



This incredible Tufted Jay was our bird of the tour! (Pete Morris)

WESTERN MEXICO

8/12 – 26 MARCH 2014

LEADERS: PETE MORRIS and JON KING

With just the odd tweak here and there, our well-established Western Mexico tour has, over the years, become a very efficient clean-up of the many regional specialities that this part of Mexico has to offer. This year, we once again recorded well over 400 species of birds (exact total taxonomy dependant), and again we found a very high proportion of the special birds (or diamond birds) which is, of course, the main focus of the tour. We also added a new diamond bird to the list, the very smart Hooded Grosbeak! Highlights amongst the 410+ species seen were many and varied, but special mention should go to: the 10 species of owls and five species of nightjars that all showed so well; the delightful Bumblebee Hummingbirds that buzzed around us; the Banded and Elegant Quails; the shy Long-tailed Wood-Partridge that we teased on to the road; the amazing variety of endemic jays including the incredible Tufted Jay; stunning Military Macaws; colourful Rosy Thrush-Tanagers; brilliant Aztec Thrushes; much appreciated Rufous-necked Wood Rails, Spotted Rail and Ruddy

Crakes; an amazing variety of North American Wood Warblers, including Olive Warbler; 13 smart species of wrens, and many, many more. We also again found the poorly known Sinaloa Martin. All of this was complemented by some great food (rather too much!), three weeks of virtual wall to wall sunshine, and a happy and jovial group that were all well pleased with the numbers of lifers under their belts!



Belding's Yellowthroat showed quite well...(Pete Morris)

The tour began in Baja California, where those of us participating on the pre-tour extension assembled from various locations at San José del Cabo airport. After picking up our vehicle, a little re-organization, and a memorable first journey, we launched straight into the action with an afternoon visit to the ever shrinking Estero San José. It's always a birdy spot, and although a little bright and warm (it always seems that way after a long journey!), it provided an excellent introduction to our Mexican birding. Our prime target, the endangered and endemic Belding's Yellowthroat, proved easy this time around, with several giving extremely close views almost alongside Common Yellowthroats. Along the beach, large flocks of California Gulls held a Western Gull and some extremely smart Elegant Terns. The estero itself held a good selection of North American waterbirds including Blue-winged Teals, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaups, a confiding Sora, and some amazing breeding-plumaged Double-crested Cormorants, and we were delighted to find an impressive group of Western Grebes. A variety of widespread waders and herons were also present, including some tiny Least Sandpipers, almost at our feet. Nearby, landbirds were represented by Gila Woodpeckers, a couple of Cactus Wrens and an unexpected Tropical Kingbird. After a pleasant couple of hours, we made our way to our base for the next few nights, and enjoyed our first Mexican banquet!

We once again had plenty of time to find the specialties of Southern Baja California, and of course, found them all again in double quick time! We began our quest pre-dawn in the San Antonio de la Sierra, finding a tiny Elf Owl in the spotlight, though sadly he didn't sit for as long as we would have liked! As the sky lightened from the east, we made our way up into the mountains and embarked on a hike to higher altitudes. The main purpose of the hike was to find the endemic Baird's Junco, and



Baird's Junco on Baja - surely a good split? (Pete Morris)

this we achieved pretty easily (literally hopping around our feet!). Feeling energetic (!) we decided to push on and try our luck a little higher, finding our first of a few Baja (or Cape) Pygmy-Owls. During our pleasant walk, under glorious blue skies and with stunning scenery, we found a variety of other goodies. Highlights included the endemic local form of Acorn Woodpecker (Baja Woodpecker), numerous stunning endemic Xantus's Hummingbirds, Grey and Ash-throated Flycatchers, tiny American Bushtits, White-breasted Nuthatches, numerous noisy Western Scrub-Jays, a fabulous Canyon Wren, colourful Scott's and Hooded Orioles, Lazuli Buntings, Western Tanagers, Rufous-crowned



The delightful San Lucas Robin on Baja - surely another good split? (Pete Morris)

Sparrows, attractive Spotted Towhees, and the somewhat drab California Towhee. We also had our first encounters with the pallid San Lucas Robin and studied the endemic forms of Warbling and Cassin's Vireos, the latter almost like a Blue-headed Vireo! As the sun warmed we descended and birded some shadier areas lower down. Here we quickly found more robins, and other goodies included an inquisitive Zone-tailed Hawk, our first Gilded Flickers, the endemic Grey Thrasher, vivid Northern Cardinals and an unexpected Magnolia Warbler. Flushed with success, we headed back to base for a feast and an optional Margarita or two!

The following day we could relax a little, and birded some desert close to our hotel. This proved to be excellent and produced the hoped-for desert species including the localized California Gnatcatcher,



A few more highlights from Baja - Greater Roadrunner, Gilded Flicker and a fine Great Horned Owl (Pete Morris)

colourful Verdins, noisy Cactus Wrens and several smart and obliging Black-throated Sparrows, whilst more common species included more Gila and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, Gilded Flickers and some obliging Pyrrhuloxias. Venturing slightly further afield, we found a secretive Rock Wren, and, after a stroke of luck, the rare Grey Vireo which showed very well. On the way back, we bumped into the hoped-for Greater Roadrunner (not one but three!), saw several Phainopeplas, admired Humpback Whales and leaping Manta-Rays in the ocean, scoped up some dapper Brandt's Cormorants and saw our first, rather unimpressive, Yellow-footed Gull (it was a young one!). Just before we arrived back, we also saw our first California Quail of the trip. After a well earned break, we headed to another tiny wetland where we again saw the endangered Belding's Yellowthroat. Nearby we also found numerous Cassin's Kingbirds and our only Clay-coloured Sparrows of the tour.

The following morning we had another look in the lower areas of the San Antonio de la Sierra, this time beginning the day with a pre-dawn owling session which produced... Mourning Dove – and not much else. After dawn, another Baja Pygmy Owl was appreciated as were more San Lucas Robins,



Western Meadowlark was a write-in, whilst we saw plenty of cute Baja (or Cape) Pygmy Owls (Pete Morris)

and many of the other goodies seen previously. We also saw our first MacGillivray's Warbler and Bell's Vireo and a number of other migrants. With not much new appearing, we made our way up to La Paz, ticking off smart adult Yellow-footed Gulls as well as Heermann's and Ring-billed Gulls, numerous waterbirds, including Blue-footed and Brown Boobies, and an obliging Mangrove Warbler as we went. Having checked into our hotel we then birded a few of the local hot spots. We began with a fine roosting Great Horned Owl and then continued to the sewage ponds which were alive with birds! Most surprising were a Wood Sandpiper and a Western Meadowlark. Amongst the thousands of waterbirds present, we picked out good numbers of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, Cinnamon Teals, White-faced Ibises, Long-billed Dowitchers, Greater Yellowlegs and Killdeer. Icterids included some surprise Yellow-headed and Brewster's Blackbirds, American (or Buff-bellied) Pipits fed on the flats, and numerous Audubon's Warblers were present, no doubt feasting on the mosquitoes that were feasting on me!

On our last morning on Baja, we headed back to the sewage ponds, once again finding good numbers of birds. The Wood Sandpiper and Western Meadowlark were again present and showing well, a small flock of White-crowned Sparrows were our only ones of the tour, and the throngs of birds attracted both Merlin and Peregrine. Out in the nearby bay, we found numerous waders, gulls and terns, including Marbled Godwits, Long-billed Curlews, Western Willets, Wilson's Plovers, Black Skimmers and Forster's Terns. By now, the tide was coming up, and the wind was whipping up quite a dust storm, so we decided to make our way to the airport. The next 12 hours were not the best due to a cancelled flight! Suffice to say that we had to make some hasty rearrangements, resulting in a three hour drive, a flight to Mexico City and then one back to Mazatlan where we arrived at our beds after midnight!

The following morning we tried an area of thorn forest just outside Mazatlan. Hundreds of Sinaloa Crows flew from their roosts, and before long we found the hoped-for Purplish-backed Jays which were joined by the equally impressive Black-throated Magpie-Jays. A pair of Black-capped Gnatcatchers showed well, a Black-capped Vireo was rather briefer, Golden-cheeked Woodpecker and

Nutting's Flycatchers obliged, Rufous-bellied Chachalacas popped up, our first Happy and Sinaloa Wrens were encountered (only the latter was seen), our first Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl was seen, and we had all-too-brief encounters with both Lesser Roadrunner and Elegant Quail. Several Roseate Spoonbills showed well, Mangrove Swallows hawked for insects, and, there were other interesting species included Elegant Tern, Black Skimmer and numerous Western Sandpipers. Having checked out of our hotel, we made our way into the city. Along the seafront, amongst the many California Gulls and Brown Pelicans attracted by the fisherman, we were able to enjoy numerous Heermann's Gulls and a few Ring-billed Gulls and we stopped to view some offshore rocks. Here, whilst we ate our lunch, numerous Brown and Blue-footed Boobies could be scoped on the stacks as Red-billed Tropicbirds flew about manically, and a summer-plumaged Wandering Tattler posed on a nearby rock.

We then headed for the famous Durango Highway, and having checked into our rustic but very friendly hotel, we made a brief excursion nearby. Here we found a number of goodies including our first Grey Silkies, attractive Golden Vireos, Happy Wrens and a beautiful Fan-tailed Warbler.



