

Baja California & the Sea of Cortez

Naturetrek Tour Report

21 February – 5 March 2016



Friendly Gray Whale



Long-beaked Common Dolphin



Blue Whale



Punta Colorado

Report & Images compiled by Lee Morgan



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Tour Participants	Lee Morgan and Rob Nawojchik (leaders) with a group Naturetrek Clients
M/V Searcher:	Captain Aaron Remy
Crew	Kenny, Joe, Ryan, Charley and Dan

Day 1

Sunday 21st February

London (Heathrow) - San Diego

After a long flight, the group landed in a sunny San Diego at about 5.40pm and transferred to the nearby Ramada Airport hotel. Everyone spent a little time getting to find their way around the harbour, and many took time to have some food in one of the nearby restaurants, but after a long day of travel, it wasn't long before most people opted for a relatively early night.

Day 2

Monday 22nd February

San Diego – Board Searcher

It was a very beautiful sunny morning in San Diego's Point Loma harbour. While some of the group opted for a later start and the chance to catch up on some much needed rest, some were up early and ventured out for a pre-breakfast look around the harbour; here, they had a chance to listen to the raucous Lilac-crowned and Red-lored Amazon parrots jostling for position in the harbour-side trees.

After breakfast, many of the group joined our guided tour of some of San Diego's nature reserves and birding hotspots, with members of the local Audubon Society. At 9am we met in the hotel lobby, before setting off on foot for some gentle birding around the picturesque harbour. The bird watching started slowly but we quickly kick-started our day with some lovely views of lots of Western and Eared (Black-necked) Grebes, Anna's Hummingbirds, Black Phoebe, and Belted Kingfisher.

A short bus journey took us across the city to Lindo Lake where we watched American White Pelicans, Great and Snowy Egrets and Black-crowned Night Herons and listened to the noisy flocks of Red-winged Blackbirds and Great-tailed Grackles clamouring in the Bulrushes. We also had a nice introduction to a variety of ducks and geese, including Wood Duck, Northern Shoveler and Green-winged Teal, to name but a few.

After another short bus ride, we arrived at Silverwoods, a small nature reserve set amidst the oak chaparral covered hills to the north of the city. Here we sat and enjoyed a picnic lunch around a feeding station in the heart of the reserve, got some great views of a Great Horned Owl at the nest and gave everyone time for some very relaxed birding and the chance to spot California Ground Squirrels, Spotted and California Towhees, House Finches, White-crowned Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos as they visited the feeders. A few people even managed to catch a glimpse of some of the real specialist birds of the chaparral such as Acorn Woodpecker and Oak Titmouse, too.

After lunch, we headed back across town to the San Diego River estuary where the mudflats were teeming with hundreds of terns and gulls, Blue-winged Teal, Marbled Godwit and Willet. Amidst all this, we also spotted Great and Little Blue Herons, Snowy and Great Egrets, and had some great looks at Greater Yellowlegs and Buffleheads as well as Snowy, Grey (Black-bellied) and Semi-palmated Plovers.

We arrived back at the hotel by mid-afternoon, when we transferred our luggage to M/V Searcher. Most then took the chance to explore the harbour some more, purchase some last-minute items, and to have a bite to eat, before we all boarded M/V Searcher in the late afternoon, ready for our safety briefing and our introductions to the boat and the crew.

At 9.04pm we cast off and headed out into the twinkling lights of San Diego Harbour. A quick detour via the bait pens at the entrance to the harbour treated us all to some lamp-lit views (and smells) of California Sea Lions and a few Black-crowned Night Herons and Great Blue Herons, before we eventually headed out of the harbour onto gentle Pacific swells and a comfortable night's cruising south into Mexican waters.

Day 3

Tuesday 23rd February

Ensenada – Todos Santo

After a gentle night on the ocean, most people were well rested and in good spirits as we came in to dock in Ensenada Harbour, in the early hours of the morning. Our customs check was brief, and we watched the odd Surf Scoter swimming around the harbour and the Marbled Godwits along the harbour wall as we enjoyed our morning coffee out on deck and the boat left the dock, once again setting out onto the Pacific. The settled, warm conditions brought with them a small but dense patch of fog that sat over the harbour but we still spotted a few Bottlenose Dolphins, the odd Common Dolphin, plenty of Western Grebes and even a few Skimmers as we left the harbour, and slowly motored out towards Todos Santos.

