

# Mexico's Monarchs, Humpbacks and Endemic Birds

Naturetrek Tour Report

4 - 14 February 2019



Northern Potoo by John Tomsett



Osprey by John Tomsett



Humpback breaching by John Tomsett



Mexican Violetear by John Tomsett

Report by Dave Smallshire  
Images by John Tomsett and 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 two 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 warm, sunny 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 experiences in the natural world. The sheer numbers and spectacle of the Monarchs at El Rosario made this an outstanding visit. We had two very productive boat rides into the realm of female Humpback Whales with their calves and 'escort' males, who entertained us with a variety of antics and spine-tingling songs. Finally, excursions into forests and mangroves around San Blas brought us a good variety of birds, including 13 Mexican endemics. Everyone agreed that it was a very successful tour, blessed by perfect weather, good food and great company.

## Day 1

**Monday 4th February**

Our British Airways flight left London Heathrow on time, though we arrived at Mexico City to find a very long and winding queue at immigration. After collecting our baggage, we located our local guide, Karel, and met Anne, who had travelled from Canada via Florida. We made our way to two minibuses and loaded up for the journey to our hotel outside the city at Teotihuacán. After checking in, everyone chose to skip the food that was offered and retired to bed, wondering what tomorrow would bring on our first full day in Mexico.

## Day 2

**Tuesday 5th February**

It was decidedly chilly when most of us emerged from our rooms at 7 am for some pre-breakfast birding. Parties of Great-tailed Grackles flew overhead from their night-time roost as we drove a short distance to walk along part of the perimeter of the Teotihuacán archaeological site. We found dry-country birds like Curve-billed Thrasher, Canyon Towhee, Say's Phoebe and lots of Cassin's Kingbirds in the treetops, together with the endemic Rufous-backed Thrush and more widespread species like Mourning Dove, Loggerhead Shrike and House Finch. 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 our first male Vermilion Flycatcher (even the females looked very smart in the early sunlight), but soon it was time to retreat to the warmth of the hotel and a fine buffet 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 some of the group climbed the steps to the top. Two Killdeers, several Lark Sparrows and Buff-bellied Pipits foraged in the short grass by the Temple. Finally, a Broad-billed Hummingbird appeared at flowers near the site entrance. 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 Mourning Dove with a nest, Ash-throated Flycatcher,

Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-grey Gnatcatcher, Lesser Goldfinch, Vesper and Chipping Sparrows, frustratingly brief views of a Black-chinned Sparrow and Common Rock Squirrel. Dave heard a Cactus Wren singing in an inaccessible area but sadly we failed to encounter this local speciality during our walk. A few Monarchs were seen in flight and as we left for lunch a Black Swallowtail came down to drink.

Lunch was at a nearby restaurant, where there was a choice of typical Mexican food and welcome cold drinks, while local musicians serenaded us. Afterwards, we began our journey to the 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 dusk when we arrived at Agua Blanca Lodge and after checking in we were soon enjoying another Mexican-style meal. After dinner, Karel briefed us on the plans for the next couple of days, when we would visit two different reserves where the Monarch butterflies overwintered.

## Day 3

## Wednesday 6th February

A Ferruginous Pygmy Owl was calling at 6:40 as some of the group prepared for some pre-breakfast birding, back in our fleeces again. After welcome coffee, a dead Crimson Patch butterfly was picked up from the ground: it was beautifully marked, even though a bird had removed a section of its hindwings! From a viewpoint overlooking the canyon, we found birds unusually hard to find among the trees where fruit is normally bountiful, although a few of us caught sight of a Ring-tailed Cat (which isn't a cat, but a relative of the Raccoon!). After a while, we took the steps down a limestone face and dodged the lawn sprinklers to look for a Canyon Wren that we could hear below. It duly appeared and sang to us from the contorted limestone cliff above the river, where yellow-barked trees seem to grow out of the rock face. As we returned for breakfast, a Raven flew over and our first (of many) Black Vultures appeared in the sun over the hilltops across the canyon.

