

Oaxaca: Birds, Culture, & Crafts | Species List January 7 – 18, 2024 | with Naturalist Journeys



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(HO)= Distinctive enough to be counted as heard only

(I)=introduced

(E)=Mexican Endemic

We had an amazing journey on this private Oaxaca birding tour, taking us from the arid Oaxaca Valley to the high elevation coniferous forest of the Sierra Madre to the seasonally dry tropical forest of the coast near Huatulco. This amazing tour gives us an amazing cross section of biological diversity, allowing us to explore a wide range of elevations and habitats each with their own unique cast of plants and animals. Over the course of about two weeks, we recorded 265 bird species, including 34 Mexican endemics such as White-throated Jay, Orange-breasted Bunting, Red-breasted Chat, Bumblebee Hummingbird, and Happy Wren. Russet-crowned Motmot was a firm favorite as the bird of the trip!

And what a destination to explore beyond birding! Oaxaca offers an ancient, diverse, and layered culture. We visited archaeological sites such as Monte Alban, learned about natural dyes for handwoven wool items, and enjoyed a rich gastronomy of moles, corn tortillas, and chocolate. This region of Mexico is definitely a firm 'must' for anyone exploring and traveling the world as a birder.

BIRDS (265 species recorded, of which 9 were heard only and 34 were Mexican endemics):

DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: Anatidae (8)

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors*—seen at Piedra Azul Reservoir (01/09) and Rio Copalita (01/16).

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*—two drakes seen at Piedra Azul Reservoir (01/09) – only one of a handful of records in the state of Oaxaca.

Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca*—numerous at Piedra Azul (01/09).

Canvasback *Aythya valisineria*—a continuing rarity at Piedra Azul (01/09).

Redhead *Aythya americana*—several males and females at Rio Copalita together with a large raft of coots and Ring-necked Duck (01/16).

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*—good numbers of this diving duck at both Piedra Azul (01/09) and Rio Copalita (01/16).

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*—seen at both Piedra Azul (01/09) and Rio Copalita (01/16).

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*—numerous at both Piedra Azul (01/09) and Rio Copalita (01/16), the only two sites with wintering ducks on the tour itinerary.

GUANS AND CURASSOWS: Cracidae (1)

West Mexican Chachalaca *Ortalis poliocephala* (E)—several birds in the early morning at Ecoturistica Las Ninfas (01/14) and another individual at Parque Nacional Huatulco (01/17).

NEW WORLD QUAILS: Odontophoridae (1)

Long-tailed Wood-Partridge *Dendrortyx macroura* (E) (HO)—heard in the mountains around San Jose del Pacifico (01/14). This shy partridge is not an easy one to see in this part of its range.

GREBES: Podicipedidae (2)

Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus*—at least a dozen or so at Piedra Azul (01/09), the smallest grebe species in North America.

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*—one in the large raft of wintering waterfowl at Rio Copalita (01/16).

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (7)

Rock Pigeon (1) *Columba livia*

Red-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas flavirostris*—scope views of a single bird on the way to Pluma Hidalgo from the coast (01/15) – a widespread pigeon in Mesoamerica with a yellow-tipped red bill.

Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata*—encountered regularly in small flocks in the high mountains above Oaxaca (01/08) and San Jose del Pacifico (01/12-13).

Eurasian Collared-Dove (1) *Streptopelia decaocto*—common around the coast near Huatulco and La Crucecita, seemingly always on wires near town.

Inca Dove *Columbina inca*—seen frequently near towns, on the grounds of our hotel in Oaxaca, and elsewhere.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*—seen briefly flying in front of the group at PN Huatulco (01/17), and also heard calling in the surrounding seasonally dry forest. Quite shy in this part of its range.

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*

CUCKOOS AND ALLIES: Cuculidae (2)

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris*—our best views were at Parque Santa Cruz at a new traffic circle (01/14). These cuckoos are highly social and hunt for large insects in tightly knit family groups.

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana*—scope views of a bird soaking up the sun on the road to Pluma Hidalgo (01/15). We saw a second bird in the seasonally dry forest at PN Huatulco (01/17).

NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae (2)

Common Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*—heard at a sunrise stop near La Crucecita (01/14) and brief views of one flying by the vehicle while we were night birding in PN Huatulco (01/15).

Buff-collared Nightjar *Antrostomus ridgwayi*—magnificent views of a quietly perched individual at PN Huatulco (01/15) during some night birding, thanks to Eric's intimate knowledge of the area.

POTOOS: Nyctibiidae (1)

Northern Potoo *Nyctibius jamaicensis*—amazing spotting by Roy of a cryptically camouflaged bird at PN Huatulco (01/15) – the rest of us were standing and looking right at the same tree for thirty minutes without realizing a bird was there!

HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae (17)

Mexican Violetear *Colibri thalassinus*—formerly included with Lesser Violetear as one species (“Green Violetear”), we recorded this species by voice daily in the highlands and saw it on several days (especially at Hotel Puesta del Sol and the San Mateo Rio Hondo Road (01/12)).

Rivoli's Hummingbird *Eugenes fulgens*—formerly known included with Talamanca Hummingbird as one species (“Magnificent Hummingbird”), we recorded this large hummingbird at the Café Colibri de Carmen (01/08), and San Mateo Rio Hondo Road (01/12-13).

Long-billed Starthroat *Heliomaster longirostris*—nice but brief views of one on the road to Pluma Hidalgo (01/15).

Amethyst-throated Mountain-gem *Lampornis amethystinus*—a female at San Mateo Rio Hondo was our only one of the trip (01/12) – a hummingbird of moist highland forest.