It was developing into a lovely day though, and the fog lifted as we got closer to Isla Todos Santos and we were able to cruise slowly by the island in the sunshine. We were able to catch a glimpse of a few Black Oystercatchers and Pelagic Cormorants amidst the rowdy colonies of Western Gulls and Brown Pelicans. The island's beaches had a few Harbour Seals hauled out on them, as well as a few Northern Elephant Seals.

We continued our journey south, maintaining a constant vigil for wildlife as we travelled. There was plenty of life in the area and little time for rest. We were joined briefly by a scattered group of Common Dolphins and had some nice views of Laysan Albatross too. Those that remained vigilant were able to enjoy a constant passage of Black-vented Shearwaters, whilst small groups of Cassin's Auklets, Scripps's Murrelets and the odd flock of Red (UK: Grey) Phalaropes fluttered frenetically past the bow of the boat as we travelled.

The seas remained calm throughout the day and the cetacean sightings kept coming. Small groups of travelling Gray and Humpback Whales were commonplace and some great views of a cow and calf pair of Fin Whales, two Blue Whales and a Bryde's Whale got our trip off to a flying start.

We continued on into a beautiful sunset and finished the day with a delicious dinner and an after-dinner lecture on pinniped biology (the Pinnipedia being seals and walruses).

Day 4

Wednesday 24th February

Islas San Benito

It was another early start to the day. After another gentle night's travel, it was good to see people slowly adjusting to the routines and rhythms of the boat and ready to enjoy a good breakfast to prepare themselves for our day ashore on Isla San Benito.

The seas were wonderfully calm as we arrived at our first anchorage, and Heermann's Gulls wheeled around the boat as we boarded the skiffs for the first time. The sunny weather and cooling breeze provided perfect conditions for our walk, and there was plenty of wildlife to enjoy. The landing beach was relatively quiet, apart from one exhausted bull Elephant Seal that lay snorting as we stopped to take a few photos.

As we continued our walk, we found plenty of Elephant Seal pups, a few adult females, the odd California Sea Lion, and we had some distant but lovely views of the rare Guadeloupe Fur Seals. It was a fantastic "pinniped day". Many people also took the time to admire the flowers and, as always, the island's multiple pairs of Ospreys proved to be a very big hit with the birdwatchers and enthusiastic photographers! Our stop for lunch at a high point of the island even rewarded a few people with a distant view of a Blue Whale too.

The numbers of smaller birds present on the island were noticeably higher too. Big flocks of Horned Larks, White-crowned Sparrows and the endemic race of the Savannah Sparrow (San Benito Sparrow) proved to be commonplace. Other bird highlights included good views of Peregrine Falcon, a Red-tailed Hawk and American Kestrel, while a few people also had some nice views of Costa's Hummingbirds, Black Brant and Black Turnstone.

By about 2.30pm, we were all safely back onboard the boat and ready to set off once again. Fortunately for us, sea conditions remained perfect, providing us with another smooth ride as we continued our journey south.

Day 5

Thursday 25h February

San Ignacio

After a peaceful night (comparatively) of travel, we approached San Ignacio Lagoon soon after breakfast, and we all watched for whales as we motored slowly and carefully over the shallow sandbar at the entrance to the lagoon. All eyes were fixed on the sea as a few Gray Whales surfaced all around us and Bottlenose Dolphins rode the bow as we motored slowly to our anchorage. We set anchor in the lagoon a little before 8am.

After a quick briefing on the lagoon, we were quickly ushered into pangas for our first close-up introduction to the Gray Whales. The local panga drivers were excellent, and skilfully manoeuvred into positions so we could get the best look at some of the whales. During the course of our day we enjoyed four 90-minute panga trips (two before lunch and two after) and we enjoyed some wonderful close encounters with the whales (mostly cow-calf

pairs). By the end of the day, everyone had had the opportunity to interact with the whales and had had the chance to observe some incredible behaviour, including whales' fluking, breaching and spyhopping.

