

# Baja California & the Sea of Cortez

Naturetrek Tour Report

24 February - 8 March 2009



Whale-watching – San Ignacio



Short-beaked Common Dolphins – Baja Cape



Elephant Seal – San Benitos



Guadalupe Fur Seals – San Benitos



Hammerhead – Baja Cape



Sperm Whale – San Jose

Report and images compiled by Tim Melling



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Tour Leaders:	Tim Melling (Naturetrek Leader) Scot Anderson (Local Guide)
The Crew:	Brian (Skipper), Sam, Scottie, Steve, Jim, Dean, and Dan (the chef)
Participants:	Roger Harding Rosemary Harding Steve Trigg Ann Barrett Jenny Watson Bob Phillip Kevin Morgan Graham Dixon Jenny Dixon Zena Gray Bern Gibney Terry Fox Jean Fox Neil Munro Heather Morgan Rita Andrews Val Hall Charles Corser Sheila Corser Dave Freeman Jill Escudier Bev Watson Lynne Bridgeman Charles Kinsey Pauline Miller Barbara Rouse

## Day 1

## Monday 23rd February

Our flight from Heathrow left at 10:15 on the eight and a half hour flight to Chicago. We had a pretty uneventful flight over a largely cloudy Atlantic but we did see Lakes Huron and Michigan as we approached a sunny but snowy Chicago. Tim viewed the runways from the top of the car park and saw Rough-legged Buzzards, Red-tailed Hawks and an American Kestrel. We then had a four hour wait for our four hour flight to San Diego, where we arrived tired at 7:30pm (3:30am GMT!). A convoy of taxis took us to the Vagabond Inn, which was just five minutes' drive from the airport. Here we met up with the rest of the party who had made their own way to San Diego.

## Day 2

## Tuesday 24th February

We were up and about soon after 8am and the H&M staff willingly looked after our bags for the day. Fifteen people then met up with David Kimbell and Rich from the San Diego Audubon Society for a day's birding while the rest pottered around San Diego. We started off near the Vagabond Inn in hot sunny weather and saw Western Grebes, Eared Grebe and Buffleheads. We saw a single Spotted Sandpiper plus several Black Phoebes and Anna's Hummingbirds. We then drove to the Silverwood Reserve, about 40 minutes drive away in the hills. En route we saw White-throated Swifts, Red-tailed Hawks and Turkey Vultures. This was chaparral habitat and was alive with birds. Around the feeding stations we saw Oak Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Californian Towhee, Western Bluebirds, Nuttall's and Acorn Woodpeckers, White-crowned and Chipping Sparrows and Lesser Goldfinches. California Ground Squirrels were much in evidence too.

After a picnic lunch here we drove to Lindow Lake where we saw seven White Pelicans and some Wood Ducks. We also watched some Gophers popping out of their burrows. We then drove to Famosa Slough (pronounced Slew) where we saw loads of birds including American Avocets, Black-necked Stilts, Willets and Marbled Godwits, Snowy Egrets, Great White Egret, Pied-billed Grebes plus a wide variety of ducks. Our final destination was the San Diego River Mouth where there was a bewildering array of ducks and waders. Most numerous were Western Sandpipers but we managed to see many other kinds, including Long-billed Curlew, Willet, Dowitchers, Greater Yellowlegs and Semipalmated Plovers. Fourteen more White Pelicans were present among the numerous Brown Pelicans. We saw an Osprey on its nest platform but best of all was a hunting Peregrine that grabbed a Pintail right in front of us but dropped it. A Forster's Tern and a Glaucous-winged Gull were unexpected bonuses, although we later found there had been a significant influx of the latter. We were back at Point Loma by 3:30pm so we had time to walk down to the harbour where we saw Surf Scoters, Buffleheads, Royal Tern and yet another Glaucous-winged Gull.

We boarded the Spirit of Adventure at 6pm ready to set sail at 10pm. We hadn't expected much to eat but there was a great spread of cold meats, salads and bread for sandwiches. Brian and Scot gave us a safety talk then our first stop was the fish pens close to the harbour mouth where there were about 20 Californian Sea-lions, plus about a thousand Brandt's Cormorants, Great Blue and Night Herons, all pinching live sardines through tiny holes in the wooden lids to the fishing bait pens.

## Day 3

## Wednesday 25th February

At dawn we arrived at Ensenada to clear our arrival in Mexico with the authorities. It was overcast and the harbour wasn't exactly pretty, but everything went smoothly. After 20 minutes we were on our way. At the harbour mouth there were at least thirty Glaucous-winged Gulls, a surprisingly large number, but David Kimbell had told us they were in unusually large numbers this year. It was a little choppy and overcast as we moved past Todos Santos Island. We saw many Black-vented Shearwaters, Eared Grebes, Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets. Star birds though were three Black-footed Albatrosses, one of which performed beautifully. As we headed out we saw a handful of Grey Whales and three Pacific White-sided Dolphins came to bow ride briefly.