Blue-throated Mountain-gem *Lampornis clemenciae*—we saw this very large hummingbird at the feeders at Café Colibri de Carmen (01/08), one of the largest hummingbird species in Mexico and the largest species we saw on this tour.

Garnet-throated Hummingbird *Lamprolaima rhami*—we saw this multicolored species a couple times around San Mateo Rio Hondo (01/12-13).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris*—we saw this migratory species daily in small numbers once we got into the lowlands, including Las Ninfas (01/14) and the road to Pluma Hidalgo (01/15).

Calliope Hummingbird *Selasphorus calliope*—seen in the mountains above Oaxaca at La Cumbre (01/08).

Broad-tailed Hummingbird *Selasphorus platycercus*—seen at San Mateo Rio Hondo Road (01/12).

Bumblebee Hummingbird *Atthis heloisa* (E)—females seen at La Cumbre (01/08) and San Mateo Rio Hondo (01/12), although it took a little bit more time to come across a nicely plumaged male (01/13).

Dusky Hummingbird *Phaeoptila sordida* (E)—common endemic in the dry interior of Oaxaca, where we saw it at the Piedra Azul Reservoir (01/09) and Monte Alban Archaeological Site (01/11).

Turquoise-crowned Hummingbird *Cynanthus doubledayi* (E)—relatively common along the coast in and around Huatulco, with sightings at Las Ninfas (01/14) and Las Parotas Club de Golf (01/17).

Golden-crowned Emerald *Cynanthus auriceps* (E)—female seen along the road to Pluma Hidalgo (01/15).

White-eared Hummingbird *Basilinna leucotis*—the most numerous hummingbird in the coniferous montane forests we explored – seen at La Cumbre (01/08), Cabanas los Molinos (01/10), and Puesta del Sol (01/12).

Blue-capped Hummingbird *Eupherusa cyanophrys* (E)—we saw this range-restricted Oaxacan endemic on the road to Pluma Hidalgo and Café Pluma “Oro del Sur” (01/3 and 01/15). This species is endemic to the Sierra Miahuatlan in Oaxaca in the narrow elevation band where wet cloud forest is present on the Pacific slope.

Berylline Hummingbird *Saucerottia beryllina*—seen at Hotel Mision de Los Angeles (01/07) and on the road to Pluma Hidalgo (01/15).

Cinnamon Hummingbird *Amazilia rutila*—common hummingbird in the Pacific lowlands, recorded daily from Pluma Hidalgo to La Crucecita on the coast.

RAILS, CRAKES, AND ALLIES: Rallidae (2)

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata*—briefs views of a bird on a log at Rio Copalita (01/16).

American Coot *Fulica americana*—large numbers at both Piedra Azul (01/09) and Rio Copalita (01/16).

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (2)

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus*—about a dozen birds around the shores of the Piedra Azul Reservoir (01/09).

Collared Plover *Anarhynchus collaris*—a few birds in crisp breeding plumage on the beach near Rio Copalita (01/16).

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (5)

Red Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*—we managed to pick out one of these birds out of the many flocks of Red-necked Phalarope on our Santa Cruz Pelagic (01/16).

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*—the most numerous bird species on the Sant Cruz Pelagic (01/16).

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*—small numbers at Piedra Azul (01/09) and Rio Copalita (01/16).

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*—about twenty or so at Rio Copalita (01/16), the world’s smallest species of shorebird!

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri*—a single bird among the flock of Least Sandpiper at Rio Copalita (01/16).

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (4)

Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla*—abundant on the coast.

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger*—scope views of several birds among the huge gull and tern roost at Rio Copalita (01/16).

Elegant Tern *Thalasseus elegans*—scope views of at least one bird among the huge gull and tern roost at Rio Copalita (01/16). Distinguished from Royal Tern by its more yellow, slimmer bill and marginally smaller size.

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus*—numerous on the coast.

NORTHERN STORM-PETRELS: Hydrobatidae (3)

Leach's Storm-Petrel *Hydrobates leucorhous*—one individual on the Santa Cruz Pelagic (01/16), of the 'Chapman' subspecies which may be a future split.

Black Storm-Petrel *Hydrobates melania*—numerous on the Sant Cruz Pelagic (01/16).

Least Storm-Petrel *Hydrobates microsoma*—seen on the Sant Cruz Pelagic (01/16) in small numbers. Both this and the latter species breed exclusively in Mexican waters.

PETRELS AND SHEARWATERS: Procellariidae (3)

Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Ardenna pacifica*—the most numerous shearwater by far on the Santa Cruz Pelagic (01/16).

Galapagos Shearwater *Puffinus subalaris*—two birds floating along with a raft of Wedge-tailed Shearwater on the Santa Cruz Pelagic (01/16)

Black-vented Shearwater *Puffinus opisthomelas*—one on the Santa Cruz Pelagic (01/16).

FRIGATEBIRDS: Fregatidae (1)

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*—numerous on the coast, always soaring menacingly high overhead.

GANNETS AND BOOBIES: Sulidae (1)

Red-footed Booby *Sula sula*—a juvenile bird spotted early on our Santa Cruz Pelagic (01/16).

ANHINGAS: Anhingidae (1)

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga*—a singleton at the estuary of Rio Copalita (01/16), drying its wings on the bank of the river.

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (1)

Neotropic Cormorant *Nannopterum brasilianum*—common species in wetlands of the coastal lowlands, with an especially high concentration at Rio Copalita (01/16).

PELICANS: Pelecanidae (2)

American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*—two birds soaring overhead at the end of our walk at Parque Nacional Huatulco (01/17). Scarce and local migrant this far south.

