

INTERESTING BIRD WALKS IN LAKE CHAPALA AREA

JOCOTEPEC:

JOCOTEPEC MALECÓN: This malecón is an excellent place for viewing shorebirds closeup. It is a highlight in Jocotepec with a variety of Terns, Gulls, Herons, Egrets, American Avocets, Spotted Sandpiper, etc. Monk Parakeets make their home in the lakeshore park along with Rufous-backed Robin, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and various flycatchers.

How to get there: From Ajijic head west toward Jocotepec along the Carretera. Continue straight past the exit to Hwy 23 on the right to Guadalajara (about km 15.5) and head into Jocotepec. In 2-3 km you will come to Calle Miguel Arana - make a sharp left and head down to the lake. Parking is abundant at the lakeside park. [See pindrop https://maps.app.goo.gl/wZMcD7hf7yqnTjA97](https://maps.app.goo.gl/wZMcD7hf7yqnTjA97)

WEST AJIJIC:

EL BAJIO: In West Ajijic you can walk among the tree-filled cobblestone streets down the lane to the lake. Each side road has good birding. Expect to see a good variety of birds in the tall trees and fields including Groove-billed Anis, Tufted flycatchers, warblers. Sometimes you can see the Russet-crowned Motmot or Ferruginous Pygmy Owl. On the lakeshore you will see a variety of shorebirds.

How to get there: From Ajijic go about 2 mi. (3 km) west from the light at Colón. In West Ajijic, just past "Latitude/Margaritaville" and across from the Recycling Centre turn toward the lake for El Bajio. You can park on the lateral road parallel to the Carretera.

[see pindrop https://maps.app.goo.gl/kzf5K52SbAwNpJLr9](https://maps.app.goo.gl/kzf5K52SbAwNpJLr9)

AJIJIC:

AJIJIC MALECÓN: to walk the Malecón area. From the parking lot you can go right along the malecon to view birds. Expect to see a variety of shorebirds including Herons, Egrets, coots, ducks, pelicans, etc. In the park and tree areas you can see warblers, flycatchers, kingbirds, grackles, and monk parakeets.

How to get to the malecon parking: Driving along the Carretera in Ajijic, turn toward the lake on Colón. Drive all the way to the lake (approx. 5 blocks) and there is a parking lot on the right. Alternatively you could park anywhere on the street where you see parking and walk to the malecón. [See pindrop https://maps.app.goo.gl/QEzLQNH2ftdSsSUA7](https://maps.app.goo.gl/QEzLQNH2ftdSsSUA7)

SAN ANTONIO TLAYACAPAN:

ALLEN LLOYD TRAIL: 1st SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH: there is an informal birding walk along the **Allen Lloyd Trail**. Meet up with a variety of local and visiting birders in this very accessible location. It is actually a road now, going up past the construction of new homes. The field beside the construction is full of birds. Up the road more species appear as it gets quiet. There is a gate at some point but birders are permitted. Expect to see Blue Mockingbird, Happy Wren, Canyon Wren, Curve-billed Thrasher, Warblers, Pewees, American Kestrels, and sometimes a Russet-crowned Motmot or Squirrel Cuckoo.

How to get to the trail head: Drive up the Libramiento a half mile (1 km) from the traffic light at Walmart, then turn left (carefully) as you would for the hospital (Ribera Medical Center). Double back and drive up the left side of the hospital. Keep going uphill another half mile, and park on the only street to your left. [See pindrop https://maps.app.goo.gl/nruDM7JcLhzC4NyK8](https://maps.app.goo.gl/nruDM7JcLhzC4NyK8)

SAN ANTONIO MALECÓN: to walk the Malecón area. From the parking lot you can go into the field on the right to view birds, and also along the malecon to the left. Expect to see a variety of shorebirds including Sora, Herons, and Egrets. In the field you can see warblers, flycatchers, kingbirds, grackles, and sometimes the Ferruginous Pygmy Owl.

How to get to the parking lot: Driving along the Carretera in San Antonio Tlayacapan, turn toward the lake on San José. Go approx. 3 blocks and turn right onto La Paz. Go one block and turn left onto Colón and into the parking lot. [See pindrop. https://maps.app.goo.gl/QrShbVYWuX4cqAzj7](https://maps.app.goo.gl/QrShbVYWuX4cqAzj7)

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL ROAD to the CARACOL TRAIL: There are several places to stop for good viewing of birds in the brush and ponds along the roadside. At the trailhead you can often see Buntings, Roadrunner, Warblers, Towhees, Flycatchers, Kestrel, Egrets, Brown-backed Solitaire, various Hummingbirds, Mexican Squirrel Cuckoo. If you choose to hike the Caracol Trail take plenty of water and food. This is a nice grade to climb up to the Oak Forest, with just the last 500 metres steep with switchbacks.

How to get to there: Drive a short distance up the Libramiento from the Walmart junction. You will see a sign for the "Instituto International" or the International School Road. Turn left here and drive up the dirt road to the Caracol Trail head. You can stop all along the way for good viewing. ([Pindrop for where to turn https://maps.app.goo.gl/wyxXC6gpePLL56738](https://maps.app.goo.gl/wyxXC6gpePLL56738)) [see pindrop for road https://maps.app.goo.gl/fJZBWDTMZN8sQCuL6](https://maps.app.goo.gl/fJZBWDTMZN8sQCuL6)

RIBERAS DEL PILAR:

CIÉNAGA RIBERA DEL PILAR (Riberas Marsh): This small marsh area along the lake only exists during rainy season and shortly thereafter. When the marsh floods it can be very active with birds. Expect to see Common Gallinule, Northern Jacana, Herons and Egrets. If lucky you will see Sora and American Bittern. Song birds in the trees include Vermilion Flycatcher and Warblers.

How to get there: From Ajijic take the carretera East toward Chapala, but only to Riberas. When you see Fresh Market at the bottom of the hill, turn right toward the Lake onto San Pablo. (If you miss it, take the next right onto San Mateo (there is an OXXO on the left). Drive down to the lake and park. The marsh runs between San Pablo and San Mateo.

[See pindrop https://maps.app.goo.gl/a5eYnYswoebaQE7EA](https://maps.app.goo.gl/a5eYnYswoebaQE7EA)

CHAPALA:

PARQUE LA CRISTIANÍA (Christiania Park): Walk along the lakeshore and among the trees. This park is active with tennis, pickleball, disc golf, playgrounds etc. It is a great place to picnic as well. You should see an interesting selection of species in the trees of the park including nesting Cattle Egret and Black-crowned Night Herons. Tri-coloured Herons, Great Blue Herons, and Great Egret frequent the area, as well as a variety of song birds.

How to get there: From Ajijic go to the traffic light at the main street of Chapala (Av. Madero), Cross straight over and keep going straight for five blocks, turn left at the T intersection and park on the right, near the Park entrance. [See pindrop https://maps.app.goo.gl/cUPTWPJNyXj9nNaSA](https://maps.app.goo.gl/cUPTWPJNyXj9nNaSA)