

Baja California & Sea of Cortez

Naturetrek Tour Report

21 February - 6 March 2018



Elephant Seals – Wendy and Paul Scarborough



Reddish Egret – Rob and Frances Jaques



Group stoking Gray - Peter and Carolyn Stott



Blue Whale - Colin and Helen Barber

Report compiled by Tom Mabbett
Images courtesy of Colin and Helen Barber, Peter and Carolyn Stott,
Rob and Frances Jaques & Wendy and Paul Scarborough



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Tour participants: Tom Mabbett (Naturetrek tour leader), Rob Nawojchik (local guide), Aaron Remy (Captain, M/V Searcher) with 25 Naturetrek clients

Summary

As we have grown to know over the many years of running this holiday, every visit is different, and this tour really had everything. Despite some challenging weather at times, we had wonderful views of Blue, Grey, Humpback and Fin Whale with a whole host of special birds. The weather was variable, but spirits were always high, and we had a lot of fun along the way with the wonderful island walks, snorkelling sessions and in-water interactions with the mighty Whale Shark and playful Sea Lions as other highlights.

Day 1

Wednesday 21st February

We all flew today from London directly to San Diego and, after a smooth journey, were soon at our hotel ideally situated at the harbour. A few of us had the energy to head out for a meal at Mitch's seafood restaurant before turning in.

Day 2

Thursday 22nd February

Today most of us headed out with the local Audubon Society for a day of birding. We met with local birder Chris and covered a superb range of habitats during the day, seeing some great birds. We started with a walk along the harbour front where our first Western Grebes were seen, before we all stopped to watch a tiny Anna's Hummingbird on her nest. Further on, some stunning Bufflehead were found, with numerous Yellow-rumped Warblers as we went. We then boarded a small coach and headed out of the city for 20 minutes to Lindo Lake. Here there was a wealth of species to enjoy. Many Ring-necked Ducks, American Wigeon and Green-winged Teal were seen, with a cracking drake Wood Duck and some Cinnamon Teal just some highlights. Coopers Hawk and a Merlin were overhead, and a smart White-breasted Nuthatch and Nuttall's Woodpecker were seen well.

We carried on now to the Silverwood Reserve, higher in the mountains, and watched some feeders as we had some lunch. Many House Finch were seen, along with White-throated Sparrow and the beautiful California Quail. The feeders were teeming, and we soon added California Scrub Jay, Fox Sparrow and California Thrasher to our list. Canyon Wren were also seen here after flicking down meal worms. We finished the day back in San Diego at the river estuary, and what a great way to end. A huge range of species was seen, with a majority at very close range. Willet, Marbled Godwit, Long-billed Curlew and Greater Yellowlegs were enjoyed, while a very confiding Tricolored Heron fed in front of us with Clark's Grebe very close on the same pool! We scanned the mud here and worked through a huge flock of Western and Least Sandpipers with a few Dunlin. We watched many more species before heading for the hotel again and taking our luggage to the *Searcher*.

Once luggage was on board we headed out for dinner, with a lot more of the group heading for Mitch's tonight. After a great meal we were back on the *Searcher* for a briefing, before getting underway at around 9pm. Heading off, we went slowly past the bait-loaders, with California Sea Lions and Great Blue Herons seen well, before heading out into the Pacific and on through the night.

Day 3

Friday 23rd February

We were up early as the *Searcher* arrived into Ensenada Port for first light. Mexican customs cleared us quickly and we were soon on our way again. We now headed towards Islas Todos Santos, and once there, watched for wildlife. Some rather distant Elephant Seals were seen with Peregrine, our first of many Osprey and Black Oystercatcher. We travelled for the rest of the day, as we headed south.

Although the seas were a bit rough for cetacean spotting, it was excellent for birding. We had great views of both Black-footed and Laysan Albatross, with both species coming in close to the boat. Lots of Fulmars and a few Cassin's Auklets were also seen. We kept vigil all day and were joined at the bow by two small pods of Short-beaked Common Dolphin as we travelled. As the sun set we headed inside for a great meal and our first talk from Rob.