The weather was sunny but breezy in the afternoon. It was fairly quiet for Cetaceans though a few distant breaching Grey Whales were much appreciated. Mid afternoon a pod of about 30 long-beaked Common Dolphins came to bowride.

The seabirds were most memorable! After three Black-footed Albatrosses in the morning we had three more sightings in the afternoon and seven sightings of the rare Laysan Albatross. Photographs of the underwings showed that these were probably different birds too. Both species of Albatross were present together off the back of the boat at one point giving a rare photo opportunity. These were not the only good birds though with several Pink-footed Shearwaters and a single Flesh-footed Shearwater. Three Least Storm Petrels, two Grey Phalaropes, Sabine's Gull, Kittiwake, Pomarine Skua, Pacific Diver and Velvet Scoter were also seen

## Day 4

## Thursday 26th February

It was sunny but very breezy this morning but one of the first birds of the morning was a Black-footed Albatross closely followed by yet another, with plenty of Royal Terns around the boat. During breakfast, about thirty Short-beaked Common Dolphins came to bow-ride.

Straight after breakfast we boarded the skiffs and set off for San Benitos where we were greeted by a "welcoming" party of Elephant Seals on the beach. Scot took the energetic few up the hill while Tim took a more leisurely bird watching walk. We saw lots of Northern Elephant Seals including several on the beach where we landed. A few California Sea Lions were around, along with a many Guadalupe Fur Seals. There were plenty of the local San Benitos race of Savannah Sparrow (lacking any yellow), but House Finch was the only other proper songbird we saw (lots of Ravens though). We also saw many birds characteristic of rocky shores; Black Turnstone, Black and American Oystercatcher, Wandering Tattler and Hudsonian Whimbrel. A few Brent Geese were also sitting around in the bay. The ubiquitous Pelicans and Western Gulls were around along with several Glaucous-winged Gulls. Four Peregrines, including two juveniles, were seen many times, along with several Ospreys, including a very tolerant nesting bird that allowed close approach.

The group that climbed the hill found several Shorelarks on the summit, plus a Rock Wren and a Say's Phoebe. Before returning to the boat we had a picnic lunch, then got back on the skiffs. We then took the skiffs to view the Guadalupe Fur Seals from the water, although we had already had good views from land.

We then headed south in order to catch the tidal surge to get into San Ignacio lagoon the following morning. En route we saw two more Black-footed Albatrosses, hundreds of Cassin's Auklets and thousands of Black-vented Shearwaters. We were also fortunate to see two each of both Craveri's and the rarer Xantus' Murrelets. Surprisingly we didn't see any other cetaceans for the remainder of the day.

## Day 5

## Friday 27th February

Early morning saw a few Grey Whales and Long-beaked Common Dolphins, the latter were bow-riding for ages. There were also a few interesting birds, such as Pomarine Skua, Black-vented Shearwaters and flocks of Surf Scoters. We arrived at San Ignacio lagoon just after breakfast and were surrounded by Grey Whales almost immediately. We anchored in sunny but breezy weather and three pangas (the Mexican name for skiffs, or small boats) arrived to take us to see the whales. Two of the morning trips managed to touch whales but we all got fantastic views of spyhopping whales. More Pacific and Great Northern Divers, plus hundreds of Black Brants and a few Surf Scoters provided the bird interest, along with a few White Ibises flying over plus various waders.

We then came back for lunch then went out on the pangas again in the afternoon. This time, most people got to stroke a friendly calf that kept returning to the boats, with its mother keeping a little further back. The skin of the whale was much softer than most of us expected, almost like touching a leather settee, rather than a rubber tyre. Most people agreed that this was one of the most magical experiences of their lives. Mating behaviour was also seen and one boat even managed to see the legendary Pink Floyd (the usual euphemism for the whale's man bits!). There were a few breaching whales, all very difficult to photograph. The whales also seemed to show flukes more often this afternoon.

After the panga trips we just relaxed on the boat, enjoying the numerous Grey Whales around the boat. We watched a beautiful sunset and even managed to photograph whales in the sunset. After dark whales still continued to visit the boat...

## Day 6

## Saturday 28th February

We arose at about 5am to a beautiful sun rise. The weather was a little less breezy and very sunny with whales still plentiful around the ship, including breachers and spy-hoppers. After breakfast we had a couple of hours' whale watching from the pangas. We saw several close whales, including one mother with a friendly calf that allowed everyone to touch it.

After this we had a visit to the mangroves by which time the wind had abated. En route we found a Red-necked Phalarope, identified by its slim neck and needle-fine bill which most people managed to photograph. In the mangroves we managed to see Reddish Egret, Tricoloured Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Herons, Great and Snowy Egrets. There was also Northern Harrier, Turkey Vulture, Osprey and Peregrine, which chased the Willets, Curlews and Godwits. We heard Clapper Rails and managed a few brief glimpses of the elusive Mangrove Warbler.

