

Mexico

January 2013

By Håkan Thorstensson ©



Volcán Popocatepetl

This is a trip report covering a brief visit to Mexico made in connection with my joining a commercial birding trip to Guatemala. As airline ticketing proceeded, I had one day (January 10) to spare in Mexico City prior to continuing to Guatemala City, and then six days (January 20-25) after the Guatemala tour was finished. Having picked up quite a few endemics in the vicinity of Mexico City on a previous trip, I decided this time to put some effort in looking for endemics in central Oaxaca, i.e. more or less around Oaxaca City.

It should be noted that this time of year is certainly not the best trying to locate the endemics and regional specialties. Many species are non-vocal at this time of year, and very slow in responding to playback, if indeed responding at all. Furthermore, several species do move to more southerly areas, so that Dwarf Vireo and White-throated Flycatcher is not found in the Oaxaca City surroundings during the winter months, and species like Elegant Trogon and Pileated Flycatcher are very rare in winter (but readily found in spring). A visit in March or April would certainly be the preferred choice.

Sites visited

Almost all of the sites visited are included in Steve Howell's "Where to watch birds in Mexico". This book is essential for planning a Mexico trip, although in some respects it is getting slightly outdated. This is especially true for some species mentioned for certain sites, e.g. Beautiful Hummingbird, which is nowadays *not* easy to find at Yagul (or elsewhere for that matter, the species is in serious decline). At all Oaxaca sites, I had a guide (more on that below), elsewhere I birded on my own.

Bosque de Tlalpan, Mexico City, DF (Howell, page 159): I spent around four hours here on January 10th, most of the time in an area specifically mentioned in the book, Tenantongo.

Teotitlan del Valle, Oaxaca (Howell, pages 221-222): The book describes where to bird along the road to Benito Juarez; starting at the reservoir Presa Piedra Azul we continued considerably higher than is mentioned in the book up to a point named El Boquete. Also, quite some time was spent birding in arid scrub below (south of) the village of Teotitlan del Valle itself. For convenience, in the species list all areas covered are simply named Teotitlan del Valle.



Arid scrub in Teotitlan del Valle.

La Cumbre, along road 175, Oaxaca (Howell, pages 225-227): As is described in the site guide, on page 226, the road up La Cumbre turns left after some fenced-in cabins, signed to RMO Corral de Piedras. We continued a few bends past where the fence ends. We also paid a brief visit to Yuvila on the other side of road 175. La Cumbre area is now protected and managed by the community, and an entrance fee at 50 pesos is payable in the small shack next to the restaurant El Trogon – this is all well signed, and located at the first summit coming from Oaxaca City.

Yagul, Oaxaca (Howell, pages 222-223): Yagul is clearly signed to the left from the highway, 190, coming from Oaxaca City (and is after the turn off for Teotitlan del Valle). We did not go to the archaeological site itself, and so kept to an area on the right hand side of the road after having made the left turn towards Yagul.

Monte Albán, Oaxaca (Howell, pages 218-221): Just outside the gate (locked till 8 or 8.30), on the right hand side from the approach road, a trail leads through the dry forest – we walked it up the first ascent till it levels out again.

Thorn forest outside Izucar de Matamoros, Puebla (Howell, page 165, under Laguna San Felipe heading): In the book a thorn-forested hill after the village of Tepexco is mentioned – I came from the opposite direction, thus having this hill on my left. I made a random stop where there is a sign for a road to some antennas, the sign reading RMO del Ahuehuete - this was approximately 10 kms, possibly slightly more, from the Hotel Atlanta in the outskirts of Izucar de Matamoros.

Huitzilac, Morelos (Neotropical Birding, #5, autumn 2009, page 35): In this article is referred to a track beyond the “km 7” post (coming from Huitzilac and driving towards Lagunas de Zempoala). The track I birded is more or less level with the km 7 post, so possibly there are two tracks. Anyway, at this km post, which is placed just

after the road curves right, there is a wide space for parking on the left hand side of the road. Park here (leave nothing valuable in your car), and walk about 100 metres, and a track leads down left.