Day 4

Saturday 24th February

We woke this morning as we were nearing the San Benito islands. We enjoyed breakfast before being given our lesson on how to board the skiffs for our journey to shore. The importance of the red and green step was made clear. We enjoyed a really superb walk circumnavigating the westernmost of the three islands with many highlights. A huge bull Elephant Seal greeted us as we made our way up the beach and we started on our way. We passed three Osprey nests, having some wonderful views, and watched various noisy Elephant Seal colonies with lots of amazing behaviour and some huge bulls. The endemic San Benito "Savannah" Sparrow was widespread. The island's most notorious cactus "churros" soon made its mark, as Rob and I had to extract the needles from many shoes and, unfortunately, a few legs with our Leathermans!

We had lunch at the island's lighthouse, seeing the endemic Side-blotched Lizard nearby, and Horned Larks were quite numerous. Botanically, the island is very interesting with many endemic species and, in fact, the Barrel Cactus only has seven plants in total; lots of photos were taken, with amazing views. We were also delighted to find eight Guadalupe Fur Seals and had some super views of this very rare mammal. The walk was enjoyed by all, and after just about sneaking past the Elephant Seal, we boarded the *Searcher* by around 2pm.

We lifted anchor and cruised on south overnight, now. We kept watch for wildlife, of course, until darkness, with one Pacific White-sided Dolphin briefly visiting the bow with a pod of Common Dolphin also. As darkness fell we enjoyed dinner before bed.

Day 5

Sunday 25th February

Today we woke just a short way from the famous San Ignacio lagoon, and Grey Wales were waiting to greet us. As we approached the entrance to the lagoon, blows could already be seen, and large flocks of Surf Scoter were flying up as we went, with Pomarine Skua also seen. We entered the lagoon and the whales were just all around us! Anchoring in the middle of the lagoon, we spent the day in small pangas, watching the whales as close as you could possibly wish. Throughout the day everyone had some wonderful point-blank views, with many actually touching these friendly giants. A great range of behaviour was witnessed, with spy hopping and breaching enjoyed, and many mum-and-calf pairs were spotted. These amazing animals actually approached us, and being so close to these 40-foot giants is very special.

We had a wonderful day, and whilst back at the *Searcher* enjoying a cold beer, a huge whale was actually scratching under the vessel and provided some wonderful views! Clearly wanting the attention, Tom actually scrubbed this amazing creature with the deck brush! Having a slightly raised view from the *Searcher*, the whole whale could be seen laid alongside us, and it was seemingly trying to blow at us! Following a lovely sunset and dinner, we sat out in the darkness watching the night sky and listening to the Grey Whales blowing all around us, with two Magnificent Frigatebirds also coming on board. A special day indeed.

Day 6

Monday 26th February

It was a really magical morning, waking up to Grey Whales all around us and, after breakfast, we headed out in the pangas for our first excursion. Most of us headed for the mangroves nearby and enjoyed a really great cruise through this amazing habitat. A whole host of herons was seen, with Great Blue, Tricolored, Little Blue and Yellow-crowned Night Heron, with Reddish and Snowy Egret also. We saw the smart Mangrove Warbler and also a nearby Merlin, with flocks of White Ibis and a cracking wader flock, including Short-billed Dowitcher, Willet, Long-billed Curlew, Whimbrel and Marbled Godwit. Those who opted for more whale watching enjoyed some spectacular encounters, with whales coming to be scratched, and a few people even felt the baleen plates of these magnificent creatures!

We all headed out again for two more whale-watching sessions and, between the pangas, we all had some wonderful encounters. Some whales rolled alongside the boats giving some very special interactions. For the final excursion, most of the group went for a walk on a pristine nearby beach, finding whale bones and dolphin skulls amongst the myriad of amazing shells. Others spent more time with the whales and who could blame them! At 4.30 we lifted anchor and reluctantly left this amazing place, leaving the blows behind us. How heartening to visit a site with so many of these colossal creatures with them doing so well. Long may it continue.

