

Baja California & the Sea of Cortez

Naturetrek Tour Report

22 March – 4 April 2016



Friendly Grey Whale



Whale Shark



Mangrove Warbler



Baja California 'rattleless' Rattlesnake

Report compiled by Lee Morgan



Naturetrek Mingledown Barn Wolf's Lane Chawton Alton Hampshire GU34 3HJ England

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

F: +44 (0)1962 736426

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour participants: Lee Morgan (leader) and Rob (local naturalist) with 25 Naturetrek clients
M/V Searcher: Captain Aaron Remy, Jed, Joe, Ryan, Charley and Dan

Day 1

Tuesday 22nd March

London (Heathrow) - San Diego

After a long flight, the group landed in a sunny San Diego about 5.10pm and transferred to the nearby Ramada Airport hotel. While some opted for an early night, others used the remaining hours of daylight to explore the harbour and have some food in one of the nearby restaurants before eventually drawing an end to their long day.

Day 2

Wednesday 23rd March

San Diego – Board M/V Searcher

After three days of much needed heavy rain, we were fortunate to wake to a very beautiful sunny morning in San Diego's Point Loma harbour. Some were up early and ventured out for a pre-breakfast look around the harbour while others took time for a leisurely breakfast and prepared for the day of birding ahead. Those who were up and out exploring before breakfast watched the raucous Lilac-crowned Parrots visiting the trees in the nearby car parks and the sunrise over the harbour.

Most of the group joined our guided tour of some of San Diego's nature reserves and birding hotspots with the local Audubon Society. At 9am we met in the hotel lobby, ready to set off on foot for some gentle birding around the picturesque harbour. We quickly kick-started our day with views of lots of Western and Eared (Black-necked) Grebes, and a rather spectacular look at a Lilac-crowned Amazon feeding in a Loquat (*Eriobotrya japonica*) tree.

A short bus journey took us across the city to Lindo Lake where we watched American White Pelican, Great Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, had some great views of Killdeer, and saw lots of Black-necked Stilts and a surprise Wilson's Snipe feeding around the margins of one of the lakes. We had a nice introduction to a variety of ducks and geese including Wood Duck, Northern Pintail, Ruddy Duck, and Green-winged and Cinnamon Teals to name but a few. We also had some nice views of Cooper's Hawk and Cassin's Kingbird, and our first mammals of the trip: a very industrious Gopher and California Ground Squirrels.

Another short bus ride and we arrived at Silverwoods, a small nature reserve set amidst the oak chaparral-covered hills to the north of the city. Here we got some great views of a Great Horned Owl at the nest and had the chance to have a close look at a rather beautiful Speckled Rattlesnake that had been trapped so that it could be marked and released back into the reserve. A picnic lunch at the feeding station gave everyone time for some very relaxed birding and the chance to spot more California Ground Squirrels as well as California Towhee, White-crowned Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco as they visited the feeders.

After lunch, we headed back across town to the San Diego River estuary where, amidst a ridiculous number of Black Skimmers (probably the entire San Diego population) we spotted Least Sandpiper, Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers, Marbled Godwit and Willet. We also saw Little Blue Heron, Great Egret, Brown Pelican, Western Osprey and numerous other wonderful species before we eventually had to drag ourselves away and head back to the hotel.

After our whirlwind introduction to the birding and wildlife around San Diego, we arrived back by mid-afternoon and immediately transferred our luggage to M/V Searcher. Most then took the chance to explore the harbour some more, have a bite to eat and generally relax onboard the boat before we all congregated ready for our safety briefing and our introductions to the boat and the crew.

It was nearly 9.30pm when we cast off and headed out into the twinkling lights of San Diego Harbour. Our usual detour via the bait pens at the entrance to the harbour provided those that were still awake with some lamp-lit views of plenty of California Sea Lions and a few Black-crowned Night Herons and Great Blue Herons before we eventually headed out of the harbour on to rolling swells. The swells soon subsided and we settled into a quiet night of travel; southwards towards Ensenada.

Day 3

Thursday 24th March

Ensenada – Todos Santo

It was just before sunrise as we came in to dock in Ensenada Harbour and most were just waking and enjoying their morning coffee as Mexican customs officials came aboard to issue our visas. Our customs check was brief and we were soon setting out once more onto diminishing swells.

