

*Come browse
my journal!*

Point Reyes
Wild Wonder Retreat
May 5 – 10, 2025

< Click the arrows to flip the pages >



Monday, May 5, 2025

Point Reyes

38.099°N 122.857°W p 29.92

87'

49°F, 80°F



65% Waxing
Circus

6147p → 0301a

0610a → 0807p

Arrived in Inverness, CA, at ~ 330pm, for the Wild Wonder retreat. Beautiful weather, though warm - 84°F. Collected yellow ochre soil near Tomales Bay Dyster Co -

38.116°N -122.854°W

Very similar geologic profile & color as McClure Beach cliffs.

Pacific Ocean



Seen & Heard

Tuesday, May 6

52°F Low
Calm to 1-2 mph
Clear

- Sweinsson's Thrush
- Crow
- Spotted Towhee
- Brown Pelican
- Hairy Woodpecker
- Tern sp.
- White-Crowned Sparrow
- Song Sparrow
- Chickadee sp.
- Muddy Hollow
- Tree Swallow
- Starling?
- Coyote call
Sounded like hyena!
- Raven
- Pygmy Nuth.

Agate Beach

Beautiful calm night — loads of birds calling at dawn — towhees and thrushes and crows esp.

Drove ~18m to tip of Pt. Reyes, to Bolinas and Agate Beach, where a low tide (~.5 ft) will be @ 1:40 pm. 37.897°N, -122.710°W

① on map, p.



Why was most of the green kelp facing beachward? Not seaward w/ retreating waves?



High tide

Reef 1

Reef 2

chiton x1

Agate Beach

Outer Reef Tide Pool

N

anemone

tiny fish - Gobby?

incoming tide

chiton

anemone x3

chiton

Boring Clam

slate rocks full of holes

shell - zebra
Gastropod eggs

attachment mat

adhered to rock in soft, translucent mass (2+ inch.) x2

chiton

1-1.5' high

Reef

sandstone reefs

like mudstone? (patterns, depressings)

Reef

Surf Line @ 11:45 am

Seen & heard

Cont. p.

Net capture birds:

• Swainson's Thrush
x III

• Allen's Humm.

• Wilson's Warbler
x III

• Common Yellow-Throat
x II

• Wren Tit

↳ v. small wings

• ♀ nest build, tend young, sing

• does not ext. to WA
vic of Columbia R.

Cont. pg.

Wednesday May 7

Muddy Hollow

53°F

@ 9am

38.047°N, 122.869°W

89'

3.1 on map

Point Blue Conservation
(formerly Point Reyes
Bird Observatory - 60 yrs)

Bird Banding:

What are they looking for?

• Age

• Fat/condition

• Breeding condition?

• Feather shape/quality?
(birds invest in higher
quality feathers later)

> Population health & bird
health (*harder to do -
use capture rate)

• we are @ end
of spring
migration

Swainson's
Thrush

• recapture
• adult

Aluminum
Band



- Corrugations on bill = younges (< 1 year) - wear off.
- they do not band hummers - too time-consuming



Allen's Hummingbird

- ♀ adult
- 3.8 g



Wilson's Warbler

- ♀ Breeding Condition
- brood patch
- 7.7g
- recapture

wilson's are sexually dimorphic



Common Yellow-throat

- 9.9g
- ♂

large warbler or

- recapture?



Point Blue
Conservation
Science



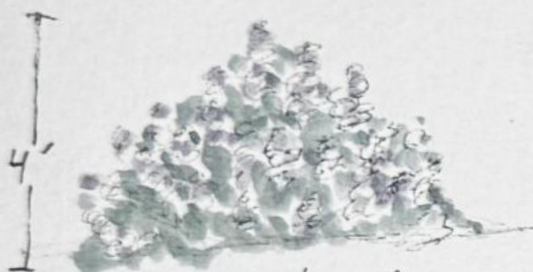
Connect for
Conservation!

