

BELIZE: CHAN CHICH NEW YEAR
December 28th, 2008 – January 3rd, 2009



Photo: King Vulture (Paul Wood)

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Even before human-induced climate change became a concern, subtle seasonal shifts were always a factor affecting the number of bird species and individuals in a given locality. In this part of the world, the major factor influencing food supply is the annual rainy season. It could be early, late, abundant, poor, or even fail in some years. The dry season is also the trigger for important events in the annual cycle, inducing leaf fall, and thus subsequent leaf renewal and insect abundance. Upon losing their leaves, many shrubs, vines, and trees burst into flower producing a temporary boom in resources for nectar feeders. Pollination success or failure will determine how much fruit is available for birds and other animals later in the cycle.

Unfortunately, due to lack of monitoring and study, our understanding of these ecological intricacies was poor even before climate change, thus undermining our ability to distinguish the effects of global climate change from the “normal” seasonal vagaries. Whatever the cause, this year an enduring high pressure system brought us stable weather throughout the trip, with only a few light showers that fell mostly at night. In contrast to last year, the sun shone daily, and the snowbirds got the golden rays required to keep the winter blues at bay.

In the past, we had to wait to get to the lodge to see our first Ocellated Turkeys, one of the emblematic species at Chan Chich. However, at least locally, turkeys have become so common that they wander the open fields at Gallon Jug in small droves, and today it is one of the first species to send people scrambling for their binoculars after descending at the airstrip. Indeed, Ocellated Turkey displaced Great-tailed Grackle as the most numerous bird on the Christmas Bird Count we were to take part in on New Year’s Eve. The lack of hunting in the area over the last 20 years has clearly benefitted these large game birds, and others such as Great Curassow and Crested Guan—both of which we were to record daily.

As tradition demands, our first day began with coffee at the lodge beneath the African tulip tree, whose large orange blooms produce copious amounts of nectar during the dry season. Just as many of us need our caffeine fix, many birds start the day with a sugar fix, and so this is a natural congregation point for both. Two of Chan Chich’s flashiest birds, Green Honeycreeper and Chestnut-colored Woodpecker, are among the native junkies and were the first attention-grabbers of the day.

The tulip tree, however, had started flowering earlier this year and many of the flowers had seeded, while those remaining seemed to have passed their peak of nectar production. This was the first sign that the dry season had started early this year, and the numbers of usually common nectar feeders, such as Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, were appreciably lower. The frequent bouts of vicious combat between male Green Honeycreepers, sometimes tumbling to the ground in undignified squabbles, also suggested that nectar supplies were in decline.

After breakfast, the first of our walks down to the suspension bridge produced Lineated and Pale-billed woodpeckers, a variety of forest flycatchers, ant-tanagers, greenlets and warblers, and a busy group of Dot-winged Antwrens. An obliging White-necked Puffbird (a bird often missed due to its habit of sitting quietly in the canopy) was a highlight.

While the morning was off to a good start, the afternoon had some juicier treats in store. We walked a little way down the road from the plaza to get better looks at spider monkeys that Brian had seen crossing the road. Monkeys are one of the daily delights at Chan Chich, and after watching them interact for a while, few are left in doubt as to our own origins. Ducking into the forest along the King's Tomb trail, I began my annual search for the elusive Tody Motmot—a search that sometimes goes on for several days. We had gone no more than 30 paces when, on one of my first scans of the undergrowth, I spotted a Tody Motmot sitting typically motionless on a small shrub. This was too good to be true, but the whole group got looks through the scope while I was recovering from my own disbelief. Only a few paces further on, while the group was still exchanging impressions, I looked up to see a Great Tinamou foraging in the leaf litter on the hillside. Great Tinamous are notoriously shy, more often heard than seen, and, when they are seen, usually disappear quickly into the undergrowth or explode into the air leaving branches quivering. This bird, however, seemed less interested in us than in continuing its foraging, and the group got rare views, back and front, of another usually inscrutable species. Chan Chich was working its magic, and this was a highly encouraging start.

