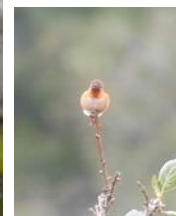


Quick Overview – This **Let's Go Birding / Los Gatos Birdwatcher** trip was the first in a few months and it was great to get outside. We headed north of San Francisco to explore the open spaces around Stinson Beach & Bolinas Lagoon. An exciting trip through San Francisco made the start of our day one to remember, but once we got up and over Mount Tamalpais the real fun began in Bolinas Lagoon. The tide was quickly rising and in addition to Harbor Seals, the waters contained many different species of ducks including a Eurasian Wigeon in amongst the American Wigeons. Horned & Eared Grebes, Buffleheads & Common Goldeneyes were also feeding throughout the lagoon & a distant Osprey appeared to be resting on a snag. After we felt we had ID'ed the variety of birds throughout the lagoon we walked the nearby McKenna – Gulch Fire Road. This road is closed to vehicle traffic and meanders through different species of trees & shrubs from evergreens to cactus, eucalyptus and oak. With the rainfall the weekend before, the creek was even flowing considering we are experiencing a terrible drought. The seasons are starting to change and while we were still observing wintering Yellow-rumped Warblers in basic plumage, we also found the return of Allen's Hummingbirds. They were found throughout our walk aggressively fighting with each other and the Anna's. The song of Purple Finch also got our attention allowing us the review on how to tell the difference between them and House Finch. A flock of Pine Siskins also joined the group. A Merlin sat along the ridge line and a lone flicker showed a red patch at the back of its head as it took off giving us the impression it may have been a red/yellow shafted flicker hybrid. From here we headed to Stinson Beach where we found many people playing in the sand. Our last stop was above the cliffs along highway 1. With these stops we found two species of loons, a few distant shorebirds, and two more species of cormorants. With rain in the forecast we ended our great adventure & called it a day!

Birds Observed –

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mallard | Western Gull |
| Gadwall | Forster's Tern |
| American Wigeon | Rock Pigeon |
| Eurasian Wigeon | Mourning Dove |
| Northern Pintail | Anna's Hummingbird |
| Ruddy Duck | Allen's Hummingbird |
| Surf Scoter | Belted Kingfisher |
| Bufflehead | Northern Flicker |
| Greater Scaup | Hairy Woodpecker |
| Lesser Scaup | Downy Woodpecker |
| Common Goldeneye | Black Phoebe |
| Red-throated Loon | Say's Phoebe |
| Pacific Loon | Western Scrub-Jay |
| Eared Grebe | Steller's Jay |
| Horned Grebe | American Crow |
| Western Grebe | Common Raven |
| Double-crested Cormorant | Chestnut Backed Chickadee |
| Brandt Cormorant | Bewick's Wren |
| Pelagic Cormorant | Ruby-crowned Kinglet |
| Brown Pelican | American Robin |
| Great Blue Heron | Hermit Thrush |
| Great Egret | European Starling |
| Osprey | Cedar Waxwing |
| White-tail Kite | Wrentit (H) |
| Red Shouldered Hawk (H) | Yellow Rumped Warbler |
| Red-tail Hawk | Townsend's Warbler |
| Turkey Vulture | Spotted Towhee |
| Merlin | Song Sparrow |
| American Coot | White-crowned Sparrow |
| Black Oystercatcher (H) | Golden-crowned Sparrow |
| Black Turnstone | Dark-eyed Junco |
| Long-billed Curlew | Red-winged Blackbird |
| Ring-billed Gull | House Finch |
| California Gull | Purple Finch |
| Glaucous Wing Gull | Pine Siskin |
| | Heard only = (H) |



Images of our day taken by Lisa Myers – A lichen filled winter's tree was a great place to explore along the McKennas – Gulch Fire Road / A Eurasian Wigeon was a great find in Bolinas Lagoon / The group scanning the Pacific Ocean from the overlook above Stinson Beach / Someone's long-lost bunny now hangs out on McKennas – Gulch Fire Road / Scanning Bolinas Lagoon / One of many Allen's Hummingbirds enjoyed on our day along the coast.