

Belize - Part4 Tuesday morning, 17 December, was over cast with low clouds obscuring the tops of the local hills. The darker morning likely delayed the arrival of birds at breakfast time. We photographed birds along the long entrance road instead.



Bull and Cattle Egrets ready for flies



Golden-fronted Woodpecker



Social Flycatcher



Variable Seedeater



Groove-billed Ani

After passing back through Belmopan we stopped again at the Cheers Restaurant for an early lunch. We walked around outside while waiting for its preparation and saw some additional birds.



Little Blue Heron-young



Great Crested Flycatcher



Killdeer



Vermilion Flycatcher



Tropical Kingbird

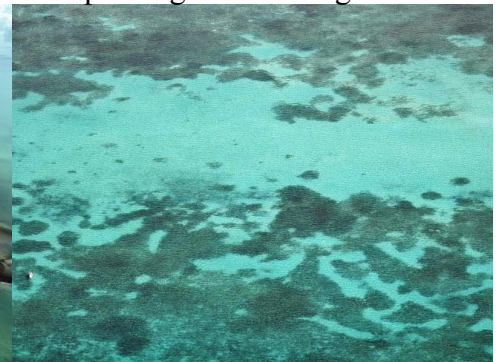
We arrived at the BZE airport at about noon for our expected 2:40 PM flight to San Pedro. We returned our Jeep to Crystal Auto Rental and checked in with Maya Island Air. The main aircraft type for them and for Tropic Air are single-engine turboprop Cessnas holding about 12 passengers. Both airlines have hourly flights with variable passenger loads. They decided to put us on the flight one hour earlier. It carried one pilot and 4 passengers including ourselves.



the pilot and the other two passengers



small islands



tropical underwater vegetation patterns



Magnificent Frigatebird



Double-crested Cormorant

We walked around San Pedro after checking in at our hotel. We found the medical clinic that I wanted to visit but needed to return there the following day.



Laughing Gulls



On about 4 December a 40-foot container arrived in Belize and its contents of medical supplies and equipment was to be divided unequally between three clinics. The Polyclinic on San Pedro, a smaller clinic on the nearby island of Caye Caulker, and a mobile clinic were the intended recipients. All items were marked at the Project C.U.R.E. warehouse in Denver, where I work weekly, by colored stickers: orange, blue, and red, respectively for those clinics. Suspecting that the load may not be distributed properly, I tried to write ahead with a confirmation of the instructions. My visit to San Pedro was partly to inspect the shipment results. My suspicions were confirmed. I found one orange sticker and all others were blue and therefore should have gone to Caye Caulker.



orange

blue



room full of blue



blue, with my marks government official

The government administrator had never seen the distribution instructions sent with the shipment, nor my back up instructions which he is holding in the photo to the right. He had been puzzled why the smaller Caye Caulker clinic had received the larger (orange) load and San Pedro the smaller (blue). My instruction sheet clarified what went wrong on the mainland where the load was separated. He then understood how to correct the distribution without moving everything. Items with the same Product Code numbers need not be moved except to satisfy the intended count of them. So my visit was very valuable to him, though he wasn't informed of our intended visit.

The main reason for our visit to San Pedro was to enjoy the barrier reef environment. Twelve years ago we stayed at Caye Caulker (less expensive than San Pedro and less crowded) and snorkeled the reef between those two locations. We thought we would try the more popular tourist spot this time. As it turned out, our snorkeling at Placencia showed us that at our age we had limited endurance in the water. After the clinic visit, I spotted an idle boat with a glass bottom. We had experienced a glass-bottom boat reef visit in eastern Fiji in 1971 and thought it would be a good option at San Pedro rather than getting in the water there. However, the weather was getting stormier, with increasing wind and waves. The boat owners agreed with our suspicions that we should not use that boat that afternoon. So we relaxed at and outside our hotel room instead.



sunrise from our hotel balcony



young Brown Booby



Brown Pelican



Great Blue Heron



Ruddy Turnstone

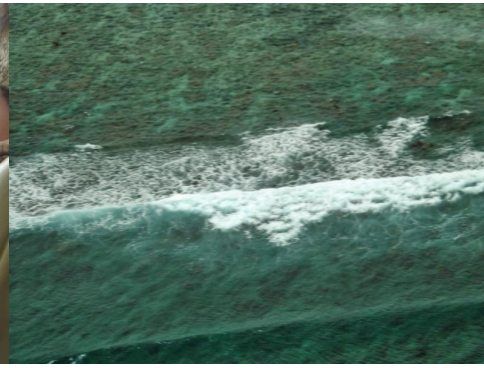


Yellow-throated Warbler

The weather on Thursday morning, 19 December, was cool with fine drizzle. That made it easier to leave this nice country of Belize and return home to colder Colorado. We got slightly wet from light rain walking from the commuter plane to the BZE terminal. Thereafter we had no problems going home. Our younger daughter, Maren, met us at Denver's DIA.



a view of a modern instrument panel



waves breaking on the barrier reef edge



approaching Caye Caulker

by Dr. Ed Holroyd
30 December 2019