

Mexico's Monarchs, Humpbacks and Endemic Birds

Naturetrek Tour Report

30th January – 9th February 2023



Monarch Butterflies



Military Macaws



Northern Potoo



Spy-hopping Humpback Whale

Report and Images by Martin Pitt



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Summary

This tour set out to show some of the varied history and landscapes of this wonderful country and to combine the natural wonder of the world of overwintering Monarchs in the mountains of the trans-volcanic belt above Mexico City, together with the breeding site of the Humpback Whales and some of the special birds found on the Pacific coast around Puerto Vallarta & San Blas.

We started with the pre-Aztec civilisation and the spectacular 'stepped' pyramids of Teotihuacán, before heading over 10,000 ft into the fir and pine forests to the west of Mexico City to experience the overwintering Monarch Butterflies in their millions. These mountains also have other unique sights and we found the special salamander and also a few of the special birds of this protected biosphere reserve. We then flew west to the Pacific coast, taking two boat trips into the warm coastal waters finding lots of Humpback Whales, our first trip including breaching, spy-hopping, flipper & fluke bashing and mothers & calves. Other wildlife including the vulnerable Olive Ridley Turtle, Bottlenose Dolphins & a sea snake. In the hills above the marina, we successfully searched for the Military Macaw and found our first heliconian butterflies. We finished the trip by spending days searching the mixed habitats around the old colonial town of San Blas, looking for wintering North American migrants and local endemic birds in this well-known hotspot, together with enjoying a rush of new butterflies than included some flashy Swallowtails, Daggertails and Malachite.

Overall, we identified 49 species of butterfly, 214 species of birds and 18 species of mammal, including detecting a confusing 11 species of bats, plus notable amphibians and reptiles. We all enjoyed the wonderful weather, the friendly people and excellent food in what is only a small part of this diverse and ecologically rich country. We came home with a wealth of memories – who can forget trees literally dripping with butterflies, the forests lit by hummingbirds, the seas full of whales, dolphins and turtles, and everywhere the vibrant colours of tropical birds and butterflies.

Day 1

Monday 30th January

Our British Airways flight left London Heathrow a little late and consequently we arrived at Mexico City bang on time as the sun set. After collecting our baggage, we met up with our local leader, Karel, and the driver for the first section of the tour, Lois. In our minibus we headed north east into the evening traffic for the journey to our hotel at Teotihuacán. After checking in and confirming arrangements for the following morning, we all retired to our rooms for a light snack and to prepare for our first full day in Mexico.

Day 2

Tuesday 31st January

It was rather chilly, overcast and the showery rain had just stopped when we met at 7 am for some pre-breakfast birding. The cold weather certainly impacted the bird activity, even if there were plenty of local hot-air balloons as multiples lifted off over the nearby ruins. Our first species was a fly-by Inca Dove and thereafter we had an introduction to the typical birds of the high altitude plain on which Mexico City is based. Canyon Towhee were plentiful and other dry country species such as Curve-billed Thrasher, Loggerhead Shrike and Vermillion Flycatcher were soon added. A couple of sparring male Broad-billed Hummingbirds was our first, of what were to

become many different species, of this charismatic group and our Mexican endemic list was started with Rufous-backed Thrush. Shortly we returned to take our fill of a typical breakfast of fruit and various tortillas and eggs before loading the bus and heading the short distance to the main entrance of the archaeological site.



The pre-Aztec remains of the city of Teotihuacán date from c.600CE and extend over a vast area. Most of what can be seen are remains of the ceremonial areas of the city, and we first headed to the ‘Citadel’ and the bottom of the Calzada de los Muertos, the 2km long avenue that connects the main sites. We soon realised that a few birds were also attracted to the site and added Bewick’s Wren before heading to the courtyard that holds the Temple of Quetzalcoatl, the bizarre feathered serpent god. The grass lawn was dotted with gopher burrows and we soon had views of the Merriam’s Pocket Gopher going about its business. The dry lawns were also attractive to birds, and we had good views of a flock of Lark Sparrows, with Cassin’s Kingbird, and even a couple of Killdeer mixed in. We returned to the bus and headed to another gate, this time close to the pyramids of the Sun and Moon. The Pyramid of the Sun is the world’s third largest (after the Cheops pyramids in Egypt) with the same base dimensions as the those in Egypt albeit much shorter and not used as a tomb, but solely a platform to be close to the celestial bodies. After a tour of the site, we headed back to the bus.

Lunch was at a nearby restaurant, where there was a choice of typical Mexican food and welcome cold drinks. Afterwards, we began our journey to the mountains in the trans-volcanic belt above Mexico City, where we were to be based for the next three nights, but not before we had to suffer the chronic traffic of Mexico City again. A comfort stop next to the high altitude Laguna de Salazar was very productive. Birds seen amongst the hundreds of American Coot included Pied-billed Grebe, White-faced Ibis, American Wigeon, Blue-winged Teal and Ruddy Duck. More surprising were Canvasback & Wood Duck, although perhaps the Mexican Ducks should have been expected. Soon enough we arrived at the charismatic Hotel El Rebozo in the hills above Valle de Bravo, our base for the next three nights.

After checking in we were soon enjoying another Mexican-style meal. During dinner, plans for the next couple of days were outlined: visits to two different areas of the Biosphere reserve where the Monarch butterflies overwinter and Karel briefly introduced the life cycle of the Monarch butterfly.