Today we visited El Rosario Monarch Reserve, which is set in mountains clad in the Oyamel Firs where overwintering Monarchs find their very precise microclimate requirements. In cool conditions they rest on the trunks and branches of the firs en masse at an altitude of over 3,000 metres, but today (and the rest of the trip) was warmer than usual and we were treated to a truly exceptional spectacle. We started to see Monarchs as we passed through the nearest town of Ocampo and as we approached the Reserve they became more and more numerous. By the time we got out of the minibuses, Monarchs were swarming everywhere we looked! John elected to remain at 'base camp' (and enjoyed the 'blizzard' of Monarchs in flight and gathering to drink), while the rest of us mounted horses to take us up to the wintering area. Although some of the group were nervous, there were plenty of hands to get us onto the horses and we were ably led by the ranchos up through the forest to where the Monarchs were roosting. This year we didn't have too far to travel and an extensive area of fir trees held the dark clumps of hanging butterflies. As we walked through the forest we were enchanted by the masses of these beautiful orange butterflies swarming everywhere. Many were taking nectar from wild flowers, while others basked on the ground or gathered at streams and damp areas to drink. The chosen resting area this year happened to include a well-prepared trail, so we were privileged to walk right underneath the roosting masses. As we stood and gazed up in amazement, huge numbers took flight and we witnessed not only an incredible sight but could actually hear their combined wingbeats, sounding like the gentle rustle of leaves in the breeze: an experience that will remain firmly in our memories forever!

After a suitable period of watching, we made our way down on foot. Although we could hear hummingbirds and occasionally other birds, the constant movement of so many Monarchs made it impossible to see any birds at all!

We had a delicious lunch at a quiet restaurant near the visitor centre, 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. Some tiny Mexican Amberwing dragonflies had territories around the swimming pool. Those venturing down to the cliff, its small caves and the river below found Black Phoebe, American Dipper, Canyon Wren and Wilson's Warbler, while some bats hanging in the recesses of a cave were later identified as Great Fruit-eating Bats. As we returned to prepare for dinner, a stunning male Summer Tanager was calling before going to roost. After dinner, Karel told us about the varied native cultures and answered queries about more general aspects of Mexican life.

## Day 4

## Thursday 7th February

Pre-breakfast birding proved more successful today, with Violet-crowned Hummingbird feeding at flowers around the hotel entrance, plus Golden-cheeked Woodpecker, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Streak-backed Orioles and Black-headed Grosbeak. After breakfast we set off for El Chincua Monarch Reserve, which is set in wilder, more open terrain than El Rosario. On arrival, we walked to the area where most of us mounted horses again for the final part of the journey. At the end of our ride, an endemic Red Warbler appeared nearby, but unfortunately it had moved on before most of the group had dismounted. We continued on foot to the Monarchs' overwintering site, where the experience was less spectacular than that of the previous day, but nevertheless still better than most of our previous visits to this reserve. The viewing area became cramped as more visitors arrived, so we made our way slowly back to the horses. On the way we found two Mexican Violetears near the path and a few Princely Tiger Moths.

Lunch was taken at a restaurant at the visitor centre, after which we had a little time for birding around the parking area. Pride of place here went to two Western Bluebirds and several Yellow-eyed Juncos. After returning to Agua Blanca for more birding, swimming or relaxation, John wandered again down to the river and added Spotted Sandpiper to our list.

## Day 5

## Friday 8th February

We had an early breakfast at 6.30 am, loaded up the minibuses and headed off for Toluca airport. As we pulled in for a comfort break (one of Karel's 'biological stops!'), a Northern Harrier passed overhead. Around the service area we saw Curved-billed Thrashers, Canyon Towhee, Striped Sparrow, Song Sparrows and an American Kestrel, and on the approach to the airport a Red-winged Blackbird and several Starlings. Toluca Airport is modern and remarkably peaceful, so having coffee and a snack was a very relaxed affair. The short flight took us to Puerto Vallarta, a large town set in Banderas Bay on the Pacific coast: a noted breeding area for Humpback Whales, our target for the next two days.

