

**Quick Overview** – This was the first *Let's Go Birding* "Duck Hunt" in 2 years. The San Francisco Bay Area provides us with all kinds of water habitats so we get all kinds of different ducks, but, this trip is more than just a duck trip. We run into many different species of birds as we work our way through freshwater reservoirs, ponds, streams, salt water tidal lands and more. We ended our day with over 90 species including 17 different ducks! Our first stop was a fresh water percolation pond which included our first 7 duck species for the day. We then headed to higher ground where the secluded Stevens Creek Reservoir provides the ideal home for a day's target species, the elusive Wood Ducks. We found about 8 and even had a chance to watch a pair fly off together. Mountain View's Shoreline Lake was next. With a mix of both salt & fresh water this lake always turns up great species. Here we found the wintering Common Goldeneye x Bufflehead hybrid in addition to Surf Scoters & Greater Scaup. Cedar Waxwings & American Coots were also found here in numbers. We kept the pace going as we headed out to the open spaces next to Moffett Field. Our plan was to walk the levee out to pond "A2E" where more great birds had been reported. Our walk was filled with other avian observations. Red Tailed Hawks chased after a Golden Eagle and Northern Harriers vocalized and put on an impressive aerial display. Common Yellowthroat, Marsh Wren, Lincoln Sparrow, White Tailed Kites, Say's Phoebe, Western Meadowlark; they were all here. We also got to watch parachuters jumping out of military aircraft! When we came to the ponds we added Red Breasted Merganser in addition to teals and more. From here we stopped for lunch at one un-eventful location and then moved on to visit a new open space called Cooley Landing. Vacant land once closed to the public is now a cleaned up, public space providing habitat for birds and people. The tide was out and the shorebirds were found in large numbers, but no new ducks. This was the first time most in the group had ever visited this spot. It was time to end the trip, so we made one last stop & added Cinnamon Teal, our last duck for the day!



Images represent the day's birding – Trip Leader's T-shirt in honor of our day / Scanning the waters around East Palo Alto's Cooley Landing – Lisa Myers / Shoreline's Common Goldeneye x Bufflehead hybrid duck, provided by bay area photographer Tom Grey / Ground Squirrel checking out the group – Greta Muller / Learning to eat wild Aniseed along the trail – Lisa Myers / A Banana Slug crossing at Steven's Creek Reservoir – Greta Muller

### Birds Observed –

*Gadwall*  
*Mallard*  
*American Wigeon*  
*Northern Pintail*  
*Northern Shoveler*  
*Green-winged Teal*  
*Cinnamon Teal*  
*Bufflehead*  
*Canvasback*  
*Lesser Scaup*  
*Greater Scaup*  
*Ring-necked Duck*  
*Common Merganser*  
*Red Breasted Merganser*  
*Common Goldeneye*  
*Common Goldeneye X Bufflehead Hybrid*  
*Wood Duck*  
*Ruddy Duck*  
Canada Goose  
Ring-necked Pheasant (H)  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Western Grebe  
Clark's Grebe  
Horned Grebe  
Eared Grebe  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Brown Pelican  
Great Blue Heron  
Great Egret  
Snowy Egret  
Black Crowned Night Heron  
Turkey Vulture  
Golden Eagle  
Northern Harrier  
White-tail Kite  
Red Shouldered Hawk (H)  
Red-tail Hawk  
American Kestrel  
Merlin  
Sora (H)  
American Coot  
Common Gallinule  
Black-necked Stilt  
American Avocets  
Greater Yellowlegs  
Long-billed Curlew  
Marbled Godwit  
Western Sandpiper  
Least Sandpiper

### Birds Observed Conti.

Killdeer  
Black-bellied Plover  
Forster's Tern  
Ring-billed Gull  
California Gull  
Rock Pigeon  
Mourning Dove  
Anna's Hummingbird  
Belted Kingfisher  
Nuttall's Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Acom Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Black Phoebe  
Say's Phoebe  
Western Scrub-Jay  
Steller's Jay  
American Crow  
Common Raven  
Tree Swallow  
Oak Titmouse  
Bushtit  
Chestnut-Backed Chickadee  
Bewick's Wren  
Marsh Wren (H)  
American Robin  
Varied Thrush (H)  
Northern Mockingbird  
European Starling  
Cedar Waxwing  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Common Yellowthroat  
Spotted Towhee  
California Towhee  
Song Sparrow  
White-crowned Sparrow  
Golden-crowned Sparrow  
Lincoln's Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Brewer's Blackbird  
Western Meadowlark  
House Finch  
Pine Siskin  
Lesser Goldfinch  
House Sparrow

(H) = heard only

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