



Field Guides Tour Report

MEXICO: OAXACA 2020

Mar 7, 2020 to Mar 14, 2020

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For our tour description, itinerary, past triplists, dates, fees, and more, please [VISIT OUR TOUR PAGE](#).



The yellow "headlights" of this Golden-browed Warbler almost glowed in the understory of the arroyos on Cerro San Felipe. Photo by participant Doug Clarke.

Well, this tour got in and out of Mexico just before all heck broke loose worldwide, and I'm sure everyone was glad it was timed when it was! Happily unaware of what was about to befall us, we enjoyed a week of great birding, good food, some culture, and fine company! Oaxaca is one of those destinations that really could use better marketing in the US, as it is a fantastic place for all sorts of activities, birding not least among them. Our tour was quite a success in this regard, netting nearly 200 species and giving us great views of a number of Mexican endemics and many local and hard-to-see species.

We started on the Teotitlan road, which gave us a nice cross section of the various habitats available to us in the Oaxaca valley, from the dry floor, with its agricultural fields and scrubby patches, to the reservoir Presa Piedra Azul, in effect an oasis where we had a nice glut of waterbirds and others, up to the pine-oak forest on the ridge above. The next day, we visited the enchanting pine-oak forests on Cerro San Felipe, with the cool shade and impressive bromeliad loads on the branches. Our third day was quite a change as we visited the unique tropical thorn scrub at KM 77, on the Pacific Slope to the east of the Oaxaca valley. What a cool place, and we managed some great birds there! Then back to visit the Zapotec and Mixtec ruins at Mitla and Yagul, and to see the process to make mescal the traditional way. On day four we visited the impressive Zapotec ruins of Monte Alban in the morning and then headed up to Cerro San Felipe for an evening of birding, especially owling! Day five found us back on the Teotitlan road followed by a visit to a home-style restaurant and a wool dying and weaving workshop in town. Our final day we spent on the Yuvila side of La Cumbre in more oak-dominated pine-oak forest. Of course, we also enjoyed a bit of the city, including our lovely hotel and an evening on the Zocalo as we had a fine meal and listened to the crowd and music below us.

Highlights of these outings included (in order of their popularity): the glowing Orange-breasted Bunting at KM 77 that just lit up the tree, the similarly incandescent Red Warbler that was such an eye-catcher in the pine-oak forests in the mountains, the snazzy Russet-crowned Motmot, also at KM 77, as it eyed us and swung its tail like a pendulum, the Lesser Roadrunner that Jorge spotted and we managed to call into view by the vans at KM 77, the "cute" Northern Pygmy-Owls we had at several spots that acted as scapegoats, grabbing the attention of local small birds, the elegant Gray Silky-flycatchers that gathered in groups in treetops and chirped, as that huge flock did at Pollo Nino! The yelping Fulvous Owl on Cerro San Felipe was a favorite because... well... owls! The flashy Red-headed Tanagers that we enjoyed at Pollo Nino, and were a lifer for most, including Micah. Oaxaca

Sparrows, as usual, played hard to get, but we eventually got everyone a good view, but the ornately patterned Bridled Sparrows were a bit easier to see. The yellow eyebrow of the Golden-browed Warblers stood out in the dim lighting of their preferred shady habitat on Cerro San Felipe. Our owling night finished up with a very nice view of a Whiskered Screech-Owl that came in close to check us out. The ethereal song of Brown-backed Solitaire cascaded around us at several spots, but none as much as at Yuvila, where it was one of the dominant birds! An unusually extroverted Cordilleran Flycatcher at Jilguero gave us an eyeful, as did several flashy Mountain Trogons at Yuvila, among other places. The personable Yellow-eyed Juncos in the openings of the montane forests also got on the list. And certainly not least: Teri found what may well be a new species of Euphorb while on the tour! That's pretty darned exciting!

Our local crew, both Jorge and Ricardo, did a fine job of transporting us around, and Jorge guided us at the various ruins with his informative exposition of the history and culture of the region. We thank them both for their hard work! Micah and I also thank you all for joining us on this tour, and we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did (and more so now that travel is curtailed for the time being!). We hope that we will see you all again out there with binoculars on, and as you shelter in place, don't forget that birding is a great way to keep yourself engaged in the world around you and perhaps a little less stressed from the current events!

