

Mexico Butterflies & Birds | Species List

Feb. 18 - Feb. 25, 2020 | Compiled by Woody Wheeler



With Host Guide Woody Wheeler and participants Barb, Bonnie, Dawn, Donald, Harold, Leah, Lenore, Linda, Lori, Phillip, Sharon, and Steven

BIRDS (177 species recorded):

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae (9)

Blue-winged Teal (*Spatula discors*) A number in pond on the way to Sierra Chincua Butterfly reserve

Cinnamon Teal (*Spatula cyanoptera*) Several in same pond and at Lago Cuitzeo

Northern Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*) Seen at Lerma Marsh; above pond and at Lago Cuitzeo

Gadwall (*Mareca strepera*) Several in pond on way to butterfly reserve; also at Lago Cuitzeo

American Wigeon (*Mareca Americana*) A number at Lago Cuitzeo

Mexican Duck (*Pato Mexicano*) Spotted on pond enroute to butterfly reserve

Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) Seen on three consecutive days in marshes and ponds

Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*) One paddled near cord grass island at Lago Cuitzeo

Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) A few mixed in with other waterfowl at Lago Cuitzeo

NEW WORLD QUAIL: Odontophoridae (1)

Long-tailed Wood Partridge (*Dendrortyx macroura*) One heard on first day at La Cima

GREBES: Podicipedidae (4)

Least Grebe (*Tachybaptus dominicus*) One seen at Lerma Marshes

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) Seen on two days in pond enroute to butterfly reserve

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) Several mixed with Clark's Grebes on Lago Cuitzeo

Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*) A few mixed with Western Grebes on Lago Cuitzeo

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (1)

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) Seen at Lago Cuitzeo and flying over marshland along road on drive to Tlaquepaque

PELICANS: Pelecanidae (1)

American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) Many plying the waters of Lago Cuitzeo, and/or forming kettles, possibly in advance of migration

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (5)

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) Seen on third and fourth days in ponds, marshes and along rivers

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) A few individuals seen on three days in ponds, marshes and wetlands

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) One in flight with yellow feet visible above Lago Cuitzeo

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) One in immature white phase seen at Lago Cuitzeo

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus Ibis*) Sizeable groups seen in farmlands, marshes and wetlands on three days

AVOCETS AND STILTS: Recurvirostrida (2)

American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) Dozens perched and preening in Lago Cuitzeo shallows

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) Many of these elegant stilts found at Lago Cuitzeo

IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae (1)

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*) Dozens perching, preening and flying at Lerma Marsh and Lago Cuitzeo

NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae (2)

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) Soaring above on middle three days of journey near Jungapeo

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) Most common vulture on trip, seen on four days

HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (5)

Northern Harrier (*Circus hudsonius*) Four were flying low-to-the-ground in Lerma Marsh

Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) One ambushed a flock of Pine Siskins near us at La Cima

Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) One flew across pond enroute to Sierra Chincua Butterfly reserve

Gray Hawk (*Buteo plagiatus*) One perched closeby and well lit on roadside wire near Churintzio

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo Jamaicensis*) The most common hawk of trip, four flew together over Churintzio

RAILS COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae (4)

Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*) Several heard distinctly at Lerma Marsh

Sora (*Porzana carolina*) Walked out in open in Lerma Marsh while Steven was watching

Common Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*) Singles spotted at pond enroute to butterfly reserve and at Lago Cuitzeo

American Coot (*Fulica americana*) Seen on first four days of trip in ponds and marshes

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (5)

Western Sandpiper (*Calidrus mauri*) One individual spotted at Lago Cuitzeo

Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) Small groups at pond near butterfly reserve and at Lago Cuitzeo

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*) A few on pond on way to butterfly reserve

Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*) Several in shallows at Lago Cuitzeo

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) Also a few in Lago Cuitzeo shallows

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (2)

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) Recorded on first four days in marshes and wetlands

Collared Plover (*Charadrius collarus*) One walked along water's edge, feeding, at Lago Cuitzeo

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (2)

Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) Two dozen-plus on Lago Cuitzeo

Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) Just one flying over Lago Cuitzeo

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (5)

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) A daily sight in towns and cities

Eurasian collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) Seen on three days, near towns and farms

Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*) Found on four days in towns and in agricultural areas

White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*) Heard only on day three

Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*) A number seen along the roadside on power lines

OWLS: Strigidae (1)

Northern Pygmy Owl (*Glaucidium gnoma*) – Seen and heard at length, including when harassed by

Acorn Woodpeckers at Cerro Al Estribo near Patzcuaro.

HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae (10)

Mexican Violetear (*Colibri thalassinus*) Many singing, finally one seen on walk to hilltop at La Cima. Heard constantly at the butterfly reserve.

Rivoli's Hummingbird (*Eugenes fulgens*) Marvelous look in desert shrubs across Rio Tuxpan

Plain-capped Starthroat (*Heliomaster contantii*) Seen near pond on way to butterfly refuge

Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*) On walk to overlook of Lake Patzcuaro

Golden-crowned Emerald (*Chlorostilbon auriceps*) On desert road across Rio Tuxpan

Dusky Hummingbird (*Cyananthus sordidus*) At Hotel Agua Blanca grounds

Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Calidris falcinilis*) Hotel Agua Blanca grounds and above Lake Patzcuaro – one of most common hummingbirds of trip

Berylline Hummingbird (*Amazilia beryllina*) Seen on middle three days in desert scrub vegetation

Violet-crowned Hummingbird (*Amazilia violiceps*) At Aqua Blanca Lodge during breakfast outside

White-eared Hummingbird (*Hylocharis leucotis*) At pond on way to Butterfly preserve and again at Lake Patzcuaro overlook

TROGONS: Trogonidae (1)

Mountain Trogon (*Trogon mexicanus*) One heard calling repeatedly in the pine/fir forest, but not visible from the unnamed road stop in Michoacan.

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (1)

Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryl alcyon*) Saw or heard on three days: two on pond near butterfly reserve and one at Lago Cuitzeo

WOODPECKERS: Picidae (7)

Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*) spectacular views of two on top of snag on road to hilltop park overlooking Lake Patzcuaro.

Golden-cheeked Woodpecker (*Melanerpes chrysogenys*) Sensational looks excavating holes on cacti and feeding among cactus flowers near Agua Blanca Lodge. So photogenic!

Golden-fronted Woodpecker (*Melanerpes aurifrons*) Seen and heard on four consecutive days, mostly around Jungapeo

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) One found in deciduous tree on Cerro Burro, Michoacan

Ladder-backed Woodpecker (*Dryobates scalaris*) Seen while walking dirt road through cacti on other side of Rio Tuxpan near Aqua Blanca Lodge

Strickland's Woodpecker (*Dryobates stricklandi*) Heard one in dry pine forest lands of La Cima

Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) Seen on first day at La Cima, then heard again on day five outside of Patzcuaro

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (3)

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) Seen almost daily in agricultural areas and open lands

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco femoralis*) A juvenile bird flew across pond near butterfly reserve, striking terror into all of the waterfowl and coots on the water; two also seen in the air at Cerro Burro

Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) One soared above the agricultural lands near Churinzio

OVENBIRDS AND WOODCREEPERS: Furnariidae (1)

White-striped Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes leucogaster*) Heard on second day in Jungapeo area

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (10)

Greater Pewee (*Contopus pertinax*) Seen and heard on four days, especially well on top of snag on Cerro del Estribo, overlooking Lake Patzcuaro

Dusky Flycatcher (*Empidonax olberholseri*) Seen on day three on road leading to Agua Blanca Lodge

Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) Seen on first four days of journey, especially along and on rocks within the Rio Tuxpan

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) Only seen in one place: perched on abandoned boat on Lago Cuitzeo

Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) Seen on day two while hiking road from Jungapeo into Agua Blanca Lodge