Day 7

Tuesday 27th February

Today was a day of travelling on open water and watching for cetaceans. Despite a day of cloudy skies and spells of rain we had some wonderful sightings. Around the boat first thing were Masked, Brown and a rarely seen Red-footed booby and soon out at sea we spotted the blows of whales. We had some great views of 4 Humpback Whales together and after they moved away it wasn't long until the tall powerful blow of the mighty Blue Whale was seen in the distance! We tracked this animal but it was difficult to ever get close. It seemed to be feeding so we all treated to good views of its distinctive fluke and all key features were seen as the whale kept appearing every 12 minutes. (though never where we predicted)! It was a wonderful encounter and a thrill to watch the largest creature ever to have graced our planet! Eventually the whale moved further away and we moved on. A great start!

After a little wait and some brief blue marlin and a surprising Mako Shark at the surface we then found more humpbacks and witnessed a whole range of behaviours. Pec slapping, lobtailing and some amazing breaching. Superb animals. We finished the day with a pod of Bottlenose Dolphins around the boat before dinner. Another day full of special wildlife encounters!

Day 8

Wednesday 28th February

We rounded the corner of the Baja Peninsula in the early hours of the morning and made our way into the Sea of Cortez. We awoke to fairly quiet seas and soon we were enjoying a spectacular Humpback show in superb conditions. At least three animals stayed around the boat for some time. We were then joined by a nice pod of long-beaked Common Dolphins. Despite the calm start, the winds began to really pick up, so whale watching became very difficult and we were forced to make our way to a sheltered bay to anchor.

We then went ashore at the town of Los Frailes, en route spotting some leaping Mobula Rays, and enjoyed an excellent stroll through desert-scrub habitat, finding lots of birds. Pyrrhuloxia showed well, along with the striking Northern Cardinal with Gila Woodpecker, posing perfectly on a cactus; Cactus Wren, Ladder-backed Woodpecker and Costa's Hummingbird were other highlights. We headed back to the *Searcher* after some excellent birding and got ready for our first snorkelling session of the trip.

Despite the winds, many of us got in the water and enjoyed various fish species including puffer fish, angelfish and parrotfish, before heading back to the *Searcher* with time to relax before dinner.

Day 9

Thursday 1st March

We awoke today again in the sheltered bay of Los Frailes and, after breakfast, those who wished headed ashore for more exploring and birding. We had very good views of a female Vermilion Flycatcher, and a Verdin coming to its nest was very nice. Cactus Wren and Crested Caracara were also enjoyed. We headed back to the *Searcher* and, again, there was the opportunity for some snorkelling, which was greatly enjoyed by those who headed out. With the wind still strong, we spent the afternoon sun-bathing and watching the ocean from the *Searcher*. After dinner, with winds dropping, we headed out of the shelter of the bay and carried on our way north in the Sea of Cortez.

Day 10

Friday 2nd March

After an initially bumpy night of travel, the seas calmed, and we were happy to wake up to a very flat La Paz bay. We had one animal on our minds this morning and that was the largest fish in the world, the Whale Shark. We split into groups and everyone headed out to either watch from the skiffs or get into the water with these gentle giants. Everyone saw this amazing creature, with some excellent in-water experiences also enjoyed. The water was thick with plankton, but the visibility was still great and around eight individuals were seen across our groups, with the largest seven to eight metres long!

After a wonderful morning, we headed for the islands of Los Islotes, and on our journey there we crossed the path of a superb pod of Long-beaked Common Dolphin: around 200 animals leaping clear of the water and coming to ride our bow and, perhaps more impressively, the wake. A few Mobula Rays were also seen leaping clear of the water.

