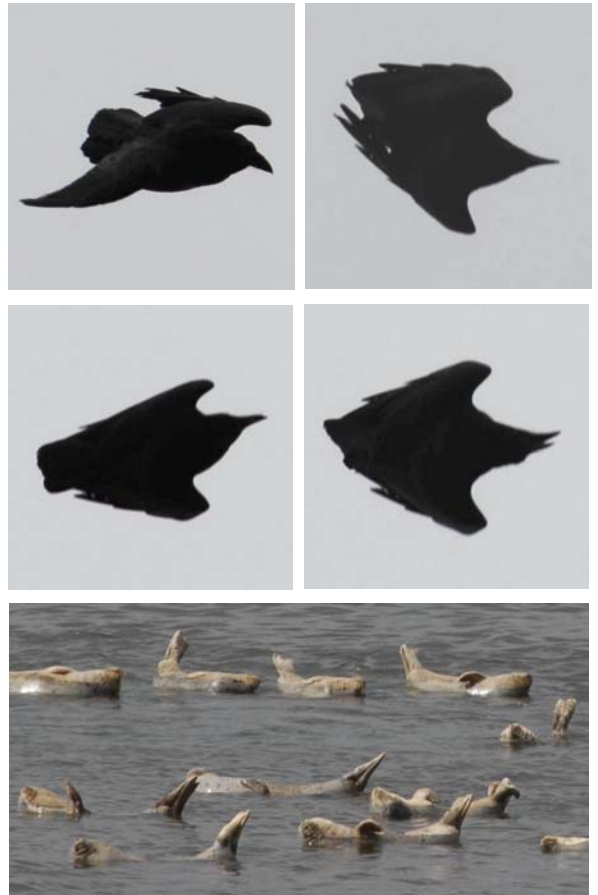


Stinson Beach, Bolinas Lagoon and... October 4, 2008, birding the fall migration

Quick Overview – The first storm of the season came in the night before this trip. With a 60% chance of rain predicted for the day, everyone was keeping their fingers crossed and it worked! Our goal was to take advantage of the fall migration as we headed out to the southern areas of Point Reyes. Driving up & over Mt. Tamalpais we stopped at a few pull-outs in the midst of the clouds and found few birds so we continued down below the cloud line and stopped above the “Steep Ravine” Campground. It was here we were entertained by a Raven doing barrel rolls. Passing directly over our heads this Corvid was having a fantastic time & we enjoyed watching the maneuvers. We soon worked our way down to the Bolinas Lagoon before we lost all of the low tide activities. Brown Pelicans, Elegant Terns and Double Crested Cormorants were here in great numbers in the midst of a feeding frenzy. Along the edges of the lagoon were the many species of ducks just now returning for the winter. With every stop we’d listen for warblers and additional Passerines but activity was unusually quiet. Even a resident Red-Shoulder Hawk was no where to be found. My theory is that the migrating birds we had hoped to find took off the night before ahead of the storm. After circling this beautiful lagoon we headed back to the South Bay with a stop at Hawk Hill. The skies were clear and the folks from GGRO were busy counting. We did not stay long, and ended our day with a Peregrine Falcon flying above the Golden Gate Bridge. Thanks to everyone for making it a great day.



The four images above are of one Raven. Right side up and upside down; the bird was barrel rolling above us & was the hit of the day! The Harbor Seals sunned themselves within Bolinas Lagoon until the tide came in. All pictures were taken during our day by trip participant Shira Gruhl.

Memorable Observations!

- Cooper’s Hawk along cliff edge above Stinson Beach
- Osprey flying over Bolinas Lagoon throughout our day
- Pishing a Fox Sparrow out of hiding
- Finding Whimbrels foraging in the grass
- The ducks are coming back!

Total Species Counted for the Day = 55 includes heard only (H)
Birds are listed in the taxonomic order currently recognized by the AOU

Mallard	Red Shouldered Hawk	Herring Gull	Common Raven
American Wigeon	Red-tail Hawk	Herrmann’s Gull	Chestnut Backed Chickadee
Northern Pintail	Cooper’s Hawk	Elegant Tern	Pygmy Nuthatch (H)
Northern Shoveler	Peregrine Falcon	Rock Pigeon	Bewick’s Wren (H)
Green-winged Teal	Black-necked Stilt	Band Tailed Pigeon	Wrentit (H)
Western Grebe	American Avocets	Mourning Dove	European Starling
Double-Crested Cormorant	Long-billed Curlew	Anna’s Hummingbird	Spotted Towhee
Brown Pelican	Marbled Godwit	Belted Kingfisher	Song Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Whimbrel	Hairy Woodpecker	White-crowned Sparrow
Snowy Egret	Willet	Northern Flicker	Fox Sparrow
Great Egret	Killdeer	Black Phoebe	Dark-eyed Junco
Turkey Vulture	Black-bellied Plover	Western Scrub-Jay	Red-winged Blackbird
Osprey	Ring-billed Gull	Steller’s Jay	House Sparrow
White-tail Kite	California Gull	American Crow	