

Baja California & Sea of Cortez

Naturetrek Tour Report

23 February - 8 March 2014



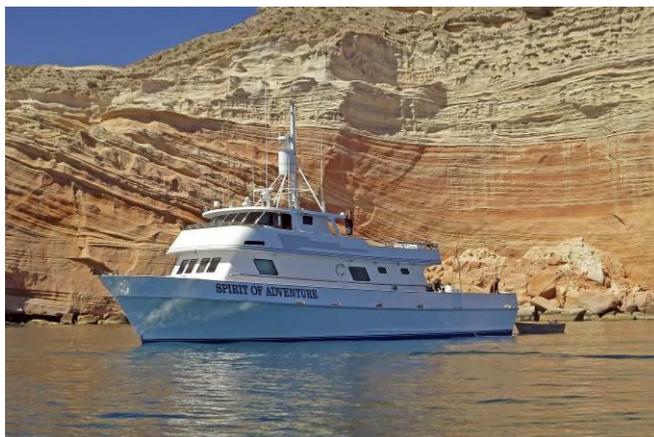
Humpback breaching close to the boat



Friendly Gray Whales in Ignacio Lagoon



Short-beaked Common Dolphins



Spirit of Adventure at Point Colorado

Report & cover images compiled by Peter Dunn
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Sue Burnley
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Day 1

Sunday 23rd February

Twenty of us left Heathrow in the afternoon on the direct flight to San Diego, arriving about 11 hours later, at around 17:00 local time. After immigration, customs and taxis we arrived at the Vagabond Inn before 18:45. We also met up with some of the independent travellers before we had free time to wander around the immediate area to find food, drink or get our first glimpse of the 'Spirit of Adventure'.

Day 2

Monday 24th February

San Diego

We loaded our bags onto the Spirit of Adventure in the early morning leaving us to spend the rest of the day without baggage. Seven members of the group opted to spend some time around downtown San Diego whilst the rest decided on the optional birding/wildlife trip around the rural side of San Diego with members of the local Audubon Society. Our first venture was a walk along the harbour, past some imposing water front properties where singing House Finches and Song Sparrows competed and Spotted Sandpiper, Long-billed Curlew and Willet hunted small crabs on the shoreline. Here we had our first hummingbirds with some spectacularly coloured male Anna's Hummingbirds sitting on prominent song perches and the 'common' Audubon's Warbler, recently split by American authorities from Myrtle Warbler (both once being known as subspecies of Yellow-rumped Warbler). On the water, Western Grebes outnumbered Black-necked (Eared) Grebes, some of the latter starting to feel the influence of an approaching breeding season, and displaying.

We then joined a coach driven by Marleen (from Leeds, UK) and drove across town to the suburban Lindo Lake. It was teeming with American Coot, Ring-billed Gulls and Shoveler and before long we were picking out Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal and a few American White Pelicans. Some giant rush was full of Great-tailed Grackles and a few Tricolored Blackbirds and American Bushtits, Yellowthroat and Orange-crown Warbler hunted insects. High in a tree, a pair of strangely named Phainopepla, members of the Silky Flycatcher family were feeding on the mistletoe berries. Both had distinctive crests, the male being glossy black and a striking red eye, the female dark grey with white edges to the wing feathers. Just before we left we were entertained by a Botta's Pocket Gopher – a small burrowing rodent, as it peered from its hole

It was a packed itinerary and we had to leave here for the short drive into the low hills to the Audubon reserve at Silverwood – dry chaparral country and new sets of birds. We sat and ate our packed lunches, watching the feeders and 'bird baths', whilst many Lesser Goldfinches squabbled for sunflower seeds and a pair of White-breasted Nuthatches tried to dominate one feeder. The 'bird-bath' attracted a procession of birds, Song, Fox and White-crowned Sparrows, Spotted and California Towhees, Mourning Doves and a single Hermit Thrush. Three species of woodpecker visited the trees, the black and white barred Nuttall's, comical looking Acorn and Northern Flicker of the 'red-shafted' race. After lunch we walked down to the lower car park where Steve was fortunate to see a Roadrunner, which true to its name disappeared before the rest could see it.

Next stop was a very productive part of the San Diego Estuary, teeming with California Gulls, ducks and waders. Dainty Buffleheads were diving amongst the Black-necked and Pied-billed Grebes, scanning the mudflats added American Avocet, Greater Yellowlegs, Little Blue Heron and Marbled Godwits and a Peregrine was sat finishing its prey. A very obliging California Ground Squirrel was entertaining whilst overhead its predator a Red-tailed Hawk scanned the ground.

Our final stop was a small area of reclaimed marsh, called Famosa Slough where a few more new species were added to the list including three nice Black-necked Stilts.