Indeed, one of the outstanding characteristics of tropical areas is the large number of fruit-eaters. During the non-breeding period, many insectivorous species change diets and become heavily dependent on fruit, too, so that fruit crops become extremely important to many species to see them through the drier months when insects are harder to come by. This year, and perhaps related to the early onset of the dry season, fruit seemed to be in short supply, at least in the Chan Chich area. This most likely explains the scarcity of big fruit-eaters, particularly pigeons, large parrots, and toucans. Normally common Short-billed Pigeons were rare, and we had to wait until our Gallon Jug trip to get good looks at the gorgeous Keel-billed Toucan. Trogons were seen daily, but numbers were down, as were numbers of Red-lored Parrots, while Mealy and White-crowned parrots were also decidedly rare. As evidence of the problems faced by parrots, one afternoon we watched a pair of Mealy Parrots patiently stripping an unripe fruit oozing with sticky toxic resin in order to get to the precious kernel inside. This laborious and messy process cannot have been the parrots' first choice! On the up side, the uncommon Brown-hooded Parrot was seen daily in the plaza, probably the same group of eight or so birds each day.

I should point out that, just because fruit was scarce in the Chan Chich area, it was not necessarily scarce over the whole of the forest. Brian, for example, reported good numbers of fruit-eaters from his trip to Tikal, just the week before. Fruit-eaters must often move over large distances to locate food supplies, and this is one of the many reasons that conservation areas in the tropics must be large—large enough to allow birds to move when resources fail locally. Hundreds of thousands of acres are required to maintain this dynamic.

The smaller, spiffy manakins, both Red-capped and White-collared, were however, able to find sustenance from fruiting shrubs behind the plaza, and White-collared were also much in evidence along the Chan Chich river. The Ochre-bellied Flycatcher, however, normally common and principally a fruit-eater, was also scarce, suggesting that fruit may also have been scarce for some of the smaller fruit-eaters, too.

While scarcity of fruit locally is unlikely to provoke a disaster if birds can move to more favorable areas, more worrying to me has been the persistent decline of ant swarms over the last several years. Swarms of army ants provide an essential resource for many species, particularly woodcreepers, ant-tanagers, Gray-headed Tanagers, and Ovenbirds, while many other species,

including migrants, take advantage of them opportunistically. The disappearance of ant swarms would therefore be disastrous for many forest-dependent species. Since army ants are predators on arthropods living in the leaf litter and under the bark of trees, the lack of ant swarms could point to a more worrying, general decline of the leaf litter fauna. This fauna also has other important ecological functions in terms of soil enrichment, decomposition, and pollination, as well as providing food for wildlife. Indeed, some entomologists have suggested that a warming of the climate by just a few degrees could disrupt the breeding cycle of tropical insects in general and lead to ecosystem collapse over wide areas.

We found only a couple of small ant swarms, poorly attended by birds, and our only Barred Woodcreeper seemed rather lethargic and not to be having much luck. While we had no trouble finding the Tawny-winged Woodcreeper away from swarms, we missed the Ruddy Woodcreeper, a swarm specialist, completely, and Gray-headed Tanagers were also scarce. Ivory-billed Woodcreepers were also lower in number over the week. Among the woodcreepers, only the little Olivaceous, which is not tied to ant swarms, was common.

Mixed species flocks are a staple for birders in the Tropics during the non-breeding months. Those that follow ant swarms are limited to the forest floor and undergrowth, but other suites of species specialize in the understory and in the canopy. Understory flocks of Red-crowned Ant-Tanagers and Tawny-crowned Greenlets, two species that for unknown reasons are most often found together, were fairly common. The curious Eye-ringed Flatbill was seen several times with these flocks. Greenlets as a group, though they are vireos, perform much the same function in tropical areas as chickadees in temperate zones, often forming the core of a flock and gathering other species around them. Lesser Greenlet, another common bird, takes over from the Tawny-crowned Greenlet in the canopy. One of these flocks, along the bajo trail, produced a rare Green Shrike-Vireo, thanks to the sharp eyes of Connie.

