

**Quick Overview** – The participants on this trip were coming from all different parts of California so it was an orchestration in organization for all to come together in Yosemite. My group carpooled in from the Bay Area and as we climbed up toward Yosemite we took one turn too soon which put us on Red Hills Road. Turned out to be a great spot as we found a bathroom & Phainopeplas dripping from the trees! Exciting for all and we then moved on to Crane Flat by lunch and found everyone including a motor home & a Kayak. From there our stops en route to Lee Vining included Olmstead Point and the “green bridge” which allowed us the chance to see Rufous Hummingbirds, Rock Wren & Clark’s Nutcrackers. We missed the rain that fell earlier & after a long day on the road we checked into the Lake View Lodge in time for dinner at Bodie Mike’s BBQ. **Conti...**



### Birds Observed –

Canada Goose	Warbling Vireo
Mallard	Steller's Jay
Gadwall	Clark's Nutcracker
Greater Sage Grouse	Black-billed Magpie
California Quail	Common Raven
Wild Turkey (r)	Northern Rough Wing Swallow
Eared Grebe	Violet Green Swallow
Western Grebe	Cliff Swallow
Double-crested Cormorant (r)	Tree Swallow
Great Blue Heron	Mountain Chickadee
Great Egret (r)	Bushtit
Turkey Vulture	White Breasted Nuthatch
Osprey	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Golden Eagle	House Wren
Bald Eagle	Rock Wren
Red-tail Hawk	Canyon Wren
Swainson's Hawk (r)	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Virginia Rail	Mountain Bluebird
Killdeer	American Robin
American Avocets	Hermit Thrush(h)
Wilson's Phalarope	Northern Mockingbird (r)
California Gull	Sage Thrasher
Rock Pigeon (r)	European Starling
Mourning Dove	Phainopepla (r)
Eurasian Collared Dove	Orange Crowned Warbler
Great Horned Owl	Yellow Warbler
Common Nighthawk	Yellow-rumped Warbler
White Throated Swift (r)	Western Tanager
Anna's Hummingbird	Green-tailed Towhee
Rufous Hummingbird	Spotted Towhee
Belted Kingfisher	Brewer's Sparrow
Red-breasted Sapsucker	Song Sparrow
Lewis's Woodpecker	White Crowned Sparrow
Acorn Woodpecker (r)	Fox Sparrow
Nuttall's Woodpecker (r)	Dark-eyed Junco
Hairy Woodpecker	Black-headed Grosbeak
Downy Woodpecker	Lazuli Bunting
Northern Flicker	Bullock's Oriole
American Kestrel	Red-winged Blackbird
Prairie Falcon	Brewer's Blackbird
Peregrine Falcon	Brown-headed Cowbird
Olive Sided Flycatcher	Western Meadowlark
Western Wood-Pewee	Cassin's Finch
Dusky Flycatcher	Gray Crowned Rosy Finch
Gray Flycatcher	Pine Siskin
Say's Phoebe	Lesser Goldfinch
Western Kingbird (r)	House Sparrow (r)
Loggerhead Shrike	(H) = heard only
	(r) = En route



**Images of our trip** – The Red Hills Road rest stop located off 108 with Phainopepla everywhere, Yosemite's Half Dome as seen from Olmstead Point & thunder clouds ahead – Lisa Myers / Clark's Nutcracker, Rock Wren & Rufous Hummingbird taken by Brooke Miller off Tioga Pass.