Back at the Vagabond, we thanked our driver and guides for the packed tour of some of their favourite birding sites and after depositing our extraneous gear on the boat, we were free to wander the harbour and/or partake in some local refreshment at Mitche's Inn.

Eventually it was time to officially board the 'Spirit' where we were shown to our allocated cabins and were introduced to Scot Anderson, the local Naturalist and guide who was to accompany us throughout the trip. The next few hours were filled with a splendid buffet and introduction to the boat, its running procedure and the crew, culminating in a welcome and 'health & safety' briefing by skipper Brian.

We cast off at 10pm and headed out to the bait holding pens in the harbour. Here the fishing fraternity stored live bait (Anchovy and White Sea Bass) for used by the numerous game fishing boats that traded from San Diego. These raft-like structures with slatted timber decks hold tens of thousands of fish and are permanently attended by California Sea Lions, hundreds of Brandt's Cormorants, Great Blue and Night Herons, which mop up any fish that dare escape the cages.

This had been a long first day, especially as our body clocks told us it was 6am back home and we all retired to our cabins, rocked to sleep by the calm waters of the Pacific Ocean and the ever present drone of the engines.

Day 3

Tuesday 25th February

Todos Santos

After sailing south through the night, we arrived at Ensenada port before dawn, where the crew sorted out the Mexican customs formalities. We set off just as dawn was breaking and saw our first Common Dolphins soon after leaving the harbour. We headed for the Todos Santos islands and saw Black Oystercatchers and three Peregrines. Numerous Brandt's, Double-crested and two Pelagic Cormorants. A few Northern Elephant Seals were loafing on a beach and Harbour Seals popped up in the water. We continued south and quickly saw our first Gray Whales (12) and lots of bow riding Short-beaked Common Dolphins. We estimated about 1000 animals in two pods. Birds included Black-vented Shearwater, Cassin's Auklets, Rhinoceros Puffin and Guadalupe Murrelet.

Some distant whale sp only showed once and discussions considered Cuvier's or Minke, A large bird sat on the water turned out to be a Laysan Albatross and a small flock of Bonaparte's Gull passed the boat.

That evening we were treated to smoked salmon in parsley sauce, before we completed our logs and some retired to an early bed.

Day 4

Wednesday 26th February

San Benitos

Sailing south right through the night again, we approached the islands of San Benitos at dawn and after breakfast we donned our life jackets and went through the drill of getting in and out of the skiffs. Out on the water Fulmar Black-vented Shearwater and Cassin's Auklets we seen.

The remote volcanic islands of San Benitos west of the 'barb' half way down the Baja Peninsula are home to a small seasonal outpost of Mexican Abalone fisherman - and a wealth of marine wildlife including colonies of Elephant Seals, Guadalupe Fur Seals, and large numbers of burrow-nesting auklets, murrelets and storm-petrels.

We visited the Elephant Seal colony on the south side where we also saw our first Guadalupe Fur Seals and saw our first American Oystercatchers.

Songbirds are not abundant on these rocky outcrops and at first we could not find any of the local endemic race “sanctorum” Savannah Sparrow. Our first ones were in a huge cage where the Mexicans are trying to preserve the species safe from the rats which were being exterminated from the island. However later on as we walked along the shore we found a good number of birds, many of which were singing.

We all had to be careful where we stepped, as the ground was riddled with seabird burrows, many of which looked to be active and pairs of Ospreys were seen on a number of big nests along our walk.

Scot took some of the group up to the top of the island’s mountain and the rest stayed to eat their lunch and explore near another Guadalupe Fur Seal colony on the windy north coast. There were also a number of hummingbirds here which Scott recognised as Costa’s by their call, but most looked like females.

We arrived back at the beach by 1pm and were skilfully transported back to the ‘Spirit’ by JP and the crew.

As we resumed steaming south we started to see blows out in the distance. The first animal was dark and had a sickle shaped fin and as we approached and got closer views we could see the diagnostic white lower jaw on the right side of a Fin Whale, the second largest whale species in the world. This particular individual had a number of worm-like attachments to its body which were a species of ectoparasitic copepod, possibly *Pennella balaenopterae* which specialises in Sei and Minke Whales but have been found on Fin Whales in the North Pacific.

Some more blows on the horizon got us more excited as they turned out to be Blue Whales, one of the species most sort after by many of the tour members. Captain Brian skilfully kept us in contact with these three animals and we witnessed their towering blow, huge girth, gigantic tail stocks and the occasional tail fluke as the pale mottled grey animals slid under the sea.

As the sun went down on a clear evening, we witnessed the momentary ‘green flash’ as it sunk below the horizon. This had been a fantastic end to the day, all rounded off with Dan’s delicious meatball spaghetti bolognese and strawberry shortcake. By 7.30pm there were some tired, red by happy faces, all ready for bed!

