

**SHORT WEST MEXICO  
January 15-21, 2006**

**Leader: Marshall Iliff**

As the sun inched above the horizon, the early morning fog began to burn off slightly. With warm coffee in hand and hot breakfast on our plates, we stepped onto the patio. As the fog lifted, we were able to make out some waterbirds on the far shore of the pond. Northern Jacanas, six species of herons, three species of teal, Common Moorhens, and a single Purple Gallinule were strolling along the shoreline. Someone spotted a Sora out in the open very close to us, and some tape prompted a response from the resident Virginia Rail. Along the banks of the water were Social Flycatchers, Tropical Kingbirds, a single Green Kingfisher, and a solitary Rufous-backed Robin. Shifting our attention to the grassy area to the right of the pond, we noticed White-collared (Cinnamon-rumped) Seedeaters and Stripe-headed Sparrows, among other seed-eating birds. Cupping our hands to our ears, we concentrated on the sounds emanating from the fog: a Collared Forest-Falcon barked in the distance; Acorn Woodpeckers squabbled over their favorite snag; and Masked Tityras gave their odd buzzing calls. Loud squawks in the distance prepared us for the morning passage of Military Macaws. Two pairs passed overhead a couple of minutes apart, and later that same evening we were to see three more. Lilac-crowned Parrots and Orange-fronted Parakeets joined their larger cousins in the morning parrot flight. Time for a refill on the coffee!

After another cup or two of coffee, we headed from the ranch ponds (where we enjoyed breakfast) back towards the main ranch house of Rancho Primavera. By the time we got there, we had amassed a bird list fast approaching 100. The fog had burned off, so we stopped to rest on the patio of the main ranch house, fresh limeade in hand. While drinking our morning refreshment, the feeders produced no fewer than seven species of hummingbirds; Black-chinned and Ruby-throateds vied with Broad-billeds for most common, and loud chattering announced the appearance of a dominant Cinnamon Hummingbird, while a Berylline or two waited for their chance to feed. One Rufous made an appearance and, shortly thereafter, a Violet-crowned zipped in.

As the sun rose higher and the day started to heat up, we hiked the trails behind the ranch house. Patient taping brought Rosy Thrush-Tanager into view, as well as an endemic Happy Wren. Small landbird flocks were active, and our bird list for the day grew longer with each encounter. We finished our loop and refueled on some more limeade, but en route were distracted by a pair of Common Black-Hawks doing their dramatic in-flight display. After lunch another slow walk back towards the ponds continued to produce new birds: Blue-black Grassquit; a pair of Rose-throated Becards posing for scope views; an Ivory-billed Woodcreeper; Dusky-capped Flycatchers; and Thick-billed Kingbirds. Birds seemed to be everywhere—wintering warblers, stately flycatchers, raucous woodpeckers including the endemic Golden-cheeked, and the ever-present feisty hummers. A group of soaring raptors overhead included eight Magnificent Frigatebirds, a big surprise so far inland.

As dusk gathered, we returned to the pond where we started and continued to add new birds, concluding with swarms of Lesser Nighthawks over the hills and close looks at a Pauraque in the road. The Pauraque would be the last species we tallied on our “Ranch Big Day.” At our bird list session we counted our total for our “Ranch Big Day”—we had tallied no fewer than 118 species and, most amazingly, accomplished it all within a half-mile circle of the same ranch house where we had our breakfast, dinner, limeade breaks, and midday naps (for those that don’t bird through the heat of the day).

On our other six days we traveled more widely in search of birds. Especially memorable sightings from this trip included stunning male Red-breasted Chats at two locations; a brief Flammulated Flycatcher that perched nicely in the open; four species of owls calling on our morning owling excursion, and a rare Crested Guan that bid us good night at the same location; the regular-as-clockwork Mexican Hermit that we enjoyed nectaring at the vivid red hibiscus flowers on La Bascula road; and rare herons, including American Bittern, three different Bare-throated Tiger-Herons, an amazing hybrid Snowy x Little Blue at Maito, and a grand finale Boat-billed Heron on our last morning.