Fan-tailed Warbler is a fantastic species (Pete Morris)

The following day, we made our eagerly anticipated first visit to the higher reaches of the Durango Highway. Almost as soon as we were out of the van, we were watching a fantastic group of Tufted Jays – our most-wanted bird for the morning, so things were looking good! As we made our way along an easy track, we also found a number of other excellent birds. The variety of warblers was quite amazing! Colourful gems included Red-faced, Grace's, and Townsend's Warblers and Painted and Slate-throated Whitestarts. Glistening endemic Red-headed Tanagers were much appreciated, and other goodies included gaudy Mountain Trogons, Arizona Woodpecker, the boldly marked White-striped Woodcreeper, Hutton's Vireo, Mexican Chickadee, Brown Creeper, musical Brown-backed Solitaires, sneaky Spotted and Brown-throated Wrens, and Yellow-eyed Juncos. At an attractive area of flowers, we found a female Bumblebee Hummingbirds buzzing around at close range, and several smart Blue-throated Mountaingems amongst the common White-eared Hummingbirds. We then moved up and birded the now quiet road (the new toll road has sucked away most of the traffic) and found many more warblers, and our only Bridled Titmice of the tour as well as Steller's Jays, Black-headed Siskins and our first Pine Flycatcher. We spent the rest of the day exploring areas at slightly lower elevations. Here, flower banks held numerous Berylline Hummingbirds and our first Rufous-capped Warbler, and we were soon face to face with our first Colima Pygmy Owl. Other goodies included the subtle Greenish Elaenia, the endemic Grey-crowned Woodpecker, our first Military Macaws and a showy pair of Rusty Sparrows. After an excellent hour or two watching these and a variety of colourful buntings, grosbeaks and warblers, we once again retired to our base.



A female Bumblebee Hummingbird and a Colima Pygmy Owl from the Durango Highway (Pete Morris)

The following day, we went high again, this time pausing at a cliff where the rare Sinaloa Martin is known to breed. We were not disappointed, as before long we were watching seven of these poorly-known, wonderful hirundines in the scope. A little higher we found ourselves staring at a superb pair of Hooded Grosbeaks, a very welcome surprise, and some more expected Rufous-capped Brush-Finches. A cracking start to the day, we then made our way to the famous Barranca Rancho Liebre. The highlight here was when yet more Tufted Jays lead us to a roosting Stygian Owl which we were able to scrutinize at length – cool! The supporting cast was good too. A Russet Nightingale-Thrush gave great views, more colourful warblers included Golden-browed, Crescent-chested and Hermit Warblers, and the fluorescent grey-cheeked race of Red Warbler (as well as many of those seen the previous day) were admired, and we also got fantastic views of Flame-coloured



It doesn't get much better than this! Stygian Owl along the Durango Highway (Pete Morris)

Tanagers and some great looks at the very special Green-striped Brush-Finch. We took lunch nearby in some beautiful cool pine-oak forest, seeing yet more Tufted Jays, brush finches and nightingale-thrushes! In the afternoon we explored another track through what looked like poor habitat. However, as is often the case in Mexico, good birds soon appeared. Most surprising was a male Hooded Warbler, but equally interesting were several Violet-crowned Hummingbirds, our first Godman's Euphonias and Rufous-backed Thrushes, more Golden Vireos and a good variety of migrants.

Our final morning on the Durango Highway saw us exploring areas at lower altitudes. Again it was a productive morning. Magnificent Military Macaws cruised over on numerous occasions, and we were pleased to eventually track down the rare and elusive Five-striped Sparrow. Orange-fronted Parakeets and Red-billed Pigeons were numerous, a couple of Colima Pygmy Owls showed well and were mobbed by Golden-crowned Emeralds (including a stunning male), Broad-billed and Cinnamon Hummingbirds, and a male Calliope Hummingbird. Flocks of noisy Mexican (Yellow-winged) Caciques and Black-throated Magpie-Jays were much in evidence, numerous Nashville Warblers made their way through the trees, and other new species included gorgeous Russet-crowned Motmots, the sturdy Ivory-billed Woodcreeper and another lovely Black-capped Vireo.

We then embarked on the rather long and relatively tedious drive to San Blas, although with the nearly completed toll road, it's a quicker and easier journey than it once was! Stops en route yielded our first Collared Doves, a recent colonist that seems to be spreading rapidly, and having arrived at San Blas, we decided to have a first attempt at Rufous-necked Wood Rail. This proved to be a great decision, as three paraded around us, giving unparalleled views – a great start to our time at San Blas.

San Blas was our base for the next few nights, and one could not wish for a better base than our friendly, family-run hotel. With great rooms, a pool and an incredible restaurant, losing weight here was not an option as the cuisine was absolutely superb! San Blas is noted for its rich bird life due to the variety of habitats present, which vary from open country and scrub to tropical forest, swamps, mangroves and shrimp ponds. The following morning we explored a track which weaved in and out of forest patches and took us alongside several swampy areas. Bird activity was high and overall we recorded a good number of species. We began with a lively and entertaining group of Elegant Quails, which were certainly one of the highlights, but the supporting cast was pretty impressive and included a smart Bare-throated Tiger Heron, unexpected Muscovy Ducks, Crane and Common Black Hawks, Elegant and Citreoline Trogons, some very obliging Mexican Parrotlets, colourful Rose-throated Becards, Willow and the range-restricted White-throated Flycatcher, and Painted and



A couple of crackers from San Blas: Rufous-necked Wood Rail and a Spotted Rail (Pete Morris)

our first Blue Bunting. An obliging Ferruginous Pygmy Owl pulled in a few warblers, and the local insects kept us on our toes! A quick check of the shrimp ponds revealed huge numbers of ducks and waders, including some smart American Avocets.

After a cracking lunch and a well-earned siesta, we set off that afternoon for an enjoyable boat trip into the mangroves. Once again, it turned out to be a fantastic trip. We encountered an excellent variety of waterbirds including some meaningful sightings of Anhingas, several smart Bare-throated Tiger Herons, plenty of bizarre-looking Boat-billed Herons, Snail Kites (a recent colonist here), a trio of Mangrove Cuckoos, daytime Northern Potoo and Lesser Nighthawk, and, much to our delight, a superb Spotted Rail. As the light began to fade, we rounded the trip off with some amazing views of several weird-looking Northern Potoos in the spotlight!

The following day saw us venturing to the cool pine-oak forests of Cerro de San Juan. We arrived early and were very soon watching some striking male Mexican Woodnymphs, another endemic and our prime target here. A little higher we paused to watch lovely Spotted Wrens and added Say's Phoebe and Savanna Sparrow to our ever growing lists. A longish wander through the forests was then strangely quiet, though with perseverance, we did manage to find some goodies amongst the by now more familiar species, including a pair of Dickey's (Audubon's) Orioles, a singing Rusty-crowned Ground Sparrow, noisy Green Jays, and, after much effort, a smart pair of Grey-collared Becards. A break for a rather pleasant picnic was enlivened by the presence of numerous impressive White-naped Swifts, a nice claw-back as we'd failed to find them further north! The journey down yielded more Mexican Woodnymphs but not much more and we made our way back to San Blas and sacrificed ourselves to the insects for a couple of hours! A few birds were present including a smart Merlin and several Cinnamon-rumped Seedeaters, but it was generally a little quiet and we made our way back for more gastronomic delights.

The following day, we began in great style as we had a Mottled Owl fixed in the spotlight before we'd even started the van! We then visited another forested area, and had another fabulous morning. Top of the highlights were some amazing fluorescent Rosy Thrush-Tanagers that teased us at first and then showed brilliantly! By now, we were doing so well that there were few new birds to look for, but



The amazing Northern Potoo at San Blas (Pete Morris)

we did find a fabulous and much-wanted Collared Forest Falcon, plenty of parrots including dozens of Mexican Parrotlets feeding cryptically in Cecropias and flyover Lilac-crowned Parrots, several Red-crowned Ant-Tanagers, Bullock's Orioles and an Orange-billed Nightingale Thrush. We also managed another look at the wetlands, enjoying the large numbers of birds present which included good numbers of Long-billed Dowitchers and Stilt Sandpipers.

We spent the afternoon exploring another birdy (and insecty!) area. We began with some superb Clapper Rails (soon to be Ridgway's Rails) which earned a well-deserved round of applause! We then moved on to another area where both Cinnamon-rumped Seed eaters and Stripe-headed Sparrows were common, and other goodies here included our first Solitary Sandpiper, a couple of smart Grey-crowned Yellowthroats, and several Orchard Orioles.

We had one final morning to enjoy San Blas area. We began the day watching a gang of San Blas Jays right on cue, feeding alongside Mexican Caciques, Russet-crowned Motmots and Citreoline Trogons. An obliging Least Flycatcher was educational, and we also had a close encounter with a juvenile Collared Forest Falcon. We then paused at a small rocky estuary where we were delighted to find a confiding Surfbird that was just moulting into summer plumage. This essentially completed our San Blas birding, and we made our way back to the hotel for one final lavish breakfast before leaving our wonderful hospitality behind.

It was then a fairly tedious drive to Ciudad Guzman, though we did stop close to San Blas to twitch a Snow Goose! We arrived at Ciudad Guzman in time for a spot of birding at the local marshes. Here the water levels were far higher than usual, though over the course of two (or three for the persistent duckers) afternoon visits, we found a number of goodies. The main highlight at the marshes were the huge flocks of icterids, which included many thousands of Yellow-headed Blackbirds, as well as smaller numbers of Bicolored (the local form of Red-winged) Blackbirds. We also eventually found a few Mexican Ducks (the local form of Mallard), Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Wilson's Snipe, a spin-



The stunning Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo was definitely one of our favourites (Pete Morris)

ning Wilson's Phalarope, a Golden-fronted Woodpecker, a couple of Bewick's Wrens, Curve-billed Thrasher, Loggerhead Shrike, American Pipits, our first Canyon Towhees, and a couple of fine endemic Abeille's Orioles.

