

PEREGRINE BIRD TOURS

OAXACA, MEXICO

16 – 31 MARCH 2017

TOUR REPORT

During the tour to Oaxaca, we explored a wide variety of habitats, in a relatively small area. We birded barren cactus-studded hillsides, dry forest, refreshing pine forests, high cloud forests and steamy tropical lowland rainforest. Highlights amongst the 322 species of birds we recorded, were many and varied, and here are just a few of them; we saw no less than 21 species of stunning hummingbirds, including two rare species, Beautiful and Bumblebee, the dazzling White-collared Manakin was much appreciated, and we were very pleased to locate a large flock of endemic Dwarf Jays. The rarely encountered Ocellated Thrasher was a real treat. Mexico is without doubt, home to the best vireos in the world, including two stunning Mexican endemics, the rarely encountered Slaty and Dwarf Vireos. North American Wood Warblers in freshly acquired breeding plumage, are beauty personified, and we saw not only stunning resident species, such as Red Warbler and Red-breasted Chat, we also saw good numbers of migrants from breeding grounds in the United States and Canada, on a daily basis. The highly localised Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer was a great crowd pleaser, and the stunning Orange-breasted Bunting, was simply exquisite. Highlights amongst the mammals, were the two species of skunks we saw, the diminutive, and very beautiful Eastern Spotted Sunk and the much larger, Western Hog-nosed Skunk. All this was complemented with wonderfully authentic Mexican food, endless sunny days, culturally interesting archaeological sites, very friendly locals, and our terrific local guide Benito, who did a wonderful job for us.

Following a series of long and tiring flights from Australia, we arrived in the colonial city of Oaxaca, just as it was getting dark, we ate a splendid meal, and then settled in, for a good nights sleep.

The following morning we set off to do a mornings birding in the rocky hills and scrub-covered slopes of the nearby Teotitlan del Valle. As we drove through the suburbs of Oaxaca we saw our first birds of the tour, the introduced Feral Pigeon and the introduced House Sparrow.

On reaching Teotitlan del Valle, new birds came thick and fast, Black and Turkey Vultures, crowded the skies, a Red-tailed Hawk perched in a nearby tree, Crested Caracaras were plentiful, we saw a splendid American Kestrel, several Mourning Doves showed well, together with both White-winged and Inca Doves. A Dusky Hummingbird kept returning to its favourite perch, the endemic Grey-breasted Woodpecker proved plentiful, and we also saw a solitary Ladder-backed Woodpecker. A Least Flycatcher, proved particularly obliging, we found a Black Phoebe along the edge of a small stream, stunning Vermilion Flycatchers were much appreciated, a single Ash-throated Flycatcher flicked into view, a calling Great Kiskadee alerted us to its presence, a Social Flycatcher showed well, as did a Cassin's Kingbird. Small numbers of Barn Swallows flew overhead, a Gray-barred Wren behaved very well for us, and we very much enjoyed watching a pair of besotted Boucard's Wrens, performing mutual grooming! The delicate Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was greatly admired, a Northern Mockingbird perched on top of a nearby cactus, a Curve-billed Thrasher showed well, Gray Silky-Flycatchers were very obliging, a trio of North American migrants showed particularly well, they were Nashville, Audubon's and Wilson's Warblers, Blue Grosbeaks were not uncommon, the endemic White-throated Towhee was fairly easy to observe, attractive Vesper and Lark Sparrows were added to our growing list, there were also small flocks of

Great-tailed Grackles and Bronzed Cowbirds, an Altamira Oriole added a splash of colour to proceedings, a House Finch sang from the top of a nearby tree, and a flock of Lesser Goldfinches also put in an appearance. We saw our first mammal of the tour here, the attractive Mexican Red-bellied Squirrel.

Following lunch, we birded at higher elevation in the Sierra de Juarez, a section of the Sierra Madre Mountains. Here amongst the oaks and pine trees, we enjoyed several Mexican Violet-ears, both White-eared and Blue-throated Hummingbirds, Acorn Woodpecker, a single Violet-green Swallow, flocks of Northern Rough-winged Swallows, Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay, Common Raven, Mexican Chickadee, Brown Creeper, House Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, Russet Nightingale-Thrush, Orange-crowned, MacGillivray's, Townsend's, Hermit and Golden-browed Warblers, Slate-throated Redstart, Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer, Black-headed Grosbeak, Rufous-capped Brush-Finch, Chipping and Lincoln's Sparrows, Yellow-eyed Junco, Black-vented and Scott's Orioles and last, but not least, the incredible Red Crossbill.

In the late afternoon we stopped to do some birding at a small reservoir, in the Teotitlan de Valle. Here we found several Least Grebes, a few Great Egrets, a couple of Little Blue Herons, several Snowy Egrets, a scattered flock of Western Cattle Egrets, a good number of Ruddy Ducks, American Coots, Killdeer, Spotted, Western and Pectoral Sandpipers, and a flock of uncommon American Pipits.

All of the following day, was spent birding in the mixed pine-oak woodlands at La Combre Ixtepeji. The main target bird today, was to be the endemic Dwarf Jay. Following a little searching, they proved to be noisy, conspicuous, and easy to see; they even outnumbered, the usually more common Steller's Jay. There was also a supporting cast of other good birds, which included the attractive Short-tailed Hawk, the well named Magnificent Hummingbird, a rather confiding Hairy Woodpecker, a single Greater Pewee, the attractive Rose-throated Becard, a small flock of Bushtits, a couple of Hermit Thrushes, a few American Robins, a delightful Blue Mockingbird, Warbling Vireo, a Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo, the Olive Sparrow, which is in a family all of its own, three stunning resident warblers, Crescent-chested, Rufous-capped and Red, were all seen exceptionally well, a male Hepatic Tanager duly obliged, we saw both Collared and Spotted Towhees, the endemic Oaxaca Sparrow and the gorgeous Baltimore Oriole.

Early the following morning, from our hotel at Oaxaca, we added the introduced Eurasian Collared-Dove, and we also observed a flock of beautiful Cedar Waxwings.

We then began the long drive to the small town of San Mateo Yetla, situated on the Gulf slope of the Continental Divide, which would be our base for the next three nights. To get there, we had to drive through cloud forest, in the Sierra Juarez Mountains. So we decided to do a little birding in the forest. Here we enjoyed great looks at a pair of superb Mountain Trogons, we glimpsed a Gray-collared Becard, and enjoyed good close looks at the uncommon Hutton's Vireo.

By mid-afternoon, we had arrived at the small town of San Mateo Yetla, situated on the Gulf Slope, of the Sierra Madre Mountains. After settling in to our eco-lodge, we did some birding in the surrounding farmland and lowland rainforest. New bird here came thick and fast, and included Neotropic Cormorant, Green Heron, the uncommon Barred Forest-Falcon, Red-billed Pigeon, Ruddy Ground-Dove and Olive-throated Parakeet. Careful examination of a large flock of swifts flying overhead, produced both Chestnut-collared and White-collared Swifts, we also saw the diminutive Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, and the larger Azure-crowned Hummingbird, we saw the Golden-fronted Woodpecker very well indeed, enjoyed good looks at a few Mangrove Swallows, small flocks of Brown Jays proved plentiful, we saw several Clay-colored Robins, a Northern

Waterthrush, a few Blue-grey Tanagers and the spectacular Red-legged Honeycreeper.

The following day was spent birding around San Mateo Yetla, in both lowland rainforest and highland cloud forest. We saw several Gray Hawks, the very large Squirrel Cuckoo, we enjoyed watching an unusually obliging Wedge-tailed Sabrewing, an Emerald-chinned Hummingbird, and the beautiful and rare Black-crested Coquette, a Collared Trogon added a splash of colour, a Green Kingfisher showed well, we saw a small flock of Collared Aracaris, both Lineated and Pale-billed Woodpeckers, and a rather skulking Rufous-breasted Spinetail. A Yellow-bellied Elaenia was added to our list, new flycatchers included Dusky-capped, Piratic, Sulphur-bellied and Boat-billed, a pair of Masked Tityras was greatly admired, a male White-collared Manakin was a real treat, a Band-backed Wren popped into view, a Gray Catbird sneaked around in the undergrowth, a Bell's Vireo showed very well, the rather nondescript Lesser Greenlet was observed well, as was the Hooded Warbler, both male and female American Redstarts made an appearance, both Yellow and Chestnut-sided Warblers were admired, and Crimson-collared, Yellow-winged and White-winged Tanagers, all showed very well. We also added Grayish, Buff-throated and Black-headed Saltators, a splendid Blue-black Grosbeak was greatly admired, we found a large flock of Indigo Buntings, together with Yellow-faced and Blue-black Grassquits and a White-collared Seedeater. We were very pleased to enjoy good, close looks at the uncommon Thick-billed Seed-Finch, and the equally uncommon Rusty Sparrow. Melodious Blackbirds proved numerous, we saw a couple of Bananaquits, a couple of Black-cowled Orioles and a tree full of nesting Montezuma Oropendolas.

We spent the first half of the following morning birding in farmland, at the nearby Vega de Sol. New birds here included a few Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, Blue-winged Teal, Roadside Hawk, Red-lore Parrot, the tiny Vaux's Swift, Tropical Kingbird, Gray-breasted Martin, Common Yellowthroat and Hooded and Yellow-throated Warblers.

We spent the latter half of the morning birding around San Mateo Yetla, where new birds included the shy White-tipped Dove, the diminutive Canivet's Emerald, a splendid Ivory-billed Woodcreeper, the beautiful Olive-backed Euphonia, the shy Red-throated Ant-Tanager and a couple of Western Tanagers.

We spent the late afternoon birding in the nearby Bautista Valle National, where we added a Ruby-throated Hummingbird, a splendid Amazon Kingfisher and the incredibly beautiful Painted Bunting.

Once again we spent the following morning birding in lowland rainforest close to San Mateo Yetla, where amongst a flock of more common Olive-throated Parakeets, we found a couple of very uncommon Brown-hooded, Parrots. A pair of very rare Yellow-headed Parrots, screeched noisily overhead, we saw a flock of migratory Chimney Swifts, which were all flying northwards in single file, heading for their breeding grounds in the United States. A couple of uncommon Gartered Trogons showed particularly well, a male Barred Antshrike came into playback very well, the Blue-headed Vireo behaved perfectly for us, and we enjoyed watching a beautiful Yellow-throated Euphonia.

We then drove back towards Oaxaca, but did a little birding in the late afternoon, in cloud forest, at Sierra Juarez. Here new birds for the tour included a small flock of splendid Crested Guans, we enjoyed great looks at a Spot-crowned Woodcreeper, the uncommon Unicolored Jay showed surprisingly well, after a great deal of searching, we saw the uncommon Slate-colored Solitaire in flight, and we found a pair of Common Bush-Tanagers, nest-building. We then drove back to Oaxaca for a two night stay.

