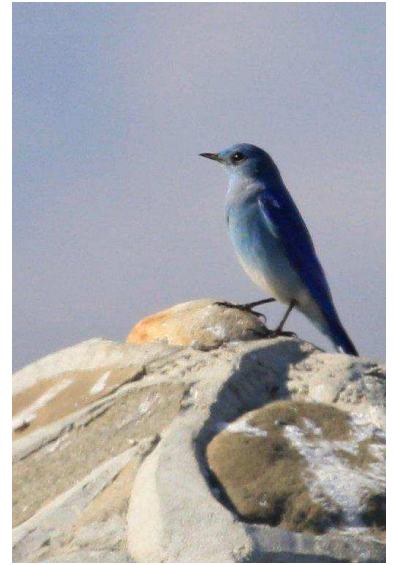


Final Trip Report – Panoche Valley, trip #2 January 28, 2012

In partnership with the Los Gatos Birdwatcher. Trip Leader – Lisa Myers

Quick Overview – This adventure was in partnership with the **Los Gatos Birdwatcher**, and was the second visit this winter to Panoche Valley for **Let's Go Birding**. We started at the Paicines Reservoir with great comparisons of common Canada Geese along side a pair of Cackling Geese. After checking out grebes, ducks and several raptors we headed east on Panoche Road. We stopped along the way adding Greater Roadrunner, Ruby Crowned Kinglet, California Thrasher, California Quail and Northern Harrier just to name a few. We observed Yellow Billed Magpies nest building, and we found Western Bluebirds throughout. We also had great views of a pair of Bobcats. We were not sure if the two cats were getting along, or about to fight. The day was beautiful and conditions were dry. After lunch at the Panoche Inn we continued on Panoche Road to try for Mountain Plovers. We never found this elusive species, but we had great views of both Prairie Falcon and Merlin. A large flock of Horned Larks foraging on the ground resembled the earth moving. We also had great moments with Mountain Bluebirds, Lark Sparrows and American Pippits. While out here we shared the birds with groups from the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory, Sequoia Audubon and Matthew Dodder's Palo Alto advanced class. We compared sightings & offered location suggestions. There were plenty of birds and room for all. We then turned around and headed to Mercey Hot Springs where we found birders & owls everywhere. We spent time with the sleeping Barn Owls in addition to all the Long Eared Owls that winter here. Our last stop was at the Little Panoche Reservoir before ending our day. If you want to learn more about the conservation efforts to save this Important Bird Area please visit www.scvas.org.



All images taken during our day – Mountain Bluebird – Ellen Bateman / Flock of Lark Sparrows – Nate Sanders / Juvenile Golden Eagle above road JI East of the Panoche Inn – Ellen Bateman / The group birding Panoche Valley – Lisa Myers / One of three Barn Owls sleeping at Mercey Hot Springs – Ellen Bateman

Total Species Counted for the Day = 72 includes heard only (H)

Canada Goose common	Northern Harrier	Acorn Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Canada Goose cackling	White Tailed Kite	Black Phoebe	California Thrasher
Mallard	Red-tail Hawk	Say's Phoebe	American Pipit
American Wigeon	Ferruginous Hawk	Loggerhead-Shrike	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Canvasback	Cooper's Hawk	Western Scrub-Jay	Spotted Towhee (H)
Bufflehead	American Kestrel	Yellow-billed Magpie	California Towhee
Ring Necked Duck	Prairie Falcon	American Crow	White-crowned Sparrow
Common Merganser	Merlin	Common Raven	Lark Sparrow
Hooded Merganser	American Coot	Horned Lark	Savannah Sparrow
Ruddy Duck	Killdeer	Oak Titmouse	Grasshopper Sparrow (by few)
California Quail	Rock Pigeon	White Breasted Nuthatch	Vesper Sparrow (by few)
Western Grebe	Mourning Dove	Bewick's Wren (by few)	Dark-eyed Junco
Pied Billed Grebe	Eurasian Collared Doves	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Red-winged Blackbird
Double-crested Cormorant	Greater Roadrunner	Western Bluebird	Tri-colored Blackbird
Great Blue Heron	Long Eared Owl	Mountain Bluebird	Brewer's Blackbird
Great Egret	Barn Owl	American Robin	Western Meadowlark
Turkey Vulture	Anna's Hummingbird	Hermit Thrush	House Finch
Golden Eagle	Northern Flicker	European Starling	House Sparrow