



Open Birding Tour amid the Mayan Ruins of Lowland Chiapas – 2019

October 22ND – November 4TH ... *A richly exciting part of MEXICO!*

Southeastern Lowlands: Calakmul, Bonampak, Yaxchilan, Palenque, & the Lacandon Reserve! *Eleven days – tinamous, antbirds, woodcreepers, cracids, & macaws – begins/ends in Villahermosa*

ROUTE & ACTIVITY INFORMATION

DAY #1: OCT 22nd -- Arrival date

We begin (**Day #1**) and end (**Day #14**) in Villahermosa, Tabasco – Flights to Villahermosa (VSA) will require connections through Mexico City (MEX).

Hotel Maya Tabasco, Villahermosa (1 night)

DAY #2: OCT 23rd – Early breakfast followed by AM birding south of the city before traveling to Emiliano Zapata in Tabasco State.

Hotel Tierra Blanca, Emiliano Zapata (1 night)

DAY #3: OCT 24th – AM birding in the delta of the *Usumacinta River* before traveling to the entrance of the *Calakmul Biosphere Reserve & Mayan Ruins*.

Hotel Puerto Calakmul, Hwy 187 - Campeche (2 nights)

DAY #4: OCT 25th – Full day to visit the ruins of *Calakmul* with birding all along the park entrance road. **Calakmul** – the forest is excellent for large birds, both *cracids* and raptors. There are many times (but not always) a number of large mammals present in the reserve – this can be an exciting place!

DAY #5: OCT 26th – AM in the reserve, with a PM drive to Emiliano Zapata.

Hotel Tierra Blanca, Emiliano Zapata -Tabasco (1 night)

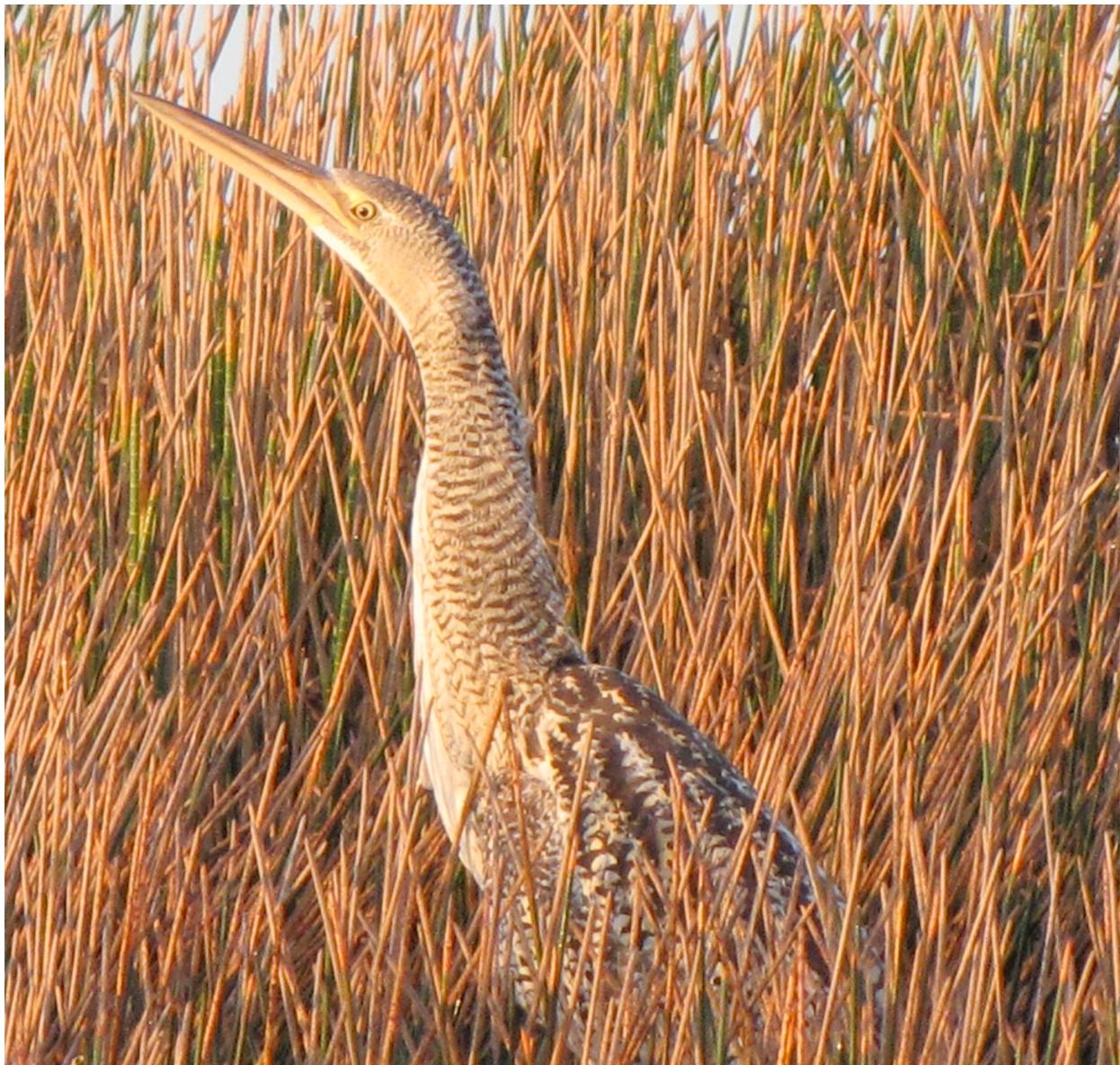
Emiliano Zapata – the *Usumacinta* basin is home to water dependent species, including the jabiru and pinnated bittern, as well as open country birds like aplomado falcon, plain-breasted ground-dove, and grassland yellow-finch.

