

Mexico's Monarchs, Humpbacks & Birds

Naturetrek Tour Report

29th January – 8th February 2024



Monarch Butterflies



Black-throated Magpie-Jay



Ferruginous Pygmy Owl



Humpback Whales

Tour 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 overwintering Monarchs in the mountains of the trans-volcanic belt above Mexico City, together with the breeding site of the Humpback Whale, and some of the special birds found on the Pacific coast around Puerto Vallarta and San Blas.

We started with the pre-Aztec civilisation and the spectacular 'stepped' pyramids of Teotihuacán, before heading over 3300m 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 onto the warm coastal waters, finding lots of Humpback Whales, including singing, breaching, flipper and fluke bashing, and mothers and calves. Other wildlife included the vulnerable Olive Ridley and Pacific Black Turtles, Bottlenose and West Mexican Spotted Dolphins. 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 many of the confusing sulphurs.

Overall, we identified 47 species of butterfly, 192 species of birds, and a mix of mammals, 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 seas full of whales, dolphins and turtles, and everywhere the vibrant colours of tropical birds and butterflies.

Day 1

Monday 29th January

Our British Airways flight left London Heathrow on time and we arrived at Mexico City 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, Luis. 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 30th January

It was a rather chilly, but bright morning as we met at 7.00am 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 singing Rufous-backed Robin and thereafter we had an introduction to the typical birds of the high altitude plain on which Mexico City is based. Canyon Towhees were plentiful and other dry country species such as Curve-billed Thrasher, Lark Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak and Vermillion Flycatcher were soon added. We also found a singles of Cassin's Kingbird and Broad-billed Hummingbird. 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.



Pyramid of the Moon, Teotihuacan

The pre-Aztec city of Teotihuacán was founded around 150BCE and reached its Zenith around 300CE, before finally being abandoned around 600CE. The remains extend over a vast area: however, most of what can be seen solely relates to 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. Here the courtyard holds the Temple of Quetzalcoatl, the bizarre feathered serpent god. The grass lawns of the courtyard were dotted with gopher burrows and we soon had views of the endemic Miriam's Pocket Gophers going about their business. The dry lawns were also attractive to birds, and we had good views of a flock of Lark Sparrows, with a few Chipping Sparrows mixed in. As earlier, Vermilion Flycatchers were now commonplace. 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 dimension 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 tried some of the dry grasslands behind the pyramids for birds and butterflies. Both seemed scarce, but with some effort we had great views of a pair of Cactus Wrens and a soaring Red-tailed Hawk. Butterflies were scarcer, but we had brief views of Mexican Fritillary, Checkered White, and White-checkered Skipper. A final stop was at the site Museum which both explained the rise and fall of Teotihuacan, and provided a setting for the artefacts found in the site. In the pleasant gardens that surround this we added lizards and both Yellow-rumped and Wilson's Warblers.

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 short toilet stop gave views of a White-tailed Kite, but otherwise the journey was uneventful. 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. Karel also briefly introduced the life cycle of the Monarch butterfly.

Day 3

Wednesday 31st January

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 lots of warblers, albeit almost exclusively Audubon's, with a few Nashvilles thrown in. A few Western Tanagers joined them: however, diversity remained low. A final effort was rewarded by reasonable views of the normally skulking Blue Mockingbird before we retreated for breakfast.



Preparing for the ride at Piedra Herrada

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 3,250m was where the butterflies spend the winter. Even before we arrived, there were individual Monarchs flying, and we soon reached the grove where the main activity occurs: we saw plenty of flying butterflies and much jostling for position on the nectar sources.

After watching for a while, we took our leave and descended in foot back to the car park. With more effort we found a few hummingbirds, mainly Mexican Violetears and White-eared Hummingbirds. It was the warblers that grabbed our attention: the brilliant yellow and black of the Townsend's and the dapper plumage of the Crescent-chested were both outshone by the luminous plumage of the endemic Red Warblers that seemed to be especially plentiful here.

At 2.00pm, 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 while keeping an eye for anything in the valley below. It seemed quiet, so we packed to leave, when a sudden rush of birds forced us to stay. Gray Silky Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo and Summer Tanager were found in short order and it was especially pleasing to find both Black-headed Grosbeak and Black-backed Oriole, the only two avian predators of the Monarch that can cope with the butterflies' toxins.

