

Quick Overview – Trips are planned months in advance and we had no idea this winter's day of birding would include clear blue skies and temperatures in the mid 70's! North of Los Gatos we headed to the Coyote Point Recreation Area where we knew we'd find different types of plants & trees and hopefully a variety of bird species too. As we walked the trails around the museum we also had views of the San Francisco Bay. One minute we'd be searching for the Pygmy Nuthatch we could hear above and in the next scanning the bay for Spotted Sandpipers and Double Crested Cormorants. We found three different Fox Sparrows still here for the winter while Nuttall's Woodpeckers and American Crows were starting their courtship displays and nest building. We also had fantastic views of the dark morph Swainson's Hawk, American Kestrel & Peregrine Falcon that are used as educational birds and live in the aviary found at the park. We worked our way down to the marina where close views of Horned, Eared, Clark's & Western Grebes provided a great learning opportunity. There were large groups of Surf Scoters feeding in the bay and eventually we found a male Harlequin Duck amongst the feeding frenzy; an exciting life bird for many on the trip. After lunch we headed farther north and scanned the lagoon at Embassy Suites. Here we added a few more to our day including Ruddy Ducks, Snowy Egrets, Ring Necked Ducks and a breeding plumaged Yellow Rumped Warbler. From here we went south to visit Bedwell Bayfront Park. Our first stop at the entrance of the park provided great views of a flock of resting shorebirds in addition to Canvasbacks, Green Winged Teal and Greater Yellowlegs. It was getting late and the temperatures were warm so bird activity was low, but we had our first of the season Barn Swallows and introduced folks to an open space many had never before visited.

Birds Observed –

- Canada Goose
- Mallard
- American Wigeon
- Northern Shoveler
- Canvasback
- Ring-Necked Duck
- Greater Scaup
- Lesser Scaup
- Bufflehead
- Common Goldeneye
- Green-winged Teal
- Ruddy Duck
- Surf Scoter
- Harlequin Duck
- Pied-billed Grebe
- Western Grebe
- Clark's Grebe
- Horned Grebe
- Eared Grebe
- Double-crested Cormorant
- Great Egret
- Snowy Egret
- Turkey Vulture
- Red tailed Hawk
- American Kestrel
- Merlin
- American Coot
- Black Oystercatcher
- Willet
- Dowitcher
- Whimbrel
- Black Turnstone
- Spotted Sandpiper
- Killdeer
- Glaucous-Winged Gull
- Western Gull
- Rock Pigeon
- Mourning Dove
- Anna's Hummingbird
- Belted Kingfisher
- Nuttall's Woodpecker
- Black Phoebe
- American Crow
- Common Raven
- Cliff Swallow
- Barn Swallow
- Chestnut Backed Chickadee
- Pygmy Nuthatch
- Ruby Crowned Kinglet
- American Robin
- Hermit Thrush
- Northern Mockingbird
- European Starling
- Yellow Rumped Warbler
- California Towhee
- Golden-crowned Sparrow
- Fox Sparrow
- Dark-eyed Junco
- Lesser Goldfinch
- American Goldfinch
- House Sparrow



The group scanning the bay – Lisa Myers / Double Crested Cormorant sunning itself on the marina danger sign – Tony Woo / We had great views of Clark's Grebe and Fox Sparrow – Tony Woo / Harlequin Duck Illustration from Field Guide to the birds of North America