

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA
9th - 24th September 2009



California Sea-lions - laid back!

9th September 2009

An early start to catch BA1321 flight from Newcastle to London Heathrow at 06:45. An alarm in the departure lounge lead to a delay until the Fire Brigade arrived but we landed more or less on time in London at 08:15 hrs. Flight BA0285 to San Francisco was delayed for an hour sitting on the tarmac whilst a fault was rectified but left the cabin with no air-con until after take-off. Everyone in the plane was overheating so no marks to BA! Landed at 15:14 local time after a 10½ flight. Quickly through security, collected bags then took the Air Train to collect the hire car from Dollar which, of course, was not what we had booked. Eventually left with a monster 3.7 litre Jeep Liberty(!) and sat-nav'd the journey to Monterey via US101 & CA1. Arrived in darkness and promptly had a nose-bleed! Great start!

10th September 2009

After breakfast we went down to Fisherman's Wharf to check where I should park, etc. for pelagic trips. First birds seen included the very smart Heermann's Gulls, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorants and a noisy Belted Kingfisher. The harbour area was also full of lounging Harbour Seals and on the breakwater, noisy California Sea-lions. Drove towards Pacific Grove adding more species to the list and found a close-in radio-tagged Sea Otter. Continued around Point Pinos finding the first Black Turnstones and, to make me feel at home, an Arctic Skua chasing a tern! Spent part of the day trying to recover from 24 hours continuous travel.

11 th September 2009	<p>An early morning visit to the deep wooded ravine across the road from our motel, the Cypress Gardens, gave four species of woodpecker, Acorn, Nuttall's, Downy & Hairy as well as several Pygmy Nuthatches & the first of a number of Townsend's Warblers. This was followed by a drive along the 17 Mile Scenic Drive from the Pacific Grove entrance. The various stopping places provided an ever-growing list of species but a small pool at Point Joe gave the highlights with a Virginia Rail, Sora & Wilson's Snipe all out on a tiny patch of mud. A gathering of hirundines at the Lone Cypress also included the trip's only Vaux's Swift. During the late afternoon I walked out on Fisherman's Wharf 2 where there were a lot of gulls, Red-necked Phalaropes and a Sea Otter. The day had been hot but quite foggy in the general area.</p>
12 th September 2009	<p>Another early walk near the Cypress Gardens provided a party of Bushtits, a couple of Oak Titmouse, Spotted Towhee and more Townsend's Warblers. We drove north back up the CA1 to visit Elkhorn Slough. Although very foggy again this massive area is obviously superb. On the walk around the trails there were masses of Song Sparrows, good numbers of House Finches, two Californian Thrashers and a couple of what were presumably Pacific-slope Flycatchers (best called 'Western' Flycatchers perhaps as they did not call!) and a number of waders appearing on the rising tide. We visited the nearby Moonglow Diary where there were hundreds of Red-winged Blackbirds & several Tricolored Blackbirds among them! Also lots of flies!</p> <p>A quick visit to Moss Landing Wildlife Area and then the State Beach but the ever-present fog was getting really thick and cold. Best bird here was a drake Buffelhead but there were many waders, terns, etc. roosting over the tide. We beat an early retreat to Monterey.</p>
13 th September 2009	<p>The Big Day! An eight-hour pelagic trip with Shearwater Journeys out in to Monterey Bay. A 07:30 am cast-off on a flat calm sea as we headed south along the coast picking up the first Pigeon Guillemots, Sooty Shearwaters & Rhinoceros Auklets. After stopping at various points including one to view a couple of Hump-backed Whales we turned westwards into the open sea. This trip is a must in mid-September with apparently every day usually turning out different. Just the numbers of Sooty & Pink-footed Shearwaters were impressive, superceded only by the appearance of a number of Black-footed Albatrosses, some coming into the wake and passing close by the boat. At one point we stopped to view a feeding Blue Shark and had bow-riding Pacific White-sided & Northern Right Whale Dolphins. The supporting cast was no less impressive with four species of skua (or jaegers if you like) including two South Polar Skuas, Sabine's Gulls & Ashy Storm Petrels. Later in the day a Tufted Puffin flew around the boat a couple of times affording everyone good views and on the way back in someone spotted a Horned Puffin sitting on the sea being harassed by a Western Gull. Throwing a fish out distracted the gull and we all had good views of this relatively rare puffin in the bay. After that dinner and a couple of beers in a restaurant on Fisherman's Wharf tasted superb!</p>