We spent the following morning birding a patch of dry scrub, known as Biguera, not far from Oaxaca. Our main target species for the morning were the very rare, endemic, and highly localised, Slaty and Dwarf Vireos and the rare, endemic and localised Ocellated Thrasher. We were very fortunate that a single Ocellated Thrasher responded very well to tape playback, and showed exceptionally well, as did both species of vireos. There was also a splendid supporting cast of other goodies, which included Cooper's Hawk, Bewick's Wren, Virginia's and Myrtle Warblers, the aptly named Elegant Euphonia and the attractive Bridled Sparrow.

Later in the morning, we visited the ancient ruins of Monte Alban, which were a splendid reminder of the genius and creativity of one of the world's most gifted races, the Zapotecs. We even managed to add a species of bird to our ever growing list, the Rock Wren, which finds the ancient ruins much to its liking. Shortly after leaving Monte Alban, a Lesser Roadrunner, ran across the road, in front of our vehicle.

We spent the early part of the afternoon visiting the Museum of Culture in Oaxaca, before going birding in the Oaxaca Botanical Gardens, where the birding was surprisingly good. The museum overlooked the botanical gardens, and afforded us a tremendous vantage point, to watch the huge numbers of birds utilising the gardens. New birds here, included Berylline Hummingbird, Dusky Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Rufous-backed Robin and Orchard Oriole

The following morning was spent birding at the ancient archaeological site of Yagul. Our main target bird here was the endemic, and cactus-inhabiting, Beautiful Hummingbird. We were not to be disappointed; and in no time at all, we were enjoying super looks at this very attractive species. Other new birds here, included Common Ground-Dove, Nutting's Flycatcher, Cliff Swallow and White-throated Thrush. We also enjoyed prolonged looks at a Mexican Cottontail.

We then had a long drive down the Pacific slope of the Sierra Madre Mountains, to San Jose del Pacifico, where we spent the night. During the drive, we stopped to fill up with petrol, and ice cream, at the town of Miahuatlan, and while doing so, we found a Loggerhead Shrike, sitting on the power-lines.

On arrival at San Jose del Pacifico, we settled into our eco-lodge, before doing some birding in the grounds of the lodge. There were birds everywhere, and new birds for the tour included a splendid male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, a fine Bullock's Oriole, a pair of rare and little known Hooded Grosbeaks, and a Brown-backed Solitaire.

We spent the following morning birding in the mixed pine-oak forests of the Sierra Miahuatlan, where we found a good number of new birds for the tour. They included a very obliging Long-billed Starthroat, the endemic Bumblebee Hummingbird and a Broad-tailed Hummingbird. We very much enjoyed watching the attractive Tufted Flycatcher, and we also saw the more sombre coloured Cordilleran Flycatcher, we managed a quick look at the rather secretive Gray-breasted Wood-Wren and a Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch was observed particularly well.

In the afternoon, we drove to the Sierra Madre del Sur Coast, and settled in at our seaside resort. Later in the afternoon, we did some birding on the beach and in a patch of dry scrub, the predominant habitat in the area. New birds included Brown Booby, Brown Pelican, Magnificent Frigatebird, the very beautiful Roseate Spoonbill, Peregrine Falcon, West Mexican Chachalaca, American Oystercatcher, Elegant and Royal Terns, an immature Heerman's Gull, Orange-fronted Parakeet, the stunning White-throated Magpie-Jay and the attractive Blue Bunting.

We spent the following morning birding in dry scrub along the Sierra Madre del Sur coast. Along

the beach there was a Western Osprey, a few Laughing Gulls, a small number of Royal Terns, and in the scrub, new birds for our ever growing trip list, included the endemic Doubleday's Hummingbird, plenty of Cinnamon Hummingbirds, the attractive and endemic Citreoline Trogon, the stunning Russet-crowned Motmot, the attractive Golden-cheeked Woodpecker, the rather drab Northern Beardless Tyrannulet, a migratory Willow Flycatcher, the resident Brown-crested Flycatcher, both Rufous-naped and Banded Wrens, a Mangrove Warbler, the stunning Northern Cardinal, the incredibly beautiful Orange-breasted Bunting, the shy Olive Sparrow, and the attractive Streak-backed Oriole.

Following lunch and a short siesta during the hottest part of the afternoon, we did a little birding at the small seaside resort of Ventanilla. New birds during the afternoon's birding included a splendid Anhinga, a pair of attractive White-fronted Parrots, a pair of Groove-billed Anis, a very close Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl and plenty of colourful Yellow-winged Caciques. After dark, Bill saw a splendid Eastern Spotted Skunk, close to his room.

We spent all of the day birding in the highland pine-oak forests of the Sierra Madre del Sur. New birds today included a Common Black-Hawk, a very fine Mexican Hermit, Plain-capped Starthroat, Wagler's Toucanet, Gray-crowned Woodpecker, Greenish Elaenia, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, both Cassin's and Golden Vireos, Black-and-white, Magnolia, Fan-tailed and Golden-crowned Warblers, Red-crowned Ant-Tanager, Summer Tanager and Audubon's Oriole. We also saw a group of Gray Sac-winged Bats, in an old building, and this time, after dark, I saw an Eastern Spotted Skunk, outside my room.

We spent the early hours of the following morning, birding in the Huatulco National Park, where we added White-lored Gnatcatcher and Red-breasted Chat. Some lucky members of the group also saw a distant Western Hog-nosed Skunk.

A quick stop at a small wetland, on the Golf Course at Huatulco, produced even more new birds, which included Great Blue Heron, Northern Shoveler and Black-necked Stilt.

Following a short siesta, we drove to the mouth of the Rio Colotepec, where there was a huge concentration of wetland birds. We scoped our way through the throng of birds and found the following new birds, Reddish Egret, wonderful Tricolored Herons in full breeding-plumage, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, White Ibis, Wood Stork, Semipalmated and Collared Plovers, Northern Jacana, American Golden-Plover, Whimbrel, Long-billed Curlew, Greater Yellowlegs, Willet, Sanderling, Least Sandpiper, Franklin's Gull, both Caspian and Sandwich Terns and Red-winged Blackbird.

On the last day of the tour, we spent the morning birding the nearby Laguna Manialtepec, by boat. It was a truly memorable experience; and amongst the many hundreds of birds we saw, new birds for the tour included, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Boat-billed Heron, Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, White-faced Ibis, Lesser Scaup, both Belted and Ringed Kingfishers, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and Mangrove Vireo. It was a fitting end to a wonderful tour.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

GREBES

Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus* In Mexico this small species of grebe, is a rare and very localised inhabitant of highland lakes, where we saw it well, on a few occasions.

GANNETS AND BOOBIES

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster* A fairly common breeding resident along the Pacific coast of Mexico. Large numbers were breeding on small islands, just offshore, from the Sierra Madre del Sur coast.

PELICANS

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* A common breeding resident along the Pacific coast of Mexico, where we saw it well on many occasions.

CORMORANTS

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* A common breeding resident of coastal lagoons and estuaries, with small numbers also occurring on inland lakes. We saw it very well on many occasions.

ANHINGA

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga* This fairly common breeding resident, is at its most northerly part of its range, on the Pacific coast of Mexico, in Oaxaca. We saw an individual very well at a mangrove wetland, at the small village of Ventanilla. We then saw much larger numbers at the Laguna Manialtepec, on the last day of the tour.

FRIGATEBIRDS

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens* A common breeding resident along the coast of Mexico. We found large numbers present along the Sierra Madre del Sur coast.

HERONS, EGRETS AND BITTERNES

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias* This large species of heron is an uncommon breeding resident, along the coast of Oaxaca. We observed a couple of birds at a small wetland, on the golf course at Huatulco. On the following morning, we observed good numbers at the Laguna Manialtepec.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* A common breeding resident throughout Mexico, which we saw at many of the wetlands we visited.

Reddish Egret *Egretta rufescens* We were very fortunate to observe a couple of these uncommon and highly localised birds, at the mouth of the Rio Colotepec, which is at the extreme southern edge of this birds range, on the Pacific coast of the Americas.

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor* An uncommon breeding resident, along the Pacific coast of Oaxaca. We saw a few birds at the mouth of the Rio Colotepec, and the following morning, we saw a few more at the Laguna Manialtepec.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* A fairly common breeding resident, along the coasts of Mexico, which we saw very well on a few occasions.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* A common breeding resident, throughout the whole of Oaxaca. It was present at most of the wetlands we visited.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* A common breeding resident throughout Mexico. We saw small flocks in farmland, on many occasions throughout the tour.

Green Heron *Butorides virescens* This attractive species, is also a common breeding resident throughout Mexico. We saw it well on several occasions.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* This nocturnal species, is an uncommon resident throughout Oaxaca. We enjoyed really good looks at this species, on the last day of the tour, during our boat trip on the Laguna Manialtepec.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* This attractive species, which is also nocturnal, is a fairly common, but highly localised species, in Mexico. We were fortunate to observe a couple of birds at the mouth of the Rio Colotepec, and the following morning, we observed a few more, during our boat trip on the Laguna Manialtepec.

Boat-billed Heron *Cochlearius cochlearius* Yet another nocturnal species, and this one is an uncommon and highly localised breeding species, anywhere in Mexico. We were very fortunate, to enjoy very good, close looks, at this species, during our boat trip on the Laguna Manialtepec.

Bare-throated Tiger-Heron *Tigrisoma mexicanum* Another nocturnal species, it is an uncommon breeding resident in Oaxaca. We enjoyed very good sightings of this species, during our boat trip on the Laguna Manialtepec.

IBIS AND SPOONBILLS

White Ibis *Eudocimus albus* An uncommon breeding resident, throughout coastal areas of Mexico. We saw a few birds at the mouth of the Rio Colotepec, and the following morning, we observed larger numbers, during our boat trip on the Laguna Manialtepec.

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi* In Oaxaca, this species, is a fairly common winter visitor, from breeding grounds further north in Mexico and the United States. We found a small flock of half a dozen or so birds, during our boat trip on the Laguna Manialtepec.

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja* This very attractive species is an uncommon breeding resident along the Pacific coast of Mexico. Some members of the group observed a single bird along the beach, below the Sierra Madre del Sur. We then observed small numbers during our boat trip on the Laguna Manialtepec.

STORKS

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana* This species is a fairly common breeding resident, along the coast of Oaxaca. We observed a single bird at the mouth of the Rio Colotepec, and this was followed by sightings of a few more birds, during our boat trip on the Laguna Manialtepec.

GEESE, SWANS AND DUCKS

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis* This attractive species, is a fairly common breeding resident throughout Oaxaca. We observed small flocks on a few occasions, throughout the tour.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* This species is a common winter visitor throughout Mexico, we saw it very well on a few occasions.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* This species is a fairly common winter visitor throughout Mexico. We observed a pair of birds at a small wetland, on the golf course at Huatulco, and then observed a small flock during our boat trip on the Laguna Manialtepec.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* This species is also a fairly common winter visitor throughout Mexico. We observed a small flock of three birds, during our boat trip on the Laguna Manialtepec.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* This species is a fairly common winter visitor to lakes and wetlands in Oaxaca, from breeding grounds further north. We saw approximately a dozen birds, on a small reservoir at Teotitlan de Valle, on the first day of the tour.