After lunch the group split with ten going on a beach walk with Scot and the rest going for another whale watching session. The weather was still and sunny, but the whales weren't quite as cooperative as earlier. One boat did get a very friendly calf though, that opened its mouth for a tongue scratch. Several whales breached, and many showed their tail flukes on diving. Scot's beach walk found lots of interesting marine life on the strandline, plus they watched an Osprey catch an enormous fish. We then thanked our panga drivers and headed out of the lagoon for our night cruise down to Magdalena Bay.

## Day 7

## Sunday 1st March

The day started quietly enough as we approached Magdalena Bay to cloudless, windless conditions and a smooth sea. Quite a few Black Storm Petrels, Pink-footed Shearwaters and Craveri's and the rarer Xantus' Murrelets were around, along with a few Long-beaked Common Dolphins.

Soon after breakfast we came across a party of three Humpback Whales that distracted us from interesting things like Turtles, Phalaropes and our only Masked Booby of the trip. The Whales were behaving predictably when quite out of the blue one breached clear of the water right in front of the boat, giving many their photo-opportunity of a lifetime.

We continued south, spotting lots of Turtles of three different species (Loggerhead, Green and Pacific Ridley's) and a flock of 10 Red-necked Phalaropes. Other things of interest were a Scalloped Hammerhead Shark and a couple of Mobulas (Manta Rays). We then came across another group of Humpbacks which included one inquisitive individual that kept swimming alongside the boat in crystal clear waters, and even spy hopping, as if looking at us. Scot said that this was highly unusual behaviour. This delayed lunch by an hour, but we headed south and soon spotted our first Bryde's Whale, which we followed for twenty minutes. Further south we saw a distant blow which looked promising. We headed in that direction and it soon became clear we had our first Blue Whale. Tim and Scot alerted everyone while Brian expertly manoeuvred the boat using sonar. It was quite a shy, unpredictable individual, but a Blue Whale nonetheless. To see the largest species on the planet was a lifetime's ambition achieved by nearly everyone on the boat (A few lucky individuals had seen Blue Whale before).

We continued south seeing several more Blue and Humpback Whales, but the skipper didn't want to stop unless they were doing anything "interesting" (i.e. lunge-feeding or showing flukes on diving). As the sun went down, the krill migrated to the surface and the Blue Whales started lunge-feeding at the surface. Birds seemed immaterial next to this but we did see a single rare Townsend's Shearwater, several Pink-footed Shearwaters and many Black Storm Petrels. The sun sunk into a cloudless sea horizon and a fabulous green flash convinced most doubters that this phenomenon actually does exist. What a fabulous day.

## Day 8

## Monday 2nd March

We sailed through the night and arrived off the Cape of Baja at dawn with our first Frigatebirds over the boat. The sea was fairly calm and there were a few Bottle-nosed Dolphins and Humpbacks around plus a few leaping Mobulas. Also there were many Black Storm Petrels and Pink-footed Shearwaters. We continued onwards and the sea soon became mirror calm, enabling us to see several Hammerhead Sharks, Dorados and a Green Turtle. Also there was a lot of interest over a Portuguese Man-o-war which Jim carefully fished out of the water so we could photograph it in a tank. Just while we were distracted by that, a Humpback did a couple of breaches close to the boat.

We headed towards Los Frailes and were soon surrounded by about 800 Short-beaked Common Dolphins. The water was boiling with them all around, but Dan and Dean were none too pleased as it coincided with mealtime once again. Straight after lunch we saw two Red-billed Tropicbirds and three Frigatebirds just off Los Frailes. At Los Frailes most people went snorkelling and enjoyed seeing a variety of colourful fish, although the water was a little cool.

After this we went on a bird walk and saw a good variety of birds; Scott's and Hooded Oriole, Lark Sparrows, Green-tailed Towhee, Gila and Ladderback Woodpeckers, Ash-throated Flycatchers, White winged and Common Ground Doves, Blue-Gray and California Gnatcatchers, Costa's and Xantus' Hummingbirds, Verdins, Mockingbirds, House Finch, Pyrrhuloxias, Cardinals, California Quail, Grey Thrashers and lots of Turkey Vultures.

As it went dark we saw three Lesser Nighthawks and a Crested Caracara. We stayed until dark (about 6pm) then took the skiffs back to the boat. After dinner Rose spotted several Common Dolphins bow-riding in the bioluminescence.

## Day 9

## Tuesday 3rd March

Morning began with mirror calm conditions and our first two Dwarf Sperm Whales at 6am. Plenty of Frigatebirds were around with a few Brown Boobies. After breakfast we anchored off Punto Colorado on San Jose Island where we saw an Osprey against the spectacular pink-striped cliffs, plus our first Yellow-footed Gulls.

On shore Scot showed us fossils of Whale bones and a turtle shell, then we went on a walk up a dry river bed where we saw Black-throated Sparrows, Say's Phoebes, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Grey Flycatcher, Rock Wren, Verdins, House Finches, Costas's Hummingbirds, White-throated Swifts and a Peregrine. After this we went snorkelling at Punto Colorado where we saw a variety of reef fish while Frigatebirds and White-throated Swifts flew overhead. We then took short skiff rides down the island's coast to see a sea cave and look at the spectacular geology.

