

Mexico's Monarchs, Humpbacks and Endemic Birds

Naturetrek Tour Report

15 – 25 February 2016



Boat-billed Heron



Violet-crowned Hummingbird



Humpback Whale



Monarchs mating

Report compiled by Dave Smallshire
Images courtesy of Alan Crockard



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Introduction

This tour combined three focal points in Mexico: the world-famous overwintering Monarchs in Michoacán state, a boat trip to look for Humpback Whales and finally a host of birds along the central Pacific coast. We began just outside Mexico City with a visit to the ancient site of Teotihuacán, where two huge pyramids dominate the landscape and a nice variety 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, boobies, frigatebirds and other seabirds. Finally, excursions into forests and mangroves around San Blas brought us a wide range of birds, including 14 Mexican endemics. It was a very successful tour, blessed by good weather, good food and good company.

Day 1

Monday 15th February

At London Heathrow we had to wait a little longer than anticipated for our British Airways flight while a minor problem was fixed, and consequently we arrived at Mexico City about half-an-hour late. We met up with Pat and Peter, whose arrival more or less coincided with ours, whilst waiting in a lengthy queue at passport control. After collecting our baggage we soon found our local guide, Karel, who led us to the minibus and introduced our driver Oscar. We were soon on our way to our hotel on the outskirts of the city at Teotihuacán. The hotel provided refreshments in our rooms, but we were tired after our journey and soon in bed, wondering what tomorrow would bring on our first full day in Mexico.

Day 2

Tuesday 16th February

It was quite chilly when we emerged from our rooms at 7am for some birding around the hotel before breakfast. While checking a crowd of House Sparrows in some palm trees we found red male House Finches, but these were metaphorically blown away by a stunning Vermilion Flycatcher - the first of many we were to see in the coming days. Crossing the road to overlook the Teotihuacán archaeological site, we found Lark Sparrow, Say's Phoebe, Canyon Towhee and Curve-billed Thrasher, while many Great-tailed Grackles flew overhead from their roost. Several hot-air balloons took to the air - a lovely way to see the ancient pyramids, though no doubt very cold! Then it was time to retreat to the warmth of the hotel and a fine breakfast.

With breakfast over and the temperature rising, 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. Broad-billed Hummingbird, Bewick's Wren and Loggerhead Shrike were near the entrance, while Lark Sparrow and Say's Phoebe foraged in the short grass in the first area we looked at. From another entrance to the site, 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 Spotted Ground Squirrel, Audubon's Warbler, Blue-grey Gnatcatcher and Chipping Sparrow, while everyone eventually saw Cactus Wren, one of the local specialities.

We had lunch at a nearby restaurant, overlooked by the Pyramid of the Sun. In the garden we were greeted by one of the local resident Monarchs - surely a good omen! There was a good choice of typical Mexican food, together with welcome cold drinks. Afterwards, we began our journey to the Mexican province of Michoacán, where we were to be based for the next three nights, leaving behind the semi-desert plateau and chronic traffic of Mexico City. It was getting 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 17th February

An enthusiastic group gathered at 7am for some pre-breakfast birding; back in our fleeces again. With welcome hot drinks we saw Streak-backed Orioles and Violet-crowned Hummingbirds sipping nectar from a nearby flowering shrub. Endemic Rufous-backed Thrushes and more orioles were in the surrounding trees and a Black Phoebe was flycatching from the rocks in the river. After a good breakfast, we were surprised to find Canyon Wrens with fledged young frequenting the rooftops of our accommodation instead of the limestone rock faces below, from where their loud, descending songs had emanated. 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 en masse. The weather was glorious though still a little chilly to start with, as 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 an hour to reach the site where the Monarchs were roosting and approaching midday when we got to 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 flights north next month. Looking into the forest we could see many 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. Occasionally, huge masses would take to the wing and fill the air, like an orange snow storm. As we stood in quiet awe we realised that we could actually hear them flying! The combined noise of their wings was rather like the rustling of leaves in a gentle breeze. The whole experience was quite magical.