Day 3

Wednesday 1st February

Coffee was the 'wake-up' for those assembled for pre-breakfast birding: the sky was only showing the first signs of light and it was cool, so activity was generally low. Brown-backed Solitaires were singing in the dawn from their hidden perches but as the sun rays warmed the flowering trees, we started seeing a few warblers, including Nashville, Audubon and Black-throated Grey, and tanagers, the brilliant red of Flame-colored living up to their name. These were scattered by a Sharp-shinned Hawk, so we retreated for breakfast.

After breakfast, we set off for the nearby Piedra Herrada Monarch Reserve and with the weather set fair, we had high hopes for activity amongst the wintering masses of Monarchs. We checked in and mounted our horses for the ride up the hill to the Monarch hibernation site. We had a steep walk from where we left the horses and here the forest of Oyamel Fir at 10,600 ft (3,250m) is where the butterflies spend the winter. Even before we arrived, there were individual Monarch flying and the grove where the main clusters were was alive with butterflies. It was too easy to ignore the duller clumps of resting insects and focus only on the active, which, whilst plentiful, were a mere fraction of the total numbers.

After watching for a while, we took our leave and descended to pick up the horses. With more effort we found a few hummingbirds, mainly the Mexican Violetears being visible, but from the clicking calls, we knew many more were nearby. Birds and other butterflies were scarce but we found a few Mexican Silverspots, a bewildering array of Sulphurs, a Mexican Chickadee and Olive Warbler, but the best was a pristine Mourning Cloak (the same species as our Camberwell Beauty). Arriving back at the car park few Transvolcanic Jays crossed our paths, a local endemic that makes this part of Mexico their home.

At 2pm, we got back into the bus for the short ride to a local restaurant where we sat on the balcony and ate traditional Mexican fare whilst keeping an eye on butterflies and birds in the valley below. Replenished we headed back to Valle de Bravo, and went directly to the park close to the hotel with the local beauty spot, Cascade Velo de Novia, and walked through the forest to the waterfall.

We returned to El Rebozo in time for Karel to give a full talk on the Monarch butterflies in Mexico and their multi-generational life cycle and the issues they are currently facing for their conservation – a heart-warming story in Mexico where they are revered as spirits of the ancestors and more concerning as victims of increasingly intensive agriculture in their summering grounds in the USA & Canada.

Day 4

Thursday 2nd February

With a longer drive to our next reserve we had an early breakfast and headed to the bus for the two-hour journey to Sierra Chincua. During the journey we were entertained by a film on the efforts to raise awareness of Monarchs along the length of their 3,000 mile migration route. At this reserve the park Headquarters were higher, meaning that although more distant, we had less of a climb than yesterday. Again, we loaded up on the horses and then walked the final two km or so.

Birds were present but mainly hidden, although with easier terrain we soon added Rivoli's, White-eared and Ruby-throated to our growing list of hummingbirds. The main target was the endemic Red Warbler and although seen briefly on the way up some missed them as they disappeared as soon as they had appeared.



If anything, the clusters were even more impressive today than the previous one, and clouds of butterflies were lifting and spreading out to drink and take nectar from the local plants, often giving point blank views. We eventually had to tear ourselves away and head downhill, many taking advantage of the easier terrain to walk back to the park centre. We were tracked by Monarchs the whole way, but other butterflies were also present.

Again, a late lunch was called for, and we feasted on quesadillas and other local delights. Before heading back to the hotel, we had a chance to explore the immediate area and a few more species were added close to the park centre, including better views of Red Warbler, before we headed a short distance downhill to a meadow with a small stream. Here, as expected, we found the critically endangered Michoacan Stream Salamander and nearby were able to finally identify one of the tricky sulphur butterflies as a Dainty Sulphur. We then took the journey back to the hotel arriving around 6pm, enabling everyone to prepare for the transfer the following day.

Day 5

Friday 3rd February

We had an early call at 6 am, loading the bus and collecting our packed breakfasts for the first part of the journey, our drive to Toluca Airport. Saying goodbye to Lois, we were checked in for our flight by 8am and by 11.30 we were landing on the Pacific coast at Puerto Vallarta. After pre-checking into our hotel, we walked the short distance to our lunchtime restaurant overlooking the marina harbour, dodging the Green Iguanas lounging on the dockside.

After lunch we headed next door for Karel to give a talk on the Humpback Whales, the reason for the importance of this part of the Pacific coast and the likely behaviour of the groups in the bay. We were then able to get our rooms at the Flamingo hotel before heading off with Michael, Karel's assistant, to the area close to the marina for an introduction to the birds of the (much) warmer Pacific coast. The edges of the golf courses here attracted a few species that we hadn't seen in the highlands; Mexican Cacique, Lineated Woodpecker and Northern Jacana were all found, together with a mix of herons, ibis and a few migrant waders, all whilst we were constantly under the many circling Magnificent Frigatebirds.

