

Spring Weekend on the Coast!

April 26 – 27, 2008

Quick Overview – This weekend was all about spending a couple of spring days along the California coast. This is the type of weekend of which birders in Kansas can only dream! With clear skies and warm temps in the forecast we worked our way up 280 to 92 and then west to Half Moon Bay. We stopped all along the way to find the various species that inhabit both the coastal evergreen forests and scrub lands in addition to scanning for the wildlife found in and along the Pacific Coastal waters. We worked our way to Pescadero where we enjoyed a relaxing evening at the Costanoa Lodge. After a very memorable camp fire we were off to bed to awaken to another day's adventure stopping along Gazos Creek and Swanton Road with our final birding at the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum.



The group scanning the ocean along highway 1

Picture taken by trip participant Debbi Brusco

Memorable Observations!

- Observing many different migrating Gray Whales close to shore
- Enjoying the antics of several Black Oystercatchers
- Taking in some history with a visit to the Pigeon Point Lighthouse
- Having our fire stolen and then getting it back!

Total Species Counted for the weekend = 100 includes heard only (H)

Birds are listed in the taxonomic order currently recognized by the AOU

Canada Goose	Sharp Shinned Hawk	Black Phoebe	California Thrasher
Brandt Goose	Osprey	Pacific Slope Flycatcher	European Starling
Mallard	Peregrine Falcon	Olive Sided Flycatcher	Cedar Waxwing
Gadwall	American Coot	Hutton's Vireo (H)	Orange Crowned Warbler
Bufflehead	Long Billed Curlew	Western Scrub-Jay	Wilson's Warbler
Surf Scoter	Whimbrel	Steller's Jay	Common Yellowthroat
Black Scoter	Black Oystercatcher	American Crow	Yellow Rumped Warbler
California Quail	Greater Yellowlegs (H)	Common Raven	Black Headed Grosbeak
Pacific Loon	Least Sandpiper	Cliff Swallow	California Towhee
Red Throated Loon	Black Turnstone	Violet-Green Swallow	Spotted Towhee
Common Loon	Pigeon Guillemot	Northern Rough Wing Swallow	Song Sparrow
Pied Billed Grebe	Killdeer	Tree Swallow	Savannah Sparrow (H)
Western Grebe	Western Gull	Barn Swallow	White Crown Sparrow
Clark's Grebe	Ring-billed Gull	Oak Titmouse (H)	Golden Crown Sparrow
Brown Pelican	Caspian Tern	Chestnut Backed Chickadee	Dark-eyed Junco
Double Crested Cormorant	Rock Pigeon	Bush-tit	Red-winged Blackbird
Pelagic Cormorant	Bad Tailed Pigeon	Pygmy Nuthatch	Brewer's Blackbird
Brandt's Cormorant	Mourning Dove	Bewick's Wren	Bullock's Oriole
Great Blue Heron	Great Horned Owl (H)	House Wren (H)	Western Meadowlark
Great Egret	White Throated Swift	Marsh Wren	Brown-headed Cowbird
Turkey Vulture	Anna's Hummingbird	Winter Wren (H)	House Finch
Northern Harrier	Selasphorus Hummingbird	Blue Gray Gnatcatcher	Purple Finch
White-tail Kite	Northern Flicker	Wrentit	Lesser Goldfinch
Red-tail Hawk	Down Woodpecker	American Robin	American Goldfinch
Red Shoulder Hawk	Acorn Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird	House Sparrow



- Eating lunch at the oceans edge - Al Lowder
- Yellow Brush Lupine along the trails - Debbi Brusco
- Costanoa delivering our smores in first class! - Lisa
- Plenty of Black Oystercatchers - provided by Tom Grey
- California Poppies with spider! – Gary Pappani
- Once we found our fire we had a wonderful evening under the stars – Gary Pappani





- Our adventurous group ready for the shot - 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, ONE!
- Our walk before breakfast included wonderful views of American Goldfinch and one very vocal Olive Sided Flycatcher – Lisa
- On Gazos Creek Road we worked hard to keep up with all the avian activity – Gary Pappani
- All had fantastic views of one Orange Crowned Warbler & Wilson’s Warblers were observed all weekend – image provided by Tom Grey
- Just some of the spectacular flowers in bloom and a magnificent whale sculpture all taken during our stop at the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum – Lisa