Our time on the water also provided us with some nice views of Royal Tern, Common (Great Northern) Loon, Surf Scoter and White Ibis as well as good numbers of smaller shorebirds such as Black-bellied Plover, Western and Least Sandpiper and Sanderling.

After dinner, we all made our way out to the rear deck of the boat and, with the ship's generator and lights turned off, we spent the evening under a spectacular, starry sky, enjoying the peace and quiet and listening to the sounds of whale blows all around us.

Day 6

Friday 26th February

San Ignacio and heading south

We started our day with a trip into the Mangroves on the edge of the lagoon. They were teeming with life and we managed to spot Coyote and Green Turtle, as well as lots of colourful herons such as Tricolored, Great and Little Blue Heron, Reddish Egret, Yellow-crowned and Black-crowned Night Heron and both Great and Snowy Egret. In addition, we enjoyed some lovely views of Marbled Godwit, Willet and Long-billed Curlew, Caspian Tern and more White Ibis.

Our second two 90-minute sessions of the day took us out whale watching into the lagoon once more. From the pangas we were all provided with lots more lovely whale encounters, most notably with a particularly friendly and easily recognisable female and her calf that Lance had named 'Big Momma and Marcus' (such was the closeness of their relationship). We were treated to lots more breaching, spyhopping, splashing around the boats, and some great bubble blowing by excitable whales. However, the Gray Whales were just part of the enjoyment of our stay in this beautiful lagoon. Bottlenose Dolphins, friendly California Sea Lions, Royal Terns, Magnificent Frigatebirds and Brown Pelicans flying by, Common and Yellow-billed Loons, Brant Geese and Surf Scoters are all just a part of the scenery down here.

Our last session of the day provided us with the opportunity to visit the shore, where we spent time admiring and photographing the wonderful array of bones and seashells that the pristine beaches around the lagoon margins have to offer.

As always, it was with great reluctance that we eventually said our farewells to our panga drivers and the beautiful San Ignacio lagoon, as the Searcher raised anchor and we motored out of the lagoon, through some very impressive waves, in the company of breaching whales and bow-riding dolphins.

Day 7

Saturday 27th February

Magdalena Bay

It was another early start for many, as we made our way south along the peninsula. For most of the day, we were crossing the front of Magdalena Bay and we maintained a constant vigil for wildlife as we travelled. Light winds, crystal-clear water and a virtually flat ocean made for a very pleasant day on the water.

During the course of the day we observed a number of cetacean species, and some provided us with the opportunity for some close encounters. A total of three different Blue Whales were observed, but two proved to be a little elusive and difficult to watch. However, one individual maintained relatively short dive intervals and fluked regularly, and we were able to watch it at close range as it fluked repeatedly close off the bow.

There were plenty of Humpbacks around, although many of the animals were simply travelling and afforded us with little to watch. However, we spent more than an hour with one individual, from which gave us a wonderful show of flipper-flapping, fluking, tail-lobbing and breaching.

Amidst the other highlights of the day, we enjoyed some great views of more than a dozen Green Turtles, Masked and Brown Booby, Striped Marlin, Smooth-tailed Mobulas (rays), more Red and Red-necked Phalaropes, Cassin's Auklets, Black-vented and Pink-footed Shearwaters, and lots of sunshine and time to relax. It was the perfect day off Bahia Magdalena.

Day 8

Sunday 28th February

Gorda Banks

Rounding the southernmost tip of the peninsula in the early hours of the morning, we were met by beautifully flat calm seas and the sea conditions remained good for whale watching, as we moved along the southern tip of the peninsula towards the Gorda Banks.

There were a few Humpbacks in the area, and we spotted several spouts arising from the water in the distance, so we ventured over to take a closer look and were treated to lots of repeat fluking close to the boat, the occasional bout of tail-lobbing and a spectacular double breach just off the bow. There were very few birds on the ocean, save the odd Black-vented Shearwater and a few Frigatebirds, but we did manage to get a nice close look at a Red-billed Tropicbird as we waited for some whales to surface.

