

Mexico's Monarchs, Humpbacks and Endemic Birds

Naturetrek Tour Report

3 - 13 February 2020



Monarchs (Jim Bennett)



Golden-cheeked Woodpecker (DS)



Humpback Whale breaching (Jim Bennett)



Elegant Quail (Terry Godfrey)

Report by Dave Smallshire
Images by Jim Bennett, Terry Godfrey and Dave Smallshire



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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. Low cloud base and intermittent rain meant that our first visit to a Monarch reserve was rewarded by mainly static Monarchs hanging in huge clumps in the Oyamel Firs. Thankfully, the sun shone for a visit to a second reserve and we were treated to an amazing Monarch experience with so many in the air together that we could hear their wings. 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 mostly good weather, good food and great company.

Day 1

Monday 3rd February

Our British Airways flight left London Heathrow a little late and consequently we arrived at Mexico City a little late, but got through immigration in record time. After collecting our baggage, we located our local guide, Karel, and met Luke and Julie, who had travelled from Canada. 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 retired to bed with a food parcel, wondering what tomorrow would bring on our first full day in Mexico.

Day 2

Tuesday 4th February

It was rather chilly when most of us emerged from our rooms at 7 am for some pre-breakfast birding. As if to welcome us to Mexico, a Broad-billed Hummingbird suddenly appeared in a shrub in front of the hotel entrance, the first of several seen today. Brief views of a Rufous-backed Thrush provided our first Mexican endemic. Lark Sparrows perched on the perimeter fence of the archaeological site, where we found Blue Grosbeaks, dry-country birds like Curve-billed Thrasher, Lark Sparrow and Canyon Towhee, and more widespread species like Mourning, White-winged and Inca Doves, Loggerhead Shrike and House Finch. Several hot-air balloons took to the air as we marvelled at the stunning colour of male Vermilion Flycatchers (even the females looked very smart). A surprise came in the form of one and then two Cactus Wrens, at one point on some cultivated ground, but soon it was time to retreat to the hotel, where we met Connell, who had arrived earlier, and tuck into a breakfast of fruit and eggs.

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. Retracing our steps to the entrance, where earlier we had seen Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Bewick's Wren and Wilson's Warbler, red-flowering trees produced Broad-billed Hummingbirds and a smart Black-vented Oriole. From a second point of entry, 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 an obliging pair of Cactus Wrens, Blue-grey Gnatcatcher, Chipping and Lincoln's Sparrows and Common Rock Squirrel. Few butterflies were in evidence, the only one firmly identified being a tiny Marine Blue near some moist ground.

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. A comfort stop next to a lake was very productive, if surprisingly chilly. Birds seen included Pied-billed Grebe, White-faced Ibis, American Wigeon, Blue-winged Teal, Ruddy Duck, Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe and Violet-green Swallows. Heavy skies and low clouds hung over the mountains as we travelled west and it rained for a little while. It was dark when we arrived at Agua Blanca Lodge and after checking in we were soon enjoying another Mexican-style meal. During dinner, plans for the next couple of days were revealed: visits to two different reserves where the Monarch butterflies overwintered.

Day 3

Wednesday 5th February

Coffee was order of the day for those who assembled for pre-breakfast birding: the sky was overcast and it started to rain, so fleeces and anoraks were donned. What at first we thought was a Violet-crowned Hummingbird bathing in wet grass soon materialised into a mating pair – who would have believed that hummingbirds would mate on the ground? A Rufous-backed Thrush started the dawn chorus, but poor light made birding hard. We retreated to a viewpoint (or rather a gym!) overlooking the canyon, where we found Hooded Oriole and our first Golden-cheeked Woodpecker. After breakfast we set off for 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, and today proved to be like this. With the cloud base at about 2,000 metres and mainly light showers, we walked about 3 km up the trail to where the Monarchs hung in clumps. A few individuals were near at hand for photos, but alas there was no sun to persuade them to open their wings. Birds proved surprisingly good, given the inclement weather. Hummingbirds, of course, still needed to feed and the forest seemed full of them. We saw Mexican Violetear and White-eared, Broad-tailed, Ruby-throated and Rivoli's Hummingbirds, while a bird party near 'base camp' included Mexican Chickadee, Hermit, Townsend's and amazing Red Warblers.