Nutting's Flycatcher (*Myiarchus nuttingi*) One seen well on unnamed dirt road on opposite side of Rio Tuxpan from Agua Blanca Lodge

Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) Three noisily chasing one-another and feeding in palms on Agua Blanca Lodge grounds

Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) Scope view of one high in palm on Agua Blanca Lodge grounds

Cassin's Kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*) Seen every day in open meadows and agricultural areas

Thick-billed Kingbird (*Tyrannus crassirostris*) Only one seen near pond enroute to butterfly reserve

BECARDS: Tityridae (1)

Gray-collared Becard (*Pachyramphus major*) Great look at one perched in deciduous tree at Cerro al Estribo near Patzcuaro

SHRIKES: Laniidae (1)

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) Best seen on stone wall near Lago Cuitzeo.

VIREOS: Vireonidae (2)

Cassin's Vireo (*Vireo cassinii*) Seen near pond on way to butterfly refuge

Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*) seen on Agua Blanca Lodge grounds

CROWS, RAVENS, JAYS, MAGPIES: Corvidae (3)

Steller's Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*) Seen on days three and five in forested areas

Transvolcanic Jay (*Aphelocoma ultramarina*) Seen especially well on first day at La Cima

Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) Seen or heard last four days in open country

LARKS: Alaudidae (1)

Horned Lark (*eremophila alpestris*) Seen once at Camino Al Cerro Burro on day five

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (4)

Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopterys serripennis*) Flying around and above ponds enroute to butterfly reserve

Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*) Seen in same area as Rough-winged Swallows above

Barn Swallow (*Hirunda rustica*) Seen at Lerma Marsh on our first day

Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) Many visible at bridge over Rio Tuxpan

CHICKADEE: Paridae (1)

Mexican Chickadee (*Poecile scalaris*) Seen on first day at La Cima and again at Cerro Al Estribo

BUSHTIT: Aegithalidae (1)

Bushtit (*psaltriparus minimus*) Seen first day at La Cima and again at Cerro Al Estribo

NUTHATCHES: Sittidae (1)

Pygmy Nuthatch (*Sitta pygmaea*) A number frequented the pines and snags at La Cima

WRENS: Troglodytidae (4)

Canyon Wren (*Catherpes mexicanus*) Seen on steep hillsides and river banks, its descending musical song echoing off of the rocky canyon walls it inhabits

Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*) Seen and heard on three days in brushy canyon country

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) Familiar wren of Americas heard on first day at lunch stop town

Gray-barred Wren (*Campylorhynchus megalopterus*) Large, showy, heavily-barred wren seen well at Cerro Burro - a rare endemic for us!

GNATCATCHERS: Polioptilidae (1)

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*) Abundant around Agua Blanca Lodge grounds

KINGLETS: Regulidae (2)

Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*) Seen and heard in Sierra Chincua Monarch Reserve

Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*) Seen daily in a variety of habitats

THRUSHES: Turdidae (8)

Western Bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*) – Fantastic looks in bright lighting at La Cima

Brown-backed Solitaire (*Myadestes occidentalis*) Heard its resonant metallic song frequently on four days but never saw it

Orange-billed Nightingale Thrush (*Catharus aurantirostris*) One seen on evening walk by Carlos and Lori deep in a shrub near Agua Blanca Lodge

Russet Nightingale Thrush (*Catharus occidentalis*) Good look at one on hill above La Cima

White-throated Thrush (*Turdus assimilis*) Seen and heard on Agua Blanca Lodge grounds

Rufous-backed Robin (*Turdus rufopalliatu*s) Common on grounds of Agua Blanca Lodge

American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) Seen every day of trip in a variety of habitats

Aztec Thrush (*Ridgwayia pinicola*) Heard repeatedly but not seen at La Cerro Al Estribo

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae (2)

Blue Mockingbird (*Melanotis caerulescens*) Serenaded by and seen daily while having breakfast outside at Agua Blanca Resort

Curve-billed Thrasher (*Toxostoma curvirostre*) Good looks on three days, but arguably best look and song was in courtyard of our hotel in Patzcuaro

