

Chiapas

Rainforests of Lacandon, Cloudforests of San Cristobal

A Greentours Tour Report

15th February – 2nd March 2017

Led by Ian Green, Seda Soylu & Eric Miranda

Day 1 February 15th Departure

Everyone arrived as planned into Mexico City Airport and were soon whisked to the nearby Grand Prix Hotel where we all met up for dinner and a discussion about the 'morrow!

Day 2 February 16th Sumidero Canyon

It was a very early rise this morning as our flight to Tuxtla Gutierrez was to depart at six-forty. There were fabulous views of the snow-capped conical peak of Volcan Toluca not long after departure. The flight passed soon enough and we descended into the dramatic scenery that surrounds Tuxtla earlier than scheduled – there were views of the canyon to the left side of the aircraft before we landed... except just as we were about to touch down the pilot suddenly took us back up again. What it was all about we were never to know.... Once all our baggage had been collected we popped upstairs to get breakfast. This was very good for an airport cafe. Then it was on the road to the Canyon. The road goes through some nice West Mexican Thorn Forest habitats with fantastic *Tabebuia rosea* replete with trusses of pink flowers, and the equally magnificent brilliant yellow *Tabebuia donnell-smithii*. As we entered the city of Tuxtla other trees such as the Flamboyant and *Cordia sebestena* became common though they were still outdone by the many *Tabebuias* within the city. By ten we were inside the national park that borders the north side of the city and rising rapidly through some very good thorn forest. We stopped by the first viewpoint over the canyon. This was meant as a quick look at the view stop, but turned into an hour long stop as there were so many things to see. The view was spectacular but we soon found wildlife to distract us. The fig trees were popular with Black-patched Crackers with half a dozen sitting together quietly on the trunk. Fabulous electric-blue Mexican Bluewings were difficult to get a good look at. There was also a Band-celled Sister. There were several flowering trees here and the wonderful creeper, *Combretum farinosa*, festooned with flat inflorescences out of which rose hundreds of red or bright green stamens. A juvenile Ctenosaur or Black Iguana basked on a wall and a party of birds included a male Varied Bunting, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and two bright Streak-backed Orioles.

Our next stop was just a few kilometres or so uphill. A metalmark and some incredibly iridescent green bees attended a trackside bloom. *Bouvardias* bloomed red along the

trackside and there was a pink and white *Bauhinia* in flower. Very striking were the red blooms on *Euphorbia tithymaloides*, a leafless *Euphorbiacean* whose blooms looked like a bunch of little birds perched on a twig. Red-rim butterflies flew back and forth, one stopping for photographs. A Malachite flew past too. There were a number of birds in the trees here. Western Tanager, White-winged Tanager, White-throated Thrush, Banded Wren and a seedeater species were all seen.

Then it was up to the very top of the canyon where we had amazing views of the kilometre deep defile through which the Grijalva River flows. It looked green and strong far below, the walls almost vertical on both sides, it will have needed to have been strong to cut through such a deep layer of hard limestone though it had a considerable geological time-span to do it in! Straight away there was wildlife to distract us from the stupendous scenery. The trees below us were festooned in epiphytes with orchids (not blooming), a cactus, an agave, and at least three *Tillandsias*. A Polydamus Swallowtail teased us for a while. There were a good number of birds coming in here. A Yellow-throated Euphonia sat and sang for us, there were gnatcatchers and a bunch of warblers including Nashville, Black & White, Orange-crowned, and Magnolia and a family of Boat-billed Flycatchers. Hooded Yellowthroat was seen. We found a female Green-throated Mountain-gem, a group of striking Green Jays, and a superb Streak-backed Oriole and also a Streak-headed Woodcreeper. An impressive spray of *Oncidium* flowers were in perfect condition. Nearby Black, Chestnut and Pearl Crescents all fed together with a Tegosa and Orange-spotted Skipper and both Julia and Zebra. There was a tall ash-like *Astronium graveolens* tree here, *Manilkara zapota* with its heavy brown fruits was noticeable as was the bombacaeen *Ceiba acuminata*. We walked down the track and thanks to Cristina's alert eyes we were soon photographing White-spotted Prepona.

We descended to the bottom of the canyon where we found a restaurant for lunch. Eric took us through the menu, our first chance to experience the richness of Mexican cuisine. The restaurant overlooked the wide, deep and very fast flowing river. Mangrove Swallows hawked backwards and forwards whilst Great-tailed Grackles were in the trees outside. White-winged Dove and Cassin's Kingbird were seen. A Ringed Kingfisher flew past. Then it was on board our boat for the trip up the Canyon. The Sumidero is a very dramatic landform, over a kilometre deep at its deepest, and with vertical or very near vertical walls for much of its length. The river has cut through a deep layer of limestone that has been raised gradually as the Cocos plate subsides under the Caribbean one. The river drains Chiapas's central valley seemingly in the wrong direction as it heads north into this mountain of limestone, but over the ages it has cut a great defile. The scenery throughout our boat trip was fantastic, made all the more so by the exceptional vegetation found within the canyon. The walls are dotted with tall cacti, and abundant bromeliads, and where there is something not quite vertical a variety of trees thrive. Two of these were in flower, a white one, and most spectacularly, *Tabebuia donnel-smithii*, whose leafless branches were ablaze with rich yellow tresses of flowers. Red stemmed *Bursera simaruba* was prominent too. We came close up to American Crocodiles, also to Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets and an Osprey or two. Some the crocodiles were very large and we got very close to them! Hundreds of roosting Black Vultures lined the shore on one section and our boatmen steered us in for a close-up look. We admired cacti and bromeliad-encrusted canyon walls that at their highest were over a kilometre in the vertical. The gorge in places was quite narrow and the landscape throughout was imposing, often magnificent. Jane spotted Central American

Spider Monkeys cavorting through the trees and we were able to get close for photos. We also spotted a fabulous pair of White-throated Magpie Jays which were lurking in riverside vegetation. Further along a superb Black Hawk was spotted after we had stopped for a bit of geomorphology information. Our boat journey reached its farthest point at the 'Christmas Tree' a strange and rather beautiful rock formation. Here we found a number of plants including a large pinky-blue and a smaller purple *Ruellia*. There were also Begonias, Campanulas and various other blooms around the formation. Turning round we sat and admired the scenery as we cruised back to the dock however there turned out to be still much to see. We got close to another group of Central American Spider Monkeys and as we were watching these Cristina spotted two huge birds. Male and female Great Curassow came out and gave us a great show, the male a huge black bird with a yellow knobby beak, the female all intricate browns, and both with beads surmounted by a very strange curly crest! Further down river we found some more unusual head ornamentation this time the floppy crests of more Magpie-Jays – seven of them in the top of tree mixed with a number of orioles. We passed more wonderfully elegant Agaves in flower and a terrestrial *Bromelia* species and ended up passing a bridge where we could hear lots of Green Parakeets in the iron girders but we could only glimpse a couple of them. We'd seen so much we were back later than expected however all we had now was to cover the last hour into San Cristobal.

After settling into our hotel Eric took us out for a great meal in the Revolution Restaurant where he set all sorts of things before us mostly of Mexican origin but also some Italian dishes.

Day 3 February 17th Cerro Huitepec & Orquideas Moxviquil

We enjoyed an excellent breakfast in the hotel, tea and coffee, some fresh fruit juice, lots of fresh fruit, yoghurt cereals etc and a full range of fried things both Mexican and from further afield. We left at eight-forty and headed out of town toward the Cerro Huitepec Reserve.

This forested reserve sits on the edge of San Cristobal on a big hill. The reserve is mixed pine and oak, the former on the ridges, the latter dominating in the valleys. There were a goodly number of oak species present including *Quercus crassifolia* and *Quercus rugosa* as well as some very large specimens of the strawberry tree *Arbutus xalapensis*. The path through the forest was well-made and though uphill it was easy walking with the forest being very open with little understory. Birds were really very scarce this morning. We did start with a fine Spot-crowned Woodcreeper but then nothing for a long time, only a leader-only Mountain Trogon. Later there was a couple of gorgeous Golden-browed Warblers and at the furthest point of the walk a pair of Rufous-capped Warblers. As we started to return we found another Mountain Trogon. This stunning male was typically a little flighty when being admired but several of us got decent looks at it.

The flora was varied and including some nice species such as the saprophytic *Conophilis alpina*, a pretty *Viola*, and a *Begonia*. We noted the milkwort relative, *Moninna ciliolata*, with yellow and deepest blue flowers, and there were various salvias that included a tall red species and *Salvia elegans*. Ferns were prominent with lots of maidenhair ferns as well as some giant bracken and *Pteridium* species, also a *Woodwardia*. A fine red and green flowered *Fuschia* was very attractive. The oaks were festooned with fabulous bromeliads, with very

many spikes of *Tillandsia guatemalensis* in bloom; long red and green inflorescences that reached more than a foot above the basal rosettes. We found quite a number flowering on the ground. There was another large bromeliad too. There was a fritillary or two and Mexican Crescent as well, and a group of around forty Dingy Purplewings which we found roosting under a high bank.

One the way down we did encounter a mixed group of birds comprising Blue-headed Vireo, a lovely little Crescent-chested Warblers, a Yellow Warbler, a Mourning Warbler, and some White-naped Brushfinches.

We moved to a nearby orchid garden. This is an excellent place. This was started just eight years ago by Cisco, an American from Los Angeles. He is (was - just left!) developing quite a facility with orchid houses and botanical gardens, a pond where they are trying to look after the remaining population of a rare endemic fish, and a trail system into the woods. The oaks in the garden here were covered in a rich array of bromeliads. As well as *Tillandsia guatemalensis* there was huge hanging *Tillandsia ponderosa*, the grassy-leaved *Tillandsia vicentina*. The odd-looking *Tillandsia eizii*, strange upside down *Tillandsia seleriana*, and the spanish-moss look-a-like *Tillandsia usneoides*. The place is a veritable wildlife haven. With so many flowers about it was hardly surprising that hummers were in evidence though the views we got were amazing. White-eared Hummingbirds allowed approach to within a metre or so, and a Magnificent Hummingbird was almost as accommodating. We watched a Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer giving a hibiscus bush (actually *Abutilon*) the once over. There were several very fine orchids around the gardens. The orchids had all been collected inside the reserve and a few rescued during road building schemes in the area. Inside the orchid houses some of the finest were *Epidendron ciliare*; a stunning spidery concoction, the elegant porcelain *Rhyncholaelia glauca* and *Prostheca cucullata* the Black Orchid and Belize's National Flower. There were also *Maxillaria variabilis* here in a yellow and purple form, *Maxillaria densa*, *Prostheca chocaoensis*, *Stellis immersa*, *Stellis leucopogon*, *Evarionthe aurantiaca*, orange *Lycaste aromatica*, and *Lockhartia verrucosa* (NB - some of these weren't in flower this year).

There were plenty of birds about. The impressively large Band-backed Wren made a noisy entrance – we thought a whole party of Jays was arriving. Those of us not used to such a large wren took some convincing that it was in fact a wren! A Greater Pewee sat atop a high tree, as noisy Steller's Jays came through. The lovely rich blue of the southern race is much different from the birds found in the North. We saw a Hairy Woodpecker, some Slate-throated Redstarts, Western Tanagers, Hepatic Tanagers, Black and White Warblers and several Wilson's Warbler. There were many Rufous-collared Thrushes and we had a Gray Catbird that kept us company for a while. There were Townsend's Warblers, some Rufous-collared Sparrows and a few Spotted Towhees. A pair of Bullock's Orioles were in the tree by the picnic. Speaking of which Eric prepared us a great picnic lunch with quesedillas, roast chicken, a superb salad and freshly sliced pineapple... It was hard to tear ourselves away but there was still more to do...

We returned to town by four-twenty and twenty minutes later Eric took the group for a wander round the lovely streets of San Cristobal before dinner. The town is full of interest whether it is the architecture or what's on sale that interests you. The shops were full of local

arts and crafts and varied from the decidedly ethnic to the very arty! There were no shortage of art galleries and bars and restaurants with a wide variety of styles and cuisines. Tequila was also tested by a number!

Day 4 February 18th Zinacantan & to Montebello

This morning we headed round to the other side of Cerro Huitepec. The drive took us up through a sublime landscape of little campesinos growing all manner of vegetables in cleared areas between the trees with *Agapanthus* and some *Alstroemeria* grown for a cash crop. It was a quiet and beautiful landscape.

We parked near the top of the hill and walked very slowly down the other side, I think it took us all morning to cover not much more than a kilometre. The sections of forest we walked through, particularly mid-way down were sublime, reminiscent of the best artistic depictions of cloudforest trees festooned in mosses, orchids (none in flower!) and bromeliads. Some of the bigger trees must have had a tonne of vegetation that didn't belong to the tree! The bromeliads were spectacular with several species including two large ones, one *Tillandsia guatemalensis*, the other unknown to us. Many had fresh brilliant red foliage which looked stunning against the light. There were also at least three species of small bromeliads, one common one with long grass-like leaves. The birdwatching was excellent. We saw several of the endemic Blue & White Mockingbirds, a Guatemalan Flicker and several Spot-crowned Woodcreepers. A superb Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was amongst a larger bird party that contained many of those noisy bromeliad-nosers, the Banded Wrens. With these were lots of Tufted Flycatchers, a Rose-throated Beccard and Hammond's Flycatcher. There were several Rufous-collared Robins and many Gray Silky Flycatchers, indeed we were to see very many of the latter during the morning. Superb Painted Redstarts flashed red in the trees and later Slate-throated Redstarts appeared too. There were warblers everywhere. We started with a gorgeous little male Olive Warbler and then saw a succession of Townsend's Warblers, as well as few Nashville, Mourning, Black and White, Black-throated Green and even a single Hermit Warbler.

