

**Birding Trip Report: Western Mexico**  
**Sierra Madre Occidental & Lowlands of Sinaloa, Nayarit, Jalisco**  
**17-Dec to 25-Dec 2022 – By Pritam Baruah**



*Tufted Jay, Chara Pinta Reserve*

The endemic rich region of Western Mexico has been on my to do list for many years. I had finally booked a trip for Feb 2022 but because of a personal situation, I had to cancel it days before the trip. I hadn't thought about planning a make-up until a last-minute travel opportunity suddenly opened in an inflexible window of time. With no time to plan, I pulled up my detailed notes from the planning that went in for the cancelled trip of Feb 2022. After gleaning that most of the targeted species were still possible in Dec (Swifts, & Eared Quetzal become extremely rare in Dec, best time overall is Feb & March), I decided to replan for Western Mexico and with some difficulty I was able to rebook the trip.

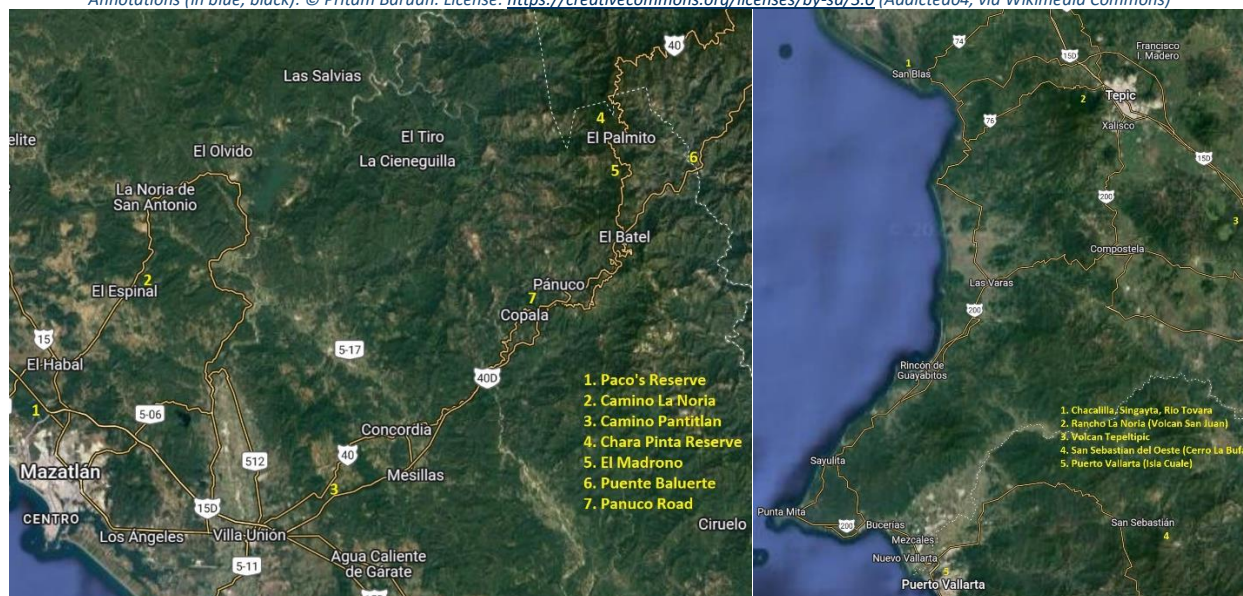
The birding zone of Western Mexico is constituted by a thin belt of coastal lowlands and the Pacific slope of the Sierra Madre Occidental, which rises abruptly from the coast to the highlands of the Central Mexican Plateau & Chihuahuan Desert. The coastal lowlands are characterized by swamps, thorn scrub & dry deciduous forest (the latter two also in foothills and in elevations below 1400 masl), while the highlands are characterized by pine-oak temperate forest. This region is transitional between the Neotropical and Nearctic realms, and the mountains here have undergone periods of isolation across ice ages from the other branches of the Sierra Madre (in Oaxaca, Chiapas, Veracruz etc). Hence, it is one of the most endemic rich regions in the Americas. Apart from 50+ Mexico endemics (some shared with southern and central Mexico), it hosts another 50+ Mexico near-endemics (species that sneak it into Arizona & New Mexico, or the Guatemalan Highlands). The mountains located east of Puerto Vallarta are at the westernmost end of the Transvolcanic Belt and hence, several species that are more typical from Colima to Mexico City are also found here.



## ➤ Maps & Places



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Sinaloa, Nayarit, Jalisco birding areas. Annotations (in yellow): ©Pritam Baruah. Map Data: ©Google.

Because of a lack of time, I did not include the volcanic landscape of Colima & Southeast Jalisco in this trip. This area, from Guadalajara to Manzanillo via Volcan de Nieve & Volcan de Fuego takes about 6 days and it can be easily combined (drive to Ciudad Guzman from Tepic/San Blas). If adding that, then Puerto Vallarta / San Sebastian del Oeste can be skipped as all the special species here can be found in Colima too.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Mazatlan<br>(Sinaloa)   | This major beach tourism hub is also great for lowland birding. It has a birdy coastline and dry thorn forest northeast of the city, which is usually quite productive. At least 2 half-day sessions are recommended across various spots like <b>Paco's Reserve</b> (Elegant Quail, Purplish-backed Jay), <b>El Habal, Los Ebanos Rd &amp; Camino La Noria</b> (Red-breasted Chat). Influence from the Sonoran Desert is still apparent, with the picturesque Organ Pipe Cactus at its southernmost range here, and Gila Woodpeckers are abundant. At the start of the highway to Durango, the hotspot of <b>Camino Pantitlan</b> (200 masl) is another lowland site to explore (can be good for swifts in the right season).  |
| Durango Hwy<br><b>highlands</b><br>(Sinaloa)                                      | The most important, endemic rich habitat of Western Mexico is pine-oak temperate forest. The <b>Chara Pinta Reserve</b> (2000 – 2300 masl), also known as Tufted Jay Reserve or Barranca Rancho Liebre is the top site for this habitat and for the mega, Tufted Jay, which is exclusively found in this habitat. It is located right on the border with Durango state. <b>El Madroño</b> (2000 – 1700 masl) (23.5342359, -105.8379661), a community / quarry located just south of the reserve, is not a well-known site but we went there because a pair of Eared Quetzals was seen there a month ago. We hiked down a steep valley for several hundred meters but did not see it. The village of <b>El Palmito</b> (1960 masl) can be used as a base for birding these pine-oak forests. It has several highway restaurants specializing in ' <b>gorditas</b> '. We stayed 1 night in the reserve cabins & 2N at Rancho Bonito Hotel (El Palmito, clean, internet access, rustic, & excellent food). |
| Durango Hwy<br><b>foothills</b><br>(Sinaloa)                                      | <b>Panuco Road</b> (600 – 900 masl) is the best place anywhere to see Military Macaw. It is the main site for foothill birding on this itinerary. Many lowland species are also possible here and some species (like Golden-crowned Emerald, Colima Pygmy Owl, Black-capped Gnatcatcher) are easier here than elsewhere. <b>Puente Baluarte</b> (700 – 900 masl) is a 'reliable' spot for Five-striped Sparrow & Lucifer Sheartail. They occur along the dirt road down to the river below the bridge (on the Durango side) but we dipped both.   |
| San Blas area<br><b>highlands</b><br>(Nayarit)                                    | <b>Rancho La Noria</b> (1600 masl, Volcan San Juan) is the best highland site near San Blas (1 hr). It has many of the same species as Chara Pinta Reserve & San Sebastian del Oeste with some pluses (Mexican Woodnymph, Buff-breasted Flycatcher) & minuses (Golden-browed Warbler, Tufted Jay). It is the only site for Cinereous Owl (Mexican Barred Owl). East of Tepic, the road that circles the laguna at <b>Volcan Tepetitlic</b> (1450 masl) is a place where Antonio has encountered both poorwills & Buff-collared Nightjar. We were not successful there. The <b>Parque Metropolitano</b> in <b>Tepic</b> city is a good site for Aztec Rail, Spotted Rail & Sora. Mexican Duck can be seen on the <b>Rio Mololoa</b> .  |
| San Blas area<br><b>lowlands</b><br>(Nayarit)                                     | By far the birdiest locality of the trip is <b>Chacalilla</b> (the name of a pueblo). The area is characterized by lagunas (good for Spotted Rail, saw 2), thorn forest, scrub, degraded grassland and shrimp ponds. Various spots in this general area are good for Elegant Quail, Lesser Ground Cuckoo, Mexican Parrotlet (check big trees with umbrella canopy) etc. A 15-min drive from Chacalilla is <b>Vivero Singayta</b> – famous for Red-breasted Chat, Rosy Thrush-Tanager and a stake-out for Flammulated Flycatcher (dipped!). A 4-hour boat ride on the <b>Rio Tovara</b> with Don Chencho is famous for its dramatic tunnel like mangroves, Rufous-necked Wood Rail & Northern Potoo. Other sites near San Blas like La Bajada (Mexican Hermit lek), La Palma, Crocodrilario Kiekari, Matanchen & Tecuitata were not visited for strategic reasons that may not be applicable to readers (more info can be found in the referenced trip reports).   |
| San Sebastian del Oeste / La Bufa<br><b>highlands &amp; lowlands</b><br>(Jalisco) | This beautiful hill station (1500 masl) 1.30 hours from Puerto Vallarta is the base for exploring the pine-oak forests of <b>Cerro la Bufa</b> (up to 2400 masl), which is the farthest west that several species more typical of the Central Mexican Transvolcanic landscape (including Colima & CDMX) and Oaxaca, occur. It is also a backup site for species that were dipped in Sinaloa & Nayarit highlands. Below the village is sub-tropical dry deciduous forest that looks promising, but we did not explore it. There are spots just north of Nuevo Vallarta (now renamed to Nuevo Nayarit) for Orange-breasted Bunting. The Jardin Botanico (30 mins south of PV) has active feeders & San Blas Jay. I just did the parks within city limits and got both San Blas Jay & West Mexican Chachalaca.   |

