

Birding California's Central Valley in search of cranes Nov. 16, 2013 Staten Island Road & Woodbridge Road Trip Leader – Lisa Myers



Quick Overview – Sandhill Cranes come to California's Central Valley every fall and remain through to spring. A beautiful, majestic family of birds there are 15 different species found worldwide. Sandhill Cranes are the most abundant of the world's cranes and we are fortunate to get to experience them so close to the San Francisco Bay Area. Just outside of Lodi, CA. we spent our day on Staten Island Road and Woodbridge Road learning about Sandhill Cranes and the other species that come to winter in and around the agricultural fields and open spaces found here. For many this was the first time they had experienced cranes, geese and swans. The good news, all these birds will be here until next spring, so there is time to go back & experience it all again.





Tundra Swans Greater White-Fronted Canada Goose – Common Canada Goose - Cackling Canada Goose - Aleutian Snow Goose Mallard Gadwall American Wigeon Northern Pintail Northern Shoveler Bufflehead Canvasback Green-winged Teal Pied-billed Grebe **Double-crested Cormorant** Great Blue Heron Great Egret Snowy Egret Green Heron Northern Harrier White-tail Kite Red Shouldered Hawk Red-tail Hawk Turkey Vulture American Kestrel Peregrine Falcon Sandhill Cranes American Coot Black-necked Stilt

Greater Yellowlegs

Dowitcher Western Sandpiper Least Sandpiper Wilson's Snipe Killdeer Black-bellied Plover **Ring-billed Gull** California Gull Herring Gull Rock Pigeon Mourning Dove **Eurasian Collared Dove Black Phoebe** Say's Phoebe Loggerhead-Shrike American Crow Bewick's Wren Marsh Wren Northern Mockingbird European Starling American Pipit Yellow-rumped Warbler California Towhee Song Sparrow White-crowned Sp Golden-crowned Sp Fox Sparrow Red-winged Blackbird Brewer's Blackbird Western Meadowlark House Finch House Sparrow

Images of our day - The group checking out flocks of waterfowl, cranes and shorebirds – Lisa Myers / Sandhill Cranes photographed through a spotting scope – Lisa Myers / Aleutian Geese fly over – Lisa Myers / adult White-crowned Sparrow enjoying a meal – Cadao Do / Song Sparrow & juvenile Whitecrowned Sparrow - Priya Balasubramaniam / Least Sandpiper probing the mud – Cadao Do www.letsgobirding.com www.losgatosbirdwatcher.com

After our day a donation was made to the International Crane Foundation in support of the work they do so that we can all experience cranes. Thank you to all that contributed.