We eventually broke free from the whale watching and headed towards Los Frailes and the Cabo Pulmo national park. We enjoyed lunch en route and, once anchored, we put the skiffs in the water and headed ashore to explore the camp ground for birds. Fortunately for us, Ray and Audrey were still at the Camp Ground and, with very little effort, we were able to sit in the shade of their RV (campervan) and watch the flocks of wonderful desert birds visiting their array of bird feeders. It was magical. Lots of Hooded and Scott's Orioles, Cardinals, Gray Thrasher, and sparrows such as Clay-coloured, Lark and White-crowned Sparrow. We also had some nice views of Costa's Hummingbird and even a few California Quail.

We eventually left the shore and returned to the Searcher where a few people opted to cool off by jumping off the boat for a quick swim. We set off late in the afternoon and began to head northwards into the Sea of Cortez; as darkness fell, we enjoyed a spectacular show of bioluminescence.

Day 9

Monday 29th February

La Paz Bay and Los Islotes

A rather unique set of circumstances and some very skilful planning had resulted in us making an impromptu change of itinerary, and we arrived at our new anchorage in La Paz Bay early in the morning. This was a new adventure for everyone on board, and there was considerable excitement as we waited for our local guides to arrive and take us out to see Whale Sharks. For the stronger and more confident swimmers in the group, there was also the opportunity to snorkel with Whale Sharks too. It was an amazing experience for everyone, as we spent several hours in the company of one smaller shark (at about 8m in length), and the local panga drivers carefully took it in turns to position the boats so that the shark would swim right by. For the snorkellers, it was an exciting and intense experience to swim alongside these majestic fish, fulfilling lifetime dreams for some. For a few people there was also an impromptu opportunity to swim with Bottlenose Dolphins too, when a rather inquisitive local pod turned up to join in the fun. It was a very successful change of plan.

Back on Searcher, we raised anchor and headed out once again in search of more wildlife. We cruised close to a nearby bird colony, where we found numerous roosting Blue-footed Boobies, Brown Booby and a few Frigatebirds. We were distracted by a nice group of about 30 Short-finned Pilot Whales that we travelled with for a little while before they surprised us when they all began spy-hopping close to the boat.

We continued our journey towards Los Islotes, spotting numerous leaping Mobulas and the odd Humpback as we travelled. Shortly after lunch, we set anchor and went on a skiff ride around the island. This provided us with some lovely close views of California Sea Lions and the chance to watch Blue-footed Boobies displaying to each other high up on their rocky perches. After our skiff ride we then had another opportunity to snorkel and, with no one else around and some very enthusiastic and competent swimmers, we enjoyed nearly an hour in the water in the company of playful sea lion pups and lots of colourful reef fish.

We raised anchor and headed northwards as the sun began to set. We spotted a few scattered Common Dolphins as we travelled, and enjoyed another delicious dinner and fantastic sunset over the peninsula before eventually setting anchor at Punta Colorado.

Day 10

Tuesday 1st March

Punta Colorado

Everyone was up at dawn to watch the sun creep over the eastern horizon and illuminate the beautiful sandstone cliffs adjacent to our anchorage. It was a wonderful start to our day. After breakfast, we went ashore to explore the beach and the arroyo, where we took the opportunity to take a closer look at the fossils in the rocks, watch giant Tarantula Hawk Wasps feeding on clumps of Milkweed, and look for desert birds like Verdin and Black-throated Sparrows amidst the cactus scrub.

After our walk, we cooled off with a snorkel in a bay just to the north of the point where we enjoyed some great views of Reef Stingrays and lots more colourful rocky reef species.

The sea conditions were perfect as we raised anchor and continued to head north towards Isla Santa Catalina, and we spotted numerous marine mammals during the course of the afternoon. This started with a wonderfully playful herd of about 4-500 Long-beaked Common Dolphins that jumped in our wake and rode on the bow for several miles. Later, we encountered a particularly energetic group of about 30 Risso's Dolphins that treated us to some repeat breaching and spy-hopping close to the boat, and from there we spotted a scattered group of about 30 Sperm Whales that afforded us some close views. It was a truly fantastic day of whale watching and, just as we thought it couldn't get any better, an energetic group of Bottlenose Dolphins turned up and started leaping in front of the bow. Spectacular!