After lunch we sailed around the San Jose Channel where we saw literally thousands of Black-necked Grebes. It wasn't long before we found a Mother and calf Blue Whale which we managed to photograph surfacing simultaneously. We saw several more Blue Whales but homed in on one that fluked on diving, which gave many the photo-opportunities they were after. The sea was alive with Spiny-tailed Mobulas and the mirror-calm waters enabled us to photograph them too. We saw a group of four large whales close to shore which we suspected were Fin Whales so we headed in that direction. They certainly were Fin Whales and they were ultra cooperative, surfacing and lunge-feeding around the boat for ages. Scot again said that it was unusual to see Fin Whales lunge feeding. In the distance there were three more Dwarf Sperm Whales, giving the usual brief views. The sun went down in a cloudless sky with a mirror-calm sea, leaving everyone amazed and satisfied at such another fantastic day.

## Day 10

## Wednesday 4th March

We anchored overnight at Isla Santa Catalina and the crew had left a bright light shining on the water. Numbers of sardines built up during the night so by morning there were literally thousands moving in a tight anticlockwise swirl just like a bait ball from the Blue Planet programme. Straight after breakfast we went for a walk on the island. Birds and butterflies were aplenty, with great views of Black-throated Sparrows, Cardinals, Gila and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers. Several Loggerhead Shrikes were seen including at a nest with three young. Most unexpected was a Common Poorwill which a few lucky people saw. Rose was the only one to find and photograph the elusive Rattle-less Rattlesnake, but we all managed to see the endemic turquoise Santa Catalina Side-blotched Lizard. After this we went for another snorkel while a few opted for skiff rides. Then late morning we set off in search of whales.

All was quiet when we started lunch but Brian spotted a huge male Sperm Whale logging at the surface. Lunches were abandoned but he stayed down for twenty minutes before giving up the chase and performing wonderfully for the photographers. Unusually he did not dive deep so we could follow him just below the surface looking curiously white, like Moby Dick. This was just a small taster for what was to come the next day. After about an hour we left him and bypassed several Blue Whales in search of one that showed its flukes. En route we came across the most energetic pod of Bottle-nosed Dolphins imaginable; as they repeatedly leapt clear of the water for about half an hour. Some were leaping a good 3m clear of the surface.

Soon after this we found a whale known as Nubbins, a female that was first seen in 1976, and was last seen by the crew back in 2006, along with a calf. She was identified by her characteristic tail pattern. We were especially pleased as she was an inveterate “flucker”, showing her tail flukes without fail on that last dive. We stayed with her for an hour until sunset, when she gave opportunities for sunset flukes. We then headed south accompanied by our energetic Bottle-nosed Dolphins. Yet again we thought that previous days could not be bettered but yet again we were proved wrong!

## Day 11

## Thursday 5th March

We anchored off Tamba Biche (known on the maps as San Carlos). Overnight the crew had caught three flying fish for us to look at, and we saw a few more at sea. After breakfast we went ashore and split up into a beachcombing walk with Scot, and a bird walk with Tim.

The bird walk started off at the lagoon where we saw Royal and Elegant Terns, Wilson’s Plovers, Marbled Godwits, Whimbrel, Osprey, Yellow and Black-crowned Night Herons, Reddish, Snowy and Great Egrets, plus Belted Kingfishers. In the desert we found Gilded Flickers, California Quails, Scrub Jays, Grey and Ash-throated Flycatchers, Costas’s Hummingbirds, Harris Hawk, Chipping, Brewer’s, Lark and Black-throated Sparrows, Grey Thrasher, Lazuli and Varied Buntings. Most popular was a San Lucan Gopher Snake that Terry found, which was at least five feet long with a beautifully patterned red and yellow back. He was alerted to its presence by alarm-calling California Quail. White-tailed Antelope Squirrels were also popular. A Roadrunner showed a few times but was not generally cooperative. Butterflies were also much in evidence, including Buckeye and Funeral Duskywing.

Late morning we set off for the San Jose Channel, passing a seabird rock with a few Blue-footed Boobies flying around plus two American Oystercatchers. En route we saw another Hammerhead Shark close to the boat. After a short while we passed a few Blue Whales but spotted a Sperm Whale up ahead. Then we spotted a few more, and a few more, until it became apparent that the whole area was full of Sperm Whales. Brian estimated there were at least seventy five animals! And they were doing lots of interesting things, like logging, fluking and spyhopping. The density of whales seemed even greater than San Ignacio lagoon with its Grey Whales. Everywhere we looked we could see more Sperm Whales. At one point we saw a Sperm Whale emerge with a Humbolt Squid in its mouth, with another enormous (c 1m long) squid terrified darting round at the surface. Amazingly a Hammerhead Shark appeared at the surface just before this. Several times the boat was surrounded by more than six Sperm Whales, some just a few metres from the boat.

