

Whales & Dolphins of Monterey Bay

Naturetrek Tour Report

1 - 9 September 2012



Humpback Whales



Risso's Dolphins



Acorn Woodpecker



Bixby Bridge and The Big Sur

Report and images compiled by Peter Dunn



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Day 1

Saturday 1st September

London to San Francisco

The group arrived in San Francisco after an uneventful flight from London in good time and once all the formalities of immigration and customs were over, met Peter waiting in the arrivals lounge. The minibus was ready and waiting in the airport garage and we were soon heading south on Highway 101 towards Monterey. The traffic was light and we made good time arriving at the Anton Inn before 6 pm, where we got our rooms and then had a snack while Peter explained the itinerary for the week. As the time was really 4am UK style all retired early looking forward to a morning's whale watching the next day.

Day 2

Sunday 2nd September

Monterey Bay and headland

We gathered for breakfast, and then loaded the minibus to travel down to Fisherman's Wharf. It was Labour Day weekend so we expected it to be busy and the car park was starting to fill by 8.30am. We picked up our pre-booked tickets and we soon travelling out over the harbour looking at California Sea Lions, Brandt's Cormorants and Heermann's Gulls. We also saw both Black Turnstone and Surf Bird on the breakwater. The sun had started to break through the low cloud as we headed out into the bay, passing Rhinoceros Auklets, Arctic Skuas chasing Elegant Terns and a steady passage of Sooty Shearwaters.

It was apparent there was much bait fish about with all the bird and seal activity, and very soon the first blow of a Humpback Whale was seen. From then on we seemed to be surrounded by Humpbacks, feeding in shallow water just off the Marina Beach. We also had good views of Harbour Porpoise in the same area. This was a spectacular sight, as everywhere you looked there were blows, and the scientist on the top deck reckoned this involved 34 individuals! Even when the fog came back in we were never far away from a whale and we had some close views as we headed back to the harbour, with animals in full view of the harbour mouth.

We dined at lunch time at Abalonetti, with the group members sampling Clam Chowder in a sourdough bun or seafood sandwich. 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 'piping' Black Oystercatchers, Black Turnstones, Surfbird and Wandering Tattler. On the golf courses Black-tailed Deer grazed the short grass and a White-tailed Kite was sat on a bush. 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 three Sea Otters wrapped up in kelp – one was with a pup. We arrived back at the hotel at 5pm to rest and prepare for our meal served at the hotel at 7pm after which we completed the checklist and discussed the itinerary for the next day.

Day 3

Monday 3rd September

Monterey Bay

After breakfast we boarded the vehicle for another whale watch adventure. Arriving at the Fisherman's Wharf the bay looked calm despite the fog and the water remained relatively flat as we hugged the coastline north before heading out towards deeper waters. The fog was clearing as we ventured out and there were fewer birds than yesterday – just a few Rhinoceros Auklets and some Common (Murre) Guillemots. Sooty Shearwaters were by far the most numerous bird flying past the boat and small groups sitting on the sea. Occasionally Grey and Red-necked Phalaropes sat on the sea or dashed past in small flocks. Because the water was so calm we saw more Sea Otters out at sea than on previous trips and occasionally we saw the small triangular fin of Harbour Porpoise as they searched the water for fish. Sea Nettle and Egg Yolk Jellyfish were very common and early on in the journey we had excellent views of an animal which eats jellyfish, a huge Ocean Sun Fish – looking like a large white dustbin lid with fins! During the trip we saw up to six or more!

The fog had started to clear and in the distance close to the Moss Landing canyon we found our first Humpback. We followed this animal in the fog for a while then as the fog lifted again, another four humpbacks appeared. We enjoyed good views of these and the original animal started tail slapping and pectoral fin slapping, a fantastic sight! Shortly before we left these animals a 6th one appeared and then suddenly a pair swam straight towards the boat and we had excellent close views next to the boat and all experienced the smell of whale-breath!! After these spectacular views we headed back to port, with an adult 'spooned' Pomarine Skua being noted by Peter and Val.

