

Oaxaca Valley: Birds, Culture & Crafts

Species List | January 11 – 22, 2026

With Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by guide Barb Jording with local guide Eric Martinez. Our clients included Liz, Cathy, Leah, Deanna, Nora, Diane, Lori, Woody, Denise & Bill.

With its rugged topography, diverse ecosystems, and location near the narrow land bridge between the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Ocean—and at the convergence of the Pacific, Central, and Mississippi flyways—Oaxaca is truly a birder's paradise.

Our birding adventure spanned an expansive range of elevations, from sea level on a pelagic trip to high oak and white pine forests nearing 10,000 feet in Benito Juárez National Park. This vertical diversity translated into remarkable species richness and constant change in habitats and birds.

Our days were spent exploring the Sierra Madre, the semi-arid scrub of the Central Valley, and the low tropical thorn forests near the coast. At every elevation we encountered endemics, along with a strong mix of wintering North American species and Mexican specialties.

Highlights included the striking Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo—a group favorite—the gregarious and spectacular long-tailed Black-throated Magpie-Jay, and an impressive diversity of *Trochilidae* flashing brilliant gorgets and foreheads in the sun. A special thrill was our sighting of the White-breasted Jay, considered the second most difficult bird to find in Mexico.

Paired with archaeological ruins, learning about mezcal production, natural dyes and weaving traditions, and consistently incredible meals, our Grand Oaxaca trip is one that will be long remembered by everyone.

BIRDS: 254 species were recorded of which 7 were heard only, 30 were endemic and 4 were introduced.

The eBird link below details the 254 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 how many and where and when each of the birds were seen.

[Grand Oaxaca: Birds, Culture & Crafts | January 11-22, 2026 | eBird Trip Report](#)

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

MAMMALS (3):

Red-bellied Squirrel *Sciurus aureogaster*

Long Beaked Common Dolphin *Delphinus delphis*

Pantropical Spotted Dolphin *Stenella attenuata*

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REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (5):

Mexican Mud Turtle *Kinosternon integrum*
Olive Ridley Sea Turtle *Lepidochelys olivacea*
Western Spiny-tailed Iguana *Ctenosaura pectinata*
Green Iguana *Iguana iguana*
Mexican Racerunner *Aspidozelis guttatus*

BUTTERFLIES (41): Thanks to Leah & Deanna

Dorantes Longtail *Thorybes dorantes*
Julia Heliconian *Dryas iulia*
Zebra Longwing *Heliconius charithonia*
Banded Peacock *Anartia fatima*
Malachite *Siproeta stelenes*
Great Southern White *Ascia monuste*
Barred Yellow *Eurema diara*
Anna's Eighty-Eight *Diaethria anna*
Monarch *Danaus plexippus*
White-rayed Metalmark *Melanis cephe*
Pale-Banded Crescent *Anthanasia tulcis*
Bordered Patch *Chlosyne lacinia*
Rusty-tipped Page *Siproeta epaphus*
Marine Blue *Leptotes marina*
Tropical Checkered Skipper *Burnsius oileus*
Confusing Sister *Adelpha iphicleola*
Black-bordered Crescent *Tegosa anieta*
Crimson-patched Longwing *Heliconius erato*
Black-pointed Tilewhite *Hesperocharis graphites*
Square-tipped Crescent *Eresia philyra*
White-patched Skipper *Chiomara georgina*
Mexican Silverspot *Dione moneta*
Spring Azure. *Ceslastrina radon*
4-spotted Sailor *Dynamine postverta*
Faded (Navy) 88 *Diaethria astala*
Common Banner *Epiphyte adraster*
Carolina Satyr *Hermeuptychia sosyus*
Guatemalan Tegosa *Tegosa guatemalena*
Orange Mapwing *Hypanartia lethe*
Ardent Crescent *Phyciodes ardys*
Fine-lined Stripe-streak *Arawacus sito*
Costa-spotted Leafhugger *Telemiades amphion fides*

Frosted-mimic White *Lieinix nemesis*
Mexican Crescent *Phycoides pallescens*
Eastern tailed Blue *Cupido comyntas*
Curved-wing Metalmark *Emesis emesis*
Portillo Skipper *Cabares potrillo*
White Peacock *Anartia jatrophae*
Ceraunus Blue *Hemiargus ceraunus*
Great Tanmark *Emesis mandana*
Mimosa Yellow *Eurema nise*

ARACHNIDS (1):

Uncommon Bark Scorpion *Centruroides nigrimanus*