STARLINGS: Sturnidae (1)

European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) Remarkably, only seen on first day at La Cima

WAGTAILS AND PIPITS: Motacillidae (1)

American Pipit (*Anthus rebeszens*) Only a few seen on mudflats near Lago Cuitzeo

WAXWINGS: Bombycillidae (1)

Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) One heard on day three on grounds of Agua Blanca Lodge

SILKY FLYCATCHERS: Ptiliogonatidae (1)

Gray Silky-flycatcher (*Ptiliogonys cinereus*) Seen in characteristic groups on first three days; we had an especially close encounter with these beautiful, vocal birds on the Agua Blanca Lodge grounds

WOOD WARBLERS: Peucedramidae (19)

Olive Warbler (*Peucedramus taeniatus*) This colorful warbler first seen at La Cima, then at Monarch reserve, and finally at Cerro Al Estrigo near Patzcuaro

Northern Watethrush (*Parkesia noveboracensis*) Seen well with behavior observed while perching on rocks and feeding in shallows along Rio Tuxpan

Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) Just above Agua Blanca Lodge grounds along access road

Orange-crowned Warbler (*Oreothlypis celata*) Found on hike up small hill at La Cima and on three other days of journey

Nashville Warbler (*Oreothlypis ruficapilla*) Common warbler in dry pine habitats seen on four days

MacGillivray's Warbler (*Geothlypis tolmiei*) Seen day three near ponds enroute to butterfly reserve

Black-pollled Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis speciosa*) We were fortunate to have several excellent looks at this endangered, endemic bird in the main place it still inhabits on earth: the Lerma Marshes

Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) Heard in Lerma Marshes, then one seen at Lago Cuitzeo

Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Setophaga coronaga*) Common and widespread around Agua Blanca Lodge

Grace's Warbler (*Setophaga graciae*) Seen high in trees on walk to Cerro Al Estribo near Patzcuaro

Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Setophaga nigrescens*) Near pond on way to butterfly refuge

Townsend's Warbler (*Setophaga townsendi*) Seen in Sierra Chincua Monarch Reserve

Hermit Warbler (*Catharus guttatus*) Seen on hike to Cerro Al Estribo near Patzcuaro

Rufous-capped Warbler (*Basileuterus rufifrons*) Great look at one near the summit overlook of trail/road to Cerro Estribo, Patzcuaro

Golden-browed Warbler (*basileuterus belli*) First this showy small warbler with beacon-like golden-framed eyes emerged from vegetation near La Cima, later seen again on hike to Cerro Al Estribo.

Wilson's Warbler (*Cardellina pusilla*) A fair number were in the vicinity of Agua Blanca Lodge

Red Warbler (*Cardellina rubra*) Seen fluttering through pines and firs on edge of Sierra Chincua Monarch Reserve

Painted Redstart (*Myioborus pictus*) Just a few individuals found on dry road across Rio Tuxpan

Slate-throated Redstart (*Myioborus miniatus*) Common and gregarious on shrubby hillsides on all five days of journey

NEW WORLD SPARROWS AND TOWHEES: Zonotrichia capensis (13)

Black-chested Sparrow (*Peucaea humeralis*) Great looks and songs from several on same hike through desert landscape across Rio Tuxpan from Agua Blanca Lodge

Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) Foraging on the ground at Camino Al Cerro Burro

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) at Camino Al Cerro Burro

Green-striped Brushfinch (*Arremon virenticeps*) Brilliant look at one foraging in hillside brush like a towhee does on hill walk at La Cima

Yellow-eyed Junco (*Junco phaeonotus*) Many seen close up at La Cima, then again on next consecutive four days

Striped Sparrow (*Oriturus superciliosus*) One of first birds on tour; many of this Mexican endemic seen perched on rocks, vegetation and fence posts at La Cima

Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*) On tilled fields near Churinzio

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) At La Cima and at Lerma Marsh

