

Quick Overview – There are many different birding hot spots tucked away in the foothills of the Diablo Mountain Range. This range of mountains is found on the eastern edge of Santa Clara County. This would be the first time I led a trip throughout this area along many different country roads. We started by heading north where we picked-up Calaveras Road and then started our way south. The plan was to stop all along our route. Our first stop was very birdy and the group had to work fast to keep up with the variety of species active all around us including Bullock's Orioles, Western Kingbirds, Cliff Swallows, Turkey Vultures, Tri-colored Blackbirds, Western Bluebirds, Red Tail Hawks & a Golden Eagle. Our next stop was equally as active at the junction of Welch Creek Road. This area provides ideal riparian habitat & we found Violet Green & Northern Rough Wing Swallows checking out nest cavities. The heard only birds included Warbling Vireos, Ash Throated Flycatchers, Wilson's Warbler & Wrentit. We continued south on Calaveras until we were parallel to the 2012 Bald Eagle nest sight. Not used this year we felt it remained an ideal location to eat lunch and scan the reservoir below. The entire time we were in the company of Yellow Billed Magpies. With one eye on my liverwurst and another in the distance I spotted an adult Bald Eagle soaring in our direction; it got closer & closer. Soon a juvenile Bald Eagle also appeared circling in the vicinity of the old nest. Before long an Osprey also flew overhead. The Bald Eagle was a life bird for some & made for an exciting moment in nature! We then moved on to Marsh Road. This dead end road always turns up great birds and we had California Quail, great looks at orioles & observed a hunting American Kestrel, but we were never quite sure if the cows were staring at us or we were staring at the cows! It was time to head to Sierra Road which offers fantastic views of Santa Clara Valley below & most had never before been up there. We arrived to find Rock Wren, Horned Larks, a Northern Harrier and Savannah Sparrows before calling it a day and dropping back down into the valley and heading back to the store!

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| Canada Goose | Tree Swallow |
| Mallard | Barn Swallow |
| Wild Turkey | Northern Rough Wing Swallow |
| California Quail | Horned Lark |
| Great Blue Heron | Oak Titmouse |
| Turkey Vulture | Chestnut Backed Chickadee |
| Osprey | White Breasted Nuthatch |
| Golden Eagle | Bewick's Wren |
| Bald Eagle | House Wren |
| Northern Harrier | Rock Wren |
| Red Shouldered Hawk | Western Bluebird |
| Red-tail Hawk | American Robin |
| Cooper's Hawk | European Starling |
| American Kestrel | Wrentit |
| Killdeer | Northern Mockingbird |
| California Gull | Yellow Rumped Warbler |
| Mourning Dove | Orange Crowned Warbler |
| Anna's Hummingbird | Wilson's Warbler |
| White Throated Swifts | Spotted Towhee |
| Belted Kingfisher | California Towhee |
| Nuttall's Woodpecker | Golden Crowned Sparrow |
| Northern Flicker | Savannah Sparrow |
| Acorn Woodpecker | Dark-eyed Junco |
| Black Phoebe | Black Headed Grosbeak (H) |
| Ash Throated Flycatcher | Red-winged Blackbird |
| Western Kingbird | Tri-colored Blackbird |
| Warbling Vireo | Brewer's Blackbird |
| Western Scrub-Jay | Brown-headed Cowbird |
| Yellow-billed Magpie | Bullock's Oriole |
| American Crow | Western Meadowlark |
| Steller's Jay | House Finch |
| Common Raven | Lesser Goldfinch |
| Violet Green Swallow | Heard Only = (H) |
| Cliff Swallow | |



Images taken during our day - A view of San Francisco Bay from Sierra Rd – Lisa Myers / one of many House Wrens found this day – Nate Sanders / The group on Marsh Road – Lisa Myers / A Sierra Road Horned Lark – Nate Sanders / Marsh Road cows wondering what we were doing – Lisa Myers
There were no bathroom facilities along Saturday's route, but that did not matter because we brought our own "birdaloo" – Lisa Myers