

SOUTHERN MEXICO TOUR REPORT 2024

29 February - 23 March 2024

Mark Van Beirs and Fito Downs

With the sad closure of the famous El Triunfo reserve since the covid pandemic, we changed our classic Southern Mexico itinerary, which now includes the Yucatan Peninsula instead of the state of Chiapas. We were a bit unlucky weatherwise this year, as most of Central Mexico had been suffering from a serious drought for an extended period already. This meant that birdsong was not what it usually was and that hummingbird numbers were at a real low. But, in the end, we did quite well and eventually found most of the specialities this marvellous area has to offer. There were many highlights, but the magnificent Ornate Hawk-Eagle, which we could admire both perched and while hunting a Northern Ringtail was the favourite. The incomparable Nava's Wren led us on a merry dance at first and then performed ever so well at very close range. We had a fantastic encounter with a male and a female Bumblebee Hummingbird and the gorgeous Rose-bellied (or Rosita's) and Orange-breasted Buntings really showed off. The favourites on the Yucatan extension included gems like Ruddy Crake, a cracking male Grey-throated Chat, Orange Oriole and Mexican Sheartail. A fun pelagic trip from Puerto Angel produced good numbers of Red Phalaropes, a splendid Pomarine Jaeger, lots of Black and Least Storm Petrels, Pink-footed and Townsend's Shearwaters, Brown and Nazca Boobies and playful Spinner and Common Bottlenose Dolphins. We were lucky enough to be able to watch some impressive raptor migration involving thousands of Swainson's Hawks and Turkey Vultures. Many other goodies were observed, including Mexican Duck, Plain, West Mexican and White-bellied Chachalacas, Highland Guan, Yucatan Bobwhite, Buff-collared Nightjar, Mexican Whip-poor-will, Northern Potoo, Black-crested Coquette, Slender Sheartail, Dusky Hummingbird, Long-tailed Sabrewing, the smart Oaxaca Hummingbird, Pheasant Cuckoo (cracking looks), Clark's Grebe, Double-striped Thick-knee, Bare-throated Tiger Heron, Boat-billed heron, American White Pelican, Black Hawk-Eagle, Black-collared Hawk, Colima Pygmy and Fulvous Owls, Citreoline and Mountain Trogons, Russet-crowned and Turquoise-browed Motmots, Wagler's Toucanet, the magnificent Keel-billed Toucan, Grey-breasted, Yucatan, Grey-crowned and Strickland's Woodpeckers, Collared Forest Falcon, Orange-chinned, Green and Pacific Parakeets, Yucatan Amazon, Rufous-breasted Spinetail, Pine, Yellowish and Buff-breasted Flycatchers, Couch's and Thick-billed Kingbirds, Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo, Cozumel, Yucatan and Dwarf Vireos, Dwarf and Yucatan Jays, Grey Silky-flycatcher, Grey-barred, Giant, Boucard's, Happy, Spot-breasted, Banded, White-bellied and Sumichrast's Wrens, Yucatan Gnatcatcher, Blue Mockingbird, Brown-backed and Slate-coloured Solitaires, Russet Nightingale-Thrush, Olive Warbler, Blue-crowned Chlorophonia, Cinnamon-tailed, Bridled, Sierra Madre and Oaxaca Sparrows, White-throated and Collared Towhees, Audubon's, Altamira, Black-vented and Yellow-tailed Orioles, Crescent-chested, Golden-browed and Red Warblers, Black-pollled Yellowthroat, Painted Whitestart, Red-breasted Chat and Crimson-collared Tanager. Mammals are not very obvious in Mexico, but we did note interesting species like Tayra, White-nosed Coati, Northern Ringtail, Northern Raccoon and Collared Peccary. The archaeological wonders of Chichen Itza and Monte Alban added a cultural dimension to our journey, where echoes of ancient civilizations mingled with the calls of modern-day birds.

The tour started on the island of Cozumel, situated off the northeastern coast of the Yucatan peninsula. Just at dawn we were exploring a scrubby forest edge on the inland plateau, where we soon had brilliant views of Green-breasted Mango, Vaux's Swift, Caribbean Dove, Yucatan Woodpecker, Caribbean Elaenia, Northern Beardless Tyrannulet, Bright-rumped Attila, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Yucatan Vireo, the lovely Cozumel Vireo, Black Catbird, Blue-grey Gnatcatcher, Black-and-white, Magnolia, American Yellow, Palm, Black-throated Green Warblers, American Redstart, Northern Parula, Rose-throated Tanager, Bananaquit and Yellow-faced Grassquit. Later we birded a more open area with some flowering bushes where a female Cozumel Emerald showed well. We also picked up White-eyed Vireo and House Wren (Cozumel race) here. Just before midday a patch of well-developed forest gave us a cracking White-crowned Pigeon. After a break in the heat of the day we visited the north of the island where at a marsh we found several very well-behaved Ruddy Crakes. A glorious male Cozumel Emerald gave exquisite views. Sora, Northern Jacana, Solitary Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, American White Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Snowy and Great Egrets, Velasquez's Woodpecker, a dashing Merlin, Olive-throated Parakeets, Northern Waterthrush,

Common Yellowthroat and Mangrove, Myrtle and beautiful Yellow-throated Warblers also showed well. A young Collared Peccary attracted quite a bit of attention.

Next morning, we enjoyed a tasty sit-down breakfast at the hotel before taking the ferry back to the mainland. At the parking lot where we had to wait for the ferry a White-nosed Coati showed itself nicely. Only flying fish (lots and lots) and a few Royal Terns and Laughing Gulls escorted us on the sea crossing. The drive to Rio Lagartos, situated in the extreme north of the Yucatan peninsula, was swift and uneventful. Upon arrival we checked into the hotel and observed the activity along the waterfront, where we found Ruddy Turnstone, Caspian and Cabot's Terns, lots of Magnificent Frigatebirds, Anhinga, Double-crested Cormorant, lots of Brown Pelicans and Osprey. Soon after we were admiring several males and females of the very localized, endemic Mexican Sheartail at close range... exquisite little birds. We also observed Cinnamon and Ruby-throated Hummingbird here. Later we birded a stretch of scrubby woodland where we soon connected with the endemic, localized Yucatan Wren. We also encountered Common and Ruddy Ground Doves, Zenaida Dove, Grey-crowned Yellowthroat, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting and Blue-black Grassquit here. A nearby saltwater pond gave us Blue-winged Teal, Black-necked Stilt, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Yellow-crowned Night Heron and Little Blue and Tricoloured Herons. On the walk to the restaurant a Common Raccoon showed well.