After a while we began to trickle back to where our horses were waiting: lunch beckoned. As we dismounted, a Mourning Cloak (Camberwell Beauty) perched up for us to see and a pair of Steller's Jays called from the firs. The meal 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. There was some time for birding before we returned to the coach. Turkey Vulture, American Robin, Yellow-eyed Junco, Lincoln's Sparrow and Western Bluebird were seen. Back at Agua Blanca Lodge we had some free time when we returned, enabling some to sample the spring-fed swimming pool before dinner. Over dinner we started a debate over the collective noun for a hibernating mass of Monarchs: should it be a Realm or a Kingdom? A Majesty was a later suggestion, but we never did take a vote on it

Day 4

Thursday 18th February

The early morning birding session produced Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Western Wood Pewee, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Nashville and Townsend's Warblers, Painted Whitestart, Orchard Oriole and Black-headed Grosbeak. The Canyon Wren family was again in evidence.

After breakfast we set off for the steep and windy road to El Rosario Monarch Reserve, seeing White-naped Swifts during a refuelling stop. On arrival, most of us mounted horses again 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. Damp and muddy areas were carpeted in drinking hordes while the air was filled with large orange confetti: a truly memorable experience that has to rate amongst the most spectacular wildlife sights in the world! Those who had decided to walk up, joined the rest of the group and we continued into the forest to the overwintering site, where many more Monarchs were still clinging to trunks or weighing down branches with their combined mass. Most of us opted to walk back down, seeing Mexican Chickadee, Golden-browed Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, White-eared Hummingbird and Green Violetear from the path, but try as we might, we couldn't find the iconic Red Warbler.

After a picnic lunch, Brian pointed out Hepatic Tanager and then we drove down to the small town of Angangueo, where Karel interpreted the murals that lined both sides of a narrow alleyway. We visited one of the two churches, where earlier there had been an American Kestrel perched. Further down, we stopped to look at a lake, which proved rather disappointing, with Pied-billed Grebe, Great Egret and a few American Coots. Small birds around the margin included Lesser Goldfinch and Song Sparrow. We returned to Agua Blanca for more birding, swimming or relaxation. Down at the river, Black Phoebe were busy flycatching from the rocks, while over a tributary a couple of Zebra Longwings were found around the dangling creepers.

Day 5

Friday 19th February

We had a final hour's birding before breakfast at Agua Blanca, finding our first Golden-cheeked Woodpecker and Great Kiskadee, a group of Lesser Goldfinches, more tantalising views of Painted Whitestart, and Hepatic, Summer and Western Tanagers, while a few Black Vultures flew overhead. After breakfast we loaded the coach and began our journey to Toluca airport. At a toilet stop en route we saw a Broad-winged Hawk circling over the filling station. On a nice straight stretch of road shortly afterwards, the traffic ahead suddenly bunched up: Oscar braked hard, but we hit the back of the truck in front. Fortunately, everyone was strapped in and no-one was hurt, but the bus was certainly not going to get us to the airport. While we got out and then removed our luggage, Karel summoned a passing taxi, which in turn arranged for a fleet of taxis to come from the nearest town. Within half-an-hour (and not before adding Hermit Warbler to our list!) we were on our way again and amazingly arrived at the airport right on time. 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.

Before dinner, Karel took some of the group to visit a nearby reserve at the edge of mangroves. Birds seen included Common Black Hawk, Red-billed Pigeon, Tropical and Thick-billed Kingbirds, and our first Mexican Cacique. Dinner was taken outside, overlooking the marina, and Alan announced that it was Margaret's birthday as the champagne corks popped. To add to the somewhat surreal ambience, we were then treated to a 'Tropical Live

Show' as we ate, although to be fair we had a better view of the improvised dressing room than the stage! The distant Magnificent Frigatebirds, Brown Pelicans and Black Vultures over the skyline almost went unnoticed. As the sun went down, a few bats flew out over the marina from their daytime roost.

