

Oaxaca Valley | Species List

August 1 – 9, 2022 | with Naturalist Journeys



With Eric Antonio Martinez, Peg Abbott and seven participants: Gary, Reba, Pam, Ron, Paula, Priscilla, and Miles (and two that at the last minute, could not be with us, Ken and Betty)

Compiled by Peg Abbott

Summary: This was a splendid week with lovely temperatures throughout from the valley to the mountains. We loved the clear air, mix of scrub and pine habitats, and going over the Southern Sierra Madres to peek at the tropical deciduous forest. The group was most congenial with a great tone set by our guides, Eric and Peg. We had FUN birding, exploring, and eating way too much. We had some expert spotters that helped us build this list, and some new to birding. Ron was a “newbie” and found one of the best birds of the trip, a skulking Emerald Toucanet. Every day was different, and we did very well on seeing the Mexican endemics. The Oaxaca Valley was dry from an extended drought, so water birds this year were almost non-existent. Group favorites included the Bumblebee Hummingbird we saw in full display, the Blue-capped Hummingbird male that perched for an extended length of time, the Red-headed Tanagers so busy with a mixed flock in a fruiting tree, and the common but very dazzling Red Warbler. It was so lovely to walk through Mexican Pine forests to the backdrop sound of Brown-breasted Solitaire, and train the scope on Northern Pygmy Owl, Red Crossbill, Crescent-chested Warbler, Tufted Flycatcher and so many other species. The landscapes were intriguing and time the archeological sites of Yagul and Monte Alban felt like a real bonus to all the great birding.

(HO)= Distinctive enough to be counted as heard only

(I)=introduced

(E)=Mexican Endemic

Eric’s eBird Trip List can be found here: <https://ebird.org/tripreport-invite/72203/participant/ZjY8rJUJZ-KflqLD16SUWebyDJSc>

BIRDS (149 species in 41 families):

DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: Anatidae (1)

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis*—(1) Two individuals were seen well at the Presa Piedra Azul reservoir above Teotitlan. At first, they were sleeping with heads tucked in but eventually they swam and gave us very good views of their gorgeous color patterns.

GUANS AND CURASSOWS: Cracidae (2)

(E) West Mexican Chachalaca *Ortalis poliocephala*—(3) We heard several and a few got glimpses as we explored above the Presa Piedra Azul reservoir, then we heard a couple calling loudly in the upper part

of the road to Guacamayas. Then on the final morning, up a shrubby canyon in the northeast part of Oaxaca Valley we had scope views of at least three, marveling at their large size and showy tails. Listening to them call up and down the hillside was memorable.

Montezuma Quail – (1) Moving up the side of a small trail when visiting La Cumbre

GREBES: Podicipedidae (1)

Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus*— (1) Two families were active at the Piedra Azul reservoir above Teotitlan, making a lot of noise as the young excitedly begged and followed the adults around. We also saw a lone individual in one of the deeper of a series of ponds we followed along a streambed later that afternoon, hiding furtively in the shade of low hanging branches.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (7)

Rock Pigeon (I) *Columba livia*—(4) Seen in Oaxaca City and while traveling on the highway.

Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata*— (4) Seen at La Cumbre, then seen at a distance the two mornings we explored various canyons of the foothills from Oaxaca City. Seen in flight in high pine forests on the road to Rio Hondo from San Mateo.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (I) *Streptopelia decaocto*—(1) Seen at the series of ponds above Teotitlan, the small dam that was on the drainage of several spring fed ponds we visited in the afternoon.

Inca Dove *Columbina inca*—(6) Seen well on the landscaped grounds of our hotel in Oaxaca City. We saw them out in the country around farms and fields as well, quite common.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*—(4) We had a quick flash fly-by on the road to La Pluma Hidalgo, but mostly we heard this species at several mid or lower elevation locations, lone individuals.

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*—(5) A fairly common species, we saw them in groups of 2-5 or more when in the foothill areas around Oaxaca City.

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*— (3) Seen at Yagul, then seen flying over open agricultural fields in the Oaxaca Valley on two other days.

CUCKOOS AND ALLIES: Cuculidae (1)

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris*— (3) Seen at the Rancho Zapata restaurant in the back grounds area, perched up on a large opuntia cactus. Two were seen while traveling back from the mountains to Oaxaca City and one was seen in a village our final morning among small cornfields edged by shrubbery.