## ➤ Itinerary

| Day | Date       | Summary  | Night                          |
|-----|------------|--|--------------------------------|
| 1   | 17-Dec Sat | Morning fly San Francisco to Mazatlán (Sinaloa). 2 hours birding Paco's Reserva de Flora y Fauna – a lowland scrub forest north of Mazatlan. Overnight in Mazatlán.  | Azul Arena Hotel Boutique      |
| 2   | 18-Dec Sun | An hour in Paco's Reserve. Watch the World Cup finals at a ranch restaurant near El Habal. Birding lowland dry forest at Camino La Noria. Drive to the Durango Hwy. Birding foothill forest at Camino Pantitlan. Overnight in Chara Pinta Reserve. | Cabanas la Chara Pinta Reserve |
| 3   | 19-Dec Mon | Full day high elevation birding in El Madroño. Owling in Chara Pinta. Overnight in the village of El Palmito.  | Hotel Rancho Bonito            |
| 4   | 20-Dec Tue | AM high elevation birding south of the Chara Pinta Reserve. Owling in Chara Pinta Reserve. PM birding near Puente Baluarte. Overnight in the village of El Palmito.  | Hotel Rancho Bonito            |
| 5   | 21-Dec Wed | Early drive to Panuco Road & birding there. Lunch in Concordia. PM drive towards Tepic (Nayarit). Owling at Volcan Tepetitlic. Drive to La Noria & owling at Cerro San Juan. Overnight at Rancho La Noria, Volcan San Juan.                        | Rancho la Noria Cabanas        |
| 6   | 22-Dec Thu | AM birding in Rancho La Noria and the main road. Birding Rio Mololoa & Parque Metropolitano in Tepic city. Owling on the road to Rancho La Noria. Overnight in San Blas.   | La Casa del Pelicano           |
| 7   | 23-Dec Fri | AM: Chacalilla area, Singayta area. Rio Tovar boat ride at 3 pm. Overnight in San Blas.  | La Casa del Pelicano           |
| 8   | 24-Dec Sat | AM: Singayta area, Chacalilla area. Drive to San Sebastian del Oeste via San Pancho. Owling in Cerro la Bufa. Overnight in San Sebastian del Oeste.  | Hotel Casa Leal                |
| 9   | 25-Dec Sun | All day San Sebastian del Oeste. Drive to Puerto Vallarta.   | Posada de Roger                |
| 10  | 26-Dec Mon | Birding Isla Cuale. Afternoon Puerto Vallarta to San Francisco.  |                                |

## ➤ Logistics

I hired local guide **Antonio Robles** ([antonioroblesmx@gmail.com](mailto:antonioroblesmx@gmail.com)) to do the guiding and driving on this trip. Antonio is a top-notch bird guide, a safe driver and knows Western Mexico like the back of his hand. He is also very agreeable to hardcore birding, with the ability to maintain physical & mental intensity for long hours.

Because I had birded quite a bit in North and Central America, we only targeted regional endemics on this trip. So, we decided to keep the itinerary flexible. We prebooked only one night for the whole trip – a night in the cabanas of the Chara Pinta Reserve. The rest of the nights and all meals were planned on the go. Breakfasts were always on the field and always picked up from a convenience store like Oxxo or Kiosko. In a minimally pre-planned itinerary, it is wise to pre-buy some food for backup. All towns have ATMs that take international debit cards. The cabins at the Chara Pinta Reserve have electricity, hot water & kitchen. You will need to bring your own food, or you can do takeout from the village of El Palmito. Santos's (the local guide for the reserve) wife can cook meals too, but unless it is for a group, you'd have to eat at his house in El Palmito. I recommend taking your own sheets to the cabins. It was cold in the highlands, warm in the foothills, and hot in the lowlands (Mazatlan, San Blas). Insect repellent is required in the lowlands and especially in San Blas as it is surrounded by swamps. The roads through Chara Pinta Reserve and Cerro La Bufa are in bad shape but still motorable by a regular car. A high clearance vehicle is desirable.

The state of Sinaloa is synonymous with drug cartel activity but most of the trouble is in the north of the state. The Mazatlan area and highway to Durango are currently safe enough to go birding. The state of Nayarit is considered safe and so are San Sebastian del Oeste & Puerto Vallarta city.



## ➤ Diary

Only the first occurrence of a species is noted in this diary – note that this usually coincides with the locality where it is considered a specialty. **Distribution codes:** **W:** Endemic to Western Mexico; **WS:** Endemic to West & South MX; **V:** Endemic to Volcanic Belt of MX; **S:** Endemic to Southern MX; **M:** Endemic to MX (usually W+S+V); **MG:** Mexico + Guatemala (usually Sierra Madre & Pacific coast); **NCA:** Northern Central America; **NCAU:** NCA + just into US; **NCAC:** NCA + Caribbean; **CA:** Central America; **CAU:** CA + just into US.

### • 17-Dec Sat [San Francisco to Mazatlan, Paco's Reserva de Flora y Fauna]

My flight from San Francisco landed on time and Antonio was waiting for me at the airport. We went to the city center to takeout some late lunch at a vegan restaurant (La Ruta Vegana), attempted to withdraw some money at an ATM inside a Farmacias Guadalajara (failed) and then went to Paco's Reserve for a couple hours of birding. The inevitable first lifer and endemic was the ubiquitous **Sinaloa Crow [W]**. Walking the dirt road through the 'reserve' (it does not look like one – more like a loose collective of private lands), we **scored Broad-billed Hummingbird, Rufous-bellied Chachalaca, 2 Soras** in the open, **Gray Hawk, Gila Woodpecker [MU], Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Thick-billed Kingbird [MU], Rufous-backed Robin [WS], Vermillion Flycatcher, Yellow-winged Cacique [MG]** etc. There were many species of winter migrants from the northern latitudes, like **Lincoln's Sparrow, Wilson's, Nashville & MacGillivray's Warbler**. The stunning, **Yellow-breasted Chat**, now placed in its own mono-specific family – *Icteriidae*, and an elevational migrant to the coastal lowlands, was also present. **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were abundant, but we were looking for the endemic Black-capped Gnatcatcher, which in this season look almost alike (no black-cap). A discerning ear can differentiate based on sound and today we did not hear any. A major target here was the **Purplish-backed Jay [W]** and it did not take long to find a cooperative flock. As the sun started to fade, we heard a **Collared Forest-Falcon**. Even though this species rarely comes into playback, and is highly secretive, we decided to try our luck. After about 40 mins of effort, a stunning adult responded and perched in full view – this was not a lifer, but it was still the bird of the day. **Mottled Owls** of the distinctive Western Mexico ssp (*Strix virgata squamulata*) were calling and we got great visuals of this very pale taxon – possibly a future split.



Purplish-backed Jay



Mottled Owl (*S. v. squamulata*)

We took a short drive back to the city and ate dinner at restaurant Puravida inside the swanky Galerías shopping mall. Over dinner we searched on the internet for a reasonably priced hotel with AC and settled on a relatively new “Mexican hotel” (apparently a term used to differentiate economical locally owned hotels of inconsistent quality from big building chain hotels) – the Azul Arena Hotel Boutique. Before retiring for the night, we tried to withdraw pesos from a Santander ATM and failed again (which was becoming a problem as I did not have a single peso left 😊), thankfully the two restaurants & our chosen hotel accepted credit card).