Day 6

Saturday 20th February

During our 'American' breakfast Dave pointed out a Peregrine perched on apartments across the Marina, where Neotropic Cormorant, Laughing and Heermann's Gulls, Mangrove Swallows and a snake were seen. After loading the minibuses, we drove to Punta Mita at the northern side of the Bay of Banderas. Here we split into two groups and made a 'wet boarding' of the whale-watching boats. Karel had warned us that El Niño had made the sea warmer than usual and as a result Humpback Whales were few and far between this year. We headed out over the blue sea towards the two Islas Marietas, wondering whether we would have success today. Fernando tried the hydrophone to check for a singing male whale, but to no avail. Beyond the islands, suddenly a Humpback was heard exhaling and we were scanning wildly for its next surfacing. Over the next hour we had five sightings of the same whale at intervals of up to nearly 15 minutes, some ending with the classic tail view as it dived for a few more minutes. Keeping our distance to within that permitted, we watched keenly for the next 'blow' and had some good views of it arching its back, showing the relatively small dorsal fin on the humped back as it went under again. Our relief at seeing a whale, expressed as a corporate 'phew', was almost as audible as the whale's blow!

Leaving the whale behind, we headed back to one of the islands, where we were treated to great views of the seabirds on the rocks. Frigatebirds wheeled everywhere and both Brown and Blue-footed Boobies were seen at close range, as were Yellow-crowned Night Herons, Great Blue Herons and a Little Blue Heron. One of the boats found an Olive Ridley Turtle and Bottlenose Dolphins, while Royal, Elegant and American Black Terns and passing groups of Red-necked Phalaropes were also seen from the boats. Whale sightings are always guaranteed to raise the spirits and indeed we were a very animated group as we lunched overlooking the beach, a fishing Osprey adding to the excitement.

The rest of the afternoon was taken up travelling further north to our next base at the small town of 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 crocodiles were very close and clearly waiting for fishy treats; one large animal with gaping jaws ignored a young White Ibis that ventured dangerously close. We also saw Anhinga, Wood Stork, Roseate Spoonbill and Gull-billed and Caspian Terns amongst a range of herons and egrets, while Belted Kingfishers posed for telescope views. Nearby, another viewpoint added Blue-winged Teal, Lesser Yellowlegs and Black-necked Stilts, while all the time large flocks of Great-tailed Grackles and endemic Sinaloa Crows flew over, no doubt heading to roosts.

We soon arrived in at our hotel for the remainder of the tour, the Garza Canela, or 'Boat-billed Heron'. After settling in, we had a fine dinner with very friendly hotel staff in close attendance.

Day 7

Sunday 21st February

Today some of the group, hoping for a second chance to see Humpback Whales, opted to charter a boat from San Blas, while the remainder left the hotel early for a picnic breakfast beside mangroves. We ate to the sound of noisy Orange-fronted Parakeets and Mexican Caciques, with Golden-cheeked Woodpecker on the utility poles. A

Northern Crested Caracara flew past. Then it was birding along the 'Crocodile Road', where a dry, weedy area held Yellow-breasted Chat, White-collared Seed-eater, Blue-black Grassquit and Stripe-headed Sparrow, while Gila Woodpecker and Blue Grosbeak appeared briefly nearby. Wet or muddy areas held Limpkin, White-faced Ibis, Northern Jacana, Green Kingfisher and Northern Waterthrush, with a Snail Kite overhead. Telescope views of a dark raptor in a tree showed that it was the uncommon Great Black Hawk, as was a second bird nearby that caught a green lizard. This was also our first opportunity to see more species of butterflies, with plenty of Zebra Longwings, stunning Crimson-patched Longwings and both Banded and White Peacocks. The road led over the river to Cocodrilario, a holding facility for wildlife taken into care, where we found a group of Rufous-bellied (Wagler's) Chachalacas as we approached. As well as the captive Crocodiles and various parrots and cats, we located some splendid Boat-billed Herons hiding in the waterside trees. As we left, we found several Black-throated Magpie-Jays in trees in place of the chachalacas.

