



## MEXICO

### Oaxaca: Birding the Heart of Mexico and the Chiapas Extension

10 – 25 March 2022

**TOUR LEADER: Nick Athanas**

*Report and photos by Nick Athanas*



*Bridled Sparrow – this handsome endemic was one of the first birds we saw on the tour in the dry scrub of the Oaxaca Valley*

Mexico is a wonderful country full of not just beautiful birds but also amazing landscapes, rich cultural history, friendly people, and distinctive food. While birds were of course the focus of our tour, the other aspects combined to make a really neat tour. We had so many memorable sightings that it was really hard to come up with a consensus for “bird of the trip”, but one that certainly stood out near the top was **White-throated Jay**. I miss them on most tours, and when I do see them they are shy and hard to see well. This time we were lucky to observe a small flock for a long time as they fed at close range by the side of a steep track. Other favorites for the tour were the **Bearded Screech-Owl** that almost got away before we finally nailed it down in the spotlight, the raucous flocks of **White-throated Magpie-Jays** that kept us company along the Pacific coast, the often-difficult **Pheasant Cuckoo** that came in despite scorching mid-afternoon heat, handsome **Russet-crowned Motmots**, cracking **Red Warblers** and **Pink-headed Warblers** in the highland pine-oak forests, and the tiny but fierce **Colima Pygmy-Owl**. One of my personal favorites was **Aztec Thrush**, my only lifer for a tour which we connected with on the very first morning of birding. For many people the local cuisine is a major highlight and we indulged in a variety of local specialties including several different *moles*, filling *tlayudas*, tasty shrimp tacos, *tasajo* wrapped in super fresh corn tortillas, pork roasted on a spit over a wood fire, local Oaxacan cheese, and even *chalupines* (edible grasshoppers), often washed down with local beer and the occasional margarita. Our daily field breakfasts were raised to a new level by our wonderful driver Basilio, who used to own his own eatery before working in tourism. On more than one occasion he whipped up amazing guacamole and some superb salads to go along with the usual stuff, and he even brought along a coffee maker so we did not have to resort to instant like on previous trips. Perhaps most importantly, we had a really fun, easy going, and helpful group with some great spotters and some extra scopes that were shared generously. Thanks to all of you for helping to make it a great trip!



*The view from one of the lookouts over Sumidero Canyon*

**11 March.** We began our first “official” day of birding in the slopes above the town of Teotitlán del Valle, arriving early enough to be serenaded by a **Buff-collared Nightjar** in the twilight while Basilio set up the table for our first of many field breakfasts. A **Blue Mockingbird** was singing and once it was light enough we located it and put it in the scope for a nice start. **Cassin’s** and **Thick-billed Kingbirds** called and flew back and forth as we quickly had breakfast as the scrub came alive around us. A fantastic **Bridled Sparrow** was moving furtively in a small gully, and it was soon followed by the first of many **Rufous-capped Warblers** and perhaps our top target of the morning, the scarce and endemic **Oaxaca Sparrow**. After this auspicious start we began slowly walking along the road finding **Black-vented Oriole**, **Woodhouse’s Scrub-Jay**, **Gray Silky-Flycatcher**, **White-throated Towhee**, **Golden Vireo**, **Greater Pewee**, **Ash-throated Flycatcher**, and **Ladder-backed Woodpecker**. A skulking pair of **Boucard’s Wrens** proved hard to see, but then we had another pair right out in the open (*photo below*) up the road just before the often very difficult **Ocellated Thrasher** perched up in the open long enough for everyone to admire in the scopes. That was going to be hard to beat, but the best (at least for me) was yet to come. The oaks became taller as we headed up and soon pines began to appear along with a different set of great birds including our first **Mountain Trogon**, **Dusky-capped Flycatcher**, **Bridled Titmouse**, **Brown-backed Solitaire**, **Chestnut-capped Brushfinch**, **Hermit Thrush**, **Black-throated Gray**, **Townsend’s**, and **Red-faced Warblers**, **Painted** and **Slate-throated Redstarts**, and **Black-headed Grosbeak**. I had just spotted a **Tufted Flycatcher** and was trying to point it out when someone urgently asked me to have a look at an odd-looking bird. After a moment I finally got on it and just about jumped out of my boots as I shouted **Aztec Thrush!!** There was male perched low in a bush and showed well several times over the course of the next several minutes. The Tufted Flycatcher vanished and we would not see another



until much later in the trip, but that was a small loss in return for such a rare bird. A “heard only” White-striped Woodcreeper proved to be the only disappointment of an otherwise excellent first morning. Heading back down the valley, we stopped at a small reservoir for a few minutes quickly adding **Blue-winged Teal**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Least Grebe**, **American Coot**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, a few herons and egrets, **Osprey**, **Green Kingfisher**, **Vermilion Flycatcher**, **Western Kingbird**, **American Pipit**, and **Violet-green Swallow** before breaking for lunch. Teotitlán del Valle is very famous for its weavings, and our restaurant also doubled as a shop selling some beautiful yet also amazingly expensive tapestries which some of the group were very tempted by. In the afternoon, we braved the intense sun as we birded the entrance road to Yagul. The ruins themselves were closed since they were working on a limited schedule due to Covid, but we still managed to see our target birds including **Gray-breasted Woodpecker**, **Dusky Hummingbird**, and a female **Beautiful Hummingbird** along with a few other species before heading back to Oaxaca.

**12 March.** While we had great weather for most of the trip, this morning was definitely one of the exceptions. We left very early, hoping to do some owling high up in La Cumbre before dawn. As soon as we arrived and started playing owl calls a weather system moved in bringing wind, fog, and drizzle. Not a single owl was even heard, just some distant Mexican Whip-poor-wills. Bundled up in all our layers, we had breakfast and hot drinks while we waited for the forest to get light enough to look for more birds. **Dwarf Jays, Gray-barred Wrens, and Red Warblers** were singing in the fog but frustratingly only appeared as silhouettes in the murk. A **Black Thrush** showed a bit better, but soon I decided to see if we could get out of the mist by driving downslope. Frustration continued when a few **Long-tailed Wood-Partridges** gave the briefest of views to only some of the group. Finally we got out of the fog but then the rain picked up. We did have few good sightings like a pair of hulking **Strong-billed Woodcreepers**, a close-up **Golden-browed Warbler**, and a family of **Brown Creepers**, but the horrid weather gave us an excuse to have an early lunch. Heading out of the reserve and down the road a bit brought us to some better weather, and once we got to the restaurant the day turned around completely. While waiting for lunch, we had amazing views of a **Collared Towhee** that was so aggressive it tried chase away every other nearby bird. Fortunately it was unsuccessful and we had a bunch of other great birds here like **Slaty Vireo, Rufous-capped Brushfinch, Russet Nightingale-Thrush, Steller's Jay, Yellow-eyed Junco, Spotted Towhee,** and **Blue-throated Mountain-gem**. With the morning redeemed, we returned to the forest in the afternoon where the rain had stopped and the birding was better. Some of the other species we saw at La Cumbre included **White-eared Hummingbird, Hairy Woodpecker, Rose-throated Becard, Hutton's Vireo, Mexican Chickadee, Gray-breasted Wood-Wren,** and **Olive, Crescent-chested, Hermit,** and **Wilson's Warblers**. On the way back to Oaxaca, we stopped at an old stakeout for **Dwarf Vireo**. Despite the overgrown trail, we quickly connected with this scarce and difficult bird, having great views when it came to the edge of the dense scrub it inhabits.