We checked in at our hotel and met up later for a stroll to a late lunch near the marina. On the way we noticed Black and Turkey Vultures cruising over the buildings and around the pool on an adjacent golf course were Green Heron, Anhinga, Neotropic Cormorant, American Coot, Inca Dove, Great Kiskadee and White-collared Seedeaters, plus a Green Iguana and an American Crocodile. After lunch, some of us went to look at the marina, where a Black Iguana, a very large Crocodile and colourful crabs grabbed our attention; a Peregrine Falcon was perched up on a distant apartment block. At 5 pm the minibuses took us to the beach at Boca de Tomates, not far from the airport. Travelling along a dirt road, we stopped to admire a magnificent Brahmin bull. Getting out to take photographs, we also noticed Bronzed Cowbirds with the livestock, and then came a pair of Eastern

Meadowlarks, the male in song, Golden-cheeked Woodpecker and Groove-billed Anis. Stopping at the edge of mangroves, we saw more American Crocodiles, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, White Ibis, American Redstart, Yellow Warbler and eventually a group of noisy San Blas Jays. At the beach we walked along to a turtle rescue centre, where we were told about the work done to help the Olive Ridley Turtles that lay eggs on the beach. Luckily, a few dozen had hatched earlier in the day and we helped to release them on the beach close to the incoming waves. We had to wait until after sunset when the last of the predatory Magnificent Frigatebirds had gone from the sky. It was wonderful to see the little hatchlings make their way uncertainly towards the incoming waves, which eventually took them all away for the long (we hope!) oceanic stage of their lives.

## Day 6

## Saturday 9th February

After breakfast we loaded the minibuses and drove around to Karel's shop, where he briefed us on the lives of Humpback Whales. With Karel's colleague Michael we boarded the boat that would take us out into the Bay, where the female whales calve in the warm, shallow waters. Before reaching the sea we spotted Whimbrels, Mangrove Swallows and several Green Iguanas in the waterside bushes. Our first Humpbacks came quite soon: a mother and calf, which we watched for some time as the mother taught the youngster the rudiments of diving and surfacing for air. Heading further into the bay, we saw at least ten more whales and calves and later, when Michael put a hydrophone overboard, we were enthralled to hear the magical sounds of a male Humpback singing. Returning back to Puerto Vallarta for lunch, we stopped short, close to the shore, where a Humpback and calf were performing to a crowd of onlookers: clearly many visitors had heard on the grapevine and come out to admire the whales. The calf did quite a lot of splashing with its tail fluke and long, white pectoral fins. After seeing mainly Laughing Gulls and Blue-footed Boobies at sea, it was nice on returning to the harbour to see a mixed group of these, together with Royal and Elegant Terns, Heerman's Gulls and Brown Pelicans. 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 on the way yielded a Merlin and Grey Hawk perched in roadside trees. We pulled off the road just short of San Blas to look over a lagoon set within mangroves where about 10 American Crocodiles were loafing in the muddy shallows. Amongst the hordes of birds in and over the mangroves were Wood Stork, Roseate Spoonbill, Black-crowned Night Heron, Tricoloured and Great Blue Herons, Great Egret, White Ibis, Caspian Tern and Belted Kingfisher, while large flocks of Great-tailed Grackles and endemic Sinaloa Crows flew over, heading for their roost sites. 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 10th February

Pre-breakfast birding near the hotel produced endemic Citreoline Trogons and Rufous-backed Thrushes, plus Gila Woodpecker, Tropical Kingbirds, White-winged Doves and Orchard Orioles. After breakfast most of the group drove round to San Blas harbour for another whale-watching boat trip, boarding two boats. Along the river channel as we approached the sea we saw a Common Black Hawk and a pair of American Oystercatchers on the bank, with groups of roosting Laughing, Heerman's and Ring-billed Gulls with a single California Gull. As we headed out to sea we noticed frequent Cownose Rays at the surface; the sea was like a mirror and we could see them swimming underwater as we approached. Soon we spotted a whale breaching and raced towards

