

## Trip Report — Mexico: Oaxaca Valley I 2025

March 1-8, 2025 with Chris Benesh & Marcelo Barreiros & Alex Sundvall



The gorgeous Red Warbler, photographed by guide Alex Sundvall.

A great week in Oaxaca is an easy way to describe this tour. We birded through different habitats, looking for special birds, such as Lesser Roadrunner, Pileated Flycatcher, and Red Warbler. The region between the valleys has a great combination of desert in the lower land and an amazing pine forest up in the mountains, like *La Cumbre* where we birded a few times. We started going to Teotitlán Del Valle with a nice stop along the way to see things like Boucard's Wren, White-throated Towhee and Curve-billed Thrasher, and a little later, moving up, we stopped by the reservoir Presa Piedra Azul with a lot of good birds like Ring-necked and Ruddy ducks, Berylline Hummingbird, a pair of the endemic Gray-breasted Woodpecker,

Bewick's Wren, a great look at Golden Vireo, Northern-beardless Tyrannulet and about a hundred Violet-green Swallows.



Strong-billed Woodcreeper by participant Jeannette Shores.

The next morning, we spent time in the La Cumbre mountains, starting with a nice stop along Carretera 175 to see the rare Blue Mockingbird, Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush, Audubon's Oriole, and Rufous-capped Warbler. The rest of the morning was spent along the trails and roads through the pine forest, where we saw some great birds like Red Crossbill, the gorgeous Red Warbler, Gray-barred Wren, Brown-backed Solitaire, Blue-throated Mountain-gem, White-eared Hummingbird, Rose-throated Becard, Crescent-chested Warbler a couple of times, Spot-crowned Woodcreeper and the largest species of woodcreeper in the area, Strong-billed Woodcreeper. Later on in the tour, we went back up to La Cumbre for more pine forest birds like the beautiful Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo, Gray-breasted Wood-Wren, Slate-throated Redstart, Mountain Trogon, Collared



Towhee, and the rare ones like Dwarf Jay, Pine Flycatcher, and a nice surprise, a single Colima Warbler seen foraging quietly for a few minutes.



Lesser Roadrunner by participant Jeanette Shores. One of the most celebrated birds seen by the group.

We had a lot of fun exploring nice habitats and great Zapotec temples around Oaxaca in the beautiful Mexican desert. Among all the great birds we saw, some must be cited, like the rarely seen Lesser Roadrunner, a pair of noisy West-Mexican Chachalacas, male and female Red-headed Tanager, the endemic subspecies of Squirrel Cuckoo (West Mexican), Russet-crowned Motmot, White-throated Magpie-Jay. The beautiful Ocellated Thrasher gave us a hard time at first but we managed to find it with great looks later. A few sparrows were also seen, like the Bridled and Lincoln's sparrows and the elusive Oaxaca Sparrow, which preferred to stay hidden in the bushes while we were looking for it.





The group enjoying the rug presentation. Photo by guide Chris Benesh

Some of the other critters we saw included:

- 1) Red-bellied Squirrel
- 2) Western Spinetail Iguana

You can see my complete trip report on eBird at this link:

<https://ebird.org/tripreport/346515>

You can download a combined PDF of this page and the eBird report at this link: <https://fieldguides.com/triplists/oax25aTRIPLIST.pdf>