SWIFTS: Apodidae (1)

Chestnut-collared Swift *Streptoprocne rutila*— (2) We had good views of this species as we worked roads through the foothills extending up from the Oaxaca valley, flying above us. Best views were on the lower stops of the road to Guacamayas above Etna, at the steam crossing where a Canyon Wren was active. This group of 4-5 came low enough to see the chestnut markings.

HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae (10)

(E) Mexican Hermit *Phaethornis mexicanus*—(1) Very quick views on our final stop on the La Pluma road after lunch, in semi-deciduous tropical forest. It came in to feed on flowers, flashing its white outer tail for quick views.

Rivoli's Hummingbird *Eugenes fulgens*— (2) Lone individuals were seen on the first day to La Cumbre and Yagul, and then again feeding on shrubs near Monte Alban.

(E) Amethyst-throated Mountain-gem *Lampornis amethystinus*—(3) We saw lone individuals feeding in flowers on the grounds of our hotel, and later on the road outside of Cabinas Puesta del Sol, one

perched for really good views below us. We watched an individual again feeding on Sierra Madre Lobelia plants along the road to San Pedro our final full day.

Blue-throated Mountain-gem *Lampornis clemenciae*—(2) Single individuals were seen at La Cumbre, another alerted us with its loud call note on the road to Rio Hondo.

(E) Garnet-throated Hummingbird *Lamprolaima rhami*—(4) Seen at the feeders at Puesto del Sol hotel in the mountains, we got great views especially of the male with its brilliant colored gorget. We also saw them afield both days we walked through pine habitat where flowers were plentiful.

(E) Bumblebee Hummingbird *Atthis heloisa* —(2) For many, the bird of the trip. We had excellent views of this species and were able to watch display behavior as males courted females. On the road from San Mateo to Rio Hondo we had quite a long view of one male feeding in flowers, then inspired by presence of a female, he started aerial display, with some acrobatic flight, loud song, and perching, singing while perched as well. It was pretty magical to see this little dynamo in such detail, flashing color in its gorget. We had them several spots on this road and then on the grounds of our mountain hotel where a male was on territory and again our final full day on the road to San Pedro.

(E) Dusky Hummingbird *Phaeoptila sordida* — (4) Seen perched on shrubs and flying, in foothills areas and at both archeological sites, Yagul and Monte Alban.

(E) White-eared Hummingbird *Basilinna leucotis*— (4) Seen at La Cumbre, then on several days in the mountains, one perched on the phone wire for some time, letting us get scope views on the road from San Mateo to Rio Hondo was memorable. One of the more common hummingbirds we encountered.

(E) Blue-capped Hummingbird *Eupherusa cyanophrys* —(2) Another candidate for bird of the trip, this endemic was most cooperative with it being summer and a time of courtship. We were able to photograph perched males on natural vegetation at a couple streamside stops, and we watched a female feeding in coral bean flowers – so colorful!

Berylline Hummingbird *Saucerottia beryllina*—(4) Our most common hummingbird in the lowlands and foothills, we would encounter them multiple times a day. Our Oaxaca hotel has several blooming African Tulip trees and there were several at a time working the large gaudy flowers.

RAILS, CRAKES, AND ALLIES: Rallidae (1)

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata*—(1) Three were seen in the series of pools we walked one late afternoon, along a streambed not far from Teotitlan.

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (1)

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus*—(1) One was seen at the Piedra Azul reservoir above Teotitlan, resting back from the water edge and then later that day walking along a series of pools by another small (but dry) dam we had one fly in, calling.

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (1)

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* —(1) Roosting by the small dry dam above Teotitlan, we probably disturbed this one from its roost and we watched one fly, then perch before it withdrew into dense vegetation.

NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae (2)

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*— (7) Common, seen in smaller number than Turkey Vultures but often with them, at times in a kettle of 10+.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*— (9) Very common, seen daily, a few individuals at repeated locations.

HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (5)

Black Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus tyrannus*— (1) A thrill to see and hear this species above us as we walked the road to La Pluma. It appeared again on our short walk from the lunch at the coffee farm and we could tell it was the same individual due to a wing molt pattern.

Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii*—(3) We had a good show by a family group above Teotitlan, in an area that Eric has seen fledged young before. They flew in, quite vocal, to a large tree and then jostled for position. One of the youngsters dropped a snake it had been carrying. A Red-tailed Hawk appeared and the big female led the chase to harass it. We had a couple of other single bird fly overs, one darted by as we were walking up to Monte Alban.

