

## Trip Report — Mexico: Veracruz River of Raptors 2024

October 7-17, 2024 with Sam Wilson & Jorge Montejo-Diaz



A fledgling Northern Potoo was an early trip highlight while birding near Anton Lizardo. Photo by guide Sam Wilson.

The rich Mexican state of Veracruz has an immediate association with birders as the site of the largest hawk migration in the world. However, beyond the great raptor spectacle, the diversity of habitats, abundance of Mexican endemics, vital Mesoamerican history, and amazing variety of migrants of different phylogenies, makes Veracruz a must see destination for anyone interested in Mexico and the great migrations of the world. Our tour began on the outskirts of Veracruz city, at the historic Mocambo hotel, an interesting vestige of 1940s and 50s Mexican movie history and early celebrity destination. The waterfront is moderately developed but provides sandy beaches and a few rock jetties that attract shorebirds. Copses of palms and brushy veg provide habitat for some easterly gulf migrants like Eastern Phoebe, Swainson's Thrush, and Yellow-throated Warbler.

We departed our first morning to a riparian area just outside the coastal town of Antón Lizardo. We got our first looks at a number of Red-billed Pigeons flying out to start their day, Groove-billed Anis, a number of heron species, and about 15 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers. We were swamped out on our way to the beach by high water but fortuitously during our retreat we

were alerted by a local amigo of guide Jorge Montejo about a Potoo that may be roosting on a nearby farm. We quickly made our way to the farm and were treated to a fledgling Northern Potoo perched under the canopy. It was a special opportunity to see this young bird in pristine pearly white and speckled plumage.



The famous migration at Chichicaxtle had us enjoying a lifetime worth of Swainson's Hawks!  
Photo by guide Sam Wilson.

We moved north to the town of Cardel, the base of operations for the Río de Rapaces (River of Raptors) for the next 4 days. The hawk watch at Cardel is an observation area on the roof of Hotel Bienvenido where we stay in town. The second Hawk watch is just a 10 minute drive to the west at a site called Chichicaxtle. Jorge and a few friends were the primary investigators and founders during the 1990s at these now famous hawk counts at Cardel and Chichicaxtle. On that first afternoon at Chichi we were stunned by a mega-kettle of 15,000-20,000 Swainson's Hawks! The next morning was highly productive at a coastal hotspot not far north of Cardel where we enjoyed a mix of migrant and local passerines as well as nice variety of shorebirds. We had beautiful looks at the brilliant orange Altamira Orioles, Rose-throated Becards, and Squirrel Cuckoo and close looks at a curious Ferruginous Pygmy Owl and 4 species of falcon (including actively hunting Aplomado Falcons). The beach was fresh with large tidal pools from high tides and recent rains. It hosted an impressive 6 species of plover including our first looks at Collared Plover. We also hit two big target endemics, Veracruz Wren and Mexican Sheartail, finding several active pairs of wrens that showed off for us in the Australian Pines. Veracruz Wren is a recent (and long anticipated) split from Rufous-naped Wren and has a very small range entirely

contained to central Veracruz. Mexican Shearwater is another local endemic, also with a small but disjunct range, found only in Veracruz state and north coastal Yucatan. A huge active flock of Fulvous Whistling Ducks punctuated our small boat cruise on the Río Antigua that evening, and we had nice looks at Amazon and Ringed Kingfisher, and a butt-bobbing Louisiana Waterthrush on an emergent branch. At the river estuaries outlet we had lots of shorebird and tern activity, with a number of feeding American Avocets, Sanderlings, Ruddy Turnstones, and a single Red Knot. Black Skimmers, Gull-billed Terns, and Sandwich Terns were in abundance as well as a few Franklin's Gulls milling around with the much more common Laughing Gulls.



Surveying the beach at the mouth of the Rio de Antigua for plovers. Photo by guide Jorge Montejo-Diaz.

An inland excursion the next day in the foothills netted us some of the first Lark Sparrows and Grasshopper Sparrow of the season. In a private reserve we located some goodies like Black-headed Trogon, Collared Forest-Falcon, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Green Kingfisher and Cinnamon-bellied Saltator. The hawk show in the afternoon had slowed a bit for a few days and was often quite high but even on 'slow days' we tallied 10,000 Swainson Hawks, Turkey Vultures, and Broadwing hawks in an hour or two. The next few days at coastal lagoons and reserves kept us up early to beat the heat, but it was well worth the effort for Montezuma Oropendolas, Mexican endemic Yellow-winged Tanager, a number of parrot species like White-fronted Amazon, and some exciting raptor finds like Zone-tailed Hawk, Gray Hawk, Common

Black Hawk, Great Black Hawk, and Hook-billed Kite. Everywhere along the coast the evidence of migratory movement was on display. Butterflies and dragonflies moved in astounding numbers and great variety, constant color added to the beaches and lagoons while we searched for birds.

We visited several archeological and cultural sites like Quiahuiztlan, a precolonial site important to the Totonac people, and the site of the earliest colony in the New World (1519) established by the Spanish Conquistadors. We saw the fascinating old town and headquarters of Hernán Cortéz, where indigenous subjugation and slavery on the American continent began and where untold billions (in today's dollars) of gold was processed and sent back to Spain. Our last afternoon spent at Chichicaxtle included a bonus cultural experience as we enjoyed the costumes, music, and vendors at the annual Festival de Las Aves. We also enjoyed a movement of hawks appropriately there for the festival!



Aplomado Falcon was one of the many raptors we enjoyed on this trip. Photo by guide Sam Wilson.

