



The expansive setting of Monte Alban (Photo by guide Megan Crewe)

There's nothing like a trip "south of the border" to help dispel the midwinter blahs. Though this year's tour proved tougher than most (due in part to a unseasonal dearth of fruit and flowers, and in part to the still-visible ravages of last autumn's incredibly destructive flash floods), we still had plenty to enjoy during our six days in the Oaxaca Valley.

Top of the list was the Ocellated Thrasher we found -- rather unexpectedly -- when we stopped for a look at a Western Scrub-Jay; he sang from a nearby bush, giving us a great chance to study him in the scopes. Then there was the "eye candy" Red Warbler that flicked through bushes right beside our picnic lunch spot. And the Northern (Mountain) Pygmy-Owl that tooted from a mossy oak while a swirling mob of agitated hummingbirds, warblers and vireos swarmed around it. A stunning male Mountain Trogon sat, jewel-like, on a low branch.

A pair of Bridled Sparrows gave us a fine demonstration of their wing-waving territorial display. A little group of Gray-barred Wrens rummaged through mosses and bromeliads along one dusty road, while bigger flocks chattered and waved their wings at each other higher up the mountain. A tiny Bumblebee Hummingbird, only slightly larger than its namesake, sipped nectar from a flower. A Golden Vireo danced atop some roadside bushes. A little gang of Boucard's Wrens investigated roof tiles just above our heads. Rufous-backed Robins gobbled fruits from a big fig tree. A White-tailed Hawk turned lazy circles above us in the candelabra cactus forest.

Golden-browed Warblers lit up the dark undergrowth of several roadside gullies. A trio of Gray-breasted Woodpeckers chased each other around and around a multitude of cactus arms. A Beautiful Hummingbird rewarded our patience by slipping in (after a rather long wait) to sit for long minutes on a twig at the base of a cactus. A Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch sat right at eye-level right beside us, singing quietly while his mate foraged on nearby hillside. And a pair of Oaxaca Sparrows showed us the importance of persistence by quietly appearing right in front of us -- on our FOURTH visit to one of our "traditional" territories.

As usual on this tour, it isn't just the birds that make the highlight list. A visit to the weaving village of Teotitlan del Valle -- and an "in workshop" demonstration of the whole process from dyeing to weaving -- led to the purchase of more than a few rugs. A tour of the spectacularly massive ruins site at Monte Alban (and shorter visits to Yagul and Mitla) introduced us to the ancient history of the region's Zapotec people. And restaurants across the city introduced us to some excellent regional food, including such local treats as spicy fried grasshoppers, moles (a word that rhymes with the bullfighting

"ole", given to the local sauces) and smoky mescals.

Many thanks to all of you for sharing some Mexican adventures with us. I hope to see you in the field again somewhere!

-- Megan

We have more information about this itinerary and future departures on our web page for [Mexico: Oaxaca](#).

KEYS FOR THIS LIST

One of the following keys may be shown in brackets for individual species as appropriate: * = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic, N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant

BIRDS

Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)

BLUE-WINGED TEAL (*Anas discors*) – A single drake paddled along the back side of Presa Piedra Azul, seen on each of our visits.

RUDDY DUCK (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) – At least two dozen -- including one male already well into his snazzy breeding plumage -- floated (mostly sound asleep) on Presa Piedra Azul.

Cracidae (Guans, Chachalacas, and Curassows)

WEST MEXICAN CHACHALACA (*Ortalis poliocephala*) – A group of six flew -- one at a time -- across the dusty road ahead of us as we climbed towards the mountain village of Benito Juarez. Though they didn't go far, they weren't particularly cooperative, rummaging in dense bushes and not popping out into the open at all. [E]

Podicipedidae (Grebes)

LEAST GREBE (*Tachybaptus dominicus*) – A handful showed nicely as they floated on Presa Piedra Azul.

Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba*)

SNOWY EGRET (*Egretta thula*)

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*)

GREEN HERON (*Butorides virescens*) – One sat in a tree not far from Presa Piedra Azul, though it flapped away shortly after we found it -- good spotting, Marianne!

