

## Going on a “Duck Hunt” *January 26, 2008* *Birding the San Francisco Bay Area*

**Quick Overview** – A break in between two storms allowed for a wonderful day of birding the bay area as we set out to find as many ducks species as possible. Recent reports helped decide how we'd work our route. We started our morning with four Redheads located in a Campbell perc pond. We moved on to the Oka Ponds to find Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers. Also had great views of Ring-Necked Ducks & Buffleheads and also counted 6 Wilson's Snipe. Now we moved north to the Palo Alto Baylands where we enjoyed watching Northern Shovelers sifting the pond mud through their bills as they foraged. We then ate in the company of a Clapper Rail and several artists before heading off to San Francisco to bird the waters off Candlestick Park where many rare ducks have been spotted. We found many different species off birds at Heron Head Point, but no rare ducks to be found. Once at Agua Frias Pier we did add a male Barrow's Goldeneye to our list who was amongst hundreds of other ducks. We ended with him and headed home to end our duck count with 19 species plus 62 more non-duck species.



**First duck of our day – male Redhead**  
*This male Redhead image was provided by Bill Schmoker*

### Memorable Observations!

- Getting to know the Greater and Lesser Scaups
- A two Peregrine Falcon Day
- A Clark's Grebe and Western Grebe swimming right next to each other offering great views
- Birding new locations no one has ever been to before - *Heron Head Point and Agua Frias Pier...*

**Total Species Counted for the Day =81 includes heard only (H) and one dead (D)**  
**Birds are listed in the taxonomic order currently recognized by the AOU**

<b>Mallard</b>	Canada Goose	American Coot	Rock Pigeon
<b>Gadwall</b>	Cackling Canada Goose	American Oystercatcher	Belted Kingfisher
<b>American Wigeon</b>	Common Loon	Black-necked Stilt	Black Phoebe
<b>Northern Pintail</b>	Eared Grebe	American Avocet	American Crow
<b>Northern Shoveler</b>	Horned Grebe	Marbled Godwit	Common Raven
<b>Green-winged Teal</b>	Pied Billed Grebe	Whimbrel	Bushtit
<b>Cinnamon Teal</b>	Western Grebe	Willet	Marsh Wren (H)
<b>Lesser Scaup</b>	Clark's Grebe	Dowitcher	Northern Mockingbird
<b>Greater Scaup</b>	Brown Pelican	Greater Yellowlegs	European Starling
<b>Canvasback</b>	Double-crested Cormorant	Least Sandpiper	Yellow-rumped Warbler
<b>Bufflehead</b>	Great Blue Heron	Spotted Sandpiper	California Towhee
<b>Ring-necked Duck</b>	Snowy Egret	Wilson's Snipe	Song Sparrow (H)
<b>Redhead</b>	Great Egret	Killdeer	White-crowned Sparrow
<b>Hooded Merganser</b>	Black Crowned Night Heron	Black-bellied Plover	Golden-crowned Sparrow
<b>Common Goldeneye</b>	Turkey Vulture	California Gull	Savannah Sparrow
<b>Barrow's Goldeneye</b>	Red Shouldered Hawk	Herrmann's Gull	Red-winged Blackbird
<b>Wood Duck</b>	Red-tail Hawks	Ring-billed Gull	Western Meadowlark
<b>Ruddy Duck</b>	American Kestrel	Thayer's Gull	Lesser Goldfinch
<b>Surf Scoter</b>	Peregrine Falcon	Glaucous-winged Gull	American Goldfinch
	Sora (H)	Western Gull	House Finch
	Clapper Rail	Forster's Tern	House Sparrow