

BIRDING NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Site Guides to 72 of the Best Birding Spots

by
Jean Richmond

Written for
Mt. Diablo Audubon Society
1985

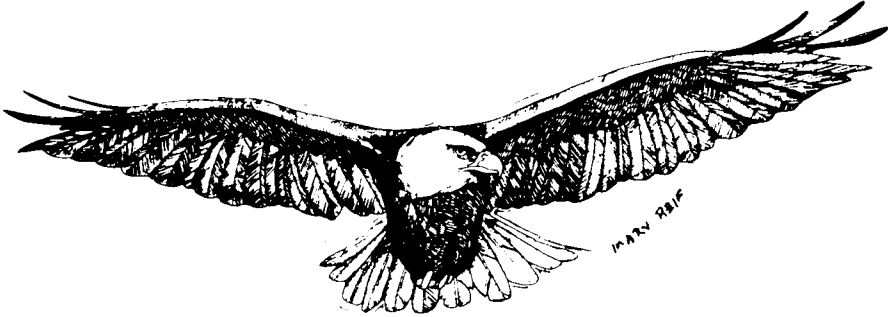
**Dedicated to
my husband, Rich**

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Birding Northern California

This book is a guide to many birding areas in northern California, primarily within 100 miles of the San Francisco Bay Area and easily birded on a one-day outing. Also included are several favorite spots which local birders cover on weekend trips. These Guides were originally published 1976-85 in **The Quail**, monthly newsletter of Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, as "Greater Bay Area Site Guides" which I wrote while editor for MDAS. Early issues have been completely rewritten and all the Guides have been revised and/or updated.

The intent of the book, as it was in the newsletter, is to guide both local and out-of-area birders to good birding spots and to show them where to go when they arrive and what birds to expect. The temperate climate in this area encourages year-round birding and with the richness of our birdlife there is always somewhere to go and good birds to be seen.

Birders in this area are very fortunate to live near so many areas of such diverse habitats and avifauna. Winter birding produces the greatest number of species and individuals due to the influx of waterfowl and shorebirds from fall through spring. Summer birding is somewhat slower, especially inland where temperatures are very warm or hot, although there are many birds to be seen and rarities can be found among them. This is the season to enjoy the delightful weather of the Sierra Nevada and the montane species there. Some fall migrants can be a challenge as they are not singing and many are immature birds but spring migrants are in bright plumage and in full song.

How To Use This Guide

Starting point for these trips is the east end of the well-known San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge at the junction of I-80, I-580 and SR-17 in Alameda County. Directions to reach any spot follow these and other major roadways through the area. The area map indicates major thoroughfares to enable the birder to reach the general vicinity of the numbered sites. Written directions for these routes and the more detailed ones nearer your destination are meant to get you to where you want to go. A good road map from an auto club, tourist bureau or chamber of commerce, service station, or bookstore will make the Guides easier to follow.

IMPORTANT. Please note that Caltrans has announced forthcoming changes in highway designations. In 1986, SR-17 from I-280 in San Jose north to the Bay Bridge will become I-880, but will still be called Nimitz Freeway. Farther north, SR-17 between Albany and San Rafael will eventually become part of I-580. In Sacramento, I-880

has already been changed to part of I-80 while former I-80 through the city became Bus. I-80. Those unfamiliar with our highway system should study their maps before starting out.

For information on distribution and abundance of birds, I highly recommend **Birds of Northern California, An Annotated Field List** by McCaskie, De Benedictis, Erickson and Morlan, 2nd edition, 1979, \$6. Bargraphs indicate usual arrival/departure dates and relative abundance while notes include peculiarities of distribution and field identification of selected species. This book is available from Golden Gate Audubon Society (the publisher), 1550 Shattuck Avenue, #204, Berkeley, CA 94709; Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum, 1901 First Avenue, Walnut Creek, CA 94596; National Audubon Society, 376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon, CA 94920; or area natural history bookstores.

For up-to-date information on bird sightings, call the Northern California Rare Bird Alert, (415) 843-2211, which changes weekly; for details in two specific areas, call the Monterey RBA, (408) 449-6100, and the Sacramento RBA, (916) 481-0118.

Birding Etiquette

Do not disturb the birds, especially nesting ones. Approaching too near a nest will alert predators to the location and jeopardize both adults and young. Also, if you must use a tape recorder, do so **very** sparingly so as to not upset territorial birds. Squeaking, “pishing” and other such noises made by you will often bring out curious birds so that you may see them. Safety of the birds is of prime importance!

Most of these areas are on public land such as parks or along roadways but use common sense and courtesy there as well as on any private land. Above all, do not trespass on private property and do respect the rights and privacy of owners. There are a few places, such as at Stockton Oxidation Ponds, where there are “No Trespassing” signs but birders are welcome. Remember, failure to behave properly will cause problems and closures to birders in the future.

Terminology

Nomenclature and species sequence follow **A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds**, 6th edition, 1983.

I-80: numbered Interstate freeways.

US-101: numbered U.S. Highways, may or may not be freeway.

SR-24: numbered State Routes, may or may not be freeway.

A3, J2: such combinations are numbered County Roads.

MP-12.34: mile post mileage on small white metal posts beside roadways.

Spring, fall: migrant at these seasons, may linger a while.

Summer: summer resident, here spring-fall, usually nests.

Winter: winter resident, here fall-spring.

Note: Seasons vary widely with different species. Summer resident Allen's Hummingbird is in the Bay Area from late January to September, Olive-sided Flycatcher late April into October. Winter resident shorebirds begin returning from the north in July and some remain until May. Thus the terms as used in this book are generalizations.

Park Information

East Bay Regional Park District, 11500 Skyline Blvd., Oakland, CA 94619; (415) 531-9300. Maps of regional parks are available here and at Tilden Regional Park Environmental Center.

Mt. Diablo State Park, P.O. Box 250, Diablo, CA 94528; (415) 837-2525.

California Department of Parks and Recreation, P.O. Box 2390, Sacramento, CA 95811, has brochures for units in the state park system. A nominal fee is charged for the brochures here, at regional offices, or at the individual parks.



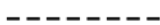



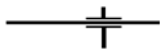

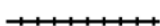




Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), U.S. Park Service, Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA 94123; (415) 556-0506; offices also at the Cliff House near Lincoln Park and at Rodeo Lagoon. There is an excellent brochure with a map of this urban park which extends through San Francisco and Marin Counties.

One Last Word

When birding, carry along a small notebook and pencil. If you find a rarity, carefully note and write down all details, preferably without consulting a field guide, then contact Golden Gate Audubon Society which sponsors the Rare Bird Alert (415) 843-2222, or the RBA, 843-2211, and leave a message. Pack your binoculars, lunch, road map and this guide then head for the great outdoors.

Good luck and good birding!

Map Symbols Used

	Boundary		Stream
	Trail		Intermittent Stream
	Roadway		Waterfall
	Overcrossing		Marsh
	Railroad		Shoreline
	Parking Area		
	Locked Gate		
	Building		

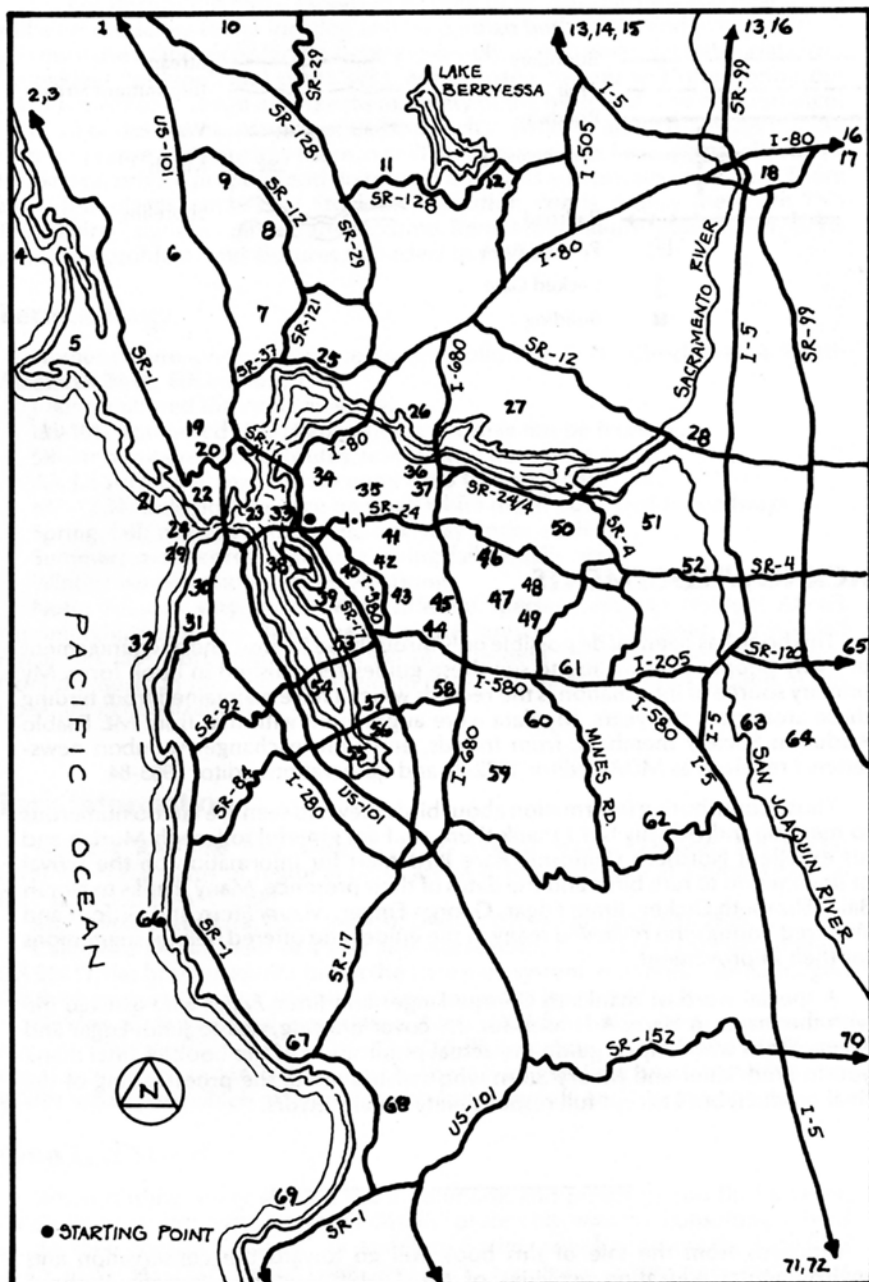
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book has been made possible only through the interest and encouragement of many people who wished to see these guides republished in book form. My primary source of information is the records which I have maintained from birding these areas over the years. My data were augmented with that from Mt. Diablo Audubon Society members, from friends, and from exchange Audubon newsletters I received as MDAS editor 1972-83 and observations editor 1983-84.

Those contributing information about birds they had seen are far too numerous to mention individually but I thank them all. I am grateful to Joseph Morlan and his excellent Northern California Rare Bird Alert for information on the arrival of uncommon to rare birds and the dates of their presence. Many thanks to Norah Bain, Elizabeth Dickey, Jimm Edgar, George Finger, Maury Stern and Gifford and Winifred Young who reviewed many of the guides and offered helpful suggestions for their improvement.

A special word of thanks to George Finger and Jimm Edgar who assisted me with the maps, to Harry Adamson for the cover drawing, and to Jimm Edgar and Maury Stern who helped guide the actual publication of the book. A final thank you to Fred Safier and Maury Stern who assisted me in the proofreading of the final product, but I accept full responsibility for any errors.

Proceeds from the sale of this book will go toward the conservation and environmental education activities of Mt. Diablo Audubon Society. Without conservation there would be few birds to delight us, and without education the work of conservation is much more difficult.



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58. ALAMEDA CREEK QUARRIES and TRAIL

Alameda County

Vallejo Mill Historic Park is a small area of bushes and trees with weeds along the railroad tracks and a grassy hillside beyond. The creek/flood control channel with areas of sandbars, rocks and marsh and the old quarries and surrounding vegetation, thick in places, are inviting to many birds.

Go south on SR-17 to Thornton Avenue in Fremont then east 4 miles on SR-84 to the signal on Mission Blvd. at Niles Canyon Road.

Turn right 1 block then left into small **Vallejo Mill Park** for many landbirds including House Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Lincoln's Sparrow (winter) and possibly Golden Eagle overhead.

Drive across the highway and turn left on Old Canyon Road, cross the bridge and continue $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to the staging area on the left. Walk west along the south side of **Alameda Creek** for Greater Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper and Common Snipe among shorebirds and 7 gull species including Thayer's on rocks and sandbars. The marsh beyond the SR-84 bridge has American Bittern, Common Moorhen, Spotted Sandpiper, Marsh Wren and Common Yellowthroat. Just past the railroad bridge detour left over the tracks-carefully-to check 2 ponds, dry at times, for Green-backed Heron, Wood and Ring-necked Ducks and Belted Kingfisher. Farther west along the trail are 3 ponds which have grebes, ducks and shorebirds.

From the staging area return to the signal at Mission Blvd., drive west under the tracks and right on Niles Blvd., left on H Street then right on 3rd Street to **Niles Community Park**. At 2 ponds west of the tennis courts are Green-backed Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, rails, Common Moorhen and Spotted Sandpiper. Check bushes and trees for woodpeckers, House and Bewick's Wrens, both kinglets (winter), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Swainson's (summer) and Hermit (winter) Thrushes, warblers, Fox (winter) and Song Sparrows. In open areas are Water Pipit (winter), Savannah Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Lesser and American Gold-finches. Continue west along the north side of the channel.

Alameda Creek Trail and nearby ponds (old quarries) are on both sides of the Flood Control Channel. Gulls often congregate on sandy edges of the channel. At Shinn Pond, just east of the railroad and BART bridges, may be Canada Geese among wintering waterfowl, shorebirds and Common Yellowthroat. Beneath the railroad bridge can be Green-backed Heron, American Bittern, rails and shorebirds.

Beyond the BART tracks is a long pond, the former creek channel, with grebes, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great and Snowy Egrets, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Common Merganser and other ducks, raptors, rails and shorebirds. Swallows are over the water in summer; wrens, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, warblers and sparrows are in surrounding willows. A locked gate is to keep out off-roaders but hopefully future plans will include birding access. Meanwhile, look from the trail.

Facilities: latrines at Old Canyon Road staging area and along the channel. **Best birding:** fall through early spring. Runoff after heavy rain may flood sandbars and marsh in the creekbed.

Other birds: Red-throated Loon (rare, winter), 4 grebes, ducks include Bluewinged and Cinnamon Teal, Redhead and both scaup, Black-shouldered Kite, Bald Eagle (December 1983), accipiters, Merlin (winter), shorebirds may include Semipalmated Plover, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet and Long-billed Curlew, White-throated Swift, Anna's, Rufous (migrant) and Allen's (summer) Hummingbirds, Red-breasted Sapsucker (winter), Black and Say's Phoebes, both jays, Yellow-billed Magpie (rare), Rufous-sided and Brown Towhees, Golden-crowned (winter) and White-crowned Sparrows, Northern Oriole (summer), Purple (winter) and House Finches and Pine Siskin (winter).

38. ALAMEDA SOUTH SHORE and DOOLITTLE POND

Alameda County

The South Shore area along the edge of San Francisco Bay has open water, mudflats, beaches and tidal marsh with trees in the parks. Doolittle Pond, open to tidal action, has 2 nesting islands plus nearby mudflats and marsh.

Go south on SR-17, follow signs to Webster Street and through the Tube to Alameda, continue to Central Avenue, turn left 2 blocks to 8th Street then right 2 blocks to Otis Drive. Turn right into the Robert Crown Memorial State Beach parking lot.

Walk north at **Crown State Beach** to a small pond; stand or walk quietly as rails feed at the edge of the cattails and a few ducks may be among the coots. Landbirds are in and around nearby trees and shrubs and the tall trees beyond are sometimes productive. From atop the nearby seawall check the bay on winter high tides for loons, grebes and ducks, exposed mudflats for feeding shorebirds on ebbing tide. Continue along the seawall or the walkway past Headquarters to a small nearby cove, scan water and mudflats of the cove beyond for terns and shorebirds, and look among boats at the yacht harbor for waterbirds. Least Terns may be here in summer.

Return past Headquarters, swing left and check willows and other trees around grassy areas, Head left toward the tall trees of **Washington Park**, climb the stairs and check park trees for woodland birds. In summer, Hooded Oriole has been among the several species here.

Leave the state beach, turn right to the bay, then left on Shoreline Drive to Broadway and park nearby. Thoroughly survey **South Shore** here then walk southeast (left) along the shore. High winter tides flush out rails. Return along the beach beyond Broadway to Park Street, checking sandy points and small coves between. Waterbirds and ducks are on the water close to shore and out in the channel, while along mudflats, sand and water edges are many wintering shorebirds of many species. Snowy Plovers have abandoned the sand near Park Street in recent years, victims of beach work by bulldozers there. Overhead are gulls and terns, including Common Tern in summer and fall, and Least in summer.

Drive east on Broadway, turn right on Otis Drive, cross the bridge and bear left at the signal, follow Doolittle Drive past the golfcourse and park at Harbor Bay Parkway. Across the road at **Doolittle Pond** in winter the

islands, mudflats and open water have large numbers of waterbirds, ducks, shorebirds, gulls and terns.

San Leandro Bay Regional Shoreline (see Guide) is a short distance farther south.

At **Lincoln Park**, a few blocks east of Otis Drive up Fernside Blvd. or High Street, there are a number of landbirds and also roosting Black-crowned Night Herons.

Facilities: picnic tables, restrooms at Crown Beach, Washington Park and Lincoln Park. **Best birding:** fall through spring, good in summer also; morning light is best. Birdlife, varied with tides, is most abundant as tide ebbs and birds come to feed. Winter extreme high tides bring rails out of the marsh so arrive 30-60 minutes before peak high tide as rails may disappear into onshore vegetation.

Other birds: 3 loons and 5 grebes in winter, both pelicans are possible, herons, egrets, Canada Goose, Brant has been seen (spring), many winter ducks may include Eurasian Wigeon or Barrow's Goldeneye, Clapper and Virginia Rails, Sora, many shorebirds include Red Knot (winter), Baird's Sandpiper (migrant) and sometimes Red Phalarope (migrant), many gulls, several terns have included Arctic and Black, Water Pipit (winter) and a number of landbirds.

61. ALTAMONT PASS AREA

Alameda County

Many hawks winter throughout this area which includes flat grasslands at the base of the rolling grassy hills. Trees are very scattered except along the few watercourses and around the occasional farmyards. Several ponds in the area attract unusual birds.

Go east on I-580 to Vasco Road in Livermore, cross the freeway, turn right 0.9 mile on Northfront Road then left on Laughlin Road.

Ferruginous Hawks may be along **Laughlin Road**, on the ground, atop poles or trees; Golden Eagles soar over nearby hills, Bald Eagles may be near Frick Lake a large pond on the right, which often has ducks, many gulls including Thayer's some shorebirds; immature Glaucous Gull. Tundra Swan, Ross' Goose and Oldsquaw (November-December 1983) have been here. Along the road beyond the pond are Black and Say's Phoebes, Western Bluebird and Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbirds.

Return to Northfront Road, go east, turn south on **Greenville Road** and look for Bald Eagles among raptors, especially toward the south end, Yellow-billed Magpies may be found along here.

Return north, turn right 1¼ miles on Patterson Pass Road then left on **S. Flynn Road** which becomes N. Flynn Road in about 3 miles. Along Flynn Road hawk soar above hills or perch atop trees, utility poles or fence posts. From a turn out ½ mile south of I-580 is a good view of raptors on and over the hill across the freeway. A scope is helpful.

Cross I-580 at the north end of N. Flynn Road which becomes Carroll Road north of the freeway. In a mile or so turn right on **Altamont Pass Road** and watch for hawks above the hills and atop poles. Mountain Bluebirds may also be along here. At a marshy area and pond on the left are Common Snipe,

Black and Say's Phoebes, Water Pipit and blackbirds.

At Grant Line Road turn left 0.8 mile then right on **Midway Road**. Check cottonwoods and willows for owls and other birds, watch the sky and perches for hawks.

From Midway Road turn right on

Patterson Pass Road and look for Mountain Bluebirds as well as raptors. Rock Wrens are around rocky outcrops east of the pass, From the west end of this road turn right on Greenville Road to I-580.

Head west to Livermore Avenue, turn north $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, then east 1 mile of **Hartford Road** and park at the corner. Walk the field to the southeast in winter for Short-eared Owl. In late afternoon the owls are often flying and can be seen from the road.

Return to I-580 and turn west, or go north 2 miles on Livermore Avenue turn west $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles on Manning Road, then right on Highland Road about 2 mile to Marciel Road. The riparian woodland in the creek along the road in this vicinity usually has good birding. Continue west $12\frac{1}{2}$ miles via Highland, Tassajara and Sycamore Valley Roads to I-680 in Danville, turn north to SR-24 and turn west.

Facilities: none, other than at a service station on Grant Line Road at I-580 or in nearby Livermore. **Good birding:** late fall through early spring.

Other birds: Turkey Vulture, Black-shouldered Kite, Northern Harrier, accipiters, Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawks, Prairie Falcon, American Kestrel, Merlin, Common Barn-Owl, Great Horned and possibly Long-eared Owls, Horned Lark, Common Raven, Loggerhead Shrike, several sparrows, Lesser and American Goldfinches.

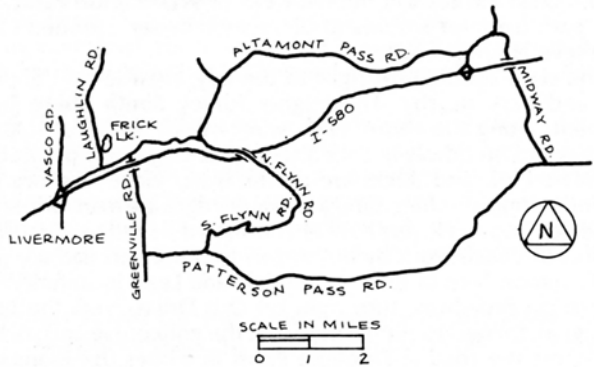
9. ANNADEL STATE PARK

Sonoma County

This undeveloped 4900-acre park has 35 miles of trails through varied habitats including Douglas fir, redwood, oak woodland and chaparral with riparian woodland along the creek. The trails are mostly moderate grade but Steves "S" is steep.

Go northeast on I-80 past Vallejo, west on SR-37, north on SR-121 then left on SR-12 for about 17 miles beyond Sonoma. Turn left on Los Alamos Road, right on Melita Road then left on Montgomery Drive for 0.6 mile. Turn left on Channel Drive 2 miles to road's end.

Along **Channel Drive** go slowly, watch and listen for woodland birds,



Wood Duck and Belted Kingfisher are at the pond on the left and swallows are overhead. Look for Winter Wren in tangles, vireos and warblers in trees and bushes, MacGillivray's Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat along the creek.

Around the **parking lot** and along the **creek** are many woodland and riparian species. Walk the creek trail east, watching for Red-shouldered Hawk overhead and in trees, and for hummingbirds, especially around homes across the stream. MacGillivray's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat and Yellow-breasted Chat are along the creek, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Northern Oriole and woodland birds are on the right. Near the park boundary look for Common Snipe in the creekbed, Western Meadowlark and blackbirds in the grassy areas,

Walk **Lake Trail** uphill from the far end of the parking lot for a variety of woodland birds. Around a grassy area with scattered trees are hawks, swifts, swallows, Western Bluebird, Lazuli Bunting and Northern Oriole. Look for Pileated Woodpecker around the junction with Two Quarry Trail.

Lake Ilsanjo is 2.7 miles out Lake Trail; **Ledsen Marsh**, 2.5 miles from Lawndale Road (off SR-12) in an arid area, draws much wildlife, including geese and ducks.

Minimal **facilities**: latrine at the parking lot; no water, carry your own.

Best birding: spring and fall; summer is rather warm, trails may be too muddy in winter. Park map at the entrance or California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sonoma Area, P.O. Box 167, Sonoma, CA 95476.

Other birds: Black-shouldered Kite, both eagles have been seen, owls include Northern Pygmy-Owl, Lewis' and (in winter) Red-breasted Sapsucker among woodpeckers, several flycatchers in summer, 3 nuthatches are possible, Bewick's, House and Marsh Wrens, both kinglets in winter, Swainson's (summer) and Hermit (winter) Thrushes, Western Tanager (summer), sparrows include Rufous-crowned and Lark, White-throated possible in winter, Evening Grosbeak has been found.

1. ARCATA AREA

Humboldt County

Around Arcata are varied habitats including open water of ocean and bay, mud-flats, beach, tidal marsh, cypress trees, willow clumps, and open grassy areas which have wet places and rain ponds in winter. This area is excellent for vagrants.

Drive north via SR-17 then US-101 to Arcata, about 300 miles, 6 hours travel time.

To reach the **Oxidation Ponds** go west from town on SR-255, turn south on G Street ½ mile to a wide left bend, then right over the tracks and through the gate of the ponds where birders are tolerated. Many shorebirds are on mudflats during low tide, ducks and gulls are also here. Nearby Arcata Marina has ducks and gulls at high tide, many shorebirds at low tide.

The **Arcata Bottoms** is bounded by US-101 and Arcata on the east, Arcata Bay on the south, Mad River Slough on the west, and the Mad River on the north. Go west on SR-255, turn left on V Street then right

on Bottom (Old Samoa) Road and watch for Burrowing Owl and longspurs (winter). Check wet areas on both sides of the road which may have Solitary, Baird's and Pectoral Sandpipers in migration, a pond on the left has waterbirds. Near the SR-255 junction, a Snow Bunting was **seen** in 1975. Continue north on Jackson Ranch Road and watch in winter for Lesser Golden-Plover and longspurs before the first turn.

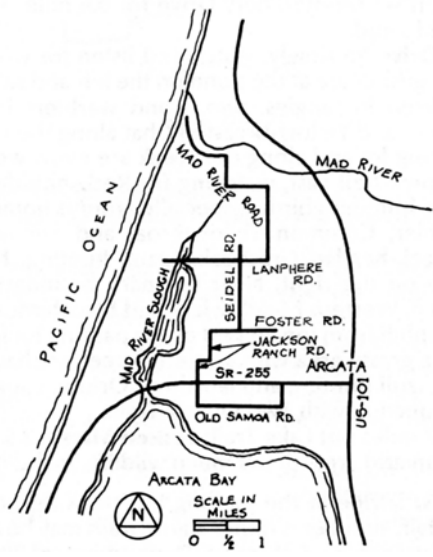
Just south of the Foster Road junction, walk west through a short grass field to a long grass field beyond and look for Short-eared Owl. At Foster Road, American Tree Sparrow has been found. Turn right on Foster and watch in winter for Snow and Ross' Geese by the road. Turn north on Seidel Road and check blackbird flocks for Tricolored, migrant Yellow-headed and possibly Rusty. Continue on Seidel and turn left on Lanphere Road to the Mad River Slough bridge where Little and Common Black-headed Gulls have been found in fall or winter. Return east to Mad River Road, turn north and look for shorebirds in fields near the river in spring.

The road ends at Mad River County Beach. In willows near the southeast corner of the parking lot look for warblers and such, while in bushes along the north edge, American Tree has been with sparrows in winter. Walking the trail north from the northeast corner, willows on the right are too dense but those on the left harbor many birds, possibly including migrant Worm-eating among many warblers. Continue on to the river and search the area for shorebirds.

To bird the **Samoa Peninsula** go west from town on SR-255, cross the tracks and take the first right turn - a Snowy Owl (rare) wintered here 1973/74. Continue south on SR-255 to the high bridge over Humboldt Bay; look for waterfowl which may include Eurasian Wigeon in winter, then go south through Samoa to Fairhaven. Willows on the right just before the old Eureka Airport may be good, those just beyond are excellent for varied birds which have included Rose-breasted Grosbeak, White-throated Sparrow and Orchard Oriole.

At the **Coast Guard Station** check trees around the buildings, the many willows on the right beyond, and trees at road's end for Winter Wren, vireos and many warblers. Walk out on North Jetty (but be CAREFUL as tide + wind = sea over the top) for Wandering Tattler and, in winter, Surfbird and Rock Sandpiper.

Azalea Reserve State Park, just north of Arcata on SR-200, has Vaux's Swift in summer, perhaps Black Swift in spring, and Common Nighthawk late May-June. **Trinidad State Beach**, 15 miles north of Arcata on US-101, has



nesting Tufted Puffins on Trinidad Rock off Trinidad Head. **Patrick's Point State Park**, 20 miles north of town on US-101, has Gray Jays around headquarters and other good birding through the park. **Dry Lagoon State Park**, just north of Patrick's Point, has geese, ducks, Glaucous (rare) and other gulls, and varied migrant species on the 3 lagoons along the highway.

To reach the **mouth of Jacoby Creek**, south of Arcata on US-101 cross the slough before the creek, turn right just before a little house in the marsh, cross the tracks and park. Well-worn trails lead to the creek mouth but the tide determines how far you may go. Winter waterfowl may include Eurasian Wigeon, Merlin is possible in winter, shorebirds are here at high tide, and many gulls can be seen.

At **Eureka Slough**, just north of Eureka, pull off US-101 to look for waterbirds, waterfowl and shorebirds. Also check the bay along US-101 south of Eureka wherever you can safely pull off the highway and park.

South of Eureka go west on **King Salmon Road** a mile to the sewer ponds and look from the outside for waterbirds and shorebirds. Tropical Kingbird (fall), Palm Warbler (fall, winter) and other migrants may also be seen here. Continue to Buhne Road, park, walk north and look for possible Yellow-billed Loon in winter, water-birds, many waterfowl may include Redhead and Black Scoter, shorebirds, gulls may include Sabine's in migration, and Pigeon Guillemot and Marbled Murrelet are possible, From the marina at road's end look for Red-necked Grebe in winter and thousands of "Black" Brant in South Bay, perhaps 40,000 in late April-early May.

Facilities at Arcata Marina, Mad River Beach, Patrick's Point and King Salmon. Camping: Patrick's Point and KOA, south of Arcata. Many good motels in town. **Birds of Northwest California** by Yokum and Harris is excellent, write to Humboldt State University Bookstore, Arcata, CA 95521, for availability and current price.

Other birds: Most species found in Northern California have been here at one time or another. Current sightings are posted in the Wildlife Management Department of the School of Natural Resources at Humboldt State University in Arcata.

26. BENICIA STATE RECREATION AREA

Solano County

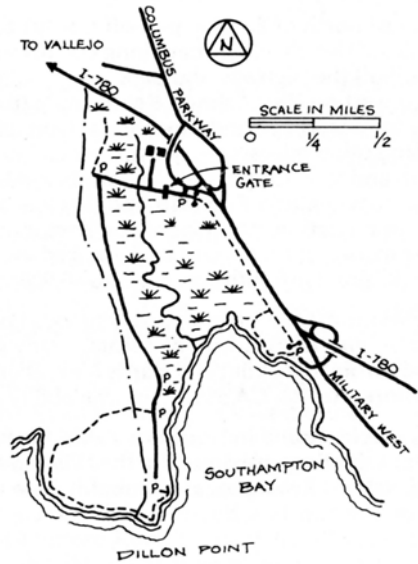
The park consists mostly of open Southamptton Bay and its large adjacent marsh. The uplands have fennel and a variety of shrubs along with scattered trees while the hills to the west are open grasslands. This park, designed for recreation, is heavily used by fishermen, joggers, hikers and bikers, especially on weekends.

