

# Wise Birding Holidays

Bird and mammal watching tours



## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA: Bobcats, Bears, Seabirds & Yosemite! Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> - Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017

**Tour Participants:** Marcus I'Anson, Marion I'Anson, John Bartley, Pat Bartley, Sorrel Lyall and Dave Hopkins

**Leaders:** Chris Townend, Andy Stanbury & local guides

### HIGHLIGHTS OF TRIP

**Bobcat:** For the second year running we were successful with our cat quest! We enjoyed fabulous views for around 40mins of a young Bobcat on the Old Hernandez Road. We then left it so it could enjoy the shady spot it had found to rest.

**Great Grey Owl:** We found a bird being mobbed by Steller's Jays during the day in Yosemite NP. We returned later in the evening and enjoyed fantastic views for over an hour as the bird posed and hunted the edge of a meadow.

**California Condor:** Great views of at least 4 immature birds on the Big Sur Coast and an adult at Pinnacles NP thanks to Sorrel's sharp eyes!

**Humpback Whale:** Another excellent year for this species in Monterey Bay. Around 40+ animals seen during each boat trip including a wonderful breaching animal!

**Dolphin Megapod:** Our first morning boat trip in Monterey Bay soon found us surrounded by an estimated 1,800+ Long-beaked Common Dolphins. Simply amazing!

**Scenery:** Northern California is a very scenic part of the United States with a stunning coastline, impressive forests and spectacular mountains and arid grasslands.



**Two of the tour highlights were this Bobcat near Pinnacles NP and a fabulous Great Grey Owl that we watched for over an hour in Yosemite NP.**

*This tour focused on all wildlife, mostly birds but also a particular focus on finding some key mammals. We recorded **183 birds and 25 mammals** as well as some impressive butterflies and reptiles. Below is a brief summary of just some of the daily highlights.*

## **Thursday 7th September**

### **San Francisco to Pacific Grove, Monterey**

Some of the group had arrived a day before the tour and enjoyed the morning birding the bird rich mudflats of San Francisco Bay adjacent to the airport and the hotel.

The tide was perfect and had pushed many of the waders close to the shore edge where we enjoyed numerous species including Surf-bird, both Long-billed and Short-billed Dowitchers, American Avocet, Willet, "Hudsonian" Whimbrel, Least Sandpiper, Forster's Tern, Ring-billed Gull and White-tailed Kite to name just a few! After lunch we headed to the airport to meet the rest of the group.

Despite a frustrating delay at arrivals, the group soon assembled in San Francisco airport and we took the short walk to our vehicles. The journey to Monterey was fairly uneventful other than the odd American Crow and a Black-crowned Night Heron flying over the highway at dusk. We arrived in Pacific Grove later than expected due to the airport delay, but our peaceful private apartments were just perfect for a good night's sleep.

## **Friday 8th September**

### **Monterey Bay boat trip & Asilomar State Marine Reserve**

This morning we took the short drive to Fisherman's Wharf and boarded our boat to explore Monterey Bay's marine life! A Belted Kingfisher and our first California Sea Lions and Harbour Seals entertained us before heading out to sea. We spent the whole morning at sea and the clear highlight was being surrounded by whales and dolphins!

The cetacean activity started not long after leaving the harbour and we were soon surrounded by an incredible megapod of around 1,800 Long-beak Dolphins! It was a truly spectacular sight and after spending a good 20 minutes with them, we headed further out to sea where Humpback Whale blows were everywhere! By the end of the morning we had seen no less than 40 animals as we saw regular blows, tail flukes and the diagnostic humpback dorsal fins. Of course, there were many bird highlights too which included great views of Red-necked Phalarope, Arctic Skua, Elegant Tern, Rhinoceros Auklet, Sooty Shearwater and Pink-footed Shearwater to name just a few!

We enjoyed a lunch stop close to Fisherman's Wharf and managed to find a new mammal for the list in the form of a very amusing Botta's Pocket Gopher! A scan of the sea produced a surprise with two almost full summer plumage Great Northern Divers immediately below the pier. During the late afternoon we enjoyed views of some of the commoner species around our accommodation such as Acorn Woodpecker, Western Scrub Jay and Anna's Hummingbird. During the late afternoon we explored the Asilomar State Marine Reserve where Black Turnstone, Blackish (Black) Oystercatcher, Surf-bird, numerous Western, Heerman's and California Gulls of all ages and a constant procession of Brown Pelicans were the main highlights. Of course not forgetting yet more Humpback Whales visible from land!

## **Saturday 9th September**

### **Andrew Molera State Park and Big Sur Coast**

Today we headed south along the Big Sur coast to Andrew Molera State Park. It was a fairly grey start but it brightened up nicely throughout the morning. The birding started well with a mixed flock just by the car park which included our first Warbling Vireo, Hutton's Vireo and a luminous Wilson's Warbler! Soon to be followed by a very obliging Wrentit singing and showing well from the opposite side of the car park. Low flying Vaux's Swifts and Violet Green Swallows were also a pleasant distraction before we spent the morning birding the Creamery Meadow Trail to the beach. Highlights included Spotted Towhee, California Quail, Pine Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Blue-Grey Gnatcatcher, Bewick's Wren, Red-shafted Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Chestnut-backed Chickadee and Red-shouldered Hawk. At the beach a Spotted Sandpiper and two immaculate juvenile Western Sandpipers showed well on a freshwater pool beside the river along with an Osprey and a family group of Savannah Sparrows. Though bird of the day had to go to the four California Condors that soared just above us as we arrived back at the car park.

We enjoyed lunch at a restaurant a little further down the Big Sur coast, where we were entertained by Anna's Hummingbird and Steller's Jay. We then took a walk below the Buzzard's Roost Trail through the huge Redwoods where we enjoyed more views of the stunning Townsend's Warbler, the distinctive Oregon race of Dark-eyed Junco and some great views of American Treecreepers. A slow drive back along the famous Highway One was well timed for sunset, allowing time for some landscape photographic opportunities as well as seeing a number of American Kestrels and a single Northern Harrier.

