

Riviera Maya, Yucatan, Mexico 14th to 26th August 2010

A family holiday with bins, scope and camera. A report by Colin Manville

It is normal for me to choose our resort and accommodation prior to researching the birding opportunities. This holiday was no exception and I chose the Gran Bahia Principe Akumal Resort at Riviera Maya due to excellent location, reviews and very large grounds including a golf course.

As a field guide I acquired a copy of Howell and Webb. It is truly massive in size and weight and impractical to lug about and, rather disappointingly for a book of that size, it doesn't have illustrations of all the birds. The Peterson guide also suffers from assuming you want to travel with the US field guides as well, which is a pity because I like them! The Costa Rica field guide from Helm is good but obviously lacks all of the species and useful range data. The Ernest Preston Edwards effort covers almost all species but the illustrations are a bit random and difficult to find. Therefore I finally settled on the Collins guide by Van Perlo and it worked out very well as it covers virtually all of the species enabling informed identification of all but two species (which required specialist Warbler books, expert help [thanks Barry] and web searching to clinch). The plates and the distribution diagrams are very small and the text a bit scant but it is a smallish book covering 1500 species so compromises have to be made. I own a copy of all of the above books so I have considered the merits of all of them at leisure. It must be said that although the Howell and Webb guide is (in my opinion) not suited for field use, I have used it extensively for its excellent text back at home.

I used my now standard holiday equipment of Leica binos, a Nikon lightweight scope, Slik carbon fibre tripod and a Cannon 450D with a 100 – 400 zoom. Frankly the scope was virtually unused as was the tripod.

I lost the will to do much research in terms of trip reports as I didn't really find any for this time of year especially for the Yucatan. I had a copy of "Where to find birds in Mexico" by Howell and Webb but I couldn't really muster the enthusiasm to do anything with it. A couple of reports recommended Luis Ku Kinores as a guide and I took the precaution of pinging him an email. He suggested 3 days at sites whose names had become familiar whilst reassuring me that this was indeed a good time of year for birding the Yucatan. Luis doesn't lower his rates for lone birders or small parties so his prices are staggeringly expensive. I took sufficient US Dollars for a couple of days with him as he assured me we would see 80 species a day.

The weather was excellent for all but two days of our stay being 30 plus degrees with a 5-10mph easterly breeze. This pattern was broken only by tropical storm Harvey which passed across Costa Rica to the south of Mexico. Harvey produced a stiff wind with some very heavy rain showers on its first day, when fortunately we were inland at Chichen Itza. The second day was just overcast with a few spots of rain.

The resort contains 3 hotels and is massive. Ignoring the golf course on the other side of the main road it measures approximately 1Km by 2km. Our accommodation was at the southern end of the resort on the beach. Golf cart style transport is laid on for the more idle holidaymaker and indeed, weary birders. Essentially the resort is built on a swamp and there is plenty of Red Mangrove habitat left intact and with the drying out of some areas quite a diverse habitat has been created. I was told that there was a covenant on the land and that the resort owners had to maintain an ecological reserve. Unfortunately I found out too late in my stay that eco tours were undertaken by bicycle in an area on the far side of the golf course – doh! An observation tower is provided for excellent views over the mangroves which was very productive in the morning. Of course there are proper roads through allowing you the opportunity of a close encounter with the birds and mammals.

To the south of the resort a deserted sandy bay and limestone or dead coral headland was quite productive for shorebirds. The unused nature of the area resulted from (I think) an abandoned drive-

through eco park or zoo taking up the space behind the beach. This was also a good area free from disturbance with good (abandoned) roads to walk around.



Bay to the south

Similarly the headland about a 1km north also limestone/coral with tidal pools was excellent for waders, the 3km of sandy beach of the resort was not surprisingly unproductive.

My first venture to the golf course was via a private road over the main road. This was okay but it took a lot of walking to actually get to the golf course. The security guards at this entrance were very friendly. On my second and final visit to the golf course I accessed it via the main entrance. The security guard checked that I had a hotel wrist band and I was allowed in. I immediately spotted a

Least Grebe on a small lake and rattled off some pictures. After a while the security guard came over and told me not to take pictures! Although a bit surprised I agreed and moved on, soon a golf buggy screeched up and two security guards jump out and told me to



leave. I asked why as I was a guest of the hotel and I was told that it was too dangerous for me to remain. Clearly this was not due to the danger of being hit by a golf ball because the course was

totally devoid of golfers. However I had the pictures that I wanted and was disinclined to pursue my argument to remain.

The bird species in the habitation areas of the resort were relatively few and reasonably predictable.



However a pair of nesting Hooded Orioles in a palm tree by the beach provided a welcome distraction for about ten days until the chicks fledged (I hope). Despite this time period being the start of the northern migration period there was a lot of nesting and feeding activity during our stay. Indeed there was a surprising amount of tail-less fledglings all over the resort. Social Flycatchers were plentiful along with Tropical Mockingbirds. Golden fronted Woodpeckers were common and after a couple of days we were inundated with Ridgeways Rough-winged Swallow and Purple Martin.

The Mangrove areas including the observation tower were excellent and contributed significantly to 47 species I noted in and around the resort. The Observation Tower area produced Black-cowled Oriole and Yellow-backed Oriole as well as Green and Little Blue Heron. Best of all it enabled brief views of Grey Catbird. If you are into Butterflies then go no further than the tower. The views down onto the trees and bushes enabled spectacular views of many species of butterfly which all appeared to be giant varieties to me.

The “yellow route” for the hotel transport between the Akumel and the Tulum was exquisite. Mornings were consistently better than evenings producing both Mangrove Warbler and Golden crowned Warbler amongst the usual run of the mill fare. Both of these species were particularly difficult to photograph in the dense foliage. The picture here of a Mangrove Warbler is the best of a whole bunch of poor record shots.