14 th September 2009	Today we drove down CA1 along Big Sur. Although there were not huge amounts of birds to find the scenery is stunning. A visit to Point Lobos State Park revealed an almost constant stream of Sooty Shearwaters moving north past a headland while a walk along the trail to the beach in Andrew Molera SP produced three Lesser Goldfinches and several Hutton's Vireos among others. Julia Pfeiffer Burns SP produced only a few species and so retired to Cannery Row back at Monterey to be a tourist for a while!
15 th September 2009	Drove back to Crespi Pond & Point Pinos after breakfast searching for waders and then went back along the coastal part of the 17 Mile Scenic Drive. Point Joe provided the best birding here with, mainly around the small roadside pond, a couple of Western Kingbirds, two Western Meadowlarks, lots of White-crowned Sparrows, Common Yellowthroat, the Sora and Wilson's Snipe again and an unexpected Pectoral Sandpiper. After lunch and a walk around Carmel we drove up to Jack's Peak CP and walked one of the short trails in the evening. Very peaceful here with the highlight being good views of two Western (Pacific-slope) Flycatchers.
16 th September 2009	Moved inland today, via Gilroy and Los Banos and eventually along Highway 140 to Mariposa, for four nights. A nice White-tailed Kite performed along the roadside but the only other raptors noted were Turkey Vultures. Made an extended visit to San Luis NWR where it was very hot. The reserve is drought-stricken apparently and one major trail was closed because of this. We drove around the Tule Elk trail eventually seeing some Elk from the captive program quite close to the fence. Birds included a Loggerhead Shrike, several Red-tailed Hawks overhead, Western Meadowlark, several waders on a small muddy puddle and our first California Quail on the dusty track. We drove over to Merced NWR where there was more water (but still fairly dry!). A reasonable selection of waders and some duck on the first lagoon and a drive around the reserve produced distant views of our first White-faced Ibis and a party of 38 Sandhill Cranes. Eventually arrived in Mariposa and booked into the Mariposa Lodge. While shopping at the local supermarket found six or so Western Bluebirds in the carpark.
17 th September 2009	Drove straight up to Yosemite NP and headed with only light traffic towards Glacier Point. Unfortunately there were major roadworks over about six miles of the park road resulting in a slow, dusty journey up to the view point. The fantastic views here were well worth the crap journey and the birds helped as well! A flycatching Lewis's Woodpecker, White-headed Woodpecker, Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches and a fly-over party of Clark's Nutcrackers being the highlights. We made our way back down the road birding around Bridalveil Creek and I walked out along McGurk Meadow Trail where I found a very close Black-backed Woodpecker feeding just off the track. It was very hot by now and we retreated to Mariposa. Here an evening visit to the local cemetery produced a small party of Lesser Goldfinches coming to drink at a large puddle with, incredibly, at least two Lawrence's Goldfinches. Five Phainopepla's were something I didn't expect and a Northern Flicker gave good views.