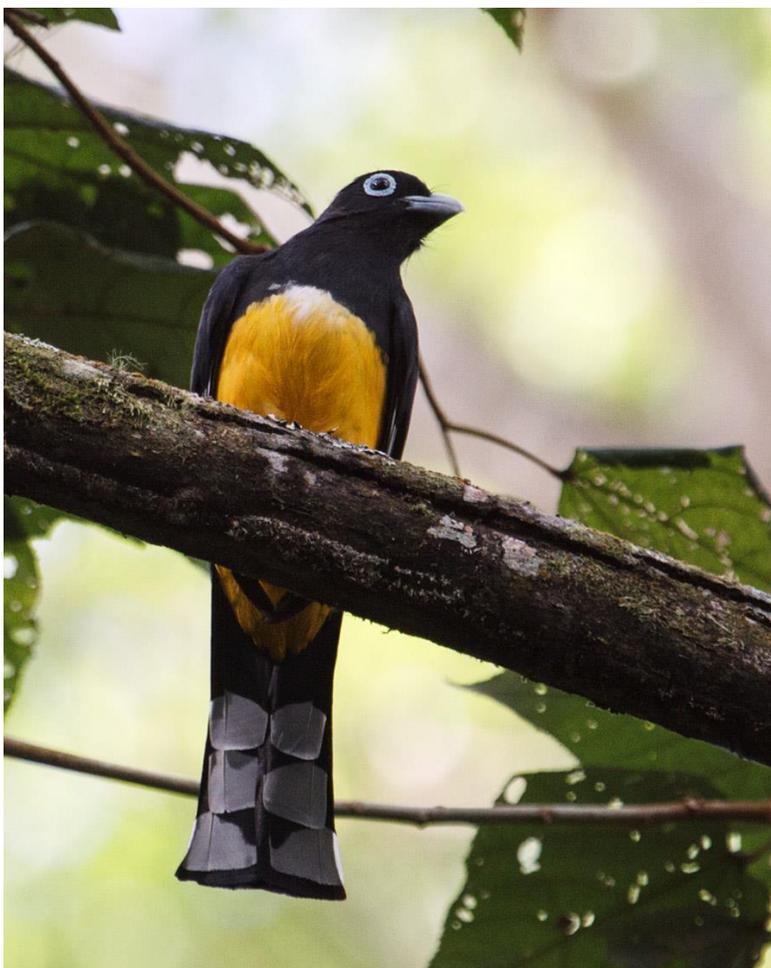
*Collared Towhee*

**13 March.** Not happy with our poor views of some of the previous day's targets, we headed back up to La Cumbre, where the weather was gorgeous and we could really appreciate the towering pine-oak forest with its ancient bromeliad-covered trees. On the way up we had superb views of **Long-tailed Wood-Partridge** along the edge of the road, and we were successful in having much better views of **Dwarf Jay**, **Gray-barred Wren**, **Red Warbler**, and various other species. We could not linger long as we had a lengthy drive to Tuxtepec coming up. Heading north, we made a quick stop in a dry valley targeting **Rusty-crowned Ground-Sparrow**, which responded nicely. A fruiting tree was full of birds including a **Blue Mockingbird** and some **Rufous-backed Robins** while a **Common Black Hawk** and **Short-tailed Hawk** soared overhead along with a flock of **Vaux's Swifts**. A **Green-fronted Hummingbird** was a nice surprise here as well. We stopped at the continental divide for lunch and to admire the view down the gulf slope where the unbroken forest disappeared into a sea of clouds in the distance. After lunch we made a few stops along the road to Tuxtepec, at least where it was not foggy, adding **Unicolored Jay**, **Northern Emerald-Toucanet**, **Common Chlorospingus**, **Stripe-tailed Hummingbird**, and a dark morph **Red-tailed Hawk**. We finally arrive in Tuxtepec around dark, where we'd spend the next three nights, weary from the long drive and looking forward to another tasty dinner.



*Rusty-crowned Ground-Sparrow*

**14 March.** Dawn saw us next to a forested hill near Santa Maria Jacatepec, watching **Red-lored Parrots** and **Olive-throated Parakeets** fly over and sometimes perch in view while **Brown Jays** screamed loudly. The lush rainforest was a completely different world to where we had been birding the previous days. Our prime target this morning was the endemic **Sumichrast's Wren**, which inhabits rainforest understory only in and around limestone outcrops. It's often a hard bird to see here, and on previous trips I had to go off the road and upslope to get close enough to a singing bird to see it. Luck was running high today as we soon found a very cooperative bird almost right next to the road that stayed long enough to get in the scopes for all to admire! Not having to worry about it anymore, we just spent the rest of the morning birding and enjoying whatever we saw, and what a morning it was... nonstop birds from start to finish. Colorful tropical crowd-pleasers like **Black-headed** (*photo below*) and **Gartered Trogons**, **Lesson's Motmot**, **Collared Arcari**, **Keel-billed Toucan** were seen along with tons of other resident species like **Golden-fronted Woodpecker**, **Green-breasted Mango**, **Rufous-tailed Hummingbird**, **White-bellied Emerald**, **Bat Falcon**, **Blue Ground Dove**, **Roadside Hawk**, **Spot-breasted Wren**, **Yellow-throated Euphonia**, **Altamira Oriole**, **Melodious Blackbird**, **Blue Grosbeak**, **Morelet's Seedeater**, **Buff-throated** and **Black-headed Saltators**, **Yellow-olive Flycatcher**, **Ivory-billed** and **Streak-headed Woodcreepers**, and **Black-crowned** and **Masked Tityras**. An immaculate **White Hawk** soaring overhead was great to see, as well as the first **Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl** of the tour. Almost as impressive as all these resident species were the number of migrants, either getting ready to leave or already on their way back north. Warblers were especially abundant with **Blue-winged**, **Black-and-white**, **Kentucky**, **Yellow**, **Yellow-throated**, **Magnolia**, and **Black-throated Green** all in attendance, with **Common Yellowthroat**, **American Redstart**, and **Northern Parula**. **White-eyed** and **Yellow-**



**throated Vireos**, **Baltimore Oriole**, **Summer Tanager**, **Indigo Bunting**, **Painted Bunting**, and a lone **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** also adding to the fun. Stopping at the nearby river before lunch got us **Little Blue**, **Tricolored**, and **Green Herons**, **Ringed** and **Amazon Kingfishers**, **Mangrove Swallow**, **Gray-breasted Martin**, and **Blue-gray Tanager**. It was already past 1pm, and not wanting a super late lunch, we found an unassuming place along the highway roasting pork and chicken on spits. While their menu selection was limited, this proved to be one of the favorite meals of the trip among the group. Our afternoon session took us to the outskirts of the town of Camelia Roja. The hoped for **Rufous-breasted Spinetail** proved to be a huge PITA but there were lots of other things to look at including **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck**, **Northern Jacana**, **Plain Chachalaca**, **Pied-billed Grebe**, **Red-billed Pigeon**, **White Ibis**, **Gray Hawk**, **Yellow-tailed Oriole**, **Blue-black Grassquit**, and **Variable Seedeater**. A **Collared Forest-Falcon** had been calling for a while looking for the spinetail, and then finally one flew over the road in front of us just before we headed back to the hotel.

**15 March.** Having birded the lower elevations yesterday, today we focused on the foothills above the town of Valle Nacional. Once again we departed early and arrived at our first spot right at dawn, having a field breakfast as the forest came alive around us. Activity was great as **Yellow-winged Tanager**, **Black-cowled Oriole**, **Yellow-bellied Elaenia**, **Golden-olive Woodpecker**, **White-collared Swift**, **Barred Antshrike**, **Olivaceous Woodcreeper**, **Piratic Flycatcher**, **Couch's Kingbird**, **White-winged Tanager**, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, **Golden-hooded Tanager**, **Red-legged Honeycreeper**, **Cinnamon-bellied Saltator**, and **Lesser Greenlet** were all seen nearly from the same spot. Not far away we had great luck at a stakeout for the tiny **Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet** which perched on exactly the same branch as it did three years before – in fact, I am going to reuse that photo since that's pretty much how we saw it:



We had hardly walked 200 yards by this point, and now finally started making our way down the steep road. Another pair of **Rufous-breasted Spinetails** were calling next to the road and while we did a little better this time, they were still really tough to see. A tiny **Stripe-throated Hermit** came in to check us out while we looked, and then a **Rusty Sparrow** perched up in the same spot. Shortly after we were able to admire a sedate **Collared Trogon** at close range that was not bothered by a noisy truck that rumbled by. We came across a very charismatic pair of **Rufous-tailed Jacamars**, then tracked down a handsome **White-collared Manakin** making loud snapping sounds, followed by some quick looks at a **Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner**. I decided to try birding a different road near Valle Nacional in late morning, and while it was pretty quiet by the time we got there, we did have a lot of fun watching **Montezuma Oropendolas** peeling off strands of fiber from a Heliconia plant to use as nesting material. A **Black Hawk-Eagle** soared overhead calling, and we had a few other new trip birds like **Long-billed Gnatwren**, **Olive-backed Euphonia**, and **Red-throated Ant-Tanager**. It had been a surprisingly cool morning in this usually very hot area, so rather than drive back to Tuxtepec and take a break, we had a long lunch in Valle Nacional and then went birding along a different dirt road in the area. A kettling of migrating **Swainson's Hawks** were heading north along with an even larger swarm of **Turkey Vultures**. A pair of **Pale-billed Woodpeckers** were a bit skittish but finally showed up, and we managed to scope a **Black-faced Grosbeak** in a distant tree. We located a more cooperative pair of **Rufous-breasted Spinetails** that showed a lot better than the previous ones as well as the trip's first Bananaquit before calling it a day.



