

# Whales & Dolphins of Monterey Bay

Naturetrek Tour Report

9 - 17 September 2017



American Bushtit by Pete Smith



Orca by Tom Brereton



Sea Otter by Ian Nicholson



*Mola mola* by Pete Smith

Report compiled by Ian Nicholson  
Images courtesy of Pete Smith, Tom Brereton & Ian Nicholson



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Tour participants: Ian Nicholson and Tom Brereton (leaders) plus 14 Naturetrek clients

## Day 1

**Saturday 9th September**

Unfortunately the incoming flight from Heathrow was delayed by almost three hours, so it was just after midnight when we arrived at our hotel in Carmel Valley. On arrival, the rooms were quickly allocated and everyone headed straight to bed after a long day travelling, knowing that breakfast would be at 7am.

## Day 2

**Sunday 10th September**

### Monterey Bay and Peninsula

Eventually everyone made it for breakfast, and we were on our way to Monterey harbour just after 8am. Traffic was light, and we made good time, and we even had time to photograph some Harbour Seals before collecting our boarding cards for the “Sur Randy”, on which we were to take our first trip out on the ocean. A Brown Pelican was in what seems to have been its usual place on the balcony of one of the quayside restaurants, and some of us had a brief view of a Pigeon Guillemot just after we set off. We went slowly past the breakwater where the sound and smell of hundreds of California Sea Lions were unlikely to be forgotten in a hurry, while with them on the rocks were a Black-crowned Night Heron, a Surfbird, five Black Turnstones and many Brandt’s Cormorants. A few Sea Otters were feeding in the extensive kelp forest, lying on their backs and using stones to break open clams and crabs.

We were soon on our way out into the bay, and found huge flocks of Sooty Shearwaters which visit the waters off the California coast as part of their incredible annual migration around the Pacific Ocean, travelling up to 40,000 miles each year. With them were smaller numbers of Pink-footed and Black-vented Shearwaters, while other bird species seen included Elegant Tern, Pomarine and Arctic Skuas and Rhinoceros Auklet.

It wasn’t long before we came across our first whales - a group of three Humpbacks which were feeding together - and we stayed with them for some time before moving on in search of more. We found about five Harbour Porpoises and also an Ocean Sunfish. These very strange looking fish can reach a weight of over a ton, although this one was considerably smaller. More Humpback Whales were seen feeding and also breaching distantly, before it was time to return to the harbour.

We had lunch today at Abalonetti’s Restaurant on Fisherman’s Wharf, where most of the group had the local speciality of clam chowder served in a crusty bread bowl, while others opted for the fairly substantial sandwiches or salads. After a fairly leisurely lunch, some of us took the opportunity to spend 30 minutes or so strolling around the many gift shops on Fisherman’s Wharf before returning to the vehicles. We spent some time driving around the Monterey Peninsula, stopping at a few locations to admire and photograph the view and the wildlife, which included Black Oystercatcher, Grey Plover, Whimbrel, several hundred Brown Pelicans and a few California Ground Squirrels.

On the way back to the hotel we took the opportunity to stop at a supermarket for some supplies, and on our return a few of us spent a while relaxing by the swimming pool before dinner.

## Day 3

## Monday 11th September

### Monterey Bay and 17 Mile Drive

Some of us were awakened slightly early this morning by thunder and lightning in the hills not far from our hotel, and a few drops of rain fell during breakfast. There was further light rain on our way to Monterey, but it had cleared by the time we arrived. This morning we were out on the boat again, arriving at the quayside in plenty of time to depart at 9am. The pelican was in its usual spot, and a couple of Sea Otters entertained us in the harbour, while the breakwater held its usual assembly of Sea Lions and Cormorants. Like yesterday, we soon came across huge flocks of Sooty Shearwaters, and today we made a serious attempt to put a figure on the number present. Although the general feeling was that we saw fewer than yesterday, the estimate was about 10,000, which may well have been an under-estimate, bearing in mind that a local source told us that a count of the whole bay last week arrived at a figure of half a million!

