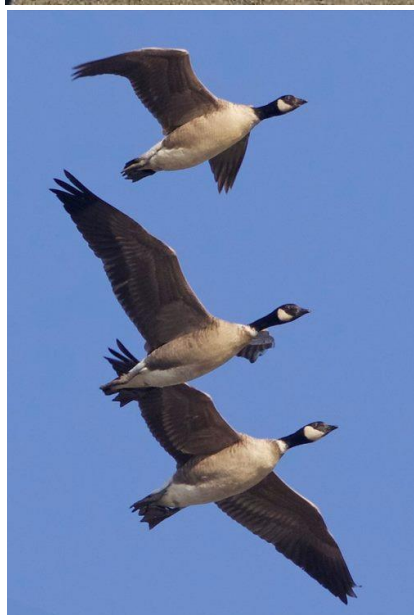


Quick Overview – Every fall we plan a birding trip to go see the Sandhill Cranes that come to winter in California's Central Valley. This trip was a little different because we were going by bus! It was decided that going forward we would use the professional services of Corinthian Ground Transportation for our birding tours. Tom was our driver and he did a fantastic job making sure everyone had everything they needed from donuts to champagne. Having a professional driver take us all in one bus meant no need to carpool. We could all ride together and view birds, talk about our sightings and learn something along the way. We even towed the "Birdaloo". Our first stop was at the Cosumnes River Preserve where we found both Lesser & Greater Sandhill Cranes and Greater White Fronted Geese in addition to many species of ducks. A trio of Tundra Swans flying down close out of the Tule Fog was a beautiful sight to see. We also flushed a snipe now and then and had a chance to work on our shorebird identification too. We stopped for lunch along Desmond Road where we could bird while we ate and added White Faced Ibis and Willet to our list. We ended our day out on Staten Island Road. It was out there that we found large flocks of Canvasback Ducks, Eared Grebes and we watched a Peregrine Falcon eat a meal. We also watched Cackling Geese fly overhead in formation by the hundreds. On Sandhill Crane trips we collect donations from participants and then match those donations and make a contribution to the International Crane Foundation to help in their efforts to save the world's cranes www.savingcranes.org. Thank you to all that joined in on our new adventure as we birded by bus.

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|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Tundra Swans | Dunlin |
| Greater White-Fronted | Least Sandpiper |
| Canada Goose – Common | Wilson's Snipe |
| Canada Goose – Cackling | Killdeer |
| Canada Goose - Aleutian | Black-bellied Plover |
| Snow Goose | Ring-billed Gull |
| Mallard | Rock Pigeon |
| Gadwall | Mourning Dove |
| American Wigeon | Belted Kingfisher (H) |
| Northern Pintail | Northern Flicker |
| Northern Shoveler | American Kestrel |
| Bufflehead | Peregrine Falcon |
| Canvasback | Black Phoebe |
| Ring-necked Duck | Western Scrub-Jay |
| Common Goldeneye | American Crow |
| Green-winged Teal | Common Raven |
| Cinnamon Teal | Tree Swallow |
| Wild Turkey | Larked Horn |
| California Quail | Bewick's Wren |
| Eared Grebe | Ruby-crowned Kinglet |
| American White Pelican | Western Bluebird |
| Great Blue Heron | Northern Mockingbird |
| Great Egret | European Starling |
| Snowy Egret | American Pipit |
| White Faced Ibis | Yellow-rumped Warbler |
| Turkey Vulture | California Towhee |
| Northern Harrier | Song Sparrow |
| White-tail Kite | White-crowned Sp |
| Red Shouldered Hawk | Golden-crowned Sp |
| Red-tail Hawk | Lincoln's Sparrow |
| Cooper's Hawk | Savannah Sparrow |
| Greater Sandhill Cranes | Red-winged Blackbird |
| Lesser Sandhill Cranes | Brewer's Blackbird |
| American Coot | Western Meadowlark |
| Black-necked Stilt | House Finch |
| Greater Yellowlegs | Lesser Goldfinch |
| Long Billed Dowitcher | American Goldfinch |
| Willet | Heard only (H) |



Images taken during our day – Birding by tour bus with the "Birdaloo" in tow – Karl Fowler / Cackling Geese overhead – Brooke Miller / Tundra Swan drops down out of the tulle fog – Ellen Bateman / A bus load of birders wave for the camera – L. Myers / Three Greater & one Lesser Sandhill Cranes – Brooke Miller / A bike rack makes the perfect cookie holder – L. Myers