The following day started with a very enjoyable boat trip in the estuary at Rio Lagartos. We floated past mudflats, explored mangrove edges and seashore and checked the nearby salinas. Waterbirds were all over the place... a real birder's paradise. Waders, gulls, terns, herons and pelicans made the morning. Some of the more interesting species included Rufous-necked Wood Rail (a bit distant, but nice), Red-breasted Merganser (rare this far south), Clapper Rail, Great White Heron (an interesting colour morph of Great Blue Heron) and lots of impressive American White Pelicans. More widespread species included American Flamingo (small numbers only), American Oystercatcher, Grey and Wilson's Plovers, Marbled Godwit, (Eastern) Willet, Least Sandpiper, Black Skimmer, Lesser Black-backed and American Herring Gulls, Wood Stork, Neotropic Cormorant, Reddish Egret, Great Blue Heron, Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, a female Northern Harrier, Common Black Hawk, Belted Kingfisher and Mangrove Swallow. After a break in the heat of the day we explored the edges of the extensive saltworks where hundreds of brightly coloured American Flamingos were making a living. Several groups were showing off their amazing display. We also found Hudsonian Whimbrel, Gull-billed and Forster's Terns amongst the many other waders and terns.

On our second morning at Rio Lagartos, we walked a wide track through scrubby woodland where we connected with several much-wanted species like Yucatan Bobwhite, Orange Oriole, Yucatan Flycatcher and Mangrove Vireo. Here we also observed Canivet's Emerald, Russet-naped Wood Rail, Wilson's Snipe, White-tailed Hawk, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Least Flycatcher, Purple Martin, Spot-breasted and White-bellied Wrens and Painted Bunting (male and female). After an early lunch we drove west through the flat Yucatan countryside. The first vehicle was lucky enough to spot a remarkable Tayra crossing the road. In mid-afternoon we birded a stretch of scrub where we found the localized Yucatan Gnatcatcher. Yucatan Jay and Altamira Oriole also showed well, as did Ferruginous Pygmy Owl and Green Jay. Afterwards we made our way to the bustling town of Valladolid.

Chichen Itza is probably the most famous archaeological site in Mexico and it sure didn't disappoint. We wandered amongst the century old temples and pyramids and in between gazing at these impressive Mayan structures, we also observed goodies like Turquoise-browed Motmot, Lineated Woodpecker, Boat-billed Flycatcher, Masked Tityra, Rose-throated Becard, Brown Jay, Spot-breasted Wren, Clay-coloured Thrush, Scrub and Yellow-throated Euphonias, Orchard Oriole, Melodious Blackbird, Cinnamon-bellied and Black-headed Saltators, Blue-grey and Yellow-winged Tanagers and Yucatan Squirrel. In late morning we started driving south along little used roads and in mid-afternoon arrived at Felipe Carrillo Puerto, our base for the next two nights. Our visit to the Sian Ka'an reserve was not very pleasant, as, instead of being able to bird along a quiet track through forest, authorities had decided to develop this area, so there were roadworks everywhere and no birds. We did find a quieter spot where we located Buff-bellied Hummingbird, Black-headed Trogon, Keel-billed Toucan and a cracking Hooded Warbler. We waited till dusk and not too long after had fair looks at a Northern Potoo and fabulous scope views of a calling Mottled Owl. Great stuff!

An unobtrusive track through excellent scrubby forest kept us busy throughout the next morning. Highlights included a beautifully performing male Grey-throated Chat and a couple of circling Black Hawk-Eagles. We also observed Canivet's Emerald, Wedge-tailed Sabrewing, White-bellied Emerald, Gartered Trogon, Pale-billed Woodpecker, Ivory-billed Woodcreeper, Barred Antshrike, Greenish Elaenia, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Lesser Greenlet, Yellow-throated Vireo, Trilling Gnatwren, Yellow-billed Cacique, Green-backed Sparrow and Red-throated Ant Tanager. Pheasant Cuckoo, Mayan Antthrush and Northern Bentbill were distinctly heard, but didn't want to show. In the afternoon we returned to the same area and added Plain Chachalaca, Red-billed Pigeon, White-fronted Amazon, White-

browed (Tropical) Gnatcatcher and Morelet's Seedeater to the tally.

The following day was a travelling day. We first drove north to the seaside holiday city of Cancun and then we took a flight to Mexico City. Upon arrival there we were taken to a hotel at the other side of this huge conurbation, where we met the two new participants.

The special bunch grass habitat and open pine and evergreen forest at over 3,000 m altitude to the south of the city holds some really special birds. Soon after dawn we were already observing a rather skittish Sierra Madre Sparrow that was playing hide and seek in the tall grasses. We obtained excellent views of this very rare and localized endemic. A few minutes later another endemic sparrow showed very well, the pot-bellied Striped Sparrow. In the open pine forest, we encountered a cooperative Strickland's Woodpecker and a nice male Olive Warbler was foraging above our heads. Other goodies included Red-tailed Hawk, Acorn Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Greater Pewee, Pine Flycatcher, the beautiful Buff-breasted Flycatcher, Mexican Chickadee, Violet-green Swallow, White-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatches, Brown Creeper, Curve-billed Thrasher, Western Bluebird, Russet Nightingale-Thrush, American Robin, House Finch, Elegant Euphonia, Lark, Chipping and Lincoln's Sparrows, Yellow-eyed Junco, Canyon Towhee, Audubon's Warbler and Mexican Cottontail. After this successful visit we drove to the famous Lerma marshes where it took a while to connect with the attractive, endemic Black-polled Yellowthroat in the extensive reedbeds. A male eventually showed very well. Terrific! There were quite a few ducks about, including Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Mexican Duck, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal and Ruddy Duck. Other new birds included Pied-billed and spectacular Clark's Grebes, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Snipe, White-faced Ibis, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Mourning Dove, Vermillion Flycatcher, Cassin's Kingbird, Black Phoebe, Buff-bellied Pipit, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird (Bicoloured form), Bronzed and Brown-headed Cowbirds and Wilson's Warbler.

An early morning visit to a beautiful patch of scrubby forest at the edge of the city gave us a splendidly behaving Blue Mockingbird next to Rivoli's Hummingbird, Hammond's Flycatcher, Cassin's Vireo, American Bushtit, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Rufous-backed Thrush, Black-headed Siskin, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Black-throated Grey and Black-throated Green Warblers, Western Tanager and Black-headed Grosbeak. Sadly, we only heard the Hooded Yellowthroat briefly in the distance. In late morning we packed up and drove along a fine highway to the well-known town of Oaxaca. A couple of Northern Raven were the only birds of note.

The thorny scrubby forest on the dry hill slopes in the Oaxaca valley gave us localized specialities like Dusky Hummingbird, Dwarf Vireo, a lovely Grey Silky-flycatcher, Boucard's Wren, White-throated Towhee, the smart-looking Bridled Sparrow and Audubon's Oriole. Other interesting species included West Mexican Chachalaca, White-collared Swift, Broad-billed Hummingbird, lots of Northern Crested Caracaras, Thick-billed Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Bewick's Wren, Lesser Goldfinch, Black-vented Oriole, Rufous-capped Warbler, the exquisite Painted Whitestart and Hepatic Tanager. A pond with muddy shores held a nice selection of new waterbirds like Redhead, Ring-necked Duck and Least and Black-necked Grebes. A white morph Reddish Egret was a nice surprise! In the afternoon we visited the Yagul archaeological area, where dense, attractive stands of organ pipe and prickly pear cacti held our interest. Several endemic Grey-breasted Woodpeckers gave good looks.

