

Whales & Dolphins of Monterey Bay

Naturetrek Tour Report

27 August - 4 September 2018



Blue Whale fluking



Sea Otters at Moss Landing



Northern Elephant Seals



Long-beaked Common Dolphins

Report and images by Peter Dunn



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Summary

The beautiful 'Big Sur coast' of California is an ideal setting for this wildlife tour which, in addition to whale watching excursions, included such highlights as Sea Otters, Elephant Seals, California Condor and a great selection of seabirds, all amid a setting that is strangely familiar from countless depictions on film and TV.

Day 1

Monday 27th August

London to San Francisco

Peter and Ian were waiting for the group members having arrived a few days earlier to make arrangements. The flight landed a little ahead of time and after we dropped our hold luggage with Ruben to transport to the hotel, we headed for the vehicles parked in garage G. Soon we were 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 Laureles Grade into the valley, beating Ruben who had taken the coastal road

We arrived at our accommodation at the Contenta Inn about 9pm local time where, after accessing our rooms, some partook of the cold deli supper made for us by chef Jerome and we were reunited with our luggage after which we retired to bed after a long long day.

Day 2

Tuesday 28th 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 bacon, scrambled eggs, toast and cereals was very welcome. Some of the early risers had found American Bushtit and Anna's Hummingbird around the hotel and an unusual sight were a small flock of Wild Turkey flying from a tree onto a house roof!

We set off for Fisherman's Wharf in overcast skies but the visibility was good. As we walked along Fisherman's Wharf we had our first sightings of the large Western Gulls and Harbour (Common) Seals.

With all the paperwork organised prior to our arrival, we strolled over to Discovery Whale Watch and were welcomed by Katlyn and the rest of the staff. We were to ride on the Chubasco skippered by JJ along with Eric the naturalist and Danny the deck hand, and were soon invited aboard.

With only 32 passengers there was plenty of room on the deck and we slowly headed out into the harbour where we saw our first Sea Otters and passed the coastguard pier where the smell and sight of over 200 California Sea Lions was memorable. There was also a good selection of Brandt's Cormorants, a few Black Turnstone and Heermann's and Western Gulls.

We initially headed out towards the west but some activity to the north caused us to change course. We came across a large (800+) pod of Common Dolphins and amongst them the first Humpbacked Whales appeared. We positioned ourselves in an area where the Humpbacks were feeding and over the next hour we saw them lunge feeding, breaching and fluking, with Common Dolphins dashing about amongst them. There were also plenty of Brandt's Cormorants and gulls with them and herds of California Sea Lions followed the whales on the surface. Parties of Elegant Terns came in to feed and this attracted the attention of a few Arctic Skuas (Parasitic Jaegers). We moved further north-west where Sooty Shearwaters started to appear and a large whale blow way to north was possibly a Blue Whale but we failed to locate it.

We continued to zig zag across the bay and the edge of the canyon, drifting south where more and more Sooties appeared as well as one or two larger Pink-footed Shearwaters. More Humpbacks were seen and a large Pomarine Skua flew past and small groups of Rhinoceros Auklets and Red-necked Phalaropes were seen.

This had been a fantastic first morning with some excellent sightings in perfect calm weather but it was soon time to head back to Monterey, following the Monterey Headland past Point Pinos and the aquarium and back into harbour. We thank the crew for the great start to our Monterey adventure and headed to Abalonetti's Restaurant for a lunch of clam chowder bowls or local seafood/beef sandwiches.

In the afternoon we moved slowly around the Monterey Headland stopping at various points around Point Pinos where Sea Otters were seen and numerous species of waders (shorebirds) such as Black Oystercatchers and Turnstones, Surf-bird, Spotted Sandpipers and a large roosting flock of Sanderling and Grey (Black-bellied) Plovers.

We made our way back to the Inn, stopping at the supermarket for supplies and later we completed our checklist before enjoying a tasty dinner supplied by Jerome.

Day 3

Wednesday 29th August

Monterey Bay

A few met before breakfast and we walked up onto the disused airfield where we saw many Mourning Doves, some Western Bluebirds, two Red-shouldered Hawk and California Towhee and a Bewick's Wren.

