

Mexico's Monarchs, Humpbacks and Endemic Birds

Naturetrek Tour Report

16 February 2015



Monarchs nectaring



Colima Pygmy Owl



Humpback Whale



2015 Naturetrek Group

Report compiled by Dave Smallshire.
Images by Dave Smallshire and (Humpback Whale) Tim Ashby



Naturetrek Mingledown Barn Wolf's Lane Chawton Alton Hampshire GU34 3HJ England
T: +44 (0)1962 733051 F: +44 (0)1962 736426
E: info@naturetrek.co.uk W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour Leaders:	Dave Smallshire	Naturetrek Naturalist
	Karel Beets	Local Guide
Participants:	Paul Beckett	
	Barbara Fothergill	
	Tim Ashby	
	Elen Lewis	
	Liz Duncan	
	Ian Duncan	
	Mary Lawrence	
	Keith Lawrence	
	Pam Woodall	
	George Clitter	
	Caroline Clitter	
	Diane Higgens	
	Nigel Parry	
	Pompi Parry	
	Ian Woodward	

Introduction

This was the first tour combining three focal points in Mexico: the world-famous overwintering Monarchs in Michoacán state, followed by family groups of Humpback Whales and a host of endemic birds along the central Pacific coast. We began just outside Mexico City with a visit to the ancient site of Teotihuacán, where huge pyramids dominate the landscape and a good range of birds welcomed us to Mexico. We were graced with sunny conditions for our visits to two different Monarch reserves, where the uncountable numbers of these colourful butterflies made for a truly memorable experience: surely one of the greatest spectacles of the natural world. A short boat ride took us to the realm of Humpback Whales, mostly mothers and calves, plus boobies, frigate-birds and other seabirds. Finally, excursions into forests and mangroves around San Blas brought us a nice range of birds, including 17 Mexican endemics. Everyone agreed that it was a very successful tour, blessed by good weather, good food and good company.

Day 1

Monday 16th February

We met at London Heathrow, for our flight to Mexico City. There were a few delays getting through immigration and someone took Dave's suitcase in error (many thanks to those who helped by providing essential missing items). Nevertheless, our local guide Karel was there to whisk us off to our hotel on the outskirts of the city at Teotihuacán. It was rather late by the time we eventually settled in, but the hotel had provided some welcome refreshments in our rooms. We retired for the night, with everybody was looking forward to tomorrow and our first full day in Mexico.

Day 2

Tuesday 17th February

Mainly cloudy; brief light shower early. 16-c22°C

Next day dawned rather cloudy and a little cool, but it didn't stop most of the group meeting for pre-breakfast birding around the hotel. After checking a crowd of House Sparrows and House Finches in some palm trees, we soon found a stunning Vermilion Flycatcher and then a Broad-billed Hummingbird. Crossing the road to overlook the archaeological site, we found a pair of Curve-billed Thrashers, Loggerhead Shrikes, Cactus Wren, Bronzed Cowbirds and Great-tailed Grackles. Several hot-air balloons took to the air as it started to drizzle - but thankfully this proved to be the only rain we saw in Mexico. As we made our way back for an eagerly-anticipated breakfast, we saw a pair of Black-headed Grosbeaks. A great start to the day ... and a fine breakfast to boot!

Breakfast over, we loaded our luggage and climbed into the coach for the short ride to the pyramids. The pre-Aztec remains of the city of Teotihuacán extend over a vast area. Buff-bellied Pipits, Lark Sparrows, Say's Phoebe and Canyon Towhee foraged in the short grass in the first area we looked at, then some of the group made the climb up the famous Pyramid of the Sun, said to be the world's third highest. Although a little breathless at the top, it was well worth the effort. The summit afforded stupendous views down the long, straight Calle de los Muertos (Street of the Dead). Meanwhile, the rest of us found Mexican Ground Squirrels and a selection of wintering warblers from North America (Black-and-white, Audubon's, Black-throated Grey and Wilson's), Blue-grey Gnatcatcher and Lesser Goldfinches.

We had lunch at a nearby restaurant, overlooked by the Pyramid of the Sun. There was a good choice of typical Mexican fare, together with welcome cold drinks. Afterwards, a grove of Prickly Pears next door yielded a few more birds, including the only Scott's Oriole of the trip.

It was now time to begin our journey to the Mexican province of Michoacán, to our base for the next three nights. We left behind the semi-desert plateau and chronic traffic of Mexico City. It was after dark when we arrived at Agua Blanca Lodge, and we were soon enjoying an excellent traditional Mexican style meal. Karel briefed us on the plans for the next couple of days, when we would visit two different reserves where the Monarchs overwintered. We all decided that we would opt to ride horses up to the Monarch viewing areas, a novel experience for some!

