

Quiz This Critter:
The Snarky Guest
2787 Words

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Note:

I am not the illustrator or photographer.

The images here are visual aids
representing the clues and the classification chart.

"Quiz This Critter" Crew



Host: **Bob O'Link**

Announcer: **Ward Hog**



Panelists:



Ann Phibian – Olympic Swimmer

Tim Burr Wolf – Movie Star

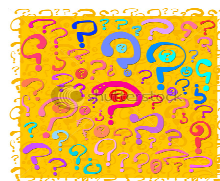


**Sir Crockett Dial –
Children's Book Author/Illustrator**



Chica Dee – Singer and Dancer

Mystery Guest



Round One



From the Beastly Bank Auditorium in downtown Buffalo,
this is Ward Hogg inviting *you* to Quiz . . . This . . . Critter!
And heeerrrrree's your host . . . Mr. Bob O'Link!



Thank you, Ward!
Thank you, everyone!
Tonight we have a crafty crew of questioners,
whose task is to unmask our Mystery Critter.
Ward, would you please introduce our prestigious panel?



My pleasure, Bob.
Making his first appearance with us,
is the hilarious star of *Red Riding Hood's Revenge*,
Mr. Tim . . . Burr . . . Wolf!



How's it goin', O'Link?
Well *HELLO*, Ward!
What *big tusks* you have!



Heh, Heh! Thanks, Tim!
I'll bet you say that to all the boars.
Our second panelist, waltzing in from *Prancing with the Stars*,
is the eye-popping, heart-stopping, Ms. Chica Dee!



You forgot jaw-dropping, Bombón!



Deepest apologies, Chica!
Next up is the creator of the Caldecat-winning children's book,
Where the Wild Things Are, Sir Crockett Dial!



Cheers! I am delighted to be here.
And I am also delighted to announce the publication
of my newest gem, *Curious Jaws*.
It is receiving a rapturous reception.



As expected, Crockett!
And finally, please welcome our gold medal-winning,
elastic-legged Olympian, Ms. Ann Phibian!



Thank you, Mr. Hogg! I am hopping with happiness to be here.



And we are “hoppy” to have you.
Well, it's time to put our talented team to the test.
Would you please rev up the Omit-a-Critter, Ward?

BINK! BOOP! BONK!



The Omit-a-Critter is ready, Bob!

Omit-a-Critter

Invertebrates

Porifera



Cnidarians



Echinoderms



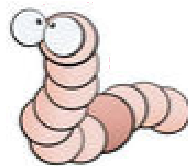
Mollusks



Arthropods



Annelids



Vertebrates

Fishes



Amphibians



Mammals



Reptiles



Birds





For all you new viewers, the Omit-a-Critter keeps track of the critter categories that get eliminated. Mystery Guest, are you ready to face our inquiring squad?



Fire away!



Tim, you take aim first!



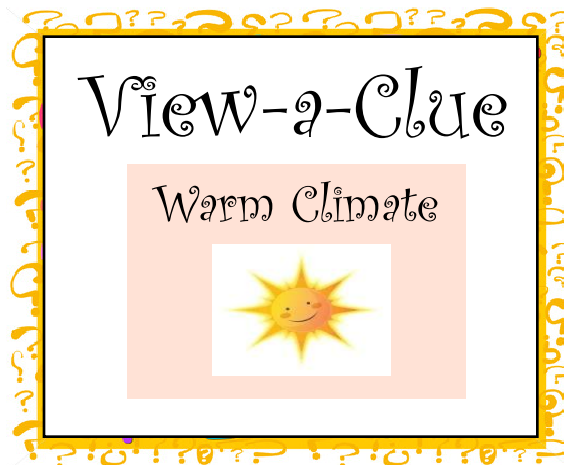
Mystery Critter, do you have layers of luscious blubber?



Fat chance! Blubber ain't cool if you live where it's warm.



Let our View-a-Clue Screen show that our Mystery guest lives where it's warm.





How would you rate your beauty, Bombón with ten as the highest?



Not to brag or nothin',
but my designer patterns hoist me to a ten and a half.



That's *pretty* impressive!

But remember what William Shakespeare said,
“Beauty is but a vain and doubtful good.”



It beats bein' ugly!