18 th September 2009	A fairly early start to drive back to Yosemite stopping first at a large layby just before the ranger station where after scanning the River Merced below I eventually picked up an obliging American Dipper. Drove slowly along the main valley stopping at various spots to look for birds. At one picnic turn-in a Coyote wandered fearlessly down the track in front of our vehicle! Here we had good views of a close feeding White-headed Woodpecker. A wander along the riverside bushes revealed a small number of feeding warblers, mainly Yellow-rumped, but also including two smart MacGillivray's and another which was almost certainly a Wilson's Warbler. Played at being a tourist at the Visitor Centre and then drove back towards the entrance stopping again and picking up a Cassin's Vireo among other things. It had become very hot (100F) so we returned to Mariposa early afternoon.
19 th September 2009	A very early start back to Yosemite again, this time to check out Chevron Meadow, a known site for Great Grey Owl, but with little real hope and to get a little higher up at White Wolf Camp site. Arriving at the meadow before 08:00 am I wandered about 30m from the road when, amazingly, a Great Grey got up and flew to a classic lichen-covered branch in full view! For the next 20 minutes or so I watched spellbound as this bird looked around for prey, dropping down into the grass, before eventually slipping quietly into the forest. Magic! When I looked up from the owl there were two Brown Creepers feeding just feet away! We drove up to White Wolf stopping at various spots and then spent a little time near the camp site. On the way down we paused at the site of a large area of fire damage which had occurred in August (as the result of a controlled burn 'jumping the fence') and was still smoking! A little further down the road we saw about a dozen White-throated Swifts and three Red-tailed Hawks overhead.
20 th September 2009	A long drive to San Francisco today with a few birds seen en route. A party of 70 large corvids some distance off at Merced appeared to be all Ravens! We stopped off at Caswell Memorial SP for a few hours birding. Walking the trails here produced a fair list including Spotted Towhees feeding a fledged brood, two Oak Titmice, Hutton's Vireo, a noisy Red-shouldered Hawk, and a small feeding party of warblers including two Townsend's and a splendid Black-throated Gray Warbler. As we continued on the road the traffic assumed huge proportions and we had a long wait to get on to the Oakland Bridge. Eventually we arrived at our hotel courtesy of the satnav.
21 st September 2009	We pretended to be true tourists today and took a bus tour of the city. With an hilarious Glaswegian driver, this was good value. He knew his stuff and pointed out such important landmarks as the house where the Grateful Dead had lived and the site where Dirty Harry said the immortal words 'Make my day punk!' That made my day! Oh yes, the Golden Gate Bridge - didn't see it, covered by thick fog (as it was on the four occasions we crossed it!). Spent the rest of the day along Fisherman's Wharf just people-watching and then sampling the public bus service back to the hotel.

22 nd September 2009	<p>Drove north over the Golden Gate Bridge and headed for Bolinas Lagoon where we spent a fair amount of time but still did not do the area justice. Loads of duck including Pintails, American Wigeon and Green-winged Teal, waders including many Marbled Godwits and Long-billed Curlews and our only Clark's Grebe's of the trip. Visited Point Reyes BO where the two ringers (banders) kindly took me on a circuit of their mistnets, sadly they caught nothing while I was there! A large dark eagle was seen disappearing into the distance and could well have been a Bald Eagle. Two Sharp-shinned Hawks were closer over a nearby wooded area.</p> <p>We checked into our waterside motel at Inverness and then had an evening visit to Limantour Beach where there were several grebes and divers (loons) offshore and a ringtail Northern Harrier quartering nearby.</p>
23 rd September 2009	<p>We awoke to rather thick fog on Point Reyes but drove out to the outer area. Searching around in the poor light we found a few California Quail (with numbers increasing dramatically when we got out of the car!), a couple more Northern Harriers and some big flocks of blackbirds, nearly all Red-winged. At Drake's Beach it was positively cold but at least three Barn Owls were roosting in the small grove of trees at the Monument, 30 Surf Scoters were offshore and a White-faced Ibis was an unexpected find on the small pond. We called in at Drake's Bay where there were a lot of waders out on the flats but visibility was getting worse so we headed for Heart's Desire Beach and the Indian Trail. Here it was a bit warmer and a walk along the trail produced quite a few small birds including up to 24 Townsend's Warblers, a couple of Wilson's Warblers and Pacific-slope Flycatchers. An afternoon trip to White Horse Pool didn't produce many birds but a little group of three River Otters were followed for some time. Another attempt at the Point in the early evening found the visibility hardly improved but while parked up at the Historic 'C' Ranch watching huge flocks of blackbirds, a very unexpected Red-eyed Vireo appeared almost next to us in a cypress tree.</p>
24 th September 2009	<p>Our last day and before breakfast I walked along the main road (relatively quiet!) near the motel and found a few things including a couple of Orange-crowned Warblers and a perched Sharp-shinned Hawk. Several Anna's Hummingbirds were being their normal aggressive selves around the motel garden. After some final packing we started back towards SF stopping at Bolinas Lagoon where there were loads of wildfowl and a tight party of 60 Elegant Terns flying around. Stopping to fill up with fuel at a small place in Tamalpais Valley I looked up and found single Red-tailed and Cooper's Hawks nearly together overhead and then a White-throated Swift.</p> <p>We negotiated our way back across the Golden Gate Bridge (still invisible in fog) and onward to San Francisco Airport. Checking in and a bit of a longish wait were relatively painless in this big airport and we took off on time on flight BA0286 for the overnight flight to London Heathrow.</p> <p>Arriving at lunchtime in Heathrow on 25th we had several hours wait for our connection back to Newcastle and arrived home, shattered but well-pleased with the trip!</p>

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Up to 20 seen in the Monterey/Point Pinos area on four days.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

33 were at Drake's Beach pond, Point Reyes on 23rd.

