

Oaxaca Valley: Birds, Culture & Crafts | Species List

October 17 – 28, 2022 | with Naturalist Journeys



compiled by Michael Marsden

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Spectacular scenery, a wealth of wildlife, a rich cultural history, a world-class local guide, delectable food, comfortable accommodations, and convivial company all combined to make this a memorable tour!

Our first four days were based at Mission de las Angeles close to the heart of Oaxaca City, from where we were able to visit its bustling Zocalo and other plazas with their multitude of street vendors, cafes, artisan workshops and art galleries in the midst of majestic buildings of an unequalled architectural heritage.

From here, we made expeditions to the archaeological site of Yagul, the Zapotec weaving center of Teotitlan del Valle, and Arroyo Guacamaya and the Benito Juarez National Forest, high above the city on the interior slopes of the Sierra Madre del Sur. Habitats ranged widely from desert scrub with scattered bushes and cacti to cloud-swept, pine-oak forest. The many endemic species we saw included Beautiful Hummingbird, Gray-breasted Woodpecker, Blue Mockingbird and Oaxaca Sparrow at lower elevations, and Grey-barred Wren, Ocellated Thrasher, Dwarf Jay, Collared Towhee and Red Warbler as we ascended.

On our last day we drove across the Sierra Madre del Sur to San Jose del Pacifico and our new accommodations at Puesta del Sol, cozy cabins set in extensive wooded grounds with hummingbird feeders, where we were to spend the next two nights. Here we came across an array of new species including the endemic Bumblebee Hummingbird and White-throated Jay, and the brilliantly colored Garnet-throated Hummingbird.

Our last four days were spent on the coast at the Hotel Villablanca in Huatulco, though we did include one more montane expedition to the Finca Don Gabriel, where we eventually tracked down our main target there: Mexican Hermit. The coast was a delightful conclusion to our tour with yet another new suite of birds such as White-throated Magpie-Jay, Buff-collared Nightjar and the endemic Colima Pygmy-Owl, Citreoline Trogon and Russet-crowned Motmot. Perhaps the highlight though, was a mini-pelagic boat trip to just beyond the continental shelf, during which we saw a panoply of seabirds including Red-billed Tropicbird and a Tahiti Petrel, an extraordinarily rare visitor to the Mexican coast.

KEY

(E) = endemic to Mexico

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

(I) = Introduced

BIRDS (268 species recorded, of which 7 were heard only):

DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: Anatidae (2)

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis* (2)— Group of seven at the Piedra Azul dam; flyovers heard calling in Huatulco.

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors* (2)— At Piedra Azul and the Copalita estuary.

GUANS AND CURASSOWS: Cracidae (1)

West Mexican Chachalaca (E) *Ortalis poliocephala* (2)— Fairly common on the Pacific side of the Sierra Madre del Sur and in and around Huatulco (endemic to SW Mexico).

GREBES: Podicipedidae (1)

Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus* (1)— Pair at Piedra Azul.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (7)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* (6)— Frequent around settlements, and particularly numerous in Oaxaca City.

Red-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas flavirostris* (1) — Just one seen along the Pluma Hidalgo road.

Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata* (1) — Flocks of 15+ along the Arroyo Guacama Road and nine at Puesta del Sol.

Inca Dove *Columbina inca* (10)— Small flocks frequenting drier areas, particularly around settlements.

Common Ground Dove *Columbina passerine* (1)— Our only sighting was a group of six in a scrubby field at Yagul.

White-tipped Dove (HO) *Leptotila verreauxi* (2)— Heard several times from dense wooded understory but, not uncharacteristically, the birds remained frustratingly elusive.

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica* (8)— Common and widespread.

NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae (1)

Buff-collared Nightjar *Antrorstomus ridgwayi*— Spectacular scope views of one roosting (surprisingly in a tree) in Huatulco.

CUCKOOS: Cuculidae (3)

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostri* (1)— Three in Huatulco.

Lesser Roadrunner *Geococcyx velox* (1)— Craig and Mark came across one on the Arroyo Guacamaya Road.

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana* (1)— Two along Pluma Hidalgo Road (*mexicana* ssp. —a distinctive subspecies endemic to W Mexico).

SWIFTS : Apodidae (5)

Black Swift *Cypseloides niger* (1)— Singleton over the Arroyo Guacamaya Road.

