



## Birds of the Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve and the Chiquibul National Park

4 nights / 5 days

**Day 1:** Arrive into Belize International Airport and meet our driver for transfer to Blancaneaux Lodge. Enjoy late afternoon birding on the property with our resident birding and natural history guides. (D)

**Day 2:** A full day birding experience in the Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve (MPR). We will visit 1000-Foot Falls, the nesting site of the Orange-breasted Falcon, Black and White Hawk-Eagles and King Vulture. We'll continue on to the Baldy Beacon observation point for stunning 360-degree panoramic views over the Bald Hills, MPR and the Chiquibul National Park. This is one of the few sites in Central America where it is possible to observe the extremely rare Solitary Eagle. We'll return to Blancaneaux Lodge via the roosting site of Stygian Owls for observation and to collect pellets for on-going analysis. (B,L,D)

**Day 3:** A full day birding experience in the Chiquibul National Park and the Caracol Archaeological Reserve. We'll depart by vehicle after breakfast and drive through the MPR until we reach the broadleaf moist forests of the Chiquibul across the Macal River at Guacamallo Bridge. The birding on the hour-long drive is excellent with Keel-billed Toucans frequently spotted flying over the canopy. Once at the Maya site of Caracol there is plenty of time for both exploring this vast site and birding. Wildlife is abundant with Spider Monkeys, Coati, Brocket deer and Grey Fox regularly seen amongst the plazas. The temples provide excellent vantage points for observing raptors and the ancient causeways allow us to access stunning rainforest. Motezuma's Oropendula, Ocellated Turkey, Lovely Cotinga, Masked Tityra, Rufus-tailed Jacamar, Keel-billed and Tody Motmot can all be seen here. (B,L,D)

**Day 4:** A full day exploring the nearby broadleaf moist forest of the Noj Kaax Meen Elijio Panti National Park. We'll trek through pine ridge, transitional forest with large waterfalls and broadleaf moist forest. Our guides have documented 272 species in this region with species including Ocellated turkey, Great Curassow and Crested Guan. On our

trek to Howler Hill we'll observe many species of parrot, trogons, tanagers, flycatchers, warblers and seed eaters. Rare species such as the Keel-billed Motmot are also resident in this area. Howler Hill is a raptor 'hot spot' with Swallow-tailed and Plumbeous Kite, Laughing Falcon, White Hawk, Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Black-Hawk Eagle, King Vulture and Barred Forest-Falcon all frequently observed. We'll return to the lodge by vehicle in the late afternoon. (B,L,D)

**Day 5:** A morning of leisure birding on the property before transferring to Belize International Airport or Belize Municipal Airport for onward connections. (B)

**Pricing:**

Rates are per couple or two birders sharing a Riverfront Cabana at Blancaneaux Lodge.

**Winter Season:** \$2910 US + \$284 US tax + \$196 US Serv. Charge

**Summer Season:** \$2630 US + \$259 US tax + \$168 US Serv. Charge

**Trip Notes:**

B = Full Cooked Breakfast; L = Lunch/Picnic Lunch; D = Dinner

**Winter Season 2010:** January 06<sup>th</sup> to March 29<sup>th</sup>; April 07<sup>th</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>; and December 01<sup>st</sup> to December 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Summer Season 2010:** May 01<sup>st</sup> to November 24<sup>th</sup>.