On part II of the trip, we welcomed a change in scenery and especially enjoyed a respite from the oppressive heat of the lowlands as we worked our way up to Xalapa. A beautiful town with large accessible parks set in the foothills, Xalapa (pronounced hah-la-pa) is also the capital of Veracruz State. On the way into town, we stopped and found some targets like Plain-breasted Ground Dove, Mexican Sheartail, Grass Wren, Botteri's Sparrow, and spotted some unexpected (late) Grassland Yellow-Finches. Though songbird migration was a bit slow this trip, the local parks in Xalapa provided us with a fascinating East-meets-West mix of warblers and songbirds

including Magnolia, MacGillivray's, Black-throated Green, Nashville, Blue-winged Warbler, and Ovenbird. We checked off a fun variety of hummingbirds including Wedge-tailed Sabrewing, Azure-crowned Hummingbird, and Berylline Hummingbird. Taking advantage of our outpost in Xalapa we ventured up to 12,000, feet stopping at several locations for some Mexican endemics and mountain specialties. Though we weren't able to tease out the very evasive Bearded Wood-Partridge, we did have them calling on either side of the road from us while Bumblebee Hummingbirds buzzed in and out of the thick roadside flower patches. We had nice looks in several locations at some crowd-favorite Red Warblers and Crescent-chested Warblers and saw Rufous-capped Brushfinch, Hepatic Tanagers, and endemic Transvolcanic Jays. The Pine Forest at 12,000 feet was rich with new birds, some familiar to USA based birders like Dusky Flycatcher, Pygmy Nuthatches, and American Robins, but also featured Gray Silky-flycatchers, Pine Flycatcher, and endemic Collared Towhee. We also were lucky to see the extremely range-restricted Strickland's Woodpecker remarkably well. After an excellent lunch in the highland town of Perote, we drove west near the Veracruz state border where there is a clear change into much drier conditions. Though Ocellated Thrasher remained hidden, the endemic (and sole member of its genus) Striped Sparrow was spotted amongst the tall yucca stalks and we were able to view it for an extended period. We also admired an active contingent of Woodhouse's Scrub Jays. The subspecies here, 'Sumichrasts Jay', is unique and almost certainly will be split in the future.



A Vermilion Flycatcher stands watch in front of the volcano Pico de Orizaba, Mexico's highest peak. Photo by guide Sam Wilson.

The last two days were punctuated by the group voted trip highlight bird, Blue-capped Motmot, at a local park and a nice variety of migrants and locals like Flame-colored Tanager, Yellow-throated Euphonia, and Black-headed Saltator. Capping the trip was a last stop in the humid lowlands to the south to see a number of new birds like Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, Common Tody-Flycatcher, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, and a lots of foraging Double-striped Thick-knees.

Thanks to all who joined us on this fantastic trip. Jorge and I enjoyed the camaraderie and appreciation for the magic of migration in this special place at the crux of two continents. Looking forward to seeing you all down the road and good birding in the future!

Special thanks to participant Jeff Pavlik for the comprehensive list of butterflies seen on the trip. The list is attached in the downloadable pdf below.

**Additional taxa:**

Mammals:

Proboscis Bat (*Rhynchonycteris naso*)

Varigate Squirrel (*Sciurus varigatoides*)

Reptiles and Amphibians:

Vermiculated Tree Frog

Green Iguana

Mexican Racerunner

Rose-bellied Lizard

Eastern Mexican Spiny-tailed Iguana

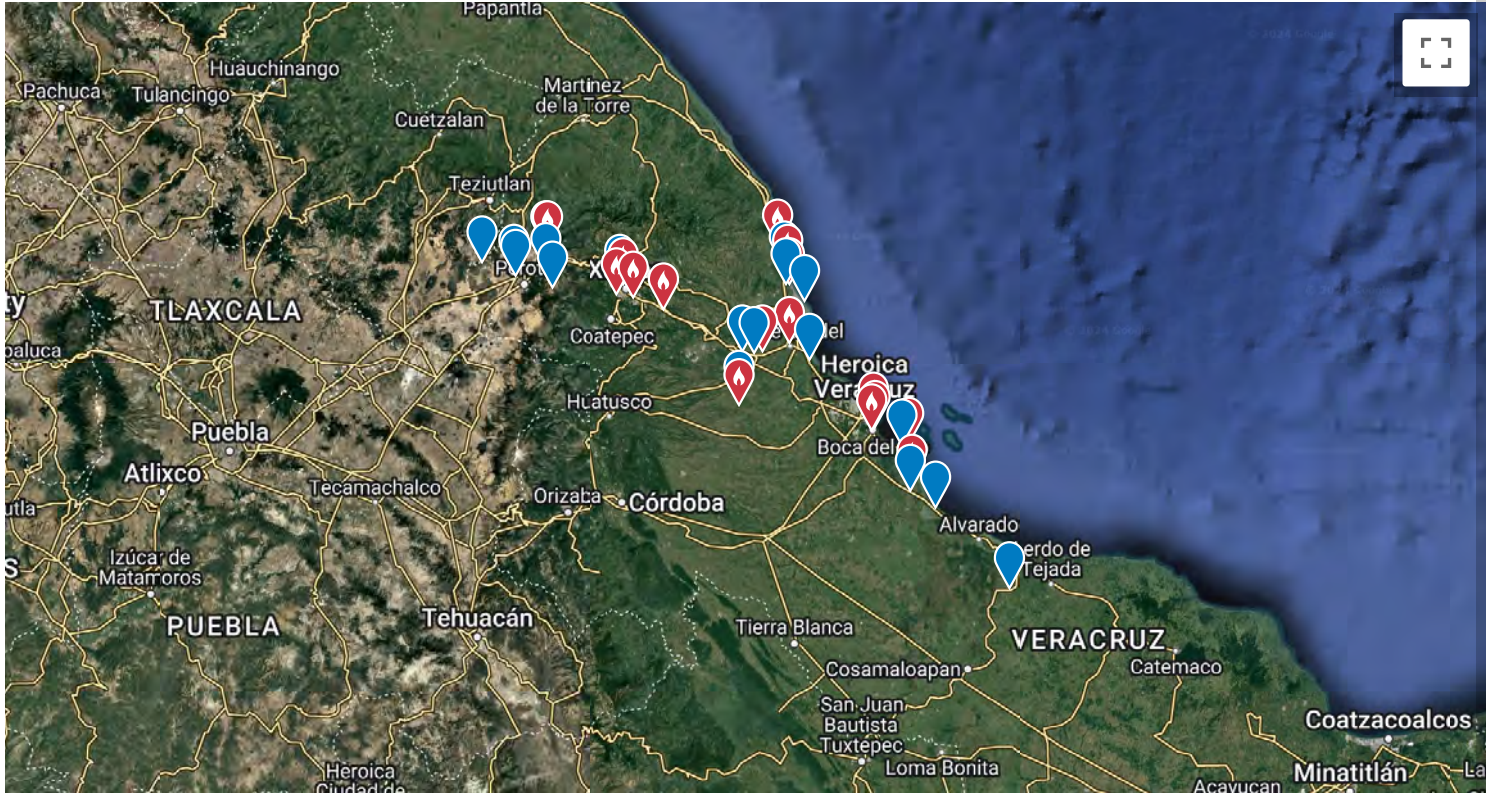
You can see my complete trip report on eBird at this link: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/284759>

