

California Birding in the Fall

Sep 6 - 15 2024

Tour Leader: **Zac Babbit**

Photos and Trip Report by Zac Babbit.



Introduction

The landscape and eco-regions of California are nothing short of breathtaking and humbling. The glacially carved valleys, the volcanically formed mountains, and the bio-rich estuaries of the bay area are just some of the noteworthy ecotypes we traveled to. Our target for this tour was to view as many bird species as possible during fall migration. However, our group was small and every participant had already spent some significant time in the state. This led to this year's tour having a more focused approach towards certain species that would have been lifers. While we did more target birding this tour than would have been standard on previous year's tours, we still managed to finish with an impressive **202 bird species**.

The beginning of the tour brought us to the San Francisco Bay Area, which consists of the largest estuaries on the West Coast. Here we were able to see many species of waders, shorebirds, gulls, and migratory passerines. After we journeyed to the dry and isolated Central Valley, where we searched for some of California's more range restricted birds. As we left the Central Valley we continued to the Sierra Nevadas where we intercepted more of our trip targets. The furthest we ventured west was Mono Lake, one of the United States most unique bodies of water.

After Mono Lake we returned east and made a trip detour to the Yosemite Valley area to search for Sooty Grouse, and show everyone

some of California's most iconic vistas. From here we traveled to the land of the California Condor, the state's most impressive bird and one of the most inspiring conservation success stories to date. If the tour had ended here, there would have been zero complaints but luckily the grand finale was a truly epic day on the high seas out of Half Moon Bay. Everyone, including the guide, left with some truly epic lifers and a better understanding of what makes the West Coast the "Best Coast".

Please note: There was little time for photography since this group was "birding" focused, instead of "photo" focused. Most of the images in this report do not come from the tour itself, unless otherwise noted.



Top Birds Of The Trip:

White-headed Woodpecker (Chosen by Joy)

Tufted Puffin (Chosen by Annie)

Pinyon Jay (Chosen by David)

Cassin's Auklet (Chosen by Zac, the guide)



Tufted Puffin as seen on the tour.

Itinerary

- Sep 6 Arrival in San Francisco
- Sep 7 San Francisco Bay
- Sep 8 Diablo Range and Central Valley
- Sep 9 Western Slope of the Sierra Nevada
- Sep 10 Sierra Traverse and Mono Lake
- Sep 11 Mono Lake and Surrounding Area
- Sep 12 Travel Day with en route birding
- Sep 13 California Condors and the Pacific Coast
- Sep 14 Deepwater Pelagic from Half Moon Bay
- Sep 15 Departures from San Francisco

Birding Summary

Day 1: Arrival in San Francisco

Today was simply focused on making sure everyone arrived safely. Everyone checked into our lovely accommodation and met for a delicious dinner at Coconut Bay Thai Restaurant. We enjoyed some Thai food and discussed the plan and expectations for the tour as a whole.

Day 2: San Francisco Bay

We met for a quick breakfast in the hotel lobby before loading up into the van for the day. We loaded up into the van and began our drive to Palo Alto Baylands. With so many birds in the bay area it can be hard to decide what species to focus on first, but for this group the choice was clear. The **Ridgway's Rail** is one of the most scarce and sought after birds in the bay area. Sadly the effects of habitat fragmentation, destruction, and sea level rise have taken their toll on this rail. That said, there remain a few localities that are strongholds for the rail. We arrived at 7:00am, the perfect intersection of first light and low tide. We immediately went to the best spot for the rail. Within the first minute of searching I spotted a **Ridgway's Rail** foraging out in the open! It is always a treat to see an elusive bird acting naturally without the use of playback. We got the scope on the bird and all got several views as it foraged and preened for a few minutes. With our main target of the day down we focused on seeing as much diversity as possible.

We continued walking in the Palo Alto Baylands and got great looks at **Long-billed Curlew, Long-billed and Short-billed Dowitcher, Northern Harrier, Bewick's Wren** and an epic view of a **Peregrine Falcon**. As we began to return towards the car I saw a quick glimpse of a **Sora**, however it disappeared before

anyone else saw it. We then drove to Ravenswood Salt Pond SF2 to look for more waders and shorebirds. Upon arrival we saw dozens of **American White Pelicans, Forster's Tern, Northern Pintails, and a pair of Black Oystercatchers**. After some great additions to the trip list, we continued on to Coyote Hills Regional Park to see if we could spot the **Ruff** which I had found the previous day while scouting. Despite an hour of searching we never found the **Ruff** again, but we did find **Red-necked Phalarope, California Scrub-Jays, Common Yellowthroat, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Green-winged Teal, Anna's Hummingbird, and even several Cinnamon Teals**.



