent, Guatemalan Tegosa, Little Banner, Common Morpho, Square-spotted

Polythrix, Giant Sicklewing, Dingy Mylon, and Manuel's Skipper. Even right by our lunch table we saw some fine butterflies such as Common Theope, Tiger and Banded Orange heliconians, the ubiquitous but lovely Banded Peacock, and Common Glassywing. Along the way, we found many other interesting critters such as Central American spider monkey, Deppe's squirrel, Mexican vine snake, ghost anole, and brown basilisk. There was always something to look at!

**Day 1, 16 March:** Arrivals and 5:30 p.m. meeting at Biltmore Plaza Hotel; Night at Biltmore Plaza Hotel.

**Day 2, 17 March:** Biltmore Plaza Hotel; Mayan Wells & Altun Ha with Lacelle Tillet; drive to Crooked Tree; Night at Bird's Eye View Lodge.

**Day 3, 18 March:** Crooked Tree area with Glenn Crawford: Staine Pine Ridge and boat trip to Crooked Tree Lagoon & Black Creek; Night at Bird's Eye View Lodge.

**Day 4, 19 March:** Day trip from Crooked Tree to Lamanai with Glenn Crawford. Night at Bird's Eye View Lodge.

**Day 5, 20 March:** Early morning at Crooked Tree; 11 a.m. flight from Belize City to Gallon Jug; afternoon at Chan Chich Lodge with walk to Suspension Bridge & Sac Be Trail pool; Night at Chan Chich Lodge.

**Day 6, 21 March:** Bajo Trail; Upper Plaza & Loggers Trail with Gilberto; Gallon Jug & Hillbank Road with Marvin; night drive to Gallon Jug with Gilberto and Luis; Night at Chan Chich Lodge.

**Day 7, 22 March:** Upper Plaza & River Trail; Service Area, Sylvester Road & Bajo Trail; Suspension Bridge & Sac Be Trail pool; Night at Chan Chich Lodge.

**Day 8, 23 March:** Drive to the Escarpment with Raul; Suspension Bridge & Loggers Trail; Night at Chan Chich Lodge.

**Day 9, 24 March:** Upper Plaza & Norman's Temple; flight from Gallon Jug to Belize City, then departures.

## **KEY TO SPECIES LISTS:**

CT=Crooked Tree

CC=Chan Chich Only

## **BIRDS**

**Great Tinamou** – heard daily at CC

**Slaty-breasted Tinamou** – heard several times at CC

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** – hundreds at CT as well as a beautiful flock in the pond at Shipyard

**Fulvous Whistling-Duck** – several among Black-bellies at CT

**Blue-winged Teal** – hundreds at CT

**Plain Chachalaca** – one at CT

**Crested Guan** – several excellent views at CC

**Great Curassow** – several at CC we saw them both along roadsides during the day plus a single roosting bird on the night drive

**Ocellated Turkey** – delightfully abundant at CC; From our experience on this trip, it is difficult to realize just how rare this species is. It has been hunted out in most parts of its former range.

**Pied-billed Grebe** – numerous at CT

**American White Pelican** – about 40 at CT

**Neotropic Cormorant** – hundreds at CT

**Anhinga** – several at CT and one flying over CC

**Magnificent Frigatebird** – numerous around Belize City

**Bare-throated Tiger-Heron** – excellent views of several at CT

**Great Blue Heron** – many at CT

**Great Egret** – abundant at CT

**Snowy Egret** – numerous at CT

**Little Blue Heron** – numerous at CT

**Tricolored Heron** – several at CT

**Cattle Egret** – seen every day except for the one day that we never left CC

**Green Heron** – many around CT and a few elsewhere

**Agami Heron** – excellent views of an adult male along Chan Chich Creek

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** – numerous at CT

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** – a few at CT and one on the night drive to Gallon Jug

**Boat-billed Heron** – about 40 on out boat trip at CT

**White Ibis** – numerous at CT

**Glossy Ibis** – several at CT

**Roseate Spoonbill** – numerous at CT

**Jabiru** – at least 40 at CT plus an active nest off the Northern Highway near Jones Lagoon

**Wood Stork** – hundreds at CT

**Black Vulture** – seen daily; particularly abundant near CT and Lamanai

**Turkey Vulture** – seen daily but less abundant than Black Vulture

**Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture** – nearly as common as Turkey Vulture between Belize City and Crooked Tree; we had excellent views of them feeding on fish scraps in front of Bird's Eye View Lodge; one at Gallon Jug was our first ever for that "forest-locked" location

**King Vulture** – We saw this magnificent species on seven out of eight days in the field! Our peak count was 10 on the day we visited the Escarpment.

