

Whales & Dolphins of Monterey Bay

Naturetrek Tour Report

22 - 30 August 2015



Humpback Whales lunge feeding



The tail fluke of a Blue Whale



Wilson's Phalaropes at Moonglow Dairy



Orca & Humpback interaction

Report & images compiled by Peter Dunn



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Tour Participants: Peter Dunn (leader) together with six Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Saturday 22nd August

London to San Francisco

The United Airlines flight from London arrived a little ahead schedule and the group members appeared in the arrivals hall to be greeted by Peter, who had arrived a couple of days earlier and had the minibus waiting in the airport garage.

We soon loaded up and were on our route south on Highway 101. The journey was good with few holdups and we saw a few birds along the way including Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, American Crow, Brewer's Blackbird and Mourning Dove. As we travelled away from Silicon Valley and the suburbs of San Francisco we had excellent views of the mountains and hills of the Diablo Range to our left. In the afternoon sunshine, the dry grassy scrub known as Chaparral was golden-coloured. The landmark of the twin towers of Moss Landing Power Station was pointed out, and we drove through Monterey as there had been reports of a life size blow up Blue Whale on the sea front. We didn't see this but the landmarks of the area were appreciated.

Arriving at the Contenta Lodge around 5.30pm, bedrooms were quickly allocated and we then met in the meal room at 6.30pm for a delicious cold buffet and a few glasses of wine prepared by Sheri and her family. Peter outlined what we were going to do during the forthcoming week and we agreed to meet again at 6am for a pre breakfast bird watch.

Day 2

Sunday 23rd August

Monterey Bay and headland.

The early risers gathered in the car park to record our first California Scrub Jays, Anna's Hummingbird and both Acorn and Nuttall's Woodpeckers before our 7am breakfast, after which we headed to the Fisherman's Wharf car park for our first trip on Sea Wolf II. This morning the vessel was captained by John Meyer, and the naturalist was Greg, both old friends of Naturetrek tours.

Having completed our paperwork and collected our boarding passes, we boarded the vessel and it headed out of the harbour, passing the outer pier where we saw our first Black Turnstones amongst the masses of California Sea Lions and Brandt's Cormorants. John explained that we were heading out to deep water to the south of Monterey in search of big cetaceans: we all scanned the horizon.

Over the water we started to see Sooty Shearwaters and a few larger Pink-footed Shearwaters. A large dark Black-footed Albatross appeared at the stern, the first of at least five seen during the morning. On reaching the deep water canyon we sighted our first cetaceans; a small group of energetic Dall's Porpoise, and then the world's second largest whale - a Fin Whale. Soon John had spotted a tall blow and we sighted our first Blue Whale. This was a great record on the first morning and it even 'fluked-up' a couple of times, showing the huge straight edged tail. We were doubly lucky as a second Blue Whale appeared. An active group of Long-beaked Common Dolphins joined the boat to ride the bow wave, adding to the morning's cetacean count. After watching these animals for some time we continued south towards Carmel Canyon.

The canyon had many Humpback Whales lunge feeding close to Point Lobos, and we spent some time watching this fascinating behaviour. As we left we came across another group of cetaceans: Risso's Dolphins. This large dolphin is particularly whiter as they get older, and some were 'head slapping'. It was time to drag ourselves away from all this activity and head back to Monterey. We had overrun by 45 minutes but it had been well worth it. We lunched on the wharf at a local restaurant on clam chowder, sandwiches or salad before setting out around the Monterey headland.

First stop was at Crespi Pond near Point Pinos where we recorded a Solitary and three Least Sandpipers, a few Killdeer, and Black-crowned Night Heron. We continued on, entering 17 Mile Drive at the Asilomar Gate. We followed the toll road around the famous Pebble Beach and Spyglass Hill golf courses, but also some nice woodland and shoreline habitat where we saw 'piping' Black Oystercatchers, Black Turnstone, Whimbrel, Willet, and Western, California and Heermann's Gulls. On the golf courses, Black-tailed Deer grazed the short grass. The large rocks along the coastline held large numbers of resting Brandt's Cormorants and vast number of rock-climbing sea lions! We stopped to see the famous Lone Cypress tree which has stood on its rocky perch for over 250 years. Offshore we saw Humpback Whales and a large group of feeding Long-beaked Common Dolphins in Carmel Canyon.

