

## Lone Tree Road – April 13, 2008

*A great country road in San Benito County, CA.*

**Quick Overview** – This trip proved to be quite popular as everyone wanted to get out of the city and check out some wonderful country air. An 11 mile long, dead-end road, Lone Tree Rd. is located in San Benito County and is a great place to spend a birding day. Of course the day was planned long before we knew the temperatures would go into the 90's, but as this road rises in elevation the temperatures drop a bit and on this day it ended up being a great place to escape the valley heat. Surrounded by magnificent peaks rising as high as 3626 in elevation, the habitat found here is dramatic and breathtaking and with only a few ranches in the area we find ourselves quite alone with nature and a few curious cows. The rolling hillsides were all very green with wildflowers throughout. The birds this year were different from those found exactly one year ago this week. Although the Western Kingbirds and Bullock's Orioles were found throughout our day, we were missing many spring arrivals and this gives us a reason to go back.



The sights & songs of the Western Kingbirds & Western Meadowlarks were enjoyed all day.

Both Images provided by Garrett Lau



### Memorable Observations!

- Red Tail Hawk sitting on the nest with mate standing guard.
- Several Golden Eagles during the day including one flying overhead with a snake!
- Watching Northern Rough Wing Swallows gathering mud for their nests
- Had the opportunity to observe Sharp Shinned Hawks courting in flight
- A Rock Wren singing his heart out in the midst of his room-mate cows
- Western Bluebirds found along every part of the day
- Wonderful views of the introduced Eurasian Collared Doves

**Total Species Counted for the Day = 64 includes heard only = (H) and a few seen in route = (R)**

*Birds are listed in the taxonomic order currently recognized by the AOU*

|                       |                              |                             |                          |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mallard               | White Throated Swift (R)     | Northern Rough Wing Swallow | Spotted Towhee           |
| Wild Turkey (H)       | Anna's Hummingbird           | Oak Titmouse                | California Towhee        |
| California Quail      | Selasphorus Hummingbird      | Bushtit                     | White-crowned Sparrow    |
| Great Blue Heron      | Nuttall's Woodpecker (H)     | White Breasted Nuthatch     | Golden-crowned Sparrow   |
| Great Egret (R)       | Northern Flicker             | Chestnut Backed Chickadee   | Lark Sparrow             |
| Turkey Vulture        | Acorn Woodpecker             | House Wren (H)              | Savannah Sparrow         |
| Golden Eagle          | Black Phoebe                 | Rock Wren                   | Grasshopper Sparrow      |
| Northern Harrier      | Say's Phoebe                 | Western Bluebird            | Dark-eyed Junco          |
| Red Shouldered Hawk   | Pacific Slope Flycatcher (H) | Wrentit (H)                 | Red-winged Blackbird (R) |
| Red-tail Hawk         | Western Kingbird             | Northern Mockingbird        | Brewer's Blackbird       |
| Cooper's Hawk         | Loggerhead Shrike            | California Thrasher (H)     | Bullock's Oriole         |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk    | Western Scrub-Jay            | European Starling           | Great Tailed Grackle (R) |
| American Kestrel      | Steller's Jay                | Cedar Waxwing               | Western Meadowlark       |
| Rock Pigeon (R)       | Yellow Billed Magpie         | Yellow-rumped Warbler       | House Finch              |
| Mourning Dove         | Common Raven                 | Orange Crowned Warbler      | Lesser Goldfinch         |
| Eurasian Collard Dove | Barn Swallow                 | Black Headed Grosbeak (H)   | House Sparrow (R)        |