We then headed back to Valle de Bravo, and went directly to the park containing a local beauty spot, Cascade Velo de Novia, and walked through the forest to the waterfall. Around the car park, a few new birds welcomed us, with Western and Hammond's Flycatchers, and Black-throated Grey Warbler. More pleasing was the Brown-backed

Solitaire, whose bizarre song had been following us everywhere during the day, but here a pair sat out over the river so we could finally see them.

We returned to El Rebozo in time for Karel to give a full talk on the Monarch butterflies in Mexico, their full 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 and Canada.

Day 4

Thursday 1st February

With a longer drive to our next reserve, we had an early breakfast and headed to the bus for the two-hour plus journey to Sierra Chincua. During the journey we were entertained by a film on the efforts to raise awareness on Monarch along the length of their almost 5000km migration route. At this reserve the park Headquarters were higher at nearly 3200m 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 kilometer or so. The butterflies were also higher today at around 3400m and close to the top of the mountain. It set us wondering if climate change was pushing them higher, although the temperature was decidedly fresh.

The Monarchs were in great clusters, but as the weather was much cooler and overcast, the activity was much reduced. In the brief periods of sunshine, the clusters would turn orange as the butterflies opened their wings, took flight or jostled for position. But as the cloud cover returned, they all settled back. We moved a short distance to the edge of meadow, and although a few butterflies dropped down to drink, the sun refused to show, so we headed back to the horses and rode back to the park centre and our warming lunch of soup, quesadillas or stew and Mexican coffee.

After lunch 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 the burrows of Smoky Pocket Gophers. Afterwards we stopped at the park's entrance for a mixed flock of birds including Western and Eastern Bluebirds, Grey Silky Flycatchers, American Robins and the endemic Striped Sparrow. We then took the journey back to the hotel arriving around 6.30pm, enabling everyone to prepare for the transfer the following day.

Day 5

Friday 2nd February

We had another pre-breakfast birding session, and this time a few more species showed themselves, Flame-colored Tanager and Bullock's Oriole were both new around the flowering trees, and trying an area of scrub and vine tangles we also found Rufous-capped Warbler, Bewick's Wren and a pair of the endemic Green-striped Brushfinch. After breakfast, we packed the bus and left for Valle de Bravo. One of the so called 'magic towns', the centre is protected to preserve its historic colonial character. We wandered the streets, taking in the local cemetery with its egret colony, the craft shops, food markets and the churches. It being the feast of Candlemas, and in line with local traditions, many people were going around their business carrying dolls, representing the infant Jesus, dressed in a variety of costumes. We then headed down to the lake edge finding a few waterbirds and a mix of butterflies including American Lady and Banded Peacock.

After a comfort break and picking up our packed lunches we headed down to Toluca for our flight to Puerto Vallarta. Of course, after being stuck in roadworks and heavy traffic on the same road the day before, there were no hold-ups and we arrived early. Saying goodbye to Luis, we were checked in for our flight and by 5.00pm we were heading to the Pacific coast at Puerto Vallarta. We arrived an hour later for the quick transfer to Hotel Flamingo. We had supper at the marina side hotel restaurant, overlooking the many anchored 'gin-palaces' from their USA home ports.

Day 6

Saturday 3rd 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 9.00am. Michael was leading us today and he gave an introductory talk on the Humpbacks before we headed to the boat. Leaving the marina area, we stopped for the many Green Iguanas in the trees soaking up the warmth of the early morning sun. The first of the coastal birds were also in evidence with piratical Magnificent Frigatebirds overhead, and Brown Pelicans loafing on the piers, joined by Heermann's and Laughing Gulls. We dodged an enormous liner and escaped 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 behaviour like breaching, spy-hopping, fin and fluke-slapping, a chase group of three, then four and then perhaps five whales chasing for the prize of a receptive female. Two of the males showed the scars of previous chases, with red-rub dorsal patches showing that these encounters got rough. We dropped the hydrophone overboard and, although distant, we could hear the male's song clearly from somewhere in the bay.



