

# Mexico's Birds & Butterflies | Species List

## February 18 – 23, 2024 | with Naturalist Journeys



**Compiled by Greg Butcher with guide Carlos Gonzalez and driver Basilio Garcia and participants Adele and John, Craig, Gabi and Tovi, Jeremiah and Marcia, Linda, Mike and Nanette**

We started out in Mexico City and arrived in La Cima on a cold and frosty morning. We had a great start with several Sierra Madre Sparrows providing good views and a Long-tailed Wood-Partridge serenading us loudly. At Lerma Marsh, the Black-poll'd Yellowthroat was the first bird we saw. Day 2 was devoted to monarch butterflies at Sierra Chincua, but the day began with great views of Red Warblers. On Day 3, we found some marvelous birds on the dry hills near Hotel Agua Blanca, including 6 species of hummingbirds, Russet-crowned Motmot, Golden Vireo, a surprise Banded Wren, the elegant Gray Silky-Flycatcher, a pair of Rusty-crowned Ground-Sparrows, six migrant warbler species, and some gorgeous Varied Buntings. Then it was on to the Pueblo Magico, Patzcuaro, and several wonderful meals (and one to forget). Cerro Burro produced Chihuahuan Meadowlark, Transvolcanic Jay, and Gray-barred Wren. We drove to the volcanic crater pond in Tacambaro only to be surprised by a huge party of students and their parents. Most of the birds remained, and we got good looks at a Squirrel Cuckoo, Bright-rumped Attila, Flame-colored Tanager, 6 species of migrant warblers, and a Thick-billed Kingbird. We had lunch at the lovely Quinta Sauz, with 2 Blue Mockingbirds for desert. On the way back to Patzcuaro, we enjoyed great looks at Mountain Trogons. On the final birding day, we walked along a scenic road above Lake Patzcuaro and enjoyed Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo, a pair of flyover Hook-billed Kites, and great views of the valley below. We ended our stay with a good dinner and night's sleep at Quinta Don Jose Boutique Hotel. We ended up with a dozen species of hummingbirds, 15 sparrow species, 16 flycatcher species, and 18 warbler species.

**BIRDS (184 species recorded, of which 3 were heard only: Sora, Marsh Wren, and Brown-backed Solitaire):**

The eBird link below details the 184 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

[Mexico's Butterflies and Birds | February 18 - 23, 2024 | eBird Trip Report](#)

Following is a list of the mammals, reptiles and butterflies we were fortunate to observe during the trip.

### **MAMMALS: — (3)**

**Eastern Cottontail** *Sylvilagus floridanus*

**Rock Squirrel** *Otospermophilus variegatus*

**Bats** – We were up early enough on February 20 at Hotel Agua Blanca to see bats, but we never decided which species.

### **REPTILES: — (3)**

**Graphic Spiny Lizard** *Sceloporus grammicus* – We saw a Graphic Spiny Lizard on the first day of the trip.

**Gecko** – We saw a gecko on February 21, but the exact species is unsure.

**Anole** *Anolis* sp. – We saw a brown anolis lizard on February 22, but aren't sure of the species.

**\*BUTTERFLIES: — (13)**

**Giant Swallowtail** *Papilio cresphontes* (page 16) – We found this species south of Patzcuaro on February 22.

**Cabbage White** *Pieris rapae* (page 26) – This species occurred on 4 different days, from the first to the last.

**Clouded Sulphur** *Colias philodice* (page 29) – We had sulphurs on 3 days and identified this one on February 22, south of Patzcuaro.

**Orange-barred Sulphur** *Phoebis philea* (page 30) – We identified this one on the last day, between Patzcuaro and Guadalajara.

**Fritillary** *Euptoieta* sp., *Speyeria* sp., or *Agraulis* sp. (pages 87-88) – There was a great look at a Fritillary on February 22, south of Patzcuaro.

**Julia Heliconian** *Dryas iulia* (page 88) – We had two days with 5 species of butterflies. On February 20, we saw this species between Hotel Agua Blanca in Jungapeo and Posada Yolihuani in Patzcuaro.

**Zebra Heliconian** *Heliconius charithonia* (page 92) – The Zebra Heliconian was also on February 20 between Jungapeo and Patzcuaro.

**Crescent** *Phyciodes* sp. (pages 101-104) – We saw a crescent on the last day, February 23, between Patzcuaro and Guadalajara.

**Mourning Cloak** *Nymphalis antiopa* (page 105) – This was one of the first butterflies we saw on the first day, February 18, between Mexico City and Jungapeo.

**American Lady** *Vanessa virginiensis* (page 105) – We saw this species on both the first and last days of the trip.

**Malachite** *Siproeta stelenes* (page 108) – This beautiful black and green butterfly was seen on February 20 between Jungapeo and Patzcuaro.

**Monarch** *Danaus plexippes* (page 163) – We are concerned because the numbers are down so far from last year and down even more from previous decades, but the spectacle at Sierra Chincua was still very impressive. Because of the sunny day, the butterflies were very active, adding color and drama to our videos.

**Long-tailed Skipper** *Urbanus proteus* (page 199) – We found a skipper at Cerro Burro, not far from Patzcuaro, on February 21.

\*Butterfly names and order of species are from Jeffrey Glassberg. 2017. Second Edition. A Swift Guide to Butterflies of Mexico and Central America. Princeton University Press, Princeton and Oxford, 304 pp.