Crane Hawk *Geranospiza caerulescens*—(1) This bird was a surprise, out of its normal habitat perched high in a pine on the road to Rio Hondo. We got scope views and though distant its small head and markings were clear.

White-tailed Hawk *Geranoaetus albicaudatus*—(1) Two were seen very well by the group on the first day of birding above Yagul.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*— (2) Seen well as we worked our way up the road to the community of Guacamayas, but it was chased off by a family of Cooper's Hawk pretty readily. We also saw one soaring above the ruins of Monte Alban.

OWLS: Strigidae (1)

Northern Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium gnoma*—(3) Great views in the scope as we worked our way down the road from San Mateo to Rio Hondo. We heard it calling and answered it back, Eric doing a perfect impersonation of the call. It posed well in a tall conifer and it was also seen in flight. The group heard one on the La Cumbre mountain day, and we also heard it on the road to La Pluma on the Pacific side at lower elevation.

TROGONS: Trogonidae (2)

Elegant Trogon *Trogon elegans*— (1) Heard barking above the road, probably feeding on the same fruits that attracted a pair of Mountain Trogon seen just minutes ahead. On the road to Guacamayas, fairly high up.

(E) Mountain Trogon *Trogon mexicanus*—(2) We saw glimpses of a pair fairly far up the road to Guacamayas outside the Oaxaca Valley, but then had much better views on the lower portion of the road from San Mateo to Rio Hondo. The male came in and perched for quick scope views, the female came in and they both flew right over our heads into some tall pines. We watched them there, getting views as they went from perch to perch. Lots of oohs and aahs over this species! Then on our morning on the road to San Pedro, among lush pines draped with bromeliads, a male flew and landed right over Miles, landing on a perch in full view – fabulous.

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (1)

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana*—(1) One individual seen in a small pool below the dam above Teotitlan.

TOUCANS: Ramphastidae (1)

Northern Emerald Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus prasinus*—(2) Priscilla first saw one perched up while in the bus, we pulled over on the La Pluma road and were able to find one – it was sitting quietly enough to scope it but in pretty dense vegetation. Walking down the road to San Pedro, we were watching a noisy pair of Gray-breasted Wood-Wren, struggling to get them in focus in dense branches below us on a slope, when Ron said, “is this a toucanet?” Eric quickly scoped it and yes, it was, not more than 15 feet away, just sitting quietly. We all got close views and were thrilled when it popped on up into view,

resting in a bromeliad-clad tree for some beautiful photos – another trip highlight for several of us and certainly Ron’s shining moment! This was the Wagler’s subspecies.

WOODPECKERS: Picidae (6)

Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus*— (2) We first saw a couple noisy individuals at the upper reaches of the road to Guacamayas though they were upstaged as a pair of Mountain Trogons came in. We then saw a couple on the road to Pluma Hildago, calling.

(E) Gray-breasted Woodpecker *Melanerpes hypopolius* — (3) Seen well this year, at several locations, near Yagul, and on both foothills’ mornings out of Oaxaca City, feeding on cacti and flying through the scrub zone. One was visiting a nest hole in a columnar cactus at the Rancho Zapata restaurant.

Ladder-backed Woodpecker *Dryobates scalaris*—(4) Good views in foothills habitat, seen on several days.

Hairy Woodpecker *Dryobates villosus*—(2) One was seen at La Cumbre, and then we heard one in the pines on our walk from San Mateo to Rio Hondo.

(E) Gray-crowned Woodpecker *Colaptes auricularis*—(1) Heard only, downslope from the Pluma Hildago Road from where we stood, it called repeatedly but did not come up into view.

Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus*—(1) Seen at higher elevations on the La Cumbre road.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (2)

Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway*—(4) Seen on the days we spent in foothills habitat and on travel days. We scoped one immature individual that posed close to us while scanning some open fields.

Bat Falcon *Falco rufigularis*— (1) Three were seen on the road to Pluma Hildago, Eric heard them first and we came out to the road to scan. He found one almost immediately, which turned out to be the larger female we could tell as the male came in to join her. We then saw another individual out the bus window, again perched on a snag, much closer as we were leaving lunch at the coffee farm.

PARROTS: Psittacidae (1)

Orange-fronted Parakeet *Eupsittula canicularis*—(1) Great views on the La Pluma road, where a flock was actively feeding in flowers just off the road. We’d seen several quick groups fly by this same day, but watching a group of 8 or more feeding at close range was memorable.

