

Baja California & the Sea of Cortez

Naturetrek Tour Report

23 February – 7 March 2011



Blue Whale fluking



Humpback Whale breaching



Long-beaked Common Dolphins



Gray Whale

Tour report and images compiled by Tim Melling



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 Scottie - Engineer
 Steve - "Pockets"
 Kevin
 Dan - Chef
 Dean - Maître D

Participants: Bill Sarson
 Lorna Sarson
 David Kennedy
 Elaine Kennedy
 Ian Glenn
 Jill Glenn
 Andrew Baxter
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 John Cranmer
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 Tony Hemingway
 Anne Hemingway
 Mary Dyer
 Ian Balmer
 Wendy Balmer
 Geoff Kirk
 Lin Kirk
 Celia Clarke
 Bryn Lewis
 Stella Lewis
 Keith Mitchell
 Ros Mitchell
 Brian Smith
 Margaret Smith
 Richard Swinburn
 Chekkie Lonsdale

Day 1

Wednesday 23rd February

We left Heathrow Terminal 4 at 11:40am on time and arrived about nine and a half hours later in Houston/Fort Worth Airport, passing over a cloudless Greenland on the starboard side en route. We had a five hour wait for our connecting flight to San Diego but the security was surprisingly swift and easy with virtually no queues. Fort Worth isn't the best birdwatching airport but a few of us managed to see Great-tailed Grackles, including a large flock going to roost. The San Diego flight was on time, which took about three and a half hours, arriving at 10:30pm local time (8 hours behind UK and 2 hours behind Texas.). Fortunately, being a domestic flight we had no security checks at all so we walked straight out as our bags arrived. We caught taxis immediately and were at the Vagabond Inn before 11pm. The marvellous man on the reception responded to our plea for speed and simply handed out the keys without the usual necessary form-filling. I would like to say I slept soundly but my body clock was telling me it was time to get up at the time I went to bed.

Day 2

Thursday 24th February

San Diego

Over a Vagabond buffet breakfast, we met up with the twelve lucky people for whom this trip was just part of an even bigger adventure and who had headed out to America separately. On offer today was an optional extra activity to go birding at several local nature reserves with Phil Pryde, a representative of the local Audubon Society. Our boat wasn't scheduled to set sail until later in the afternoon, so we had most of the day to explore. Most people chose to stay local and do their own thing around San Diego, but seven signed up for the birding tour. The weather was perfect – occasionally sunny, warm and calm. The plan was to visit a range of habitats and we started with a walk around part of the harbour to begin to get a feel for America's avifauna. The area was very charming – as were some of the water-front houses – with some good birds including Least Sandpiper, Willet, Marbled Godwit, Western Grebe, Bufflehead, Surf Scoter, Anna's Hummingbird, Say's and Black Phoebe, and the ever-present Western Gulls, Audubon's Warblers, Brown Pelicans, and House Finches.

A short drive to the east and up into the low hills took us to chaparral habitat and a beautiful reserve called Silverwood. Most of our time here was spent at the idyllic feeding station (birds and people) where we saw a great range of species including lots of Anna's Hummingbirds at nectar feeders, Golden-crowned and White-crowned Sparrow, Oregon Junco, Nuttall's and Acorn Woodpeckers, Lesser Goldfinch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Spotted and California Towhee, Western Scrub Jay, Raven, California Thrasher, Merlin, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and California Ground Squirrel. The Merlin was apparently a first reserve record, and Phil was a little sceptical, but she sat on the same perch throughout our stay allowing ample time for confirmation.

Lindo Lake is a fairly large suburban freshwater lake and introduced us to Ring-billed Gull, Wood Duck, Ruddy Duck, Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, American Coot, Moorhen, Great Blue Heron, Great-tailed Grackle, Yellowthroat, Red-winged and Tricoloured Blackbirds, a Greenland White-fronted Goose, Nuttall's Woodpeckers. White throated Swifts, Violet Gree, Rough-winged and Tree Swallows and Cassin's Kingbirds.

Next stop was the long tidal San Diego River Estuary channel, heading out to the coast, north of Point Loma. Rather canalised and engineered in appearance, it was however a great spot for waterbirds.