We arrived at Catalina in the sunset and enjoyed dinner at anchor as darkness fell.

Day 11

Wednesday 2nd March

Isla Santa Catalina

It was a beautiful warm morning as we lay at anchor off Isla Santa Catalina, perfect for our morning hike in the arroyo on the west side of the island. We failed to find any of the endemic Baja 'Rattle-less' Rattlesnakes, but we spotted a few lizards and marvelled at the wonderful giant Elephant Cardon Cacti and the Giant Wavy Barrel Cactus. There were a few birds active too, and we had some great views of Loggerhead Shrikes, Cardinals, Ash-throated Flycatchers, Verdin, and Ladder-backed and Gila Woodpeckers, as we searched the beautiful, cactus-filled valley.

On returning to the Searcher, people readied themselves for snorkelling whilst some took the opportunity for a coastal cruise. The cruisers ended up with some lovely views of Bottlenose Dolphins, Wandering Tattler, and Black-necked Grebe, while the snorkellers enjoyed fantastic conditions, with lots of colourful reef fish, Nudibranchs and Sea Stars.

We raised anchor shortly after midday and headed south-west in search of whales. We enjoyed a closer look at a huge flurry of Black and Least Storm Petrels that were feeding over a large school of Skipjack Tuna, but we spent most of the afternoon in the company of a group of Sperm Whales that afforded us some more spectacular encounters as they surfaced from their deep dives (including a cow and calf that swam upside down in front of the bow to take a closer look at us). We also had some sightings of a smaller group of Common Dolphins, some distant Pilot Whales, a few dispersed Bottlenose Dolphins and a Humpback Whale. It was another great afternoon of wildlife watching and conditions remained perfect.

We anchored on the west side of Isla San Jose for our back-deck barbecue and, as darkness fell, we enjoyed some more spectacular bioluminescence.

Day 12

Thursday 3rd March

Cerralvo Channel

The Searcher was heading south between Cerralvo and La Paz when we woke at dawn, and we spent the day searching for wildlife as we travelled south. Yet again, we were blessed with grease-calm conditions which provided us with the chance to spot a few Dwarf Sperm Whales and enjoy some more wonderful looks at another group of Risso's Dolphins. Along with this, we also spotted several Humpbacks (one of which breached a few times for us), a Blue Whale, several scattered groups of Bottlenose Dolphins, leaping Mobulas, Green Turtles and a few Red-billed Tropicbirds.

After a long, hot day of whale watching, we dropped anchor once again off of Los Islotes and people enjoyed a cooling swim off the side of the boat.

As always, our final meal together on the boat provided us with the perfect opportunity to share photos, recount our stories and describe our highlights from the tour. All agreed that this had been an incredible trip with some truly exceptional weather and some wonderful wildlife encounters.

Day 13

Thursday 4th March

We watched as the Searcher finally pulled into the early morning bustle of Cabo San Lucas' busy harbour. We watched the boats and pelicans, and enjoyed a leisurely continental breakfast, as the Searcher crew set to work refuelling the boat for their long journey north.

We said our final farewells to the crew before they set off for their own intrepid journey back up the peninsula and back to San Diego.

Our taxis then transported us to the picturesque colonial town square of San Jose del Cabo. While a few took the chance for some last minute shopping in town, others followed Lee and Rob down to the estuary for some gentle, last-minute birding, where we had some great views of White-faced Ibis, Blue-winged Teal, Vermillion Flycatcher, Osprey and lots of American Coots and Ruddy Ducks. Both options were certainly preferable to sitting in an airport for hours on end, and gave everyone a last chance to enjoy the warmth of the Mexican sunshine.

By late morning, we boarded our taxis once again and set off to the airport for our return flights back to San Diego and our connecting flights back to the UK.

Day 14

Friday 5th March

Today we completed our journeys home, after our exceptional time around Baja.