We soon came across our first Humpback Whales which we stayed with for some time, watching them cruising near the surface before diving deep to feed. One was seen breaching, albeit fairly distantly, and another surprised us by surfacing very close to the stern of the boat. Another spent some time tail-slapping and fin-slapping - behaviour which is completely unexplained, although there is speculation that it may be a form of communication. Whatever the reason, it certainly makes for good entertainment! We also found a pod of about 80 Risso's Dolphins which came fairly close to the boat, allowing us to see the scars on their bodies which are caused either by the tentacles of the squid on which they feed or by disputes between themselves. With the Risso's were about three Pacific White-sided Dolphins, a much smaller species, and we also came across three Harbour Porpoises which stayed alongside the boat briefly. Finally, as far as cetaceans were concerned, we found two Bottlenose Dolphins. Birds seen on this trip included about 140 Rhinoceros Auklet, 40+ Pink-footed Shearwater, three Black-vented Shearwater, 200+ Elegant Terns, a Pomarine Skua, five Arctic Skuas and, most impressive of all, a Black-footed Albatross. Although it is one of the smallest albatrosses, this species, which breeds mainly in Hawaii and visits the California coast outside the breeding season, dwarfs all the other sea birds in the bay with the exception of the pelicans, and its effortless gliding flight makes a really impressive sight.

On the way back to the harbour we came across more Humpbacks, some close and some more distant, giving us a total of 31 for the trip.

We had our picnic lunch today by the marina, after which a short walk along the harbour wall produced a couple of very close Great Northern Divers and a very distant Red-breasted Merganser. Next, we drove to Pacific Grove, where we entered the 17-Mile Drive. This is a privately-owned area of forest and coastline, including eight golf courses, most of which are of championship standard and very expensive (up to \$500 per round) to play. However, the wildlife uses the area extensively, and several stops along the coast produced two Snowy Plovers (unusual here), six Killdeer, a Western Grebe, two White-tailed Kites and three each of Marbled Godwit and Whimbrel. Other wildlife included many California Sea Lions, a few Harbour Seals, four Black-tailed Deer, 20+ Painted Ladies and two interesting dragonflies, Black Saddlebags and Cardinal Meadowhawk.

Our final stop was at the famous Lone Cypress - a tree which has stood on its rocky headland for around 270 years. After taking photographs and admiring the view we made our way back to the hotel to relax before our evening meal.

## Day 4

## Tuesday 12th September

### Monterey Bay and the Carmel Valley

There was no repeat of yesterday's thunderstorms, and it was a pleasant morning for our next whale-watching trip out into Monterey Bay. Two Black Turnstones and a Surfbird were on the breakwater with the Sea Lions and Cormorants today, and as usual there were a couple of Sea Otters feeding in the kelp. We found several Humpback Whales fairly quickly and watched them for a while, before the captain received a radio message that had us heading rapidly north. The crew wouldn't say what the radio report had been about, and there was speculation amongst the group that it might be Blue Whales or possibly Killer Whales. It was clear that there was something special as several other boats were seen to be heading in the same direction, and when we arrived in the area just off the Moss Landing power station, we found a pod of six Killer Whales. They were identified by the crew as a pod known as CA140, probably the most regularly seen pod in Monterey Bay, consisting of an adult female known as Emma, the matriarch of the group, along with her son and daughter and two grandchildren, plus an adult male known as "Notch" who sometimes travels with them. We watched as they split into two sub-groups, then came together again several times, before they finally went down deep and were lost from sight after about 30 minutes.

On our way back to Monterey we found a pod of around 35 Risso's Dolphins and also six Harbour Porpoises, and the total number of Humpbacks for the trip was 19. There seemed to be more birds than ever today, and again we made a serious effort to come to a realistic figure for Sooty Shearwaters, arriving at about 28,000. There were about 25 Pink-footed Shearwaters, 60+ Elegant Terns, 10 Arctic Skuas and a single Pomarine Skua, and 30 Red-necked Phalaropes were good to see.