Here we saw Caspian Tern, Royal Terns, Little Blue Heron, Black Brant, Western Sandpiper, Dunlin, Sanderling, Greater Yellowlegs, Grey Plover, Semi-palmated Plover, Willet, Whimbrel, Long-billed Curlew, Lesser Scaup, Pied-billed Grebe, Blue-winged Teal, Pintail, Red-breasted Merganser, American Wigeon and Great Egret.

Famosa Slough was the final destination, a small urban wetland imaginatively restored and protected by a local group of enthusiasts. Star birds here were American Avocet and Black-necked Stilt, American Coot, Lesser Scaup, Pied-billed Grebe and Black-necked Grebe plus hundreds of Short-billed Dowitchers.

We returned to the Vagabond in good time to collect our belongings, rendezvous with the rest of the group and head down to the nearby harbour in preparation for boarding the much-anticipated 'Spirit of Adventure'. Before long, tour leader Scot Anderson located us, introduced himself, and we began to board the Spirit and meet the crew. This was a really memorable moment – starting to get to know the boat and the guys who would be looking after us (little did we know just how well) for the next 11 days and nights. Once settled, Scot gathered us to give an introductory talk over a tasty buffet, and explain the general pattern of the forthcoming days, and then skipper Brian covered the Health & Safety aspects of life at sea.

We cast off around 10pm and cruised slowly out of the harbour via the large fish holding and grow-out pens, stocked with White Sea Bass, which are an irresistible magnet for every piscivorous bird and sea lion in the bay. These raft-like structures with slatted timber decks hold tens of thousands of fish and are permanently attended by California Sea Lions, hundreds of Brandt's Cormorants, Great Blue and Night Herons, which mop up any fish that dare escape the cages. The long day's excitement over, we retired to our cabins for our first night of being lulled to sleep by the movement of the boat and the background drone of her engines.

Day 3

Friday 25th February

Todos Santos

After sailing south through the night, we arrived at Ensenada port at dawn, where the crew sorted out the Mexican customs formalities. The still waters of the harbour held Surf Scoter, Western Grebe plus a few Glaucous-winged Gulls. We headed for Todos Santos islands and pretty soon we encountered about 300 photogenic Common Dolphins. They appeared to be Long-beaked Common Dolphins and they spent ages playing around the boat and bow-riding. Around Todos Santos we saw Black Oystercatchers and two Rhinoceros Auklets. There were also a couple of Peregrines plus Elephant Seals and Harbour Seals on the beach. We headed south and quickly saw our first whale, a Fin Whale which breached a few times but was rather distant.

Pushing south through the afternoon we encountered 500 more Long-beaked Common Dolphins. Small flocks of Grey Phalarope began to appear along with small numbers of Xantu's Murrelets. The day then quietened down apart from pulses of birds, hundreds of Sooty and Black-vented Shearwaters plus several Pink-footed Shearwaters. A single rare Buller's Shearwater was also seen, possibly a result of the La Nina weather system as this is a New Zealand species. Late afternoon we spotted a large group of 20+ Fin Whales which were feeding right next to the boat. Some bright red excrement showed they had been feeding on Krill. Among them were about 5 Humpbacks, our third Rorqual of the day.

Day 4

Saturday 26th February

San Benitos

Sailing south right through the night at the usual steady ten knots, we arrived at the islands of San Benitos just after breakfast. A Cassin's Auklet had landed on the boat overnight so we took a few photographs before it was released. These remote volcanic islands west of the 'barb' half way down the Baja Peninsula are home to a small seasonal outpost of Mexican fisherman - and a wealth of marine wildlife including colonies of Elephant Seals, Guadalupe Fur Seals, and large numbers of burrow-nesting auklets, murrelets and storm-petrels. Our first skiff rides of the trip took us into shore at the small landing beach, where a few elephant seals grumbled petulantly. Several Ospreys flew overhead and a single Belted Kingfisher flew past. The immediate area was strewn with abalone shells, gathered in large numbers by the local fishermen. Passing through the camp, where there was a Mockingbird and a Peregrine plus several ravens. Songbirds are not abundant on these rocky outcrops but we did see the local endemic race of Savannah Sparrow, although it probably qualifies as a full species.