Day 3

Wednesday 18th February

Sunny. 16-c25°C

An enthusiastic group gathered at 7am for some pre-breakfast birding - in fact we were a bit too enthusiastic as things didn't really get going for another half hour! Fruiting trees near the river canyon attracted the most attention, with sightings of Russet-crowned Motmot, endemic Rufous-backed Thrushes, Streak-backed and Hooded Orioles and Western Tanagers. Nigel glimpsed a Long-tailed Weasel. We had only looked at a small part of the grounds and much more remained to be seen

Our appetites sharpened, we enjoyed a good breakfast before we set out for El Chincua Monarch Reserve, which is set in beautiful mountains clad in Oyamel Firs. The overwintering Monarchs have very precise micro-climate requirements and rest on the trunks and branches of the firs. The weather was glorious and less cold than we expected, given that we had climbed from an altitude of about 2000 metres to nearly 3000. We walked to the horses that were waiting for us, and mounted our trusty steeds for the ride up to the butterflies. It took about 45 minutes

to reach the site where the Monarchs were roosting, and around midday when we approached the viewing area. Good numbers of the butterflies were already on the wing; soon we could see them at close range taking nectar from wild flowers and Karel explained how to tell males from females. Surprising numbers were walking or resting on the ground around our feet. Sadly, some had died and would not be making the long return flight north next month. Looking into the forest, we could see many more of them hanging in dense bunches from branches and trunks, looking dark brown in the shade but bright orange in the sun as they opened their wings to bask.

All too soon it was time to ride or walk back down for lunch, which included delicious guacamole (of course), soup and a choice of fillings for wraps. As we ate, there was much animated discussion of the amazing spectacle we had just witnessed. A couple of Northern Ravens flew over, and there was time for more birding before we returned to the coach. Yellow-eyed Towhees, Striped Sparrow and some lovely Western Bluebirds were seen, but a stunning Red Warbler stole the show! Back at Agua Blanca Lodge, we had some free time when we returned, enabling the birders to find a trio of the endemic Golden-cheeked Woodpeckers, while others made use of the spring-fed swimming pool.

Day 4

Thursday 19th February

Sunny. Max >25°C

The early morning birding session produced Green Violetear and Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Nashville and Townsend's Warblers and Hepatic Tanager. On the limestone cliffs above the river, a Canyon Wren sang as it investigated the caves and crevices and was joined later by a presumed female. Perhaps the highlight, though, was meeting 'Teddy', an Opossum being cared for by one of the lodge's staff.

After breakfast we set off for the small town of Angangueo, where two pick-up trucks took us up the steep and windy road to El Rosario Monarch Reserve. Even as we left the town, Monarchs were flying past the vehicles and soon there were hundreds to be seen in every direction. This continued as we mounted our horses for the final part of the journey. They took us to an open grassy area where the air was filled with huge numbers of Monarchs and damp areas on the ground were carpeted in drinking hordes: a truly memorable experience that has to rate amongst the most spectacular wildlife sights in the world! Some of the group, who had decided to walk up, joined us to walk through the 'orange confetti' into the forest to the overwintering site, where still more Monarchs were clinging to trunks or weighing down branches with their combined mass. Most of us opted to walk back down to the trucks, glimpsing a Slate-throated Whitestart and a Red Warbler and, eventually, everyone had a good view of a White-eared Hummingbird close to the path.

After lunch in Angangueo, we returned to Agua Blanca for more birding, swimming or relaxation. At the river, Black Phoebe were busy fly-catching from the rocks, American Dippers were busy swimming and a Louisiana Waterthrush bobbed its tail nearby. Over a tributary of the main river, a group of Zebra Heliconians were discovered, roosting close together on a dangling creeper. Meanwhile, swimmers rescued a large katydid (bush-cricket) from the pool. After dinner, Karel showed us posters describing the amazing Monarch Butterfly and its incredible migration. The owner came to show us a long, thin damselfly that had been found dead inside the hotel: Dave explained that it was related to the world's largest 'odonate', the Blue-winged Helicopter that occurs further south in Central America.

Day 5

Friday 20th February

Cloudy at first, sunny from mid-morning. Warmer at the coast

We arose to find the sky cloudy: we had been so lucky with the weather for our two Monarch experiences! After breakfast, we loaded the coach and began our journey to Toluca airport. En route, we stopped at a reservoir full of waterfowl: a wide range of species was identified from the roadside, with large numbers of American Wigeon and smaller numbers of Gadwall, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveler, Pintail, Ring-necked and Ruddy Ducks, American Coot, Pied-billed and Black-necked Grebes. Around the edge were White-faced Ibis, Black-necked Stilts and some small waders that were too far away to identify. The airport was modern and remarkably peaceful, allowing us to have a very relaxing lunch. The short flight took us over some spectacular scenery, with distant views of snow-capped volcanic peaks. Our destination was Puerto Vallarta, a large town on the Pacific coast, where we were soon settled in at the Flamingo Hotel, nicely positioned next to the marina.