Back on dry land, we enjoyed our sandwich lunch from Lopez's Deli before heading back to the hotel. Some of the group had decided to spend the afternoon relaxing by the pool or walking into Carmel Valley Village, while others chose to have a few hours' birding further inland in the eastern part of the Carmel Valley. The main target species here was Yellow-billed Magpie, the entire world range of which is this part of central California, and we also hoped to see Wild Turkey and California Thrasher amongst others. We stopped first of all at a place where we have seen the Magpies in the past, but none were to be found, although we did see Western Bluebirds and Lark Sparrows here. We then moved on to a location where some Magpies and Turkeys were seen in the previous week's tour, but at first it looked as though we were to be disappointed. However, after a short time a couple of Magpies were seen flying towards a water trough, followed by a few more, and in the end there were a total of 10. It was a fairly distant view, but worthwhile nevertheless, and we also found a Red-tailed Hawk, two Wrentits and several Acorn Woodpeckers in the same area.

We then drove a short distance back towards the hotel, stopping at the roadside to try to find California Thrasher. We were quickly successful in this, as one perched obligingly in a dead bush, almost alongside a California Quail. This bush became known to the group as the "magic bush", as it also held Acorn and Nuttall's Woodpeckers, Spotted and California Towhees and a flock of American Bushtits, although not all at the same time! In the same area were a Northern Flicker and two American Kestrels, so all in all it was a successful couple of hours spent in pleasant countryside. We headed back to the hotel for our evening meal, which we ate at tables set up outside in view of the heat. After dinner a few of us decided to visit the local bar just around the corner from the hotel for a couple of drinks before retiring.

## Day 5

Wednesday 13th September

### Monterey Bay and Pfeiffer State Park

This morning we awoke to a thunderstorm and heavy rain - very unusual indeed in California at this time of the year. However, we heard nothing from Discovery Whale Watch to indicate that there was going to be any problem, so we set off for Monterey. The rain cleared on the way, and in fact the ground was virtually dry by the time we arrived, so presumably the coast had escaped the wet weather. Today we were on a different boat, the "Chubasco", and Captain John Mayer, an old friend of Naturetrek and co-owner of Discovery Whale Watch came out with us, although he was not actually skippering the boat. We found three feeding Humpbacks fairly quickly, but then headed further offshore than in previous days, in an attempt to find Blue Whales. The weather forecast for the next few days was not looking promising and it seemed possible that we might not get out very far on our last trip on Friday, so this was potentially our last chance to find Blue Whales. Unfortunately we were not successful, despite the best efforts of John and the crew, but we did manage a total of 10 Humpbacks, as well as all the usual seabirds, plus three Buller's Shearwaters - the first of this year's Monterey tours - and five Common Terns were also an addition to the list.

This afternoon we headed south along the Big Sur coast. Unfortunately, due to massive mud slides last winter damaging the road and two bridges, we were unable to go as far south as we would have liked, and we entered the Pfeiffer State Park just before the point at which the road was closed. We were hoping to find California Condors here, amongst other species, even though it isn't the most consistent location for them. Some of us walked a short distance along one of the many trails in the park, while others waited close to the car park from which two condors had been seen the previous week, and we kept in radio contact. After a while, the walkers saw a condor high overhead and radioed the news to the other group, and sure enough, it glided high over the car park giving reasonable though distant views. The walkers also saw a further condor which the other group didn't see, and other birds seen here included Steller's Jay, Brown Creeper, Dark-eyed Junco, Lark Sparrow, Acorn Woodpecker, and we had a really good view of a Red-shouldered Hawk which remained perching on a dead branch for about 20 minutes. We also saw Black-tailed Deer and numerous California Ground Squirrels, while butterflies included Lorquin's Admiral, Common Buckeye and Mournful Duskywing.

On our way back to the hotel we stopped at a couple of places to take photographs and admire the view, and we also saw five Bottlenose Dolphins and three Humpbacks, which was something of a bonus. After dinner a slightly larger group than yesterday ventured down to the pub again, where a local character by the name of Brian chatted to us for a while and kept us entertained, and provided a pitcher of beer which was very kind of him!