Well . . . you've got me there.

View-a-Clue, give us a look at our Mystery Guest's pretty patterns.





Most intriguing . . . fancy patterns and a warm clime.
Might you belong to a twee family of Tropical Fish?

Sir Crockett Dial
Dictionary

TWEE:

Cute or precious
in a sickeningly
sweet way



You're all wet, Dial.



Do you have a tongue?



Yup – and it's a long one!
Give another gold medal to Ms. Phibian the Olympian!

BINK! BOOP! BONK!



That was certainly a winning question, Ann!
Our Omit-a-Critter shows that three groups without tongues
have bit the dust!
That leaves us with eight possible Critter Kingdom categories.

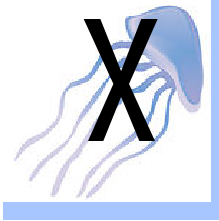
Omit-a-Critter

Invertebrates

Porifera



Cnidarians



Echinoderms



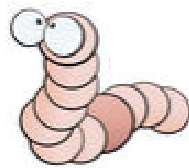
Mollusks



Arthropods



Annelids



Vertebrates

Fishes



Amphibians



Mammals



Reptiles



Birds





Let's see our Mystery Guest's long tongue, View-a-Clue!

View-a-Clue

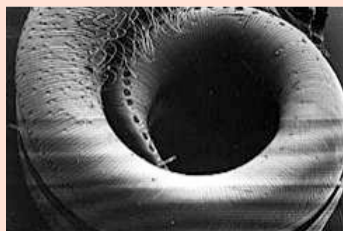
Warm Climate



Pretty Patterns



Long Tongue



Speaking of tongues . . .

It's time for a word from Junkan Hines,
maker of the nutritious and delicious Quix Bar.

Commercial Break



Do you suffer from the afternoon blahs?



Yah . . . my pounce has no bounce.



My flutter starts to sputter.



My wiggle doesn't jiggle.



My hop's got no pop.



Sounds miserable! What do you do?



I tear into a Quix Bar.



One Quix keeps me wingin' for hours.

The heck with creeping! Now I'm leaping!



When the afternoon blahs sap your pizzazz,
Grab a Quix Bar and *feel the zeal!*



Round Two



Welcome back, everyone!

We've had a productive first round.

Three categories of critters were jettisoned.

And we've got three clues on board.

Let's see what our canny crew can uncover in the next session.

Tim, start us off.



Lemme take a stab here . . . long tongue, warm climate, and pretty patterns.

I'm gonna pounce!

Are you a Giraffe?

BZZZZZZZZZZZZ!



You're on her trail, Tim.

But Giraffe is incorrect!



Can you lay eggs, Bombón?



About 400 before I'm done.

Beat that, Chica!



View-a-Clue, give us a peek at our Mystery Guest's eggs!

View-a-Clue

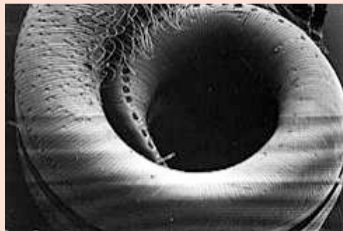
Warm Climate



Pretty Patterns



Long Tongue



Lays Eggs



Are you equipped with teeth?



Hmmmmmm . . . Let me chew on this a while.
I can't say I've ever had real choppers like yours.
But in my younger days my jaws were sharp.



Show us those sharp jaws!

View-a-Clue

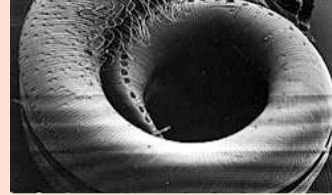
Warm Climate



Pretty Patterns



Long Tongue



Lays Eggs



Sharp Jaws



Let me add this up.

You've got pretty patterns, a tongue but no teeth, sharp jaws
lay eggs, and live where it's warm.

Could you be a Parrot?

BZZZZZZZZZZZZ

I'm afraid your addition's a bit off, Ann.

But keep trying.

As the saying goes,

"Even if you fall on your face, you're still moving forward."

Well . . . that concludes the second round.

We didn't dispose of any critter categories this time,
but we acquired two new clues.

Now it's on to Round Three!