Que nos pasamos esta epoca de dificultad y volvemos a pajarear pronto! (*May we get through this challenging period and return to birding together soon!*)

Dan

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 (*Spatula discors*)

RING-NECKED DUCK (*Aythya collaris*) – Three females were at Presa Piedra Azul on our first visit.

RUDDY DUCK (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)

Cracidae (Guans, Chachalacas, and Curassows)

WEST MEXICAN CHACHALACA (*Ortalis poliocephala*) – Most of us heard these loud chickens only, but a couple folks may have caught a glimpse of them as they darted across the road in flight and vanished into the scrub above Teotitlan. [E]

Odontophoridae (New World Quail)

LONG-TAILED WOOD-PARTRIDGE (*Dendrortyx macroura*) – Sadly, heard only. [E*]

Podicipedidae (Grebes)

LEAST GREBE (*Tachybaptus dominicus*) – Many of these small dabchicks were on Presa Piedra Azul.

PIED-BILLED GREBE (*Podilymbus podiceps*) – Carl-Axel called our attention to a single individual on the lake.

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*) [H]

BAND-TAILED PIGEON (*Patagioenas fasciata*) – Seen on three days in the mountains.

INCA DOVE (*Columbina inca*) – The English name of this species is a complete blunder by the Frenchman who named it back in the 1800s. Should have been Aztec Dove.

WHITE-TIPPED DOVE (*Leptotila verreauxi*) [*]

WHITE-WINGED DOVE (*Zenaida asiatica*)

MOURNING DOVE (*Zenaida macroura*) – Mostly at the start of the Teotitlan road.

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

LESSER ROADRUNNER (*Geococcyx velox*) – Yes! A fine view of a bird as it sang from a bare tree at the start of the KM 77 track. Kudos to Jorge for this one!

Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)

MEXICAN WHIP-POOR-WILL (*Antristomus arizonae*) – Views of a bird or two on Cerro San Felipe after dark.

Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)

MEXICAN VIOLETEAR (*Colibri thalassinus*) – Barry and Dan caught a glimpse of a bird in the gully at Jilguero.

PLAIN-CAPPED STARTRHROAT (*Heliomaster constantii*) – A bird mobbing the pygmy-owl at KM 77 put on a fine show.

BLUE-THROATED MOUNTAIN-GEM (*Lampornis clemenciae*) – Recently renamed from the more basic "Blue-throated Hummingbird" we saw this at Rio Verde and again at the Colibri restaurant.

BEAUTIFUL HUMMINGBIRD (*Calothorax pulcher*) – A bird flashed by at Yagul [E]

DUSKY HUMMINGBIRD (*Cynanthus sordidus*) – The common hummer in the valley bottom and in town. [E]

BERYLLINE HUMMINGBIRD (*Amazilia beryllina*) – Best views were at the hotel.

GREEN-FRONTED HUMMINGBIRD (CINNAMON-SIDED) (*Amazilia viridifrons wagneri*) – Nice views of this bird at KM 77. [E]

WHITE-EARED HUMMINGBIRD (*Hylocharis leucotis*) – The common hummer in the pine-oak forest, but a bit of a devil to see!

Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)

AMERICAN COOT (*Fulica americana*)

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings).

KILLDEER (*Charadrius vociferus*)

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies).

LEAST SANDPIPER (*Calidris minutilla*)

WILSON'S SNIPE (*Gallinago delicata*) – Seen on our second day to Teotitlan.

Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns).

GREAT BLUE HERON (*Ardea herodias*) – Our second day to Teotitlan.

GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba*)

SNOWY EGRET (*Egretta thula*)

LITTLE BLUE HERON (*Egretta caerulea*)

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*)

GREEN HERON (*Butorides virescens*)

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) – A bit of a surprise bird to Presa Piedra Azul on our first visit there.

Cathartidae (New World Vultures).

BLACK VULTURE (*Coragyps atratus*)

TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*)

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites).

WHITE-TAILED KITE (*Elanus leucurus*) – A bird along the highway gave us a quick view as we returned to the city on day 3.