Sierra Madre above Puerto Vallarta

Back at the marina, we 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 block of community-owned and -preserved forest and rivers in the Sierra Madre Occidental caters for all types of outdoor activities, but allows for access to the forest to persist 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 the other side.

The forest immediately offered some of the species we had targeted here: Black-throated Magpie-Jay, San Blas Jay, Citreoline Trogon, and Golden-capped Emerald. Amongst the many butterflies were our first heliconian butterflies included Zebra, Juno and Julia, the stunning Malachite and the flying handkerchief that is the White Morpho. As we explored further, the screeching of Military Macaws was present all around us and then as the sun dipped a massive flock of swifts flew in, mainly comprising of Chestnut-collared and Vaux's.

We returned to the hotel and then headed out for a restaurant in town serving excellent Mexican fare with a live Mariachi band providing the entertainment., before returning to the Flamingo for the night and wondering how it could get any better.

Day 7

Sunday 4th February

Another transfer day, and we needed to pack our bags and complete breakfast for our 8.45am pick up. Shortly after, we were on the boat for our second trip into the Bahia de Banderas. As previously, the day was warm and sunny and the sea calm, but now with Karel and his marine biologist wife, Astrid, with us the challenge was to improve on the day before. The key miss yesterday was a mother and calf, so we immediately headed to the shallow northern side of the bay which provides the shelter they crave. It didn't take long to find a young calf, its mother watching closely over it. A small pod of Bottlenose Dolphins moved in close to encourage the calf to play, but the mother was having none of it and moved away. In the same area we also found a pair of mating Olive Ridley Turtles: once Critically Endangered, they breed in the Bay and the population is recovering.

We headed closer to the mouth of the bay and dropped a hydrophone, picking up a singing male before finding another mother and calf. Here the calf was already a couple of months old and seemed to be a bit of a handful. Astrid suggested it wouldn't be long before the mother and calf began their migration north, as the calf was showing a strong sense of independence. The mother had to keep correcting their course and the youngster amazed us all by fully breaching in front of us.



Part of the c.100 strong pod of West Mexican Spotted Dolphins

We headed into the centre of the bay and almost immediately picked up a pod of Spotted Dolphin. Soon there were dolphins all around us, and we estimated more than a hundred in all. We tore ourselves away and headed back towards Puerto Vallarta. The last stop was for another chase group, this time with four or five whales. There was a lot of interaction: pectoral slaps, tail-slamming and even more breaching. It was a dramatic end to our couple of days and we headed back to the treat of an excellent fish lunch at the marina side 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 at the water's edge. Black-necked Stilt grabbed our attention, but more careful scanning yielded White Ibis and a Ringed Kingfisher and most of the local heron species including Great and Snowy Egrets, and Tricolored Herons. As the sun started to dip, we started seeing Black-crowned Night Herons, while overhead Lesser Nighthawks swooped. 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 5th February

Today we left the hotel at 5.30am and headed south-east into the wooded mountains at Tecuitata. 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 Elegant and Citreoline Trogons, together with the emblematic Black-throated Magpie-Jay. A bit further up, we stopped for a pair of Bat Falcons and then with calling birds around us, we searched for Collared Forest Falcons, finding initially Laughing Falcons, before settling on a single of our target sitting high in the canopy, but visible in the scope.

At the top Karel and Michael set out the picnic breakfast table in the shade of an enormous fig tree. As we waited, we were distracted by the butterflies, especially the three species of heliconians, namely Julia's, Erato and Zebra, which were numerous. The tree was not in fruit, so bird activity was a little low, so we started walking down the hill. A West Mexican Catone was an interesting butterfly, and an active Ivory-billed Woodcreeper showed well. The same could not be said of the Colima Pygmy Owl which called repeatedly but wouldn't show.

We slowly wandered down, and butterflies dazzled us, mainly a bewildering mix of Sulphurs and Skippers, and we added more birds. The area was full of the raucous calls of Orange-fronted Parakeets, but seeing them was another matter. Even narrowing down the tree didn't immediately help: however, eventually we all had good views of these charismatic birds. Masked Tityras, West Mexican Euphonias and mix of warblers were also found in the canopies of the track-side trees, although the Cinnamon Hummingbird attracted the most attention.