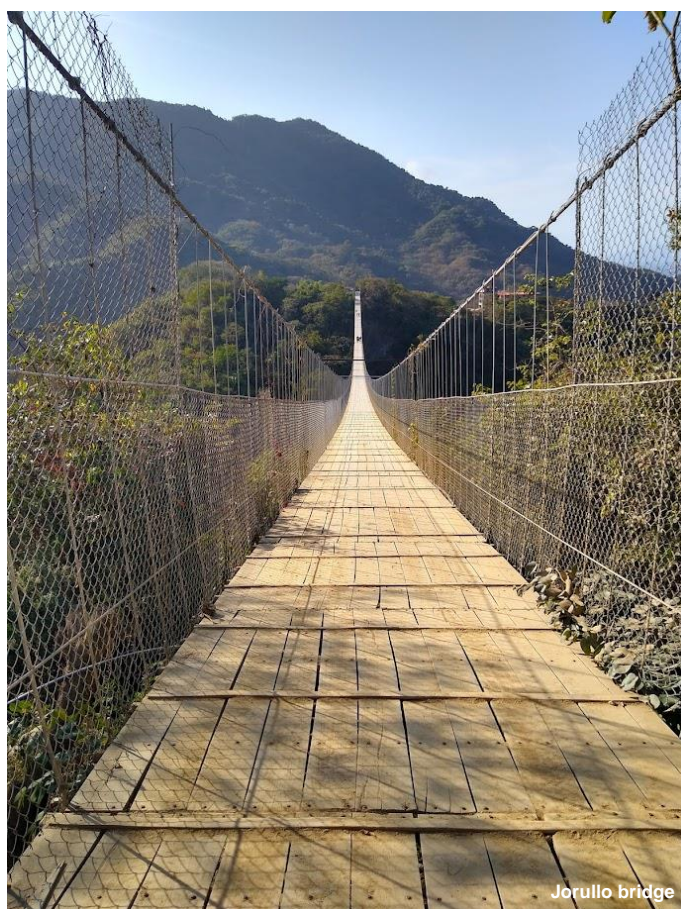
We had supper at the marina side hotel restaurant, overlooked by the many anchored 'gin-palaces' with their USA home ports. Despite the sight of bats leaving the roost, an attempt with the bat detector had limited return, with only Northern Ghost and Sinaloa Mastiff found.

Day 6

Saturday 4th February

After a marina-side breakfast, we walked the short distance to the office and prepared to head out into the Bahía de Banderas just before 9am. Michael was leading us today and before we left the marina area we stopped for the roost of Royal Terns, Heermann's and Laughing Gulls before dodging the enormous liner and escaping into the bay itself. As we powered out Blue-footed and Brown Boobies came to fly the wake and dive for bait fish around us.

Before long we were attracted by a very active male Humpback and over the next couple of hours, we had multiple sightings of whales including breaching, spy-hopping, fin & fluke slapping, a chase group and then a female and calf with an attendant male. We then broke away from the groups and found a single male. We could hear the song before the hydrophone was dropped in, but we had him serenading us loud and clear once we played the song through the onboard audio. In one short trip we had seen (and heard) the full mix of whale behaviour and the Humpbacks had always been in view – really a once in a lifetime morning.



By noon we were heading back to port and transferred into the buses for the short ride out of town and into the surrounding hills at the complex known as Canopy River at El Jorullo. This community-owned preserved forest and rivers in the Sierra Madre Occidental caters for all types of outdoor activities but allows for access to the forest close to the town. We had lunch in their open-air restaurant before heading over the Jorullo suspension bridge (470m long and reputed to be the longest of its type in the world) and the trails on the other side.

The forest immediately offered some of the species we had targeted here, Black-throated Magpie-Jay, San Blas Jays, Citreoline Trogon, West Mexican Euphonia & Yellow Grosbeak were soon found and our first heliconian butterflies included Zebra and Julia. However, for the main target, we needed to wait until the sun dropped a little further and then from the bridge, we saw the pairs of Military Macaws flying to roost along the valley below.

We returned to the hotel and then headed out for a restaurant in town before returning to the Flamingo for the night and wondering how it could get any better.

Day 7

Sunday 5th February

Another transfer day and we needed to pack our bags and breakfast for 8.45am after which we were soon on the boat awaiting for our second trip into the Bahia de Banderas. As previously, the day was warm and sunny and the sea calm but with Karel now with us the challenge was on to see more or better than before. The whales were still around and plentiful but they were not as playful as the previous day and we started to look for dolphins. It didn't take long before we found the local pod of Bottle-nosed Dolphins and spent some time with them. Whilst returning to the whales, we also found a couple of Olive Ridley Turtles. As they are cold-blooded they tend to loaf at the surface to warm up at this time of year and this matched their behaviour. More surprising was the appearance of a Yellow-bellied Sea Snake close to the boat. Although reputedly highly venomous, their small mouths and rearward fangs make it highly difficult to inflict a bite on humans, but this one had no intention of joining us in the boat.

Soon enough it was time to return to the marina and have our lunches at the marina restaurant.

Afterwards, it was time for the transfer to San Blas. Karel took the wheel of one bus and Michael the other and we headed north across the local hills. Just short of this small colonial town, we stopped at the appropriately named Mirador de las Aves, a lagoon on the edge of the mangrove swamp beloved by herons and other waterbirds. It is also an easy place to see American Crocodile and half a dozen or so were hanging around partially submerged in the water's edge. Black-necked Stilt grabbed our attention, but more careful scanning yielded Roseate Spoonbills, White Ibis and a Belted Kingfisher using the electricity wires as a vantage point. It was the herons that were most plentiful; the trees were alive with Great and Snowy Egrets, Tricoloured Herons stalked the edges and as the sun started to dip, we started seeing Black-crowned Night Herons. After leaving the mirador, we soon arrived in San Blas and crossed the town to find our hotel the Garza Canela, or 'Boat-billed Heron', our home for the remainder of the tour.

