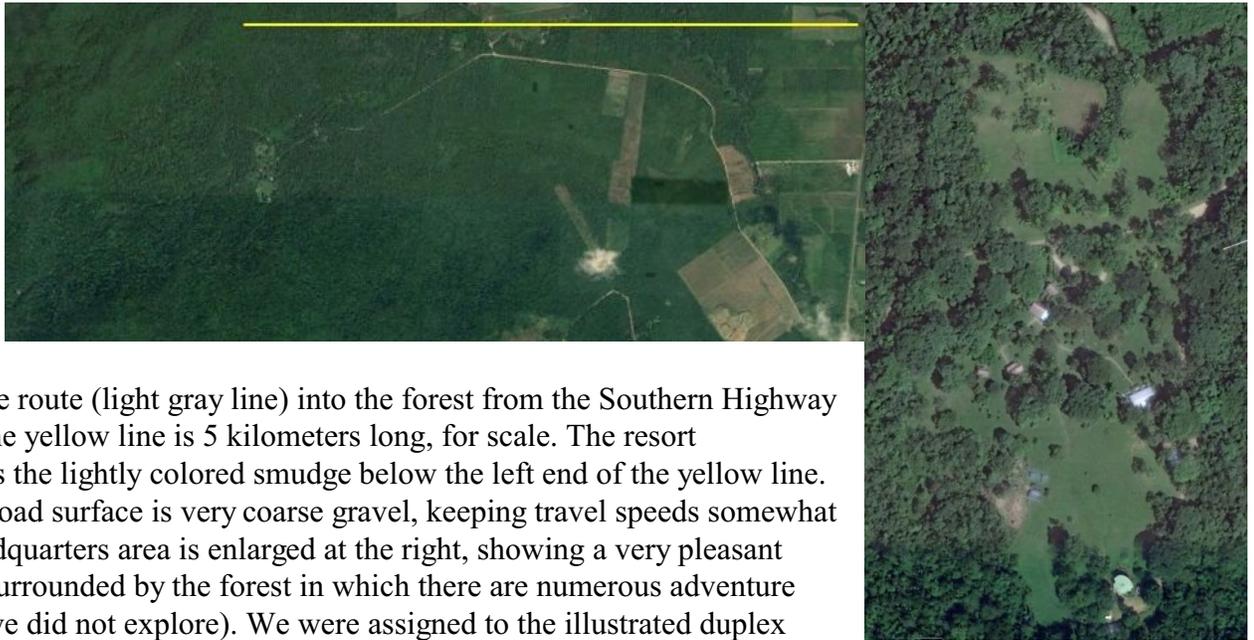


Belize-part2

For our second night in Belize we selected the Bokawina Rainforest Resort. The first satellite



view shows the route (light gray line) into the forest from the Southern Highway at the right. The yellow line is 5 kilometers long, for scale. The resort headquarters is the lightly colored smudge below the left end of the yellow line. The entrance road surface is very coarse gravel, keeping travel speeds somewhat slow. The headquarters area is enlarged at the right, showing a very pleasant environment surrounded by the forest in which there are numerous adventure trails (which we did not explore). We were assigned to the illustrated duplex cabin as a free upgrade from what we had reserved. There were few other guests at the time. The dining hall was near by. The next morning, 12 December, we explored the headquarters area.



We had the right side of this cabin with this view to the gray dining hall domestic Helmeted Guineafowl in field



flowers to attract birds



Armadillo



Least Flycatcher



Masked Tityra



Social Flycatcher



Tropical Kingbird



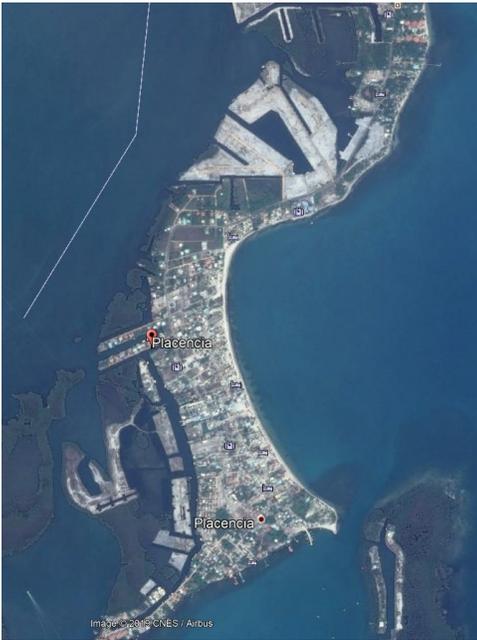
The resort trails of several kilometers length lead to many waterfalls, zip lines, and beautiful scenery.



