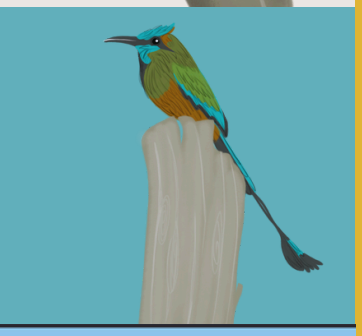
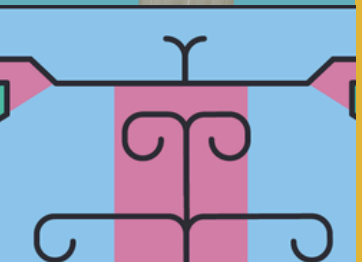












FESTIVAL DE LAS AVES TOH 25 AÑOS
Yucatán, México

MARATÓN DE LAS AVES

Xoc ch'ich 2026

Regulations for Participants

November
21 - 22

Hacienda Kankabal,
Tunkás, Yucatán

WWW.FESTIVALAVESYUCATAN.COM

Festival de las Aves Toh
infotoh@pronatura-ppy.org.mx
Tel: (999) 988 44 36 Ext. 113

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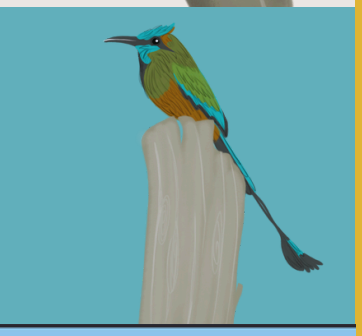
noox · KANKABAL IZAMAL YUCATÁN · TUNKÁS AYUNTAMIENTO 24 - 27 · RENACIMIENTO MAYA YUCATÁN GOBIERNO DEL ESTADO 2024 - 2030 · SDS SECRETARÍA DE DESARROLLO SUSTENTABLE · SEFOTUR SECRETARÍA DE FOMENTO TURÍSTICO · SONY · ALPHA · LORENA JIMÉNEZ PHOTOGRAPHY

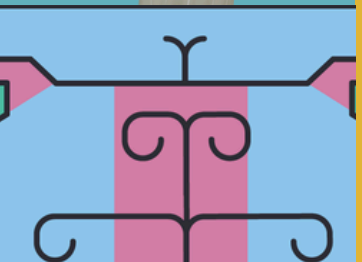












What is the Bird Marathon?

The Maratón de las Aves Xoc ch'ich' (from the Maya xoc = count, ch'ich' = bird, or bird count), since its origins in 2002 offers an opportunity for birdwatchers, both professional and amateur, local or foreign, who seek to have a pleasant time, full of colors, nature's sounds and images, in addition to being able to immerse themselves in an exquisite cultural exchange in which everyone learns.

The objective of Xoc ch'ich' is to identify the largest number of bird species in a given time: 29 hours of intense birdwatching!



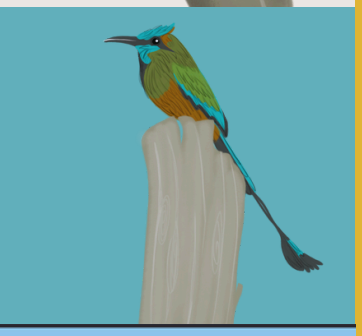
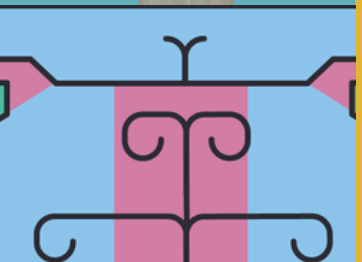




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Form your team

Set up your team of 3 to 7 people (friends, family, co-workers, etc.) ***PLUS*** *a specialist bird guide. All teams* ***WITHOUT EXCEPTION*** *must incorporate a local guide specialized in bird watching, who's responsibility is to guarantee that the species observed are correctly identified, taking the role as team captain.*

Important

En el sitio web www.festivalavesyucatan.com/copia-de-aves-de-yucat%C3%A1n encontrarás una lista de guías especializados, dispuestos a compartir sus conocimientos y experiencia.