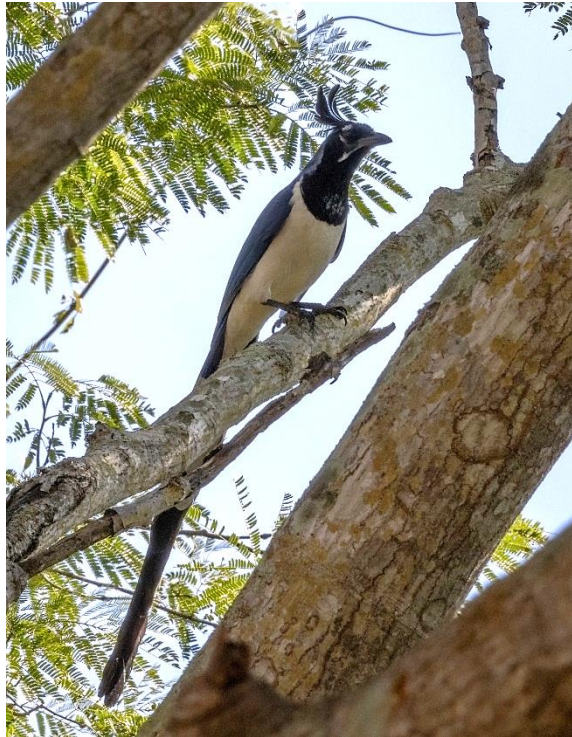
- **18-Dec Sun [Paco's Reserve, Camino La Noria, Camino Pantitlan]**

We checked out very early and went to an ATM to withdraw money. The withdrawal got approved but continuing the peso jinx, the ATM encountered a mechanical error while dispensing the money. It was a substantial chunk of money, so I had to call up my bank in the US to resolve the situation – they promised to reverse the transaction, but this ended by wasting 30 mins of prime birding time. Furthermore, the world-cup finals were starting at 8 am so we literally had less than an hour to pick up some targets. To reduce driving time, we ended up in Paco's Reserve again and quickly picked up a flyby **White-fronted Parrot**, **Cinnamon Hummingbird**, **Curve-billed Thrasher**, **Bell's & Warbling Vireo**, **Sinaloa Wren [W]**, **West Mexican Euphonia [W]**, **Lucy's Warbler** and two **Black-capped Gnatcatchers [W]**. This is a good area for Varied Bunting and the mega, Elegant Quail, but we didn't find any. It was already 8 am so we quickly drove out to El Habal and tried to find a restaurant to watch the finals. Most traditional Mexican restaurants have a TV blaring out songs, sitcoms & sports but the ones we went to were either closed or did not have a TV. We drove further into La Noria Road and found a ranch style restaurant which was buzzing with people watching the world cup finals, and I became the only Argentina supporter among hundreds of unimpressed Mexicans 😊.

*Sinaloa Wren*



*Black-throated Magpie-Jay*



We were unable to find the targeted, Red-breasted Chat on Camino La Noria. But we found the stunning **Black-throated Magpie-Jay [W]**, **Blue Mockingbird [M]**, **Plain-capped Starthroat**, **Zone-tailed Hawk**, **Pale-billed Woodpecker**, and other birds typical of thorn forest that we had already seen at Paco's. A pickup truck full of young men in battle fatigues and guns passed by laughing & waving to us in the deserted back road. They were not army or police – just some neighborhood Narcos I suppose, not uncommon in these parts! We then drove to the city for lunch at a vegan restaurant named “Mawe” and then to a spot from where the so called “Booby Rocks” can be scoped. There were many **Blue-footed Booby** but no Brown Booby & the hoped for Red-billed Tropicbird. Other birds were a perched **Zone-tailed Hawk** (the first of my birding career), **Brown Pelican**, **Ring-billed Gull** & pretty **Heerman's Gulls**.

We then drove towards the Durango Highway, stopping enroute at Villa Union to buy a utensil to heat water in (we were unsure if the Chara Pinta Reserve cabins had such a utensil). This stop, which we could have prevented by better planning, wasted 30 mins of birding time. Our first and only stop on the Durango Highway for the day was at Camino Pantitlan, where we got **Violet-crowned Hummingbird [MU]**, **Golden-cheeked Woodpecker [W]** & **Citreoline Trogon [WS]**. Our plan was to stay the night in La Copala but the town seemed to be asleep by the time we arrived at 7 pm. Furthermore, the only hotel in town, quite bizarrely, did not open its doors quite literally (although we knew someone was inside). Left with a decision of whether to head back to Concordia or continue to the Chara Pinta Reserve, we chose the latter. We first drove to El



Palmito where we met the local guide, Santos. He agreed to accompany us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day, and we also fixed a dinner for the next evening, to be cooked by his wife. By the time we reached the cabins (20 mins on a dirt road from El Palmito), it was 9:30 pm & very windy, so we retired for the night after eating an elaborate Indian meal, made by cooking up pouches of dehydrated food in the pot we had purchased in Villa Union. These travel-friendly pouches are my go-to option in areas with limited facilities.

- **19-Dec Mon [Chara Pinta Reserve]**



Red Warbler



Red-headed Tanager

The open area around the cabins is a very busy time in the mornings. The flower patches were full of hummingbirds like **White-eared, Rivoli's, Berylline, Rufous Hummingbird & Blue-throated Mountain-gem [MU]**. The scattered bushes held **Yellow-eyed Junco, Chipping Sparrow & Eastern Bluebird**. We then bumped into a mega mixed feeding flock at the edge of the pine-oak forest spanning the understory, mid-story and canopy. We spent almost 90 minutes with this flock and it yielded most of the specialties of the pine-oak forests of Northern Central America – **Mountain Trogon, Hairy Woodpecker, Arizona Woodpecker [MU], Ivory-billed Woodcreeper, White-striped Woodcreeper [M], Tufted Flycatcher, Greater Pewee, Pine Flycatcher [MG], Cordilleran Flycatcher, Mexican Chickadee [MU], Swainson's Thrush, Olive Warbler** (forming its own mono-specific family *Peucedramidae*), **Rufous-capped Brushfinch [M], Green-striped Brushfinch [M], Spotted Towhee, Crescent-chested Warbler, Grace's Warbler, Hermit Warbler**, and the stunning **Red-headed Tanager [M]**. The northern ssp of the **Red Warbler [WS]**, sometimes a tricky bird to find, gave itself up easily and this was particularly appreciated as it is not available elsewhere in this itinerary. After a bit of searching, a few **Red-faced Warblers** were also found in the same flock – that was 3 of the 4 'Red Megas' of these parts (Painted Redstart was to come later). Within the tumult of the massive flock, a pair of dainty **Bumblebee Hummingbird [M]** made a brief appearance. The forest floor held **Russet Nightingale-Thrush [M]** and more of the skulky generalist – **Blue Mockingbird [M]**. Another feeding flock had another red bird, and it turned out to be a **Slate-throated Redstart** (a future split?) instead of the similar looking Painted Redstart. We cooked up some more dehydrated Indian food to make for an elaborate breakfast and then started our quest for the Tufted Jay, heading towards a ridge where they have been seen before. The same ridge usually has roosting Stygian Owls, which we did not find but we heard the Jays calling from far down in the valley. It was a difficult hike down to where they were calling but once there, they were easy to spot. There were 8 **Tufted Jays [W]**, my #1 target of the trip in the flock. We returned to the ridge and found a mixed flock that held **Painted Redstart, Hairy Woodpecker & Black-headed Siskin**.

We headed to El Palmito for a late lunch of *Gorditas*. We checked into Rancho Bonito Hotel and then went to the nearby mirador for some birding. There we caught up with a **Rusty Sparrow**, but Rufous-backed Solitaire and Spotted Wren remained heard-only. We then returned to the reserve to try for Whiskered Screech-Owl and despite hearing 4 of them, they did not cooperate. We were disappointed but the delicious vegetarian dinner cooked by Santos' wife cheered us up.

- **20-Dec Tue [El Madroño, Puente Baluarte]**

Most of our high elevation targets were done yesterday so we decided to only focus on Eared Quetzal today. Chances were low because early winter is not a good time for this species in this area. But it turned out that a few weeks ago, Santos had seen a silent pair (this is usually a very vocal species) in a deep canyon close to the community of El Madroño, about 15 mins south of El Palmito. We started early and tried all morning by walking through the bush down a steep slope but failed to find them. Our morning pretended to start well, when by a stroke of unexpected luck, we heard Aztec Thrush. Unfortunately, it remained unresponsive. The only new birds for the trip were **Spotted Wren [M]**, **Canyon Wren**, **Rufous-capped Warbler**, **Hammond's Flycatcher**, **Gray-crowned Woodpecker [WS]**



*Bumblebee Hummingbird*

& an incessantly calling **Brown-backed Solitaire** (they make sure to be heard wherever they are around). While waiting for Eared Quetzal at the spot where they were seen by Santos, an exquisite male **Bumblebee Hummingbird [M]** was displaying away. For our walk back to the top we chose to use the “road” – which I soon realized was actually a snaking pile of white dust. It was an extremely uncomfortable walk back to the top of the hill where our car was parked, and we were twice given dust baths by passing trucks. So, I highly recommend parking the car at the bottom instead of the top and hiking only through the bush.

