

# Mexico's Monarchs, Humpbacks and Endemic Birds

Naturetrek Tour Report

13 – 22 February 2017



Ferruginous Pygmy Owl with a lizard



Monarchs at El Chiquila Reserve



Humpback Whale diving



Red Warbler

Report and images by Dave Smallshire



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Tour Participants: Dave Smallshire (Leader) & Karel Beets (Local Guide) with 13 Naturetrek clients

## Summary

This tour combined three focal points in Mexico: the world-famous overwintering Monarchs in Michoacán state, followed by boat trips to look for Humpback Whales and finally a wide range 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 one of our visits to two 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. We took two boat rides into the realm of female Humpback Whales with their young and 'escort' males. Finally, excursions into forests and mangroves around San Blas brought us a wide range of birds, including 13 Mexican endemics. Everyone agreed that it was a very successful tour, blessed by mostly good weather, good food and good company.

## Day 1

**Monday 13th February**

Our British Airways flight left London Heathrow on time and we arrived at Mexico City about half-an-hour early. After collecting our baggage we located 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. We gathered for a late dinner and met up with Jared and Louise, who had arrived earlier in the day in time for some birding around the hotel. With our biological clocks pulling us to bed, we soon retired, wondering what tomorrow would bring on our first full day in Mexico.

## Day 2

**Tuesday 14th February**

It was quite chilly when we emerged from our rooms at 7.00 am for some birding around the hotel before breakfast. In the palm trees out front there were House Sparrows and House Finches, whilst in the bushes nearby were Broad-billed Hummingbird, Curve-billed Thrasher, Rufous-backed Thrush, Canyon Towhee and Chipping Sparrows; many Great-tailed Grackles flew overhead from their night-time roost. Crossing the road to overlook the Teotihuacán archaeological site, we saw several hot-air balloons take to the air - a lovely way to see the ancient pyramids, though no doubt very cold! We marvelled at the stunning colour of a male Vermilion Flycatcher - the first of many we were to see in the coming days. An American Kestrel and Cassin's Kingbirds were also seen, but soon it was time to retreat to the warmth of the hotel and a fine breakfast.

With 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. First we looked at the Temple of Quetzalcoatl, where most of the group climbed the steps to the top. Broad-billed Hummingbird, Black-vented Oriole and a group of Blue Grosbeaks were near the entrance to the site, while Lark Sparrows and Say's Phoebe foraged in the short grass by the Temple. Several Ground Squirrels around their burrows in the short grass were either Spotted or Mexican. 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 a Common Rock Squirrel sitting rather uncomfortably on top of a prickly pear,

plus Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Dusky Flycatcher, Blue-grey Gnatcatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, Lincoln's Sparrow, Bewick's Wren and Cactus Wren, one of the local specialities.

Before lunch we were shown how the Agave plants yield not only a slightly alcoholic drink, but also parchment, skin lotion and needles and thread; such a useful plant! We had lunch at a nearby restaurant, overlooked by the Pyramid of the Sun. 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 going dark when we arrived at Agua Blanca Lodge and we were soon enjoying an excellent 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. Most of us decided in advance to ride horses up to the Monarch viewing areas, a novel experience for some!

## Day 3

## Wednesday 15th February

An enthusiastic group gathered at 7.00 am for some pre-breakfast birding, back in our fleeces again. A large leaf-like Katydid (bush-cricket) was still clinging to the wall at reception. Welcome coffee finally appeared and we watched a Violet-crowned Hummingbird perched by the restaurant, occasionally patrolling its treasured nectar sources in the flowering shrubs. Hooded Orioles started to appear, as did a Summer Tanager.

After breakfast, 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 at an altitude of around 3,200m. The weather was glorious though still a little chilly to start with. Steller's Jays called from the firs as we walked to the horses that were waiting for us. Helped by the ranchos who would lead the horses, we mounted our trusty steeds and prepared for the ride up to the butterflies. It took about an hour in total to reach the site where the Monarchs were roosting and approaching midday when we got to the viewing area. As we walked through the woodland, first a Brown Creeper was spotted and then one of Mexico's specialities: a beautiful Red Warbler (two others were seen later). Good numbers of Monarchs were already on the wing, taking nectar from wild flowers and basking on the ground. Karel explained how to tell males from females, by the scent glands on the hind wings of the former. Surprising numbers of the butterflies 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. The whole experience was quite magical.

