

## Going on a “Duck Hunt” January 11, 2009 Birding the San Francisco Bay Area

**Quick Overview** – It was a glorious California day with temperatures reaching 70. Although it did not seem like winter, we select this time of year to look for wintering ducks because it is during the winter we get a large variety of duck species coming to the waters of the bay. They migrate to the area this time of year to escape the cold temperatures of the more northern parts of our continent. We started our “Duck Hunt” in the area around Shoreline Lake in Mountain View. It was here we were able to observe a pair of Barrow’s Goldeneyes hanging out with many Common Goldeneyes. We worked our way around the many ponds of the area and found ducks and shorebirds in great numbers. The majestic Canvasbacks were found in many different locations. We then headed to the Sunnyvale Water Treatment Ponds where we found both a Say’s Phoebe and Peregrine Falcon hunting. This was also where we found our first Northern Pintails. From here we headed to the waters around Redwood Shores where we were able to add Redheads and Eurasian Wigeon to our list. Here the Blue Winged Teals were our last duck species for the day. While we were in the same area we found a Merlin sitting on a power tower directly above allowing for great views before we headed home.



**Barrows & Common Goldeneye females**

*Images above provided by Tom Grey*

### Memorable Observations!

- Learning the differences between the two female Goldeneyes
- Watching an aggressive gull relentlessly going after American Coots
- A Peregrine Falcon hunting as it chased a pigeon
- Thousands of shorebirds assembled together on the exposed mudflats of the Palo Alto Baylands

#### Total Species Counted for the Day =74

Birds are listed in the taxonomic order currently recognized by the AOU

<b>Gadwall</b>	Common Canada Goose	Cooper's Hawk	Western Scrub-Jay
<b>Mallard</b>	Cackling Race of the Canada Goose	Peregrine Falcon	Belted Kingfisher
<b>American Wigeon</b>	Goose	Merlin	Black Phoebe
<b>Eurasian Wigeon</b>	Pied-billed Grebe	American Avocets	Say's Phoebe
<b>Northern Pintail</b>	Eared Grebe	Greater Yellowlegs	Tree Swallow
<b>Northern Shoveler</b>	Western Grebe	American Coot	Bushtit
<b>Green-winged Teal</b>	Clark's Grebe	Common Moorhen	Marsh Wren
<b>Cinnamon Teal</b>	Brown Pelican	Black-necked Stilt	Northern Mockingbird
<b>Blue-winged Teal</b>	American White Pelican	American Avocets	European Starling
<b>Bufflehead</b>	Double-crested Cormorant	Greater Yellowlegs	California Towhee
<b>Canvasback</b>	Great Blue Heron	Dowitchers	Song Sparrow
<b>Redhead</b>	Great Egret	Marbled Godwit	White-crowned Sparrow
<b>Lesser Scaup</b>	Snowy Egret	Least Sandpiper	Golden-crowned Sparrow
<b>Greater Scaup</b>	Black Crowned Night Heron	Killdeer	Dark-eyed Junco
<b>Common Goldeneye</b>	Turkey Vulture	Ring-billed Gull	Red-winged Blackbird
<b>Barrow's Goldeneye</b>	Northern Harrier	California Gull	Western Meadowlark
<b>Ruddy Duck</b>	White-tail Kite	Rock Pigeon	House Finch
<b>Surf Scoter</b>	Red Shouldered Hawk	Mourning Dove	Lesser Goldfinch
	Red-tail Hawk	Anna's Hummingbird	