

Quick Overview – Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline is a 741 acre park located next door to the Oakland Airport and includes Arrowhead Marsh and Garretson Point. This open space is valuable wildlife habitat within the busy San Leandro Bay. We spent the morning birding Arrowhead Marsh where we had fantastic comparisons between similar species. A single Clark’s Grebe was with Western Grebes, an Eared Grebe was fishing along side Horned Grebes and Semipalmated Plovers were hunting along side Killdeer. The shorebirds were all in various stages of molt into their breeding plumages allowing for a great study on basic and alternate feather patterns. Passerines were in limited supply allowing all of our attention to be on the birds that spend time in or near the water. We found two Clapper Rails within Arrowhead Marsh. One was equipped with a radio tad. We learned the rail’s movements are being studied by the folks at “Save the Bay”. We also had a fly-over of Greater White Fronted Geese in the company of two Ross’s Geese. Both species winter throughout California’s Central Valley and it was our belief that this flock was migrating through. After lunch we moved to Garretson’s point where we had additional observations in bird behavior as species competed for nesting locations and territory. On our way home we stopped in Alviso to add Burrowing Owls to our day, and a quick walk out at the marina provided heard only Common Yellowthroats. It’s an exciting time to go birding as first of season species are still arriving, birds are going into their breeding plumages, nest building activities are rampant and bird songs fill the air. *Trip Leader - Lisa Myers*



Radio tagged Clapper Rail observed at Arrowhead Marsh and photographed from above by Professional Photographer Rick Lewis. Side view of the same rail taken by trip participant Diane Finke. American Avocet pair and Black Necked Stilt images taken by trip participant Nate Sanders.



Total Species Counted for the Day = 67 includes heard only (H)

Canada Goose	Double-crested Cormorant	Willet	American Crow
Greater White Fronted Goose	Turkey Vulture	Avocet	Barn Swallow
Ross’s Goose	Great Blue Heron	Black Necked Stilt	Northern Rough Wing Swallow
Mallard	Great Egret	Long Billed Curlew	Cliff Swallow
Gadwall	Snowy Egret	Dunlin	Marsh Wren
Green Winged Teal	Black Crowned Night Heron	Marbled Godwit	Northern Mockingbird
Cinnamon Teal	White-tail Kite	Ring Billed Gull	European Starling
American Wigeon	Red-tail Hawk	California Gull	Yellow Rumped Warbler
Bufflehead	American Kestrel	Glaucous Winged Gull	Common Yellowthroat (H)
Common Goldeneye	American Coot	Bonaparte’s Gull	California Towhee
Ruddy Duck	Clapper Rail	Caspian Tern	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Pied-billed Grebe	Sora (H)	Forster’s Tern	White-crowned Sparrow
Eared Grebe	Western Sandpiper	Rock Dove	Song Sparrow
Horned Grebe	Least Sandpiper	Mourning Dove	Red-winged Blackbird
Clark’s Grebe	Killdeer	Burrowing Owl	Western Meadowlark
Western Grebe	Semipalmated Plover	Anna’s Hummingbird	House Finch
	Black Bellied Plover	Black Phoebe	American Goldfinch



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Memorable Observations!

- Great Blue Heron eating a gopher
- Barn Swallows collecting mud for their nest building
- Flocks of sandpipers moving about the marsh
- Stilts and coots competing for nesting spots
- Dunlin in their unique breeding plumage

All pictures were taken during our trip. From top left to bottom – Caspian Tern after a successful dive – Nate Sanders / Hard to spot male Marsh Wren singing and flitting between nests – Diane Finke / Swallowtail Butterfly – Nate Sanders / Barn Swallow flying out from under the boardwalk – Rick Lewis / One of several Semipalmated Plovers with a view of its partially webbed toes for which it is named – Nate Sanders / A fly-over flock of migrating Greater White Fronted Geese in the company of two Ross's Geese – Nate Sanders / One of many singing Song Sparrows found this day throughout the marsh – Nate Sanders