

# Whales & Dolphins of Monterey Bay

Naturetrek Tour Report

26 August - 3 September 2017

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Close-up encounters with a Blue Whale



Black-footed Albatross



Ocean Sunfish or *Mola mola*



Sleeping Sea Otter

Report and images by Peter Dunn



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Tour participants: Peter Dunn (leader) with nine Naturetrek clients

## Summary

This trip is always full of surprises and expectations, and again this year it did not fail. With the sad news that the Big Sur was closed, we had to work hard but managed to find California Condor, and the views of the northern section were, as always, stunning. However, it was the whales which got everyone talking, especially the iconic Blue Whales which appeared on two days. The week started out with 'normal' foggy visibility on the water but ended with sunshine and record high temperatures.

## Day 1

**Saturday 26th August**

### London to San Francisco

Peter met the all the participants off the plane from London or beforehand in the arrivals hall. The plane had landed slightly ahead of time and with the vehicle already pre-hired we were soon heading south along the US101 towards Monterey. As we travelled along the highway and away from the suburbs of San Francisco, passing through Silicon Valley, 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. Because of the later flight and it getting dark, we decided to take a more direct route to Carmel Valley, via Salinas and over Laureless Grade into the valley.

We arrived at our accommodation in the Carmel Valley at about 9pm local time where, after accessing our rooms, some partook in the cold deli supper made for us by chef Jerome, before retiring to bed after a long, long day.

## Day 2

**Sunday 27th August**

### Monterey Bay and Monterey Headland

Morning came too soon for some and not early enough for others with body clocks all scrambled; however, a fine breakfast of scrambled eggs, toast and cereals was very welcome. Some of the early risers had added Bewick's Wren and Anna's Hummingbird around the hotel.

We set off for Fisherman's Wharf in bright sunshine but soon came into overcast conditions as the marine layer had moved into the coastal strip. As we walked along Fisherman's Wharf we had our first good sightings of the large Western Gulls and Harbour (Common) Seal from the quay and, in the gloom, we could glimpse a distant Sea Otter. 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 Discovery Whale Watch – a new venture this year - and picked up our boarding passes, and watched a Belted Kingfisher fly around from the rear deck. We were introduced to the crew, Brit the deckhand, Slater the photographer and two captains: John, an old friend of Naturetrek, and Chris, and we then boarded the Sur Randy for a morning on the sea.

With only 32 passengers there was plenty of room on the deck and we slowly headed out of the harbour past 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, a few Black Turnstone, and Heermann's and Western Gulls

With the fog remaining fairly thick, Captain John decided to head west towards the canyon edge in search of whales. Initially it was hard to see or envisage seeing anything in the fog but, as with most days, it became patchy and visibility continuously increased and decreased; so, when suddenly out of the fog another whale watch boat appeared we had a feeling something was about. After a few minutes, the tell-tale large blow, pale-grey back and small dorsal fin came into sight and we were watching our first Blue Whale. What a relief and then there was another, and then another and there must have been a minimum of five around the boat. One or two passed very close and the sound (and smell) of them exhaling was loud and deep, most becoming of the largest mammal in the world.

As we watched these, we were passed by Sooty Shearwaters and an occasional Red-necked Phalarope, but it was difficult to watch anything but the whales. After about 35 to 40 minutes other boats began to arrive so we decided to move off towards Moss Landing Canyon in search of others.

After travelling for about 25 minutes, a huge splash ahead of us indicated a whale and, as we approached, we saw a Humpback which was continually "trail lobbing" by slapping its tail in the sea's surface. At the same time, small groups of Humpback Whales appeared, as the fog lifted to warm sunshine. We had reached a small feeding group which had the associated presence of California Sea Lions, and a feeding frenzy of Western and California Gulls, and Sooty and a few Pink-footed Shearwaters. It was hard to know where to look as there were Humpbacks all around us!

Eventually it was time to make our way back the Monterey Harbour, with sightings of Rhinoceros Auklet and Caspian Tern to add to the day count.

Back on dry land, we went straight to Abalonetti's restaurant opposite the whale-watch building to enjoy bread bowls of clam chowder or sandwiches and salads.

