

# Whales & Dolphins of Monterey Bay

Naturetrek Tour Report

2 - 10 September 2019



Blue Whale



Northern Elephant Seals



Pacific (Sierran) Tree Frog



Orca (Fat Fin)

Report by Ian Nicholson  
Images by Peter Dunn



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Tour participants: Peter Dunn and Ian Nicholson (Leaders) with 10 Naturetrek clients

## Summary

This holiday in a beautiful area of central California was a great success. Although the weather was not perfect, with fog on a couple of our trips out into the bay, we managed to see all the main target species, including Orcas and a Blue Whale. On the land-based days we saw California Condors, Sea Otters, Elephant Seals and a multitude of shorebirds. All in all, it was a wonderful tour which will remain in everyone's memories for years to come.

### Day 1

### Monday 2nd September

The various flights on which the group arrived in San Francisco landed within a fairly short time of each other, and on clearing immigration everyone was met by Peter and Ian who were already in California having led a previous tour, Miriam the hotel manager who was transporting the luggage in her pick-up and Connell who had been spending a few days in San Francisco prior to this holiday.

The vehicles were already organised, and we set off towards our hotel in Carmel Valley. The traffic was surprisingly light this afternoon and we arrived in only just over two hours, after which the rooms were allocated and we enjoyed the cold buffet which had been prepared for us by a local chef Jerome, who would be supplying most of our food for the next week.

Although it was only about 8pm local time, the body clocks of those who had just arrived from the UK were telling them that it was actually 4am, so it wasn't long before everyone retired for the night.

### Day 2

### Tuesday 3rd September

Breakfast this morning, and every other morning, was at 7am, and some of the group were rather bleary-eyed as we sat down to eat, although everyone was looking forward to our first whale-watching trip. We arrived at the harbour in Monterey just before 8.30 in plenty of time to get checked in onto the boat and for the crew to go through safety procedures before boarding. We would be on the *Pacifica* for all of our trips this week, this being a fairly new addition to the Discovery Whale Watch fleet which has been designed specifically for whale watching, with plenty of seating and a large covered area. With Captain Rod at the wheel we set off across the harbour towards the open sea.

We paused by the breakwater to look at the hundreds of California Sea Lions resting there, sharing the rocks with lots of Brandt's Cormorants and also some Brown Pelicans. The sight, sound and smell of the Sea Lions won't be forgotten by any of us for some time!

It was quite foggy this morning which made viewing a little difficult, but we had a brief sighting of a small pod of Risso's Dolphins and also saw a couple of Ocean Sunfish, while birds included Rhinoceros Auklets and Sooty Shearwaters. A little later we came across a larger pod of Risso's Dolphins which came quite close, giving good views despite the fog. This group was quite well spread out but included several young animals still with their

mothers and also many older animals covered in scars from fights with one another, as well as from the tentacles and beaks of the large squid which are their main prey.

We then moved to an area where the fog had cleared and found three feeding Humpback Whales, which were quickly joined by three more, and the six of them fed together on large shoals of anchovies, which were also providing food for many California Sea Lions and hundreds of birds. We stayed with this feeding group for some time before we had to head back towards the harbour. On the way in, we slowed down while passing a large kelp bed just off Cannery Row and the Monterey Aquarium where a group of Sea Otters were resting and feeding, including at least one female carrying a quite well-grown cub on her chest.

Back on dry land we had lunch at Abalonetti's Restaurant on the wharf, where some of us had the local speciality – clam chowder served in a large, hollowed out sourdough loaf – while others settled for burgers, sandwiches or salads.

In the afternoon we had a drive round the Monterey peninsula and the 17 Mile Drive, stopping at a few places to view the wildlife and to take photos. California Ground Squirrels were common, and clearly used to being fed by people, which is actually discouraged as most of our discarded food isn't particularly good for them. We also saw Black Oystercatchers, Whimbrel, Snowy Egret and Black Turnstones, amongst others. On the 17 Mile Drive we drove between the three championship standard golf courses, including the famous Pebble Beach which hosted the US Open this year. Mule Deer have the run of the course, and we saw several grazing on the greens and fairways, no doubt to the annoyance of the greenkeepers!