Cathartidae (New World Vultures)

BLACK VULTURE (*Coragyps atratus*)

TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*) – Daily, circling in thermals all across the Oaxaca Valley.

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

WHITE-TAILED KITE (*Elanus leucurus*)

NORTHERN HARRIER (AMERICAN) (*Circus cyaneus hudsonius*) – We saw one coursing low over the hillsides at Monte Alban, chasing (and being chased by) a White-tailed Kite.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK (*Accipiter striatus*)

COOPER'S HAWK (*Accipiter cooperii*)

SHORT-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo brachyurus*) – One glided overhead, showing its distinctive underwing pattern well -- though briefly -- as we birded on Cerro San Felipe.

WHITE-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo albicaudatus*) – Super views of one circling over Yagul as we waited for the Beautiful Hummingbird to make an appearance.

RED-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo jamaicensis*)

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

CRESTED CARACARA (*Caracara cheriway*) – Common throughout the Oaxaca Valley (particularly along the highways) with good studies of several perched near Teotitlan del Valle.

AMERICAN KESTREL (*Falco sparverius*)

MERLIN (*Falco columbarius*)

Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)

AMERICAN COOT (*Fulica americana*)

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)

KILLDEER (*Charadrius vociferus*) – Two pattered along the margins of Presa Piedra Azul, calling occasionally.

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)

SPOTTED SANDPIPER (*Actitis macularius*) – A few bobbed around the edges of Presa Piedra Azul; most were still in their unspotted winter plumage, though at least one was starting to show some spots.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa flavipes*)

LEAST SANDPIPER (*Calidris minutilla*)

WILSON'S SNIPE (*Gallinago delicata*) – Mike W. heard one while we birded around Presa Piedra Azul on our first visit there. [*]

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*) [I]



Our 2011 group breaks for a quick photo op. (Photo by guide Megan Crewe)

WHITE-WINGED DOVE (*Zenaida asiatica*)

MOURNING DOVE (*Zenaida macroura*)

INCA DOVE (*Columbina inca*) – Daily, including small numbers foraging along the edges of the road up to Yagul.

COMMON GROUND-DOVE (*Columbina passerina*)

WHITE-TIPPED DOVE (*Leptotila verreauxi*)

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

GROOVE-BILLED ANI (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) – Two sat high in a tree near the start of the Teotitlan road, catching some early morning sun, and we saw others slipping through the rough vegetation along the road near Monte Alban.

Strigidae (Owls)

NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL (MOUNTAIN) (*Glaucidium gnoma gnoma*) – Superb views of a calling bird -- with its attendant halo of small angry mobbers -- in a moss-draped tree on Cerro San Felipe, with another heard tooting from above the road up to the highland village of Benito Juarez.

COLIMA PYGMY-OWL (*Glaucidium palmarum*) – We heard the distinctive song of this species while exploring the

Yagul ruins; sadly, it stopped calling before we could locate exactly where it was! [*]

Apodidae (Swifts)

WHITE-THROATED SWIFT (*Aeronautes saxatalis*)

Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)

GREEN VIOLETEAR (*Colibri thalassinus*)

MAGNIFICENT HUMMINGBIRD (*Eugenes fulgens*)

AMETHYST-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD (*Lampornis amethystinus*) – We heard several (or the same one multiple times) fly by as we walked one of the tracks on Cerro San Felipe. [E*]

BLUE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD (*Lampornis clemenciae*) – A couple of these big hummingbirds foraged on some red flowers on some of the very few plants still hanging onto the edge of a washed-out gully above Teotitlan del Valle.

