

## SLICE OF CALIFORNIA: SEABIRDS TO SIERRA

Sep 3, 2011 to Sep 12, 2011

Chris Benesh



*The spectacular tufa rock formations of Mono Lake provide a scenic backdrop for birding the western edge of the Great Basin. (Photo by guide Chris Benesh)*

I always enjoy guiding trips to California because it gives me an opportunity to get back to my old stomping grounds and to share some of those species that meant so much to me when I was just a kid. This tour packs quite a wallop: by doing a transect across the heart of central California, one has the opportunity to do a terrific west coast pelagic, see plenty of shorebirds on the coast, and then head inland to bird along the edge of the great central valley, both slopes of the Sierra Nevada mountains, and the western edge of the Great Basin. The result? Lots of great birds and other wildlife.

This year we were blessed with lots of great weather. It was nice to welcome back lots of old friends and make some new ones on this great adventure. We spent the first morning birding around the San Francisco Bay where we saw plenty of shorebirds, waterbirds, etc, as well as our first dash of California specialties. Then the next morning we were off to Mines Road and all of the cool stuff to be found there. Some of the highlights included Yellow-billed Magpies, White-tailed Kites, California Thrashers, and more Golden Eagles than you could shake a stick at. In fact, I don't think any eagle escaped Kim's watchful eyes!

It was then off to the Sierra Nevadas where we saw some great birds and some spectacular trees too! The giant sequoias made the Pileated Woodpeckers look tiny. A singing MacGillivray's Warbler here was strange for September. And everyone was keen to enjoy the White-headed Woodpeckers. The eastern slope of the Sierras and the great basin were a treat too. We chipped away at all of the sage birds, including the sparrow, the thrasher, and the grouse! Yay! Pinyon Jays were also one of the more entertaining finds while out east.

Then it was back to the coast for the pelagic trip and a clean-up along the coast. The pelagic will be remembered in part for the jack-ass seas as much as the terrific birds we saw. Once the sea made up its mind about how to behave, we had a lot to see out there. Highlights were certainly those terrific South Polar Skuas, as well as some great Black-footed Albatrosses. Humpback Whales were also nice to see.

A crowning event of the entire week was no doubt the wonderful Vaux's Swift spectacle we observed at a recently publicized roost in San Rafael. Sadly Dix and Didi could not join us for that last bit and we missed their company. The sight of several thousand swifts coming to roost in a chimney was something else.

Thanks to all of you for coming along and making the trip such a treat. It was great to travel with you and I appreciated your camaraderie. I hope to see all of you again on another trip. Wishing you the best of birding.

--Chris

For more information about this tour, including future departures, please visit our website at [www.fieldguides.com](http://www.fieldguides.com)

---

## KEYS FOR THIS LIST

One of the following keys may be shown in brackets for individual species as appropriate: \* = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic, N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant

---

## BIRDS

### *Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)*

- CANADA GOOSE** (*Branta canadensis*)
- GADWALL** (*Anas strepera*)
- AMERICAN WIGEON** (*Anas americana*)
- MALLARD** (*Anas platyrhynchos*)
- CINNAMON TEAL** (*Anas cyanoptera*)
- NORTHERN SHOVELER** (*Anas clypeata*)
- NORTHERN PINTAIL** (*Anas acuta*)
- GREEN-WINGED TEAL (AMERICAN)** (*Anas crecca carolinensis*)
- SURF SCOTER** (*Melanitta perspicillata*)
- COMMON MERGANSER** (*Mergus merganser*)
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** (*Mergus serrator*)
- RUDDY DUCK** (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)

### *Odontophoridae (New World Quail)*

- MOUNTAIN QUAIL** (*Oreortyx pictus*) – One of the real highlights of the trip! After quite a bit of searching for this species, we had a wonderful sunrise encounter with one in the hills behind Lee Vining.
- CALIFORNIA QUAIL** (*Callipepla californica*)

### *Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)*

- GREATER SAGE-GROUSE** (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) – Another highly sought-after species, we had great views of them in and around the ghost town of Bodie.
- WILD TURKEY** (*Meleagris gallopavo*)