We arrived at the Los Islotes islands and went for a skiff ride around them enjoying close views of the noisy California Sea Lion colony. A large bull, females nursing pups and inquisitive juveniles were all enjoyed. All around us were Blue-footed Booby, with some displaying, Magnificent Frigatebirds, Turkey Vultures and our

first Yellow-footed Gulls. It was an excellent boat ride, and now it was time to get in the water with them! For those who wanted to, we got kitted up and were soon in the water. We approached the noisy and bustling colony, and after a little wait, some young animals came into the water and zoomed around us. It was a wonderful experience, and with a bit of encouragement, they really started to play with us, pulling at our fins and swirling all around us. There were also a lot of beautiful reef fish to be seen at the site. After a while in the water, and the special opportunity to watch how gracefully these creatures are in the water, we dragged ourselves out and back onto the *Searcher*. The sun was setting and created a lovely evening sky.

After another delicious meal, we listened to Rob's final talk and turned in, after an action-packed day. A few spotted a flying fish next to the boat in the lights, and a few sea lions came over to see us on our way north.

Day 11

Saturday 3rd March

After a smooth night's travel, we arrived at Santa Catalina Island in glassy calm seas. We enjoyed breakfast before taking the skiffs to shore and going on a great walk. This is a truly stunning island with a wonderful number of cacti with many really huge cardon cacti and giant wavy barrel cacti. Despite our very best efforts we couldn't find the endemic rattlesnake but enjoyed the superb scenery and managed to find some great birds including Phenoplandia, Loggerhead Shrike and some Black-throated Sparrows. A few Side-blotched Lizards were found, and a larger Spiny Lizard also seen by some. Following this super walk, we were ready for a cool off with a snorkel session, and it was a great site again. Numerous puffer fish were seen, with Moorish Idol; there is an impressive drop off here, and there were feeding black-necked grebes close to us. Those not keen on the snorkelling went on Kenny's coastal cruise and saw a Green Turtle and Bottlenose Dolphins as the highlights.

After lunch, it was all about whale watching, and with perfect conditions, we were in high spirits. Cruising out over the calm seas, it wasn't too long until the cry of "whale blow" came from Kenny, up in the crow's nest. As we closed in, it was apparent it was a cow and calf Blue Whale! They were initially together but then appeared to be a little way apart as the calf surfaced more regularly than the cow. It was clear here that the mum was feeding, and while she did so, the calf was just hanging around for her. Every 12 to 15 minutes mum would surface, and often in no time, they were together once more. Often the cow Blue Whale, who was utterly enormous, would spend multiple breaths at the surface allowing us to have some incredible views. We stayed with this pair for over three hours, as the routine was repeated, and it was very special indeed to witness this! Everyone was delighted and there were celebrations all round. We were briefly interrupted by a large Fin Whale, and although clearly on the move, we did have some superb views. Where to look next! We also enjoyed some nice birds with Craver's Murrelet and Bonaparte's Gull, plus multiple Mobula Rays seen just below the surface.

With a super sunset approaching, we left the Blue Whales and went to the nearby island of Montserrat and moored just offshore for dinner. It was a great BBQ meal our on the deck with margaritas, and we were joined by Green Turtles around the boat lights as we ate. Some day!

Day 12

Sunday 4th March

We arrived at first light into the bay at Isla San Francisco, and after breakfast, headed for the beach of this beautiful island for a walk. On the beach was a very confiding pair of Snowy Plover; we walked across the salt pans here and up the slopes of the caldera, enjoying some spectacular views. In the air above us, four Osprey

were seen, with one being particularly vocal and carrying food. Turkey Vultures and Magnificent Frigatebirds were nearby. Again, the landscape on this island was very different, with some impressive red Ocotillo plants and a Costa's Hummingbird feeding on them. It was a super walk with Peregrine and Side-blotched Lizard also seen well, and some fun beachcombing and close-up Sally Lightfoot Crabs.