Shorebirds were reasonably well represented at the headland to north and the bay and headland to the south. Both places had to be worked quite often. Because the bay to the

south was convenient for my accommodation, deserted and frankly quite beautiful I went there quite often. Spotted Sandpiper in varying stages of spottiness were frequent and usually a Least Sandpiper appeared daily here. After the wet weather following Harvey the bay became home to 2 Royal Terns and a Sandwich Tern. I have only included a reference to the Terns so that I can quite shamelessly include a Royal Tern Photo! Turnstones were common on the headland but a single



Wilson's Plover in a breeding/eclipse plumage was a good find. Later in the holiday a single Semipalmated Plover became a resident. The derelict zoo behind this area held Couch's kingbird, Altamira Oriole and Yucatan Jay amongst others. (A full species account appears at the end of this report.) On the short journey to and from the bay Great Kiskadee could be found fishing.



I walked north along the surf with one of my teenage children one morning as far as headland. It was much richer with birds than the bay to the south although not nearly as pretty. That afternoon I returned with my gear albeit using the hotel transport as far as it would take me. 7 Wilson's Plover, 8 Least Sandpiper, 4 Semipalmated Sandpiper and 4 Spotted Sandpiper were the highlights. There was also Black-bellied Plover (Grey Plover), Ruddy Turnstone etc. I always feel that American waders are less flighty than their UK equivalents enabling some fairly decent photographs. This was the only time I used a tripod for photography or even at all.

Despite my desire to have a genuine rest on this holiday, I arranged to meet Luis Ku Kinoros on the Wednesday. We agreed to meet at the hotel reception at 05:30. He arrived at precisely the appointed time and we set off in the dark. Transport was a taxi whis was more than adequate for its task. I had decided to go to Muyil, Kancun Lake and Xel Ha (ruins not the fun park). Muyil is a Mayan village surrounded by low forest and brush including some Mayan ruins. We arrived just after first light and birded the more open area on the west side of Highway 307. (I have included a table of GPS coordinates at the end of the report.) The early start (pre 06:00) was not ideal for photographs due to poor light but excellent for ticking. However, the light soon improved and the camera was banging away. Luis is very patient and a fantastic guide. He obviously knows exactly where to seek the desirable species and he has ears like a bat. He could identify everything by its call and could alert me to be ready long before the target came into sight. We had only been at Muyil for a couple of minutes and we already had Greyish Saltator, Barred Antshrike and Cinnamon Hummingbird. And they just kept coming, this really is a great site.



Just before 07:00 we moved across to the east side of the highway. We immediately had Green Jay,



then Spot-breasted and White-bellied Wren which are two of the “must see” birds on this side of the road. Ivory-billed Woodcreeper was next up and although I don’t think Luis saw it, I managed to grab a picture. Nearing the clearing, with the Mayan ruins Luis pointed out a Plain Chachalaca which was surprisingly difficult to see for such a large bird and finally Grey-headed Tanager

and Yellow-throated Tanager which Luis was keen for me to see. In the clearing 5 Swallow-tailed Kite flew over on migration along with 2 Olive-throated Parrot. Returning to the car Luis heard and managed to get me on for brief views of Kentucky Warbler and better views of this female Cerulean Warbler. Top stuff! Why is it that with all of the exotics mentioned above I still get hot over the Warblers?

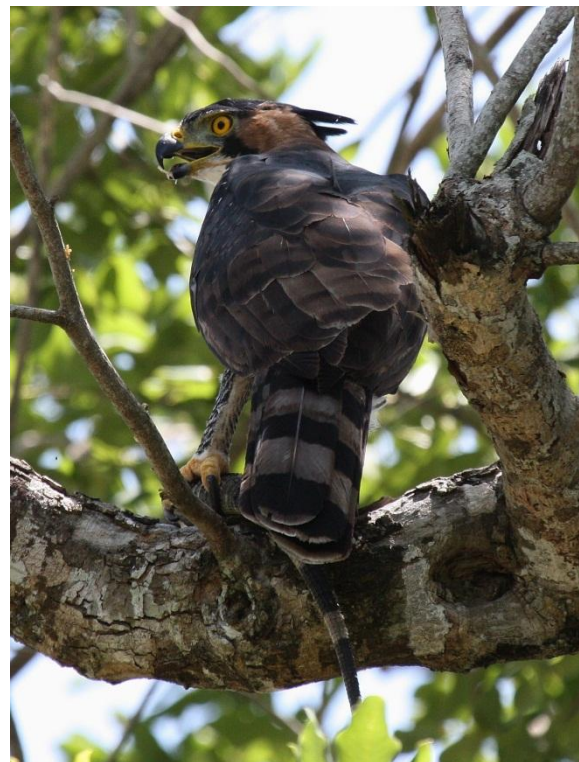
We moved on to Kancun Lake, excellent, wetland birds – wrong! The scrub and low forest around the lake is fantastic, the lake itself is saltwater and devoid of birdlife although Luis was disappointed



when we didn't see a Crake. We did however see Piratic and Yucatan Flycatcher and then some exotics. Squirrel Cuckoo flew in and a pair of noisy Yellow billed Casique heard long before they were seen. We then saw the obligatory Black headed Trogon and Masked Tityra. These were all eclipsed by a lovely male Prothonotary Warbler. It was getting hard going so we had refreshments by the lake which was provided by Luis – top man. I am not sure that he organised it but we had a superb Yellow headed Vulture while we were loafing about. At about 10:30 we wandered back to the car and set off to Xel-Ha ruins which are actually very near my hotel. We arrived at the site about 11:00. Xel-Ha is light forest over a limestone cap and has the benefit of its own cenote. As much as I would like to wade in and regale you with stories of wonderful birds it would be remiss of me if I didn't mention mosquitos. We hadn't been overly troubled by mossies until