On the western edge of the island was a colony of Elephant Seals, with lots of Guadalupe Fur Seals all around the area as well. A pair of Ospreys had a huge nest on a rock stack behind the colony, and we saw our first American Oystercatchers here too. We all had to be careful where we stepped, as the ground was riddled with seabird burrows, many of which looked to be active.

We split the group at this point for the more energetic to follow Scot up to the top of the island's mountain, and the rest to stay with Tim and return along the coast towards a larger colony of Elephant Seals. Scot's group saw Yellow-crowned Night Heron and Palm Warbler on their hike. whilst Tim's saw more shore birds including Wandering Tattler, Black Oystercatcher, Black Turnstone, Whimbrel and Grey Plover. A single Red-tailed Hawk was probably wondering where all the rabbits had gone (they were extirpated by one man and his Jack Russells a few years ago. Both groups managed to see Bottle-nosed Dolphins in a bay on the north shore.

After some refreshments back on the Spirit, we took several skiff rides along the coastline of the adjacent island. We managed to get some good photos of Sea Lions and Harbour Seals, plus a Wandering Tattler. Steaming south once again through the late afternoon we saw several Grey Phalaropes and a single Cook's Petrel. Hundreds of Black-vented Shearwaters and Cassin's Auklets were around but all the Murrelets identified proved to be the rarer Xantu's. Early evening we saw some whale blows ahead which turned out to be our first Blue Whales, further north than we were expecting. Mike tracked them on the sonar and we had some great close views of four or five animals.

Day 5

Sunday 27th February

San Ignacio

Gray Whale sightings became increasingly frequent as we approached the entrance to San Ignacio Lagoon. A submerged sand-bar lies just a few fathoms deep across the mouth of the lagoon, which can only be safely crossed when the tide is right. Most of the inner region of this lagoon is a no-go zone, part of the Parque Natural de la Laguna de San Ignacio, designated primarily for its global importance as the top site for breeding Gray Whales, but also for a vast wealth of other wildlife. Inside the lagoon the water seemed to be boiling with Gray Whales but with good numbers of Bottlenosed Dolphins too.

One of the main events of the whole trip, the skiff (or pangas as the Mexicans call them) rides around this lagoon are an experience to remember. Our first trip was in rather windy conditions and we all enjoyed close views of spyhopping but they were a little shy of coming close. After lunch they seemed more relaxed and everyone managed to touch a whale! Splashing the water seemed to help attract the animals, but they were simply doing as they pleased and at their own pace. Barnacles frequently infest the whales' skin and any object in the water provides a hard surface to rub against, presumably to try and dislodge a few. It's also thought that the females are showing the newborn calves around their new world. Bird life within the lagoon was very impressive, with thousands of wintering Black Brants plus Whimbrel, Long-billed Curlew, Willet, Marbled Godwit, Great Egret, Tri-coloured Heron, Little Blue Heron, , Turkey Vulture, Royal Tern, Great Northern and Pacific Diver, Surf Scoter and many thousands of Brown Pelicans all on offer.

Day 6

Monday 28th February

San Ignacio

Another clear, cloudless morning...though pretty windy for our early morning trip to the mangroves, where it was beautifully calm. Red Mangrove and the smaller leaved White Mangrove grow here, and they support lots of birdlife. Within an hour or so we had seen Yellow-crowned and Black-crowned Night Heron, Great Blue, Tri-coloured and Little Blue Heron, Great, Reddish and Snowy Egret, Spotted Sandpiper, Caspian Tern, Red-breasted Mergansers, Black Brants, White Ibis (flyover), Northern Harrier, Belted Kingfisher and Double-crested Cormorants. A lucky few also managed to see a couple of Clapper Rails. Passerines were few, but we managed to see several Mangrove Warblers (a localised endemic) plus the dark saltmarsh race of Savannah Sparrow known as Belding's Sparrow..