Go north on I-80 through Vallejo, turn south 3 miles on I-80, take Military West exit then turn sharply right into the parking lot. **Stay out** of marshes - look from the edges and beyond!

At Southamptton Bay morning light is best. On the water are usually rafts of various waterfowl in winter, many gulls are often close to shore. On mudflats on ebbing tide are many shorebirds. Scope tule edges at the north end for dabbling ducks; if the tide is far out, check little channels on the

mudflats. Walk the dirt trail north along the bay, checking water, mudflats and tules. With luck, rails may be around the tules, especially in an open spot full of driftwood, and Common Snipe may be here in winter. In fennel, bushes and willows nearby look for Loggerhead Shrike, Common Yellowthroat and, in winter, Savannah and Lincoln's Sparrows, Lesser and American Goldfinches. Winter blackbird flocks may include immature Red-wings lacking red patches.

The trail skirts the marsh then bends east to a paved walking/jogging path which parallels the freeway. A walk left leads to the park's main entry gate but turn right toward your car, watching for Common Yellowthroat and Lincoln's



Sparrow among many birds. Drive the freeway a mile toward Vallejo, exit on Columbus Parkway, turn left across the overhead to the park's main entrance and stop at the nearby parking area.

Walk the paved trail south to bird the small cattail marsh and nearby eucalyptus trees. Return and walk through the park entrance to look for varied small birds in pines along the left side of the road. In winter Lincoln's Sparrows are often in the small cattails near the road or along a channel to the east. Hawks and Great Horned Owls may be in the eucalyptus trees behind nearby park residences.

Drive through the automated gate which requires 8 quarters. At the north end of the park where the road makes a sharp left bend, turn right and park by the pines. (Walk back from here if the entrance parking is filled.) Walk north to a small marsh near the freeway, if rains have not flooded the old road. American Bittern (rare) has been here, Common Snipe (winter), Common Yellowthroat and Lincoln's Sparrow (winter) are likely here.

Drive on to the large grassy picnic area on the right for Anna's Hummingbird, Bushtit (rare), Northern Mockingbird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet (uncommon, winter), Yellow-rumped Warbler (winter), Dark-eyed junco (rare, winter), sparrows including Song and, in winter, Lincoln's around the west fence, Golden-crowned and White-crowned. Just beyond here is a parking area on the left with picnic tables nearby. Being on high ground, there is an excellent view of the marsh and rails (often directly below), Marsh Wren, Common Yellowthroat, Song Sparrow and blackbirds. Scope open water for waterbirds, waterfowl and gulls, mudflats for shorebirds.

Drive to Carqueinez Strait at Dillon Point at road's end. Walk down to the water's edge and bear right. Winter waterfowl may include Common Goldeneye and Red-breasted Merganser, among gulls may be Bonaparte's in riffles between river flow and the Bay. West of Dillon Point look for Say's

Phoebe and Water Pipit in winter on grassy hillsides along the shoreline, Rock Wren (rare, winter) on the bluff or among tideline boulders. Continue west through a fence at a stile. Be careful as shoreline rocks may be very slippery. Near the cable crossing is a good place for Spotted Sandpiper, Say's Phoebe and Rock Wren. If the tide is too high, just west of the fence climb the hill to the power tower and continue west to a dirt farm road.

At the point below the power tower climb up onto the hillside. In Driftwood Cove beyond are wintering waterfowl (Red-breasted Merganser has been here) and shorebirds while huge flocks of Brewer's Blackbirds are on hillsides. Return by climbing the hill to the power tower, then follow the hillside back along the strait or walk the dirt farm road north then east up the draw and over the hill, checking eucalyptus clumps on the way. In winter large flocks of Lesser and American Goldfinches, sometimes including Pine Siskins, may be here in the weeds. Walk down the east slope bearing a bit south to a gate just south of the main picnic area. Walk the road back to your car.

Facilities: restrooms at the large picnic area and Dillon Point. From many picnic tables are beautiful views of marsh, bay and strait. **Best birding:** late fall-spring. A scope is almost necessary for birding the open water and mudflats. Trails are mostly easy and level. Birdlist from Benicia Capitol State Historic Park, First and G Streets, P.O. Box 5, Benicia, CA 94510; (707) 745-3385.

Other birds: grebes (mostly Western), Great Blue Heron, both egrets, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Black-shouldered Kite, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed and rarely other hawks, rails (Virginia and Sora; Clapper and Black are rare), Caspian and Forster's Terns in summer, Belted Kingfisher (rare), Northern Flicker in winter, a few swallows, Western Meadowlark.

50. BLACK DIAMOND MINES REGIONAL PARK

Contra Costa County

This park is a mixed habitat of rolling valley grassland, open oak woodland and chaparral, with interesting rock formations, spectacular views and historical coal mining sites. This guide covers the Somersville area of the park. The Nortonville area, which has more thickly wooded habitat, is not so easily reached but a scenic loop of both areas can be covered in one day's birding.

Go east via I-580, SR-24 and SR-4 to Somersville Road in Antioch, turn south to the parking lot at the end; or from Walnut Creek go east on Ygnacio Valley and Kirker Pass Roads, turn right on Buchanan Road in Pittsburg, right again on Somersville Road. Parking fee on popular weekends. Poison oak is in some park areas.

Walk the road to the **picnic area**, checking grassy hills to the east and trees on the west for hawks overhead and along ridges, woodpeckers, Western Bluebird, both kinglets (winter), vireos (summer), warblers, Northern Oriole (summer), both towhees and several sparrows. In the picnic area look for swifts, woodpeckers, swallows (summer), Western Bluebird, vireos, warblers, sparrows and goldfinches.

Chaparral Loop Trail, east uphill at the north end of the picnic area, shortly turns south up a wooded canyon—a little steep in places. Just above the “powder magazine” terrain becomes chaparral-covered, with scattered trees; filmy pines with huge cones are Coulters. Look for hawks, swifts and swallows overhead, hummingbirds including Rufous in spring, Wrentit, wrens, California Thrasher, Western Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher anywhere along here in summer, both kinglets (winter), vireos (summer), warblers and sparrows. Townsend’s Solitaire has wintered in this general area.

Ridge Trail continues east uphill from the junction near a power tower. Check trees for woodpeckers, Bushtit and warblers, chaparral for hummingbirds, Wrentit, wrens, California Thrasher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and sparrows. Atop the hill is a grand view in all directions. The trail continues east through grasslands, connecting with other trails on rolling grassy hills. Or return westward.

From Chaparral Loop junction retrace your route down the hill or continue west to **Black Diamond Trail** and turn north. Seen through this area have been Great Horned Owl, Townsend’s Solitaire (winter) and Phainopepla. Head down the hill on Nortonville Trail past Rose Hill Cemetery to the picnic area. The grassy hillside near the cemetery has Black Phoebe, Lark Sparrow and Western Meadowlark. The more ambitious hiker can turn south on Black Diamond Trail to the Nortonville area of the park.

Return to your car along the fence, through trees by the stream. Here are Western Bluebird, kinglets, vireos, warblers, sparrows and Northern Oriole. Long-eared Owl has been here in winter.

Facilities: latrines at the parking lot and picnic area; water in the picnic area. Guided **mine tours** on weekends, information: (415) 757-2620.

Other birds: Black-shouldered Kite, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Greater Roadrunner has occurred, Common Poorwill possible (summer), swifts include Vaux’s in migration, woodpeckers may include Lewis’, Horned Lark, all 5 swallows in summer, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, wrens include Rock and Canyon, Swainson’s (summer) and Hermit and Varied (winter) Thrushes, possibly Mountain Bluebird in winter, Water Pipit (winter), our 3 vireos, several warblers (mostly migrant), Western Tanager (migrant), Black-headed (summer) and perhaps Blue (spring) Grosbeaks, Lazuli Bunting (summer), sparrows in summer can include Chipping, Black-chinned, Sage and Grasshopper, in winter include Vesper, Fox and Lincoln’s, blackbirds can include Tricolored, among goldfinches look for Lawrence’s.

4. BODEGA BAY

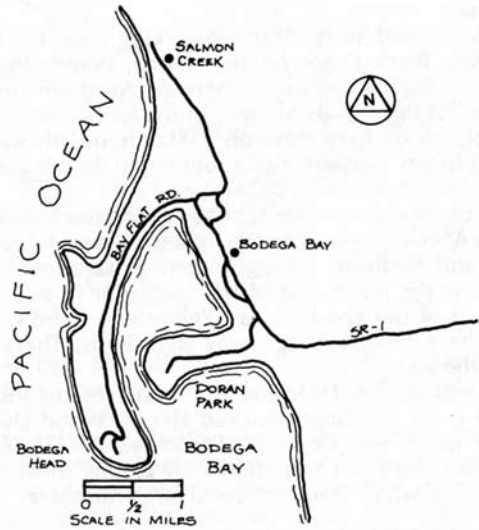
Sonoma County

With very diverse habitats, this area attracts a wide variety of birds. Along with open ocean and harbor, there are extensive mudflats, beaches, rocky shore, salt marsh at the southeast end of the lagoon, tidal ponds, eucalyptus groves and varied bushy vegetation.

Go north via SR-17 over San Rafael Bridge then US-101 to Petaluma, follow signs on Washington Street west toward the town of Bodega Bay. Called by most “Bodega Bay”, this is actually Bodega Harbor; the bay extends south from Doran Park to the mouth of Tomales Bay.

Just before town turn left toward Doran Park, stop just past the **sewer plant** entrance, walk west to the hillside above the sewer ponds and look for ducks and shorebirds. The mudflats below the plant may also be productive. Northern Shrike has been in this area in winter.

Continue to **Doran Park** (fee), park in the first parking lot and cross the road to the marsh trail. From the road and trail in winter check mudflats and grass for shorebirds and possible Short-eared Owl. Walk back to the large shallow pond across from the entrance kiosk and look for



ducks, shorebirds (including Baird’s and Pectoral Sandpipers in migration) and gulls, especially at high tide. Proceed to road’s end, birding harbor and bay, and their shores, check the jetties for Black Oystercatcher, Surfbird and Black-legged Kittiwake, and the channel for waterbirds including Red-necked Grebe and Black Scoter, sometimes Yellow-billed Loon or Oldsquaw in winter.

Return to SR-1, turn north $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, left again on **Smith Brothers Lane** angling toward the water and look on mudflats for many shorebirds of many species. Morning light with high ebbing tide is best. Black-crowned Night-Herons roost in pines along the road.

A mile north of town at MP-11 go left on East Shore Road to the bottom of the hill, then right on **Bay Flat Road**, stopping often to bird. Near Cypress Dunes Campground check cypresses for vagrants, the two “rail ponds” on the right for Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Snipe (winter), phalaropes (mostly migrant), Marsh Wren, Common Yellowthroat and a few ducks. Red-shouldered Hawk is in the area and Purple Martin has been seen. At Spud Point, just beyond the marinas, shorebirds, gulls and terns appear as this large sandspit emerges on ebbing tide and “Black” Brant are here at times. Check the next grove of eucalyptus trees for owls and just beyond there walk up “The Gulch”, a wooded ravine with dense vegetation, for many birds including vagrants.

At the foot of the hill scan the channel then walk the shoreline trail southeast, checking shore and channel for Black Oystercatcher, possibly Yellow-billed Loon or Oldsquaw in winter and Black Scoter. Tropical Kingbird (fall) and Townsend’s Solitaire (winter) have also been seen here. Drive up the hill, turn left at the fork then left again and park. Look down into “Hole in the Head” where American Bittern and Wood Duck have been found and where willows may have migrants. Drive to the end of this road, take a hillside trail above the harbor entrance, and check the jetties and shoreline.

Black Oystercatcher may be among species in this vicinity.

Return to the main road, turn left to the parking area atop **Bodega Head** and look for cormorants, Black Oystercatcher (nests), Wandering Tattler, Surfbird and Pigeon Guillemot (nests). Sometimes here are Northern Fulmar, shearwaters, Oldsquaw, jaegers, Sabine's Gull, Ancient Murrelet (winter) and Tufted Puffin. A few Rock Sandpipers are here November-March, usually with turnstones and Surfbirds, on rocks below the parking lot, but if you do not see them here, walk the bluffs north and south. Morning light is best here.

Return to SR-1 north and turn left 1½ miles to **Salmon Creek** at MP-12.50. Just south of the bridge check the pond on the right for Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal, Canvasback and Redhead among wintering waterfowl. Park at the State Park Headquarters at the north end of the bridge or in a turnout just beyond and scan the mouth of the creek. Lesser Yellowlegs, Baird's, Pectoral and Stilt (rare) Sandpipers have been among many shorebirds, Thayer's and Glaucous have been among the gulls.

Look for landbirds around Headquarters then cross to the east side of the bridge. Check the creek for Green-backed Heron, Wood Duck and Common Merganser among waterfowl, Common Moorhen, Baird's and Pectoral Sandpipers and other shorebirds. In migration look among Red-necked Phalaropes for the uncommon Red which is sometimes in large numbers.

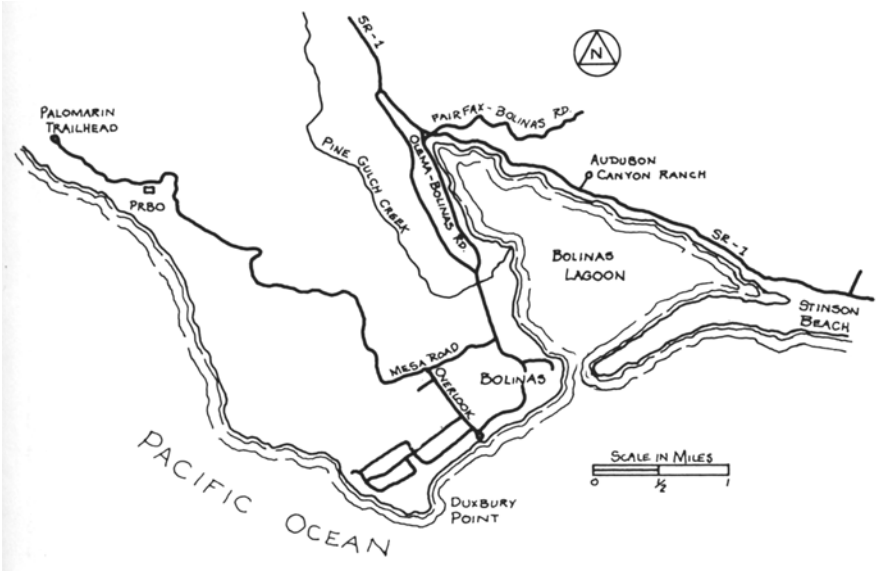
Facilities in several picnic and camp areas around the lagoon. **Birding** is excellent all year but a bit slow mid-summer; Magnificent Frigatebird has been seen late July-early August. Being shallow, the lagoon has vast mudflats at low tide and the birds are too far away. It is often very windy and cold here, especially at the Head.

Other birds: 4 loons, 5 grebes, American White (late summer) and Brown Pelicans, herons, egrets, sometimes geese in winter, Brant is regular, especially in spring, many ducks may include Eurasian Wigeon, Barrow's Goldeneye and 3 mergansers in winter, Osprey nests in the area, Black-shouldered Kite, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks in winter, Golden Eagle, 4 falcons, many shorebirds have included Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Ruff and all 3 phalaropes, several gulls have included Franklin's, among terns have been Common, Arctic and Least, several alcids, many varied landbirds include owls, flycatchers, wrens, thrushes, vireos, 23 warblers have been seen, grosbeaks, many sparrows, blackbirds, orioles and goldfinches.

21. BOLINAS LAGOON

Marin County

Along with the large shallow lagoon and its extensive mudflats and marshes, this area has grasslands, willow clumps, chaparral and mixed evergreen forest, while the nearby ocean has both rocky and sandy shores. The habitat diversity attracts large numbers of birds of many species.



Cross the Bay Bridge, take US-101 north over the Golden Gate Bridge then follow SR-1 from Mill Valley through Stinson Beach. Park only on the right-hand side of the road or risk a ticket.

A large turnout is at MP-13.32 with nearby water, marsh or mudflats, depending on the tide. Look for Green-backed and other herons, egrets, waterfowl, rails and shorebirds here, and in trees and bushes for warblers, sparrows and goldfinches. The lower lagoon just beyond has loons, grebes and waterfowl on the water, shorebirds along the shoreline. Continue north, birding as you go.

Audubon Canyon Ranch, MP-16.0, is open to the public without charge (contributions are most welcome) 10 am-4 pm on weekends and holidays, and Tuesday-Friday of Easter Week, from early March through July 4, with the best time to see nesting herons and egrets being April 15-June 15. There is an easy trail to the Overlook from which to view nesting activity. Trails through trees and chaparral have woodpeckers, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Winter Wren, Swainson's (summer) and Hermit (winter) Thrushes, Wrentit, vireos, warblers, both towhees, sparrows and goldfinches.

From the turnout across the road from the Ranch gate, check open water and shoreline for Brown Pelican, cormorants, herons, egrets, winter waterfowl including Blue-winged Teal and Eurasian Wigeon, shorebirds including Lesser Yellowlegs, Baird's and Pectoral Sandpipers and Red Phalarope in migration, gulls and terns.

From a short “loop” road on the left at MP-16.29 scan the lagoon and check the shore for the above birds,

The north end of the lagoon, MP-17.0, has mudflats or shallow water, depending on the tide, few birds at high tide. Swamp Sparrows have wintered in the marshy area here. Just east of the road is often a muddy puddle with shorebirds. In willows around the intersection are kinglets in winter, vireos, warblers and sparrows among many birds.

Fairfax-Bolinas Road leading east may be closed to cars by a gate but a walk here can produce Say’s Phoebe, Western Bluebird and Tricolored among blackbirds. Grasshopper Sparrows have been found about ¼ mile up the road in summer.

Turn west on unmarked **Olema-Bolinas Road** to a eucalyptus grove on the left at MP-01.02. Following the path, carefully cross the marshy area to the water. In winter look for Eurasian Wigeon, Bald Eagle, Sharp-tailed, Swamp and White-throated Sparrows. Do NOT trample any tules in this area but stand quietly nearby and let birds come to you. At MP-01.51 Cattle Egrets have been found on both sides of the road near the little church.

Continue to **Mesa Road**, turn right at the stop sign. The main sewage plant across from the firehouse has had many shorebirds in migration but is no longer open to birders. Go left on Overlook Drive a block or so, park, and walk the path east to the grassy sewer ponds which have had Lesser Yellowlegs. Baird’s, Pectoral and Stilt Sandpipers and phalaropes in migration, Purple Martin and Northern Shrike.

Drive on to the parking lot at the end. Check the ocean for loons, grebes, diving ducks, gulls, terns, and alcids which sometimes include Ancient Murrelet in winter.

Backtrack a block, turn west on Elm Road to a parking lot at the end. Walk down the short dirt road to Agate Beach and look for Black Oystercatcher, Surfbird and other shorebirds except at high tide. Offshore are a number of waterbirds, sea ducks, gulls and terns.

Return to Mesa Road and turn left to Point Reyes Bird Observatory. There is no charge here but contributions are very welcome. Bird banding demonstrations are often given and there is good birding in the chaparral. Trails from here through varied habitats can be rewarding.

Facilities: restrooms at Stinson State Beach, Audubon Canyon Ranch (in season); latrines at Agate Beach and 5-Brooks Trailhead farther north on SR-1 at MP-22.81; tables at Stinson Beach, the Ranch and 5-Brooks. **Best birding:** fall through spring, **Weather** varies from very warm to cold, wet and windy so be prepared for anything, layered clothing is best.

Other birds: 3 loons, 5 grebes, cormorants, many waterfowl in winter, Osprey often over the lagoon, Black-shouldered Kite, Red-shouldered Hawk, Golden Eagle, Merlin over the lagoon and marsh in winter, hordes of shorebirds in migration, several alcids, Belted Kingfisher all along SR-1, many swallows in summer, especially at the Ranch, birds of grassland, chaparral and woodland on the hillsides.

35. BRIONES REGIONAL PARK

Contra Costa County

This park, with over 5,000 acres, is mostly rolling grassy hills with cool wooded ravines and several ponds. Oak woodland and chaparral occur throughout, some hillsides are heavily wooded, streamside riparian growth is quite dense in places. Higher elevations afford beautiful views, and the park is great for kite flying.

Go east on I-580 and SR-24 to Orinda, then north on Camino Pablo toward Richmond, turn right on Bear Creek Road 4.5 miles, then right again into the park and drive to the eastern parking lot. A fee is charged on weekends and holidays.

Western Bluebird, Lazuli Bunting (summer), goldfinches, which included Lawrence's in April 1984, and many woodland species are around the parking lots and picnic areas here in Pear Orchard Valley. From the parking lot entrance walk east on the paved road beyond the gate and look for Lazuli Bunting, Chipping Sparrow and goldfinches in trees and weeds. In April 1984, swallows overhead included a Purple Martin, while over the hillside on the left were Vaux's Swifts.

At the end of the pavement bear right down **Homestead Valley Trail** along Bear Creek for woodpeckers, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (summer), thrushes, vireos, warblers, Lazuli Bunting and other birds of oak and riparian woodlands, perhaps Wood Duck. Near a hiker's gate look for hummingbirds, flycatchers, Wrentit, vireos, warblers and Lazuli Bunting. In open Homestead Valley beyond, check creeks and hillside trees for varied species and watch overhead for raptors, swifts and swallows. A detour east along Crescent Ridge Trail past the nearby archery range can have good birding.

Bear south then west across Alexander Creek and follow the south bank for woodpeckers, flycatchers, vireos, warblers, Lazuli Bunting, sparrows and Northern Oriole. Beware of lush poison oak and retreat when you reach heavy overgrowth. Back on Homestead Valley Trail turn south through the valley for Ash-throated Flycatcher plus Western Bluebird and other grassland birds. The trail then climbs a hill with oak woodland which often has many birds. Near the gate at the top may be several warbler species.

Back at the westmost parking lot, cross the grassy area checking trees along the creek, especially the largest tree near the north end, then continue north on **Abrigo Valley Trail** along Cascade Creek through trees and grasslands. Here are woodpeckers, flycatchers, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, thrushes, Western Bluebird, vireos, warblers, sparrows and, in summer, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting and Northern Oriole. From Abrigo Valley (a group shelter is here) return to your car or continue north

up Abrigo Valley Trail or east up Mott Peak Trail to Briones Crest Trail, going up one and back the other to walk a loop.

Drive north on Bear Creek Road, east 5 miles on Alhambra Valley Road, then right on Briones Road to **John Muir Nature Area** at the end of the road in the park. Check the parking area for woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Western Bluebird, then walk Old Briones Road Trail, a fire road, through an excellent wildflower area for these and other woodland birds. In about a mile are open grasslands and a few ponds. The fire road crosses the park to the picnic areas near Bear Creek, about a 3-mile walk.

Just beyond the hiker's gate bear left on Spengler Trail and check **Maricich Lagoons** for waterbirds in winter. Walk west uphill on Old Briones Road, turn right on Briones Crest Trail which soon reaches the smaller **Sindicich Lagoon** on the left. Turn right on Lagoon Trail over a slight rise to the larger Sindicich. Several duck species, sometimes shorebirds or Belted Kingfisher, are on these ponds.

Return to **Spengler Trail**, head east down the canyon beyond the gate for flowers and birds. A short walk below the lagoons turn north on a grassy fire road then promptly left on a trail through the trees, cool on a warm day, for flycatchers, thrushes, vireos, warblers and goldfinches. At a stile on the left cross the fence, walk west to Old Briones Road and turn right to the parking lot.

Facilities: latrines at both south and north areas, also along trails; picnic areas at the south end, or carry lunch and liquid and eat along the trail. **Best birding:** spring-early summer; summer-early fall can be too warm; may be muddy in winter; excellent study area for nesting species. Lovely wildflowers, mid-March through April. The park is ideal for hiking but poison oak is a problem in some places.

Other birds: Black-shouldered Kite, accipiters, Osprey (rare), Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Merlin (winter), Band-tailed Pigeon, Western Screech-Owl and Northern Pygmy-Owl among owls, woodpeckers (mostly Nuttall's and, in winter, Northern Flicker), Anna's, Rufous (migrant) and Allen's (summer) Hummingbirds, flycatchers include Western Wood-Pewee, Willow and Western in summer, Black and Say's (winter) Phoebes, Horned Lark, both kinglets (winter), California Thrasher, Swainson's (summer) and Hermit and Varied (winter) Thrushes, 3 vireos, several warblers (mostly migrant), sparrows include Lark and, in winter, Fox, Lincoln's and sometimes White-throated, Purple and House Finches.

7. CADER LANE PONDS

Sonoma County

This area near the Petaluma River Consists of flat grassy/weedy land around shallow ponds which are encircled by levees.

Take SR-17 north, cross San Rafael Bridge, continue north on US-101 to Petaluma, turn east on Lakeville Road (SR-116) about a mile then turn right on Cader Lane to the end.

Walk the levees around the ponds. If the water level is low, walk out on the dry mudflat toward the water. Here from late July through September are many shorebirds which can include Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers, Lesser Golden-Plover, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, both yellowlegs, Long-billed Curlew, Marbled Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Semipalmated, Western, Least, Baird's, Pectoral and Buff-breasted (1982-84) Sandpipers, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's and Red-necked Phalaropes.

Among **other birds**, look for Great Blue Heron, Great, Snowy and Cattle Egrets, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Northern Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Gadwall, Ruddy and other ducks, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Bonaparte's, Ring-billed and California Gulls, Caspian and Forster's Terns, Purple Martin (August 1984), Cliff and Barn Swallows, Marsh Wren, Loggerhead Shrike, Song Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged, Yellow-headed (September 1984) and Brewer's Blackbirds.

No facilities. To combine this area with Sears Point Road (see Guide) return to Lakeville Road, turn right about 10 miles, turn left 4 miles on SR-37 to Sonoma Creek then work eastward along the road.

59. CALAVERAS RESERVOIR

Santa Clara County

Oak woodland covers the hills surrounding this reservoir while at the south end of the lake is a large flat grassy area with mudflats at the water's edge. This is a regular wintering area for Bald Eagles.

Take I-580 east then I-680 south 9 miles to Calaveras Road, go left 10 miles to the south end of the reservoir. Turn around where safe and park in a turnout. The road is narrow and winding, traffic is light but fast so bird with caution. You **must** stay by your car while birding.

Check shores, treetops and sky for Bald Eagles, usually 2-3 but at least 8 were here in 1977, and Golden Eagles are here too, so study immatures carefully. Many Canada Geese, sometimes Snows, are on the water and south shore here. Anywhere on the reservoir are Horned, Eared and Western Grebes, Double-crested Cormorant, herons, several duck species, and gulls.

Work back along the reservoir, stopping in turnouts. If Bald Eagles are not at the south end, look at the dam at the north end or anywhere along the way where there is a view of the water.

No **facilities** except at nearby Sunol Regional Wilderness. **Best birding** is January-February for eagles. A scope is almost a necessity as all birding is from the road above the reservoir.

Other birds: Northern Harrier, accipiters, Merlin, Prairie Falcon, Northern Pygmy-Owl, White-throated Swift, woodpeckers, Say's Phoebe, Yellow-billed Magpie, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Western Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, both towhees, sparrows include Lark, Lesser and American Goldfinches.

64. CASWELL MEMORIAL STATE PARK San Joaquin County

This park has a beautiful stand of valley oaks, lush riparian woodland, and open fields along the Stanislaus River. Swainson's Hawks, both light and dark phases, are here from mid-March to mid-October.

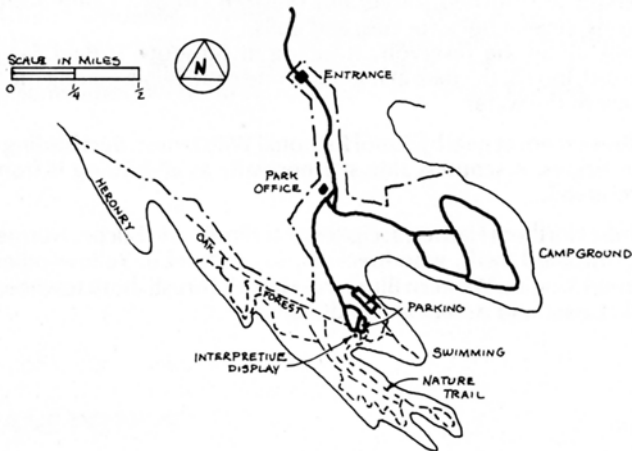
Go east via I-580 and I-205, very briefly on I-5 then east on SR-120, south 1 mile on SR-99, exit on Austin Road and continue south to the park at the end of the road. Park at the south end of the picnic area. Entry fee. Spring runoff may flood the park; for information: (209) 599-3810. Bring insect repellent as mosquitoes may be abundant. Beware of stinging nettle along and/or leaning into trails.

Oak Forest Nature Trail, starting behind the interpretive display near the southwest end of the parking area, wanders through trees and riparian tangles beside the river. Walk to and around the loop for hawks, woodpeckers, wrens, California Thrasher, vireos, warblers and sparrows. Over the water are Bank and other swallows.

Another trail, starting 100 feet north of the display shelter, heads west toward, but stops well short of, a heronry. Side trails, to the left into oak forest, are productive also. Along these trails are hawks, including Swainson's, in and over trees or out over fields to the north. Also watch for a few shorebirds which may fly over, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, Yellow-billed Magpie, White-breasted Nuthatch, wrens, Western Bluebird, thrushes, California Thrasher, vireos, warblers, Western Tanager (migrant), Black-headed Grosbeak (summer), both towhees and sparrows.

The picnic area and the campground are also worth birding, as is the thick vegetation along the road between them.

Facilities: good restrooms, picnic tables, stoves, water; swimming at the picnic area; pleasant camp sites. **Best birding:** late April-



early June, summers are quite warm. Park “birdlist” is dreadfully inadequate.

To reach Durham Ferry State Recreation Area (see Guide), 7 miles away, go north 1½ miles on Austin Road, turn left on Melton Road, left 1 mile on Manteca Road, right on Trahern Road then left 1½ miles on Airport Way. The fee paid at one State-operated park is valid at any other on that date.

Other birds: Great Blue and Green-backed Herons, Black-shouldered Kite, Northern Harrier, accipiters, Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks, California Quail, a few owls, Belted Kingfisher, Red-breasted Sapsucker (winter) and other woodpeckers, Ash-throated Flycatcher and Western Kingbird in summer, Bewick’s and House Wrens, Ruby-crowned Kinglet (winter), Wrentit, 3 vireos, warblers, mostly migrant, include Orange-crowned, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Gray, Townsend’s, MacGillivray’s, Common Yellowthroat and Wilson’s, winter sparrows include Savannah, Fox and Lincoln’s, Northern Oriole (summer), Lesser and American Goldfinches.