## **Sunday 10th September**

### **All day pelagic Monterey Bay**

Today was our full day at sea in search of birds and other marine life. It was murky and visibility was tricky for the first part of the morning, though it cleared for the afternoon.

Things started well with good views of a Surfbird and a Pelagic Cormorant amongst the numerous Brandt's Cormorants and California Sea Lions loafing on the rocks as we left Fisherman's Wharf. Further out to sea there were many highlights including the amazing spectacle of a feeding flock no less than 10,000 Sooty Shearwaters! Birding excitement continued with numerous Pink-footed Shearwaters, 5 Black-vented Shearwaters, 2 Black-footed Albatross, 30+ Rhinoceros Auklets as well as numerous Red-necked Phalaropes, Elegant Tern and both Arctic and Pomarine Skuas. Other marine life was equally exciting with a brief Northern Elephant Seal, a Blue Shark, Ocean Sunfish and of course the numerous Humpback Whales including an amazing breaching animal right beside the boat!

## **Monday 11th September**

### **Moss Landing, Moonglow Dairy and Pinnacles National Park**

This morning we checked out of our peaceful apartments and headed north along the coast to the well known birding area of Moss Landing. Our first stop was to admire the spectacle of at least 5,000 Elegant Terns in one huge flock! The sound alone was amazing. A scan of some of the nearby pools revealed a good selection of waders including three American Avocet, "Hudsonian" Whimbrel as well as Forster's Tern, Caspian Tern and a group of American White Pelicans. Our next stop was immediately north of Moss Landing where we birded the harbour area and found large groups of sleeping Sea Otters as they peacefully floated on their backs just metres from us. The birding here was first class too with very close views of various waders including Marbled Godwit, Long-billed Curlew and

Willet as well as numerous Double-crested Cormorants and Brown Pelicans. A few White-crowned Sparrows and a perched White-tailed Kite were also welcome additions to the list. A stroll on the beach in the warm sunshine was very pleasant and produced the hoped for Snowy Plovers as well as a surprise group of two Bottlenose Dolphins close inshore.

A short drive to the birder friendly Moonglow Dairy soon produced a good selection of birds with numerous Red-winged Blackbirds including the striking "bicoloured form" and with patience, the range restricted Tricoloured Blackbird. Other highlights around the farm and adjacent wetland were Least Sandpipers, Cinnamon Teal, Yellow Warbler, an elusive Marsh Wren, and great views of Western and Clark's Grebe sat side by side. After lunch we explored part of the nearby Elkhorn Slough Reserve where the clear highlights were hundreds of Red-necked Phalaropes feeding around the Slough and some great views of Lesser Yellowlegs and Greater Yellowlegs feeding side by side.

After a tasty burrito lunch, we headed inland towards the town of Hollister. After checking into our accommodation and some rest, we then headed back out in the direction of the Pinnacles National Park where we remained until dusk. A number of new birds were seen in these arid grasslands including Western Bluebird, Lark Sparrow, Yellow-billed Magpie and a small group of Lawrence's Goldfinch. This area is also perfect Bobcat country and although unsuccessful with the cat we did see at least six Black-tailed Jackrabbits at dusk whilst Dave kindly introduced us to his "bolving" skills!

## **Tuesday 12th September**

### **Pinnacles National Park and Old Hernandez Road**

Today was Bobcat day and we returned to the Pinnacles National Park area from dawn focusing all our effort on trying to see this secretive cat. It was a beautiful morning and although we were very focused, patrolling the roads searching for Bobcat, we still saw a great selection of new birds including Say's Phoebe, Oak Titmouse, Western Meadowlark, Green-backed Heron, Great Horned Owl, California Towhee, House Finch and Loggerhead Shrike. However, at around 10am our perseverance finally paid off and a beautiful Bobcat ran across the road in front of us all and then stood motionless on a grass bank before slinking out of view! Luckily, both vehicles managed good views before it vanished. However, it was Marion's sharp eyes that noticed it had not vanished at all and was actually staring right at us from a dark hole under a tree root! We then spent the next 40 minutes enjoying fabulous views of this young Bobcat and just metres from us.

The remainder of the day was spent exploring Pinnacles National Park, resting during the hottest time, before a final look for Bobcat during the early evening. Notable birds for the afternoon included Pacific Slope Flycatcher, a typically secretive Yellow-breasted Chat, Nuttall's Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Canyon Wren, Wild Turkey, a pair of Cooper's Hawk and a superb adult California Condor, thanks to Sorrel's ever alert eyes. A pair of adult Golden Eagles and a singing California Thrasher made for a great finale as we left the park and before resuming Bobcat patrol! Despite our best efforts, we were unable to add to our morning Bobcat sighting so we returned to our hotel for a celebratory meal and we all raised a glass to Bob!

### **Wednesday 13th September**

#### **Paicines Reservoir / Panoche Road and Sequoia NP**

Today was mostly a travel day, though an early morning visit to Paicines Reservoir and the Panoche Road revealed a few new species including Northern Mockingbird, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler and Northern Pintail, but the best bird of the morning was probably the female Phainopepla that posed on top of a tree giving great scope views for everyone. After a quick return visit to our accommodation to pack and load the vehicles and we were soon heading towards the beautiful Sequoia National Park and our base for the night. Birds en route were as expected, though Sorrel and Pat did very well to spot an adult Bald Eagle from the highway, but frustratingly there was nowhere to stop!

After a very pleasant lunch stop en route, the scenery very quickly began to change and we started to wind our way up to Sequoia NP to an altitude of around 2,000M. We checked into our accommodation and then visited the nearby Crescent Meadow for the last couple of hours of daylight. This area can be good for Black Bears and we spent much of our time scanning the meadow complex for our hoped for target. Despite the lack of bear sightings, a group of eight Mountain Quail gave excellent views in some of the nearby forest and we recorded our first American Robins and Lodgepole Chipmunks of the tour.