Day 5

Thursday 27th February

San Ignacio

As we approached the entrance to San Ignacio Lagoon, activity over the sea increased, Gray Whale sightings became frequent and good numbers of Surf Scoter were on the sea. We had timed our approach to cross the submerged sand-bar that lies just a few fathoms deep across the mouth of the lagoon, and made our way to our anchorage for the night. The lagoon is a Parque Natural of global importance as the top site for breeding Gray Whales and a wintering site for a wealth of shorebirds and wildfowl.

One of the highlights of this tour is the ride on the Mexican pangas where we can get close to some of the cow/calf pairs in the lagoon. This tour was no exception as we had three sorties out into the lagoon and everyone had the experience of touching or rubbing the nose of a friendly mother/calf that stayed with the

pangas for over half an hour. This same pair, the young one identifiable by a white spot near its dorsal fin, hung around the Spirit during the late afternoon/evening as well.

Bird life within the lagoon was very impressive, with lots of wintering Black Brants plus Whimbrel, Long-billed Curlew, Willet, Marbled Godwit, Great Egret, White Ibis, Great Northern and Pacific Diver, Surf Scoter and many Brown Pelicans. David also picked out a Coyote which was scavenging on the shoreline.

As the sun began to set and we were still surrounded by Gray Whales, Andrew found a Cassin's Auklet hiding under a bag on the top deck.. It was captured, shown to the group and release back out to sea, where it flew off strongly.

Day 6

Friday 28th February

San Ignacio

A nice sunrise and we all had an early breakfast before our excursion into the mangrove swamp. We had about an hour to explore the low growing red and white mangrove bushes and the first obvious birds were the herons and egrets. Black-crowned Night Heron and American White Ibis were numerous and roosting waders included Marbled Godwit, Willets and Short-billed Dowitchers. In the bushes we kept seeing passerines which were mostly the dark race of Savannah Sparrow (known as 'beldings' Sparrow). Between the three boats we saw Northern Harrier, Loggerhead Shrike, Spotted Sandpiper, Yellow-crowned Night Heron and Reddish Egrets. One of the speciality birds here is the Mangrove Warbler and we managed some brief views of both male and female, together with Common Yellowthroats.

After a small break for drinks and homemade muffins we went back out in the pangas for another whale experience – and what an experience. We soon had a friendly pair hanging with the boats and everyone was treated to close-up encounters. This was again another one of the many highlights of this tour.

Following lunch, the group had three options, some remained on 'Spirit' others went out for a final encounter with the Gray Whales and a party led by Scott went for a walk on the beach – covered in millions of shells and littered with the sun-bleached bones of dolphins and whales. This group added Black-bellied (Grey) Plover to the tour list as well as views of the other waders we had encountered earlier.

At around 4pm we weighed anchor and started to make our way out of the lagoon. The tide, current and wind gave for an interesting ride through the channel between the sand bars but it was skilfully done by Brian and we were soon settling in for the night, sailing south towards 'the cape'.

Day 7

Saturday 1st March

Magdalena Bay

Most people had a good night's sleep and woke refreshed for a day at sea relaxing and cruising steadily past the vast Magdalena Bay area on our way south. Soon after breakfast we saw a few Common Dolphins plus a Masked Booby and our first Frigatebirds. We started to see a few Humpback Whales but the prize was an obliging Blue Whale that we followed for about an hour as it spent some time on the surface and occasionally fluked up to

dive deep, giving us all opportunities to photograph the huge tail and the 'curtain' of water flowing from it. One or two Pink-footed Shearwaters were seen and several Loggerhead Turtles and small flying fish.

Later in the afternoon as we approached the 'potato bank' where we came across two Blue Whales swimming together which entertained us for some time, but did not fluke. As the sun went down five Short-finned Pilot Whales were seen in the distance but refused to perform, scattering into the distance.

We completed the log for the last two days after another one of Dan's excellent meals and retired to bed with the knowledge that tomorrow we will be entering the Sea of Cortez.

Day 8

Sunday 2nd March

Cabo San Lucas & Los Frailes

After sailing through the night we awoke to a bright dawn with a good sea running. This made for interesting whale and bird watching as the swell brought quick a few Pink-footed Shearwaters past the boat and we saw some Magnificent Frigatebirds. The Humpback Whales we saw this morning were some of the best the crew had seen for some time. We estimated that we witnessed about 60 breaches close to the boat involving three animals, not to forget numbers breaching out in the distance. For the birders, excitement came in the form of a 'gadfly' petrel that spent about a minute around the boat and seen by quite a few. It did come in close at one point and was photographed fortunately, as no one could put a name to it. It had a distinctive dark cap separated from the barred grey back by a distinct white collar. There was a dark 'M' across the wings and the tail was pale with white tips. Ploughing through the books we came to the conclusion that it may be a White-necked Petrel – *Pterodroma cervicalis* a bird that breeds across on the west side of the Pacific. Surprising, as the other form, known as Juan Fernandez Petrel (*Pterodroma externa*) would be more likely, but this generally does not have the white collar. We needed to research this sighting further.