it. As we approached more slowly we could see a lot of activity from three Humpbacks, presumably a female with two 'escort' males. One of the whales had extensive scarring that Michael thought was the result of Killer Whale teeth! After following these for a while a fourth whale joined in and eventually a fifth. There was much splashing with fins and flukes and some wonderful breaches with enormous splashes! Together with the previous day's experiences, this made our whale watching the best on record. Hearing that the calm sea had led to someone spotting a Whale Shark closer to shore, we set off back towards San Blas, but unfortunately the wind got up and spoiled our chances of finding it. Instead we settled for another Humpback mother with a calf; while watching these some of the group saw a turtle briefly. Next we headed for two small islets topped with seabirds and their guano. Brown Pelicans and Blue-footed Boobies were all seen at close range and we almost missed a Peregrine Falcon sitting quietly on the shady side of the larger rock. On the shore nearby was a large flock of waders, terns and gulls, including Grey Plovers and Sanderling. Those that had elected not to go out whale-watching stayed around the hotel or explored San Blas, where pools were found with Northern Jacanas, American Purple Gallinules and Lesser Yellowlegs, amongst other things.

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. Among the many vultures circling overhead were Short-tailed and Zone-tailed Hawks, while a large radio mast attracted a group of Grey-breasted Martins. In the adjacent woodland we saw disappointingly few birds, including Scrub Euphonia, Yellow Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak and Rose-throated Becard. The light was fading as we arrived at some shrimp ponds, where we saw several Long-billed Curlews and a concentration of herons, egrets, ibises and Roseate Spoonbills. Some American White Pelicans flew over, as did many other birds heading for their roost sites, and finally two Lesser Nighthawks came over: it was time for us to return for dinner.

## Day 8

## Monday 11th February

We left the hotel at 6 am 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 while we watched a range of birds nearby. Over breakfast we spotted Gila, Golden-cheeked and Lineated Woodpeckers, Orange-fronted Parakeets, Mexican Cacique, Thick-billed Kingbird and several pairs of Muscovy Ducks flew over. Walking slowly along the track after breakfast, we carefully approached a dusty farmyard and were rewarded with two pairs of endemic Elegant Quails amongst the Ruddy Ground Doves and Bronzed Cowbirds. Birds of prey provided a mixed experience, with views of Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, Great Black Hawk and Grey Hawk perched in trees and Northern Crested Caracara in flight, but only the calls of Collared Forest Falcon and Laughing Falcon. A pair of White-fronted Parrots flew over and other birds noted as we moved further along the track included Cinnamon Hummingbird, Pacific-slope and Dusky-capped Flycatchers, Rose-throated Becard, Masked Tityra, Greyish Saltator, Citreoline Trogon, American Redstart, Yellow-breasted Chat and a Happy Wren singing its jaunty song. Butterflies were well in evidence along the track and included gaudy Zebra and Crimson-patched Longwings, Malachite, Monarch, White Peacock, many Banded Peacocks and an Orange Owlet deep in the undergrowth; the last appeared to be drinking from 'cuckoo-spit' whipped up by a bug, while a minute fly sat on its nose!

We left Singayta for lunch at a seaside restaurant at Playa de las Islitas. After a lovely fish meal, watched by Black Iguanas near the dining area, we returned to the hotel for an hour's siesta. At 3 pm we set off to the river for an evening boat ride through the mangroves. Those in one of the boats saw an Osprey dive for fish as our boats