Chestnut-collared Swift *Streptoprocne rutila* (1)— Group of 15 over the Arroyo Guacamaya Road.

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris* (2)— Groups of eight and 10 over Pluma Hidalgo Road.

Vaux's Swift *Chaetura vauxi* (3)— Widespread sightings of singletons from Teotitlan to the coast.

Great Swallow-tailed Swift *Panyptila sanctihieronymi* (1)— Eric identified two of these rarities in a mixed flock of swifts over the Arroyo Guacamaya Road.

HUMMINGBIRDS Trochilidae

Mexican Hermit (E) *Phaethornis mexicanus* (1)— Memorable views of this rarity at Finca Don Gabriel, Pluma Hidalgo (endemic to W Mexico).

Mexican Violetear *Colibri thalassinus* (2)— Two at Arroyo Guacamaya Road & three at Puesta del Sol.

Rivoli's Hummingbird *Eugenes fulgens* (3)— On the Arroyo Guacama Road and at Puesta del Sol.

Long-billed Starthroat *Heliomaster longirostris* (1)— Singleton at Finca Don Gabriel.

Plain-capped Starthroat *Heliomaster constantii* (1)— Singleton at Finca Don Gabriel.

Amethyst-throated Mountain-gem *Lampornis amethystinus* (2)— Our best views at Puesta del Sol (*margaritae* ssp – distinctive subspecies endemic to SW Mexico).

Blue-throated Mountain-gem *Lampornis clemenciae* (2)— Seen on the eastern side of the Sierra Madre del Sol only.

Garnet-throated Hummingbird *Lamprolaima rhami* (2)— Wonderful views of this handsome bird at Puesta del Sol.

Beautiful Hummingbird (E) *Calothorax pulcher* (1)— Our only sighting was during lunch at Rancho Zapata (endemic to SW Mexico).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris* (8)— A common winter resident throughout the area.

Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus* (1)— female at Puesta del Sol.

Bumblebee Hummingbird (E) *Selasphorus heloisa* (1)— Scope views of displaying birds at Puesta del Sol! (endemic to Oaxaca and Guerrero)

Dusky Hummingbird (E) *Phaeoptila sordida* (3)— Encountered in drier habitats including Yagul, the entrance to Monte Alban and Piedra Azul (endemic to SW Mexico).

Turquoise-crowned Hummingbird *Cynanthus doubledayi* (1)— Two at Huatulco.

White-eared Hummingbird *Basilinna leucotis* (3)— In the Benito Juarez Forest above Teotitlan and along the Pluma Hidalgo Road.

Blue-capped Hummingbird (E) *Euatpherusa cyanophrys* (1)— Two at Camina Pluma (endemic to the Sierra Madre del Sur).

Azure-crowned Hummingbird *Saucerottia cyanocephala* (1)— Two at Piedra Azul (endemic to W. Mexico).

Berylline Hummingbird (E) *Saucerottia beryllina* (5)— The most widespread of the resident hummingbirds.

Cinnamon Hummingbird *Amazilia rutila* (2)— Sightings at Finca Don Gabriel and in Huatulco.

RAILS AND ALLIES: Rallidae (1)

American Coot *Fulica americana* (2)— At the Piedra Azul Dam and on the Copalita estuary.

STILTS AND AVOCETS Recurvirostridae(1)

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus* (1)— 150+ at the Copalita estuary.

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (2)

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* (1)— Eight on the Copalita flats.

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferous* (2)— At Piedra Azul and along the Rio Copalita.

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (5)

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* (1)— 11 on the Copalita flats.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* (1)— Memorably close views of at least 17 on the sea during our pelagic.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* (2)— At Piedra Azul and the Copalita estuary.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* (1)— Three on the Copalita flats.

Willet *Tringa semipalmata* (1)— Two on the Copalita flats.

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (4)

Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan* (2)— Common on the coast (the only gull species we came across).

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus* (2)— The common tern species.

Elegant Tern *Thalasseus elegans* (2)— Fascinating comparisons with Royal Terns both at rest on the Copalita flats and in flight during our pelagic.

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger* (1)— 18 roosting on the Copalita flats.

TROPICBIRDS: Phaethontidae (1)

Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus* (1)—Single juvenile seen on our pelagic boat trip.