We returned to El Palmito for lunch at the hotel and then went to Puente Baluarte to try for two species – Five-striped Sparrow (thought to be primarily distributed in the northern sections of Sierra Madre Occidental, rather than here) and Lucifer Hummingbird, a desert/central plateau species which has an isolated wintering population here. They are supposedly easy here at this time, but the bad luck of the day persisted, and we dipped. The only new birds were **Black-vented Oriole**, **Varied Bunting**, **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**, and **Lazuli Bunting**. Two interesting observations at this spot were that **Black-capped Gnatcatcher [W]** far outnumbered Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, and molting Blue Grosbeak were everywhere. Back at the Chara Pinta reserve, we reattempted for Whiskered Screech-Owl and the day's bad luck continued to deny me this lifer.

- **21-Dec Wed [Panuco Road, Tepic area]**



*Yellow Grosbeak*



*Golden-cheeked Woodpecker*



*Colima Pygmy Owl*

Today would be our longest day in the field. We left very early for Panuco Road, which is 50 mins away from El Palmito, and no sooner than we arrived, a mega mixed feeding flock revealed **Russet-crowned Motmot [MG]**, **Black-and-White Warbler** (among many other migrant warblers), **Golden-cheeked Woodpecker [W]**, **Yellow Grosbeak [MG]**, **Rose-throated Becard**, **Blue Bunting**, **Varied Bunting**, **Painted Bunting** and finally **Cinnamon-bellied Saltator** (a common bird that I hadn't seen well yet). A **Colima Pygmy Owl [WS]** was calling and with some persistence it finally came in. Flowers were patrolled zealously by **Berylline**



**Hummingbirds** but **Violet-crowned Hummingbird** [MU], **Golden-crowned Emerald** [WS] (watch out for the conspicuous forked tail) & **Black-chinned Hummingbird** still found ways to get some nectar. The bushes near the flock had a few dapper **Rusty-crowned Ground-Sparrow** [W] and we also called in an **Elegant Trogon**. We also saw a flyby of over 20 **Lilac-crowned Parrot** [WS]. **Military Macaw** flybys were common and a little ahead we saw them perched as well. We hit another mixed flock there, which gave up a few **Golden Vireo** [WS]. We were still missing the much-wanted Black-capped Vireo so we retracked back to the spot of the first mega flock and tried again. It was hot & dead silent but after some time a male **Black-capped Vireo**, still in immaculate breeding plumage popped out. We then had a delicious traditional lunch in Concordia and drove 4h 15m to Volcan Tepetitlic, east of Tepic city.

The main reason to go to the top of Volcan Tepetitlic (has a new road to the village at the top) was to try for the two poorwills and Buff-collared Nightjar. We didn't find any of them though. We had a delicious traditional dinner at a highway restaurant in Tepic and then continued to Rancho La Noria for the night. It was already late but tonight was our only chance for Cinereous Owl. Many still doubt its species status but it has been split from Barred Owl by most taxonomies, so it means birders must try for it and it is not an easy try – at this time of the year they are not very vocal and are found almost at the top of Cerro San Juan, a long & steep hike from the ranch. So, we climbed to the top, trying all along the way and then tried at the top too. But to no avail. After a hectic 19-hour day, we went to bed, allowing ourselves a 45-min late start the next morning.

- **22-Dec Thu [Rancho La Noria, Tepic area]**



*Eared Poorwill*

We did not have too many targets this morning and it didn't take long to find most of them in the open field of the ranch – **Gray Silky-Flycatcher** [MG], **Buff-breasted Flycatcher** (common on the short grass), **Cinnamon-rumped Seedeater** [M], **Scott's Oriole**, **Stripe-headed Sparrow**, **Cassin's Kingbird**, **Spotted Wren** [M]. We drove lower down the mountain on the south side to look for Singing Quail but did not find any. The enigmatic Gray-collared Becard is sometimes seen on this road, but we did not find that either. A spot named in eBird

as “Holey Pipe”, no doubt because it is literally a pipe with a hole leaking water, got us **Mexican Woodnymph** [W] and the pretty **Fan-tailed Warbler**. We then went to an extraordinary vegetarian / vegan restaurant in Tepic called “Quetzalcotl” – would be a top meat-free restaurant anywhere in the world, let alone in the small city of Tepic. After that we went to check for Mexican Ducks on the Rio Mololoa and although it took us more time than expected, we found a few pairs. Next up was rails in Parque Metropolitano. We came close to both Spotted & Aztec but eventually they did not come out. Before going to San Blas, we tried one more time for nightbirds on the road to Rancho La Noria and this time we succeeded in finding the rarely seen **Eared Poorwill** [WS] in a disused quarry. Finally, some success in night birding, and a mega at that. We chose not to try for Cinereous Owl as it would take another tiring hike to the top of Volcan San Juan and instead opted to retry in a future trip – perhaps it will be lumped back by then 😊. We drove down to San Blas and checked into La Casa del Pelicano – a small hotel owned by Antonio's mother. It is named after a real rescued and rehabilitated pelican that still lives inside the premises and is considered to be family.

- 23-Dec Fri [San Blas area]



*Elegant Quail*



*Red-breasted Chat*

San Blas is birding heaven and although I did not have too many targets left, I knew I was in for a treat. The lowland targets that remained were some of the most coveted of the trip, so we first went to the Chacalilla laguna to try Elegant Quail. We hiked about in the laguna area, during which we found **White-throated Flycatcher**, **Least Flycatcher**, **Tropical Parula** & **Yellow-breasted Chat** (which were pleasantly common). We got 80+ species in 3 hours. This is also a great area for the stunningly patterned, **Spotted Rail** and we got great views of 2 individuals. We tried another side path for the quails and got a response. Suddenly a male **Elegant Quail [W]** came charging at us from within the scrub and gave us million-dollar views. There were about 15 in the flock, and we hung out with these photogenic megas for at least 20 minutes. Then we drove around scoping some large trees (there aren't that many) until we came across one filled with well-camouflaged and noisy **Mexican Parrotlets [W]**. We then went to a spot where Lesser Ground Cuckoo is sometimes seen. It responded but did not come out. This mega was one of my top targets so we decided to return tomorrow. We then went to the Singayta area, stopping enroute for birds like **Stilt Sandpiper** (the most common sandpiper here) & **Mangrove Vireo** (a potential split). Chihuahuan Meadowlarks were a no-show. There were only two targets in Singayta – Red-breasted Chat & Flammulated Flycatcher (which is extremely localized in the San Blas area, seemingly found in a tiny area only). It did not take long to find the stunning, **Red-breasted Chat [M]** but we dipped on the Flammulated Flycatcher. We went to a spot east of San Blas to try for the San Blas Jay but a cement truck had broken down so we could not proceed further.

The PM would be spent on a boat ride through the Rio Tovar with the legendary Don Chenchu, who seems to be close to retirement. The main queries here were **Rufous-necked Wood-Rail** and **Northern Potoo**, both of which we found without much trouble. Other good birds were **Boat-billed Heron**, **Fan-tailed Warbler**, **Caspian Tern**, **Royal Tern**, **Bare-throated Tiger-Heron** & **Crane Hawk**. We saw more than 20 crocodiles too. A non-birding highlight was the mesmerizing feel of boating through the low closed canopy mangroves, as they cleanly reflected off the water due to the light shone from the boat.





*Northern Potoo*



*Rufous-necked Wood-Rail*

- **24-Dec Sat [San Blas area, San Sebastian del Oeste]**

Today was the last full day in San Blas and I had a short target list. First, we went to Singayta to try for Flammulated Flycatcher but there was no response at all. To make matters worse, we got a flat tire inside the jungle and the tire could not be removed because both the bolt and the turning tool had worn out. There was no cell phone signal either. We took help from passing trucks that serviced a nearby quarry and after 90 minutes, we were able to remove the flat tire and affix the spare. It was 11 am & hot by the time we reached the Lesser Ground Cuckoo spot in Chacalilla but this time we were in luck. After sporadic playback, we suddenly got a very loud response from behind us. Turning back, we saw a **Lesser Ground Cuckoo** standing on a fallen trunk and staring back at us. I calculated that San Blas Jay being our only remaining realistic target here and Mexican Hermit being a hit or miss, and possible elsewhere, perhaps it is best to head to San Sebastian del Oeste for night-birding and try for Transvolcanic species tomorrow morning. So, we cut short our San Blas stay and headed for the mountains of Jalisco, stopping enroute in San Pancho for a delicious vegan meal at a new restaurant called “Yum Yum Vegan”. Before that we stopped for San Blas Jay at a farm but did not see much in the heat of the day. We had also planned to stop for Orange-breasted Bunting at Punta Mita but we skipped since we wanted to be on time for some night birding on the Cerro La Bufa.