But on this trip, as on my other visits to this region, it was the diversity that impressed me most, with well over 300 species possible within an hour's drive of the ranch. In addition to the 150+ species that are regular on the ranch, our day-trips typically tallied almost 100 additional species (on this tour we tallied 245). Best of all, no packing and unpacking—we enjoyed it all on day-trips out of the ranch house! Thank you all for another wonderfully enjoyable and relaxing trip to Rancho Primavera.

### ITINERARY

**Day 1, January 15:** Arrival in Puerto Vallarta 14:30; afternoon birding at Río Ameca mouth to 17:20, then return to Ranch for dinner.

**Day 2, January 16:** We birded La Bascula Road (7:45-12:45); lunch at Altamira Restaurant; afternoon at Ranch with attempt for Rosy Thrush-Tanager and visit to Ranch ponds.

**Day 3, January 17:** Morning visit to Presa Cajon de Pena (745-1215); lunch at El Habal (to 13:30); afternoon visit to fields of Cruz de Loreto, departing 17:00.

**Day 4, January 18:** Early departure for Tehua, with owling attempt at a small bridge (“owling bridge”) nearby from 6:20-7:00. Ample birding on route including the forest trail (“Tehua trail”) and the estero at Maito. Relaxing lunch at Cande's in Tehua (13:30–15:00) followed by a visit to the estero and sewage ponds at Aquiles Serdan. After dusk at the owling bridge again, and a brief stop for nightjars, we returned to the ranch at about 7:30 for dinner.

**Day 5, January 19:** A more mellow day today, we set out to establish a Rancho Primavera Big Day list. We greeted a foggy dawn at the ranch ponds where Pat and Bonnie had breakfast ready for us. From there we walked the ponds (some of us explored the ponds more...um...deeply (sorry George). In the late morning we explored the trails to the west where we connected with some lovely Rosy Thrush-Tanagers. After lunch at Altamira Restaurant, we headed back out for more birding along the road and concluded again with another visit to the ponds (Ranch Big Day total **118**).

**Day 6, January 20:** We departed at a reasonable hour this morning and birded along Cienega Ojuelos Road (7:45-10:35), followed by Juntas Verano, adding some choice species. We had our lunch at the Bob's pizza restaurant at the new botanical gardens. After lunch we made a brief stop on La Bascula Rd. and then relaxed at the Ranch.

**Day 7, January 21:** Departure for home, with early morning departure (6:00) for Laguna de Quelele. Laguna de Quelele bolstered our list with Boat-billed Heron and its ilk. After a quick stop at the oceanfront near the airport, we headed to the airport for our flights home.

**Locations:** AS (=Aquiles Serdan); CDL (=Cruz de Loreto, and adjacent farmland); CO (=Cienega de Ojuelos road, just north of LB); LB (=La Bascula Road); LQ (=Laguna de Quelele, Nayarit); PCP (=Presa Cajon de Pena); PV (=Puerto Vallarta); Ranch (=Rancho Primavera); RAM (=Río Ameca mouth/Playa de Tomate); WTP (=Wastewater Treatment Plant, used for CDL and AS).

Tour highlights are in ALL CAPS; local rarities are underlined; Mexico endemics are denoted with an (E); Regional endemics (Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize) are denoted with an (RE); \* = recorded on the Rancho Primavera property; (h) = heard only

**SPECIES LIST** (245 species)

**Fulvous Whistling-Duck** – LQ; 6 on 21 Jan

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** – CDL, LQ, Altamira Restaurant

**Green-winged Teal\*** – AS, LQ, Ranch; one male at Ranch 19 Jan

**Northern Pintail** – LQ (25), CDL WTP (1)

**Blue-winged Teal\*** – AS, LQ, Ranch

**Cinnamon Teal\*** – AS, LQ, Ranch; small numbers, including 2 on our Ranch Big Day

**Northern Shoveler** – AS, CDL, LQ

**Gadwall** – AS (5), CDL (6)

**Ring-necked Duck** – CDL; two females at WTP

**Lesser Scaup** – PCP (100), CDL, AS

**Ruddy Duck** – AS WTP (6), PCP (600+)

**CRESTED GUAN** – One that flew over the road at our owling bridge near Bioto Road was a major highlight; it is wonderful that this species has persisted in this area, as it is hunted heavily.

