

# Mexico Sea of Cortez | Species List

March 4 – 12, 2022 | with Naturalist Journeys



With guide, Greg Smith, and participants Brian, Carol, Cathie, Gordon, Joe, and Karen.

4 (I)=introduced

## BIRDS (103 species recorded) 39 Families:

### DUCKS, GEESE, SWANS: Anatidae: (4)

**Blue-winged Teal** (*Anas discors*) – A small group was in back water lagoon of Estero San Jose

**Cinnamon Teal** (*Anas cyanoptera*) – A second year male was the only one we saw on this trip

**Northern Shoveler** (*Anas clypeata*) – Three hens & a second year drake in the flooded section of the Estero

**Ruddy Duck** (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) – A few in deeper water up near the mouth of the Estero

### NEW WORLD QUAIL: Odontophoridae (1)

**California Quail** *Callipepla californica* – Two small flocks were seen on our morning walk in Agua Verde

### GREBES: Podicipedidae (2)

**Pied-billed Grebe** (*Podylimbus podiceps*) – We had six scattered throughout the Estero on our walk

**Eared Grebe** (*Podiceps nigricolis*) – First seen off of Agua Verde, not nearly as common as in past years

### PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (6)

**Rock Pigeon** (*Columba livia*) – All around San Jose del Cabo

**Eurasian Collared Dove** (*Streptopella decaocto*) – A few were seen on our Birding Cabo outing **Common Ground**

**Dove** (*Columbina passerina*) – Somewhat common, certainly around stables

**Ruddy Ground Dove** (*Columbia talpocoti*) – Seen along the farm road in Todos Santos

**White-winged Dove** (*Enaida asiatica*) – Everywhere around habitation in anywhere on the peninsula

**Mourning Dove** (*Enaida macroura*) – As in the States, they were more visible in the rural settings

### SWIFTS: Apodidae (1)

**White-throated Swift** (*Auronautis saxatalis*) – One was seen during our Birding Cabo day

### HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae (2)

**Costa's Hummingbird** (*Calypte costae*) – Seen by a few during our Birding Cabo day breakfast stop

**(E) Xantus Hummingbird** (*Hylocharis xantusii*) – Seen feeding along the farm road on our Birding Cabo day and again in Agua Verde

### SWAMPHEN, COOTS: Rallidae (2)

**Common Gallinule** (*Gallinula chloropus*) – Fairly common all along the edge of the Estero  
**American Coot** (*Fulica americana*) – Not as common as the gallinule, but definitely present

**OYSTERCATCHERS: Haematopodidae (1)**

**American Oystercatcher** (*Haematopus palliatus*) – A pair was seen while hiking the ridge trail on Isla San Francisco

**PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (2)**

**Semi-palmated Plover** (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) – Only seen in a coastal puddle in Agua Verde  
**Killdeer** (*Charadrius vociferous*) – First two were seen on the beach between the ocean and the Estero

**SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (7)**

**Whimbrel** (*Numenius phaeopus*) – A flock of 15 heading north in Magdalena Bay was a coup  
**Long-billed Curlew** (*Numenius americanus*) – Two were seen foraging in the mudflats of Puerto Chale  
**Sanderling** (*Calidris alba*) – A small flock on the mudflats of Puerto Chale were the only ones for the trip  
**Least Sandpiper** (*Calidris minutilla*) – Seen on Isla Carmen and in Agua Verde  
**Spotted Sandpiper** (*Actitis macularia*) – Quite a few at various locations along the Sea's rocky shores  
**Greater Yellowlegs** (*Tringa melanoleuca*) – Seen foraging along the shore of Estero San Jose  
**Willet** (*Tringa semipalmata*) – One was seen on the mudflats of Puerto Chale

**AUKS & ALLIES: Alcidae (2)**

**Craveri's Murrelet** (*Synthliboramphus craveri*) – Three were seen on our move north to Loreto area  
**Cassin's Auklet** (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*) – We saw and photographed at least four just south of Agua Verde

**GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (12)**

**Bonaparte's Gull** (*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*) – Another solo individual from the ship while at port in La Paz  
**Laughing Gull** (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) – An adult was seen by a few of us Friday morning from the Safari Voyager  
**Ring-billed Gull** (*Larus delawarensis*) – A few were mixed in with a large flock of birds on the Puerto Chale sandspit  
**Herring Gull** (*Larus argentatus*) – Two adults were mixed in with the sandspit flock in Puerto Chale  
**Heermann's Gull** (*Larus heermanni*) – A couple of adults were seen north of Agua Verde  
**Yellow-footed Gull** (*Larus livens*) – Best looks by far were on the beach at Agua Verde  
**California Gull** (*Larus californicus*) – Small numbers along the shore of San Jose del Cabo  
**Glaucous-winged Gull** (*Larus glaucescens*) – A second cycle bird was seen on Magdalena Bay  
**Western Gull** (*Larus occidentalis*) – We had at least three adults in the large sandspit flock near Puerto Chale  
**Caspian Tern** (*Hydroprogne caspia*) – A solo individual was seen from the beach at Agua Verde  
**Royal Tern** (*Sterna maxima*) – First one seen was flying along the coast south of Agua Verde  
**Elegant Tern** (*Thalasseus elegans*) – A few seen out on Magdalena Bay on our gray whale day

**FRIGATBIRDS: Fregatidae (1)**

**Magnificent Frigatebird** (*Fregata magnificens*) – Both sexes were first seen in the Estero area

**GANNETS, BOOBIES: Sulidae (2)**

**Blue-footed Booby** (*Sula nebouxi*) – By far the more common of the two boobies, lots around most islands  
**Brown Booby** (*Sula leucogaster*) – More common down around Los Islotes than further north

**CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (3)**

**Neotropic Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) – We had a few on water-logged branches in the middle of the mangrove-lined channels at Puerto Chale

**Brandt's Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax penicillatus*) – Seen first off of Isla Carmen and then most later days  
**Double-crested Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) – Our first of many was seen on Roco Solitario

#### **PELICANS: Pelecanidae (1)**

**Brown Pelican** (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) -Scattered along the coastline, lots of juveniles in the Estero

#### **HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (8)**

**Great Blue Heron** (*Ardea herodias*) – The biggest numbers were on Estero San Jose

**Great Egret** (*Ardea alba*) – Scattered along the coast with the biggest number on the Estero

**Snowy Egret** (*Egretta thula*) – Not very common anywhere, our first was on the Estero

**Tricolored Heron** (*Egretta tricolor*) – Seen on Isla Monserrat by a couple of folks in our group

**Reddish Egret** (*Egretta rufescens*) – Seen in the mangroves of Puerto Chale

**Cattle Egret** (*Bubulcus ibis*) – We had six along the Estero, very unusual location

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) – A solitary individual in the Estero

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** (*Nycticorax villosa*) – Seen under the edge of the mangroves in Puerto Chale

#### **IBISES & SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae (2)**

**White Ibis** (*Eudicmus albus*) – A dozen or so were seen along the mangroves of Puerto Chale

**White-faced Ibis** (*Plegadus chihi*) – A solitary individual was seen in the back part of Estero San Jose

#### **NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae (1)**

**Turkey Vulture** (*Cathartes aura*) – Everywhere and on everyday we were here

#### **Hawks, Kites and Eagles: Accipitridae (3)**

**Harris' Hawk** (*Parabuteo unicinctus*) – A group of five were seen on some cordons just outside of Puerto Chale

**Zone-tailed Hawk** (*Buteo albonotatus*) – Seen soaring over the Estero San Jose with vultures

**Red-tailed Hawk** (*Buteo jamaicensis*) – Seen on just a couple days of the trip

#### **KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (1)**

**Belted Kingfisher** (*Megasceryle alcyon*) – Seen on the first few days of the trip

#### **WOODPECKERS: PICIDAE (2)**

**Gila Woodpecker** (*Melanerpes uropygialis*) – Definitely the common woodpecker in San Jose del Cabo

**Gilded Flicker** (*Colaptes chrysoides*) – Only one seen and that was on Isla Montserrat

#### **FALCONS: Falconidae (3)**

**Crested Caracara** (*Caracara plancus*) – At least three birds near our Birding Cabo breakfast stop

**American Kestrel** (*Falco sparverius*) – Seen sporadically, but regular throughout the voyage

**Peregrine Falcon** (*Falco peregrinus*) – We had them on an eyrie in an alcove of the hotel next to the Gran Barcelo

#### **TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (4)**

**Vermillion Flycatcher** (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) – A pair seen on our morning bird walk in Agua Verde

**Ash-throated Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) – Also seen on our morning Agua Verde walk

**Cassin's Kingbird** (*Tyrannus vociferans*) – Seen by a few on our morning bird walk in Agua Verde

**Tropical Kingbird** (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) – A solo individual along the Estero San Jose