A late-morning panga trip gave some of us our penultimate chance to get up close and personal with the enormous Gray Whales. There was much mating activity going on and we even managed to see the legendary "Pink Floyd" (the local euphemism for the Gray Whale's male member!).

Some people opted for an afternoon skiff ride to the nearby beach, whilst others took their final opportunity on the pangas to get that perfect whale shot. The beach was vast, windswept and primal – covered in millions of shells and littered with the sun-bleached bones of dolphins. We took a long walk along the shell-line and through the dunes before heading back to the skiff and the Spirit. Some of the living highlights of the walk were Frigatebirds, Ospreys, Snowy and Black-bellied Plovers. The time had come by early evening to leave San Ignacio and continue our journey south. Waves were rolling nicely over the sand-bar on exit, but Mike again found a smooth route back out to sea, pausing to avoid colliding with Gray Whales en route. Bottlenosed Dolphins also rode the bow on the way out. As the sun went down we saw Arctic Skua plus a pale adult Pomarine Skua at the lagoon mouth

Day 7

Tuesday 1st March

Magdalena Bay

Today was spent at sea relaxing and cruising steadily past the vast Magdalena Bay area on our way south. Soon after breakfast we started to see enormous flocks of phalaropes, perhaps three to five thousand birds, mixed but mostly Red-necked Phalaropes.

We also saw a few Frigatebirds, Craveri's Murrelets and several Loggerhead Turtles. We then encountered about 500 Common Dolphins that were very photogenic in the glassy clear water, bow-riding for ages. A couple of Ocean Sunfish were also seen well, plus several more Loggerhead Turtles, though they were less cooperative. A single Humpback Whale wasn't very cooperative but two later in the afternoon were more showy, revealing their flukes on diving. An elusive Bryde's Whale eventually gave itself up and showed its three diagnostic rostrum ridges.

The afternoon was pretty quiet although a Tropicbird added a flurry of excitement. Then as the sun set we encountered an enormous group of 1000+ Common Dolphins that were highly energetic and kept us entertained until after sunset. There was also a green flash on the sunset which probably quietened the doubters.

Day 8

Wednesday 2nd March

Cabo San Lucas & Los Frailes

After sailing through the night we awoke to mobile phone reception and several Frigatebirds circling round the boat. There was also a lot of dolphin activity again, both Long-beaked Commons and Bottlenosed. It wasn't long before we started seeing Humpback Whales but it took us an hour until we found an interesting group of nine males chasing around and lunging together. We also saw two tropicbirds taking an interest in the fizzing water surface caused by a shoal of sardines. A single Black Storm Petrel and a Townsend's Shearwater were only seen by a few. After an hour or so of watching this group we spotted a distant breaching whale. It kept on breaching as Mike sped closer and closer until we reached the spot. To our great delight it continued breaching right in front of us, interspersed with flipper flopping, lying on its back and raising its flippers together then splashing them back down. In all it must have breached forty times, though each one was a little less energetic than the previous as he wore himself out. Surprisingly two more whales also breached nearby, each one photographed and proved to be separate individuals by their belly patterns. As if this wasn't enough we also found a mother and calf where the calf also attempted breaching and repeatedly lob-tailed. Two Gray Whales sneaking north along the coast scarcely got any attention with all this going on.

In the afternoon, we dropped anchor at the small settlement of Los Frailes on the east coast of the cape, and got ourselves ready for our first snorkelling adventure. The skiffs took us in to the beach, from where many of the group snorkelled around the neighbouring rocks. The water was tolerably refreshing, and a good diversity of underwater life was seen including Cortez Chubb, Damsel fish and Rainbow Wrasse, Hogfish, King Angelfish, Moorish Idol, and Panamic Sergeant Major. A small group opted for a skiff ride and saw Osprey and Wandering Tattler.