After a while we began to trickle back to where our horses were waiting: lunch beckoned. A few of us walked down, finding Golden-crowned Kinglets on the way. White-eared Hummingbirds were calling in the forest, but only one was actually seen. 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 time for some birding before we returned to the coach. American Robin and Yellow-eyed Junco were seen. We had some free time at Agua Blanca Lodge when we returned, enabling some to go birding again before dinner. Western Tanager and Painted Whitestart were added to our growing list, while Richard found a Black Iguana disappearing into a hole in the limestone cliff by the river. At sunset, groups of Hooded Orioles plunged into a palm by the swimming pool, rapidly disappearing as they quickly found good perches for the night.

## Day 4

## Thursday 16th February

This morning dawned disappointingly cloudy, but at least it was dry. The early morning birding session produced Golden-cheeked Woodpecker, Canyon Wren on the cliffs and a fleeting glimpse of a Russet-crowned Motmot near the river.

After breakfast we set off for the steep and windy road to El Rosario Monarch Reserve. On arrival, most of us mounted horses again for the final part of the journey. They took us to an open grassy area, where we were joined by those who had decided to walk up. A tiny Bumblebee Hummingbird sat in the bushes and groups of Pine Siskins landed in nearby conifers. Skulking around the bushes were Song and Lincoln's Sparrows and Yellow-eyed Juncos. We continued on foot into the forest to the Monarchs' overwintering site, seeing Mexican Chickadee, Hammond's Flycatcher, Rufous-capped Brush Finch and both Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets en route. In the prevailing cool, overcast and breezy conditions, nearly all the Monarchs today remained clinging to trunks or weighing down branches with their combined mass. There were certainly very large numbers, spread over more than 40 trees. As more visitors began to arrive, we decided to walk back down to lunch, seeing Golden-browed Warblers, White-eared, Broad-tailed and Magnificent Hummingbirds and Green Violetear from the path.

After a good Mexican lunch, we returned to Agua Blanca for more birding, swimming or relaxation. Down at the river, a Black Phoebe was on the rocks and we had good views of a Painted Whitestart but less good views of a Russet-crowned Motmot. As the light faded, a Sharp-shinned Hawk and a group of Northern Rough-winged Swallows flew overhead. After dinner, Dave pointed out a large Dobson Fly on the wall of the entrance hall.

## Day 5

## Friday 17th February

We had a final hour's birding before breakfast at Agua Blanca, finding Northern Beardless Tyrannulet, Great Kiskadee, Nashville Warbler, Streak-backed, Hooded and Black-vented Orioles, Western Tanager and Black-headed Grosbeak. After breakfast we loaded the coach and began our journey to Toluca airport. Stopping for coffee, we found two Striped Sparrows with Savannah Sparrow, Canyon Towhee and House Finches. Near Toluca, we had a rather frustrating stop at the edge of the highway to look over a roadside lake. We could make out lots of waterfowl from the bus, including Pied-billed Grebes, White-faced Ibis, Gadwall, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Ruddy Duck and American Coot. Toluca Airport was modern and remarkably peaceful, allowing us to have a very relaxed lunch. The short flight took us over some spectacular scenery, with distant views of 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.

Walks beside the marina yielded sightings of Green Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, Laughing Gulls, Caspian Tern and Tropical Kingbirds. We had sundowners by the edge of the marina and dinner conveniently next to the bar. The Magnificent Frigatebirds, Brown Pelicans and Black Vultures over the skyline almost went unnoticed ....

## Day 6

## Saturday 18th February

We had an early 'American' breakfast at 7:00am, after which we walked the short distance to Karel's shop, seeing a Mourning Dove singing on the restaurant roof and a Golden-cheeked Woodpecker near the shop. Karel's wife, Astrid, gave us a presentation about Humpback Whales and then we boarded the boat that would take us out into

the Bay of Banderas, where the female whales calve in the shallow waters. As we left the marina, Dave pointed out Neotropic Cormorant, Snowy Egret, California Gulls and Mangrove Swallows, and finally a Peregrine perched on the top of an apartment block. We headed out fast across the bay, noting Brown and a few Blue-footed Boobies and eventually stopped near to the first group of Humpbacks. We saw pectoral fins and tail flukes being waved and splashed, and were shown the calm surface water ('mirror') left behind when a whale dived. Over the next hour or two we were treated to a succession of whales, a dozen in all, including mothers with calves and 'escort' males, who seek out the females and try to mate. We also had two sightings of Olive Ridley Turtle. As a finale, Astrid put a hydrophone overboard and we listened to the awesome sounds of a male Humpback singing. Returning back to Puerto Vallarta for lunch, we feasted on seafood and other delicacies in a restaurant overlooking the marina.

