

Baja California & the Sea of Cortez

Naturetrek Tour Report

22 February - 5 March 2010



Long-beaked Common Dolphin



Grey Whale



Magnificent Frigate-bird



Blue Whale

Report and images compiled by James Lees



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Day 1

Sunday 21st February

The group met at London Heathrow's Terminal 5 in the morning ready for our 10.15am departure. Nine hours later, we touched down in a very cold and partly snow-covered Chicago at 12.30pm local time. We had a couple of hours at the airport before our transfer flight to San Diego. After another, comparatively short, four-hour flight later, we finally arrived in San Diego at 19.30pm local time. A short ride on the bus took us to our hotel for an evening meal and a well-deserved sleep.

Day 2

Monday 22nd February

We began our first day with a short walk to San Diego Bay, located very close to our hotel. Here we saw our first taste of American birding with an excellent selection of local birds. The highlights here were several very busy Anna's Hummingbirds and a smart Black Phoebe. There were many shorebirds, typically very close and tame, such as Marbled Godwits and Willets alongside Snowy Egrets and Little Blue Herons.

Our next stop was Silverwood Wildlife Sanctuary about an hour north of San Diego in the hills. Here we enjoyed a wonderful picnic lunch near some bird feeders and had a great selection of birds. Again, the nectar feeders were very busy with hummingbirds, as were the seed feeders; Spotted and California Towhees fed alongside Oregon Juncos. We also managed to see several Acorn and one Nuttall's Woodpecker and two charming Oak Titmice.

We then moved to Lyndo Lake and added many species of water birds to our ever-increasing list. The best sighting was of the very rare Tricoloured Blackbird that we found feeding very near to the path. A Cassin's Kingbird was also a very welcome sight as it sat high above the lake fly-catching.

The San Diego River was the next stop on our adventure, where we experienced some truly outstanding bird-watching. Waders and wildfowl absolutely covered the mudflats as far as the eye could see. There were literally thousands of waders including Western and Least Sandpipers, Semi-palmated Plovers and Short-billed Dowitchers. The group really enjoyed watching a party of Brown Pelicans feeding close to the shore. We also found a site rarity in the form of a Laughing Gull – this gull would have been more at home on the east coast in Florida rather than California!

Our final stop of the day was at Famosa Slough where we added American Avocets and Black-necked Stilts, which brought our day list to a respectable 89 species.

As an excited group, we then boarded M/V Searcher in the late afternoon. A co-operative Surf Scoter in the harbour provided excellent views and photo opportunities and small flocks of vociferous Lilac-crowned Parrots were observed in the trees/palms across the parking lot. On the boat, we had our welcome orientation at 8:00 pm with lines away and departure from San Diego at 10:00 pm.

Day 3

Tuesday 23rd February

We arrived at Ensenada, Baja California Norte to clear Mexican immigration and customs just before dawn. We departed Ensenada just after 7:00 and motored out of the harbour by the rock jetties.

There were numerous birds in the harbour and en route to Isla Todos Santos, and weather conditions were excellent for viewing. We arrived at Isla Todos Santos and spent time here observing several species of pinnipeds and breeding seabirds. Although distant, this was our first look at Northern Elephant Seal (6), and five Harbours Seal pups were seen with adult females on the beach. Several California Sea Lions were also observed.

Bird highlights included 100's of Western Gulls on territory, Black Oystercatchers, two Peregrine Falcons, and a Pacific Loon. On the small rock outcropping at the south end of the island, a cooperative Pelagic Cormorant in breeding plumage was identified and we were able to approach for close viewing. Overall, cormorant numbers seemed low, but we managed to see all three species here.

We headed south mid-morning, past Punta Colonet in route to Islas San Benitos. We passed a number of northbound Gray Whales beginning their migration from Mexico to the feeding grounds. A pair of Fin Whales was also observed, as well as large herds of both Long-beaked and Short-beaked Common Dolphins. One of the Long-beaked herds was estimated at 1000+ animals. Several fortunate observers also saw what was our only group of Pacific White-sided Dolphins (4) for the trip pass by and stay with the boat for a very brief period.

