


Birding at the Vallarta Botanical Gardens



Those who frequent the Vallarta Botanical Gardens know what a haven our grounds are for our feathered friends. The color, texture and variety of our diverse plant collections must quickly catch the eye of those flying overhead. Additional enticements are the many feeders we have throughout the gardens with fruit, nuts, and even sugar-water for the hummingbirds. This combination has made us popular not just amongst birds, but those who flock from afar to see some of the remarkable species to be noted in the tropics of Western Mexico. We encourage you to post your garden birding highlights on the "VBG BirdBlog" on our website www.vbgardens.org. Here are a few special days to bird with us...

 **2012 Vallarta Bird Festival, March 15-18 hosted by the Vallarta Botanical Gardens**
Join us for lectures, workshops, and field exploration throughout the Garden grounds and our favorite hotspots offsite! We kick off the festival on the 15th before regular Garden opening for the "early birds" to get started during the prime sighting time of the morning. Action packed nature walks with expert guides in unique habitats are sure to satisfy even the most advanced birders, and lectures from local and international authorities on many interesting birding related topics will round out the festival. Visit www.vallartabirdfestival.org for more info.

2012 Hummingbird Week at the Vallarta Botanical Gardens, 1st week of May

The two most common hummingbirds to be seen at the Gardens are the aggressive Cinnamon Hummingbird and the Long-tailed Hermit. Late April and early May usually bring a wealth of visiting species in a phenomenon of hummingbird migration. For this brief period we have an abundance of different species to observe and study. Join us at this time for daily guided hummingbird tours. Visit our website www.vbgardens.org for more info.

Vallarta Botanical Gardens' Nocturnal/Crepuscular Birding Checklist

Visit the Gardens during a nighttime event for a chance to observe nocturnal/crepuscular birds...

| Night | Binomial (Genus & Species) | Spanish Common Name | English Common Name |
|-------|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | <i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i> | Añapero Garrapena | Lesser Nighthawk |
| | <i>Strix virgata</i> | Búho Café | Mottled Owl |

Birding Checklist for Boca de Tomatlán to Colomitos Hike:

From the Gardens, it's less than 6 km as the calandria flies to the oceanfront town of Boca de Tomatlán. A short hike along the thickly forested shore brings you to the secluded cove of Los Colomitos abundant in tropical shorebirds included in the following separate list. Of course you may also see some of the same forest birds encountered in the Gardens too! Birding enthusiasts often meet up at the Gardens on Wednesday afternoons at 2:00 pm to get together for offsite hikes to destinations such as Colomitos.

| Shorebirds | Binomial (Genus & Species) | Spanish Common Name | English Common Name |
|------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | <i>Ardea alba</i> | Garza Blanca | Great Egret, Great White Egret |
| | <i>Egretta caerulea</i> | Garceta Azul | Little blue heron |
| | <i>Egretta tricolor</i> | Garceta Tricolor | Louisiana (Tricolor) heron |
| | <i>Eudocimus albus</i> | Ibis Blanco Americano | White ibis |
| | <i>Fregata magnificens</i> | Fragata Magnífica/Real | Magnificent Frigatebird |
| | <i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i> | Pelicano Norteamericano | American White Pelican |
| | <i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i> | Pelicano Café | Brown Pelican |
| | <i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i> | Cormoran Bigua | Neotropic/Olivaceous Cormorant |
| | <i>Platalea ajaja</i> | Espatula Rosada | Roseate Spoonbill |
| | <i>Nycticorax violaceus</i> | | Yellow-crowned Night Heron |
| | <i>Sula leucogaster</i> | Bobo Café | Brown Booby |



This document, "Birding at the VBG" is available on our website www.vbgardens.org. Feel free to print!

La versión en española de este documento está disponible en nuestro sitio web www.vbgardens.org.

