

Yucatán Peninsula & Cozumel Island

19-30 January 2015

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Yucatan Jay

This report covers an eleven-night holiday spent on the Yucatán Peninsula and Cozumel Island. I did not spend very much time birding during the trip, which is clearly shown by the not so impressive number of species recorded (162). By combining the sites visited during this trip with those from a previous one covering the same area (<http://www.club300.se/Files/TravelReports/Mexico%20March%202014.pdf>), anyone planning a trip here will be given a good idea on how to set up an itinerary to be able to find all the Yucatán and Cozumel endemics (except of course Cozumel Thrasher, which has to be feared extinct), as well as a host of other specialties.

Sites visited

In our previous visit in March 2014, I managed all gettable endemics and near-endemics except Ocellated Turkey and Gray-throated Chat. Knowing I would stand good chances in seeing the former in the southern interior of the peninsula, I chose to include the Mayan site Calakmul in the itinerary. Another equally strong reason to go there, was to get to see the spectacular scenery of several hundred thousand bats emerging from their day-time roost in a cave located in the area. As I did not do any birding at all along *Ruta de los Cenotes* during the previous trip, I arranged for a mornings birding there with a local guide.

Cozumel Island (Howell's *Where to Watch Birds in Mexico*, pages 308-313): On last year's visit to Cozumel I spent one morning birding a site near the entrance road to San Gervasio ruins. In the book it is described as being located at km 6.8 from San Miguel, why I, of course, call it the km 6.8 site in the species list below. All three Cozumel endemics was seen here: the Emerald, the Vireo and the Wren, plus several other species. Being fenced off from any traffic, the site offers very good birding and is strongly recommended.

On page 310 in Howell's book is described an area to the north of the island's main town, San Miguel. We paid the area an afternoon visit. We walked randomly in the grid area named "Bello Caribe", and eventually also reached the nearby shoreline.

Another area described in Howell's book is El Cedral, where I birded one morning. Arriving at first light I discovered the roads entering the village were closed, one by a turnpike, the other with a chain. Soon, however, a policeman opened the turnpike allowing me to pass through.

During our visit in March 2014, we found a pond at km 33 along the main road. Like last year, it held ducks, waders and herons, and is a recommended stop if you drive around the island.

Calakmul The main reason for visiting this area, which is located in the southern parts of Campeche state, was the fact the odds are good to get to see Ocellated Turkey there, the one Yucatán endemic I failed to see during the previous trip. We were also very excited about the bat spectacle, and of course also the Maya ruins. We stayed at Hotel Puerta Calakmul (www.puertacalakmul.com.mx), located just at the start of the 60 km long entrance road to the ruins. The hotel consists of 15 or so huts, with a restaurant and a pool on the premises, as well as some trails that provided good birding.

As mentioned, from the hotel to the ruins, it is a 60 km drive. Entrance fees are paid twice along the road, and then again at the ruins (fees are decent). Although it may appear a long drive, it does not feel that way, in spite of the low speed you need to keep. The first part is fairly straight, but after the second toll, the road gets narrower and is more winding, but still pleasant to drive through the pristine forest. Needless to say, the ruins are truly magnificent.

Not more than a 10-15 minute drive from the hotel, is the famous bat cave. The hotel provides a guided tour there, which we joined as we arrived late in the afternoon and was not sure exactly where to go. Our guide, however, spoke limited English, so basically all we got out of it was getting to the cave. To get there, drive back towards Chetumal and you will eventually see a yellow bat warning sign, and shortly after that another one, but white. Here you will see a side road, gravel, to the left, and this is where you park the car. From here, a trail leads to the cave - it is about a five minute walk.