Species Lists

Mammals (✓ recorded but not counted)

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March													
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	1	2	3	4	
1	Gray Whale	<i>Eschrichtius robustus</i>			✓		✓	✓								
2	Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>			✓	✓			✓						✓	
3	Bryde's Whale	<i>Balaenoptera edeni</i>			✓											
4	Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>			✓											
5	Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>			✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
6	Sperm Whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>										✓	✓			
7	Dwarf Sperm Whale	<i>Kogia simus</i>													✓	
8	Short-finned Pilot Whale	<i>Globicephala macrorhynchus</i>									✓		✓			
9	Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
10	Long-beaked Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus capensis</i>			✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓		
11	Pacific White-sided Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus obliquidens</i>				✓										
12	Risso's Dolphin	<i>Grampus griseus</i>										✓		✓		
13	Harbour Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>			✓											
14	California Sea Lion	<i>Zalophus californianus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		
15	Northern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga angustirostris</i>			✓	✓										
16	California Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus beecheyi</i>		✓												
17	Black-tailed Jackrabbit	<i>Lepus californicus</i>								✓						
18	Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>						✓								

Birds

1	California Quail	<i>Callipepla californica</i>								✓					
2	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>		✓											
3	Black Brant Goose	<i>Branta bernicla nigricans</i>		✓		✓		✓							
4	Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>		✓											

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March													
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	1	2	3	4	
5	American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>		✓												
6	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓												✓
7	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>		✓												✓
8	Cinnamon Teal	<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>														✓
9	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>		✓												✓
10	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>		✓												✓
11	Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>		✓												✓
12	Redhead	<i>Aythya americana</i>		✓												
13	Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>							✓							
14	Surf Scoter	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>			✓			✓	✓							
15	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>							✓			✓				
16	Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>		✓												
17	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>		✓												
18	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>		✓												✓
19	Red-throated Loon	<i>Gavia stellata</i>			✓											
20	Common Loon (Great Northern Diver)	<i>Gavia immer</i>						✓	✓							
21	Yellow-billed Loon (White-billed Diver)	<i>Gavia adamsii</i>							✓							
22	Laysan Albatross	<i>Phoebastria immutabilis</i>			✓											
23	Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>														✓
24	Pink-footed Shearwater	<i>Puffinus creatopus</i>			✓					✓					✓	
25	Black-vented Shearwater	<i>Puffinus opisthomelas</i>			✓				✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
26	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>				✓										
27	Least Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma microsoma</i>													✓	
28	Black Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma melania</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓	
29	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>		✓												✓
30	Black-necked (Eared) Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>		✓	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
31	Western Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>		✓	✓			✓								
32	Red-billed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon aethereus</i>									✓					✓

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March													
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	1	2	3	4	
33	American White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>					✓	✓								
34	White-faced Ibis	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>														✓
35	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		✓					✓							✓
36	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>							✓							
37	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>		✓	✓				✓							✓
38	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		✓					✓			✓				✓
39	Reddish Egret	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>							✓							
40	Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>							✓							
41	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>		✓					✓							
42	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>		✓					✓			✓				✓
43	American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>		✓												
44	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
45	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>					✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
46	Blue-footed Booby	<i>Sula nebouxii</i>									✓	✓				
47	Masked Booby	<i>Sula dactylatra</i>								✓						
48	Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>			✓					✓	✓	✓	✓			
49	Brandt's Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓			
50	Pelagic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i>			✓											
51	Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓			✓
52	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>		✓							✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
53	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		✓		✓										✓
54	Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>		✓												
55	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>		✓		✓					✓					✓
56	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>				✓										
57	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				✓							✓			
58	Prairie Falcon	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>											✓			
59	Clapper Rail	<i>Rallus longirostris</i>							h							
60	Common Gallinule	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>		✓												✓