## Day 6

Thursday 14th September

### Zmudowski's Beach, Moss Landing and Moonglow Dairy

Today was to be completely different, as we were to be on dry land for the whole day. After breakfast we set off towards Moss Landing, deciding to take the scenic route over Laureles Grade, and stopping to take a few photographs at the entrance to the Laguna Seca motor-racing circuit. Our first stop was at Phil's Snack Shack at Moss Landing where we dropped off the lunch orders to be collected later, after which we drove the short distance to Zmudowski's State Beach. Passing through extensive fields of strawberries, artichokes and lettuce, we saw small flocks of Brewer's and Red-winged Blackbirds along with a few House Finches, before we parked by

the sand dunes at the end of the track. Lots of Brown Pelicans were making their way south along the coast, and several Song Sparrows flitted around in the low vegetation. Walking along the track by the lake, we found a few Pacific Tree Frogs in the waterside rushes, and a small flock of American Goldfinches shared a bush with two Common Yellowthroats. Marsh Wrens were singing in the dense vegetation, and proved difficult to pin down, but eventually we managed to get reasonable views of this skulking species. Barn, Violet-Green and Northern Rough-winged Swallows hawked for insects over the open grassy areas and perched obligingly in the reeds allowing decent views, and a Red-tailed Hawk stood prominently on a derelict building. On the water were two Pied-billed Grebes and a few California and Western Gulls, while some of the group found a Swainson's Thrush and more House Finches, and four American Yellow Warblers, both adults and juveniles, tested our ID skills for a while as they moved in and out of the bushes.

Possibly the star of the show here was a Bobcat which we saw briefly on the track before it went round a bend and out of sight. This species, closely related to the European Lynx, is not particularly uncommon in this part of California, but is seldom seen in the middle of the day, so it was a real bonus to come across this one.

After about an hour we decided it was time to move on, and we drove back to Jetty Road at Moss Landing where we spent some time watching the flocks of waders which assemble here, including Marbled Godwit, Willet, Long-billed Curlew, Least and Western Sandpipers and a mystery bird which was later identified from photographs as a Long-billed Dowitcher. Also here, we took the opportunity to watch around 35 Sea Otters at fairly close quarters. Most of them appeared to be sleeping, floating around on their backs, but one individual was hauled out on the beach giving an excellent photo-opportunity. We also found a Great Northern Diver, about 3,000 Elegant Terns, 50+ Harbour Seals and three Black-necked Stilts.

All too soon it was time to return to Phil's Snack Shack where a table had been set out for us in the garden, and our sandwiches were brought out to us in the sunshine. During lunch we were entertained by several Black-crowned Night Herons roosting in a large tree overhanging the water, along with a Green Heron, a Belted Kingfisher and several Pied-billed Grebes. After a leisurely lunch we drove to Moonglow Dairy where those in the front of the leading vehicle had a good view of a Yellow-headed Blackbird feeding along with large flocks of Brewer's, Red-winged and Tricoloured Blackbirds, in addition to Brown-headed Cowbirds, Common Starlings and thousands of Feral Pigeons. Walking round the lagoons we found Least Sandpiper, Whimbrel, Cinnamon and Blue-winged Teals and Spotted Sandpiper, while out on the Elkhorn Slough estuary there were Brown Pelicans, Elegant Terns and three Clark's Grebes.

It had been a very successful day, but it was time to return to the hotel, where once again some of the group relaxed around the pool while others did a little birding locally, seeing Oak Titmouse, California Towhee and Anna's Hummingbird amongst others. We had a final visit to the pub after dinner and retired to bed, looking forward to another morning out on the boat tomorrow.

## Day 7

Friday 15th September

### Monterey Bay, Point Lobos and El Estero Park

This morning we set off for Monterey Harbour for our last trip out into the bay. When we arrived on the quayside Chris, the boat captain, said it might be quite choppy today, but we would set off and see how it went. There were hundreds of Sea Lions and cormorants on the breakwater as usual, and also a few Sea Otters and

Harbour Seals around the harbour. As predicted, the sea was rougher than it had been on our previous trips, but we soon found two Humpback Whales not far from the harbour, and in fairly shallow water. We stayed with these whales for some time, watching them diving for food, although they were not showing their tail flukes and diving deep, possibly because a 50-foot whale in just 150 feet of water might easily collide with the bottom if it went down vertically at pace!

Chris decided that it was too rough to go further out, so we went along the coastline towards Moss Landing, seeing another Humpback plus two Harbour Porpoises and two Dall's Porpoises, before turning back towards Monterey. We received a radio message from another boat saying that there was very little to be seen further out anyway, so we weren't missing anything by staying within sight of shore. On the way back to the harbour, we came across probably the same two Humpbacks that we had seen earlier and watched them for a while before we returned to the dock.