But best of all we had breaching Sperm Whales, and not just one or two. The crew said that they occasionally saw breaching Sperm Whales, but usually distant. These were repeatedly breaching really close to the boat. Everyone managed to get photographs of breaching animals which is an amazing achievement for such a rare phenomenon. They were also tail slapping, which made for a good photo too. After several hours enjoying the Sperm Whales we spotted a large pod of Pilot Whales which also surrounded the boat for more than an hour. They were also accompanied by a few Bottle-nosed Dolphins. Both Brian the skipper and Scot agreed that this was the best Sperm Whale experience they have ever had, and they have seen an awful lot of Sperm Whales. The days just keep getting better!



## Day 12

## Friday 6th March

At dawn we headed straight to Napolo. Napolo is a tiny village at the mouth of a long canyon, where desert scrub meets coastal mangroves. There is no drinking water here so the villagers came to meet us to fill up their water vessels from the boat's supplies. We saw a nesting Osprey on nearby cliffs and the skies were filled with Pelicans and Frigatebirds. We also saw Peregrine and Red-tailed Hawks. In the area around the village we saw Spotted Sandpiper, Belted Kingfisher, Xantus' and Costa's Hummingbirds, Cardinals, one Phainopepla, Pacific Slope Flycatchers, California Quails, Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, Blue-Grey and California Gnatcatchers, White-winged Doves, Cactus, Wrens, Grey Thrashers, Lesser Goldfinches and a Hermit Thrush. We heard lots of Canyon Wrens but Bern was the only one to actually spot one. We also saw Long-tailed Skippers, Pipevine Swallowtails, Gulf Fritillaries and Queen Butterflies (*Danaus gillipus*), a close relative of the Monarch, feeding on the blue flowers of Morning Glory.

We then set off south and started to encounter Short-beaked Common and Bottlenosed Dolphins plus another pod of Pilot Whales. The sea was mirror calm again and we saw lots of Mobulas and a flock of about thirty Red-necked Phalaropes. We also saw a couple of Bryde's Whales and four Blue Whales. Scot netted some Sargassum weed that held a tiny Puffer-fish plus some Blue Button Jellyfish and a tiny Portuguese Man-o-war.

Mid afternoon we reached the island of Isla Losislotti (means the isolated one) where we saw numerous Frigatebirds, Blue-footed and Brown Boobies, including the former foot paddling. Brandt's Cormorants, Black Turnstone, Wandering Tattler and a pair of Peregrines were also seen, plus a nesting pair of Great Blue Herons. For most people though, the highlight was swimming with Californian Sea-Lions, of which there were hundreds. This was an amazing experience enjoyed by all, with curious Sea-Lions approaching us and staring us straight in the eye. The really large males also approached us but showed no timidity as they knew who was boss. The snorkelling and reef fish were also among the best we had seen.

We then headed reluctantly back towards Cabo San Lucas, but one last energetic pod of Bottlenosed Dolphins came to bid us farewell as we passed Espiritu Santu at sunset. A fitting end to the last day of this wonderful holiday!

## Day 13

## Saturday 7th March

At dawn we were passing the Cape of Baja and even then the whales were still performing. We saw at least four Humpbacks, three of them repeatedly breaching. We arrived at the port at 7am and sadly had to leave the Spirit of Adventure. We said farewell to Scott and the crew.

The airport at Cabo San José was an hour's taxi ride away but we drove through some interesting habitat and saw several interesting birds including Caracaras, American Kestrels and Loggerhead Shrikes. Again, there was some excellent bird watching close to Cabo San José Airport and is a great way to make the three hour wait pass more quickly. Across the main roundabout outside the terminal, bear right and after a few hundred yards, try the desert scrub on the right behind the National Car Hire Depot. Here we saw Crested Caracaras, Western Scrub Jays, Grey Thrashers, Scott's and Hooded Orioles, Cactus Wren, Pyrrhuloxias, Cardinal, Phainopeplas, Cassin's Kingbird, Costa's Hummingbirds, Blue Grey and California Gnatcatchers, Audubon's Warbler, California Towhees, Verdins, Gilded Flickers, Ladderbacked and Gila Woodpeckers.

All agreed that this had been a fantastic holiday, certainly living up to its billing of the ultimate whale experience. We had prolonged views of all the large whales doing lots of interesting things, and usually right next to the boat. Scot has led many trips to Baja and he thought that this was one of his best ever in terms of the quality of sightings. We were also amazed at the quality and quantity of food that was produced in such a small kitchen. And most people wouldn't have believed they would willingly get up before 6am each day, although few stayed up beyond 9pm. Everyone was in agreement that the trip had exceeded their wildest expectations.