However, the main reason for our stay in Ciudad Guzman was to visit the forested slopes of Volcan de Fuego and Volcan de Nieve along less than smooth mountain tracks. Early starts were the order of the day here due to the numerous nightbirds that occur and we were richly rewarded for our not inconsiderable efforts, as a Stygian Owl, a cute pair of Whiskered Screech Owls, stunning Eared Poorwills and Buff-collared Nightjars and Mexican Whip-poor-will all posed in the spotlight. Beginning at the highest altitudes, we were delighted that a key species, the piebald Aztec Thrush, was present in good numbers. Some fine Crested Guans were a great bonus and the vocal Chest-



A stunning Buff-collared Nightjar, Eared Poorwill (by Andre D'Penha) and Whiskered Screech Owl on Volcan de Fuego (Pete Morris)

nut-sided Shrike-Vireos were another major prize. In these higher forests, the flower banks attracted Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercers, and were alive with hummers, including Green Violetears and Magnificent and Broad-tailed Hummingbirds. Russet Nightingale Thrushes hopped down the paths, Cordilleran Flycatchers and Red Warblers showed well, a tiny Golden-crowned Kinglet flared his crest, a Pygmy Nuthatch sang from the top of a pine, noisy Grey-barred Wrens joined mixed flocks, and Grey-breasted Wood Wrens and attractive Collared Towhees sang from the undergrowth. In the lower elevation oak forests some diligent searching revealed West Mexican Chachalacas, the recently split/re-named Transvolcanic Jay, Black-eared Bushtits, the elusive but stunning Slaty Vireo and a couple of much-appreciated Dwarf Vireos. On the lightly forested lower slopes we eventually found a group of attractive Banded Quails as well as finding other new species including the attractive Buff-breasted Flycatcher.

After our third morning on the volcanoes then made our way up to Colima. This allowed us to visit the nearby La Cumbre that afternoon where we first found some stunning Black-chested Sparrows and amazing Orange-breasted Buntings as well as a vocal trio of Sclater's Wrens and White-throated Magpie-Jays. As the sun slipped down, we nibbled on our picnic dinners, supped a Tecate, and, after dusk, we soon found the chunky endemic Balsas Screech Owl fixed firmly in the beam, rounding the day off admirably.

On our final day in the Colima area we still had some unfinished business to do, and most of us hauled ourselves up the volcanoes for one final time. We were almost immediately rewarded with the elusive Long-tailed Wood Partridge, a pair of which gave excellent views at close range. Job done! We still had some time to seek out our only Mountain Pygmy Owl of the tour, a Smoky Brown Woodpecker and an excellent covey of Banded Quails as well as many more familiar species. Meanwhile, Jon took the remainder of the group back to La Cumbre where more views of the sparrows and buntings were much enjoyed, as was a hearty breakfast!

Our drive to Barra de Navidad was punctuated with a stop at Manzanillo Power Station (once we'd established a huge new port necessitated a change of route!). Here, flocks of Elegant Terns entertained, as did a couple of fine, breeding-plumaged Franklin's Gulls. A nearby estuary held a huge



The subtle Flammulated Flycatcher (Pete Morris)

number of wetland birds, including a couple of American Herring Gulls (but still no Gadwall) and it was then time to make our way to Barra de Navidad and our first margaritas at Ramon's!

The following morning we visited Barranca El Choncho which once again produced the goodies. A number of new species included a fabulous Laughing Falcon, a showy Louisiana Waterthrush, the endemic Flammulated Flycatcher, a cute White-bellied Wren, several Olive Sparrows and a brief Plain-capped Starthroat. Other goodies that we'd previously seen included an amazing Black-capped Vireo, several San Blas Jays, and colourful Orange-breasted Buntings. That afternoon we visited a large area of marshes adjacent to Manzanillo Airport. Here more new birds obliged including a superb pair of Spot-breasted Orioles and singing Ruddy-breasted Seedeaters. As usual however, the Ruddy Crakes teased us from the tall reeds, and despite much effort, things were looking bleak for this most difficult species. And then, we struck success as we had three tiny Ruddy Crakes parading in front of us (and with fewer insects than predicted!) and smiles rapidly spread through the group and talk of margaritas and whales ensued!

We spent our final morning along the Playa de Oro Road, and once again 'Orni' was smiling on us! Another Flammulated Flycatcher was joined by a superb male Red-breasted Chat, and before long we had superb Lilac-crowned Parrots teed up in the scope! Further on, Orange-breasted Buntings became abundant, and we took some time to peer out to sea to enjoy the large numbers of white-headed Brewster's Brown Boobies offshore.

The morning had really put the icing on the cake, bringing to a conclusion yet another successful Western Mexico tour. It had been a great adventure through the land of 'topes' and margaritas! Another Western Mexico tour complete, we could once again feel we had done this magnificent birding destination proud. Packed full of endemics, sunshine and great food, that's our Western Mexico tour. Only recommended for people not on a diet, and who can cope with high volumes of quality birds!



Last morning highlights on the Playa de Oro Road: Red-breasted Chat and Lilac-crowned Parrot (Pete Morris)



The stunning Balsas Screech Owl - one of the ten species of owl seen well! (Pete Morris)

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were only recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered 'special' birds for some other reason (e.g. it is only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; it is difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted-range and may in future be treated as a full species).

Conservation threat categories and information are taken from *Threatened Birds of the World*, BirdLife International's magnificent book on the sad status of the rarest 10% of the world's avifauna, and updates on the BirdLife website: <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/home>

(E)= Endangered, **(V)** = Vulnerable, **(NT)** = Near Threatened.

For polytypic species, the subspecies seen on the tour, where known, is placed in parentheses at the end of the species comment. Generally, species listed with trinomials are not currently split by the IOC.

For the purposes of the tour report, I often refer to the main part of the tour (i.e. not including the Baja extension) as 'the mainland'.



Western Grebes showed well on Baja again! (Pete Morris)

Black-bellied Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis* Seen at La Paz and a few sites on the mainland [*fulgens*].

Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor* One at Ciudad Guzman Marshes and a few at Las Brisas, Manzanillo.

Snow Goose *Chen caerulescens* A single 2cy bird on a pond near to San Blas was successfully twitched!

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata* Several seen around San Blas where they seem to be increasing.

American Wigeon *Anas americana* c5 at La Paz Sewage Works were the only ones.

Mexican Duck ♦ *Anas diazi* Eventually, 7 seen well in the Ciudad Guzman Marshes by the persistent duckers!

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* First seen at the Estero San Jose. Common on the mainland too.

Cinnamon Teal *Anas cyanoptera* First seen at La Paz Sewage Works. Also seen at Ciudad Guzman [*septentrionalium*].

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* First seen at the Estero San Jose and common on the mainland too.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* Only seen on Baja, at the Estero San Jose and at La Paz.

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis* First seen at the Estero San Jose. A few on the mainland too.

Redhead *Aythya americana* First seen at the Estero San Jose. The c40 on the sea off La Paz were noteworthy!

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* A female at the Estero San Jose was the only one.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* A few seen at the Estero San Jose. Also a few near Mazatlan.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* First seen near to La Paz. A few seen on the mainland too [*rubida*].

Rufous-bellied Chachalaca ♦ *Ortalis wagleri* First seen near to Mazatlan, but most common in the San Blas area.

West Mexican Chachalaca ♦ *Ortalis poliocephala* Many in Colima and Jalisco. First seen well on Volcan de Fuego.

Crested Guan *Penelope purpurascens* Good views of 1 on Volcan de Nieve and 2 more on Volcan de Fuego [*purpurascens*].

Long-tailed Wood Partridge ♦ *Dendrortyx macroura* After many attempts, great views of a pair at Volcan de Fuego [*striatus*].

Elegant Quail ♦ *Callipepla douglasii* Great views of several at San Blas. Others heard in the area [nominate].

California Quail ♦ *Callipepla californica* A single near to Los Barriles, and also seen at San Antonio de la Sierra [*achrusteria*].

Banded Quail ♦ *Philortyx fasciatus* Seen very well on the lower slopes of Volcan de Fuego on two dates.

Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus* Just a few. First seen at Ciudad Guzman Marshes.

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* First seen at the Estero San Jose. Also seen at Ciudad Guzman [nominate].

Eared Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* Some nice breeding plumaged birds near La Paz, and a few near Mazatlan [*californicus*].

Western Grebe ♦ *Aechmophorus occidentalis* Great views of c8 at the Estero San Jose [nominate].

Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus* A few distantly over the rocks at Mazatlan and Playa de Oro [*mesonauta*].

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana* Reasonably common, especially around San Blas.

American White Ibis *Eudocimus albus* First seen near to La Paz. Also common on the mainland, especially at San Blas.

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi* First seen at La Paz. Also common on the mainland, especially around San Blas.

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja* First seen near Mazatlan. Also several around San Blas.

Bare-throated Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma mexicanum* c5 seen well at San Blas.

Boat-billed Heron *Cochlearius cochlearius* c10 seen well at San Blas. Amazing birds [zeledoni].



The unique Boat-billed Heron was much appreciated by all (Pete Morris)

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* First seen at La Paz and several on the mainland [hoactli].

Yellow-crowned Night Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* Seen well at San Blas and at Manzanillo Airport Marshes [bancrofti].

Green Heron *Butorides virescens* Two forms seen: *frazari* at La Paz and nominate on the mainland.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* First seen at the Estero San Jose and then fairly common throughout...

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias* First seen on Baja, also widespread in small numbers on the mainland [nominate].

American Great Egret *Ardea [alba] egretta* First seen on Baja, also widespread in small numbers on the mainland [nominate].

Reddish Egret *Egretta rufescens* (NT) A few seen in La Paz, and one near San Blas for Jon.