We headed back to the *Searcher* and straight out for a snorkel to cool down. It was a great site with huge numbers of fish. The highlight was a wonderful shoal of smelt which stretched the entire shoreline, and some of us swam into deeper water to look at the carpet of Garden Eels sticking their heads up through the sand and swaying like sea grass. A great variety of beautiful reef fish were seen in perfect visibility. For those who didn't fancy snorkelling the lovely sand beach was enjoyed. We headed back for lunch and now started our journey south for the non-stop journey to Cabo San Lucas. The seas were rather quiet for cetaceans, with a little swell again, and a Scalloped Hammerhead for a lucky few on the top deck was a highlight, with a distant pod of Common Dolphin seen. We travelled overnight now and enjoyed a great dinner and a fun last evening all sharing our trip highlights.

Day 13

Monday 5th March

At around 5am we were approaching Cabo San Lucas and we rolled towards the bright lights of the port here. It was already buzzing with boats, and after a little wait whilst we were refuelling, bags were packed, and we said our final farewells after breakfast. We boarded the three minibuses now and headed off to the estuary in San Jose del Cabo to enjoy some last-minute birding and some time in the town for those who wished. Down by the estuary we had a stunning male Vermilion Flycatcher and close views of Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal. A Cactus Wren was seen, together with a close-up Hooded Oriole, a Wood Stork on top of a palm and a Green Heron showing itself for scope views.

It was now time to head for the airport, and after time for a drink in town, we were back in the minibuses. All was very smooth for our flight to L.A and we relaxed before our onward journey to London.

Day 14

Tuesday 6th March

Arrival back into London

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Naturetrek Facebook

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Species Lists

Birds (✓=recorded but not counted; E = Endemic; N = near endemic; I = Introduced)

	Common name	Scientific name	February / March													
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Brant Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>		4		12										
2	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>		10												
3	Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>		1												
4	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>		5												
5	American Wigeon	<i>Mareca americana</i>		15												
6	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		10												
7	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Spatula discors</i>		15	6											10
8	Cinnamon Teal	<i>Spatula cyanoptera</i>		4												6
9	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>		10												
10	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>		4												
11	Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>		8												
12	Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>		15												
13	Surf Scoter	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>			4		c40									
14	Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>		5												
15	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>		4				1								
16	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>		2												
17	California Quail	<i>Callipepla californica</i>		8												
18	Pacific Loon (Diver)	<i>Gavia pacifica</i>			1											
19	Common Loon (Great Northern Diver)	<i>Gavia immer</i>						5								
20	Laysan Albatross	<i>Phoebastria immutabilis</i>			3											
21	Black-footed Albatross	<i>Phoebastria nigripes</i>			1											
22	Least Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma microsoma</i>								✓			✓	✓		
23	Black Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma melania</i>								✓	✓		✓	✓		
24	Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>			c40	✓				✓						
25	Pink-footed Shearwater	<i>Ardenna creatopus</i>			✓					✓	✓					
26	Black-vented Shearwater	<i>Puffinus opisthomelas</i>			✓	✓				✓	✓				✓	
27	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>		✓												
28	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>				✓		✓		✓			c40	✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	February / March													
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6
29	Western Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>		✓					✓							
30	Clark's Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i>		1												
31	American White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>					✓	✓								
32	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		✓	✓			✓								
33	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>				✓		✓								
34	Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>		✓												✓
35	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>														✓
36	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>		✓				✓			✓	✓				
37	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		✓			✓	✓			✓					
38	Reddish Egret	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>		✓				✓								
39	Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>		✓				✓								
40	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>		✓				✓								
41	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>		✓				✓		✓			✓			
42	Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>														✓
43	American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>		5												
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>							2							
48	Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>							✓							
49	Red-footed Booby	<i>Sula sula</i>							1							
50	Brandt's Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>		✓	✓			✓				✓				
51	Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
52	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>		✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
53	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		2		6		2		1	1	6	1			
54	Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>		✓												
55	Northern Harrier	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>						✓								
56	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>		✓												
57	Common Gallinule	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>		✓												
58	American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>		✓												
59	Black Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus bachmani</i>				✓	✓									

