

BIRDS SEEN IN QUINTANA ROO, YUCATAN, MEXICO,
FROM 04/05/05 TO 11/05/05, COMPILED BY DEREK C MARSH

ITINERARY

Initially the trip consisted of Adrian Richards and myself. We arranged a package with Thompson's through the Co-op after they agreed to match the internet price of £606.00 staying at the Akumal Beach Resort, on an all inclusive basis. I chose this location as it was no more than 1 hours drive to anywhere we planned to visit. A car was going to be hired at the hotel for longer trips together with taxi's and buses. In the restaurant on the first night John a birder approached us from Manchester who was coming up to the start of his second week. He kindly offered to take us out in his hire car. He must have seen us in the hotel garden with our bins.

WEATHER

Very hot humid and mainly sunny with daytime temps in the low and mid 30's, we had one thunderstorm that lasted about 2 hours one afternoon.

HAZARDS

Mosquitoes were a problem if you did not apply a repellent and there were a couple of nasty dogs at Presidente grid, Isla de Cozumal, which made us beat a hasty retreat.

PLACES VISITED

Jungle tracks inland of Akumal Village

There were many tracks leading into the jungle inland of the old village of Akumal, about 2kms walk from our hotel. This area provided us with some excellent birding.

Punta Soliman

This spit of land reached off the 307 between Akumal and Tulum, has a large shallow pool near the end of it and holds a good selection of migrating waders. It is the only place we saw Mangrove Warbler and mainland Black Catbird.

Roadside cenote

This cenote about 7 kms northwest of Tulum along the Tulum to Coba road, signposted 'cenote car wash', no longer used at least not when we went. The large cenote attracted a good number of species.

Back road to Tulum Ruins

We went there on John's advice as he had visited it previously to see Cave Swallows which nest in the nearby ruins, we also saw the only Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture of the trip and Adrian's and mine first Buff-bellied Hummingbird.

Coba Lake and Ruins

The area on the far side of the lake was very birdie and we saw a good number of species, the jungle around the ruins also produced some good species but was very hard work.

Vigo Chico Road

This road that is famous for its birds, runs north east of the town of Felipe Carrillo Puerto through Reserva de la Biosfera Sian Ka'an. The road cuts through miles of rain forest and in one visit we only touched the surface.

Jardin Botanico Dr. Alfredo Barrera Marin

The best area for birds on the day we went was around the car park. The jungle tracks were not that productive but did produce a few new species and good views of Spider Monkeys. There is also a tree hide reached by a ladder which John and I went on and luckily Adrian was not scared as we later noticed a sign saying 'maximum two persons'. I don't think it would pass a safety certificate in the U. K.

Cozumal Island

Only Adrian and I went on this trip as John had arranged to take his wife out. We got a taxi from Akumal to Playa del Carmen ferry terminal only \$22.00 U.S. Unfortunately the 7.00a.m. ferry was cancelled so we had to wait until 8.00a.m. We used taxis to get around on Cozumal as it was less hassle and cheaper. First we went to the usual Presidente grid a failed housing development near Palmer Ranch, the place most birders seem to go named after its proximity to the Hotel Presidente. Here we saw most endemics in a couple of hours' easy birding, walking the paved grid of roads that are surrounded by the jungle. However we failed to see Cozumal Emerald but I remembered reading on the internet about some botanical gardens nearby, so we walked to the highway and flagged down a taxi to Botanical Gardens Chankanaab, hoping that the garden flowers would attract the Emerald's. Sure enough after paying a hefty \$12.00 U.S. we saw up to 4 birds (well worth the money) and had our best views of a Yucatan Woodpecker on the trip and an obliging Northern Water Thrush.

List of Birds Seen:

Least Grebe	2, Coba lake, Coba, 06/05, 1 on small lake by Vigo Chico road, 08/05
Brown Pelican	Odd bird offshore Akumal daily
Double-crested Cormorant	1, overhead Punta Soliman, 10/05
Neotropical Cormorant	10+, Coba lake, Coba, 06/05,
Magnificent Frigatebird	Odd birds seen offshore Akumal most days and at other coastal locations visited.
Great Blue Heron	1, Coba lake, Coba, 06/05

