



Mexico Sea of Cortes 23 March – 01 April 2017 Bird List

- Snow Goose** (*Chen caerulscens*) – A flock of seven, all juveniles, flew over the Estero
- Blue-winged Teal** (*Anas discors*) – Scattered along the reaches of the Estero
- Cinnamon Teal** (*Anas cyanoptera*) – No more than a dozen, but the drakes were in stunning plumage
- Northern Shoveler** (*Anas clypeata*) – Only one drake was seen near the mouth of the Estero
- Green-winged Teal** (*Anas crecca*) – Only a solitary female in the Estero
- Redhead** (*Athya Americana*) – A single drake was solo near the terminus of the Estero
- Lesser Scaup** (*Athya affinis*) – A lone female was recouping after a challenging night
- Ruddy Duck** (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) – Certainly the most common duck on the Estero
- California Quail** (*Calipepla californica*) – A flock of fifteen crossed the road in front of us east of Todos S
- Pied-billed Grebe** (*Podilymbus podiceps*) – Only four were seen in the two days, both on the Estero
- Eared Grebe** (*Podiceps nigricolis*) – The most common water bird of the trip
- Western Grebe** (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) – A single bird in the middle of the Estero
- Leach's Storm-Petrel** (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) – Saw just one on our storm-petrel day
- Black Storm-Petrel** (*Oceanodroma melania*) – This, & a few more, are what alerted us to storm-petrels
- Least Storm-Petrel** (*Oceanodroma microsoma*) – We saw two of these for the day
- Red-billed Tropicbird** (*Phaethon aethereus*) – There were at least six on our storm-petrel day
- Magnificent Frigatebird** (*Fregata magnificens*) – Single individuals were scattered along the coastline
- Blue-footed Booby** (*Sula nebouxii*) – Most were seen on the Los Islotes rocks
- Brown Booby** (*Sula leucogaster*) – Two were seen flying around Los Islotes rocks on our first morning
- Brandt's Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax penicillatus*) – A number of these lounging on Agua Verde rocks
- Neotropic Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) – A solo individual roosting on a log in the Estero
- Double-crested Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) – A few were seen almost everyday
- Brown Pelican** (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) – Scattered, along the coastline for our entire route
- Great Blue Heron** (*Ardea herodias*) – Scattered but biggest numbers were on the Estero
- Great Egret** (*Ardea alba*) – Same as the Great Blue Heron
- Snowy Egret** (*Egretta thula*) – Not very common anywhere, our first was along the Estero
- Tricolored Heron** (*Egretta tricolor*) – We had a flyby upstream on the Estero
- Reddish Egret** (*Egretta rufescens*) – One was seen flying along the bay edge at Isla San Francisco
- Cattle Egret** (*Bubulcus ibis*) – Three on a small island in the Estero were unusual
- Green Heron** (*Butorides virescens*) – Our best look was on our morning walk along the Estero
- Black-crowned Night-Heron** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) – Around the ship while at dock in La Paz
- White-faced Ibis** (*Plegadis chihi*) – At least a half dozen on the Estero
- Turkey Vulture** (*Cathartes aura*) – Not common, but ubiquitous

