

Baja California & the Sea of Cortez

Naturetrek Tour Report

21 February - 5 March 2012



Blue Whale surfacing



Common Dolphins



Grey Whale calf



Xantus's Hummingbird

Report and images compiled by Lee Morgan



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- Nigel Summerell
- Alison Fell
- Jane Spick
- Brenda Morrison
- Janet Lancaster
- Keith Wall
- Anita Wall
- Harriet Carver
- Dave Ryves
- Kay Ryves
- Dick Parbles
- Simon Murgatroyd
- Sue Murgatroyd
- Sue Sproston
- John Pickett
- Phyll Pickett
- Linda Walker
- John Carruthers
- Judith Morgan
- Steve Close
- Angela Close
- Geoff Ashworth
- Edwina Kinch

Day 1

Tuesday 21st February

After a long flight from Heathrow the group finally arrived at Houston where, after clearing customs and a hurried dash across the airport, we eventually boarded our connecting flight to San Diego. Our flight landed on time in San Diego and, after a short shuttle bus trip, we were all checked into hotel. A few ventured out to grab a bite to eat but with the favoured eateries closed for the evening, the pickings were fairly slim and the results of our ventures varied. Nevertheless, we all managed to get something to eat and returned to the hotel ready for a good nights sleep.

Day 2

Wednesday 22nd February

A bright and sunny day start and a few keen birders make for an informal pre-breakfast walk around the harbour where noisy Lilac-crowned Parakeets, squabbling Anna's Hummingbirds, Townsends Warblers and numerous Yellow-rumped Warblers reward our morning's efforts.

After a bite of breakfast we all set off on a gentle wander around the harbour where Black-crowned Knight Herons, Little Blue and Green Herons and a surprise Reddish Egret were found lurking along the shoreline and roosting on the back of boats. A scan across the shore revealed a few of the regular customers such as Black-necked Grebe and Bufflehead as well as unusually high numbers of Western Grebes that rewarded us with some wonderfully close views. Searching the harbour front gardens and trees gets us some nice views of more Yellow-rumps and a fleeting glimpse of a Wilsons Warbler as well as many of the usual suspects such as Song Sparrow, Black Phoebe, Northern Mockingbird and Lesser Goldfinch.

By midday the hot weather and high sun had slowed the bird activity so we retraced our steps back to load our luggage onboard the Searcher and head over to Mitch's for a bite of lunch.

We spent the afternoon with a walk out to Shelter Island and watch Bottle-nosed Dolphins, Common Dolphins and Sea lions feeding in the main harbour channel while a walk out on the fishing pier provides us with some wonderfully close views of Brown Pelicans, Surf Scoters, Slavonian Grebes (Horned Grebe), Goosander (Common Merganser), and Great Northern Divers (Common Loon). The walk back provides us with some nice views of Brewers Blackbird and after a long afternoon in the sun we are all feeling a little weary. Nonetheless, it was a great, sunny afternoon in San Diego and a great introduction to the days of wildlife watching that lay ahead.

We all met back onboard the boat for our informal introduction to the Searcher and her crew and after a quick bite to eat we set off into the twinkling lights of the harbour night. A slow detour past the bait pens at the entrance to the harbour provided us with views of California Sea lions, Brandts and Double-crested Cormorants and lots more Herons and Egrets. Heading on, we set out into a gently rolling pacific swell and an easy evenings travel southwards to Ensenada.

Day 3

Thursday 23rd February

Ensenada & Isla Todos Santos

Awake at the sound of the slowing engines and a brief customs stop in ensenada. While Captain Art dealt with passport clearance, some took the opportunity to have their photos taken with the customs guards while others watched the sunrise and enjoyed a coffee on the decks as Surf Scoters, Heermans Gulls, Royal, Elegant and Forsters Terns floated over the harbour. Other nice birds included Osprey, Belted Kingfisher and Great-tailed Grackle. It wasn't long before the customs paperwork was done and we set off once again. Passing the harbour walls as we left Ensenada provided us with some more views of California Sea lions, some Harbour Seals and we were briefly joined by a solitary Bottle-nosed Dolphin as we motored out of harbour.