NEW WORLD VULTRUES

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* An abundant resident throughout Mexico, which we observed on every day of the tour.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* A very common resident throughout Mexico, which we also observed on every day of the tour.

OSPREYS

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* This species is a fairly common winter visitor to Oaxaca. One or two birds were observed by some members of the group along the beach, below the Sierra Madre del Sur. We then observed small numbers during our boat trip on the Laguna Manialtepec.

KITES, HAWKS AND EAGLES

Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii* An uncommon winter visitor to Mexico, we were fortunate to observe a bird in flight, at Biguera, close to Oaxaca. **William C. Cooper** (1798-1864) was a New York conchologist and collector. He was one of the founders of the American Museum of Natural History in New York. He was also the father of **Dr James G Cooper** (1830-1902) who worked for the Pacific Railroad Survey in California and for whom the Cooper Ornithological Society is named, as well as a number of birds in the scientific names. **Bonaparte** described and named Cooper's Hawk.

Common Black-Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus* A fairly common resident throughout Mexico, we saw a bird perched at close quarters, in the grounds of our lodge in the Sierra Madre del Sur, and then we saw a couple of perched bird during our boat trip on the Laguna Manialtepec.

Gray Hawk *Buteo nitidus* A fairly common resident throughout Oaxaca. We saw it perched very well, on several occasions.

Roadside Hawk *Buteo magnirostris* This species is a common resident throughout Oaxaca. Surprisingly, we only observed this species on one occasion. We saw it perched and flying, in farmland at Vega de Sol, on the Gulf slope of the Sierra Madre Mountains.

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus* This very attractive species, is an uncommon resident in Oaxaca. We were very fortunate to observe this species on four separate occasions, throughout the tour.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis* This species is a common resident in the central highlands of Oaxaca, and a common winter visitor to both coasts. We saw the resident breeding species, twice, close to Oaxaca, and a wintering bird, at Sierra Madre del Sur.

CARACARAS AND FALCONS

Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway* This attractive species is a common resident throughout Oaxaca, we enjoyed many sightings of this species throughout the tour.

Barred Forest-Falcon *Micrastur ruficollis* This species is a very uncommon resident in parts of Oaxaca, where it is at the extreme northern edge of its range. I saw a perched bird, close to San Mateo Yetla.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* In the highlands of Oaxaca, this species is an uncommon resident, however, along the coast, it is a common winter visitor. We observed this species at Teotitlan de Valle and again at the Yagul archaeological site. Both these sightings, were of the resident breeding race.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* This widespread species is a very uncommon winter visitor to Oaxaca. Some members of the group observed this species, along the coast, at Sierra Madre del Sur.

CHACHALCAS, GUANS AND CURRASSOWS

West Mexican Chachalaca *Ortalis poliocephala* This Mexican endemic, is a common bird in dry coastal scrub, along the Pacific coast of Oaxaca, where we saw it very well on many occasions.

Crested Guan *Penelope purpurascens* This species is an uncommon resident in Oaxaca. We were very fortunate to enjoy good looks at a small family party, in cloud forest in the Sierra Juarez Mountains.

NEW WORLD QUAIL

Long-tailed Wood-Partridge *Dendrortyx macroura* This Mexican endemic, is an uncommon and highly localised species in Oaxaca. Unfortunately, we only heard the bird, a bird called back to the tape, from dense cover at La Combte Ixtepeji.

RAILS, GALLINUTES AND COOTS

American Coot *Fulica americana* In the highlands of Oaxaca, this species is an uncommon resident, however, along the coast, it is an uncommon winter visitor. We observed the resident breeding race, at a small reservoir at Teotitlan de Valle. The sightings at the mouth of the Rio Colotepec and at Laguna Manialtepec, were of the wintering race, from breeding grounds in the United States.

OYSTERCATCHERS

American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus* This species is an uncommon breeding resident along the Pacific coast of Mexico. Some members of the group observed this species along the beach, at Sierra Madre del Sur.

LAPWINGS AND PLOVERS

American Golden-Plover *Pluvialis dominica* This species is an uncommon passage migrant throughout Mexico, from breeding grounds in Arctic Canada. It winters in southern South America. We observed a single bird in flight, at the mouth of the Rio Colotepec, on the Pacific coast.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* This is a fairly common winter visitor to the coasts of Mexico. We observed a few birds, at the mouth of the Rio Colotepec.

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus* This attractive species, is a fairly common winter visitor to southern Mexico. We observed a couple of birds at a small reservoir, at Teotitlan de Valle.

Collared Plover *Charadrius collaris* This species is an uncommon resident, along both coasts of southern Mexico. We observed a single, immature bird, at the mouth of the Rio Colotepec.

AVOCETS AND STILTS

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus* This species is a fairly common resident throughout Mexico. We observed a few birds at a small wetland on the golf course at Huatulco, and then we saw several more, on the boat trip on the Laguna Manialtepec.

JACANAS

Northern Jacana *Jacana spinosa* This species is also a fairly common resident, along both coasts of Oaxaca. We observed small numbers at the mouth of the Rio Colotepec, and then we observed small numbers during our boat trip on the Laguna Manialtepec.

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* This species is a fairly common winter visitor, to both coasts of Oaxaca, from breeding grounds in Canada and Alaska. We observed a few birds at the mouth of the Rio Colotepec.

- Long-billed Curlew** *Numenius americanus* This species is also a fairly common winter visitor to the Pacific coast of Oaxaca. We observed a couple of birds at the mouth of the Rio Colotepec.
- Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca* This species is a fairly common winter visitor throughout Oaxaca. Once again, we observed a few birds at the mouth of the Rio Colotepec.
- Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius* Yet another fairly common winter visitor, throughout Mexico, from breeding grounds in the United States and Canada. We observed several birds, on a few occasions, throughout the tour.
- Willet** *Tringa semipalmata* This is also a fairly common winter visitor, to both coasts of Oaxaca. We observed a few birds very well, at the mouth of the Rio Colotepec.
- Sanderling** *Calidris alba* The Sanderling is also a fairly common winter visitor to the Pacific coast of Oaxaca, from breeding grounds in Arctic Canada. We observed a flock of approximately a dozen or so birds, feeding along the beach, at the mouth of the Rio Colotepec.
- Western Sandpiper** *Calidris mauri* This species is a fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant, throughout Mexico. We saw approximately a dozen birds at a small reservoir at Teotitlan de Valle, these birds would have been on migration, from breeding grounds in Alaska. We also observed half a dozen or so birds at the mouth of Rio Colotepec, these birds would have been wintering there.
- Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla* This species is a fairly common winter visitor throughout Mexico, from breeding grounds in Arctic Canada. We observed a small flock of 10 or so birds, at the mouth of the Rio Colotepec.
- Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos* This species is an uncommon passage migrant throughout Mexico, from breeding grounds in Arctic Canada and Alaska. It winters on the grasslands, of southern South America. We observed two birds, at a small reservoir, at Teotitlan de Valle.

GULLS

- Heermann's Gull** *Larus heermanni* This species breeds along the Pacific coast of northern Mexico, and winters in California. It is a vagrant species along the coast of southern Mexico. A single, immature bird, was observed well, along the coast at Sierra Madre del Sur. **Dr. Adolpus Lewis Heerman** (1827-1865) was an army physician and naturalist. He was one of many naturalists who came to the attention of **Spencer Baird** at the Smithsonian Institution, and he was assigned to a surveying party for the Pacific Railroad line. Heermann was especially interested in collecting birds' eggs and he is credited with coining the term 'oology' for the practice. He retired from the army early, due to illness, and died two years later in a hunting accident; he stumbled and his rifle discharged and killed him. He appears to have looked many years older than he was – the effect, among other things, of syphilis.
- Laughing Gull** *Leucophaeus atricilla* This species is a fairly common winter visitor along the Pacific coast of Mexico. We observed small numbers of birds along the coast of the Sierra Madre del Sur.

Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan* This attractive species is a fairly common passage migrant throughout Mexico, from breeding grounds in the prairies of the United States and Canada. It winters along the Pacific coast of South America. We observed a couple of birds at the mouth of the Rio Colotepec, and on the boat cruise on the Laguna Manialtepec. **Sir John Franklin** (1786-1847) was an officer in the Royal Navy and is best known as an explorer of the Northwest Passage. The youngest of 12 boys, Franklin joined the navy in his youth and spent the rest of his life in its service. He undertook his first Arctic voyage in 1818, commanding a vessel trying to reach the North Pole. In 1819 he led his first attempt to find the Northwest Passage, the sea route across the Arctic to the Pacific Coast. He returned unsuccessfully after two years, amid rumours of starvation, murder and cannibalism. Franklin was involved in several more voyages to the north, before disappearing in 1845 in another attempt to cross the Arctic by sea. A search was undertaken under the command of Sir Clements Robert Markham. **Vieillot** named the gull, and **Wagler** described it.

TERNs

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* This species is an uncommon winter visitor to the Pacific coast of Oaxaca. It was observed by some members of the group along the beach at Sierra Madre del Sur.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* This species is a fairly common winter visitor along the Pacific coast of Oaxaca. We observed half a dozen or so birds at the mouth of the Rio Colotepec, and we also saw a handful of birds during the boat trip on the Laguna Manialtepec.

Elegant Tern *Thalasseus elegans* This attractive species is a fairly common passage migrant along the Pacific coast of Oaxaca. We observed small numbers along the Sierra Madre del Sur coast, and at the mouth of the Rio Colotepec.

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis* This species is an uncommon passage migrant along the Pacific coast of Oaxaca. We observed a small flock of half a dozen or so birds, at the mouth of the Rio Colotepec.

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus* This species is a fairly common winter visitor to the Pacific coast of Oaxaca, where we saw it well on many occasions.

PIGEONS AND DOVES

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia* This introduced species is common in the villages and cities of Mexico, we observed it on most days of the tour.

Red-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas flavirostris* A common resident along both coasts of Oaxaca, we saw it well on many occasions.

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura* This species is a fairly common resident, throughout the central highlands of Oaxaca. We observed small numbers at Teotitlan de Valle and at the Yagul archaeological site.

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica* A common resident throughout Oaxaca, which we observed well on many occasions.

Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* This introduced species is spreading quickly throughout Mexico. We observed it very well on several occasions.

Common Ground-Dove *Columbina passerina* This species is an uncommon resident throughout Oaxaca. Somewhat surprisingly, we only observed this species on one occasion, at the Yagul archaeological site.

Ruddy Ground-Dove *Columbina talpacoti* A common resident of Mexico, which we saw well on many occasions.

Inca Dove *Columbina inca* This attractive species, is also a common resident throughout Mexico, we observed it on most days of the tour.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi* A common resident throughout southern Mexico, we observed it on a few occasions throughout the tour.

PARROTS

Olive-throated Parakeet *Aratinga nana* This species is a fairly common resident on the Gulf slope of Oaxaca. Where we enjoyed many good sightings.

