

Land & Shore Birds

Over 160 different species of birds have been identified in Point Lobos State Natural Reserve. The scientist, naturalist, and casual observer can spend hours watching and enjoying the antics of our feathered friends. Whether walking through the quiet forest or along the rocky shoreline, you will find much pleasure in the rich birdlife of the varied habitats. The spring/summer nesting season is especially good. Remember to bring binoculars!

Shore Birds

Brown pelican



Great blue heron



Snowy egret



Great egret



Western gull



Black oystercatcher



Cormorant (Pelagic & Brandt's)



Land Birds

Turkey vulture



American kestrel



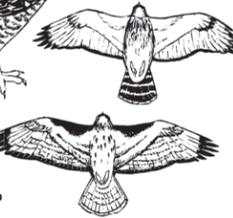
Red-shouldered hawk



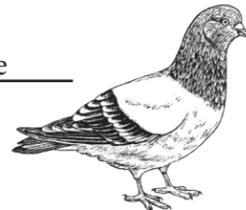
Red-tailed hawk



California quail



Rock dove



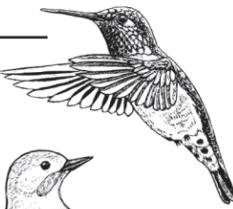
Anna's hummingbird



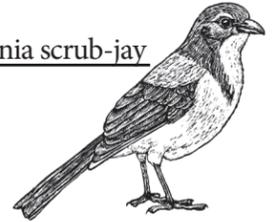
Acorn woodpecker



Northern flicker



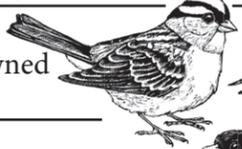
California scrub-jay



American crow



White-crowned sparrow



Dark-eyed junco



Killdeer



Belted kingfisher



Reptiles

Reptiles are cold-blooded creatures that use the warming rays of the sun to warm themselves and regulate their body temperature. When the sun shines and heats up the surface of a log or rock, the snakes and lizards come out of the holes in the ground to lie on these surfaces and warm themselves. Watch the sides of the trails for these small critters.

Common garter snake



Alligator lizard



Western fence lizard



Geologic Features

The geology of Point Lobos is unique. The granodiorite that forms the headlands originated 75-80 million years ago; it was buried by deep-sea sand, gravel and mud 50-55 million years ago. The dark soil in the Reserve with flecks of shells is a "midden." A midden is a dark greasy soil containing burnt rock, discarded shells, and animal bones, resulting from use of the area by Native Americans for harvesting and processing shellfish and other animal and plant foods.

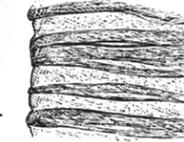
Conglomerate



Granodiorite



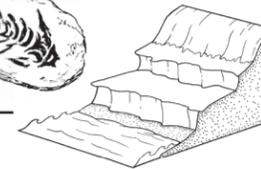
Sandstone/mudstone



Trace fossils

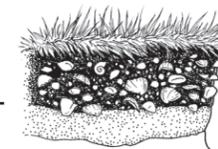


Coastal marine terrace



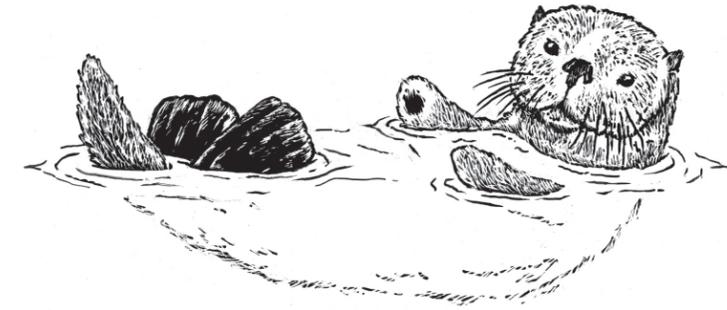
Cultural Feature

Midden



Point Lobos State Natural Reserve Observation Checklist

During your visit to Point Lobos, you can use this checklist as a journal to record your sightings and discoveries along the trails. Over 350 different species have been seen at Point Lobos. The species on this list are not seen everywhere in the Reserve. On certain trails, it is easier to see some of the species than on other trails. And, not all of the animals are here year-round.