Yellow-headed Parrot — (1) *We saw two fly across the city at sunset from our rooftop dining perch, these are escapees but loud and fun to see. Not listed in our species total*

OVENBIRDS AND WOODCREEPERS: Furnariidae (4)

Strong-billed Woodcreeper —(1) Heard only on the La Cumbre day, but Eric pointed out its distinctive vocalization.

Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus* —(1) Encountered on the Pluma Hildago Road

Ivory-billed Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster* —(1) One calling loudly on the Pluma Hildago Road

Spot-crowned Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes affinis*—(1) Two were seen on the first day in the pines of La Cumbre.

BECARDS AND TITYRAS: Tityridae (3)

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata*—(1) A widespread tropical species we only encountered on the La Pluma road, two following each other in the deciduous tree canopy. Nice scope views but not for long as so many species exploded at once!

(E) Gray-collared Becard *Pachyramphus major*—(1) On the day we went towards the village of Guacamayas outside of Oaxaca City, we heard this species earlier in the day, and keen-eared Eric heard

them again as we were listening to Mountain Trogon. Such choices! He told us to listen up and focus on this one and we got terrific looks when it came in. It perched well inside a deciduous tree lining the road, but close, and we watched as it bobbed its head back and forth. This species looks large headed in proportion to the body; we saw the male.

Rose-throated Becard *Pachyramphus aglaiae*—(1) Seen well the morning we explored Teotitlan above the dam and we had one on our final birding morning in similar very thick native scrub habitat.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (18)

Eye-ringed Flatbill (1) This bird came into the fruiting trees we had an exciting mixed flock in. For us it was a roadside stop on the way to the La Pluma road, a ravine behind it and we stood on a bridge with what seemed like an endless parade, perhaps the most notable were the Red-headed Tanagers.

Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet *Camptostoma imberbe*—(3) Heard in the arid scrub habitat of the road across from Monte Alban, then seen at Pluma Hildago and seen very well our final morning ahead of taking flights in a scrub habitat canyon outside Oaxaca City.

Greenish Elaenia *Myiopagis viridicata*—(4) Seen on several locations on three different days. One was in the tree with a mixed flock of Red-headed Tanager and Red-legged Honeycreeper at a roadside stop on the day we drove down the Pacific side of the Southern Sierra. Others were in mid-elevation scrub habitat including one seen very clearly at Monte Alban by the parking area.

(E) Pileated Flycatcher *Xenotriccus mexicanus*—(1) Seen very well our final morning in scrub habitat outside the city, a bonus to the Ocellated Thrasher and nice to end with those two endemics. It perched up and called repeatedly.

Tufted Flycatcher *Mitrephanes phaeocercus*—(1) This caramel-colored flycatcher was bold and visible as we came out of dense conifer and reached the settlements, a small farm, walking the road to Rio Hondo.

Greater Pewee *Contopus pertinax*—(2) We had good views the morning we made a stop past the reservoir above Teotitlan, it was calling in the early morning and perched quite visibly. With scopes all got good views. They were calling again as we walked the road to La Pluma Hildago.

Western Wood-Pewee *Contopus sordidulus*—(5) Quite common, seen on several days mainly in the pine or edge of pine habitats.

(E) Pine Flycatcher *Empidonax affinis*—(1) We worked hard on this little rascal. It was feeding, calling and moving around a lot, but with persistence, almost everyone had views or scope views. It was in pine habitat with a flowering understory on the road to San Pedro, the second of two roads we walked through pine habitat of the Cordillera.

Cordilleran Flycatcher *Empidonax occidentalis*—(1) HO – we heard this species at the time we were working hard to find a Northern Pygmy Owl on the San Pedro road in pine habitat. The owl was tantalizingly close. By the time we were free to look at other species, this flycatcher had gone upslope.

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans*—(1) Seen in the morning and afternoon the day we explored above Teotitlan, several individuals perched up on low shrubs in the dry-down mud area by the reservoir. Another kept a characteristic perch by a small pond we walked to that afternoon.

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus*—(4) Fairly common but always nice to see, mainly in scrub and edge habitat in the Oaxaca Valley.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer*—(3) HO – this species mournful cry was heard in the background at Monte Alban, along the Pluma Hildago road and on our final morning in the foothills outside the city.

