

Updates to the ebird/Clements taxonomy

relevant for

Mexico

2016-2018

Only species relevant to Mexico will be treated in this document. The semi-official Mexican [species list](#) will be the basis of the work. First version of the document is created in 2016, and will therefore not include updates to earlier versions. Only significant changes will be listed, such as splits and lumps, as well as name and range changes and changes to sequence if these are significant enough. To get a complete overview of the changes made to every species please check with the official information from the ebird/Clements [site](#).

2016

Leach's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*)

Split into 3 species.

New monotypic species **Townsend's Storm-Petrel** (*Oceanodroma socorroensis*) with range: summer breeder on islets off Guadalupe I. (western Mexico); ranges in eastern Pacific north to southern California and south to ca 10° N".

New monotypic species **Ainley's Storm-Petrel** (*Oceanodroma cheimomnestes*) with range: winter breeder on islets off Guadalupe I. (western Mexico); nonbreeding range poorly known, but apparently disperses south in eastern Pacific, to at least as far as the Galapagos Islands.

The rest of the subspecies stay with Leach's Storm-Petrel without relevant changes.

Gray-necked Wood-Rail (*Aramides cajaneus*)

Split into 2 species.

New monotypic species **Russet-naped Wood-Rail** (*Aramides albiventris*) with range: Mexico (north to southern Oaxaca and southern Tamaulipas) south on both slopes to Nicaragua and northeastern Costa Rica.

The other species [not relevant to Mexico] becomes **Gray-cowled Wood-Rail** (*Aramides cajaneus*) with subspecies *cajaneus* and *avicenniae* with range from Costa Rica and south.

Green Violetear (*Colibri thalassinus*)

Split into 2 species.

New monotypic species **Mexican Violetear (*Colibri thalassinus*)** with range: Open mountain slopes of s Mexico to n-central Nicaragua.

The other new species [not relevant to Mexico] becomes **Lesser Violetear** (*Colibri cyanotus*) includes the rest of the subspecies present from Costa Rica and south.

Blue-crowned Motmot (*Momotus coeruliceps*)

Split into 2 species. Adding one extra species to the Mexican list. Is also endemic.

New monotypic endemic species **Blue-capped Motmot** (*Momotus coeruliceps*) with range: NE Mexico (Nuevo León and Tamaulipas to n Veracruz).

New polytypic species **Lesson's Motmot** (*Momotus lessonii*) with old subspecies *lessonii*, *goldmani* and *exiguus*. Ranges are unchanged meaning that this species is the one you are expected to find in the south and southeastern parts of Mexico (south from central Veracruz).

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*)

New group added.

The subspecies *flammeus*, *mexicanus*, *blatteus* and *pinicola* are grouped in a new group called Northern. They include all subspecies relevant for Mexico, and the species should therefore best be referred to as **Vermilion Flycatcher (Northern)**.

Western Scrub-Jay (*Aphelocoma californica*)

Split into 2 species. Adding one extra species to the Mexican list.

One polytypic species **California Scrub-Jay (*Aphelocoma californica*)** with subspecies *immanis*, *caurina*, *ooceptica*, *californica*, *cana*, *obscura*, *cactophila* and *hypoleuca*, Occurs in Mexico in the Californian Peninsula.

One polytypic species **Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay (*Aphelocoma woodhouseii*)** with two groups consisting of subspecies *nevadae*, *woodhouseii*, *texana*, *grisea*, *cyanotis*, *sumichrasti* and *remota*. Occurs from Sonora to Oaxaca, but apparently also some birds moving into the area of California Scrub-Jay in Baja California.

Plain Wren (*Cantorchilus modestus*)

Split into 3 species.

The split only affects Mexico by change of common name since the two new species are created based on subspecies from further south.

The new name for Plain Wren is **Cabanis's Wren (*Cantorchilus modestus*)**.

White-bellied Wren (*Uropsila leucogastra*)

Adding and deleting subspecies. Range changes.