Friday morning has us out at the Old Marina. It was a beautiful crisp morning and our first bird of the day was a singing Lazuli Bunting. As we saw movement we looked in all directions & soon we were enjoying Green Tailed Towhees, Brewer's Sparrows and Bullock's Orioles. We then birded our way down to Lee Vining Creek. California is experiencing one of the worst droughts in history and Mono Lake is also lower than normal, but we found water flowing down the creek. Loggerhead Shrikes, Western Wood-Pewee's, Western Tanagers all made their appearance. From here we moved on to Lundy Canyon. Here we had the chance to observe a Bald Eagle and Osprey hunting along the water's surface. It was here we also had an adult Golden Eagle and Red-tailed Hawks. For lunch we worked our way back to the County Park to take advantage of the shade and pick up some new species. An American Kestrel pair gave away their nest location as they were working hard to bring food back to their almost ready to fledge four youngsters. A true hi-light for the trip! A Lewis's Woodpecker also flew through and was caught on film! A family of California Quail also made an appearance; the male watching guard over his 13 babies. A walk to the lake put us up close with California's Gulls, Eared Grebes, American Avocets, Killdeer and hundreds of Wilson's Phalaropes. They all flushed when a juvenile Peregrine Falcon practiced his skills and a brave Virginia Rail was hoping no one could see him. From here we stopped in at the Mono Lake Visitor's Center so all could learn more about the history in saving the lake. We also got to make a donation, do some shopping and watch the movie! Later we re-grouped for dinner at the Mobil Station and then birded into the night out on Cemetery Road where we found a Great Horned Owl and Common Nighthawks. **Conti...**



Male California Quail illustration by trip participant & artist Robin Lazzara. Check out her work - <http://www.rlarts.bigcartel.com/>  
Common Nighthawk hunting by daylight – Brooke Miller / Our morning along Old Marina – Lisa Myers / Our first bird of the day, a singing Lazuli Bunting, 2 of the 4 baby American Kestrels almost ready to fledge, Peregrine Falcon flushing Wilson's Phalaropes with nesting Osprey near & Virginia Rail all taken by Brooke Miller

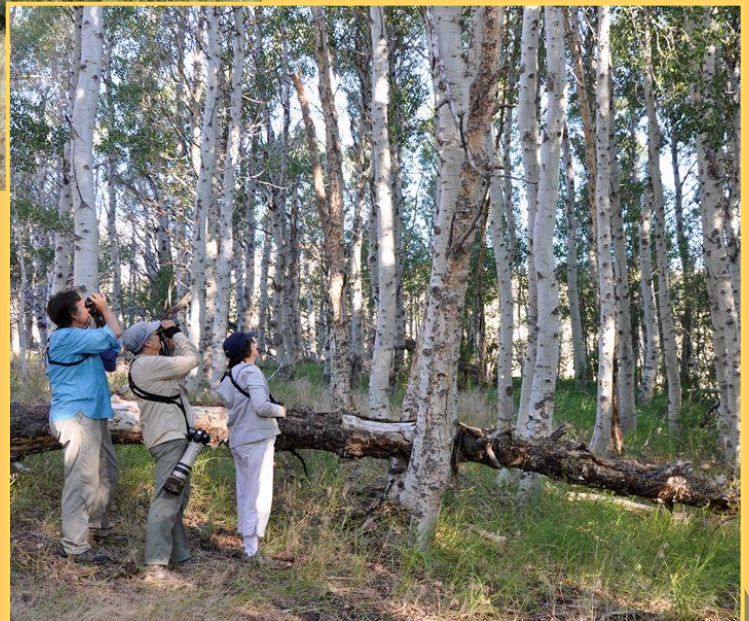
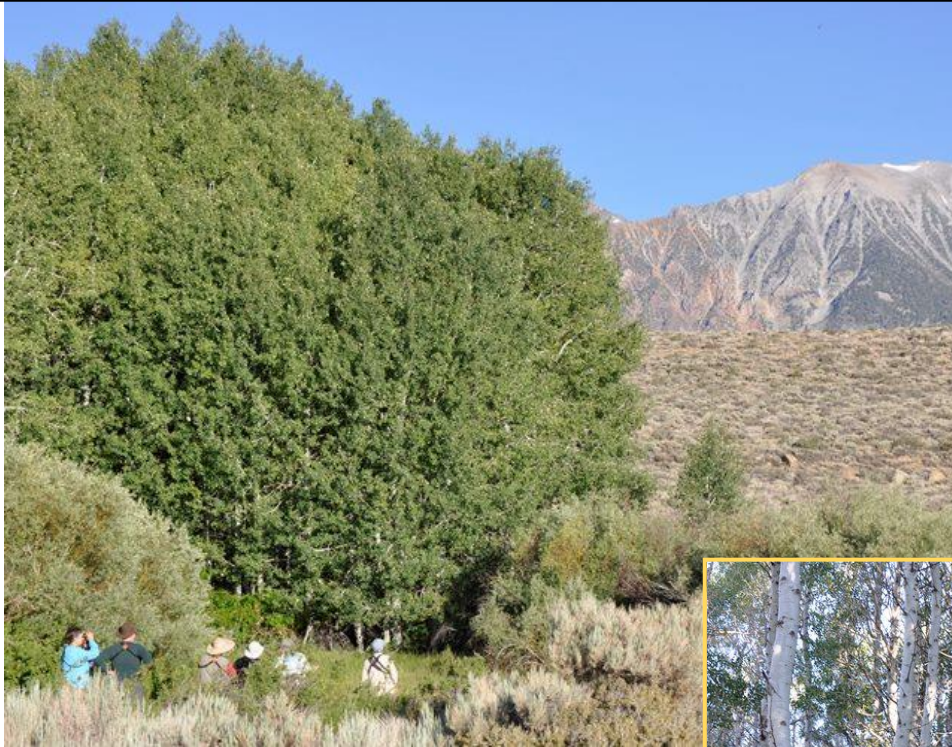


