

Mexico's Monarchs, Humpbacks and Endemic Birds

Naturetrek Tour Report

5 - 15 February 2018



Golden-cheeked Woodpecker



Humpback Whales: mother with breaching calf



Green Heron (immature)



Black-headed Grosbeak with Monarchs

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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 but cool conditions for 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 good variety of birds, including 15 Mexican endemics. Everyone agreed that it was a very successful tour, blessed by good weather, good food and good company.

Day 1

Monday 5th February

Our British Airways flight left London Heathrow on time and we arrived at Mexico City a little late to find a very long and winding queue at immigration. After collecting our baggage, we located our local guide, Karel, and Clare, who had travelled via Frankfurt. We made our way to two minibuses and loaded up for the journey to our hotel outside the city at Teotihuacán. After checking in, most of us gathered in the dining room for a late dinner. 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 6th February

It was decidedly chilly when we most of us emerged from our rooms at 7am for some pre-breakfast birding, as parties of Great-tailed Grackles flew overhead from their night-time roost. We drove a short distance to walk along part of the perimeter of the Teotihuacán archaeological site. The first bird we set eyes on was a Loggerhead Shrike, one of a pair. We also found Inca and Mourning Doves, Curve-billed Thrasher, Canyon Towhee, Audubon's and Wilson's Warblers, Chipping Sparrow and Blue Grosbeak. Several hot-air balloons took 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 several noisy Cassin's Kingbirds were also seen, but soon it was time to retreat to the warmth of the hotel and a fine breakfast. Later, Clare told us of two unidentified parrots she had seen in the hotel garden.

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. House Finch, Bewick's Wren, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Black-vented and Baltimore Orioles, Loggerhead Shrike, the endemic Rufous-backed Thrush and a Spotted Ground Squirrel were seen near the entrance to the site, while Lark Sparrows, Say's Phoebe, Cassin's Kingbirds and Buff-bellied Pipit foraged in the short grass by the Temple. From another entrance to the site, most 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 Cactus Wren, one of the local specialties, singing from prickly pear, plus Dusky and Ash-throated Flycatchers, Blue-grey Gnatcatcher, Bewick's Wren and Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

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 (and less-welcome 'musicians'), and a Two-tailed Swallowtail came down to the lawn for moisture. 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 dark when we arrived at Agua Blanca Lodge and after checking in 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 Monarch butterflies overwintered. Most of us decided in advance to ride horses up to the Monarch viewing areas, a novel experience for some!

Day 3

Wednesday 7th February

An enthusiastic group gathered at 7am for some pre-breakfast birding, back in our fleeces again. A Canyon Wren was singing loudly as coffee appeared, and we watched a Violet-crowned Hummingbird perched by the restaurant, occasionally patrolling its treasured nectar sources in the flowering shrubs. Pride of place in the many birds feeding around fruiting trees down in the canyon was a Russet-crowned Motmot. A fine supporting cast included our first Golden-cheeked Woodpecker, Great Kiskadee, Social Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Cassin's and Warbling Vireos, Black-and-white and Nashville Warblers, Streak-backed Orioles, Summer and Western Tanagers and a stunning Slate-throated Whitestart.

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 microclimate requirements and rest on the trunks and branches of the firs en masse at an altitude of over 3,000 metres. The weather was fine though still a little chilly to start with. A Striped Sparrow greeted us as we got out of the minibuses, and a Mexican Chickadee and Western Bluebirds entertained some of us while others mounted their horses. Helped by the ranchos who would lead the horses, we made our way up to the butterflies, which took over half an hour. As we walked on further through the woodland, small chafer beetles flew around our feet and lots of beautiful iridescent Princely Tiger Moths sat on the abundant flowers sipping nectar, while a Broad-tailed Hummingbird sat long enough for some confirmatory photos to be taken. A few Monarchs were on the wing, some taking nectar from wild flowers and others basking on the ground. Karel explained how to tell males from females, by the scent glands on the hind wings of the former. After overshooting the area where the Monarchs had recently moved to, we elected to take a steep route down to where we could see plenty of Monarch activity. It was worth it, because as we looked down at several trees adorned with dense bunches of resting and basking butterflies, we were treated to dramatic bursts of flight activity as the sun came out and warmed them up. Wonderful!