Afterwards we went to lunch at Erik's Delicafe. It was a delicious lunch and necessary fuel after a busy morning. We finished lunch and everyone was eager to head back into the field for more birds. We left the restaurant and headed to Coyote Point Recreation Area. We headed straight to the tern colony and were delighted to find dozens of **Elegant Terns**. We watched the terns for a while and picked up **Caspian Tern, Forster's Tern, Western Gulls, Willets, Marbled Godwits, and a Black-bellied Plover**. We searched the rocky portions of the jetty and picked out two huge targets for the day, **Black Turnstone** and the only **Surfbirds** of the trip.

We left Coyote Point Recreation Area to search for the **Slate-throated Redstart** at Pine Lake Park. I heard the bird a few times but unfortunately the poor light and inconsistent calls prevented us from locating the bird as it remained in the high canopy. However, some other epic birds were found! We saw the only **Western Flycatcher, Chestnut-backed Chickadees and Nuttall's Woodpeckers** on the tour. Some **Warbling Vireos and White-crowned Sparrows** were briefly detected but everyone got nice prolonged views of a **Belted Kingfisher**. The last hour of the day was spent searching for the introduced **Red-masked Parakeets**, but the weather got bad and we left empty-handed. Despite a few misses, we all had a wonderful day with several lifers for all of the participants. We had a simple Mexican dinner at La Corneta.

Day 3: Diablo Range and Central Valley

We met for another early breakfast and left the hotel to head into the Central Valley before it got too hot. We drove to the entrance of Murrieta's Well Winery where we saw our first **Lark Sparrow and Oak Titmouse** of the trip. We continued driving down Mines Road and saw **California Scrub-Jay and California Quail**! As we approached Del Valle Regional Park we briefly saw our top target for the day,

Yellow-billed Magpies. However, it was brief and two people did not see more than a few distant silhouettes. We searched for better views of the magpies at Del Valle Regional Park, but could not locate the local flock. We did see both **Western and Clark's Grebe** on the lake, and the nearby lawn had **California Towhee and Acorn Woodpeckers**. After leaving the park we continued towards San Antonio Valley. On the way we got epic looks of one of the day's top targets, the **California Thrasher**. We continued towards Patterson for lunch, but made another stop at the Frank Raines Regional Park where we spotted a massive target for the day, **Lawrence's Goldfinch**. There were around a dozen individuals including a few gorgeous males.



We made it to lunch and had a great sandwich at Sourdough & Co. During lunch we discussed the highlights of the morning, and it was decided that everyone was not satisfied with the views of the **Yellow-billed Magpies**. Rather than going to a local water treatment area we decided to try a local college campus where a local flock of magpies had been recently seen. We drove to the campus and within a few minutes of arriving I spotted a large group sitting in the shade of a tree. It was an unconventional locality but we all watched the **Yellow-billed Magpies** for several minutes, allowing for awesome photo opportunities. Afterwards we made one last stop at Knights Ferry Bridge, where we intercepted **Bushtits, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Hammond's Flycatcher**. We arrived in Sonora and had a delicious dinner at the Peppery.

Day 4: Western Slope of the Sierra Nevada

Today we started in the stunning Giant Sequoia forests of Calaveras Big Trees State Park, our main goal was to find the iconic White-headed Woodpecker. Of all the amazing woodpeckers found in the western US the White-headed Woodpecker is the most unique looking. As we entered the 1,000 year old forest we heard the calls of **Stellar's Jay, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Northern Flicker**. It didn't take long until I heard the calls of a nearby **White-headed Woodpecker**. We quickly located a pair which gave off several good views as they flew into a nearby tree. After they left we turned our attention to finding the **Pacific Wren**. It didn't take long until we located several **Pacific Wrens**, with one individual giving us some spectacular looks. After the wrens we heard the nearby call of a **MacGillivray's Warbler**, which after a few minutes of effort showed itself nicely. We continued down the trail

and saw **Brown Creeper** and **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, heard **Pileated Woodpecker** and watched a group of **Mountain Chickadees** and **Townsend's Warbler**. We heard a nearby group of **Mountain Quail** several times but despite a lot of effort only the guide saw one briefly. Afterwards we left to search for migrants at White Pines Lake and Park where we found **Wood Duck, Black Phoebe, Western Wood-Pewee, and Yellow-rumped Warblers**.

