

Quick Overview: Birders are usually out at the crack of dawn because we know we'll find songbirds flitting about at first light. This trip however was designed to watch the birds as they settled in for the night. So we started later than normal and headed to Cosumnes River Preserve. Located above Lodi, this preserve, "is the only remaining unregulated river on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada" and provides birders with great habitat. When we arrived we found a group from the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory and we exchanged sightings. After several days of unusually high winds this day was crisp & clear. We were having some winds even today and some of the birds seemed to hunker down except the Wilson's Snipe. We watched several flying about amongst the wetlands and we caught a quick view of an American Bittern lift and disappear. We also walked a trail out of the wind and found flickers, kinglets, towhees and had fantastic views of Lesser Goldfinch feeding next to the trail. From here we headed to Staten Island Road where we'd spend the rest of our daylight. We arrived to find a flock of Tundra Swans settled down in a flooded field. More swans were flying in and we had the chance to observe their maneuvers as they tried to lose air and drop down to join the flock. In and around this area we found Cattle Egret, Greater White Fronted Geese and our only flock of Snow Geese for our day. Sandhills were also scattered about. We continued up the road passing various flocks of geese, cranes and swans working the fields along both sides. We eventually parked at the point where the road becomes private. As the sun started to set we watched flocks of all kinds flying overhead and landing. It provided an opportunity to learn waterfowl & crane vocalization. I think I do a great Tundra Swan, but all may not agree. Pretty soon we put our attention onto owls. Two Great Horned Owls flew out of an old water tower and one landed near. Once in our cars driving out we had a Short Eared Owl fly up from the levee and land on a pole. It eventually disappeared into the darkness. One Barn Owl was ahead in the headlights and eventually flew out of view. With this we headed home. I wish to thank everyone that joined in this adventure. Part of the day's proceeds were matched by **Let's Go Birding** and donated to the International Crane Foundation (www.savingcranes.org) where they are working hard to save the 15 different species of cranes found throughout the world.



Our Sunset on Staten Island Road & birding Cosumnes River Preserve – taken by trip participant Jack Rosser. Tundra Swans provided by Bill Schmoker.

Total Species Encountered During our day = 72 includes heard only (H)

Tundra Swan	Eared Grebe	Least Sandpiper	Common Raven
Canada Goose	Double-crested Cormorant	Dowitcher	Tree Swallow
Cackling Goose	American Bittern	Wilson's Snipe	Bewick's Wren (H)
Greater White-Fronted Goose	Great Blue Heron	Killdeer	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Snow Goose	Great Egret	Ring-billed Gull	Northern Mockingbird
Mallard	Snowy Egret	Herring Gull	American Pipit
Gadwall	Cattle Egret	Rock Pigeon	Yellow Rumped Warbler
Northern Pintail	Green Heron	Mourning Dove	Spotted Towhee
Northern Shoveler	White Faced Ibis	Eurasian Collared Dove	Song Sparrow
Bufflehead	Turkey Vulture	Great Horned Owl	White-crowned Sparrow
Canvasback	Northern Harrier	Short Eared Owl	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Ring-Necked Duck	White-tail Kite	Barn Owl	Lincoln Sparrow
Common Goldeneye	Red-tail Hawk	Belted Kingfisher	Red-winged Blackbird
Green-winged Teal	Cooper's Hawk	Nuttall's Woodpecker	Brewer's Blackbird
Cinnamon Teal	American Kestrel	Northern Flicker	Western Meadowlark
Ruddy Duck	Sandhill Cranes	Black Phoebe	House Finch
Ring Neck Pheasant	American Coot	Western Scrub-Jay	Lesser Goldfinch
Pied-billed Grebe	Black-necked Stilt	American Crow	House Sparrow