



The day was spectacular as the Gallinago Go Go's headed to the coast to bird Santa Cruz County. Although the **San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory** changed the rules for birding this event, we chose to bird within one county instead of anywhere in California. We started at the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum, a magnificent place to find birds, and we soon found a mixed flock containing vireos, warblers, bushtits and chickadees. Anna's Hummingbird's were everywhere, with one Selasphorus seen by few. From here we headed for higher elevations. Eleven miles up Empire Grade we found limited activity in the forest but, Steller's Jays, Brown Creepers and Western Tanagers did not let us down. We then worked our way to the northern part of the county along the coast stopping to bird both Scott and Weddell Creeks with a stop at Rancho Del Oso. One minute we added Hairy Woodpeckers to our day and in another we had a Virginia Rail and a Common Merganser. Heading back south we decided not to bird Swanton Road because passerines were proving quiet and we were fighting the clock, so Antonelli Pond became our next stop. It was here we ran into birding expert and scholar Todd Newberry. His quick look through our scope confirmed a distant Olive Sided Flycatcher and he then gave us a good tip to great birding just around the corner. His tip turned into shorebirds we needed for our day. Thanks Todd! With many "tourists" enjoying the coast, it added a challenge to our efforts to get as many species as possible, so we got out of Santa Cruz proper and headed to Harkin Slough out of Watsonville. Once off highway 1, and in between fields of brussel sprouts, we got out of our cars to find a flock of nearly 60 Eurasian Collared Doves. Once a rare, introduced species, we now find them everywhere. Nearing the end of our day, we scanned the slough habitat and added white pelicans, ibis, an almost invisible kingfisher and Cinnamon Teal to our list. The team was slowing down and as we headed home we made our last stop from a cliff above the ocean. In addition to witnessing a successfully Coast Guard rescue of an exhausted kayaker, we added Sooty Shearwaters, Western Grebe, Common Murre and Marbled Godwits to our day. These big days are always exciting, at times quite stressful and a heck of a lot of fun. This year the ones that got away included Northern Mockingbird and House Sparrow, but at least we found a coot! Thank you to everyone who was on the team and to those that supported our efforts. *Team members include - Team Leader Lisa Myers, Pati Rouzer, Patty McGann, Julie Bryson, Harold Fukuma, Joyce Bartlett, Lori Cuesta, Gerry Ellis, Laura Bechtler, Brenda Senturia, Jane Jordan and Lisa Webber*



California Gull & White-tailed Kite

All images taken during our adventure by team member Patty McGann. More photos on page 2.

Our final list includes 95 species which were seen or heard (H) during our big day. More images taken during our day are on page 2

Canada Goose	Red Shouldered Hawk	Common Murre	Bewick's Wren
Mallard	Red-tail Hawk	Rock Pigeon	Marsh Wren
Gadwall	Cooper's Hawk	Band Tailed Pigeon	Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher
Northern Shoveler	American Kestrel	Mourning Dove	Western Bluebird
Bufflehead	California Quail	Eurasian Collared Dove	American Robin
Common Merganser	Virginia Rail (H)	Selasphorus Hummingbird	Wrentit (H)
Cinnamon Teal	American Coot	Anna's Hummingbird	California Thrasher (H)
Pied-billed Grebe	Common Moorhen	Belted Kingfisher	European Starling
Western Grebe	Black Bellied Plover	Acorn Woodpecker	Townsend's Warbler
Sooty Shearwater	Killdeer	Hairy Woodpecker	Orange Crowned Warbler
American White Pelican	Black Oystercatcher	Northern Flicker	Yellow Warbler
Brown Pelican	Black Necked Stilt	Olive Sided Flycatcher	Western Tanager
Double-crested Cormorant	Whimbrel	Black Phoebe	Spotted Towhee
Brandt's Cormorant	Marbled Godwit	Hutton's Vireo	California Towhee
Pelagic Cormorant	Black Turnstone	Warbling Vireo	Song Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Surfbird	Western Scrub-Jay	White-crowned Sparrow
Great Egret	Sanderling	Steller's Jay	Dark-eyed Junco
Snowy Egret	Elegant Tern	American Crow	Red-winged Blackbird
Green Heron	Caspian Tern	Common Raven	Tri-colored Blackbird
White Faced Ibis	Forster's Tern	Barn Swallow	Brewer's Blackbird
Black Crowned Night	Western Gull	Chestnut Backed Chickadee	Brown-headed Cowbird
Turkey Vulture	Herrmann's Gull	Bushtit	House Finch
Northern Harrier	California Gull	Pygmy Nuthatch	Lesser Goldfinch
White-tail Kite	Ring Billed Gull	Brown Creeper (H)	



All images were taken during our day by trip participant Patty McGann - Starting from the top – Herrmann's Gull, one of a flock of Pygmy Nuthatch, the 2011 CFC T-shirt (*Although we had American Avocets on our t-shirts, they were not found during our day*), blinking Anna's Hummingbird, one of the many Black Phoebe's observed throughout our day, Dark Eeyed Junco, Flock of Surfbirds and a mixed flock including cormorants, Brown Pelicans and gulls.