We then went for lunch at Bistro Express, which took longer than expected. We finished lunch and then left for Big Meadow Campground. Activity was low but it didn't take long for us to find some quality birds. A pair of **Red-breasted Sapsuckers** gave us some quick looks but the highlight was a **Lewis's Woodpecker** perched in a tree. We continued up to Bear Valley Ski Area where we continued the search for **Mountain Quail**. After a bit of effort we found several individuals singing. It took a while to see any but we all got quick views of a group that flew. We tried one last location, while we didn't find any more quails we did get great looks at several flying **Clark's Nutcracker**.

Day 5: Sierra Traverse and Mono Lake

We started the day at Pinecrest Lake Campground where we immediately saw a large group of **Brewer's Blackbird, Osprey and Dark-eyed Juncos**. The activity was low but we intercepted an awesome mixed flock of migratory warblers. The group included **Black-throated Gray Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Townsend's Warbler and Hermit Warbler**. We left and tried some of the surrounding

forest service roads. That proved to be the right decision since we found **Thick-billed Fox Sparrow, Williamson's Sapsucker, and Red-breasted Sapsucker**. We then continued to Donnell Vista where we saw our first **Green-tailed Towhees** and even better views of **Lewis's Woodpecker**. We then stopped at Sonora Pass where amongst the **Yellow-rumped Warblers and Dark-eyed Juncos** we found a female **Cassin's Finch**. An unexpected road closure forced us to go east through Nevada for another hour but we made an extra stop along the way. At Topaz Lake we found **Eared Grebe, Caspian Tern, Gadwall** and a large group of foraging **White-faced Ibis**. Along the way to Bridgeport Reservoir we found **Black-billed Magpies**. Upon arrival the high winds made the birding difficult, but we did see **Violet-green Swallows, Brewer's Sparrow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, and Western Grebe**.

After the reservoir we left for Bodie State Historical Park where we searched for the **Greater Sage-Grouse**. The park is famous for its well preserved Gold Rush Era town. On the drive to the town we saw **Western Meadowlark, Mountain Bluebirds, and Sage Thrasher**. At the town itself we searched for the grouse but had no luck. However, we did find a perched **Prairie Falcon** out along some rocks. It would have been great to see the grouse but it was more of a bonus bird. Clients that hope to see this bird have a better chance on Tropical Birding's annual Colorado Chasing Chickens tour in April, where it is possible to see several impressive grouse displays. Afterwards we completed the drive to Mono Lake where we ate dinner at Nicely's Restaurant.

Day 6: Mono Lake and Surroundings

Since breakfast wasn't available until 7:00 am we opted to do some pre-breakfast target birding for **Pinyon Jays**. These birds are notoriously difficult to find due to their nomadic behavior. After a few spots that yield nothing noteworthy we made one last stop at Rush Creek before breakfast. As we searched the scattered pines and junipers I caught a glimpse of a bird landing behind some trees. As we walked around the trees that were blocking our view a flock of 15 **Pinyon Jays** were revealed. Everyone got great and prolonged views of these elusive birds as they sat perched for a while and then flew off. We went to breakfast at Nicely's Restaurant and had our fill of coffee, eggs and bacon.

After breakfast we left for Lundy Lake where we looked for the **Sooty Grouse**. The roads around Lundy Lake are the best places to search for this bird in the area. However, they are still quite scarce here. We saw **Belted Kingfisher, Steller's Jays, Bushtits and Rock Wrens**; but no grouse. The highlight for the guide was when a **Long-tailed Weasel** darted across the road, seen only by the two people in the front seats. We then stopped at Mono Lake County Park where we reignited the group's excitement with a lot of "trip firsts". **Wilson's Warbler and Spotted Towhee** were found foraging in the bushes, but the highlights were **Cassin's Vireo** and a migrating **Red-naped Sapsucker**. We then walked down the boardwalk to get our first up close views of Mono Lake and its strange geological features. The lake's most noteworthy features are tufas, a strange pinnacle-like formation made of calcium-carbonate (CO₃) over the course of millions of years. Here the unique

“Great Basin” subspecies of the **California Gull** breeds and nests annually. As we watched the gulls we spotted **Northern Shovelers, Blue-winged Teals, and Osprey** along the lake. A major highlight of the trip came when several **Virginia Rails** responded to some tape, and one individual showed him/herself beautifully.

We left the county park for one last stop before lunch. We made a stop at the South Tufa shoreline. Here we walked along the grandest tufa formations the lake has and spotted **Horned Lark, Savannah Sparrows, Sage Thrasher, Brown-headed Cowbirds, Red-necked Phalarope, and Forster’s Terns**. One of the best birds from this outing was a juvenile **Yellow-headed Blackbird** that was found associating with the local **Brewer’s Blackbirds**.