After lunch, the group divided into two and boarded minibuses driven by Karel and Michael. The rest of the afternoon was taken up travelling further north to our next base at the small town of San Blas. A comfort stop provided scope for ice creams or coffees, together with a distant Merlin. Later on we stopped to look at a Grey Hawk on a roadside pole. We pulled off the road just short of San Blas to look over a muddy area within mangroves. Black-necked Stilts and Long-billed Dowitchers were feeding close to us, while more distantly we found Tricolored and Little Blue Herons, Great Egret, White Ibis, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveler, Common Black Hawk, Whimbrel, Willet, Semipalmated Plovers and Stilt Sandpipers, while flocks of Great-tailed Grackles and endemic Sinaloa Crows flew over, heading for their roost sites. Among some small birds, no doubt feasting on the little flies that were irritating us, were Northern Waterthrush and American Redstart.

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

## Day 7

## Sunday 19th February

Today most of the group took a second boat trip to see Humpback Whales, this time out of San Blas. Jared, Louise and John opted to visit the 'Crocodile Road' area instead, taking a picnic breakfast with them. Pre-breakfast birding in the rain, mostly from the shelter of the hotel porch, yielded Ferruginous Pygmy Owl and Lineated Woodpecker. Most of the group had breakfast at the hotel and then drove round to the harbour. Belted Kingfisher and Ring-billed Gulls flew around as we boarded two boats, and Reddish Egret and Osprey were seen along the river channel as we approached the sea. The weather looked ominous, but the rain held off as we headed out to sea through what must have been 2m high waves: not quite as comfortable as the day before! The boats became separated after a while, then Michael spotted a blow, which led to some good views of a lone Humpback. Before the other boat could return, jaws dropped as the Humpback suddenly launched into the air less than 100m away and came down the most enormous splash: there's nothing like a breaching whale to stun an audience! No-one had a camera ready to capture the moment, as the sea was too rough. Over the next couple of hours we saw another five Humpbacks, behaving much as those had done the previous day. Returning back towards San Blas, we circled two small islets topped with seabirds: Magnificent Frigatebirds, Brown Pelicans, Blue-footed Boobies and Heerman's Gulls. On the shore nearby was a roosting flock of Royal Terns with a couple of Black Skimmers, and American Oystercatchers nearby. A further pair of the latter was seen as we returned to the harbour, plus another group of roosting terns (Royal, Caspian and at least one Elegant) and gulls.

Meanwhile, the 'Crocodile Road' proved to be very productive, with a dozen Rufous-bellied (Wagler's) Chachalacas, Wood Stork, White-faced Ibis, Limpkin, Killdeer, Groove-billed Anis, Squirrel Cuckoo, Black-chinned

Hummingbird, Citreoline Trogons, Ringed and Green Kingfishers, Gila Woodpecker, Mexican Parrotlets, Willow Flycatcher, Black-throated Magpie-jays, Northern Mockingbird, Common and Grey-crowned Yellowthroats, Black-throated Grey Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat, Blue-black Grassquit, White-collared Seed-eater, Greyish Saltator, Lincoln's Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak and Varied Bunting. Butterflies included Ceraunus Blue, Julia Heliconian, Zebra Longwing, Crimson-patched Longwings, Pale-banded Crescent and White Peacock.

The two sub-groups joined up again for lunch back at the hotel, after which we had 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. A noisy band was a little distracting, if not disturbing to the birds in the adjacent woodland, where we had rather tantalising views of Squirrel Cuckoo, Citreoline Trogon, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Rose-throated Becard, Summer Tanagers and Black-headed Grosbeak. Mosquitoes and 'no-see-ums' eventually persuaded us to move on to look at some old shrimp farm ponds. The light was fading when we found some muddy ponds with a good range of waders, including American Avocet, Long-billed Curlew, Willet, Semipalmated Plovers, Least and Western Sandpipers, Lesser Yellowlegs and Long-billed Dowitcher. A Yellow-crowned Night Heron walked along one of the banks and a Sinaloa Wren called from the mangroves, while amongst the many waterbirds flying towards roost sites were Wood Storks, Roseate Spoonbill and an American White Pelican. Single Cooper's Hawk and Northern Crested Caracara were also seen, several Lesser Nighthawks patrolled the skies, and later at dinner a Pauraque called near the hotel.

