

# Mexico's Butterflies & Birds | Species List

## February 12 – 19, 2023 | with Naturalist Journeys



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Compiled by: Dave Mehlman

(H) – identified by sound only

(G) – identified by guides only

**Summary:** This classic tour of Mexico started in Mexico City (the largest in the country), ended in Guadalajara (the second largest) and encompassed a wide swath of the Transvolcanic Belt and West Mexico. States visited included Mexico City, Morelos, State of Mexico, Michoacán and Jalisco, though most of the birding time was in Michoacán. The typical elevation was pretty high (over 8,000 feet, reaching almost 11,000 feet in the Sierra Chincua Monarch Reserve), except toward the end of the tour as we approached Guadalajara. In addition to birds, we enjoyed great food and some very intriguing cities and towns in Mexico, including the Pueblo Mágico of Patzcuaro. Bird species receiving the most votes for “top three” of the tour were: Red Warbler, Russet-crowned Motmot and Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo.

**eBird trip report link:** [Naturalist Journeys Birds and Butterflies 2023 - eBird Trip Report](#)

**BIRDS (171 species recorded, of which were 3 heard only, 3 were seen by guides only):**

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

**Blue-winged Teal** (*Spatula discors*)—Many seen at very close range when looking at Lake Cuitzeo from town.

**Northern Shoveler** (*Spatula clypeata*)—Seen floating in Lake Cuitzeo while driving along the causeway.

**American Wigeon** (*Mareca americana*)—(G) Seen by Carlos at Lerma Marshes on the first day.

**Green-winged Teal** (*Anas crecca*)—A few pairs in among the Blue-wings at Lake Cuitzeo on the first visit.

### **NEW WORLD QUAIL: Odontophoridae (1)**

**Long-tailed Wood-Partridge** (*Dendrortyx macroura*)—We first heard this hard-to-find species during our walk on the first day at La Cima and then, later in the morning, had extraordinary luck seeing another, apparently responding to Carlos' tape, that sat still within 20 feet of the group for quite a while. Our luck with this species continued as several ran across the road in front of the bus on our drive up Cerro Burro.

### **GREBES: Podicipedidae (2)**

**Least Grebe** (*Tachybaptus dominicus*)—At least two were in the Cráter Volcánico El Alberca near Tacámbaro.

**Clark's Grebe** (*Aechmophorus clarkii*)—Several seen from the highway across Lake Cuitzeo on our first visit there; note that it is possible there were also Western Grebes, but the lack of stopping places on the causeway prevented close examination.

### **PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (6)**

**Rock Pigeon** (*Columba livia*)—Commonly seen in almost every city or town, often while driving; found on all six days of the tour.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** (*Streptopelia decaocto*)—Seen on five days of the tour, generally when driving in or near towns at slightly lower elevations.

**Inca Dove** (*Columbina inca*)—Seen or heard on three days at several sites at lower elevations, including Hotel Agua Blanca, La Alberca and the Quinta Don Jose.

**White-tipped Dove** (*Leptotila verreauxi*)—(H) Heard calling in the distance at El Alberca.

**White-winged Dove** (*Zenaida asiatica*)—Heard and seen at the Quinta Don Jose in Tlaquepaque.

**Mourning Dove** (*Zenaida macroura*)—One seen at Sierra Chincua.

#### **SWIFTS: Apodidae (1)**

**Vaux's Swift** (*Chaetura vauxi*)—A flock seen flying high overhead at Hotel Agua Blanca.

#### **HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae (11)**

**Mexican Violetear** (*Colibri thalassinus*)—Several seen at La Cima, including one that perched and called incessantly during the walk up the old road through the forest; also seen by Carlos at Sierra Chincua.

**Rivoli's Hummingbird** (*Eugenes fulgens*)—One seen at Cerro Burro.

**Plain-capped Starthroat** (*Helimaster constantii*)—Found on three days at Hotel Agua Blanca, in the Rio Tuxpan dry forest, and at El Alberca; most memorable sighting was in the dry forest, where three birds came into the owl tape for very close-range views.

**Blue-throated Mountain-Gem** (*Lampornis clemenciae*)—(G) One seen by Carlos at Sierra Chincua.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** (*Archilochus colubris*)—One found by the group at Sierra Chincua.