It was a lovely day though, and the sun was starting to get really warm as we approached Isla Todos Santos and cruised slowly by the island in the sunshine. We were able to catch a glimpse of a few Black Oystercatchers, a Peregrine Falcon, and a Pelagic Cormorant amidst the Western Gulls and Brown Pelicans. The island had its usual collection of Harbour Seals and Northern Elephant Seals (mostly pups) hauled out on the beaches.

We continued our journey south, maintaining a constant vigil for wildlife as we travelled. There was plenty of life around but the sea conditions made it a little difficult to work at times. Nonetheless, as we travelled we spotted several travelling Gray Whales, a couple of smaller groups of Long-beaked Common Dolphins and a single large Bottlenose Dolphin. Later in the afternoon we managed to find two large Blue Whales and we got some great views before they eventually gave us the slip. We also found two Minke Whales that proved to be a little boat shy as well. However, it was our first day and to have already seen so many species (albeit brief views) was still very exciting. As if all that wasn't enough, we also managed to spot a distant Humpback Whale, two very, very large Ocean Sunfish, and had some fantastic views of Black-footed Albatross. All in all, it was a good day on the water.

The diminished seas made for a calm night of motoring south and as darkness fell, the tiredness began to kick in....just when Rob started his presentation on Marine Mammals.

Day 4

Friday 25th March

Isla San Benitos

After a relatively gentle night's travel most were up early, ready to enjoy a good breakfast before our day ashore on Isla San Benito. The sea was relatively calm as we arrived at our anchorage off Isla San Benito. A couple of Heermann's and California Gulls lingered around the boat as we had our introduction on boarding the skiffs for the first time, and we were all safely ashore ready to start our walk before 7am.

We started our walk admiring the variety of treasures washed up on the beach, before moving up through the village where we could take a closer look at some of the typical plants of the Island (many of which are endemic species). We stopped for a closer look at some of the numerous seabird burrows and some of the artificial nestboxes that have been established on the island to monitor the nesting success of the thousands of Cassin's Auklets, Scripp's and Guadalupe Murrelets, storm petrels and shearwaters that nest on these inaccessible islands. We were even lucky enough to get a close look at a Cassin's Auklet too.

We continued around the island where we found plenty of Northern Elephant Seals. Most were weaners, adult females and sub-adult males going through catastrophic moult. We managed to spot a few California Sea Lions and the odd Guadeloupe Fur Seal as we explored the beaches on the eastern side of the island.

Some people took the opportunity to get up close and personal with some of the island's Cacti, particularly the Jumping Cholla, as we ascended the notorious 'Cholla Ravine'. Nevertheless, we all made it through alive and we started our ascent towards the summit of the island where we encountered large flocks of Horned Larks, some of which afforded the enthusiastic photographers some good opportunities for a photograph or two. We also spotted small mixed flocks of White-crowned, Lincoln's and Golden-crowned Sparrows, and plenty of the endemic race of Savannah Sparrow too. We stopped for lunch at the scenic outlook at the old derelict lighthouse where we scanned for whales as we enjoyed our picnic under the watchful eye of curious Northern Ravens.

After lunch we descended to sea level at the back of the island, encountering more beaches filled with more Northern Elephant seals. Some fantastic views of Western Osprey at the nest were undoubtedly one of the bird highlights for many. Some people also enjoyed nice views of Costa's Hummingbird, Black Brant and Black Turnstone too. All this and a rather stinky dead Sperm Whale on the beach too.....what a treat!

By 2.30pm we were all back aboard the boat and were soon continuing our journey south to Laguna San Ignacio. The strong breeze from the morning that had kept us cool during our hike on the island had raised the sea state a little, but we spotted numerous Black-vented Shearwaters and Cassin's Auklets as we travelled. An encounter with a large, scattered group of Common Dolphins provided a lot of entertainment when they came in close to ride on the boat's bow-wave. We maintained our vigil for the remainder of the day, catching a glimpse of another very large Blue Whale that once again gave us the slip and many more seabirds.

The rougher seas began to diminish towards night fall and we enjoyed a delicious meal as we travelled, followed by another one of Rob's fascinating talks on Whale Biology.