We had lunch at, you guessed it, Nicely's Restaurant. One of the participants opted to stay back at the hotel, but the rest of the group continued on for some afternoon birding. We searched for Black-backed Woodpeckers, but instead found **Williamson's Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpeckers and Chipping Sparrows**. We then headed back to the open sagebrush country where we found several **Sagebrush Sparrows**, a lifer for the group! We ended the day at Dechambeau Ponds where we added **American Wigeon and Ruddy Duck** to the trip list.

Day 7: Travel day with en route birding.

Today was meant to be spent around the lake until lunch, but sensing that people were satisfied with the lake and wanted to find the Sooty Grouse we opted for an itinerary change. Instead of birding the area after breakfast we loaded the van and headed to Glacier Point. We already would have 4.5 hours of driving today but by adding this stop to Glacier Point we took on an additional 2.5 hours in the car. Luckily this was expressed before the decision was made and everyone happily agreed. Since a few folks had never been to Yosemite National Park we made a few extra en route stops at some of the park's most famous lookouts. The most noteworthy pitstop was at the Valley lookout stop after the famous Yosemite Valley Tunnel. We continued on our way to Glacier Point, which arrived at 11:00am. We knew it may be difficult to find the bird since it had gotten late and there were hundreds of people visiting this well known location. However, after an hour of focused effort I managed to find a **Sooty Grouse** resting on a log away from the masses. It was exciting

to see this bird in the open at this time of day, but we all found the humor in watching several people walk only feet from it without noticing the large bird.

We reloaded the van with a great sense of accomplishment and headed to the Yosemite Village for lunch. Here we had some great sandwiches and then checked the village for any birds. Activity was low so we returned to the van and completed our drive to Hollister. We had dinner at MIYAKO Japanese Restaurant, where we had delicious sushi and udon. We headed to bed early since we had a long day ahead of us.

Day 8: California Condors and the Pacific Coast.

Today was the day that many people had been waiting for. Today we were traveling to Pinnacles National Park to search for California's most famous bird, the **California Condor**. Less than 50 years ago there were less than 30 **California Condors**, but through hard work and dedication conservationists have brought the number to over 500! Today 83 condors live in Pinnacles National Park, but seeing one would be enough. Before the condors we went to La Gloria Road and searched the areas near the pond for **Bell's Sparrow**. We searched the sloppy sagebrushes and we were overjoyed to find several perched after a bit of effort. We saw a group of over thirty **Lawrence's Goldfinch** but had to get to Pinnacles before it got too hot. We arrived at the Condor Gulch Trailhead and began our mile long hike. While one mile doesn't seem long, the landscape was tricky for some people with an elevation gain of 550 feet.

Along the trail we found **Canyon Wren**, **Rufous-crowned Sparrow**, and a fleeting view of a **Western Tanager**. After an hour and a half of hiking we arrived at the Condor viewing area where we searched amongst the dozens of **Turkey Vultures**. As we waited we all got on a pair of **Wrentits**, which was highly sought after by the group. We got a quick look at a juvenile condor but two people missed as it disappeared as fast as it appeared. Once 11:30am hit we decided to head back to the vehicle. On the hike back I was thrilled to spot two adult **California Condors** soaring high above the ridge line. This time everyone got to see the birds for several minutes! We got back in the car and began our drive to the coast. We stopped for lunch in Hollister and then proceeded to MoonGlow Dairy farm for the **Tricolored Blackbird**.

As soon as we pulled into the farm's driveway we spotted a massive **Golden Eagle** as it came down and grabbed a **California Ground Squirrel**! We continued down into the farm and found several **Tricolored Blackbirds** with a large group of **Red-winged Blackbirds**. With the target acquired we did a little more birding on the property, where we also found **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Tree Swallows**, and several **Sea Otters**. We then left for the North Jetty Road in Moss Landing State Beach to search for more shorebirds. Here we got awesome views of **Surf Scoters**, **Clark's Grebes** and **Semipalmated Plovers**. However, we were here to find the **Snowy Plover**. We walked to the coastal side of the dunes where within a few minutes of searching we found several. Along the shoreline were several **Heermann's Gulls** which were a first for the trip.

After finding the plovers we drove for an hour and a half to Pescadero State Beach. Here we were greeted by dozens of close **Black Turnstones!** There was one **Wandering Tattler** foraging among them but disappeared before everyone in the group saw it. From the lookout we saw a **Pacific Loon**, several **Whimbrels**, dozens of **Common Murres** and **Red-necked Phalaropes**, and a flyby group of **Red-breasted Mergansers**. A bonus group of **Black Oystercatchers** made a perfect ending to the day. We then left to have dinner at Half Moon Bay Joe's.