Nutting's Flycatcher *Myiarchus nuttingi*—(3) This Myiarchus flycatcher perched boldly when we found it, always active, often paired. Thankfully they were busy and vocal which helped confirm the identification at several locations.

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*—(4) They were present on the grounds of our hotel in the valley, at a variety of locations around the Oaxaca Valley including the lovely series of ponds we walked the afternoon we explored the Teotitlan area.

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis*—(5) Active on the grounds of our hotel in the valley, they liked the blooming African Tulip trees. Vocal and often with other species and each other. Good views at Monte Alban.

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher *Myiodynastes luteiventris*—(1) Peg spied this one at the busy ravine we stopped at on the way to Pluma Hildago. It was quite confiding, staying in the thick part of a large tree around which a number of young fruiting trees were attracting in a mixed flock. Scope views.

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*—(5) Common throughout the valley.

Cassin's Kingbird *Tyrannus vociferans*—(1) Seen on the road across from Monte Alban, loudly calling.

VIREOS: Vireonidae (6)

Chestnut-sided Shrike-vireo *Vireolanius melitophrys*—(1) One of the first birds the group all got to see well on the day they explored La Cumbre. Seen again on the road to Guacamaya and the road to San Pedro – close to the spot we found the Emerald Toucanet. Each sighting took patience but was well worth it.

(E) Golden Vireo *Vireo hypochryseus* **(E)**— (5) Fairly common and vocal, some of our best views and photo opportunities were at the start of our walk the first morning above Teotitlan, at Monte Alban.

(E) Slaty Vireo *Vireo brevipennis* **(E)**— (2) We got good views of this species and its yellow highlights on two occasions, both in dense scrub habitat.

(E) Dwarf Vireo *Vireo nelsoni* **(E)**— (1) HO Despite repeated calling, this little songster was not going to come out. We were patient and tried coming and going on the road above Teotitlan but only got to appreciate its persistent call.

Hutton's Vireo *Vireo huttoni*—(3) When in pine oak habitat it was fairly common, part of mixed flocks and on its own, several individuals were seen in a day in appropriate habitat.

Plumbeous Vireo *Vireo plumbeus*—(1) Seen well on the first morning above Teotitlan, out and perched and calling in a small ravine.

SHRIKES: Laniidae (1)

Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus*—(1) Spotted by Priscilla on a small shrub above the mud flats at the dam above Teotitlan, hunting large insects.

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (6)

(E) White-throated Jay *Cyanolyca mirabilis* **(E)**— (1) The bird of the trip for many, first heard by Eric who encouraged us to quickly get above the pair calling in a ravine. From a busy highway looking down into thick vegetation, he patiently found views for every one of the group as this duo moved around. They were in dense branches, dark light, and he still got a photo. *(Author note – a life bird for me so I did not even try to photo, just enjoyed really good views of this skulker!)*

(E) Dwarf Jay *Cyanolyca nanus* **(E)**— (1) A noisy, busy flock seen very well in lush pine forest at La Cumbre.

White-throated Magpie-Jay *Calocitta formosa*—(1) Great to see this species well, a flock coming downslope on the road to Las Pluma Hildago.

Steller's Jay *Cyanocitta stelleri*—(4) Seen on four days, mainly in pine habitat or the edge of pine habitat, often several individuals when seen. Also heard on slopes as we walked various roads and trails in the pines.

Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay *Aphelocoma woodhouseii*—(2) Seen on two days, in scrub habitat of various canyons around the valley. Usually, one or two individuals when seen.

Common Raven *Corvus corax*—(3) We saw them from our cabins at Puesto del Sol, then on the road to San Pedro above the pine forests, and on our last morning above scrub habitat outside the city. Versatile ravens!

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae (1)

Mexican Chickadee *Poecile sclateri*—(1) Seen on the road to San Pedro, we got good views of a family group of four encountered while walking the road.

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (3)

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*—(2) Seen on our travel day when we stopped at a small water area normally productive but in this drought cycle dry. A few hopeful swallows were still at the site. Seen again around the farm buildings with other swallow species our last day.

Violet-green Swallow *Tachycineta thalassina*—(1) Seen the last morning near a little farm settlement in the midst of scrub habitat, on the agricultural edge. Just a few individuals.

Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*—(1) Seen the last morning near a little farm settlement in the midst of scrub habitat, on the agricultural edge. A half a dozen individuals busy feeding around the outbuildings for livestock.