Under the group Middle American several new subspecies have been added:

grisescens: northeastern Mexico (southern Tamaulipas south at least to eastern San Luis Potosí).

centralis: south central Mexico (northern Puebla to central Veracruz).

restricta: northwestern Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico.

Subspecies *musica* is deleted, being synonym of *leucogastra*.

New range for *leucogastra*: southeastern Mexico (southeastern Veracruz, northern Oaxaca, Tabasco, and northern Chiapas).

Range change of *brachyuran*: central and southern Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico.

Deletion of subspecies *hawkinsi*.

Range change of *australis*: southeastern Mexico (southern Quintana Roo) and Belize; also local in northern Honduras.

Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*)

Adding subspecies. Range changes.

Adding *nidificans*: Mexico (southwestern Tamaulipas to central Veracruz).

Range change *guatemalae*: southern Mexico (Chiapas) and Guatemala.

Brown-backed Solitaire (*Myadestes occidentalis*)

Deleting subspecies. Range change.

Deleting *cinereus*.

Range change *occidentalis*: mountains of western Mexico (Sonora south to Oaxaca).

Range change *oberholseri*: mountains from northeastern Mexico south to Guatemala, El Salvador and central Honduras.

2017

There have been several re-orderings within different genera or families but these changes are not commented in this list.

Genus *chen*

Genus change.

Snow Goose and Ross's Goose are moved to the genus *Anser*, becoming *Anser caerulescens* and *Anser rossii*.

Genus *Anas*

Genus split into 4 different genera with 2 new relevant to Mexico:

Garganey => *Spatula querquedula*

Blue-winged Teal => *Spatula discors*

Cinnamon Teal => *Spatula cyanoptera*

Northern Shoveler => *Spatula clypeata*

Gadwall => *Mareca strepera*

Euroasian Wigeon => *Mareca penelope*

American Wigeon => *Mareca americana*

New World Vultures (*cathartidae*)

All the new world vultures are moved to a new order Cathartiformes positioned after Ibises and Spoonbills.

Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)

Split into two species.

American birds becoming Northern Harrier (*Circus hudsonius*).

Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipter striatus madrensis*)

New group.

Subspecies *madrensis* from western Mexico is elevated to a monotypic group (*Madrean*). This means that these birds must be field identifiable!

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*)

Lumping.

This species is lumped with Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*) why this species is now on the Mexican list instead of TG. TG becomes a field identifiable group (*thayeri*).

Striped Owl (*Pseudocops clamator*)

Genus change.

Striped Owl becomes *Asio clamator*.

Magnificent Hummingbird (*Eugenes fulgens*)

Species split.

Magnificent Hummingbird in Mexico becomes the monotypic Rivoli's Hummingbird (*Eugenes fulgens*).

Berylline Hummingbird (*Amazilia beryllina*)

New groups.

Two groups recognized: (Northern) comprising subspecies north of the Isthmus, and (Sumichrast's) the ones south of the Isthmus.

Emerald Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus prasinus*)

Split in two species.

Mexican birds become Northern Emerald-Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus prasinus*). Groups continue.

Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*)

New groups.

Mexican birds all belonging to (Lineated).

Mealy Parrot (*Amazona farinosa*)

New groups.

Mexican birds all belonging to (Northern).

Dusky Antbird (*Cercomacroides tyrannina*)

New groups.

Two groups created. Only one of them is relevant to Mexico, (*tyrannina/crepera*). However, only subspecies *crepera* is present in Mexico.

Spot-crowned Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes affinis*)

New groups.

Mexican birds all belong to (Northern).

Greater Pewee (*Contopus pertinax*)

New groups.

Mexican birds belong to new group (Mexican). However other group (Central American) is present in highlands of Belize, thus close, with theoretical presence in Mexico.

Gray-collared Becard (*Pachyramphus major*)

New groups.

