

# **MEXICO CENTRAL CHIAPAS**

**May 9-16, 2008**

**LEADER: HECTOR GOMEZ DE SILVA**

**COMPILED BY: HECTOR GOMEZ DE SILVA**

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## CENTRAL CHIAPAS

May 9-26, 2008

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### ITINERARY:

**May 9, Day 1:** Arrival in Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas, Mexico. NIGHT: Hotel Maya Sol, Tuxtla Gutiérrez

**May 10, Day 2:** Morning at: Sumidero Canyon National Park (lower lookouts). Afternoon at Laguna Bélgica State Park. NIGHT: Hotel Maya Sol, Tuxtla Gutiérrez

**May 11, Day 3:** Morning at Sumidero Canyon National Park (lower to upper lookouts). Afternoon driving to and visiting the limestone sinkhole known as Sima de las Cotorras.

**May 12, Day 4:** Morning at Nava's Wren site. Afternoon birding near San Cristóbal de las Casas. NIGHT: Hotel Holiday Inn, San Cristóbal de las Casas.

**May 13, Day 5:** Morning at Pink-headed Warbler site near San Cristóbal. Afternoon birding in second-growth cloud forest at Lagos de Montebello. NIGHT: Hotel Lagos de Montebello, Comitán

**May 14, Day 6:** Morning at Lagos de Montebello, mid-morning at Chinkultic archeological site. Lunch at Hotel Parador Santa María. Afternoon: drive back to Tuxtla Gutiérrez. NIGHT: Hotel Maya Sol, Tuxtla Gutiérrez

**May 15, Day 7:** Since we saw Nava's Wren right away on our first attempt, the group voted to devote the morning to driving all the way to where one can see Rose-bellied and Orange-breasted Buntings. In the afternoon :Tuxtla Gutiérrez Zoo. NIGHT: Hotel Maya Sol, Tuxtla Gutiérrez

**May 16, Day 8:** Departure Home. Most of the participants and the tour leader were on the same flight and went to the airport as a group, seeing a roadside Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl on the way.

### LOCATION KEY

**Sum**= Sumidero Canyon.

**B** = Laguna Bélgica. Humid tropical forest

**N** = Nava's Wren site. Humid tropical forest.

**S** = vicinity of San Cristóbal de las Casas. Pine-oak forest.

**M** = Lagos de Montebello and nearby Chinkultic

**T** = foothills above Tapanatepec. Tropical dry forest.

**Z**= Tuxtla Gutiérrez Zoo (outside cages)

**W** = Widespread at all elevations.

**Y** = Yagul. Valley thorn scrub.

## BIRDS OBSERVED

Bird names in **bold** are endemic to Mexico—in some cases with portions of their ranges extending into northern Central America, or extreme SW USA.

### TINAMOUS

Slaty-breasted Tinamou – heard B

### SWANS, GEESE & DUCKS

Black-bellied Whistling-Dick – agricultural areas in Ocozocuatla (on the way to B) and on the way to T

### GUANS, CHACHALACAS & ALLIES

Plain Chachalaca – many at Sum, Z. Some at Z had babies.

**West Mexican Chachalaca.** T. Heard loudly, nevertheless the first one was exceedingly difficult to see due to its camouflage coloration.

Crested Guan. A few at Z.

Great Currassow. A few at Z.

### NEW WORLD QUAILS

Northern Bobwhite –on the road to Sima de las Cotorras

Singing Quail –heard at Sum

### BITTERN & HERONS

Great Egret – Small numbers in scattered locations

Cattle Egret – scattered locations; a huge breeding colony right on the roadside on the way to T.

Green Heron –1 at M.

### AMERICAN VULTURES

Black Vulture – every day

Turkey Vulture – every day

### EAGLES, HAWKS & ALLIES

Swallow-tailed Kite –M

White-tailed Kite –singles near Ocozocuatla, and Comitán

Gray Hawk – two at T

White-tailed Hawk – an adult and an immature on the way to B.

Red-tailed Hawk – singles at S and M

### FALCONS

American Kestrel – near Chinkultic

### RALLIDAE

Common Moorhen –one at M

American Coot –one at M

## **PIGEONS & DOVES**

Rock Pigeon – Widespread; common in and around towns

Red-billed Pigeon – mostly Sum.

White-winged Dove – Widespread in open areas

Common Ground-Dove – a few on road to Sima de las Cotorras

Inca Dove – Widespread and numerous.

White-tipped Dove –Sum, T

Gray-headed Dove –One attracted to this species' song in the background of a tape recording that was being played at N.

## **PARROTS, MACAWS ETC.**

Orange-fronted Parakeet –T

Green Parakeet –Sima de las Cotorras

Brown-hooded Parrot –one glimpsed overhead at B.

White-fronted Parrot –mostly B.