We had a quick stop at a local supermarket in order to purchase drinks to accompany dinner (the hotel isn't licenced, but are happy for us to bring our own) before driving back to the hotel to relax before going through the checklist and then enjoying the first excellent evening meal prepared by Jerome.

## Day 3

## Wednesday 4th September

We awoke to another bright, sunny morning, and over breakfast some of us enjoyed watching the Anna's Hummingbirds feeding on the flowers in the garden. Today we were having a full day on the boat, although with a break back on shore at lunchtime. When we arrived at Monterey Harbour it was foggy again, and when we left the harbour it was clear that the sea was choppier than yesterday. We fairly quickly made contact with a feeding group of Humpback Whales which we watched for a while, before setting off towards another group which we had heard about on the radio from another boat.

However, almost immediately we received another radio message saying that one of the boats had come across a pod of Orcas (Killer Whales), so Captain Danny turned the boat and headed in that direction. On arrival in the area where they had been seen, just off Moss Landing, we soon had distant views of them, but they were quite elusive, changing direction each time they dived. Having lost them, we headed back towards Moss Landing in the hope of picking them up again, and that's exactly what happened. We had good views of about nine of these impressive animals which were travelling quickly and surfacing occasionally. Unfortunately, it was soon time to head back towards Monterey, but on the way we stopped to watch a single bull Orca, known locally as "Fat Fin" because of the width of his dorsal fin, who gave us some very good views before it really was time for us to head back.

We ate our packed lunches, which the Discovery Whale Watch team had kindly stored in the office refrigerator, and it was soon time to get back on board for the afternoon whale watch. The sea was still quite choppy, as we were heading into the wind and the swell, and it was a bouncy ride out to the area where the whales were feeding, although the fog had largely cleared by now. We came across a large group of about 16 feeding Humpbacks, which were initially fairly spread out, but from time to time they came together and fed as a group. At times this developed into a real feeding frenzy, with the whales being joined by Sea Lions, birds including Sooty and Pink-footed Shearwaters, cormorants, pelicans and gulls, plus a couple of Harbour Seals.

On the way back to the harbour, now running with the swell and the wind making things much more comfortable, we saw more shearwaters and some Rhinoceros Auklets, and we arrived back at the dock just after 4.15pm.

## Day 4

## Thursday 5th September

Today was to be totally different, as there was no boat trip. Instead we were to drive south down Highway 1, along the Big Sur coast, as far as the Elephant Seal haul-out near San Simeon. It was initially a misty morning, but it quickly cleared to give views of the magnificent scenery along this stretch of coastline. Our first planned stop at Bixby Bridge had to be abandoned as roadworks were in progress and the parking area was being used to store construction equipment, but we hoped to be able to stop here on our return journey.

We continued to Andrew Molera State Park where we had a walk in the wooded area for about 45 minutes or so, seeing Turkey Vultures, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Wilson's Warbler, Song Sparrow and a Hairy Woodpecker.

Our next stop was at Seven Pines where we hoped to connect with California Condor, but unfortunately none were in evidence today, the only sighting of note being a very distant Golden Eagle perched in a tree. Moving on to Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park, we agreed on an early lunch, and just as we were starting to eat Sandra spotted a large bird overhead which turned out to be a Condor. We all had good views of it as it glided effortlessly towards the ridge on the opposite side of the valley and was lost from view. From photographs it was later identified from its wing tag as "Orange 36", a young bird hatched last year in this area. A little later a second condor was seen, more distantly this time. While eating lunch the local Steller's Jays were all around begging for food and two more species of Woodpecker were added to our growing list – Northern Flicker and Downy Woodpecker.

After lunch we continued south and those in the leading vehicle had a brief view of a Gray Fox as it dashed across the road, and some also saw a Coyote, although there was some confusion about which side of the road it was on!

Arriving at the Elephant Seal haul-out, we parked the vehicles and looked down onto the beach. There were fewer of these huge animals than usual this year, although there were actually more of the massive males than in the past, and three of them were watched indulging in a little sparring, although not of the serious kind that occurs during the breeding season.

