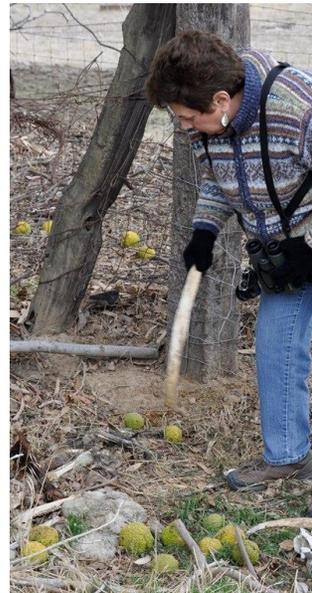




Quick Overview – There is an area north/east of the Benicia Bridge and west of Rio Vista that birders always check for wintering Mountain Plovers; an area where grassland still remains. The last report was in December 2013 & this trip was all about looking for this elusive plover. While we observed Tundra 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!