## Day 8

## Monday 20th February

We left the hotel at 6.00am this morning for a picnic breakfast in the mixed habitats to be found along a track leading from the village of Singayta. Karel and Michael laid out a very substantial breakfast as we watched a range of birds nearby. Noisy Yellow-winged (Mexican) Caciques hassled a Blue Mockingbird, and a pair of Gila Woodpeckers mated nearby. Lineated and Golden-cheeked Woodpeckers were also in evidence and a Northern Crested Caracara seemed intent on perching near us, albeit briefly. Over breakfast we spotted Cinnamon Hummingbird, Thick-billed Kingbird, Grey-crowned Becard, Black-throated Grey Warbler, Greyish Saltators and Painted Buntings, while a Rufous-bellied (Wagler's) Chachalaca sat in a tree long enough for us to scope it. Perhaps the biggest surprise, though, was a Muscovy Duck flying over. Walking slowly along the track after breakfast, we failed to find the endemic Elegant Quails around their favoured stockyard, though the time spent searching there was very productive, with Ruddy Ground Doves, White-tipped Dove, Tropical Parula, Lucy's Warbler, Bronzed Cowbirds and Blue Bunting. Moving on, we found Squirrel Cuckoo, Russet-crowned Motmot, Orange-fronted Parakeets, Dusky-capped Flycatcher and Plumbeous and Black-capped Vireos. While scoping a gorgeous male Elegant Trogon, John spotted a Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, probably the same individual that perched close to us later with a lizard in its talons. Its behaviour and appearance were almost paranoid, as it shot glances to and fro, glaring at us in between tearing at its still-moving prey! Some of the group focussed on butterflies, which were reasonably prominent, given that it was early spring, and Dave was pleased to see a few dragonflies. Butterflies included Little Yellow, gaudy Heliconians and Mexican Sailor.

We had lunch at one of the many seaside restaurants at Playa de las Islitas. After a lovely fish meal, some of the group paddled or swam, while others tried to photograph Black Iguanas on the rocks nearby. We returned briefly to the hotel, then off to the river for an evening boat ride through the mangroves. First, our boats cruised gently along the riverbank to a small area of exposed mud. After optimistically playing the calls of Ridgway's (formerly Clapper) Rail, we were surprised when one appeared briefly in the shade of the mangroves: a good start! Moving across the

river, another mangrove speciality, Mangrove Cuckoo, was sunning itself on the edge of the trees, with a Squirrel Cuckoo close by. Then we took a side channel, stopping occasionally to get views of Mangrove Warbler. Soon we found ourselves next to a group of Boat-billed Herons hiding in their daytime roost in the mangroves and later we were all staring at a lump of wood: it was, of course, a Northern Potoo, looking uncannily inanimate and so like the branch on which it sat! We also found Bare-throated Tiger Heron and Yellow-crowned Night Herons. As the channel widened, more birds started to appear: Ospreys, Anhingas, Limpkin, Green Kingfishers. A perched Snail Kite was seen well, complete with the elongated upper mandible it uses for winking out the large Apple Snails; later there were three together, plus a Merlin in another tree. Red-billed Pigeons glowed in the evening light. Uncountable numbers of Tropical Kingbirds were gathering to roost, Black Vultures settled in the tops of palm trees and a variety of egrets and White Ibises adorned the trees like large fairy lights. Astonishingly, we had our second rail of the evening, when a Spotted Rail flew past one of the boats and landed on the muddy bank, staying there for a short while until it was disturbed by noise from an oncoming boat. We had a loo stop at the end of the channel, before returning to the boats at dusk. Lesser Nighthawks were hunting over the marshes and soon the first of two Potoos was caught in the spotlight: it was nice to see them alert and with their yellow eyes wide open. As we returned to base, we passed several pairs of Crocodile eyes shining red in the spotlight and a Boat-billed Heron at the water's edge: what a great end to a superb evening! We had dinner at a local restaurant in San Blas, after which some of the group gathered in the hotel lobby to log the day's many and varied sightings.

## Day 9

## Tuesday 21st February

Today we left the hotel at 5.30 am and 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 an enormous fruiting tree. Before long, a Crested Guan was spotted in the treetop. Hordes of Rufous-backed and White-throated Thrushes gorged on the abundant fruits, together with Red-billed Pigeons, Western and Hepatic Tanagers, Greyish Saltators and noisy Orange-fronted Parakeets. A group of Black-throated Magpie-jays appeared and Nashville Warblers were common in the treetop. The chimes of a Brown-backed Solitaire emanated from the trees nearby and some of us glimpsed it eventually. Louise and John saw Cedar Waxwings in the top of another tree. Happy Wrens gave their cheerful song, but we failed to see any. As we walked downhill, a Short-tailed Hawk flew overhead as we tried to see Blue, Painted and Varied Buntings: a colourful bunch. Noises in dense shrubs led Richard to discover a gorgeous Rosy Thrush Tanager. Further down, we saw Elegant and Citreoline Trogons, Sinaloa Wren, Greater Pewee and Golden Vireo, the last seen only by Jared. Lorraine found an Ornate Helicopter Damsel, one of the world's largest, and later a second; we marvelled as they cruised gently around the sunlit vegetation, searching for prey. Butterflies were also much in evidence today and included White-angled Sulphur, Massilia Sister, Felder's Sister, Blue-eyed Sailor and Many-banded Daggerwing, not to mention a host of confusing skippers.

