

Whales & Dolphins of Monterey Bay

Naturetrek Tour Report

2 - 10 September 2017



Blue Whale side lunge by Peter Dunn



Sooty Shearwaters & Common Dolphins by Peter Dunn



California Scrub Jay by Peter Dunn



Humpback Whales by Peter Dunn

Report compiled by Peter Dunn & Ian Nicholson
Images courtesy of David McAllister & Peter Dunn



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Tour participants: Peter Dunn & Ian Nicholson (leaders) with 14 Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Saturday 2nd September

London to San Francisco

Peter & Ian met the all the participants off the plane from London, which landed slightly ahead of time and, with the vehicles already pre-hired, we were soon heading south along the US101 towards Monterey. Despite fairly heavy traffic on the outskirts of San Francisco, we made reasonable time, and arrived at our hotel in Carmel Valley just after 9pm. Although the group were tired after a long day travelling, most stayed awake long enough to enjoy the buffet which had been left out for us before retiring for the night.

Day 2

Sunday 3rd September

Monterey Bay and Monterey Headland

Morning came too soon for some, while others were out at first light searching for local birds, which included American Bushtit, Bewick's Wren and Anna's Hummingbird. Breakfast was at 7am, after which we set off for Fisherman's Wharf in Monterey where we boarded the "Sur Randy" for our first whale-watching trip of the holiday. A Black-crowned Night Heron was seen roosting on the timber structures of the quayside, and hundreds of California Sea Lions shared the rocky breakwater with lots of Brandt's Cormorants and a couple of Black Turnstones. The sea was fairly calm today, giving excellent viewing conditions, and we were only about 15 minutes out of the harbour when we came across our first whales - five Humpbacks feeding on the huge shoals of anchovies which were close to the surface. We watched this group for around 20 minutes before moving on in search of more, seeing a small pod of fast-moving Dall's Porpoise along the way, as well as several thousand Sooty Shearwaters, a few Pink-footed Shearwaters and the first Black-vented Shearwater of the year. Further on, we were pleased to find about 15 Ashy Storm Petrels in addition to three Pomarine Skuas, two flocks of Red-necked Phalaropes and more Rhinoceros Auklets than we usually see on these trips.

However, the stars of the show this morning were at least eight Blue Whales - the main target species for several of the group. Initially we found two individuals, but later came across six feeding in the same area, and unusually several of them were lunge-feeding on the surface, a behaviour seldom seen in this species. One animal in particular came to the surface a number of times, turning on its side and opening its huge mouth to take in vast amounts of krill - the tiny shrimp-like creatures on which Blue Whales feed. We watched fascinated for at least 40 minutes before it was time to make our way back to Monterey Harbour, seeing more Humpbacks and two Ocean Sunfish along the way. Our first trip out into Monterey Bay had exceeded all expectations, and it was a very happy group who left the boat and walked the short distance to Abalonetti's Restaurant for lunch, where most of us chose Clam Chowder in a crusty bread bowl (a local speciality), while others went for salad or very substantial sandwiches.

After a leisurely lunch we returned to the vehicles and took a drive around the Monterey Headland, stopping at several places to view the scenery and wildlife. Highlights included Black Oystercatcher, Heermann's Gull, all three species of Cormorant (Brandt's, Pelagic and Double-crested), and a Short-billed Dowitcher beside a pond at the end of the golf course. We had decided on a fairly early finish today, and on returning to the hotel some of

the group had a dip in the pool, while others relaxed in their rooms or spent a little time birding, before dinner at 7pm.

Day 3

Monday 4th September

Monterey Bay and Eastern Carmel Valley

Several of the group were out before breakfast, seeing Wrentit and Hairy Woodpecker amongst others, although as breakfast was at 7am and it was still pretty dark at 6.30, so there wasn't much opportunity to do much birding. After breakfast we drove to Monterey for our second trip out into the bay, full of anticipation after yesterday's successes. As usual there were plenty of California Sea Lions around the harbour, a couple of Sea Otters entertained us briefly, and a Belted Kingfisher flew by, before we picked up speed and headed out to sea. There appeared to be fewer Sooty Shearwaters than yesterday, but more Elegant Terns, and there were plenty of Rhinoceros Auklets, plus two of the smaller Cassin's Auklet. We were heading north across the bay today, stopping to watch two Humpback Whales and a few Harbour Porpoises, and also two Blue Sharks swimming close to the surface. At the northern end of the bay, near Santa Cruz, we found a Great White Shark fairly close inshore. At about six feet long it was a young individual, and we watched it for a short time before it went deeper and was lost from view.