Sam Wilson

# Field Guides Birding Tours—Mexico: Veracruz River of Raptors, 2024 (with Jorge Montejo-Diaz and Sam Wilson)



8 – 17 Oct 2024 (10 days) Link-only



Google

Map data ©2024 INEGI Imagery ©2024 TerraMetrics

## Veracruz, Mexico

Actopan | Alvarado | Boca del Río | Emiliano Zapata | La Antigua | Las Minas | Paso de Ovejas | Perote | Puente Nacional | Tlacotalpan | Ursulo Galván | Villa Aldama | Xalapa

Sam Wilson



For a narrative summary of this tour, including a Field Guides photo gallery and additional media for this trip...

283

Species Observed

40

Checklists


































86

Species with Photos

LIFERS  24  49 





























## Species Observed





































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60	<b>Black-bellied Whistling-Duck</b> <i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>	 2  5
43	<b>Fulvous Whistling-Duck</b> <i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i> 	 2  2
10	<b>Blue-winged Teal</b> <i>Spatula discors</i>	 1  3
15	<b>Northern Shoveler</b> <i>Spatula clypeata</i>	 1
23	<b>Plain Chachalaca</b> <i>Ortalis vetula</i>	 5
5	<b>Bearded Wood-Partridge</b> <i>Dendrortyx barbatus</i> 	 1
89	<b>Rock Pigeon</b> <i>Columba livia</i> *	 9
32	<b>Red-billed Pigeon</b> <i>Patagioenas flavirostris</i> 	 2  7
13	<b>Eurasian Collared-Dove</b> <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> *	 7
28	<b>Inca Dove</b> <i>Columbina inca</i>	 11
1	<b>Common Ground Dove</b> <i>Columbina passerina</i>	 1
4	<b>Plain-breasted Ground Dove</b> <i>Columbina minuta</i> 	 2
12	<b>Ruddy Ground Dove</b> <i>Columbina talpacoti</i>	 4
2	<b>White-tipped Dove</b> <i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>	 2
1071	<b>White-winged Dove</b> <i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	 4  9
7	<b>Mourning Dove</b> <i>Zenaida macroura</i>	 2
24	<b>Groove-billed Ani</b> <i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i> 	 2  5
7	<b>Squirrel Cuckoo</b> <i>Piaya cayana</i> 	 1  6
1	<b>Northern Potoo</b> <i>Nyctibius jamaicensis</i>  	 3  1
3	<b>White-collared Swift</b> <i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>	 1



















































