We left the drive at the Carmel gate and drove back to our Lodge via the supermarket. There was even time for some to use the heated outdoor pool before a delicious lasagne dinner followed by our daily checklist and review of a most enjoyable day in warm sunshine.

Day 3

Monday 24th August

Monterey Bay.

Some rose early to visit the old airfield where new species including California Towhee and Bewick's Wren were seen. We all met for breakfast at 7am. Today we were spending both the morning and afternoon on the Sea Wolf and we arrived at Fisherman's Warf in good time to board the vessel. This morning the captain was Nancy Black, the co-owner, and we set sail, heading north to Moss Landing Canyon in smooth waters. On the way we saw our first Surfbird on the outer wall, and came across a number of feeding Sea Otters.

Continuing, we passed some fast Dall's Porpoises and saw a few Sooty and Pink-footed Shearwaters. Arriving at Moss Landing, we joined a ring of other boats to watch some spectacular lunge feeding performances from up to 18 Humpback Whales. We spent most of the morning watching this, broken only by some inconsiderate kayakers who ended up in the middle of the 'ring' of boats surrounding the Humpbacks – an action which was not only dangerous by illegal.

Soon it was time to head back to Monterey where we ate out sandwiches on the pier before returning to the Sea Wolf, this time captained by John Meyer. The wind and swell had increased, as is usual in the afternoon, and we had an interesting and exciting ride back to Moss Landing where the Humpback Whales were even more active with some spectacular breaching in the distance as well as the lunge feeding. These animals were also attended by around 300 Long-beaked Common Dolphins, hundreds of gulls and shearwaters, and our first Grey (Red) Phalaropes of the trip. Egg yolk and Moon jellies continuously passed by and these are predated by the large Sunfish (*Mola mola*), of which we saw a few.

We arrived back to shore around 5pm and heading back to the lodge, arriving around 6pm. We had another satisfying meal prepared by Sheri and her team before completing the checklist, preparations for tomorrow, and sleep!

Day 4

Tuesday 25th August

Big Sur

Our early morning walk added a nice adult Cooper's Hawk to our bird list, and we saw the usual bluebirds and hummingbirds.

After breakfast we headed out to Highway 1 and started to drive south along the Big Sur. Passing Carmel Beach we saw some close fluking Humpback Whales, and in fact along the length of the drive we saw Humpbacks blowing at many places, indicating just how many there were along this coastline. Our first scheduled stop was a photographic stop at Bixby Bridge, one of the last bridges to be completed and with great views down the Big Sur.

We continued to Andrew Molera State Park where we had a short walk through some woodland and open grassland in hot sunshine. As we walked through the woodland onto the grass campsite we recorded Stella's Jay, Acorn Woodpecker and Lark Sparrow, together with better views of California Towhee and Quail. Some interesting invertebrates included the Black Saddlebags dragonfly and Lorquin's Admiral.

We then travelled through the redwood forests of Big Sur Station, pausing to buy our sandwich lunches at the bakery, and on to a view point next to an apex house at Grimes Point, a regular spot for condors. As we approached a large bird was seen on a tree next to the house and proved to be our first Condor. As we watched, this bird flew down into the yard of the house and disappeared. Just as we were about to get aboard the minibus a Golden Eagle was spotted, soaring over the hills.

We continued to our lunch spot overlooking the sea where Humpback Whales were again 'blowing', and we saw interaction between a Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel and a number of Turkey Vultures. After lunch we boarded the vehicles for the 50 mile drive to San Simeon to look for Northern Elephant Seals, pausing for a comfort stop at Ragged Point.