Day 8

Monday 6th February



Dawn at Mirador de las Aves

Today we left the hotel at 5.30 am and headed south-east into the wooded mountains at Tecuitata, stopping briefly for dawn at the Mirador de las Aves. At our destination, we drove up the steep cobbled track to the top of the hill with a view down to the Pacific below. On the way up we were distracted by a fruiting tree that was attracting Citreoline Trogons until there must have been a dozen or so present. At the top Karel & Michael set out the picnic

breakfast table in the shade of an enormous fruiting tree. As we waited, we were distracted by the butterflies, especially the three species of heliconians, namely Julia's, Erato and Zebra, that were numerous. The fruiting tree had a constant stream of visitors – more Trogons, Tanagers, Orioles and Thrushes joined the growing throng and a Pale-billed Woodpecker also made a visit. After eating our fill, and taking the prompt of a lull of activity in the big tree, we started the slow wander down hill. A spate of new species was found as we descended – Orange-fronted Parakeets called noisily. Masked Tityras and Golden-cheeked Woodpeckers kept to the tops whilst Mexican Woodnymph and Mexican Hermit skulked in the lower storey. As the temperature rose, more butterflies surrounded us included the big and showy Malachite and Banded Peacock. At the other end of the scale there plenty of diminutive Pale-banded Crescents and Purple-washed Eyemarks amongst the skippers and sulphurs. A pair of Bat Falcons were found perched on a dead snag and they sallied forth across the forest.

We headed for lunch at a local organic co-operative coffee producer. Here the coffee is grown in the shade of the native forest in a more sustainable manner. The food was excellent, as was the coffee, and we all had the opportunity to buy some to take home. The semi-wild Parakeet that was adopted by the owners kept the group entertained during our meal, even allowing itself to be fed from the hand. Outside a runnel was attracting butterflies and we had good views of Daggerwings and Dark-kite Swallowtail amongst some plainer species. We stopped briefly on way back to the hotel at Crocodile Road finding Bare-necked Tiger Heron in the last of the water in the Marsh, and then some migrant waders on the flats close to town.

At 16.00 we headed off to the old 'fort', actually the old customs house set in a commanding position overlooking the town and its twin river mouths. A large radio mast attracted a group of Grey-breasted Martins, and although birds seemed scarce a few of interest were found, including Blue Mockingbird and Gila Woodpecker. As the sun started to set, the mosquitos became prevalent and we beat a retreat to the hotel and another wonderful meal.

Day 9

Tuesday 7th February

Another early start as we left the hotel at 6.00 am, and this time headed north east to an area of dry deciduous forest around the village of Singayta. Although the forest here is good for birds it took until the sun warmed the higher trees for the activity to pick up. In common with the previous day, Karel and Michael had laid on a picnic breakfast and in the surrounding Red Paper trees (Gumbo-limbo or tourist tree) the birds started to gather.

The little stream held an Ornate Slider (turtle) together with both Tiger Heron and our first Purple Gallinule. We walked along the stream through the village edge finding Rufous-bellied Chachalacas and the species we were really looking for, a covey of Elegant Quails. As there were still plenty of mosquitos around we headed out of the valley bottom to the old road and escaped the worst. Butterflies were becoming more active and we soon found Pink-spotted Cattleheart, Cecropia Sister and Red-bordered Pixie. Careful searching of the secondary growth added a few birds including Red-breasted Chat, Fan-tailed Warbler and Cassin's Vireo. We returned to the streamside road and the mosquitos activity. Walking here gave good views of plenty of White Peacocks (butterflies) and White-fronted Parrots, Thick-billed Kingbirds and Blue Buntings. We also found a party of Groove-billed Anis with the cattle, a species that had been strangely absent to this date.

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. We then had a short siesta back at the hotel and at 3.45 pm we set off to the river for an evening boat ride through the mangroves.



Evening boat trip in Rio Tovar mangroves

Initially we tried the main channel, soon connecting with Ringed Kingfisher, a mix of Herons and a Greater Yellowlegs. The mangrove edge is the nursery for breeding fish, but with the tide out the mud was the feeding ground for firstly a Louisiana Waterthrush and then our target – Rufous-necked Wood Rail which showed briefly amongst the exposed mangrove roots. We also were successful in finding three Mangrove Cuckoos and a Common Black Hawk before we headed into the side channels, seeing plenty of Kingfishers of three species; Belted, Green and Ringed and a continuous mix of herons, culminating in our first Boat-billed Herons as the sun started to dip. It was clear that the whole mangroves are a roost site for a large number of birds with flocks of Caciques and Grackles flying over and every suitable perch being adorned by a Tropical Kingbird. We reached the furthest reaches as the sun finally set and after a comfort break, we started the journey back on a rising tide. Pauraques were hunting over the first section of river and using the bat detector a dozen species were found to be hunting over our heads. However, the main target were Northern Potoos, and it wasn't long before we found one atop a riverside snag. In all we saw at least six Potoos, a few Pauraques and even a Lesser Nighthawk on our journey back. It was a wonderful way to end the trip and a great introduction to the Mangrove ecosystem.

We arrived back at the hotel around 8pm for our last supper together and prepare for the long journey home.