Day 5

Saturday 26th March

San Ignacio

After a very peaceful night of travel, we approached the entrance to San Ignacio Lagoon soon after breakfast, and we all watched numerous Gray Whales as our Captain and crew carefully manoeuvred us slowly over the shallow sandbar into lagoon. Bottlenose Dolphins rode the bow briefly and Gray Whales surfaced and fluked close to the boat as we motored slowly to our anchorage. By 8am we were anchored in the heart of the observation zone in the lagoon with Gray Whales surfacing around us.

After a quick briefing on the lagoon, we were quickly ushered to the pangas for our first close-up introduction. The local panga drivers skilfully manoeuvred into position so we could get the best look at some of the whales, but the whales wasted no time in getting friendly and approached the boats almost immediately, allowing for some sensational observation and interactions. During the course of our day we enjoyed four very similar 90 minute panga trips, two before lunch and two after, and by the end of the day everyone had had the opportunity to interact with the whales and the chance to observe whale's fluking, breaching and spy-hopping. Our time on the water also provided us with some nice views of California Sealion, Bottlenose Dolphin, a few Elegant and Royal Terns, Pomarine Skua, Common and Pacific Loons, and Surf Scoter. When we returned to the boat we even had Reddish Egret, White Ibis and Marbled Godwit fly over too.

After dinner we all made our way out to the rear deck of the boat where, under a cloudless sky and with the ship's generator and lights turned off, we spent a wonderful evening enjoying the planets and stars and soaking up the quiet of the lagoon; all except for the sounds of whales exhaling around us.

Day 6

Sunday 27th March

San Ignacio and heading south

We started our day with another trip out to see the Gray Whales, after which some of the group opted for a trip into the mangroves on the edge of the lagoon. We spotted lots of Green Turtles at the entrance to the mangroves and once in the sheltered channels, we had a great time spotting birds such as Great and Little Blue Herons, Reddish Egret, Yellow-crowned Night Heron and both Great and Snowy Egrets. In addition, we enjoyed some lovely views of Marbled Godwit, Willet and Long-billed Curlew, and more White Ibis. The clear shallow waters meant we also got nice views of Guitarfish and Bullseye Pufferfish too. Part of the group that opted to whale watch had a great time too; a magnificent encounter with at least 10 friendly whales all competing for the attention of one boat!

Our next whale watching sessions of the day provided more incredible whale encounters. Lots of 'friendly' whales, breaching, spy-hopping, splashing around the boats, and bubble blowing; just about everything these excitable whales do really.

Our last session of the day provided people with the opportunity to visit one of the lagoons beautiful, pristine beaches where the group spent time with Rob finding out about the wonderful array of turtle and whale bones, seashells and other fascinating strandline artefacts.

As always, it was with great reluctance that we eventually said farewell to our panga drivers and by 5pm we were underway and heading out of the lagoon. A bow-riding Bottlenose Dolphin and fluking Gray Whales guided us out towards the breakers and out to the open ocean once again.

Quiet seas awaited and we enjoyed dinner underway as we once again motored south through the night.

Day 7

Monday 28th March

Magdalena Bay

It was another early start for many as we made our way south along the peninsula, and a full day of travel ahead of us. For most of the day we were crossing the front of Magdalena Bay and a constant vigil for wildlife was maintained as we travelled. The light breeze and following swell made for comfortable conditions too.

The morning's viewing was dominated by Blue Whale watching with a total of five different whales spotted including a cow-calf pair. This time we managed to get some great views of some of the whales as they surfaced repeatedly close to the boat. We also managed to get a good look at Fin Whale, several sea turtles and several scattered groups of dolphins. The birdlife was good and we had some nice views of Brown Booby, scattered flocks of Grey Phalaropes, and the odd Sooty Shearwater too.

The afternoon's raised sea state made it a little more difficult to spot marine mammals at distance, but we were not left disappointed when we were joined by a large group of maybe more than 1,000 very active Short-beaked Common Dolphins that thrilled us all with their exuberant antics. Not only that, but there were also scores of seabirds with them too and the enthusiastic birdwatchers in the group were kept busy looking for the Cook's Petrels that were spotted darting between the hundreds of Black-vented and Pink-footed Shearwaters that were fluttering around. It was certainly a very grand finale to our day!