### **Thursday 14th September**

#### **Sequoia National Park to Yosemite National Park, Crane Flat**

Once again, we returned to the meadows and spent the first part of the morning looking for bears. Frustratingly, we had no success though there were plenty of birds and other mammals to keep us occupied. Highlights here included a very obliging male Pileated Woodpecker, White-headed Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Audubon's Warbler and Golden-crowned Kinglet. A couple of amusing Yellow-bellied Marmots entertained us and we also had good views of Douglas's Squirrel and Western Grey Squirrel. We then enjoyed a great breakfast in the Wuksachi Lodge with two cracking Hermit Warblers posing just outside the window.

The rest of the day was spent mostly travelling as we headed north towards Yosemite NP. We arrived in good time to check in to our fabulous lodge with rooms overlooking the Merced River. After a bit of rest and an early dinner for some of the group, we then met for an evening excursion to Crane Flat and a well known area where Great Grey Owls sometimes hunt. It was a perfect calm evening and great to be out, but we had no luck.

### **Friday 15th September**

#### **Yosemite NP: Crane Flat, Tamarack Creek & Tuolumne Meadow**

Today we spent a full day exploring as much of Yosemite National Park and its beautiful landscape as possible. Once again, we visited Crane Flat first thing in the morning searching for Great Grey Owl, but again drew a blank. It was a cold start to the morning but as the sun gained height and the temperature increased the birds became active. We enjoyed a great morning birding a trail near Tamarack Creek and then continued our journey towards Tuolumne Meadow making various stops en route. We spent the majority of the afternoon at Tuolumne Meadows before slowly returning to our base in Yosemite Valley.

There were simply too many highlights as the day had everything, great weather, fantastic scenery and numerous birds and mammals, what more could you ask for!?

Understandably, the stand out bird for everyone was discovering a Great Grey Owl roosting in the middle of the day that was being mobbed by Jays. We returned in the early

evening to watch it hunt for an hour! Other highlights included a gorgeous juvenile female Williamson's Sapsucker, 2 Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Green-tailed Towhee, Thick-billed Fox Sparrow, American Grey Flycatcher, small noisy groups of Clark's Nutcracker and the gorgeous Mountain Bluebird. Of course, then there were the mammals and Andy's favourite, the Belding's Ground Squirrel! It was certainly a day to remember and in the evening we all raised a glass to that fabulous Great Grey Owl!

### **Saturday 16th September**

#### **Yosemite NP: Yosemite Valley - Crane Flat - White Wolf - Tioga Pass - Lee Vining**

It was another gorgeous day, despite the smoky mist created by the recent fires, and we headed towards the Glacier Point road. En route we stopped at Tunnel View, probably the most famous view in Yosemite looking across the valley where you can usually see El Capitan, Bridalveil Falls and Half Dome in the background. However, due to the smoke the view was somewhat obscured but was certainly atmospheric! We then continued our journey out towards the Glacier Point road but unfortunately, due to the fires, the road had been closed and we had to return and therefore miss out on Sooty Grouse which had been one of the key target species of the morning. However, it wasn't all bad news as we were soon enjoying a picnic breakfast overlooking the Yosemite valley with White-throated Swifts zooming past us in the morning sunshine! After breakfast we spent some time looking for American Dipper in the valley and after a number of stops, once again perseverance paid off and we enjoyed great views on the Merced River. We took time to soak up the spectacular scenery in the valley and chanced upon a Black-throated Grey Warbler that showed briefly, along with more Townsend's and Orange-crowned Warblers.

By mid morning, once again, we were heading across the centre of the park towards the Tioga Pass. A visit to White Wolf Camp ground revealed some very fresh Black Bear scat and some great views of Audubon's Warblers but nothing new so we continued on toward Tuolumne Meadow and made a few stops for Townsend's Solitaire en route. We finally had success with a bird singing from the very top of a pine tree. We also had good views of our first Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel before spending more time around Tuolumne Meadow. We heard the meadow had been hosting a female Black Bear and cubs during recent days, so we birded the area until late in the afternoon and although no bears we had a wonderful Coyote encounter as it crossed the river, a Garter Snake, Red Crossbill and more views of American Grey Flycatcher, Mountain Bluebird, Clark's Nutcrackers and some very tame Lodgepole Chipmunks and Golden-mantled Ground Squirrels.

We continued our journey into new territory and topped the Tioga Pass at around 3,000M and then dropped down to the vast Mono Lake and the friendly town of Lee Vining. This was to be our base for the final two nights of the tour. Here we enjoyed a fabulous meal at the Epic Cafe including the "must have" Blueberry Pie and whipped cream!

### **Sunday 17th September**

#### **Bodie & Mono Lake**

It was a pre-dawn start today as we headed to the Historic State Park of Bodie. This former gold-mining town is now a preserved ghost town and a great place to see North America's largest grouse species, the Sage Grouse. We arrived at sunrise and it was very cold but the sight of numerous Sage Grouse soon warmed us up. The more we scanned, the more birds appeared as lumps of earth soon turned into grouse! A hungry Coyote then flushed up some birds and the sky seemed full of Sage Grouse and was an amazing sight. Other highlights here included numerous Brewer's Sparrows, Vesper Sparrows, a Sage Sparrow seen by Dave and our only Least Chipmunk of the tour.

A couple of stops on our return route to Lee Vining in the precious Sagebrush habitat produced some good views of another sagebrush specialist in the form of at least three Sage Thrashers. Back towards Lee Vining we spent a very pleasant hour or so birding the boardwalk on the western edge of Mono Lake. Here we enjoyed some great birds including a hunting Prairie Falcon, a Marsh Wren (more obliging than at Moonglow Dairy), numerous Black-necked Grebes, including a stunning albino bird, numerous Red-necked Phalaropes and a couple of Virginia Rails, that with patience showed pretty well! We then enjoyed an early lunch and coffee at the wonderful Latte Da Coffee Cafe whilst watching Lesser Goldfinches and Anna's Hummingbirds in the sunshine - what more could you ask for!?

We spent the afternoon on the southern shore of Mono Lake where we enjoyed a superb hunting male Northern Harrier and viewed the amazing Tufa salt formations. A visit to the east of the lake had us searching the Pinyon Pines for Pinyon Jays, but very oddly there was no sight nor sound of any birds! A small group of Pygmy Nuthatches was new for the trip and as the sun began to drop, the views across the lake were simply beautiful.