Butterflies were also rather good. They started slowly, indeed it wasn't until just before lunch that they started to get really good. On the way down we saw a few Crescents – Pale-banded, Pine and later in a brushy field above the road, lots of Mylitta Crescents. A star turn early on was probably the uncommon Guatemalan Copper, the only 'copper' type butterfly in southern Mexico. There were Cloudless Sulphurs, the huge White-angled Sulphurs and Orange-barred Sulphurs and several skippers, the latter including Common Mellana, Rounded Bolla and the very large Pale Sicklewing. A Montane Sister perched on the road and we saw many Mexican Silverspots cruising up and down. There were Spring Azures too. Reaching the track at the bottom we started finding more species – here were both Clouded Sulphur and Southern Dogface, and a Tailed Sister. In one sunny gully there were Mexican Dartwhites, a Notched Crescent or two, and a lovely male Lamplight Heliconian flashing blue in the right light. Under an underhang we flushed a Black-laced Leafywing, a stunningly sculptured leaf mimic, that then went up and perched in the open for us. Also here was the rare Cloudforst Monarch!

Hanging over the track edge was orange and yellow *Lobelia laxiflora*, large bushy senecios

such as *Roldana angustifolia*, what looked like *Roldana barba-johannis*, and the panicles of pink blooms of *Fuschia paniculata*. There were small red fuschias too and a plant with large red and lime-green tubular flowers that was probably also a fuschia. We saw little yellow patches of *Calceolaria mexicana*, two red Salvias, one being *elegans*, blue with a hint of white *Salvia polysctahya*, blue *Salvia lavanduloides*, and the strange milkwort relative *Moninna ciliolata*. Trees included various oaks (*rugosa*, *laurina*, and others), pines, alders, a *Clethra*, *Arbutus xalapensis* growing to immense sizes, and by the stream *Ternstroemia* (probably) *tepezapote*.

Returning to San Cristobal we spotted American Lady and Monarch en route and at the hotel we saw a West Coast Lady!

In the afternoon we drove towards Comitan and thence towards Montebello where we arrived at the gorgeous Hacienda Museo Santa Maria at dusk. We settled in to enjoy our stay. The Hacienda has wonderful rooms. They are huge with very high ceilings and elegant four-poster beds and gorgeous furniture, all of it imported from Europe more than a century ago!

Day 5 February 19th Montebello, Chantulkic & Hacienda Santa Maria

We started the day at seven, a coolish morning with mist in the valley below, but the sun soon shone through and the birds were enjoying the warmth. Visible in the carpark were Cassin's Kingbirds, Western Tanagers, Baltimore Oriole, various warblers, and Blue-gray Tanager. We went outside and looked into the fields which were a veritable birdseed heaven. In the latter were Rufous-browed Wren, Tropical Mockingbird and lots of Lesser Goldfinches. An Azure-crowned Hummingbirds perched well for us. Back by the breakfast room the bottlebrush tree was full of Nashville and Tennessee Warblers, no less than four species of Oriole – Baltimore, Hooded, Bullock's and Yellow-backed, and a Green-throated Mountain-gem.

Breakfast appeared reasonably quickly and so at eight forty-five we headed for Montebello, less than half an hour away. We stopped at the road to Cinco Lagos. Here we spent the entire morning walking two and a half kilometres of road (or about 7 in Peter's case!). As we alighted we were greeted by a gorgeous Anna's Eighty-eight which was thoroughly photographed by the entrance. There was also the intricately patterned Splendid Mapwing which became so used to us we could walk right over it!

The forest was beautiful. The tall trees, many of them Liquidambar, were festooned with bromeliads, particularly the oaks which could hardly be seen beyond their covering of vegetation. A Rufous-browed Wren sang from an exposed perch and a group of Yellow-backed Orioles appeared. Birds were generally rather hard to see but we did note a few warblers, a Spot-breasted Wren or two and a load of Banded Pigeons. A striking pinky-purple *Polygala* was noticeable everywhere and there were several orchids including a *Spathoglottis* or two, and a very fine terrestrial orchid which had large almost white lips and a complicated set of deep pink and brown petals and sepals. Trees were very varied and taxed Frieda's ability to put them in a family.

Again this road proved exceptional for butterflies. We soon found another Anna's Eighty-eight and in the end must have seen twenty of these really special butterflies. Yellow Kite-Swallowtails cruised past, none stopping for photos, the same was true of Three-tailed Swallowtails, but a Victorine Swallowtail proved more amenable. Mexican Heliconians fluttered from deep shade every now and again and a couple of times we saw the Variegated Ticlear. There were skippers including the elegant Golden-banded Skipper and two long-tailed skippers were seen - Brown and Plain. There was the lovely Frosted Mimic-White, and a variety of sulphurs. Red-rim was seen and there were Black-bordered Tegosas, Gray-based Crescent, and a Red Admiral. Nigel photographed the Lost Sister and an Angled Leafwing was a fine find.

Again there was much in flower and we enjoyed the bright orange knee-height orchid *Epidendrum radicans* very much. There was a pretty pink *Pinguicula* growing on a cliff, and red hummingbird-pollinated flowers included *Bouvardia tenuifolia*, and a large *Lamoureauxia*. We watched an Azure-crowned Hummingbird through the 'scope. Then we met up with Eric and co at the picnic site. This was exquisite. The location was amazing – set above one of the Cinco Lagos with glittering blue water below and cliffs draped in vegetation, and the hillsides above covered in forest. Two Swallow-tailed Kites were a quite wonderful sight and a Bat Falcon flew in and landed just near us allowing great views and great photographs. A Green-fronted Hummingbird also perched here. Just down the road I encountered a flock with Spotted Woodcreeper and lots of *Chlorospingus* in it, and nearby Gulf Fritillary, a superb Black Swallowtail, and the Dark Purplewing, which looked fabulous as it flew back and forth across the track flashing its upperwings like blue lights.

In the afternoon we drove back out of Montebello to Chinkultic, a Mayan site. This was a lovely spot, with hardly any visitors, and the site left largely intact amongst great vegetation. It was the wrong time of day for birding but we still saw Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Magnolia Warblers, Townsend's Warblers, hummers, and overhead were Osprey and White-tailed Hawk. There were a few open-country butterflies such as Tropical Buckeye and Banded Peacock.

We arrived back at Santa Maria by five which allowed us time to potter round the grounds. There were lots and lots of Nashville and Tennessee Warblers in the Bottlebrush Tree which was also visited by Azure-crowned Hummingbirds, Western Tanagers and Baltimore Orioles.

After an excellent dinner there were Barn Owls in the grounds!

Day 6 February 20th Montebello and to Las Nubes

Poorly stomachs meant that many of the group elected to take the direct vehicle to Las Nubes and not stop en route. The rest of the party made some stops on the journey, just a couple of short ones, in Montebello. We took a look at some Cabanas on the lakeside, standing just a hundred metres from the Guatemalan border next to one of the beautiful lakes. Nigel P spotted a Ceraunus Blue here and there were Monarchs flying around. We also took a walk down to Lago Pojoj along a quiet road. It proved quiet this morning for butterflies with just a few choice species seen including Klug's Clearwing and Anna's Eight-

eights. Birds were rather few too, a couple of Jays went through and evaded identification.

Then it was off to Las Nubes. We enjoyed the wonderful scenery of limestone crags and small mountains dissected by great rivers. We arrived in time to join the others for lunch in the restaurant. Checking into our rooms we spotted a Split-banded Owlet butterfly in the verandah and Rufous-tailed Hummingbird outside. A tree behind the cabins was full of bird including Golden-hooded Tanagers, Green Honeycreeper, Black-headed Saltator, Yellow-throated and Olive-backed Euphonias. Pale-billed Woodpeckers could be seen from the restaurant.

In the afternoon we first explored the forest trail and at the start of this Seda spotted a superb Red Cracker sitting on a tree trunk. Inside the forest we encountered Wedge-billed Woodcreeper and Variegated Ticlears and Postmen fluttered in the deep green interior. We only walked a short distance in here before we came out on the river's edge just above the 'tunnel'. This is where the river disappears below ground for a short distance – it is a strange sight seeing such a large river disappear into the rocks! The damp rocks were home to many nice ferns and there was a pinky-purple flowered orchid blooming on one of the tree trunks. Next we headed down to the bridge. The river at Las Nubes is a beautiful thing. Turquoise water cascades gently down past the restaurant before descending in cataracts through convoluted channels under a bridge. The *Aristolochia gigantea* was not in flower this year on the bridge though Frieda later found some in fruit along the track. Under the bridge was a veritable Cattleheart (swallowtails!) heaven. In just four square metres four species were flying – there were just five individuals! There were a couple of Emerald-patched Cattlehearts, a Pink-checked Cattleheart, a Transandean Cattleheart, and a Variable Cattleheart! We could just sit amongst them and watched them flash their luminous reds and greens... Also here was a superb Tiger Heliconian and a Mexican Cicadian. Overhead great flocks of White-collared Swifts chattered nosily in the blue skies. Four-spotted and Small-eyed Sailors were seen and there was a nice group of Zebras going to roost. Keel-billed Toucans were seen a number of times and we eventually had great views of them. Jenny and Richard spotted two White-crowned Parrots sat atop a tree and we had plenty of chance to put the telescope on these.

At the farthest point of the track single Black-cheeked Woodpecker, Ivory-billed Woodcreeper and Grey-headed Tanager sat in a tree.

I went for a long nightwalk up to the viewpoint through the forest and then down across the bridge but saw little, only a Brazilian Rabbit and the White-collared Swifts who were roosting in a crevice on the river bank!

Day 7 February 21st Las Nubes

Several of us met at seven on the bridge that spans the impressive gorge through which the Ixcán River plummeted in a torrent of green and turquoise below us. We headed along the river side from here, a track taking us through a mix of scrubby cultivation and pasture with primary forest never far away. We saw lots of noisy Brown Jays whilst every now and again equally vociferous Red-lored Parrots appeared, one pair giving very good views. A Scaly-breasted Hummingbird sat on an exposed perch and shortly after there was a fine male

Beryline Hummingbird too. Early in the walk we came across a group of very fine Crimson-collared Tanagers and nearby was a Wedge-billed Woodcreeper with Green Honeycreeper, Golden-hooded Tanager and Hepatic Tanager. A Variable Seedeater sat singing by a field and under the shrubby *Montanoa* along the field edge there was a pair of the regional endemic Gren-backed Sparrow. The bare-twigged trees here had several small groups of Keel-billed Toucans. A number of Lesser Greenlets feeding in the Cecropias were joined by a bird party made up of various warblers including Black-throated Green and also American Redstarts. Returning we spotted a Red-capped Manakin in a bird party – a female. During breakfast a pair of Pale-billed Woodpeckers were a wonderful sight and outside was a Deppe's Squirrel.

After breakfast we headed back to the bridge and beyond where we spent a happy hour and a half enjoying a butterfly pageant. Creamy Crescents and Julias were both frequent. Two Sailors were found along the track. These stunning little butterflies have a shimmering blue or green upperside and a complex and pleasingly marked underside. There were several Four-spotted Sailors their uppersides an amazing golden-green colour. There were also a couple of Small-eyed Sailors too. A Dark Purplewing stopped briefly and there were also Guatemalan Tegosa, Little Banner, Rusty-tipped Page and both Many-banded and Waiter Daggerwing to enjoy. Nearby shrubs held plenty of good species. The little white and brown Common Lenmark, a metalmark, was photographed and there were many new skippers. Postman was busy but did stop occasionally and he found both the Tiger Heliconian and its mimics which included Wide-bordered Dircenna and Black-fronted Prestonian. There were good birds too. One tree held Yellow-throated Euphonias, Black-cheeked Woodpecker, Masked Tityra and Yellow-winged Tanager. Under the bridge we visited the Cattleheart area again. This time there were just Emerald-patched Cattlehearts and a Variable Cattleheart!

I ventured briefly back into the deep forest just before lunch. One Emerald-patched Cattleheart was seen inside and along the trail also came across several Quiet Diaphs, a Variegated Skipper and a tiny Togarna Hairstreak. Heliconians fluttered throughout the deep shade. A Scaly-breasted Hummingbird had built its nest close to the track and made for great photos – the delicate structure was so tiny it was rather dwarfed by the bird sitting on it and each time she landed she wiped her beak around the outside of the nest – her beak was longer than the nest!

Others during the morning had taken the viewpoint trail through the forest, a highlight being a Tayra watched running through the trees. Nigel had been off on his own chasing butterflies and had found Guatemalan Leafwing amongst many other species.

Another superb lunch was provided by the team on the lawns between the cabanas and the river. The three hour journey to Las Guacamayas included a stop at a road bridge where we had to take photographs of the sublime scene – the forested hills cut by a stunning aquamarine river – the Ixcán River, the same one as at Las Nubes. Two Ringed Kingfishers performed downstream and a Green Kingfisher upstream where we also spotted a Transandean Cattleheart. Then it was on through scenery that was continually fantastic, so we just sat back and enjoyed. Not long before Guacamayas we came to a halt next to a remarkable sight. Fork-tailed Flycatchers right by the road, and these flexing their tails magnificently. They were perched in *Glyricidia sepium* trees cloaked in pink pea-flowers. It turned out that there about thirty of the them and even better, there were at least a dozen of

their equally long-tailed relatives, the Scissor-tailed Flycatchers. Red-lored Parrots flew in to the trees and there were Meadowlarks in the fields.

We arrived at Las Guacamayas half an hour before the sun slipped behind the trees across the wide river Lacantun. What a beautiful lodge! We checked in and walked down the walkway between the very spacious cabins. The gardens consisted of impressive rainforest trees, these draped with orchids and bromeliads, and an abundance of planted Heliconias with colourful flower spikes. The large cabins were beautiful with high thatched roofs, the rooms themselves very spacious and comfortable. The walls are screened on two sides allowing a pleasant flow-through of air and these have shutters for privacy or night-time, certainly though tropical there is never a need for air-conditioning or even fans here for the design keeps the cabins remarkably pleasant. Guacamayas is a local Lancadon initiative heavily funded by the Mexican government, allowing the local people to maintain very high standards even though the remoteness of this lodge means it is little visited and hardly known outside of Mexico. I am sure that will start to change.

