

# Whales & Dolphins of Monterey Bay

Naturetrek Tour Report

30 August - 7 September 2014

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Humpback Whale breaching



California Condor



Humpback Whales lunge feeding



Long-beaked Common Dolphins

Report & images compiled by Peter Dunn



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## Day 1

Saturday 30th August

### London to San Francisco

Peter met the travellers off two planes from London and headed south towards Monterey. As we travelled along the highway out away from Silicon Valley and the suburbs of San Francisco, we had excellent views of the mountains and hills of the Diablo Range to our left. In the afternoon sunshine, the dry grassy scrub known as Chaparral was golden-coloured. Approaching Monterey in the dark showed the vast extent of the coastal towns of Marina, Seaside and Sand City, with the headland of Pacific Grove forming the southernmost point of Monterey Bay. We continued past Monterey to our accommodation in Carmel Valley Lodge where after accessing our rooms some partook in the deli supper left for us before retiring to bed after a long day.

## Day 2

Sunday 31st August

### Monterey Bay and headland

We all met up on this fine sunny morning with Anna's Hummingbirds buzzing around the trees and California Towhees in the shrubbery. The breakfast was ready at 7am with scrambled eggs and sausages and toast or cereals. We set off for Fisherman's Wharf in bright sunshine but as we approached Monterey a huge bank of high fog appeared and we arrived in overcast conditions. As we walked along Fisherman's Wharf we had our first good sightings of the large Western Gulls and Harbour Seals in the rocks. The coarse barking of California Sea Lions echoed across the harbour while the smell of ripe fish from the fishing boats and the sea lions was ever present! With all the paperwork organised prior to our arrival, we strolled over to pick up our boarding passes and waited for our captain, Nancy, to invite us aboard the Sea Wolf II. Meanwhile, we marvelled at the sea lions high up on the jetty and a Black-crowned Night-heron fishing under the pier.

Having safely boarded, we slowly headed out of the harbour passed the coastguard pier where the smell and sight of over 200 California Sea Lions was memorable. There was also a good selection of Brandt's Cormorants, Heermann's and Western Gulls. Soon we were heading out north towards the canyon and after about 30 minutes came across a pod of about 40 Risso's Dolphins which were a nursery group of adults and calves resting. Common Guillemots were numerous – many were males with their single offspring in tow. This late in the season, most chicks are almost as big as their fathers and both called continuously.

Over the next few hours we saw various parties of Humpback Whales fluking near the canyon. Contact from other boats however alerted us to some good humpback activity and soon we were alongside them watching a party of about 12 whales, which regularly lunge-fed at the surface in pairs, or sometimes three together. We spent some time watching these animals and as we were about to depart a pod of about 200 Long-beaked Common Dolphins leapt their way passed the boats, some riding the bow wave, others jumping in the wake. At one point they were all around us but as soon as they came, they left!

After an exciting first morning on the water we returned to the harbour where we enjoyed bread bowls of clam chowder at one of the local restaurants. 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; Black Turnstones, Western Gulls, Heermann's Gulls and good numbers of Mule or Black-tailed Deer. At Bird Rock the Sea Lions had taken over the outcrop and California Ground Squirrels almost begged for food. Finally, we stopped to see the famous Lone Cypress tree, which has stood on its rocky perch for over 250 years. After a brief stop for provisions, we arrived back at the hotel at 5.45pm to rest and use the facilities before dinner and checklist. It had been a long exciting day and we all retired early before our next whole day on the water.

## Day 3

Monday 1st September

### Monterey Bay

The day started with some of us watching the Chestnut-backed Chickadee and American Bushtit around the car park. After breakfast we boarded the vehicles for another whale watch adventure. Arriving at the Fisherman's Wharf we quickly checked in and boarded the Sea Wolf II, and were soon skirting the harbour outer wall with its California Sea Lions and Brandt's Cormorants. We hadn't gone far out when a pod of Long-beaked Common Dolphins came into view; they were heading with some purpose towards some more, which were feeding with their attendant birds. As we watched these we became aware of a huge rush of the same species of dolphins coming in from the SE, leaping and jumping as they travelled quickly towards us to join the feeding animals. A fantastic sight! Before we left this area we also came across a cruising pod of Risso's Dolphins, almost sleeping compared to the other species!