Hooded Oriole at the lunch stop at Tecuitata

As the sun rose the temperature picked up and we headed for an early 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 and its food also attracted orioles to the garden. Outside a runnel was attracting butterflies and dragonflies. A party of Rufous-bellied Chachalaca were in the nearby bushes and gave surprisingly close views, but it was soon time to head back.

On the way back to San Blas we stopped at a lookout across a mangrove fringed lagoon full of birds. Literally hundreds of Long-billed Dowitchers were feeding, some only a few metres away, and other new species included American Avocet, Greater Yellowlegs and a lone Yellow-crowned Night Heron. Back at town, we headed up to the old 'fort', actually the old customs house, set on a commanding position overlooking the town and its twin river mouths. The patch of forest surrounding the ruins is often a good birding site, but it was quiet today until we found a flock of the endemic Mexican Parrotlets noisily squabbling in a fruiting fig tree. As the sun started to set, we headed back to the hotel and another wonderful meal.

Day 9

Tuesday 6th February

Another early start as we left the hotel at 6.00am, 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 nearby fruiting Red Paper trees (Gumbo-limbo) the birds started to gather. Initially it was Mexican Caciques that dominated, but after careful watching other species arrived. The Rufous-backed Robins were already on our list, but both Rose-throated Becard and Bright-rumped Attila were new for the trip.

We walked down the old Singayta road picking up White-tipped Dove, Painted Buntings (the males a mix of brilliant red, blue and green), a soaring Hook-billed Kite, and most wanted of all, a Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, which perched unconcernedly for everyone to get a good view. Overhead flocks of parrots and parakeets started to appear and the first butterflies of the day were disturbed from the roadside bushes.

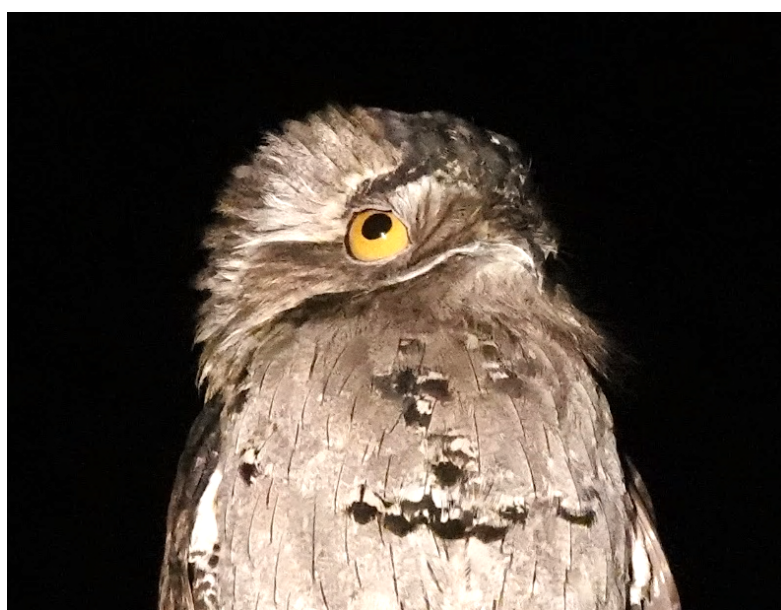
Down in the village a flowering tree attracted three species of hummingbird, and nearby a Citreoline Trogon. We walked along the stream through the village edge finding Rufous-bellied Chachalacas and the species we were really looking for, a territorial male Elegant Quail perched atop a dead tree in full view. Butterflies were becoming more active and we soon saw a Zebra Cross-streak among the now familiar mix of heliconians and sulphurs. Polydamas Swallowtails were on the wing, but none settled. Overhead large flocks of White-fronted Parrots flew by and as the heat started to build, raptors started to appear. As always, the vultures were the most plentiful, but Bat Hawk, Grey Hawk and Great Black Hawk soon joined them.

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.