PETRELS: Procellariidae (1)

Tahiti Petrel *Pseudobulweria rostrata* (1)— One of the real surprises on our pelagic was unforgettable views of this extreme rarity from the western Pacific.

STORM-PETRELS: Hydrobatidae (2)

Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel *Hydrobates tethys* (1)— Singleton, most likely from the Peruvian population, seen on our pelagic.

Black Storm-Petrel *Hydrobates melania* (1)— Views of three on the pelagic.

SHEARWATERS: Procellariidae (2)

Black-vented Shearwater *Puffinus opisthomelas* (1)— Two individuals of this endemic Mexican breeding species seen on the pelagic.

Galapagos Shearwater *Puffinus subalaris* (1)— Some 200 seen on the pelagic (a regular visitor from the Galapagos north to Oaxaca waters)

FRIGATEBIRDS: Fregatidae (1)

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens* (1)— A common sight on the coast.

BOOBIES: Sulidae (3)

Nazca Booby *Sula granti* (1)— Singleton seen on pelagic.

Blue-footed Booby *Sula nebouxii* (1)— Singleton seen on pelagic.

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster* (1)— Singleton on the pelagic.

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (1)

Neotropic Cormorant *Nannopterum brasilianum* (1)— 30+ in and around the Copalita estuary.

PELICANS Pelecanidae (2)

American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* (2)— Including a flock flying over the swimming pool at the Hotel Villablanca in Huatulca.

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* (2)— Common along the Huatulca coast.

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (7)

Great Egret *Egretta alba* (2)— At Piedra Azul and the Copalita estuary.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* (3)— At Piedra Azul and the Copalita estuary.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* (2)— One at Piedra Azul and two at the Copalita estuary.

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor* (1)— Our only sighting was along the Rio Copalita.

Reddish Egret *Egretta rufescens* (1)— Six on the Copalita flats, including several white morphs.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* (2)— On inland fields, including six at Rancho Zapata.

Green Heron *Butorides virescens* (1)— Our only sighting was of a singleton at Piedra Azul.

IBISES AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae (1)

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja* (1)— Eight on the Copalita flats.

NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae (2)

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* (9)— Common and widespread.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* (10)— Common and widespread.

OSPREY Pandionidae (1)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (1)— Singleton fishing on the Huatulca coast.

HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (10)

Hook-billed Kite *Chondrohierax uncinatus* (3)— Several sightings on the Pacific side of the Sierra Madre del Sur.

Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis* (1)— Two juvenile kites over Huatulca on the 24th (an unusually late date for this transient migrant).

Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus* (4)— Sightings along the Arroyo Guacamaya Road, in the Pluma Hidalgo area and at Huatulca.

Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii* (2)— On the Arroyo Guacamaya Road and at Huatulco.

Common Black Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus* (1)— Close views of one on the flats at the Copalita estuary.

Gray Hawk *Buteo plagiatus* (5)— Fairly common on the Pacific side of the Sierra Madre del Sur to the coast.

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus* (3)— Seen only on the Pacific side of the Sierra Madre to the coast, including a kettle of 30, presumably late migrants, over Huatulco.

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus* (3)— Including three at Huatulco taking advantage of the thermals with other hawks, and a wonderfully close view of a dark morph on the Pluma Hidalgo Road.

Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus* (1)— Singleton high over the Pluma Hidalgo Road.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis* (2)— Including a dark morph at Yagul.

TYPICAL OWLS: Strigidae (4)

Pacific Screech-Owl *Megascops cooperi* (1)— Seen and heard on an evening visit to a site known to Eric in Huatulco.

Colima Pygmy-Owl (E) *Glaucidium palmarum* (1)— At Eric's owl site in Huatulco (endemic to W Mexico).

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum* (3)— Including great views at a daytime site in Huatulco.

Mottled Owl *Ciccaba virgate* (2)— Donna saw one in the Puesta del Sol area; a second was seen, and a third heard, at Eric's Huatulco site.

TROGONS: Trogonidae (2)

Citreoline Trogon (E) *Trogon citreolus* (2)— Several seen in the Huatulco area (endemic to W Mexico).

Mountain Trogon *Trogon mexicanus* (1)— Our only sighting was of a male at Puesta del Sol.

MOTMOTS: Momotidae (1)

Russet-crowned Motmot (E) *Momotus mexicanus* (2)— Several of these gorgeous birds seen in and around Huatulco.

