

From: wilmot wilmot@me.com [south-bay-birds] south-bay-birds-noreply@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [SBB] The Piratical Flycatchers SCVAS BIRDATHON results 4/23/17
Date: April 25, 2017 at 7:50 PM
To: south bay birds south-bay-birds@yahoogroups.com



Ginger and I (a.k.a The Piratical Flycatchers) had an exhilarating time combing the parks of Santa Clara County on our 24-hour Birdathon expedition yesterday. This writeup just covers some highlights and a list of all the birds we found; I'll be posting photographs and doing a more extensive writeup for our Birdathon sponsors sometime later.

We started at Monte Bello Open Space Preserve well before dawn in hopes of catching an owl or two calling. As we passed the Sag Pond 0.1 miles in on the Canyon Trail, we heard a VIRGINIA RAIL repeatedly calling, but being unfamiliar with their call we dismissed it as a frog! It wasn't until later, as we came back by a little after 8am and it called again that it occurred to us what it was. The first bird call we *recognized* was the distant booming of a GREAT HORNED OWL. By the time the dawn chorus was in full swing there were at least two Great Horned's calling back and forth repeatedly. No Poorwills, even though we didn't have much in the way of wind. We heard a GOLDEN EAGLE and PILEATED WOODPECKERS calling, and after dawn several ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHERS called from various points along the trail, including back by our car as we prepared to leave.

At Arastradero Preserve we had VAUX'S SWIFTS fly over us (also later at Ed Levin, where I was able to photograph one) and saw a pair of WESTERN KINGBIRDS. Nothing unusual on Felt Lake, but there was a jeep driving lakeside along a dirt road, apparently doing research with floaty net things (that's the scientific term, right?) in the water, so they may have disturbed the wildlife.

At Palo Alto Baylands as well as Alviso we saw many DUNLIN in alternate plumage, making them easy to pick out of the crowds of peeps. We were pleased to find a pair of CANVASBACK still around, swimming in the slough across from the ranger station, and then a pair of BLUE-WINGED TEAL in the same slough.

At Charleston Slough we found a pair of PINTAIL down the Adobe Creek Trail near where we had seen them on our scouting expeditions (and on our Birdathon with Melanie O'Brien a couple weeks earlier). A BELTED KINGFISHER flew over us that I managed to photograph. Biggest surprise though was a raccoon hunting along the edge of Adobe Creek. We also saw SEMIPALMATED PLOVERS here and in Alviso (no Snowy Plovers though).

In Alviso, near the Jubilee Temple we scoped a BURROWING OWL resting at the side of one of the grass-covered ground squirrel mounds. It appeared to be sleeping, but after a large truck rumbled down the street it lifted its head, then jumped up to the top of the mound and after a few seconds flew off. I'm worried that the line of new buildings being constructed along Disk Drive is seriously impacting these owls.

At the EEC in Alviso we found two male CINNAMON TEAL in Artesian Slough just before we got to the salt pond. There was a lovely pair of REDHEADS past the first island on Salt Pond A16, as I mentioned in email yesterday; this was a highlight for us. We were amazed at the variety of duck species we found throughout the day.

At Ed Levin County Park we found a WESTERN Tanager in a treetop near the parking lot to the north of Sandy Wool Lake; we had heard one at daybreak up at Monte Bello, but this was the first one we had seen this year. In upper Ed Levin we were quite surprised to see a Hoary Bat out in daylight, hunting over the Spring Valley Pond!

Driving up Sierra Road we turned onto Marsh Road and along with the lovely YELLOW-BILLED MAGPIES we found a LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE. We really weren't expecting a Shrike this late in the season!

At Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve it was rainy and cold but we did manage to find three HORNED

At Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve it was rainy and cold, but we did manage to find three FORKLEED LARKS at the beginning of the Sierra Vista Trail.

At Ulistac Natural Area we heard one COMMON GALLINULE call, our final bird of the day.

Timeline:

Woke up 3:30am. Out the door at 4:25am. Cloudy, little wind (under 5mph). 55°F.