Just past Isla Todos Santos, we spotted our first Black-footed Albatross, and we tallied an incredible total of 17 by the day's end. We also had excellent looks at the less frequently encountered Laysan Albatross (5), including one sitting on the water. Captain Art manoeuvred the boat to allow for close approach, and many passengers were able to take photographs. Other bird highlights included several species from the alcid family: Xantus's Murrelet (18), Cassin's Auklets (540), and Rhinoceros Auklet (5).

We motored all night towards the San Benito Islands. After dinner, a presentation was given on pinniped biology, the San Benito Islands, Northern Elephant Seals and Guadalupe Fur Seals.

Day 4

Wednesday 24th February

We woke up approximately 2 hours from Islas San Benito and altered our route slightly to follow a large group of Sperm Whales (35-50). We stayed with the group for an extended period and saw several calves in the group, including one that was breaching. This location was at the edge of the continental shelf, where concentrations of their preferred prey (squid), were probably present. At about 9:00, we encountered our first Blue Whales on the move, and we followed them for a short period.

Due to the whale sightings, we arrived late-morning at West San Benito Island, where we deployed our skiffs and travelled along the southern shore of the island to observe the numerous Guadalupe fur seals present there. It was fantastic to see Guadalupe fur seals reinhabiting their former colony site, and we heard characteristic "whicker calls." There were many animals on the rocks as well as large numbers in the water seen from the skiff near the rocks. A Merlin made a pass by the boat with a Peregrine in pursuit.

The skiffs then dropped us off on the island, and we walked out towards the Northern Elephant Seal colony, past the seasonal fishing camp. We saw many seabird burrows on the way, most of which were likely occupied by Cassin's Auklets. The distinctive vocalizations of Northern Elephant Seals were heard from the distance as we approached, and we were greeted by many animals on the beach. We noted a large number of "weaners" (pups left on their own after fattening up on mom's milk for 3-4 weeks), a number of females and a few large males.

One large “beach-master” was observed mating with a female at the waters edge, with another smaller male observing from a distance.

The majority of the group then walked back towards the fishing village and along a trail that heads along the east and south side of the island, while a few stayed behind to continue observing the amazing spectacle at the colony. From the trail, we looked out at the Searcher anchored in the bay, and down at the Guadalupe Fur Seals on the rocky shore. We stopped here for lunch, and several continued down the trail. On the south side of the island, we saw a few more beaches with Northern Elephant Seals, including a nursing pup. Also seen were a few flowering Palmer’s Mammillaria, the endemic cactus growing on the island.

After our visit to the island, we continued our southward journey on the Searcher past Isla Cedros and towards San Ignacio Lagoon. On the way, we flushed numerous groups of calling Red Phalaropes (a small pelagic shorebird that winters offshore California and Mexico). Our day total for this species was 785, and we continued to see many more groups on subsequent days along the Pacific coast. Careful observation and counting by our group gave us a grand total of 1,620 for the trip, an unusually high number. After dinner, we discussed the day’s sightings, and a presentation on Gray Whales and San Ignacio Lagoon was given.

Day 5

Thursday 25th February

At sunrise we were just outside the lagoon, heading towards the channel entrance. As we approached the bar, numerous Gray Whales were observed, as well as a number of birds, including Black-vented Shearwaters crossing our wake. Art and the crew successfully navigated the sand bar at the lagoon entrance and made our way up the lagoon to our anchorage at Rocky Point, passing many gray whales on the way. Our skilled drivers met us shortly after the anchor went down, and we began our whale watching from the pangas at about 9:00. All three boats headed out from the Searcher and we came across a number of spy hopping and breaching whales. Other observations included Bottlenose Dolphins, California Sealions and many Royal Terns, gulls, and flocks of shorebirds crossing the lagoon. We returned to Searcher around 11:00 for lunch and a break.

