

# Whales & Dolphins of Monterey Bay

Naturetrek Tour Report

17 - 25 September 2016



Breaching Humpback Whale



Sea Otter



Northern Elephant Seals



Common Dolphin

Report and images by Ian Nicholson



Naturetrek

Mingledown Barn

Wolf's Lane

Chawton

Alton

Hampshire

GU34 3HJ

UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: [info@naturetrek.co.uk](mailto:info@naturetrek.co.uk)

W: [www.naturetrek.co.uk](http://www.naturetrek.co.uk)

Tour participants: Ian Nicholson (leader) with eight Naturetrek clients

## Day 1

**Saturday 17th September**

The BA flight from Heathrow landed at San Francisco in bright sunshine, and after clearing immigration and customs the group met Ian, who was already in California after leading a previous tour, in the Arrivals Hall. We collected the minibus and set off to drive to our hotel in the Carmel Valley. Darkness fell about 30 minutes into the journey, and by the time we arrived at about 9.15pm, we were all fairly tired although we all partook of the buffet supper which had been left out for us.

## Day 2

**Sunday 18th September**

### Monterey Bay and 17-Mile Drive

Breakfast was at 7am, although a couple of members of the group were up before that, watching Anna's Hummingbirds and California Scrub Jays in the garden in the half-light. Everyone was excited by the prospect of our first whale-watching trip, and we were all on board the minibus by 7.50, ready for the drive to Fisherman's Wharf in Monterey. As it was Sunday there was very little traffic on the roads, and we arrived in plenty of time to park, walk to the wharf, pick up our boarding passes and board the "Blackfin", the catamaran on which we were to go out today. We had our first sightings of Sea Otters in the harbour, and the sight, and especially the smell, of around 600 California Sea Lions on the breakwater are unlikely to be forgotten in a hurry.

Out on the open ocean we soon came across numerous Common Guillemots, some in large flocks and some in father-and-chick pairs, although at this time of the year it becomes difficult to differentiate the adults from this year's young. Flocks of Brandt's Cormorants scattered as the boat approached, and we soon had our first sightings of Sooty Shearwaters, visiting Monterey Bay as part of their amazing annual migration which takes them on a full clockwise circuit of the Pacific Ocean after leaving their breeding grounds near New Zealand. With them were a few Pink-footed Shearwaters, along with Elegant Terns and numerous Western Gulls.

A little further on we came across a large pod of over 200 Risso's Dolphins, which came closer to the boat than is usual for this species, giving excellent views of their large size and the extensive scarring on their bodies caused by aggression amongst themselves and also by the tentacles of the squid upon which they prey. Shortly afterwards we came across the first two Humpback Whales of the tour, one of which gave us a good display of fin-slapping, before they both dived several times giving good views of their tail flukes. Several more Humpbacks were seen, including one which breached a couple of times, and by the time we had to head back to the harbour we had seen a total of about 14, in addition to a single Minke Whale, which is not particularly common in these waters.

Back on dry land, we had our lunch of clam chowder or generously sized sandwiches at Abalonetti's Restaurant on Fisherman's Wharf, before returning to the vehicle and driving to Pacific Grove where we entered the 17-Mile Drive, a private area consisting of world-famous golf courses including Pebble Beach and Spanish Bay, and a road along the coastline with views over several bays and rocky outcrops. We stopped several times to admire the view and to look for birds on the shoreline, which included Black Turnstone, Wandering Tattler, Black Oystercatcher, Brewer's and Red-winged Blackbirds, and Great Egrets. At one stop there were a group of Sea

Otters in the extensive beds of kelp, and we also stopped to admire and photograph the famous Lone Cypress on its rocky headland.

Eventually it was time to head back to the hotel for our evening meal, and everyone decided that an early night was in order.