Round Three



Mr. Wolf, are you ready to sink your teeth in?



My canines are quivering.
Got any claws, dearie?



You finally nailed me, Tim!

BINK! BOOP! BONK!



A juicy clue, Tim!
“Claws” obliterates Annelids and Fishes.
That leaves only six critter categories standing!

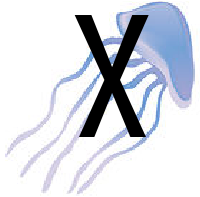
Omit-a-Critter

Invertebrates

Porifera



Cnidarians



Echinoderms



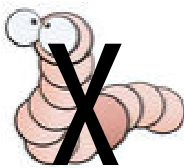
Mollusks



Arthropods



Annelids



Vertebrates

Fishes



Amphibians



Mammals



Reptiles



Birds





Bare those claws for us, View-a-Clue!

View-a-Clue

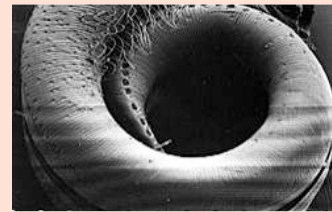
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Pretty Patterns



Long Tongue



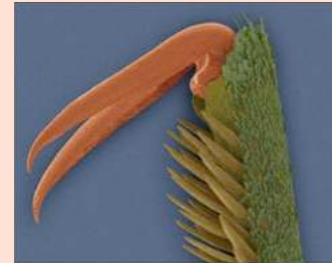
Lays Eggs



Sharp Jaws



Claws



When I was on the *Tomorrow Show* last night,
Lothario the Colossal Squid was sitting next to me,
And I noticed he had claws on his tentacles.
Is he a relative of yours, Bombón?

BZZZZZZZZZZZZ!



Our guest is not a Colossal Squid, Chica!
I'm afraid you have forgotten the *No Teeth* clue.
Squid have teeth on their tongues.



Ah, yes! How could I forget, Bombón?



Mystery Guest, are you clad in scales?



I'll *weigh in* here with a “yes!”

BINK! BOOP! BONK!



Good work, Crockett!
You've taken down Mollusks and Amphibians.



I believe I have done in Mammals as well.
Has our Omit-a-Critter suffered a snafu?



No, our Omit-a-Critter is functioning fine, Crockett.
Mammals are still in the mix.
Some mammals have scales, like Armadillos.
But kudos for keeping track of things.

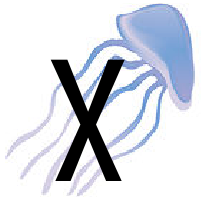
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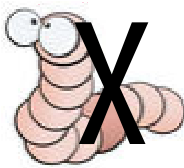
Mollusks



Arthropods



Annelids

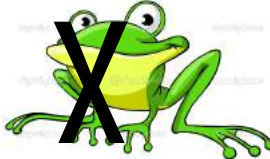


Vertebrates

Fishes



Amphibians



Mammals



Reptiles



Birds





Let's see those scales!

View-a-Clue

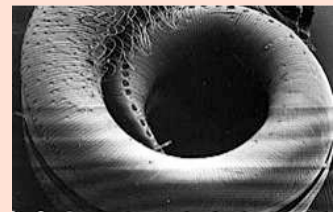
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Pretty Patterns



Long Tongue



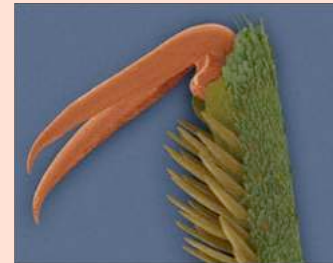
Lays Eggs



Sharp Jaws



Claws



Scales





Okay! You have a tongue, no teeth, sharp jaws,
claws, scales, patterns, lay eggs . . .
I see Reptiles are still up there.
How about a Painted Turtle?

BZZZZZZZZZZZZ!



Wrong again, Ann!
But don't give up!
"Quitters never win and winners never quit."



Yes, Ann.
You must remember that before you win your *next* gold medal.



Indeed, Crocket!
Well, that concludes Round Three.
Before we plunge into Round Four,
here's a word from CAT-TV's dazzling dance spectacular,
Prancing with the Stars!

