

Parque Nacional Isla Contoy

The Parque Nacional Isla Contoy is a small island located off the very northern tip of the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. Although much of the Park's importance revolves around the haven it provides for pelicans and other water birds, the area is in a critical staging location for birds that cross the Gulf, and those that island-hop around the eastern edge.

LOCATION: 32.3 km (14.7 miles) from Cabo Catoche at the northeast corner of the Yucatan Peninsula, in the Mexican state of Quintana Roo.

SIZE: 177 ha (437 acres)



YELLOW-THROATED VIREO

WAYNE NICHOLAS

HABITAT: The island is composed mostly of mangrove zone surrounding inlets and lagoons. Next importance is the coastal dune system, containing 56 different plant species. A smaller area contains coconut trees and low deciduous forest. All together, there are 98 plant species found in these 3 plant communities.

BIRDS: Isla Contoy is home to the largest colony of Brown Pelicans on Mexico's east coast in addition to other important seabird and wading bird colonies. Its location just off the northeastern coast of the

Yucatan Peninsula also makes it a prime candidate for receiving migratory landbirds in route to and from Central and South America. A more intense monitoring effort is needed to confirm the extent of usage of the island by landbird migrants.



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CONSERVATION: Bird studies follow recommendations outlined in a site management plan and include monitoring and population studies of the Brown Pelican and Least Tern, among others. Authorized boats make day trips to the reserve from Isla Mujeres and Cancún, Quintana Roo. Special permits for overnight stays are provided by the reserve office in Cancún, and workshop facilities for special groups are available.

Site Partner:

Amigos de Isla Contoy,
A.C./Conanp

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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