Day 8

Tuesday 29th March

Gorda Banks

Rounding the southernmost tip of the peninsula in the early hours of the morning, we were met by calm seas and Magnificent Frigatebirds hitching a ride in the rigging. We stopped early to listen for Humpback Whale song on the ship's hydrophone but the seas were quiet. We spent the whole morning whale watching in the area of the Gorda Banks and enjoyed sightings of at least 14 very relaxed Humpback Whales in gin-clear water, fluking close to the bow. There were very few birds on the ocean, save the odd group of Black-vented and Pink-footed Shearwaters and a few frigatebirds, but occasionally large Mobula Rays entertained us by hurling themselves out of the water.

We eventually broke free from the whale watching and headed towards Los Frailes and the Cabo Pulmo National Park. We enjoyed lunch en route and once anchored, we put the skiffs in the water and headed ashore to explore the campground for birds. We wandered around the Cactus Scrub for a while, spotting numerous Turkey Vultures, Northern Crested Caracara, Western Scrub Jay, Lark and Clay-coloured Sparrows, Gila and

Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, Loggerhead Shrike and lots of Northern Mockingbirds. We also managed nice views of Cactus Wren and the endemic Gray Thrasher too.

We returned to the Searcher where, after the heat of the desert, a lot of people opted to go for a snorkel. It was the perfect first snorkel of the trip; the visibility was excellent and the water was warm. We had some great views of lots of colourful reef fish, hard corals and plenty of other exciting marine invertebrates too.

The Searcher raised anchor at 6pm and we motored on calm seas up into the Sea of Cortez

Day 9

Wednesday 30th March

La Paz Bay and Los Islotes

Fortunate circumstances and some more skilful planning once again resulted in us being able to make an impromptu change to the itinerary and we arrived at our new anchorage in La Paz Bay early in the morning. It was a beautiful morning in La Paz Bay. The ocean was flat calm, the water looked clear, and there was considerable excitement as we got ourselves ready and waited for our local guides to arrive and take us out to see Whale Sharks.

The morning was an amazing experience for both the enthusiastic snorkelers and the observers that preferred to stay dry. We spent several hours in the company of numerous large sharks up to nine metres in length, and the local panga drivers carefully took it in turns to position the boats so that the snorkelers and observers both got excellent views. Indeed, on many occasions there were as many sharks in the water as there were snorkelers! For the people in the water it was an exciting experience watching these gentle creatures swim directly towards you, sucking mouthfuls of plankton from the water surface, and for the observers on the pangas it was an excellent opportunity to get plenty of photographs of the whole scene. After about three hours it was eventually time to leave and we raised anchor and headed out towards Los Islotes where we spotted yet another Blue Whale and another Whale Shark! This really was a day for ocean giants.

Shortly after lunch we set anchor at Los Islotes and went on a skiff ride around the island. This provided us with some close views of a California Sealion colony and the chance to watch Blue-footed Booby displaying to each other high up on their rocky perches. A few of us also had some nice views of a Wandering Tattler too. After our skiff ride we then had another opportunity to snorkel. The conditions were perfect and there was no one else around. We enjoyed nearly an hour in the water in the company of playful sealion pups and lots and lots of colourful reef fishes.

We eventually raised anchor about 6pm and headed northwards where we spotted a Bryde's Whale as the sun was setting. We enjoyed another delicious meal and a fantastic sunset over the peninsula before eventually setting anchor at Punta Colorado on Isla San Jose at 9.30pm.

Day 10

Thursday 31st March

Punta Colorado

A new day dawned and everyone (well nearly everyone) was up to watch the sun creep over the eastern horizon and illuminate the beautiful sandstone cliffs adjacent to our anchorage at Punta Colorado. It was a wonderful start to our day. After breakfast we set ashore to explore the beach and beautiful sandstone arroyo where we took the opportunity to have a closer look at fossils in the spectacular sandstone rock formations, watch Giant Tarantula Hawk Wasps and look for desert birds like Verdin and Black-throated Sparrow in the cactus scrub. A few managed nice encounters with some very obliging Northern Cardinals and some even managed a glimpse of Great Horned Owl too.

After our walk, many of us cooled off with a snorkel in the blustery conditions along the rocky reef at the foot of the sandstone cliffs. We enjoyed some great views of lots more colourful rocky reef fishes but the increasing wave action meant that few wanted to remain in the water for too long.