Great Egret	Small numbers seen daily flying overhead at Akumal or at any suitable habitats
Snowy Egret	Small numbers seen daily flying overhead at Akumal 3 seen there 11/5, others in suitable habitats
Little Blue Heron	2, Coba lake, Coba, 06/05
Cattle Egret	1, at cenote near Tulum, 10/05, 2 flying overhead Akumal 11/5
Green Heron	1, Coba lake, Coba, 06/05
Blue-winged Teal	The only duck seen on this trip 8, flying north Akumal, 7/5
Osprey	2, overhead Punta Soliman, 05/05, 1, there 10/5
Black Vulture	Common seen daily
Turkey Vulture	Common seen daily
Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture	1, low overhead near Tulum ruins, 10/05
Grey Hawk	2, along a jungle track inland of Akumal Village and 1, 11/05
Roadside Hawk	1, Vigo Chico road, 08/05
Plain Chachalaca	2, at cenote near Tulum, 06/05, 1, 10/05, many heard calling daily.
Moorhen	1, on a small lake along the Vigo Chico road, 08/05
Limpkin	2, Coba lake, Coba, 06/05
Grey Plover	1, Punta Soliman, 05/05, 2, Punta Soliman 10/5
Semipalmated Plover	4, Punta Soliman, 10/05
Wilson's Plover	1, Punta Soliman, 05/05
Northern Jacana	1, Coba lake, Coba, 06/05
Solitary Sandpiper	1, Coba lake, Coba, 06/05
Turnstone	1, Punta Soliman, 05/05
Sanderling	10, Playa del Carmen, 09/05
Least Sandpiper	6, Punta Soliman, 05/05, 2, also 10/05, 1 by a roadside puddle Coba lake, 06/05
White-rumped Sandpiper	8, Punta Soliman, 05/05, 5, Punta Soliman 10/05
Laughing Gull	Fairly common offshore Akumal seen daily after 04/05
Royal Tern	Fairly common offshore Akumal seen daily after 04/05
Forster's Tern	1 north Akumal, 10/05
Least Tern	Only 1 seen offshore Akumal, 05/05
White-crowned Pigeon	A few birds seen at what is know as Presidente grid, Isla de Cozumal, 09/05
White-winged Dove	Common seen Daily
Common-ground Dove	2, along the back road to Tulum ruins, 10/05
Ruddy-ground Dove	Very common at Coba lake, 06/05, also very common on the outskirts of the town of Felipe Carrillo Puerto at the theVigo Chico Rd, 08/05
Caribbean Dove	Many heard calling from dense cover Presidente grid, Isla de Cozumal, 09/05, but no birds gave themselves up.
Aztec Parakeet	Fairly common seen daily.
White-fronted Parrot	2, along a jungle track inland of Akumal Village, 05/05, many more of this species or Yucatan Parrot seen daily in flight but not identified.
Groove-billed Ani	A pair or two seen most days at most places visited except Isla de Cozumal.
Ferruginous-pygmy Owl	1, Coba Ruins, 06/05, 1, Akumal, 07/05, 2, along the back road to Tulum ruins, 10/05, 1, along the Coba road 10/05, 2, along a jungle track inland of Akumal Village, 11/05