## Day 3

Monday 19th September

### Monterey Bay

The plan today was very simple indeed - we were to spend the whole day on board the "Blackfin" looking for whales, dolphins and seabirds. It was a fairly misty to start with, although the weather cleared as the sun got higher in the sky, and the sea was quite choppy at times, but it wasn't too long before we had our first sighting of a large mixed pod of dolphins. Greg, the naturalist on board our boat, estimated that there were around 500 Long-beaked Common Dolphins, plus about 100 Pacific White-sided Dolphins, and it would be difficult to argue with those figures - at times the boat was completely surrounded by dolphins leaping from the water and riding the bow wave. We stayed with the dolphins for around 40 minutes or so, but then the boat's captain, John Mayer, received a call from another boat about a group of Humpback Whales a few miles away which were putting on a good display of interesting behaviour, so we headed in that direction. On the way we saw a Black-footed Albatross, its huge wingspan dwarfing all the other sea birds around the boat.

We arrived in the area to find at least six Humpback Whales feeding in relatively shallow water near the edge of the underwater canyon. There appeared to be a mother-and-calf pair, plus four others, along with about 30 sea lions and a large flock of birds, including Sooty, Pink-footed and Black-vented Shearwaters, Elegant Terns and a few Brandt's Cormorants, all feeding on a large shoal of small fish - probably anchovies. An Arctic Skua was also present, chasing the terns to steal their food. Captain John said over the microphone that the echo-sounder was showing a huge shoal of fish directly beneath the boat, which was clearly the cause of all this feeding activity.

After watching for around 45 minutes, we had to begin to make our way back to the harbour, although we slowed down on the way to briefly watch four more Humpbacks, and the pod of dolphins caught up with us again. We arrived back at Monterey at 1pm, having passed through a large bank of fog on the way in, and some of the group decided to remain on board for our packed lunch, while others went for a walk along Fisherman's Wharf, before boarding the boat again for our three-hour afternoon whale watching trip. We set off at 2pm, and just as we were passing the breakwater a Peregrine Falcon flew overhead, seen only by those in the stern of the boat. Not far from the harbour we encountered the fog-bank again, which made viewing a little difficult. However, we managed to find three Humpback Whales which entertained us for some time as they fed alongside a group of sea lions.

On returning to the harbour we met up with Barb, who had decided to spend the afternoon exploring the area around Fisherman's Wharf, and made our way back to the car park, now bathed in glorious sunshine, and headed back to the hotel where we relaxed for a while before our evening meal.

## Day 4

## Tuesday 20th September

### Big Sur Coast

Today was to be totally different from the preceding two days. There was no trip out on the boat today - instead we planned to drive along the Big Sur coast road, nearly as far as San Simeon, with various stops along the way to admire the spectacular views and to look for wildlife. There was no need for an early start, so after breakfast we walked over the road from the hotel to a disused airfield to see what birds could be found. Initially it seemed quiet, but walking across to the far side of the airfield produced some good sightings, including two Red-shouldered Hawks together on the same branch, a flock of around 12 White-crowned Sparrows, a House Finch, a fleeting view of a Spotted Towhee and two American Yellow Warblers. As we set off back towards the hotel, a small bird landed on some dead vegetation, and it was identified as a Say's Phoebe - not a common bird in this area, and a "lifer" for the leader! At the hotel two Nuttall's Woodpeckers perched on and hammered at an electricity pole, and a flock of Wrentits flitted through the bushes.

We had already chosen our sandwiches for lunch, and Sheri at the hotel kindly phoned our orders through to the Big Sur Deli, to be picked up later, so at about 9 am we set off in bright sunshine. Our first stop was at Bixby Bridge, where we saw two Bottlenose Dolphins very close to the shore in very shallow water, and a Peregrine flew overhead. Continuing on, we passed the entrance to the Andrew Molera State Park, where we would normally have spent some time, but it was closed this year due to a very serious forest fire, and the fire crews were using the park as one of their bases for fighting the fire. The next stop was at the Deli, where the sandwiches were collected and some of the group purchased souvenirs and postcards, while others watched the Steller's Jays and Acorn Woodpeckers in the trees across the road. We reached Grimes Point, a noted place for California Condors, and we were able to see two, although they were a very long way away, over the hillside some distance inland. A Red-tailed Hawk and two Peregrines chasing the local pigeons didn't really make up for the failure to see Condors close-up, but we agreed we would stop again on the way back hoping for better luck.