LUCIFER HUMMINGBIRD (*Calothorax lucifer*)

BEAUTIFUL HUMMINGBIRD (*Calothorax pulcher*) – It took a bit of patience, but we finally found a cooperative female (or young male) in the cactus forest below Yagul; after making a few half-hidden passes among the cactus arms, s/he finally perched in plain sight at the base of one. [E]

BUMBLEBEE HUMMINGBIRD (*Atthis heloisa*) – A tiny female or youngster along the Yuvila road was dwarfed by the flowers from which it was sipping. Only Cuba's Bee Hummingbird is smaller. [E]

BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD (*Selasphorus platycercus*)

DUSKY HUMMINGBIRD (*Cynanthus sordidus*) – We saw good numbers of these large, drab hummingbirds daily, including some helicoptering around the flowering cactus at the base of Yagul. [E]

BERYLLINE HUMMINGBIRD (*Amazilia beryllina*)

WHITE-EARED HUMMINGBIRD (*Hylocharis leucotis*) – Multiple fine views of this highland species, including one singing male that returned again and again to the same set of twigs on Cerro San Felipe.

Trogonidae (Trogons)

MOUNTAIN TROGON (*Trogon mexicanus*) – Marianne found our first -- a beautiful male perched above the road on Cerro San Felipe. Many of the group spotted another -- a drabber female this time -- preening near a fig tree on the grounds of our hotel.

Picidae (Woodpeckers)

GRAY-BREASTED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes hypopolius*) – Our best views came at Yagul, where a trio chased each other around through the candelabra cactus forest, occasionally perching up on a spiny arm for a good look around. We saw others along the road through Teotitlan del Valle. [E]

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus varius*)

LADDER-BACKED WOODPECKER (*Picoides scalaris*) – One of these small woodpeckers hitched its way up the eucalyptus tree at Pollo Niño on the morning we finally found the Oaxaca Sparrows.

HAIRY WOODPECKER (*Picoides villosus*)

NORTHERN FLICKER (RED-SHAFTED) (*Colaptes auratus cafer*)

Furnariidae (Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers)

SPOT-CROWNED WOODCREEPER (*Lepidocolaptes affinis affinis*) – One hitched its way up a thick trunk in the highlands.

Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)

PILEATED FLYCATCHER (*Xenotriccus mexicanus*) – We heard one calling -- repeatedly -- from beyond the fence around the Monte Alban parking lot, but couldn't entice it in close enough for a look. [E*]

TUFTED FLYCATCHER (*Mitrephanes phaeocercus*)

GREATER PEWEE (*Contopus pertinax*) – Regular in small numbers in the highlands, including one hunting from a pine tree along the Yuvila road our last morning. The bright orange lower mandible of this large flycatcher is a great field mark.

HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax hammondi*)

DUSKY FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax oberholseri*)

PINE FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax affinis*) – A calling bird gave us a few brief glimpses on Cerro San Felipe before flying off up the hill.

BLACK PHOEBE (*Sayornis nigricans*)

SAY'S PHOEBE (*Sayornis saya*) – One hunted along the edge of Presa Piedra Azul, conveniently close to a female Vermilion Flycatcher for easy comparison.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*)

DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) – We heard the mournful call of this species above Teotitlan del Valle. [*****]

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus cinerascens*)

GREAT KISKADEE (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)

TROPICAL KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)

CASSIN'S KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus vociferans*)

THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus crassirostris*) – One hunting and calling from a treetop near Pollo Niño was a highlight of a sparrowless afternoon's walk there.

WESTERN KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus verticalis*)

Tityridae (Tityras and Allies)

ROSE-THROATED BECARD (*Pachyramphus aglaiae*) – A handsome male fluttered in a tree right above our heads along the Yuvila road, showing well his namesake rosy throat patch; we saw others on Cerro San Felipe.

Laniidae (Shrikes)

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE (*Lanius ludovicianus*) – One hunted from agave stalks near Teotitlan del Valle, white wing patches flashing as it flew, and we saw others on roadside wires later in the week.

Vireonidae (Vireos)

SLATY VIREO (*Vireo brevipennis*) – We heard one singing and singing and singing near the ruins of Monte Alban -- sadly, from deep in a bush that we couldn't entice it out of! [**E***]

PLUMBEOUS VIREO (*Vireo plumbeus*)

CASSIN'S VIREO (*Vireo cassinii*) – One flicked through some leafless oaks below the road up to Benito Juarez, part of the same small mixed flock as the MacGillivray's Warbler.