Day 8 February 22nd Las Guacamayas

During the night a roaring sound came through the air. It sounded like a dinosaur of considerable size was on its way through the rainforest! The sound of howler monkeys is memorable on every level. From close range (and especially if you've never heard it before and can't see the 'howler') it can be frightening, and it certainly makes the hairs on the back of your neck stand on end. We would hear a lot of this over the next few days!

We all met up on the riverbank at 06.00 am and boarded our boats, dawn already on us. Heavy cloud was left over from yesterday's rain though it gradually broke up during the morning allowing the odd ray of sun until by lunchtime we had returned to the usual full sunshine.

Guacamayas is the gateway to the Parque Naturales Montes Azules. The wildlife came thick and fast as we turned up the Sendales River a tributary that took us through beautiful forest with giant trees emerging like sky cities from the lower tangle of vegetation. The sound of the Howler Monkeys was never far distant. We saw them every so often during the morning. There were birds appearing almost constantly throughout the morning. It seemed like new species would never let up! We saw several Crested Guans and one group of Plain Chachalacas. Kingfishers were wonderful. There were lots Ringed Kingfishers and just a few each of Green and Amazon. Sand bars yielded Spotted Sandpipers and Tricolored Herons, Little Blue Herons and Snowy Egrets. Yellow-crowned Night Herons. Mangrove Swallows gave good views. Back up in the trees we spotted a Lineated Woodpecker and both Kiskadees and Tropical Kingbirds. There were also Yellow-tailed Orioles, Groove-billed Anis, and a good number of Passerini's Tanagers, the male a brilliant creation. Twice Squirrel Cuckoos appeared. Several times we saw those marvellous Keel-billed Toucans flying from tree to tree, and once on the return we came across a group of Collared Aracaris. A highlight was a Neotropical River Otter porpoising downstream. There was a pair of Collared Plovers on the shore.

One of the features of river trips here are the dawn and dusk runs of the parrots. There were

many, both Mealy and Red-lored Parrots were noted, and both were seen well, beautifully lit by the morning sun. We also saw Aztec Parakeets flying over, also White-crowned Parrots, and a pair of Brown-hooded Parrots posed well in a tree, another two later starting a fight and falling down through the vegetation in a ball of fiery temper. We saw Short-billed and Red-billed Pigeons, also a Scaled Pigeon or two. Black-headed Trogons were seen so many times and several times we had good views. Just before nine we turned round and headed back purposefully, ignoring the increasing numbers of birds on the sand bars and heading for the lodge. Raptors were good with a couple of Roadside Hawks giving good views, also a Grey-headed Kite, and there were several each of Osprey and Bat Falcon!

Breakfast was much enjoyed and very filling - we were hungry!

Breakfast over, we decided to explore the grounds. There were the orchids - a wonderful *Oncidium* species (cf *cebollata*???) and the cascading flowers of *Epidendron radioferrans*. It was already pretty warm, but that didn't bother us as there were plenty of shade spots and much to keep us occupied. Yellow Warblers were joined by two gorgeous Slaty-tailed Trogons, and of course Brown Jays. The calls of Roadside Hawk caused us some confusion but we eventually figured it all out. We admired the huge trees and explored the giant leaf-cutter ants nest nearby. The macaws nest proved to be occupied this year and we watched as a Scarlet Macaw extricated himself from the hole and posed on the top of the nest. There were plenty of animal tracks to see in the streamside mud. A few Many-banded Daggerwings were mud-puddling by the waterside, and we also noted Orange-barred, Statira, Cloudless and Apricot Sulphurs. Then it was back for lunch.

During the afternoon most of us relaxed and others pottered about the grounds. An evening walk took us into the ranchland behind the lodge. Here we immediately spotted a pair of Scarlet Macaws in the tree tops. It was a good afternoon for woodpeckers. Two Chesnut-headed Woodpeckers were the highlight. These two were in the same tree as a bunch of Golden-fronted Woodpeckers and we were to see very many of the latter during the afternoon and latterly we also had a couple of Lineated Woodpeckers for company. Aztec Parakeets gave everyone marvellous views in the avocados next to the lodge and further our Red-lored Parrots were almost as obliging. As we returned some Red-lored Parrots were going to roost in the trees around the cabins

At dusk an intrepid group set out in the boats bound once again for the Sendales River. We headed straight down the main channel as dusk descended and turned up the Sendales going as far as seemed sensible and turning round as it became properly dark. We spotlighted all the way back. We saw a goodly number of American Crocodiles and lots of Pauraques. Two of the latter we put the boat close to – we could almost have touched them! Seda spotted eyeshine in a thick tangle along the riverbank. It took a minute or two but eventually the 'culprit' showed itself – a Kinkajou. We went on to see another one downstream. The other highlight was a Great Potoo sat atop a riverside snag and allowing excellent views.

Day 9 February 23rd Guacamayas

We met again at six for our trip into the rivers of Monte Azul. We met at 06.00 again at the jetty and set off downriver. This time our plan was to do much the same as yesterday except that we'd travel quickly up to the last navigable point in the Sendales River and then follow the tributary back down slowly. We managed this plan with hardly an interruption on the way up, the boatmen taking us up into a most stunning piece of forest where they took us up (and down) a little water shoot – wonderful!

Again we had endless sightings of kingfishers and parrots. Ospreys again, and Bat Falcons but this time the woodpeckers were Pale-billed and Golden-fronted. We found a Sungrebe sculling along the river edge, it came out of the water for a while and posed on the bank showing us its crazily striped toes! Sometimes drifting down the river allowed us to hear just how noisy the forest is at this time of day. There was a lot of noise! Especially from the Yucatan Howler Monkeys. It also allows one to see some of the forest species. So we watched Yellow-tailed Orioles and Black-throated Saltators, Passerini's Tangers and White-necked Jacobins. Trogons are often seen on the boat trip, but today was better than ever before with a Slaty-tailed Trogon near the start followed by a long run of Black-headed Trogons, and finally, a Violaceous Trogon too. There was a Striated Heron. Then one of the boatman spotted a White-necked Puffbird sat high in a tree and a little later he also found two more. A Neotropical River Otter suddenly came out on a log for one of the boats posing beautifully. Then there were riverside Green Iguanas too. Raptors were great this morning with two particularly fine species within seconds of each other – a Great Black Hawk, and a Plumbeous Kite. And then it was back for the nine-thirty breakfast.

A King Vulture drew us outside again and then it was back again to enjoy breakfast. Suitably filled up we met again with our local guide who took us to a forest where we were able to walk for the rest of the morning. As is typical of central american rainforests, things were quiet at times, but with perseverance we found some great things. A Blue & White Heliconian flew around steadily. Later we came across Bates's Sister and a Plain Purplewing, the latter perching on Beto. Birds were difficult to see but we did find some Sepia-capped Flycatchers and a little party containing Yellow-throated Euphonias, Dot-winged Antwrens and Hooded Warbler. We also came across a group that had Red-throated Ant-Tanager and Wedge-billed Woodcreeper in it. There were some immense trees in here! Later we found Plain Antvireo and Orange-billed Sparrow and as we were about to leave the forest a superb male Collared Trogon put in an appearance.

Back at the lodge we discovered that the increasingly sunny and warm day meant that the mud-puddling butterflies were back! There were a number of Many-banded Daggerwings and sulphurs were common, including Orange, Orange-banded and Statira. Androgeus Swallowtails visited, and there were two Kite-Swallowtails – Salvin's and Short-lined. We found the lovely Red-borderd Pixie and at the same time a Chiapas Stripe-Streak posed beautifully. Walking back along the riverside a Bare-faced Tiger Heron, an immature, posed well and on the riverside we photographed a Red-sided Swallowtail and accidentally flushed a Cecropian.

Later several of us returned to the forest we'd visited in the morning and walked the track. our departure was somewhat delayed by a group of Yucatan Black Howlers at very close

range right in the front of the restaurant. There were great photographic opportunities! It was quieter than in the morning but still beautiful and we again found the Blue & White Heliconian. A female Collared Trogon appeared too, and there were Ochre-bellied Flycatchers. There were also plenty of encounters with Central American Spider Monkeys.

Back at the hotel we got together for another night boat ride. This followed the same pattern as the first and so as dusk gathered we were speeding up the Sendales tributary fending off the flying insects that were rampant above the river. Then we turned round and motored very slowly downstream. We again soon caught up with Morelet's Crocodile and with good views of Pauraques. Then an animal appeared on the bank, but too quickly... it was gone. Someway further downstream we found a Gray Four-eyed Opossum who was too shy to join us. Then there was gap, though the starry night filled the void plentifully. Suddenly there was a large animal on the riverbank. It was on a sand bar so the boatman let us land and three of us wandered over to the Baird's Tapir. It took no notice of us until we were twenty metres away and then it started walking towards us. We took a few steps backwards... it stopped about 7m away from us and we were able to photograph this extraordinary animal for quite a decent spell. After five minutes of it testing the air with its trunk-like nose, it was time for us to go. We still managed another exciting sighting – a rather distant Tayra on the riverbank.

Day 10 February 24th Bonampak

We departed Guacamayas at a very early four-thirty. As daylight spread across the countryside we watched parrots and the like fly across the road in front of us trying not to stop as we needed to make headway. After a brief bathroom and snack stop we stopped 40km short of Bonampak for our breakfast. This was really just a roadside spot with a little forest amongst the pastureland but it produced plenty of birds. Red-ored Parrots and Aztec Parakeets flew over. There were hummers, including a female Black-chinned, and down by a pond Least Grebes. Here there were also Yellow-breasted Chat, White-eyed Vireo, Magnolia and Black & White Warblers, and Green-backed Sparrows. The Buttercup trees (*Cochlospermum vitifolium*) were a stunning sight. A stunning Thoas Swallowtail sat with its wings open, a bonus for the butterfly-photographers. Eric, seemingly out of the blue, produced a superb breakfast selection of pineapple, eggs, and fried potatoes with cheese, onions and optional peppers!

At Bonampak Grayish Saltators fed as Eric paid at the entrance and as we parked up there was a gorgeous Yellow-rimmed Eight-eight sitting quietly allowing us all a chance to get great photos of one of the region's most beautiful butterflies. One group headed off with Eric in the van to the ruins themselves ten kilometres down a forested track where they arrived to find themselves all alone at one of the most beautiful little Mayan sites. Eric showed them round explaining the history and significance of the site. They also made several significant wildlife sightings notably the staggering leaf-mimic, the Tiger Leafwing, and there was also a lovely Dot-collared Fire-tip, a large-ish brown snake and also Masked Tityras.

The rest of us spent the morning walking the main track. Butterfly activity was rather slow for quite a while and we wandered where they all were! Exploring small side tracks into the

forest allowed us to get to know the gorgeous Blue and White Heliconian and we saw a good number of these, the blue flashing brilliantly as rays of sun caught them. They did not like to settle though so it came as a nice surprise to find a spot where they were visiting a bloom a couple of metres above our heads. A Blue and a White and a gorgeous Dot-bordered Heliconian, the hindwing centre all rayed crimson, visited the flower, sometimes at the same time, and one or two of our shots also revealed a hummingbird coming to the same flower, a Stripe-throated Hermit. We also saw other hummers including Rufous-tailed, and a large Wedge-tailed Sabrewing. Generally we concentrated a lot on butterflies this morning, so birds noted were few, but we did see Stub-tailed Spadebill, Black-headed Trogon, Red-throated Ant-Tanagers, Blue-black Grosbeak, and various flycatchers. Back to the butterflies though. There were a few nymphalids perching on the track – Many-banded Daggerwings and a Four-spotted Sailor or two. But starting back we found more activity with the highlight a superb Blue Morpho flapping lazily past – it didn't stop though! The Postman, various skippers, and a Celadon Sister were enjoyed. In the end though we found where the butterflies were heading – it was back to the vans and the wet patch there! A group of thirty or so mixed Many-banded Daggerwings, Pale Daggerwings and Ruddy Daggerwings were rather eclipsed by half a dozen swallowtails comprised of three Dark-bordered Kite-Swallowtails, and singles each of Broad-bordered, Androgynous and Thoas Swallowtails. There were also American Snout and some confusion when the superficially similar Tailed Cecropian and Godman's Mapwing arrived! We fought a bunch of German tourists off these butterflies so those on the ruin-watch were able to enjoy them on their return!

Before we knew it, it was time to gather for lunch which was at a very lovely little place a few kms away on the bank of a river. Here there was an excellent lunch under a palapa roof as we looked out on a beautiful spot with little waterfalls linking pools through the forest. It looked an exceedingly nice place for a swim. We found a fruiting tree which was attracting various tanagers, Clay-coloured Robins and Gray Catbirds. Under nearby trees we found a couple of lovely Mexican Cicadians and in shrubbery by the road the intricately-patterned Small Beauty as well as the metalmark Temple Scintillant.

Then it was on the road to Palenque which took us two and a half hours. This took us along the foot of a range of low hills, these forested, whilst the valley to our right was largely cleared with pasture dotted with old rainforest trees. Other than the forest destruction it was a very pleasing scene. However we had to get to Palenque so on we went eventually reaching the Hotel Mision by around six. Settled in, we reconvened for a buffet dinner at seven-thirty.

Day 11 February 25th Palenque

A relaxed start this morning. After breakfast we met up at nine-thirty, a Double-eyed Owl Butterfly outside our rooms the first excitement! Several of the group went into town to go and look at the shops with Cristina and the rest of us relaxed or pottered round the hotel gardens. A fig tree outside our rooms attracted many birds – Clay-coloured Thrushes, various orioles and warblers in the main, though Marilyn did see a Squirrel Cuckoo too. A Yucatan Squirrel was in the same tree. A Mexican Cicadian welcomed us to the world of butterflies and we continued round the Temascal path finding a decent range of species. A

clearwing rather got away but we enjoyed Leading Red-ring, Black-fronted Prestonian and Mexican Heliconians. A Scrub Euphonia was a first for the trip and there were three Roadside Hawks in the air. We found no less than five Satyr species – Carolina, Blue-grey, White, Plain and Wide-bordered, and there were many skippers too. Roseate Skimmers and other dragons and damsels were common. A Many-banded Daggerwing posed in the mud to be used in the Temascal. There was a *Monstera* creeper in bloom and also a sweat bees nest manufactured on a tree trunk and looking like a horizontal vase. Later more Mexican Cicadians and a Cattleheart White were in the woodland.

