

Whales & Dolphins of Monterey Bay

Naturetrek Tour Report

24 - 31 August 2013



Blue Whale (Peter Dunn)



Humpback Whale (Peter Dunn)



Risso's Dolphin (Peter Dunn)



Yellow-billed Magpie (Peter Dunn)

Report & Images compiled by Peter Dunn & Ed Drewitt



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Introduction

With an abundance of Anchovies in Monterey Bay, the week was filled with boat trips seeing dozens of Humpback Whales, hundreds of Risso's Dolphins, a few Northern Right Whale Dolphins, and on our first day, a Blue Whale! On our final boat trip day, the rich abundance of food saw thousands of Sooty Shearwaters around the boat, along with small numbers of Pink-footed Shearwaters and a Black-footed Albatross. Hundreds of California Sea Lions, tens of Harbour Seals and Northern Elephant Seals, Mule Deer, Botta's Pocket Gopher, a Coyote, and California Ground Squirrels all added to the mix of mammals we saw during the holiday. We saw rafts of Sea Otters, and watched one feeding on mussels just metres away. California Condors didn't disappoint either, with two seen on our visit along the spectacular coastline of the Big Sur where we also watched lots of whales blowing out at sea from the roadside and thousands of shearwaters heading north in a continuous stream. Meanwhile, Greater Roadrunner, Yellow-billed Magpies and Wild Turkeys were highlights down the sun-scorched wine-producing Carmel Valley. Woodpeckers, hummingbirds, shorebirds, rails, raptors such as Peregrines and hawks, and even an American Bittern, all added a fine avian mix to our visits along the coastline, while butterflies, lizards and Pacific Tree Frogs added a splash of colour.

Day 1

Saturday 24th August

London to San Francisco

After a 10-hour flight across Scotland, Greenland, northern Canada and down into California, half the group met Peter and Ed as they came out of arrivals. The other half the group had arrived independently a few days earlier and joined everyone at the airport around the same time. With all group members and their bags accounted for we went to the airport garage to load the two minibuses and headed south on Highway 101. We made good progress and turned off onto Highway 68 towards Monterey as the night drew in and the lights of the town lit the horizon.

Various landmarks were pointed out on the way, including the IT giants in 'Silicon Valley' and our nasal 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 9.30pm, 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 25th August

Monterey Bay and headland

It wasn't long before we were up again and meeting for breakfast at 7am. We enjoyed a choice of bagels, fruit, eggs, cereal, coffee and fruit juices. Outside an Oak Titmouse was calling, four House Sparrows were perched on the wires, and an Anna's Hummingbird was singing from the oak tree. This was nice start to our tour, and just as we gathered at the minibus at 8.15am, a Steller's Jay was screeching from a tree. We drove down to Fisherman's Wharf for our first morning whale watching. On our walk to the boat we saw a few more Anna's Hummingbirds, Brewer's Blackbirds, Western Gulls, and Brown Pelicans. And as we boarded the boat, a Sea Otter gave obliging views, while others were floating effortlessly on the water as we left the harbour. In glorious sunshine we departed the quay at 9am and passed by the harbour wall made up of huge boulders. Here California Sea Lions and Brandt's Cormorants were taking full advantage of the free land and were sprawled or perched across every part of it! The smell, sight and sounds were impressive. A single Surfbird was feeding on the edge of the rocks.

We headed an hour north of Monterey through cool sea fog, though visibility was good enough to see male Guillemots with their young - miniature lookalikes - squeaking alongside them. We also found a very big *Mola mola* or Ocean Sunfish. As we left the sea fog behind, the two cooling towers of the power station at Moss Landing became visible, as did some other whale watching boats. It wasn't long before we could also see our first Humpback Wales. For over an hour we watched at least a dozen adults, and one young whale born last winter known as Rocky (or Chewy), come up to the surface for breath before spectacularly showing off their tail flukes as they dived underwater to feed. The young whale had survived an attack from a predator, probably Orcas. The boat's radar showed the water below us was alive with shoals of Anchovies and the Humpback Whales knew it! Meanwhile, young and mature male sea lions were forming writhing rafts across the water, while others were playing or feeding in smaller groups. Guillemots, Western Gulls, Herrmann's Gulls, the odd California Gull, and Sooty Shearwaters were also joining in with feeding on any fishes left over from the whales feeding forays. As we moved on we also saw more Sooty Shearwaters, a Sabine's Gull, and a few Red-necked Phalaropes.