Our whole day in the splendid pine forest of the Sierra de Juarez started long before dawn, but it started with a real bang. An exquisite Fulvous Owl was taped in and perched in a nearby tree allowing perfect looks. What a magnificent bird!! Soon after we obtained fair looks at a Mexican Whip-poor-will. As soon as there was enough birding light, we walked along a wide track through these well managed pine and evergreen forests. We had two excellent encounters with the localized, endemic Dwarf Jay, as they travelled quietly together with equal-sized Grey-barred Wrens. A gorgeous Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo showed all too briefly and cracking Red Warblers were regularly observed. Other fine species today included Amethyst-throated Mountaingem, White-eared Hummingbird, Mountain Trogon, Spot-crowned Woodcreeper, Northern Tufted Flycatcher, Hutton's Vireo, Steller's Jay, Brown-backed Solitaire, Collared Towhee and Crescent-chested, Townsend's and gorgeous Golden-browed Warblers.

The archaeological site of Monte Alban is an Unesco World Heritage Site and was the pre-eminent Zapotec socio-political and economic centre for nearly a thousand years. Before dawn we were walking along the entrance road to these famous ruins listening to the distinctive song of Buff-collared Nightjars and eventually we got one to respond and show itself. We then visited the site and birded the grounds while admiring the centuries old structures. Sadly, we only heard a distant Ocellated Thrasher. A party of lovely Grey Silky-flycatchers performed beautifully and we also found Inca Dove, American Dusky Flycatcher, Golden Vireo, Rock Wren, lots of White-throated Towhees and Bullock's Oriole. After an early lunch we drove southwest across the Oaxaca plateau and crossed the Sierra Madre Occidental on our way to the Pacific coast. A perched Swainson's Hawk enlivened the smooth journey and in late afternoon we arrived at the seaside village of Puerto Angel, where Magnificent Frigatebirds were patrolling the skies.

We spent a delightfully birdy day in the foothills of the Sierra Madre Occidental. We explored dry thorny woodland at lower altitude, evergreen forest higher up and also some pine woods even further up. The localized, attractively patterned Blue-capped (or Oaxaca) Hummingbird showed off and we also located a pair of cute Colima Pygmy Owls, here at the southern edge of their range. A Grey-crowned Woodpecker was lured in for good looks and a White-faced Quail-Dove crossed the road in front of our minibus. We also observed Mexican Hermit, Plain-capped Starthroat, Berylline Hummingbird, Crane Hawk, Wagler's Toucanet, Golden-cheeked Woodpecker, Orange-fronted Parakeet, Sulphur-bellied and Dusky-capped Flycatchers, Warbling and Blue-headed Vireos, lots of smart White-throated Magpie-Jays, Happy Wren, White-throated Thrush, Common Chlorospingus, Rusty Sparrow, Mexican Cacique (at the nest), Streak-backed and Baltimore Orioles, Tennessee, MacGillivray's and Golden-crowned Warblers, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Red-legged Honeycreeper.

Our boat trip at sea off Puerto Angel was a real birdy affair. The sea was rather rougher than usual so the boat was moving about a bit, but the birds sure performed. Both Black and Least Storm Petrels showed at close range in double numbers and Pink-footed and the endemic Townsend's Shearwaters gave excellent views. Small flocks of Red Phalaropes could be admired flying northwards. A Pomarine Jaeger gave brilliant views as it suddenly appeared next to our boat. Brown Boobies (of the distinctive race *brewsteri*) were commonly encountered at sea and at their breeding colony on a giant offshore rock. A single Nazca Booby was found on the same white-washed rock. Spinner Dolphins were regularly seen doing their aerobatics and several Common Bottlenose Dolphins were also noted. A few Green Turtles were loafing at the surface and a smart-looking Yellow-bellied Sea Snake was also found. After this successful outing we drove southeast along the coast to the famous Isthmus of Tehuantepec. A couple of stops in thorn forest produced megalooks at a well-behaved, very striking Red-breasted Chat and at several extremely attractive Orange-breasted Buntings. A couple of Citreoline Trogons showed and other new birds included West Mexican Chachalaca, American Avocet, Turquoise-crowned Hummingbird and White-lored Gnatcatcher.

At dawn we were in a nice stretch of thorn forest near Tehuantepec listening to the modest song of a Cinnamon-tailed (or Sumichrast's) Sparrow. A minute later we already had excellent views of this very localized endemic. Further exploration of this interesting habitat gave us Mourning Dove, Citreoline Trogon, Laughing Falcon, Nutting's Flycatcher, Sclater's Wren (ex Rufous-naped Wren) and several gorgeous Orange-breasted Buntings. After a scrumptious brunch we drove further southeast along the Isthmus, where we birded the nearby foothills. The prize here was the exquisite Rose-bellied (or Rosita's) Bunting, the male of which performed so very, very well at close range. What a magnificent creature! Raptor migration was in full swing as we saw good numbers of Turkey Vultures and Swainson's Hawks soar over. A cracking Russet-crowned Motmot showed beautifully in the scope. We also found Grey Hawk, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Banded Wren and Stripe-headed Sparrow here.

Puerto Arista is a small seaside resort village with a lot of different habitats surrounding it. Before dawn we were already observing two delightful Pacific Screech Owls in the torch beam. After a quick breakfast we positioned ourselves at a good vantage point at the edge of some evergreen woodland where we soon had excellent views of the two specialities, the raucous White-bellied Chachalaca and the impressive Giant Wren. Both performed very well and in the course of the morning we had several more encounters with these goodies. We also observed Squirrel Cuckoo, a cracking Double-striped Thick-knee, Boat-billed Heron, Orange-chinned and Pacific Parakeets and Clay-coloured Sparrow (here at the extreme southern edge of its wintering range). In the afternoon we left the hot and sticky lowlands and drove up to the large town of Tuxtla Gutierrez. A few stops on the way gave us a couple of Green-fronted Hummingbirds and another look at the endearing Rose-bellied and Orange-breasted Buntings. An unobtrusive Yellow-olive Flatbill also showed.

The famous Canyon del Sumidero, situated just outside Tuxtla Gutierrez, is an extraordinary gorge and its flanks are clothed in lichen-rich evergreen woodland. Just after dawn a terrific Pheasant Cuckoo posed uncharacteristically beautifully for us. Wow... Not much later we were admiring a cracking Highland Guan at close range. A pair of charming Slender Sheartails were visiting tiny flowers and allowing excellent scope views. We found an ant swarm with attending Red-throated Ant Tanagers, a Lesson's Motmot and an Ovenbird, but sadly nothing else. Our explorations of this attractive reserve also produced Thicket Tinamou, Plain Chachalaca, Azure-crowned Hummingbird, Gartered Trogon, Emerald Toucanet, Peregrine Falcon, Olivaceous Woodcreeper, Cabanis's Wren, Olive Sparrow, Blue-winged Warbler, Blue Bunting and Yellow Grosbeak.