### *Gaviidae (Loons)*

- RED-THROATED LOON** (*Gavia stellata*) – There were huge numbers present along the coast on the final morning of the trip. Nearly all of the forty plus seen were still in breeding plumage.
- PACIFIC LOON** (*Gavia pacifica*)
- COMMON LOON** (*Gavia immer*)



*The rich waters off the California coast make a pelagic trip a must; how else are you going to come face-to-beak with the incredible Black-footed Albatross? (Photo by guide Chris Benesh)*

Podicipedidae (Grebes)

**PIED-BILLED GREBE** (*Podilymbus podiceps*)

**EARED GREBE** (*Podiceps nigricollis*)

**WESTERN GREBE** (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

**CLARK'S GREBE** (*Aechmophorus clarkii*) – Darlena spotted our first one at Coyote Point. Another was at Princeton Harbor.

Diomedeidae (Albatrosses)

**BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSS** (*Phoebastria nigripes*) – We had a great experience with this species in the waters off of Half Moon Bay. We must have seen about a dozen in total.

Procellariidae (Shearwaters and Petrels)

**NORTHERN FULMAR** (*Fulmarus glacialis*)

**PINK-FOOTED SHEARWATER** (*Puffinus creatopus*)

**BULLER'S SHEARWATER** (*Puffinus bulleri*) – We did manage to see one of these beautiful birds on the pelagic.

**SOOTY SHEARWATER** (*Puffinus griseus*)

Hydrobatidae (Storm-Petrels)

**WILSON'S STORM-PETREL** (*Oceanites oceanicus*) – Finding three of these was a real treat, being that they are relatively rare on the west coast.

**FORK-TAILED STORM-PETREL** (*Oceanodroma furcata*) – A couple of these thrown in made for a great storm-petrel trip.

**ASHY STORM-PETREL** (*Oceanodroma homochroa*) – We had lots of terrific looks at this species despite the conditions of the sea.

Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)

**BRANDT'S CORMORANT** (*Phalacrocorax penicillatus*)

**DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT** (*Phalacrocorax auritus*)

**PELAGIC CORMORANT** (*Phalacrocorax pelagicus*)

Pelecanidae (Pelicans)

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN** (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)

**BROWN PELICAN** (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)

Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

**GREAT BLUE HERON** (*Ardea herodias*)

**GREAT EGRET** (*Ardea alba*)

**SNOWY EGRET** (*Egretta thula*)

**BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)

**WHITE-FACED IBIS** (*Plegadis chihi*)

Cathartidae (New World Vultures)

**TURKEY VULTURE** (*Cathartes aura*)

Pandionidae (Osprey)

**OSPREY** (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

**WHITE-TAILED KITE** (*Elanus leucurus*)

**BALD EAGLE** (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) – Kim had a knack for spotting eagles. She spotted all of these and all of the



*This Black Turnstone may be in non-breeding dress, but it's a classy bird nonetheless. (Photo by guide Chris Benesh)*

Golden Eagles too.

**NORTHERN HARRIER** (*Circus cyaneus*)

**SHARP-SHINNED HAWK** (*Accipiter striatus*)

**COOPER'S HAWK** (*Accipiter cooperii*)

**RED-SHOULDERED HAWK (CALIFORNIA)** (*Buteo lineatus elegans*) – One seen out at Mono Lake was out of range, but there was a bird seen there prior to our sighting.

**RED-TAILED HAWK** (*Buteo jamaicensis*)

**GOLDEN EAGLE** (*Aquila chrysaetos*) – We had some unbelievably fantastic looks in Del Puerto Canyon.

*Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)*

**AMERICAN KESTREL** (*Falco sparverius*)

**PEREGRINE FALCON** (*Falco peregrinus*)

*Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)*

**AMERICAN COOT** (*Fulica americana*)

*Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)*

**BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER** (*Pluvialis squatarola*)

**SNOWY PLOVER** (*Charadrius nivosus*) – Nice views of some near Half Moon Bay.

**SEMIPALMATED PLOVER** (*Charadrius semipalmatus*)

**KILLDEER** (*Charadrius vociferus*)

*Haematopodidae (Oystercatchers)*

**BLACK OYSTERCATCHER** (*Haematopus bachmani*)

*Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)*

**BLACK-NECKED STILT** (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

**AMERICAN AVOCET** (*Recurvirostra americana*)

*Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)*

**SPOTTED SANDPIPER** (*Actitis macularius*)

**SOLITARY SANDPIPER** (*Tringa solitaria*) – One seen in flight along Hwy 1 on the last full day of the trip. Unusual along the coast.