After a quick lunch in the warm sunshine we decided to change the itinerary as it was a busy day in Monterey and we swapped the afternoon trip for a trip down Carmel Valley in search of some chaparral specialities. There was a distinct difference in the weather and temperature from Monterey Bay's fog and chilled wind, to Carmel Valley's hot sunshine. We stopped on a corner where Peter had seen Golden Eagle the previous week and after watching American Kestrel and California Scrub Jays, the two eagles appeared in the field opposite, one flying straight towards us and low over the hill giving great views. Also here we had a number of Western Bluebirds and Lark Sparrows in the field.

We continued on, stopping at strategic points, where we saw Cliff Swallows overhead and Yellow Warbler and had our first Monarch and Lorquin's Admiral butterflies. As we drove slowly past a large field Peter spotted a shape in the grass which we all managed to see and turned out to be a large Bobcat that appeared to be watching something. We quietly got out of the vehicle and set up the scope but the cat was spooked and crouched down out of view, never to be seen again. Fired up with enthusiasm with this sighting we finished at the Tassajarra Road junction where Peter heard a magpie calling and we found a single Yellow-billed Magpie drinking from a trough and later calling in a tree. Finally a group of Wild Turkeys were spotted, completing our list for this area. We headed back to Monterey stopping for fuel and ice-cream and arrived back at the Anton Inn at 6pm to prepare for a BBQ dinner and complete the daily log.

Day 4

Tuesday 4th September

Big Sur

It was a foggy morning and 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 with the fog bank being quite high and touching the tops of the hills for some dramatic views. With the fog lifting the scenery was excellent and we arrived at Andrew Molera State Park. Parking in the parking lot we made our way to the track which bordered the River Sur. The first area of mature trees was teeming with birds, including Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Bushtits, Wilson's, Townsend and Yellow Warblers, Pacific Coast Flycatcher and a Canadian migrant, an Olive-sided Flycatcher. We spent an hour or so enjoying the butterflies, dragonflies, birds and Ground Squirrels here, which included some close views of Californian Quail and Spotted Towhee and butterflies included graceful Monarch and Lorquin's Admiral.

Having used the facilities 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 but the fog was patchy and all we saw were Turkey Vultures. We headed to the Vista turnout to eat our lunch checking for condors but only recorded an Anna's Hummingbird. We had no luck either at Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park but did see Cooper and Red-shouldered Hawks in the distance and a large flock of Band-tailed Pigeons.

We continued our journey south seeing two Coyotes in fields before we stopped on a large lay-by (turnout) next to a Northern Elephant Seal haul-out. In the hot sunshine, we watched a number of seals sleeping and basking on the sandy beach. Some young males were practising sparring, raising up on the forelegs and biting each others necks while growling. This activity was watched by two larger males who did not move other than to flick sand onto their backs, with half open eyes.

Heading back north we stopped briefly at Ragged Point for coffee and/or ice cream and a comfort stop and had good close views of a male Anna's Hummingbird and some male Red-winged Blackbirds before settling back in our seats for the two hour journey back to the hotel. We checked for condors on the way back to no avail and took photos of some interesting soil shapes. That evening we enjoyed a homemade lasagne and completed a good list of species seen during the day.

Day 5

Wednesday 5th September

Monterey Bay and Point Pinos

It was a dark foggy morning when we went to breakfast and the forecast was possible rain but we still headed down to Fisherman's Wharf for another morning's whale watch. Ann-Marie decided to have a day on land but the rest of us boarded the boat and headed out into the fog on calm seas. We headed north again to the Monterey Canyon off Moss Landing and with the fog giving reduced visibility we could only pick out occasional Sea Otters, Guillemots and Rhinoceros Auklets. A call received from another whale watching vessel had us speeding up into opposite side of the canyon and clearer weather and eventually we found two Humpbacks feeding. We stayed with these animals for a while as other boats arrived and then John, at our request, turned back south to follow the canyon edge.

