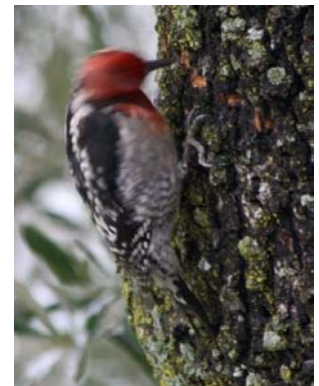


Coyote Reservoir & Harvey Bear..... February 24, south Santa Clara County

Quick Overview – Watching the weather reports we all saw the storm coming, but a group of adventurous souls arrived with all their rain gear and ready to go regardless of the elements, and what a day we had! Once east of Gilroy and traveling through the country roads we realized that soaking wet birds create unique ID challenges. With characteristic feathers in disarray and the wet plumages now appearing much darker we had to leave some questionable birds off our list. We had wanted to walk some of the trails that make up the new Harvey Bear Ranch Park, but the rain had us doing most of our birding from the cars which was easy along Coyote Reservoir Road as it parallels the lake. It also makes it easy when no one else is in the park. We could stop anywhere we wanted and we were not in anyone's way – *a birder's dream come true!* Watching Violet Green Swallows by the hundreds reminded us all that spring is near. And at one stop we got four woodpecker species. Ending our day watching Bald Eagles grasp fish at the surface of the water was worth our getting all wet! And I'll not soon forget our close encounter with the dam's Rufous Crowned Sparrow. Since we started our day at the south entrance of the park we ended our day at the north entrance. It was here we listened to Western Meadowlarks and watched a Say's Phoebe. I thank everyone for being part of a most memorable day!



Rufous Crowned Sparrow above and hard working Red Breasted Sapsucker taken during our day by trip participant Nate Sanders



Memorable Observations!

- Stopping for California Quail as they crossed the road
- Birds all around us at the first campground stop.
- Red-Tail Hawks lifting off the ground with rodents in hand
- Talking to turkeys and being glared at by pigs – no really
- Soaking wet birdwatchers

**Total Species Counted for the Day = 63 includes heard only (H) and seen in route to & from reservoir (R)
Birds are listed in the taxonomic order currently recognized by the AOU**

Canada Goose (R)	Turkey Vulture	Nuttall's Woodpecker	Western Bluebird
Mallard	Bald Eagle	Northern Flicker	American Robin
Gadwall	Red Shouldered Hawk (R)	Acorn Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush
Bufflehead	Red-tail Hawk	Black Phoebe	Northern Mockingbird (R)
Canvasback	American Kestrel	Say's Phoebe	European Starling
Common Merganser	American Coot	Steller's Jay	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Ruddy Duck	Greater Yellowlegs	Western Scrub-Jay	Spotted Towhee
Wild Turkey	Killdeer	Yellow-billed Magpie	California Towhee
California Quail	Ring-billed Gull	American Crow	White-crowned Sparrow
Common Loon	California Gull	Great Tailed Grackle (R)	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Pied-billed Grebe	Bonaparte Gull	Common Raven (R)	Rufous Crowned Sparrow
Eared Grebe	Western Gull	Violet Green Swallow	Dark-eyed Junco
Horned Grebe	Rock Pigeon	Oak Titmouse (H)	Red-winged Blackbird
Aechmophorus Grebe	Mourning Dove	Bushtit (H)	Brewer's Blackbird
Double-crested Cormorant	Anna's Hummingbird	White Breasted Nuthatch (H)	Western Meadowlark
Great Egret (R)	Red Breasted Sapsucker	Brown Creeper	<i>Plus deer and wild pigs...</i>