*The feisty pair of Rufous-tailed Jacamars that we saw above Valle Nacional*

**16 March.** We needed to retrace our route all the way back to Oaxaca today, starting in the gulf slope cloudforest that had been totally fogged in when we had come by three days before. This time the mist was lower down, and we got above it before we started birding. **Azure-hooded Jays** were calling as soon as we stepped out of the van and were typically hard to see, though we chased them down for some less-than-satisfying views. A pair of **Gray-collared Becards** showed much better along with a **Slate-colored Solitaire** and **Spot-crowned Woodcreeper** before we had breakfast in a small pullout right next to the highway. There are no side roads at this elevation, but at least traffic was light this early in the morning. After enjoying Basilio's nice spread (which included fresh guac), we set our sights on the skulking **Middle American Leafosser**. We found two different singing birds, but both were in very difficult spots with dense understory so sadly they were a nightmare to see this time around; **Ruddy Foliage-gleaner** was not much better, but that's pretty typical for them. Luckily, other birds were more cooperative, and we had very nice sightings of **Spotted Woodcreeper**, **Eye-ringed Flatbill**, **Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush**, **Elegant Euphonia**, **Blue-crowned Chlorophonia**, **Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner**, **Golden-crowned Warbler**, **Flame-colored Tanager**, and **Thick-billed Seed-Finch**. A screeching flock of **Brown-hooded Parrots** also flew over, our only ones of the tour. We continued on to higher elevations, stopping to look for **Bumblebee Hummingbird** at a known stakeout. After a long wait, we finally saw a male buzzing around a treetop then perch, giving its high-pitched siren song. Lunch was back at the continental divide, and some of the group could not resist buying some of the local mezcal and dark chocolate that they also sold in the same shop. We were running a little late, but had enough time to stop at a nearby stakeout for the endemic **Hooded Yellowthroat**. It made us work but eventually everyone had a nice view of this bird which looks an awful lot like a Common Yellowthroat. The rest of the afternoon was spent driving back to Oaxaca City.

**17 March.** Breakfast was at the gate just before the entrance road to Monte Albán while locals came by walking, jogging, and walking dogs. **Pileated Flycatcher** was the only target bird we really needed from here, and we quickly found it along with **Golden Vireo**, **Nutting's Flycatcher**, **Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush**, and a variety of other birds we had

seen earlier in the trip. The archaeological site itself would not open for another three hours due to schedule changes during the pandemic, and no one really wanted to wait that long. Those who had been really keen to see the ruins had done so before the tour started, so we decided to head off early to the Sierra de Miahuatlán. It took a few hours to get there, driving through rather barren valleys without many birds other than the tour's only **Loggerhead Shrike**. Eventually the road climbed back up into the forest, and we pulled off at a spot where there must have been a huge party not long ago judging by the number of beer bottles lying about. A flowering tree was attracting more **Bumblebee Hummingbirds** as well as a **Mexican Violetear** and **Rivoli's Hummingbird**. We then made a concerted effort to find **Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo** up a very steep track that happily ended in success as we located a pair near the top of a tall pine tree. After having lunch and checking into our cabins, we set out in the afternoon hoping to find some White-throated Jays, but having no luck. Birding was pretty slow overall, though we did have **Zone-tailed Hawk**, **Bushtit**, a female **Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer**, a nice flock of **Black-headed Siskins**, and various other highland species that we had seen previously at La Cumbre. We spent a single night in the small town of San José del Pacifico, where we were serenaded by Mexican Whip-poor-wills that remained unseen.

**18 March.** This lodge used to be the only place on the tour that would do an early breakfast, but they no longer offered it... I may have skipped it anyway since Basilio's breakfasts were so good, plus I wanted to be on site at dawn when White-throated Jays might be more vocal. Back at the bottle-strewn pullout, we ate as it got light with ears trained towards the forest. **Audubon's Oriole** started singing and we were distracted for a few minutes while calling it in. Then we heard the odd, grating call from a **White-throated Jay**, not far from the road but there was no way we could see into the forest. We'd have to head up that steep track again, and the chase was on. One flew over and disappeared into a thicket, came out for a millisecond, then hopped into another bush and disappeared. Silence followed. That couldn't possibly be it, where did it go? We labored up the track another 50 yards and then suddenly they were next



to us! We spent the next 15 minutes watching these fantastic birds at close range. I had left my camera in the van and considered running back to get it, but instead just decided just to enjoy the show as they pulled caterpillars from the branches. After this great start, we headed to lower elevations where new targets awaited. **Gray-crowned Woodpecker** was easy to find, but others proved to be more elusive despite good overall activity with **Greenish Elaenia**, **Green Jay**, **Tufted Flycatcher**, **White-throated Thrush**, **Berylline Hummingbird**, and others. Another stop a mile down the road at some promising red flowers quickly got us the hoped for **Blue-capped Hummingbird** (*photo above*), and nearby we

tracked down “Wagler’s” **Northern Emerald-Toucanet**, a possible future split. As we headed lower down the Pacific slope, flocks of **White-throated Magpie-Jays** started to appear – these impressive and noisy birds would be frequent companions over the next several days. An early afternoon stop along the side road to Hagia Sofia was productive despite the scorching heat. A pair of **Russet-crowned Motmots** sat side by side wagging their tails back and forth and a pair of **Happy Wrens** seemed decidedly angry as they scolded us from a thicket. However, it was the responsive **Pheasant Cuckoo** that really stole the show here when it flew across the road a couple of times and eventually landed where we could see it, tail spread widely. **Squirrel Cuckoo**, **Citreoline Trogon**, **Golden-cheeked Woodpecker**, **Blue-headed Vireo**, **Scrub Euphonia**, and **Streak-backed Oriole** were also seen here before we headed down to the coast and checked into our hotel in Huatulco, where we’d spend the next two nights. After a short break, we headed into the nearby Huatulco National Park, tracking down a pair of **Colima Pygmy-Owls** and a family **Rufous-naped Wrens** as the sun set, and soon after two **Lesser Nighthawks** swept past. After a bit of playback, we heard the odd grunting calls of **Northern Potoo**, which flew right over us before perching in a tall tree, where we got it in the spotlight as well as the scope to round out another fun day.



*Colima Pygmy-Owl*

**19 March:** We spent the morning in the thorn forest in Huatulco National Park. It was still the dry season, with the rains not due to start for another 2-3 months, and the trees and bushes were almost entirely without leaves. At least this made it easier to see the birds, which appeared especially colorful set against this drab background. Beauties like **Blue Bunting**, **Orange-breasted Bunting**, **Yellow-winged Cacique**, and **Turquoise-crowned Hummingbird** stole the show, and the local “Long-crested” subspecies of **Northern Cardinal** was also a hit. **White-fronted Parrots** were flying over and some of them landed for good scope views, while nearby a **Pale-billed Woodpecker** pounded away low down on a trunk. After a bit of work, a **Flammulated Flycatcher** came in close, and we also enjoyed the less colorful species such as

**Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Common Ground Dove, West Mexican Chachalaca, Banded Wren, White-lored Gnatcatcher,** and a female **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**. By mid-morning there was really only one key bird left to see, **Red-breasted Chat**. In a dense stand of trees we finally located a young male still mostly in female plumage as well as a **Macgillivray's Warbler**, but we really wanted an adult male. Finally, after exploring a bit down a side track we nailed him down for a great view:



A stop by the ocean before lunch got us some **Magnificent Frigatebirds**, squadrons of **Brown Pelicans**, a **Royal Tern**, a very distant **Brown Booby**, some even more distant and unidentifiable shearwaters, leaping manta rays, and even a **Common Minke Whale**. After a long mid-day siesta, we did some easy birding near town. Most of the birds were the same as what we had seen in the morning or elsewhere, but **Giant Cowbird** and **Wood Stork** were new for the trip, and we also found a flock of **Cinnamon-rumped Seedeaters**, which only one of our group has seen up until then. We watched a **Lineated Woodpecker** chase off a **Ferruginous Pygmy Owl**, and I had been hoping to find Spot-breasted Oriole, but instead found only **Altamira** and **Streak-backed Orioles**. We'd catch up with it later in the trip though, and the folks not taking the extension found one at the airport. Dinner was by the beach – it was a bit slow but offered fresh seafood as well as enormous margaritas, so it was a fun way to finish up the main tour.