After a fine breakfast we headed north to Fisherman's Wharf and boarded the Chubasco skippered again by JJ but with Brit as naturalist and Alfonso as deckhand, for a full day on the water. It was a glorious morning with blue sky already breaking through the light cloud and a clear horizon. 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 south-west and today there was little swell and the sea colour was ideal for spotting wildlife. We passed feeding sea lions and flocks of Brandt's Cormorants and good numbers of the Pacific race of Northern Fulmar, which varied from pale to very dark grey/brown. Suddenly a bird on the sea stopped us in our tracks, as a breeding plumaged Tufted Puffin was spotted, a rare sighting this time of year in the bay, and Humpbacks started to appear around us. However two large blows ahead of us was the reward for going where other boats had not been and we came across two massive Blue Whales, one of which fluked-up showing its huge tail on a

number of occasions. We stayed with these two animals for some time, a privileged to see the world's largest mammal.

We started to head north seeing more Humpbacks and many Sooty Shearwater. Rhinoceros Auklets were common but a single Cassin's Auklet was seen briefly, - usually there are more at this time of year.

After more whale encounters we headed back to Fisherman's Wharf where we ate our sandwiches on the dock before re-boarding the Chubasco for an afternoon in the north of the bay. Rumours spread of Orcas to the north but they unfortunately left before we arrived. However we spent the afternoon in the company of the huge pod of Common Dolphins we had seen yesterday, feeding alongside many Humpbacks and we were rewarded with excellent views of lunge-feeding, pec fin slapping and tail lobbing!

On the way back in a few Grey (Red) Phalaropes were seen with the more numerous Red-necks and in amongst the numerous Sooty Shearwaters we spied a few Pink-footed and a single Black-vented Shearwater. We arrived back at the dock just after 4pm and made our way back to the Inn, one vehicle seeing a Coyote in a grass field in Carmel Valley.

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

Day 4

Thursday 30th August

Big Sur to San Simeon

We woke to a clear but cool day and a few ventured onto the airfield before breakfast where the Western Bluebirds were still present. Three White-tailed Kites flew over and a flock of twelve Wild Turkeys fed on the field having roosted in the trees behind the inn.

After breakfast we collected our packed lunches and headed south on Highway 1 for a day on the Big Sur. We drove through Carmel Highlands and left the haze behind, entering a rugged sea/landscape with high cloud so visibility was reasonably good. Our first stop was at Bixby Bridge, a famous landmark worth photographing and relatively quiet today. It was also a lucky stop as we had good views of Western Tanager, Orange-crowned Warbler, Wrentit and a Peregrine. We continued on for a few miles and stopped at Andrew Molera State Park, where our usual walk was still closed after the previous year's floods but we wandered down to the river and crossed over on a plank bridge to check the area. A Pacific-slope Flycatcher fed in the bushes with another seen later. Chestnut-backed Chickadees scolded a Coopers Hawk up in a tree and on the walk back we watched Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco's and Spotted Towhee's feeding in the leaf litter.

We continued south and stopped at an area known as Seven Pines (now only six), a known spot for Condor. None today but two Golden Eagles up on the hill and an Osprey fly-by as we were about to leave were the reward.

Peter and Ian decided that lunch would be best taken at Julia Pfeiffer State Park as this was another condor hotspot. As we enjoyed our wholesome 'butties' supplied by Jerome we picked out Olive-sided Flycatcher, Steller's Jay, White-throated Swifts and Violet-green Swallows, and a mixed flock of Lesser and American

Goldfinches. Scanning the sky produced Turkey Vultures and the occasional Red-tailed hawk. We had just about given up hope when Peter spied a Condor coming over the ridge and although distant we could pick out the white arm on the underwing and the huge size was evident as it passed some Turkey Vultures. It hung around in sight for 10 minutes before drifting off and there was a huge sigh of relief from the leaders!

With that success we decided to head straight down to San Simeon to the Northern Elephant Seal haul out. Passing Lucia, Gorda and Ragged Point we pulled up onto the car park and enjoyed the sight of some large males with many females and young, laid out on the beach with one or two arriving from the sea and pushing their way up onto the sand. An impressive animal.

We broke up the return journey with a refreshments and comfort stop at Ragged Point, and some saw a Rufous Hummingbird, Red-winged Blackbirds and a few Monarch butterflies. We also stopped again at Julia Pfeiffer Burns state park, where we had good scope views of a California Condor sat in a dead tree with another soaring about at the top of the valley. The rest of the journey was smooth and uneventful apart from a whale seen breaching in the distance and we arrived back at the Inn at around 6pm.