After a suitable period of watching, we made our way carefully back up the slope. A Rivoli's (a recent split from Magnificent) Hummingbird appeared briefly as we prepared to re-join our horses, while Greater Pewee, Bullock's Orioles and Pine Siskins were also seen. Lunch beckoned down at the visitor centre, where we were treated to delicious guacamole (of course), soup and a choice of filled tortillas. As we ate, American Robin,

Audubon's Warblers and Yellow-eyed Juncos were seen foraging on the short grass nearby. Finally, one of Mexico's specialities, a Red Warbler, was seen and a Calliope Hummingbird teased us before it was time to board the minibuses and head back to Agua Blanca. We had some free time for birding, swimming or relaxing when we returned.

Day 4

Thursday 8th February

This morning dawned a little cloudy, but at least it was dry, and the sun appeared later. A Ferruginous Pygmy Owl was the highlight of the early morning birding session, which also produced a Ladder-backed Woodpecker and Violet-crowned Hummingbirds. After breakfast we set off for the steep and winding road to El Rosario Monarch Reserve; a White-tailed Deer was seen from one of the minibuses. On arrival, most of us mounted horses again for the final part of the journey. They took us to an open grassy area, near where we were soon watching a lovely mixed flock of small birds that included a colourful mix of Red, Hooded and Townsend's Warblers and both Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. We continued on foot to the Monarchs' overwintering site, where sunny spells resulted in occasional spectacular blizzards of orange as many Monarchs took to the air in unison. Birds are hard to spot amongst the confusion of flying Monarchs, but a Black-headed Grosbeak was spotted atop one of the clumps of butterflies, occasionally grabbing one to eat: the Grosbeak is one of only a few species known to eat the wintering Monarchs. As more visitors began to arrive, we decided it was time to walk back down, seeing first an obliging Ruby-throated Hummingbird right next to the path, and later Green Violetear and White-eared and Rufous Hummingbirds. Several Hepatic Tanagers were feeding by the visitor centre, even from the rooftops, and Slate-throated Whitestart and American Robin added to the colour.

After a good Mexican lunch, we returned to Agua Blanca for more birding, swimming or relaxation. Down at the river, Black Phoebes were on the rocks, White-throated Thrush and male Summer Tanager were seen and we had brief sightings of Black Iguanas near the caves and holes in the limestone cliff.

Day 5

Friday 9th February

As our flight from Toluca to the Pacific coast had been brought forward this year, we had early coffee at 6.45am, collected our packed breakfasts and headed off for the airport. Stopping for a comfort break (one of Karel's 'biological stops'), we saw a Striped Sparrow in a roadside bush, and another on the approach to the airport, where we also saw a few Red-winged Blackbirds and Starlings. Toluca Airport is modern and remarkably peaceful, so an early lunch was a very relaxed affair. The short flight took us to Puerto Vallarta, a large town set in Banderas Bay: a noted breeding area for Humpback Whales.

We checked in at our hotel and met up later for a stroll to the nearby marina. Magnificent Frigatebirds and Black Vultures were cruising over the buildings and Chris photographed a Juno Heliconian butterfly. The adjacent golf course held an Anhinga, Neotropic Cormorants, American Coot, White-collared Seedeaters, Great Egret, Great Blue and Green Herons and Spotted Sandpipers. The last two species also fed around the edge of the marina, quite unperturbed by the passers-by, while less obliging were Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Laughing and California Gulls and a Caspian Tern. Colourful crabs and fishes also grabbed our attention, and a pair of Peregrine Falcons were perched up on their usual high apartment block. Gathering in Karel's premises nearby, we were given a talk about Humpback Whales and the importance to them of the area we would visit on

tomorrow's boat trip. Returning to the hotel and dinner at our leisure, some saw the first White-winged Doves, Tropical Kingbirds and a fly-by group of Mexican Parrotlets.