Day 10

Wednesday 8th February

We had a light breakfast and bade farewell to the staff, who had been so good to us, and left the hotel at 7.00am. We made good time to Puerto Vallarta and so before heading to the airport, we stopped off at the crocodile viewing area where plenty of crocodiles were present and additionally, we were able to add Tropical Parula and Northern Waterthrush to our list. The final few kilometres to the airport took no time at all and we then said goodbye to Karel, who had been our excellent local guide throughout and Michael who had joined us for the pacific coast segment. Our departure was a little late but we still arrived in Mexico City with plenty of time to walk from the domestic terminal to the international terminal and to check into our British Airways flight. We had plenty of time for a snack, still feeling full from all the good food provided during the trip, and reluctantly made our way to the gate for the trip back to a wintry UK. The flight left nearly two hours late.

Day 11

Thursday 9th February

We arrived safely back at Heathrow albeit almost an hour and a half late, but found the airport quiet, sailing through immigration and quickly picking up our baggage 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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Dark-kite Swallowtail



Pink-spotted Cattleheart



Ruddy Daggerwing



Malachite

Species lists

Birds (E = Endemic, I = Introduced)

		January - February 2023								
Common name	Scientific name	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Black-bellied Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>		.		✓		.			
Muscovy Duck	<i>Cairina moschata</i>		.				.	.	✓	
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	✓	.				.	.	.	.
Cinnamon Teal	<i>Spatula cyanoptera</i>		.				✓			✓
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Spatula discors</i>	✓	.		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	✓	.		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	✓	.	✓						
American Wigeon	<i>Mareca americana</i>	✓	.							
Mexican Duck	<i>Anas diazi</i>	✓	.	✓			.		.	
Canvasback	<i>Aythya valisineria</i>	✓	.				.			
Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	✓	.				.			
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	✓	.							
Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	✓	.							
West Mexican Chachalaca - E	<i>Ortalis poliocephala</i>	.	.			✓				
Rufous-bellied Chachalaca - E	<i>Ortalis wagleri</i>		.					✓	✓	.
Elegant Quail - E	<i>Calipepla douglasi</i>		.					.	✓	.
Lesser Nighthawl	<i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i>		.						✓	.
Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>		.						✓	.
Northern Potoo	<i>Nyctibius jamaicensis</i>		.						✓	.
Mexican Hermit	<i>Phaethornis mexicanus</i>		.					✓	.	.
Mexican Violetear	<i>Colibri thalassinus</i>		✓	✓	.					
Rivoli's Hummingbird	<i>Eugenes fulgens</i>		✓	✓	.					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>		.	✓	.	.		.	✓	
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus platycercus</i>		✓	.						
Broad-billed Hummingbird	<i>Cynanthus latirostris</i>	✓	✓			✓				
White-eared Hummingbird	<i>Basilinna leucotis</i>		.	✓	.					
Mexican Woodnymph	<i>Eupherusa ridwayi</i>		.	.	.	.		✓
Beryline Hummingbird	<i>Saucerottia berylina</i>	✓	.	.	.	.
Cinnamon Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia rutila</i>		.			✓		✓	✓	
Groove-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>		.				.		✓	✓
Mangrove Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus minor</i>		.				.		✓	.
Rock Dove - I	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	.	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-billed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas flavirostris</i>		.		✓				✓	.
Eurasian Collared Dove - I	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Inca Dove	<i>Columbina inca</i>	✓	.			✓		✓	✓	
Common Ground Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>		.			✓		.	✓	✓
Ruddy Ground Dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>		.					.	✓	.
White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>		.					✓		.
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	✓	.							✓
White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	✓	.		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Rufous-necked Wood Rail	<i>Aramides axillaris</i>	.	.				.	.	✓	.
Common Gallinule	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>		.				.		✓	
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	✓	.	✓	✓				✓	
Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinica</i>		.						✓	.

		January - February 2023									
Common name	Scientific name	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	✓	.								
Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>		.		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	✓	.	✓	✓					.	
Northern Jacana	<i>Jacana spinosa</i>		.		✓				✓	.	
Hudsonian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius hudsonicus</i>		.		✓			✓	.	.	
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>		.		✓			✓	✓	✓	
Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>		.		.			✓	.	.	
Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>		.		.			✓	✓	✓	
Wilson's Snipe	<i>Gallinago delicata</i>	✓	.	✓	.			.	.	.
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>		.	✓			.	✓	✓		
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>		.	✓			.	✓	.	.	
Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>		.					.	✓		
Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>		.						✓	.	
Laughing Gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>		.			✓	✓	.	.		
Heermann's Gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>		.			✓	✓	.	.		
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>		.					.	✓		
Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>		.			✓	✓	.			
Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>		.				✓	✓	✓	.	
Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>		.		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Blue-footed Booby	<i>Sula nebouxii</i>		.			✓	✓	.			
Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>		.			✓	✓				
Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>		.		✓		✓		✓	.	
Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Nannopterum brasilianum</i>		.		✓	✓	✓	.	✓	.	
American White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>		.		✓		✓	✓	✓	.	
White-faced Ibis	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>	✓	.		✓		✓	.	✓	.	
Roseate Spoonbill	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>		.				✓	.	.		
Bare-throated Tiger Heron	<i>Tigrisoma mexicanum</i>		.					✓	✓		
Boat-billed Heron	<i>Cochlearius cochlearius</i>		.						✓	.	
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		.				✓		✓	.	
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>		.		✓	✓			✓		
Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>		.	.	✓	✓	✓		✓	.	
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	.			.		✓	.	✓	
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	✓	.		✓		✓	.	✓	.	
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	✓	.	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>		.		✓		✓	✓	✓	.	
Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>		.		✓		✓	✓	✓	.	
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>		.		✓		✓	.	✓	.	
American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>		.						✓	.	
Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>		.		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>		.	.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		.		✓		.				
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>		✓		.		.				
Common Black Hawk	<i>Buteogallus anthracinus</i>		.				✓	.	✓		
Roadside Hawk	<i>Rupornis magnirostris</i>		.				.	.	✓		
Crane Hawk	<i>Geranospiza caerulescens</i>		.				✓	.	.		
Grey Hawk	<i>Buteo plagiatus</i>		.		✓		✓	✓	✓	.	
Short-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo brachyurus</i>		.					✓	.	.	

