

**Quick Overview** – *Let's Go Birding* and Freddy's Howell's, *Los Gatos Birdwatcher* participants spent this day birding the University of California at Santa Cruz 2000 acre campus. Located at the south end of Ben Lomond Mountain, and just above the town of Santa Cruz, the campus is home to many different types of habitats. The weather was supposed to be unseasonably cool and overcast, but we found bright clear skies and a breeze. Our first stop was within the lower grasslands where we found singing Meadowlarks and Red Tail Hawks. It was here we observed a pair of Golden Eagles with the Pacific Ocean in the background! We then worked our way to the north/east corner of campus at Crown College and hiked within the Redwoods. Creepers, Swainson's Thrush and Hairy Woodpeckers were eventually found, but they were being shy. It was here we found the posted warning signs for us to keep an eye out for the Mountain Lions. We looked to no avail! Working our way down to the center of campus put us within oak trees where Steller's Jays and Dark Eyes Juncos hoped for a hand-out. We ended our day at the UCSC Arboretum where the most common birds were the Allen's Hummingbirds. We also found a large family of quail with newly hatched young. We really just scratched the surface as far as the habitat available to observe, so we'll just have to go back one day, I understand the owling is great.



*This California Thrasher put on a great show in the Australian Garden at the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum – image taken by trip participant Hubert d'Hondt  
Pine Siskin image provided by Tom Gray*

**Memorable Observations!**

- Pine Siskins eating the thistle
- A pair of Golden Eagles hunting over the campus
- Ducking out of the way of low flying swallows
- Listening to Swainson's Thrush singing from the shadows
- Finding the California Thrasher via its song
- Finally getting a look at the Pacific Slope Flycatcher
- 50% – 75% off some of the items in the gift shop!

**Total Species Counted for the Day = 40 includes heard only (H)**

California Quail	Acorn Woodpecker	Bushtit	Western Meadowlark
Turkey Vulture	Hairy Woodpecker	Brown Creeper	House Finch
Golden Eagle	Black Phoebe	Bewick's Wren	Purple Finch
Red Shouldered Hawk	Pacific Slope Flycatcher	American Robin	Pine Siskin
Red-tail Hawk	Western Scrub-Jay	Swainson's Thrush	<p>UC Santa Cruz Mascot the Banana Slug</p>
Cooper's Hawk	Steller's Jay	California Thrasher	
Gull Sp.	American Crow	Orange Crowned Warbler (H)	
Rock Pigeon	Common Raven	Wilson's Warbler (H)	
Band Tailed Pigeon	Barn Swallow	Spotted Towhee	
Mourning Dove	Violet Green Swallow	California Towhee	
Anna's Hummingbird	Cliff Swallow	Song Sparrow	
Allen's Hummingbird	Chestnut Backed Chickadee	Dark-eyed Junco	
		Brewer's Blackbird	