

Quick Overview – Located in Pleasanton, CA. but owned by the city and county of San Francisco, when developers paid the \$126,000,000 to purchase the 500 acres of pristine land it was Marilyn Murphy Kane that lobbied hard to preserve at least some of it to be used as open space and she won. For her relentless efforts the 12 foot wide trail that meanders along the Arroyo de la Laguna for just over a mile was dedicated to her and is open for all to enjoy. Exiting from 680 onto Bernal, we started our walk at the north end. From the start the bird life was everywhere. Turkey Vultures were starting to embrace the day and we could hear many species of woodpeckers calling from the oak & walnut trees. We had great views of a pair of Downy Woodpecker in addition to a Red Breasted Sapsucker. Before we even left the parking lot we found Western Bluebirds and Black Phoebe hunting for breakfast. Red Winged Blackbirds were also active. Unfortunately the vocalizations of the European Starlings could not be ignored. As we walked the trail we often heard birds long before we could find them including Spotted Towhees, Bewick's Wrens, White Breasted Nuthatch, Lesser Goldfinch and Cedar Waxwings. We strategically placed vehicles at various locations along our walk so we'd find our lunches waiting for us when we got to that section of the trail. A shady spot with benches commemorating the trails name sake was the ideal spot to have lunch. Afterward we continued as the trail took us underneath the busy 680 interstate. With hundreds of cars above driving past hourly, below we found White Throated Swifts & the newly arriving Northern Rough Winged Swallows. Both species flying close over our heads were checking out the available nest sights offered underneath this man-made structure. Hundreds of Cliff Swallow nests remained from last year's breeding season, but so far no Cliff Swallows had yet arrived for the 2013 season. The ponds on the east side of the freeway were without much water, and only Canada Geese were numerous here. About this time our walk was nearing the end as we stopped for a quick view into the pond located at the south end of the trail. One ruddy, one coot and one grebe were its only occupants. So we ended our walk at the new baseball fields. Hundreds of newly built homes on one side and a beautiful creek on the other and one trail, in between, remains for nature.

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| Canada Goose | Common Raven |
| Mallard | Northern Rough Wing Swallow |
| Gadwall | Oak Titmouse |
| Bufflehead | Bushtit |
| Ruddy Duck | Brown Creeper |
| California Quail (H) | Chestnut Backed Chickadee |
| Pied Billed Grebe | White Breasted Nuthatch |
| White-tail Kite | Bewick's Wren |
| Red Shouldered Hawk | Western Bluebird |
| Red-tail Hawk | American Robin |
| Cooper's Hawk | European Starling |
| American Coot | Northern Mockingbird |
| Killdeer (H) | Cedar Waxwing |
| Mourning Dove | Yellow-rumped Warbler |
| Band Tailed Pigeon | Orange Crowned Warbler (H) |
| Anna's Hummingbird | Spotted Towhee |
| White Throated Swifts | California Towhee |
| Belted Kingfisher | Song Sparrow |
| Nuttall's Woodpecker | White-crowned Sparrow |
| Northern Flicker | Golden-crowned Sparrow |
| Acorn Woodpecker | Dark-eyed Junco |
| Downy Woodpecker | Red-winged Blackbird |
| Red Breasted Sapsucker | Brewer's Blackbird |
| Black Phoebe | House Finch |
| Western Scrub-Jay | Lesser Goldfinch |
| Steller's Jay | American Goldfinch |
| American Crow | Pine Siskin |



Images represent the day's birding - male Red Winged Blackbird declaring territory – Ellen Bateman
 Composite photo of White Throated Swift images provided by Nikon Prostaffer Bill Schmoker / Memorial to trail's name sake – Lisa Myers / The group walking east of 680 – Lisa Myers / Turkey Vulture greeting the new day – Patty Brown / Just arrived! Northern Rough Wing Swallow – Ellen Bateman