1	<b>Chimney Swift</b> <i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	▶ 📷 1
10	<b>Vaux's Swift</b> <i>Chaetura vauxi</i>	▶ 📷 2
2	<b>White-throated Swift</b> <i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>	▶ 📷 1
4	<b>Green-breasted Mango</b> <i>Anthracothorax prevostii</i> 📷	▶ 📷 2 📷 2
1	<b>Rivoli's Hummingbird</b> <i>Eugenes fulgens</i>	▶ 📷 1
1	<b>Amethyst-throated Mountain-gem</b> <i>Lampornis amethystinus</i>	▶ 📷 1
3	<b>Mexican Sheartail</b> <i>Doricha eliza</i> ✓ 📷	▶ 📷 2 📷 2
10	<b>Ruby-throated Hummingbird</b> <i>Archilochus colubris</i>	▶ 📷 3 📷 8
1	<b>Rufous Hummingbird</b> <i>Selasphorus rufus</i>	▶ 📷 1
1	<b>Bumblebee Hummingbird</b> <i>Selasphorus heloisa</i>	▶ 📷 1
2	<b>Canivet's Emerald</b> <i>Cyanthus canivetii</i>	▶ 📷 1
8	<b>Wedge-tailed Sabrewing</b> <i>Pampa curvipennis</i> ✓ 📷	▶ 📷 1 📷 2
1	<b>Violet Sabrewing</b> <i>Campylopterus hemileucurus</i>	▶ 📷 1
11	<b>Azure-crowned Hummingbird</b> <i>Saucerottia cyanocephala</i> ✓	▶ 📷 2
1	<b>Berylline Hummingbird</b> <i>Saucerottia beryllina</i>	▶ 📷 1
7	<b>Buff-bellied Hummingbird</b> <i>Amazilia yucatanensis</i>	▶ 📷 6
4	<b>Russet-naped Wood-Rail</b> <i>Aramides albiventris</i>	▶ 📷 1
1	<b>Limpkin</b> <i>Aramus guarauna</i>	▶ 📷 1
19	<b>Double-striped Thick-knee</b> <i>Hesperoburhinus bistriatus</i> ✓ 📷	▶ 📷 2 📷 2
7	<b>Black-necked Stilt</b> <i>Himantopus mexicanus</i> 📷	▶ 📷 1 📷 1
39	<b>American Avocet</b> <i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	▶ 📷 1 📷 3
25	<b>Black-bellied Plover</b> <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	▶ 📷 3
37	<b>Semipalmated Plover</b> <i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	▶ 📷 3







































1	<b>Piping Plover</b> <i>Charadrius melodus</i>	▶  1
2	<b>Wilson's Plover</b> <i>Anarhynchus wilsonia</i>	▶  1
2	<b>Collared Plover</b> <i>Anarhynchus collaris</i> ✓	▶  2
7	<b>Snowy Plover</b> <i>Anarhynchus nivosus</i>	▶  1
10	<b>Northern Jacana</b> <i>Jacana spinosa</i> 📍	▶  1  2
1	<b>Whimbrel</b> <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	▶  1  1
1	<b>Long-billed Curlew</b> <i>Numenius americanus</i>	▶  1  1
6	<b>Spotted Sandpiper</b> <i>Actitis macularius</i>	▶  4
1	<b>Lesser Yellowlegs</b> <i>Tringa flavipes</i>	▶  1
40	<b>Willet</b> <i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	▶  4
7	<b>Greater Yellowlegs</b> <i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	▶  1
6	<b>Ruddy Turnstone</b> <i>Arenaria interpres</i>	▶  1
1	<b>Red Knot</b> <i>Calidris canutus</i>	▶  1  1
226	<b>Sanderling</b> <i>Calidris alba</i>	▶  3
11	<b>Least Sandpiper</b> <i>Calidris minutilla</i>	▶  3
7	<b>Western Sandpiper</b> <i>Calidris mauri</i>	▶  2
64	<b>Laughing Gull</b> <i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>	▶  7
333	<b>Franklin's Gull</b> <i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i> 📍	▶  2  3
19	<b>Black Skimmer</b> <i>Rynchops niger</i>	▶  2
20	<b>Gull-billed Tern</b> <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	▶  2
1	<b>Caspian Tern</b> <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	▶  1
5	<b>Common Tern</b> <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	▶  1
28	<b>Sandwich Tern</b> <i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	▶  2

































49	<b>Royal Tern</b> <i>Thalasseus maximus</i>	▶  3
6	<b>Least Grebe</b> <i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i>	▶  3
172	<b>Wood Stork</b> <i>Mycteria americana</i>	▶  1  6
51	<b>Magnificent Frigatebird</b> <i>Fregata magnificens</i>	▶  8
50	<b>Anhinga</b> <i>Anhinga anhinga</i>	▶  2  3
29	<b>Neotropic Cormorant</b> <i>Nannopterum brasilianum</i>	▶  5
145	<b>White Ibis</b> <i>Eudocimus albus</i>	▶  2  6
327	<b>White-faced Ibis</b> <i>Plegadis chihi</i> 	▶  1  4
8	<b>Roseate Spoonbill</b> <i>Platalea ajaja</i>	▶  1
7	<b>Yellow-crowned Night Heron</b> <i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	▶  3  2
2	<b>Black-crowned Night Heron</b> <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	▶  1
8	<b>Little Blue Heron</b> <i>Egretta caerulea</i> 	▶  1  4
5	<b>Tricolored Heron</b> <i>Egretta tricolor</i>	▶  4
4	<b>Reddish Egret</b> <i>Egretta rufescens</i>	▶  2  3
15	<b>Snowy Egret</b> <i>Egretta thula</i>	▶  5
8	<b>Green Heron</b> <i>Butorides virescens</i>	▶  1  7
176	<b>Western Cattle-Egret</b> <i>Ardea ibis</i> 	▶  1  8
14	<b>Great Egret</b> <i>Ardea alba</i>	▶  5
23	<b>Great Blue Heron</b> <i>Ardea herodias</i>	▶  6
271	<b>American White Pelican</b> <i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	▶  3
47	<b>Brown Pelican</b> <i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	▶  6
227	<b>Black Vulture</b> <i>Coragyps atratus</i>	▶  17
67,377	<b>Turkey Vulture</b> <i>Cathartes aura</i>	▶  2  17