On our way back we had a comfort/ice cream stop at Ragged Point, and a couple of further stops to look for whales offshore before returning to the hotel. Dinner tonight was at the Running Iron restaurant, just round the

corner from the hotel, and it's fair to say that no-one who eats there is likely to go hungry. Many of the starters are really a full meal in themselves, and not many of us had room for any dessert, although a few brave souls did manage an ice cream.

## Day 5

## Friday 6th September

Although it was overcast this morning and slightly chillier than the last few days in Carmel Valley, by the time we arrived at Monterey Harbour it was considerably brighter, and we set off into the bay in reasonable sunshine. Today our captain was John Mayer, the co-owner of Discovery Whale Watch, and he decided initially to head south-west to search the area off Point Pinos, Point Lobos and the Carmel River mouth. We fairly quickly came across a small pod of Risso's Dolphins which were accompanied by two Pacific White-sided Dolphins, a much smaller and faster swimming species which often likes to ride the bow-wave of moving boats. These two were no exception and they wasted no time in moving to the bow of the boat, staying with us for about 15 minutes before moving off.

We continued south for some time, before Captain John decided to turn and head in a different direction. However, we had only half-turned onto the new course when a tall whale blow appeared right in front of us, about half a mile away. John was almost certain it was the blow of a Blue Whale but wanted to see it again before making any announcement, so we continued towards the whale's last dive position and sure enough it surfaced again just off our port bow.

After watching it on the surface for a while it dived and then re-appeared on our port bow again, allowing everyone on board a good look at the largest animal ever known to have lived on earth, and a "target" species for many of our group. After a further dive and surface, we decided to move on in search of more wildlife. Heading north across the bay we found some more Risso's Dolphins and watched them for a while before continuing. We saw two Humpbacks blowing, but JJ, the captain of our sister boat from Discovery Whale Watch, the *Chubasco*, which wasn't far away, reported having 10 Black-footed Albatrosses on the sea right next to him, so we changed course and went in that direction. Sure enough, we found the albatrosses swimming in the sea, occasionally taking off and flying a short distance before settling again, although we only saw nine. While watching the albatrosses, the two Humpbacks were seen again, not far off our course for home, so we watched them for a short time before we headed back to Monterey, slightly behind schedule.

This afternoon was free for the group to do whatever they pleased, and most opted to visit the Monterey Aquarium at the end of Cannery Row, while others strolled along the shoreline taking photographs.

Peter and Ian picked everyone up from outside the Aquarium at 5.00pm and we returned to the hotel with time to relax before going through the checklist and having dinner. After dinner we saw two bats flying around and with the aid of Peter's bat detector they were identified as a Big Brown Bat (that really is the very imaginative name of this species!) and a Mexican Free-tailed Bat.

## Day 6

## Saturday 7th September

Today was another land-based day, visiting the Moss Landing area, principally looking for birds, but also hoping to see whales offshore, Sea Otters and seals. After dropping off the lunchtime sandwich order at Phil's Snack

Shack in Moss Landing we drove through the extensive fields where salad crops and strawberries are grown on an industrial scale and arrived at Zmudowski State Beach. Although it is the beach and adjacent dunes that are the state park, the main interest for us was in the freshwater lagoon and adjoining scrub areas just inland from the dunes.

One of the main attractions here are the tiny Pacific Tree Frogs which inhabit the reedbeds, and which were especially abundant this year, following a very poor year in 2018. These frogs come in various colours, although they are all the same species, varying from bright green to a dull brown, with a few bi-coloured ones thrown in. In fact it has been shown that some individuals have the ability to change colour to match their environment, and recently it has been proposed to split them into three separate species, which if accepted would make the ones we see here Sierran Tree Frogs.

Birds seen here included American and Lesser Goldfinches, Marsh Wren, Wilson's Snipe, Pied-billed Grebe and White-tailed Kite.

Next we moved to Jetty Road where numerous waders were present on the mud flats, including Marbled Godwit, Willet, Long-billed Curlew, Least Sandpiper and Semi-palmated Plover. A Belted Kingfisher obligingly perched on a post, while another, more distant, was also seen, and another White-tailed Kite was in a dead tree. A short walk through the dunes onto the beach produced a good count of 15+ Snowy Plovers. This species remains endangered, and the beach here has a fenced-off breeding area set aside for them, but they still suffer considerable disturbance.