**Chachalaca sp.\*** (h) – Ranch, Tehua; alas, chachalacas were heard-only on this trip. Either West Mexican or Rufous-bellied is possible, but the former is the most likely.

**Least Grebe\*** – CDL, Ranch; Ranch ponds, also Altamira Restaurant

**Eared Grebe** – PCP; 6 very distant birds, my first in the area

**BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY** – RAM, PV; up to 50 offshore 15 & 21 Jan, but most were quite distant

**Brown Booby** – Common along coast; great looks at Tehua

**Brown Pelican** – Common along coast

**Neotropic Cormorant\*** – Common on freshwater; several on ocean from Tehua and RAM.

**Magnificent Frigatebird\*** – Common along coast; 8 over the Ranch 19 Jan were a surprise for our Big Day

**AMERICAN BITTERN\*** – Ranch; George went above and beyond the call of duty to flush this bird up for our Big Day. It was the first I've seen on the Ranch.

**BARE-THROATED TIGER-HERON** – PCP, CDL; two adults at the reservoir and an immature at CDL

**Great Blue Heron\*** – Small numbers most days

**Great Egret\*** – Seen daily

**Snowy Egret\*** – Fairly common, especially near coast. One of our most unusual sightings of the trip was an apparent **Snowy x Little Blue Heron hybrid** that we saw at the Maito estuary. Friends that have I have shown the photos have agreed with the conclusion, but it is a very odd looking bird.

**Little Blue Heron\*** – Several seen regularly at Ranch; others in lowlands near PV and CDL

**Tricolored Heron\*** – Several around PV, RAM, and LQ; one bird regularly at Ranch pond

**Cattle Egret\*** – Common; seen daily

**Green Heron\*** – Seen daily

**Black-crowned Night-Heron\*** – Small numbers on most days, including two at Ranch.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** – RAM, Maito, LQ

**BOAT-BILLED HERON** – LQ; one seen well on our final day

**White Ibis\*** – Seen daily; small flock of 15-30 regular at Ranch ponds.

**White-faced Ibis\*** – CDL, Ranch; abundant around CDL; small flock also at Ranch ponds

**Roseate Spoonbill** – RAM, AS, CDL, LQ; one in fields of CDL 18 Jan

**Wood Stork** – LQ (6)

**Black Vulture\*** – Common; seen daily

**Turkey Vulture\*** – Common; seen daily

**Osprey\*** – Seen several days, including one at the Ranch

**Cooper's Hawk\*** – Ranch; one im. 19 Jan

**Common Black-Hawk\*** – Ranch; a pair was giving display flights over the Ranch for our Big Day

**Gray Hawk** – 9 seen on two dates

**Broad-winged Hawk** – PCP; two adults and one im. soaring in morning

**Short-tailed Hawk** – PCP, CDL, Tehua; after missing this species on the previous tour, it was surprising to find 8 on this tour on three dates.

**Zone-tailed Hawk** – PCP, CDL, AS; total of 8 on this tour (versus one on previous tour). The similarity to Turkey Vultures was shocking!

**Red-tailed Hawk** – 8 seen on 2 days. Most surprising was an apparent **Harlan's Hawk** (*Buteo jamaicensis harlani*) that we saw and I photographed at CDL WTP. Expert review by Tony Leukering and Brian Wheeler supported the identification as Harlan's.