The first afternoon we arrived here about 17.15, and there were a few bats circling the crater at the cave (watch your step here, there is no fence, and the crater is deep). Soon after, however, more and more bats emerged from the cave, and the number climaxed at about 17.40 when thousands and thousands of bats circled the crater, clockwise, to gain height and then eventually head off in two main directions above the canopy. The sight of this myriad of bats is jaw-dropping! The second afternoon, we chose to leave the cave area at about 17.30 to watch the bats from the road. We took the car and drove just a short way back towards Calakmul, parked the car at the first turnoff to the right (which is actually within walking distance from the cave parking), and positioned ourselves just on the opposite side of the road. The warning signs on the road make sense, the sight of all these bats certainly will distract all but the most non-interested drivers.

Note that the Calakmul area is slightly remote, so plan ahead a bit, especially with regards to gasoline which is not readily available nearby. Be aware that the Hotel Puerta Calakmul does not handle credit cards, so you will need to bring cash. Rest assured, though, you will be duly informed about everything in advance when booking your stay here (walk-in will probably not be successful).

Ruta de los cenotes I contacted Luis Kú (www.motmotbird.com), who guided us for a few days last year, for a mornings birding in the famous *Ruta de los cenotes* area, and he took me to Reserva Toh. Going south from Cancun, leave the highway at Puerto Morelos. Do not turn left under the highway towards Puerto Morelos village, but continue past the Pemex station for about a kilometer, and then turn right where signed Xin-Ha, and you will pass under a yellow split arch marked *Ruta de los cenotes* (or rather, there are remnants of this text on the arch). (If coming from Playa del Carmen, leave the highway at Puerto Morelos, turn left under the highway, then left again to pass the Pemex station.) After about 20 kms, turn left on to a gravel road, still following the signs towards Xin-Ha. From here, it is only a short drive to Reserva Toh, which is clearly signed, and even more obvious is the white sign "Welcome to Birdwatchers". We parked here, walked a little bit further before turning left on to a narrow road, which eventually became a trail through dense forest (with considerably slower birding) before widening again. Admission fee is USD 10. The site is strongly recommended.

Itinerary

January 19: Travel day from Gothenburg, arriving Cancun airport 19.30, catching an ADO bus directly to Playa del Carmen for an overnight stay.

January 20: At noon we took the ferry to Cozumel Island for a three nights stay. Afternoon birding, until dusk, at Bello Caribe.

January 21: Early rise to arrive the km 6.8 site while still dark to listen for nightjars. Birded the site from 5 to 9. Spent the rest of the day at Chankanaab, an activity park offering swimming with dolphins, snorkelling and zip-lining.

January 22: Morning birding at El Cedral, followed by a few hours on the beach at Playa Palancar, and then driving around the island.

January 23: Picked up our rental car in Playa del Carmen, and then had a long (450 km) drive to Calakmul for a two nights stay, arriving just in time to catch a guided trip to the bat cave.

January 24: Cloudy and chilly, therefore we drove to the Calakmul ruins quite early in the morning, and then spending almost all day in the area. Again visited the bat cave in late afternoon.

January 25: Birded the hotel area from dawn till noon, then headed back to Playa del Carmen for a three nights stay.

January 26: A slow day which included swimming with dolphins at Delphinarius south of Playa del Carmen.

January 27: Early rise to meet with Luis Kú for a mornings birding at *Ruta de los cenotes*. After that mostly shopping.

January 28: Spent the morning on the beach, at midday we headed towards Cancun for the last few days. Short visit to Boca del Puma along *Ruta de los cenotes*, in order to swim in *cenotes*.

January 29: Took the ferry to Isla Mujeres, where we had a slow day on the beach.

January 30: Like yesterday, took the ferry to Isla Mujeres to work more on our tan before catching our afternoon flight back home.

Literature and recordings

Where to watch birds in Mexico (Howell)

A guide to the Birds of Mexico and Central America (Howell & Webb)

Birds of Belize (Jones & Gardner)

Birds of Mexico, MP3 (Boesman)

Accommodation

Accommodation in Playa del Carmen, Cancun and on Isla Cozumel is plentiful. In Calakmul, however, it is quite the opposite. Apart from the hotel where we stayed, there was another one further along the road to the ruins (I do not remember the name). In addition, there appeared to be lodging available also in the small village after the entrance road to the ruins (when coming from Chetumal). I would recommend Hotel Puerta Calakmul, though, where we stayed – it is not cheap, but it is very good.