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*—abundant at Bahia de Santa Cruz and Rio Copalita (01/16).

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (7)

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*—a white juvenile at Piedra Azul Reservoir (01/09).

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor*—we saw this colorful, elegant heron at Rio Copalita (01/16).

Reddish Egret *Egretta rufescens*—at least four individuals at Rio Copalita (01/16), the largest of the *Egretta* herons.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*—a few at Piedra Azul (01/09) and dozens upon dozens at Rio Copalita (01/16).

Green Heron *Butorides virescens*—seen at Piedra Azul (01/09).

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*—seen at Piedra Azul (01/09).

Great Egret *Ardea alba*—small numbers at Piedra Azul (01/09) and Rio Copalita (01/16).

IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae (1)

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja*—a very colorful adult bird offered scope views at Rio Copalita (01/16).

NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae (2)

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*

OSPREY: Pandionidae (1)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*—seen at Bahia de Santa Cruz and Rio Copalita (01/16).

HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (9)

Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus*—we saw this small *Accipiter* race by at Yagul Archaeological Site (01/08).

Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii* (**HO**)—heard calling one morning at Puesta del Sol (01/11).

Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris* (**HO**)—heard calling at PN Huatulco (01/17).

White-tailed Hawk *Geranoaetus albicaudatus*—we saw this striking raptor soaring overhead at Yagul Archaeological Site (01/08).

Gray Hawk *Buteo plagiatus*—great views of a noisy pair at Las Ninfas (01/14).

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus*—seen at San Mateo Rio Hondo Road (01/12-13) and the road to Pluma Hidalgo (01/15). A long distance migrant that nests in the eastern United States.

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus*—three individuals seen during our day birding Pluma Hidalgo (01/15).

Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus*—one soaring overhead near Pluma Hidalgo (01/13). This species of hawk mimics a Turkey Vulture in appearance in order to surprise prey.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*—quite common in the Oaxaca Valley and mountains north of it (01/09-10).

OWLS: Strigidae (4)

Pacific Screech-Owl *Megascops cooperi*—we got to enjoy lovely views of a roosting bird in the seasonally dry forest at Las Ninfas (01/14).

Colima Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium palmarum* (**E**)—we finally caught up with this charming little owl at Sendero Cruz del Monte at PN Huatulco (01/17).

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum* (**HO**)—heard right by the swimming pool in the pre-dawn hours at La Crucecita (01/16).

Mottled Owl *Ciccaba virgata*—we enjoyed walkaway views on our owling session on (01/15).

TROGONS: Trogonidae (3)

Citreoline Trogon *Trogon citreolus* (**E**)—we saw many around Pluma Hidalgo and Huatulco, including Las Ninfas (01/14) and Sendero Cruz del Monte (01/14, 17). This trogon is endemic to the seasonally dry woodlands of coastal western Mexico.

Elegant Trogon *Trogon elegans*—we spotted one feeding in a lone fruiting strangler fig at Monte Alban (01/11).

Mountain Trogon *Trogon mexicanus*—seen at La Cumbre (01/08) and San Mateo Rio Hondo (01/13).

MOTMOTS: Momotidae (1)

Russet-crowned Motmot *Momotus mexicanus*—not uncommon in the warm coastal lowlands around Huatulco. We saw several at Las Ninfas (01/14) and Sendero Cruz del Monte (01/14, 17). **VOTED BIRD OF THE TRIP!**

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (1)

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana*—seen briefly at Piedra Azul (01/09) and at a stop along the road to La Crucecita, where it was perched on a rock in the middle of a stream (01/13).

TOUCANS: Ramphastidae (1)

Northern Emerald-Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus prasinus*—at least two birds seen along the road to Pluma Hidalgo (01/15). The birds in this part of Mexico belong to the 'Wagler's' subspecies and look quite different from the 'Blue-throated' subspecies found in Costa Rica and Panama.

WOODPECKERS: Picidae (9)

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus varius*—one of these widespread birds tried its best to distract the group from a much less common Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo (01/12).

Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus* (**HO**)—heard calling in the mountains above Teotitlan del Valle (01/12). This species occurs all the way south to Colombia!

Golden-cheeked Woodpecker *Melanerpes chrysogenys* (**E**)—very common in the seasonally dry woodlands around Huatulco, and was not fussy about living right in the center of town in small parks and plazas.

Gray-breasted Woodpecker *Melanerpes hypopolius* (E)—lovely views of this very localized Mexican endemic at Rancho Zapata just before lunch (01/09).

Ladder-backed Woodpecker *Dryobates scalaris*—nice views of two birds at Sendero Cruz del Monte (01/17). Also seen by some around Mision de los Angeles on the first day (01/07).

Hairy Woodpecker *Dryobates villosus*—seen at La Cumbre (01/08). The subspecies here is much more brown versus the birds in the eastern United States.

Pale-billed Woodpecker *Campephilus guatemalensis*—two of these very large woodpeckers put on a fantastic show at Las Ninfas (01/14). They are close cousins of the recently extinct Ivory-billed Woodpecker and also exhibit a ‘double-knock’ drumming.

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus*—seen on the road to Pluma Hidalgo (01/15) – a very close relative of Pileated Woodpecker, although a bit smaller.

Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus*—our best views were at Cabanas los Molinos (01/10), here represented by a red-shafted subspecies.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (2)

Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway*—quite common, especially in the arid valley around Oaxaca.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*—occasional roadside sightings around Oaxaca, as well as a single bird seen at Rio Copalita (01/16).

