



This stunning male Eared Quetzal was the bird of the tour (Dani Lopez-Velasco).

WESTERN MEXICO

20 MARCH – 7 APRIL 2022

LEADER: DANI LOPEZ-VELASCO

Our well-established Western Mexico tour, which has been so very well fine-tuned over the years by Pete, is a delightful celebration of the many fantastic and often colourful and gorgeous specialities and endemics of this much underrated and little-known part of the New World. Mexico sadly struggles with a rather bad reputation, but on our visit we stay far away from troubled areas and enjoy good food, great hospitality and spectacular landscapes. We visited the scenic states of Baja California, Sinaloa, Nayarit, Jalisco and Colima and had great looks at almost all of the goodies. The bird of the trip was the extremely attractive and very rare Eared Quetzal that we saw so very well up in Barranca Rancho Liebre. However the superbly attractive Tufted Jays on the same area up along the Durango Highway also scored very well, as did some fantastic Aztec Thrushes in Nevado de Colima. Stunning Orange-breasted Buntings were much appreciated, as was a posing male Red-breasted Chat. The truly extraordinary Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo allowed great views and a skulking male Rosy Thrush-Tanager gave us a great time. The shy Aztec Rail gave unbeatable views, and the always difficult Long-tailed Wood Partridge performed at length. Nobody will forget our smashing encounter with a very confiding Eared Poorwill that sat in the open for tremendous looks. In fact, we did very well for nightbirds as next to more widespread nocturnal species we had eye-ball to eye-ball views of the recently described Cinereous Owl, of the beautiful and very rare in Mexico Northern Saw-whet Owl, of cracking Stygian Owls, of an adorable Balsas Screech Owl, of an angry looking Cape Pygmy Owl, of a minute Elf Owl and of a fabulous Buff-coloured Nightjar. Other memorable species included Black, Least and Wedge-rumped Storm Petrels, Banded and Elegant Quails, Bare-throated Tiger Heron, Boat-billed Heron, Ridgway's and Spotted Rails, Rufous-necked Wood Rail, Greater Roadrunner, Lesser Ground Cuckoo, Northern Potoo, Calliope Hummingbird, Amethyst-throated Mountaingem, Russet-crowned Motmot, Citreoline Trogon, Lilac-crowned Amazon, Flammulated Flycatcher, Grey-collared Becard, Black-capped, Dwarf and Slaty Vireos, Purplish-backed, Transvolcanic and San Blas Jays, Black-throated Magpie Jay, Olive Warbler, the amazing Red Warbler, Golden-browed Warbler, Black-chested Sparrow, Baird's Junco and Varied and Painted Buntings. I think all of us really enjoyed travelling and birding in this magnificent part of our planet.



The incomparable Tufted Jay. One of the best birds in the world!

The tour started at midday at the airport of San José del Cabo, at the extreme southern tip of the 1,600 kmlong Baja California Peninsula. We got organized, enjoyed a tasty seafood lunch in the heat of the day and visited a birdy, reed-lined lagoon, located amidst some fancy hotels and condominiums next to the ocean. The highlight here was without a doubt the endemic Belding's Yellowthroat, which showed extremely well in the waterside vegetation. The yellow eyebrow of the male, its larger size and stouter bill were obvious to discern, especially as we could compare it directly with a migratory Common Yellowthroat. The area surrounding the estuary was completely flooded, but we still saw a few new species, including Cinnamon and Blue-winged Teals, American Coot and Brown Pelican. Several smart Gilded Flickers and lovely Cactus Wrens also showed well. In the late afternoon we drove north through splendid, cactus-studded desert scrub to our cozy hotel in the seaside resort of Los Barriles.



Belding's Yellowthroat.

Long before dawn we were already in the cactus desert of the Sierra La Laguna, where in rather cold conditions we only glimpsed a very skittish Elf Owl. We continued deeper and higher into the sierra and enjoyed a scrumptious al fresco breakfast. We then started our walk up to the higher reaches to get within altitudinal range of the rarely seen and recently split Baird's Junco. Several lovely Xantus's Hummingbirds showed beautifully and we lured into view a Baja Pygmy Owl, which posed for us. While walking up we picked up goodies like Red-tailed Hawk, Band-tailed Pigeon, American Grey and Pacific-slope Flycatchers, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Cassin's and Warbling Vireos, California Scrub Jay, Blue-grey Gnatcatcher, Orange-crowned and Black-throated Grey Warblers, Spotted and California Towhees, Lazuli Bunting and Black-headed Grosbeak. We also observed some attractive Acorn Woodpeckers of the distinctive, very isolated, southern Baja California race *angustifrons* which differs from the more widespread forms by their dark pink eyes! By mid morning we gave one first try at the juncos, lower down than usual, and suprisingly had an instant response. We soon had fabulous views of a pair of Baird's Juncos hopping about at the side of the track. Brilliant, and mission accomplished! At the very same spot we also connected with the uncommon San Lucas Robin. We then walked down while the sun was high above us and ate lunch under some giant aspen trees in a wide river valley. After a bit of a break we walked along the almost dry riverbed and were lucky enough to find a very obliging San Lucas Robin foraging in the tiny stream. We observed this very nice bird at length and although it is still considered a race of American Robin, we all formed our

own ideas about its taxonomic affinities, as this form looks much more like an Eye-browed Thrush than an American Robin... The area also gave us Black Phoebe, Cassin's and Thick-billed Kingbirds, Scott's Oriole, Ladder-backed Woodpecker and Black-and-white and Audubon's Warblers. We then Returned back to town, seeing two Greater Roadrunners on the way. We spent the late afternoon birding near town, seeing California Quail, Pomarine Jaeger, Northern Cardinal, Phainopepla, Verdin and our last Baja California endemic: Grey Thrasher. It sure had been a long but very successful day!



Baird's Junco

Just after dawn we were birding the attractive desert scrub not far from our hotel. One of the first birds to show itself was the uncommon Grey Vireo, which showed very well. We also saw several Gilded Flickers, a couple of Costa's Hummingbirds, a single Loggerhead Shrike, California Gnatcatcher and Black-throated Sparrow. A distant Yellow-footed Gull was also seen on the coast. In the afternoon we drove north to the city of La Paz, where we visited several venues on the coast. The extensive mudflats near the airport held a fantastic assortment of waterbirds and waders as we identified Peregrine Falcon, Northern Harrier, American White Ibis, Yellow-crowned and Black-crowned Night Herons, Tricoloured and Little Blue Herons, Reddish Egret, stately American White Pelicans in breeding attire (sporting the horny growth on the upper mandible), Belted Kingfisher, American Oystercatcher, Grey, Semipalmated and Wilson's Plovers, Marbled Godwit, Hudsonian Whimbrel, Greater Yellowlegs, Long-billed Curlew, Short-billed Dowitcher, Willet, Western and Least Sandpipers, close Yellow-footed, Ring-billed and California Gulls, Black Skimmer and Gull-billed, Royal, Caspian and Elegant Terns. A Mangrove Warbler flitted about in the nearby mangroves, which also held Northern Waterthrush, and some of the group saw a Ridgway's Rail. Nearby we found the smelly sewage works to be quite productive as they held new birds like Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Ruddy Duck, Least and Pied-billed Grebes, American Avocet, White-faced Ibis, Black-necked Stilt, Long-billed Dowitcher, Killdeer, American Avocet, Lesser Yellowlegs, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Merlin, Violet-green Swallow, Lark, Clay-colored and White-crowned Sparrows. In the late afternoon we headed back to Los Barriles, making another stop at our usual owling site. This time we enjoyed terrific views of a confiding Elf Owl, as well as a Western Screech Owl. Excellent!!