Having said our goodbyes to John Mayer and the rest of the Discovery Whale Watch team, we returned to the vehicles, and decided what to do with the rest of the day. This was a free afternoon, and some had decided to make use of this by visiting the world-famous Monterey Aquarium, while the rest of us split into two groups to go birding. Some went with Tom to El Estero Park in Monterey, while others visited Point Lobos State Park a few miles south of town with Ian.

None of us had been to Point Lobos previously, but local birders have frequently told us that it is well worth a visit at any time of the year. On arrival, we drove to the furthest car park near the sea and studied the maps which we had been given at the gate, while eating our picnic lunch. We decided which trail we would follow and set off, hoping that we would be able to complete this trail and then briefly visit another part of the park before it was time to leave to collect the Aquarium group. That plan didn't quite work out, as there was so much to see on the first trail that we actually arrived back at the car park somewhat later than anticipated. The first bird that we saw was a White-throated Swift - a "lifer" for the leader - and shortly afterwards we found a Peregrine and also several American Lady butterflies and three other butterflies which were later identified from photographs as Field Crescents. The next part of the walk was slightly lacking in birds apart from a Great Egret and a Great Blue Heron fishing in the kelp beds, but all that was to change a little further on. In one small area we found Acorn and Hairy Woodpeckers, Pygmy and Red-breasted Nuthatch, Townsend's Warbler, about six Pacific Slope Flycatchers, Bewick's and Pacific Wrens, Brown Creeper and a White-tailed Kite. We could have stayed longer, but we had to return to Monterey to meet the other birding group and then pick the rest of the party up at the Aquarium.

At El Estero Park, there were several Pied-billed Grebes on the lake, along with a female Ruddy Duck, Double-crested Cormorant and American Coot. In the fringing rushes there was a noisy group of Red-winged Blackbird and a feeding Green Heron, whilst two Night Herons were roosting on the island. In the park, there were several species of skipper butterfly amongst them Fiery Skipper and Sandhill Skipper. A Gray Hairstreak was also seen. The park was relatively quiet for birds, though in one corner there was a hive of activity, with superb views obtained of Western Bluebird, Black Phoebe, Dark-eyed Junco and Western Scrub Jay. A final bonus was an Eastern Fox Squirrel, which showed well on a fence post.

This evening, by way of a change, we ate at the Fishwife restaurant in Pacific Grove, where we enjoyed either their seafood specialities or the vegetarian options, returning to the hotel by around 10.30pm.

## Day 8

Saturday 16th September

### Carmel Valley and journey to San Francisco

As we didn't need to leave for the airport until around 11am, some of us decided to have a final couple of hours birding in the Carmel Valley. We drove to the area where we had found the California Thrasher a few days ago, and sure enough, the magic bush produced the goods again. The thrasher appeared almost immediately, and was followed by a flock of American Bushtits, two Wrentits, a Nuttall's Woodpecker and a California Towhee. Nearby was a Bewick's Wren, while in the roadside field were around 12 Yellow-billed Magpies. An American Kestrel flew by, and a juvenile Cooper's Hawk was seen in the far corner of the field.

On returning to the hotel we finished our packing, loaded the minibuses and said goodbye to George and Lesley who were staying on in California for a few more days. The journey to San Francisco airport was uneventful, and having re-fuelled the vehicles and dropped them off at the rental car centre, we took the shuttle train to the terminal and checked in, having said goodbye to Simon and Karen who were extending their holiday with a few days in San Francisco. The flight departed only slightly behind schedule and we settled down to try to get some sleep on our way back to Heathrow.

## Day 9

Sunday 17th September

Our flight landed on time at 11am local time and, having cleared immigration and collected our luggage, it was time to say our goodbyes and go our separate ways. It had been a really successful holiday, with an abundance of fascinating wildlife with the added bonus of the stunning scenery of this part of central California.

