

# Baja California & Sea of Cortez

Naturetrek Tour Report

7 - 20 March 2012

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Elephant Seal relaxing



Humpback breaching



Grey Whale calf



Osprey on nest

Report compiled by Lee Morgan



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	Art Taylor	Searcher Captain
	Peter Gaede	Local Guide & Naturalist

Participants:

- Liz Scott
- David Naylor
- Joyce Naylor
- Alan Gibson
- Joy Buckley
- Gerry Young
- Jackie Young
- Chris Shields
- Liz Stuart
- Val Guarin
- Joanne Lasnier
- Chris Sullivan
- Mary Sullivan
- Jan McCroddan
- Rosetta Neale
- Nicky Godbold
- Paula Bridge
- Hilary Perring
- Chris Pearce
- David Bew
- Glynis Bew
- George Reekie
- Jill Wright
- Margaret Gray
- Lisa Brydon

## Day 1

**Wednesday 7th March**

After a long flight from Heathrow the group finally arrived in a rather cool and windy San Diego a little ahead of schedule and we soon got everyone shuttled to the hotel.

After a long days travel everyone was ready for a good nights sleep and after a quick run through the planned itinerary for the next day we all retired for an early night.

## Day 2

## Thursday 8th March

### San Diego Harbour and Departure on Searcher

A beautiful sunny start to the day and after a leisurely breakfast most of the group headed out to search for birds and other wildlife around the harbour where we spent some time watching the displaying Anna's Hummingbirds, watching the Black-necked and Western Grebes cruising around the harbour shallows and searching for sparrows, finches and warblers in and around the waterfront gardens. A local tip-off provided us with some nice views of two juvenile Black-crowned Night Herons too.

Some of the group had opted to spend the day at San Diego Zoo, a truly world class zoological collection and with bright sunny skies, what a day they had for it!

The harbour group returned to check out of our hotel at about midday and we wandered over to fisherman's landing to load our luggage onboard the Searcher. The hot weather and high sun had slowed the bird activity so most of us headed over to Mitch's for a bite of lunch.

At 2pm we spent the afternoon with a walk out to Shelter Island and enjoyed some fantastic views of Ring-billed, Heermann's and Western Gulls, fishing Ospreys and pelicans and a very confiding Pacific Diver. A gentle potter out to the fishing pier provided us with some wonderfully close views Brewer's Blackbird, Surf Scoters, Marbled Godwits, Willet and quite a few Snowy Egrets.

We returned to the Searcher early in the afternoon, giving everyone the chance to relax onboard, grab a coffee and a bite to eat, and for the keen photographers a chance to test their trigger fingers on the bizarrely confiding Black-necked Grebes and Snowy Egrets that were fishing all around the boat. We all remained on 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, 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

## Friday 9th March

### Ensenada & Isla Todos Santos

We were awake at the sound of the slowing engines and had a brief customs stop in Ensenada. While Captain Art dealt with passport clearance, some took the opportunity to have a coffee and slowly wake up whilst seated on the back deck of the boat. This afforded us some great wildlife watching because, as the sun started to rise Heermans Gulls, Royal Terns and even a Caspian Tern passed over the harbour while Bottle-Nosed Dolphins passed straight by the boat. Once the paperwork was completed, we were hurried out of our mooring in the harbour and we motored our way slowly out of harbour where we spotted Belted Kingfisher, Whimbrel and Great-tailed Grackle as we scanned along the harbour walls, as well as numerous Sea Lions and even the odd Harbour Seal.

A brief cruise past Todos Santos Island provided us with some more predicted views of the Peregrines that nest on the highest peak of the island, but a scan along the rocky shore provided us with some great views of Brants and Double-crested Cormorant, Black 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 that dwarfed the tiny harbour seals that lay alongside them. 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 Long-beaked Common Dolphins bow riding and playing around the boat in the clear, still waters.