It was blustery as we set off too and a cold wind hampered our afternoon search for cetaceans. We did manage to find a few Bottlenose Dolphins and we had some nice looks at Black Storm Petrels too, but otherwise the afternoon was a little quiet. It was a good chance to relax and enjoy the wonderful scenery.

We anchored off Isla Santa Catalina for the evening.

Day 11

Friday 1st April

Isla Santa Catalina

It was a beautiful morning as we lay at anchor off Isla Santa Catalina and perfect for our morning hike in the arroyo on the west side of the island; a chance to marvel at the island's unique flora, dominated by impressive Elephant Cardon and Wavy Barrel cacti. We managed to find two nice examples of the Baja 'rattleless' Rattlesnake (one grey morph adult and a very colourful brown juvenile) and everyone enjoyed spending a little time getting photographs. We spotted a few lizards, mostly emerald tails, but there was plenty of bird activity to keep us busy. Most enjoyed good views of Turkey Vulture, Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Cardinals, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Verdin and Ladder-backed Woodpecker, while a few people also had some good views of both California and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers.

Around midday some of the group enjoyed another great snorkelling session whilst others went on an enjoyable coastal cruise that resulted in some wonderfully close encounters with a friendly Eared (Black-necked) Grebe.

After lunch we raised anchor and headed southwards in search of marine life. Marine mammal sightings were unusually sparse but we spotted a variety of seabirds as we travelled. We anchored on the west side of Isla San Jose a little before 6pm and enjoyed a barbeque on the back deck complete with live music, dancing, singing (of sorts) and a lot of laughs. All this was helped along nicely by some very tasty Margaritas and made for a very fun end to the day.

Day 12

Saturday 2nd April

Isla San Fransico

The Searcher raised anchor in the early hours of the morning and motored south. At 7am we dropped anchor in the idyllic, turquoise, caldero-shaped bay on Isla San Fransico where we all went ashore for a few hours to explore the island's wonderful, wind-pruned cactus gardens, its incredible geology and spectacular scenery. Some of the group opted to hike up to the highest point on the island to take in the views and get some photographs of the beautiful bay, whilst others searched for birds along the boulder beaches where we spotted Least and Spotted Sandpipers, American Oystercatcher and some particularly good views of some very confiding Wilson's Plovers.

Having returned to the boat, it was time to cool off again. The opportunity to snorkel in the beautiful turquoise waters of the bay and see the hundreds of Garden Eels wasn't to be missed and, once in, most were very reluctant to leave.

We raised anchor before lunch and motored south once more. We looked for marine mammals under the watchful eye of Yellow-footed Gulls that hitched a ride in the rigging and the occasional Heermann's Gull that circled the boat. We were treated to another fantastic sunset as the sun dipped behind the jagged Baja Peninsula and we enjoyed our final meal together on the boat; sharing photos, recounting our stories and describing our highlights from the tour. It was a wonderfully relaxed end to our stay on the boat.

Day 13

Sunday 3rd April

We watched as the Searcher finally pulled into the early morning bustle of Cabo San Lucas' busy harbour. As the crew busily set about refuelling for their long journey back to San Diego, we relaxed, readied our things and watched the comings and goings of the fishing boats and the comical antics of the pelicans around the docks as we waited to disembark.

We said our final farewells to the crew and boarded our taxis that transported us to the estuary in San Jose del Cabo where we had plenty of time for some last-minute birding. The estuary help its usual collection of Ruddy Ducks and American Coots, and we also had nice views of Tricolored Heron, Cassin's Kingbird, Western Osprey and lots of Yellow-headed Blackbirds to name but a few. It was certainly preferable to sitting in an airport for hours on end! We eventually moved on and walked up into the town where everyone took the chance to have a cool drink, something to eat and do a little last minute souvenir shopping before we headed to the airport.

By late morning we boarded our taxis once again and set off to the airport for our return flights back to San Diego and our connecting flights back to the UK.

Day 14

Monday 4th April

Today we completed our journey back to the UK where another Naturetrek adventure came to an end.