This resulted in more birds and then up to three Black-footed Albatrosses, one circling close to the boat. Arctic Skuas passed by with a few Pink-footed Shearwaters and as we turned to head back to harbour we found a third Humpback which we followed for a while as it went north, until another vessel came along to keep an eye on it and we returned to the harbour a little later than anticipated. We met Ann Marie and had a delightful lunch on the harbour before returning to the minibus and returning to the hotel.

After a short break Peter led the group across the nearby cemetery to Point Pinos. The bottlebrush trees in the cemetery were alive with hummingbirds, most being Anna's but we also saw a Rufous Hummingbird protecting its territory. We arrived at Point Pinos to see the Sea Wolf II arriving back from its afternoon trip and a few Sea Otters swimming in the kelp. That evening we enjoyed a roast turkey dinner at the hotel followed by pecan pie, and then completed the log.

Day 6

Thursday 6th September

Whale Watch am, and Moss Landing area pm

We changed the itinerary as most of the group wanted to go back to sea in hope of dolphins or other species of whales. This paid off as not far from the harbour we came across a group of about 35 Risso's Dolphins. Some were head-slapping another was tail slapping and the white scarred bodies were easily seen at close range. We then turned west and headed out towards the canyon off Point Pinos. Sooty and Pink-footed Shearwaters skimmed past and small groups of Rhinoceros and Cassin's Auklets were seen on the water. We came across a lone Humpback Whale feed just before the deep water and the tail fluke was interesting. It had lateral scarring and very raggedy edges with bits missing, which Kate, our on-board naturalist, told us was the result of an Orca attack. They were not fresh wounds and had all healed (but we would have loved to see the Orca that did this to this huge animal!). Continuing on along the canyon edge we had views of a Black-footed Albatross and then another Humpback Whale popped up but this animal was moving fast to the south and hard to keep track of. After a few more views we then turned and headed back to Monterey, to meet up with Pat who had spent the morning walking the shore.

We ate lunch on the move to enable us to see most of the sites around Moss Landing in one afternoon. The first stop was Moonglow Dairy where we found both Red-winged and Tri-coloured Blackbirds amongst the cows and on the slurry pits were three Wilson's Phalaropes feeding amongst the Red-necks. In the distance were a small group of American White Pelicans and a Black Phoebe fed along the path.

Next was Zmudowski's State Beach, where a small pool surrounded by rushes houses a small population of Pacific Tree or Chorus Frogs. Because of the late afternoon heat we only found one of these delightful green frogs on the giant rush and also a small group of American Goldfinches and brief views of Western Marsh Wren.

Last stop was Jetty Road leading to the Moss Landing State Park. The tide was high so the Marbled Godwits and Willets were gathered in the grass and we met a strange guy who was on a cycling holiday with his small parrot call 'Patricia Dolores' that sat on his handlebars!!

Val and Peter found the Snowy Plovers on the beach while the others were entertained by a raft of Sea Otters that 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. A female Surf Scoter was seen in the harbour and White-crowned Sparrows fed out in the open. We returned to the hotel at 5.30 to find the car park trees full of Bush Tits and Townsend Warblers. After a nice steak dinner we completed our log and retired before our last full day in Monterey.

Day 7

Friday 7th September

Monterey Bay area

Our last full day in Monterey started with the a beautiful clear sky and views out into the bay. Five of us gathered on the quayside for the final trip aboard Sea Wolf II, Anne-Marie and Pat had opted to do the walking history of Monterey Tour. Those on the boat were treated to some of the best clear views for some time and we headed out west and then south following the Greatland to a Humpback Whale near to the Carmel Canyon. While waiting for it to surface a pod of Dall's Porpoise approached the boat and skipper John accelerated away so the animals could ride the bow wave. We had great views under the water and splashes on the surface as they 'rooster-tailed' to give them speed. Once they had left we returned to the Humpback to watch it on its feeding dives as it 'fluked up'. We then went over to look at to more Humpbacks closer to the Monterey Headland and while we were tracking these a long slim whale with a curved fin surfaced close by. We had four or five views of this animal before it was lost. The jury is still out as the scientists and captain thought it was too big for Minke and may have been a Sei Whale. The dorsal seemed to fit but the size was hard to judge. This will be one for confirming later when the photo images have been studied!! (Initial views of the 'whale watch' professionals are that it is a Sei Whale). We watched two Humpbacks for a short while and then headed back to the harbour in flat calm seas. During the trip bird migration was in full swing with parties of Marbled Godwits crossing the bay and back at the harbour a pair of noisy Belted Kingfishers argued for territory around the marina.