HUTTON'S VIREO (*Vireo huttoni*)

GOLDEN VIREO (*Vireo hypochryseus*) – A scolding bird that flicked through the tops of a bush across the road from where we stood at Pollo Niño was a nice highlight on our first visit there. [**E**]

WARBLING VIREO (*Vireo gilvus*)

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

STELLER'S JAY (*Cyanocitta stelleri*) – Relatively common in the highlands, often in the company of Gray-barred Wrens; we chased a lot of them around hoping (in vain, as it turned out) that they'd have Dwarf Jays in tow!

WESTERN SCRUB-JAY (SUMICHRAST'S) (*Aphelocoma californica sumichrasti*) – Particularly nice views of several in the switchbacks above Teotitlan del Valle, including the little group that led us to our Ocellated Thrasher. The subspecies here -- *sumichrasti* -- is much bluer-backed than are those found in North America.

COMMON RAVEN (*Corvus corax*)

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*)

VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW (*Tachycineta thalassina*) – Regular throughout, including numbers whirling over the waters of Presa Piedra Azul and others coursing over the cliffs at Yagul.

Paridae (Chickadees and Tits)

MEXICAN CHICKADEE (*Poecile sclateri*)

BRIDLED TITMOUSE (*Baeolophus wollweberi*) – We heard them calling from higher in the arroyo at one of our stops along the road up to Benito Juarez, but they never worked their way down to us. [*****]

Aegithalidae (Long-tailed Tits)

BUSHTIT (BLACK-EARED) (*Psaltiriparus minimus melanotis*) – We heard the high twittering calls of this species on half the days of the tour, but our best views came in the Sierra Aloapaneca, where we watched a little flock boil across the road not far from the pygmy-owl. The subspecies here -- *melanotis* -- is named for the distinctively black ear patch of the adults.

Certhiidae (Creepers)

BROWN CREEPER (*Certhia americana*)

Troglodytidae (Wrens)

GRAY-BARRED WREN (*Campylorhynchus megalopterus*) – Multiple groups of these big social wrens in the highlands, including a wing-waving band on Cerro San Felipe, and a handful of quiet birds rummaging among the moss and bromeliads along the Yuvila road. Our biggest flock had at least two dozen birds! [E]

BOUCARD'S WREN (*Campylorhynchus jocosus*) – A little gang bounced around near one of the compounds outside of Teotitlan del Valle, calling and displaying -- and investigating the roof tiles right over our heads. [E]

ROCK WREN (*Salpinctes obsoletus*)

CANYON WREN (*Catherpes mexicanus*) – Fine views of one rummaging along the edge of the cliff at Yagul, shortly after Jorge started our ruins tour.

BEWICK'S WREN (*Thryomanes bewickii*) – One flicked through the bushes at the edge of the road just past the reservoir, eventually working its way up the trunk of a bigger willow tree.

GRAY-BREASTED WOOD-WREN (*Henicorhina leucophrys*)

Poliophtilidae (Gnatcatchers)

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (*Poliophtila caerulea*)

Regulidae (Kinglets)

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET (*Regulus calendula*)

Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

BROWN-BACKED SOLITAIRE (*Myadestes occidentalis*) – We heard the lovely cascading song of this expert songster on several days, but saw them only on our first day in the mountains, when we studied one singing from a bromeliad-bedecked oak tree.

ORANGE-BILLED NIGHTINGALE-THRUSH (*Catharus aurantirostris*) – We heard one calling and singing from the scrubby brush along the roadway while searching for Oaxaca Sparrows, but couldn't draw it out into the open. [*]

RUSSET NIGHTINGALE-THRUSH (*Catharus occidentalis*) – One in the Sierra Aloapaneca was very obliging, running again and again into the middle of the dusty roadway and giving us all good looks. Though the Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush is more widespread in the tropics, it is the less common of the two nightingale-thrushes in Mexico. [E]

SWAINSON'S THRUSH (*Catharus ustulatus*) – One along the road on Cerro San Felipe was a surprise -- first because we assumed that the bird that bounced onto the edge of the road was going to be a nightingale-thrush and second because this species is only a rare winter visitor to Oaxaca.