**Crested Caracara\*** – RAM, Tehua, CDL, Ranch; one at Ranch 18 Jan, others near coast.

**Collared Forest-Falcon\*** (h) – One-two heard almost daily at Ranch; also at owling bridge

**American Kestrel\*** – Common; seen daily

**Merlin** – AS; one male *columbarius* was seen by George and Marshall only

**Peregrine Falcon** – PCP; one soaring over hills

**Virginia Rail\*** – One at the pond on the Ranch gave us good looks 16 Jan and was heard on our Big Day; my first for the area

**Sora\*** – Ranch; up to 3 at Ranch ponds, including several good sightings

**Purple Gallinule\*** – CDL (10), Ranch (1)

**Common Moorhen\*** – CDL, Ranch (2), Maito (1),

**American Coot\*** – Seen almost daily

**Black-bellied Plover** – LQ (2)

**COLLARED PLOVER** – AS; great looks in direct comparison to Semipalmated and Snowy

**Snowy Plover** – RAM, AS; 7 seen in comparison with Collareds and Semiplamateds at AS, also 10 at RAM

**Wilson's Plover** – RAM, LQ; 12 at RAM and 6 at LQ were my first in the area

**Semipalmated Plover** – RAM, AS, LQ

**Killdeer** – Tehua

**American Oystercatcher** – Tehua; two flybys

**Black-necked Stilt** – RAM, AS, CDL

**American Avocet** – RAM, AS, LQ

**NORTHERN JACANA\*** – CDL, Ranch (6), LQ (1 im)

**Greater Yellowlegs** – Seen several days

**Solitary Sandpiper\*** – Ranch; two 19 Jan

**Willet** – RAM, Tehua, AS, LQ; these were subspecies *inornatus*

**Spotted Sandpiper** – Seen four days

**Whimbrel** – RAM, LQ; American subspecies *hudsonicus*

**Long-billed Curlew** – CDL (10), LQ (1)

**Marbled Godwit** – LQ; just one

**Sanderling** – RAM (3)

**Western Sandpiper** – RAM (2), LQ (200)

**Least Sandpiper** – RAM, AS, LQ

**Stilt Sandpiper** – AS, LQ; four at AS WTP and one at LQ

**Long-billed Dowitcher** – AS, CDL, RAM; identification confirmed by call

**Wilson's Snipe\*** – Ranch; one on 19 Jan, thanks to George's flushing efforts

**Laughing Gull** – Abundant along coast

**Heerman's Gull** – Common along coast, especially Tehua

**Ring-billed Gull** – RAM; 1 adult 15 Jan

**California Gull** – RAM; 4 on 15 Jan

**Caspian Tern** – RAM (3), PCP (1)

**Royal Tern** – RAM (15), Tehua (4)

**Black Skimmer** – RAM; 40 seen 15 Jan

**Rock Pigeon** – Common; seen almost daily

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** – RAM; one on wires on our way to RAM may have been the first state record for Jalisco. Thanks to David for obtaining documentary photos!