Rental cars

As opposed to last year, we experienced no drawbacks with our rental cars. On Cozumel Island we hired through Avis, in Playa del Carmen through Budget. Basically, you would not need to pre-book cars in either place unless you have specific requirements, for instance 4WD (but pre-booking is in no way a guarantee to get what you have booked, which we experienced last year),

Miscellaneous

I thought I should mention that in the touristic areas, US dollars works just as well as Mexcian pesos, if not better. Bringing a fair amount of pesos is recommended, however, and is useful in rural areas.

Mexico has lately gained reputation as being a violent and unsafe country. While this is certainly true in some parts of the country, it should not deter anyone from travelling the Yucatán Peninsula. We did not experience any issues whatsoever with regards to safety – common sense is about all it takes. Our only bad experience was being caught for speeding by the Tourist Police in Cancun. However, on the policeman's suggestion (!), we paid him a bribe and could then continue – only to find him having stopped another car less than a kilometer from where he left us!

Species list

The trip yielded a total of 162 bird species. I have tried, as thoroughly as possible, to mention the subspecies observed for each species. Also, brief notes are given on distribution for endemics or near-endemics. Some of the scientific names may not be completely up to date.

Thicket Tinamou *Crypturellus cinnamomeus*

3 heard Reserva Toh.

Ssp: *goldmani*

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*

About 30 in the km 33 pond on Cozumel.

Monotypic.

Plain Chachalaca *Ortalis vetula*

Several in the Calakmul area, and 20+ Reserva Toh.

Ssp: *pallidiventris*

Great Curassow *Crax rubra*

1 male along the Calakmul entry road.

Ssp: *rubra*

Ocellated Turkey *Meleagris ocellata*

3 Calakmul entry road.

Monotypic. Endemic to Yucatán Peninsula.

Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus*

2 in a pond at Playa Palancar, Isla Cozumel.

Ssp: *dominicus*

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*

3 in the km 33 pond on Isla Cozumel.

Ssp: *podiceps*

Roseate Spoonbill *Ajaia ajaja*

3 flying past San Miguel, Isla Cozumel were the only ones seen.

Monotypic.

Great Egret *Casmerodius albus*

Only a handful seen.

Ssp: *egretta*

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*

1 at the km 33 pool on Isla Cozumel.

Monotypic.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*

Seen in quite small numbers.

Ssp: *thula*

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

1 at El Cedral, Isla Cozumel was the only one seen.

Ssp: *ibis*

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*

Readily seen along the coast.

Ssp: *carolinensis*

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*

Readily seen in coastal areas.

Monotypic.

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus*

8 on Isla Mujeres.

Ssp: probably all *auritus*

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*

Common.

Ssp: *aura*, it is however possible some were *septentrionalis*.

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*

Common.

Monotypic.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

2 Playa del Carmen on a couple of occasions.

Ssp: *carolinensis*

Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus*

1 outside Playa del Carmen.

Ssp: *velox*

Great Black Hawk *Buteogallus urubitinga*

1 seen when birding the trails at Hotel Puerta Calakmul.

Ssp: nominate *ridgwayi*

Roadside Hawk *Buteo magnirostris*

4 roadside (!) birds seen when driving from Calakmul to Playa del Carmen.

Ssp: *conspectus*

Gray Hawk *Buteo plagiatus*

1 during the drive from Playa del Carmen to Calakmul.

Monotypic. Here treated as a species separate from *B.nitidus*, Gray-lined Hawk.

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus*

1 seen catching a bat near the bat cave in Calakmul.

Ssp: *fuliginosus*

Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans*

2 heard Calakmul.