After lunch, we went out again in the pangas, and saw several cow/calf pairs, with very young calves in the 2-week old range. We ended the day with excellent night-sky viewing and we turned off the boat generators for a short period. A number of breathing Gray Whales was heard passing right by the Searcher that night. Weather conditions on both of our days in the lagoon were ideal for whale watching, and we were fortunate to have this good luck for great weather the entire trip.

Day 6

Friday 26th February

We woke-up early in the lagoon. After coffee and muffins, we boarded our skiffs for a trip to the mangroves for views of many species of birds. There were excellent sightings of a large number and diversity of shorebirds, waders, and marsh birds, including brief sightings (with many calling) of the elusive Mangrove Yellow Warbler.

We whale-watched from the pangas from about 9:00am until noon (with a quick break midway through the morning). All three pangas were able to share the experience of a friendly cow-calf pair. This calf coming to the boats was older than the calves observed yesterday, and we estimated it to be about 10 weeks old.

We also observed several whales “feeding” in the lagoon - rolling on their sides in shallow water (about 10 feet deep) with pectoral fins breaching the surface. Large sand plumes were visible in the water, and this activity was repeated numerous times.

After lunch we split into two groups. One group boarded skiffs for a beach walk on Sand Beach, and one boat took the die-hard whale-watchers out for one longer look around the lagoon. The beach walkers headed up towards the mangroves, stopping to look at shells, crab exoskeletons, a Green Sea Turtle shell, and the skeletal remains of a Gray Whale. In the shallow waters near the mangroves, observers spotted a Portunus swimming crab Mullet, and a number of small Bulls-eye Puffer fish. A Yellow-crowned Night-heron was seen catching and eating a large Fiddler Crab (*Uca princeps*). In the afternoon, the crew hauled up the anchor and we made our way out of the lagoon through several rows of breaking waves on the bar to the open ocean.

Day 7

Saturday 27th February

Today was a day of travel through a rich feeding and transit area for large whales and dolphins, as well as many seabirds. We woke up at the north end of Magdalena Bay, with more great weather and optimal ocean conditions. These calm conditions made for excellent views of Green Sea Turtles on the water, and the crew and passengers found many at the surface of the water, including a few seen at very close range. At 9:50, we came across a whale rarely encountered on these trips – Sei Whale. We followed it for an extended period, and noted its diagnostic field characteristics, including the lack of 3 grooves present on Bryde’s, and the blow and dorsal fin present simultaneously at the surface. Later in the day, we saw several groups of Guadalupe Fur Seals at the surface (9), and several Humpback Whales that were difficult to follow. We also saw 3 pairs of Craveri’s Murrelets on the water and several Manta Rays while heading south past Magdalena Bay.

Day 8

Sunday 28th February

We woke up about 7 miles southwest of Gorda Banks and immediately found a group of Humpback Whales. These whales put on a great show with many behaviour patterns exhibited -breaching, pec slapping and lob-tailing. A sub-adult Masked Booby flew by the boat and was observed by most of the group. As we continued to Gorda Banks, we found a humpback cow with a young calf with an escort following nearby.

Later in the afternoon after lunch, we had an excellent hike and snorkel at Los Frailes. The birding was good, and we spotted the endemic Xantus’s Hummingbird, in addition to many other desert thorn scrub inhabitants. Snorkelers retreated to 72 degree Fahrenheit water near the rocky cliffs and saw numerous reef fishes. After dinner there was an evening presentation on Seabirds, with a discussion about the animals seen during the day.

Day 9

Monday 1st March

At dawn, the sun illuminated the cliffs at Punta Colorado and we all watched the rapidly changing colours and the morning progressed. There were an unusually large number of boobies in the area, with 70 Blue-footed Boobies roosting on the cliff ledges and a number flying past the Searcher.