cruised along the riverbank checking the mangrove fringe, where a Mangrove Warbler, a reddish-brown-headed race of Yellow Warbler, was also seen. We crossed the river and took a side channel, where we had to duck twice, first as we passed under a road bridge and then fallen branches. We soon found ourselves passing several Boat-billed Herons hiding in their daytime roost in the mangroves, and later saw others beginning to build their nests. Such peculiar birds! As the channel widened, more birds started to appear: Anhingas, Green and Bare-throated Tiger Herons, and Green, Belted and Ringed Kingfishers. Black Vultures had settled to roost in the tops of palm trees and each boat saw its own Snail Kite. A variety of egrets and herons adorned the trees like giant fairy lights. As the light faded, lots of Social Flycatchers and Tropical Kingbirds flanked the river and took advantage of the insect life. A Lesser Nighthawk flew high overhead as we approached a loo stop at the end of the channel. Before we returned to the boats, a White-nosed Coati was spotted inside a restaurant; the building was locked up, but the Coati had got in somehow and was no doubt looking for food to steal! Retracing our route, this time with powerful spotlights, we first saw Pauraques hawking over the river and perched in the fringing reeds. Then the first of no less than five Potoos was caught in the spotlight, showing its big yellow eyes and huge gape. Further on we picked up Crocodile eyes shining red in the spotlight and then a Barn Owl, preening nonchalantly in a riverside tree. After this most successful boat ride, we stopped in San Blas town for dinner at a local restaurant.

## Day 9

## Tuesday 12th 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 tree. After taking some group photographs, we struggled to see a noisy Collared Forest Falcon calling to its neighbour and most of us missed the resident pair of Crested Guans that usually frequent our 'breakfast tree'. Walking down the track, we watched a pair of Orange-fronted Parakeets inspecting a hole in a termite nest, and saw Western Tanagers, Masked Tityras, Nashville, Black-and-white and Black-throated Grey Warblers, Warbling Vireos (and Dave glimpsed a Golden Vireo), Greater Pewee, Squirrel Cuckoo and a lovely Elegant Trogon. Very loud drumming drew our attention to a pair of Pale-billed Woodpeckers in the top of dead branches, their red-crested heads reminding us of 'Woody Woodpecker'. Butterflies were in evidence as the morning progressed and included Juno Heliconian, Zebra and Crimson-patched Longwings, and Tropical Checkered-Skipper.

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 – in sufficient quantity – 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. As we ate lunch, we were amused by the antics of 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, a group of endemic Black-throated Magpie-Jays caught our attention. At the owl site, we heard calls in response to ours, but much to our frustration we could not locate this diminutive bird amongst the foliage. Instead we witnessed a nice succession of birds that included Blue Mockingbird, Blue Bunting, MacGillivray's Warbler and a pair of Ivory-billed Woodcreepers. It was also another good day for butterflies, which included a lovely little Purple-washed Metalmark.



On returning to San Blas, Dave, Michael and John returned to the pools that John had visited two days earlier, while the others went to start packing. The pools held a remarkable array of birds, additions to our list including Common Gallinule (which used be lumped with Moorhen), Semipalmated Plover, Long-billed Dowitcher, Least Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, Mexican Parrotlet, Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat and Painted Bunting. Eventually the 'no-see-ums' proved too annoying and it was time to pack away our binoculars and cameras ready for the journey home.

## Day 10

Wednesday 13th February

We had a relaxed breakfast and loaded the minibuses, before bidding farewell to the staff, who had been so good to us, and left the hotel at 9 am. At Puerto Vallarta airport we said goodbye to Karel and Michael, who had been excellent guides and drivers, checked in and then had lunch. Our departure was on time and we arrived at Mexico City with plenty of time to spare for our transfers. We retrieved our baggage and said goodbye to Anne, then checked in for our flights home, departing for London about half-an-hour late. The first hour or so of the flight was very bumpy at times, and some passengers spilled quantities of alcohol as a result!

## Day 11

Thursday 14th February

We arrived safely on time at Heathrow at 1 pm, sailed through passport control, collected our baggage in record time and bade our fond farewells before continuing 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.