We arrived at the large lay-by next to the Northern Elephant Seal haul-out. We watched approximately 50 seals sleeping and basking on the sandy beach. With some careful observation we could see the huge male on the further beach and many young males and females

Returning north, we stopped briefly at Ragged Point for ice creams and a comfort stop, entertained by Anna's Hummingbirds and Red-winged Blackbirds. We then settled back in our seats for the two hour journey back to the hotel, passing lots of Turkey Vultures along the way. A brief stop at Julia Pfeiffer State Park was beneficial as we saw three California Condors soaring over the peak; two adults and an immature. Looking the other way at the sea, we saw more Humpback Whales. The landscape was breathtaking and we had incredible views of the mountains and the glistening Pacific Ocean with a few Humpback Whales blowing.

This evening we dined at the lodge on steak and vegetables, accompanied by wine and finished off with cake and melon.

Day 5

Wednesday 26th August

Monterey Bay and Carmel Valley

We woke to a bright morning but a little cooler, however that was not going to last for long. On our early morning walk we saw more American Bushtits, Chestnut-backed Chickadees and Western Bluebirds. After our usual breakfast at the lodge we headed down to the wharf for a morning on Sea Wolf II, skippered again by John. There had been news of a pod of Orca in Carmel Bay so in the misty conditions we set sail; full steam ahead south. On the journey we recorded a few Pigeon Guillemots and a group of seven Black-footed Albatrosses around a fishing boat. As we approached the Carmel Canyon, numbers of Sooty and Pink-footed Shearwaters increased, and as the mist dissipated to the sunshine of Carmel Bay, we saw hundreds of Long-beaked Common Dolphin feeding around a group of six Humpback Whales. We spent some time watching these animals and constantly scanning for the Orca but somehow they had slipped out of the bay under cover of the mist. Having satisfied ourselves that they were not there and having had a good session with the whales and dolphins, we headed west following the canyon and hoping to re-find the largest dolphin. For one moment our hearts raced as we spied some large fins but they belonged to a small pod of Risso's Dolphins. We didn't find the Orca but had more views of Humpback Whales.

Once back on land, we returned to the lodge to eat our sandwiches before heading east down Carmel Valley, looking for dryer chaparral birds. We stopped at a few spots along the road and watched Acorn Woodpecker, House Finch and Western Bluebird. With the temperature hitting the high 30's, we sought shelter in the shade of trees the look at Lorquin's Admiral, Western Tiger Swallowtail and Monarch butterflies, and Jean found an Audubon's Warbler. The final stop was at Tassajarra Road where we added Chipping Sparrow to our bird list.

We returned to the lodge in good time for some to relax by the pool, swim or go for a walk before another splendid dinner and completing our checklist.

Day 6

Thursday 27th August

Moss Landing area

We woke to another beautiful clear day and as it was a little milder, the birds were more activate. American Bushtit and Bewick's Wren showed better, and two American Robins flew up the road to the airfield. We were joined today by Walter and Ann who had extended their later trip by a few days.

Following breakfast we headed north for the day, stopping in Carmel Valley for fuel where a party of Wild Turkeys were feeding in a field behind. Then onwards to Zmudowski's State Beach where there is a small freshwater lagoon alongside the sand dunes. After passing through all the manicured strawberry and artichoke fields, we arrived at the lagoon and saw a big party of hirundines over the water consisting of Barn, Northern Rough-winged and Cliff Swallows. In the surrounding giant rushes we managed to see Western Marsh Wren and Common Yellowthroat, and best of all was the welcome return of the Pacific Tree Frog after last years' drought and low water. A nice White-tailed Kite flew over, two Green Herons skulked in the reeds, and three huge

Caspian Terns hunted over the water. As we left we came across a Western Kingbird, not recorded on a Naturetrek tour here before, and the usual Ring-billed Gulls.

Next stop was Jetty Road leading to the Moss Landing State Park. The tide was in, and hundreds of waders were gathering including Long-billed Curlew, Marbled Godwit, Willet, and Least Sandpiper. Amongst these we also found a few Short-billed Dowitchers. A little further along on the beach there was a huge flock of Sanderling, and we had distant views of the specially protected Snowy Plovers stood on the shingle. Amongst the large flock of roosting Heermann's, Western and California Gulls, a lone Glaucous-winged Gull was seen, and offshore we watched fluking and lunging Humpback Whales.