**20 March.** There was a lot of ground to cover today as we headed east towards the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. Our dawn stop was about an hour from Huatulco in some dry scrub, and we almost immediately connected with the key target, **Cinnamon-tailed Sparrow** (*photo right*). Flocks of parrots were flying over, most of which were the common **White-fronted Parrots**, but we picked out a few pairs of **Lilac-crowned Parrot** as well. The wind picked up as we traversed the isthmus, and massive wind farms began to do the horizon. This is one of the windiest places I know of, which makes birding a challenge, but we gave it a go anyway finding a family of **Double-striped Thick-knees**, a few **Stripe-headed Sparrows**, a **Tropical Mockingbird**, and a few others. A determined **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was trying to fly into the gale, but ended going backwards instead. Still, it kept trying over and over... the urge to migrate is so strong. Finally we crossed into the state of Chiapas and checked into



our modest hotel in Arriaga. We had an afternoon date with **Rose-bellied Bunting**, which proved to be easy to find despite the wind, and at one point perched next to an **Orange-breasted Bunting** for an eye-popping spectacle. The wind made the rest of the afternoon a challenge though we did see a few other birds like **Green-fronted Hummingbird** and **Sharp-shinned Hawk**. A Lesser Ground-Cuckoo was calling but did not want to come into view.



*Rose-bellied Bunting, also sometimes called Rosita's Bunting*

**21 March:** We headed out in the dark towards Puerto Arista, a small beach town along the Pacific coast. Today was a national holiday, Benito Juárez's birthday, who was Mexico's 26<sup>th</sup> president and revered by many. Normally you would not want to be at a beach town on a holiday, but being typical birders, we were not going to the beach at all! We started the morning near farmland and mangroves on a rough road well outside of town. Parking by some mudflats, we first scoped a **Reddish Egret**, **Whimbrel**, **Willet** and a few other shorebirds before being drawn towards the distant call of **Giant Wren**. It did not take long to track down a pair of these handsome birds, which stayed nearly side by side during the entire time we watched them, even after they flew from one tree to another. Soon after, one of the other prime targets, **White-bellied Chachalaca**, came clambering in and perched in the open. We enjoyed multiple views of them throughout the morning. More **Russet-crowned Motmots** and **Citreoline Trogons** were also nearby, and that was all before breakfast. Afterwards we walked along the road seeing all kinds of birds – most of them we had seen previously on the tour, but of course it was nice to see them again, and there were a few “new ones”. A pair of **Bare-throated Tiger-Herons** flew over the road in front of us and we finally tracked down a pair of **Spot-breasted Orioles**. A **Mangrove Cuckoo** showed well without even having to resort to playback. After a few hours, we started driving back up into the mountains, and eventually the arid scrub gave way to taller pine and oak forest as we approached San Cristobal, our base for the next couple of nights. A new park had opened since the last time I had been there called Montetik, and I wanted to check it out that afternoon. The forest looked great and almost immediately we found perhaps the most wanted bird of the area, the superb and unique **Pink-headed Warbler**. Walking down the road here we also spotted **Northern Flicker**, **Rufous-collared Robin**, **Rufous-browed Wren**, and a very shy **Blue-throated Motmot** that took a while to locate but finally we got in the scope for lengthy studies. Down at the entrance of the reserve we were hoping for Black-capped Swallow, which did not appear, but we did see the trip's first **Acorn Woodpecker**, **Rufous-collared Sparrow**, and **Hepatic Tanager** before navigating through a maze of streets to our hotel in the middle of town.



*White-bellied Chachalaca*

**22 March.** Birding the mountain slopes high above the city was a bit tough this morning due to chilly and windy conditions. Even the **Band-tailed Pigeons** looked cold as a flock clustered together on top of a tree all fluffed up. With persistence we managed to find **Garnet-throated Hummingbird**, **Yellowish Flycatcher**, and **Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer**, and had better views of **Rufous-browed Wren** than yesterday. Finally, after walking back to the van to finish off what was left of the coffee, we struck gold with fantastic views of **Black-throated Jay**, completing the “jay sweep” for the tour and salvaging what had been an otherwise slow morning. Fortunately things picked up in the afternoon – a stop at the small Huitepec reserve got us a male **Amethyst-throated Mountain-gem**, a superb pair of **Blue-and-white Mockingbirds**, some **Band-backed Wrens**, the beautiful **Golden-browed Warbler**, and even a surprise **Lincoln’s Sparrow**. Mixed flocks had **Slate-throated Redstarts** and a variety of other warblers too. Late in the afternoon, we drove back to where we stopped in the morning, this time having better weather. As the sun set, we surprised a few **Highland Guans** going to roost, and one bird froze long enough for everyone to see it before panicking and crashing away into the forest. Basilio prepared us a light dinner while we watched the sun set over the mountains, and soon the **Mexican Whip-poor-wills** started singing. This time we managed to see one in the spotlight at close range before setting off down a trail to our owling location. We started off playing Unspotted Saw-whet Owl and even got a soft response from it. Initially it seemed like it might be close, but after hearing it for a while it became clear that it was a long way off and it sadly never came in. We had better luck with **Bearded Screech-Owl**, which after a long battle, finally perched where we could see it, glaring at us fiercely at eye level only about 20 feet away – unforgettable!



*Blue-and-white Mockingbirds*



*Black-throated Jay*

**23 March.** We still had a few more birds to look for near San Cristobal, and we started the day back at Montetik. Birding was surprisingly slow given how good the forest looked, and we only added a few new species like **Yellow-backed Oriole** and **Pine Flycatcher** while also finding more **Pink-headed Warblers** and having better views of **Rivoli's Hummingbird**. Still missing **Black-capped Swallow**, I decided to try a couple of other locations, finally locating a small flock in a park east of the city, and then saw another flock while stopping for fuel about 15 minutes later. In the afternoon we headed to the city of Tuxtla Gutierrez, where we'd spend the final two nights, and drove up into Sumidero Canyon National Park in the afternoon. **Belted Flycatcher** was our prime target, and things seemed promising when one started calling along a dirt track where I'd seen them before. Unfortunately it showed briefly only to one lucky member of the group, then went silent and we never saw or heard it again there. We also checked out some of the viewpoints over the canyon, admiring the scenery and seeing a few other birds along the way like **Canivet's Emerald**, **Plain Chachalaca**, **Blue-headed Vireo**, **Least Flycatcher**, and **Blue-winged, Magnolia, Black-and-white**, and **Black-throated Green Warblers**. We also scoped the tour's only **Great Blue Heron** at the bottom of the canyon a few thousand feet down, probably about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile away – maybe one of the most distant birds I've ever identified.

**24 March.** We'd had great weather most of the tour, but not on the first full day, and unfortunately not today on the last full day either. We reached the Selva El Ocote reserve by sunrise, but you would never know it from the dense mist and incessant drizzle. It was tough to see anything but of course we still tried, with a few successes like **Cabanis's** and **White-bellied Wrens**, **White-winged Tanager**, and even a perched **Barred Forest-Falcon**. **Red-crowned** and **Red-throated Ant-Tanagers** were moving in the understory but appeared not much more than dark shapes in the murk. Nava's Wren is normally pretty easy to at least hear along this road, and is one I usually see, but today I only heard it distantly once and it never came in. Migrants were well represented, and we had great views of **Hooded**, **Worm-eating**, and **Chestnut-sided Warblers** and **Swainson's Thrush** among several others. Oddly, two Mottled Owls were calling late morning, a testament to how dreary a day it was. We had to be back in the city by 12:30pm for our Covid tests and had lunch while

waiting for the results – all were fortunately negative, so we headed back up into Sumidero Canyon for one last birding session. Yesterday's Belted Flycatcher track had no flycatcher but at least had an amazing flock with **Blue Seedeater**, **Blue Bunting**, **Green Jay**, **Yellow-billed Caticue**, **Rufous-browed Peppershrike**, and **Olive Sparrow** among others. A different trail where I had seen the flycatcher before also let us down despite the great-looking habitat, but the **Singing Quail** that we were able to get in the scope partly made up for it. That was the last new trip bird of note for the tour – we admired the scenery one last time and headed back to the van, where another **Belted Flycatcher** started calling in a dense thicket, taunting us as we frantically scanned every gap in the bushes looking for it to no avail. Despite that bit of bad luck at the end, the trip had been a blast, and it was a boisterous dinner at the end as we reminisced about some of our favorite moments. Hope to see you all again on a future trip!



