

Belize & Tikal

The Maya Mountains and coral cayes

A Greentours trip report

10th to 25th November 2014

Led by Phil Benstead and Charlton Castillo (Belize)

Trip report written by Phil Benstead

Day 1 Monday 10th November journey to Atlanta

The four of us met up in the queue for Immigration at Atlanta and were soon out picking up our bags and negotiating the shuttle buses that would take us to our much-needed hotel. Amazingly Jenny had been selected as the 'Guest of the Day' and received a free drink at the bar...

Day 2 Tuesday 11th November journey to Parrot Cove Lodge

With our departure scheduled for 0730 we had time for a relaxed breakfast and Phil even found time for a quick look around the hotel grounds. A large flock of American robins were on the lawn at dawn and two species of sparrow created identification issues...

We re-shuttled our way back to the International terminal reasonably efficiently and checked in. Pausing for a coffee allowed us to run errands to various shops and then it was time for us to make our way to the gate. The flight passed quickly and soon we were dropping low over the coastline of Belize, offshore it was studded with small islands and cays and below us flooded savannah wetlands beckoned. The small airport and its formalities did not detain us too long and we were soon out and meeting up with Charlton and driving towards Hopkins.

First stop as usual was the nearby zoo where we made short work of the packed lunch that Charlton had brought us. It was rather hot here in the middle of the day and bird activity was low although we did manage to get great views of black-and-white warbler, American redstart and our first white-collared seedeater. Our first agouti made itself scarce.

The rest of the slow drive was punctuated by numerous stops for birds. Birds noted included several groups of the striking acorn woodpecker. A white-tailed hawk and a laughing falcon appeared in roadside trees and we got great views of lesser yellow-headed vulture. A loose group of magnificent fork-tailed flycatchers perched by the side of the road in a section of pine savanna at one point. Black-cowled orioles were admired. An Eastern wood-pewee was spotted. Dusk came and went and we drove on in the dark, stopping briefly to admire an

inquisitive gray fox and dodging the pauraques sitting on the road. Arriving at the hotel we settled in for our 8-night stay and enjoyed the first of many excellent dinners.

Day 3 Wednesday 12th November Sittee and Mayflower

An early start saw us taking in the Sittee area on our morning drive and we managed to get out of the village without stopping. On the other side of the marsh we stopped as soon as we got into the trees and connected with a nice flock of birds. The most striking species in the flock was the male white-collared manakin. We got great views of both the male and female here as they fed in a nearby fruiting shrub. Other birds here included ochre-bellied flycatcher, Philadelphia, red-eyed and Yucatan vireos.

Dragging ourselves away we checked the nearby citrus groves where we got good views of red-lored parrots and plain chachalacas. Yellow-faced grassquits sang like sewing machines and we bumped into a female white-necked jacobin feeding over the road. Eventually though we made it to the old Sittee sugar mill and ate our breakfast. The hulks of the ageing sugar machinery rusted around us as we explored afterwards. The forest here was busy with birds and we found several warblers including the impressive hooded warbler, black-throated green warbler, ovenbird and Northern waterthrush. A black-headed trogon did not play ball but our first tiger heliconian perched on nearby vegetation to be admired – a striking butterfly. Charlton showed us a bat roost that contained two obliging greater white-lined bats that clung to the trunk of a tree in full view after being disturbed from their hideaway in a buttress. A nearby pond held a surprising number of wader species including both spotted and solitary sandpipers and our first killdeer. Small warblers drifted along the hedgeline here including our first blue-winged warbler.

After breakfast we drove some of the quiet tracks on our way to look at Hopkins marsh and found our first yellow-olive flycatcher. The marsh was very busy and half an hour here netted some great birds. Phil showed Charlton his first glossy ibis, whilst the rest of us enjoyed the more exotic roseate spoonbill, white ibis and American coot on offer. Tricoloured herons appeared and we also found a few dazed looking yellow-crowned night-herons feeding out in the marsh. A perched osprey was a nice reminder of home. Wildfowl were also available with plenty of blue-winged teal and one elusive black-bellied whistling duck. Waders here included greater yellowlegs, some distant dowitchers and our first black-necked stilt.

Up at the marina we filled up with fuel and enjoyed some nearby scissor-tailed flycatchers, and Phil bagged a pair of mangrove swallows whilst some shopping was undertaken by the team. Getting back to the nearby hotel for lunch we discovered that the coast was haunted by magnificent frigatebirds. A few royal terns perched on the pier.

In the afternoon a small team headed out again by van to wander around Mayflower. It took some time to leave Hopkins on the drive out as we kept bumping into birds including a nice Tennessee warbler and an orchard oriole. Checking out the archaeological clearing produced some gentle birding and some nice encounters with species like hooded warbler, worm-eating warbler and our first views of red-throated ant-tanager. Driving back through the gathering gloom we just had time to watch a pauraque perched on the road in front of us before the

heavens opened and rain sluiced down for most of the drive back to the hotel. Dinner was once again a very tasty affair and then we got stuck into our first checklist session.

**Day 4 Thursday 13th November Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary
and Sittee**

Another very early start sees us take our first trip to Cockscomb. We managed to drive to the start of the access road without stopping and a stop along the access track at a birdy spot nets us a fine but speedy glimpse of a fabulous male violet sabrewing – a stunning hummingbird. Also here a short-billed pigeon, noisy black-headed saltator and an elusive bright-rumped attila. Arriving in the car park we are greeted by a flock of huge crested guans, noisily crashing about in the trees above our heads. Northern waterthrushes and ovenbirds strut about on the lawn and masked tityras feed above us in fruiting trees.

After a welcome packed breakfast Charlton takes us for a great walk through disturbed secondary forest and on into more impressive old growth forest. The sunny more open secondary areas produced some memorable butterflies including our first electric blue morpho, that gave us a close fly past and our first cattlehearts.

Creeping into taller forest we start to find birds but as usual in rainforest getting good views was incredibly challenging. Our first jacamar appears and we bump into an excellent flock that provides plenty of new species and also plenty of practise and getting onto birds in the gloom of the understory. A long-billed gnatwren drifted like a wraith through a viny tangle. Yellow-billed caciques materialised nearby and disappeared just as easily. Dot-winged antwrens and a blue-black grosbeak gave us the runaround. At one point we drop down to the banks of a small pool that produces great views of pygmy kingfisher and Charlton spots a fine boat-billed heron perched just a few metres away from us.

All along the trail we follow the fresh tracks of a tapir and also find a few peccary tracks (even smelling the latter at one point). Moving back out into the sunny secondary area we switch to invertebrate spotting and Nym finds us a stunning perched bright green great pondhawk (*Erythemis vesiculosa*) – a lovely libellulid. Streams hold various *Argia* damselflies and perhaps two species of rubyspot.

We get back in good time for lunch and a little snooze, although bird activity remains good in the clearing and the more active members of the team find our first violaceous trogon, yellow-winged tanager and olive-backed euphonia. More than adequate compensation for toiling away in the heat. The park is busier in the middle of the day but we still manage to have an undisturbed short walk down to the river after lunch. At the river we spot our first yellow-tailed orioles and we get yet more views of the strange rufous-tailed jacamar and pale-billed woodpecker on the way back. Calling spadebills give us the runaround again. Pleased with our session we bump back out along the track and head for an early shower before our night drive.

After dinner we head out for an ill-fated nightdrive to nearby Sittee. Charlton's spotlight died first and then Phil discovered he had not been charging his new torch correctly and it too died. Before things went to maggots though we did bag half a dozen pauraques and a fine striped owl before turning gratefully back to the hotel and sleep.

Day 5 Friday 14th November offshore cays

Phil got out after dawn for a walk up the road before breakfast which produced some nice bird encounters including our first yellow-throated warbler. After breakfast we got togged up to go swimming and Rob shuttled us down to the marina for our appointment with Lucky and Beaver and their tiny diveboat. Once installed we headed downstream to the sea picking up a Morelet's crocodile en route. The sea was lively but not too uncomfortable on the way out to our first stop – Twin Cayes. Here we found a manatee straightaway when one surfaced right in front of the boat and showed a great deal of itself as it dived down again. Fantastic! Job done we headed out to the nursery reef to allow Lucky to instruct us in snorkelling. Three of us were soon off but Jenny elected to stay onboard when we hit the barrier reef proper. It being winter Lucky donned a wetsuit – the water temperature a balmy 29.5°C!

At the barrier reef we had a memorable 45 minute session. Lucky guided us along and dived down to point out various must-see fish. The lion fish was sublime. Huge tarpon were a big hit. But the real star was the habitat itself. Below us as we slowly drifted with the current were beautiful coral formations, swaying lavender-coloured sea fans and all studded with fish of every colour. Triggerfish, parrot fish, angelfish, grouper, snapper in an endless roll call. Fabulous.