- Jenn Fox,
board member,
WWF volunteer

Limantour Beach 12:30p. 38.027°N, 122.88°W
Arrived at half noon, overcast, slight breeze. SE ~ 5mph 64°F

The walk from the parking lot winds up to the high dunes, through meadows of shrubs - huge lupine plants - and many grasses and flowers. There are groves of pines - species? - at least 2 (short & long needles).

3.2 on map



Dune Lupine

Some are huge - 5 feet, with 6" girth trunks.



~25 ?

Western Sandpipers

foraging -

why do some
run (hop) on
one leg?

05/07/25

SIMANTOUR BEACH

Flower Avenue



sticky



Small Thistle



Berry
sp.
(shrub)



Dandelion

Chimney Rock



Seen & Heard

Cont. p.p.

Drake's Bay

- Pigeon
- ~~Brn. Heron~~
- Brewer's Blackbird
- Barn Sw
- Surf Scoter
- Red-thr. Loon
- Aptercatcher
- Cormorant
- Wn-Cr. Sparrow

Drake's Inlet

• Coyote
cont. p.

Thursday, May 8, 2025

37.9950N, 122.9790W

134'

52.9°F
630a

@ Parking

Chimney Rock & Historic Lifeboat Station

4.1 on map

Fog covering the lower peninsula as we drove in. Saw hawk sp. take off from brush pile on the way down to Chimney. By 10 am fog lifting; nearly all gone 1220P.

honking
snorting
grunting



young
yearling baby
Elephant Seals @

Lifeboat Station

at Drake's Inlet @ 730 for sunset
(809p). 38.082°N , 122.932°W

4.2 on map

@ 7:55p
Local sunset



A
S



@ 8:15p
sunset



Seen & Heard

Cont. fr. p.

- Calif. Quail
- 2nd Coyote
- Biked 4st

Retreat

- Dark-eyed Junco
- Male Deer ♀

Lehoo Marsh & Beach

- American Goldfinch
- Red-winged Blackbird

Cont. p.

Common Raven



10 cm

Animal tracks around Waters' edge - thought Elk but no, it's prob. Cows.

Friday, May 9, 2025

50°F ☉
Calm

Left for Lehoo Beach in fog, but patches of clearing.

There are acorn-processing mortars & holes near the trailhead from

people.



♀ Male Deer @ retreat cntr.

5.1 on map p.

62°F, 38.154°N, 122.949°W

Lone river otter hunting down the estuary.

rump undulates when swimming



- Button nose
- Dark back, head
- Blonde chin, belly

heavily whiskered - sensory for hunting



clearing tail-end

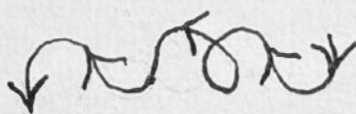
- Bubbles when under = trapped air in fur (not exhale)

- Driving prey toward bank

Otter spent twenty minutes + hunting, then eating (crunchy) then on shore rolling & twisting (parasite removal?)



- Rolling in sand 2x to remove parasites



twist and roll



See next pg.

Seen &
Heard

* River Otter!