We reached the beautiful town of San Sebastian del Oeste on time, and even heard our targets on the road up the Cerro La Bufa – Whiskered Screech-Owl (3 of them in different places & 1 almost hit my head) & Mexican Whip-poor-will, but neither showed up. We realized quite late that in our eagerness to get the targets, we forgot to plan for dinner and restaurants may close early tonight for Christmas Eve. And that was indeed the case. After much searching we found a single open store selling some bread and cake. We bought ourselves a dinner of bread & cake and got the exact same thing for the next morning’s breakfast too. We then checked into the brand-new Hotel Casa Leal for a good night’s sleep.



*Lesser Ground Cuckoo*

- **25-Dec Sun [San Sebastian del Oeste]**

We had missed the pretty **Golden-browed Warbler** in Chara Pinta Reserve, and this is the first bird we came across today. It was in an understory feeding flock. We played the tape of Colima Pygmy Owl to see what else is around and lo & behold, an **Amethyst-throated Mountain-gem** showed up. This canopy species is not easy to see here. One of our top targets today was the spectacular Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo and we got responses from several individuals at different spots, but they were frustratingly inaccessible. This canopy species often calls and then comes in silently, but clearly, they were not interested today. While driving up the mountain towards a Spotted Towhee stakeout, we heard Transvolcanic Jays. We stopped the car and stumbled into a mega feeding flock, which had 8 **Transvolcanic Jays [V]** & an **Ovenbird**. Further up, in a clearing with low vegetation, we had **Collared Towhee [M]**, **Red Warbler [WS]** & **Broad-tailed Hummingbird**. We missed Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer but got glimpses of **Long-tailed Wood-Partridge [S]**. Then, another flat tire, so we headed down to town for lunch asap. After lunch we drove the car a little up the hill and while Antonio changed the tire, I continued targeting Singing Quail & the shrike-vireo. The tire change was much harder than expected because of the soft ground and ATV traffic due to Christmas Day revelry. I finally found a covey of **Singing Quail** – and just like the Elegant Quail episode, I got a repeat experience of quails charging at me. Just then Antonio returned, having finally fixed the flat tire. We resumed searching for the shrike-vireo at a spot where Antonio had seen it before. We got responses from at least 3 territories but none of them came close. We waited in silence for 20 minutes and tried again from a small trail. And this time it worked – 3 **Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo [MG]** came down to eye level and even skulked around in low bushes.



*Singing Quail*



*Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo*

We decided to head back to Puerto Vallarta, and we expected heavy traffic to my hotel, which was in south PV. We tried for Mexican Hermit at an old lek site just outside San Sebastian del Oeste, but none were present. I checked into Hotel Posada de Roger in Old Town, had a late dinner on a bustling street & went to bed.

- **26-Dec Mon [Puerto Vallarta, Fly Puerto Vallarta to San Francisco]**

This morning I birded some spots in Puerto Vallarta city and got repeat looks at many common lowland species. My main targets were **West Mexican Chachalaca [WS]** & **San Blas Jay [W]** and I got both in Isla Cuale, an urban park just north of Old Town. I decided to wind up before noon and spend a few hours exploring the city on foot and trying out some vegan eateries (Elixir Spot Vegan & Te Quiero Verde Restaurante Vegano). I flew back to San Francisco in the evening.



## ➤ Special Mentions

### Missed:

1. Eared Quetzal – Very rare in this itinerary. Not expected to find it but we put in a massive effort.
2. Aztec Thrush – A wandering species. Very rare in this itinerary at this time of the year. Even so, heard near El Palmito but unresponsive.
3. White-naped Swift – Rare in this itinerary at this time of the year. We did not see any Swift of any kind – my very first trip in the subtropics/tropics with this distinction.
4. Flammulated Flycatcher – Rare. Possible in Panuco Road and a single stake-out near San Blas (Singayta). Will catch up with this in Colima or Oaxaca in the future.
5. Five-striped Sparrow – Much rarer there than in the northern section of the Sierra Madre Occidental. Puente Baluarte is apparently a straightforward stake-out. We scoured the place and found 100s of non-breeding plumaged Blue Grosbeaks instead. Yikes!
6. Cinereous Owl – Biggest miss of the trip. Known to be difficult at this time of the year. Only place to see it anywhere is on a hike up the Cerro San Juan from Rancho La Noria.
7. Whiskered Screech Owl – Unbelievable stretch of bad luck with this relatively easy species. Tried 4 times – twice in Chara Pinta Reserve (heard 6+), once in Rancho La Noria (nada) & once in San Sebastian del Oeste (heard 3, one almost hit my head and then disappeared).
8. Mexican Whip-poor-will – Uncommon but gettable. Narrowly missed in Volcan Tepeltitit.
9. Lesser Roadrunner – Highly unpredictable. Possible in Mazatlan, Panuco Rd and Puente Baluarte.
10. Gray-collared Becard – Known to be an unpredictable species, especially in the areas of this itinerary. The best chance is apparently on the approach road to Rancho La Noria near Tepic but can be anywhere from the lowlands to the highlands in a variety of habitats.
11. Mexican Hermit – Known leks were not active at this time of the year.
12. Aztec Rail – Heard in Tepic. Better in Guadalajara.
13. Unseasonal species: Sinaloa Martin, Dwarf Vireo (Cerro La Bufa only)

### Top 10:

1. Tufted Jay
2. Lesser Ground Cuckoo
3. Eared Poorwill
4. Red-breasted Chat
5. Elegant Quail
6. Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo
7. Red Warbler
8. Black-throated Magpie Jay
9. Northern Potoo
10. Rusty-crowned Ground-Sparrow

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| [W]    | Endemic to Western Mexico                        |
| [WS]   | Endemic to West & South Mexico                   |
| [V]    | Endemic to Volcanic Belt of Mexico               |
| [S]    | Endemic to Southern Mexico                       |
| [M]    | Endemic to Mexico (W+S+V, eastern Sierras)       |
| [MG]   | Mexico + Guatemala (Sierra Madre, Pacific Coast) |
| [NCA]  | Northern Central America (Mexico to Nicaragua)   |
| [NCAU] | NCA + just into US                               |
| [NCAC] | NCA + some Caribbean islands                     |
| [CA]   | Only Central America (NCA+Costa Rica+Panama)     |
| [CAU]  | CA + just into US.                               |
| H      | Heard-only                                       |

## ➤ Trip List

|   |                              |                               |       |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|
| 1 | Black-bellied Whistling Duck | <i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i> |       |
| 2 | Blue-winged Teal             | <i>Spatula discors</i>        |       |
| 3 | Cinnamon Teal                | <i>Spatula cyanoptera</i>     |       |
| 4 | Northern Shoveler            | <i>Spatula chrypeata</i>      |       |
| 5 | Gadwall                      | <i>Mareca strepera</i>        |       |
| 6 | American Wigeon              | <i>Mareca americana</i>       |       |
| 7 | Mexican Duck                 | <i>Anas diazi</i>             | Tepic |

|    |                                |                                 |           |
|----|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 8  | Northern Pintail               | <i>Anas acuta</i>               |           |
| 9  | Green-winged Teal              | <i>Anas crecca</i>              |           |
| 10 | West Mexican Chachalaca        | <i>Ortalis poliocephala</i>     | [WS]      |
| 11 | Rufous-bellied Chachalaca      | <i>Ortalis wagleri</i>          | [W]       |
| 12 | Crested Guan                   | <i>Penelope purpurascens</i>    | H         |
| 13 | Elegant Quail                  | <i>Callipepla douglasii</i>     | [W]       |
| 14 | Singing Quail                  | <i>Dactylortyx thoracicus</i>   | [NCA]     |
| 15 | Long-tailed Wood-Partridge     | <i>Dendrortyx macroura</i>      | [S]       |
| 16 | Least Grebe                    | <i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i>    |           |
| 17 | Red-billed Pigeon              | <i>Patagioenas flavirostris</i> | [CAU]     |
| 18 | Band-tailed Pigeon             | <i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>     |           |
| 19 | Eurasian Collared-Dove         | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>    |           |
| 20 | Inca Dove                      | <i>Columbina inca</i>           |           |
| 21 | Common Ground Dove             | <i>Columbina passerina</i>      |           |
| 22 | Ruddy Ground Dove              | <i>Columbina talpacoti</i>      |           |
| 23 | White-tipped Dove              | <i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>      |           |
| 24 | White-winged Dove              | <i>Zenaida asiatica</i>         |           |
| 25 | Mourning Dove                  | <i>Zenaida macroura</i>         |           |
| 26 | Lesser Ground-Cuckoo           | <i>Morococcyx erythropygus</i>  | [NCA]     |
| 27 | Squirrel Cuckoo                | <i>Piaya cayana</i>             |           |
| 28 | Groove-billed Ani              | <i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>  |           |
| 29 | Common Pauraque                | <i>Nyctidromus albigollis</i>   |           |
| 30 | Eared Poorwill                 | <i>Nyctiphrynus mcleodii</i>    | [W]       |
| 31 | Mexican Whip-poor-will         | <i>Antrostomus arizonae</i>     | [NCAU], H |
| 32 | Northern Potoo                 | <i>Nyctibius jamaicensis</i>    | [NCAC]    |
| 33 | Rivoli's Hummingbird           | <i>Eugenes fulgens</i>          | [NCAU]    |
| 34 | Plain-capped Starthroat        | <i>Helimaster constantii</i>    | [CA]      |
| 35 | Amethyst-throated Mountain-gem | <i>Lampornis amethystinus</i>   | [NCA]     |
| 36 | Blue-throated Mountain-gem     | <i>Lampornis clemenciae</i>     | [MU]      |
| 37 | Ruby-throated Hummingbird      | <i>Archilochus colubris</i>     |           |
| 38 | Black-chinned Hummingbird      | <i>Archilochus alexandri</i>    |           |
| 39 | Broad-tailed Hummingbird       | <i>Selasphorus platycercus</i>  |           |
| 40 | Bumblebee Hummingbird          | <i>Selasphorus beloisia</i>     | [M]       |
| 41 | Broad-billed Hummingbird       | <i>Cynanthus latirostris</i>    | [MU]      |
| 42 | Golden-crowned Emerald         | <i>Cynanthus auriceps</i>       | [WS]      |
| 43 | White-eared Hummingbird        | <i>Basilinna leucotis</i>       | [NCA]     |
| 44 | Mexican Woodnymph              | <i>Eupherusa ridgwayi</i>       | [W]       |
| 45 | Violet-crowned Hummingbird     | <i>Leucolia violiceps</i>       | [MU]      |
| 46 | Berylline Hummingbird          | <i>Saucerottia beryllina</i>    | [NCA]     |
| 47 | Cinnamon Hummingbird           | <i>Amazilia rutila</i>          |           |
| 48 | Aztec Rail                     | <i>Rallus tenuirostris</i>      | [V], H    |
| 49 | Spotted Rail                   | <i>Pardirallus maculatus</i>    |           |
| 50 | Rufous-necked Wood-Rail        | <i>Aramides axillaris</i>       |           |
| 51 | Sora                           | <i>Porzana carolina</i>         |           |



