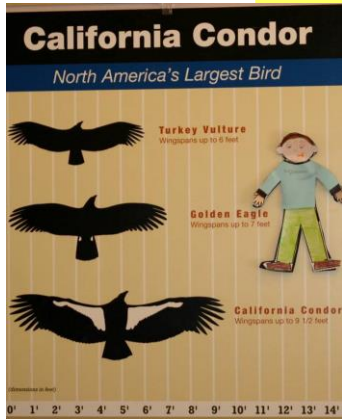


**Quick Overview** – This would be a day in search of California Condors. These giant vultures have been re-introduced in a few places south of the San Francisco Bay Area and we were out to find one. The **Los Gatos Birdwatcher & Let's Go Birding** teamed together to teach folks about California Condors with a visit to the Big Sur area. Once on the coast we found ourselves in a cold, thick cloud cover. Temps dropped into the mid 50's and the coastal breezes meant everyone bundled up. On our way to Big Sur we stopped at Moss Landing to have a look at a huge flock of Elegant Terns. A closer look revealed a few Caspian and Forster's Terns thrown into the mix. This stop also afforded us the chance to see how three different species of cormorants compare to each other. Field marks, flight style and body shape all provide different clues to help you make a positive ID. California Sea Otters, Harbor Seals and California Sea Lyons were also found here. We then continued our way south with our next stop at the Ventana Wildlife Society's Discovery Center. Located at Andrew Molera State Park, we had called ahead so they knew we were coming. Everyone had a chance to go into the center, meet Andy, learn more about California Condors and the efforts the Ventana Wildlife Society is doing to increase condor numbers & purchase shirts, hats and more. While we were there the sun broke through the cloud cover & we enjoyed a picnic lunch in the sunshine! We also watched an adult Golden Eagle circle above and got to watch nesting Vaux's Swifts! After lunch we continued south on highway 1 to look for condors. Soon back in the thick clouds our odds were now against us. Pulling over several times before turning around we could not locate any condors, but we all got an "A" for effort and we saw other species that make the coast their home. Plus, it's one of North America's most scenic highways. Also joining us were two "Flat Stanleys". One from New York & the other from Indiana made us all appreciate a little more what we have here out here in the west. On this day we pledged a \$100 match & donations toward the conservation of California Condors were collected. We raised \$200. Thank you everyone!



- Birds Observed** –
- Brandt's Cormorant
  - Pelagic Cormorant
  - Double Crested Cormorant
  - Brown Pelican
  - Great Egret
  - Great Blue Heron
  - Golden Eagle
  - Red-tail Hawk
  - American Kestrel
  - Turkey Vulture
  - Willet
  - Long-billed Curlew
  - Marbled Godwit
  - Least Sandpiper
  - Heermann's Gull
  - Western Gull
  - Caspian Tern
  - Elegant Tern
  - Forster's Tern
  - Pigeon Guillemot
  - Band Tailed Pigeon
  - Rock Pigeon
  - Mourning Dove
  - Eurasian Collard Dove
  - Vaux's Swift
  - Black Swift
  - Northern Flicker (H)
  - Olive Sided Flycatcher
  - Black Phoebe
  - Steller's Jay
  - Common Raven
  - American Crow
  - Tree Swallow
  - Barn Swallow
  - Cliff Swallow
  - Bewick's Wren
  - Wrentit
  - Brewer's Blackbird
  - Lesser Goldfinch
- (H) = heard only



Images represent the day's birding – Although he was not on our trip, the Elegant Tern photo was provided by Tom Grey of Palo Alto / Flat Stanley enjoying the Ventana Wildlife Society's Discovery Center – Linda Sullivan / The group picnicking outside the Discovery Center at Andrew Molera State Park – Lisa Myers / The group shot just with New York birder "Flat Stanley" in the middle – Ed Gustfsfon / Scanning the ocean and the hillsides along California's highway 1 – Lisa Myers