*I didn't have a suitable photos for this day, so here's an Orange-breasted Bunting from earlier in the tour*

**BIRD LIST**

The list includes everything that was seen by at least one of the group, including the guide/tour leader. Taxonomy follows: Clements, J. F., T. S. Schulenberg, M. J. Iliff, D. Roberson, T. A. Fredericks, B. L. Sullivan, and C. L. Wood. 2021. The eBird/Clements checklist of birds of the world: v2021. Downloaded from <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/clementschecklist/download/>

**Main tour only: 333 bird species seen + 24 heard only**

**Extension only: 201 bird species seen + 28 heard only**

**Main tour and extension combined: 401 bird species seen + 23 heard only**

MT=Main Tour

X=Extension

h=heard only

(I)=introduced species

(E)=endemic to Mexico

**TINAMOUS**

MTh Slaty-breasted Tinamou

**DUCKS, GEESE, & WATERFOWL**

MT Black-bellied Whistling-Duck

MT X Blue-winged Teal

MT Ring-necked Duck

**GUANS, CHACHALACAS, ALLIES**

MT X Plain Chachalaca

MT X West Mexican Chachalaca (E)

X White-bellied Chachalaca

X Highland Guan

**NEW WORLD QUAIL**

MT Long-tailed Wood-Partridge (E)

X Singing Quail

MTh Spotted Wood-Quail

**GREBES**

MT Least Grebe

MT Pied-billed Grebe

**PIGEONS AND DOVES**

MT X Rock Pigeon (I)

MT X Red-billed Pigeon

MT X Band-tailed Pigeon

MTh Short-billed Pigeon

MT X Eurasian Collared-Dove (I)

MT X Inca Dove

MT X Common Ground Dove

MT Ruddy Ground Dove

MT Blue Ground Dove

MT Xh White-tipped Dove

**TINAMIDAE**

*Crypturellus boucardi*

**ANATIDAE**

*Dendrocygna autumnalis*

*Spatula discors*

*Aythya collaris*

**CRACIDAE**

*Ortalis vetula*

*Ortalis poliocephala*

*Ortalis leucogastra*

*Penelopina nigra*

**ODONTOPHORIDAE**

*Dendrortyx macroura*

*Dactylortyx thoracicus*

*Odontophorus guttatus*

**PODICIPEDIDAE**

*Tachybaptus dominicus*

*Podilymbus podiceps*

**COLUMBIDAE**

*Columba livia*

*Patagioenas flavirostris*

*Patagioenas fasciata*

*Patagioenas nigrirostris*

*Streptopelia decaocto*

*Columbina inca*

*Columbina passerina*

*Columbina talpacoti*

*Claravis pretiosa*

*Leptotila verreauxi*

MTh		Gray-headed Dove
MTh		White-faced Quail-Dove
MT	X	White-winged Dove
MT		Mourning Dove
		<b>CUCKOOS</b>
MT	X	Groove-billed Ani
MT	Xh	Pheasant Cuckoo
	Xh	Lesser Ground-Cuckoo
MT		Squirrel Cuckoo (West Mexico)
MT	X	Squirrel Cuckoo (Middle America)
	X	Mangrove Cuckoo
		<b>NIGHTJARS AND ALLIES</b>
MT		Lesser Nighthawk
MT		Common Pauraque
MTh		Buff-collared Nightjar
MTh	X	Mexican Whip-poor-will
		<b>POTOOS</b>
MT		Northern Potoo
		<b>SWIFTS</b>
MT	X	White-collared Swift
MT		Vaux's Swift
MT	X	White-throated Swift
		<b>HUMMINGBIRDS</b>
MT		Long-billed (Long-tailed) Hermit
MT	Xh	Stripe-throated (Little) Hermit
MT		Mexican Violetear
MT		Green-breasted Mango
MT	X	Rivoli's (Magnificent) Hummingbird
MT		Long-billed Starthroat
	X	Amethyst-throated Mountain-gem
MT		Blue-throated Mountain-gem
	X	Garnet-throated Hummingbird
MT		Beautiful Hummingbird (E)
MT	X	Ruby-throated Hummingbird
MT		Bumblebee Hummingbird (E)
MT		Dusky Hummingbird (E)
MT		Turquoise-crowned (Broad-billed) Hummingbird (E)
	X	Canivet's Emerald
MT	X	White-eared Hummingbird
MT		Blue-capped (Oaxaca) Hummingbird (E)
MT		Stripe-tailed Hummingbird
MT	X	Green-fronted Hummingbird
MT	X	Berylline Hummingbird
MT	X	Cinnamon Hummingbird
	X	Buff-bellied Hummingbird
MT	X	Rufous-tailed Hummingbird
MT		White-bellied Emerald
		<b>RAILS, GALLINULES, &amp; COOTS</b>
MT		Common Gallinule
MT		American Coot

<i>Leptotila plumbeiceps</i>
<i>Zentrygon albifacies</i>
<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>
<b>CUCULIDAE</b>
<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>
<i>Dromococcyx phasianellus</i>
<i>Morococcyx erythropygus</i>
<i>Piaya cayana mexicana</i>
<i>Piaya cayana thermophila</i>
<i>Coccyzus minor</i>
<b>CAPRIMULGIDAE</b>
<i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i>
<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>
<i>Antrostomus ridgwayi</i>
<i>Antrostomus arizonae</i>
<b>NYCTIBIIDAE</b>
<i>Nyctibius jamaicensis</i>
<b>APODIDAE</b>
<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>
<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>
<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>
<b>TROCHILIDAE</b>
<i>Phaethornis longirostris</i>
<i>Phaethornis striigularis</i>
<i>Colibri thalassinus</i>
<i>Anthracothorax prevostii</i>
<i>Eugenes fulgens</i>
<i>Heliomaster longirostris</i>
<i>Lampornis amethystinus</i>
<i>Lampornis clemenciae</i>
<i>Lamprolaima rhami</i>
<i>Calothorax pulcher</i>
<i>Archilochus colubris</i>
<i>Selasphorus heloisa</i>
<i>Phaeoptila sordida</i>
<i>Cyananthus doubledayi</i>
<i>Cyananthus canivetii</i>
<i>Basilinna leucotis</i>
<i>Eupherusa cyanophrys</i>
<i>Eupherusa eximia</i>
<i>Leucolia viridifrons</i>
<i>Saucerottia beryllina</i>
<i>Amazilia rutila</i>
<i>Amazilia yucatanensis</i>
<i>Amazilia tzacatl</i>
<i>Chlorestes candida</i>
<b>RALLIDAE</b>
<i>Gallinula galeata</i>
<i>Fulica americana</i>

MTh	Ruddy Crane	<i>Laterallus ruber</i>
	<b>THICK-KNEES</b>	<b>BURHINIDAE</b>
X	Double-striped Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus bistriatus</i>
	<b>STILTS AND AVOCETS</b>	<b>RECURVIROSTRIDAE</b>
MT X	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>
	<b>PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS</b>	<b>CHARADRIIDAE</b>
MT	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>
MT	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>
	<b>JACANAS</b>	<b>JACANIDAE</b>
MT X	Northern Jacana	<i>Jacana spinosa</i>
	<b>SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES</b>	<b>SCOLOPACIDAE</b>
X	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
MT X	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>
MT X	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>
MT	Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>
X	Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>
X	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>
	<b>GULLS, TERNS, AND SKIMMERS</b>	<b>LARIDAE</b>
MT X	Laughing Gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>
X	Franklin's Gull	<i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i>
MT	Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>
MT	Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>
MT	Elegant Tern	<i>Thalasseus elegans</i>
	<b>SHEARWATERS AND PETRELS</b>	<b>PROCELLARIIDAE</b>
MT	Shearwater sp. (like Wedge-tailed but too distant)	
	<b>STORKS</b>	<b>CICONIIDAE</b>
MT X	Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>
	<b>FRIGATEBIRDS</b>	<b>FREGATIDAE</b>
MT X	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>
	<b>BOOBIES AND GANNETS</b>	<b>SULIDAE</b>
MT	Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster brewsteri</i>
	<b>ANHINGAS</b>	<b>ANHINGIDAE</b>
MT X	Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>
	<b>CORMORANTS AND SHAGS</b>	<b>PHALACROCORACIDAE</b>
MT X	Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Nannopterum brasilianum</i>
	<b>PELICANS</b>	<b>PELECANIDAE</b>
MT X	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>
	<b>HERONS, EGRETS, &amp; BITTERNS</b>	<b>ARDEIDAE</b>
X	Bare-throated Tiger-Heron	<i>Tigrisoma mexicanum</i>
X	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>
MT X	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
MT X	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>
MT	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>
MT X	Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>
X	Reddish Egret	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>
MT X	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
MT X	Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>
	<b>IBISES AND SPOONBILLS</b>	<b>THRESKIORNITHIDAE</b>
MT X	White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>