|    |                           |                                  |  |
|----|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 52 | Common Gallinule          | <i>Gallinula galeata</i>         |  |
| 53 | American Coot             | <i>Fulica americana</i>          |  |
| 54 | Purple Gallinule          | <i>Porphyrio martinica</i>       |  |
| 55 | Black-necked Stilt        | <i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>      |  |
| 56 | Semipalmated Plover       | <i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>   |  |
| 57 | Killdeer                  | <i>Charadrius vociferus</i>      |  |
| 58 | Northern Jacana           | <i>Jacana spinosa</i>            |  |
| 59 | Whimbrel                  | <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>         |  |
| 60 | Long-billed Curlew        | <i>Numenius americanus</i>       |  |
| 61 | Stilt Sandpiper           | <i>Calidris himantopus</i>       |  |
| 62 | Semipalmated Sandpiper    | <i>Calidris pusilla</i>          |  |
| 63 | Short-billed Dowitcher    | <i>Limnodromus griseus</i>       |  |
| 64 | Long-billed Dowitcher     | <i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>   |  |
| 65 | Spotted Sandpiper         | <i>Actitis macularius</i>        |  |
| 66 | Solitary Sandpiper        | <i>Tringa solitaria</i>          |  |
| 67 | Greater Yellowlegs        | <i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>        |  |
| 68 | Willet                    | <i>Tringa semipalmata</i>        |  |
| 69 | Lesser Yellowlegs         | <i>Tringa flavipes</i>           |  |
| 70 | Laughing Gull             | <i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>     |  |
| 71 | Heermann's Gull           | <i>Larus heermanni</i>           |  |
| 72 | Ring-billed Gull          | <i>Larus delawarensis</i>        |  |
| 73 | California Gull           | <i>Larus californicus</i>        |  |
| 74 | Caspian Tern              | <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>        |  |
| 75 | Forster's Tern            | <i>Sterna forsteri</i>           |  |
| 76 | Royal Tern                | <i>Thalasseus maximus</i>        |  |
| 77 | Elegant Tern              | <i>Thalasseus elegans</i>        |  |
| 78 | Wood Stork                | <i>Mycteria americana</i>        |  |
| 79 | Magnificent Frigatebird   | <i>Fregata magnificens</i>       |  |
| 80 | Blue-footed Booby         | <i>Sula nebouxii</i>             |  |
| 81 | Anhinga                   | <i>Anhinga anhinga</i>           |  |
| 82 | Double-crested Cormorant  | <i>Nannopterum auritum</i>       |  |
| 83 | Neotropic Cormorant       | <i>Nannopterum brasilianum</i>   |  |
| 84 | American White Pelican    | <i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i> |  |
| 85 | Brown Pelican             | <i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>    |  |
| 86 | Bare-throated Tiger-Heron | <i>Tigrisoma mexicanum</i>       |  |
| 87 | Great Blue Heron          | <i>Ardea herodias</i>            |  |
| 88 | Great Egret               | <i>Ardea alba</i>                |  |
| 89 | Snowy Egret               | <i>Egretta thula</i>             |  |
| 90 | Little Blue Heron         | <i>Egretta caerulea</i>          |  |
| 91 | Tricolored Heron          | <i>Egretta tricolor</i>          |  |
| 92 | Reddish Egret             | <i>Egretta rufescens</i>         |  |
| 93 | Cattle Egret              | <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>             |  |
| 94 | Green Heron               | <i>Butorides virescens</i>       |  |
| 95 | Black-crowned Night-Heron | <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>     |  |

|     |                            |                                  |           |
|-----|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| 96  | Yellow-crowned Night-Heron | <i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>       |           |
| 97  | Boat-billed Heron          | <i>Cochlearius cochlearius</i>   |           |
| 98  | White Ibis                 | <i>Eudocimus albus</i>           |           |
| 99  | White-faced Ibis           | <i>Plegadis chihi</i>            |           |
| 100 | Roseate Spoonbill          | <i>Platalea ajaja</i>            |           |
| 101 | Black Vulture              | <i>Coragyps atratus</i>          |           |
| 102 | Turkey Vulture             | <i>Cathartes aura</i>            |           |
| 103 | Golden Eagle               | <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>         |           |
| 104 | Northern Harrier           | <i>Circus hudsonius</i>          |           |
| 105 | Sharp-shinned Hawk         | <i>Accipiter striatus</i>        |           |
| 106 | Crane Hawk                 | <i>Geranospiza caerulescens</i>  |           |
| 107 | Gray Hawk                  | <i>Buteo plagiatus</i>           |           |
| 108 | Short-tailed Hawk          | <i>Buteo brachyurus</i>          |           |
| 109 | Swainson's Hawk            | <i>Buteo swainsoni</i>           |           |
| 110 | Zone-tailed Hawk           | <i>Buteo albonotatus</i>         |           |
| 111 | Red-tailed Hawk            | <i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>         |           |
| 112 | Whiskered Screech-Owl      | <i>Megascops trichopsis</i>      | [NCAU], H |
| 113 | Great Horned Owl           | <i>Bubo virginianus</i>          |           |
| 114 | Colima Pygmy-Owl           | <i>Glaucidium palmarum</i>       | [WS]      |
| 115 | Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl      | <i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>    |           |
| 116 | Mottled Owl                | <i>Strix virgata</i>             | Paco's    |
| 117 | Citreoline Trogon          | <i>Trogon citreolus</i>          | [WS]      |
| 118 | Elegant Trogon             | <i>Trogon elegans</i>            | [NCAU]    |
| 119 | Mountain Trogon            | <i>Trogon mexicanus</i>          | [NCA]     |
| 120 | Russet-crowned Motmot      | <i>Momotus mexicanus</i>         | [MG]      |
| 121 | Ringed Kingfisher          | <i>Megaceryle torquata</i>       |           |
| 122 | Belted Kingfisher          | <i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>         |           |
| 123 | Green Kingfisher           | <i>Chloroceryle americana</i>    |           |
| 124 | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker   | <i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>        |           |
| 125 | Acorn Woodpecker           | <i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>   |           |
| 126 | Golden-cheeked Woodpecker  | <i>Melanerpes chrysogenys</i>    | [WS]      |
| 127 | Gila Woodpecker            | <i>Melanerpes uropygialis</i>    | [MU]      |
| 128 | Ladder-backed Woodpecker   | <i>Dryobates scalaris</i>        |           |
| 129 | Hairy Woodpecker           | <i>Dryobates villosus</i>        |           |
| 130 | Arizona Woodpecker         | <i>Dryobates arizonae</i>        | [MU]      |
| 131 | Pale-billed Woodpecker     | <i>Campephilus guatemalensis</i> | [CA]      |
| 132 | Lineated Woodpecker        | <i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>        |           |
| 133 | Gray-crowned Woodpecker    | <i>Colaptes auricularis</i>      | [WS]      |
| 134 | Laughing Falcon            | <i>Herpetotheres cachinnans</i>  |           |
| 135 | Collared Forest-Falcon     | <i>Micrastur semitorquatus</i>   | Paco's    |
| 136 | Crested Caracara           | <i>Caracara plancus</i>          |           |
| 137 | American Kestrel           | <i>Falco sparverius</i>          |           |
| 138 | Merlin                     | <i>Falco columbarius</i>         |           |
| 139 | Lilac-crowned Parrot       | <i>Amazona finschi</i>           | [WS]      |