Day 6

Saturday 10th February

We had an early breakfast at 7am and then loaded the minibuses, one of which was driven by Karel's colleague Michael. Dave found a Bar-sided Dusk-hawker in the lobby, a large crepuscular dragonfly that is often attracted to the lights of buildings. We drove around to Karel's shop and then, with Michael, boarded the boat that would take us out into the Bay of Banderas, where the female whales calve in the shallow waters. Before leaving the marina, we had spotted Brown Pelicans, Snowy Egret, Whimbrel, Willet and Mangrove Swallows, and finally several Green Iguanas and Orchard Orioles in the waterside bushes. Our first Humpbacks were a mother and calf, which we watched for some time as the mother taught the youngster the rudiments of diving and surfacing for air. At one point the mother began splashing her tail on the water and lifting out her pectoral fin, which the calf seemed to emulate. We also had a brief sighting of a turtle, probably Olive Ridley Turtle. After seeing passing Royal Terns and Laughing and Heerman's Gulls, we headed to a feeding frenzy of Common Terns and Brown and Blue-footed Boobies. After circling small wooded islets with nesting Brown Pelicans, we headed back out into the bay again. The boatman shouted loudly when a Humpback calf breached and soon we had another mother and calf in sight, the calf breaching again several times. Later, Michael put a hydrophone overboard and we listened to the sounds of a distant male Humpback singing. Returning back to Puerto Vallarta for lunch, we stopped to check out a flock of Laughing Gulls on the beach: it contained 16 Black Skimmers. A Black-necked Stilt and two American Avocets fed conspicuously in the background, though a group of Semipalmated and Grey Plovers and presumed Western Sandpipers were only identified later from photographs. Three Elegant Terns flew out of the marina as we returned, the only ones of the trip. For lunch, we feasted on seafood and other delicacies in a restaurant overlooking the marina.

After lunch, the group boarded the minibuses and travelled north to our next base at the small town of San Blas. A comfort stop provided scope for ice creams, together with Western Meadowlarks nearby. We pulled off the road just short of San Blas to look over a lagoon set within mangroves. Although the lay-by was bustling with people, about 10 American Crocodiles were loafing in the muddy shallows, where a Black-necked Stilt and most surprisingly a Purple Gallinule and a Sora were feeding the open right in front of the crowd! Amongst the hordes of more distant birds, Wood Storks, Roseate Spoonbills, Tricolored and Little Blue Herons, Snowy and Great Egrets, White Ibises, Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, Blue-winged Teals, Shovelers, Long-billed Dowitchers, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Stilt Sandpipers and a Green Kingfisher were all foraging busily, while large flocks of Great-tailed Grackles and endemic Sinaloa Crows flew over, heading for their roost sites. A Peregrine sat on nearby wires, while Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned Night Herons emerged from the cover of the mangroves. 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 11th February

Pre-breakfast birding highlights included Lineated Woodpeckers right outside the hotel, a Grey Hawk, fly-over White-tailed Kite and Peregrine, Golden-cheeked and Gila Woodpeckers, Cinnamon Hummingbird, Groove-billed Ani, Northern Mockingbird and White-collared Seedeaters. After breakfast we drove round to San Blas

harbour for another whale-watching boat trip. Ring-billed Gulls flew around as we boarded two boats, and Great Black Hawk, American Oystercatchers, Belted Kingfisher and various gulls and terns were seen along the river channel as we approached the sea. Over the next four hours we saw seven Humpbacks, starting with excellent views of a trio: mother, calf and 'escort' male. At one point, all three swam between two boats, giving us wonderfully close views; who would think that an exhaling large mammal could be so exciting! In the distance we could see two more whales, one splashing its tail and the other a pectoral fin. Later we encountered a pair of adults, one of them presumably a male, which were quite active; both gave us good views of the patterning on their flukes as they dived. Three different turtles were spotted, probably all Olive Ridley Turtles. Returning back towards San Blas, we circled two small islets topped with seabirds and their guano: Magnificent Frigatebirds, Brown Pelicans and Blue-footed Boobies were all seen at close range. On the shore nearby was a roosting flock of Royal Terns with American Oystercatchers nearby. As we returned to the harbour, a Reddish Egret had joined the Oystercatchers along the riverbank.

We returned to the hotel for lunch and a siesta, after which we visited the ruins of San Blas 'fort', the old customs house set in a commanding position overlooking the coastal plain. In the adjacent woodland we had rather tantalising views of Mexican Parrotlets, Pacific-slope (presumed) and Dusky-capped Flycatchers, Thick-billed Kingbird and a pair of Rose-throated Becards. Chris encountered several butterfly species, although as usual some of the skippers eluded identification! All too soon, mosquitoes persuaded us to move on to look at some shrimp ponds. The light was fading as we arrived at a good range of waders, including American Avocets, Semipalmated Plovers, Least Sandpipers, Lesser Yellowlegs, Willet and Long-billed Dowitcher. American Redstart, Macgillivray's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat and Northern Waterthrush fed actively around the margins, while amongst the many waterbirds flying towards roost sites were Roseate Spoonbill and several Long-billed Curlews. In failing light, no less than 35 Lesser Nighthawks emerged to patrol the skies above: it was time for us to return for dinner.

