



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Trip Report: Mexico

Yucatan Extension

13th to 19th March 2013 (7 days)



Mexican Sheartail by Rich Lindie

Trip report compiled by tour leader: Rich Lindie



Royal Tern by Rich Lindie

We began our first ever Rockjumper tour to Yucatan's peninsula with a short afternoon stroll in the peaceful surroundings of the Puerto Morelos Botanical Gardens. Here, in the dry limestone forests, we found our first flocks of noisy Yucatan Jays, Yucatan Vireo, Tawny-winged and Ivory-billed Woodcreepers, Red-throated Ant Tanager and Orange Orioles, before heading to the mangroves around town. In the mangroves and adjacent wooded areas we found small bird parties containing Black-throated Green, Black Throated Blue, Cape May, Yellow-throated, Palm and Magnolia Warblers, as well as our first Grey Catbirds and Couch's Kingbirds. Not bad, considering it was an arrival day!

Our first full day saw us birding along a variety of roads in the dry forest surrounding Puerto Morelos town. The majority of these roads were access tracks to some of the innumerable 'cenotes' (wells) that are found here and throughout much of the northern Yucatan. Visitors come to these cenotes for activities like swimming and zip-lining and have little impact on the forested habitats, so we enjoyed some well forested tracks and some really great birding. Among the major targets and other special birds, we successfully found a stunning male Rose-throated Tanager, pairs of Yucatan Woodpeckers, some busy Northern Bentbills, flocks of Olive-throated Parakeets and White-fronted Amazons, an endearing Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, Rose-throated Becards, Plain Chachalacas, very vocal Melodious Blackbirds, Brown and Green Jays, Spot-breasted and White-bellied Wrens, Squirrel Cuckoo, Canivet's Emerald and our first female Grey-throated Chats. Beach areas visited during the day yielded more views of the ever-present Magnificent Frigatebirds, Royal Terns and waders including Ruddy Turnstone and Sanderling. That evening a Mottled Owl called, but failed to put in an appearance.

After a short drive to the terminal the following morning, we soon found ourselves on a very comfortable ferry deck, cruising our way to the island of Cozumel and its much anticipated endemics. On the island itself and after a brief coffee stop, we wasted no time in getting out into the countryside for our first spot of birding where, despite an initial slow start, we found our first Cozumel Vireo and Cozumel Emerald. These, of course, were not our only sightings and we enjoyed a host of other resident and migratory species, including Swallow-tailed Kite, Mangrove (Golden) Warbler, Yellow-faced Grassquit, Northern Parula and Yellow-rumped Warbler.



Bare-throated Tiger Heron by Rich Lindie

Our next port of call was a small village where we had good looks at White-crowned Pigeon, more Cozumel Emeralds, small groups of Lesser Goldfinch, the distinctive regional race of Bananaquit and some Green-breasted Mangos, before making our way back to the coast for lunch on the beach. Just before lunch, however, we had had some great views of the local race of Rufous-browed Peppershrike and some very confiding Black Catbirds.

Lunch, of course, was in the attendance of some Magnificent Frigatebirds, but we didn't hang around too long as we had one more fish to fry ourselves. The endemic race of House Wren on the island is often elevated to Cozumel Wren, and we weren't about to leave without finding it. It certainly took some work, but we eventually found a very cooperative pair in time to catch a ferry back to the mainland for our drive to Felipe Camilo Puerto.

Having only heard Yucatan Poorwill the previous night, we decided to wake up very early for our visit to the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve. Again only hearing this species and Yucatan Nightjar, we at least hit the track for our morning birding very early. Toco Toucans were among the first birds to greet us on our arrival and they were soon followed by many others, including Stub-tailed Spadebill, Lesser Greenlet, Yucatan Flycatcher, Grey-crowned Yellowthroat, Hooded Oriole, Yellow-throated Euphonia, Lineated Woodpecker and Gartered Trogon. Then, at a nearby site, we added a wonderful pair of Long-billed Gnatwrens, Mangrove Swallow and Yellow-olive Flycatcher to our list, as well as finally getting views of perched Yucatan Amazons and male Grey-throated Chats - both lovely birds and important targets!