NORTHERN HARRIER (*Circus hudsonius*) – Some folks saw this at Monte Alban.

COOPER'S HAWK (*Accipiter cooperii*) – A surprise final bird that flew over us as we walked to the restaurant Los Pacos our final evening!

WHITE-TAILED HAWK (*Geranoaetus albicaudatus*) – At Yagul.

SHORT-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo brachyurus*) – On three days, including a dark bird at KM 77 and a light bird at Monte Alban.

ZONE-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo albonotatus*) – Seen the first two days.

RED-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo jamaicensis*) – Daily. Probably mostly local breeders.

Strigidae (Owls).

WHISKERED SCREECH-OWL (*Megascops trichopsis*) – A very responsive bird showed well to us on Cerro San Felipe.

NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL (MOUNTAIN) (*Glaucidium gnoma gnoma*) – Seen on each outing into the mountains.

FERRUGINOUS PYGMY-OWL (*Glaucidium brasilianum*) – A bird started singing at KM 77 and gave us a fine view.

FULVOUS OWL (*Strix fulvescens*) – A great show from a bird on Cerro San Felipe!

Trogonidae (Trogons).

ELEGANT TROGON (*Trogon elegans*) – Heard by most, but Janet saw it dart over at Monte Alban.

MOUNTAIN TROGON (*Trogon mexicanus*) – Encountered on three days, but seen best on our final day at Yuvila.

Momotidae (Motmots).

RUSSET-CROWNED MOTMOT (*Momotus mexicanus*) – A real stonker we saw well at KM 77!

Alcedinidae (Kingfishers).

BELTED KINGFISHER (*Megasceryle alcyon*) – At Presa Piedra Azul... not a common bird here!

GREEN KINGFISHER (*Chloroceryle americana*) – A couple at Piedra Azul.

Picidae (Woodpeckers).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus varius*)

ACORN WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes formicivorus*)

GRAY-BREASTED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes hypopolius*) – An endemic that prefers columnar cactus. Basically a Gila Woodpecker with mascara on. [E]

GOLDEN-FRONTED WOODPECKER (WEST MEXICO) (*Melanerpes aurifrons polygrammus*) – The form here looks fairly like the Texas variety, but has narrower barring on the back and the red crown and orange nape nearly touch.

LADDER-BACKED WOODPECKER (*Dryobates scalaris*)

HAIRY WOODPECKER (SOUTH MEXICAN) (*Dryobates villosus jardinii*) – Smaller and sootier than our Hairies in the US.

NORTHERN FLICKER (RED-SHAFTED) (*Colaptes auratus mexicanus*) [*]

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras).

CRESTED CARACARA (*Caracara cheriway*) – Often seen as we drove out at dawn along the road east.

AMERICAN KESTREL (*Falco sparverius*)

MERLIN (*Falco columbarius*) – A bird on our first day.

PEREGRINE FALCON (*Falco peregrinus*) – One at KM 77 kept activity low for a little while.

Furnariidae (Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers).

STRONG-BILLED WOODCREEPER (CENTRAL AMERICAN) (*Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus sclateri*) – What a big 'ole thang! Nice looks at this monster on the upper Teotitlan road.

WHITE-STRIPED WOODCREEPER (*Lepidocolaptes leucogaster*) – Several folks got views of this shy woodcreeper on the Teotitlan road. [E]

SPOT-CROWNED WOODCREEPER (NORTHERN) (*Lepidocolaptes affinis affinis*) – Fine views on Cerro San Felipe!

Tityridae (Tityras and Allies).

ROSE-THROATED BECARD (*Pachyramphus aglaiae*) – The same species that makes it to TX and AZ. We had some views on Cerro San Felipe.

Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)

NORTHERN BEARDLESS-TYRANULET (*Camptostoma imberbe*) – Mostly heard, but seen at km 77 and again our final morning.

GREENISH ELAENIA (WEST MEXICO) (*Myiopagis viridicata jaliscensis*) – A responsive bird showed well along the edge of Presa Piedra Azul.

PILEATED FLYCATCHER (*Xenotriccus mexicanus*) – Micah got us on the singing bird at Monte Alban. [E]

TUFTED FLYCATCHER (MEXICAN) (*Mitrephanes phaeocercus phaeocercus*) – A cute rufous "pewee" of the mid and higher elevations.