PARROTS: Psittacidae (3)

Lilac-crowned Parrot *Amazona finschi* (E)—we had great scope views of this large and Endangered *Amazona* parrot at Las Ninfas (01/14).

White-fronted Parrot *Amazona albifrons*—pairs of this smaller and more widespread *Amazona* seen at Las Ninfas (01/14) and Sendero Cruz del Monte (01/17).

Orange-fronted Parakeet *Eupsittula canicularis*—common in the seasonally dry lowlands near Huatulco and La Crucecita, including right in the middle of town.

OVENBIRDS AND WOODCREEPERS: Furnariidae (2)

Ivory-billed Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster*—we saw this mid-sized woodcreeper at Las Ninfas (01/14) and Sendero Cruz del Monte (01/17). This woodcreeper species prefer seasonally dry, deciduous wooded habitats.

White-striped Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes leucogaster* (E)—we saw this small woodcreeper at Vuelta Aguda Arriba del Pueblo Teotitlan del Valle. This is the most northerly species of woodcreeper, occurring in montane pine forest north to Sonora.

BECARDS AND TITYRAS: Tityridae (2)

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata*—common in the moist montane forest above Huatulco on the road to Pluma Hidalgo, where we encountered it frequently (01/13, 15).

Rose-throated Becard *Pachyramphus aglaiae*—seen at La Cumbre (01/08), Los Molinos (01/10), and Pluma Hidalgo (01/13).

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (23)

Eye-ringed Flatbill *Rhynchocyclus brevirostris*—brief views of this bauble-headed flycatcher in the narrow band of cloud forest near Pluma Hidalgo (01/13) in Sierra Miahuatlan. This is a disjunct population from the one occurring in Central America.

Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet *Camptostoma imberbe*—we saw these tiny, warbler-sized flycatchers at Sendero Cruz del Monte in the seasonally dry forest (01/17).

Greenish Elaenia *Myiopagis viridicata*—seen at Sierra Miahuatlan in the same flock as the Eye-ringed Flatbill (01/13), as well as at Pluma Hidalgo (01/15) and Café Pluma “Oro del Sur” (01/15).

Tufted Flycatcher *Mitrephanes phaeocercus*—a pair of these handsome flycatchers at Vuelta Aguda Arriba del Pueblo near Teotitlan del Valle (01/09).

Greater Pewee *Contopus pertinax*—nice views at the Vuelta Aguda Arriba del Pueblo (01/09). This large pewee's Spanish name is 'Jose Maria,' which is onomatopoeic.

Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii*—singles at Pluma Hidalgo (01/15) and Las Parotas Golf Club (01/17).

Least Flycatcher *Empidonax minimus*—seen at Los Molinos (01/10), Pluma Hidalgo (01/15), and Sendero Cruz del Monte (01/17).

Hammond's Flycatcher *Empidonax hammondii*—great views just outside the Colibri del Carmen Café (01/08). Also seen along the San Mateo Rio Hondo Road (01/12) and Pluma Hidalgo (01/15).

Dusky Flycatcher *Empidonax oberholseri*—one at the Monte Alban Archeological Site (01/11).

Pine Flycatcher *Empidonax affinis*—we saw this resident *Empidonax* flycatcher on the San Mateo Rio Hondo Road (01/13).

Western Flycatcher *Empidonax difficilis*—sightings of this recently lumped flycatcher at Pluma Hidalgo (01/13) and Sendero Cruz del Monte (01/17).

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans*—one at the Piedra Azul Reservoir (01/09).

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus*—we saw this colorful flycatcher at Yagul (01/08) and Monte Alban (01/11), where they were quite common and conspicuous.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer*—a couple of these small *Myiarchus* flycatchers on the road to Pluma Hidalgo (01/15).

Ash-throated Flycatcher *Myiarchus cinerascens*—sightings at Yagul (01/08) and near Pluma Hidalgo (01/15).

Nutting's Flycatcher *Myiarchus nuttingi*—one in transitional forest on the road to Pluma Hidalgo (01/15).

Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus*—numerous and common in the seasonally dry woodlands of the coast, including Las Ninfas (01/14), Sendero Cruz del Monte (01/17), and Las Parotas Golf Club (01/17).

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*—numerous in the coastal lowlands below Huatulco, often near towns.

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis*—common in the coastal lowlands, especially where there was a little bit more moisture.

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*—increasingly common as one approached the coast.

Cassin's Kingbird *Tyrannus vociferans*—quite common in the Oaxaca Valley, where we saw it daily.

Thick-billed Kingbird *Tyrannus crassirostris*—a single vocal bird at Las Ninfas eventually offered good views (01/14).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus*—scope views of a couple overwintering migrants at Rio Copalita was a nice find (01/16).

VIREOS: Vireonidae (11)

Chestnut-sided Shrike-vireo *Vireolanius melitophrys*—seen at La Cumbre (01/08) and San Mateo Rio Hondo (01/12). Easily one of the most striking vireos and by far the largest species in this family.

Golden Vireo *Vireo hypochryseus* (E)—we saw this endemic once at Monte Alban (01/11) and at Pluma Hidalgo (01/15) in several feeding flocks throughout the day.

Slaty Vireo *Vireo brevipennis* (E)—perhaps the most striking of all the vireos! We saw this skulking endemic on the Federal Highway to Tuxtepec (01/10) and Los Molinos (01/10).

White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus*—we saw two of these scarce wintering birds at Sendero Cruz del Monte (01/17).

Bell's Vireo *Vireo bellii*—we saw this plain and hyperactive little vireo at Las Ninfas (01/14), Sendero Cruz del Monte (01/17), and Las Parotas Golf Club (01/17).

