

ORNITHOLIDAYS TOUR TO MEXICO
Western Mexican Endemics

27 January - 06 February 2012



Leader: Colin Bushell

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A Personal Diary

27 January

The first Ornitholidays tour to San Blas in Western Mexico starts rather inauspiciously with a delayed British Airways departure to Mexico City. Although the flight is pleasant enough the delay gives us just enough time to connect with our Aero Mexico flight to Puerto Vallarta but the Mexican authorities have alternative plans for us with hellishly long queues at passport control. The organised chaos in Mexico City airport means that our onward connection to Puerto Vallarta is closed by the time we make our way to terminal two and attempts to retrieve the luggage are fruitless. With neither British Airways nor Aero Mexico willing to take responsibility for our predicament we check into a local hotel for the night, hoping that the situation can be rectified the following morning.

28 January

We make our way back to the airport after breakfast and although some luggage is still missing, Aero Mexico eases our worries a little by finding seats on the next flight to Puerto Vallarta for the whole group. This flight is delayed but we are grateful for small mercies as we are at least in Puerto Vallarta and able to begin birding at last!

We are relieved to find that the missing luggage has by some small miracle made its own way from Mexico City to Puerto Vallarta and waiting for us in arrivals where Karel, our driver, is waiting for us. Karel treats us to a large seafood lunch by the marina in Puerto Vallarta before we set off in the Mexican sunshine along the coast towards San Blas. We have little time for birding as we make our way into another time zone (adjusting our watches once again to seven hours behind GMT), with Brown Pelicans, Magnificent Frigatebird, American Kestrels, White-winged Doves, Great Kiskadees, Tropical Kingbirds and thousands of Sinaloa Crows (our first endemic) gathering to roost as we near San Blas.

It's a relief to reach our base for the rest of the tour, the marvellous Garza Canela hotel in San Blas, settle in and sample some of the superb cuisine on offer here.

29 January

There's just enough time for a quick look in the garden this morning before setting off to nearby Singayta. Streak-backed and Orchard Orioles feed on the flowering trees near the car park while overhead there's a mix of Northern Rough-winged and Tree Swallows. It's just a short journey in our minibus to the village of Singayta and Karel finds a suitable spot for one of his great field breakfasts and sets up the table and chairs while we bird the forest edges along the lanes. The big fig tree above us is attracting many North American migrants like Nashville and Wilson's Warblers, American Redstarts and Summer Tanagers with Blue-grey Gnatcatchers flitting around in their usual nervous manner. Gazing across the creek we can see a super male Green Kingfisher with his chestnut breast and he's soon joined by a female before we drag ourselves away from the cheese and ham sandwiches (hmmmm, yummy), banana bread and pastries with hot, strong coffee. The Lower Singayta has a nice mix of forest and semi-arid scrub with some larger trees providing the birds (and us) with some shade as the morning gets hotter. Thick-billed Kingbirds call from the tops of the tallest trees as we try to identify those tricky Myiarchus flycatchers (we identify Ash-throated and Brown-crested on call this morning). Another of those difficult groups - Empidonax flycatchers appears, but lucky for us this one is calling and reveals itself as a Pacific Slope Flycatcher and shows well indeed (allowing scope views).

I use the pygmy-owl recording whenever bird activity subsides a little and inevitably this attracts the local Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl. Karel finds the culprit with his sharp eyes as Broad-billed and Cinnamon Hummingbirds buzz perilously close to the owl. The Yellow-breasted Chat (the initial reason for using the owl call) fails to appear after only a brief appearance however. We are reminded of the proximity of brackish water and the extensive mangrove systems of San Blas constantly as American White Pelicans, White Ibis and frigatebirds pass overhead, with Zone-tailed and Short-tailed Hawks over the distant hillsides too.

Finding a fruiting tree in the Lower Singayta can be productive and we see many Masked Tityras with Pink-throated Becards this morning with Violet-capped and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds on a nearby flowering tree. Mexican Parrotlets tease us with fleeting views through the trees and on reaching a more arid area we find a male Varied Bunting on the track as Groove-billed Anis pour across in front of us.

It's time to wrap up proceedings for the morning as lunchtime is approaching but there's just one last surprise in store when several magnificent Black-throated Magpie-Jays fly over, some perching in trees very close to the village as we leave.

This afternoon we have a leisurely trip in the mangrove channels near San Blas. Too much exercise is maybe a little inadvisable after our more than adequate lunch in San Blas anyway, even after our siesta time in the hotel! It's great to be reacquainted with Chencho once again, probably the best boatman in the San Blas area, as he knows the mangrove sites very well indeed. The beaches are interesting for birds with herons and egrets feeding, loafing ducks and a few waders probing the mangrove mud on the shore. American Redstarts, Northern and Louisiana Waterthrushes call and forage in the mangrove borders, but there's no sign of Rufous-necked Wood-Rail (our target bird this afternoon) at our first stop. Long-billed Dowitcher, Semipalmated Plovers, Western and Least Sandpipers and Willets feed close by alongside Little Blue and Tricolored Herons but we must move to the next beach in search of the wood-rail. Chencho pulls up close to the next exposed mudflat in the shadow of dense mangroves and a Rufous-necked Wood-Rail appears (albeit briefly) after a series of playback calls. Unfortunately it fails to reappear and aware that this special bird of this area is maybe subjected to quite a bit of tape-luring we move to another beach before trying once again.