After a relaxing lunch Peter drove the group around Monterey Headland, Pacific Grove and Asilomar, pointing out landmarks and history, with a brief stop near Point Pinos the southern point of Monterey Bay where we saw American Whimbrel (which looks the same as European species but without a white rump), Black Oystercatcher and some inquisitive California Ground Squirrels.

Driving back towards Carmel Valley Village, we stopped briefly at a supermarket for some personal supplies as Turkey Vultures soared in the heat, then the whole group opted for a spot of relaxation around the hotel before dinner.

That evening, after Peter outlined the next day's activities, we dined on chicken, sweetcorn, iceberg lettuce and chilli with garlic bread, and a brownie-type desert. A quick run through the checklist followed and then everyone retired for the rest of the evening.

## Day 3

Monday 28th August

### Monterey Bay and Big Sur

One or two met before breakfast to watch a male Anna's Hummingbird feeding in the hotel grounds. After a fine breakfast, we headed north to Fisherman's Wharf and boarded the Sur Randy for another morning on the water. It was still grey and overcast as we left harbour with the usual visit to the sea lions on the pier, and on the seaward side there was a Black-crowned Night Heron feeding on the rocks. We headed north-west and today there was a little swell but less wind and the sea colour was ideal for spotting wildlife. Feeding sea lions and flying Sooty Shearwaters were ever present and a Grey (Red) Phalarope flew past. Our first Humpback viewing was interrupted by a fly-by Black-footed Albatross, this huge bird dwarfing the shearwaters. Moving on, we came across two huge Ocean Sunfish or *Mola mola* close to the surface. These strange fish attain their large size purely on a diet of jellyfish!

When we reached the Canyon edge there were large herds of feeding sea lions and flocks of birds and, as we watched, huge Humpbacks came up close to the boat. We estimated there were about 20 animals in this area and it was hard to know which way to look. Pink-footed Shearwaters wove in and out of the gull flocks and diminutive Red-necked Phalaropes darted across the water's surface. Having had our fill, and with time pressing on, we turned towards Moss Landing before heading south towards Monterey. A Pomarine Skua flew past and Rhinoceros Auklets sat on the water. Suddenly there was a cry of "fins" and we had come across a pod of about 30 Risso's Dolphins which we cruised alongside before they decided to dive and leave the area.

The journey back to the harbour produced Arctic and Elegant Terns and we went straight through the middle of a huge flock of an estimated 2-3000 Sooty Shearwaters!

Safely back in harbour and having thanked the crew, we headed back to the minibus and while we ate our lunch Peter drove south towards Big Sur, as he had received some information the previous week which might be beneficial. We passed Bixby Bridge and Big Sur Point in fog but came across a superb adult Golden Eagle perched on a roadside fence post. Peter turned the minibus but the eagle had taken off; however, we timed it perfectly to drive down the road with it alongside us for a short distance.

We drove to Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park and to the end parking lot where we scanned the hills of the Ventana range which were in bright sunshine. There were many Turkey Vultures sharing the sky with Red-tailed Hawks and Violet-green Swallows, and in the trees Acorn Woodpecker excitedly chattered and there was a brief view of a Pacific-slope Flycatcher. A party of American Bushtits was entertaining us when Peter glanced over his shoulder and there was a magnificent adult California Condor above the ridge. The bird had tags but at this distance these could not be read; however, it kindly remained in view for about 10 minutes, as everyone got telescope views. A hunch that paid off! On the drive back, we stopped to take photos of the scenery, including Bixby Bridge, and to watch a Red-shouldered Hawk on roadside wires, arriving back at the hotel to wind down with refreshments and some wandered into the village before dinner.

After a dinner of pork loin, we completed our checklist and Peter outlined the next day's itinerary before we retired for the night.

## Day 4

## Tuesday 29th August

### Monterey Bay and 17-Mile Drive

We woke to a misty, murky day as the fog had spread well inland and, after breakfast, we set off again for Monterey and our third whale-watch trip. As we passed through Pacific Grove and descended to sea level, it was apparent the cloud was high and it was relatively clear at sea level.