**WANDERING TATTLER** (*Tringa incana*) – A couple of these were hanging out in Princeton Harbor.

**GREATER YELLOWLEGS** (*Tringa melanoleuca*)

**WILLET (WESTERN)** (*Tringa semipalmata inornata*)

**WHIMBREL (AMERICAN)** (*Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*)

**LONG-BILLED CURLEW** (*Numenius americanus*)

**MARbled GODWIT** (*Limosa fedoa*)

**RUDDY TURNSTONE** (*Arenaria interpres*)

**BLACK TURNSTONE** (*Arenaria melanocephala*)

**SURFBIRD** (*Aphriza virgata*)

**SANDERLING** (*Calidris alba*)

**WESTERN SANDPIPER** (*Calidris mauri*)

**LEAST SANDPIPER** (*Calidris minutilla*)

**SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER** (*Limnodromus griseus*)

**LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*)

**WILSON'S PHALAROPE** (*Phalaropus tricolor*)

**RED-NECKED PHALAROPE** (*Phalaropus lobatus*)

**RED PHALAROPE** (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

*Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)*



*The biggest prize among the 10 species of woodpecker we saw on the trip was this highly coveted White-headed Woodpecker, always a fan favorite. (Photo by guide Chris Benesh)*

**SABINE'S GULL** (*Xema sabini*) – About four of these handsome gulls were seen on the pelagic.

**HEERMANN'S GULL** (*Larus heermanni*)

**RING-BILLED GULL** (*Larus delawarensis*)

**WESTERN GULL** (*Larus occidentalis*)

**CALIFORNIA GULL** (*Larus californicus*)

**GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL** (*Larus glaucescens*)

**COMMON TERN** (*Sterna hirundo*)

**ARCTIC TERN** (*Sterna paradisaea*)

**FORSTER'S TERN** (*Sterna forsteri*)

**ELEGANT TERN** (*Thalasseus elegans*)

**BLACK SKIMMER** (*Rynchops niger*) – We had one at the Radio Road site. This species is a recent colonist to northern California.

*Stercorariidae (Skuas and Jaegers)*

**SOUTH POLAR SKUA** (*Stercorarius maccormicki*) – We had some terrific views of this species thanks to Alvaro's magic chum! Certainly the longest that I've seen one hanging around a boat.

**POMARINE JAEGER** (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

**PARASITIC JAEGER** (*Stercorarius parasiticus*)

**LONG-TAILED JAEGER** (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

*Alcidae (Auks, Murres, and Puffins)*

**COMMON MURRE** (*Uria aalge*)

**PIGEON GUILLEMOT** (*Cepphus columba*)

**MARbled MURRELET** (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*)

**CASSIN'S AUKLET** (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*)

**RHINOCEROS AUKLET** (*Cerorhinca monocerata*)

**TUFTED PUFFIN** (*Fratercula cirrhata*) – Always a treat to see on California boat trips, we had three in total.

*Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)*

**ROCK PIGEON** (*Columba livia*) [I]

**BAND-TAILED PIGEON** (*Patagioenas fasciata*)

**EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE** (*Streptopelia decaocto*) [I]

**MOURNING DOVE** (*Zenaida macroura*)

*Cuculidae (Cuckoos)*

**GREATER ROADRUNNER** (*Geococcyx californianus*)

*Strigidae (Owls)*

**WESTERN SCREECH-OWL** (*Megascops kennicottii*) [\*]

**GREAT HORNED OWL** (*Bubo virginianus*)

*Apodidae (Swifts)*

**VAUX'S SWIFT** (*Chaetura vauxi*) – This must certainly have been the highlight of the trip, seeing several thousand coming to roost in some chimneys in San Rafael. Wow!