Saturday had us out the door and off to Bodie. One stop en route had us listening to the call of the Canyon Wren but finding him was another story. We did however find a blue buffalo. Once at Bodie everyone was off on their own to soak up some good ole' Americana history. They have been re-roofing many of the buildings. While walking the streets we were blessed with a mother Greater Sage Grouse and her four youngsters. After Bodie we birded back down to Virginia Lakes Resort where we had lunch and got great views of all the target species one hopes to find there from Pine Siskin to Gray Crowned Rosy Finch, Cassin's Finch and more nutcrackers. Afterward we made it back to the lodge in time for an early dinner and then off to South Tufa for the "Super Moon". Most had never been there before so all enjoyed a lazy evening while taking in the beauty in wait for the Super Moon. **Conti....**



A stop before Bodie, Can you hear the Canyon Wren? – Lisa Myers / Jerry shows us his blue buffalo – Lisa Myers / Bodie is getting some new roofs – Lisa Myers / Long-eared Chipmunk – Brooke Miller / Al takes a break from birding – Lisa Myers / Momma Greater Sage Grouse at Bodie – Brooke Miller / Steller's Jay & Rosy Crowned Finch – Brooke Miller / The weekend's group without Al – Al Lowder / The "Super Moon" rising from South Tufa – Lisa Myers





**Continued from page 3** - Sunday morning we birded the "June Lake Loop". The beauty found here is breathtaking and was a fantastic way to end our birding adventure. There were few people anywhere and it seemed we had the entire place to ourselves. At one stop we heard the repeated call of a Dusky Flycatcher but few had good looks. We also found a Great Blue Heron and Western Grebe along our route. Finally – all had good looks at Red Breasted Sapsuckers and Yellow Warblers. After we worked our way around the loop we checked out of the Lake View Lodge and headed back up through Yosemite. For four days we tried hard to find Pinyon Jays but had to leave without them – darn it! As we worked our way through Yosemite we stopped to take a walk through Tuolumne Meadows. The Yellow Rumped Warblers found here in breeding plumage look very different than the birds we are accustomed to seeing each winter in our bay area yards. It was time to head back so folks all went their separate ways and everyone made it home for dinner. We worked hard this weekend to see as much as we could and I thank everyone who put this adventure on their calendar.

Birders dwarfed by the landscape along the June Lake Loop – Lisa Myers / Thick Billed Fox Sparrow illustration by trip participant & artist Robin Lazzara. Check out Robin's other work - <http://www.rlarts.bigcartel.com/> Brewer's Sparrow - Brooke Miller / Looking for warblers, June Lake Loop landscape & Prickly Poppies all taken by Lisa Myers