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor* First seen in La Paz and widespread in small numbers on the mainland [occidentalis].

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* First seen in La Paz. Also widespread in small numbers on the mainland.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula brewsteri* First seen at the Estero San Jose. Also widespread on the mainland [brewsteri].

American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* Good numbers at La Paz, San Blas and Ciudad Guzman.

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* Common on the coasts of Baja and on the mainland [californicus].

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens* Common on the coasts of Baja and on the mainland.

Blue-footed Booby *Sula nebouxii* Seen off La Paz, Mazatlan, San Blas and the Manzanillo area.

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster* See note.

Brandt's Cormorant ♦ *Phalacrocorax penicillatus* Best were the breeding-plumaged birds near Los Barriles.

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* Common at several sites on the mainland [mexicanus].

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus* Some cracking breeding-plumaged birds at Estero San Jose [albociliatus].

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga* Small numbers. First seen at San Blas [leucogaster].

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* Perhaps the most common and widespread species on the tour [nominate].

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* Very common on the mainland.

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* First seen on Baja and a few seen on the mainland [carolinensis].



This inquisitive Zone-tailed Hawk was not popular with the local Northern Raven (Pete Morris)

White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus* Several seen around Ciudad Guzman [*majusculus*].
Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus* First seen at San Antonio de la Sierra, and c4 more seen on the mainland [*velox*-group].
Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii* A few seen. The first was a juv along the Panuco Road.
Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis* A few seen at San Blas and Manzanillo Airport Marshes. A recent colonist [*major*].
Crane Hawk *Geranospiza caerulescens* A few seen well in the San Blas area and one perched at Playa de Oro [*nigra*].
Common Black Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus* A few around San Blas and a pair on the way to Ciudad Guzman [nominate].
Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris* A single seen perched along the Playa de Oro Road [*griseocauda*].
Grey Hawk *Buteo plagiatus* Several, first noted along the Escopama Estuary Road, Mazatlan. Several juvs seen.
Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus* One seen by Jon and some of the group at Cerro de San Juan.
Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus* Fairly common and widespread with dark and light morph adults seen well [*fuliginosus*].
Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus* Several seen well throughout. Spectacular views in the Sierra de la Laguna.
Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis* Two forms seen: *suttoni* on Baja and *hadropus* on the mainland.
Ruddy Crane ♦ *Laterallus ruber* Brilliant views of 3 at Manzanillo Airport Marshes. A real highlight.
Clapper Rail ♦ *Rallus longirostris* See note.



'Round of Applause' Rail! This Clapper Rail at San Blas may become a Ridgway's Rail in the future (Pete Morris)

Rufous-necked Wood Rail ◇ *Aramides axillaris* Stunning views of 3 at the pool in Matanchen Bay near San Blas!

Sora *Porzana carolina* One seen well at the Estero San Jose. Also seen at San Blas and Ciudad Guzman.

Spotted Rail ◇ *Pardirallus maculatus* Superb views of one on the boat trip at San Blas. A pleasant surprise [*insolitus*].

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinicus* Just one on the boat trip at San Blas.

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata* First seen at the Estero San Jose. Fairly common on the mainland [*cachinnans*].

American Coot *Fulica americana* First seen at the Estero San Jose and fairly common on the mainland [nominate].

Limpkin *Aramus guarauna* Three on the boat trip at San Blas were the only ones [*dolosus*].

American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus* First seen in the bay at La Paz. Also a pair in Mazatlan [nominate].

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus* Seen at La Paz and common at several sites on the mainland [nominate].

American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana* c120 in the bay at La Paz, and seen at several sites on the mainland.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* First seen in the bay at La Paz. Also a few at San Blas.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* c120 along the Escopama Estuary Road and a few at San Blas.

Wilson's Plover *Charadrius wilsonia* Just two seen, in the bay at La Paz [*beldingi*].

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus* First seen at La Paz Sewage Works. Also several on the mainland.

Northern Jacana *Jacana spinosa* A handful seen. First seen at San Blas [*gymnostoma*].

Wilson's Snipe *Gallinago delicata* A single in a ditch at Ciudad Guzman Marshes.

Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus* Seen briefly and heard by Jon at a couple of sites.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* Good numbers at La Paz and San Blas amongst others.

Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa* First seen at La Paz, including some pale birds, and a few also around La Paz [nominate].



Above, waders in La Paz: Western Willets, Marbled Godwits, Long-billed Curlews and Hudsonian Whimbrels. Below, Western Sandpiper and Greater Yellowlegs (Pete Morris)



Hudsonian Whimbrel *Numenius [phaeopus] hudsonicus* Seen at several sites. Not yet split by the IOC.

Long-billed Curlew *Numenius americanus* First seen in the bay at La Paz. A few also around San Blas.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* First seen at La Paz Sewage Works. Several on the mainland too.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* First seen in the bay at La Paz. Several on the mainland too.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* Just a couple seen well at San Blas, 23/3. Assumed to be nominate?

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* A single adult at La Paz Sewage Works was a surprise.

Wandering Tattler *Tringa incana* A single on rocks off Mazatlan was coming into breeding plumage.

Western Willet *Tringa [semipalmata] inornata* Seen in the bay at La Paz, and at several sites on the mainland.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* First seen at the Estero San Jose. Also seen at several sites on the mainland.

Surfbird *Aphriza virgata* Excellent views of one coming into summer plumage at Aticama in Matanchen Bay.

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri* First seen well near to Mazatlan, and also seen at a few other sites.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* Seen at Baja and at several sites on the mainland.

Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus* Up to 30 seen at San Blas.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* A single, still in winter plumage, seen well at Ciudad Guzman Marshes.

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger* First seen in the bay at La Paz. Also one near Mazatlan and c30 at Manzanillo [nominate].

Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* A few at the Estero San Jose and one near Mazatlan.

Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla* Seen on Baja and at several sites on the mainland [*megalopterus*].



California Gull, Heermann's Gull and Yellow-footed Gulls all allowed close scrutiny (Pete Morris)

Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan* Good views of 2 adults at Manzanillo Power Station outflow.

Heermann's Gull ♦ *Larus heermanni* (NT) First seen in La Paz. Also great views at Mazatlan, San Blas and Manzanillo.

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis* First seen in La Paz. Also a few seen around San Blas.

California Gull *Larus californicus* Common on Baja and the mainland coast. See note.

Western Gull ♦ *Larus occidentalis* A single 2cy seen in the large flock of California Gulls at the Estero San Jose.

Yellow-footed Gull *Larus livens* First seen (a 2cy) at Los Barriles, and then common in La Paz; many smart adults.

American Herring Gull *Larus smithsonianus* Two apparent 2cy birds seen at the estuary at Las Brisas, Manzanillo.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* Several, first seen along the Escopama Estuary Road, Mazatlan [vanrossemij].

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* First seen in the bay at La Paz. Also seen at several sites on the mainland.

American Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus* Seen at La Paz and at several sites on the mainland [nominate].

Elegant Tern *Thalasseus elegans* (NT) Cracking views at several sites, including pink-hued, red-billed adults.



Gorgeous Elegant Terns were present at several sites, whilst Black Skimmers and Ring-billed Gulls were less widespread (Pete Morris)

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* A 2cy at La Paz, and common at Manzanillo Power Station outflow [nominate].

Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri* Three adults seen in the bay at La Paz.

Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon) *Columba livia* 'feral' Introduced and common!

Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata* Two forms: *vioscae* on Baja and nominate on the mainland.

Red-billed Pigeon ♦ *Patagioenas flavirostris* Fairly common. First seen along the Panuco Road, Durango Highway.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* A write-in and recent introduction that seems to have spread rapidly!

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura* Common on Baja and on the mainland [*carolinensis*-group].

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica* Common on Baja and on the mainland [*mearnsi*].

Inca Dove *Columbina inca* Quite common but skittish! First seen at Santa Lucia along the Durango Highway.

Common Ground Dove *Columbina passerina* Common on Baja and on the mainland [*pallascens*].

Ruddy Ground Dove *Columbina talpacoti* Seen at San Blas and in Colima and Jalisco. A very dull race [*eluta*].

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi* Common at many sites with several great views [*angelica*].

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris* Common. First seen in San Blas.

Lesser Ground Cuckoo ♦ *Morococcyx erythropygus* (H) Sadly, only heard at La Cumbre and Playa de Oro [*mexicanus*].

Greater Roadrunner *Geococcyx californianus* Three seen very well near Los Barriles, and another in La Paz.

Lesser Roadrunner ♦ *Geococcyx velox* One seen briefly near Mazatlan, and a couple heard at Volcan de Fuego.

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana* Fairly common on the mainland. First seen at San Blas [*mexicana*].

Mangrove Cuckoo ♦ *Coccyzus minor* Great views of three on the boat trip at San Blas.

Western Screech Owl ♦ *Megascops kennicottii* (H) Sadly, only heard in the Sierra de la Laguna, Baja [*xantusi*].

Balsas Screech Owl ♦ *Megascops seductus* (NT) Great views of one at La Cumbre, Colima, 27/3.

Whiskered Screech Owl ♦ *Megascops trichopsis* Brilliant views of a pair (1 rufous and 1 grey) on Volcan de Fuego [nominate].

Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus* Excellent views of a pale roosting bird at La Paz [*elachistus*].

Mottled Owl *Strix virgata* Great views of one by the hotel at San Blas [*squamulata*].

Mountain Pygmy Owl ♦ *Glaucidium gnoma* Great views of one eventually at Volcan de Fuego.



Two more of the 'nightbirds' seen. Mountain Pygmy Owl at Volcan de Fuego and Lesser Nighthawk (Pete Morris)

Baja Pygmy Owl ♦ *Glaucidium hoskinsii* A total of 3 seen very well in the Sierra de la Laguna.