		January - February 2023									
Common name	Scientific name	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Zone-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo albonotatus</i>		.		✓				.		
Citreoline Trogon - E	<i>Trogon citreolus</i>		.			✓		✓	.	.	
Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>		.			✓			✓	.	
Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle torquata</i>		.			.	.		✓	.	
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>		.				✓	✓	✓	.	
Russet-crowned Motmot	<i>Momotus mexicanus</i>		.			✓	.	.	.	.
Golden-cheeked Woodpecker - E	<i>Melanerpes chrysogenys</i>		.	.	✓	✓		✓	✓	.	
Gila Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes uropygialis</i>		.					✓	✓		
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates scalaris</i>		✓	.	.	.					
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Leuconotopicus villosus</i>		.	✓	.	.					
Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>		.		✓	✓			✓	.	
Pale-billed Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus guatemalensis</i>		.		.	.		✓	.	.	
Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara plancus</i>		.					.	✓		
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>		✓								
Bat Falcon	<i>Falco rufigularis</i>		.					✓	✓		
Military Macaw	<i>Ara militaris</i>		.			✓		.	.		
White-fronted Amazon	<i>Amazona albifrons</i>		.						✓	.	
Orange-fronted Parakeet	<i>Eupsittula canicularis</i>		.				✓	✓	✓	.	
Ivory-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus flavigaster</i>		.			✓			✓	.	
Greenish Elaenia	<i>Myiopagis viridicata</i>		.			.		✓	.	.	
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>		✓	.		.					
Greater Pewee	<i>Contopus pertinax</i>		✓		.						
Western Wood Pewee	<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>		.			.		✓	✓		
Least Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>		.			✓			✓		
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax difficilis</i>		.			✓		✓	.		
Cordilleran Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax occidentalis</i>		✓			.			.		
Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus obscurus</i>	✓	✓	.	.	.		.	✓	✓
Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>		.		✓		✓	✓	✓	.	
Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>		.	.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Boat-billed Flycatcher	<i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>		.					✓	.		
Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>		.		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Cassin's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>	✓	.								
Thick-billed Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus crassirostris</i>		.						✓	.	
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>		.					✓		.	
Brown-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>		.						✓		
Masked Tityra	<i>Tityra semifasciata</i>		.			✓		✓	✓	.	
Rose-throated Becard	<i>Pachyramphus aglaiae</i>		.					.	✓		
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	✓	.						.		
Golden Vireo - E	<i>Vireo hypochryseus</i>	✓	.		.			✓			
Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>		✓	.				✓	✓	✓	
Hutton's Vireo	<i>Vireo huttoni</i>		.		.		✓				
Cassin's Vireo	<i>Vireo cassani</i>		.		.		.		✓		
Plumbeous Vireo	<i>Vireo plumbeus</i>		.					✓	.	✓	
San Blas Jay - E	<i>Cyanocorax sanblasianus</i>		.			✓				.	
Black-throated Magpie-Jay - E	<i>Calocitta colliei</i>		.			✓		✓	.	✓	
Steller's Jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>		.	✓					.	.	
Transvolcanic Jay -E	<i>Aphelocoma ultramarina</i>		✓						.	.	
Sinaloa Crow - E	<i>Corvus sinaloae</i>		.				✓	✓	✓	✓	