Commercial Break



C'mon and prance with me!
C'mon and dance with me!

Feel the music like a lover's hisssssss.



Feel the rhythm like a tight embrace.



C'mon and dance with me!
C'mon and prance with me!



Watch me skip!



Now watch me! Neigh! Neigh!



Watch me skip, skip!

Now watch me! Neigh! Neigh!



Do the cranky leg!



Do the cranky leg!



Watch me! Ooh, watch me!



Prancing with the Stars returns live,
Monday, September 14th, on CAT-TV!



C'mon and watch me! Ooh, watch me, Bombón!



Round Four



Welcome to our fourth round!

Tim, last round you chewed up two categories.

What are you gnawing on now?



Well, Mystery Guest, I am curious about what style home you build — straw, sticks, bricks . . . ?



You blew it, Tim. I'm not in the construction business.



Not a homebody, huh?



Does your wardrobe include wings, Bombón!



Yeah, Chica. I guess you're not a full-fledged featherhead.

BINK! BOOP! BONK!



Bueno, Chica!

That *wings* clue means that we can say “Adios!” to the Reptiles!
Now . . . only Birds, Mammals, and Arthropods remain.

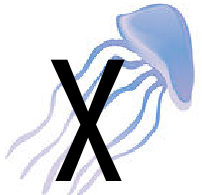
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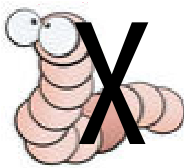
Mollusks



Arthropods



Annelids

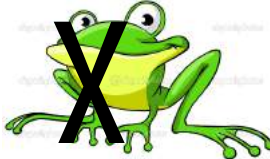


Vertebrates

Fishes



Amphibians



Mammals



Reptiles



Birds





Show us wings!

View-a-Clue

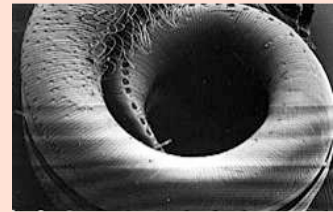
Warm Climate



Pretty Patterns



Long Tongue



Lays Eggs



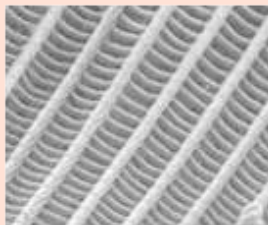
Sharp Jaws



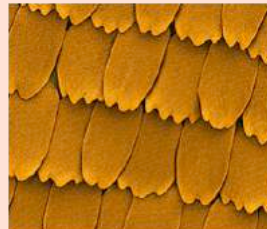
Claws



Wings



Scales





What do you enjoy ingesting?



Before my . . . ummm . . . change of life,
I could really put away milkweed leaves.
Then I got kinda pudgy.
Now I'm on a liquid diet and I'm lookin' sleek.



Mmmmmm . . .
Who's that designer bird with the long tongue that sips nectar?
I know!
You're a Hummingbird!

BZZZZZZZZZZZZ!



I'm afraid Hummingbird is incorrect.
Hummingbirds eat bugs and nectar *never* leaves.
But don't despair, Ann.
"She who never fell, never climbed."

BONG! BONG! BONG!



You know what the bonging gong means
we are heading into the lightning round.
There are only five minutes left!



Final Round



Okay, Tim.

We are down to Birds, Mammals, and Arthropods.

Rip into this mystery.



I'm curious, Mystery Guest.

How do you track down your snacks?



My antennae help me snoop for food.

Plus they're a built-in GPS, so I'd be *lost* without them.

BINK! BOOP! BONK!



Great work, Tim!

You're a real Furlock Holmes!

The "antennae" clue means that Birds and Mammals bite the dust.

So our Mystery Guest must be an Arthropod!

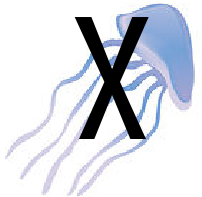
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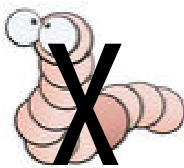
Mollusks



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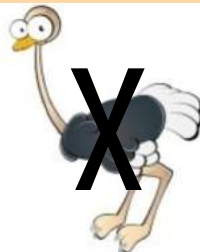
Mammals



Reptiles



Birds





Home in on her antennae, View-a-Clue!