**Broad-tailed Hummingbird** (*Selasphorus platycercus*)—This mountain hummingbird was found on three days at Sierra Chincua, Cerro Burro and in the Rio Tuxpan dry forest.

**Dusky Hummingbird** (*Phaeoptila sordida*)—Found at La Alberca in the parking lot!

**Broad-billed Hummingbird** (*Cyananthus latirostris*)—A lower elevation hummingbird, these were seen on four days along the Rio Tuxpan, at Posada Yolihuani, Churintzio and the Quinta Don Jose.

**White-eared Hummingbird** (*Hylocharis leucotis*)—Probably the most frequently encountered hummingbird of the tour, these were seen on five days at most mountain sites visited.

**Violet-crowned Hummingbird** (*Amazilia violiceps*)—Seen at Hotel Agua Blanca, the Rio Tuxpan dry forest and the Quinta Don Jose.

**Berylline Hummingbird** (*Amazilia beryllina*)—Found on two days at the Rio Tuxpan dry forest and at Posada Yolihuani.

#### **RAILS, COOTS, AND ALLIES: Rallidae (3)**

**Sora** (*Porzana carolina*)—One very well seen and observed at the Lerma Marshes.

**Common Gallinule** (*Gallinula galeata*)—Seen on three days at the Lerma Marshes, Lake Cuitzeo, and the small pond in Churintzio.

**American Coot** (*Fulica americana*)—Generally very small numbers seen at Lerma Marshes, Lake Cuitzeo and La Alberca.

#### **AVOCETS AND STILTS: Recurvirostridae (1)**

**Black-necked Stilt** (*Himantopus mexicanus*)—Quite a few sitting, standing and foraging at Lake Cuitzeo.

#### **PLOVERS: Charadriidae (1)**

**Killdeer** (*Charadrius vociferus*)—Found twice, first at Lerma Marshes and again at the small pond in Churintzio.

#### **SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (3)**

**Wilson's Snipe** (*Gallinago delicata*)—One spotted hiding in the grass at Lake Cuitzeo.

**Spotted Sandpiper** (*Actitis macularius*)—One foraging at Lake Cuitzeo.

**Greater Yellowlegs** (*Tringa melanoleuca*)—Several at Lake Cuitzeo and a few in the pond in Churintzio.

#### **GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (2)**

**Ring-billed Gull** (*Larus delawarensis*)—Seen on two days from the bus while driving across the causeway over Lake Cuitzeo.

**Caspian Tern** (*Hydroprogne caspia*)—Seen on two days from the bus while driving across the causeway over Lake Cuitzeo.

#### **CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (1)**

**Neotropic Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)—Seen perched on stakes in the water in Lake Cuitzeo.

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

**American White Pelican** (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)—Mostly seen at a distance either sitting in the water or flying at Lakes Cuitzeo and Patzcuaro.

#### **HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (6)**

**Great Blue Heron** (*Ardea herodias*)—One seen on the second visit to Lake Cuitzeo.

**Great Egret** (*Ardea alba*)—Found at Lerma Marshes and on both visits to Lake Cuitzeo.

**Snowy Egret** (*Egretta thula*)—Seen on both visits to Lake Cuitzeo.

**Tricolored Heron** (*Egretta tricolor*)—Two individuals were foraging in the shallow water in the town of Cuitzeo.

**Cattle Egret** (*Bubulcus ibis*)— Found at Lerma Marshes and on both visits to Lake Cuitzeo.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)—(G) One seen by Dave from the bus while driving across Lake Cuitzeo on the second visit.

#### **IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae (1)**

**White-faced Ibis** (*Plegadis chihi*)—A small group flew over at Lerma Marshes and several were seen at Lake Cuitzeo while driving across the causeway on both visits.

#### **NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae (2)**

**Black Vulture** (*Coragyps atratus*)—Found on four days of the tour at several sites, usually in flight.

**Turkey Vulture** (*Cathartes aura*)— Found on five days of the tour at several sites, usually overhead or from the van.

#### **HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (6)**

**White-tailed Kite** (*Elanus leucurus*)—One seen from the bus while driving on the first day of the tour.

**Hook-billed Kite** (*Chondrohierax uncinatus*)—One flew over the ridge when at Estribo Grande.

**Northern Harrier** (*Circus hudsonius*)—Found twice, first at Lerma Marshes and again at Lake Cuitzeo.

**Cooper's Hawk** (*Accipiter cooperii*)—Seen while leaving the Lerma Marshes, perched briefly on a building.

**Gray Hawk** (*Buteo plagiatus*)—One flew over the El Tasajo restaurant after lunch there.

**Red-tailed Hawk** (*Buteo jamaicensis*)—Seen, generally soaring overhead, at the Lerma Marshes, Rio Tuxpan dry forest, Cerro Burro and Churintzio.