As we motored slowly south on a wonderfully calm Pacific Ocean we enjoyed some amazing views of hundreds of Black-vented, Sooty and Pink-footed Shearwaters, Northern Fulmars, Cassin's Auklets, Xantus' Murrelet and even a solitary Laysan. Bouts of bird watching were also broken up by numerous encounters with northbound Grey Whales and by 10.30am we had passed over 30+ individual whales. The afternoon of travel was a little quieter but it gave us all time to relax and watch as Ocean Sunfish drifted slowly past and even the odd Manta Ray passed us by. It was not long before night descended and with a wonderfully intense sunset and a fabulous sight of the all too elusive Green Flash at sunset, we drew an end to the day's wildlife watching and retired to the salon for dinner.

## Day 4

Saturday 10th March

### Isla San Benitos

It was another early start as we enjoyed breakfast as we continued our approach to Isla San Benitos. The seas were flat calm and as we ate breakfast we watched the auklets and murrelets, and Heermann's Gulls drift past and a few people managed to get a brief glimpse of a Black-footed Albatross.

The flat calm seas made for a gentle intro to boarding skiffs and by 10 am we set ashore on the gravelly beach and started our days' walk around the wonderful desert island under a sunny sky. 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, White crowned Sparrow and the odd flurry of Shore Lark activity kept the birdwatchers in the group busy.

The beaches were covered with a good mixture of Elephant Seals including newly born pups, weaners, big bulls and the odd female. The colony of Guadalupe Fur Seals was not in its usual haunt but the numbers had picked up considerably with over two hundred animals present in the water and on the rocks on the far side of the island. The activity was so good in fact that a few of the group decided not to go on the hike around the island but remained with the seals all day. Scanning the rocky shores we also managed to find American Oystercatchers, a few Black Turnstones and a small flock of 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 and shearwaters as they passed the boat.

## Day 5

Sunday 11th March

### 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-nosed Dolphins as we neared the entrance of the lagoon. As we started to enter the lagoon we found ourselves surrounded by whales! We were soon safely over the waves and over the shallow sand bar at the entrance to the lagoon and set anchor in the sheltered waters of the lagoon. It seemed like only minutes before whales started 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 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 resulted in camera motor drives in overdrive with some amazing whale behaviour observed. Some had some incredible close encounters with 'friendly' whales that played with the pangas and some even managed their first chance to touch a whale. After an amazing couple of hours on the lagoon we headed back to the boat for lunch and even during our lunch we were able to continually watch whale activity all around the Searcher. 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 all 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, and we watched shooting stars and listened to the whales all around the boat. With the lights off we were also able to observe some amazing bioluminescence around the boat and with the ship's ladder and anchor line glowing bright green in the darkness, we watched as fish darted through the dark water; leaving bright green tracers as they scattered. Some even watched as the massive ghostly glow of a bioluminescent Grey Whale passed directly under the stern of the boat; a truly awesome sight!

## Day 6

Monday 12th March

### Laguna San Ignacio

After a good night's 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 an excellent 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 for most of the group too.

More excursions into the lagoons provided lots of whale encounters and whales around the Searcher breaching, spy hopping etc, and even more friendly whales - some pangas enjoyed a full session with 7 friendly whales all around the boat .all vying for our attention, bumping the boat and soaking us (seemingly deliberately) with subsurface blows and splashing flukes.

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 last chance to see more of the whales. The beach group spent their time birdwatching, enjoying the peace and tranquillity of the empty beach and photographing a myriad of beautiful shells, sand dollars and whale bones. The whale watchers had their final magical encounters of the day on the now still waters of the lagoon.

We eventually left the lagoon late in the afternoon and headed south once more into the swell of the Pacific where a few Bottle-nosed Dolphins led us out into the ocean.

## Day 7

**Tuesday 13th March**

### 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 'travel' day on the ocean.

## Day 8

**Wednesday 14th March**

### Gorda Banks and Los Frailes

We rounded lands end a little after sunrise, travelling along the southern tip of the Baja Peninsula. We spotted one or two Humpbacks and numerous Frigate-birds and were even joined briefly by a playful group of common dolphins as we travelled. After breakfast we dropped the hydrophone over the side of the boat to start the day listening to some amazing Humpback song.