To the west of Tuxtla Gutierrez lies the little known Ocote reserve, a fine stretch of woodland on limestone underground. Here lives the marvellous Nava's Wren, a Mexican endemic with a tiny area of distribution. This year it took quite a while before we finally connected with this perky species, probably because of the extremely dry conditions – no song! Eventually we had brilliant views of this jewel as it paraded in front of us in a rocky, open area within the wood. What an outstanding bird!! Other goodies recorded on our walks here

included Slaty-breasted Tinamou (heard only), Stripe-throated Hermit, Collared Trogon, Keel-billed Toucan, White-crowned Parrot, Green Parakeet, Green Shrike-Vireo (glimpse only), Montezuma Oropendola, Tropical Parula, Black-faced Grosbeak and the smart Crimson-collared Tanager. After this successful visit we drove to the Caribbean side to the town of Catemaco.

Our full day in the famous Sierra de los Tuxtlas started predawn with several Pauraques flying off the road. It was raining quite heavily while we were enjoying our breakfast, so we decided to visit lower altitude woodland which gave us new birds like Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Franklin's Gull (high overhead), Black-headed Trogon, Bat Falcon, Red-lored Amazon, Eye-ringed Flatbill, Yellowish Flycatcher, Couch's Kingbird, Band-backed Wren, Giant Cowbird and Morelet's Seedeater. As soon as we received the news that the rain had stopped, we returned to higher elevations where several Long-tailed (Curve-winged) Sabrewings showed well. With the help of two local experts, we spent a lot of time searching for the ultra elusive Tuxtla Quail-Dove We heard its distinctive song, so we positioned ourselves strategically to tape the bird in, but a calling Ornate Hawk-Eagle made the dove go quiet. In this beautiful forest we also noted Northern Barred and Tawny-winged Woodcreepers, Scaly-throated and Fawn-throated Foliage-gleaners, White-breasted Wood Wren, Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush, Blue-crowned Chlorophonia, Louisiana Waterthrush and Red-crowned Ant Tanager. On the drive down the mountain a Little Tinamou crossed the track in front of our minibus.

Another morning looking for the Tuxtla Quail-Dove didn't produce the desired bird. We heard it, but it remained a voice in the forest, sadly. The highlight of our morning's birding was a terrific Ornate Hawk-Eagle that perched for perfect scope views. While admiring this impressive eagle it suddenly became very alert and agitated and then it launched itself spectacularly after a Northern Ringtail (a relative of coatis and raccoons) in the canopy of a nearby tree. It missed and persevered for a while and then the eagle returned to perch on one of the boughs of a forest giant. Magic moments. We also observed Slaty-breasted Tinamou, Slate-coloured Solitaire and Slate-throated Whitestart.

In the afternoon we drove to the bustling town of Tuxtepec. A short stop at a nice lagoon produced some incredible raptor migration, as several enormous kettles of Turkey Vultures and Swainson's Hawks passed straight over us ... what a show! The area also gave us Limpkin, Bare-throated Tiger Heron, 140 American White Pelicans, Black-collared Hawk and Fork-tailed Flycatcher.

Our full day in the forested Valle Nacional turned out to be quite birdy. We birded the tropical and subtropical areas till the pine zone. The highlight of the day was the amazing Bumblebee Hummingbird, a pair of which we were able to observe at close range through the telescope. We truly appreciated these magical moments with this tiny, adorable endemic critter. A female Black-crested Coquette also performed beautifully. A skulking Rufous-breasted Spinetail gave nice views, as did modestly-clad Slate-coloured Solitaires. A busy colony of Montezuma Oropendolas attracted our attention. Other new birds included Chestnut-collared Swift, Blue Ground Dove, Peregrine Falcon, Sepia-capped Flycatcher, Piratic Flycatcher, Azure-hooded Jay, Black-cowled Oriole, Flame-coloured and White-winged Tanagers, Buff-throated Saltator, Variable Seedeater, Thick-billed Seed Finch and Golden-hooded Tanager.

Another morning in a nice stretch of lowland forest in the Valle Nacional area produced a heard only Middle American Screech Owl and Central American Pygmy Owl. We tried, but to no avail. A pair of usually skulking Yellow-tailed Orioles and a lovely Hooded Warbler gave exceptional views. In late morning we drove to the busy town of Cordoba. A male Snail Kite was noted from the minibus. Our final birding excursion took us to a limestone hill covered in coffee plantations where the magnificent Sumichrast's Wren showed in all its splendour. We obtained mega looks at close range of this wonderful endemic. We also found Long-billed Starthroat and Curve-winged Sabrewing. More guacamole anyone?

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

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).

The species names and taxonomy used in the bird list follows Gill, F., Donsker, D., & Rasmussen, P.(Eds). **2024. IOC World Bird List (v14.1)** (this was the current version when the checklist for the tour report was created).

Where the subspecies seen is/are known, these are often given in parentheses at the end of the species comment.

The symbol (Y) denotes that the species was only seen on the Yucatan Peninsula Extension.

BIRDS

Little Tinamou *Crypturellus soui* One was seen in the Sierra de los Tuxtlas.

Thicket Tinamou ◇ *Crypturellus cinnamomeus* Heard and briefly seen.

Slaty-breasted Tinamou *Crypturellus boucardi*

Black-bellied Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis*

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors*

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*

American Wigeon *Mareca americana*

Mexican Duck ◇ *Anas diazi* Regular at the Almoloya marshes.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*

Redhead *Aythya americana*

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* (Y) Two were noted at Rio Lagartos.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Plain Chachalaca ◇ *Ortalis vetula* Regular observations.

West Mexican Chachalaca ◇ *Ortalis poliocephala* Good looks at Laguna Colorada.

White-bellied Chachalaca ◇ *Ortalis leucogastra* Excellent at Puerto Arista.

Crested Guan *Penelope purpurascens* (H)

Highland Guan ◇ *Penelopina nigra* A superb sighting in the Sumidero Canyon.

Long-tailed Wood Partridge ◇ *Dendrortyx macroura* (H)

Yucatan Bobwhite ◇ *Colinus nigrogularis* (Y) Nice looks at Rio Lagartos.

Singing Quail ◇ *Dactylortyx thoracicus* (H)

Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis* (Y)

Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*

Buff-collared Nightjar ◇ *Antrostomus ridgwayi* Seen well near Oaxaca.

Mexican Whip-poor-will ◇ *Antrostomus arizonae* One showed well in the Sierra de Juarez.

Northern Potoo *Nyctibius jamaicensis* (Y) Good looks near Felipe Carillo Puerto.

Chestnut-collared Swift *Streptoprocne rutila*

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris*

Vaux's Swift *Chaetura vauxi*

Stripe-throated Hermit *Phaethornis striigularis* Showed well at the Ocote Reserve.

Mexican Hermit ◊ *Phaethornis mexicanus* Nice looks above Puerto Angel.

Green-breasted Mango ◊ *Anthracothorax prevostii* (Y) Regular on Cozumel.

Black-crested Coquette ◊ *Lophornis helenae* A female showed beautifully at Valle Nacional.

Rivoli's Hummingbird ◊ *Eugenes fulgens*

Long-billed Starthroat *Heliomaster longirostris*

Plain-capped Starthroat ◊ *Heliomaster constantii*

Amethyst-throated Mountaingem ◊ (A-t Hummingbird) *Lampornis amethystinus*

Slender Sheartail ◊ *Doricha enicura* Cracking looks at the Sumidero Canyon.