We went for a morning hike on the island up the arroyo, where there were many flowering plants, and the island appeared greener than normal. Many Queen Butterflies and Sphinx Moths were observed in action, and a tailless Whip Scorpion (originally identified as a Pseudo Scorpion) was found inadvertently when one of the naturalists tripped over a rock. Many lizards were seen; including a Chuckwalla posing on a rock spotted by one keen observer, and several of the endemic San Jose Island Whiptail Lizards (one captured, examined and released). After the hike, snorkelers were taken out for a mid-morning search of underwater fish and animals.

The afternoon was spent whale watching in the Sea of Cortez, and we encountered another large group of Sperm Whales at the north end of Isla San Jose, totalling over 100. A cow/calf pair was seen, as well as a large bull swimming alongside a female. Bottlenose Dolphins were also seen in the vicinity.

Two Red-billed Tropicbirds were also seen in the afternoon, including one that dived directly in front of the Searcher onto a Long fin Halfbeak swimming at the surface. It killed and proceeded to try and swallow the fish, but it was too large, so it was netted and observed by the passengers on board.

We travelled to Isla Santa Catalina, where we watched a full moon rise over the island while anchored. After dinner, Peter gave a presentation on Humboldt Squid.

Day 10

Tuesday 2nd March

Immediately after breakfast, we went for a hike up the beautiful arroyo at Isla Santa Catalina. This island is famous for its large cardon and endemic barrel cactus, both of which are some of the largest cacti in the world. The arroyo wound through the cactus forest, which also featured many other types of desert plants such as elephant tree, paloverde, several kinds of cholla cactus, *mammalaria*, and jojoba bush. Some plants were parasitized by desert mistletoe. Bird highlights included Loggerhead Shrike, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Northern Cardinal, Verdin and White-throated Swift. Also found was the island endemic Emerald-tailed Lizard.

After the hike, snorkelers were taken out and treated to excellent underwater viewing conditions. Several mentioned a highlight as being the uniquely patterned Giant Hawkfish.

After lunch we headed out to look for whales. In the afternoon, we spotted a pod of Short-finned Pilot Whales (40), and a large heard of 2,000 Long-beaked Common Dolphin. The dolphins stretched on for miles, and many were bow-riding and breaching. We found Blue Whales later that day, including a cow/calf pair, and we followed one adult until sunset, with the entire group obtaining excellent close-up views and photographs.

At Agua Verde, the crew put lights out over the water and several small fish and zooplankton were seen. A small squid was netted and brought on board for viewing.

Day 11

Wednesday 3rd March

We woke up at Agua Verde near the Baja Peninsula, and went for a hike immediately after breakfast. We passed a corral with horses and saw several local people and their dwellings. We continued hiking through the desert thorn scrub looking for birds to a grove of palm trees. A number of both male and female Phainopepla were found, as well as Lark Sparrows, Green-tailed Towhees, Hooded Orioles and Cactus Wrens.

After the hike, we went back at the boat for a brief break and then out in the skiffs to Roca Solitaire. Large numbers of birds were roosting on the rocks, including Magnificent Frigatebirds (including a male with partially extended red throat pouch), Blue-footed and Brown Boobies, Yellow-footed Gulls and Brown Pelicans. We also motored up close to the rocky areas to get close looks at Sally Light-foot Crabs. Our fearless Captain Aaron swam down and picked up several seastars for us to look at and photograph while on the skiffs.

After returning to the Searcher, we took a short break and headed out in skiffs once more to snorkel along the edge of the peninsula. Several rays were observed camouflaged along the sandy bottom, and the fish highlight for some included a very large shoal of Balloonfish, upwards of 100 or more. It is unusual to see this species in these kind of numbers, as they are usually encountered singly or in very small groups. Several Spotted Sharpnose Puffers were also seen and photographed.