Climbing wearily aboard we headed the short distance inshore to Bread-and-butter cay. The cay's somewhat eccentric caretaker greeted us cheerfully and Lucky set about lighting the BBQ and cooking a tasty fish lunch. Whilst this was being prepared we explored the tiny cay, perhaps 20 metres wide and 225 metres long it held nevertheless a reasonable number of birds. First to greet us was an exhausted eastern wood pewee, which hopped about our feet. Searching the mangroves produced a nice selection of American warblers, including palm and yellow-throated, and even a clapper rail. Brown anoles challenged each other for territory and we admired the empty osprey nest on the roof of the dining area. This was a very relaxing spot but eventually we had to head across the sea once more for home.

Back on dry land Phil did a short bike ride searching for dragonflies and picked up the widespread damselfly *Ischnura ramburi* (new for the tour in a roadside pond). Birds though stole the show with flyby Aplomado falcon and white-collared swifts and great looks at lined woodpecker and Canivet's emerald. A nice end to the day.

Day 6 Saturday 15th November Mayflower

Off early again this morning this time to Mayflower, we managed to get there in good time and drove a little way up the Boccawinna Falls track before getting out and walking on. Just before we got on site Phil spotted our first Passerini's tanagers.

Typically on the trail we hit the magic hour and a succession of new birds delayed us so we ended up covering very little distance before breakfast. Hermits dashed about and defied us all, although some did perch briefly for views. Chestnut-colored woodpeckers were more obliging and we also had yet more good views of the larger pale-billed woodpecker. A small flock contained a number of new species including squirrel cuckoo and plain antvireo. Violaceous and black-headed trogons were 'scoped for great views. Jenny found a splendidly

huge almond-eyed owl butterfly perched by the track and we spent sometime looking at the variety of skippers along the open areas on the track, which included the peculiar square bentwing and tropical checkered skipper.

Back at the van we had breakfast before walking back the short distance to the clearing. Birds had already quietened down in the forest but working the clearing edge produced some good stuff with views of rose-breasted grosbeak, black-headed saltator, wood thrush, violet sabrewing (female) and yellow-winged tanager to name but a few. We all had a drink at the cafe and then drove back out along the track. We made one last stop by the river and secured views of Louisiana waterthrush and a fantastic female green kingfisher before we had to head back for lunch at Parrot Cove.

In the afternoon we turned up at the van at the appointed hour to discover a slow puncture was underway... We limped along to the man who fixed tyres in Hopkins and whilst Charlton oversaw the operation we wandered to the nearby sea and went to watch the fisherman gutting the catch of the day. Their industry had pulled in a superb number of hungry frigatebirds that floated in the air around us. Royal terns tried their luck too in amongst the pirates. Checking on the van we found we had time for another short wander, this time we checked inland gardens and were rewarded with our first sighting of cinnamon hummingbird and we also met Charlton's mum!

The marsh was excellent once again and we stopped briefly to admire greater yellowlegs and our first pied-billed grebes. Having lost a good chunk of our afternoon it was no surprise that once we got to our intended destination in the area past Silk Grass it was getting a little late for birds at least. But we did find our second species of huge owl butterfly – the yellow-fronted – and a rather sluggish marine toad. We explored a rough track in the van but as dusk gathered we headed back home and another of Chef Rob's splendid dinners. In Hopkin's someone had managed to set fire to their garden which created a beautiful quasi-volcanic scene as we approached the village as the palmetto fronds ignited sending showers of sparks into the star-studded night sky.

Day 7 Sunday 16th November Placencia lagoon & Tex Mar shrimp farm

A later start this morning for the run south to Hokey Pokey and our boat out into the mangrove channels and lagoons off Placencia. On the way we had a close encounter with a white-necked turtle crossing the road but got past the Sittie River with just a brief stop for a male summer tanager.

After sorting ourselves out we climbed aboard the boat at Hokey Pokey and our boatman took us out through various mangrove channels looking mostly at herons but also a few double-crested cormorant. Ospreys were vocal and high in the air above us. We disturbed a roost of roseate spoonbills that burst out of the mangroves in a blaze of pink. Eventually we headed out to the seagrass flats in search of the manatee, a mammal that is normally high on the team's most-wanted list at this point but one we had already seen well at Twin Cays with Lucky!

It was a glorious sunny day and as we floated above the seagrass flats, it was not difficult to spot the turbid areas caused by feeding manatees. We did not have to wait long before we heard a loud exhalation and spotted the telltale 'floating coconut' of a manatee's nose poking

above the surface of the water and as the animal rolled under we could see the lightly barnacle-encrusted back and tail. Moving on we found another area with a female and calf and yet another nearby individual.

After disembarking and thanking the skipper we headed into town for drinks and ice creams before tracking down a roadside shelter for our lunch. It being Sunday our usual restaurant was shut! After lunch we wandered a nearby ditch or loafed in the welcome shade. The ditch produced good views of Central American slider and a host of damselflies and dragonflies.

When the sun started to drop a little and things started to cool off we headed for a nearby shrimp farm. Just before we got there we stopped for our first short-tailed hawk. Once inside the birding was superb. Wood storks were everywhere. Waders were hard to find but we found a reasonable variety in the end. A small flock of least sandpipers amazingly contained two curlew sandpipers – perhaps the first record for Belize? We finally got to grips with some close-range dowitchers and were pleased to identify a short-billed in amongst the many long-billed. Also educational was the presence of both greater and lesser yellowlegs. Large flocks of blue-winged teal contained our only shoveler of the tour. Small numbers of lesser scaup were present on some of the ponds. Driving a circuit we bumped into a gull and tern roost that provided us with great views of royal tern and Sandwich tern and also provided our first laughing gull and gull-billed tern. Eventually we turned for the hotel, taking the marsh road to good effect when Charlton spotted a lone jabiru. A huge stork that Phil for one was desperate to see! It was a glorious beast and we watched it as the sun set on the incomparable Hopkins Marsh.

After dinner a small team set out to do some night work along the road to Cockscomb. A least bittern flushed from the roadside going over Hopkins Marsh – a nice find. We did well along the Sittee River road in the first hour finding a splendid black-and-white owl but after that things went very quiet. Along the Cockscomb road we had a brief contact with a probable kinkajou and that was that. Disappointing but at least we got the owl.

Day 8 Monday 17th November Blue Hole/Caves Branch

Just Jenny and Phil made it out with Charlton this morning after a late start and a fine breakfast. We nearly traversed the marsh without stopping but then Phil spotted some enchanting black-bellied whistling ducklings, steaming along beside the road with their anxious parents. Driving on the sun started to shine and we experienced the hottest day of the tour so far. First stop was the Blue Hole visitor centre where we bought our permit and walked the short trail to St. Herman's cave. This trail produced some great birds and tested our mosquito repellent somewhat. Small feeding flocks of birds were frequently encountered despite the late-ish time of arrival. Dot-winged antwrens showed well. Northern bentbills were numerous on call but could we find one? A pair of dusky antbirds did oblige though and we got good views of chestnut-sided and Blackburnian warbler. By the cave we watched the rough-winged swallows at the cave mouth and found an eye-ringed flatbill building a nest. Turning back we searched out a few butterflies and dragonflies but generally invertebrate diversity seemed well down on previous years. A huge morpho slipped past and Charlton was adopted by a gaudy patch. A *Brechmorhoga* dragonfly hung up in front of us.

We took lunch under a shelter near the Blue Hole and afterwards Charlton located a pair of white-whiskered puffbirds. These splendid little birds posed well for photographs and then we quickly dashed down to look at the limestone cenote – which sadly was filled with noisy North Americans. Blue Hole done we drove the short distance into Caves Branch Lodge. Whilst we sat and drank a cold drink, a white-bellied hummingbird nipped into some nearby flowers and buzzed off again just as quickly. Despite the heat we were determined to have a look at the riverbed for flycatching black phoebes. We failed in our quest but added the cherry-eyed damsel *Argia cuprea* to the tour list. The garden has really matured into a thing of beauty here and we also enjoyed visiting the orchid house. Black orchids were in flower. The heat beat us back to the van in the end but not before some of us had finally clapped eyes on spot-breasted wren. And so to the hotel.

Day 9 Tuesday 18th November offshore cays

Our second snorkelling day was very different from the first. As we motored out we bumped into a good-sized flock of brown boobies that stayed with us for some time. Reaching Man-o-War Cay we kept station offshore to enjoy the frigatebird colony. Males sat with their gular pouches inflated like bright red balloons and waited for the ladies. Large young from the previous season were still present and begged for food loudly. Brown boobies sat around on trees and we managed views of the mangrove race of yellow warbler here too before motoring onwards to Tabacco Reef.

For our snorkelling today we were back on the barrier reef off Tabacco Cay in a slight swell and reduced visibility (partly because of the grey sky overhead). Nevertheless we had a great swim, picking up a superb spotted eagle ray (*Aetobatus narinari*) that glided below us serenely at the start of our session. Lionfish featured again and we bumped into several large shoals of various grunts as we perused the reef. The surge coming over the reef was great to float in and the more mobile sea fans rocked back and forth as we enjoyed the colourful fish below us. Glorious stuff.

Lunch was back on Bread-and-butter Cay. Whilst Lucky and Marlon grilled the sausages we checked out the island. The clapper rail was still present, presumably resident. But the migrant birds had changed, this time we added wood thrush and Lincoln's sparrow to our B&B cay list before Lucky called us over for our meal.

