

Oaxaca Valley: Birds, Culture, & Crafts Species List | Oct. 7-18, 2025 with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by guide Bryan Calk with local guide Eric Martinez. Our clients included David, Toph, Mary, Chris, Becca, Dennis, Laura, Gerry, and Vicki.

From the first morning in the Oaxaca Valley, the trip unfolded in layers of color, texture, and discovery. We walked among towering agaves standing like sentinels in the misty foothills and spent time in the cool, pine-scented cloud forests where mosses, orchids, and bromeliads draped the trees. At La Cumbre and Puesta del Sol, mornings began in cabins warmed by fireplaces, with fog drifting through the mountains and birds appearing out of the quiet. Bumblebee Hummingbirds darted through the sages, Ferruginous Pygmy-Owls called back to Eric's whistles, and a Russet-crowned Motmot emerged from the woods to perch in the light. Higher up, Red Warblers flashed brilliant color through the flocks, a reminder of the magic that can appear when patience and stillness meet the forest.

Down in the valleys and coastal lowlands, Oaxaca revealed its human richness as much as its natural one. We watched the process of weaving and dyeing at El Tono de la Cochinilla, saw cochineal reds and indigo blues take life in the hands of Zapotec artisans, and shared homemade tortillas and mole alongside local families. At Monte Albán we stood among the stone plazas of one of Mesoamerica's great cities, and later rode tuk-tuks up to a coffee finca where three generations of growers welcomed us with a meal and stories of their land. On the Pacific slope, Cinnamon and Turquoise-capped Hummingbirds glowed in the sunlight, a Pale-billed Woodpecker worked the trees, and Orange-breasted and Painted Buntings brought a rush of color to the lowland scrub. Butterflies filled the air at every stop, dazzling in variety. By the end, we had not only seen an abundance of life but shared something more lasting - real connection with the people, landscapes, and rhythms of Oaxaca, and a reminder that travel done with curiosity and respect deepens our understanding of the world and each other.

BIRDS (244):

During the trip, 244 species were recorded of which ten were heard only, twenty-two were endemic and three were introduced. Details are included below.

The eBird link below details the 244 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.

[Oaxaca Valley: Birds, Culture, & Crafts | Oct. 7-18, 2025 | eBird Trip Report](#)

MAMMALS (3):

Virginia Opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*) – one individual crossing the road at Huatulco National Park while owling.

Red-bellied Squirrel (*Sciurus aureogaster*) – one individual ran across the road near the archaeological site at Monte Albán.

Gray Sac-winged Bat (*Balantiopteryx plicata*) - In a crack of a large boulder at Playa Bocana

BUTTERFLIES & MOTHS (73+*):

*these are species seen/documented by Bryan. more complete list provided by participant and butterfly extraordinaire Gerry separately - thanks Gerry!!

Swallowtails – Papilionidae

Two-tailed Tiger Swallowtail (*Papilio multicaudata*)

Western Giant Swallowtail (*Papilio rumiko*)

Black Swallowtail (*Papilio polyxenes asterius*)

Montezuma Cattleheart (*Parides montezuma*)

Whites and Sulphurs – Pieridae

Golden-banded Dartwhite (*Catantixia teutila*)

Mexican Dartwhite (*Catantixia nimbe*)

Frosted Mimic White (*Enantia albania*)

Lyside Sulphur (*Kricogonia lyside*)

Mexican Yellow (*Eurema mexicana*)

Barred Yellow (*Eurema daira*)

Dainty Sulphur (*Nathalis iole*)

Yellow-angled Sulphur (*Anteos maerula*)

Cloudless Sulphur (*Phoebis sennae*)

Metalmarks – Riodinidae

White-rayed Pixie (*Melanis opites*)

Falcate Emesis (*Emesis tenedia*)

Mexican Zela Metalmark (*Zela mexicana*)

Bumblebee Metalmark (*Lyropteryx apollonia*)

Variegated Blue Mark (*Lasaia agasilas*)

Gossamer-wings – Lycaenidae

Marine Blue (*Leptotes marina*)

Echo Azure (*Celastrina echo*)

Elf (*Microtia elva*)