Heading back across the bay, we found more Humpback Whales feeding on massive shoals of anchovies, and also noticeable were huge numbers of jellyfish, predominately Pacific Nettle, but also including Moon Jellyfish and a few Purple-striped Jellyfish.

Lunch today was a picnic by the marina, after which we drove back to the hotel. Some of the group had chosen to spend the afternoon relaxing at the hotel or visiting nearby Carmel Valley village, while the rest drove east into the countryside in search of the typical birds of this dry landscape. We stopped first of all at a spot which has produced Yellow-billed Magpies in previous years, but none were to be seen, although we did find plenty of Lark Sparrows and Western Bluebirds, plus a Western Tanager, a Hutton's Vireo and at least 50 California Quails either running or flying across the road close to us. We moved on to another potential Magpie location, and again we found none, but on our way back towards the hotel we saw a flock of them in a roadside field, so quickly pulled over for a closer look. We had very good views of about 25 of these birds, whose entire world range is this part of central California, and a bonus was about 15 Wild Turkeys in the same field. Also in this area were lots of California Ground Squirrels, and further non-bird interest was provided by several butterfly species, including Lorquin's Admiral and Common Buckeye. After watching the Magpies for a while we moved on and stopped at another place which has proved productive in the past, and soon found California Thrashers, Acorn Woodpeckers, a Northern Flicker and Black Phoebe. By now time was getting on, so it was time to return to the hotel to relax before our evening meal.

Day 4

Tuesday 5th September

Monterey Bay and 17-Mile Drive

The highlight for the pre-breakfast birders this morning was a Nuttall's Woodpecker. The boat captain had said yesterday that there was some doubt about going out this morning due to possible bad weather, but in fact it was a very still morning, and when we got out into the bay the water was so clear and calm that we could clearly see

the jellyfish and the anchovies which are the main prey species of the Humpback Whales. There were the usual large flocks of Sooty Shearwaters a short distance out from the harbour, and we soon came across our first Humpbacks of the day, a group of three which were feeding in fairly shallow water. Moving on, we found more Humpbacks plus a handful of Harbour Porpoises, several Ocean Sunfish and a Blue Shark. We also found a single Blue Whale which gave fairly brief views before diving deep and being lost to sight. There were several more Humpbacks on our way back towards the harbour and we stopped to watch them feeding, before making our way back.

Lunch today was an excellent sandwich from Lopez's Deli which we ate by the Marina, after which we drove to the Pacific Grove entrance to the 17-Mile Drive. Several stops along the scenic coastline here produced four Black Oystercatchers, a Surfbird, a Whimbrel and a Red-tailed Hawk, while the pond at the side of the golf course held a Great Egret, a Snowy Egret and a Red-necked Phalarope. Eight Killdeer and six Black-tailed Deer were feeding on the fairways of one of the eight championship standard golf courses along the 17-Mile Drive, which presumably wouldn't impress the members or the greenkeepers.

After a stop for fuel on the way back to the hotel, we arrived at about 5.30, allowing time for relaxation, and for some a swim, before dinner.

Day 5

Wednesday 6th September

Monterey Bay and Big Sur

Today we set out into Monterey Bay on board a different boat, the Chubasco, and John Mayer, the co-owner of Discovery Whale Watch and an old friend of Naturetrek, came out with us, although he was not skippering the boat but was just along for the ride. Almost immediately we came across huge flocks of Sooty Shearwaters, in much greater numbers than in previous days. It was impossible to accurately estimate the numbers present, but a conversation with a local expert a couple of days later revealed that there had been around 500,000 - yes, half a million - in Monterey Bay as a whole! As we watched the shearwaters a large pod of around 500 Long-beaked Common Dolphins came into view, making for a fantastic wildlife spectacle, which we stayed in the area to watch for about 40 minutes. Also in this general area were three Humpback Whales, but they were almost forgotten, so engrossed were we with the shearwaters and dolphins.

The crew then received a message that two Blue Whales were not far away, so we headed in that direction, accompanied by some of the dolphins for part of the way. Sure enough, we came across the two Blue Whales in relatively shallow water quite close to land, and we stayed with them for a while, although they were moving fairly quickly. There were more Humpbacks on the way back to harbour, and other notable species on this trip were Ocean Sunfish, Pink-footed and Black-vented Shearwaters and Rhinoceros Auklet.