That evening we had a reservation at the Branding Iron restaurant behind the hotel, where we enjoyed local food washed down with local beer and we also completed our checklist after a successful day on the Big Sur.

Day 5

Friday 31st August

Monterey Bay & 17 Mile Drive

It was a dull overcast but milder morning when we walked up onto the airfield before breakfast and it also seemed quieter with fewer bird sightings and only a handful of calls. Best was a Pacific-slope Flycatcher which showed briefly in a scrubby dell.

After breakfast we headed down to Fisherman's Wharf and boarded the Chubasco for a morning cruise. JJ was the skipper, Brit was the deck hand and Katlyn came on board as the naturalist. We headed out past the pier and west into the bay. The sea was a little livelier today so seabirds were more active. Lines of Sooty Shearwaters passed ahead of the boat with a few Fulmar and the occasional Pink-footed Shearwater. A dark juvenile Long-tailed Skua half-heartedly chased a tern whilst their large cousins (Arctic) were more successful. We came across our first Humpback and the company photographer Slater launched his drone to take photos of the whale from above, but not before he took one of us on the boat. Once we had watched the whale we continued on and found a small pod of Risso's Dolphins which we remained with for a while. We headed further out and Steve picked up a large bird flying south which was our first Black-footed Albatross that unfortunately continued south as we went north. More Risso's appeared and we witnessed leaping and head slapping, a common occurrence with his species. As the morning went on the wind increased with more sea movement making it harder to see whales but better for birds and a "spooned" Pomarine Skua flew past.

As we headed back to the harbour we encountered more Humpback Whales, and a calf/cow pair had us pausing for a while and we landed back on the dock at 1pm.

We enjoyed our packed lunch on the wharf before Peter and Ian drove the group around the 17 Mile Drive, a scenic road on the private peninsula which houses some famous golf courses such as Pebble Beach and Spyglass

Hill. We stopped at various points to look for wild life but the strengthening wind made that difficult, even though it was sunny and warm. We did have views of Sea Otters with young, Mule Deer, Song and White-crowned Sparrows and a flock of ten Killdeer. In a sheltered spot Steve and Emma found a couple of nice Townsend's Warblers and a few Pygmy Nuthatch were in the same area. The Lone Cypress was a photographic stop where we saw Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Black Saddlebags dragonflies and then we left via Pebble Beach and the Carmel gate for a slow ride brought the idyllic seaside town of Carmel-by-the-sea before heading back along Carmel Valley to our Inn.

We gathered at 6.30pm to complete our checklist before enjoying a splendid lamb shank dinner.

Day 6

Saturday 1st September

Moss Landing Area

The morning in Carmel was bright and sunny but chilly and a few had a pre-breakfast walk where we found two nice Wilson's Warblers feeding with Oak Titmice. As we left fog was rolling down the valley from the sea and we drove on Highway 1 to Moss Landing to deliver our lunch order, then on to Zmudowski's State Beach.

The cloud stayed with us most of the day but it meant that it was not too warm. At Zmudowski's the first obvious species was a flock of American White Pelican which landed on the lake and started fishing. A White-tailed Kite had regular skirmishes with a Red-tailed Hawk and Common Yellowthroat and Western Marsh Wren were feeding and moving around in the vegetated edges. A movement in the rushes alerted us to a Muskrat, a large rodent which was feeding on green shoots, and parties of American Goldfinches came down to drink. One of the features of this area is the Pacific (Sierran) Tree Frogs found in the giant rushes. However this year many of the rushes around the lake had died back and we could not find any, but eventually, on the private land at the end of the track, Peter discovered one clinging to a stem. While watching a pair of Northern Mockingbirds, Steve and Emma found some warblers and we watched Wilson's and American Yellow Warblers, feeding alongside a fence line with Common Yellowthroat and Pacific-slope Flycatcher.

We moved on to Jetty Road at Moss Landing where the tide was rising and pushing the waders closer to the road. We were able to identify Western Sandpiper amongst the many Least Sandpipers, plus Marbled Godwits, Long-billed Curlew and numerous Willet. We also found Red Knot, Short-billed Dowitchers and Semi-palmated Plovers in amongst the vegetation. Moving down to the beach we found a Snowy Plover, a protected breeding species, and out at sea a male Surf Scoter floated by, whilst Humpbacked Whales, lunged and fluked offshore.