Two groups present in Mexico (Western) from Sonora south to Michoacán, (Southern) from Nuevo León to the Yucatan peninsula and Chiapas.

Wrentit (*Chamaea fasciata*)

Subspecies change.

Birds present in Mexico now belong to subspecies *henshawi*.

Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*)

Group change.

Two groups relevant for Mexico. The north-eastern changes name to (mexicanus Group), from eremophilus Group. North-western group (*spiliurus* Group) keeps its name. Several subspecies changes within the groups.

Spotted Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus dryas*)

New groups.

Mexican birds all belong to (Gould's).

Le Conte's Thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*)

Name change.

The common name is changed to LeConte's Thrasher, without space between Le and Conte's.

Red Warbler (*Cardellina rubra*)

Range change.

The ranges of the two subspecies in the white-cheeked group have been changed.

Subspecies *rubra*: South central Mexico (transvolcanic belt, from Jalisco and Michoacán to Veracruz and northern Oaxaca).

Subspecies *rowleyi*: southern Mexico (mountains of Guerrero and southern Oaxaca).

Slaty finch (*Haplospiza rustica*)

Scientific name changed.

The scientific name of Slaty Finch is now *Spodiornis rusticus*.

Common Chlorospingus (*Chlorospingus flavopectus*)

Range change.

Range of subspecies *dwighti* is changed to: Caribbean slope of southern Mexico (Chiapas) and eastern Guatemala; population in Belize presumably also this subspecies.

Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*)

Name change.

The common name is changed to LeConte's Sparrow, without space between Le and Conte's.

Orange-billed Sparrow (*Arremon aurantiirostris*)

New groups.

Mexican birds all belong to the new group (aurantiirostris Group).

Yellow-eyed Junco (*Junco phaeonotus*)

Split.

Baird's Junco is split from Yellow-eyed as monotypic Baird's Junco (*Junco bairdi*) with range: Mts. of s Baja California (Sierra de la Laguna).

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*)

Range change.

The range of subspecies fallax is changed to: Southeastern Nevada and southwestern Utah south to southeastern California, northeastern Baja California, and northeastern Sonora.

White-eared Ground-Sparrow (*Melospiza leucotis*)

New groups.

Mexicans birds all belong to the group (Gray-crowned).

Prevost's Ground-Sparrow (*Melospiza biarcuata*)

Split.

This species is split into two species where the Mexican birds now become the monotypic White-faced Ground-Sparrow (*Melospiza biarcuata*) with range: Highlands of southern Mexico (Chiapas) Guatemala, El Salvador, and western Honduras.

Rosy Thrush-Tanager (*Rhodinocichla rosea*)

New Family.

This species is moved from the tanager to its own new family Thrush-Tanager (Rhodinocichlidae) positioned after the Longspurs and Snow Buntings.

Western Spindalis (*Spindalis zena*)

New Family.

The Spindalis are moved to their own new family Spindalises (Spindalidae) positioned after several other new families not relevant to Mexico and after the family, now re-named, Old World Buntings.

Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*)

New family.

Yellow-breasted Chat is removed from New World Warblers and placed in its own new family Yellow-breasted Chat (Icteriidae) positioned before another new family, Mitrospingid Tanagers (Mitrospingidae) and the Mexico-relevant family Cardinals and Allies (Cardinalidae).

2018

Listing all changes relevant to the bird of Mexico. However, changes of sequence of species within a genus, or genera within a family are not included here.

This year there has been a larger revision of the sequence of orders among the non-passerines, and among the families of the passerines that were positioned after the Olive Warbler family (Peucedramidae) in the previous taxonomy. The result of these two changes can be seen at the end of this year's list.

There have been a few splits involving species on the Mexican list, e.g. Blue-Black Grosbeak, that are not listed here, because the changes have not affected the birds present in this country - the changes have merely resulted in split-offs from the form present in Mexico.

Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*)

Name change of subspecies and range change.