Meanwhile, Fernando found Ferruginous Pygmy Owls for the rest of the group as they left the hotel. Sadly no whales were seen on the boat trip, but there was compensation in the form of three Whale Sharks, the world's largest fish, one of which passed under the boat. Cownose Rays were also seen leaping out of the water, while seabirds included many of those seen the day before.

The two sub-groups joined up again for lunch at a shrimp restaurant near the 'Crocodile Road', after which we all returned to the hotel for a siesta. Later in the afternoon we visited the ruins of San Blas 'fort', the old customs house set in a commanding position overlooking the coastal plain. The adjacent woodland gave us rather tantalising views of Mexican Parrotlets, Rose-throated Becard, Masked Tityra, Greyish Saltator and Rose-breasted Grosbeak, though a Black-and-white Warbler preened long enough for telescope views. Mosquitoes and 'no-see-ums' eventually forced us to move on to look at some old shrimp farm ponds. Here we had good views of Roseate Spoonbills and a nice range of waders, including American Avocet, Long-billed Curlew, Willet, Wilson's and Semipalmated Plovers, Least Sandpiper and Long-billed Dowitcher.

Day 8

Monday 22nd February

The whole group ventured out early for another picnic breakfast, this time in mixed habitats along a track leading from the village of Singaita to the edge of the mangroves. Karel and Fernando laid out a very substantial breakfast as we watched a range of birds nearby. In one flowering tree we saw Yellow-winged (Mexican) Caciques and Blue Mockingbird, and an enormous Lineated Woodpecker landed in the tree above us. Calls alerted us to pairs of Lilac-crowned Amazons and Purplish-backed Jays; we were assured that the latter took the place of San Blas Jays around San Blas! Walking slowly along the track after breakfast, we found a group of endemic Elegant Quail in a stockyard with lots of Ruddy Ground Doves and Bronzed Cowbirds. Greyish Saltators were demolishing the flowers of creepers and Pacific-slope Flycatchers tried to keep the mosquitoes under control, but tiny Mexican Parrotlets proved hard to see again. We also saw Squirrel Cuckoo, Cinnamon Hummingbird, Citreoline Trogon, Masked Tityra, Sinaloa Wren, Black-throated Grey Warbler, American Redstart and Scrub Euphonia. Butterflies were again reasonably prominent, given that it was early spring, and Dave was pleased to see a few dragonflies, including dancers, rubyspots, dashers and Carmine Skimmer.

We had lunch at one of the many seaside restaurants at Playa de las Islitas, passing our first Ring-billed Gulls on the beach. After a lovely meal fish some of the group had a paddle and as we were getting into the minibuses we spotted Black Iguanas on rocks nearby. After a siesta back at the hotel, we regrouped for an evening boat ride

through the mangroves. Under a surprisingly cloudy sky, our two boats cruised gently through a tunnel in the mangroves, until the channel widened and more birds started to appear. 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 and so like the dead stump on which it sat! We also found Bare-throated Tiger Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Green Heron and White Ibis. Boat-billed Herons peering at us through their leafy mangrove daytime roost: what strange birds, with strange calls, bulging eyes and an even more bulging bill! A perched Snail Kite was seen well, complete with the elongated upper mandible it uses for winking out the large Apple Snails. Uncountable numbers of Tropical Kingbirds seemed to be gathering to roost, while most of a presumed Green Iguana was inside a tree hole! A Laughing Falcon called from a distant palm tree as we approached the end of the channel, where we got out of the boats for a while as the light faded. As we got back into the boats, a Pauraque called and then flew around in the spotlight beam. We saw a few more on the return journey, plus many of the herons again, this time in the spotlight beams. A Limpkin was new for some, but the highlight was the Potoos, now alert and with their yellow eyes wide open.