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Spirit of Adventure – Punto Colorado – San Jose



## Species Lists

## Birds

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March												
			24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	✓			7	10								
2	Pacific Diver	<i>Gavia pacifica</i>		1		2									
3	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	20	20	30	5	2			1500	100	800	30		
4	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	20												
5	Western Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>	20	3											
6	Clark's Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i>		✓											
7	Black-footed Albatross	<i>Phoebastria nigripes</i>		6	6										
8	Laysan Albatross	<i>Phoebastria immutabilis</i>		7											
9	Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>		10	3			1		1					
10	Pink-footed Shearwater	<i>Puffinus creatopus</i>		5				30	15		1				
11	Flesh-footed Shearwater	<i>Puffinus carneipes</i>		1											
12	Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>		3				1							
13	Black-vented Shearwater	<i>Puffinus opisthomelas</i>		100	10000	300		25	15	10	20	1	1	1	
14	Townsend's Shearwater	<i>Puffinus auricularis</i>						1							
15	Black Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma melania</i>						150	200	200	50	100	10		
16	Least Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma microsoma</i>		3											
17	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>							34	20	30	30	100	50	
18	Red-billed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon aethereus</i>							2						
19	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	100	20	40	1000	400	20	100	100	100	100	100	100	
20	White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	21			1	30								
21	Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>								20	5		50		
22	Blue-footed Booby	<i>Sula nebouxii</i>									20	15	150		
23	Masked Booby	<i>Sula dactylatra</i>						1							
24	Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	30	20	10	100	100			10	3	10	1	5	
25	Brandt's Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	1000	50		100	20		1	2		5	30	5	
26	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	3		1		2		1		2	5	3	2	
27	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	3			3	10					5			
28	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	20			30	30					10		5	
29	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	3				3								

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March											
			24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
30	Reddish Egret	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>				2	15					2	1	
31	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	10									1		
32	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax violacea</i>					2					8		
33	White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>				50	25							
34	Black Brant	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	5		12	800	300							
35	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	50											
36	Pintail	<i>Amnas acuta</i>	200											
37	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>	30											
38	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	2											
39	American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	200											
40	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	200											
41	Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	50											
42	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	1			10	2							
43	Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>					1							
44	Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	40											
45	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	50				1							
46	Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	2											
47	Surf Scoter	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>	20	20		50	30							
48	White-winged Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>		5										
49	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	10			1	1		25	40	50	30	40	30
50	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	20		1				1				2	1
51	Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	1											
52	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	4		10		2			2		1	2	
53	Northern Caracara	<i>Caracara plancus</i>							1					3
54	Harris's Hawk	<i>Pa+C94rabuteo unicinctus</i>										1		
55	Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus hudsonicus</i>					1							
56	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	1		4		1	1		1			3	
57	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	1											5
58	Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperi</i>	1											
59	Californian quail	<i>Callipepla californica</i>	2						4			30	6	
60	Clapper Rail	<i>Rallus longirostris</i>					H							
61	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	5											

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March											
			24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
62	American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	200											
63	American Black Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus bachmani</i>			4									
64	American Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>			4							2		
65	American Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	150											
66	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	20											
67	Wilson's Plover	<i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>										2		
68	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	40					4						
69	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	30											
70	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	5					1						
71	Willet	<i>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</i>	30			30	50					2		
72	Wandering Tattler	<i>Heteroscelus incanus</i>			2								1	
73	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	1		1					2	1	1	1	
74	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus</i>	1		2							2		
75	Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	2			100	30							
76	Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>	50			200	100					5		
77	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	4											
78	Black Turnstone	<i>Arenaria melanocephala</i>			100					2			1	
79	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	5											
80	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	2			200	200		5			3		
81	Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	500				100							
82	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	30											
83	Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>					20							
84	Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	30											
85	Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalopus fulicarius</i>		2		2		4						
86	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalopus lobatus</i>					1	20	43			1	25	
87	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>		1		5	10		2					
88	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>											10	
89	Bonaparte's Gull	<i>Larus philadelphia</i>		30				1		50	5			
90	Heermann's Gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>	20	50	20	20	20	5			40	30	10	10
91	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	200	50										
92	California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>		40		5	5	50	50	50	20	2	10	10
93	Yellow-footed Gull	<i>Larus livens</i>								20	30	50	70	

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March											
			24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
94	Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	500	100	100	50	30	20	20					100
95	Glaucous-winged Gull	<i>Larus glaucescens</i>	2	30	20									
96	Sabine's Gull	<i>Larus sabini</i>		1										
97	Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>		1					2	2	1			
98	Royal Tern	<i>Sterna maxima</i>	1	1	5	80	50	5		3		2		
99	Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	1											
100	Elegant Tern	<i>Sterna elegans</i>									2	30	2	
101	Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>	1											
102	Xantus' Murrelet	<i>Synthliboramphus hypoleucus</i>			2			4						
103	Craveri's Murrelet	<i>Synthliboramphus craveri</i>			2			30		20	40	20		
104	Cassins' Auklet	<i>Ptychoramphus aleuticus</i>		100	500	6		4		2		2		
105	Rhinoceros Auklet	<i>Cyclorhynchus psittacula</i>		20										
106	White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>							15		20	5	5	
107	Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	40											
108	Common Ground Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>							12		1			
109	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	c											
110	Liliac-headed Parrot	<i>Amazona finschi</i>	2											
111	Greater Roadrunner	<i>Geococcyx californianus</i>										1		
112	White-throated Swift	<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>	10							40				
113	Lesser Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i>							3					
114	Common Poorwill	<i>Phalaenoptilus nuttallii</i>									1			
115	Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	25											
116	Costa's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte costae</i>							15	3		2	5	5
117	Xantus' Hummingbird	<i>Hylocharis xantusii</i>							20				2	
118	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	1									2	1	
119	Gila Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes uropygialis</i>							6		5	5		5
120	Ladder-backed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides scalaris</i>							3	2	5	1	2	2
121	Nuttall's Woodpecker	<i>Picoides nuttalli</i>	1											
122	Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>	1											
123	Gilded Flicker	<i>Colaptes chrysoides</i>										4		8
124	Ash-throated Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>	2						6	2	12	5	3	8
125	Grey Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax wrightii</i>								1	2	8		