Having got lunch the group were dropped at Monterey Aquarium, where 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 the group 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.

We were very grateful to the staff at Anton Lodge for looking afterwards 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 to Captain John and scientist Kate for searching out species we had not seen and altering course to give us more chances of whales, and deck hand Mike and Issah for making sure the sailings were safe and comfortable.

Day 8

Saturday 8th September

Leave from San Francisco Airport

As the flight home was not until almost 5pm, we decided to take a quick trip north of the airport to the Golden Gate Bridge and a view over San Francisco. After breakfast we headed north in brilliant sunshine and Peter took the route straight through the centre of San Francisco so we passed the street names we recognised from the many US television programs and films made there.

The 'switchback' roads, scene of many a film car chase, were also photographed as we drove along. As we approached the bay, it was still wall to wall sunshine and the Golden Gate Bridge was in full view – sometimes a rare sight. Peter took us to the north side of the bridge on onto the Marin Headland where we had fantastic views of this bridge with the Bay Bridge and San Francisco in the background. All too soon it was time to move on and make our way to the airport for our flight home...

We deposited our trusty minibus and rode the shuttle train to departures, booking in was quick and easy, the plane left on time and we settled back for our flight home.

Day 9

Sunday 9th September

Arrive London

The overnight flight was quick (less than ten hours) because of strong tail winds and we arrived at Heathrow in similar conditions as we had left behind in San Francisco - warm sunshine. Most had different agendas, transfers for onwards flight at various terminals, baggage collection etc, so where possible we said our farewells as we walked the corridors after an interesting and full trip to one of America's best coastlines.

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The Golden Gate Bridge

Species Lists

Mammals (✓ = recorded but not counted)

	Common name	Scientific name	September						
			2	3	4	5	6	7	
1	Bobcat	<i>Lynx rufus</i>		1					
2	Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>			2				
3	California Sea Lion	<i>Zalaopus californianus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4	Northern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga angustirostris</i>			✓				
5	Harbour Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	✓	6		4	✓	✓	
6	Sea Otter	<i>Enhydra lutris</i>	15	15		12	30	6	
7	Mule Deer	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>			6	✓	✓	2	
8	Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>						1	
9	Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>						1	
10	Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	34	6		3	2	3	
11	Risso's Dolphin	<i>Grampus griseus</i>					35		
12	Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	8	10		1			
13	Dall's Porpoise	<i>Phocoenoides dalli</i>						8	
14	Eastern Fox Squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger</i>			2		1	✓	
15	California Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus beecheyi</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

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

	Common name	Scientific name	September							
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	California Quail	<i>Callipepla californica</i>				12				
2	Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>			15					
3	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	✓		✓	4		✓	2	✓
4	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		2	2		✓	✓	4	
5	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>						15		
6	Surf Scoter	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>					1	1		
7	Black-footed Albatross	<i>Phoebastria nigripes</i>					3	1		
8	Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>		400	-1		✓	✓	✓	
9	Pink-footed Shearwater	<i>Puffinus creatopus</i>		1			3	3	7	
10	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>			2			1		
11	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		1			1	1		
12	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>			1	2	1			
13	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		8	3	8	3	8	2	
14	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>		1				4		
15	American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>						8		
16	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	1	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
17	Brandt's Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
18	Pelagic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i>		10	✓		✓	✓	✓	
19	Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>						✓		✓
20	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	2	✓		✓
21	White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>		1		1				
22	Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>			1					
23	Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>			1	1				
24	Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>				1			1	
25	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	4		1	3		3		3
26	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>			2					
27	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>			2	3				
28	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				1				