Ssp: *chapmani*

Collared Forest-Falcon *Micrastur semitorquatus*

Recorded daily in Calakmul area, notably one was perched in the forest at the bat cave waiting for an opportunity to catch the afternoon dinner.

Ssp: *naso*

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*

1 El Cedral, Cozumel.

Ssp uncertain.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

1 El Cedral, Cozumel.

Ssp: *anatum*

Gray-necked Wood-Rail *Aramides cajanea*

1-2 heard in a pond in the Calakmul ruins area.

Ssp: *albiventris*

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata*

A total of 5 seen on Cozumel.

Ssp: *cachinnans*. New World birds recently split from Old World Common Moorhen, *G.chloropus*.

American Coot *Fulica americana*

A total of 17 seen on Isla Cozumel.

Ssp: *americana*

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

2 on the shore at Bello Caribe, Isla Cozumel.

Monotypic.

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*

2 at the km 33 pool on Cozumel.

Ssp: nominate *mexicanus*

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus*

3 at km 33 pond on Cozumel.

Ssp: *vociferus*

Northern Jacana *Jacana spinosa*

5 at the km 33 pool on Cozumel.

Ssp: *gymnostoma*

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia*

Only 1 seen, on the shore at Bello Caribe, Cozumel.

Monotypic.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Observed in Playa del Carmen only.

Monotypic.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Quite numerous on the beach in Playa del Carmen, also seen on Isla Cozumel.n beachline streets.

Ssp: *morinella*

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus*

Quite common.

Ssp: *maxima*

Cabot's Tern *Thalasseus acuflavidus*

1 seen during the ferry ride from Isla Cozumel to Playa del Carmen.

Ssp: nominate *acuflavidus*. Together with ssp *euryghnatha*, known also as Cayenne Tern, now regarded as a species separate from Old World *T.sandvicensis*, Sandwich Tern.

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla*

Common.

Ssp: *megaloptera*

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*

2 Isla Mujeres.

Monotypic.

American Herring Gull *Larus smithsonianus*

2 Isla Mujeres.

Monotypic. Previously included in Herring Gull, *L.argentatus*.

Feral Rock Pigeon *Columbia livia*

Yes.

Domesticated.

Ruddy Ground-Dove *Columbina talpacoti*

4 El Cedral, Cozumel.

Ssp: *rufipennis*

White-crowned Pigeon *Patagioenas leucocephala*

Seen on Cozumel with 3 at the km 6.8 site and 1 at El Cedral.

Monotypic. Occurs on islands in the West Indies, from Bahamas to Antigua, on Florida Keys, and on islands off Yucatan and Central America.

Red-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas flavirostris*

Small numbers in Calakmul and at Reserva Toh.

Ssp: nominate *flavirostris*

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Common.

Introduced, and rapidly expanding.

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*

Seen at bello caribe and El Cedral on Cozumel only.

Ssp: *asiatica*

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*

A few in Calakmul area, and 1 Reserva Toh.

Ssp: *fulviventr*

Caribbean Dove *Leptotila jamaicensis*

3 at the km 6.8 site on Cozumel, 2 at El Cedral, Cozumel, and 1 at Hotel Puerta Calakmul.

Ssp: *gaumeri*, which furthermore occurs on the islands of Holbox and Mujeres, parts of Yucatan Peninsula, northeastern Belize and Honduran islands Barbareta, Roatán and Little Hog. Other ssp inhabit Jamaica, Cayman Islands and San Andres Island off Nicaragua. This is the complete range of the species.

Aztec Parakeet *Aratinga astec*

Recorded four days.

Ssp: nominate *astec*, which together with *vicinalis* is now regarded a species separate from Olive-throated Parakeet, *A.nana*.

White-fronted Amazon *Amazona albifrons*

2 Playa del Carmen, 2 at the bat cave in Calakmul, 3 at Hotel Puerta Calakmul, and 5 Reserva Toh.

Ssp: *nana*

Yucatan Amazon *Amazona xantholara*

2 Reserva Toh.

Monotypic. Yucatan endemic, also known as Yellow-lored Amazon.