Hutton's Vireo *Vireo huttoni*—seen at Los Molinos (01/10) and San Mateo Rio Hondo (01/12).

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons*—we saw one of these scarce winter migrants at Las Ninfas (01/14).

Cassin's Vireo *Vireo cassinii*—seen in a mixed feeding flock on a roadside stop at Sierra de Miahuatlan (01/13).

Blue-headed Vireo *Vireo solitarius*—seen at Pluma Hidalgo (01/15) and Sendero Cruz del Monte (01/17).

Plumbeous Vireo *Vireo plumbeus*—one at Pluma Hidalgo (01/15).

Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus*—the most numerous and widespread vireo on our tour, recorded in a variety of habitats and elevations.

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (6)

White-throated Jay *Cyanolyca mirabilis* (E)—we saw this lovely, striking species in the coniferous forest around San Jose del Pacifico (01/12, 13).

Dwarf Jay *Cyanolyca nanus* (E)—great views at La Cumbre (01/08), associating with the endemic Gray-barred Wren high up in the canopy of pine trees.

White-throated Magpie-Jay *Calocitta formosa*—we saw these long-tailed, giant jays daily in wooded habitats near the coast in Oaxaca, including the town square in La Crucecita and the dock of Bahia Santa Cruz. It is hard to believe that such a spectacular species is a common and conspicuous garden bird!

Steller's Jay *Cyanocitta stelleri*—not uncommon in the mountains north of Oaxaca such as at La Cumbre (01/08) and Teotitlan del Valle (01/09), as well as the coniferous forest near San Jose del Pacifico (01/12). The subspecies here is part of the *coronata* subspecies group, with various isolated subspecies occurring in the mountain ranges from central Mexico south to Honduras.

Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay *Aphelocoma woodhouseii*—we came across a small family group at Los Molinos (01/10), where we got excellent prolonged views. The birds in Oaxaca and elsewhere in central Mexico are often split as 'Sumichrast's Jay'.

Common Raven *Corvus corax*—we saw these highly successful birds once in the mountains at Los Molinos (01/10).

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae (1)

Mexican Chickadee *Poecile sclateri*—we encountered this southernmost chickadee species on both days in the oak-pine forest around San Jose del Pacifico (01/12, 13).

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (4)

Gray-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*—common in urban and lightly wooded habitats along the coast, including Las Ninfas (01/14), Bahia de Santa Cruz (01/16), and Parque Santa Cruz (01/17).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*—a few birds flying around Monte Alban (01/11).

Violet-green Swallow *Tachycineta thalassina*—seen in the mountains north of Oaxaca City.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*—a few hatch year birds flying off the coast on our Santa Cruz Pelagic (01/16), seemingly heading further out to sea.

BUSHTITS: Aegithalidae (1)

Bushtit *Psaltiriparus minimus*—the only species in the long-tailed tit family in the Americas, with sightings of the black-eared subspecies at La Cumbre (01/08) and along the Oaxaca – Tuxtepec Highway stop (01/10).

KINGLETS: Regulidae (1)

Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Corthylio calendula*—very common winter migrant in the Oaxaca Valley and surrounding mountains.

TREECREEPERS: Certhiidae (1)

Brown Creeper *Certhia americana*—sightings at La Cumbre (01/08) and San Mateo Rio Hondo Road (01/12). This is the only species in its family present in North America – not to be confused with the much larger and more diverse woodcreepers!

GNATCATCHERS: Polioptilidae (2)

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Polioptila caerulea*—common and widespread in a variety of wooded habitats.

White-lored Gnatcatcher *Polioptila albiloris*—seen well in a flurry of activity at Las Ninfas (01/14). This gnatcatcher is endemic to the seasonally dry forest of the Pacific Coast of Mesoamerica, following a similar distribution pattern as White-throated Magpie-Jay and Rufous-naped Wren.

WRENS: Troglodytidae (8)

Rock Wren *Salpinctes obsoletus*—great views on the ancient rock structures of Monte Alban (01/11).

Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii*—one seen at the visitor center of Monte Alban (01/11).

Gray-barred Wren *Campylorhynchus megalopterus* (E)—several of these large, canopy-dwelling wrens showed well at La Cumbre (01/08), associating in a mixed feeding flock alongside Dwarf Jay.

Rufous-naped Wren *Campylorhynchus rufinucha*—we saw this large wren in seasonally dry forest at Sendero Cruz del Monte (01/17) and Las Parotas Golf Club (01/17).

Boucard's Wren *Campylorhynchus jocosus* (E)—similar to the previous species but replaces it in the arid Oaxaca Valley of the interior. We saw them at Yagul (01/08) and Rancho Zapata (01/09). Habitat and behavior reminiscent of a Cactus Wren.

Happy Wren *Pheugopedius felix* (E)—great views in the moist transitional forest near Pluma Hidalgo (01/15). Heard elsewhere.

Banded Wren *Thryophilus pleurostictus*—common in seasonally dry wooded habitats along the coast, such as Las Ninfas (01/14), Pluma Hidalgo (01/15), and Las Parotas Golf Club (01/17).

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucophrys*—seen by only by Mariel in the cloud forest of Sierra Miahuatlan on our way down from San Jose del Pacifico (01/13).

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae (4)

Blue Mockingbird *Melanotis caerulescens* (E)—fantastic views of this large, dark blue bird along the dirt road above Teotitlan del Valle, the Vuelta Aguda Arriba del Pueblo (01/09).

Gray Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis*—heard at the entrance to the trail at Los Molinos (01/10).