The plan for this afternoon was to drive along the Big Sur as far as possible, taking into account the road closure due to mud slides and rock falls last winter, and then look out for California Condors. The road was closed just after the entrance to Pfeiffer State Park, so we entered the park and stopped at a location where we had information that there was a possibility of Condors, although the real hot-spot is beyond the road closure. Within just a few minutes Peter checked out a large dark lump at the top of a pine tree and, sure enough, it turned out to be an adult Condor. It remained on its perch for almost an hour, allowing good telescope views, eventually turning round to reveal its wing tag number - Red 99. A check on the internet that evening revealed

that it was a male hatched in April 1999, making it 18 years old, and that he is currently paired with a 10-year-old female, White 34. We also had a fairly brief view of another Condor flying overhead, much too high for its wing tag to be visible. In the area we also found many Steller's Jays and Acorn Woodpeckers, as well as Spotted Towhee, Brown Creeper, 20+ Vaux's Swift, lots of California Ground Squirrels and a couple of Black-tailed Deer.

On our way back to the hotel, we stopped at several places along the Big Sur road to admire the view and take photographs, seeing a Peregrine and four Caspian Terns at one of the viewpoints.

Day 6

Thursday 7th September

Moss Landing and Elkhorn Slough

Today was going to be totally different in that we were spending the whole day on land, visiting several locations to the north of Monterey. We took the scenic route over Laureles Grade on our way to the first stop - Phil's Snack Shack at Moss Landing - where we pre-ordered our lunchtime sandwiches, before moving on a short distance to Zmudowski's State Beach, driving through extensive fields of strawberries and artichokes, and seeing plenty of Brewer's and Red-winged Blackbirds along the way. We parked by the dunes and walked back alongside the pool where we had fun trying to spot the tiny Pacific Tree Frogs in the reeds, and we also found Pied-billed Grebes, Song Sparrows, Common Yellowthroat, American Yellow Warbler and two Green Herons. Five species of swallow (Barn, Violet-green, Northern Rough-winged, Tree and Cliff) tested our ID skills, while a Red-tailed Hawk soared overhead before landing on a derelict house. There were also some interesting dragonflies here, in the form of Black Saddlebags, Cardinal Meadowhawk and a Western Forktail damselfly.

Next, we moved on to Jetty Road at Moss Landing, where we first of all stopped to view the hundreds of waders, which included many Willet, Marbled Godwit and Least Sandpiper and smaller numbers of Whimbrel, Long-billed Curlew and a single Western Sandpiper. Moving on, we walked onto the beach where there were about 10 Snowy Plovers - an endangered species which receives special protection on this beach. We also found a Western Gull badly entangled in fishing line, and fortunately we were able to catch it and remove the line along with a large lead and a hook which was embedded in its wing. It flew off strongly when released, so there is every chance that it survived its ordeal.

A little further on we spent some time watching and photographing about 35 Sea Otters at fairly close quarters, as well as a huge flock of Elegant Terns roosting on a sandbank. Finally, a visit to the mouth of the harbour produced three Surf Scoters, a Great Northern Diver and a pod of about six Bottlenose Dolphins.

It was getting close to lunchtime, so we drove the short distance back to Phil's Snack Shack where a table was already set out for us in the garden and our sandwiches were delivered to the table. We ate lunch while watching about eight Black-crowned Night Herons roosting in a large tree overhanging the water, along with four Caspian Terns, two Spotted Sandpipers a Belted Kingfisher and four Greater Yellowlegs. We also found the only House Sparrows of the tour!

After a fairly leisurely lunch we headed for Moonglow Dairy, a huge dairy farm where the owner kindly allows birders to walk around, provided they do not interfere with the farm operations. Unfortunately, some work was going on clearing one of the slurry lagoons, so we couldn't do our normal walk, but nevertheless we managed to

see lots of Brown-headed Cowbirds and Brewers, Red-winged and Tricolored Blackbirds. We decided to move on to the viewpoint at Kirby Road which overlooks another part of Elkhorn Slough, but the road was closed, so Plan C came into operation. Stopping at a small parking area overlooking the estuary, we found hundreds of Red-necked Phalaropes, two American Avocets (albeit rather distantly), a few Semipalmated Plovers and a couple of Killdeer.