#### **OWLS: Strigidae (1)**

**Northern Pygmy-Owl** (*Glaucidium gnoma*)—Basilio came through again by finding one perched right near the van at Estribo Grande.

**MOTMOTS: Momotidae (1)**

**Russet-crowned Motmot** (*Momotus mexicanus*)—A fabulous motmot (and that's saying something!), this species was very well seen twice, first near the Rio Tuxpan and again at El Alberca.

**KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (1)**

**Belted Kingfisher** (*Megaceryle alcyon*)—One seen perched on a wire on the Lago Cuitzeo causeway.

**WOODPECKERS: Picidae (5)**

**Acorn Woodpecker** (*Melanerpes formicivorus*)—Several seen at Estribo Grande along with a granary tree.

**Golden-cheeked Woodpecker** (*Melanerpes chrysogenys*)—Seen from the Agua Blanca parking lot and again at El Alberca.

**Ladder-backed Woodpecker** (*Dryobates scalaris*)—Seen on three days at the Hotel Agua Blanca, Posada Yolihuani courtyard and Estribo Grande.

**Hairy Woodpecker** (*Dryobates villosus*)—One found at Estribo Grande.

**Northern Flicker** (*Colaptes auratus*)—Found on two days, first at La Cima and again at Cerro Burro.

**FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (1)**

**American Kestrel** (*Falco sparverius*)—Seen on four days of the tour, sometimes from the van, perhaps best at Cerro Burro and Churintzio.

**BECARDS AND TITYRAS: Tityridae (2)**

**Rose-throated Becard** (*Pachyramphus aglaiae*)—A female was spotted amidst the bird frenzy in the Agua Blanca parking lot.

**Masked Tityra** (*Tityra semifasciata*)—A pair of these elegant tityras was seen very well eating fruits from a tree at El Alberca.

**TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (15)**

**Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet** (*Camptostoma imberbe*)—One seen by most of the group in the Rio Tuxpan dry forest.

**Tufted Flycatcher** (*Mitrephanes phaeocercus*)—One found foraging from a tree in a field in the Rio Tuxpan dry forest.

**Greater Pewee** (*Contopus pertinax*)—(H) Heard singing at La Cima and La Alberca.

**Least Flycatcher** (*Empidonax minimus*)—An *Empidonax*, presumed to be this species, was seen in the trees at La Alberca.

**Hammond's Flycatcher** (*Empidonax hammondii*)— An *Empidonax*, presumed to be this species, was seen at Estribo Grande.

**Pine Flycatcher** (*Empidonax affinis*)—One seen on the entrance road to the Sierra Chincua Monarch Reserve.

**Black Phoebe** (*Sayornis nigricans*)—Pairs of this flycatcher, often associated with water, were seen in the riverbed of the Rio Tuxpan and at the Quinta Sauz Restaurant in Tacámbaro.

**Say's Phoebe** (*Sayornis saya*)—Found at Cerro Burro and Churintzio.

**Vermilion Flycatcher** (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*)—A popular and easily spotted species (at least the males are!), these were seen on six days of the tour at many sites.

**Dusky-capped Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*)—Found on one day at Agua Blanca.

**Ash-throated Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus cinerascens*)—One seen in the Rio Tuxpan dry forest, separated with care from the following species.

**Nutting's Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus nuttingi*)—Found on the walk along the road in the Rio Tuxpan dry forest and at La Alberca.

**Great Kiskadee** (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)—Seen or heard at Agua Blanca, La Alberca, and the Quinta Don Jose.

**Social Flycatcher** (*Myiozetes similis*)—Well seen and heard at both Agua Blanco and La Alberca.

**Cassin's Kingbird** (*Tyrannus vociferans*)—Found two days on the tour at the Lerma Marshes and on the road to Cerro Burro.

#### **VIREOS: Vireonidae (4)**

**Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo** (*Vireolanius melitophrys*)—A pair of these absolutely stunning vireos were seen at eye level during the walk at Estribo Grande.

