

**Quick Overview** – *Let's Go Birding* and Freddy's Howell's, *Los Gatos Birdwatcher* participants headed out to Mines Road via the Livermore direction. The weather was supposed to be great after one heck of a wet Spring. We knew we were a little early for this Spring hot spot, but this also meant we experienced a wonderful display of colorful wildflowers and running water throughout. Water actually crossed the road in two areas as the streams overflowed. We started our day birding the area around Murrietta Wells. Nesting Yellow Billed Magpies were around us along with brilliant orange Bullock's Orioles. From here we headed down Mines Road pulling over when we saw something exciting. A Nesting pair of Red Tail Hawks was our next stop. The buteo sitting in the nest was not the least bit concerned with us. It was here we also had our FOS Ash Throated Flycatcher. A stick in the grass turned out to be a female Turkey giving us the eye. I suspect she was sitting on a nest. We continued on our way pulling over for motorcycles and good birds. The old fire station that was once a great spot for Lawrence's Goldfinch is now private property. I almost asked for the potted cactus out back as it once was home to many a young finch. We ate lunch up on San Antonio Road where we found two pairs of Lewis's Woodpeckers flycatching. We also discovered Wood Ducks in the large pond just up from the junction. One pair of American Widgeon and several pairs of Ring Necked Ducks were also present. After lunch we worked our way to I-5 via Del Puerto Canyon Road. Watching the Great Horned Owls sitting on their nests was a hi-lite for all. The end of the day was hot and few birds were spotted along the barb wire fence as we approached the interstate. This area will be full of birds and birders throughout the next month. Don't miss the action.



*Golden Eagle and nesting pair of Red Tail Hawks  
photographed on Del Puerto Canyon Road  
by trip participant Hubert d'Hondt*

**Memorable Observations!**

- Golden Eagle flying over head
- Golden Crowned Sparrow singing on top of tall grass
- Four Great Horned Owls all sitting on nests
- One Red Tail flying onto the nest to relieve the other
- Western Kingbirds appearing to hunt bees!
- California Quail hidden in the hillside

**Total Species Counted for the Day = 61 includes heard only (H)**

Canada Goose	Mourning Dove	American Crow	Cedar Waxwings
Mallard	Eurasian Collared Dove	Common Raven	Wilson's Warbler (H)
Ring Necked Duck	Great Horned Owl	Yellow-billed Magpie	Yellow Rumped Warbler
American Wigeon	Anna's Hummingbird	Tree Swallow	Spotted Towhee
Wood Duck	Belted Kingfisher	Barn Swallow	California Towhee
Wild Turkey	Nuttall's Woodpecker	Northern Rough Wing	Golden Crown Sparrow
California Quail	Northern Flicker	Violet Green Swallow	White Crown Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Acorn Woodpecker	Oak Titmouse	Black Headed Grosbeak (H)
Golden Eagle	Lewis's Woodpecker	Bushtit	Red-winged Blackbird
White-tail Kite	Black Phoebe	White Breasted Nuthatch	Brewer's Blackbird
Red-tail Hawk	Says Phoebe	Bewick's Wren	Bullock's Oriole
Cooper's Hawk	Loggerhead Shrike	House Wren	Western Meadowlark (H)
American Kestrel	Western Kingbird	Western Bluebird	House Finch
Killdeer	Ash Throated Flycatcher	American Robin	Lesser Goldfinch
Rock Pigeon	Western Scrub-Jay	Northern Mockingbird	House Sparrow
		European Starling	

## Birding Mines Road – April 17, 2010



**From top left to bottom** – One of four nesting Great Horned Owls observed on our trip. No chicks yet! - Hubert d'Hondt / The wildflowers were in grand abundance throughout – Hubert d'Hondt / We observed four Lewis's Woodpeckers flycatching on San Antonio Valley Road – Tom Grey / Can you find the lizard? - Hubert d'Hondt / Another Great Horned Owl nesting on cliff edge. – Hubert d'Hondt / We observed both Golden Crown & White Crown Sparrows in breeding plumage – Tom Grey / This nesting Red Tail Hawk was right off Mines Road at mile marker 2.75 - Hubert d'Hondt / Nesting Yellow Billed Magpies were found throughout – Tom Grey / Several Wood Ducks were observed at the back side of a pond on San Antonio Valley Road – Ron Wolf / Western Kingbirds were in abundance near I-5 on Del Puerto Canyon Road – Tom Grey