American Wigeon *Anas americana*

Up to 20 were at Bolinas Lagoon on 22nd & 24th.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Small numbers seen at a number of coastal localities and three at Siesta Lake in Yosemite NP. 103 were counted at Bolinas Lagoon on 24th.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*

One was at Spanish Bay, 17 Mile Drive on 15th.

Cinnamon Teal *Anas cyanoptera*

About ten were at Merced NWR on 16th.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

15 were at Merced NWR on 16th.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

About 130 in two large groups were at Bolinas Lagoon on 22nd with many still present on 24th.

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*

A maximum of 80 were at Bolinas Lagoon on 22nd

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata*

Singles were at Moss Landing State Beach on 12th and Limantour Beach on 22nd. About 30 were off Drake's Beach, Point Reyes NS on 23rd.

Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola*

One was at Moss Landing State Beach on 12th.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

One was at Bolinas Lagoon on 24th.

California Quail *Callipepla californica*

Three were at San Luis NWR on 16th and about 45 at Point Reyes NS on 23rd.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Three were off Limantour Beach on 22nd and one at Drake's Beach on 23rd.

Pacific Diver *Gavia pacifica*

Three were seen on the Monterey Bay pelagic trip on 13th and singles at Limantour Beach on 22nd and Drake's Beach on 23rd.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

One was off Heart's Desire Beach, Point Reyes NS on 23rd.

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*

Singles were noted at Monterey, Elkhorn Slough and Moss Landing State Beach.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

One was off Limantour Beach on 22nd.

Western Grebe *Aechmophorus occidentalis*

Three were at Spanish Bay, 17 Mile Drive on 11th and Bolinas Lagoon on 22nd when one at Limantour Beach and six off Drake's Beach on 23rd. One was at Elkhorn Slough.



Western Grebe

Clark's Grebe *Aechmophorus clarkii*

Two were at Bolinas Lagoon on 22nd.

Black-footed Albatross *Phoebastria nigripes*

Probably 14 individuals seen on the Monterey Bay pelagic trip on 13th.

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

Three were seen on the Monterey Bay pelagic trip on 13th.

Pink-footed Shearwater *Puffinus creatopus*

Good numbers (but not counted) were seen on the Monterey Bay pelagic trip on 13th although they were not as numerous as the Sooties.

Buller's Shearwater *Puffinus bulleri*

Eleven seen on the Monterey Bay pelagic trip on 13th.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

Noted as abundant on the Monterey Bay pelagic trip on 13th and on the following day there was a constant movement of hundreds of birds north close inshore past Whaler's Cove, Point Lobos SP.

Ashy Storm Petrel *Ocenodroma homochroa*

At least 14 seen on the Monterey Bay pelagic trip on 13th.

American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*

Three were at Moonglow Dairy, Elkhorn Slough on 12th.

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*

Seen in good numbers on 11 days mainly in coastal localities.

Brandt's Cormorant *Phalacrocorax peniciliatus*

Good numbers seen in the Monterey-Point Lobos area on several dates.

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus*

Small numbers seen at Monterey, Moss Landing, Elkhorn Slough and Inverness with a maximum of 40 at

Bolinas Lagoon on 22nd.

Pelagic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pelagicus*

Good numbers noted at Monterey-Point Pinos-Spanish Bay areas.

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*

One-two were at Point Joe, Elkhorn Slough, Merced NWR and San Luis NWR.

American Great White Egret *Ardea alba egretta*

Seen on ten dates in small numbers mainly in coastal localities but also many at Merced NWR on 16th.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*

One-two seen in coastal localities and about six at Merced NWR on 16th.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Singles were at Point Joe, 17 Mile Drive on 11th and Point Pinos on 15th.