Monarchs at El Rosario by Dave Smallshire



## Species Lists

### Butterflies & Moths

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February								
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	Black Swallowtail	<i>Papilio polyxenes</i>	✓								
2	Florida White	<i>Glutophrissa drusilla</i>								✓	
3	Apricot Sulphur	<i>Phoebis argante</i>								✓	
4	Large Orange Sulphur	<i>Phoebis agarithe</i>		✓							
5	Purple-washed Metalmark	<i>Mesosemia lamachus</i>								✓	
6	Juno Heliconian (Longwing)	<i>Dione juno</i>								✓	
7	Julia Heliconian	<i>Dryas iulia moderata</i>								✓	
8	Zebra Longwing (Heliconian)	<i>Heliconius charithonia</i>		✓					✓	✓	
9	Crimson-patched Longwing (Erato Heliconian)	<i>Heliconius erato</i>							✓	✓	
10	Crimson Patch	<i>Chlosyne janais</i>		✓							
11	White Peacock	<i>Anartia jatrophe</i>							✓		
12	Banded Peacock	<i>Anartia fatima</i>						✓	✓	✓	
13	Malachite	<i>Siproeta stelenes</i>							✓		
14	Massila (Bates') Sister	<i>Adelpha paraena</i>								✓?	
15	Many-banded Daggerwing	<i>Marpesia chiron</i>								✓	
16	Carolina Satyr	<i>Hermeuptychia sosybius</i>						✓		✓	
17	Orange Owlet	<i>Opisiphanes boisduvalii</i>							✓		
18	Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓		
19	Queen or Soldier	<i>Danaus gilippus/eresimus</i>	✓								
20	White-striped Longtail	<i>Chioides catillus</i>								✓	
21	Tropical Checkered-Skipper	<i>Pyrgus oileus</i>							✓		
22	Common Checkered-skipper	<i>Pyrgus communis</i>								✓	
23	Princely Tiger Moth	<i>Chrysocale principalis</i>			✓						

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

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February								
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	Black-bellied Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>				2					
2	Muscovy Duck	<i>Cairina moschata</i>							8		
3	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Spatula discors</i>					✓		✓		
4	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>					✓		✓	✓	
5	Crested Guan	<i>Penelope purpurascens</i>								2	
6	Elegant Quail	<i>Callipepla douglasii</i>							4		
7	Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>					✓	✓	✓		
8	American White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>				5	20	✓	30	✓	
9	White-faced Ibis	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>	100								
10	Roseate Spoonbill	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>					1	20	1		
11	Bare-throated Tiger Heron	<i>Tigrisoma mexicanum</i>							1		
12	Boat-billed Heron	<i>Cochlearius cochlearius</i>							10		
13	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					2		✓		
14	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>				1		1	✓	✓	
15	Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>				3	1	2	12	✓	
16	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	100			✓	✓				
17	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>					✓	✓	✓		
18	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>				6	✓	✓	✓	✓	
19	Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>					4	10	✓		
20	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>						3	2		
21	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>				2	✓	✓	✓		
22	American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>							8		
23	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>				✓	100	✓	✓		
24	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
25	Blue-footed Booby	<i>Sula nebouxii</i>				✓	15	40			
26	Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	2	
27	Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>				4	✓		10		
28	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	6		1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
29	Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>		10	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February								
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
30	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>							1		
31	Sharp-shinned/Cooper's Hawk	<i>Acciptier striatus/cooperii</i>	1								
32	Northern Harrier	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>				1					
33	Snail Kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>							2		
34	Common Black Hawk	<i>Buteogallus anthracinus</i>						1		1	
35	Great Black Hawk	<i>Buteogallus urubitinga</i>							1		
36	Grey Hawk	<i>Buteo plagiatus</i>				1	2		1		
37	Short-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo brachyurus</i>					1	1	1		
38	Zone-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo albonotatus</i>						1			
39	Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinica</i>						1		2	
40	American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	✓			✓					
41	American Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>						2			
42	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>					2	20	✓	✓	
43	American Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>							1		
44	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>						10			
45	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>								2	
46	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	2			2				1	
47	Northern Jacana	<i>Jacana spinosa</i>						2		3	
48	Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>								2	
49	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>					2	2	3		
50	Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>						5			
51	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>							2	2	
52	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>						3	2	1	
53	Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>					1	10	1		
54	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>			1	1	1	2	2	1	
55	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>						4			
56	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>								10	
57	Wilson's Snipe	<i>Gallinago delicata</i>								1	
58	Laughing Gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		
59	Heermann's Gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>				50	✓	✓			
60	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>						50			