We had a delicious lunch in the nearby village, encountering torrential outbursts as we arrived and later on our return to Agua Blanca. Later, between the showers we watched hundreds of low-flying Northern Rough-winged and Violet-green Swallows and were surprised by groups totalling over 200 of Grey Silky-flycatchers, a few of which landed in the trees near us. A few Black Vultures and Ravens flew over going to roost, while some of the group swam in the (cool!) waters of the natural swimming pools. After an early dinner, Karel told us about the complex life history of the Monarch.

Day 4

Thursday 6th February

The day dawned with a blue sky! Not surprisingly, pre-breakfast birding proved much more successful today, with Grey Silky-flycatchers and Bullock's, Black-vented and Streak-backed Orioles in trees, while American Dipper and a pair of Green Kingfishers were seen at the river. After breakfast a Canyon Wren sang from the top

of one of the hotel buildings. We set off for Sierra Chincua Monarch Reserve with sunshine and high hopes. This reserve is set in wilder, more open terrain than El Rosario. On arrival, we walked to the area where most of us mounted horses for the final part of the journey. At the end of our ride, we continued on foot towards the Monarchs' overwintering site, soon seeing our first Monarchs in flight. Today's experience was in complete contrast to the previous day's, with huge numbers basking with wings open. On two occasions, vast numbers took to the air in unison and we were able to hear the rustling of their wings. The viewing area became cramped as more visitors arrived, so eventually we made our way back for lunch, soon finding a Princely Tiger Moth and nice bird parties containing Red Warblers, Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Mexican Chickadees and Brown Creeper. A Broad-tailed Hummingbird was seen at close range and Connell photographed a Bumblebee Hummingbird, while the meadows held lots of Yellow-eyed Juncos and several Striped Sparrows.

Lunch was taken at a restaurant at the visitor centre, after which we had a little time for birding around the parking area. Red and Hermit Warblers were among more numerous Audubon's Warblers, but there was no sign of the usual Western Bluebirds. Karel took us to see the critically endangered Axolotls nearby: a couple of dozen of these neotenic salamanders were visible in the clear water of the stream, showing their retained juvenile gills. Soon after we stopped again to look at six Western Bluebirds and a few Pine Siskins. There was no time for birding by the time we returned to Agua Blanca, but everyone was more than satisfied with the wonderful memories (and not a few digital images) brought back from the day.

Day 5

Friday 7th February

After breakfast at 7.30 am, we loaded up the minibuses and headed off for Mexico City airport. During a comfort break (one of Karel's 'biological stops!'), a White-tailed Kite flew over, while around the service area we saw Canyon Towhee and Striped, Chipping and Song Sparrows. The traffic in Mexico City was typically horrendous, but we arrived in good time for our mid-afternoon flight. An hour or so later we landed in Puerto Vallarta, a large town set in Banderas Bay on the Pacific coast, which is 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 brief look at the sea and adjacent golf course wetland. A group of Black-necked Stilts held a lone Willet, while on the grass were Killdeers and Semipalmated Plovers. At dusk we went to have dinner at a taco restaurant noted for its Raccoons. We were entertained by the antics of half a dozen of these well-known scavengers, which occasionally appeared next to the diners or even jumped onto the tables.

Day 6

Saturday 8th February

After breakfast we loaded the minibuses and drove around to Karel's shop, where Michael briefed us on the lives of Humpback Whales. With Michael, we boarded the boat that would take us out into the Bay, where the female whales calve in the warm, shallow waters. Our first Humpbacks were two distant individuals clearly on the move, so we headed to the northern part of the bay, where we watched a group of three amorous males and a female. After a while we noticed a calf breaching in the distance, so moved further on to watch the antics of this calf, which continued to breach and splash with its large, pale pectoral fins. Finding that we were far from the nearest boats, Michael put a hydrophone overboard and we listened to the magical sounds of a male Humpback singing. Returning back to Puerto Vallarta for lunch, we paused to look at a resting group of Blue-footed Boobies, Royal