Colima Pygmy Owl ♦ *Glaucidium palmarum* See note.

Ferruginous Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum* A few seen and more heard. Best views were in the scope at San Blas.

Elf Owl ♦ *Micrathene whitneyi* One was spotlighted at close range in the Sierra de la Laguna [*sanfordi*].

Stygian Owl ♦ *Asio stygius* See note [*lambi*].

Northern Potoo *Nyctibius jamaicensis* c8 seen superbly well on the boat trip at San Blas [*lambi*].

Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis* Best was the roosting bird on the boat trip at San Blas [*texensis*].
Pauraque *Nyctidromus albigollis* Only seen briefly a couple of times, first at San Blas [*yucatanensis*].
Eared Poorwill ♦ *Nyctiphrynus mcleodii* Great views of a pair at on Volcan de Fuego, stunner [nominate].
Buff-collared Nightjar ♦ *Antrostomus ridgwayi* Best were the stunning views on Volcan de Fuego [nominate].
Mexican Whip-poor-will ♦ *Antrostomus arizonae* Good spotlight views of one on Volcan de Fuego [nominate].
Chestnut-collared Swift *Streptoprocne rutila* Several seen along the Escopama Estuary Road, Mazatlan [*griseifrons*].
White-naped Swift ♦ *Streptoprocne semicollaris* Excellent views of plenty over La Noria, Cerro de San Juan.
Vaux's Swift *Chaetura vauxi* Best views were over the El Floripondio Road, Volcan de Nieve [nominate].
White-throated Swift *Aeronautes saxatalis* Several seen over Volcan de Fuego [nominate].
Green Violetear *Colibri thalassinus* Several skulkers at the top of the El Floripondio Road, Volcan de Nieve [nominate].
Golden-crowned Emerald ♦ *Chlorostilbon auriceps* Best was the superb male along the Panuco Road, Durango Highway.
Broad-billed Hummingbird ♦ *Cynanthus latirostris* Quite common. First seen at Santa Lucia [*magicus*].
Mexican Woodnymph ♦ *Thalurania ridgwayi* (VU) Brilliant views at Cerro de San Juan, including some fine males.
Cinnamon Hummingbird *Amazilia rutila diluta* Two forms seen: *diluta* in the north and nominate in the south.



Cinnamon Hummingbird, the endemic Mexican Woodnymph, and the fantastic Xantus's Hummingbird - a Baja endemic (Pete Morris)

Violet-crowned Hummingbird ♦ *Amazilia violiceps* Great views of a few at Santa Lucia, Durango Highway [elliott].

Berylline Hummingbird ♦ *Amazilia beryllina* Fairly common, first seen at Santa Lucia, Durango Highway [viola].

Blue-throated Mountaingem ♦ *Lampornis clemenciae* Seen very well on the Durango Highway [nominate].

Amethyst-throated Mountaingem ♦ *Lampornis amethystinus* (LO) A single briefly on Volcan de Nieve [nominate].

Xantus's Hummingbird ♦ *Basilinna xantusii* Plenty in the Sierra de la Laguna and at 'El Chorro'. Cracking endemic.

White-eared Hummingbird ♦ *Basilinna leucotis* Common at altitude. First seen along the Durango Highway.

Magnificent Hummingbird ♦ *Eugenes fulgens* A few seen well at Volcan de Nieve [nominate].

Plain-capped Starthroat ♦ *Helioaster constantii* A single very briefly at Barranca El Choncho [pinicola].

Costa's Hummingbird ♦ *Calypte costae* Best were the males in the desert just north of Los Barriles.

Bumblebee Hummingbird ♦ *Atthis heloisa* A female seen very well along the Durango Highway [margarethae].

Broad-tailed Hummingbird ♦ *Selasphorus platycercus* A few seen well on the Colima Volcanoes.

Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus* Just a few, the first, a fine male, at Santa Lucia, Durango Highway.

Calliope Hummingbird ♦ *Selasphorus calliope* A fine male seen well along the Panuco Road, Durango Highway.

Citreoline Trogon ♦ *Trogon citreolus* Quite common. First seen well at San Blas [nominate].



Splashes of colour were provided by species such as Green Kingfisher, Russet-crowned Motmot and Citreoline Trogon (Pete Morris)

Elegant Trogon *Trogon elegans* Several seen well. First seen along the Panuco Road, Durango Highway [ambiguous].

Mountain Trogon ♦ *Trogon mexicanus* Two forms: *clarus* on the Durango Highway and nominate on the Colima Volcanoes.

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana* A few around San Blas where especially common on the boat trip.

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon* First seen at the Estero San Jose. Also good numbers on the mainland.

Russet-crowned Motmot ♦ *Momotus mexicanus* Seen along the Panuco Road and others around San Blas [nominate].

Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus* Seen along the Durango Highway and on the Colima Volcanoes [formicivorus].

Baja Woodpecker ♦ *Melanerpes [formicivorus] angustifrons* Common in Baja's sierras. Not yet split by IOC.

Golden-cheeked Woodpecker ♦ *Melanerpes chrysogenys* Nominate in the north, *flavinuchus* in the south.

Gila Woodpecker ♦ *Melanerpes uropygialis* Common on Baja. First seen at the Estero San Jose [brewsteri].

Golden-fronted Woodpecker *Melanerpes aurifrons* A male seen well at the Ciudad Guzman Marshes.

Ladder-backed Woodpecker *Picoides scalaris* Two forms: *lucasanus* in Baja; *sinaloensis* on the mainland.

Arizona Woodpecker ♦ *Picoides arizonae* A few seen. First seen on the Durango Highway [fraterculus].

Smoky-brown Woodpecker *Picoides fumigatus* One seen well on Volcan de Fuego [sanguinolentus].

Grey-crowned Woodpecker ♦ *Colaptes auricularis* Great views of one along the Durango Highway, others heard.

Red-shafted Flicker *Colaptes auratus* One seen briefly on Volcan de Nieve [mexicanus].

Gilded Flicker ♦ *Colaptes chrysoides* Quite common on Baja [nominate].

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus* A few heard. First seen at San Blas [scapularis].

Pale-billed Woodpecker ♦ *Campephilus guatemalensis* Several heard, best views at La Bajada [nelsoni].



Some of the cracking woodpeckers seen (left to right): Grey-crowned Woodpecker, Pale-billed Woodpecker and Golden-cheeked Woodpecker (Pete Morris)

Northern Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway* Widespread throughout the tour in small numbers.

Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans* Best was the one scoped at Barranca El Choncho [chapmani].

Collared Forest Falcon ♦ *Micrastur semitorquatus* Great views of an adult and a juv in the San Blas area [nasos].

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* See note.

Merlin *Falco columbarius* One seen at La Paz Sewage Works and another seen well at San Blas [nominate].

Bat Falcon *Falco ruficularis* Excellent views of one at Barranca El Choncho [petoensis].

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* See note.

Military Macaw ♦ *Ara militaris* (VU) Seen very well at a couple of sites along the Durango Highway. Stunners.

Orange-fronted Parakeet ♦ *Eupsittula canicularis* Seen at several sites. First seen along the Panuco Road [clarae].

Mexican Parrotlet ♦ *Forpus cyanopygius* Quite common around San Blas. Great views feeding on Cecropia fruits [nominate].



Tiny Mexican Parrotlets were easily lost in the cecropias due to their amazing camouflage! (Pete Morris)

Lilac-crowned Amazon ♦ *Amazona finschi* (VU) Seen poorly at La Bajada, then brilliant views at the Playa de Oro Road.
Ivory-billed Woodcreeper ♦ *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster* Several seen well. First seen along the Panuco Road [*mentalis*].
White-striped Woodcreeper ♦ *Lepidocolaptes leucogaster* Great views along the Durango Highway [*umbrosus*].
Green Elaenia *Myiopagis viridicata* Several seen and heard. First seen along the Durango Highway [*jaliscensis*].
Northern Beardless Tyrannulet *Camptostoma imberbe* Fairly common. First seen along the La Petaca Road.
Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans* First seen at 'El Chorro' (north of Miraflores) and seen in La Paz [*semiater*].
Say's Phoebe *Sayornis saya* A single seen at La Noria, Cerro de San Juan .
Tufted Flycatcher *Mitrephanes phaeocercus* Fairly common in higher altitude forests [*tenuirostris*].
Greater Pewee *Contopus pertinax* Fairly common with a sweet song. First seen along the Durango Highway [nominate].
Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii* A few around San Blas where first seen along the Lower Singayta Track.
White-throated Flycatcher *Empidonax albigularis* Great views of 2 along the Lower Singayta Track, San Blas [*timidus*].



Two of the more interesting Empidonax flycatchers: White-throated Flycatcher and Buff-breasted Flycatcher (Pete Morris)

Least Flycatcher *Empidonax minimus* One seen very well and heard near to San Blas.

Hammond's Flycatcher *Empidonax hammondi* A few seen. Tiny bill, long wings which are frequently flicked.

American Dusky Flycatcher *Empidonax oberholseri* A few seen. First seen along the La Petaca Road.

American Grey Flycatcher *Empidonax wrightii* Seen well in the Sierra de la Laguna, at San Antonio de la Sierra.

Pine Flycatcher ◇ *Empidonax affinis* Singles seen along the Durango Highway, and at Volcan de Fuego [*pulverius*].

Pacific-slope Flycatcher ◇ *Empidonax difficilis* Two forms: *cineritius* seen on Baja, and nominate on the mainland.

Cordilleran Flycatcher ◇ *Empidonax occidentalis* Common on the Durango Highway and the Colima Volcanoes [nominate].