44. CHABOT REGIONAL PARK Alameda County
Ten Hills/Cameron Trails Loop

This area of the park has mixed woodland, varied shrubby vegetation, grassland, and Lake Chabot with its tules and riparian growth. The trails are fairly easy walking, but can be rather muddy after rains.

Go east on I-580 to Castro Valley, take Castro Valley Blvd. east to Redwood Road, turn north to Proctor Gate at Camino Alta Mira and park along the curb. Be sure to respect the privacy of those whose homes are adjacent to the trail.

Go west on **Ten Hills Trail**, the first part of which has mostly shrubby vegetation with hummingbirds, Wrentit, wrens, thrushes, California Thrasher, warblers and sparrows. When the trail reaches oaks, bay and other trees, many woodland species are to be found. Beyond the trees, the trail crosses grassy hilltops where hawks, swifts and swallows are overhead. Near Grovenor Gate (no public access, park vehicles only) turn right down the hill on **Cameron Trail**, which goes between woodland on one side, grassland on the other, to the lake. Lakeside Trail, to the left, follows the shore to the Marina Complex.

Bear right instead on **Lakeside/Cameron Trail** and look for waterbirds on the lake, in vegetation in the water, and along the shore. Near the upper end of this arm of the lake is a thick riparian area of cattails and willows which may have marsh species. Turn left across the bridge on Lakeside Trail and bird trees and bushes on the far shore for such species as Swainson's Thrush (summer) and warblers.

Recross the bridge and turn left on **Cameron Trail** which has woodland uphill and thick riparian tangles below, with the golfcourse beyond. A good variety of birds is along this stretch. When the trail leaves the edge of the golfcourse it goes up the hill a short distance to Ten Hills Trail. Turn left to return to your car.

Facilities: latrines just west of Cameron-Lakeside Trail junction, Lakeside Trail about ¼ mile beyond the bridge, restrooms in Marina Complex off Lake Chabot Road near Fairmont Drive. Picnic tables in Marina Complex and also at nearby **Cull Canyon Regional Park:** return down Redwood Road, turn left on Heyer Avenue, left again at Cull Canyon Road to the park. Return home via Cull Canyon and Crow Canyon Roads to I-580 then head west. **Best birding:** fall-spring.

Other birds: grebes, Double-crested Cormorant, herons, egrets, some ducks in summer, several in winter, Black-shouldered Kite, Virginia Rail, gulls (winter), Caspian Tern (summer), Band-tailed Pigeon, flycatchers in summer, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Bewick's and House Wrens, both kinglets (winter), Hermit and Varied Thrushes (winter), Loggerhead Shrike, 3 vireos, several warblers (mostly migrant), Black-headed Grosbeak (summer), sparrows include Lark, Song and, in winter, Fox and Lincoln's, Northern Oriole (summer), Purple and House Finches, Lesser and American Goldfinches.

57. COYOTE HILLS REGIONAL PARK

Alameda County

In its more than 1,000 acres the park includes freshwater marshes, open fields, grassy hills, willows and, above the Visitor Center, large trees. Adjacent to the west is part of San Francisco Bay NWR with salt ponds and open bay.

Go south on SR-17 to Fremont, take Dumbarton Bridge/SR-84 West exit 1 mile, take Newark Blvd. exit north 1 mile then west on Patterson Ranch Road to the park. Road changes are coming: Newark Blvd. will run into Ardenwood Blvd., turn left on Paseo Padre Parkway to Patterson Ranch Road. Watch for Park signs! Entry fee may be charged.

Park in the **Indian Mound** parking lot just inside the park entrance and walk north along the willows for Downy Woodpecker, flycatchers (summer), kinglets (winter), thrushes, vireos, warblers, sparrows and other small birds. Long-eared Owl sometimes winters here.

Drive west to the south parking lot on the left at the bend in the road. **South Marsh** has many waterfowl in winter, sometimes including Blue-winged Teal, rails, Marsh Wren and Common Yellowthroat. Rock Wrens are on the steep slope behind "Frog Pond" just west of the parking lot along the paved trail. Continue west on the trail, with marsh on the left and grassy hillsides to the right, for Say's Phoebe, Loggerhead Shrike, sometimes Tricolored Blackbird. Some Red-wings, not our usual bicolored race, in winter have very faded yellow edging on the shoulder patch and resemble Tricolored.

Continue west on **Bay View Trail** and cross the hill to the bay where there are many grebes in winter, mostly Eared, waterfowl, shorebirds including Lesser Yellowlegs, Baird's and Pectoral Sandpipers in migration, Red Phalaropes at times, and gulls. From here are several alternatives.

Turn south above the shoreline and bird the water from along that vantage point. Or head north on Bay View Trail along the water where winter flocks of American White Pelicans, many waterfowl and shorebirds can be seen. Near Alameda Creek bear east then south past the Visitor Center back to your car.

Another alternative is to take the bridge across the slough below to a gravel levee trail west through salt ponds in San Francisco Bay NWR to Ideal Marsh on the bay, with close looks at wintering waterbirds and waterfowl. Retrace your steps or make a 5-mile loop by continuing north on Shoreline Trail atop a dirt levee (too muddy after heavy rain) to Alameda Creek Regional Trail, then east along the Flood Control Channel to the north section of Bay View Trail, turn south and return to your car. Occasionally the salt company dredges salt ponds and deposits the spoils on levees, making those

trails impassable for some time.

Drive north to the Visitor Center parking area. **North Marsh** across the road has waterfowl, rails, some shorebirds, Marsh Wren and Common Yellowthroat. Near the south end of the parking lot is a boardwalk east over the marsh along a large pond where ducks winter. Continue on to Chochenyo Trail beyond, where Green-backed Heron may be in the ditch along the levee to the right.

Bear left, look for American Bittern in the marsh, then bear right toward a shallow pond in a nearby marshy area, near Alameda Creek Regional Trail, where Lesser Yellowlegs, Baird's and Pectoral Sandpipers may be among shorebirds in migration. Continue to the Flood Control Channel which has many shorebirds on mudflats along its edges, then return to Chochenyo Trail, turn right and walk the dirt trail past the pond to the road.

The area around the Visitor Center has a number of species including Anna's, Rufous (spring) and Allen's (summer) Hummingbirds, flycatchers, warblers, sparrows, Hooded (rare) and Northern Orioles in summer. Common Barn-Owl, Long-Eared and Northern Saw-whet Owls have been in trees here in recent winters. Around the picnic area uphill from the Visitor Center are Great Horned Owls (nest), flycatchers, nuthatches, both kinglets, thrushes, warblers and sparrows.

Facilities: restrooms at the Visitor Center, latrines near the entrance and the south parking lot; picnic tables at the Visitor Center and south parking lot. **Birding** is good all year, but somewhat slower in summer. Information on public programs (usually on weekends) at the Visitor Center, (415) 471-4967. The Center is open 8:30-4:30 daily, except noon-4:30 on Monday; the park opens at 8 am, closing hours as posted.

Other birds: several grebes (winter), Great Blue and Green-backed Herons, egrets, Black-crowned Night-Heron, many ducks, Black-shouldered Kite, accipiters, Rough-legged Hawk (rare, winter), Golden Eagle is possible, falcons, Common Moorhen, many shorebird species (fall, spring), many gulls, terns, Band-tailed Pigeon, Vaux's Swift with White-throated in migration, Empidonax flycatchers (spring), 5 swallows (summer), White-breasted and Red-breasted (winter) Nuthatches, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Swainson's (summer) and Hermit and Varied (winter) Thrushes, Wrentit, several warblers are mostly migrant, both towhees, sparrows include Chipping and Grasshopper (rare) in summer, Vesper (rare), Fox and Lincoln's in winter, both goldfinches.

48. DONNER and BACK CANYONS

Contra Costa County

These canyons follow riparian-lined streams up the north side of Mt. Diablo. The lower reaches are rolling hills with grasslands and oak woodland. More dense woodland and chaparral as well as grassland occur higher up.

Go east on I-580 and SR-24 to Walnut Creek, turn east 7.7 miles on Ygnacio Valley Road, south 3 miles on Clayton Road which becomes Marsh Creek Road beyond Clayton, then turn right on Regency Drive to the end.

To reach **Donner Canyon** walk down to the fire road, turn left through Regency Gate and take the fire road to the left. The trail goes through rolling grassland and oaks following the creek, lined with willows and buckeye, with oak-covered hillsides beyond. Look for Black-shouldered Kite, Red-shouldered Hawk, Nuttall's Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Western Bluebird, both goldfinches and other woodland birds.

Past a trail gate, in more dense woodland, the road narrows and begins the gentle climb up Donner Canyon. In this area are Red-breasted Sapsucker (winter) among woodpeckers, thrushes, vireos, warblers, Purple (winter) and House Finches. Set near open grassland just beyond the second gate is the old Heatherington house; a grass and chaparral-covered ridge is to the west, wooded hillsides are on the east. Look for hawks, woodpeckers, thrushes, kinglets (winter), sparrows and finches. Phainopepla has been found here.

The trail soon begins a steep ascent through an area, burned in the big 1977 fire, with dead snags used as perches by many birds. Toyon is all over here, its winter berries attracting many thrushes, Purple Finches and others. Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Rufous-sided and Brown Towhees and several sparrows skulk through the thick brush. An alternate route here is the ½-mile Heatherington Loop from south of the house, across the creek and up along the stream. The path drops down, crosses the creek and rejoins the main trail.

At the junction on a saddle turn right, climb the fire road up Meridian Ridge to where the trail turns left and heads south uphill. Enjoy a marvelous view as you look for hawks, Golden Eagle and summering Violet-green and Cliff Swallows flying here and for White-throated Swifts which may sail just over your head.

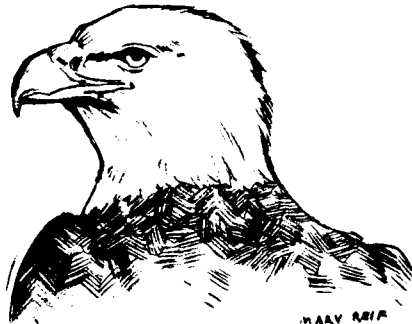
Just past the turn **Back Creek Trail** on the right drops quickly southward down an open hillside, which has Rufous-crowned Sparrows, to thick riparian growth at the creek. The trail turns north and drops steadily down a rocky path to a streamlet beyond which the trail is no longer steep. The path swings east to Back Creek

and down its narrow canyon filled with willows and blackberries. Just beyond the second creek crossing on this stretch is a large oak on each side of the stream; a cave is on the far side. This birdy spot has California Thrasher, Western Bluebird, kinglets (winter), sparrows and many Rufous-sided Towhees.

On down the canyon, a trail on the right comes from near the Heatherington house on Donner Creek. Past this junction the creek and path go through a thick blackberry tangle to an area of open oak woodland on the right, thicker woodland with scattered Digger and Coulter Pines on the left. Look for Nuttall's, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers among woodland birds. At the junction beyond Murchio Gate follow the fire road down Back Creek and through rolling grassland to a dirt service road, turn right then bear left down to Regency Gate.

Facilities: none, carry water on this 5-mile loop. Poison oak is along Back Creek down to Murchio Gate. **Best birding:** spring and fall; it can be warm in the canyons, hot in summer; trails are muddy after rains. April wildflowers can be spectacular, California Grape has fantastic fall color. The detailed Mt. Diablo State Park **Trail Map** is available for \$2 at Mt. Diablo State Park or Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum, 1901 First Avenue, Walnut Creek, CA 94596; (415) 935-1978.

Other birds: accipiters, perhaps Band-tailed Pigeon, Anna's and Allen's (summer) Hummingbirds, flycatchers in summer include Olive-sided, Western Wood-Pewee, Western and Ash-throated, Black Phoebe, Bewick's and House Wrens, Swainson's (summer) and Hermit and Varied (winter) Thrushes, 3 vireos, "western" warblers (mostly migrant), Western Tanager (summer), Black-headed Grosbeak (summer), Lazuli Bunting (summer), sparrows in winter include Lincoln's and Fox, and Northern Oriole (summer).

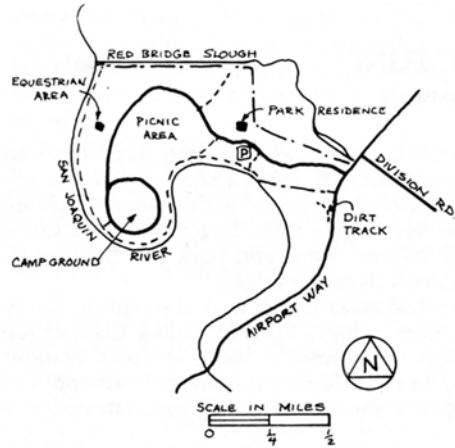


63. DURHAM FERRY STATE RECREATION AREA

San Joaquin County

In a loop of the San Joaquin River, this small park has valley oaks, cottonwoods and riparian woodland much like nearby Caswell Memorial State Park (see Guide). Birdlife is somewhat similar here also.

Go east on I-580, bear east 7 miles on SR-132, turn left on Greenwood Road, left again $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles on Kasson Road (J3), then right on Airport Way $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles and left into the park. A fee is collected at the self-register entry.



Park on the left just beyond the entry, walk up onto the levee and bird along this elevated vantage point. Drive on to the campground at road's end, park and ascend the stairs to the west. Walk the trails and levees from here, thoroughly checking the excellent riparian habitat along the river. Here are such birds as Nuttall's and Downy Woodpeckers, House and Bewick's Wrens, vireos, warblers (mostly migrant) include Orange-crowned, Yellow, Black-throated Gray and Wilson's, Black-headed and Blue Grosbeaks (summer), Lazuli Bunting (summer), Song, Lincoln's (winter) and other sparrows, Northern Oriole (summer), Lesser and American Goldfinches. In summer, Swainson's Hawks may be perched atop tall trees or flying overhead.

From near the picnic area, a walk to the northeast area of the park may be productive. Swainson's Hawks perch in the tall trees along Red Bridge Slough.

From the park entrance walk west along Airport Way and check riparian woodland to the north for birds as above. An Eastern Wood-Pewee was near the dirt track August-September 1983 but, unfortunately, this area is now fenced and posted and can no longer be entered.

Just east of the park road, opposite Division Road, look north along Red Bridge Slough and its adjacent riparian areas. A scope would be helpful here.

At the San Joaquin River Bridge on Airport Way the riparian thicket is a reliable spot in which to find Blue Grosbeak in summer.

Full facilities: in the State Recreation Area. **Best birding:** mid-April to early June and in September; mid-summer is hot.

To reach Caswell Memorial State Park, 7 miles away, from the park entrance go east 1½ miles on Airport Way, turn right on Trahern Road, left on Manteca Road 1 mile, right on Melton Road and right again on Austin Road to Caswell Park. The fee paid at one State-operated park is valid at any other on that date.

Other birds: Great Blue and Green-backed Herons, Black-shouldered Kite, California Quail, a few shorebirds on sandbars, Caspian Tern (summer), Belted Kingfisher, Northern Flicker, Western Kingbird among summer flycatchers, Tree, Northern Rough-winged, Cliff and Barn Swallows (summer), Yellow-billed Magpie, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet (winter), Western Tanager (migrant), Rufous-sided and Brown Towhees.

33. EAST BAY SHORELINE Alameda, Contra Costa Counties Bay Bridge to Point Molate

Along the eastern shore of San Francisco Bay, these areas have the open bay, sheltered marinas, mudflats, salt marsh, rocky and sandy shores. At Aquatic Park are a lagoon and two ponds edged with trees and bushes.

Approaching the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza, take “Last Oakland Exit”, carefully follow small “Radio Station” signs and park just beyond the first station. Stay OUT of the marshes, look from the edges!

At the **Bay Bridge Toll Plaza** marsh walk the path to the water’s edge. Ebbing tide brings mudflats with hungry birds including Clapper Rail, hordes of shorebirds, Black Oystercatcher (summer 1982), at times Wandering Tattler, 9 gulls including Thayer’s, 7 terns including Common, Least and, rarely, Arctic or Black, Short-eared Owl (rare, winter), and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher may be among land-birds.

At road’s end check the marsh for rails and shorebirds, the beach for shorebirds, and the bay for diving ducks in winter (including Black Scoter, both goldeneyes and, rarely, Oldsquaw), gulls and terns.

To exit, drive left across the overhead, bear right down the ramp beyond, turn left at the stop sign, left again at the signal, then follow signs for 1-80 toward Berkeley and move to the right lane.

Take the Powell Street exit, go left to **Emeryville Marina Park** at the end and look among boats, along the fishing pier, the shore of both harbor and bay, and open water for waterbirds, ducks and shorebirds. Yellow-billed Loon, King Eider (1982-83), Hooded Merganser and Red Knot have wintered here. Return to I-80, go left on **W. Frontage Road** and stop in safe turnouts to scan the shoreline and bay.

To reach **Aquatic Park** go east on University Avenue, right on 6th Street, right on Addison Street to the park, bear right then drive down the west side, birding the lagoon. Scan South Pond then very carefully cross the road, a freeway access, and check Radio Station Pond. Red-necked may be among grebes in winter, Black-crowned Night-Herons roost in trees, wintering ducks can include 3 teal, Redhead, Tufted Duck (rare), both scaups, both goldeneyes and Hooded Merganser, many gulls, and terns are here, and all 3 goldfinches have been noted among landbirds.

Return to University Avenue, go west toward **Berkeley Marina**, turn right on Marina Blvd., park near Marriott Hotel and scan the cove to the east. Continue on Marina Blvd. to North Waterfront Park at the end. Walk north by the shore checking the bay, shoreline and the vegetation, then return south to bird the harbor and breakwater where Yellow-billed Loon may winter. Return to University Avenue and turn right to the end. Bird from the fishing pier then walk north and recheck the harbor and breakwater. Walk south and bird South Sailing Basin to the east and the bay.

Development of Waterfront Park on the old dump site may alter entry and improve birding access. In the area in winter are loons, grebes, ducks may include Oldsquaw, shorebirds, many gulls and terns, alcids (rare), Long-eared and Short-eared Owls (rare) and Varied Thrush.

To reach **Point Isabel Regional Shoreline**, go north on W. Frontage Road, under the freeway at Gilman Street then north on I-80. Take lefthand Hoffman Blvd. (SR-17) exit or continue on I-80, then turn west on Central Avenue to road's end. Check the bay for loons, grebes, sometimes Brant, and ducks including Black Scoter. Walk north and scan the breakwater northwest where at high tide hordes of shorebirds may include Wandering Tattler, both turnstones, Surfbird and Red Knot.

Walking east along the channel, look for Water Pipit (winter) and sparrows on and around the lawn. Continue east on a dirt path to an old railroad bridge and look in the marsh beyond for Common Snipe among shorebirds in winter. Cross the bridge then turn west to the shore for a closer view of the breakwater and the cove to the right.

Take SR-17 north toward the Richmond Bridge then follow **Point Richmond** signs at Garrard Blvd. through the tunnel to Miller Regional Shoreline. Near the tunnel scope the bay from an elevated spot for possible Oldsquaw and alcids. Continue to the end of Garrard where gulls included Franklin's in January 1974. Return north a block then east on Brickyard Cove Road to Pelican Way and explore area coves for possible Yellow-billed among loons, grebes and perhaps Oldsquaw among ducks.

From the east end of the Marina parking lot scope the bay and outer breakwater for gulls and shorebirds which included Black Oystercatcher in 1983. Return to Garrard Blvd. and turn right. Just before the tunnel turn left on Western Drive and check the bay from Cypress Point and other bay overlooks along the shore for Brant, Black Scoter, Common Murre and other birds.

Back at Garrard Blvd. head north, go under the freeway and turn right on Canal Blvd., right again on SR-17. Near the toll plaza take **Point Molate** exit $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, bear left toward Red Rock Marina and park under the bridge at the bayshore.

On the water are loons, grebes and cormorants; among ducks may be Barrow's Goldeneye, Oldsquaw and Black Scoter. Scan offshore Castro Rocks for shorebirds which included Black Oystercatcher in 1983, both turnstones and Surfbird. Continue on to the Red Rock Marina entrance at Castro Point to recheck the bay and rocks.

Return to the fork, turn left to Point Molate Beach Park for ducks, shorebirds and gulls, and for landbirds in the trees and bushes. Continue $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles through the Navy Depot toward Point San Pablo, park just beyond a small pond on the left and scan the water toward East Brothers Lighthouse for Harlequin and other ducks, the water's edge for shorebirds.

To bird **Albany Crescent**, going north on I-80 or south on Hoffman Blvd. take Albany exit east to a left turn lane, make a U-turn, park north of the overhead then take the pedestrian walkway west. Hordes of shorebirds are on extensive mudflats on ebbing tide.

Full facilities at all parks and Berkeley Marina. **Best birding:** fall-spring; morning light is best. Weather can be cold, damp, windy any time of year. **Bay Edges**, East Bay Quadrant, shows public access; check for \$1.50, payable to Bay Edges, to 312 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94108.

Other birds: both pelicans, herons, egrets, Tundra Swan and Canada Goose (rare), 26 shorebirds include Snowy and Semipalmated Plovers, Spotted Sandpiper, Red Phalarope some years, Marbled Murrelet (rare), Belted Kingfisher, swallows (summer), Loggerhead Shrike, few warblers, several sparrows, and 3 goldfinches have been seen.

51. EASTERN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY Contra Costa County

Resembling the Central Valley, this area is different from the rest of the county. The land is mostly flat but there are rolling, grassy hills west of Byron Highway. Habitats include Delta waterways, riparian woodland (quite dense in places), orchards, open fields and pastures, reservoirs, and some residential areas.

Go east via I-580, SR-24, then SR-4 to Cypress Road, 1 mile beyond the small town of Oakley.

To bird **Jersey and Bethel Islands**, take Cypress Road east, turn north on Jersey Island Road and park on the west side of the street. Blue Grosbeak should be in trees and weeds in spring and Common Moorhen may be in the ditch. Drive north over Dutch Slough onto Jersey Island where Yellow-headed (February-March) and Tricolored may be among blackbirds in winter. At the road fork go left $\frac{1}{2}$ mile for Burrowing Owls, then to road's end for Common Barn-Owls around the buildings. Be sure to respect private property!

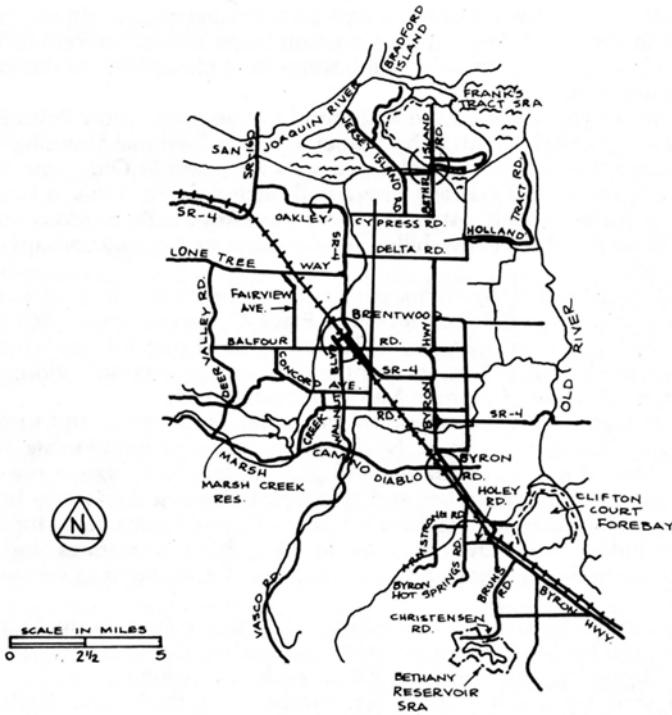
Return south to the road fork and turn east. Swainson's Hawk may be seen in spring and many swallows are at road's end around the Bradford Island ferry slip in summer. Return south across the slough, turn left on Dutch Slough Road, park near the levee and walk east along the road for Black-chinned Hummingbird in summer; the sewer ponds may have Green-backed Heron, American Bittern and Lesser Yellowlegs (rare, fall).

Drive east on Dutch Slough Road, turn north on Bethel Island Road, right on Gateway Road then right on N. Stone Road to the end. Common Moorhen may be on the little pond on the right and Black-chinned Hummingbirds are in the area.

Return to Bethel Island Road and turn north to Piper Slough at the end, watching along the way in spring for Blue Grosbeaks on power lines and atop trees and bushes. Walk west on the levee for Black-chinned Hummingbird, Yellow-breasted Chat (spring) and Blue Grosbeak. Across the slough on Little Frank's Tract are ducks in winter, Common Moorhen and gulls. Return to Cypress Road, turn right to Knightsen Road then left to Delta Road.

Driving east along Delta Road toward **Holland Tract**, watch for Burrowing Owl, Whimbrel in spring, and Long-billed Curlew in winter. In wet areas near the power lines, shorebirds may include Greater Yellowlegs in winter and phalaropes in migration. Cross Rock Slough and turn right on Holland Tract Road. In winter, Greater White-fronted Geese and Sandhill Cranes may be near a sharp left turn at the river after pheasant season.

Return to Byron Highway, go south to SR-4, head east across **Byron Tract** to Old River and park on the left at the west end of



the bridge. Swans, geese and ducks may be in nearby flooded fields in winter. Drive back west to Byron Highway.

To reach the **Clifton Court Forebay** area, take Byron Highway (J4) south through Byron to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile beyond Byron Inn ($\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of Clifton Court) and look for Mountain Plovers (rare) in short-grass areas east of the road in winter. Continue south, turn east on Clifton Road and look for Mountain Plovers which have been seen north of this road.

From road's end walk the graveled levee east, checking sloughs, open water and shoreline for Red-throated and Arctic Loons (rare), 4 grebes, perhaps Redhead or Barrow's Goldeneye among ducks, Spotted Sandpiper, many gulls including Thayer's, possibly Bonaparte's and Mew, and Belted Kingfisher. Cattle Egret may be in fields, sparrows are in weeds, and varied landbirds are in trees. At the northeast corner, near a trailer park, look for Black-chinned Hummingbird and Lazuli Bunting (rare) in summer and Blue Grosbeak in spring. Swans, geese, including Ross', and ducks are on nearby Victoria Island or overhead in winter.

Return to Byron Highway, turn south to the railroad crossing and look for Burrowing Owl in the short grass east of the road. Continue

south ¼ mile and turn west on Holey Road, south down Byron Hot Springs Road, then return north and turn west on Armstrong Road. Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks (winter), Bald (rare, winter) and Golden Eagles and Prairie Falcon are along these roads. Burrowing Owls are along Byron Hot Springs Road while Mountain Bluebirds and Vesper Sparrows may winter along Armstrong Road.

Head south on Byron Highway past N. Bruns Way, turn right on Bruns Avenue then west on Christensen Road to the parking lot at road's end in **Bethany Reservoir State Recreation Area**. In this vicinity have been Black-shouldered Kite, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, both eagles and Thayer's among other gulls, but few birds are on the lake.

Return north on Byron Highway to Byron, turn west on Camino Diablo then north on **Marsh Creek Road** a mile to Marsh Creek Reservoir for waterfowl which included 2-3,000 Ring-necked Ducks in January 1984, Marsh Wren, Common Yellowthroat and Tricolored among the blackbirds. Return west on Marsh Creek Road and stop off the road where the habitat looks interesting but use caution with fast traffic here! Yellow-breasted Chat has been along the creek in spring.

Turn south 2 miles on Morgan Territory Road for Red-shouldered Hawk and possible Lawrence's Goldfinch (see Guide for this area). Reach SR-24 in Walnut Creek via Marsh Creek, Clayton and Ygnacio Valley Roads, cross to the left lanes and head west.

Backroads east of Brentwood (on SR-4 south of Cypress Road) could turn up almost anything in winter. Between Marsh Creek Road and Brentwood, from Walnut Blvd. go west then north on Concord Avenue, east a mile on Balfour Road then north on Fairview Avenue a mile or two. Through this area in winter are usually Mountain Bluebirds on grassy hillsides and in orchards, and sparrow flocks often include a few Vespers. Vasco Road, south from Camino Diablo, has had Lewis' Woodpecker and Mountain Bluebird.

Facilities: Brentwood City Park on SR-4, and Bethany Reservoir; latrine at Clifton Court Forebay. **Best birding:** fall-spring, summer is hot. Waterfowl and other species may be hard to find in pheasant season, and on duck hunting days at Clifton Court Forebay the birds may be scattered.

Other birds: Double-crested Cormorant, herons, egrets, 21 ducks, Black-necked Stilt and American Avocet nest, Caspian and Forster's Terns (summer), Long-eared (rare, winter) and Short-eared Owls, Nuttall's and Downy Woodpeckers, Western Flycatcher and Western Kingbird (summer), Black and Say's Phoebes, Horned Lark, Yellow-billed Magpie (uncommon), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (winter), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (rare),

Swainson's (summer) and Hermit (winter) Thrushes, Water Pipit (winter), vireos, Orange-crowned, Yellow and Black-throated Gray (migrant), Yellow-rumped (winter) and Wilson's (summer) Warblers, Black-headed Grosbeak (summer), sparrows include Lark, Savannah, Song and, in winter, Fox, Lincoln's, Golden-crowned and White-crowned, Northern and Hooded Orioles (summer), Lesser and American Goldfinches.

32. FORT FUNSTON

San Francisco

In the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Fort Funston is along the ocean in the southwest corner of the city. A colony of Bank Swallows nests here. Below the cliffs is a long sandy beach; atop the bluffs is low vegetation with eucalyptus, Monterey pines and cypresses back from the cliffs. East of the old World War II gun battery are sand dunes with trees beyond.

Cross the Bay Bridge, take US-101 north then Fell Street west, go through Golden Gate Park to Great Highway and turn south, or take US-101 south, I-280 and John Daly Blvd. west then Skyline Blvd. north. The northern approach is easier, the latter route is an easy return. Fort Funston and nearby Lake Merced (see Site Guide) make a good 1-day trip.

To bird the **beach area** take Great Highway south beyond Sloat Blvd. about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the second parking lot and look for Black Scoters close to shore. Walk south on the beach $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to steep cliffs with obvious nest holes, well up the bluffs, where Bank Swallows arrive about the first of April.

Drive south on Great Highway, turn right on Skyline Blvd. 0.8 mile, right again into **Fort Funston** and continue to the west end of the parking area. Hanggliders are fun to watch, but stay clear of take-off and landing areas. From the overlook check the beach for shorebirds, the ocean for huge flocks of Sooty Shearwaters summer through early fall, 3 loon species, Western Grebe, 3 scoters, Common Murre and Pigeon Guillemot. Flying here are Bank Swallows in summer, gulls, Caspian and Forster's Terns.

Wander the paved trails north, watching for Bank and other swallows overhead, and check trees east of Battery Davis for spring and fall migrants. Northeast of the battery is a grove of trees which should also be thoroughly birded. On the east side of this grove walk north then out across the dunes to a long grove of eucalyptus and cypress trees above Skyline Blvd. Walk the dirt trails among the trees where spring and fall birding can be good.

