

**Quick Overview** – Our plan was to bird the open spaces found along Skyline Boulevard within the eastern side of the Santa Cruz Mountains. Woodland species, woodpeckers and accipiters were the goal. When we arrived at the top of the mountains we found low coastal clouds covering the landscape. Visibility was minimal and everything dripped with moisture. Not knowing how long before the cloud cover would lift; we started out on a trail. It was a windy, cold walk revealing a few heard only species. So we changed plans and headed to the Palo Alto Baylands. Soon we were out of the clouds and under beautiful clear skies. We arrived at the bay during low time and found several shorebird species foraging in the mud which provided a great study in species variation. We took it slow as we talked about shorebirds and field identification. Other families of birds were also around and some in our group had the opportunity to observe a Clapper Rail. After a morning at the Palo Alto Baylands we headed to Charleston Slough where along with other species, we added Common Moorhens and the American White Pelicans to our day. From here we moved to the Sunnyvale Baylands where we knew we could find phalaropes as they are migrating through. Wilson's and Red-Necked Phalaropes were both plentiful allowing for a great study in species variation. We also observed a Green Heron successfully snatching fish out of a channel while a juvenile Black Crowned Night Heron observed. Our trip proved to be a beautiful day on the bay.

Trip Leader - Lisa Myers



*Our day started on top of the Santa Cruz Mountains where coastal fog covered the landscape. The picture above shows this coastal cover which never lifted – image by Lisa Myers.  
Palo Alto Baylands Clapper Rail footprints – Lisa Myers  
Juvenile Barn Swallows well camouflaged awaiting their parents return with food – Kate Martin*

### Total Species Counted for the Day = 60 includes heard only (H)

Canada Goose	Red-tail Hawk	Greater Yellowlegs	Barn Swallow
Mallard	Red Shoulder Hawk (H)	Wilson's Phalarope	Cliff Swallow
Green Winged Teal	Northern Harrier	Red-Necked Phalarope	Violet Green Swallow
Northern Shoveler	American Coot	Dowitchers	Bewick's Wren
Ruddy Duck	Common Moorhen	Ring Billed Gull	American Robin
Pied-billed Grebe	Clapper Rail	Western Gull	Wrentit (H)
Double-crested Cormorant	Least Sandpiper	Forster's Tern	Northern Mockingbird
Brown Pelican	Killdeer	Rock Dove	European Starling
American White Pelican	Semipalmated Plover	Mourning Dove	California Towhee
Turkey Vulture	Black Bellied Plover	Vaux's Swift	Song Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Willet	Anna's Hummingbird	Red-winged Blackbird
Great Egret	Avocet	Black Phoebe	House Finch
Snowy Egret	Black Necked Stilt	Raven (H)	House Sparrow
Black Crowned Night Heron	Long Billed Curlew	American Crow	
Green Heron	Marbled Godwit	Scrub Jay (H)	
	Whimbrel	Steller's Jay (H)	