

Whales & Dolphins of Monterey Bay

Naturetrek Tour Report

25 August - 2 September 2012



Blue Whale by Peter Dunn



Dall's Porpoise by Peter Dunn



Buller's Shearwater by Roy Cowley



Juvenile Sabine's Gull by Peter Dunn

Report compiled by Peter Dunn
Images by Peter Dunn & Roy Cowley



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Day 1

Saturday 25th August

London to San Francisco

Peter had flown out a day ahead of the group to organise the itinerary and hire the vehicle so he was waiting in the arrivals lounge when the members of the group arrived. Ian and Geraldine had arrived in the US earlier to visit friends so they were also waiting with Peter. With all group members and their bags accounted for we went to the airport garage to load the extra-large 12-seater minibus and headed south on Highway 101. The condition of the road surface made sure nobody slept but we made good progress and turn off onto Highway 68 towards Monterey as the night drew in and the lights of the town lit the horizon. Various land marks were pointed out on the way, including the IT giants in 'silicon valley' and the senses were also treated to the aroma of Gilroy, well known as being the garlic capital of the west.

Arriving at the Anton Inn in Pacific Grove around 20.50, we met in the reception/dining room to enjoy a delicious cold buffet left for us. Although it was now about 5am UK-time, some still found the energy to chat about the forthcoming days ahead before we retired to bed ready for our first whale watch on Sunday morning.

Day 2

Sunday 26th August

Monterey Bay and headland

The morning came too soon for some and not soon enough for others and the early risers briefly saw an Anna's Hummingbird feeding on the flowering shrubs in the car park, but more remarkable was the lack of recent fog and fairly high cloud – a sign of things to come!. We enjoyed a welcome breakfast of bagels, strawberries and other fruits, eggs, cereal, coffee and fruit juices and gathered at the minibus just after 8am to drive down to Fisherman's Wharf for our first morning whale watching.

Walking from the car park we saw Western Gulls and Brewer's Blackbirds and soon we had gathered on the pier and boarded the Sea Wolf II, skippered by Nancy Black with Kate as the on board naturalist. The sea conditions could not be better, smooth with far horizons and breaking cloud.

As we started out from the harbour a mother Sea Otter was carrying a new born cub on her chest close to the boat to much 'ooh's and 'aah's, and then the unmistakable smell of the California Sea Lions and Brandt's Cormorants on the outer pier. Soon we were heading out due west, far out into the deep water, having had information of whales seen by earlier boats.

Some eight miles out over the canyon and huge spout of water vapour then the long grey mottled back and small dorsal indicated a huge Blue Whale! What a start! As we watched this one, a second appeared in the distance and then a smaller juvenile appeared. If that was not all, a Fin Whale and Humpback put in an appearance, followed by a second Fin. We stayed with these animals for some time relishing in their huge size and individual colouring, the juvenile showing a golden coat of diadems indicating some time spent in tropical waters. Not forgetting the bird life, four species of alcids (Guillemot, Xantus's Murrelet, Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets), Pomarine Skuas, Sabine Gulls and six huge Black-footed Albatross were seen. With all this excitement we arrived back late to the harbour, to enjoy a substantial lunch at one of the local restaurants – specialising in clam chowder in a bread bowl!

The afternoon was spent driving the 17 Mile Drive, a toll road around the famous Pebble Beach and Spyglass Hill golf courses but also some nice woodland and shoreline habitat where we saw Grey Plovers, Black Turnstones, dark-rumped American Whimbrel, Sanderling and Killdeer. On the golf courses Black-tailed Deer grazed the short grass – a few males with large antlers and a pair of White-tailed Kites (Black-shouldered) were showing well sitting on top of bushes and later soaring over the golf course. The large rocks along the coastline held large numbers of resting Brandt's Cormorants and we stopped to see the famous Lone Cypress tree which has stood on its rocky perch for over 250 years. Nearby, other Cypress trees grew along the rocky coastline. Down on the sea, thick kelp beds were sturdy enough to hold hunting Great (White) Egrets. The group were entertained by two Steller's Jays..

We arrived back at the hotel at 6pm to rest and prepare for our first evening meal at the Anton, an excellent selection of soup, spaghetti bolognaise, salad and a chocolate sweet, washed down with wine or soda. Following the daily log call, most retired to bed early after a really exciting first day.