We headed off south-west in search of Blue Whales, scanning the sea over the edge of the deep canyon which brings up nutrients and cold water from thousands of metres below. We suddenly turned direction and headed back towards Monterey – another boat had spotted a whale. As we arrived there was nothing around, but then suddenly there was a 'whoosh', and huge spurt of air and spray. To our left was a huge Blue Whale, its blue-grey skin glistening in the sunshine after it had just surfaced. It moved along the sea's surface, blowing a few times before dipping under the water, only to return for a short while before it arched it back out of the water and then dived. We waited ten minutes to see it surface again for a short while before it disappeared under again. After an incredible first trip out, we headed back for a late lunch, passing various types of jellyfishes, from Purple-striped to Egg Yolk, and Moon to Sea Nettle.

After a delicious lunch at a local restaurant specialising in clam chowder in a bread bowl as well as light salads, we headed along the coastline via the supermarket to stock up on some supplies. We then drove along part of the popular 17-Mile Drive, a toll road around the famous Pebble Beach and Spyglass Hill golf courses which also includes some nice woodland and shoreline habitat. Stopping by one of the beaches we found a few Killdeer, Black Turnstones, a Willet, and a Black Phoebe. Three or four Turkey Vultures circled overhead, and out in the bay one was feeding on the dead corpse of a sea lion. Two White-tailed Kites circled and hovered further along the coastline. We continued on to the Lone Cypress, a single tree which has been stood on a rock for 250 years. Now supported by metal cables locals hope it will continue to live to 300 years! A Western Scrub Jay was feeding below some other cypress trees nearby. Back along the coastline we passed the golf course where we saw Black-tailed or Mule Deer, including a few older fawns, and some males with antlers. Just before we got back to our hotel we stopped at a nearby pool where there were a few Least Sandpipers, a Short-billed Dowitcher, a Lesser Yellowlegs, three Red-necked Phalaropes, Mallards, Snowy Egret, Great Blue Heron, and a secretive Sora Rail.

We arrived back at the hotel at 6pm to rest and prepare for our first evening meal at the Anton Inn, an excellent lasagne, salad and garlic bread with chocolate cake dessert, 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 26th August

Monterey Bay

Around the Anton Inn the low cloud had allowed some migrants to drop in including Townsend's Warbler and Pacific-slope Flycatcher. Three Acorn Woodpeckers gave obliging views on the dead tree by the car park, and an Oregon Junco fed with a small flock of House Sparrows. After a delicious breakfast including small, individual hot quiches, we set off for our second whale-watching trip of the holiday. Despite the overcast weather, the visibility was very good and later cleared to bright, warm sunshine. We passed the usual melee of sea lions, cormorants, Surfbirds and the odd Sea Otter on or near the harbour wall, and headed north along the coastline to see the Humpback Whales near Moss Landing. While conditions were not quite as perfect as yesterday, we still saw a dozen whales as they dived or logged on the surface. We also experienced seriously bad breath as the aerosol from the whale spurts headed in our direction – it smelt like cabbage!

Each day is always different and today was no exception. As we headed out earlier rafts of hundreds of cormorants sat on the sea, while plenty of Guillemots and smaller numbers of Rhinoceros Auklets were padding on the sea. An Arctic Skua (Parasitic Jaeger), Caspian Tern, Elegant Terns and a smaller tern were also spotted on the trip along with Red-necked Phalaropes, a Killdeer and other small waders. As we headed to the deeper waters the sea became completely calm – to the point that the surface looked more like the glistening reflections from mud on an estuary such as Morecombe Bay at low tide, rather than the deep ocean. Despite searching we didn't see any whales, but a stream of Risso's Dolphins was a highlight. Some were close to the boat, including an individual showing off and diving out of the water before landing with a big splash. As we headed west the horizon was alive with hundreds more, clearly visible as their white bodies surfaced. Also on the horizon was a very distant Black-footed Albatross gliding low over the water, while Sooty Shearwaters passed by closer to the boat. We headed back in for 1pm and sat at the harbour while a delicious selection of hand-made sandwiches from a local café/delicatessen.

We were back out on the 2pm boat – Carol, Joan, Alan and Kathy decided to stay on land and explore the town and coastline, while the rest of the group headed back out to see the Humpback Whales. As is traditional with the afternoon, the wind was stronger and the sea was choppy. But we still saw up to nine whales including the small, young whale, Chewy, who looked dinky and compact as it dived under water. While many were watching the whales, some of us were keeping an eye on the gulls at the back of the boat which were being tempted close with popcorn. As the Western, Herrmann's, and the odd California Gull glided and hovered nearby waiting for their next snack, a few Brown Pelicans, Sooty Shearwaters and a Northern Fulmar (dark form) sat on the sea at different times – the fulmar even took a liking to the popcorn! We headed back to shore with the gulls still in tow as the wind speed began to increase and enjoyed (mostly!) a very rocky, exhilarating boat trip back.