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana*

1 Reserva Toh and 1 Boca del Puma.

Ssp: *thermophila*

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris*

2 El Cedral, Cozumel, 5 during the drive from Calakmul to Playa del Carmen, and 20+ Reserva Toh.

Monotypic.

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum*

1 Reserva Toh.

Ssp: *ridgwayi*, which, together with the two other North and Central American subspecies, is sometimes treated as a separate species, Ridgway's Pygmy-Owl.

Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*

Recorded on Cozumel only, with several at Bello Caribe, the km 6.8 site, and El Cedral respectively.

Ssp: *yucatanensis*

Yucatan Nightjar *Caprimulgus badius*

2 or 3 at the km 6.8 site on Cozumel.

Monotypic. Endemic to Yucatan Peninsula and Cozumel Island.

Vaux's Swift *Chaetura vauxi*

Seen in Playa del Carmen and at Chankanaab on Cozumel.

Ssp: *gaumeri*, which has been considered a separate species.

Wedge-tailed Sabrewing *Campylopterus curvipennis*

1 Calakmul ruins, and 2 Reserva Toh.

Ssp: *yucatanensis*. Present from southeastern Mexico to Belize and northern Guatemala, also eastern Honduras.

Green-breasted Mango *Anthracothonax prevostii*

Seen on Cozumel with 2 at the km 6.8 site on Cozumel, and 2 at El Cedral.

Ssp: nominate *prevostii*

Canivet's Emerald *Chlorostilbon canvetii*

1 Hotel Puerta Calakmul.

Ssp: nominate *canivetii*

Cozumel Emerald *Chlorostilbon forficatus*

2 males and 1 female at the km 6.8 site on Cozumel.

Monotypic. Endemic to Cozumel Island, although sometimes regarded a ssp of preceding species.

Buff-bellied Hummingbird *Amazilia yucatanensis*

1 Hotel Puerta Calakmul and 1 Reserva Toh.

Ssp: nominate *yucatanensis*

Cinnamon Hummingbird *Amazilia rutila*

Only 1 seen, in Playa del Carmen,

Ssp: *corallirostris*

White-bellied Emerald *Amazilia candida*

A few seen in Calakmul and Reserva Toh.

Ssp: nominate *candida*

Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris*

Driving from Calakmul to Playa del Carmen, 1 was seen during a leg-stretching stop north of Chetumal.

Monotypic.

Black-headed Trogon *Trogon melanocephalus*

1 Hotel Puerta Calakmul.

Monotypic.

Gartered Trogon *Trogon caligatus*

2 in Calakmul area, and 2 Reserva Toh.

Ssp: *sallaei*

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon*

1 seen during the long drive from Playa del Carmen to Calakmul.

Monotypic.

Turquoise-browed Motmot *Eumomota superciliosa*

3 at Reserva Tog were the only ones seen.

Ssp: nominate *superciliosa*. Occurs from southern Mexico to Costa Rica.

Collared Aracari *Pteroglossus torquatus*

4 Calakmul ruins.

Ssp: *erythrozonus*

Keel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos sulfuratus*

1 heard near the bat cave in calakmul, 4 seen Calakmul ruins, and 1 seen Reserva Toh.

Ssp: nominate *sulfuratus*

Yucatan Woodpecker *Melanerpes pygmaeus*

Quite easy to find on Cozumel (especially at the km 6.8 site), none seen on the mainland.inland

Ssp: nominate *pygmaeus*. Ranges Yucatán Peninsula to central Belize, Cozumel Island, and Guanaja Island off Honduras.

Golden-fronted Woodpecker *Melanerpes aurifrons*

Recorded four days, on the peninsula only.

Ssp: *dubius*. Nominate should perhaps be regarded a separate species, other races then becoming Velasquez's Wood pecker, *M.santacruz*.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus varius*

1 Reserva Toh.

Monotypic.

