

Carmel River Walk – Fall Migration

Oct. 10, 2010

Quick Overview – For years the Carmel River has been a fall migration place to visit. Birders park behind the Carmel Safeway off Highway 1 at the Crossroads shopping center and enter the usually dry river bed in search of fun migrants. Riparian habitats are always a great place to find birds and this area's proximity to the coast is great to explore. It was a glorious day on the coast with temperatures reaching in the 80's so we were not sure how this would impact our activity. We found water throughout the river bed and eventually the depth of the water kept us from continuing onward, but not until after we experienced several active mixed flocks; Song Sparrows, Hermit Thrush, Townsend's Warbler and Bushtits all actively feeding near bug attracting waterholes and we were always within view of a Black Phoebe. We kept our ears and eyes open for a special vagrant but all the birds we observed were expected for this time of year. On our way back to the Bay Area we stopped at Jetty Road and found several Eared Grebe and a mixed flock of shorebirds hanging out with the gulls. The tide was coming in and we headed home.



Our group looking for fall migration activity up the Carmel River. Below is one of many tiny toads (1/2 an inch) that were in the river bed with us. Can you find it?



Memorable Observations!

- Bushtits everywhere – upside down, right side up.....
- A pair of Pygmy Nuthatch
- Finding the Hermit Thrush in the shadows of the river bank
- Toads between our toes
- Belted Kingfisher fly bys
- Pigeon Guillemot catching a fish and finally swallowing it down

Total Species Counted for the Day = 50 includes heard only (H)

Canada Goose
Mallard
Common Loon
Western Grebe
Eared Grebe
Double Crested Cormorant
Brandt's Cormorant
Brown Pelican
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Snowy Egret (R)
Turkey Vulture
Red Shouldered Hawk

Red-tail Hawk
American Kestrel
Black Necked Stilt (R)
Willet
Killdeer
Least Sandpipers
Marbled Godwit
California Gull
Heermann's Gull
Western Gull
Tern Species (Distant)
Pigeon Guillemot
Rock Pigeon
Mourning Dove

Anna's Hummingbird
Belted Kingfisher
Nuttall's Woodpecker
Black Phoebe
Hutton's Vireo Western
Scrub-Jay
American Crow
Oak Titmouse
Pygmy Nuthatch
White Breasted Nuthatch (H)
Bewick's Wren
Bushtit

Blue Gray Gnatcatcher
Hermit Thrush
Wrentit (H)
European Starling (R)
Yellow Rumped Warbler
Orange Crowned Warbler
Townsend's Warbler
Spotted Towhee (H)
Song Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Brewer's Blackbird
American Goldfinch