

Sea & Sage Audubon

Winter Pelagic Trip out of Dana Point

Sat, January 22nd, 2011

Leader/Spotters: Jerry Tolman / Jon Feenstra, Jon Dunn, Tom Benson, Brian Daniels

(This bird list was compiled from trip list notes by Jon Feenstra, Jon Dunn & Tom Benson.)

Dana Point Harbor: (transit from Ocean Institute dock to harbor mouth, including breakwater area)

Brown Pelican - 125
Brandt's Cormorant - 10
Double-crested Cormorant - 75
Great Blue Heron - 1
Black Oystercatcher - 2
Willet - 4
Heermann's Gull - 40
Western Gull - 250
Glaucous-winged Gull - 5
Caspian Tern - 1
Rock Pigeon - 5

Offshore Pelagic: Left Dana Point at 8:00 AM, headed generally NW parallel to the coast to Newport Canyon, then south to Lausen Knoll (14-mile bank), then east back to Dana Point, returning at 2:00 PM.

Pacific Loon - 3 (*incl. excellent views of one juvenile on the water*)
Horned Grebe - 1 (*just out of harbor*)
Sooty Shearwater - 3
Short-tailed Shearwater - 3
Sooty or Short-tailed Shearwater - 4
Brown Pelican - 70
Brandt's Cormorant - 70
Double-crested Cormorant - 2
Red Phalarope - 1 (*basic plumaged bird on the water, vicinity of the Lausen Sea Knoll*)
Black-legged Kittiwake (immat) - 1 (*rather distant view, vicinity of Lausen Sea Knoll*)
Bonaparte's Gull - 94
Heermann's Gull - 50
Western Gull - 400
California Gull - 200
Herring Gull - 1
Glaucous-winged Gull - 25
Forster's Tern - 10 (*one group, around Lausen Sea Knoll; unusual to see them so far from shore!*)
Common Murre - 50 (*Jon Dunn says it's an exceptional winter for these species.*)
Ancient Murrelet - 4-7 (*One seen in flight by Jon Dunn not far out from Dana Point, then 3 seen in flight and on water in vicinity of Lausen Sea Knoll, and then 3 more, or the same 3, seen 1.5 miles SE of there*)
Cassin's Auklet - 1 (*on water, vicinity of Lausen Sea Knoll, missed by most of the people*)
Rhinoceros Auklet - 41 (*no alternate plumaged adults*)
Alcid sp.

Marine Mammals: Gray Whales, Common Dolphins, Bottlenose Dolphins, and Risso's Dolphins

Our next pelagic trip will be Sat., Sept. 24th, 2011. Trip information is posted on our webpage.

<http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org>