Facilities: restrooms at Fort Funston parking lot; picnic tables along paved trails. **Best birding:** fall-spring. Weather may be cold and very windy.

Other birds: Brown Pelican, Double-crested and Brandt's Cormorants, Red-breasted Merganser, Merlin (winter), Anna's, Rufous (spring) and Allen's (summer) Hummingbirds, Belted Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, flycatchers (Olive-sided and Western Flycatchers, Western Wood-Pewee and Western Kingbird) in summer, Black and Say's (winter) Phoebes, Pygmy Nuthatch, Water Pipit (winter), migrant Red-eyed Vireo has been found, several warblers, including Black-throated Blue, Prairie and Palm, have been seen in migration, sparrows have included White-throated in winter, Northern Oriole (summer), Purple and House Finches.

54. FOSTER CITY

San Mateo County

Leo Ryan Park has a large lagoon with housing along the south and west shores, mostly grass between the lake and the two adjacent streets.

Take SR-17 south then go west on SR-92 over San Mateo Bridge. Take Foster City Blvd. south, turn right on E. Hillsdale Blvd., left on Shell Blvd. half a block and turn right into the parking area.

Walk the paved path west to the main lagoon. Among the many wintering ducks have been Canvasback, Redhead, both goldeneyes, both scaups, Bufflehead and all 3 mergansers. A Smew wintered here 1981-83. Other birds have included all 3 loons, 5 grebes, Black-necked Stilt, several gulls, terns, Belted Kingfisher and Water Pipit. Morning light is best here.

Continue on Shell Blvd., turn right on Beach Park Blvd. and park near the bridge over the lagoon. Check the lagoon for waterbirds and ducks which often include Barrow's Goldeneye and Hooded Merganser.

Turn back on Beach Park Blvd. and continue to the foot of Tarpon Street. Both Eurasian and American Wigeons may be among the many ducks here; Tufted Duck has been seen. Shorebirds feed on the mudflats on ebbing tide.

Facilities: restrooms in the community center at the parking area. **Best birding:** fall-spring.

Other birds: Brown Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, egrets, Surf and White-winged Scoters, Black-shouldered Kite, Horned Lark, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike, "Audubon's" Warbler, Western Meadowlark and Lesser Goldfinch.

8. GLEN ELLEN

Sonoma County

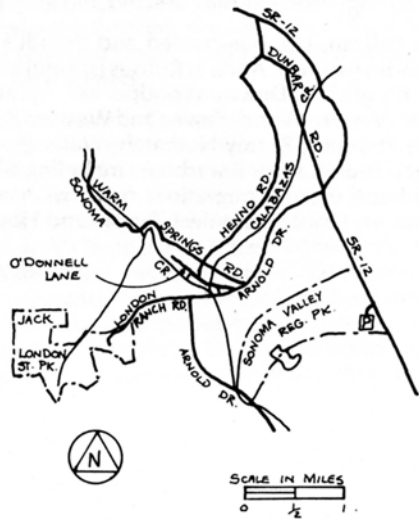
Excellent riparian habitat is along the creeks here, oak, bay, madrone and eucalyptus are among the trees, while landscaping around the homes adds further variety to the habitat which is rather dense in spots. This area is one of the most regular in summer for Yellow-breasted Chats which usually do not arrive until early May.

Take I-80 north and east past Vallejo, turn west on SR-37, north on SR-121, continue north on SR-116 about 1½ miles then follow signs north on Arnold Drive through El Verano to Glen Ellen. Park near the Sonoma Creek bridge by London Ranch Road where a sign points toward Jack London State Park.

Check the **creek** from both sides of the bridge for Green-backed Heron. Northern Rough-winged Swallows nest under the bridge; woodpeckers, flycatchers, vireos and warblers are in the trees. Walk upstream on the east side of the creek, checking trees and bushes for kinglets, vireos and several warblers. Turn left across the little bridge on O'Donnell Lane checking upstream for Black Phoebe, Song Sparrow and other birds.

Continue past where the road bends right, watch and listen for Chats and other warblers; hummingbirds are also along here. Just beyond the intersection take a path through the thick vegetation down to the creek where there are often Black Phoebe and other flycatchers, wrens, vireos, warblers, Song Sparrow and many other species. Return to the corner and turn left onto Henno Road where a large oak on the right is often full of birds.

Continue ahead on **Henno Road** which, after crossing Warm Springs Road, follows the left side of small Calabasas Creek. Chats are almost always along here in summer. Less than 0.1 mile past Warm Springs Road is a large oak at the right edge of the pavement, marking the best area for Chats whose song resembles a Mockingbird "with a cold." Common Yellowthroats are in the trees and riparian growth in the creekbed; Blackpoll Warbler has been seen. The woodland on the slope to the left harbors many species.

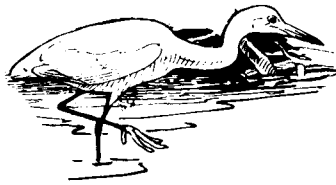


Henno Road leaves the creek and crosses open oak woodland with its varied birds. At a pond a mile north of Warm Springs Road may be Hooded Mergansers in winter along with resident Belted Kingfisher.

Return to your car or, for a longer walk, continue past vineyards with Western Bluebirds and many sparrows. Turn right on Dunbar Road past open fields, riparian areas, homes and oaks with varied birds, then right again on Arnold Drive. Traffic may be heavy along here.

Facilities: nearby Jack London State Park and Sonoma Valley Regional Park, a mile south of Arnold Drive on SR-12. The regional park has improvements in the planning stage and could have access to interesting birding by 1986. Sugarloaf Ridge and Annadel (see Site Guide) State Parks are not far north via SR-12. **Best birding:** April-June; summer can be hot.

Other birds: hawks include nesting Red-shouldered, 3 hummingbirds, Red-breasted Sapsucker (winter), Acorn, Nuttall's, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Western Wood-Pewee, Olive-sided, Western and Ash-throated Flycatchers, Western Kingbird, 5 swallows, Bewick's and House Wrens, Western Bluebird, Wrentit, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, both towhees, sparrows include Chipping and Lark, Northern Oriole, Purple and House Finches, Pine Siskin, Lesser and American Goldfinches.

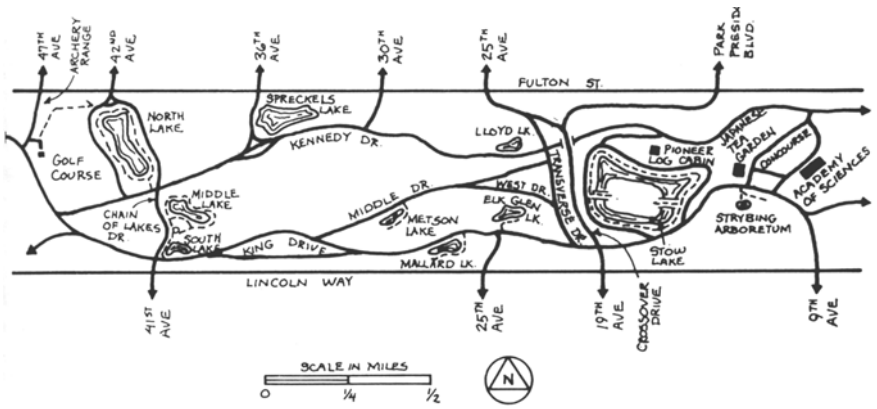


30. GOLDEN GATE PARK

San Francisco

This large urban park has a wide variety of habitats and therefore quite diverse birdlife. There are a number of lakes with varying amounts of marsh and surrounding vegetation. Throughout the park are redwood, Monterey pine, cypress and other conifers, eucalyptus, oak and other trees, riparian tangles, many and varied large shrubs, open meadows and quiet glens. The wilder western half has better birding than the more developed eastern half.

Cross the Bay Bridge, take US-101 north, exit on the lefthand Fell Street ramp, head west on Fell Street and continue into and through the park on Kennedy Drive.



Just past Transverse Drive check **Lloyd Lake** where winter waterfowl may include Eurasian Wigeon. Beyond 30th Avenue **Spreckels Lake** has had Thayer's and Glaucous Gulls and Black-legged Kittiwake in the large winter gull flock, ducks may include Eurasian Wigeon. Model boaters can make the area very noisy.

To reach **Chain of Lakes** continue west, left on Chain of Lakes Drive and left again into nearby Middle Lake parking lot. Look here for Red-breasted Sapsucker (winter), Downy Woodpecker, Tropical Kingbird has been here, and warblers, Walk the trail from the northeast corner of the lot and take the first left. This area of the lake and surrounding trees and bushes have Pygmy Nuthatches, Winter and Marsh Wrens, both kinglets (winter), Varied Thrush (winter), warblers have included Tennessee, Nashville, Virginia's (fall), Black-throated Blue (fall), Townsend's, Hermit, American Redstart, MacGillivray's and Common Yellowthroat, Western Tanager (fall), Indigo Bunting has been here and in a small redwood area just north, Lincoln's among winter sparrows. Return to the main trail and continue around the lake checking blackberry tangles and wooded areas as well as water and marsh.

Just south of the parking lot, on South Lake, Eurasian Wigeon may be among ducks, along the west shore are woodland birds, kinglets, Varied Thrush, warblers included Magnolia and Palm in 1980, both towhees, and sparrows.

To reach North Lake, near the northwest corner of Chain of Lakes and Kennedy Drives walk the paved trail north toward the lake's west side. In trees along here are woodland species, warblers, sparrows, and possibly Red Crossbill, Beyond the first bend, near a little bridge, are marsh birds, Winter Wren, Varied Thrush, "western" and vagrant warblers, and sparrows.

Continue north for many ducks, rails and Common Moorhen on occasion, Band-tailed Pigeon, swallows (summer), wrens, warblers

(Prothonotary in 1980) and sparrows. In trees across the road at the north end are woodpeckers, Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, both kinglets and warblers. In winter at the open north side of the lake ducks usually include Northern Shoveler and perhaps Blue-winged Teal, gulls include several species. Thrushes, Fox and other sparrows are in trees and bushes.

Drive south to King Drive, turn left, bear right at the next junction to **Mallard Lake** just before 25th Avenue. Among ducks are Ring-necked, landbirds are along the far side of the lake. Continue just past 25th Avenue to **Elk Glen Lake** on the left where Eurasian Wigeon, Wood and Ring-necked Ducks may be among waterfowl. Landbirds are in trees and bushes below the road. Go on to Transverse Drive, turn left, left again on West Drive and left on Middle Drive to **Metson Lake**. Wood and Ring-necked may be among ducks, many Mew Gulls winter here, Red Crossbill may be among landbirds on the back side of the lake.

To reach **Stow Lake** return to King Drive, turn east, then left toward the lake and park along the road. Walk along the lake or Strawberry Hill, a large island, for a number of species on the water and in vegetation. Ducks include American Wigeon, Ring-necked, Tufted in 1972, and many gulls. It can be very crowded here, especially on weekends, Across from the northeast part of the lake is Pioneer Log Cabin. Walk dirt paths behind here for a large variety of birds including “western” and vagrant species.

Continue east on King Drive to **Strybing Arboretum** and enter the gate across the road from the Japanese Tea Garden. Check the nearby pond for Eurasian Wigeon among wintering ducks. Alders along a streamlet just east of the display board at the entrance has had “Red-naped” Sapsucker and White-throated Sparrow in winter. Wander paths through diverse vegetation for varied birds, perhaps including Red Crossbill.

The **Fuschia Garden** near the Conservatory in the northeast corner of the park has Anna’s and Allen’s (summer) Hummingbirds, Winter Wren and several sparrows.

The California Academy of Sciences (entry fee) is fascinating with North American Bird Hall, Simson African Hall, Morrison Planetarium and Steinhart Aquarium located here; the De Young Museum and Japanese Tea Garden are across the concourse.

To return home, take Kennedy Drive, continue east on Oak Street and enter US-101 on a lefthand ramp, bear left to I-80 and the bridge.

Full **facilities** throughout the park. **Good birding** all year but more diverse fall-spring. A park **map** is available at the Academy

of Sciences. The northeast quarter of the park is closed to vehicles on Sundays. Busses run near most areas, Good weather, especially on summer weekends, can produce crowds in places but birding is good in quiet spots.

Other birds: grebes, a few herons or egrets, a few hawks, California Quail, several flycatchers (summer), both jays, Bushtit, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Bewick's and House Wrens, Wood Thrush was near the archery range, winter 1983-84, Wrentit, vireos have included Philadelphia in fall, Rose-breasted (rare) as well as Black-headed Grosbeak, Savannah and Golden-crowned (winter) among sparrows, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Oriole (summer), Purple and House Finches, Pine Siskin (winter), Lesser and American Goldfinches.

27. GRIZZLY ISLAND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Solano County

These refuges encompass over 10,000 acres of ponds, sloughs and channels, riparian thickets, freshwater marsh, open fields and pastures, large shrubby bushes, and scattered eucalyptus groves and other isolated trees.

Take I-80 northeast then SR-12 east through Fairfield. About a mile beyond town, turn south 4½ miles on Grizzly Island Road. Use caution to bird along the way; do NOT stop on the pavement.

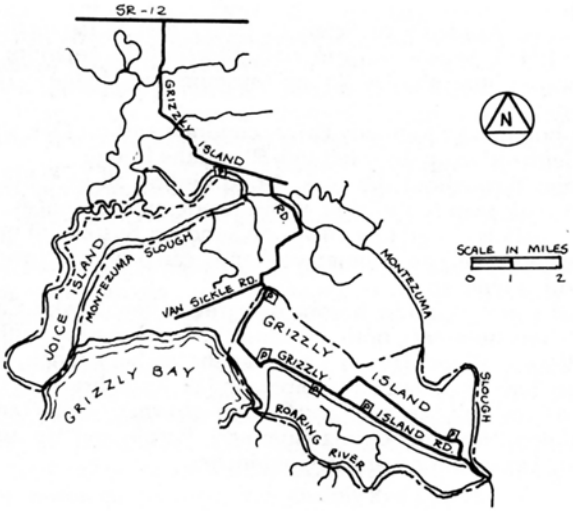
Park at the **Joice Island** registration station by the bridge. Around the parking lot are gulls, Burrowing Owl, many swallows in summer, Marsh Wren, Common Yellowthroat and Tricolored among blackbirds. Cross the bridge and walk to the right. Around the ponds are Tundra Swan, several geese and ducks in winter, shorebirds may include Lesser Yellowlegs, gulls and Black Phoebe, In vegetation are hummingbirds, Northern Flicker, Bewick's and Marsh Wrens, both kinglets in winter, Northern (rare, winter) and Loggerhead Shrikes, Rufous-sided and Brown Towhees, several sparrows, Lesser and American Goldfinches. If you drive this road, park only in designated areas.

Continue south toward **Grizzly Island**, watch for hawks ("Harlan's" Red-tail has been near the high bridge over Montezuma Slough), Common Moorhen in sheltered sloughs, Burrowing and Short-eared Owls. Around the Headquarters are waterfowl, hawks, Golden Eagle has been seen, Common Moorhen is often in the slough across the road, several shorebirds are mainly to the east in wet fields, Long-eared Owl has wintered in the eucalyptus, hummingbirds, swallows, wrens, Yellow-rumped Warbler, several sparrows and Dark-eyed Junco.

West of Headquarters, ponds on the right have many wintering waterfowl (beware of decoys) and shorebirds, on the left look for

Common Yellowthroat, and check fields to the south for hawks and owls. In the vicinity of the Hunter Check Station are often Black-shouldered Kite, Rough-legged and sometimes Ferruginous Hawks in winter.

Around **parking lot 2** and the trail west from there are American Bittern, some waterbirds, Common Moorhen, some shorebirds, swallows, Marsh Wren, Northern Shrike has been with Loggerhead, towhees, sparrows, blackbirds and both goldfinches. Long-eared Owls have wintered on the right side of the road just south of here. Continue south, checking ponds, sloughs and wet areas and watching for hawks and owls.



The road turns left at the south end of the Refuge. Bear left again to the clump of eucalyptus and **parking lot 8**. Found here are Common Barn-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Anna's, Rufous (spring) and Allen's (summer) Hummingbirds, both kinglets (winter), several warblers, sparrows and blackbirds. Checking ponds, continue northwest past parking lot 13, turn left to the main road then right toward the exit. Or retrace the route above.

Facilities minimal, best restroom at Headquarters. **Best birding:** mid-January through February. The refuge is open all year but October through mid-January birding is restricted to the county road and a bit of Montezuma Slough. Refuge map is available at Headquarters. A herd of transplanted Tule Elk is maintained on the Refuge.

Other birds: grebes, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron and egrets (a mixed rookery is in the area), Black-crowned Night-Heron, White-faced Ibis has been here, Northern Harrier and Red-shouldered among hawks, Ring-necked Pheasant, Virginia Rail, Sora, Belted Kingfisher, Black and Say's Phoebe, Bushtit, Water Pipit, several sparrows include Lincoln's in winter, and Western Meadowlark.

3. GUALALA POINT COUNTY PARK

Sonoma County

This small but productive area has open ocean with rocky shores and sandy beaches, plus the river with adjacent marsh, riparian areas and woodland. The exposed bluffs in between have grassland as well as pines and other trees. Area hillsides are heavily wooded.

Go north via SR-17 across the San Rafael Bridge then US-101, turn west to SR-1 from Petaluma or on River Road north of Santa Rosa, then north on SR-1 to the park on the south side of the Gualala River, the Sonoma/Mendocino County line. About 125 miles, 2½-3 hours travel. Day use fee, \$2, camp fee, \$6.

Go east from SR-1 to the small wooded **campground** along the river, Grasshopper Sparrows may nest south of the road near SR-1. At campsites 1-5 look for Green-backed Heron, Common Merganser (nests in the area), Spotted Sandpiper, Vaux's Swift (summer), Belted Kingfisher, 5 swallows and Purple Martin (summer) along the river, and woodpeckers, Red-breasted Sapsucker (nests), Brown Creeper and Varied Thrush (winter) in the trees.

From the campground walk the trail west through wooded walk-in sites, past alders and willows, across a field to the highway bridge for Anna's and Allen's (summer) Hummingbirds, woodpeckers, flycatchers (summer), Winter Wren, Swainson's Thrush (summer), warblers, sparrows and goldfinches. Cliff Swallows and Purple Martins nest under the bridge, Ospreys (nest in the area) and swallows fly over the river.

Continue up a steep trail to the picnic area and Visitor Center. In small pines on the bluff here are Wrentit, Hutton's Vireo, warblers, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin and American Goldfinch, while Grasshopper Sparrow is also possible.

Drive the road west from SR-1 to the Visitor Center, walk the **loop trail** west across coastal prairie past cypress trees to the bluffs. Check offshore rocks, rocky and sandy beaches and open water for 3 loons and 5 grebes (mostly winter), 3 cormorants, Harlequin Duck, Black Oystercatcher, Wandering Tattler, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot and Marbled Murrelet. Walk north along the bluffs and look for turnstones and other shorebirds on rocks, Sooty Shearwater, gulls and alcids offshore.

The trail swings away from the bluff then north to overlook a broad sandy beach where there are shorebirds, and gull flocks have included Black-legged Kittiwake. In summer a sandbar forms across the river mouth creating a quiet freshwater lagoon but the winter river flow opens the sandbar. Walk south toward the Visitor Center checking the river, shore and sandbars for waterbirds, ducks, Osprey and shorebirds. The lagoon can be birded from the town of Gualala across the river.

From a parking area at the park entrance walk south along SR-1 to MP-58.05 and take the redwood steps down to the ½-mile trail through the **Sea Ranch golfcourse** along a small stream with many wildflowers and birds including hummingbirds, woodpeckers, flycatchers, Winter and other wrens, thrushes, vireos, warblers and sparrows. On the ocean at the end of the trail may be loons, grebes, Sooty Shearwater, cormorants and alcids.

A small **marsh** west of SR-1 near the bridge may be productive. Along **Old Stage Road** in the hills behind the town of Gualala are Mountain Quail and Red Crossbill. **Fish Rocks**, offshore at Fish Rock Road 5 miles north, may have Tufted Puffins in summer.

In two other areas, if closed, you may obtain an entry permit from Gualala Redwoods - Forestry Headquarters, P.O. Box 197, Gualala, CA 95445. (707) 884-3521; the Gualala Park ranger has information also. Protect the environment here and stay on trails as this is private property. Up a **wooded hillside** on a dirt road opposite the campground RV service area are woodpeckers, wrens, kinglets, thrushes, warblers and sparrows. Swallows, Purple Martin and possibly Common Night-hawks are overhead in summer. A **trail east** along the river, reached through a fence gate east of Campsite 1, has shorebirds and many woodland species while swifts and swallows are over the river or perched on wires.

Facilities: restrooms in the campground and Visitor Center. Gas, motels and groceries in the small town of Gualala just north of the river. Another campground, privately owned Gualala River Redwoods, is on the north side of the river. **Birding** can be good any time but winter can be very stormy. Park phone: (707) 785-2377. Kayak or canoe are great for river birding. Insect repellent is strongly advised in the campground or near the river.

Other birds: Brown Pelican, herons, egrets, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Brant, many ducks, Black-shouldered Kite, many shorebirds include Semipalmated Plover, Whimbrel, Greater Yellowlegs and phalaropes, Marbled Murrelets may gather at the river mouth, Band-tailed Pigeon, Common Barn-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Common Nighthawk over town or campground in summer, flycatchers in summer include Olive-sided, Western and Ash-throated, Common Raven, Pygmy Nuthatch, Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned (winter) Kinglets, Blackheaded Grosbeak in summer, Lark, Savannah, Fox, Song and White-crowned Sparrows.

53. HAYWARD REGIONAL SHORELINE

Alameda County

The regional shoreline, along the eastside of San Francisco Bay has bay, mud-flats and saltmarsh with man-made islands. The separate north section features bayshore and flat grasslands north of Sulphur Creek. Heading toward the bay, San Lorenzo Trail follows the edge of a large field then turns north along the shore through and beyond the north portion of the shoreline.

Go south on SR-17 to Hayward and turn west on W. Winton Avenue to the end. Walk in if the gate is closed, otherwise drive the short distance to the main parking lot. Open 8 am-4 pm; summer, sunrise-sunset.

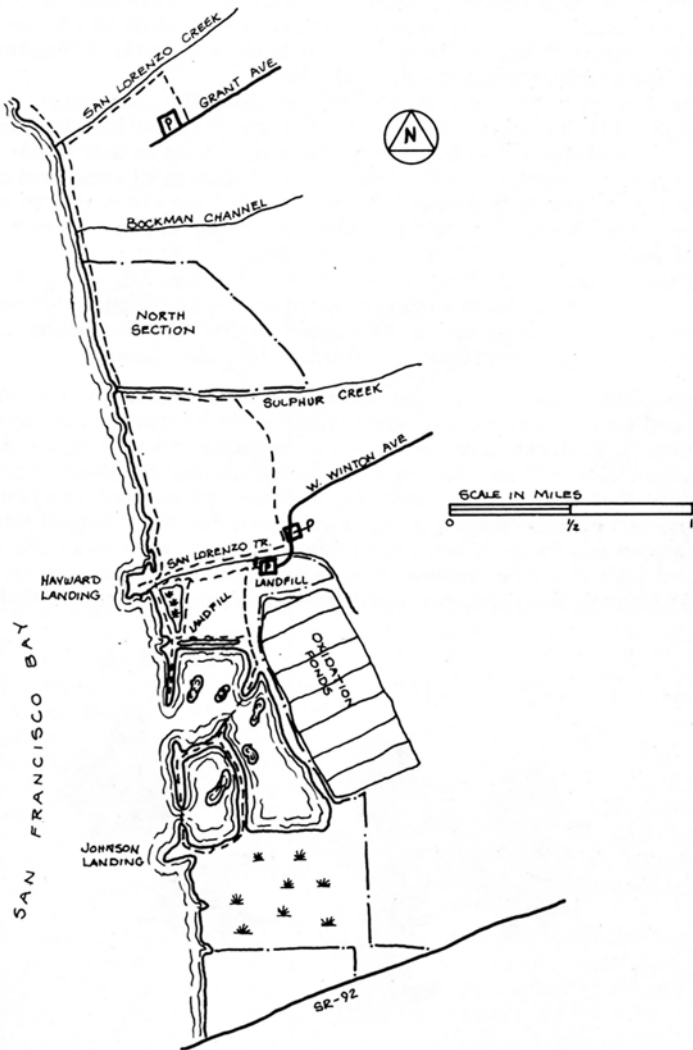
Along the entrance road check wires for Black-shouldered Kite and Loggerhead Shrike, eucalyptus trees for hummingbirds, warblers and sparrows. Varied Thrush was here in 1983. Just west of the parking lot go up atop a former landfill dump for an overview of the park and to look for Short-eared Owl, Horned Lark, Water Pipit and sparrows in the sparse vegetation. Walk south and check the oxidation ponds to the east. The west end of the landfill is excellent for scoping the bay.

Near the southwest corner of the landfill go north on the dirt path between Triangle Marsh and the bay to the old effluent channel outflow at Hayward Landing. Examine the small marsh just beyond the channel's tidal gates. On outgoing tide the nearby flats are alive with shorebirds of many species, shallows have waders and ducks, open water has grebes and diving ducks (Eurasian Wigeon has been here). Check offshore rocks for both turnstones, Wandering Tattler has been seen.

Return south, walk east on the north side of a buffer pond along the landfill, turn right along the chainlink fence enclosing the oxidation ponds, then right again onto the dike between North and East Units where ducks winter, hordes of shorebirds feed on mudflats (Semipalmated Sandpiper was here in 1983), and American Avocets nest on islands. Beyond the bridge, bear right on the dike between North and South Units to the bay and scope the open water. Head south along the shore, cross a second bridge to Johnson's Landing and bird the small marsh jutting into the bay. San Mateo Bridge is about a mile south of this point.

The trail turns east with South Unit on the left, seasonal, variable Enterprise Marsh on the right (future parkland restoration area) which may have shorebirds at high tide. Turn left on the levee between South and East Units to the bridge and return to the parking lot.

Just outside the main gate walk paved San Lorenzo Trail west to Hayward Landing. Check the channel on the left and rain ponds



on the right in winter for possible Blue-winged Teal, and Pectoral Sandpiper among shorebirds in fall. In the fields to the north are Loggerhead Shrike and flocks of Horned Larks and Water Pipits which have included Lapland and Chestnut-collared (1982) Longspurs. Tricolored and Yellow-headed (1982) Blackbirds have been in large flocks of European Starlings, Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbirds and Brown-headed Cowbirds. Overhead may be Black-shouldered Kite and hawks. Ferruginous Hawk has wintered in this area, Burrowing Owl is here.

At the bay turn right on the unpaved trail along the shore, cross the bridge over Sulphur Creek to the north section of the Shoreline

and look for Short-eared Owl. Eurasian Wigeon may be among the many ducks in any flooded area in winter. Continue north, cross the bridge over Bockman Channel and on to San Lorenzo Creek. The trail follows the south side of the creek east to a parking area on Grant Avenue. A bridge spans the creek and a planned trail will continue along the shore to San Leandro Marina.

Facilities: a latrine at the parking lot. **Best birding:** fall-spring. With dikes breached in 1980, tidal marsh is being restored on the old salt ponds. Development of other sections will extend a 1000-acre park for 3 miles along the shore from Grant Avenue in San Lorenzo to south of Johnson's Landing.

Other birds: 3 loons, 4 grebes, Double-crested Cormorant, herons, Great, Snowy and Cattle (uncommon) Egrets, Greater White-fronted and Snow Geese (uncommon), 19 ducks, Osprey (rare), on power towers may be Golden Eagle, Merlin, Peregrine or Prairie Falcon, rails, shorebirds include Snowy Plover, Lesser Yellowlegs, Red Knot, Baird's Sandpiper, Red-necked and Red (rare) Phalaropes, Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers (rare), 9 gulls included Black-legged Kittiwake in 1983, Caspian and Forster's Terns (Common, Least are uncommon, Black is rare), Black and Say's Phoebes, swallows in summer, Common Yellowthroat, sparrows include Savannah, Song and, in winter, Lincoln's, Lesser and American Goldfinches.

16. HONEY and EAGLE LAKES

Lassen County

The Honey Lake area, at 3949 feet in the Great Basin, has sagebrush flats and rocky hills with marshes at the lake's north end, cultivated acreage in the valley. The south end of Eagle Lake, at 5115 feet on the south end of the Cascade Range, has coniferous forest as does Janesville Grade south of Susanville, while north and east of the lake are hills with sage and juniper.

Take I-80 east to Reno then US-395 north 80 miles to SR-36 east of Susanville. Scenic routes, weather permitting, north and east from SR-99 north of Sacramento: in Yuba City take SR-20 east, then SR-70 (Feather River Canyon), SR-89, SR-147 along Lake Almanor, and SR-36; or in Chico take SR-32 then SR-36. Carry chains in winter. About 280 miles, 6 hours travel.

Honey Lake WMA has two units, Fleming and Dakin. Go east on US-395 to 3 miles beyond Litchfield, turn south 2 miles on Mapes Road, follow signs east to Refuge Headquarters at **Fleming Unit** off Antola Road, birding roadside wet areas. Around buildings check winter flocks for American Tree, White-throated and Harris' among Song, Golden-crowned and White-crowned Sparrows and

Dark-eyed Junco. Common Barn-Owls nest in the sheds, Great Horned Owls roost in nearby trees. Examine trees at Headquarters and surrounding areas for varied landbirds.

From the first parking area beyond Headquarters walk levees through the marsh and along the Susan River. If the road is open, drive to the south parking lot and walk levees there. Watch reeds for Marsh Wren, scan willows for Long-eared Owl and, in winter, American Tree Sparrow. Here in migration are Tundra Swan, several geese including Ross', 21 duck species including 3 teal, both wigeon, Redhead and 3 mergansers, both yellowlegs, Pectoral and other sandpipers among shorebirds, Wintering Horned Lark flocks in refuge fields usually include Lapland Longspur, sometimes McCown's or Chestnut-collared.

In summer, 6 swallow species fly over the marsh. Among nesters are Great and Snowy Egrets, Black-crowned Night-Heron, White-faced Ibis, Canada Goose, several ducks, Sandhill Crane, shorebirds including Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Long-billed Curlew and Wilson's Phalarope. Ring-billed and California Gulls, Caspian, Forster's and Black Terns and Yellow-headed Blackbird. Burrowing Owls nest in nearby areas.

To bird **Honey Lake Valley** cruise roads between Standish, on US-395 east of Susanville, and Dakin Unit. To reach the Wendel area just east of Fleming Unit, take US-395 east to 4 miles beyond Litchfield then turn right on Wendel Road. At Wendel head west on Antola Road to Fleming Unit. Along these roads watch overhead for raptors, check brush and fences for Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, Black-billed Magpie, Bewick's Wren, Sage Thrasher and, in winter, Northern as well as Loggerhead Shrike. Resident Lark and Sage Sparrows are joined in winter by American Tree, White-throated, Golden-crowned, White-crowned and Harris', in summer by Black-throated and Brewer's. Tricolored Blackbirds may be in flocks of Red-winged and Brewer's. Throughout the valley Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle and Prairie Falcon are resident, wintering are Bald Eagle, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, perhaps "Harlan's" Red-tail, Merlin and Peregrine Falcon, while Swainson's Hawk is possible in migration.

