

Quick Overview – Lone Tree Road is a great place to bird because it is still open country and offers spectacular views. This dead end road slowly rises in elevation allowing for views down to the valley, beautiful natural land formations and all kinds of great habitats to find birds. The birding started right at the intersection of Lone Tree & Fairview where we found a pair of Northern Harriers sitting on a low fence line at the edge of a field of grain. The Red-winged Blackbirds were also here using the field as a place to breed. As we continued up the road we stopped to scan an open field filled with ground squirrels and soon found a Burrowing Owl. The road is just over 10 miles long, and we stopped all along the way checking for new species. One very exciting find was a Yellow-Breasted Chat! The bird was silent but was spotted above a creek looking rather curious about us. The bird disappeared but we successfully pished it out for a second look while on the other side of the road we had Rock Wren. Throughout the day we also had many Lazuli Buntings, Black-headed Grosbeak & Golden Eagles. California is experiencing drought conditions this year so water was found only in a few creeks and in troughs for pastor animals. We were well into our day before we finally found sparrows and they were all concentrated into one area and included Grasshopper, Lark, Savannah and Rufous Crowned. We ended the day with a pair of Lawrence's Goldfinch.



Birds Experienced –

- Mallard
- Wild Turkey
- California Quail
- Turkey Vulture
- Golden Eagle
- Northern Harrier
- Red-tail Hawk
- American Kestrel
- Rock Pigeon
- Mourning Dove
- Band Tailed Pigeon
- Eurasian Collared Dove
- Burrowing Owl
- Anna's Hummingbird
- Selasphorus Hummer
- White Throated Swift
- Vaux's Swift
- Northern Flicker
- Acorn Woodpecker
- Hairy Woodpecker
- Black Phoebe
- Western Kingbird
- Pacific Slope Flycatcher
- Ash Throated Flycatcher
- Hutton's Vireo (H)
- Warbling Vireo (H)
- Western Scrub-Jay
- Steller's Jay
- Yellow-billed Magpie
- American Crow
- Common Raven
- Violet Green Swallow
- Barn Swallow
- Oak Titmouse
- Bushtit
- Chestnut Backed Chick..
- White Breasted Nuthatch
- Bewick's Wren
- House Wren
- Rock Wren
- Western Bluebird
- European Starling
- Northern Mockingbird
- California Thrasher (H)
- Yellow Breasted Chat
- Hermit Warbler
- Wilson's Warbler (H)
- Orange Crowned Warbler (H)
- Spotted Towhee
- California Towhee
- Song Sparrow
- Golden-crowned Sparrow
- Lark Sparrow
- Grasshopper Sparrow
- Rufous Crowned Sparrow
- Savannah Sparrow
- Dark-eyed Junco
- Black-Headed Grosbeak
- Lazuli Bunting
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Brewer's Blackbird
- Brown-headed Cowbird
- Western Meadowlark
- Bullock's Oriole
- House Finch
- Lesser Goldfinch
- Lawrence's Goldfinch
- House Sparrow
- Heard Only = (H)

Pictures from our day – Yellow-Breasted Chat, Grasshopper Sparrow & Black-headed Grosbeak male – Brooke Miller / Lark Sparrow – Marti Wright
View looking down the road and into the valley – Lisa Myers / Red-winged Blackbird male in the field of grain (females out of sight) – Marti Wright
California endemic the Yellow-billed Magpie & Rock Wren – Brooke Miller