After an incredible lunch of enchiladas, beans and rice we headed out to sea under calm conditions and warm temps. Isla Santa Catalina was at our port bow and it wasn't long before we spotted our first cetacean sighting of the day, a group of Dwarf Sperm Whales! We spent time with these animals as they surfaced and dove, and close inspection of a distant individual revealed not one but two – a cow/calf pair. This was a truly amazing sighting of a rarely encountered animal. Elsewhere in the Sea of Cortez that day we saw a Hammerhead Shark and several Marlin.

At sunset, we anchored in 350 fathoms of water and celebrated with a great margarita party and dinner on the stern. We watched large Needlefish in the water illuminated by the Searcher's lights, and a Least Storm-petrel made a pass close to the boat. We were all feeling good, and one of the passengers treated us by singing "I belong to Glasgow."

Day 12

Thursday 4th March

The crew had anchored Searcher across from Nopolo fish camp the night before and in the morning we woke to the amazing vista of this steep and rugged canyon. A pre-breakfast bird walk up the canyon provided great views of Xantus's Hummingbirds, and we heard several Canyon Wrens singing from above on the steep slopes as we hiked. Several observers had great looks at both male and female Lazuli Buntings near the pool of fresh water near the mangroves. Several butterflies began flying once the bottom of the canyon warmed up, including Pipevine Swallowtails, Queens, and Long-tailed Skippers.

Back on board we began to motor south towards our afternoon stop at Los Islotes, through the San Jose Channel. It wasn't until we were past the channel and south of Isla San Francisco that we spotted mammals of interest. But the time waiting was worth it, and we followed a group of 12 male Sperm Whales in a tight group for a significant amount of time. This "bachelor herd" remained for extended periods of time at the surface, making only short dives and then resurfacing. The breathing episodes, close views of these large rocking animals at the surface for this length of time made the highlight for many (including some of the crew) on the trip.

Bird highlights included 5 Craveri's Murrelets, another sighting of a Red-billed Tropicbird, and a large raft of Storm-petrels, which included a large number Least (100+) and at least a dozen Black.

We arrived at Los Islotes after lunch and took skiff rides to view the many California Sealions present here, including a few very large males, females with large pups, and many others of both sexes and all ages. We saw a few Turkey Vultures feeding on a carcass on the rocks, and a few Black Turnstones and a Wandering Tattler.

The underwater visibility was the best I've seen, and snorkelers not only had the experience of close encounters with sea lions, but also an amazing assortment of fish. The variety was good, and many of the previously seen species were larger than at the other snorkelling locations. A few highlights here included Blue and Gold Snapper, Barbarfish, Panamic Fanged Blenny, and Coral Hawkfish.

Day 13

Friday 5th March

We watched the sunrise off the end of the Cape and carried on in transit to Cabo San Lucas to disembark. We had a few sightings of Humpback Whales as we approached Land's End. We then got taxis to Cabo Airport to begin our journey home.

Summary: This was an outstanding trip not only did we have some quite superb wildlife but also some magnificent scenery that we enjoyed with wonderful food with many new friends. We saw a very good number of species of whales and really good numbers of them. Other highlights included a super pod of over 2000 Common Dolphins, mating Elephant Seals and many beautiful birds along the way. Everyone one on this tour will have some amazing memories from this trip of a life time.

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Species Lists

Birds

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March										
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4
1	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>				3	8						
2	Red-throated loon	<i>Gavia stellata</i>		1									
3	Pacific Diver	<i>Gavia pacifica</i>		1		50	3						
4	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	1	1			1					550	
5	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	10										
6	Western Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>	8	65									
7	Black-footed Albatross	<i>Phoebastria nigripes</i>		21	2								
8	Laysan Albatross	<i>Phoebastria immutabilis</i>		5									
9	Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>			1								
10	Pink-footed Shearwater	<i>Puffinus creatopus</i>		15	2			5	1	3		1	
11	Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>		1									
12	Black-vented Shearwater	<i>Puffinus opisthomelas</i>		280	28			8	2	2	2	3	
13	Black Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma melania</i>						57		1	1	1	25
14	Least Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma microsoma</i>										1	180
15	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>				2	1	16	20	2	3	75	70
16	Red-billed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon aethereus</i>								2			1
17	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	50	30	10	500	260		30	40	35	680	120
18	Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>								3	14	3	50
19	Blue-footed Booby	<i>Sula nebouxii</i>								120	8	350	120
20	Masked Booby	<i>Sula dactylatra</i>							2				
21	Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	30	5	14	40			4	4	2		
22	Pelagic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i>	1										
23	Brandt's Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	50	25	30	150	30		15	10			1
24	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	12	1			10				4		
25	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	6									1	1
26	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	30			25	90				4		
27	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	8			100							