Unfortunately we fail to locate another wood-rail but we do see some spectacular gatherings of wetland birds, particularly in the sanctuary zone where thousands of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, Northern Jacanas, Roseate Spoonbills, Blue-winged Teals and a few American Avocets are seen before returning to San Blas for dinner.

30 January

We're off to the forested foothills above the small town of La Bajada this morning, one of my favourite birding sites close to San Blas. Leaving the hotel there's evidence of overnight rain (rare in my experience on birding tours to this part of Mexico) and the air has an even fresher feel to it as the bus begins to ascend the cobbled road through the coffee plantations. It's a familiar routine (for me at least): reach the clearing at the top, tripods and scopes out and scan the treetops while Karel prepares breakfast. Crested Guans, rare in this area, feed in the canopy of an emergent tree as White-fronted and Lilac-crowned Parrots fly over the treetops. Some of the parrots perch for a while (the scopes are proving valuable now) but the Mexican Parrotlets are being more elusive, their green plumage and tiny size making them very tricky to see in the leaves. Yellow-winged Caciques give us our first real decent views of the tour but are soon ignored (despite being an endemic) when a fine Laughing Falcon is found.

The sun begins to warm the nearby trees and Berylline Hummingbirds and Black-and-white and Black-throated Grey Warblers feed as our breakfast time comes to an end. We begin our walk along the track and down the hill with Tufted Flycatchers, Greater Pewees and Golden-cheeked and Pale-billed Woodpeckers for company. The tinny song of a Brown-backed Solitaire rings out in the distant forest, Red-billed Pigeons sing from the canopy and Western Tanagers and Hooded Orioles flit around the tops of flowering trees. Grey and Broad-winged Hawks take to the air as the morning becomes even warmer and it's now time to take a side track into a more shady part of the forest. Colima Pygmy-Owl can be difficult to see here and the one that we locate calling certainly is! Unfortunately it remains hidden but the diversion taken to search for it produces Ivory-billed Woodcreeper and Russet-crowned Motmot so all is not lost by any means. Grey-collared and Rose-throated Becards are located along with the usual congregations of Rufous-backed Robins as soon as a fruiting tree is found and Black-throated Magpie-Jays are always great to see anytime. Grey Silky-Flycatchers and an Elegant Trogon are some of the last birds found on the lower stretches of the road before Karel collects us and takes us to lunch in nearby Miramar.

Unfortunately there's not too much to distract us from our Quesadillas and Fajitas in the bay apart from a few Brown Boobies and Willets but we're in the field soon after lunch searching the scrub and brush along the approach road to the restaurant. Indigo Buntings are common here in the fields but with little else to distract us we head to Puente Atacama where I've had some good gull watching on previous visits to San

Blas. The mix of fresh and salt water attracts many birds including Heerman's, California, Laughing and Ring-billed Gulls. A single Franklin's Gull is found and there are Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, Brown Pelicans and Caspian Terns for those less enthusiastic about gulls!

After all this excitement we make our way back towards San Blas, taking a quick look at the mangrove pools (Cinnamon Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs) before boarding our boat for a tour of the La Tovaranga Mangroves. This "safari" is very popular with tourists but our late afternoon departure means less boat traffic through the channels. We're off to a great start with a beast of a Collared Forest-Falcon calling and then seen in an exposed tree above the mangroves; Mexico is surely one of the best places to see this bird. Bare-throated Tiger-Heron is our next speciality followed by Boat-billed Herons, Snail Kite, Bat Falcon and Muscovy Duck. Purple Gallinules creep over the lower mangrove branches but we're waiting for dusk and the main attraction of the Tovaranga – Northern Potoo.

Our return journey to the dock is punctuated with stops for at least six of the strange looking nocturnal birds. All are perched on dead tree stumps in the mangroves, a few taking flight (they are surprisingly bulky birds in flight) in the beam of our spotlight.

31 January

We leave San Blas at 0600 this morning to travel to the uplands of Cerro de San Juan. It's another fine morning but on reaching the lower slopes of the mountain we need our fleeces for the first time on this tour. Our "regular" breakfast stop is a little quiet for birds although we are able to watch a Bat Falcon at leisure, plucking and devouring his "early starter" too.