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March											
			24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
126	Pacific Slope Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax difficillis</i>											10	
127	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	4										1	
128	Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis Phoebe</i>			1					2				
129	Cassin's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>												1
130	Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>			4									
131	Mangrove Swallow	<i>Tachycineta albilinea</i>										1		
132	Violet-green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>	2									10		
133	White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	2											
134	Oak Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus inornatus</i>	3											
135	Western Scrub Jay	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>	25						2			8		5
136	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	4		40				2	2	10	4	2	2
137	American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	50											
138	Verdin	<i>Auriparus flaviceps</i>							20	20	2	2	1	5
139	Cactus Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i>											4	8
140	Canyon Wren	<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>											1	
141	Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	2											
142	Rock Wren	<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>			1					1				
143	Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>							2	1			2	2
144	California Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila californica</i>							4			2	2	2
145	Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>	2											
146	Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttata</i>											1	
147	Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>							20	5	6	5	2	6
148	Grey Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma cinereum</i>							3	5		2	2	6
149	European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	10											
150	Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>					3				7	2		2
151	Phainopepla	<i>Phainopepla nitens</i>											2	12
152	Bushtit	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>	5											
153	Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Vermivora celata</i>	1						2		1	2		
154	Mangrove Warbler	<i>Dendroica bryanti</i>					2							
155	Audubon's Warbler	<i>Dendroica auduboni</i>	30											1
156	Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	1											
157	Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>							5	1	3		2	4



	Common name	Scientific name	February/March												
			24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
158	Pyrrhuloxia	<i>Cardinalis sinuatis</i>								3					4
159	Varied Bunting	<i>Passerina versicolor</i>											2		
160	Lazuli Bunting	<i>Passerina amoena</i>											1		
161	Green-tailed Towhee	<i>Pipilo chlorurus</i>								2					
162	California Towhee	<i>Pipilo crissalis</i>	5												6
163	Spotted Towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>	2												
164	Black-throated Sparrow	<i>Amphispiza bilineata</i>									10	50	10		
165	Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>			200										
166	Brewer's Sparrow	<i>Spizella breweri</i>											6		
167	Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>					10								
168	Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>								6			20		
169	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	c							40					50
170	White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	30										2		
171	Black-headed Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>												1	
172	Oregon Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	5												
173	Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	10										5		
174	Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	30												
175	Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	10												
176	Scott's Oriole	<i>Icterus parisorum</i>								6					2
177	Hooded Oriole	<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>								10		1		5	4
178	House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	50	2	1					20	10	3		5	
179	Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis psaltria</i>	40											8	2

## Mammals

1	Gray Whale	<i>Eschrichtius robustus</i>		20		150	150									
2	Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>						7		8	6	5	4			
3	Bryde's Whale	<i>Balaenoptera edeni</i>						1				1	3			
4	Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>								4						
5	Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>														
6	Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>						7	40							4
7	Sperm Whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>									1	75				
8	Dwarf Sperm Whale	<i>Kogia simus</i>								5						

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March											
			24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9	Short-finned Pilot Whale	<i>Globicephala macrorhynchus</i>										75	40	
10	Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>				30	30		200	40	100	20	250	
11	Long-beaked Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus capensis</i>		30		40		30						
12	Pacific White-sided Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus obliquidens</i>		3										
13	Short-beaked Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>			30	10			800				75	
14	California Sealion	<i>Zalophus californianus</i>	1		20	2		10	50	3	4	2	500	
15	Guadalupe Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus townsendi</i>			200				1					
16	Northern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga angustirostris</i>			500									
17	White-tailed Jackrabbit	<i>Lepus townsendi</i>					1		2			1		
18	Whitetail Antelope Squirrel	<i>Ammospermophilus leucurus</i>										2		
19	California Ground Squirrel	<i>Citellus beecheyi</i>	20											
20	Valley Pocket Gopher	<i>Thomomys bottae</i>	2											