Day 8

Monday 12th February

We left the hotel at 6am 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. It was Dave Y's birthday, so K&M sang him a Mexican birthday greeting and presented him with a delicious chocolate cake – not typical breakfast fare! Over breakfast we spotted Gila, Golden-cheeked, Lineated and Pale-billed Woodpeckers, Mexican Caciques, Cinnamon Hummingbird, Thick-billed Kingbird, Greyish Saltators and a pair of Muscovy Ducks flew over. Walking slowly along the track after breakfast, we approached a dusty farmyard to find three Elegant Quails feeding with many Ruddy Ground Doves, a few Bronzed Cowbirds and, surprisingly, Black Phoebe and Louisiana Waterthrush. Moving on, Orange-fronted Parakeets were scoped, being impossibly well-camouflaged in the trees they were feeding in, but a group of Mexican Parrotlets flew off just too soon. Endemic Citreoline Trogon and Happy Wrens were other highlights, but a Rufous-bellied (Wagler's) Chachalaca only called distantly. It proved to be a good morning for raptors: Northern Crested Caracaras flew by and Grey, Short-tailed and Common Black Hawks circled overhead, while a Great Black Hawk landed in a palm tree for a while. Both Laughing and Collared Forest Falcon called, but could not be located. Michael found a Crane Hawk in the trees, which led on to the discovery of a group of Black-chinned Magpie-Jays. Ferruginous Pygmy Owls, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Rose-throated Becard, Masked Tityra and Bell's Vireo were also seen. Butterflies were well in evidence along the track and included gaudy heliconians (three species), Malachites, Monarch, Pink-spotted Cattleheart and Ruddy Daggerwings and a spectacular, huge

Giant White, which has the local nickname 'napkin butterfly'. A few dragonflies were also in evidence, most notably a large Ornate Helicopter Damselfly, seen just as we were leaving.

Leaving Singayta, one of the minibuses encountered a White-nosed Coati, another of which was seen by a few of the group at our next location: one of the many seaside restaurants at Playa de las Islitas. After a lovely fish meal here, some of the group paddled or swam, while others tried to photograph Black Iguanas nearby, one of which came to gobble up a piece of bread on the floor of the dining area. We returned briefly to the hotel, then off to the river for an evening boat ride through the mangroves. With an Osprey circling overhead, our boats cruised along the riverbank checking areas of exposed mud where waders were feeding in close proximity to four Crocodiles. After unsuccessfully playing the calls of various rails, we crossed the river and took a side channel. Soon we found ourselves next to a group of Boat-billed Herons hiding in their daytime roost in the mangroves: such peculiar birds! As the channel widened, more birds started to appear: Anhingas, Green Herons, Green, Belted and Ringed Kingfishers. Osprey, Merlin and Snail Kite were perched in trees, the last affording excellent views, complete with the elongated upper mandible it uses for winking out the large Apple Snails. Black Vultures settled to roost in the tops of palm trees and a variety of egrets and White Ibises adorned the trees like large fairy lights. As the light faded, a Bare-throated Tiger Heron began barking in a treetop and Pauraque began hunting over the river and marshes. We had a loo stop at the end of the channel, then returned to the boats to retrace our route. Soon the first of four Potoos was caught in the spotlight, showing its big yellow eyes and huge gape. As we returned to base, we picked up Crocodile eyes shining red in the spotlight and a then two Barn Owls, another Bare-throated Tiger Heron and finally another new bird for the trip: a Limpkin perched overhead. 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 13th February

Today we left the hotel at 5.30am 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, Crested Guan were spotted in the treetop. Rufous-backed and occasional White-throated Thrushes gorged on the abundant fruits, together with Western Tanagers, Greyish Saltators, Masked Tityras and noisy Orange-fronted Parakeets. A Boat-billed Flycatcher called noisily above, where Nashville Warblers were common in the treetop, along with a Black-and-white Warbler, an Ivory-billed Woodcreeper and a Grey-crowned Woodpecker, while Pale-billed Woodpeckers were found nearby. The chimes of Brown-backed Solitaires emanated from the trees nearby and one was glimpsed briefly. To her great satisfaction, Clare spotted a Blue Bunting as we walked downhill. Nearby were Elegant and Citreoline Trogons, including a trio of the latter, Black-throated Grey Warbler, Greater Pewee and briefly a Yellow Grosbeak. It was nice to see an Ivory-billed Woodcreeper below eye level for once, especially as this led to the discovery of a Fan-tailed Warbler that wagged its tail in the low vegetation below us. A group of Black-throated Magpie-Jays appeared and as we rejoined the minibuses for refreshments, a pair of parrots flew past, presumed to be the endemic Lilac-crowned. Butterflies were very much in evidence as the morning progressed and included Pale-banded Crescent, Common Mellana and Leading Red-ring, plus Arizona Skipper and Cobalt Longtail, which Chris catalogued despite feeling none too good.