#### **SHRIKES: Laniidae (1)**

**Loggerhead Shrike** (*Lanius ludovicianus*) – A individual with prey was on Isla San Francisco

**CROWS & JAYS: Corvidae(2)**

**California Scrub Jay** (*Aphelocoma californica*) – A good number were seen on our outing with Birding Cabo between San Jose and Cabo

**Common Raven** (*Corvus corax*) – Scattered throughout the trip

**PENDULINE TITS: Remizidae (1)**

**Verdin** (*Auriparus flaviceps*) – Seen a number of times on our Agua Verde Day and on some of the islands

**SWALLOWS & MARTINS: Hirundinidae (2)**

**N. Rough-winged Swallow** (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) – Seen on our morning walk thru Agua Verde

**Violet-green Swallow** (*Trachycineta thalassina*) – A few were seen during out time in Agua Verde

**GNATCATCHERS: Polioptilidae(2)**

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** (*Polioptila caerulea*) – First seen in Agua Verde and then in Loreto

**California Gnatcatcher** (*Polioptila californica*) – Seen along with Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Agua Verde

**WRENS: Troglodytidae (1)**

**Cactus Wren** (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*) – Seen more around habitation than in the wilds

**MOCKINGBIRDS & THRASHERS: Mimidae(2)**

**(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 and in the wild

**STARLINGS: Sturnidae (1)**

**European Starling (I)** *Sturnus vulgaris* – Seen only around cities, not in villages or the wilds

**SILKY FLYCATCHERS: Ptilonotidae (1)**

**Phainopepla** (*Phainopepla nitens*) – Both genders were very common in and around Agua Verde

**OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (1)**

**House Sparrow (I)** *Passer domesticus* – Unfortunately ubiquitous

**FINCHES: Fringillidae (1)**

**House Finch** (*Haemorhous mexicanus*) – Common in San Jose del Cabo, uncommon elsewhere

**Lesser Goldfinch** (*Spinus pinus*) – Very common on our outing with Birding Cabo

**NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Emberizidae (4)**

**Black-throated Sparrow** (*Amphispiza bilineata*) – Seen on a number of days, first being on Isla Montserrat

**White-crowned Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) – Seen on our Agua Verde walk

**Savannah Sparrow** (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) – Seen along the beach at Estero San Jose

**Green-tailed Towhee** (*Pipilo chlorurus*) – Seen on our outing with Birding Cabo in Todos Santos and on Isla Montserrat

**NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae (4)**

**Western Meadowlark** (*Sturnella neglecta*) – Seen on the road into Puerto Chale for whale watching

**Hooded Oriole** (*Icterus cuculatus*) – A few migrants had just arrived here in San Jose del Cabo, and also Agua Verde

**Brown-headed Cowbird** (*Molothrus ater*) – A flyover near the horse stables adjacent to the Estero

**Brewer's Blackbird** *Euphagus cyanocephalus* – A small flock was feeding at Estero San Jose

#### **NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (5)**

**(E) Belding's Yellowthroat** (*Geothlypis beldingi*) – Seen by all of our group at Estero San Jose

**Common Yellowthroat** (*Geothlypis trichas*) - Seen by most of our group along the Estero San Jose

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** (*Setophaga coronada*) – Seen on three different occasions, none on islands

**Orange-crowned Warbler** (*Vermivora* ) – Fairly common, especially in Todos Santos and Agua Verde

**Wilson's Warbler** (*Cardellina pusilla*) – Seen well by a few at Estero San Jose foraging in the tules

#### **CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS & ALLIES: Cardinalidae (2)**

**Northern Cardinal** (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) – Agua Verde gave us our best looks at a singing male

**Pyrrhuloxia** (*Cardinalis sinuatus*) – Agua Verde gave us our only looks at this species

#### **MAMMALS (7)**

**California Sea Lion** (*Zalophus californianus*) – Of course the best looks were on Islas La Isolotes

**Common Bottlenose Dolphin** (*Tursiops truncatus*) – Seen twice near the beginning of the trip

**Long-beaked Common Dolphin** (*Delphinus capensis*) – Seen on our first morning at sunrise just south of Agua Verde

**Humpback Whale** (*Megoptera novaeangiliae*) – A cow/calf pair just south of Agua Verde were welcomed at breakfast

**Blue Whale** (*Balaenoptera musculus*) – We had four of these behemoths just south of Agua Verde

**Fin Whale** (*Balaenoptera physalus*) – We had one breaching on our first day during our morning lecture

**Gray Whale** (*Eschrichtius robustus*) – We had probably six different individuals on Magdalena Bay. A really great day!