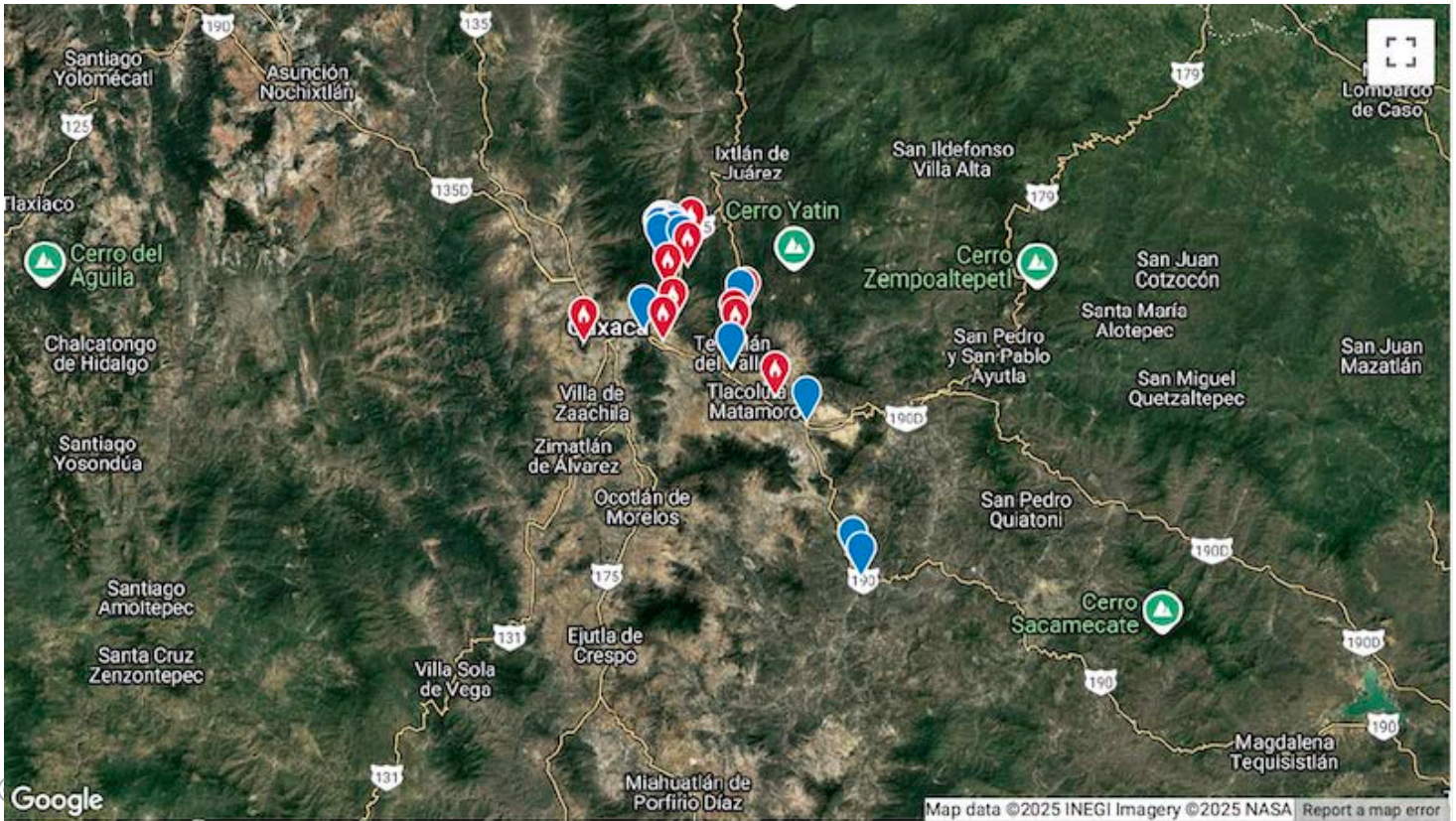
-- Chris Benesh, Marcelo Barreiros & Alex Sundvall