## Reptiles

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March											
			24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Green Sea turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>					2	2	6	1				
2	Loggerhead Turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>							1					
3	Pacific Ridley's Turtle	<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>							2					
4	Desert Iguana	<i>Dipsosaurus dorsalis</i>											10	
5	Baja Spiny Lizard	<i>Sceloporus zosteromus</i>										3		
6	Side-blotched Lizard	<i>Uta squamata</i>			50						✓	5		
7	Western Whip Tail	<i>Cnemidophorus sp.</i>									✓			
8	San Lucan Gopher Snake	<i>Pituophis catenifer vertebralis</i>											1	
9	Santa Catalina Rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus catalinensis</i>										1		

## Fish

1	Ballonfish	<i>Diodon holocanthus</i>									✓	✓		
2	Barber Fish	<i>Johnrandallia nigriristris</i>									✓			
3	Barracuda	<i>Sphyraena lucasana</i>									✓		✓	
4	Blue And Gold Snapper	<i>Lutjanus viridus</i>										✓		
5	Dogtooth Snapper	<i>Lutjanus apodus</i>										✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March												
			24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
6	Bluechin Parrotfish	<i>Scarus ghobban</i>									✓				
7	Bumphead Damselfish	<i>Microspathodon bairdi</i>									✓				
8	Cortez Chub	<i>Kyphosus elegans</i>										✓			
9	Cortez Damselfish	<i>Eupomacentrus rectifraenum</i>									✓	✓			
10	Cortez Rainbow Wrasse	<i>Thalassoma lucasanum</i>									✓	✓			
11	Garibaldi Fish	<i>Hypsypops rubicundus</i>			✓										
12	Giant Dameslfish	<i>Microspathadon dorsalis</i>									✓	✓			
13	Giant Hawkfish	<i>Cirrhitidae cirrhitus</i>										✓			
14	Guineau-fowl Puffer	<i>Arothron meleagris</i>									✓				
15	Hogfish	<i>Bodianus diplotaenia</i>										✓			
16	Jack sp.	<i>Euthynnus sp.</i>									✓				
17	King Angelfish	<i>Holocanthus passer</i>									✓	✓			
18	Spiny Lobster sp.	<i>Homarus sp.</i>										✓			
19	Mackerel	<i>Scomberomorous sp.</i>												✓	
20	Mahi mahi (Dorado)	<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>									✓				
21	Mexican Goatfish	<i>Mulloidichthys dentatus</i>									✓	✓			
22	Moorish Idol	<i>Zanclus canescens</i>									✓				
23	Manta Ray (Mobula)	<i>Manta birostris</i>									20			✓	
24	Spiny-tailed Mobula	<i>Mobula japanica</i>				✓						100			
25	Needlefish	<i>Strongylura exilis</i>									✓	✓			
26	Ocean Sunfish	<i>Mola mola</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓								
27	Pacific Boxfish	<i>Ostracion meleagris</i>									✓				
28	Pacific Sardine	<i>Sardinops sagax</i>									✓	✓			
29	Panamic Sergeant Major	<i>Abuldefduf troschelii</i>									✓	✓			
30	Pilot Fish	<i>Naucrates ductor</i>					✓								
31	Remora (Suckerfish)	<i>Remora remora</i>					✓				✓				
32	Reef Cornetfish	<i>Fistularia commersonii</i>									✓	✓			
33	Scalloped Hammerhead Shark	<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>				✓					3				
34	Scissortail Damselfish	<i>Chromis atrilobata</i>									✓	✓			
35	Striped Marlin	<i>Tetrapturus audax</i>									1	1			
36	Surgeon Fish sp.	<i>Acanthurus sp.</i>									✓				
37	Thresher Shark	<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>										1		2	

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March											
			24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
38	Yellowtail Surgeonfish	<i>Prionurus punctatus</i>										✓		
39	Yellowfin Tuna	<i>Thunnus albacares</i>					✓							
40	Orange-sided Triggerfish	<i>Sufflamen verres</i>										✓		
41	Grey-barred Grunt	<i>Conodon nobilis</i>										✓		
42	Flag Cobria											✓		
43	Bull's-eye Sting Ray	<i>Urobatis concentricus</i>										✓		
44	Skipjack Tuna	<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>										✓		
45	Sharp-chinned Flying Fish	<i>Fodiator acutus</i>											✓	

## Other Taxa

1	Fiddler Crabs	<i>Uca sp.</i>												12
2	Portuguese Man-o-war	<i>Physalia physalis</i>								4				3
3	Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	1											
4	Queen	<i>Danaus gilippus</i>									✓			

## Additional butterflies and moths recorded:

"Orange Tip"

Cloudless Sulphur

Bordered Patch

Orange Skipperling

Tropical Leafwing

Swallowtail sp

Harford's Sulphur

Mormon Metalmark

Dog-faced Butterfly

Mexican Blue-line

Camberwell Beauty

American Painted Lady

Gulf Fritillary

Funeral Duskwing

Silver-streaked Hairstreak

Ceranus Blue

White Crescent Longtail Skipper

Buckeye

Pipevine Swallowtail

Striped Hawkmoth