Our afternoon at the Tulum archeological site provided us with our first chance to really talk about the Mayan history on the peninsula, while giving us the opportunity to stroll about in the open surroundings of the ruins. Bird highlights included great views of Ridgeway's Rough-winged Swallow, a Grey-headed Tanager, and some stunning Altamira Orioles.

The next day was most enjoyable. Starting in the dry scrub near Rio Lagartos, we found Yucatan Bobwhite within moments of our arrival. Jumping out to get more looks at this species, we saw our first female Mexican Sheartails and a pair of very demonstrative Yucatan Wrens! The morning went on like this and it wasn't long before we had boosted our list with a host of goodies, including stunning male Mexican Sheartails, Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, Zone-tailed Hawk, Grey-breasted Martin, Vermillion Flycatcher, White-lored Gnatcatcher and Painted Bunting.



Black Skimmer by Rich Lindie

It wasn't, however, until our time on the water that we really began padding our lists. So the birds we saw during our boat ride were far less range-restricted than some of those seen earlier in the morning, but the sheer numbers and the change of pace were really fun. Highlights among the many birds seen included Bare-throated Tiger Heron, Tricolored Heron, flocks of Black Skimmer, Forster's and Least Terns, stunning American Flamingoes in display, American White Ibis, Reddish Egret, Common Black Hawk, and a new (and striking) form of Mangrove Warbler for the tour.

After lunch in the company of frigatebirds and skimmers, we made our way back to our base via a series of small wetlands where we picked up a fantastic pair of Ruddy Crake among other new species for the tour, including Purple Gallinule and Northern Jacana.

Evening was spent back in our very charming accommodation in Valladolid.

An early start the following morning and, were it not for the brief flyover views, almost a repeat of all previous attempts at seeing Yucatan Nightjar. Still, our luck wasn't to continue that way for long and we were able to position ourselves at Coba Lake in perfect time for a Spotted Rail search. A lot of back-and-forth ensued but we eventually succeeded in pulling one out of the reeds for good looks - a great little bird! A fly-by Limpkin was a bonus too. A short drive later and we started our morning's birding in the forests around Coba, finally ending up at the archeological site in town. Aside from tracking down a pair of cooperative Green-backed Sparrows and a handful of other nice new birds, one of the highlights was, without a doubt, spending time in attendance of an army ant swarm. Watching the ants and the various bird species in attendance, we enjoyed extreme close up views of Northern Barred Woodcreepers and even managed to feed a Red-throated Ant Tanager!

Taking it easy that afternoon, we birded some of the coastal scrub near to our accommodation in Akumal, enjoying Yellow-billed Cacique, numerous Black-headed Trogons, and a host of other species we hadn't seen for a few days.

Before leaving for the airport, some of us couldn't resist a final foray into the field to bid farewell to many of the species we had enjoyed seeing in this part of the world. A nice way to end the tour and a last taste of the relaxed and wonderful birding to be had here in the ancient home of the Maya!



Vermillion Flycatcher by Rich Lindie

Annotated List of birds recorded

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows the IOC 3.3 List of: Gill, F. and M. Wright. 2012. Birds of the World: Recommended English Names. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press.

Total species recorded: 207 (including 11 heard only)

YE = Yucatan Endemic

H = Heard only

Tinamous Tinamidae

Thicket Tinamou (H)

Ortalis vetula

We heard this species in the Sian Ka'an area.

Chachalacas, Curassows & Guans Cracidae

Plain Chachalaca

Ortalis vetula

This species was commonly encountered on the first four days of the tour.

New World Quail Odontophoridae

Yucatan Bobwhite (YE)

Colinus nigrogularis

We had great views of this species in the dry scrub around Rio Lagartos.

Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae

Blue-winged Teal

Anas discors

Seen at a handful of locations, including Rio Lagartos and Coba.

Grebes Podicepsidae

Pied-billed Grebe

Podilymbus podiceps

A few of these birds were seen on small lakes near Rio Lagartos, and in Coba.

Flamingos Phoenicopteridae

American Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber*
Small groups of brightly colored adults were seen at Rio Lagartos.

Storks Ciconiidae

Wood Stork *Mycteria Americana*
Seen only in the Rio Lagartos area.

