

# Best of Belize

## Species List | February 17-25, 2024

### with Naturalist Journeys



**Guide Bryan Calk and participants Sarah, Jane, John, Sunny, Lyle, Jean, Michael, Peggy, Laura, and Kathryn**

#### **Summary:**

Our world-class local guides in Belize made this trip the spectacular journey that it was. From the ancient Mayan ruins to the secrets hiding in the jungle, each day offered new surprises for us and we explored as many habitat types as we could, making the most of our short time in this beautiful country while just staying at two beautiful ecolodges. Cooking traditional tortillas and tamales in the village and meeting the family of our local guide was a treat, and doing much of our travel by boat or safari vehicle made the trip extra special. Wildlife and the habitats were stunning at every turn, including the massive cahoon palms, the tiny and elaborate leafhoppers, and the alien roars of the Yucatan Black Howler Monkey. And of course we had tons of avian highlights, with some of our favorites along the way being the fabulous Ocellated Turkey, Spectacled Owl, and Purple-crowned Fairy at Chan Chich, a family (!) of the elusive Yellow-breasted Crake, Blue Seedeater, and Black-collared Hawks at Crooked Tree Swamp, and Chestnut-colored Woodpecker, Yellow-headed Parrot, and the beautiful Keel-billed Toucan at Lamanai.

#### **Birds: (256)**

The eBird link below details the 256 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

[Best of Belize | February 17-25, 2024 | eBird Trip Report](#)

Following is a list of the birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians we were fortunate to observe during the trip.

#### **Mammals: (12)**

**Southern Opossum** *Didelphis marsupialis* – One seen during a night drive at Chan Chich

**Proboscis (long-nosed) Bat** *Rhynchonycteris naso* – Found roosting during our river spotlight safari on the New River at Lamanai

**Greater Fishing Bat** *Noctilio leporinus* – Seen dipping into the water at prey while on the spotlight safari by boat at Lamanai

**Central American Agouti** *Dasyprocta punctata* – Seen at both of the ecolodges, Chan Chich and Lamanai while exploring the jungle habitats

**Deppe's Squirrel** *Sciurus deppei* – One seen in a tree during a drive around the grounds of Chan Chich

**Yucatan Squirrel** *Sciurus yucatanensis* – Seen on the grounds at Lamanai

**Yucatan Black Howler Monkey** *Alouatta pigra* – Seen or heard each day of the trip at both Lamanai and Chan Chich

**Central American Spider Monkey** *Ateles geoffroyi* – Seen well while visiting Chan Chich, including family groups that would move through the trees right overhead

**White-tailed Deer** *Odocoileus virginianus* – Seen each day while staying in the preserved grounds of Chan Chich  
**White-nosed Coati** *Nasua narica* – Seen on a couple of occasions while at Lamanai, including at the ruins site  
**Gray Fox** *Urocyon cinereoargenteus* – Seen during a spotlight drive at Chan Chich  
**Puma** *Puma concolor* – A pair seen while on a spotlight safari at Chan Chich and one seen crossing the road in front of our safari vehicle at midday while returning from the escarpment

**Reptiles and Amphibians: (7)**

**Morelet's Crocodile** *Crocodylus moreletii* – Seen on a few occasions, including while cruising the New River at Lamanai and at the lettuce pond at Chan Chich

**Ghost Anole** *Anolis lemurinus* – Seen incidentally a couple of times around the lodge grounds and in the leaf litter

**Black Spiny-tailed Iguana** *Ctenosaura similis* – One seen at Crooked Tree swamp during our boat tour of the marsh there

**Green Iguana** *Iguana iguana* – Several seen at Lamanai, almost daily in the trees overhanging the river and lagoon

**Brown Basilisk** *Basiliscus vittatus* – Seen around the small pond at Lamanai and the grounds of Chan Chich

**House Gecko** *Hemidactylus frenatus* – Often heard and seen around the lights and buildings at our lodges

**Mexican Smilisca** *Smilisca boudinii* – One seen on the stairs at Black Orchid and one on a boat ramp during a spotlight safari at Lamanai