



**TROPICAL
BIRDING**



**YUCATAN
MEXICO:
BIRDING THE LAND
OF THE MAYA**

A Tropical Birding
Set Departure

March 2-11, 2024
Guide: Ken Behrens

Photos by Ken Behrens

TOUR SUMMARY

Mexico is vast and diverse, and the Yucatan Peninsula is a very different from the rest of the country. It's a huge shelf of limestone that divides the Gulf of Mexico from the Caribbean. This is a still-sparsely populated area that has large areas of pristine forest, and an abundance of wildlife. Not only does this area hold a great set of Central American forest species, but it also has a solid set of its own endemics. These include a few species and subspecies that are restricted to the island of Cozumel, on the Caribbean side of the peninsula.

This was a fun and successful trip, for a small and flexible group. We found all the endemic birds of Cozumel and Yucatan, save for the Yucatan Gnatcatcher. One of these was the fabulous Ocellated Turkey shown on the cover photo. Other avian highlights included American Flamingo, Blue Ground-Dove, Mangrove Cuckoo, Russet-naped Wood-Rail, Boat-billed Heron, Crane Hawk, Turquoise-browed Motmot, Keel-billed Toucan, Collared Forest-Falcon, Mayan Antthrush, Red-capped Manakin, Northern Schiffornis, and Long-billed Gnatwren. We visited and birded several wonderful Mayan sites, from the popular Chichen Itza to the remote and little-known Hormiguero. The food on this trip was wonderful throughout. We enjoyed many tasty field breakfasts, which

included fresh mango, papaya, avocados, and tostados! And the restaurant food was great too, ranging from Mexico staples like *tacos al pastor* to delicious local seafood dishes.

For an immersive experience of this trip's highlights, check out the 6-minute video trip report:

VIDEO TRIP REPORT on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C4EMREfNbE0>

ITINERARY

March 2	Arrival on Isla Cozumel. Night San Miguel de Cozumel.
March 3	Full day birding Cozumel. Night San Miguel de Cozumel.
March 4	Morning Cozumel. Ferry and drive to Rio Lagartos. Night Rio Lagartos
March 5	Morning Rio Lagartos. Afternoon Chichen Itza. Night Valladolid.
March 6	Morning Coba. Afternoon drive to Felipe Carillo Puerto. Night FCP.
March 7	Morning PCP. Drive to Xpujil. Night Xpujil.
March 8	Full day birding Calakmul. Night Xpujil.
March 9	Morning Hormiguero. Afternoon visit to Bacalar Lagoon. Night FCP.
March 10	Morning Felipe Carillo Puerto. Drive to Cancun.
March 11	Departure from Cancun.

Note that the itinerary for future versions of this trip will be modified, to include a Guatemalan component. See the Tropical Birding website for details

BIRD LIST

The full list, including numbers and many other details, can be see as part of the [eBird trip report](https://ebird.org/tripreport/209425) for this trip: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/209425>

NON-BIRD LIST

Yucatan Squirrel	<i>Sciurus yucatanensis</i>
Yucatan Black Howler	<i>Alouatta pigra</i>
Geoffroy's Spider Monkey	<i>Ateles geoffroyi</i>
Cozumel Raccoon	<i>Procyon pygmaeus</i>
White-nosed Coati	<i>Nasua narica</i>
Central American Agouti	<i>Dasyprocta punctata</i>
White-tailed Deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>
American Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus acutus</i>
Morelet's Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus moreletii</i>
Black Spiny-tailed Iguana	<i>Ctenosaura similis</i>

Brown Basilisk	<i>Basiliscus vittatus</i>
Yellow-spotted Spiny Lizard	<i>Sceloporus chrysostictus</i>
Common House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>