During dinner, taken overlooking the marina, we were interrupted by groups of Magnificent Frigatebirds and Brown Pelicans flying over the skyline, and the first of many Tropical Kingbirds. As the sun went down, some 30 bats trickled out over the marina from their daytime roost, on one occasion being pursued by a wintering Peregrine. To round off a lovely evening, we were treated to a wonderful planetary juxtaposition! The thinnest of new moons hung low in the sky with Venus shining very brightly just to its left. Rather less obvious was the reddish glow of Mars between the two, while diners looking in the other direction spotted Jupiter low in the sky. Were the heavens pointing to a successful whale-watch tomorrow? Of course they were! To prepare us, Karel gave us a talk on the Humpbacks and other sealife of Banderas Bay, where the whales were being catalogued using the unique shapes of their flukes and dorsal fins.

Day 6

Saturday 21st February

Sunny. Max c29°C

Before our 'American' breakfast, Ian and Dave walked around the marina (but failed to reach the sea), while others took the air more gently. Birds included a variety of swallows, including Cliff, Violet-green and Mangrove, Laughing Gulls, Green Heron and an Osprey. A Frigatebird looked down at us as we ate our breakfast: would it have come down for toast, I wonder?

After loading the minibuses, we drove to Punta Mita at the northern side of the Bay of Banderas. Here we made a 'wet boarding' of the whale-watching boat and were soon heading out over the almost calm, blue sea towards the two Islas Marietas. We hadn't gone far when we encountered the first of three Humpback mothers, each with a calf in tow. Keeping our distance to within that permitted, we heard their 'blows' as they exhaled and had great views of them breaking surface and arching their backs, showing the relatively small dorsal fins on their humped backs as they went under again. In this shallow sea, females give birth, and closely attend their young, before making their long migration northwards. Our final duo had a male accompanying them: Karel explained that it was an 'escort', with really only one thing on his mind, which was to mate before the migration began. His presence resulted in some great flipper waving and splashing, while the calf breached repeatedly.

Leaving the whales behind, we then circled one of the islands, passing close to the seabirds on the rocks. Frigatebirds wheeled everywhere and both Brown and Blue-footed Boobies were seen at close range, as were a group of stunning Heerman's Gulls on the rocks. Unexpectedly, a Red-billed Tropicbird glided gracefully over the

boat, with its long tail streaming out behind. We had another, more distant sighting later, as we turned and headed back for land. Whale sightings are guaranteed to raise the spirits and, indeed, we were a very animated group as we lunched overlooking the beach.

The rest of the afternoon was taken up travelling further north to our next base at San Blas. We stopped just short of the town to see American Crocodiles in an area of open water within the coastal mangroves. Some of the crocs were very close and clearly waiting for fishy treats, but we had eaten all of ours at lunch. We found a range of herons and egrets, and a Belted Kingfisher sat on a post for us to admire. Nearby, another viewpoint revealed a lovely Roseate Spoonbill with White Ibises, Yellow-crowned Night Herons and Tricolored Herons. A flock of waders included Long-billed Dowitchers, Lesser Yellowlegs, Stilt Sandpipers, Willet and Black-necked Stilts. Many of the endemic Sinaloa Crows flew over, perhaps heading to roost.

We soon arrived in San Blas at our hotel for the remainder of the tour, the Garza Canela, or 'Boat-billed Heron'. After we had settled in, a Cinnamon Hummingbird was seen in the grounds, while some of the group went for a swim in the pool. Later, we had a fine dinner with very friendly hotel staff in close attendance.

Day 7

Sunday 22nd February

Sunny. Max c29°C

Today some of the group - non-birders and those wishing to have a second look at Humpback Whales - opted to charter a boat, while the remainder left the hotel early for a picnic breakfast and birding in mixed habitats at Singaita. While Karel laid out a very substantial breakfast, we found a nice range of birds nearby. In particular, one flowering tree yielded a constant succession of birds, including Yellow-winged (Mexican) Caciques, Orchard Oriole, Painted Bunting and various migrant warblers. Walking slowly along the track after breakfast, we disturbed a group of Elegant Quail in a stockyard, amongst lots of Ruddy Ground Doves. A pair of Rufous-bellied (Wagler's) Chachalacas was viewed through the scope, while other additions to our list included an enormous Lineated Woodpecker, the smaller Gila Woodpecker, Orange-fronted Parakeets, tiny Mexican Parrotlets, Elegant Trogon, Yellow-breasted Chat, Greyish Saltator, Masked Tityra, Happy Wren, Rose-throated Becard and Brown-crested Flycatcher. Dave was pleased to see a few dragonflies though, as with butterflies, this was not the best time of year to see many.