From Fleming Unit zigzag south and west about 5 miles on Mapes Road, turn left to **Dakin Unit** and drive south to the parking areas. A scope is helpful in scanning the marsh and Hartson Reservoir for 4 grebe species, geese, ducks and gulls on the water and along the shore. Watch overhead for raptors.

Continue west on Mapes Road, go left on Standish-Buntingville Road (A3), turn right 1 mile on US-395 then left up **Janesville Grade** to look for Northern Goshawk, Mountain Quail, Northern

Pygmy-Owl, White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creeper, Clark's Nutcracker, Cassin's Finch, Evening Grosbeak and other forest species as at Eagle Lake. Snow conditions may limit winter access. Return east, turn north into **Janesville**, watching for Lewis' and Hairy Woodpeckers along the street through town. Turn right to the cemetery and look for Band-tailed Pigeon, Lewis', Acorn and Hairy Woodpeckers, Steller's and Scrub Jays, Black-billed Magpie, Mountain Chickadee, Pygmy Nuthatch, Western Bluebird and Townsend's Solitaire.

Head north again, turn left on Wingfield Road then right on Basshill Road, watching for raptors and varied landbirds, Turn north on US-395 then west on SR-36. In **Susanville**, check wintering Cedar Waxwing flocks for Bohemians which are erratic but regular, sometimes in great numbers, and scan American Robins for possible Varied Thrush, Look for Rock and Canyon Wrens in rocky areas such as along SR-139 northeast of town and along Rices Canyon Road south from that road to Conservation Center Road (A27).

From Susanville go west 2½ miles on SR-36 then north on Eagle Lake Road (A1). Through a large old burn, especially near the summit, look for Northern Goshawk, Hairy, White-headed and Black-backed Woodpeckers. At **Eagle Lake** turn right on Gallatin Road (A1), turn left to the picnic ground. Go next to Gallatin Beach and the marina. Nesting Ospreys and Bald Eagles fly over the water and perch atop snags. Scan the lake for 4 grebe species, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, American White Pelican (summer), Canada Goose, ducks including Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal, Northern Pintail, Gadwall, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead and Common Merganser, Common Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope and other shorebirds, California and Ring-billed Gulls, summering Caspian, Forster's and Black Terns.

Other forest species here include accipiters, Golden Eagle, Blue Grouse, Mountain Quail, Band-tailed Pigeon, Flammulated and Northern Pygmy-Owls, Common and Lesser (rare) Nighthawks, Red-breasted and Williamson's Sapsuckers, Pileated, Lewis' and Downy Woodpeckers, Western Wood-Pewee, Olive-sided, Hammond's, Dusky and Willow Flycatchers, 6 swallow species, Purple Martin (uncommon), Steller's and Scrub Jays, Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Chickadee, 3 nuthatches, Brown Creeper, Western and Mountain Bluebirds, Townsend's Solitaire, Golden-crowned Kinglet, several summer warblers, Red-winged, Yellow-headed and Brewer's Blackbirds, Western Tanager. Black-headed and Evening Grosbeaks, Purple, Cassin's and House Finches, Pine Siskin, Red Crossbill, Green-tailed and Rufous-sided Towhees and several sparrows.

To reach a **Sage Grouse lek** (booming ground), walk 1½ miles

west from US-395 on a dirt road about 8 miles northeast of Litchfield. Displaying birds may be seen at dawn through February and March. **STAY BACK AWAY FROM THE GROUSE** and observe them through binoculars and scopes! This lek was abandoned for a while, due probably to overzealous birders. Also in the area are Chukar, Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, Sage Thrasher, Brewer's, Lark, Black-throated and Sage Sparrows and a large Pronghorn herd.

Best birding is fall-spring; wide variety of species likely in the area on a trip to see Sage Grouse - Audubon chapters in the Bay Area have field trips. Motels and restaurants in Susanville; small motel and cafe in Litchfield. Camping at Eagle Lake; free campground, minimal facilities, at Fleming Unit.

10. IDA CLAYTON ROAD

Sonoma County

Crossing the north flank of Mount St. Helena, this road passes through several habitats including varied woodlands, chaparral, riparian thickets and grassy hillsides. Beautiful vistas also await the birder along the 11 miles of this road.

Go north on I-80 through Vallejo, west on SR-37, north on SR-29/128 to Calistoga then on SR-128 about 7 miles, turn right on Ida Clayton Road and promptly park off the pavement. Note your mileage.

On the left is open woodland while on the right are more dense woodland and creekside riparian growth. Here are Acorn, Nuttall's and Downy Woodpeckers, flycatchers, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Bewick's and House Wrens, Western Bluebird, Swainson's Thrush, 3 vireos, Orange-crowned, Yellow and Wilson's Warblers, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Rufous-sided Towhee and Purple Finch.

At about **1.6 miles** in an open area with scattered trees are Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Bewick's Wren, Western Bluebird, California Thrasher and Lark Sparrow.

At **1.9 miles** on chaparral-covered hillsides with rock outcrops is a utility pole by a wide turnout on the right. Look here for Ash-throated Flycatcher, Bewick's Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Wrentit, California Thrasher, Lazuli Bunting, Rufous-sided Towhee, Rufous-crowned, Lark, Black-chinned and Sage Sparrows. Purple Martin, Rock and Canyon Wrens have been seen and Common Poorwill may be found at dusk.

At **3.4 miles**, in deciduous woodlands, may be Golden Eagle, Mountain Quail (listen for their "quark"), Hairy, Pileated and other woodpeckers, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Brown Creeper, vireos, Orange-crowned, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Gray and

Townsend's Warblers, Chipping Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco.

Beyond 4 miles the road goes through mixed forest where frequent turnouts allow birding stops almost anywhere. At **7 miles** a little creek goes under the road; a turnout is on the left. Check the boggy area uphill and roadside trees in both directions. Look for Northern Pygmy-Owl, several flycatchers, Solitary and Warbling Vireos, warblers are mostly migrant (Orange-crowned, Nashville, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Hermit, MacGillivray's nests, and Wilson's), Western Tanager and Black-headed Grosbeak, Mountain Quail are also in the wooded areas, watch for them along the road.

Pavement ends at about mile 8, the county line, where the road becomes Western Mine Road. The next 2 miles is good dirt road, then the last mile down to SR-29, reached at MP-3.48 on that highway, is paved.

Turn right (south) on SR-29 toward Calistoga. An interesting stop is **Robert Louis Stevenson State Park** where the trail zig-zags up the hillside. The easy 1-mile nature trail ends at the Stevenson Monument by the old Silverado Mine but the trail continues another **4 miles** to the summit of Mount St. Helena and a spectacular view. Along the trail are some of the same species found on Ida Clayton Road, including Mountain Quail.

For a return trip past fields of spring wildflowers, from Western Mine Road go north 2.8 miles on SR-29 then right on Butts Canyon Road just beyond Middletown. Along **Detert Reservoir**, 5 miles from SR-29, and surrounding grassland, oaks and chaparral look for waterbirds, ducks, Osprey, woodpeckers may include Lewis', Western and Ash-throated Flycatchers, Western Kingbird, swallows, Western Bluebird, California Thrasher and Northern Oriole.

Near Aetna Springs continue south on Pope Valley Road. At Pope Valley turn right on Howell Mountain and Deer Park Roads or go left on Chiles-Pope Valley Road then right on SR-128. Turn south on SR-29.

Facilities: a latrine at Stevenson Park; **no** water. **Best birding:** May-June; quite warm in summer.

Other birds: Northern Harrier, accipiters, Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks, California Quail, Band-tailed Pigeon, Greater Roadrunner (rare), Black (migrant) and White-throated Swifts, hummingbirds, Northern Flicker, flycatchers include Olive-sided, Western Wood-Pewee and Western, several swallows include Northern Rough-winged, both jays, American Crow, Common Raven, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Brown Towhee, Northern Oriole, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Lesser Goldfinch, Evening Grosbeak was here in 1980.

41. LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR

Contra Costa County

Around this reservoir are cattails, willows, alders, cottonwoods, sycamores and riparian tangles while the surrounding hills are covered with grassland, chaparral and oak woodland. In picnic areas near the dam are Monterey pines. The paved trail along the shore is easy walking through pleasant wooded areas but it is recommended you walk with a friend.

Go east on I-580 and SR-24 to Lafayette, exit on Acalanes Road, at the signal turn east on Mt. Diablo Blvd. to the well-marked turnoff, go uphill to parking areas atop the dam. Entry gate: \$2, or short-term parking: 25¢ per half hour, maximum 2 hours; or park on the north side of Mt. Diablo Blvd. and walk in. From the dam walk east; morning light is best.

Paved **Shore Trail**, 2.7 miles, has many walkers, joggers and bikers, especially on weekends. Around the dam are Spotted Sandpiper, Western Bluebird, Water Pipit (winter), Western Meadowlark and goldfinches. Just east of the dam check willows and other vegetation by the shore below, the wooded picnic area above. Around the group picnic area and south along the trail beyond are woodpeckers, Bewick's and House Wrens, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at times, Wrentit, California Thrasher, and Lincoln's among winter sparrows.

As the trail swings around the eastern arm of the lake check the small picnic area surrounded by tangles for several species. Atop the short climb beyond, rest a bit on the bench, then check oak woodland and baccharis. On wooded and chaparral slopes along the east shore are Northern Flicker, Acorn, Nuttall's and Downy Woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatch, Bewick's and House Wrens, Western Bluebird, Swainson's (summer) and Hermit and Varied (winter) Thrushes, Wrentit, Orange-crowned, Yellow (summer), Yellow-rumped (winter) and Wilson's (migrant) Warblers, Fox and possibly White-throated among sparrows in winter.

Near the south end, in the marsh are Marsh Wren, Common Yellowthroat, sometimes Sora, nearby hillsides have California Thrasher, Lazuli Bunting (summer) and sparrows. Where the trail crosses a small stream with tall trees and thick tangles are Downy Woodpecker, Winter Wren, warblers, Fox and Lincoln's among winter sparrows. Beyond the trees detour left off the trail and check open areas for Western Bluebird, California Thrasher, towhees and goldfinches.

After an easy climb the trail continues well above the water with good views of waterbirds, several ducks, and gulls. Along this west side are Nuttall's and Downy Woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatch, wrens, Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes, warblers, towhees, Lincoln's

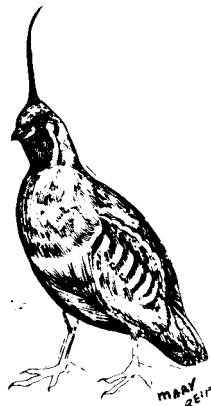
and other sparrows. Around the lawn area near Headquarters look for Say's Phoebe and Water Pipit in winter, Lesser and American Goldfinches, perhaps Loggerhead Shrike.

Beyond Headquarters check winter sparrow flocks for Lincoln's and White-throated. Just before the dam turn uphill to the picnic area and look for woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, warblers and sparrows.

Unpaved **Rim Trail**, 4.3 miles through chaparral and oak woodland, has several well-graded unpaved access trails from Shore Trail. Watch for Black-shouldered Kite over grassy areas, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Wrentit and California Thrasher in chaparral, Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, White-throated Swift and many swallows (summer) overhead.

Facilities: restrooms in Headquarters, several latrines along Shore Trail; large picnic areas near the dam, small ones along Shore Trail. **Best birding:** fall-spring, slower in hot summer. Open during daylight hours. Brochure, **EBMUD Trails**, at Headquarters or from East Bay Municipal Utility District, P.O. Box 24055, Oakland, CA 94623, or their local offices.

Other birds: Red-throated Loon (winter), 4 grebes (mostly winter), most Canada Geese are not wild, Ring-necked Duck, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers among winter ducks, Osprey (rare), California Quail, Common Snipe (winter), Caspian Tern (summer), Band-tailed Pigeon, Common Barn-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Anna's, Rufous (spring) and Allen's (summer) Hummingbirds, Belted Kingfisher, summer flycatchers include Ash-throated and Western Kingbird, both kinglets (winter), Cedar Waxwing (winter), Western Tanager (mostly migrant), Black-headed Grosbeak (summer), Northern Oriole (summer), Purple and House Finches and Pine Siskin (winter).



6. LAGUNA LAKE

Marin County

This L-shaped lake has little vegetation surrounding it but the hills and flatlands behind it are grassy with scattered oaks while the hillside south of the road is wooded. This is an excellent birding spot on the way back from Bodega Bay in winter but the lake may dry up in summer.

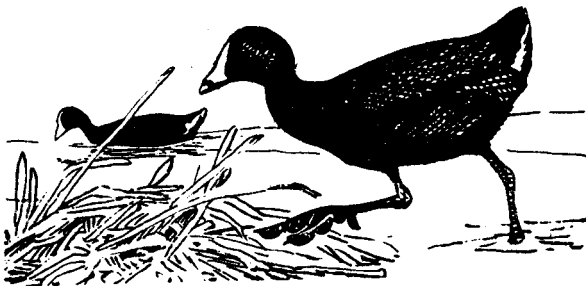
From SR-1 just south of the town of Tomales (between Bodega Bay and Pt. Reyes), go east 5 miles on Tomales-Petaluma Road then turn right on Chileno Valley Road. Look for Ferruginous Hawk in winter near MP-2.60 then continue east to Laguna Lake at MP-6.32.

Stop in the several turnouts along the edge of this large, shallow lake where there may be thousands of ducks in winter. A scope is helpful as the upper arm of the lake, seen from MP-7.02, extends some distance north from the road. Check trees and bushes on the south side of the road for woodland species and look for Ferruginous Hawk which is rare but regular in the area.

Continue east 3 miles on Chileno Valley Road, turn right 3 miles on Marshall-Petaluma Road then left 3 miles on Wilson Hill Road. Turn right $\frac{1}{2}$ mile on Pt. Reyes-Petaluma Road then left on Novato Blvd. 8-9 miles to US-101 and your favorite route home.

No facilities in this area. **Good birding** late fall-early spring.

Birds: grebes, mostly Pied-billed, Double-crested Cormorant, herons, egrets, ducks in winter include Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Canvasback, Redhead, many Ring-necked, both scaups, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead and Ruddy, California Quail, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Common Snipe and, in migration, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary, Baird's and Pectoral Sandpipers have been seen, Bonaparte's Gull, Black and Say's Phoebes, several sparrows, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbirds, Pine Siskin, Lesser and American Goldfinches.



11. LAKE HENNESSEY

Napa County

Around this lake are varied habitats including freshwater marsh, riparian woodland and grassy hillsides. Wintering Bald Eagles may perch atop power towers or on treetops.

Go north on I-80 through Vallejo, turn west on SR-37, north on SR-29 through to Rutherford, then east 4 miles on SR-128 to a turnout on the left at the spillway at MP-8.68. More scenic, north of Napa turn east 2 miles on Trancas Street then north on Silverado Trail and bird along the 14 miles to SR-128 then east 1 mile.

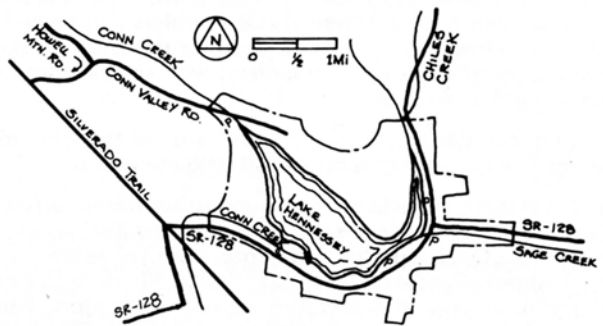
From the road near the **spillway** check the pond for Common Yellowthroat, Song and Lincoln's (winter) Sparrows, boulders below the road and across the pond for Rock Wren, then walk east along the road toward the dam. Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, both kinglets, Swainson's (summer) and Hermit and Varied (winter) Thrushes, 3 vireos in summer, warblers (mostly migrant), Black-headed Grosbeak (summer) and towhees are on hillsides, along the creek and in trees along the road, Canada Geese and ducks may fly overhead.

Drive east and at **overlooks** beyond the dam pull into turnouts. Check the lake in winter for Red-throated and Common Loons, 4 grebes, Double-crested Cormorant, Canada Goose, ducks, Osprey, gulls (mostly Ring-billed and California)

on and over the water, and 5 swallows in summer. Scope for wintering Bald Eagles on power towers and treetops around the lake.

Turn into **Hennessey boat launch** on the left at MP-10.58 and park. Great Blue Herons nest along the shore across this arm of the lake, Northern Pygmy-Owls are in trees across the road but that is private property so stay outside the fence. Waterfowl, Osprey, woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatch, kinglets, 3 vireos, warblers and sparrows are in and around this area.

Continue $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the bridge at the junction with **Chiles-Pope Valley Road**. Herons are across the water to the west, waterfowl, including Ring-necked Duck and both scaups, are east of the bridge, and a large sparrow flock, Lesser and American Goldfinches are in grassy areas and bushes nearby along both roads. Turn north 0.3



mile on Chiles-Pope Valley Road to a small parking area on the left and look for woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatch, Bewick's and Marsh Wrens, warblers, Rufous-sided and Brown Towhees, and sparrows.

At the **northeast end** of the lake, Green-backed Heron, waterfowl, Marsh Wren and Red-winged Blackbird are in the marsh area, Red-shouldered Hawk and Northern Pygmy-Owl are on the hillside across the water, and woodpeckers, Say's Phoebe (winter), White-breasted Nuthatch, wrens, Western Bluebird, thrushes, vireos, warblers, sparrows and finches are in the trees, bushes and weeds.

Just beyond the marsh at the end of the lake, park on the dirt drive on the left and walk north along the road about half a mile to a small bridge. In the creek and tangles along its banks and in trees and bushes along both sides of the road are woodpeckers, jays, White-breasted Nuthatch, kinglets, thrushes, vireos, warblers, towhees, sparrows and other woodland birds. From the bridge is a good view into the creek and birds foraging or bathing there.

Return to Silverado Trail, turn right 3.3 miles, right on Howell Mountain Road then right again on Conn Valley Road to the parking area where you reach the **northwest arm** of the lake. Here are Western Grebes, perhaps dancing in late winter, Green-backed Heron, waterfowl, hawks, gulls, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, swallows (summer), Rock Wren, vireos, warblers and several sparrows. The trail to the right follows along the west shore of the lake. At road's end, a short distance along the road, is open woodland with several species of birds. A trail continues along the east shore.

Facilities are minimal; latrines, in many places around the lake, may not be clean, **Best birding**: late fall-spring; summer can be quite warm.

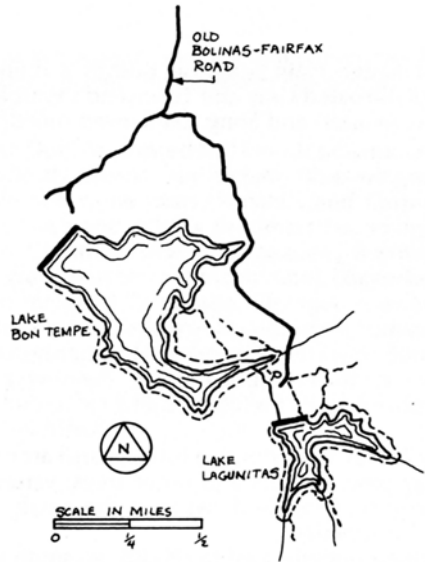
Other birds: Great Egret, 16 ducks have included Tufted (rare), Barrow's Golden-eye, Common and Hooded Mergansers, Black-shouldered Kite, accipiters, Prairie Falcon (rare), California Quail, Spotted Sandpiper, both yellowlegs in migration, Common Snipe (winter), Band-tailed Pigeon, Belted Kingfisher, woodpeckers include Lewis' (rare), Acorn, Red-breasted Sapsucker (winter), Nuttall's and Downy, Black Phoebe, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Brown Creeper, Water Pipit (winter), Western Tanager, sparrows include Rufous-crowned, Fox (winter) and Song, Northern Oriole (summer), Purple and House Finches and Pine Siskin.

19. LAKES LAGUNITAS and BON TEMPE

Marin County

These two reservoirs are surrounded by hills, some grassy but most wooded. Around the lakes are oak woodland, eucalyptus groves, coniferous forest, chaparral and some riparian woodland. Pileated Woodpeckers are here but sometimes hard to find.

Go north on SR-17 over San Rafael Bridge then north 0.6 mile on US-101. Take the San Rafael exit to the 2nd signal, turn left 4 miles. In downtown Fairfax turn left then promptly right onto Broadway $\frac{1}{2}$ block, left on Bolinas Avenue, left again on Old Bolinas-Fairfax Road to the Lake Lagunitas parking lot at the end of the road. Entry fee.



Pileated Woodpeckers are around both lakes in denser trees. Listen for the loud, insistent calls and drumming. Check trees around the parking area, tall lone trees west of the creek near the parking lot, around the south end of Lake Lagunitas in the vicinity of the first footbridge, the southeast end of Lake Bon Tempe and up the fire road just west of that area. Do NOT disturb or harass the woodpeckers!

From near the restrooms walk the trail up the wooded slope east of the parking lot to look for hummingbirds, Acorn and other woodpeckers, wrens, Western Tanager and Northern Oriole (summer). Pileated Woodpeckers are sometimes here. Return down the hill and examine the eucalyptus trees back along the entry road.

Walk to **Lake Lagunitas** from the parking lot up the road or along the creek to the top of the dam where waterbirds and ducks are on the lake and Red-shouldered Hawks are often overhead. Take the trail to the right, following the shore, for White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creeper, 3 thrushes, 3 vireos and several warblers. Dense trees at the south end have Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, kinglets and thrushes.

The south side of the lake has more open growth and chaparral, good views of the lake and varied birds including woodpeckers, swallows, Bewick's Wren, Black-headed Grosbeak (summer), towhees, and sparrows. The east end has open trees and grassy areas with

birds including Acorn and Nuttall's Woodpeckers, wrens, Western Bluebird, warblers, Black-headed Grosbeak, both towhees, Lesser and American Goldfinches.

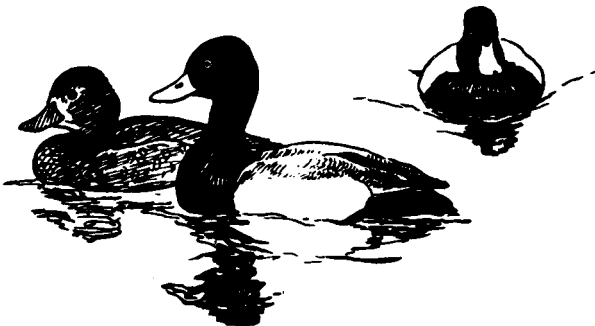
The north shore, with varied habitats, has many species including Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Red-breasted Sapsucker (winter), White-breasted Nuthatch, wrens, Western Bluebird, thrushes, warblers, Western Tanager, Northern Oriole (summer), Purple and House Finches.

Between the parking lot and Lake Bon Tempe in trees, shrubs and in grassy areas are hummingbirds, woodpeckers, swallows (summer), Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, both kinglets, Western Bluebird, thrushes, sparrows, Lesser and American Goldfinches.

Follow the north shore of this arm of **Lake Bon Tempe** about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to a fire road uphill. About 100 feet up this road are hummingbirds, woodpeckers, nuthatches, Brown Creeper, both kinglets, Hermit and Varied (winter) Thrushes and sparrows. Continue uphill along trees and through open grasslands to overlook the northeast arm of the lake. Return left along the shore to the parking lot. West along the south shore of the lake are the same kinds of birds.

Facilities: restrooms at the parking lot, latrines along the Lake Lagunitas trail; picnic area by the parking lot. Open daily 8 a.m.
Best birding: spring and summer.

Other birds: Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Osprey (rare), accipiters, Peregrine Falcon has been seen, California Quail, gulls, Band-tailed Pigeon, Anna's and Allen's (summer) Hummingbirds, Belted Kingfisher, summer flycatchers include Olive-sided, Western, Black Phoebe and Ash-throated, 5 swallows, Purple Martin (uncommon), both jays, American Crow, Common Raven, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, 3 vireos, Orange-crowned, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Gray and Townsend's Warblers, several sparrows include Chipping, Fox (winter) and Song, Dark-eyed Junco, Pine Siskin and Red Crossbill (erratic).



31. LAKE MERCED

San Francisco

This lake, actually 2 lakes, has extensive cattail marsh around the edges, willow, eucalyptus, Monterey pine, cypress and other trees, varied shrubs, and grassy areas along the golfcourse. Bank Swallows from the nearby Fort Funston colony forage over the water in summer.

Cross the Bay Bridge, continue west to US-101, go south via US-101 then I-280 for 3½ miles and take the "S.F. State Univ." exit one block. Turn right on Sagamore Street, bear right on Brotherhood Way to Lake Merced Blvd. Lake Merced and nearby Fort Funston (see Site Guide) make a good 1-day trip.

South Lake. Turn left on Lake Merced Blvd. to the parking lot on the right. Waterbird concentration is heaviest in this area. Red-necked (rare) has been among 5 grebes; several ducks include Ring-necked and both scaups in winter; Common Moorhen, many gulls (have included Franklin's), swallows (summer), Marsh Wren and Common Yellowthroat are here; and Tropical Kingbird has wintered. Check the lake and shore from the concrete fishing bridge then walk the loop around the lake between the bridge and the south end of the lake.

Boathouse area. Drive around the south end of the lake then north on John Muir Drive, continue north on Skyline Blvd. to Harding Road, turn right toward the golfcourse and park near the boathouse. In winter Eurasian Wigeon has been on the grass or water nearby. Look for Great Blue Heron on the shore, waterfowl and gulls on the water and swallows overhead. Walk the path, between South Lake and the road, back toward Skyline to a small pumphouse where eastern vagrants turn up in migration. Check shoreline and trees beyond the boathouse where Red Crossbills are sometimes in the Monterey pines.

North Lake. Return to Skyline Blvd., turn right to Lake Merced Blvd. then right again to the large parking lot at Sunset Blvd. Trees and shrubs to the west harbor migrants plus California Quail, hummingbirds, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Bewick's Wren, Swainson's (summer) and Hermit (winter) Thrushes, vireos, warblers, towhees, sparrows and Purple Finch, while 6 swallow species fly over the water.

Take the paved path south to a small wooden footbridge and look for herons, American and Least (March 1981) Bitterns, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, Marsh Wren and Common Yellowthroat. Uphill beyond the bridge, around the Harding Park clubhouse, are woodpeckers, Western Flycatcher (summer), Brown Creeper, both kinglets, warblers, several sparrows and blackbirds, Either section

of North Lake can be circled on foot, Lakeside marshes have American Bittern, Green-backed Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Marsh Wren and Common Yellowthroat. Look among 6 swallows species over the water for Banks which arrive in late March or early April to nest at nearby Fort Funston.

Facilities: restrooms at the boathouse and golfcourse clubhouse; picnic area at the east end of the fishing bridge. **Best birding:** fall-spring; a scope is valuable for seeing birds out on the lake.

Other birds: 3 loons, Double-crested and Brandt's Cormorants, Great and Cattle (rare) Egrets, ducks (mostly divers) may include Blue-winged Teal and Barrow's Goldeneye, Red Phalarope some years, Forster's and Caspian (summer) Terns, Band-tailed Pigeon, Anna's and Allen's (summer) Hummingbirds, Belted Kingfisher, Black Phoebe, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (uncommon), Loggerhead Shrike, warblers, mostly migrants, have included Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Northern Parula, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, many Yellow-rumped, Blackburnian, Blackpoll, Black- and-White, American Redstart and Northern Waterthrush, Summer Tanager (rare), sparrows include Fox (winter), Song, Golden-crowned (winter) and White-crowned, Dark-eyed junco, blackbirds include Yellow-headed (rare), Pine Siskin, Lesser and American Goldfinches.



40. LAKE MERRITT

Alameda County

Around the lakeshore is a park strip of grass, varied trees, including many oaks and shrubs. The main park, a large area between the 2 arms of the lake, has many trees and shrubs, a lovely display garden, and spacious lawns. A paved walk circles the lake, providing all-weather access along its 3-mile length.

Go east on I-580 and exit on Grand Avenue in Oakland. At the signal turn right 0.6 mile to Bellevue Avenue, turn left into Lakeside Park to the sailboat house then turn right into the parking lot. Weekend parking fee is charged in the park. The nearby **aviary**, an excellent place to closely study waterfowl, had a Cattle Egret atop it in December 1978. Scan the islands in the lake for Great Blue and Green-backed Herons, Great and Snowy Egrets and Black-crowned Night-Heron. The many wintering waterbirds and ducks on the lake and nearby duck pond are relatively unafraid and easy to study.

Walk east on the paved **lakeside path** checking the islands and lake for waterbirds, ducks and herons, trees for varied landbirds, and lightposts for gulls which allow close scrutiny. The northeast arm of the lake, covered with birds November-March, often has Redheads among hordes of Canvasbacks, and Tufted Duck and Hooded Merganser have been here. Gulls on and near the small boom at the north end provide good study.

Continue around the lake past the colonnade and along **Lakeshore Avenue** where morning light is excellent. Between the shore and islands are usually Barrow's Goldeneyes, perhaps Ring-necked Duck and Hooded Merganser. The large boom protecting the refuge area has Brown Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants, gulls and terns resting on top and Red-necked Grebe has been in this vicinity. Birds thin out south of this boom.

Around the south end of the lake at 12th Street and in the channel outlet beyond are a number of waterbirds and ducks, usually including Barrow's Goldeneye, and Oldsquaw was here in January 1978 and February 1983.

To bird the **northwest area** of the lake, continue on foot around the lake and bird the area from the streetside path. Or drive back to Bellevue Avenue near the bandstand between Grand Avenue and the boathouse and walk the paved shoreline path. Barrow's Goldeneyes are sometimes among the waterbirds and ducks here.

A number of landbirds are around **Lakeside Park** between Bellevue and Grand along Perkins Street, and in the display gardens nearby. Black Phoebe, Red-breasted Nuthatch (irregular), Winter Wren, both kinglets, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (uncommon), warblers and sparrows

are here, Tropical Kingbird and Summer Tanager wintered 1982-83.

To bird the **outlet channel** south of 12th Street, drive south on Lakeshore Avenue, turn right at the south end of the lake, bear left on 12th Street South to Madison Street, turn left 2 blocks then left again on 10th Street to Oakland Auditorium and park nearby. Check trees and the channel in Peralta Park just east of the Auditorium then cross 10th Street into Laney College and follow the channel. The paved paths on each side, connected by a footbridge, extend to Estuary Park in the Inner Harbor. Barrow's Goldeneyes and sometimes Hooded Mergansers can be found along the channel.

Facilities: restrooms in the museum; benches throughout the area provide rest and picnic spots, a few picnic tables are near Grand and Perkins; a snackbar is behind the aviary. **Best birding:** concentrations of waterbirds and waterfowl in winter, the boom protecting the Refuge is enlarged November-March; landbirds and some ducks all year. A small, excellent **Museum** is in the Rotary Science Center, Bellevue Avenue at Perkins Street, open 10 am-5 pm daily except Monday, waterbird list is available here, information: (415) 273-3739.