**Red-billed Pigeon** – RAM, LQ; 6 on each of two dates

**White-winged Dove\*** – Seen daily; fairly common in El Tuito area, with flocks in mornings on the Ranch

**Mourning Dove** – Surprisingly absent from most areas, they were common around CDL and LQ.

**Inca Dove\*** – Common; seen almost daily

**Common Ground-Dove** – Common in lowlands only, where seen around Tehua and CDL

**Ruddy Ground-Dove** – Surprisingly scarce, we saw one well near Tehua

**White-tipped Dove\*** – Fairly common; only a couple seen well, but heard or glimpsed daily

**Orange-fronted Parakeet\*** – Seen most days

**MILITARY MACAW\*** – Ranch, Tehua, Altamira Restaurant; total of 13 birds seen, all flyovers

**Lilac-crowned Parrot\*** (E) – Regularly seen flying overhead at dawn and dusk at Ranch and elsewhere

**Mangrove Cuckoo** – One seen at Maito estero by Bill and Kay

**SQUIRREL CUCKOO\*** – Good looks on several dates

**Lesser Ground-Cuckoo** (h) – Tehua; heard in grasslands just west of Llano Grande, maybe by George and me only

**Groove-billed Ani\*** – Common; seen daily

**Vermiculated Screech-Owl** (h) – Two heard at the owling bridge, but never seen

**Colima Pygmy-Owl** (h) (E) – Heard on two dates

**FERRUGINOUS PYGMY-OWL\*** – Seen and heard frequently

**Mottled Owl\*** (h) – Ranch, owling bridge; heard on several nights

**Lesser Nighthawk\*** – Regularly seen at dusk at Ranch and near CDL

**Pauraque\*** – Two in road near Bioto 18 Jan; also one at Ranch on Big Day 19 Jan

**BUFF-COLLARED NIGHTJAR** (RE) – One seen in road just west of El Tuito 18 Jan

**Vaux's Swift\*** – Seen overhead Tehua and Ranch

**MEXICAN HERMIT** (E) – LB; one at powerline hibiscus flowers 18 Jan, which apparently are a part of its trapline that it visits between 10:00-10:30 am.

**Broad-billed Hummingbird\*** – Common; seen daily

**Berylline Hummingbird\*** (RE) – Extremely common at LB, with just a few at Ranch (including Ranch feeders); also in lowlands near Llano Grande

**Cinnamon Hummingbird\*** – Very common, but spectacular

**Violet-crowned Hummingbird\*** – Tehua, Ranch; total of 15 on 18 Jan, plus 2-3 cooperative birds at Ranch feeders on several dates

**PLAIN-CAPPED STARHROAT** – PCP, Tehua; one below reservoir and two en route to Tehua

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird\*** – Common at Ranch feeders, where easily compared to Black-chinned

**Black-chinned Hummingbird\*** – Common at Ranch feeders

**Costa's Hummingbird** – One ad. male near Llano Grande 18 Jan; south of its known wintering range

**Calliope Hummingbird** – Common on LB and nearby

**Rufous Hummingbird\*** – Adult male at Ranch feeders on two dates

**CITREOLINE TROGON** (E) – Two at Tehua trail gave great looks

**Elegant Trogon\*** – PCP; 3 on 17 Jan

**RUSSET-CROWNED MOTMOT\*** (RE) – Seen well at Ranch and elsewhere

**Ringed Kingfisher** (h) – PCP (1)

**Belted Kingfisher\*** – A few; seen regularly at Ranch and other locales

**Green Kingfisher\*** – At least two seen regularly at Ranch; seen on four dates

**Acorn Woodpecker\*** – Common in pines of LB but also in more tropical vegetation around Ranch and El Tuito

**Golden-cheeked Woodpecker\*** (E) – Common; seen almost daily. This striking endemic woodpecker was a joy to behold.

**Ladder-backed Woodpecker\*** – Heard on several dates, finally seen on Ranch 19 Jan

**Arizona Woodpecker** – Two at LB 16 Jan

**Gray-crowned Woodpecker\*** (E) – Two seen very well at LB 16 Jan

**Lineated Woodpecker\*** – Heard several days, finally seen at Juntas de Verano 20 Jan

**Pale-billed Woodpecker** – 7 seen on three dates, best on “Tehua Trail”; in the genus *Campephilus*, the same genus as Ivory-billed Woodpecker

**Ivory-billed Woodcreeper\*** – Seen very well on “Tehua Trail”, but also at Ranchy 19 Jan

**Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet\*** – This nondescript little flycatcher was seen on several dates and heard on most days

**Greenish Elaenia\*** – PCP (1)

**TUFTED FLYCATCHER** – Common at CO; 8 on 12 Jan

**Greater Pewee\*** – Common; seen daily. Most common in pines of LB, it was also a regular flock component at lower elevations of LB, Bioto, and the Ranch.

**Willow Flycatcher\*** – Up to three on Ranch

**Least Flycatcher\*** – The second most-common *Empidonax*, we saw several on the Ranch and elsewhere

**Dusky Flycatcher** – One below dam at PCP

**Pacific-slope Flycatcher\*** – The most common *Empidonax*, we saw many at Ranch, Bioto, and elsewhere

**Black Phoebe\*** – Seen on four dates at the ranch and elsewhere (e.g., near Llano Grande)

**Vermilion Flycatcher\*** – Common; seen daily. This spectacular species was a treat to see so commonly.

**BRIGHT-RUMPED ATTLA** – Great looks at this species on LB 16 Jan, with another seen PCP the next day

**Dusky-capped Flycatcher\*** – Common in all forested habitats: Bioto, Ranch, LB, near Tehua

**Ash-throated Flycatcher\*** – Uncommon, but several near Tehua, CDL, and at Ranch

**Nutting's Flycatcher\*** – Fairly common on Bioto, near Tehua, and at Ranch; we had good studies of this species and heard its diagnostic call which eliminates Ash-throated Flycatcher

**FLAMMULATED FLYCATCHER (E)** – PCP; one seen briefly but well at dam at reservoir. This is a secretive bird that is hard to observe.