Day 9: Deepwater Pelagic out of Halfmoon Bay

Today was the final day of birding for the trip, and what a day it was! We met at 6:15am to drive to the marina to meet for our pelagic birding trip. On the drive the guide spotted a **Great Horned Owl** on the telephone wire. The first owl of the tour! Upon arrival we checked in and were soon boarding our vessel for the day. After a quick safety talk the boat set sail and we began searching for the first target of the day, the **Marbled Murrelet**. These birds are quite scarce in the deeper waters off of Half Moon Bay, so it was a big priority to get this bird before we got far off shore. It only took a few minutes before our awesome “spotters” located a pair. Everyone got great looks and we continued offshore.



Sooty Shearwater as seen on the tour.

Soon the **California Brown Pelicans** and **Brandt's Cormorants** were replaced by **Sooty Shearwaters** and **Sabine's Gulls**. Before we knew it the first **Rhinoceros Auklets** had appeared! We stopped to view these strange alcid before continuing. As the ship moved through the waves a pair of murrelets took off towards the horizon. A single photo snapped by a spotter revealed these were the highly sought after **Guadalupe Murrelets**. Luckily a few people had seen these fluff balls in flight and so it was countable, though we did continue hoping for better looks. The most impressive moments of the day began only a few hours in when we were greeted by a massive feeding event. Several **Humpback Whales** and hundreds of **Pink-footed Shearwaters** and **Sooty Shearwaters** decorated the ocean's horizon. As we got closer, the birds held their ground leading to 20 minutes of epic photography opportunities. Once in the heart of the flock we spotted a few **Buller's Shearwaters** amongst the birds.



Buller's Shearwater as seen on the tour.

As people got epic photos of the **Buller's Shearwater**, someone called out what we had all been waiting for. "ALBATROSS!", and soon we were surrounded by dozens of **Black-footed Albatross**. Several soared and landed next to the boat. Then a large albatross appeared on the horizon, except this one was notably different. It was quickly apparent that the large white albatross was no mirage, it was the epic **Laysan Albatross**. The **Laysan Albatross** is one of the trickiest pelagic birds to find here, consequently it makes this mythical bird very sought after. The one individual kept its distance before disappearing. Luckily a few minutes later two more adults came into view, with one coming within 25 feet of the boat!



Laysan Albatross as seen on the tour.

As we began to leave the frenzy with hundreds of photos taken we continued away from shore. Several times we witnessed **Cassin's Auklet** diving or flying from the boat. It wasn't long until the first storm-petrels began to appear. We identified several **Ashy Storm-Petrels** before the first **Black Storm-Petrel** appeared! The flight pattern of these birds is quite distinct but both species came in close to the boat for better looks. The non-avian wildlife was also booming. A few **Blue Sharks** had come in to inspect the bait placed in the water, only possible with the research permit Alvaro's Adventures has.



Pink-footed Shearwater as seen on the tour.

Northern Fur Seals, Pacific Harbor Seals and California Sea Lions were also warmly welcomed. We continued having epic views of **Humpback Whales** throughout the trip, with several tail fluke views. However, the best mammal of the day was when my lifer **Fin Whale** appeared at the surface for some air. This behemoth of a whale is the second largest animal on the planet, bested only by the **Blue Whale**. The high seas provided more epic birds as we found **Red Phalaropes, Common Murres, and found all four jaegers; Pomarine, Parasitic, Long-tailed and the South Polar Skua**. Another epic find was the long awaited appearance of **Scripp's Murrelet**, which we found



Black-footed Albatross as seen on the tour.

several of over the course of the day. As the day came to end we thought what else could possibly compete with what we had seen. Luckily, we had one more wonderful surprise left in store. The first **Tufted Puffin** was an electrifying moment, and it was soon followed by two more sightings. After an epic day on the boat we returned to shore, where the group was too tired for any more birding. We opted for an early dinner at Miramar Beach Restaurant, where we reminisced over the highlights of the trip.



Scripp's Murrelet as seen on the tour.