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 hand-

sorted, sun-dried beans lack the bitterness of roasted coffee, and how coffee could be good for one's health. As we listened, a Grey Cracker perched on a beam above our host. 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 normally shy Happy Wren surprised us by appearing close to us in the small garden as we ate lunch, while it was fun to watch Karel and Clare giving morsels to two captive Orange-fronted Parakeets. Afterwards, some of us went in search of another endemic bird, Colima Pygmy Owl (the rest of the group returned to the hotel at this point). On the way, first a Collared Forest Falcon landed briefly in a tree, then Mexican Fox Squirrel eating a fallen fruit led to us finding a Swainson's Thrush. At the owl site, we heard calls in response to ours and then Dave spotted the bird approaching, although it took some time for everyone to see it properly!

Heading back for the coast, we stopped at the mouth of a small river 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 Terns, Stilts and various herons, egrets and gulls seemed more at home. On the way back to San Blas, we drove along the road to a crocodile centre, through what is normally marshy ground. We found a flock of White-faced Ibises and a Bare-throated Tiger Heron in the wetland remnants, while a Laughing Falcon sat in the top of a distant tree.

Day 10

Wednesday 14th February

There was time for some to go pre-breakfast birding around the hotel on our final morning. A group of Mexican Parrotlets flew out of one of the hotel trees, Crested Caracara and Merlin flew over, Northern Mockingbird and Blue Grosbeak posed briefly for us and a female Black-chinned Hummingbird was much more obliging. 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. The jays responded within seconds of playing their call, seven of them soon flying over to join us (or rather to hide in the trees!). We also saw Citreoline and Elegant Trogons, while Jill found a Scrub Euphonia and three Common Black Hawks circled overhead. As we continued our journey, a Rufous-bellied Chachalaca flew across the road in front of one of the minibuses and a group of White-naped Swifts flew alongside briefly: two final species for our list.

At Puerto Vallarta we said goodbye to Karel and Michael, who had been excellent guides and drivers, 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 transfers. We retrieved our baggage and checked in for our flights home. We said goodbye to Clare and took off for London more or less on time.

Day 11

Thursday 15th February

We arrived safely and more or less on time at Heathrow at 1pm. We said our goodbyes at baggage retrieval and left on our homeward journeys. We took with us a wealth of wonderful memories, especially of the Monarchs, Humpbacks and the abundant and often colourful birds, which are sure to remain with us for a long time to come.

Species Lists

Butterflies & Moths

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February								
			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Polydamas Swallowtail	<i>Battus polydamas</i>	✓								✓
2	Pink-spotted Cattleheart	<i>Parides photinus</i>						✓			
3	Two-tailed Swallowtail	<i>Papilio multicaulis</i>	✓								
4	Chequered White	<i>Chequered White</i>	✓								
5	Giant White	<i>Ganrya josephina</i>							✓		
6	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	✓								
7	Lyside Sulphur	<i>Kricogonia lyside</i>						✓			
8	Large Orange Sulphur	<i>Phoebis agarithe</i>						✓	✓		
9	Orange-barred Sulphur	<i>Phoebis philea</i>						✓			
10	Ghost Yellow	<i>Eurema albula</i>									✓
11	Fine-lined Stripe-streak	<i>Arawacus sito</i>							✓		
12	(Mexican?) Scintillant	<i>Calephelis (mexicana?)</i>								✓	
13	Juno Heliconian (Longwing)	<i>Dione juno</i>				✓			✓	✓	✓
14	Julia Heliconian	<i>Dryas iulia moderata</i>							✓	✓	
15	Zebra Longwing (Heliconian)	<i>Heliconius charithonia</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓
16	Crimson-patched Longwing (Erato Heliconian)	<i>Heliconius erato</i>							✓	✓	
17	Pale-banded Crescent	<i>Anthanassa tulcis</i>								✓	
18	White Peacock	<i>Anartia jatrophe</i>							✓		✓
19	Banded Peacock	<i>Anartia fatima</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓
20	Malachite	<i>Siproeta stelenes</i>							✓	✓	
21	Three-part (Naxia) Sister	<i>Adelpha naxia</i>						✓			
22	Leading Red-ring	<i>Pyrrhgyra neaerea</i> ,								✓	✓
23	Grey Cracker	<i>Hamadryas februa</i>								✓	
24	Ruddy Daggerwing	<i>Marpesia petreus</i>							✓		
25	Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓		
26	Two-barred Flasher	<i>Astrartes fulgerator</i>						✓			
27	Arizona (Mottled-)Skipper	<i>Codatractus arizonensis</i>								✓	
28	Brown Longtail	<i>Urbanus procne</i>						✓			
29	Cobalt Longtail	<i>Urbanus vviterboana</i>								✓	