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (2)

Belted Kingfisher *Megasceryle alcyon* (1)— One on the coast at Huatulco.

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana* (1)— Female at the Capalito estuary.

TOUCANS: Ramphastidae (1)

Northern Emerald-Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus prasinus* (1)— Three along the Pluma Hidalgo Road.

WOODPECKERS: Picidae (8)

Golden-cheeked Woodpecker (E) *Melanerpes chrysogenys* (3)— The common woodpecker species in the Huatulco area (endemic to W Mexico).

Gray-breasted Woodpecker (E) *Melanerpes hypopolius* (2)— Singletons in scrubland habitat with columnar cacti at Yagul and Rancho Zapata (endemic to interior SW Mexico).

Ladder-backed Woodpecker *Dryobates scalaris* (2)— Our best views were at our hotel, the Mission de Los Angeles, in Oaxaca City.

Hairy Woodpecker *Dryobates villous* (2)— Several seen in oak-pine woodland at higher elevations.

Pale-billed Woodpecker *Campephilus guatemalensis* (1)— Scope views of two by the Rio Capalito.

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus* (3)— Two in a woodland area of Huatulco, and a calling bird by the Rio Capalito.

Gray-crowned Woodpecker (E) (HO) *Colaptes auriculus*(1)— Heard along the Pluma Hidalgo Road (endemic to W Mexico).

Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus* (1)— Singleton on the Arroyo Guacamaya Road.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (5)

Collared Forest-Falcon (HO) *Micrastur semitorquatus* (1)— A calling bird in a woodland area in Huatulco.

Crested Caracara *Caracara plancus* (4)— Fairly common at lower elevations on the eastern side of the Sierra Madre del Sur.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* (3) — Occasional at lower elevations at Yagul, Piedra Azul and by the Rio Capalito.

Merlin *Falco columbarius* (1)— Seen by Donna by the Rio Capalito.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (3)— Singletons at Yagul, Huatulco and by the Rio Capalito.

PARROTS: Psittacidae (3)

Lilac-crowned Parrot (E) (HO) *Amazona finschi* (1)— Eric heard a distant, calling flock by the Rio Capalito (endemic to W Mexico).

White-fronted Parrot *Amazona albifrons* (2)— The common parrot in and around Huatulco.

Orange-fronted Parakeet *Eupsittula canicularis* (2)— The common parakeet in the Pacific lowlands.

OVENBIRDS AND WOODCREEPERS: Furnariidae (3)

Northern Barred Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes sanctihornae* (1)— Singleton by the Pluma Hidalgo Road (a bird normally of the Atlantic slope, but with a small, disjunct population here).

Ivory-billed Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster* (2)— Seen along the Pluma Hidalgo Road, but much better views of one near Huatulco.

Ruddy Foliage-gleaner *Clibornis rubiginosus* (1)— Along the Pluma Hidalgo Road.

BECARDS AND TITYRAS: Tityridae (2)

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata* (1)— By the Pluma Hidalgo Road

Rose-throated Becard *Pachyramphus aglaiae* (1)— Three along the Pluma Hidalgo Road.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (22)

Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet *Camptostoma imberbe* (2)— Seen in the Benito Juarez Forest above Teotitlan and by the Rio Capalito.

Greenish Elaenia *Myiopagis viridicata* (1)— Two at entrance to Monte Alban.

Greater Pewee *Cantopus pertinax* (2)— Singletons at Benito Juarez and by the Pluma Hidalgo Road.

Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii* (1)— Our only sighting was by the Rio Huatulco.

Least Flycatcher *Empidonax minimus* (3)— The most frequent wintering empid at lower elevations.

Hammond's Flycatcher *Empidonax hammondii* (3)— The most frequent wintering empid at higher elevations.