View-a-Clue

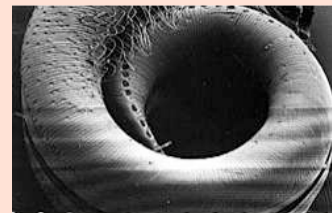
Warm Climate



Pretty Patterns



Long Tongue



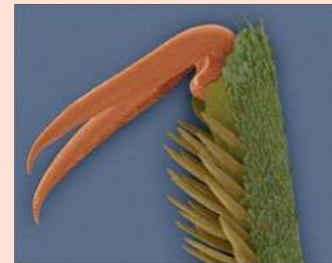
Lays Eggs



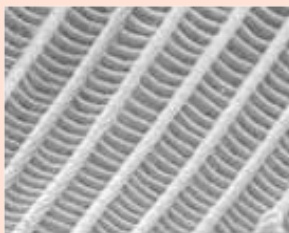
Sharp Jaws



Claws



Wings



Scales



Antenna



Okay, Chica! Give it a whirl!



Are you a good dancer like me, Bombón?



A *good* dancer like *you*?
That's a trick question, Bob.
I object!



Would you please rephrase your question, Chica?



No hay problema, Bombón.
Mystery Guest, do you dance?



Not on your life!



Mmmmmm . . . we've got an Arthropod with wings and antennae . . .
How many legs do you have?



As a kid I had sixteen.
Now I'm down to six.



View-a-Clue, give us a gander at those gams!

View-a-Clue

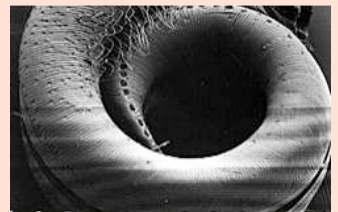
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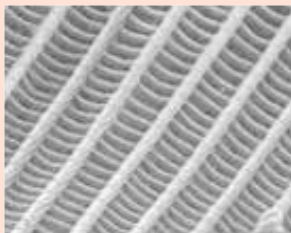
Sharp Jaws



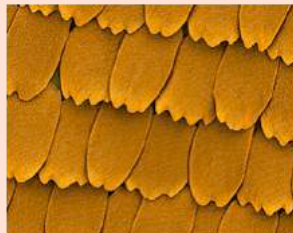
Claws



Wings



Scales



Antenna



Legs





The only Arthropods with six legs are Insects.
Honeybees drink nectar!
But they DO dance . . . and . . . they DO build houses,
and . . . they DON'T have scales.
Wait! I think I've got it!
I'm goin' for the gold!
I think our Mystery Guest is . . .

BZZZZZZZZZZZZ!



Oh! Sooooooooo sorry, Ann!
Our clock has stopped.
It is now time for our Mystery Guest to reveal her identity.
But first . . . a brief message from that cool toy company, Muttool.

Commercial Break



Imagine our Critter Kingdom's dazzling Queen Bea

and dashing King Fisher together . . .





in your very own Buggingham Dream Castle!



Seat the King and Queen on their golden thrones.



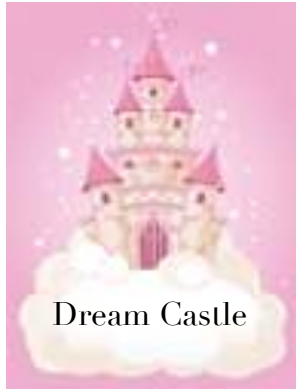
Dress them in their most elegant clothes.



Then call for gallant knights to guard them,
as they set off to the ball . . .



in their splendid carriage.



Magical dreams can come true.
You know that they do,
in Muttool's Buggingham Dream Castle!

Batteries not included.
Dolls, clothing, and carriage sold separately.

You can tell it's Muttool—it's cool!



Meet the Mystery Guest



Welcome back to *Quiz This Critter!*
And heeeeeeeeere's our host . . . Mr. Bob O'Link!



Thank you, Ward!
Now . . . the moment we've all been waiting for.
Would our Mystery Guest please come onstage?



It was on the tip of my tongue!



You call those claws??



Alas! My logic eluded me!