Tim took an advance party birdwatching, joined later by Scot and the snorkellers. During the walk around the Los Frailes area, we saw a good range of land birds making for a nice introduction to the desert/scrub avifauna of the cape region. Species included the endemic Xantu's Hummingbird, White-winged and Common Ground Doves, Turkey Vulture, Crested Caracara, Scott's and Hooded Orioles, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Gray and Bell's Vireos, Gray, Pacific Slope and Ash-throated Flycatcher, Verdin, Blue-gray and California Gnatcatchers, Lark, Black-chinned and White-crowned Sparrows, Gila and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, Cardinal, Phainopepla, Costa's Hummingbird, Green-tailed Towhee, McGillivray's Warblers. Grey Thrasher, California Quail and Roadrunners. We set off north after dark in extremely choppy conditions. Most opted for an early night.

Day 9

Thursday 3rd March

San Jose

Another overnight sailing brought us to the San Jose Island region by first light. Conditions were blowy so we opted for a mangrove visit in the sheltered south of San Jose. A few Bottlenosed Dolphins were around the boat plus our first Yellow-footed Gulls. The mangroves gave us Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Reddish and Snowy Egrets, Green Heron, White Ibis, Osprey and Belted Kingfisher. Turkey Vultures warming up atop Cordon Cactuses were everywhere. In the mangroves we saw Porcupine Pufferfish and Bullseye Stingrays. Nearby there were a few birds on a rocky hillock; Verdin, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Costa's Hummingbird and a Rock Wren.

Late morning we went snorkelling in the same area. After lunch we headed north and watched Brown and Blue-footed Boobies on a rocky island. The Blue-foots were displaying with their exaggerated foot paddling and bill pointing. Later we encountered two Fin Whales showing their diagnostic white lower jaws on the right side. We continued north and came across 300 Common Dolphins in a feeding frenzy with a bait ball of Ballyhoo fish. Above the water gulls, pelicans and frigatebirds competed for the fish that leapt out of water to escape the dolphins. At times the water around the boat was simply boiling with dolphin activity. We continued north to Santa Cruz where we anchored for dinner.

Day 10

Friday 4th March

Santa Catalina

In the evening we sailed north and anchored overnight at Santa Catalina where it was cloudless but breezy. We then went on a hike among the impressive forest of Cordon and Barrel Cacti. The birds were plentiful; Cardinal, Green-tailed Towhee, Gila and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, Hooded Oriole, Ravens, Peregrine, Black-throated Sparrow, Mockingbirds, Ash-throated and Pacific Slope Flycatchers and Verdin. Best of all (well, maybe for the birders) was a group of five Black-chinned Sparrows with a single Brewer's Sparrow. Unfortunately the elusive rattleless Rattlesnake remained unseen.

We also did some snorkelling in crystal clear waters giving a great variety of reef fish including a large green Moray Eel. After a lunch of pizza we headed out into the Sea of Cortez to look for whales. We were a little despondent as the sea conditions were a little on the rough side. After an hour we passed a Bryde's Whale and a South Polar Skua, and then we noticed some distant large blows. We headed west and the sea became calm and we found four Blue Whales including a photogenic mother and calf. The calf was rolling and playing at the surface. We then headed for another Blue Whale but a pod of Dolphins got in the way and blocked our view on the sonar. Mike eventually relocated the whale and it was a great fluker, occasionally lunge feeding on krill at the surface. We stayed with this excellent individual until sunset. An amazing afternoon!

Day 11

Saturday 5th March

Nopolo

After breakfast we set off in search of whales and it wasn't long before we located a Blue Whale, though sadly not a fluker. We then encountered about 300 Common Dolphins which caused the whale to change course, as if being bothered by flies. We left these and encountered another Blue Whale, again, a non-fluker.

Just before lunch we encountered our biggest pod of Dolphins yet with at least 1500 animals, highly energetic too. There were plenty of Black Storm Petrels among the Dolphins plus an obliging Tropicbird, one of three seen that day.

Just before lunch we visited a beach and some vegetated desert near a headland called Los Gatos. On the beach were Oystercatchers, Reddish and Snowy Egrets. In the scrub we found Black-chinned and Vesper Sparrows, Cactus Wrens, American Kestrel, Cardinal and Pyrruloxia, California Gnatcatcher and Scrub Jay.