We met up with the others at 5pm and headed back in glorious sunshine for a break and rest before meeting again at 7pm to eat at the Black Bear Diner. As we ordered our food, large Big Brown Bats flew low over trees and houses on the other side of the road.

Day 4

Tuesday 27th August

Big Sur

After a bright start we had breakfast, fuelled the vehicles, and set off on Highway 1 to travel south along the Big Sur. Our first scheduled stop was the Andrew Molera State Park where we had a short walk. As we got out of the vehicles lots of Vaux's Swifts were flying overhead along with Violet-green Swallows and the odd Barn Swallow – most were probably on passage and migrating through. Meanwhile a Western Fence Lizard was basking by the road. Through the woodland we had nice views of Chestnut-backed Chickadee, a male Wilson's warbler, and a Pacific-slope Flycatcher. California Ground Squirrels were abundant, and many were just relaxing on the campsite benches. Close to some Eucalyptus trees we spotted two sandy-brown California Towhees and a few Wrentits. As we headed back a Nuttall's Woodpecker flew to the top of an *Acer* tree, while a White-tailed Kite landed in another tree. They both gave excellent views through the telescope. A few Western Tiger Swallowtail butterflies were flying around, along with an old Common Buckeye, and a Lorquin's Admiral butterfly. Two striking Spotted Towhees gave lovely views of their dark heads, white breasts and orange-red flanks, while a few Steller's Jays called from the tree above.

We then travelled through the redwood forests of Big Sur Station, pausing to buy our sandwich lunches at the bakery. We stopped at a viewpoint looking out across the coastline and sea. It wasn't long before Peter shouted 'condor', and very quickly everyone was watching an adult California Condor soaring high above the nearby rocky hillsides. Its dark body and white underwing feathers were clearly visible. Two Turkey Vultures were soaring at a lower altitude and their size difference was pronounced.

We stopped for lunch at another viewpoint looking out across the Sur coastline where we were entertained by a Botta's Pocket Gopher, a chocolate-brown vole-like rodent. It was regularly popping out of its burrow to snuffle away some bread thrown down to it. Having finished our lunch we boarded the vehicles for the 50-mile drive to San Simeon spotting some American Kestrels, Brown Pelicans, and Mule Deer on the way. After a quick comfort stop at Ragged Point we stopped in the car park next to a Northern Elephant Seal haul-out. The beach was covered in young male and female seals, plus some older, more mature 4-metre long males with their huge noses.

Up to 20,000 elephant seals come to breed or moult along the Californian coastline, and this year over 4,000 seal pups had been born. By now, the only animals left on the beach were young animals trying out their display skills, as well as fasting mature individuals sunbathing on the beaches as they grow a new coat of hair. The hot sunshine brings the blood close to the skin's surface and helps with the development of the new hairs. The rest of the colony had departed, with the males heading north separately to Alaska where they feed up. Further along the beach a big flock of Herrmann's Gulls, Western Gulls, and a few California Gulls were resting up, while around 40 Black Turnstones, six Surfbirds, and two Black Oystercatchers were feeding along the rocky shoreline.

After a day of beautiful scenery and wildlife we headed back north, stopping briefly at Ragged Point for ice cream. We also spotted some Red-winged Blackbirds and Brewer's Blackbirds. Further along we stopped to check for condors, and Peter found a second this time immature (dark head) California Condor sat on a tree at the top of a rocky ridge. Occasionally it spread its 2.7 metres wings out, showing off its plumage and wing tags used to identify this individual as part of a conservation programme. Nearby Bill spotted a splendid male Northern Flicker in a dead tree showing of its spotty flanks, stripy back and black breast band. Lower down the tree a pair of bright blue Steller's Jays were perched and gave colourful views in the sunshine.

We headed on and pulled over when Chris suddenly spotted some whales blowing out at sea. From the coastline road we had incredible views across the ocean, and we saw up to seven different Humpback Whales blowing almost simultaneously. Meanwhile, thousands and thousands of Sooty Shearwaters were flying in a line just beyond the kelp beds heading north. They looked like a stream of ants marching along a woodland floor. Our final stop was at Bixby Bridge, one of the last bridges to be completed along the Big Sur. It was a great opportunity to take some group photos and take in the scenery.