Mexican Sheartail ◊ *Doricha eliza* (Y) Fantastic encounters at Rio Lagartos.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris*

Bumblebee Hummingbird ◊ *Selasphorus heloisa* Magnificent views at Valle Nacional.

Dusky Hummingbird ◊ *Phaeoptila sordida* Regular near Oaxaca.

Broad-billed Hummingbird *Cyananthus latirostris*

Turquoise-crowned Hummingbird ◊ *Cyananthus doubledayi*

Cozumel Emerald ◊ *Cyananthus forficatus* (Y) Fairly common on Cozumel.

Canivet's Emerald ◊ (Fork-tailed E) *Cyananthus canivetii* Regular sightings.

White-eared Hummingbird ◊ *Basilinna leucotis*

Curve-winged Sabrewing ◊ *Pampa curvipennis* Nice views near Cordoba.

Curve-winged Sabrewing ◊ (Long-tailed S) *Pampa [curvipennis] excellens* This taxon showed well in the Sierra de los Tuxtlas.

Wedge-tailed Sabrewing ◊ *Pampa pampa* (Y)

Oaxaca Hummingbird ◊ (Blue-capped H) *Eupherusa cyanophrys* Excellent views above Puerto Angel. A real cracker.

Green-fronted Hummingbird ◊ *Ramosomyia viridifrons*

Azure-crowned Hummingbird ◊ *Saucerottia cyanocephala*

Berylline Hummingbird ◊ *Saucerottia beryllina*

Cinnamon Hummingbird ◊ *Amazilia rutila*

Buff-bellied Hummingbird ◊ *Amazilia yucatanensis*

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia tzacatl*

White-bellied Emerald ◊ *Chlorestes candida*

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris*

Pheasant Cuckoo *Dromococcyx phasianellus* Perfect views at the Sumidero Canyon.

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana*

Rock Dove (introduced) *Columba livia*

White-crowned Pigeon ♦ *Patagioenas leucocephala* (Y) Nice looks on Cozumel.

Scaled Pigeon *Patagioenas speciosa* (H)

Red-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas flavirostris*

Eurasian Collared Dove (introduced) *Streptopelia decaocto*

Inca Dove *Columbina inca*

Common Ground Dove *Columbina passerina*

Ruddy Ground Dove *Columbina talpacoti*

Blue Ground Dove *Claravis pretiosa*

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*

Grey-headed Dove ♦ *Leptotila plumbeiceps* (H)

Caribbean Dove ♦ *Leptotila jamaicensis* (Y) Good looks on Cozumel.

Tuxtla Quail-Dove ♦ *Zenrygon carrikeri* (H) We sure tried, but it remained a voice.

White-faced Quail-Dove ♦ *Zenrygon albifacies*

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*

Zenaida Dove ♦ *Zenaida aurita* (Y)

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*

Rufous-necked Wood Rail ♦ *Aramides axillaris* (Y) Fair views at Rio Lagartos.

Russet-naped Wood Rail ♦ *Aramides albiventris* (Y)

Clapper Rail *Rallus crepitans* (Y)

Virginia Rail *Rallus limicola* (H)

Sora *Porzana carolina* Very nice encounters on Cozumel.

Common Gallinule (Laughing G) *Gallinula galeata*

American Coot *Fulica americana*

Ruddy Crake ♦ *Laterallus ruber* (Y) Perfect scope views on Cozumel.

Limpkin *Aramus guarauna*

Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus*

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*

Black-necked Grebe (Eared G) *Podiceps nigricollis*

Clark's Grebe *Aechmophorus clarkii* Excellent looks at Almoloya.

American Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber* (Y) Many showed well at Rio Lagartos.

Double-striped Thick-knee *Hesperoburhinus bistriatus* A single bird was at Puerto Arista.

American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus* (Y)

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*

American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana*

Grey Plover (Black-bellied P) *Pluvialis squatarola* (Y)

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus*

Wilson's Plover (Thick-billed P) *Anarhynchus wilsonia* (Y)

Northern Jacana *Jacana spinosa*

Hudsonian Whimbrel *Numenius hudsonicus*

Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa* (Y)

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

Wilson's Snipe *Gallinago delicata*

Red Phalarope (Grey P) *Phalaropus fulicarius* 200+ on our pelagic off Puerto Angel.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

Willet (Western W) *Tringa [semipalmata] inornata*

Willet (Y) (Eastern W) *Tringa [semipalmata] semipalmata* (Y)

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* (Y)

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger* (Y) A very nice flock at Rio Lagartos.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* (Y)

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* (Y)

Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri* (Y)

Cabot's Tern *Thalasseus acufavidus* (Y)

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus*

Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla*

Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan*

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* (Y)

American Herring Gull *Larus smithsonianus* (Y)

Pomarine Jaeger (P Skua) *Stercorarius pomarinus* A splendid sighting at sea off Puerto Angel.

Black Storm Petrel ◊ *Hydrobates melania* Regular at sea off Puerto Angel.

Least Storm Petrel ◊ *Hydrobates microsoma* Common at sea off Puerto Angel.

Pink-footed Shearwater *Ardenna creatopus*

Townsend's Shearwater ◊ *Puffinus auricularis* Several showed well off Puerto Angel.

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana*

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*

Nazca Booby ◊ *Sula granti* A single at Puerto Angel.

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga*

Neotropic Cormorant *Nannopterum brasilianum*

Double-crested Cormorant *Nannopterum auritum* (Y)

American White Ibis *Eudocimus albus*

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (Y)

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi*

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja*

Bare-throated Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma mexicanum* A single was noted near Tuxtepec.

Boat-billed Heron *Cochlearius cochlearius* Several showed quite well at Puerto Arista.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron *Nyctanassa violacea*

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*

Tricolored Heron (Louisiana H) *Egretta tricolor*

Reddish Egret *Egretta rufescens*

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*

Green Heron *Butorides virescens*

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Great Egret (American G E) *Ardea [alba] egretta*

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*

American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* Several excellent encounters with this impressive species.

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture (Savanna V) *Cathartes burrovianus*

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* 19 observations.

Black Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus tyrannus* (Y) Very nice sightings near Felipe Carillo Puerto.

Ornate Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus ornatus* The BIRD of the TRIP. Fantastic views in the Sierra de los Tuxtlas.

Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii*

Northern Harrier *Circus hudsonius*

Black-collared Hawk *Busarellus nigricollis* A single bird showed quite well near Tuxtepec.

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis*

Crane Hawk *Geranospiza caerulescens*

Common Black Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus* (Y)

Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris*

White-tailed Hawk *Geranoaetus albicaudatus*

Grey Hawk *Buteo plagiatus*

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus*

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus*

Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni* Some amazing migration was witnessed.

Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus* (Y)

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*

Mountain Pygmy Owl ♦ *Glaucidium gnoma* (H)

Colima Pygmy Owl ♦ *Glaucidium palmarum* Perfect scope views above Puerto Angel.

Central American Pygmy Owl ♦ *Glaucidium griseiceps* (H)

Ferruginous Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum*

Pacific Screech Owl ♦ *Megascops cooperi* Great looks at Puerto Arista.

