



SAN FRANCISCO BAY
BIRD OBSERVATORY

2008 California Fall Challenge Final Trip Report

The “Gallinago Go Go’s”, led by Lisa Myers, bird San Benito County on Oct. 11, in support of the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory’s annual fundraiser

This was the 5th year that the, “Gallinago Go Go’s” went out in support of the **San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory’s** (SFBBO) annual fundraiser the, *California Fall Challenge*. This was one of many guided trips offered by the bird observatory. All were welcome to join the team and/or support team members in order to raise money for this bay area non-profit. I am proud to say we fit 17 “Go Go’s” in four cars and headed out. Leading larger groups does present a challenge in itself, but for a fundraiser it also means more funds are raised for the event. San Benito County is a fantastic place to bird, but on this date we were early for some of the wintering species. We also did not have the added benefit of species that prefer water because much of the county was dry. Sadly enough, we did not make the goal of 100 species, but we did have quite an adventure. Our weather was fantastic following a day of high winds. We started birding at 7:45 AM and ended at 5:45 PM. Our first stop was at the bottom of Fremont Peak and before long we hit the 43 degree summit. At the top some of the expected birds were still hunkered down, but the Black Throated Gray Warbler was a lifer for many. We then worked our way to the Paicines Reservoir via Cienega Road. It was here we ate lunch and adjusted the rest of the route. To continue for new species we did not go down to Pinnacles and instead headed out to the Panoche Inn. The drive out to the Inn was surprisingly void of new species, but we continued and had a quick rest and waffle cone ice cream once we got there. Pushing against time we headed back to Highway 25 and worked our way north via Quien Sabe Road to Santa Ana Road, up via Fairview Road to Shore Road and onto Frazier Lake Road before crossing the county line. A big thank you goes out to all the team members who made the day a success - *Jane Jordan, Gerry Ellis, Harold Fukuma, Julie Bryson, Bill McCarey, Spike Marlowe, Shirley Wodtke, Eileen Kay, Larry Kay, Brenda Senturia, Gary Cooper, Marilyn Hemmeter, Joe Diandrea, Kathy Harris, Peggy Gin, Sonny Mencher*. We also need to thank all the sponsors of the Gallinago Go Go’s who allowed us to reach a team total of roughly \$7,000! Final count was 72 species listed on page 2.



Memorable moments during our day –

- ✓ Fantastic View of Monterey Bay from the top of Fremont Peak
- ✓ Bright Yellow (Tom’s) Porta-Potties provided by the Condor Cyclists!
- ✓ FLOCKS of Yellow Billed Magpies and Phainopeplas
- ✓ Ice Cream for a buck!
- ✓ A few good stories about Manchu Picchu
- ✓ A Golden Eagle on the ground eating a road kill pig
- ✓ Western Bluebirds throughout our day in wonderful numbers
- ✓ Photographing Tarantulas
- ✓ Red Tail Hawks working on their pair bond
- ✓ Adding a Peregrine Falcon as our last bird of the day

Bottom Of Fremont Peak

- 1 Eurasian Collared Dove
- 2 European Starling
- 3 Brewer's Blackbird
- 4 Lesser Goldfinch
- 5 House Finch
- 6 Western Meadowlark
- 7 American Crow
- 8 White Crowned Sparrow
- 9 Western Bluebird
- 10 Yellow Rumped Warbler
- 11 Northern Flicker

To the top of Fremont Peak

- 12 Oak Titmouse
- 13 Chestnut Backed Chickadee
- 14 Western Scrub Jay
- 15 Steller's Jay
- 16 Band Tailed Pigeon
- 17 Sharp Shinned Hawk
- 18 Bewick's Wren
- 19 Wrentit
- 20 Red Tail Hawk
- 21 White Breasted Nuthatch
- 22 Townsend's Warbler
- 23 Black Throated Gray Warbler
- 24 Acorn Woodpecker
- 25 Golden Crown Sparrow
- 26 Spotted Towhee
- 27 Dark Eyed Junco
- 28 Pacific Slope Flycatcher
- 29 California Quail
- 30 Common Raven
- 31 Nuttall's Woodpecker
- 32 Black Phoebe

Down to & along Cienega Road

- 33 Red Shoulder Hawk
- 34 Lark Sparrow
- 35 American Kestrel
- 36 California Towhee
- 37 Northern Mockingbird
- 38 Turkey Vulture
- 39 Golden Eagle
- 40 Cooper's Hawk
- 41 American Goldfinch
- 42 Wild Turkey
- 43 Violet Green Swallow
- 44 American Robin
- 45 Canada Goose

All photographs provided by trip participant Sonny Mencher. View from Fremont Peak, a pair of Phainopeplas, Western Meadowlarks & a Tarantula

Paicines Reservoir

- 46 Mallard
- 47 American Widgeon
- 48 Canvasback
- 49 Ring Necked Duck
- 50 Ruddy Duck
- 51 Western Grebe
- 52 Great Blue Heron
- 53 Great Egret
- 54 Pied Billed Grebe
- 55 Northern Harrier
- 56 American Coot
- 57 Greater Yellowlegs
- 58 Says Phoebe
- 59 Northern Rough Wing Swallow
- 60 Red Winged Blackbird
- 61 Loggerhead Shrike

Panoche Road

- 62 Yellow Billed Magpie
- 63 Rock Pigeon
- 64 Savannah Sparrow
- 65 Mourning Dove
- 66 Phainopepla

Highway 25

- 67 Red-Breasted Sapsucker
- 68 Song Sparrow
- 69 House Sparrow
- 70 Killdeer
- 71 Double Crested Cormorant

Fairview Road

- 72 Peregrine Falcon

Other animals encountered include –

- Bobcat
- Coyote
- Tarantula
- Deer