With a parcel of weather offshore and the sea running higher by the minute we elected to leave soon after lunch and we had a lively crossing back to the mainland that was great fun. Because we were early back Lucky continued on upstream past the marina and we got a river cruise. Marlon proved to be an excellent spotter and we settled down to a diet of large male green iguanas, all rusty red and primeval. Also here we watched a brown basilisk thrashing across the surface of the water like a paddle steamer, walking on water. Common black hawks were seen at very close range. Our first ringed kingfisher finally put in an appearance – our fifth species of this family on the tour. A splendidly colourful canary-yellow male prothonotary warbler behaved well, feeding by the boat as it danced along the tips of branches sweeping the river. High overhead Marlon spotted a short-tailed hawk. Turning for home we had plenty of time to pack our bags ahead of tomorrow's transfer to Tikal.

Day 10 Wednesday 19th November transfer to Tikal

We had been doing very well for weather up until this point, with the vast majority of our rain falling during the night but today it rained all night and right through the day. It transpired this was caused by a huge cold weather system over North America that had dumped over five foot of snow in a day in some parts of north-eastern USA. The good news was we were in transit and spent most of the day in vehicles. Saying our thanks and farewells to Rob we boarded the bus for the short ride to Charlton's gift shop where much souvenir buying took place. We did not stop crossing the marsh and stopped just once before Caves Branch Lodge for a huge flock of white-fronted parrots. At last a good view!

Caves Branch was excellent value despite the rain. For the price of a cup of coffee we were allowed to wander the fabulous garden again. The first bird spotted by Jonathan was a lovely slaty-tailed trogon. The driveway once again hosted a number of thrush species including the firm favourite – a pretty wood thrush. The restaurant produced not just luke-warm coffee but great views of a Kentucky warbler and down by the river, a wet-looking bay-breasted warbler was found alongside the black phoebe that had so successfully avoided us on our first visit in the blazing sun. Both the warblers had probably been attracted to the lights of the hotel overnight during the wet weather. The garden produced great views of bright-rumped attila and long-billed hermit. Jonathan and Nym enjoyed a quick look at the orchid house before we had to move on.

After another hour's driving we took a simple but tasty lunch at Clarissa Falls, a great spot which usually produces a few good birds and invertebrates but today in the rain was rather quiet. The access track was another matter though and we enjoyed great views of some bedraggled Eastern meadowlarks, mangrove swallows and Northern rough-winged swallows.

The nearby border provided some excitement, then we said our thanks and goodbye to the splendid Charlton and transferred into the van of our Guatemalan driver (Jorgé) for the two-hour run to Tikal Inn. It carried on raining and apart from a brief loo stop by the lake we kept our heads down and covered the kilometres.

Paying our entrance fee got us into the park and we passed a series of signs warning us of various animal crossings. Finally we arrived at our hotel for the first of five nights. Ocellated turkeys greeted us in droves and we all looked forward to what tomorrow morning would bring. Hopefully not more rain!

Day 11 Thursday 20th November Tikal

Before breakfast the hotel grounds proved to be the haunt of agoutis and coatimundis. A large herd of the latter was watched by Jenny who counted 50+! Ocellated turkeys strutted about on the lawn. Phil went for a short pre-breakfast wander spotting a bare-throated tiger heron and two obliging grey-necked wood-rails at the pond.

After breakfast we headed into the temple complex and Phil walked the group out through the main plaza and on to (and up) Temple IV before returning on a sneaky short-cut through the forest. Birds were an almost constant feature during the morning. We found occasional small

flocks that slowly delivered up both new species and others we had seen earlier in Belize. As ever getting good views in the tangled and often dark vegetation was tricky but not without reward. A fruiting tree produced all three toucans, although getting good looks at the well camouflaged emerald toucanet was rather difficult. Also here were more short-billed pigeons, a honeycreeper and plenty of yellow-winged tanagers and brown jays.

Wandering along the trail we arrived at Temple IV, the almost holy birding destination, holding as it often does a pair of the elusive orange-breasted falcon. Climbing the stairs was no hardship with such a prize within our grasp. But when Phil squeezed past the barrier and got round the back we found the falcon was missing. Perhaps the cold weather kept it away? From our lofty vantage point we watched Vaux's swifts and even found an immature bicolored hawk sitting in the canopy in the distance. The view out over the temples was great but as noon approached we were swamped with tourists and beat a hasty retreat. The sun came out for a fraction of a minute as we prepared to go down the stairs and immediately we found temple-topping two-spotted prepona and also nectaring tiger heliconian.

Our forest short cut proved good for birds too with great views of eye-ringed flatbill and ruddy-tailed flycatcher. A slaty-tailed trogon appeared and whilst we were watching it a rufous mourner appeared nearby. Back out in the gate clearing a dainty gray fox trotted past unconcerned and showing the classic insouciance typical to his breed.

After lunch some of us went for a walk to the pond by the entrance. Here we found a number of Mesoamerican sliders loafing about and had a tiny Morelet's crocodile. Grey-necked wood rails strutted about in front of us and both green heron and bare-throated tiger heron showed well.

Next up was a walk down the nearby 'airstrip' track to the other crocodile pond. Wood thrushes and grey catbirds bathed in the puddles on the track. Another yellow-fronted owl butterfly captivated us. The pond had a speedy American pygmy-kingfisher and a relaxed-looking Morelet's crocodile.

Day 12 Friday 21st November Tikal and Yaxha

Birds were around at dawn for Phil in the clearing in front of the hotel. Warblers were much in evidence and included a wonderful golden-winged warbler as well as its close relative the blue-winged.

After breakfast we followed our guide Roxy into Tikal for a five-hour cultural tour of part of the ruins. Roxy is quite a character, part-time guide, part-time archaeologist and full-time Guatemalan. She talked almost non-stop during the session and told us so much about the Mayan culture, its architecture and the archaeological and restoration efforts made in the more recent past. One of the maintenance staff kindly showed us his tarantula! It was Mexican red-rumped tarantula (*Brachypelma vagans*). In the background Phil found a few new birds including a nice adult Wilson's (which the group took time out to watch) and even spotted the elusive stub-tailed spadebill.

After a late lunch we went out for a walk around one of the peripheral and seldom-used tracks in the park. A surprise find before we left was spotting a red-eyed tree frog firmly adhered to

one of the slat windows of Jenny's cabana. Viewed from underneath through glass it was fascinating. The entire body formed a suction cup with the feet arranged carefully inside. Additional sucker pads were on the chin and rear. We woke it up just to check out its incredibly bright red eye colour and then left it in peace. A rare find on this tour.

Up at the entrance ponds the weak sun had brought out a few odonates – most notably a beautiful and rather dainty amberwing. In the dark forest understory we hunted out birds. It was tough going in the gathering gloom but we did get a satisfactory view of a black-faced ant-thrush as it crossed the trail like a clockwork chicken. Spadebills and bentbills gave us the obligatory runaround and we saw neither! Walking back we had time for a few warblers out in the clearing and enjoyed an immature Baltimore oriole before dusk fell.

Day 13 Saturday 22nd November Uaxactun and Tikal

After an early breakfast we headed out on the road to Uaxactun. After all the recent rain this muddy track was quite an adventure but nothing Roxy's pickup could not handle. We kept our eyes peeled en route and we were soon rewarded with a pair of great curassow on the track. We stopped in a small clearing a little later to celebrate meeting the local bus at an opportune moment rather than in the middle of a quagmire or on a bend. In this clearing we bagged a few nice birds including green honeycreeper, golden-capped tanager, white-crowned parrot and some yellow-throated euphonia.

A little later Roxy stopped again for a fantastic pair of blue bunting and whilst here Phil noticed a number of woodcreepers flitting about across the road ahead. We walked up to investigate and discovered the holy grail of Neotropical birding – an antswarm with an attendant bird flock. We worked hard to get through the available woodcreepers and not get bitten by the ants swarming over the road. Ruddy woodcreeper showed well and we also got great views of Northern barred and tawny-winged. A strong-billed and streak-headed were harder to find. Roxy spotted a female violet-crowned fairy that amazingly sat up to be looked at. Dot-winged antwrens appeared in a delightful swarm and Phil glimpsed a male barred antshrike. Moving on we finally made it to the Mayan site of Uaxactun. Roxy gave her usual excellent guided walk. Phil kept his eyes peeled and we enjoyed a great canopy flock here (with our first yellow-throated vireo and cinnamon becard) and also had a great look at two groups of warring howler monkeys and some boat-billed flycatchers.

After a late lunch we headed out again. The clearing produced a nice flock with mangrove vireo, both euphonias and a blue-winged warbler. Down the mosquito-infested airstrip we picked up two smoky-brown woodpeckers, a female red-capped manakin, a white-browed wren and a nice thicket tinamou. Grey-headed tanagers flew over the track as we headed out at dusk.

After dinner Phil and Jenny went spotlighting but the security guards soon told us to stop. We got a little way up the road though but heard and saw very little. On the way back we went macro and looked at small things finding a nice *Bufo*, a good-sized tarantula and we both enjoyed watching the industrious leaf-cutter ants as they raced back to HQ with leaves held high.