**NEW WORLD VULTURES**

- MT X Black Vulture  
 MT X Turkey Vulture

**OSPREY**

- MT Osprey

**HAWKS, EAGLES, AND KITES**

- X Swallow-tailed Kite  
 MT Black Hawk-Eagle  
 MT X Sharp-shinned Hawk  
 MT Common Black Hawk  
 MT X Roadside Hawk  
 MT White Hawk  
 MT X Gray Hawk  
 MT X Broad-winged Hawk  
 MT Short-tailed Hawk  
 MT Swainson's Hawk  
 MT Zone-tailed Hawk  
 MT Red-tailed Hawk

**OWLS**

- X Bearded Screech-Owl  
 MT Xh Colima Pygmy-Owl (E)  
 MT X Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl  
 Xh Mottled Owl  
 Xh Unspotted Saw-whet Owl

**TROGONS**

- MT Black-headed Trogon  
 MT X Citreoline Trogon (E)  
 MT X Gartered (Violaceous) Trogon  
 MT X Mountain Trogon  
 MT Collared Trogon

**MOTMOTS**

- X Blue-throated Motmot  
 MT X Russet-crowned Motmot  
 MT Lesson's (Blue-crowned) Motmot

**KINGFISHERS**

- MT Ringed Kingfisher  
 MT X Belted Kingfisher  
 MT Amazon Kingfisher  
 MT X Green Kingfisher

**JACAMARS**

- MT Rufous-tailed Jacamar

**TOUCANS**

- MT Northern Emerald-Toucanet (Wagler's)  
 MT Xh Northern Emerald-Toucanet (Emerald)  
 MT Collared Aracari  
 MT X Keel-billed Toucan

**WOODPECKERS**

- MTh X Acorn Woodpecker  
 MT Golden-cheeked Woodpecker (E)  
 MT Gray-breasted Woodpecker (E)

**CATHARTIDAE**

- Coragyps atratus*  
*Cathartes aura*

**PANDIONIDAE**

- Pandion haliaetus*

**ACCIPITRIDAE**

- Elanoides forficatus*  
*Spizaetus tyrannus*  
*Accipiter striatus*  
*Buteogallus anthracinus*  
*Rupornis magnirostris*  
*Pseudastur albicollis*  
*Buteo plagiatus*  
*Buteo platypterus*  
*Buteo brachyurus*  
*Buteo swainsoni*  
*Buteo albonotatus*  
*Buteo jamaicensis*

**STRIGIDAE**

- Megascops barbarus*  
*Glaucidium palmarum*  
*Glaucidium brasilianum*  
*Ciccaba virgata*  
*Aegolius ridgwayi*

**TROGONIDAE**

- Trogon melanocephalus*  
*Trogon citreolus*  
*Trogon caligatus*  
*Trogon mexicanus*  
*Trogon collaris*

**MOMOTIDAE**

- Aspatha gularis*  
*Momotus mexicanus*  
*Momotus lessonii*

**ALCEDINIDAE**

- Megaceryle torquata*  
*Megaceryle alcyon*  
*Chloroceryle amazona*  
*Chloroceryle americana*

**GALBULIDAE**

- Galbula ruficauda*

**RAMPHASTIDAE**

- Aulacorhynchus prasinus wagleri*  
*Aulacorhynchus prasinus [prasinus Group]*  
*Pteroglossus torquatus*  
*Ramphastos sulfuratus*

**PICIDAE**

- Melanerpes formicivorus*  
*Melanerpes chrysogenys*  
*Melanerpes hypopolius*

- MT X Golden-fronted Woodpecker  
 MT Xh Ladder-backed Woodpecker  
 MT Xh Hairy Woodpecker  
 MT X Pale-billed Woodpecker  
 MT X Lineated Woodpecker  
 MT X Golden-olive Woodpecker  
 MT Gray-crowned Woodpecker (E)  
 MTh Northern Flicker (Red-shafted)  
 X Northern Flicker (Guatemalan)

**FALCONS AND CARACARAS**

- X Barred Forest-Falcon  
 MT Collared Forest-Falcon  
 MT X Crested Caracara  
 MT X American Kestrel  
 MT Bat Falcon

**PARROTS**

- X Monk Parakeet (I)  
 MT Brown-hooded Parrot  
 X White-crowned Parrot  
 X Lilac-crowned Parrot (E)  
 MT Red-ored Parrot  
 MT X White-fronted Parrot  
 MT Xh Olive-throated Parakeet (Aztec)  
 MT X Orange-fronted Parakeet  
 X Green Parakeet

**TYPICAL ANTBIRDS**

- MT Xh Barred Antshrike  
 MTh Dot-winged Antwren

**ANTTHRUSHES**

- MTh Mayan (Black-faced) Antthrush

**OVENBIRDS AND WOODCREEPERS**

- MT Middle American (Tawny-throated) Leaf-tosser  
 MT X Olivaceous Woodcreeper  
 MT Strong-billed Woodcreeper  
 MT X Ivory-billed Woodcreeper  
 MT Spotted Woodcreeper  
 MT Streak-headed Woodcreeper  
 MTh White-striped Woodcreeper (E)  
 MT X Spot-crowned Woodcreeper  
 MT Scaly-throated (Spectacled) Foliage-gleaner  
 MT Xh Ruddy Foliage-gleaner  
 MT Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner  
 MT Xh Rufous-breasted Spinetail

**MANAKINS**

- MT White-collared Manakin

**TITYRAS AND ALLIES**

- MT Black-crowned Tityra  
 MT Masked Tityra  
 MT Gray-collared Becard  
 MT Rose-throated Becard

- Melanerpes aurifrons*  
*Dryobates scalaris*  
*Dryobates villosus*  
*Campephilus guatemalensis*  
*Dryocopus lineatus*  
*Colaptes rubiginosus*  
*Colaptes auricularis*  
*Colaptes auratus mexicanus*  
*Colaptes auratus mexicanoides*

**FALCONIDAE**

- Micrastur ruficollis*  
*Micrastur semitorquatus*  
*Caracara plancus*  
*Falco sparverius*  
*Falco rufigularis*

**PSITTACIDAE**

- Myiopsitta monachus*  
*Pyrilia haematotis*  
*Pionus senilis*  
*Amazona finschi*  
*Amazona autumnalis*  
*Amazona albifrons*  
*Eupsittula nana astec/vicinalis*  
*Eupsittula canicularis*  
*Psittacara holochlorus*

**THAMNOPHILIDAE**

- Thamnophilus doliatus*  
*Microrhophias quixensis*

**FORMICARIIDAE**

- Formicarius moniliger*

**FURNARIIDAE**

- Sclerurus mexicanus*  
*Sittasomus griseicapillus*  
*Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus sclateri*  
*Xiphorhynchus flavigaster*  
*Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*  
*Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*  
*Lepidocolaptes leucogaster*  
*Lepidocolaptes affinis*  
*Anabacerthia variegaticeps*  
*Clibanornis rubiginosus*  
*Automolus ochrolaemus*  
*Synallaxis erythrothorax*

**PIPRIDAE**

- Manacus candei*

**TITYRIDAE**

- Tityra inquisitor*  
*Tityra semifasciata*  
*Pachyramphus major*  
*Pachyramphus aglaiae*

**TYRANT FLYCATCHERS**

MTh		Northern Bentbill
MT		Eye-ringed Flatbill
MT	X	Yellow-olive Flycatcher
MT		Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet
MT	X	Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet
MT		Greenish Elaenia
MT		Yellow-bellied Elaenia
	X	Belted Flycatcher
MT		Pileated Flycatcher
MT	X	Tufted Flycatcher
MT	X	Greater Pewee
MT		wood-pewee sp.
MTh		Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
MT	X	Least Flycatcher
	Xh	Hammond's Flycatcher
MT		Dusky Flycatcher
	X	Pine Flycatcher
MTh		Cordilleran Flycatcher
	X	Yellowish Flycatcher
MT		Black Phoebe
MT		Vermilion Flycatcher
MT		Flammulated Flycatcher (E)
MT	X	Dusky-capped Flycatcher
MT		Ash-throated Flycatcher
MT	Xh	Nutting's Flycatcher
MT	X	Brown-crested Flycatcher
MT	X	Great Kiskadee
MT	X	Boat-billed Flycatcher
MT	X	Social Flycatcher
MT		Piratic Flycatcher
MT	X	Tropical Kingbird
MT		Couch's Kingbird
MT		Cassin's Kingbird
MT		Thick-billed Kingbird
MT		Western Kingbird
MT	X	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

**VIREOS AND ALLIES**

	X	Rufous-browed Peppershrike
MT		Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo
MTh		Green Shrike-Vireo
MT	X	Lesser Greenlet
MT		Golden Vireo (E)
MT		Slaty Vireo (E)
MT		Dwarf Vireo (E)
MT		White-eyed Vireo
MT		Bell's Vireo
MT	X	Hutton's Vireo
MT		Yellow-throated Vireo
MT	X	Blue-headed Vireo
MT	X	Warbling Vireo

