

Birds seen on a family holiday in Mexico staying at Bucerias just inside the state of Nayarit on the Pacific Coast from 13<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> April 2003. Most birding was done locally and a few places visited by public transport boat or taxi.

Author Derek C Marsh.

Blue-footed Booby	Common offshore Bucerias and some days large numbers feeding offshore there, also seen at Punta de Mita and Sayulita.
Brown Booby	Not so common as Blue-footed but seen most days in the same places, also pale headed pacific race seen most days.
Brown Pelican	Very common seen daily.
Neotropic Cormorant	Odd birds seen offshore most days, common at Laguna de Quelele, 15/4 & 23/4, 50+, roosting in trees Sayulita, 24/4.
Magnificent Frigatebird	Very common seen daily.
Great Blue Heron	Only one seen at the far end of Laguna de Quelele, 27/4
Great Egret	Fairly common at Laguna de Quelele and the odd bird seen flying over Bucerias early most mornings
Snowy Egret	Common at Laguna de Quelele, 30+, Sayulita, 24/4.
Little Blue Heron	Scarce 1, Laguna de Quelele, 15/4 and 1 there 23/4.
Tricolored Heron	3, Laguna de Quelele, 15/4
Green Heron	Fairly common at Laguna de Quelele but only seen there.
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	Very common at Laguna de Quelele, 100+ roosting there 23/4.
White Ibis	Very common at Laguna de Quelele and seen in any suitable habitats elsewhere.
White-faced Ibis	1 in a small estuary Sayulita, 24/4.
Wood Stork	Scarce odd bird seen at Laguna de Quelele on all visits and the odd flyover seen in the Bucerias area early some mornings.
Black-bellied-Whistling Duck	Very common at Laguna de Quelele several hundreds seen there, 15/4.
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	30+, Laguna de Quelele, 23/4
Black Vulture	Common seen daily
Turkey Vulture	Common seen daily
Crane Hawk	1, between Sayulita and Bucerias, 21/5
Grey Hawk	Odd bird seen in flight occasionally, 1, perched in a tree Bucerias, 22/4.
Red-tailed Hawk	1, Bucerias, 16/4.
Crested Caracara	1, Laguna de Quelele, 23/4
Collared-forest Falcon	1, between Puerto Vallarta and Bucerias, 13/4
Rufous-bellied Chachalaca	10+, calling Sayulita 24/4, and 3, seen very well there that day.
Elegant Quail	Fairly common in scrub and grassy habitats around Bucerias and seen in small groups most days, also seen at Laguna de Quelele, 15/4.
Rufous-necked Wood Rail	1 seen on the last day of the holiday at the seaward end of Laguna de Quelele, 27/4
Black-bellied Plover	A few birds present at Laguna de Quelele, 23/4
Semipalmated Plover	A few birds present at Laguna de Quelele, 23/4
Killdeer	1, flushed from a small pool Bucerias, 18/4.
Black-necked Stilt	Fairly common at Laguna de Quelele and seen there on 15 <sup>th</sup> and 23/4
American Avocet	Only one seen at Laguna de Quelele, 23/4
Willet	Common at Laguna de Quelele, the odd bird Bucerias beach most days

Spotted Sandpiper	2, Laguna de Quelele, 15/4, 1, 23/4.
Whimbrel	1, seen at Punta de Mita, 16/4 and 1, Laguna de Quelele, 23/4.
Long-billed Curlew	Only one seen at Laguna de Quelele, 15/4
Sanderling	15 north Bucerias beach, 25/4
Least Sandpiper	50+, Laguna de Quelele, 23/4
Short-billed Dowitcher	Fairly common at Laguna de Quelele and seen there on 15 <sup>th</sup> and 23/4
Long-billed Dowitcher	Fairly common at Laguna de Quelele and seen there on 15 <sup>th</sup> and 23/4
Laughing Gull	Very common seen daily.
Heermann's Gull	Very common seen daily.
Royal Tern	Very common seen daily.
Elegant Tern	1, seen from a boat between Yelapa and Puerto Vallarta, 17/4
Forster's Tern	Scarce, 1 offshore, Sayulita, 21/4 and the odd bird seen Bucerias beach.
Least Tern	Fairly common small numbers seen most days.
Feral Pigeon	Very common seen daily.
Red-billed Pigeon	Fairly common at Laguna de Quelele and seen there on 15 <sup>th</sup> and 23/4
White-winged Dove	Fairly common small numbers seen most days.
Mourning Dove	1, at the seaward end of Laguna de Quelele, 27/4
Inca Dove	Fairly common small numbers seen most days.
Common Ground-Dove	Very common seen daily.
Ruddy Ground-Dove	Fairly common small numbers seen most days.
White-tipped Dove	1, at the far end of Laguna de Quelele, 27/4
Orange-fronted Parakeet	Common at Yelapa , 17/4, also seen in small numbers at Sayulita, 21 <sup>st</sup> and 24/4.
Squirrel Cuckoo	One of the most stunning birds seen this trip. 2, Sayulita, 21/4 and 1 there 24/4.
Grove-billed Ani	Fairly common small numbers seen most days.
Ferruginous Pygmy Owl	1, Bucerias, 20/4, and 1, there 22/4.
Lesser Nighthawk	1, Bucerias, 27/4.
Broad-billed Hummingbird	1, seen in a large flowering tree Bucerias Town, 14/4 and the odd bird in that tree and around our hotel throughout our stay.
Cinnamon Hummingbird	1, seen in a large flowering tree Bucerias Town, 14/4 and the odd bird in that tree throughout our stay.
Black-chinned Hummingbird	1, seen in a large flowering tree Bucerias Town, 14/4
Citreoline Trogon	1, Bucerias, 18/4, 1, about 1.5 miles south of Bucerias, 20/4.
Belted Kingfisher	1, Laguna de Quelele, 15/4
Green Kingfisher	3, Laguna de Quelele, 15/4, 2 there 23/4, 1, on a small pool Bucerias 19/4, which stayed there for a few days.
Golden-cheeked Woodpecker	Fairly common small numbers seen most days.
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	1, Bucerias, 14/4.
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	1, Bucerias, 23/4.
Willow Flycatcher	1, Bucerias, 23rd & 26/4.
Nutting's Flycatcher	1, Bucerias, 20/4.
Brown-crested Flycatcher	1, Bucerias, 20/4.
Great Kiskadee	Fairly common small numbers seen daily.
Social Flycatcher	Fairly common small numbers seen daily.
Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher	1, Yelapa, 17/4.
Tropical Kingbird	Very common seen daily.
Thick-billed Kingbird	1, Bucerias, 14/4.