Initially we tried the main channel, soon connecting with Belted and Green Kingfisher, and flyover Snail Kite and Common Black Hawk, plus a mix of herons and a Greater Yellowlegs. The mangrove edge is the nursery for

breeding fish, but with the tide in, 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 set. It was clear that the whole mangrove swamp is a roost site for a large number of birds, with flocks of caciques, grackles and Social Flycatchers flying over to roost, and soon it seemed every suitable perch along the river was 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. The main target were Northern Potoo, and it wasn't long before we found one atop a riverside snag. A second one was found, giving even better views and then we sped up only adding a Pauraque and roosting egrets on the way back to the dock. It was a wonderful way to end the trip, and a great introduction to the mangrove ecosystem. We arrived back at the hotel around 8.00pm for our last supper together and to prepare for the long journey home.



Northern Potoo

Day 10

Wednesday 7th February

We had a light breakfast and bade farewell to the staff, who had been so good to us, and left the hotel at 8.00am, making good time in part due to the new road. Wildlife sightings were limited to a few flyover raptors. However, it was good to see wildlife crossing points across the new road, and signs warning of local Jaguars, another hidden gem of this area. At the airport, we said goodbye to Karel, who had been our excellent local guide throughout, and Michael who had joined us for the Pacific coast segment.

The flight from Puerto Vallarta left on time and we quickly picked up our luggage and transferred between terminals to settle for the long wait for the British Airways flight back to Heathrow.

Day 11

Thursday 8th February

We arrived safely back at Heathrow albeit almost 45 minutes hour 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, of a special county of friendly people, delicious food and an amazing biodiversity,

particularly the Monarchs, Humpbacks and the abundant and often colourful birds, memories of which are sure to remain with us for a long time to come.

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Crescent-chested Warbler



Zebra Heliconian



Zebra Cross-streak



Mexican Parrotlet

Species Lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

E=Endemic, I=Introduced		January - February 2024								
Common name	Scientific name	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cinnamon Teal	<i>Spatula cyanoptera</i>				✓					
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Spatula discors</i>				✓		✓	✓		
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>						✓	✓	✓	
Mexican Duck	<i>Anas diazi</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>								✓	
Chestnut-collared Swift	<i>Streptoprocne rutila</i>					✓				
Vaux's Swift	<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>					✓		✓		
Mexican Violetear	<i>Colibri thalassinius</i>		✓		H					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>							✓	✓	
Broad-billed Hummingbird	<i>Cynanthus latirostris</i>	✓								
Golden-crowned Emerald -E	<i>Cyanthus auriceps</i>					✓			✓	
White-eared Hummingbird	<i>Basilinna leucotis</i>		✓							
Cinnamon Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia rutila</i>							✓	✓	
Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>					✓				
Groove-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</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>							H	✓	
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	✓								
White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Gallinule	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>								✓	
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>			✓	✓					
Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinica</i>								✓	
Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>						✓	✓	✓	
American Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</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>							✓	✓	
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>					✓	✓		✓	

E=Endemic, I=Introduced		January - February 2024									
Common name	Scientific name	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>				✓	✓			✓		
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>						✓	✓			
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</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>						✓	✓	✓		
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>				✓		✓		✓		
Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>					✓		✓			
White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	✓									
Hook-billed Kite	<i>Chondrohierax uncinatus</i>								✓		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>			✓							
Snail Kite	<i>Rosrhamus sociabilis</i>								✓		
Common Black Hawk	<i>Buteogallus anthracinus</i>								✓	✓	
Great Black Hawk	<i>Buteogallus urubitinga</i>								✓		
Grey Hawk	<i>Buteo plagiatus</i>								✓	✓	
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	✓								✓	
Colima Pygmy Owl - E	<i>Glaucidium palmarum</i>							H			
Ferruginous Pygmy Owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>								✓		
Citreoline Trogon - E	<i>Trogon citreolus</i>					✓		✓	✓		
Elegant Trogon	<i>Trogon elegans</i>							✓			
Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>								✓		
Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle torquata</i>						✓		✓		
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>							✓	✓		
Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>				✓						
Golden-cheeked Woodpecker - E	<i>Melanerpes chrysogenys</i>					✓		✓	✓		
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates scalaris</i>	✓									
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Leuconotopicus villosus</i>			H							
Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>					✓					
Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara plancus</i>						✓				