Vaux's Swift	Many seen at cenote near Tulum, 06/05 also, 10/05, common and seen most days
Wedge-tailed Saberwing	2, Vigo Chico Rd, 08/05, 1, Akumal, 11/05, 1, along a track off the Tulum to Coba Rd, 10/5
Green-breasted Mango	1, Jardin Botanico Dr. Alfredo Barrera M, 07/05, 2, Vigo Chico Rd, 08/05 Presidente grid, Isla de Cozumal, 09/05
Canivet's Emerald	1, Vigo Chico road, 08/05, 1, Akumal, 11/05
Cuzumal Emerald	Up to 4 present in the Botanical Gardens Chankanaab, Isla de Cozumal, 09/05
White-bellied Hummingbird	2, Akumal, 11/05, 2, Jardin Botanico Dr. Alfredo Barrera M, 07/05, 1, Vigo Chico Rd, 08/05, 1, at cenote near Tulum, 10/05
Buff-bellied Hummingbird	1, along the back road to Tulum ruins, 10/05, 1, Akumal, 11/05
Cinnamon Hummingbird	1, along a jungle track inland of Akumal Village, 05/05, 1, also 07/05, 1, Hotel Gardens, 07/05
Black-headed Trogon	1, along a jungle track inland of Akumal Village, 05/05, 2, Coba Ruins, 06/05, 1, along a track off the Tulum to Coba Rd, 10/05
Violaceous Trogon	3, Vigo Chico Rd, 08/05
Turquoise-crowned Motmot	1, along a jungle track inland of Akumal Village, 05/05, odd bird seen most days except on Isla de Cozumal, 09/05
Keel-billed Tukan	1, seen well by only 1 member of the group along a jungle track inland of Akumal Village, 05/05, 1, in flight just north of the town of Felipe Carrillo Puerto seen by only 2 of the party, 08/05
Yucatan Woodpecker	4, Vigo Chico Rd, 08/05, 1, Akumal, 11/05, 1 at nest hole Botanical Gardens Chankanaab, Isla de Cozumal, 09/05
Golden-fronted Woodpecker	Common even around the Hotel Gardens though surprisingly not seen until 06/05 at Coba Lake.
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	1, at cenote near Tulum, 10/05
Golden-olive Woodpecker	1, along a track off the Tulum to Coba Rd, 10/05
Lineated Woodpecker	1, first seen going to nest hole at the entrance of or hotel Akumal, 05/05, 1, Coba Ruins, 06/05, 1, Vigo Chico Rd, 08/05,
Olivaceous Woodcreeper	1, Coba Ruins, 06/05, 1, 2, seen very well along a track off the Tulum to Coba Rd, 10/05
Northern-beardless Tyrannulet	1, Jardin Botanico Dr. Alfredo Barrera M, 07/05,
Eye-ringed Flatbill	4, Coba Ruins, 06/05
Yellow-olive Flycatcher	1, along a track off the Tulum to Coba Rd, 10/05
Eastern Pewee	1, Vigo Chico Rd, 08/05
Yucatan Flycatcher	Up to 5 birds present at Presidente grid, Isla de Cozumal, 09/05
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	1, along a track inland of Akumal Village, 05/05, seen there on all visits
Brown-crested Flycatcher	1, Vigo Chico Rd, 08/05
Great Kiskadee	Common seen Daily
Boat-billed Flycatcher	1, along a track off the Tulum to Coba Rd, 10/05
Social Flycatcher	Very common seen Daily
Streaked Flycatcher	1, Coba Ruins, 06/05, 1, at cenote near Tulum, 10/5

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher	First seen Akumal 05/05, odd birds encountered most days
Tropical Kingbird	Common seen Daily
Couch's Kingbird	First seen at cenote near Tulum, 06/05, probable quite common but best to here call as it is very difficult to separate from Tropical Kingbird and visa versa
Eastern Kingbird	1, Akumal, 05/05, 1there, 07/05
Thrush-like Mourner	1, Vigo Chico Rd, 08/05
Rose-throated Becard	1, at Presidente grid Cozumal, 09/05, 2, at cenote near Tulum, 10/05
Masked Tityra	1, along a track off the Tulum to Coba Rd, 10/05
Black-crowned Titra	2, Jardin Botanico Dr. Alfredo Barrera M, 07/05
Grey-breasted Martin	Very common nesting bird around Akumal old village first seen, 05/05
Mangrove Swallow	A pair seen on all visits to Akumal old village first seen, 05/05
Ridgeway's Rough-winged swallow	Fairly common around Akumal old village first seen, 05/05, and seen on all visits there.
Bank Swallow	1, near Tulum, 06/05
Cave Swallow	Many birds seen at a nesting colony at Tulum ruins, 10/05
Barn Swallow	Large numbers moving north Akumal daily mainly afternoons
Brown Jay	5+, Coba Ruins, 06/05, 3, Jardin Botanico Dr. Alfredo Barrera M, 07/05, 4, Vigo Chico Rd, 08/05, also odd birds encountered flying across road when in car.
Yucatan Jay	Surprisingly common first seen feeding on bananas on our arrival in our Hotel Gardens, 04/05, small family parties seen at most places visited.
Spot-breasted Wren	1, along a track off the Tulum to Coba Rd, 10/05, 1, along a track inland of Akumal Village, 11/05
White-browed Wren	1, Jardin Botanico Dr. Alfredo Barrera M, 07/05
White-breasted Wren	1, Jardin Botanico Dr. Alfredo Barrera M, 07/05
Southern House Wren	2, at nest site in the outskirts of the town of Felipe Carrillo Puerto, at the start of the Vigo Chico Rd, 08/05
Cozumal Wren	1, at Presidente grid, Isla de Cozumal, 09/05
Long-billed Gnatwren	1, Jardin Botanico Dr. Alfredo Barrera M, 07/05, 1, Vigo Chico road, 08/05
Tropical Gnatcatcher	1, Jardin Botanico Dr. Alfredo Barrera M, 07/05
White-lored Gnatcatcher	1, along a track inland of Akumal Village, 11/05
Grey-cheeked Thrush	1, Jardin Botanico Dr. Alfredo Barrera M, 07/05
Clay-coloured Thrush	Common at Coba lake & ruins, 06/05, also common Vigo Chico road, 08/05
Grey Catbird	1, along a track inland of Akumal Village, 07/05
Black Catbird	Very common at Presidente grid Cozumal, 09/05, 4+ Punta Soliman, 10/05
Tropical Mockingbird	Common seen daily
Cedar Waxwing	Surprisingly 20+, along a track inland of Akumal Village, 07/05
Cozumal Vireo	5+, at Presidente grid, Isla de Cozumal, 09/05
Yellow-Green Vireo	Probably the most common bird in the Coba area, 06/05, seen most days.
Yucatan Vireo	First seen Akumal, 05/05, common seen daily
Lesser Greenlet	4, Jardin Botanico Dr. Alfredo Barrera M, 07/05.
Roufous-browed Peppershrike	1, at cenote near Tulum, 06/05, 1, also 10/05, 1 of the race <i>Cyclarhis gujanensis insularis</i> , Cozumal race Roufous-browed Peppershrike, Presidente grid Cozumal, 09/05, 1, Akumal, 07/05