Another “pied piper” in the canopy is the Black-throated Shrike-Tanager. Males and females gather their own flocks around them, one individual to a flock, by acting as a sentinel and warning flock members when predators are near. However, they occasionally use these warnings as a trick to scare a flock member from hard-earned, potentially juicy prey, which they swoop down to gobble up themselves. Their scolding clucks and high-pitched whistles are a sure sign that a mixed flock is in the vicinity. Males bear a remarkable resemblance to Black-cowled Orioles, and this mimicry is akin to the bird dressing as a wolf in sheep’s clothing—they would be at home amongst the world’s financiers! We had our share of these flocks, often accompanied by fast-moving Plain Xenops, and cool warblers such as Blue-winged and Worm-eating, the latter being seen well several times. In general, however, my impression in recent years has been that these canopy flocks are less frequent and smaller than before.

Summary of Itinerary

Date	Itinerary
December 28th, 2008	Arrival Belize City and transfer to Lodge
December 29th, 2008	AM: Chan Chich plaza and road to bridge PM: Chan Chich Plaza and King’s Tomb.
December 30th, 2008	AM: Brian’s group –Logger’s Trail/ Paul’s group – Sylvester Village Road PM: Upper Plaza

December 31st, 2008	AM: Brian's group – Bajo Trail/ Paul's group – Logger's Trail PM: Plaza to suspension bridge and Trish's Hill
January 1st, 2009	AM: Gallon Jug and Laguna Seca PM: Service area and Back Plaza/ Nightdrive
January 2nd, 2009	AM: Sylvester Village Road PM: Plaza to suspension bridge and Trish's Hill
January 3rd, 2009	AM: Chan Chich plaza to Gallon Jug for flight to Belize City

Abbreviations used in list:

BC = Belize City
CC = Chan Chich
GJ = Gallon Jug
LS = Laguna Seca

Common Name	Scientific Name	Localities	Notes
Great Tinamou	<i>Tinamus major</i>	CC	Sightings on four days; less calling; probably breeding
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>	LS	4 inds.
Plain Chachalaca	<i>Ortalis vetula</i>	CC/ GJ	Two days; uncommon in forest
Crested Guan	<i>Penelope purpurascens</i>	CC	Recorded daily; 3-4 regular in plaza
Great Curassow	<i>Crax rubra</i>	CC	Recorded on 4 days; mostly females; 1 male on 4th
Ocellated Turkey	<i>Meleagris ocellata</i>	GJ/CC	Commonest bird on Xmas Count!
Spotted Wood-Quail	<i>Odontophorus guttatus</i>	CC	Trish's Hill incident
Least Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i>	LS	Pair near shore led to Sungrebe sighting
Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	BC	
Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>	LS	Male & female LS
Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	BC	Although also recorded at GJ on Xmas Count
Bare-throated Tiger-Heron	<i>Tigrisoma mexicanum</i>	CC	A few lucky folks on the River Trail on 1st; none at LS
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	CC/GJ	Two birds often along the River Trail/ SB
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	GJ	Few at GJ
Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	BC/ LS	Scarce this year
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	BC	None seen at GJ/CC; apparently scarce this year. To north on Xmas Count
Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	CC/LS	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	GJ	4-5 in fields on night drive
Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	CC	6 over SB on count day
Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	GJ/CC	
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	GJ/CC	Daily roosters at CC
King Vulture	<i>Sarcorampus papa</i>	CC/ LS	Seen 3 days. 1 immature on 29th; 2 ads 31st: 1 ad 1st(LS)
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	BC	
Hook-billed Kite	<i>Chondrohierax uncinatus</i>	LS	1 dark phase bird
Double-toothed Kite	<i>Harpagus bidentatus</i>	CC	2 birds over CC on count day (Brian only)