We continued along Highway 1 as far as Ragged Point where we stopped for lunch and a comfort stop, and we were surrounded by Brewer's Blackbirds, which are clearly used to being fed by visitors. In the garden we photographed Anna's Hummingbirds and Monarch butterflies, but the view out to sea was completely obscured by fog, which was now drifting in from the ocean. After a relaxing lunch stop, we drove the short distance to the beach near San Simeon where at least 150 Northern Elephant Seals were hauled out. A few large males were present, although the majority were immature males, some of which were practicing their fighting skills, although not very seriously. Also here were Black Oystercatchers, Black Turnstones, a Wandering Tattler and a Black Phoebe, while Turkey Vultures continually soared overhead.

After watching these massive seals for about 45 minutes it was time to head back north, and we made our way back to Grimes Point, where the two Peregrines were still present along with several Turkey Vultures but, as we watched, a massive California Condor glided past along the cliffs, circled and landed in a pine tree on the headland. It was partly obscured by the foliage, but we managed fairly good views, and noted its wing tag number (black 92), and we later found that it was a three-year-old male hatched in April 2013 in the Pinnacles State Park nearly 40 miles away. Looking out to sea, we saw two Humpbacks on the surface, and also a pod of around 30 Risso's Dolphins which were very close inshore for this species which normally inhabits deep water. As we headed further north, the fog from the sea became thicker, but on turning inland towards our hotel in the Carmel Valley it cleared, leaving a pleasant sunny evening.

## Day 5

## Wednesday 21st September

### Monterey Bay and Carmel Valley

We were back aboard the “Blackfin” this morning for the 9am whale-watching trip in Monterey Bay. There were some fog patches initially which affected visibility, but although it took some time, we found a large pod of at least 200 Risso’s Dolphins which we spent about 30 minutes watching. We then headed further north-west over the deeper water where we found four Humpback Whales, although they were deep-diving and moving a considerable distance under water, so it was difficult to keep track of them. The wind was getting up by now, making viewing a little tricky, but we found another three Humpbacks which gave us brief displays of fin-slapping and tail-fluking before moving away.

Captain John Mayer decided to head for more sheltered areas closer to shore before the wind became too strong, and this turned out to be an excellent decision. As we passed the harbour mouth, he saw a Humpback further north, just off the beach at the town of Seaside, so we moved closer and it became clear that this whale, which was a very large one, was feeding in really shallow water - not much more than 20 feet at times. Presumably it had herded a shoal of fish into the shallows and was feeding on them by pushing them towards the beach, leaving them with no escape.

Back on land, it was a very pleasant, warm afternoon, and we ate our packed lunches on the benches by the marina, before driving back to the hotel. We left our warm clothing behind, and drove about 12 miles up the Carmel Valley for a couple of hours, looking for the typical birds of this dry grassland and scrubby habitat. We went first of all to an area which has produced sightings of Yellow-billed Magpie in the past. This species has a very small global range, being restricted to a small area of California, although it seems to be reasonably successful within that range. Within a couple of minutes of getting us out of the bus, two of these Magpies came to drink at a water trough provided for some horses, giving us very good views. Also taking advantage of the water were about 12 Lark Sparrows and a large mixed flock of Brewer’s Blackbirds and Common Starlings, while a smaller flock of Western Bluebirds fed in the long grass nearby.

Next we moved to another area with denser scrubby vegetation, where we found more Western Bluebirds, two American Goldfinches, a Pygmy Nuthatch, a Townsend’s Warbler, and a California Thrasher. A Golden Eagle soared overhead, and two more Yellow-billed Magpies flew by, as did a Downy Woodpecker. While driving back to the hotel we came across a flock of about 10 California Quails by the side of the road, and on our return we had time to relax in the gardens before our evening meal.