**Cassin's Vireo** (*Vireo cassinii*)—Seen on the walk in the Rio Tuxpan dry forest and at Estribo Grande.

**Plumbeous Vireo** (*Vireo plumbeus*)—Found twice, once at a gas station stop while driving, and again in the large group of species at the Agua Blanca parking lot.

**Warbling Vireo** (*Vireo gilvus*)—By far the most commonly seen vireo on the tour, many of these were seen at the Rio Tuxpan, La Alberca and Estribo Grande.

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

**Loggerhead Shrike** (*Lanius ludovicianus*)—One very well seen perched in a shrub in the grasslands on the road to Cerro Burro.

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

**Steller's Jay** (*Cyanocitta stelleri*)—Several seen on the walk to the monarchs at Sierra Chincua.

**Transvolcanic Jay** (*Aphelocoma ultramarina*)—Although we were in appropriate habitat for most of the trip, we only encountered this jay at Estribo Grande.

**Common Raven** (*Corvus corax*)—Seen or heard at Sierra Chincua and Cerro Burro.

#### **CHICKADEES: Paridae (1)**

**Mexican Chickadee** (*Poecile sclateri*)—Found as part of mixed-species flocks at La Cima and the Sierra Chincua entrance road.

#### **SWALLOWS: Hirundinidae (3)**

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** (*Stelgidopterys serripennis*)—Seen flying in the Rio Tuxpan canyon, both along the road on the hillside and at the bridge, and again at La Alberca.

**Violet-green Swallow** (*Tachycineta thalassina*)—This attractive, high-elevation swallow was found at La Cima, Lerma Marshes and Estribo Grande.

**Barn Swallow** (*Hirundo rustica*)—Seen flying, occasionally perching, in large numbers at Lake Cuitzeo and again at La Alberca.

#### **BUSHTIT: Aegithalidae (1)**

**Bushtit** (*Psaltriparus minimus*)—Several flocks of this species, all of the Black-eared form, were seen at La Cima, Sierra Chincua entrance road and Cerro Burro.

#### **KINGLETS: Regulidae (2)**

**Golden-crowned Kinglet** (*Regulus satrapa*)—Several of these, including some males with their fiery crowns, were found when birding the Sierra Chincua entrance road.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** (*Regulus calendula*)—One of the most regularly encountered species of the tour, these were seen on five days at most sites visited.

#### **NUTHATCHES: Sittidae (1)**

**Pygmy Nuthatch** (*Sitta pygmaea*)—Small numbers seen on the walk through the open pine forest at La Cima.

**GNATCATCHERS: Polioptilidae (2)**

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** (*Polioptila caerulea*)—Encountered on four days of the tour at Agua Blanca, Rio Tuxpan, La Alberca and Churintzio.

**White-lored Gnatcatcher** (*Polioptila albiloris*)—Seen at El Alberca, thanks to Carlos, who spotted the subtle differences with Blue-grays, which were also present.

**WRENS: Troglodytidae (6)**

**Canyon Wren** (*Catherpes mexicanus*)—Seen or heard on four days at Agua Blanca, La Alberca and Estribo Grande.

**House Wren** (*Troglodytes aedon*)—Found at La Cima, Sierra Chincua and the Rio Tuxpan dry forest.

**Grass Wren** (*Cistothorus platensis*)—Glimpses of this hard-to-spot species were had at La Cima on the first day of the tour.

**Bewick's Wren** (*Thryomanes bewickii*)—Seen or heard on the days at the Posada Yolihuani.

**Gray-barred Wren** (*Campylorhynchus megalopterus*)—At least two came through the treetops in response to playback at Cerro Burro.

**Happy Wren** (*Pheugopedius felix*)—(H) At least one heard on the walk through the Rio Tuxpan dry forest, though it never could be coaxed out for views.

**STARLINGS: Sturnidae (1)**

**European Starling** (*Sturnus vulgaris*)—A flock flew by while at the Lerma Marshes.

**MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae (3)**

**Blue Mockingbird** (*Melanotis caerulescens*)—One heard during the Rio Tuxpan dry forest walk and another was residing in the courtyard at the Quinta Don Jose.

**Curve-billed Thrasher** (*Toxostoma curvirostre*)—These were seen on four days at La Cima, Cerro Burro, La Alberca and Estribo Grande.