		January - February 2023									
Common name	Scientific name	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		.	✓							
Mexican Chickadee	<i>Poecile sclateri</i>		✓		.						
Violet-green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>	✓	.								
Mangrove Swallow	<i>Tachycineta albilinea</i>		.			✓	✓	✓	✓	.	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>		.			✓	✓		✓	.	
Grey-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>		.				✓	✓			
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	.		✓	✓	✓	✓	.	.	
American Bushtit	<i>Psaaltriparus minimus</i>	✓	.			.					
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	✓	✓	✓	.						
Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	✓	.								
Happy Wren -E	<i>Thryophilus felix</i>		.					✓			
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>		✓		.						
Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>		.	.	.	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Curve-billed Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma curvirostre</i>	✓	.	✓							
Blue Mockingbird -E	<i>Melanotis caerulescens</i>	.	✓	✓				✓			
Common Starling - I	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	.								
Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>		.	✓							
Brown-backed Solitaire	<i>Myadestes occidentalis</i>		✓	✓				✓			
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>		.	✓							
White-throated Thrush	<i>Turdus assimilis</i>		.					✓	.		
Rufous-backed Thrush - E	<i>Turdus rufopalliatu</i> s	✓	.	.	.	✓		✓	✓	.	
House Sparrow - I	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	.	✓	✓	.		.	.		
Buff-bellied Pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	✓	.								
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	✓	.	✓	.	.			.		
Pine Siskin	<i>Spinus pinus</i>		✓	.	.	.					
West Mexican Euphonia -E	<i>Euphonia godmani</i>		.	.	.	✓					
Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	✓	.								
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	✓	.								
Yellow-eyed Junco	<i>Junco phaeonotus</i>		✓	✓	.						
Striped Sparrow - E	<i>Oriturus superciliosus</i>		.	✓							
Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolni</i>		✓	.	✓						
Canyon Towhee	<i>Melozone fusca</i>	✓	.	.							
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	<i>Aimophila ruficeps</i>	✓	.	.							
Olive-backed Towhee -E	<i>Pipilo maculatus macronyx</i>	.	✓	.							
Yellow-breasted Chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>		.		.			.	✓		
Mexican Cacique	<i>Cassiculus melanicterus</i>		.		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Bullock's Oriole	<i>Icterus bullocki</i>	✓	✓			.		.	.	.
Streak-backed Oriole	<i>Icterus pustulatus</i>		.	.	✓	✓		✓	✓	.	
Hooded Oriole	<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>		.	.	.		✓			.	
Orchard Oriole	<i>Icterus spurius</i>		.				✓	✓	.	.	
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	✓	.								
Bronzed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus aeneus</i>		.	✓				✓		.	
Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Louisiana Waterthrush	<i>Parkesia motacilla</i>		.						✓	.	
Northern Waterthrush	<i>Parkesia noveboracensis</i>		.						.	✓	
Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>		.					✓	✓	.	
Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis celata</i>		.			.		.	✓		
Nashville Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis ruficapilla</i>		✓	✓	.	.		✓	✓	.	

		January - February 2023									
Common name	Scientific name	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
MacGillivray's Warbler	<i>Geothlypis tolmiei</i>		.					✓	✓		
American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>		.		✓			✓	✓	.	
Tropical Parula	<i>Setophaga pitiayumi</i>		.							✓	
American Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga aestiva</i>		.		✓			✓	.	.	
Audubon's Warbler	<i>Setophaga auduboni</i>	✓	✓	✓	.	.	.				
Black-throated Grey Warbler	<i>Setophaga nigrescens</i>		✓					✓	.	.	
Townsend's Warbler	<i>Setophaga townsendi</i>		✓	✓	.						
Hermit Warbler	<i>Setophaga occidentalis</i>		✓	✓	.						
Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Setophaga virens</i>		.	✓	.						
Fan-tailed Warbler	<i>Basileuterus lachrymosus</i>		.	.	.				✓		
Wilson's Warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	.	
Red Warbler - E	<i>Cardellina rubra</i>		.	✓	.						
Slate-throated Whitestart	<i>Myioborus miniatus</i>		.	✓	.						
Flame-colored Tanager	<i>Piranga bidentata</i>		✓	.	.						
Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>	✓	.	.	.	.			✓
Western Tanager	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>		✓	✓	.	.		✓			
Yellow Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus chrysopheplus</i>		.	.	.	✓					
Black-headed Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>		✓					✓			
Red-breasted Chat	<i>Granatellus venustus</i>		.					.	✓		
Blue Bunting	<i>Cyanocompsa parelina</i>		.					.	✓		
Blue Grosbeak	<i>Passerina caerulea</i>	✓	.					✓	✓	.	
Varied Bunting	<i>Passerina versicolor</i>		.			✓				.	
Painted Bunting	<i>Passerina ciris</i>		.					✓	.	.	
Cinnamon-bellied Saltator	<i>Saltator grandis</i>		.					✓	✓	.	
Cinnamon-rumped Seedeater	<i>Sporophila torqueola</i>		.				✓	.	✓	.	

Butterflies

		January - February 2023									
Common name	Scientific name	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Polydamas Swallowtail	<i>Battus polydamas</i>		•				•	✓			
Pink-spotted Cattleheart	<i>Parides photinus</i>		•				•	•	✓		
Dark-kite Swallowtail	<i>Eurytides philolaus</i>		•				•	✓			
Painted White	<i>Pieriblaia viardi</i>		•				•	✓			
Cross-barred White	<i>Itaballia demophile</i>		✓				•	•			
Great Southern White	<i>Ascia monuste</i>		•				•	•	✓		
Orange Suphur	<i>Colias eurytheme</i>		•	✓			•	•	•		
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		✓	✓		•	•	•	•		
Large Orange Sulphur	<i>Phoebis agarithe</i>		•				•	✓	•		
Little Yellow	<i>Eurema lisa</i>		•				•	✓	•		
Dina Yellow	<i>Eurema dina</i>		✓				•	•	•		
Dainty Sulphur	<i>Nathalis iole</i>		•	✓		✓	•	•	•		
Gray Hairstreak	<i>Strymon melinus</i>	✓	•				•	•	•		
Cassius Blue	<i>Leptotes cassius</i>		•				•	✓	✓		
Purple-washed Eyemark	<i>Mesosemia larnachus</i>		•				•	✓	•		
Mexican Fritillary	<i>Euptoieta hegesia</i>		•				•	✓	•		
White-rayed Pixie	<i>Melanis cephise</i>		•			✓	•	•	•		
Red-bordered Pixie	<i>Melanis pike</i>		•				•	•	✓		