Not far offshore we saw two Humpback Whales, one of which was feeding very close to the beach in very shallow water. Unfortunately, and for the first time since we have been running these holidays, there was no large raft of male Sea Otters present in the harbour.

After lunch at Phil's Snack Shack, with entertainment provided by a Botta's Pocket Gopher dragging flowers and other vegetation into its burrow, and by at least four Black-crowned Night Herons roosting in a large tree overlooking the outdoor seating area, we moved on to the nearby Moonglow Dairy. The farmer here is happy for birders to walk around this area, as long as there is no interference with farming operations. Hundreds of Red-necked Phalaropes were on the settling lagoons which are filled with slurry from the cattle, while out on the Elkhorn Slough estuary were many more of the same wading birds seen earlier at Jetty Road. An American White Pelican flew by, as did a Forster's Tern and two Killdeer, and hundreds of Red-winged Blackbirds, Brown-headed Cowbirds and Common Starlings fed around the feet of the cattle.

Our final stop was at Kirby Road, at the far end of the estuary, where we spent a few minutes looking at more blackbirds and cowbirds, before setting off back to base. Ian's vehicle had a tyre warning light come on, so a stop at a gas station to inflate it provided a good excuse to have an ice-cream at the same time.

On our way back to Carmel Valley we stopped for a quick visit to the nearby Laguna Seca motor racing circuit, in which George had expressed an interest. We were allowed in free of charge to take a few photos, and some wildlife interest was provided by two adult Golden Eagles soaring over the circuit.

We were back at the hotel in plenty of time to relax before doing the checklist and enjoying the last of Jerome's excellent evening meals.

## Day 7

## Sunday 8th September

It was a rather cloudy morning in Carmel Valley for the last full day of the holiday. We set off for Monterey Harbour at 8.00am as usual, and arrived in plenty of time due to the light Sunday morning traffic. The weather out at sea looked clear, with very little mist, and we looked forward to our final whale watching trip on the *Pacifica*. Leaving the harbour we passed the numerous Sea Lions which had become so familiar before speeding up and heading out into the bay.

A cruise ship was anchored just offshore, and near it we found two Humpback Whales within just a few minutes of leaving the harbour. We watched them feeding for a while, at times in water just 45 feet deep – about the length of the whales themselves – before moving further out towards deeper water.

Next we came across a large pod of Risso's Dolphins which were fairly well spread out over a wide area. In this pod was an albino animal, which has been visiting Monterey Bay for the last few years, and which the whale watching crews have christened "Casper". This unusual dolphin showed itself on the surface several times, giving a few photo opportunities, before the whole pod drifted away and we continued our search for more animals.

It wasn't too long before we came across two more Humpback Whales, which were soon joined by a third, and they kept us entertained for some time as they swam parallel to the boat, occasionally diving to feed on the abundant anchovies below us.

Unfortunately a passenger on the boat (not one of our group) became ill and we had to cut the trip short to get him ashore. The coastguard sent a vessel out to meet us with the intention of transferring the patient to them, but it was decided that sea conditions were too choppy to risk this, so they simply escorted us back to the harbour. Everyone on board was very impressed with the way the Discovery Whale Watch crew – Captain Rod, naturalist Eric and deckhand Andrew dealt with the situation in a very professional manner.

We were back at the harbour about 30 minutes earlier than planned, which most of the group took advantage of to fit in some extra shopping time along Fisherman's Wharf.

When we met up back at the vehicles we made our way back to the hotel where we ate our packed lunches before some time to relax and also to begin packing ready for our departure tomorrow.

Some of us met up again at 4.30 for a trip inland up the Carmel Valley in search of some of the special birds of this area. Our first stop produced two California Thrashers – good, clear sightings of this normally fairly skulking species – and also here were a Spotted Towhee, a Wrentit, an American Kestrel and a few California Quails.

We moved on to a spot which in the past has been very productive for Yellow-billed Magpies, a sought-after species with a tiny world range in this part of central California. Unfortunately they didn't show up here on this occasion, or at our next stop, but there was some consolation in the form of many Western Bluebirds, several Lark Sparrows, a single Savannah Sparrow, a California Towhee and some Mourning Doves.