now, or perhaps I was more conscious of them now. I could see them buzzing around Luis as we

walked in the shade. He turned and asked me if I had any repellent. I had applied a 50% deet formula before I left the hotel but left it there – doh! Luis lent me his local formula (which worked very well if not better than the one I brought, it certainly stung less when you applied it). Moving on we quickly found a Grey Hawk followed by Black headed and Volaceous Trogon both agreeably photographable. Luis then pulled up short as a raptor called from the top of the tree directly above us. Easily identified as an Ornate Hawk Eagle it flew to the next tree (with its Iguana lunch?) so it could keep an eye on us giving fantastic views. (Apparently it is quite rare in these parts and Luis requested a picture for his website.) A couple more flycatchers in the form of Streaked and Brown-crested padded out the day list. However I was now tiring and needed a boost. This was provided in the form of Tropical Gnatcatcher, Buff-bellied hummingbird and typically brief views of a Wedge-tailed Sabrewing. At



13:00 we called it a day and made the short journey back to the resort. 13:00 might seem early to finish but I had been picked up at 05:30. It had been a very rewarding day and Luis lived up to his estimate of 80 birds. We agreed the time and day of our next trip out and said our goodbyes. I expected a few bites on the face and hands but the tiny black mossies were relentless and clothing had proved no barrier to them. Particularly bad was area where my backpack and straps had pulled my shirt tight against my body.

Come the weekend and the obligatory family visit to Chichen Itza. The weather was shocking ☺ on the road to our first stop Ik-Kil Cenote. Cave swallows nest and roost in the cenote and Turquoise-browed Motmot was seen in the grounds. At Chichen Itza, Bat Falcon perched on the radio mast outside the ruins. Between the showers Grey Kingbird and Green breasted Mango were noted. My family firmly believe that Chichen itza means “pile of stones”, they were very disappointed with the great temple. They viewed it as very much a poor mans pyramid a long way second to the great pyramid at Giza. We were all glad to leave.



On the way back to the resort the coach stopped by the town square in Valladolid. No one wanted to get out in the rain – except me! I think the itinerary was to see the church in the picture. However I had other ideas. I could see Couch’s Kingbird and Social Flycatcher straight away. A brief walk round the square produced Blue-grey Gnatcatcher in company with a Yellow-throated Warbler in some pines at one end of the square giving perfect views in the light foliage.

The day prior to my second trip with Luis, my wife couldn’t believe I was going out with him again after being bitten so badly the first time. However this time I went overboard with the repellent. I applied the local repellent all over before dressing, then, sprayed my clothes with my deet spray. No problem, it worked a treat although I did take the precaution of spraying my clothes from time to

time as the morning wore on. Luis arrived punctually at 05:30 and we set off for Coba Lake. We arrived about 07:00 and wandered around the lake to the ruins. The weather was once again excellent and the lake produced 6 or more Limpkin and an immature Great Blue Heron but the highlights were White-collared Seedeater and Yellow-winged Tanager. We picked up some filler species as we neared the ruins at about 08:00.

In the “high forest” of Coba ruins birding was slowww, very slow. It seemed to take ages before we came across a pair of Black and White Warblers. Luis worked hard and rooted out a male Red-throated Tanager. Walking down the quiet bicycle tracks we came across both Louisiana and



Northern Waterthrush, Luis patiently pointed out the differences in plumage and call. A Smokey-brown Woodpecker was a good find and I was pleased with the difficult to spot Collared Aracari. As we trudged around we picked up Buff-breasted Hummingbird and then a personal favourite, Long-billed Gnatwren. Luis then found some personal must see birds, Green-backed Sparrow and Collared Trogon. We picked up Black Catbird as we walked back to the car. By now birding was extremely tough as hundreds of tourists were noisily cycling round the tracks. Luis suggested that we move on as

we would see no more birds here. We drove to Punta Laguna which is another lake devoid of wetlands birds. Once again the habitat of interest is the forest with dense understory which surrounds the lake. It took ages to connect with anything new for the trip but eventually Luis found a covey of Yucatan Bobwhite scurrying through the undergrowth. Brown Jays were heard everywhere but it took ages to actually see a small flock noisily moving through the treetops. Although I really wanted the Brown for a full set, frankly they are not as lovely as the Yucatan which really is a sight to behold.

Birding here was really hard going and I was delighted to get excellent views of two adult Kentucky Warblers. After a very long and fruitless search of the area we decided to call it a day at about 12:00. In the clearing where we left the car we found another Collared Aracari and a Boat-billed Flycatcher.



We arrived at the hotel about 13:00 ish. It had been a very hard day with only about 50 species with only about 22 new for the trip. To add to my downbeat feeling I had issues with my camera memory card so I had no pictures from this particular day – aargh! Clearly my own fault for not checking as the day progressed. Anyway it did rev me up to take more pictures around the resort.



And that was about it. I will confess that it was unusual for me not to have done lots of preparation for a holiday. It is even more unusual for me to feel lacklustre about birding abroad. However when I returned home the reasons for this became clear.

In summary the resort was fantastic, both for a holiday and birding. The first day trip with Luis was great and I would thoroughly recommend him for that trip although it would undoubtedly be better at other times of the year. The second trip at that time of year is not recommended. Obviously Luis knows where there are establish territories for sought after species, but not in August.

I would absolutely go to Mexico again and for the avoidance of doubt I would definitely use Luis again. He can be contacted at

motmotbird@hotmail.com

For completeness, there follows a list of GPS coordinates and sightings.