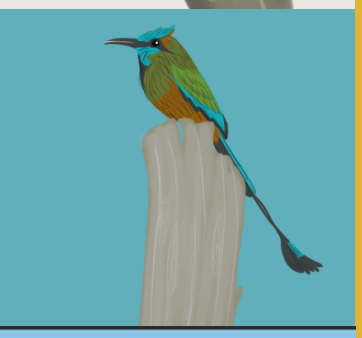
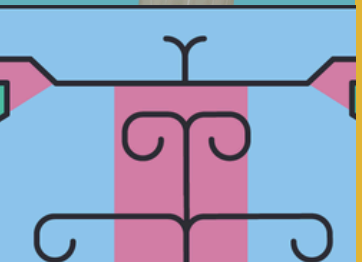




Sponsors:





The team captain's responsibilities are to:

- *Review and integrate the list of registered birds.*
- *Assist the team in the observation and identification of species.*
- *Ensure that as many team members as possible observe and identify the birds that are found.*
- *Verify that his/her team complies with all the rules described in this document.*
- *Fill out the team's list in accordance with the rules described in this document.*
- *Submit the bird list to the competition judges' table* ***BEFORE 10:00 AM*** *on November 22nd at* ***Hacienda Kankabal, Tunkás, Yucatán, Mexico*** *https://maps.app.goo.gl/3Lujqy4RzQ1mUFMq7?g_st=aw.*

It is highly ***recommended*** *that the guide helps the team in planning the route, and shares his/her knowledge to select the sites within the state of Yucatán that best matches the team's strategy.*

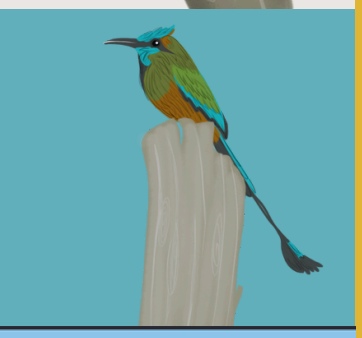
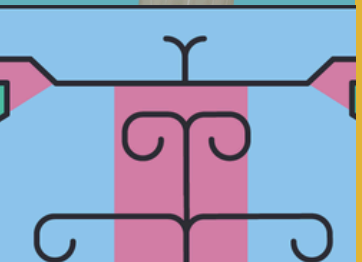




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Which category would you like to participate in?

Select your category:

- ***Beginners:*** *suitable for first-time participants and those who want to take shorter tours. It is recommended for those who observe birds sporadically (or have never done so) and want to gain experience.*

- ***Classic:*** *suitable for those who have previously participated and/or practice the activity regularly. It is recommended for those who want to visit different habitats and take longer tours.*

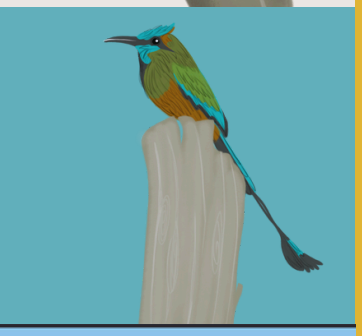
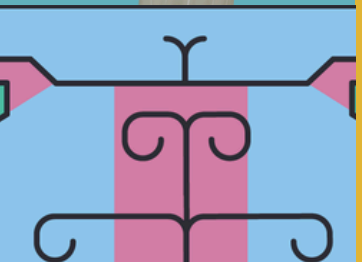




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Important

For a team to be accepted in the Beginners category, at least 70% of its members must be people who have not previously participated in three or more Bird Marathons. Teams that don't meet this criterion, will automatically be registered in the Classic category. This applies only to team members and not the guide.

Participants who have placed in any of the top positions in previous editions as members of a team will automatically move to the Classic category.