Orange-fronted Parakeet *Aratinga canicularis* A common resident, along the Pacific coast of Oaxaca, where we saw it well on many occasions.

Brown-hooded Parrot *Pyrilia haematotis* This species is an uncommon resident on the Gulf slope of Oaxaca. We observed two birds amongst a flock of Olive-throated Parakeets, close to San Mateo Yetla.

White-fronted Parrot *Amazona albifrons* A common resident along the Pacific coast of Oaxaca, which we saw well on a few occasions.

Red-lored Parrot *Amazona autumnalis* A fairly common resident of the Gulf slope of Oaxaca. We observed a flock of approximately a dozen or so birds, in farmland, at Vega de Sol.

Yellow-headed Parrot *Amazona oratrix* A recent split from Yellow-crowned Parrot. I saw a pair fly above our ecolodge at San Mateo Yetla. This species is classified at 'Endangered' by Birdlife International. It is estimated that the total population is approximately 4,700 individuals, and unfortunately decreasing. The main threats to this species are destruction of habitat and trapping, for the cage bird trade.

CUCKOOS

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana* A fairly common resident on both coasts of Oaxaca. We enjoyed one sighting at San Mateo Yetla, and this was followed by a second sighting, on the Sierra Madre del Sur.

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris* A common resident throughout Oaxaca, which we saw well on several occasions.

Lesser Roadrunner *Geococcyx velox* A fairly common resident of the central highlands of Oaxaca. We were fortunate to observe a bird fly across the road, in front of our vehicle, as we were leaving the archaeological site of Monte Alban.

OWLS

Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus* A bird was heard calling in the grounds of our resort, on the Sierra Madre del Sur coast.

Colima Pygmy-Owl *Galucidium palmarum* A bird was heard calling during the daytime, in the Huatulco National Park, but we were unable to see the bird.

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum* A common resident of coastal Oaxaca, a pair of birds were observed extremely well at Ventanilla, on the Pacific coast.

SWIFTS

Chestnut-collared Swift *Streptoprocne rutila* A small number of this uncommon resident, were observed amongst a much larger flock of White-collared Swifts, close to San Mateo Yetla.

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris* This species is a fairly common resident throughout much of Oaxaca. We saw a couple of very large flocks, during our time in the area around San Mateo Yetla.

Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica* We observed a large flock of this fairly common passage migrant, strung out in a long line, flying directly north, above our ecolodge at San Mateo Yetla.

Vaux's Swift *Chaetura vauxi* This very small species of swift is a fairly common resident in Oaxaca, where we saw a few small flocks. **William Sanson Vaux** (1811-1882) was a Philadelphia mineralogist and archaeologist, who served as President of the United States Zoological Society and Vice-President of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia. During his life Vaux acquired an extensive mineralogical and archaeological collection, which he bequeathed to the Academy of Natural Sciences, together with a handsome endowment for their preservation. His friend **John Kirk Townsend** discovered the swift in 1835, and named it in Vaux's honour.

HUMMINGBIRDS

Mexican Hermit *Phaethornis mexicanus* This species is an uncommon and highly localised resident along the Sierra Madre Mountains. We observed a single bird on one occasion, while birding in the Sierra Madre del Sur.

Wedge-tailed Sabrewing *Campylopterus curvipennis* This large species of hummingbird is a fairly common resident along the Gulf slope of Oaxaca. We saw it very well, on a couple of occasions, in the vicinity of San Mateo Yetla.

Mexican Violetear *Colibri thalassinus* A recent split from Green Violetear. This locally common resident of Oaxaca, was seen well on the first day of the tour, in the Sierra de Juarez.

Emerald-chinned Hummingbird *Abeillia abeillei* A rare and infrequently observed resident along the Gulf slope of Oaxaca. We were very fortunate to enjoy good looks at a perched male, close to San Mateo Yetla.

Black-crested Coquette *Lophornis helenae* This very attractive species, is a very uncommon resident along the Gulf slope of Oaxaca. We were very fortunate to enjoy prolonged looks at a perched, adult male, close to San Mateo Yetla.

Canivet's Emerald *Chlorostilbon canivetii* A recent split from Blue-tailed Emerald, this species is a common resident of the Gulf slope of Oaxaca. We saw an adult male on one occasion, while birding at San Mateo Yetla. **Emmanuel Canivet de Caretan** was a French collector and ornithologist. Some time before 1828 he wrote a manual on the preparation of animal, plant and other specimens, together with the botanist and geologist Pierre **Botard** (1789-1859). This was published in 1832 as the *Manual de Naturalista Dissector*, which is one of the classic works on taxidermy. Canivet also wrote *Catalogue des Oiseaux du Departement de la Manche* in 1843. Elsewhere Canivet is described simply as a 'curious dealer' rather than a man of science.

Dusky Hummingbird *Cynanthus sordidus* This species is a common resident along the Sierra Madre mountain range, where we saw it well on many occasions.

Doubleday's Hummingbird *Cynanthus doubledayi* A recent split from Broad-billed Hummingbird. This species is an uncommon resident along the Sierra Madre mountain range, we saw it well on a couple of occasions, along the Sierra Madre del Sur Coast. **Henry Doubleday** (1808-1875), an entomologist and ornithologist, was known as 'Henry Doubleday, the Epping Naturalist'. He was a member of the Entomological Society, and in 1833 he introduced the practice of 'sugaring' to capture moths. He published *A Nomenclature of British Birds* in 1818 and tried to establish uniformity in entomological nomenclature through the *Synonymic List of British Lepidoptera*, which appeared between 1847 and 1850. His family also founded the publishing company, Doubleday.

White-eared Hummingbird *Hylocharis leucotis* This is a common and widespread species throughout Oaxaca, where we saw it well on many occasions.

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia tzacatl* A common resident along the Gulf slope of Oaxaca. We saw it very well on a couple of occasions, in the San Mateo Yetla area.

Cinnamon Hummingbird *Amazilia rutila* This attractive species was a very common resident along the Sierra Madre del Sur coast, where we saw it very well, on numerous occasions.

Azure-crowned Hummingbird *Amazilia cyanocephala* This attractive species, is a common resident along the Gulf slope of Oaxaca. We saw it very well on one occasion, close to San Mateo Yetla.

Berylline Hummingbird *Amazilia beryllina* A common resident throughout much of the central mountains of Oaxaca. We saw it very well on one occasion, while birding in the Oaxaca Botanical Gardens.

Blue-throated Hummingbird *Lampornis clemenciae* This large and attractive species of hummingbird, is an uncommon resident on both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains of Oaxaca. We saw it well, on a few occasions.

Magnificent Hummingbird *Eugenes fulgens* This large species of hummingbird, is a fairly common resident on both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains of Oaxaca. We observed it well at La Combte Ixtepeji, on the Pacific slope and at Sierra Miahuatlan on the Gulf slope.

Plain-capped Starthroat *Heliomaster constantii* An uncommon resident along the Pacific slope, we enjoyed good looks at a single bird, in the Sierra Madre del Sur.

Long-billed Starthroat *Heliomaster longirostris* This species is also an uncommon resident, and occurs on both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. We observed a single bird very well, at Sierra Miahuatlan, on the Gulf slope.

Beautiful Hummingbird *Calothorax pulcher* This species only occurs in the Sierra Madre Mountains of Oaxaca, where it is a fairly common resident. We observed it very well on one occasion, at the Yagul Archaeological site.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris* This migrant bird, from the eastern United States, is a fairly common winter visitor to Oaxaca. We observed a single bird, perched on the edge of forest at Bautista Valle National, close to San Mateo Yetla.

Bumblebee Hummingbird *Atthis heloisa* This uncommon Mexican endemic, is one of the world's smallest species of hummingbirds. We saw it well on one occasion, at Sierra Miahuatlan.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird *Selasphorus platycercus* This species is an uncommon winter visitor to Oaxaca, from breeding grounds in the western United States. We saw it on two occasions; firstly, at Sierra Miahuatlan, and again, at Sierra Madre del Sur.

TROGONS AND QUETZALS

Citreoline Trogon *Trogon citreolus* This Mexican endemic, is a fairly common resident along the Pacific coast of Mexico, where we saw it very well, on a few occasions.

Gartered Trogon *Trogon caligatus* A recent split from Violaceous Trogon. This species is an uncommon resident of the Gulf slope. We saw a couple of birds very well, close to San Mateo Yetla.

Mountain Trogon *Trogon mexicanus* The Mountain Trogon is a fairly common resident of both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. We observed a few birds very well, during our time in the Sierra Juarez.

Collared Trogon *Trogon collaris* This uncommon resident occurs on both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. We observed a few birds very well, during our time at San Mateo Yetla,

MOTMOTS

Russet-crowned Motmot *Momotus mexicanus* This attractive species, is a fairly common resident along the Pacific slope, where we saw it well, on a few occasions.

KINGFISHERS

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon* This species is a fairly common winter visitor, from breeding grounds in the United States and Canada. We saw a few birds very well, during the boat trip on the Laguna Manialtepec, on the last day of the tour.

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata* This very large species of kingfisher is a rare resident along both coasts of Oaxaca. We observed a couple of birds very well, during the boat trip on the Laguna Manialtepec

Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona* This species is a fairly common resident along both coasts of Oaxaca. We saw it well on one occasion at Bautista Valle National, close to San Mateo Yetla. This was followed by a second sighting, in the Sierra Madre del Sur, on the Pacific coast.

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana* This species is a fairly common resident throughout Oaxaca, which we saw well on a few occasions.

TOUCANS

Wagler's Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus wagleri* A recent split from Emerald Toucanet. This small species of toucan is locally common on both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. We saw several birds very well, at Sierra Madre del Sur. **John Georg Wagler** (1800-1832) was a German herpetologist. He was **Spix's** assistant, and upon the death of **Spix**, in 1828, he became the Director of the Zoological Museum of the University of Munich, where he worked predominantly with the extensive collections from Brazil. In addition, he worked on the systematics of amphibians and reptiles in the museum. He wrote the highly regarded *Monographia Psittacorun*, which includes various descriptions of the blue macaws, in 1832. Wagler died accidentally from a self-inflicted gunshot wound whilst out collecting.

Collared Aracari *Pteroglossus torquatus* This species is a fairly common resident on the Gulf slope of Oaxaca, where it is at the extreme northern edge of its range. We observed a family party on one occasion, close to San Mateo Yetla.

WOODPECKERS AND ALLIES

Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus* This species is a fairly common resident throughout Oaxaca. We saw a couple of birds very well, while birding at Sierra de Juarez, on the first day of the tour.

Golden-cheeked Woodpecker *Melanerpes chrysogenys* This Mexican endemic is a fairly common resident along the Pacific coast of Oaxaca, where we saw it well on many occasions.

Gray-breasted Woodpecker *Melanerpes hypopolius* This Mexican endemic is a common resident of the central mountains of Oaxaca. It proved to be common in the Teotitlan de Valle, and we also recorded it at the Yagul archaeological site.