Day 3

Monday 27th August

Monterey Bay and Carmel River Mouth

We woke to a gloriously sunny morning and screeching of Scrub Jays. After breakfast we boarded the minibus for another visit to the Monterey Bay Canyon. Arriving at the Fisherman's Wharf the bay looked calm and clear with fog way out, and we hugged the coastline south after reports of possible Orcas towards Carmel Bay. Searching the area we only saw a few Sooty Shearwaters and two species of phalaropes so we started to head north again. After about 20 minutes we started to see splashes on the water and dark triangular fins and hints of white on the side - typical signs of a small school of Dall's Porpoises feeding. The splashes are known as rooster-tails as they move fast through the water. After enjoying these exciting animals we continued north way past Moss Landing as there had been a sighting of a Humpback Whale and it seemed an age as we headed north before we arrived at the area just as the fog was rolling in. However we were not disappointed as we had some good views of the animal as it surfaced and 'fluked' a number of times close to us.

We had travelled a long way north and as we headed back we knew we were going to be late back so we decided that with the fog reducing visibility we would give the afternoon whale watch a miss and visit another site.

We ate our sandwiches overlooking the expansive marina before heading south to the Carmel River mouth for a walk. This proved successful, adding a number of new species to the list such as Black Oystercatcher, Short-billed Dowitcher, Song Sparrow and Black Phoebe. It was also a nice location with good views around the Carmel wetlands and Point Lobos. We headed back to the hotel, calling at the supermarket for some provisions, and later enjoyed a tri-trip steak BBQ dinner with the trimmings and completed the daily log before retiring to bed.

Day 4

Tuesday 28th August

Big Sur

It was a clear and sunny morning although a little cooler when we joined for breakfast at 7.30am, after which we loaded the minibus and headed south on Highway 1 towards the Big Sur. Our first scheduled stop was at Bixby Bridge, one of the last bridges to be completed and the great views down the Big Sur in perfect light. With the clear sunny weather the scenery was excellent.

Travelling on further, we saw one or two Red-tailed Hawks and American Kestrels before arriving at Andrew Molera State Park. The entrance road was being resurfaced so we had to park on the edge of the highway and walk into the park. First bird was a White-tailed Hawk and then two Steller's Jays. We spent an hour or so enjoying the butterflies, dragonflies and mixed flocks of birds in the woods. The mixed flocks generated an exciting energy and every other bird was a new, often very colourful species! In one part of the woodland we encountered a Brown Creeper, Wilson's Warblers, Yellow Warblers, a feeding Nuttall's Woodpecker and a mixed flock of Bushtits, Wrentits and Chestnut-backed Chickadees. Butterflies included the graceful Monarch, Lorquin's Admiral, Common Ringlet, and Common Buckeye.

We continued south passing numerous huge Redwood trees at Big Sur Station, pausing to buy our sandwich lunches at the bakery and then to Grimes point Seal Colony to look for condors. No luck here or the next site so we headed to the Vista turnout to eat our lunch and speak to a researcher, radio tracking the California Condors and she had a radio signal for one nearby and suggested areas for us to look. We tried but could not find any so progressed to Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park. No sightings here either but we did see Pacific-slope Flycatcher, and both Vaux's and Black Swifts.

We continued our journey south and just before Lucia we spotted some whale blows off shore. Stopping to look, we estimated seven Humpback Whales were feeding just offshore but perhaps more incredible was a flock of around 15,000 Sooty Shearwater wheeling around near the whales. It was a fantastic sight! We had to drag ourselves away to continue south, stopping on a large lay-by (turnout) next to a Northern Elephant Seal haul-out. In the hot sunshine, we watched 30+ seals sleeping and basking on the sandy beach. Some large males were sleeping close to the view point with a variety of females and young males nearby. We checked some rocks to the north and found five nice Surfbirds feeding with Black Turnstones and while watching these birds, a Northern Harrier flew past.

Heading back north we stooped briefly at Ragged Point for ice cream and a comfort stop and then settled back in our seats for the two hour journey back to the hotel passing the whales again near Lucia. This time an animal with a huge blow and low body indicated a Blue Whale was also in attendance with the Humpbacks and shearwaters. The landscape was breathtaking and we had incredible views of the mountains and the glistening Pacific Ocean. The colour and texture produced by the rocks and plants that grew out from them also created an amazing scene for such a large part of the journey back. That evening we enjoyed a home made lasagne and completed a good list of species seen during the day.