Ibises, Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

[American] White Ibis *Eudocimus albus*
This species was also only seen in the Rio Lagartos area, where it was common.

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja*
Some of us saw this species in the mangroves around Puerto Morelos,

Hérons, Bitterns Ardeidae

Bare-throated Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma mexicanum*
We had fantastic close-ups of this species at Rio Lagartos.

Green Heron *Butorides virescens*
Seen on just two days of the tour: in Puerto Morelos and at Rio Lagartos.

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*
Seen almost daily.

Great Egret *Egretta alba*
Also seen almost daily.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*
Seen at a number of wetlands throughout the tour.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*
Not as common as the previous species, but also encountered at a number of wetlands.

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor*
This handsome species was seen well at Rio Lagartos.

Reddish Egret *Egretta rufescens*
One of these smart birds was seen at Rio Lagartos.

Pelicans Pelecanidae

American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*
Small numbers of this species were seen at Rio Lagartos.

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*
Seen daily and in good numbers.

Frigatebirds Fregatidae

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*
We enjoyed seeing these birds on every day of the tour.

Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*
Seen around Puerto Morelos and again at Rio Lagartos.

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus*
Seen at the same sites as the previous species.

Anhingas, darters Anhingidae

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga*
 Only seen around Puerto Morelos, mostly in the mangroves.

New World Vultures Cathartidae

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*
 Common and conspicuous on every day of the tour.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*
 Commonly recorded on every day of the tour.

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes burrovianus*
 We spotted just a few of these birds while in the Rio Lagartos area.

Ospreys Pandionidae

[Western] Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*
 We saw the migratory form of this species in Puerto Morelos and at Rio Lagartos.

Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus*
 We saw this species on just two occasions: at Cozumel Island and in the Rio Lagartos area.

Grey Hawk *Buteo plagiatus*
 Recorded on all but one day of the tour.

Common Black Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus*
 These birds were common in the mangroves at Rio Lagartos.

Roadside Hawk *Buteo magnirostris*
 We saw this species well on a handful of occasions, most notably in the Sian Ka'an area.

Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus*
 A couple of these distinctive birds were seen soaring over the dry country at Rio Lagartos.

Carcaras, Falcons Falconidae

Collared Forest Falcon (H) *Micrastur semitorquatus*
 We heard this species in the distance at Sian Ka'an.

Northern Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway*
 We saw this species well near Rio Lagartos and around Coba.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*
 Seen briefly on just one day of the tour, near Rio Lagartos.

Rails, Crakes and Coots Rallidae

Ruddy Crake *Laterallus ruber*
 Who can forget our encounter with this species! After a little patience we were all rewarded with great views of a pair, calling side-by-side, in a wetland just outside Rio Lagartos.

Spotted Rail *Pardirallus maculatus*
 This one took a lot of work, but many of us managed to get good views as it wandered out from the reeds in the Coba wetland.

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica*
 We saw this species well at a small wetland outside Rio Lagartos.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula galeata*
 Seen in small numbers near Rio Lagartos and in Coba.

American Coot*Fulica americana*

Seen at scattered wetlands, including Coba.

Limpkin Aramidae**Limpkin***Aramus guarauna*

Briefly seen at Coba, while we were waiting for the Spotted Rail to show!

Plovers Charadriidae**Killdeer***Charadrius vociferus*

Small numbers were seen at Rio Lagartos.

Silts, Avocets Recurvirostridae**Black-necked Stilt***Himantopus mexicanus*

We had some nice close-ups of this species in the Rio Lagartos area.

Jacanas Jacanidae**Northern Jacana***Jacana spinosa*

A stop at a small, almost completely dried-out wetland near Rio Lagartos gave us our only views of this species.

Sandpipers, Snipes Scolopacidae**Marbled Godwit***Limosa fedoa*

One distant individual was seen on the return boat ride at Rio Lagartos.

Greater Yellowlegs*Tringa melanoleuca*

Seen only at Rio Lagartos.

Lesser Yellowlegs*Tringa flavipes*

Also only seen at Rio Lagartos.

Solitary Sandpiper*Tringa solitaria*

Seen only at Rio Lagartos, on one occasion.