Terns, Laughing and Heerman's Gulls and Brown Pelicans. Also around the harbour we spotted Yellow-crowned Night Herons, Whimbrel, Mangrove Swallows, Belted and Ringed Kingfishers, Social Flycatcher, two Crocodiles, a few Black Iguanas and lots of Green Iguanas in the waterside bushes. 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 an Osprey and several Mexican Crescent butterflies. We pulled off the road just short of San Blas to look over a lagoon set within the mangroves. Lots of American Crocodiles were loafing in the shallows, some even out on the grassy bank right next to us; we were intrigued to see one of them apparently taking mouthfuls of grass. A couple of Caspian Terns flew around briefly and a Roseate Spoonbill sat sleeping in the trees, where a range of herons, Neotropic Cormorants and Anhingas rested. A Northern Waterthrush, Yellow Warbler and American Redstart were seen in the adjacent mangroves. Stopping again nearby, we saw Blue-winged Teals, Wood Stork, White Ibis and flocks of Long-billed Dowitchers, among which were a few Stilt Sandpipers, Lesser Yellowlegs, Willet, Dunlin and Semipalmated Plover. 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 9th February

Pre-breakfast birding outside the hotel was very productive, with Grey Hawk, Golden-cheeked and Gila Woodpecker, Tropical Kingbird, White-winged and Inca Doves, Streak-backed and Orchard Orioles, Mexican Cacique and Sinaloa Crow. Walking a short way we found lots of White-collared Seedeaters, Blue-black Grassquit, Lincoln's Sparrow, Northern Mockingbird, Groove-billed Ani and Bronze Cowbird. As we turned back, we noticed a pair of Painted Buntings taking seeds from grasses on a low strand of wire; the male was absolutely stunning, appearing indeed to have been painted by numbers. After breakfast we 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 Reddish Egret, Black Skimmer, Ring-billed Gulls and a pair of American Oystercatchers on the bank. We headed well out to sea, passing a trawler adorned with dozens of Magnificent Frigatebirds and ignoring a distant Humpback. We made for a group of boats, where we found a group of four or five boisterous male Humpbacks with a female. We followed this group for well over an hour, during which there was much splashing with flukes and occasional head lunges and spy-hops. Together with the previous day's sightings, this made a great whale-watching experience. Eventually, we headed back towards San Blas, encircling two small islets topped with seabirds and their guano. Brown Pelicans and Blue-footed Boobies were seen at close range. On the shore nearby was a large flock of Royal Terns with a few Caspian, plus about 25 Black Skimmers and a Sanderling.

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. A large radio mast attracted a group of Grey-breasted Martins while a lovely Pink-spotted Cattleheart gave us prolonged views as it fed at a flowering creeper. In the adjacent woodland we saw Cinnamon Hummingbird, Rose-throated Becard, American Redstart, Masked Tityra and Summer Tanager. The light was fading as we tried to find shrimp ponds that were suitable for waders, but most were brim full (a sign of the rain earlier in the week); one of them held a pair of Least Grebes. As we moved on to the crocodile viewpoint instead, two Lesser Nighthawks flew over. At the viewpoint we saw

about 30 American Crocodiles in the fading light, plus Roseate Spoonbill and half a dozen Black-crowned Night Herons.

Day 8

Monday 10th February

We left the hotel at 6.00 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 Woodpeckers, Mexican Cacique and several groups of Muscovy Ducks flew over, while Dave glimpsed an out of range Yellow-throated Warbler. A large, noisy flock of Mexican Parrotlets erupted from a large tree while Orange-fronted Parakeets and a pair of White-fronted Parrots flew around. Walking slowly along the track after breakfast, we carefully approached a dusty farmyard and were rewarded with views of endemic Elegant Quails, although they soon saw us and made off into the bushes. Birds of prey included Common Black Hawk, Grey Hawk and Northern Crested Caracara, while we had good views of a Laughing Falcon perched by the track and two sightings of Collared Forest Falcon. Other birds noted as we moved further along the track included Rufous-bellied Chachalaca, Pacific-slope Flycatchers, Squirrel Cuckoo, Rose-throated Becard, Masked Tityra, Citreoline Trogon, Thick-billed Kingbird, Warbling Vireo, Black-throated Magpie-Jay, American Redstart and MacGillivray's Warbler. Most of us managed to see Happy Wrens singing their jaunty song and a Sinaloa Wren with an equally melodic ditty. A wetland area held Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, Common and Purple Gallinules, Northern Jacana, Lesser Yellowlegs and Least Sandpiper. Butterflies were well in evidence along the track and included gaudy Zebra, Julia and Crimson-patched Longwings, Red-bordered Pixie, Gulf Fritillary, Malachite, White Peacock and many Banded Peacocks.

