

# San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory's California Fall Challenge 2014

The "Gallinago Go Go's" bird Santa Clara County - Trip Leader – Lisa Myers

Team Members – Ed Gustafson, Jane Jordan, Harold Fukuma, Spike Marlowe, Lisa Weber, Joe DiAndrea, Kathy Harris, Brooke Miller



**Quick Overview** – This was the 12<sup>th</sup> year for the "Gallinago Go Go's" to bird in the SFBBO California Fall Challenge. This year I said we'd stop just as soon as we found our 100 species and we did at 4:00 PM. As always, we use minimal to no recordings of bird calls as we seek out each species by visiting different habitats. We started at 7:00 AM in Los Gatos as we started with 24 species in the oak woodland habitat of Rinconada Park. We made a quick stop in Vasona County Park and added quite a few birds when a mixed flock flew overhead. After that we headed north to Sunnyvale Baylands Park. We found more birders than birds, but we added a few nice species for our day. Next, the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant where we decided we would do the ½ mile walk out to see the Sabine's Gull. While we knew a Parasitic Jaeger was in another pond the group decided they'd rather eat than walk another levee so we headed to Alviso. After lunch we worked our way around the various ponds of the area and found the shorebirds we needed, an adult Golden Eagle and a pair of Peregrine Falcons. Our last stop had us checking out the open space known as the Arzino Ranch where we stopped to find Long Billed Curlew, Say's Phoebe, Burrowing owl, American Kestrel and Western Meadowlark allowing us to end our day with a final count of 103 species. Thank you to everyone on the team and all who supported our efforts. SFBBO appreciates everyone's support.



Photos of our day - The Sabine's Gull has created a bit of attention from all the county birders – Brooke Miller / a non-countable Great Horned Owl, our group photo & waking Turkey Vultures all taken by Joe DiAndrea.



R Canada Goose	R Anna's Hummingbird
R Mallard	S Vaux's Swift
S Gadwall	R Belted Kingfisher
A16 American Wigeon	R Nuttall's Woodpecker
S Northern Pintail	R Acorn Woodpecker
V Northern Shoveler	R Northern Flicker
A Green-winged Teal	AR American Kestrel
S Cinnamon Teal	A Peregrine Falcon
S Ruddy Duck	SB Pacific-Slope Flycatcher
V Pied-billed Grebe	R Black Phoebe
S Eared Grebe	AR Say's Phoebe
S Horned Grebe	SB Loggerhead-Shrike
V Double-crested Cormorant	R Western Scrub-Jay
S Brown Pelican	R Steller's Jay
S American White Pelican	V American Crow
V Great Blue Heron	S Common Raven
V Great Egret	S Violet Green Swallow
V Snowy Egret	S Barn Swallow
V Black Crowned Night	V Chestnut Backed Chickadee
A Golden Eagle	R Oak Titmouse
S Northern Harrier	R Bushtit
V Red-tail Hawk	R White Breasted Nuthatch
V Turkey Vulture	V Brown Creeper
A16 Virginia Rail (H)	R Bewick's Wren
S Sora (H)	S Marsh Wren
V American Coot	V Ruby-Crowned Kinglet
S Common Gallinule	R Western Bluebird
A Black-necked Stilt	R American Robin
A American Avocets	SB Hermit Thrush
A Greater Yellowlegs	S Northern Mockingbird
A Lesser yellowlegs	V European Starling
AR Long-billed Curlew	V Yellow Warbler
A Short-billed Dowitcher	V Yellow Rumped Warbler
A Marbled Godwit	V Townsend's Warbler
A Western Sandpiper	S Common Yellowthroat
A Least Sandpiper	V Western Tanager
V Killdeer	R California Towhee
A Black-bellied Plover	R Spotted Towhee
S Red-necked Phalarope	V Song Sparrow
S Wilson's Phalarope	V White-crowned Sparrow
V Ring-billed Gull	R Golden-crowned Sparrow
V California Gull	SB Fox Sparrow
V Glaucous-winged Gull	SB Savannah Sparrow
S Herring Gull	R Dark-eyed Junco
S Bonaparte's Gull	S Red-winged Blackbird
S Sabine's Gull	S Brewer's Blackbird
S Forster's Tern	S Brown-headed Cowbird
V Rock Pigeon	AR Western Meadowlark
R Band Tailed Pigeon	R House Finch
V Mourning Dove	V Lesser Goldfinch
S Eurasian Collared Dove	R American Goldfinch
AR Burrowing Owl	Total = #103

### Legend in order of the places we birded. 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Started our morning in Los Gatos at Rinconada Park (R) & then Vasona County Park (V). From there we headed north to Sunnyvale where we first birded the Sunnyvale Baylands (SB) and then the water pollution control plant (S). From there we went to Alviso (A) where we checked out area ponds, walked around the EEC and stopped at Arzino Ranch (AR) before ending our day. Left the area before the 49er game ended and Levy Stadium overflowed!