Middle American Screech Owl ♦ (Guatemalan S O) *Megascops guatemalae* (H)

Fulvous Owl *Strix fulvescens* Fantastic looks near Oaxaca!

Mottled Owl *Strix virgata* (Y)

Black-headed Trogon ♦ *Trogon melanocephalus*

Citreoline Trogon ♦ *Trogon citreolus* This west Mexican endemic showed well on several occasions.

Gartered Trogon (Northern Violaceous T) *Trogon caligatus*

Mountain Trogon ♦ *Trogon mexicanus* Good looks at this near endemic.

Collared Trogon *Trogon collaris*

Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona* (NL)

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana* (NL)

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon*

Russet-crowned Motmot ♦ *Momotus mexicanus* Excellent views of this near endemic in the Isthmus area.

Lesson's Motmot ♦ (Blue-diademed M) *Momotus lessonii*

Turquoise-browed Motmot ♦ *Eumomota superciliosa* (Y) A good showing at Chichen Itza.

Wagler's Toucanet ♦ *Aulacorhynchus wagleri*

Emerald Toucanet ♦ *Aulacorhynchus prasinus*

Keel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos sulfuratus*

Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus*

Golden-cheeked Woodpecker ♦ *Melanerpes chrysogenys*

Grey-breasted Woodpecker ♦ *Melanerpes hypopolius* Excellent looks on the cacti near Oaxaca.

Yucatan Woodpecker ♦ *Melanerpes pygmaeus* (Y) Perfect views on Cozumel.

Velasquez's Woodpecker ♦ *Melanerpes santacruzi*

Ladder-backed Woodpecker *Dryobates scalaris*

Strickland's Woodpecker ♦ *Leuconotopicus stricklandi* This endemic performed very well near Mexico City.

Golden-olive Woodpecker *Colaptes rubiginosus* (H)

Grey-crowned Woodpecker ♦ *Colaptes auricularis* Nice views of this endemic above Puerto Angel.

Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus*

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus*

Pale-billed Woodpecker *Campephilus guatemalensis* (Y) Very nice near Puerto Carillo Puerto.

Crested Caracara (Northern C C) *Caracara [plancus] cheriway*

Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans* Scope views at Tehuantepec.

Collared Forest Falcon *Micrastur semitorquatus* Amazing looks near Felipe Carillo Puerto.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*

Merlin *Falco columbarius* (Y) Two nice encounters on the Yucatan peninsula.

Bat Falcon *Falco rufigularis*

Peregrine Falcon (Peregrine) *Falco peregrinus*

Orange-chinned Parakeet *Brotogeris jugularis* Perched scope views at Puerto Arista.

White-crowned Parrot ♦ *Pionus senilis*

White-fronted Amazon ◊ (W-f Parrot) *Amazona albifrons*

Red-lored Amazon (R-l Parrot) *Amazona autumnalis*

Yucatan Amazon ◊ (Y Parrot) *Amazona xantholora* (Y) Several nice encounters.

Olive-throated Parakeet ◊ (Aztec P) *Eupsittula nana*

Orange-fronted Parakeet ◊ *Eupsittula canicularis*

Green Parakeet ◊ *Psittacara holochlorus*

Pacific Parakeet ◊ *Psittacara strenuus*

Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus*

Tawny-winged Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla anabatina*

Northern Barred Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae* Great looks at an army arm swarm in the Sierra de los Tuxtlas.

Ivory-billed Woodcreeper ◊ *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster*

Spot-crowned Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes affinis*

Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner *Anabacerthia variegaticeps*

Ruddy Foliage-gleaner *Clibanornis rubiginosus* (H)

Fawn-throated Foliage-gleaner *Automolus cervinularis*

Rufous-breasted Spinetail ◊ *Synallaxis erythrothorax* Great looks in the Valle Nacional area.

Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus*

Mayan Antthrush ◊ (Mexican A) *Formicarius moniliger*

Greenish Elaenia *Myiopagis viridicata*

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster*

Caribbean Elaenia ◊ *Elaenia martinica* (Y)

Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet *Ornithion semiflavum* (H)

Northern Beardless Tyrannulet *Camptostoma imberbe*

Sepia-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon amaurocephalus* Good looks in the Valle Nacional area.

Northern Bentbill ◊ *Oncostoma cinereigulare* (H)

Eye-ringed Flatbill *Rhynchocyclus brevirostris* Nice views in the Sierra de los Tuxtlas.

Yellow-olive Flatbill (Y-o Flycatcher) *Tolmomyias sulphurescens*

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans*

Northern Tufted Flycatcher *Mitrephanes phaeocercus*

Greater Pewee *Contopus pertinax*

Wood Pewee (W Pewee) *Contopus sp*

Least Flycatcher *Empidonax minimus* The most commonly identified Empidonax.

Hammond's Flycatcher *Empidonax hammondii*

American Dusky Flycatcher *Empidonax oberholseri*

American Grey Flycatcher *Empidonax wrightii*

Pine Flycatcher ◊ *Empidonax affinis* Very nice looks near Mexico City.

Yellowish Flycatcher ◊ *Empidonax flavescens* Nice encounters in the Sierra de los Tuxtlas.

Buff-breasted Flycatcher ◊ *Empidonax fulvifrons* This smart-looking Empidonax showed well near Mexico City.

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus obscurus*

Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaeus*

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis*

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher *Myiodynastes luteiventris*

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua*

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*

Couch's Kingbird ◊ *Tyrannus couchii* Nice views in the Sierra de los Tuxtlas.

Cassin's Kingbird *Tyrannus vociferans*

Thick-billed Kingbird ◊ *Tyrannus crassirostris* It showed well near Oaxaca.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus*

Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana*

Yucatan Flycatcher ◊ *Myiarchus yucatanensis* (Y)

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer*

Ash-throated Flycatcher *Myiarchus cinerascens*

Nutting's Flycatcher ◊ *Myiarchus nuttingi* Regular on the Pacific slope.

Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus* (H)

Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus*

Bright-rumped Attila (Flammulated A) *Attila [spadiceus] flammulatus*

Long-tailed Manakin ◊ *Chiroxiphia linearis* (NL)

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata*

Rose-throated Becard *Pachyramphus aglaiae* Regular encounters.

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis*

Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo ◊ *Vireolanius melitophrys* This beauty showed well near Oaxaca.

Green Shrike-Vireo ◊ *Vireolanius pulchellus* Glimpses only at the Ocote Reserve.

Lesser Greenlet *Pachysylvia decurtata*

Golden Vireo ♦ *Vireo hypochryseus*

Yucatan Vireo ♦ *Vireo magister* (Y) Regular and showy on Cozumel.

Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus*

Hutton's Vireo *Vireo huttoni*

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons* Regular encounters with this attractive species.

Blue-headed Vireo *Vireo solitarius*

Cassin's Vireo *Vireo cassinii*

Mangrove Vireo ♦ *Vireo pallens* (Y)

Cozumel Vireo ♦ *Vireo bairdi* (Y) Several excellent sightings on Cozumel.

White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus*

Dwarf Vireo ♦ *Vireo nelson* Perfect views near Oaxaca.

Azure-hooded Jay ♦ *Cyanolyca cucullata*

Dwarf Jay ♦ *Cyanolyca nanus* A very nice showing near Oaxaca.