We completed the booking-in formalities and were soon heading out to sea with Captain Chris, Brit and Tyler. The sea was grey and smooth, making it easy to spot wildlife. Two Harbour Porpoises showed briefly and small numbers of Sooty Shearwaters passed us as we headed out towards the canyon. We came across our first Humpbacks after 40 minutes and also some more Harbour Porpoises. Ahead of us, some other whale-watch vessels had some feeding Humpbacks so we slowly sidled up to the area to enjoy this spectacle. Accompanying the whales were feeding California Sea Lions, Harbour Porpoises and Sooty and Pink-footed Shearwaters. There was excitement when a large Black-footed Albatross joined the feeding frenzy, and a Pomarine Skua came in to see what it could steal.

Moving on, we had a nice big pod of Risso's Dolphins, two more Black-footed Albatrosses and some nice, close views of the strange Ocean Sunfish. Even the ride back to Monterey was disrupted by albatrosses, Sunfish and Arctic Skuas, along with more Humpbacks, and the morning finished with good numbers of Sooties again as we headed into harbour.

We ate our lunch of sandwiches from the local deli on the harbour side before Peter took the group on a tour of the 17-Mile Drive. We stopped at a number of car parks overlooking the sea or golf courses and added species such as Western Kingbird, Great and Snowy Egrets, Willet, Red-winged Blackbirds and White-crowned Sparrow. Three Killdeer on one of the greens was a nice find, and a few Black-tailed or Mule Deer were grazing on the lush green grass.

We made stops at 'Bird Island' and 'Lone Cypress' to take photos; the latter also had breaching Humpback Whales offshore.

We left via Carmel-by-the-Sea and, after a brief stop at the supermarket for provisions and fuel, were back at the hotel just after 5pm to rest and prepare for our evening meal.

That evening we enjoyed a nice roast chicken dinner, after which we completed the checklist before retiring to bed.

## Day 5

## Wednesday 30th August

### Zmudowski's State Beach and Moss Landing area

With a calm but misty morning, we had breakfast and were gathering to head to Fisherman's Wharf for another sailing, when news came through that the boat trip had been cancelled due to rough water. Peter hurriedly rearranged lunches and we set off towards Moss Landing to do our shore day planned for Thursday.

After a short stop to drop in our lunch order, we drove on to 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, lettuces and artichokes, before you come across this little oasis. The water level was high so there was no exposed mud, but many Western, Californian and Heermann's Gulls were bathing. As we approached the pool, Song Sparrows were 'pished' from the vegetation and a Common Yellowthroat only showed to a few. Swallows overhead included many Barn and one or two Cliff and Northern Rough-wings, and the group was tasked to find the Pacific Tree Frogs in the giant rushes. Once they were shown one or two, most found their own to photograph, in either its green or brown form.

A little further round, a family of Western Marsh Wrens showed well whilst the swallows also settled in the reeds, allowing prolonged views of the three previously mentioned species and also Violet-green Swallow. A few American and a single Lesser Goldfinch fed in the weedy field and three huge, red-billed Caspian Terns patrolled the pool. This had been a great start and next stop was the Jetty Road area of Moss Landing.

We drove past some pools on Highway 1 containing a few Black-necked Stilts, and at Jetty Road the tide was starting to drop so waders (shorebirds) started to fly back into the area. We were able to compare Marbled Godwits with Long-billed Curlew, lots of Willet, some Semi-palmated Plovers and diminutive Least Sandpipers. Some sharp-eyed clients picked out some different small waders with black legs and a rufous line of feathers on their back, diagnostic of Western Sandpiper. Part of the group set off to walk to the next site on the beach whilst others hitched a lift in the minibus and saw a fine male Northern Harrier fly past!

We checked a protected area of beach where Snowy Plover breed and saw quite a few running about on the sand, and also some clockwork Sanderling. Two Ring-billed Gulls were associating with the roosting gulls and there was a continuous stream of Elegant Terns leaving the harbour, heading out to sea.

