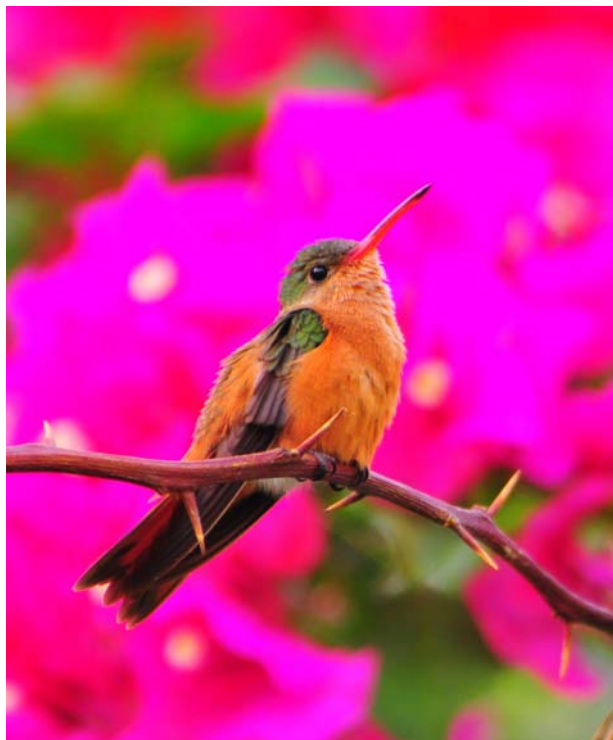




**Trip Report: Ambergris Caye, Belize**  
**5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009 (David Southall)**

As part of a project orientation visit for Emma, we spent a long weekend visiting Hol Chan and Bacalar Chico Marine Reserves off Ambergris Caye, Belize. Our all too brief visit included one day on the water in the company of Hol Chan's staff exploring the reserve nearest to San Pedro, during which time we enjoyed a couple of excellent scuba dives on the Meso-American Reef and several snorkels with the stringrays, sharks and turtles that inhabit the extensive seagrass beds. On the second day we toured the mangroves, Mayan site at Chac Balam and reef of the more distant Bacalar Chico Marine Reserve with the reserve's staff. Whilst the trip's focus was on underwater and coastal life, and our time was largely spent in boats, we did manage to squeeze in a couple of hours of birding at various sites. Consequently we managed to spot several of the Yucatan endemics whose range extends from Mexico down into this part of northern Belize.



*Cinnamon Hummingbird [San Pedro]*



*Inquisitive Loggerhead Turtle [Hol Chan Marine Reserve]*



*Extensive seagrass beds protected by the Meso-American Reef at Hol Chan Marine Reserve*



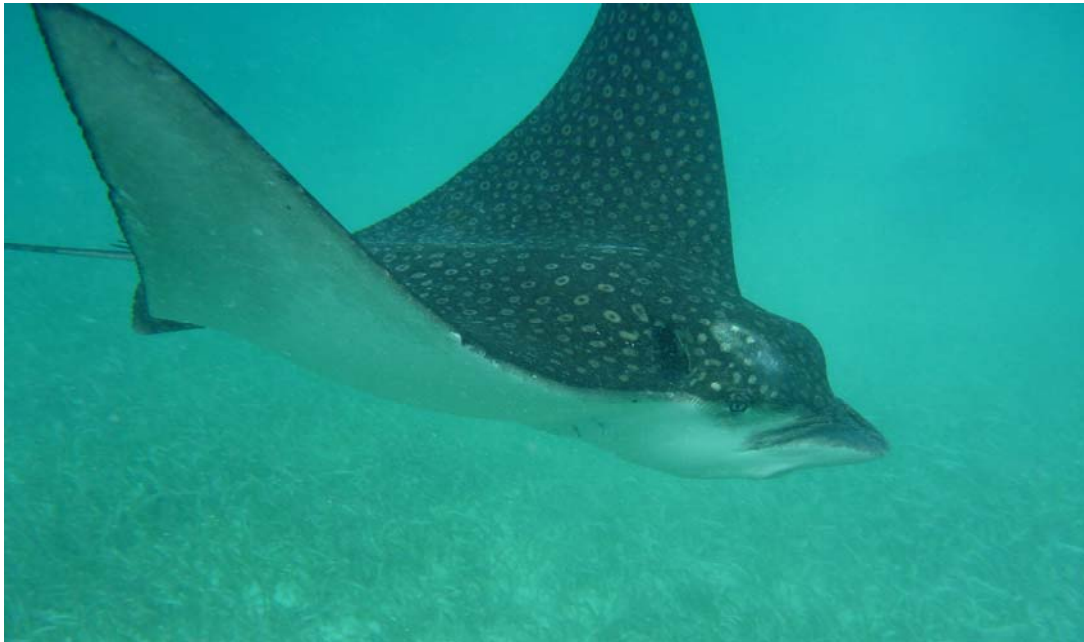
*Vista towards the Meso-American Reef at Bacalar Chico [Mexican mangroves to the left, Belize to the right]*