Eventually, we decided it was time to head back to the hotel, but not before we had stopped for an ice cream at the Del Monte shopping centre. After dinner some of the group visited the local bar just round the corner from the hotel for a beer or two before turning in for the night.

Day 7

Friday 8th September

Monterey Bay and free time

We were back on the boat this morning for our final whale-watching trip, but before breakfast we were able, with the aid of bat-detector apps David's smartphones, to identify two species of bat which had been seen around the hotel grounds. There was Mexican Free-tailed Bat (thought to be the commonest mammal in North America) and the slightly larger Hoary Bat.

The sea was slightly choppier this morning, but nowhere near bad enough to prevent us going out into the bay. As on previous days, there were lots of Sooty Shearwaters not far out from the harbour, along with a few Pink-footed Shearwaters, and it wasn't long before we came across our first Humpbacks of the morning. We stopped briefly to watch two of them feeding, but then moved on, passing several more, as the crew had received a radio message saying that there were Blue Whales not too far away. We found two of these giants and were able to watch and photograph them at fairly close range until they dived deep and were lost from sight. We also had brief views of four Dall's Porpoise and a single Harbour Porpoise, and on the bird front, 12 Arctic Terns were a new species for the holiday and two Arctic and a single Pomarine Skua were also welcome.

The afternoon was free, and most of the group opted to visit the world-famous Monterey Aquarium, while Kenny, Cat, Dave and Jane collected a hire car from Monterey Airport, as they were travelling independently for the following week, and re-visited the area of the Carmel Valley where we had been earlier in the trip, seeing a Golden Eagle, 20+ Yellow-billed Magpies, California Thrasher and Spotted Towhee amongst others.

This evening, by way of a change, we ate at the Fishwife Restaurant in Pacific Grove where we enjoyed their various seafood specialities or the vegetarian options, arriving back at the hotel at about 10.15pm.

Day 8

Saturday 9th September

Leave from San Francisco Airport

As the flight home was at 4.20pm, we had plenty of time to complete our packing before setting off for the airport at 11am, having said goodbye to the group continuing their holiday in California. The journey to San Francisco was uneventful, and having re-fuelled, we dropped the vehicles off and made our way to the terminal, where Ian said goodbye and went off to await the arrival of another group and Chris headed for the hotel at which she was extending her holiday with a few days in San Francisco.

Day 9

Sunday 10th September

Arrive London

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

Receive our e-newsletter

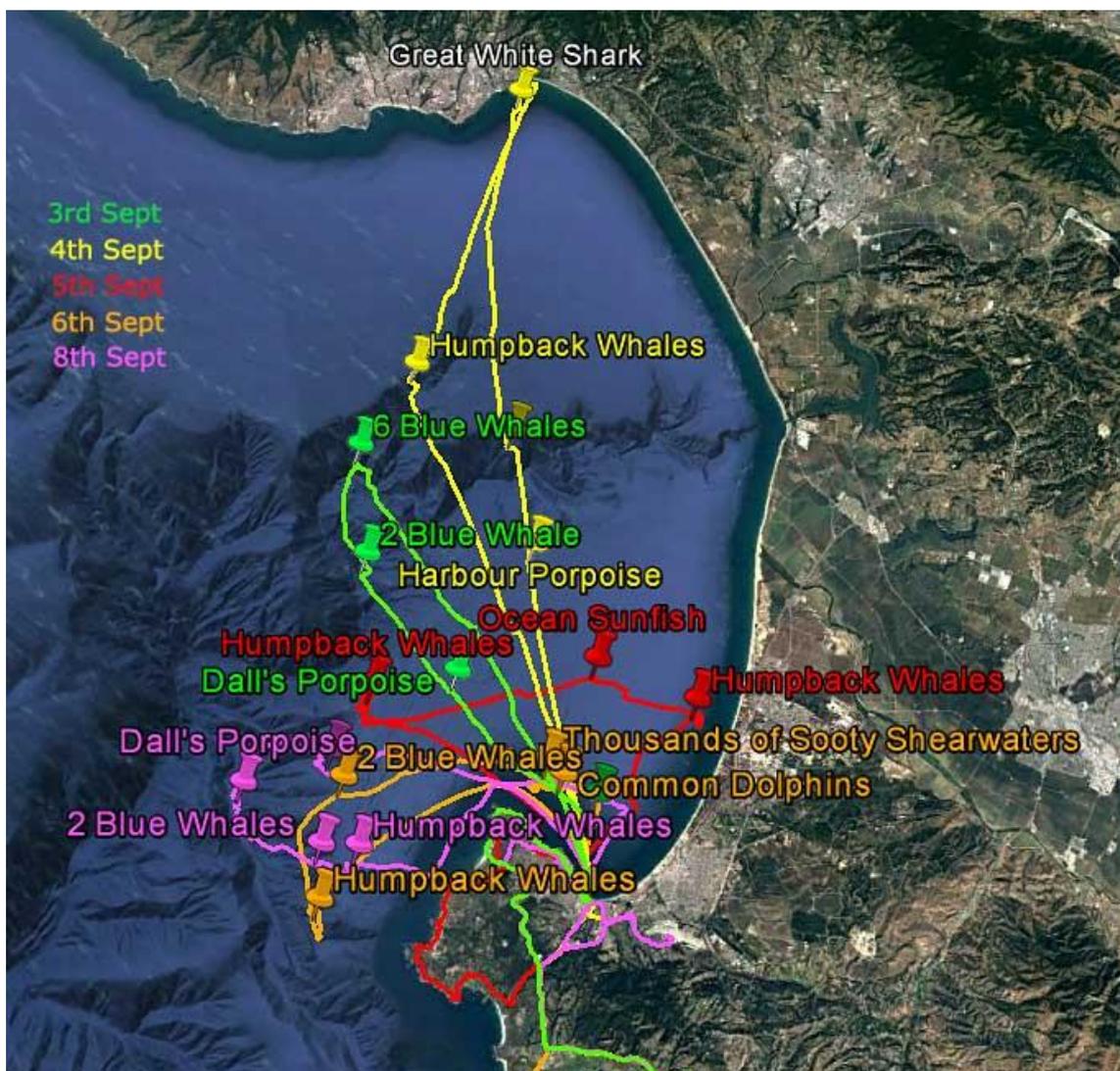
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GPS log Map showing routes taken during Whale Watch Trips



