

**Quick Overview** – This would be the first time we did a birding tour to Lone Tree Road via the professional bus services of Corinthian Ground Transportation which is our new mode of transportation. I was a bit concerned the local ranchers would really think we were crazy, but everyone we passed simply waved and smiled at the birders. It was a win-win. We took up far less room than if we had been in a carpool and everyone enjoyed the luxury of not having to drive. The Birdaloo was also along for the trip so that was one less thing for folks to think about as we spent the day birding in habitats without facilities. California is in the midst of a terrible drought and this was evident when looking over the landscape. The fields are turning yellow and many trees look as if they are dead and dying. While we did find some water trickling down some creeks, it was the cattle troughs filled with water that much of the wildlife depended. Our first pull out of the day had us surrounded by large Sycamore Trees. We found many different species in the midst of their nesting activities from starlings to woodpeckers, plus Western Bluebirds, Oak Titmice, Chestnut-backed Chickadees and American Kestrels. A Yellow-rumped Warbler was a nice spot since most have gone by now. Red-tail Hawks were not far and we could hear Wild Turkeys in the distance. A flyover Prairie Falcon was a great bird for our day! In years past we could find Lazuli Buntings along this road, but this year we only found one. He was singing his heart out which helped us find him and we hoped he'd soon find a female. Using the bus as a blind we had great looks at a Grasshopper Sparrow. During our lunch stop we had a pair of Lark Sparrows fly through. We also had great views of a Golden Eagle and we ended our day with a very cooperative Swainson's Hawk which circled above the road gaining altitude.

**Birds Experienced –**

- Mallard
- Wild Turkey
- California Quail
- Turkey Vulture
- Golden Eagle
- Northern Harrier
- Red-tail Hawk
- Swainson's Hawk
- Cooper's Hawk
- Mourning Dove
- Band Tailed Pigeon
- Eurasian Collared Dove
- Anna's Hummingbird
- Northern Flicker
- Nuttall's Woodpecker
- Acorn Woodpecker
- American Kestrel
- Prairie Falcon
- Black Phoebe
- Ash Throated Flycatcher
- Warbling Vireo (H)
- Western Scrub-Jay
- Steller's Jay
- Yellow-billed Magpie
- American Crow
- Common Raven
- Northern Rough-wing Swallow
- Violet Green Swallow
- Barn Swallow
- Oak Titmouse
- Chestnut Backed Chickadee
- White Breasted Nuthatch
- Rock Wren
- Western Bluebird
- European Starling
- Northern Mockingbird
- Yellow-rumped Warbler
- California Towhee
- Golden-crowned Sparrow
- Lark Sparrow
- Grasshopper Sparrow
- Black-Headed Grosbeak
- Lazuli Bunting
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Brown-headed Cowbird
- Western Meadowlark
- Bullock's Oriole
- House Finch
- Lesser Goldfinch
- Heard Only = (H)



**Pictures from our day** – Its beautiful horse country, Thistle with butterfly, adult Golden Eagle, White-breasted Nuthatch & Yellow-billed Magpie all photographed by Tony Woo. The birders and our bus was photographed by Al Lowder.