Other birds: 3 loons possible, 5 grebes, geese with few exceptions are not wild, many ducks include Eurasian Wigeon (rare), both scaups, Surf and White-winged Scoters and 3 mergansers, a few shorebirds, 7 gulls, terns include Common and Least, White-throated Swift, Anna's and Allen's (summer) Hummingbirds, Belted Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, swallows (summer), Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Hermit Thrush (winter), both towhees, sparrows include Fox (winter), Song, Golden-crowned (winter) and White-crowned, Dark-eyed Junco, blackbirds, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Lesser and American Goldfinches.

45. LAS TRAMPAS REGIONAL WILDERNESS

Contra Costa County

This 3298-acre park includes Rocky Ridge on the west and Las Trampas Ridge on the east with Bollinger Creek between. Here are rolling grassy hills and secluded valleys, streamside riparian woodland, chaparral, and both open and dense woodlands dominated by oak and bay.

Go east on I-580 through Castro Valley, follow signs to Crow Canyon Road, turn left about 7 miles, turn north on Bollinger Canyon Road about 5 miles to the parking lot at the end.

Along the road near the park check vegetation by the creek

and grassy hillsides for Acorn Woodpecker, flycatchers (summer), Violet-green. Cliff and Barn Swallows (summer), White-breasted Nuthatch, wrens, both kinglets (winter), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (uncommon), Western Bluebird, thrushes, warblers, Western Tanager (summer), Lazuli Bunting (summer), sparrows, Lesser and American Goldfinches.

The tree in the middle of the parking lot may have nesting House Wrens. Trees along the nearby creek have Black Phoebe, vireos, warblers, Lazuli Bunting, towhees, Song Sparrow and Northern Oriole (summer). Chipping Sparrows summer on the grassy slope to the west.

Walk up steep **Rocky Ridge Road** or the path along the trees to the right. Watch from the road or walk quietly near the trees, stopping often under them, to look for vireos, warblers, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak (summer); Lazuli Bunting, Northern Oriole and goldfinches. Where the road bends right, trees and understory have Western Wood-Pewee and Western Flycatcher (summer), White-breasted Nuthatch, both kinglets, vireos and warblers, Beyond the trees are Horned Lark, Western Bluebird, Lazuli Bunting, Lark and other sparrows and Western Meadowlark, When you reach the guardrail on the right watch and listen for Grasshopper Sparrows up the hill in summer.

Around the bend from the guardrail **Cuesta Trail** goes left through a good Grasshopper Sparrow area. Listen for the high-pitched insect-like song and search on and near the ground for the singer who is usually on a small rock, grass or weed stem, perhaps atop poison oak. Flushed, it flies erratically a short way then drops into the grass. Return to the main trail and head up the hill.

Near the top of Rocky Ridge Road is a gate to EBMUD property, which requires a trail permit, but take narrow **Upper Trail** south to and along the ridge, where there are lovely views of Mt. Diablo, San Francisco Bay and Mt. Tamalpais, watching for Grasshopper Sparrows along the way.

Devil's Hole Trail is an interesting $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile fairly level walk west from Upper Trail to strange sandstone formations and wind caves. The area has Horned Lark, nesting Cliff Swallows and House Wrens, Lazuli Bunting, Lark and Grasshopper Sparrows and Lawrence's Goldfinch (rare, summer), Rufous-crowned Sparrow is in chaparral behind the caves.

Returning **down the** hill, pass through the gate on Rocky Ridge Road just above the parking lot, turn right and down to the trees. Avoiding poison oak, walk downhill under the trees. Watch for Nuttall's and Downy Woodpeckers, flycatchers, Brown Creeper, thrushes, 3 vireos, Black-throated Gray, Hermit, Townsend's and other warblers in

migration, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Chipping Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco and Northern Oriole.

From a gate at the park entrance **Valley Trail** follows the east side of the creek. In trees and bushes are Olive-sided and Western Flycatchers, Brown Creeper, Bewick's and House Wrens, thrushes, vireos, MacGillivray's, Wilson's and other warblers, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, towhees, sparrows and Northern Oriole. Grassy hillsides and scattered trees on the right have Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Bluebird, sparrows and goldfinches. Trails head east up Las Trampas Ridge, some leading to Del Amigo Trailhead in Danville.

Facilities: latrines at the parking lot; picnic tables, water under trees east and west of the parking lot. **Best birding** is spring but on warm days it can be hot by 10-11 am; summer is hot; trails may be muddy in winter. Beautiful spring wildflowers throughout the park.

Other birds: accipiters, Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, California Quail, Band-tailed Pigeon, White-throated Swift, Anna's, Rufous (spring) and Allen's (summer) Hummingbirds, both jays, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Swainson's (summer) and Hermit and Varied (winter) Thrushes, Wrentit, California Thrasher, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Yellow and Yellow-rumped Warblers, winter sparrows include Savannah, Golden-crowned and White-crowned, Purple and House Finches, and Pine Siskin (winter).

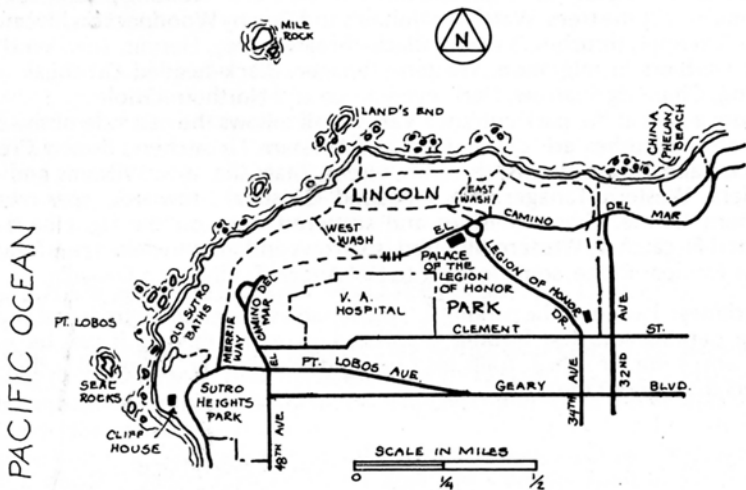
29. LINCOLN PARK and LAND'S END

San Francisco

Overlooking the ocean and the Golden Gate, this area of sometimes dense vegetation includes cypress, pine, eucalyptus, willow and other trees, varied shrubs, wild tangles, and the grass and open space of Lincoln Park Golfcourse. Below are offshore rocks, a few little sandy beaches, and rocky cliffs.

Cross the Bay Bridge, take US-101 north, Fell Street west then Kennedy Drive through Golden Gate Park, turn right on 30th Avenue, left on El Camino Del Mar to the curve below the Palace of the Legion of Honor.

There are 2 ways to reach "**East Wash**", a weedy ravine with sweet fennel and berry tangles. At the curve walk west past a Japanese monument to the dirt path down into the wash or, for easier walking, take the road uphill a short distance, turn right on the wide paved walk down to the golfcourse greens and turn right on a dirt path. Check the ravine below, trees upslope for Anna's and Allen's (summer) Hummingbirds, flycatchers, swallows, wrens, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (uncommon), many warblers, Western and perhaps



Summer Tanagers (fall), Black-headed (summer) and migrant Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Indigo Bunting (rare, fall) has been with Lazuli, Green-tailed Towhee in 1981, sparrows, Purple and House Finches, Lesser and American Goldfinches.

At the west side of the wash take the dirt path north to the bluffs, the paved walk west through the golfcourse (use courtesy for golfers, caution for golfballs) to the ocean, or turn left up the paved walk back to the street.

East along **El Camino Del Mar**, trees and bushes have Downy Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher (summer), swallows, Red-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatches, Brown Creeper, Bewick's and Winter Wrens, both kinglets, Swainson's (summer) and Hermit and Varied (winter) Thrushes, Hutton's and Warbling (summer) Vireos, many warblers, tanagers, sparrows may include White-throated (winter), Red Crossbill, Purple and House Finches and Pine Siskin. Near 32nd Avenue check trees around the 18th green to the south where Summer Tanager has been seen along with Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, warblers and Red Crossbill.

Cross the street and walk the **bluff trail** west, watch below for waterbirds, Whimbrel, Long-billed Curlew, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, gulls and terns. Watch for Sooty Shearwaters low over the water in summer and early fall. Hillsides above have hummingbirds, flycatchers, kinglets, vireos, and other warblers and sparrows. At the East Wash take the path up the west side, checking eucalyptus, shrubs and weeds. Or continue along the cliffs, detour to Land's End to scope around Mile Rock light for alcids, perhaps Ancient Murrelet among Marbled in winter, and large offshore rocks for Harlequin Duck (rare), shorebirds and gulls. Continue on to the paved golfcourse walk and turn left.

Near the west end of the **golfcourse**, cypresses have Brown Creeper, kinglets, thrushes, Townsend's and other warblers, willows have Anna's, Rufous and Allen's Hummingbirds in spring, Downy Woodpecker, flycatchers, wrens, vireos, warblers have included Black-throated Gray, Black-throated Green and MacGillivray's, grosbeaks, sometimes Indigo Bunting, and goldfinches. Return to the ocean overlook and turn left on the wide unpaved trail. On the water and rocks are waterbirds, shorebirds, gulls, terns and alcids (Pigeon Guillemots nest). In shrubs and trees are flycatchers, warblers, sparrows, Purple and House Finches and goldfinches. In the weedy, grassy area below the trail are sparrows, finches, goldfinches and other birds.

A dirt path goes up "**West Wash**" toward the VA Hospital. In cypresses at the bottom are wrens, kinglets, vireos, Nashville, Hermit and Palm among warblers, Purple and House Finches and goldfinches. Walk east up through the willows, bearing left, for many birds which have included Swamp Sparrow in fall at the little wooden bridge. At the top, wooden steps lead to El Camino Del Mar. Returning north to your car check roadside trees for Pygmy Nuthatch, Hermit and Varied Thrushes, Magnolia (rare) among warblers.

Cliff House is reached by trail south past West Wash or by car south of the park out Geary Blvd. and Point Lobos Avenue west to Merrie Way above the sea. Scope from the parking lot, then walk down to the Cliff House and its observation decks, scan Seal Rocks for Brandt's and a few Pelagic Cormorants, Brown Pelican, Black Oystercatchers nest, Ruddy and Black Turnstones, Surfbird and Wandering Tattler. Offshore are 3 loons, shearwaters in large numbers in summer and early fall, both scaups, all 3 scoters, Bonaparte's and Heermann's among gulls, Caspian, Elegant (late summer, fall), Common (summer) and Forster's Terns, perhaps Northern Fulmar (winter) or Parasitic Jaeger.

Walk the dirt path down to the small brackish pond at old **Sutro Baths**, look for Ring-necked, scaups and goldeneyes among the few ducks, a few shorebirds on the south shore, sometimes Red-necked or Red Phalaropes. The little marshy area near the trail down has had Swamp as well as Song Sparrow. **Sutro Heights Park** across the street can be productive. Broad-winged Hawk has been here and on Merrie Way.

Facilities: restrooms at Cliff House and China (Phelan) Beach east of the park; picnic area at the west end of VA Hospital - or sit under trees along El Camino Del Mar. **Best birding:** fall-spring, exceptionally good in migration. **Solo birding is risky** except at the Cliff House area. Muni bus service: 673-MUNI for information.

Other birds: grebes, a few hawks, California Quail, Common Murre, Band-tailed Pigeon, Vaux's Swift (migrant), Rufous Hummingbird in spring, Willow and Western Flycatchers (summer), perhaps Tropical as well as Western Kingbird, 25 warbler species (Tennessee, Nashville, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian, Prairie, Ovenbird, Kentucky, Hooded among them), American Tree (1980), Chipping, Vesper, Fox and Lincoln's among winter sparrows.

70. LOS BANOS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, Merced County SAN LUIS and MERCED NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

Graveled Santa Fe Grade passes extensive marshy ponds, mudflats and grassland. The refuges have shallow, marshy ponds, sloughs with willows and other riparian growth, and uplands with grass, shrubs and some trees. The surrounding area is pastureland and agriculture.

Go east then south on I-580 and I-5, east on SR-140 through Gustine, pass the airport and turn south on Santa Fe Grade, a good gravel road, which may be muddy or flooded after heavy rains. Two hours travel, longer when thick tule fog cuts visibility.

Drive slowly south on **Santa Fe Grade**, stop often, but move quietly in or out of the car as birds are skittish. Look for White-faced Ibis anywhere, often just past Gun Club Road, American Bittern, American White Pelican, Tundra Swan, geese, ducks, Black-shouldered Kite, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, shorebirds on mudflats, Short-eared Owl, and several landbirds. At road's end, turn right ½ mile on Mercey Springs Road then left on Henry Miller Avenue ½ mile to Los Banos WMA.

Register and obtain a free permit at **Los Banos WMA** headquarters then slowly drive refuge roads. Common Moorhens are usually in a ditch by the road near the parking lot. Check uplands, wetlands and ponds for Great Blue and Green-backed Herons, Black-crowned Night-Heron, egrets, American Bitterns everywhere, White-faced Ibis most often in eastern areas, waterfowl, Golden Eagle, rails, shorebirds, Burrowing and Short-eared among owls, woodpeckers and other varied landbirds. Overhead are American White Pelican, Black-shouldered Kite and hawks.

San Luis NWR, north of Los Banos WMA, is reached via Mercey Springs Road for 3½ miles then 2 miles northeast on Wolfsen Road. Register at the entrance then drive the tour loop. Birds here are much the same as those at Los Banos; sometimes Long-eared Owl is seen, and there are spectacular dawn and evening flights of waterfowl and Sandhill Cranes. Swainson's Hawks are near

headquarters in summer. On hunt days, birding may be limited to the huge fenced Tule Elk area.

To reach **Merced NWR** from Los Banos WMA, go east on Henry Miller Avenue (watch for Cattle Egrets), north on Turner Island Road, then zigzag east and north to Sandy Mush Road and turn east. Swans, geese and ducks are on ponds; Short-eared Owls may be in trees. Scan the refuge's west end from a parking lot on the south side of the road. Turn right on Headquarters Road, register, and drive the tour loop for many geese including thousands of Snows and Ross'. Large flocks of Sandhill Cranes are on the refuge or just east along Sandy Mush Road, Common Barn-Owls are often in trees at headquarters, Ruff has been among shorebirds, and Fulvous Whistling-Duck has been seen. Mountain Plovers may be anywhere along Sandy Mush Road in short-grass fields.

East of Los Banos, between Mercey Springs and Turner Island Roads, check **ponds along SR-152** in winter for Cattle and other egrets, ducks and shorebirds. Turn south on Santa Fe Grade about ¼ mile, go atop the levee and scan ponds to the west.

Facilities: restrooms at Los Banos headquarters, latrines at San Luis and Merced. Los Banos open daily, end of waterfowl season to October 1; Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday during waterfowl season; San Luis and Merced open daily. **Best birding:** November-February; good in spring and fall migrations. Bird lists at refuge headquarters, or California Department of Fish and Game, Los Banos WMA, Los Banos, CA 93635, (209) 826-0463; Refuge Manager, San Luis/Merced NWR, P.O. Box 2176, Los Banos, CA 93635, (209) 826-3598. Motels, restaurants along SR-152 in nearby Los Banos; camping at San Luis Reservoir, 15 miles west of Los Banos via SR-152.

For a **birding weekend**, combine these areas with Panoche Valley (see that Guide). Reach I-5 from Los Banos west via SR-152 or south via SR-165.

Other birds: grebes, ducks (Wood, Blue-winged Teal, Redhead, Ring-necked, Hooded Merganser possible), accipiters, Red-shouldered, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, perhaps Bald Eagle, Merlin or Prairie Falcon, shorebirds (many American Avocets and Black-necked Stilts, Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, Long-billed Curlew; Wilson's Phalarope possible), gulls mostly Ring-billed, Yellow-billed Magpie, House and Marsh Wrens, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Tricolored and Yellow-headed among blackbirds, Vesper, Lark, Fox and Lincoln's Sparrows. In summer: Black Tern, Lesser Nighthawk, Western Kingbird, many swallows, Blue Grosbeak and Northern Oriole.

36. MARTINEZ REGIONAL SHORELINE Contra Costa County

Along the waterfront at Carquinez Strait in Martinez, this park has sandy beaches and mudflats at low tide, marsh, upland, ponds and a sheltered marina. In places there are trees, bushes and weeds which attract landbirds.

Go east on I-580 and SR-24, north on I-680, turn west on Marina Vista to downtown Martinez, north on Ferry Street past the Amtrak station, cross the tracks and bear right on N. Court Street into the park and the nearby parking lot.

Look for Green-backed Heron in a drainage ditch west of the parking lot. Along the path northwest across the marsh to a wooden footbridge, wet areas have shorebirds. Cross the bridge and turn right to the shore for Western Grebe and ducks in the water, shorebirds on exposed beach and mudflats, and gulls on sandy islets at low tide, Virginia Rail, Sora, Marsh Wren and Common Yellowthroat in reeds, Caspian and Forster's Terns (summer) and White-throated Swift overhead.

Return past the bridge and walk the trail west through the marsh and along the shore. Sandy beaches have shorebirds at low tide, trees, bushes and weeds have Anna's Hummingbird, Northern Flicker, Yellow-rumped Warbler (winter), Lesser and American Goldfinches and several sparrows.

Return across the bridge, bear left on the boardwalk then turn left along the pond. Here are grebes, herons, egrets, several ducks in winter, rails, a few shore birds, and sparrows. In the marsh on the left are Marsh Wren, Common Yellowthroat and sparrows. Continue to the waterfront and look for shorebirds on exposed mudflats at low tide, Marsh Wren and Common Yellowthroat in the reeds. Virginia Rail and Sora may be forced from the reeds by rising tide, Walk east along the shore to the pier and look for waterbirds, winter ducks including Greater Scaup, and Common Moorhen among boats in the marina.

Continue past the Harbormaster's Office and along the marina. Near the northeast corner of the parking lot look southeast from the levee. The area beyond may be dry, but if wet many species of water and shorebirds, gulls and terns are here. Walk the levees east and south, check the pond beyond for waterbirds and gulls, and watch overhead for Black-shouldered Kite and Red-tailed Hawk. Return toward the pier and walk south along the east side of the large pond and through the picnic area to your car.

Facilities: restrooms in picnic area, Harbormaster's Office; tables, barbecues at picnic area. **Best birding:** fall-spring. Bird list at City Hall, 525 Henrietta Street.

Other birds: Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, American Bittern, Great Blue Heron, egrets, Black-crowned Night-Heron, among shorebirds may be American Avocet, Semipalmated Plover, Greater Yellowlegs or Spotted Sandpiper, 7 gull species (mostly winter), Short-eared Owl may winter, Belted Kingfisher, Black and Say's (winter) Phoebes, several swallows (summer), Water Pipit (winter), Loggerhead Shrike, Savannah, Song (resident), Lincoln's, Golden-crowned and White-crowned Sparrows in winter, Western Meadowlark and blackbirds.

2. MENDOCINO COUNTY COAST

Mendocino County

Along the northern California coast, this area has open ocean, rocky shoreline, mudflats, ponds and lagoons, rivers, grassland and coastal hills. There are big willow clumps and other riparian vegetation near the mouths of streams, heavily wooded hillsides and lush canyons.

Cross the Bay Bridge, go north on US-101, then take any route west to SR-1. Follow signs to Bodega Bay from Petaluma or from Rohnert Park via Sebastopol then north on SR-1; or take SR-128 from Cloverdale then west from Booneville on Mountain View Road to Point Arena.

Point Arena area. Tundra Swans winter in the Garcia River flats west of SR-1 south of the river; White-faced Ibis and Arctic Tern have been seen. From SR-1 drive Miner Hole Road, with excellent birding, west to the end. Bird marshy areas on both sides of the road for American Bittern, watch for Osprey and, in fall, Short-eared Owl. Walk the dirt road west to the ocean for loons, grebes and other waterbirds; Snow Bunting was here November 1978. About ½ mile south of Miner Hole Road, Lighthouse Road leads to Point Arena Lighthouse where pelagics may include Northern Fulmar. At Manchester State Beach, 7 miles north of Point Arena, ponds near the campground and the lagoon at the south end have ducks, Osprey, varied water and shorebirds, Buff-breasted Sandpiper in September 1978.

Navarro Point is 15 miles north of Manchester Beach. A rough road south of the river leads west to Navarro River Beach; look here for water and shorebirds, Osprey. Along the north bank of the river are turnouts from which good birds are seen and, being high off the water, you won't spook them. Oldsquaw and Hooded Merganser may be among the many ducks.

Van Damme State Park, 3 miles south of Mendocino, has excellent birding. Gray Jays are in the campground; from the beach are Red-necked Grebe, ducks and Black Oystercatcher. Harlequin Ducks are off the beach or south of the parking lot. Walk along

the beach or look from atop bluffs west of Little River Inn on SR-1. Fern Canyon Scenic Trail up Little River from the campground is interesting. The Pygmy Forest nearby has a self-guided trail. From SR-1 south of the park go east on Airport Road 3.4 miles to the parking area.

Mendocino area. Park in the Big River Beach lot north of the river, walk west under the bridge to the beach and walk east to the ponds which, if rain-filled, have good birds, perhaps including both goldeneyes. Take Heeser Drive west to scenic Mendocino Headlands State Park to look for loons, grebes, cormorants, gulls (have included Black-legged Kittiwake), Common Murre and Pigeon Guillemot. Many art galleries are in this charming town.

Russian Gulch State Park, 2 miles north of town is excellent. Gray Jays are in the campground, shorebirds are on the beach under the bridge. From the kiosk go west to spectacular headlands for pelagics, seabirds and alcids, perhaps Marbled Murrelet. Here also is Devil's Punch Bowl, a 200-foot sea-cut tunnel which fell in on the near end, leaving a hole 200 feet wide and 60 feet deep. Waves can be seen coming through the tunnel.

Jug Handle State Reserve, 5 miles north of Mendocino, has a self-guided trail up the Ecological Staircase, ranger-led walks on Thursdays and weekends.

At **Noyo Harbor** drive to the north jetty west of the bridge where birds, perhaps Oldsquaw, can be anywhere in the harbor, The picturesque fishing village is east of the bridge while just west of SR-1 Georgia-Pacific gives free tours through its sawmill on weekdays at 2 pm.

Mackerricher State Park has excellent birding. At Pudding Creek on the north side of Fort Bragg cross the bridge to a parking area, walk east under the bridge and check the lagoon. Walk west to the beach for Horned and Red-necked Grebes, Redhead, Greater Scaup, all 3 scoters, Red-breasted Merganser, perhaps Red Phalarope among shorebirds, and Bank Swallow may be seen. An old haul road north along the headlands is open to vehicles weekends only-lumber trucks use it weekdays. Drive along shoreline, park beside the road and explore the rocky coast on foot.

At Mill Creek Road, 3 miles north of Fort Bragg, go west to the parking lot, Along the trail around Lake Cleon are American Bittern, many wintering ducks include Blue-winged Teal, Redhead, Ring-necked, scaup and both goldeneyes, Ross' was among geese in 1980, Pygmy Nuthatches are in the pines, and Northern Waterthrush has been seen. From Laguna Point look for loons, cormorants, scoters, perhaps shearwaters, Oldsquaw or Common Tern. Snow Bunting was here November 1978. Walk north along beach about ½

mile where shorebirds may include Black Oystercatcher, Wandering Tattler, Whimbrel, turnstones, Surfbird and Rock Sandpiper.

The Skunk (California Western) Railroad runs through spectacular wilderness between Fort Bragg and Willits. For information and reservations (strongly advised) call (707) 964-6371.

Continue north up the coast on SR-1 about 40 miles to where it ends at US-101 in Leggett, turn north to redwood areas or turn south toward home; or go east on SR-20 from Fort Bragg to Willits. Pileated Woodpecker may be found in **Ridgewood Park** in Willits. **Lake Mendocino**, 6 miles north of Ukiah, has very good birding.

Facilities in state parks; camping at Manchester (primitive), Van Damme, Russian Gulch and MacKerricher (the last 3 on Ticketron, May-September). Park brochures at the parks or Department of Parks and Recreation, Mendocino Area, P.O. Box 440, Mendocino, CA 95460; (707) 937-5804. Weather cool, often windy; evening/morning summer fog.

62. MINES ROAD and DEL PUERTO CANYON

Alameda, Santa Clara,
Stanislaus Counties

Mines Road follows creeks, with riparian growth and tall trees, across flatlands then up a canyon with grassland, chaparral and oak woodland plus digger pines higher up. Del Puerto Canyon Road follows creeks down through similar habitats, and along rocky cliffs in places, to rolling Central Valley grassland at the lower end. Farm ponds are along both roads.

Go east on I-580 to Livermore, turn south via N. and S. Livermore Avenues to the end and turn east on Tesla Road ½ mile then turn south on Mines Road. Mile Post markers begin here. Have a full gas tank.

Park at MP-0.2 where **MINES ROAD** bends left and a road ahead crosses the creek, and check the area for Green-backed Heron, Wood Duck, Greater Yellowlegs, Great Horned Owl, warblers and Lawrence's Goldfinch. Between here and MP-1.09 watch for Allen's Hummingbird (summer), Lewis' Woodpecker, Yellow-billed Magpie, and Yellow-breasted Chat (spring). Around MP-1.82 the several species included Solitary Sandpiper in April 1981. Just before Del Valle Road look for Common Barn-Owl, Bank Swallow (summer), Ash-throated Flycatcher (summer), California Thrasher, Nashville Warbler (spring) and Lawrence's Goldfinch in the vicinity of MP-3.80.

Bear right to **Del Valle Regional Park** (fee). At the west end of the bridge look for Vaux's Swift with White-throated in spring and Bank among 6 swallow species. From the parking lots bird the lake

and picnic areas for Pied-billed and Western Grebes, Bonaparte's Gull, Caspian and Forster's Terns (summer), woodpeckers, Red-breasted and Williamson's (January 1979) Sapsuckers (winter), Yellow-billed Magpie, Western Bluebird, Lark and Lincoln's (winter) Sparrows, Purple and House Finches. Mendenhall Road, off Del Valle Road, has Western Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl and Common Poorwill (summer). Return to **Mines Road** and turn right.

At MP-4.15, just past Del Valle Road, are Green-backed Heron, California Quail, Greater Yellowlegs, woodpeckers, House Wren, Swainson's Thrush (summer), California Thrasher, Phainopepla, Wilson's and other warblers (summer), At the bridge, MP-4.73, look for swallows, Phainopepla, warblers and, in summer, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak and Northern Oriole.

The road enters the canyon and begins to climb. Between MP-5.54 and 5.75 look for Greater Roadrunner, Calliope Hummingbird (spring), nesting Phainopepla, warblers, Lazuli Bunting (summer), Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Black-headed Grosbeak and Northern Oriole. Around a corral and bathtub water-trough below MP-5.99 and along the road for the next 6 miles have been Greater Roadrunner, Canyon Wren, Phainopepla, warblers, Lazuli Bunting and Rufous-crowned Sparrow.

The Branding Iron at MP-13.40 is now a private residence but park nearby and check the area for Canyon Wren, MacGillivray's Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Northern Oriole and Lawrence's Goldfinch among many species. At MP-13.83 park near the gate on the right. Walk along the road ahead and check willows in the creek and trees on the hillsides for accipiters, Canyon Wren, Phainopepla, warblers (mostly migrant) including Orange-crowned, Nashville, Northern Parula (September 1973), Yellow, MacGillivray's, Wilson's, Common Yellowthroat and Yellow-breasted Chat, Song and Lincoln's (winter) Sparrows, Northern Oriole, Lawrence's Goldfinch and other birds.

Between MP-17.25 and 19.50 Rock and House Wrens nest. Around a corral at MP-17.50 sparrow flocks may have "Slate-colored" with "Oregon" Juncos. At MP-18.60, in a large meadow crossed by a dirt road, are Rock and Canyon Wrens, vireos, warblers, Chipping Sparrow and Lawrence's Goldfinch.

At the Alameda/Santa Clara County line, MP-20.10 on Mines Road becomes MP-13.36 on **San Antonio Valley Road**. At MP-10.44 Purple Martin (summer) and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher have been found. Park off the pavement near MP-08.04 to look for Sage Sparrow nearby. Lawrence's Goldfinches have nested above the road at Digger Pine Park, MP-05.93. Between here and the Junction, Sage Sparrows are on both sides of the road on private property.

San Antonio Junction, MP-05.00, has a small restaurant, store and sometimes gasoline (all closed on Monday and Tuesday). Look here for Lewis' Woodpecker, Western Bluebird, Phainopepla, Lark Sparrow and Lawrence's Goldfinch. Farther south, watch for Lewis' Woodpeckers in the oaks along the road, especially around MP-04.50. Check the marshy pond at MP-3.50 for Wood Ducks but remain in your car or slip quietly out the far side as the ducks are skittish. Near the bridge at MP-03.00 have been Lewis' Woodpecker, Yellow-breasted Chat (spring) and Lawrence's Goldfinch.

Return to the Junction, MP-0.0, and turn east onto **DEL PUERTO CANYON ROAD** for 0.6 mile to a pond on the right and look from the road for Green-backed Heron, Wood and other ducks, Belted Kingfisher, Western Bluebird, warblers, Chipping and Lark Sparrows.

From the summit at MP-2.78, the Stanislaus County line, there are 1½ miles of pavement, 3½ miles of good dirt road, then paved road again half a mile above the park. Through this area watch for Prairie Falcon, Rock and Canyon Wrens, warblers and Lawrence's Goldfinch. Stanislaus County has brown Mile Post markers, facing westbound traffic, with the mileages also painted on the pavement east of MP-17, but some mileages are a bit off.

At **Frank Raines County Park**, MP-15.5, check the creek, the picnic area on the west side, open wooded areas on the east side and the trail up the canyon from there. Here are woodpeckers, Hammond's and Dusky (rare, spring) and Ash-throated (summer) among flycatchers, wrens, thrushes, several warblers, Western Tanager and Lawrence's Goldfinch, Wood Duck and Yellow-breasted Chat have sometimes been along the creek.

Driving leisurely down the canyon, watch for birds along the road and stop in turnouts wherever habitat looks interesting. At MP-10.5, Great Horned Owls have been in holes on the rocky cliff, Rock and Canyon Wrens are along the creek, and Rufous-crowned Sparrow is in chaparral. In the lower canyon watch for Greater Roadrunner, Lewis' Woodpecker, Say's Phoebe and MacGillivray's Warbler.

At MP-3.5, Common Barn-Owls and Great Horned Owls often nest in holes on the rocky cliff face. Bird along the road for 0.2 mile to a large rock outcrop on the left shoulder. Along this short stretch Anna's, Rufous (spring) and Costa's and Allen's (summer) Hummingbirds visit the yellow tubular blossoms of tree tobacco. Also here are accipiters, flycatchers, swallows, Rock Wren, California Thrasher, Phainopepla, Nashville among warblers, Lazuli Bunting, Rufous-crowned and other sparrows and Northern Oriole.