One of the highlights of Jetty Road is the gathering of male Sea Otters and today was no exception. A group of males slept, rolled and 'preened' just offshore much to the delight of all present. We spent some time watching these then went to the mouth of the Slough to look out to sea. Whales were still 'blowing' offshore and we found six Western Grebes, two more Surf Scoter and a White-winged Scoter for comparison. Just as we were leaving a group of about eight Bottlenose Dolphins sailed close past the shore.

We dined on our pre-ordered sandwiches at Phil's Snack Shack, where Pied-billed Grebes and Black-crowned Night Herons were also seen, after which we headed for the rather smelly Moonglow Dairy where we walked around the slurry tanks and the edges of Elkhorn Slough. Flocks of blackbirds around the cows include Brewers, Red-winged, Tri-coloured and also Brown-headed Cowbirds. The Slurry pits were quiet but still contained a few

wader species including a nice Pectoral Sandpiper and a number of Killdeer, with both Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal feeding amongst a mixed flock of Northern Shoveler and Mallard. Walking to edge of the Slough we saw female Sea Otters with young, more White Pelicans, a few Spotted Sandpipers and two butterfly species – Western Pygmy Blue and Common Checkered Skipper.

Our final call was the east side of Elkhorn Slough where amongst the waders we added Greater Yellowlegs and American Avocets to the list before we headed back to the Inn to get ready for our evening meal.

Day 7

Sunday 2nd September

Monterey Bay and free time in Monterey

It remained quite dark this morning before breakfast due to widespread mist and low cloud with little seen and when we set off after breakfast it continued dull and misty. However by the time we reached the coast the mist had lifted and visibility had improved on the bay. We spent the morning moving between feeding cow/calf pairs of Humpbacks and some very active Common Dolphins, with the occasional Harbour Porpoise, a nice Ocean sunfish and a Great Northern Diver (Common Loon) flying past the boat. There were continual movements of Elegant Terns with Arctic Skuas harassing them and a lost American Yellow Warbler circled the boat before flying further into the bay.

We arrived back at the harbour in good time and the group showed their appreciation to the whale watch team for the excellent care and great sightings they had provided. Many of the group wanted to visit the Monterey Aquarium during their free time in the afternoon so they were dropped off outside in Cannery Row, whilst Steve and Emma opted to bird the Pacific Grove area from the cemetery and along the coast, adding Willow Flycatcher, American Robin, Hairy Woodpecker and Wandering Tattler to the bird list.

All were collected by Ian and Peter at the arranged pickup point at 5pm and whisked back to the Inn to get ready for our last dinner together back in Pacific Grove at the Fish Wife restaurant.

Day 8

Monday 3rd September

Leave from San Francisco Airport

As the flight home was not until 7:15pm we planned to have lunch locally allowing the group to explore Carmel Valley Road to look for Yellow-billed Magpies, amongst other species. There were plenty of California Quail on the road side and suddenly Helen shouted Bobcat and we stopped to watch one that appeared to be hunting gophers in a roadside field. It was still quite misty but that did not detract from the viewing of this handsome cat, very reminiscent of European Lynx. We stopped at a known site for California Thrasher but they failed to appear although we added Wild Pig to the week's list and had some nice views of Hutton's Vireo and American Kestrel.

The usual magpie spot did not fail us and immediately we were watching three of these smart shiny birds with the bright yellow bill and skin around the eye. Also here were a number of Lark Sparrows, two Savannah Sparrows and more quail. After a journey a little further down the road we turned and retraced our steps, stopping at another thrasher site. Nothing again, but we saw three Golden Eagles in the air at once, a Cooper's

Hawk flew over us, two nice Steller's Jay were calling and a Botta's Pocket Gopher was seen excavating its burrow, so it was a worthwhile stop!

It was time to return to the Inn to start packing after which we had lunch in a local café before loading the bags into Miriam's pickup and heading north to the airport at San Francisco.

This had been an excellent tour with some fantastic wildlife sightings, best by far being the two Blue Whales and the active Humpbacks.

