



Quick Overview – This was the 2nd summer trip to the Big Sur area in search of California Condors. We again stopped at Moss Landing, but this time we birded the habitats off Jetty Road. The moment we pulled out our optics we were working our way through the shorebirds. With the fall migration underway we are now seeing shorebird species returning from their northern breeding grounds.....Long-billed Curlews, Marbled Godwits, Black-bellied Plovers and a flock of distant peeps were here in addition to a California Sea Otter. The Elegant & Caspian Terns were also all around us vocalizing & feeding. We took a moment to walk over the dunes to the beach and while we added Western Grebes to our day, no Snowy Plovers were found. We soon continued south on 1 stopping along the way. Looking down to the beautiful, rugged coastline below we observed Pelagic Cormorants, Brown Pelicans and California Sea Lyons perched along the rocky outcroppings. We soon reached Andrew Molera State Park and the Ventana Wildlife Society's Discovery Center where we again found our new friend Andy working this day. He gave us condor updates and educated the folks about the trash thrown by people out along the highway causes real problems for North American's largest bird. Before sending us on our way Andy told us to keep an eye out for condors feeding on some road kill. While en route we stopped to ask a few photographers if condors were near and they pointed south. At a distance we could see one so we headed for Grimes Point and soon had two condors flying directly above us – SUCCESS! The action did not stop as we soon observed a pair of Black Swifts flying overhead along the cliff face – a life bird for many on the trip! We continued south and spotted two more condors and found Tim Huntington of Webnectar with radio tracking equipment. Tim said a condor was feeding below us on the rocks and sure enough, we soon found "Fuego" #470. A scope allowed for better viewing of this distant bird and we could see he was eating. Tourists from all over the US and the world were stopping to ask what we were doing. We shared with them scope views of Fuego in addition to pointing out Humpback Whales off the coastline. Fuego eventually finished his meal & slowly climbed the cliff face working his way higher and higher until he took to the air and headed our way! There were cheers from the crowd; excited to see the bird in the air. A 23 lb. bird needs to work a bit to get lift and he flew back and forth gaining altitude with each turn until he rose above us. so close we could almost touch him! He soon joined another condor and a few TV's, so we headed home. While in route we found three more condors north of Andrew Molera. It was a great day! **Let's Go Birding** pledged to match donations collected this day to go to the Ventana Wildlife Society. If it not for the work they do we would not be experiencing this species today. Thank you everyone for being part of the adventure!

- Birds Observed –**
- Mallard
 - California Quail – route
 - Western Grebe
 - Brandt's Cormorant
 - Pelagic Cormorant
 - Double Crested Cormorant
 - Brown Pelican
 - Great Egret
 - Snowy Egret
 - Great Blue Heron
 - California Condors!
 - Turkey Vulture
 - Red-tail Hawk
 - Red Shouldered Hawk
 - American Kestrel
 - Black-bellied Plover
 - Black-necked Stilt
 - Willet
 - Long-billed Curlew
 - Marbled Godwit
 - distant peeps
 - Heermann's Gull
 - Western Gull
 - Caspian Tern
 - Elegant Tern
 - Forster's Tern
 - Pigeon Guillemot
 - Rock Pigeon
 - Mourning Dove
 - Eurasian Collard Dove
 - Vaux's Swift
 - Black Swift
 - Belted Kingfisher
 - Northern Flicker (H)
 - Acorn Woodpecker
 - Steller's Jay
 - Western Scrub Jay
 - Common Raven
 - American Crow
 - Tree Swallow
 - Barn Swallow
 - Bewick's Wren
 - Wrentit (H)
 - Song Sparrow
 - White Crowned Sparrow
 - Black Headed Grosbeak
 - Brewer's Blackbird
 - Lesser Goldfinch
 - (H) = heard only



**HELP BIG SUR CONDORS
Don't Litter!**



Images represent the day's birding – California Condor #470 "Fuego" rising up from the shore below – LaRita Desimpels / Fuego again flying directly over our heads – Clyde Nagakura / Lisa getting the inside scoop on the condors from professional photographer & condor tracker Tim Huntington – Linda Sullivan / Tim tracking the condors along the cliff edge – Lisa Myers / a Lorquin's Admiral Butterfly joined us during lunch – Patty Brown / Black Swift image provided by Bill Schmoker