Yellow Warbler	1, at cenote near Tulum, 06/05, 1 Presidente grid Cozumal, 09/05
Mangrove Warbler	4, Punta Soliman, 05/05, also 5+, 10/05
Magnola Warbler	4, Vigo Chico Rd, 08/05
Myrtle Warbler	1, Presidente grid Cozumal, 09/05
Bay-breasted Warbler	1, Vigo Chico Rd, 08/05
Black- and –white Warbler	1, Vigo Chico Rd, 08/05
American Redstart	1, Jardin Botanico Dr. Alfredo Barrera M, 07/05, 2, Presidente grid Cozumal, 09/05
Northern Waterthrush	2, along a track inland of Akumal Village, 05/05, 1 Presidente grid Cozumal, 09/05, 1 Botanical Gardens Chankanaab, Cozumal, 09/05
Grey-throated Chat	1, stunning male Vigo Chico Rd, 08/05
Cozumal Bananaquit	Common at Presidente grid Cozumal, 09/05, also easily seen at Botanical Gardens Chankanaab, Cozumal, 09/05
Red-legged Honeycreeper	6+, of this stunning bird seen at Vigo Chico Rd, 08/05
Scrub Euphonia	4, along a track inland of Akumal Village, 05/05, fairly common seen most days
Yellow-throated Euphonia	4, along a track inland of Akumal Village, 05/05, fairly common seen most days
Blue-grey Tanager	2, in the outskirts of the town of Felipe Carrillo Puerto, at the start of the Vigo Chico Rd, 08/05
Yellow-winged Tanager	1, in the outskirts of the town of Felipe Carrillo Puerto, at the start of the Vigo Chico Rd, 08/05
Striped-headed Tanager	3, at Presidente grid, Isla de Cozumal, 09/05
Rose-throated Tanager	1, along a track inland of Akumal Village, 05/05
Greyish Saltator	1, at cenote near Tulum, 06/05, also, 1, 10/05
Black-headed Saltator	1, along a track inland of Akumal Village, 05/05, 10+ Coba Ruins, 06/05
Northern Cardinal	2, Vigo Chico Rd, 08/05, 1, along a track inland of Akumal Village, 10/05
Blue Bunting	1, Vigo Chico Rd, 08/05
Green-backed Sparrow	2, Coba Ruins, 06/05, 1, along a track off the Tulum to Coba Rd, 10/05
White-collared Seedeater	1, at cenote near Tulum, 06/05
Yellow-faced Grassquit	2, at Presidente grid, Isla de Cozumal, 09/05
Melodious Blackbird	Fairly common first seen Akumal, 05/05, and seen most days.
Great-tailed Grackle	Very common first bird seen off the plane, 04/05
Bronzed –headed Cowbird	First seen Coba Lake, 06/05, and seen in the Hotel Gardens not scarce
Black-cowled Oriole	2, at cenote near Tulum, 06/05
Hooded Oriole	Most common Oriole first seen along a track inland of Akumal Village, 05/05, seen daily even from our Patio.
Yellow-backed Oriole	6+, along a track inland of Akumal Village, 05/05
Orange Oriole	2, at cenote near Tulum, 06/05
Altamira Oriole	First seen in the Hotel Gardens Akumal, 04/05, common seen daily
Yellow-billed Cacique	1, Coba Ruins, 06/05, 2, Jardin Botanico Dr. Alfredo Barrera M, 07/05

Number of species seen 139

Number of species heard and not seen 1.