We continued our journey around the peninsula for much of the rest of the day, spotting numerous Humpbacks and even managed a rare glimpse of several (but not amazingly active) Dwarf Sperm Whales. We observed some great Humpback Whale behaviour as we travelled but most of the whales were more interested in each other rather than in us. Nonetheless, Art and the crew worked hard to find us some approachable whales but they remained relatively elusive until after lunch when we found a cow calf pair and an escort animal that entertained us for a while with some repeat breaches, pectoral flipper slaps and some massive tail lobes and lunges. We also encountered a large group of dark coloured, 'off-shore' race Bottle-nosed Dolphins and despite them being a little preoccupied with hunting, some did indulge in a little frolicking activity around the boat with some extended bow riding. One or two even managed some spectacular leaps in the wake of the boat.

At about 4.00pm we anchored at Los Frailes in the Cabo Pulmo Marine Park and spent the early evening on shore looking for birds and plants around the RV park. We encountered some amazing hummingbird activity around feeders, a parked RV and, with an invite from the campers to take a closer look, we couldn't resist huddling around the bright red feeder in the hope of a photo or two. Both Costa's and Xantus' Hummingbirds were still present and we all got some excellent views of these tiny colourful birds.

There were plenty of birds around the surrounding cactus scrub too and with a short wander around in the cooling afternoon air we managed some nice views of Turkey Vultures, Grey Thrasher, Hooded and Scott's Oriole, White-winged, Mourning and Common Ground Dove, and Northern Cardinal. Some even managed a brief but very close glimpse of a Pyrrhuloxia but despite our best efforts the bird refused to show again for the rest of the group to see. After a couple of hours ashore we returned to the beach where the skiffs were ready to take us back to the boat. We raised anchor once more and headed out into the night, heading north into the Sea of Cortez.

## Day 9

Thursday 15th March

### Isla San Jose

After a still night's travel north into the Sea of Cortez, we woke early to a flat calm sea and a beautiful sunrise illuminated the sandstone cliffs of Colorado Point. After an early breakfast enjoying the scenery, we loaded up the skiffs for a coastal skiff ride to get a closer look at the fabulous geology of the island and to take a closer look at the wildlife on the lower shore. It proved to be a wonderful way to start the day and we got some amazing views of colourful Sally Lightfoot Crabs, a solitary Spotted Sandpiper and Turkey Vultures patrolling the cliffs.

After the skiff ride we returned to the boat to grab our things for a trip ashore where we explored an arroyo to look for birds and lizards. Peter managed to snare a nice Zebra-tailed Lizard while the group got some nice views of the island's endemic race of Whiptail Lizard. Birding was slow in the intense heat and we did not stay in the arroyo for long, but we managed some good views of our first Ash-throated Flycatcher and a Verdin too. We spent some time looking for fossils in the rocks along the shore and managed to find a nice turtle shell fossil and a huge whale's vertebrae imbedded in the rock before we eventually returned to the boat.

As our usual snorkelling spot had been inundated with people from an interloping boat, we moved along the shore to another nice snorkelling spot where we enjoyed the warm(ish) water and lots of colourful fish along the rocky reefs.

After lunch we weighed anchor and headed out to look for whales. With a mirror-like sea and clear sunny skies we could not ask for better conditions and it was not long before we spotted our first Dwarf Sperm Whale and made an approach to get another look at this rarely seen species. However, with bigger fish to fry, we did not spend too long before continuing with our search for larger whales. The quiet seas made it easy to spot the numerous tiny Black Storm Petrels buzzing over the water, the Craveri's Murrelets as they surfaced from their fishing dives, and some even managed to find the odd Least Petrel too. After a while we spotted a few distant blows and we headed off to investigate. As the sun lowered in the sky, we found ourselves in the midst of an aggregation of at least six Blue Whales, including a cow calf pair that we watched in awe as they dived all around us and fluked repeatedly; all to the sound of whirring camera motor drives of course. We ended the day with a blazing sunset and as we set anchor in the shelter of Isla Catalina we placed a light over the side and watch as Greenjacks swarmed in the water around us.

## Day 10

## Friday 16th March

### Isla Santa Catalina

After a good nights sleep we set ashore for an early, pre-breakfast walk on Catalina. The birding was slow to start but, with a lovely walk through the Giant Cardon and Wavy Barrel Cactus forests we managed to get some good views of Verdin, Northern Cardinal, Ash-throated Flycatcher and Black-throated Sparrow. We even managed a distant scope view of Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Harrier, and a Red-tailed Hawk too. The island was very dry but there were plenty of flowers on the Giant Cardon Cacti. Despite our best efforts searching we were, once again unable to find any of the endemic Rattleless Rattlesnakes but we did manage to find a few different lizards including Huntsackers Spiny Lizard, Large Land Iguana and the turquoise tailed, endemic race of the Catalina Side-blotched Lizard.

