

Grand Oaxaca: Valley, Mountains & Coast Species List | October 20 – 31, 2024 with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by Naturalist Journeys host guide James P. Smith with further ebird checklists provided by tour participants Emily and Brett, and field contributions from Ana, Anne, Kathy, John, Laura, George, Mark and of course, our top-class local guide Eric Martinez.

This exceptional three-center tour began in the relatively temperate region of the Oaxaca Valley followed by a short spell at elevation in the coniferous forests of the Sierra Madre, and a longer stay along the humid Pacific Coast at Huatulco. The composition of the tour offered an extra-ordinary window into the rich avian diversity for which the region is justly renowned, the 300 species recorded being testament to our hard working group and the talents of our top-notch local guide.

This ebird species report link details some 300 species, several of them with photos and audio. If you click on “Show All Details” on the right side of the ebird list you will see the details of each observation. As with any tour, a few distinctive ‘heard-only’ observations have been included. We did exceptionally to see a large number of the region’s endemics as well as some unexpected rarities such as the Tahiti Petrels encountered on the pelagic out of Santa Cruz. Firm favorites proved to be Mexican Hermit, Ocellated Thrasher, Oaxaca Sparrow, Red Warbler and Colima Pygmy-Owl to mention just a few;

[Grand Oaxaca: Valley, Mountains and Coast | October 20-31, 2024 | eBird Trip Report](#)

Special thanks go to our gifted and personable local leader Eric Martinez, and to our unflappable driver Ramon who brought us safely to our destination in good time every single day. This particular corner of West Mexico is a ‘must visit’ for any birder wishing to explore the outer reaches of North America. You will not be disappointed.

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

Mammals (4)

Red-bellied/Mexican Gray Squirrel *Sciurus aureogaster* – a few singles noted in the grounds at the Mision de los Angeles and in the mountains at La Cumbre.

Pantropical Spotted Dolphin *Stenella attenuata*— awesome views on the Santa Cruz Pelagic (10/29).

Spinner Dolphin *Stenella longirostris*— great looks at this spectacular dolphin on the Santa Cruz Pelagic (10/29).

Common Dolphin *Delphinus delphis* — a single spotted by our Captain Hector on the Santa Cruz Pelagic (10/29).

Reptiles and Amphibians (6)

Leatherback Sea Turtle *Dermochelys coriacea* – one spotted by Eric on the Santa Cruz Pelagic (10/29)

Olive Ridley Sea Turtle *Lepidochelys olivacea*— quite a few on the Santa Cruz Pelagic (10/29).

Green Iguana *Iguana iguana* – quite common around the hotel and streets of Huatulco.

Eastern Spiny Lizard *Sceloporus spinosus* - Teotitlan del Valle (10/21).

Asian House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus* – a few ‘in-room’ sightings from the Hotel Villablanca.

Showy Leopard Frog *Lithobates spectabilis* – one was skillfully captured and handled for all to see by Emily at Teotitlan del Valle (10/21). Endemic to Mexico.

Butterflies (28+)

Butterflies were prolific on this trip and a more comprehensive list will appear as a supplement to the narrative trip report at a later date. This small sample is not intended to be in taxonomic order;

Dorantes Longtail *Thorybes dorantes*

Red Postman *Heliconius erato*

Rusty-tipped page *Siproeta epaphus*

Monarch *Danaus plexippus*

Crimson Patch *Chlosyne janais*

Julia Longwing *Dryas iulia*

Zebra Longwing *Heliconius charithonia*

Banded Peacock *Anartia Fatima*

Cloudless Sulphur *Phoebis sennae*

Mexican Fritillary *Euptoieta hegesia*

Yellow-angled Sulphur *Anteos maerula*

Common Blue Morpho *Morpho helenor*

White Morpho *Morpho polyphemus*

Clearwing Mimic-white *Dismorphia theucharila*

Ticlear Swallowtail *Papilo ascolius*

Giant Swallowtail *Papilio cresphontes*

Magnificent Swallowtail *Papilio garamas*

Two-tailed Swallowtail *Papilio multicaudata*

Malachite *Siproeta stelenes*

Many-banded Daggerwing *Marpesia chiron*

Iphicleola Sister *Adelphia iphicleola*

Anna’s Eighty-Eight *Diaerthria anna*

Gray Cracker *Hamadryas februa*

Pine Satyr *Paramacera allyni*

Pale-banded Crescent *Anthanassa tulcis*

Marine Blue *Leptotes marina*

Dainty Yellow *Nathalis iole*

Mexican Dartwhite *Catantix nimbice*

Moths (1)

Black Witch *Ascalapha odorata*