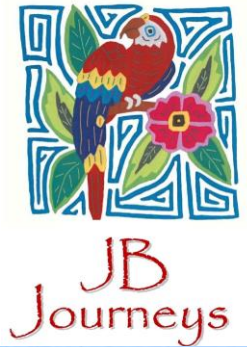


BIRDING OAXACA

June 8-19, 2024



***Birding Oaxaca** is a great experience. Not only are there lots of birds in general, but there are also numerous regional specialties and endemics, many of which are quite beautiful like Slaty Vireo, Orange-breasted Bunting, and Red-breasted Chat. Add to that the striking scenery of the mountains and the Pacific coast, the outstanding cuisine, the rich and varied culture that includes some amazing archeological sites and world-renowned artisans, and this is a place you won't forget!*

Our trip will cover two major areas—the Valley of Oaxaca and the Pacific Coast—and their surrounding mountains. Based in Oaxaca for the first half of the tour, we'll make day trips looking for birds among beautiful surroundings and ancient ruins. We'll travel overland to Tehuantepec for a night and end up in the coastal town of Huatulco for the last few days. After days in the field, we'll return to the hotel for checklist review and dinner. The local cuisine is another reason you'll enjoy your visit to southwestern Mexico.

Our tour will be led by Eric Antonio Martínez of Mexico Birding Tours, which is based in Oaxaca., and our own Eric Stager. We think the Erics make a great team.

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Jun 8, Saturday, Day 1.- Arrival to Oaxaca city. Our guides or driver will pick you up and drive you to our hotel in Oaxaca City. Once all have arrived, we'll have dinner together and talk about the schedule for the next week and half.

We will spend a total of 5 nights in the same hotel in Oaxaca city and make day trips to the following areas on days 2-5:

- **Teotitlan del Valle**, located about 45 minutes east from Oaxaca city, at about 5200 ft, the area is known for Scrub vegetation, some of the target species in the area include Bridled Sparrow, Boucard's Wren, Dusky Hummingbird, Gray-Breasted Woodpecker, and White-throated Towhee. Once the

activity slows down due to heat, we will have lunch and then go up into cooler elevation for other species such as White-striped Woodcreeper, and our first chances for Collared Towhee.

- **La Cumbre** is an area of pine-oak forest located about 45 minutes north of Oaxaca City at about 9,000 feet, in the upper reaches of the Benito Juárez National Park. It is home to Dwarf Jay, Collared Towhee, Gray-barred Wren, Mountain Trogon, Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo, and the striking Red Warbler.
- **Las Guacamayas** is another area of scrub vegetation mixed with oak forest about 45 minutes northwest of Oaxaca city. Birding at about 6,000 feet, the main targets in this area include Ocellated Thrasher, Oaxaca Sparrow, Slaty Vireo, Elegant Euphonia, and Blue Mockingbird.
- **Monte Alban** has some interesting species of birds such as Rock Wren, Cassin's Kingbird, and sometimes some good endemics such as Ocellated Thrasher and Slaty Vireo, but the main reason is to see the striking archaeological site of Monte Alban, established around 500 BC, this is the largest and most important pre-Columbian site in the state.



Jun 13, Thursday, Day 6 - Today we will devote to explore the surroundings of the city in search of any missing species or just any casual birding if we were successful in the last couple of days. The main goal today is to travel from central Oaxaca to the isthmus of Tehuantepec, a 6 hour drive. If time allows, we may do some evening birding in the vicinity of Tehuantepec, where we'll spend the night.



Jun 14, Friday, Day 7 - Birding in thorn scrub for the striking **Rose-bellied Bunting**, Orange breasted Bunting, Cinnamon-tailed Sparrow, with chances for Lesser ground Cuckoo. If we get lucky we may find Lesser Roadrunner. After birding we will have a field lunch and then check out some mud flats before we make our 4 hour drive to the coastal city of Huatulco, where we spend the next 5 nights.