Golden-fronted Woodpecker *Melanerpes aurifrons* This species is a common resident along the Gulf slope of Oaxaca. It proved to be plentiful, in the San Mateo Yetla area.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus varius* This attractive species is a fairly common winter visitor throughout Oaxaca, from breeding grounds in the United States and Canada. We observed a male bird very well indeed, on two consecutive days, in the grounds of our lodge at San Jose del Pacifico.

Ladder-backed Woodpecker *Picoides scalaris* This species is a fairly common resident throughout Oaxaca. We observed a single bird very well, at Teotitlan de Valle.

Hairy Woodpecker *Picoides villosus* This attractive species is a fairly common resident on both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. We observed a single bird, as it was drumming against a tree, at La Combre Ixtepeji, on the Pacific slope.

Gray-crowned Woodpecker *Piculus auricularis* This Mexican endemic is a fairly common resident of the Pacific slope of Oaxaca. This bird was observed by Graham at Sierra Madre del Sur.

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus* This large species of woodpecker is a fairly common resident on both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. We saw a few birds very well, at San Mateo Yetla, and we also saw it on a couple of occasions, at Sierra Madre del Sur.

Pale-billed Woodpecker *Campephilus guatemalensis* Another large species of woodpecker which is a fairly common resident of both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. We saw a single bird very well, close to San Mateo Yetla.

OVENBIRDS

Rufous-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis erythrothorax* This species is a fairly common resident of the Gulf slope of Oaxaca. We glimpsed this species on one occasion, in dense undergrowth, close to San Mateo Yetla.

WOODCREEPERS

Ivory-billed Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster* This species is a fairly common resident on both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. We saw it well on both slopes.

Spot-crowned Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes affinis* This fairly common resident occurs on both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. We saw a single bird very well on one occasion, high in the Sierra Juarez.

TYPICAL ANTBIRDS

Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus* This fairly common resident occurs on the Gulf slope of Oaxaca. We saw a beautiful adult male on one occasion, not far from San Mateo Yetla.

MANAKINS

White-collared Manakin *Manacus candei* This very beautiful bird, is a fairly common resident on the Gulf slope of Oaxaca. We observed both male and female birds very well, on two consecutive days, while birding at San Mateo Yetla.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet *Camptostoma imberbe* This tiny species is a fairly common resident throughout Oaxaca. We observed a bird at close quarters, along the Sierra Madre del Sur Coast.

Greenish Elaenia *Myiopagis viridicata* This rather plain bird, is a fairly common resident, on both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. We saw it on only one occasion, while birding in the Sierra Madre del Sur, on the Pacific coast.

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster* This species is a fairly common resident of the Gulf slope of Oaxaca. We saw it well, on one occasion, close to San Mateo Yetla.

Tufted Flycatcher *Mitrephanes phaeocercus* This attractive species, is a fairly common resident and altitudinal migrant, throughout Oaxaca. We enjoyed good close looks at an individual, while birding in the Sierra Miahuatlan, on the Pacific slope.

Greater Pewee *Contopus pertinax* This species is a fairly common winter visitor, to both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains, from breeding grounds in southwestern United States. We saw a single bird very well, at La Combte Ixtepeji, on the Pacific slope.

Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii* This species is a common winter visitor to the Pacific coast of Oaxaca, from breeding grounds in the northern United States and southern Canada. We observed a single bird, on the Sierra Madre del Sur coast.

Least Flycatcher *Empidonax minimus* This species is a common winter visitor, throughout Oaxaca, from breeding grounds in the northern United States and southern Canada. We saw it well, on several occasions.

- Dusky Flycatcher** *Empidonax oberholseri* This species is an uncommon winter visitor throughout Oaxaca, from breeding grounds in the western United States. We observed a single individual, exceptionally well, in the Oaxaca Botanical Gardens.
- Pacific-slope Flycatcher** *Empidonax difficilis* This species is a common winter visitor to the Pacific slope of Oaxaca. We saw it in the Sierra Madre del Sur, and in the Huatulco National Park.
- Cordilleran Flycatcher** *Empidonax occidentalis* This species is a fairly common resident of the Pacific slope of Oaxaca. We observed it in the Sierra Miahuatlan, and in the Sierra Madre del Sur.
- Black Phoebe** *Sayornis nigricans* This species is a fairly common resident throughout Oaxaca, where we saw it very well, on a few occasions.
- Vermilion Flycatcher** *Pyrocephalus rubinus* This very attractive species, is a fairly common resident throughout Oaxaca, where we saw it very well, on many occasions.
- Piratic Flycatcher** *Legatus leucophaeus* This species is a fairly common summer breeding visitor, along the gulf slope, and winters in South America. We saw it very well, on one occasion, close to San Mateo Yetla.
- Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** *Myiodynastes luteiventris* This species is a fairly common summer breeding visitor, to both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains, and winters in South America. We saw it very well, close to San Mateo Yetla, and also in the Sierra Madre del Sur.
- Dusky-capped Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tuberculifer* This species is a fairly common resident throughout Oaxaca. We saw it well on one occasion, close to San Mateo Yelta, on the Gulf slope.
- Ash-throated Flycatcher** *Myiarchus cinerascens* This species is a common winter visitor throughout Oaxaca, from breeding grounds in the western United States. We saw it well on several occasions.
- Nutting's Flycatcher** *Myiarchus nuttingi* This species is a fairly common resident throughout Oaxaca. We saw it particularly well, on one occasion, at the Yagul archaeological site. **Charles Cleveland Nutting** (1859-1927) was an American naturalist and collector. In 1886 he became curator of the University of Iowa Natural History Museum. He generated public and private support to finance several expeditions. His journeys to the Bay of Fundy and the Bahamas added many more specimens, including seabirds, to the collection at the university, as did his trips to Nicaragua and Costa Rica. On these trips he was said to be an *'energetic forceful character, his organising abilities and his enthusiasm for collecting helped to ensure the success of his trips'*. **Ridgway** named the flycatcher after him, in his formal description of the bird.
- Brown-crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tyrannulus* This species is a common resident throughout Oaxaca, where we saw it well on several occasions.
- Great Kiskadee** *Pitangus sulphuratus* This species is a common resident throughout Oaxaca, where we saw it very well, on many occasions.
- Boat-billed Flycatcher** *Megarynchus pitangua* Another large species of tyrant flycatcher, it is an uncommon resident, on both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. We saw it very well, on a few occasions.
- Social Flycatcher** *Myiozetetes similis* This species is a common resident, on both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. We saw it very well, on many occasions.
- Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus* This species is a common resident throughout Oaxaca, we saw it very well on several occasions.

Cassin's Kingbird *Tyrannus vociferans* This species of flycatcher is a common resident of the central highlands of Oaxaca, where we saw it well, on a few occasions. **John Cassin** (1813-1869) was a Quaker businessman and the unpaid Curator of Ornithology at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, for over a quarter of a century. He is regarded as one of the giants of American ornithology. He described 198 species of birds, many of them from his own expeditions, around the world. In addition to the kingbird, he also has, an auklet, a vireo, a sparrow, and a finch, all named in his honour.

Western Kingbird *Tyrannus verticalis* This species is a common winter visitor throughout Oaxaca, from breeding grounds in the western United States. We saw it very well on one occasion, in the Oaxaca Botanical Gardens.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus* At the time of year we were in Mexico, this species is a common passage migrant, migrating from wintering grounds in Central America, to breeding grounds in the southeastern United States. Graham observed this species from the bus, on the last day of the tour.

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata* This species is a common resident, on both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. We saw it very well, on several occasions throughout the tour.

Gray-collared Becard *Pachyramphus major* This species is an uncommon resident, on both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. Graham was the only person to see this bird, while we were birding in the Sierra Juarez.

Rose-throated Becard *Pachyramphus aglaiae* This species is a common resident throughout Oaxaca, we saw it very well on a few occasions.

SWALLOWS

Gray-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea* This species is a common resident throughout much of Oaxaca, where we saw it well on several occasions.

Mangrove Swallow *Tachycineta albilinea* This attractive species is a common resident along both coasts of Oaxaca. We saw it very well on a few occasions.

Violet-green Swallow *Tachycineta thalassina* Another attractive species, this is a fairly common winter visitor to Oaxaca. We saw a single bird at Sierra de Juarez and this was followed by a second sighting, also of a single bird, at Yagul archaeological site.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* This species is a common resident throughout Oaxaca, which we saw well on many occasions.

Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* This species is a fairly common passage migrant through Oaxaca, from breeding grounds in the United States and Canada, to wintering grounds in South America. We observed a single bird during our time at the Yagul archaeological Site.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* The Barn Swallow is a common winter visitor to Oaxaca, where we saw it well on several occasions.

WAGTAILS AND PIPITS

American Pipit *Anthus rubescens* This species is a fairly common winter visitor to Oaxaca, from breeding grounds in Canada and Alaska. We saw a small flock of half a dozen or so birds, at a small reservoir at Teotitlan de Valle.

KINGLET

Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Regulus calendula* This small species is a fairly common winter visitor throughout Oaxaca, where we saw it well on a few occasions.

SILKY-FLYCATCHERS

Gray Silky-flycatcher *Ptilogonys cinereus* This very attractive species is a common resident throughout Oaxaca, we saw it well on many occasions.

WAXWINGS

Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum* This very beautiful species is an eruptive winter visitor to Mexico, from breeding grounds in the United States and Canada. Some winters it is plentiful, other years it is very scarce. This year we observed large flocks in and around Oaxaca.

WRENS

Band-backed Wren *Campylorhynchus zonatus* This species a common resident on the Gulf slope of Oaxaca. We observed it very well in and around San Mateo Yetla, on a few occasions.

Gray-barred Wren *Campylorhynchus megalopterus* This Mexican endemic is a fairly common resident, at high altitude in the Sierra Madre Mountains. We observed small flocks of this species at Teotitlan de Valle and La Combre Ixtepeji.

Rufous-naped Wren *Campylorhynchus rufinucha* This species is a common resident along the Pacific slope of Oaxaca. We saw it very well along the Sierra Madre del Sur coast, and in Huatulco National Park.

Boucard's Wren *Campylorhynchus jocosus* This uncommon Mexican endemic, has an extremely small range and it is confined to the states of Oaxaca and Guerrero. We enjoyed good looks during our time in the Teotitlan de Valle, and in the Yagul archaeological site. **Adolphe Boucard** (1839-1905) was a French naturalist who collected in Mexico and spent more than 40 years killing hummingbirds for science and for the fashion trade. He moved to London in 1890. He passed the latter years of his life in his villa near Ryde, on the Isle of Wight. He is the author of the *The Hummingbird* 1891.

Rock Wren *Salpinctes obsoletus* This species is a common resident in the central highlands of Oaxaca. It is a bird of rocky hillside, screes and rockfalls. However, the rock walls at the Monte Alban archaeological site, fit the bill very well, and this is where we enjoyed our only sightings of this bird.

Canyon Wren *Catherpes mexicanus* This species is also a common resident of the central highlands of Oaxaca. Unfortunately, we only heard this species, at the Yagul archaeological site.

