



Baja California | Species List

9 – 16 February, 2019 | Compiled by Greg Smith

(117) Number of species total

(4) = Introduced

BIRDS – 117 Species in 41 Families

DUCKS, GEESE, SWANS: Anatidae: (8)

Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) – A small group was out near the terminus of Estero San Jose

Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*) – The “common” duck in the Estero by far, more than last trip

Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) – Five scattered hens in the Estero, no males to be seen

Gadwall (*Mareca strepera*) – We had three on the Estero San Jose mid-stream

American Wigeon (*Mareca americana*) – A few flocks were at the outlet of the Estero San Jose

Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) – We had about eleven up towards the bridge

Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*) – A group of five at Puerto Escondido was a surprise for all of us

Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) – A few in deeper water up near the mouth of the Estero

NEW WORLD QUAIL: Odontophoridae (1)

California Quail *Callipepla californica* – Heard on our morning walk in Agua Verde

GREBES: Podicipedidae (3)

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) – We had six scattered throughout the Estero on our walk

Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricolis*) – First seen in Agua Verde, and not as common as in past years

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) – A group of seven at Magdalena Bay were the only ones

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (5)

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) – All around San Jose del Cabo

Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopella decaocto*) – A few around the central part of San Jose del Cabo

Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*) – Somewhat common, certainly around stables

White-winged Dove (*Enaida asiatica*) – Everywhere around habitation in San Jose del Cabo

Mourning Dove (*Enaida macroura*) – As in the States, they were more visible in the rural settings

CUCKOOS: Cuculidae (1)

Greater Roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*) – Seen on a hillside at Puerto Escondido when heading to the grays

SWIFTS: Apodidae (1)

White-throated Swift (*Auronautis saxatalis*) – Seen in the Puerto Escondido area

HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae (2)

Costa's Hummingbird (*Calypte costae*) – Two seen with the best looks in Agua Verde

(E) Xantus Hummingbird (*Hylocharis xantusii*) – Seen feeding on agave flowers in Agua Verde

SWAMPHEN, COOTS: Rallidae (2)

Common Gallinule (*Gallinula chloropus*) – Fairly common all along the edge of the Estero

American Coot (*Fulica americana*) – Not as common as the gallinule, but definitely present

STILTS, AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae (1)

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) – Two at the upper end of the Estero

OYSTERCATCHERS: Haematopodidae (1)

American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*) – Very uncommon this year, only two sightings

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (3)

Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) – Seen at Rio estuary on the Loreto coast

Semi-palmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) – Seen a few times with best looks on the Estero

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferous*) – First two were seen on the beach between the ocean and the Estero

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (11)

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) – Seen twice with great views on Magdalena Bay

Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*) – One presented itself nicely along the Mag Bay wharf

Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fidoa*) – Seen best in the small coastal estuary on the Loreto Coast

Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) – The common peep foraging in the Estero

Western Sandpiper (*Western sandpiper*) – Only a half dozen at Estero San Jose on our first day

Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*) – We had a few calling among the LB Dowitchers

Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*) – Part of a mixed flock along the Estero

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) – Quite a few at various locations along the Estero water's edge

Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*) – Seen foraging with Willets on Estero San Jose

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) – Two were seen with the first being at Estero San Jose

Willet (*Tringa semipalmata*) – A couple were foraging with some yellowlegs at Estero San Jose

AUKS & ALLIES: Alcidae (1)

Craveri's Murrelet: (*Synthliboramphus craveri*) – Three were seen on our move north to Loreto area

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (11)

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Risa tridactyla*) –

Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) – Only one seen was at the rivermouth in Loreto

Heermann's Gull (*Larus heermanni*) – Common further north up in the Loreto area & Magdalena Bay

Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) – One seen in Magdalena Bay flying by our panga

Yellow-footed Gull (*Larus livens*) – Once we were north of La Paz, they were seen every day
California Gull (*Larus californicus*) – Lots over in Magdalena Bay on our gray whale day
Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) – Seen on two different days with best views in Loreto
Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) – Seen twice, Loreto and Magdalena Bay
Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*) – A small flock on the Loreto coastal mudflats
Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*) – First one seen was flying along the Espiritu Santo coast
Elegant Tern (*Sterna*) – Small numbers on the mudflats of the Loreto coast

NORTHERN STORM-PETRELS: Hydrobatidae (1)

Black Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma melania*) – A group of about 100 were sitting on the water, windless

FRIGATBIRDS: Fregatidae (1)

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*) – We both sexes fishing over the Estero San Jose

GANNETS, BOOBIES: Sulidae (2)

Blue-footed Booby (*Sula nebouxii*) – By far the ore common of the two boobies, lots around Loreto
Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*) – More common down around Los Islotes than further north

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (2)

Brandt's Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax penicillatus*) – Seen first on the south end of Isla Espiritu Santo
Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) – A few were seen almost every day on the trip

PELICANS: Pelecanidae (2)

American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) – A small group were in the Estero San Jose
Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) -Scattered along the coastline, lots of juveniles in the Estero

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (10)

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) – The biggest numbers were on Estero San Jose
Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) – Scattered along the coast with the biggest number on the Estero
Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) – Not very common anywhere, our first was on the Estero
Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) – Only one seen was in the Puerto Escondido harbor
Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*) – We had one foraging in amongst teal on the Estero
Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*) – We had at least three in Estero San Jose
Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) – We had thirty along the Estero, very were unusual
Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) – Seen on the shore of Magdalena Bay on our Gray Whale day
Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) – Around the ship while in the Bay of La Paz
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax viloce*) – Sen well on skiff excursion around Puerto Escondido