**Osprey** – numerous at CT; two fly-overs at the Escarpment and another at Gallon Jug must have been migrants

**Hook-billed Kite** – two at the Escarpment

**White-tailed Kite** – about 6 near Shipyard on our way back from Lamanai

**Snail Kite** – several at CT

**Double-toothed Kite** – two at the escarpment and one over CC

**Plumbeous Kite** – a nesting pair at CC greeted us daily

**Black-collared Hawk** – one flew by Bird's Eye View Lodge just as we were leaving for Chan Chich!

**Northern Harrier** – two near Shipyard on our way back from Lamanai

**White Hawk** – several around Chan Chich including one perched along the new road, two at the Escarpment, and two along Rio Bravo at Sylvester Village

**Gray Hawk** – one at Mayan Wells and a few at Gallon Jug

**Common Black-Hawk** – one near Belize City

**Great Black-Hawk** – one juvenile on our boat trip at CT, plus single fly-over adults at the Escarpment and Gallon Jug

**Roadside Hawk** – seen daily

**Short-tailed Hawk** – one at Lamanai

**Red-tailed Hawk** – one at Gallon Jug  
**Black Hawk-Eagle** – one perched along the new road near Chan Chich plus pairs flying over Chan Chich and the Escarpment  
**Ornate Hawk-Eagle** – one pair flying over the Escarpment was seen poorly in the distance but heard well  
**Barred Forest-Falcon** – heard one at CC  
**Collared Forest-Falcon** – heard one at CT  
**Laughing Falcon** – seen on several days  
**American Kestrel** – one at the Escarpment  
**Bat Falcon** – several around CC  
**Gray-necked Wood-Rail** – we glimpsed a couple on the CT boat trip but had excellent views of two more at a little pond near Shipyard  
**Common Moorhen** – two on the CT boat trip  
**American Coot** – numerous at CT  
**Sungrebe** – we heard one on the CT boat trip  
**Limpkin** – numerous at CT  
**Killdeer** – a few at Gallon Jug  
**Black-necked Stilt** – numerous at CT  
**Northern Jacana** – numerous at CT  
**Spotted Sandpiper** – a few at CT  
**Solitary Sandpiper** – 3 at CT  
**Greater Yellowlegs** – 6 at CT  
**Lesser Yellowlegs** – 8 at CT and a few other at Shipyard  
**Gull-billed Tern** – several at CT  
**Caspian Tern** – numerous at CT  
**Rock Pigeon ( I )** – numerous around Belize City and Shipyard  
**Pale-vented Pigeon** – daily near CT  
**Scaled Pigeon** – heard only at CC  
**Red-billed Pigeon** – numerous around CC at Shipyard  
**Short-billed Pigeon** – heard daily at CC but seen only once  
**Mourning Dove** – two seen at Shipyard; This species is a very scarce winter visitor to Belize – one of our rarest birds of the trip!  
**Plain-breasted Ground-Dove** – three at Shipyard  
**Ruddy Ground-Dove** – seen almost daily; they were numerous around CT and Gallon Jug  
**Blue Ground-Dove** – two quick fly-bys at Lamanai  
**White-tipped Dove** – two at Lamanai and another at CT  
**Gray-headed Dove** – heard almost daily at CC, and seen well once  
**Ruddy Quail-Dove** – heard several times at CC  
**Olive-throated (Aztec) Parakeet** – numerous at CT; a few near CC  
**Brown-hooded Parrot** – seen well at the Escarpment; a few other fly-bys at CC  
**White-crowned Parrot** – two at Lamanai and seen daily at CC  
**White-fronted Parrot** – numerous at CT  
**Yellow-lored (Yucutan) Parrot** – we saw a pair fly by near CT  
**Red-lored Parrot** – a few at CT; numerous at noisy at CC  
**Mealy Parrot** – numerous and noisy at CC  
**Yellow-headed Parrot** – two pairs at CT  
**Squirrel Cuckoo** – one at Lamanai and several at CC  
**Striped Cuckoo** – one heard at CT  
**Groove-billed Ani** – numerous at CT; two at Gallon Jug  
**Barn Owl** – two on the night drive to Gallon Jug

**Spectacled Owl** – one seen well at Hillbank Road in broad daylight; Michael and Louise also heard two over their cabana at CC

**Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl** – one perched in a treetop near Orange Walk

**Common Pauraque** – several calling near the lodge at CT; we saw at least 15 on our night drive to Gallon Jug

**Yucatan Nightjar** – nice views of one on the night drive to Gallon Jug; This species, which is primarily a winter visitor to Belize, tends to perch at mid-height in trees unlike Common Pauraques which perch mostly on the ground or Northern Potoos which perch mostly on tree tops.

