

Quick Overview – The **Let's Go Birding** / **Los Gatos Birdwatcher** summer birding trips are planned to get us out of the valley heat and to some place cooler while introducing folks to new places & nature. This day had us birding the open spaces of Half Moon Bay. During the morning we walked the old ranch road found at Burleigh/Murray State Park and after lunch we moved to the coast to check out "Wavecrest". The birds were rather quiet, so we had to work a bit harder to find a few species. A species only found in the west, the Wrentits were all around us throughout our morning. They called repeatedly and several crossed our path as they flew from patch to patch. We also talked about the differences in the flycatcher species since we encountered four different species. A flock of Pygmy Nuthatch was a favorite for the day. And while a few of us caught a glimpse of a Gray Fox darting into the landscape, all had great looks at the Garter Snake that sat in the middle of our path. After lunch we walked a trail through Wavecrest and to the cliff's edge where we scanned the ocean and found dolphins, resting grebes, two species of cormorants and more. We also watched a female Northern Harrier disrupt an extended family of White Tailed Kites. Numbering over 10, the harrier kept harassing the kites and causing disruption for all. We ended our day with an immature Red-shouldered Hawk sitting in the shadows of a Cypress.

Birds Observed –

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|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Western Grebe | Western Wood Pewee |
| Clark's Grebe | Black Phoebe |
| Pelagic Cormorant | Western Scrub-Jay |
| Brandt's Cormorant | Steller's Jay |
| Brown Pelican | Common Raven |
| Turkey Vulture | Barn Swallow |
| Golden Eagle | Northern Rough Wing Swallow |
| White-tail Kite | Violet Green Swallow |
| Northern Harrier | Cliff Swallow |
| Red Shouldered Hawk | Chestnut Backed Chickadee |
| Red-tail Hawk | Bushtit |
| Cooper's Hawk | White Breasted Nuthatch (H) |
| Whimbrel | Pygmy Nuthatch |
| Heermann's Gull | Wrentit |
| Western Gull | American Robin |
| Elegant Tern | Swainson's Thrush (H) |
| Common Murre | Wilson's Warbler |
| Rock Pigeon | Spotted Towhee (H) |
| Band Tailed Pigeon | California Towhee |
| Eurasian Collared Dove | Song Sparrow |
| Mourning Dove | White Crowned Sparrow |
| Anna's Hummingbird | Savannah Sparrow |
| Allen's Hummingbird | Dark-eyed Junco |
| Belted Kingfisher | Black Headed Grosbeak |
| Northern Flicker | Red-winged Blackbird |
| Downy Woodpecker | House Finch |
| Hairy Woodpecker | Purple Finch (H) |
| Olive Sided Flycatcher | American Goldfinch |
| Pacific Slope Flycatcher | House Sparrow |
| | Heard only = (H) |



Images of our day – Northern Harrier harassing a White Tailed Kite taken in Half Moon Bay by Tony Woo / Brown Pelican fly-by off Wavecrest and White Crowned Sparrow also by Tony Woo / Almost stepped on this Carter Snake, we made sure it continued on its way without harm – Lisa Myers / Passion Flower on the coast – Lisa Myers