We returned to San Blas for lunch, via a second look at the wader flock in the mangroves: there were over 300 dowitchers and 50 Stilt Sandpipers, while a Wood Stork circled in the distance. Meanwhile, Humpback Whales performed very well for the rest of the group, with great views of them breaching. Seabirds included most of those seen the day before, plus a Royal Tern.

After lunch and a siesta or swim, we spent the rest of the afternoon around the ruins of San Blas fort. It was in a commanding position, overlooking the coast and adjacent to some interesting woodland. Distant views of shrimp farm ponds revealed several Roseate Spoonbills, Ospreys and American Avocets, while a Short-tailed Hawk soared low overhead. In the woodland, we had tantalising views of Rose-throated Becards and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak but great views of a Golden-cheeked Woodpecker.

Day 8

Monday 23rd February

Sunny. Max c30°C

The whole group ventured out early for another picnic breakfast, this time in the wooded mountains at Tecuitata, with local bird guide Francisco Garcia. The minibuses climbed high up a rough track and, eventually, we came to a spectacular viewpoint, where breakfast was served in the shade of a huge fruiting tree. Before long, a pair of Crested Guans was spotted in the tree top, then an Ivory-billed Woodcreeper. A pair of Pale-billed Woodpeckers appeared and a Squirrel Cuckoo sat in the open for all to see. As we walked downhill, we discovered Sinaloa Wren, Red-crowned Ant Tanager, Bullock's Oriole, White-throated Thrush, Blue Mockingbird, Black-throated Magpie-Jay, Golden and Plumbeous Vireos and stunning Blue Bunting and Citreoline Trogons. Butterflies were much more in evidence today, with 31 species being logged. Taking the bus further down the track, we stopped to admire a Bat Falcon.

Further down still, we gathered to hear all about CaPulin "shade-grown, traditionally dried, 'natural' jungle forest" coffee, and the community involvement. We sampled the product and were told of its health and wildlife benefits. The mature *Arabica tipica* 'cherries' used and the process followed produces coffee that is far less bitter than "those other coffees" that our host mentioned. We ordered our preferred blends and collected them later!

Nearby were San Blas Jays, a localised endemic that doesn't actually occur in San Blas! A delicious lunch was served in traditional surroundings nearby, after which we went in search of another endemic bird, Colima Pygmy Owl. During a short walk with Francisco, we eventually had one perched right above us, giving excellent views.

Heading back for the coast, we stopped at a blind river mouth, where the water tumbled over a shingle bar on the beach. There were birds aplenty here, with many Brown Pelicans and Neotropic Cormorants and a range of herons, egrets and gulls. Green Heron and Green Kingfisher were seen along the river, while a small flock of birds feeding in the grass contained a colourful mix of Painted Buntings and Blue Grosbeaks. While most of the group relaxed after returning to San Blas, Ian and Dave walked to the local sewage ponds, finding Northern Jacanas, Soras and White-collared Seedeaters.

Day 9

Tuesday 24th February

Sunny. Max c30°C

Frustrated by hearing the local Ferruginous Pygmy Owl nearby, those taking a pre-breakfast birding walk eventually managed to track it down and locate it calling, in a tree near the hotel.

After breakfast, we travelled to the 'Crocodile Road', where some of the group opted to go with Karel to visit the Crocodile Farm. The rest took a slow walk in that direction, to look for birds and butterflies. Almost immediately, a Common Black Hawk was found circling overhead and a Prairie Falcon was spotted in a nearby tree (a bit out of range according to the field guide). Grey Hawk and Merlin were also seen later, as was a Limpkin, and a flock of White-faced Ibises with Northern Jacanas, in the marsh. Vaux's Swift flew over and a mixed group of swallows, including Northern Rough-winged, perched on wires. We watched a Common Yellowthroat feeding on the ground, with a Lincoln's Sparrow nearby, and a flock of Red-winged Blackbirds flew up from the marsh.

An excellent fish lunch was taken in a seaside restaurant, washed down with welcome cold drinks. The beach was very quiet - apart from those in the party who waded out into the shallow sea for a paddle or swim - and held a few waders: Grey Plover, Hudsonian Whimbrel and Willet.