The afternoon was quiet, apart from the occasional Mobula. Scot fished out some Sargassum Weed where he found fish and hooded nudibranchs (sea slugs). We arrived at Napolo at about 3pm and managed to see Xantu's and Costa's Hummingbirds, Black and Say's Phoebes, Hooded Orioles, Black-headed Grosbeak plus a lucky one or two saw Roadrunner and California Quail. We arrived back on the boat to margaritas, served by the crew.

Day 12

Sunday 6th March

Los Islottes

We anchored early morning off Punto Colorado and went for an early morning walk. Very little bird life but we did see the resident Chuckwall lizard in his usual crevice. We also saw the fossilized whale bones and turtle shell. The sea was mirror calm as we sailed south towards Los Islottes (and Espiritu Santu) and we soon spotted four Dwarf Sperm Whales, showing about as well as they do. We also passed a single Bryde's Whale and two distant Blue Whales. Several Green Turtles were also seen including one that allowed close approach. We also saw a few interesting birds; two Long-tailed Skuas, Black Storm Petrels, Black-vented Shearwaters, Craveri's Murrelets and a single Cassin's Auklet (unusual for the Sea of Cortez).

We arrived at Los Islottes and many had an experience of a lifetime snorkeling with Sea Lions. A lucky few saw a group playing water polo with an inflated Guineafowl Pufferfish. The sea was brimming with fish in this area, including huge shoals of young herring. We then took skiff rides around the rocks to see the Blue-footed and Brown Boobies, Magnificent Frigatebirds, Brandt's Cormorants, Brown Pelicans, Ravens and Osprey. Most unusual was a single juvenile Red-footed Booby. After a long afternoon in flat calm conditions we finally spotted some distant Blue Whales. Mike homed in and we managed to get great sunset views of a "long-winded" individual. Eventually it started lunge feeding at the surface against a beautiful orange sky. A fantastic end to a fantastic holiday...

Day 13

Monday 7th March

San Jose del Cabo

For our final sailing into the harbour at San Jose del Cabo, we were greeted by about 200 Common Dolphins. With great reluctance we said our thank yous and goodbyes to the crew who had looked after us impeccably, and to Scot who had been a pleasure to be with and had given us all the benefit of his deep understanding of the marine wildlife of this spectacular region. The taxi ride to the airport took around an hour and gave us a glimpse of a more urban Mexico than we had seen thus far. People were headed in different directions on various flights, but we all took with us memories that will last a lifetime from what has to be one of the best whale-watching trips available to anyone anywhere.

(Around the airport there were quite a few birds to enjoy, including Cactus Wrens, Ruddy Ground Doves, Scrub Jays, Gilded Flicker, Gila Woodpecker, Lark Sparrows, Cardinals and Pyrruloxias.)

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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>				3	3							
2	Pacific Diver	<i>Gavia pacifica</i>		3		1								
3	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>												
4	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	100	2			6							
5	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	3											
6	Western Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>	2	1										
7	Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>		3	2			1						
8	Pink-footed Shearwater	<i>Puffinus creatopus</i>		20				10	2					
9	Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>		200										
10	Black-vented Shearwater	<i>Puffinus opisthomelas</i>		200	1000	100		20	10				5	
11	Townsend's Shearwater	<i>Puffinus townsendi</i>							1					
12	Buller's Shearwater	<i>Puffinus bulleri</i>		1										
13	Black Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma melania</i>							1			20	20	
14	Cook's Petrel	<i>Pterodroma cookie</i>			1									
15	Red-billed tropicbird	<i>Phaethon aethereus</i>						1	3			3		
16	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>					3	10	30	50	40	50	30	30
17	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	30	5	10	20	30		50	50	100	50	30	30
18	Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>								3	3	2	20	
19	Blue-footed Booby	<i>Sula nebouxii</i>								8	50	10	40	
20	Masked Booby	<i>Sula dactylatra</i>												
21	Red-footed Booby	<i>Sula sula</i>											1	
22	Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	50	20	30	50	50		40	30	10	10		20
23	Brandt's Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	700	30	10	4				100	10	10	40	
24	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea Herodias</i>	5			5	8			2		2	1	
25	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	20			10	5							
26	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	20				2			10	1	1		2
27	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	2				1							
28	Tricoloured Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>				1	10			3				
29	Reddish Egret	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>					4			5		1		

