

# Final Trip Report – Joseph D. Grant County Park

*Spring birding with snow on the hills! May 15, 2011*

*Trip Leader – Lisa Myers*

**Quick Overview** – All the weather reports said the Sunday morning temperatures would be 25 degrees below normal with snow falling as low as 4,000 feet! How could this be - it's May in California! Sure enough, when we arrived to Joseph Grant Ranch County Park we started our birding in 42 degrees which is indeed record lows for this time of year. And when the clouds lifted we saw snow surrounding the Mtn. Hamilton peak and the James Lick Observatory. Despite the unusual weather the group was eager to find target birds and we found them! We started at Grant Lake and found a pair of Green Herons hunting the water's edge along with a Caspian Tern which was also searching for a meal. Flocks of Violet Green Swallows were also found in the air and also perched in several trees along the shore. Watching a pair of American Crows go after a pair of Ravens provided a great study on the two Corvids. From here we worked our way into the park where we soon found a beautiful male Yellow Warbler and a Western Kingbird before heading off to the Snell Trail. Lazuli Buntings were the common bird along our walk and learning to ID this bird by ear became easier and easier. We shared the trail with horses & mules as an equestrian competition was underway. The riders were curious to learn what we were doing and we shared some of our observations. We ended our morning birding the gardens around the Grant Ranch House. I thank everyone for braving the weather and getting to enjoy a part of San Jose that remains open and green for all to enjoy.



*Bottom Row – Trip Leader Lisa Myers, Mallorie Jeong, Jane Jordan, Patty Brown, Marylou Avanzino, Judy Enos / Second Row – Randy Little, Lilly Yoshida, Barbara Boyington, Patricia Lynch, Hazel Donaldson & Peggy Enos*

*A bright break in the day as the group walks the Snell Trail. This rose was one of the many different flowers in bloom at the Grant Ranch.*

## Total Species Counted for the Day = 61 includes heard only (H)

Canada Goose	American Coot	Western Scrub-Jay	Wrentit (H)
Mallard	Caspian Tern	Steller's Jan (H)	Western Bluebird
Gadwall	Rock Dove	Yellow Billed Magpie	California Thrasher
Ring Necked Duck	Mourning Dove	American Crow	European Starling
Ruddy Duck	Anna's Hummingbird	Common Raven	Yellow Warbler
California Quail	Northern Flicker	Violet Green Swallows	Lazuli Bunting
Wild Turkey	Acorn Woodpecker	Tree Swallow	Spotted Towhee
Pied-billed Grebe	Nuttall's Woodpecker (H)	Barn Swallow	California Towhee
Double-crested Cormorant	Ash Throated Flycatcher	Oak Titmouse	Song Sparrow
Black Crowned Night Heron	Pacific Slope Flycatcher	Bushtit	Dark Eyed Junco
Green Heron	Western Kingbird	Chestnut Backed Chickadee	Black Headed Grosbeak (H)
Turkey Vulture	Black Phoebe	White Breasted Nuthatch	Red-winged Blackbird
Red-tail Hawk	Hutton's Vireo (H)	Bewick's Wren	Bullock's Oriole
Cooper's Hawk	Warbling Vireo (H)	House Wren	Brown Headed Cowbird
			House Finch