We returned to the hotel for a siesta before boarding the minibuses again, for a short drive to the mangroves. Here the group divided into two boats for an exciting late afternoon/early evening ride through the swamps. It wasn't long before we were all staring at a lump of wood in a tree: it was, of course, a Northern Potoo, looking uncannily inanimate! We all marvelled at its camouflage, and did the same later when the eagle-eyed boatmen spotted the first of two Lesser Nighthawks perched in the bankside trees. The wetland birds looked stunning in the beautiful evening light: a Bare-throated Tiger Heron which scarcely acknowledged our presence, Limpkin, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Green Heron, White Ibis and, perhaps the crowning glory, Boat-billed Herons which peered at us through their leafy, mangrove, daytime roost. What strange birds they are, with bulging eyes and an even more bulging bill! A Snail Kite was seen well by one boat, complete with the elongated upper mandible it uses for winking out Apple Snails. Flocks of Tropical Kingbirds seemed to be gathering to roost, while a secretive Northern Waterthrush was much less conspicuous. Other interest was provided by a Green Iguana and a nicely marked Mesoamerican Slider (terrapin).

At the end of the channel, we got out of the boats for a while, discovering Walger's Chachalacas in a large fruiting tree, and more Sliders were seen in the water, perhaps inviting a food handout? As we got back in the boats, a couple of unidentified nightjars were hawking over the river. On the return journey, we saw many of the herons again, this time in the spotlight beams, but most notable was the eerie sensation as we cruised back through a tunnel of mangroves! It was a great way to end our stay in Mexico. A couple of Pauraques were calling to each other, as we returned to the hotel for our final dinner in San Blas. We mentally ticked off the bird species illustrated on the back of the shirts worn by the staff: we'd seen them all!

Day 10

Wednesday 25th February

Hot and sunny

On our final morning we had a relaxed breakfast and loaded the minibuses, before bidding farewell to the hotel staff, who had been so good to us. Francisco had told us of a good site to call in at, on our way back to Puerto Vallarta Airport. We did so, and soon located the San Blas Jays that not everyone had seen earlier, in fact half-a dozen of them working noisily through the riverside scrub. A Louisiana Waterthrush bobbed along the remnant course of the river, and Grey Hawks circled overhead. Citreoline Trogons and Boat-billed Flycatchers were also seen.

At Puerto Vallarta we said goodbye to Nigel and Pompei, who were spending more time in Mexico (lucky people!), and Karel, who had been an excellent guide throughout. Our passage through to Mexico City was uneventful, though Dave did see a White-tailed Kite - new for the list - as the plane took off; it wasn't the time to let everyone else know! We retrieved our baggage at Mexico City and checked-in for the flight home, which left more or less on time.

Day 11

Thursday 26th February

We arrived safely and a little early at Heathrow, although air traffic control kept us circling for quite a while. After retrieving our baggage (all accounted for!), we said our last goodbyes and went on our own homeward journeys. We take with us a wealth of wonderful memories, especially of the Monarch extravaganza and the breaching Humpbacks, which are sure to remain with us for a long time to come.

Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek e-mailing list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers. Visit www.naturetrek.co.uk to sign up.

Naturetrek Facebook

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans.

Setting up a personal profile at www.facebook.com is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!



Humpback Whale

Species Lists

Butterflies (* seen but date unknown)