On our way back to the hotel we had a final stop at another potential Yellow-billed Magpie location, and at last about six of them showed themselves, albeit very distantly, so it was a successful finale to the tour.

This evening we were back at the Running Iron for our evening meal, with the usual large portions. It was a very pleasant evening with good food and conversation, and after a little amateur astronomy for some of us on the walk back to the hotel, we all retired to bed.

## Day 8

**Monday 9th September**

After breakfast this morning we spent time relaxing, packing or taking a walk around the local area before setting off for the airport. At 10.15 Peter set off with Andrew and Diane who were spending a few days in Carmel by the Sea and Sue who was booked on an earlier flight, and an hour later Ian and Miriam set off with the rest of the group, after saying goodbye to Connell who was staying on for a couple of extra days.

The journey to the airport was uneventful and we arrived in plenty of time to drop off the hire vehicle and check in for our flight. Due to the BA pilots being on strike we had been re-booked on Aer Lingus via Dublin. The flight departed only a few minutes late, and the captain announced that it would be a short flight time and that we would arrive ahead of schedule.

## Day 9

**Tuesday 10th September**

As predicted, a strong tail wind ensured that we landed in Dublin well ahead of schedule. We had time for a snack and a look at the shops before boarding our onward flights, mainly to Heathrow, but with Bev going to Glasgow and Ian to Manchester.

We all agreed that it had been a fantastic holiday with good company, good food in generous portions and, most importantly, wonderful wildlife sightings.

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## Species Lists

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

	Common name	Scientific name	September								
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
1	Brush Rabbit	<i>Sylvilagus bachmani</i>							3		
2	Botta's Pocket Gopher	<i>Thomomys bottae</i>					1		1		
3	Western Gray Squirrel	<i>Sciurus griseus</i>			2	2				✓	✓
4	Eastern Fox Squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger</i>							1		
5	California Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus beecheyi</i>		✓		✓			✓		
6	Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>				1					
7	Grey Fox	<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>				1					
8	Sea Otter	<i>Enhydra lutris</i>		✓	✓			✓	10+		
9	Steller Sea Lion	<i>Eumetopias jubatus</i>		1							
10	Californian Sea Lion	<i>Zalophus californianus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
11	Northern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga angustirostris</i>				35+					
12	Harbour Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
13	Risso's Dolphin	<i>Grampus griseus</i>		20+				70+		✓	
14	Pacific White-sided Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus obliquidens</i>						2			
15	Killer Whale	<i>Orcinus orca</i>			c11						
16	Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>						1			
17	Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>		c10	c20			2	2	4	
18	Mule Deer	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>		✓	1	1				✓	✓
19	Mexican Free-tailed Bat	<i>Tadarida brasiliensis</i>							1		
20	Big Brown Bat	<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>							1		
Birds (I = Introduced; E = Endemic; N = Near endemic)											
1	California Quail	<i>Callipepla californica</i>		1						2	
2	Wild Turkey - I	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>						5	6		
3	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	✓		✓			✓	✓		
2	Black Brant	<i>Branta bernicla</i>							1		
3	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>						6			
4	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓					✓	✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	September								
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
5	Surf Scoter	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>							2		
6	Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>							1		
67	Vaux's Swift	<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>				✓					
68	Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
63	Rock Dove - I	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
64	Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>		1	2	2					
65	Eurasian Collared Dove - I	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
66	Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	✓		✓					✓	
31	Virginia Rail	<i>Rallus limicola</i>							H		
14	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>		1					6+		
15	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>							2		
32	Black Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus bachmani</i>		1							
33	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>							✓		
34	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		4					9		
35	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>							✓		
36	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>							2		
37	Snowy Plover	<i>Charadrius nivosus</i>							15+		
38	Whimbrel (American)	<i>Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus</i>		✓				1	2		
39	Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>							10+		
40	Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>		✓				1	✓		
41	Black Turnstone	<i>Arenaria melanocephala</i>		✓	✓			1	1		
42	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canuta</i>							c6		
43	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>		✓					✓		
44	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>							✓		
45	Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>							2		
46	Wilson's Snipe	<i>Gallinago delicata</i>							2		
47	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
48	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>							5		
49	Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>		✓					✓		
50	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>							1		
51	Heermann's Gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
52	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>		1					2		