A brief cruise past Todos Santos Island provided us with some predicted views of the Peregrines that nest on the highest peak of the island, but a scan of the swirling waters around the islands rocky shores provided us with views of | Rhinoceros Auklet, Pelagic Cormorant, Black and American Oystercatchers, and numerous Sea lions and Harbour Seals. A scan of the islands sheltered beaches also provided us with our first views of Northern Elephant Seal too.

This set us all up for the long day of relaxed wildlife watching ahead and as we progressed southward we had some fantastic Common Dolphin activity with a large group of several hundred energetic Long-beaked Common Dolphins playing around the boat. In addition to this we had several close encounters with several Fin Whales, a very active (and recognizable) pair of Humpback Whales that performed a crowd pleasing display of tail lobbing, peck slapping and even a single full breach.... and it was still morning!

The afternoon of travel was a little quieter but it gave us all time to relax a little and we watched as Black-vented Shearwaters, Northern Fulmars, Cassins Auklets, Xantus' Murrelet and even a solitary Laysan Albatross buzzed past the boat as we headed south on a curiously still pacific ocean. It was not long before night descended and as we ate our dinner as the sunset over the pacific and we continued our journey south into the night.

Day 4

Friday 24th February

Isla San Benitos

It was another early start as we enjoyed breakfast as we continued our approach to Isla San Benitos. The seas were calm and we passed hundreds of small Ocean Sunfish as we slowly approached the island. The flat calm seas make for a gentle intro to boarding skiffs and by 10am we set ashore on the gravelly beach and start our days walk around the wonderful desert island under wonderful sunny skies. We stopped for a while to watch the bull Elephant Seals snoozing on the landing beach and watched as two more seals snorted and groaned their way up the beach. The island had obviously had some rain and was looking wonderfully green with lush flushes of flowering San Benito Tarweed, Blue Dicks and San Benito Mallow carpeting the dusty ground. Freshly opened flowers of Coast Agave, Cliff Spurge, Mammillaria cacti and Red Barrel Cacti also provided a welcome display for the plant lovers as we made our way around the island, while Savannah Sparrows, Peregrine, Ospreys, American Kestrels and the odd flurry of Shore Lark activity kept the birdwatchers in the group very busy.

The beaches were covered with a good mixture of Elephant Seals including newly born pups, weaners, big bulls and the odd female. The usual colony of Guadalope Fur Seals was not in its usual haunt but we managed to catch up with a small group of about 30 young animals on the far side of the island. Scanning the rocky shores we also managed to find Black and American Oystercatchers, Marbled Godwit, Whimbrel, Long-billed Curlew, a few Black Turnstones and some even managed to find a lone Black Brant before we completed our walk and made our way back to the landing beach.

After refreshing ourselves with delicious snacks that awaited us back on board the Searcher we headed out onto the pacific once more and continued our way south towards Laguna San Ignacio. The water was quiet, like a mirror, but we managed to spot lots more auklets (with unusually high numbers of Rhinoceros Auklets) and some nice views of shearwaters as they passed the boat.