Banded Wren *Thryophilus pleurostictus* This species is a fairly common resident along the Pacific coast of Oaxaca. We saw it well on many occasions, along the Sierra Madre del Sur Coast.

Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii* This species is a common resident in the central highlands of Oaxaca, where it is at the extreme southern end of its range. We saw it very well at Biguera, and again, at the Yagul archaeological site. **Thomas Bewick** (1753- 1823) was an English ornithologist and engraver; the best-known English illustrator of his generation. He never saw America but most natural history students, including **Audubon**, knew Bewick's work. Audubon met the elderly Bewick on his first trip to England in 1827 and honoured Bewick in naming after him a new wren, which he shot in Louisiana 16 years earlier. Audubon wrote of Bewick, *'A complete Englishman, full of life and energy, though now 74, very witty and clever, better acquainted with America than most of his countrymen, and an honour to England'*.

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon* A common resident throughout Oaxaca, we saw it well, on several occasions throughout the tour.

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucophrys* This species is a common, though rather shy inhabitant, of both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. We saw a single individual very well, at Sierra Miahuatlan.

MOCKINGIRDS AND THRASHERS

Gray Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis* This rather secretive species, is a common winter visitor to the Gulf slope of Oaxaca. We saw it well, on one occasion, close to San Mateo Yetla,

Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos* This species is a common and conspicuous resident of much of Oaxaca. We observed it very well on a number of occasions.

Ocellated Thrasher *Toxostoma ocellatum* This Mexican endemic is a rare bird in Oaxaca, where it occurs in the central mountain range. It is a very shy bird and difficult to observe. Therefore, we were very fortunate to enjoy prolonged, good looks, at a single bird, that responded well to playback, during our time at Biguera.

Curve-billed Thrasher *Toxostoma curvirostre* This species is a common resident of the central mountain range of Oaxaca, where it is at the extreme southern end of its range. We observed it well at Teotitlan de Valle, and at the Yagul archaeological site.

Blue Mockingbird *Melanotis caerulescens* This Mexican endemic, is a fairly common resident throughout Oaxaca, where it is at the extreme southern edge of its range. We observed this attractive species at La Combte Ixtepeji, and at the Yagul archaeological site.

THRUSHES AND ALLIES

Eastern Bluebird *Sialia sialis* This attractive species is a fairly common resident, on both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. We saw several birds particularly well, in the Sierra de Juarez.

Brown-backed Solitaire *Myadestes occidentalis* This species is a common resident of both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. We saw it well on a couple of occasions, at San Jose del Pacifico.

Slate-colored Solitaire *Myadestes unicolor* This species is a fairly common resident of the Gulf slope of Oaxaca. It is a bird of cloud forest and is extremely shy and retiring, and although we heard it on several occasions, we only glimpsed it once, at high altitude, in the Sierra Juarez.

Russet Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus occidentalis* This Mexican endemic, is a common resident of the Gulf slope of Oaxaca. We enjoyed good looks at this bird, on several occasions throughout the tour.

Hermit Thrush *Catharus guttatus* This species is a fairly common winter visitor, to the central highlands of Oaxaca. We observed a couple of birds very well, while birding at La Combte Ixtepeji.

Clay-colored Robin *Turdus grayi* This species is a common resident of the Gulf slope of Oaxaca, where we saw it very well, in and around the area of San Mateo Yetla.

White-throated Thrush *Turdus assimilis* This species is a fairly common resident of both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. We saw it well on several occasions throughout the tour.

Rufous-backed Robin *Turdus rufopalliatus* This Mexican endemic, is a common resident throughout much of Oaxaca. We saw it very well on a few occasions, and we saw it particularly well, in the Oaxaca Botanical Gardens.

American Robin *Turdus migratorius* This species is a fairly common resident on both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains, where it is at the extreme southern edge of its range. We saw it very well on a few occasions throughout the tour.

GNATCATCHERS

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Poliophtila caerulea* This common species is resident in the Central Highlands of Oaxaca, and a winter visitor to both slopes of those mountains. We saw both races very well.

White-lored Gnatcatcher *Poliophtila albiloris* This species is a fairly common resident along the Pacific slope. We saw a pair of birds extremely well, in the Huatulco National Park.

LONG-TAILED TITS

Bushtit *Psaltriparus minimus* This species is a fairly common resident of both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. We saw a small group at La Combre Ixtepeji, and this was followed by a second group, at Biguera.

CHICKADEES AND TITS

Mexican Chickadee *Poecile sclateri* This species is an uncommon resident of both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. We observed it well in the Sierra de Juarez and at La Combre Ixtepeji.

TREECREEPERS

Brown Creeper *Certhia americana* This species is an uncommon resident on both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. We saw it very well on one occasion, in the Sierra de Juarez.

SHRIKES

Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus* This species is a rare resident of the central highlands of Oaxaca, and a rare winter visitor on both slopes of the highlands. Therefore, we were very fortunate to observe a single bird, while fuelling our vehicle with petrol, in the town of Miahuatlan.

JAYS, MAGPIES AND CROWS

Steller's Jay *Cyanocitta stelleri* This species is a common resident on both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. We saw this species very well at La Combre Ixtepeji, and again, at Sierra Miahuatlan. **Georg Wilhelm Steller** (1709-1746) was a German naturalist and explorer in Russian service. He studied medicine at Halle, between 1731 and 1734, and was a physician in the Russian army in 1734. He became an assistant at the Academy of Sciences in St Petersburg in 1734 and accompanied Vitus Bering on his second expedition (1738-1742) to Alaska and Kamchatka. Between 1742 and 1744 he worked in Petropavlovsk but died on the return journey to St Petersburg. **John Latham**, the English naturalist, first described the Steller's Jay in 1781 based on Steller's detailed journals and on a skin from Vancouver Island, collected by Cook's expedition. Steller published a Journal of a Voyage with Bering in 1741-1742. In 1973, **Johann Gmelin** (1748-1804) named the jay in his honour, in his description. Steller himself, also discovered the eider and the eagle.

White-throated Magpie-Jay *Calocitta formosa* This very beautiful species, was voted 'Bird of the Tour' by tour participants. It is a common bird of the Pacific slope of Oaxaca. We enjoyed many good looks, while birding along the Sierra Madre del Sur coast.

Brown Jay *Psilorhinus morio* This species is a common resident on the Gulf slope of Oaxaca. We observed it on many occasions in and around San Mateo Yetla.

Dwarf Jay *Cyanolyca nana* This Mexican endemic is an uncommon resident of the central highlands of Oaxaca. We observed a large flock at La Combre Ixtepeji. This species is classified as 'Vulnerable' by Birdlife International. It is estimated that the population is between 6,000 – 15,000 individuals, and unfortunately decreasing. The main threat to this species, is the destruction of habitat.

Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay *Aphelocoma woodhouseii* This species is a fairly common resident in the central highlands of Oaxaca, where it is at the extreme southern edge of its range. We saw it very well in the Sierra Juarez. **Samuel Washington Woodhouse** (1821-1904) was an American surgeon, explorer and naturalist, who collected in the United States. He was on the Sitgreaves exploration of the Colorado and Zuni Rivers (1852) with the joint roles of doctor and naturalist. He published his journals under the title *A Naturalist in Indian Territory; The Journal of S.W. Woodhouse, 1849-50*. An amphibian and a mammal are also named after him.

Unicolored Jay *Aphelocoma unicolor* This species is an uncommon resident of the central highlands of Oaxaca. We observed a small flock very well in the Sierra Juarez.

Common Raven *Corvus corax* This species is a fairly common resident of the central mountains of Oaxaca. We saw it well in the Sierra de Juarez and again, at the Yagula archaeological site.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* This introduced species, was common throughout the towns and villages of Mexico.

VIREOS AND ALLIES

Slaty Vireo *Vireo brevipennis* This Mexican endemic is an uncommon and highly localised resident of the central highlands of Oaxaca. We were very fortunate, to see it exceptionally well, in dry scrub, at Biguera.

Mangrove Vireo *Vireo pallens* This species is a fairly common resident along the Pacific coast of Oaxaca. As the name would imply, it is a bird of mangroves, and this exactly where we found the bird, during our boat trip on the Laguna Manialtepec.

Bell's Vireo *Vireo bellii* This species is an uncommon winter visitor along the Pacific coast, and an uncommon passage migrant elsewhere in Oaxaca. We saw it well on one occasion at San Mateo Yetla, and again in the Sierra Madre del Sur. This species is classified as 'Near Threatened' by Birdlife International. The population is unknown, but unfortunately, it is definitely decreasing. **John Graham Bell** (1812-1899) was an American taxidermist who went with **Audubon** on his Missouri River Trip of 1843. He also taught taxidermy to the young Theodore Roosevelt. Bell visited California on a collecting expedition from 1848 to 1850 and discovered four new species, all described by **John Cassin**: Lawrence's Goldfinch, White-headed Woodpecker, Williamsons' Sapsucker and Sage Sparrow. Bell shot his first Sage Sparrow near Sonoma and **Cassin** gave the little bird the Latin name *Emberiza belli*, in his honour.

Dwarf Vireo *Vireo nelsoni* This Mexican endemic is a rare resident of the central highlands of Oaxaca. We were very fortunate, to see a pair extremely well, while birding in dry scrub at Biguera.

Cassin's Vireo *Vireo cassinii* This species is a common winter visitor to Oaxaca, which is at the extreme southern edge of its wintering range. We only observed this species on one occasion, in the Sierra Madre del Sur.

Blue-headed Vireo *Vireo solitarius* This species is also a common winter visitor throughout Oaxaca. Once again, we only observed it on one occasion, at San Mateo Yetla.

Hutton's Vireo *Vireo huttoni* This species is a common resident on both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. We saw it very well, on one occasion, in the Sierra Juarez. **William Rich Hutton** (1826-1901) was an artist, a surveyor and a civil engineer. In 1849 he was chosen to assist Lieutenant Ord in the pueblo survey. He spent that summer helping with the survey and sketched and drew scenes in the area, in his spare time. Although he was on the move all the time, he supplied the Smithsonian with a number of specimens, including that of a vireo which he took near Monterrey, California, which was named after him. He returned to Washington DC in 1853. He married one of Francis Clopper's daughters and inherited the Clopper estate and woodlands, which now form part of the Seneca Creek State Park. Among his engineering projects were the old Cabin John Bridge and the Washington Aqueduct, the Washington Bridge over the Harlem River and the Hudson River Tunnel, in New York. He was embarrassed by the honour of having a bird named after him, and said in a letter to a relative '... it goes against my principle to name after individuals, unless for important scientific service.' He is the subject of at least two biographies.

Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus* This species of vireo is a common resident in the Sierra Juarez, and a common winter visitor elsewhere in Oaxaca. We observed it at La Combre Ixtepeji, where it is a resident, and along the Sierra Madre del Sur, where it is a winter visitor.

Golden Vireo *Vireo hypochryseus* This Mexican endemic is a fairly common resident throughout much of Oaxaca. We saw it well on one occasion, in the Sierra Madre del Sur.

