

Birding the Yolo Bypass & more!

November 25, 2007

Quick Overview – We spent the majority of the day birding the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area located off 80 west of Sacramento. This area is easy to get to and our first stop was at the Ranger Station. Even though the station was closed we still had access to fantastic bird habitat behind the station. The trails here meander around ponds and trees and we found several foraging songbirds. None of the birds seemed too concerned about us allowing for great views. We then worked our way around the Yolo Bypass auto tour. We stopped in several places to successfully look for those hard to see birds like the snipe and bitterns. During our lunch break we were surrounded by Cinnamon Teal and many other resting ducks. Northern Harriers were found everywhere on this day. Every time we looked up something wonderful was flying overhead from swans to cranes. We decided to work our way south via 84. This interstate is west of I-5 and travels through beautiful country and along the levee. If we had more time we would have explored many spots along this route. We then crossed the Sacramento River via the Rio Vista Ferry as we headed to Flannery and Robinson to try for Mountain Plover on our way home. Western Meadowlarks were found, but no plovers. So we stopped and found ourselves a Great Horned Owl to end our day!



About to board the Rio Vista Ferry!

We crossed the Sacramento River at Rio Vista. The ferry ride across the river takes about 4 minutes and is free!
Photo taken by trip participant Brooke Miller

Memorable Observations!

- A male Downy Woodpecker foraging so intently he provided a great viewing for us all
- Watching a Peregrine Falcon strike a flying duck amidst thousands of flocking blackbirds
- Finding the American Bittern!
- Thousands of waterfowl flying over the bypass
- Hundreds of herons roosting along the Sacramento River

Total Species Counted for the Day = 74 includes heard only (H)
Birds are listed in the taxonomic order currently recognized by the AOU

Tundra Swans	Great Egret	Killdeer	Marsh Wren
Greater White-Fronted Goose	Black Crowned Night Heron	California Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Canada Goose – Common	Turkey Vulture	Rock Pigeon	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Distant White (Chen) Goose	Northern Harrier	Mourning Dove	Hermit Thrush
Mallard	White-tail Kite	Great Horned Owl	Northern Mockingbird
Gadwall	Red Shouldered Hawk	Anna's Hummingbird	European Starling
American Wigeon	Red-tail Hawk	Belted Kingfisher	American Pipit
Northern Pintail	Cooper's Hawk	Northern Flicker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Northern Shoveler	American Kestrel	Downy Woodpecker	Song Sparrow
Bufflehead	Peregrine Falcon	Black Phoebe	White-crowned Sparrow
Green-winged Teal	Merlin	Say's Phoebe	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Cinnamon Teal	Sandhill Cranes	Loggerhead-Shrike	Fox Sparrow
Pied-billed Grebe	Sora (H)	Western Scrub-Jay	Lincoln's Sparrow
Eared Grebe	American Coot	Yellow-billed Magpie	Savannah Sparrow
Aechmophorus Grebe – drive by	Black-necked Stilt	American Crow	Red-winged Blackbird
Double-crested Cormorant	Greater Yellowlegs	Common Raven	Brewer's Blackbird
American Bittern	Long-billed Curlew	Tree Swallow	Western Meadowlark
Great Blue Heron	Wilson's Snipe	Horned Lark	House Finch
		Bushtit	American Goldfinch

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All images taken during our day by trip participants.

American Bittern hoping we could not see him and then he flew away. Horned Larks and Marsh Wren encountered throughout – Brooke Miller

Sunset on Flannery Road (just before we found our Great Horned Owl) in Solano County – Debbie Brusco