

## Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico, October/November 2015

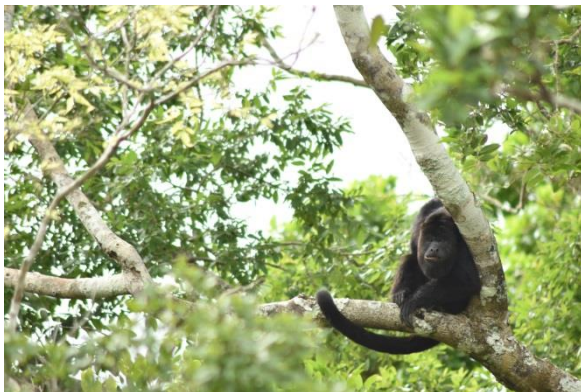
It would be rude to go all the way to Cancun for a wedding and not find the time for a little wildlife-watching adventure. After a little organising and a lot of mainly unsuccessful wildlife research, I planned a 3 week figure-8 loop around the Peninsula taking in Cozumel, Tulum, Coba, Chichen Itza and Rio Lagartos in the first loop and Sian Ka'an, Calakmul, Palenque, Bonampak and Usumacinta in the second.

I had a small hire car which proved sufficient everywhere I went (although it is much easier and faster to hire a separate car on Cozumel rather than take one across on a ferry). I had no guide (or even assistant!) and did no trapping or netting. I am also interested in birds and herps and the Maya ruins too so my mammal list is rather modest:



**Common Opossum:** 4 seen by spotlighting along the entrance road to Palenque ruins.

**Mexican Mouse Opossum:** I didn't manage to get a picture of this little fella but this is my best guess for a species seen twice on spotlighting walks on a forest trail from the Yaax'che campsite (where there was also a very naughty looking scorpion and a nice big tarantula).



**Yucatan Black Howler:**  
Good views at Xpujil ruins.



**Central American Spider Monkey:** Very good views at Dr. Alfredo Barrera Botanic Gardens and at ruin sites around Calakmul.



**Central American Agouti:** one seen at Dr Alfredo Barrera Botanic Gardens and Muyil ruins.

**Deppe's Squirrel:** at Coba ruins.

**Yucatan Squirrel:** at Chichen Itza ruins.

**Grey Fox:** one ran across the road South of Tulum, next to the big lagoon in Sian Ka'an during the day.

**Tayra:** one ran across the road between Bonampak and Palenque, again during daylight.



**Pygmy Raccoon:** After hours searching the mangrove areas around Punta Norte with no luck, I stumbled (almost literally) across three scavenging around Papitos Beach Club at Punta Sur, Cozumel.

**White-nosed Coati:** Along the road from Akumal Beach (fantastic for Green Turtle) to cenote Yal-ku there are mangrove areas which hold around 40 Coati. They are also common and conspicuous at many hotels South of Cancun.

Dolphin sp. Unidentified species seen from the bridge to Ciudad Del Carmen.

I only saw one small rodent, which I could not ID or photograph.

I struggled a lot with bat ID and would like some help with these please:





I think there are at least two species here?