We continued onto the canyon off Moss Landing where we joined other boats watching a large group of feeding Humpbacks. We spent the next hour being enthralled by their feeding antics before we had to return to harbour for lunch. After a quick lunch in the warm sunshine we set out on our third whale trip of the tour. There was a layer of high cloud above us as we left harbour and headed straight for the Moss Landing Canyon, with a moderate swell. While other boats finished early we carried on towards the deep water, riding the troughs and watching the Sooty Shearwaters as they rose up from the waves, using the rising air currents to keep them gliding over the ocean. As we arrived at the canyon we saw a Humpback breaching so headed straight for it. We had some exciting breaches close to us, which got all sorts of comments, cheers and claps from an appreciative audience on the boat. We also witnessed a number of 'rainbow blows' from close whales, and on the journey back Long-tailed and Pomarine Skuas passed the boat. Approaching the harbour a few Harbour Porpoise put in an appearance. We arrived back in port at 5:30pm and headed back to the hotel happy with an exciting day of whale watching and tucked into a chicken pot pie supper before completing our checklist

## Day 4

## Tuesday 2nd September

### Big Sur

We woke to an overcast misty day and watched the Anna's Hummingbirds and Oak Titmice around the car park. After we had eaten breakfast and fuelled the vehicle, we travelled south to do 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.

We continued down to Andrew Molera State Park where we had a short walk through some woodland and open grassland in overcast conditions ideal for migrant birds passing through the area. Not far into the woods we came across a mixed flock of American Wood Warblers and Vireos. We started to work through their identities; the most abundant being American Yellow Warbler. Amongst these were a few gaudy yellow Wilson's Warblers, Townsend's Warbler and a fine Black-throated Grey Warbler and a dowdy Orange-crowned Warbler. A Warbling Vireo was with this flock and a little further, a few Steller's Jays were busy screeching in the trees and we had great views of a tiny Downy Woodpecker and a number of Acorn Woodpeckers. A little further and we saw California Ground Jay and Towhees and a Nuttall's Woodpecker put in an appearance. We returned to the car lot, used the facilities and headed off south.

We travelled through the redwood forests of Big Sur Station, pausing to buy our sandwich lunches at the bakery and checked a few view points for condors but the low cloud was against us, although we had a nice American Kestrel at Grimes Point. Arriving at the lunch spot we sat eating our sandwiches when the cloud cleared slightly and Peter spotted two California Condors high in the sky. We could see they were both adults by the white 'arms' on the underwing but we could not make out their wing tags. This was making the day better so we set off for a comfort stop at Ragged Point and continued down to the Northern Elephant Seal haul-out near San Simeon. In the hot sunshine we watched around 40 seals sleeping and basking on the sandy beach. Young males, perhaps only five or six years old remained on the periphery of the group, occasionally holding a flipper up in the air to cool off or raising their head showing off their huge proboscis or elongated nose. The biggest male present was about eight years old.

Heading back north we stopped briefly at Ragged Point for ice cream and a comfort stop, entertained by Brewer's Blackbirds, and then set off back north. Just after Esalen, Peter and Rebecca noticed activity on the sea and Peter pulled in sharply as he saw the fin of an Orca. Indeed after a short wait we were entertained by at least five animals, a number of smaller ones and a huge upright finned male. We thought this was the perfect end to the day but as we approached Nepenthe, Peter saw three California Condors close to the road. Pulling up we were rewarded with some of the best views of Condor Peter had had over the past twelve years. They were flying round in perfect light and very close, so we could see their wing tags. Yellow '4' was around 15 years old and fostered one of the other birds present White '70' hatched in 2008. The third bird was black '34' hatched at Pinnacles National Park in 2009 and a true wild hatched bird. That evening we dined on filet mignon at the lodge and recounted our days experiences for the checklist

## Day 5

## Wednesday 3rd September

### Monterey Bay and Carmel Valley

We woke to grey overcast skies but still mild. Around the car park were Bushtits and Chestnut-backed Chickadees again.

After breakfast we drove to Fisherman's Wharf and boarded the Sea wolf II for a morning with John as the captain. He was tasked by Peter to find us an albatross, so on leaving the harbour he travelled due NW heading for the canyon shelf, with a view to following it north towards Moss landing. It initially seemed quiet with a brief sighting of Risso's Dolphin, which disappeared and our first Buller's Shearwater of the season. A huge Sunfish or *Mola mola*, sailed past, a fish that lives on jellyfish. As we headed north we started to see huge splashes in the distance and could count at least two Humpbacks breaching. Just as we were approaching these Humpbacks, Peter spied an albatross following the boat and we slowed to watch a nice adult Black-footed Albatross circle the boat, and it remained in the vicinity as we started to watch our first breaching Humpback, belly flopping and pec slapping close by. This Humpback activity seemed to be infectious as one by one other whales started to breach and pec slap, until we counted six altogether across the horizon. This turned out to be a great morning with good views of Rhinoceros Auklet to boot.