Day 5

Wednesday 29th August

Monterey Bay and Carmel Valley

A foggy morning and a good breakfast was had at the hotel before we headed down to the wharf for a morning on the Sea Wolf II. The fog was patchy and the first part of the bay was clear although there was a high tide swell which was forecast to increase with strong off shore winds. We headed straight out towards the canyon edge with the other boats in search of whales and dolphins. There had been a report of white dolphins by a passing yacht and we were on the lookout for Risso's Dolphins but they not could be found, however we started seeing a few birds and a brown storm petrel with a pale upper wing bar, strong white rump and forked tail flew close past the bow of the boat – a Leach's Petrel – quite rare in the bay. During the morning we saw a number of petrels, all the others looking like Ashy Storm-petrels, also Buller's, Pink-footed and Sooty Shearwaters and a couple of Black-footed Albatross. One of the other boats had found a humpback in the Moss Landing canyon and we sped there but this animal always kept its distance and we only had two or three views. As time was getting on we had to leave this whale and head back to port for lunch.

Back on land we ate our lunch before heading to the Carmel Valley which was basking in hot sunshine. As we all stripped down to summer clothing after our cooler boat trip, our first stop produced two reasonably close Golden Eagles and a juvenile Cooper's Hawk. At another stop we had a couple of Coyotes, California Towhee and Oak Titmouse. We made our way to the junction at the Tassajarra Road where Western Bluebirds were feeding in the field, a little flock of Lark Sparrows scurried about the soil and bushes and a Nuttall's Woodpecker posed in a tree. While watching the birds by the roadside, a local ranch farmer, Bob, who Peter knew from previous trips, invited us to use his rest rooms and visit his barn where he stored the local Fire Engines! It was pleasant to get out of the heat for a while and chat about his work, his horses and the wildlife. Around his property we saw Wild Turkeys eating the spilt grain in the horse enclosures, Western Bluebirds and Black Phoebes feeding from the fences.

We headed back pausing for ice creams before landing back at the hotel around 6pm. Dinner, a roast turkey feast with pecan pie desert was served at 7pm after which we completed the log and talked over the days sightings and next day's itinerary.

Day 6

Thursday 30th August

Moss Landing area

The day dawned grey, overcast and damp with the low cloud but our spirits were high as we headed north on Highway 1 towards Moss Landing.

Our first port of call was Zmudowski's State Park, where there is a small freshwater lagoon alongside the sand dunes. The lagoon in the state park itself was quiet with just Pied-billed Grebes and Western Gulls but around the large rush stems we found a few Pacific Tree Frogs of all colours, and Western Marsh Wrens frustrated us with brief views as they sang strongly. A large flock of American Goldfinches were feeding on seeding thistles, mostly juveniles but some nice males were noted. In the same area one or two male Common Yellowthroats were also seen. Peter tried to encourage Virginia Rails to show themselves but only one was seen across the lake calling back. As we headed back to the minibus a bird crossed the road behind us which turned out to be a Barn Owl, a particularly dark individual which looked larger than our birds back in the UK.

Next stop was Jetty Road leading to the Moss Landing State Beach. The tide was high and hundreds of waders were gathering including Long-billed Curlews, Marbled Godwits and Willets. Harbour Seals were frolicking in the rising tide and tiny Least Sandpipers passed over heading for Elkhorn Slough, some pausing on the marsh. A little further along on the beach an adult Glaucous-winged Gull caused some excitement being an early arrival and we saw two or three of the specially protected Snowy Plover stood on the shingle in amongst Sanderling. A flock of Western Gulls were resting with a group of Elegant Terns on the shingle while three Red-breasted Mergansers were also present.

In the harbour an entertaining raft of Sea Otters were lazily floating on their backs. Everyone was enjoying their antics, photographing them as they rolled round in the water and took small paddle strokes with their rear paws to move, floating along on their backs. Common (Harbour) Seals meanwhile were sleeping on the sand banks. White-crowned Sparrows fed in the scrub and out in the harbour mouth were a few Western Grebes riding the surf.

Lunch was taken at Phil's Snack Shack where we made use of his picnic tables overlooking a pool which had some Greater Yellowlegs sleeping and feeding with a few Gadwall. Two Black-crowned Night Herons squabbled over sleeping quarters in the large Eucalyptus tree and an Anna's Hummingbird hunted insects in the pine trees with some Rufous-backed Chickadees.