After this successful morning we headed towards the small settlement of Los Frailes on the east coast of the cape where we dropped anchor. The first session, after a lunch of Philly cheese steak sandwiches, was snorkelling either from the beach or from a skiff. We saw numerous fish species around the rocks including Damselfish and Rainbow Wrasse, Hogfish, King Angelfish, Moorish Idol, and Panamic Sergeant Major. Out in the bay Smooth-tailed Mobulas were jumping and belly flopping and one or two Spiny-tailed Mobulas that spin like a coin, were seen. A pair of Humpbacks were also breaching not too far from the boat.

Returning to the boat we then dressed appropriately for a walk into the desert scrub behind the Los Frailes beach. There was a small 'garden' around a trailer camp which had bird feeders and a water bath and we added a good number of bird species including Costa's Hummingbird, White-winged and Common Ground Doves, Turkey Vulture, Scott's and Hooded Orioles, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Lark Sparrows, Gila Woodpecker, and Northern Cardinal. We had a small walk along a desert 'washout' but very little was seen so a quick return visit to the 'garden' by a few added both Gray Thrasher and California Quail to the list. Returning to the 'Spirit' we set off north after dark in extremely choppy conditions. Most opted for an early night.

Day 9

Monday 3rd March

San Jose Mangroves- Los Islotes, Baja Cape

Ploughing on through the night we ended up near to the San Jose Channel and anchored off the island of San Jose where there are a series of Mangroves behind the beach. Around the boat we saw both Brown and Blue-footed Booby and after breakfast we were transported over to the beach where we divided into two groups to either walk the beach or have a skiff ride into the mangroves, changing over after an hour. The beach had some interesting bones and corals, many of which were identifiable as pelican, booby, puffer and trigger fish and also a seal skull. Yellow-footed Gulls patrolled the beach along with some Great Blue Herons. The skiff rides brought us close to Reddish Egrets, Belted Kingfishers, White Ibis and Lesser Scaup, with a lucky few adding Green Heron and a Merlin.

Anchored quietly we enjoyed a wonderful pizza lunch before setting off up the San Jose Channel looking for whales. It wasn't long before we came across a Blue Whale and we spent some time following this animal but it would not fluke up. We started moving north again through the channel with mobula jumping infrequently and then happened upon a cow and calf Fin Whale. Hanging from the fin of the adult were a number of Barnacles (*Xenobalanus globicipitis*) found commonly on fins of whale and dolphins, Again we spent some time following these animals as they fed back and forth before we crossed the channel to check out some more flying mobula and another Blue Whale.

As the light faded we continued north and anchored off the north point of San Jose island for the night, (after passing another Naturetrek group on The Searcher, in mid channel!)

Day 10

Tuesday 4th March

Santa Catalina

During the night the 'Spirit' weighed anchor and travelled north to Santa Catalina island, so when we woke for breakfast, we were anchored off its' shores. This island is famous for the Rattleless Rattlesnake of Santa Catalina (*Crotalus catalinensis*) so after a speedy breakfast most of the group headed out in the skiffs in search of this elusive reptile. Elusive it was!!! All we found was the bleached bones of one and a few Santa Catalina Side-blotched Lizards (*Uta squamata*). The scenery was stunning with high Cardón Cactus (*Pachycereus pringlei*), stretching their arms to the sky and the large round Barrel Cactus (*Ferocactus diguetii*). The former cacti had many woodpecker holes, nest of the Gila and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers – both of which we saw. Other species on the island included White-throated Swift, Black-throated Sparrows, Cardinals, Ash-throated Flycatcher and Blue-grey Gnatcatchers. A brief visit back to the boat for drinks and homemade banana muffins and then the group split for another search for the snake, skiffs rides or snorkelling from the shore.

After lunch we crossed the channel where we saw three Long-tailed Skuas, a few Black Storm-petrels, a single Least Storm-petrel and we spent all afternoon with Long-beaked Common Dolphins, two Blue Whales, two Fin Whales and a Humpback.