Temascaltepec, Mexico (Howell, pages 169-173): I birded only the dirt road part of the El Polvorín loop described in Howell's book. Directions are accurate, however the third paragraph on page 172 might cause confusion – the dirt road leading off to the left does not really descend but is fairly level. After less than 200 metres it turns 90 degrees left and crosses the stream mentioned in the book (but the stream cannot actually be seen from the road), and immediately after crossing the stream the road bends 90 degrees right. Shortly thereafter you pass a few houses while the road winds left (beware the speed reducers), and then the road works its way upwards. After the village of Las Mesas higher up, and after a field to your left, you enter pine forest, and after a short distance the road forks – keep left here, and you will eventually reach highway 134.

Literature and recordings

A guide to the Birds of Mexico and Central America (Howell & Webb)

Where to watch Birds in Mexico (Howell)

Field Guide to the Birds of Western North America (Sibley)

Birds of Mexico, MP3 (Boesman)

Guiding

When planning the trip, I came across www.mexico-birding.com. This site is owned by Eric Antonio Martinez, and gives access to a network of guides that cover more or less all of Mexico. Eric lives in Teotitlan del Valle, thus very convenient for my purposes of birding the Oaxaca City area. Eric was invaluable in finding many of the desired endemics, and the days here were target birding at its best. I had handed Eric my list of wanted species, not only endemics but other species too, and he planned a suitable route that could pay off as much as possible – and indeed it did. So, bottom line, Eric gets my highest recommendations!

Species list (143)

ENDEMIC = Endemic to Mexico

(ENDEMIC) = Endemic to Mexico and Northern Central America (as defined in Howell & Webb)

I have tried, as thoroughly as possible, to list the ssp observed for each species. Also, brief notes are given on distribution for endemics or near-endemics. Note that some of the scientific names are not be completely up to date.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

3 Teotitlan del Valle.

Monotypic. Another described ssp is now extinct.

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*

Fairly common Teotitlan del Valle.

Monotypic.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

One seen near Toluca.

Monotypic.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*

A few Teotitlan del Valle.

Monotypic.

Redhead *Aythya Americana*

1 Teotitlan del Valle.

Monotypic.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*

1 Teotitlan del Valle.

Monotypic.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

About 20 Teotitlan del Valle.

Monotypic.

West Mexican Chachalaca *Ortalis poliocephala* ENDEMIC

At least one heard Teotitlan del Valle.

Monotypic. Occurs on Pacific slope and in interior from Jalisco to southwestern Chiapas.

Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus*

4 Teotitlan del Valle.

Ssp: *brachypterus*

Eared Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

2 Teotitlan del Valle.

Ssp: *californicus*

Great Egret *Egretta alba*

Scattered records.

Ssp: *egretta*

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*

Few records.

Ssp: *thula*

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Few records.

Ssp: *ibis*

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*

Fairly common to common, none seen in Mexico City and its immediate surroundings.

Ssp: *aura*

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*

Fairly common in some areas, but completely absent in others such as in and around Mexico City and Oaxaca City.

Monotypic.

White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus*

1 seen during the long drive from Mexico City to Oaxaca City, and 1 Teotitlan del Valle.

Ssp: *majusculus*

Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus*

1 Teotitlan del Valle.

Ssp: *madrensis*

Northern Harrier *Circus hudsonicus*

1 male Teotitlan del Valle.

Monotypic. Here regarded as a species separate from Old world *C.cyaneus*.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*

Seen around Teotitlan del Valle, and while driving from Oaxaca City to Izucar de Matamoros.

Ssp: only one individual assigned with certainty to ssp, a *borealis* Eastern Red-tailed Hawk.

Northern Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway*

Scattered records, e.g. 3-4 at the Yagul site.

Monotypic, after being split from *C.plancus*.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*

Singles seen most days.

Ssp: *sparverius* and/or *tropicalis*

American Coot *Fulica americana*

Fairly common Teotitlan del Valle.

Ssp: *americana*

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferous*

2 Teotitlan del Valle.

Ssp: *vociferus*

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*

1 Teotitlan del Valle.

Monotypic.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*

About 40 Teotitlan del Valle.

Monotypic.

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Seen.

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*

Readily seen in suitable habitat.

Ssp: *asiatica* (Oaxaca) and *mearnsi* (Puebla)

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*

1 Teotitlan del Valle.

Ssp: *marginella*

Inca Dove *Columbina inca*

Recorded almost daily in various numbers.

Monotypic.

Common Ground-Dove *Columbina passerine*

1 during the drive from Oaxaca City to Izucar de Matamoros.

Ssp: *pallascens*

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*

Singles heard Temascaltepec.