Willet*Tringa semipalmata*

Seen in small numbers at Rio Lagartos.

Spotted Sandpiper*Actitis macularius*

Seen at Rio Lagartos and in the Sian Ka'an area.

Ruddy Turnstone*Arenaria interpres*

Seen almost daily, on beaches and at roadside puddles!

Sanderling*Calidris alba*

Also seen almost daily.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae**Black Skimmer***Ryncops niger*

We had fantastic numbers of these birds at Rio Lagartos. We were able to watch flock after flock as they made their way right past the boat dock in town.

Laughing Gull*Leucophaeus atricilla*

Seen daily and in good numbers.

Ring-billed Gull*Larus delawarensis*

Some of us saw this species during our boat rides at Rio Lagartos.

American Herring Gull*Larus smithsonianus*

As with the above species, only a few of us managed to see this bird, at Rio Lagartos.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus Fuscus*

A few of these birds were present at Rio Lagartos.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

We saw good numbers of these birds at Rio Lagartos, where some were perched on a sand bar for close-ups.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

A few individuals were seen at Rio Lagartos.

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus*

The common tern species, encountered on all but one day of the tour.

Cabot's (Sandwich) Tern *Thalasseus acudiflaviventris*

Briefly seen by some of us at Rio Lagartos.

Least Tern *Sterna antillarum*

One of these small terns was seen on a sand bar at Rio Lagartos.

Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri*

We saw individuals in both breeding and non-breeding plumage, at Rio Lagartos.

Pigeons, Doves Columbidae

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Seen in urban areas on most days.

Red-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas flavirostris*

Some of us saw this species in Cancun.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

We saw this species well at Playa del Carmen.

White-crowned Pigeon (CE) *Columba leucocephala*

We saw this species well on Cozumel Island.

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*

Commonly encountered during the tour.

Common Ground Dove *Columbina passerina*

Seen in dry areas around Rio Lagartos and Coba, where it was often common.

Ruddy Ground Dove *Columbina talpacoti*

Seen on all but one day of the tour.

Blue Ground Dove (H) *Columbina pretiosa*

We unfortunately only heard this species, while birding in the Sian Ka'an area,

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*

We heard this species on several occasions though it was only seen in Coba.

Caribbean Dove (CE) (H) *Leptotila jamaicensis*

This tricky species was sadly only heard during our time on the peninsula and on Cozumel Island.

Parrots Psittacidae

Olive-throated (Aztec) Parakeet *Aratinga nana*

Despite seeing this species on every day of the tour, we only saw perched individuals on less than a handful of occasions.

White-fronted Amazon (Parrot) *Amazona albifrons*

Another common species that we mostly saw in flight, though our first encounter was with some very obliging perched birds.

Yucatan (Yellow-lored) Amazon (Parrot) (YE) *Amazona autumnalis*

It took some time but we eventually got to see this species perched – in the Sian Ka'an area.

Cuckoos Cuculidae

- Groove-billed Ani** *Crotophaga sulcirostris*
 Seen at most sites visited, including Cozumel Island.
- Pheasant Cuckoo (H)** *Dromococcyx phasianellus*
 This elusive species was only heard during our time in the Coba area.
- Squirrel Cuckoo** *Piaya cayana*
 Seen well on a number of occasions, throughout the tour.

Owls Strigidae

- Ferruginous Pygmy Owl** *Glaucidium brasilianum*
 We saw a number of these great little birds - hardly a surprise given the amount of imitating we did!
- Mottled Owl (H)** *Strix virgata*
 We heard this species on four separate occasions!

Nightjars Caprimulgidae

- Yucatan Poorwill (YE) (H)** *Nyctiphrynus yucatanicus*
 We managed to get a vocal response in the Sian Ka'an area, but no birds came in to look.
- Yucatan Nightjar (YE)** *Caprimulgus ridgwayi*
 Despite a number of attempts and many calling birds, we only managed extremely brief views of one flying over in the Coba area.

Swifts Apodidae

- Vaux's Swift** *Chaetura vauxi*
 Encountered at several sites throughout the tour, including Puerto Morelos.