NOTE: *Changes in the team's members must be notified to (vía email infotoh@pronatura-ppy.org.mx) and VALIDATED by Pronatura Península de Yucatán, A.C., at least 2 days before the start of the competition. After this deadline, no changes will be accepted.*

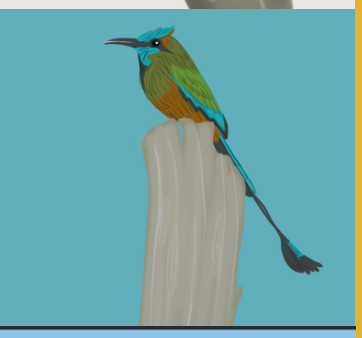
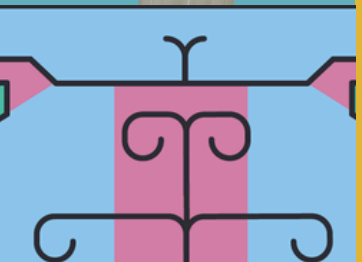




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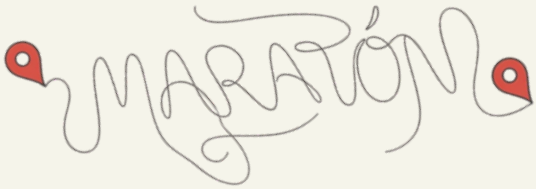



General rules

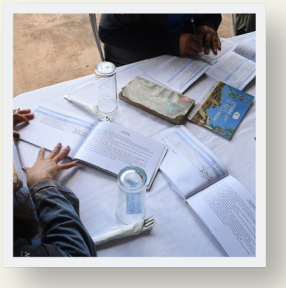
Timetable

- *The marathon will officially start at 5:00 am on Saturday, November 21st and will end at 10:00 am on Sunday, November 22nd.*

- *Each team may freely choose its starting point and plan its own route.*



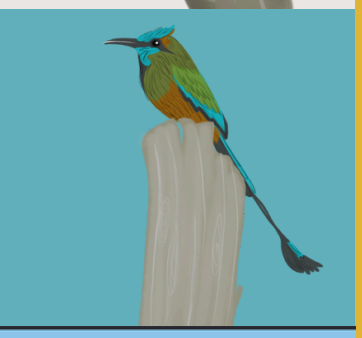
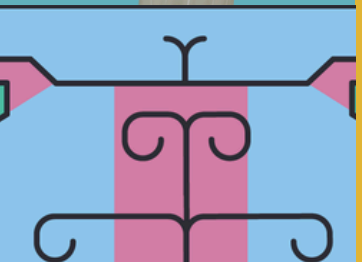
- *Teams will observe birds only during this period. Species observed or heard outside these hours should not be counted.*


Sponsors:





Listing

- *Each participant must have a copy of the official bird list and use it during the competition. The guide specialized in birds who serves as the checklist checker will be responsible for integrating the team's official list.*

- *It is **ESSENTIAL** to note the place of observation of each species in an ethical and professional manner. Otherwise, the qualifying judges are free not to count it.*

- *Participants are also encouraged to record the date, number, and sex of interesting species whenever possible, as this information may be useful for reporting purposes.*

- *In addition, participants are encouraged to write down the date, number, and sex of interesting species if possible, this information may be interesting to report.*

- *If the list is **NOT DELIVERED** to the judges' table **before 10:00 am**, the team may still be evaluated by the judges; however, they **WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE** for any of the top three places in their respective category.*

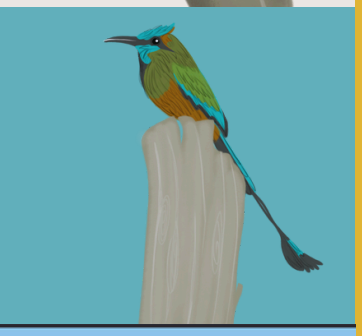
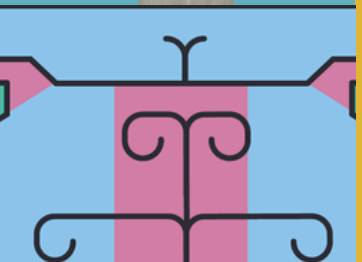