The last birding stop of the afternoon was to Moonglow Dairy near to the Moss Landing power station where we managed to see the locally scarce Tricolored Blackbird and Brown-headed Cowbirds with the dairy herd. These were numerous and part of large flocks of Common Starlings, Brewer's Blackbirds and Red-winged Blackbirds feeding below the feet of the cows in the open, dusty fields. As the birds took off, the scarlet red of the Red-winged and Tricoloured Blackbirds flashed out from their wings. A few late, young Great Egrets were still in their nest. The nearby pools had Mallard, Pintail, Shoveler and Cinnamon Teal together with numerous Red-necked Phalaropes and Least Sandpipers. We were able to pick out Western Sandpipers with the waders and Savannah Sparrows with the Song Sparrows. Out on Elkhorn Slough were ten American White Pelicans resting on the bank, and flocks of Long-billed Curlew hunted crabs on the mud banks. Out on the water we found a pair of summer-plumaged Black-necked (Eared) Grebes and two larger grebes turned out to be Clark's and Western Grebes together, enabling us to appreciate the finer ID points. Two Northern Harriers spooked a number of Cinnamon Teal and Pintail from another pool while a pair of Forster's Terns hunted the river.

We finished off the afternoon with a visit to the local Wild Bird Centre where souvenirs and presents were bought and ice creams close by, before an early finish at the hotel for some to check the gardens and beach before dinner. Some Surfbirds were spotted with the Black Turnstones on the shore while Black-tailed Deer

were feeding in the cemetery. Our final evening meal at Anton Lodge was a steak dinner and all agreed that the meals had been an excellent selection of home cooking.

Day 7

Friday 31st August

Monterey Bay area

Our last full day in Monterey started with the overnight sea fog still present and we headed down to Fisherman's Wharf after breakfast for our final morning on the Sea Wolf II. It was a foggy morning but the sea was relatively calm and we began searching to the north. Not far out we started to see a steady passage of Sooty Shearwaters heading north and our expectations rose. Rhinoceros and Cassin's Auklets also appeared, a 'full-spooned' Pomarine and an adult Arctic Skua passed the boat and many phalaropes were on the sea, this time Grey being predominate. However, we were struggling for cetaceans, even though the fog had lifted somewhat to give a distant horizon. We continued to zigzag north then east looking for whales or dolphins, whilst we were being entertained by bird life. Many Ashy Storm-petrels passed the boat and both adult and 1st winter Sabine's Gulls were seen. A large skua came towards the boat being harassed by a smaller skua, and excitement amongst the birders when we realised it was a South Polar Skua being pursued by a white-headed juvenile Long-tailed Skua! The Long-tail broke off its attack to then pursue an Ashy Storm-petrel, quite unexpected...

We continued searching with birds all around including Black-footed Albatross and eventually came across a small pod of Risso's Dolphins, their tall fins and white scarred backs being diagnostic. We stayed with these animals for a while and after leaving them a small group of Dall's Porpoises played around the boat. Eventually we had to make our way back to the harbour but not before an Osprey flew directly over the boat.

Having got lunch the group were dropped at Monterey Aquarium. They spent the afternoon enjoying the seahorses, jellyfishes and shorebirds. They were also able to see what an Ocean Sunfish looked like under water – its odd shape and form making this huge fish even more fascinating. After enjoying the aquarium they walked along Cannery Row to meet Peter and the vehicle. We returned to the hotel to sort our bookings for our return flight and pack before our last log and final instructions on the flight home. We finished the evening with a splendid meal at the Fish Wife restaurant.

Day 8

Saturday 1st September

Leave from San Francisco Airport

Most of the group had to be at San Francisco airport to book in at 2pm and Peter had the next Naturetrek group to meet who were arriving at 2.20pm so we decided to leave the hotel early and try and view the Golden Gate Bridge. We said goodbye to Jake at the Anton Inn and Barbara handed him a small appreciation from the group before we headed north on Highway 101 towards San Francisco. The traffic was relatively light and we made good progress and what was more encouraging was there was no fog so viewing would be ideal.

We took the route through the centre of downtown San Francisco, where Peter pointed out many streets which sounded familiar to those who had seen some of the old American 'cop' shows and movies and also the famous switch back hills, the scene of many a car chase. As we approached the Bay, the bridge was in full view for only the second time in seven trips, so Peter headed over to the north side and we took photos of it from a high

vantage point, with the buildings of San Francisco in the background. A fitting end to what everyone agreed was a fantastic holiday, with good wildlife, good food, good accommodation and not least great companionship!

We got to the airport before 2pm where we said a fond farewell and headed home before Peter had to go and meet the next Naturetrek group...