	Common name	Scientific name	February / March													
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6
60	American Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>				✓										
61	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>		✓												
62	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		✓												
63	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>		✓						✓						
64	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>		6												
65	Snowy Plover	<i>Charadrius nivosus</i>													2	
66	Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>								c30						
67	Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>		4						c10						
68	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>		2	1					2						
69	Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>		2						3						
70	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>		1						2						
71	Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>		✓					✓	c20						
72	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>		✓								✓		✓	✓	
73	Black Turnstone	<i>Arenaria melanocephala</i>				1										
74	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>		✓			✓	✓								
75	Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>		c30			✓	✓								
76	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>		✓												
77	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>		✓												
78	Red Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>				✓				c20						
79	Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>								12						
80	Bonaparte's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus philadelphia</i>			c40									c5		
81	Heermann's Gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>				✓	✓		✓			✓	✓			
82	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>		✓												
83	California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓					
84	Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				
85	Yellow-footed Gull	<i>Larus livens</i>										✓	✓	✓		
86	Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓							✓	
87	Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>		✓				✓								
88	Pomarine Jaeger (Skua)	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>					✓	✓								
89	Craveri's Murrelet	<i>Synthliboramphus craveri</i>								✓					✓	
90	Cassin's Auklet	<i>Ptychoramphus aleuticus</i>			✓	✓										

	Common name	Scientific name	February / March													
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6
91	Rock Dove - I	<i>Columba livia</i>		✓												
92	Common Ground Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>										✓				
93	Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>		✓												
94	White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>									✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
95	White-throated Swift	<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>												✓		
96	Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>		✓												
97	Costa's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte costae</i>									✓	✓				
98	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>				✓			✓							
99	Gila Woodpecker - N	<i>Melanerpes uropygialis</i>									✓			✓		✓
100	Nuttall's Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates nuttallii</i>		✓												
101	Ladder-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates scalaris</i>									✓					
102	Northern Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>										✓				
103	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>		✓							✓				✓	✓
104	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>		✓					✓							
105	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		✓	✓	✓									✓	
106	Lilac-crowned Amazon - E	<i>Amazona finschi</i>		✓												
107	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>		✓								✓				✓
108	Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>		✓			✓									
109	Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus obscurus</i>										✓				✓
110	Cassin's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>		✓												
111	Ash-throated Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>									✓			✓		
112	Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>												✓		
113	California Scrub Jay	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>		✓												
114	American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>		✓												
115	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓			✓				✓	✓		✓		
116	Phainopepla - N	<i>Phainopepla nitens</i>												✓		
117	Verdin	<i>Auriparus flaviceps</i>										✓		✓	✓	
118	Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>		✓			✓									
119	American Bushtit	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>		✓												
120	Cactus Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i>									✓	✓				✓
121	Canyon Wren	<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>		✓												

	Common name	Scientific name	February / March													
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6
122	Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>									✓					
123	White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>		✓												
124	Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>									✓		✓	✓	✓	
125	California Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma redivivum</i>		✓												
126	Common Starling - I	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓											✓	
127	Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>				✓										
128	House Sparrow - I	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓							✓				✓	
129	Buff-bellied Pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>		✓												
130	House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>		✓									✓			
131	Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Spinus psaltria</i>		✓												
132	Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis celata</i>									✓					
133	Mangrove Warbler	<i>Setophaga petechia</i>							✓							
134	Audubon's Warbler	<i>Setophaga auduboni</i>		✓											✓	
135	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>		✓												
136	Scott's Oriole	<i>Icterus parisorum</i>									✓					
137	Hooded Oriole	<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>									✓	✓			✓	
138	Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>		✓												
139	Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>		✓												
140	Red Fox Sparrow	<i>Passerella iliaca</i>		✓												
141	White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>		✓												
142	Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>		✓												
143	Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>								✓						
144	San Benitos Savannah Sparrow - E	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis sanctorum</i>				✓										
145	Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>									✓	✓				
146	Black-throated Sparrow	<i>Amphispiza bilineata</i>											✓	✓		
147	Spotted Towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>		✓												
148	California Towhee	<i>Melospiza crissalis</i>		✓												
149	Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>														
150	Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>									✓					
151	Pyrrhuloxia	<i>Cardinalis sinuatus</i>									✓					
152	Lazuli Bunting	<i>Passerina amoena</i>										✓				