Day 14 Sunday 23rd November Tikal

Our last day in Tikal arrived and what a beautifully sunny day it was. After breakfast the garden held a fine lineated woodpecker and a least flycatcher. A large golden silk orb-weaver spider (*Nephila clavipes*) sat in her huge web. Walking up to the gate we found the ticket man was off having his breakfast (!) so we mooched around the ponds for ten minutes. Walking in we checked for yesterday's reported royal flycatcher without success. A little further on though we came across a flock that contained a beautiful male black-throated shrike-tanager and wonder-of-wonders a wedge-billed woodcreeper. A good start to the day.

Walking on up to Temple IV we bumped into another antswarm, complete with a comical ruddy woodcreeper, jumping about with ants-in-his-pants right in front of us. Also here were great views of northern barred woodcreeper and grey-headed tanager. A little further on we had great views of tawny-winged woodcreeper and saw our only golden-olive woodpecker of the tour. Arriving at Temple IV rather later than intended we stopped for a cold drink at the shelter below the steps before climbing up to look once again for the orange-breasted falcon. This time the bird was in residence and we enjoyed watching it sitting on a carved shelf on this ancient building as its ancestors had before it for hundreds of years. Walking back we watched both spider and howler monkeys. We fished for tarantulas on our way through the clearing and got an immediate bite and we carefully hauled it out to the mouth of its burrow but it would not come completely out. In the garden when we got back we found a splendid daggerwing flying in the garden.

Phil nipped off after lunch to continue surveying the dragonflies of the nearby ponds and after that we set off once more to try and track down our two nemesis species – northern bentbill and stub-tailed spadebill. Heard at nearly every forested site in the last two weeks Phil had failed to show either species to Jenny. And this afternoon was no different! We did get some nice birds though. First up was a very confiding royal flycatcher, exactly where we had been told it would be, just after the entrance gate. It never got its crest on but we enjoyed watching it chasing a white admiral at high speed. Walking on we tried numerous calling spadebills without glimpsing one and finally reached the fruiting fig that we had found on our first day. Plenty of aracari here and a few toucans too. A chestnut-colored woodpecker dropped in briefly. With dusk approaching and a steady stream of visitors heading for Temple IV and sunset we headed back out through a deserted park. The hush encouraged animals out of the forest and we came upon a charming tableau – eight enormous great currawong, three crested guan and a solitary agouti all feeding in a clearing. We watched them for some time in silence until all were spooked by something scary – we never found out what – and we headed on to the gate and another sighting of a male great currawong. A very pleasing day.

Day 15 Monday 24th November Tikal to Crooked Tree

Goodbye to Tikal Inn and off back to Belize again this morning. Before breakfast though we had one more chance to walk a misty clearing in search of birds. We got great views of olive-throated parakeet and blue-grey gnatcatcher before we turned for the hotel.

After breakfast we jumped into a van and we were shuttled to the border without much fuss. Saying goodbye and thank you to Carlos we headed for the Belize border and met Leonard on

the other side. Another uneventful journey ensued we stopped for a break at the zoo, picking up some cold drinks and ice cream and gazing at the captive king vulture. Leonard tried to get us another jabiru sighting but we came up empty. Monarchs were flying and we also had a queen. As we pulled into the lodge Leonard spotted a glossy ibis in a wet field.

Leonard took us for a boat ride in the afternoon. His keen eyes and well-honed ID skills allowing a very tired leader to just enjoy the ride. Kingfishers were much in evidence with excellent views of ringed and belted and we heard green. Raptors did not disappoint with abundant ospreys, a fine black-collared hawk and plenty of opportunity to study snail kites. Jacanas skittered away from the boat, revealing their amazing lime green wings. Phil enjoyed the Odonata, many small damselflies perching on us as we muscled through the floating vegetation.

Brief views of mangrove vireo and mangrove cuckoo for Phil were spectacularly trumped by Jonathan's discovery of a superb white-necked puffbird. It sat, we watched. Later on Leonard showed us a roost of cryptically-coloured proboscis bats. Two of them clung to a reasonably well-lit tree trunk but blended in to perfection and it took some time for all of us to find them. As dusk fell we motored back pleased with our haul of wildlife.

A short night wander for Phil after dinner. The frogging was very good (with at least four species of tree-frog) and roosting basilisks and iguanas were found. Pauraques danced over the lawn making one hell of a racket.

Day 16 Tuesday 25th November Crooked Tree and departure

Leonard's pine savanna pre-breakfast birding session was well attended this morning. The sky was blue and the birds were singing in the trees. We drove a little way then wandered about picking up many new birds for the trip in the process. A party of Yucatan jay popped up. Grace's warbler and black-throated green warbler appeared in nearby pines. A yellow-breasted chat scolded us. We watched white-fronted parrots at close range and finally caught up with a pair of yellow-headed parrots too. The best bird though came when a party of four green jays gave us the runaround before surrendering to the majority of us. A Guatemalan cracker perched up on the side of a pine tree for 'scope views in typical 'head-down' pose.

Breakfast was an enjoyable affair, eggs, gammon and johnnie cakes, a great creole breakfast. Saying goodbye rather reluctantly to the lovely hotel staff at Bird's Eye Lodge we headed for airport with Leonard and the group's appointment with the huge queues of Americans travelling back home for Thanksgiving.

Systematic List 1 Mammals

Order and nomenclature follow Reid (1997) *Mammals of Central America and south-east Mexico*. Species in square brackets [] were recorded by sign only and were not seen. DOR = dead on road!

[Common opossum]	<i>Didelphis marsupialis</i>	A few DOR in Belize.
Proboscis bat	<i>Rhynchonycteris naso</i>	Two seen at roost from the boat at Crooked Tree.
Greater white-lined bat	<i>Saccopteryx bilineata</i>	Two roosting in tree buttresses at the Sugar Mill (Sittee).
Yucatan black howler	<i>Alouatta pigra</i>	Heard at Cockscomb. Seen well at Tikal, Uaxactun and Crooked Tree.
Central American spider monkey	<i>Ateles geoffroyi</i>	Common at Tikal.
Yucatan squirrel	<i>Sciurus yucatanensis</i>	Only seen at Tikal eating hibiscus flowers in the hotel garden.
Deppe's squirrel	<i>Sciurus deppei</i>	Very small numbers in forest throughout.
Mexican porcupine	<i>Coendou mexicanus</i>	One for Nym and Jonathan during their Crooked Tree sojourn.
Central American agouti	<i>Dasyprocta punctata</i>	Encountered daily in forest throughout. Very easy to see at Tikal.
Gray fox	<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>	Seen on the one nightdrive in Belize, and also several seen during the day at Tikal where they were very confiding.
White-nosed coati	<i>Nasua narica</i>	Noted daily at Tikal, sometimes in huge groups.
Dolphin sp.	<i>Tursiops/Stenella</i>	One for Jonathan and Nym at Parrots Cove Lodge (Hopkins).
[Kinkajou]	<i>Potos flavus</i>	We so nearly saw this on the very quiet night drive into Cockscomb!
West Indian manatee	<i>Trichechus manatus</i>	One seen well at Twin Cays. At least four more individuals watched on the seagrass flats of Placencia lagoon. Finally one at Crooked Tree for Nym and Jonathan. A great year!
[Baird's tapir]	<i>Tapirus bairdii</i>	Very fresh tracks at Cockscomb.

Systematic List 2

Odonata

Occisa rubyspot	<i>Hetaerina occisa</i>	Cockscomb
Mexican wedgetail a dancer	<i>Acanthagrion quadratum</i> <i>Argia cuprea</i>	Tikal. A pair in tandem at Caves Branch Lodge.
Dusky dancer	<i>Argia translata</i> <i>Ischnura ramburi</i>	Caves Branch. Hopkins, Tikal and Crooked Tree.
Caribbean yellowface Marsh firetail	<i>Neoerythromma cultellatum</i> <i>Telebasis digiticollis</i> <i>Brechmorhoga vivax</i>	Tikal and Crooked Tree. Tikal. A female hooked up at Blue Hole.
Brown setwing Pin-tailed pondhawk	<i>Dythemis sterilis</i> <i>Erythemis plebeja</i>	Tikal only this year. One at the crocodile pond at Tikal. Also at Crooked Tree this year.
Eastern pondhawk	<i>Erythemis simplicicollis</i>	Single on the ponds by the gate at Tikal. Probably the first record for Guatemala (but just filling a gap in known range, no extension).
Great pondhawk	<i>Erythemis vesiculosa</i>	The bright green one! Cockscomb and Crooked Tree.
Red-mantled dragonlet	<i>Erythrodiplax fervida</i>	Widespread.
Red-faced dragonlet	<i>Erythrodiplax fusca</i>	Widespread.
Band-winged dragonlet	<i>Erythrodiplax umbrata</i>	Widespread, the one with black patches in the wing.
Metallic pennant	<i>Idiataphe cubensis</i>	Singles of this bright metallic green and rather small libellulid at the Zoo on the first day in Belize and at Cockscomb.
Spot-tailed dasher a dasher	<i>Micrathyria aequalis</i> <i>Micrathyria debilis</i>	Widespread. Plenty at the pond at Tikal.
Carmine skimmer	<i>Orthemis discolor</i>	Only one at Tikal this year.
Roseate skimmer	<i>Orthemis ferruginea</i>	Independence.
Globe skimmer	<i>Pantala flavescens</i>	Widespread.
Slough amberwing	<i>Perithemis domitia</i>	Tikal.
Mexican scarlet-tail	<i>Planiplax sanguiniventris</i>	One at Crooked Tree from the boat.
Striped saddlebags	<i>Tramea calverti</i>	Widespread but seldom seen perched.