GREATER PEWEE (*Contopus pertinax*) – Jose Maria!

HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax hammondii*) – The most common Empid of pine-oak forests.

DUSKY FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax oberholseri*) – The common Empid of the scrub lower in the valleys (esp. at Monte Alban!).

PINE FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax affinis*) – David got us on one on Cerro San Felipe, and we heard another at Yuvila.

CORDILLERAN FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax occidentalis*) – Great views at Jilguero!

BLACK PHOEBE (*Sayornis nigricans*)

SAY'S PHOEBE (*Sayornis saya*) – A bird around Piedra Azul on our second visit.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) – Proof that not all flycatchers are LBJ's.

DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) – Seen at Monte Alban and Teotitlan.

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) – Wintering birds from farther north. Hard to separate from the next except by voice. [b]

NUTTING'S FLYCATCHER (NUTTING'S) (*Myiarchus nuttingi inquietus*) – Good views particularly at KM 77.

GREAT KISKADEE (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)

SOCIAL FLYCATCHER (VERMILION-CROWNED) (*Myiozetetes similis texensis*) – Mini Kiskadees.

TROPICAL KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) – Easiest at the hotel, but a few were below Teotitlan.

CASSIN'S KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus vociferans*) – A common Kingbird of the lower elevations of the Oaxaca valley. [b]

THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus crassirostris*) – After no luck, we finally encountered a pair of this husky kingbird on the Teotitlan road on day 5.

WESTERN KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus verticalis*) – Also on Day 5 around Teotitlan.

Vireonidae (Vireos, Shrike-Babblers, and Erpornis)

CHESTNUT-SIDED SHRIKE-VIREO (*Vireolanius melitophrys*) – This fine-lookin' bird put on a great show for us at Jilguero and again at Yuvila.

GOLDEN VIREO (*Vireo hypochryseus*) – One of the three specialty vireos of the region. David got us on it at Pollo Nino. [E]

SLATY VIREO (*Vireo brevipennis*) – The second of the specialty vireos. David again pulled this one out at the microwave towers on day 3. We saw it again well at Monte Alban... and this is one bird you can't see too often! [E]

DWARF VIREO (*Vireo nelsoni*) – This one had us sweating a bit until we finally pulled one out at the last switchback on the Teotitlan road! [E]

HUTTON'S VIREO (*Vireo huttoni*) – A husky Ruby-crowned Kinglet of the pine-oak forests.

CASSIN'S VIREO (*Vireo cassinii*) – One at Pollo Nino was nice.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO (*Vireo solitarius*) – A bird came in to scold tape at the hotel on day 5.

PLUMBEOUS VIREO (*Vireo plumbeus*) – Our best view was on day 5 above Teotitlan.

WARBLING VIREO (*Vireo gilvus*) – Abundant at many sites, including our hotel. These are mostly, or entirely, western types. Eastern birds winter farther south in Central America.

Laniidae (Shrikes)

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE (*Lanius ludovicianus*) – We had a pair at the start of the Teotitlan road, near the southern extreme of shrikes in the Americas.

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

DWARF JAY (*Cyanolyca nanus*) – Whew! After spending an entire day on Cerro San Felipe and missing the bird, we had it in spades on our second visit in the afternoon! [E]

WHITE-THROATED MAGPIE-JAY (*Calocitta formosa*) – Distant views of a few birds up on the canyon wall at KM 77.

STELLER'S JAY (CENTRAL AMERICAN) (*Cyanocitta stelleri coronata*) – These Steller's here are a jaunty blue-headed form.

WOODHOUSE'S SCRUB-JAY (SUMICHRAST'S) (*Aphelocoma woodhouseii sumichrasti*) – This form of Woodhouse's Scrub Jay may be split off as an endemic species to Mexico: Sumichrast's Scrub Jay.

COMMON RAVEN (*Corvus corax*) – The southernmost black corvid in the Americas, oddly. We saw a group on the big hill above Teotitlan's reservoir.

Paridae (Tits, Chickadees, and Titmice)

MEXICAN CHICKADEE (*Poecile sclateri*) – Common in the high pine-oak forest.

