

Final trip report for the "Persistent Picidae's"

Santa Clara Valley Audubon's 2013 Spring Birdathon - A guided team led by trip leader Lisa Myers

Birding Santa Clara County, CA. April 14, 2013 / Thank you to the team members that birded this day:

Ed Gustafson, Hanny Waarts, Larry Spivak, Michelle Clapham, Lilly Yoshida, Roberta Baker, Patty Sweeney, Barbara Boyington, Glenn Wheatland



Quick Overview – For the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society's 2013 Spring Birdathon I once again led the guided team called the "Persistent Picidae's" as we birded throughout Santa Clara County. New birders are always welcome and this year's team included both brand new & experienced birders. All of our birding was done without the use of audio devices. We started at McClellan Ranch in Cupertino around 7:30 AM and got our first 33 species including the find of a Anna's Hummingbird nest with two nestlings. We then headed to Steven's Creek County Park and birded the Chestnut Picnic Area. Nesting woodpeckers, Wilson's Warblers, breeding plumaged/singing Yellow Rumped Warblers and Orange Crowned Warblers made the list. Getting great views of the Black Headed Grosbeak was a hi-light. We then drove to the reservoir where we added Wood Ducks, Spotted Sandpiper, and Belted Kingfisher to the list. It was then that the voices in my head seemed to be getting louder, but soon realized all that chatter was coming from my radio - it was Santa Clara Valley Audubon's Executive Director Bob Power's voice I was hearing as he led his team the Bob-o-links! Their caravan soon blew by my team as they headed up hill and we to Picchetti. Although I birded here two days earlier and found it quite active, this part of our day resulted in few species. So we headed up the road to look for dippers to no avail, but a stop at the Cooley Picnic got us a pair of Townsend's Warblers before we headed to the bay and Terminal Way. Here we scoped Shoreline Lake & were surprised to find a Great-Tail Grackle having a power struggle with Forster's Terns. While birding this area we added another 30 species to the list which brought our total to 99. Taking a group consensus we headed for Coyote Valley. We were not able to find the recently reported Swainson's Hawks but we added Golden Eagle, Yellow Billed Magpie, Eurasian Collared Doves and more to the list. Our first bird of the day was a Western Bluebird at McClellan and our last bird of the day was a Barn Owl in the nest box on Laguna. I find it quite painful to end the day missing species you really feel you should have had i.e. at least one Great Egret, really? How about a White Throated Swift flying about an overpass? Or how about one frig'n turkey for goodness sake! Sometimes it's a simple matter of just not having the time to go to where you know they are. We ended with 110 species, some heard only.

Thank you to all that birded this day and to all who supported our efforts.

Where we found our birds - M = McClellan Ranch, Cupertino / S = Stevens Creek County Park
P = Picchetti Winery open space / T = Areas off Terminal Way including Shoreline Lake &
Charleston Slough / PA = Palo Alto Baylands / CV – Coyote Valley, south San Jose ' FO = A
Cooper's Hawk did a fly over of one car & not all team members saw this bird / (H) = Heard Only
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Final List

Canada Goose S	Downy Woodpecker S
Mallard S	Black Phoebe M
Gadwall T	Western Kingbird CV
Northern Shoveler T	Pacific Slope Flycatcher S
Canvasback T	Ash Throated Flycatcher S
Lesser Scaup T	Hutton's Vireo P
Green-winged Teal T	Warbling Vireo (H)
Cinnamon Teal T	Western Scrub-Jay S
Wood Duck S	Steller's Jay S
Ruddy Duck T	Yellow-billed Magpie CV
Surf Scoter T	American Crow S
Ring-necked Pheasant PA	Common Raven S
California Quail P	Violet Green Swallow M
Pied-billed Grebe T	Cliff Swallow T
Eared Grebe T	Barn Swallow T
Horned Grebe T	Oak Titmouse M
Western Grebe T	Bushtit M
Double-crested Cormorant S	Chestnut Backed Chick. M
Great Blue Heron S	Brown Creeper M
Snowy Egret T	White Breasted Nuthatch S
Black Crowned Night PA	Bewick's Wren M
American White Pelican T	House Wren M
Turkey Vulture P	Marsh Wren T
Golden Eagle CV	Western Bluebird M
Northern Harrier PA	American Robin M
White-tail Kite M	European Starling S
Red Shouldered Hawk S	Wrentit P
Red-tail Hawk S	Northern Mockingbird M
Cooper's Hawk CV - FO	California Thrasher (H) P
American Kestrel CV	Cedar Waxwing (H) T
American Coot T	Yellow-rumped Warbler M
Common Moorhen T	Common Yellowthroat T
Black-necked Stilt T	Townsend's Warbler S
American Avocets T	Wilson's Warbler S
Greater Yellowlegs PA	Orange Crowned Warbler S
Marbled Godwit T	Spotted Towhee M
Dowitcher T	California Towhee S
Dunlin T	Song Sparrow M
Willet T	White-crowned Sparrow M
Spotted Sandpiper S	Golden-crowned Sparrow M
Black-bellied Plover T	Dark-eyed Junco M
Ring-billed Gull T	Black-Headed Grosbeak S
California Gull T	Red-winged Blackbird PA
Forster's Tern T	Tri-colored Blackbird CV
Rock Pigeon PA	Brewer's Blackbird M
Mourning Dove M	Brown-headed Cowbird M
Band Tailed Pigeon S	Great Tailed Grackle T
Eurasian Collared Dove CV	Western Meadowlark CV
Barn Owl CV	Bullock's Oriole PA
Anna's Hummingbird M	Hooded Oriole M
Belted Kingfisher S	Purple Finch M
Nuttall's Woodpecker S	House Finch M
Northern Flicker S	Lesser Goldfinch M
Acorn Woodpecker S	Pine Siskin M
	House Sparrow T