Dusky Flycatcher *Empidonax oberholseri* (1)— At the entrance to Monte Alban.
Pine Flycatcher *Empidonax affinis* (2)— Encountered at La Cumbre and Puesta del Sol.
Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans* (2)— Our best views were around the swimming pool of our Oaxaca City hotel, but also seen at Piedre Azul.
Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus* (5)— Pleasingly frequent in habitats to the east of the Sierra Madre del Sur.
Flammulated Flycatcher (E) (HO) *Ramphotrigon flammulatum* (1)— Calls picked out by Mark in Huatulco (endemic to W Mexico).
Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer* (1)— Along the Arroyo Guacamaya Road.
Nutting's Flycatcher *Myiarchus nuttingi* (1)— Singleton at Yagul.
Brown-crested Flycatcher (HO) *Myiarchus tyrannulus* (1)— Heard distinctive call in Huatulco.
Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus* (8)— Common throughout at lower elevations.
Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua* (1)— A couple seen in Huatulco.
Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis* (5)— Frequent in lowlands throughout.
Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus* (7)— Widely and commonly encountered outside dense woodland habitats.
Cassin's Kingbird *Tyrannus vociferans* (4)— In similar areas but in fewer numbers than TKs.
Thick-billed Kingbird *Tyrannus crassirostris* (3)— Our best views were at the Monte Alban entrance.
Western Kingbird *Tyrannus verticalis* (1)— Surprisingly just one sighting, in Huatulco.
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus* (2)— Just seen in the Huatulco area, but splendid views there, including a dozen or so by the Rio Capalito.

VIREOS: Vireonidae (9)

Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo *Vireolanius melitophrys* (1)— Memorable views of this striking bird at La Cumbria.
Golden Vireo (E) *Vireo hypochryseus* (2)— One of the hoped-for targets of any Oaxaca trip, and we were lucky enough to see five along the Pluma Hidalgo Road (endemic to W Mexico).
Bell's Vireo *Vireo bellii* (3)— Seen in the Huatulco area.
Hutton's Vireo *Vireo huttoni* (2)— A denizen of higher oak-pine forest, seen at La Cumbria and Puesta del Sol.
Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons* (1)— by the Rio Capalito.
Cassin's Vireo *Vireo cassinii* (1)— On the Arroyo Guacamaya Road.
Blue-headed Vireo *Vireo solitaries* (2)— At Puesta del Sol and by the Pluma Hidalgo Road.
Plumbeous Vireo *Vireo plumbeus* (1)— On the Arroyo Guacamaya Road.
Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus* (1)— At the entrance to Monte Alban.

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (5)

White-throated Jay (E) *Cyanolyca mirabilis* (3)— Our most memorable views of this endemic were at Puesta del Sol, but we also came across them along the Hidalgo Pluma Road (endemic to the Pacific slope of the Sierra Madre del Sur and adjacent interior of Oaxaca and Guerrero).
Dwarf Jay (E) *Cyanolyca nanu* (1)— Another sought-after endemic of which we had brilliant views of at least five in a feeding flock with Gray-barred Wrens (endemic to E central Mexico from the Atlantic to the slope of the Sierra Madre del Sur).
White-throated Magpie-Jay *Calocitta Formosa* (1)— A bird that everyone wanted to see and that proved satisfyingly common in the Huatulco area.
Steller's Jay *Cyanocitta stelleri* (2)— In pine forest at La Cumbria and by the Pluma Hidalgo Road.
Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay *Aphelocoma woodhouseii* (2)— In La Cumbre and Benito Juarez Forests.

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae (2)

Mexican Chickadee *Poecile sclateri* (1)— Our only sightings were at Puesta del Sol.

Bridled Titmouse *Baeolophus wollweberi* (1)— Two on the Arroyo Guacamaya Road.

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (5)

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* (2)— With other swallows over Yagul and Piedra Azul.

Gray-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea* (3)— Common in the Huatulco area.

Mangrove Swallow *Tachycineta albilinea* (1)— Singleton seen on our pelagic.

Violet-green Swallow *Tachycineta thalassina* (2)— Flocks of around 40 and 15 over Yagul and Piedra Azul respectively.

Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* (1)— Over Huatulco.

LONG-TAILED TITS: Aegithalidae (1)

Bushtit *Psaltriparus minimus* (1)— Two on the Arroyo Guacamaya Road spotted by Donna.

NUTHATCHES: Sittidae (1)

White-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta carolinensis* (1)— At Puesta del Sol.

CREEPERS: Certhiidae(1)

Brown Creeper *Certhia americana* (1)— Seen by Hassam at Puesta del Sol.

GNATCATCHERS: Polioptilidae (2)

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Polioptila caerulea* (9)— A common and widespread resident, seemingly at all but the very highest elevations.