**Great Kiskadee\*** – Common; seen daily

**Boat-billed Flycatcher** – Seen well at Juntas de Verano

**Social Flycatcher\*** – Common; seen daily

**Tropical Kingbird\*** – One of the most common birds; seen daily

**Thick-billed Kingbird\*** – Second most common flycatcher; seen daily

**Rose-throated Becard\*** – Pair on Ranch 19 Jan. This subspecies (*albiventris*) is same that occurs in Arizona.

**MASKED TITYRA\*** – Present in small numbers and seen well at Juntas de Verano. This plump shrike-like bird is spectacular with its red face and was a nice one to encounter with regularity

**Loggerhead Shrike** – One at CDL was our only one

**Bell's Vireo\*** – Common at Ranch, and especially in lowlands; these birds seemed very greenish and may have been the *bellii* subspecies, or possibly the slightly duller *arizonae*.

**Plumbeous Vireo** – Bioto, LB; four total

**Golden Vireo\*** (E) – Just two seen

**Warbling Vireo\*** – One of the more common flock components

**San Blas Jay\*** (E) – Common and seen well at Ranch and environs

**Magpie-jay sp.** – A couple people got to see one disappearing over the treetops at the “owling bridge”. It could have been either White-throated or Black-throated, since both occur in this area.

**Common Raven\*** – Two near LB 16 & 20 Jan; also one on Ranch 19 Jan

**Tree Swallow** – 10 at CDL

**MANGROVE SWALLOW** – Great looks at 8 on wires at CDL, with 2 more at AS the next day

**Violet-green Swallow\*** – Flocks at Altamira Restaurant, also on Ranch for our 19 Jan Big Day

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow\*** – Common; seen daily

**Bank Swallow** – 75+ at CDL

**Barn Swallow\*** – Large flocks at CDL; one at Ranch 19 Jan

**SPOTTED WREN (E)** – Eight on LB; these large wrens are congeneric with Cactus Wren but are a canopy species

**Happy Wren\*** (E) – Uncommon, but seen most days on Ranch or elsewhere

**Sinaloa Wren\*** (E) – Common, and seen daily at Bioto, Ranch, and elsewhere

**White-bellied Wren** – PCP, Tehua; great looks at the reservoir dump site

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** – CO, LB; four on each of two dates

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher\*** – Common; seen daily. This may have been the most common passerine in mixed flocks.

**BLACK-CAPPED GNATCATCHER (E)** – After some effort, we finally got great looks at a pair near Tehua

**Brown-backed Solitaire** (h) (RE) – Pairs at LB and CO were heard singing their beautiful, cascading bell-like song. This regional endemic sneaks into Guatemala as well.

**Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush\*** – Common within Ranch forest; seen well 20 Jan at CO. This bird was giving a rarely-heard nocturnal flight call than Jan was kind enough to record. I passed it on to Andy Farnsworth who is working with nocturnal flight calls and he was ecstatic since he has heard it once but had no recordings on which he could do spectrographic analyses! Thanks Jan!

**Swainson's Thrush** (h) – One was heard 18 Jan en route to Tehua; also heard at PCP and seen at LQ (both leader-only). These wintering birds are the shorter-distance migrants from the western USA, sometimes known as the “russet-backed” Swainson's Thrushes.