### **Monday 18th September**

#### **Lee Vining to San Francisco via Yosemite NP**

Today we left before dawn to try one last time for Black Bear around the Tuolumne Meadows! Unsurprisingly, it was very cold as we patrolled the meadows and despite a lack of bears we were treated to a couple of hunting Prairie Falcons and an amazing sunrise followed by a picnic breakfast in the warming sunshine. A great way to end our last morning in California! Though mostly a travel day, we couldn't resist another stop or two en route and our efforts were rewarded with a Swainson's Thrush and a MacGillivray's Warbler for some of the group before we left Yosemite behind us and continued west towards San Francisco.

We arrived at the airport in good time and even managed some final birding in San Francisco Bay. Here we savoured our final views of Least Sandpiper, American Avocet, Killdeer, Semipalmated Plover, Forster's Tern, Double-crested Cormorant, Ring-billed Gull, Western Gull, California Gull and Snowy Egret before having to drag ourselves away to the airport for flights back to the UK, or a city break in San Francisco as was the case for Marion and Marcus.

**Conservation Donation – Following this tour to California £250 was transferred to the Wise Birding Holiday's central conservation fund. This will be used to support a conservation project in the future, yet to be determined.**

For the last three years Wise Birding Holidays has been supporting a number of small conservation projects. However, we now believe that to make a bigger difference to conservation it seems better to pool the donations from most of our tours into one central fund. Once a target amount has been reached this money will then be used to support a single project in the hope of achieving more for species conservation. At present this amount stands at £3,500. Some tours will still continue to donate money to help some of the smaller projects that we feel will still benefit from such smaller donations. Please visit our [Conservation News](#) and [Latest News](#) links to find out more.





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**Rhinoceros Auklet (above) and Sooty and Black-vented Shearwater (below)  
were seen from our boat trips in Monterey Bay**





**California Sea Lion (above) and Long-beaked Common Dolphins (below)**





**It was another great year for Humpback Whales in Monterey Bay.  
We enjoyed counts of 40+ animals in the bay.**





**Adult Heerman's Gull (above)  
and adult Western Gull (below)**





**Seeing a flock of over 5,000 Elegant Terns at Moss Landing was a true spectacle**





**Marbled Godwit (above) and Willet (below) were just two of the many waders seen during the tour**





Great Northern Divers (above) and Brown Pelican (below)





**Sub-adult California Condor (above) Least Sandpipers (below)**





**One of the tour highlights was watching this young Bobcat for over 40 minutes on the Old Hernandez Road**





**Audubon's Warbler showing diagnostic yellow throat (above) was very common in Yosemite & Sequoia NP. Smaller numbers of Pine Warbler (below) were also seen**





Sea Otters snoozing at Moss Landing (above)  
Botta's Pocket Gopher in Monterey (below)





**Belding's Ground Squirrel (above) Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel (below)**





**Lodgepole Chipmunk (above) and Douglas's Squirrel by Andy Stanbury (below) were encountered on a number of days in Yosemite and Sequoia NP**





The scenery in California was always impressive.  
Sequoia NP (above) and Yosemite NP (below)





California Quail (above) Mountain Quail (below)





**This Coyote showed very well in Tuolumne Meadow, Yosemite NP**





**Mountain Bluebird (above) and American Grey Flycatcher (below)**





The Great Grey Owl in Yosemite was a clear tour highlight (above) as were two Great Horned Owls (below) whilst searching for Bobcat





**Tuolumne Meadow in Yosemite NP (above) and Mono Lake (below)**





**Thick-billed Fox Sparrow (above) and male Northern Harrier (below)**



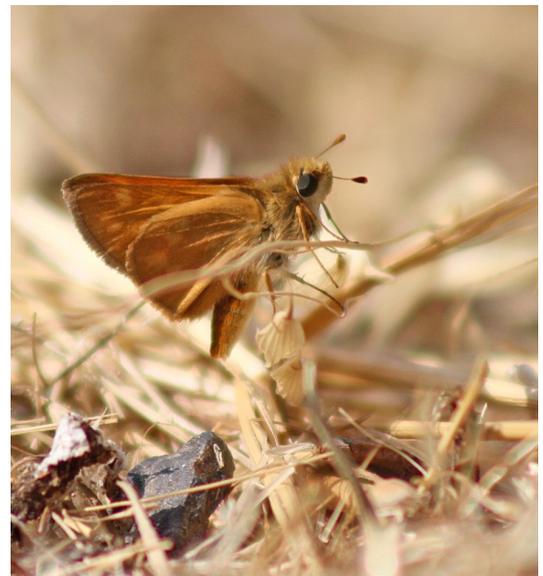


**The Sage Grouse is North America's largest grouse.  
We saw impressive numbers at Bodie Historic State Park**





Big Sur Coast (above by Marcus I'Anson)  
West Coast Lady and Woodland Skipper (below by Sorrel Lyall)



# Wise Birding Holidays

Bird and mammal watching tours



More photos from this and other tours can be viewed on our Flickr site:  
[www.flickr.com/photos/129663578@N06/albums](http://www.flickr.com/photos/129663578@N06/albums)

Bird, Mammal & Reptile Checklist for Northern California 7-18 September 2017 following the nomenclature and classification from HBW and BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World and the associated online resource, HBW Alive