Lesser Greenlet *Hylophilus decurtatus* This very plain species, is a common resident of the Gulf slope of Oaxaca. We saw it well on one occasion, close to San Mateo Yetla.

Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo *Vireolanus melitophrys* This Mexican endemic is an uncommon resident of both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. Graham observed this species at La Combre Ixtepeji.

SISKINS, CROSSBILLS AND ALLIES

Yellow-throated Euphonia *Euphonia hirundinacea* This species is a fairly common resident along the Gulf slope of Oaxaca, and a fairly common winter visitor along the Pacific slope of Oaxaca. We saw it well on one occasion, close to San Mateo Yetla,

Elegant Euphonia *Euphonia elegantissima* As the name would imply, this attractive species is a fairly common resident along both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. We saw it well on one occasion, at Biguera.

Olive-backed Euphonia *Euphonia gouldi* This species is a fairly common resident along the Gulf slope of Oaxaca, where it is at the extreme northern edge of its range. We saw an individual very well, close to San Mateo Yetla.

House Finch *Carpodacus mexicanus* This species is a common resident throughout the central highlands of Oaxaca. We saw it very well on many occasions, it proved particularly numerous, at the Monte Alban archaeological site.

Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* This species is a very uncommon and highly localised resident, along both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. Therefore, we were very fortunate to enjoy good looks at a pair of birds, in the Sierra de Juarez.

Lesser Goldfinch *Spinus psaltria* This species is a common resident throughout the central highlands of Oaxaca, where we saw it well, on many occasions.

Hooded Grosbeak *Coccothraustes abeillei* There is little known about this rare and highly localised species. We saw a pair of birds very well in the grounds of our ecolodge, at San Jose del Pacifico. This species has not been seen in this region before.

OLIVE WARBLER

Olive Warbler *Peucedramus taeniatus* This species, which is in a family of its own, is a fairly common resident on both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. We saw it well at La Combre Ixtepeji, and in the Sierra Juarez.

NEW WORLD WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler *Oreothlypis celata* This species is a common winter visitor throughout Oaxaca, from breeding grounds in the United States and Canada. We saw it very well, on several occasions.

Nashville Warbler *Oreothlypis ruficapilla* This species is also a common winter visitor throughout Oaxaca, from breeding grounds in the United States and Canada. We saw it very well, on several occasions.

Virginia's Warbler *Oreothlypis virginiae* This species is a fairly common winter visitor to the central highlands of Oaxaca, from breeding grounds in the western United States. We saw it very well, on one occasion, at Biguera. **Mary Virginia Childs Anderson** (1833-1912) was the wife of American army surgeon **Dr William Wallace Anderson**, who discovered the Virginia's Warbler, in 1858.

- Crescent-chested Warbler** *Oreothlypis superciliosa* This species is a fairly common resident on both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. It was seen well, on one occasion, at La Combre Ixtepeji.
- Yellow Warbler** *Dendroica petechia* This brightly coloured species, is a common winter visitor to both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains, and a common passage migrant in the central highlands. Its breeding grounds are in the United States and Canada, and it winters in South America.
- Mangrove Warbler** *Dendroica erithachorides* This species is a fairly common resident, along both coasts of Oaxaca. We observed a couple of birds in the sierra Madre del Sur.
- Chestnut-sided Warbler** *Dendroica pensylvanica* This attractive species is an uncommon winter visitor to the Gulf slope of Oaxaca, from breeding grounds in eastern Canada. We saw a bird very well, close to San Mateo Yetla.
- Magnolia Warbler** *Dendroica magnolia* This very attractive species is a common winter visitor, to both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains, from breeding grounds in Canada. It was seen well, on one occasion, in the Sierra Madre del Sur.
- Myrtle Warbler** *Dendroica coronata* This species is a common winter visitor to the central highlands and the Gulf slope of Oaxaca, from breeding grounds in Canada. We saw it very well on many occasions.
- Audubon's Warbler** *Dendroica auduboni* This species is a common winter visitor to the central highlands and the Pacific slope of Oaxaca, from breeding grounds in the western United States. We saw it well on several occasions, in the Teotitlan de Valle, and at La Combre Ixtepeji. **John James Audubon** 1785-1851 is remembered as the father of American ornithology, and as a notable artist, collector and author. He gave several different account of his birth, but he was the illegitimate son of a French naval captain and a French girl who worked at the sugar plantation in Dan Domingo, Haiti. Audubon's mother died within a short time of his birth, so Audubon's father took him back to France when he was a young child, where he was adopted by Captain Audubon and his legal wife. When he was a teenager, Captain Audubon sent him to manage his plantation near Philadelphia. It was here that Audubon met and married, his wife Lucy, whose support proved critical in achieving his success. He succeeded only because he went to England, where his bird illustrations were much admired, and subscribers made possible the publication of his monumental Birds of America, which came out in four volumes, between 1827 and 1838.
- Townsend's Warbler** *Dendroica townsendi* This attractive species, is a common winter visitor to the central highlands of Oaxaca, from breeding grounds in western Canada. We saw it very well, on many occasions. **John Kirk Townsend** (1809-1851) was an American naturalist, ornithologist and collector. He sent many specimens to **Audubon** who gave him free reign in naming anything which he found. These specimens included the solitaire and the bunting, which Audubon named after him. Apparently Townsend was going to name the warbler that he found, but learned that **Nuttall** had provisionally named it for him already, so he acknowledged his precedence.
- Hermit Warbler** *Dendroica occidentalis* This species is a fairly common winter visitor, to both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains, from breeding grounds in the western United States. We saw it very well, on several occasions.
- Yellow-throated Warbler** *Dendroica dominica* This species is a fairly common winter visitor, to both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains, from breeding grounds in the eastern United States. We saw it very well, at Vega de Sol and in the Sierra Miahuatlan.
- Black-and-white Warbler** *Mniotilta varia* This attractive species is a common winter visitor, throughout Oaxaca, from breeding grounds in the eastern United States and Canada. We saw it very well, in the Sierra Madre del Sur and during the boat trip, on the Laguna Manialtepec.

- American Redstart** *Setophaga ruticilla* This attractive species, is a common winter visitor throughout Oaxaca, from breeding grounds in the United States and Canada. We saw it very well, on several occasions throughout the tour.
- Northern Waterthrush** *Parkesia noveboracensis* This species is a common winter visitor throughout Oaxaca, from breeding grounds in Canada. We saw it very well, on several occasions throughout the tour.
- MacGillivray's Warbler** *Oporornis tolmiei* This species is a common winter visitor throughout Oaxaca, from breeding grounds in the western United States. We saw it very well, on several occasions throughout the tour. **William MacGillivray** (1795-1851) was a Scottish artist and professor who occupied the Regius Chair of Natural History at Marischal College in Aberdeen, in 1841. He grew up on Harris, in the outer Hebrides, and gained extensive knowledge of the fauna and flora of the Scottish highlands in field trips where he often walked hundreds of miles. He walked to London just to see the bird collection at the British Museum! He has been called 'the first ecologist'. He wrote a five volume 'History of British Birds', which he intended to illustrate with coloured plates based on his watercolours, but the great expense involved, prevented him.
- Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas* This species is a common winter visitor, throughout Oaxaca, from breeding grounds in the United States and Canada. We saw a bird very well, in farmland, at Vega de Sol.
- Hooded Warbler** *Wilsonia citrina* This extremely attractive species is a fairly common winter visitor to the Gulf slope of Oaxaca, from breeding grounds in the eastern United States. We saw a couple of birds very well, close to San Mateo Yetla.
- Wilson's Warbler** *Wilsonia pusilla* This species is a common winter visitor, throughout Oaxaca, from breeding grounds in the western United States and Canada. We saw several birds well, at scattered localities throughout the tour. **Alexander Wilson** (1766-1813) was a pioneering American ornithologist, and the first to study American birds in their native habitats. As such, he is often called the Father of American Ornithology. Born in Scotland, Wilson was unfairly imprisoned for libel, and following his release in 1794, he emigrated to the United States. From 1808-1813 he published seven volumes of his *American Ornithology*.
- Red Warbler** *Ergaticus ruber* This very attractive species is a fairly common resident, to both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. We saw it very well, at La Combre Ixtepeji.
- Slate-throated Redstart** *Myioborus miniatus* This very active species of warbler, is a common resident, to both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. We saw it very well, on several occasions.
- Fan-tailed Warbler** *Euthlypis lachrymosa* This attractive species is an uncommon and highly localised resident of the Pacific slope of Oaxaca. We saw a couple of birds very well, along the Sierra Madre del Sur.
- Golden-crowned Warbler** *Basileuterus culicivorus* This very active species of warbler, is a fairly common resident, to both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. We saw it very well, on one occasion, in the Sierra Madre del Sur.
- Rufous-capped Warbler** *Basileuterus rufifrons* This particularly attractive warbler, is a common resident throughout Oaxaca. We saw it very well, on a few occasions.
- Golden-browed Warbler** *Basileuterus belli* This species is a fairly common resident. throughout Oaxaca. We saw it very well at Sierra de Juarez and Sierra Miahuatlan.
- Red-breasted Chat** *Granatellus venustus* This Mexican endemic is a fairly common, but highly localised resident, of the Pacific coast of Oaxaca. We were fortunate to enjoy great looks at a pair of birds, in the Huatulco National Park.

BANANAQUIT

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola* This species is in a family of its own. It is an uncommon resident of the Gulf slope of Oaxaca. We saw a couple of birds very well, close to San Mateo Yetla.

TANAGERS AND ALLIES

Common Bush-Tanager *Chlorospingus ophthalmicus* This species is a common resident of both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains of Oaxaca. We watched a pair of birds nest-building, high in the Sierra Juarez.

Red-crowned Ant-Tanager *Habia rubica* This shy and retiring species, is an uncommon resident of both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains, of Oaxaca. We saw a few birds in the Sierra Madre del Sur, and in the Huatulco National Park.

Red-throated Ant-Tanager *Habia fuscicauda* This shy and retiring species, is a locally fairly common resident of the Gulf slope of Oaxaca. We saw a couple of birds very well, close to San Mateo Yetla.

Hepatic Tanager *Piranga flava* This attractive species, is a fairly common resident of both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains, of Oaxaca. We saw a few birds very well, at La Combre Ixtepeji, and Biguera.

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra* This species is a fairly common winter visitor, throughout Oaxaca. We saw a bird very well, at Sierra Madre del Sur.

Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana* This attractive species is an uncommon winter visitor, throughout Oaxaca, from breeding grounds, in the western United States and western Canada. We saw several birds very well, at scattered locations, throughout the tour.

White-winged Tanager *Piranga leucoptera* This extremely attractive species, is an uncommon resident of the Gulf slope of Oaxaca. We saw an adult male, close to San Mateo Yetla.

Crimson-collared Tanager *Ramphocelus sanguinolentus* This extremely attractive species, is an uncommon resident of the Gulf slope of Oaxaca. We saw an adult male, close to San Mateo Yetla.