White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	GJ	One distant bird on 1st
White Hawk	<i>Leucopternis albicollis</i>	CC	First appeared on count day; thereafter several close encounters and scope views around lodge:
Great Black-Hawk	<i>Buteogallus urubitinga</i>	GJ	Pair on fence GJ on way to flight out
Roadside Hawk	<i>Buteo magnirostris</i>	CC/ GJ	Common GJ; pair at Lodge
Gray Hawk	<i>Asturina nitida</i>	GJ	One on way to LS just caught White-tipped Dove
Short-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo brachyurus</i>	CC	One over CC count day (Brian only)
Black Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus tyrannus</i>	CC	Pair displaying over lodge on count day
Ornate Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus ornatus</i>	CC	One bird displaying over lodge 30th/ 31st/ 2nd
Barred Forest-Falcon	<i>Micrastur ruficollis</i>	CC	Pair calling close to SB dusk on 2nd.
Collared Forest-Falcon	<i>Micrastur semitorquatus</i>	CC	Heard near Lodge on 30th
Laughing Falcon	<i>Herpetotheres cachinnans</i>	GJ	One perched at forest edge (not far from a White Hawk)
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	GJ	One at GJ
Bat Falcon	<i>Falco ruficularis</i>	CC/ LS	Recorded daily; pair at lodge; also LS
Gray-necked Wood-Rail	<i>Aramides cajanea</i>	CC	A scope filler along River Trail (1st)
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	LS	1 immature
Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinica</i>	LS	1 immature
Sungrebe	<i>Heliornis fulica</i>	LS	Great find by Brian.
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	GJ	Fairly common at GJ (35 on count day)
Northern Jacana	<i>Jacana spinosa</i>	LS	A few adults and immatures on lily pads
Laughing Gull	<i>Larus atricilla</i>	BC	
Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maxima</i>	BC	
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvichensis</i>	BC	
Red-billed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas flavirostris</i>	CC/ GJ	A regular bird calling in plaza; also GJ
Short-billed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas nigrirostris</i>	CC	Rare this year with sightings on two days only
Ruddy Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>	GJ	Common around farm
White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>	CC/ GJ	Occasionally in plaza. Shy ground dweller
Gray-headed Dove	<i>Leptotila plumbeiceps</i>	CC	One only at lodge on 2nd (Paul only)
Olive-throated Parakeet	<i>Aratinga nana</i>	CC	Seen most days at plaza (max. 6); but generally scarce
Brown-hooded Parrot	<i>Pionopsitta haematotis</i>	CC	Recorded daily at CC with max 8 (prob same flock daily)
White-crowned Parrot	<i>Pionus senilis</i>	CC/ GJ	Very scarce this year; 1 over lodge; pair near GJ
Red-lored Parrot	<i>Amazona autumnalis</i>	CC/ GJ	Most regular parrot but relatively low numbers
Mealy Parrot	<i>Amazona farinosa</i>	CC	Also rare this year; pair at lodge on 2nd unraveling large fruits
Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>	CC	Struggled a little with this one this year, but a few good scope views
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	CC/ LS	Heard at lodge on 29th; 1 at LS roosting in palm
Central American (Least) Pygmy-Owl	<i>Glaucidium griseiceps</i>	CC	Great find by Brian on Logger's Trail 30th; heard two other days
Mottled Owl	<i>Ciccaba virgata</i>	GJ/ CC	Heard a couple of times near lodge; dead bird found at GJ
Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>	CC/ GJ	Lodge and night drive
Northern Potoo	<i>Nyctibius jamaicensis</i>	GJ	Two at GJ; one remarkably obliging bird you could reach out and touch.
White-collared Swift	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>	CC	Small flock (5-6) over SB on 31st