Peter and Ian said goodbye to the group at the airport as they had another group arriving later that day.

Day 9

Tuesday 4th September

Arrive London

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

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American White Pelicans



Humpback Whale

Species Lists

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

	Common name	Scientific name	August/September							
			27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
1	Eastern Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus griseus</i>		1			1	1		2
2	California Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus beecheyi</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
3	Botta's Pocket Gopher	<i>Thomomys bottae</i>								1
4	Common Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>						1		
5	Brush Rabbit	<i>Sylvilagus bachmani</i>				1		1		1
6	Brazilian Free-tailed Bat	<i>Tadarida brasiliensis</i>			1					
7	Bobcat	<i>Lynx rufus</i>								1
8	Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>			1					
9	California Sea Lion	<i>Zalophus californianus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
10	Northern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga angustirostris</i>		1		✓				
11	Harbour Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>		✓	✓	2	✓	6	✓	
12	Sea Otter	<i>Enhydra lutris</i>		12	6		26	40	6	
13	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>								8
14	Mule Deer	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
15	American Bison (farmed)	<i>Bison bison</i>						2		
16	Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>			2					
17	Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>		25	25	1	10	6	8	
18	Long-beaked Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus capensis</i>		300	900				600	
19	Risso's Dolphin	<i>Grampus griseus</i>					50			
20	Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>						8		
22	Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>		5					2	

Birds

1	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2	Cinnamon Teal	<i>Spatula cyanoptera</i>						1		
3	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Spatula discors</i>						3		
4	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>						25	8	
5	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>						8		
6	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>			✓		5	✓		
7	Surf Scoter	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>						3		
8	White-winged Scoter	<i>Melanitta deglandi</i>						1		
9	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>						1		
10	California Quail	<i>Callipepla californica</i>							1	
11	Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>		5	2	12	2	2	2	
12	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>							1	
13	Black-footed Albatross	<i>Phoebastria nigripes</i>					1			
14	Northern Fulmar (Pacific)	<i>Fulmarus glacialis rogersii</i>		5	20		20		10	
15	Sooty Shearwater	<i>Ardenna grisea</i>			✓		✓		✓	
16	Pink-footed Shearwater	<i>Ardenna creatopus</i>			3		2			
17	Black-vented Shearwater	<i>Puffinus opisthomelas</i>			1					
18	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>						8		
19	Western Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>						6		
20	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>			1			3		
21	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>		5	1		2	✓		
22	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		12	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2
23	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>						✓		
24	American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>						20		

	Common name	Scientific name	August/September							
			27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
25	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
26	Brandt's Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
27	Pelagic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i>		2	4		2		3	
28	Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>		✓				30		1
29	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>		✓	50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
30	California Condor	<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>				3				
31	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>				2				
32	White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>		1		5		2		
33	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>				2				4
34	Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>		1		1	1	1	1	2
35	Northern Harrier	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>						1		
36	Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>			2	1	1	1	2	2
37	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	2	4	1	10	4	5	5	8
38	American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>					2	4		
39	Black Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus bachmani</i>					12		8	
40	American Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>		6						
41	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>						✓		
42	American Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>						✓		
43	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		20				2	1	
44	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>				1	10	6		
45	Snowy Plover	<i>Charadrius nivosus</i>						2		
46	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>		2				6		
47	Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>		1				12		
48	Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>						✓	12	
49	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>		1						
50	Black Turnstone	<i>Arenaria melanocephala</i>		12	6			1	✓	
51	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>						1		
52	Surfbird	<i>Calidris virgata</i>		1						
53	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>		50				30		
54	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>						✓		
55	Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>						1		
56	Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>						10		
57	Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>						6		
58	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>		20	50		23	✓	10	
59	Red Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>		1	5			1		
60	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>		1				3		
61	Wandering Tattler	<i>Tringa incana</i>							1	
62	Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>						✓		
63	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>						3		
64	Heermann's Gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>		✓	✓		✓	6	✓	
65	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>						3		
66	California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>		4	✓		✓	6	✓	
67	Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
68	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>						4		
69	Elegant Tern	<i>Thalasseus elegans</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
70	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>					1			
71	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>		1	2		1			
72	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>		6	6		6		8	
73	Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>					1			
74	Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>		✓	✓		✓	2	✓	
75	Pigeon Guillemot	<i>Cephus columba</i>			5				1	