	Common name	Scientific name	February / March													
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6

Mammals

1	Grey Whale	<i>Eschrichtius robustus</i>					✓	✓								
2	Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>							1				2			
3	Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>											1			
4	Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>							8	6						
5	Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		
6	Long-beaked Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus capensis</i>				✓						c200				
7	Short-beaked Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>			✓											
8	Pacific White-sided Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus obliquidens</i>				1										
9	Harbour Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>			2											
10	California Sea Lion	<i>Zalophus californianus</i>		✓	✓				✓				✓			
11	Northern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga angustirostris</i>			✓	✓										
12	Guadalupe Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus townsendi</i>				8										
13	California Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus beecheyi</i>		✓												
14	Black-tailed Jackrabbit	<i>Lepus californicus</i>								✓						

Fish

Balloonfish / Long-spine Porcupinefish, *Diodon holocanthus*
 Blue and Gold Snapper, *Lutjanus viridus*
 Bumphead Parrotfish, *Bolbometopon muricatum*
 Cortez Rainbow Wrasse, *Thalassoma lucasanum*
 King Angelfish, *Holocanthus passer*
 Leopard Grouper, *Mycteroperca rosacea*
 Moorish Idol, *Zanclus canescens*
 Orange-sided Triggerfish, *Sufflamen verres*
 Reef Cornetfish, *Fistularia commersonii*
 Smelt, *Osmeridae sp.*
 Striped Marlin, *Tetrapturus audax*
 Wounded Wrasse, *Halichoeres chierchiae*

Cape Garden Eel, *Heteroconger pellegrini*
 Bluechin Parrotfish, *Scarus ghobban*
 California Flying Fish, *Cypselurus californicus*
 Finescaled Triggerfish, *Balistes polylepis*
 Largemouth Blenny, *Labrisomus xanti*
 Mackerel, *Scomberomorus sp.*
 Needlefish, *Strongylura exilis*
 Pacific Boxfish, *Ostracion meleagris*
 Remora (Suckerfish), *Remora remora*
 Smooth-tailed Mobula, *Mobula thurstoni*
 Convict Surgeonfish, *Acanthurus triostegus*
 Yellowtail Surgeonfish, *Prionurus punctatus*

Bicolor Parrotfish, *Cetoscarus bicolor*
 Bumphead Damsel, *Microspathodon bairdi*
 Cortez Angelfish, *Pomocanthus zonipectus*
 Grey-barred Grunt, *Conodon nobilis*
 Leather Bass, *Dermatolepis dermatolepis*
 Mako Shark, *Isurus oxyrinchus*
 Guineafowl Puffer, *Arothron meleagris*
 Panamic Sergeant Major, *Abuldefduf troschelii*
 Scalloped Hammerhead Shark, *Sphyrna lewini*
 Spotted Boxfish, *Ostracion meleagris*
 Three-banded Butterflyfish, *Chaetodon robustus*
 Spottail Grunt, *Haemulon maculicauda*

Amarillo Snapper, *Lutjanus argentiventris*

Whale Shark, *Rhincodon typus*

Other Taxa

Baja Spiny Lizard, *Scelpoarus zosteromus*

Green Turtle, *Chelonia mydas*

Santa Catalina Spiny Lizard, *Sceloporus lineatulus*

San Benito Side-blotched Lizard, *Uta stansburiana stellata*

Side-blotched Lizard, *Uta squamata*

Sally Lightfoot Crab, *Grapsus Grapsus*

Cape Spiny-tailed Iguana (in Cabo), *Ctenosaura hemilopha*



San Francisco Scenic – Rob and Frances Jaques