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Laughing Falcon	<i>Herpetotheres cachinnans</i>							✓		
Collared Forest Falcon	<i>Micrastur semitorquatus</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>								✓	
Mexican Parrolet	<i>Forpus cyanopygius</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>				✓					
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	✓								
Greater Pewee	<i>Contopus pertinax</i>		✓							
Hammond's Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax hammondii</i>		✓							
Western (Pacific Slope) Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax (d) difficilis</i>					✓		✓	✓	
Western (Cordilleran) Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax (d) occidentalis</i>		✓							
Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus obscurus</i>	✓			✓				✓	
Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>							✓	✓	
Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</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>								✓	
Bright-rumped Attila	<i>Attila spadiceus</i>								✓	
Masked Tityra	<i>Tityra semifasciata</i>					✓		✓	✓	
Rose-throated Becard	<i>Pachyramphus aglaiae</i>								✓	
Golden Vireo - E	<i>Vireo hypochryseus</i>								✓	
Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>		✓					✓	✓	
Cassin's Vireo	<i>Vireo cassani</i>								✓	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>								✓	
San Blas Jay - E	<i>Cyanocorax sanblasianus</i>							✓		
Black-throated Magpie-Jay - E	<i>Calocitta colliei</i>					✓		✓	✓	✓
Sinaloa Crow - E	<i>Corvus sinaloae</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		H	✓						
Grey Silky-Flycatcher	<i>Ptiliogonys cinereus</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>		✓							
Cactus Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i>	✓								
Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>				✓					
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>								✓	

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Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	
Curve-billed Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma curvirostre</i>	✓		✓						
Blue Mockingbird -E	<i>Melanotis caerulescens</i>		✓					✓	H	
Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>			✓						
Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>			✓						
Brown-backed Solitaire	<i>Myadestes occidentalis</i>		✓		H					
Orange-billed Nightingale Thrush	<i>Catharus aurantiirostris</i>							H		
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>		✓	✓						
White-throated Thrush	<i>Turdus assimilis</i>					✓			✓	
Rufous-backed Thrush - E	<i>Turdus rufopalliatius</i>	✓				✓		✓	✓	
House Sparrow - I	<i>Passer domesticus</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>	✓								
Clay-colored Sparrow	<i>Spizella pallida</i>	✓		✓						
Green-striped Brushfinch - E	<i>Arremon virenticeps</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>Melospiza fusca</i>	✓								
Mexican Cacique	<i>Cassiculus melanicterus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	
Bullock's Oriole	<i>Icterus bullocki</i>				✓					
Black-backed Oriole	<i>Icterus abeillei</i>		✓							
Streak-backed Oriole	<i>Icterus pustulatus</i>					✓		✓	✓	
Black-vented Oriole	<i>Icterus wagleri</i>			✓						
Hooded Oriole	<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>							✓		
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	✓								
Bronzed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus aeneus</i>						✓		✓	
Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	✓								
Crescent-chested Warbler	<i>Oreothlypis superciliosa</i>		✓							
Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis celata</i>				✓			✓		
Nashville Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis ruficapilla</i>		✓		✓				✓	
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>		✓							
Rufous-capped Warbler	<i>Basileuterus rufifrons</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>		✓							

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Western Tanager	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>		✓		✓			✓		
Red-crowned Ant-Tanager	<i>Habia rubica</i>									
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>							✓		
Black-headed Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>		✓	✓						
Blue Grosbeak	<i>Passerina caerulea</i>	✓							✓	
Painted Bunting	<i>Passerina ciris</i>								✓	
Cinnamon-bellied Saltator	<i>Saltator grandis</i>							✓		