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## Species Observed
























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50	<b>Blue-winged Teal</b>	<i>Spatula discors</i>		 1
1	<b>Northern Pintail</b>	<i>Anas acuta</i> 		 1
5	<b>Green-winged Teal</b>	<i>Anas crecca</i>		 1
35	<b>Ring-necked Duck</b>	<i>Aythya collaris</i>		 1
1	<b>Ruddy Duck</b>	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>		 1
3	<b>West Mexican Chachalaca</b>	<i>Ortalis poliocephala</i> 		 1
10	<b>Rock Pigeon</b>	<i>Columba livia</i> *		 2
5	<b>Band-tailed Pigeon</b>	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>		 3
6	<b>Eurasian Collared-Dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> *		 4
11	<b>Inca Dove</b>	<i>Columbina inca</i> 		 6
2	<b>Common Ground Dove</b>	<i>Columbina passerina</i>		 1
5	<b>White-tipped Dove</b>	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>		 3
35	<b>White-winged Dove</b>	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>		 6
3	<b>Mourning Dove</b>	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>		 2
9	<b>Groove-billed Ani</b>	<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>		 1
4	<b>Lesser Roadrunner</b>	<i>Geococcyx velox</i> 		 2
1	<b>Squirrel Cuckoo</b>	<i>Piaya cayana</i>		 1
17	<b>Mexican Whip-poor-will</b>	<i>Antrostomus arizonae</i> 		 2
2	<b>Mexican Violetear</b>	<i>Colibri thalassinus</i> 		 2
1	<b>Blue-throated Mountain-gem</b>	<i>Lampornis clemenciae</i>		 1

5	<b>Dusky Hummingbird</b>	<i>Phaeoptila sordida</i>	✓	▶  4
16	<b>White-eared Hummingbird</b>	<i>Basilinna leucotis</i>		▶  4
5	<b>Green-fronted Hummingbird</b>	<i>Ramosomyia viridifrons</i>	✓	▶  1
8	<b>Berylline Hummingbird</b>	<i>Saucerottia beryllina</i>		▶  4
10	<b>American Coot</b>	<i>Fulica americana</i>		▶  1
2	<b>Killdeer</b>	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>		▶  1
1	<b>Spotted Sandpiper</b>	<i>Actitis macularius</i>		▶  1
8	<b>Least Grebe</b>	<i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i>		▶  1
2	<b>Pied-billed Grebe</b>	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>		▶  1
5	<b>Little Blue Heron</b>	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>		▶  1
5	<b>Snowy Egret</b>	<i>Egretta thula</i>		▶  1
1	<b>Green Heron</b>	<i>Butorides virescens</i>		▶  1
31	<b>Western Cattle-Egret</b>	<i>Ardea ibis</i>		▶  2
3	<b>Great Egret</b>	<i>Ardea alba</i>		▶  1
84	<b>Black Vulture</b>	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>		▶  5
46	<b>Turkey Vulture</b>	<i>Cathartes aura</i>		▶  10
1	<b>Cooper's Hawk</b>	<i>Astur cooperii</i>	✓	▶  1
4	<b>White-tailed Hawk</b>	<i>Geranoaetus albicaudatus</i>		▶  2
1	<b>Gray Hawk</b>	<i>Buteo plagiatus</i>		▶  1
1	<b>Zone-tailed Hawk</b>	<i>Buteo albonotatus</i>		▶  1
2	<b>Short-tailed Hawk</b>	<i>Buteo brachyurus</i>		▶  2
3	<b>Red-tailed Hawk</b>	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>		▶  2
2	<b>Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl</b>	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>		▶  1
1	<b>Fulvous Owl</b>	<i>Strix fulvescens</i>	✓	▶  1