Elf Owl, the world's smallest owl!

Next morning we returned to La Paz. We visited the same sites and saw more or less the same birds, but this time everyone managed to see Ridgway's Rail. Other additions to our list included Savannah Sparrow, American Wigeon and Redhead. In the afternoon we took a flight back to Mexico city, where we spent the night.



"San Lucas" Robin and Baja Pygmy Owl.



Laughing Gulls and Elegant and Royal Terns.

Next day we flew to Mazatlan, where we picked up the two new members of the group. Our first outing took us along the coast where we had a great time studying gulls on a beach filled with fishing boats. Next to the many very attractive Heermann's Gulls, we noted Ring-billed, California, 2 American Herring and a Western Gull. Gull overdose! At a viewpoint we checked the famous Booby Rocks where hundreds of Brown and Blue-footed Boobies together with dozens of Magnificent Frigatebirds were roosting. Careful scanning yielded fair looks at several patrolling Red-billed Tropicbirds. In the afternoon we birded an area of scrubby thickets and got to grips with several specialities. Dozens of Sinaloa Crows were about and a group of incredibly gorgeous Purplish-backed Jays could be observed in excellent conditions. Magnificent creatures! And some Black-throated Magpie-Jays also performed. Other interesting species seen included Broad-billed Hummingbird, Short-tailed Hawk, Golden-cheeked Woodpecker, Orange-fronted Parakeet, Happy Wren, Mexican Cacique, Wilson's Warbler, Bullock's, Orchard and Streak-backed Orioles, Cinnamon-rumped Seedeater, Blue Grosbeak, MacGillivray's Warbler and female Painted Buntings. Upon returning to our base a couple of Rufous-bellied Chachalacas crossed the track.

Our full morning in the scrubby woodland near Mazatlan produced some very nice observations. A Ferruginous Pygmy Owl was scoped, Cinnamon Hummingbirds were common, a Cooper's Hawk sat on a branch and a pair of Nutting's Flycatchers sat up for detailed views, while some Sinaloa Wrens sang away only meters from us. We also saw a pair of Black-capped Gnatcatchers in breeding plumage and scoped a very pretty Yellow-breasted Chat. Blue Mockingbird gave excellent views too. Other new birds for the tour included Northern Beardless Tyrannulet, Bell's Vireo and Cinnamon-bellied Saltator. Around midday we drove into the mountains along the famous Durango Highway. After checking in into our rustic, but cozy accommodation at c2,000m altitude, we explored a very nice stretch of pine-oak woodland where we found a party of much-wanted, harlequinesque Tufted Jays. We obtained fantastic views of eight birds sitting and flitting about and really showing off. Much-cherished moments! A couple of roosting Stygian Owls were found, thanks to our local guide Don Santos and his daughter. The scope views of this superb nightbird were out of this world! Other good birds seen included Mountain Trogon, White-striped Woodcreeper, Greater Pewee, Northern Tufted Flycatcher, Mexican Chickadee, Brown Creeper, Brown-backed Solitaire singing its amazing song, Slate-throated and Painted Whitestarts, Grace's, Crescent-chested, Townsend's and Hermit Warblers and Hepatic Tanager.



Purplish-backed Jay near Mazatlan.

We spent next morning birding at the famous Barranca Rancho Liebre, where the birding was very good. A stunning Red Warbler of the grey-cheeked race gave good views in the early morning, alongside a fantastic Red-faced Warbler. Pine Flycatcher, Hutton's Vireo, Golden-browed Warbler and skulking Rufous-capped Brushfinches were all seen. In the late morning we heard a calling Eared Quetzal down the canyon, but unfortunately it was only glimpsed in flight by a couple of us. We then spent a couple of hours waiting for it to show again, but although we heard it a few more times, it sadly it never came close. Meanwhile, a Grey-crowned Woodpecker and more Tufted Jays entertained us. Our walk through some open pine-oak forest in the afternoon produced Arizona Woodpecker, Rivoli's and White-eared Hummingbirds, Blue-throated Mountaingem, Eastern Bluebird, Bright-rumped Attila, Brown-throated House Wren, Russet and Orange-billed Nightingale Thrushes, Yellow-eyed Junco, Lincoln's Sparrow, Plumbeous Vireo, Olive Warbler (an important bird as it is placed in its own family) and a couple of pairs of gaudy Red-headed Tanagers. In the evening we saw Mexican Whip-poor-will, Lesser Nighthawk and a calling Whiskered Screech Owl that refused to show.

A stretch of scrubby dry open was our next venue next morning. We had a marvellous time here as the bushes and trees along our short walk were alive with birds. The highlight of the morning was without a doubt the splendid male Black-capped Vireo that performed so very, very well for us. Although not a Mexican speciality (it also breeds in Texas), this rare species only winters in western Mexico. We were indeed very pleased with the views offered. An endemic Russet-crowned Motmot was scoped in a bare tree crown, several Golden Vireos raised a racket and a Colima Pygmy Owl mobbed by lots of angry passerines was most welcome. Rusty-crowned Ground Sparrow allowed perfect looks, while other new birds included Yellow Grosbeak, Berylline Hummingbird, the lovely Grey Silky-flycatcher, Spotted Wren Virginia's Warbler, Rufous-capped Warbler and Varied Bunting. In the afternoon we paid another visit to the Barranca Rancho Liebre, for one last attempt at the Eared Quetzal. The hopes were not high, but you can never give up. After a bit of a walk we reached the area, and much to our surprise, we soon found an adult male Eared Quetzal perched on a branch, allowing for amazing views. Things only got better, as it wasn't one, but four – a family group – of quetzals that were feeding on a fruiting tree, interacting with each other and calling a lot. Magical moments, and bird of the trip for everyone!! Interestingly, the Eared Quetzal (or Trogon) is the only member of the trogon family which is placed in its own genus: Euptilotis. Very pleased with our success, we went back for a lovely dinner.



Stygian Owl.