Using the hotel in Huatulco as our base, we'll make day trips to places like:

- **Pluma Hidalgo** Our day will start in the tropical deciduous forest (also known as thorn forest), followed by a drive up to the town of Pluma Hidalgo. Some of the species possible on this day include the Oaxacan endemic Blue-capped Hummingbird, Wagler's (Emerald) Toucanet, Mexican Hermit, **Red-headed Tanager**, and Golden Vireo. We will have lunch at a coffee *finca* (plantation), where we can sample shade grown coffee right where it is grown.
- **Huatulco** Birding near the city of Huatulco, we will be visiting several trails in the low elevation deciduous forest near Huatulco for species such as Orange-breasted Bunting, Russet-crowned Motmot, Golden-cheeked Woodpecker, Citreoline Trogon, Happy Wren, and Red-Breasted Chat
- **Mini-pelagic.** The continental shelf in Coastal Oaxaca is about 5 miles out thus the area is a great spot for many tropical pelagic species such as Galapagos Shearwater, Wedge-tailed Shearwater, Black and Least Storm Petrel, and chances for jaegers and boobies.
- **Copalita River** - Today will be used to clean up the area or visit a new spot to enjoy some of the birds of the area, one option is the river mouth of the Copalita River where Collared Plovers are possible along with many other great birds, we may go check out the foothills to in search or Yellow winged Caciques or any missing species that we may need.



Jun 19, Wednesday, Day 12.- Departure from Huatulco's international airport.

Note: The order and sites visited may vary due to weather, road conditions and other factors beyond our control.

NOTE ABOUT LODGING: All hotels have hot water showers but may not have hot water in the sink. Also, they may not have washcloths, so if you are used to using one, we suggest you bring your own along with a Ziplock bag to carry it.

IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING FLIGHTS: The itinerary is based on flights into Oaxaca city (OAX) and departing from Huatulco (HUX).

COST:

- \$3500 per person in double occupancy with minimum 10 participants; \$3900 with 8; \$4300 with 6.
- Single \$750. Singles are very limited. *Rooms are either a smaller room or a double at single rate.*
- Minimum 6 to operate, maximum 10 participants.
- To confirm your spot, please [complete the reservation form on-line.](#)
- Deposit \$500 to hold space; final payment will due March 9, 2024.
- **Cancellation policy** – Deposit is non-refundable after 30 days. Final payment is due March 9, 2024, 90 days out. Once paid, from 90-60 days prior to departure, 25% penalty. Inside 60 days – non-refundable. Name changes may be allowed.

INCLUDED:

- Transportation as listed by van with driver and boat with captain
- 11 nights lodging with taxes included
- Services of local bilingual bird guide
- Entry fees to parks, etc
- All Meals
- Basic gratuities for group meals & driver
- Services of JB Journeys' Eric Stager

NOT INCLUDED:

- International airfare (into Oaxaca/out of Huatulco, sample flights on registration)
- Drinks
- Gratuities to local guide & hotels & breakfasts
- Travel Insurance (highly recommended)
- Personal expenses

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Your Guides:

ERIC ANTONIO MARTINEZ has birded since the age of 8, starting in his home state of Oaxaca. He has traveled throughout Mexico in search of endemic birds and regional specialties. Eric has done field research in Sonora and Veracruz, Mexico, as well as Ontario, Canada. He guides tours in many parts of the country including Oaxaca, Chiapas, Veracruz, the Yucatan peninsula, Baja California, and central México.



ERIC STAGER will escort the group for JB Journeys, working with local guide, Eric Antonio Martinez. Eric grew up on the Upper Texas Coast where he was bitten by the birding bug in 1981 at the age of 13. Although detrimental to his teenage social life, his obsession with birds was spurred on by kind mentors and nourished by the excitement of growing up in one of North America's top birding locations. While still in high school, Eric was leading field trips for the local bird club, compiling his local Christmas Bird Count, and operating the Texas Coast Rare Bird Alert (in the days of cassette tape answering machines). Eric left the coast to attend the University of Texas and has lived in Austin ever since. He has expanded his sights with birding trips in Central and South America, Africa, Asia and Australia.

In Austin, Eric leads field trips and teaches birding classes for Travis Audubon Society and has served on the board of directors. He recently retired as a Senior Environmental Scientist for the City of Austin.