The last car park was opposite the sleeping Sea Otters, of which there were about 30, and many images were taken. This area also produced a fine male Surf Scoter, two Great Northern Divers (Common Loons) and a single Red-throated Diver (Loon) and a sleeping Red-breasted Merganser.

It was time for lunch so we headed over to Phil's Snack Shack where our sandwiches were waiting, and a table was set out in the back garden, overlooking a pool with Snowy Egret and Pied-billed Grebe. We found the resident roosting Black-crowned Night Herons in the tree, and a young Cooper's Hawk flew over and landed in a tree.

After lunch, we relocated to Moonglow Dairy where there is access to Elkhorn Slough. Driving in, California Ground Squirrels raced across the track into their burrows. Blackbirds are one of the targets here and we had good views of Brown-headed Cowbirds and good but quick views of both Red-winged and Tricolored Blackbirds around the cows. On the slurry pond were Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal and a single Spotted Sandpiper, whilst around the edges we saw Song and Savannah Sparrows. The tide was low and waders were heading back to Moss Landing from Elkhorn Slough, as were hundreds of Elegant Terns. We managed to identify two Forster's Terns feeding in the Slough and a single large grebe was identified as Clark's Grebe, as we discussed the ID features against Western. A number of Sea Otters were feeding in the quiet waters, one appearing to have a baby on its chest.

With time pressing on, we returned to the vehicle and, as we left, saw a Loggerhead Shrike on the wire fence and also caught up with some more Red-winged and Tricolored Blackbirds.

The group opted for a brief fruit-stall stop followed by a refreshing ice cream from a retailer back in Monterey, before making our way back to the hotel to relax and enjoy a dinner of lamb shank. We went through our checklist and then headed for a night's sleep, hoping the weather was better tomorrow for the boat.

## Day 6

Thursday 31st August

### Monterey Bay whale watch and Tassajarra Road

The morning in Carmel was bright sunny but chilly as we went for breakfast, but changed to overcast, foggy and damp when we arrived at Fishermans Wharf for our rearranged sailing. This time we were on the bigger boat, the Chubesca, to accommodate cancelled passengers from yesterday, but it was still roomy and easy to move about.

Skipped by Captain JJ and naturalist Brit, with deckhand Tyler and photographer Slater, we headed out north into fairly thick fog towards Moss Landing Canyon. We sailed for an hour in smooth seas with a sighting of four *Mola mola*, and a few auks and shearwaters for company before we reached the Canyon and another vessel from Moss Landing. There was much bird and sea lion activity and then Humpbacks started popping up all around us. Small and larger groups (of 12) meant there were about 30 individuals and one even did two impressive breaches. We stayed with this activity for over an hour, as other boats arrived, and we then went hunting more animals along the Canyon edge.

On the journey back we had further sightings of Humpbacks, another *Mola mola* and some Rhinoceros Auklets, and as we approached Monterey harbour, the fog miraculously disappeared and we were in a scorching heatwave.

We drove back to Carmel Valley Village and ate our sandwiches at the Inn before venturing out in the vehicle further inland on Carmel Valley Road to the junction of Tassajarra Road to look for Yellow-billed Magpies. It was extremely hot, the vehicle temperature gauge topping out at 115°F, and we did not see or hear any magpies. However, we had good views of California Quail, Lark Sparrow and Western Bluebird.

On the ride back, Peter stopped at two favourite spots; at the first we successfully found California Thrasher, but the second was quiet, apart from a pair of hunting American Kestrels.

We returned to the cool of our hotel and prepared for an early dinner, as we aimed to visit the local pub for a swift drink of two before bed.

## Day 7

Friday 1st September

### Monterey Bay and free time in Monterey

We set off after breakfast in bright sunshine and at last it was a day of no fog and the bay looked calm and clear apart from some distant haze. We were welcomed aboard the Sur Randy again and set off with Captain Chris, naturalist Katlyn and deckhand Tyler, this time to head way out west, an area we had not visited this week.

