

# BIRD TREKS

## ***PATZCUARO in the HIGHLANDS of MICHOACÁN, MEXICO & the Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary for a Wonderful, Relaxing, Holiday Week***

**Dates**            Thursday, 27 December 2012 through Thursday, 3 January 2013,  
8 days & 7 nights

**We'll visit**      The village of **Patzcuaro**, our home for most of the tour, with its abundance of birdlife, quaint shops, artisans, and the ancient ruins at **Tzintzuntzan**, the round hummingbird pyramids.

10,500-foot **Cerro Burro** for a great day of birding. Expect cool dry weather, clear beautiful skies, and hopefully good looks at the endemic **Mountain Trogon** and **Red Warbler**.

The **Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary** near **Mirador Mil Cumbres** with literally ***MILLIONS of MONARCHS*** filling the trees and the sky.

A three-hour **birding boat ride** in the canals and waterways of **Lake Patzcuaro** for rails, bitterns, and the endemic **Black-polled Yellowthroat**.

### **Some of the 150+ species that we may see . . .**

Least Bittern	Vermilion Flycatcher
White-faced Ibis	Mexican Jay
Roadside Hawk	Mexican Chickadee
Sora	Rufous-backed Robin
Virginia Rail	Blue Mockingbird
Northern Jacana	Gray Silky-Flycatcher
Mountain (Northern) Pygmy-Owl	Loggerhead Shrike
Green Violetear	Crescent-chested Warbler
White-eared Hummingbird	Slate-throated Redstart
Berylline Hummingbird	Rufous-capped Warbler
Magnificent Hummingbird	Flame-colored Tanager
Rufous Hummingbird	White-collared Seedeater
Acorn Woodpecker	Hooded Oriole
Tufted Flycatcher	Scott's Oriole
Buff-breasted Flycatcher	Black-headed Siskin



The Straw Market at Tzintzuntzan.  
-- Mary Jo Mulcahy,  
tour participant

**[More target birds and the day-by-day itinerary begin on page 2]**

We'll make an extra effort to see as many Mexican ENDEMICS as possible, including . . .

Long-tailed Wood-Partridge  
Mountain Trogon  
White-striped Woodcreeper  
Pine Flycatcher  
Pileated Flycatcher

Gray-barred Wren  
Spotted Wren  
Happy Wren  
Black-poll'd Yellowthroat  
Red Warbler

Red-headed Tanager  
Collared Towhee  
Striped Sparrow  
Rufous-capped Brush-Finch  
Black-backed Oriole

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## **PATZCUARO & MICHOACAN, MEXICO**

27 December 2012 - 3 January 2013

- | <u>Day</u> | <u>Agenda</u>   |
|------------|---|
| 1          | Our Mexican adventure begins with an afternoon arrival into Morelia Airport. From there we'll drive through the highlands to <b>Patzcuaro</b> , where we stay for the first five nights of the tour.  |
| 2          | This is the day that we are most likely to explore the property of Jose Cacho, who owns one of the largest avocado plantations in the world. There are varied habitats and a nice variety of birds including <b>Acorn Woodpecker</b> , <b>White-striped Woodcreeper</b> , <b>Brown-backed Solitaire</b> , and a chance for <b>Chestnut-bellied Flowerpiercer</b> , as we have found previously. We will be treated to a wonderful barbeque, some local music, and a fun-filled family birthday party and barbeque.  |
| 3          | Today's highlights include breathtaking views of Lake Patzcuaro and a three-hour boat ride on the nearby canals for aquatic species including <b>Northern Jacana</b> , <b>Sora</b> , <b>Least</b> and <b>American Bitterns</b> , <b>Wilson's Snipe</b> , and the endemic <b>Black-poll'd Yellowthroat</b> . One year we found both <b>King</b> and <b>Virginia Rails</b> , side by side. After a nice lunch we'll bird the ruins of the former Tarascan Indian capital Tzintzuntzan that means ' <b>Place of Hummingbirds</b> .' We will visit the nearby straw market and be treated to a wonderful dinner.        |
| 4          | Today's destination is <b>Eduardo Ruiz National Park</b> , with its beautiful gardens, river, and waterfalls. Some previous highlights have included <b>White-throated Robin</b> , <b>Mountain Pygmy-Owl</b> , and the endemic <b>Happy Wren</b> and <b>Pileated Flycatcher</b> . On the return trip we'll visit the pyramids of <b>Tingambato</b> and climb the <b>Temple of the Moon</b> , which is great for hawk watching. Birding near the ancient ruins is pleasant and invariably quite productive. Along the way we will see many typical older homes with their classic adobe walls and red tile rooftops. |
| 5          | We will drive to the top of 10,500-foot <b>Cerro Burro</b> , then bird our way <i>down</i> the cobble road. Just a few of the wonderful birds that we may see include <b>Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer</b> , <b>Gray-barred Wren</b> , <b>Crescent-chested Warbler</b> , <b>Red Warbler</b> , <b>Golden-browed Warbler</b> , and <b>Mountain Trogon</b> . One year we watched three <b>Long-tailed Wood-Partridges</b> cross the road in front of  |