Species Lists

Mammals (✓=recorded but not counted)

	Common name	Scientific name	March/April													
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	
1	Gray Whale	<i>Eschrichtius robustus</i>			✓		✓	✓								
2	Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>			✓	✓			✓		✓					
3	Bryde's Whale	<i>Balaenoptera edeni</i>									✓					
4	Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>			✓											
5	Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>							✓							
6	Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>			✓					14						
7	Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>			✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			
8	Long-beaked Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus capensis</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓		✓				✓	
9	Short-beaked Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>							✓							
10	Harbour Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>			✓											
11	California Sealion	<i>Zalophus californianus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
12	Northern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga angustirostris</i>			✓	✓										
13	Guadalupe Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus townsendi</i>				✓										
14	California Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus beecheyi</i>		✓												
15	Botta's Pocket Gopher	<i>Thomomys bottae</i>		✓												

Birds

1	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>		✓												
2	Brant Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>		✓		✓		✓								
3	Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>		✓												
4	American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>		✓												
5	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓												✓
6	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>		✓												✓
7	Cinnamon Teal	<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>		✓												✓
8	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>		✓												

	Common name	Scientific name	March/April													
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	
9	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>		✓												
10	Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>		✓												✓
11	Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>		✓												
12	Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>						✓								
13	Surf Scoter	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>			✓		✓	✓							✓	
14	Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>		✓												
15	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>		✓												
16	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>		✓												
17	Pacific Loon	<i>Gavia pacifica</i>			✓		✓									
18	Great Northern Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>					✓	✓								
19	Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>		✓												
20	Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>			✓				✓	✓						
21	Pink-footed Shearwater	<i>Puffinus creatopus</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		
22	Black-vented Shearwater	<i>Puffinus opisthomelas</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		
23	Least Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma microsoma</i>											✓	✓		
24	Black Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma melania</i>											✓	✓		
25	Cook's Petrel	<i>Pterodroma cookii</i>							✓							
26	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>														✓
27	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28	Western Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>		✓												
29	Red-billed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon aethereus</i>								✓	✓		✓			
30	American White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>					✓	✓								
31	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		✓				✓								✓
32	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>						✓								
33	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>		✓				✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
34	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		✓				✓						✓	✓	✓
35	Reddish Egret	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>					✓	✓								
36	Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>						✓								✓

	Common name	Scientific name	March/April													
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	
37	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>		✓					✓							
38	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>		✓					✓						✓	✓
39	American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>		✓												
40	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
41	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
42	Blue-footed Booby	<i>Sula nebouxii</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓	
43	Masked Booby	<i>Sula dactylatra</i>												✓		
44	Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>				✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
45	Brandt's Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
46	Pelagic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i>			✓											
47	Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓							✓
48	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>							✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
49	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		✓		✓			✓		✓			✓	✓	✓
50	Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>		✓												
51	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>		✓											✓	✓
52	Northern Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>										✓				
53	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>										✓			✓	✓
54	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		✓	✓								✓			
55	Common Gallinule	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>														✓
56	American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>		✓												✓
57	Black Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus bachmani</i>			✓	✓										
58	American Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>				✓								✓	✓	
59	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>		✓												✓
60	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		✓												
61	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>		✓				✓								
62	Wilson's Plover	<i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>													✓	
63	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>		✓												
64	Wilson's Snipe	<i>Gallinago delicata</i>		✓												✓

	Common name	Scientific name	March/April													
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	
65	Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>		✓												
66	Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>		✓												
67	Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>		✓	✓			✓								
68	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>				✓										
69	Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>		✓					✓							
70	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>		✓					✓							
71	Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>														✓
72	Wandering Tattler	<i>Tringa incana</i>									✓		✓			
73	Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>		✓				✓	✓							
74	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>		✓									✓	✓	✓	
75	Black Turnstone	<i>Arenaria melanocephala</i>						✓	✓							
76	Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>		✓				✓	✓							
77	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>		✓											✓	✓
78	Red Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>			✓					✓				✓		
79	Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>			✓									✓		
80	Bonaparte's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus philadelphia</i>			✓	✓								✓		
81	Laughing Gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>								✓						
82	Heermann's Gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
83	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>		✓												
84	California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
85	Glaucous-winged Gull	<i>Larus glaucescens</i>				✓										
86	Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓						✓
87	Yellow-footed Gull	<i>Larus livens</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
88	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>			✓			✓								
89	Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
90	Elegant Tern	<i>Thalasseus elegans</i>		✓			✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
91	Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>							✓							✓
92	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>							✓							