## Day 6

## Thursday 22nd September

### Moss Landing

Another day off from whale watching today, which worked out well because the boats didn’t go out due to the high winds and rough seas. Instead we headed north after breakfast to the area around Moss Landing, about 20 miles from Monterey where we hoped for sightings of some interesting birds, as well as close-up views of Sea Otters.

Our first stop was at Phil’s Snack Shack at Moss Landing, where we left our lunch orders to be collected later. We then drove the short distance to Zmudowski’s State Beach, driving initially through intensively farmed fields

of strawberries, lettuce and artichokes, before arriving at the car park near the beach. A Northern Harrier gave very fleeting views as it flew amongst the large sand dunes, but the Pied-billed Grebes and Double-crested Cormorants were much more co-operative, as were the large numbers of Pacific Tree Frogs which we found in the extensive reedbeds around the fresh water lagoon. A White-tailed Kite flew by, and was later seen hovering over the grassy areas, and a Western Osprey also flew quickly overhead. In the reeds a couple of Marsh Wrens were singing, but couldn't be tempted out into the open; we also saw Song Sparrows, three distant Northern Mockingbirds, and three Killdeers. Back at the car park a Black Phoebe was feeding on insects, and three Western Meadowlarks were seen briefly by a few of the group.

Next stop was Jetty Road at Moss Landing, where near the entrance we found a female Sea Otter feeding with her pup right next to the road. They were diving into a large pipe which runs under the road and coming out with shellfish, which the mother broke open on a rock before sharing it with her pup. Needless to say, many photographs were taken, and some of the group would probably have been quite happy to stay here all day, but eventually the otters moved further away, presumably having eaten enough clams, and we also moved on. We had good close views of a Snowy Egret, a Great Blue Heron and a Long-billed Curlew here, and there was also a large mixed flock of Marbled Godwits and Willets, as well as two Black-necked Grebes. A little further on was a group of about 20 Sea Otters just drifting around on their backs and apparently relaxing, while about 50 Harbour Seals were hauled out on a sandbank.

At about 12.30 we drove back to Phil's Snack Shack, where a table was set out for us in the garden and our lunches were waiting for us. We spent nearly an hour here eating lunch and talking about the morning's sightings, especially the Sea Otters which were voted probably the world's cutest animal. After lunch we moved on to Moonglow Dairy, the owner of which kindly allows people onto his land to view the birds which inhabit both his fields and cattle pens and Elkhorn Slough, an estuary which provides excellent habitat for many wetland species. The usual entrance gate was locked, but an enquiry at the farm produced an alternative route, and we were soon parked in the shade of a grove of Eucalyptus trees. There was a huge flock of birds feeding in the nearest cattle pen, consisting of Brewer's Blackbirds, Red-winged Blackbirds, Brown-headed Cowbirds and hundreds of Feral Pigeons, in addition to a bird seen by some of the group which was black with a bright orange head. Unfortunately the whole flock was flushed by a Sharp-shinned Hawk and a Red-tailed Hawk, so we decided to walk down to the Slough and come back later to find the mystery bird. Two Black-necked Stilts were feeding in the first lagoon, along with some Mallards, American Coots and a Ruddy Duck, and moving on there were lots of Marbled Godwits, Willets and Least Sandpipers feeding and roosting on the mud by the estuary. On the far bank of the estuary were about 15 American White Pelicans as well as considerably more Brown Pelicans. Elegant Terns were fishing, as were two Western Grebes and a single Clark's Grebe, giving an opportunity to note the subtle differences between these two closely related species.

By now the wind had increased significantly, and we decided to make our way back to the sheltered spot where we had parked. On the way we found a snake at the edge of the footpath, and later research by Margaret revealed it to be a Californian Striped Racer. Back at the bus we found that the large flock had settled in the cattle pen again, and the mystery bird turned out to be a Yellow-headed Blackbird. Some first-year males have orange rather than yellow heads, and our bird was clearly one with this plumage variation. Also in this area were a Black Phoebe and a flock of Chestnut-backed Chickadees, which we watched for a while before setting off back to the hotel. On the way we decided that a stop for an ice-cream at the Del Monte shopping centre was in order, and after this and a stop for fuel, we arrived back in plenty of time for our last evening meal at the hotel.