We took lunch the town – pulled pork paninis was a star attraction and the custard apple drinks were superb. Then it was on to the archaeological site. Fifteen minutes later and we were there, disembarking amongst all the little stalls that sell a mesmerising variety of things. Once thorough the gate we had a very short walk up to the first of the temples. Here Eric started his story of the local Maya. The first temple had a bas-relief of a skull and looked pretty intimidating. Eric took us through many of the seemingly bizarre rituals known to have been practised by the local Maya and also told us many stories of their unusual lives. He knew all the best places to stop so that we could hear his tales and see the ruins to the best advantage. Though there were plenty of visitors we never felt like it was crowded and enjoyed the afternoon greatly.

Meanwhile around the site we were also finding some wildlife. A pair of Aztec Parakeets were vying with some hornets for possession of a termite nest in the trees. A female Scrub Euphonia appeared and there were various warblers and orioles. A fine male Summer Tanager shone red in the trees. Roseate Skimmer sat on some ropes and was well-photographed. A small bird party contained Golden-fronted Woodpecker and a Long-tailed Hermit. Walking down towards the museum we saw Pale-billed Woodpecker and a Striped Hermit. Down by the museum we took some refreshment and rescued a few butterflies caught in the shop window including a Little Banner. Meanwhile along the nearby stream I'd been watching a Bold Mimic-White.

Day 12 February 26th Usumacinta Marshes

We met up at breakfast, the sun already shining strongly into the dining area. At eight-fifteen we were off towards the huge Usumacinta River. It is about an hour from Palenque and through pleasant countryside, cattle ranches in the main, a little oil palm too. We crossed the great river, taking a dirt track out into the countryside. Seda spotted a Fork-tailed Flycatcher and we all went on to have great views of this bird, another one appearing too. The annual floods had receded almost fully this year, but there were still a few damp patches and we stopped by one of these. There seemed only a bird or two about, but in twenty minutes we'd racked up quite a number of good birds. Northern Jacanas potted about, with their young in tow, and we saw Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs and Least Sandpiper at close range. On the wires were Tree Swallows, Violet-Green Swallows, Barn Swallows, Northern Roughwings and a Cliff Swallow or two. There was a Limpkin too. A tree in front of us had Golden-fronted Woodpeckers in a nest hole.

We stopped by a channel that was full of flowering *Utricularia* - a yellow species (there are pink ones...). There were lots of Wood Storks along the channel and Broad-winged Hawks

were overhead with the vultures.

We explored six kilometres of sometimes bumpy dirt track that went through the most productive marshy countryside. Hardly had we started than a Black-collared Hawk flew overhead, then a Roadside Hawk. By the track a Buff-bellied Hummingbird nectared at flowers of *Glyricidia sepium*. We stopped for two superb Bare-throated Tiger-Herons which posed in almost gay abandon in front of us, ruffling up their neck feathers and when that didn't have all of us in camera action at the same time they tried jumping up onto a post and posing this way and that. Meanwhile behind them two Double-striped Tick-knees distracted us. Little Blue Herons and Great Blue Herons and the occasional Tricolored Herons were noted but it was not til later in the morning that we found Little Green Heron and a group of Boat-billed Herons. Near the latter was the day's first Crested Caracara, and a little later still a superb Laughing Falcon that was beautifully lit for photographers. There were all manner of little birds. A highlight was a *Glyricidia* tree that had both Black-chinned Hummingbird and a fine male Beautiful Hummingbird feeding in it. A Ctenosaur, or Black Iguana, was also wandering the tree munching on the pink flowers. Speaking of pink flowers mentioned should be made of the abundant *Tabebuia rosea* that showered pale pink blooms all over the landscape and of the pretty golden-yellow Buttercup Flower Trees that added their own spectacular shows. Orchard Orioles, Baltimore Orioles, one Black-cowled Oriole and a couple of brilliant orange Altamira Orioles added their colours to the spectacle. There were not so many butterflies, a few whites and skippers, but also a number of Postmen, quite a few Queens, and a most stunning butterfly, the Banded Orange Heliconian. A Blue Morpho flapped past! By the vehicle we had a flock of Tricoloured Munias and also many White-collared Seedeaters. An Indigo Bunting had some blue in its plumage. A surprise came when Seda spotted a Black-headed Trogon and here was also a Rose-throated Beccard. A Vesper Sparrow was spotted and there were also Meadowlarks in the grassland. Noisy Northern Jacanas were rather common. An Aplomado Falcon whizzed past, and an American Pygmy Kingfisher did the same. In the water was a strange yellow flower with elegant multi-tiered leaves and there were some nice *Hibiscus* and *Clitoria* in the verges. Frieda showed us the Calabash Tree and a *Dillenia* relative *Curatella americana*. Warblers were abundant in the trees and included lots of Magnolia, Black & White, and Yellow Warblers, but we also noted Orange-crowned Warbler, Northern Parula, Common Yellowthroat and Yellow-breasted Chat.

We found our way to the lagoon. There were some lovely little 'crested' water lilies at the water's edge and the shells of some huge apple snails. Across the other side a game of baseball was well-contested with the teams all turned out in proper kit. A group of Royal Terns sat on the shore edge near them alongside Blue-winged Teal. A Crested Caracara sat on a dead tree and an inlet of the lake here held a group of Fulvous Whistling Ducks. More Fork-tailed Flycatchers were enjoyed. Monarchs flew about the field edges, but more common were Queens, mimics of the Monarchs.

Meanwhile Eric and the team prepared lunch. The apple and salmon sandwiches were a winner! Yellow-throated Warbler was found by Marilyn in the property here and there was a superb Hook-billed Kite in a nearby tree.

Leaving we spotted an Iguana staring out of a tree hole and in the next tree a Lineated Woodpecker doing the same! We moved back along the road spotting Green Herons, more

Bare-throated Tiger-Bitterns, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Soon after a Collared Forest-Falcon belted across the road in front of us and a little later we stopped for a group of Howler Monkeys. These were so close to us and though a little perturbed at the humans within five metres they nevertheless allowed great photographs. Meanwhile a superb Summer Tanager was in front of the vehicles. Further along we stopped for a Solitary Sandpiper and close to this was a superb Amazon Kingfisher which everyone got great shots of. As we were watching this a superbly bright plumaged Blue Grosbeak was spotted in front of us. Three Yellow-crowned Night Heron flew past us.

We headed back to Palenque, the sun cooler as we approached the town. It had been a long day but a very productive one with around one hundred and twenty species of bird noted during the day. We refreshed ourselves at the local Michoacana ice-cream shop!

Day 13 February 27th Roberto Barrios

The sun shone as we passed through the gorgeous wooded hill country to the south of Palenque. The last ten kilometres on a quiet road with almost no traffic. Roberto Barrios is a beautiful spot, set in hills and valleys that could easily take the name Blue Mountains though they are scenic rather than high. The river too was quite something, another turquoise picture with great pools cut by bands of limestone over which the water fell.... in the end we just had to get in and swim.

We pulled into the picnic area by the river and spent the next five hours filling our boots with butterflies. The range was breathtaking with a wide range of nymphalids, some really stunning metalmarks, a good scattering of whites, and as usual an amazing variety of skippers. Even the swallowtails weighed in with half a dozen species. With so many butterflies we hardly had time to look at any birds, however we did see a few warblers, a few Ant-Tanagers, and a noisy flock of White-collared Swifts. In the morning we spotted Scrub Euphonias and a Keel-billed Toucan as well as Aztec Parakeets.

Butterflies started with a Barnes' Metalmark, a sign of things to come, for we were to see double-figures of riordinid species today. Mexican Fritillaries deigned not to stop however soon we were finding Postmen and Julias, White Peacocks and Banded Peacocks, all inhabiting the trackside. We found Black-fronted Prestonians by a quiet river and here we spotted Red-rim and the gorgeous Pearly Leafwing who sat quietly confident in its camouflage. A Beautiful Hummingbird visited nearby *Glyricidias*. A superb Silverdop Skipper was well-photographed. Here there was also the lovely White-banded Grayler which seemed an odd name for a butterfly which is so orange and blue! Female and male are very different in this species. Walking back past the picnic site owner's pig we noticed large butterflies zipping past us and back to next tree. There were five of them. Two were Guatemalan Crackers and they were doing the cracking thing – a surprisingly loud noise for a butterfly! The other three were all different large fast-flying species, two with brilliant blue uppers – One-spotted Prepona and Two-spotted Prepona, and the other the Tailed Cecropian. Next we headed across the river where we spent the rest of the morning along a quiet track through excellent forest. Immediately a Mexican Ciciadian was noticed and we went on to see half a dozen of these lovely butterflies. Variable Cracker posed by the river and nearby we saw a Blue and White Heliconian fluttering about and in the forest.

Lunch was an Eric-spectacular with marinated pork, pineapple and baked fish with lime and courgettes, all prepared on the grill - superb... Over by the bridge we now had swallowtails. A Red-sided Swallowtail was joined by an Orange Kite-Swallowtail and a Ruddy Daggerwing. Meanwhile a Rusty-tipped Page mud-puddled by the picnic area and a Black-headed Trogon was seen.

After lunch we went back across the river where Skippers were again plentiful – species recorded included Mimosa Skipper, Dusted Spurwing, Veined White-Skipper, Guatemalan Chequered-Skipper, the impressive Yellow-tipped Flasher, the equally large Pale Sicklewing, and the lovely velvety Square Bentwing with its extraordinary crinkled square wings! Two basilisk species were seen – Hernandez’s Helmeted and Striped. Butterflies continued.... A Sister sat above the track. The delicate little Ochre Groundstreak reminded some of us of Indian Sapphires, and a big highlight was the Common Jewelmark, or perhaps the Red-bordered Pixie was even better? Seda spotted an impressive blue-tinted Small-spotted Flasher and in the undergrowth there were a number of gorgeous Purple-washed Eyemarks. Tiger Heliconians were a wonderful sight, and we also spotted Harmonia Tigerwing and Black and Yellow Prestonian.

A stream yielded many damselflies including a Rubyspot and a lovely copper-tailed species. Wedge-spotted Cattlehearts fluttered slowly around a clearing where we found a tiny hummingbirds nest with two eggs. Montezuma’s Oropendulas fed in the trees and there were plenty of Wood Thrushes, Gray Catbirds and even an Ovenbird in the undergrowth. Back at the bridge things had got even better as we prepared to leave - five Giant Swallowtails lay there with their wings wide open...

Day 14 February 28th Palenque

We had a relaxed start this morning. Marilyn wandered round the garden noting a Blue-crowned Motmot the moment she left her room and some other good birds including a female Blue-black Grosbeak and some Ant-Tanagers.

This morning we headed back to the archaeological site in Palenque. We spent the first part of the morning walking less than a kilometre of the fabulous Cascada Trail through the rainforest. This trail is very well made and is usually relatively undisturbed, the rainforest beautiful and all the time we could hear the Yucatan Howler Monkeys making lots of noise! From time to time shafts of sunlight illuminated butterflies though they were nearly all Gaudy Patches. We also saw several Erato Heliconians and several Cattlehearts. There was a rather worn Pink-checked Cattleheart, a Wedge-Spotted Cattleheart and a couple of gorgeous Emerald-patched Cattlehearts. Almost the first birds we found was a pair of Royal Flycatchers building their nest in a beautiful spot by a stream. Several of the group stayed to photograph them then found two Blue-crowned Motmots in trees just past there. There was also a Green Kingfisher on the stream by the nest. Further up we found more butterflies. There were two heliconid mimics – the Mimic Tiger-Queen and Variable Tigerwing. Now the birds started to get more prolific with all sorts of nice things.

We saw both Red-throated Ant-Tanagers and Red-crowned Ant-Tanagers. There was a fine

Northern Barred Woodcreeper, and later Wedge-billed and Streak-headed Woodcreepers were also seen. A pair of Green Honeycreepers were a great sight, the male is an incredible turquoise-green colour. There were Worm-eating Warblers, Golden-crowned Warblers and Ochre-bellied Flycatchers. Collared Aracaris and Keel-billed Toucans were noted and a Black Hawk went over. Jane photographed a Purple-washed Eyemark and the tiny Zebra mimic was the Black and Yellow Prestonian.

As we left the trail we found another heliconid like butterfly fluttering around in the sky above us – strange behaviour indeed and it wouldn't come down, however it fluttered so slowly we were able to get good pictures and identify it as the Acting Heliconian! Just a little further and Nigel found a rather nice skipper resting under a leaf – some kind of Rubyeye. Down by the vehicles Beto had been patiently waiting for us with a Brownish Cracker that he'd made friends with.

Then we headed downhill to the museum where some visited the museum itself and others wandered about to see what they could find around the margins. It was a very bright sunny morning but there were not the butterflies we were expecting. A Blue Morpho did speed past but otherwise there was little – a Common Blue Skipper and again the Black and Yellow Prestonian. By the vehicle was the impressive skipper Spineless Silverdrop.

Lunch was in town where Eric took us a Oaxacan restaurant where we tried a local speciality. These are a large taco served with layers of meat, onions, refried beans etc on top and then roasted briefly. They were exceedingly delicious and most of us finished what were very large servings! Then it was off across the beautifully evening lit landscape to Villahermosa where we arrived in plenty of time. We checked-in and then relaxed until it was time to board the aircraft. We arrived into Mexico City on time at half nine and were soon met by our driver who whisked us quickly through the streets of the great city to our comfortable hotel in Zona Rosa.

Day 15 March 1st Teotihuacan

After breakfast we headed out to Teotihuacan where Eric took us on a tour of this the most spectacular of the Aztec pyramid sites. Today the city's atmosphere was rather polluted and so in the haze we could not see the cones of Popocatepetl and Iztaccihuatl to the west. Once out of town though the sun shone brightly and the semi-arid cactus-dotted landscape was very different from the lushness of Chiapas. Eric told us much of the history of the site and the peoples that would have part of its heyday more than seven hundred years before. We also had quite an insight into ancient Aztec mythology and Eric recounted memorable stories of how the sun and the moon were born and of why the four thousand visible stars are chased across the sky every day.

