

Quick Overview – It had been a few winters since the Los Gatos Birdwatcher had a trip out to Panoche Valley so we were excited to put this on the schedule. Birders travel to Panoche Valley to visit the high-desert open spaces every winter in search of birds we don't get to see in the highly populated areas around the bay. The trip proved so popular that we planned a 2nd trip the following Saturday. The final list reflects birds from both trips. Species with an asterisk * were only seen on Trip #1 and those in italics were only seen on trip #2. This would be the first time we did this tour using our new method of transport and we had everyone ride together in one comfortable bus with the "Bird-aloo" in tow. While we had great moments with certain species on the first trip, we found a larger assortment of species on our 2nd trip. Many of the participants had never been to Panoche Valley so just seeing the beautiful open spaces still found out that way was an added splendor to each day. **A few hi-lights from trip #1** = a quick glimpse at the yellow shafts of a Northern Flicker, several views of male Phainopepla, an adult Golden Eagle sitting on the ground, a Prairie Falcon perched on the power tower, hundreds of Horned Larks moving through the fields, Vesper Sparrows sitting low along the road side, and a Cooper's Hawk following the bus providing great views for all. **A few hi-lights from trip #2** = Finding our first of 2 Greater Roadrunners just beyond our first stop, great views of a female Phainopepla, a Red-breasted Sapsucker working through a farmer's tree, Mountain Bluebirds and an adult Bald Eagle just before the Panoche Inn, a Ferruginous Hawk that got closer as we watched, and finding a male Redhead duck in the Panoche Reservoir. (Larry and his wife were ready for us on both trips. They are still hoping to sell the Panoche Inn and move to Hollister). Thank you all for coming out to play!



Birds Observed –

- Northern Shoveler
- Redhead
- Distant Scaup
- Ring-necked Duck
- Ruddy Duck
- California Quail
- Pied-billed Grebe
- Bald Eagle
- Golden Eagle
- Red-shouldered Hawk *
- Red-tail Hawk
- Ferruginous Hawk
- Cooper's Hawk *
- American Coot
- Killdeer
- Distant Yellowlegs
- Rock Pigeon
- Mourning Dove
- Eurasian Collared Dove
- Greater Roadrunner
- Anna's Hummingbird *
- Red-breasted Sapsucker
- Nuttall's Woodpecker
- Northern Flicker
- Acorn Woodpecker
- American Kestrel
- Prairie Falcon *
- Black Phoebe
- Say's Phoebe
- Loggerhead Shrike
- Western Scrub-Jay
- Yellow-billed Magpie
- American Crow
- Common Raven
- Horned Lark
- Oak Titmouse (H)*
- White Breasted Nuthatch
- Bewick's Wren
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- Western Bluebird
- Mountain Bluebird
- American Robin
- Hermit Thrush
- European Starling
- Cedar Waxwing *
- Phainopepla
- Yellow-rumped Warbler
- Spotted Towhee
- California Towhee
- White-crowned Sparrow
- Lark Sparrow
- Savannah Sparrow
- Vesper Sparrow
- Dark-eyed Junco
- Tri-colored Blackbird
- Brewer's Blackbird
- Western Meadowlark
- (H) = heard only

Images from our two trips -
 Mountain Bluebird – I. Moffitt / The bus, birdaloo & birders – Al Lowder
 Ferruginous Hawk – Al Lowder / The Panoche Inn keeping up with the fire codes – L. Myers / Trip #1 having lunch at the Inn & Trip #2 scanning the field – L. Myers / male Phainopepla from – Ellen Bateman