Hummingbirds Trochilidae

- Wedge-tailed Sabrewing** *Campylopterus pampa*
 Commonly encountered during the tour, though it took some time to finally see one perched for a long time (Sian Ka'an).
- Green-breasted Mango** *Anthracothorax prevostii*
 We saw some speedy individuals on Cozumel Island.
- Cozumel Emerald (YE)** *Chlorostilbon forficatus*
 We saw a number of females on Cozumel Island.
- Canivet's Emerald** *Chlorostilbon canivetii*
 Seen on just two days of the tour, though on a number of occasions.
- White-bellied Emerald** *Amazilia candida*
 Commonly seen in forest/woodland areas, throughout the tour.
- Buff-bellied Hummingbird** *Amazilia yucatanensis*
 A few individuals were seen in forested areas, throughout the tour.
- Cinnamon Hummingbird** *Amazilia rutila*
 Encountered on a handful of occasions, mostly around Rio Lagartos and Coba.
- Mexican Sheartail (YE)** *Doricha eliza*
 After encountering only females, we were delighted to eventually see a number of stunning males – all in the dry scrub near Rio Lagartos.

Trogons Trogonidae

Black-headed Trogon *Trogon melanocephalus*
Particularly common in some areas, including Akumal.

Gartered Trogon *Trogon caligatus*
We saw this species in the Pierto Morelos are and at Sian Ka'an.

Collared Trogon *Trogon collaris*
Seen at the same locations as the previous species.

Motmots Momotidae

Blue-diademed Motmot (H) *Momotus lessonii*
Unfortunately, this species was only heard, near Coba.

Turquoise-browed Motmot *Eumomota superciliosa*
This brilliant bird was well admired during our walk at Boca de Puma.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon*
Seen on most days of the tour, most notably at Rio Lagartos.

Toucans Rhamphastidae

Keel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos sulfuratus*
We saw this truly striking toucan in the Sian Ka'an area.

Woodpeckers Piciidae

Yucatan Woodpecker (YE) *Melanerpes pygmaeus*
Pleasantly common throughout the tour, though our first ones near Puerto Morelos were still much appreciated.

Golden-fronted Woodpecker *Melanerpes aurifrons*
Only noted on the first two days of the tour.

Golden-olive Woodpecker (H) *Picoides fumigatus*
We only heard this species – in Coba.

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus*
We had some great views of this bird, at Sian Ka'an and in Akumal.

Ovenbirds Furnariidae

Tawny-winged Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla anabatina*
One of these distinctive woodcreepers showed well during our afternoon walk in the botanical gardens at Puerto Morelos.

Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus*
We managed to get brief but good looks at this species while birding outside Puerto Morelos.

Northern Barred Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus susurrans*
Our best views of this species were certainly those that we had while watching a feeding flock attend an army ant swarm.

Ivory-billed Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster*
Seen at a handful of sites during the tour, including Sian Ka'an.

Antbirds Thamnophilidae

Barred Antshrike *Thamnistes anabatinus*
We saw some very striking males while birding some dry forest outside Puerto Morelos.

Tyrant Flycatchers Tyrannidae

Northern Beardless Tyrannulet*Camptostoma imberbe*

One little adult was very responsive and co-operative, allowing us all great views at some forest just outside Puerto Morelos.

Northern Bentbill*Oncostoma cinereigulare*

A fantastic little bird that showed well on a few occasions during our time in Puerto Morelos, Coba and Sian Ka'an.

Common Tody-Flycatcher*Todirostrum cinereum*

Some of us saw this species in the Sian Ka'an area.

Yellow-olive Flatbill*Tolmomyias sulphurescens*

One of these little birds perched above our heads while we were birding in the Sian Ka'an area.

Stub-tailed Spadebill*Platyrrinchus cancrominus*

Some of us had to work quite hard for this cute species, though most of us managed views at Sian Ka'an and/or Coba.

Eastern Wood Pewee*Contopus virens*

We studied one of these birds well while in the Puerto Morelos area.

Tropical Pewee*Contopus cinereus*

Seen well at Puerto Morelos, Coba and Sian Ka'an.

Least Flycatcher*Empidonax minimus*

Seen almost daily and at most sites, including Sian Ka'an.