	Common name	Scientific name	September								
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
53	California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	3			
54	Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
55	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>		1				2			
56	Elegant Tern	<i>Thalasseus elegans</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓			
57	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>					1				
58	Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>						1			
59	Parasitic Jaeger (Arctic Skua)	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>					1				
60	Common Murre (Guillemot)	<i>Uria aalge</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
61	Pigeon Guillemot	<i>Cephus columba</i>		1							
62	Rhinoceros Auklet	<i>Cerorhinca monocerata</i>		6+	✓		✓		✓		
9	Common Loon (Great Northern Diver)	<i>Gavia immer</i>						1			
10	Black-footed Albatross	<i>Phoebastria nigripes</i>					9				
11	Buller's Shearwater	<i>Ardenna bulleri</i>					1				
12	Sooty Shearwater	<i>Ardenna grisea</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓		
13	Pink-footed Shearwater	<i>Ardenna creatopus</i>			c8		10+				
22	Brandt's Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
23	Pelagic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i>			2						
24	Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>						✓			
16	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		1	1			7			
17	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	1	2	2	1		4			
18	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		1			2	4+			
19	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>		1				2			
20	American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>						1			
21	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
25	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
26	California Condor	<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>				2					
27	White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>		1				2			
28	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>			1	1		2			
29	Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>						2	1	1	
30	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	✓		1	3+	1	4	2	2	
69	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megasceryle alcyon</i>			1			2			
70	Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>		5	4+	10+	3	3	4	5	

	Common name	Scientific name	September							
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
71	Nuttall's Woodpecker - E	<i>Dryobates nuttallii</i>				1				
72	Downy Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates pubescens</i>				1				
73	Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Leuconotopicus villosus</i>			1	1				
74	Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>				1				
75	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>				2				
76	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>			1	1		2		
77	Steller's Jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>				✓				
78	California Scrub Jay	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
79	Yellow-billed Magpie - E	<i>Pica nuttalli</i>							c6	
80	American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
81	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>				✓				
82	Oak Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus inornatus</i>		1	1					
83	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	<i>Poecile rufescens</i>				6+				
84	Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>						1		
85	Violet-green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>						✓		
86	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>						2		
87	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
88	American Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>				✓				
89	American Bushtit	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>				✓				
90	Wrentit	<i>Chamaea fasciata</i>				H			1	
91	Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>						c8		
92	Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>				1				
93	White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>							2	1
94	Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>						2		
95	California Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma redivivum</i>							2	
96	Common Starling - I	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
97	Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>							✓	✓
98	House Sparrow - I	<i>Passer domesticus</i>					✓	✓		
99	House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>		✓		✓		✓		
100	American Goldfinch	<i>Spinus tristis</i>						20+		
101	Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Spinus psaltria</i>						c5		
110	Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>		2		3		✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	September								
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
111	White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>		1		✓			1		
112	Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>		1		8+			2		
113	Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>							1		
114	Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>								✓	
115	Spotted Towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>								1	
116	California Towhee	<i>Melospiza crissalis</i>								1	
106	Tricolored Blackbird	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>							20+		
107	Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>							✓		
108	Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>							✓		
109	Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
102	Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>							c6		
103	American Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga aestiva</i>							1		
104	Townsend's Warbler	<i>Setophaga townsendi</i>				1					
105	Wilson's Warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>				4					

## Butterflies

1	Western Pygmy-blue	<i>Brephidium exilis</i>							1		
2	Cabbage White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Sachem	<i>Atalopedes campestris</i>						✓	✓		
4	Fiery Skipper	<i>Hylephila phyleus</i>		✓					✓	✓	
5	Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>				2					
6	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>				1					
7	American Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>				1	✓				
8	Anise Swallowtail	<i>Papilio zelicaon</i>							1		

## Dragonflies

1	Common Green Darner	<i>Anax junius</i>							✓		
2	Blue-eyed Darner	<i>Rhionaeschna multicolor</i>			✓				✓	✓	
3	Black Saddlebags	<i>Tramea lacerata</i>							1		

	Common name	Scientific name	September						
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Other Species