The ride was smooth and the light fantastic for photography, not only of the wildlife but also back at the Monterey Headland scenery. With the better conditions, we encountered more Rhinoceros Auklets, where all the features showed. Sooty Shearwaters were regular company, with the occasional Pink-footed. Peter and Jacky spied a large blow in the distance, and as we headed towards it, a fluke of a Humpback showed but this was some way to the left of the original animal. We thought it might have been a larger whale and we were proved right when 20 minutes later we were alongside two cruising Blue Whales. We had great views in perfect lighting. After spending a little time with them we carried on westwards.

Arriving at the Canyon edge, a Black-footed Albatross flew past and then a small pod of Pacific White-sided Dolphins joined the boat and tried to swim in the wake. Moving north over the edge we came across more Pacific White-sided Dolphins, and as we turned back east, a small whale popped up causing some excitement, but it turned out to be a baby Humpback out on its own. More Rhinoceros Auklets appeared, and we had two or three Cassin's Auklets on the sea. We came back the same route and met the Blue Whales again, but a third had joined them and we were treated some close views and a fluke!

Heading back to shore we had more Humpbacks and two Harbour Porpoise to round off a thoroughly enjoyable and pleasant last boat trip.

Back at the dock we gave our appreciation to the crew in the usual way and Peter dropped the group off in Cannery Row where some visited the famous Aquarium and others explored the street and surroundings made famous by Steinbeck.

Collected at 5pm, we travelled back to the hotel to rest and recuperate before heading back to Pacific Grove for a nice fish (or other tasty) supper at The Fish Wife and to recount all that we had done in such a short time.

## Day 8

## Saturday 2nd September

### Leave from San Francisco Airport

As the flight home was not until 7.15pm, we planned to have lunch locally, so that allowed some of the group to explore the village and its shops while three accompanied Peter back up Carmel Valley Road to look for magpies again. The usual spot was empty again apart from California Quail and Lark Sparrow. However, while scanning, Peter saw a distant magpie flying over a ridge.

We decide to drive there and check it out, and found a lone Yellow-billed Magpie in a tree which we viewed with a telescope to see the diagnostic bill and eye skin colour. While doing this, a strange grey bird with wing bars and a pronounced crest hopped onto a nearby bush to eat berries. This was amazing, as we were watching a female/young Phainopepla, a bird some of us had seen in Baja or Mexico. This was a new bird for the Naturetrek tour. To cap it all off, as we drove back we had a nice view of Wild Turkey on a fence post. What a nice way to end our tour.

We all dined at Jeremy's in Carmel Central before making the trip back north to San Francisco Airport where Peter said goodbye to all as he was staying on to lead another group.

## Day 9

## Sunday 3rd September

Arrive London

The plane arrived safely and the members of the group said their goodbyes in the baggage reclaim.