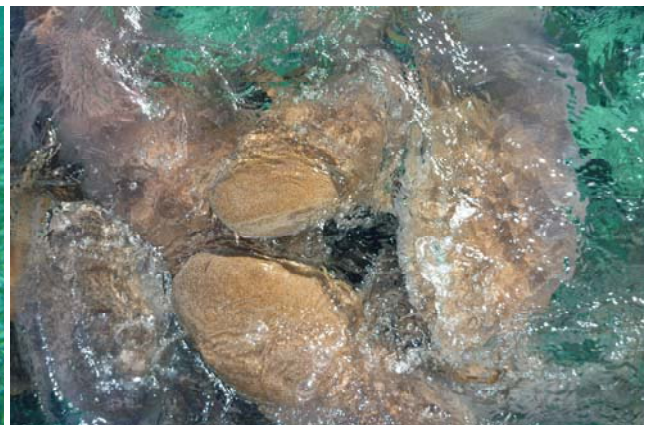
*Green Turtles [Hol Chan Marine Reserve]*



*Want a kiss?; Loggerhead Turtle [Hol Chan Marine Reserve]*



*Spotted Eagle Ray [Hol Chan Marine Reserve]*



*Southern Stingrays; Nurse Sharks [Hol Chan Marine Reserve]*



*Cinnamon Hummingbird; Black Catbird [San Pedro]*



*Yucatan Vireo [San Pedro]*

## 1. Trip Bird List<sup>1</sup>

Confirmed personal sightings only for DJS – excludes birds heard only; in order of appearance on the plates of H. Lee Jones' 'Birds of Belize'.

Location where species seen: In order of travel:

**SP**= San Pedro on Ambergris Caye, including in the gardens of Victoria House and other hotels along the beach front.

**A**= Belize City international airport.

**BC**= Bacalar Chico Marine Reserve and associated mangrove zones.

Magnificent Frigatebird (SP; BC)	<b>Cinnamon Hummingbird</b> (SP) *
Brown Pelican (SP; BC)	
Anhinga (BC)	Belted Kingfisher (BC)
Double-crested Cormorant (SP; BC)	
Great Blue Heron (SP; BC)	<b>Golden-fronted Woodpecker</b> (SP)
Jabiru (BC)	
Roseate Spoonbill (BC)	Tropical Kingbird (BC)
Great Egret (SP)	
Tricolored Heron (BC)	<b>Yucatan Vireo</b> (SP) *
Snowy Egret (BC) *	
White Ibis (BC)	Tropical Mockingbird (SP)
	<b>Black Catbird</b> (SP) *
Turkey Vulture (A)	Yellow-throated Warbler (SP)
Black Vulture (BC)	<b>Mangrove Warbler</b> (SP; BC) *
Osprey (SP; BC)	American Redstart (SP) *
	Ovenbird (SP) *
Spotted Sandpiper (SP)	
	Great-tailed Grackle (SP)
Royal Tern (SP; BC)	<b>Hooded Oriole</b> (SP)
	Orchard Oriole (SP)

Combined total: 30 confirmed species for trip, including 6 “first time ever” species for DJS ...

In addition, when snorkeling and diving we saw many Loggerhead and Green Turtles, Southern Stingrays, Spotted Eagle Rays, Nurse Sharks and many other fish!

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<sup>1</sup> **First sighting ever for DJS**; \* = photo available from trip