Ssp: *angelica*

Green Violetear *Colibri thalassinus*

1 La Cumbre and 1 Temascaltepec.

Ssp: nominate *thalassinus*

Dusky Hummingbird *Cynanthus sordidus* ENDEMIC

Arid scrub species observed in Teotitlan del Valle, Yagul site and Monte Albán.

Monotypic. Occurs in interior from Michoacan to Oaxaca.

Berylline Hummingbird *Amazilia beryllina*

Several seen in Mexico City and Bosque de Tlalpan, also in Teotitlan del Valle and Temascaltepec.

Ssp: *beryllina*

Blue-throated Hummingbird *Lampornis clemenciae*

1 Temascaltepec.

Ssp: *clemenciae*. Barely reaches into the USA in Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, otherwise occurs only in highlands of Mexico north of Isthmus of Tehuantepec

White-eared Hummingbird *Basilinna leucotis*

Seen at La Cumbre, Huitzilac and Temascaltepec.

Ssp: nominate *leucotis*

Bumblebee Hummingbird *Selasphorus heliosa* ENDEMIC

1 Temascaltepec.

Ssp: nominate *heliosa*. Occurs north of Isthmus of Tehuantepec, on both slopes and in central volcanic belt.

Mountain Trogon *Trogon mexicanus* (ENDEMIC)



One seen Teotitlan del Valle, singles heard La Cumbre and Huitzilac.

Ssp: nominate *mexicanus*. Ranges in highlands from northern Mexico to Honduras.

Elegant Trogon *Trogon elegans*

A female at Monte Albán was a surprise find as the species is very rare in Oaxaca state in winter.

Ssp: *ambiguus*

Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus*

Fairly common Temascaltepec, and singles also in Teotitlan del Valle.

Ssp: *formicivorus*

Gray-breasted Woodpecker *Melanerpes hypopoli* ENDEMIC



Seen very well in Teotitlan del Valle, Yagul site and near Izucar de Matamoros.

Monotypic. A bird of arid country in interior in Guerrero, Morelos, Puebla and Oaxaca.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus varius*

1 Bosque de Tlalpan.

Monotypic.

Ladder-backed Woodpecker *Picoides scalaris*

1 Teotitlan del Valle.

Ssp: *sinaloensis*

Strong-billed Woodcreeper *Xiphocolaptes promeropyrhynchus*

1 La Cumbre. A rare species in this area.

Ssp: *sclateri*

Pileated Flycatcher *Xenotriccus mexicanus* ENDEMIC

1 seen well at the Yagul site. Although common in summer, the species is decidedly rare in Oaxaca valley in winter.

Monotypic. Occurs in interior in the states of Michoacan, Morelos, Mexico, Guerrero, Puebla and Oaxaca.

Least Flycatcher *Empidonax minimus*

Surprisingly only one seen, in Teotitlan del Valle.

Monotypic.

Gray Flycatcher *Empidonax wrightii*

Small numbers in Teotitlan del Valle.

Monotypic.

Greater Pewee *Contopus pertinax*

Singles in Bosque de Tlalpan, Teotitlan del Valle and La Cumbre.

Ssp: nominate *pertinax*

Tufted Flycatcher *Mitrephanes phaeocercus*

Singles seen in Teotitlan del Valle and Temascaltepec.

Ssp: nominate *phaeocercus*

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans*

1 Teotitlan del Valle.

Ssp: *nigricans*

Eastern Phoebe *Sayornis phoebe*

1 Teotitlan del Valle.

Monotypic.

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus*

Fairly common Teotitlan del Valle, few records elsewhere.

Ssp: *mexicanus*

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis*

Singles Teotitlan del Valle.

Ssp: *texensis*

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*

Singles Teotitlan del Valle.

Ssp: *guatemalensis*

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*

Only recorded in lower elevations in Puebla state.

Ssp: *satrapa*

Cassin's Kingbird *Tyrannus vociferans*

Recorded in Bosque de Tlalpan, Oaxaca valley and Temascaltepec.

Ssp: *vociferans*

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer*

1 Teotitlan del Valle and 1 Monte Albán.

Ssp: *querulus*

Ash-throated Flycatcher *Myiarchus cinerascens*

1 Teotitlan del Valle.

Ssp: *cinerascens*

Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo *Vireolanius melitophrys* (ENDEMIC)

A stunning male seen well at Huitzilac.

Ssp: *crossini*. Highlands in Mexico and Guatemala.