We arrived back at 6.30pm in time to refresh and meet again for dinner at 7pm. After a delicious pork loin meal (or cannelloni for those not eating meat), we completed the day's checklist, explored a map of the coastline and then headed for bed.

Day 5

Wednesday 28th August

Monterey Bay and Carmel Valley

We were back out on the boat at 9am and straight out to see the Humpback Whales in the thick sea mist – they were in their usual location near Moss Landing, diving down to feed on tons of Anchovies, and showing off their individual fluke patterns. As the mist cleared, we saw up to nine in total, including at least four further west – two were just gently logging on the surface of the sea.

The sea was full of Sea Nettle Jellyfishes – they were everywhere and easily visible in the clear, deep water. We passed a single Sunfish, and got excellent views of its body and mouth. As the wind whipped up the sea we travelled further west and found a small group of Risso's Dolphins, while the odd Sooty Shearwater and a single Northern Fulmar flew past. Guillemots were seen throughout the journey along with the odd Rhinoceros Auklet and Brown Pelican. California Sea Lions were often raising their flippers above the sea surface like a shark, and a Harbour Seal was gently wrapped up in kelp fronds, quietly resting on this makeshift island!

After lunch by the harbour side we headed south and east along into the Carmel Valley. The scenery was stunning with rolling, rocky hills and crisp, dry grasslands dotted with bright green vineyards. The area is

renowned for its wines, many of which make it into our supermarkets in the UK. As we passed the oak woodland, many trees were full of balls of mistletoe. We stopped by the roadside at a junction where the area was alive with birdlife, and ground squirrels. Peter quickly found a scarce Greater Roadrunner as it walked away into the long grassland near an oak tree. Liz also spotted a Coyote. Meanwhile, an Acorn Woodpecker was feeding closer by, and a California Thrasher was singing sweetly in the roadside trees. Out in the open fields a few Western Bluebirds were darting out to catch insects, and a Lark Sparrow sat on a fence post. Some Turkey Vultures and a Red-tailed Hawk flew overhead.

As the group headed down the road and found some California Quail, Peter and Ed located a pair of Yellow-billed Magpies. Some of the group were whipped back up to the junction by van where the magpies called loudly, and one showed off its yellow bill and eye skin. Bob, a local farmer popped by to invite us back to his ranch. So, we headed down the road to his barn where we stopped to for a comfort stop, some refreshments and a chance to spot some Wild Turkeys, Black Phoebe, House Finch, American Crows, California Towhees, and two or three White-breasted Nuthatches. The group were charmed by Bob, and could have stayed all day to hear his stories. We left around 5pm, leaving behind the dry heat and drove into the sea mist as we got closer to Carmel and Pacific Grove, arriving back at the Anton Inn for dinner.

Day 6

Thursday 29th August

Moss Landing area

We gathered after breakfast and headed out north for Moss Landing. Our first port of call was Zmudowski's State Park, where there is a small freshwater lagoon alongside the sand dunes. There was thick sea mist, but despite this there were plenty of birds around. A male White-crowned Sparrow was at the car park, and the nearby bushes were busy with House Finches and Song Sparrows. A small flock of Western Gulls were sitting on the water while a single American Coot fed close to the reeds further back. It wasn't long before we found black, brown, bright green, and brown and green stripy Pacific Tree Frogs sitting on the large rush stems. A common garden snail, which we see in the UK and has been introduced here, was slowly moving along a plant, while a woolly bear, a type of moth caterpillar was sat on another. In the weedy vegetation American Goldfinches showed well, and Alan spotted a male Common Yellowthroat. A few singing Western Marsh Wrens were difficult to see, although we could see the rushes moving as they hopped their way through the vegetation. A real surprise was an American Bittern which flew across the pool and sat in a mound of rushes where it gave very obliging views. It often raised its head high and we could make out its very stripy neck and head. We could even see its forward-facing eyes as it stretched upwards. This is the only place in the Monterey area where you have a possibility of seeing them. A flock of Killdeer, a single Spotted Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalaropes, a few Whimbrel, and Long-billed Curlew flew overhead.

Next stop was Jetty Road leading to the Moss Landing State Park. The tide was on its way out but we still had excellent views of hundreds of Marbled Godwit and Willets, many washing and preening. The odd Long-billed Curlew and Least Sandpiper also fed or washed nearby. Two or three Harbour (Common) Seals were fishing on the nearby pool, and they were slapping the water with their flippers to scare or coax the fish. Further along the lagoon a Great Egret was feeding while a few Snowy Egrets were also dotted across the reserve.