**TYRANNIDAE**

<i>Oncostoma cinereigulare</i>
<i>Rhynchocyclus brevirostris</i>
<i>Tolmomyias sulphurescens</i>
<i>Ornithion semiflavum</i>
<i>Camptostoma imberbe</i>
<i>Myiopagis viridicata</i>
<i>Elaenia flavogaster</i>
<i>Xenotriccus callizonus</i>
<i>Xenotriccus mexicanus</i>
<i>Mitrephanes phaeocercus</i>
<i>Contopus pertinax</i>
<i>Contopus sp.</i>
<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>
<i>Empidonax minimus</i>
<i>Empidonax hammondii</i>
<i>Empidonax oberholseri</i>
<i>Empidonax affinis</i>
<i>Empidonax occidentalis</i>
<i>Empidonax flavescens</i>
<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>
<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>
<i>Ramphotrigon flammulatum</i>
<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>
<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>
<i>Myiarchus nuttingi</i>
<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>
<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>
<i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>
<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>
<i>Legatus leucophaeus</i>
<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>
<i>Tyrannus couchii</i>
<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>
<i>Tyrannus crassirostris</i>
<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>
<i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>

**VIREONIDAE**

<i>Cyclarhis gujanensis</i>
<i>Vireolanius melitophrys</i>
<i>Vireolanius pulchellus</i>
<i>Pachysylvia decurtata</i>
<i>Vireo hypochryseus</i>
<i>Vireo brevipennis</i>
<i>Vireo nelsoni</i>
<i>Vireo griseus</i>
<i>Vireo bellii</i>
<i>Vireo huttoni</i>
<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>
<i>Vireo solitarius</i>
<i>Vireo gilvus</i>

**SHRIKES**

MT Loggerhead Shrike

**CROWS, JAYS, AND MAGPIES**

MT White-throated Jay (E)

MT Dwarf Jay (E)

X Black-throated Jay

MT Azure-hooded Jay

MT X White-throated Magpie-Jay

MT Xh Brown Jay

MT X Green Jay

MT X Steller's Jay

MT Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay

MT X Unicolored Jay

MT Common Raven

**TITS, CHICKADEES, AND TITMICE**

MT Mexican Chickadee

MT Bridled Titmouse

**SWALLOWS**

X Black-capped Swallow

MT X Northern Rough-winged Swallow

MT X Gray-breasted Martin

MT X Mangrove Swallow

MT Violet-green Swallow

MT X Barn Swallow

X Cliff Swallow

**LONG-TAILED TITS**

MT Bushtit

**KINGLETS**

MT Ruby-crowned Kinglet

**NUTHATCHES**

MTh White-breasted Nuthatch

**TREECREEPERS**

MT Brown Creeper

**GNATCATCHERS**

MT Xh Long-billed Gnatwren

MT Xh Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

MT X White-lored Gnatcatcher

**WRENS**

MT Canyon Wren

MT Sumichrast's Wren (E)

Xh Nava's Wren (E)

MT House Wren (Brown-throated)

MT X House Wren (Southern)

X Rufous-browed Wren

MT Bewick's Wren

MTh X Band-backed Wren

MT Gray-barred Wren (E)

X Giant Wren (E)

MT X Rufous-naped Wren (Sclater's)

X Rufous-naped Wren (Rufous-backed)

**LANIIDAE***Lanius ludovicianus***CORVIDAE***Cyanolyca mirabilis**Cyanolyca nanus**Cyanolyca pumilo**Cyanolyca cucullata**Calocitta formosa**Psilorhinus morio**Cyanocorax yncas**Cyanocitta stelleri**Aphelocoma woodhouseii**Aphelocoma unicolor**Corvus corax***PARIDAE***Poecile sclateri**Baeolophus wollweberi***HIRUNDINIDAE***Atticora pileata**Stelgidopteryx serripennis**Progne chalybea**Tachycineta albilinea**Tachycineta thalassina**Hirundo rustica**Petrochelidon pyrrhonota***AEGITHALIDAE***Psaltriparus minimus***REGULIDAE***Corthylio calendula***SITTIDAE***Sitta carolinensis***CERTHIIDAE***Certhia americana***POLIOPTILIDAE***Ramphocaenus melanurus**Polioptila caerulea**Polioptila albiloris***TROGLODYTIDAE***Catherpes mexicanus**Hylorchilus sumichrasti**Hylorchilus navai**Troglodytes aedon brunneicollis**Troglodytes aedon intermedius**Troglodytes rufociliatus**Thryomanes bewickii**Campylorhynchus zonatus**Campylorhynchus megalopterus**Campylorhynchus chiapensis**Campylorhynchus rufinucha humilis**Campylorhynchus rufinucha nigricaudatus*

MT		Boucard's Wren (E)
MT	Xh	Spot-breasted Wren
MT		Happy Wren (E)
MT	X	Banded Wren
	X	Cabanis's (Plain) Wren
	X	White-bellied Wren
MTh	X	White-breasted Wood-Wren
MT	Xh	Gray-breasted Wood-Wren
		<b>MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS</b>
MT		Blue Mockingbird (E)
	X	Blue-and-white Mockingbird
MT		Gray Catbird
MT		Ocellated Thrasher (E)
	X	Tropical Mockingbird
MT		Northern Mockingbird
		<b>THRUSHES AND ALLIES</b>
	X	Eastern Bluebird
MT	X	Brown-backed Solitaire
MT	Xh	Slate-colored Solitaire
MT		Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush
MT		Russet Nightingale-Thrush (E)
	Xh	Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush
MT		Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush
MTh	X	Swainson's Thrush
MT		Hermit Thrush
MT		Aztec Thrush (E)
MT		White-throated Thrush
MT	X	Clay-colored Thrush
MT		Black Thrush
MT		American Robin
MT		Rufous-backed Robin (E)
	X	Rufous-collared Robin
		<b>SILKY-FLYCATCHERS</b>
MT	X	Gray Silky-flycatcher
		<b>OLIVE WARBLER</b>
MT	Xh	Olive Warbler
		<b>OLD WORLD SPARROWS</b>
MT	X	House Sparrow (I)
		<b>WAGTAILS AND PIPITS</b>
MT		American Pipit
		<b>FINCHES, EUPHONIAS, &amp; ALLIES</b>
MT		Elegant (Blue-hooded) Euphonia
MT		Blue-crowned Chlorophonia
MT	Xh	Scrub Euphonia
MT	X	Yellow-throated Euphonia
MT		Olive-backed Euphonia
MT	X	House Finch
MTh	X	Red Crossbill
MT	X	Black-headed Siskin
MT		Lesser Goldfinch

*Campylorhynchus jocosus*  
*Pheugopedius maculipectus*  
*Pheugopedius felix*  
*Thryophilus pleurostictus*  
*Cantorchilus modestus*  
*Uropsila leucogastra*  
*Henicorhina leucosticta*  
*Henicorhina leucophrys*

**MIMIDAE**

*Melanotis caerulescens*  
*Melanotis hypoleucus*  
*Dumetella carolinensis*  
*Toxostoma ocellatum*  
*Mimus gilvus*  
*Mimus polyglottos*

**TURDIDAE**

*Sialia sialis*  
*Myadestes occidentalis*  
*Myadestes unicolor*  
*Catharus aurantiirostris*  
*Catharus occidentalis*  
*Catharus frantzii*  
*Catharus mexicanus*  
*Catharus ustulatus*  
*Catharus guttatus*  
*Ridgwayia pinicola*  
*Turdus assimilis*  
*Turdus grayi*  
*Turdus infuscatus*  
*Turdus migratorius*  
*Turdus rufopalliatus*  
*Turdus rufitorques*

**PTILIOGONATIDAE**

*Ptiliogonys cinereus*

**PEUCEDRAMIDAE**

*Peucedramus taeniatus*

**PASSERIDAE**

*Passer domesticus*

**MOTACILLIDAE**

*Anthus rubescens*

**FRINGILLIDAE**

*Chlorophonia elegantissima*  
*Chlorophonia occipitalis*  
*Euphonia affinis*  
*Euphonia hirundinacea*  
*Euphonia gouldi*  
*Haemorhous mexicanus*  
*Loxia curvirostra*  
*Spinus notatus*  
*Spinus psaltria*