## **CUCKOOS & ALLIES**

Squirrel Cuckoo –Sum, Z.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo –one at T allowed close-up views

Striped Cuckoo –heard at Sum

Pheasant Cuckoo –heard at Sum

Lesser Ground.Cuckoo –heard at Sum and T

Groove-billed Ani –near Ocozocuaula

## **BARN OWLS**

Barn Owl –heard at S

## **OWLS**

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl –heard at S, seen by most on way to airport.

## **SWIFTS**

White-collared Swift – T.

Vaux's Swift – Sum.

White-throated Swift—Sum, Chinkultic.

## **HUMMINGBIRDS**

**Long-tailed Saberwing** –N. A narrow-range endemic.

Canivet's Emerald –a male at Sum

White-eared Hummingbird – S.

Azure-crowned Hummingbird –several near Comitán and Chinkultic.

**Berylline Hummingbird** – 1 at B.

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird – singles at N and near M.

**Amethyst-throated Hummingbird**- --heard at S

Magnificent Hummingbird – seen by one participant at S.

Plain-capped Starthroat – one at Sum.

**Slender Sheartail** a female at Chinkultic and another at Parador Santa María.

## TROGONS

Black-headed Trogon –one seen by some participants at B  
Citreoline Trogon –responded to tape at T.  
Violaceous Trogon –a cooperative pair at Sum  
Collared Trogon –a male at N  
Mountain Trogon –A few at S.

## MOTMOTS

**Blue-throated Motmot** –one apparently feeding nestlings at S  
**Russet-crowned Motmot** –Sum,Z  
Blue-crowned Motmot –heard at Sum and B

## KINGFISHERS

Green Kingfisher –1 at M

## TOUCANS

Keel-billed Toucan –1 at N.

## WOODPECKERS & ALLIES

Acorn Woodpecker –2 on roadside snag near T  
Golden-fronted Woodpecker –Sum, Ocozocuaula and near Comitán.  
Hairy Woodpecker –heard at S.  
Golden-olive Woodpecker –Sum  
Northern Flicker –S

## OVENBIRDS

Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner –heard at B  
Plain Xenops –2 at N  
Ivory-billed Woodcreeper –heard at Sum and B

## TYPICAL ANTBIRDS

Barred Antshrike –1 male at Sum

## TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet –two of these rarely seen birds together at B.  
Greenish Elaenia --N  
Stub-tailed Spadebill –N  
**Belted Flycatcher** –one at Sum.  
Olive-sided Flycatcher – singles at Sum and B.  
Greater Pewee – 1 or 2 at S.  
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher – one heard at Z.  
Least Flycatcher – 1 at Sum.  
**Pine Flycatcher** –1 at S.  
Yellowish Flycatcher –one seen by one participant at S  
Buff-bellied Flycatcher –S.  
Vermilion Flycatcher – near Ocozocuaula both en route to B and Sima de las Cotorras.  
Dusky-capped Flycatcher – mostly Sum.  
Nutting's Flycatcher –Sum.  
Brown-crested Flycatcher –Sum

**Flammulated Flycatcher** –one at Sum.  
Great Kiskadee – near Comitán.  
Boat-billed Flycatcher –Sum, near Comitán.  
Social Flycatcher –Widespread.  
Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher –Sum, Z (including one building a nest)  
Piratic Flycatcher –Sima de las Cotorras.  
Tropical Kingbird – T.  
Couch's Kingbird –heard near Ocozocuaula.

#### **GENERA INCERTAE SEDIS**

Masked Tityra –near Ocozocuaula, breakfast stop near T

#### **VIREOS and ALLIES**

Blue-headed Vireo –1 at Sum  
Hutton's Vireo – S  
Yellow-green Vireo – Sum.  
Lesser Greenlet- B, N.  
Green Shrike-Vireo –heard B and N  
Rufous-browed Peppershrike –Sum

#### **JAYS, MAGPIES & CROWS**

Steller's Jay – S  
White-throated Magpie-Jay –Sum, T  
Green Jay –Sum, B  
Brown Jay – B, N.  
Unicolored Jay – heard at S.

#### **SWALLOWS**

**Black-capped Swallow** –two at S.  
Northern Rough-winged Swallow – Sum  
Barn Swallow – scattered locations.

#### **LONG-TAILED TITS**

Bushtit – S; the "Black-eared" (*personatus*) subspecies

#### **CREEPERS**

Brown Creeper – S.

#### **WRENS**

Rufous-naped Wren –T.  
**Nava's Wren** –Responded to tape at N by approaching, though silently. Few people have been able to see this very restricted-range species!  
Spot-breasted Wren –heard at a couple of places.  
Banded Wren –Sum, T, Z.  
Plain Wren –heard at Sum (where glimpsed by some) and Chinkultic  
House Wren – M.  
**Rufous-browed-Wren** –heard at S.