Sierra Madre Sparrow (*Xenospiza Baileyi*) We found a small flock of these endangered, endemic sparrows at La Cima in the early morning

Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*) Seen on third and fifth days in grassland environs

Rusty-crowned Ground Sparrow (*Melazone kieneri*) Nice look near crossing of the Rio Tuxpan

Canyon Towhee (*Melazone fusca*) Good looks on four days in open arid lands

Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*) Common on days in pine/fir forest

CARDINALS, PIRANGATANAGERS AND ALLIES: Thraupidae (4)

Hepatic Tanager (*Piranga flava*) On road walk leading to Agua Blanca Lodge

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) Close look at perched one on same road to Agua Blanca Lodge

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) Seen at Agua Blanca Lodge grounds and in pine/fir forests

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) Its gaudy plumage and florid vocals made it easy to find on the last five days of the journey

BUNTINGS: Emberizidae (4)

Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*) Found on other (deserty) side of Rio Tuxpan on road walk

Orange Breasted Bunting (*Passerina leclancherii*) This very showy bird turned up on same walk on other side of the Rio Tuxpan in shrub desert habitat

Varied Bunting (*Passerina versicolor*) A few appeared at the start of our hike down road to Agua Blanca Lodge

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) A late evening treat along road to Agua Blanca Lodge

BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae (8)

Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) On drive to Tlaquepaque, we encountered a flock of several hundred of this species as they flew across the highway in front of us.

Black-vented Oriole (*Icterus wagleri*) Heard repeatedly but not seen just outside Agua Blanca Lodge

Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*) Most common oriole on trip; seen on five days in varied habitats

Streak-backed Oriole (*Icterus pushtelatus*) Also common, with brilliant orange plumage, seen mostly in Jungapeo area

Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*) Seen on first and third day in riparian habitats

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) Seen on three days in reed marshes

Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) Only one seen on journey at Lago Cuitzeo

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalis mexicanus*) Common daily except on long desert highway stretches. Thrives around towns, cities, agricultural lands and wetland marshes

FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae (9)

Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa baritula*) Seen moving through shrubs and trees at La Cima and on roadside stop where we searched for Mountain Trogons

Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*) A pair found on hike in desert country across Rio Tuxpan

Cinnamon-rumped Seedeater (*Sporophila torqueola*) Seen perching in cordgrass at Lago Cuitzeo

Elegant Euphonia (*Euphonia elegantissima*) Elegant it is! We had an eye-popping look at one on our first day, climbing the hill above La Cima

House Finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*) Had a perfect attendance record: seen on all days in a variety of habitats, especially in towns, cities and farm areas

Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) We had good looks at La Cima and at the Butterfly reserve forest

Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*) Found at La Cima and at Cerro Al Estribo

Black-headed Siskin (*Spinus notatus*) Found at pond on way to butterfly reserve

Lesser Goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*) Seen three consecutive days in Jungapeo area

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (1)

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) One of the most ubiquitous birds in the world was seen on every day of this trip in town and country

MAMMALS (2 species recorded):

Mexican Gray Squirrel (*Sciurus aurogaster*) Seen on several days in pine forest lands

Black Squirrel – A hybrid between Mexican Fox and Gray Squirrels; one seen in croplands near Churintzio

BUTTERFLIES (a sample of 5 species noted):



Banded Peacock (*Anartia fatima*) On roadside above Agua Blanca Lodge



Great Southern White (*Ascia monuste*) Seen and photographed on road above Agua Blanca Lodge



Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*) Seen by the tens of thousands fluttering, gliding, roosting, feeding on wildflowers, gathering nutrients in stream beds and even mating on Lori's shirt! What an unforgettable spectacle!!

White-rayed Patch (*Chlasyne ehrenbergii*)
On road above Agua Blanca Lodge





Zebra Longwing (*Heliconius charitonia*)
On road above Agua Blanca Lodge

MOTHS

Princely Tiger Moth (*Chrysocale principalis*)
near Agua Blanca Lodge



Butterfly and moth photos by Woody Wheeler and Lori Cohen