Eric was forced to take occasional breaks as we waded our way through a whole host of new birds for the trip as well as a few new butterflies. The site sits at around 8500 feet above sea level and the flat countryside between the volcanic emergents would have been a lake in the distant past but are now fields where cactus and maize are harvested. Hedgerows consisted of willow and the False Pepper Tree (*Schinus molle*). So perhaps not surprising that most of the birds were new. We started with Vermilion Flycatchers fire-balling their way into the

bluest of skies. Into the ruins and we were soon watching Canyon Towhees, Amethyst-throated Hummingbirds and Cassin's Kingbirds. A Pipevine Swallowtail sped past. Over by the first pyramids where Eric showed us some amazing jaguar heads and carvings of Tlaloc there was American Kestrel. In the flat areas we found a couple of cute Mexican Ground Squirrels, *Sciurus mexicanus*, a squirrel endemic to the region around Mexico City. They did a very passable impersonation of meerkats!

A stream lined with trees caused the group to split between wildlife and culture. The 'wildlifers' spent much of the rest morning here. Two Texan Crescents were below a little bridge. Upstream there was continual avian excitement with Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped Warblers, Chipping and Clay-coloured Sparrows, Cassin's Kingbird and Amethyst-throated Hummingbirds. The latter came and sat on its nest. There were also Bushtits, a surprise Colima Warbler and a Sharp-shinned Hawk sped through with something in its talons. A little later we had great views of a Cooper's Hawk too. Below the bridge we found Rufous-backed Thrushes and a Greenish Elaenia. A nice find was a Camberwell Beauty!

Moving on we found a Cactus Wren amongst Opuntias and little bromeliad-encrusted trees in which a Mourning Dove sat on its nest. A superbly-lit Broad-billed Hummingbird shone like a jewel from a tree-top and then we found a couple of Bewick's Wrens. Around the museum we didn't find the usual butterflies. Two-tailed Swallowtails deigned not to stop, nor did a Bordered Patch, but a Green-eyed White did. Crevice Spiny Lizards muddled about on the walls and tree trunks. Curve-billed Thrashers were common here and we got better views of Rufous-backed Thrushes. A Black-vented Oriole looked fine in the top of an *Erythrina* tree. Near the exit Nigel P took some great photographs of a Two-tailed Swallowtail.

Eric showed those who followed him on to the big pyramid how to be our own archaeologists as we looked into trackside banks and amazingly were soon finding shards of pottery and better still parts of obsidian knives that would have been at least five hundred years old and could have been as much as two thousand years old! Eric then took his part of the group on to the second main pyramid and from there several took a look at the Murals Museum which apparently was quite superb – one to include for the future I think.

We went for a late lunch at a nearby restaurant which proved to be just the smallest of restaurants, i.e. we had lunch in the garden table whilst the family ate in the dining room. The food was superb and the shopping opportunities were very impressive. We had a little time to wander outside here and were rewarded with Marine Blue and Reakirt's Blue. A fine adult Yellow-bellied Sapsucker gave great views and then a Calliope Hummingbird was spotted too. Another fine bird was an Abeille's Oriole though this was a leader only sighting. Then it was off to the airport which we reached in decent time and checked-in for our flights back to the UK.

Day 16 March 2nd

The next lunchtime we arrived on time back at Heathrow.

Systematic List Number 1 Butterflies

Nomenclature and taxonomic order taken from Butterflies of Mexico and Central America (Glassberg 2007). Many sightings were provided by Nigel Peace (NP) and Nigel Sawyer (NS).

Papilionidae

Polydamus Swallowtail	<i>Battus polydamus</i>	scattered throughout
Pipevine Swallowtail	<i>Battus philenor</i>	1 at Teotihuacan
Emerald-patched Cattleheart	<i>Parides sesostris</i>	several at Las Nubes and along the Cascada Trail at Palenque
Pink-checked Cattleheart	<i>Parides eurimedes</i>	several at Las Nubes and along the Cascada Trail at Palenque
Variable Cattleheart	<i>Parides eithalion</i>	quite common at Las Nubes
Transandean Cattleheart	<i>Parides iphidamas</i>	Las Nubes and River Ixcán crossing near there
Wedge-spotted Cattleheart	<i>Parides panares</i>	Cascada Trail at Palenque
Orange Kite-Swallowtail	<i>Eurytides thyastes</i>	1 at Robert Barrios
Yellow Kite-Swallowtail	<i>Eurytides calliste</i>	several seen at Montebello
Thick-bordered Kite-Swallowtail	<i>Eurytides dioxippus</i>	3 at the carpark for Bonampak
Salvin's Kite-Swallowtail	<i>Eurytides salvini</i>	2 at the carpark for Bonampak
Short-lined Kite-Swallowtail	<i>Eurytides agesilaus</i>	Las Guacamayas (NP) and 1 at the carpark for Bonampak
Red-sided Swallowtail	<i>Mimoides phaon</i>	1 Guacamayas and 1 Robert Barrios
Black Swallowtail	<i>Papilio polyxenes</i>	1 Montebello
Two-tailed Swallowtail	<i>Papilio multicaudatus</i>	Teotihuacan
Three-tailed Swallowtail	<i>Papilio pilumnus</i>	scattered records Montebello and Las Nubes
Thoas Swallowtail	<i>Papilio thoas</i>	1 at breakfast site en route to Bonampak, also 1 at Bonampak (NP) and 5 mud-puddling together at Robert Barrios
Androgeus Swallowtail	<i>Papilio androgeus</i>	Guacamayas and Bonampak carpark
Victorine Swallowtail	<i>Papilio victorinus</i>	1 along Lagos Cinco road at Montebello was a trip highlight

Pieridae

Tiger White	<i>Charonius eurytele</i>	this heliconid mimic seen at Bonampak
Cattleheart White	<i>Archonias brassolis</i>	superb cattleheart mimic but half the size! Hotel Mision, Palenque
Mexican Dartwhite	<i>Catasticta nimbice</i>	Zincantan and Montebello
Common Green-eyed White	<i>Leptophobia aripa</i>	Cerro Huitepec
Mountain White	<i>Leptophobia aripa</i>	Cerro Huitepec (NP)
Great Southern White	<i>Ascia monuste</i>	scattered
Common Melwhite	<i>Melete lycimnia</i>	common in the Usumacinta
Clouded Sulphur	<i>Colias philodice</i>	Zincantan. Subspecies <i>guatemelana</i>
Southern Dogface	<i>Colias cesonia</i>	Zincantan
Lyside Sulphur	<i>Kricogonia lyside</i>	Robert Barrios
Tailed Sulphur	<i>Phoebis neocypris</i>	Cerro Huitepec, Montebello (NP)

Yellow Angled-Sulphur	<i>Anteos maerula</i>	scattered throughout
White Angled-Sulphur	<i>Anteos clorinde</i>	scattered throughout
Cloudless Sulphur	<i>Phoebis sennae</i>	widespread
Large Orange Sulphur	<i>Phoebis agarithe</i>	Las Nubes and Guacamayas
Orange-barred Sulphur	<i>Phoebis philea</i>	frequent in the highlands
Apricot Sulphur	<i>Phoebis argante</i>	widespread
Statira Sulphur	<i>Phoebis statira</i>	Montebello and Guacamayas
Straight-lined Sulphur	<i>Rhabdodryas trite</i>	Guacamayas (NP)
Barred Yellow	<i>Eurema दौरा</i>	frequent in lowlands, also Sumidero
Ghost Yellow	<i>Eurema albula</i>	Guacamayas and Palenque
Sleepy Orange	<i>Eurema nicippe</i>	Montebello
Dainty Sulphur	<i>Nathalis iole</i>	Sumiderp
Salome Yellow	<i>Eurema salome</i>	Cerro Huitepec (NP)
Little Yellow	<i>Pyrisitia lisa</i>	Usumacinta (NP)
Mexican Marbled White	<i>Hesperocahris graphites</i>	Cerro Huitepec (NP)
De la Maza's Mimic-White	<i>Enantia mazai</i>	1 Cinco Lago road, Montebello
Frosted Mimic-White	<i>Lieinix nemesis</i>	several Cinco Lago road, Montebello

Lycaenidae

Guatemalan Copper	<i>Iophanus pyrrhias</i>	Zincantan, Cerro Huitepec (NP)
Mexican Cycadian	<i>Eumaeus toxea</i>	this striking butterfly was noted at Las Nubes, Guacamayas, Palenque and at Roberto Barrios
Felder's Hairstreak	<i>Paiwarria antinous</i>	a rather faded one photographed at Guacamayas (IG)
Chiapas Stripe-Streak	<i>Arawacus togana</i>	Guacamayas
Ochre Groundstreak	<i>Calycopis trebula</i>	Roberto Barrios
Togarna Hairstreak	<i>Arawacus togarna</i>	Las Nubes (NP)
Oceia Hairstreak	<i>Laothus oceia</i>	Cerro Huitepec (NP)
Orange-crescent Groundstreak	<i>Ziegleria guzanta</i>	or <i>denarius</i> ? Cerro Huitepec (NP)
Ceraunus Blue	<i>Hemiargus ceraunus</i>	Guacamayas, Usumacinta
Eastern Tailed Blue	<i>Everes comyntas</i>	scattered, mainly lowlands
Spring Azure	<i>Celastrina ladon</i>	frequent Zinacantan
Reakirt's Blue	<i>Hemiargus isola</i>	Teotihuacan
Marine Blue	<i>Leptotes marina</i>	Teotihuacan

Riodinidae

Purple-washed Eyemark	<i>Mesosemia lamachus</i>	several Cascada Trail Palenque and Roberto Barrios
Satyr Eyemark	<i>Leucochimona lepida</i>	both days at Guacamayas
Orange-flushed Eyemark	<i>Perophtalma lasus</i>	Roberto Barrios
Common Jewelmark	<i>Sarota chrysus</i>	fabulous thing! Robert Barrios
Barnes' Metalmark	<i>Detritivora barnesi</i>	Roberto Barrios (NP)
Fatal Metalmark	<i>Calephelis nemesis</i>	scattered throughout
Scintillant sp	<i>Calephelis sp</i>	several unidentified ones seen
Red-bordered Pixie	<i>Melanis pixe</i>	both days at Guacamayas, also Roberto Barrios
Falcate Metalmark	<i>Emesis tenedia</i>	Sumidero, Montebello
White-spotted Emesis	<i>Emesis aurimna</i>	Roberto Barrios (NP)
Common Lenmark	<i>Juditha caucana</i>	Las Nubes

Variable Lenmark
White-banded Grayler

Synargis mycone
Hypophylla sudias

Roberto Barrios and Palenque
what a beauty! It needs a new name.
Several at Roberto Barrios

Nymphalidae

Variegated Fritillary
American Snout

Euptoieta claudia
Libytheana carinenta

Lamplight Actinote
Gulf Fritillary
Mexican Silverspot

Actinote ozomene
Agraulis vanilliae
Dione moneta

Julia Heliconian
Banded Orange Heliconian
Least Heliconian
Isabella Heliconian
Tiger Heliconian

Dryas iulia
Dryadula phaetusa
Eueides aliphera
Eueides isabella
Heliconius ismenius

Zebra Heliconian
Erato Heliconian
Dot-bordered Heliconian

Heliconius charithonia
Heliconius erato
Heliconius doris

Mexican Heliconian
Grinning Heliconian
Blue & White Heliconian
Variegated Fritillary
Mexican Fritillary
Theona Checkerspot
Bordered Patch
Gaudy Patch

Heliconius hortense
Heliconias cydno
Heliconius sapho
Euptoieta claudia
Euptoieta hegesia
Chlosyne theona
Chlosyne lacinia
Chlosyne gaudialis

Black-bordered Tegosa
Guatemalan Tegosa
Notched Crescent
Gray-based Crescent
Mylitta Crescent
Mexican Crescent
Chestnut Crescent
Brown Crescent
Orange-patched Crescent
Pine Crescent
Pale-banded Crescent
Black Crescent
Texan Crescent
Pearl Crescent
Vesta Crescent
Square-tipped Crescent
Creamy Crescent
Mayan Crescent
White-dotted Crescent

Tegosa anieta
Tegosa guatemalena
Phyciodes dracaena
Phyciodes griseobasilis
Phyciodes mylitta
Phyciodes pallescens
Phyciodes argentea
Phyciodes atronia
Phyciodes drusilla
Phyciodes sitalces
Phyciodes tulcis
Phyciodes ptolyca
Phyciodes texana
Phyciodes tharos
Phyciodes vesta
Eresia phillyra
Eresia clio
Castilia myia
Castillia ofella

Montebello (NP)
Sumidero and in the Bonampak
carpark
Las Nubes and Cerro Huitepec
Montebello and Usumacinta
Quite common Montebello, also
noted Zinacantan
widespread
several in the Usumacinta Marshes
Las Nubes
Palenque & Bonampak
several Palenque, Roberto Barrios,
Las Nubes and Bonampak
widespread and often common
common in lowlands
fine species. One visiting a flower at
Bonampak
several on both days in Montebello
Bonampak
Guacamayas and Bonampak
Montebello
several Roberto Barrios
Roberto Barrios (NP)
Teotihuacan
frequent along the Cascada Trail,
Palenque, also noted Bonampak
scattered throughout
Las Nubes and Roberto Barrioa
Zinacantan
Montebello and Las Nubes
several Zinacantan
Zinacantan, probably Sumidero too
Sumidero
Las Nubes and probably elsewhere
scattered in the lowlands
Zinacantan
throughout
Sumidero
Teotihuacan
San Cristobal & Montebello
San Cristobal and Palenque
Montebello
Frequent at Las Nubes
Guacamayas (NP)
NS photographed this species at La
Nubes