After a quick change back onboard the boat, about half the group took the chance for another snorkel while others opted for a crazy coastal cruise. It can only be said that the cruisers made the right decision as a swarm of tiny jellyfish and sea nettles made snorkelling incredibly uncomfortable. Nonetheless, the snorkelers had some great visibility and managed to spot some interesting species such as the Panamic Crown of Thorns Starfish and plenty of large fish such as King Angelfish, Giant Blue Damsels and the odd Giant Hawkfish. The coastal cruisers managed some nice views of Wandering Tattler, Spotted Sandpiper and lots and lots of Sally Light-foot Crabs too.

After lunch we headed out of anchor for an afternoon of whale watching. In the flat calm sea conditions we could see that the seabird numbers in the area were fantastic and we spotted numerous Long-tailed Skuas, hundreds of Least Storm Petrels, Red-billed Tropicbird, Grey Phalaropes and Craveri's Murrelets. We headed north for a while and eventually spotted a few spouts. These turned out to be even more Blue Whales (this trip was certainly turning out to be a Blue Whale extravaganza) and after a gentle approach on two very relaxed individuals the whales rewarded us with some fantastic close views and some fluking ....right in front of the boat!

After watching the whales for a while we became distracted by a commotion in the water a mile or so to the north of our position and we headed off course to investigate (in the hope of finding some dolphins or Pilot Whales). In the end it turned out to be an unusually large group of large California Sea Lions that appeared to have been feeding offshore and was now travelling east. We watched for a while as they porpoised out of the water and popped their heads up to check us out, but it was not long before we opted to move off and begin heading southwest. We enjoyed an amazing sunset as we approached our anchorage for the evening, Bahia Agua Verde, and after dinner and our evening program of activities we watched as swarms of mackerel hunted for krill around the boat.

## Day 11

Saturday 17th March

### Agua Verde

The Searcher remained at anchor off Agua Verde and after a relaxed breakfast we headed ashore to look for birds and wildlife amidst the dense desert scrub and along the lush palm-lined water courses. A walk through the scrub provided us with great views of California Quail, Phainopepla, Bells Vireo and White-winged Dove while a prolonged stop at a small waterhole proved to be particularly productive, giving us some nice views of White-crowned Sparrows, Hooded Orioles, Common Yellowthroat, Pyrrhuloxia, and Cactus Wren. The butterflies were good too and amidst the numerous Queens fluttering around every flowering bush, we spotted Clouded and Dainty Sulphurs, Red Admirals and West Coast Ladies.

After a quick trip back to the boat for refreshments, half the group opted to go on a crazy coastal cruise along the sheltered coast and take in the splendour of solitary rock and photograph the numerous Heermann's Gulls, Brown Pelicans and Brown Boobies. The remainder of the group opted to go snorkelling ...provided that is that Lee went in first and tested the water for sea nettles and jellyfish! Well, having tested the water and found out where not to swim... we all got in and enjoyed our best snorkel of the trip with fabulous rocky reef, lots of wonderful fish (including a nice Green Moray and Stone Sea-scorpion) and great visibility.

After lunch we headed out for an afternoon making use of the wonderful sea conditions to search for whales. We spotted several Blue Whales throughout the afternoon and even more Dwarf Sperm Whales but the real highlight was encountering a large pod of Long-beaked Common Dolphins that played around the boat and generally followed us as we headed slowly south.

## Day 12

Sunday 18th March

### Isla San Jose & Los Islotes

We awoke at anchor on the sheltered south-western end of Isla San Jose and began our day with pre-breakfast skiff rides through the mangroves where we got some extremely close views of Mangrove Yellow Warbler as well as nice views of Royal Terns, Tri-coloured, Little Blue and Great Blue Heron, Snowy and Great Egrets, Western and Least Sandpipers and even a fleeting glimpse of a Northern Waterthrush. Both Aaron and Cole also managed to catch us Balloonfish and Spotted Puffers and show us the fish's ability to inflate their bodies as a defence mechanism.

