

The Fall Migration is underway! Monterey Bay coastal birding, Sept. 14, 2008

Quick Overview – The fall brings out an adventurous spirit in birders as we head off to migration hot spots in anticipation to find migrating birds we can see this time of year, and to find a bird that is off course on the way south. **Let's Go Birding** planned this day to take advantage of coastal migration hot spots. We started our day in Santa Cruz at "Natural Bridges" as we could not resist the reports of a wayward Gray Catbird & male Summer Tanager. As soon as we stepped out of the cars we enjoyed Townsend's, Wilson's and Yellow Warblers foraging above. Before we left we found our target birds as both the catbird and tanager made appearances. We then headed for the Salinas River Mouth after a quick stop at Jetty Road. At the Salinas River we were in the company of hundreds if not thousands of ducks as they are just now returning for the season. With little time to spare we ended our day at Moon Glow Dairy where folks were just arriving to locate the Little Stint that had just been reported hours earlier. With schedules to keep we left without the stint but ended our day with a magnificent Peregrine Falcon who landed above to wish us farewell.



Gray Catbird & Summer Tanager images provided by Tom Grey. Red-necked Phalarope & Peregrine Falcon taken during our day by trip participant Susan Hillyard.

Memorable Observations!

- Several Western Tanagers together in the thickets at Natural Bridges
- Elegant Terns by the hundreds on Jetty Road
- Juvenile Red Tail Hawk trying to snag a Jack-Rabbit and the chase was on! The rabbit won.
- Moon Glow Dairy filled with Red-necked Phalaropes and artichoke eat'n dairy cows

Total Species Counted for the Day = 83 includes heard only (H) and (R) in route
Birds are listed in the taxonomic order currently recognized by the AOU

Canada Goose	Red-tail Hawk	Heermann's Gull	American Robin
Mallard	Cooper's Hawk	Elegant Tern	Wrentit (H)
Gadwall	Peregrine Falcon	Rock Pigeon	Gray Catbird
Northern Pintail	American Coot	Mourning Dove	Northern Mockingbird
Green-winged Teal	American Avocets	Eurasian Collared Dove	California Thrasher
Cinnamon Teal	Greater Yellowlegs	Anna's Hummingbird	European Starling
Ring-necked Pheasant	Long-billed Curlew	Belted Kingfisher	Townsend's Warbler
California Quail	Marbled Godwit	Downy Woodpecker	Yellow Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe	Spotted Sandpiper	Pacific Slope Flycatcher	Wilson's Warbler
Eared Grebe	Western Sandpiper	Black Phoebe	Western Tanager
American White Pelican	Least Sandpiper	Say's Phoebe	Summer Tanager
Brown Pelican	Sanderlings	Western Scrub-Jay	Spotted Towhee
Double-crested Cormorant	Surfbird	American Crow	California Towhee (H)
Brandt Cormorant	Killdeer	Barn Swallow	Song Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Black-bellied Plover	Northern Rough Wing	Red-winged Blackbird
Great Egret	Snowy Plover	Violet Green Swallow	Tri-colored Blackbird
Snowy Egret	Semipalmated Plover	Bushtit	Brewer's Blackbird
Black Crowned Night Heron	Black Oystercatcher	Pygmy Nuthatch	Black-Headed Grosbeak
Turkey Vulture	California Gull	Brown Creeper	House Finch
White-tail Kite	Western Gull	Bewick's Wren	Lesser Goldfinch (H)
Red Shouldered Hawk	Ring-Billed Gull	Marsh Wren (H)	