Vermillion Flycatcher*Pyrocephalus rubinus*

These stunning little birds were seen in good numbers around Rio Lagartos.

Social Flycatcher*Myiozetetes similis*

Seen on almost every day of the tour.

Great Kiskadee*Pitangus sulphuratus*

Not as common as the previous, though seen well at Puerto Morelos and Rio Lagartos.

Boat-billed Flycatcher*Megarynchus pitangua*

After hearing it on a few occasions, we had great views on the final morning.

Tropical Kingbird*Tyrannus melancholicus*

Commonly encountered, on every day of the tour.

Couch's Kingbird*Tyrannus couchii*

Seen less often than the previous species, our first encounter was during our afternoon walk in Puerto Morelos on day 1.

Yucatan Flycatcher (YE)*Myiarchus yucatanensis*

We all had great looks at this species in Sian Ka'an.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher*Myiarchus tuberculifer*

Heard on a number of occasions and seen just about daily.

Brown-crested Flycatcher*Myiarchus tyrannulus*

We saw this species well on a few occasions during our day birding in the Coba area.

Bright-rumped Attila*Attila spadiceus*

We had brief views of this species in forest outside Puerto Morelos.

Tityras, Becards Tityridae

Masked Tityra*Tityra semifasciata*

We encountered these great little birds at all three forest/woodland sites visited.

Rose-throated Becard*Pachyramphus aglaiae*

We saw this species on the first morning and again at Rio Lagartos and Sian Ka'an.

Vireos, Greenlets Vireonidae

Rufous-browed Peppershrike

Cyclarhis gujanensis insularis

We saw this species on almost every day of the tour, when in well-wooded habitats. Note that the sub-species we saw on Cozumel Island is endemic to that island.

White-eyed Vireo

Vireo griseus

A very common species on almost every day of the tour.

Mangrove Vireo

Vireo pallens

We had great looks at this species in Rio Lagartos and Coba.

Cozumel Vireo (YE)

Vireo bairdi

We encountered this species on a few occasions during our time on the island, managing to get great looks on all occasions.

Yellow-throated Vireo

Vireo flavifrons

Not as abundant as its white-eyed cousin, but still fairly common throughout the tour.

Yucatan Vireo (YE)

Vireo magister

This species proved to be quite common and we encountered it on every day of the tour.

Tawny-crowned Greenlet

Hylophilus ochraceiceps

Most of us caught up with this little bird at Sian Ka'an.

Lesser Greenlet

Hylophilus decurtatus

These noisy little birds were seen coming to mob our pygmy-owl imitations on a few occasions – at Sian Ka'an and Puerto Morelos.

Crows, Jays Corvidae

Yucatan Jay (NE)

Cyanocorax yucatanicus

An attractive and noisy species that we encountered on no less than five days of the tour.

Green Jay

Cyanocorax yncas

Most of us saw this species around Puerto Morelos, while others caught up on the final morning.

Brown Jay

Cyanocorax morio

Common, noisy and conspicuous in all forest habitats visited.

Swallows, martins Hirundinidae

Tree Swallow

Tachycineta bicolor

We saw this species in the Rio Lagartos area.

Mangrove Swallow

Tachycineta albilinea

Some very obliging individuals were seen perched at a lake near Sian Ka'an.

Grey-breasted Martin

Progne chalybea

A few of these bulky swallows were seen perched at Rio Lagartos.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Stelgidopteryx serripennis ridgwayi

Seen in flight and perched at the Tulum archeological site and on the final morning at Akumal. Note that this sub-species is often elevated to full species status and is called Ridgway's Rough-winged Swallow.

Barn Swallow

Hirundo rustica

Seen on every day of the tour.

Wrens Troglodytidae

Yucatan Wren (YE)

Campylorhynchus yucatanicus

It didn't take long for us to find this species in the Rio Lagartos area – much to everyone's delight!

Spot-breasted Wren

Phegopedius maculipectus

We saw this species a number of times, in Puerto Morelos and Coba.

Carolina Wren *Thryophilus ludovicianus*

We saw the local sub-species of this bird on one occasion, while birding on the Puerto Morelos area.