Day 9

Tuesday 23rd February

Today we headed for the wooded mountains at Tecuitata, taking a picnic breakfast with us again. 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, Crested Guans were spotted in the tree tops, then Pale-billed and Grey-crowned Woodpeckers appeared and an Elegant Trogon called but failed to show itself. A few White-throated Thrushes were amongst the many Rufous-backed eating the fruits. An Ivory-billed Woodcreeper made an appearance, as did Painted Buntings, though it took a while for everyone to see the gaudy males. As we walked downhill, we discovered Black-throated Magpie-jay, Squirrel Cuckoo, Citreoline Trogon and Boat-billed Flycatcher. Butterflies were even more evident today, including Polydamas Swallowtail, Many-banded Daggerwing and a Grey Cracker, beautifully camouflaged on a lichen-covered tree trunk.

A delicious lunch was served in traditional surroundings at the base of the mountain, after which some of us went in search of another endemic bird, Colima Pygmy Owl. One was heard calling at close range, but despite much staring into the branches it could not be found. As we searched, an Ornate Helicopter Damsel, one of the world's largest, cruised gently through the sunlit vegetation. Dave noted at least seven species of dragonflies at the stream.

Heading back for the coast, we stopped at the river mouth at Aticama, where the water tumbled out over the shingle beach. American Coots seemed rather out of place here, but the Brown Pelicans, Neotropic Cormorants and various herons, egrets and gulls seemed more at home. Two Royal Terns sat majestically on the rocks. While some of the group relaxed after returning to San Blas, Karel and Fernando drove the rest to the local sewage ponds, which weren't as smelly as expected. En route, a beach along the river had a large flock of roosting birds, on the edge of which were two minute Least Terns. Fragments of wetland nearby held the only Least Grebe of the trip, plus American Purple Gallinule and a Yellow-breasted Chat feeding out in the open. There were more Purple Gallinules at the sewage ponds, plus several Moorhen-like Common Gallinules, Northern Jacanas, three Soras, Common Yellowthroat and Northern Mockingbird.

Day 10

Wednesday 24th February

On our final morning, Dave rose early and had an unplanned walk out to the river mouth, where he saw another Northern Mockingbird, Pale-billed Woodpecker, several Blue Grosbeaks, Song Sparrow and an Orange-crowned Warbler. We had a relaxed breakfast and loaded the minibuses, before bidding farewell to the hotel staff, who had been so good to us. Fernando found the Ferruginous Pygmy Owls again as we prepared to leave. We stopped for a short walk on our way back to Puerto Vallarta Airport, hoping to see San Blas Jay. Success, as they called, flew across the track and moved around in the trees. Although at the time Dave thought the Pygmy Owl that responded to Karel's whistling was Colima, Alan's photos showed the crown to be streaked rather than spotted, so it was another Ferruginous after all. A Bullock's Oriole was also seen and a pair of White-tipped Doves flew up off the track, both new birds for the trip.

At Puerto Vallarta we said goodbye to Karel and Fernando, who had been excellent guides, checked in and then had lunch. Our passage through to Mexico City was uneventful. We retrieved our baggage at Mexico City, said goodbye to Maggie and Cliff, who were spending some time in Mexico City, and then to Peter and Pat at the KLM desk, before checking in for the BA flight home, which left on time.

Day 11

Thursday 25th February

We arrived safely and on time at Heathrow just after 1pm. After retrieving our baggage, we said our last goodbyes and went on our own homeward journeys. We took with us a wealth of wonderful memories, especially of the Monarch extravaganza, which are sure to remain with us for a long time to come.