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Mexico Sightings 2011 Annex

Event period: 14-Aug-2011 to 26-Aug-2011

Participants:

Family holiday to Yucatan Penninsular

Akumal, Resort Accomodation Areas (Quintana Roo, Mexico Mainland, Mexico)

14/08/2011 07:00 to 14/08/2011 17:00

31-36c, 10E, Sunny with white clouds

Palm fringed beach with vegetated pool area

Magnificent Frigatebird (<i>Fregata magnificens</i>)	2
Brown Pelican [sp] (<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>)	2
White-winged Dove [sp] (<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>)	1
Tropical Mockingbird [sp] (<i>Mimus gilvus</i>)	8
Melodious Blackbird (<i>Dives dives</i>)	2
Great-tailed Grackle [sp] (<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>)	5
Yucatan Hooded Oriole (<i>Icterus cucullatus igneus</i>)	2

Akumal, Mangrove Swamp (Quintana Roo, Mexico Mainland, Mexico)

15/08/2011 06:00 to 15/08/2011 09:00

31c, 5E, sunny

Lookout Tower over red mangrove swamp

Magnificent Frigatebird (<i>Fregata magnificens</i>)	1
Green Heron [sp] (<i>Butorides virescens</i>)	1
Common Black Hawk [sp] (<i>Buteogallus anthracinus</i>)	1
White-winged Dove [sp] (<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>)	3
Golden-fronted Woodpecker [sp] (<i>Melanerpes aurifrons</i>)	5
Great Kiskadee [sp] (<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>)	1
Social Flycatcher [sp] (<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>)	4
Tropical Kingbird [sp] (<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>)	2
Tropical Mockingbird [sp] (<i>Mimus gilvus</i>)	c.10
Great-tailed Grackle [sp] (<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>)	7
Black-cowled Oriole [sp] (<i>Icterus prothemelas</i>)	3
Yucatan Hooded Oriole (<i>Icterus cucullatus igneus</i>)	6
Yellow-backed Oriole [sp] (<i>Icterus chrysater</i>)	3

Akumal, Mangrove Swamp (Quintana Roo, Mexico Mainland, Mexico)

16/08/2011 06:30 to 16/08/2011 18:00

Little Blue Heron (<i>Egretta caerulea</i>)	1
Green Heron [sp] (<i>Butorides virescens</i>)	2
Turkey Vulture [sp] (<i>Cathartes aura</i>)	1
White-winged Dove [sp] (<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>)	3
Golden-fronted Woodpecker [sp] (<i>Melanerpes aurifrons</i>)	1
Great Kiskadee [sp] (<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>)	3
Social Flycatcher [sp] (<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>)	2
Couch's Kingbird (<i>Tyrannus couchii</i>)	1
Ridgway's Rough-winged Swallow (<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis ridgwayi</i>)	4
Grey Catbird (<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>)	1
Tropical Mockingbird [sp] (<i>Mimus gilvus</i>)	2
Melodious Blackbird (<i>Dives dives</i>)	7
Great-tailed Grackle [sp] (<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>)	c.17
Black-cowled Oriole [sp] (<i>Icterus prothemelas</i>)	4
Yucatan Hooded Oriole (<i>Icterus cucullatus igneus</i>)	7
Yellow-backed Oriole [sp] (<i>Icterus chrysater</i>)	1

Muyil (Quintana Roo, Mexico Mainland, Mexico)

17/08/2011 06:00 to 17/08/2011 07:00

32c, 5-10E, sunny

Open forest and scrub around a Mayan settlement. Then denser forest with undergrowth.

Guided by Luid Ku Quinores

Plain Chachalaca [sp] (<i>Ortalis vetula</i>)	1
Turkey Vulture [sp] (<i>Cathartes aura</i>)	1
Swallow-tailed Kite [sp] (<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>)	c.5
Common Ground Dove [sp] (<i>Columbina passerina</i>)	10
Ruddy Ground Dove [sp] (<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>)	1
White-tipped Dove [sp] (<i>Leptotilia verreauxi</i>)	1
Olive-throated Parakeet [sp] (<i>Aratinga nana</i>)	2
Groove-billed Ani (<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>)	1
Yucatan Swift (<i>Chaetura vauxi gaumeri</i>)	4
Cinnamon Hummingbird [sp] (<i>Amazilia rutila</i>)	1
Turquoise-browed Motmot [sp] (<i>Eumomota superciliosa</i>)	1
Yucatan Woodpecker [sp] (<i>Melanerpes pygmaeus</i>)	2
Golden-fronted Woodpecker [sp] (<i>Melanerpes aurifrons</i>)	1
Ladder-backed Woodpecker [sp] (<i>Picoides scalaris</i>)	1
Ivory-billed Woodcreeper [sp] (<i>Xiphorhynchus flavigaster</i>)	2
Barred Antshrike [sp] (<i>Thamnophilus doliatus</i>)	2
Eye-ringed Flatbill [sp] (<i>Rhynchocyclus brevirostris</i>)	1
Tropical Pewee [sp] (<i>Contopus cinereus</i>)	2
Dusky-capped Flycatcher [sp] (<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>)	1
Social Flycatcher [sp] (<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>)	4
Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (<i>Myiodynastes luteiventris</i>)	1
Couch's Kingbird (<i>Tyrannus couchii</i>)	1
Yellow-green Vireo [sp] (<i>Vireo flavoviridis</i>)	3
Rufous-browed Peppershrike [group] (<i>Cyclarhis gujanensis</i> [gujanensis-group])	1
Green Jay [sp] (<i>Cyanocorax yncas</i>)	3
Yucatan Jay [sp] (<i>Cyanocorax yucatanicus</i>)	c.5
Ridgway's Rough-winged Swallow (<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis ridgwayi</i>)	8
Purple Martin [sp] (<i>Progne subis</i>)	8
Spot-breasted Wren [sp] (<i>Pheugopedius maculipectus</i>)	1
White-bellied Wren [sp] (<i>Uropsila leucogastra</i>)	1
Blue-grey Gnatcatcher [sp] (<i>Poliopitila caerulea</i>)	1
Clay-coloured Thrush [sp] (<i>Turdus grayi</i>)	1
Tropical Mockingbird [sp] (<i>Mimus gilvus</i>)	1
Kentucky Warbler (<i>Geothlypis formosa</i>)	1
Cerulean Warbler (<i>Setophaga cerulea</i>)	1
Grey-headed Tanager [sp] (<i>Eucometis penicillata</i>)	3
Red-legged Honeycreeper [sp] (<i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i>)	2
Greyish Saltator [sp] (<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>)	2
Black-headed Saltator [sp] (<i>Saltator atriceps</i>)	1
Northern Cardinal [sp] (<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>)	2
Great-tailed Grackle [sp] (<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>)	1
Bronzed Cowbird [sp] (<i>Molothrus aeneus</i>)	2
Yucatan Hooded Oriole (<i>Icterus cucullatus igneus</i>)	1
Yellow-throated Euphonia [sp] (<i>Euphonia hirundinacea</i>)	2