**Northern Mockingbird** (*Mimus polyglottos*)—One seen at Posada Yolihuani.

**THRUSHES: Turdidae (4)**

**Western Bluebird** (*Sialia mexicana*)—Heard at the Rio Tuxpan, and one seen on the very last morning right in the courtyard of the Quinta Don Jose by a few in the group.

**Brown-backed Solitaire** (*Myadestes occidentalis*)—Seen, after a bit of effort, at La Cima.

**American Robin** (*Turdus migratorius*)—Found on three days at La Cima, Sierra Chincua and Cerro Burro; these were most numerous at the first site where they were feeding on fruiting shrubs.

**Rufous-backed Robin** (*Turdus rufopalliatu*s)—This very handsome robin species was seen on three days at the Agua Blanca, La Alberca and Estribo Grande.

**WAXWINGS: Bombycillidae (1)**

**Cedar Waxwing** (*Bombycilla cedrorum*)—A large flock was voraciously devouring berries at La Cima; another flock flew by at La Alberca.

**SILKY FLYCATCHERS: Ptiliogonatidae (1)**

**Gray Silky-Flycatcher** (*Ptiliogonys cinereus*)—One of the most elegant and distinctive birds of the Mexican and Central American mountains, these were found at La Cima, Sierra Chincua and Estribo Grande.

**OLIVE WARBLER: Peucedramidae (1)**

**Olive Warbler** (*Peucedramus taeniatus*)—Found in the pines as part of a mixed-species flock at La Cima.

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

**House Sparrow** (*Passer domesticus*)—Seen on all days when in or passing through towns.

### **FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae (3)**

**House Finch** (*Haemorhous mexicanus*)—This familiar finch, whose specific epithet is named after Mexico, was found at many sites visited on four days.

**Pine Siskin** (*Spinus pinus*)—Seen three times at La Cima, Sierra Chincua and Cerro Burro.

**Lesser Goldfinch** (*Spinus psaltria*)—These, apparently all the black-backed form, were found at several sites on three days, including Agua Blanca and vicinity, La Alberca, Estribo Grande and Churintzio.

### **NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae (14)**

**Black-chested Sparrow** (*Peucaea humeralis*)—Several individuals of this large and spectacular sparrow were seen on the walk in the Rio Tuxpan Canyon dry forest.

**Chipping Sparrow** (*Spizella passerina*)—Several seen in the sparrow flocks along the Cerro Burro entrance road.

**Green-striped Brushfinch** (*Arremon virenticeps*)—An incredibly elegant and striking “sparrow” with its green eye stripe and bright, white throat, these were found at La Cima and at the roadside stop on the way back to Patzcuaro.

**Yellow-eyed Junco** (*Junco phaeonotus*)—This common bird of high-elevation pine forests was easily seen, sometimes hopping on the ground, at La Cima, Sierra Chincua and Cerro Burro.

**Striped Sparrow** (*Oriturus superciliosus*)—This large and elegant Mexican endemic was readily found at higher elevation locations on three days of the tour at La Cima, Lerma Marshes, Sierra Chincua and Cerro Burro.

**Vesper Sparrow** (*Pooecetes gramineus*)—Found in the sparrow flocks on the Cerro Burro entrance road.

**Savannah Sparrow** (*Passerculus sandwichensis*)—Found in the sparrow flocks on the Cerro Burro entrance road, where they perched for great views on fence posts and wires.

**Sierra Madre Sparrow** (*Xenospiza baileyi*)—This very restricted range endemic sparrow proved to be fairly easy to find and see at La Cima, though nowhere else.

**Song Sparrow** (*Melospiza melodia*)—Very common at the Lerma Marshes, we encountered these again at Sierra Chincua.

**Lincoln’s Sparrow** (*Melospiza lincolni*)—Found on three days at Cerro Burro, La Alberca, and Churintzio

**Rusty-crowned Ground-Sparrow** (*Melospiza kieneri*)—Seen, though perhaps not with the best of views, in the scrub along the Rio Tuxpan dry forest road.

**Canyon Towhee** (*Melospiza fusca*)—Encountered on four days at several sites, including right in downtown Patzcuaro!

**Spotted Towhee** (*Pipilo maculatus*)—The elegant Olive-backed form of this species was seen readily, sometimes singing from trees, at La Cima, Sierra Chincua and Estribo Grande.