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Marbled Godwit by Pete Smith

## Species Lists

Mammals (✓=recorded but not counted; c = about)

	Common name	Scientific name	September							
			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
1	Western Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus griseus</i>		1				1		
2	Eastern Fox Squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger</i>						1	1	
3	California Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus beecheyi</i>	8		5	30			1	
4	Hoary Bat	<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>			1					
5	Bobcat	<i>Lynx rufus</i>						1		
6	California Sea Lion	<i>Zalophus californianus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	Harbour Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	6	3	3	10	50+		3	
8	Sea Otter	<i>Enhydra lutris</i>	4	c10	c10	3	35+		5	
9	Mule Deer	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>		4		4	1			
10	Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	12+	31	19	10			3	
11	Risso's Dolphin	<i>Grampus griseus</i>		80+	c35					
12	Pacific White-sided Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus obliquidens</i>		3						
13	Killer Whale	<i>Orcinus orca</i>			6					
14	Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>		2		5				
15	Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	5	3	6				2	
16	Dall's Porpoise	<i>Phocoenoides dalli</i>							2	

Birds (H = heard only)

1	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	12	5		6	150+	20+	
2	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>					c20		
3	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Spatula discors</i>				3	4		
4	Cinnamon Teal	<i>Spatula cyanoptera</i>					1		
5	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>					6		
6	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>		1					
7	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>						1	
8	California Quail	<i>Callipepla californica</i>			20+	2	c15		
9	Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>			1				4
10	Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>		3	2	2	1	3	

	Common name	Scientific name	September						
			10	11	12	13	14	15	16
11	Black-footed Albatross	<i>Phoebastria nigripes</i>		1		1			
12	Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>		1		1			
13	Buller's Shearwater	<i>Ardenna bulleri</i>				3		1	
14	Sooty Shearwater	<i>Ardenna grisea</i>	c20k	c10k	c28k	c5k		c500	
15	Pink-footed Shearwater	<i>Ardenna creatopus</i>	12	40+	25+	28		1	
16	Black-vented Shearwater	<i>Puffinus opisthomelas</i>	5	3					
17	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>				1	c10	c10	
18	Western Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>		1					
19	Clark's Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i>					3		
20	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	1				5	2	
21	Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>					1	1	
22	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	1	2		1	5	2	
23	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1	8	2	2	c15	2	2
24	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>					2	2	1
25	American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>					6		
26	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	400+	200+	✓	c90	✓	✓	
27	Brandt's Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	200+	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
28	Pelagic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i>	c10	c10	2			1	
29	Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	1				c20	2	
30	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	6	c10	c20	35+	10	10	c15
31	California Condor	<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>				2			
32	White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>		2				1	
33	Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>			1				
34	Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>		1					1
35	Northern Harrier	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>					1		
36	Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	1		1	1			
37	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>			3	c10	c20	1	3
38	American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>					c10	3	
39	Black Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus bachmani</i>	2			1		1	
40	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>					3		
41	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	2				c15		
42	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>		2			c20		

	Common name	Scientific name	September							
			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
43	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>		7				10		
44	Snowy Plover	<i>Charadrius nivosus</i>		2						
45	Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>						1		
46	Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>	3	8				400+		
47	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	2	3	1			3		
48	Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>						c15		
49	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>						3		
50	Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>						c75		
51	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>						1		
52	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>						3		
53	Black Turnstone	<i>Arenaria melanocephala</i>	11	6	2	6	1		5	
54	Surfbird	<i>Aphriza virgata</i>	1	1	1	1				
55	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>		1						
56	Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>						6		
57	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>						400+		
58	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>		30+	30+	21			20+	
59	Red Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>				1				
60	Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>				1				
61	Heermann's Gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>	c35	c30	c25	3	1		2	
62	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>						1		
63	California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	30+	30+	10	5	2		c20	
64	Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>								
65	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>			1	1		c10		
66	Elegant Tern	<i>Thalasseus elegans</i>	170+	200+	c60	c40		c3k	10	
67	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>			8					
68	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>			6	5				
69	Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>	1							
70	Pomarine Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	3	1	1				1	
71	Parasitic Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	4	5	c10	3			1	
72	Common Murre	<i>Uria aalge</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		10	
73	Pigeon Guillemot	<i>Cephus columba</i>	1			1				
74	Cassin's Auklet	<i>Ptychoramphus aleuticus</i>	1							

