

Quick Overview – Mount Diablo State Park was one of California's first state parks and is a registered National Landmark. Back in 1874 two roads were constructed on the mountain so folks could visit by stage coach. From the 3849 foot summit you can see into the Central Valley and San Francisco! On this day we planned to visit Mitchell Canyon located on the northern part of the mountain. Concentrating our efforts in Mitchell Canyon meant we'd avoid the crowds there to watch the Amgen Tour of California taking place elsewhere on the mountain. When we arrived we stopped in at the Visitor's Center. Several of us witnessed what appeared to be White Throated Swifts copulating in mid-air, embraced together & dropping to the Earth, they let go of each other moments before hitting the ground. They then flew back up into the blue sky chattering amongst themselves! We then hiked up Oak Road to an upper meadow. Along the way we found ourselves surrounded by Western Bluebirds scattered throughout the oaks. Once at the meadow we found an Olive Sided Flycatcher along the edge. The bird never made its well-known "quick three beers" call, but instead was hunting aggressively moving from perch to perch. We looped the trail back down for our lunch appreciating the beauty of the various species of old oaks and found one to be the home of a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, a life bird for many on the trip! After lunch we walked the trail along Mitchell Creek. Various butterflies were observed throughout our day and Spotted Towhees were everywhere meowing from the shadows. The heard only birds like the Hutton's Vireo were loud and clear but nowhere to be seen. Most on the trip had never before been to Mitchell Canyon, so getting to visit a new area was a welcome part of the day. Before we knew it, it was time to head back to Los Gatos. We hardly scratched the surface of Mitchell Canyon, let alone Mount Diablo so we have good reason to go back again one day.

- Turkey Vulture
- White-tail Kite
- Red Shouldered Hawk (H)
- Red-tail Hawk
- Cooper's Hawk
- Wild Turkey
- California Quail
- Mourning Dove
- Rock Pigeon
- Band Tailed Pigeon
- Anna's Hummingbird
- White Throated Swifts
- Nuttall's Woodpecker
- Acorn Woodpecker
- Nuttall's Woodpecker
- Downy Woodpecker (H)
- Olive Sided Flycatcher
- Pacific Slope Flycatcher (H)
- Violet Green Swallow
- Tree Swallow
- Western Scrub-Jay
- Steller's Jay
- American Crow
- Common Raven
- Oak Titmouse
- Bushtit
- Chestnut Backed Chickadee
- White Breasted Nuthatch
- Bewick's Wren
- House Wren
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
- Western Bluebird
- European Starling
- Hutton's Vireo (H)
- Spotted Towhee
- California Towhee
- Dark-eyed Junco
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Brown Headed Cowbird (H)
- Bullock's Oriole (H)
- Lesser Goldfinch
- Heard Only = (H)



Images taken during our day - Getting great looks at the Olive Sided Flycatcher & digiscoped Olive Sided Flycatcher – Lisa Myers / One of many beautiful oak trees, can you find the Pacific Slope Flycatcher? – Lisa Myers / Freddy holding up one heavy pine cone & Live Oak in the meadow – Lisa Myers / Juvenile Red Tailed Hawk above the trail & what's left of the wildflowers – Linda Sullivan / Our Wild Turkey, we were there for him all the way to the end – Linda Sullivan