Buff-breasted Flycatcher ◇ *Empidonax fulvifrons* Several seen well on the lower slopes of Volcan de Fuego.

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus* Several on Baja and on the mainland [*flammeus*].

Vermilion-crowned Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis* Common and widespread from San Blas on [*hesperis*].

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus* Very common. First seen around Mazatlan [*derbianus*].

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus* One at the Estero San Jose and very common on the mainland [*satrapa*].

Cassin's Kingbird *Tyrannus vociferans* Good numbers at several sites on Baja and the mainland. Often in groups.

Thick-billed Kingbird *Tyrannus crassirostris* Quite common, distinctive voice. First seen near Mazatlan [*pompalis*].

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer* Quite common on the mainland [*olivascens*].

Ash-throated Flycatcher *Myiarchus cinerascens* Two forms: *pertinax* common on Baja; nominate around Colima.

Nutting's Flycatcher ◇ *Myiarchus nuttingi* See note.



Nutting's Flycatcher (left) and Ash-throated Flycatcher, two of the four confusing *Myiarchus* species seen (Pete Morris)

Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus magister* A few seen around San Blas and Barra de Navidad.

Flammulated Flycatcher ◇ *Deltarhynchus flammulatus* Great views at Barranca El Choncho and at Playa de Oro.

Bright-rumped Attila *Attila spadiceus* Common by voice and several seen. First seen at Santa Lucia [*pacificus*].

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata* Several seen at various sites. First seen at San Blas [*griseiceps*].

Grey-collared Becard ◇ *Pachyramphus major* A pair seen very well at Cerro de San Juan after some searching [*uropygialis*].

Rose-throated Becard *Pachyramphus aglaiae albiventris* Plenty seen well after our first at San Blas [*albiventris*].

Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus* Seen well at Ciudad Guzman Marshes and briefly at Volcan de Fuego [*mexicanus*].

Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo ◇ *Vireolanius melitophrys* Brilliant views of a couple of pairs on the Colima Volcanoes.

Slaty Vireo ◇ *Vireo brevipennis* Good views of one on Volcan de Fuego. Another stunner!

Bell's Vireo *Vireo bellii* (NT) Good views of several on Baja and the mainland. Difficult to know which forms.

Black-capped Vireo ◇ *Vireo atricapilla* (VU) Three males seen, the best at Barranca El Choncho. Cracker!

Dwarf Vireo ◇ *Vireo nelsoni* Great views of two males on Volcan de Fuego.

Grey Vireo ◇ *Vireo vicinior* Excellent views of a singing bird in the desert just north of Los Barriles.

Plumbeous Vireo *Vireo plumbeus* A few seen. First seen at San Blas [*plumbeus-group*].



The endemic form of Cassin's Vireo on Baja is fairly bright and well-marked (Pete Morris)

Cassin's Vireo *Vireo cassinii* See note.

Hutton's Vireo ♦ *Vireo huttoni* See note.

Golden Vireo ♦ *Vireo hypochryseus* Common, seen well at a number of sites. First seen at Santa Lucia [nominate].

Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus* See note.

San Blas Jay ♦ *Cyanocorax sanblasianus* Two forms seen well: nominate near San Blas; *nelsoni* around Barra de Navidad.

Purplish-backed Jay ♦ *Cyanocorax beecheii* Excellent views of several just north of Mazatlan.

Tufted Jay ♦ *Cyanocorax dickeyi* (NT) Brilliant views of several groups on the upper reaches of the Durango Highway.

Green Jay *Cyanocorax luxuosus* Only seen at Cerro de San Juan, and at La Bajada [*speciosus*].

Black-throated Magpie-Jay ♦ *Calocitta colliei* Common but spectacular. First seen near to Mazatlan.

White-throated Magpie-Jay *Calocitta formosa* Seen at La Cumbre and at the start of the Playa de Oro Road [nominate].

Steller's Jay *Cyanocitta stelleri* A few seen well along the Durango Highway [*diademata*].

Transvolcanic Jay ♦ *Aphelocoma ultramarina* Several seen on Volcan de Fuego. A thin split? [*colimae*].

California Scrub Jay ♦ *Aphelocoma californica* Common on Baja, especially in the Sierra de la Laguna [*hypoleuca*].

Sinaloa Crow ♦ *Corvus sinaloae* Very common until the day we left San Blas. First seen in Mazatlan.

Northern Raven *Corvus corax* Common on Baja and several seen on the mainland including an inquisitive bird [*clarionensis*].

Grey Silky-flycatcher ♦ *Ptiliogonys cinereus* Fairly common. First seen at Santa Lucia, Durango Highway.

Phainopepla ♦ *Phainopepla nitens* Several, the first of which was in the Sierra de la Laguna [*lepida*].

Bridled Titmouse *Baeolophus wollweberi* A few seen well along the Durango Highway [nominate].

Mexican Chickadee ♦ *Poecile sclateri* Several seen along the Durango Highway and at the Colima Volcanoes.

Verdin ♦ *Auriparus flaviceps* Fairly common on Baja, with many seen well [*lamprocephalus*].

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* Just one, at the Ciudad Guzman Marshes [nominate].

Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor* Just one, at the Ciudad Guzman Marshes.

Mangrove Swallow *Tachycineta albilinea* Common and widespread in suitable habitat. First seen near Mazatlan.

Violet-green Swallow *Tachycineta thalassina* First seen in La Paz and also plenty on the mainland [*brachyptera*].



We were fortunate to have great views of Sinaloa Martins again (Pete Morris)

- Sinaloa Martin** ♦ *Progne sinaloae* (VU) Great views of seven (four males) on the cliffs on the Durango Highway.
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* Common and widespread.
- Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* First noted at San Blas, then common for the rest of the tour [*erythrogaster*].
- American Cliff Swallow** *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* A few migrants noted. First seen near Mazatlan.
- American Bushtit** *Psaltiriparus minimus* See note.
- Golden-crowned Kinglet** *Regulus satrapa* A single displaying male seen well at Volcan de Nieve [*aztecus*].
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet** *Regulus calendula* Common and widespread throughout [nominate].
- Grey-barred Wren** ♦ *Campylorhynchus megalopterus* Fairly common at upper levels on the Colima Volcanoes [nominate].
- Sclater's Wren** ♦ *Campylorhynchus humilis* Great views of three singing birds at La Cumbre, Colima.
- Spotted Wren** ♦ *Campylorhynchus gularis* Seen a couple of times, with best views at Cerro de San Juan.
- Cactus Wren** *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus* Common on Baja, even hopping around the pool [*affinis*].
- Rock Wren** *Salpinctes obsoletus* A single seen well just north of Los Barriles [nominate].
- Canyon Wren** *Catherpes mexicanus* Great views of 1 high in the Sierra de la Laguna [*croizati*]. A few others heard.
- Marsh Wren** *Cistothorus palustris* (H) Only heard at the Estero San Jose.
- Bewick's Wren** *Thryomanes bewickii* Good views of a couple at the Ciudad Guzman Marshes [*eremophilus*].
- Happy Wren** ♦ *Pheugopedius felix* Pretty common. First seen at Santa Lucia, Durango Highway [*pallidus*].
- Sinaloa Wren** ♦ *Thryophilus sinaloa* Pretty common. First seen near to Mazatlan [*pallidus*].
- Northern House Wren** *Troglodytes [aedon] aedon* A few seen. First seen along the La Petaca Road.
- Brown-throated House Wren** ♦ *Troglodytes [aedon] brunneicollis* Seen especially well along the Durango Highway.
- White-bellied Wren** ♦ *Uropsila leucogastra* Great views at Barranca El Choncho and at Playa de Oro [*pacifica*].
- Grey-breasted Wood Wren** *Henicorhina leucophrys* Common by voice and a few seen on the Colima Volcanoes [*pacifica*].
- Blue-grey Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila caerulea* Pretty common and widespread [*obscura*-group].
- California Gnatcatcher** ♦ *Polioptila californica* Several seen well in the desert just north of Los Barriles [*margaritae*].
- Black-capped Gnatcatcher** ♦ *Polioptila nigriceps* A pair seen near Mazatlan and 1 along the Playa de Oro Road [nominate].
- Pygmy Nuthatch** ♦ *Sitta pygmaea* Great views along the El Floripondio Road, Volcan de Nieve [*brunnescens*].
- White-breasted Nuthatch** *Sitta carolinensis* See note.
- Brown Creeper** *Certhia americana* Pretty common, especially along the Durango Highway [*albescens*].

Grey Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis* (LO) One briefly for Jon near to Mazatlan. Possibly a state first?!

Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos* A few seen on Baja and on the mainland.

Grey Thrasher ♦ *Toxostoma cinereum* Several seen well at various sites on Baja. Great songster.

Curve-billed Thrasher *Toxostoma curvirostre* First seen well at the Ciudad Guzman Marshes [*occidentale*].

Blue Mockingbird ♦ *Melanotis caerulescens* Fairly common, first seen at Santa Lucia. Another good songster.

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* A common introduction on Baja these days!

Aztec Thrush ♦ *Ridgwayia pinicola* Brilliant views of up to c100 in total on the Colima Volcanoes! A cracker [*maternalis*].

Eastern Bluebird *Sialia sialis* Pretty common on the mainland. First seen at Santa Lucia [*fulva*].

Brown-backed Solitaire *Myadestes occidentalis* Common in the highlands with a great jangling song [nominate].

Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus aurantirostris* Many heard and a few seen inc. on the road at La Bajada.

Russet Nightingale-Thrush ♦ *Catharus occidentalis* Two forms: *lambi* on the Durango Highway; *fulvescens* on the volcanoes.