White-lored Gnatcatcher *Polioptila albiloris* (2)— A welcome sight in the Huayulco area, where they outnumbered their Blue-gray cousins.

WRENS: Troglodytidae (8)

Rock Wren *Salpinctes obsoletus* (1)— Showing off well on the ancient walls of Yagul.

Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii* (3)— Several sightings of these familiar birds at the very southern edge of their range.

Gray-barred Wren (E) *Campylorhynchus megalopterus* (1)— An amazing sight at La Cumbre was of a feeding flock of at least 22 wrens gradually working their way through the trees around us, while accompanied by a half-dozen endemic Dwarf Jays (endemic to the montane areas of central Mexico)

Rufous-naped Wren *Campylorhynchus rufinucha* (2)— Several encounters in the Huatulco area (*humilis* ssp – a distinctive subspecies known as 'Sclateri's Wren' endemic to W Mexico).

Boucard's Wren (E) *Campylorhynchus jocosus* (1)— Only sighted on the Arroyo Guacamaya Road (endemic to interior SW Mexico).

Happy Wren (E) *Pheugopedius felix* (1)— Singleton on the Pluma Hidalgo Road.

Banded Wren *Thryophilus pleurostictus* (1)— Seen by Hassam by the Rio Capalito.

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucophrys* (2)— Several heard, but our only sighting was at La Cumbre.

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae (5)

Blue Mockingbird (E) *Melanotis caerulescen* (2)— Wonderful views of this endemic at Piedra Azul and at the Monte Alban entrance (endemic to W Mexico south to Oaxaca).

Gray Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis* (1)— Along the Pluma Hidalgo Road.

Curve-billed Thrasher *Toxostoma curvirostr* (2)— In scrubby habitat at Yagul and Piedra Azul.

Ocellated Thrasher (E) *Toxostoma ocellatum* (1)— Scope views of this spectacular thrasher on the Arroyo Guacamaya Road (endemic to E central & SW Mexico).

Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos* (1)— Our only sighting was at Yagul.

THRUSHES: Turdidae (7)

Brown-backed Solitaire *Myadestes occidentalis* (7)— A welcome companion on most of our trips, nowhere more so than around our cabins at Puesta del Sol.

Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus aurantiirostris* (2)— At Piedra Azul and Puesta del Sol.

Russet Nightingale-Thrush (E) *Catharus occidentalis* (3)— Our first and most memorable views of this endemic at La Cumbre (endemic to interior Mexico south to Oaxaca).

White-throated Thrush *Turdus assimilis* (1)— Confiding views from our cabins at Puesta del Sol.

Clay-colored Thrush *Turdus grayi* (1)— On the grounds of our hotel in Oaxaca City.

American Robin *Turdus migratorius* (1)— On the grounds of our cabins at Puesta del Sol.

Rufous-backed Robin (E) *Turdus rufopalliatus* (2)— Sightings at the beginning and end of our trip, at our hotel in Oaxaca City and in Huatulco (endemic to W Mexico).

SILKY-FLYCATCHERS: Ptiliogonatidae (1)

Gray Silky-Flycatcher *Ptiliogonys cinereus* (4)— A pair showing well on the grounds of our Oaxaca City hotel was happily the prelude to several more encounters with this delightful bird.

OLIVE WARBLER: Peucedramidae (1)

Olive Warbler *Peucedramus taeniatus* (2)— After frustratingly only hearing one at La Cumbre, several of us had the satisfaction of seeing it at Puesta del Sol.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (1)

House Sparrow (I) *Passer domesticus* (3)— Seen around settlements.

FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae (5)

Elegant Euphonia *Chlorophonia elegantissima* (1)— Close views of this particularly handsome bird along the Benito Juarez Road.

Scrub Euphonia *Euphonia affinis* (2)— On scrubby grazing at Piedra Azul and by the Rio Capalito.

House Finch *Haemrhoum mexicanus* (2)— Encountered at Yagul and Teotitlan.

Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* (2)— Flyovers missed by most at Benito Juarez, but five on the Arroyo Guacamaya Road were more cooperative.

Lesser Goldfinch *Spinus psaltria* (5)— Fairly common in scrubland habitats.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae (12)

Common Chlorospingus *Chlorospingus flavopectus* (1)— Our only views were at Puesta del Sol.