The main interest for many was the raft of floating male Sea Otters in the harbour, just off the car park, and they were not disappointed. Everyone enjoyed their antics, photographing them as they rolled round in the water and took small paddle strokes with their rear paws to move as they floated on their backs. Meanwhile Common (Harbour) Seals were sleeping on the sand banks, with occasional forays into the harbour. The birders found White-crowned Sparrow and Western Grebe here.

Lunch was taken at Phil's Snack Shack where we made use of the picnic tables overlooking a pool. In the trees a Snowy Egret stood out and a number Black-crowned Night Herons remained cryptic.

The last birding stop of the afternoon was to Moonglow Dairy near to Moss Landing Power Station where we managed to see the locally scarce Tricolored Blackbird and Brown-headed Cowbird with the dairy herd. These were numerous and part of large flocks of Common Starling, Brewer's Blackbird and Red-winged Blackbird feeding below the feet of the cows in the open, dusty fields. As the birds took off, the scarlet red of the Red-winged and Tricoloured Blackbirds flashed out from their wings. We walked round the settling pools from the dairy and compared Western and Least Sandpipers, and also diminutive Red-necked Phalaropes with at least a dozen larger Wilson's Phalaropes. We managed to see three American White Pelicans and some more Western Grebes, while the mammal watchers were entertained by the female Sea Otters with their pups, and Fox Squirrels in the eucalyptus grove. A few butterflies were seen including Mylitta Crescent, American Lady and Western Pygmy Blue.

We finished off the afternoon with a visit to the local Wild Bird Centre where souvenirs and presents were bought, and refreshing ice creams from next door. We arrived back at the lodge before 5pm and some decided to go with Peter in search of Yellow-billed Magpie. We were successful with at least four individuals seen, and a bonus of Lesser Goldfinch and another Lark Sparrow.

Our final dinner at the lodge was spaghetti bolognese, and we retraced our day and sightings for the checklist.

Day 7

Friday 28th August

Monterey Bay area

Our last full day in Monterey started with overnight mist which was present all morning. After breakfast we headed down to Fisherman's Wharf for our final morning on Sea Wolf II. The sea was generally quiet for the first 45 minutes before we found some feeding Humpback Whales with their usual entourage of shearwaters, pelican and sea lion. This remained the pattern for the morning; finding small groups of feeding whales and birds. At one point a pod of Long-beaked Common Dolphins came in to feed and some rode the bow wave. The only new species for the week were two Arctic Skuas (known as Parasitic Jaegers in the States) and we saw another Black-footed Albatross fly past. Before heading back to land we came across a group of 12 Humpback Whales which was exciting to watch as one or two breached and lunge fed.

As we were leaving the area we received a radio call that Orca had been sighted. We raced over to meet our sister boat, The Point Sur Clipper, and we witnessed some exciting behaviour involving a family pod (known as 51) interacting with what looked like an angry young Humpback Whale, which had made a beeline for the pod and then most probably regretted it. There was much trumpet-blowing from the whale and lots of breaching and tail slapping from the Orca. What an exciting end to our whale watch adventure

Arriving back a little late, we headed straight to the minibus to eat our sandwiches en route to Monterey Aquarium where most of the group spent the afternoon enjoying the seahorses, jellyfishes and shorebirds.

On returning to the hotel we sorted bookings for our return flight tomorrow and completed the checklist. We finished the evening with a splendid meal at the Fish Wife restaurant.

Day 8

Saturday 29th August

Leave from San Francisco Airport

With our flight departure not until 7.30pm we had time during the day to explore Carmel Village. Peter said his 'goodbyes' as he had to be at the airport to meet a Naturetrek group arriving earlier. We were transported to the airport in time for our overnight flight back to the UK.

Day 9

Sunday 30th August

Arrive London

The group arrived back in London and another Naturetrek adventure came to an end.