Ocellated Thrasher *Toxostoma ocellatum* (E)—after some effort, everyone eventually got fantastic views of this striking endemic at the roadside stop along the federal highway to Tuxtepec (01/10).

Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos*—we saw several birds at the Yagul Archaeological Site (01/08).

THRUSHES: Turdidae (8)

Brown-backed Solitaire *Myadestes occidentalis*—heard and seen on most days in the highland areas of the tour, although not always easy to see due to their ventriloquial voices. A classic part of the soundscape of the oak-pine forests of Mexico.

Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus aurantiirostris* (HO)—heard singing at the roadside stop where we saw the Ocellated Thrasher (01/10).

Russet Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus occidentalis* (E)—nice views of two individuals frequenting a fruiting tree at San Mateo Rio Hondo (01/13).

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*—we saw this boreal migrant a couple times at Pluma Hidalgo (01/15), near the northern end of its wintering range.

White-throated Thrush *Turdus assimilis*—fantastic views at Monte Alban (01/11), where we saw one feeding on the ground under a fruiting fig tree. Also seen near Pluma Hidalgo (01/15).

Clay-colored Thrush *Turdus grayi*—seen a couple times in the coastal lowlands, in disturbed areas and near buildings.

American Robin *Turdus migratorius*—common in the mountains north of Oaxaca City (01/09, 10).

Rufous-backed Robin *Turdus rufopalliatu*s—we lucked out in seeing one of these normally common birds at the Parque Santa Cruz while enjoying a coffee break (01/17).

SILKY-FLYCATCHERS: Ptiliogonatidae (1)

Gray Silky-flycatcher *Ptiliogonys cinereus*—we saw this elegant relative of the Phainopepla on the federal highway to Tuxtepec (01/10), Los Molinos (01/10), and Puesta del Sol (01/12).

OLIVE WARBLER: Peucedramidae (1)

Olive Warbler *Peucedramus taeniatus*—numerous at La Cumbre (01/08) and San Mateo Rio Hondo (01/12, 13). Formerly considered a New World Warbler, genetic studies show that it is at the base of the family tree that gave rise to the highly successful nine-primaried oscines which includes New World Warblers, New World Blackbirds, New World Sparrows, tanagers, and cardinals.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (1)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (I)—sporadic sightings in towns.

FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae (5)

Elegant Euphonia *Chlorophonia elegantissima*—fantastic views of this stunning tropical finch at Yagul Archaeological Site (01/08), feeling out of place in the very dry environment.

Scrub Euphonia *Euphonia affinis*—seen at Las Ninfas (01/14) and Las Parotas Golf Club (01/17).

House Finch *Haemorhous mexicanus*—common in the Oaxaca Valley, such as Yagul (01/08) and Monte Alban (01/11).

Black-headed Siskin *Spinus notatus*—seen on both days in the oak-pine forest near San Jose del Pacifico (01/12, 13).

Lesser Goldfinch *Spinus psaltria*—seen at Yagul (01/08) and Monte Alban (01/11).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae (13)

Common Chlorospingus *Chlorospingus flavopectus*—we encountered a large roving flock at Los Molinos (01/10). A few birds also seen in a mixed feeding flock at San Mateo Rio Hondo Road (01/12).

Bridled Sparrow *Peucaea mystacalis* (E)—great views of this handsome endemic above Teotitlan del Valle in very dry thorn-scrub (01/09).

Olive Sparrow *Arremonops rufivirgatus*—we saw this terrestrial sparrow at Las Ninfas (01/14), Sendero Cruz del Monte (01/17), and Las Parotas Golf Club (01/17).

Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina*—several birds on the grounds of Monte Alban (01/11).

Chestnut-capped Brushfinch *Arremon brunneinucha*—seen by a few in the group in a ravine above Teotitlan del Valle, in the same area as the Oaxaca Sparrow (01/09).

Yellow-eyed Junco *Junco phaeonotus*—seen in the pine-oak forest at San Mateo Rio Hondo (01/12, 13).

Lincoln's Sparrow *Melospiza lincolni*—singles at Piedra Azul (01/09), Los Molinos (01/10), and San Mateo Rio Hondo (01/13).

White-throated Towhee *Melospiza albicollis* (E)—many birds seen well at Yagul (01/08), Monte Alban (01/11), and Puesta del Sol (01/12). This Mexican endemic ranges primarily within the state of Oaxaca, where it is very common in the interior valley and foothills.

Rusty Sparrow *Aimophila rufescens*—we saw this large, skulky sparrow at Café Pluma Oro del Sur (01/15).

Oaxaca Sparrow *Aimophila notosticta* (E)—seen very well at the sharp turn in the road above Teotitlan del Valle (01/09). This species is endemic to the state of Oaxaca.

Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus* (HO)—heard calling at the *Ocellated Thrasher* stop along the highway.

Collared Towhee *Pipilo ocai* (E)—this gorgeous towhee showed well at La Cumbre (01/08).

Rufous-capped Brushfinch *Atlapetes pileatus* (E)—great views at La Cumbre (01/08).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Icteriidae (1)

Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens*—one individual seen at Las Ninfas (01/14).

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae (12)

Yellow-winged Cacique *Cassiculus melanicterus* (E)—very common in the coastal lowlands from Pluma Hidalgo down to La Crucecita, including the town square of Santa Cruz.

Black-vented Oriole *Icterus wagleri*—our best views were above Teotitlan del Valle near the *Bridles Sparrow* spot (01/09).

Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius*—seen at Las Ninfas (01/14) and Parque Santa Cruz (01/17). Smallest of the New World Orioles.