American Lady	<i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>	San Cristobel
West Coast Lady	<i>Vanessa annabella</i>	Orchid Garden in San Cristobal
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Montebello
Camberwell Beauty	<i>Nymphalis antiopia</i>	Teotihuacan
Tropical Buckeye	<i>Junonia genoveva</i>	Usumacinta
Banded Peacock	<i>Anartia fatima</i>	widespread
White Peacock	<i>Anartia jatrophae</i>	frequent in the lowlands
Godman's Mapwing	<i>Hypanartia godmanii</i>	Montebello and Bonampak carpark
Malachite	<i>Siproeta stelenes</i>	1 Sumidero
Rusty-tipped Page	<i>Siptoeta epaphus</i>	singles scattered throughout
Celadon Sister	<i>Adelpha serpa</i>	1 Bonampak
Montane Sister	<i>Adelpha donysa</i>	1 Zinacantan
Band-celled Sister	<i>Adelpha fessonia</i>	Sumidero
Bates's Sister	<i>Adelpha paraena</i>	Las Nubes
Tailed Sister	<i>Adelpha diocles</i>	Montebello
Lost Sister	<i>Adelpha salus</i>	Montebello
Spot-celled Sister	<i>Adelpha basiloides</i>	Las Nubes (NP)
Four-spotted Sailor	<i>Dynamine postverta</i>	scattered in the lowlands
Small-eyed Sailor	<i>Dynamine artemias</i>	Las Nubes
Yellow-rimmed Eighty-eight	<i>Callicore texa</i>	1 mud-puddling at Bonampak carpark
Anna's Eighty-eight	<i>Diaethria anna</i>	beautiful butterfly. Common at Montebello
Astrala's Eighty-eight	<i>Diaethria astala</i>	another beautiful butterfly! 1 at Montebello
Common Mestra	<i>Mestra amymone</i>	Sumidero
Grey Cracker	<i>Hamadryas februa</i>	Sumidero, Las Nubes and Bonampak
Black-patched Cracker	<i>Hamadryas atlantis</i>	Sumidero
Variable Cracker	<i>Hamadryas feronia</i>	Las Nubes and Roberto Barrios
Brownish Cracker	<i>Hamadryas iphthime</i>	Palenque – the museum area
Guatemalan Cracker	<i>Hamadryas guatemalena</i>	scattered throughout
Red Cracker	<i>Hamadryas amphinome</i>	1 Las Nubes
Orion Cecropian	<i>Historis odius</i>	1 both days at Guacamayas
Tailed Cecropian	<i>Historis acheronta</i>	Bonampak & Roberto Barrios
Small Beauty	<i>Colobura dirce</i>	one Bonampak
Little Banner	<i>Nica flavilla</i>	scattered throughout
Leading Red-ring	<i>Pyrrhogyra neaearia</i>	1 at Palenque
Mexican Bluewing	<i>Myscelia ethusa</i>	Sumidero Canyon
Dingy Purplewing	<i>Eunica monima</i>	single at Las Nubes
Dark Purplewing	<i>Eunica alcmena</i>	Montebello and Las Nubes
Plain Purplewing	<i>Eunica sydonia</i>	Guacamayas
Red-rim	<i>Biblis hyperia</i>	Sumidero, Zinacantan and Roberto Barrios
Waiter Daggerwing	<i>Marpesia coresia</i>	Las Nubes
Pale Daggerwing	<i>Marpesia harmonia</i>	several at Bonampak
Many-banded Daggerwing	<i>Marpesia chiron</i>	locally common in the lowlands
Ruddy Daggerwing	<i>Marpesia petreus</i>	Bonampak and Roberto Barrios
White-spotted Prepona	<i>Archeoprepona amphimachus</i>	Sumidero
Two-spotted Prepona	<i>Archeoprepona demophoon</i>	Roberto Barrios

One-spotted Prepona	<i>Archeoprepona demophon</i>	Roberto Barrios – sitting side by side with previous species!
Angled Leafwing	<i>Anaea glycerium</i>	Montebello
Guatemalan Leafwing	<i>Memphis forreri</i>	NP saw one Las Nubes
Tiger Leafwing	<i>Consul fabius</i>	this fabulous leaf mimic was seen by some at the ruins Bonampak
Black-veined Leafwing	<i>Consul excellens</i>	several Zinacantan
Pearly Leafwing	<i>Consul electra</i>	1 at Roberto Barrios
Silver Emperor	<i>Doxocopa laure</i>	Robert Barrios (NP)
Double-eyed Owl-Butterfly	<i>Eryphanis aesacus</i>	Mision Hotel, Palenque
Split-banded Owlet	<i>Opsiphanes cassina</i>	Las Nubes
Common Morpho	<i>Morpho helenor</i>	1 Bonampak and several in the Palenque area
Quiet Diaph	<i>Pierella luna</i>	only noted this time at Las Nubes
White-spotted Satyr	<i>Manataria hercyna</i>	Cerro Huitepec, roosting under a bank
Plain Satyr	<i>Cissia pompilia</i>	Palenque area
Gold-stained Satyr	<i>Cissia pseudoconfusa</i>	Bonampak and Las Nubes
Labe Satyr	<i>Cissia labe</i>	Montebello (NP)
Napaea Satyr	<i>Pedaliodes napaea</i>	Cerro Huitepec (NP)
Guatemalan Gemmed-Satyr	<i>Cyllopsis guatemalena</i>	Cerro Huitepec (NP)
Pallid Gemmed-Satyr	<i>Cyllopsis pallens</i>	Cerro Huitepec (NP)
Wide-bordered Satyr	<i>Satyrotaygetis satyrina</i>	Mision Hotel, Palenque
White Satyr	<i>Pareuptychia ocirrhoe</i>	frequent throughout the lowlands
Blue-gray Satyr	<i>Hermeuptychia hermes</i>	widespread
Queen	<i>Magneuptychia libye</i>	Palenque and Guacamayas
Soldier	<i>Danaus gilippus</i>	A Monarch mimic. Palenque area
Monarch	<i>Danaus eresimus</i>	A Monarch mimic. Lowlands
Cloud-forest Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	almost throughout in low numbers
Harmonia Tigerwing	<i>Anetia thirza</i>	2 Zinacantan
Variegated Ticlear	<i>Tithoria harmonia</i>	scattered in the lowlands
Black & Yellow Prestonian	<i>Godyris zavaleta</i>	scattered throughout
	<i>Aeria eurimedia</i>	A Zebra Heliconian mimic!
Mimic Tigerwing		Palenque
Tiger Mimic-Queen	<i>Melinaea lilis</i>	Cascada Trail, Palenque
Disturbed Tigerwing	<i>Lycorea halia atergatis</i>	Palenque (NP)
Variable Tigerwing	<i>Mechanitis polymnia</i>	Montebello and Guacamayas
Klug's Clearwing	<i>Mechanitis menapis</i>	Palenque
Big-bordered Dircenna	<i>Dircenna klugii</i>	Montebello
	<i>Dircenna dero</i>	Las Nubes

Hesperidae

Dot-collared Firetip	<i>Jemadia pseudognetus</i>	stunning! 1 in the ruins at Bonampak
Spineless Silverdrop	<i>Epargyreus aspina</i>	Palenque museum area
	<i>Epargyreus sp.</i>	Las Nubes, Roberto Barrios
Gold-spotted Aguna	<i>Aguna asander</i>	Palenque
Sehaus's Scarlet-eye	<i>Nascus phintius</i>	Palenque
White-tipped Longtail	<i>Urbanus chales</i>	Palenque
Dorantes Longtail	<i>Urbanus dorantes</i>	Guacamayas (NP)
Brown Longtail	<i>Urbanus procne</i>	scattered throughout

Plain Longtail	<i>Urbanus simplicius</i>	scattered throughout
Teleus Longtail	<i>Urbanus teleus</i>	Guacamayas (NP)
Tanna Longtail	<i>Urbanus tanna</i>	Palenque
Small-spotted Flasher	<i>Astraptes egregius</i>	one at Roberto Barrios
Yellow-tipped Flasher	<i>Astraptes anaphus</i>	Roberto Barrios
Elegant Flat	<i>Celaenorrhinus stola</i>	Guacamayas (NP)
Mimosa Skipper	<i>Cogia calchas</i>	Roberto Barrios & Usumacinta
Dark-fringed Banded-Skipper	<i>Autochton vectilucis</i>	Montebello (NP)
Sharp Banded-Skipper	<i>Autochton zarex</i>	Palenque
Rounded Bolla	<i>Bolla imbras</i>	Zinacantan
Variegated Skipper	<i>Gorgythion begga</i>	Las Nubes
Geyer's Zera	<i>Ouleus (fridericus) salvina</i>	Las Nubes (NP)
Common Blue-Skipper	<i>Quadrus cerialis</i>	1 Palenque
Brilliant Blue Skipper	<i>Paches loxus</i>	Wow! Las Nubes (NP)
Orange-spotted Skipper	<i>Atarnes sallei</i>	Sumidero
Hoary Skipper	<i>Carrhenes canescens</i>	Montebello (NP)
Dusted Spurwing	<i>Antigonus erosus</i>	Roberto Barrios (NP)
Pale Sicklewing	<i>Achlyodes pallida</i>	Roberto Barrios and Zinacantan
Great Bentwing	<i>Ebrietas osyris</i>	Las Nubes (NP)
Blurred Bentwing	<i>Ebrietas evanidus</i>	?probably this species at Las Nubes (NP)
Square Bentwing	<i>Helias cama</i>	Roberto Barrios and Las Nubes
Tropical Checkered Skipper	<i>Pyrgus oileus</i>	scattered
Veined White-Skipper	<i>Helioptetes arsalte</i>	Roberto Barrios
Common Checkered-Skipper	<i>Pyrgus communis</i>	Teotihuacan (NP)
Guatemalan Chequered-Skipper	<i>Pyrgus [communis] adepta</i>	Usumacinta marshes, Roberto Barrios (NP)
Turk's-Cap White-Skipper	<i>Helioptetes macaira</i>	Usumacinta (NP)
Laviana White-Skipper	<i>Helioptetes laviana</i>	Sumidero Canyon
Tropical Least Skipper	<i>Ancycloxypha arene</i>	G&M noted at Usumacinta
Trailside Underskipper	<i>Anthoptus epictetus</i>	Las Guacamayas (NP)
Perching Saliana	<i>Saliana esperi</i>	Palenque
Common Glassywing	<i>Pompeius pompeius</i>	scattered in lowlands
Sachem	<i>Atalopedes campestris</i>	San Cristobal
Umber Skipper	<i>Poanes melane</i>	San Cristobal
Common Mellana	<i>Quasimellana eulogius</i>	Zinacantan
Purple-washed Skipper	<i>Panoquina sylvicola</i>	1 Palenque museum area
Hecebolus Skipper	<i>Panoquina hecebolus</i>	or Panoquina ocola, Palenque (NP)

Systematic List Number 2 Birds

Nomenclature and taxonomic order follows The Sibley Guide to Birds (2000) for birds also found north of the Mexican border and for those that aren't Howell and Webb's 'A Guide to the Birds of Mexico' (1995).

Fulvous Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>	c.10 Usumacinta Wetland
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>	Usumacinta Wetland
Plain Chachalaca	<i>Ortalis vetula</i>	several at Guacamayas
Crested Guan	<i>Penelope purpurascens</i>	noted both days at Guacamayas
Great Curassow	<i>Crax rubra</i>	2 seen very well on boat trip in the Sumidero Canyon and 1 on night trip at Guacamayas
Least Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i>	2 at the breakfast site en route to Bonampak
Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	widely scattered
Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>	frequent along rivers etc
Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	c.10 over the Sumidero Canyon and 1 at Guacamayas
Bare-throated Tiger-Heron	<i>Tigrisoma mexicanum</i>	c.10 Usumacinta and singles on both days at Guacamayas
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	scattered singles
Boat-billed Heron	<i>Cochlearius cochlearius</i>	1 at Guacamayas, 3 Usumacinta
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	widespread
Green-backed Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	2 at Guacamayas & 2 Usumacinta
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	frequent at larger wetlands
Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	scattered at larger wetlands
Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	singles Guacamayas and Usumacinta
Great Egret	<i>Carcharodius albus</i>	scattered throughout
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	scattered throughout
Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	widespread and very common
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	widespread and common
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	scattered throughout, seen on 5 days
White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	singles Montebello and Bonampak areas
Gray-headed Kite	<i>Leptodon cayanensis</i>	1 Guacamayas
Hook-billed Kite	<i>Chondrohierax uncinatus</i>	1 Usumacinta
Swallow-tailed Kite	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>	2 at Montebello
Black-collared Hawk	<i>Busarellus nigricollis</i>	1 at Usumacinta
Plumbeous Kite	<i>Ictinia pumbea</i>	1 at Guacamayas
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	1 at Tuxtla Airport
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	1 Sumidero and 2 Teotihuacan
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperi</i>	1 San Cristobal (in the hotel!) and 1 Teotihuacan
Common Black-Hawk	<i>Buteogallus anthracinus</i>	scattered singles
Great Black-Hawk	<i>Buteogallus urubitinga</i>	1 at Guacamayas
Roadside Hawk	<i>Buteo magnirostris</i>	frequent in lowlands
White-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo albicaudatus</i>	2 Cinkultic
Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	1 near San Cristobal and 2 Usumacinta

