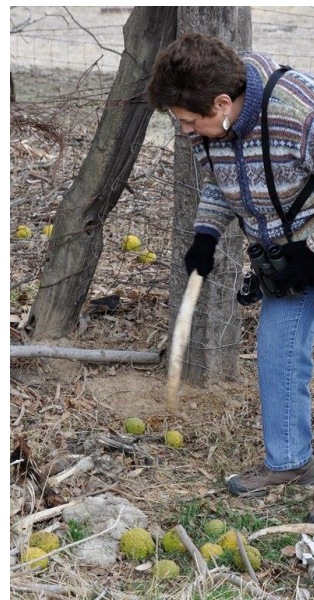




Quick Overview – There is an area north/east of the Benicia Bridge and west of Rio Vista that birders always check for wintering Mountain Plovers; an area where grassland still remains. The last report was in December 2013 & this trip was all about looking for this elusive plover. While we observed Tundra Swans & Canada Geese, Red-tailed Hawks, American Kestrels and a Rough-legged Hawk while in route, we did not stop to bird until we reached the corner of Robinson & Flannery. Not aware of its presence, we flushed a Burrowing Owl just getting out of the cars. This would be the first of two we found during our day. We slowly drove the farm roads around this open habitat and while we found Meadowlarks, Northern Flickers and many Loggerhead Shrikes we were never able to find our target species. A beautiful flock of Lark Sparrows helped ease the pain and we found a few more Rough-legged Hawks, some Ferruginous Hawks & Long-billed Curlew during our search. This is the driest winter California has had in decades and all are asking how this is affecting the birds. We found evidence throughout our day where the ranchers have to feed their cattle as there is little in the fields to eat. We eventually worked our way to a waterway next to the Sacramento River which allowed us to add species that find their home in & around water. This was the first time many in the group had ever been to this part of Solano County and now all know the way back for future exploration. Thank you all for joining in the search.



Birds Experienced –

Tundra Swans
Canada Goose
Ring-necked Pheasant
Pied-billed Grebe
Double-crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Snowy Egret
Black Crowned Night Heron
White Faced Ibis
Turkey Vulture
Northern Harrier
White-tail Kite
Red Shouldered Hawk
Red-tail Hawk
Ferruginous Hawk
Rough-legged Hawk
American Kestrel
American Coot
Greater Yellowlegs
Long-billed Curlew
Killdeer
Gull sp.
Rock Pigeon
Mourning Dove
Eurasian Collared Dove
Burrowing Owl
Anna's Hummingbird
Belted Kingfisher
Northern Flicker
Black Phoebe
Say's Phoebe
Loggerhead-Shrike
Western Scrub-Jay
American Crow
Common Raven
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
European Starling
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Song Sparrow
White-crowned Sp
Lark Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Red-winged Blackbird
Brewer's Blackbird
Western Meadowlark
American Goldfinch

Heard Only = (H)



Pictures from Lisa Myers of our day – Cattle walking up to the group, do they really think birders will feed them / Tennis balls or Osage hedge balls? They were all over the place! / Wind turbines popping up throughout the landscape and all over the world. A real environmental issue as raptors and bats are killed in the thousands annually as they fly into the blades. / Our second Burrowing Owl of the day!