Slaty Vireo *Vireo brevipennis* ENDEMIC

One seen briefly at Monte Albán. What a bird!

Ssp: *browni*. Occurs in central and southwestern Mexico.

Cassin's Vireo *Vireo cassinii*

Singles in Teotitlan del Valle and Temascaltepec.

Ssp: *cassinii*

Hutton's Vireo *Vireo huttoni*

1 Teotitlan del Valle.

Ssp: *mexicanus*

Golden Vireo *Vireo hypochryseus* ENDEMIC

1 Monte Albán and 1 Temascaltepec.

Ssp: nominate *hypochryseus*. Western Mexico, from southeastern Sonora to eastern Oaxaca.

Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus*

Seen in Bosque de Tlalpan, Yuvila and Temascaltepec.

Ssp: *swainsonii* and/or *brewsteri*

Northern Raven *Corvus corax*

A few seen in Oaxaca.

Ssp: *sinuatus*

Dwarf Jay *Cyanolyca nanus* ENDEMIC

3 of this beautiful little jay in La Cumbre.

Monotypic. An eastern Mexican specialty, occurring only from central Veracruz to northern Oaxaca. In winter, often travels with Gray-barred Wrens.

Steller's Jay *Cyanocitta stelleri*

2 La Cumbre.

Ssp: *restricta*

Western Scrub Jay *Aphelocoma californica*

Fairly common in upper parts of Teotitlan del Valle, otherwise infrequently encountered.

Ssp: *cyanotis* in Mexico DF, *sumichrasti* in Oaxaca.

Gray Silky-Flycatcher *Ptilogonys cinereus*



Fairly common to common.

Ssp: nominate *cinereus*

Bridled Titmouse *Baeolophus wollweberi*

2 in the higher elevations of Teotitlan del Valle.

Ssp: *caliginosus*

Violet-green Swallow *Tachycineta thalassina*

Several at the reservoir outside Teotitlan del Valle.

Ssp: *thalassina*

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*

Only seen in Teotitlan del Valle.

Ssp: *fulvipennis* and/or *psammochroa*

American Bushtit *Psaltiriparus minimus*

Small flocks in Bosque de Tlalpan and along road 175.

Ssp: *personatus* and *melanotis*. Both ssp belong to the Black-eared Bushtit group, which has been considered a separate species.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Regulus calendula*

Small numbers seen in forested areas.

Ssp: *calendula*

Canyon Wren *Catherpes mexicanus*

3-4 at the Yagul site.

Ssp: *mexicanus*

Boucard's Wren *Campylorhynchus jocosus* ENDEMIC



Singles seen Teotitlan del Valle and Yagul site.

Monotypic. Occurs in interior southwestern Mexico, in eastern Guerrero, southern Morelos, southern Puebla and western and central Oaxaca.

Gray-barred Wren *Campylorhynchus megalopterus* ENDEMIC

2 La Cumbre, and 3-4 Huitzilac.

Ssp: *nelsoni* and *megalopterus*. Found in highlands of central Mexico, nominate from Jalisco to western Puebla, and *nelsoni* in western Veracruz and northern Oaxaca.

Northern House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*

Only a handful seen.

Ssp: *parkmanii*. Does not include *T.brunneicollis* or *T.musculus*.

Marsh Wren *Cistothorus palustris*

1 Teotitlan del Valle.

Ssp: *paludicola*

Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii*

A few seen in Bosque de Tlalpan, and at Monte Albán.

Ssp: *murinus* and *mexicanus* respectively.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Poliophtila caerulea*

Easily seen at several sites.

Ssp: *nelsoni* and *caerulea*

White-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta carolinensis*

1 in upper elevations of Teotitlan del Valle.

Ssp: *kinneari*. Studies of the relationships between the various ssp may lead to future splitting of the species.

Blue Mockingbird *Melanotis caerulescens* ENDEMIC

Brief sightings or heard onlys at Yagul site and Monte Albán, before one finally showed well in Temascaltepec.

Ssp: nominate *caerulescens*. Found in western and central Mexico, north of the Isthmus.

Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos*

Seen in Teotitlan del Valle and Yagul site.

Ssp: *polyglottos*

Ocellated Thrasher *Toxostoma ocellatum* ENDEMIC

One showed very well at a stop along road 175.

Monotypic. Occurs in interior central Mexico.

Western Bluebird *Sialia mexicana*

One record only, a small flock in Temascaltepec.