Matthew's Groundstreak (*Calycopis matthewi*)

Brushfoots – Nymphalidae

Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*)

Queen (*Danaus gilippus*)

Cloud Forest Monarch (*Anetia thirza thirza*)

Broad-tipped Clearwing (*Pteronymia cotytto*)

Julia (*Dryas iulia*)

Zebra Longwing (*Heliconius charithonia*)

Isabella Heliconia (*Heliconius isabella*)

Red Postman (*Heliconius erato petiverana*)

Malachite (*Siproeta stelenes*)

Rusty-tipped Page (*Siproeta epaphus*)

Banded Peacock (*Anartia fatima*)

Gray Cracker (*Hamadryas februa*)

Mexican Silver Spot (*Dione moneta*)

Crimson Patch (*Chlosyne janais*)

Rosita Patch (*Chlosyne rosita*)

Simple Patch (*Chlosyne hippodrome*)

Bordered Patch (*Chlosyne lacinia*)

Texan Crescent (*Anthanassa texana*)

Longwing Crescent (*Anthanassa ardys*)

Square-tipped Crescent (*Anthanassa sitalces*)

Guatemalan Crescent (*Tegosa guatemalena*)

Common Buckeye (*Junonia coenia*)

Four-spotted Sailor (*Dynamine postverta*)

Arizona Sister (*Adelpha eulalia*)

Pithy Sister (*Adelpha iphicleola*)

Banded Mapwing (*Hypanartia lethe*)

White Morpho (*Morpho polyphemus*)

Blue Morpho sp. (*Morpho sp.*)

Pine Satyr (*Cyllopsis pertepida*)

Red-bordered Satyr (*Pareuptychia metaleuca*)

Carolina Satyr (*Hermeuptychia sosybius*)

Orange-striped 88 (*Callicore sorana*)

White-patched 88 (*Diaethria clymena*)

Anna's 88 (*Diaethria anna*)

Skippers – Hesperiidae

Dorantes Longtail (*Cecropterus dorantes*)

White-striped Longtail (*Chiodides albofasciatus*)

West Mexican Spurwing Skipper (*Heliopetes domicella*)

Common Spurwing (*Antigonus erosus*)

Yellow-tipped Flasher (*Astraptes anaphus*)

Two-barred Flasher (*Astraptes fulgerator*)

Widespread Bent Skipper (*Pellicia arina*)

Blue-collared Firetip (*Pyrrhopyge phidias*)

Theagenes albiplaga

Moths

Princely Tiger Moth (*Grammia ornata*)

Imperial Moth caterpillar (*Eacles imperialis*)

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS (11):

Mexican Mud Turtle (*Kinosternon integrum*) – a few individuals basking on a rock at Piedra Azul Reservoir.

Leopard Frog sp. (*Lithobates sp.*) – seen along the trail through riparian vegetation in the Teotitlán area.

Asian House Gecko (*Hemidactylus frenatus*) – several individuals seen around lights at Casa Oaxaca Restaurant and all over Hotel Villa Blanca.

Yellowbelly Gecko (*Phyllodactylus tuberculatus*) – seen climbing stacked wood at Las Ninfas Preserve.

Anole sp. (*Anolis sp.*) – observed moving through vegetation and walls around the Hotel Villa Blanca grounds.

Southern Crevice Spiny Lizard (*Sceloporus aureolus*) – observed basking on stone walls around the Monte Albán ruins.

Mexican Emerald Spiny Lizard (*Sceloporus formosus*) – several individuals seen basking on rocks and trees along the road to San Agustín.

Graphic Spiny Lizard (*Sceloporus grammicus*) – seen on stonework and pillars at the Azucena Zapoteca lunch stop.

Western Spiny-tailed Iguana (*Ctenosaura pectinata*) – large individual seen basking on rocks at Las Ninfas Preserve and at the lighthouse lookout.

Green Iguana (*Iguana iguana*) – several individuals observed lounging and basking around the pool area at Hotel Villa Blanca.

Black-bellied Racerunner (*Aspidooscelis deppii*) – observed darting across open sand and vegetation edges during the Bocanas beach walk.