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February									
			17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
1	Polydamas Swallowtail	<i>Battus polydamas</i>		✓					✓			
2	Sleepy Orange	<i>Abaeis nicippe</i>			✓				✓		✓	
3	White-angled Sulphur*	<i>Anteos clorinde</i>										
4	Yellow Angled-Sulphur	<i>Anteos maerula</i>						✓				
5	White (Ghost) Yellow	<i>Eurema albula</i>							✓			
6	Boisduval's Yellow	<i>Eurema boisduvaliana</i>							✓			
7	Barred Yellow	<i>Eurema daira</i>						✓				
8	Large Orange Sulphur	<i>Phoebis agarithe</i>						✓				
9	Apricot Sulphur	<i>Phoebis argante</i>					✓					
10	Little Yellow	<i>Pyrisitia lisa</i>							✓			
11	Mimosa Yellow	<i>Pyrisitia nise</i>							✓			
12	Howarth's White	<i>Ganyra howarthi</i>					✓					
13	Florida White	<i>Glutophrissa drusilla</i>					✓		✓			
14	Fine-lined Hairstreak	<i>Arawacus sito</i>								✓		
15	Zebra-striped Hairstreak (Zebra Cross-streak)	<i>Panthiades bathildis</i>						✓				
16	Eastern Tailed-Blue	<i>Cupido comyntas</i>						✓	✓			
17	Ceraunus Blue	<i>Hemiargus ceraunus</i>					✓	✓		✓		
18	Baja Calephelis	<i>Calephelis bajaensis</i>							✓		✓	
19	White-tipped Metalmark (White-rayed Pixie)	<i>Melanis cephise</i>					✓					
20	Red-bordered Pixie	<i>Melanis pike</i>						✓				
21	Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>		✓	✓							
22	Tiger Mimic-Queen	<i>Lycorea halia</i>							✓			
	Massilia (Bates') Sister	<i>Adelpha paraena</i>							✓			
23	Gulf Fritillary	<i>Agraulis vanillae</i>						✓		✓		
24	Juno Heliconian (Longwing)	<i>Dione juno</i>							✓			
25	Julia Heliconian	<i>Dryas iulia moderata</i>						✓	✓	✓		
26	Zebra Longwing (Heliconian)	<i>Heliconius charithonia</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
27	Crimson-patched Longwing (Erato Heliconian)	<i>Heliconius erato</i>						✓	✓	✓		
28	Red Rim	<i>Biblis hyperia</i>							✓			
29	Grey(?) Cracker*	<i>Hamadryas (februa)</i>										
30	Mexican (Four-spotted) Sailor	<i>Dynamine postverta</i>							✓			
31	Ruddy Daggerwing	<i>Marpesia petreus</i>							✓			
32	Waiter Daggerwing	<i>Marpesia zerynthia</i>							✓			
33	Blomfield's Beauty	<i>Smyrna blomfieldia</i>							✓			
34	Banded Peacock	<i>Anartia fatima</i>						✓	✓	✓		
35	White Peacock	<i>Anartia jatrophae</i>							✓	✓		
36	Malachite	<i>Siproeta stelenes</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	
37	Ardys (Ardent) Crescent	<i>Anthanassa ardys</i>	✓									
38	Darkened (Black) Crescent	<i>Anthanassa ptoilyca</i>							✓			

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February								
			17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
39	Pale-banded Crescent	<i>Anthanassa tucis</i>						✓		✓	
40	Theona Checkerspot	<i>Chlosyne theona</i>							✓		
41	Elf	<i>Microtia elva</i>							✓		
42	Mexican Crescent	<i>Phyciodes pallescens</i>								✓	
43	Carolina Satyr	<i>Hermeuptychia sosybius</i>						✓		✓	
44	Arizona Mottled-Skipper	<i>Codatractus arizonensis</i>					✓				
45	Bell's (Double-striped) Longtail	<i>Urbanus belli</i>							✓		
46	Plain Longtail	<i>Urbanus simpliciis</i>							✓	✓	
47	Spot-banded (Interrupted) Longtail	<i>Urbanus prouta</i>							✓		
48	Sleepy Duskywing	<i>Erynnis brizo</i>							✓		
49	Tropical Checkered-Skipper	<i>Pyrqus oileus</i>							✓		✓

Birds (✓ = recorded; L = Leader only; h = heard only)

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February								
			17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
1	Fulvous Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>					✓				
2	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>				✓					
3	American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>				✓					
4	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		
5	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>				✓					
7	Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>				✓					
8	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>				✓					
9	Wagler's (Rufous-bellied) Chachalaca ENDEMIC	<i>Ortalis wagleri</i>						✓	✓	✓	
10	Crested Guan	<i>Penelope purpurascens</i>							✓		
11	Elegant Quail ENDEMIC	<i>Callipepla douglasii</i>						✓			
12	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>				✓					
13	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>				✓					
14	Red-billed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon aethereus</i>					✓				
15	Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓
16	American White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17	White-faced Ibis	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>				✓			✓	✓	
18	Roseate Spoonbill	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
19	Bare-throated Tiger Heron	<i>Tigrisoma mexicanum</i>								✓	
20	Boat-billed Heron	<i>Cochlearius cochlearius</i>								✓	
21	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					✓			✓	
22	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	
23	Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>					✓		✓	✓	✓
24	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
25	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	
26	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February								
			17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
27	Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>					✓		✓		
29	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
30	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
31	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
32	Blue-footed Booby	<i>Sula nebouxii</i>					✓	✓			
33	Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>					✓	✓			
34	Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
35	Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>							✓	✓	✓
36	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
37	Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
38	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>					✓	✓	✓		
39	Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>				✓					
40	White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>									L
41	Snail Kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>								✓	
42	Common Black Hawk	<i>Buteogallus anthracinus</i>								✓	
43	Harris's Hawk	<i>Parabuteo unicinctus</i>	✓								
44	Grey Hawk	<i>Buteo plagiatus</i>		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓
45	Short-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo brachyurus</i>						✓	✓		
46	Zone-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo albonotatus</i>							L		✓
47	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>		✓							
48	Northern Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>						✓			
49	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>				✓	✓				✓
50	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>								✓	
51	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				✓	✓				
52	Prairie Falcon	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>								✓	
53	Bat Falcon	<i>Falco rufigularis</i>							✓		
54	Sora	<i>Porzana carolina</i>							✓		
55	Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinicus</i>							✓	✓	
56	Common Gallinule	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>	✓						✓	✓	
57	American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>				✓		✓	✓		✓
58	Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>								✓	
59	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
60	American Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>						✓			
61	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>								✓	
62	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>								✓	
63	Northern Jacana	<i>Jacana spinosa</i>							✓	✓	
64	Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>					✓	✓			
65	Hudsonian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius hudsonicus</i>						✓	✓	✓	
66	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>					✓	✓			
67	Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	
68	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>							✓	✓	✓
69	Stilt Sandpiper	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>					✓	✓			