BRIDLED TITMOUSE (*Baeolophus wollweberi*) – Strangely difficult to see here. We heard them around our first lunch spot above Teotitlan.

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*)

VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW (*Tachycineta thalassina*) – Many of this sharp-looking swallow over Teotitlan.

BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*) [b]

Aegithalidae (Long-tailed Tits)

BUSH TIT (MELANOTIS GROUP) (*Psaltriparus minimus melanotis*) – These are the "Black-eared" form. Seen well on several days, but perhaps best at Monte Alban.

Regulidae (Kinglets)

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET (*Regulus satrapa*) – A resident breeding population occurs on Cerro San Felipe, one of the southernmost sites for the species (they get to Guatemala).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET (*Regulus calendula*) [b]

Sittidae (Nuthatches)

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH (INTERIOR WEST) (*Sitta carolinensis mexicana*) – We had a pair near our Teotitlan lunch spot on our second visit there.

Certhiidae (Treecreepers)

BROWN CREEPER (ALBESCENS/ALTICOLA) (*Certhia americana alticola*) – A common species in the pine-oak forests.

Poliophtilidae (Gnatcatchers)

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (*Poliophtila caerulea*) – A mixture of northern wintering birds and local residents in the Oaxaca valley.

WHITE-LORED GNATCATCHER (*Poliophtila albiloris*) – The common gnatcatcher at KM 77, the only spot on the tour for the species.

Troglodytidae (Wrens)

ROCK WREN (*Salpinctes obsoletus*) – Easily seen around the various ruins.

CANYON WREN (*Catherpes mexicanus*) – Mostly heard, but a pair showed briefly on the north side of Mont Alban.

HOUSE WREN (NORTHERN) (*Troglodytes aedon parkmanii*) – Heard at lower elevations in the valley. [b]

HOUSE WREN (BROWN-THROATED) (*Troglodytes aedon brunneicollis*) – The breeding population in the mountains, often considered a separate species by some authors.

BEWICK'S WREN (MEXICANUS GROUP) (*Thryomanes bewickii mexicanus*)

GRAY-BARRED WREN (*Campylorhynchus megalopterus*) – Specialists on bromileads and moss-festuned branches in the pine-oak forests of the mountains. [E]

RUFOUS-NAPED WREN (SCLATER'S) (*Campylorhynchus rufinucha humilis*) – A pair showed well at KM 77.

BOUCARD'S WREN (*Campylorhynchus jocosus*) – One of our first endemics of the tour, these are much like the Cactus Wren of the US Southwest. [E]

BANDED WREN (*Thryophilus pleurostictus*) – A beautiful song! And the bird even showed for us (which it seldom does!).

GRAY-BREASTED WOOD-WREN (CENTRAL AMERICAN) (*Henicorhina leucophrys mexicana*) – Great views of this little busy-body along a brushy gully on Cerro San Felipe.

Mimidae (Mockingbirds and Thrashers)

BLUE MOCKINGBIRD (*Melanotis caerulescens*) – After having some fleeting glimpses, a singing bird by the hotel entrance showed very well predawn on morning! [E]

GRAY CATBIRD (*Dumetella carolinensis*) – An uncommon species in the area, we saw one near the shore of Presa Piedra Azul. [b]

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER (CURVIROSTRE GROUP) (*Toxostoma curvirostre curvirostre*) – Fairly common around Teotitlan, and even on our hotel grounds.

OCELLATED THRASHER (*Toxostoma ocellatum*) – After a fair amount of work, a bird showed for us at Monte Alban! [E]

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD (*Mimus polyglottos*) – Mostly around Teotitlan and Yagul.

Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

BROWN-BACKED SOLITAIRE (*Myadestes occidentalis*) – What a song! One of my personal all-time favorites!

ORANGE-BILLED NIGHTINGALE-THRUSH (*Catharus aurantirostris*) – A bird performed well at Monte Alban after a few BVDs at other spots.

