Mexico Sea of Cortez | Species List
March 4 – 12, 2022 | with Naturalist Journeys

With guide, Greg Smith, and participants Brian, Carol, Cathie, Gordon, Joe, and Karen.

4 (I)=introduced

BIRDS (103 species recorded) 39 Families:

DUCKS, GEESE, SWANS: Anatidae: (4)
Blue-winged Teal (Anas discors) – A small group was in back water lagoon of Estero San Jose
Cinnamon Teal (Anas cyanoptera) – A second year male was the only one we saw on this trip
Northern Shoveler (Anas clypeata) – Three hens & a second year drake in the flooded section of the Estero
Ruddy Duck (Oxyura jamaicensis) – A few in deeper water up near the mouth of the Estero

NEW WORLD QUAIL: Odontophoridae (1)
California Quail Callipepla californica – Two small flocks were seen on our morning walk in Agua Verde

GREBES: Podicipedidae (2)
Pied-billed Grebe (Podilymbus podiceps) – We had six scattered throughout the Estero on our walk
Eared Grebe (Podiceps nigricolis) – First seen off of Agua Verde, not nearly as common as in past years

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (6)
Rock Pigeon (Columbu livia) – All around San Jose del Cabo
Eurasian Collared Dove (Streptopella decaocto) – A few were seen on our Birding Cabo outing Common Ground Dove (Columbina passerina) – Somewhat common, certainly around stables
Ruddy Ground Dove (Columbia talpacoti) – Seen along the farm road in Todos Santos
White-winged Dove (Enaida asiatica) – Everywhere around habitation in anywhere on the peninsula
Mourning Dove (Enaida macroura) – As in the States, they were more visible in the rural settings

SWIFTS: Apodidae (1)
White-throated Swift (Auronautis saxatalis) – One was seen during our Birding Cabo day

HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae (2)
Costa’s Hummingbird (Calypte costae) – Seen by a few during our Birding Cabo day breakfast stop
(E) Xantus Hummingbird (Hylocharis xantusii) – Seen feeding along the farm road on our Birding Cabo day and again in Agua Verde

SWAMPHEN, COOTS: Rallidae (2)
Common Gallinule (*Gallinula chloropus*) – Fairly common all along the edge of the Estero
American Coot (*Fulica americana*) – Not as common as the gallinule, but definitely present

**OYSTERCATCHERS: Haematopodidae (1)**
American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliates*) – A pair was seen while hiking the ridge trail on Isla San Francisco

**PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (2)**
Semi-palmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) – Only seen in a coastal puddle in Agua Verde
Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferous*) – First two were seen on the beach between the ocean and the Estero

**SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (7)**
Whimbrel (*Numenius pharopus*) – A flock of 15 heading north in Magdelena Bay was a coup
Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*) – Two were seen foraging in the mudflats of Puerto Chale
Sanderling (*Calidris Alba*) – A small flock on the mudflats of Puerto Chale were the only ones for the trip
Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minitilla*) – Seen on Isla Carmen and in Agua Verde
Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) – Quite a few at various locations along the Sea’s rocky shores
Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*) – Seen foraging along the shore of Estero San Jose
Willet (*Tringa semipalmata*) – One was seen on the mudflats of Puerto Chale

**AUKS & ALLIES: Alcidae (2)**
Craveri’s Murrelet (*Synthilboramphus craveri*) – Three were seen on our move north to Loreto area
Cassin’s Auklet (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*) – We saw and photographed at least four just south of Agua Verde