Pale-billed Woodpecker *Campephilus guatemalensis*

1 Reserva Toh.

Ssp: nominate *guatemalensis*.

Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus*

Singles in Calakmul and Reserva Toh.

Ssp: *gracileus*

Tawny-winged Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla anabatina*

1 Reserva Toh.

Ssp: *typhla*. On Caribbean slope, the species occur from Veracruz and Oaxaca to northeastern Nicaragua, on Pacific slope it ranges from southern Costa Rica to extreme western Panama.

Northern Barred Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae*

1 Hotel Puerta Calakmul.

Ssp: nominate *sanctithomae*

Ivory-billed Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster*

1 Hotel Puerta Calakmul.

Ssp: *yucatanensis*

Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus*

1 Hotel Puerta Calakmul and Reserva Toh.

Ssp: *intermedius*

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata*

1 Reserva Toh.

Ssp: *deses*

Rose-throated Becard *Pachyramphus aglaiae*

A handful seen at Hotel Puerta Calakmul and Reserva Toh.

Ssp: *yucatanensis*

Northern Bentbill *Oncostoma cinereigulae*

1 Calakmul ruins.

Monotypic.

Stub-tailed Spadebill *Platyrinchus cancrominus*

3 Reserva Toh.

Ssp: nominate *thimothei*

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher *Empidonax flaviventris*

1 Calakmul ruins.

Monotypic.

Least Flycatcher *Empidonax minimus*

1 Hotel Puerta Calakmul and 1 Reserva Toh.

Monotypic.

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis*

Observed five days.

Ssp: *texensis*

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*

Readily seen.

Ssp: *guatemalensis*

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua*

Recorded in Calakmul area and at Reserva Toh.

Ssp: *mexicanus*

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*

Daily records.

Ssp: *satrapa*

Couch's Kingbird *Tyrannus couchii*

1 Reserva Toh.

Monotypic. Occurs from southern Texas through eastern Mexico to Belize and northern Guatemala.

Yucatan Flycatcher *Myiarchus yucatanensis*

5 Reserva Toh.

Ssp: *yucatanensis*. Endemic to Yucatán Peninsula and Cozumel Island.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer*

3 Reserva Toh.

Ssp: *platyrhynchus*

Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus*

Several in Calakmul area.

Monotypic.

Bright-rumped Attila *Attila spadiceus*

1 Hotel Puerta Calakmul.

Ssp: *gaumeri*

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis*

Recorded on Cozumel (km 6.8 site and El Cedral), and Reserva Toh.

Ssp: *yucatanensis* on the mainland, and the distinctly pale *insularis* on Cozumel.

White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus*

Recorded six days.

Ssp: *noveboracensis* and/or *griseus*

Cozumel Vireo *Vireo bairdi*

1 at the km 6.8 site on Cozumel.

Monotypic. Endemic to Cozumel Island.

Green Jay *Cyanocorax yncas*

6 Reserva Toh.

Ssp: *maya*. Birds in Mexico and Central America possibly constitute a separate species from South American populations.

Brown Jay *Psilorhinus morio*

Recorded five days.

Ssp: *vociferus*

Yucatan Jay *Cyanocorax yucatanicus*

Several in Calakmul area and Reserva Toh respectively.

Ssp: nominate *yucatanicus*. Endemic to Yucatan Peninsula.

Mangrove Swallow *Tachycineta albilinea*

Seen in the town of Xpujil (not far from Calakmul) only.

Monotypic.

Purple Martin *Progne subis*

2 Reserva Toh.

Ssp: probably *subis*.

White-browed Wren *Thryothorus albinucha*

1 Calakmul and 1 Reserva Toh.

Ssp: nominate *albinucha*. Occurs in Yucatan Peninsula including northern Belize and northern Guatemala, and spottily also in central Guatemala and western Nicaragua. Often subsumed, probably correctly so, in Carolina Wren, *T.ludovicianus*.