Tropical Pewee



Morelet's Seedeater



After lunch on 12 December we drove to the coastal village of Placencia at the south end of a long narrow peninsula. Its long, slightly curved sandy beach slopes gently into the ocean, with no annoying currents. We spent two nights there, doing the water things on 13 December. Gail enjoyed wading into the beach water later in that afternoon .



That shows the vacant beach and the boat that took us on a snorkeling trip to nearby islands and coral reefs. Next 3 scenes are of Gail and guide.



on offshore islands



Royal Terns on island



Double-crested Cormorant



Little Blue Heron



2 scenes of Gail on beach



balcony view towards beach



Orchard Oriole male

During the morning, as we were about to arrange the snorkeling trip, there was a group of Belize locals and Koreans making their own arrangements. I overheard some discussing Biblical passages as they waited. Later that Friday evening the same group was at the nearby restaurant at the neighboring tables. The two children were again reciting even entire chapters accurately.



So I was curious. I went over to the table of the parents and their children and showed them the Biblical period coins that I had in my wallet. I learned that they were Dr. Steven and Sarita Lewis and their children Serah (5th grade) and Shalom (2nd grade) from Belmopan. (I took their family photo on the previous page on Saturday morning.) Their Korean guests were from California and South Korea and were also encouraging the kids in their memory recitals. Steven teaches Math at the University of Belize and Sarita is specialized in linguistics, helping international students there with their English. Her specialty suggested another point of contact.

Prior to this trip I had loaded several 32GB flash drives with Jesus Film Project movies about Jesus in the English and Central American Spanish languages. I had also loaded some 16 GB flash drives with movies in 4 local languages: Mayan, Garifuna, Kekchi, and Plautdietsch. So I gave one each of the two flash drives to Sarita, explaining their contents. When I travel I often give away flash drives in the locally appropriate languages so that the recipients can view the movies in their own language, show them to others, and make copies of the flash drive contents for even wider distribution. All of the movies, in up to about 1800 languages, are freely available for Internet download at <https://www.jesusfilm.org/watch.html>. That includes downloading them on smart phones for viewing and sharing. I had previously given one of the 32GB flash drives to the manager of the TEC for sharing with the staff in both languages.

In planning for our trip to Belize, I was wondering where in Belmopan we would be attending a church service on Sunday morning. Using Internet resources I had maps, names and descriptions of many churches but could not decide on one to visit. Since the Lewis family was from Belmopan and obviously were strong Christians (revealed by their children freely quoting large passages of the Bible in public), I asked them for a recommendation. They suggested their own church and wrote the important information on a napkin: Evangelical Bible Church, 38/40 Ambergris Avenue, Sunday School at 9:30 and Worship Service at 10:30. Those were excellent times for our schedule. Steven and Sarita serve on the church worship team. We discussed, using incomplete maps, that location which I later confirmed by Internet and by a Saturday noon drive-by. Sarita also invited us to mid-day dinner at their home, which we accepted.

My thoughts at that time brought back partial memories of two quotes. The first was 2 Samuel 5:24 containing instructions to King David for an anticipated battle. "As soon as you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, move quickly, because that will mean the LORD has gone out in front of you to strike the Philistine army." The second was from Henry Blackaby's book Experiencing God. He explains that God invites us to watch to see where God is working and to join Him in His work. At this time the clue was listening to the children and noticing that God was already at work. And Jesus commented about the words of children in Matthew 21: 15-16. So we adjusted our plans for the following Sunday.



Spotted Sandpiper

On Saturday morning, 14 December, after photographing the Lewis family we walked the length of the sandy beach. It was vacant apart from three Spotted Sandpipers.



Coatimundi

Our next destination was Guanacaste National Park on the north side of Belmopan. We visited there 12 years ago. Again we walked the trails in the dense tropical rain forest jungle.



Howler Monkey

There were two animals in the wild. Gail (in red) looks small on the trail.



Belize Bird Rescue / Rock Farm

Dinner and breakfast with the family

our bedroom

We then went to Belize Bird Rescue on the west side of Belmopan. They invite people to stay at their Rock Farm Guest House, with profits benefitting Bird Rescue. We stayed in their family home, were assigned to a main-floor bedroom near the kitchen and had our meals on the deck outside with the family, intern workers, and a couple other guests. We got to see some of the birds being rehabilitated, though other birds are kept far away and mostly isolated from human contact. Some of the healed birds do not go far away after they are released. They may have offspring who also keep close by. The healed birds have bands on their legs for identification. (www.belizebirdrescue.com and www.rockfarmbelize.com)



freed White-crowned Parrots

freed White-fronted Parrot

Collared Aracari visitor

Red-billed Pigeon

Mornings and evenings the trees and air are filled with many dozens of noisy White-fronted Parrots. In our late afternoon and morning walks within the large property I recorded 16 species of birds not being rehabilitated.



some of the trees on the Rock Farm

by Dr. Ed Holroyd
29 December 2019