Next morning we went to a track through dry woodland at lower elevations that produced several great specialities. Several Military Macaws performed at length. A male Citreoline Trogon gave good views. A Fan-tailed Warbler responded well to its voice and both male and female Golden-crowned Emerald were seen. The raucous calls of Rufous-bellied Chacalacas could be heard all the time, and we also connected with Elegant Trogon and a male Blue Bunting found by Max. We tried hard for Red-breasted Chat, to no avail. In late morning we waved goodbye to the Durango Highway and drove south along a fast toll road to the little town of San Blas. We birded a track through marshy habitat but things were rather quiet. New birds included Mexican Parrotlet in flight, Snail Kite for Bjorn, White-throated Flycatcher and Summer Tanager. During the final hour of the day we explored the famous crocodile ponds. Lots of waders, ducks and other waterbirds inhabited the lagoons, and new birds included Mangrove Swallow, Roseate Spoonbill and Anhinga. Beautiful American Avocets in breeding attire received extra attention and amazing numbers of Stilt Sandpipers adorned the shallows. A few American Crocodiles were dozing about too. We then checked in into our 'home away from home' hotel and had a fantastic dinner.



Next morning we birded the pine-oak forests of Cerro San Juan, situated in the nearby mountains. A rare Grey-collared Becard was found in the early morning, and a pair of Collared Forest Falcons showed superbly. Golden-crowned Warbler was also seen, David found a female Black-throated Blue Warbler, while Bjorn did the same with an Olive-sided Flycatcher. Another Colima Pygmy Owl was seen, as well as Olivaceous Woodcreeper, Black-headed Siskin and Flame-colored Tanager but in spite of a lot of trying, no Mexican Woodnymphs could be found. In the afternoon we paid a visit to a small marshy area in a suburban park in Tepic, where a couple of Spotted Rails gave great views. In the evening we returned to Cerro San Juan, where as soon as it got dark, we were treated to an incredible performance by a cracking Eared Poorwill. Afterwards we were driven up the mountain on a very rough track by a friendly local land owner, hoping to see the rare Cinereous Owl. And luck was on our side again, as we enjoyed fantastic views of a singing bird up on a pine tree. We then had a taco dinner at a small local place by the road, and eventually got back to the hotel, tired but very happy.



A cracking Eared Poorwill.

As the sun was getting up, we found ourselves on a cobblestone track leading through coffee and mango plantations surrounded by semi-humid woodland in the foothills near San Blas. The most impressive experience of the morning was our encounter with a male Rosy Thrush-Tanager. The exceptional rose-pink colour of the male's chest has to be seen to be believed. Although the species is usually quite skulky, we all had fantastic views of it. We finally found a Mexican Woodnymph too – a male- while a pair of Lilac-crowned Amazons was seen briefly. Other birds seen included saw Crested Guan, Lineated Woodpecker, Rose-throated Becard, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Western Tanager and some male Painted Buntings. The afternoon boat trip through the mangroves was a real delight. We observed a couple of Rufous-necked Wood Rails on a muddy edge, found a cooperative, beautifully-patterned immature Bare-throated Tiger Heron and several prehistoric-looking Boat-billed Herons, as well as two Soras and a couple of male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. We retraced our steps while the sun was setting and found two fantastic Northern Potoos and some Pauriques.

On our last full day in the San Blas area we tried to fill some gaps in our list together with local birder Mark Stackhouse. In the early morning we visited a birdy area where our main target was Elegant Quail. We soon

heard them but they refused to show at first. After a while though we finally saw a group of them on the track, which gave excellent views. In the same area, another target, West Mexican Euphonia, showed well. Afterwards we tried for Flamulated Flycatcher at a regular stake-out, but it wasn't around. We then visited a Mexican Hermit lek –the first one ever found–, and spent an hour watching these fantastic hummingbirds calling over and over again. After lunch and a break we visited another area where San Blas Jay was found, alongside Pale-billed Woodpecker.



A fantastic male Rosy Thrush-tanager.

Sadly, the time had come to say goodbye to our gracious and very efficient hosts at San Blas. Our first stop was back at the same marsh in Tepic, and this time we had simply incredible views of the shy Aztec Rail. Next birding place was a lake that held several Clark's Grebes and Mexican Ducks, amongst other things, while the nearby trees hosted Bridled Titmouse. We then drove south along smooth highways, via the busy metropolis of Guadalajara, to the town of Ciudad Guzman. The marshes were alive with birds, including lots of Black-bellied Whistling Ducks and a pair of Fulvous Whistling Ducks. Thousands of Yellow-headed Blackbirds and Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen and we also found a single male Bicolored (Red-winged) Blackbird, as well as a male Black-backed (Abeille's) Oriole, amongst other things.

Our first visit to the forested slopes of the 3,839m high, active Volcan de Fuego (40 eruptions since 1576) started just before dawn with cracking views of a very well-behaved Buff-collared Nightjar and a very tame Whiskered Screech Owl, followed by a Mountain Pygmy Owl. Excellent! Next new bird, while eating breakfast, was West Mexican Chachalaca, followed by Transvolcanic Jay and the always difficult Long-tailed Wood Partridge. We carried on walking, finding two excellent and rare birds side by side: Slaty and Dwarf Vireos. A calling Chestnut-sided Shrike Vireo gave us a hard time but eventually most of us got good views of this cracking species. Green-striped Brushfinch and Collared Towhee both gave excellent views too, as did Smoky-brown Woodpecker, Calliope Hummingbird and American Bushtit. Before lunchtime we put some time at a fruiting tree that had Swainson's, Hermit and White-throated Thrushes attending, while a most-wanted Aztec Thrush flew by for a couple of us. We waited for a long time and had lunch there to see if it would return, but sadly it didn't. After lunch Bernard found us a couple of roosting Mottled Owls, much to Max's delight, while some Grey-barred Wrens entertained us. In the late afternoon we returned back to our hotel and had a sumptuous and well-deserved dinner.



We returned long before dawn to the high slopes of Nevado de Colima, hoping for a very rare nightbird: Northern Saw-whet Owl. At first no calls were heard but just before dawn a saw-whet owl responded and after some tense moments we finally located it sitting on a branch, where it showed very well. After this success, we drove a bit lower down and had breakfast at a very nice spot. Here, the highlight was undoubtedly the large flock of Aztec Thrushes, together with some territorial pairs, that performed so very well. The second best bird of the tour after Eared Quetzal, and one that is far from guaranteed too! Excellent stuff. We spent the rest of the morning birding in the same area, where other highlights included walk-away views of a pair of Long-tailed Wood Partridges, several Red Warbler (of the nominate race with its white auricular patch), Mexican Violetear, Amethyst-throated Mountaingem and another Mountain Pygmy Owl. In the afternoon we did some birding along the road, noting Buff-breasted Flycatcher, American Robin and Max saw a Dickey's (Audubon's) Oriole.