White-throated Jay ♦ *Cyanolyca mirabilis* (H)

Yucatan Jay ♦ *Cyanocorax yucatanicus* (Y) Several nice encounters on the Yucatan peninsula.

Green Jay *Cyanocorax luxuosus*

Brown Jay *Psilorhinus morio*

White-throated Magpie-Jay ♦ *Calocitta formosa* Many excellent sightings on the Pacific slope.

Steller's Jay *Cyanocitta stelleri*

Woodhouse's Scrub Jay ♦ *Aphelocoma woodhouseii*

Northern Raven (Common R) *Corvus corax*

Grey Silky-flycatcher ♦ (G Silky) *Ptiliogonys cinereus* Best looks were at the Monte Alban archaeological site.

Mexican Chickadee ♦ *Poecile sclateri*

Sand Martin (Bank Swallow) *Riparia riparia*

Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor*

Mangrove Swallow *Tachycineta albilinea* (Y)

Violet-green Swallow *Tachycineta thalassina*

Purple Martin *Progne subis* (Y)

Grey-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*

Northern Rough-winged Swallow ♦ (Ridgway's R-w S) *Stelgidopteryx [serripennis] ridgwayi*

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

American Bushtit *Psaltriparus minimus*

Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Corthylio calendula*

Band-backed Wren *Campylorhynchus zonatus*

Grey-barred Wren ◊ *Campylorhynchus megalopterus* Together with Dwarf Jays near Oaxaca.

Giant Wren ◊ *Campylorhynchus chiapensis* Great looks at this very localized species at Puerto Arista.

Sclater's Wren ◊ *Campylorhynchus humilis*

Boucard's Wren ◊ *Campylorhynchus jocosus* Good looks in the Oaxaca scrub.

Yucatan Wren ◊ *Campylorhynchus yucatanicus* (Y) Great encounters in the Rio Lagartos area.

Rock Wren *Salpinctes obsoletus*

Canyon Wren *Catherpes mexicanus* (H)

Sumichrast's Wren ◊ (Slender-billed W) *Hylorchilus sumichrasti* Fantastic looks at this endemic near Cordoba.

Nava's Wren ◊ *Hylorchilus navai* Perfect views at the Ocote Reserve, eventually.

Marsh Wren *Cistothorus palustris* (NL)

Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii*

Happy Wren ◊ *Pheugopedius felix* Fair looks in the hills above Puerto Angel.

Spot-breasted Wren *Pheugopedius maculipectus*

Banded Wren ◊ *Thryophilus pleurostictus*

Cabanis's Wren ◊ *Cantorchilus modestus*

House Wren (Northern H W) *Troglodytes [aedon] aedon*

House Wren ◊ (Y) (Cozumel W) *Troglodytes [aedon] beani* (Y)

House Wren (Southern H W) *Troglodytes [aedon] musculus*

White-bellied Wren ◊ *Uropsila leucogastra* A nice performance near Rio Lagartos.

White-breasted Wood Wren *Henicorhina leucosticta*

Trilling Gnatwren *Ramphocaenus melanurus* (Y)

Yucatan Gnatcatcher *Polioptila albiventris* (Y) Great looks at this localized endemic west of Rio Lagartos.

White-browed Gnatcatcher *Polioptila bilineata* (Y)

Blue-grey Gnatcatcher *Polioptila caerulea*

White-lored Gnatcatcher ◊ *Polioptila albiloris*

White-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta carolinensis*

Pygmy Nuthatch *Sitta pygmaea* Nice looks near Mexico City.

Brown Creeper (B Treecreeper) *Certhia americana*

Grey Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis*

Black Catbird ♦ *Melanoptila glabrirostris* (Y) Perfect looks on Cozumel and also at Felipe Carillo Puerto.

Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos*

Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus*

Ocellated Thrasher ♦ *Toxostoma ocellatum* (H)

Curve-billed Thrasher *Toxostoma curvirostre*

Blue Mockingbird ♦ *Melanotis caerulescens* A nice showing near Mexico City.

Western Bluebird *Sialia mexicana*

Brown-backed Solitaire ♦ *Myadestes occidentalis*

Slate-colored Solitaire ♦ *Myadestes unicolor* Scope views in the Valle Nacional area.

Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush ♦ *Catharus mexicanus* Regular, excellent looks in the Sierra de los Tuxtlas.

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*

Russet Nightingale-Thrush ♦ *Catharus occidentalis* Great looks at this endemic near Mexico city

American Robin *Turdus migratorius*

Black Thrush ♦ (B Robin) *Turdus infuscatus*

White-throated Thrush (W-t Robin) *Turdus assimilis*

Rufous-backed Thrush ♦ *Turdus rufopalliatus*

Clay-colored Thrush (C-c Robin) *Turdus grayi*

House Sparrow (introduced) *Passer domesticus*

Olive Warbler ♦ *Peucedramus taeniatus* Very nice views of this unique species. In its own family!

Buff-bellied Pipit (American P) *Anthus rubescens*

House Finch *Haemorhous mexicanus*

Red Crossbill (Common C) *Loxia curvirostra* (H)

Lesser Goldfinch (Dark-backed G) *Spinus psaltria*

Black-headed Siskin ♦ *Spinus notatus*

Elegant Euphonia (Blue-hooded E) *Chlorophonia elegantissima* Regular encounters.

Blue-crowned Chlorophonia ♦ *Chlorophonia occipitalis* Scope views of this beauty in the Sierra de los Tuxtlas.

Scrub Euphonia *Euphonia affinis*

Yellow-throated Euphonia ♦ *Euphonia hirundinacea*

Common Chlorospingus *Chlorospingus flavopectus* Regular sightings.

Cinnamon-tailed Sparrow *Peucaea sumichrasti* Perfect looks at this endemic in the Tehuantepec area.

Stripe-headed Sparrow ♦ *Peucaea ruficauda*

Bridled Sparrow ♦ *Peucaea mystacalis* This very attractive endemic showed well near Oaxaca.

Olive Sparrow ◊ *Arremonops rufivirgatus*

Green-backed Sparrow *Arremonops chloronotus*

Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus*

Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina*

Clay-colored Sparrow *Spizella pallida* Two showed well at Puerto Arista. Unusual this far south.

Yellow-eyed Junco ◊ *Junco phaeonotus*

Striped Sparrow ◊ *Oriturus superciliosus* Regular around Mexico City.

Sierra Madre Sparrow ◊ *Xenospiza baileyi* Scope views of this localized endemic near Mexico City.

Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia*

Lincoln's Sparrow *Melospiza lincolni*

Canyon Towhee ◊ *Melospiza fusca*

White-throated Towhee ◊ *Melospiza albicollis* Regular in the Oaxaca area.

Rusty Sparrow ◊ *Aimophila rufescens*

Oaxaca Sparrow ◊ *Aimophila notosticta* All too brief looks near Oaxaca.

Collared Towhee ◊ *Pipilo ocai* Excellent views of this endemic near Oaxaca.