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi*

Six were at Merced NWR on 16th and one at the pond at Drake's Beach, Point Reyes on 23rd.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*

Up to 20 seen on many days in widespread localities.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Singles were over Point Reyes Station on 22nd and at Inverness on 23rd.

White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus*

Two were hunting near Point Joe, 17 Mile Drive on 11th when one was nearby at Pacific Grove. Another seen on the journey from Monterey to Mariposa on 16th.

[Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

An all-dark looking large eagle flying away at Point Reyes BO was probably this species.]

Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus hudsonius*

Singles were noted at Sandy Mush Road, near Merced NWR, Limantour Beach, Bolinas Lagoon and Drake's Beach while about four were seen in the general area of Point Reyes NS on 23rd. All were 'ringtails'.

Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus*

Two were behind Point Reyes BO on 22nd and one at Inverness on 24th.

Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii*

One was over the Tamalpais Valley on 24th.

Red-shouldered Hawk *Buteo lineatus*

Two were at Spanish Bay, 17 Mile Drive on 11th and Elkhorn Slough on 12th. Singles were at Point Pinos on 15th, Caswell Memorial SP on 20th, Point Reyes BO on 22nd and Heart's Desire Beach on 23rd.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*

About four were at Elkhorn Slough on 12th when one at Moonglow Dairy, six at Merced NWR on 16th

when three at nearby San Luis NWR and seven in the Point Reyes NS area on 23rd. Smaller numbers noted at four other localities.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*

One -two noted in several localities with about six in the Point Reyes NS area on 23rd.

Virginia Rail *Rallus limicola*

One, with a Sora, showed very well on a small pond at Point Joe, 17 Mile Drive on 11th.

Sora *Porzana carolina*

A single showed very well on a small pond at Point Joe, 17 Mile Drive on 11th and 15th.

American Moorhen *Galinula chloropus cachinnans*

Two were on the pond at Drake's Beach on 23rd.

American Coot *Fulica americana*

Three were at Merced NWR on 16th.

Sandhill Crane *Grus canadensis*

38 were at Merced NWR on 16th.

Grey (Black-bellied) Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Two were at Spanish Bay, 17 Mile Drive on 11th and about 80 at Bolinas Lagoon on 22nd.

Snowy Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

Three were at Spanish Bay, 17 Mile Drive on 11th.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*

Five were at Spanish Bay, 17 Mile Drive on 11th and several at Moss Landing SB on 12th. One was at Bolinas Lagoon on 22nd.

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus*

One-eight were seen in several coastal localities and a maximum of ten at Merced NWR on 16th.

Black Oystercatcher *Haematopus bachmani*

Five were at Pacific Grove on 10th and one at Cypress Point, 17 Mile Drive on 11th.

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*

On 16th c20 were at Merced NWR and 11 at San Luis NWR.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*

Two were at Elkhorn Slough on 12th and singles noted at Cypress Point, Andrew Molera SP and Bolinas Lagoon.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*

One was at Elkhorn Slough on 12th and c30 at Merced NWR on 16th.

Willet *Tringa semipalmata*

Seen on eight days in coastal localities with the largest numbers at Moss Landing SB on 12th.

Hudsonian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*

One-six seen at Point Pinos, Spanish Bay, Bird Rock, Bolinas Lagoon and flying offshore on the pelagic trip on 13th.

Long-billed Curlew *Numenius americanus*

Six were at Elkhorn Slough on 12th and 20-30 at Bolinas Lagoon on 22nd and 24th.

Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa*

Probably several hundred in a packed roost at Moss Landing SB on 12th, c70 at Bolinas Lagoon on 22nd and smaller numbers at Point Joe, Spanish Beach, Elkhorn Slough and Drake's Bay.

Black Turnstone *Arenaria melanocephala*

Up to 26 regularly found in the Point Pinos-17 Mile Drive coastline on several dates.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

30-40 were at Spanish Bay and Bird Rock on 15th and several at Moss Landing SB on 12th.

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri*

One was at Spanish Bay on 11th where two on 15th and several at Moss Landing SB on 12th.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*

Seen on four days with many at Elkhorn Slough and Moss Landing area on 12th and also at Drake's Bay, Point Reyes on 23rd.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

One was on a small pool at Point Joe on 15th.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

c40 were at Bolinas Lagoon on 24th.

Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus*

Two flying well out 'at sea' in Monterey Bay on 13th were almost certainly this species.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

Two were with other waders at San Luis NWR on 16th.

Wilson's Snipe *Gallinago delicata*

A single was at a small pool at Point Joe on 11th and 15th.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Seen on several dates including c30 at Monterey on 11th, c40 at Moss Landing WA and c50 at Moonglow Diary on 12th and c60 on the Monterey Bay pelagic trip on 13th.

Heermann's Gull *Larus heermanni*

Common in many coastal localities visited.

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*

Small numbers noted at Bolinas Lagoon, Inverness and Heart's Desire Beach, Point Reyes.

California Gull *Larus californicus*

Small numbers seen in several localities between Point Lobos-Point Reyes.

Western Gull *Larus occidentalis*

Very common and widespread in coastal localities.

Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini*

Eleven were seen on the Monterey Bay pelagic trip on 13th.

Elegant Tern *Thalasseus elegans*

Seen on seven dates with gatherings of c100 at Moss Landing SB on 12th and Bolinas Lagoon on 22nd.

South Polar Skua *Stercorarius maccormicki*

Two were seen on the Monterey Bay pelagic trip on 13th.

Pomarine Skua (Jaegar) *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Ten were counted on the Monterey Bay pelagic trip on 13th.

Arctic Skua (Jaegar) *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Singles were off Point Pinos on 10th and on the Monterey Bay pelagic trip on 13th.

Long-tailed Skua (Jaegar) *Stercorarius longicaudus*

A minimum of five individuals were seen on the Monterey Bay pelagic trip on 13th.

Guillemot (Common Murre) *Uria aalge*

Small numbers noted off Monterey and Point Lobos with many seen on the Monterey Bay pelagic trip on 13th.

Pigeon Guillemot *Cephus columba*

Three were seen, early in the day, just offshore during the Monterey Bay pelagic trip on 13th.

Cassin's Auklet *Ptychoramphus aleuticus*

Three were seen on the Monterey Bay pelagic trip on 13th.

Rhinoceros Auklet *Cerorhinca monocerata*

Many seen on the Monterey Bay pelagic trip on 13th.

Horned Puffin *Fratercula corniculata*

One was seen on the Monterey Bay pelagic trip on 13th, being harrassed on the sea by a Western Gull.

Tufted Puffin *Fratercula cirrhata*

One flew around the boat during the Monterey Bay pelagic trip on 13th.

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Noted on just a couple of days.

Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata*

One seen briefly at Shepherd's Knoll, 17 Mile Drive on 11th.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Only noted around Point Reyes Station area but probably present elsewhere.

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*

Small numbers noted in widespread localities on five days.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

At least three different birds were roosting in the small grove at the monument at Drake's Beach, Point Reyes on 23rd.

Great Grey Owl *Strix nebulosa*

One watched for 20 minutes at Chevron Meadow, Yosemite NP on 19th before it quietly slipped off into the forest.

Vaux's Swift *Chaetura vauxi*

A single swift with a gathering of hirundines at Lone Cypress viewpoint, 17 Mile Drive on 11th was this species.



Great Grey Owl

White-throated Swift *Aeronautes saxatalis*

c12 were seen feeding from Big Oak Flat Road, Yosemite NP on 19th and a single was over the Tamalpas Valley on 24th.

Anna's Hummingbird *Calypte anna*

One-four were seen at Moonglow Diary, Elkhorn Slough, Whaler's Cove, Mariposa and Inverness.

Belted Kingfisher *Ceryle alcyon*

Singles were at Monterey on 10th and 13th, Bolinas Lagoon on 22nd and Inverness on 23rd.

Lewis's Woodpecker *Melanerpes lewis*

One was near Glacier Point, Yosemite NP on 17th.

Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus*

The most frequently seen woodpecker being noted on six dates in widespread localities.

Nuttall's Woodpecker *Picoides nuttallii*

One, possibly two, birds were in a wooded valley area near Cypress Gardens Motel, Monterey on 11th.