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March														
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	1	2	3	4		
61	American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>		✓													✓
62	Black Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus bachmani</i>			✓	✓		✓									
63	American Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>				✓		✓									
64	Grey (Black-bellied) Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		✓				✓									
65	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>		✓													
66	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>									✓						
67	Snowy Plover	<i>Charadrius nivosus</i>		✓													
68	Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>		✓	✓				✓								
69	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>							✓								
70	Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>		✓					✓								
71	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>		✓					✓								
72	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>		✓													
73	Wandering Tattler	<i>Tringa incana</i>													✓		
74	Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>		✓				✓	✓								
75	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>		✓													✓
76	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>					✓										
77	Black Turnstone	<i>Arenaria melanocephala</i>					✓										
78	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>						✓	✓								
79	Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>		✓				✓									
80	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>		✓				✓									
81	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>									✓						
82	Red Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>		✓							✓						
83	Black Skimmer	<i>Rynchops niger</i>			✓												
84	Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>			✓					✓							✓
85	Bonaparte's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus philadelphia</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
86	Laughing Gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>										✓					
87	Heermann's Gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓
88	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>		✓					✓								

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March													
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	1	2	3	4	
89	California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
90	Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
91	Yellow-footed Gull	<i>Larus livens</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
92	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>						✓								
93	Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
94	Elegant Tern	<i>Thalasseus elegans</i>					✓									
95	Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>												✓		
96	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>			✓		✓							✓		
97	Scripps's Murrelet	<i>Synthliboramphus scrippsi</i>			✓											
98	Craveri's Murrelet	<i>Synthliboramphus craveri</i>									✓	✓				
99	Cassin's Auklet	<i>Ptychoramphus aleuticus</i>			✓	✓			✓							
100	Rhinoceros Auklet	<i>Cerorhinca monocerata</i>			✓											
101	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>		✓											✓	
102	Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>		✓											✓	
103	White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>								✓		✓			✓	
104	Common Ground Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>								✓					✓	
105	Eurasian Collared Dove (introduced)	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>				✓										
106	Lilac-crowned Amazon	<i>Amazona finschi</i>		✓												
107	Red-lored Amazon	<i>Amazona autumnalis</i>		✓												
108	Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>		✓												
109	White-throated Swift	<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>										✓				
110	Xantus's Hummingbird	<i>Basilinna xantusii</i>								✓						
111	Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>		✓		✓										
112	Costa's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte costae</i>				✓				✓	✓	✓				
113	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>		✓				✓								
114	Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>		✓												
115	Gila Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes uropygialis</i>								✓		✓			✓	
116	Ladder-backed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides scalaris</i>								✓		✓				

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March														
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	1	2	3	4		
117	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>		✓													
118	Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>		✓													
119	American Grey Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax wrightii</i>									✓						
120	Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>															✓
121	Cassin's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>		✓													✓
122	Ash-throated Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>				✓							✓				✓
123	Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>											✓				
124	American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>		✓													✓
125	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓		✓					✓		✓				✓
126	Oak Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus inornatus</i>		✓													
127	Verdin	<i>Auriparus flaviceps</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
128	Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>				✓											
129	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>		✓													
130	Cactus Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i>									✓						✓
131	Rock Wren	<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>				✓											
132	Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>									✓		✓	✓			
133	Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>		✓													
134	Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>									✓		✓				✓
135	Grey Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma cinereum</i>									✓		✓				✓
136	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓													✓
137	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓							✓						✓
138	House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>		✓							✓		✓				✓
139	Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Spinus psaltria</i>									✓						
140	Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis celata</i>									✓						
141	Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>		✓													✓
142	Mangrove Warbler	<i>Setophaga petechia</i>							✓								
143	Audubon's Warbler	<i>Setophaga auduboni</i>		✓													✓
144	Hooded Oriole	<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>									✓						✓

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March													
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	1	2	3	4	
145	Scott's Oriole	<i>Icterus parisorum</i>									✓					
146	Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>		✓												
147	Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>														✓
148	Yellow-headed Blackbird	<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>														✓
149	Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>		✓	✓											
150	White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>		✓		✓					✓					✓
151	Golden-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia atricapilla</i>				✓										
152	Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>		✓												
153	Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>							✓							
154	San Benito Sparrow	<i>Passerculus s. sanctorum</i>				✓										
155	Clay-colored Sparrow	<i>Spizella pallida</i>									✓					
156	Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>									✓					
157	Black-throated Sparrow	<i>Amphispiza bilineata</i>										✓	✓			
158	Green-tailed Towhee	<i>Pipilo chlorurus</i>									✓					
159	Spotted Towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>		✓												
160	California Towhee	<i>Melospiza crissalis</i>		✓							✓					
161	Black-headed Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>									✓					
162	Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>									✓		✓			✓