Before lunch we visited the base of an organic co-operative coffee plantation, where we were told about how the coffee was grown in the shade of the native forest, to the benefit of wildlife. We also learned how the sun-dried beans lack the bitterness of roasted coffee, and how coffee could be good for one's health; we sampled a range of coffees, some of us ordering bags of those we liked best and went to lunch nearby to make up our own minds about the claimed health-giving properties. The delicious lunch was served in traditional surroundings, after which some of us went in search of another endemic bird, Colima Pygmy Owl. We heard calls, but they turned out to be Michael! As compensation, we did see Ivory-billed Woodcreeper and Scrub Euphonia briefly, and several damselflies and dragonflies along the stream, including the tiny Slough Amberwing dragonfly.



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, Royal Tern and various herons, egrets and gulls seemed more at home.

On the way back to San Blas, we stopped for fresh coconuts at a lagoon in the mangroves. Several large American Crocodiles were close to us, literally alongside Least and Spotted Sandpipers. The only Dunlin of the trip was here too, while further out were Roseate Spoonbills, American Avocets and good variety of herons, egrets and ducks. A squadron of White Pelicans flew through and Caspian Tern circled. While some of the group relaxed after returning to San Blas, the rest went to the local sewage ponds, which weren't as smelly as expected. En route, we passed a Northern Mockingbird on wires. There were American Purple Gallinules at the sewage ponds, plus several Moorhen-like Common Gallinules, many Northern Jacanas and two Soras. As we started to leave, a Pale-billed Woodpecker was found and then a Bare-throated Tiger Heron began barking loudly from the top of a bush.

## Day 10

## Wednesday 22nd February

Pre-breakfast birding around the hotel on our final morning produced Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, several Orchard Orioles and a group of Bronzed Cowbirds. Pride of place, however, went to a very obliging Lineated Woodpecker that drummed loudly on a dead branch right next to the hotel building. We had a relaxed breakfast and loaded the minibuses, before bidding farewell to the hotel staff, who had been so good to us. We stopped for a short walk on our way back to Puerto Vallarta Airport, hoping to see San Blas Jay, but with no success. A Ferruginous Pygmy Owl responded to Karel's whistling, and we also saw Citreoline Trogon, Scrub Euphonia and, just as we were leaving, Jared found some Stripe-headed Sparrows. As we drove back to the main road, a Laughing Falcon flew past the minibuses: a final new bird for our list.

At Puerto Vallarta we said goodbye to Karel and Michael, who had been excellent guides, checked in and then had lunch. Our departure was delayed by half-an-hour, but we arrived at Mexico City in good time for our transfer to the London flight. We retrieved our baggage and said goodbye to Jared and Louise, who were spending another night or two in Mexico City, before checking in for the BA flight home. We departed about an hour late, because the crew got stuck in the City's interminable traffic.

## Day 11

## Thursday 23rd February

We arrived safely and more or less on time at Heathrow at 1.00 pm, after a very bumpy approach as we circled and then landed into storm 'Doris'. Three bags took a long time to arrive: in fact not until lost baggage forms had been completed! Therefore we said our goodbyes in a rather piecemeal fashion, and left on our homeward journeys. We took with us a wealth of wonderful memories, especially of the Monarchs, Humpbacks and the mangrove cruise, 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									
			14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
1	Two-tailed Swallowtail	<i>Papilio multicaulis</i>	✓									
2	White-angled Sulphur	<i>Phoebis clorinde</i>								✓		
3	Little Yellow	<i>Pyrisitia lisa</i>							✓			
4	Ceraunus Blue	<i>Hemiargus ceraunus</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	Felder's Sister	<i>Adelpha boeotia</i>								✓		
10	Blue-eyed Sailor	<i>Dynamine dyonis</i>								✓		
11	Ruddy Daggerwing	<i>Marpesia petreus</i>								✓?		
12	Many-banded Daggerwing	<i>Marpesia chiron</i>								✓		
13	White Peacock	<i>Anartia jatrophe</i>						✓	✓			
14	Banded Peacock	<i>Anartia fatima</i>							✓	✓		
15	Pale-banded Crescent	<i>Anthanassa tulcis</i>								✓		
16	Carolina Satyr	<i>Hermeuptychia sosybius</i>						✓				
17	Long-tailed Skipper	<i>Urbanus proteus</i>								✓		
18	Common Checkered-skipper	<i>Pyrgus communis</i>	✓									
19	Fritzgaertner's Flat	<i>Celaenorrhinus fritzgaertneri</i>			✓				✓			