- Phalarope sp
- Great-horned Owl
- Marsh Wren

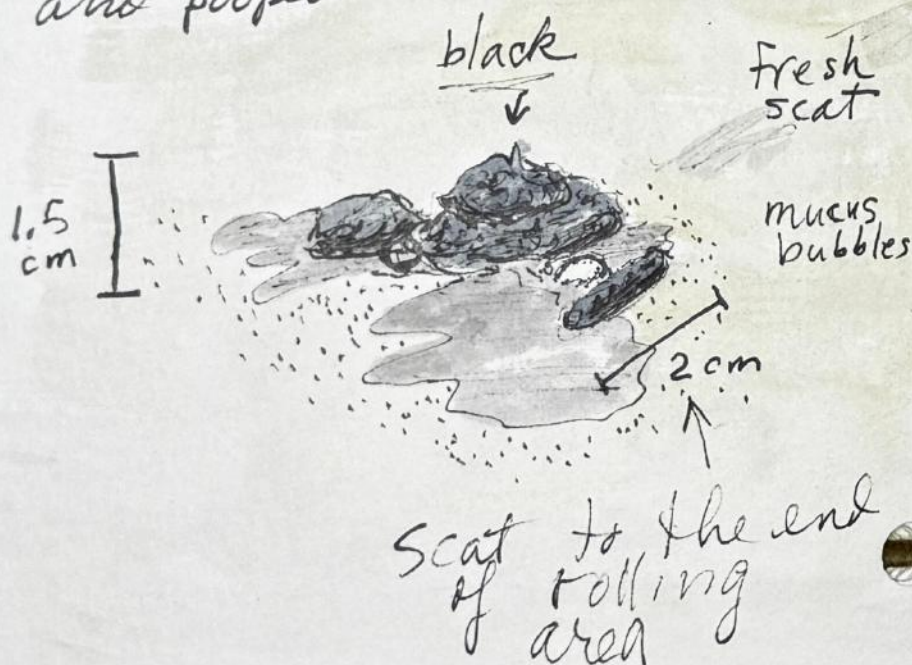
Abbott's Lagoon

- N. Harrier
- Skink sp.
- Garter Snake sp.
- Lots of Wh-Crowns



River otter tracks
in mud

At the end of its rolls
(observed 2x), the otter
dropped its rear, tail straight out,
then pumed rear legs
and pooped.



Walking the trail to the beach (trail overgrown w/ mustard, lupine, thistle), spotted otter tracks & slides in mud. Fifty feet up the trail we saw the otter coming downstream, hunting. Watched for ~ 40 min (see p.).

Hiking out, found a latrine - 4-5 deposits w/ crustacean bits, kelp? or plant, meat digested. Do otters lek? Or raccoons?



Great-horned Owl at the parking lot.

7 feet —————→

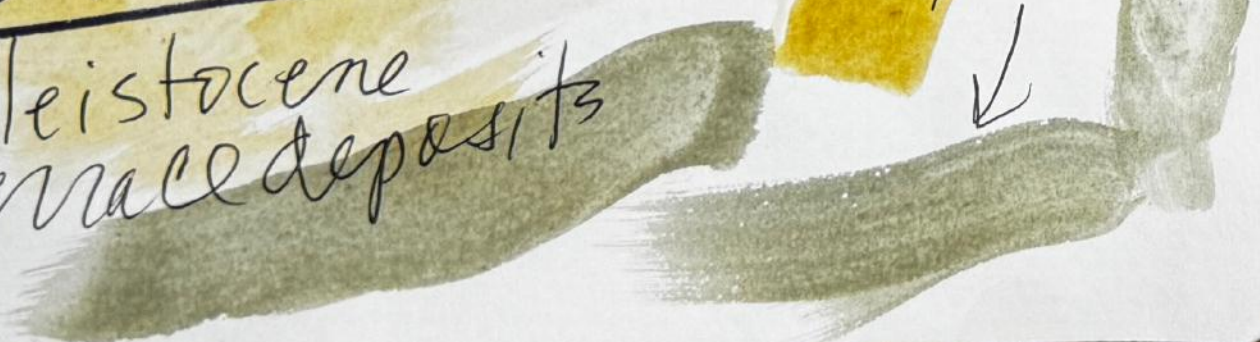
↖
↘
Track from rolling & scrubbing

: Oro del Reyes *



Iron Oxide
* Pleistocene
Terrace deposits

w/ mixed
ultramarine
↓



Bear Valley Visitor Cntr. May 10, 2025
1045a

Notice

- Huge trees
- girth as well as height
- Branches so close to ground
- Lichen
- We're on the San Andres Fault - are fissures allowing more water access?

Wonder

- How does lichen impact tree?
- Are Laurels usually so large?
- Branching habit - what is the benefit of low?
- Is lichen sp. spec. to spec. tree?
- Why so huge?
Water
less human activity?
- Why do leaves have strong scent?
 - very bitter
 - deter herbiv.(deer here but no browsing)

California

Bay Laurel Mystery



Hollowed, split
trunk (like a baobab) - but there
is a root/branch (?) growing up
from center up into trunk.



*I hope you enjoyed
browsing my journal!*

Roseann Hanson

Field Arts

INSTITUTE

ExploringOverland.com/fieldarts