Russet Nightingale-Thrush along the Durango Highway (above) and Grey Thrasher from Baja (below) (Pete Morris)



Hermit Thrush *Catharus guttatus* A single seen well in the Sierra de la Laguna [*auduboni*-group].

White-throated Thrush *Turdus assimilis* A few seen. Most common at Cerro de San Juan [*lygrus*].

Rufous-backed Thrush ◇ *Turdus rufopalliatus* Small numbers at several sites. First seen at Santa Lucia [nominate].

American Robin *Turdus migratorius* Six or so in flight at Volcan de Fuego [*propinquus*-group].

San Lucan Robin ◇ *Turdus [migratorius] confinis* Great views of several in the Sierra de la Laguna. Smart birds!

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* A common introduction [nominate].

Olive Warbler ◇ *Peucedramus taeniatus* A few seen and heard. Best views were along the Durango Highway [*jaliscensis*].

Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens* First seen at La Paz Sewage Works and a few at Ciudad Guzman Marshes.

Hooded Grosbeak ◇ *Hesperiphona abeillei* Great views of a pair along the Durango Highway. A very nice surprise [*pallida*].

House Finch *Haemorhous mexicanus* Two forms: *ruberrimus* on Baja; *coccineus* at Cerro de San Juan etc

Lesser Goldfinch *Spinus psaltria* See note.

Pine Siskin *Spinus pinus* c4 seen at the top of the El Floripondio Road, Volcan de Nieve [*macroptera*].

Black-headed Siskin ◇ *Spinus notata* Smart, and plenty seen. First seen along the Durango Highway [*forreri*].

Godman's Euphonia ◇ *Euphonia [affinis] godmani* Distinctive voice. First seen at Santa Lucia.

Louisiana Waterthrush *Parkesia motacilla* One seen well at Barranca El Choncho. Smart bird.

Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis* Pretty common. First seen on the boat trip at San Blas.

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia* Plenty seen on Baja and on the mainland.

Crescent-chested Warbler ◇ *Oreothlypis superciliosa* Two forms: *sodalis* at the Durango; *palliata* around Colima.

Orange-crowned Warbler *Leiothlypis celata* Western birds were common on Baja and at some sites on the mainland.

Nashville Warbler *Leiothlypis ruficapilla* Fairly common. First seen along Durango Highway.

Grey-crowned Yellowthroat *Geothlypis poliocephala* Great views of a couple near to San Blas [nominate].

MacGillivray's Warbler ◇ *Geothlypis tolmiei* Skulkers, but in the end, plenty were seen well.

Belding's Yellowthroat ◇ *Geothlypis beldingi* (EN) Great views at the Estero San Jose and at 'El Chorro' [nominate].

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas* First seen at the Estero San Jose. Plenty more seen well on the mainland.

Hooded Warbler *Setophaga citrina* Great views of an unexpected male at Santa Lucia along the Durango Highway.



Colourful warblers from the Durango Highway: Red Warbler; Painted Whitestart, Grace's Warbler and Red-faced Warbler (Pete Morris)

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla* Common towards the end of the trip. First seen at San Blas.

Tropical Parula *Setophaga pitaiyumi* Several. First seen along the Escopama Estuary Road, Mazatlan [*pulchra*].

Magnolia Warbler *Setophaga magnolia* A female in the Sierra de la Laguna was a pleasant surprise!

American Yellow Warbler *Setophaga aestiva* Common towards the end of the trip. First seen at San Blas.

Mangrove Warbler *Setophaga petechia* Two forms seen: *castaneiceps* in La Paz; *rhizophorae* at San Blas.

Audubon's Warbler ◇ *Setophaga auduboni* Fairly common on Baja and throughout the mainland.

Grace's Warbler ◇ *Setophaga graciae* Great views of several on the Durango Highway [*yaegeri*].

Black-throated Grey Warbler *Setophaga nigrescens* Common on Baja and plenty seen on the mainland.

Townsend's Warbler ◇ *Setophaga townsendi* Regular in flocks along the Durango Highway and on the Colima Volcanoes.

Hermit Warbler ◇ *Setophaga occidentalis* Just a few. First seen at the Barranca Rancho Liebre.

Fan-tailed Warbler ◇ *Basileuterus lachrymosus* Great views of several. First seen at Santa Lucia [*tephrus*].

Rufous-capped Warbler ◇ *Basileuterus rufifrons* Great views of several. First seen along the La Petaca Road [*dugesii*].

Golden-browed Warbler ◇ *Basileuterus belli* A cracker, seen along the Durango Highway and on the Colima Volcanoes.

Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina pusilla* Common throughout, though difficult to know which form.

Red-faced Warbler ◇ *Cardellina rubrifrons* Great views of several of these crackers on the Durango Highway.

Red Warbler ◇ *Cardellina rubra* See note.

Painted Whitestart ◇ *Myioborus pictus* Great views of several on the Durango Highway [nominate].

Slate-throated Whitestart *Myioborus miniatus* Common at higher elevations. Often in mixed flocks [nominate].

Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens* A few seen well. First seen along the La Petaca Road, Durango Highway.

Mexican Cacique ◇ (Yellow-winged C) *Cacicus melanicterus* Common. First seen well along the Panuco Road.

Spot-breasted Oriole ◇ *Icterus pectoralis* Brilliant views of a pair at Manzanillo Airport Marshes.



Spot-breasted Orioles were much appreciated at Manzanillo (Pete Morris)

Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius* Common around San Blas and Barra de Navidad.

Hooded Oriole ◇ *Icterus cucullatus* Common on Baja. First seen at the Estero San Jose.

Black-vented Oriole ◇ *Icterus wagleri* Just a single along the Lower Singayta Track, San Blas [nominate].

Scott's Oriole ◇ *Icterus parisorum* Seen well in the Sierra de la Laguna, at San Antonio de la Sierra.

Dickey's Oriole ♦ *Icterus graduacauda* Great views of a pair at ckm11 at Cerro de San Juan [*nayaritensis*].

Black-backed Oriole ♦ *Icterus abeillei* Brilliant views of two males at the Ciudad Guzman Marshes.

Bullock's Oriole *Icterus bullockii* Quite a few seen. First seen at La Bajada. Good males were in short supply.

Streak-backed Oriole *Icterus pustulatus* Pretty common and widespread on the mainland [*microstictus*].

Bronzed Cowbird *Molothrus aeneus* A few seen. First seen at La Noria, Cerro de San Juan.

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater* First seen at La Paz and also common at many sites on the mainland.

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus* First seen on Baja, and seen at a few sites on the mainland [*phoeniceus*-group].

Bicolored Blackbird ♦ *Agelaius [phoeniceus] gubernator* Good views of small numbers at the Ciudad Guzman Marshes.

Brewer's Blackbird *Euphagus cyanocephalus* Seen at La Paz Sewage Works and at the Ciudad Guzman Marshes.

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus* Very common on the mainland.

Western Meadowlark *Sturnella neglecta* Great views of a singing bird at La Paz Sewage Works. A 'write-in'!

Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* Incredible numbers at the Ciudad Guzman Marshes!



The vast flocks of Yellow-headed Blackbirds around Ciudad Guzman were an amazing spectacle (Pete Morris)

Lincoln's Sparrow *Melospiza lincolnii* Quite a few seen. First seen along the La Petaca Road, Durango Highway.

White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys* c10 seen well at La Paz Sewage Works [*oriantha*].

Yellow-eyed Junco ♦ *Junco phaeonotus* Several at high elevation. First seen along the Durango Highway [nominat].

Baird's Junco ♦ *Junco [phaeonotus] bairdi* At least 10 seen, some incredibly well, high in the Sierra de la Laguna.

Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis* Seen at Cerro de San Juan, and near San Blas.

Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina* First seen in the Sierra de la Laguna. Just a handful on the mainland.

Clay-coloured Sparrow ♦ *Spizella pallida* Only seen on the way back from 'El Chorro' (north of Miraflores).

Lark Sparrow ♦ *Chondestes grammacus* Seen on Baja and on the lower slopes of Volcan de Fuego [*strigatus*].

Five-striped Sparrow ♦ *Amphispiza quinquestrata* Great views on the lower part of the Durango Highway [*septentrionalis*].

Black-throated Sparrow ♦ *Amphispiza bilineata* Seen well in the desert just north of Los Barriles [*bangsi*].

Stripe-headed Sparrow *Peucaea ruficauda* Common at several sites. First seen near to San Blas [*acuminata*].



The endemic Black-chested Sparrow showed superbly well at La Cumbre. Below, California Towhee (Pete Morris)



Black-chested Sparrow ♦ *Peucaea humeralis* Great views of several at La Cumbre, Colima.
Rufous-crowned Sparrow *Aimophila ruficeps* Two forms seen: *sororia* on Baja; *simulans* on the Durango Highway.
Rusty Sparrow ♦ *Aimophila rufescens* Great views of a pair along the La Petaca Road, Durango Highway [nominate].
Green-tailed Towhee ♦ *Pipilo chlorurus* Only seen in the desert just north of Los Barriles on Baja.
Collared Towhee ♦ *Pipilo ocai* Great views of a pair on Volcan de Nieve, and a few others heard on the volcanoes [*alticola*].
Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus* Two forms seen: *magnirostris* on Baja; *griseipygius* on the Durango Highway.
Canyon Towhee ♦ *Melospiza fusca* Seen at the Ciudad Guzman Marshes and on Volcan de Fuego [*perpallida*].
California Towhee ♦ *Melospiza crissalis* Many seen well on Baja [*albigula*].