Spot-breasted Wren *Thryothorus maculipectus*

2 or 3 Reserva Toh and 1 Boca del Puma.

Ssp: *canobrunneus*

White-bellied Wren *Uropsial leucogastra*

1 Hotel Puerta Calakmul.

Ssp: probably *brachyura*. Breeds in eastern and western Mexico, Belize, northern Guatemala and locally in northern Honduras.

Cozumel Wren *Troglodytes beani*

1 at the km 6.8 site on Cozumle.

Monotypic. Endemic to Cozumel Island.

Long-billed Gnatwren *Ramphocaenus melanurus*

1 Reserva Toh..

Ssp: *ardeleo*

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Poiloptila caerulea*

Scattered records, both on Cozumel and the mainland.

Ssp: *cozumelae* and *deppei* respectively

Gray Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis*

1 El Cedral and 2-3 Calakmul.

Monotypic.

Black Catbird *Melanoptila grabirostris*

Easy to find on Cozumel Island, also 1 seen in Reserva Toh.

Monotypic. Endemic to Yucatan Peninsula and Cozumel Island..

Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus*

Common.

Ssp: *leucophaeus*

Clay-colored Thrush *Turdus grayi*

Remarkably only one seen, at Hotel Puerta Calakmul.

Ssp: *lanyoni*

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*

1 Hotel Puerta Calakmul.

Ssp: probably *ustulatus*

Tennessee Warbler *Vermivora peregrine*

1 Reserva Toh.

Monotypic.

Northern Parula *Parula Americana*

Observed five days.

Ssp: *ludoviciana*, however it is debated whether or not any subspecies should be recognized.

Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia*

Seen on Cozumel Island only.

Ssp: birds of two subspecies groups were seen. One individual only being identified as belonging to *rufivertex* “Golden” (of the *petechia* group), while all others regarded being representatives of “Yellow” (*aestiva* group) of uncertain ssp.

Magnolia Warbler *Dendroica magnolia*

Recorded five days.

Monotypic.

Black-throated Green Warbler *Dendroica virens*

2 at the km 6.8 site on Cozumel, and 2 Reserva Toh.

Monotypic.

Yellow-throated Warbler *Dendroica dominica*

3 Playa del Carmen, 2 Chankanaab on Cozumel, and 1 Reserva Toh.

Ssp: *abilora*

Palm Warbler *Dendroica palmarum*

Two records on Cozumel: 1 at the km 6.8 site and 1 at El Cedral.

Ssp: nominate *palmarum*

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia*

Seen at Bello Caribe on Cozumel, and in Calakmul.

Monotypic.

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*

Recorded six days.

Monotypic.

Worm-eating Warbler *Hermitheros vermivorum*

1 Calakmul ruins.

Monotypic.

Swainson’s Warbler *Limnothlypis swainsonii*

1 Playa Palancar entry road (on Cozumel), and 1 Calakmul ruins.

Monotypic.

Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapilla*

A few seen in Calakmul area.

Ssp: should be *aurocapilla*

Northern Waterthrush *Seiurus noveboracensis*

1 Chankanaab on Cozumel.

Monotypic.

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas*

2 El Cedral, 3 Calakmul ruins and 3 Reserva Toh.

Ssp: nominate *trichas*

Gray-crowned Yellowthroat *Geothlypis poliocephala*

2 El Cedral, Cozumel.

Ssp: *palpebralis*

Hooded Warbler *Wilsonia citrina*

1 Chankanaab, Cozumel, half a dozen in Calakmul area, and 2 Reserva Toh.
Monotypic.

Wilson's Warbler *Wilsonia pusilla*

1 Reserva Toh.
Ssp: *pusilla*

Gray-throated Chat *Granatellus sallaei*

A female at Hotel Puerta Calakmul.