Downy Woodpecker *Picoides pubescens*

One-two were seen Cypress Gardens Motel, Monterey, Point Reyes BO and the Historic 'F' Ranch, Point Reyes NS.

Hairy Woodpecker *Picoides villosus*

About three were noted in a wooded valley area near Cypress Gardens Motel, Monterey and one at Heart's Desire Beach, Point Reyes on 23rd.

White-headed Woodpecker *Picoides albolarvatus*

In Yosemite NP singles were seen at Glacier Point on 17th and in the valley on 18th.

Black-backed Woodpecker *Picoides arcticus*

One was watched for some time in the same tree along the McGurk Meadow Trail on 17th

Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus*

One was at Mariposa on 17th.

Western Wood-peewee *Contopus sordidulus*

A single was found at San Luis NWR on 16th.

Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii*

A single was at San Luis NWR on 16th.

Pacific-slope Flycatcher *Empidonax difficilis*

Presumably this species (but no calls heard), one-two were seen at Elkhorn Slough, Point Lobos SP, Andrew Molera SP, Jack's Peak CP, Point Reyes BO and Indian Trail, Point Reyes.

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans*

One-five seen in many widespread localities.

Western Kingbird *Tyrannus verticalis*

Two were together at Point Joe, 17 Mile Drive on 15th.

Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus*

The only sighting was one at San Luis NWR on 16th.

Cassin's Vireo *Vireo cassinii*

Only noted in the valley at Yosemite NP on 18th.

Hutton's Vireo *Vireo huttoni*

One-four were seen at Julia Pfeiffer Burns SP, Andrew Molera SP, Caswell Memorial SP and Inverness, Point Reyes.

Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus*

Singles were at Bolinas Lagoon on 22nd and Drake's Beach on 23rd.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*

An un-expected find was a single in cypress trees at Historic 'C' Ranch, Point Reyes on evening of 23rd.

Steller's Jay *Cyanocitta stelleri*

Widespread and seen and heard on eight days.

Western Scrub-jay *Aphelocoma californica*

Probably commoner than the previous species being seen on ten days in many localities.

Clark's Nutcracker *Nucifraga columbiana*

A party of seven flying over in Yosemite NP was the only sighting.

American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos*

Common and widespread.

Raven *Corvus corax*

Noted on eight days mainly in inland sites but also small numbers in the Point Reyes area. A very large group of c70 corvids seen from the road near Merced appeared to be all this species.

Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor*

One was at Point Pinos on 15th while many were feeding over fields at San Luis NWR on 16th.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Good numbers were seen in several widespread localities.

Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*

Several were with other hirundines at the Lone Cypress, 17 Mile Drive on 11th.

Mountain Chickadee *Poecile gambeli*

Seen in widespread areas within Yosemite NP on three days.

Chestnut-backed Chickadee *Poecile rufescens*

Noted on six days in widespread, lowland and coastal localities.

Oak Titmouse *Baeolophus inornatus*

Two were at Monterey on 12th and also at Caswell Memorial SP on 20th.

Bushtit *Psaltriparus minimus*

Seen and heard in a number of widespread lowland and coastal localities with, for example, a party of c20 moving through the Cypress Gardens Motel area, Monterey on 12th.

Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta canadensis*

One-three seen in several widespread localities in Yosemite NP.

White-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta carolinensis*

One was at Glacier Point, Yosemite NP on 17th and two at Caswell Memorial SP on 20th.

Pygmy Nuthatch *Sitta pygmaea*

Small numbers noted in seven lowland areas.

Brown Creeper *Certhia americana*

Two were on the McGurk Meadow Trail, Yosemite NP on 17th and two at Chevron Meadow on 19th.

Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii*

Singles were seen and heard in four widespread localities between Andrew Molera SP and Inverness.

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*

One-four were seen in four widespread localities.

Wren (Winter Wren) *troglodytes troglodytes*

Two were at Point Reyes BO on 22nd.

Marsh Wren *Cistothorus palustris*

One was at Limantour Beach on 22nd.

American Dipper *Cinclus mexicanus*

One was watched for some time on the Merced River just near the entrance to Yosemite NP on 18th.

Golden-crowned Kinglet *Regulus satrapa*

One-six were seen in four widespread areas in Yosemite NP and small numbers were at Point Reyes BO on 22nd and Indian Trail on 23rd.