Cerro de San Juan has some nice pine and oak forest so birding here is just a case of listening and watching for flocks as we drive or walk slowly along the road. This morning is a little quiet for bird activity however, our first flock located rather later than normal. Hepatic Tanagers, McGillivray's Warblers, Warbling Vireos and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet are all new for the tour list though and a fine Red-tailed Hawk takes to the air as the sun gets higher. Our first White-eared Hummingbird appears, a typical hummer of the Mexican highlands and we are indeed fortunate to see Golden-crowned Emerald and Mexican Woodnymph on the few flowering bushes found along the road this morning. Despite extensive searching there's no sign of Bumblebee Hummingbird today though. The distinctive song of the Golden Vireo bursts from a roadside patch of forest and we're soon watching our first one for the tour. Audubon's Warblers are in every field with Townsend's, Grace's and Wilson's Warblers in the oak forest borders along the road. Reaching the highest point of the road there's some Northern Ravens overhead with Chipping Sparrows plentiful in the weedy fields of the plateau section of the road. One "purple patch" of forest, first located by the appearance of a Painted Redstart spotted from the car, produces Red-faced Warbler, Slate-throated Redstart and a nice Blue Mockingbird.

Spotted Wrens are today's lunchtime birds along with Eastern Bluebirds, Say's Phoebes, Cassin's Kingbirds and some Black-headed Siskins on telegraph wires. Back in the forest we've added White-striped Woodcreepers, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Arizona Woodpecker to our list but it's time to leave by mid-afternoon as we have another site to visit.

Mirador de Aguila may mean "Eagle Viewpoint", but it's not eagles we're after here. This high section of the road looks over some semi-arid forest and more humid forest-cloaked canyons and rocky outcrops. This is the home of the rare Military Macaw and although I have a 100% record here I know they can be tricky to see if they simply choose to feed in the next valley. The distant but distinctive raucous calls of the macaws fill us with optimism though and suddenly there are two below us but flying away. A little time passes before the next pair of Military Macaws takes to the air but we have a very positive result when a pair perches in the trees below the viewpoint. These superb birds appear quite splendid through the scope in the late afternoon sunshine and, although the mountain may have been a little disappointing, the day has ended very well indeed.

1 February

A slightly later start is called for this morning as we're only travelling as far as Lower Singayta and birding begins less than 20 minutes after leaving the hotel. This part of Singayta has some arid scrub and forest, probably the only local site to San Blas where this can be found. Naturally there is a slightly different

avifauna here but our first birds of the morning are quite widespread. Indeed an Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush hopping along the road in front of the bus is new for the tour!

Bright-rumped Attila and then Citreoline Trogon are seen as we take our field breakfast with Inca Doves and Common and Ruddy Ground-Doves nearby. Entering the drier forest we quickly locate three Rosy Thrush-Tanagers (one of our target birds) in a clump of bushes. Track-side Painted Buntings and Cassin's and Bell's Vireos in the trees are very welcome, but not as appreciated as the Happy Wren that shows as we've been tracking this species for some time without a view thus far. Blue Bunting appears briefly but the male Rose-breasted Chat appears only briefly frustrates most of the group, before a female shows for just one observer! A patch of taller forest is a little disappointing for birds apart from a juvenile Hook-billed Kite.

We spend the rest of the morning birding the Crocodrilario (Crocodile Farm) road which is surprisingly productive despite the warm climate. Rufous-bellied Chachalacas are (at last) seen well after hearing so many, before we stop at a very productive wetland area with American Wigeon, Common Black Hawk, Cinnamon-rumped Seedeater, Lincoln's and Savannah Sparrows and many Common Yellowthroats on show. After a good morning's birding it's time to head back to San Blas for lunch.

This afternoon's birding venue is the Cachalilla road and the shrimp ponds. The lagoons and ponds are packed with birds, mostly species that we've already seen on the tour, but we get to see our first Green-winged Teals, Long-billed Curlews and Marbled Godwits of the tour so it's definitely a worthwhile exercise. In the late afternoon we try for Lesser Ground-Cuckoo in some likely habitat nearby. We do locate two calling birds but unfortunately and most frustratingly, both are in inaccessible scrubby areas.

2 February

This morning is a bit different, to say the least. We're able to have breakfast at the hotel Garza Canela after some birding in the grounds (nice views of Blue Grosbeak and Orchard Orioles) before taking to the sea. Our mini-pelagic takes us from the dock (which we can see from our hotel) out to the Rock of the Virgin. Hundreds of gulls are gathering on the beach, mostly Laughing and Heerman's in hordes of Brown Pelicans. Grey Plovers on the shore are new for the tour as are several American Oystercatchers seen on the way to the rock. Our target bird this morning is the Blue-footed Booby and they are seen easily at the rock, with just a few Brown Boobies flying out to sea for comparison. Grey-breasted Martins must be breeding on the rock too (why else would they be here?) and some Magnificent Frigatebirds pass close to the boat.

After our short pelagic excursion we are dropped at Peso Island where we get our best views to date of Rufous-bellied Chachalaca in the first wooded patch near the fort. With the morning becoming so warm birds are hard to find, but Yellow-breasted Chat and another Happy Wren are well-appreciated and an Elegant Trogon is unexpected in this rather arid habitat. A last inspection of birds on the beach reveals two Black Skimmers before we have to head back in the boat.