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift	<i>Panyptila cayennensis</i>	CC	Scarce this year; odd individuals over lodge/ SB
Long-billed Hermit	<i>Phaethorinis longirostris</i>	CC	Seen at heliconias in plaza most days (if you were quick!)
Stripe-throated (Little) Hermit	<i>Phaethornis striigularis</i>	CC	Obliging birds gave scope views in the plaza
Scaly-breasted Hummingbird	<i>Phaeochroa cuvieri</i>	CC	Two birds sang incessantly in canopy near lodge but never seen
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia tzacatl</i>	CC	Daily at the lodge but very low numbers this year
Cinnamon Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia rutila</i>	BC	
Purple-crowned Fairy	<i>Heliodytes barroti</i>	CC	Recorded only 2 days, with 4 on 2nd at end of trip
Black-headed Trogon	<i>Trogon melanocephalus</i>	CC	Relatively scarce (singles on 3 days)
Violaceous Trogon	<i>Trogon violaceus</i>	CC	Also relatively inconspicuous (3 days)
Slaty-tailed Trogon	<i>Trogon massena</i>	CC	Daily at lodge; great scope views; low numbers
Tody Motmot	<i>Hylomanes momotula</i>	CC	Too easy; first afternoon near King's Tomb
Blue-crowned Motmot	<i>Momotus momota</i>	CC	Half group only on 1st (Wood-Rail also on the menu)
Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle torquata</i>	CC/ LS	Singles along river and LS
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	CC/ LS	Singles along river and LS
White-necked Puffbird	<i>Notharcus macrorhynchus</i>	CC	Twice near SB; scope views on 29th
White-whiskered Puffbird	<i>Malacoptila panamensis</i>	CC/ LS	Regular sightings; especially at SB
Rufous-tailed Jacamar	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>	CC	Inexplicably heard only; zero response to taping
Collared Aracari	<i>Pteroglossus torquatus</i>	CC/ GJ	Seen most days but rarely more than 2; scarce
Keel-billed Toucan	<i>Ramphastos sulfuratus</i>	CC/ GJ	Very scarce; heard only at lodge; finally seen well at GJ
Black-cheeked Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes pucherani</i>	CC	The "default" woodpecker at the lodge
Smoky-brown Woodpecker	<i>Veniliornis fumigatus</i>	CC	Scope views near SB; scarce at CC
Golden-olive Woodpecker	<i>Piculus rubiginosus</i>	CC	Seen at SB and heard along Logger's Trail
Chestnut-colored Woodpecker	<i>Celeus castanea</i>	CC	Regular around the lodge at tulip tree and avocados
Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>	CC/ LS	Seen daily; with Pale-billed in same tree at LS
Pale-billed Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus guatemalensis</i>	CC	Daily around the lodge with up to 3 together
Plain Xenops	<i>Xenops minutus</i>	CC	Recorded in canopy flocks on two days
Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser	<i>Sclerurus guatemalensis</i>	CC	Wendell & Connie only on Sylvester Road
Tawny-winged Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocincla anabatina</i>	CC	Seen most days at Chan Chich though away from antswarms mostly
Olivaceous Woodcreeper	<i>Sittasomus griseicapillus</i>	CC	Fairly common, though perhaps scarcer than last year
Strong-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus</i>	CC	Heard daily at lodge (dawn and dusk)
Northern Barred Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocolaptes sanctihomae</i>	CC	Two days only; one at small antswarm
Ivory-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus flavigaster</i>	CC	Relatively uncommon this year
Plain Antvireo	<i>Dysithamnus mentalis</i>	CC	One only in mixed flock along Logger's Trail (Paul only)
Dot-winged Antwren	<i>Microhoppas quixensis</i>	CC	Good looks at this colorful antbird of the vine tangles
Dusky Antbird	<i>Cercomacra tyrannina</i>	CC	Heard only at SB
Black-faced Antthrush	<i>Formicarius analis</i>	CC	Heard only along Sylvester Road/ Lodge
Greenish Elaenia	<i>Myiopagis viridicata</i>	CC	Several seen with mixed flocks mostly understory and mid canopy