13	<b>Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture</b> <i>Cathartes burrovianus</i>	 4  2
9	<b>Osprey</b> <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	  9
2	<b>Hook-billed Kite</b> <i>Chondrohierax uncinatus</i>	  1
28	<b>Sharp-shinned Hawk</b> <i>Accipiter striatus</i>	  12
8	<b>Cooper's Hawk</b> <i>Astur cooperii</i>	  7
1	<b>Northern Harrier</b> <i>Circus hudsonius</i>	  1
2	<b>Mississippi Kite</b> <i>Ictinia mississippiensis</i>	  2
1	<b>Snail Kite</b> <i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>	  1
4	<b>Common Black Hawk</b> <i>Buteogallus anthracinus</i>	  4
2	<b>Great Black Hawk</b> <i>Buteogallus urubitinga</i>	  2
8	<b>Roadside Hawk</b> <i>Rupornis magnirostris</i>	  7
4	<b>Gray Hawk</b> <i>Buteo plagiatus</i>	  3
24,211	<b>Broad-winged Hawk</b> <i>Buteo platypterus</i>	  12
1	<b>Zone-tailed Hawk</b> <i>Buteo albonotatus</i>	  1
6	<b>Short-tailed Hawk</b> <i>Buteo brachyurus</i>	  4
100,522	<b>Swainson's Hawk</b> <i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	  9
6	<b>Red-tailed Hawk</b> <i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	  4
19	<b>Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl</b> <i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>	  8
1	<b>Black-headed Trogon</b> <i>Trogon melanocephalus</i>	  1
1	<b>Mountain Trogon</b> <i>Trogon mexicanus</i>	  1
6	<b>Blue-capped Motmot</b> <i>Momotus coeruliceps</i>	  2
5	<b>Ringed Kingfisher</b> <i>Megaceryle torquata</i>	  2
6	<b>Belted Kingfisher</b> <i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	  5













2	<b>Amazon Kingfisher</b> <i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>	▶  1
4	<b>Green Kingfisher</b> <i>Chloroceryle americana</i> 	▶  1  3
1	<b>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker</b> <i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	▶  1
4	<b>Acorn Woodpecker</b> <i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i> 	▶  1  1
20	<b>Golden-fronted Woodpecker</b> <i>Melanerpes aurifrons</i> 	▶  1  13
7	<b>Ladder-backed Woodpecker</b> <i>Dryobates scalaris</i>	▶  6
1	<b>Strickland's Woodpecker</b> <i>Dryobates stricklandi</i>  	▶  2  1
1	<b>Lineated Woodpecker</b> <i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>	▶  1
1	<b>Golden-olive Woodpecker</b> <i>Colaptes rubiginosus</i>	▶  1
2	<b>Laughing Falcon</b> <i>Herpetotheres cachinnans</i>	▶  2
2	<b>Collared Forest-Falcon</b> <i>Micrastur semitorquatus</i> 	▶  2
3	<b>Crested Caracara</b> <i>Caracara plancus</i>	▶  3
16	<b>American Kestrel</b> <i>Falco sparverius</i>	▶  11
4	<b>Merlin</b> <i>Falco columbarius</i>	▶  4
10	<b>Aplomado Falcon</b> <i>Falco femoralis</i> 	▶  1  5
5	<b>Peregrine Falcon</b> <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	▶  2  5
10	<b>Monk Parakeet</b> <i>Myiopsitta monachus</i> * 	▶  2  3
2	<b>Red-lored Amazon</b> <i>Amazona autumnalis</i> 	▶  1  1
1	<b>Yellow-headed Amazon</b> <i>Amazona oratrix</i> Sensitive 	▶  1
21	<b>White-fronted Amazon</b> <i>Amazona albifrons</i> 	▶  3  4
13	<b>Olive-throated Parakeet</b> <i>Eupsittula nana</i> 	▶  5
1	<b>Barred Antshrike</b> <i>Thamnophilus doliatus</i>	▶  1
5	<b>Masked Tityra</b> <i>Tityra semifasciata</i>	▶  4  3






























5	<b>Rose-throated Becard</b> <i>Pachyramphus aglaiae</i>	▶  2
2	<b>Common Tody-Flycatcher</b> <i>Todirostrum cinereum</i> 	▶  1  1
1	<b>Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet</b> <i>Camptostoma imberbe</i>	▶  1
5	<b>Yellow-bellied Elaenia</b> <i>Elaenia flavogaster</i> 	▶  1  1
1	<b>Olive-sided Flycatcher</b> <i>Contopus cooperi</i>	▶  1
1	<b>Greater Pewee</b> <i>Contopus pertinax</i>	▶  1
3	<b>Eastern Wood-Pewee</b> <i>Contopus virens</i>	▶  1  3
1	<b>Yellow-bellied Flycatcher</b> <i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	▶  1
13	<b>Least Flycatcher</b> <i>Empidonax minimus</i>	▶  2  8
1	<b>Hammond's Flycatcher</b> <i>Empidonax hammondii</i>	▶  1
2	<b>Dusky Flycatcher</b> <i>Empidonax oberholseri</i>	▶  2
1	<b>Pine Flycatcher</b> <i>Empidonax affinis</i>	▶  1
2	<b>Western Flycatcher</b> <i>Empidonax difficilis</i>	▶  1
10	<b>Eastern Phoebe</b> <i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	▶  1  9
1	<b>Say's Phoebe</b> <i>Sayornis saya</i>	▶  1
16	<b>Vermilion Flycatcher</b> <i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i> 	▶  5  7
3	<b>Dusky-capped Flycatcher</b> <i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>	▶  2
1	<b>Great Crested Flycatcher</b> <i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	▶  1
1	<b>Brown-crested Flycatcher</b> <i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i> 	▶  1  1
34	<b>Great Kiskadee</b> <i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>	▶  13
14	<b>Boat-billed Flycatcher</b> <i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>	▶  1  8
39	<b>Social Flycatcher</b> <i>Myiozetetes similis</i>	▶  17
25	<b>Tropical Kingbird</b> <i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	▶  10
