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February								
			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
30	Common Checkered-skipper	<i>Pyrgus communis</i>	✓								
31	Clouded Skipper	<i>Lerema accius</i>						✓			
32	Common Mellana	<i>Quasimellana eulogius</i>									✓
33	Chestnut-marked Skipper	<i>Thespies macareus</i>	✓								
	Princely Tiger Moth	<i>Chrysocale principalis</i>									

Birds (✓=recorded but not counted; H = heard only; E = endemic)

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February								
			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Black-bellied Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>					10				
2	Muscovy Duck	<i>Cairina moschata</i>							2		
3	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Spatula discors</i>					25	8			
4	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>				✓	✓	1	✓		
5	Rufous-bellied (Wagler's) Chachalaca E	<i>Ortalis wagleri</i>							H		1
6	Crested Guan	<i>Penelope purpurascens</i>								2	
7	Elegant Quail	<i>Callipepla douglasii</i>							3		
8	Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>					10	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	American White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>					15	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	White-faced Ibis	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>				1				30	
11	Roseate Spoonbill	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>					6	✓	2		
12	Bare-throated Tiger Heron	<i>Tigrisoma mexicanum</i>							2		
13	Boat-billed Heron	<i>Cochlearius cochlearius</i>							5		
14	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					3				
15	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>				1	3		2	6	
16	Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>				3	1		✓	1	
17	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	100	✓			✓				✓
18	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>				1	1	2	✓		
19	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	2	1		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20	Reddish Egret	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>						1			
21	Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>					10	✓	✓	1	

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February								
			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
22	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>					✓		✓	1	
23	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>				2	✓	✓	✓	1	
24	American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>							2		
25	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>				5	100	✓	✓	✓	✓
26	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
27	Blue-footed Booby	<i>Sula nebouxii</i>				30	25	✓			
28	Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>				50					
29	Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>			20	✓	✓	✓	✓	20	1
30	Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>				4	✓	✓	✓		
31	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>				2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
32	Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>		2	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
33	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>							2		
34	White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>						1			
35	Snail Kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>							1		
36	Crane Hawk	<i>Geranospiza caerulescens</i>							1		
37	Common Black Hawk	<i>Buteogallus anthracinus</i>					2	1	1		3
38	Great Black Hawk	<i>Buteogallus urubitinga</i>							1		
39	Grey Hawk	<i>Buteo plagiatus</i>						1	1		1
40	Short-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo brachyurus</i>							1	2	
41	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	1								
42	Sora	<i>Porzana carolina</i>					1				
43	Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinica</i>					1				
44	American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	✓			✓		✓		20	
45	Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>							1		
46	American Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>						4	2		
47	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>					30	✓	✓	✓	
48	American Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>					5	30			
49	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>					1				
50	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>					2	2	15		
51	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>				1					
52	Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>					20	20			

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			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
53	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>					2	✓	1		
54	Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>						3			
55	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>					1		1		
56	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>					1	1	1		
57	Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>					1	7	✓	1	
58	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>				3	2	✓	✓	1	
59	Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>					100				
60	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>						8			
61	Stilt Sandpiper	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>					12				
62	Laughing Gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>				✓	✓	50			
63	Heermann's Gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>					✓	6	2	20	
64	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>						25	✓		1
65	California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>				1	✓	2		2	
66	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>				1	1	5			
67	Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>					10	50		3	
68	Elegant Tern	<i>Thalasseus elegans</i>					3				
69	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>					✓				
70	Black Skimmer	<i>Rhynchops niger</i>					16				
71	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
72	Red-billed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas flavirostris</i>							1		
73	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	2	✓			✓			2	✓
74	Inca Dove	<i>Columbina inca</i>	✓			2	1			✓	
75	Ruddy Ground Dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>							✓	✓	
76	Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	✓			1	2				
77	White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>				2	✓	✓	✓	✓	
78	Groove-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>					1	3	✓	✓	
79	American Barn Owl	<i>Tyto furcata</i>							2		
80	Ferruginous Pygmy Owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>		1	1				2		
81	Colima Pygmy Owl E	<i>Glaucidium palmarum</i>								1	
82	Northern Potoo	<i>Nyctibius jamaicensis</i>							4		
83	Lesser Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i>				1	1	35			