#	Common name	Scientific name	#	Notes
1	Mountain Quail	<i>Oreortyx pictus</i>	1	Some great views in Sequoia NP and Yosemite NP on four days with a max count of 8 on the 13th.
2	California Quail	<i>Callipepla californica</i>	2	Synonymous with California and seen very well on at least three days at Andrew Molera State Park and Pinnacles NP.
3	Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	3	A few small groups seen well on three days with the best views at Pinnacles NP.
4	Sage Grouse	<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>	4	We enjoyed fabulous views during the early morning at Bodie State Historic Park of this impressive grouse, the largest in North America. High count of at least 60+ birds.
5	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	5	Small groups seen whilst travelling in the vehicle on the 8th, 11th and 18th not assigned to race.
6	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	6	A single bird on the 9th at Andrew Molera State Park and then 3 birds whilst travelling in Yosemite on the 16th on a small lake near Tuolumne Meadow.
7	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	7	Small numbers seen at Paicines Reservoir on the morning of the 13th.
8	Cinnamon Teal	<i>Spatula cyanoptera</i>	8	A female and 4 juveniles seen well at Moonglow Dairy Pool near Moss Landing on the 11th.
9	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	9	Small numbers seen at Paicines Reservoir on the morning of the 13th.
10	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	10	Recorded on five days.
11	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	11	A female at Paicines Reservoir on the morning of the 13th.
12	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	12	Two birds at Moonglow Dairy on the 9th and 3+ birds at Paicines Reservoir on the 13th.
13	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	13	Numerous birds on Mono Lake on the 17th including a stunning albino bird!
14	Western Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>	14	Three birds with the similar Clark's Grebe on Elkhorn Slough from Moonglow Dairy on the 11th.
15	Clark's Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i>	15	Two birds on Elkhorn Slough with Western Grebes and 3 birds in SFO Bay on the final day. A single also at SFO Bay on the 7th for some of the group.
16	Northern Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>	16	A common species seen in small numbers on at least four days. Recorded at Pacific Grove and around Yosemite too.
17	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	17	This introduced species is clearly doing well and was seen on at least five days.
18	Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	18	This small subtle dove was seen well on at least 5 days with some of the best views when looking for Bobcat on the 12th.
19	Vaux's Swift	<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>	19	Good views at Andrew Molera State Park feeding low over the trees on the gloomy morning of the 9th.
20	White-throated Swift	<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>	20	Great views of this very striking swift. Groups of 6+ on the 16th whilst enjoying a picnic breakfast in Yosemite and 15+ on our journey from Yosemite to SFO on the 18th.
21	Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	21	California's most common hummer seen in all habitat types including a bird at sea from our pelagic! Recorded on 10 days.
22	Virginia Rail	<i>Rallus limicola</i>	22	Two birds showed relatively well with patience from the boardwalk at Mono Lake on the morning of the 17th.
23	American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	23	Common in suitable habitat with small numbers on the 11th at Moonglow Dairy and 50+ birds at Paicines Reservoir on the 13th.
24	Common Loon (Great Northern Diver)	<i>Gavia immer</i>	24	Two stunning summer plumage birds were seen very close inshore by Fisherman's Wharf on the 8th after our boat trip.
25	Ashy Storm-petrel	<i>Hydrobates homochroa</i>	25	A single bird from our Monterey Bay pelagic on the 10th seen briefly by some of the group.
26	Black-footed Albatross	<i>Phoebastria nigripes</i>	26	Always a special bird to see and we enjoyed good views of two birds in Monterey Bay on our pelagic boat trip on the 10th.
27	Sooty Shearwater	<i>Ardenna grisea</i>	27	Recorded on three days from sea & land. The most notable count and amazing spectacle was an estimated 10,000 birds from our pelagic in Monterey Bay on the 10th.
28	Pink-footed Shearwater	<i>Ardenna creatopus</i>	28	Small numbers seen during our Monterey boat trips with 5+ on the 8th during a cetacean trip and 15+ on our birding pelagic on the 10th.
29	Black-vented Shearwater	<i>Puffinus opisthomelas</i>	29	Numbers vary from year to year of this Mexican breeder and we enjoyed at least 5 birds on our Monterey Bay pelagic on the 10th.
30	Black-crowned Night-heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	30	A single bird seen by some of the group at dusk as we travelled from SFO to Monterey Bay on our first day.
31	Green-backed Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	31	A single bird seen well on the morning of the 12th in a small stream whilst looking for Bobcat near Pinnacles NP.
32	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	32	Small numbers recorded on at least six days, including a bird at sea in the murky conditions whilst on a boat trip on the 10th.
33	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	33	Small numbers recorded on at least four days.
34	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	34	Recorded on a total of three days at San Francisco Bay and Moss Landing.
35	American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	35	Great views on the coast with a total of 17 birds seen near Elkhorn Slough on the 11th.
36	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	36	Great views of adults and juveniles around the coast during the first five days of the tour.
37	Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	37	Recorded on four days whilst around Monterey Bay and also San Francisco Bay.
38	Brandt's Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	38	Recorded on four days whilst in the Monterey Bay area.