9	<b>Mountain Trogon</b>	<i>Trogon mexicanus</i>	✓	▶  5
2	<b>Russet-crowned Motmot</b>	<i>Momotus mexicanus</i>	✓	▶  1
1	<b>Green Kingfisher</b>	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>		▶  1
1	<b>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker</b>	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	✓	▶  1
10	<b>Gray-breasted Woodpecker</b>	<i>Melanerpes hypopolius</i>	✓	▶  3
4	<b>Golden-fronted Woodpecker</b>	<i>Melanerpes aurifrons</i>		▶  1
1	<b>Ladder-backed Woodpecker</b>	<i>Dryobates scalaris</i>		▶  1
18	<b>Crested Caracara</b>	<i>Caracara plancus</i>		▶  6
2	<b>American Kestrel</b>	<i>Falco sparverius</i>		▶  2
2	<b>Green Parakeet</b>	<i>Psittacara holochlorus</i>	✓	▶  1
2	<b>Strong-billed Woodcreeper</b>	<i>Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus</i>		▶  1
2	<b>White-striped Woodcreeper</b>	<i>Lepidocolaptes leucogaster</i>	✓	▶  1
5	<b>Spot-crowned Woodcreeper</b>	<i>Lepidocolaptes affinis</i>	✓	▶  2
2	<b>Rose-throated Becard</b>	<i>Pachyramphus aglaiae</i>	✓	▶  2
5	<b>Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet</b>	<i>Camptostoma imberbe</i>		▶  4
1	<b>Greenish Elaenia</b>	<i>Myiopagis viridicata</i>		▶  1
2	<b>Pileated Flycatcher</b>	<i>Xenotriccus mexicanus</i>	✓	▶  2
2	<b>Tufted Flycatcher</b>	<i>Mitrephanes phaeocercus</i>	✓	▶  1
10	<b>Greater Pewee</b>	<i>Contopus pertinax</i>		▶  5
1	<b>Least Flycatcher</b>	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>		▶  1
1	<b>Hammond's Flycatcher</b>	<i>Empidonax hammondii</i>		▶  1
3	<b>Dusky Flycatcher</b>	<i>Empidonax oberholseri</i>	✓	▶  3
2	<b>Pine Flycatcher</b>	<i>Empidonax affinis</i>	✓	▶  2









































8	<b>Western Flycatcher</b>	<i>Empidonax difficilis</i>	▶  5
3	<b>Black Phoebe</b>	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	▶  1
10	<b>Vermilion Flycatcher</b>	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>	▶  5
6	<b>Dusky-capped Flycatcher</b>	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>	▶  6
6	<b>Ash-throated Flycatcher</b>	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i> ✓	▶  2
8	<b>Nutting's Flycatcher</b>	<i>Myiarchus nuttingi</i> ✓	▶  3
5	<b>Great Kiskadee</b>	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>	▶  4
4	<b>Social Flycatcher</b>	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>	▶  3
6	<b>Tropical Kingbird</b>	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	▶  4
20	<b>Cassin's Kingbird</b>	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>	▶  5
3	<b>Thick-billed Kingbird</b>	<i>Tyrannus crassirostris</i> ✓	▶  1
7	<b>Western Kingbird</b>	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	▶  1
2	<b>Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo</b>	<i>Vireolanius melitophrys</i> ✓	▶  2
4	<b>Golden Vireo</b>	<i>Vireo hypochryseus</i> ✓	▶  2
2	<b>Slaty Vireo</b>	<i>Vireo brevipennis</i> ✓	▶  1
1	<b>Dwarf Vireo</b>	<i>Vireo nelsoni</i> ✓	▶  1
13	<b>Hutton's Vireo</b>	<i>Vireo huttoni</i>	▶  7
2	<b>Cassin's Vireo</b>	<i>Vireo cassinii</i> ✓	▶  2
1	<b>Plumbeous Vireo</b>	<i>Vireo plumbeus</i>	▶  1
7	<b>Warbling Vireo</b>	<i>Vireo gilvus</i> ✓	▶  4
4	<b>Dwarf Jay</b>	<i>Cyanolyca nanus</i> ✓	▶  2
1	<b>White-throated Magpie-Jay</b>	<i>Cyanocorax formosus</i> ✓	▶  1
16	<b>Steller's Jay</b>	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>	▶  8