Western Kingbird	Fairly common small numbers seen most days.
Masked Titra	4, Sayulita, 21/4 and 3 there 24/4.
Grey-breasted Martin	1, Bucerias, 14/4.
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Very common seen daily.
Barn Swallow	Fairly common small numbers seen most days especially around Bucerias Town.
Black-throated Magpie Jay	1, Sayulita, 21/4 and 1 there 24/4, 2 seen from a bus between Sayulita and Bucerias, 21/4.
Sans Blas Jay	Surprisingly common small family party's seen in the Bucerias area most days.
Sinola Crow	Odd bird seen around Bucerias a few times, 50+, Sayulita 24/4.
Happy Wren	1, about 1.5 miles south of Bucerias, 20/4.
Sinola Wren	1, Laguna de Quelele, 15/4, and 7 birds seen in the Bucerias area on various days.
Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	1, Bucerias, 20/4.
Swainson's Thrush	2, Yelapa, 17/4, 1, Bucerias 23/4.
Rufous-backed Thrush	2, Yelapa, 17/4, 1, Laguna de Quelele, 23/4.
Plumbeous Vireo	1, Sayulita, 21/4.
Warbling Vireo	1, Laguna de Quelele, 15/4.
Yellow-green Vireo	5, Yelapa, 17/4.
Tropical Parula	1, at Punta de Mita, 16/4, 3, Sayulita, 21/4, 2, Bucerias, 22/4.
Yellow Warbler	Most common warbler seen daily.
Black and White Warbler	1, Laguna de Quelele, 15/4, and the odd bird also seen in the Bucerias area throughout our stay.
American Redstart	8, Laguna de Quelele, 15/4, 1, Bucerias, 26/4.
Ovenbird	1, Laguna de Quelele, 15/4.
Northern Waterthrush	1, about 1.5 miles south of Bucerias, 18/4.
Louisiana Waterthrush	1, about 1.5 miles south of Bucerias, 19/4.
MacGillivray's Warbler	1, Laguna de Quelele, 15/4, fairly common in the Bucerias area, 10+, there 19/4 and a few seen most days when birding locally
Common Yellowthroat	1, Laguna de Quelele, 15/4.
Yellow-breasted Chat	1, Bucerias, 14/4, 1, 16/4, 1, 19/4.
Scrub Euphonia	2, seen at the far end of Laguna de Quelele, 27/4
Western Tanager	4, Sayulita, 21/4.
Greyish Saltator	Fairly common small numbers seen most days.
Blue Bunting	1, Sayulita, 21/4, 1, 24/4
Blue Grosbeak	Fairly common around the Bucerias area small numbers seen most days.
Varied Bunting	1, about 1.5 miles south of Bucerias, 18/4.
Painted Bunting	10+, Sayulita, 21/4.
Blue-black Grassquit	2, Bucerias, 20/4, and the odd bird seen after that throughout our stay.
Stripe-headed Sparrow	Fairly common small numbers seen most days.
Grasshopper Sparrow	1, Bucerias, 18/4.
Savannah Sparrow	Small numbers seen at Laguna de Quelele, 15/4.
Lincoln's Sparrow	Small numbers seen at Laguna de Quelele, 15/4, Fairly common around the Bucerias area small numbers seen most days.
Great-tailed Grackle	Very common seen daily.
Bronzed Cowbird	Up to 15 birds seen feeding in the gardens of our hotel most days and seen in small numbers around Bucerias.
Orchard Oriole	Fairly common around the Bucerias area small numbers seen most days.

Hooded Oriole	Fairly common around the Bucerias to start with but numbers dried up quickly
Streaked-backed Oriole	Common seen daily.
Yellow-winged Cacique	Common and noisy seen daily.
House Finch	1, seen at the far end of Laguna de Quelele, 27/4
House Sparrow	Always seemed to be the first bird calling at dawn common seen daily.

Total number of species seen 122

Places Visited:

Bucerias

The hotel we stayed in was The Royal Decameron in Bucerias and I birded an area approximately 2miles range but mainly to the south.

Languna de Quelele

The easiest way to get there was to take a 15-minute taxi to the main lagoon, however the far end of the lagoon area could be reached by about a 40-minute walk.

Punta de Mita

This was about a 45-minute bus ride away.

Yelapa

This was a 30-minute bus ride to Puerto Vallarta and then a 45-minute journey by water taxi to Yelapa.

Sayulita

This was about a 45-minute bus ride away. The surf here is excellent for anyone who likes to surf.