Sponsors:





Species identification

- *The teams must design their observation route within the geographical limits of the State of Yucatan.*

- *In order to be registered in the team list, the species must be observed or heard by at least three members of the team, one of them being the guide specialized in birds, otherwise they should NOT be included in the final list.*

- *The birds observed must be found in the wild, those in captivity must **NOT** be counted.*
- *All team members must travel together, even if transportation is provided in separate vehicles. Splitting up to cover different routes is not permitted.*

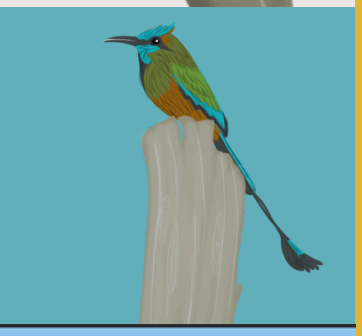
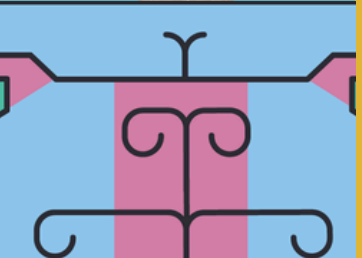
- *The use of tapes or recordings of calls at any time during the competition is **PROHIBITED**.*

- *Low-brightness lamps may be used at night, taking care to avoid disturbing the birds or altering their behavior.*

Sponsors:





- *If the participants wish to do so, it is possible to record nocturnal birds by means of their calls and sounds during the stillness of the night, (only in the case of being heard by three or more participants of the team).* ***THE USE OF FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY*** *or* ***LASER BEAMS*** *that could affect birds* ***IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED****.*

- *The subtotal of species seen must appear at the end of each section of the list and the total of birds at the end of it.*

Species documentation

Species records will be evaluated based on the ***2026 OFFICIAL BIRD LIST OF YUCATÁN*** *and will be subject to review by the judging panel. The judges may request additional evidence whenever they consider it necessary to verify the identification of a species.*

Species ***HIGHLIGHTED IN GRAY*** *on the official list must be supported by* ***PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE*** *or other* ***RELIABLE EVIDENCE*** *to be counted.*

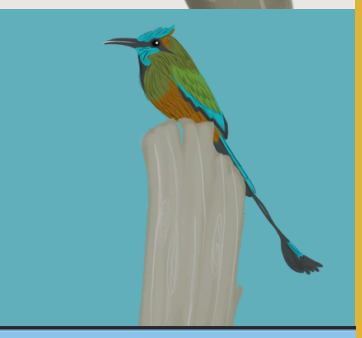
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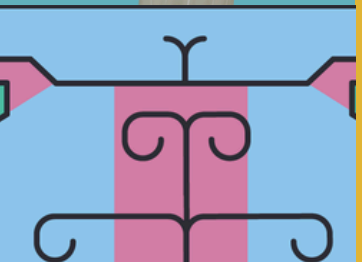












Below are criteria that the qualifying jury will consider when requiring more documentation on the species observed:

- *Species that do **NOT** require documentation:*

1. *Resident species of the State of Yucatan.*
2. *Migratory species expected in the State during Winter.*
3. *Species found within their specific known range.*