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			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
61	California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>						1			
62	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>					3	3			
63	Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>					1	✓			
64	Elegant Tern	<i>Thalasseus elegans</i>				✓	12	✓			
65	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
66	Red-billed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas flavirostris</i>							✓	✓	
67	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	2	2	2	✓	✓		1	
68	Inca Dove	<i>Columbina inca</i>				✓		✓	✓		
69	Ruddy Ground Dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>				✓			10		
70	Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	20		3	✓					
71	White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	✓				✓	20	✓	✓	
72	Groove-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>				2			✓		
73	American Barn Owl	<i>Tyto furcata</i>							1		
74	Ferruginous Pygmy Owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>		H	H	H			1		
75	Colima Pygmy Owl E	<i>Glaucidium palmarum</i>								H	
76	Northern Potoo	<i>Nyctibius jamaicensis</i>							5		
77	Lesser Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i>						2	1		
78	Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albigollis</i>						H	5		
79	Mexican Violetear	<i>Colibri thalassinus</i>		H	2						
80	Broad-billed Hummingbird	<i>Cynanthus latirostris</i>	1								
81	Cinnamon Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia rutila</i>							✓	✓	
82	Violet-crowned Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia violiceps</i>		2	2						
83	Berylline Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia beryllina</i>								1	
84	White-eared Hummingbird	<i>Basilinna leucotis</i>		H							
85	Elegant Trogon	<i>Trogon elegans</i>								1	
86	Citreoline Trogon E	<i>Trogon citreolus</i>					1	2	2	2	
87	Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>							5		
88	Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle torquata</i>							1		
89	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>					1		6	H	
90	Golden-cheeked Woodpecker E	<i>Melanerpes chrysogenys</i>			1	1			1	✓	
91	Gila Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes uropygialis</i>						1	✓		

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			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
92	Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>							1		
93	Pale-billed Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus guatemalensis</i>								3	
94	Northern Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>							2		
95	Laughing Falcon	<i>Herpetotheres cachinnans</i>							H		
96	Collared Forest Falcon	<i>Micrastur semitorquatus</i>							H	1	
97	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	1			1	2				
98	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>					1				
99	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				1		1			
100	White-fronted Parrot	<i>Amazona albifrons</i>							4		
101	Mexican Parrotlet E	<i>Forpus cyanopygius</i>								10	
102	Orange-fronted Parakeet	<i>Eupsittula canicularis</i>							15	✓	
103	Ivory-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus flavigaster</i>								2	
104	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>		2	1						
105	Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	✓								
106	Greater Pewee	<i>Contopus pertinax</i>								1	
107	Pacific Slope Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax difficilis</i>							1	1	
108	Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>	25					1	2	2	
109	Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>						✓	20		
110	Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>			1	✓	✓	✓	✓		
111	Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
112	Cassin's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>	25		2						
113	Thick-billed Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus crassirostris</i>					1		1		
114	Dusky-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>							1	✓	
115	Ash-throated Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>	2								
116	Rose-throated Becard	<i>Pachyramphus aglaiae</i>						1	1		
117	Masked Tityra	<i>Tityra semifasciata</i>							✓	10	
118	Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	2	1							
119	Golden Vireo E	<i>Vireo hypochryseus</i>								1	
120	Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>								✓	
121	San Blas Jay E	<i>Cyanocorax sanblasianus</i>				10					
122	Black-throated Magpie-Jay E	<i>Calocitta colliei</i>								6	