Rolling grasslands beyond the canyon have raptors, perhaps Cassin's as well as Western Kingbird, Horned Lark, swallows, Common Raven, Loggerhead Shrike, Savannah and Grasshopper (summer)

Sparrows. Turn north on I-5, 24 miles from San Antonio Junction, to I-580 on the 75-mile return trip.

Facilities: restrooms at Del Valle and Raines Parks and at San Antonio Junction store; tables, water at the parks. **Best birding:** March-May, good most of the year; summer is hot; in winter you are near the car and shelter from rain. This is one of my favorite birding areas.

Other birds: Black-shouldered Kite, Red-tailed and Rough-legged (winter) Hawks, Golden Eagle, Merlin, introduced Wild Turkey MP-5.65 to 12.47 on Mines Road, Band-tailed Pigeon, Northern Pygmy-Owl, "Red-naped" Sapsucker (rare, winter), Acorn, Nuttall's, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, summer flycatchers include Olive-sided, Western Wood-Pewee and Western, both jays, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Mountain Bluebird (uncommon, winter), Swainson's (summer) and Hermit and Varied (winter) Thrushes, Wrentit, 3 vireos, Black-throated Gray, Townsend's and Hermit Warblers (migrant), both towhees, Fox, Golden-crowned and White-crowned Sparrows (winter), Tricolored among blackbirds, Hooded Oriole (rare, spring), Pine Siskin (winter), Lesser and American Goldfinches.

46. MITCHELL CANYON

Contra Costa County

On the north side of Mt. Diablo, this easy trail along the creek is up a canyon with riparian woodland, chaparral, oak woodland and pines. Some hillsides above have grasslands or oak savannah. The White Canyon Trail runs through similar habitats to rolling grassy hills.

Go east on I-580 and SR-24 to Walnut Creek, turn east 7.7 miles on Ygnacio Valley Road, south on Clayton Road 1 mile then turn right on Mitchell Canyon Road 1.6 miles to road's end. A parking fee may be charged.

In woodland surrounding the parking area are Black-shouldered Kite, woodpeckers, flycatchers (summer), White-breasted Nuthatch, sparrows and Northern Oriole (summer). At the south end of the parking lot is a State Park bulletin board with a park map. **Mitchell Canyon Trail**, the upper fire road from here, follows up along Mitchell Creek, the lower road goes to a ranger's residence. Phainopepla may be among the many species along the lower part of the trail.

Former Mitchell Creek Reservoir is now filled with hemlock instead of water and Hairy Woodpecker may be in oaks in this vicinity. After the trail crosses the stream, good tangles and riparian growth along the creek have many birds including Lazuli Bunting, White Canyon

Trail, a mile from the parking lot, goes uphill to the right but continue along Mitchell Creek. In summer, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers are around this junction and beyond, Black-chinned Sparrows are up on open chaparral-covered hillsides to the right. Overhead watch for Golden Eagle and migrant Vaux's Swifts with White-throateds around rocky cliffs.

Where the canyon narrows, pines and oaks are along the canyon. Look here Golden Eagle, Downy Woodpecker, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Lawrence's as well as Lesser Goldfinch. The canyon broadens out again and soon trees form canopy over the trail. Gnatcatchers are among the many species, some nesting, along here.

From a small meadow at the remains of an old baseball backstop is a lovely view of Mt. Diablo's peak. A number of birds inhabit the area of the meadow and the slopes above. Just beyond the meadow wander off to the left to a delightful spot beside the creek to eat lunch, Watch for soaring Golden Eagles overhead here. The walk to this point is 2½ easy miles from the trailhead but the trail becomes quite steep as it continues up through Deer Flat to Juniper Campground on Summit Road in the state park.

Return to **White Canyon** and turn west. The trail, a bit steep in spots, is mostly easy going. The thick stand of oaks gives way to more scattered trees and chaparral with riparian growth along the creekbed. About a mile from Mitchell Canyon, the trail goes out into grassland and splits, one fork heading west, the other south. Birds along this mile-long stretch include woodpeckers, flycatchers, swallows, wrens, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (especially the lower part of the trail), Western Bluebird, California Thrasher, vireos, warblers, Lazuli Bunting, both towhees, and sparrows including Rufous-crowned, Lark, Sage and Song.

Facilities: latrines at the parking lot. Carry lunch and liquids.

Best birding: spring; it can be warm in the canyon, hot in summer; trails can be muddy after rains. Detailed Mt. Diablo State Park **Trail Map** is available for \$2 at Mt. Diablo State Park or from Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum, 1901 First Avenue, Walnut Creek, (415) 935-1978. Wildflowers in April are spectacular some years. If you meet horsemen, stop off the trail until they pass.

Other birds: California Quail, Anna's, Rufous (spring) and Allen's (summer) Hummingbirds, Acorn and Nuttall's Woodpeckers, Red-breasted, Sapsucker (winter), Olive-sided, Western Wood-Pewee, Western and Ash-throated Flycatchers (summer), Black Phoebe, Violet-green and Cliff Swallows (summer), Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Bewick's and House Wrens, both kinglets (winter), Swainson's (summer) and Hermit and Varied (winter) Thrushes, Wrentit, Solitary

and Warbling (summer) and Hutton's Vireos, warblers, mostly migrant, include Orange-crowned, Nashville, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Gray, Townsend's, Hermit and Wilson's, Western Tanager and Black-headed Grosbeak (summer), Chipping (summer) and Fox, Golden-crowned and White-crowned (winter) Sparrows, Dark-eyed Junco, Purple (winter) and House Finches.

69. MONTEREY PENINSULA

Monterey County

This area has diverse habitats which include the open bay, sheltered harbors, sandy beaches, rocky shore, marshes, ponds, wooded parks, grasslands, redwoods, oaks and other woodland. The Carmel River is lined with thick riparian habitat which attracts a wide variety of landbirds.

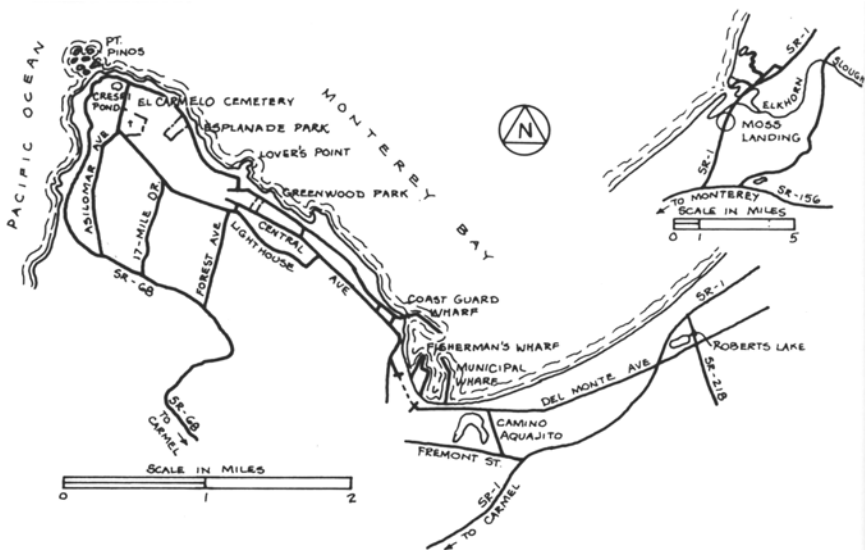
Go south on SR-17 and US-101 to Prunedale, turn west on SR-156 and south on SR-1 or south on SR-17 through San Jose to Santa Cruz then south on SR-1. In Monterey take Fremont Street exit and promptly turn right on Camino Aguajito then left on Del Monte Avenue to Monterey Marina.

Park near the **Municipal Wharf** (not Fisherman's Wharf) and walk out on the pier in winter for good looks at loons which have included Yellow-billed, Red-necked and other grebes, many Northern Fulmars at times, Oldsquaw has been here, gulls and wintering alcids, King Eider has occurred.

From Del Monte Avenue take Lighthouse Avenue through the tunnel, turn right to Cannery Row and park at the **Coast Guard Wharf**. Off this pier are loons (Yellow-billed is rare), grebes often include Red-necked, Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorants at close range with Sea Lions on rocks at the end of the pier, sea ducks, gulls and winter alcids, sometimes including Thick-billed Murre. Pelagics may be blown in by storms or high winds. Birds are often quite close, as are Sea Otters.

Turn left at the next corner, right on Lighthouse Avenue (it runs into Central Avenue at David Avenue) to 12th Street, turn right and check **Greenwood Park** for hummingbirds, warblers, sparrows, orioles, including "Baltimore", and other vagrants. Continue on 12th to Ocean View Blvd. and turn left, At Lover's Point, if not crowded, check rocks for Wandering Tattler, Surfbird and gulls, the bay for waterbirds. Continue 5 blocks to the foot of Sea Palm Avenue and park in the small lot on the right. Ruff has been here with Wandering Tattler, turnstones and Surfbird. Continue about ½ mile to **Esplanade Park** for nuthatches, kinglets, Townsend's (many) and Blackpoll (fall) among warblers, and other vagrants.

Continue on Ocean View to **Crespi Pond** on the left just past Asilomar Avenue. Check the pond from the roadside (be careful of



golfers) for Black (rare) and Virginia Rails, Sora, shorebirds have included Solitary and Pectoral Sandpipers, Common Snipe and gulls. Cypress just to the west are good for flycatchers, warblers and other vagrants. Walk along the fence to the south side of the treatment plant and check sparrows for Clay-colored (uncommon). Tropical Kingbird has been here. Show courtesy toward golfers here, please.

Along the bay, **Crespi Pond to Point Pinos**, check shore and rocks for shorebirds including Black Oystercatcher, Solitary Sandpiper (rare), Wandering Tattler, both turnstones, Surfbird, Baird's and Pectoral Sandpipers (fall), gulls and perhaps Tropical Kingbird. Scope the bay, especially August-November, for loons, Red-necked and other grebes, Brant, Harlequin Duck, 3 scoters among sea ducks, Red-necked and Red Phalaropes (fall), gulls and terns. Pelagics include Black-footed Albatross, Northern Fulmar, storm-petrels, jaegers, Black-legged Kittiwake, Arctic Tern, Marbled and Ancient Murrelets and Rhinoceros Auklet. Shearwaters, mostly Sooty, some Pink-footed, sometimes others, are seen April-October. Early morning and late afternoon are best here.

Return to Asilomar Avenue, turn right 4 blocks, turn left into **El Carmelo Cemetery**, bear right and park under the grove of tall trees, Check these trees and the surrounding area, trees on the south toward the old railroad tracks, walk the tracks to the golfcourse, and check trees around the cemetery edges. Here are hummingbirds, woodpeckers, flycatchers, Pygmy Nuthatch, many warblers and other vagrants, and sparrows.

Go south on Asilomar Avenue, SR-68 and SR-1 to the **Carmel River** and park south of the bridge or in the southwest corner of the adjacent shopping center off Rio Road. Walk west in the riverbed, dry in summer and fall, checking vegetation. Watch and listen for chickadees and other small birds and scan the flocks carefully. The area around the overhead “green pipe” is usually very productive. Downstream the riverbed is a “lake” with waterfowl and migrant shorebirds which have included Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary, Spotted, Baird’s, Pectoral and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers.

Among the many birds along the riverbed are, or have been, Red-shouldered Hawk, White-winged Dove, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, Least and Dusky-capped (rare) among flycatchers, Pygmy Nuthatch, wrens, kinglets, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, thrushes, Philadelphia and Red-eyed among migrant vireos, many warblers, Clay-colored, Swamp, White-throated and other sparrows and orioles. If the river is flowing, walk the dirt road along the south bank and check the trees from any opening in the vegetation.

North of the river go west on Rio Road, left on Santa Lucia Avenue then left on Carmelo Street to **Carmel River State Beach**. Around the river mouth are ducks, shorebirds (may include Snowy Plover or Red Phalarope), Black-legged Kittiwake (rare) among gulls, and terns, The marsh has American Bittern and rails, the willows have landbirds.

Return to SR-1, head north, turn east 6 miles on Carmel Valley Road, turn right on **Robinson Canyon Road** and park just beyond the third bridge. At dark or very early morning, look for Northern Pygmy-Owl and Northern Saw-whet Owl, The road next winds through redwoods, oak forest, then oak-grassland. In redwoods are Steller’s Jay, Winter Wren and Varied Thrush (winter). Hawks, woodpeckers, flycatchers (summer), thrushes, vireos, warblers, Lazuli Bunting and Chipping Sparrow (summer) and Lawrence’s Goldfinch are in oaks. Grassland species include Black-shouldered Kite, Golden Eagle, Say’s Phoebe (winter), Western Kingbird (summer), Yellow-billed Magpie, Western Bluebird and Lark Sparrow.

Chews Ridge, best visited in May, has Flammulated and Spotted Owls, Western Tanager and other high elevation birds. Go east on Carmel Valley Road 12 miles past Carmel Valley Village, take the Jamesburg turnoff right 1.3 miles then go left on the narrow fork. The road becomes dirt then climbs to the ridge. Register at the fire lookout where there are Mountain Quail. Look for owls at China Camp, a mile up the road.

Return north from Monterey on SR-1. turn east on SR-218 a block to Roberts Avenue, turn right and park at **Roberts Lake**. Look for herons, egrets, geese (uncommon), many gulls (have included

Sabine's, and Lesser Black-backed, January 1978), and Black Tern has occurred.

To reach Castroville Sewer Ponds, continue north on SR-1, go east on SR-156 to Castroville Blvd. just over the interchange, and turn left $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to the fenced, grassy ponds on the right. From outside the fence, look for ducks and shorebirds which have included Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.

Return to SR-1, turn north through Moss Landing to **Jetty Road** north of Elkhorn Slough, turn left and park along the road. Check marshy areas on the right, water on the left for grebes, herons, egrets, many ducks, rails, shorebirds on ebbing tide, gulls and terns. Burrowing Owl may be here; Short-eared Owl has been seen. Cross the dunes and check the beach for Snowy Plover and other shorebirds, and gulls; the ocean for loons and pelagics.

Along the road, check the harbor and shore for waterbirds, ducks, shorebirds, gulls and terns. At road's end scan the channel, jetties and ocean for loons, Red-necked and other grebes, cormorants, waterfowl (may include Harlequin Duck or Oldsquaw), shorebirds, jaegers, gulls, terns and pelagics. Back at SR-1, scope from the east side of the highway for water and shorebirds including Black-necked Stilt and Snowy Plover, and Bonaparte's Gull.

Continue north on SR-1, turn west on Struve Road then left on Giberson Road to **Zmudowski State Beach**, Just before road's end is a large pond with waterbirds and ducks; White-faced Ibis was here in 1981, Little (rare) may be among gulls, terns may include Black. The dirt road on the west side of the pond leads to the Pajaro River mouth where there can be good birding. Burrowing Owl has been found near this road.

Pelagic trips out of Monterey are scheduled year-round by Shearwater Journeys; Debra Love Shearwater, 221 Claudius Drive, Aptos, CA 95003; (408) 688-1990. Contact Debi for a schedule; make reservations well in advance for trips in September and October.

Pacific Grove Museum, at Forest and Central Avenues, 2 blocks off Ocean View Blvd. has a small excellent bird display. Monterey Peninsula Bird Checklist is available here. Open daily 10 am-5 pm; closed Monday.

Facilities: restrooms at Municipal Wharf, Coast Guard Wharf, and in campgrounds; latrines at Carmel River State Beach and Jetty Road. Monterey **Rare Bird Alert:** (408) 449-6100. **Birding** good all year, somewhat slow June-July. Weather can be very warm or very cold, wet, or windy; come prepared for anything. Many birds can be seen with binoculars but a scope is almost necessary for birding bay waters. Many **motels** are in the vicinity; **camping** at Veteran's Memorial Park (arrive early!) at the end of Jefferson Street off Pacific

Street, Laguna Seca Recreation Area on SR-68 toward Salinas, China Camp on Chew's Ridge, and others out Carmel Valley.

Other birds: most species which have been seen in northern California have been seen here at one time or another, many uncommon ones are regularly found. Among the more than 300 recorded here are 26 duck species. Broad-winged among many hawks, 39 shorebird species, Franklin's and Glaucous among many gulls, Gray Catbird, 39 warbler species (have included Virginia's, Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian, Yellow-throated, Prairie, Cerulean, Prothonotary, Hooded and all our "western" species), Rose-breasted Grosbeak, many sparrows, Bobolink, Tricolored, Yellow-headed and Rusty Blackbirds, Orchard and Hooded Orioles, and Evening Grosbeak.

49. MORGAN TERRITORY

Contra Costa County

The area consists of grasslands, lush riparian habitat, chaparral and oak woodland along the road. In the park are rolling hills, oak savannah and woodlands, meadows and vernal pools.

Go east on 1-580 and SR-24 to Walnut Creek, turn east 7.7 miles on Ygnacio Valley Road, turn right about 6 miles on Clayton Road which becomes Marsh Creek Road beyond Clayton. Turn right onto Morgan Territory Road and watch and listen for birds along the road.

Morgan Territory Road begins in a residential area with grassland and scattered oaks in a broad valley. At Curry Creek Park turnoff in about 2 miles, park off the pavement and walk on along the road. Red-shouldered Hawk, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, flycatchers, thrushes, vireos, warblers, Lazuli Bunting (summer) and Lawrence's Goldfinch are among many species in oak woodland and riparian areas here. Less than 2 miles beyond here the valley narrows, the road becomes narrow and winding.

In another mile at a corral and windmill and along the roadway nearby, birding is often quite good with woodland birds, Solitary (summer) and other vireos, several warblers, sparrows and Lawrence's Goldfinch.

Around a bridge another half mile up the road, varied habitats of creek, riparian thickets, oak woodland and chaparral have varied, often excellent, birding with hummingbirds, woodpeckers, flycatchers, thrushes, Wrentit, vireos, warblers, Western Tanager (summer) and Lazuli Bunting.

Beyond here the canyon is narrow and roadside trees offer good birds, especially downslope where "warbler neck" is less of a problem. Walk along the road anywhere and look for kinglets

(winter), thrushes, vireos, warblers, Western Tanager and Black-headed Grosbeak (summer) among woodland species.

At **Morgan Territory Regional Preserve** turn left into the parking lot. Trails meander through rolling hills, oak woodlands and meadows of this large undeveloped park, vernal pools are in scattered spots. Wander through this lovely area but note landmarks to avoid getting lost. Fire roads are easy walking, the many foot trails somewhat less so. Among birds here are California Quail, Vaux's (migrant) and White-throated Swifts, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Ash-throated Flycatcher and Western Kingbird (summer), swallows (summer), both jays, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch is in the area, Bewick's and House Wrens, Western Bluebird, Loggerhead Shrike, warblers, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lark Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Oriole (summer) and all 3 goldfinches.

Open grassland **beyond the park** often has wintering Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark and Western Meadowlark.

Return by retracing the road north or continue south to the "T" intersection. Turn left to Livermore Avenue, head south to I-580 in Livermore and turn west. Or turn right a mile on Manning Road, turn right on Highland Road about 2 miles to Marciel Road, The riparian woodland in the creek along the road in this vicinity usually has good birding. Continue west 12½ miles via Highland, Tassajara and Sycamore Valley Roads to I-680 in Danville, turn north to SR-24 and turn west.

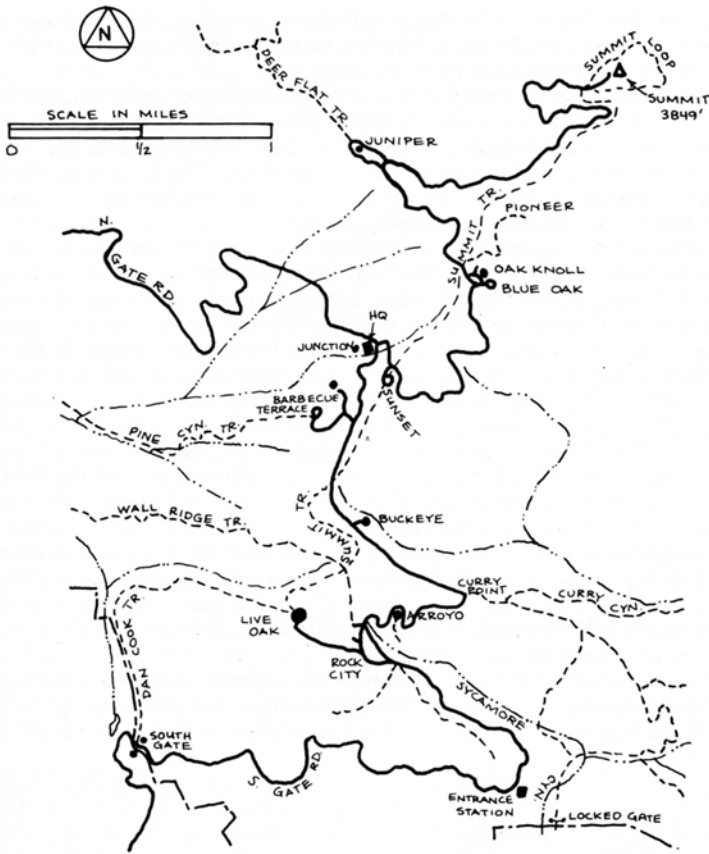
Facilities: a latrine at the Preserve parking lot; no water, carry your own, **Best birding** is in spring, migrants pass through in fall also; summer is hot, trails in the park are muddy after rains. Wildflowers are varied, can be fabulous in spring along the road and especially in the park.

Other birds: Black-shouldered Kite, accipiters, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Band-tailed Pigeon, Western Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Northern Pygmy Owl, Red-breasted Sapsucker (winter) and other woodpeckers, Hammond's, Western and other flycatchers (summer), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Townsend's Solitaire has wintered, Phainopepla, our "western" warblers (Yellow-breasted Chat in riparian areas) are mostly migrant, sparrows include Rufous-crowned, Chipping (summer), Sage, Savannah and perhaps Black-chinned (summer), Tricolored among blackbirds, Purple (winter) and House Finches.

47. MOUNT DIABLO STATE PARK

Contra Costa County

Alone at the edge of the Central Valley, this 3849-foot peak has spectacular views in all directions. Most of the park is grassland, chaparral and oak woodland with riparian woodland along streams in the lower elevations. Digger pine is found throughout as is poison oak which is abundant. Rattlesnakes are here although not often seen by birders.



Go east on I-580 and SR-24 to Walnut Creek, south on I-680 to Danville, follow signs on Diablo Road to the Entrance Station (no parking along South Gate Road), pay the entry fee, obtain map and birdlist, then continue a mile to Rock City. Weather conditions creating extreme fire hazard can close the park, occasionally for a few days.

To bird below the Entrance, walk from Rock City or be dropped off 5½ miles from I-680 and walk up the road. Chaparral birds

on this 1-mile stretch include Common Poorwill at dusk (summer), Vaux's Swift (migrant), Calliope Hummingbird in spring, Rock Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Phainopepla may be near the Entrance, California Thrasher, MacGillivray's among spring warblers, Lazuli Bunting (summer), Rufous-crowned, Black-chinned (summer) and Sage Sparrows.

Park at the entrance to **Rock City**, an area of oak woodland, chaparral and riparian woodland. From the nearby barbecue, walk an obscure trail west across the grassland and up the rise beyond. In chaparral below are Ash-throated Flycatcher (summer), Wrentit, Lazuli Bunting, Rufous-crowned, Black-chinned and Sage Sparrows.

Back at the parking area walk the narrow paved road uphill beyond the gate through open oak woodland. After a short steep climb the road is rather level. At the end of the road a path leads to a fabulous view of ridges and canyons. Along the productive 1½-mile round trip are swifts, woodpeckers, swallows, jays, nuthatches, Bewick's and House Wrens, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Western Bluebird, warblers, Lazuli Bunting and sparrows.

Walk up into Rock City and bear left down into live Oak Campground for woodpeckers, nuthatches, wrens, kinglets (winter), thrushes, California Thrasher and MacGillivray's among warblers in spring.

Walk little spur roads in Rock City and go below the restrooms across the main road for hawks and Vaux's Swift overhead, Plain Titmouse, nuthatches, Western Bluebird, vireos, many warblers, Western Tanager (summer) and Black-headed Grosbeak (summer). At the upper end of the Rock City loop take Wall Ridge Fire Road trail west for birds of open grassy areas. Summit Trail goes through here, crossing the main road near Barbecue Terrace.

Drive on ½ mile to **Arroyo picnic area**. The small lefthand loop has vireos, warblers and other woodland birds. Walk the righthand loop for Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, thrushes, vireos, warblers and towhees among other species. Continue past the table to an open spot for Band-tailed Pigeon, swifts, flycatchers, swallows (summer), thrushes, vireos, warblers, Western Tanager and Black-headed Grosbeak. Below in the arroyo, House Wren is often near an old wire fence. Walk along the streambed for wrens, vireos, warblers, Western Tanager and Black-headed Grosbeak. Rock City is across this arroyo which has thick poison oak in places.

Go on to **Curry Point**, a very large turnout on the right, overlooking the San Joaquin Valley. A short walk up the road is a wide turnout on the left with Horned Larks often on or near a small gravel pile. Along the road or on a short pleasant walk down Curry Canyon look for Horned Lark, White-breasted Nuthatch,

kinglets, Western Bluebird, vireos, warblers, Western Meadowlark, Black-headed Grosbeak and all 3 goldfinches. Swifts and swallows are overhead. To walk the delightful 3-mile Sycamore Creek Loop, go down Curry Canyon, bear right at the first junction then follow the park map around the loop in Sycamore Canyon. Many, varied woodland species are found here.

Half a mile up the road at a lefthand turnout beyond Buckeye Campground go up the hill, take the trail to the left through the trees for woodpeckers, House Wren (has nested), Western Bluebird, vireos, warblers and Black-headed Grosbeak.

The next half mile is through a grassy area where Summit Trail crosses the road. Here are Horned Lark, Lark Sparrow and Western Meadowlark. Barbecue Terrace-Wildcat Campground here can be productive and many Band-tailed Pigeons may be here, especially in winter.

At the **junction** of South Gate with North Gate Road is Park Headquarters. Pay the fee and obtain map and birdlist if South Gate was unattended. In Junction Campground are woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatch, Western Bluebird, warblers and Northern Oriole (summer). California Thrasher is often across the main road in chaparral.

Go up Summit Road $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to **Sunset picnic area** for woodpeckers, flycatchers (summer), White-breasted Nuthatch, Western Bluebird, Swainson's Thrush (summer), California Thrasher and warblers. On April 30, 1977, a big flock of warblers on both sides of the road had 9 Orange-crowned, 3 Nashville, 10 Black-throated Gray, 60+ Townsend's, 60+ Hermit and 5 Wilson's. A similar wave was here on May 1, 1984. Summit Trail goes uphill, recrossing the road at Pioneer.

Farther on, **Blue Oak-Oak Knoll picnic areas** can have birds seen lower on the mountain, At Blue Oak, the lower area, are vireos, warblers, Black-headed Grosbeak and other birds. At a gap at the east end look for House Wren near bushes and downed trees on the grassy hillside, Band-tailed Pigeon on snags, and American and Lawrence's Goldfinches.

Atop Oak Knoll are woodpeckers, flycatchers, Plain Titmouse, nuthatches, kinglets, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Western Bluebird, Swainson's (summer) and Hermit (winter) Thrushes, vireos and warblers. On the east side look down into the arroyo for Western Wood-Pewee, Olive-sided and other flycatchers (summer), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, warblers and Black-chinned Sparrow.

From a parking lot at the upper end of Oak Knoll check open trees to the east for flycatchers (Hammond's, Dusky, Western in spring), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, thrushes, vireos and warblers.

Chaparral above the parking lot has Lazuli Bunting, Rufous-crowned and Sage Sparrows. Across the road, Rufous-crowned Sparrow has nested along Summit Trail in the grassy arroyo.

Just above Oak Knoll the road to Pioneer area, closed to cars, is an easy walk for Ash-throated Flycatcher, California Thrasher, MacGillivray's and other warblers, Rufous-crowned and Sage Sparrows and goldfinches in trees and chaparral.

Continue less than a mile to **Juniper Camp**; use caution as the turnoff is on a curve. This wide left turnout has a sweeping view of the San Ramon and Diablo Valleys, and California Thrasher in chaparral below. Park under trees at the far end of the loop. Western Wood-Pewee and other flycatchers, Western Bluebird and warblers are in the trees, thrushes and California Thrasher are in the area. On the grassy hillside to the west are Horned Lark and Lark Sparrow. Deer Flat Trail west from here is good, especially in trees on the first part of the trail, grassland species are farther out. In about half a mile the trail reaches a burn area where a 1977 lightning-set fire did considerable damage.

From the **summit** is a spectacular view on a clear day but smog may obscure the panorama. Starting north from the lower end of the one-way road at the summit is the Fire Ecology Trail, a mile-long level loop around the mountaintop which can be walked in half an hour. The first part of the trail is paved for wheelchairs, There are ever-changing vistas but the main reason for the trail is the different stages of recovery by the varied plants since the devastating 1977 fire.

If you leave via **North Gate Road**, in rolling oak savannah are woodpeckers, Horned Lark, Rock Wren, California Thrasher, Lark Sparrow and Western Meadow-lark, Say's Phoebe winters around the lower gate. Reach I-680 in Walnut Creek via Walnut Avenue and Ygnacio Valley Road. From the onramp cross to left lanes to take SR-24 west.

The **park opens** at 8 am; North Gate and South Gate both close at sunset-don't get locked in! **Facilities:** restrooms at Rock City, many latrines elsewhere; picnic areas, water throughout; several campgrounds. **Best birding:** mid-April through early June; summer is hot, fall and winter somewhat quiet birding. Streams run well after wet winters, improving riparian areas. Detailed Mt. Diablo State Park **Trail Map** is available for \$2 at the park or Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum, 1901 First Avenue, Walnut Creek, (415) 935-1978.

This Guide covers mainly the summit and south side of a large park. Mitchell Canyon and Donner/Back Canyons on the north side are covered in separate Guides.

Other birds: accipiters, Golden Eagle, California Quail, several owls, Anna's, Rufous (spring) and Allen's (summer) Hummingbirds, Red-breasted Sapsucker (winter), Acorn, Nuttall's, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Chestnut-backed Chickadee (rare), Bushtit, Brown Creeper, Bewick's Wren, Townsend's Solitaire (rare, winter), Varied Thrush (winter), Water Pipit (winter), Loggerhead Shrike, 3 vireos, Yellow (spring) and Yellow-rumped (winter) among mostly migrant warblers, sparrows include Chipping in summer and, in winter, Savannah, Fox, Song, Golden-crowned and White-crowned, Dark-eyed Junco, Purple and House Finches and Pine Siskin (winter).