Long-tailed Wood Partridge and Aztec Thrushes.

The following morning found us again at Nevado de Colima. This time no owls were seen, and no Aztec Thrushes were found at yesterday's site. We spent a lot of time searching for Dickey's Oriole, and we finally found a pair at Max's spot. It was then time to drive to the nearby town of Colima. In late afternoon we made our way to the thorn forest of nearby La Cumbre, where we obtained fantastic looks at the very localized, endemic Black-chested Sparrow and the out of this world Orange-breasted Bunting. The male of the latter surely is one of the most beautiful birds in the world! A Whitethroated Magpie-Jay flew over and a party of Sclater's Wrens came in for good looks. A cracking Lesser Ground Cuckoo gave stellar views as well. We then waited for the sun to disappear behind the horizon and after a bit of searching found a terrific Balsas Screech Owl perched only metres away! What a fabulous bird! The dark eyes of this large, localized and well-marked endemic showed very well. A fitting end to another excellent day.



Orange-breasted Bunting.

Next morning we visited a large forested park in the city where we found a pair of Banded Quails, one of the very few remaining new birds for us. We then visited another area where a flock of Lilac-crowned Amazons flew overhead offering pretty decent views. Around midday we said goodbye to the volcanoes and drove towards the harbour town of Manzanillo. A nearby estuary held a number of terns and herons, including some Gull-billed Terns. In the late afternoon we rolled into our lovely hotel in the seaside town of Barra de Navidad.

A stretch of dry, scrubby woodland near the coast was our destination next day. The first bird seen was a brilliant male Red-breasted Chat, which showed extremely well. What a truly stunning bird! Next came White-bellied Wren, and afterwards a Flamulated Flycatcher that played hide and seek for a while before it eventually gave good views to everyone. We also managed to obtain excellent looks at a pair of perched Lilac-crowned Amazons, allowing us to determine the subtle colour of their crowns! Also in the area a large party of San Blas Jays was found, and a pair of Olive Sparrows scurried in the undergrowth. We visited an area of meadows and reedbeds after lunch, but were rather saddened by the lack of water. However, Spot-breasted Oriole showed very well, and we also saw a few Ruddy-breasted Seed eaters.



Red-breasted Chat.

Having seen all possible new birds in the area, we decided to go on an exploratory pelagic trip next morning. The seas were calm and we saw a nice assortment of seabirds, including Black, Least and Wedge-rumped Storm Petrels, Pink-footed and Black-vented Shearwaters, Brown and “Brewster’s” Brown Boobies, Red-billed Tropicbird, Grey and Red-necked Phalaropes, Sabine’s and Franklin’s Gulls and several Olive Ridley Turtles with birds on their backs, including Black and Least Terns and Brown Boobies. We got back to our hotel in time for lunch and then headed to the airport, where this extremely successful and highly enjoyable tour finished.





Lesser Ground Cuckoo and Balsas Screech Owl from La Cumbre.





Aztec Rail and Crescent-chested Warbler



SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

The species names and taxonomy used in the report mostly follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). **IOC World Bird Names**. This list is updated several times annually and is available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>.

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, **DD** = Data Deficient.

BIRDS

Black-bellied Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis* Several encounters with this widespread species.

Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor* Seen at Ciudad Guzman marshes.

Gadwal *Anas strepera* Small numbers of this northern migrant.

American Wigeon *Anas americana* Just a couple of sightings.

Mexican Duck *Anas diazi* This modestly-plumaged endemic showed well at several lakes.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* The most widespread migrant duck.

Cinnamon Teal *Anas cyanoptera* Regular encounters. The drake is a really smart-looking creature.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* Common and widespread.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* Seen at Ciudad Guzman marshes.

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis* A few seen.

Redhead *Aythya americana* (B) One female showed very well in southern Baja California.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* A few observations.

Rufous-bellied Chachalaca *Ortalis wagleri* Very nice views of this vocal species near Mazatlan and at San Blas.

West Mexican Chachalaca *Ortalis poliocephala* Good looks in Colima and Jalisco.

Crested Guan *Penelope purpurascens* Seen well near San Blas.

Long-tailed Wood Partridge *Dendrortyx macroura* Extremely good views on Volcan de Fuego and Nevado Colima.

Elegant Quail *Callipepla douglasii* Great views in San Blas.



California Quail *Callipepla californica* (B) Great views at Baja California Sur.
Banded Quail *Philortyx fasciatus* Excellent views at Colima.
Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus* Several nice observations.
Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* A few sightings only.
Black-necked Grebe (Eared G) *Podiceps nigricollis* Great looks at close range on Baja. A few elsewhere.
Clark's Grebe *Aechmophorus clarkii* Many in a lake near Tepic.
Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus* Several at the Booby Rocks at Mazatlan and at sea off Barra Navidad.
Wood Stork *Mycteria americana* Regular in small numbers.
American White Ibis *Eudocimus albus* Fairly common.
White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi* A handful of sightings. Most birds seen were in non-breeding attire.
Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja* Small numbers were noted at several marshes and lagoons.
Bare-throated Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma mexicanum* Cracking views at San Blas and near Barra de Navidad.
Boat-billed Heron *Cochlearius cochlearius* Very good looks at this unusual species at San Blas.



Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* Fairly common.
Yellow-crowned Night Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* Regular at saltwater marshes.
Green Heron *Butorides virescens* Small numbers.
Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Widespread.
Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias* Regular and stately.
Great Egret (American G E) *Ardea [alba] egretta* Widespread and common.
Reddish Egret *Egretta rufescens* (B) Fantastic looks at this active species at La Paz.
Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor* Common and widespread along the coasts.
Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* Small numbers. The immatures can be a bit confusing.
Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* Regular.
American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* Regular, excellent encounters. Always impressive.
Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* Common along the coasts.
Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens* Many of these kleptoparasites were seen along the coasts.
Blue-footed Booby *Sula nebouxii* Good looks at the Booby Rocks.

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster* Great views at the Booby Rocks and on the pelagic.

Neotropic Cormorant (Olivaceous C) *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* Common and widespread.

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auratus* (B) Small numbers were seen on Baja California.

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga* Best views were had on the San Blas boat trip.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* A common sight all along our route.

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* Another very regularly seen species, but absent on Baja California.

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* A few observations of this smart piscivore.

White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus* One at Ciudad Guzman.

Black Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus tyrannus* (H) A calling bird over the hills behind San Blas.

Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus* A handful of encounters.

Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii* Several nice sightings. Also seen perched.

Northern Harrier *Circus hudsonius* 2 sightings.

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis* A couple were noted.

Common Black Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus* A few seen.

Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris* A single bird seen.

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus* One seen.

Grey Hawk *Buteo plagiatus* 2 observations.

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus* This migrant was seen near San Blas.

Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni* A few near San Blas.

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus* Regular observations. Both pale and dark morphs were seen.

Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus* One observation of this Turkey Vulture imitator.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis* Regular observations.

Ridgway's Rail *Rallus obsoletus* (B) This Clapper Rail split showed well at Baja California Sur.

Aztec Rail *Rallus tenuirostris* Mega views in Tepic.

Rufous-necked Wood Rail *Aramides axillaris* Great looks at this speciality on the San Blas boat trip.

Sora *Porzana carolina* A few lovely sightings.



Spotted Rail *Pardirallus maculatus* Smashing views at Tepic. Really attractive.

Purple Gallinule (American P G) *Porphyrio martinicus* A few seen at San Blas.

Common Gallinule (Laughing G) *Gallinula galeata* Common and widespread.

American Coot *Fulica americana* Regular.

American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus* (B) Several were seen at La Paz.

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus* Common and noisy.

American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana* Many observations.

Grey Plover (Black-bellied P) *Pluvialis squatarola* (B) A few were noted on the Baja California mudflats.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* Fairly common on the mudflats at La Paz.

Wilson's Plover *Charadrius wilsonia* (B) Great looks at several crab-hunting birds near La Paz.

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus* Regular and noisy.

Northern Jacana *Jacana spinosa* Small numbers were observed at several freshwater marshes.

Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus* (B) A few seen at La Paz.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* Regular encounters.

Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa* (B) Scope views of this nice wader at La Paz.

Whimbrel (Hudsonian W) *Numenius [phaeopus] hudsonicus* Regular. A lovely sound.

Long-billed Curlew *Numenius americanus* Small numbers were seen at a couple of sites. Impressive.



Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* Small numbers at several sites.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* Just a few sightings.

Willet (Western W) *Tringa [semipalmata] inornata* Regular. A splendid bird in flight.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* Fairly common. Several birds were seen in breeding plumage.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* (B) Seen at La Paz.

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri* Quite common on mudflats.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* Regular encounters.

Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus* Thousands at San Blas.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* Hundreds off Barra de Navidad.

Red Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius* A handful on the Barra de Navidad pelagic.

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger* (B) A nice flock was resting on the La Paz mudflats.

Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* Regular observations of this dainty gull. Lots at sea near Mazatlan.

Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla* Fairly common.

Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan* A few off Barra de Navidad.

Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini* Many off Barra de Navidad.

Heermann's Gull *Larus heermanni* This very attractive speciality showed well at several sites.

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis* Small numbers were found along the coasts.

California Gull *Larus californicus* Small numbers were seen, often together with the previous species.

Western Gull *Larus occidentalis* One at Mazatlan.

Yellow-footed Gull *Larus livens* (B) This Sea of Cortez endemic showed very well at a couple of sites.

American Herring Gull *Larus smithsonianus* Good looks at two immatures at Mazatlan.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* A few were identified amongst Royal Terns at La Paz and Manzanillo.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* A handful were seen. Always spectacular.

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus* The most common tern of the trip.

Elegant Tern *Thalasseus elegans* (B) Great looks at this beauty at La Paz.

Least Tern *Sternula antillarum* A couple off Barra de Navidad.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* A few off Barra de Navidad.



Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus* Seen at Baja Sur.

Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus* Seen off Barra de Navidad.

Black Storm Petrel *Hydrobates melania* A few seen well off Barra de Navidad.

Least Storm Petrel *Hydrobates microsoma* A couple seen off Barra de Navidad.

Wedge-rumped Storm Petrel *Oceanodroma tethys* One off Barra de Navidad.

Pink-footed Shearwater *Ardenna creatopus* A few off Barra de Navidad.

Black-vented Shearwater *Puffinus opisthomelas* Seen off Barra de Navidad.

Rock Dove (introduced) *Columba livia*

Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata* Small numbers were found in the mountains.

Red-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas flavirostris* Fairly regular.

Eurasian Collared Dove (introduced) *Streptopelia decaocto* Common and widespread. A recent arrival.

Inca Dove *Columbina inca* Small numbers were seen along our route.

Common Ground Dove *Columbina passerina* These tiny doves were regularly seen.

Ruddy Ground Dove *Columbina talpacoti* Much less common than the previous. Usually in more humid areas.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi* Often heard and regularly flushed.

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura* A few observations only.
White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica* Very common and obvious. An often heard sound.
Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris* Small numbers.
Lesser Ground Cuckoo *Morococcyx erythropygus* Mega views at La Cumbre.
Greater Roadrunner *Geococcyx californianus* (B) Good looks at a pair near Los Barriles. A bird with character.



Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana* Only a few were seen.
Western Screech Owl *Megascops kennicottii* (B) Perfect looks at this cutie in the Sierra La Laguna on Baja.
Balsas Screech Owl *Megascops seductus* Mega looks at this endemic beauty near Colima. Wow.
Whiskered Screech Owl *Megascops trichopsis* An obliging bird was seen on Volcan de Fuego.
Cinereous Owl (Mexican Barred O) *Strix sartorii* Great views of this rarity above San Blas. Marvellous!
Mottled Owl *Strix virgata* One showed well at Volcan de Fuego.
Mountain Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium gnoma* Seen well at Volcan de Fuego and Nevado de Colima.
Baja Pygmy Owl (B) (Cape P O) *Glaucidium hoskinsii* (B) One showed well in the Sierra La Laguna.
Colima Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium palmarum* Several sightings.
Ferruginous Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum* Regular and delightful.
Elf Owl *Micrathene whitneyi* (B) Superb views of this tiny nightbird in the Sierra La Laguna.
Stygian Owl *Asio stygius* Great views of 2 roosting birds near our base along the Durango Highway.
Northern Potoo *Nyctibius jamaicensis* Great looks at several on the San Blas boat trip.
Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis* Great views in San Blas.
Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis* Seen very well at San Blas.
Eared Poorwill *Nyctiphrynus mcleodii* Fantastic views of this mysterious species at Cerro San Juan.
Buff-collared Nightjar *Antrostomus ridgwayi* Splendid looks of a sitting bird on Volcan de Fuego.
Mexican Whip-poor-will *Antrostomus arizonae* Good flight views along the Durango Highway.
Vaux's Swift *Chaetura vauxi* Just a few observations.
White-throated Swift *Aeronautes saxatalis* Nice looks at several in the volcanoes.
Mexican Hermit *Phaethornis mexicanus* Cracking looks at lekking males near San Blas.
Mexican Violetear *Colibri thalassinus* Seen at Nevado de Colima.

Golden-crowned Emerald *Chlorostilbon auriceps* Very nice looks at both sexes in the Panuco track.

Broad-billed Hummingbird *Cynanthus latirostris* Regular encounters in the lowlands.

Mexican Woodnymph *Thalurania ridgwayi* Several showed well in the hills above San Blas.

Cinnamon Hummingbird *Amazilia rutila* Regular and easy to see.