Home

✓ Northern Mockingbird 04:12 AM

Driving to Monte Bello OSP 04:28 AM

(1 Jackrabbit) 04:40 AM

At ridge top- 46°F, light wind, cloudy 05:01 AM

Not foggy! Well maybe a little foggy

(1 Frog...no, Rail!) 05:09 AM

Made it to dawn chorus spot on Canyon Trail- no birds calling yet 05:26 AM

✓ Great Horned Owl 05:35 AM

✓ American Robin 05:44 AM

✓ Mourning Dove 05:51 AM

✓ Western Tanager 05:53 AM

In the dawn chorus. Photographed at Ed Levin

✓ Spotted Towhee 05:55 AM

✓ Wild Turkey 05:56 AM

✓ Song Sparrow 05:57 AM

✓ Orange-crowned Warbler 05:59 AM

✓ Bewick's Wren 06:01 AM

✓ American Crow 06:02 AM

✓ California Quail 06:02 AM

✓ Steller's Jay 06:04 AM

✓ Wrentit 06:04 AM

✓ California Towhee 06:05 AM

(1 Mule Deer) 06:14 AM

✓ Oak Titmouse 06:16 AM

✓ Black-headed Grosbeak 06:19 AM

(1 Coyote) 06:20 AM

✓ Nuttall's Woodpecker 06:32 AM

✓ Chestnut-backed Chickadee 06:34 AM

✓ Band-tailed Pigeon 06:34 AM

✓ Northern Flicker 06:35 AM

✓ Dark-eyed Junco 06:38 AM

✓ Acorn Woodpecker 06:41 AM

✓ Hermit Thrush 06:43 AM

✓ Pileated Woodpecker 06:53 AM

Two different directions. One followed by loud drumming.

✓ Anna's Hummingbird 06:55 AM

✓ Black-throated Gray Warbler 07:02 AM

✓ Bushtit 07:14 AM

✓ Yellow-rumped Warbler 07:32 AM

Singing

✓ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 07:38 AM

✓ Common Raven 07:41 AM

✓ Golden Eagle 07:45 AM

✓ California Scrub-Jay 07:46 AM

✓ Ash-throated Flycatcher 07:48 AM

(1 California Vole) 07:56 AM

✓ Golden-crowned Sparrow 08:01 AM

- ✓ Golden-crowned Sparrow 08:01 AM
- ✓ White-crowned Sparrow 08:01 AM
- ✓ Virginia Rail 08:14 AM
- ✓ Western Bluebird 08:21 AM
- ✓ European Starling 08:25 AM
- ✓ Red-tailed Hawk 08:35 AM
- ✓ Red-shouldered Hawk 08:45 AM

Arastradero Preserve 08:45 AM

- ✓ House Wren 08:50 AM
- ✓ Turkey Vulture 08:55 AM
- ✓ Violet-green Swallow 08:56 AM
- ✓ Red-winged Blackbird 09:02 AM
- ✓ Barn Swallow 09:07 AM
- ✓ Vaux's Swift 09:07 AM
- ✓ Brown-headed Cowbird 09:09 AM
- ✓ Bullock's Oriole 09:09 AM
- ✓ Great Blue Heron 09:12 AM
- ✓ Rock Pigeon 09:12 AM
- ✓ House Finch 09:14 AM
- ✓ Purple Finch 09:18 AM
- ✓ Cedar Waxwing 09:20 AM
- ✓ Lesser Goldfinch 09:21 AM
- ✓ Cooper's Hawk 09:26 AM
- ✓ Greater Yellowlegs 09:34 AM

Identified by voice

- ✓ Killdeer 09:35 AM
- ✓ Canada Goose 09:35 AM
- ✓ Cliff Swallow 09:37 AM
- (California Ground Squirrel) 09:40 AM
- ✓ White-tailed Kite 09:45 AM
- ✓ Western Kingbird 09:49 AM
- ✓ Mallard 10:08 AM
- ✓ Tree Swallow 10:11 AM
- ✓ Northern Rough-winged Swallow 10:19 AM
- ✓ White-throated Swift 10:22 AM

Headed to Palo Alto Baylands 10:28 AM

- ✓ Snowy Egret 10:35 AM
- ✓ Forster's Tern 10:35 AM
- ✓ Double-crested Cormorant 10:35 AM
- ✓ Black-crowned Night-Heron 10:36 AM
- ✓ Ruddy Duck 10:36 AM
- ✓ American Coot 10:39 AM
- ✓ California Gull 10:40 AM
- ✓ Northern Shoveler 10:41 AM
- ✓ Green-winged Teal 10:41 AM
- ✓ Willet 10:43 AM
- ✓ Canvasback 10:49 AM
- ✓ Blue-winged Teal 10:51 AM

Pair

- ✓ Whimbrel 10:53 AM
- ✓ Dunlin 10:59 AM
- ✓ Western Sandpiper 10:59 AM
- ✓ American Avocet 11:01 AM
- ✓ Black Phoebe 11:14 AM