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Species Lists

Butterflies

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February									
			16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
1	Polydamas Swallowtail	<i>Battus polydamas</i>								✓		
2	Cloudless Sulphur	<i>Phoebis seenae</i>								✓		
3	Mexican Yellow	<i>Eurema mexicana</i>								✓		
4	Red-bordered Pixie	<i>Melanis pike</i>						✓				
5	Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
6	Julia Heliconian	<i>Dryas iulia moderata</i>						✓	✓	✓		
7	Zebra Longwing (Heliconian)	<i>Heliconius charithonia</i>			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
8	Crimson-patched Longwing (Erato Heliconian)	<i>Heliconius erato</i>						✓	✓			
9	White-rayed Patch	<i>Chlosyne ehrenbergii</i>			✓							
10	Grey Cracker	<i>Hamadryas februa</i>								✓		
11	Many-banded Daggerwing	<i>Marpesia chiron</i>								✓		
12	Mourning Cloak	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>		✓								
13	Banded Peacock	<i>Anartia fatima</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	
14	Pale-banded Crescent	<i>Anthanasia tulfis</i>								✓		
15	Flasher sp.	<i>Astrapes sp.</i>						✓				
16	White-striped Longtail	<i>Chioides catillus</i>								✓		
17	Alana White Skipper	<i>Heliopetes alana</i>							✓			

Birds (✓ = recorded; L = Leader only; H = heard only (E) = Endemic)

