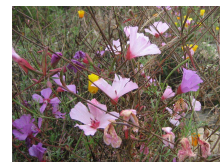


Quick Overview – *Let's Go Birding* and Freddy's Howell's, *Los Gatos Birdwatcher* participants spent this day birding the open habitat around Elkhorn Slough and Moss Landing. The route was decided by the tides with our first stop at Jetty Road. This is always a prime spot to see California Sea Otters and a host of many species that wish to linger in the calm waters around the Moss Landing Harbor. As soon as we arrived we had great views of a Semipalmated Plover below the parking lot. Two different species of terns were also here and we watched as the adult Elegant Terns fed their noisy young. We had a wonderful opportunity to watch a Pacific Loon preening on shore. Using its legs, you could see where it had pushed itself up onto the sandy shore and was now very busy preening. We later observed it back in the water. We also studied the differences between Brandt's and Double Crested Cormorants. While one pair of Brandt's were tending to their nest, the Double Crested Cormorants were feeding in the waters below. From here we continued on to the Elkhorn Slough Visitor's Center. Birding the habitat right around the parking lot afforded us great views of a male Wilson's Warbler along with swallows and kites and bush bunnies! After lunch we worked our way down to the slough waters. With the tide almost out we watched many shorebirds probing the exposed mud for a meal. The fall migration has started and birders never know what they may encounter. Many species are now totally absent as they have begun their journey south. We enjoyed a lazy walk along the water's edge and ended with a flock of Bushtits crossing the trail in front of us.



On Jetty Road in Moss Landing we had the chance to study two cormorant species. A pair of breeding Brandt's Cormorants above was photographed by trip participant Kate Martin. The Double Crested and Brandt's to the left and flying Double Crested below provided by Tom Grey. Wildflowers at Elkhorn Slough also taken by Kate Martin



Memorable Observations!

- A Pacific Loon on the shore preening
- Belted Kingfishers throughout our day
- Pigeon Guillemot avoiding the kayakers
- The cutest little tree frog near the visitor's center
- Osprey flying over the slough
- Great views of two different Cooper's Hawk
- Ending the day with Castroville artichokes!

Total Species Counted for the Day = 56 includes heard only (H)

Mallard	Red-tail Hawk	Band Tailed Pigeon	Bewick's Wren
Pacific Loon	Cooper's Hawk	Mourning Dove	Marsh Wren
Double Crested Cormorant	Western Gull	Eurasian Collared Dove	Western Bluebirds (R)
Brandt's Cormorant	Heermann's Gull	Anna's Hummingbird	American Robin
American White Pelican	Long Billed Curlew	Belted Kingfisher	Wrentit (H)
Brown Pelican	Willet	Downey Woodpecker (H)	European Starling
Great Egret	Greater Yellowlegs (H)	Black Phoebe	Wilson's Warbler
Snowy Egret	Least Sandpipers	Western Scrub-Jay	Spotted Towhee
Great Blue Heron	Semipalmated Plover	American Crow	California Towhee
Black Crowned Night Heron	Marbled Godwit	Common Raven	Song Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Caspian Tern	Barn Swallow	Dark-eyed Junco
Osprey	Elegant Tern	Cliff Swallow	Brewer's Blackbird
White Tailed Kite	Pigeon Guillemot	Chestnut Backed Chickadee	House Finch
Red Shouldered Hawk	Rock Pigeon	Bushtit	American Goldfinch