Back on land we ate our lunch on the marina side and then made our way to the Carmel Valley which was basking in hot sunshine, via the lodge to change into summer attire. Peter had earmarked a few stops along the road where we overlooked some fabulous dry rolling chaparral country. The first stop had some Acorn Woodpeckers to entertain us, and a secretive Olive-sided Flycatcher, while a Black Phoebe flew over. The next stop was a woodpecker tree but just as we arrived, there was a shout of turkeys and a flock of about 30 were sheltering from the sun under a tree. We had good 'scope views' of these and the Acorn Woodpeckers were busy in the tree putting acorns into small holes they had drilled into the bark.

The next stop was a favourite for California Thrasher but no end of calling could illicit a response, however a small flock of Bushtits came into view and we watched two nice Western Tanager feeding on a mulberry bush. One of the aims of this trip was to see the shy Yellow-billed Magpie and Peter decided to let this group listen to the calls so they knew what to try and locate. As he played the calls, two magpies came out of nowhere, one sat in a tree and the other in full view on the overhead wires. What luck!! To cap it all the thrasher started to sing and was seen singing out in the open on a bare branch! We stopped at our last site which was the traditional magpie area but there were none, however we had a nice flock of stripy-headed Lark Sparrows and were able to watch a flock of Western Bluebirds, with some nice 'blue' males, fly-catching in the field. Just before we left we said hello to an old Naturetrek friend, Bob the rancher, who told us the magpies had moved out earlier in the year. We returned back to the hotel for 5pm for people to relax and catch up after a long day yesterday and we had a dinner of chicken and rice before completing our checklists and retiring ready for the next day in the north.

## Day 6

Thursday 4th September

### Moss Landing area

The morning was overcast, foggy and damp as we went for breakfast but after re-fuelling and collecting the sandwich list, the cloud had lifted a little as we headed out north for Moss Landing. Our first port of call was Zmudowski's State Beach, where there is a small freshwater lagoon alongside the sand dunes. To reach the beach you have to drive through huge fields of strawberries and artichokes, and then we came across this little oasis. The water level was low and lots of exposed mud housed numerous species of waders, which we started working through to identify. Easy ones were the American Avocets (30), some still showing the remnants of their orange summer heads. Large peachy coloured Marbled Godwits were joined by small Short-billed Dowitchers and smaller still were Western and Least Sandpipers.

A Killdeer with its double neck collar joined a few Semi-palmated Plovers on the far bank and a lone Cinnamon Teal dabbled close by. The large rushes surrounding this pond had died back because of the drought so we couldn't find any of the Pacific Tree Frogs that inhabit this vegetation; however, thinning vegetation allowed us good views of Marsh Wren and Common Yellowthroat. Squadrons of Brown Pelicans passed along the dunes and two clean American White Pelicans fed on the pool.

Next stop was Jetty Road leading to the Moss Landing State Park. As we got out of the minibus the tide was dropping and hundreds of waders were gathering including Long-billed Curlews, Marbled Godwits, Willets, and many Least Sandpipers. Amongst these we found Semi-palmated Plovers, Grey Plover (Black-bellied Plover), and a Ruddy Turnstone. On the central shore, masses of Elegant Terns gathered alongside Harbour Seals, but the Sea Otters had dispersed around the harbour entrance. We checked the beach and six Snowy Plovers were stood almost camouflaged against the white sand. Eventually the group members found a close sleeping Sea Otter to satisfy their 'aah' factor and take loads of photos. Lunch was taken at Phil's Snack Shack where we made use of his picnic tables overlooking a pool with some Least Sandpipers feeding, whilst in the tree a Snowy Egret stood out in the open and up to ten Black-crowned Night Herons remained cryptic..

The last birding stop of the afternoon was going to be Moonglow Dairy near to the Moss Landing power station, but the gates were locked so Peter took the group to another area on the east side of Elkhorn Slough at Kirby Road Landing. Driving there we saw hundreds of Red-necked Phalaropes on the water and good numbers of Black-necked Stilts. From the landing we watched a Sea Otter quite close and could study both Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs feeding together, plus the stilts and phalaropes. While watching these a Ground Squirrel was continuously alarm calling and we heard the 'mewing' call of Red-tailed Hawks. Looking up there were two hawks circling with a third bird. The long neck/head, long tail, slightly paddle-shaped long wings with big white 'ovals' in the primaries could only mean one species, a Caracara. Peter managed to 'scope the bird and it showed white cheeks, dark cap and white patchy upper breast, with a scruffy white/dark barred tail, with thicker terminal bar, making it Northern Crested Caracara. The hawks continued to circle it and the Caracara drifted away south, eventually disappearing over the trees towards Castroville. The species was well known by Peter and both Liz and Heather, and all agreed on the identification.