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March											
			24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
30	Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>								1				
31	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	3				1							
32	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax violacea</i>			1		6			4				
33	White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>				8	18			10				
34	Black Brant	<i>Branta bernicla nigricans</i>	20			100	100							
35	White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>	1											
36	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	20											
37	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	20											
38	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>	20											
39	Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	16									3		
40	American Wigeon	<i>Anas Americana</i>	40											
41	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	20											
42	Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	30											
43	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	8			1	3							
44	Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	30											
45	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	20											
46	Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	6											
47	Surf Scoter	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>	30	20		30	50							
48	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	1			10	6		50	100	30	50	20	30
49	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	16		1				1		1			2
50	Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	1											
51	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>			8	1	2		1	1		1	1	
52	Northern Caracara	<i>Caracara plancus</i>							1					
53	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	1											
54	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrines</i>		2	2						1		1	
55	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	1									2		
56	Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperi</i>	2											
57	Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>					1				1			
58	Californian quail	<i>Callipepla californica</i>							1			3		
59	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	5											
60	American Coot	<i>Fulica Americana</i>	50											
61	Clapper Rail	<i>Rallus longirostris</i>					2							

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March											
			24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
62	Black Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus bachmani</i>		4	2									
63	American Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>			2						2	2		
64	American Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra Americana</i>	4											
65	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	4											
66	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferous</i>							1					
67	Snowy Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>					20							
68	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	30		10		2							
69	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	1				7							
70	Willet	<i>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</i>	30			20	40							
71	Wandering Tattler	<i>Heteroscelus incanus</i>			2				1					
72	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	1				2		3	2	1	8		
73	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus</i>	5		2	1				4				
74	Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	10			10	50							
75	Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>	30			200	100							
76	Black Turnstone	<i>Arenaria melanocephala</i>			10									
77	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	2											
78	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>					20			30				
79	Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	8			200	40							
80	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	30				15		10	30		1		
81	Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>												
82	Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	200											
83	Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>		3	7			2000						
84	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>						3000						
85	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>		1			1	2						
86	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>					1		1					
87	Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>											2	
88	South Polar Skua	<i>Catharacta maccormicki</i>									1			
89	Heermann's Gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>		20	50	30				5	30	10	4	
90	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	100											
91	California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	100	100		40	40	100	20	20		2		
92	Yellow-footed Gull	<i>Larus livens</i>								100	20	50	50	
93	Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	200	100	50	20	20	40	20					

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March											
			24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
94	Glaucous-winged Gull	<i>Larus glaucescens</i>			1									
95	Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>		10										
96	Royal Tern	<i>Sterna maxima</i>	40	5	6	20	30			30	8	4		
97	Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	1				2			4				
98	Xantus' Murrelet	<i>Synthliboramphus hypoleucus</i>		8	8									
99	Craveri's Murrelet	<i>Synthliboramphus craveri</i>		2				20		6		4	10	
100	Cassins' Auklet	<i>Ptychoramphus aleuticus</i>		400	1000								1	
101	Rhinoceros Auklet	<i>Cyclorhynchus psittacula</i>		4										
102	White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>							20		10	4		10
103	Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	20											2
104	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	2											
105	Common Ground Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>							20					1
106	Ruddy Ground Dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>												2
107	Greater Roadrunner	<i>Geococcyx californianus</i>							3			1		1
108	White-throated Swift	<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>	5								1			
109	Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	40											
110	Costa's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte costae</i>							4	1	1	3	2	5
111	Xantus' Hummingbird	<i>Hylocharis xantusii</i>							3			3		
112	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	1		1		1			1				
113	Gilded Flicker	<i>Colaptes chrysoides</i>												5
114	Gila Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes uropygialis</i>							5		4	2		5
115	Ladder-backed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides scalaris</i>							2		4			
116	Nuttall's Woodpecker	<i>Picoides nuttalli</i>	4											
117	Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerptes formicivorus</i>	3											
118	Red-shafted Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	2											
119	Ash-throated Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>							10	1	10	3		4
120	Pacific Slope Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax difficillis</i>							1		1	1		1
121	Gray Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax wrightii</i>							1					
122	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	2									1		
123	Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis sayi</i>	1									1		
124	Cassin's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>	3											
125	Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>												