Ssp: *boucardi*. Occurs in southern Veracruz, eastern Oaxaca, northern Chiapas, Tabasco, Yucatán Peninsula, Belize and eastern Guatemala.

Yellow-billed Cacique *Amblycercus holosericeus*

2 Reserva Toh.
Ssp: nominate *holosericeus*

Yellow-backed Oriole *Icterus chrysater*

4 Reserva Toh.
Ssp: nominate *chrysater*

Orange Oriole *Icterus auratus*

5 ReservaToh.
Monotypic. Endemic to Yucatan Peninsula.

Yellow-tailed Oriole *Icterus mesomelas*

4 or 5 Reserva Toh.
Ssp: nominate *mesomelas*

Altamira Oriole *Icterus gularis*

Surprisingly few seen, seen only in Calakmul and Reserva Toh.
Ssp: *yucatanensis*

Hooded Oriole *Icterus cucullatus*

Like preceding species, very few seen, apart from singles on Cozumel only Reserva Toh produced reasonable numbers.
Ssp: *igneus*

Black-cowled Oriole *Icterus prothemelas*

Several encountered in Reserva Toh.
Ssp: nominate *prothemelas*. Does not include Caribbean islands forms, which are now split to several separate species.

Melodious Blackbird *Dives dives*

Common and vocally conspicuous.
Monotypic. Occurs from eastern Mexico to northwestern Costa Rica.

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*

Abundant.
Ssp: *loweryi*

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola*

Recorded on Cozumel Island only, at the km 6.8m site, Bello Caribe and El Cedral.
Ssp: *caboti*

Yellow-faced Grassquit *Tiaris olivaceus*

On Cozumel, 3-4 at the km 6.8 site and 2-3 at El Cedral, also 2 Reserva Toh.
Ssp: Cozumel birds are *intermedius*, mainland birds *pusillus*

Green-backed Sparrow *Arremonops chloronotus*

1 Reserva Toh.

Ssp: nominate *chloronotus*. Occurs on Caribbean slope in southeastern Mexico, Belize, northern and central Guatemala and locally in northern Honduras.

Blue-gray Tanager *Thraupis episcopus*

Only one individual seen, near Chetumal.

Ssp: *cana*

Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus*

1 Reserva Toh.

Ssp: *carneipes*

Yellow-throated Euphonia *Euphonia hirundinacea*

3 Hotel Puerta Calakmul and 1 Reserva Toh.

Ssp: nominate *hirundinacea*

Red-crowned Ant-Tanager *Habia rubica*

Several seen at Reserva Toh.

Ssp: *nelsoni*

Red-throated Ant-Tanager *Habia fuscicauda*

Several seen in Calakmul area and Reserva Toh.

Ssp: *insularis*

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*

Recorded four days.

Ssp: nominate *rubra*

Rose-throated Tanager *Piranga roseogularis*

3 Reserva Toh.

Ssp: *tincta*. Endemic to Yucatan Peninsula (does not occur in the northwestern parts) and islands of Cozumel and Mujeres.

Western Spindalis *Spindalis zena*

A male at Playa Palancar., Cozumel.

Ssp: *benedicti*, endemic to Cozumel, with other races in Bahamas, Cuba, Isle of Pines and Grand Cayman, these islands comprising the full range of the species.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*

1 seen in Reserva Toh was the only record.

Monotypic.

Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis*

4 or 5 Reserva Toh.

Ssp: *flammiger*

Black-headed Saltator *Saltator atriceps*

About 15 Reserva Toh.

Ssp: *raptor*

Grayish Saltator *Saltator coerulescens*

3 Reserva Toh.

Ssp: *yucatanensis*

Blue-black Grosbeak *Cyanocopsa cyanoides*

A pair at Hotel Puerta Calakmul.

Ssp: *concreta*

Blue Bunting *Cyanocompsa parellina*

A beautiful male at Reserva Toh.

Ssp: nominate *parellina*.

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea*

4-5 Reserva Toh.

Monotypic.