After returning to the boat, we enjoyed a hearty breakfast and motored off once again, heading south for Los Islotes. The wind had picked up a little and we scanned the sea as we travelled, in hope of more whales and dolphins. By mid morning we had encountered several more Blue Whales and had several more wonderful close encounters with cow and calf pairs. We even had time to indulge the biologists' onboard natural curiosity and take a closer look at a dead Common Dolphin that we found floating at the surface, although the tongue-in-cheek suggestion of dragging it aboard for a full autopsy was not met with the same level of interest.

We arrived at Los Islotes at about midday where, in slightly choppy seas and with a cool wind blowing (something we had become rather unaccustomed to over the previous weeks), we boarded the skiffs for a closer look at the wonderful seabird cliffs where we watched displaying Blue-footed Boobies and got up close and personal to the islands beaches covered in California Sea Lions.

After an hour or so on the boats we returned to the Searcher and most of the group prepared for our opportunity to snorkel with the Sea lions. Things were looking good and everyone was excited. The sea state had flattened off completely, the sun had come out the visibility looked good and there appeared to be no jellyfish in the water! We weren't in the water five minutes and the Sea lions moved in to play and everyone enjoyed a wonderful hour in the water watching Sea lion pups nibbling at our fins, blowing bubbles in our faces and generally zooming around us in excitement. At one point even the adults, including a huge bull, joined in with the fun. Even Captain Kenny, who was manning the skiff at the time, found a playmate in a small Sea lion pup that played with the mooring line of the skiff and would not leave him alone.

After such wonderful encounters, we all left Los Islotes on a high, and we raised anchor and headed south once again, searching for more cetaceans as we headed for Cabo. Within five minutes of raising anchor we had an unexpected encounter with a Grey Whale, but we were not the only one to notice the whale and with an inelegant approach from a persistent panga operator out of La Paz, we decided to give the whale some space so it could easily make its escape from the inexperienced whale watcher.

An encounter with a large group of approximately 400 Long-beaked Common Dolphins that played around the boat as we travelled provided welcome respite from all the Blue Whale activity we had been seeing (That's a sentence I never thought I would ever say!) and some repeated breaching provided everyone with some great photo opportunities. We continued our journey south, making use of every last minute of daylight to search for whales. We finished our day watching Humpbacks in a blazing sunset, before we finally retired to the salon for our last dinner onboard the Searcher, during which we shared our best experiences of the trip and expressed our thanks to captain Art and his fantastic crew.

## Day 13

Monday 19th March

### Cabo San Lucas

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

## Day 14

Tuesday 20th March

Return to UK

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## Species Lists

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	March													
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
1	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>					✓	2								
2	Pacific Diver	<i>Gavia pacifica</i>		1	✓											
3	Red Throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>			3											
4	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>		20+	✓			1								
5	Western Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>			✓	✓	✓	3			36		45	✓		
8	Laysan Albatross	<i>Pheobasria immutabilis</i>			✓		✓									
9	Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>			4											
11	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>			1	1										
12	Pink-footed Shearwater	<i>Puffinus creatopus</i>			100+		✓		✓	✓		12+				
13	Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>			20+	✓	✓		✓							
14	Black-vented Shearwater	<i>Puffinus opisthomelas</i>			1000+	✓	✓		✓	✓	1	✓				
17	Black Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma melania</i>			1						20	200+	6+	100+	✓	
18	Least Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma microsoma</i>									3	300+	2			
19	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>							✓	40+	5	✓	20+	✓		
20	Red-billed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon aethereus</i>							5			✓		✓		
21	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
22	Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>										✓	10	✓		
23	Blue-footed Booby	<i>Sula nebouxii</i>								1		✓	3	✓		
24	Masked Booby	<i>Sula dactylactra</i>				3	1									
26	Brandt's Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
27	Pelagic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i>			✓											
28	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓		
29	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓				✓		✓		
30	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>		✓			✓	✓						✓		
31	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>		✓			✓	✓					✓	✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	March													
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
32	Tricoloured Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>							✓						✓	
33	Reddish Egret	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>							✓						✓	
34	Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>							✓						✓	
35	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		✓											✓	
36	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax violacea</i>							✓						✓	
37	White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>						✓	✓						✓	
40	Black Brant	<i>Branta bernicla</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓								
41	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓												
42	Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>													✓	
43	Surf Scoter	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓							
44	Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>		✓												
47	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>				✓						1	✓			
48	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		✓		✓	✓						✓		✓	
51	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>			✓	✓	✓									
52	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>			✓											
53	Californian quail	<i>Callipepla californica</i>						✓						✓		
56	American Black Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus bachmani</i>			✓											
57	American Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>				✓			✓				✓	✓		
59	Snowy Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>							✓		✓					
63	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>							✓						✓	
65	Willet	<i>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</i>		✓					✓						✓	
66	Wandering Tattler	<i>Heteroscelus incanus</i>											✓			
67	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>		✓									✓	✓		
68	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>			✓										✓	
69	Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>						✓	✓							
70	Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>		✓					✓							
72	Black Turnstone	<i>Arenaria melanocephala</i>			✓											
73	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>				✓										