This afternoon's excursion begins at the fort overlooking San Blas. Although not particularly good for birds, the site affords spectacular views across San Blas and the neighbouring extensive mangrove systems. A nice flock of Rufous-backed Thrushes are feeding in a fruiting tree but bird activity is otherwise stifled by the afternoon heat.

We spend the rest of the afternoon along a mangrove trail close to La Tovar. Surprisingly low in both mosquito and bird activity, the trail produces little new apart from some good views of Mangrove Warbler but it's good to see another Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, some great views of Belted and Green Kingfishers, Muscovy Ducks and White-fronted Parrots. Still no San Blas Jays though

3 February

It's rare that one gets an opportunity to try "new" birding sites, especially in Mexico where most itineraries are established. Today's venue, Tequitata is however a relatively new site, having been discovered only in the last few years. Once again we are indebted to local communities for their vision, preserving remnants of semi-humid hill forest with swathes of pristine cover above us on the upper slopes. After a short ride into the foothills we check in at the village where Fabian (one of the residents) escorts us to the mountain track. Black-throated Magpie-Jays and Golden-cheeked Woodpeckers accompany us as we take our field breakfast and we can hear San Blas Jays in the distance. San Blas Jay is at this stage of the trip a much-desired bird

indeed and Fabian knows a good site. In no time at all we're watching a small party of these garrulous birds with gorgeous blue and black plumage tones.

The thermals are now carrying Red-tailed, Zone-tailed and Short-tailed Hawks and we finally watch Mexican Parrotlets through the scope. My, they still look just like leaves!

A fine male Grey-collared Becard is located in the trees above us, just one of many Western Mexico specialities seen today that also include Golden Vireo. Pale-billed Woodpeckers are quite common in the old tall tree stumps; we even see a few juveniles this morning. A fruiting tree is quivering with activity, mostly White-throated Thrushes but we also enjoy prolonged views of Citreoline Trogon here too. A rich, melodious song from the depths of a roadside bush is that of one of our other target birds this morning. The endemic Sinaloa Wren can be a tricky customer and a helpful comment from one of our party, who shall remain nameless (Iain!), states that "it Sinaloa (in a lower) bush". Thankfully we get good views of the wren, having decided that we might stick to birding rather than comedy!

A pick-up passes, heading to the mirador where we are soon treated to some fine Mexican cuisine with the coast at Miramar and the forests of La Bajada on view. American White Pelicans can be seen from our lofty viewpoint with Elegant Trogon in the fruiting trees just uphill from our dining table. A patch of drier forest just over the pass has a nice female Rosy Thrush-Tanager for us before we begin to retrace our steps in the early afternoon.

Vaux's Swifts hawk across the nearby hillsides with Bullock's Orioles in a distant flowering tree. We agree that although it may not be the day with the most new birds, it's certainly been the most enjoyable birding of the tour.

4 February

It's our last full day in Mexico today and we decide on a return to the dry forest of the Lower Singayta first thing this morning. Once again we start with fine views of Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush on the track before breakfast with Citreoline Trogons. Black-capped Vireo is a new bird for the trip today and what a cracking individual! We have no joy with the Red-breasted Chat this morning so we head to the Upper Singayta where some more dry forest and scrub where Ladder-backed Woodpeckers and Yellow-breasted Chats show well. A few see Stripe-headed Sparrow; a bird we missed on Peso Island the other morning. A Scrub Euphonia singing in the trees above us is a welcome sound and sight eventually.

We take lunch close to San Blas with time for a siesta before driving the short distance to the San Blas Sewage Ponds. Sora Rail is undoubtedly bird of the afternoon here and moving onto the Crocodile Farm Road we add Red-winged Blackbird to our tour list and enjoy the late afternoon sunshine in the company of hundreds of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks and Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal.

5 & 6 February

We board our bus with Karel for the last time for the trip back to Puerto Vallarta to catch our flight home. The omens are not good with flights into Heathrow delayed or even cancelled due to snow back in the UK. We enjoy a pleasant flight to Dallas and on arrival the news of our flight to London are promising and although we board a little late, there is no concern as we have no connections.

We arrive in the frosty UK after a good flight with American Airlines and with our luggage safely retrieved we head for home after a great birding tour to Mexico.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Karel in Puerto Vallarta. Karel drives safely, knows all the birding sites and routes very well. He is exceptionally good company and knowledgeable of all things Mexican including the food. We received some very helpful information from Mark Stackhouse, a San Blas birder; particularly concerning our first ever trip to Tequitata. The friendly staff at the excellent Hotel Garza Canela deserve a special mention; I cannot think of a better base for a single site birding tour (apart from REGUA in Brazil, maybe). Finally my most sincere thanks to you all – good humour, good food and good birds make a great tour. Many thanks to John Cutting for letting me use his photographs in this report

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Itinerary and Weather

Having spent over two months in Mexico previously with only one day of rain, I did not expect much on this tour. For once I was right. The weather was generally dry, hot and sunny, although rarely uncomfortable for birding. Generally we experienced temperatures around 29 – 31 degrees Celsius throughout the trip.