We were very grateful to the staff at Anton Lodge for looking after us during the week and also the captains and crew of the Sea Wolf II for showing us the wonderful wildlife in Monterey Bay. Particular thanks go to Captain John and scientist Kate for searching out species we had not seen and altering the course to give us more chances of whales, and deck hands Mike and Issah for making sure the sailings were safe and comfortable.

Day 9

Sunday 2nd September

Arrive London

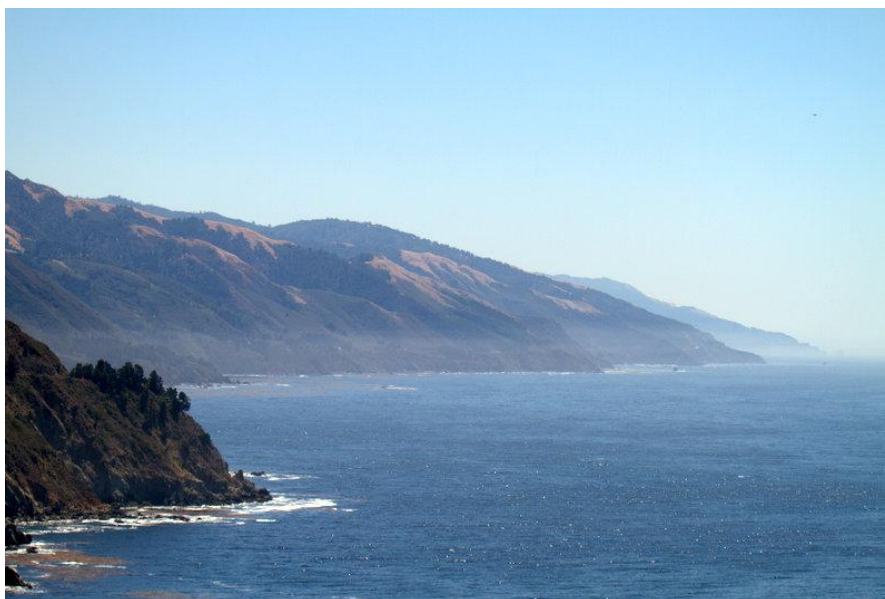
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Big Sur scenery by Roy Cowley

Species Lists

Mammals

	Common name	Scientific name	August						
			25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>					1	1	
2	Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>					2		
3	California Sea Lion	<i>Zalaopus californianus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Northern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga angustirostris</i>				35			
5	Harbour Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
6	Sea Otter	<i>Enhydra lutris</i>		8	2	2	3	40	30
7	Common Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	1						
8	Mule Deer	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>		3	✓	✓		3	
9	Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>		3		1			
10	Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>		2					
11	Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>		1	1	7	1		
12	Risso's Dolphin	<i>Grampus griseus</i>							12
13	Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>			2		1	6	
14	Dall's Porpoise	<i>Phocoenoides dalli</i>			6				6
15	Western Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus griseus</i>				1			
16	Eastern Fox Squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger</i>		2					
17	California Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus beecheyi</i>				✓		✓	✓

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

	Common name	Scientific name	August/September							
			25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
1	Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>					14	1		
2	Snow Goose	<i>Chen caerulescens</i>			3					
3	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓		
4	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>						✓		
5	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓	✓		1	✓		
6	Cinnamon Teal	<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>							10	
7	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>							8	
8	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>			5				4	
9	Surf Scoter	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>			4					
10	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>							3	
11	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>					1			
12	Black-footed Albatross	<i>Phoebastria nigripes</i>		6	2		2			
13	Buller's Shearwater	<i>Puffinus bulleri</i>		10	1		2			
14	Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>		✓	✓	15K	100	✓		
15	Pink-footed Shearwater	<i>Puffinus creatopus</i>		✓	3		1			
16	Least Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma microsoma</i>								1
17	Leach's Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>					1			
18	Ashy Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma homochroa</i>			2		3			2
19	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>			6				6	
20	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>							2	
21	Western Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>			1				4	
22	Clark's Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i>							1	
23	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		1	2			2	1	
24	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>			1	1	1	3		
25	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>								1
26	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		2		✓	1	✓	4	