**White-throated Robin** – Six birds seen on three dates; best at PCP

**Rufous-backed Robin\*** (E) – Seen most days in small numbers; great looks on Ranch

**BLUE MOCKINGBIRD\*** (E) – Seen well on Ranch 19 Jan; heard on two other dates

**Northern Mockingbird** – RAM, CDL, Tehua; surprisingly local and not seen on Ranch itself

**American Pipit\*** – AS (3)

**Orange-crowned Warbler\*** – Common and seen in small numbers most days; those seen included mostly *lutescens*, but with good numbers of *orestera* and perhaps a few that looked like *celata*

**Nashville Warbler\*** – Common; seen daily. This species vied with gnatcatcher as most common mixed-flock passerine.

**Lucy's Warbler** – PCP (1), Tehua (3); scarcer than I'd expect in the area

**Tropical Parula** – Six seen on our Tehua day; four also at PCP (leader only)

**Yellow Warbler\*** – Common and seen or heard daily, especially in open areas and lowland areas.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler\*** – Common, especially in pine forest of LB and in mangos on Ranch; most were of the “Audubon's Warbler” subspecies group (*auduboni*). We also had one “**Myrtle Warbler**” (*coronata*) at La Provincia on LB, my first for the area.

**Black-throated Gray Warbler\*** – Very common; one of the primary flock components in all habitats

**Townsend's Warbler** – LB; two 16 Jan

**Black-throated Green Warbler** – CO, LB; one at each locale 20 Jan

**Grace's Warbler** – Common in pine forest of LB and nearby

**Black-and-white Warbler\*** – Common in woodlands

**American Redstart\*** – Small numbers seen most days

**Ovenbird** (h) – One heard chipping at LQ; seen by leader at Lb and LQ.

**Louisiana Waterthrush\*** – Ranch; resident bird along stream at Ranch seen several times

**MacGillivray's Warbler\*** – Very common in brushy and weedy habitats

**Common Yellowthroat\*** – Very common in brushy and weedy habitats

**Wilson's Warbler\*** – Very common in forested and brushy habitats

**Painted Redstart** – Very common in pine forest of LB and CO

**Rufous-capped Warbler** – LB; two seen

**Yellow-breasted Chat\*** – T6 birds on three dates, including on the Ranch; the western subspecies *auricollis*

**RED-BREASTED CHAT** (E) – This spectacular thorn-forest specialty was a definite tour highlight. We had a very responsive adult male on the Tehua trail and another immature male along the road to Tehua.

**Scrub Euphonia\*** – Uncommon, especially near Tehua; the West Mexican form (*godmani*) is sometimes known as “**Godman's Euphonia**” and is considered a possible split. Euphonias are spectacular and (very) cute goldfinch-like birds, and their relationships recently have been revised and they are now thought to be closer to finches than to tanagers

**Hepatic Tanager** – Common in pine forest of LB

**Summer Tanager\*** – Uncommon on ranch and nearby

**Western Tanager** – Four en route to Tehua

**ROSY-THRUSH-TANAGER\*** – After some heard-only experiences with this beautiful and unique tanager, we finally set out to get good views on our 19 Jan Big Day. Fortunately luck was on our side and we had incredibly good looks at a pair and their attendant juvenile, as they serenaded us and foraged in the leaf litter like a towhee. A great experience.

**Grayish Saltator\*** – Common in open areas around Ranch and elsewhere

**YELLOW GROSBEAK\*** (RE) – singles on three dates, including on the Ranch; the subspecies we saw was nominate *chrysopheplus*, which forms a subspecies group with northwestern Mexican *dilutus*; a disjunct form *aurantiacus* occurs in southern Mexico (Chiapas) and Guatemala. The AOU (1998) and Clements (2000) both consider South American forms (*chrysogaster* and *laubmanni*) to be a distinct species, the Golden-bellied Grosbeak (*Pheucticus chrysogaster*).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** – One im. male near Llano Grande; my first for the area

**Black-headed Grosbeak** – Six between Llano Grande and Tehua on 18 Jan

**Blue Bunting\*** (RE) – Seen on two dates, with a dozen en route to Tehua

**Blue Grosbeak\*** – Common in lowlands of CDL and LQ; one on Ranch 19 Jan

**Varied Bunting\*** – Fairly common in brushy habitats

**ORANGE-BREASTED BUNTING** (E) – We had unbelievable views of males (and females) along the road to Tehua. Also 3 at PCP.