DAY #6: OCT 27th -- AM birding the Usumacinta River basin, PM drive to Bonampak Village, Chiapas.

Campamento Lacanja, Lacondon - Chiapas (3 nights)

Bonampak – great trails, with ‘ant-things’ well represented – the BEST local for forest birding - with many species (tough not all) to be found in the area!

DAYS #7 & #8: OCT 28th & 29th – AM birding in the Mayan ruins within the *Bonampak Reserve*, PM birding near Lacanja Village.



DAY #9: OCT 30th - AM birding at Bonampak, PM drive to Guacamayas Resort.
Las Guacamayas, Pico de Oro - Chiapas (2 nights)

DAY #10: OCT 31st– AM boat ride up the Rio Tzendalez, PM birding for macaws and forest edge species.. **Guacamayas** – Scarlet Macaw are found here as are pristine rivers flowing from *Montes Azules NP*. It is a good location for little tinamou and birds more typical of mid-elevation shaded forests.

DAY #11: NOV 1st– AM forest trail walk, PM drive to Frontera Corozal, Chiapas.
Conjunto Nueva Alianza, Frontera Corozal - Chiapas (2 nights)

DAY #12: NOV 2nd - AM boat ride to *Yaxchilan Archeological Reserve* for a fun morning of birding. **Yaxchilan** - situated along the river it has many large raptors as well as fruiting trees, and forest trails amid undisturbed woodland.

DAY #13: NOV 3rd – AM on the trails at Bonampak, PM travel to Palenque.
Hotel Maya Tulipanes, Palenque - Chiapas (1 night)

Palenque – Fabulous ruins once rich in birds but now long isolated by forest burning and development. It is today best thought of as a location to review wintering edge species and resident fruit feeders.

DAY #14: NOV 4th - AM in the ruins of Palenque, with a PM drive to Villahermosa for final dinner, checklist review, and preparation for AM flights.
Hotel Maya Tabasco, Villahermosa (1 night)

DEPARTURE - plan for anytime on Tuesday, November 5th

TOUR COST - \$3,595: Includes comfortable lodging & meal options for birders in a relatively rural region of Mexico, with time allotted to visit four major archeological sites; **THIRTEEN GREAT DAYS OF DEDICATED BIRDING** under Michael's skillful leadership in an electrifying part of Mexico that has only recently opened-up to those birders with a passion for woodland trails and rainforest species; Fourteen nights lodging at better hotels/lodges in each local; **ALL MEALS** and beverages daily for thirteen days; **TWO** river boat trips for birding purposes; entrance fees for **FOUR** major Mayan archeological zones; all ground transportation and tolls during the tour; and all taxes and tips for lodging and food service as per the itinerary. Land package price is per person based on double occupancy. A private room supplement is available for \$525, and is guaranteed for all fourteen nights of the tour. Alcoholic beverages, personal items, snacks, laundry, flights to and from Mexico, and activities not stated in the itinerary are in addition, and not covered in the price of the tour. The tour begins and ends at a designated hotel in Villahermosa, Tabasco. All transportation to and from the group hotel is extra and at tour participants expense.