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			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
84	Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>					H		4		
85	White-naped Swift E	<i>Streptoprocne semicollaris</i>									✓
86	Vaux's Swift	<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>					30				
87	Green Violetear	<i>Colibri thalassinus</i>			1						
88	Rivoli's Hummingbird	<i>Eugenes fulgens</i>		1							
89	Broad-billed Hummingbird	<i>Cynanthus latirostris</i>	1								
90	Cinnamon Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia rutila</i>						2	3	2	
91	Violet-crowned Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia violiceps</i>		1	2						
92	White-eared Hummingbird	<i>Basilinna leucotis</i>		H	2						
93	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>			1						
94	Black-chinned Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus alexandri</i>									1
95	Broad-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus platycercus</i>		1							
96	Rufous Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>			1						
97	Calliope Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus calliope</i>		1							
98	Elegant Trogon	<i>Trogon elegans</i>								1	1
99	Citreoline Trogon E	<i>Trogon citreolus</i>							1	3	1
100	Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>					1	1	✓		
101	Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle torquata</i>							1		1
102	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>					1	1	2		
103	Russet-crowned Motmot	<i>Momotus mexicanus</i>		1							
104	Golden-cheeked Woodpecker E	<i>Melanerpes chrysogenys</i>		1		1		2	✓	✓	✓
105	Gila Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes uropygialis</i>						1	✓	1	
106	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	1								
107	Ladder-backed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides scalaris</i>			1						
108	Grey-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Colaptes auricularis</i>								1	
109	Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Drycopus lineatus</i>						2	4		
110	Pale-billed Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus guatemalensis</i>							1	2	
111	Northern Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>							2		1
112	Laughing Falcon	<i>Herpetotheres cachinnans</i>							H	1	
113	Collared Forest Falcon	<i>Micrastur semitorquatus</i>							H	1	
114	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	1	1		1	1				

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			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
115	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>							1		1
116	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				2	3	1			
117	Lilac-crowned Amazon E	<i>Amazona finschi</i>								2	
118	Mexican Parrotlet E	<i>Forpus cyanopygius</i>				20		20	10		✓
119	Orange-fronted Parakeet	<i>Eupsittula canicularis</i>							5	✓	
120	Ivory-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus flavigaster</i>								3	
121	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>		2	4				1	1	
122	Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	✓								
123	Greater Pewee	<i>Contopus pertinax</i>		2						1	
124	Pacific Slope Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax difficilis</i>						1	✓	✓	
125	Dusky Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax oberholseri</i>	1								
126	Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>	✓	1				1	2	1	1
127	Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>		1		✓	✓		✓	2	
128	Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>		2		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
129	Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
130	Cassin's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>	10								
131	Thick-billed Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus crassirostris</i>						1	2		
132	Dusky-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>						1			
133	Ash-throated Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>	2								
134	Brown-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>							1		
135	Rose-throated Becard	<i>Pachyrhamphus aglaiae</i>						2	3		
136	Masked Tityra	<i>Tityra semifasciata</i>							4	2	1
137	Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	4								
138	Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>							1		
139	Cassin's Vireo	<i>Vireo cassinii</i>		1							
140	Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>		5					1	1	
141	San Blas Jay E	<i>Cyanocorax sanblasianus</i>									7
142	Black-throated Magpie-Jay E	<i>Calocitta colliei</i>							5	10	5
143	Sinaloa Crow E	<i>Corvus sinaloae</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
144	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		1							
145	Mexican Chickadee	<i>Poecile sclateri</i>		2	✓						