The subspecies *frontalis* changes name to *sponsa*, and the Western group therefore changes name to *gambelli/sponsa*.

The subspecies *gambelli*, relevant to Mexico, changes range description to: "breeds from interior and northern Alaska east across arctic Canada to the Hudson Bay region; winters in the south central United States and in northeastern Mexico".

The other subspecies relevant to Mexico, *sponsa*, retains its range description.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

Split.

The subspecies *diazi* is split from Mallard and becomes **Mexican Duck** (*Anas diazi*) with range description: "Southeastern Arizona, southern New Mexico, and western Texas (Trans-Pecos region) south to central Mexico".

This adds a new species to the official Mexican species list.

Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*)

Change of group name.

The group Graysoni changes name to graysoni/nigripectus.

The group pectoralis changes name to pectoralis Group.

Gray-chested Dove (*Leptotila cassinii*)

Change of range description.

Range description of subspecies *cerviniventris*, the one present in Mexico, is changed [to reflect actual situation] to: " Caribbean lowlands from southeastern Mexico (Chiapas) south to western Panama (Chiriquí and Ngäbe-Buglé)".

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)

Addition of group.

The subspecies *hirundo*, relevant to Mexico, is added to group hirundo/tibetana with non-relevant subspecies *tibetana*.

Storm-Petrels sp.

New families.

The storm-petrels are being split into two families, a southern and a northern.

All the storm-petrels on the official Mexican list now belong to the new family, Northern Storm-Petrels (Hydrobatidae), except for one species, Wilson's Storm-petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*) which now belong to the new family, Southern Storm-Petrels (Oceanitidae).

Roadside Hawk (*Rupornis magnirostris*)

Group change.

Birds of the mainland subspecies, *griseocauda* and *conspectus*, now belong to the new group magnirostris (Northern). The Cozumel group, *gracilis* (Cozumel I.), remains.

Vermiculated Screech-Owl (*Megascops guatemalae*)

Split and range change.

This species is split into three new screech-owls: Middle American Screech-Owl, Choco Screech-Owl and Foot-hill Screech-Owl.

The Mexican birds now belong to the **Middle American Screech-Owl** (*Megascops guatemalae*). All subspecies relevant to Mexico remain unchanged except for *tomlini* which is considered a synonym of the subspecies *hastatus*, and therefore lumped with this one. The new range description for *hastatus* is: "Western Mexico (southeastern Sonora to Oaxaca)".

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*)

New group.

All Mexican birds now belong to the Western group: *hypugaea/rostrata* (Western).

Picoides Woodpeckers (*Picoides* sp.)

All Mexican species of this genus are moved to the genus *Dryobates*.

Dot-winged Antwren (*Microrhophias quixensis*)

Adding group.

The Mexican birds now belong to the group *boucardi* (Boucard's).

Paltry Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius vilissimus*)

Split.

Paltry Tyrannulet is split into 4 new species: Guatemalan Tyrannulet, Mistletoe Tyrannulet, Spectacled Tyrannulet and Venezuelan Tyrannulet.

The Mexican birds now belong to monotypic **Guatemalan Tyrannulet** (*Zimmerius vilissimus*) with the range: "Highlands of southern Mexico (Chiapas), Guatemala, and western El Salvador".

Notice that Mistletoe Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius parvus*) is not far from Mexico with range: "Lowlands from eastern Guatemala, Belize, and Honduras south to Panama and extreme northwestern Colombia (Chocó)".

LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*), Seaside Sparrow (*Ammodramus maritimus*) and Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*)

Change of genus.

The three species have their genus name changed to *Ammospiza*.

Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*)

Change of genus.

The species has its genus name changed to *Centronyx*.

Passerini's Tanager (*Ramphocelus passerinii*)

Lump.

Passerini's Tanager is lumped with Cherrie's Tanager (*Ramphocelus costaricensis*) and changes name to **Scarlet-rumped Tanager** (*Ramphocelus passerinii*). All Mexican birds now belong to the subspecies/monotypic group *passerinii* (Passerini's).