- 27 January** British Airways flight from London Heathrow to Mexico City arrives late and we fail to make our Aero Mexico connection to Puerto Vallarta. Overnight in Mexico City.
- 28 January** Aero Mexico flight from Mexico City to Puerto Vallarta. Karel collects us from the airport and takes us to San Blas and the Hotel Garza Canela.
Hot and sunny.
- 29 January** Birding in the San Blas area including Singayta and the mangroves.
Sunny in the morning becoming cloudy with a few spots of rain in the afternoon in overcast conditions.
- 30 January** Excursion to La Bajada in the morning. Lunch at Miramar with birding at Puente Aticama for gulls shortly afterwards. Late afternoon boat trip in the La Tovaranga Mangroves, staying late for Northern Potosi.
Cool in the early morning at La Bajada (it rained the previous night), but hot and sunny in the late morning and afternoon.
- 31 January** Day trip to Cerro de San Juan, calling at Mirador de Aguila on the way back to San Blas in the late afternoon.
Overcast with sunny spells.
- 1 February** Full day birding in the San Blas area including Singayta Sur (dry forest), Crocodile Farm Road, Shrimp Ponds and the Cachalilla Road.
Hot and sunny all day.
- 2 February** Morning boat trip to Piedra de la Virgen for Blue-footed Booby, stopping at El Peso island on the way back to San Blas for lunch. Afternoon birding close to San Blas around the fort and along the mangrove trail.
Hot and sunny all day.
- 3 February** Day trip to Tequitata, birding in the forested foothills.
Hot and sunny all day.
- 4 February** Full day birding the San Blas area: Singayta Sur, Upper Singayta, Sewage Ponds and Crocodile Farm Road.
Hot and sunny in the morning, more overcast in the afternoon.
- 5 February** Early departure for Puerto Vallarta and our flight to Dallas with onward connection to London. Hot and sunny in Mexico.
- 6 February** Arrival in London Heathrow.

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS SEEN DURING TOUR

No of days recorded	Abundance Scale (max. seen on 1 day)	
1 2h means seen on 1 day and heard on 2 other days	1 =	1 – 4 individuals
	2 =	5 - 9
	3 =	10 - 99
	4 =	100 - 999
	5 =	>1,000

SPECIES	No of days recorded	Abundance Scale	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Nomenclature follows Howell 1999			
Least Grebe	2	1	<i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i>
Blue-footed Booby	1	3	<i>Sula nebouxii</i>
Brown Booby	2	3	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>
Brown Pelican	7	4	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>
American White Pelican	3	3	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchus</i>
Neotropic Cormorant	5	3	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>
Anhinga	5	3	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>
Magnificent Frigatebird	8	4	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>
Bare-throated Tiger Heron	2	1	<i>Tigrisoma mexicanum</i>
Green Heron	5	2	<i>Butorides virescens</i>
Great Blue Heron	7	3	<i>Ardea herodias</i>
Tricolored Heron	5	1	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	4	3	<i>Nycticorax violaceus</i>
Black-crowned Night Heron	2	2	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Boat-billed Heron	2	1	<i>Cochlearius cochlearius</i>
Little Blue Heron	4	2	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>
Reddish Egret	1	1	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>
Great Egret	9	3	<i>Egretta alba</i>
Snowy Egret	5	3	<i>Egretta thula</i>
Cattle Egret	2	3	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
White Ibis	5	3	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>
White-faced Ibis	4	3	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>
Wood Stork	7	3	<i>Mycteria americana</i>
Black Vulture	9	4	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>
Turkey Vulture	9	4	<i>Cathartes aura</i>
Roseate Spoonbill	5	2	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>
Black-bellied Whistling Duck	5	4	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>
Gadwall	1	1	<i>Anas strepera</i>
Muscovy Duck	2	1	<i>Cairina moschata</i>
Green-winged Teal	1	1	<i>Anas crecca</i>
Blue-winged Teal	3	3	<i>Anas discors</i>
Cinnamon Teal	2	3	<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>
American Wigeon	1	1	<i>Anas americana</i>
Northern Shoveler	3	2	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
Ring-necked Duck	1	1	<i>Aythya collaris</i>
Osprey	4	2	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
Hook-billed Kite	1	1	<i>Chondrohierax uncinatus</i>
Snail Kite	2	1	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>
Sharp-shinned hawk	1	1	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>
Crane Hawk	1	1	<i>Geranospiza caerulescens</i>
Common Black Hawk	5	1	<i>Buteogallus anthracinus</i>
Harris's Hawk	2	1	<i>Parabuteo unicinctus</i>
Grey Hawk	7	2	<i>Buteo nitidus</i>
Broad-winged Hawk	1	1	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>
Short-tailed Hawk	2	1	<i>Buteo brachyurus</i>
Zone-tailed Hawk	1	1	<i>Buteo albonotatus</i>
Red-tailed Hawk	2	1	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>
Crested Caracara	4	1	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>
Laughing Falcon	2	1	<i>Herpetotheres cachinnans</i>