#	Common name	Scientific name	#	Notes
39	Pelagic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i>	39	Good views of birds side by side with Brandt's Cormorant on the 8th and the 10th whilst leaving Fishermans Wharf.
40	Blackish (Black) Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ater bachmani</i>	40	Three birds gave great views on the coast at Asilomar Beach on the 8th.
41	American Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	41	Small numbers seen well from San Francisco Bay on the 7th and 18th and 3 birds at Elkhorn Slough on the 11th.
42	Black-winged (necked) Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus mexicanus</i>	42	Odd birds seen on just two days at San Francisco Bay for some of the group on the 7th and near Elkhorn Slough on the 11th.
43	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	43	Small numbers recorded on four days at coastal sites.
44	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	44	Small groups of up to 12+ birds seen on two days at San Francisco Bay on the first and last days of the tour.
45	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	45	Great views of this fabulous wader on at least seven days.
46	Snowy Plover	<i>Charadrius nivosus</i>	46	Close views of at least 6+ birds on the beach at Moss Landing.
47	(Hudsonian) Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus</i>	47	1-2 birds recorded on just three days around the coast.
48	Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	48	This unmistakable wader was seen at San Francisco Bay on the first day by some of the group and also at Moss Landing.
49	Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>	49	Recorded on two days on the coast and one of the most beautiful waders!
50	Black Turnstone	<i>Arenaria melanocephala</i>	50	This west coast speciality was seen very well on three days around Monterey Bay with a max. count of 3 birds on the 10th.
51	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	51	A small group were seen on the 11th around Moss Landing Beach.
52	Surfbird	<i>Calidris virgata</i>	52	Another west coast speciality with single birds seen very well on three days with birds at SFO Bay for some on the 7th and Monterey Bay.
53	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	53	Recorded on two days with at least 25+ birds on the 8th at Asilomar Beach.
54	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	54	The commonest "Peep" with small flocks distributed throughout suitable mudflats and recorded three days.
55	Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	55	Two lovely juveniles on a pool near the beach at Andrew Molera State Park on the 9th.
56	Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	56	Small numbers of juveniles in with Long-billed Dowitchers at San Francisco Bay on the 7th for some of the group.
57	Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	57	Recorded at San Francisco Bay on the 7th for some of the group.
58	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	58	Small flocks whilst at sea in Monterey Bay but the spectacle of 100s of birds at Elkhorn Slough on the 11th was a trip highlight. Recorded on a total of four days.
59	Red Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	59	At least 2 birds were seen from our pelagic in Monterey Bay on the 10th.
60	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	60	Single birds at Andrew Molera State Park on the 9th and also on the 14th whilst travelling to Yosemite.
61	Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	61	This striking wader with its bold black and white wing pattern was recorded on three days.
62	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	62	A single bird stood next to a Greater Yellowlegs on the 11th at Elkhorn Slough was much appreciated.
63	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	63	Single birds on the 7th & 11th around the coast and a bird at Paicines Reservoir on the 13th.
64	Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	64	A single adult was seen briefly during our pelagic in Monterey Bay on the 10th.
65	Heermann's Gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>	65	This superb looking gull was recorded on three days with minimum counts of 70+ birds including adults and chocolate brown juveniles.
66	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	66	Recorded in San Francisco Bay and the Moss Landing area on three days with max. counts of 20+ birds.
67	Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	67	This bruiser of a gull was seen very well and recorded on six days.
68	California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	68	Seen very well on numerous occasions and recorded on seven days.
69	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	69	1-2 birds recorded at San Francisco Bay on the 7th for some of the group and at Moss Landing on the 11th.
70	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	70	A single bird seen with Forster's Terns at Moss Landing / Elkhorn Slough on the 11th.
71	Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>	71	Singles on the 7th at SFO Bay for some of the group and on the pelagic on the 10th plus 6+ birds at SFO Bay on the 18th.
72	Elegant Tern	<i>Thalasseus elegans</i>	72	Recorded on three days around the Monterey Bay and Moss Landing area with an incredible spectacle of 5,000+ birds at Moss Landing on the 11th.
73	Arctic Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	73	Recorded on both our boat trips in Monterey Bay with 2 birds on the 8th and 4 birds on the 10th.
74	Pomarine Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	74	Two birds were sen during the Monterey Bay pelagic on the 10th.
75	Rhinoceros Auklet	<i>Cerorhinca monocerata</i>	75	Recorded on both our boat trips in Monterey Bay with 10 birds on the 8th and 30+ birds on the 10th.
76	Pigeon Guillemot	<i>Cephus columba</i>	76	A single bird was seen well in the harbour at Fisherman's Wharf as we headed out for our pelagic on the 10th.

#	Common name	Scientific name	#	Notes
77	Common Murre	<i>Uria aalge</i>	77	Small groups including numerous juveniles with adults on three days whilst around Monterey Bay.
78	Common Barn-owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	78	A couple of birds seen during the day on the 12th when looking for Bobcat and at least another 5 birds at dusk when returning to our hotel.
79	Great Grey Owl	<i>Strix nebulosa</i>	79	One of the tour highlights was watching this amazing and tricky to find owl in Yosemite in full daylight for an hour during the early evening of the 15th. Birds from the isolated Sierra Nevada population have been proposed as a separate race <i>yosemitensis</i> .
80	Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	80	Two birds seen roosting in barns during the day on the 12th whilst searching for Bobcats. A number of other birds were seen at dusk when returning to our hotel.
81	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	81	The commonest raptor recorded on all but one day of the tour.
82	California Condor	<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>	82	Some great views of this highly sought after and critically endangered vulture. A minimum of 4 birds seen well at Andrew Molera State Park on the 9th including a near adult bird plus an adult at Pinnacles NP on the 12th thanks to Sorrel's sharp eyes.
83	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	83	Single birds on the 9th at Andrew Molera and Moss Landing on the 11th and at least 2 birds at Mono Lake on the 17th.
84	White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	84	Some great views of this stunning raptor with singles on the 7th at SFO Bay and Moss Landing on the 11th, plus 2 birds at Paicines Reservoir on the 13th.
85	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	85	Two adults over Pinnacles NP on the evening of the 12th whilst watching California Thrasher was a memorable sighting.
86	Northern Harrier	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>	86	A bird seen briefly whilst travelling near Andrew Molera on the 9th and then 2 birds on the 17th near Mono Lake including a cracking adult male.
87	Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	87	Single birds seen on three days on the 11th, 15th and 18th.
88	Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	88	Dave saw a bird well on the 9th near Big Sur, plus a pair soaring at Pinnacles NP on the 12th and another single hunting Mountain Quail in Yosemite on the 15th!
89	Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	89	Sorrel and Pat saw an adult whilst travelling near Hollister en route to Sequoia NP on the 13th.
90	Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	90	A number of birds were recorded between the 8th and the 12th including a very tame bird at the surprising location of Fisherman's Wharf.
91	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	91	The most common large raptor recorded on nine days.
92	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	92	Single birds recorded on suitable rivers and lakes on four days, particularly around Big Sur and Fisherman's Wharf.
93	Red-shafted (Northern) Flicker	<i>Colaptes cafer</i>	93	Some good views of this distinct red-shafted form recorded on six days.
94	Pileated Woodpecker	<i>Hylatomus pileatus</i>	94	A cracking male seen very close in Sequoia NP on the 14th.
95	Williamson's Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus thyroideus</i>	95	A juvenile female was seen very well in Yosemite NP near Tamarack Creek on the 15th.
96	Red-breasted Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus ruber</i>	96	Superb views of 2 separate birds near Tamarack Creek on the 15th.
97	Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>	97	This highly social woodpecker was typically seen in small groups on at least six days.
98	Downy Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates pubescens</i>	98	The smallest of the Woodpeckers was seen well on two days at Andrew Molera State Park and Pinnacles NP.
99	Nuttall's Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates nuttallii</i>	99	Seen well on two days whilst in Pinnacles NP on the 12th and at Paicines Reservoir on the 13th.
100	Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Leuconotopicus villosus</i>	100	This larger sized version of the Downy Woodpecker was first seen at our accommodation in Pacific Grove and then again in Yosemite and Mono Lake on the 16th & 17th.
101	White-headed Woodpecker	<i>Leuconotopicus albolarvatus</i>	101	This very smart woodpecker was a familiar sight and sound in Sequoia and Yosemite National Parks, recorded on four days.
102	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	102	A common species often seen whilst travelling and recorded on seven days.
103	Prairie Falcon	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	103	Some great views this year. Our first was at Mono Lake on the 17th followed by a hunting pair at a frosty Tuolumne Meadow in Yosemite on our final morning.
104	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	104	Recorded on three days including one perched on the mast of a boat in Fisherman's Wharf.
105	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	105	A common and distinctive species often heard and seen close to water. Recorded on eight days.
106	Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	106	At least 3+ birds seen well whilst searching for Bobcat in the Old Hernandez Road area.
107	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax difficilis</i>	107	At least one bird seen well in Pinnacles NP on the 12th and also heard to call to further confirm the id of the tricky <i>Empidonax</i> family.
108	American Grey Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax wrightii</i>	108	Recorded on two days, both in Yosemite with single birds seen well and giving their characteristic tail wagging.
109	Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	109	Just a single bird seen well as we arrived at Andrew Molera State Park and associating with a small flock of other passerines.
110	Hutton's Vireo	<i>Vireo huttoni</i>	110	This subtle vireo with its striking large eye and white eye-ring and wing bars was seen well on a number of occasions whilst visiting Andrew Molera State Park, Pinnacles NP and Yosemite NP.
111	Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	111	Most sightings were of 1-2 birds recorded on three days. First seen whilst searching for Bobcat on the Old Hernandez Road and then again near Bodie State Historic Park.
112	Black-billed Magpie	<i>Pica hudsonia</i>	112	Just 2 birds seen whilst birding the Bodie Road on the 17th.
113	Yellow-billed Magpie	<i>Pica nuttalli</i>	113	Seen in groups of 20+ on three days whilst exploring the Pinnacles NP area.
114	Clark's Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga columbiana</i>	114	A key target species for many of the group and seen well during the last four days of the tour in Yosemite NP with a max. count of 4 birds on the 15th near Tuolumne Meadow.