We left Singayta for a lovely fish lunch at a seaside restaurant at Playa de las Islitas, where some of the group had a refreshing dip in the sea. Black Iguanas and a White-nosed Coati were seen nearby, as were a few Sanderlings and American Oystercatchers on the beach. We returned to the hotel for a short siesta. At 3.20 pm we set off to the river for an evening boat ride through the mangroves. As our boats cruised along the riverbank, we saw a succession of herons, including a beautifully-marked Bare-throated Tiger Heron, plus Green Heron, Greater Yellowlegs, Caspian Tern and Belted Kingfisher. We crossed the river and took a side channel, passed under a road bridge and soon found ourselves passing Boat-billed Herons hiding in their daytime roost in the mangroves. As the channel widened, we encountered Green Kingfisher at close range, while Black Vultures had settled to roost in the tops of palm trees and single Osprey and Snail Kite flew across the channel. A variety of egrets and herons adorned the trees like giant fairy lights, although a roosting Northern Potoo did not come into that category, looking more like an extension of the branch it was sitting on! As the light faded, lots of Tropical Kingbirds flanked the river and took advantage of the insect life. Lesser Nighthawks flew overhead as we approached a loo stop at the end of the channel. Retracing our route, this time with powerful spotlights, we first saw Pauraques hawking over the river and one perched in a fringing tree at close range. Pride of place, however, had to go to no less than five Potoos caught in the spotlight. They sat while we gawped and snapped at them, their big yellow eyes and huge gape showing when they turned towards us. We passed a Crocodile and one boat saw a Barn Owl. After this most successful boat ride, we stopped in San Blas town for dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 9

Tuesday 11th 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 failed to see the resident pair of Crested Guans that usually frequent our 'breakfast tree'. A pair of Lilac-crowned Amazons flew in, but soon departed before we could locate them at rest. Michael pointed out Colima Pygmy Owl, Elegant Trogon and Boat-billed Flycatcher calling in the distance, and located a Red-crowned Ant-tanager nearby. As we started to walk down the track, Connell spotted a scorpion (and later a large Golden Orb Spider). Later we watched several pairs of Orange-fronted Parakeets that gathered in a bare tree, where we could clearly see pairs preening each other. Masked Tityras, Plumbeous Vireo, Nashville and Black-throated Grey Warblers, Lineated, Gila and Golden-cheeked Woodpeckers were in evidence, as were a pair of displaying Short-tailed Hawks and lots of butterflies, including Apricot Sulphur, Ceraunus Blue, Juno, Zebra and Crimson-patched Heliconians, Elf, Grey Cracker, Massilia Sister, Many-banded Daggerwing, Leading Red-wing and Glassy-winged Skipper.

Before lunch we visited the base of an organic co-operative coffee plantation, where coffee is grown in the shade of the native forest, to the benefit of wildlife. We learned how coffee (in sufficient quantity!) could be good for one's health, and then went on to sample a range of coffees, some of us ordering bags of those we liked best, and then went to lunch nearby. On the way we encountered a group of butterflies attracted to a sap run. As they flew around they resembled the stunning Blue Morpho butterflies found further south in Mexico, but in the end they proved to be Two-spot and Feathered Preponas. Perched on tree trunks nearby were intricately patterned Blomfield's and Small Beauties, the latter perched upside down but appearing the other way up due to false 'head' markings on the hind wing. As we ate lunch, we noticed a Black Iguana sitting in one of the garden bushes. Afterwards, some of us went in search of the endemic Colima Pygmy Owl (the rest of the group returned to the hotel at this point), but it failed to respond to calls. We did, however, have splendid views of Ivory-billed Woodcreeper and brief views of Mexican Hermit, plus Montezuma's Cattleheart, Mauve Scallopwing and Long-tailed Flasher, while Michael managed to spot a Thick-tipped Greta, one of the glasswing butterflies and a nice finale to our best butterfly day.