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February									
			16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
1	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>					✓	✓				
2	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		
3	Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>						✓				
4	Wagler's (Rufous-bellied) Chachalaca (E)	<i>Ortalis wagleri</i>						✓	✓	H	H	
5	Crested Guan	<i>Penelope purpurascens</i>								✓		
6	Elegant Quail (E)	<i>Callipepla douglasii</i>							✓			
7	Least Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i>								✓		
8	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>			✓							
9	Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
10	American White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
11	White-faced Ibis	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>	✓			✓		✓		✓	✓	
12	Roseate Spoonbill	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		
13	Bare-throated Tiger Heron	<i>Tigrisoma mexicanum</i>							✓			
14	Boat-billed Heron	<i>Cochlearius cochlearius</i>						✓	✓			
15	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					✓	✓				
16	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		
17	Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓		
18	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		
19	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
20	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
21	Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		
22	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		
23	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		
24	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
25	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February									
			16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
26	Blue-footed Booby	<i>Sula nebouxii</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		
27	Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>					✓					
28	Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
29	Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		
30	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
31	Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
32	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>					✓	✓			✓	
33	Snail Kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>						✓	✓			
34	Great Black Hawk	<i>Buteogallus urubitinga</i>						✓				
35	Common Black Hawk	<i>Buteogallus anthracinus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			
36	Harris's Hawk	<i>Parabuteo unicinctus</i>					✓					
37	Grey Hawk	<i>Buteo plagiatus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
38	Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>				✓						
39	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	✓		✓							
40	Northern Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>						✓	L			
41	Laughing Falcon	<i>Herpetotheres cachinnans</i>							✓	H		
42	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
43	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				✓	✓					
44	Sora	<i>Porzana carolina</i>								✓		
45	Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinicus</i>								✓		
46	Common Gallinule	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>	✓							✓		
47	American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>			✓					✓		
48	Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>						✓	✓			
49	American Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>						✓				
50	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
51	American Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>						✓				
52	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>						✓				
53	Wilson's Plover	<i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>						✓				
54	Northern Jacana	<i>Jacana spinosa</i>						✓		✓		
55	Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>						✓				
56	Hudsonian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius hudsonicus</i>					✓	✓		✓	✓	
57	Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>						✓				
58	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>					✓	✓				
59	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>					✓	✓				
60	Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	
61	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
62	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>						✓				
63	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>					✓	✓				
64	Bonaparte's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus philadelphia</i>					✓	✓			✓	
65	Laughing Gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>				✓	✓			✓	✓	
66	Heermann's Gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
67	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>							✓	✓	✓	
68	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>					✓	✓				
69	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>				✓	✓					
70	Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>					✓					
71	Elegant Tern	<i>Thalasseus elegans</i>					✓					
72	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>					✓					
73	Least Tern	<i>Sternula antillarum</i>								✓		
74	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>					✓					
75	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
76	Red-billed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas flavirostris</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February									
			16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
77	White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
78	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
79	Inca Dove	<i>Columbina inca</i>	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓		
80	Ruddy Ground Dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	
81	White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>									✓	
82	Groove-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>						✓	✓			
83	Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>							✓	✓		
84	Colima Pygmy Owl (E)	<i>Glaucidium palmarum</i>								H		
85	Ferruginous Pygmy Owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>	H	H	H	H		✓			✓	
86	Northern Potoo	<i>Nyctibius jamaicensis</i>							✓			
87	Lesser Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i>	L						L			
88	Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>					H	H	✓			
89	White-naped Swift	<i>Cypseloides</i>			✓							
90	Vaux's Swift	<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>	✓							✓		
91	Green Violetear	<i>Colibri thalassinus</i>			✓							
92	Broad-billed Hummingbird	<i>Cynanthus latirostris</i>	✓						✓			
93	Cinnamon Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia rutila</i>							✓	✓	✓	
94	Violet-crowned Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia violiceps</i>		✓	✓	✓						
95	White-eared Hummingbird	<i>Basilinna leucotis</i>		L	✓							
96	Elegant Trogon	<i>Trogon elegans</i>								H		
97	Citreoline Trogon (E)	<i>Trogon citreolus</i>							✓	✓	✓	
98	Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>						✓	✓			
99	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>					✓	✓		✓		
100	Gila Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes uropygialis</i>						✓				
101	Golden-cheeked Woodpecker (E)	<i>Melanerpes chrysogenys</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
102	Ladder-backed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides scalaris</i>			✓							
103	Grey-crowned Woodpecker (E)	<i>Piculus auricularis</i>								✓		
104	Pale-billed Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus guatemalensis</i>								✓	✓	
105	Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Drycopus lineatus</i>							✓	✓		
106	Orange-fronted Parakeet	<i>Eupsittula canicularis</i>					✓		✓	✓		
107	Mexican Parrotlet (E)	<i>Forpus cyanopygius</i>					L	✓	✓			
108	Lilac-crowned Amazon	<i>Amazona finschi</i>							✓			
109	Ivory-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus flavigaster</i>								✓		
110	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>		✓	✓							
111	Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	✓									
112	Greater Pewee	<i>Contopus pertinax</i>								✓		
113	Western Wood Pewee	<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>			✓							
114	Pacific Slope Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax difficilis</i>						✓	✓			
115	Cordilleran Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax occidentalis</i>		✓	✓							
116	Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
117	Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
118	Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
119	Boat-billed Flycatcher	<i>Megarhynchus pitangua</i>								✓		
120	Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
121	Thick-billed Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus crassirostris</i>				✓				✓		
122	Dusky-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>					L	✓		✓		
123	Brown-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>							✓			
124	Rose-throated Becard	<i>Pachyramphus aglaiae</i>						✓		L		
125	Masked Tityra	<i>Tityra semifasciata</i>						✓	✓	✓		
126	Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	✓									
127	Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>							✓	✓		

