



The ROYAL AIR FORCE KINLOSS EXPEDITION to BELIZE MARCH 1987
by Paul Triggs

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15 Mar Dawn saw the airstrip site in operation, one catch produced over a hundred birds from the two nets that were open. The pair moved to the silo site at 1000L and the catching rate was maintained throughout the day. A total of 283 birds were handled. That evening the Common Pootoo was once again located in the same spot, it favoured two perches one twenty foot high and one seven foot high. In order to obtain photographs the twenty foot perch was taken down, it was suspected that Brian had contracted Bot Fly.

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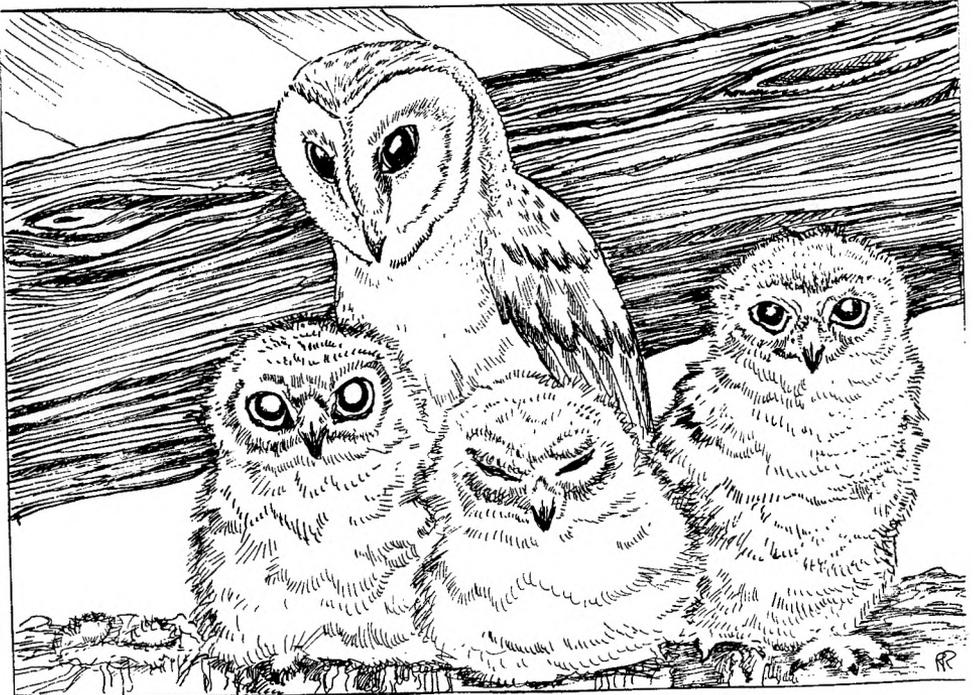
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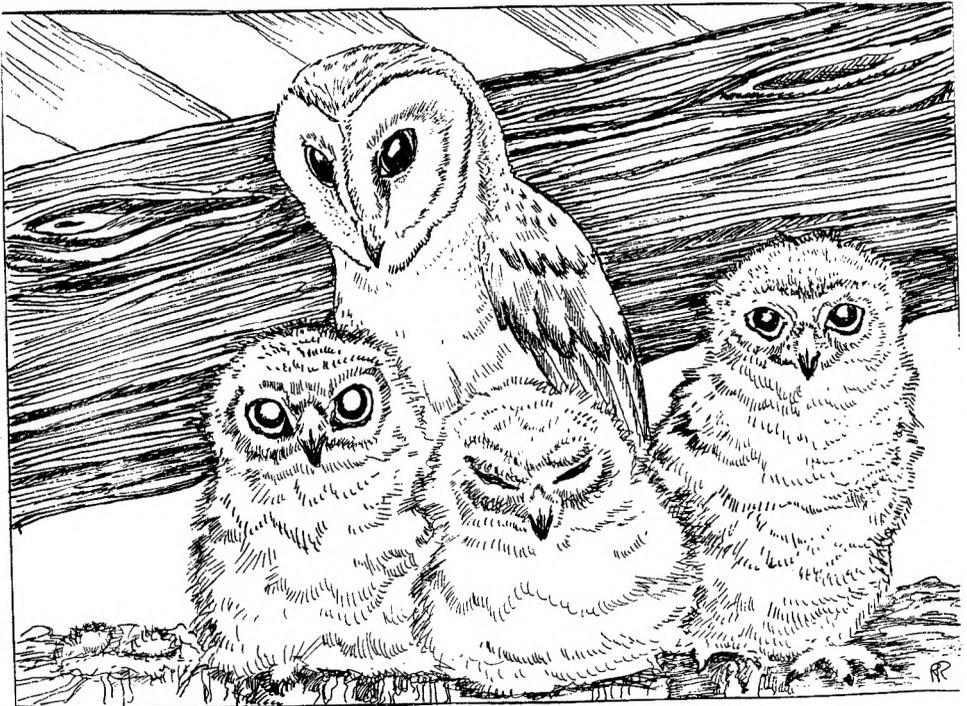
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by Corporal Paul Triggs

(Editors Note: Although this expedition was not sponsored by RAFOS, it was carried out by four RAFOS members who knew the area from an earlier RAFOS expedition. As this report had not been published previously, the Editor agreed to include it in this edition of the RAFOS Journal.)

INTRODUCTION

At the 1986 RAFOS AGM, three member of that year's RAFOS expedition to Belize decided to re-visit the country in 1987. The purpose was to concentrate on the wintering and migratory species situated at Big Falls Ranch in the Cayo district, which had been visited by RAFOS in 1986 and by the Army Bird Watching Society (ABWS) in 1982. It had originally been hoped to send six people, but eventually only four people assembled at RAF Brize Norton for the scheduled RAF VC10 flight. Only three were able to travel as indulgees on the aircraft on 25 February, with the fourth member being able to join the team on the following week's flight. Team members, with ranks and RAF Stations shown as at the time of the expedition, were:

Chf Tech Brian Etheridge	RAF Kinloss;	Sgt Bill Taylor	RAF Kinloss;
Cpl Paul Triggs	RAF Stafford;	WO Frank Smith	RAF Chivenor .

AIM

The aim of the expedition was to study wintering and migratory species at Big Falls Ranch in the Cayo District of Belize.

SITE AND HABITAT

Big Falls Ranch was a rice and beef cattle ranch. However, due to a slump in the world market, the price of rice plummeted and the ranch found itself in government receivership. The rice which had been harvested was stored in huge silos and was aired and turned daily to prevent the rice from rotting. It was this process that generated a large amount of waste rice and chaff which was then deposited around the silos. This attracted seed-eating birds in large numbers, with **Indigo Buntings** being the predominant species. Immediately adjacent to the silos were storage huts for sacked rice, and behind this area was an area of dense scrub, which was also attractive to passerines. Alongside this area flowed the Belize River, bordered by a ribbon of scrub woodland which merged into gallery forest at the edges of the ranch. A map of the area is shown below.

METHODS

Mist nets were used at the Big Falls Ranch between 26 February and 17 March and were erected at first light and operated throughout the day until dark. Initially, the team operated around the storage silos and huts. Due to a combination of the high volume of birds caught and intense heat, only two nets were operated simultaneously. During the middle of the day nets were only used inside the storage sheds, where maximum shade was possible. On the 1986 RAFOS expedition to Belize (Counsell, 1986), it was established that birds quickly became 'net shy'. To avoid a reduction in trapping totals the nets were relocated daily in a variety of habitats, including the gallery forest adjoining the farms where it was possible to erect a total length of 500ft of netting. The nets in general needed to be quickly emptied, although bats (which may carry rabies) were shown a great deal of caution. A kick from one's boot proved to be the best method for extracting

twelve inch long lizards. A very venomous Pit Viper (Crotalidae) family slept next to a net one afternoon, but did not allow the extraction activity to disturb it. On one afternoon, there was a sudden influx of migrating **Purple Martins** which had been forced down by the low cloud cover. A few birds were caught by suspending a net between two poles and then "flicking" the net up into the birds' flight path.

On the 18 & 19 March netting activities were carried out at Airport Camp, with roost netting at the garrison church. The church roost for **Gray-breasted Martins**, identified in 1986, was still occupied and active. The morning activities were centred around the camp's sewage works, which was particularly good for small wintering passerines.

All birds caught were, where possible, identified, aged and sexed using Peterson & Chalif (1973) and the field guide published by the National Geographic Society (1985). Migratory species were banded with bands supplied by the United States Fish & Wildlife service. Resident species had the tip of the longest outer primary on the left wing snipped off, to enable re-trapped birds to be singled out. All birds had their wing length measured and body weight taken. In addition, for **Indigo Buntings**, moult details were taken and for males, the transitional state of plumage from winter to summer phases was assessed.

RESULTS

During the period 26 Feb - 19 Mar 4,375 birds, of 78 species, including re-traps and controls, were handled. Of these 2,815 birds of 29 species were ringed. A complete breakdown of the species and the 3,464 birds trapped for the first time is given below, together with the wing lengths of the migratory species.

One discovery of the expedition, regarded the recapture of birds which had been ringed at the wintering site prior to 1987. Single birds of three species were controlled at Airport Camp (approximately 20 miles to the east of Big Falls Ranch). However, at Big Falls Ranch, 145 **Indigo Buntings** from the RAFOS 1986 expedition (22.9% of the total ringed that year) and three from the ABWS 1982 expedition were controlled. This suggests a site fidelity to specific wintering quarters, a factor more normally associated with summer breeding areas. Any further expeditions to Big Falls Ranch and Airport Camp should aim to fully investigate this possibility.

One of the criticisms of ringing abroad in third world countries, with little local interest in conservation matters, is that there are rarely any recoveries generated from the birds handled. Therefore, it was most pleasing to be informed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service of the recovery of an adult male **Indigo Bunting** ringed during the expedition. The bird was ringed on 6 Mar 87 at Big Falls Farm, Belize 17.20'N, 88.30'W. It was recovered on 22 Jul 87 near Bradford, Ohio, USA 40.00'N, 84.20'W. The bird was found dead on the highway, approximately 2,600km North of where it was ringed 20 weeks earlier. Throughout the period of the expedition, observations of bird life, reptiles and mammals present in the various habitats visited by the expedition members were recorded. An annotated list of the 165 different species of birds, 4 reptiles and 7 mammals is included, below.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am particularly aware of the time and effort which Brian Etheridge put in to the organisation of the expedition, without which the success of it would have been greatly diminished. We are all

grateful to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for supplying the rings. Finally, thanks to Flt Lt Nick Smith (OC Supply and Movements Flight at Airport Camp) and Mr Godwin Hulse for their help in Belize itself.

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BELIZE TRAPPING AND RINGING TOTALS: FEBRUARY / MARCH 1987

(Locations: A: Big Falls Ranch area; B: Gallery Forest; C: Airport Camp)

	Resident / migrant	Location	Total Trapped	Total Ringed
Green-backed Heron	R	A	1	
Ruddy Crake	R	A	1	
Plain-breasted Ground-Dove	R	A	11	
Ruddy Ground-Dove	R	A/B	104	
Blue Ground-Dove	R	A	13	
White-tipped Dove	R	C	1	
Gray-fronted Dove	R	B	2	
Groove-billed Ani	R	A/B	11	
Common Pauraque	R	A	4	4
Common Potoo	R	A	1	
Green-breasted Mango	R	A	3	
Fork-tailed Emerald	R	A/C	2	
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird	R	A/B	35	
Black-headed Trogon	R	B	2	
American Pygmy Kingfisher	R	A/B	5	
Tawny-winged Woodcreeper	R	B	3	
Ruddy Woodcreeper	R	B	1	
Streak-headed Woodcreeper	R	B	3	
Barred Antshrike	R	A/B	6	
Northern-beardless Tyrannulet	R	B	1	
Greenish Elaenia	R	A/B	6	
Yellow-bellied Elaenia	R	A/B/C	11	
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	R	A/B	4	
Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher	R	B	1	
Common Tody-Flycatcher	R	A/B/C	6	
Yellow-olive Flycatcher	R	B	1	
Least Flycatcher	M	A	7	7
Bright-rumped Attila	R	B	1	
Yucatan Flycatcher	R	A/B/C	7	
Brown-crested Flycatcher	R	A	1	1
Great Kiskadee	R	A	9	

	Resident / migrant	Location	Total Trapped	Total Ringed
Social Flycatcher	R	A	7	
Tropical Kingbird	R	A	3	
Rose-throated Becard	R	B	2	
White-collared Manakin	R	B	5	
Red-capped Manakin	R	B	3	
Purple Martin	M	A	8	8
Gray-breasted Martin	R/m	C	17	17
Spot-breasted Wren	R	B	2	
House Wren	R	A	4	3
Wood Thrush	M	A/C	3	3
Clay-coloured Robin	R	A/B/C	8	7
Gray Catbird	M	A/B/C	36	35
Tropical Mockingbird	R	A	3	
White-eyed Vireo	M	A/B	11	11
Yucatan Vireo	R	C	1	
Blue-winged Warbler	M	B	1	1
Tennessee Warbler	M	C	5	4
Yellow Warbler	M	A/B/C	12	12
Magnolia Warbler	M	A/B	27	27
Yellow-throated Warbler	M	A	1	1
Black-&-White Warbler	M	A/B	7	7
American Redstart	M	A/B	10	9
Ovenbird	M	B	4	4
Northern Waterthrush	M	A/B/C	31	31
Common Yellowthroat	M	A/B/C	120	120
Gray-crowned Yellowthroat	R	A	1	1
Hooded Warbler	M	A/B	8	8
Yellow-breasted Chat	M	A/B	8	8
Yellow-throated Euphonia	R	A/B	2	
Blue-gray Tanager	R	A/C	5	
Gray-headed Tanager	R	B	2	
Red-throated Ant-Tanager	R	B	4	
Summer Tanager	M	A	1	1
Buff-throated Saltator	R	A	1	
Blue Grosbeak	M	A	71	71
Indigo Bunting	M	A/B	2508	2360
Blue-black Grassquit	R	A/B	54	
Variable Seedeater	R	A/B	8	
White-collared Seedeater	R	A/B/C	124	
Thick-billed Seedfinch	R	A	10	
Melodious Blackbird	R	C	2	
Great-tailed Grackle	R	A	1	
Bronzed Cowbird	R	A	46	46
Giant Cowbird	R	A	4	
Orchard Oriole	M	A	7	7
Northern Oriole	M	A	1	1

	Resident / Migrant	Location	Total Trapped	Total Ringed
Yellow-billed Cacique	R	B	1	
TOTALS:			<u>3,464</u>	<u>2,815</u>

WING LENGTHS OF SELECTED NORTH AMERICAN MIGRANTS IN BELIZE

<u>Species</u>	<u>Age/Sex</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Range</u>
Least Flycatcher		7	64.8	59-67
Orchard Oriole	5M	2	79	79
	4F	4	74.5	73-76
Purple Martin	4M	3	150.7	150-152
	4F	5	138.4	133-149
Wood Thrush		3	107	99-117
Gray Catbird		33	91.3	86-98
White-eyed Vireo		11	61.4	57-65
Tennessee Warbler		4	63.5	62-64
Yellow Warbler		12	61.6	55-66
Magnolia Warbler		27	59.4	56-69
Black-&-White Warbler		7	68.1	67-70
American Redstart	4M	1	65	65
	4F	8	61.4	60-63
Ovenbird		4	75.2	73-79
Northern Waterthrush		29	76.5	72-81
Common Yellowthroat	6M	14	58.8	55-61
	5M	50	57.5	54-61
	4F	28	54.7	51-57
Hooded Warbler	4M	8	69.2	67-73
Yellow-breasted Chat		8	77.7	74-82
Blue Grosbeak	6M	28	89.6	81-95
	5M	13	88.5	86-91
	6F	18	85.3	82-88
	5F	11	85.2	83-89
Indigo Bunting	6M	1090	70.3	65-76
	5M	478	69.5	65-74
	6F	262	66.1	62-72
	5F	157	65.5	62-69

ANNOTATED LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED IN BELIZE

During the expedition 166 species were identified. The following list records these; the sequence and nomenclature follow that of the Check-list of North American Birds, 6th edition and supplement (American Ornithologists' Union 1983, 1985). Although the list of species gives our results in detail, the following are worthy of note due to their scarcity in Belize: **Northern Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*, **Merlin** *Falco columbarius*, **Northern Beardless Tyrannulet** *Camptostoma imberbe*, **Slate-headed Tody-flycatcher** *Todirostrum sylvia*, **Bank Swallow** *Riparia riparia* and **Pine Warbler** *Dendroica pinus*.

Temporal Distribution: Information on the temporal status is listed here as per D Scott Wood, Robert C Leberman and Dora Weyer in their 'Checklist' (1986). The codes used are:
PR - Permanent Resident: These species are present throughout the year.
WR - Winter Resident: Species present during winter (generally October through March).
SR - Summer Resident: Species present during summer (generally April through September).
T - Transient: Species present during migration periods.
WV - Winter Visitant: Species sometimes present in very low numbers during winter, but Belize is not part of the normal winter range.
A - Accidental: Very few records; Belize is not part of the normal range of these species.

Abundance: For each species I have listed an estimate of relative abundance as per D Scott Wood, Robert C Leberman and Dora Weyer in their "Checklist", (1986). The status abbreviations are as follows:

C - Common: Present in considerable numbers.
U - Uncommon: Present in low numbers or sporadically in larger numbers.
R - Rare: More than five records but very infrequently encountered.
X - Very Rare: Five or fewer records.

DETAILED LIST OF SPECIES IDENTIFIED

Least Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i>	PR U
A single bird was seen on the Belize River on 12 Mar.		
Olivaceous Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax olivaceus</i>	PR C
The only expedition sighting was of a single bird at Airport Camp on 18 Mar.		
Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>	PR C
Up to two birds were seen on the Belize River on several dates.		
Pinnated Bittern	<i>Botaurus pinnatus</i>	PR C
One bird in the cultivated rice fields on 26 Feb was the only record.		
Bare-throated Tiger-Heron	<i>Tigrisoma mexicanum</i>	PR C
A maximum of two birds (one adult, one immature) was observed frequently during the expedition.		
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	PR C
Two birds were seen 26 Feb and a single bird was observed on 1 Mar.		
Great Egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	PR C
Present in small numbers in the cultivated rice fields on 26 Feb.		
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	PR C
Seen in small numbers on three occasions.		
Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	PR C
Observed daily in small numbers around the netting sites, large numbers were present in the cultivated rice fields.		

Tricoloured Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	PR C
A single bird was seen on 26 Feb.		
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	PR C
The most widespread of the genus Ardeidae, seen in numbers at all areas visited.		
Green-backed Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>	PR C
Small numbers were found along waterway fringes.		
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax violaceus</i>	PR C
An immature bird was present on 7 Mar.		
Roseate Spoonbill	<i>Ajaia ajaja</i>	PR R
One record of a single bird flying overhead on 7 Mar.		
Jabiru	<i>Jabiru mycteria</i>	PR R
Two birds seen on two occasions, 26 Feb and 15 Mar.		
Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	PR C
Up to two birds were seen on four dates, with 18 thermalling overhead on 16 Mar.		
Muscovy Duck	<i>Cairina moschata</i>	PR U
A single bird was present on 28 Feb.		
Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	PR C
Observed daily in large numbers throughout the period spent at Big Falls Ranch.		
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	PR C
Seen regularly during the expedition, though not in as large numbers as <i>Coragyps atratus</i> .		
King Vulture	<i>Sarcoramphus papa</i>	PR C
Single birds seen on three days; with two birds seen on 16 Mar.		
Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	PR C
Observed in ones and twos daily throughout the reporting period.		
Snail Kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabills</i>	PR C
Seen daily at Airport Camp from 14-18 Mar.		
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	WV R
On 26 Feb, an immature male seen gliding over cultivated rice fields; a female seen later that day over fields being prepared for flooding. A single female in the same area on 27 Feb and 17 Mar.		
Common Black-Hawk	<i>Buteogallus anthracinus</i>	PR U
The only expedition record was of a single bird being mobbed by a Tropical Kingbird.		
Black-collared Hawk	<i>Busarellus nigricollis</i>	PR C
Three sightings of a single bird on 4 Mar, 7 Mar and 12 Mar.		

- Gray Hawk** *Buteo nitidus* PR U
One bird was observed on two dates: 1 Mar and 15 Mar.
- Roadside Hawk** *Buteo magnirostris* PR C
Three pairs had set up territories along the Belize River. Two nests were found with birds sitting on them; one nest 80ft high in a tree located in the garden adjacent to the camp site.
- Short-tailed Hawk** *Buteo brachyurus* PR U
Two sightings; one bird present on 16 Mar, one bird was seen at Airport Camp on 18 Mar.
- White-tailed Hawk** *Buteo albicaudatus* PR U
A single bird was seen over the cultivated rice fields on 26 Feb.
- Black Hawk-Eagle** *Spizaetus tyrannus* PR U
A single bird flying low overhead on 16 Mar was the only expedition sighting.
- Laughing Falcon** *Herpetotheres cachinnans* PR C
A maximum of three birds were present during the period, invariably calling in unison.
- American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius* WR U
Female was seen chasing a Ruddy Ground~Dove *Columbina talpacoti* by the silos on 6 Mar.
- Merlin** *Falco columbarius* T R
Only expedition record of a female apparently on passage on 17 Mar.
- Applomado Falcon** *Falco femoralis* PR U
Three records; a single bird present on 1 Mar and a pair observed on 11 Mar and 16 Mar.
- Bat Falcon** *Falco rufigularis* PR U
A single was present in the vicinity of the workshop sheds during the expedition.
- Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus* WR U
A single bird was seen on 26 Feb.
- Plain Chacalaca** *Ortalis vetula* PR C
Up to three birds were seen and heard daily in the early morning alongside the Belize River. Four birds were observed at Airport Camp sewage farm on 19 Mar.
- Ruddy Crake** *Laterallus ruber* PR C
One or two birds were heard in the reeds adjoining the workshop areas on most days. The only sighting was of a bird netted on 4 Mar.
- Gray-necked Wood-Rail** *Aramides cajanea* PR C
Up to three of these large rails were seen on four days.
- Sungrebe** *Helornis fulica* PR C
Single birds were observed on the Belize River on 4 Mar and 8 Mar.

- Limpkin** *Aramus guarauna.* PR C
One bird was located in the cultivated rice fields on 26 Feb.
- Northern Jacana** *Jacana spinosa* PR C
Present in good numbers in the cultivated rice fields on 26 and 27 Feb. At Airport Camp up to twenty birds were seen along the canals surrounding the reed beds.
- Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca* WR C
Four birds were observed along the "sweet-water" canal at Airport Camp on 18 Mar.
- Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes* WR C
One bird was seen on 26 Feb. At Airport Camp eight birds were present on 18 Mar.
- Solitary Sandpiper** *Tringa solitaria* WR C
One bird was present from 10-12 Mar. Up to 11 seen at Airport Camp on 18 and 19 Mar.
- Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularia* T-WR C
Single birds were seen on five days, with two birds present on 5 Mar.
- Least Sandpiper** *Callidris minutilla* T-WV C
Ten birds were present along the "sweet-water" canal at Airport Camp on 18 Mar.
- Dowitcher Species** *Limnodromus*
One sighting of twelve birds passing overhead, early morning on 14 Mar.
- Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago* WR U
A single bird seen on 28 Feb was the only expedition record.
- Pale-vented Pigeon** *Columba cayennensis* PR C
Two records of single birds on 27 Feb and 8 Mar with three birds present on 12 Mar. Up to ten birds were observed at Airport Camp.
- Plain-breasted Ground-Dove** *Columbina minuta* PR U
This species was seen regularly in the semi scrub areas in numbers of up to twenty.
- Ruddy Ground-Dove** *Columbina talpacoti* PR C
The most common and widespread of the Ground-Doves. As many as one hundred birds fed daily on the pile of waste chaff by the silos.
- Blue Ground-Dove** *Claravis pretiosa* PR C
Up to thirty birds were present daily on the pile of waste chaff and in the vicinity of the silos.
- White-tipped Dove** *Leptotila verreauxi* PR C
One record of a single bird netted at Airport Camp on 19 Mar.
- Gray-fronted Dove** *Leptotila rufaxilla* PR C
Two birds present in the gallery forest on 9 Mar.

Olive-throated Parakeet	<i>Aratinga nana</i>	PR C
This species was seen in small numbers on several dates.		
White-crowned Parrot	<i>Pionus senilis</i>	PR C
A single record of five birds flying overhead on 16 Mar.		
White-fronted Parrot	<i>Amazona albifrons</i>	PR C
Up to six birds were seen daily in the early morning alongside the Belize River.		
Red-lored Parrot	<i>Amazona autumnalis</i>	PR C
A pair were seen on several dates around the proximity of the Belize River and the camp site. Four birds were present on 16 Mar.		
Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Playa cayana</i>	PR C
One record of a single bird in the gallery forest on 8 Mar.		
Groove-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>	PR C
Seen in most habitats on every day of the expedition in numbers of up to thirty birds.		
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	PR U
A pair was present throughout the period spent at Big Falls Ranch. On 16 Mar, a nest containing three young was located in a dis-used waste chaff pipe; also one dead owlet found below the pipe.		
Lesser Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i>	T-SR C
Two birds seen on the night of 16 Mar, constitutes the only record.		
Common Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>	PR C
This species was seen in numbers after dark, along the dirt tracks throughout the ranch area. One or two birds were located dozing during the day-time in the thickets along the riverside.		
Common Potoo	<i>Nyctibius griseus</i>	PR U
A single bird was located on the nights 14-16 Mar.		
Green-breasted Mango	<i>Anthracothorax prevostii</i>	PR U
A maximum of four birds were observed on several dates.		
Fork-tailed Emerald	<i>Chlorostilbon canivetii</i>	PR U
Three sightings of female birds; one on 5 Mar, and one at Airport Camp on 18 and 19 Mar.		
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia tzacati</i>	PR C
Up to six birds were located daily in all habitats visited.		
Cinnamon Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia rutila</i>	PR C
Locally common in small numbers at Airport Camp on 18 and 19 Mar.		
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	T-WR R
A single bird on 3 Mar, was the only expedition record.		

Black-headed Trogon	<i>Trogon melanocephalus</i>	PR C
Up to two birds were recorded in the gallery forest on four days.		
Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle torquata</i>	PR C
Single birds were seen on most days, with four birds recorded on 8 Mar.		
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	T-WR C
Three sightings of single birds during the expedition.		
Amazon Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>	PR C
Only one record of a single female on 6 Mar.		
Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>	PR C
Two records of a single bird on 25 Feb and 8 Mar.		
American Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle aenea</i>	PR C
Recorded on several dates, even in the gallery forest some distance from the river; where two were seen on 9 Mar.		
Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>	PR C
Two birds present at Airport Camp on 18 Mar, being the only expedition record.		
Golden-fronted Woodpecker	<i>Helanerpes aurifrons</i>	PR C
A single male on 12 Mar was the only sighting at Big Falls Ranch. However this species was observed daily at Airport Camp during the period 14-18 Mar.		
Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>	PR C
Seen on two occasions; two birds on 25 Feb and a single bird on 17 Mar.		
Rufous-breasted Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis erythrothorax</i>	PR C
Two records of single birds in low lying scrub on 27 Feb and 9 Mar.		
Tawny-winged Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocincla anabatina</i>	PR C
Up to five birds were recorded in the gallery forest on 8 and 9 Mar.		
Ruddy Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocincla homochroa</i>	PR C
Two records from the gallery forest; a single bird on 8 Mar and two birds on 9 Mar.		
Streak-headed Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes souleyetii</i>	PR U
Three birds present in the gallery forest on 9 Mar, one seen in riverside thicket on 17 Mar.		
Barred Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus doliatus</i>	PR C
This species was recorded in ones, and twos on most days of the expedition.		
Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet	<i>Camptostoma imberbe</i>	PR X
One record of a single bird netted in the gallery forest on 9 Mar.		

- Greenish Elaenia** *Myiopagis viridicata* PR U
Single birds were recorded on three dates, four were netted in the gallery forest on 9 Mar.
- Yellow-bellied Elaenia** *Elaenia flavogaster* PR C
A maximum of four birds was frequently seen in all types of habitat. One bird was observed continually taking wasps from the host nest.
- Ochre-bellied Flycatcher** *Mionectes oleagineus* PR C
Recorded on three occasions; one bird on 26 Feb and 16 Mar, 2 birds on 9 Mar.
- Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher** *Todirostrum sylvia* PR R
One bird netted in the gallery forest on 9 Mar was the expedition's only record.
- Common Tody-Flycatcher** *Todirostrum cinereum* PR C
Seen in ones and twos on several dates in most habitats visited.
- Yellow-olive Flycatcher** *Tolmomyias sulphurescens* PR C
One record; two birds were netted in the riverside thicket on 13 Mar.
- Least Flycatcher** *Empidonax minimus* T-WR C
Encountered in ones and twos on a regular basis in most habitats.
- Vermilion Flycatcher** *Pyrocephalus rubinus* PR C
A pair was seen on several dates at Big Falls Ranch. At Airport Camp the species was present in good numbers and three nests containing young were discovered.
- Bright-rumped Attila** *Attila spadiceus* PR C
Only one record of a single bird netted in the riverside thicket on 13 Mar.
- Yucatan Flycatcher** *Myiarchus yucatanensis* PR R
Present at Big Falls Ranch in small numbers. This species was identified in the hand using the characteristics as per Peterson & Chalif.
- Brown-crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tyrannulus* PR C
Two sightings; two birds on 9 Mar and one bird on 13 Mar.
- Great Kiskadee** *Pitangus sulphuratus* PR C
The most numerous species of the Tyrannine Flycatchers, seen daily in all habitats.
- Social Flycatcher** *Myiozetetes similis* PR C
Observed daily in small numbers in all locations, though not in as large numbers as *Pitangus sulphuratus*.
- Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus* PR C
Up to three pairs were recorded daily in all areas visited.
- Fork-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus savanna* PR C
Recorded in ones and twos on several dates at both Big Falls Ranch and Airport Camp.

- Rose-throated Becard** *Pachyramphus aglaiae* PR C
A pair was netted in the gallery forest on 9 Mar, this was the only sighting.
- White-collard Manakin** *Hanacus candei* PR C
Four birds including a male were observed on 9 Mar in the gallery forest.
- Red-capped Manakin** *Pipra mentalis* PR C
Two females were netted in the gallery forest on 9 Mar.
- Purple Martin** *Progne subis* T C
During the early evening of 6 Mar, approximately 300 birds were observed feeding low over the paddocks adjacent to the ranch workshops. They were seen to roost overnight in trees behind the camp site; dispersing early next morning. Small numbers passed overhead on three other dates.
- Gray-breasted Martin** *Progne chalybea* PR C
Last year's roost at the Garrison church on Airport Camp was again being used, with some 75 birds present on 18 Mar. This species also seen daily in small numbers at Big Falls Ranch.
- Mangrove Swallow** *Tachycineta albilinea* PR C
Recorded in small numbers on several dates along the Belize River.
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* PR C
Up to twenty-five birds were seen on passage on numerous dates.
- Bank Swallow** *Riparia riparia* T X
One record of four birds on passage in a mixed flock of *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* and *Hirundo rustica* on 5 Mar.
- Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* T-WR C
Numbers were recorded on passage on most dates, with approximately five hundred birds observed on 26 Feb.
- Brown Jay** *Cyanocorax morio* PR C
This noisy bird was seen in small parties on four dates.
- Spot-breasted Wren** *Thryothorus maculipectus* PR C
Two sightings of single birds in the gallery forest on 8 and 9 Mar.
- House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon* PR C
Small numbers were seen daily around the workshop buildings.
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila caerulea* PR C
Single birds were observed daily at Airport Camp from 13-17 Mar.
- Wood Thrush** *Hylocichla mustelina* T-WR C
Singles at Big Falls Ranch on 27 Feb and 8 Mar; two at Airport Camp 19 Mar.

- Clay-colored Robin** *Turdus grayi* PR C
Singles regularly at Big Falls Ranch. Up to twenty at Airport Camp on 18 and 19 Mar.
- Gray Catbird** *Dumetella carolinensis* T-WR C
This species was recorded almost daily with numbers increasing from 5 Mar. At Airport Camp as many as ten birds were recorded in the vicinity of the camp's sewage farm.
- Tropical Mockingbird** *Mimus gilvus* PR C
Small numbers were recorded on several dates.
- Cedar Waxwing** *Bombycilla cedrorum* WR R
A single bird at Airport Camp on 14 Mar, was the expedition's only record.
- White-eyed Vireo** *Vireo griseus* T- WR C
Up to four birds were recorded regularly at both Big Falls Ranch and Airport Camp.
- Yellow-throated Vireo** *Vireo flavifrons* T- WR U
One record of a single bird on 8 Mar.
- Yucatan Vireo** *Vireo magister* PR U
One record of a single bird netted at Airport Camp sewage farm on 19 Mar.
- Blue-winged Warbler** *Vermivora pinus* T- WR U
Two sightings of single males, on 8 Mar and 13 Mar.
- Tennessee Warbler** *Vermivora peregrina* T- WR C
Observed in numbers of up to ten birds at Airport Camp on 18 and 19 Mar.
- Yellow Warbler** *Dendroica petechia* PR C
This species was observed in small numbers in all habitats visited. All sightings relate to the migratory nominate race.
- Magnolia Warbler** *Dendroica magnolia* T-WR C
Recorded daily in numbers of up to five birds at Big Falls Ranch and Airport Camp.
- Yellow-rumped Warbler** *Dendroica coronata* T-WR C
Small numbers were seen daily at Airport Camp during the period 14-18 Mar.
- Yellow-throated Warbler** *Dendroica dominica* T-WR C
A single bird on most days in the vicinity of the camp site and at Airport Camp on 17 Mar.
- Pine Warbler** *Dendroica pinus* T X
One bird recorded on 25 Feb constitutes the expedition's only sighting.
- Palm Warbler** *Dendroica palmarum* T-WR U
Up to six birds were seen daily at Airport Camp from the 14-18 Mar.

- Black-and-White Warbler** *Mniotilta varia* T-WR C
Single birds recorded on four dates, four and five birds observed in the gallery forest on 8 and 9 Mar respectively. Also recorded at Airport Camp on 18 Mar.
- American Redstart** *Setophaga ruticilla* T-WR C
Small numbers were recorded on most days at Big Falls Ranch and Airport Camp.
- Ovenbird** *Selurus aurocapillus* T-WR C
Present in ones and twos in the gallery forest and riverside thicket.
- Northern Waterthrush** *Seiurus noveboracensis* T-WR C
Recorded daily in numbers of up to six birds in all habitats at both Big Falls Ranch and Airport Camp.
- Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas* T-WR C
The most abundant species of the Parulinae, recorded daily in all habitats at all areas visited. Large numbers were present from 25 Feb - 6 Mar, but thereafter dropped dramatically to daily sightings of only four to five.
- Gray-crowned Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis poliocephala* PR U
One record of a single male netted on 11 Mar.
- Hooded Warbler** *Wilsonia citrina* T-WR C
Observed on several dates in numbers up to five in wooded locations at Big Falls Ranch and Airport Camp. All the birds seen were males.
- Yellow-breasted Chat** *Icteria virens* T-WR C
Sightings of single birds on four dates and two birds seen on 9 Mar. One bird was present at Airport Camp on 19 Mar.
- Yellow-throated Euphonia** *Euphonia hirundinacea* PR C
Two records of single females netted on 5 Mar and 9 Mar.
- Blue-gray Tanager** *Thraupis episcopus* PR C
Recorded in small numbers on several dates at Airport Camp and Big Falls Ranch.
- Yellow-winged Tanager** *Thraupis abbas* PR C
One sighting of a single bird in the gallery forest on 8 Mar.
- Gray-headed Tanager** *Eucometis penicillata* PR U
Three birds present in the gallery forest on 9 Mar was the only expedition record.
- Red-throated Ant-Tanager** *Habia fuscicauda* PR C
Two records of three birds in the gallery forest on 8 and 9 Mar.
- Summer Tanager** *Piranga rubra* T-WR C
Single males were recorded on three occasions; 28 Feb, 2 Mar and 12 Mar.

- Grayish Saltator** *Saltator coerulescens* PR C
Only one record of a single bird on 6 Mar.
- Buff-throated Saltator** *Saltator maximus* PR U
This species was only recorded once. A single bird was netted in open woodland on 27 Feb.
- Northern Cardinal** *Cardinalis cardinalis* PR U
Single males were seen on three dates at Airport Camp.
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak** *Pheucticus ludovicianus* T-WR U
Recorded at Airport Camp on two dates; 5 (including 2 males) on 18 Mar, 3 (including 2 males) on 19 Mar.
- Blue Grosbeak** *Guiraca caerulea* T-WR C
This species was recorded in numbers of up to ten birds daily in most habitats, in the company of *Passerina cyanea*.
- Indigo Bunting** *Passerina cyanea* T-WR C
Several flocks numbering up to five hundred birds dominated the areas close to the grain storage sheds and silo complex, feeding almost continuously throughout the daylight hours. Three roosts were located in close areas of scrub. At Airport Camp a single female was seen on 19 Mar.
- Blue-black Grassquit** *Volatinia jacarina* PR C
Small numbers were recorded daily in all areas visited.
- Variable Seedeater** *Sporophila aurita* PR C
Observed in numbers of up to four birds on three dates in the open woodland sites.
- White-collared Seedeater** *Sporophila torqueola* PR C
This species was abundant to common, recorded in all types of habitat at both Big Falls Ranch and Airport Camp.
- Thick-billed Seedfinch** *Oryzoborus funereus* PR C
Seen in ones and twos on several dates in most habitats visited.
- Chipping Sparrow** *Spizella passerina* PR C
One record, six birds were observed at Airport Camp on 18 Mar.
- Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus* PR C
Large numbers were observed in the cultivated rice fields on 26 and 27 Feb. About 50 were seen at Airport Camp on 18 Mar.
- Eastern Meadowlark** *Sturnella magna* PR C
Two sightings of single birds at Airport Camp on 14 Mar and 17 Mar.
- Melodius Blackbird** *Dives dives* PR C
This species was seen in ones and twos on several dates.

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus* PR C
Around twenty birds were observed daily in the vicinity of the workshop buildings and staff quarters. At Airport Camp this species is abundant in numbers.

Bronzed Cowbird *Molothrus aeneus* PR U
A flock of approximately two hundred birds fed daily alternately between the waste grain located in the tractor/work sheds and the "hot" chaff pile next to the silo complex.

Giant Cowbird *Scaphidura oryzivora* PR U
This species was recorded in small numbers on most days around the tractor / work shed areas, feeding on the waste grain.

Black-cowled Oriole *Icterus dominicensis* PR C
The only sighting was of a single bird on 17 Mar.

Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius* T WR C
Small numbers were recorded on four dates in the wooded/scrub areas. On Mar 18 at Airport Camp, about 60 birds were seen going to roost.

Hooded Oriole *Icterus cucullatus* PR C
Present in small numbers at Airport Camp from 14-19 Mar.

Yellow-tailed Oriole *Icterus mesomelas* PR C
One record; four birds were present in the riverside thicket on 17 Mar.

Northern Oriole *Icterus galbula* T-WR C
One sighting of a female bird on 5 Mar.

Yellow-billed Cacique *Amblycercus holosericeus* PR C
Three sightings; at Big Falls Ranch, three birds were seen in the gallery forest on the 8 and 9 Mar. One bird was observed at Airport Camp on 19 Mar.

LIST OF REPTILES & MAMMALS RECORDED DURING EXPEDITION

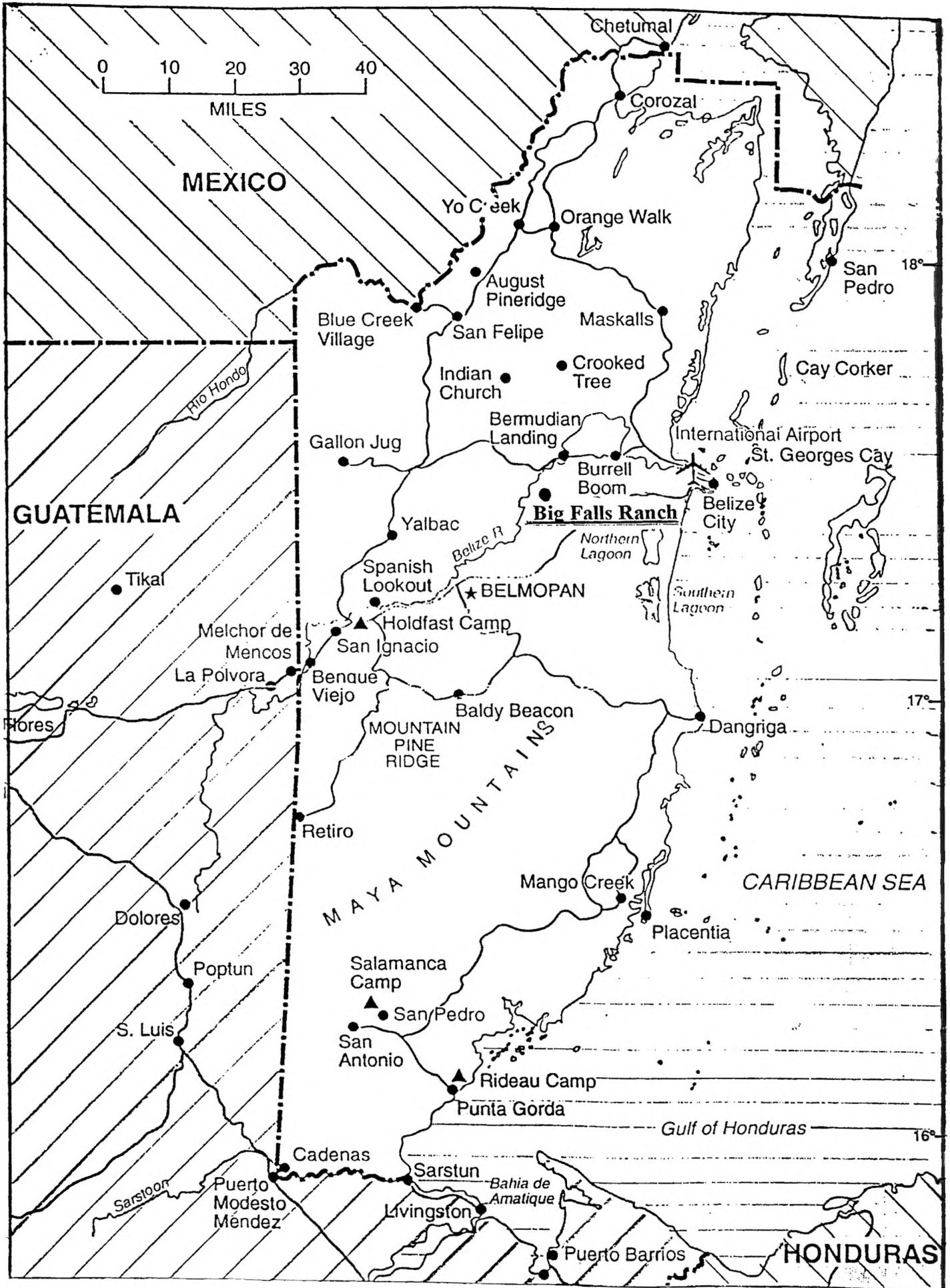
Reptiles:

Giant Toad (*Bufo marinus*), **Common Iguana** (*Iguana iguana*), **Vine Snake** (*Oxybelis fulgidus*), **Fer-De-Lance** (*Bothrops atrox*).

Mammals:

Two-lined Bat (*Saccopteryx leptura*), **Velvety Free-tailed Bat** (*Molossus ater*), **Nine-banded Armadillo** (*Dasyops novemcinctus*), **Raccoon** (*Procyon lotor*), **Coati** (*Nasua nasua*), **American Otter** (*Lutra canadensis*), **Howler Monkey** (*Alouatta (genus)*).

MAP OF BELIZE



The Royal Air Force
Ornithological Society



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