**Northern Potoo** – nice views of one on the night drive to Gallon Jug

**Vaux's Swift** – several around CC

**Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift** – a few around CC

**Long-billed Hermit** – seen daily by the verandah at CC

**Stripe-throated (Little) Hermit** – seen daily at CC

**Scaly-breasted Hummingbird** – seen several times around CC

**White-necked Jacobin** – nice looks at a male flycatching over the Rio Bravo at Sylvester Village

**Green-breasted Mango** – a few at Mayan Wells and CT

**White-bellied Emerald** – one at CC

**Rufous-tailed Hummingbird** – seen daily

**Buff-bellied Hummingbird** – four in the pine forest at CT; the local subspecies is much brighter buff below than birds in South Texas

**Cinnamon Hummingbird** – one seen at the Biltmore Plaza Hotel

**Purple-crowned Fairy** – seen twice bathing in Chan Chich Creek; Few sights are so memorable as the gleaming white tail feathers and glistening purple crown of this little gem as it splashed in and out of the creek!

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** – a few among the cashew groves CT

**Black-headed Trogon** – two at Lamanai and several at CC

**Violaceous Trogon** – five at Lamanai and seen or heard daily at CC

**Collared Trogon** – one heard at Lamanai

**Slaty-tailed Trogon** – seen and heard at CC

**Blue-crowned Motmot** – seen by the Upper Plaza at CC

**Ringed Kingfisher** – seen almost daily; especially numerous at CT

**Belted Kingfisher** – numerous around CT

**Green Kingfisher** – at least a dozen on the CT boat trip and one seen at CC

**American Pygmy Kingfisher** – five seen on the boat trip at CT – this ties our record count there!

**White-whiskered Puffbird** – one at Lamanai

**Rufous-tailed Jacamar** – a pair seen at CC along the Loggers Trail

**Emerald Toucanet** – one heard at CC

**Collared Aracari** – seen almost daily at CC

**Keel-billed Toucan** – two at Lamanai and seen daily at CC

**Acorn Woodpecker** – numerous in the pine woods at CT

**Black-cheeked Woodpecker** – seen daily at CC

**Yucatan Woodpecker** – two at CT

**Golden-fronted Woodpecker** – several at CT

**Golden-olive Woodpecker** – nice looks at Mayan Wells; a couple others were heard

**Chestnut-colored Woodpecker** – nice looks at Lamanai

**Lineated Woodpecker** – nice looks at Lamanai and Shipyard

**Pale-billed Woodpecker** – seen daily at CC

**Plain Xenops** – a few at CC

**Scaly-throated Leaftosser** – two at CC

**Tawny-winged Woodcreeper** – one at Lamanai and seen almost daily at CC including at least five one day; this is more than we usually see!

**Ruddy Woodcreeper** – seen several times at CC; this and the previous species are almost always seen together and are invariably attending ant swarms