**Painted Bunting\*** – Stunning males and distinctive green females seen on several dates

**Dickcissel** – A flyby group of 300 was seen east of CDL

**Olive Sparrow** – Two at PCP and one at Tehua Trail

**Blue-black Grassquit\*** – Seen on three dates, best on Ranch

**White-collared Seedeater\*** – We saw this little sprite well on several days, including adult males at the Ranch; note that this subspecies (*torqueola*), sometimes known as “**Cinnamon-rumped Seedeater**”, has been granted full-species status by some and is a possible future split.

**Stripe-headed Sparrow\*** – This common but striking species was seen almost daily

**RUSTY SPARROW** – We had great looks at this large sparrow at LB 16 Jan

**Lark Sparrow** – CDL (10)

**Grasshopper Sparrow** – CDL (4)

**Savannah Sparrow** – LQ; 3 outside LQ were our last new species

**Lincoln’s Sparrow\*** – Fairly common in brushy habitats at Ranch and elsewhere

**Red-winged Blackbird\*** – CDL (10), Ranch; two females with the roosting caciques 19 Jan were my first for the Ranch.

**Eastern Meadowlark** – CDL

**Great-tailed Grackle** – Common; seen daily, but absent from Ranch

**Bronzed Cowbird** – Flock at Altamira Restaurant on several dates; also CDL

**Brown-headed Cowbird** – AS, CDL; flocks of hundreds, also 2 females with the Bronzed at Altamira Restaurant

**Orchard Oriole** – Six at CDL

**Hooded Oriole\*** – Small numbers seen on 4 dates, including on Ranch

**Black-vented Oriole\*** (RE) – Pair at Ranch were seen on several dates

**Streak-backed Oriole\*** – Common and seen daily, but a magnificent bird

**Bullock’s Oriole** – One male at CO

**Yellow-winged Cacique\*** (RE) – Common and seen daily, but a magnificent bird; flock of 140 roosted at Ranch ponds

**Black-headed Siskin** (RE) – Fairly common in pine forest of LB and CO, and stunning when seen well

**Lesser Goldfinch\*** – Four at Ranch 19 Jan

**House Sparrow** – Common in towns, including El Tuito

Leader only: Brown-crested Flycatcher, Black-capped Vireo, Green Jay, House Wren, Marsh Wren, Hooded Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Slate-throated Redstart

## MAMMALS

**Bat sp.** – Several different species were surely present; none identifiable to species

**Nine-banded Armadillo\*** – One seen on the Ranch 16 Jan

**Mexican Gray Squirrel** (*Sciurus aureogaster*) – Singles seen 19 & 20 Jan

**BULLER’S POCKET GOPHER** (*Pappogeomys bulleri*) – One mean little pocket gopher crossing the road near Bioto Rd 18 Jan was presumably this species, as it is the only one known to occur in Jalisco (per E. R. Hall. 1981. The Mammals of North America, second edition. John Wiley & Sons, New York)

Plus roadkills of Virginia Opossum, Gray Fox

### **REPTILES**

**American Crocodile** – One at PV Golf Course 15 Jan; this species may be more likely here than Spectacled Caiman

**Black Iguana** – Singles on two dates

**Green Iguana** – One at PV Golf Course 15 Jan

**snake sp.\*** – One in the gardens of the Ranch was slender with medium brown stripes on a darker background, possibly a Patch-nosed Snake.

**slider (*Trachemys*) sp.** – Four of these turtles seen 15 Jan.

**other lizards** – Other lizards seen included several *Anolis* Anoles, *Cnemidophorus* whiptails (common on “Tehua trail”), and *Sceloporus* lizards, not identified to species, as well as a large, collared spiny lizard around the houses

Plus a roadkilled Boa Constrictor

### **AMPHIBIANS**

**Treefrog sp.** – One very small treefrog found on the Ranch by Bonnie was studied in the hand and photographed; I have not yet identified it.