**WHITE-THROATED SWIFT** (*Aeronautes saxatalis*)

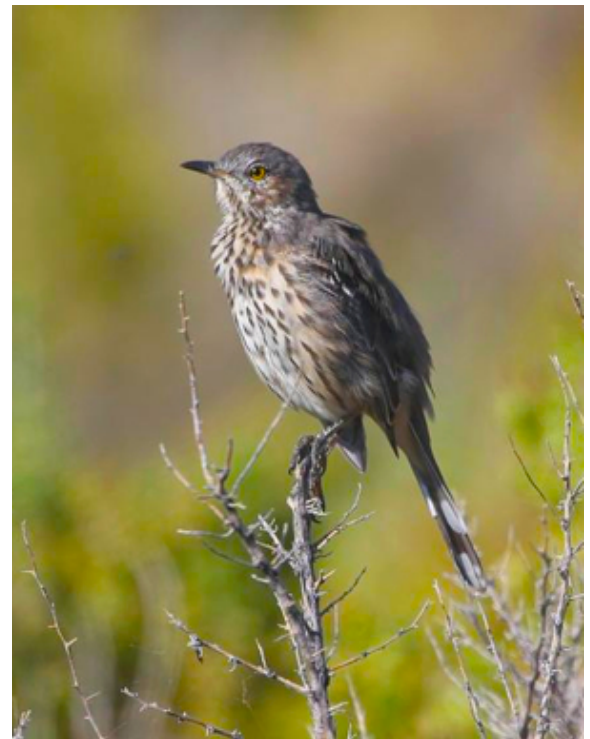
*Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)*

**ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD** (*Calypte anna*)

**RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD** (*Selasphorus rufus*)

*Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)*

**BELTED KINGFISHER** (*Megaceryle alcyon*)



*The sagebrush flats around the ghost town of Bodie came through with a trio of "sage" birds: Greater Sage-grouse, Sage Sparrow, and this very cooperative Sage Thrasher. (Photo by guide Chris Benesh)*

Picidae (Woodpeckers)

**LEWIS'S WOODPECKER** (*Melanerpes lewis*) – While we were looking at Kim's Bald Eagle, a Lewis's flew into view from the tree behind! Apparently, one of the only recent sightings along Mines Road.

**ACORN WOODPECKER** (*Melanerpes formicivorus*)

**WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER** (*Sphyrapicus thyroideus*)

**RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER** (*Sphyrapicus ruber*)

**NUTTALL'S WOODPECKER** (*Picoides nuttallii*)

**DOWNY WOODPECKER** (*Picoides pubescens*)

**HAIRY WOODPECKER** (*Picoides villosus*)

**WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKER** (*Picoides albolarvatus*) – We had some great views of this highly sought after western specialty, beginning at the Calaveras Big Trees.

**NORTHERN FLICKER** (*Colaptes auratus*)

**PILEATED WOODPECKER** (*Dryocopus pileatus*) – Great views of this species at the Calaveras Big Trees. They looked like pygmy Pileateds up next to the giant sequoias.

Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)

**OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER** (*Contopus cooperi*)

**WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE** (*Contopus sordidulus*)

**WILLOW FLYCATCHER** (*Empidonax traillii*)

**HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER** (*Empidonax hammondii*)

**BLACK PHOEBE** (*Sayornis nigricans*)

**WESTERN KINGBIRD** (*Tyrannus verticalis*) – A lingering bird at Mono Lake.

Laniidae (Shrikes)

**LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE** (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

Vireonidae (Vireos)

**CASSIN'S VIREO** (*Vireo cassinii*)

**WARBLING VIREO** (*Vireo gilvus*)

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

**PINYON JAY** (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*)

**STELLER'S JAY** (*Cyanocitta stelleri*)

**WESTERN SCRUB-JAY (COASTAL)** (*Apelocoma californica californica*)

**BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE** (*Pica hudsonia*)

**YELLOW-BILLED MAGPIE** (*Pica nuttalli*) – Best bird ever! We had some great looks at these at the Livermore end of Mines Road. [E]