Kancun Lake (Quintana Roo, Mexico Mainland, Mexico)

17/08/2011 09:10 to 17/08/2011 10:00

32c, 5-10E, sunny

Scrub forest and saltwater lake

Magnificent Frigatebird (<i>Fregata magnificens</i>)	1
Neotropic Cormorant [sp] (<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>)	1
Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture [sp] (<i>Cathartes burrovianus</i>)	1
Squirrel Cuckoo [sp] (<i>Piaya cayana</i>)	1
Black-headed Trogon [sp] (<i>Trogon melanocephalus</i>)	1
Yellow-bellied Elaenia [sp] (<i>Elaenia flavogaster</i>)	2
Yucatan Flycatcher [sp] (<i>Myiarchus yucatanensis</i>)	1
Piratic Flycatcher [sp] (<i>Legatus leucophaeus</i>)	2
Tropical Kingbird [sp] (<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>)	1
Eastern Kingbird (<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>)	1
Masked Tityra [sp] (<i>Tityra semifasciata</i>)	1
Mangrove Vireo [sp] (<i>Vireo pallens</i>)	2
Mangrove Swallow (<i>Tachycineta albilinea</i>)	2
Clay-coloured Thrush [sp] (<i>Turdus grayi</i>)	1
Prothonotary Warbler (<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>)	1
Melodious Blackbird (<i>Dives dives</i>)	1
Great-tailed Grackle [sp] (<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>)	1
Yucatan Hooded Oriole (<i>Icterus cucullatus igneus</i>)	1
Yellow-backed Oriole [sp] (<i>Icterus chrysater</i>)	3
Altamira Oriole [sp] (<i>Icterus gularis</i>)	1
Yellow-billed Cacique [sp] (<i>Amblycercus holosericeus</i>)	2
Scrub Euphonia [sp] (<i>Euphonia affinis</i>)	3
Yellow-throated Euphonia [sp] (<i>Euphonia hirundinacea</i>)	2

Xel-Ha (Quintana Roo, Mexico Mainland, Mexico)

17/08/2011 11:00 to 17/08/2011 13:00

32c, 5-10E, sunny

Light forest over a limestone cap & cenote. Mayan ruins.

Neotropic Cormorant [sp] (<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>)	1
Black Vulture [sp] (<i>Coragyps atratus</i>)	2
Grey Hawk [sp] (<i>Buteo nitidus</i>)	1
Ornate Hawk-eagle [sp] (<i>Spizaetus ornatus</i>)	1
Wedge-tailed Sabrewing [sp] (<i>Campylopterus curvipennis</i>)	1
Buff-bellied Hummingbird [sp] (<i>Amazilia yucatanensis</i>)	1
Black-headed Trogon [sp] (<i>Trogon melanocephalus</i>)	1
Gartered Trogon [braccatus] (<i>Trogon caligatus braccatus</i>)	1
Golden-fronted Woodpecker [sp] (<i>Melanerpes aurifrons</i>)	1
Brown-crested Flycatcher [sp] (<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>)	1
Great Kiskadee [sp] (<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>)	1
Streaked Flycatcher [sp] (<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>)	1
Couch's Kingbird (<i>Tyrannus couchii</i>)	1
Yucatan Vireo [sp] (<i>Vireo magister</i>)	2
Lesser Greenlet [sp] (<i>Hylophilus decurtatus</i>)	1
Tropical Gnatcatcher [sp] (<i>Polioptila plumbea</i>)	1
Black-cowled Oriole [sp] (<i>Icterus prothemelas</i>)	1
Orange Oriole (<i>Icterus auratus</i>)	1
Scrub Euphonia [sp] (<i>Euphonia affinis</i>)	2

Akumal, Bay South (Quintana Roo, Mexico Mainland, Mexico)

18/08/2011 07:00 to 18/08/2011 17:00

31c, 5, sunny

Dead coral/limestone foreshore sandy bay with a few Mangroves

Magnificent Frigatebird (<i>Fregata magnificens</i>)	1
Brown Pelican [sp] (<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>)	2

31/10/2011 23:57:30

Little Blue Heron (<i>Egretta caerulea</i>)	1
Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture [sp] (<i>Cathartes burrovianus</i>)	1
Spotted Sandpiper (<i>Actitis macularius</i>)	1
Least Sandpiper (<i>Calidris minutilla</i>)	1
Golden-fronted Woodpecker [sp] (<i>Melanerpes aurifrons</i>)	2
Great Kiskadee [sp] (<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>)	2
Couch's Kingbird (<i>Tyrannus couchii</i>)	1
Yucatan Jay [sp] (<i>Cyanocorax yucatanicus</i>)	4
Ridgway's Rough-winged Swallow (<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis ridgwayi</i>)	c.4
Tropical Mockingbird [sp] (<i>Mimus gilvus</i>)	c.6
Melodious Blackbird (<i>Dives dives</i>)	4
Great-tailed Grackle [sp] (<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>)	c.12
Altamira Oriole [sp] (<i>Icterus gularis</i>)	1