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February								
			17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
70	Laughing Gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		
71	Heermann's Gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	
72	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓
73	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>					✓				
74	Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>					✓	✓		✓	
75	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>					✓				
76	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
77	Red-billed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas flavirostris</i>							✓	✓	
78	White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
79	Inca Dove	<i>Columbina inca</i>	✓				✓		✓	✓	
80	Common Ground Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>	✓								
81	Ruddy Ground Dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>						✓		✓	✓
82	White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>							✓		
83	Groove-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓
84	Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>						✓	✓	✓	
85	Colima Pygmy Owl ENDEMIC	<i>Glaucidium palmarum</i>							✓		
86	Ferruginous Pygmy Owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>			h	h		✓	h	✓	h
87	Northern Potoo	<i>Nyctibius jamaicensis</i>								✓	
88	Lesser Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i>								✓	
89	Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>							h	h	
90	American Black Swift	<i>Cypseloides niger</i>		✓	✓						
91	Vaux's Swift	<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>								✓	
92	Green Violetear	<i>Colibri thalassinus</i>			✓						
93	Broad-billed Hummingbird	<i>Cynanthus latirostris</i>	✓						✓		
94	Cinnamon Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia rutila</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	
95	Violet-crowned Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia violiceps</i>		✓	✓	✓					
96	White-eared Hummingbird	<i>Basilinna leucotis</i>		✓	✓						
97	Elegant Trogon	<i>Trogon elegans</i>						✓	h		
98	Citreoline Trogon ENDEMIC	<i>Trogon citreolus</i>							✓		✓
99	Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>							✓	✓	
100	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megasceryle alcyon</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	
101	Russet-crowned Motmot	<i>Momotus mexicanus</i>		✓					✓		
102	Pale-billed Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus guatemalensis</i>							✓		
103	Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Drycopus lineatus</i>						✓			
104	Gila Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes uropygialis</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓
105	Golden-cheeked Woodpecker ENDEMIC	<i>Melanerpes chrysogenys</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
106	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>						✓	✓		
107	Ladder-backed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides scalaris</i>				✓					
108	Orange-fronted Parakeet	<i>Eupsittula canicularis</i>						✓	✓		
109	Mexican Parrotlet ENDEMIC	<i>Forpus cyanopygius</i>						✓	✓		
110	Ivory-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus flavigaster</i>							✓		
111	Northern Beardless Tyrannulet	<i>Camptostoma imberbe</i>		✓							
112	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>		✓	✓	✓					