Western Bluebird *Sialia mexicana*

Up to six were noted at Mariposa on 16th/17th, about eight at Drake's Beach, Point Reyes on 23rd and five at the Historic 'F' Ranch on 23rd.

American Robin *Turdus migratorius*

A party of ten were at Caswell Memorial SP on 20th.

Wrentit *Chamaea fasciata*

After a bit of a struggle to actually see them (!), two were at Caswell Memorial SP on 20th, four at Point Reyes BO on 22nd and three at Heart's Desire Beach on 23rd.

Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos*

One-two noted at Pacific Grove, Cannery Row and San Luis NWR.

California Thrasher *Toxostoma redivivum*

Two were located at Elkhorn Slough on 12th.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Noted in a number of widespread localities with the largest numbers at Moonglow Diary.

Phainopepla *Phainopepla nitens*

Five were seen well at Mariposa on 17th.

Orange-crowned Warbler *Vermivora celata*

One was Andrew Molera SP on 14th and two at Inverness on 24th.

Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia*

Singles were at Yosemite NP on 18th and 19th, two at Caswell Memorial SP on 20th and two at Drake's Beach on 23rd.

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata*

Small numbers seen in several localities in Yosemite NP with a maximum of 12 on 18th. Six were at Caswell Memorial SP with other warblers on 20th and one at Historic 'F' Ranch, Point Reyes on 23rd.

Black-throated Gray Warbler *Dendroica nigrescens*

One was at Caswell Memorial SP on 20th.

Townsend's Warbler *Dendroica townsendi*

Small numbers were in several lowland/coastal localities although up to 24 were in the Heart's Desire/Indian Trail area on 23rd.

MacGillivray's Warbler *Oporornis tolmiei*

Two were with other warblers in riverside scrub bushes at Yosemite NP on 18th.

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas*

One-two were noted at Point Joe, Elkhorn Slough and Limantour Beach.

Wilson's Warbler *Wilsonia pusilla*

One, almost certainly this species was in Yosemite NP valley on 18th and two were at Heart's Desire Beach on 23rd.

Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus*

Small numbers seen in several localities but appeared quite common at Caswell Memorial SP including a pair apparently feeding a recently fledged brood on 20th.

California Towhee *Pipilo crissalis*

Singles were at Shepherd's Knoll, 17 Mile Drive on 11th and Jack's Peak CP on 15th but about ten seen at Elkhorn Slough on 12th.

Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina*

Two were at Spanish Bay on 11th.

Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia*

Widespread and seen in many coastal localities but the largest numbers were at Elkhorn Slough on 12th.

Lincoln's Sparrow *Melospiza lincolnii*

One was at Yosemite NP valley on 18th and another at Limantour Beach on 22nd.



Song Sparrow



White-crowned Sparrow

White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys*
Common and seen in many widespread localities.

Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis*
Common and seen in many widespread localities.

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*
Common and widespread with very large numbers seen at Moonglow Diary on 12th and at Point Reyes NS area on 23rd.

Tricolored Blackbird *Agelaius tricolor*

Three were located at Moonglow Diary on 12th and several in the large blackbird flocks at Point Reyes NS on 23rd.

Western Meadowlark *Sturnella neglecta*

One-two were seen at Point Joe, San Luis NWR and at the Historic 'F' Ranch at Point Reyes.

Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*

About four were with the huge numbers of other blackbirds at Moonglow Diary on 12th.

Brewer's Blackbird *Euphagus cyanocephalus*

Common and seen in a good number of widespread localities.

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater*

Many were at Moonglow Diary on 12th and much smaller numbers at Andrew Molera SP and at Point Joe.

House Finch *Carpodacus mexicanus*

Common and seen in widespread localities.

Lesser Goldfinch *Spinus psaltria*

One was at Spanish Bay on 11th, three at Andrew Molera SP on 14th and several at Mariposa on 17th.

Lawrence's Goldfinch *Spinus lawrencei*

At least two were with Lesser Goldfinches at Mariposa on 17th coming to drink at a small trackside puddle.

American Goldfinch *Spinus tristis*

One-three were seen in three coastal localities.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Small numbers noticed in a few areas.



The Grateful Dead's House in SF