Ssp: *australis*

Brown-backed Solitaire *Myadestes occidentalis*

Recorded at La Cumbre, Huitzilac and Temascaltepec.

Ssp: *oberholseri* at La Cumbre, others *occidentalis*.

American Robin *Turdus migratorius*

Fairly common in open areas in Temascaltepec, otherwise only one recorded in Oaxaca.

Ssp: *phillipsi*

Black-headed Siskin *Carduelis notata*

1 in Temascaltepec was the only record.

Ssp: *notata*

Lesser Goldfinch *carduelis psaltria*

Seen in various numbers at several sites.

Ssp: *psaltria*

House Finch *Carpodacus mexicanus*

Easily seen in open, arid areas, also in cities.

Ssp: *roseipectus* in Oaxaca, *mexicanus* in Mexico City and surrounding areas.

Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

1 Yuvila and 1 Temascaltepec.

Ssp: *stricklandi*

Hooded Grosbeak *Hesperiphona abeillei* (ENDEMIC)



A fine male in Huitzilac.

Ssp: *abeillei*. Disjunctly in highlands from northwestern Mexico to Guatemala.

Orange-crowned Warbler *Vermivora celata*

Fairly common to common.

Ssp: *orestera*, possibly also *celata*

Nashville Warbler *Vermivora ruficapilla*

Seen in Bosque de Tlalpan, Teotitlan del Valle and Temascaltepec.

Ssp: all probably *ruficapilla*

Virginia's Warbler *Vermivora virginiae*

1 Monte Albán.

Monotypic.

Crescent-chested Warbler *Parula superciliosa* (ENDEMIC)

1 Teotitlan del Valle and 1 Temascaltepec.

Ssp: *mexicana*. Occurs in highland forests in from Mexico to northern Nicaragua.

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata*

Fairly common to common.

Ssp: *auduboni*

Black-throated Gray Warbler *Dendroica nigrescens*

3-4 at upper elevations of Teotitlan del Valle, and 2 Temascaltepec.

Ssp: *nigrescens*

Townsend's Warbler *Dendroica townsendi*

Small numbers in Bosque de Tlalpan and Teotitlan del Valle.
Monotypic.

Hermit Warbler *Dendroica occidentalis*

Singles in Bosque de Tlalpan and Yuvila.
Monotypic.

Grace's Warbler *Dendroica graciae*

1 Temascaltepec.
Ssp: *remota*

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia*

Singles in Bosque de Tlalpan, Teotitlan del Valle and Monte Albán.
Monotypic.

MacGillivray's Warbler *Oporornis tolmiei*

1 Teotitlan del Valle and 1 Monte Albán.
Ssp: *tolmiei* and/or *monticola*

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas*

2 Teotitlan del Valle.
Ssp: *melanops*

Hooded Yellowthroat *Geothlypis nelsoni* ENDEMIC



1 Tenantongo, Bosque de Tlalpan. It took some effort.

Ssp: *karlanae*. Found in interior and Atlántric slope from southern Coahuila to northern Oaxaca, disjunctly also in southern Oaxaca.

Wilson's Warbler *Wilsonia pusilla*

Easily seen at a number of sites.

Ssp: *pileolata* and/or *chryseola*

Red-faced Warbler *Cardellina rubrifrons*

2 of this beautiful warbler in higher elevations in Teotitlan del Valle.

Monotypic.

Red Warbler *Ergaticus ruber* ENDEMIC

1 of this stunning species in La Cumbre.

Ssp: nominate *ruber*

Painted Redstart *Myioborus pictus*



Another superb warbler, 2 seen in upper elevations of Teotitlan del Valle.

Ssp: *pictus*

Slate-throated Redstart *Myioborus miniatus*

Singles recorded at several locations.

Ssp: *miniatus*

Rufous-capped Warbler *Basileuterus rufifrons* (ENDEMIC)

Singles seen in Bosque de Tlalpan, Teotitlan del Valle, Monte Albán and Temascaltepec.

Ssp: *dugesi*. Traditionally treated as conspecific with *B.delatritii*, Chestnut-capped Warbler, but here regarded as a separate species, with distribution over much of Mexico into western Guatemala.