**Rufous-capped Brushfinch** (*Atlapetes pileatus*)—Only found during the roadside stop in the pine-oak forest on the way back to Patzcuaro from Tacámbaro.

### **BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae (9)**

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)—Seen from the bus while driving on the last day of the tour.

**Chihuahuan Meadowlark** (*Sturnella liliana*)—Several seen in the grasslands along the road to Cerro Burro.

**Black-vented Oriole** (*Icterus wagleri*)—Seen once, in the magic “oriole tree” at Agua Blanca.

**Hooded Oriole** (*Icterus cucullatus*)—The most frequently encountered oriole of the tour, these were seen at Agua Blanca, La Alberca, Churintzio and Quinta Don Jose.

**Streak-backed Oriole** (*Icterus pustulatus*)—Found at the Hotel Agua Blanca and in the Rio Tuxpan dry forest.

**Bullock’s Oriole** (*Icterus bullockii*)—This species, in its winter range here, was found on two days at Agua Blanca and Estribo Grande.

**Red-winged Blackbird** (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)—Seen in the marsh vegetation at the Lerma Marshes.

**Brown-headed Cowbird** (*Molothrus ater*)—Flocks observed flying by at Lerma Marshes and Lake Cuitzeo.

**Great-tailed Grackle** (*Quiscalus mexicanus*)—Found on four days of the tour at various sites, sometimes from the van.

#### **NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (19)**

**Black-and-white Warbler** (*Mniotilta varia*)—Found on two days at Agua Blanca and La Alberca.

**Orange-crowned Warbler** (*Oreothlypis celata*)—Seen on four days of the tour, sometimes quite easily, at La Cima, Sierra Chincua, Rio Tuxpan dry forest and La Alberca; several were also in the courtyard at Quinta Don Jose.

**Nashville Warbler** (*Oreothlypis ruficapilla*)—Seen at or near Agua Blanca and again at the Quinta Don Jose.

**Lucy's Warbler** (*Leiothlypis luciae*)—One found by Carlos in the flocks at La Alberca; Dave also discovered them present at the Quinta Don Jose in Tlaquepaque.

**Virginia's Warbler** (*Leiothlypis virginiae*)—Found in the Rio Tuxpan dry forest and at La Alberca.

**Gray-crowned Yellowthroat** (*Geothlypis poliocephala*)—One bird seen briefly perched in the shrubs during our walk in the Rio Tuxpan dry forest.

**Black-pollled Yellowthroat** (*Geothlypis speciosa*)—Found, as expected, at the Lerma Marshes, where it was pretty well seen hopping about the cattails.

**Common Yellowthroat** (*Geothlypis trichas*)—A male bird seen hopping in the grasses at the end of the lake at La Alberca.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** (*Setophaga coronata*)—Regularly encountered on the first four days of the tour at La Cima, Sierra Chincua, Agua Blanca and Cerro Burro; appeared to be mostly of the western, Audubon's form.

**Grace's Warbler** (*Setophaga graciae*)—Seen in the mixed species flocks in the tall pines at La Cima.

**Black-throated Gray Warbler** (*Setophaga nigrescens*)—Great views of this elegant species were had at the Rio Tuxpan, La Alberca and Estribo Grande.

**Townsend's Warbler** (*Setophaga townsendi*)—These wintering birds from the Pacific Northwest conifer forests were seen several times at Sierra Chincua and Cerro Burro.

**Hermit Warbler** (*Setophaga occidentalis*)—This lovely species with its distinctive yellow head was found several times at Sierra Chincua, Cerro Burro and Estribo Grande.

**Rufous-capped Warbler** (*Basileuterus rufifrons*)—This attractive resident warbler was found twice, first at the Rio Tuxpan dry forest and again at Estribo Grande.

**Golden-browed Warbler** (*Basileuterus belli*)—Perhaps the most elegant of the resident warblers, pairs of these were found at La Cima and Cerro Burro.

**Wilson's Warbler** (*Cardellina pusilla*)—Seen at Cerro Burro and Estribo Grande.

**Red Warbler** (*Cardellina rubra*)—The standout species of the trip, as voted on by the majority of participants, this incredible warbler of the Mexican pine forests north of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec was well seen at Sierra Chincua and Cerro Burro, including once (amazingly enough) while driving at the latter site!

