

Final Trip Report – Picchetti Winery, April 11, 2010

A Spring morning walk in the rain

Quick Overview – With lots of rain in the forecast I was not sure if the morning walk would go on as scheduled. Turns out that half the group was willing to brave the incoming storm and showed up for the 8:00 AM walk at Picchetti Winery Open Space. We all arrived to a cool, crisp, cloud covered morning, but the birds did not mind these weather conditions. As usual for this Spring hot-spot the birds could be heard singing all around us. With such a small group of birders the opportunity to turn the morning into a, 'birding by ear' class quickly presented itself; Wrentits, Orange Crowned Warblers, Black Headed Grosbeaks, Wilson's Warblers, Brown Headed Cowbirds, Bewick's Wren and Song Sparrows were just a few of the bird songs we reviewed as the birds around us sang. Throughout the morning woodpeckers could be heard tapping on trees, rattling their calls, and chipping. Finding them in the tall trees was the hard part. Both orioles were also present so we had a study in chip notes, plumage differences and songs. We also had good looks at an Audubon's Yellow Rumped Warbler in bright breeding plumage. Near the pond we found a pair of California Thrashers. One eventually decided we were harmless and came very close allowing us to get great views of it "thrashing" through the leaves on the ground as it looked for food. Band Tailed Pigeons were often seen flying over and at one point a pair of Red Tail Hawks flew by. We also watched an adult Cooper's Hawk which appeared to be on the hunt. Just over two hours into our walk the rain became steady and we headed for home, but not before experiencing 39 woodland species, not including the resident Peacock.



California Thrasher, Hermit Thrush & Western Scrub Jay images all provided by Bay Area photographer Tom Grey

Memorable Observations!

- Western Scrub Jay sitting calmly before us
- Watching the male Bullock's Oriole flying back & forth (you had to be there to totally understand)
- Acorn Woodpecker sitting with an American Robin
- Bewick's Wren puffed up and preening
- Bright Yellow Rumped Warbler in breeding plumage
- Male Mallard circling the landing strip
- A Thrasher, Towhee and Hermit Thrush together in the same patch of brambles

Total Species Counted for the Day = 39 includes heard only (H)

Mallard	Western Scrub-Jay	Orange Crowned Warbler (H)
Turkey Vulture	Steller's Jay	Wilson's Warbler (H)
Red-tail Hawk	American Crow	Black Headed Grosbeak (H)
Cooper's Hawk	Horned Lark	Spotted Towhee (H)
Band Tailed Pigeon	Oak Titmouse	California Towhee
Mourning Dove	Chestnut Backed Chickadee (H)	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Anna's Hummingbird	Bewick's Wren	Song Sparrow (H)
Northern Flicker (H)	American Robin	Dark-eyed Junco
Acorn Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush	Brewer's Blackbird
Hairy Woodpecker	European Starling	Brown Headed Blackbird
Downy Woodpecker	Wrentit (H)	Hooded Oriole
Nuttall's Woodpecker (H)	California Thrasher	Bullock's Oriole
Black Phoebe	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Purple Finch