	Common name	Scientific name	March/April												
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
93	Parasitic Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>		✓			✓								
94	Guadalupe Murrelet	<i>Synthliboramphus hypoleucus</i>			✓	✓									
95	Craveri's Murrelet	<i>Synthliboramphus craveri</i>												✓	
96	Cassin's Auklet	<i>Ptychoramphus aleuticus</i>			✓	✓									
97	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓											
98	Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>		✓											
99	White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>								✓		✓		✓	
100	Common Ground Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>								✓				✓	
101	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaoto</i>		✓		✓									
102	Lilac-crowned Amazon	<i>Amazona finschi</i>		✓											
103	Masked Parrakeet	<i>Aratinga erythrognys</i>		✓											
104	White-throated Swift	<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>										✓			
105	Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>		✓											
106	Costa's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte costae</i>				✓									
107	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>		✓		✓		✓						✓	
108	Gila Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes uropygialis</i>								✓		✓		✓	
109	Ladder-backed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides scalaris</i>								✓		✓	✓		
110	Nuttall's Woodpecker	<i>Picoides nuttallii</i>		✓											
111	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>		✓											
112	Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>												✓	
113	Cassin's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>		✓										✓	
114	Ash-throated Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>								✓		✓	✓		
115	Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>								✓		✓	✓		
116	California Scrub Jay	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>								✓					
117	American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓						✓					
118	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓		✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	
119	Phainopepla	<i>Phainopepla nitens</i>								✓				✓	
120	Verdin	<i>Auriparus flaviceps</i>								✓		✓	✓	✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	March/April													
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	
121	Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>				✓										
122	Violet-green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>		✓												
123	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>		✓												✓
124	Cactus Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i>									✓					✓
125	Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>		✓												
126	Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>										✓				
127	California Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila californica</i>									✓	✓				
128	Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>				✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
129	Grey Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma cinereum</i>									✓	✓	✓			✓
130	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓												✓
131	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓		✓					✓					✓
132	House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>		✓							✓		✓			✓
133	Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Spinus psaltria</i>		✓									✓			
134	Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis celata</i>														✓
135	Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>		✓												✓
136	Mangrove Warbler	<i>Setophaga petechia</i>						✓								
137	Audubon's Warbler	<i>Setophaga auduboni</i>														✓
138	Hooded Oriole	<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>		✓							✓		✓			✓
139	Scott's Oriole	<i>Icterus parisorum</i>									✓					
140	Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>		✓												
141	Yellow-headed Blackbird	<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>														✓
142	Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>		✓												
143	Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>		✓												
144	Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolnii</i>				✓										✓
145	White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>		✓		✓										✓
146	Golden-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia atricapilla</i>				✓										
147	Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>		✓												
148	San Benito Sparrow	<i>Passerculus s. sanctorum</i>				✓										

	Common name	Scientific name	March/April													
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	
149	Clay-colored Sparrow	<i>Spizella pallida</i>									✓					✓
150	Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>									✓					✓
151	Black-throated Sparrow	<i>Amphispiza bilineata</i>										✓	✓	✓		
152	Green-tailed Towhee	<i>Pipilo chlorurus</i>									✓					
153	California Towhee	<i>Melospiza crissalis</i>		✓												
154	White-collared Seedeater	<i>Sporophila torqueola</i>														✓
155	Western Tanager	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>									✓					✓
156	Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>									✓		✓	✓		✓
157	Lazuli Bunting	<i>Passerina amoena</i>														✓

Reptiles

1	Baja California 'rattleless' Rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus enyo</i>											✓			
2	Speckled Rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus mitchelli</i>		✓												
3	Green Sea turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
4	Loggerhead Turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>							✓							
5	Common Side-blotched Lizard	<i>Uta palmeri</i>											✓	✓		
6	Santa Catalina Spiny Lizard	<i>Sceloporus lineatulus</i>											✓			
7	Side-blotched Lizard	<i>Uta squamata</i>									✓	✓				
8	Zebra-tailed Lizard	<i>Callisaurus draconoides</i>									✓					