Out on the sand banks more Harbour Seals were hauled out, while Western Gulls, Brown Pelicans, and a Caspian Tern were loafing. A few White Pelicans were also seen flying across. The real treat was a raft of Sea

Otters, lazily floating on their backs. Some had colour tags on their flippers and were being monitored by researchers. The tags give off a signal which can be detected and allow their movements and survival to be checked and compared with other otters living further down the coastline.

Lunch was taken at Phil's Snack Shack where we made use of his picnic tables overlooking a pool where some Mallards were feeding. In the trees were adult and juvenile Black-crowned Night Herons while around the pool there was a Black Phoebe, and a bird-like squeaking California Ground Squirrel. A little down the road Chris has spotted a very obliging Pied-billed Grebe which was sitting on the water only metres away.

The last birding stop of the afternoon was to Moonglow Dairy near to the Moss Landing power station which had been our landmark from the whale watching boat. As we turned off the main road we found a Loggerhead Shrike and a Great Blue Heron. And closer to the cows we were able to see Brown-headed Cowbirds feeding around the feet of the cattle – those who missed them first time caught up with these sparrow-size birds on the drive back. Further away we could see hundreds of blackbirds and starlings and got better views later when the cows were being fed chopped cabbage! There were hundreds of Red-winged Blackbirds, Brewer's Blackbirds, and also good numbers of the locally scarce Tricolored Blackbird which has a patch of red and yellow on its wing. Down by the slurry pools we spotted over 50 Red-necked Phalaropes, while Mallards, Shoveler, a few Pintail, and Cinnamon Teal were feeding or resting. The latter also flew around showing off their pale blue forewings. Two migrant Black-necked Stilts dropped in too, and later a small flock of Semipalmated Plovers. The nearby Eucalyptus trees were full of Double-crested Cormorant nests, some with young, and close to them a juvenile Peregrine was perched on a branch giving excellent views. They are slightly darker birds than the subspecies we see in the UK.

Out on Elkhorn Slough we saw a flock of 13 American White Pelicans fly past, while a Clark's Grebe dived and preened on the water. Long-billed Curlews and Marbled Godwits fed in the saltmarsh. To everyone's delight, a male Sea Otter drifted over the water's edge and began feeding on mussels. We watched as he dipped under water to find shellfish. He then turned on his back and began biting open the shells before quickly eating the fleshy meat inside. We got incredible views of the animal – and it had surprisingly healthy, white teeth too! As he moved back out into the centre of the slough we headed back spotting Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, and American Coot on the way. A West Coast Lady butterfly also showed well on the path.

As we headed back to Monterey we picked up some fresh fruit and then finished our trip with a visit to the local Wild Bird Centre where souvenirs and presents were bought along with ice cream in the nearby store. When we got back we walked down the road to explore the cemetery. On the way down we saw a small group of Acorn Woodpeckers being very social in their favourite pine trees. Some flowering trees were attracting lots of hummingbirds and with some time spent watching their antics we managed to identify Anna's, Rufous, and very unusually, a female Black-chinned Hummingbird. The latter often perched at the top of one of the trees chasing off other hummingbirds – she had a very white breast and chest compared to the others. Those who ventured on found a Virginia Rail, a Short-billed Dowitcher, a Lesser Yellowlegs, and other common waders down by the small pond and beach not far from the Anton Inn. In the evening we enjoyed steak for dinner at the Anton Inn before completing the log and heading for bed.

Day 7

Friday 30th August

Monterey Bay

Our final boat trip had a very different feel to the others. The sea fog cleared very quickly and as we headed north it became clear there wasn't quite the same number of Humpback Whales around as there had been for the past month. We found two logging on the sea's surface over the deep undersea canyon. We watched them for some time blowing and dipping under the water but they didn't appear to be feeding or diving further. We carried on west and found another two Humpback Whales doing the same. Perhaps they had been feeding well overnight on the Anchovies. Or now their food had moved to deeper waters they were diving deeper and needing more time on the surface to breathe and exchange carbon dioxide for oxygen in their blood. One whale we found was more interested in food and did show off its fluke as it's dived under water.