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon beani*

We worked hard for this species on Cozumel Island, eventually getting to see a nice pair. Note that the endemic sub-species that we saw is often awarded the name Cozumel Wren.

White-bellied Wren *Uropsila leucogastra*

This diminutive little bird was seen on numerous occasions: in Coba, Puerto Morelos and Sian Ka'an.

Gnatcatchers Ptilinidae

Long-billed Gnatwren *Ramphocaenus melanurus*

Two of these super little birds were seen in thickets near Sian Ka'an.

Blue-grey Gnatcatcher *Poliophtila caerulea*

We all saw this species on Cozumel Island and around Rio Lagartos.

White-lored Gnatcatcher *Poliophtila albiloris*

This dry country species was only seen at Rio Lagartos

Tropical Gnatcatcher *Poliophtila plumbea*

Most of us caught up with this species at Sian Ka'an and/or Puerto Morelos.

Mockingbirds, Thrashers Mimidae

Grey Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis*

Reasonably common on the peninsula.

Black Catbird (YE) *Melanoptila glabrirostris*

Common on Cozumel Island but also seen at Sian Ka'an and Coba.

Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus*

Common and seen on every day of the tour.

Thrushes Turdidae

Clay-coloured Thrush *Turdus grayi*

Not particularly common, though seen at Coba, Puerto Morelos and Sian Ka'an.

Old World Sparrows Passeridae

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Seen in towns and villages on a handful of occasions.

Finches Fringillidae

Yellow-throated Euphonia *Euphonia hirundinacea*

We saw this little bird up in the canopy at Sian Ka'an.

Lesser Goldfinch *Carduelis psaltria*

Our only encounters with this species were on Cozumel Island.

New World Warblers Parulidae

Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapilla*

We saw this species during our afternoon walk in the Puerto Morelos Botanical Gardens and in Sian Ka'an.

Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis*

Seen at streams and small wetlands in Puerto Morelos, Sian Ka'an and Coba.

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- Worm-eating Warbler** *Helmitheros vermivorum*
Only seen during our time on Cozumel Island.
- Black-and-white Warbler** *Mniotilta varia*
Not commonly encountered but seen around Coba and Puerto Morelos.
- Grey-crowned Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis poliocephala*
A very responsive individual showed well during our morning at Sian Ka'an.
- Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas*
Seen almost daily.
- Hooded Warbler** *Setophaga citrina*
Also seen almost daily, with some great views in Sian Ka'an and the gardens at Puerto Morelos.
- American Redstart** *Setophaga ruticilla*
Both males and females of this delightful bird were seen almost daily, in a variety of habitats and locations.
- Cape May Warbler** *Setophaga tigrina*
We only bumped into this species on the first day, while birding around Puerto Morelos.
- Northern Parula** *Setophaga americana*
First seen on Cozumel Island, we then went on to see more at Sian Ka'an and Rio Lagartos.
- Magnolia Warbler** *Setophaga magnolia*
Another attractive warbler that we saw coming regularly to our pygmy owl imitations.
- American Yellow Warbler** *Setophaga aestiva*
We saw this migratory species both on the peninsula and on Cozumel Island.
- Mangrove Warbler** *Setophaga petechia*
We saw this species at two different locations, each representing a different sub-species. The birds seen in the mangroves at Rio Lagartos were of the sub-species *bryanti* while those on Cozumel Island were *rufivertex*. Clements regards the latter as a part of the 'Golden' Warbler group, within the Yellow Warbler species.
- Black-throated Blue Warbler** *Setophaga caerulescens*
This smashing little bird was seen on our first day in the Puerto Morelos area, though never again.
- Palm Warbler** *Setophaga palmarum*
We saw this species on our first afternoon in Puerto Morelos and on Cozumel Island.
- Yellow-rumped Warbler** *Setophaga coronata*
Briefly seen by some on Cozumel Island.
- Yellow-throated Warbler** *Setophaga dominica*
A stunning little warbler, seen around Puerto Morelos, on Cozumel Island and at Sian Ka'an.
- Black-throated Green Warbler** *Setophaga virens*
Pleasantly common throughout the duration of the tour.