On returning to San Blas, Michael took a few of us to some pools and sewage ponds in San Blas. We heard a Sora at the latter and saw lots of Northern Jacanas and Common and American Purple Gallinules. But 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 12th 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 just before 9 am. At Puerto Vallarta airport we said goodbye to Karel and Michael, who had been excellent guides and drivers. Our departure was on time and we arrived at Mexico City with plenty of time to spare for our respective transfers. We retrieved our baggage and said goodbye to Julie and Luke (who were flying back to Toronto) and Jane and Charles, who were spending a further 10 days in Cancun. The rest of us had to wait a while to check in for our 9.00 pm flights home, departing for London nearly an hour late. The first couple of hours into the flight were very bumpy at times, which made eating dinner a little hazardous.

Day 11

Thursday 13th February

We arrived safely on time at Heathrow half-an-hour early, sailed through passport control, Dave was reunited with the laptop he had left on the aircraft (silly boy!), collected our baggage 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.

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Canyon Wren (Terry Godfrey)



Vermilion Flycatcher (Jim Bennett)

Species Lists

Butterflies & Moths

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February								
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Montezuma's Cattleheart	<i>Parides montezuma</i>								✓	
2	Pink-spotted Cattleheart	<i>Parides photinus</i>						✓			
3	Painted White	<i>Pieriballia viardi</i>								✓	
4	Apricot Sulphur	<i>Phoebis argante</i>							✓		
5	Large Orange Sulphur	<i>Phoebis agarithe</i>		✓			✓				
6	Mimosa Yellow	<i>Pyrisitia nise</i>									
7	Ceraunus Blue	<i>Hemiargus ceraunus</i>					✓				
8	Eastern Tailed Blue	<i>Cupido comintas</i>							✓		
9	Marine Blue	<i>Leptotes marina</i>	✓							✓	
10	Rd-bordered Pixie	<i>Melanis pixe</i>						✓			
11	Juno Heliconian (Longwing)	<i>Dione juno</i>							✓		
12	Julia Heliconian	<i>Dryas iulia moderata</i>							✓	✓	
13	Zebra Longwing (Heliconian)	<i>Heliconius charithonia</i>							✓	✓	
14	Gulf Fritillary	<i>Agraulis vanillae</i>						✓	✓	✓	
15	Crimson-patched Longwing (Erato Heliconian)	<i>Heliconius erato</i>							✓	✓	
16	Elf	<i>Microtia elva</i>								✓	
17	Pale-banded Crescent	<i>Anthanasa tulcis</i>					✓		✓		
18	Mexican Crescent	<i>Phyciodes pallenscens</i>				✓	✓				
19	White Peacock	<i>Anartia jatrophe</i>						✓	✓	✓	
20	Banded Peacock	<i>Anartia fatima</i>						✓	✓	✓	
21	Splendid Mapwing	<i>Hypanartia godmanii</i>								✓	
22	Malachite	<i>Siproeta stelenes</i>							✓	✓	
23	Leading Red-ring	<i>Phyrhogyra neaerea</i>								✓	
24	Grey Cracker	<i>Hamadryas februa</i>								✓	
25	Blomfild's Beauty	<i>Smyrna blomfilda</i>								✓	
26	Small Beauty	<i>Coloobura dirce</i>								✓	
27	Massila (Bates') Sister	<i>Adelpha paraena</i>								✓	
28	Many-banded Daggerwing	<i>Marpesia chiron</i>								✓	
29	Two-spotted Prepona	<i>Archaeoprepona demophon</i>								✓	