Family Name/ Species	Latin Name	Location First Seen
Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl (Anatidae)		
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	White Pines Lake & Park
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Spatula discors</i>	Mono Lake County Park
Cinnamon Teal	<i>Spatula cyanoptera</i>	Coyote Hills Regional Park
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	Topaz Lake
American Wigeon	<i>Mareca americana</i>	Dechambeau Pond
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Ravenwood Salt Pond SF2
Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Coyote Hills Regional Park
Surf Scoter	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>	Moss Landing State Beach
Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	Coyote Hills Regional Park
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Topaz Lake
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Pescadero State Beach
Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	Dechambeau Pond
New World Quail (Odontophoridae)		
Mountain Quail	<i>Oreortyx pictus</i>	Calaveras Big Trees SP
California Quail	<i>Callipepla californica</i>	Mines Road
Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies (Phasianidae)		
Wild Turkey (I)	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	Del Valle Regional Park
Sooty Grouse	<i>Dendragapus fuliginosus</i>	Glacier Point
Grebes (Podicipedidae)		
Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Eared Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	Topaz Lake
Western Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>	Del Valle Regional Park
Clark's Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i>	Del Valle Regional Park

Pigeons and Doves (Columbidae)		
Rock Pigeon (I)	<i>Columba livia</i>	San Francisco
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Eurasian Collared-Dove (I)	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	San Francisco
Swifts (Apodidae)		
White-throated Swift	<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>	Condor Gulch Trail
Hummingbirds (Trochilidae)		
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Rails, Gallinules, and Coots (Rallidae)		
Ridgway's Rail	<i>Rallus obsoletus</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Virginia Rail	<i>Rallus limicola</i>	Mono Lake County Park
Sora	<i>Porzana carolina</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Stilts and Avocets (Recurvirostridae)		
Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
American Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Oystercatchers (Haematopodidae)		
Black Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus bachmani</i>	Ravenwood Salt Pond SF2
Plovers and Lapwings (Charadriidae)		
Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Coyote Point Recreation Area
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	Coyote Point Recreation Area
Snowy Plover	<i>Anarhynchus nivosus</i>	Moss Landing State Beach
Sandpipers and Allies (Scolopacidae)		
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Palo Alto Baylands

Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>	Ravenwood Salt Pond SF2
Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Red Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	Half Moon Bay Pelagic
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Coyote Hills Regional Park
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	MoonGlow Dairy
Black Turnstone	<i>Arenaria melanocephala</i>	Coyote Point Recreation Area
Wandering Tattler	<i>Tringa incana</i>	Pescadero State Beach
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	Coyote Hills Regional Park
Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Surfbird	<i>Calidris virgata</i>	Coyote Point Recreation Area
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Moss Landing State Beach
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Skuas and Jaegers (Stercorariidae)		
Long-tailed Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Half Moon Bay Pelagic
Parasitic Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Half Moon Bay Pelagic
Pomarine Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	Half Moon Bay Pelagic
South Polar Skua	<i>Stercorarius maccormicki</i>	Half Moon Bay Pelagic
Auks, Murres, and Puffins (Alcidae)		
Rhinoceros Auklet	<i>Cerorhinca monocerata</i>	Half Moon Bay Pelagic
Tufted Puffin	<i>Fratercula cirrhata</i>	Half Moon Bay Pelagic
Cassin's Auklet	<i>Ptychoramphus aleuticus</i>	Half Moon Bay Pelagic
Marbled Murrelet	<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>	Half Moon Bay Pelagic
Guadalupe Murrelet	<i>Synthliboramphus</i>	Half Moon Bay Pelagic
Scripps's Murrelet	<i>Synthliboramphus scrippsi</i>	Half Moon Bay Pelagic
Common Murre	<i>Uria aalge</i>	Half Moon Bay Pelagic

Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers (Laridae)		
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	Half Moon Bay Pelagic
Heermann's Gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>	Pescadero State Beach
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Coyote Point Recreation Area
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Coyote Point Recreation Area
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Coyote Point Recreation Area
Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Half Moon Bay Pelagic
Elegant Tern	<i>Thalasseus elegans</i>	Coyote Point Recreation Area
Loons (Gaviidae)		
Pacific Loon	<i>Gavia pacifica</i>	Pescadero State Beach
Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Half Moon Bay Pelagic
Albatrosses (Diomedeidae)		
Black-footed Albatross	<i>Phoebastria nigripes</i>	Half Moon Bay Pelagic
Laysan Albatross	<i>Phoebastria immutabilis</i>	Half Moon Bay Pelagic
Northern Storm-Petrels (Hydrobatidae)		
Ashy Storm-Petrel	<i>Hydrobates homochroa</i>	Half Moon Bay Pelagic
Black Storm-Petrel	<i>Hydrobates melania</i>	Half Moon Bay Pelagic
Shearwaters and Petrels (Procellariidae)		
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Ardenna grisea</i>	Half Moon Bay Pelagic
Pink-footed Shearwater	<i>Ardenna creatopus</i>	Half Moon Bay Pelagic
Buller's Shearwater	<i>Ardenna bulleri</i>	Half Moon Bay Pelagic
Cormorants and Shags (Phalacrocoracidae)		
Brandt's Cormorant	<i>Urile penicillatus</i>	Pescadero State Beach
Pelagic Cormorant	<i>Urile pelagicus</i>	Pescadero State Beach

Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Nannopterum auritum</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Pelicans (Pelecanidae)		
American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	Ravenwood Salt Pond SF2
Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	Ravenwood Salt Pond SF2
Hérons, Egrets, and Bitterns (Ardeidae)		
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Ibises and Spoonbills (Threskiornithidae)		
White-faced Ibis	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>	Topaz Lake
New World Vultures (Cathartidae)		
California Condor	<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>	Condor Gulch Trail
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Osprey (Pandionidae)		
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Pinecrest Lake
Hawks, Eagles, and Kites (Accipitridae)		
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	MoonGlow Dairy
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Coyote Hills Regional Park
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	Pine Lake Park
Owls (Strigidae)		
Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	Half Moon Bay
Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)		
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	Pine Lake Park

Woodpeckers (Picidae)		
Williamson's Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus thyroideus</i>	Forest Service Road 5N28
Red-naped Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus nuchalis</i>	Mono Lake County Park
Red-breasted Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus ruber</i>	Big Meadow Campground
Lewis's Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>	Big Meadow Campground
Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>	Mines Road
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates villosus</i>	Calaveras Big Trees SP
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates pubescens</i>	Mines Road
Nuttall's Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates nuttallii</i>	Pine Lake Park
White-headed Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates albolarvatus</i>	Calaveras Big Trees SP
Pileated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	Calaveras Big Trees SP
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Calaveras Big Trees SP
Falcons and Caracaras (Falconidae)		
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	Mines Road
Prairie Falcon	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	Bodie SHP
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Tyrant Flycatchers (Tyrannidae)		
Western Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>	White Pines Lake & Park
Hammond's Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax hammondii</i>	Knight's Ferry
Western Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax difficilis</i>	Pine Lake Park
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	Bodie SHP
Vireos, Shrike-Babblers, and Erpornis (Vireonidae)		
Cassin's Vireo	<i>Vireo cassinii</i>	Mono Lake County Park
Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	Pine Lake Park
Shrikes (Laniidae)		
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Road to Half Moon Bay

Crows, Jays, and Magpies (Corvidae)		
Pinyon Jay	<i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i>	Rush Creek near Mono Lake
Steller's Jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>	Pine Lake Park
California Scrub-Jay	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>	Mines Road
Black-billed Magpie	<i>Pica hudsonia</i>	Topaz Lake Area
Yellow-billed Magpie	<i>Pica nuttalli</i>	Mines Road
Clark's Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga columbiana</i>	Bear Valley Area
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Pinecrest Lake
Tits, Chickadees, and Titmice (Paridae)		
Mountain Chickadee	<i>Poecile gambeli</i>	Calaveras Big Trees SP
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	<i>Poecile rufescens</i>	Pine Lake Park
Oak Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus inornatus</i>	Mines Road
Larks (Alaudidae)		
Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	Mono Lake - South Tufa Area
Swallows (Hirundinidae)		
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	MoonGlow Dairy
Violet-green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>	Bridgeport Reservoir
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Bridgeport Reservoir
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	Bridgeport Reservoir
Long-tailed Tits (Aimophila)		
Bushtit	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>	Knight's Ferry
Parrotbills (Ammodramus)		
Wrentit	<i>Chamaea fasciata</i>	Condor Gulch Viewpoint
Kinglets (Regulidae)		
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	Calaveras Big Trees SP
Nuthatches (Sittidae)		
White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	Del Valle Regional Park

Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	Calaveras Big Trees SP
Treecreepers (Certhiidae)		
Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>	Calaveras Big Trees SP
Gnatcatchers (Poliophtilidae)		
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliophtila caerulea</i>	Condor Gulch Viewpoint
Wrens (Troglodytidae)		
Rock Wren	<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>	Bodie SHP
Canyon Wren	<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>	Condor Gulch Trail
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Pacific Wren	<i>Troglodytes pacificus</i>	Calaveras Big Trees SP
Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	Mono Lake County Park
Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Starlings (Sturnidae)		
European Starling (I)	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Mockingbirds and Thrashers (Mimidae)		
California Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma redivivum</i>	Mines Road
Sage Thrasher	<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>	Bodie SHP
Thrushes and Allies (Turdidae)		
Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>	Mines Road
Mountain Bluebird	<i>Sialia currucoides</i>	Bodie SHP
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	Calaveras Big Trees SP
Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	Calaveras Big Trees SP
Old World Sparrows (Passeridae)		
House Sparrow (I)	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Hollister Hotel
Finches, Euphonias, and Allies (Fringillidae)		
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	Palo Alto Baylands

