

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

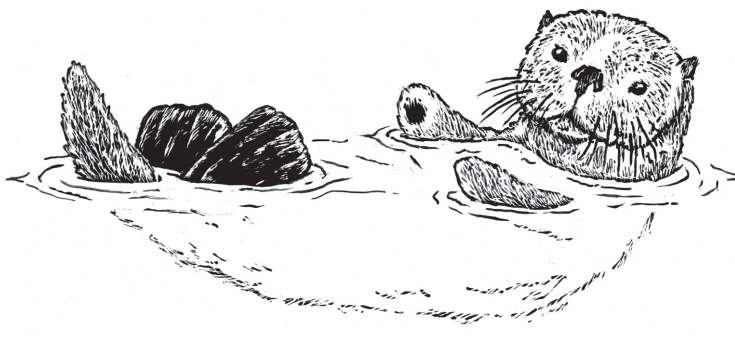
Geologic Features

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
- ☐ 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

Illustrations by Laurel Mundy 2015



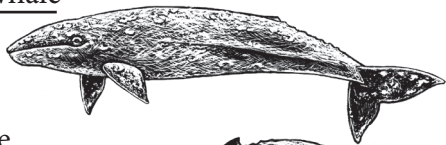
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Mammals

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)



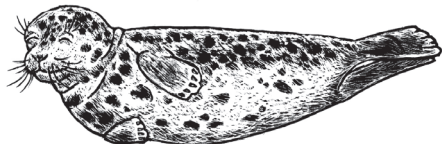
☐ California sea lion



☐ Southern sea otter



☐ Harbor seal

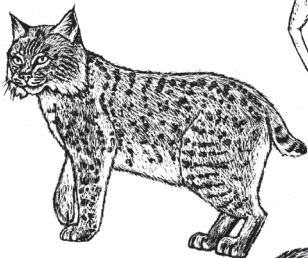


Land Animals

☐ Black-tailed mule deer



☐ Bobcat



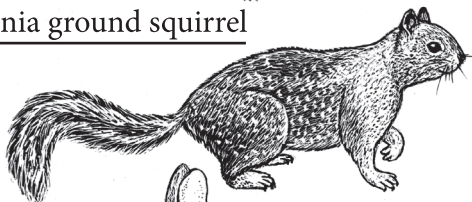
☐ Raccoon



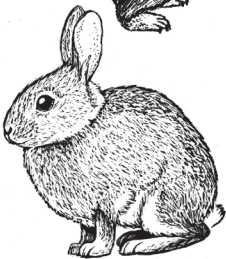
☐ Striped skunk



☐ California ground squirrel



☐ Brush rabbit



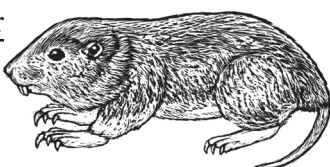
☐ Western gray squirrel



☐ Dusky-footed woodrat



☐ Pocket gopher



Plants & Algae

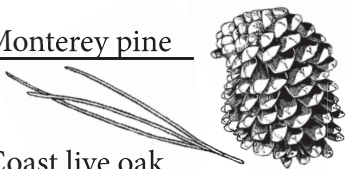
Several different plant communities are seen in the Reserve. The pine forest, cypress grove, coastal scrub, meadows, sea bluff and marine flora communities contain plants that are specially adapted to survive in the varied micro-climates found at Point Lobos. The cool moist sea breezes, the summer fog, 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 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

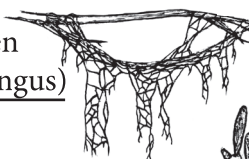


☐ Coast live oak



Algae

☐ Lace lichen (alga & fungus)



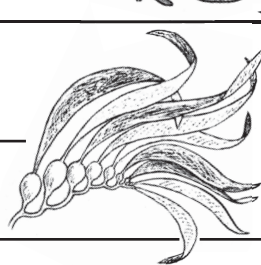
☐ Feather boa kelp



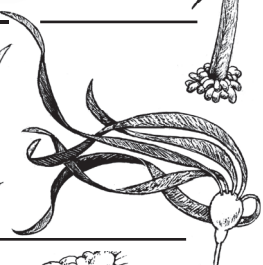
☐ Sea palm



☐ Giant kelp



☐ Bull kelp



☐ Trentepohlia (orange-colored alga)



Shrubs

☐ California sagebrush



☐ Poison oak



☐ Buckwheat



☐ Wild blackberry



☐ Lupine



☐ Ceanothus

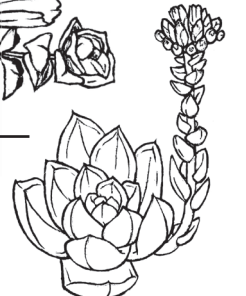


Flowering Plants

☐ Seaside painted cup



☐ Bluff lettuce (Dudleya farinosa)



☐ California poppy



☐ Wood mint (hedge nettle)



☐ Sticky monkey flower



☐ Douglas iris



☐ Lizard tail