Systematic List 3 Butterflies

The nomenclature and taxonomy followed here is taken from Glassberg (2007) 'A swift guide to the butterflies of Mexico and Central America'. There was little interest in lepidoptera on the tour, so this list is comprised of Phil's randomly photographed species identified *in retro*.

Emerald-patched cattleheart	<i>Parides sesostris</i>	Small numbers only in Belize this year.
Variable cattleheart	<i>Parides erithalion</i>	Widespread.
Florida white	<i>Appias drusilla</i>	Tikal.
Painted white	<i>Pieriballia viardi</i>	One female at Temple IV (Tikal).
Yellow angled-sulphur	<i>Anteos maerula</i>	Small numbers in Belize (no photo).
Little yellow	<i>Eurema lisa</i>	Independence.
Mimosa yellow	<i>Eurema nise</i>	Mayflower.
Ghost white	<i>Eurema albula</i>	Mayflower.
Tailed orange	<i>Eurema proterpia</i>	Independence.
Eastern tailed-blue	<i>Everes comyntas</i>	Widespread.
Cassius blue	<i>Leptotes cassius</i>	Independence.
metalmarks	<i>Calephelis spp.</i>	Numerous specimens photographed...
Temple scintillant	<i>Calephelis velutina</i>	Mayflower.
Guatemalan actinote	<i>Actinote guatemalena</i>	One at Cockscomb.
Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	A few flying at Crooked Tree.
Queen	<i>Danaus gilippus</i>	Flying around Crooked Tree.
Gulf fritillary	<i>Agraulis vanillae</i>	Widespread in Belize but not seen well this year.
Zebra heliconian	<i>Heliconius charitonius</i>	Blue Hole.
Tiger heliconian	<i>Heliconius ismenius</i>	Widespread.
Erato heliconian	<i>Heliconius erato</i>	Just along the road to Uaxactun this year.
Gaudy patch	<i>Chlosyne gaudialis</i>	Blue Hole. Perched on Charlton.
Theona checkerspot	<i>Chlosyne theona</i>	Tikal.
Pale-banded crescent	<i>Phyciodes tulcis</i>	Cockscomb.
Guatemalan tegosa	<i>Tegosa guatemalena</i>	In the forest at Tikal.
Variable cracker	<i>Hamadryas feronia</i>	Blue Hole.
Guatemalan cracker	<i>Hamadryas guatemalena</i>	Crooked Tree.
White-edged red-ring	<i>Pyrrhogyra otolais</i>	Uaxcatun.
Many-banded daggerwing	<i>Marpesia chiron</i>	One in the hotel garden at Tikal.
Two-spotted prepona	<i>Archaeoprepona demophoon</i>	Hill-topping at Temple IV (Tikal).
Smooth-banded sister	<i>Adelpha cytherea</i>	Cockscomb.
Banded peacock	<i>Anartia fatima</i>	A few in Belize and Guatemala.
White peacock	<i>Anartia jatrophae</i>	Widespread.
Common morpho	<i>Morpho peleides</i>	Not photographed but unmistakable. Singles at Cockscomb, Blue Hole and Tikal.
Yellow-fronted owl-butterfly	<i>Caligo telamonius</i>	Silk Grass, Tikal.
Almond-eyed owl-butterfly	<i>Caligo brasiliensis</i>	Mayflower.
Quiet dyaph	<i>Pieralla luna</i>	One at Cockscomb.
Carolina satyr	<i>Hermeuptychia hermes</i>	Widespread.
White satyr	<i>Pareuptychia ocirrhoe</i>	One at Cockscomb.
Sharp banded-skipper	<i>Autochton zarex</i>	Cockscomb.
Brown longtail	<i>Urbanus procne</i>	Sittee.
Teleus longtail	<i>Urbanus teleus</i>	Cockscomb.
Jalapus cloudywing	<i>Achalarus jalapus</i>	Hopkins.
Golden-snouted scallopwing	<i>Staphylus vulgata</i>	Mayflower.

Jason's mylon	<i>Mylon jason</i>	Uaxactun.
Blurred bentwing	<i>Ebrietas evanidus</i>	Tikal.
Variegated skipper	<i>Gorgythion begga</i>	Tikal.
Square bentwing	<i>Helias cama</i>	Mayflower.
Tropical checkered-skipper	<i>Pyrgus oileus</i>	Mayflower.
Common checkered-skipper	<i>Pyrgus communis</i>	Independence.
Common glasswing	<i>Pompeius pompeius</i>	Mayflower.
Somber skipper	<i>Papias phainis</i>	Blue Hole.
Mella skipper	<i>Anatrytone mella</i>	One photographed at Mayflower.

Systematic List 4 Birds

The systematic order, nomenclature and taxonomy is taken from Howell & Webb (1994) 'A guide to the birds of Mexico and Northern Central America'.

[Little tinamou]	<i>Crypturellus soui</i>	Heard at Cockscomb and Mayflower.
Thicket tinamou	<i>Crypturellus boucardi</i>	One on the airstrip track (Tikal) for Phil and Jenny.
Pied-billed grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	Two at Hopkins Marsh. A few at Crooked Tree.
Brown booby	<i>Sula leucogastor</i>	Our second outing with Lucky produced great views of this bird at both sea and perched on trees on Man-o-War Cay.
Brown pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	Small numbers along the coast of Belize.
Double-crested cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	Small numbers along the coast of Belize and at Crooked Tree.
Neotropic cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>	Small numbers at Crooked Tree.
Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>	A few en route to Parrot Cove Lodge on the first day. A few in Belize during the first week at Hopkins Marsh and Placencia lagoon. Good numbers at Crooked Tree.
Magnificent frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	Small numbers daily coastal Belize.
Least bittern	<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	Single flushed at night on Hopkins Marsh.
Bare-throated tiger-heron	<i>Tigrisoma mexicanum</i>	Odd singles at Hopkins/Sittee, Tikal and Crooked Tree.
Great blue heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Recorded on the three dates when we visited large wetland complexes. One seen flying over Tikal.
Great egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	Noted daily in Belize.
Snowy egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	Noted on six dates in Belize. Seen flying over Tikal.
Little blue heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	Noted daily in Belize.
Tricoloured heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	Noted on six dates in Belize.
Cattle egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Recorded almost everyday in Belize.
Green heron	<i>Butoroides striatus</i>	Recorded on eleven dates in Belize and Guatemala.
Black-crowned night-heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	One roosting adult at Caves Branch Lodge. Another from the boat at Crooked Tree.
Yellow-crowned night-heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	Frequently encountered in Belize.
Boat-billed heron	<i>Cochlearius cochlearius</i>	Just one seen but fantastically well at Cockscomb.
White ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	A few on Hopkins Marsh, Placencia lagoon and at Tex Mar shrimp farm. Also one at Crooked Tree.
Glossy ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	One at Hopkins Marsh was a lifer for Charlton. One at Crooked Tree in the field by the Lodge.
Roseate spoonbill	<i>Ajaja ajaja</i>	Up to 8 at Hopkins Marsh. More at Placencia lagoon & Tex Mar shrimp farm.