Violet-crowned Hummingbird *Leucolia violiceps* Seen well a couple of times.

Berylline Hummingbird *Amazilia beryllina* One of the more common hummers in the hills.

Blue-throated Mountaingem (B-t Hummingbird) *Lampornis clemenciae* Great looks along the Durango Highway.

Amethyst-throated Mountaingem *Lampornis amethystianus* Great views of males at Nevado de Colima.

Xantus's Hummingbird *Basilinna xantusii* (B) This Baja California speciality was seen very well at several sites.

White-eared Hummingbird *Basilinna leucotis* Regular in the mountain forests. Smart looking in good light.

Rivoli's Hummingbird *Eugenes fulgens* A couple of encounters with this recent Magnificent Hummingbird split.

Plain-capped Starthroat *Heliomaster constantii* Seen at San Blas.



Mexican Woodnymph and Mexican Hermit.

Costa's Hummingbird *Calypte costae* (B) Cracking scope studies in the Baja California desert.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird *Selasphorus platycercus* A few sightings in the highlands.

Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus* A couple of presumed females/immature males in the mountains.

Calliope Hummingbird *Selasphorus calliope* A few females and immature males.

Eared Quetzal (E Trogon) *Euptilotis neoxenus* The rarest bird of the tour! MEGA views of a family of 4.

Citreoline Trogon *Trogon citreolus* Many excellent views of this dry woodland Mexican endemic.

Elegant Trogon *Trogon elegans* Regular sightings of this very smart species.

Mountain Trogon *Trogon mexicanus* Several great encounters with this speciality.

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana* A handful of observations.

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata* One sighting.

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon* A few encounters with this northern migrant.

Russet-crowned Motmot *Momotus mexicanus* Great views at lower Durango Highway and Colima.

Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus* Regular and obvious in the highland forests.

Acorn Woodpecker (Baja W) *Melanerpes [formicivorus] angustifrons* (B) Good looks at this Baja speciality.

Golden-cheeked Woodpecker *Melanerpes chrysogenys* Common and very vocal.

Gila Woodpecker *Melanerpes uropygialis* Regular encounters in drier habitat.

Ladder-backed Woodpecker *Picoides scalaris* A nice series of observations.
Hairy Woodpecker *Picoides villosus* A single sighting on Nevado de Colima.
Arizona Woodpecker *Picoides arizonae* Great looks in the Durango Highway pines.
Smoky-brown Woodpecker *Picoides fumigatus* Nice views on the lower slopes of Volcan de Fuego.
Grey-crowned Woodpecker *Colaptes auricularis* A couple of sightings. Endemic to western Mexico.
Gilded Flicker *Colaptes chrysoides* (B) Several very nice observations in the Baja desert.
Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus* One seen.
Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus* A handful seen.
Pale-billed Woodpecker *Campephilus guatemalensis* A couple of excellent encounters. The double "knock".
Northern Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway* Regular. Dawn patrol along the roads!
Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans* (H) Heard near San Blas.
Collared Forest Falcon *Micrastur semitorquatus* Great looks at Cerro San Juan.



American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* Regular. A pretty bird of prey.
Merlin *Falco columbarius* (B) One at La Paz.
Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* A handful seen.
Lilac-crowned Amazon *Amazona finschi* A few near Colima. Great views near Barra de Navidad.
Mexican Parrotlet *Forpus cyanopygius* Nice looks in the San Blas area. Endemic to western Mexico.
Orange-fronted Parakeet *Eupsittula canicularis* Regular.
Military Macaw *Ara militaris* Mega views at the lower Durango Highway.
Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus* Seen at Cerro San Juan.
Ivory-billed Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster* Regular in the lowlands.
White-striped Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes leucogaster* Several were seen in the highland forests.
Greenish Elaenia *Myiopagis viridicata* A couple seen.
Northern Beardless Tyrannulet *Camptostoma imberbe* Fairly common.
Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans* Just a few encounters.
Northern Tufted Flycatcher *Mitrephanes phaeocercus* Fairly common and attractive in the highland forests.
Greater Pewee *Contopus pertinax* Not uncommon in the highland forests. A distinctive call.

Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi* One for Bjorn.

White-throated Flycatcher *Empidonax albigularis* Good looks at two in marshy habitat at San Blas.

Hammond's Flycatcher *Empidonax hammondi* A couple were identified in the oak-pine zone.

American Dusky Flycatcher (Dusky F) *Empidonax oberholseri* A handful of sightings in montane scrub.

American Grey Flycatcher (Grey F) *Empidonax wrightii* (B) Good looks at several in the Sierra La Laguna.

Pine Flycatcher *Empidonax affinis* One performed well in the oak-pine forests along the Durango Highway.

Pacific-slope Flycatcher *Empidonax difficilis* Regular observations. Fairly common on Baja California.

Cordilleran Flycatcher *Empidonax occidentalis* We identified a few in the hills.

Buff-breasted Flycatcher *Empidonax fulvifrons* One at Nevado de Colima. Lovely.

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus* Common and so very pretty.

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis* Regular in the more humid lowlands.

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus* Small numbers were noted along our mainland route. A distinctive voice!

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua* Several showed well near San Blas.

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus* The famous TK...Common.

Cassin's Kingbird *Tyrannus vociferans* Regularly seen in open habitat in the highlands.

Thick-billed Kingbird *Tyrannus crassirostris* Not uncommon along our mainland route.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer* Small numbers. A characteristic voice.

Ash-throated Flycatcher *Myiarchus cinerascens* Not uncommon in dry woodland.

Nutting's Flycatcher *Myiarchus nuttingi* Small numbers. Subtle differences with previous species. Voice!

Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus* Just a few of these large *Myiarchus*. A distinctive voice!

Flammulated Flycatcher *Deltarhynchus flammulatus* Excellent views in a gully near Barra de Navidad. Endemic!

Bright-rumped Attila (Flammulated A) *Attila [spadiceus] flammulatus* Seen well. An often heard song.

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata* Regular in fruiting trees.

Grey-collared Becard *Pachyramphus major* Good looks at a male above San Blas. A speciality!

Rose-throated Becard *Pachyramphus aglaiae* We saw small numbers of this attractive species along our route.

Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus* Just three observations.

Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo *Vireolanius melitophrys* Fantastic views of this exquisite bird.



Slaty Vireo *Vireo brevipennis* This striking species showed very well on Volcan de Fuego.



Slaty and Hutton's Vireos.

Dwarf Vireo *Vireo nelsoni* Great views at Volcan de Fuego.

Bell's Vireo *Vireo bellii* A few observations in the lowlands.

Black-capped Vireo *Vireo atricapilla* A handful of encounters with this near endemic. A gorgeous bird.

Grey Vireo *Vireo vicinior* (B) Great looks at one in the Baja California desert.

Plumbeous Vireo *Vireo plumbeus* A few birds seen.