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Species Lists

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

	Common name	Scientific name	August					
			23	24	25	26	27	28
1	Western Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus griseus</i>	1					
2	Eastern Fox Squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger</i>					5	3
3	California Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus beecheyi</i>	✓	1			✓	✓
4	Botta's Pocket Gopher	<i>Thomomys bottae</i>		1				
5	California Sea Lion	<i>Zalophus californianus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Harbour Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
7	Sea Otter	<i>Enhydra lutris</i>	10	✓		✓	50	✓
8	Mule Deer	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>	✓	1	2	✓		
9	Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	2					
10	Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	2					
11	Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	✓	20	20	20	5	30
12	Long-beaked Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus capensis</i>	1000	300		400		✓
13	Risso's Dolphin	<i>Grampus griseus</i>	40			3		
14	Orca	<i>Orcinus orca</i>						4
15	Dall's Porpoise	<i>Phocoenoides dalli</i>	6	2		2		

Birds

1	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>						2
3	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	2	✓	✓	
4	Cinnamon Teal	<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>						20
5	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>						1
6	California Quail	<i>Callipepla californica</i>	7		10			
7	Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>						3
8	Black-footed Albatross	<i>Phoebastria nigripes</i>	5			10		
9	Northern Fulmar (Pacific)	<i>Fulmarus glacialis rodgersii</i>	6	✓		✓		
10	Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓
11	Pink-footed Shearwater	<i>Puffinus creatopus</i>	10	✓		✓		20
12	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>		2		1	✓	
13	Western Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>						3
14	White-faced Ibis	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>						10
15	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	1	1				6
16	Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>						2
17	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	1					2
18	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	✓	2	2	3	✓	
19	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>						✓
20	American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>						3
21	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
22	Brandt's Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
23	Pelagic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i>	2	3		✓		✓
24	Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	6	6				✓
25	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	✓	✓	✓	70	✓	✓
26	California Condor	<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>			4			
27	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>						2
28	White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	3					1
29	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>			1			
30	Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>						1

	Common name	Scientific name	August					
			23	24	25	26	27	28
31	Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>			1			
32	Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	1				1	
33	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>		1		1	2	
34	American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>					2	
35	Black Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus bachmani</i>	6					
36	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>					1	
37	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	1				5	
38	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>					10	
39	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	10				8	
40	Snowy Plover	<i>Charadrius nivosus</i>					3	
41	Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>					10	
42	Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>					✓	
43	Whimbrel (American)	<i>Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus</i>	1				H	
44	Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>					✓	
45	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>					1	
46	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>					1	
47	Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	1					
48	Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	1				✓	
49	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>					1	
50	Black Turnstone	<i>Arenaria melanocephala</i>	✓	✓		1		4
51	Surfbird	<i>Aphriza virgata</i>		1				2
52	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>					300	
53	Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>					✓	
54	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	3				✓	
55	Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>					9	
56	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	✓	✓		✓	3	2
57	Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>		6		6		
58	Heermann's Gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
59	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>					10	
60	California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
61	Glaucous-winged Gull	<i>Larus glaucescens</i>					1	
62	Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
63	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>					4	3
64	Elegant Tern	<i>Thalasseus elegans</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
65	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	1					1
66	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	1					1
67	Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	2	✓
68	Pigeon Guillemot	<i>Cepphus columba</i>	3	3		10		3
69	Cassin's Auklet	<i>Ptychoramphus aleuticus</i>	3					
70	Rhinoceros Auklet	<i>Cerorhinca monocerata</i>	✓			2		
71	Rock Dove (Feral)	<i>Columba livia 'feral'</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
72	Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>	✓	6	✓	✓	✓	✓
73	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
74	Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
75	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>					4	
76	Vaux's Swift	<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>			✓			
77	Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	2	2	4	3	4	3
78	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	1			1	1	
79	Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>	4		✓	15	✓	2
80	Nuttall's Woodpecker	<i>Picoides nuttallii</i>	1		1			1
81	Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	1			1	H	