Others

	January - February 2024									
Common name	Scientific name	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mammals										
Miriam's Pocket Gopher	<i>Cratogeomys merriami</i>	✓								
Smoky Pocket Gopher	<i>Cratogeomys fumosus</i>									
Common Rock Squirrel	<i>Otospermophilus variegatus</i>	✓								
Mexican Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus aureogaster</i>				✓			✓		
Collie's Squirrel	<i>Sciurus colliaei</i>								✓	
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>					✓	✓			
Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>					✓	✓			
West Mexican Spotted Dolphin	<i>Stenella attenuata graffmani</i>						✓			
Amphibians										
Michoacan Stream Salamander -E	<i>Ambystoma ordinarium</i>			✓						
Reptiles										
Olive Ridley Turtle	<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>						✓			
Pacific Black (Green) Turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>					✓				
Green Iguana	<i>Iguana iguana</i>					✓	✓		✓	
Graphic Spiny Lizard	<i>Sceloporus grammicus</i>	✓								
Eastern Spiny Lizard	<i>Sceloporus spinosus</i>	✓								
Cope's Large-scale Spiny Lizard	<i>Sceloporus utiformis</i>								✓	
American Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus acutus</i>						✓	✓	✓	
Common Four-clawed Gecko -I	<i>Gehyra mutilata</i>							✓	✓	
Dragonflies										
Cerulean Dancer	<i>Argia anceps</i>							✓		
Oculate Dancer	<i>Argia occulata</i>							✓		
Fiery-eyed Dancer	<i>Argia oenea</i>							✓		
Carmine Skimmer	<i>Orthemis discolor</i>					✓		✓	✓	
White-tailed Sylph	<i>Macrothemis pseudimitans</i>					✓		✓	✓	
Plateau Dragonlet	<i>Erythrodiplax basifusca</i>					✓		✓		
Band-winged Dragonlet	<i>Erythrodiplax umbrata</i>							✓	✓	

Butterflies

	January - February 2024									
Common name	Scientific name	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Polydamas Swallowtail	<i>Battus polydamas</i>								✓	
Montezuma's Cattleheart	<i>Parides montezuma</i>							✓		
Three-tailed Swallowtail	<i>Papilio pilumnus</i>							✓		
Two-tailed Swallowtail	<i>Papilio multicaudatus</i>	✓								
Ornthythion Swallowtail	<i>Papilio ornythion</i>					✓				
Florida White	<i>Appias drusilia</i>							✓		
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>				✓					
Checkered White	<i>Pontia protodice</i>	✓								
Giant White	<i>Ganyra josephina</i>					✓		✓	✓	
Great Southern White	<i>Ascia monuste</i>							✓		
Straight-lined Sulphur	<i>Phoebis trite</i>					✓				
Apricot Sulphur	<i>Phoebis arganta</i>					✓				
Tailed Sulphur	<i>Phoebis neocypris</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>							✓	✓	
De la Maza's Mimic White	<i>Enantia mazai</i>					✓				
Zebra Cross-streak	<i>Panthiades bathildis</i>								✓	
Eastern Tailed-blue	<i>Everes comyntas</i>							✓		
Cassius Blue	<i>Leptotes cassius</i>							✓	✓	
Mexican Fritillary	<i>Euptoieta hegesia</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>					✓		✓	✓	
Pale-banded Crescent	<i>Phyciodes tulcis</i>					✓				
American Lady	<i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>				✓					
Banded Peacock	<i>Anartia fatima</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓	
Malachite	<i>Siproeta stelenes</i>					✓		✓		
Spot-cell Sister	<i>Adelpha basiloides</i>					✓				
Cecropoa Sister	<i>Adelpha phylaca</i>							✓		
White Morpho	<i>Morpho polyphemus</i>					✓				
Plain Satyr	<i>Cissa pompilia</i>							✓		
Four-spotted Sailor	<i>Dynamine postverta</i>							✓		
West Mexican Catone	<i>Catonephele cortesi</i>							✓		
Many-banded Daggerwing	<i>Marpesia chiron</i>							✓		
Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>		✓	✓						
Brown Longtail	<i>Urbanus procne</i>							✓	✓	
Long-tailed Skipper	<i>Urbanus proteus</i>					✓				
Esmeralda Longtail	<i>Urbanus esmeraldus</i>							✓		
Portrillo Skipper	<i>Autochton potrillo</i>								✓	
Common Mellana	<i>Quasimellana eulogius</i>								✓	
Ocola Skipper	<i>Panoquina ocola</i>							✓		
White Checkered Skipper	<i>Pyrgus albescens</i>	✓								

		January - February 2024								
Common name	Scientific name	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tropical Checkered Skipper	<i>Burnsius oileus</i>							✓	✓	
Dyson's Silverpatch	<i>Aides dysoni</i>						✓		✓	