As we headed further west the sea began to get rougher as the wind speed increased. Despite this we found a small group of Risso's Dolphins – we spent a little time watching them surface, making bubbles, and jumping clear of the water as they came up to breathe. Just as we were about to head back we had a surprise – four Northern Right Whale Dolphins suddenly appeared and began to bow ride. These small, elongated dolphins lack a dorsal fin. They look all black, but do have white bellies and a whitish tail. They stayed with us long enough for everyone to get to the bow and see them. They are often found swimming with Risso's Dolphins.

As we left them we saw hundreds of shearwaters. At first we saw mainly Sooty Shearwaters, but as we got closer to Monterey there were also tens of Pink-footed Shearwaters with paler bellies and wings. We even saw a grey Black-footed Albatross sat on the sea. A Long-tailed Skua was harassing a few Elegant Terns, and in hot pursuit was an Arctic Skua. Not long after a Great Northern Diver flew past in front of the boat. Heading in to port we passed the sleeping sea lions and resting Brandt's Shags, while the odd Sea Otter was feeding in the calmer waters. Lots of Harbour Seals were resting in the quieter and shallow part of the harbour.

With lunch quickly consumed, most of the group stopped off at Monterey Bay Aquarium for the afternoon while others rested or looked around town. We met again later afternoon to check people in on their flights and do the log before setting off to the Fishwife Restaurant just down the road for some a delicious fish-related menu (vegetarian alternative included).

Day 8

Saturday 31st August

After our final breakfast and packing the vehicles most of the group headed down to the beach for some final birding while Elizabeth, Paul and Carol popped into town. Through the cemetery we saw Anna's Hummingbird and a Nuttall's Woodpecker, while a group of Acorn Woodpeckers were feeding in their normal trees. In some cypress trees two Black-crowned Night Herons were roosting – Alan had found them by spotting the white areas of guano on the road below. Down at the pool by the golf course there was a single Marbled Godwit, six Least Sandpipers, a Lesser Yellowlegs, a Virginia Rail, a Black Phoebe, and a Great Blue Heron. Meanwhile, on the beach there were a few Black Turnstones, a Whimbrel, two Black Oystercatchers, and a Brandt's Cormorants feeding just offshore. Some Brown Pelicans, Elegant Terns, cormorants and a few Goosanders flew over the sea. During some beachcombing Chris found a very clean Sooty Shearwater skull. As we headed back small numbers of Western Bluebirds and the odd House Finch were on the wires and in the bushes. Meanwhile, those who popped into Pacific Grove spotted two Steller's Jays just metres away.

At 11am we headed back north to San Francisco, spotting a Golden Eagle being harassed by a Red-tailed Hawk, while a Black-necked Stilt was feeding on the wetlands as we approached the airport. We dropped everyone off around 1pm. Half the group members were heading back to London, while half were heading to other parts of the California for more nature travelling. Alan, Joan, Carol and Paul were going to be heading further north to Canada where they would be joining another Naturetrek tour in a week's time!