|     |                               |                                   |           |
|-----|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| 140 | White-fronted Parrot          | <i>Amazona albifrons</i>          | [CA]      |
| 141 | Mexican Parrotlet             | <i>Forpus cyanopygius</i>         | [W]       |
| 142 | Orange-fronted Parakeet       | <i>Eupsittula canicularis</i>     | [CA]      |
| 143 | Military Macaw                | <i>Ara militaris</i>              | Panuco Rd |
| 144 | Olivaceous Woodcreeper        | <i>Sittasomus griseicapillus</i>  |           |
| 145 | Ivory-billed Woodcreeper      | <i>Xiphorhynchus flavigaster</i>  | [CA]      |
| 146 | White-striped Woodcreeper     | <i>Lepidocolaptes leucogaster</i> | [M]       |
| 147 | Masked Tityra                 | <i>Tityra semifasciata</i>        |           |
| 148 | Rose-throated Becard          | <i>Pachyrhamphus aglaiae</i>      | [CAU]     |
| 149 | Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet | <i>Camptostoma imberbe</i>        | [CAU]     |
| 150 | Tufted Flycatcher             | <i>Mitrephanes phaeocercus</i>    |           |
| 151 | Greater Pewee                 | <i>Contopus pertinax</i>          | [NCAU]    |
| 152 | White-throated Flycatcher     | <i>Empidonax albigularis</i>      | [CA]      |
| 153 | Least Flycatcher              | <i>Empidonax minimus</i>          |           |
| 154 | Hammond's Flycatcher          | <i>Empidonax hammondi</i>         |           |
| 155 | Pine Flycatcher               | <i>Empidonax affinis</i>          | [MG]      |
| 156 | Pacific-slope Flycatcher      | <i>Empidonax difficilis</i>       |           |
| 157 | Cordilleran Flycatcher        | <i>Empidonax occidentalis</i>     |           |
| 158 | Buff-breasted Flycatcher      | <i>Empidonax fulvifrons</i>       | [NCA]     |
| 159 | Vermilion Flycatcher          | <i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>       |           |
| 160 | Bright-rumped Attila          | <i>Attila spadiceus</i>           | Singayta  |
| 161 | Dusky-capped Flycatcher       | <i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>     |           |
| 162 | Ash-throated Flycatcher       | <i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>      | Chaclilla |
| 163 | Nutting's Flycatcher          | <i>Myiarchus nuttingi</i>         | [CA]      |
| 164 | Brown-crested Flycatcher      | <i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>       |           |
| 165 | Great Kiskadee                | <i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>       |           |
| 166 | Boat-billed Flycatcher        | <i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>       |           |
| 167 | Social Flycatcher             | <i>Myiozetetes similis</i>        |           |
| 168 | Tropical Kingbird             | <i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>     |           |
| 169 | Cassin's Kingbird             | <i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>        |           |
| 170 | Thick-billed Kingbird         | <i>Tyrannus crassirostris</i>     | [MU]      |
| 171 | Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo   | <i>Vireolanius melitophrys</i>    | [MG]      |
| 172 | Golden Vireo                  | <i>Vireo hypochryseus</i>         | [WS]      |
| 173 | Black-capped Vireo            | <i>Vireo atricapilla</i>          | Panuco Rd |
| 174 | Mangrove Vireo                | <i>Vireo pallens</i>              | [CA]      |
| 175 | Bell's Vireo                  | <i>Vireo bellii</i>               |           |
| 176 | Hutton's Vireo                | <i>Vireo huttoni</i>              |           |
| 177 | Cassin's Vireo                | <i>Vireo cassinii</i>             |           |
| 178 | Plumbeous Vireo               | <i>Vireo plumbeus</i>             |           |
| 179 | Warbling Vireo                | <i>Vireo gilvus</i>               |           |
| 180 | Loggerhead Shrike             | <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>        |           |
| 181 | Black-throated Magpie-Jay     | <i>Calocitta colliei</i>          | [W]       |
| 182 | Tufted Jay                    | <i>Cyanocorax dickeyi</i>         | [W]       |
| 183 | Green Jay                     | <i>Cyanocorax yncas</i>           | La Bufa   |

|     |                               |                                   |            |
|-----|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| 184 | San Blas Jay                  | <i>Cyanocorax sanblasianus</i>    | [W]        |
| 185 | Purplish-backed Jay           | <i>Cyanocorax beecheii</i>        | [W]        |
| 186 | Transvolcanic Jay             | <i>Aphelocoma ultramarina</i>     | [V]        |
| 187 | Sinaloa Crow                  | <i>Corvus sinaloae</i>            | [W]        |
| 188 | Common Raven                  | <i>Corvus corax</i>               |            |
| 189 | Northern Rough-winged Swallow | <i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i> |            |
| 190 | Gray-breasted Martin          | <i>Progne chalybea</i>            |            |
| 191 | Mangrove Swallow              | <i>Tachycineta albilinea</i>      |            |
| 192 | Violet-green Swallow          | <i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>     |            |
| 193 | Barn Swallow                  | <i>Hirundo rustica</i>            |            |
| 194 | Ruby-crowned Kinglet          | <i>Corthylio calendula</i>        |            |
| 195 | Brown Creeper                 | <i>Certhia americana</i>          |            |
| 196 | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher         | <i>Poliophtila caerulea</i>       |            |
| 197 | Black-capped Gnatcatcher      | <i>Poliophtila nigriceps</i>      | [W]        |
| 198 | Canyon Wren                   | <i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>        | El Madrono |
| 199 | House Wren                    | <i>Troglodytes aedon</i>          |            |
| 200 | Spotted Wren                  | <i>Campylorhynchus gularis</i>    | [M]        |
| 201 | Happy Wren                    | <i>Phengopedius felix</i>         | [WS]       |
| 202 | Sinaloa Wren                  | <i>Thryophilus sinaloa</i>        | [W]        |
| 203 | Blue Mockingbird              | <i>Melanotis caerulescens</i>     | [M]        |
| 204 | Curve-billed Thrasher         | <i>Toxostoma curvirostre</i>      | Paco's     |
| 205 | Northern Mockingbird          | <i>Mimus polyglottos</i>          |            |
| 206 | Eastern Bluebird              | <i>Sialia sialis</i>              |            |
| 207 | Brown-backed Solitaire        | <i>Myadestes occidentalis</i>     | [NCA]      |
| 208 | Russet Nightingale-Thrush     | <i>Catharus occidentalis</i>      | [M]        |
| 209 | Swainson's Thrush             | <i>Catharus ustulatus</i>         |            |
| 210 | Hermit Thrush                 | <i>Catharus guttatus</i>          |            |
| 211 | Aztec Thrush                  | <i>Ridgwayia pinicola</i>         | [M]        |
| 212 | White-throated Thrush         | <i>Turdus assimilis</i>           |            |
| 213 | Rufous-backed Robin           | <i>Turdus rufopalliatus</i>       | [WS]       |
| 214 | Gray Silky-flycatcher         | <i>Ptiliogonys cinereus</i>       | [MG]       |
| 215 | Olive Warbler                 | <i>Peucedramus taeniatus</i>      | [NCAU]     |
| 216 | House Sparrow                 | <i>Passer domesticus</i>          |            |
| 217 | West Mexican Euphonia         | <i>Euphonia godmani</i>           | [W]        |
| 218 | House Finch                   | <i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>       |            |
| 219 | Red Crossbill                 | <i>Loxia curvirostra</i>          | El Madrono |
| 220 | Black-headed Siskin           | <i>Spinus notatus</i>             | [NCA]      |
| 221 | Lesser Goldfinch              | <i>Spinus psaltria</i>            |            |
| 222 | Stripe-headed Sparrow         | <i>Peucaea ruficauda</i>          | [CA]       |
| 223 | Grasshopper Sparrow           | <i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>      |            |
| 224 | Chipping Sparrow              | <i>Spizella passerina</i>         |            |
| 225 | Lark Sparrow                  | <i>Chondestes grammacus</i>       |            |
| 226 | Green-striped Brushfinch      | <i>Arremon virenticeps</i>        | [M]        |
| 227 | Yellow-eyed Junco             | <i>Junco phaeonotus</i>           | [NCAU]     |