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February								
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
30	Feathered Prepona	<i>Prepona lates</i>								✓	
31	Carolina Satyr	<i>Hermeuptychia sosybius</i>								✓	
32	Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>		✓	✓				✓		
33	Thick-tipped Greta	<i>Greta morgane</i>								✓	
34	Long-tailed Flasher	<i>Astraptes megalurus</i>								✓	
35	White-crescent Longtail	<i>Codatractus alcaeus</i>								✓	
36	White-tipped Longtail	<i>Urbanus chales</i>								✓	
37	Blue-studded Skipper	<i>Sostrata bifasciata</i>								✓	
38	Orange-spotted Skipper	<i>Atarnes sallei</i>							✓		
39	Glassy-winged Skipper	<i>Xenophanes tyxus</i>								✓	
40	Tropical Checkered-Skipper	<i>Pyrgus oileus</i>								✓	
41	Veined White-Skipper	<i>Heliopetes arsalte</i>								✓	
42	Southern Skipperling	<i>Copaeoides minimus</i>						✓			
43	Princely Tiger Moth	<i>Chrysocale principalis</i>			✓						

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

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February								
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Black-bellied Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>							20		
2	Muscovy Duck	<i>Cairina moschata</i>							8		
3	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	6								
4	American Wigeon	<i>Mareca americana</i>	25								
5	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Spatula discors</i>	6				20	2	✓		✓
6	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	10						✓	✓	
7	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	25								
8	Rufous-bellied Chachalaca E	<i>Ortalis wagleri</i>							1		
9	Elegant Quail E	<i>Callipepla douglasii</i>							12		
10	Least Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i>									
11	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	2					2			
12	Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria Americana</i>					1		✓		
13	American White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>					15	✓	✓		
14	White-faced Ibis	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>	2			✓			40	1	

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February								
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
15	Roseate Spoonbill	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>					1	3			
16	Bare-throated Tiger Heron	<i>Tigrisoma mexicanum</i>							2		
17	Boat-billed Heron	<i>Cochlearius cochlearius</i>							3		
18	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>						8			
19	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>					3		2	2	
20	Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>				1	2	1	✓	1	
21	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	50		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
22	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	1				1	✓	✓	1	
23	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	✓		1	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	
24	Reddish Egret	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>						1			
25	Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>					1	2	1		
26	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>						1	✓		
27	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>					✓		✓	✓	
28	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
29	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>				1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
30	Blue-footed Booby	<i>Sula nebouxii</i>					✓	15			
31	Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>				4	✓	✓	✓		✓
32	Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>				2	2	1	✓	1	
33	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	1		1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
34	Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>		5		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
35	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>					1		1		
36	White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>				1					
37	Snail Kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>							1		
38	Common Black Hawk	<i>Buteogallus anthracinus</i>							1		
39	Roadside Hawk	<i>Buteo magnirostris</i>								1	1
40	Grey Hawk	<i>Buteo plagiatus</i>						1	2	1	
41	Short-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo brachyurus</i>							1	2	
42	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	1		1						
43	Sora	<i>Porzana carolina</i>								H	
44	Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinica</i>							1	15	
45	Common Gallinule	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>							3	10	
46	American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	✓			✓			1		

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February								
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
47	American Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>						2	2		
48	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>				30	20		✓	✓	✓
49	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>				20	1				
50	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	2			✓					
51	Northern Jacana	<i>Jacana spinosa</i>				1			6	25	
52	Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>					50		✓		
53	Hudsonian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius hudsonicus</i>					2	2	1		
54	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>							2		
55	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>					2		1		
56	Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>				1	1	✓	2		
57	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>				5	✓	2	1	3	
58	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>						1	2		
59	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>							✓		
60	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>					1				
61	Stilt Sandpiper	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>					10				
62	Wilson's Snipe	<i>Gallinago delicata</i>	1								
63	Black Skimmer	<i>Rhynchops niger</i>						25			
64	Laughing Gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>					✓	✓	1		
65	Heermann's Gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>					20	20			
66	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>						✓	✓		
67	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>					2	1	1		
68	Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>					20	✓			
69	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
70	Red-billed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas flavirostris</i>							✓	✓	✓
71	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
72	Inca Dove	<i>Columbina inca</i>	✓			✓		✓			
73	Ruddy Ground Dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓
74	Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	✓								
75	White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	
76	Groove-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>			2			6	✓	✓	
77	Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayenne</i>							2		
78	American Barn Owl	<i>Tyto furcata</i>							1		