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March										
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4
28	Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>					8						
29	Reddish Egret	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>				1	30				1		
30	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	2			1	16						
31	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax violacea</i>					7						
32	Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>					4						
33	White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>				40	180						
34	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	3										
35	Black Brant	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	75		30	150	80						
36	Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	35										
37	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	30										
38	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	4										
39	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	14										
40	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	10										
41	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>	8										
42	American Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	12										
43	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	10										
44	Redhead	<i>Aythya Americana</i>	2			2							
45	Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	60										
46	Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	15										
47	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>				2	4						
48	Surf Scoter	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>	1	30		20	35		2				
49	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	4			2	3		100	80	40	80	
50	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	8		1								
51	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	4		2		1		2	1	1	1	
52	Northern Caracara	<i>Caracara plancus</i>											2
53	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>			1								
54	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		2	1	1	1			1		1	1
55	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	3		1						1		
56	Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	2										
57	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	4										
58	American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	250										

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March										
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4
59	American Black Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus bachmani</i>		6									
60	American Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>		6									
61	American Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	60										
62	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	4										
63	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	45		1	30	10						
64	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	180										
65	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	10										
66	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>				2	3						
67	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	1										
68	Willet	<i>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</i>	60			80	150					1	
69	Wandering Tattler	<i>Heteroscelus incanus</i>											
70	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	2								1	5	20
71	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus</i>	1								4		
72	Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	1			300	400						
73	Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>	170			500	300+						
74	Wandering Tattler	<i>Heteroscelus incanus</i>											1
75	Surfbird	<i>Aphriza virgata</i>		14									
76	Black Turnstone	<i>Arenaria melanocephala</i>				4							
77	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	140										
78	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	5			60	30						
79	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	10										
80	Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	700										
81	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	2										
82	Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>					18						
83	Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	120										
84	Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalopus fulicarius</i>		250	950			700	5		7		
85	Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorairius longicaudus</i>								5		7	
86	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>		1		6	1	2					
87	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>				14		1				1	
88	Bonaparte's Gull	<i>Larus philadelphia</i>		2				2	8		2		
89	Heermann's Gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>	12	40	65	200	150				30	180	80

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March										
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4
90	Laughing Gull	<i>Larus aticilla</i>	1										
91	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	250	10		10							
92	California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	800	30	2	350		6	100	1		10	
93	Yellow-footed Gull	<i>Larus livens</i>								8	50	250	
94	Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	250	500	300	400	40	4	4				
95	American Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>				1							
96	Royal Tern	<i>Sterna maxima</i>	30	10	14	220						2	
97	Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	1			1	4						
98	Elegant Tern	<i>Sterna elegans</i>							1		10	20	
99	Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>	50										
100	Black Skimmer	<i>Rynchops niger</i>						2					
101	Xantus' Murrelet	<i>Synthliboramphus hypoleucus</i>		12	6								
102	Craveri's Murrelet	<i>Synthliboramphus craveri</i>						6		4	6	2	
103	Cassins' Auklet	<i>Ptychoramphus aleuticus</i>		540	354								
104	Rhinoceros Auklet	<i>Cyclorhynchus psittacula</i>		3									
105	White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>							25		14	10	
106	Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	25										
107	Common Ground Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>							6			2	
108	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	20										
109	Liliac-headed Parrot	<i>Amazona finschi</i>	14										
110	White-throated Swift	<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>									5	2	2
111	Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	28										
112	Costa's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte costae</i>							12	2	1	2	8
113	Xantus' Hummingbird	<i>Hylocharis xantusii</i>							1			4	
114	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>					4				1		
115	Gila Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes uropygialis</i>							4		10	4	
116	Ladder-backed Woodpecker	<i>Picooides scalaris</i>							1	4	4		
117	Nuttall's Woodpecker	<i>Picooides nuttalli</i>	1										
118	Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerptes formicivorus</i>	4										
119	Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picooides pubescens</i>	1										
120	Ash-throated Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>								2	6		1