RUSSET NIGHTINGALE-THRUSH (*Catharus occidentalis*) – A few folks saw one or two along the road on Cerro San Felipe, but it wasn't much of a team player this trip. [E]

CLAY-COLORED THRUSH (*Turdus grayi*) – At the hotel. [I]

BLACK THRUSH (*Turdus infuscatus*) – A lovely singing bird on Cerro San Felipe. The bird we saw in the scope on the Yuvila side was, it turns out, a 1st year male, and not a White-throated Thrush! Sorry 'bout that!

AMERICAN ROBIN (MIGRATORIUS GROUP) (*Turdus migratorius phillipsi*) – The southernmost point these get, and they stay up high in the mountains.

RUFOUS-BACKED ROBIN (*Turdus rufopalliatus*) – At the hotel. [I]

Ptiliogonatidae (Silky-flycatchers)

GRAY SILKY-FLYCATCHER (*Ptiliogonys cinereus*) – A graceful species we enjoyed on many days.

Peucedramidae (Olive Warbler)

OLIVE WARBLER (*Peucedramus taeniatus*) – Or, "Not-olive Not-warbler". I will propose this to the AOU checklist committee to see if it will fly...

Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*) – Yup. [I]

Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)

AMERICAN PIPIT (*Anthus rubescens*) – A few were stomping around on the shore of the reservoir. [b]

Fringillidae (Finches, Euphonias, and Allies)

ELEGANT EUPHONIA (*Euphonia elegantissima*) – A colorful relative of goldfinches and siskins. We saw them best at Pollo Nino.

HOUSE FINCH (COMMON) (*Haemorhous mexicanus roseipectus*) – One of those birds we know well back home, but can really fool us here!

RED CROSSBILL (*Loxia curvirostra stricklandi*) – A brief view of a male on the wires over the buildings at La Cumbre one morning.

BLACK-HEADED SISKIN (*Spinus notatus*) [*]

LESSER GOLDFINCH (*Spinus psaltria*)

Passerellidae (New World Sparrows)

BRIDLED SPARROW (*Peucaea mystacalis*) – One of the fancier sparrows out there. [E]

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (*Ammodramus savannarum*) – Wow, great views along the Teotitlan road! [b]
CHIPPING SPARROW (*Spizella passerina*) – Seen or heard on most days. [b]
LARK SPARROW (*Chondestes grammacus*) – Big flocks in the lower valley at Teotitlan. [b]
CHESTNUT-CAPPED BRUSHFINCH (CHESTNUT-CAPPED) (*Arremon brunneinucha suttoni*) – Nice views on Cerro San Felipe.
YELLOW-EYED JUNCO (*Junco phaeonotus*) – Those angry beady yellow eyes!
VESPER SPARROW (*Poocetes gramineus*) – At the same spot as the Grasshoppers. [b]
LINCOLN'S SPARROW (*Melospiza lincolni*) – A wintering bird by the creek at Pollo Nino. [b]
WHITE-THROATED TOWHEE (*Melospiza albicollis*) – Another "easy" endemic that is quite widespread in the valley. [E]
RUFIOUS-CROWNED SPARROW (*Aimophila ruficeps*) – A pair popped up into view in the oak zone on the switchbacks above Teotitlan.
OAXACA SPARROW (*Aimophila notosticta*) – One of the hardest of the endemics, we had good views near Pollo Nino. [E]
SPOTTED TOWHEE (MACULATUS GROUP) (*Pipilo maculatus oaxaca*) – Brief views near Pollo Nino.
COLLARED TOWHEE (*Pipilo ocai*) – A sharp-looking Mexican endemic that we enjoyed at several sites in the pine-oak forest. [E]
RUFIOUS-CAPPED BRUSHFINCH (*Atlapetes pileatus*) – Good views at Cerro San Felipe after some work [E]

Icteridae (Troupials and Allies)

EASTERN MEADOWLARK (EASTERN) (*Sturnella magna alticola*)
BLACK-VENTED ORIOLE (*Icterus wagleri*) – Seen on several days, particularly at lower elevations in the valley.
ORCHARD ORIOLE (*Icterus spurius*) – One on the hotel grounds.
STREAK-BACKED ORIOLE (*Icterus pustulatus*) – Easiest to see at KM 77.
AUDUBON'S ORIOLE (DICKEY'S) (*Icterus graduacauda dickeyae*) [*]
BALTIMORE ORIOLE (*Icterus galbula*) – One our first day below Teotitlan. [b]
SCOTT'S ORIOLE (*Icterus parisorum*) – A fine duo of males countersinging at the first spot on the Yuvila road was a great start to the morning!
GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE (*Quiscalus mexicanus*)