*Jabiru	<i>Jabiru mycteria</i>	One on Hopkins Marsh – a trip highlight for some.
Wood stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	One near Sittee, two at Hopkins Marsh and very good numbers at Tex Mar shrimp farm.
Black vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	Widespread and common.
Turkey vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Widespread and common.
Lesser yellow-headed vulture	<i>Cathartes burrovianus</i>	A few noted daily in Belize. Fantastic views on the first day in Belize.
Black-bellied whistling-duck	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>	Small numbers at Hopkins Marsh including a pair with fluffy young on one date. Three at Crooked Tree.
Muscovy duck	<i>Cairina moschata</i>	Recorded by Jonathan and Nym at Crooked Tree.
Blue-winged teal	<i>Anas discors</i>	Good numbers at Hopkins Marsh and at Tex Mar shrimp farm.
Northern shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Small numbers at Tex Mar shrimp farm.
Lesser scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	Good numbers at Tex Mar shrimp farm.
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Common along the coast of Belize and at Crooked Tree.
Grey-headed kite	<i>Leptodon cayanensis</i>	One at Crooked Tree for Nym and Jonathan.
White-tailed kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	One near Sittee River.
Snail kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>	A few from the boat at Crooked Tree.
Black-collared hawk	<i>Busarellus nigricollis</i>	Single seen very well on the boat ride at Crooked Tree.
Bicolored hawk	<i>Accipiter bicolor</i>	One from Temple IV at Tikal.
Common black hawk	<i>Buteogallus anthracinus</i>	Noted on four dates during the first week in Belize.
Great black hawk	<i>Buteogallus urubitinga</i>	One immature bird seen from the boat at Crooked Tree.
Gray hawk	<i>Buteo plagiatus</i>	A few seen whilst driving in Belize. Taxonomy following the recent split by Clements.
Roadside hawk	<i>Buteo magnirostris</i>	Recorded nearly every day.
Short-tailed hawk	<i>Buteo brachyurus</i>	One near Tex Mar shrimp farm. Another up the Sittee river with Lucky.
White-tailed hawk	<i>Buteo albicaudatus</i>	Single on the first day en route to Hopkins.
Black hawk-eagle	<i>Spizaetus tyrannus</i>	One at Cockscomb.
Laughing falcon	<i>Herpetethes cachinnans</i>	Small numbers recorded in the lowlands of Belize.
American kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	One seen on a couple of dates near the Sittee River junction. Another at the Clarissa Falls junction.
Aplomado falcon	<i>Falco femoralis</i>	One in Hopkins.
Bat falcon	<i>Falco rufigularis</i>	Noted on seven dates in Belize, often perched but also frequently seen whizzing past.
Orange-breasted falcon	<i>Falco deiroleucos</i>	Single sitting on Temple IV on the second attempt at Tikal.
Plain chachalaca	<i>Ortalis vetula</i>	Scattered records throughout (Belize and Guatemala). Often heard
Crested guan	<i>Penelope purpurascens</i>	A big flock at Cockscomb. Three seen very well at Tikal.

Great curassow	<i>Crax rubra</i>	A pair on the road into Uaxactun were seen poorly. An excellent encounter with eight birds near dusk in the temple complex at Tikal.
Ocellated turkey	<i>Agriocharis ocellata</i>	Commonly encountered at Tikal.
Clapper rail	<i>Rallus longirostris</i>	One on Bread-and-butter Cay on both days we visited.
Gray-necked wood-rail	<i>Aramides cajanea</i>	A tame pair encountered around the ponds at Tikal on one day.
American coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	Seen on all the larger waterbodies that we looked at in Belize and Guatemala.
Limpkin	<i>Aramus gaurauna</i>	Recorded on just two dates in Belize this year.
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Sittee (1), Tikal (1) and a few at Crooked Tree.
Black-necked stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	Singles at Hopkins Marsh. Small numbers at Tex Mar shrimp farm and on roadside ponds in Guatemala.
Northern jacana	<i>Jacana spinosa</i>	Some near Belize City on the first day. Also at Sittee, Hopkins Marsh and Crooked Tree, where common.
Greater yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	Several at Hopkins Marsh on one morning, small numbers later at Tex Mar shrimp farm.
Lesser yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	A few at Tex Mar shrimp farm this year.
Solitary sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	Two on a small pond near the Sugar Mill (Sittee).
Willet	<i>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</i>	Small numbers at the Tex Mar shrimp farm.
Spotted sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	One on a small pond near the Sugar Mill (Sittee). Thereafter in small numbers along rivers and at Crooked Tree.
Curlew sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Two winter plumage birds at Tex Mar shrimp farm may well have constituted the first record for Belize of this species.
Least sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	Sittee and Hopkins Marsh. Good numbers at Tex Mar shrimp farm. One at Crooked Tree.
Short-billed dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	One in amongst the long-billeds at Tex Mar shrimp farm.
Long-billed dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	Small numbers at Tex Mar shrimp farm this year. The dowitchers at the back of the marsh at Hopkins were almost certainly this species too.
Wilson's snipe	<i>Gallinago delicata</i>	A few at Crooked Tree for Nym and Jonathan. Split from common snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> .
Laughing gull	<i>Larus atricilla</i>	Small numbers roosting at Tex Mar shrimp farm. A few on Lake Peten Itza (Guatemala).
Gull-billed tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	Small numbers at Tex Mar shrimp farm.
Royal tern	<i>Sterna maxima</i>	Common along the Belize coastline and also present at Tex Mar shrimp farm. A few on Lake Peten Itza (Guatemala).

Sandwich tern	<i>Sterna sandoicensis</i>	Small numbers at Placencia Lagoon and the Tex Mar shrimp farm.
Feral pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Recorded.
Pale-vented pigeon	<i>Columba cayennensis</i>	Common in coastal Belize.
Eurasian collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	A few in Hopkins, a recent colonist in Belize.
White-winged dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	Sittee (1).
Common ground-dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>	A few around Parrot Cove Lodge.
Plain-breasted ground-dove	<i>Columbina minuta</i>	A pair in Hopkins. Doubtless under-recorded.
Ruddy ground-dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>	Widespread.
White-tipped dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>	Heard at Blue Hole. Glimpses at Crooked Tree on the last morning.
[Gray-chested dove]	<i>Leptotila cassini</i>	Heard at Blue Hole.
Olive-throated parakeet	<i>Aratinga nana</i>	Recorded daily during the first week in Belize and at Crooked Tree.
Brown-hooded parrot	<i>Pionopsitta haematotis</i>	Flock by the entrance gate to Tikal one morning.
White-crowned parrot	<i>Pionus senilis</i>	Seen well in the Sittee area and at Tikal.
White-fronted parrot	<i>Amazona albifrons</i>	Seen very well from the van on the road to Blue Hole on our last morning with Charlton. Also seen at Crooked Tree.
Red-lored parrot	<i>Amazona autumnalis</i>	Widespread and noisy.
Yellow-headed parrot	<i>Amazona oratrix</i>	Pair 'scoped on the last morning at Crooked Tree.
Mealy parrot	<i>Amazona farinosa</i>	Two flying over Tikal on the first morning were amazingly the only birds we saw.
Mangrove cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus minor</i>	Single briefly for Phil on the boat-ride a Crooked Tree.
Squirrel cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>	Scattered records in Belize and Guatemala.
Groove-billed ani	<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>	Widespread and common in open areas, recorded in Belize and Guatemala.
Black-and-white owl	<i>Strix nigrolineata</i>	Single seen very well along the Sittee one night.
Striped owl	<i>Pseudoscops clamator</i>	Single seen very well along the Sittee at night.
Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>	Seen at night en route to Parrot Cove Lodge, at Cockscomb, Sittee, Hopkins, Tikal and Crooked Tree
White-collared swift	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>	Two over Hopkins for Phil.
Vaux's swift	<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>	The overcast conditions produced good numbers of this species at Tikal this year.
Long-billed hermit	<i>Phaetornis longirostris</i>	Blue Hole, Caves Branch Lodge and Tikal.
Stripe-throated hermit	<i>Phaetornis strigularis</i>	Singles recorded on four dates in Belize and Guatemala.
*Violet sabrewing	<i>Campylopterus hemileucurus</i>	Male Cockscomb & female Mayflower.
*White-necked jacobin	<i>Florisuga mellivora</i>	A female at Sittee River.
Canivet's emerald	<i>Chlorostilbon canivetti</i>	Single for female near the marina on the Sittee River.
White-bellied emerald	<i>Amazilia candida</i>	One at Caves Branch over a cold drink for Phil.

Rufous-tailed hummingbird	<i>Amazilia tzacatl</i>	Common in Belize, a few also in the more open areas around Tikal.
Cinnamon hummingbird	<i>Amazilia rutila</i>	Just one in Hopkins this year.
Purple-crowned fairy	<i>Heliothryx barroti</i>	One on the road to Uaxactun. A beautiful bird.
Ruby-throated hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	One at Tikal.
Black-headed trogon	<i>Trogon melanocephalus</i>	Birds in the Hopkins area, Cockscomb and Mayflower. Also at Crooked Tree at the end of the tour.
Violaceous trogon	<i>Trogon violaceus</i>	Small numbers at Cockscomb, Mayflower and Tikal.
Slaty-tailed trogon	<i>Trogon massena</i>	One at Caves Branch Lodge on the second visit. Another at Tikal.
[Blue-crowned motmot]	<i>Momotus momota</i>	Heard only this year, eg at Cockscomb.
Ringed kingfisher	<i>Ceryle torquata</i>	Single seen on the boat trip on Sittee River. More at Crooked Tree.
Belted kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	Frequently recorded, often whilst driving about in Belize and Guatemala.
Amazon kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>	One at the big bridge between Cockscomb and Hopkins.
Green kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>	One seen on the river at Mayflower and another at Caves Branch Lodge. Heard at Crooked Tree.
American pygmy kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle aenea</i>	A few at Cockscomb and Tikal.
White-necked puffbird	<i>Notharchus macrorhynchos</i>	One seen well at Crooked Tree from the boat.
*White-whiskered puffbird	<i>Malacoptilla panamensis</i>	Two at Blue Hole. Another attending an ant swarm at Tikal.
Rufous-tailed jacamar	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>	At least three at Cockscomb. Heard at Tikal.
*Emerald toucanet	<i>Aulacorhynchus prasinus</i>	Two or three in the fruiting fig on our first day at Tikal.
Collared araçari	<i>Pteroglossus torquatus</i>	Found in most forested areas visited during the tour.
Keel-billed toucan	<i>Ramphastos sulfuratus</i>	Widespread.
Acorn woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>	This comical bird was noted on the first and last days in good numbers.
Black-cheeked woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes pucherani</i>	A few in Belize.
Red-vented woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes pygmaeus</i>	Single at Crooked Tree on the last day for Phil.
Golden-fronted woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes aurifrons</i>	Noted daily, common and widespread.
Smoky-brown woodpecker	<i>Venilornis fumigatus</i>	Two on the airstrip track at Tikal.
Chestnut-colored woodpecker	<i>Celeus castaneus</i>	Several at Mayflower and one at Tikal.
Lineated woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>	Singles at Hopkins, Tikal and Crooked Tree.
Pale-billed woodpecker	<i>Campephilus guatamalensis</i>	Widespread and frequently encountered. Common at Tikal.
Plain xenops	<i>Xenops minutus</i>	Singles at Cockscomb and Tikal.
Tawny-winged woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocincla anabatina</i>	Noted attending ant swarms on the Uaxactun road and at Tikal.
Ruddy woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocincla homochroa</i>	Noted attending ant swarms on the Uaxactun road and at Tikal.

