

POINT LOBOS STATE 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 plants and over 250 different animals and birds have been seen at Point Lobos. This list of species is 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 birds or 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 Reserve
at this phone number,
831-624-4909**

**This brochure is available
in alternate formats.**

Plant drawings by Fran Ciesla ([South Plateau Trail Guide](#))

Flower drawings by Roland Wilson ([Point Lobos Wildflowers-1954](#))

Seaweed drawings by E. Yale Dawson ([Seashore Plants-1966](#))

Marine mammal drawings by Phil Schuyler
([Marine Mammals of California-1979](#))

Land animal drawings by Olaus J. Murie
([A Field Guide to Animal Tracks-1954](#))

Bird drawings from [Field Guide to the Birds of North America](#)
National Geographic Society-1983



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MAMMALS

Mammals are warm-blooded creatures with backbones. They have hair or fur covering their bodies. 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 wood rat 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)



Southern Sea Otter



California Sea Lion

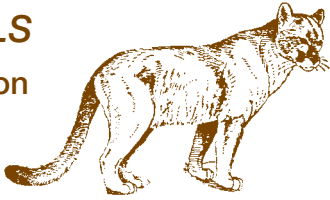


Harbor Seal



LAND ANIMALS

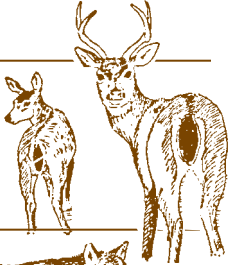
Mountain Lion



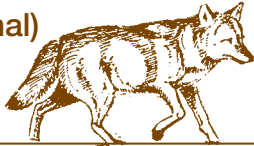
Bobcat



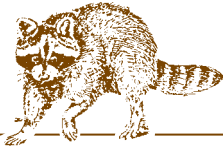
Black-tailed Mule Deer



Coyote (nocturnal)



Raccoon (nocturnal)



Striped Skunk (nocturnal)



Brush Rabbit



California Ground Squirrel



Western Gray Squirrel



Dusky-footed Woodrat (nocturnal)



Pocket Gopher



White-footed & Deer Mouse



PLANTS, ALGAE, & FLOWERS

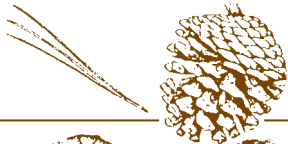
Several different plant communities are seen in the Reserve. The pine forest, cypress grove, coastal scrub, meadows, sea bluff, and marine flora communities contain plants that are specially adapted to survive in the varied micro-climates found at Point Lobos. The cool moist sea breezes, the summer fog, 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 three areas of the coast where fog-drip compensates for the rain-free summers. The Monterey Cypress grows naturally on in two places in the world: Pebble Beach and Point Lobos. It has adapted to survive on the outer-most 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



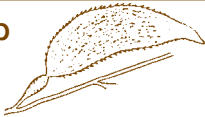
ALGAE

Lace Lichen
(alga & fungus)



Trentepohlia (orange-colored algae)

Giant Kelp



Bull Kelp



Sea Palm



SHRUBS

Buckwheat



California Sagebrush



Coyote Brush



Poison Oak



Wild Blackberry



Wild Lilac



FLOWERS

California Poppy



Douglas Iris



Dudleya



Lizard Tail



Monkey Flower



Seaside Painted Cup



Wood Mint (Hedge Nettle)



LAND & SHORE BIRDS

Over 160 different species of birds have been identified in Point Lobos State 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 summer nesting season is especially good. Remember to bring binoculars!

SHORE BIRDS

Brown Pelican



Cormorant
(Pelagic & Brandts)



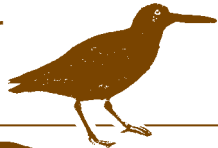
Great Blue Heron



Snowy Egret



Black Oystercatcher



Killdeer



Western Gull



Heermann's Gull



Pigeon Guillemont



Belted Kingfisher



LAND BIRDS

Turkey Vulture



Red-tailed Hawk



American Kestrel



California Quail



Mourning Dove



Rock Dove



Anna's Hummingbird



Acorn Woodpecker



Northern Flicker



Scrub Jay



American Crow



Dark-eyed Junco



White-crowned Sparrow



REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

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.

REPTILES

Gopher Snake



Garter Snake



Striped Racer



Western Fence Lizard



Alligator Lizard



Western Skink



AMPHIBIANS

Slender Salamander



Monterey Salamander



GEOLOGIC FEATURES

The Geology of Point Lobos is unique. The granite headlands were created 80-120 million years ago. Sedimentary deposits were laid down about 55 million years ago. The dark soil seen in many areas with flecks of shells is a "midden" or junk pile left over from the days when Native Americans used the area for hunting shellfish and other game.

Granodiorite

Carmelo formation

Sandstone, Siltstone, Mudstone

Midden (shell mounds)