Parulidae (New World Warblers)

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER (*Mniotilta varia*) [b]
CRESCENT-CHESTED WARBLER (*Oreothlypis superciliosa*) – A common species in the pine-oak forest, and one we saw well.
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (*Leiostylypis celata*) [b]
NASHVILLE WARBLER (*Leiostylypis ruficapilla*) – Very common! [b]
VIRGINIA'S WARBLER (*Leiostylypis virginiae*) – Best seen around the ruins and at KM 77. [b]
MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER (*Geothlypis tolmiei*) – Nice view at Pollo Nino. [b]
COMMON YELLOWTHROAT (*Geothlypis trichas*) [b*]
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (MYRTLE) (*Setophaga coronata coronata*) – A bird at Monte Alban was a surprise. [b]
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (AUDUBON'S) (*Setophaga coronata auduboni*) – The common Yellow-rump in Oaxaca, and one we saw at many sites.
BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER (*Setophaga nigrescens*) – Seen on our second visit to Teotitlan. [b]
TOWNSEND'S WARBLER (*Setophaga townsendi*) – A fine species we enjoyed in the pine-oak forests. [b]
HERMIT WARBLER (*Setophaga occidentalis*) – Another great warbler to see in the pine-oak zone. [b]
RUFIOUS-CAPPED WARBLER (RUFIFRONS GROUP) (*Basileuterus rufifrons rufifrons*) – Common in the scrubby habitats on the tour.
GOLDEN-BROWED WARBLER (*Basileuterus belli*) – That eyebrow is eye-catching!
WILSON'S WARBLER (*Cardellina pusilla*) [b]
RED-FACED WARBLER (*Cardellina rubrifrons*) – Rare in the area, but has been reliable at Rio Verde. [b]
RED WARBLER (*Cardellina rubra*) – One of the most-liked specialties of the tour! Yeah, it's ok I guess. [E]
PAINTED REDSTART (*Myioborus pictus*) – Typically more in the oak zone and just into the pine-oak zone.
SLATE-THROATED REDSTART (*Myioborus miniatus miniatus*) – Found in the pine-oak zone. That salmon-pink belly is lovely!

Cardinalidae (Cardinals and Allies)

HEPATIC TANAGER (NORTHERN) (*Piranga flava hepatica*)
SUMMER TANAGER (*Piranga rubra*) [b]
WESTERN TANAGER (*Piranga ludoviciana*) [b]
RED-HEADED TANAGER (*Piranga erythrocephala*) – A lifer for Micah! The pair at Pollo Nino performed well! [E]
BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) – Birds were just starting to tune up and sing.
BLUE GROSBEAK (*Passerina caerulea*) [b]
LAZULI BUNTING (*Passerina amoena*) – A male and female played hard to get at the dam at Piedra Azul, but only a couple folks got on them, unfortunately. [b]
INDIGO BUNTING (*Passerina cyanea*) – A sizable flock was at Piedra Azul! [b]
ORANGE-BREASTED BUNTING (*Passerina leclancherii*) – This rainbow of color showed well at KM 77 right off the bat! [E]
VARIED BUNTING (*Passerina versicolor*) – A male showed well at KM 77.

MAMMALS

MEXICAN GRAY SQUIRREL (*Sciurus aureogaster*) – Common at the hotel, but a few in the mountain forests, too.
WHITE-NOSED COATI (*Nasua narica*) – We found a rather dead individual on the track at KM 77.
WHITE-TAILED DEER (*Odocoileus virginianus*) – Joan got us on this one.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Mexican Mud Turtle (*Kinosternon integrum*): in Presa Piedra Azul.

Spiny-tailed Iguana (*Ctenosaura* sp.): up the slope from the KM 77 canyon.

Scaled Lizard sp. (*Sceloporus* sp.): we probably saw several species in this genus, as they are numerous and speciose in the Oaxaca area.

Totals for the tour: 197 bird taxa and 3 mammal taxa