Fish

1	Blue Parrotfish	<i>Scarus coeruleus</i>										✓				✓
2	Blue-spotted Jawfish	<i>Opistognathus rosenblatti</i>														✓
3	Bumphead Damsel fish	<i>Microspathodon bairdi</i>														✓
4	Bumphead Parrotfish	<i>Bolbometopon muricatum</i>										✓				✓
5	California Flying Fish	<i>Cypselurus californicus</i>											✓			✓
6	Coral Hawkfish	<i>Cirrhichthys oxycephalus</i>										✓				✓
7	Cortez Angelfish	<i>Pomocanthus zonipectus</i>														✓
8	Cortez Chub	<i>Kyphosuselegans</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March												
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	1	2	3	4
9	Cortez Damselfish	<i>Eupomacentrus rectifraenum</i>											✓	✓	✓
10	Cortez Rainbow Wrasse	<i>Thalassoma lucasanum</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓
11	Creole Fish	<i>Paranthias furcifer</i>												✓	✓
12	Finescaled Triggerfish	<i>Balistes polylepis</i>										✓	✓		
13	Fine-spotted Jawfish	<i>Opistognathus sp.</i>											✓		✓
14	Giant Damselfish	<i>Microspathadon dorsalis</i>									✓		✓	✓	
15	Giant Hawkfish	<i>Cirrhitidae cirrhitus</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	
16	Grey-barred Grunt	<i>Conodon nobilis</i>										✓	✓	✓	
17	Hogfish	<i>Bodianus diplotaenia</i>										✓	✓	✓	
18	Jack sp.	<i>Euthynnus sp.</i>											✓	✓	
19	King Angelfish	<i>Holocanthus passer</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓
20	Leopard Grouper	<i>Mycteroperca rosacea</i>										✓		✓	
21	Mahi mahi (Dorado)	<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>											✓		
22	Mexican Goatfish	<i>Mulloidichthys dentatus</i>											✓	✓	✓
23	Moorish Idol	<i>Zanclus canescens</i>												✓	✓
24	Needlefish	<i>Strongylura exilis</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓
25	New Guinea fowl Puffer	<i>Arothron meleagris</i>											✓	✓	✓
26	Orange-sided Triggerfish	<i>Sufflamen verres</i>											✓		✓
27	Pacific Boxfish	<i>Ostracion meleagris</i>													✓
28	Panamic Fanged Blenny	<i>Ophioblennius steindachneri</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓
29	Panamic Sergeant Major	<i>Abuldefduf troschelii</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓
30	Pilot Fish	<i>Naucrates ductor</i>													✓
31	Remora (Suckerfish)	<i>Remora remora</i>										✓			✓
32	Sabre-toothed Blenny	<i>Aspidontus taeniatus</i>													✓
33	Scissortail Damselfish	<i>Chromis atrilobata</i>										✓		✓	✓
34	Silverstripe Chromis	<i>Chromis alta</i>													✓
35	Smelt	<i>Osmeridae sp.</i>							✓	✓					
36	Smooth-tailed Mobula	<i>Mobula thurstoni</i>								✓		✓	✓	✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March														
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	1	2	3	4		
37	Spotted Boxfish	<i>Ostracion meleagris</i>														✓	
38	Striped Marlin	<i>Tetrapturus audax</i>											✓			✓	
39	Yellowtail Surgeonfish	<i>Prionurus punctatus</i>											✓	✓	✓	✓	
40	Whale Shark	<i>Rhincodon typus</i>											✓				

Other Taxa

1	Common Chuckwalla	<i>Sauromalus ater</i>										✓					
2	Green Turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>							✓	✓					✓	✓	✓
3	Santa Catalina Spiny Lizard	<i>Sceloporus lineatulus</i>													✓		
4	Side-blotched Lizard	<i>Uta squamata</i>													✓		
5	Western Fence Lizard	<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>			✓												
6	Western Whip Tail	<i>Cnemidophorus sp.</i>														✓	
7	Zebra-tailed Lizard	<i>Callisaurus draconoides</i>											✓	✓			

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