## Day 7

## Friday 23rd September

### Monterey Bay

This morning we had an early breakfast as we were booked on the 8am whale watch, in order to give us more time to visit the world famous Monterey Aquarium in the afternoon. We were slightly concerned that the trip might be cancelled due to the high winds yesterday, but on arrival we were told that it was going ahead, although the sea might be quite rough. Gwyn had decided to explore Monterey this morning, so didn't join us as we boarded the "Sea Wolf II" in clear weather, but it was soon apparent that there was a substantial fog bank out at sea, making viewing conditions difficult. While the sea was quite choppy, and there was a distinct chill in the air, the swell wasn't as bad as some of us had anticipated, but although there were brief sightings of two Humpback Whales, overall it was a disappointing trip. The captain and crew tried very hard to find us some whales and dolphins, but in the end we were beaten by the fog. Ironically, back on land, it was a beautiful sunny afternoon.

Everyone had decided to visit the Aquarium in the afternoon, and the unanimous opinion was that this was time well spent. The exhibits are very well presented and clearly explained, and, needless to say, a lot of cuddly Sea Otters were purchased from the souvenir shop!

This evening we were booked in at the Fishwife restaurant in Pacific Grove, where we had arranged to meet Clive and Jill, participants in the previous week's group who had spent a further week travelling independently. We enjoyed a pleasant meal, arriving back at the hotel at around 10.15 after a long day.

## Day 8

## Saturday 24th September

### Carmel Valley to San Francisco Airport

We had plenty of time this morning for a leisurely breakfast and to finish our packing, as we didn't plan to leave the hotel until around 11.15. Some relaxed in the gardens, while others had a walk around the local area, before boarding the minibus for the drive to San Francisco. We returned by the same route that we had taken on the way to the hotel, but of course now that it was daylight, we appreciated the views in the hills above the Carmel Valley on the steep, winding road known as Laurele's Grade. Once we were past Salinas and onto Highway 101 it was fairly plain sailing, and although the traffic was heavy in places, there was no ten-mile tailback for roadworks as there had been when taking the previous week's group to the airport, so we were in plenty of time. After dropping the minibus off at the depot we made our way to the terminal on the train which runs around the airport, and after checking in we said goodbye to Nicola who was spending a further three days in San Francisco. We had a late lunch at the airport before nine of us, plus about 20 cuddly sea-otters, boarded the BA flight to Heathrow, having said goodbye to Barb who was on the later Virgin departure.

## Day 9

## Sunday 25th September

### San Francisco to Heathrow

The overnight flight was uneventful, and although we had departed about 40 minutes late, the crew had made up the majority of this by the time we reached Heathrow. On landing we got through immigration quite swiftly, and after saying our goodbyes we all went our separate ways after a memorable holiday watching the whales, dolphins, and birds of this beautiful area of central California (not forgetting those cute sea-otters of course)!

## Species Lists

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

	Common name	Scientific name	September						
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1	Northern Fur Seal	<i>Callorhinus ursinus</i>		2					
2	California Sea Lion	<i>Zalaopus californianus</i>	✓	✓	12+	✓		✓	
3	Northern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga angustirostris</i>			200+				
4	Harbour Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>		5			50+		
5	Sea Otter	<i>Enhydra lutris</i>	40+	20+		4	30+	4	
6	Mule Deer	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>	c6				3		
7	Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	1						
8	Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	c12	c15	2	7			
9	Long-beaked Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus capensis</i>		200+					
10	Risso's Dolphin	<i>Grampus griseus</i>	200+		c30	200+			
11	Pacific White-sided Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus obliquidens</i>		150+					
12	Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>			2				
13	Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>				1			
14	Western Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus griseus</i>		1		✓	✓		✓
15	California Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus beecheyi</i>	5		2		1		