our van! In the afternoon there will be a chance to visit coppersmith shops in Santa Clara del Cobre, then continue birding in and around Patzcuaro. We will visit the home of a personal friend of Marilyn's at **Lake Zirahuen**, where there are beautiful gardens and a lovely view of the lake. We'll be treated to refreshments and lots of great birding opportunities, including a good hummingbird show at the feeders. Our final night in Patzcuaro.

- 6 We'll have more birding, local activities, and history on a drive around Lake Patzcuaro. We often find **White-tailed Kite, Scott's Oriole, White-faced Ibis, Yellow-headed Blackbird**, and thousands upon thousands of ducks. After lunch we'll pack the van and move to Morelia, where we spend two nights at Jose's exquisite bed & breakfast and colonial mansion.
- 7 Today we will travel to **Mirador Mil Cumbres** at an elevation of 9000+ feet. Highland possibilities include **Mountain Trogon, Tufted Flycatcher, Greater Pewee, Mexican Chickadee**, and a variety of **hummingbirds** and **warblers**. But our emphasis will be on the concentration of **MILLIONS of Monarch Butterflies** at this winter sanctuary. This is one of the most incredible spectacles of the natural world, and a day that none of us will soon forget. We'll return for our second night in Morelia and our final night of the tour.
- 8 There may be time to explore the town and its architecture, plus look for a few more of the local birds before we arrive at the Morelia Airport for our flights home. **WHAT A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY TOUR!**



We have fine meals and hospitality everywhere we go.

- - Mary Jo Mulcahy, tour participant

*[Important details on page 4]*

- Leader** **Bob Schutsky**, leader of numerous tropical tours, will lead your Mexican Holiday Tour to Michoacan. Bob has led this same tour on many previous occasions. Our hostess and driver, **Marilyn Mayo**, is highly knowledgeable of the history, architecture, artisans, and craftsmen of the region.
- Price** \$2695 per person from Morelia, Mexico with a minimum of three participants. Single accommodations are available for an extra charge of \$445.
- Includes** Expert guide service, all ground transportation within Mexico, **ALL meals**, lodging for seven nights, entrance fees, and boat ride. **ALL tips** are also included in the tour fee, except for anything that you may wish to give to your boat captain, hostess, and tour leader.  
Does not include the cost of departure tax, alcoholic beverages, items of a personal nature, and airfare to and from Morelia. Upon your request our travel agent will arrange your air transportation to insure that we all arrive in Morelia at about the same time. This will give you the most efficient and economical air travel possible, with the added security of knowing that our agent is available through a 24-hour toll-free number to assist you in the event of interrupted travel for any reason.
- Extra Services** We offer the services of our Bird Treks travel agent, **Lori Heathcote**, in arranging your air travel. Lori has 26 years of experience in the travel industry and is a veteran birder. Contact her through Bailey Travel at **1-800-224-5399**, or you can e-mail Lori at **lori@baileytravel.com**. By dealing with Lori you have the security of a 24-hour toll-free telephone number in case of any travel emergency. She can also assist you with all pre- and post-tour travel plans. There may be a fee for these services.
- Deposit** A \$600 deposit will assure your reservation on the tour. The balance is due 27 September 2012. Please register early so that we can arrange flights and secure your spot on the tour.



We'll see millions upon MILLIONS  
of **Monarch Butterflies**.  
- - *Mary Jo Mulcahy, tour participant*

**Refund and Cancellation Policy** With written notice more than 90 days prior to the first day of the tour, 100% of your deposit will be refunded, minus a \$100 service fee. With 30-90 days notice, you will receive a 50% refund of the full cost of the tour. No refund can be made with less than 30 days notice. You will receive a full refund if you provide a replacement for your spot on the tour. No partial refund can be given once the tour begins. We **STRONGLY RECOMMEND** that you purchase trip cancellation insurance to protect your investment. Contact **Allianz Global Assistance** (formerly Access America) and mention **BIRD TREKS ACCAM # F021096**. You can apply via the Internet at this web site, **www.allianztravelinsurance.com**, or by phone at **1-800-284-8300**.