Yellow-bellied Elaenia	<i>Elaenia flavogaster</i>	GJ	Vegetable garden at GJ
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Mionectes oleagineus</i>	CC	Rare this year; with two single records only (usually common)
Sepia-capped Flycatcher	<i>Leptopogon amaurocephalus</i>	CC	Heard on a couple of occasions with mixed understory flocks
Northern Bentbill	<i>Oncostoma cinereigulare</i>	CC	Fairly common though challenging to see
Eye-ringed Flatbill	<i>Rhynchocyclus brevirostris</i>	CC	Seen on 4 days with understory flocks
Yellow-olive Flycatcher	<i>Tolmomyias sulphureus</i>	CC	Heard only; not very vocal
Stub-tailed Spadebill	<i>Platyrrhynchus cancrinus</i>	CC	Heard only. Fairly common but hard to see. Scarce in tall forest this year with best numbers on Bajo Trail
Northern Royal Flycatcher	<i>Onychorhynchus mexicanus</i>	CC	At least one bird regular behind cabañas 8-9
Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher	<i>Myiobius sulphureipygius</i>	CC	Regular with understory flocks; bathing along river
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	CC	Regular in forest and most common Empid.
Least Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	CC	Clearings mostly (plaza & SB)
Bright-rumped Attila	<i>Attila spadiceus</i>	CC	Good looks at small antswarm near SB
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>	CC	Fairly common forest edge flycatcher
Great-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	CC	Fairly common; heard more than seen (canopy dweller)
Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>	GJ	Scarce; 1-2 at GJ farm
Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>	CC	Common in clearings and edge
Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	GJ	Fairly common at GJ (not vocal and hard to identify)
Couch's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus couchii</i>	CC	Lodge and SB
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>	GJ	1 only at farm
Fork-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus savana</i>	GJ	1 only at farm
Thrush-like Schiffornis	<i>Schiffornis turdinus</i>	CC	Heard daily but only a few sightings
Rufous Piha	<i>Lipaugus unirufus</i>	CC	Seen twice near SB
Cinnamon Becard	<i>Pachyramphus cinnamomeus</i>	CC	Pair seen well at SB
Masked Tityra	<i>Tityra semifasciata</i>	CC/ LS	Only seen once; heard at LS; very scarce this year
Lovely Cotinga	<i>Cotinga amabilis</i>	CC	A female seen in fading light on Trish's Hill
White-collared Manakin	<i>Manacus candei</i>	CC	Lots of good sightings at Lodge and along river near SB
Red-capped Manakin	<i>Pipra mentalis</i>	CC	Mainly at fruit trees behind lodge; otherwise scarce
White-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo griseus</i>	CC	Fairly common in clearings and edge.
Yellow-throated Vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	CC	Scarce; two sightings only
Tawny-crowned Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus ochraceiceps</i>	CC	Fairly common leader of understory flocks
Lesser Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus decurtatus</i>	CC	Common flock leader in canopy
Green Shrike-Vireo	<i>Vireolanius pulchellus</i>	CC	Exceptional sighting thanks to Connie in low mixed flock along Sylvester Road
Brown Jay	<i>Cyanocorax morio</i>	GJ	Fairly common in open farm areas
Mangrove Swallow	<i>Tachycineta alibilinea</i>	GJ	Fairly common around airstrip
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	GJ	Few around airstrip
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	GJ	Few around airstrip
Spot-breasted Wren	<i>Thryothorus maculipectus</i>	CC	Fairly common songster but true skulker
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	CC	Regular in plaza
White-bellied Wren	<i>Uropsila leucogastra</i>	CC	One only on Sylvester Road (Brian)
White-breasted Wood-Wren	<i>Henicorhina leucosticta</i>	CC	Common in understory but tough to study!