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February									
			17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
113	Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	✓									
114	Greater Pewee	<i>Contopus pertinax</i>							✓			
115	Western Wood Pewee	<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>								✓		
116	Pacific Slope Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax difficilis</i>							✓			
117	Cordilleran Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax occidentalis</i>			✓							
118	Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
119	Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	
120	Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>		✓	h	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
121	Boat-billed Flycatcher	<i>Megarhynchus pitangua</i>									✓	
122	Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
123	Cassin's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>	✓	✓	✓							
124	Thick-billed Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus crassirostris</i>							✓			
125	Dusky-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>							h			
126	Brown-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>						✓	✓			
127	Rose-throated Becard	<i>Pachyramphus aglaiae</i>						✓	✓			
128	Masked Tityra	<i>Tityra semifasciata</i>						✓	✓			
129	Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	✓									
130	Plumbeous Vireo	<i>Vireo plumbeus</i>							✓			
131	Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>		✓								
132	Golden Vireo ENDEMIC	<i>Vireo hypochryseus</i>							✓			
133	Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>						✓	✓			
134	Black-throated Magpie-Jay	<i>Calocitta colliei</i>							✓			
135	San Blas Jay ENDEMIC	<i>Cyanocorax sanblasianus</i>							✓		✓	
136	Sinaloa Crow ENDEMIC	<i>Corvus sinaloae</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
137	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓								
138	Mangrove Swallow	<i>Tachycineta albilinea</i>					✓		✓	✓		
139	Violet-green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>			✓		✓					
140	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
141	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
142	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>			✓							
143	Cactus Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i>	✓									
144	Canyon Wren	<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>			✓	✓						
145	Happy Wren ENDEMIC	<i>Pheugopedius felix</i>						✓	h			
146	Sinaloa Wren ENDEMIC	<i>Thryothorus sinaloa</i>							✓	✓		
147	Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
148	Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>		✓	h							
149	Curve-billed Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma curvirostre</i>	✓									
150	Blue Mockingbird ENDEMIC	<i>Melanotis caerulescens</i>							✓			
151	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>				✓						
152	Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>		✓								
153	White-throated Thrush	<i>Turdus assimilis</i>							✓			
154	Rufous-backed Thrush ENDEMIC	<i>Turdus rufopalliatus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February								
			17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
155	American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	✓	✓	✓						
156	American Dipper	<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>			✓						
157	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
158	Buff-bellied Pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	✓								
159	House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓				
160	Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Spinus psaltria</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		
161	Scrub Euphonia	<i>Euphonia affinis</i>						✓	✓		
162	Louisiana Waterthrush	<i>Parkesia motacilla</i>			✓	✓					✓
163	Northern Waterthrush	<i>Parkesia noveboracensis</i>								✓	
164	Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	✓	✓					✓		
165	Nashville Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis ruficapilla</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓		
166	MacGillivray's Warbler	<i>Geothlypis tolmiei</i>							✓	✓	✓
167	Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>							✓	✓	
168	American Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga aestiva</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓
169	Audubon's Warbler	<i>Setophaga auduboni</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
170	Black-throated Grey Warbler	<i>Setophaga nigrescens</i>	✓					✓	✓		
171	Townsend's Warbler	<i>Setophaga townsendi</i>		✓	✓						
172	Wilson's Warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
173	Red Warbler ENDEMIC	<i>Cardellina rubra</i>		✓	✓						
174	Yellow-breasted Chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>						✓		✓	
175	American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>						✓	✓	✓	
176	Slate-throated Whitestart	<i>Myioborus miniatus</i>			✓						
177	Yellow-winged (Mexican) Cacique	<i>Cacicus melanicterus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
178	Scott's Oriole	<i>Icterus parisorum</i>	✓								
179	Bullock's Oriole	<i>Icterus bullockii</i>							✓		
180	Streak-backed Oriole	<i>Icterus pustulatus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
181	Black-backed Oriole ENDEMIC	<i>Icterus abeillei</i>		✓							
182	Hooded Oriole	<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
183	Orchard Oriole	<i>Icterus spurius</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓
184	Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>				✓				✓	
185	Bronzed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus aeneus</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓			
186	Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
187	Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>									✓
188	Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolnii</i>							✓	✓	
189	Yellow-eyed Junco	<i>Junco phaeonotus</i>		✓							
190	Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	✓								
191	Stripe-headed Sparrow	<i>Peucaea ruficauda</i>						✓			
192	Striped Sparrow ENDEMIC	<i>Oriturus superciliosus</i>		✓							
193	Spotted (Olive-backed) Towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus macronyx</i>		✓							
194	Canyon Towhee	<i>Melospiza fusca</i>	✓		✓						
195	White-collared Seedeater	<i>Sporophila torqueola</i>							✓	✓	
196	Red-crowned Ant Tanager	<i>Habia fuscicauda</i>							✓		
197	Hepatic Tanager	<i>Piranga hepatica</i>			✓						

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February								
			17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
198	Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>							✓		
199	Western Tanager	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓		
200	Greyish Saltator	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>						✓	✓		
201	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>						✓			
202	Black-headed Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>	✓							✓	
203	Blue Bunting	<i>Cyanocompsa parellina</i>							✓		
204	Blue Grosbeak	<i>Passerina caerulea</i>							✓		
205	Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	✓								
206	Painted Bunting	<i>Passerina ciris</i>						✓	✓		

Mammals (D = domesticated)

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February								
			17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
1	Virginia Opossum	<i>Didelphis virginiana</i>			D						
2	Bat species	<i>Chiroptera</i>		✓		✓					
3	Mexican Fox Squirrel	<i>Sciurus nayaritensis</i>		✓	✓	✓					
4	Red-bellied Squirrel	<i>Sciurus aureogaster</i>						✓	✓		
5	Mexican Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus mexicanus</i>	✓								
6	Long-tailed Weasel	<i>Mustela frenata</i>		✓							
7	Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>					✓	✓			
8	Dolphin species	<i>Cetacea: Odontoceti</i>					✓				

Other vertebrates

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February								
			17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
1	Ray species	<i>Batoidea</i>						✓			
2	American Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus acutus</i>					✓			✓	
3	Green Iguana	<i>Iguana iguana</i>								✓	
4	Lizard species	<i>Lacertoidea</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	
5	Mesoamerican Slider	<i>Trachymys venusta</i>								✓	