**Painted Redstart** (*Myioborus pictus*)—Somewhat unexpectedly, only seen on the very last morning of birding at Estribo Grande.

**Slate-throated Redstart** (*Myioborus miniatus*)—This resident forest warbler was found on four days at Sierra Chincua, Cerro Burro, at the roadside stop on the way back to Patzcuaro from Tacámbo and Estribo Grande.

#### **CARDINALS AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae (9)**

**Hepatic Tanager** (*Piranga flava*)—A male was seen on the walk to the monarchs at Sierra Chincua and a pair were well observed at Estribo Grande.

**Summer Tanager** (*Piranga rubra*)—Seen twice, first at Agua Blanca and again at La Alberca.

**Western Tanager** (*Piranga ludoviciana*)—Seen on two days at Agua Blanca and again at La Alberca.

**Flame-colored Tanager** (*Piranga bidentata*)—A pair very well observed at near eye level at Estribo Grande.

**Black-headed Grosbeak** (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)—Found on three days of the tour at Rio Tuxpan dry forest, La Alberca and Estribo Grande.

**Blue Grosbeak** (*Passerina caerulea*)—Found on two days of the tour at Rio Tuxpan dry forest and La Alberca.

**Indigo Bunting** (*Passerina cyanea*)—Several molting males (changing from winter brown to breeding blue) were found on the Rio Tuxpan dry forest walk.

**Varied Bunting** (*Passerina versicolor*)—A handsome male was briefly spotted at the Rio Tuxpan dry forest.

**Painted Bunting** (*Passerina ciris*)—A lovely male was observed foraging in some shrubs during the walk in the Rio Tuxpan Canyon dry forest.

### TANAGERS AND ALLIES: Thraupidae (3)

**Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer** (*Diglossa baritula*)—This unusual species was only found during the roadside stop in the pine-oak forest on the way back to Patzcuaro from Tacámbaro.

**Blue-black Grassquit** (*Volatinia jacarina*)—Several individuals seen in the weeds along the road in the Rio Tuxpan dry forest.

**Cinnamon-rumped Seedeater** (*Sporophila torqueola*)—This colorful (and well named for those that saw the rump!) seedeater was found at Agua Blanca and Churintzio.

### MAMMALS (2 species)

**Smoky Pocket Gopher** (*Cratogeomys fumosus*)—An individual, presumably of this species, was seen expelling dirt diggings from its burrow at La Cima.

**Mexican Gray Squirrel** (*Sciurus aureogaster*)—One seen at Estribo Grande.

### BUTTERFLIES AND OTHER INVERTEBRATES (6 species)

**Magnificent Swallowtail** (*Papilio garamas*)—One photographed flying around the garden at Posada Yolihuani.

**Mourning Cloak** (*Nymphalis antiopa*)—Occasionally seen flying at Posada Yolihuani.

**Monarch** (*Danaus plexippus*)—Untold numbers seen at the Sierra Chincua monarch reserve, with scattered individuals elsewhere.

**Juno Silverspot** (*Dione juno*)—At least two of these bright orange upper-winged butterflies were foraging on the Lantana at the Quinta Sauz in Tacámbaro after lunch.

**West Coast Lady** (*Vanessa annabella*)—One, presumably this species, seen at the Lerma Marshes.

**White-rayed Patch** (*Chlasyne ehrenbergii*)—Seen several times on the tour, but definitively identified with a photo taken by Dave at Cerro Burro.

### LOCATIONS AND NOTES:

Day 1: Monday, February 13: La Cima, La Lagunilla (lunch), Cienega de Lerma, Hotel Agua Blanca (Jungapeo).

Day 2: Tuesday, February 14: Sierra Chincua Monarch Sanctuary, Hotel Agua Blanca.

Day 3: Wednesday, February 15: Hotel Agua Blanca, Rio Tuxpan Canyon, El Tasajo Restaurant (lunch), Lago Cuitzeo, Posada Yolihuani (Patzcuaro).

Day 4: Thursday, February 16: Cerro Burro, Posada Yolihuani.

Day 5: Friday, February 17: Posada Yolihuani, Crater Volcanico El Alberca, Tacámbaro (lunch), road to Santa Juana.

Day 6: Saturday, February 18: Posada Yolihuani, Estribo Grande, Cuitzeo, Churintzio, Quinta Don Jose (Tlaquepaque).

## TRIP MAP