Cassin's Vireo *Vireo cassinii* Regular observations.

Hutton's Vireo *Vireo huttoni* Fairly common in the oak zone.

Golden Vireo *Vireo hypochryseus* This Mexican endemic was regularly encountered. A striking species.

Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus* A fairly common migrant.

San Blas Jay *Cyanocorax sanblasianus* Great views near Barra de Navidad and Manzanillo.

Purplish-backed Jay *Cyanocorax beecheii* Splendid looks at this beautiful endemic in the Mazatlan area.

Tufted Jay *Cyanocorax dickeyi* One of the most attractive birds of the tour. Several superb observations.

Green Jay *Cyanocorax luxuosus* Great views.

Black-throated Magpie-Jay *Calocitta colliei* Many excellent observations of this striking endemic near Mazatlan.

White-throated Magpie-Jay *Calocitta formosa* Just a few were noted near Colima and Barra de Navidad.

Transvolcanic Jay *Aphelocoma ultramarina* Several noisy parties were noted on Volcan de Fuego.

California Scrub Jay *Aphelocoma californica* (B) A handful of sightings in the Baja semi desert.

Sinaloa Crow *Corvus sinaloae* A very common and boisterous endemic of the Mazatlan and San Blas areas.

Northern Raven (Common R) *Corvus corax* Just a few observations of this well-known species.

Grey Silky-flycatcher (G Silky) *Ptiliogonys cinereus* Nice sightings of this lovely species in the mountains.

Phainopepla *Phainopepla nitens* (B) This cracker showed well in the Baja desert.

Bridled Titmouse *Baeolophus wollweberi* Seen well near Tepic.

Mexican Chickadee *Poecile sclateri* A handful of encounters in the oak-pine forests.

Verdin *Auriparus flaviceps* (B) This dainty bird was fairly common in the Baja deserts.

Sand Martin (Bank Swallow) *Riparia riparia* A couple seen.

Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor* Seen once.

Mangrove Swallow *Tachycineta albilinea* Common at San Blas. A well-chosen name.

Violet-green Swallow *Tachycineta thalassina* Regular.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* Common all along our route.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* This well-known species was seen in good numbers.

American Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* Just a few sightings.
Grey-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea* Seen once.
American Bushtit *Psaltiriparus minimus* A few parties were found in the highland forests.
Golden-crowned Kinglet *Regulus satrapa* Good looks at Nevado de Colima.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Regulus calendula* Small numbers of this tiny migrant were noted.
Grey-barred Wren *Campylorhynchus megalopterus* Several were encountered on Volcan de Fuego.
Sclater's Wren *Campylorhynchus humilis* Nice looks at this Rufous-naped Wren split near Colima.
Spotted Wren *Campylorhynchus gularis* This endemic was common in the highlands.
Cactus Wren *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus* (B) Great looks at this endearing bird in the Baja deserts.
Canyon Wren *Catherpes mexicanus* Great views at Durango highway.



Marsh Wren *Cistothorus palustris* One was seen at ciudad guzman marshes.
Happy Wren *Pheugopedius felix* Several excellent encounters. A great name!
Sinaloa Wren (Bar-vented W) *Thryophilus sinaloa* Regular encounters. More often heard than seen.
House Wren (Northern H W) *Troglodytes [aeson] aeson* A few observations only.
House Wren (Brown-throated H W) *Troglodytes [aeson] brunneicollis* Nice looks in the pine forests of Durango.
White-bellied Wren *Uropsila leucogastra* The final new bird of the tour. Great looks near Barra de Navidad.
Blue-grey Gnatcatcher *Poliophtila caerulea* Common and showy.
California Gnatcatcher *Poliophtila californica* (B) Excellent views in the Baja California scrub.
Black-capped Gnatcatcher *Poliophtila nigriceps* A few nice encounters. Some nice breeding males.
Brown Creeper (B Treecreeper) *Certhia americana* Several nice sightings in the highland forests.
Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos* Common on Baja. Just a few observations on the mainland.
Grey Thrasher *Toxostoma cinereum* (B) This Baja California endemic showed very well.
Curve-billed Thrasher *Toxostoma curvirostre* A few observations.
Blue Mockingbird *Melanotis caerulescens* Several excellent encounters with this endemic in scrubby thickets.
Common Starling (introduced) *Sturnus vulgaris* (B) Regular sightings on Baja California.
Eastern Bluebird *Sialia sialis* Small numbers of this striking species were seen in the highlands.
Brown-backed Solitaire *Myadestes occidentalis* Often heard and regularly seen in the highlands.
Aztec Thrush *Ridgwayia pinicola* Incredible views of a large flock and some pairs at Nevado de Colima.

Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus aurantiirostris* Seen a few times.
Russet Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus occidentalis* A couple of encounters.
Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus* Just a few observations.
Hermit Thrush *Catharus guttatus* A handful of sightings of this unobtrusive migrant.
White-throated Thrush *Turdus assimilis* Fairly common in the highland forests.
Rufous-backed Thrush *Turdus rufopalliatu*s Regular encounters with this smart endemic.
American Robin *Turdus migratorius* A couple seen.
American Robin (San Lucas R) *Turdus [migratorius] confinis* (B) Superb scope studies of this Baja speciality.
House Sparrow (introduced) *Passer domesticus* Common in towns and villages.
Olive Warbler *Peucedramus taeniatus* Several very nice observations of this very special species!
Buff-bellied Pipit (American P) *Anthus rubescens* (B) Many showed well at the La Paz sewage works.
House Finch *Haemorhous mexicanus* Common.
Lesser Goldfinch *Spinus psaltria* Regular.
Black-headed Siskin *Spinus notatus* Small numbers were encountered in the highlands.
West Mexican Euphonia (Godman's E) *Euphonia godmani* Several nice sightings in the San Blas area.
Elegant Euphonia (Blue-hooded E) *Euphonia elegantissima* Seen a couple of times.
Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapilla* A single migrant was seen.
Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis* Regular encounters.
Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia* Not uncommon.



Red Warbler of the white-cheeked form.

Crescent-chested Warbler *Oreothlypis superciliosa* Regular observations of this smart speciality.
Orange-crowned Warbler *Leiothlypis celata* One of the more common migrants.
Nashville Warbler *Leiothlypis ruficapilla* Common in the highland scrub.
Virginia's Warbler *Leiothlypis virginiae* Seen at Durango Highway.
MacGillivray's Warbler *Geothlypis tolmiei* Regular sightings of this skulking species.
Belding's Yellowthroat *Geothlypis beldingi* (B) Cracking looks at this Baja endemic.
Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas* A regularly observed migrant.

