

Monarch butterfly migration to Mexico drops by 53%, activists say

March 16 2020



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Mexico's forests this winter received 53% fewer monarch butterflies, a species that migrates south from Canada and the United States, according to figures published this week.

Environmental organization World Wildlife Federation said that in the November-to-March season, [monarch butterflies](#) occupied 2.83 hectares of forests in the states of Michoacan and Mexico, as opposed to the 6.05 hectares they occupied in the 2018-2019 season.

The drop is "not alarming" because the presence of butterflies in the previous season had been atypically high, "but we must remain vigilant so that it does not become a trend in the coming years," said Jorge Rickards, Director General of WWF Mexico.

WWF partly attributed the drop to lower temperatures in Texas, a breeding site, causing "slower growth of eggs and larvae in the spring" and subsequently reducing the monarch butterfly population and the number that was able to migrate.

Earlier this year, two activists protecting the monarch butterfly from the dual threat of climate change and illegal deforestation—Homer Gomez and Raul Hernandez—were reportedly found murdered within the space of a week.

The [drug cartels](#) that dominate the state are involved in a range of criminal enterprises, including illegal logging of protected firs, hardwoods and pines.

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Citation: Monarch butterfly migration to Mexico drops by 53%, activists say (2020, March 16)
retrieved 7 May 2024 from
<https://phys.org/news/2020-03-monarch-butterfly-migration-mexico-activists.html>

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