Fish

1	Ballonfish	<i>Diodon holocanthus</i>							✓				✓	✓		
2	Banded Eel	<i>Myrichthys colubrinus</i>										✓				
3	Barber Fish	<i>Johnrandallia nigriristris</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4	Barracuda	<i>Sphyraena lucasana</i>														
5	Beaubrummel	<i>Eupomacentrus flavilatus</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
6	Bicolor Parrotfish	<i>Cetoscarus bicolor</i>									✓	✓		✓	✓	
7	Blue and Gold Snapper	<i>Lutjanus viridus</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓	
8	Blue Parrotfish	<i>Scarus coeruleus</i>												✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	March/April													
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	
9	Bluechin Parrotfish	<i>Scarus ghobban</i>									✓	✓				
10	Bumphead Damselfish	<i>Microspathodon bairdi</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
11	Bumphead Parrotfish	<i>Bolbometopon muricatum</i>									✓	✓		✓		
12	Coral Hawkfish	<i>Cirrhitichthys oxycephalus</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
13	Cortez Angelfish	<i>Pomocanthus zonipectus</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
14	Cortez Chub	<i>Kyphosuselegans</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
15	Cortez Damselfish	<i>Eupomacentrus rectifraenum</i>										✓	✓	✓		
16	Cortez Rainbow Wrasse	<i>Thalassoma lucasanum</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
17	Creole Fish	<i>Paranthias furcifer</i>										✓		✓	✓	
18	Finescaled Triggerfish	<i>Balistes polylepis</i>										✓	✓		✓	
19	Fine-spotted Jawfish	<i>Opistognathus sp.</i>											✓			
20	Giant Damselfish	<i>Microspathadon dorsalis</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
21	Giant Hawkfish	<i>Cirrhitidae cirrhitus</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
22	Giant Electric Ray	<i>Narcine entemedor</i>							✓							
23	Golden Grouper	<i>Ephinephelus alexandrinus</i>										✓			✓	
24	Gold-rimmed Surgeonfish	<i>Acanthurus nigricans</i>											✓			
25	Grey-barred Grunt	<i>Conodon nobilis</i>										✓	✓	✓		
26	Guitarfish	<i>Rhinobatos lentiginosus</i>							✓							
27	Hogfish	<i>Bodianus diplotaenia</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
28	Jack sp.	<i>Euthynnus sp.</i>											✓	✓		
29	King Angelfish	<i>Holocanthus passer</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
30	Leopard Grouper	<i>Mycteroperca rosacea</i>										✓		✓	✓	
31	Mexican Goatfish	<i>Mulloidichthys dentatus</i>											✓	✓	✓	
32	Moorish Idol	<i>Zanclus canescens</i>									✓	✓		✓	✓	
33	Needlefish	<i>Strongylura exilis</i>							✓							
34	Guineafowl Puffer	<i>Arothron meleagris</i>												✓	✓	
35	Ocean Sunfish	<i>Mola mola</i>		✓												
36	Orange-sided Triggerfish	<i>Sufflamen verres</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	March/April												
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
37	Panama Graysby	<i>Cephalopholis panamensis</i>										✓			
38	Panamic Fanged Blenny	<i>Ophioblennius steindachneri</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
39	Panamic Green Moray	<i>Gymnothorax castaneus</i>									✓	✓			✓
40	Panamic Sergeant Major	<i>Abuldehduf troschelii</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
41	Reef Cornetfish	<i>Fistularia commersonii</i>									✓		✓	✓	✓
42	Remora (Suckerfish)	<i>Remora remora</i>							✓		✓	✓			
43	Scissortail Damselfish	<i>Chromis atrilobata</i>									✓		✓	✓	✓
44	Smooth-tailed Mobula	<i>Mobula thurstoni</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
45	Spotted Boxfish	<i>Ostracion meleagris</i>											✓	✓	✓
46	Spotted Sharp-nosed Puffer	<i>Canthigaster solandri</i>									✓	✓	✓		
47	Stoplight Parrotfish	<i>Sparisoma viride</i>									✓	✓			
48	Surgeon Fish sp.	<i>Acanthurus sp.</i>									✓	✓	✓		
49	Three-banded Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon robustus</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	
50	Top-sail Pompano	<i>Trachinotus goodei</i>												✓	
51	Yellowtail Surgeonfish	<i>Prionurus punctatus</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
52	Whale Shark	<i>Rhincodon typus</i>										✓			

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