White-collared Seedeater (*Sporophila torqueola*)

Split.

White-collared Seedeater is split into two new species:

Morelet's Seedeater (*Sporophila moreletii*) with two subspecies:

sharpei: "S Texas (lower Rio Grande Valley) to e Mexico (Veracruz)".

moreletii: "Caribbean slope of Mexico (north to Veracruz) south to western Panama (Ngäbe-Buglé); Pacific slope from southern Mexico (Chiapas) south to western Panama (Chiriquí)".

Cinnamon-rumped Seedeater (*Sporophila torqueola*) with two subspecies:

atriceps: "Western Mexico (Central Sinaloa south to northern Jalisco; feral population of Baja California Sur derived from *atriceps*, *torqueola* or a mix of both taxa)".

torqueola: "SW Mexico (Jalisco to Guanajuato, w Puebla and s Oaxaca)".

This adds a new species to the official Mexican list.

Change of orders among non-passerines.

The complete list of non-passerine orders:

Ostriches (Struthioniformes)

Rheas (Rheiformes)

Tinamous (tinamiformes)

Cassowaries and Emus (casuariiformes)

Kiwis (Apterygiformes)

Waterfowl (Anseriformes)

Gamebirds (Galliformes)

Flamingos (Phoenicopteriformes)

Grebes (Podicipediformes)

Pigeons and Doves (Columbiformes)

Mesites (Mesitornithiformes)

Sandgrouse (Pterocliiformes)

Bustards (Otidiformes)

Turacos (Musophagiformes)

Cuckoos (Cuculiformes)

Nightjars and Relatives (Caprimulgiformes)

Hoatzin (Opisthocomiformes)

Cranes and Relatives (Gruiformes)

Shorebirds and Relatives (Charadriiformes)

Kagu and Sunbittern (Eurypygiformes)

Tropicbirds (Phaethontiformes)

Loons (Gaviiformes)

Penguins (Sphenisciformes)

Tubenoses (Procellariiformes)
Storks and Relatives (Ciconiiformes)
Boobies, Gannets and Relatives (Suliformes)
Steganopodes (Pelecaniformes)
New World Vultures (Cathartiformes)
Hawks, Eagles and Relatives (Accipitriformes)
Owls (Strigiformes)
Mousebirds (Coliiformes)
Cuckoo-roller (Leptosomiformes)
Trogon (Trogoniformes)
Hoopoes, Hornbills and Allies (Bucerotiformes)
Kingfishers and Relatives (Coraciiformes)
Puffbirds and Jacamars (Galbuliformes)
Woodpeckers and Allies (Piciformes)
Seriemas (Cariamiformes)
Falcons and Caracaras (Falconiformes)
Cockatoos and Parrots (Psittaciformes)

Passerines - Families of the nine-primaried oscines

Re-order.

Listing all families following Oliver Warbler (Peucedramidae):

Finches, Euphonias and Allies (Fringillidae)
Longspurs and Snow Buntings (Calcariidae)
Rosy Thrush-Tanager (Rhodinocichlidae)
Old World Buntings (Emberizidae)
New World Sparrows (Passerellidae)
Chat-Tanagers (Calyptophilidae)
Hispaniolan Tanagers (Phaenicophilidae)
Puerto Rican Tanager (Nesospingidae)
Spindalises (Spindalidae)
Wrenthrush (Zeledoniidae)
Cuban Warblers (Teretistridae)
Yellow-breasted Chat (Icteriidae)
Troupials and Allies (Icteridae)
New World Warblers (Parulidae)
Mitrospingid Tanagers (Mitrospingidae)
Cardinals and Allies (Cardinalidae)

Tanagers and Allies (Thraupidae)

Old World Sparrows (Passeridae)

Weavers and Allies (Ploceidae)

Waxbills and Allies (Estrildidae)

Indigobirds (Viduidae)