Species Lists

Birds (✓=recorded but not counted; H = heard only; K = thousand; LO=leader only)

| | Common Name | Scientific Name | September | | | | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|-----|----|----|----|----|---|----|
| | | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 1 | Canada Goose | <i>Branta canadensis</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 2 | Mallard | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> | | 1 | ✓ | 1 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 3 | Blue-winged Teal | <i>Anas discors</i> | | | | | | 3 | | |
| 4 | Northern Shoveler | <i>Anas clypeata</i> | | | | | | 1 | | |
| 5 | Surf Scoter | <i>Melanitta perspicillata</i> | | | | | | 3 | | |
| 6 | Red-breasted Merganser | <i>Mergus serrator</i> | | | | | | 1 | | |
| 7 | California Quail | <i>Callipepla californica</i> | | | 50 | | | | | ✓ |
| 8 | Wild Turkey | <i>Meleagris gallopavo</i> | | | 20 | | | 4+ | | ✓ |
| 9 | Great Northern Diver | <i>Gavia immer</i> | | | | | | 1 | | |
| 10 | Black-footed Albatross | <i>Phoebastria nigripes</i> | | 2 | | | | | | |
| 11 | Ashy Storm Petrel | <i>Oceanodroma homochroa</i> | | 15+ | | | | | | |
| 12 | Northern Fulmar (Pacific) | <i>Fulmarus glacialis rogersii</i> | | | 1 | | | | | |
| 13 | Buller's Shearwater | <i>Ardenna bulleri</i> | | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| 14 | Sooty Shearwater | <i>Ardenna grisea</i> | | 2K | 1K | 2K | 5K | | | 1K |
| 15 | Pink-footed Shearwater | <i>Ardenna creatopus</i> | | 8 | 8 | 6+ | 15 | | | 10 |
| 16 | Black-vented Shearwater | <i>Puffinus opisthomelas</i> | | 6 | 4 | 4 | 4 | | | 1 |
| 17 | Pied-billed Grebe | <i>Podilymbus podiceps</i> | | | | | | 8 | | 2 |
| 18 | Black-crowned Night Heron | <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> | | 2 | | | | 8 | | |
| 19 | Green Heron | <i>Butorides virescens</i> | | | | | | 3 | | |
| 20 | Great Blue Heron | <i>Ardea herodias</i> | | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 4+ | | 1 |
| 21 | Great Egret | <i>Ardea alba</i> | | 8 | 2 | 7 | 2 | ✓ | | 2 |
| 22 | Snowy Egret | <i>Egretta thula</i> | | | | 1 | | ✓ | | |
| 23 | Brown Pelican | <i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 24 | Brandt's Cormorant | <i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 25 | Pelagic Cormorant | <i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i> | | 6 | 1 | 1 | | | | 3 |
| 26 | Double-crested Cormorant | <i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i> | | 3 | | | | ✓ | | 3 |
| 27 | Turkey Vulture | <i>Cathartes aura</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 28 | California Condor | <i>Gymnogyps californianus</i> | | | | | 2 | | | |
| 29 | Western Osprey | <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> | | | | | | 1 | | |
| 30 | White-tailed Kite | <i>Elanus leucurus</i> | 1 | | | | | 1 | | |
| 31 | Golden Eagle | <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| 32 | Cooper's Hawk | <i>Accipiter cooperii</i> | | | 2 | | | | | 1 |
| 33 | Red-shouldered Hawk | <i>Buteo lineatus</i> | | | 1 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| 34 | Red-tailed Hawk | <i>Buteo jamaicensis</i> | | 7 | 4 | 6 | 10 | ✓ | | 2 |
| 35 | American Coot | <i>Fulica americana</i> | | 1 | | | | ✓ | | 1 |
| 36 | Black Oystercatcher | <i>Haematopus bachmani</i> | | 2 | | 5 | | | | 1 |
| 37 | Black-necked Stilt | <i>Himantopus mexicanus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 38 | American Avocet | <i>Recurvirostra americana</i> | | | | | | 2 | | |
| 39 | Semipalmated Plover | <i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i> | | | | | | 6+ | | |
| 40 | Killdeer | <i>Charadrius vociferus</i> | | 2 | | 6 | | 4 | | |
| 41 | Snowy Plover | <i>Charadrius nivosus</i> | | | | | | 10 | | |
| 42 | Short-billed Dowitcher | <i>Limnodromus griseus</i> | | 1 | | | | 1 | | |
| 43 | Marbled Godwit | <i>Limosa fedoa</i> | | | | 3 | | ✓ | | |
| 44 | Whimbrel | <i>Numenius phaeopus</i> | | | | 1 | | 4+ | | 3 |
| 45 | Long-billed Curlew | <i>Numenius americanus</i> | | | | 1 | | ✓ | | |
| 46 | Greater Yellowlegs | <i>Tringa melanoleuca</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |

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|----|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| | | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 47 | Lesser Yellowlegs | <i>Tringa flavipes</i> | | | | | | 2 | | |
| 48 | Willet | <i>Tringa semipalmata</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 49 | Spotted Sandpiper | <i>Actitis macularius</i> | | | | | | 2 | | |
| 50 | Black Turnstone | <i>Arenaria melanocephala</i> | | ✓ | 3 | ✓ | 2 | 1 | 3 | |
| 51 | Surfbird | <i>Calidris virgata</i> | | | | 4 | | | 1 | |
| 52 | Sanderling | <i>Calidris alba</i> | | | | | | 5 | | |
| 53 | Least Sandpiper | <i>Calidris minutilla</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 54 | Western Sandpiper | <i>Calidris mauri</i> | | | | | | 1 | | |
| 55 | Red-necked Phalarope | <i>Phalaropus lobatus</i> | | 50 | 10 | 30 | 30 | ✓ | 40 | |
| 56 | Red Phalarope | <i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i> | | 2 | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| 57 | Heermann's Gull | <i>Larus heermanni</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 58 | Ring-billed Gull | <i>Larus delawarensis</i> | | | | | | 10 | | |
| 59 | California Gull | <i>Larus californicus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 60 | Western Gull | <i>Larus occidentalis</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 61 | Caspian Tern | <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i> | | | 4 | | 4 | 4 | 1 | |
| 62 | Elegant Tern | <i>Thalasseus elegans</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | -3 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 63 | Arctic Tern | <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> | | | | | | | 12 | |
| 64 | Forster's Tern | <i>Sterna forsteri</i> | | | | | | 4 | | |
| 65 | Pomarine Skua | <i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i> | | 3+ | | 1 | | | 1 | |
| 66 | Arctic Skua | <i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i> | | | 1 | 5 | | | 2 | |
| 67 | Common Guillemot | <i>Uria aalge</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 1 | ✓ | |
| 68 | Pigeon Guillemot | <i>Cepphus columba</i> | | 1 | | 1 | | | | |
| 69 | Cassin's Auklet | <i>Ptychoramphus aleuticus</i> | | | 2 | | | | | |
| 70 | Rhinoceros Auklet | <i>Cerorhinca monocerata</i> | | 40 | 40 | ✓ | 20 | | 40 | |
| 71 | Rock Dove (Feral) | <i>Columba livia 'feral'</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 72 | Band-tailed Pigeon | <i>Patagioenas fasciata</i> | | | 2 | | | | | 6 |
| 73 | Eurasian Collared Dove | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 74 | Mourning Dove | <i>Zenaida macroura</i> | | | 6 | | | 1 | ✓ | |
| 75 | Vaux's Swift | <i>Chaetura vauxi</i> | | | | | 6 | | | |
| 76 | Anna's Hummingbird | <i>Calypte anna</i> | | 4 | 6+ | | 2 | ✓ | ✓ | 2 |
| 77 | Belted Kingfisher | <i>Megaceryle alcyon</i> | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3+ | | |
| 78 | Acorn Woodpecker | <i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i> | | 2 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 1 |
| 79 | Nuttall's Woodpecker | <i>Dryobates nuttallii</i> | | | H | 1 | | | 1 | |
| 80 | Downy Woodpecker | <i>Dryobates pubescens</i> | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| 81 | Hairy Woodpecker | <i>Leuconotopicus villosus</i> | | 1 | 2 | | | | 1 | |
| 82 | Northern Flicker | <i>Colaptes auratus</i> | | | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| 83 | American Kestrel | <i>Falco sparverius</i> | | | 3 | | 5 | 2 | ✓ | |
| 84 | Peregrine Falcon | <i>Falco peregrinus</i> | | | | | 2 | | 2 | |
| 85 | Black Phoebe | <i>Sayornis nigricans</i> | | | 1 | | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 86 | Hutton's Vireo | <i>Vireo huttoni</i> | | | 1 | | | | | |
| 87 | Steller's Jay | <i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i> | | | 3+ | | 3+ | | ✓ | |
| 88 | California Scrub Jay | <i>Aphelocoma californica</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 89 | Yellow-billed Magpie | <i>Pica nuttalli</i> | | | 20 | | | | 20 | |
| 90 | American Crow | <i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 91 | Northern Raven | <i>Corvus corax</i> | | | | | 2 | | | 2 |
| 92 | Oak Titmouse | <i>Baeolophus inornatus</i> | | 2 | 2 | 2 | | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| 93 | Chestnut-backed Chickadee | <i>Poecile rufescens</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 94 | Tree Swallow | <i>Tachycineta bicolor</i> | | | | | | 3 | | |
| 95 | Violet-green Swallow | <i>Tachycineta thalassina</i> | | | | | | 3+ | | |