4	<b>Couch's Kingbird</b> <i>Tyrannus couchii</i>	▶  2
2	<b>Cassin's Kingbird</b> <i>Tyrannus vociferans</i> 	▶  2  2
117	<b>Scissor-tailed Flycatcher</b> <i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>	▶  4  10
3	<b>Fork-tailed Flycatcher</b> <i>Tyrannus savana</i> 	▶  1  1
13	<b>White-eyed Vireo</b> <i>Vireo griseus</i>	▶  9
3	<b>Hutton's Vireo</b> <i>Vireo huttoni</i>	▶  1
1	<b>Yellow-throated Vireo</b> <i>Vireo flavifrons</i> 	▶  1  1
2	<b>Cassin's Vireo</b> <i>Vireo cassinii</i>	▶  1
4	<b>Blue-headed Vireo</b> <i>Vireo solitarius</i>	▶  2
1	<b>Loggerhead Shrike</b> <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	▶  1
12	<b>Brown Jay</b> <i>Cyanocorax morio</i>	▶  5
3	<b>Green Jay</b> <i>Cyanocorax yncas</i> 	▶  1  1
3	<b>Steller's Jay</b> <i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>	▶  2
3	<b>Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay</b> <i>Aphelocoma woodhouseii</i> 	▶  1  1
2	<b>Transvolcanic Jay</b> <i>Aphelocoma ultramarina</i>  	▶  4  1
4	<b>Mexican Chickadee</b> <i>Poecile sclateri</i>	▶  2
1	<b>Tree Swallow</b> <i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	▶  1
5	<b>Mangrove Swallow</b> <i>Tachycineta albilinea</i>	▶  1
54	<b>Northern Rough-winged Swallow</b> <i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	▶  1  9
21	<b>Barn Swallow</b> <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	▶  5
53	<b>Cliff Swallow</b> <i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	▶  8
3	<b>Bushtit</b> <i>Psaltiriparus minimus</i>	▶  1
2	<b>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</b> <i>Corthylio calendula</i>	▶  2

1	<b>Golden-crowned Kinglet</b> <i>Regulus satrapa</i>	▶  1
1	<b>White-breasted Nuthatch</b> <i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	▶  1
2	<b>Pygmy Nuthatch</b> <i>Sitta pygmaea</i>	▶  1
1	<b>Brown Creeper</b> <i>Certhia americana</i>	▶  1
33	<b>Blue-gray Gnatcatcher</b> <i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	▶  14
1	<b>Canyon Wren</b> <i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>	▶  1
14	<b>Northern House Wren</b> <i>Troglodytes aedon</i> 	▶  1  8
1	<b>Southern House Wren</b> <i>Troglodytes musculus</i>	▶  1
1	<b>Grass Wren</b> <i>Cistothorus platensis</i>	▶  1
1	<b>Bewick's Wren</b> <i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	▶  1
34	<b>Band-backed Wren</b> <i>Campylorhynchus zonatus</i>	▶  6
12	<b>Veracruz Wren</b> <i>Campylorhynchus rufinucha</i>  	▶  4  4
4	<b>Spot-breasted Wren</b> <i>Pheugopedius maculipectus</i>  	▶  1  2
2	<b>Gray-breasted Wood-Wren</b> <i>Henicorhina leucophrys</i>	▶  1
3	<b>Blue Mockingbird</b> <i>Melanotis caerulescens</i>	▶  2
4	<b>Gray Catbird</b> <i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	▶  3
3	<b>Tropical Mockingbird</b> <i>Mimus gilvus</i>	▶  2
1	<b>Northern Mockingbird</b> <i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	▶  1
1	<b>Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush</b> <i>Catharus frantzii</i> 	▶  1
1	<b>Gray-cheeked Thrush</b> <i>Catharus minimus</i>	▶  1
1	<b>Swainson's Thrush</b> <i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	▶  1
1	<b>Hermit Thrush</b> <i>Catharus guttatus</i>	▶  1
3	<b>Wood Thrush</b> <i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	▶  3



11	<b>Clay-colored Thrush</b> <i>Turdus grayi</i>	▶  7
4	<b>American Robin</b> <i>Turdus migratorius</i>	▶  2
7	<b>Gray Silky-flycatcher</b> <i>Ptiliogonys cinereus</i>	▶  2
3	<b>Olive Warbler</b> <i>Peucedramus taeniatus</i>	▶  2
2	<b>House Sparrow</b> <i>Passer domesticus</i> *	▶  1
2	<b>American Pipit</b> <i>Anthus rubescens</i>	▶  1
13	<b>Scrub Euphonia</b> <i>Euphonia affinis</i>	▶  7
3	<b>Yellow-throated Euphonia</b> <i>Euphonia hirundinacea</i>	▶  1
7	<b>House Finch</b> <i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i> 📷	▶  1  3
26	<b>Lesser Goldfinch</b> <i>Spinus psaltria</i>	▶  2
1	<b>Common Chlorospingus</b> <i>Chlorospingus flavopectus</i>	▶  1
1	<b>Botteri's Sparrow</b> <i>Peucaea botterii</i>	▶  1
1	<b>Grasshopper Sparrow</b> <i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	▶  1
2	<b>Chipping Sparrow</b> <i>Spizella passerina</i>	▶  1
10	<b>Lark Sparrow</b> <i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	▶  2
3	<b>Yellow-eyed Junco</b> <i>Junco phaeonotus</i>	▶  2
3	<b>Striped Sparrow</b> <i>Oriturus superciliosus</i> ✓ 📷	▶  1  1
2	<b>Lincoln's Sparrow</b> <i>Melospiza lincolni</i>	▶  1
1	<b>Canyon Towhee</b> <i>Melospiza fusca</i>	▶  1
4	<b>Rusty Sparrow</b> <i>Aimophila rufescens</i> 📷	▶  1  2
2	<b>Collared Towhee</b> <i>Pipilo ocai</i>	▶  1
2	<b>Rufous-capped Brushfinch</b> <i>Atlapetes pileatus</i>	▶  1
16	<b>Yellow-breasted Chat</b> <i>Icteria virens</i>	▶  9