**CLARK'S NUTCRACKER** (*Nucifraga columbiana*)

**AMERICAN CROW** (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)

**COMMON RAVEN** (*Corvus corax*)

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

**TREE SWALLOW** (*Tachycineta bicolor*)

**VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW** (*Tachycineta thalassina*)

**BARN SWALLOW** (*Hirundo rustica*)

Paridae (Chickadees and Tits)

**MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE** (*Poecile gambeli*)

**CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEE** (*Poecile rufescens*)

**OAK TITMOUSE** (*Baeolophus inornatus*)

Aegithalidae (Long-tailed Tits)

**BUSHTIT** (*Psaltriparus minimus*)

Sittidae (Nuthatches)

**RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH** (*Sitta canadensis*)

**WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH** (*Sitta carolinensis*) – We saw two different forms of this species, which differ in their vocalizations. Both of these are paler faced than the eastern form. Maybe a split someday (?).

**PYGMY NUTHATCH** (*Sitta pygmaea*)

*Certhiidae (Treecreepers)*

**BROWN CREEPER** (*Certhia americana*)

*Troglodytidae (Wrens)*

**ROCK WREN** (*Salpinctes obsoletus*)

**CANYON WREN** (*Catherpes mexicanus*)

**BEWICK'S WREN** (*Thryomanes bewickii*)

**HOUSE WREN** (*Troglodytes aedon*)

**PACIFIC WREN (WESTERN)** (*Troglodytes pacificus pacificus*) – Some good studies of this species at the Calaveras Big Trees. Until recently, lumped in with the eastern Winter Wren.

*Poliophtilidae (Gnatcatchers)*

**BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER** (*Poliophtila caerulea*)

*Cinclidae (Dippers)*

**AMERICAN DIPPER** (*Cinclus mexicanus*) – Yet another of Kim's terrific spots, we had great looks at on near Sonora Pass.

*Regulidae (Kinglets)*

**GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET** (*Regulus satrapa*)

*Sylviidae (Old World Warblers)*

**WRENTIT** (*Chamaea fasciata*) – One of my favorite western specialties, this one is more closely related to Old World species than to anything else over here.

*Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)*

**WESTERN BLUEBIRD** (*Sialia mexicana*)

**MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD** (*Sialia currucoides*)

**HERMIT THRUSH** (*Catharus guttatus*)

**AMERICAN ROBIN** (*Turdus migratorius*)

*Mimidae (Mockingbirds and Thrashers)*

**NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD** (*Mimus polyglottos*)

**SAGE THRASHER** (*Oreoscoptes montanus*) – Some terrific looks at this species in the Great Basin sagebrush near Mono Lake.