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|-----|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------|---|-----|---|---|-------|---|---|
| | | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 96 | Northern Rough-winged Swallow | <i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i> | | | | | | 2 | | |
| 97 | Barn Swallow | <i>Hirundo rustica</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| 98 | Barn Swallow (American) | <i>Hirundo rustica erythrogaster</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| 99 | American Cliff Swallow | <i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i> | | | | | | 1(LO) | | |
| 100 | American Bushtit | <i>Psaltriparus minimus</i> | | 8 | 30 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 101 | Wren | <i>Chamaea fasciata</i> | | | 2 | | | | | 1 |
| 102 | Marsh Wren (Pacific) | <i>Cistothorus palustris paludicola</i> | | | | | | 3+ | | |
| 103 | Bewick's Wren | <i>Thryomanes bewickii</i> | | 1 | H | | | 1 | 1 | |
| 104 | White-breasted Nuthatch | <i>Sitta carolinensis</i> | | | 4 | | | | | |
| 105 | California Thrasher | <i>Toxostoma redivivum</i> | | | 4 | | | | | 1 |
| 106 | Common Starling | <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 107 | Western Bluebird | <i>Sialia mexicana</i> | | ✓ | 1 | | | | | ✓ |
| 108 | American Robin | <i>Turdus migratorius</i> | | | 2 | | 1 | | | |
| 109 | House Finch | <i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i> | | | 20+ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 110 | American Goldfinch | <i>Spinus tristis</i> | | | | | | 1 | | |
| 111 | Common Yellowthroat | <i>Geothlypis trichas</i> | | | | | | 4 | | |
| 112 | American Yellow Warbler | <i>Setophaga aestiva</i> | | | | | | 4 | | |
| 113 | Tricolored Blackbird | <i>Agelaius tricolor</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 114 | Red-winged Blackbird | <i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i> | | 3 | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| 115 | Brown-headed Cowbird | <i>Molothrus ater</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 116 | Brewer's Blackbird | <i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 117 | Common Grackle | <i>Quiscalus quiscula</i> | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| 118 | Song Sparrow | <i>Melospiza melodia</i> | | | | | | 4 | 1 | |
| 119 | White-crowned Sparrow | <i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i> | | | | | 3 | ✓ | | |
| 120 | Dark-eyed Junco | <i>Junco hyemalis</i> | | | | | 5 | | | |
| 121 | Lark Sparrow | <i>Chondestes grammacus</i> | | | 4+ | | | | | ✓ |
| 122 | Spotted Towhee | <i>Pipilo maculatus</i> | | 2 | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | |
| 123 | California Towhee | <i>Melospiza crissalis</i> | | 3 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 124 | Western Tanager | <i>Piranga ludoviciana</i> | | | 1 | | | | | |