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			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
79	Ferruginous Pygmy Owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>						H	H		
80	Northern Potoo	<i>Nyctibius jamaicensis</i>							6		
81	Lesser Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i>	1						2		
82	Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>						H	5		
83	Mexican Hermit E	<i>Phaethornis mexicanus</i>								1	
84	Mexican Violetear	<i>Colibri thalassinus</i>		✓							
85	Broad-billed Hummingbird	<i>Cynanthus latirostris</i>	4								
86	Cinnamon Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia rutila</i>						3		2	
87	Violet-crowned Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia violiceps</i>		2	1						
88	White-eared Hummingbird	<i>Basilinna leucotis</i>		✓	✓						
89	Rivoli's Hummingbird	<i>Eugenes fulgens</i>		1							
90	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>		1							
91	Bumblebee Hummingbird	<i>Atthis ellioti</i>			1						
92	Broad-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus platycercus</i>		1	2						
93	Elegant Trogon	<i>Trogon elegans</i>								H	
94	Citreoline Trogon E	<i>Trogon citreolus</i>							1		
95	Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>			2		1		✓		
96	Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle torquata</i>					1				
97	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>					1		2		
98	Golden-cheeked Woodpecker E	<i>Melanerpes chrysogenys</i>		1	1			✓	✓	✓	
99	Gila Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes uropygialis</i>						✓		✓	
100	Ladder-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates scalaris</i>	2								
101	Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>							3	2	
102	Northern Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>							2		1
103	Laughing Falcon	<i>Herpetotheres cachinnans</i>							1		
104	Collared Forest Falcon	<i>Micrastur semitorquatus</i>							2	H	
105	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	1			2					3
106	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>						1			
107	Lilac-crowned Amazon	<i>Amazona finschi</i>								2	
108	White-fronted Amazon	<i>Amazona albifrons</i>							2		
109	Mexican Parrotlet E	<i>Forpus cyanopygius</i>					1		30	✓	
110	Orange-fronted Parakeet	<i>Eupsittula canicularis</i>						✓		20	

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February								
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
111	Ivory-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus flavigaster</i>						1		1	
112	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	1		1						
113	Pacific Slope Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax difficilis</i>							✓	1	
114	Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>	✓	1	2	1	1		✓	2	
115	Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>					✓	1	✓		
116	Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>		1	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
117	Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
118	Thick-billed Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus crassirostris</i>							1		
119	Dusky-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>								H	
120	Rose-throated Becard	<i>Pachyrhamphus aglaiae</i>						1	1		
121	Masked Tityra	<i>Tityra semifasciata</i>							✓	10	
122	Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	3			1					
123	Plumbeous Vireo	<i>Vireo plumbeus</i>								1	
124	Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>							2		
125	Black-throated Magpie-Jay E	<i>Calocitta colliei</i>							2	4	1
126	Steller's Jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>			2						
127	Sinaloa Crow E	<i>Corvus sinaloae</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	
128	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		5	✓						
129	Grey Silky-flycatcher	<i>Ptiliogonys cinereus</i>		200	25						
130	Mexican Chickadee	<i>Poecile sclateri</i>		✓	✓						
131	Mangrove Swallow	<i>Tachycineta albilinea</i>					✓	✓			
132	Violet-green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>	20	✓	✓						
133	Grey-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>						85			
134	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	✓	✓			1				
135	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓
136	Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>		1	1						
137	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>		1	✓						
138	Cactus Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i>	5								
139	Canyon Wren	<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>			2						
140	Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	2								
141	Happy Wren E	<i>Pheugopedius felix</i>							3	H	
142	Sinaloa Wren E	<i>Thryophilus sinaloa</i>							1		