72. MOUNT PINOS AREA

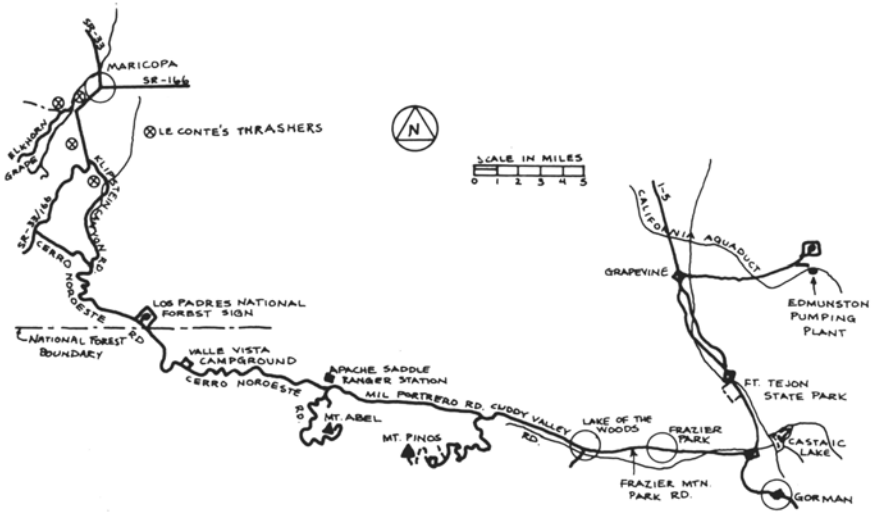
Kern, Ventura Counties

The Edmondston area is in flat Central Valley grassland at the foot of the Tehachapi Mountains. Around Mounts Pinos and Abel are areas of sagebrush and pinyon pine/juniper woodland, while higher up are wooded montane habitats. The lookout atop 8831-foot Mount Pinos provides a fabulous view of the area. Throughout these areas, California Condor is a primary objective of birding trips. Go east on 1-580 then south on I-5 to Grapevine below Bakersfield in Kern County, about 300 miles, 6 hours driving.

From Grapevine go east 6 miles to **Edmondston Pumping Plant**. On the way and at the plant watch the ridge for California Condors, Red-tailed Hawks and Golden Eagles. Among other birds are accipiters, Prairie Falcon, Say's Phoebe, Western Kingbird (summer), Horned Lark, several swallows (summer), Rock Wren, Loggerhead Shrike, Lark and other sparrows, blackbirds may include Tricolored or Yellow-headed, and Northern Oriole (summer). Return to I-5 and head south.

Fort Tejon State Park, 5 miles up the grade, has woodpeckers (Lewis' has been seen), both jays, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, warblers, Black-headed Grosbeak, Rufous-sided and Brown Towhees, Song Sparrow, Northern Oriole and Lesser Goldfinch, Condors sometimes soar over this small park.

To **approach Mount Pinos**, continue south 5 miles, turn west through Frazier Park, watching for Purple Martin along the road, then turn right on Cuddy Valley Road. This area has Golden Eagle and birds of pinyon pine/juniper habitat including Pinyon Jay and Sage Thrasher. Around the junction with Mil Potrero Road are Pygmy Nuthatch, Lazuli Bunting, Brewer's and Black-chinned among sparrows, Purple and Cassin's Finches. Go left at Mil Potrero Road and watch for Mountain Quail anywhere along the road up the mountain.



McGill Campground has Band-tailed Pigeon, Northern Pygmy-Owl, hummingbirds, Hairy and White-headed Woodpeckers, Clark's Nutcracker, wrens, Townsend's Solitaire, Green-tailed Towhee, several sparrows including Lincoln's, Purple Finch and Pine Siskin, Just up the road beyond the campground entrance are Northern Saw-whet Owl, and goldfinches may include Lawrence's.

At **Mount Pinos Campground** look for White-headed Woodpecker, sapsuckers, Clark's Nutcracker, Western Tanager and other mountain species. Fir Ridge Road, a mile-long dirt road on the right just above this campground, may have "Red-naped" as well as Williamson's Sapsucker and Golden-crowned Kinglet.

At the end of the paved road, 20 miles from I-5, is **Iris Meadow** and Chula Vista picnic area on the north side of the parking lot. Here or in nearby trees are hummingbirds including Rufous and Calliope, Williamson's Sapsucker and other woodpeckers, flycatchers including Olive-sided, Western Wood-Pewee and Dusky, Pygmy Nuthatch, House Wren, several warblers, Green-tailed Towhee and several sparrows. Also look for Red Crossbills which are erratic, but are in this area.

The **road to the lookout**, going west from the parking lot, is a rough but passable dirt road (closed in winter) 1.8 miles to the Condor Lookout. Walk or drive, watching for hawks, woodpeckers, flycatchers, swallows, House and Rock Wrens, Western and Mountain Bluebirds, warblers, Vesper and Chipping among sparrows, Cassin's Finch and Lawrence's Goldfinch.

At the **Condor Lookout** atop the summit are Turkey Vulture, California Condor, accipiters, Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, White-

throated Swift, hummingbirds, Clark's Nutcracker, House and Rock Wrens, Western and Mountain Bluebirds and Cassin's Finch.

Return to Mil Potrero Road and turn left to Apache Saddle Ranger Station. Turn left up **Mount Abel** for birding similar to that on Mount Pinos. Or bear right down Blue Ridge Trail, continue northwest 3-4 miles past Valle Vista Campground to the turnout at the "**Los Padres National Forest Boundary**" sign (10-12 miles west of Apache Saddle) in extreme southwest Kern County. Several Condors a day may be seen from this lookout in summer and early fall, especially over the valley to the north, along with Golden Eagles and other raptors.

To reach this spot from the city of Maricopa, southwest of Bakersfield, go 9 miles south from town on SR-33/166 then about 10 miles east on Cerro Noroeste Road toward Mount Abel, or 3 miles south of Elkhorn Grade Road take Klipstein Canyon Road southeast from SR-33/166 to Cerro Noroeste Road and turn left. Watch for Mountain Quail and Chukar along these roads.

Look for **LeConte's Thrashers** around Maricopa; 1) a series of washes by a small fenced facility 1.3 miles south of the SR-33/166 junction in town; 2) just south of that facility go west on Elkhorn Grade Road 0.8 mile then right on a gravel road ¼ mile to a huge wash; 3) the Devil's Gulch area a mile or so south of Elkhorn Grade Road along SR-33/166; 4) the wash along Klipstein Canyon Road at SR-33/166.

Condors are at Mount Pinos mostly July-September, mid-August is the best, at Edmondston mostly fall-spring, at the Forest boundary lookout summer-early fall, with the latter being the most reliable spot in recent years. Bird elsewhere in the morning as Condors are usually not seen before noon. Condor numbers have dropped alarmingly and a captive breeding program has been implemented with birds to be released into the wild.

Facilities: McGill and Mount Pinos Campgrounds, others in the area. Picnic area at the end of the paved road on Mount Pinos. Motels and restaurants in Gorman on I-5 and in Maricopa. Store at Pine Mountain on Mil Portrero Road. Mil Potrero Road may be closed in winter as is Mount Pinos.

Other birds: Anna's and Allen's Hummingbirds, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Steller's and Scrub Jays, Mountain Chickadee, Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creeper, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Vesper, Lark, Fox, Song and White-crowned Sparrows, Dark-eyed junco, Northern Oriole, and possibly Pine Grosbeak.

37. MT. VIEW SANITARY DISTRICT and SHELL MARSH

Contra Costa County

This small water treatment plant west of the freeway has ponds, tule, bulrush and cattail marsh, salt grass and some mudflats, with weedy vegetation around the edges of the facility. There are two observation blinds here. East of the freeway is Shell Marsh, a seasonal wetland which floods in winter with a permanent pond at the north end along Waterfront Road.

Go east on I-580 and SR-24, north on I-680 to Arthur Road in Martinez, then right at the signal for ½ mile beyond the freeway overhead. Turn left on a narrow road, follow beside the freeway then go left through a tunnel to Mt. View Sanitary District and park near the buildings. Sign in at the office and pick up a copy of their Wetlands Guide. On weekends find a workman and tell him that you are birding.

Roam the paths around the ponds. **CAUTION:** Avoid edges of paths as they may crumble underfoot, and stay away from the edge of the slough which looks shallow and innocent-the bottom is fine, silty mud about 4 feet deep, dangerous if you slip in.

Around ponds and in reeds look for American Bittern, Green-backed Heron, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, Spotted Sandpiper, Marsh Wren and Common Yellowthroat; Tricolored Blackbird may be in huge numbers at times. Wood Duck (rare) and Blue-winged Teal (winter) may be among ducks on open water. Pond E, the southwest pond, is drawn down March through October, leaving mudflats which shorebirds utilize.

Among birds in vegetation between the path and outer fence are Common Yellowthroat, Lincoln's (winter) and Song Sparrows, Lesser and American Goldfinches (winter). The islands in Pond C, the northwest pond, are used by nesting birds. Look north down the slough from the north end of the facility for herons and egrets. Leave in the office a list of any uncommon birds sighted.

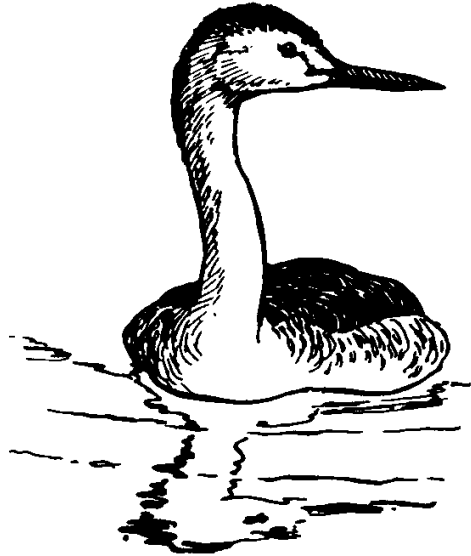
From turnouts on the access road scan Shell Marsh for herons, egrets, Canada Goose, 3 teal and Eurasian Wigeon among ducks, and Loggerhead Shrike. American White Pelican, Cattle Egret and Tundra Swan have been seen. The wet field, laced with channels and ponds, floods in winter but is mostly dry in summer except for the permanent pond at the north end.

Return to the freeway, go north 1 mile, take Marina Vista exit, turn right and park along Waterfront Road. Thoroughly scan Shell Marsh to the west as birds play hide-and-peek in the channels and ponds. Go on for 0.2 mile, park near Waterbird Way and scan the area to the west and south. Here are Great Blue and Green-backed

Hérons, egrets, many ducks, Common Moorhen, Black-necked Stilt and American Avocet, In winter, both yellowlegs have been here with Spotted Sandpiper, Dunlin, Long-billed Dowitcher and Common Snipe. Cattle Egret, Snowy Plover, Red Knot, Baird's and Pectoral Sandpipers, and Ruff (September 1974) have been seen. Early morning light is best.

No facilities. Best birding: fall-spring; some birds such as Pied-billed Grebe, Mallard, Cinnamon Teal and Common Moorhen nest. A **blind** by Pond E and one at Pond A-1, on the east side, are great for birding and photography. The Sanitary District is **open** 8-4:30; on weekends, the gate is closed if a service call is made but just bird Shell Marsh and await the employee's return. Personnel here are friendly and helpful, and birders are very welcome.

Other birds: Horned, Eared and Western Grebes (winter), Double-crested Cormorant, Black-crowned Night-Heron, 16 duck species (mostly winter), Blackshouldered Kite, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle (rare), Rednecked and Wilson's Phalaropes (rare, migrant), Thayer's among several gulls, Forster's Tern (summer), Belted Kingfisher, Black and Say's (winter) Phoebes, several swallows (summer), Water Pipit (winter), Yellow-rumped Warbler (winter) Savannah and Song (resident) and Golden-crowned and White-crowned (winter) Sparrows, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbirds, and House Finch.



20. MUIR WOODS NATIONAL MONUMENT Marin County

This 550-acre park is in the cool damp canyon of Redwood Creek. Along with the dominant tree, the tall coast redwood, there are red alder, western azalea, tanoak and California laurel (bay). Lush growth of several fern species is found on the forest floor.

Cross the Bay Bridge, take US-101 north over the Golden Gate Bridge to Mill Valley then follow signs west on SR-1, north on Panoramic Highway then left on Muir Woods Road to the park. Entry fee is 50¢ per person. The park is open 8 am to sunset.

From the entrance walk the trail up the right side of the creek. Here are Steller's Jay, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Yellow and Wilson's (summer) and Townsend's (winter) Warblers, Hooded has been found. Beyond the Kent Memorial take the right fork uphill toward Camp Eastwood, checking trees as you go. At the "T" bear right through an "S" curve to a grove of tall redwoods, a tree on the left trail edge has 2 small white insulators embedded in the trunk 12-15 feet up.

Spotted Owls may be within 100 yards or so above the top of the "S", may be high or low, close to or away from the trunk. They are not skittish and can be in conspicuous places but, sitting quietly, can be hard to find unless they call. Imitation of their whistle or call may get a response but do NOT use tapes. The owls have moved from this spot the last few years but are in the park. February through April is the best time to look for them.

Facilities: restrooms and snack bar at the Visitor Center; no picnicking or camping (available in adjacent Mount Tamalpias State Park). Wet trails are slippery. Poison oak and nettles are common so stay on trails. Weather is often cool and damp, a jacket is advised. With or without Spotted Owls, this is a lovely place to walk although somewhat crowded on weekends.

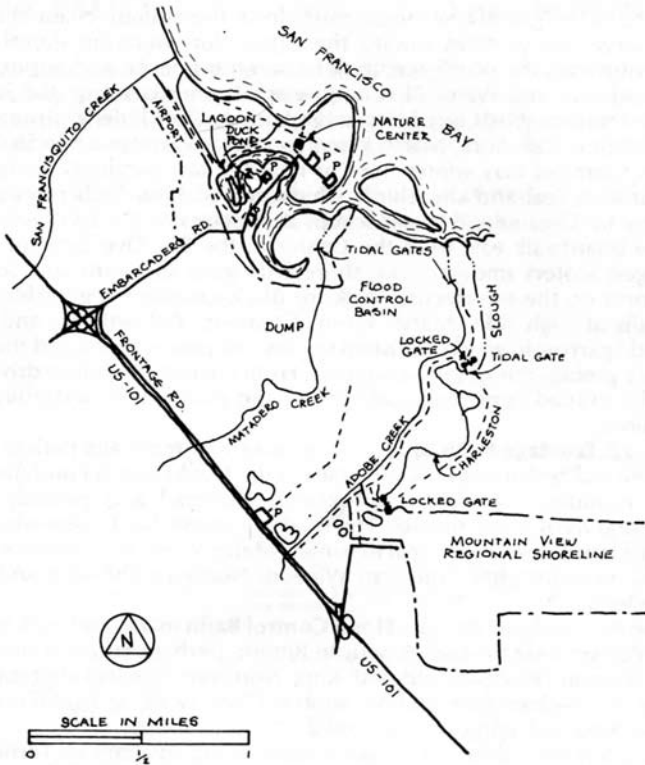
Other birds around the parking lot, along the creek, or up the hill: Band-tailed Pigeon, Great Horned Owl, Anna's and Allen's (summer) Hummingbirds, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Western Flycatcher (summer), Scrub Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Pygmy Nuthatch, Golden crowned and Ruby-crowned (winter) Kinglets, Swainson's (summer) and Hermit (winter) Thrushes, Hutton's and Warbling (summer) Vireos, both towhees, Fox (winter), Song and White-crowned Sparrows, Dark-eyed Junco, Purple and House Finches and Pine Siskin.

55. PALO ALTO BAYLANDS

Santa Clara County

This diverse bayside area has mudflats, saltmarsh, a small freshwater marsh, tidal lagoons, ponds and puddles around the Baylands. The Flood Control Basin has fresh and salt ponds, marsh and weedy grassland while Charleston Slough and Adobe Creek have marshy areas and mudflats in and around their channels.

Go south on SR-17 to Fremont then west on SR-84 over Dumbarton Bridge to US-101. Turn south 2 miles to Embarcadero Road, then east over the freeway toward the yacht harbor.



At the **duck pond** on the left are close views of many wintering ducks and gulls, including Thayer's and occasionally Glaucous, and Black-crowned Night-Herons roost in eucalyptus trees behind the pond. From the east end of the pond walk the loop between the pond and the tidal lagoon. In trees and bushes are Bewick's Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet (winter), Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped (winter) Warblers, Common Yellowthroat, Savannah, Fox and Lincoln's (winter) and Song Sparrows, Tricolored Blackbird may be with Red-wings and Brewer's in winter, Lesser and American Goldfinches. On

the lagoon or the island at its west end are grebes, Double-crested Cormorant, 17 ducks may include all 3 teal and Eurasian Wigeon, gulls and shorebirds.

Continue on to the west levee of the lagoon and look for Burrowing Owls in the grass between there and the airport terminal. Walk north on the levee and check the island and lagoon for ducks and the mudflats in winter for many shorebirds including Semipalmated and Black-bellied Plovers, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Greater and Lesser (migrant) Yellowlegs, Whimbrel, Long-billed Curlew and both dowitchers. Return to the road, cross to the parking lot and scan the harbor and mudflats for waterbirds, ducks, shorebirds and gulls.

Drive east to the Nature Center, check the boat harbor in winter for grebes, ducks and gulls then walk the levee north past the Center. In the marsh are American Bittern, Least Bittern wintered 1982-83 near the Center, Great Blue Heron, Great and Snowy Egrets, Black-crowned Night-Heron, ducks include all 3 teal in winter, Black-shouldered Kite, Northern Harrier, Clapper and Virginia Rails and Sora, Black Rails (rare) can be seen in winter at very high tides.

At the end of the gravel levee look north down the effluent channel for ducks and check large rain puddles toward the airport for wintering shorebirds and gulls. Turn north on the dirt levee, look between the levee and airport runway for Burrowing Owl and Water Pipit, and watch bushes between the levee and channel for hummingbirds, warblers and sparrows. The little freshwater cattail marsh has Virginia Rail, Sora, Marsh Wren and Song Sparrow while Sharp-tailed and Swamp Sparrows may winter here or near the last baccharis clump. Check mudflats for all 3 teal and shorebirds which may include both turnstones and look offshore for Greater and Lesser Scaups and scoters.

Take the boardwalk east from the Center to the Bay Overlook for Surf and White-winged Scoters among ducks, shorebirds, gulls and terns, and sometimes rails. Go north on the intersecting walk for Black-crowned Night-Heron, many Clapper Rails at high tide, Marsh Wren, Common Yellowthroat and possibly Sharp-tailed Sparrow in winter between the second power tower and the bay. On the water are grebes, ducks, gulls and terns. From the Nature Center drive or walk south $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to road's end and scan the bay and mudflats for waterbirds, ducks and shorebirds.

Return to **E. Frontage Road** by US-101, go south $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles and park in the small lot on the left but be sure to lock valuables in the trunk! North Pond, freshwater, has ducks including Gadwall, Ring-necked, Redhead and possibly Eurasian Wigeon, and gulls of many species. The roadside marsh has Green-winged, Cinnamon and a

few Blue-winged Teal in winter, Marsh Wren and Lincoln's Sparrow. South Pond, saltwater, has American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler and perhaps both yellowlegs.

Walk the dirt road east into the **Flood Control Basin** marsh and look for American White Pelican near the bay, American Bittern, perhaps Eurasian among many American Wigeon, Black-shouldered Kite, Northern Harrier, shorebirds, Burrowing and Short-eared (uncommon, winter) Owls, swallows (summer), Loggerhead Shrike, Savannah and other sparrows.

Drive south ½ mile, turn east on San Antonio Road and park on Terminal Blvd. Check nearby ponds and wander levees west along Adobe Creek then north and east along **Charleston Slough** for American White Pelican, herons include Little Blue in recent summers, egrets. White-faced Ibis (rare), ducks, Common Moorhen, shorebirds included Sharp-tailed and Stilt Sandpipers in November 1982, Least (summer) and Back (rare, migrant) Terns. Trails near San Antonio Road and at the end of Terminal Blvd. are access to new Mountain View Shoreline Park east from here. As that park develops there should be good birding there.

Facilities: restrooms in the Nature Center (open Wednesday-Friday, 2-5 pm; weekends 10-12 am and 1-5 pm); latrines at the parking lot south of the Center; full facilities should be in Mountain View Park when it is completed. **Best birding:** fall-spring, interesting in summer, especially at Charleston Slough. Birdlist and map of these areas at the Center, information: (415) 329-2506 during above hours or Palo Alto Junior Museum, (415) 329-2382.

Other birds: 5 grebes, Brown Pelican (summer-late fall), Snow and Canada Geese have been seen, 25 ducks, accipiters, Merlin (rare), many shorebirds have included Snowy Plover, Spotted, Baird's and Pectoral Sandpipers and all 3 phalaropes (uncommon), jaegers (rare), Forster's and Elegant (summer-late fall) Terns, Belted Kingfisher, Black and Say's (winter) Phoebes, Horned Lark, Lark, Golden-crowned (winter) and White-crowned Sparrows.

71. PANOCHE VALLEY

Fresno, San Benito Counties

Little Panoche Road crosses grassland, skirts a reservoir then enters rolling grassy hills along a creek with trees and riparian habitat. There are also extensive brushlands and pastures. New Idria Road climbs up a rocky canyon with varied shrubs and trees, Panoche Road goes up from grassland through farmlands and oak woodland.

Go east then south on I-580, south on I-5 about 24 miles beyond SR-152 to Little Panoche Road (J1) and turn west. Have a full gas tank.

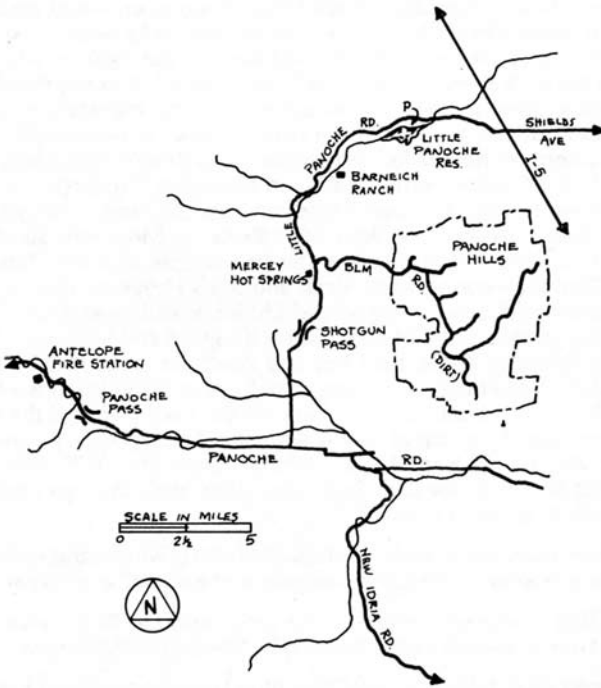
Along Little Panoche Road are Black-shouldered Kite, hawks, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Greater Roadrunner, Say's Phoebe, kingbirds may include Cassin's, Horned Lark, Yellow-billed Magpie, California Thrasher, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Savannah and Lark among sparrows, Lesser, Lawrence's and American Goldfinches. At Little Panoche Detention Reservoir, 5 miles from I-5, may be Cinnamon Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead and Ruddy Duck, Sora and Marsh Wren. Overhead are hawks, White-throated Swift and swallows, Landbirds include Greater Roadrunner, Black and Say's Phoebes, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike and several sparrows.

Walk the road near MP-9.70 and check trees for Common Barn-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Nuttall's and Downy Woodpeckers, Bewick's Wren, Hermit Thrush, California Thrasher, Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped Warblers and perhaps White-throated among several sparrows. Merlin, Vesper Sparrow and Lark Bunting have been just up the road.

Beyond here are hawks, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon and many grassland birds. Check sparrow flocks for Vesper Sparrow and Lark Bunting. At MP-10.50, near a bridge, look for Rock Wren and Brewer's Sparrow; near MP-11.39 for Rock Wren and perhaps Sage Thrasher. Around the BLM Access Road at MP-12.00 and up along that road toward the Panoche Hills look for Golden Eagle, Chukar, Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, Mountain Bluebird, Vesper and Lark Sparrows. At mile 14.4, near the corral at the base of Shotgun Pass, the several species may include uncommon ones in the sparrow flocks. In the rocky canyon on the south slope of the pass are hawks overhead, Rock Wren, Rufous-crowned perhaps among sparrows, and goldfinches. Chukar has been on the rocky slopes here.

Beyond the pass park near mile 16.3 and look on the right for Mountain Bluebirds well off the road. Between here and Panoche Road go slowly through **Panoche Valley**, stopping often to look for Mountain Plovers, especially near mile 18.3, perhaps spread out and away from the road. Check "lumps of dirt" as they may be birds. Also here are Red-tailed, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Golden Eagle, Long-billed Curlew, Horned Lark and Mountain Bluebird.

At the "T" intersection turn east 3 miles on Panoche Road watching for Ferruginous Hawk, then turn south on **New Idria Road** for Mountain Bluebird, Vesper Sparrow and Lawrence's Goldfinch in the first couple of miles. Along this road are hawks, Chukar, woodpeckers, Black



and Say's Phoebes, Yellow-billed Magpie, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike, warblers and several sparrows. About 10 miles up the road look for Cassin's Kingbird and Mountain Bluebird.

Return to **Panoche Road**, turn left and continue west at the "T", stopping wherever habitat looks inviting. Among stops beyond the grasslands is McCullough Ranch, 3 miles from the intersection. Park off the road and bird the area around the

ranch entrance. Also stop at mile 4, and near Antelope bridge and fire station 10 miles out. Return to I-5 and head north, or continue west 19 miles to Paicines, check Paicines Reservoir for Bald Eagle and other birds then go north via SR-25, US-101 and SR-17 to reach home.

No facilities, carry lunch and liquids. **Best birding:** winter and early spring; few Mountain Plovers after mid-March; summer and early fall are very warm.

For a **birding weekend** combine these areas with Los Banos area refuges (see Site Guide). From I-5 south of Los Banos take SR-165 north to town.

Other birds: Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, sometimes Canada Goose, accipiters, Northern Harrier, California Quail, Acorn Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, 5 swallow species, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Rufous-sided and Brown Towhees, Tricolored Blackbird among Red-wings and Brewer's, and Pine Siskin.

5. POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE

Marin County

Habitats here, along with the usual ones found along ocean, bay and estero, include fresh and salt marshes, willow-lined streams and ponds, grassland, coastal scrub, chaparral, woodlands and coniferous forests. The outer point, being pastureland and bush lupine with scattered stands of Monterey cypress at the ranches, attracts large numbers of landbirds in migration. This is a very large area and all these sites cannot be birded in one day.

Go north on SR-17 over San Rafael Bridge then north 0.6 mile on US-101. Take San Rafael exit to 3rd Street, turn west via 3rd, 4th, Red Hill Avenue, then Sir Francis Drake Blvd. to SR-1 in Olema. Stop completely off the roadway when birding Point Reyes.

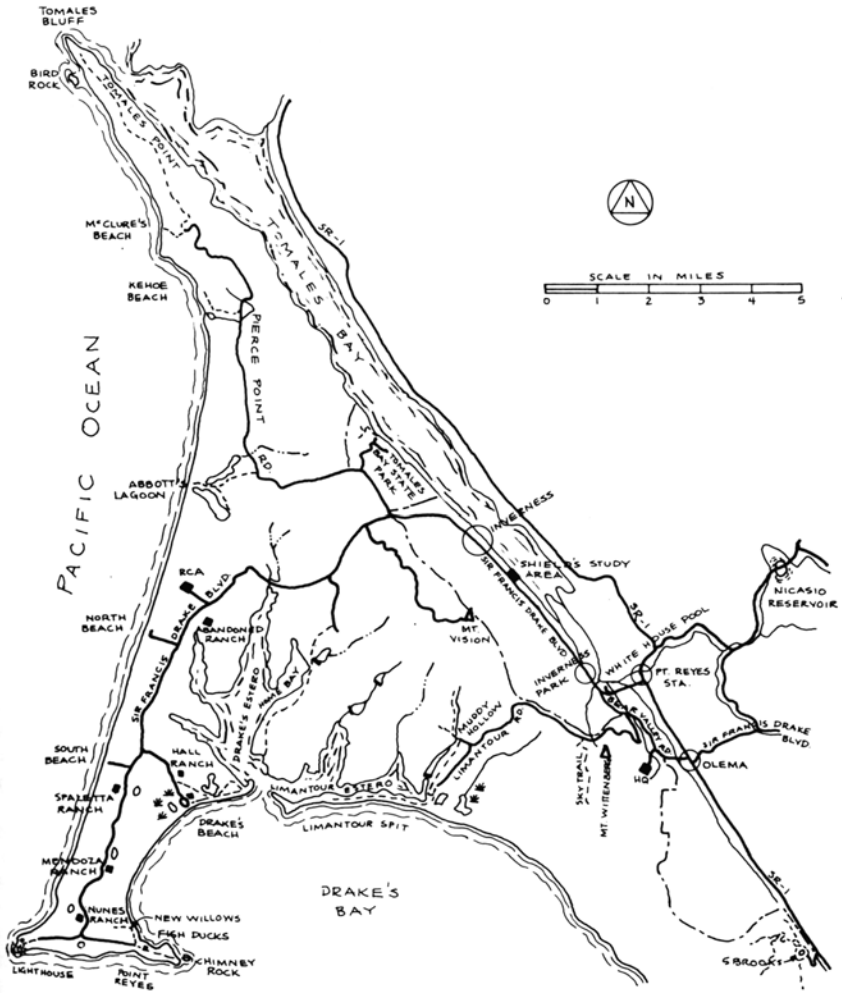
1. 5-BROOKS and HEADQUARTERS.

Go south 5 miles on SR-1 and turn right to **5-Brooks** trailhead. At the pond in winter, ducks can include Wood, Eurasian Wigeon, Redhead, Ring-necked and Hooded Merganser. On the edges are Green-backed Heron, Common Moorhen and sometimes rails. Among many birds in willows and conifers have been Northern Parula and Northern Waterthrush. Grassland has Western Bluebird, goldfinches and at times Tricolored Blackbird. Watch for Osprey, Band-tailed Pigeon, Vaux's among White-throated Swifts, and Purple Martin. Trees uphill have had Pileated Woodpecker. At the far end of the pond walk Stewart Trail north briefly then bear right downhill. Along this trail and around Stewart horse camp below are Red-shouldered Hawk, Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren and Varied Thrush.

Return on SR-1 to Sir Francis Drake Blvd., continue north $\frac{1}{4}$ mile and turn left on Bear Valley Road to the **Visitor Center** up a short road to the left. Bird and mammal displays in the Center are very well done and worth seeing. Bird the nearby picnic ground and along the creek below for Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-breasted Sapsucker, all 3 nuthatches, thrushes, Western Bluebird, warblers, Rose-breasted (rare) and Black-headed Grosbeaks, and other birds. The 0.7-mile Earthquake Trail along the San Andreas Fault is interesting and may be good birding.

2. LIMANTOUR and MUDDY HOLLOW.

Head north on Bear Valley Road 1.3 miles and turn left on Limantour Road. Trees in the first half mile have had Indigo Bunting among many birds. Atop Inverness Ridge park in the Sky Trail trailhead on the left and look in trees along the road for Band-tailed Pigeon, Hairy and Pileated Woodpeckers, Pygmy Nuthatch, kinglets, vireos, warblers, Western Tanager, Purple Finch and Red Crossbill.



From the parking lot at road's end walk south and check the pond on the left for American Bittern, ducks, Virginia Rail, Sora and Common Yellowthroat. