

The birds of Hill Bank, northern Belize

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Se describe la avifauna del Area de Conservación y Manejo Río Bravo, en el noroeste de Belize. Hill Bank tiene una rica avifauna a nivel local con 331 especies, y ha sido poco modificada por actividades humanas. Los hábitats más comunes incluyen selvas húmeda siempreverde de hoja ancha, seca, ribereña y bosque pantanoso bajo, bañados, pantanos de mangle y lagunas abiertas. El hábitat dominante es la selva subtropical, húmeda, siempreverde de hoja ancha. El promedio anual de lluvias es c. 1.650 mm. Los dos grandes crácidos de la región son comunes. Especies endémicas o fáciles de ver incluyen: *Jabiru mycteria*, *Amazona ochrocephala beliziensis*, *Schiffornis turdinus*, *Aimophila botteri petenica*, *Ammodramus savannarum cracens*, *Spizella passerina pinetorum*, *Piranga roseogularis* y *Granatellus sallaei*. Si bien se pueden encontrar especies similares en los vecinos Chan Chich Lodge y Los Milpa Research Station, la avifauna del área de Hill Bank es diferente de estos y otros destinos de observación de aves debido a la presencia de especies de humedales y sabanas de pinos.

Introduction

Belize has earned a growing reputation among birders as a destination of easy access and with an interesting list of Neotropical–Nearctic migrant and Neotropical species. One of the best known areas in northern Belize is Chan Chich Lodge in west Orange Walk District. Here, we describe a less well-known site 45 km to the east, Hill Bank, where 331 species have been found. Its many different terrestrial and aquatic habitats are largely intact and little-disturbed by human activities. The diversity and good quality of habitats near Hill Bank make it important to conservation and, coupled with a fully operational field station, presents many research opportunities. Nomenclature follows the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds¹ and subsequent supplements^{2,3,4}.

Description of the Area

Study Area

The area of this checklist largely lies within the south-east portion of the Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area (RBCMA, 17° 36' N 88° 42' W), Orange Walk District, Belize (Fig. 1). The RBCMA is owned and managed for conservation and sustainable use by Programme for Belize (PFB), a non-profit conservation organization. The dominant forest type is sub-tropical, moist, broadleaf evergreen forest receiving c. 1,650 mm per annum⁶. A dry season extends from late January–May, although the timing and amount of rainfall in the dry and wet seasons may vary substantially from year-to-year. Topography is relatively flat. Elevation ranges from near sea-level to 100 m a.s.l. The number of tree species can reach 56 species per ha⁶.

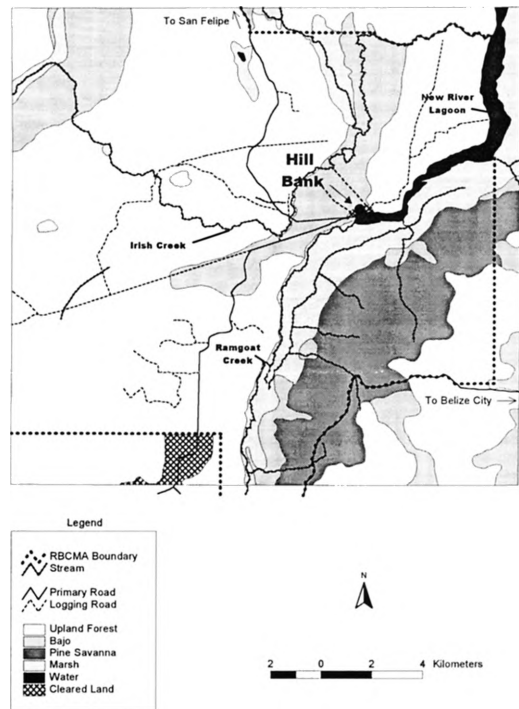


Figure 1. A map of the Hill Bank area, Orange Walk District, Belize including the checklist area (within the boundaries of the Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area) major habitats, primary roads, and logging roads.

Historically, forests in north Belize have been affected by deforestation by Maya, hurricanes and selective logging. Much of this region may have been deforested by the Maya during the period 0–1000 AD⁶. Minor Maya ruins and agricultural



Figure 2a. From upper left: Thrush-like Schiffornis *Schiffornis turdinus*, Rose-throated Tanager *Piranga roseogularis*, Rufous-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis erythrothorax*, Swainson's Warbler *Hemitheros swainsonii* and Grey-throated Chat *Granatellus sallaei*. (Andrew Vallely)



Figure 2. Upland broadleaf forest on logging road south of the Gallon Jug Road. (A. Whitman)



Figure 5. (right) White-whiskered Puffbird *Malacoptila panamensis*. (A. Whitman)

Figure 6 (far right). Barred Antshrike, female *Thamnophilus doliatus*. (Valerie Giles)

Figure 7 (above right). Yellow-billed Cacique *Amblycercus holosericeus*. (Valerie Giles)



structures are moderately common throughout the area. The Yucatan area, including the Hill Bank region, has been struck with moderate frequency by hurricanes and occasional, subsequent fire^{12,23}. Since the early 1800s, selective logging for mahogany *Swietenia macrophylla* and Spanish cedar *Cedrela odorata* has infrequently occurred throughout north-west Belize⁶. Recent logging has occurred at a low density of c. 1 mahogany tree per 4.5 ha and directly altered 6.7% of the logged area²¹. Stands logged ten or more years ago have an intact canopy. Logging has reduced only mahogany and Spanish cedar abundance and thus does not appear to have significantly altered the forest's structure and composition^{6,20}. However, a reduction in mahogany and Spanish cedar densities may have led to a reduction in the overall density of canopy emergents. In 1993 and 1994, PFB acquired land surrounding Hill Bank through land donations from Coca-Cola Foods Corporation and purchases, with the goal of sustainably managing it for the benefit of Belizeans.

Visiting the Site

PFB maintains a year-round visitors' lodge and forestry research station at Hill Bank. From there, upland habitats can be reached by truck within one hour and most others reached on foot within four hours. Wetland habitats can be reached by motor boat within one hour, or three hours by paddled canoe. Visitors should check in advance with PFB about transport to and accommodations at Hill Bank. Because there is no public transport to Hill Bank, access requires renting a four-wheel-drive truck in Belize City or making travel arrangements with PFB. Staff travel in and out almost daily.

The drive from Belize City is c. 3–5 hours depending on the road conditions. Visitors should drive the Northern Highway and turn west on the road to Burrell Boom (c. 9 km north of the International Airport). This road is mostly paved until Burrell Boom and dirt thereafter. One can find gasoline and diesel fuel as well as cold drinks and most foods in Burrell Boom. The remaining villages have small shops that sell canned and dry goods, and cold drinks. Visitors should drive c. 30 km (19 miles) to Rancho Dolores. In Rancho Dolores, cross Spanish Creek and the road bends sharply left. Take the first right to Yalbac Ranch and Cattle Company past a few homesteads and then through broadleaf forest and pine savanna. After c. 10 km, there is an access gate staffed by PFB rangers on the edge of the pine savanna. Approximately 10 km further, after climbing a low escarpment called Young Girl's Bump, the Yalbac access gate is

reached, on the edge of a citrus grove; c. 2 km further take a road heading north. This passes through more citrus and after c. 3 km crosses from Yalbac onto the RBCMA. This road leads 10 km north to Gallon Jug Road and visitors should turn east to reach Hill Bank. Although some may try to reach Chan Chich Lodge by turning west toward Gallon Jug, this road is only passable in late March–April, and then only in some years.

From Orange Walk, the drive is c. 2–4 hours, depending on road conditions. Take the dirt road to San Felipe passing through Yo Creek, San Lazero and August Pine Ridge, which all have dry-good stores with cold drinks. Gasoline and diesel fuel can be purchased in San Lazero (before San Felipe) or Blue Creek (west of San Felipe). At San Felipe, the main road bends sharply west (right) toward Blue Creek but continue straight through the village and after c. 2 km take the first large road heading south (right). Continue c. 30 km, heading south past small farms, then larger Mennonite-owned farms, to the RBCMA, and finally reaching the Gallon Jug Road. Hill Bank is reached after a 1 km drive east.

Major Habitats

Upland broadleaf forest accounts for over 70% of the checklist area and includes moist semi-tropical evergreen broadleaf forest (Fig. 2), cohune palm forest, and dry semi-tropical evergreen broadleaf forest. It occurs on moderately deep, well-drained soils underlain by porous limestone and has a canopy height ranging from 16–24 m with some taller canopy emergents. Moist semi-tropical evergreen broadleaf forest is by far the most common forest type. Common tree species include *Alseis yucatanensis*, *Aspidosperma cruenta*, *Brosimum alicastrum*, *Pouteria reticulata*, *Manilkara chicle* and *Terminalia amazonia*. Cohune palm *Orbignya cohune* forest is moderately common. Dry semi-tropical evergreen broadleaf forest is restricted to shallow soils on low rocky hills and severely burned areas, which are uncommon throughout the study area. Its dominant tree species includes *Brosimum alicastrum*, *Bursera simaruba*, *Manilkara chicle* and *Metopium brownei* and its canopy is 14–18 m.

These forest types support a number of regional endemics as well as a diverse community of raptors. The region's two species of forest cracids are common, most likely due to the prohibition of hunting on this privately owned land. The barred morph of the Great Curassow *Crax rubra* occurs here alongside the more common dark morph⁸. Among the more notable passerines in this habitat is the very common Thrush-like Schiffornis *Schiffornis*



Figure 3. Pine Ridge east of Hill Bank. (Valerie Giles)

turdinus, easily located by its frequent song once learnt. Grey-throated Chat *Granatellus sallaei* is best looked for in mid-storey and canopy vine tangles in dry semi-tropical forest. In Hill Bank, this species is not found in the understorey or at low levels as reported elsewhere⁷. Forest raptors, e.g. Crane Hawk *Geranospiza caerulescens*, Ornate Hawk-eagle *Spizaetus ornatus* and Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus*, are most easily located from the roads in late morning as they soar over the forest.

Two swamp broadleaf forest types occur: riparian forest and "bajo". Riparian forest is limited to the temporarily flooded margins of Irish and Ramgoat Creeks. The canopy is often broken, with much liana cover and occasional large emergent trees. Its tree species composition can be similar to surrounding uplands, except with the addition of a few species including bullet tree *Bucida buceras*, pterocarpus *Pterocarpus hayesii* and royal palm *Roystonea oleracea*. This habitat type may be of special conservation value because it is species-rich¹¹ and may have food resources such as fruits of the spiny understorey palm, porknobby *Bactris* spp. perhaps vital for wildlife during periods of drought¹¹.

Bajo occurs along the Gallon Jug Road for c. 5 km west from Hill Bank. Its vegetation is low and very dense and sometimes includes dense patches of "sawgrass" *Scleria bracteata*. Common tree species include crabboo *Byrsonima bucidaefolia*, pigeon

plum *Coccoloba reflexiflora* and tea bark *Myrica cerifera*⁶.

The birds of the bajo best reflect the Yucatan component of Hill Bank's avifauna and include many species commonly found in upland forest, and is poorly explored. Hence, its avifauna is not listed separately from upland broadleaf forest. The following species, rare at Hill Bank, have only been found in this habitat: Grey-collared Becard *Pachyrhamphus major*, Green Jay *Cyanocorax yncas* and Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus*.

Pine savanna is characterised by stands of pine *Pinus caribaea* and oak *Quercus oleoides* 10–14 m tall interspersed with palmetto *Acoelorrhaphe wrightii* thickets (Fig. 3) and grasslands. It occurs on excessively well-drained sands overlaying a clay hardpan. This habitat can vary from excessively wet to excessively dry depending on season, although water can be found throughout the year, and many small wetlands are dispersed throughout the pine savanna, which occurs in the south-east of the checklist area.

The avifauna includes a number of endemic forms difficult to find elsewhere in Belize. These include the *belizensis* race of Yellow-headed Parrot *Amazona ochrocephala*, which, as noted over 30 years ago²⁰, can be seen in significant numbers each evening as pairs fly across New River Lagoon. The open park-like areas harbour the *petenica* race of the Botteri's Sparrow *Aimophila botteri*, the *cracens* race of the Grasshopper Sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum* and the *pinetorum* race of the Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina*. Other species of interest in the pine savanna include: Aplomado Falcon *Falco femoralis*, Ladder-backed Woodpecker *Dendrocopus lateralis*, Black-throated Bobwhite *Colinus nigrogularis*, Grace's Warbler *Dendroica graciae* and Hepatic Tanager *Piranga flava*. Jabiru *Jabiru mycteria* may be seen overhead almost anywhere in the area, but is perhaps best looked for in small wetlands in the savanna.

Scrub includes disturbed vegetation of varying heights surrounding the old Hill Bank logging camp and marl pits (where road surfacing material is mined), along roads, in areas recently cleared and burned, including slash-and-burn agricultural areas ("milpas"). The tree species composition usually comprises shade-intolerant species of surrounding forest types. These areas harbour many of the more widespread Central American birds, e.g. Striped Cuckoo *Tapera naevia*, Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis* and White-necked Puffbird *Notharachus macrorhynchus*. Some species typical of the Yucatan area, e.g. Rose-

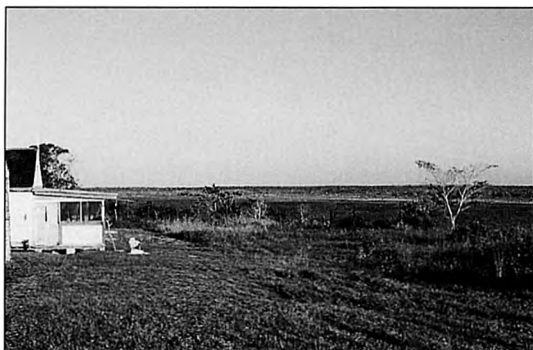


Figure 4. View from Hill Bank overlooking the New River Lagoon and marshes and pine ridge and savanna beyond. (A. Whitman)

throated Tanager *Piranga roseogularis*, also occur in dense scrub at Hill Bank.

Three types of marshes are identifiable, based on the dominance of sawgrass *Cladium* spp., rushes *Eleocharis* spp. or cattails *Typha domingensis*¹⁸. Small areas of woody vegetation, including buttonwood *Conocarpus erecta* and bobwood *Annona glabra*⁶ occur along the edges, and freshwater mangroves *Rhizophora mangle* where carbonate and sulphates are highly concentrated¹⁸. Large marshes surround the open waters of New River and Botes Lagoons (Fig. 4). Smaller marshes can be found around Irish Creek and small pools of water in the pine savanna.

Because this habitat is mostly inaccessible, its avifauna is the least well documented in this checklist. White-throated Flycatcher *Empidonax albigularis* winters in small numbers in the shrubby borders of the marsh. Our only record of Agami Heron *Agami agami* was an individual flushed along a creek on the east edge of the New River Lagoon. Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* is perhaps the most common heron in this habitat. Flocks of over 200 Black-bellied Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis* are sometimes present in these marshes as well as much smaller numbers of Muscovy Ducks *Cairina moschata*.

Summary of the avifauna and comparison with other sites

Below we describe the Hill Bank avifauna in terms of its component elements and suggest certain geographic trends in the distribution of birds in north Belize. We agree with Remsen¹⁹ that comparisons between different sites may reveal no more than artifacts such as differences in quality and amount of sampling effort. Nevertheless, we offer the following because real geographic trends appear to exist, although these require verification through more extensive and rigorous sampling.

Hill Bank lies along a south-west to north-west gradient of decreasing rainfall and declining forest stature and extent. Forest species such as Rufous Piha and Golden-crowned Warbler reach their easternmost limit near Hill Bank. As one moves east, these tall-forest species become scarce or absent, and are replaced by species of open habitats, marsh and savanna.

Two-hundred and thirty-two of the 331 species at Hill Bank are year-round residents, 82 are migrants, three are visitors and the remainder have an indeterminate status. Of the migrants, 48 are overwintering Neotropical–Nearctic migrants, 25 are transient Neotropical–Nearctic migrants, three are Neotropical–Nearctic migrants with overwintering or transient individuals, five are intratropical migrants which presumably breed at Hill Bank and one is a transient intratropical migrant. Broadleaf forest and scrub possess the most species of the four habitats included in the checklist, although the marshland species list contains the highest percentage of unique species and migrants (Table 1). However, the pine ridge and savanna, and marsh have been subject to less intensive surveying and may yield even more species with modest effort.

The Hill Bank checklist was compared with those of Tikal⁵, La Milpa Research Station¹³, Chan Chich Jungle Lodge¹⁶, Bermudian Landing¹⁰, Shipstern Nature Reserve¹⁵ and Freshwater Creek Forest Reserve¹⁷ (Table 2). Hill Bank has fewer species than the well-surveyed Tikal, a similar

Table 1. Number of species, percentage of migrant species, percentage of species unique to a habitat and approximate field effort in broadleaf forest, pine ridge and savanna, marsh and scrub habitat near Hill Bank, Belize.

habitat	number of species	% migrants	% unique to habitat	approx. days in field
Broadleaf forest	208	17	35	700
Pine ridge and savanna	60	25	18	~5
Marsh	59	32	62	~5
Scrub	200	21	17	~180
Total	331	21	-	~900

Table 2. Species number, percentage of unique species at a site, percentage species shared with other sites and percentage of migrant species at Hill Bank, and four other sites in northern Belize.

Site	Species				
	number	% unique to a site	% shared with Hill Bank all	widespread	% migrants
Tikal (5)	404	11.0	84	96	18
Chan Chich (15)	322	0.3	76	90	21
La Milpa (6)	353	2.3	81	95	24
Hill Bank	331	3.4	100	100	21
Bermudian Landing (10)	189	1.0	53	58	19
Freshwater Creek Forest Reserve (16)	190	2.1	53	59	15
Shipstern Nature Reserve (15)	242	2.0	53	56	26

number of species to Chan Chich and La Milpa, and more species than Bermudian Landing, Shipstern Nature Reserve, and Freshwater Creek. Tikal, Hill Bank, La Milpa and Chan Chich are all well-sampled sites and possess old-growth forest little-disturbed by humans or hurricanes because they are further inland than the other two sites. The fewer species recorded at Bermudian Landing and Freshwater Creek reflects less sampling effort and lack of extensive tall forest habitat compared to the other four sites. After Tikal, Hill Bank has the greatest percentage of unique species, probably reflecting its greater habitat diversity compared with other sites. Hill Bank has more bird species and core species (species found at three or more sites) in common with Tikal, Chan Chich Lodge and La Milpa Research Station than Bermudian Landing, Shipstern Nature Reserve and Freshwater Creek Forest Reserve. All sites held similar proportions of migrants, except Freshwater Creek Forest Reserve whose lower proportion of migrants was probably due to lack of sampling.

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Table 3. The birds of Hill Bank, Belize.

Fieldwork was conducted in January–April, 1994–1996. These months span the dry season in Belize and do not include the peak periods of passage of northern migrants. Fieldwork in other months would have yielded additional records and a more complete account of local movements, habitat use, and relative abundance.

As we conducted studies on the effects of logging on forest and forest birds in broadleaf forest during this period^{21,22} we compiled this list. We used point-counting and mist-netting as bird surveying techniques for our study. We also mist-netted for several days each year in the scrub surrounding the old Hill Bank logging camp. Other habitats were surveyed more casually. Most species listed in the checklist were encountered by the first or both authors except for 19 species recorded at Hill Bank by Russell²⁰. Habitat, abundance and status codes are listed below.

Habitats:

- Bf Broadleaf forest
- Ps Pine ridge and savanna
- M Marsh (including mangrove swamp)
- Sc Scrub (at Hill Bank and along roads)

Abundance codes⁹:

	a few individuals encountered on:	many individuals encountered on:
C Common	> 90% of days	> 50% of days
F Fairly common	50–90% of days	10–50% of days
U Uncommon	10–50% of days	< 10% of days
R Rare	< 10% of days	-
X Extremely rare	10 or fewer records for area	

Status codes¹¹:

- sr summer resident (breeding late March–September)
- nm neotropical–nearctic migrant (non-breeding visitor primarily October–March although some individuals may be present year-round)
- r breeding resident
- t neotropical migrant mainly transient (present during migration, April–early June and/or August–September)
- v non-breeding visitor that may occur in any season, mainly coastal waterbird species

FAMILY Species / scientific name	Habitat			*Status	M	FAMILY Species / scientific name	Habitat			*Status	M
	Bf	Sc	Ps				Bf	Sc	Ps		
TINAMIDAE						Short-tailed Hawk <i>Buteo brachyurus</i>	C	C			r
Great Tinamou <i>Tinamus major</i>	C	R			r	White-tailed Hawk <i>Buteo albicaudatus</i>		R	R		r
Slaty-breasted Tinamou <i>Crypturellus boucardi</i>	F	F			r	Black Hawk-eagle <i>Spizaetus tyrannus</i>	R	R			r
Little Tinamou <i>Crypturellus soui</i>	R	C			r	Ornate Hawk-eagle <i>Spizaetus ornatus</i>	U				r
Thicket Tinamou <i>Crypturellus cinnamomeus</i>		U			r						
PODICIPEDIDAE						FALCONIDAE					
Least Grebe <i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i>				X ²⁰	?	Laughing Falcon <i>Herpotheres cachinnans</i>	F	F			r
Pied-billed Grebe <i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>				R	nm+t	Barred Forest-falcon <i>Micrastur ruficollis</i>	U				r
PELECANIDAE						Collared Forest-falcon <i>Micrastur semitorquatus</i>	U	U			r
Brown Pelican <i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>				X	v	American Kestrel <i>Falco sparverius</i>		R	R		nm
PHALACROCORACIDAE						Bat Falcon <i>Falco rufigularis</i>	R	C	U		r
Neotropic Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>				C	r	Aplomado Falcon <i>Falco femoralis</i>		R	U		r
ANHINGIDAE						Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i>		R	R	X	nm
Anhinga <i>Anhinga anhinga</i>				R	r	CRACIDAE					
FREGATIDAE						Plain Chachalaca <i>Oreortyx vetula</i>	U	C			r
Magnificent Frigatebird <i>Fregata magnificens</i>				X	v	Crested Guan <i>Penelope purpurescens</i>	U				r
ARDEIDAE						Great Curassow <i>Crax rubra</i>	U				r
American Bittern <i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>				X ²⁰	nm	PHASIANIDAE					
Least Bittern <i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>				R	r?	Ocellated Turkey <i>Meleagris ocellata</i>		X			r
Bare-throated Tiger-heron <i>Tigrisoma mexicanum</i>	R			R	r	ODONTOPHORIDAE					
Great Blue Heron <i>Ardea herodias</i>				R	nm	Spotted Wood-quail <i>Odontophorus guttatus</i>	X				r
Great Egret <i>Egretta alba</i>				C	r	Yucatan Bobwhite <i>Colinus nigrogularis</i>			U		r
Snowy Egret <i>Egretta thula</i>				C	nm	RALLIDAE					
Little Blue Heron <i>Egretta caerulea</i>				C	nm+t	Ruddy Crake <i>Laterallus ruber</i>		C		C	r
Tricolored Heron <i>Egretta tricolor</i>				F	?	Grey-necked Wood-rail <i>Aramides cajaneae</i>	U	C		C	r
Cattle Egret <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>		R		R	r	Uniform Crake <i>Amaurolimnas concolor</i>	R	R			r
Green Heron <i>Butorides striatus</i>	R			F	r	Sora <i>Porzana carolina</i>				X ²⁰	nm
Yellow-crowned Night-heron <i>Nycticorax violaceus</i>					r	American Coot <i>Fulica americana</i>				X ²⁰	nm
Boat-billed Heron <i>Cochlearius cochlearius</i>					r	HELIORNITHIDAE					
White Ibis <i>Eudocimus albus</i>				R	v?	Sungrebe <i>Heliornis fulica</i>	U				r
CICONIIDAE						ARAMIDAE					
Jabiru <i>Jabiru mycteria</i>	R		R	U	r	Limpkin <i>Aramus guarauna</i>				C	r
Wood Stork <i>Mycteria americana</i>				R	r?	CHARADRIIDAE					
CATHARTIDAE						Killdeer <i>Charadrius vociferus</i>				R	nm+t
Black Vulture <i>Coragyps atratus</i>	C	C			r	American Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis dominica</i>				X	t
Turkey Vulture <i>Cathartes aura</i>	C	C			r	RECURVIROSTRIDAE					
Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture <i>Cathartes burrovianus</i>			U	U	r	Black-necked Stilt <i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>				X ²⁰	?
King Vulture <i>Sarcophagus papa</i>	U				r	JACANIDAE					
ANATIDAE						Northern Jacana <i>Jacana spinosa</i>				C	r
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck <i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>				U	r?	SCOLOPACIDAE					
Muscovy Duck <i>Cairina moschata</i>				R	r	Greater Yellowlegs <i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>				R	t
Northern Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>				X ²⁰	t	Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i>				U	t
Lesser Scaup <i>Aythya affinis</i>				X ²⁰	t	Solitary Sandpiper <i>Tringa solitaria</i>				U	nm
ACCIPITRIDAE						Willet <i>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</i>				R ²⁰	t
Osprey <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>				X	nm	Spotted Sandpiper <i>Actitis macularia</i>				U	nm
Grey-headed Kite <i>Leptodon cayanensis</i>	R	R			r	Pectoral Sandpiper <i>Calidris melanotos</i>				X	t
Hook-billed Kite <i>Chondrohierax uncinatus</i>	R	R			r	LARIDAE					
Swallow-tailed Kite <i>Elanoides forficatus</i>	R	R	R		t	Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i>				X ²⁰	t
White-tailed Kite <i>Elanus leucurus</i>			C		r	Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger</i>				X ²⁰	t
Snail Kite <i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>				C	r	COLUMBIDAE					
Double-toothed Kite <i>Harpagus bidentatus</i>	U	U			r	Pale-vented Pigeon <i>Columba cayennensis</i>	C	C			r
Plumbeous Kite <i>Ictinia plumbea</i>	U	U			sr	Scaled Pigeon <i>Columba speciosa</i>	C	C			r
Black-collared Hawk <i>Busarellus nigricollis</i>				R	r	Red-billed Pigeon <i>Columba flavirostris</i>	C	C			r
Crane Hawk <i>Geranospiza caerulescens</i>	U	U			r	Short-billed Pigeon <i>Columba nigrirostris</i>	C				r
White Hawk <i>Leucopternis albigollis</i>	U				r	Mourning Dove <i>Zenaida macroura</i>		X ²⁰			t
Great Black Hawk <i>Buteogallus urubitinga</i>	U	U	R		r	Plain-breasted Ground-dove <i>Columbina minuta</i>			U		r
Grey Hawk <i>Asturnia nitidus</i>	C	C	C		r	Ruddy Ground-dove <i>Columbina talpacoti</i>		U			r
Roadside Hawk <i>Buteo magnirostris</i>	U	C	C		r						

FAMILY	Habitat	*Status	FAMILY	Habitat	*Status
Species / scientific name	Bf Sc Ps M		Species / scientific name	Bf Sc Ps M	
Blue Ground-dove <i>Claravis pretiosa</i>	F C	r	ALCEDINIDAE		
White-tipped Dove <i>Leptotila verrauxi</i>	F U	r	Ringed Kingfisher <i>Ceryle torquata</i>	R	C r
Grey-headed Dove <i>Leptotila plumbeiceps</i>	C	r	Belted Kingfisher <i>Ceryle alcyon</i>		R nm
Ruddy Quail-dove <i>Geotrygon montana</i>	C	r	Amazon Kingfisher <i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>	R	C r
PSITTACIDAE			Green Kingfisher <i>Chloroceryle americana</i>	U	U r
Olive-throated Parakeet <i>Aratinga astec</i>	C C	r	American Pygmy Kingfisher <i>Chloroceryle aenea</i>	U	U r
Brown-hooded Parrot <i>Pionopsitta haematotis</i>	C U	r	BUCCONIDAE		
White-crowned Parrot <i>Pionus senilis</i>	C C	r	White-necked Puffbird <i>Notharachus macrorhynchus</i>	R R	r
White-fronted Parrot <i>Amazona albifrons</i>	C C	r	White-whiskered Puffbird <i>Malacoptila panamensis</i>	U	r
Yellow-lored Parrot <i>Amazona xantholara</i>	R U	r	GALBULIDAE		
Red-lored Parrot <i>Amazona autumnalis</i>	C C	r	Rufous-tailed Jacamar <i>Galbula ruficauda</i>	U	r
Mealy Parrot <i>Amazona farinosa</i>	U	r	RAMPHASTIDAE		
Yellow-headed Parrot <i>Amazona oratrix</i>	U U U	r	Collared Araçari <i>Pteroglossus torquatus</i>	C U	r
CUCULIDAE			Keel-billed Toucan <i>Ramphastos sulfuratus</i>	C C	r
Squirrel Cuckoo <i>Piaya cayana</i>	C C	r	Emerald Toucanet <i>Anlacorhynchus prasinus</i>	X ²⁰	r?
Striped Cuckoo <i>Tapera naevia</i>	U	r	PICIDAE		
Pheasant Cuckoo <i>Dromococcyx phasianellus</i>	X	r	Acorn Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>		C r
Groove-billed Ani <i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>	U	r	Black-cheeked Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes pucherani</i>	C	r
TYTONIDAE			Golden-fronted Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes aurifrons</i>	U	r
Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	X	r	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker <i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	R	nm
STRIGIDAE			Ladder-backed Woodpecker <i>Picoides scalaris</i>		U r
Vermiculated Screech-owl <i>Otus guatemalae</i>	C	r	Smoky-brown Woodpecker <i>Veniliornis fumigatus</i>	U R	r
Central American Pygmy-owl <i>Glauclidium griseiceps</i>	R	r	Golden-olive Woodpecker <i>Piculus rubiginosus</i>	U U	r
Mottled Owl <i>Ciccaba virgata</i>	C U	r	Chestnut-coloured Woodpecker <i>Celeus castaneus</i>	U R	r
Black-and-white Owl <i>Ciccaba nigrolineata</i>	U	r	Lineated Woodpecker <i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>	U C	r
CAPRIMULGIDAE			Pale-billed Woodpecker <i>Campephilus guatemalensis</i>	C	r
Lesser Nighthawk <i>Chordeilis acutipennis</i>		R nm	FURNARIIDAE		
Pauraque <i>Nyctidromus albigillis</i>	C? C	r	Rufous-breasted Spinetail <i>Synallaxis erythrorhox</i>	R C	r?
Yucatan Poorwill <i>Nyctiphymus yucatanicus</i>	X X	r	Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner <i>Automolus ochrolaemus</i>	R	r
Yucatan Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus badius</i>	X X	r	Plain Xenops <i>Xenops minutus</i>	C U	r
NYCTIBIDAE			Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser <i>Sclerurus guatemalensis</i>	U	r
Northern Potoo <i>Nyctibius jamaicensis</i>	X	r	DENDROCOLAPTIDAE		
APODIDAE			Tawny-winged Woodcreeper <i>Dendrocincla anabatina</i>	C U	r
White-collared Swift <i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>	X X	r?	Ruddy Woodcreeper <i>Dendrocincla homachroa</i>	C	r
Vaux' Swift <i>Chaetura vauxi</i>	U U	r?	Olivaceous Woodcreeper <i>Sittasomus griseicapillus</i>	C R	r
Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift <i>Panyptila cayennensis</i>	F F	r	Wedge-billed Woodcreeper <i>Glyphorhynchus spirurus</i>	R	r
TROCHILIDAE			Strong-billed Woodcreeper		
Long-tailed Hermit <i>Phaethornis superciliosus</i>	U	r	<i>Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus</i>	X	r
Little Hermit <i>Phaethornis longuemareus</i>	C	r	Northern Barred Woodcreeper		
Scaly-breasted Hummingbird <i>Phaethochroa cuvierii</i>	R	r	<i>Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae</i>	U	r
Wedge-tailed Sabrewing <i>Campylopterus curvipennis</i>	U	r	Ivory-billed Woodcreeper <i>Xiphorhynchus flavigaster</i>	C R	r
White-necked Jacobin <i>Florisuga mellivora</i>	R U	r	Streak-headed Woodcreeper <i>Lepidocolaptes souleyetii</i>	X	R r
Brown Violetear <i>Colibri delphinae</i>	R ²⁰	v	THAMNOPHILIDAE		
Green-breasted Mango <i>Anthracochothax prevosti</i>	U	r	Great Antshrike <i>Taraba major</i>		X r
Canivet's Emerald <i>Chlorostilbon canivetii</i>	R	r	Barred Antshrike <i>Thamnophilus doliatus</i>	R C	r
White-bellied Emerald <i>Amazilia candida</i>	C U	r	Plain Antvireo <i>Dysithamnus mentalis</i>	X	r
Azure-crowned Hummingbird <i>Amazilia cyanocephala</i>	R R	r	Dot-winged Antwren <i>Microthopias quixensis</i>	C R	r
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird <i>Amazilia tzacatl</i>	C C C	r	Dusky Antbird <i>Cercomacra tyrannina</i>	U R	r
Buff-bellied Hummingbird <i>Amazilia yucatanensis</i>		R r	FORMICARIDAE		
Purple-crowned Fairy <i>Heliophryx burroti</i>	R R		Black-faced Antthrush <i>Formicarius analis</i>	C U	r
TROGONIDAE			TYRANNIDAE		
Black-headed Trogon <i>Trogon melanocephalus</i>	C C	r	Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet <i>Ornithion semiflavum</i>	C	r
Violaceous Trogon <i>Trogon violaceus</i>	C C	r	Northern Beardless Tyrannulet <i>Camptostoma imberbe</i>	U U	r
Collared Trogon <i>Trogon collaris</i>	F	r	Greenish Elaenia <i>Myiobagis viridicata</i>	C U	r
Slaty-tailed Trogon <i>Trogon massena</i>	C	r	Yellow-bellied Elaenia <i>Elaenia flavogaster</i>	R C U?	r
MOMOTIDAE			Ochre-bellied Flycatcher <i>Mionectes oleagineus</i>	C U	r
Tody Motmot <i>Hylomanes momotula</i>	R	r	Sepia-capped Flycatcher <i>Leptopogon amaurocephalus</i>	R	r
Blue-crowned Motmot <i>Momotus momota</i>	U	r	Northern Bentbill <i>Oncostoma cinereigulare</i>	C C	r

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Species / scientific name	Bf Sc Ps M		Species / scientific name	Bf Sc Ps M	
Slate-headed Tody-flycatcher <i>Poecilatriccus sylvia</i>	R	r	Barn Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	U	U t
Common Tody-flycatcher <i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>	U U	r			
Eye-ringed Flatbill <i>Rhynchocyclus brevirostris</i>	C	r	TROGLODYTIDAE		
Yellow-olive Flycatcher <i>Tolmomyias sulphurescens</i>	C C	r	Spot-breasted Wren <i>Thryothorus maculipectus</i>	C C	r
Stub-tailed Spadebill <i>Platyrinchus cancrinus</i>	C	r	House Wren <i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	U	r
Royal Flycatcher <i>Onychorhynchus coronatus</i>	R U	r	White-bellied Wren <i>Uropsila leucogastra</i>	C U	r
Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher <i>Terentotriccus erythrurus</i>	R	r	White-breasted Wood-wren <i>Henicorhina leucosticta</i>	C	r
Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher <i>Myiobius sulphureipygius</i>	U	r			
Eastern Wood Pewee <i>Contopus virens</i>	U U	t	SYLVIDAE		
Tropical Pewee <i>Contopus cinereus</i>	U U	r	Long-billed Gnatwren <i>Ramphocaenus melanurus</i>	C	r
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher <i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	C	nm	Blue-grey Gnatcatcher <i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	U C	nm+r
Acadian Flycatcher <i>Empidonax virescens</i>	X	t	Tropical Gnatcatcher <i>Polioptila plumbea</i>	C	r
Least Flycatcher <i>Empidonax minimus</i>	C	nm			
Vermilion Flycatcher <i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>	U C	r	TURDIDAE		
Bright-rumped Attila <i>Attila spadiceus</i>	C U	r	Swainson's Thrush <i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	R	t
Speckled Mourner <i>Laniocera rufescens</i>	U	r	Wood Thrush <i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	C	nm
Rufous Mourner <i>Rhytipterna holerythra</i>	U	r	Clay-colored Robin <i>Turdus grayi</i>	R U	r
Dusky-capped Flycatcher <i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>	C C	r	White-throated Robin <i>Turdus assimilis</i>	R	r
Yucatan Flycatcher <i>Myiarchus yucatanensis</i>	R U	r			
Great Crested Flycatcher <i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	C F	nm	MIMIDAE		
Brown-crested Flycatcher <i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>	U U	r	Grey Catbird <i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	C C C	nm
Great Kiskadee <i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>	R C F	r	Tropical Mockingbird <i>Mimus gilvus</i>	C	r
Boat-billed Flycatcher <i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>	U U	r			
Social Flycatcher <i>Myiozetetes similis</i>	F C C	r	PARULIDAE		
Streaked Flycatcher <i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>	U U	sr	Blue-winged Warbler <i>Vermivora pinus</i>	R U	nm
Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher <i>Myiodynastes luteiventris</i>	U	sr	Tennessee Warbler <i>Vermivora peregrina</i>	R R	nm
Piratic Flycatcher <i>Legatus leucophaeus</i>	R	sr	Northern Parula <i>Parula americana</i>	U U	nm
Tropical Kingbird <i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	C C	r	Yellow Warbler <i>Dendroica petechia</i>	U U	nm
Couch's Kingbird <i>Tyrannus couchii</i>	U U	r	Chestnut-sided Warbler <i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>	C C C	nm
Eastern Kingbird <i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	R	t	Magnolia Warbler <i>Dendroica magnolia</i>	C C C	nm
Fork-tailed Flycatcher <i>Tyrannus savana</i>	R C U	r	Yellow-rumped Warbler <i>Dendroica coronata</i>	X	nm
(<i>incertae sedis</i>)			Black-throated Green Warbler <i>Dendroica virens</i>	C U	nm
Cinnamon Becard <i>Pachyrhamphus cinnamomeus</i>	X ²⁰	r	Blackburnian Warbler <i>Dendroica fusca</i>	X ²⁰	t
Grey-collared Becard <i>Pachyrhamphus major</i>	R X	r	Yellow-throated Warbler <i>Dendroica dominica</i>	R U	nm
Rose-throated Becard <i>Pachyrhamphus aglaiae</i>	R R	r	Grace's Warbler <i>Dendroica graciae</i>	C	r
Masked Tityra <i>Tityra semifasciata</i>	U	r	Bay-breasted Warbler <i>Dendroica castanea</i>	U	t
Black-crowned Tityra <i>Tityra inquisitor</i>	X ²⁰	r	Black-and-white Warbler <i>Mniotilta varia</i>	C U	nm
Rufous Piha <i>Lipaugus unirufus</i>	R	r	American Redstart <i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	C C	nm
Thrush-like Schiffornis <i>Schiffornis turdinus</i>	C	r	Prothonotary Warbler <i>Protonotaria citrea</i>	X	t
			Worm-eating Warbler <i>Helminthos vermivorus</i>	U	nm
PIPRIDAE			Swainson's Warbler <i>Limnathlypis swainsonii</i>	X X	nm
White-collared Manakin <i>Manacus candei</i>	U	r	Ovenbird <i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>	U C	nm
Red-capped Manakin <i>Pipra mentalis</i>	C U	r	Northern Waterthrush <i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>	U U	nm
			Louisiana Waterthrush <i>Seiurus motacilla</i>	C R	nm
VIREONIDAE			Kentucky Warbler <i>Oporornis formosus</i>	C	nm
White-eyed Vireo <i>Vireo griseus</i>	R U	nm	Common Yellowthroat <i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	C C C	nm
Mangrove Vireo <i>Vireo pallens</i>	R C	r	Grey-crowned Yellowthroat <i>Geothlypis poliocephala</i>	C C	r
Yellow-throated Vireo <i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	R	nm	Hooded Warbler <i>Wilsonia citrina</i>	C C	nm
Red-eyed Vireo <i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	C C	t	Golden-crowned Warbler <i>Basileuterus culicivorus</i>	R	r
Yellow-green Vireo <i>Vireo flavoviridis</i>	U C	am	Yellow-breasted Chat <i>Icteria virens</i>	U U	nm
Tawny-crowned Greenlet <i>Hylophilus ochraceiceps</i>	C	r	Grey-throated Chat <i>Granatellus sallaei</i>	U	r
Lesser Greenlet <i>Hylophilus decurtatus</i>	C U	r			
Green Shrike-vireo <i>Vireolanius pulchellus</i>	C	r	THAUPIDAE		
Rufous-browed Peppershrike <i>Cyclarhis guianensis</i>	R U	r	Scrub Euphonia <i>Euphonia affinis</i>	X R	r?
			Yellow-throated Euphonia <i>Euphonia hirundinacea</i>	C C	r
CORVIDAE			Olive-backed Euphonia <i>Euphonia gouldi</i>	C R	r
Green Jay <i>Cyanocorax yncas</i>	R R	r	Golden-hooded Tanager <i>Tangara larvata</i>	R R	r?
Brown Jay <i>Cyanocorax morio</i>	C C C	r	Red-legged Honeycreeper <i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i>	C U	r?
Yucatan Jay <i>Cyanocorax yucatanicus</i>	X ²⁰ X ²⁰	r	Blue-grey Tanager <i>Thraupis episcopus</i>	U	r
			Yellow-winged Tanager <i>Thraupis abbas</i>	R U	r?
HIRUNDINIDAE			Grey-headed Tanager <i>Eucometis penicillata</i>	U	r
Purple Martin <i>Progne subis</i>	C	t	Black-throated Shrike-tanager <i>Lanio aurantius</i>	C	r
Grey-breasted Martin <i>Progne chalybea</i>	C C	sr	Red-crowned Ant-tanager <i>Habia rubica</i>	C	r
Tree Swallow <i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	U U	nm	Red-throated Ant-tanager <i>Habia fuscicauda</i>	C U	r
Mangrove Swallow <i>Tachycineta albilinea</i>	C C	r	Rose-throated Tanager <i>Piranga roseogularis</i>	R R	r
Northern Rough-winged Swallow			Hepatic Tanager <i>Piranga flava</i>	C	r
<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	U R U	nm	Summer Tanager <i>Piranga rubra</i>	F C	nm
Bank Swallow <i>Riparia riparia</i>	R	t	Scarlet Tanager <i>Piranga olivacea</i>	R	t

COTINGA 8

The birds of Hill Bank, northern Belize

FAMILY	Habitat				*Status	FAMILY	Habitat				*Status
	Species / scientific name						Species / scientific name				
	Bf	Sc	Ps	M			Bf	Sc	Ps	M	
EMBERIZIDAE						Indigo Bunting <i>Passerina cyanea</i>	R	C	C		nm
Blue-black Grassquit <i>Volatinia jacarina</i>			U	U	r	Dickcissel <i>Spiza americana</i>		U			t
Variable Seedeater <i>Sporophila aurita</i>			U	U	r	ICTERIDAE					
White-collared Seedeater <i>Sporophila torqueola</i>	R	C	C		r	Red-winged Blackbird <i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>		X		U	r
Thick-billed Seed-finch <i>Oryzoborus funereus</i>			U	U	r	Eastern Meadowlark <i>Sturnella magna</i>		X	U		r
Olive Sparrow <i>Arremonops rufivirgatus</i>			C	C	r	Melodious Blackbird <i>Dives dives</i>			C		r
Green-backed Sparrow <i>Arremonops chloronotus</i>	C	C			r	Great-tailed Grackle <i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>			C	R	r
Botteri's Sparrow <i>Aimophila botteri</i>			U	U	r	Black-cowled Oriole <i>Icterus dominicensis</i>		C	U		r
Chipping Sparrow <i>Spizella passerina</i>			U	U	r	Orchard Oriole <i>Icterus spurius</i>		U	C		nm
Grasshopper Sparrow <i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>				U	r	Hooded Oriole <i>Icterus cucullatus</i>			U		r
						Yellow-backed Oriole <i>Icterus chrysater</i>				U	r
CARDINALIDAE						Yellow-tailed Oriole <i>Icterus mesomelas</i>		U	U	U	r
Greyish Saltator <i>Saltator coerulescens</i>		X ²⁰			r	Altamira Oriole <i>Icterus gularis</i>			R		r
Black-headed Saltator <i>Saltator atriceps</i>	C	C			r	Baltimore Oriole <i>Icterus galbula</i>		C	C	C	nm
Black-faced Grosbeak <i>Caryothraustes poliogaster</i>	C				r	Yellow-billed Cacicque <i>Amblycercus holosericeus</i>		R	F		r
Northern Cardinal <i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>			U		r	Montezuma Oropendola <i>Psarocolius montezuma</i>		C	C		r
Rose-breasted Grosbeak <i>Phaeothicus ludovicianus</i>			X		t	FRINGILLIDAE					
Blue-black Grosbeak <i>Cyanocompsa cyanoides</i>	C	C			r	Red Crossbill <i>Loxia curvirostra</i>				X ²⁰	r
Blue Bunting <i>Cyanocompsa parellina</i>			U	U							
Blue Grosbeak <i>Guiraca caerulea</i>			U	U	nm						