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March											
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	
121	Grey Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax wrightii</i>									1		1	
122	Pacific Slope Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax difficillis</i>												1
123	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	3											
124	Cassin's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>	1											
125	Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>			2									
126	Loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>										4		
127	Violet-green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>												2
128	Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>										1		
129	Oak Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus inornatus</i>	2											
130	Western Scrub Jay	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>	1									1		
131	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	4	15					4	2	6		2	
132	American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	2											
133	Verdin	<i>Auriparus flaviceps</i>								8	4	30		1
134	Cactus Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i>								1			5	
135	Canyon Wren	<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>												3H
136	Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	2											
137	Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>									2	8		8
138	California Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila californica</i>								2	12		10	2
139	Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>	4											
140	Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>								20	6		25	
141	Grey Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma cinereum</i>								3			1	
142	California Thrasher	<i>Toxostomaredivivum</i>	1											
143	European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	100											
144	Phainopepla	<i>Phainopepla nitens</i>								3	1	14	3	
145	Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Vermivora celata</i>								1			30	
146	Mangrove Warbler	<i>Dendroica bryanti</i>						8						
147	Audubon's Warbler	<i>Dendroica auduboni</i>	30								1			1
148	Black-throated Gray Warbler	<i>Dendroica nigrescens</i>												4
149	Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>			1									
150	Townsend's Warbler	<i>Dendroica townsendi</i>									1			
151	Northern Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>						1						

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March											
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	
152	Western Tanager	<i>Piranaga ludoviciana</i>											2	
153	Northern Cardinal	<i>Cu cardinalis cardinalis</i>								2		4	1	4
154	Pyrrhuloxia	<i>Cardinalis sinuatis</i>								2				
155	Lazuli Bunting	<i>Passerina amoena</i>											2	8
156	Green-tailed Towhee	<i>Pipilo chlorurus</i>											1	2
157	California Towhee	<i>Pipilo crissalis</i>	2											
158	Spotted Towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>	1											
159	Black-throated Sparrow	<i>Amphispiza bilineata</i>								1	2	40		
160	Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	1		20		25							
161	Brewer's Sparrow	<i>Spizella breweri</i>										2		
162	Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	3			2								
163	Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	3							3		150		
164	White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	30										10	
165	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>			1									
166	Oregon Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	5											
167	Tricolored Blackbird	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	1											
168	Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	1											
169	Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	60											
170	Hooded Oriole	<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>								6			6	5
171	House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	150							4	10		40	
172	Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis psaltria</i>												2

Mammals/Cetaceans

1	Gray Whale	<i>Eschrichtius robustus</i>		6		150	80							
2	Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>			1							4		
3	Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>						1						
4	Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>		2										
5	Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>						6	75		2			10
6	Sperm Whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>			50					100				
7	Dwarf Sperm Whale	<i>Kogia simus</i>											8	

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March											
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	
8	Short-finned Pilot Whale	<i>Globicephala macrorhynchus</i>	1									45		
9	Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>				20	14		20	50				
10	Long-beaked Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus capensis</i>		110							2000	40		
11	Pacific White-sided Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus obliquidens</i>		2										
12	Short-beaked Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>		450										
13	Risso's Dolphin	<i>Grampus griseus</i>						45						
14	California Sealion	<i>Zalophus californianus</i>		10		4	2	1						
15	Guadalupe Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus townsendi</i>			90			9						
16	Northern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga angustirostris</i>		7	240									