Stripe-headed Sparrow *Peucaea ruficauda* (1)— Seen by Hassam by the Rio Capalito.

Bridled Sparrow (E) *Peucaea mystacalis* (2)— At least four at Piedra Azul, and another seen along the Benito Juarez Road (endemic to interior central Mexico from Puebla to Oaxaca).

Chestnut-capped Brushfinch *Arremon brunneinucha* (1)— One at La Cumbre was our only sighting.

Yellow-eyed Junco *Junco phaeonotu* (2)— Particularly common around our cabins at Puesto del Sol.

Lincoln's Sparrow *Melospiza lincolni* (1)— Along the Arroyo Guacamaya Road.

White-throated Towhee (E) *Melospiza albicollis* (4)— Common and frequently encountered in more open habitats to the east of the Sierra Madre divide (endemic to interior SW Mexico).

Rufous-crowned Sparrow *Aimophila ruficeps* (1)— Just one along the Arroyo Guacamaya Road (*australis* ssp. – a subspecies endemic to the mountains around Oaxaca City).

Oaxaca Sparrow (E) *Aimophila notosticta* (2)— Welcome views at Piedra Azul and along the road to Arroyo Guacamaya.

Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus* (2)— Encountered in pine-oak woodlands along the Arroyo Guacamaya Road and at Peuda del Sol.

Collared Towhee (E) *Pipilo ocai* (1)— Wonderful views of this endemic at La Cumbre (endemic to interior Mexico from Jalisco to Oaxaca)

Rufous-capped Brushfinch (E) *Atlapetes pileatus* (1)— Two at La Cumbre.

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS AND ORIOLES: Icteridae (10)

Yellow-winged Cacique (E) *Cassiculus melanicterus* (3)— Pleasingly numerous in the Huatulco area (endemic to the Pacific slope lowlands).

Black-vented Oriole *Icterus wagleri* (2)— Singletons at Piedra Azul and along the Arroyo Guacamaya Road (a near endemic with a range extending to the N Guatemalan highlands).

Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius* (3)— Fairly common in lowland areas on both sides of the Sierra Madre del Sur.

Streak-backed Oriole *Icterus pustulatus* (4)— Our first sighting was along the Arroyo Guacamaya Road, and we then saw several, including four in Huatulco.

Bullock's Oriole *Icterus bullockii* (4)— Fairly common winter residents.

Spot-breasted Oriole *Icterus pectoralis* (1)— Singleton in Huatulco.

Altamira Oriole *Icterus gularis* (3)— Seen only to the west of the Sierra Madre divide, with at least three in Huatulpec.

Audubon's Oriole *Icterus graduacauda* (3)— Frustratingly heard only on the Arroyo Guacamaya Road, but subsequently seen well in the Huatulco area (*dickeyae* ssp – a distinctive subspecies known as 'Dickey's Oriole' endemic to S Guerrero & Oaxaca).

Bronzed Cowbird *Molothrus aeneus* (2)— Prominent around the swimming pool at our Oaxaca City hotel and in Huatulco.

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus* (2)— We started seeing them around settlements as we descended the Pluma Hidalgo Road – and then lots in Huatulpec!

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (28)

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia* (2)— Along the Pluma Hidalgo Road.

Crescent-chested Warbler *Oreothlypis superciliosa* (1)— Two at Puesta del Sol.

Tennessee Warbler *Leiothlypis peregrina* (4)— One of the more frequently encountered wintering warblers.

Orange-crowned Warbler *Leiothlypis celata* (1)— Our only encounter was on the road to Arroyo Guacamaya.

Nashville Warbler *Leiothlypis ruficapilla* (3)— Another fairly common wintering warbler.

MacGillivray's Warbler *Geothlypis tolmiei* (3)— Fairly common, including one at the Monte Alban entrance.

Mourning Warbler *Geothlypis philadelphia* (1)— Just one sighting along the Pluma Hidalgo Road.

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas* (2)— Sightings at Piedra Azul and along the Arroyo Guacamaya Road.

Hooded Yellowthroat (E) (HO) *Geothlypis nelson* (1)— Heard by Eric at Puesta del Sol (endemic to highlands of E & S Mexico).

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla* (2)— Sightings along the Pluma Hidalgo Road and at Huatulco.

Magnolia Warbler *Setophaga magnolia* (1)— Just one seen along the Pluma Hidalgo Road.

Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechial* (3)— Several seen in the Huatulco area.

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Setophaga coronata* (7)— The most numerous of the wintering warblers (all were of the western Audubon's group).

Yellow-throated Warbler *Setophaga dominica* (1)— Singleton in Huatulco.

Grace's Warbler *Setophaga graciae* (1)— Sighting along the Pluma Hidalgo Road.

Black-throated Gray Warbler *Setophaga nigrescens* (2)— Along the Benito Juarez Road and at La Cumbre.

Townsend's Warbler *Setophaga townsendi* (4)— A fairly common wintering warbler of the pine-oak forests.

Hermit Warbler *Setophaga occidentalis* (2)— In pine-oak forest along the La Cumbre and Benito Juarez roads.

Black-throated Green Warbler *Setophaga virens* (2)— Along the Pluma Hidalgo Road.

Fan-tailed Warbler *Basileuterus lachrymosus* (1)— By the Pluma Hidalgo Road (and expertly coaxed into view by Mark!)

Rufous-capped Warbler *Basileuterus rufifrons* (3)— At Piedra Azul, along the Arroyo Guacamaya Road, and one found by Monique at the Monte Alban entrance.

Golden-browed Warbler *Basileuterus belli* (1)— Two at La Cumbre.

Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus belli* (1)— Two on the Pluma Hidalgo Road.

Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina pusilla* (9)— The second most numerous wintering warbler.

Red Warbler (E) *Cardellina rubra* (2)— A much sought-after target, seen gratifyingly well at both La Cumbre and Puesta del Sol.

Painted Redstart *Myioborus pictus* (1)— Along the Benito Juarez Road.

Slate-throated Redstart *Myioborus miniatus* (2)— Encountered at La Cumbre and Puesta del Sol.

CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS, AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae (14)

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra* (4)— Fairly common, but more often heard than seen.

Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana* (2)— Two at Piedra Azul and along the Arroyo Guacamaya Road, and a singleton at the Monte Alban entrance.

Red-headed Tanager (E) *Piranga erythrocephala* (1)— Four of these gorgeous endemics seen along the Pluma Hidalgo Road (endemic to the mountains of W Mexico).

Red-crowned Ant-Tanager *Habia rubica* (1)— Three along the Pluma Hidalgo Road.

Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis* (1)— Just two seen by the Rio Capalito (*carneus* ssp – a distinctive subspecies known as 'Long-crested' Northern Cardinal (endemic along the Mexican Pacific coast from Colima to Oaxaca)).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus* (2)— Seen at Puesta del Sol and along the Pluma Hidalgo Road.

Black-headed Grosbeak *Pheucticus melanocephalus* (1)— Our only sighting was along the Benito Juarez Road.

Red-breasted Chat *Granatellus venustus* (1)— Just one of these delightful birds seen in Huatulco.

Blue Bunting *Cyanocompsa parellina* (1)— A female with other buntings in long grass on a neglected lot in Huatulco.

Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea* (2)— Including a close view at Piedre Azul.

Orange-breasted Bunting (E) *Passerina leclancherii* (1)— Our last, and one of the most welcome, endemics of the trip, with wonderful views of two feeding with other buntings in an overgrown vacant lot in Huatulco (endemic to SW Mexico).

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris* (1)— Two feeding with other buntings in Huatulco.

Dickcissel *Spiza americana* (1)— Flyovers spotted by Eric in Huatulco.

TANAGERS AND ALLIES: Thraupidae (4)

Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus* (1)— We drove under a feeding flock of seven honeycreepers as we left the Finca Don Gabriel.

Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer *Diglossa baritula* (2)— Our best views of these fascinating birds were on the grounds of Puesta del Sol.

Cinnamon-rumped Seedeater (E) *Sporophila torqueola* (1)— A couple seen in the grasslands at Yagul (endemic along the Mexican Pacific coast from Sinaloa to Oaxaca).

Black-headed Saltator *Saltator atriceps* (1)— Two seen along the Pluma Hidalgo Road.

MAMMALS (2 species recorded) & REPTILES (2 species recorded):

Pantropical Spotted Dolphin *Stenella attenuata*

Red-bellied Squirrel *Sciurus aureogaster*

Olive Ridley Sea Turtle *Lepidochelys olivacea*

Green Iguana *Iguana iguana*