Mammals

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|----|----|----|-----|----|---|----|
| 1 | Western Grey Squirrel | <i>Sciurus griseus</i> | | | | 1 | | 1 | | |
| 2 | California Ground Squirrel | <i>Spermophilus beecheyi</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 3 | European Rabbit | <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> | | | | | | 2 | | |
| 4 | Brazilian Free-tailed Bat [mexicana] | <i>Tadarida brasiliensis mexicana</i> | | | | | | H | | |
| 5 | Hoary Bat | <i>Lasiurus cinereus</i> | | | | | | H | | |
| 6 | California Sea Lion | <i>Zalophus californianus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 7 | Harbour Seal | <i>Phoca vitulina</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 8 | Sea Otter | <i>Enhydra lutris</i> | | 6 | 4 | 5 | 15 | 54 | ✓ | |
| 9 | Mule Deer | <i>Odocoileus hemionus</i> | | 1 | | 12 | 4 | | | |
| 10 | Blue Whale | <i>Balaenoptera musculus</i> | | 8 | | 1 | 4 | | | 2 |
| 11 | Humpback Whale | <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> | | 30 | 37 | 26 | 25 | | | 40 |
| 12 | Long-beaked Common Dolphin | <i>Delphinus capensis</i> | | | | | 500 | | | |
| 13 | Bottlenose Dolphin | <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> | | | | | | 5+ | | |
| 14 | Harbour Porpoise | <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> | | | 5 | 5 | 2 | | | 1 |
| 15 | Dall's Porpoise | <i>Phocoenoides dalli</i> | | 2 | | | | | | 3 |

Butterflies

Anise Swallowtail, *Papilio zelicaon*
 Checkered White, *Pontia protodice*
 Gulf Fritillary, *Agraulis vanillae*
 Painted Lady, *Vanessa cardui*
 Common Buckeye, *Junonia coenia*
 Monarch, *Danaus plexippus*
 Sandhill Skipper, *Polites sabuleti*

Pine White, *Neophasia menapia*
 Cabbage White, *Pieris rapae*
 American Lady, *Vanessa virginiensis*
 West Coast Lady, *Vanessa annabella*
 Lorquin's Admiral, *Limenitis lorquini*
 Fiery Skipper, *Hylephila phyleus*
 Umber Skipper, *Poanes melane*

Other Taxa

Western Forktail, *Ischnura perparva*
 Blue-eyed Darner, *Rhionaeschna multicolor*
 Black Saddlebags, *Tramea lacerata*
 Great White Shark, *Carcharodon carcharias*
 Ocean Sunfish, *Mola mola*
 Purple Stripe Jelly, *Chrysaora colorata*
 Egg Yolk Jelly, *Phacellophora camtschatica*
 Sea Salps sp, *Salp* sp

Common Green Darner, *Anax junius*
 Cardinal Meadowhawk, *Sympetrum illotum*
 Western Fence Lizard, *Sceloporus occidentalis*
 Blue Shark, *Prionace glauca*
 Anchovy sp., *Engraulidae*
 Pacific Sea Nettle Jelly, *Chrysaora quinquecirrha*
 Moon Jelly, *Aurelia aurita*
 Pacific Tree Frog, *Pseudacris regilla*



Zmudowski's State Beach by David McAllister



Watching a Condor by David McAllister



The group at Bixby Bridge