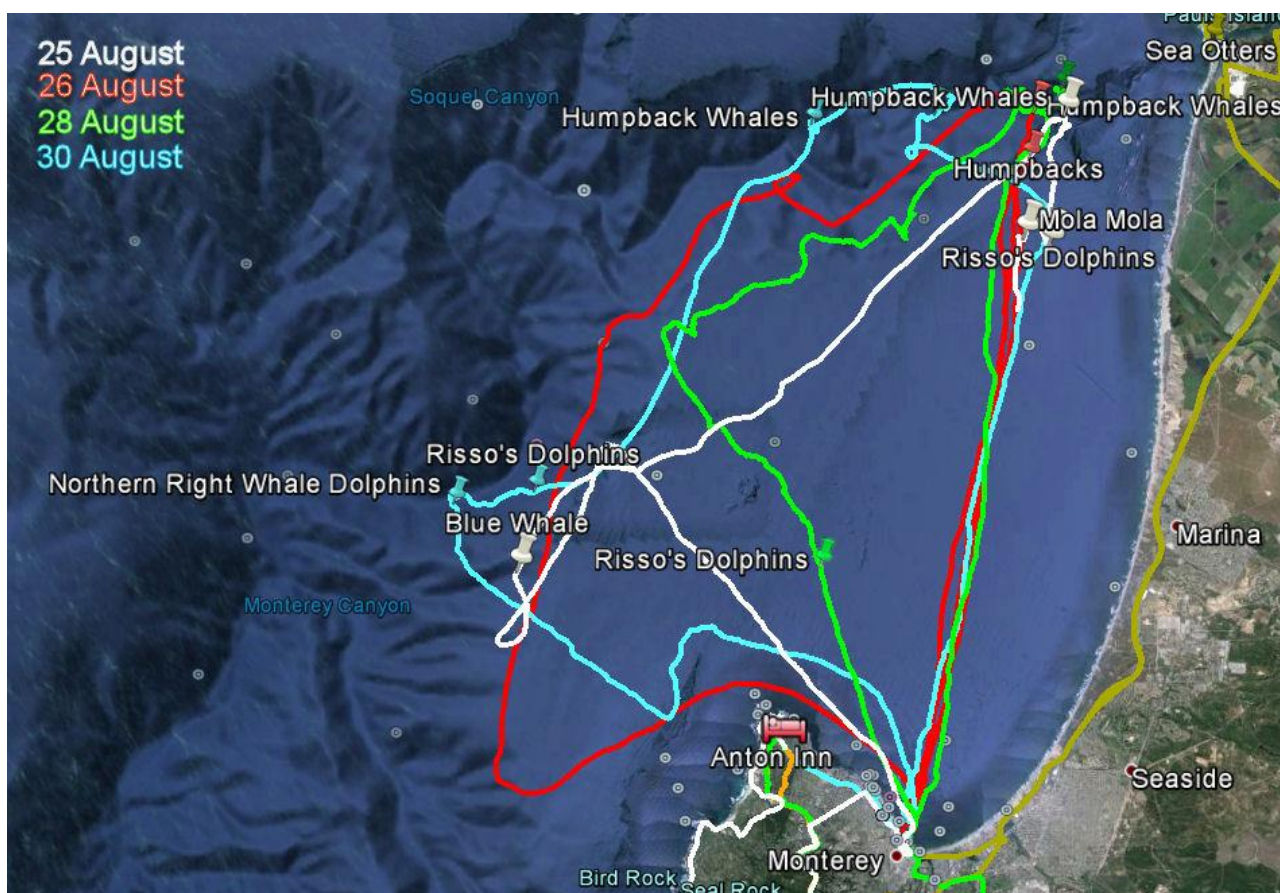
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GPS Tracks of Boat Days



Species List

Mammals (✓ = recorded but not counted; H = Heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	August							
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	Big Brown Bat	<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>			8					
2	Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>					1			
3	California Sea Lion	<i>Zalophus californianus</i>		✓	✓	H	✓	✓	✓	
4	Northern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga angustirostris</i>				60				
5	Harbour Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>			10		1	✓	✓	
6	Sea Otter	<i>Enhydra lutris</i>		3	2		5	50	5	1
7	Western Spotted Skunk	<i>Spilogale gracilis</i>								1
8	Mule Deer	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>		20	10	✓	8	2	✓	✓
9	Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>		1						
10	Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>		12	12	12	9		5	
11	Risso's Dolphin	<i>Grampus griseus</i>		40	200		6		200	
12	Northern Right Whale Dolphin	<i>Lissodelphis borealis</i>							6	
13	Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>							1	
14	Eastern Fox Squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger</i>		1	1	2		1	2	2
15	California Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus beecheyi</i>		1		✓		✓		
16	Botta's Pocket Gopher	<i>Thomomys bottae</i>				1				

Birds

1	California Quail	<i>Callipepla californica</i>					7			
2	Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>					18			
3	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>				✓		✓		3
4	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>						1		
5	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓			✓	✓		✓
6	Cinnamon Teal	<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>						8		
7	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>						5		
8	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>						2		
9	Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>								2
10	Great Northern Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>							2	
11	Black-footed Albatross	<i>Phoebastria nigripes</i>			1				1	
12	Pacific Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis rodgersii</i>			1		1		1	
13	Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>		50	✓	10k	✓		500	
14	Pink-footed Shearwater	<i>Puffinus creatopus</i>							15	
15	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>					2	1		
16	Clark's Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i>						1		
17	American Bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>						1		
18	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>						3		
19	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>		2	1			4		1
20	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>						18	1	
21	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>		2	1			8		1
22	American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>						15		
23	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
24	Brandt's Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
25	Pelagic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i>		3	2		✓		✓	
26	Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>					1	✓		2
27	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	✓	6		✓	✓	10	1	✓
28	California Condor	<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>				2				
29	White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>		3		1				