BUSHTITS: Aegithalidae (1)

Bushtit *Psaltriparus minimus*—(4) We encountered small flocks of this species, often in scrub habitat.

TREECREEPERS: Certhiidae (1)

Brown Creeper *Certhia americana*—(2) Fairly common in pine habitat, we were able to get repeated good views. Often alerted by their singing.

WRENS: Troglodytidae (8)

Rock Wren *Salpinctes obsoletus*—(1) Seen on the day to La Cumbre and then seen well at Monte Alban within the archeological site.

Canyon Wren *Catherpes mexicanus*—(2) Seen up at La Cumbre, and then seen well in a small arroyo above Teotitlan, on rocks of an intermittent stream and singing.

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*—(4) Seen all days at higher elevations in the pines. Quite confiding on the grounds of the Puesta del Sol cabins. We saw the Brown-throated race throughout.

Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii*—(2) Seen in scrub habitat above Teotitlan and on the grounds of Monte Alban.

(E) Gray-barred Wren *Campylorhynchus megalopterus* — (1) Seen in a noisy flock, in the lush pines of La Cumbre.

(E) Boucard's Wren *Campylorhynchus jocosus* — (3) Bold and vocal, we found them several locations on three days, in scrub habitat.

(E) Happy Wren *Pheugopedius felix*—(2) We encountered this jaunty songster on the road to La Pluma Hildago and were able to see it working among roots and vines and trunks of shrubs on the slope above the road. We heard several that day. On our final morning in a valley in the northeast part of Oaxaca Valley, we had one singing away, an isolated population of this endemic.

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucophrys*—(3) After two days of hearing this elusive species we got serious about seeing one and succeeded on the road to San Pedro. We were watching a family when Ron found the Emerald Toucanet perched so quiet behind them!

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae (4)

(E) Blue Mockingbird *Melanotis caerulescens* — (3) We saw this species surprisingly well and had multiple times to try, though often when we had our hopes set on its cousin, the more local Ocellated Thrasher. We had good views on the morning above Teotitlan and quick views on the trail by the parking lot at Monte Alban, then heard it our final morning when we caught one last chance to bird ahead of our flights.

Curve-billed Thrasher *Toxostoma curvirostre*—(4) Fairly common at lower elevations, agricultural areas, around buildings, in scrub.

(E) Ocellated Thrasher *Toxostoma ocellatum* — (2) We heard them below us on the trail across from Monte Alban, but low on a long slope below us. Those remained teasers from the brush singing to us. Then on our final morning, we were able to locate a pair by call and song and they gave us great views, coming up into thick twigs of a shrub, then out to cross the road in front of us. It was our target species of the final morning, and we had high fives all around on this one.

Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos*—(1) Seen at Yagul in the afternoon of one day early in the trip.

THRUSHES: Turdidae (6)

(E) Brown-backed Solitaire *Myadestes occidentalis*—(1) This species was very common in high elevation habitats of pine oak woodland. So musical, it is one of the wonders of time in the Sierra Madres, walking along a rural road, to the flute-like tones of this songster. At a fruiting tree on a stop to La Pluma Hidalgo road we had three at one time feeding, great to see them as we often marked them as Heard Only (though not your normal heard only – they really belt out that song...)

Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus aurantiirostris*—(4) After getting excellent looks at this species on the morning we explored above Teotitlan, we were content to listen to their lovely songs, at times getting glimpses but nothing like that first morning when one perched out well across a small arroyo. Seen mainly at mid-elevations in arroyos of the scrub habitat zone.

(E) Russet Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus occidentalis* **(E)**— (2) Heard at La Cumbre then seen well on the road we walked to Rio Hondo in the mountains.

White-throated Thrush *Turdus assimilis*—(2) Seen feeding on fruits our final days in the mountains.

Clay-colored Thrush *Turdus grayi*—(2) Seen on the lawn and feeding on figs in one large tree on the grounds of our hotel in Oaxaca City.

(E) Rufous-backed Robin *Turdus rufopalliatu*s—(3) Seen very well at the hotel grounds, and on two outings in the valley.

SILKY-FLYCATCHERS: Ptiliogonatidae (1)

Gray Silky-flycatcher *Ptiliogonys cinereus*—(4) First encountered above Teotitlan, then seen on the road to Guacamaya, in fruiting trees at Monte Alban, and our final morning as we scoped the West Mexican Chachalacas just above the scrub habitat in a mountain arroyo.

