

Oaxaca Valley: Birds, Culture & Crafts Species List | December 1 – 9, 2024 with Naturalist Journeys



With local guide Eric Antonio Martinez and seven awesome participants; Barb & Bill, Lorna & Maryann, Kathy, Chris and Beth. Compiled by host guide James P. Smith

An epic two-base adventure to the heart of the West Mexican state of Oaxaca. Not only did we experience a host of wonderful endemic and regional-endemic bird species but we also had time to sample a range of cultural and culinary delights for which the region is justly renowned. The tour was quite brilliantly crafted by local guide Eric Martinez and ably assisted by his trusty driver Ramon. Moreover, we enjoyed immaculate weather throughout with cool, crisp mornings and warm afternoons being a welcome feature of each and every day. This was a wonderful trip, the group camaraderie and humor on the tour being second to none.

Highlights included several dazzling (and much-desired) Red Warblers, a huge flock of 250 White-collared Swifts calling and screaming over one memorable lunch stop, Eric using his own vocalization to draw in a Lesser Roadrunner for everyone to see, and Barb spotting an endemic Broad-horned Pit Viper coiled up and wonderfully hidden in some roadside tangles.

The eBird link below details almost 180 species of birds observed by our group during the tour. 'Heard-only' or 'leader-only' observations are generally noted within the checklists. 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. Photos and audio have been included with some of the observations with more to follow;

[Oaxaca Valley: Birds, Culture & Crafts | December 1-9, 2024 | eBird Trip Report](#)

In addition, the following is a list of mammals, reptiles and butterflies that we were fortunate to observe during the trip.

MAMMALS: — (2)

Red-bellied Squirrel *Sciurus aureogaster* — quite widespread though not particularly common. Most easily encountered in the grounds of the Mision de los Angeles Hotel.

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus* — a chance sighting of one crossing the dirt road as we departed from La Cumbre on our first full day of the tour.

REPTILES: — (3)

Spiny Lizard sp. *Sceloporus sp.* — one seen in the ruins at Monte Alban was a little too distant to be identified with certainty.

Southern Crevice Spiny Lizard *Sceloporus aureolus* — Eric pointed one out sunning itself at Puesta del Sol on the 7th.

Broad-horned Pit Viper *Ophryacus sphenophrys* — one brilliantly spotted by Barb along the roadside to San Pedro El Alto on the 7th. This beauty was being mobbed by a whole host of interesting and endemic songbirds and was most certainly

one of the highlights of the tour. A rarely encountered endemic viper restricted to the mountains of Oaxaca. What an incredible find!

BUTTERFLIES: — (28)

Despite this being a 'dry season' trip we came across an excellent variety of butterflies during the tour;

Dorantes Longtail *Thorybes dorantes*

Julia Heliconian *Dryas iulia*

Zebra Longwing *Heliconius charithonia*

Red Postman *Heliconius erato*

Banded Peacock *Anartia fatima*

Mexican Fritillary *Euptoieta hegesia*

Malachite *Siproeta stelenes*

Great Southern White *Ascia monuste*

Barred Yellow *Eurema daira*

Ceraunus Blue *Hemiargus ceraunus*

Anna's Eighty-Eight *Diaethria anna*

Monarch *Danaus plexippus*

Pale-banded Crescent *Anthanassa tulcis*

Bordered Patch *Chlosyne lacinia*

Mexican Silverspot *Dione moneta*

Soldier (or Tropical Queen) *Danaus eresimus*

White Peacock *Anartia jatrophae*

Rusty-tipped Paige *Siproeta epaphus*

Dainty Yellow *Nathalis iole*

Mexican Dart White *Catantixia nimbice*

Orange Banner *Temenis laothoe*

Marine Blue *Leptotes marina*

Common (Blue) Morpho *Morpho helenor*

Ruddy Daggerwing *Marpesia petreus*

Spotlight Catone *Catonephele numilia*

Texan Crescent *Phyciodes texana*

Isabella's Heliconian *Eueides Isabella*

Mexican Heliconian *Heliconias hortense*