	Common name	Scientific name	September						
			10	11	12	13	14	15	16
75	Rhinoceros Auklet	<i>Cerorhinca monocerata</i>	3	40+	c50	66		c10	
76	Feral Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
77	Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>				1			4
78	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
79	Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>		20+	20+	6		2	5
80	Vaux's Swift	<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>				30+			
81	White-throated Swift	<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>						1	
82	Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	2	2	3	2	5	4	3
83	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megasceryle alcyon</i>		1			1	1	
84	Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>	2	1	15+	10+	2	1	6
85	Nuttall's Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates nuttallii</i>			1				1
86	Downy Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates pubescens</i>						1	
87	Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Leuconotopicus villosus</i>					1	3	
88	Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>			1				
89	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	1		3	2			1
90	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>					1	1	
91	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	2	1	2	2	20+	15+	1
92	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax difficilis</i>					1	c6	
93	Steller's Jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>			5	10+			
94	California Scrub Jay	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>	15+	10+	15+	c12	6	6	5
95	Yellow-billed Magpie	<i>Pica nuttalli</i>			c10				c15
96	American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
97	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>							2
98	Oak Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus inornatus</i>					1		2
99	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	<i>Poecile rufescens</i>	2	2	6	6	2	4	2
100	Violet-green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>					40+		
101	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>					5	2	
102	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	10+	3		6	50+	3	
103	American Bushtit	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>	20+			40+	8	8	5
104	Wrentit	<i>Chamaea fasciata</i>			2			1	
105	Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>					4		
106	Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>			1H	1H		2	1

	Common name	Scientific name	September							
			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
107	Pacific Wren	<i>Troglodytes pacificus</i>							1	
108	Pygmy Nuthatch	<i>Sitta pygmaea</i>							2	
109	Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>							1	
110	Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>				2			6+	
111	Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>					1			
112	California Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma redivivum</i>			1					1
113	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
114	Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>			c10		2	8		
115	Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>					1			
116	House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>			2	c10	c10	1		
117	American Goldfinch	<i>Spinus tristis</i>					c15			
118	Pine Siskin	<i>Spinus pinus</i>				1				
119	Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>					5			
120	American Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga aestiva</i>					4	3		
121	Townsend's Warbler	<i>Setophaga townsendi</i>						2		
122	Yellow-headed Blackbird	<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>								
123	Tricolored Blackbird	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>					50+			
124	Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>			2	1	50+			
125	Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>					100+			
126	Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
127	Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>					5	1		
128	White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>		3			2			
129	Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>			c10	c10		5		
130	Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>			c10	1				
131	Spotted Towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>			1			1		
132	California Towhee	<i>Melospiza crissalis</i>			1	1	1	2	2	

## Butterflies

1	Cabbage White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	5		1	1	c10	✓	
2	Orange Sulphur	<i>Colias eurytheme</i>			1			□	
3	Gray Hairstreak	<i>Strymon melinus</i>						1	
4	Field Crescent	<i>Phyciodes pulchella</i>						3	

	Common name	Scientific name	September							
			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
5	American Lady	<i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>	1						1	
6	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		20+	20+	2	c6		c6	
7	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>			1					
8	Common Buckeye	<i>Junonia coenia</i>	1			1				
9	California Sister	<i>Adelpha californica</i>			3					
10	Lorquin's Admiral	<i>Limenitis lorquini</i>				2				
11	Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	2	1						
12	Mournful Duskywing	<i>Erynnis tristis</i>			1	1				
13	Fiery Skipper	<i>Hylephila phyleus</i>		✓	✓		2		c20	
14	Sandhill Skipper	<i>Polites sabuleti</i>							1	
15	Sachem	<i>Atalopedes campestris</i>			1				2	

## Other Taxa

1	Blue-eyed Darner	<i>Rhionaeschna multicolor</i>			1					
2	Black Saddlebags	<i>Tramea lacerata</i>		1			2			
3	Cardinal Meadowhawk	<i>Sympetrum illotum</i>		1						
4	Pacific Tree Frog	<i>Pseudacris regilla</i>					✓			
5	Western Fence Lizard	<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>			1	1				
6	Ocean Sunfish	<i>Mola mola</i>	1	3		2				
7	Blue Shark	<i>Prionace glauca</i>			1	1				