OLIVE WARBLER: Peucedramidae (1)

Olive Warbler *Peucedramus taeniatus*—(2) We got excellent views of this species, adult and second year males, females. They were prominent members of mixed flocks, so we were able to see multiple individuals the days that we were in pine habitat.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (1)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (1)— (8) Seen in towns, residential and agricultural areas associated with human settlement, also at Monte Alban.

FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae (5)

Elegant Euphonia *Chlorophonia elegantissima*—(2) We saw a group of at least three, two females and a young male, while birding scrub habitat one morning above Teotitlan. They stayed high in some open canopy trees so with work we could get good looks. Seen again in a mixed flock on the road to Guacamaya.

House Finch *Haemorhous mexicanus*—(3) Fairly common in scrub habitat and in town. Memorable was one very bright one feeding on fruits at Monte Alban, Pam compared the intensity of color to a Vermilion Flycatcher. First seen at Yagul.

Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*—(4) Seen on four days, four locations, all in pine habitat of the mountains. Seen in flocks, vocal. We got the scope on a female on the road to San Pedro for very good views.

(E) Black-headed Siskin *Spinus notatus*—(1) Seen well in the mixed flock that held Red-headed Tanagers, along a small ravine at a roadside stop en route to Pluma Hildago.

Lesser Goldfinch *Spinus psaltria*—(5) Very common in the valley areas we birded, heard and seen often.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae (12)

Common Chlorospingus *Chlorospingus flavopectus* —(3) We saw the endemic subspecies local to this region, three days in the row, walking quiet roads through pine habitat.

(E) Bridled Sparrow *Peucaea mystacalis*—(2) Seen very well on the morning we explored about Teotitlan, we had them again our final morning birding scrub habitat outside Oaxaca City.

Botteri's Sparrow *Peucaea botterii*—(1) This songster gave us a workout, singing repeatedly but staying skulky, it finally came out for some cracking views in the lower part of the Guacamaya road. Gary was happy to find this one, familiar from home in AZ, but often elusive.

(E) Chestnut-capped Brushfinch *Arremon brunneinucha*—(1) Seen one day, in lush vegetation not far from our Emerald Toucanet sighting on the road to San Pedro.

Yellow-eyed Junco *Junco phaeonotus*—(3) Friendly and tame on the grounds of the cabins at Puesta del Sol and seen along the road to San Pedro in pine habitat.

(E) White-throated Towhee *Melospiza albicollis* — (7) Seen just about everywhere, in a mix of habitats, very versatile for an endemic species!

(E) Rusty Sparrow *Aimophila rufescens*—(1) Excellent looks at a pair, very close to our van as we parked to walk the road to Pluma Hildago.

Rufous-crowned Sparrow *Aimophila ruficeps*—(1) Seen well on the road across from Monte Alban we birded early one morning.

(E) Oaxaca Sparrow *Aimophila notosicta*—(1) Excellent views on the road to Guacamaya in the lower scrub vegetation areas.

Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus*—(2) Seen on the road to Rio Hondo as we walked through the pine woodlands and heard in similar habitat on the road to San Pedro.

(E) Collared Towhee *Pipilo ocai*—(2) Seen well at La Cumbre, a very handsome sparrow. Also seen at the higher areas of the road to Guacamaya before we turned back.

(E) Rufous-capped Brushfinch *Atlapetes pileatus*—(3) Individuals and pairs seen multiple times on the three days we spent a lot of time in the pine habitat. Vocal and social and often feeding on small fruits at low level for good views .

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae (5)

Black-vented Oriole *Icterus wagleri*—(3) We had multiple great views of this beauty, and heard it singing, all in scrub habitat areas around the valley.

Audubon's Oriole *Icterus graduacauda*—(1) Seen well on the Pluma Hidalgo road.

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*—(1) A flock was seen along a fence row and flying over at the small pond we stopped at that was dry on our travel day from Oaxaca City to the mountains

Bronzed Cowbird *Molothrus aeneus*—(2) Seen on our hotel grounds in Oaxaca City, often flying between blooming African Tulip trees in the yard.

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*—(5) Common in towns.

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (7)

Louisiana Waterthrush *Parkesia motacilla*—(2) Early migrants returning, we had one bright individual above Teotitlan along the series of ponds we explored in the afternoon, and then another one at the coffee farm lunch we enjoyed at La Pluma Hidalgo.