### Receive our e-newsletter

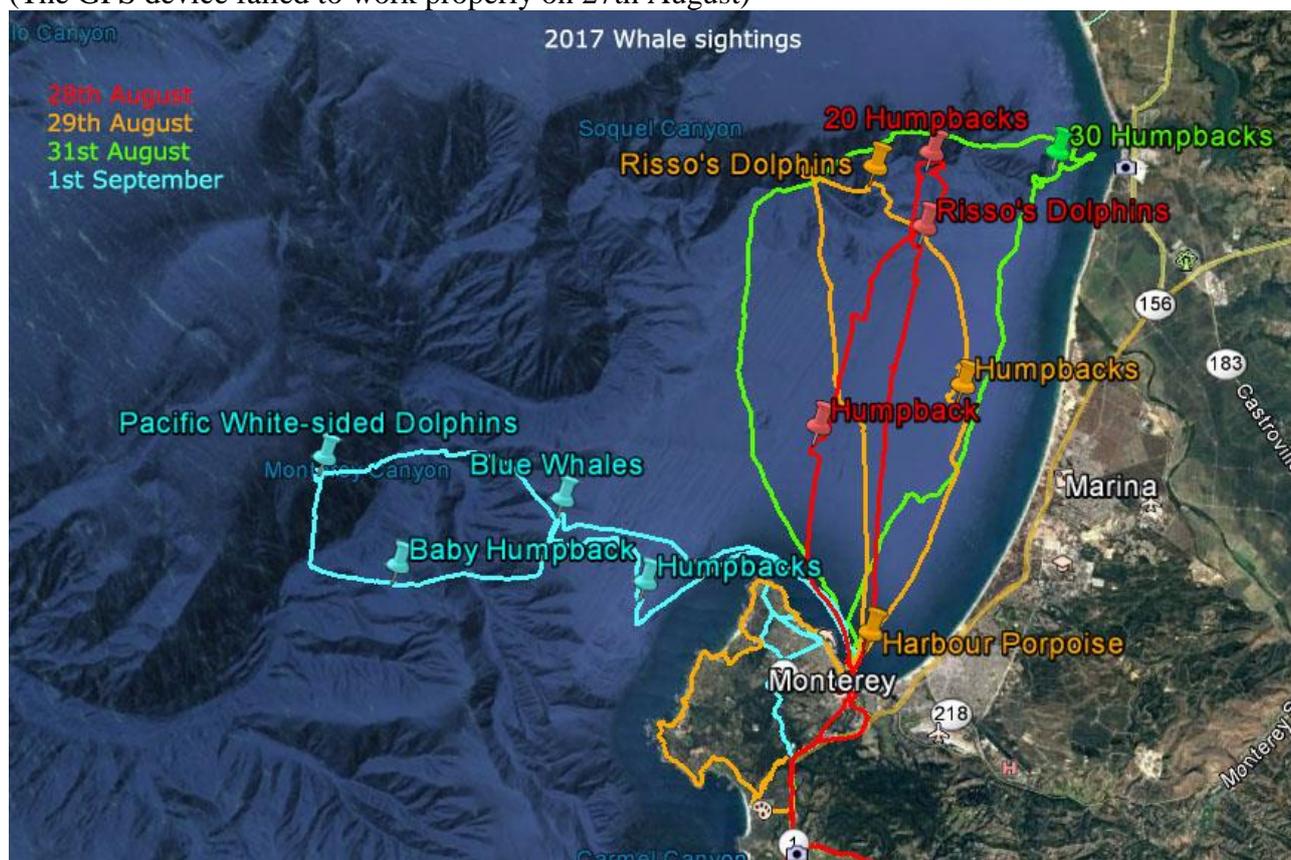
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### Naturetrek Facebook

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!

(The GPS device failed to work properly on 27th August)



## Species Lists

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

	Common name	Scientific name	August – September							
			27	28	29	30	31	1	2	
1	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	15	✓	✓	1			8	
2	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓	✓	1				
3	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>				8				
4	Cinnamon Teal	<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>				4				
5	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>				1				
6	Surf Scoter	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>				1				
7	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>				1				
8	California Quail	<i>Callipepla californica</i>	12	✓				18		2
9	Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>								7
10	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>				1				
11	Pacific Diver	<i>Gavia pacifica</i>		1						
12	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>				2				
13	Black-footed Albatross	<i>Phoebastria nigripes</i>		1	3				2	
14	Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>		1					4	
15	Sooty Shearwater	<i>Ardenna grisea</i>	✓	3000	600			✓	✓	
16	Pink-footed Shearwater	<i>Ardenna creatopus</i>	8	8	8			5	8	
17	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>				4				
18	Clark's Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i>				1				
19	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		1	1	3				
20	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	1		2	2	1	1		
21	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>			6	✓			5	
22	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>			3	✓				
23	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
24	Brandt's Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
25	Pelagic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i>	1		1			2	3	
26	Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>				✓				
27	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
28	California Condor	<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>		1						
29	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>		1						
30	Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>		1						
31	Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>				1			1	1
32	Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>		2						
33	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>		6		5	2	2		
34	American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>			1	6				
35	Black Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus bachmani</i>	1		2					
36	American Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>							3	
37	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>				✓				
38	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>				✓				
39	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>			3					
40	Snowy Plover	<i>Charadrius nivosus</i>				8				
41	Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>				✓			40	
42	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	4		1	2				
43	Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>				✓				
44	Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>			1	✓				
45	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>				1				
46	Black Turnstone	<i>Arenaria melanocephala</i>		3		2	1	4		
47	Surfbird	<i>Calidris virgata</i>							1	

