

## Central Valley Birding Weekend Annual crusade - Dec. 2 & 3, 2006

**Quick Overview** – Trips are scheduled months in advance and we never know what the weather will be. This weekend proved to be beautiful, clear and crisp. This made our road trip easy as we picked-up new species all along the way. Starting our adventure in the bay area we headed north through Yolo County working our way east to cross the Sacramento River. We ate lunch in a secluded spot within the Sutter NWR and found geese in large numbers. We continued north to bird the west side of the Sutter Buttes. The buttes thought to be, “*the eroded innards of Pleistocene rhyolitic volcanoes*” offer’s great habitat for many species. It also leads us to Grey Lodge where we were part of their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Along with calendars, coffee and snacks we enjoyed a spectacular sunset fly-out as we listened to and watched thousands of waterfowl leaving the refuge to go feed in the agricultural fields by night. Next stop Colusa for dinner and a good nights rest. Sunday morning the group birded a great country road where we experienced slough habitat to one side and open fields to the other. This area bordered the Colusa NWF providing lots of open habitat for raptors and birders. After a few stops along the Sacramento River, including the Packer Unit off 45 and the Butte City Marina we ventured west to bird the Sacramento NWR. We ran into lots of people enjoying everything this area has to offer during this time of year and ended our weekend just in time for tea! I thank everyone who joined on this trip. It proved to be another memorable birding adventure.



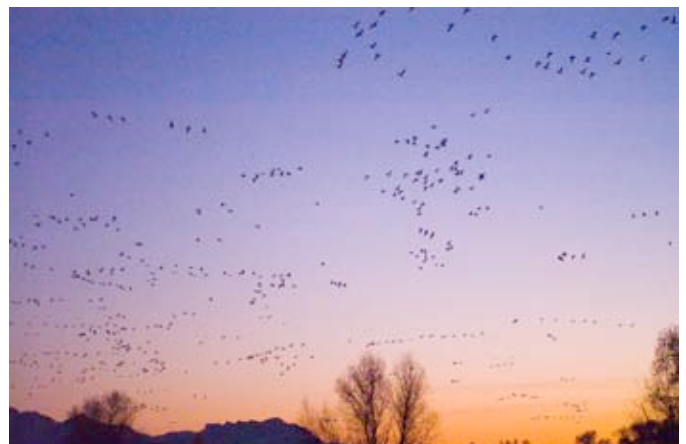
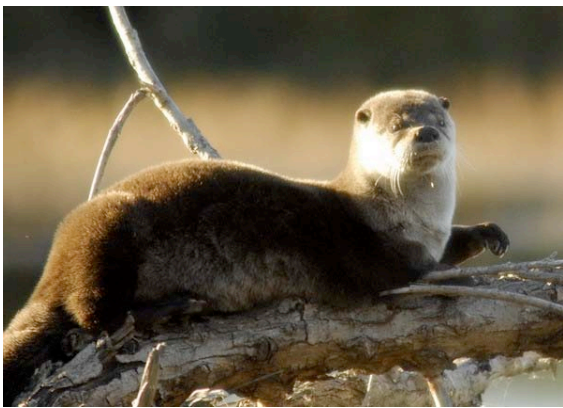
*Our most common weekend raptor, the Red Tail Hawk. This one just pounced on breakfast!  
image by trip participant Susan Hillyard*

**Total Species Counted for the weekend = 99 includes heard only (H)  
Birds are listed in the taxonomic order currently recognized by the AOU**

Tundra Swans	Great Blue Heron	Spotted Sandpiper	Marsh Wren
Greater White-Fronted Goose	Snowy Egret	Least Sandpiper	Rock Wren
Canada Goose – Common	Great Egret	Wilson’s Snipe	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Canada Goose - Aleutian	White Faced Ibis	Killdeer	Western Bluebird
Snow Goose	Turkey Vulture	California Gull	American Robin
Ross’s Goose	Bald Eagle	Herring Gull	Hermit Thrush (H)
Mallard	Northern Harrier	Rock Pigeon	Northern Mockingbird
Gadwall	White-tail Kite	Mourning Dove	European Starling
American Wigeon	Red Shouldered Hawk	Barn Owl (H)	American Pipit
Northern Pintail	Red-tail Hawk	Great Horned Owl	Cedar Waxwing
Northern Shoveler	Ferruginous Hawk	Anna’s Hummingbird	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Bufflehead	Cooper’s Hawk	Belted Kingfisher	Common Yellowthroat
Canvasback	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Nuttall’s Woodpecker	Spotted Towhee
Redhead	American Kestrel	Northern Flicker	California Towhee
Ring-necked Duck	Peregrine Falcon	Acorn Woodpecker	White-crowned Sparrow
Green-winged Teal	Prairie Falcon	Downy Woodpecker	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Cinnamon Teal	Merlin	Black Phoebe	Fox Sparrow
Ruddy Duck	Sandhill Cranes	Western Scrub-Jay	Lincoln’s Sparrow
Ring-necked Pheasant	Sora (H)	Yellow-billed Magpie	Savannah Sparrow
California Quail	American Coot	American Crow	Red-winged Blackbird
Pied-billed Grebe	Common Moorhen	Common Raven	Brewer’s Blackbird
Eared Grebe	Black-necked Stilt	Horned Lark	Western Meadowlark
American White Pelican	Greater Yellowlegs	Bushtit	House Finch
Double-crested Cormorant	Long-billed Dowitcher	White Breasted Nuthatch (H)	American Goldfinch
	Dunlin		House Sparrow

## Memorable Observations caught on film!

- Ross & Snow Geese throughout our weekend – image by trip participant Bob Steger
- A family of River Otter's were entertaining to watch – image of this adult by Bob Steger
- What appeared to be one of two young otters – image by trip participant Lori Cuesta
- A female Merlin landed and provided a long look – image by Bob Steger
- Along with some mosquitoes we found dragonflies – image by trip participant Debbie Brusco
- The folks at Colusa's Riverside Inn took great care of us.
- We watched several flocks lift at Sutter NWR – image by trip participant Susan Hillyard
- Thousands of geese fly out at sunset ( Grey Lodge )– Debbie Brusco



- While birding the western side of the buttes we found a curious Rock Wren – image provided by Tom Grey
- Early morning light revealed Great Horned Owls – one captured here by trip participant Susan Hillyard
- Western Meadowlarks were with us the entire weekend - image provided by Tom Grey
- The weekend's group of adventurers photographed!
- We all caught a glimpse of the Common Yellowthroat at Grey Lodge – image provided by Tom Grey
- Sutter Buttes photographed early Sunday morning from Sycamore Slough Road– image by Lisa Myers