IBISES & SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae (2)

White Ibis (*Eudcimus albus*) – Seen well along the edge of Magdalena Bay
White-faced Ibis (*Plegadus chihi*) - At least a half dozen on the Estero early Friday morning

NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae (1)

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) – Everywhere and on everyday we were here

Hawks, Kites and Eagles: Accipitridae (3)

Harris' Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*) – Seen on our drive to La Paz perched on cardons

Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*) – Seen soaring over the Estero San Jose

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) – One was soaring in the area of the first Xantus's

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (1)

Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*) – Seen on a few days, usually along quiet bays

WOODPECKERS: PICIDAE (2)

Gila Woodpecker (*Melanerpes uropygialis*) – Definitely the common woodpecker in San Jose del Cabo

Gilded Flicker (*Colaptes chrysoides*) – We had one along the Estero San Jose

FALCONS: Falconidae (3)

Crested Caracara (*Caracara plancus*) – At least three birds around our breakfast stop

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) – Seen sporadically, but regular through the voyage

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) – We had a sub-adult feeding on a CA Gull on Magdalena Bay

Merlin (*Falco merlini*) – Seen blasting by at eye level on the Isla San Francisco ridge hike

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (5)

Black Phoebe (*Phoebe nigricans*) – Seen only along the Estero San Jose

Say's Phoebe (*Phoebe saya*) – Seen along the wharf at Puerto Escondido

Vermillion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) – A pair seen on our morning bird walk in Agua Verde

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) – Seen on a skiff ride along the edge of Puerto Escondido

Cassin's Kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*) – Seen by a few on our morning bird walk in Agua Verde

SHRIKES: Laniidae (1)

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) – Seen well perched while on Espiritu Santo

CROWS & JAYS: Corvidae(2)

California Scrub Jay (*Aphelocoma californica*) – Seen in some of the driest habitat on Espiritu Santo

Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) – Scattered throughout the trip

PENDULINE TITS: Remizidae (1)

Verdin (*Auriparus flaviceps*) – Seen a number of times on our Agua Verde Day

WRENS: Troglodytidae (2)

Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*) – Seen/heard around the tules along the Estero in San Jose

Cactus Wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*) – Seen more around habitation than in the wilds

GNATCATCHERS: Polioptilidae(1)

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*) – First seen in Agua Verde and then in Loreto

MOCKINGBIRDS & THRASHERS: Mimidae (2)

(E) Gray Thrasher (*Toxostoma cinereum*) – Seen in Agua Verde a couple of times, both times long looks
Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottus*) – A fairly common bird in San Jose del Cabo and in the wild

STARLINGS: Sturnidae (1)

European Starling (I) *Sturnus vulgaris* – Seen only around cities, not in villages or the wilds

SILKY FLYCATCHERS: Ptilonotidae (1)

Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*) – Both genders were very common in and around Agua Verde

FINCHES: Fringillidae (1)

House Finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*) – Common in San Jose del Cabo, uncommon elsewhere

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Emberizidae (3)

Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*) – Seen on Isla Espiritu Santo and Isla San Francisco

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) – We had good looks in the city of Loreto

Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) – Seen along the beach at Estero San Jose

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae (4)

Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) – A few were seen along the road in the farming areas

Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cuculatus*) – A few migrants had just arrived here in San Jose del Cabo

Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) – In with the horses at the stables, of course

Brewer's Blackbird *Euphagus cyanocephalus* – A small flock was feeding at Estero San Jose

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (5)

(E) Belding's Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis beldingi*) – Only seen by one of our group at Estero San Jose

Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) – Seen by most of our group along the Estero San Jose

Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*) – Agua Verde was the only place we got to this species

Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Setophaga coronada*) – Seen on three different occasions, none on islands

Wilson's Warbler (*Cardellina pusilla*) – Seen well at Estero San Jose foraging in the tules

CARDINALS, GROSBILLS & ALLIES: Cardinalidae (2)

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) – Agua Verde gave us our best looks at a singing male

Pyrrhuloxia (*Cardinalis sinuatus*) – Walking through Loreto produced a few of these in vacant lots

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (1)

House Sparrow (I) *Passer domesticus* – Ubiquitous

MAMMALS (9)

Espiritu Santo Ground Squirrel (*Amnospermophilus ...*) – Seen only on Espiritu Santo where it is an endemic

Black-tailed Jackrabbit (*Lepus Californicus*) – A pair were playing hide-n-seek in Agua Verde

California Sea Lion (*Zalophus californianus*) – Of course the best looks were on Islas La Isolotes

Common Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) – Seen twice near the beginning of the trip

Common Dolphin (*T. truncatus*) – We had a number of sightings, but two large groups on our second to last day were the best

Dwarf Sperm Whale (*Kogia sima* or *breviceps*) – Two seen lolling on the surface off of Isla San Jose was a great find

Gray Whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*) – We had a great day at Magdalena Bay, lots of grays

Humpback Whale (*Megoptera novaeangliae*) – A cow/calf pair at Puerto Escondido were welcomed at breakfast

Minke Whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*) – A cow/calf pair off of Isla San Jose was a great find