Collared Forest-Falcon	1	1h	1	<i>Micrastur semitorquatus</i>
American Kestrel	7		3	<i>Falco sparverius</i>
Merlin	1		1	<i>Falco columbarius</i>
Bat Falcon	2	1h	1	<i>Falco ruficularis</i>
Rufous-bellied Chachalaca	2	2h	3	<i>Ortalis wagleri</i>
Crested Guan	1		1	<i>Penelope purperascens</i>
Rufous-necked Wood Rail	1		1	<i>Aramides axillaris</i>
Sora	1		1	<i>Porzana carolina</i>
Purple Gallinule	2		2	<i>Porphyryla martinica</i>
Common Moorhen	4		2	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
American Coot	6		3	<i>Fulica americana</i>
Limpkin	4		3	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>
Grey Plover	1		1	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Semipalmated Plover	1		3	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>
Killdeer	1	1h	1	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>
American Oystercatcher	1		2	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>
Black-necked Stilt	5		3	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>
American Avocet	4		3	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>
Northern Jacana	3		3	<i>Jacana spinosa</i>
Greater Yellowlegs	4		1	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>
Lesser Yellowlegs	2		1	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>
Willet	5		3	<i>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</i>
Spotted Sandpiper	5		2	<i>Actitis macularia</i>
Whimbrel	5		2	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Long-billed Curlew	2		2	<i>Numenius americanus</i>
Marbled Godwit	1		1	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>
Sanderling	1		3	<i>Calidris alba</i>
Western Sandpiper	2		3	<i>Calidris mauri</i>
Least Sandpiper	2		3	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>
Stilt Sandpiper	2		3	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>
Long-billed Dowitcher	4		3	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>
Laughing Gull	2		4	<i>Larus atricilla</i>
Franklin's Gull	1		1	<i>Larus pipixcan</i>
Heermann's Gull	2		3	<i>Larus heermanni</i>
Ring-billed Gull	2		3	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>
California Gull	1		2	<i>Larus californicus</i>
Gull Billed Tern	2		3	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>
Caspian Tern	5		2	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
Black Skimmer	1		1	<i>Rynchops niger</i>
Rock Pigeon	8		3	<i>Columba livia</i>
Red-billed Pigeon	3		2	<i>Patagioenas flavivirostris</i>
Mourning Dove	1		1	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>
White-winged Dove	8		3	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>
White-tipped Dove	7		2	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>
Common Ground-Dove	6		2	<i>Columbina passerina</i>
Ruddy Ground-Dove	2		1	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>
Inca Dove	7		2	<i>Columbina inca</i>
Orange-fronted Parakeet	1	3h	3	<i>Aratinga canicularis</i>
Military Macaw	1		2	<i>Ara militaris</i>
Mexican Parrotlet	4		3	<i>Forpus cyanopygius</i>
White-fronted Parrot	5		2	<i>Amazona albifrons</i>
Lilac-crowned Parrot	1		1	<i>Amazona finschi</i>
Squirrel Cuckoo	-	2h	1	<i>Piaya cayana</i>
Lesser Ground-Cuckoo	-	1h	1	<i>Morococcyx erythropygus</i>
Groove-billed Ani	4	1h	2	<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>
Colima Pygmy Owl	-	1h	1	<i>Glaucidium palmarum</i>
Ferruginous Pygmy Owl	2	2h	1	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>
Lesser Nighthawk	2		2	<i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i>
Common Pauraque	-	1h	1	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>
Northern Potoo	1		2	<i>Nyctibius jamaicensis</i>
Vaux's Swift	1		3	<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>
Golden-crowned Emerald	1		1	<i>Chlorostilbon auriceps</i>
Broad-billed Hummingbird	3		1	<i>Cynanthus latirostris</i>