Day 5

Saturday 25th February

Laguna San Ignacio

After another delicious breakfast everyone took the chance for some early sea watching as we made our approach to the entrance of the lagoon. We passed through a scattered group of Common Dolphins as we travelled but they seemed intent on feeding and were disinterested in the boat. But we did not have long to wait before we started to spot numerous Grey Whales and Bottle-nose Dolphins as we near the entrance of the lagoon. As we started to enter the lagoon we found ourselves surrounded by whales...so many whales in fact that it impeded our progress a little and the boat had to slow all the time to let the whales past! However, Captain Art and his crews' skill and patience soon had the boat safely manoeuvred through the waves over the shallow sand bar at the entrance to the lagoon and we soon set anchor in the sheltered waters of the lagoon. It seemed like only minutes, before whales start approaching the boat, and before long we had adult Grey Whales rubbing on the anchor line, spy-hopping and fluking all around the Searcher. We all began to wonder whether we even needed the pangas! Within ten minutes our three pangas pulled up alongside the Searcher and we all got ourselves ready for our first 'up close and personal' introduction to the Grey Whales in the lagoon. We were not disappointed and our first round of panga trips was amazing with lots of great whale behaviour observed and some lovely close encounters. Some even managed their first chance to touch a whale.

After a couple of hours we headed back to the boat for lunch and with constant whale activity all around Searcher, the whale watching was relentless. After lunch we headed out on the pangas again and were treated to even more encounters and it left everyone feeling that whale watching was all too easy. Such is the magic of these wonderful lagoons!

After dinner we went out onto the back deck of the boat and with the generators off and a wonderfully clear night sky, we were able to enjoy a wonderful starry sky with Venus, Jupiter, Mars and Uranus in full view, shooting stars and listen to the whales all around the boat. It was a wonderful end to a truly 'awesome' days wildlife watching.

Day 6

Sunday 26th February

Laguna San Ignacio

After a good nights sleep at anchor in the shelter of the lagoon, and another hearty breakfast, we headed into the lagoon for some more time with the whales. It was generally overcast and the whales were busy amongst themselves and we had no friendly encounters. Nonetheless, we watched numerous whales at close range for over an hour and witnessed some wonderful behaviour with spy hops, fluking and multiple breaches.

A trip to the mangroves on the edge of the lagoon provided a great chance to see some lovely birds and with excellent light we got good views of Green, Great Blue Herons, Reddish and Snowy Egrets, White Ibis, Long-billed Curlew, Marbled Godwit, Long-billed Dowitcher and Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs. A fleeting glimpse of Mangrove Warbler eluded most of the group... all bar a lucky few that is.

More excursions into the lagoons provided lots of whale encounters and whales around the Searcher were breaching, spy hopping and we even had a shocking view of a mating pair and the elusive and rather spectacular 'pink floyd'!

After a quick lunch back onboard we were all back into the skiffs again, some taking the chance to visit the deserted beach along the edge of the lagoon, others taking one la chance to see more of the whales. The beach group spent their time photographing a myriad of beautiful shells, sand dollars and whale bones and some even found Snowy Plovers feeding along the upper shore. The whale watchers had their final encounters on the now choppy waters of the lagoon. We eventually left the lagoon late in the afternoon and headed south once more into the swell, where a group of Bottle-nose Dolphins led us out into the Pacific Ocean...

Day 7

Monday 27th February

Bahia Magdalena ('Mag Bay')

Having travelled through the night it was another full day of travel as we made our way from San Ignacio down the Baja Peninsula to Cabo San Lucas. A constant vigil was maintained throughout the day in search of marine mammals and birds and we enjoyed some wonderful close encounters with Long-beaked Common Dolphin. A flat calm sea and a blazing sky made for quiet watching but we persevered and were rewarded with sightings of Humpbacks, two Bryde's Whales, a small Blue Whale and two Fin Whales. For the birdwatchers, Magnificent Frigatebird, Red-billed Tropicbirds, Black Storm-petrels, Pink-footed Shearwaters and literally thousands upon thousands of Grey Phalaropes were among the birding highlights of the day. Then, just as the sun began to set, this was all topped off with a wonderful, and very close, encounter with a large Blue Whale! Wow! It was another amazing end to a day on the ocean!

Day 8

Tuesday 28th February

Los Frailes

We rounded lands end at first light and travelled along the southern tip of the Baja Peninsula. After breakfast we encountered a few Humpbacks and dropped the hydrophone over the side of the boat to start the day with some amazing Humpback song (the best that any of us onboard have ever heard). As we continued our journey around the peninsula we encountered more Humpbacks and enjoyed an amazing close encounter with a small group that entertained us with a short display of repeat breaches. We had some nice Bottle-nose activity too with some extended bow riding and even managed to spot a Marlin leaping close to the bow.

At about 1.30pm we anchored at Los Frailes in the Cabo Pulmo Marine Park and spent the afternoon on shore looking at birds and plants around the RV (recreational vehicle) park. We had some amazing hummingbird activity around feeders at a parked RV and, with both Costas and Xantus' Hummingbirds present, we could not resist hanging around to take a closer look. There were plenty of birds around the remaining RV's but it was generally quiet in the costal cactus scrub. Nonetheless a little effort rewarded the keen birders with nice views of Crested Caracara, Turkey Vultures, Grey Thrasher, Hooded and Scotts Oriole, California Quail and Green-tailed Towhee, White-winged, Morning and Common Ground Dove and a handsome pair of Cardinals. Some even managed a brief glimpse of a Phainopepla but the bird refused to show again.

About half the group decided to take advantage of the first chance to snorkel and enjoyed some great visibility and plenty of colourful fish and invertebrates but the chilly water ensured that few people remained in the water for very long. The building winds meant that we remained at anchor in the shelter of the bay for dinner but after an informative talk on whale biology from Rob, we weighed anchor and headed out into a rough night...

Day 9

Wednesday 29th February

Isla San Francisco

After a tough nights travel north into the Sea of Cortez, everyone on board was tired and a little worse for wear; more than ready for a trip ashore. Captain Art selected a sheltered site to anchor off of Isla San Francisco and we set ashore to hike and look for birds along the foreshore. The island supported some amazing cactus 'gardens' but the thumping wind kept many of the small birds down. Nonetheless a search of the boulder beach provided us with some lovely views of Wilsons Plover, American Oystercatcher and some very confident Least Sandpipers allowing everyone with the chance of some good photos. Once again, about half the group opted to go snorkelling but a few choose to stay ashore.

After lunch we weighed anchor and headed out again for an afternoon of whale watching as we headed north. It was still windy but we managed to spot two Fin Whales that gave us the run around for a while but this was more than compensated for by an encounter with an energetic pod of between 500-800 Bottle-nose Dolphins accompanied by a swarm of Brown Pelicans, Frigatebirds, Gulls and Shearwaters.

After an afternoon of pounding through the waves, we eventually anchored off Isla Santa Catalina, providing us with some much needed shelter from the wind and the chance of a good nights sleep.

Day 10

Thursday 1st March

Isla Santa Catalina

After a good nights sleep we set ashore for an early, pre-breakfast walk on Catalina. The birding was a little quiet with the wind but, with a lovely walk through the cacti forests we managed to ring out some nice views of American Kestrel, Verdin, Ash Throated Flycatcher, Hooded Oriole and even a Loggerhead Shrike. The island was parched and dry but a few things in flower included the Giant Cardon Cacti, Desert Nightshade, Arroyo Lupin and a beautiful Red flowering Mistletoe. Despite our best efforts searching we were unable to find any Rattleless Rattlesnakes but we did manage to a few different lizards.

After breakfast back on the boat some of the group took the chance for another snorkel while others opted for a coastal cruise. While the snorkelers managed to spot some interesting species such as the Panamic Crown of Thorns Sea Star and the beautiful Zebra Moray the coastal cruisers managed some nice views of Wandering Tattler, Spotted Sandpiper and lots and lots of Sally Lightfoot Crabs.

After lunch we headed out to whale watch and with a diminishing wind, things were improving. In the settled conditions it was not too long before we were making our approach on a large Blue Whale. We followed it for a while and the whale rewarded us with some fantastic close views and some fluking too!

While we had the weather on our side, we continued to look for more whales. We passed a few Bottle-nose Dolphins as we searched, and then found a nice Fin Whale that entertained us as the sun set. As darkness fell we headed into a sheltered anchorage in the lee of Isla Monserrate and settled in for a quiet night's rest.

Day 11

Friday 2nd March

Tembabichi

The Searcher remained at anchor until 5.50am, then, making use of the improving sea conditions we headed out to search for whales in the deep water to the north and west of Catalina. We spotted several Blue Whales throughout the morning (perhaps as many as 6) but an approach on a cow and calf provided us with some wonderful close views as they dived and surfaced synchronously across our bow.

The calm weather persisted just long enough for us to find a small group of Dwarf Sperm Whales (a shy species rarely spotted in anything other than optimal conditions) and we were afforded some good close views of this rarely observed species before the worsening weather forced us on our way.

We spent the afternoon ashore at Tembabichi, an isolated spot on the mainland, and spent the time looking for birds and plants amidst the coastal cactus scrub. Once again the wind seemed to be against us, making birding difficult but the arid cactus scrub and clear blue skies provided ample opportunities for some nice photographs.

With the high winds upon us once again we remained at anchor until after dinner but at 9pm we raised anchor and motored south; observing some good bioluminescence as we travelled.

Day 12

Saturday 3rd March

Isla San Jose & Los Islotes

We awoke at anchor in the shelter of Isla San Jose and began our day with skiff rides through mangroves. Plagued by strong winds once again, we spend time trying to explore some of the more sheltered bays and channels and the crew's efforts reward us with some extremely close views of Mangrove Warbler as well as nice views of Elegant and Royal Terns, Tri-coloured Heron, Snowy and Great Egrets. With the wind inhibiting what birds we saw, Cameron and Cole both take it upon themselves to go to some extreme lengths to find us some wildlife, and duck dived to show us Penn Scallops and Balloonfish.

By 8.13am the Searcher was ready to raise anchor once again and with strong winds we made our way to Los Islotes. Unfortunately, despite the crew's best efforts, the strong swell, raging current and high winds made it impossible for us to anchor the boat at Los Islotes, let alone snorkel, but with some very skilled helmsmanship Captain Art managed to keep the Searcher on station for over an hour while we watched Blue footed and Brown Booby's on the cliffs and photographed the rafts of Sea lions playing around the boat.

After Los Islotes we headed south to seek shelter behind Isla Partida and tucked into Bahia Ensenada Grande to escape the wind. This gave everyone the chance to swim and snorkel in the turquoise shallow waters of this picturesque bay while others set ashore to explore.

By mid afternoon we were ready to head out again and we continued our journey south towards Cabo. Despite the poor sea conditions, the ride was not too uncomfortable and we sat out on the back deck and watched as Least and Black Storm Petrels fluttered past our wake and Black-vented and Pink-footed Shearwaters zoomed past.

During our final dinner onboard we were entertained by the crew's shirts and all we recounted our favourite moments of what had been (despite the wind) a truly fabulous trip.

Day 13

Sunday 4th March

Cabo San Lucas

We arrived at Cabo in good time and motored slowly into harbour as the sun rose. After a quick bite to eat, we said our farewells and disembarked the Searcher to board our taxis, ready for our long journeys home.

Day 14

Monday 5th March

Arrived back in UK

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Species List

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted)

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March											
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	1	2	3	4
1	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	2			✓	✓							
2	Pacific Diver	<i>Gavia pacifica</i>					✓							
3	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					200+	✓	
4	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>											✓	
5	Western Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>	✓			✓	✓							
6	Horned Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	✓	✓			✓							
7	Laysan Albatross	<i>Phoebastria immutabilis</i>		✓										
8	Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>		✓										
9	Pink-footed Shearwater	<i>Puffinus creatopus</i>		✓	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	
10	Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓		✓			
11	Black-vented Shearwater	<i>Puffinus opisthomelas</i>		✓	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	
12	Black Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma melania</i>						✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
13	Least Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma microsoma</i>							✓			✓	✓	
14	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>					✓	✓	✓	30+	✓	✓	✓	
15	Red-billed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon aethereus</i>			✓			✓					✓	
16	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
17	Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>							✓	✓		✓	✓	
18	Blue-footed Booby	<i>Sula nebouxii</i>									✓	✓	✓	
19	Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
20	Pelagic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i>		✓										
21	Brandt's Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	
22	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	✓				✓				✓	✓	✓	
23	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>				✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	
24	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	✓									✓	✓	
25	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	✓									✓		
26	Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>					✓						✓	
27	Reddish Egret	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>	✓				✓					✓	✓	
28	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	✓									✓		
29	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax violacea</i>					✓					✓	✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March											
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	1	2	3	4
30	Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	✓				✓							
31	White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>				✓	✓						✓	
32	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>												
33	Black Brant	<i>Branta bernicla</i>			✓	✓	✓							
34	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓											
35	Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	✓											
36	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>					✓							
37	Common Merganser	<i>Mergus mergus</i>	✓											
38	Surf Scoter	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓					
39	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
40	Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>			✓									
41	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>								✓			✓	
42	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓	
43	Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>							✓					
44	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		✓				2				✓	✓	
45	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>			✓					✓	✓			
46	American Black Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus bachmani</i>		✓	✓		✓						✓	
47	American Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>		✓	✓					✓		✓		
48	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>										✓		
49	Snowy Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>					✓							
50	Wilson's Plover	<i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>								✓				
51	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>					✓							
52	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>					✓					✓		
53	Willet	<i>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓							
54	Wandering Tattler	<i>Heteroscelus incanus</i>									✓			
55	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	✓								✓		✓	
56	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus</i>			✓	✓						✓	✓	
57	Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>			✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	
58	Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>	✓				✓							
59	Black Turnstone	<i>Arenaria melanocephala</i>			✓			✓					✓	
60	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>				✓	✓							
61	Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>					✓			✓		✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March												
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	1	2	3	4	
62	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	✓								✓		✓	✓	
63	Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>						✓							
64	Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalopus fulicarius</i>		✓					✓			✓		✓	
65	South Polar Skua	<i>Stercorarius maccormicki</i>									✓		✓		
66	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>				1			✓	✓			✓		
67	Glaucus-winged Gull	<i>Larus glaucescens</i>			✓										
68	Sabines Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>													✓
69	Heermann's Gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
70	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	✓	✓											
71	California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>		✓		✓	✓								
72	Yellow-footed Gull	<i>Larus livens</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	
73	Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
74	Royal Tern	<i>Sterna maxima</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	
75	Elegant Tern	<i>Sterna elegans</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	
76	Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>		✓											
77	Xantus' Murrelet	<i>Synthliboramphus hypoleucus</i>		✓	✓										
78	Craveri's Murrelet	<i>Synthliboramphus craveri</i>										✓	✓		
79	Cassins' Auklet	<i>Ptychoramphus aleuticus</i>		✓	✓				✓				✓		
80	Rhinoceros Auklet	<i>Cyclorhynchus psittacula</i>		✓											
81	White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>								✓		✓			
82	Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	✓												
83	Common Ground Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>								✓					
84	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓												
85	Liliac-headed Parrot	<i>Amazona finschi</i>	✓												
86	Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	✓												
87	Costa's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte costae</i>								✓					
88	Xantus' Hummingbird	<i>Hylocharis xantusii</i>								✓	✓				
89	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>		✓								✓		✓	
90	Gila Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes uropygialis</i>								✓		✓			
91	Ladder-backed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides scalaris</i>								✓					
92	Ash-throated Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>										✓			
93	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	✓							✓					

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March											
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	1	2	3	4
94	Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>			✓									
95	Loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>									✓	✓		
96	Western Scrub Jay	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>								✓				
97	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>			✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	
98	American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	✓											
99	Verdin	<i>Auriparus flaviceps</i>								✓	✓	✓	✓	
100	Cactus Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i>			✓									
101	Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	✓	✓		✓				✓		✓		
102	Grey Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma cinereum</i>								✓		✓		
103	California Thrasher	<i>Toxostomaredivivum</i>			✓									
104	European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓			✓								
105	Phainopepla	<i>Phainopepla nitens</i>								✓				
106	Wilson's Warbler	<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>	✓											
107	Mangrove Warbler	<i>Dendroica bryanti</i>							✓				✓	
108	Audubon's Warbler	<i>Dendroica auduboni</i>	✓			✓								
109	Black-throated Gray Warbler	<i>Dendroica nigrescens</i>										✓		
110	Townsend's Warbler	<i>Dendroica townsendi</i>	✓											
111	Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>								✓		✓		
112	Green-tailed Towhee	<i>Pipilo chlorurus</i>				✓				✓				
113	Black-throated Sparrow	<i>Amphispiza bilineata</i>								✓	✓			✓
114	Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓						
115	Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	✓			✓								
116	White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>			✓	✓								
117	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓							✓				
118	Oregon Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>												
119	Tricolored Blackbird	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>												
120	Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>												
121	Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>												
122	Scott's Oriole	<i>Icterus parisorum</i>								✓				
123	Hooded Oriole	<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>								✓		✓		
124	House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	✓			✓						✓		
125	Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis psaltria</i>	✓			✓				✓				

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March											
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	1	2	3	4
Mammals														
1	Gray Whale	<i>Eschrichtius robustus</i>		5		✓	✓							
2	Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>						✓			1	3+		
3	Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>		7				✓			1	1		
4	Brydes Whale	<i>Balaenoptera edeni</i>						✓						
5	Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>		2				✓	37+					
6	Dwarf Sperm Whale	<i>Kogia sima</i>										3		
7	Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	✓	5		✓	✓		29		✓			
8	Long-beaked Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus capensis</i>		50	✓			✓						
9	Pacific White-sided Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus obliquidens</i>		7										
10	Short-beaked Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	✓	100+										
11	Harbour Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>		✓										
12	California Sea Lion	<i>Zalophus californianus</i>	✓	✓	✓						✓		✓	
13	Guadalupe Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus townsendi</i>			30			✓						
14	Northern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga angustirostris</i>		✓	100's									
15	Black-tailed Jackrabbit	<i>Lepus californicus</i>							✓			✓		
16	Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus lateralis</i>							✓					

Reptiles & Amphibians

1	Green Turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>				✓							
2	Common Sideblotched Lizard	<i>Uta stansburiana</i>	✓	✓	✓						✓		✓
3	Baja California 'rattleless' Rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus enyo</i>									✓		

Fish

Balloonfish, *Diodon holocanthus*
 California Needlefish, *Strongylura exilis*
 Giant Damselfish, *Microspathodon dorsalis*
 Hogfish, *Bodianus diplotaenia*
 Ocean Sunfish, *Mola mola*
 Remora, *Remora remora*
 Yellowtail Surgeonfish, *Prionurus punctatus*
 Mullet

Beaubrummel, *Eupomacentrus flavilatus*
 Cortez Damselfish, *Eupomacentrus rectifraenum*
 Giant Hawkfish, *Cirrhidae cirrhitus*
 King Angelfish, *Holocanthus passer*
 Panamic Green Moray, *Gymnothorax castaneus*
 Scalloped Hammerhead Shark, *Sphyrna lewini*
 Zebra Moray, *Gymnomuraena zebra*

California Flying Fish, *Cypselurus californicus*
 Cortez Rainbow Wrasse, *Thalassoma lucasanum*
 Golden Grouper, *Ephinephelus alexandrinus*
 Manta Ray, *Manta birostris*
 Reef Cornetfish, *Fistularia commersonii*
 Striped Marlin, *Tetrapturus audax*
 Grey Smelt