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			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
146	Mangrove Swallow	<i>Tachycineta albilinea</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓
147	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>		1		✓	✓		✓		
148	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
149	Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>		H	✓						
150	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	1		✓						
151	Cactus Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i>	1								
152	Canyon Wren	<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>		1	1						
153	Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	2	H							
154	Happy Wren E	<i>Pheugopedius felix</i>							3	2	
155	Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	1	✓	✓			1	✓	✓	
156	Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>		H	H						
157	Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>						1			1
158	Curve-billed Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma curvirostre</i>	✓								
159	Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>		4							
160	Brown-backed Solitaire	<i>Myadestes occidentalis</i>								2	
161	Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>								1	
162	White-throated Thrush	<i>Turdus assimilis</i>							1		
163	Rufous-backed Thrush E	<i>Turdus rufopalliatus</i>	2	✓	✓			✓	2	✓	1
164	American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>		2	1						
165	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2			✓
166	Buff-bellied Pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	1								
167	House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	✓		H	✓					
168	Pine Siskin	<i>Spinus pinus</i>		10	H						
169	Scrub Euphonia	<i>Euphonia affinis</i>									1
170	Louisiana Waterthrush	<i>Parkesia motacilla</i>							1		
171	Northern Waterthrush	<i>Parkesia noveboracensis</i>						3	8		
172	Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>		1						1	
173	Tropical Parula	<i>Setophaga pitiayumi</i>						1			
174	Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis celata</i>			1			1			
175	Nashville Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis ruficapilla</i>		4					1	✓	
176	Macgillivray's Warbler	<i>Geothlypis tolmiei</i>						1			

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			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
177	Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>						1			
178	American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>						2	3	1	
179	American Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga petechia</i>				2		1			1
180	Audubon's Warbler	<i>Setophaga auduboni</i>	1	✓	✓						
181	Black-throated Grey Warbler	<i>Setophaga nigrescens</i>								2	
182	Townsend's Warbler	<i>Setophaga townsendi</i>			2						
183	Hermit Warbler	<i>Setophaga occidentalis</i>			2						
184	Wilson's Warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>	2	2					✓	✓	
185	Red Warbler E	<i>Cardellina rubra</i>		1	3						
186	Slate-throated Whitestart	<i>Myioborus miniatus</i>		1	1						
187	Fan-tailed Warbler	<i>Euthlypis lachrymosa</i>								1	
188	Western Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>					4				
189	Mexican (Yellow-winged) Cacique	<i>Cacicus melanicterus</i>				1			✓	✓	✓
190	Streak-backed Oriole	<i>Icterus pustulatus</i>		✓		1	1	3	✓	✓	1
191	Baltimore Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	1								
192	Black-vented Oriole	<i>Icterus wagleri</i>	1								
193	Orchard Oriole	<i>Icterus spurius</i>					5				
194	Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>				5					
195	Bronzed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus aeneus</i>					✓		✓		
196	Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	✓								
197	Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
198	Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>			1						
199	Yellow-eyed Junco	<i>Junco phaeonotus</i>		✓							
200	Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	✓								
201	Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	8								
202	Striped Sparrow E	<i>Oriturus superciliosus</i>		2		2					
203	Canyon Towhee	<i>Melospiza fusca</i>	✓			3					
204	Greyish Saltator	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>							✓	2	
205	White-collared Seedeater	<i>Sporophila torqueola</i>				15		8			2
206	Hepatic Tanager	<i>Piranga hepatica</i>			6						
207	Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>		2	1	1				1	

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			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
208	Western Tanager	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>	1	✓						✓	
209	Yellow Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus chrysopheplus</i>								1	
210	Black-headed Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>			1			1			
211	Blue Bunting	<i>Cyanocompsa parallina</i>								1	
212	Blue Grosbeak	<i>Passerina caerulea</i>	1								1

Mammals

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	Mexican Fox Squirrel	<i>Sciurus nayaritensis</i>		1						1	
5	White-nosed Coati	<i>Nasua narica</i>							2		
6	White-tailed Deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>			1						
7	Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>					4	7			

Other Vertebrates

1	Olive Ridley Turtle	<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>					1	3			
2	American Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus acutus</i>					10		4		
3	Black (Spinytail) Iguana	<i>Ctenosaura similis</i>			2	1			2	2	
4	Green Iguana	<i>Iguana iguana</i>					6				
5	House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus sp.</i>					1	1	2	1	
6	Puffer fish sp.	Tetraodontidae				1					
7	Surgeon fish sp.	Acanthuridae				✓					

Miscellaneous invertebrates

Ornate Helicopter Damselfly, *Mecistogaster ornata*Bar-sided Dusk-hawker, *Gynacantha mexicana*Sally Lightfoot Crab, *Graspus graspus*

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Princely Tiger Moth



Magnificent Frigatebird ad f



Sora



Monarch



Humpback Whale tail slapping