Mexican Woodnymph	1		1	<i>Thalurania ridgwayi</i>
White-eared Hummingbird	1		3	<i>Basilinna leucotis</i>
Berylline Hummingbird	3		2	<i>Amazilia beryllina</i>
Cinnamon Hummingbird	5		2	<i>Amazilia rutila</i>
Violet-crowned Hummingbird	2		1	<i>Amazilia violiceps</i>
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	2		1	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>
Rufous Hummingbird	2		1	<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>
Citreoline Trogon	3		1	<i>Trogon citreolus</i>
Elegant Trogon	3		1	<i>Trogon elegans</i>
Russet-crowned Motmot	1		1	<i>Momotus mexicanus</i>
Belted Kingfisher	7		2	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>
Green Kingfisher	5		3	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>
Acorn Woodpecker	-	1h	1	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>
Golden-cheeked Woodpecker	7		3	<i>Centurus chrysogenys</i>
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1		1	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	1	2h	1	<i>Picoides scalaris</i>
Arizona Woodpecker	1		1	<i>Picoides arizonae</i>
Grey-crowned Woodpecker	-	1h	1	<i>Piculus auricularis</i>
Lineated Woodpecker	-	5h	1	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>
Pale-billed Woodpecker	2		2	<i>Campephilus guatemalensis</i>
White-striped Woodcreeper	1		1	<i>Lepidocolaptes leucogaster</i>
Ivory-billed Woodcreeper	2		1	<i>Xiphorhynchus flavigaster</i>
Northern Beardless Tyrannulet	2		1	<i>Camptostoma imberbe</i>
Greenish Elaenia	2		1	<i>Myiopagis viridicata</i>
Tufted Flycatcher	3		1	<i>Mitrephanes phaeocercus</i>
Greater Pewee	3		1	<i>Contopus pertinax</i>
Willow Flycatcher	1		1	<i>Empidonax traillii</i>
Least Flycatcher	3		1	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>
Grey Flycatcher	1		1	<i>Empidonax wrightii</i>
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	6		2	<i>Empidonax difficilis</i>
Say's Phoebe	1		1	<i>Sayornis saya</i>
Vermillion Flycatcher	5		2	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>
Bright-rumped Attila	1	2h	1	<i>Attila spadiceus</i>
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	6		2	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>
Ash-throated Flycatcher	1		1	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>
Brown-crested Flycatcher	3		1	<i>Myiarchus tyrannus</i>
Great Kiskadee	9		3	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>
Social Flycatcher	6		2	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>
Cassin's Kingbird	1		1	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>
Tropical Kingbird	9		3	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>
Thick-billed Kingbird	4	3h	3	<i>Tyrannus crassirostris</i>
Grey-collared Becard	2	1h	1	<i>Pachyramphus major</i>
Rose-throated Becard	5		1	<i>Pachyramphus aglaiae</i>
Masked Tityra	5		3	<i>Tityra inquisitor</i>
Grey-breasted Martin	1		3	<i>Progne chalybea</i>
Tree Swallow	1		3	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>
Mangrove Swallow	4		2	<i>Tachycineta albilinea</i>
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	9		3	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>
Bank Swallow	1		1	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
Barn Swallow	2		2	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Black-throated Magpie-Jay	6	1h	1	<i>Calocitta colliei</i>
Green Jay	-	1h	1	<i>Cyanocorax yncas</i>
San Blas Jay	1		2	<i>Cyanocorax sanblasianus</i>
Sinaloa Crow	9		5	<i>Corvus sinaloae</i>
Northern Raven	1		1	<i>Corvus corax</i>
Spotted Wren	1		1	<i>Campylorhynchus gularis</i>
Sinaloa Wren	1		1	<i>Thryothorus sinaloa</i>
Happy Wren	2	3h	1	<i>Thryothorus felix</i>
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1		1	<i>Regulus calendula</i>
Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	7		3	<i>Poliophtila caerulea</i>
Eastern Bluebird	1		2	<i>Sialia sialis</i>
Brown-backed Solitaire		2h	1	<i>Myadestes occidentalis</i>
Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush	2		1	<i>Catharus aurantiirostris</i>