Olivaceous woodcreeper	<i>Sittasomus griseicapillus</i>	One at Blue Hole. Often heard and frequently encountered at Tikal and Uaxactun.
*Wedge-billed woodcreeper	<i>Glyphorhynchus spirurus</i>	Single in Tikal briefly.
Strong-billed woodcreeper	<i>Xiphocolaptes</i> <i>promeropirhynchus</i>	One attending an antswarm along the Uaxactun road.
Ivory-billed woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus flavigaster</i>	Singles at Mayflower, Cockscomb, Blue Hole and Tikal.
Streak-headed woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes souleyetii</i>	Not easy to identify but present at ant swarms in Tikal.
Barred antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus doliatus</i>	Frequently heard in forested habitat, only two seen, a female at Blue Hole and a male along the Uaxactun road (and all by leader only).
Plain antvireo	<i>Dysithamnus mentalis</i>	Female at Mayflower.
Dot-winged antwren	<i>Microrhopias quixensis</i>	Flocks seen well at Cockscomb and Blue Hole in Belize. Also along the Uaxactun road in Guatemala.
Dusky antbird	<i>Cercomacra tyrannina</i>	A pair seen very well at Blue Hole NP.
Black-faced ant-thrush	<i>Formicarius analis</i>	Single at Tikal.
Yellow-bellied elaenia	<i>Elaenia flavogaster</i>	A few seen at Sittee River.
Ochre-bellied flycatcher	<i>Mionectes oleagineus</i>	Singles in mixed-species feeding parties frequently seen at Sittee, Tikal and Uaxactun.
Sepia-capped flycatcher	<i>Leptopogon amaurocephalus</i>	A single at Tikal for Phil.
Northern bentbill	<i>Oncostoma cinereigulare</i>	Heard in all forests we visited and even near Parrot Cove Lodge but not seen!
Common tody-flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>	Frequently heard in Belize. Nym and Jonathan saw one at Crooked Tree at the end.
Eye-ringed flatbill	<i>Rhynchocyclus brevirostris</i>	Single at Blue Hole, watched nest-building. Noted daily in small numbers at Tikal.
Yellow-olive flycatcher	<i>Tolmomyias sulphurescens</i>	Singles at Sittee and Tikal.
Stub-tailed spadebill	<i>Platyrinchus cancrominus</i>	Frequently heard in forested habitat in both Belize and Guatemala. Seen well on just one date at Tikal by Phil whilst the rest of the group listened to Roxy.
Royal flycatcher	<i>Onychorhynchus coronatus</i>	One by the entrance gate at Tikal.
*Ruddy-tailed flycatcher	<i>Terenotriccus erythrurus</i>	One at Tikal.
*Sulphur-rumped flycatcher	<i>Myiobius sulphureipygius</i>	One at Blue Hole for Phil.
Eastern wood pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	A few in Belize including one moribund migrant on Bread-and-butter Cay on our first visit.
Yellow-bellied flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	Frequently encountered in suitable habitat.
Least flycatcher	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	Single in the hotel garden at Tikal one morning.
Black phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Two on the river at Caves Branch.
Vermilion flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>	Common in open habitat throughout Belize. Best views at Crooked Tree.
Bright-rumped attila	<i>Attila spadiceus</i>	Singles noted in forest on three dates.
*Rufous mourner	<i>Rhytipterna holerythra</i>	Singles on two dates at Tikal (for Phil).

Dusky-capped flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>	Small numbers throughout.
Great-crested flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	Single at Tikal.
Great kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>	Noted daily in Belize.
Boat-billed flycatcher	<i>Megarhynchos pitangua</i>	A few at Tikal and Uaxactun.
Social flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>	Widespread and common.
Tropical/Couch's kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus/couchii</i>	Noted daily, no attempt was made to differentiate these two very similar species.
Scissor-tailed flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>	A few around the perimeter fence of the airport in Belize City on both visits. Regular near the marina on the Sittee River too.
Fork-tailed flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus savannah</i>	Two or three in pine savanna en route to Parrot Cove Lodge on the first day.
Thrush-like schiffornis	<i>Schiffornis turdinus</i>	Seen well at Cockscomb and Mayflower, responding aggressively to whistled imitations of its call. Also seen in Tikal.
Cinnamon becard	<i>Pachyramphus cinnamomeus</i>	Single female at Uaxactun.
Rose-throated becard	<i>Pachyramphus aglaiae</i>	A female at Cockscomb and one at Crooked Tree too.
Masked tityra	<i>Tityra semifasciata</i>	Frequently encountered in forested areas in both Belize and Guatemala.
White-collared manakin	<i>Manacus candei</i>	Small numbers noted in forested areas in Belize.
Red-capped manakin	<i>Pipra mentalis</i>	Only noted at Tikal, just two single females on two dates for Phil only.
Grey-breasted martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>	A few over Tikal.
Mangrove swallow	<i>Tachycineta albilinea</i>	Recorded on the Sittee, at Clarissa Falls and at Crooked Tree.
Northern rough-winged swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	Widespread.
Cliff swallow	<i>Hirundo pyrrhonota</i>	One briefly at Tikal for Phil.
Barn swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	A few on just three days – at Twin Cays, Placencia lagoon and Crooked Tree.
Green jay	<i>Cyanocorax yncas</i>	A flock of four on the last day at Crooked Tree.
Brown jay	<i>Cyanocorax morio</i>	Ubiquitous.
Yucatan jay	<i>Cyanocorax yucatanicus</i>	Family party in the pine savanna at Crooked Tree on the last morning.
Spot-breasted wren	<i>Thryothorus maculipectus</i>	Occasionally seen in forested areas throughout. Often heard.
House wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	Singles at Mayflower and Tikal.
White-bellied wren	<i>Uropsila leucogastra</i>	Small numbers at Tikal
Long-billed gnatwren	<i>Ramphocaenus melanurus</i>	Single at Cockscomb.
Blue-grey gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	1 in pine woodland on the first day. A few seen at Tikal and Crooked Tree.
Swainson's thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	A few in the forests of Belize.
Wood thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	Encountered in forest throughout Belize and Guatemala, especially common at Tikal. A single migrant on Bread-and-butter Cay.
Clay-colored robin	<i>Turdus grayi</i>	Frequently encountered in open and edge habitats in Belize.
American robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	Small flock on the hotel lawn in Atlanta at dawn for Phil.