Cassin's Finch	<i>Haemorhous cassinii</i>	Sonora Pass
Lawrence's Goldfinch	<i>Spinus lawrencei</i>	Del Puerto Canyon Road
American Goldfinch	<i>Spinus tristis</i>	Coyote Hills Regional Park
Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Spinus psaltria</i>	Mines Road
New World Sparrows (Passerellidae)		
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	Inyo National Forest
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	<i>Aimophila ruficeps</i>	Condor Gulch Trail
Brewer's Sparrow	<i>Spizella breweri</i>	Bridgeport Reservoir
Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	Mines Road
Fox Sparrow	<i>Passerella iliaca</i>	Forest Service Road 5N28
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Forest Service Road 5N28
White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	Pine Lake Park
Sagebrush Sparrow	<i>Artemisiospiza nevadensis</i>	Mono Lake Area
Bell's Sparrow	<i>Artemisiospiza belli</i>	La Gloria Road Pond
Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
California Towhee	<i>Melospiza crissalis</i>	Pine Lake Park
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Green-tailed Towhee	<i>Pipilo chlorurus</i>	Donnell Vista
Spotted Towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>	Mono Lake County Park
Troupials and Allies (Icteriidae)		
Yellow-headed Blackbird	<i>Xanthocephalus</i>	Mono Lake County Park
Western Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	Bodie SHP
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	Mines Road
Tricolored Blackbird	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	MoonGlow Dairy
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	Mono lake- South Tufa
Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	Pinecrest Lake
New World Warblers (Parulidae)		
Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis celata</i>	Pinecrest Lake
Nashville Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis ruficapilla</i>	Pinecrest Lake
MacGillivray's Warbler	<i>Geothlypis tolmiei</i>	Calaveras Big Trees SP

Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga petechia</i>	Pinecrest Lake
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Pinecrest Lake
Wilson's Warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>	Mono Lake County Park
Black-throated Gray Warbler	<i>Setophaga nigrescens</i>	Pinecrest Lake
Townsend's Warbler	<i>Setophaga townsendi</i>	Calaveras Big Trees SP
Hermit Warbler	<i>Setophaga occidentalis</i>	Pinecrest Lake
Cardinals and Allies (Cardinalidae)		
Western Tanager	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>	Condor Gulch Trail

Mammals		
California Sea Lion	<i>Zalophus californianus</i>	Half Moon Bay Pelagic
Pacific Harbor Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Half Moon Bay Pelagic
Northern Fur Seal	<i>Callorhinus ursinus</i>	Half Moon Bay Pelagic
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Half Moon Bay Pelagic
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Half Moon Bay Pelagic
Columbian Black-tailed Deer	<i>Odocoileus hemionus columbianus</i>	Calaveras Big Trees SP
Long-tailed Weasel	<i>Mustela frenata</i>	Lundy Lake
Mearn's Coyote	<i>Canis latrans mearnsi</i>	Bodie SHP
Desert Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus audubonii</i>	Bodie SHP
Brush Rabbit	<i>Sylvilagus bachmani</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Least Chipmunk	<i>Neotamias minimus</i>	Mono Lake Area
California Ground Squirrel	<i>Otospermophilus beecheyi</i>	Palo Alto Baylands
Western Gray Squirrel	<i>Tamiasciurus douglasii</i>	Pine Lake Park
Douglas Squirrel	<i>Sciurus griseus</i>	Calaveras Big Trees SP
Lodgepole Chipmunk	<i>Tamias speciosus</i>	Big Meadow Campground
California Vole	<i>Microtus californicus</i>	Pine Lake Park
Southern Sea Otter	<i>Enhydra lutris nereis</i>	MoonGlow Dairy

Other Fauna		
Alkali Fly	<i>Cirrula hians</i>	Mono Lake
California Sister Butterfly	<i>Adelpha californica</i>	Pinecrest Lake
Sierra Nevada Fence Lizard	<i>Sceloporus occidentalis taylori</i>	Glacier Point
Coast Range Fence Lizard	<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>	Pescadero State Beach
Great Basin Fence Lizard	<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>	Mono Lake South Tufa
Blue Shark	<i>Prionace glauca</i>	Half Moon Bay Pelagic