#	Common name	Scientific name	#	Notes
115	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	115	Recorded on at least eight days from the 11th onwards.
116	American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	116	Recorded daily.
117	Western Scrub-jay	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>	117	Recorded on the first five full days of the tour and again on the last day.
118	Steller's Jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>	118	A very common but nonetheless stunning species recorded on nine days.
119	Oak Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus inornatus</i>	119	This plain faced Tit with tufted crest was seen well whilst around the Pinnacles NP area on the 11th and 12th.
120	Mountain Chickadee	<i>Poecile gambeli</i>	120	Seen well on four days whilst in Sequoia and Yosemite NPs at suitable altitude.
121	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	<i>Poecile rufescens</i>	121	Recorded on just two days with birds seen well around the Big Sur and also San Francisco Bay on our last day.
122	Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	122	Good views of this smart hirundine recorded on three days mostly whilst on the coast.
123	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	123	Small numbers recorded during the first few days of the trip.
124	Violet-green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>	124	Small groups seen hawking around Andrew Molera State Park on the 9th and a distant group of hirundines at Paicines Reservoir on the 13th were thought to be this species but may have also included Tree Swallow.
125	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	125	A single bird seen at sea whilst on our pelagic on the morning of the 8th.
126	American Bushtit	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>	126	A couple of gangs of these tits were seen on the 8th at Andrew Molera State Park totalling around 12 birds.
127	Wrentit	<i>Chamaea fasciata</i>	127	Two birds were seen very well in Andrew Molera State Park on the 9th with other birds heard on the 11th and 12th at least.
128	American (Brown Creeper) Treecreeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>	128	Numerous sightings on three days with probably the best views whilst exploring the Big Sur trail below Buzzard's Roost Trail on the 9th.
129	Pygmy Nuthatch	<i>Sitta pygmaea</i>	129	Three birds seen close to Mono Mills near Mono Lake on the 17th.
130	Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	130	Some great views and a familiar sound of the forest with birds recorded in Sequoia and Yosemite NPs on four days.
131	White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	131	Great sightings on two days whilst in Pinnacles NP and again in Sequoia NP.
132	Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	132	A single bird showed well in Andrew Molera State Park on the 9th.
133	Canyon Wren	<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>	133	Excellent views of a bird foraging in Pinnacles NP thanks to a local ranger who allowed us to view it from his office window!
134	Northern (Pacific) Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes pacificus</i>	134	This distinctive dark race of Northern Wren, considered a separate species by some taxonomic groups, was seen well on the 9th at Andrew Molera State Park.
135	Northern House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	135	A single bird showed well in a meadow near Tamarac Creek in Yosemite on the 16th.
136	Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	136	Single birds recorded on two days. A brief view in the marsh near Moon Glow Dairy on the 11th and better views at Mono Lake on the 17th.
137	Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	137	This common songster was seen well on at least two days at Andrew Molera State Park and Pinnacles NP.
138	American Dipper	<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>	138	Perseverance paid off and we were rewarded with great views of a single bird feeding on the Merced River in Yosemite NP on the 16th.
139	Common Starling	<i>Sturnas vulgaris</i>	139	Recorded on the first seven days and the last.
140	Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	140	Single birds at Paicines Reservoir on the 13th and on our last day near SFO.
141	Sage Thrasher	<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>	141	At least 3 separate birds seen well near the ghost town of Bodie on the morning of the 17th.
142	California Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma redivivum</i>	142	A singing male performed well in Pinnacles NP on the afternoon of the 12th before everyone was distracted by Golden Eagles!
143	Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>	143	This striking bird was seen very well on at least three days whilst in Pinnacles NP and Yosemite NP.
144	Mountain Bluebird	<i>Sialia currucoides</i>	144	Some great views of this higher altitude cousin of Western Bluebird and recorded on three days whilst in Yosemite and near Mono Lake.
145	Townsend's Solitaire	<i>Myadestes townsendi</i>	145	A singing male sat on the very top of a pine and posed in the scope near Tenaya Lake Yosemite on the 16th.
146	Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	146	The only bird was seen by a few of the group on our last morning in Yosemite near Tamarac Creek responding well to "pishing."
147	American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	147	Small numbers seen daily from the 13th - 17th including some juveniles.
148	Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	148	Seen very well in Sequoia NP on the 14th.
149	Phainopepla	<i>Phainopepla nitens</i>	149	A single female sat and posed at the top of a tree on the Panoche Road on the morning of the 13th.
150	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	150	Mostly around habitation as expected and recorded on eight days.
151	House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	151	Recorded on three days including some bright pink males.
152	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	152	Single birds seen at Tuolumne Meadow in Yosemite on the 16th and 18th.