## **OLD WORLD WARBLERS**

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – heard at Chinkultic  
White-lored Gnatcatcher –Sum.

## **THRUSHES & ALLIES**

Eastern Bluebird –S, near M  
**Brown-backed Solitaire** – heard S, M.  
Slate-colored Solitaire –heard at N. Beautiful Wood Thrush-like song.  
Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush –Sum  
Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush –S  
Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush –M  
Swainson's Thrush –B, some of them feeding at canopy level.  
**Black Robin** –heard S, seen by some and beautifully heard at M  
Clay-colored Robin –Widespread.  
White-throated Thrush –heard at B.  
**Rufous-collared Robin** – S.

## **MOCKINGBIRDS & THRASHERS**

Tropical Mockingbird –near Ocozocuatla, S and near Comitán..  
**Blue-and-white Mockingbird** – Sum, S.

## **SILKY-FLYCATCHERS**

**Gray Silky-Flycatcher** – S.

## **OLIVE WARBLER**

Olive Warbler – S

## **WOOD WARBLERS**

**Crescent-chested Warbler** – S.  
Tropical Parula –heard at N  
Yellow Warbler –1 at Sum.  
Chestnut-sided Warbler –1 at N with red pollen-stained throat  
Black-throated Green Warbler –S  
Townsend's Warbler – S  
Blackburnian Warbler – mostly Sum  
**Grace's Warbler** –one at S  
Gray-crowned Yellowthroat –Sum, breakfast stop on way to T  
Wilson's Warbler – 1 at S  
**Pink-headed Warbler** – S, often heard but at first difficult to find.  
Slate-throated Redstart – S, M.  
Fan-tailed Warbler -- Sum  
Golden-crowned Warbler—B  
**Rufous-capped Warbler** –1 glimpsed at N.  
Golden-browed Warbler –S.  
**Red-breasted Chat** –Sum.

## **TANAGERS**

Common Bush-Tanager –M.  
Red-throated Ant-Tanager –N.

Hepatic Tanager – S.  
Flame-colored Tanager – heard at M.  
Crimson-collared Tanager —1 at N.  
Yellow-winged Tanager –mainly Sum and near M  
Red-legged Honeycreeper –N.

### **BUNTINGS, SPARROWS & ALLIES**

Blue-black Grassquit –on road to Sima de las Cotorras, near M  
Yellow-faced Grassquit –one glimpsed at N, one at Parador Santa María near M  
White-collared Seedeater –near M.  
Olive Sparrow –Sum  
Spotted Towhee – S.  
**Rusty Sparrow** – Sum, N  
**Cinamon-tailed Sparrow**—heard at T  
Rufous-collared Sparrow –S, near M  
Yellow-eyed Junco S

### **CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS & BUNTINGS**

Black-headed Saltator –N, Chinkultic.  
Black-faced Grosbeak – N.  
Yellow Grosbeak –Sum.  
Blue Grosbeak –a pair at Sum  
Blue Bunting –Sum.  
Indigo Bunting –N, non-breeding plumage.  
Varied Bunting –Sum.  
Painted Bunting –1 male seen by one participant in Sum.  
**Orange-breasted Bunting** –T  
**Rose-bellied Bunting** –T.

### **BLACKBIRDS & ALLIES**

Eastern meadowlark –grassy fields on road to Sima de las Cotorras.  
Melodious Blackbird –on road to Sima de las Cotorras, Z..  
Great-tailed Grackle – Widespread in towns  
**Bar-winged Oriole** –More numerous than usual at Sum.  
Yellow-backed Oriole—1 at Sum.  
Streak-backed Oriole –Sum, on roaad to T.  
Altamira Oriole – near Ocozocuautila and T.  
Yellow-billed Cacique –Sum.  
**Yellow-winged Cacique** –mostly breakfast spot on road to T, Z.

### **FINCHES**

Yellow-throated Euphonia –Sum.  
House Finch – heard at S.  
Red Crossbill –heard at S.  
**Black-capped Siskin** –1 seen by a few at S.  
**Black-headed Siskin** –a fine male seen by all at S.  
Lesser Goldfinch – Sum, near M..

## OLD WORLD SPARROWS

House Sparrow – towns.

## SIGNIFICANT OTHERS:

blue morpho –Sum, Z

tiger swallowtail –Sum

monarch butterfly –Parador Santa María

large katydid –at breakfast in our Comitán hotel

green fence lizard –1 at S

basilisk –one large one away from water near Ocozocuaula, also Z.

green iguana—T

cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus* sp.) –near Sima de las Cotorras.

squirrel (*Sciurus aureogaster*) –scattered locations

black agouti (*Dasyprocta mexicana*) –Z

coati (*Nasua narica*)–1 at Sum.

gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) –1 crossed the road unconcernedly on road to T.

mantled howler monkey (*Alouatta palliata*) –a small troop at Z.