Rufous-backed Robin	5		3	<i>Turdus rufopalliatu</i> s
White-throated Thrush	1	1h	3	<i>Turdus assimilis</i>
Blue Mockingbird	1		1	<i>Melanotis caerulescens</i>
Northern Mockingbird	5		1	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>
Grey Silky Flycatcher	2		1	<i>Ptilononys cinereus</i>
Bell's Vireo	1		1	<i>Vireo bellii</i>
Black-capped Vireo	1		1	<i>Vireo atricapillus</i>
Plumbeous Vireo	1		1	<i>Vireo plumbeus</i>
Cassin's Vireo	1		1	<i>Vireo cassini</i>
Golden Vireo	2		1	<i>Vireo hypochryseus</i>
Warbling Vireo	2		1	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>
Orange-crowned Warbler	4		3	<i>Vermivora celata</i>
Nashville Warbler	7		3	<i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i>
Northern Parula	1		1	<i>Parula americana</i>
Tropical Parula	5		1	<i>Parula pitiayumi</i>
Yellow Warbler	2		3	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>
Mangrove [Yellow] Warbler	1		1	<i>Dendroica [p.] erithachorides</i>
Audubon's [Yellow-rumped] Warbler	4		3	<i>Dendroica [c.] audoboni</i>
Black-throated Grey Warbler	5		3	<i>Dendroica nigrescens</i>
Townsend's Warbler	1		3	<i>Dendroica townsendi</i>
Hermit Warbler	1		1	<i>Dendroica occidentalis</i>
Grace's Warbler	1		1	<i>Dendroica graciae</i>
Black-and-white Warbler	4		1	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>
American Redstart	5		3	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>
Ovenbird	1		1	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>
Northern Waterthrush	2		1	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>
Louisiana Waterthrush	2		1	<i>Seiurus motacilla</i>
MacGillivray's Warbler	4	1h	1	<i>Oporornis tolmiei</i>
Common Yellowthroat	2		2	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>
Wilson's Warbler	7		3	<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>
Red-faced Warbler	1		1	<i>Cardellina rubrifrons</i>
Painted Redstart	1		1	<i>Myioborus pictus</i>
Slate-throated Redstart	1		1	<i>Myioborus miniatus</i>
Yellow-breasted Chat	3		1	<i>Icteria virens</i>
Red-breasted Chat	1		1	<i>Granatellus venustus</i>
Godman's [Scrub] Euphonia	1		1	<i>Euphonia [affinis] godmani</i>
Hepatic Tanager	1		1	<i>Piranga flava</i>
Summer Tanager	1	3h	1	<i>Piranga rubra</i>
Western Tanager	2		3	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>
Rosy Thrush-Tanager	2		1	<i>Rhodinocichla rosea</i>
Greyish Saltator	5		2	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>
Black-headed Grosbeak	3		1	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>
Yellow Grosbeak	3		1	<i>Pheucticus chrysopleus</i>
Blue Bunting	3		1	<i>Cyanocompsa parellina</i>
Blue Grosbeak	2		1	<i>Passerina caerulea</i>
Painted Bunting	4		1	<i>Passerina ciris</i>
Varied Bunting	1		1	<i>Passerina versicolor</i>
Indigo Bunting	5		3	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>
Rusty-crowned Ground-Sparrow	-	1h	1	<i>Melospiza kieneri</i>
Blue-black Grassquit	2		2	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>
Cinnamon-rumped [White-collared] Seedeater	3		1	<i>Sporophila [torqueola] torqueola</i>
Ruddy-breasted Seedeater	1		1	<i>Sporophila minuta</i>
Striped-headed Sparrow	1		1	<i>Aimophila ruficauda</i>
Chipping Sparrow	1		3	<i>Spizella passerina</i>
Savannah Sparrow	2		1	<i>Ammodramus sandwichensis</i>
Lincoln's Sparrow	3		2	<i>Melospiza lincolni</i>
Red-winged Blackbird	1		3	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>
Great-tailed Grackle	9		4	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>
Brown headed Cowbird	1		3	<i>Molothrus ater</i>
Orchard Oriole	2		2	<i>Icterus spurius</i>
Hooded Oriole	6		1	<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>
Streak-backed Oriole	6		2	<i>Icterus pustulatus</i>
Bullock's Oriole	1		2	<i>Icterus bullockii</i>

Yellow-winged Cacique	8	3	<i>Cacicus melanicterus</i>
Black-headed Siskin	1	2	<i>Carduelis notata</i>
Lesser Goldfinch	1	1	<i>Carduelis psaltria</i>
House Sparrow	4	2	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Eastern Meadowlark	1	1	<i>Sturnella magna</i>
MAMMALS			
Collie's Squirrel	3	1	<i>Sciurus colliaei</i>
White-nosed Coati	2	1	<i>Nasua narica</i>
OTHER ANIMALS			
American Crocodile	2	1	<i>Crocodylus acutus</i>

This list represents those birds seen by party members of this tour.



Golden-cheeked Woodpecker



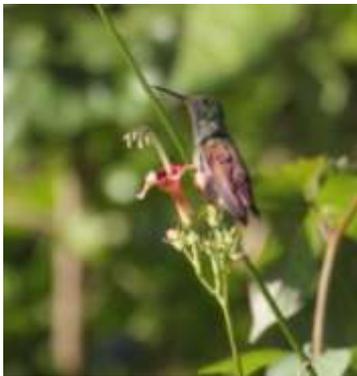
Southern Yellow Grosbeak



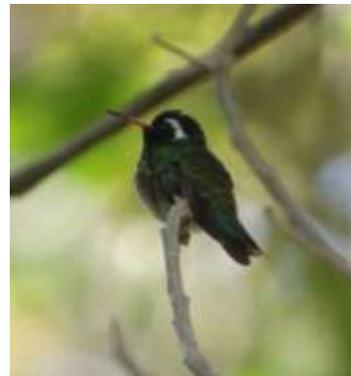
Violet-crowned Hummingbird



Broad-billed Hummingbird



Berylline Hummingbird



White-eared Hummingbird



Blue Grosbeak



Northern Potoo



Elegant Trogon



Pale-billed Woodpecker



Streak-backed Oriole



Hooded Oriole



Limpkin



Green Kingfisher



Magnificent Frigatebird



Mangrove Swallow



Roseate Spoonbill



White Ibis



Yellow-crowned Night Heron



Anhinga



Willet



Wood Storks



Blue-footed Boobies & Brown Pelican



Boat-billed Heron

Front Cover: Black-throated Magpie-Jays

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