Akumal, Resort Accomodation Areas (Quintana Roo, Mexico Mainland, Mexico)

19/08/2011 07:00 to 19/08/2011 08:00

28c, 10E, sunny with white clouds

Green Heron [sp] (<i>Butorides virescens</i>)	2
Great Kiskadee [sp] (<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>)	1
Social Flycatcher [sp] (<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>)	4
Couch's Kingbird (<i>Tyrannus couchii</i>)	1
Tropical Mockingbird [sp] (<i>Mimus gilvus</i>)	2
Great-tailed Grackle [sp] (<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>)	5

Akumal, Bay South (Quintana Roo, Mexico Mainland, Mexico)

19/08/2011 15:30 to 19/08/2011 17:30

28c, 10E, sunny

High Tide

Wilson's Plover [sp] (<i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>)	1
Spotted Sandpiper (<i>Actitis macularius</i>)	4
Ruddy Turnstone [sp] (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>)	1
Least Sandpiper (<i>Calidris minutilla</i>)	1
Laughing Gull [sp] (<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>)	4
Royal Tern [sp] (<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>)	2
Sandwich Tern [sp] (<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>)	1
White-winged Dove [sp] (<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>)	3
Yucatan Swift (<i>Chaetura vauxi gaumeri</i>)	1
Golden-fronted Woodpecker [sp] (<i>Melanerpes aurifrons</i>)	2
Great Kiskadee [sp] (<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>)	1
Social Flycatcher [sp] (<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>)	3
Tropical Kingbird [sp] (<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>)	1
Yucatan Jay [sp] (<i>Cyanocorax yucatanicus</i>)	2
Ridgway's Rough-winged Swallow (<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis ridgwayi</i>)	2
Tropical Mockingbird [sp] (<i>Mimus gilvus</i>)	c.6
Yucatan Hooded Oriole (<i>Icterus cucullatus igneus</i>)	1
Altamira Oriole [sp] (<i>Icterus gularis</i>)	1

Ik-Kil Cenote (Yucatan, Mexico Mainland, Mexico)

20/08/2011 11:00

25c, 20NE, Heavy rain showers with sunny periods

Turquoise-browed Motmot [sp] (<i>Eumomota superciliosa</i>)	1
Northern Rough-winged Swallow [group] (<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i> [serripennis-group])	c.10
Yucatan Cave Swallow (<i>Petrochelidon fulva citata</i>)	c.2
Clay-coloured Thrush [sp] (<i>Turdus grayi</i>)	2
Melodious Blackbird (<i>Dives dives</i>)	3

Chichen-Itza (Yucatan, Mexico Mainland, Mexico)

20/08/2011 13:00 to 20/08/2011 16:00

25c, 20NE, heavy cloud and showers

Mayan ruins, forest trails

Bat Falcon [sp] (<i>Falco ruficularis</i>)	2
Green-breasted Mango [sp] (<i>Anthracothorax prevostii</i>)	1
Social Flycatcher [sp] (<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>)	1
Grey Kingbird [sp] (<i>Tyrannus dominicensis</i>)	1
Clay-coloured Thrush [sp] (<i>Turdus grayi</i>)	4
Melodious Blackbird (<i>Dives dives</i>)	3
Great-tailed Grackle [sp] (<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>)	c.10

Valladolid (Yucatan, Mexico Mainland, Mexico)

20/08/2011 17:15 to 20/08/2011 17:30

25c, 20NE, light rain, heavy clouds

Town square with a mix of tees, dead and conifer.

Social Flycatcher [sp] (<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>)	2
Couch's Kingbird (<i>Tyrannus couchii</i>)	2
Blue-grey Gnatcatcher [sp] (<i>Poliophtila caerulea</i>)	1
Yellow-throated Warbler [sp] (<i>Setophaga dominica</i>)	1

Akumal, Bay South (Quintana Roo, Mexico Mainland, Mexico)

21/08/2011 07:00 to 21/08/2011 08:00

25c, 25E, cloudy with showers

Magnificent Frigatebird (<i>Fregata magnificens</i>)	1
Turkey Vulture [sp] (<i>Cathartes aura</i>)	2
Wilson's Plover [sp] (<i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>)	1
Spotted Sandpiper (<i>Actitis macularius</i>)	4
White-crowned Pigeon (<i>Patagioenas leucocephala</i>)	1
Yucatan Jay [sp] (<i>Cyanocorax yucatanicus</i>)	3
Ridgway's Rough-winged Swallow (<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis ridgwayi</i>)	2
Tropical Mockingbird [sp] (<i>Mimus gilvus</i>)	2
Great-tailed Grackle [sp] (<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>)	c.1

Akumal, Headland North (Quintana Roo, Mexico Mainland, Mexico)

21/08/2011 11:00 to 21/08/2011 11:30

25c, 25E, light showers

Same habitat as to the south.

Magnificent Frigatebird (<i>Fregata magnificens</i>)	1
Brown Pelican [sp] (<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>)	5
Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>)	1
Ruddy Turnstone [sp] (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>)	40
Laughing Gull [sp] (<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>)	10
Royal Tern [sp] (<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>)	6

Akumal, Headland North (Quintana Roo, Mexico Mainland, Mexico)

21/08/2011 16:00 to 21/08/2011 17:30

25c, 20E sunny periods

Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>)	3
Wilson's Plover [sp] (<i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>)	6
Spotted Sandpiper (<i>Actitis macularius</i>)	4
Ruddy Turnstone [sp] (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>)	12
Semipalmated Sandpiper (<i>Calidris pusilla</i>)	4
Least Sandpiper (<i>Calidris minutilla</i>)	8
Ridgway's Rough-winged Swallow (<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis ridgwayi</i>)	c.35

Coba Lake (Quintana Roo, Mexico Mainland, Mexico)

22/08/2011 07:00 to 22/08/2011 08:00

26c, 20E, sunny

Grass fringed lake with occasional trees and bushes.