California State Parks does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact Point Lobos State Natural Reserve at this phone number, 831-624-4909

This brochure is available in alternate formats at www.pointlobos.org

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Mammals

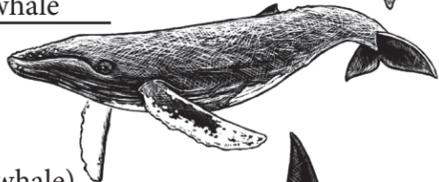
Mammals are warm-blooded creatures with backbones. The females give live birth and have milk glands to nurse the young. Except for the squirrels, most of the land mammals at Point Lobos are rather shy and can be harder to spot than the marine mammals. Many of the land animals come out during the early morning or late evening hours when the Reserve is closed and they have it to themselves. Some animals like the mountain lion are rare visitors. Even if the animals are not seen during your visit, they often leave behind a variety of signs that tell us they have been here. For example, on several trails the woodrat nest is quite close to the trail and easy to see. The pathways of many animals are clearly seen. Watch for tracks or footprints. Look for spouts of the whales that pass by our shores. These are all clues to the residents of the Reserve.

Marine Animals

California gray whale



Humpback whale



Orca (killer whale)



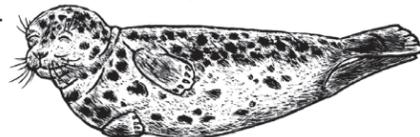
California sea lion



Southern sea otter



Harbor seal

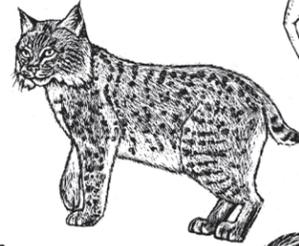


Land Animals

Black-tailed mule deer



Bobcat



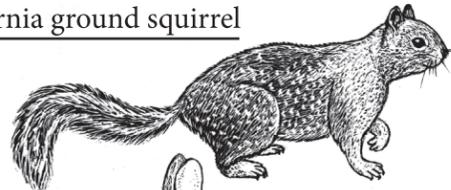
Raccoon



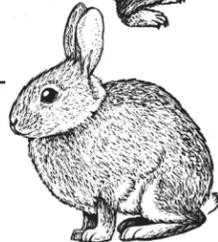
Striped skunk



California ground squirrel



Brush rabbit



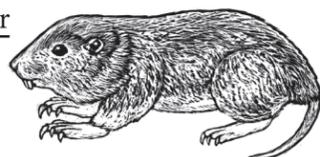
Western gray squirrel



Dusky-footed woodrat



Pocket gopher



Plants & Algae

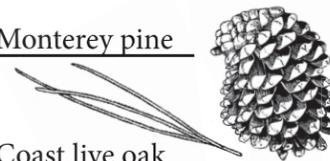
Several different plant communities are seen in the Reserve. The pine forest, cypress grove, coastal scrub, meadows, sea bluff and marine flora communities contain plants that are specially adapted to survive in the varied microclimates found at Point Lobos. The cool moist sea breezes, the summer fog, moderate temperatures, soil types and other limiting factors all play a role in allowing certain plants to grow here. The Monterey pine grows naturally only in five coastal populations where fog-drip compensates for the rain-free summers. The Monterey cypress grows naturally in two places in the world: Pebble Beach and Point Lobos. It has adapted to survive on the outermost granite cliffs at the continent's edge. The coastal scrub plants have adapted to finding and conserving moisture. The kelp forests thrive in the cold, nutrient-rich waters of our area. You will really enjoy the great diversity and beautiful colors.

Trees

Monterey cypress



Monterey pine

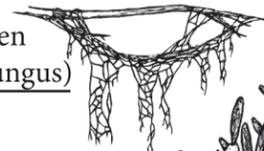


Coast live oak



Algae

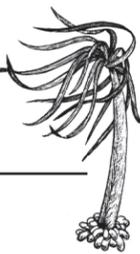
Lace lichen (alga & fungus)



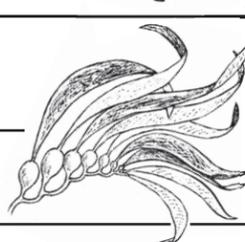
Feather boa kelp



Sea palm



Giant kelp



Bull kelp



Trentepohlia (orange-colored alga)



Shrubs

California sagebrush



Poison oak



Buckwheat



Wild blackberry



Lupine



Ceanothus



Flowering Plants

Seaside painted cup



Bluff lettuce (Dudleya farinosa)



California poppy



Wood mint (hedge nettle)



Sticky monkey flower



Douglas iris



Lizard tail