**NEW WORLD SPARROWS**

MT		Common Chlorospingus (Northeast Mexico)
MT		Common Chlorospingus (Southwest Mexico)
	X	Common Chlorospingus (Middle America)
	X	Cinnamon-tailed (Sumichrast's) Sparrow (E)
	X	Stripe-headed Sparrow
MT		Bridled Sparrow (E)
MT	X	Olive Sparrow
MT		Chestnut-capped Brushfinch
MT		Yellow-eyed Junco (Mexican)
	X	Yellow-eyed Junco (Chiapas)
	X	Rufous-collared Sparrow
	X	Lincoln's Sparrow
MT		Rusty-crowned Ground-Sparrow (E)
MT		White-throated Towhee (E)
MT		Rusty Sparrow
MT		Oaxaca Sparrow (E)
MT		Spotted Towhee
MT		Collared Towhee (E)
MT		Rufous-capped Brushfinch (E)

**YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT**

	X	Yellow-breasted Chat
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**TROUPIALS AND ALLIES**

MT	X	Yellow-billed Caci que
MT	X	Yellow-winged Caci que
MT		Montezuma Oropendola
MT		Black-vented Oriole
MT		Black-cowled Oriole
MT	X	Orchard Oriole
	X	Yellow-backed Oriole
MT		Yellow-tailed Oriole
MT	X	Streak-backed Oriole
MT		Bullock's Oriole
MT	X	Spot-breasted Oriole
MT	X	Altamira Oriole
MT		Audubon's Oriole (Dickey's)
MT		Baltimore Oriole
MT		Bronzed Cowbird
MT	X	Brown-headed Cowbird
MT	X	Giant Cowbird
MT	X	Melodious Blackbird
MT	X	Great-tailed Grackle

**NEW WORLD WARBLERS**

	X	Ovenbird
	X	Worm-eating Warbler
MT	Xh	Northern Waterthrush
MT	X	Blue-winged Warbler
MT	X	Black-and-white Warbler
MT	X	Crescent-chested Warbler
MT	X	Tennessee Warbler

**PASSERELLIDAE**

		<i>Chlorospingus flavopectus ophthalmicus</i>
		<i>Chlorospingus flavopectus albifrons</i>
		<i>Chlorospingus flavopectus [postocularis Grp]</i>
		<i>Peucaea sumichrasti</i>
		<i>Peucaea ruficauda</i>
		<i>Peucaea mystacalis</i>
		<i>Arremonops rufivirgatus</i>
		<i>Arremon brunneinucha</i>
		<i>Junco phaeonotus phaeonotus</i>
		<i>Junco phaeonotus fulvescens</i>
		<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>
		<i>Melospiza lincolni</i>
		<i>Melozone kieneri</i>
		<i>Melozone albicollis</i>
		<i>Aimophila rufescens</i>
		<i>Aimophila notosticta</i>
		<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>
		<i>Pipilo ocai</i>
		<i>Atlapetes pileatus</i>

**ICTERIIDAE**

		<i>Icteria virens</i>
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**ICTERIDAE**

		<i>Amblycercus holosericeus</i>
		<i>Cassiculus melanicterus</i>
		<i>Psarocolius montezuma</i>
		<i>Icterus wagleri</i>
		<i>Icterus prothemelas</i>
		<i>Icterus spurius</i>
		<i>Icterus chrysater</i>
		<i>Icterus mesomelas</i>
		<i>Icterus pustulatus</i>
		<i>Icterus bullockii</i>
		<i>Icterus pectoralis</i>
		<i>Icterus gularis</i>
		<i>Icterus graduacauda dickeyae</i>
		<i>Icterus galbula</i>
		<i>Molothrus aeneus</i>
		<i>Molothrus ater</i>
		<i>Molothrus oryzivorus</i>
		<i>Dives dives</i>
		<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>

**PARULIDAE**

		<i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>
		<i>Helmitheros vermivorum</i>
		<i>Parkesia noveboracensis</i>
		<i>Vermivora cyanoptera</i>
		<i>Mniotilta varia</i>
		<i>Oreothlypis superciliosa</i>
		<i>Leiothlypis peregrina</i>

MT		Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis celata</i>
MT	X	Nashville Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis ruficapilla</i>
MTh		Gray-crowned Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis poliocephala</i>
MT		MacGillivray's Warbler	<i>Geothlypis tolmiei</i>
MT		Kentucky Warbler	<i>Geothlypis formosa</i>
MT		Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>
MT		Hooded Yellowthroat (E)	<i>Geothlypis nelsoni</i>
	X	Hooded Warbler	<i>Setophaga citrina</i>
MT	X	American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>
MT	X	Northern Parula	<i>Setophaga americana</i>
	X	Tropical Parula	<i>Setophaga pitiayumi</i>
MT	X	Magnolia Warbler	<i>Setophaga magnolia</i>
MT	X	Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga petechia</i>
	X	Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Setophaga pensylvanica</i>
MT	X	Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's)	<i>Setophaga coronata auduboni</i>
MT		Yellow-throated Warbler	<i>Setophaga dominica</i>
MT		Black-throated Gray Warbler	<i>Setophaga nigrescens</i>
MT	X	Townsend's Warbler	<i>Setophaga townsendi</i>
MT	X	Hermit Warbler	<i>Setophaga occidentalis</i>
MT	X	Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Setophaga virens</i>
MTh		Fan-tailed Warbler	<i>Basileuterus lachrymosus</i>
MT		Rufous-capped Warbler	<i>Basileuterus rufifrons</i>
MT	X	Golden-browed Warbler	<i>Basileuterus belli</i>
MT	X	Golden-crowned Warbler	<i>Basileuterus culicivorus</i>
MT	X	Wilson's Warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>
MT		Red-faced Warbler	<i>Cardellina rubrifrons</i>
MT		Red Warbler (White-cheeked) (E)	<i>Cardellina rubra rubra/rowleyi</i>
	X	Pink-headed Warbler	<i>Cardellina versicolor</i>
MT		Painted Redstart	<i>Myioborus pictus</i>
MT	X	Slate-throated Redstart (Whitestart)	<i>Myioborus miniatus</i>
		<b>CARDINALS AND ALLIES</b>	<b>CARDINALIDAE</b>
	X	Hepatic Tanager	<i>Piranga flava</i>
MT		Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>
		Scarlet Tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>
MT	X	Western Tanager	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>
MT		Flame-colored Tanager	<i>Piranga bidentata</i>
MT	X	White-winged Tanager	<i>Piranga leucoptera</i>
	X	Red-crowned Ant-Tanager	<i>Habia rubica</i>
MT	X	Red-throated Ant-Tanager	<i>Habia fuscicauda</i>
MT		Black-faced Grosbeak	<i>Caryothraustes polioaster</i>
MT		Northern Cardinal (Long-crested)	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis carneus</i>
MT		Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>
MT		Black-headed Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>
MT		Red-breasted Chat (E)	<i>Granatellus venustus</i>
	X	Blue Seedeater	<i>Amaurospiza concolor</i>
MT	X	Blue Bunting	<i>Cyanocompsa parellina</i>

MT	X	Blue Grosbeak	<i>Passerina caerulea</i>
MT	X	Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>
	X	Rose-bellied (Rosita's) Bunting (E)	<i>Passerina rositae</i>
MT	X	Orange-breasted Bunting (E)	<i>Passerina leclancherii</i>
MT	X	Painted Bunting	<i>Passerina ciris</i>
		<b>TANAGERS AND ALLIES</b>	<b>THRAUPIDAE</b>
MT		Crimson-collared Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus sanguinolentus</i>
MT		Blue-gray Tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>
MT		Yellow-winged Tanager	<i>Thraupis abbas</i>
MT		Golden-hooded Tanager	<i>Stilpnia larvata</i>
MT		Red-legged Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i>
MT	X	Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossa baritula</i>
MT		Blue-black Grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>
MT		Thick-billed Seed-Finch	<i>Sporophila funerea</i>
MT		Variable Seedeater	<i>Sporophila corvina</i>
MT	X	Morelet's (White-collared) Seedeater	<i>Sporophila moreletii</i>
MT		Cinnamon-rumped (White-collared) Seedeater (E)	<i>Sporophila torqueola</i>
MT	X	Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>
MT		Yellow-faced Grassquit	<i>Tiaris olivaceus</i>
MT		Buff-throated Saltator	<i>Saltator maximus</i>
MT	X	Black-headed Saltator	<i>Saltator atriceps</i>
MT	Xh	Cinnamon-bellied (Grayish) Saltator	<i>Saltator grandis</i>

**Mammals:**

**White-nosed Coati** *Nasua narica*

**Common Minke Whale** *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*

**Eastern Cottontail** *Sylvilagus floridanus* (not seen by me but seems the most likely based on range)

**Mexican Gray Squirrel (Red-bellied Squirrel)** *Sciurus aureogaster*

**Tayra** *Eira barbara*