Guided by Luis Ku Quinones

Neotropic Cormorant [sp] (<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>)	2
Anhinga [sp] (<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>)	4
Great Blue Heron [sp] (<i>Ardea herodias</i>)	1
Great Egret [sp] (<i>Ardea alba</i>)	2
Limpkin [sp] (<i>Aramus guaranauna</i>)	6
Spotted Sandpiper (<i>Actitis macularius</i>)	2
Ruddy Ground Dove [sp] (<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>)	2
Ringed Kingfisher [sp] (<i>Megaceryle torquata</i>)	1
Yucatan Woodpecker [sp] (<i>Melanerpes pygmaeus</i>)	2
Social Flycatcher [sp] (<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>)	4
Couch's Kingbird (<i>Tyrannus couchii</i>)	8
Mangrove Swallow (<i>Tachycineta albilinea</i>)	2
Barn Swallow [sp] (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>)	1
Clay-coloured Thrush [sp] (<i>Turdus grayi</i>)	5
Yellow-winged Tanager (<i>Thraupis abbas</i>)	1
White-collared Seedeater [sp] (<i>Sporophila torqueola</i>)	6
Great-tailed Grackle [sp] (<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>)	c.30
Bronzed Cowbird [sp] (<i>Molothrus aeneus</i>)	3
Yucatan Hooded Oriole (<i>Icterus cucullatus igneus</i>)	1

Coba Ruins (Quintana Roo, Mexico Mainland, Mexico)

22/08/2011 08:10 to 22/08/2011 10:20

26c, 20E, sunny

High forest with dense undergrowth

Guided by Luis Ku Quinones

Buff-bellied Hummingbird [sp] (<i>Amazilia yucatanensis</i>)	1
Black-headed Trogon [sp] (<i>Trogon melanocephalus</i>)	2
Collared Trogon [sp] (<i>Trogon collaris</i>)	1
Blue-crowned Motmot [sp] (<i>Momotus coeruliceps</i>)	1
Collared Aracari [sp] (<i>Pteroglossus torquatus</i>)	2
Smoky-brown Woodpecker [sp] (<i>Picoides fumigatus</i>)	1
Olivaceous Woodcreeper [sp] (<i>Sittasomus griseicapillus</i>)	1
Eye-ringed Flatbill [sp] (<i>Rhynchocyclus brevirostris</i>)	1
Yellow-olive Flycatcher [sp] (<i>Tolmomyias sulphurescens</i>)	1
Social Flycatcher [sp] (<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>)	4
Streaked Flycatcher [sp] (<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>)	1
Yellow-green Vireo [sp] (<i>Vireo flavoviridis</i>)	3
Spot-breasted Wren [sp] (<i>Pheugopedius maculipectus</i>)	1
White-bellied Wren [sp] (<i>Uropsila leucogastra</i>)	1
Long-billed Gnatwren [sp] (<i>Ramphocaenus melanurus</i>)	2
Clay-coloured Thrush [sp] (<i>Turdus grayi</i>)	2
Black Catbird (<i>Melanoptila glabrirostris</i>)	1
Tropical Mockingbird [sp] (<i>Mimus gilvus</i>)	2
Louisiana Waterthrush (<i>Parkesia motacilla</i>)	c.2
Northern Waterthrush (<i>Parkesia noveboracensis</i>)	1
Black-and-white Warbler (<i>Mniotilta varia</i>)	2
Grey-headed Tanager [sp] (<i>Eucometis penicillata</i>)	1
Green-backed Sparrow [sp] (<i>Arremonops chloronotus</i>)	2
Red-throated Ant Tanager [sp] (<i>Habia fuscicauda</i>)	1
Great-tailed Grackle [sp] (<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>)	c.10
Yellow-throated Euphonia [sp] (<i>Euphonia hirundinacea</i>)	1

Punta Laguna (Quintana Roo, Mexico Mainland, Mexico)

22/08/2011 11:00 to 22/08/2011 12:00

35c, 20E, sunny

Woods with dense understory.

Guided by Luis Ku Quinores

Black-throated Bobwhite [sp] (*Colinus nigrogularis*) 7
 Grey Hawk [sp] (*Buteo nitidus*) 1
 Black-headed Trogon [sp] (*Trogon melanocephalus*) 4
 Turquoise-browed Motmot [sp] (*Eumomota superciliosa*) 1

Collared Aracari [sp] (*Pteroglossus torquatus*) 1
 Boat-billed Flycatcher [sp] (*Megarynchus pitangua*) 1
 Brown Jay [sp] (*Psalorhinus morio*) 8
 Spot-breasted Wren [sp] (*Pheugopedius maculipectus*) 3

Clay-coloured Thrush [sp] (*Turdus grayi*) 1
 Northern Waterthrush (*Parkesia noveboracensis*) 1
 Kentucky Warbler (*Geothlypis formosa*) 2
 Green-backed Sparrow [sp] (*Arremonops chloronotus*) 2
 Melodious Blackbird (*Dives dives*) 1
 Yucatan Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus igneus*) 2
 Yellow-throated Euphonia [sp] (*Euphonia hirundinacea*) 2

Akumal, Mangrove Swamp (Quintana Roo, Mexico Mainland, Mexico)

23/08/2011 06:30 to 23/08/2011 08:00

32c, 5E, sunny

Red mangrove swamp

Green Heron [sp] (*Butorides virescens*) 1
 White-winged Dove [sp] (*Zenaida asiatica*) 3
 Yucatan Swift (*Chaetura vauxi gaumeri*) c.20
 Great Kiskadee [sp] (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) 2
 Ridgway's Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis ridgwayi*) 2
 Mangrove Warbler [group] (*Setophaga petechia* [erithachorides-group]) c.2
 Golden-crowned Warbler [sp] (*Basileuterus culicivorus*) 2