	Common name	Scientific name	September								
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
29	American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>								2	
30	Black Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus bachmani</i>		5							
31	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>							1		
32	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>		1							
33	Snowy Plover	<i>Charadrius nivosus</i>							8		
34	Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>		1				1	✓	20	
35	American Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus</i>							65		
36	Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>							6		
37	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>							5		
38	Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>						2			
38	Wandering Tattler	<i>Tringa incana</i>		1							
39	Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>							✓	2	
40	Black Turnstone	<i>Arenaria melanocephala</i>		20	✓			12	6	3	
41	Surfbird	<i>Aphriza virgata</i>		4				2	4	6	
42	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>		30				20			
43	Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>							1		
44	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>							✓		
45	Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>							3		
46	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>		30	20			-1	✓		
47	Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>			6			-1			
48	Heermann's Gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
49	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>							3		
50	California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>		2	✓				1	1	
51	Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
52	Elegant Tern	<i>Thalasseus elegans</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
53	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>							1		
54	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>		1	1				1		
55	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>		2	1			2		2	
56	Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
57	Cassin's Auklet	<i>Ptychoramphus aleuticus</i>							10		
58	Rhinoceros Auklet	<i>Cerorhinca monocerata</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
59	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia 'feral'</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
60	Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>				30					
61	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓				1	✓	1	
62	Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	3								1
63	Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>		1	2	2	20	1	✓	1	
64	Rufous Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>					1				
65	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>			1					2	
66	Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>		2	4	2	2	3	6	✓	
67	Nuttall's Woodpecker	<i>Picoides nuttallii</i>			1						
68	Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>				1					
69	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>				2	1	4	3		
70	Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>				1					
71	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax difficilis</i>				3					
72	Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>						1			
73	Steller's Jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>			3	3					
74	California Scrub Jay	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
75	Yellow-billed Magpie	<i>Pica nuttalli</i>			1						
76	American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
77	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>				2					1
78	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	<i>Poecile rufescens</i>				✓	✓	7	2		

	Common name	Scientific name	September							
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
79	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓	3	✓	✓	2
80	American Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>			✓	1				
81	American Bushtit	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>				12		20	20	
82	Wrentit	<i>Chamaea fasciata</i>				H				H
83	Western Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>						2		
84	Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>				1				
85	Pygmy Nuthatch	<i>Sitta pygmaea</i>							H	
86	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
87	Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>			10					
88	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
89	American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>						30		
90	House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>			2			10		2
91	Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis celata</i>				2				
92	American Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga aestiva</i>			1	5	2			
93	Townsend's Warbler	<i>Setophaga townsendi</i>			1	2		3		
94	Wilson's Warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>				3				
95	Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>				✓				
96	Tricolored Blackbird	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>						20		
97	Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
98	Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>				6				
99	White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>						4		
100	Oregon Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis oregonus</i>			1	1				
101	Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>			8					
102	Spotted Towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>				1				
103	California Towhee	<i>Melospiza crissalis</i>			2	H				

Other fauna

Painted Lady; American Lady, Red Admiral, Lorquin's Admiral, Cabbage White; Orange Sulphur, Common Ringlet, Woodland Skipper; Monarch. Blue-eyed Darner, Blue-tailed Damsel sp.. Pacific Tree (Chorus) Frog; Western Fence Lizard, Ocean Sunfish (*Mola mola*); Egg-yolk Jelly; Moon Jelly, Sea Nettle Jelly, Lion's Mane Jelly, various starfish species. Woolly Bear Caterpillar Moth (caterpillar)

Thanks top Pat and Val for some plants species such as Camphorweed, California Poppy, Beach Suncup and many more that need to be checked from photographs

Naturetrek Facebook

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans.

Setting up a personal profile at www.facebook.com is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!

Map of whale watching tracks