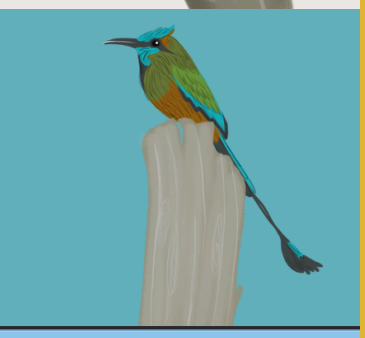
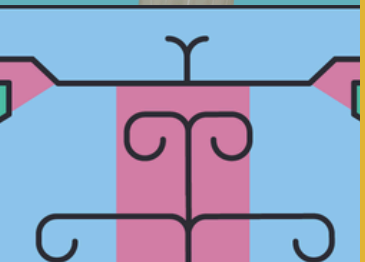
- *Species that **DO** require **RELIABLE EVIDENCE**:*

1. *Species not expected to be found in Yucatan during Winter.*
2. *Species found outside their known range.*
3. *Species with status of accidental (**A**) or occasional (**O**) for the State; or species not reported in recent years.*
4. *Species that are easy to confuse in the field due to similarities to other potential and common species. Frequently these include female warblers with winter plumage and birds of passage very similar to resident species.*
5. *Species that do not appear in the list of birds of Yucatan, because they may be a new record for the State.*

Sponsors:





Important

Evidence may consist of photographs, video recordings, audio recordings, or other means that support the identification. The judges will determine whether the evidence is valid or not.

Review and awards

- *The review of the documentation of some of the species might require more time than the established period for the ruling. We apologize in advance if such species are removed due to the time restriction we have for this event.*

- *First, Second and Third place will be awarded in each category.*

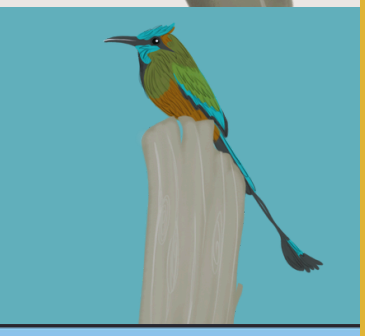
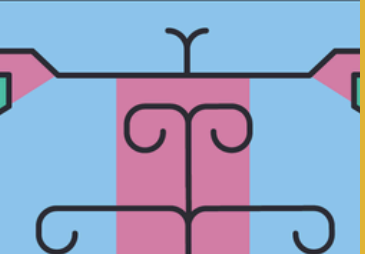




Sponsors:





- *The judging panel will establish its evaluation criteria and procedures internally, based on the rules and provisions established for the Bird Marathon. The judges' decisions will be* ***FINAL AND UNAPPEALABLE****.*

- *Due to the limited number of prizes, in the event of a tie, the judges reserve the right to implement measures for the tiebreaker. These may include criteria such as the observation of a rare species or species of special interest (with photography), among others.*

- *The attendance of the team members during the Closing and award ceremony is essential in order to be able to receive the awards. If a team member does not attend it, he/she will lose the right to receive the award.*

- *A minimum of 3 team members and the guide must attend the awards ceremony; otherwise, the team* ***WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE AN AWARD****.*





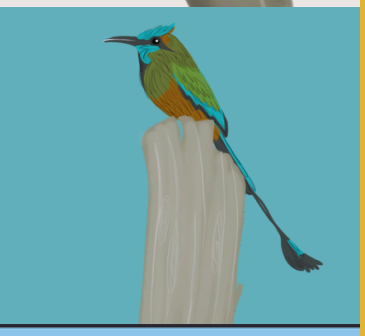
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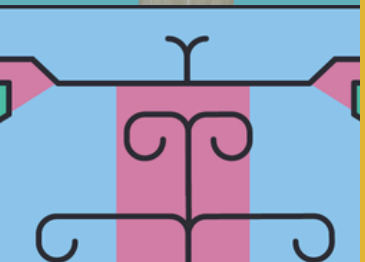












Ethics and professionalism

All participants are encouraged to be ethical in recording their observations, abiding by the rules in a strict and professional manner.

The data generated in the lists helps to provide information on the distribution and presence/absence of the species, which serves to reinforce strategies for their conservation.

29 hours, one route to discover, and hundreds of wings to follow. Let's sharpen our senses and make this adventure an opportunity to observe, enjoy, and conserve!



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