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			27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
76	Cassin's Auklet	<i>Ptychoramphus aleuticus</i>			1					
77	Rhinoceros Auklet	<i>Cerorhinca monocerata</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓	
78	Tufted Puffin	<i>Fratercula cirrhata</i>			1					
79	Rock Dove (Feral)	<i>Columba livia 'feral'</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
80	Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>			✓	✓	2			
81	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
82	Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>			20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
83	Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>					H			
84	Vaux's Swift	<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>				✓				
85	White-throated Swift	<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>				✓				
86	Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>		4	2	✓	3	4	✓	4
87	Allen's Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus sasin</i>				1				
88	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>		3				1		
89	Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>		2		8	8	7	✓	✓
90	Nuttall's Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates nuttallii</i>				1				
91	Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Leuconotopicus villosus</i>					1		1	
92	Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>				1			1	1
93	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>				10		2		4
94	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				3				
95	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>		2		8	3	✓	✓	✓
96	Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>				1				
97	Willow Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii</i>							2	
98	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax difficilis</i>				2	2	2	1	
99	Hutton's Vireo	<i>Vireo huttoni</i>								2
100	Steller's Jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>				2				2
101	California Scrub Jay	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
102	American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
103	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>				6				
104	Oak Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus inornatus</i>		1	2	4	2	2	2	
105	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	<i>Poecile rufescens</i>				4	3	4		
106	Violet-green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>				✓		✓		
107	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>				✓		✓		
108	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		3	✓	✓	6	✓	✓	✓
109	American Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>				2		2		
110	American Bushtit	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>		24	2	40	20	20	✓	✓
111	Wrentit	<i>Chamaea fasciata</i>				6	1	1		
112	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>					1			
113	Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>						4		
114	Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>		1	1	2	1	2	1	1
115	Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>					2			
116	Pygmy Nuthatch	<i>Sitta pygmaea</i>					3			
117	Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>						4		
118	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
119	Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>			6	6	6			
120	American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>							2	1
121	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>					6	✓		
122	House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>			✓	4	2	✓	✓	✓
123	American Goldfinch	<i>Spinus tristis</i>		5		4		✓		1
124	Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Spinus psaltria</i>				1		1		2
125	Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>				2	2	10		1
126	White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>		1			3	5		

	Common name	Scientific name	August/September							
			27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
127	Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>				6	5	1	2	2
128	Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>								2
129	Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>								8
130	Spotted Towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>				2			1	2
131	California Towhee	<i>Melospiza crissalis</i>		2	2	4	2	2	2	2
132	Tricolored Blackbird	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>						✓		
133	Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>			✓		3	✓		
134	Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>						✓		
135	Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
136	Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis celata</i>				1				
137	Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>						10		
138	American Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga aestiva</i>						4	2	1
139	Townsend's Warbler	<i>Setophaga townsendi</i>					2		3	
140	Wilson's Warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>				1		3		
141	Western Tanager	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>				1				

Butterflies

1	Western Tiger Swallowtail	<i>Papilio rutulus</i>				1				
2	Cabbage White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		✓						
3	Western Pygmy-Blue	<i>Brephidium exile</i>						1		
4	Mylitta Crescent	<i>Phyciodes mylitta</i>								1
5	Lorquin's Admiral	<i>Limenitis lorquini</i>								1
6	Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>				2				
7	Common Checkered-Skipper	<i>Pyrgus communis</i>						1		
8	Fiery Skipper	<i>Hylephila phyleus</i>								3

Dragonflies

1	Blue-eyed Darter	<i>Rhionaeschna multicolor</i>					1	1		
2	Cardinal Meadowhawk	<i>Sympetrum illotum</i>		2		1		1		
3	Black Saddlebags	<i>Tramea lacerata</i>					2			

Other Taxa

American Honey Bee, *Apis mellifera*

Western Fence Lizard, *Sceloporus occidentalis*

Fork-tailed Bush Katydid, *Scudderia furcata*

Sea Nettle Jelly, *Chrysaora quinquecirrha*

Elegant Sphinx, *Sphinx perelegans*

Pacific (Sierran) Tree Frog, *Hyles lineata*

American Bullfrog, *Lithobates catesbeianus*

Ocean Sunfish, *Mola mola*

Moon Jelly, *Aurelia aurita*

Anchovy, *Engraulis mordax*



Sea Otter 'anchored' in kelp whilst sleeping