That night we set sail, heading south towards the San Jose Channel and Island

Day 11

Wednesday 5th March

Los Islottes

We anchored early morning off Punto Colorado and watched the sun rise in the east and light up the pink cliffs. After breakfast we went ashore for a walk along the arroyo. First we looked at the fossilized whale bones and turtle shell and then headed inland. Birdlife was low but we did record Verdín, Black-throated Sparrow, White-throated Swifts and a pair of Rock Wrens. Walter and Dave also found some Gray Thrashers but they disappeared when the rest of the group arrived – however there were photos as proof. We then had a skiff ride around the rocks looking at the fascinating strata and returned to the ‘Spirit’ for lunch.

After lunch we headed for Los Islottes where some of the group were to snorkel but before we got there we had groups of Long-beaked Common and Bottle-nosed Dolphins which performed well around the boat and as we started to approach the island we saw a Red-billed Tropicbird, lots of Black and Least Storm-petrels and were momentarily diverted by a Blue Whale.

We arrived at Los Islottes and many had an experience of a lifetime snorkelling with Sea Lions. The sea was brimming with fish in this area adding to the experience. We then took skiff rides around the rocks to see the Blue-footed and Brown Boobies, Magnificent Frigatebirds, Brandt’s Cormorants, Brown Pelicans and Yellow-footed Gulls. We continued south and soon encountered a pod of Bottle-nosed Dolphins which performed well at the back of the boat as Brian built up speed. We settled back for pre-dinner margaritas served up by JP, with great expectations for our last full day near the Cape.

Day 12

Thursday 6 March

Los Frailes and waters off the Cape

We arrived and anchored off Los Frailes at 5am and after a quick egg on muffin breakfast, the advance party of birders led by Peter hit the beaches and straight into the camper garden. Immediately we were seeing some new species. The endemic Gray Thrashers were now seen by everyone, Pyrrhuloxia and Cardinals together and finally a nice male Xantus’s Hummingbird came to the feeders. We had good views Green-tailed Towhee and from the top of a palm tree, our first Cactus Wren and later we had one sat on a Cardón Cactus. Clay-coloured and Black-throated Sparrows were in the bushes and American Yellow and Orange-crowned Warblers were creeping through the foliage.

We carried on up the arroyo and spread out to look for Roadrunner. Suddenly there was a shout from our left and a family party of two adult and four immatures half ran, half flew up the cliffs and then watched us from the top. As we were on a ‘roll’ we continued up the arroyo to look for the reported Great Horned Owl and sure enough tucked into a crevice close to the nest, an adult laid, lazily watching us. The first ‘wave’ were joined by Scott and the second landing and they had also seen most of the birds we had found that morning – so a good day for all. Scott’s Orioles and a pair of American Kestrels were seen before we turned back to visit the garden again. As we approached the beach a woodpecker in the top of a tree proved to be a Gilded Flicker and some recorded calls brought the second of a pair into clear view.

Many of the group went back early and snorkelled off the skiffs and others had some close encounters with humpbacks from the whales until the remaining birders returned around 11am and we then headed out towards

the Cape to look whales while enjoying a superb shrimp salad for lunch. Green Turtles and singing Humpbacks kept us amused and some playful fin slapping by the latter.

The final session was with a group of five humpbacks that breached, spy hopped and fin-slapped around the boat for over an hour and a half as we steadily sailed south for our final night on the boat and a fitting end to our journey aboard the Spirit of Adventure. That evening Dan and Cory produced a fantastic steak dinner to celebrate our last meal aboard and the group gave their customary thanks to all the crew and Scott for making the tour such a success.

Day 13

Friday 7 March

Cabo san Lucas and in flight

Dawn saw us sailing towards Carbo San Lucas harbour, not before seeing our last few Humpbacks and after saying our goodbye's and special thanks to the crew and Scott, Peter took most of the group to a Ramsar site at the Esturo at San Jose del Cabo for some final wildlife watching and relaxing before the start of the flights home.

This site is protected as one of the few breeding sites for the rare Belding's Yellowthroat, a Baja endemic and eventually we saw a few males and, what were probably females, in the reeds. Here also we added Sora, Wilson's Snipe, three teal species, Green Heron and Cattle Egret amongst other species. This was a very pleasant walk ending at the Tropicana Café where the taxis were waiting and we had a light lunch, before heading to the airport and our Alaskan Airlines flight back to San Diego and then on to London.

Day 14

Saturday 8 March

A slightly delayed flight got us all back safely to Heathrow by 3pm, where we said out goodbyes and promises to keep in touch after a tour full of whales, birds, fish and more. A tour that took us around 2,700 kilometres on the Spirit of Adventure in 11 days and we all made new friends including those we left back in the States.