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			16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
128	Black-throated Magpie-jay (E)	<i>Calocitta colliei</i>						✓	L	✓		
129	Steller's Jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>		✓								
130	Purplish-backed Jay (E)	<i>Cyanocorax beechii</i>							✓			
131	San Blas Jay (E)	<i>Cyanocorax sanblasianus</i>								H	✓	
132	Sinaloa Crow (E)	<i>Corvus sinaloae</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
133	Mexican Chickadee	<i>Poecile sclateri</i>			✓							
134	Mangrove Swallow	<i>Tachycineta albilinea</i>					✓	✓	✓		L	
135	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
136	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
137	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	✓	✓	✓							
138	Cactus Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i>	✓									
139	Canyon Wren	<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>		✓	✓	✓						
140	Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewikii</i>	✓									
141	Sinaloa Wren (E)	<i>Thryothorus sinaloa</i>							✓			
142	Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
143	White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolensis</i>			✓							
144	Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>								✓	✓	
145	Curve-billed Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma curvirostre</i>	✓	✓	✓							
146	Blue Mockingbird (E)	<i>Melanotis caerulescens</i>				L			✓			
147	Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>		✓	L							
148	White-throated Thrush	<i>Turdus assimilis</i>								✓		
149	Rufous-backed Thrush (E)	<i>Turdus rufopalliatu</i> s	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
150	American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>		✓	✓							
151	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
152	House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	✓									
153	Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Spinus psaltria</i>			✓	✓						
154	Scrub Euphonia	<i>Euphonia affinis</i>							✓			
155	Northern Waterthrush	<i>Parkesia noveboracensis</i>						✓				
156	Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>						✓				
157	Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis celata</i>									L	
158	Nashville Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis ruficapilla</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓				
159	MacGillivray's Warbler	<i>Geothlypis tolmiei</i>	✓									
160	Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>								✓		
161	American Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga aestiva</i>						✓				
162	Audubon's Warbler	<i>Setophaga auduboni</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓						
163	Black-throated Grey Warbler	<i>Setophaga nigrescens</i>							✓	✓		
164	Townsend's Warbler	<i>Setophaga townsendi</i>			✓							
165	Wilson's Warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓		
166	Yellow-breasted Chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>						✓		✓		
167	American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>							✓			
168	Painted Whitestart	<i>Myioborus pictus</i>			✓	✓						
169	Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>					L					
170	Yellow-winged (Mexican) Cacique	<i>Cacicus melanicterus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
171	Bullock's Oriole	<i>Icterus bullockii</i>									✓	
172	Streak-backed Oriole	<i>Icterus pustulatus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
173	Hooded Oriole	<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>		✓		✓						
174	Orchard Oriole	<i>Icterus spurius</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
175	Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>			✓			✓				
176	Bronzed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus aeneus</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
177	Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February									
			16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
178	Song Sparrow	<i>Passerculus</i>			✓						✓	
179	Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolnii</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓			
180	Yellow-eyed Junco	<i>Junco phaeonotus</i>		✓								
181	Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	✓									
182	Stripe-headed Sparrow	<i>Peucaea ruficauda</i>					L	✓				
183	Canyon Towhee	<i>Melozone fusca</i>	✓									
184	Blue-black Grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>						✓				
185	White-collared Seedeater	<i>Sporophila torqueola</i>						✓			L	
186	Hepatic Tanager	<i>Piranga hepatica</i>			✓	✓						
187	Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>			✓	✓				✓		
188	Western Tanager	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>			✓	✓				✓		
189	Greyish Saltator	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>						✓	✓	✓		
190	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>						✓				
191	Black-headed Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>	✓		✓	✓						
192	Blue Grosbeak	<i>Passerina caerulea</i>					L	✓			L	
193	Painted Bunting	<i>Passerina ciris</i>								✓		

Mammals

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February								
			16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1	Bat species	Chiroptera				✓		✓	✓		
2	Colima Tree Squirrel	<i>Ardilla colimense</i>								✓	✓
3	Spotted Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus spilosoma</i>	✓								
4	Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>					✓				
5	Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>					✓				

Other vertebrates

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February								
			16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1	Olive Ridley Turtle	<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>					✓				
2	American Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus acutus</i>					✓		✓		
3	Black (Spinytail) Iguana	<i>Ctenosaura similis</i>						✓	✓		
4	Green Iguana	<i>Iguana iguana</i>							✓		
5	House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus sp.</i>						✓	✓	✓	
6	Whale Shark	<i>Rhincodon typus</i>						✓			
7	Pacific Cownose Ray	<i>Rhinoptera steindachneri</i>						✓			