**GULLS AND TERNs: Laridae (12)**
Bonaparte’s Gull (*Chroicocephelus philadelphia*) – Another solo individual from the ship while at port in La Paz
Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) – An adult was seen by a few of us Friday morning from the Safari Voyager
Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) – A few were mixed in with a large flock of birds on the Puerto Chale sandspit
Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) – Two adults were mixed in with the sandspit flock in Puerto Chale
Heermann’s Gull (*Larus heermanni*) – A couple of adults were seen north of Agua Verde
Yellow-footed Gull (*Larus livens*) – Best looks by far were on the beach at Agua Verde
California Gull (*Larus californicus*) – Small numbers along the shore of San Jose del Cabo
Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*) – A second cycle bird was seen on Magdelena Bay
Western Gull (*Larus occidentalis*) – We had at least three adults in the large sandspit flock near Puerto Chale
Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) – A solo individual was seen from the beach at Agua Verde
Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*) – First one seen was flying along the along the coast south of Agua Verde
Elegant Tern (*Thalasseus elegans*) – A few seen out on Magdelena Bay on our gray whale day

**FRIGATBIRDS: Fregatidae (1)**
Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*) – Both sexes were first seen in the Estero area

**GANNETS, BOOBIES: Sulidae (2)**
Blue-footed Booby (*Sula nebouxii*) – By far the ore common of the two boobies, lots around most islands
Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*) – More common down around Los Islotes than further north

**CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (3)**
Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) – We had a few on water-logged branches in the middle of the mangrove-lined channels at Puerto Chale
Brandt’s Cormorant *(Phalacrocorax penicillatus)* – Seen first off of Isla Carmen and then most later days
Double-crested Cormorant *(Phalacrocorax auritus)* – Our first of many was seen on Roco Solitario

**PELICANS: Pelecanidae (1)**
Brown Pelican *(Pelecanus occidentalis)* -Scattered along the coastline, lots of juveniles in the Estero

**HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (8)**
Great Blue Heron *(Ardea herodias)* – The biggest numbers were on Estero San Jose
Great Egret *(Ardea alba)* – Scattered along the coast with the biggest number on the Estero
Snowy Egret *(Egretta thula)* – Not very common anywhere, our first was on the Estero
Tricolored Heron *(Egretta tricolor)* – Seen on Isla Monserrat by a couple of folks in our group
Reddish Egret *(Egretta rufescens)* – Seen in the mangroves of Puerto Chale
Cattle Egret *(Bubulcus ibis)* – We had six along the Estero, very unusual location
Black-crowned Night-Heron *(Nycticorax nycticorax)* – A solitary individual in the Estero
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *(Nycticorax vilocea)* – Seen under the edge of the mangroves in Puerto Chale

**IBISES & SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae (2)**
White Ibis *(Eudcimus albus)* – A dozen or so were seen along the mangroves of Puerto Chale
White-faced Ibis *(Plegadus chihi)* – A solitary individual was seen in the back part of Estero San Jose

**NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae (1)**
Turkey Vulture *(Cathartes aura)* – Everywhere and on everyday we were here

**Hawks, Kites and Eagles: Accipitridae (3)**
Harris’ Hawk *(Parabuteo unicinctus)* – A group of five were seen on some cordons just outside of Puerto Chale
Zone-tailed Hawk *(Buteo albonotatus)* – Seen soaring over the Estero San Jose with vultures
Red-tailed Hawk *(Buteo jamaicensis)* – Seen on just a couple days of the trip

**KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (1)**
Belted Kingfisher *(Megaceryle alcyon)* – Seen on the first few days of the trip

**WOODPECKERS: PICIDAE (2)**
Gila Woodpecker *(Melanerpes uropygialis)* – Definitely the common woodpecker in San Jose del Cabo
Gilded Flicker *(Colaptes chrysoides)* – Only one seen and that was on Isla Montserrat

**FALCONS: Falconidae (3)**
Crested Caracara *(Caracara plancus)* – At least three birds near our Birding Cabo breakfast stop
American Kestrel *(Falco sparverius)* – Seen sporadically, but regular throughout the voyage
Peregrine Falcon *(Falco peregrinus)* – We had them on an eyrie in an alcove of the hotel next to the Gran Barcelo

**TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (4)**
Vermillion Flycatcher *(Pyrocephalus rubinus)* – A pair seen on our morning bird walk in Agua Verde
Ash-throated Flycatcher *(Myiarchus cinerascens)* – Also seen on our morning Agua Verde walk
Cassin’s Kingbird *(Tyrannus vociferans)* – Seen by a few on our morning bird walk in Agua Verde
Tropical Kingbird *(Tyrannus melancholicus)* – A solo individual along the Estero San Jose

**SHRIKES: Laniidae (1)**
Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) – Aindividual with prey was on Isla San Francisco

**CROWS & JAYS: Corvidae(2)**
California Scrub Jay (*Aphelocoma californica*) – A good number were seen on our outing with Birding Cabo between San Jose and Cabo
Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) – Scattered throughout the trip

**PENDULINE TITS: Remizidae (1)**
Verdin (*Auriparus flaviceps*) – Seen a number of times on our Agua Verde Day and on some of the islands

**SWALLOWS & MARTINS: Hirundinidae (2)**
N. Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) – Seen on our morning walk thru Agua Verde
Violet-green Swallow (*Trachycineta thalassinna*) – A few were seen during out time in Agua Verde

**GNATCATCHERS:Polioptilidae(2)**
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*) – First seen in Agua Verde and then in Loreto
California Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica *) – Seen along with Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Agua Verde

**WRENS: Troglodytidae (1)**
Cactus Wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*) – Seen more around habitation than in the wilds

**MOCKINGBIRDS & THRASHERS:Mimidae(2)**
(E) Gray Thrasher (*Toxostoma cinereum*) – Seen in Agua Verde a couple of times, both times long looks *Northern* Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) – A fairly common bird in San Jose del Cabo and in the wild

**STARLINGS: Sturnidae (1)**
European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) – Seen only around cities, not in villages or the wilds

**SILKY FLYCATCHERS: Ptilogonatidae (1)**
Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*) – Both genders were very common in and around Agua Verde

**OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (1)**
House Sparrow (I) *Passer domesticus* – Unfortunately ubiquitous

**FINCHES: Fringillidae (1)**
House Finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*) – Common in San Jose del Cabo, uncommon elsewhere
Lesser Goldfinch (*Spinus pinus*) – Very common on our outing with Birding Cabo

**NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Emberizidae (4)**
Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*) – Seen on a number of days, first being on Isla Montserrrat
White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) – Seen on our Agua Verde walk
Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) – Seen along the beach at Estero San Jose
Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*) – Seen on our outing with Birding Cabo in Todos Santos and on Isla Montserrrat

**NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae (4)**
Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) – Seen on the road into Puerto Chale for whale watching
Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cuculatus*) – A few migrants had just arrived here in San Jose del Cabo, and also Agua Verde

Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) – A flyover near the horse stables adjacent to the Estero

Brewer’s Blackbird *Euphagus cyanocephalus* – A small flock was feeding at Estero San Jose

**NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (5)**

(E) Belding’s Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis beldingi*) – Seen by all of our group at Estero San Jose

Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) - Seen by most of our group along the Estero San Jose

Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Setophaga coronata*) – Seen on three different occasions, none on islands

Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora*) – Fairly common, especially in Todos Santos and Agua Verde

Wilson’s Warbler (*Cardellina pusilla*) – Seen well by a few at Estero San Jose foraging in the tules

**CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS & ALLIES: Cardinalidae (2)**

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) – Agua Verde gave us our best looks at a singing male

Pyrrhuloxia (*Cardinalis sinusus*) – Agua Verde gave us our only looks at this species

**MAMMALS (7)**

California Sea Lion (*Zalophus californianus*) – Of course the best looks were on Islas La Isolotes

Common Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) – Seen twice near the beginning of the trip

Long-beaked Common Dolphin (*Delphinus capensis*) – Seen on our first morning at sunrise just south of Agua Verde

Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeangiliae*) – A cow/calf pair just south of Agua Verde were welcomed at breakfast

Blue Whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*) – We had four of these behemoths just south of Agua Verde

Fin Whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*) – We had one breaching on our first day during our morning lecture

Gray Whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*) – We had probably six different individuals on Magdelena Bay. A really great day!