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Species List

Mammals (✓ = recorded but not counted)

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March													
			23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1	California Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus beecheyi</i>		✓												
2	White-tailed Antelope Ground Squirrel	<i>Ammospermophilus leucurus</i>													1	
3	Botta's Pocket Gopher	<i>Thomomys bottae</i>		1												
4	Black-tailed Jackrabbit	<i>Lepus californicus</i>													3	
5	Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>						1	2							
6	Guadalupe Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus townsendi</i>				30										
7	California Sea Lion	<i>Zalophus californianus</i>		✓	✓	✓			1	1						
8	Northern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga angustirostris</i>			1	100										
9	Harbour Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>			2											
10	Mule Deer	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>		1												
11	toothed whale' sp.				3											
12	Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>				3			4			3	1			
13	Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>				1					2	2				
14	Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>							5	30	1	1		23	5	
15	Gray Whale	<i>Eschrichtius robustus</i>			12		90	90								
16	Long-beaked Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus capensis</i>			40							500	50	50		
17	Short-beaked Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>			1000		✓		40	✓						
18	Pacific Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus gillii</i>					15	15	10	30		✓	200	5		

Birds (H = heard only)

1	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>		✓												
2	Brant Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>					✓	✓								
3	Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>		18												
4	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>		2												
5	American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>		✓												
6	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓												✓
7	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>		✓												✓

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March													
			23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	Cinnamon Teal	<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>													✓	
9	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>							3							
10	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>													2	
11	Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>		1											✓	
12	Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>													1	
13	Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>		8					9			40			✓	
14	Surf Scoter	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>						✓	✓							
15	Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>		6												
16	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>		1				7	5							
17	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>		✓											1	
18	California Quail	<i>Callipepla californica</i>									2				✓	
19	Pacific Diver	<i>Gavia pacifica</i>						1	6							
20	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>						4	3							
21	Laysan Albatross	<i>Phoebastria immutabilis</i>			1											
22	Black-footed Albatross	<i>Phoebastria nigripes</i>												1		
23	Pacific Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis rodgersii</i>			6			✓								
24	Juan Fernandez Petrel	<i>Pterodroma externa</i>									1					
25	Pink-footed Shearwater	<i>Puffinus creatopus</i>							4	✓						
26	Black-vented Shearwater	<i>Puffinus opisthomelas</i>			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	2	18			
27	Least Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma microsoma</i>								2		1	25			
28	Black Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma melania</i>								1		5	20	1		
29	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>		6											✓	
30	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	✓	✓	3			20	12			8	2			
31	Western Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>	✓	✓												
32	Red-billed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon aethereus</i>												1		
33	American White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>						2	40			✓				
34	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		6					✓						2	
35	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>							5							
36	Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>										1			1	
37	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>													1	

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			23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
38	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>		✓			1	✓			7		1		✓	
39	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		✓	1		2	✓			1				2	
40	Reddish Egret	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>					1	2			5				1	
41	Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>					1	✓			6					
42	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>		2				2			4				1	
43	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>		✓				✓		1	✓				1	
44	American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>		✓												
45	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
46	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>							2	12	✓	✓	✓		✓	
47	Blue-footed Booby	<i>Sula nebouxii</i>									15	45	✓			
48	Masked Booby	<i>Sula dactylatra</i>							2							
49	Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>							1		8	✓	✓			
50	Brandt's Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>			✓		✓	✓		1	✓		✓		✓	
51	Pelagic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i>			2		2	1						1		
52	Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓				✓	
53	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>					3	✓		20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
54	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		2		✓		2							3	
55	Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>		1												
56	Northern Harrier	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>						2								
57	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>		5								1	2	1	1	
58	Sora	<i>Porzana carolina</i>													1	
59	Common Gallinule	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>		✓											✓	
60	American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>		✓											✓	
61	Black Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus bachmani</i>			4	1	1									
62	American Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>				8	2				1					
63	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>		3				1								
64	American Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>		✓												
65	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>						1								
66	Wilson's Snipe	<i>Gallinago delicata</i>													1	
67	Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>					5	✓							3	

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			23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
68	Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>		✓			✓	✓								
69	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>		5			2	1								
70	Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>		✓			✓	✓								
71	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>		2			2	1			4					
72	Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>					✓	✓			12					
73	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>		2				1		1		2	1		2	
74	Black Turnstone	<i>Arenaria melanocephala</i>				1										
75	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>					✓									
76	Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>					✓	✓								
77	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>									12				1	
78	Red Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>							30							
79	Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>										1				
80	Bonaparte's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus philadelphia</i>			30		8		14	2				✓		
81	Laughing Gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>						1					2			
82	Heermann's Gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>		2	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
83	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>		✓											✓	
84	California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			1	✓	✓	
85	Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	
86	Yellow-footed Gull	<i>Larus livens</i>									15	✓	✓			
87	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>		1			2	2								
88	Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	✓	6					
89	Elegant Tern	<i>Thalasseus elegans</i>												1		
90	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>					1									
91	Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>								1		3	2			
92	Guadalupe Murrelet	<i>Synthliboramphus hypoleucus</i>			✓											
93	Craveri's Murrelet	<i>Synthliboramphus craveri</i>			6						1	1				
94	Cassin's Auklet	<i>Ptychoramphus aleuticus</i>			✓	✓	✓				1	2				
95	Rhinoceros Puffin	<i>Cerorhinca monocerata</i>														
96	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia 'feral'</i>		✓												
97	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		H												