|     |                              |                                  |         |
|-----|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|
| 228 | Savannah Sparrow             | <i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i> |         |
| 229 | Lincoln's Sparrow            | <i>Melospiza lincolni</i>        |         |
| 230 | Rusty-crowned Ground-Sparrow | <i>Melospiza kieneri</i>         | [WS]    |
| 231 | Rusty Sparrow                | <i>Aimophila rufescens</i>       | [NCA]   |
| 232 | Spotted Towhee               | <i>Pipilo maculatus</i>          |         |
| 233 | Collared Towhee              | <i>Pipilo ocai</i>               | [M]     |
| 234 | Rufous-capped Brushfinch     | <i>Atlapetes pileatus</i>        | [M]     |
| 235 | Yellow-breasted Chat         | <i>Icteria virens</i> )          |         |
| 236 | Yellow-winged Cacique        | <i>Cassiculus melanicterus</i>   | [MG]    |
| 237 | Black-vented Oriole          | <i>Icterus wagleri</i>           | [NCA]   |
| 238 | Orchard Oriole               | <i>Icterus spurius</i>           |         |
| 239 | Hooded Oriole                | <i>Icterus cucullatus</i>        |         |
| 240 | Streak-backed Oriole         | <i>Icterus pustulatus</i>        | [CA]    |
| 241 | Bullock's Oriole             | <i>Icterus bullockii</i>         |         |
| 242 | Scott's Oriole               | <i>Icterus parisorum</i>         |         |
| 243 | Bronzed Cowbird              | <i>Molothrus aeneus</i>          |         |
| 244 | Brown-headed Cowbird         | <i>Molothrus ater</i>            |         |
| 245 | Great-tailed Grackle         | <i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>       |         |
| 246 | Ovenbird                     | <i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>       |         |
| 247 | Northern Waterthrush         | <i>Parus noveboracensis</i>      |         |
| 248 | Black-and-white Warbler      | <i>Mniotilta varia</i>           |         |
| 249 | Crescent-chested Warbler     | <i>Oreothlypis superciliosa</i>  | [NCA]   |
| 250 | Tennessee Warbler            | <i>Leiothlypis peregrina</i>     |         |
| 251 | Orange-crowned Warbler       | <i>Leiothlypis celata</i>        |         |
| 252 | Lucy's Warbler               | <i>Leiothlypis luciae</i>        | Paco's  |
| 253 | Nashville Warbler            | <i>Leiothlypis ruficapilla</i>   |         |
| 254 | MacGillivray's Warbler       | <i>Geothlypis tolmiei</i>        |         |
| 255 | Common Yellowthroat          | <i>Geothlypis trichas</i>        |         |
| 256 | American Redstart            | <i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>       |         |
| 257 | Northern Parula              | <i>Setophaga americana</i>       |         |
| 258 | Tropical Parula              | <i>Setophaga pitiayumi</i>       |         |
| 259 | Yellow Warbler               | <i>Setophaga petechia</i>        |         |
| 260 | Yellow-rumped Warbler        | <i>Setophaga coronata</i>        |         |
| 261 | Grace's Warbler              | <i>Setophaga graciae</i>         |         |
| 262 | Black-throated Gray Warbler  | <i>Setophaga nigrescens</i>      |         |
| 263 | Townsend's Warbler           | <i>Setophaga townsendi</i>       |         |
| 264 | Hermit Warbler               | <i>Setophaga occidentalis</i>    |         |
| 265 | Fan-tailed Warbler           | <i>Basileuterus lachrymosus</i>  | [NCA]   |
| 266 | Rufous-capped Warbler        | <i>Basileuterus rufifrons</i>    | [NCAU]  |
| 267 | Golden-browed Warbler        | <i>Basileuterus belli</i>        | [NCA]   |
| 268 | Golden-crowned Warbler       | <i>Basileuterus culicivorus</i>  | La Bufa |
| 269 | Wilson's Warbler             | <i>Cardellina pusilla</i>        |         |
| 270 | Red-faced Warbler            | <i>Cardellina rubrifrons</i>     | [NCAU]  |
| 271 | Red Warbler                  | <i>Cardellina rubra</i>          | [M]     |

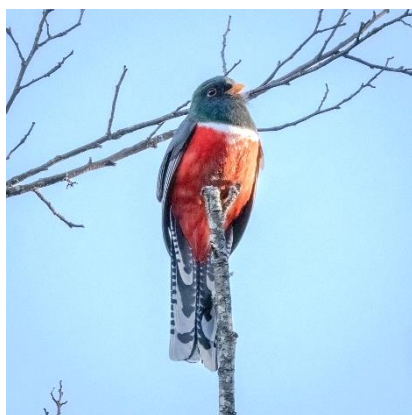


|     |                            |                                  |        |
|-----|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------|
| 272 | Painted Redstart           | <i>Myioborus pictus</i>          | [NCAU] |
| 273 | Slate-throated Redstart    | <i>Myioborus miniatus</i>        |        |
| 274 | Hepatic Tanager            | <i>Piranga flava</i>             |        |
| 275 | Summer Tanager             | <i>Piranga rubra</i>             |        |
| 276 | Western Tanager            | <i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>       |        |
| 277 | Flame-colored Tanager      | <i>Piranga bidentata</i>         | [CA]   |
| 278 | Red-headed Tanager         | <i>Piranga erythrocephala</i>    | [M]    |
| 279 | Yellow Grosbeak            | <i>Pheucticus chrysopheplus</i>  | [MG]   |
| 280 | Black-headed Grosbeak      | <i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i> |        |
| 281 | Red-breasted Chat          | <i>Granatellus venustus</i>      | [M]    |
| 282 | Blue Bunting               | <i>Cyanocompsa parellina</i>     | [NCA]  |
| 283 | Blue Grosbeak              | <i>Passerina caerulea</i>        |        |
| 284 | Lazuli Bunting             | <i>Passerina amoena</i>          |        |
| 285 | Varied Bunting             | <i>Passerina versicolor</i>      | [NCAU] |
| 286 | Painted Bunting            | <i>Passerina ciris</i>           |        |
| 287 | Blue-black Grassquit       | <i>Volatinia jacarina</i>        |        |
| 288 | Cinnamon-rumped Seed eater | <i>Sporophila torqueola</i>      | [M]    |
| 289 | Cinnamon-bellied Saltator  | <i>Saltator grandis</i>          | [CA]   |

|        |    |
|--------|----|
| [W]    | 13 |
| [WS]   | 11 |
| [V]    | 2  |
| [M]    | 13 |
| [MG]   | 6  |
| [MU]   | 6  |
| [NCA]  | 15 |
| [NCAU] | 9  |
| [NCAC] | 1  |
| [CA]   | 12 |
| [CAU]  | 3  |



Sora



Mountain Trogon



Rusty Sparrow



West Mexican Chachalaca





*Stripe-headed Sparrow*



*White-throated Flycatcher*



*White-eared Hummingbird*



*Crane Hawk*



*Pauraque*



*Spotted Wren*



*Gray Silky-Flycatcher*





*Immature Tufted Jay*



*Elegant Quail*



*Collared Towhee*

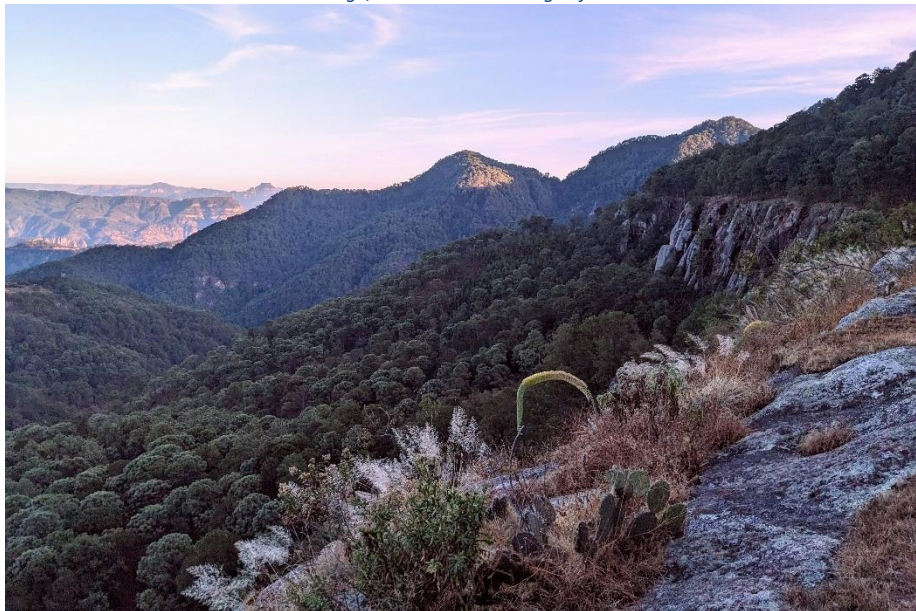




*Watching the World Cup Finals at Rancho La Ciudadela (Camino La Noria, Sinaloa)*



*El Palmito village, Sinaloa – no shortage of Gorditas here*



*View of Pine-Oak Forest from the Mirador near the Chara Pinta Reserve, Sinaloa*

**END**