Streak-backed Oriole *Icterus pustulatus*—common in the seasonally dry forests near the coast, including Las Ninfas (01/14), Parque Santa Cruz i.e. the town square (01/14), Pluma Hidalgo (01/15), and Sendero Cruz del Monte (01/17).

Bullock's Oriole *Icterus bullockii*—this boreal migrant from the western USA was numerous and widespread in a variety of habitats in Oaxaca.

Spot-breasted Oriole *Icterus pectoralis*—singles at Las Ninfas (01/14) and near Pluma Hidalgo (01/15). One of the most accomplished songsters in the family.

Altamira Oriole *Icterus gularis*—this large, bulky oriole was numerous in the coastal lowlands.

Audubon's Oriole *Icterus graduacauda*—singles at Sierra de Miahuatlan near La Soledad (01/13) and Pluma Hidalgo (01/15), where we got our best views for the whole group.

Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula*—most numerous in the coastal lowlands, including Las Ninfas (01/14) and Pluma Hidalgo (01/15). This boreal migrant winters primarily further south and east versus Bullock's Oriole.

Scott's Oriole *Icterus parisorum*—a subadult bird seen in the early morning at Restaurante Puesta del Sol (01/12).

Bronzed Cowbird *Molothrus aeneus*—large flock at the gas station at La Crucecita.

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*—numerous and boisterous in town along the coast.

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (27)

Louisiana Waterthrush *Parkesia motacilla*—seen well at Piedra Azul (01/09) and Café Pluma Oro del Sur (01/15).

This large warbler favors sites with some water flow versus the more generalist Northern Waterthrush.

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia*—singles observed in mixed feeding flocks in a variety of habitats throughout our route. This amazing little bird's genus name literally means "moss-plucking," referring to its creeping and probing feeding behavior.

Crescent-cheated Warbler *Oreothlypis superciliosa*—we finally got great views of a handsome male at San Mateo Rio Hondo Road (01/13).

Tennessee Warbler *Oreothlypis peregrina*— we saw this drab wintering warbler at Monte Alban (01/11), Puesta del Sol (01/12), and Pluma Hidalgo (01/15).

Orange-crowned Warbler *Leiothlypis celata*—common boreal wintering species, seen on most days. Very plain species with yellowish undertail coverts and subtle eyeline.

Lucy's Warbler *Leiothlypis luciae*—we saw this tiny gray warbler in a mixed flock of wintering birds at Las Parotas Club de Golf (01/17), a scarce rarity for the area!

Nashville Warbler *Leiothlypis ruficapilla*—one of the most common wintering warblers in Oaxaca.

Virginia's Warbler *Leiothlypis virginiae*—singles observed at Yagul (01/08) and Monte Alban (01/11). Decidedly uncommon wintering species on our tour route.

MacGillivray's Warbler *Geothlypis tolmiei*—we saw a single bird in the dry thorn-scrub of Monte Alban (01/11), but they were abundant in the moist secondary growth below Pluma Hidalgo (01/15).

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas (HO)*—heard calling in the reeds at Rio Copalita (01/16).

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*—we saw female-type individuals at Pluma Hidalgo (01/15) and Las Parotas Club de Golf (01/17).

Magnolia Warbler *Setophaga magnolia*—singles of this lovely species at Monte Alban (01/11) and Pluma Hidalgo (01/15).

Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechia*—common once we reached the coastal lowlands between Pluma Hidalgo and La Crucecita.

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Setophaga coronata*—by far the most common warbler at all the places we visited!

Yellow-throated Warbler *Setophaga dominica*—one of the last new birds of the tour, a crisp individual at Las Parotas Club de Golf (01/17).

Black-throated Gray Warbler *Setophaga nigrescens*—we saw one quite well at Monte Alban (01/11) but nowhere else.

Townsend's Warbler *Setophaga townsendi*—the second most common wintering warbler of the tour, recorded everywhere except the coastal lowlands.

Hermit Warbler *Setophaga occidentalis*—we saw three birds, including a nice male, in a mixed feeding flock at La Cumbre (01/08).

Black-throated Green Warbler *Setophaga virens*—a boreal migrant that prefers the moist foothills just above the seasonally dry coast, where we saw it at Pluma Hidalgo (01/15) and Café Pluma Oro del Sur (01/15).

Fan-tailed Warbler *Basileuterus lachrymosus*—seen briefly below the lunch area at Café Pluma Oro del Sur (01/15).

Rufous-capped Warbler *Basileuterus rufifrons*—sightings at Yagul (01/08), Teotitlan del Valle (01/09), Los Molinos (01/10), Monte Alban (01/11), and Café Pluma Oro del Sur (01/15). Widespread and adaptable resident species.

Golden-browed Warbler *Basileuterus belli*—nice views of this beautiful warbler at La Cumbre (01/08).

Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus*—we saw a frenetic individual at a stop along the road to Pluma Hidalgo (01/15).

Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina pusilla*—common and widespread boreal migrant.

Red-faced Warbler *Cardellina rubrifrons*—great views of a male above Teotitlan del Valle near the Oaxaca Sparrow site (01/09).

Red Warbler *Cardellina rubra* (E)—we saw this handsome species at La Cumbre (01/08) and San Mateo Rio Hondo (01/12, 13). This subspecies in this part of its range is white-eared.

Slate-throated Redstart *Myioborus miniatus*—seen at La Cumbre (01/08), above Teotitlan del Valle (01/09), Pluma Hidalgo (01/15), and Café Pluma Oro del Sur (01/15). The subspecies present in Mesoamerica is red-bellied.

CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS, AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae (15)

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*—common in the most transitional forest near and around Pluma Hidalgo (01/15).

Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana*—increasingly common heading south from Oaxaca City to La Crucecita. Seen on most days of the tour.

Flame-colored Tanager *Piranga bidentata*—our best views were of a male in a mixed feeding flock at Sierra de Miahuatlan (01/13).

Red-headed Tanager *Piranga erythrocephala* (E)—male and female present around the main Café Pluma Oro del Sur building (01/15).

Red-crowned Ant-Tanager *Habia rubica* (HO)—heard the distinct metallic chip note at a roadside stop to Pluma Hidalgo, the one looking across the river onto the next hillside (01/15).

Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis*—we saw this handsome species at Las Ninfas (01/14) and Sendero Cruz del Monte (01/17).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*—a single bird at Los Molinos (01/10) among a number of Black-headed Grosbeak.

Black-headed Grosbeak *Pheucticus melanocephalus*—a dozen birds moving together at Los Molinos (01/10), as well as a single bird at Monte Alban (01/11).

Red-breasted Chat *Granatellus venustus* (E)—a male basically gave us walkaway views in the seasonally dry forest habitat at Sendero Cruz del Monte (01/17).

Blue Bunting *Cyanocompsa parellina*—female birds seen near Pluma Hidalgo (01/13) and Las Ninfas (01/14).

Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea*—one bright male perched atop of a dry bush at Piedra Azul (01/09).

Lazuli Bunting *Passerina amoena*—seen in a mixed flock on the road to Pluma Hidalgo (01/15).

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea*—brown, winter plumage birds at Monte Alban (01/11) and Pluma Hidalgo (01/15).

Orange-breasted Bunting *Passerina leclancherii* (E)—we saw this brightly colored bird at Las Ninfas (01/14) and Sendero Cruz del Monte (01/17).

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris*—seen at Las Ninfas (01/14) and Pluma Hidalgo (01/15).

TANAGERS AND ALLIES: Thraupidae (4)

Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus*—very common in the moist transitional forest near Pluma Hidalgo (01/15), where it seemed to be in most feeding flocks. The northerly subspecies present in this part of Mexico molts into a dull winter plumage.

Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer *Diglossa baritula*—seen a couple times in the oak-pine woodlands by some in the group.

Cinnamon-rumped Seedeater *Sporophila torqueola* (E)—we saw three female-type individuals at Las Ninfas (01/14).

Black-headed Saltator *Saltator atriceps*—scope views of this large, robust tanager near Pluma Hidalgo (01/15).

Mammals (4 species):

Red-bellied Squirrel *Sciurus aureogaster*—the only squirrel species we saw on the trip but a common one.

Pantropical Spotted Dolphin *Stenella attenuata*—seen on the Santa Cruz Pelagic (01/16).

Spinner Dolphin *Stenella longirostris*—we enjoyed a large pod of these interesting dolphins on the Santa Cruz Pelagic (01/16).

Common Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*—our third dolphin species on the Santa Cruz Pelagic (01/16).

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (7 species):

Olive Ridley Sea Turtle *Lepidochelys olivacea*—seen on the Santa Cruz Pelagic (01/16).

Western Spiny-tailed Iguana *Ctenosaura pectinata*

Green Iguana *Iguana iguana*—one in the town square in Santa Cruz during our coffee break (01/16).

Mexican Racerunner *Aspidozelis guttatus*

Clouded Anole *Anolis nebulosus*—a hatchling at San Mateo Rio Hondo Road (01/13).

Mexican Emerald Spiny Lizard *Sceloporus formosus*

Yellow-bellied Gecko *Phyllodactylus tuberculatus*—one of these large geckos showed itself at Las Ninfas after lifting a wooden plank (01/14).

BUTTERFLIES (15 species):

Two-tailed Swallowtail *Papilio multicaudata*

Dorantes Longtail *Thorybes dorantes*

Julia Heliconian *Dryas iulia*

Zebra Longwing *Heliconius charithonia*

Banded Peacock *Anartia fatima*

Malachite *Siproeta stelenes*

Great Southern White *Ascia monuste*

White-rayed Metalmark *Melanis cephe*

Soldier *Danaus eresimus*

Many-banded Daggerwing *Marpesia chiron*

Iphicleola Sister *Adelphia iphicleola*

Crimson Patch *Chlosyne janais*

Anna's Eighty-Eight *Diaerthria anna*

Rusty-tipped Page *Siproeta epaphus*

Mexican Silverspot *Dione moneta*

Plants of Note:

Sierra Madre Lobelia *Lobelia laxiflora*—one of the most common highland roadside flowers

Stinking Passionflower *Passiflora foetida*—native flowering vine seen at Ecoturista Las Ninfas

Fiberglass Plant *Wigandia urens*—very common, blue-flowered small tree growing in both highland and coastal situations

Field Paintbrush *Castilleja arvensis*

Clinopodium macrostemum—aromatic small shrub in the mint family, sometimes used by locals for tea

Pinto Beardtongue *Penstemon roseus*

Lavender Leaf Sage *Salvia lavanduloides*—many sage species up in the mountains! Most of the blue ones were this species.

Pink Paramosage *Salvia carnea*

Cinnabar Sage *Salvia cinnabarina*

Tree Dahlia *Dahlia imperialis*—the dahlias found in flower gardens originate from species like this one in Mexico

Cirsium subcoriaceum—fantastic and large highland thistle

Mexican Sunflower *Tithonia rotundifolia*

Rhynchostele cervantesii—stunning pink epiphytic orchid from the Oncidium alliance

Hickel's Fir *Abies hickelii*