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98	Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>		✓												
99	White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>									8		✓		✓	✓
100	Common Ground Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>									2				✓	✓
101	Greater Roadrunner	<i>Geococcyx californianus</i>		1												6
102	Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>														1
103	White-throated Swift	<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>											30	✓		
104	Xantus's Hummingbird	<i>Basilinna xantusii</i>														1
105	Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>		✓												
106	Costa's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte costae</i>				✓					4			2	3	1
107	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megasceryle alcyon</i>		1					2							1
108	Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>		1												
109	Gila Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes uropygialis</i>											6		✓	✓
110	Ladder-backed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides scalaris</i>											2			
111	Nuttall's Woodpecker	<i>Picoides nuttallii</i>		1												
112	Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>		1												
113	Gilded Flicker	<i>Colaptes chrysoides</i>													2	1
114	Northern Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>									2					
115	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>													2	1
116	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>											1			
117	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		1	3	3							1		2	
118	Red-crowned Amazon	<i>Amazona viridigenalis</i>		✓												
119	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>		2		1										
120	Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>		1												
121	Ash-throated Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>									1		4		8	2
122	Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>											6	1		
123	California Scrub Jay	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>		✓											2	2
124	American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓												1
125	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		5		✓		1		1		✓		2		
126	Phainopepla	<i>Phainopepla nitens</i>		2												3
127	Verdin	<i>Auriparus flaviceps</i>									4		6	6	✓	4

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128	Violet-green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>														1
129	Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>		1												
130	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>		2												6
131	American Bushtit	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>		2												
132	Wrentit	<i>Chamaea fasciata</i>		H												
133	Cactus Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i>													3	✓
134	Rock Wren	<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>											4			
135	Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>														3
136	Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>										3			1	
137	California Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila californica</i>													1	
138	White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>		2												
139	Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>		H							1	2	2	✓	2	
140	Gray Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma cinereum</i>									2		5	✓		
141	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓												✓
142	Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>		1												
143	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓							✓				✓	
144	House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>		✓							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
145	Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Spinus psaltria</i>		✓							1				3	✓
146	Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis celata</i>		✓							2				5	
147	Belding's Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis beldingi</i>														6
148	Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>		1					5							2
149	American Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga aestiva</i>		1											1	
150	Mangrove Warbler	<i>Setophaga petechia</i>							2		1					
151	Audubon's Warbler	<i>Setophaga auduboni</i>		✓												
152	Hooded Oriole	<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>									✓	1	2	✓	✓	
153	Scott's Oriole	<i>Icterus parisorum</i>									3				3	2
154	Tricolored Blackbird	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>		4												
155	Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>		✓												
156	Fox Sparrow	<i>Passerella iliaca</i>		1												
157	Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>		✓					✓							

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158	White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>		✓												
159	Oregon Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis oregonus</i>		3												
	Belding's Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi</i>							✓							
160	San Benito Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis sanctorum</i>				✓										
161	Clay-colored Sparrow	<i>Spizella pallida</i>														3
162	Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>								6						1
163	Black-throated Sparrow	<i>Amphispiza bilineata</i>										✓	✓			7
164	Green-tailed Towhee	<i>Pipilo chlorurus</i>														4
165	Spotted Towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>		2												
166	California Towhee	<i>Melospiza crissalis</i>		4												
167	White-collared Seedeater	<i>Sporophila torqueola</i>														✓
168	Black-headed Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>								2						5
169	Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>								1						4
170	Pyrrhuloxia	<i>Cardinalis sinuatus</i>														5

Reptiles

1	Loggerhead Turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>			2											
2	Green Turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>														6
3	Hawksbill	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>								4						
4	Zebra-tailed Lizard	<i>Callisaurus draconoides</i>														✓
5	Santa Catalina Spiny Lizard	<i>Sceloporus lineatulus</i>										1				
6	Western Fence Lizard	<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>		1												
7	San Pedro Side-blotched Lizard	<i>Uta palmeri</i>				✓										
8	Common Green Iguana	<i>Iguana iguana</i>														1
9	Common Chuckwalla	<i>Sauromalus ater</i>										1				

