



As a guided trip leader it is always my goal to provide a fantastic day of birding while seeing as many species as possible. This being the 6th year the team would compete; I planned our day to bird Alameda County. This would be a new adventure for the Go Go's. I appreciate the folks that return to the team every year, so birding a new county provides a new challenge!

We started at 8:00 AM which means folks got to sleep in! We birded the morning in the inland habitats to get the Passerines before the day got too hot. We traveled Calaveras Road to Sunol's Welch Creek Road where we birded this beautiful windy road to the top. The rolling hills dotted with Oaks allowed us to add Brown Creepers, nuthatches and magpies to the list. This road dead ends at the top of the mountain where we found fantastic views in addition to California Quail, Western Bluebirds, Say's Phoebe and Lark Sparrows.

We then worked our way to Altamont Pass where I had hoped to add some raptors. We found it rather quiet but did see more Golden Eagles (5 in total for the day) and added Horned Larks & Loggerhead Shrike to the list.

We now headed to the western part of the county which includes the east bay and stopped at Arrowhead Marsh, Hayward Shoreline and Coyote Hills. The shorebirds were hunkered down within the aquatic plants which made it less than ideal for shorebird ID. It was at Arrowhead Marsh where we found our mascot the Wilson's Snipe, but ducks and coots were nowhere to be found. We did get to observe a young Cooper's Hawk trying to catch a meal and we ended our day at 5:30 PM with wonderful views of a roosting Great Horned Owl.

This event is very important to the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory and a big thank you goes out to all the team members who made the day a success and those that supported the Go Go's with their contributions. *Team members included team leader Lisa Myers plus Gerry Ellis, Harold Fukuma, Julie Bryson, Spike Marlowe, Lori Cuesta, Sandy Moore, Laurie Pakula and Julia Vindasius. Total species count = 76*

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| 1. Canada Goose | 26. Wilson's Snipe | 51. Horned Lark |
| 2. Mallard | 27. Willet | 52. Oak Titmouse |
| 3. Wild Turkey | 28. Whimbrel | 53. Bushtit |
| 4. California Quail | 29. Killdeer | 54. Chestnut Backed Chickadee |
| 5. Pied-billed Grebe | 30. Black-bellied Plover | 55. White Breasted Nuthatch |
| 6. American White Pelican | 31. Ring-billed Gull | 56. Brown Creeper |
| 7. Brown Pelican | 32. California Gull | 57. Bewick's Wren |
| 8. Double-crested Cormorant | 33. Western Gull | 58. Hutton's Vireo |
| 9. Great Blue Heron | 34. Forster's Tern | 59. Western Bluebird |
| 10. Great Egret | 35. Rock Pigeon | 60. American Robin |
| 11. Snowy Egret | 36. Band Tailed Pigeon | 61. Northern Mockingbird |
| 12. Turkey Vulture | 37. Mourning Dove | 62. European Starling |
| 13. Golden Eagle | 38. Eurasian Collared Dove | 63. Common Yellowthroat |
| 14. White-tail Kite | 39. Great Horned Owl | 64. Townsend's Warbler |
| 15. Red Shouldered Hawk | 40. Anna's Hummingbird | 65. Spotted Towhee |
| 16. Red-tail Hawk | 41. Nuttall's Woodpecker | 66. California Towhee |
| 17. Cooper's Hawk | 42. Acorn Woodpecker | 67. Song Sparrow |
| 18. American Kestrel | 43. Black Phoebe | 68. White-crowned Sparrow |
| 19. Peregrine Falcon | 44. Say's Phoebe | 69. Lark Sparrow |
| 20. Clapper Rail (H) | 45. Empidonax Flycatchers | 70. Savannah Sparrow |
| 21. Black-necked Stilt | 46. Loggerhead-Shrike | 71. Dark-eyed Junco |
| 22. Greater Yellowlegs | 47. Western Scrub-Jay | 72. Red-winged Blackbird |
| 23. Long-billed Curlew | 48. Yellow-billed Magpie | 73. Brewer's Blackbird |
| 24. Dowitcher Sp. | 49. American Crow | 74. Western Meadowlark |
| 25. Marbled Godwit | 50. Common Raven | 75. House Finch |
| | | 76. Lesser Goldfinch |



Images above represent some of the species we saw during our day.
 Lark Sparrow – Tom Grey
 Golden Eagle – Bill Schmoker
 Horned Lark – Tom Grey
 Black Bellied Plover – Tom Grey
 American White Pelican – Garrett Lau