HERMIT THRUSH (*Catharus guttatus*)

CLAY-COLORED THRUSH (*Turdus grayi*)

RUFIOUS-BACKED ROBIN (*Turdus rufopalliatu*s) – Great looks at several gobbling fruits in the big courtyard fig trees at Mision de los Angeles. The population of Rufous-backed Robins in Oaxaca City is disjunct from other populations, and is likely descended from escaped cage birds. [E]

Mimidae (Mockingbirds and Thrashers)

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD (*Mimus polyglottos*)

OCELLATED THRASHER (*Toxostoma ocellatum*) – WOW!! A stop for some Western Scrub-Jays proved supremely fortuitous when one of these spotty thrashers started singing softly from bushes just above the road. With some maneuvering, we all got multiple fabulous scope views of this range-restricted endemic -- which proved to be Bird of the Tour at our final dinner. [E]

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER (*Toxostoma curvirostre*)

BLUE MOCKINGBIRD (*Melanotis caerulescens*) – Some of the group spotted one sneaky bird slipping furtively through low trees near the sewage works at Monte Alban, while others only heard numerous examples of its loud, disjointed mimicry. [E]

Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)

AMERICAN PIPIT (*Anthus rubescens*) – A handful strode along the edges of Presa Piedra Azul, searching for prey.

Ptilogonatidae (Silky-flycatchers)

GRAY SILKY-FLYCATCHER (*Ptilonotus cinereus*) – Fairly common in the higher areas surrounding the central valley, including some flying over the road above Teotitlan del Valle (showing their long distinctively black and white tails) and others nibbling fruits from some of the trees along the Yuvila road.

Peucedramidae (Olive Warbler)

OLIVE WARBLER (*Peucedramus taeniatus*)

Parulidae (New World Warblers)

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (*Oreothlypis celata*)

NASHVILLE WARBLER (*Oreothlypis ruficapilla*) – Easily the most common of the tour's warblers, seen in numbers every day.

VIRGINIA'S WARBLER (*Oreothlypis virginiae*)

CRESCENT-CHESTED WARBLER (*Oreothlypis superciliosa*) – Quite possibly the best views I've ever had on a tour, with all of us getting multiple fine studies as they worked through the oaks on both our days in the highlands. The wide white supercilium of this species is diagnostic.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (AUDUBON'S) (*Dendroica coronata auduboni*)

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER (*Dendroica nigrescens*) – One flicked through the scruffy bushes along the road above Teotitlan del Valle -- good spotting Mike H.!

TOWNSEND'S WARBLER (*Dendroica townsendi*)

HERMIT WARBLER (*Dendroica occidentalis*)

MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER (*Oporornis tolmiei*) – A handsome male rummaged beneath some of the leafless oaks near the road up to the village of Benito Juarez, flicking in and out of view.

WILSON'S WARBLER (*Wilsonia pusilla*)

RED-FACED WARBLER (*Cardellina rubrifrons*)

RED WARBLER (*Ergaticus ruber*) – The one at our lunch spot near the camp on Cerro San Felipe was particularly confiding as it foraged in the bushes beside the van. And it definitely rates way up in the "eye candy" department! [E]

PAINTED REDSTART (*Myioborus pictus*)

SLATE-THROATED REDSTART (*Myioborus miniatus miniatus*)

RUFIOUS-CAPPED WARBLER (NORTH MEXICO) (*Basileuterus rufifrons rufifrons*) – Daily, with particularly nice looks at our first, which rummaged along the roadside above Teotitlan del Valle.