**Olivaceous Woodcreeper** – a couple at CC

**Northern Barred-Woodcreeper** – several at CC; this is another species that is closely tied to ant swarms

**Ivory-billed Woodcreeper** – two at Lamanai and daily at CC

**Barred Antshrike** – two at Lamanai

**Dot-winged Antwren** – several at CC

**Dusky Antbird** – two at CC

**Black-faced (Mexican) Antthrush** – one heard at CC

**Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet** – heard several times but seen well near the Escarpment

**Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet** – heard at CT and on Sylvester Road at CC

**Greenish Elaenia** – several at CC

**Yellow-bellied Elaenia** – numerous around CT; one at CC

**Ochre-bellied Flycatcher** – several at CC

**Sepia-capped Flycatcher** – heard at CC

**Northern Bentbill** – nice views of this inconspicuous bird at both Lamanai and CC

**Common Tody-Flycatcher** – several at CT

**Eye-ringed Flatbill** – one along Hillbank Road near CC

**Yellow-olive Flycatcher** – seen at Lamanai and CC; heard almost daily

**Stub-tailed Spadebill** – heard at CC

**Royal Flycatcher** – seen well at CC

**Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher** – heard at CC

**Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher** – several at CC

**Eastern Wood-Pewee** – three at CC

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** – several at CC

**Least Flycatcher** – one at CT and several at CC

**Vermilion Flycatcher** – very numerous around CT and Shipyard

**Bright-rumped Attila** – saw one along the Belize River near Sand Hill; heard several at CC

**Rufous Mourner** – saw one at CC

**Dusky-capped Flycatcher** – numerous at Lamanai and CC

**Great Crested Flycatcher** – singles at Lamanai and CC

**Brown-crested Flycatcher** – seen almost daily

**Great Kiskadee** – numerous around CT; one at Gallon Jug

**Boat-billed Flycatcher** – two at Mayan Wells; one at the Escarpment

**Social Flycatcher** – seen daily

**Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** – a few at CC; these are recently arrived migrants from wintering areas to the south

**Piratic Flycatcher** – one at Mayan Wells and several at Gallon Jug

**Tropical Kingbird** – abundant everywhere in open country; seen every day except the one day that we never left CC

**Couch's Kingbird** – the counterpart of Tropical Kingbird, found mostly in forest-edge habitats; seen nearly every day but in much smaller numbers than Tropical

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** – several at Gallon Jug

**Fork-tailed Flycatcher** – several around CT and Gallon Jug

**Thrush-like Schiffornis** – heard several at CC

**Rufous Piha** – nice views of one at the Sac Be Trail bathing pool; several others heard

**Rose-throated Becard** – several seen at Mayan Wells and a pair building a nest near the Escarpment

**Masked Tityra** – several at Mayan Wells and CC

**White-collared Manakin** – several at CC

**Red-capped Manakin** – daily at CC  
**White-eyed Vireo** – seen at CT and Lamanai  
**Mangrove Vireo** – saw one near Belize City  
**Yellow-throated Vireo** – heard two at CC  
**Yellow-green Vireo** – heard a few near CC; these are recently arrived migrants from wintering areas to the south  
**Tawny-crowned Greenlet** – daily at CC  
**Lesser Greenlet** – several at Lamanai; daily at CC  
**Green Shrike-Vireo** – heard several around CC  
**Brown Jay** – numerous in open country  
**Yucatan Jay** – we saw several groups of this stunning bird around CT  
**Purple Martin** – one at CT and two at Gallon Jug  
**Gray-breasted Martin** – numerous around CT; a few at Gallon Jug  
**Tree Swallow** – numerous at CT and Gallon Jug  
**Mangrove Swallow** – very common around CT; several at Gallon Jug  
**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** – numerous around CT, Shipyard, and Gallon Jug  
**Barn Swallow** – abundant at Shipyard; smaller numbers at CT and Gallon Jug  
**Spot-breasted Wren** – seen almost daily – particularly well at Altun Ha and CC  
**(Southern) House Wren** – seen daily  
**White-bellied Wren** – several at CC  
**White-breasted Wood-Wren** – seen well several times and heard daily at CC  
**Long-billed Gnatwren** – heard at CC  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** – a few at CT  
**Tropical Gnatcatcher** – three at CC along Sylvester Road  
**Wood Thrush** – seen daily at CC  
**Clay-colored Robin** – seen daily  
**White-throated Robin** – a few at CC along Hillbank Road and Norman's Temple  
**Gray Catbird** – several around CT  
**Tropical Mockingbird** – numerous from Belize City to CT and Lamanai; one at Gallon Jug was the first we'd ever seen there  
**Blue-winged Warbler** – nice looks at one at Lamanai  
**Golden-winged Warbler** – one beautiful male in a mixed warbler flock at Lamanai  
**Tennessee Warbler** – one at CT  
**Yellow Warbler** – seen daily at CT; a few around CC  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler** – one at CC  
**Magnolia Warbler** – seen daily; few places are as good as the forests of Belize for learning the odd, husky *zeef* call-note of this species  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler** – a few at Gallon Jug  
**Yellow-throated Warbler** – seen daily at CT  
**Grace's Warbler** – several in the pine forests at CT  
**Palm Warbler** – one on a roadside near CT; this species is very uncommon away from the immediate coast  
**Black-and-white Warbler** – a few seen on most days  
**American Redstart** – seen daily  
**Prothonotary Warbler** – a few at CT  
**Worm-eating Warbler** – a few at CC  
**Ovenbird** – two at CC  
**Northern Waterthrush** – seen almost daily  
**Louisiana Waterthrush** – a few still remaining at CC; this early migrant is much more common here in fall and winter  
**Kentucky Warbler** – seen daily at CC