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

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February								
			14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1	Muscovy Duck	Cairina moschata							2		

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February									
			14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
2	Gadwall	Anas strepera				✓						
3	Blue-winged Teal	Anas discors				✓	✓			✓		
4	Northern Shoveler	Anas clypeata				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
5	Ruddy Duck	Oxyura jamaicensis				20						
6	Wagler's (Rufous-bellied) Chachalaca ENDEMIC	Ortalis wagleri						12	1		L	
7	Crested Guan	Penelope purpurascens								2		
8	Pied-billed Grebe	Podilymbus podiceps				✓						
9	Wood Stork	Mycteria americana						✓	✓	✓	✓	
10	American White Ibis	Eudocimus albus					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
11	White-faced Ibis	Plegadis chihi	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓		
12	Roseate Spoonbill	Platalea ajaja					L	1	2	3		
13	Bare-throated Tiger Heron	Tigrisoma mexicanum							2	1		
14	Boat-billed Heron	Cochlearius cochlearius							7			
15	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	Nyctanassa violacea						1	2			
16	Green Heron	Butorides virescens				1	1	1	✓	1		
17	Western Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
18	Great Blue Heron	Ardea herodias					1	✓	✓		1	
19	Great Egret	Ardea alba				1	2	✓	✓	✓		
20	Reddish Egret	Egretta rufescens						1		L		
21	Tricolored Heron	Egretta tricolor					1	✓	✓	✓		
22	Little Blue Heron	Egretta caerulea					1	1	✓	2		
23	Snowy Egret	Egretta thula					2	✓	✓	✓		
24	American White Pelican	Pelecanus erythrorhynchos						1		30		
25	Brown Pelican	Pelecanus occidentalis				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
26	Magnificent Frigatebird	Fregata magnificens				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
27	Blue-footed Booby	Sula nebouxii					✓	30				
28	Brown Booby	Sula leucogaster					1	1				

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February								
			14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
29	Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
30	Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>				1		2	✓	✓	
31	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>		1		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
32	Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
33	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>					1		2		1
34	Snail Kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>							3		L
35	Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>			1	1			1		
36	Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>						1			
37	Common Black Hawk	<i>Buteogallus anthracinus</i>					1	2			
38	Grey Hawk	<i>Buteo plagiatus</i>					2		2		
39	Short-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo brachyurus</i>								1	
40	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	2	1	✓						
41	Northern Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>						1	1		
42	Laughing Falcon	<i>Herpetotheres cachinnans</i>							H	H	1
43	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	1	1		1					✓
44	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>					1		1		
45	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>					2				
46	Ridgway's Rail	<i>Rallus obsoletus</i>								1	
47	Spotted Rail	<i>Pardirallus maculatus</i>								1	
48	Sora	<i>Porzana carolina</i>								2	
49	Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinicus</i>								✓	
50	Common Gallinule	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>	✓							✓	
51	American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>				✓		1		✓	
52	Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>						1	1		
53	American Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>						4			
54	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
55	American Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>						20		20	

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February									
			14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
56	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>						1	1			
57	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>					2	12				
58	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>						1				
59	Northern Jacana	<i>Jacana spinosa</i>								✓		
60	Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>					12	20		✓		
61	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>					1	✓	1			
62	Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>						✓				
63	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>						✓				
64	Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>					1	1	1			
65	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>				1		✓	1	✓		
66	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>								1		
67	Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>						2+				
68	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>						4		3		
69	Stilt Sandpiper	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>					5	✓		30		
70	Laughing Gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>				✓	✓	✓		1		
71	Heermann's Gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>						10	✓	25	✓	
72	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>						25	✓	✓		
73	California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>				1	✓	✓		✓	✓	
74	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>				1	1	✓		1		
75	Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>						100		1		
76	Elegant Tern	<i>Thalasseus elegans</i>						1				
77	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
78	Red-billed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas flavirostris</i>							✓	20		
79	Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	4			1	1					
80	White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	50			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
81	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓	1	1	✓	3				
82	Inca Dove	<i>Columbina inca</i>	2				1	1	✓	✓		