3	<b>Eastern Meadowlark</b>	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	▶  1
2	<b>Montezuma Oropendola</b>	<i>Psarocolius montezuma</i>	▶  2
8	<b>Orchard Oriole</b>	<i>Icterus spurius</i>	▶  1  4
3	<b>Hooded Oriole</b>	<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>	▶  1
13	<b>Altamira Oriole</b>	<i>Icterus gularis</i> 	▶  3  8
3	<b>Audubon's Oriole</b>	<i>Icterus graduacauda</i>	▶  2
4	<b>Baltimore Oriole</b>	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	▶  4
1	<b>Red-winged Blackbird</b>	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	▶  1
50	<b>Bronzed Cowbird</b>	<i>Molothrus aeneus</i>	▶  5
40	<b>Melodious Blackbird</b>	<i>Dives dives</i> 	▶  2  12
107	<b>Great-tailed Grackle</b>	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	▶  12
1	<b>Ovenbird</b>	<i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>	▶  1
2	<b>Louisiana Waterthrush</b>	<i>Parkesia motacilla</i>	▶  2
6	<b>Northern Waterthrush</b>	<i>Parkesia noveboracensis</i>	▶  4
1	<b>Blue-winged Warbler</b>	<i>Vermivora cyanoptera</i>	▶  1
4	<b>Black-and-white Warbler</b>	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	▶  3
2	<b>Crescent-chested Warbler</b>	<i>Oreothlypis superciliosa</i>	▶  2
1	<b>Tennessee Warbler</b>	<i>Leiothlypis peregrina</i>	▶  1
2	<b>Nashville Warbler</b>	<i>Leiothlypis ruficapilla</i>	▶  2
5	<b>MacGillivray's Warbler</b>	<i>Geothlypis tolmiei</i>	▶  2
3	<b>Common Yellowthroat</b>	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	▶  2
1	<b>Hooded Yellowthroat</b>	<i>Geothlypis nelsoni</i> 	▶  1
2	<b>Hooded Warbler</b>	<i>Setophaga citrina</i>	▶  2

1	<b>American Redstart</b> <i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	▶  1
1	<b>Northern Parula</b> <i>Setophaga americana</i>	▶  1
1	<b>Tropical Parula</b> <i>Setophaga pitiayumi</i>	▶  1
13	<b>Magnolia Warbler</b> <i>Setophaga magnolia</i>	▶  8
22	<b>Yellow Warbler</b> <i>Setophaga petechia</i>	▶  10
1	<b>Chestnut-sided Warbler</b> <i>Setophaga pensylvanica</i>	▶  2  1
8	<b>Yellow-rumped Warbler</b> <i>Setophaga coronata</i>	▶  2
3	<b>Yellow-throated Warbler</b> <i>Setophaga dominica</i>	▶  3
4	<b>Townsend's Warbler</b> <i>Setophaga townsendi</i>	▶  4
3	<b>Hermit Warbler</b> <i>Setophaga occidentalis</i>	▶  3
10	<b>Black-throated Green Warbler</b> <i>Setophaga virens</i>	▶  1  5
4	<b>Rufous-capped Warbler</b> <i>Basileuterus rufifrons</i>	▶  2
1	<b>Golden-crowned Warbler</b> <i>Basileuterus culicivorus</i>	▶  1
29	<b>Wilson's Warbler</b> <i>Cardellina pusilla</i> 	▶  1  11
1	<b>Red Warbler</b> <i>Cardellina rubra</i>	▶  1
2	<b>Slate-throated Redstart</b> <i>Myioborus miniatus</i>	▶  2
1	<b>Hepatic Tanager</b> <i>Piranga flava</i>	▶  1  1
7	<b>Summer Tanager</b> <i>Piranga rubra</i>	▶  1  7
1	<b>Flame-colored Tanager</b> <i>Piranga bidentata</i> 	▶  1  1
2	<b>White-winged Tanager</b> <i>Piranga leucoptera</i>	▶  2
2	<b>Northern Cardinal</b> <i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	▶  2
4	<b>Rose-breasted Grosbeak</b> <i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	▶  2
6	<b>Blue Grosbeak</b> <i>Passerina caerulea</i>	▶  4

- 28 **Indigo Bunting** *Passerina cyanea* ▶ 📄 5
- 1 **Painted Bunting** *Passerina ciris* ▶ 📄 1
- 115 **Dickcissel** *Spiza americana* ▶ 📄 5
- 6 **Blue-gray Tanager** *Thraupis episcopus* ▶ 📄 5
- 9 **Yellow-winged Tanager** *Thraupis abbas* ✓ ▶ 📄 5
- 3 **Grassland Yellow-Finch** *Sicalis luteola* ✓ ▶ 📄 1
- 13 **Blue-black Grassquit** *Volatinia jacarina* ▶ 📄 4
- 5 **Morelet's Seedeater** *Sporophila moreletii* ✓ ▶ 📄 4
- 3 **Black-headed Saltator** *Saltator atriceps* ▶ 📄 2
- 3 **Cinnamon-bellied Saltator** *Saltator grandis* ✓ ▶ 📄 2