Gray Hawk	<i>Buteo plagiatus</i>	noted Guacamayas and Usumacinta
Short-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo brachyurus</i>	1 near San Cristobal
Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara plancus</i>	frequent in the lowlands
Collared Forest-Falcon	<i>Micrastur semitorquatus</i>	1 Usumacinta
Laughing Falcon	<i>Herpetotheres cachinnans</i>	1 Usumacinta
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	scattered throughout
Aplomado Falcon	<i>Falco femoralis</i>	superb views, briefly, of 1 in the Usumacinta
Bat Falcon	<i>Falco ruficularis</i>	frequent throughout
Sungrebe	<i>Heliornis fulica</i>	1 at Guacamayas
Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>	1 Usumacinta
Double-striped Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus bistriatus</i>	2 Usumacinta Marshes
Collared Plover	<i>Charadrius collaris</i>	2 at Guacamayas
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Usumacinta
Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	1 Usumacinta
Northern Jacana	<i>Jacana spinosa</i>	Usumacinta Marshes
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	noted throughout
Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	3 Usumacinta
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	1 Usumacinta
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	several Usumacinta
Wilson's Snipe	<i>Gallinago delicata</i>	1 Usumacinta
Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	1 over the River Usumacinta
Royal Tern	<i>Sterna maxima</i>	several Usumacinta
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	scattered, around towns
Scaled Pigeon	<i>Columba speciosa</i>	Guacamayas
Red-billed Pigeon	<i>Columba flavirostris</i>	Guacamayas where common, also Roberto Barrios
Short-billed Pigeon	<i>Columba nigrirostris</i>	Guacamayas
Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Columba fasciata</i>	Zinacantan
White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	widespread
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Teotihuacan
Inca Dove	<i>Columbina inca</i>	scattered in the highlands
Ruddy Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>	scattered in lowlands
Common Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>	Usumacinta
White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxii</i>	scattered
Green Parakeet	<i>Aratinga holochlora</i>	Sumidero
Aztec Parakeet	<i>Aratinga astec</i>	frequent in lowlands
Scarlet Macaw	<i>Ara macao</i>	max daily count 4 at Guacamayas. Also some re-introduced birds at Palenque
Brown-hooded Parrot	<i>Pyrrhula haematotis</i>	Guacamayas & Bonampak
White-crowned Parrot	<i>Pionus senilis</i>	scattered
Red-lored Parrot	<i>Amazona autumnalis</i>	common at Guacamayas & Bonampak
Mealy Parrot	<i>Amazona farinosa</i>	Guacamayas
Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>	low numbers throughout
Pheasant Cuckoo	<i>Dromococcyx phasianellus</i>	Nigel was lucky to see one at Zinacantan
Groove-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>	frequent lowlands
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	1 or 2 at Hacienda Santa Maria, feathers Palenque

Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>	locally abundant Guacamayas night trips
Great Potoo	<i>Nyctibius grandis</i>	one on each night trip at Guacamayas
Chestnut-collared Swift	<i>Streptoprocne rutila</i>	2 above the museum, Palenque
White-collared Swift	<i>Streptoprocne semicollaris</i>	abundant at Las Nubes
Vaux's Swift	<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>	Guacamayas
Chimney Swift	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	Guacamayas
White-throated Swift	<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>	a few in thre Montebello area
White-necked Jacobin	<i>Florisuga mellivora</i>	frequent on the boat trips at Guacamayas
Long-billed Hermit	<i>Phaeothornis longirostris</i>	widespread – noted in 6 days
Stripe-throated Hermit	<i>Phaeothornis strigularis</i>	scattered in the lowlands
Green-breasted Mango	<i>Anthracothorax prevostii</i>	singles Guacamayas and Hotel in Palenque
Scaly-breasted Hummingbird	<i>Phaeochroa cuvierii</i>	one nesting at Las Nubes
Broad-billed Hummingbird	<i>Cynanthus latirostris</i>	2 Teotihuacan
White-eared Hummingbird	<i>Basilinna leucotis</i>	Zincantan & the orchid garden
Green-fronted Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia viridifrons</i>	Zinacantan
Beryline Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia beryllina</i>	several at Las Nubes
Buff-bellied Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia yucatanensis</i>	Usumacinta
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia tzacatl</i>	frequent in the lowlands
White-bellied Emerald	<i>Amazilia candida</i>	1 Las Nubes
Azure-crowned Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia cyanocephala</i>	several Montebello area
Wedge-tailed Sabrewing	<i>Campylopterus curvipennis</i>	1 Bonampak
Green-throated Mountain-gem	<i>Lampornis viridipallens</i>	San Cristobel and Montebello area where frequent
Amethyst-throated Hummingbird	<i>Lampornis amethystinus</i>	several at Teotihuacan
Magnificent Hummingbird	<i>Eugenes fulgens</i>	2 at the Orchid Garden in San Cristobal
Black-chinned Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus alexandri</i>	females at Bonampak and Usumacinta
Calliope Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus calliope</i>	Teotihuacan
Beautiful Hummingbird	<i>Calothorax pulcher</i>	males at Usumacinta and Robert Barrios
Slaty-tailed Trogon	<i>Trogon massena</i>	frequent at Guacamayas
Black-headed Trogon	<i>Trogon melanocephalus</i>	widespread this year in the lowlands
Gartered Trogon	<i>Trogon caligatus</i>	1 at Guacamayas
Mountain Trogon	<i>Trogon mexicanus</i>	2 Cerro Huitope
Collared Trogon	<i>Trogon collaris</i>	2 near Guacamayas
Blue-crowned Motmot	<i>Momotus coeruliceps</i>	1 at Roberto Barrios (NP) and 1 at the Mision Hotel Palenque (MP) and 2 Cascada Trail, Palenque (MP)
Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>	scattered
Amazon Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>	common Guacamayas, also 1 Usumacinta
American Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle aenea</i>	1 Guacamayas
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	only noted at Sumidero
Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle torquata</i>	scattered throughout
White-necked Puffbird	<i>Notharchus hyperrhynchus</i>	4 seen on one day at Guacamayas

Keel-billed Toucan	<i>Ramphastos sulfuratus</i>	Guacamayas & Palenque where frequent
Collared Aracari	<i>Pteroglossus torquatus</i>	Guacamayas & Palenque
Black-cheeked Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes pucherani</i>	Las Nubes
Golden-fronted Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes aurifrons</i>	widespread
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	1 San Cristobal area and 2 Teotihuacan
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides scalaris</i>	1 Usumacinta
Smoky-brown Woodpecker	<i>Veniliornis fumigatus</i>	2 Las Nubes
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	1 orchid gardens, San Cristobal
Golden-Olive Woodpecker	<i>Colaptes rubiginosus</i>	1 Guacamayas
Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>	scattered
Pale-billed Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus guatemalensis</i>	scattered
Chestnut-coloured Woodpecker	<i>Celeus castaneus</i>	2 at Guacamayas
'Guatemalan' Flicker	<i>Colaptes (auratus) mexicanus</i>	noted two days in San Cristobal area
Tawny-winged Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocincla anabatina</i>	1 near Guacamayas
Spot-crowned Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes affinis</i>	Cerro Huitepec and Montebello
Streak-headed Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes souleyettii</i>	scattered
Ivory-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus flavigastor</i>	scattered
Spotted Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus erythropygius</i>	1 Montebello
Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Glyphorhynchus spirurus</i>	scattered in lowlands
Northern Barred Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocolaptes sanctihomae</i>	2 Palenque
Plain Xenops	<i>Xenops minutus</i>	Las Nubes
Plain Antvireo	<i>Dysithamnus mentalis</i>	Guacamayas forest patch
Dot-winged Antwren	<i>Microrhopias quixensis</i>	Guacamayas forest patch and MP saw at Palenque
Greenish Elaenia	<i>Myiopagis viridicata</i>	1 Teotihuacan
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Mionectes oleaginosa</i>	1 Bonampak and 2 Palenque
Sepia-capped Flycatcher	<i>Leptopogon amaurocephalus</i>	2 Guacamayas forest patch
Common Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>	Bonampak and Palenque
Yellow-Olive Flycatcher	<i>Tolmomyias sulphurescens</i>	frequent in the lowlands
Stub-tailed Spadebill	<i>Platyrinchus cancrominus</i>	1 at Bonampak
Royal Flycatcher	<i>Onychorhynchus coronatus</i>	1 at Guacamayas and 2 at a nest in Palenque
Greater Pewee	<i>Contopus pertinax</i>	scattered in the highlands
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	1 Palenque
Acadian Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax virescens</i>	?probably this species at Palenque
Least Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	?probably this species at Palenque
Buff-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax fulvifrons</i>	several Zincantan
Hammond's Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax hammondii</i>	several Zincantan
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	scattered throughout
Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>	scattered throughout
Nutting's Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus nuttingi</i>	Sumidero
Brown-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>	scattered
Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	noted twice in the lowlands
Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>	scattered throughout
Boat-billed Flycatcher	<i>Megarhynchus pitangua</i>	scattered
Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>	locally common
Cassin's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>	common – mostly highlands
Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	common – mostly lowlands
Western Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	Usumacinta

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>	en route to Guacamayas – a trip highlight!
Fork-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus savanna</i>	en route to Guacamayas and Usumacinta - spectacular!
Rufous Piha	<i>Lipaugus unirufus</i>	1 Guacamayas forest patch
Red-capped Manakin	<i>Ceratopipra mentalis</i>	a female Las Nubes
Masked Tityra	<i>Tityra semifasciata</i>	scattered in the lowlands
Rose-throated Beccard	<i>Pachyramphus aglaiae</i>	scattered throughout
White-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo griseus</i>	1 Guacamayas and 1 Bonampak
Cassin's Vireo	<i>Vireo cassinii</i>	1 Teotihuacan
Blue-headed Vireo	<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	1 San Cristobal
Hutton's Vireo	<i>Vireo huttoni</i>	1 Zincantan
Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	scattered in highlands
Lesser Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus decurtatus</i>	Las Nubes and Palenque
White-throated Magpie-Jay	<i>Calocitta formosa</i>	9 in the Sumidero
Brown Jay	<i>Cyanocorax morio</i>	widespread in lowlands
Green Jay	<i>Cyanocorax yncas</i>	2 in the Sumidero
Unicolored Jay	<i>Apelocoma unicolor</i>	Orchid Garden, San Cristobal, and Montebello
Steller's Jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>	Orchid Garden, San Cristobal
Mangrove Swallow	<i>Tachycineta albilinea</i>	frequent
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	Usumacinta
Violet-green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>	scattered
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	widespread
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Usumacinta
Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	Usumacinta
Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Usumacinta
Gray-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>	Usumacinta
Purple Martin	<i>Progne subis</i>	Usumacinta
Bushtit	<i>Psaltiriparus minimus</i>	scattered
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	Montebello
Rufous-browed Wren	<i>Troglodytes rufociliatus</i>	Montebello
Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	2 Teotihuacan
Cactus Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i>	6+ Teotihuacan
Band-backed Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus zonatus</i>	San Cristobal Orchid Garden and Zincantan
Spot-breasted Wren	<i>Pheugopedius maculipectus</i>	Sumidero and Montebello
Banded Wren	<i>Thryophilus pleurostictus</i>	Sumidero
Long-billed Gnatwren	<i>Ramphocaenus melanurus</i>	singles in the forest patch at Guacamayas and Bonampak
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliophtila caerulea</i>	frequent
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	Teotihuacan
Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>	Montebello
Brown-backed Solitaire	<i>Myadestes occidentalis</i>	heard only in highlands
Wood Thrush	<i>Catharus mustelinus</i>	scattered throughout
Rufous-collared Thrush	<i>Turdus rufitorques</i>	Zincantan & Cerro Huitepec
Rufous-backed Thrush	<i>Turdus rufopalliatus</i>	Teotihuacan
Clay-colored Thrush	<i>Turdus grayi</i>	frequent
Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	scattered throughout
Blue & White Mockingbird	<i>Melanotis hypoleucus</i>	Zincantan
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottis</i>	1 Montebello

Tropical Mockingbird	<i>Mimus gilvus</i>	scattered throughout
Gray Silky-flycatcher	<i>Ptilogonys cinereus</i>	Zincantan
Curve-billed Trasher	<i>Toxostoma curvirostre</i>	Teotihuacan
Olive Warbler	<i>Peucedramus taeniatus</i>	1 Cerro Huitepec
Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>	1 Palenque
Worm-eating Warbler	<i>Helmitheros vermivorus</i>	2 Palenque
Northern Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>	mainly Palenque area
Louisiana Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus motacilla</i>	scattered throughout
Black-and-White Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	widespread
Crescent-chested Warbler	<i>Oriothlypis superciliosa</i>	just 1 Cerro Huitepec
Tennessee Warbler	<i>Vermivora peregrina</i>	scattered – common Las Nubes
Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Vermivora celata</i>	scattered throughout
Nashville Warbler	<i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i>	widespread in highlands
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	Usumacinta
Hooded Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis nelsonii</i>	Sumidero
MacGillivray's Warbler	<i>Geothlypis tolmiei</i>	Las Nubes and Usumacinta
Kentucky Warbler	<i>Geothlypis formosa</i>	1 Palenque
Colima Warbler	<i>Oreothlypis crissalis</i>	Teotihuacan
Mourning Warbler	<i>Oporornis philadelphia</i>	a few in the highlands
Hooded Warbler	<i>Wilsonia citrina</i>	lowlands
Wilson's Warbler	<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>	widespread
Northern Parula	<i>Setophaga americana</i>	1 Usumacinta
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	scattered - lowlands
Magnolia Warbler	<i>Dendroica magnolia</i>	widespread
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	Teotihuacan
Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>	scattered
Yellow-throated Warbler	<i>Dendroica dominica</i>	3 Usumacinta
Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Dendroica virens</i>	scattered
Golden-cheeked Warbler	<i>Dendroica chrysoparia</i>	Orchid Garden
Townsend's Warbler	<i>Dendroica townsendi</i>	highlands
Hermit Warbler	<i>Dendroica occidentalis</i>	1 Zincantan
American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	widespread in lowlands
Rufous-capped Warbler	<i>Basileuterus lachrymosus</i>	both days in San Cristobal area
Golden-browed Warbler	<i>Basileuterus belli</i>	both days in San Cristobal area
Golden-crowned Warbler	<i>Basileuterus culicivorus</i>	Montebello and Palenque
Slate-throated Redstart	<i>Myioborus miniatus</i>	common in the highlands
Painted Redstart	<i>Myioborus pictus</i>	Zincantan
Red-faced Warbler	<i>Cardellina rubrifrons</i>	1 Cerro Huitepec
Yellow-breasted Chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>	scattered in the lowlands
Gray-headed Tanager	<i>Eucometis penicillata</i>	1 Las Nubes
Crimson-collared Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus sanguineolentus</i>	Las Nubes
Passerini's Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus passerinii</i>	Guacamayas
Blue-grey Tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>	scattered
Yellow-winged Tanager	<i>Thraupis abbas</i>	scattered throughout
Golden-hooded Tanager	<i>Tangara larvata</i>	some flocks at Las Nubes
Red-legged Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i>	scattered in the lowlands – superb!
Green Honeycreeper	<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>	scattered in the lowlands
Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossa baritula</i>	orchid garden in San Cristobal
Blue-black Grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>	Usumacinta
Variable Seed eater	<i>Sporophila corvina</i>	Las Nubes & Guacamayas
White-collared Seed eater	<i>Sporophila torqueola</i>	lowlands