**Common Yellowthroat** – several at CT  
**Gray-crowned Yellowthroat** – two at Shipyard  
**Hooded Warbler** – seen almost daily (though less numerous than earlier in winter)  
**Golden-crowned Warbler** – a few heard at CC  
**Yellow-breasted Chat** – seen at the Biltmore Plaza Hotel  
**Gray-throated Chat** – heard at CC along the Bajo trail  
**Gray-headed Tanager** – several seen at CC  
**Black-throated Shrike-Tanager** – several seen at Lamanai and CC  
**Red-crowned Ant-Tanager** – seen several times at Lamanai and CC  
**Red-throated Ant-Tanager** – seen daily at CC  
**Summer Tanager** – a few at CT, Lamanai, and CC; another early migrant that is much more common in winter  
**Blue-gray Tanager** – a few seen at CT and Lamanai; one at CC  
**Yellow-winged Tanager** – seen almost daily  
**Golden-hooded Tanager** – two at CC  
**Green Honeycreeper** – a few at CC  
**Red-legged Honeycreeper** – seen on most days  
**Blue-black Grassquit** – abundant at Shipyard; numerous at Gallon Jug  
**White-collared Seedeater** – seen daily  
**Grayish Saltator** – a few at CT  
**Black-headed Saltator** – a few at CT and CC  
**Black-faced Grosbeak** – seen briefly along the Bajo Trail at CC  
**Northern Cardinal** – heard singing at CT; this is about the southern limit of the species' range  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** – one at CT  
**Blue-black Grosbeak** – a male was seen well by the Sac Be Trail bating pool at CT  
**Blue Bunting** – two at Lamanai  
**Indigo Bunting** – several at Shipyard and Gallon Jug  
**Red-winged Blackbird** – several at CT and common at Shipyard  
**Eastern Meadowlark** – numerous at Shipyard and several at Gallon Jug  
**Melodious Blackbird** – seen daily  
**Great-tailed Grackle** – seen daily except when we didn't leave CC  
**Bronzed Cowbird** – a few at CT, Shipyard, and Gallon Jug  
**Giant Cowbird** – several around Gallon Jug and CC  
**Black-cowled Oriole** – seen at the Biltmore Plaza Hotel, Mayan Wells, Gallon Jug, and the Escarpment  
**Orchard Oriole** – seen almost daily though in much smaller numbers than earlier in winter  
**Hooded Oriole** – numerous near Belize City and CT  
**Yellow-backed Oriole** – one in the pine forest at CT  
**Yellow-tailed Oriole** – two on the boat trip at CT  
**Baltimore Oriole** – numerous near Belize City and CT  
**Yellow-billed Cacique** – one seen at Lamanai  
**Montezuma Oropendola** – abundant and noisy at CC; they nest right at the lodge and are among the first birds to call in the morning  
**Yellow-throated Euphonia** – seen at Mayan Wells, Lamanai, and CC  
**Olive-backed Euphonia** – two at Lamanai and numerous at CC

## **BUTTERFLIES**

**Bow-lined Kite-Swallowtail** – one puddling in the Rio Bravo at Sylvester Village  
**Broad-banded Swallowtail** – one at Mayan Wells  
**Thoas Swallowtail** – several at Mayan Wells, Lamanai, and the Escarpment