We finished off the afternoon with a visit to the local Wild Bird Centre where we reported the sighting of the rare bird and bought souvenirs and presents and an ice cream before heading down to Point Pinos on Pacific Grove, as we had been told there was a lot of activity there. Sure enough hundreds of Sooty Shearwaters, Elegant Terns and various gulls species had gathered just offshore and further out up to 16 Humpback Whales were breaching, pec slapping, tail-lobbing, lunge feeding or fluking. We remained here for 45 minutes marvelling at this spectacle before heading back to the lodge at Carmel Valley. That night we dined on spaghetti bolognaise and completed a rather hefty list of sightings.

## Day 7

Friday 5th September

### Monterey Bay area

Our last full day in Monterey started with the overcast conditions still present and we headed down to Fisherman's Wharf after breakfast for our final morning on the Sea Wolf II, skippered again by Nancy. It was a foggy morning but the sea was relatively calm and we began searching to the north.

The sea was generally very quiet as first but as the sun came out we started seeing Humpback Whales all around us. The morning was spent not far off Point Pinos where we had seen whales yesterday, and we watched up to nine individuals but no exciting antics this morning just a few flukes and the occasional pec and tail slap. We saw a few Rhinoceros Auklets and some saw a Cassin's Auklet. A Common Tern spent much time around a small group of Humpbacks, here we had large numbers of Pink-footed Shearwaters and one or two Black-footed Albatrosses sail by. As we headed into the harbour we came across a small group of Risso's Dolphins lazily swimming close to Cannery Row.

With packed lunches to hand we all spent the afternoon at the Monterey Aquarium. It was an enjoyable afternoon with the seahorses, jellyfish and shorebirds - an interesting insight into the wildlife above and below the water in Monterey Bay – and some good scientific studies.. We 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. We returned to the hotel to tidy up and finished the evening with another splendid meal at the Fish Wife restaurant, and talk eagerly on the sights we had witnessed during the last week. A truly unforgettable trip!

## Day 8

**Saturday 6th September**

### Leave from San Francisco Airport

As the flight home was not until 7:20pm and four of the group were staying on for a few days, we decided to take a trip north of the airport over the Golden Gate Bridge and down to Stinson Beach and Bolinas Lagoon nearby. After breakfast we packed and set off for the last time from our comfortable hotel. We headed for San Francisco on Highway 101 which took us straight through the centre of the city. The undulating streets we knew from movies and TV programs with names such as Geary, Van Ness and Lombard, were photographed from the minibus as we passed through and continued on over the Golden Gate Bridge, north.

Turning towards the sea we took the meandering road passed Muir Woods with its huge Redwoods and stopped briefly in Stinson Beach to buy our lunch from an unsuspecting sandwich shop! We continued on to Bolinas Lagoon but it was very quiet for birds although there were two large groups of Harbour Seals hauled out on the sandbanks. With time ticking on we returned south and Peter took the group to a road on the north bank, which overlooked the bridge with San Francisco in the background. A great place for photos and a fitting end to the tour. We then refuelled the minibus, dropped Peter, Dot, Mary and Marie at their hotel close to the airport, and finally deposited the vehicle back at the car rental site and made our way to check-in, bang on time.

## Day 9

**Sunday 7th September**

### Arrive London

A smooth flight back with some hours to sleep meant we arrived back on time in London where we said our farewells before going our separate ways. A very full but satisfying tour with the whales and birds behaving just as they should!!

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## Species Lists

Mammals (✓ = recorded but not counted)

	Common name	Scientific name	August/September							
			30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Western Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus griseus</i>					1			
2	California Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus beecheyi</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
3	European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>						✓		
4	Steller Sea Lion	<i>Eumetopias jubatus</i>			1					
5	California Sea Lion	<i>Zalophus californianus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
6	Northern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga angustirostris</i>				40				
7	Harbour Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>		3	✓		✓	✓		✓
8	Sea Otter	<i>Enhydra lutris</i>		5	4		3	18	5	
9	Mule Deer	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>		✓		2				
10	Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>		12	30	6	12	19	16	
11	Long-beaked Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus capensis</i>		200	400				✓	
12	Risso's Dolphin	<i>Grampus griseus</i>		40	30		12		✓	
13	Killer Whale	<i>Orcinus orca</i>				5				
14	Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>			3		2		1	

Birds (H = heard only)