**CALIFORNIA THRASHER** (*Toxostoma redivivum*)

*Sturnidae (Starlings)*

**EUROPEAN STARLING** (*Sturnus vulgaris*) [I]

*Ptilonotidae (Silky-flycatchers)*

**PHAINOPEPLA** (*Phainopepla nitens*)

*Parulidae (New World Warblers)*

**ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** (*Oreothlypis celata*)

**NASHVILLE WARBLER (WESTERN)** (*Oreothlypis ruficapilla ridgwayi*)

**MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER** (*Geothlypis tolmiei*)

**COMMON YELLOWTHROAT** (*Geothlypis trichas*)

**YELLOW WARBLER** (*Setophaga petechia*)

**YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (AUDUBON'S)** (*Setophaga coronata auduboni*)

**BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER** (*Setophaga nigrescens*)

**TOWNSEND'S WARBLER** (*Setophaga townsendi*)

**HERMIT WARBLER** (*Setophaga occidentalis*)

**WILSON'S WARBLER** (*Cardellina pusilla*)

*Emberizidae (Buntings, Sparrows and Allies)*

**GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE** (*Pipilo chlorurus*)

**SPOTTED TOWHEE** (*Pipilo maculatus*)

**RUFOUS-CROWNED SPARROW** (*Aimophila ruficeps*)

**CALIFORNIA TOWHEE** (*Melospiza crissalis*)

**CHIPPING SPARROW** (*Spizella passerina*)

**BREWER'S SPARROW** (*Spizella breweri*)

**VESPER SPARROW** (*Pooecetes gramineus*)

**LARK SPARROW** (*Chondestes grammacus*)

**SAGE SPARROW (INTERIOR)** (*Amphispiza belli nevadensis*)

**SAVANNAH SPARROW** (*Passerculus sandwichensis*)

**FOX SPARROW (THICK-BILLED)** (*Passerella iliaca megarhyncha*)

**SONG SPARROW** (*Melospiza melodia*)

**WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW (MOUNTAIN)** (*Zonotrichia leucophrys oriantha*)

**WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW (NUTTALL'S)** (*Zonotrichia leucophrys nuttalli*)

**DARK-EYED JUNCO** (*Junco hyemalis*)

*Cardinalidae (Cardinals and Allies)*

**WESTERN TANAGER** (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

**BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK** (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)

**LAZULI BUNTING** (*Passerina amoena*)

*Icteridae (Troupials and Allies)*

**RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD** (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)

**TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD** (*Agelaius tricolor*) – Seen in Half Moon Bay.

**WESTERN MEADOWLARK** (*Sturnella neglecta*)

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD** (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*)

**GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE** (*Quiscalus mexicanus*)

**BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD** (*Molothrus ater*)

**BULLOCK'S ORIOLE** (*Icterus bullockii*)

*Fringillidae (Siskins, Crossbills, and Allies)*

**PURPLE FINCH (WESTERN)** (*Carpodacus purpureus californicus*)

**CASSIN'S FINCH** (*Carpodacus cassinii*)

**HOUSE FINCH** (*Carpodacus mexicanus*)

**PINE SISKIN** (*Spinus pinus*)

**LESSER GOLDFINCH** (*Spinus psaltria*)

**LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH** (*Spinus lawrencei*) – A couple of these were seen along Mines Road.

**AMERICAN GOLDFINCH** (*Spinus tristis*)

*Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)*

**HOUSE SPARROW** (*Passer domesticus*) [I]

---

## **MAMMALS**

**BRUSH RABBIT** (*Sylvilagus bachmani*)

**NUTTALL'S (MOUNTAIN) COTTONTAIL** (*Sylvilagus nuttalli*) – These were the bunnies at Mono County Park and environs.

**DESERT COTTONTAIL** (*Sylvilagus audubonii*)

**BLACK-TAILED JACKRABBIT** (*Lepus californicus*)  
**LEAST CHIPMUNK** (*Tamias minimus*)  
**YELLOW-PINE CHIPMUNK** (*Tamias amoenus*)  
**SONOMA CHIPMUNK** (*Tamias sonomae*)  
**LODGEPOLE CHIPMUNK** (*Tamias speciosus*)  
**YELLOW-BELLIED MARMOT** (*Marmota flaviventris*)  
**BELDING'S GROUND SQUIRREL** (*Spermophilus beldingi*)  
**CALIFORNIA GROUND SQUIRREL** (*Spermophilus beecheyi*)  
**GOLDEN-MANTLED GROUND SQUIRREL** (*Spermophilus lateralis*)  
**EASTERN GRAY SQUIRREL** (*Sciurus carolinensis*)  
**WESTERN GRAY SQUIRREL** (*Sciurus griseus*)  
**CHICKAREE** (*Tamiasciurus douglasii*) – Also known as Douglas's Squirrel.  
**NORWAY (BROWN) RAT** (*Rattus norvegicus*)  
**HARBOR PORPOISE** (*Phocoena phocoena*) – Small numbers seen from shore in Half Moon Bay.  
**HUMPBACK WHALE** (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) – Some good views of these on the pelagic trip.  
**COYOTE** (*Canis latrans*)  
**NORTHERN RACCOON** (*Procyon lotor*)  
**STRIPED SKUNK** (*Mephitis mephitis*) – Several of these were hanging out at Coyote Point.  
**CALIFORNIA SEA LION** (*Zalophus californianus*)  
**STELLER'S SEA LION** (*Eumetopias jubatus*) – One male was hanging out with a lot of other sea lions on the pelagic trip.  
**HARBOR SEAL** (*Phoca vitulina*)  
**MULE DEER** (*Odocoileus hemionus*) – We saw Black-tailed types along Mines Road, and Mule Deer in the interior.

---

## **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

---

**Totals for the tour: 213 bird taxa and 25 mammal taxa**