**Florida White** – a few at CT and Lamanai; hundreds around CC and Gallon Jug  
**Painted White** – several at Lamanai and CC; more of a forest-associated species than Florida White  
**Great Southern White** – a few around Mayan Wells and CT  
**Yellow Angled-Sulphur** – two at Gallon Jug  
**Orange-barred Sulphur** – numerous around Mayan Wells, Altun Ha, and CT; a few at CC  
**Apricot Sulphur** – a few identified at CC; impossible to distinguish from Large Orange Sulphur in flight; most numerous near extensive forest  
**Large Orange Sulphur** – singles identified at CT and at the Escarpment; impossible to distinguish from Apricot Sulphur in flight; most numerous in open country  
**Cloudless Sulphur** – a few seen on most days  
**Ghost Yellow** – a few at CT  
**Mimosa Yellow** – common throughout; most numerous around forest edge  
**Little Yellow** – locally abundant; most numerous in open pastures like Gallon Jug  
**Barred Yellow** – numerous in the pine forest at CT; one at Gallon Jug  
**Mexican Cycadian** – two at Lamanai and several around CC and the Escarpment  
**Regal Greatstreak** – one individual of this stunning butterfly at Altun Ha  
**Zebra Cross-streak** – one at the Suspension bridge at CC  
**Black-barred Cross-streak** – one near the lodge at CC  
**Chiapas Stripe-streak** – two at Mayan Wells  
**Pale Ministreak** – several by the Jabiru nest near Jones Lagoon; many of what were presumably this species on the boat trip at CT  
**Tiger-eye Hairstreak** – one at Lamanai  
**Gold-bordered Hairstreak** – one at Mayan Wells and one at Lamanai  
**Confused Groundstreak** – one at Lamanai (identified later from a photo)  
**Dusky-blue Groundstreak** – several at Lamanai and a couple at CC  
**Rusty-banded Groundstreak** – one at Lamanai  
**Cassius Blue** – one at Lamanai  
**Ceraunus Blue** – seen almost daily; abundant in open country  
**Eastern Tailed-Blue** – seen almost daily; abundant in open country  
**Purple-washed Eyemark** – one at Hillbank Road  
**unidentified scintillant (*Calephelis* sp.)** – three at Lamanai; members of this genus of metalmark are extremely difficult to identify in the field  
**Fox-face Lemmark** – singles at Mayan Wells and CT  
**Common Lemmark** – singles at Altun Ha and CT  
**Common Theope** – one on our last morning at CC; this metalmark looks very much like a hairstreak!  
**Monarch** – seen on several days; these are resident butterflies here, not part of the migratory population that moves to the U.S. in summer  
**Queen** – seen on several days  
**Soldier** – a few at CT  
**Mexican Fritillary** – several at Mayan Wells and Altun ha  
**Banded Orange Heliconian** – seen at Altun Ha, Lamanai, and CC  
**Gulf Fritillary** – small numbers at many locations  
**Julia Heliconian** – small numbers at several locations; most numerous at the Escarpment  
**Zebra Heliconian** – seen almost daily  
**Erato Heliconian** – seen at Altun Ha, CT, and CC  
**Tiger Heliconian** – one at Lamanai and a few at CC  
**Green Heliconian** – one at the Escarpment  
**Bordered Patch** – several at the Escarpment  
**Theona Checkerspot** – small numbers at Altun Ha, Lamanai, and Gallon Jug

**Mayan Crescent** – two at CC along Sylvester Road  
**Vesta Crescent** – several at Gallon Jug  
**Phaon Crescent** – two at Mayan Wells and one at Gallon Jug  
**Guatemalan Tegosa** – three at CC at the service area  
**Orion Cecropian** – one at Lamanai  
**Red Rim** – one at Lamanai and another at CC by the Suspension Bridge  
**Gray Cracker** – one at Lamanai  
**Variable Cracker** – several at Lamanai, one at CC, and one near the Escarpment  
**Guatemalen Cracker** – one at Lamanai  
**Guatemalan Catone** – one at Lamanai  
**Ruddy Daggerwing** – one at Mayan Wells and two at the Rio Bravo near Sylvester Village  
**Many-banded Daggerwing** – two along Sylvester Road and numerous along the roads between Sylvester Village and Chan Chich  
**Orange Banner** – one at Altun Ha  
**Little Banner** – one at CC along Sylvester road  
**Band-celled Sister** – one at CT  
**Three-part Sister** – one at Mayan Wells  
**Malachite** – one at Lamanai  
**Banded Peacock** – seen on all but one (rainy) day; one of the most widespread and common butterflies in Belize  
**White Peacock** – seen on every day; just as widespread as Banded Peacock though not quite as abundant  
**Mangrove Buckeye** – three at Altun Ha  
**Tropical Buckeye** – singles at Altun Ha, CT, and Gallon Jug  
**One-spotted Prepona** – one at Lamanai and another near the Escarpment  
**Two-spotted Prepona** – singles at CT and CC  
**Pearly Leafwing** – one at Lamanai  
**Common Morpho** – one at CC  
**Blue-gray Satyr** – one (under the lights at night!) at CT  
**Plain Satyr** – two at CT and one at CC  
**White/White-banded Satyr** – one fly-by at CC could have been either of these species  
**Carolina Satyr** – abundant and widespread; seen daily; The “typical form”, with thin squiggly lines on the underwing, is seen in a wide variety of open areas, including at Gallon Jug and Chan Chich. Another form (or a different species?) with thicker, straighter, more reddish-brown lines on the underwing is seen near forested areas and is common at Chan Chich.  
**Manuel's Skipper** – one at CC along Sylvester Road; very similar to Hammock Skipper but has a blue cast above and darker markings below.  
**Square-spotted Polythrix** – one at CC near the lodge  
**Dorantes Longtail** - several at Altun Ha and two at CC  
**Brown Longtail** – numerous at Mayan Wells and Altun Ha; a few near CC  
**Plain Longtail** – one near the Escarpment (identified later from photos)  
**Teelus Longtail** – one near the Escarpment  
**Potrillo Skipper** – singles at Lamanai and CC  
**Mimosa Skipper** – several at Mayan Wells and CC  
**Yellow-spotted Leafhugger** – one at Lamanai  
**Variegated Skipper** – one at Hillbank Road  
**Dingy Mylon** – one at CC along Sylvester Road  
**Giant Sicklewing** – one at CC near the lodge  
**Orange-spotted Skipper** – one at CT  
**Brilliant Blue-Skipper** – females at Altun Ha and Lamanai and a male in the service area at CC  
**Guatemalan Checkered-Skipper** – a few at Lamanai, CT, CC, and Gallon Jug