	Common name	Scientific name	August					
			23	24	25	26	27	28
82	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>			3		1	
83	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>			2			
84	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	2		3	3	✓	1
85	Western Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>					1	
86	Steller's Jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>			✓			
87	California Scrub Jay	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
88	Yellow-billed Magpie	<i>Pica nuttalli</i>					4	
89	American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
90	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>			✓			
91	Oak Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus inornatus</i>	2		2			1
92	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	<i>Poecile rufescens</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
93	Violet-green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>			✓			
94	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>					3	
95	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
96	American Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>					6	
97	American Bushtit	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>		20	✓	✓	✓	✓
98	Wrentit	<i>Chamaea fasciata</i>	H	2	2	H	H	H
99	Marsh Wren (Pacific)	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>					10	
100	Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>		1	1		2	
101	Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>						1
102	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
103	Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>	10	✓	✓	✓		
104	American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	1				2	
105	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>			1		1	
106	House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
107	American Goldfinch	<i>Spinus tristis</i>					✓	
108	Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Spinus psaltria</i>					1	
109	Pine Siskin	<i>Spinus pinus</i>						1
110	Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>					4	
111	American Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga aestiva</i>					1	
112	Audubon's Warbler	<i>Setophaga auduboni</i>				1		
113	Tricolored Blackbird	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>					✓	
114	Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
115	Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>					✓	
116	Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
117	Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>					8	
118	White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>					5	
119	Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)	<i>Junco hyemalis oregonus</i>					2	
120	Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>				3		
121	Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>			1		1	
122	California Towhee	<i>Melozone crissalis</i>		2	4	2	2	2
123	Spotted Towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>					1	1

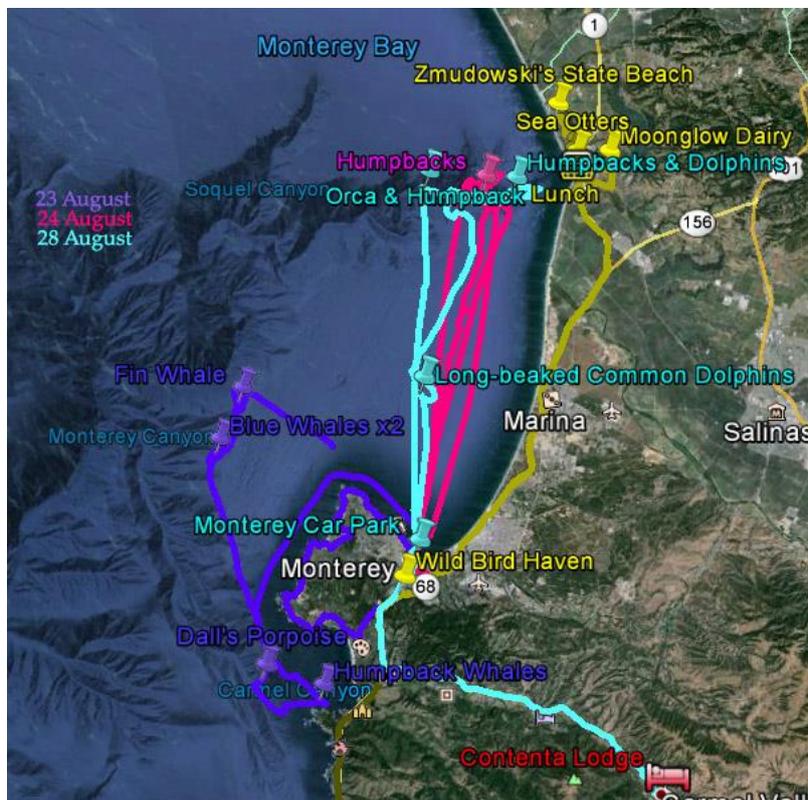
Other fauna

American Lady, Red Admiral, Mylitta Crescent, Lorquin's Admiral, Pine White, Cabbage White; Western Tiger Swallowtail, Anise Swallowtail, Common Buckeye, Woodland Skipper, White Checkered Skipper, Western Pygmy Blue, Sandhill Skipper and Monarch,

Blue-eyed Darner, Cardinal Meadowhawk, Black Saddlebags.

Pacific Tree Frog, Western Fence Lizard, Ocean Sunfish (*Mola mola*); Egg-yolk Jelly; Moon Jelly, American Honey Bee

Map of whale watching tracks (some days GPS failed)



Naturetrek Facebook

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans.

Setting up a personal profile at www.facebook.com is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!



The group with Capt. John Mayer