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123	Sinaloa Crow E	<i>Corvus sinaloae</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
124	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		1	2						
125	Grey Silky-flycatcher	<i>Ptiliogonys cinereus</i>			1						
126	Mexican Chickadee	<i>Poecile sclateri</i>			H						
127	Mangrove Swallow	<i>Tachycineta albilinea</i>				✓	✓		✓	20	
128	Grey-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>						20	1		
129	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>			3	✓	✓				
130	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	1	✓	✓		✓		
131	Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>			H						
132	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	1								
133	Cactus Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i>	H								
134	Canyon Wren	<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>	H	1	H						
135	Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	H								
136	Happy Wren E	<i>Pheugopedius felix</i>							1	H	
137	Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliophtila caerulea</i>	2	1	2				1	✓	
138	Curve-billed Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma curvirostre</i>	✓			2					
139	Blue Mockingbird E	<i>Melanotis caerulescens</i>								1	
140	Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>			2						
141	Rufous-backed Thrush E	<i>Turdus rufopalliat</i>	2					✓	✓		
142	American Dipper	<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>		1	1						
143	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓					
144	Buff-bellied Pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	3								
145	House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	✓	H	1	✓					
146	Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Spinus psaltria</i>	3								
147	Pine Siskin	<i>Spinus pinus</i>		1							
148	Scrub Euphonia	<i>Euphonia affinis</i>						1		2	
149	Northern Waterthrush	<i>Parkesia noveboracensis</i>								2	
150	Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>								3	
151	Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis celata</i>	1		1						
152	Nashville Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis ruficapilla</i>		✓						✓	
153	Macgillivray's Warbler	<i>Geothlypis tolmiei</i>						1			

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			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
154	Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>								2	
155	American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>				1			4	2	
156	American Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga aestiva</i>				1		✓	✓		
157	Mangrove Warbler	<i>Setophaga petechia</i>							1		
158	Audubon's Warbler	<i>Setophaga auduboni</i>	1		20						
159	Black-throated Grey Warbler	<i>Setophaga nigrescens</i>								2	
160	Wilson's Warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>	1	1	2					1	
161	Red Warbler E	<i>Cardellina rubra</i>			1						
162	Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>				2					
163	Mexican (Yellow-winged) Cacique	<i>Cacicus melanicterus</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓	
164	Streak-backed Oriole	<i>Icterus pustulatus</i>		1	✓	2		✓	✓	✓	
165	Orchard Oriole	<i>Icterus spurius</i>						10			
166	Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>				1					
167	Bronzed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus aeneus</i>				✓			✓	1	
168	Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	✓								
169	Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
170	Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>				2					
171	Yellow-eyed Junco	<i>Junco phaeonotus</i>		✓							
172	Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	✓								
173	Black-chinned Sparrow	<i>Spizella atrogularis</i>	1								
174	Vesper Sparrow	<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>	4								
175	Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	8								
176	Striped Sparrow E	<i>Oriturus superciliosus</i>				1					
177	Canyon Towhee	<i>Melospiza fusca</i>	✓			1					
178	Greyish Saltator	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>							✓		
179	White-collared Seedeater	<i>Sporophila torqueola</i>				10				10	
180	Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>		1	1			H		1	
181	Western Tanager	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>								✓	
182	Black-headed Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>			1			1			
183	Blue Bunting	<i>Cyanocompsa parallina</i>								1	
184	Painted Bunting	<i>Passerina ciris</i>								1	

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			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13

## Mammals

1	Great Fruit-eating Bat	<i>Artibeus lituratus</i>		✓	✓						
2	Bat sp	<i>Chiroptera sp</i>							✓		
3	Eastern Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>						✓		✓	
4	Common Rock Squirrel	<i>Otospermophilus variegatus</i>	✓								
5	Mexican Fox Squirrel	<i>Sciurus nayaritensis</i>								2	
6	White-nosed Coati	<i>Nasua narica</i>							1		
7	Ring-tailed Cat	<i>Bassariscus astutus</i>		1							
8	Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>					12+	7			

## Other Vertebrates

1	Olive Ridley Turtle	<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>				✓	1	1			
2	American Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus acutus</i>				12	15		✓		
3	Black (Spinytail) Iguana	<i>Ctenosaura similis</i>				1		2	2		
4	Green Iguana	<i>Iguana iguana</i>				1	3		1		
5	House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus sp.</i>					1	1	1		
6	Lizard sp.	<i>Squamata sp</i>						1	2	2	
7	Pacific Cownose Ray	<i>Rhinoptera steindachneri</i>						✓			

## Miscellaneous invertebrates

Ornate Helicopter Damselfly, *Mecistogaster ornata*Mexican Amberwing, *Perithemis intensa*

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Pyramid of the Moon at Teotihuacán by John Tomsett



Orange-fronted Parakeet by John Tomsett



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