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March												
			24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
126	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	20				2								
127	Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	5												
128	Violet Green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>	2												
129	White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	2												
130	Western Scrub Jay	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>	10									2		10	
131	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	5		10					3	2	10	4	4	8
132	American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	50												
133	Verdin	<i>Auriparus flaviceps</i>								15	2	20	4	2	10
134	Bushtit	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>	2												
135	Cactus Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i>											2		12
136	Canyon Wren	<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>													
137	Rock Wren	<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>									1				
138	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliophtila caerulea</i>								5		2			2
139	California Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliophtila californica</i>								10			2		6
140	Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia Mexicana</i>													
141	Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>			1					20		20	5	1	5
142	Gray Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma cinereum</i>								5			2		10
143	California Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma reclinivum</i>	1												
144	European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	100												
145	Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>					1			2		3			
146	Gray Vireo	<i>Vireo vicinior</i>								1					
147	Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>								1					
148	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	1												
149	Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Vermivora celata</i>	1							1					1
150	Mangrove Warbler	<i>Dendroica bryanti</i>						8							
151	Palm Warbler	<i>Dendroica palmarum</i>			1										
152	Audubon's Warbler	<i>Dendroica auduboni</i>	30		2					2		2	2		1
153	Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	1										1		
154	MacGillivray's Warbler	<i>Oporornis philadelphia</i>								4					
155	Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>								5		1	3		4
156	Pyrrhuloxia	<i>Cardinalis sinuatis</i>								12			2	1	2
157	Green-tailed Towhee	<i>Pipilo chlorurus</i>								2		2	2		2

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March											
			24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
158	Spotted Towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>	1											
159	California Towhee	<i>Pipilo crissalis</i>	1											
160	Black-throated Sparrow	<i>Amphispiza bilineata</i>							10		20	5	6	
161	Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>			50									
162	Belding's Sparrow	<i>P. sandwichensis beldingi</i>					20							
163	Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	2											
164	Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>							3					4
165	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	50		5				20					
166	White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	20						1					
167	Golden-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia atricapilla</i>	1											
168	Black-chinned Sparrow	<i>Spizella atrogularis</i>									5	3		
169	Brewer's Sparrow	<i>Spizella breweri</i>									1			
170	Vesper Sparrow	<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>										1		
171	Oregon Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	20											
172	Scott's Oriole	<i>Icterus parisorum</i>							5					2
173	Hooded Oriole	<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>							20		5	8		10
174	House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	100		10				20		20	5		20
175	Lawrence's Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis lawrencei</i>												
176	Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis psaltria</i>	30						2			2		
177	Black-headed Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>							10			2		2
178	Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	20											
179	Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	5											
180	Tricoloured Blackbird	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	1											
181	Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>							30					

Mammals

1	Gray Whale	<i>Eschrichtius robustus</i>		15		400	400	2	2					
2	Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>			5						7	2	4	
3	Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>		22						2				
4	Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>		5				3	25		1			
5	Bryde's Whale	<i>Balaenoptera brydei</i>						1			1		1	
6	Dwarf Sperm Whale	<i>Kogia simus</i>											3	

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March											
			24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>			3	20	20		25	10				
8	Long-beaked Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus capensis</i>		700				1500	200	300	300	2000	10	
9	Short-beaked Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>		50										
10	Harbour Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>		15	10									
11	California Sea Lion	<i>Zalophus californianus</i>	100	20	100				10	4	2		200	
12	Guadalupe Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus townsendi</i>			50									
13	Northern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga angustirostris</i>		4	200									
14	White-tailed Jackrabbit	<i>Lepus townsendi</i>	2											
15	Black-tailed Jackrabbit	<i>Lepus californicus</i>							1					
16	Whitetail Antelope Squirrel	<i>Ammospermophilus leucurus</i>							1					
17	California Ground Squirrel	<i>Citellus beecheyi</i>	10											