Rufous-capped Brushfinch ◊ *Atlapetes pileatus*

Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna*

Yellow-billed Caciue *Amblycercus holosericeus* (Y)

Mexican Caciue ◊ (Yellow-winged C) *Cassiculus melanicterus* Regular sightings, also at the nest.

Montezuma Oropendola *Psarocolius montezuma*

Audubon's Oriole ◊ *Icterus graduacauda*

Orange Oriole ◊ (Y) *Icterus auratus* (Y) Several excellent encounters of this Yucatan speciality.

Altamira Oriole ◊ *Icterus gularis*

Bullock's Oriole *Icterus bullockii*

Streak-backed Oriole ◊ *Icterus pustulatus*

Black-backed Oriole *Icterus abeillei* A single bird was noted at Monte Alban.

Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula*

Yellow-tailed Oriole *Icterus mesomelas* Great looks at this usually skulking species near Tuxtepec.

Spot-breasted Oriole ◊ *Icterus pectoralis*

Black-vented Oriole ◊ *Icterus wagleri* Regular sightings.

Hooded Oriole *Icterus cucullatus* (Y)

Black-cowled Oriole ◊ *Icterus prothemelas*

Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius*

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus* (Y)

Red-winged Blackbird ♢ (Bicoloured B) *Agelaius [phoeniceus] gubernator* A few were seen at the Almoloya marshes.

Giant Cowbird *Molothrus oryzivorus*

Bronzed Cowbird *Molothrus aeneus*

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater*

Melodious Blackbird *Dives dives*

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*

Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapilla*

Louisiana Waterthrush *Parkesia motacilla* Great looks at one in the Sierra de los Tuxtlas.

Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis*

Blue-winged Warbler *Vermivora cyanoptera*

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia*

Crescent-chested Warbler ♢ *Oreothlypis superciliosa* Perfect looks near Oaxaca.

Tennessee Warbler *Leiothlypis peregrina*

Orange-crowned Warbler *Leiothlypis celata*

Nashville Warbler *Leiothlypis ruficapilla*

Grey-crowned Yellowthroat *Geothlypis poliocephala* (Y)

MacGillivray's Warbler *Geothlypis tolmiei*

Black-pollled Yellowthroat ♢ *Geothlypis speciosa* A very nice showing of this endemic at the Almoloya marshes.

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas*

Hooded Yellowthroat ♢ *Geothlypis nelson* (H)

Hooded Warbler *Setophaga citrina* Two very nice observations. Always a joy to see this jewel.

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*

Northern Parula *Setophaga americana*

Tropical Parula *Setophaga pitiayumi*

Magnolia Warbler *Setophaga magnolia*

American Yellow Warbler (Yellow W) *Setophaga aestiva*

Mangrove Warbler *Setophaga petechia* (Y) Good looks in the Rio Lagartos mangroves.

Palm Warbler *Setophaga palmarum* (Y)

Myrtle Warbler *Setophaga coronata*

Audubon's Warbler *Setophaga auduboni*

Yellow-throated Warbler *Setophaga dominica* (Y) Very nice looks on Cozumel.

Black-throated Grey Warbler *Setophaga nigrescens*

Townsend's Warbler *Setophaga townsendi*

Black-throated Green Warbler *Setophaga virens*

Rufous-capped Warbler ◊ *Basileuterus rufifrons*

Golden-browed Warbler ◊ *Basileuterus belli* This gorgeous speciality showed very well on several occasions.

Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus*

Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina pusilla*

Red Warbler ◊ *Cardellina rubra* Good looks in the Oaxaca pinewoods.

Painted Whitestart ◊ (P Redstart) *Myioborus pictus* Great encounters in the Oaxaca area.

Slate-throated Whitestart (S-t Redstart) *Myioborus miniatus*

Flame-colored Tanager ◊ *Piranga bidentata*

Hepatic Tanager (Northern H T) *Piranga hepatica*

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*

Rose-throated Tanager ◊ *Piranga roseogularis* (Y) Two females were noted on Cozumel.

Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana*

White-winged Tanager *Piranga leucoptera*

Red-crowned Ant Tanager *Habia rubica*

Red-throated Ant Tanager ◊ *Habia fuscicauda* Nice looks at an antswarm in the Sumidero canyon.

Yellow Grosbeak *Pheucticus chrysopheplus*

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*

Black-headed Grosbeak *Pheucticus melanocephalus*

Red-breasted Chat ◊ *Granatellus venustus* Perfect looks at a male south of Puerto Angel.

Grey-throated Chat ◊ *Granatellus sallaei* (Y) Cracking views of a male near Felipe Carillo Puerto.

Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis*

Black-faced Grosbeak ◊ *Caryothraustes polioaster*

Blue Bunting ◊ *Cyanocompsa parellina*

Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea*

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea*

Lazuli Bunting *Passerina amoena* Three of these migrants showed well at Monte Alban.

Painted Bunting ◊ *Passerina ciris* Nice encounters at Rio Lagartos and at Valle Nacional.

Rose-bellied Bunting ◊ *Passerina rositae* This jewel showed ever so well near Arriaga.

Orange-breasted Bunting ♦ *Passerina leclancherii* Regular encounters with this beauty along the Pacific coast.

Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus*

Cinnamon-bellied Saltator *Saltator grandis*

Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus*

Black-headed Saltator *Saltator atriceps* Noisy and showy.

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola*

Yellow-faced Grassquit *Tiaris olivaceus* (Y)

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina*

Crimson-collared Tanager ♦ *Ramphocelus sanguinolentus* Excellent looks on the Caribbean side.

Morelet's Seedeater *Sporophila moreletti*

Variable Seedeater *Sporophila corvina*

Thick-billed Seed Finch (Lesser S F) *Sporophila funerea*

Blue-grey Tanager *Thraupis episcopus*

Yellow-winged Tanager ♦ *Thraupis abbas*

Golden-hooded Tanager ♦ *Stelpnia larvata*

MAMMALS

Ringtail (Southern Ringtail) *Bassariscus astutus* One was being chased by the Ornate Hawk-Eagle in the Sierra de los Tuxtlas.

White-nosed Coati *Nasua narica*

Northern Raccoon *Procyon lotor* (Y) Several showed well at Rio Lagartos, even in the village.

Tayra *Eira barbara* (Y) One crossed the highway near Valladolid.

Collared Peccary (Javelina) *Pecari tajacu* (Y) A youngster showed very well on Cozumel.

Spinner Dolphin *Stenella longirostris* Continuous spectacle on the pelagic trip off Puerto Angel.

Common Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*

Central American Black Howler *Alouatta pigra* (H)

Mexican Cottontail *Sylvilagus cunicularius*

Red-bellied Squirrel (Red-bellied S) *Sciurus aureogaster*

Yucatan Squirrel *Sciurus yucatanensis* (Y)

REPTILES

Green Sea Turtle *Chelonia mydas* Several were nicely seen on our pelagic off Puerto Angel.

Yellow-bellied Sea Snake *Hydrophis platurus* This intriguing animal showed well on our pelagic off Puerto Angel.

Black Spiny-tailed Iguana *Ctenosaura similis*

Green Iguana *Iguana iguana*

Common Basilisk *Basiliscus basiliscus* A nice sighting in the Sierra de los Tuxtlas.