

Reserva Ecológica Municipal Cuxtal

This municipal reserve of Cuxtal is located on the southern edge of the city of Merida, the capital of Yucatan. It is composed of the following properties: Henequenaras; Santa Cruz Palomeque; Xmatjuil; San Ignacio Tesip; Hunxectamás; San Pedro Chimay; San Antonio Tahdzibichén and San Nicholas Dzoyaxché. The area has a variety of archeological sites, recreation areas, and natural forest. Due to its location in the center of the Yucatan Peninsula, this reserve is a critical stopover and staging point for neotropical migrants.



GRAY CATBIRD

KATHY ADAMS/KAC PRODUCTIONS

LOCATION: Southern part of the city of Merida, Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico.

SIZE: 10,761 ha (26,570 acres)

HABITAT: The 231 plant species found within the Reserve are distributed within the area's low deciduous forest, traditional Maya home garden areas, sisal and cornfields, and grasslands. All of these areas provide cover, food, and resting places for migrating songbirds. Although much of the reserve is inhabited, there are some regulations in place to protect the habitat from further degradation.

BIRDS: Among the 175 species of birds registered to date, the reserve provides habitat to 6 endemic and quasi-endemic species, including: Black-throated Bobwhite, Yellow-lored Parrot, Yucatan Woodpecker, Yucatan Flycatcher, Yucatan Jay, Orange Oriole, along with resident seedeaters, tanagers and migratory warblers from fall through spring.

CONSERVATION: The Cuxtal Reserve is under constant pressure due to its proximity to the city of Merida. The area is increasingly used for recreation, and development continues. Efforts must be made to preserve the remaining forest, and maintain the gardens and water sources for migrating birds. Fortunately, banding and monitoring efforts are conducted at the reserve on a regular basis.



Site Partner:

Municipal Government of Merida, Yucatán.

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