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February									
			14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
83	Ruddy Ground Dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>						24	✓	✓	✓	
84	White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>							1	1		
85	Groove-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>						15	✓			
86	Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>						2	2			
87	Mangrove Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus minor</i>								1		
88	Ferruginous Pygmy Owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>						1	1		2	
89	Northern Potoo	<i>Nyctibius jamaicensis</i>							3			
90	Lesser Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i>						3	4	1		
91	Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>						H	H			
92	Vaux's Swift	<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>		L								
93	Green Violetear	<i>Colibri thalassinus</i>			1							
94	Broad-billed Hummingbird	<i>Cynanthus latirostris</i>	2				1				1?	
95	Cinnamon Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia rutila</i>						2	✓	✓	1	
96	Violet-crowned Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia violiceps</i>		2	1	2						
97	White-eared Hummingbird	<i>Basilinna leucotis</i>		1	✓							
98	Black-chinned Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus alexandri</i>						1				
99	Broad-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus platycercus</i>		1								
100	Bumblebee Hummingbird ENDEMIC	<i>Atthis heloisa</i>		1								
101	Elegant Trogon	<i>Trogon elegans</i>							2	2		
102	Citreoline Trogon ENDEMIC	<i>Trogon citreolus</i>						2		2	1	
103	Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>						2	✓			
104	Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle torquata</i>						2	1			
105	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>						1	✓	1		
106	Russet-crowned Motmot	<i>Momotus mexicanus</i>			1				1			
107	Gila Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes uropygialis</i>						4	✓			
108	Golden-cheeked Woodpecker ENDEMIC	<i>Melanerpes chrysogenys</i>			1	1	1	10	✓	✓	2	
109	Ladder-backed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides scalaris</i>	1									

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February									
			14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
110	Pale-billed Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus guatemalensis</i>								1		
111	Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Drycopus lineatus</i>						1	1	✓	1	
112	Orange-fronted Parakeet	<i>Eupsittula canicularis</i>							2	✓		
113	Mexican Parrotlet ENDEMIC	<i>Forpus cyanopygius</i>					L	16				
114	Ivory-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus flavigaster</i>								1		
115	Northern Beardless Tyrannulet	<i>Camptostoma imberbe</i>				1						
116	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>			1							
117	Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	1									
118	Greater Pewee	<i>Contopus pertinax</i>								1		
119	Pacific Slope Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax difficilis</i>							2	✓		
120	Dusky Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax oberholseri</i>	1									
121	Hammond's Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax hammondii</i>			1							
122	Willow Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii</i>						1				
123	Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>	✓	✓			1	1	✓	✓		
124	Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>					2		✓		1	
125	Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>				4	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	
126	Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>				2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
127	Cassin's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>	3									
128	Thick-billed Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus crassirostris</i>							✓			
129	Dusky-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>							1	✓		
130	Brown-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>						1	✓	1	1	
131	Rose-throated Becard	<i>Pachyramphus aglaiae</i>						1	2			
132	Grey-collared Becard	<i>Pachyramphus major</i>							1			
133	Masked Tityra	<i>Tityra semifasciata</i>						✓	✓	✓		
134	Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	2									
135	Plumbeous Vireo	<i>Vireo plumbeus</i>							1			
136	Black-capped Vireo	<i>Vireo atricapilla</i>							1			

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February									
			14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
137	Golden Vireo	<i>Vireo hypochryseus</i>								1		
138	Black-throated Magpie-jay ENDEMIC	<i>Calocitta colliei</i>						7	2	✓		
139	Steller's Jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>		2								
140	Sinaloa Crow ENDEMIC	<i>Corvus sinaloae</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
141	Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>								8		
142	Mexican Chickadee	<i>Poecile sclateri</i>		H	1							
143	Mangrove Swallow	<i>Tachycineta albilinea</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
144	Violet-green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>			40							
145	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>			✓	✓		30	✓	1		
146	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>						1				
147	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	1			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
148	Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>		✓	✓							
149	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>		1	2							
150	Cactus Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i>	1									
151	Canyon Wren	<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>		1	2	H						
152	Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	2									
153	Sinaloa Wren ENDEMIC	<i>Thryothorus sinaloa</i>						1		1		
154	Happy Wren ENDEMIC	<i>Pheugopedius felix</i>								H		
155	House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>		2								
156	Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliophtila caerulea</i>	2		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	1	
157	Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>		1								
158	Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>						1		1	1	
159	Curve-billed Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma curvirostre</i>	✓									
160	Blue Mockingbird ENDEMIC	<i>Melanotis caerulescens</i>							1			
161	Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>		1?								
162	Brown-backed Solitaire	<i>Myadestes occidentalis</i>								1		
163	Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>		1								