	Common name	Scientific name	August – September						
			27	28	29	30	31	1	2
48	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>				✓			
49	Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>				5			
50	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	2	6	14		✓	30	
51	Red Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>		1			2	4	
52	Heermann's Gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
53	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>				2			
54	California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
55	Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
56	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	1			5			
57	Elegant Tern	<i>Thalasseus elegans</i>		3	10	✓	✓	✓	
58	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>		5	1				
59	Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>				2			
60	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>		1	1				
61	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>			2			1	
62	Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
63	Pigeon Guillemot	<i>Cephus columba</i>	1	3	2		2	2	
64	Cassin's Auklet	<i>Ptychoramphus aleuticus</i>					1	3	
65	Rhinoceros Auklet	<i>Cerorhinca monocerata</i>	5				6	30	
66	Rock Dove (Feral)	<i>Columba livia 'feral'</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
67	Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>	2				1	2	
68	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	
69	Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	1				1		
70	Vaux's Swift	<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>		2					
71	Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	2	2		2	2	4	
72	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>		2			1	1	
73	Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>	4	✓		1	1		✓
74	Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Leuconotopicus villosus</i>	1						
75	Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	1	H					
76	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>		2			2		2
77	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	1			✓		1	
78	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax difficilis</i>		1					
79	Western Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>			3				
80	Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>				1			
81	Steller's Jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>		✓	1				
82	California Scrub Jay	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
83	Yellow-billed Magpie	<i>Pica nuttalli</i>							1
84	American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
85	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		3			1		
86	Phainopepla	<i>Phainopepla nitens</i>							1
87	Oak Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus inornatus</i>					2	1	
88	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	<i>Poecile rufescens</i>		1		2	2	✓	✓
89	Violet-green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>		✓		3			
90	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	1			2			
91	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓		2	✓	✓	✓	
92	American Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>				1			
93	American Bushtit	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>		✓		5			
94	Wrentit	<i>Chamaea fasciata</i>						1	
95	Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>				6			
96	Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	1			-1	1	1	
97	White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>					1		
98	California Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma redivivum</i>					1		

	Common name	Scientific name	August – September						
			27	28	29	30	31	1	2
99	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>				✓			
100	Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>	1				4		✓
101	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>				6			
102	House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>		3		✓			✓
103	American Goldfinch	<i>Spinus tristis</i>				10			
104	Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Spinus psaltria</i>				1			
105	Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>			1	1			
106	Tricolored Blackbird	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>				✓			
107	Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>			20	✓		✓	
108	Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>				✓			
109	Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
110	Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>				✓			
111	White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>			1	4			
112	Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)	<i>Junco hyemalis [oreganus-group]</i>		1					5
113	Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>				2			
114	Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>					3		✓
115	California Towhee	<i>Melospiza crissalis</i>	2						✓

## Mammals

1	California Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus beecheyi</i>	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	2	✓
2	Northern Fur Seal	<i>Callorhinus ursinus</i>			1				
3	California Sea Lion	<i>Zalophus californianus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
4	Harbour Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	2		5	✓	2	✓	
5	Sea Otter	<i>Enhydra lutris</i>	1	5	5	40	5	6	
6	Mule Deer	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>		1	✓				
7	Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	5					3	
8	Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	20	20	15		35	10	
9	Risso's Dolphin	<i>Grampus griseus</i>		30	60				
10	Pacific White-sided Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus obliquidens</i>						12	
11	Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>			4			2	

## Butterflies

Cabbage White, *Pieris rapae*      Western Sulphur, *Colias occidentalis*      Red Admiral, *Vanessa atalanta*  
 Sandhill Skipper, *Polites sabuleti*

## Dragonflies

Blue-eyed Darner, *Rhionaeschna multicolor*      Black Saddlebags, *Tramea lacerata*

## Reptiles

Western Fence Lizard, *Sceloporus occidentalis*

## Sea life

Pacific Sea Nettle Jelly, *Chrysaora quinquecirrha*      Moon Jelly, *Aurelia aurita*  
 Ocean Sunfish, *Mola mola*