	Common name	Scientific name	August							
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
30	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>								1
31	Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>							1	
32	Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	1					1	1	
33	Northern Harrier	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>						1		
34	Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>		1		1		1		1
35	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	1			3	3	1		6
36	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	1			6	1			1
37	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				1		1		
38	Virginia Rail	<i>Rallus limicola</i>						1		1
39	Sora	<i>Porzana carolina</i>		1						
40	American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>						3		
41	Black Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus bachmani</i>		3		2		1		2
42	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>						2		1
43	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>						7		
44	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>		4				3		2
45	Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>		1				1		1
46	Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>						✓		2
47	American Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus</i>						1		1
48	Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>						10		
49	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>		1				1		1
50	Wandering Tattler	<i>Tringa incana</i>		1						
51	Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>		1				✓		
52	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>						1		
53	Black Turnstone	<i>Arenaria melanocephala</i>		25	8	40	1		15	✓
54	Surfbird	<i>Aphriza virgata</i>			1	4	2		1	
55	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>		2				✓		7
56	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>		20	✓			✓	✓	1
57	Grey (Red) Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>							1	
58	Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>		1						
59	Heermann's Gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
60	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>						3		✓
61	California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>		✓	3	3	✓	✓	✓	2
62	Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
63	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>			1			1		
64	Elegant Tern	<i>Thalasseus elegans</i>		3	6			H	2	8
65	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>			2					
66	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>			2				1	
67	Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>							1	
68	Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓	
69	Pigeon Guillemot	<i>Cephus columba</i>		2				1		
70	Rhinoceros Auklet	<i>Cerorhinca monocerata</i>		1	10		3		15	
71	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia 'feral'</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
72	Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>			2					
73	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
74	Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>		1		2	2			1
75	Greater Roadrunner	<i>Geococcyx californianus</i>					1			
76	Vaux's Swift	<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>				20				
77	Black-chinned Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus alexandri</i>						1		
78	Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>		3	2	3	✓	✓	1	✓
79	Rufous Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>						1		
80	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>		2	2			H	1	

	Common name	Scientific name	August							
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
81	Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>		H	3		5	5	2	4
82	Nuttall's Woodpecker	<i>Picoides nuttallii</i>		H		1				
83	Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>				1				1
84	Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>				1				
85	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>		2			1	6		2
86	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax difficilis</i>			1	1	1			
87	Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>						1		
88	Hutton's Vireo	<i>Vireo huttoni</i>				1				
89	Steller's Jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>		1		5	2			
90	California Scrub Jay	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>		2	1	3	✓	1	2	✓
91	Yellow-billed Magpie	<i>Pica nuttalli</i>					2			
92	American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
93	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>				3				
94	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	<i>Poecile rufescens</i>				✓	3			2
95	Oak Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus inornatus</i>		1	2					2
96	Violet-green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>				6				
97	N. Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>						2		
98	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		5	✓	3	✓	✓	✓	
99	American Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>								
100	American Bushtit	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>						2		
101	Wrentit	<i>Chamaea fasciata</i>				2	H	H		
102	Western Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>						2		
103	Pygmy Nuthatch	<i>Sitta pygmaea</i>		H						
104	White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>					3			
105	California Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma redivivum</i>					H			
106	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
107	Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>					10			5
108	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
109	House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>					8	✓		✓
110	American Goldfinch	<i>Spinus tristis</i>						✓		
111	Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>		1				2		
112	Townsend's Warbler	<i>Setophaga townsendi</i>			1		1			
113	Wilson's Warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>				1				
114	Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>						✓		
115	Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>		✓		✓		✓		✓
116	Tricolored Blackbird	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>						✓		
117	Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
118	Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>		5		4		✓		✓
119	White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>		1		1		5		
120	Oregon Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis oregonus</i>			1	2				
121	Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>					2			
122	Spotted Towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>				2				
123	California Towhee	<i>Melospiza crissalis</i>				3	3	H		

Butterflies

Western Tiger Swallowtail, *Papilio rutulus*

Painted Lady, *Vanessa cardui*

Red Admiral, *Vanessa atalanta*

Lorquin's Admiral, *Limenitis lorquini*

Cabbage White, *Pieris rapae*

West Coast Lady, *Vanessa annabella*

Common Buckeye, *Junonia coenia*

Sandhill Skipper, *Polites sabuleti*

Other taxa

Blue-eyed Darter, *Rhionaeschna multicolour*

Blue Shark, *Prionace glauca*

Compass Jelly, *Chrysaora hysoscella*

Sea Nettle Jelly, *Chrysaora fuscescens*

Western Fence Lizard, *Sceloporus occidentalis*

2 Spot Ladybird, *Adalia bipunctata*

Ocean Sunfish, *Mola mola*

Egg-yolk Jelly, *Phacellophora camtschatica*

Moon Jelly, *Aurelia aurita*

Giant Sea Star, *Pisaster giganteus*

Pacific Tree Frog, *Pseudacris regilla*