Headed to Coast County Forebay 11:15 AM

Headed to Coast Casey Forebay 11:15 AM

- ✓ Common Yellowthroat 11:26 AM
- ✓ Green Heron 11:26 AM
- ✓ Marsh Wren 11:29 AM
- ✓ Surf Scoter 11:34 AM
- ✓ Great Egret 11:34 AM
- ✓ Marbled Godwit 11:38 AM
- ✓ Savannah Sparrow 11:46 AM
- ✓ Gadwall 11:56 AM
- ✓ Northern Pintail 12:00 PM
- ✓ American Wigeon 12:00 PM

Flyover

- ✓ Semipalmated Plover 12:08 PM
- ✓ Black-necked Stilt 12:08 PM
- ✓ Long-billed Dowitcher 12:14 PM
- (1 Raccoon) 12:15 PM
- ✓ Belted Kingfisher 12:31 PM
- ✓ Pied-billed Grebe 01:08 PM
- ✓ American White Pelican 01:21 PM
- ✓ Great-tailed Grackle 01:22 PM
- ✓ Eurasian Collared-Dove 01:26 PM
- ✓ House Sparrow 01:27 PM
- ✓ Hooded Oriole 01:38 PM
- ✓ Northern Harrier 01:41 PM
- ✓ Western Meadowlark 02:11 PM
- ✓ Burrowing Owl 02:23 PM

Resting at the side of a ground Squirrel mound. A truck came by and he woke up, ran to the top of the mound, and then flew away.

- ✓ Cinnamon Teal 02:42 PM
- ✓ Redhead 03:01 PM

Submitted notes to eBird.

Leaving Alviso; headed to Ed Levin 03:21 PM

67°F, only a little windy. Some light rain 03:36 PM

- ✓ Selasphorus Hummingbird sp. 04:06 PM
- ✓ Brewer's Blackbird 04:44 PM
- (Hoary Bat! 05:01 PM Feeding over Spring Valley Pond at upper Ed Levin)
- ✓ American Kestrel 05:28 PM

On Marsh Road (off Felter Road) 05:41 PM

- ✓ Yellow-billed Magpie 05:47 PM
- ✓ Loggerhead Shrike 05:59 PM

Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve

Colder, drizzly and windy

- ✓ Horned Lark 06:40 PM

Ulistac Natural Area

- ✓ Common Gallinule 07:55 PM

Home again

Listened for Barn Owls, no luck
Finished around 9pm

AOU Order:

Canada Goose

Gadwall

American Wigeon

American wigeon
Mallard
Blue-winged Teal
Cinnamon Teal
Northern Shoveler
Northern Pintail
Green-winged Teal
Canvasback
Redhead
Surf Scoter
Ruddy Duck
California Quail
Wild Turkey
Pied-billed Grebe
Rock Pigeon
Band-tailed Pigeon
Eurasian Collared-Dove
Mourning Dove
Vaux's Swift
White-throated Swift
Anna's Hummingbird
Rufous or Allen's Hummingbird
Virginia Rail
Common Gallinule
American Coot
Black-necked Stilt
American Avocet
Semipalmated Plover
Killdeer
Greater Yellowlegs
Willet
Whimbrel
Marbled Godwit
Western Sandpiper
Dunlin
Long-billed Dowitcher
California Gull
Forster's Tern
Double-crested Cormorant
American White Pelican
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Snowy Egret
Green Heron
Black-crowned Night-Heron
Turkey Vulture
White-tailed Kite
Northern Harrier
Cooper's Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Golden Eagle
Great Horned Owl
Burrowing Owl
Belted Kingfisher
Acorn Woodpecker
Nuttall's Woodpecker
North American Flicker

Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
American Kestrel
Black Phoebe
Ash-throated Flycatcher
Western Kingbird
Loggerhead Shrike
Steller's Jay
California Scrub-Jay
Yellow-billed Magpie
American Crow
Common Raven
Horned Lark
Tree Swallow
Violet-green Swallow
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Cliff Swallow
Barn Swallow
Chestnut-backed Chickadee
Oak Titmouse
Bushtit
Bewick's Wren
House Wren
Marsh Wren
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Wrentit
Western Bluebird
Hermit Thrush
American Robin
Northern Mockingbird
European Starling
Cedar Waxwing
House Sparrow
Lesser Goldfinch
Purple Finch
House Finch
Orange-crowned Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Black-throated Gray Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Spotted Towhee
California Towhee
Savannah Sparrow
Song Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Golden-crowned Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Black-headed Grosbeak
Western Tanager
Red-winged Blackbird
Western Meadowlark
Brewer's Blackbird
Great-tailed Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Hooded Oriole
Bullock's Oriole

Total species seen: 115
Duration: 15 1/2 hours
Miles walked: 12

Barry & Ginger Langdon-Lassagne
The Piratical Flycatchers

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Posted by: wilmot <wilmot@me.com>

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