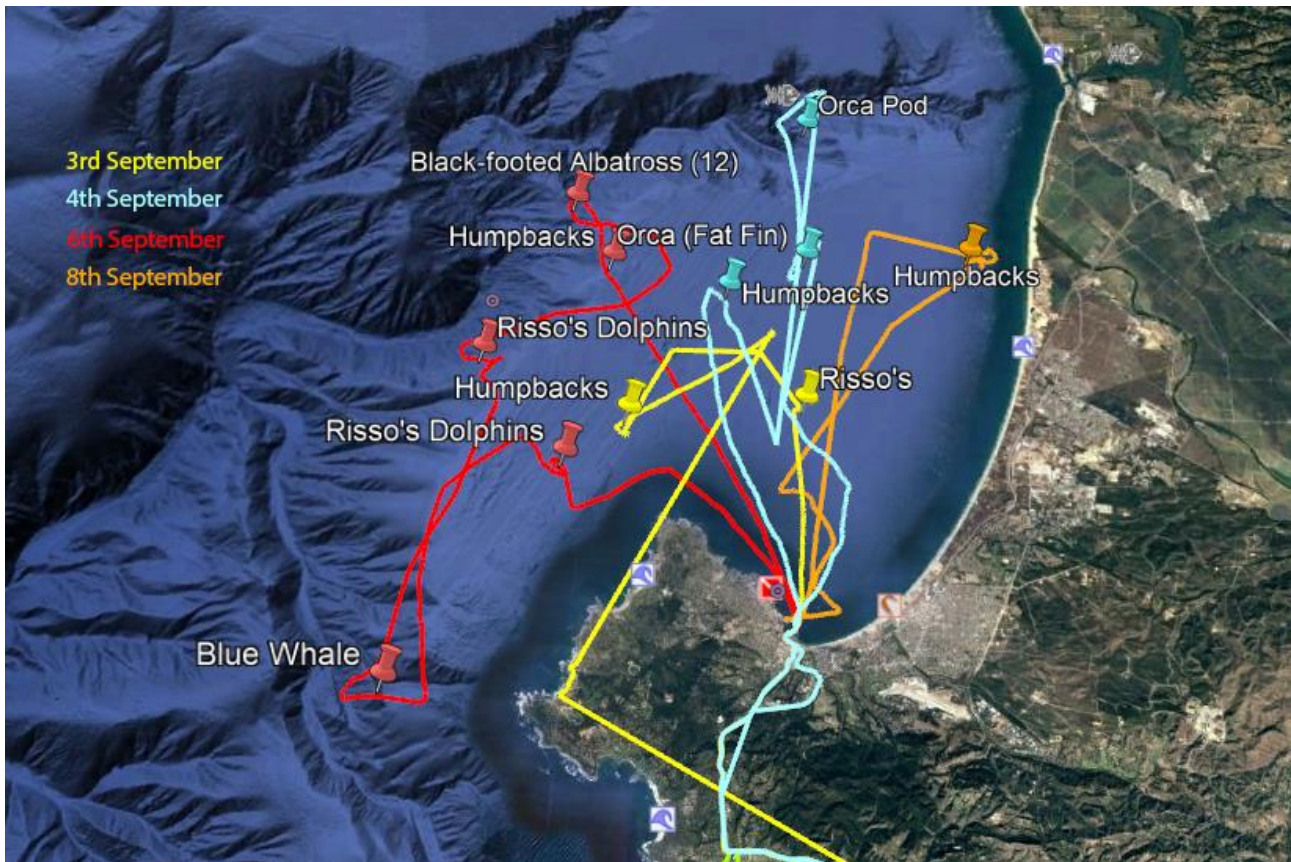
1	Honey Bee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Western Fence Lizard - N	<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Alligator Lizard	<i>Elgaria multicarinata</i>					1			
4	Soft-shell Turtle sp									
5	Pacific Tree Frog	<i>Pseudacris regilla</i>						✓		
6	Ocean Sunfish	<i>Mola mola</i>								
7	Pacific Sea Nettle	<i>Chrysaora fuscescen</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓	
8	Starfish sp							1		
9	a Hairy Red Fly	<i>Adejeania vexatrix</i>						✓		



Red-necked Phalaropes at Moonglow Dairy



## Map of Whale Watch Days



Humpback Whales close to shore



Bixby Bridge