Thick-billed Seed-finch	<i>Oryzoborus funereus</i>	?probably this species Guacamayas forest patch
Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>	Las Nubes & Bonampak
Grayish Saltator	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>	scattered in lowlands
Buff-throated Saltator	<i>Saltator maximus</i>	Las Nubes and Palenque
Black-headed Saltator	<i>Saltator atriceps</i>	Guacamayas and Palenque
Orange-billed Sparrow	<i>Arremon aurantirostris</i>	1 Guacamayas Forest Patch
Olive Sparrow	<i>Arremonops rufivirgatus</i>	2 Roberto Barrios
Green-backed Sparrow	<i>Arremonops chloronotus</i>	2 Las Nubes and 2 en route to Bonampak
White-naped Brush-Finch	<i>Atlapetes albinucha</i>	Orchid Garden, San Cristobal
Canyon Towhee	<i>Pipilo fuscus</i>	Teotihuacan
Spotted Towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>	Orchid Garden San Cristobal
Botteri's Sparrow	<i>Peucaea botterii</i>	Usumacinta
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	Teotihuacan
Clay-coloured Sparrow	<i>Spizella pallida</i>	Teotihuacan
Black-chinned Sparrow	<i>Spizella atrogularis</i>	Teotihuacan
Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolni</i>	scattered
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Teotihuacan
Vesper Sparrow	<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>	1 Usumacinta
Grasshopper Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Usumacinta
Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes gramicus</i>	Teotihuacan
Rusty Sparrow	<i>Aimophila rufescens</i>	Montebello
Rufous-collared Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>	highlands
Prevost's Ground-Sparrow	<i>Melospiza biarcuata</i>	Montebello
Common Chlorospingus	<i>Chlorospingus flavopectus</i>	Montebello
Red-crowned Ant-Tanager	<i>Habia rubica</i>	Palenque
Red-throated Ant-Tanager	<i>Habia fuscicauda</i>	widespread in lowlands
Hepatic Tanager	<i>Piranga flava</i>	widespread in highlands
Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>	widely scattered
Western Tanager	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>	frequent in the highlands
White-winged Tanager	<i>Piranga leucoptera</i>	Sumidero
Black-faced Grosbeak	<i>Caryothraustes poliogaster</i>	Las Nubes, Guacamayas & Bonampak
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	scattered
Blue-Black Grosbeak	<i>Cyanocopsa cyanoides</i>	Bonampak and La Cascada Trail, Palenque
Blue Grosbeak	<i>Passerina caerulea</i>	a male Usumacinta
Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	Usumacinta
Varied Bunting	<i>Passerina versicolor</i>	a male Sumidero
Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	scattered
Melodius Blackbird	<i>Dives dives</i>	widespread in lowlands
Bronzed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus aeneus</i>	Roberto Barrios
Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	widespread
Orchard Oriole	<i>Icterus spurius</i>	scattered in the lowlands
Black-vented Oriole	<i>Icterus wagleri</i>	Teotihuacan
Black-cowled Oriole	<i>Icterus prosthelas</i>	1 Las Nubes and 1 Usumacinta
Abeille's Oriole	<i>Icterus abeillei</i>	Teotihuacan
Yellow-backed Oriole	<i>Icterus chrysater</i>	Orchid Garden, San Cristobal
Yellow-tailed Oriole	<i>Icterus mesomelas</i>	Guacamayas
Streak-backed Oriole	<i>Icterus pustulatus</i>	Sumidero

Altamira Oriole	<i>Icterus gularis</i>	scattered throughout
Baltimore Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	widespread
Montezuma's Oropendula	<i>Psarocolius montezuma</i>	common in lowlands
Yellow-throated Euphonia	<i>Euphonia hirundinacea</i>	widespread in low numbers
Scrub Euphonia	<i>Euphonia affinis</i>	scattered in the Palenque area
Olive-backed Euphonia	<i>Euphonia gouldii</i>	scattered in the lowlands
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	Teotihuacan
Black-headed Siskin	<i>Carduelis notata</i>	Montebello area
Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis psaltria</i>	scattered
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	San Cristobal and Mexico City
Tricoloured Munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>	Usumacinta Marshes

Systematic List Number 3

Mammals

Order and nomenclature follow Reid (1997) *Mammals of Central America and south-east Mexico*.

Long-nosed Bat	<i>Rhynchonycteris naso</i>	several small groups roosting along the Sendales River, Guacamayas
Greater Fishing Bat	<i>Noctilio leporinus</i>	several of these spectacular bats seen on both Guacamayas night boat rides
Common/Virginia Opossum	<i>Didelphis marsupialis/virginiana</i>	one at night at Guacamayas – IG only
Four-eyed Gray Opossum	<i>Philander opossum</i>	one on Guacamayas night boat ride
Yucatan Black Howler	<i>Alouatta pigra</i>	Guacamayas where abundant and Palenque area where quite common too
Central American Spider Monkey	<i>Ateles geoffroyi</i>	a few at the Sumidero Canyon and several groups at Guacamayas
Kinkajou	<i>Potos flavus</i>	2 on the first Guacamayas night boat ride
Neotropical River Otter	<i>Lutra longicaudis</i>	singles on both morning boat trips at Guacamayas
Tayra	<i>Eira barbara</i>	great views of one by some of the group on the viewpoint trail at Las Nubes, and one on Guacamayas night boat ride
Baird's Tapir	<i>Tapirus bairdii</i>	Fabulous close-up views on the second night boat trip at Guacamayas, several of us walked out on to the sand bar with the Tapir and got as close as 7m!
Mexican Gray Squirrel	<i>Sciurus aureogaster</i>	common at Sumidero, San Cristobal and Montebello
Yucatan Squirrel	<i>Sciurus yucatanensis</i>	Las Nubes and Palenque
Deppe's Squirrel	<i>Sciurus deppei</i>	Las Nubes and Palenque
Mexican Ground Squirrel	<i>Sciurus mexicanus</i>	Teotihuacan
Forest Rabbit	<i>Sylvilagus brasiliensis</i>	1 at night Las Nubes (IG only)

Systematic List Number 4

Reptiles & Amphibians

American Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus acutus</i>	Sumidero Canyon
Morelet's Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus moreletii</i>	Guacamayas
Red-eared Slider	<i>Trachemys scripta</i>	San Cristobal Orchid Garden
Red Coffee Snake	<i>Ninia sebae</i>	Las Nubes
Speckled Racer	<i>Drymobius margaritiferus</i>	a dead one in Sumidero National Park
Hernandez's		
Helmeted Basilisk	<i>Corytophanes hernandezii</i>	Las Nubes
Striped Basilisk	<i>Basiliscus vittatus</i>	widespread
Brown Forest Skink	<i>Sphenomorphus cherriei</i>	Palenque
Metallic Ameiva	<i>Ameiva undulata</i>	Palenque
Crevice Spiny Lizard	<i>Sceloporus poinsettii</i>	Teotihuacan
Iguana	<i>Iguana iguana</i>	Guacamayas & Palenque
Black Iguana	<i>Ctenosaurus similis</i>	Sumidero, Montebello etc
Anolis species	<i>Anolis spp</i>	more than one noted!
Marine Toad	<i>Rhinella marina</i>	Guacamayas

Selected Plant List

Many thanks to Frieda for providing the following list of plants we saw by site.

Tuxtla Gutierrez, 16-02-2017

Tabebuia rosea
Tabebuia donnell-smithii

Canyon del Sumidero, dry forest, 1200 m, 16-02-2017

Tectona grandis
Bauhinia divaricata
Cochlospermum vitifolium
Justicia pectoralis ?
Acanthaceae
Combretum sp.
Bromelia sp.
Anthurium sp.
Euphorbia tithymaloides
Ruellia sp.
Opuntia sp.
Iresine diffusa
Oreopanax sp.
Tillandsia butzii
Tillandsia schiedeana
Heliocarpus sp.
Jatropha sp. (white fl.)
Tabebuia donnell-smithii
Agave sp.
Begonia sp.

Reserva Huitepec, pine-oak forest, 2200 m, 17-02-2017

Quercus crassifolia
Quercus rugosa
Adiantum sp.
Chusquea ?
Monnina sp. (ciliolata ?)
Oreopanax xalapensis
Conopholis alpina
Diphasiastrum digitatum
Tillandsia guatemalensis
Tillandsia ponderosa ?
Arbutus xalapensis
Epiphyllum sp.
Passiflora vespertilio
Salvia elegans
Styracaceae ?
Begonia sp.

Clethra mexicana
Fuchsia splendens
Fraxinus sp.
Cirsium ehrenbergii
Peperomia sp.
Woodwardia radicans

Reserva Moxviquil, 17-02-2017

Tillandsia ponderosa
Tillandsia prodigiosa ?
Sprekelia formosissima
Prostechea cochleata
Chiranthodendron pentadactylon
Justicia aurea

Cerro Huatepec, 2350 m, 18-02-2017

Quercus rugosa ?
Quercus magnoliifolia ?
Quercus laurina ?
Roldana angulifolia
Agapanthus sp.
Fuchsia splendens
Lobelia laxiflora
Stachys coccinea ?
Coriaria sp.
Phytolacca sp.
Salvia elegans
Monnina ciliata
Ternstroemia sp.
Citharexylum sp.
Arbutus xalapensis
Fuchsia paniculata
Buddleja sp.
Sedum praealtum
Passiflora sp.

Parador Santa Marta, garden, 18-02-2017

Pelargonium cv.
Sedum morganianum
Callistemon citrinus ?
Thunbergia mysorensis
Lycaste skinneri
Laelia halbingeriana
Heliconia caribaea ?
Coffea arabica

Montebello Lagunas, pine-oak-Liquidambar forest, 1500 m, 19-02-2017

Liquidambar styraciflua
Vriesea werckleana
Odontonema callistachyum
Clethra suaveolens
Gonolobus sp.
Urticac.
Securidaca sp.1 (not Polygala)
Heliocarpus sp.
Rhynchosstele bicktoniense ?
Wigandia urens
Hauya elegans
Rondeletia sp. (not Bouvardia)
Commelinaceae
Combretum sp.
Securidaca sp.2 (not Polygala)
Polygala sp. (dwarf)
Kohleria ?
Pinguicula moranensis

Chinkultic archeological site, 19-02-2017

Tillandsia spp.

road to Laguna Pojoj, 1500 m, 20-02-2017

Bocconia sp.
Odontonema callistachyum
Begonia sp.
Hauya elegans

Las Nubes, tropical forest, 250 m, 20 & 21-02-2017

Cuphea hyssopifolia ?
Philodendron sp.
Syngonium podophyllum
Epidendrum stamfordianum
Schizolobium parahyba
Cryosophila nana ?
Acanthaceae (creamy white flowers)
Kohleria ?
Anemia sp.
Begonia spp.
Louteridium donnell-smithii
Philodendron radiatum
Aristolochia grandiflora
Rhipsalis sp.
Montanoa sp.
Miconia sp.

Monstera acuminata ?
Philodendron cf. hederaceum ?
Maxillaria sp.
Montanoa sp.
Burseraceae

Las Nubes, tropical forest, mirador, 21-02-2017

Sabal sp.
Pseudobombax ellipticum ?
Pitcairnia sp.
Melastomataceae
Dalechampia sp.
Tillandsia bulbosa
Ruellia sp.
Acacia cornigera
Desmoncus sp.
Syngonium podophyllum
Anthurium sp.
Louteridium donnell-smithii

Canyon del Jabali, 300 m, 21-02-2017

Rondeletia sp.
Serjania sp.
Cassytha filiformis
Hauya elegans

road to Las Guacamayas, 160 m, 21-02-2017

Glyricidia sepium

rio Lacantun, 22-02-2017

Hymenocallis littoralis
Bactris sp.
Sabal sp.
Combretum sp.
Desmoncus sp.
Malvaviscus arboreus
Scheelea liebmanna ?
Aristolochia grandiflora
Justicia pectoralis
Bonnaya antipoda
Geophila sp.
Crescentia cujete
Ipomoea alba
Cola sp.
Attalea maripa ?
Ceiba pentandra

Philodendron hederaceum ?
Sabal sp.

sendero Saraguato, 23-02-2017

Chamaedorea sp.
Scheelea sp.
Desmoncus sp.
Heliconia sp.
Anthurium kunthii ?
Monstera sp.
Philodendron spp.
Sabal sp.
Vriesea sp.
Psychotria poeppigiana
Lygodium sp.

road to Bonampak, 24-02-2017

Cochlospermum vitifolium
Dalechampia scandens
Mimosa albida
Coutoubea spicata
Bactris sp.

Bonampak, archeological site, 24-02-2017

Tillandsia schiedeana
Tillandsia spp.
Trigonidium sp.
Dracaena sp.
Spathiphyllum sp.

Palenque, archeological site, 25-02-2017

Colocasia gigantea
Deamia testudo
Ceiba pentandra
Ficus sp.
Urera baccifera
Justicia aurea ?
Burseraceae

rio Usumacinta, marshland, savanna, 26-02-2017

Tabebuia rosea
Schizolobium parahyba
Utricularia sp.
Mimosa albida
Curatella americana

Paullinia sp.
Guazuma ulmifolia
Sabal mexicana
Nymphoides indica
Nymphoides peltata
Thalia geniculata
Crescentia cujete
Nymphaea sp.

Cascadas Roberto Barrias, 27-02-2017

Cojoba arborea
Tillandsia streptophylla
Hamelia patens
Heliocarpus sp.
Philodendron cf. hederaceum ?
Blepharidium mexicanum
Strophocactus (= Deamia) testudo
Billbergia sp.

Sendero Motiepa, 28-02-2017

Myriocarpa longipes
Odontonema strictum ?
Dieffenbachia aurantiaca
Syngonium podophyllum
Rhipsalis sp.