## Birds

1	California Quail	<i>Callipepla californica</i>				c8			
2	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	c12						
3	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>					✓		
4	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>					✓		
5	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>					1		
6	Black-footed Albatross	<i>Phoebastria nigripes</i>		1					
7	Sooty Shearwater	<i>Ardenna grisea</i>	150+	100+		50+		50+	
8	Pink-footed Shearwater	<i>Ardenna creatopus</i>	4	c30		c20		c15	
9	Black-vented Shearwater	<i>Puffinus opisthomalis</i>		c10		c10		c15	
10	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>					6		
11	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>					2		
12	Western Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>					2		
13	Clark's Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i>					1		
14	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	1				2	1	
15	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	1			1	2	1	
16	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	4	2	2		1		
17	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	1				2		2
18	American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>					15+		
19	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	40+	30+	c15	20+	50+	5	
20	Brandt's Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
21	Pelagic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓	
22	Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>					30+		
23	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	c6	2	30+	15+	30+	5	c8
24	California Condor	<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>			3				
25	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>					1		
26	White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	1				2		
27	Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>					1		
28	Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>					2		
29	Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>			2	2			

	Common name	Scientific name	September						
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24
30	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>			4	2	5	2	3
31	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>				1			
32	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>				1	2		
33	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		1	3				
34	American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>					30+		
35	Black Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus bachmani</i>	5						
36	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>					2		
37	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>			2		2		
38	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>					4		
39	Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>					100+		
40	Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>					25+		
41	Wandering Tattler	<i>Tringa incana</i>	1		1		1		
42	Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>					100+		
43	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	1						
44	Black Turnstone	<i>Arenaria melanocephala</i>	1	3	15+	1			
45	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>					40+		
46	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>			c6		c10		
47	Heermann's Gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>	50+	20+		✓		✓	
48	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>						c10	
49	California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>		2			4	c8	
50	Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
51	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>					1		
52	Elegant Tern	<i>Thalasseus elegans</i>	20+	40+		20+	15+	c8	
53	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		1					
54	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>		3					
55	Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓	
56	Cassin's Auklet	<i>Ptychoramphus aleuticus</i>						2	
57	Rhinoceros Auklet	<i>Cerorhinca monocerata</i>						4	
58	Common Pigeon/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
59	Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>		✓					
60	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
61	Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>				6	4		
62	Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
63	Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>		1	c6	2			2
64	Nuttall's Woodpecker	<i>Picoides nuttallii</i>			2				
65	Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>				1			
66	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>			1		2		
67	Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>			1				
68	Steller's Jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>	1		2	1			
69	California Scrub Jay	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
70	Yellow-billed Magpie	<i>Pica nuttalli</i>				6			
71	American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
72	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>			1				
73	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	<i>Poecile rufescens</i>			1	2	4		2
74	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>					c6		
75	Wrentit	<i>Chamaea fasciata</i>		c6	c6	c8	4		4
76	Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>					H		
77	Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	H			1		H	
78	Pygmy Nuthatch	<i>Sitta pygmaea</i>				1			
79	Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>					3		
80	California Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma redivivum</i>				1			

	Common name	Scientific name	September						
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24
81	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>			4	✓	✓		
82	Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>				15+			
83	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>					c8		
84	American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>				2	2		
85	House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>			1				
86	American Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga aestiva</i>			2				
87	Townsend's Warbler	<i>Setophaga townsendi</i>				1			
88	Yellow-headed Blackbird	<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>					1		
89	Western Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>					3		
90	Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>					50+		
91	Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	2		1		100+		
92	Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
93	Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>					2		
94	White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>			15+				
95	Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>				20+			
96	Spotted Towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>			1				
97	California Towhee	<i>Melospiza crissalis</i>				1	1		

### Butterflies

1	Cabbage White (Small White)	<i>Pieris rapae</i>			✓	✓	✓		
2	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>			1				
3	Lorquin's Admiral	<i>Limenitis lorquini</i>							1
4	Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	1		c6				
5	Fiery Skipper	<i>Hylephila phyleus</i>			1				10+

### Reptiles & Amphibians

1	Western Fence Lizard	<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>			1	1			
2	California Striped Racer	<i>Masticophis lateralis</i>					1		
3	Pacific Tree Frog	<i>Pseudacris regilla</i>					30+		

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