**Tropical Checkered-Skipper** – small numbers seen on most days; slightly more numerous than Guatemalan

**Turk's-cap White-Skipper** – two at the Escarpment

**Veined White-Skipper** – several seen at Mayan Wells, Lamanai, and CC

**Ocola Skipper** – one at Mayan Wells

**Dyson's Silverpatch** – one at the Escarpment

**unidentified silverpatch (“Lamanai Silverpatch”)** – one at Lamanai

**Common Brown-Skipper** – singles at CT and CC

**Clouded Skipper** – two at Mayan Wells and one at CC

**Violet-studded Skipper** – one at Hillbank Road

**Fiery Skipper** – seen at Mayan Wells and CT

**Common Glassywing** – several at Mayan Wells, CT, and CC

#### **DRAGONFLIES (many were left unidentified)**

**Roseate Skimmer** – Mayan Wells, Altun Ha

**Band-winged Dragonlet** – Suspension Bridge

**Red-faced Dragonlet** – Suspension Bridge

**Mexican Amberwing** – Chan Chich Creek

**Slough Amberwing** – Mayan Wells

**Spot-tailed Dasher** – Rio Bravo near Sylvester Village

**Pin-tailed Pondhawk** – Altun Ha

**Flame-tailed Pondhawk** – Altun Ha

**Hyacinth Glider** – Altun Ha

#### **MAMMALS**

**Seba's Short-tailed Bat** – several roosting in the looter's trench at the Upper Plaza

**Yucatan Black Howler** – seen or heard daily!

**Central American Spider Monkey** – we encountered several troops at CC

**Deppe's Squirrel** – several at CC

**Central American Agouti** – one ran across the trail at Lamanai

**Gray Fox** – one on the night drive to Gallon Jug

**Red Brocket Deer** – one on a roadside near CC

**White-tailed Deer** – numerous around Gallon Jug

#### **AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES**

**Cane Toad** – numerous at CT; also heard a few at CC

**Yellow Treefrog** – heard calling at CT

**Stauffer's Treefrog** – heard calling at CT

**Rio Grande Leopard Frog** – one hopping across the road at CT

**Morelet's Crocodile** – one at Altun Ha

**Yucatan Slider** – several at a pond in Shipyard

**Yucatan Banded Gecko** – one by the front door of the Bird's Eye View Lodge at CT

**House Gecko** – seen or heard almost daily, at all our accommodations

**Black Iguana** – several at CT

**Green Iguana** – one on the boat trip at CT

**Ghost Anole** – two at Lamanai and several on the forest trails at CC

**Brown Anole** – seen at the Biltmore Plaza Hotel and at Lamanai

**Brown Basilisk** – seen almost daily (except when it rained)

**Central American Amevia** – one at Altun Ha and another at CC  
**Mexican Vine Snake** – one along Sylvester Road at CC