	Common name	Scientific name	March													
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
74	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>				✓	✓							✓		
76	Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>					✓	✓							✓	
77	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>							✓					✓	✓	
79	Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalopus fulicarius</i>			50+	✓							✓			
82	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>					✓	✓	✓				1			
83	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>			1											
84	Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>										3	✓	1		
87	Heermann's Gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
88	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>		✓	✓	✓										
89	American Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>			✓											
90	California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>			✓	✓	✓									
91	Yellow-footed Gull	<i>Larus livens</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
92	Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓									
93	Glaucous-winged Gull	<i>Larus glaucescens</i>			1	✓										
94	Sabine's Gull	<i>Larus sabini</i>			1											
95	Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>			2	6										
96	Royal Tern	<i>Sterna maxima</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								✓
97	Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>			1		✓	✓								
98	Elegant Tern	<i>Sterna elegans</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓								
100	Xantus' Murrelet	<i>Synthliboramphus hypoleucus</i>			✓	✓	✓									
101	Craveri's Murrelet	<i>Synthliboramphus craveri</i>										30	✓	✓		
103	Rhinoceros Auklet	<i>Cerorhinca monocerata</i>			✓	✓	✓									
104	Rock/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columbia livia</i>		✓	✓		✓									
105	Eurasian Collard Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓												
106	White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>									✓		✓	✓		
107	Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>		✓												
108	Common Ground Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>									✓					
109	Lilac Crowned Parrot	<i>Amazona finschi</i>		✓												

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			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
112	White-throated Swift	<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>											✓				
114	Costa's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte costae</i>										✓			✓		
115	Xantus' Hummingbird	<i>Hylocharis xantusii</i>										✓					
116	Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>		✓									✓				
117	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>		✓	✓										✓	✓	
118	Gila Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes uropygialis</i>										✓		✓	✓		
119	Ladder-backed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides scalaris</i>										✓		✓			
121	Ash-throated Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>											✓	✓	✓		
124	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>		✓	✓												
125	Vermillion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>													✓		
128	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>													✓		
129	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>				✓											
130	Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>													✓		
131	Western Scrub Jay	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>													✓		
132	American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>		✓											✓		
133	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓	✓	✓									✓		
134	Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>			✓												
135	Verdin	<i>Auriparus flaviceps</i>										✓		✓	✓		
136	Cactus Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i>													✓		
138	Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>													✓		
139	California Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila californica</i>													✓		
141	Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>		✓	✓							✓			✓		
142	Grey Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma cinereum</i>										✓			✓		
143	Sage Thrasher	<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>										✓					
145	European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓													✓
146	Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>											✓				
147	Phainopepla	<i>Phainopepla nitens</i>													✓		
149	(Mangrove) Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica bryanti</i>								✓						✓	