Vallarta Botanical Gardens' Birding Checklist

| Binomial (Genus & Species) | Spanish Common Name | English Common Name |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Accipiter cooperii</i> | Azor de Cooper | Cooper's Hawk |
| <i>Accipiter striatus</i> | Esparvero Chico | Sharp-shinned Hawk |
| <i>Amazilia rutila</i> | Amazilia canela | Cinnamon Hummingbird |
| <i>Amazona finschi</i> | Amazona de Corona Violeta | Lilac-crowned Parrot |
| <i>Ara militaris</i> | Guacamaya Verde | Military Macaw |
| <i>Aratinga canicularis</i> | Perico Frentinaranja | Orange-fronted Parakeet |
| <i>Archilochus alexandri</i> | Colibri Gorginegro | Black-chinned Hummingbird |
| <i>Asturina nitida, Buteo nitida</i> | Gavilán Saraviado | Gray Hawk |
| <i>Buteo albonotatus</i> | Aguilucho negro | Zone-tailed Hawk |
| <i>Buteogallus anthracinus</i> | Gavilán Cangrejero Negro | Common Black Hawk |
| <i>Cacicus melanicterus</i> | Calandria | Yellow-winged Cacique |
| <i>Callipepla douglasii</i> | Colín Elegante, Codorniz Crestidorada | Elegant Quail |
| <i>Calocitta colliei</i> | Urraca de Copete | Black-throated Magpie-Jay |
| <i>Campephilus guatemalensis</i> | Picamaderos Piquiclaro | Pale-billed Woodpecker |
| <i>Cathartes aura</i> | Buitre Americano Cabecirrojo | Turkey Vulture, Buzzard |
| <i>Columba flavirostris</i> | Paloma Piquirroja | Red-billed Pigeon |
| <i>Columbina inca</i> | Tortolita Mexicana | Inca Dove |
| <i>Contopus pertinax</i> | | Greater Pewee |
| <i>Coragyps atratus</i> | Buitre Negro, Zopilote | American Black Vulture |
| <i>Cyanocorax sanblasianus</i> | Charpa de San Blas | San Blas Jay |
| <i>Cyanocorax yncas</i> | Querre-Querre, Chara Verde | Green Jay |
| <i>Cynanthus latirostris</i> | Colibrí Piquiancho (de pico ancho) | Broad-billed Hummingbird |
| <i>Dryocopus lineatus</i> | Picamaderos Listado | Lineated Woodpecker |
| <i>Empidonax difficilis</i> | Atrapamoscas Occidental | Pacific-slope Flycatcher |
| <i>Harpyhaliaetus solitaries</i> | | Solitary Eagle |
| <i>Heliomaster constantii</i> | Colibrí Pochotero | Plain-capped Starthroat |
| <i>Icterus cucullatus</i> | Bolsero encapuchado | Hooded Oriole |
| <i>Icterus wagleri</i> | Turpial Culinegro | Black-Vented Oriole |
| <i>Icterus pustulatus</i> | Bolsero Dorsirrayado | Streak-backed Oriole |
| <i>Leptotila verreauxi</i> | Paloma Titibú | White-tipped Dove |
| <i>Megaceryle torquata</i> | Martín Pescador Grande | Ringed kingfisher |
| <i>Megarhynchus pitangua</i> | Pitanguá | Boat-billed Flycatcher |
| <i>Melanerpes chrysogenys</i> | Carpintero Cachetidorado | Golden-cheeked Woodpecker |
| <i>Melanotis caerulescens</i> | Mulato Común, Mulato Azul | Blue mockingbird |
| <i>Momotus mexicanus</i> | Momoto Mexicano | Russet-crowned Motmot |
| <i>Ortalis poliocephala</i> | Chachalaca Pacífica | West Mexican Chachalaca |
| <i>Pachyrampus aglaiae</i> | | Roose-throated Becard |
| <i>Penelope purpurascens</i> | Pava Moñuda, Cojolite | Crested Guan |
| <i>Phaethornis superciliosus</i> | Ermitaño Colilargo | Long-tailed Hermit |
| <i>Piaya cayana</i> | Cuco Ardilla | Squirrel Cuckoo |
| <i>Piranga ludoviciana</i> | Tangara Aliblanca Migratoria | Western Tanager |
| <i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i> | Benteveo Común, Bichofeo | Great Kiskadee |
| <i>Saltator coerulescens</i> | Saltador Ajicero, Pepitero Gris | Greyish Saltator |
| <i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i> | Golondrina Aserrada | Northern Rough-winged Swallow |
| <i>Thryothorus felix</i> | | Happy wren |
| <i>Thryothorus sinaloa</i> | | Sinaloa wren |
| <i>Tityra semifasciata</i> | Titira enmascarado, Puerquito | Masked Tityra |
| <i>Trogon citreolus</i> | Trogon Citrino | Citreoline Trogon |
| <i>Trogon elegans</i> | Trogón Elegante | Elegant Trogon |
| <i>Turdus assimilis</i> | Mirlo Gorgiblanco | White-throated Thrush |
| <i>Turdus rufopalliatus</i> | Zorzal Dorsicanelo, Maravilla | Rufous-backed Robin |
| <i>Tyrannus crassirostris</i> | Tirano Piquigrueso | Thick-billed kingbird |
| <i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i> | Benteveo Real, Sirirí | Tropical Kingbird |
| <i>Tyrannus verticalis</i> | Tirano Occidental | Western Kingbird |
| <i>Vireo solitaries</i> | Vireo Solitario | Solitary Vireo |
| <i>Vireo vicinor</i> | Vireo Grisaceo | Gray vireo |
| <i>Zenaida asiatica</i> | Paloma de Alas Blancas | White-winged dove |
| <i>Zenaida macroura</i> | Huilota | Mourning Dove |