(E) Crescent-chested Warbler *Oreothlypis superciliosa*—(2) Seen multiple times on the day we walked the road through pine habitat towards San Pedro, then again on our day to Pluma Hidalgo. Very active, it was great to hear them singing and get good views.

(E) Hooded Yellowthroat *Geothlypis nelsoni*—(1) We worked hard at this species, hearing it as we walked along the road to Rio Hondo, in a perfect spot where we could watch it cross a gully. It was a real skulker, answering our call, moving low through bushes, but with patience most could get views as it would tee up momentarily to then dive into the brush.

Rufous-capped Warbler *Basileuterus rufifrons*—(4) More confiding and often at a low height for good viewing, we enjoyed seeing this handsome warbler again and again. Active and vocal throughout the Oaxaca valley stops we made.

(E) Golden-browed Warbler *Basileuterus belli*—(2) Seen on both roads we walked through the pines. At a ravine crossing the road, on our first sighting Peg had just said, "this looks like good habitat for Golden-browed Warbler... then as if brought by suggestion, it appeared. Fun.

(E) Red Warbler *Cardellina rubra*—(3) A trip favorite, when in pine habitat often seen several times a day, we got terrific views of this endemic species.

Slate-throated Redstart *Myioborus miniatus*—(4) We first saw this on hillsides by the dam above Teotitlan, found them again walking the road to the village of Guacamaya, and then on both days walking roads through pine habitat in the mountains, often there with Red Warbler and Crescent-chested Warbler in mixed flocks.

CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS, AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae (4)

Hepatic Tanager *Piranga flava*—(4) Seen and heard on several days, the best were at the start of the road to Guayacama where we stopped above the public water facility and a pair was visible in the canopy, the male following the female. We often heard them before we saw them, especially on the days in pine habitat.

(E) Red-headed Tanager *Piranga erythrocephala* **(E)**— (1) Seen very well, standing on a bridge at a ravine when we had descended into semideciduous tropical broadleaf forest. They were calling, then came in to join a large group of Red-legged Honeycreepers, at least two individuals.

Black-headed Grosbeak *Pheucticus melanocephalus*—(4) Fairly common, males and females seen in appropriate habitat multiple times a day. They were singing and active.

Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea*—(3) Vocal and active with individuals often perching up for our inspection in scrub habitat around the Oaxaca Valley at various stops. Males were often singing.

TANAGERS AND ALLIES: Thraupidae (4)

Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus*—(1) A big flock, a dozen or more, afforded us excellent views as we were standing on a bridge at a ravine in semideciduous tropical broadleaf forest on the Pluma Hildago day.

(E) Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer *Diglossa baritula*—(2) Seen at a variety of elevations, one on the road to the village of Guacamaya and the other higher up in the pines on the road to Rio Hondo.

Yellow-faced Grassquit *Tiaris olivaceus*—(1) HO – A few were heard only at the water facility at the start of the road to Guacamaya, we were on it but got distracted by Hepatic Tanager putting on a show and they slipped away .

(E) Cinnamon-rumped Seedeater *Sporophila torqueola*—(4) Individuals and pairs seen well on the day we explored above Teotitlan, on the road to Guacamaya, at Monte Alban and then seen our final morning in scrub habitat outside Oaxaca City.

MAMMALS (2 species)

Red-bellied Squirrel *Sciurus aureogaster*—(3) Seen in the pine forest habitats, also called Mexican Gray Squirrel

Mexican Ground Squirrel *Ictidomys mexicanus* (1) Seen in scrub habitat in the valley

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (5 species)

Blackbelly Racerunner *Aspidoscelis deppii*

Mexican Emerald Spiny Lizard *Sceloporus formosus*

Whiptail, sp.

House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus* – Seen at our hotel in Oaxaca

Mexican Mud Turtle *Kinosternon integrum* – Several were basking in the reservoir above Teotitlan

BUTTERFLIES Observed and Noted (the more common species)

Mexican Silverspot

Border Patch

Rosita's Patch

Black-bordered Tegosa

Yellow-banded Skipper

Yellow-headed Spreadwing

Durrante's Longwing

Texas Crescent

Malachite

Monarch

Queen

Banded Peacock

Julia Heliconia

Tiger Heliconia

Zebra Heliconia

Magnificent Swallowtail

Morpho, sp.

Skippers, several species

Sulphurs, several species

OTHER INVERTEBRATES

Assassin Bugs