9	<b>Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay</b>	<i>Aphelocoma woodhouseii</i>	▶  2
3	<b>Common Raven</b>	<i>Corvus corax</i>	▶  2
7	<b>Mexican Chickadee</b>	<i>Poecile sclateri</i>	▶  3
5	<b>Bridled Titmouse</b>	<i>Baeolophus wollweberi</i>	▶  1
185	<b>Violet-green Swallow</b>	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>	▶  5
31	<b>Northern Rough-winged Swallow</b>	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	▶  5
27	<b>Bushtit</b>	<i>Psaltirparus minimus</i> ✓	▶  3
6	<b>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</b>	<i>Corthylio calendula</i> ✓	▶  3
1	<b>White-breasted Nuthatch</b>	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	▶  1
4	<b>Brown Creeper</b>	<i>Certhia americana</i>	▶  4
13	<b>Blue-gray Gnatcatcher</b>	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	▶  6
6	<b>White-lored Gnatcatcher</b>	<i>Polioptila albiloris</i> ✓	▶  1
5	<b>Canyon Wren</b>	<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>	▶  4
8	<b>Northern House Wren</b>	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	▶  4
11	<b>Bewick's Wren</b>	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	▶  5
26	<b>Gray-barred Wren</b>	<i>Campylorhynchus megalopterus</i> ✓	▶  4
15	<b>Boucard's Wren</b>	<i>Campylorhynchus jocosus</i> ✓	▶  4
2	<b>Happy Wren</b>	<i>Pheugopedius felix</i> ✓	▶  1
4	<b>Gray-breasted Wood-Wren</b>	<i>Henicorhina leucophrys</i> ✓	▶  1
13	<b>Blue Mockingbird</b>	<i>Melanotis caerulescens</i> ✓	▶  5
5	<b>Curve-billed Thrasher</b>	<i>Toxostoma curvirostre</i>	▶  3
2	<b>Ocellated Thrasher</b>	<i>Toxostoma ocellatum</i> ✓	▶  1
3	<b>Northern Mockingbird</b>	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	▶  1

12	<b>Brown-backed Solitaire</b>	<i>Myadestes occidentalis</i>	✓	▶ 7
5	<b>Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush</b>	<i>Catharus aurantirostris</i>	✓	▶ 3
5	<b>Russet Nightingale-Thrush</b>	<i>Catharus occidentalis</i>	✓	▶ 2
2	<b>Black Thrush</b>	<i>Turdus infuscatus</i>	✓	▶ 1
1	<b>Rufous-backed Robin</b>	<i>Turdus rufopalliat</i>	✓	▶ 1
4	<b>Cedar Waxwing</b>	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	✓	▶ 1
48	<b>Gray Silky-flycatcher</b>	<i>Ptiliogonys cinereus</i>	✓	▶ 10
22	<b>Olive Warbler</b>	<i>Peucedramus taeniatus</i>		▶ 5
16	<b>House Sparrow</b>	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	*	▶ 3
6	<b>Elegant Euphonia</b>	<i>Chlorophonia elegantissima</i>	✓	▶ 1
42	<b>House Finch</b>	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>		▶ 7
10	<b>Red Crossbill</b>	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>		▶ 1
35	<b>Lesser Goldfinch</b>	<i>Spinus psaltria</i>		▶ 7
5	<b>Bridled Sparrow</b>	<i>Peucaea mystacalis</i>	✓	▶ 2
1	<b>Chipping Sparrow</b>	<i>Spizella passerina</i>		▶ 1
3	<b>Chestnut-capped Brushfinch</b>	<i>Arremon brunneinucha</i>	✓	▶ 2
14	<b>Yellow-eyed Junco</b>	<i>Junco phaeonotus</i>		▶ 3
1	<b>Vesper Sparrow</b>	<i>Poecetes gramineus</i>	✓	▶ 1
2	<b>Lincoln's Sparrow</b>	<i>Melospiza lincolni</i>	✓	▶ 1
41	<b>White-throated Towhee</b>	<i>Melospiza albicollis</i>	✓	▶ 7
1	<b>Oaxaca Sparrow</b>	<i>Aimophila notosticta</i>	✓	▶ 1
3	<b>Collared Towhee</b>	<i>Pipilo ocai</i>	✓	▶ 2
1	<b>Rufous-capped Brushfinch</b>	<i>Atlapetes pileatus</i>	✓	▶ 1