#	Common name	Scientific name	#	Notes
1	Mountain Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus nuttallii</i>	1	Seen well around Mono Lake.
2	Desert Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus audubonii</i>	2	Recorded on three days around Andrew Molera State Park and the Pinnacles NP.
3	Black-tailed Jackrabbit	<i>Lepus californicus</i>	3	Recorded on three days around the Pinnacles NP at dusk and an unusual daytime encounter at Mono Lake. High count of 6 on the 11th.
4	Eastern Fox Squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger</i>	4	This introduced species was seen near our accommodation in Pacific Grove on the 9th and 10th.
5	Western Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus griseus</i>	5	Recorded on two days whilst in Sequoia and Yosemite NPs.
6	Douglas's Squirrel	<i>Tamiasciurus douglasii</i>	6	1-2 animals recorded during the last five days of the tour in Sequoia and Yosemite NPs.
7	California Ground Squirrel	<i>Otospermophilus beecheyi</i>	7	The most commonly encountered Ground Squirrel present in all habitats and a range of altitudes. Recorded on 10 days.
8	Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel	<i>Callospermophilus lateralis</i>	8	This attractive Ground Squirrel was recorded in Yosemite NP on the 16th where we saw at least four different animals.
9	Least Chipmunk	<i>Tamias minimus</i>	9	A couple of animals were seen in the sagebrush habitat near Bodie on the morning of the 17th.
10	Lodgepole Chipmunk	<i>Tamias speciosus</i>	10	The most commonly encountered Chipmunk present in Sequoia and Yosemite NPs and recorded on five days.
11	Yellow-bellied Marmot	<i>Marmota flaviventris</i>	11	Two of these amusing mammals were seen very well in Sequoia NP on the morning of the 14th.
12	Belding's Ground Squirrel	<i>Urocitellus beldingi</i>	12	2-3 animals seen very well at Tuolumne Meadow in Yosemite on the 15th and 16th.
13	Bobcat	<i>Lynx rufus</i>	13	Fantastic views on the morning of the 12th on the Old Hernandez Road. We watched a young animal as it sought shade under some tree roots at very close range.
14	Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>	14	One on the 12th near Pinnacles NP, one very close encounter on the 16th at Tuolumne Meadow and two on the 17th at Bodie.
15	Grey Fox	<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>	15	Marcus saw one whilst travelling on the 11th and one at night on the 12th whilst travelling back from Pinnacles NP.
	<b>Black Bear</b>	<i>Ursus americanus</i>		Fresh scat on the 16th near White Wolf in Yosemite NP.
16	Northern Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	16	Dave saw one as we arrived at our accommodation on the evening of the 7th and another was seen by all on the evening of the 9th, again at our accommodation in Pacific Grove.
17	Sea Otter	<i>Enhydra lutris</i>	17	Recorded on two days around Monterey Bay and then a minimum of 50+ at Moss Landing.
	<b>American Badger</b>	<i>Taxidea taxus</i>		Seen dead on the road on the 13th.
	<b>Striped Skunk</b>	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>		Seen dead on the road on three days.
18	Botta's Pocket Gopher	<i>Thomomys bottae</i>	18	One on the 8th at Monterey showed exceptionally well in the semi-urban environment near Fisherman's Wharf.
19	California Sea Lion	<i>Zalophus californianus</i>	19	Recorded on three days around Monterey.
20	Northern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga angustirostris</i>	20	A single animal was seen briefly at sea whilst on our Monterey Bay birding pelagic on the 10th.
21	Mule Deer (Black-tailed Deer)	<i>Odocoileus hemionus columbianus</i>	21	Recorded daily except for the first day.
22	Harbour Seal	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	22	Two animals on the 8th and again on the 10th around Fisherman's Wharf.
23	Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	23	Another excellent year with a minimum of 40+ animals recorded on the 8th and 10th whilst in Monterey Bay.
24	Long-beaked Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus capensis</i>	24	One of the trip highlights was being surrounded by no less than 1,800+ animals during our first boat trip in Monterey Bay on the 8th.
25	Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	25	Two animals close inshore on the 11th at Moss Landing.
	Blue Shark	<i>Prionace glauca</i>		A single animal came to investigate the boat during our pelagic in Monetary Bay on the 10th.
	Ocean Sunfish	<i>Mola mola</i>		One gave close views from the boat on the 10th.
	Garter Snake Species	-		This species was recorded on the 16th, 17th and 18th whilst exploring Yosemite and the Mono Lake regions.
	Western Fence Lizard	<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>		Recorded on at least four days.

#	Common name	Scientific name	#	Notes
	Monarch Butterfly	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>		-
	American Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		-
	West Coast Lady	<i>Vanessa Annabella</i>		-
	Californian Sister	<i>Adelpha bredowii</i>		-
	Cabbage White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		-
	Common Checkered Skipper	<i>Pyrgus communis</i>		-
	Woodland Skipper	<i>Ochlodes sylvanoides</i>		-
	Hoary Comma	<i>Polygonia gracilis</i>		-
	Old World Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>		-
	Cabbage White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		-

# Wise Birding Holidays

Bird and mammal watching tours