Golden-browed Warbler *Basileuterus belli* (ENDEMIC)

2 La Cumbre.

Ssp: nominate *belli*. Found in montane forests in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

Hooded Oriole *Icterus cucullatus*

2 RMO del Ahuahuate.

Ssp: *cucullatus*

Black-vented Oriole *Icterus wagleri*

1 Teotitlan del Valle and 1 Monte Albán.

Ssp: *wagleri*. Northern Mexico to northern Nicaragua.

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*

A few seen in a marshy area outside the city of Toluca.

Ssp: *gubernator*, known as “Bicolored Blackbird”, and sometimes regarded a separate species.

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*

Common.

Ssp: *mexicanus*

Bronzed Cowbird *Molothrus aeneus*

3 Oaxaca City.

Ssp: *aeneus*

Lincoln’s Sparrow *Passerculus lincolnii*

A handful seen in Bosque de Tlalpan, and a single Teotitlan del Valle.

Ssp: *lincolnii* and/or *alticola*

Yellow-eyed Junco *Junco phaeonotus*

2 seen briefly La Cumbre.

Ssp: nominate *phaeonotus*

Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerine*

Fairly common in higher elevations of Teotitlan del Valle and Temascaltepec.

Ssp: *Mexicana*

Clay-colored Sparrow *Spizella pallida*

Quite common Teotitlan del Valle.

Monotypic.

Vesper Sparrow *Pooecetes gramineus*

1 Teotitlan del Valle.

Ssp: *confinis*

Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus*

About 10 Teotitlan del Valle.

Ssp: probably *grammacus*

Bridled Sparrow *Aimophila mystacalis* ENDEMIC



3 Teotitlan del Valle.

Monotypic. Primarily found in Puebla and Oaxaca, barely reaching also Mexico, Morelos and Veracruz.

Stripe-headed Sparrow *Aimophila ruficauda*

3 RMO del Ahuehuete.

Ssp: *acuminata*

Rufous-crowned Sparrow *Aimophila ruficeps*

1 or 2 Monte Albán.

Ssp: *australis*

Oaxaca Sparrow *Aimophila notosticta* ENDEMIC

3 at a stop along route 175 was a great find as the species is very difficult in winter.

Monotypic. Almost an Oaxacan endemic, as its distribution barely enters southeasternmost Puebla.

Black-chested Sparrow *Aimophila humeralis* ENDEMIC



7 RMO del Ahuehuete, near Izucar de Matamoros.

Monotypic. Found in arid thorn forest and scrub from southern Jalisco to southern Puebla, and also extreme western Oaxaca.

White-collared Seedeater *Sporophila torqueola*

1 at the Yagul site.

Ssp: *torqueola*, also known as Cinnamon-rumped Seedeater, and possibly a separate species.

Collared Towhee *Pipilo ocai* ENDEMIC

1 seen well at La Cumbre.

Ssp: *brunnescens*. Humid highland forests in central Mexico.

Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus*

Only 1 seen, along road 175.

Ssp: *oaxacae*. Previously considered conspecific with *P. erythrophthalmus*, Eastern Towhee.

Canyon Towhee *Pipilo fuscus*

1 Temascaltepec.

Ssp: *fuscus*. Has been considered conspecific with *P. crissalis*, California Towhee.

White-throated Towhee *Pipilo albicollis* ENDEMIC

Fairly common to common Teotitlan del Valle, Yagul site and Monte Albán.

Ssp: *albicollis*. Almost an Oaxacan endemic, reaching only also eastern Guerrero and southern Puebla.

Rufous-capped Brush-Finch *Atlapetes pileatus* ENDEMIC

1 in upper elevations of Teotitlan del Valle.

Ssp: *pileatus*. Highlands north of Isthmus de Tehuantepec.

Blue-hooded Euphonia *Euphonia elegantissima*

1 Teotitlan del Valle.

Ssp: nominate *elegantissima*

Northern Hepatic Tanager *Piranga hepatica*

3 Teotitlan del Valle.

Ssp: *intense*. Here treated as a species separate from *P.flava* and *P.lutea*.

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*

3 Bosque de Tlalpan and 1 Yagul site.

Ssp: *ocharacea*

Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana*

1 Temascaltepec.

Monotypic.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*

1 Yagul site.

Monotypic.

Black-headed Grosbeak *Pheucticus melanocephalus*

Seen in Monte Albán and Temascaltepec.

Ssp: *melanocephalus*

Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea*

1 Teotitlan del Valle.

Ssp: *eurhyncha*

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Seen.



Teotitlan del Valle as seen from upper elevations.