Oropendolas, Orioles & Blackbirds Icteridae

- Yellow-billed Caciue** *Amblycercus holosericeus*
We encountered a small flock of this species on two occasions while birding in Akumal.
- Black-cowled Oriole** *Icterus prothemelas*
Great views were had of this species around Puerto Morelos and at Sian Ka'an.
- Orchard Oriole** *Icterus spurius*
Common at a number of sites, including Sian Ka'an.
- Hooded Oriole** *Icterus cucullatus*
We saw this stunning oriole on a number of occasions, including our first afternoon in Puerto Morelos.
- Orange Oriole (YE)** *Icterus auratus*
Pleasantly common around our accommodation in Cancun and also seen in Coba.
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Altamira Oriole*Icterus gularis*

This large oriole was seen well at Tulum, Sian Ka'an, Coba and Rio Lagartos.

Bronzed Cowbird*Molothrus aeneus*

Seen well around Rio Lagartos.

Melodious Blackbird*Dives dives*

After making an effort to see some birds on the first morning, we were content with just hearing them on most days thereafter..

Red-winged Blackbird*Agelaius phoeniceus*

A flock of these birds were seen at a small wetland outside Rio Lagartos.

Great-tailed Grackle*Quiscalus mexicanus*

Common and conspicuous, we saw this species on all but one day of the tour.

Bananquit Coerebidae**Bananaquit***Coereba flaveola*

The distinctive local form of this species was seen on Cozumel Island.

Buntings, New World Sparrows & Allies Emberizidae**Green-backed Sparrow***Arremonops chloronotus*

It took a look of work but we eventually found a very responsive pair in Coba.

Tanagers & Allies Thraupidae**Grey-headed Tanager***Eucometis penicillata*

Some of us had brief views of this species while leaving Tulum.

Red-legged Honeycreeper*Cyanerpes cyaneus*

Most of us caught up with these unusual little birds at Sian Ka'an or Puerto Morelos.

Blue-black Grassquit*Volatinia jacarina*

We enjoyed multiple encounters with this species, most notably at Rio Lagartos.

White-collared Seedeater*Sporophila torqueola*

Seen in shrubby areas on Cozumel Island and around Sian Ka'an.

Yellow-faced Grassquit*Tiaris olivaceus*

Seen at Rio Lagartos and on Cozumel Island.

Grosbeaks, Saltators & Allies Cardinalidae**Rose-throated Tanager (YE)***Piranga roseogularis*

We encountered this lovely species on a few occasions, but who can forget our first encounter at Puerto Morelos!

Summer Tanager*Piranga rubra*

Seen on all days except for the one in Rio Lagartos.

Red-throated Ant Tanager*Habia fuscicauda*

We had some great encounters with this species, including a half hour watching them attend an ant swarm!

Rose-breasted Grosbeak*Pheucticus ludovicianus*

We ran into this species in Coba and near Rio Lagartos.

Grey-throated Chat (YE)*Granatellus sallowi*

After initially only encountering females, it was great to get good looks at a singing male, in Sian Ka'an.

Northern Cardinal*Cardinalis cardinalis*

Some stunning males showed really well at Rio Lagartos.

Black-headed Saltator *Saltator atriceps*

Puerto Morelos and Sian Ka'an were the only sites where we encountered this species.

Blue Bunting *Cyanocompsa parellina*

Stunning little males were seen at Puerto Morelos, Sian Ka'an and Rio Lagartos.

Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea*

We only saw this species at Sian Ka'an.

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea*

Fairly common on Cozumel Island but also seen at other sites, including Sian Ka'an.

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris*

Seen first at Rio Lagartos, and then at Akumal on our final morning.

Annotated Checklist of Mammals Recorded (4 species)

Geoffrey's Spider Monkey *Atelles geoffreyi*

We saw this species well in the Puerto Morelos Botanical Gardens.

Central American Agouti *Dasyprocta punctata*

One was seen wondering around in a track in Akumal, on the final morning of the tour.

Gray Fox *Urocyon cinereoargenteus*

We had distant views of one in the road in Sian Ka'an.

White-nosed Coati *Nasua narica*

We had a few encounters with this great species, including a few at Boca de Puma.

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