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February								
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
143	Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	1	1	1			✓	✓	✓	
144	Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia Americana</i>		1	1						
145	Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>						2			
146	Curve-billed Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma curvirostre</i>	20								
147	Collared/Spotted Towhee intergrade	<i>Pipilo ocai/erythrophthalmus</i>			1						
148	Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>			7						
149	Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>		1							
150	Rufous-backed Thrush E	<i>Turdus rufopalliatu</i>	✓	✓	✓		1	✓		✓	
151	American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>			1						
152	American Dipper	<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>			1						
153	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
154	House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	✓	H	2	✓	1				
155	Pine Siskin	<i>Spinus pinus</i>		✓							
156	Scrub Euphonia	<i>Euphonia affinis</i>							1	2	
157	Northern Waterthrush	<i>Parkesia noveboracensis</i>					1			1	
158	Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis celata</i>			✓						
159	Nashville Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis ruficapilla</i>		1	1					✓	
160	MacGillivray's Warbler	<i>Geothlypis tolmiei</i>							3		
161	Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>								1	
162	American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>					1	2	✓		
163	American Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga aestiva</i>					1	2	✓		
164	Audubon's Warbler	<i>Setophaga auduboni</i>	1		✓						
165	Townsend's Warbler	<i>Setophaga townsendi</i>		2	1						
166	Yellow-throated Warbler	<i>Setophaga dominica</i>							1		
167	Hermit Warbler	<i>Setophaga occidentalis</i>		1	1						
168	Wilson's Warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>	1	1				1	1		
169	Red Warbler E	<i>Cardellina rubra</i>		2	5						
170	Mexican (Yellow-winged) Cacique	<i>Cacicus melanicterus</i>						✓	✓	✓	
171	Bullock's Oriole	<i>Icterus bullockii</i>		2	✓						
172	Streak-backed Oriole	<i>Icterus pustulatus</i>		1	✓			✓	✓		
173	Hooded Oriole	<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>		1				1		✓	
174	Orchard Oriole	<i>Icterus spurius</i>					1	✓			

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			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
175	Bronzed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus aeneus</i>						12	✓		
176	Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
177	Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>				2					
178	Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolni</i>	1	1	1			1			
179	Yellow-eyed Junco	<i>Junco phaeonotus</i>			✓						
180	Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	✓								
181	Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	20			2					
182	Striped Sparrow E	<i>Oriturus superciliosus</i>		1	8	1					
183	Canyon Towhee	<i>Melospiza fusca</i>	✓			4					
184	Greyish Saltator	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>								✓	
185	Blue-black Grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>						1			
186	White-collared Seedeater	<i>Sporophila torqueola</i>						30			
187	Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>			1			1	1	H	
188	Western Tanager	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>			1			1		✓	
189	Red-crowned Ant Tanager	<i>Habia rubica</i>								1	
190	Black-headed Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>		1							
191	Blue Grosbeak	<i>Passerina caerulea</i>	10						1		
192	Painted Bunting	<i>Passerina ciris</i>						3			

Mammals

1	Bat species	Chiroptera				✓					
2	Eastern Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>						✓	✓		
3	Common Rock Squirrel	<i>Otospermophilus variegatus</i>	3								
4	Squirrel sp.			1							
5	Northern Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>				6					
6	White-nosed Coati	<i>Nasua narica</i>							1		
7	Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>					8	6			

Other Vertebrates

1	Axolotl E	<i>Ambistoma mexicanum</i>			25						
2	American Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus acutus</i>					20	30	1		

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			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
3	Black (Spinytail) Iguana	<i>Ctenosaura similis</i>					1		1	1	
4	Green Iguana	<i>Iguana iguana</i>					15				
5	House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus sp.</i>						1	2		
6	Lizard sp.	<i>Squamata</i>			✓						

Miscellaneous invertebrates

Fiery-eyed Dancer *Argia oenea*

Golden Orb Spider *Nephila clavipes*

Carmine Skimmer *Orthemis discolor*

Scorpion sp. (Scorpiones)



Axolotl (Jim Bennett)



Hermit Warbler (Jim Bennett)



Pink-spotted Cattleheart (DS)



Carmine Skimmer (DS)



Banded Peacock (DS)



Squirrel Cuckoo (Jim Bennett)