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) – Seen almost every day of the trip
Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) – Seen making its way over the Estero mid-morning
Harris' Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*) – Two individuals just south of Todos Santos gave us great looks
Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) – One was soaring in the area of the first Xantus's Hummingbird
Common Gallinule (*Gallinula chloropus*) – Fairly common all along the Estero waterfront
American Coot (*Fulica americana*) – Not as common as the gallinule, but definitely present
American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*) – First pair were seen on the beach at Agua Verde
Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) – Two at the south end of the Estero
Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferous*) – First two were seen on the beach between the ocean and the Estero
Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fidoa*) – An individual was pretty confiding in people while foraging at Estero
Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) – An even dozen were in a mixed flock of peeps on the sand near Estero
Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*) – A single individual was playing hide 'n seek until we got a good look
Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) – We saw only six of these on the entire trip
Western Sandpiper (*Western sandpiper*) – There were five in that mixed flock at Estero
Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*) – Part of a mixed flock along the shore of the Estero
Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*) – Part of a mixed flock along the Estero (pictures)
Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) – Quite a few at various locations along the Estero
Willet (*Tringa semipalmata*) – Only one was seen and that was along the coast while docked in La Paz
Pomeraine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) – Seen on that windy day harassing a gull
Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) – Again on that windy day, but flying around on its own
Black-legged Kittiwake (*Risa tridactyla*) – An immature did a flyby on our first day on the Sea of Cortes'
Heermann's Gull (*Larus heermanni*) – A few adults were foraging with the pelicans at Agua Verde
Mew Gull (*Larus canus*) – Had a second cycle bird down at Estero, pretty far south
Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) – Small group of juvies was moving north along Isla San Francisco
Yellow-footed Gull (*Larus livens*) – Once we were north of La Paz, they were seen every day
California Gull (*Larus californicus*) – There was one immature bird hanging around the edge of the Estero
Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) – We saw at least four on our storm-petrel day
Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) – Only one seen on that windy at sea
Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*) – Only two were seen, and of course on our windy storm-petrel day
Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) – All around San Jose del Cabo
Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopella decaocto*) – A few around the central part of San Jose del Cabo
Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*) – Somewhat common, certainly around the stables
White-winged Dove (*Enaida asiatica*) – Everywhere around habitation
Mourning Dove (*Enaida macroura*) – As in the States, they were more visible in the rural settings
White-throated Swift (*Auronautis saxatalis*) – Seen by a few in the Agua Verde area
Costa's Hummingbird (*Calypte costae*) – Two seen with the best looks in Agua Verde
(E) Xantus Hummingbird (*Hylocharis xantusii*) – Seen feeding on agave flowers in Agua Verde
Gila Woodpecker (*Melanerpes uropygialis*) – Definitely the common woodpecker in San Jose del Cabo
Ladder-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides scalaris*) – Seen at Esperanza Grande foraging near the mangroves
Gilded Flicker (*Colaptes chrysoides*) – Our breakfast stop had a solo bird up on a cardon
Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*) – Seen flying across a small bay at Isla San Francisco
Crested Caracara (*Caracara plancus*) – At least three birds around our breakfast stop
American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) – Seen sporadically, but regular through the voyage
Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) – A single bird perched on a rock near Agua Verde
Vermillion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) – Seen on our morning bird walk in Agua Verde
Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) – A single bird at our tollbooth stop

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) – Bird on a stick as we were driving the Cape
Cassin's Vireo (*Vireo cassinii*) – Seen on our morning bird walk in Agua Verde
Greater Roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*) – Seen on a hillside above Agua Verde
California Scrub Jay (*Aphelocoma californica*) – Seen in some of the driest habitat on the trip
Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) – Scattered throughout the trip
Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*) – A small flock was seen on our hike at Isla San Francisco
Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*) – Two different individuals at our breakfast stop
Verdin (*Auriparus flaviceps*) – Seen a number of times on our first day
Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*) – Seen in an abundance of tules inland on the Estero
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila caerulea*) – We found a pair & their nest in the town of Agua Verde
(E) Gray Thrasher (*Toxostoma cinereum*) – Seen in Agua Verde a couple of times, both times long looks
Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottus*) – A fairly common bird in San Jose del Cabo
European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) – Only two birds were seen, not the worst thing in the world
Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*) – Both genders were very common in and around Agua Verde
Orange-crowned Warbler (*Oreothlypis celata*) – A few were first seen near the Gray Thrashers
Virginia's Warbler (*Oreothlypis virginiae*) – Only one and that was at our breakfast stop
(E) Belding's Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis beldingi*) – We saw seven of the 65 known birds in the Estero
Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) – Best look was probably in the bee hummingbird back yard
Palm Warbler (*Septophaga palmarum*) – Maybe the most common warbler on our trip
Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Setophaga coronata*) – Audubon's form was alongside the Estero
Wilson's Warbler (*Cardellina pusilla*) – A quick look at one upstream along the Estero
Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*) – A few were scattered around the town of Agua Verde
Lark Sparrow (*Chodestes grammacus*) – One of the first birds we saw when we landed at Agua Verde
White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) – Only one seen was in Agua Verde
Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) – First two were foraging along the tidal edge of the Estero
Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) – A solo bird was feeding with the Savannahs
Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) – Both sexes gave us great looks at the tollbooth
Pyrrhuloxia (*Cardinalis sinuatus*) – Great looks at a full on male at the tollbooth
Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) – Nice adult males near the Gray Thrasher
Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) – In with the horses at the stables, of course
Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cuculatus*) – All the migrants had just arrived here in San Jose del Cabo
Northern Oriole (Bullock's) (*Icterus bullocki*) – A female was seen in a mesquite in Agua Verde
Scott's Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*) – Seen sporadically through the peninsula
House Finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*) – Common in San Jose del Cabo, uncommon elsewhere
American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) – Seen at our pre-tour extension breakfast location
House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) – Unfortunately, the most common bird in San Jose del Cabo

TOTAL: 115 Species – 3 Endemics

MAMMALS:

Blue Whale – Seen on our fist full day on the Sea of Cortes'
Humpback Whale – Seen on just about everyday of the trip
Common Dolphin – We encountered a number of large pods during the trip
Bottle-nosed Dolphin – Seen sporadically during the trip, much smaller pods
California Sea Lion – Very common around Los Islotes rocks