Melodious Blackbird (*Dives dives*) 1
 Yucatan Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus igneus*) 4

Akumal, Mangrove Swamp (Quintana Roo, Mexico Mainland, Mexico)

23/08/2011 17:20 to 23/08/2011 18:30

32c, 5E, sunny

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*) 1
 Neotropic Cormorant [sp] (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) 2
 Brown Pelican [sp] (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) 1
 Green Heron [sp] (*Butorides virescens*) 2
 Golden-fronted Woodpecker [sp] (*Melanerpes aurifrons*) 1

Great Kiskadee [sp] (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) 3
 Social Flycatcher [sp] (*Myiozetetes similis*) c.6
 Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus couchii*) c.10
 Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) 1
 Yucatan Jay [sp] (*Cyanocorax yucatanicus*) 1
 Ridgway's Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis ridgwayi*) c.50
 Purple Martin [sp] (*Progne subis*) c.20
 Tropical Mockingbird [sp] (*Mimus gilvus*) c.4
 Melodious Blackbird (*Dives dives*) c.18
 Great-tailed Grackle [sp] (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) c.10
 Yucatan Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus igneus*) 4

Akumal, Golf Course (Quintana Roo, Mexico Mainland, Mexico)

24/08/2011 07:00 to 24/08/2011 08:00

32c, 5E, sunny

Pied-billed Grebe [sp] (*Podilymbus podiceps*) 1
 Neotropic Cormorant [sp] (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) 1
 Anhinga [sp] (*Anhinga anhinga*) 1
 Green Heron [sp] (*Butorides virescens*) 1
 American Coot [sp] (*Fulica americana*) 9
 White-winged Dove [sp] (*Zenaida asiatica*) 1
 Golden-fronted Woodpecker [sp] (*Melanerpes aurifrons*) 6

Great Kiskadee [sp] (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) 3
 Social Flycatcher [sp] (*Myiozetetes similis*) 3
 Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus couchii*) 1
 Yucatan Jay [sp] (*Cyanocorax yucatanicus*) 8
 Tropical Mockingbird [sp] (*Mimus gilvus*) c.10
 Great-tailed Grackle [sp] (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) c.10
 Bronzed Cowbird [sp] (*Molothrus aeneus*) 1
 Black-cowled Oriole [sp] (*Icterus prothemelas*) 1
 Yucatan Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus igneus*) 10

Akumal, Bay South (Quintana Roo, Mexico Mainland, Mexico)

24/08/2011 16:00 to 24/08/2011 18:00

32c, 5E, sunny

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) 1
 Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) 1
 Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*) 6
 Ruddy Turnstone [sp] (*Arenaria interpres*) 12
 Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) 1
 Great Kiskadee [sp] (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) 5
 Ridgway's Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis ridgwayi*) c.10
 Purple Martin [sp] (*Progne subis*) c.20
 Barn Swallow [sp] (*Hirundo rustica*) c.4
 Yucatan Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva citata*) 1

Akumal, Bay South (Quintana Roo, Mexico Mainland, Mexico)

25/08/2011 10:30 to 25/08/2011 12:00

32c, 2E, sunny

Brown Pelican [sp] (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) 2
 Turkey Vulture [sp] (*Cathartes aura*) 1
 Wilson's Plover [sp] (*Charadrius wilsonia*) 1
 Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) 1
 Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*) 2
 Ruddy Turnstone [sp] (*Arenaria interpres*) 1
 Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) 1
 Royal Tern [sp] (*Thalasseus maximus*) 1
 Great Kiskadee [sp] (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) 2
 Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus couchii*) 2

Akumal, Golf Course (Quintana Roo, Mexico Mainland, Mexico)

25/08/2011 16:00 to 25/08/2011 16:15

32c, 2E, sunny

Thrown out by security guards for taking pictures and "too dangerous"

Least Grebe [sp] (*Tachybaptus dominicus*) 6
 Neotropic Cormorant [sp] (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) 2
 American Coot [sp] (*Fulica americana*) 9

Akumal, Bay South (Quintana Roo, Mexico Mainland, Mexico)

26/08/2011 10:00 to 26/08/2011 11:00

32c, 3E, sunny

family swim in south bay

Brown Pelican [sp] (<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>)	2
Wilson's Plover [sp] (<i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>)	1
Ruddy Turnstone [sp] (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>)	5
Least Sandpiper (<i>Calidris minutilla</i>)	2
Royal Tern [sp] (<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>)	1

Akumal, Headland North (Quintana Roo, Mexico Mainland, Mexico)

26/08/2011 15:45 to 26/08/2011 16:45

34c, 3E, sunny

Magnificent Frigatebird (<i>Fregata magnificens</i>)	1
Brown Pelican [sp] (<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>)	2
Turkey Vulture [sp] (<i>Cathartes aura</i>)	1
Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>)	2
Wilson's Plover [sp] (<i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>)	8
Spotted Sandpiper (<i>Actitis macularia</i>)	2
Ruddy Turnstone [sp] (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>)	1
Least Sandpiper (<i>Calidris minutilla</i>)	c.5

Lat/Longs

	North	West
Riviera Maya GranBahia Principe	20 21.510	087 19.988
Bay to North	20 22.706	087 19.309
Bay to South	20 21.283	087 20.185
Muyil	20 04.756	087 36.901
Kancun Lake	20 10.074	087 33.138
Xel-Ha Ruins	20 19.208	087 21.931
Ik Kil Cenote	20 40.819	088 34.136
Chichen Itza	20 40.963	088 34.280
Valladolid	20 41.407	088 12.137
Coba Lake and Ruins	20 29.612	087 44.189
Punta Laguna	20 38.742	087 37.901