	Common Name	Scientific Name	February								
			14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
164	White-throated Thrush	<i>Turdus assimilis</i>							1	✓	
165	Rufous-backed Thrush ENDEMIC	<i>Turdus rufopalliatu</i> s	1	✓		3		✓	1	✓	2
166	American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>		20	✓						
167	American Dipper	<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>		1							
168	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
169	House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	✓			✓	✓				
170	Pine Siskin	<i>Spinus pinus</i>			20						
171	Scrub Euphonia	<i>Euphonia affinis</i>								1	1
172	Northern Waterthrush	<i>Parkesia noveboracensis</i>					2	1	1		
173	Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>								1	
174	Tropical Parula	<i>Setophaga pitiayumi</i>							2		
175	Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis celata</i>		1			1			✓	1
176	Nashville Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis ruficapilla</i>			2	1		1	✓	✓	
177	Lucy's Warbler	<i>Oreothlypis luciae</i>							1		
178	Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>						4			
179	Grey-crowned Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis poliocephala</i>						1			
180	American Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga aestiva</i>						✓			
181	'Mangrove Warbler'	<i>Setophaga petechia</i>								1	
182	Audubon's Warbler	<i>Setophaga auduboni</i>		✓							
183	Black-throated Grey Warbler	<i>Setophaga nigrescens</i>						1	2	✓	
184	Hermit Warbler	<i>Setophaga occidentalis</i>		1							
185	Golden-browed Warbler	<i>Basileuterus belli</i>			3						
186	Wilson's Warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>		1				1	✓	✓	
187	Red Warbler ENDEMIC	<i>Cardellina rubra</i>		3							
188	Yellow-breasted Chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>						1			
189	American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>					2	1		✓	
190	Painted Whitestart	<i>Myioborus pictus</i>		1	1						

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February									
			14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
191	Yellow-winged (Mexican) Cacique	<i>Cacicus melanicterus</i>					12	3	✓	✓	✓	
192	Streak-backed Oriole	<i>Icterus pustulatus</i>			1	✓		1	✓	✓	✓	
193	Black-vented Oriole	<i>Icterus wagleri</i>	1			2			1			
194	Hooded Oriole	<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>		25	1	✓						
195	Orchard Oriole	<i>Icterus spurius</i>						1	1		3	
196	Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>						2				
197	Bronzed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus aeneus</i>							3		10	
198	Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>					2	✓				
199	Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
200	Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>			1	1						
201	Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolnii</i>	1		1			6				
202	Yellow-eyed Junco	<i>Junco phaeonotus</i>		✓								
203	Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	✓	✓								
204	Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>				1						
205	Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	✓									
206	Stripe-headed Sparrow	<i>Peucaea ruficauda</i>									3	
207	Striped Sparrow	<i>Oriturus superciliosus</i>				2						
208	Canyon Towhee	<i>Melospiza fusca</i>	✓			1						
209	Rufous-capped Brush Finch ENDEMIC	<i>Atlapetes pileatus</i>			1							
210	Blue-black Grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>						2				
211	White-collared Seedeater	<i>Sporophila torqueola</i>				1		16		2		
212	Hepatic Tanager	<i>Piranga hepatica</i>								1		
213	Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>		✓				✓	1			
214	Western Tanager	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>		3	2	✓				✓		
215	Rosy Thrush-tanager	<i>Rhodinocichla rosea</i>								1		
216	Greyish Saltator	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>						2	8	✓		
217	Black-headed Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>	2	1	1	1		1				

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February								
			14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
218	Blue Bunting	<i>Cyanocompsa parallina</i>							1	1	
219	Blue Grosbeak	<i>Passerina caerulea</i>	15					1			
220	Painted Bunting	<i>Passerina ciris</i>							4	2	
221	Varied Bunting	<i>Passerina versicolor</i>						4		1	

## Mammals

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February								
			14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1	Bat species	Chiroptera			✓				✓		
2	Eastern Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>						6	1	✓	2
3	Common Rock Squirrel	<i>Otospermophilus variegatus</i>	1+								
4	Ground squirrel species		✓								
5	Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>					12	6			

## Other vertebrates

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February								
			14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1	Olive Ridley Turtle	<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>					2				
2	American Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus acutus</i>							✓	10	
3	Black (Spinytail) Iguana	<i>Ctenosaura similis</i>		1	1		1		5	1	
4	House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus sp.</i>						✓	✓		

## Miscellaneous invertebrates

Leaf Katydid (Bush-cricket), Tettigoniidae

Ornate Helicopter Damsel, *Mecistogaster ornata*Slough Amberwing, *Perithemis domitia*

Dobson Fly, Corydalinae

## Naturetrek Facebook

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Bare-throated Tiger Heron



Lineated Woodpecker



Gila Woodpecker



Elegant Trogon



American Crocodile