1	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>								1
2	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>						1		
3	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>			✓			✓		✓
4	Cinnamon Teal	<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>						5		
5	California Quail	<i>Callipepla californica</i>			2					
6	Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>					30	4		
7	Black-footed Albatross	<i>Phoebastria nigripes</i>					1		2	
8	Northern Fulmar (Pacific)	<i>Fulmarus glacialis rodgersii</i>		2					1	
9	Buller's Shearwater	<i>Puffinus bulleri</i>					1			
10	Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>		300	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
11	Pink-footed Shearwater	<i>Puffinus creatopus</i>		10	8		15		40	
12	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>			3		2	1	1	
13	Black-vented Shearwater	<i>Puffinus opisthomelas</i>		50	100		150	10	50	
14	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>			2					
15	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		1	1			10		
16	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>						3		
17	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		2	2			3		1
18	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>						2		2
19	American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>						18		
20	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
21	Brandt's Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
22	Pelagic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i>		5	5					5
23	Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>					1	✓		
24	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	2	✓	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	
25	California Condor	<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>				5				
26	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>				1				
27	White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>		1						
28	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>								2
29	Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	1							
30	Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	1			2		1		1
31	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>			1	1		2		3

	Common name	Scientific name	August/September							
			30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
32	Northern Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>						1		
33	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>				3	1			
34	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>						1		
35	Black Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus bachmani</i>						3	1	
36	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>						40		
37	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>						5		
38	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>						16		
39	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>						1		
40	Snowy Plover	<i>Charadrius nivosus</i>						6		
41	Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>						40		
42	Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>						✓		
43	Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>						10		
44	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>						20		
45	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>						3		
46	Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>						✓		
47	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>						1		
48	Black Turnstone	<i>Arenaria melanocephala</i>		20	3		2		6	
49	Surfbird	<i>Aphriza virgata</i>		1					3	
50	Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>						✓		
51	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>						✓		
52	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>		1	20			✓	✓	
53	Heermann's Gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
54	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>						6	1	
55	California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
56	Glaucous-winged Gull	<i>Larus glaucescens</i>						1		
57	Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	✓
58	Elegant Tern	<i>Thalasseus elegans</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
59	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>							1	
60	Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>						6		
61	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>			1					
62	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>			5					
63	Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>		1	1					
64	Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>		✓	✓		✓	1	✓	
65	Cassin's Auklet	<i>Ptychoramphus aleuticus</i>							1	
66	Rhinoceros Auklet	<i>Cerorhinca monocerata</i>		1			20		8	
67	Rock Dove (Feral)	<i>Columba livia 'feral'</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
68	Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>			6	2		1	1	1
69	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓		3		✓		
70	Vaux's Swift	<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>				✓				
71	Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>		3	5	✓	5	✓	✓	✓
72	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>		1						
73	Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>		1		8	✓	4		
74	Nuttall's Woodpecker	<i>Picoides nuttallii</i>		1		1				
75	Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>				1				
76	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>				1	1	3		
77	Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>					1			
78	Hutton's Vireo	<i>Vireo huttoni</i>			1					
79	Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>				2				
80	Steller's Jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>				✓	H			
81	California Scrub Jay	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
82	Yellow-billed Magpie	<i>Pica nuttalli</i>					2			

	Common name	Scientific name	August/September							
			30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
83	American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
84	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>				8				
85	Oak Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus inornatus</i>				2				
86	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	<i>Poecile rufescens</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
87	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>							1	
88	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
89	American Bushtit	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>			10		✓		2	
90	Wrentit	<i>Chamaea fasciata</i>						H		
91	Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>							2	
92	Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	1		1	1				1
93	Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>		1						
94	California Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma redivivum</i>					1			
95	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>				✓			✓	
96	Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>					15			
97	House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>		✓	✓	✓		2		2 ✓
98	American Goldfinch	<i>Spinus tristis</i>							✓	
99	Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Spinus psaltria</i>		✓	✓				4	
100	Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis celata</i>				1				
101	Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>							2	
102	American Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga aestiva</i>				✓				
103	Black-throated Grey Warbler	<i>Setophaga nigrescens</i>				1				
104	Townsend's Warbler	<i>Setophaga townsendi</i>				2				
105	Wilson's Warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>				2				
106	Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>							✓	
107	Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
108	Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>				✓			✓	
109	White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>							3	
110	Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>				2			2	2
111	Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>					20			
112	California Towhee	<i>Melospiza crissalis</i>		✓	✓	4			✓	✓
113	Western Tanager	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>						2		

## Other fauna

Lorquin's Admiral, Cabbage White; Monarch, Anise Swallowtail and Sandhill Skipper

Striped Meadowhawk, Black Saddlebags.

Ocean Sunfish (*Mola mola*); Egg-yolk Jelly; Moon Jelly,



Humpback Whale breaching

## 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](http://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

