

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society 2011 Spring Birdathon Final trip report

The Persistent Picidae's led by Lisa Myers – our search for 100 species! April 3, 2011

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Birdathons - they are quite the birding experience. If you have never participated in one I encourage you to put one on your bucket list. Finding a new bird is always part of a good day of birding, but when you do it for a birdathon it adds a different challenge as each new species is an exciting moment even if it's just a European Starling. The team gives a cheer and then ya move on to the next! There is competition in the air, and every new species means you have the potential to raise more money for the event. The *Persistent Picidae's* started our day at McClellan Ranch. The habitat here is ideal for passerines and before long we had our first 32 species. From here we looped Santa Clara County driving as far south as Coyote Reservoir. We stopped in several hot spots along the way including Oka Ponds, Bernal Gulnac-Joice Ranch, Coyote Valley and Harvey Bear Ranch. We then worked our way north via Hellyer, Alviso, Mtn. View Shoreline, Charleston Slough and ended our day at the Palo Alto Baylands with a preening Clapper Rail. *Thank you to the team who birded this day and to those who supported our efforts.* **Memorable Moments** - Finding Western Bluebirds at every stop / Listening to Tri-Colored Blackbirds / Helping a Gopher Snake out of the road / Watching a Golden Eagle & Bald Eagle respect each other's space / Finding a coyote / Observing all our grebes & all our swallows / Getting the horse to turn around! **Total = 115 + 4 additional not seen by entire team.**



Coyote Valley, So. Santa Clara County – Image by Lisa Myers

Legend – In order of our day - Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society's McClellan Ranch (MC) Start time 7:30 AM / Oka Ponds Campbell (OP) Bernal Gulnac-Joice Ranch (BG) / Coyote Valley (CV) / Harvey Bear (HB) / Coyote Reservoir (CR) / Alviso (AV) / Geng Rd. (G) / Mountain View Shoreline Lake & surrounding slough (MV) / Palo Alto Baylands (PA) Ending time 7:30 PM / An * indicates only some of the team observed this species.

Canada Goose	OP	Turkey Vulture	CV	Western Gull	MV	Bewick's Wren	MC
Mallard	MC	Osprey	OP	Forster's Tern	MV	House Wren	MC
Gadwall	MV	Golden Eagle	CR	Rock Pigeon	OP	Rock Wren	CR
American Wigeon	MV	Bald Eagle	CR	Mourning Dove	MC	Marsh Wren	PA
Northern Pintail	MV	Northern Harrier	AV	Eurasian Collared Dove	CV	Ruby Crowned Kinglet	MC
Northern Shoveler	MV	White-tail Kite	HB	*Band Tailed Pigeon	MC	Western Bluebird	MC
Bufflehead	OP	Red Shouldered Hawk	BG	Burrowing Owl	AV	American Robin	MC
Canvasback	MV	Red-tail Hawk	BG	Anna's Hummingbird	MC	European Starling	MC
Scaup, <i>distant</i>	MV	Cooper's Hawk	BG	Nuttall's Woodpecker	MC	Northern Mockingbird	OP
Ring Necked Duck	OP	American Kestrel	BG	Northern Flicker	HB	Cedar Waxwing	MC
Hooded Merganser	OP	Clapper Rail	MV	Acorn Woodpecker	MC	Yellow-rumped Warbler	MC
Common Merganser	CR	American Coot	OP	Black Phoebe	MC	Townsend's Warbler	MC
Common Goldeneye	MV	Common Moorhen	MV	Pacific Slope Flycatcher	MC	Orange Crowned Warbler	CR
Green-winged Teal	MV	Black-necked Stilt	AV	Loggerhead Shrike <i>In Route</i>		Spotted Towhee	MC
Cinnamon Teal	MV	American Avocets	AV	Western Scrub-Jay	MC	California Towhee	MC
Ruddy Duck	OP	Greater Yellowlegs	MV	Steller's Jay	MC	Song Sparrow	MC
Surf Scoter	MV	Black Skimmer	MV	American Crow	MC	White-crowned Sparrow	MC
Ring-necked Pheasant	MV	Long Billed Curlew	PA	Common Raven	BG	Golden-crowned Sp	MC
Wild Turkey	CV	Marbled Godwit	MV	Violet Green Swallow	MC	*Lincoln Sparrow	MC
California Quail	BG	Willet	MV	Cliff Swallow	MV	Chipping Sparrow	CR
Pied-billed Grebe	OP	Dowitcher Sp.	MV	Tree Swallow	CR	Dark-eyed Junco	MC
Eared Grebe	MV	Least Sandpiper	PA	Barn Swallow	MV	Red-winged Blackbird	OP
Horned Grebe	MV	Western Sandpiper	PA	Northern Rough Wing	OP	Brewer's Blackbird	CV
Clark's Grebe	MV	Black Bellied Plover	PA	Oak Titmouse	MC	Tri-Colored Blackbird	CV
Western Grebe	CR	Killdeer	OP	Bushtit	MC	Brown-headed Cowbird	MC
Double-crested Cormorant	OP	Ring-billed Gull	BG	Chestnut Backed Chick.	MC	Western Meadowlark	CV
American White Pelican	MV	California Gull	BG	White Breasted Nuthatch	MC	Bullock's Oriole	G
Great Blue Heron	MV	*Glaucous Wing Gull	MV	*Red-Breasted Nuthatch		Hooded Oriole	MC
Great Egret	OP					Purple Finch	CR
Snowy Egret	OP					House Finch	MC
Black Crowned Night Heron	OP					Lesser Goldfinch	BG
						House Sparrow	<i>In Route</i>