	Common name	Scientific name	August/September							
			25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
27	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>			2			6		
28	American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>						12		
29	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
30	Brandt's Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
31	Pelagic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i>		✓	✓		✓	3	✓	
32	Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>					4	✓		
33	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>		✓	6	✓	✓	✓		1
34	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>								1
35	White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>		2		2				
36	Northern Harrier	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>				1		2		
37	Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>				1	1			
38	Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>			1	6		1		
39	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>				6		3		
40	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>				1	2			
41	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>				8	1			
42	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>			1					
43	Virginia Rail	<i>Rallus limicola</i>						1		
44	American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>		6	6			✓		
45	Black Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus bachmani</i>			2			1		
46	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>						6		
47	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		2				2		
48	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>			1			6		
49	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>		2	1					
50	Snowy Plover	<i>Charadrius nivosus</i>						3		
51	Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>			2			2		
52	Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>		40	3			✓		
53	American Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus</i>		3	1			3		
54	Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>						✓		
55	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>						7		
56	Wandering Tattler	<i>Tringa incana</i>		1		1				
57	Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>		1				✓		
58	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>						1		
59	Black Turnstone	<i>Arenaria melanocephala</i>		10	5	8		1	1	
60	Surfbird	<i>Aphriza virgata</i>				5			1	
61	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>		✓						
62	Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>			1					
63	Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>						1		
64	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>						✓		
65	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>		100	80			✓	80	
66	Red Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>		20	15				100	
67	Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>		8	4			1		6
68	Heermann's Gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
69	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>						5		
70	California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>		1	12	✓		✓	✓	
71	Glaucous-winged Gull	<i>Larus glaucescens</i>						1		
72	Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
73	Elegant Tern	<i>Thalasseus elegans</i>		4	30			2	14	✓
74	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>		2	1			6		1
75	Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>						2		
76	South Polar Skua	<i>Stercorarius maccormicki</i>								1
77	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>		5	2					3

	Common name	Scientific name	August/September							
			25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
78	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>			1					2
79	Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>								1
80	Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>		✓	✓			✓	5	✓
81	Pigeon Guillemot	<i>Cepphus columba</i>						1		
82	Xantus's Murrelet	<i>Synthliboramphus hypoleucus</i>		3						
83	Cassin's Auklet	<i>Ptychoramphus aleuticus</i>		6	1			3		✓
84	Rhinoceros Auklet	<i>Cerorhinca monocerata</i>		✓	✓			✓		✓
85	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia 'feral'</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
86	Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>				6				
87	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	2	✓	✓	1			✓	✓
88	Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>								2
89	Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>							1	
90	American Black Swift	<i>Cypseloides niger</i>				2				
91	Vaux's Swift	<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>				✓				
92	Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>		1	2	2	20	20		✓
93	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megasceryle alcyon</i>							2	
94	Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>		4	5	6	10	6		
95	Nuttall's Woodpecker	<i>Picoides nuttallii</i>				2	1			
96	Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>						H		
97	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>			5	1	2	4		
98	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax difficilis</i>				3				
99	Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>							1	
100	Steller's Jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>		2		3	2			
101	California Scrub Jay	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
102	Black-billed Magpie	<i>Pica hudsonia</i>			1					
103	American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
104	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>				1				
105	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	<i>Poecile rufescens</i>			6	10			✓	
106	Oak Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus inornatus</i>					2			
107	Violet-green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>				✓	✓			
108	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>		1	3	6			1	
109	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
110	American Bushtit	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>				20	20			
111	Wrentit	<i>Chamaea fasciata</i>				10	1			
112	Western Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>							4	
113	Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>			1					
114	Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>				2				
115	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
116	Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>					12			
117	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
118	American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>							✓	
119	House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>			6		4	✓		
120	Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>		1					3	
121	American Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga aestiva</i>				5				
122	Wilson's Warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>				2				
123	Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>							10	
124	Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>		6		6	1	✓		
125	Tricolored Blackbird	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>							✓	
126	Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
127	Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>					2			
128	Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>			✓	✓	1	✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	August/September							
			25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
129	Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolnii</i>				1				
130	White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>		1	1	2			2	
131	Oregon Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis oregonus</i>							3	
132	Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>		4					8	
133	Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>						8		
134	California Towhee	<i>Melospiza crissalis</i>			1					
135	Black-headed Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>				1				

Other fauna

Painted Lady; American Lady, West Coast Lady, Red Admiral, Mylitta Crescent, Lorquin's Admiral, Cabbage White; Monarch, Common Ringlet, Mournful Duskywing, Anise Swallowtail and Common Buckeye.

Blue-eyed Darner, Black Saddlebags.

Pacific Tree Frog; Western Fence Lizard, Ocean Sunfish (*Mola mola*); Egg-yolk Jelly; Moon Jelly, Lion's Maine Jelly, Sea Nettle, Blue-backed Crabs, various starfish species.

Map of whale watching tracks