A ten and a half? You're dreaming, Bombón!



Not to worry, Chica! Black and orange is soooooo last season.



Our Mystery Critter is that queen of insects – a Monarch Butterfly.
Please welcome Ms. Danaus Plexippus!
That's quite a mouthful!
Do you mind if I call you D.P.?



No sweat, B.O.!
Stinky joke, huh?



It's real punny.

Now Danaus, because you stumped our panel,
we have a special surprise chosen just for you.
Ward, would you tell Ms. Plexippus what she's won?



You betcha, Bob!

We know you've been planning a trip south, Danaus,
since Buffalo gets frigid this time of year.
Well, whirl up your wings because we are sending you
on an all expenses paid vacation to . . . sunny Mexico!
There you'll relax at the luxurious El Rosario Resort
imbibing nectar from a banquet of blossoms.
And when it's time to tuck in your wings,
you'll roost in its fabulous fir forest!



Mind if a few friends tag along?



Don't push it, Plexippus!

Well that's our show for tonight folks.
Thanks to our panel and to all of you at home for joining us.
This is Bob O'Link signing off and reminding you . . .
A curious mind is the healthiest kind.
Good night everybody!

Quiz This Critter

Webmaster, Tara-Ann Chulla



B Like us on Beastbook

Ch Send us a chirp on Chatter

This week's program with Mystery Critter Danaus Plexippus drew a huge response. Thanks to all of you who contributed to the discussion.

I just want to correct a misconception many of your viewers have—
based on protests I've received from the See Error Club.

Monarchs are not insensitive to our planet's overpopulation problem.

We *do* lay about 400 eggs, but tragically,
fewer than 40 will hatch and survive to become adults.

Most die from harsh weather, diseases, and predators.

Mo N'Arc

President, MATE

Monarchs for Action against Threats to Existence



Not to complain or nothin', but how come all your guests are good-lookin'?

Why don't you ever have on a regular-lookin' beast . . . such as myself?

Ryan Nosserus

P.S. Ward Hogg knows what I'm talkin' about.



Thought your viewers should be informed that the monarch's claws
are not the sort that predators use for seizing and slicing prey.

They are primarily for climbing and clinging to plants.

Marvelous program, by the way . . . bravo for the deductive reasoning.

Your program is a logical choice amidst today brainless broadcasting.

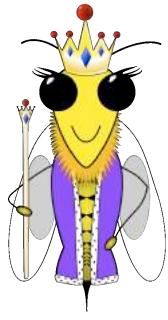
Dr. Bob Katz

Professor of Predatory Science

Hunter College

Gnu York, Gnu York





I usually find your program a delightful amusement,
while eating my bread and honey in the Royal Garden.
But I must say that I suffered a bout of indigestion
while witnessing the flippant behavior displayed by your last Mystery Critter.
In future, I trust you will select your guests with more discretion.
Queen Bea I
(A *true* Monarch, unlike your wretched guest.)



I was surprised that none of the panelists asked about your guest's eyes.
I can tell you that they are huge and each one is packed with thousands of lenses.
Monarchs can see everywhere at once—up, down, left, right, forward, and backward.
There's no sneaking up on them!
Dr. Liz Hurd
Director of Optometry
Skink-a-Chink Eye Care
Cataract, Wisconsin



I am sick, sick, sick of this society's unhealthy obsession with skinny species.
And I thought it was grossly irresponsible for Ms. Plexippus to advocate a liquid diet—
a dangerous option for the majority of beasts.
Most ironic is the fact that one of your sponsors is Junkin Hines!
(Quix Bars don't even taste too good.)
Ella Fant
President, PALS
Promoting Appreciation for Large Species



Ms. Plexippus's liquid diet consists of flower nectar, a nutritious food.
In addition, she most certainly was not recommending it for everycritter.
Ann Teeter, Producer
P.S. Quix Bars are delicious!
I devour one whenever my snoot starts to droop!



Just wanted to advise your viewers
that if they are planning a trip to our resort,
they'd better get their reservations in pronto.
Millions of Monarchs are flying in from Canada and the United States.
Our best cabañas are filling up fast.
¡Hasta la vista! ☺
Señor Chip Monk
Proprietor, El Rosario Resort