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			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
150	Yellow Rumped Warbler Audubon's	<i>Dendroica coronata 'auduboni'</i>		✓	✓											
154	Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>												✓		
155	Yellow Breasted Chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>												H		
157	MacGillivray's Warbler	<i>Oporornis tolmiei</i>												✓		
161	Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>										✓		✓		
162	Pyrrhuloxia	<i>Cardinalis sinuatis</i>										✓		✓		
164	Green-tailed Towhee	<i>Pipilo chlorurus</i>												✓		
167	Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>		✓												
170	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓								✓		✓		✓
171	White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>			✓									✓		
173	Great Tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>			✓											
174	Brewers Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>		✓												
175	Scott's Oriole	<i>Icterus parisorum</i>										✓				
176	Hooded Oriole	<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>										✓		✓		
177	House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>		✓								✓		✓		
178	Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis psaltria</i>														

## Mammals

1	Gray Whale	<i>Eschrichtius robustus</i>		40+	1	✓	✓									
2	Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>						9+		8	6	3	4			
3	Bryde's Whale	<i>Balaenoptera edeni</i>		?				1								
4	Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>						5	30+				1			
5	Dwarf Sperm Whale	<i>Kogia simus</i>								5	✓	7	✓	✓	✓	
6	Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>			✓	✓	✓			200+	30+	✓				
7	Long-beaked Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus capensis</i>		✓						200+			400	400		
8	Short-beaked Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>							500+							
9	California Sea Lion	<i>Zalophus californianus</i>			✓											
10	Northern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga angustirostris</i>		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓		

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			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
11	Guadalupe Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus townsendi</i>				200+										
12	Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>				✓										
13	California Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus beecheyi</i>		✓												
14	Black-tailed Jackrabbit	<i>Lepus californicus</i>								✓						

## Reptiles

1	Loggerhead Turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	5	Baja Spiny Lizard	<i>Sceloporus zosteromus</i>
2	Green Sea Turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	6	Side-blotched Lizard	<i>Uta squamata</i>
3	Desert Iguana	<i>Dipsosaurus dorsalis</i>	7	Western Whip Tail	<i>Cnemidophorus sp.</i>
4	Zebra-tailed Lizard	<i>Callisaurus draconoides</i>	8	Western Skink	<i>Eumeces skiltonianus</i>

## Fish

1	Balloonfish	<i>Diodon holocanthus</i>	18	King Angelfish	<i>Holocanthus passer</i>
2	Barracuda	<i>Sphyraena lucasana</i>	19	Mackerel	<i>Scomberomorus sp.</i>
3	Beaubrummel	<i>Eupomacentrus flavilatus</i>	20	Mexican Goatfish	<i>Mulloidichthys dentatus</i>
4	Bluechin Parrotfish	<i>Scarus ghobban</i>	21	Manta Ray (Moghula)	<i>Manta birostris</i>
5	Bumphead Damselfish	<i>Microspathodon bairdi</i>	22	Needlefish	<i>Strongylura exilis</i>
6	California Flying Fish	<i>Cypselurus californicus</i>	23	Ocean Sunfish	<i>Mola mola</i>
7	Cortez Angelfish	<i>Pomocanthus zonipectus</i>	24	Panamic Green Moray	<i>Gymnothorax castaneus</i>
8	Cortez Chub	<i>Kyphosuselegans</i>	25	Panamic Sergeant Major	<i>Abuldefduf troschelii</i>
9	Cortez Damselfish	<i>Eupomacentrus rectifraenum</i>	26	Remora (Suckerfish)	<i>Remora remora</i>
10	Cortez Rainbow Wrasse	<i>Thalassoma lucasanum</i>	27	Reef Cornetfish	<i>Fistularia commersonii</i>
11	Fine-spotted Jawfish	<i>Opistognathus sp.</i>	28	Scalloped Hammerhead Shark	<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>
12	Garibaldi Fish	<i>Hypsypops rubicundus</i>	29	Scissortail Damselfish	<i>Chromis atrilobata</i>
13	Giant Damselfish	<i>Microspathodon dorsalis</i>	30	Scorpionfish	<i>Scorpaena guttata</i>
14	Giant Hawkfish	<i>Cirrhitidae cirrhitus</i>	31	Spotted Boxfish	<i>Ostracion meleagris</i>
15	Hammerhead Shark	<i>Sphyrna mokarran</i>	32	Striped Marlin	<i>Tetrapturus audax</i>
16	Hogfish	<i>Bodianus diplotaenia</i>	33	Surgeon Fish sp.	<i>Acanthurus sp.</i>
17	Jack sp.	<i>Euthynnus sp.</i>			