GOLDEN-BROWED WARBLER (*Basileuterus belli*)

Emberizidae (Buntings, Sparrows and Allies)

WHITE-COLLARED SEEDEATER (CINNAMON-RUMPED) (*Sporophila torqueola torqueola*) [E]

CHESTNUT-CAPPED BRUSH-FINCH (CHESTNUT-CAPPED) (*Arremon brunneinucha suttoni*) – One nearly within arm's reach in a roadside bush on Cerro San Felipe was a real treat. It sat and sang quietly for several minutes right beside us, while its mate foraged on the hillside across the road.

COLLARED TOWHEE (*Pipilo ocai*) [E]

RUFIOUS-CROWNED SPARROW (*Aimophila ruficeps*)

OAXACA SPARROW (*Aimophila notosticta*) – At last! This was a perfect example of persistence paying off; after three fruitless visits to "The Spot", a pair finally showed up on our fourth attempt, with one bird showing very nicely as it sat blinking in the early morning sunshine. Great spotting by Jorge! [E]

WHITE-THROATED TOWHEE (*Melospiza albicollis*) – Easily the most common of the tour's endemics, recorded on every day but our last -- including busy little groups bounding along the edges of the Yagul entrance road and chattering flocks along the road into Teotitlan del Valle. [E]

BRIDLED SPARROW (*Peucaea mystacalis*) – Two in energetic wing-wagging territorial display above Teotitlan del Valle were a highlight of our second visit there. [E]

CHIPPING SPARROW (*Spizella passerina*)

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (*Spizella pallida*)

LARK SPARROW (*Chondestes grammacus*)

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (*Ammodramus savannarum*) – One sat up in an overgrown agave field above Teotitlan del Valle, and another did the same in a scruffy field near Yagul.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW (*Melospiza lincolni*)

YELLOW-EYED JUNCO (*Junco phaeonotus*)

Cardinalidae (Cardinals and Allies)

HEPATIC TANAGER (NORTHERN) (*Piranga flava hepatica*)

SUMMER TANAGER (*Piranga rubra*) – A bright male at Pollo Niño was, surprisingly, the only one we saw all week.

WESTERN TANAGER (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)

BLUE GROSBEAK (*Passerina caerulea*) – A handful in the weedy fields around Yagul, with others near Teotitlan del Valle. This species is resident in the Oaxaca Valley.

Icteridae (Troupials and Allies)

EASTERN MEADOWLARK (*Sturnella magna*)

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE (*Quiscalus mexicanus*)

BRONZED COWBIRD (*Molothrus aeneus*) – Some of the group had fine looks at a handful in one of the trees near our hotel's parking lot during an afternoon's break mid-week.

BLACK-VENTED ORIOLE (*Icterus wagleri*) – Very common and easy to see this year, with multiples recorded daily; the birds in the red-flowering *Erythrina* trees near the reservoir gave us particularly nice views.

HOODED ORIOLE (*Icterus cucullatus*)

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE (*Icterus bullockii*)

BALTIMORE ORIOLE (*Icterus galbula*)

SCOTT'S ORIOLE (*Icterus parisorum*)

Fringillidae (Siskins, Crossbills, and Allies)

HOUSE FINCH (COMMON) (*Carpodacus mexicanus roseipectus*) – This common species drew lots of attention, primarily because it looked so different from the subspecies we see in North America. It's a handsome subspecies, with males notable for their very red faces and rumps.

BLACK-HEADED SISKIN (*Spinus notatus*) – Two handsome males atop a snag near the start of the Yuvila road were an early morning treat on our first day in the mountains.

LESSER GOLDFINCH (*Spinus psaltria*)

Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*) **[1]**

MAMMALS

EASTERN COTTONTAIL (*Sylvilagus floridanus*)

MEXICAN GRAY SQUIRREL (*Sciurus aureogaster*)

HISPID COTTON RAT (*Sigmodon hispidus*) – We saw a couple of these small rats as they scuttled below the cacti along the road into Yagul, stopping periodically to check for goodies.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Totals for the tour: 155 bird taxa and 3 mammal taxa