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla* Fairly common.
Tropical Parula *Setophaga pitiayumi* Regular.
American Yellow Warbler *Setophaga aestiva* Small numbers were seen on the mainland.
Mangrove Warbler *Setophaga petechia* A few were seen in mangrove habitat.
Audubon's Warbler *Setophaga auduboni* One of the more common migrants.
Grace's Warbler *Setophaga graciae* Very nice observations in the highland forests.
Black-throated Grey Warbler *Setophaga nigrescens* Regular observations of this smart migrant.
Townsend's Warbler *Setophaga townsendi* Small numbers were found in the highland pines.
Hermit Warbler *Setophaga occidentalis* Just a few were seen in the highlands.
Fan-tailed Warbler *Basileuterus lachrymosus* This attractive speciality showed very well.
Rufous-capped Warbler *Basileuterus rufifrons* Regular encounters in highland scrub.
Golden-browed Warbler *Basileuterus belli* A truly gorgeous speciality, that was regularly found.



Slate-throated Whitestart.

Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina pusilla* A common migrant.
Red-faced Warbler *Cardellina rubrifrons* Several excellent observations of this jewel.
Red Warbler *Cardellina rubra* One of the stars of the highland forests. Both subspecies were seen.
Painted Whitestart (P Redstart) *Myioborus pictus* Another striking inhabitant of the highlands.
Slate-throated Whitestart (S-t Redstart) *Myioborus miniatus* Common in the highlands.
Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens* This very attractive migrant showed well on several occasions.
Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* A truly amazing spectacle at Ciudad Guzman!
Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna* One at Ciudad Guzman.
Mexican Cacique (Yellow-winged C) *Cassiculus melanicterus* Regular and quite noisy.
Scott's Oriole *Icterus parisorum* (B) Regular observations in the Baja deserts.
Audubon's (Dickey's) Oriole *Icterus graduacauda* A pair of the *dickeyae* form on Volcan de Fuego.
Bullock's Oriole *Icterus bullockii* A handful of sightings.
Black-backed (Abeille's) Oriole *Icterus abeillei* Seen well at Ciudad Guzman.
Streak-backed Oriole *Icterus pustulatus* One of the more commonly observed orioles.
Spot-breasted Oriole *Icterus pectoralis* Two showed well in open habitat near Barra de Navidad.

Black-vented Oriole *Icterus wagleri* One sighting.
Hooded Oriole *Icterus cucullatus* Fairly common.
Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius* This smart migrant showed well.
Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus* Small numbers were noted at lowland marshes.
Red-winged Blackbird (Bicoloured B) *Agelaius [phoeniceus] gubernator* A male at Ciudad Guzman marshes.
Bronzed Cowbird *Molothrus aeneus* Small numbers.
Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater* Small flocks were noted on several occasions.
Brewer's Blackbird *Euphagus cyanocephalus* We identified a couple at Ciudad Guzman.
Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus* One of the more common Mexican species. Absent from Baja.
Lincoln's Sparrow *Melospiza lincolnii* A regularly observed migrant.
White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys* (B) Several showed well at the La Paz sewage works.
Yellow-eyed Junco *Junco phaeonotus* A few observations in the highland forests.
Baird's Junco *Junco bairdi* (B) This recent split showed very well in the Sierra La Laguna on Baja.
Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis* (B) One in Baja.
Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina* Small numbers were noted.
Clay-colored Sparrow *Spizella pallida* (B) A few on Baja.
Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus* (B) A few on Baja.
Black-throated Sparrow *Amphispiza bilineata* (B) Two showed well in the Baja desert.
Stripe-headed Sparrow *Peucaea ruficauda* Regular in open areas in the highlands.
Black-chested Sparrow *Peucaea humeralis* This beautiful endemic showed well near Colima.
Rusty Sparrow *Aimophila rufescens* A couple of nice observations.
Collared Towhee *Pipilo ocai* Great looks at this endemic on Volcan de Fuego.
Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus* A few sightings.
Canyon Towhee *Melospiza fusca* Several showed well on Volcan de Fuego.
California Towhee *Melospiza crissalis* (B) Regularly seen on Baja California.
Rusty-crowned Ground Sparrow *Melospiza kieneri* Splendid looks at this endemic skulker.
Olive Sparrow *Arremonops rufivirgatus* Good looks at this modestly-clad near Barra de Navidad.
Green-striped Brushfinch *Arremon virenticeps* This endemic showed well at Volcan de Fuego..
Rufous-capped Brushfinch *Atlapetes pileatus* A few encounters with this endemic.
Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina* Regular.
Ruddy-breasted Seedeater *Sporophila minuta* Seen near Manzanillo.
White-collared Seedeater (Cinnamon-rumped S) *Sporophila [torqueola] torqueola* Fairly common.
Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer *Diglossa baritula* Seen at Nevado de Colima.
Rosy Thrush-tanager *Rhodinocichla rosea* Fantastic views of a male near San Blas. Fabulous!
Flame-colored Tanager *Piranga bidentata* Regular observations of this smart species.
Hepatic Tanager (Northern H T) *Piranga hepatica* Fairly common.
Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra* A handful of records.
Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana* A few seen.
Red-headed Tanager *Piranga erythrocephala* This gorgeous endemic performed well along the Durango Highway.
Yellow Grosbeak (Mexican Y G) *Pheucticus chrysopheplus* Regular observations.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus* Two nice males were seen near San Blas.
Black-headed Grosbeak *Pheucticus melanocephalus* Regular encounters.
Red-breasted Chat *Granatellus venustus* An exquisite male showed brilliantly near Barra de Navidad.
Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis* Several observations.
Cinnamon-bellied Saltator *Saltator grandis* Several encounters.
Blue Bunting *Cyanocompsa parellina* This near endemic was seen a few times.
Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea* Plenty of records of this northern migrant. Attractive males in breeding attire!
Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea* A couple of males seen.
Lazuli Bunting *Passerina amoena* (B) Seen on Baja.
Varied Bunting *Passerina versicolor* Regular. Some cracking males posed for us.
Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris* Fairly common. The males are simply superb.
Orange-breasted Bunting *Passerina leclancherii* Exquisite and delightful.

MAMMALS

Black-tailed Jackrabbit *Lepus californicus* (B) A single was seen in the Baja California desert.

White-tailed Antelope Squirrel *Ammospermophilus leucurus* (B) Nice looks at 1 in Baja.

Collie's Squirrel *Sciurus colliae* Several observations.

Mexican Fox Squirrel *Sciurus nayaritensis* This attractive squirrel showed well at several locations.

Grey Fox *Urocyon cinereoargenteus* (B) Seen on Baja.

Northern Raccoon *Procyon lotor* Seen at San Blas.

White-nosed Coati *Nasua narica* Several encounters in the San Blas area.

Californian Sea Lion *Zalophus californianus* A single animal was seen off Barra de Navidad.

Long-beaked Common Dolphin *Delphinus capensis* Some on the coast.

Mule Deer *Odocoileus hemionus* (B) A single animal was seen on Baja.



Russet-crowned Motmot.