Rusty-crowned Ground Sparrow ♦ *Melospiza kieneri* Best was the singing bird at Cerro de San Juan [*kieneri*].
Olive Sparrow ♦ *Arremonops rufivirgatus* Great views of a few at Barranca El Choncho [*sumichrasti*].
Green-striped Brush Finch ♦ *Arremon virenticeps* Great views of a few on the Durango Highway. Also heard on the Volcans.
Rufous-capped Brush Finch ♦ *Atlapetes pileatus* Best views were along the Durango Highway [*dilutus*].
Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer ♦ *Diglossa baritula* A few seen well at Volcan de Nieve [nominate].
Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina* Several. First seen at Santa Lucia, Durango Highway [*splendens*].
Cinnamon-rumped Seedeater ♦ *Sporophila [torqueola] torqueola* Particularly common near to Chachalilla, San Blas.
Ruddy-breasted Seedeater *Sporophila minuta* A couple at Manzanillo Airport Marshes [*parva*].
Rosy Thrush-Tanager ♦ *Rhodinocichla rosea* Brilliant views of a pair at La Bajada. Others heard and seen briefly [*schistacea*].
Flame-coloured Tanager ♦ *Piranga bidentata* Best views were at the Barranca Rancho Liebre, Durango Highway [nominate].
Hepatic Tanager ♦ *Piranga hepatica* Quite common. First seen along the Durango Highway [nominate].
Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra* A few seen. First noted low down on Volcan de Fuego.
Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana* First seen in the Sierra de la Laguna. Also a few seen on the mainland.
Red-headed Tanager ♦ *Piranga erythrocephala* A cracker, first seen along the Durango Highway [*candida*].
Red-crowned Ant Tanager *Habia rubica* Quite a few seen well at La Bajada [*rosea*].
Northern Yellow Grosbeak *Pheucticus chrysopheplus* Just a few. First seen along the La Petaca Road [nominate].
Black-headed Grosbeak *Pheucticus melanocephalus* Several on Baja and common on the mainland.
Red-breasted Chat ♦ *Granatellus venustus* Brilliant views of a male along the Playa de Oro Road. Superb [nominate]!
Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis* Two forms seen: *igneus* on Baja; *sinaloensis* near Mazatlan.
Pyrrhuloxia ♦ *Cardinalis sinuatus* Great views of two males in the desert just north of Los Barriles [*peninsulae*].
Greyish Saltator *Saltator coerulescens* ...or sal tart or! Quite common and a pleasant songster [*plumbiceps*].
Blue Bunting ♦ *Cyanocompsa parellina* A few seen. Best was a fine male along the Playa de Oro Road [*indigotica*].
Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea* Common. First seen at Santa Lucia, Durango Highway.
Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea* (LO) A single seen low down on Volcan de Fuego.
Lazuli Bunting ♦ *Passerina amoena* Common on Baja and a few also seen on the mainland.
Varied Bunting ♦ *Passerina versicolor* Quite common though can be elusive ;-) [*dickeyae*].
Painted Bunting ♦ *Passerina ciris pallidior* (NT) Some fine males at San Blas were the best [*pallidior*].
Orange-breasted Bunting ♦ *Passerina leclancherii* Stunners. Common at La Cumbre and around Barra de Navidad [*grandior*].



The gorgeous Orange-breasted Bunting was plentiful (Pete Morris)

MAMMALS



A cute White-tailed Antelope-Squirrel from Baja California (Pete Morris)

Black-tailed Jack Rabbit *Lepus californicus* A few were seen in the deserts of Baja California.

Collie's Squirrel *Sciurus colliae* I believe the grey and white squirrels in the higher pine-oak forests were this species.

Mexican Fox Squirrel *Sciurus nayaritensis* See Note.

White-tailed Antelope-Squirrel *Ammospermophilus leucurus* Great views of this terrestrial beast on Baja.

Grey Fox *Urocyon cinereoargenteus* (NL) Seen by some at Volcan de Fuego.

White-nosed Coati *Nasua narica* A couple of brief sightings for some.

Californian Sealion *Zalophus californianus* Some seen on the rocks off Mazatlan.

Humpback Whale *Megaptera novaeangliae* Many were active offshore at Los Barriles.

Common Bottle-nosed Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus* A few dolphins off San Blas appeared to be this species.

Mule Deer *Odocoileus hemionus* Several deer on Baja were the endemic form of this species.

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus* A male seen along the Panuco Road, Durango Highway.



Brewster's Brown Boobies off the Playa de Oro Road (Pete Morris)

NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

The most up to date referenced taxonomic list referred to in the Tour Report is that of the IOC World Bird Names. (Gill, F and Donsker, D Eds). 2014. IOC World Bird Names v4.1. Available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*

We saw two quite different forms. Off La Paz and Mazatlan we saw *etesiac*, Colombian Brown Booby, whilst off Playa de Oro we saw the attractive pale-crowned form *brewsteri*, Brewster's Brown Booby.

Clapper Rail *Rallus longirostris*

Brilliant views of 3+ along the Shrimp Pond Road at San Blas. Clapper and King Rails may well be split into several species in the future with the form that we saw, *yumanensis*, being treated as part of the species Ridgway's Rail *R. obsoletus*.

California Gull *Larus californicus*

It is likely that we saw two forms with the large, brutish birds being wintering birds of the larger form *alberta*, and the smaller birds being nominate. There is of course overlap, and thus we can only speculate on the more extreme examples.

Colima Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium palmarum*

We had a very good year for this species, with several individuals being seen well, and many more heard. We likely saw two subspecies. In the north, the form *oberholseri* was first seen along the La Petaca Road, Durango Highway, whilst the nominate form was first seen at Cerro de San Juan.

Stygian Owl *Asio stygius*

We enjoyed great views of a roosting bird, that was being mobbed by Tufted Jays, at the Barranca Rancho Liebre. This was fantastic, and we also went on to spotlight a calling bird on the El Floripondio Road, Volcan de Nieve. A great showing...

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*

We saw two forms of this widespread species. On Baja, we saw several individuals of the form *peninsularis* the San Lucas Kestrel, whilst on the mainland the nominate form was widespread in small numbers.



A few of the many attractive wrens seen on the trip: Cactus Wren; Canyon Wren and Spotted Wrens (Pete Morris)

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

A large, pale juvenile seen at La Paz Sewage Works was most likely a northern migrant, presumably of the form *tundrius*, whilst at San Blas, an adult bird with a broad black moustachial was more likely of the form *anatum*.

Nutting's Flycatcher *Myiarchus nuttingi*

This species was relatively common and widespread, and easily detected by voice. The form concerned, *inquietus*, differs substantially from birds further south, and may well be a separate species.

Cassin's Vireo *Vireo cassinii*

We saw two distinct forms. In the Sierra de la Laguna, at San Antonio de la Sierra, we saw the form *lucasanus*, the San Lucan Vireo, which was quite distinctive, almost like a Blue-headed Vireo. On the mainland we saw a few examples of the nominate form.

Hutton's Vireo *Vireo huttoni*

We saw three forms of this species: The form *cognatus*, part of the Pacific Hutton's Vireo group was seen by those that ventured high in the Sierra de la Laguna, at San Antonio de la Sierra. On the mainland, the form seen along the Durango Highway was most likely *stephensi* whilst on the Colima Volcanoes the form seen was assumed to be *pacificus*. Both of these forms are part of the Interior Hutton's Vireo group.

Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus*

The racial identity of the Warbling Vireos that we saw was far from straightforward! In the Sierra de la Laguna, at San Antonio de la Sierra, we saw singing birds which were most likely of the form *victoriae* though some could have been migrants. This form is colloquially known as Cape Warbling Vireo. On the mainland we saw numerous migrants, most of which are likely to have been in the *swainsoni* group of subspecies – Western Warbling Vireo.

American Bushtit *Psaltirparus minimus*

We saw two very different forms. On Baja, we saw Grinda's Bushtit [*grindae*] which was common high in the Sierra de la Laguna, at San Antonio de la Sierra. On the mainland we saw Jouy's Bushtit [*julus*] which was common at Volcan de Fuego. This latter form is part of the Black-eared Bushtit.

White-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta carolinensis*

We saw two forms. On Baja, we saw Pacific White-breasted Nuthatch [*lagunae*] in the Sierra de la Laguna, at San Antonio de la Sierra. On the mainland we saw Western White-breasted Nuthatch [*mexicana*] which was seen on the lower slopes of Volcan de Fuego.

Lesser Goldfinch *Spinus psaltria*

We saw two very different forms. On Baja, we saw *hesperophila* which shows a green back whilst on the mainland we saw the dark-backed *psaltria*.

Red Warbler *Cardellina rubra*

We saw two very different forms. Along the Durango Highway we saw the lovely Grey-cheeked Red Warbler [*melanauris*] at the Barranca Rancho Liebre, whilst around Colima we saw the fabulous White-cheeked Red Warbler [nominate], several of which were seen well at the top of the El Floripondio Road, Volcan de Nieve.

Mexican Fox Squirrel *Sciurus nayaritensis*

The red-bellied squirrels that we saw seem to be this species, though it is also possible that we saw Mexican Grey Squirrel *S. aureogaster*. Without a decent field guide it is very difficult!



This cracking Collared Forest Falcon was much-appreciated (Pete Morris)



The superb Aztec Thrush made it into the top six. We saw perhaps as many as 100! (Pete Morris)

APPENDIX 1

TOP 6 BIRDS OF THE TOUR

- 1st TUFTED JAY
- 2nd LONG-TAILED WOOD PARTRIDGE
- 3rd CHESTNUT-SIDED SHRIKE-VIREO
- 4th Orange-breasted Bunting
- 5th Aztec Thrush
- 6th Spotted Rail



Black-throated Magpie-Jay made it into some top sixes (Pete Morris)



This Surf Scoter gave great views and made it into some top sixes (Pete Morris)