Butterflies

Spicebush Swallowtail, <i>Papilio troilus</i>	Palamedes Swallowtail, <i>Papilio palamedes</i>	Clouded Sulphur, <i>Colias philodice</i>	Gray Hairstreak, <i>Strymon melinus</i>
Western Pygmy-Blue, <i>Brephidium exile</i>	Western Tailed-Blue, <i>Everes amyntula</i>	Gulf Fritillary, <i>Agraulis vanillae</i>	West Coast Lady, <i>Vanessa annabella</i>
Blackened Bluewing, <i>Myscelia cyananthe</i>	Long-tailed Skipper, <i>Urbanus proteus</i>	Southern Dogface, <i>Colias cesonia</i>	Funereal Duskywing, <i>Erynnis funeralis</i>
White Checker Skipper, <i>Pyrgus albescens</i>	Large White Skipper, <i>Heliopetes ericetorum</i>	Viceroy, <i>Limenitis archippus</i>	

Fish

Ballonfish, <i>Diodon holocanthus</i>	Barber Fish, <i>Johnrandallia nigriristris</i>	Beaubrummel, <i>Eupomacentrus flavilatus</i>
Blue and Gold Snapper, <i>Lutjanus viridus</i>	Bluechin Parrotfish, <i>Scarus ghobban</i>	Blue Parrotfish, <i>Scarus coeruleus</i>
Bumphead Damselfish, <i>Microspathodon bairdi</i>	California Flying Fish, <i>Cypselurus californicus</i>	Cortez Chub, <i>Kyphosuselegans</i>
Cortez Damselfish, <i>Eupomacentrus rectifraenum</i>	Cortez Rainbow Wrasse, <i>Thalassoma lucasanum</i>	Creole Fish, <i>Paranthias furcifer</i>
Giant Dameslfish, <i>Microspathodon dorsalis</i>	Giant Hawkfish, <i>Cirrhitidae cirrhitus</i>	Hogfish, <i>Bodianus diplotaenia</i>
Jack sp., <i>Euthynnus sp.</i>	King Angelfish, <i>Holocanthus passer</i>	Machete, <i>Elops affinis</i>
Mexican Goatfish, <i>Mulloidichthys dentatus</i>	Moorish Idol, <i>Zanclus canescens</i>	Manta Ray (Moghula), <i>Manta birostris</i>
Needlefish, <i>Strongylura exilis</i>	Ocean Sunfish, <i>Mola mola</i>	Panamic Sergeant Major, <i>Abuldehduf troschelii</i>
Remora (Suckerfish), <i>Remora remora</i>	Reef Cornetfish, <i>Fistularia commersonii</i>	Scissortail Damselfish, <i>Chromis atrilobata</i>
Striped Marlin, <i>Tetrapturus audax</i>	Surgeon Fish sp., <i>Acanthurus sp.</i>	Yellowtail Surgeonfish, <i>Prionurus punctatus</i>
Smelt, <i>Osmeridae sp.</i>	Pilot Fish, <i>Naucrates ductor</i>	Bicolor Parrotfish, <i>Cetoscarus bicolor</i>
New Guinea fowl Puffer, <i>Arothron meleagris</i>	Mako Shark, <i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	Leopard Grouper, <i>Mycteroperca rosacea</i>
Grey-barred Grunt, <i>Conodon nobilis</i>	Three-banded Butterflyfish, <i>Chaetodon robustus</i>	Silverstripe Chromis, <i>Chromis alta</i>
Coral Hawkfish, <i>Cirrhitichthys oxycephalus</i>	Spinster Wrasse, <i>Halichoeres nicholsi</i>	Lizard Triple Fin, <i>Crocodylichthys gracilis</i>
Orange-sided Triggerfish, <i>Sufflamen verres</i>	Pacific Dog Snapper, <i>Lutjanus novemfasciatus</i>	Seahorse sp.,
Panama Graysby, <i>Cephalopholis panamensis</i>	Wounded Wrasse, <i>Halichoeres chierchiae</i>	Bumphead Parrotfish, <i>Bolbometopon muricatum</i>
Largemouth Blenny, <i>Labrisomus xanti</i>	Spotted Sharp-nosed Puffer, <i>Canthigaster solandri</i>	Finescaled Triggerfish, <i>Balistes polylepis</i>

Panamic Fanged Blenny, *Ophioblennius steindachneri*
Sabre-toothed Blenny, *Aspidontus taeniatus*

Gold-rimmed Surgeonfish, *Acanthurus nigricans*

Top-sail Pompano, *Trachinotus goodei*

Other Taxa

American Honey Bee

Ant lion sp.

Carpenter Bee sp.

Various grasshoppers and locust

Ichneumon Wasp sp.

Tarantula Wasp

Sally Lightfoot Crab



Greater Roadrunner by Walter Burns



Juan Fernandez Petrel by Peter Dunn



Double fluke Humpbacks by Ann Burns



Male Cinnamon Teal by Cynthia Przeslak



Bottle-nosed Dolphin by Peter Dunn



The Spirit through the rocks by Walter Burns