18	<b>Black-vented Oriole</b>	<i>Icterus wagleri</i>	✓	▶  6
6	<b>Streak-backed Oriole</b>	<i>Icterus pustulatus</i>	✓	▶  2
4	<b>Bullock's Oriole</b>	<i>Icterus bullockii</i>		▶  3
2	<b>Audubon's Oriole</b>	<i>Icterus graduacauda</i>	✓	▶  2
1	<b>Bronzed Cowbird</b>	<i>Molothrus aeneus</i>		▶  1
20	<b>Great-tailed Grackle</b>	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>		▶  2
2	<b>Louisiana Waterthrush</b>	<i>Parkesia motacilla</i>		▶  2
2	<b>Black-and-white Warbler</b>	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>		▶  2
26	<b>Crescent-chested Warbler</b>	<i>Oreothlypis superciliosa</i>	✓	▶  7
1	<b>Orange-crowned Warbler</b>	<i>Leiothlypis celata</i>		▶  1
1	<b>Colima Warbler</b>	<i>Leiothlypis crissalis</i>	✓	▶  1
2	<b>Nashville Warbler</b>	<i>Leiothlypis ruficapilla</i>		▶  2
1	<b>Virginia's Warbler</b>	<i>Leiothlypis virginiae</i>		▶  1
8	<b>MacGillivray's Warbler</b>	<i>Geothlypis tolmiei</i>	✓	▶  3
2	<b>Common Yellowthroat</b>	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>		▶  2
1	<b>Yellow Warbler</b>	<i>Setophaga petechia</i>		▶  1
9	<b>Yellow-rumped Warbler</b>	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>		▶  6
1	<b>Black-throated Gray Warbler</b>	<i>Setophaga nigrescens</i>		▶  1
3	<b>Townsend's Warbler</b>	<i>Setophaga townsendi</i>		▶  2
6	<b>Hermit Warbler</b>	<i>Setophaga occidentalis</i>		▶  4
1	<b>Fan-tailed Warbler</b>	<i>Basileuterus lachrymosus</i>	✓	▶  1
15	<b>Rufous-capped Warbler</b>	<i>Basileuterus rufifrons</i>		▶  4
7	<b>Golden-browed Warbler</b>	<i>Basileuterus belli</i>	✓	▶  4

6	<b>Wilson's Warbler</b>	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>	▶  5
16	<b>Red Warbler</b>	<i>Cardellina rubra</i> ✓	▶  7
2	<b>Painted Redstart</b>	<i>Myioborus pictus</i>	▶  2
9	<b>Slate-throated Redstart</b>	<i>Myioborus miniatus</i>	▶  3
3	<b>Hepatic Tanager</b>	<i>Piranga flava</i>	▶  2
5	<b>Summer Tanager</b>	<i>Piranga rubra</i>	▶  4
19	<b>Western Tanager</b>	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>	▶  6
2	<b>Red-headed Tanager</b>	<i>Piranga erythrocephala</i> ✓	▶  1
1	<b>Yellow Grosbeak</b>	<i>Pheucticus chrysopheplus</i> ✓	▶  1
7	<b>Black-headed Grosbeak</b>	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>	▶  4
2	<b>Blue Grosbeak</b>	<i>Passerina caerulea</i>	▶  1
1	<b>Lazuli Bunting</b>	<i>Passerina amoena</i>	▶  1
3	<b>Indigo Bunting</b>	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	▶  2
2	<b>Varied Bunting</b>	<i>Passerina versicolor</i> ✓	▶  1
2	<b>Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer</b>	<i>Diglossa baritula</i> ✓	▶  1