#### ADDITIONAL TAXA

- 2 pigeon/dove sp. *Columbidae sp.* ▶ 📄 1
- 1 nightjar sp. *Caprimulgidae sp.* ▶ 📄 1
- 1 Empidonax sp. *Empidonax sp.* ▶ 📄 1
- 1 Catharus sp. *Catharus sp.* ▶ 📄 1
- 3 Eastern/Chihuahuan Meadowlark *Sturnella magna/lilianae* ▶ 📄 1
- 10 passerine sp. *Passeriformes sp.* ▶ 📄 1

FIELD GUIDES RIVER OF RAPTORS TOUR  
BUTTERFLY LIST OCTOBER 7<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2024



White-tipped Great Streak (*Atlides gaumeri*)

Photo by Jeff Pavlik

The following is a list of butterflies recorded on Field Guides Veracruz: River of Raptors Tour from October 7-17, 2024. Approximately 137 species were recorded. Most common names are from “A Swift Guide to Butterflies of Mexico and Central America” by Jeff Glassberg published in 2017. Some species may have changed status or scientific and common names since 2017. Inaturalist was consulted for additional information on tougher identifications. Compiled by Jeff Pavlik

**Subfamily Papilioninae: Swallowtails** – Thoas Swallowtails, Western Giant Swallowtail, Three-tailed Swallowtail

**Family Pieridae: Whites and Sulphurs, Mimic-Whites**

Narrow-banded Dartwhite, Florida White, Green-eyed White, Large Orange Sulphur, Apricot Sulphur, Marcellina Sulphur, Mimosa Yellow, Tailed Orange, Southern Dogface, Barred

Yellow, Clouded Skipper, White Angled-Sulphur, Cloudless Sulphur, Statira Sulphur, Sleepy Orange, Dainty Sulphur, Tiger Mimic-White

**Lycaenidae: Blues and hairstreaks** – White-tipped Hairstreak, Fine-lined Hairstreak, Tiger-eye Hairstreak, Dusky-blue Groundstreak, Red-spotted Scrub-Hairstreak, Eastern Tailed Blue, Ceraunus Blue, Western Pygmy-Blue

**Family Riodinidae: Metalmarks** – Rounded Metalmark, Square-spotted Yellowmark, Fatal Metalmark

**Family Nymphalidae : Admirals and Relatives, Leafwings and Emperors, Owls, Satyrs, Monarchs and Clearwings**

Monarch, Queen, Soldier, Malachite, Gulf Fritillary, Mexican Silverspot, Julia Heliconian, Isabella's Heliconian, Erato Heliconian, Mexican Heliconian, Zebra Heliconian, Tiger Heliconian, Variegated Fritillary, Mexican Fritillary, Bordered Patch, Elf, Black-bordered Tegosa, Ardent Crescent, Vesta Crescent, Mexican Crescent, Pale Banded Crescent, Brown Crescent, Phaon Crescent, Square-tipped Crescent, American Lady, West Coast Lady, Painted Lady, Buckeye species 2-3, White Peacock, Banded Peacock, Rusty-tipped Page, Band-celled Sister, Celadon Sister, Orange-striped Sister, Anna's Eighty-Eight, Common Banner, Mexican Bluewing, Red Rim, Gray Cracker, Glaucous Cracker, Variable Cracker, Guatemalan Cracker, Red Cracker, Blomfield's Beauty, Many-banded Daggerwing, Ruddy Daggerwing, Forrer's Leafwing, Laurel Leafwing, Pale-spotted Leafwing, Pearly Leafwing, Tiger Leafwing, Silver Emperor, Orange Owlet Plain Satyr, Two-pupil Satyr, Hermes Satyr, Starred Oxeo, Salvin's Ticlear

**Skippers - Hesperiiidae**

**Spreadwing Skippers** – Broken Silverdrop, White-striped Longtail, Mottled Longtail, Asine Longtail, Gold-tufted Skipper, Dorantes Longtail, Long-tailed Skipper, Brown Longtail, Skinner's Cloudywing, Two-barred Flasher, Yellow-tipped Flasher, Pale Mylon, Common (Dusted) Spurwing, Texas Powdered-Skipper, Tropical Checkered Skipper, Laviana White-skipper, Emerald Aguna, Caballo Skipper, Mimosa Skipper, Starred Skipper, Glazed Pellicia, Mazan's Scallopwing, Crab's Claw Skipper, Hoary Skipper, Glassy-winged Skipper, Sicklewings Skipper, Pale Sicklewings, Many Banded (or 5 banded) Skipper, Orange-spotted Skipper, Hermit Skipper

**Grass Skippers** – Redundant Skipper, Violet-patched Skipper, Fawn-spotted Skipper, Frosted Brown Skipper, Pasture Brown-Skipper, Rita's Remella, Clouded Skipper, Fiery Skipper, Whirlabout, Zabulon Skipper, Brazilian Skipper, Purple washed Skipper, Ocola Skipper, Violet banded Skipper, Faded Faceted Skipper, Eufala Skipper, Southern Skipperling, *Niconiades Victoria*, *Porphyrogenes calathana*