		January - February 2023								
Common name	Scientific name	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Gulf Fritillary	<i>Agraulis vanillae</i>		✓				•	•	•	
Mexican Silverspot	<i>Dione moneta</i>		✓	✓			•	•	•	
Juno Heliconian	<i>Dione juno</i>		•				•	✓	✓	
Julia Heliconian	<i>Dryas iulia moderata</i>		•			✓	•	✓	✓	•
Erato Heliconian	<i>Heliconius erato</i>		•				•	✓	✓	•
Zebra Heliconian	<i>Heliconius charithonia</i>		•			✓	•	✓	✓	•
Simple Patch	<i>Chlosyne hippodrome</i>		•			•	•	✓	•	•
Elf	<i>Microtia elva</i>		•			•	•	✓	•	•
Pale-banded Crescent	<i>Phyciodes tulcis</i>		•				•	✓	✓	
Mourning Cloak	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>		✓	✓			•	•	•	
American Lady	<i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>		•	✓	•		•			
White Peacock	<i>Anartia jatrophae</i>		•				•	•	✓	•
Banded Peacock	<i>Anartia fatima</i>		•				•	✓	✓	•
Malachite	<i>Siproeta stelenes</i>		•				•	✓	✓	
Cecropia Sister	<i>Adelpha phylaca</i>		•				•	•	✓	
Hook-lined Ur-Satyr	<i>Taygetis leuctra</i>		•				•	✓	•	
Four-spotted Sailor	<i>Dynamine postverta</i>		•				•	✓	•	
Orange Banner	<i>Temenis laothoe</i>		•				•	✓	•	
Many-banded Daggerwing	<i>Marpesia chiron</i>		•				•	✓	•	
Ruddy Daggerwing	<i>Marpesia petreus</i>		•				•	✓	•	
Two-spotted Prepona	<i>Archaeoprepona demophoon</i>		•				•	✓	•	
Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>		✓	✓	•	•	•	•	•	
Soldier	<i>Danaus eresimus</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•	✓	•
Brown Longtail	<i>Urbanus procne</i>		•				•	✓	•	
Long-tailed Skippper	<i>Urbanus proteus</i>		•				•	✓	•	
Potrillo Skipper	<i>Cabares potrillo</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•	✓	
Dusted Spurwing	<i>Antigonus erosus</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•	✓	
Sickle-winged Skipper	<i>Achyodes thraso</i>		•	•	•	•	•	✓	•	
White Checkered Skipper	<i>Pyrgus albescens</i>	✓	•				•			
Tropical Checkered Skipper	<i>Burnsius oileus</i>		•				•	✓		
Dyson's Silverpatch	<i>Aides dysoni</i>	•	•			✓	•		✓	

Others

		January - February 2023									
Common name	Scientific name	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Mammals											
Miriam's Pocket Gopher	<i>Cratogeomys merriami</i>	✓	•								
Common Rock Squirrel	<i>Otospermophilus variegatus</i>	✓							•	•	
Mexican Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus aureogaster</i>		✓	✓	✓		•	✓	•		
Collie's squirrel	<i>Sciurus coliaei</i>		•				•	•	✓		
Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>							•	✓	•	
Northern Ghost Bat	<i>Diclidurus albus</i>				✓		✓		✓		
Greater Dog-like Bat	<i>Peropteryx kappleri</i>				•		•		✓		
Lesser Dog-like Bat	<i>Peropteryx macrotis</i>			•			✓		✓	•	
Thomas's Shaggy Bat	<i>Centronycteris centralis</i>								✓		
Parnell's Mustached Bat	<i>Pteronotus parnelli</i>			•					✓	•	

		January - February 2023								
Common name	Scientific name	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Black Mastiff Bat	<i>Molossus rufus</i>			•			✓		✓	•
Sinaloa Mastiff Bat	<i>Molossus sinaloae</i>			•	✓					
Mexican Dog-faced Bat	<i>Cynomops mexicanus</i>								✓	•
Southern Yellow Bat	<i>Lasiurus ega</i>								✓	•
California Myotis	<i>Myotis californicus</i>			•					✓	
Yuma Myotis	<i>Myotis yumanensis</i>			•					✓	
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>					✓	✓	✓		
Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>						✓	✓		
Amphibians										
Michoacan Stream Salamander -E	<i>Ambystoma ordinarium</i>			✓						
Reptiles										
Olive Ridley Turtle	<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>						✓			
Ornate Slider -E	<i>Trachemys ornata</i>						•		✓	
Western Spiny-tailed Iguana - E	<i>Ctenosaura pectinata</i>						•	✓	✓	
Green Iguana	<i>Iguana iguana</i>				✓	✓	✓			✓
Graphic Spiny Lizard	<i>Sceloporus grammicus</i>	✓					•			
Many-lined Whiptail - E	<i>Aspidoscelis lineattissimus</i>	•					•		✓	
American Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus acutus</i>				✓		✓		•	✓
Yellow-bellied Sea Snake	<i>Hydrophis platurus</i>						✓			
Common Four-clawed Gecko - I	<i>Gehyra mutilata</i>				✓		✓	✓		
Others										
Big-eared Blister-beetle	<i>Cissites auriculata</i>					✓				
Cerulean Dancer	<i>Argia anceps</i>							✓		
Carmine Skimmer	<i>Orthemis discolor</i>							✓		
White-tailed Sylph	<i>Macrothemis pseudimitans</i>							✓		