Long-billed Gnatwren	<i>Ramphocelus melanurus</i>	CC	A couple of heard birds only
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	CC	1-2 in plaza; uncommon
Tropical Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila plumbea</i>	CC	One only heard along Logger's Trail
Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	CC	Fairly common in forest, but far less abundant than last year
Clay-colored Robin	<i>Turdus grayi</i>	CC	Regular at Lodge but only 1-2 birds; scarce
Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	CC	Fairly common, especially Bajo Trail but less abundant than last year
Tropical Mockingbird	<i>Mimus gilvus</i>	BC	
Blue-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora pinus</i>	CC	One seen in mixed flock on 29th by SB
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	CC	Occasional singles in plaza
Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Dendroica castanea</i>	CC	Seen daily; fairly common this year
Magnolia Warbler	<i>Dendroica magnolia</i>	CC	Commonest warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Dendroica virens</i>	CC	Uncommon in canopy
Yellow-throated Warbler	<i>Dendroica dominica</i>	BC/ CC	Mainly coastal in winter; one sighting (Wendell) at CC
Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	CC	Common
American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	CC	Fairly common but numbers apparently low.
Worm-eating Warbler	<i>Helmitheros vermivorum</i>	CC	Three sightings of this inconspicuous and uncommon warbler
Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>	CC	Scarce but a single regular bird in the plaza most days
Northern Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>	CC	Few along River Trail
Louisiana Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus motacilla</i>	CC	Frequent along road to SB and along river.
Kentucky Warbler	<i>Oporornis formosus</i>	CC	Fairly common in forest undergrowth
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	CC/ LS	Marshy areas; overgrown fields
Hooded Warbler	<i>Wilsonia citrina</i>	CC	Fairly common in forest undergrowth
Golden-crowned Warbler	<i>Basileuterus culicivorus</i>	CC	A resident warbler seen with understory flocks (mostly Logger's Trail)
Yellow-breasted Chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>	CC	A couple of sightings at forest edge
Gray-throated Chat	<i>Granatellus sallaei</i>	CC	Good looks of this spiffy Yucatan endemic along Bajo Trail
Gray-headed Tanager	<i>Eucometis penicillata</i>	CC	Elusive antswarm follower. Only recorded two days
Black-throated Shrike-Tanager	<i>Lanio aurantius</i>	CC	Canopy flock leader; uncommon this year (only two known flocks 1M/ 1F)
Red-crowned Ant-Tanager	<i>Habia rubica</i>	CC	Common in understory often with greenlet flocks
Red-throated Ant-Tanager	<i>Habia fuscicauda</i>	CC	Less common of the ant-tanagers
Rose-throated Tanager	<i>Piranga roseogularis</i>	CC	Heard only along the Bajo Trail
Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>	CC	Uncommon with a few singles around the lodge area
Blue-gray Tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>	GJ	Several at vegetable garden
Yellow-winged Tanager	<i>Thraupis abbas</i>	CC/GJ	Regular sightings but low numbers
Green Honeycreeper	<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>	CC	At least two males daily at lodge; often in mortal combat
Blue-black Grassquit	<i>Volatina jacarina</i>	CC/GJ	One at SB; also few around farm
White-collared Seedeater	<i>Sporophila torqueola</i>	CC/ GJ	Regular songster at lodge; common around farm
Black-headed Saltator	<i>Saltator atriceps</i>	CC	Small noisy group often around plaza
Black-faced Grosbeak	<i>Caryothraustes poliogaster</i>	CC	Uncommon; two records only of flocks (Sylvester Road)

Blue-black Grosbeak	<i>Cyanocompsa cyanoides</i>	CC	Male at SB/ Female in plaza
Blue Grosbeak	<i>Passerina caerulea</i>	GJ	Few in overgrown field at farm
Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	GJ	1-2 in vegetable garden
Melodious Blackbird	<i>Dives dives</i>	GJ/ CC	Common in open areas
Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	GJ	Fairly common at farm though numbers reportedly down
Giant Cowbird	<i>Molothrus oryzivorus</i>	GJ	Several in fields around farm
Black-cowled Oriole	<i>Icterus prothemelas</i>	CC	Uncommon but frequent around lodge
Orchard Oriole	<i>Icterus spurius</i>	GJ	A few birds in overgrown fields, vegetable garden and fruit trees at farm
Baltimore Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	GJ	One male only at GJ (none at lodge this year)
Montezuma Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius montezuma</i>	GJ/ CC	Daily but numbers relatively low this year
Yellow-throated Euphonia	<i>Euphonia hirundinacea</i>	CC	One male only on first day in plaza
Olive-backed Euphonia	<i>Euphonia gouldi</i>	CC	Abundant around plaza and through forest

191 species