Gray catbird	<i>Dumatella carolinensis</i>	Widespread and common, recorded daily.
Tropical mockingbird	<i>Mimus gilvus</i>	Recorded daily in Belize and Guatemala.
White-eyed vireo	<i>Vireo griseus</i>	One en route to Parrot Cove Lodge on the first day. Recorded daily at Tikal and satellite sites.
Mangrove vireo	<i>Vireo pallens</i>	One at Uaxactun (Guatemala) and another at Crooked Tree from the boat. Both Phil only?
Yellow-throated vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	Two at Uaxactun and one at Tikal.
Philadelphia vireo	<i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>	One immature Sittee.
Red-eyed vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	One at Sittee and another at Blue Hole.
Yellow-green vireo	<i>Vireo flavoviridis</i>	A late bird in the canopy at Mayflower.
Yucatan vireo	<i>Vireo magister</i>	One at Sittee, seen well in the close company of a Philadelphia vireo
Lesser greenlet	<i>Hylophilus decurtatus</i>	A few recorded at Cockscomb, very common flock-constituent at Tikal and satellite sites.
Tawny-crowned greenlet	<i>Hylophilus ochraceiceps</i>	Very small numbers this year at Tikal and Uaxactun.
Blue-winged warbler	<i>Vermivora pinus</i>	Singles at Sittee and Tikal (2).
Golden-winged warbler	<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	Single in the clearing by the hotel at Tikal one morning.
Tennessee warbler	<i>Vermivora peregrina</i>	Frequently encountered in Hopkins this year.
Orange-crowned warbler	<i>Vermivora celata</i>	Single at Hopkins for Phil.
Yellow warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	Widespread in small numbers. The mangrove race seen at Man-o-War Cay and along the Sittee River.
Chestnut-sided warbler	<i>Dendroica pennsylvanica</i>	Small numbers on five dates in forested sites in both Belize and Guatemala.
Magnolia warbler	<i>Dendroica magnolia</i>	The commonest and most widespread of the warblers, recorded daily.
Yellow-rumped warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	One at Crooked Tree on the last morning.
Black-throated green warbler	<i>Dendroica virens</i>	Singles at Sittee, Blue Hole, Tikal and Crooked Tree.
Blackburnian warbler	<i>Dendroica fusca</i>	Single at Blue Hole.
Yellow-throated warbler	<i>Dendroica dominica</i>	An attractive and often friendly bird. Present in the gardens near Parrot Cove Lodge and on Bread-and-butter Cay.
Grace's warbler	<i>Dendroica graciae</i>	Three at Crooked Tree on the last day.
Palm warbler	<i>Dendroica palmarum</i>	A single at Bread-and-butter Cay was surprisingly our only bird.
Bay-breasted warbler	<i>Dendroica castanea</i>	Single at Caves Branch on second visit.
Black-and-white warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	Widespread and frequently encountered.
American redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	Widespread and frequently encountered.
Prothonotary warbler	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>	Singles along the Sittee river and from the boat at Crooked Tree (for Nym and Jonathan).
Worm-eating warbler	<i>Helmitheros vermivorus</i>	A few in the forests of Belize and Tikal and satellite sites.

Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>	Occasionally encountered on the trails inside humid forest in both Belize and Guatemala.
Northern waterthrush	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>	Frequently encountered in forested and mangrove areas.
Louisiana waterthrush	<i>Seiurus motacilla</i>	One at Mayflower on two dates and another at Caves Branch Lodge.
Kentucky warbler	<i>Oporornis formosus</i>	One at Caves Branch Lodge on the second visit. Small numbers daily at Tikal.
Common yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	Frequent in and around wetlands in Belize and a few around the pond at Tikal.
Hooded warbler	<i>Wilsonia citrina</i>	Frequently encountered in forested habitats in both Belize and Guatemala.
Wilson's warbler	<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>	A nice male at Tikal on the second day, females doubtless overlooked.
Yellow-breasted chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>	Just one on the last morning at Crooked Tree.
Green honeycreeper	<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>	Two females in fruiting trees in Guatemala; one along the Uaxactun road and the other in the fruiting fig at Tikal.
Red-legged honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i>	Small numbers at Sittee only this year and not seen well.
Yellow-throated euphonia	<i>Euphonia hirundinacea</i>	Groups noted on three dates – en route to Parrot Cove Lodge on the first day, Sittee and Tikal.
Olive-backed euphonia	<i>Euphonia gouldi</i>	Noted at Cockscomb and Tikal – an attractive species.
Golden-hooded tanager	<i>Tangara larvata</i>	Single at Cockscomb over lunch. One along the Uaxactun road.
Blue-gray tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>	Often seen in transit during the first week in Belize but only Jenny got a good view of one.
Yellow-winged tanager	<i>Thraupis abbas</i>	Almost daily encounters in the first week in Belize. A few in fruiting trees around Tikal.
Gray-headed tanager	<i>Eucometis penicillata</i>	Three flying along the airstrip track at Tikal and a two the next day at an ant swarm whilst walking out to Temple IV.
Black-throated shrike-tanager	<i>Lanio aurantus</i>	Small numbers at Tikal on two dates. A female at Uaxactun.
Red-crowned ant-tanager	<i>Habia rubica</i>	Seen at Tikal.
Red-throated ant-tanager	<i>Habia fuscicauda</i>	Noted on seven dates in humid forest habitat in Belize and Guatemala.
Hepatic tanager	<i>Piranga flava</i>	A male seen en route to the hotel on the first day in Belize.
Summer tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>	Widespread and frequently encountered in both Belize and Tikal.
Crimson-collared tanager	<i>Ramphocelus sanguinolentus</i>	A few in Belize, only seen well at Caves Branch Lodge.
Passerini's tanager	<i>Ramphocelus passerinii</i>	Two en route into Mayflower by Phil.
Grayish saltator	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>	A few near the main road entrance to Cockscomb and heard elsewhere.

Buff-throated saltator	<i>Saltator maximus</i>	Sittee (1), Cockscomb and Blue Hole.
Black-headed saltator	<i>Saltator atriceps</i>	Seen on four dates in Belize and also at Tikal on one day.
Rose-breasted grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	Odd birds on four dates during the first week in Belize.
Blue-black grosbeak	<i>Cyanocompsa cyanooides</i>	Noted on two dates in Belize.
Blue bunting	<i>Cyanocompsa parellina</i>	Tikal and along the road to Uaxactun.
Orange-billed sparrow	<i>Arremon aurantiirostris</i>	A few at Cockscomb and Mayflower.
Blue-black grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>	Frequently encountered roadside bird during the first week in Belize.
Variable seedeater	<i>Sporophila americana</i>	Noted on a couple of dates during the first week in Belize.
White-collared seedeater	<i>Sporophila torqueola</i>	Ubiquitous.
*Thick-billed seedfinch	<i>Oryzoborus funereus</i>	Single male singing high up at Blue Hole.
Yellow-faced grassquit	<i>Tiaris olivacea</i>	Small numbers at Sittee.
Chipping sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	Atlanta (1 for Phil). Three on the last morning at Crooked Tree.
Lincoln's sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolnii</i>	One on Bread-and-butter Cay on the second visit.
Red-winged blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	A couple on the boat ride at Crooked Tree.
Eastern meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	Small numbers along the Clarissa Falls access track.
Melodious blackbird	<i>Dives dives</i>	Ubiquitous, recorded almost daily.
Great-tailed grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	Ubiquitous, recorded almost daily (although absent from Tikal but present in the clearing at Uaxactun).
Bronzed cowbird	<i>Molothrus aeneus</i>	A few whilst driving in Belize.
Black-cowled oriole	<i>Icterus dominicensis</i>	Small numbers on five dates in Belize and also one at Tikal.
Orchard oriole	<i>Icterus spurius</i>	Only seen at Hopkins (1) this year.
Hooded oriole	<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>	Recorded on five dates in Belize.
Yellow-tailed oriole	<i>Icterus mesomelas</i>	Hopkins and Cockscomb.
Baltimore oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	Recorded on eight dates in Belize. Also a few at Tikal.
Yellow-billed cacique	<i>Amblycercus holosericeus</i>	Several at Cockscomb.
Montezuma oropendola	<i>Psarocolius montezuma</i>	Frequently encountered in forested habitats in both Belize and Guatemala. This species makes a glorious contribution to the soundscape of Central America.

Systematic List 5 Amphibians and reptiles

Sabinal frog	<i>Leptodactylus melanonotus</i>	Tiny! Calling at night at Crooked Tree, one seen on the road.
Marine toad	<i>Bufo marinus</i>	Singles at Silk Grass and Tikal and many at night at Crooked Tree.
Red-eyed treefrog	<i>Agalychnis callidryas</i>	One stuck to Jenny's window on one day at Tikal.
Yellow treefrog	<i>Hyla microcephala</i>	Singing males watched at Crooked Tree at night.
Painted treefrog a treefrog	<i>Hyla picta</i> <i>Smilisca</i> sp.	One at Crooked Tree at night. Small gathering at Crooked Tree at night could not be identified.
Rio Grande leopard frog	<i>Rana berlandieri</i>	Good numbers ta Crooked Tree this year.
Morelet's crocodile	<i>Crocodylus moreletii</i>	Seen well at Hopkins Marsh, Sittee River and Tikal. Large individuals encountered during the Crooked Tree boat ride for Jonathan and Nym.
White-lipped mud turtle	<i>Kinosternon leucostomum</i>	One in the pond at Cockscomb. Another crossing the road near the marina on the Sittee River.
Mesoamerican slider	<i>Trachemys scripta</i>	Seen well at Independence, Tikal and Crooked Tree.
House gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>	Parrot Cove Lodge and Tikal hotel. Introduced.
Brown basilisk	<i>Basiliscus vittatus</i>	Frequently encountered.
Black iguana	<i>Ctenosaura similis</i>	Small numbers around Hopkins, Sittee and Crooked Tree.
Green iguana	<i>Iguana iguana</i>	Noted in riparian woodland along the Sittee and whilst driving. The huge red males of this species were much admired as they basked in the treetops and were one of the trip highlights. Also at Crooked Tree.
Rose-bellied lizard	<i>Sceloporus teapensis</i>	Common at Tikal in open areas.
Neotropical green anole	<i>Norops biporcatus</i>	One at Tikal.
Ghost anole	<i>Norops lemurinus</i>	Small numbers in forested habitat in Belize and Tikal.
Brown anole	<i>Norops sagrei</i>	Bread-and-butter Cay and Parrot Cove Lodge.
Lesser scaly anole	<i>Norops uniformis</i>	Mayflower.