Blue-gray Tanager *Thraupis episcopus* This species, is a common resident of the Gulf slope of Oaxaca. We saw it well on several occasions, in and around San Mateo Yetla.

Yellow-winged Tanager *Thraupis abbas* This species, is a fairly common resident of the Gulf slope of Oaxaca. We saw it well on many occasions, in and around San Mateo Yetla.

Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus* This very attractive species, is a common resident of both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains, of Oaxaca. We saw a few birds very well, at scattered locations throughout the tour.

BUNTINGS, SPARROWS, SEEDEATERS AND ALLIES

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina* This species is a common resident throughout Oaxaca. We saw several birds in and around San Mateo Yetla.

White-collared Seedeater *Sporophila torqueola* This species is a common resident throughout Oaxaca. We saw a few birds at San Mateo Yetla, and at Vega de Sol.

Thick-billed Seed-Finch *Oryzoborus funereus* This species is an uncommon resident of the Gulf slope of Oaxaca. We saw a stunning male, very well, close to San Mateo Yetla.

Yellow-faced Grassquit *Tiaris olivaceus* This species is a common resident of the Gulf slope of Oaxaca. We saw a few birds at San Mateo Yetla, and at Vega de Sol.

Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer *Diglossa baritula* This species, is an uncommon resident of both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains, of Oaxaca. We saw a few birds very well, at scattered locations throughout the tour.

Rufous-capped Brush-Finch *Atlapetes pileatus* This species, is a fairly common resident of both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains, of Oaxaca. We saw birds very well, at both Sierra de Juarez and La Combre Ixtepeji.

- Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch** *Arremon brunneinucha* This species, is also a fairly common resident of both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains, of Oaxaca. We saw a single bird very well, at Sierra Miahuatlan.
- Olive Sparrow** *Arremonops rufivirgatus* This species, is a common resident of both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains, of Oaxaca. We saw a single bird very well, along the Sierra Madre del Sur Coast.
- Collared Towhee** *Pipilo ocai* This Mexican endemic, is a common resident of both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains, of Oaxaca. We saw a couple of birds extremely well, at La Combte Ixtepeji.
- Spotted Towhee** *Pipilo maculatus* This species is a common resident of the central highlands of Oaxaca. We saw it well, at La Combte Ixtepeji, and at Sierra Miahuatlan.
- White-throated Towhee** *Melospiza albicollis* This Mexican endemic is common within its very limited range. We saw it well on many occasions throughout the tour.
- Bridled Sparrow** *Peucaea mystacalis* This attractive species of sparrow is a Mexican endemic, once again, it is common within its limited range. We saw it very well at Biguera, and again at the Yagul archaeological site.
- Oaxaca Sparrow** *Aimophila notosticta* This Mexican endemic, is a rare and highly localised species, we observed it very well at La Combte Ixtepeji and in in the Sierra Juarez.
- Rusty Sparrow** *Aimophila rufescens* This species is a fairly common resident on both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. We observed a single bird, for a prolonged period of time, as it sat in a small bush, close San Mateo Yetla.
- Chipping Sparrow** *Spizella passerina* This species is a common resident throughout most of Oaxaca. We observed a small number on the first day of the tour, at Sierra de Juarez.
- Vesper Sparrow** *Pooecetes gramineus* This species is a common winter visitor to the central highlands of Oaxaca. We saw a few birds very well, on the first day of the tour, at Teotitlan de Valle.
- Lark Sparrow** *Chondestes grammacus* This attractive species is a fairly common winter visitor to the central highlands, and Pacific coast of Oaxaca. Once again, we observed a few birds on the first day of the tour, at Teotitlan de Valle.
- Lincoln's Sparrow** *Melospiza lincolnii* This species is a fairly common winter visitor to Oaxaca. We saw it very well in the Sierra de Juarez, and at La Combte Ixtepeji. **Thomas Lincoln** (1812-1883) was an American naturalist. He went on a trip with **Audubon** to Labrador, when he was just 21, and it was here that he shot the bird that now bears his name. It was the only new bird discovered on the expedition. Back in his home state of Maine, Lincoln became a farmer and noted abolitionist.
- Yellow-eyed Junco** *Junco phaeonotus* This attractive species is a common resident on both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. We saw it very well, on many occasions throughout the tour.

SALTATORS, CARINALS AND ALLIES

- Grayish Saltator** *Saltator coerulescens* This species is a common resident on both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. We saw it very well on a couple of occasions, close to San Mateo Yetla.
- Buff-throated Saltator** *Saltator maximus* This species is a common resident of the Gulf slope of Oaxaca. We saw a few birds very well, during our time at San Mateo Yetla.
- Black-headed Saltator** *Saltator atriceps* This species is a common resident of both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. We saw a few birds very well, in and around San Mateo Yetla.
- Northern Cardinal** *Cardinalis cardinalis* This very attractive species is a fairly common resident of both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. We saw it very well along the Sierra Madre del Sur Coast, and in Huatulco National Park.

- Black-headed Grosbeak** *Pheucticus melanocephalus* This very attractive species is a common resident of the central highlands of Oaxaca. We saw it very well, at scattered locations throughout the tour.
- Blue Bunting** *Cyanocompsa parellina* This species is a fairly common resident of both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. We saw a number of individuals very well along the Sierra Madre del Sur Coast.
- Blue-black Grosbeak** *Cyanocompsa cyanooides* This attractive species is a fairly common resident, of the Gulf slope, of Oaxaca. We saw it very well on one occasion, close to San Mateo Yetla.
- Blue Grosbeak** *Passerina caerulea* This species is a common resident in the central highlands of Oaxaca, and a common winter visitor to both coasts. We observed it very well at scattered locations throughout the tour.
- Indigo Bunting** *Passerina cyanea* This very attractive species, is a common winter visitor throughout Oaxaca. We observed small flocks at San Mateo Yetla, and at Vega de Sol.
- Orange-breasted Bunting** *Passerina leclancherii* This very attractive species, is a fairly common resident, along the Pacific coast of Oaxaca. We saw it very well along the Sierra Madre del Sur Coast, and in the Huatulco National Park.
- Painted Bunting** *Passerina ciris* This very attractive species, is an uncommon winter visitor throughout Oaxaca. We observed it on one occasion at Bautista Valle National, and again along the Sierra Madre del Sur coast. This species is classified as 'Near Threatened' by Birdlife International. Its population is unknown, but unfortunately, declining.

TROUPIALS AND ALLIES

- Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus* This attractive species is a common resident throughout Oaxaca. We observed a few birds in a large reedbed, at the mouth of the Rio Colotepec.
- Melodious Blackbird** *Dives dives* This species is a common resident on the Gulf slope of Oaxaca. We saw it very well, on many occasions.
- Great-tailed Grackle** *Quiscalus mexicanus* This attractive species is a common resident throughout Oaxaca. We observed it on almost every day of the tour.
- Bronzed Cowbird** *Molothrus aeneus* This species is also a common resident throughout Oaxaca. We observed large flocks on many occasions throughout the tour.
- Altamira Oriole** *Icterus gularis* This very attractive species is a common resident on both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. We observed it well on many occasions throughout the tour.
- Streak-backed Oriole** *Icterus pustulatus* This attractive species is a fairly common resident of the Pacific slope of Oaxaca. We saw a pair of birds very well, along the Sierra Madre del Sur Coast.
- Hooded Oriole** *Icterus cucullatus* This species of oriole is a fairly common resident of the Gulf slope of Oaxaca, and a fairly common winter visitor, to the Pacific slope of Oaxaca, from breeding grounds in southern California. We observed an adult male, on one occasion, in farmland, at Vega de Sol.
- Baltimore Oriole** *Icterus galbula* Yet another attractive species; this oriole is a common winter visitor throughout Oaxaca, where we saw it well, on many occasions.
- Bullock's Oriole** *Icterus bullockii* Another very attractive species, this oriole is a fairly common winter visitor throughout Oaxaca. We observed a single individual, in the grounds of our ecolodge, at San Jose del Pacifico. **William Bullock** (1773-1849) was an English traveller and amateur naturalist, and a former goldsmith. He established a travelling museum in London, with 3,000 skins and 32,000 other curiosities, that he had collected. He collected a number of specimens new to science. His friend **Swainson**, to whom he sold many specimens, named the oriole in his honour, from a bird which Bullock collected.

- Orchard Oriole** *Icterus spurius* This species is a fairly common passage migrant, through the central highlands of Oaxaca, from breeding grounds in the eastern United States. It is a fairly common winter visitor to both slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. We observed small numbers of this species, at regular intervals, throughout the tour.
- Black-cowled Oriole** *Icterus prothemelas* This species is an uncommon resident along the Gulf slope of Oaxaca. We observed a single individual, on one occasion, close to San Mateo Yetla.
- Black-vented Oriole** *Icterus wagleri* This species is a common resident throughout the central highlands of Oaxaca. We saw it very well, on a few occasions throughout the tour.
- Audubon's Oriole** *Icterus graduacauda* This species is a very uncommon and highly localised resident, along the central highlands of Oaxaca, and in the Sierra Madre del Sur. We observed a single bird on one occasion in the Sierra Madre del Sur.
- Scott's Oriole** *Icterus parisorum* This species of oriole is an uncommon winter visitor, to the central highlands of Oaxaca. We saw a single individual on one occasion, in the Sierra de Juarez. **Winfield Scott** (1786-1866) was a commander in the United States forces during the Mexican War. He was known (probably not to his face) as 'Old Fuss and Feathers'. Scott stood as a Whig for the Presidency (1852) and was defeated by Franklin Pierce. Although a Southerner, he remained loyal to the Union throughout the American Civil War and died at West Point, New York.
- Yellow-winged Cacique** *Cacicus melanicterus* This attractive species of oriole is a common resident along the Pacific coast of Oaxaca, where we saw it well, on many occasions.
- Montezuma Oropendola** *Psarocolius montezuma* This attractive species is a fairly common resident of the Gulf slope of Oaxaca. We observed it well on many occasions, in and around San Mateo Yetla. Montezuma (1480-1520) was Emperor of the Aztec's, in Mexico, at the time of the Spanish conquest.

MAMMALS

- Mexican Cottontail** *Sylvilagus cunicularius* This species of rabbit is endemic to southern Mexico. We observed a single animal extremely well, while birding at the Yagul archaeological site.
- Mexican Red-bellied Squirrel** *Sciurus aureogaster* This is the common squirrel throughout Mexico, we saw it well on many occasions throughout the tour, including the melanistic form.
- Eastern Spotted Skunk** *Spilogale putorius* This miniature species of skunk, was observed by Bill and myself, in the grounds of our lodge, along the Pacific coast.
- Western Hog-nosed Skunk** *Conepatus mesoleucus* This large species of skunk, was observed briefly, by some members of the group, in the Huatulco National Park.
- Gray Sac-winged Bat** *Balantiopteryx plicata* This common species of bat, was observed well, in the warehouse of the coffee factory we visited.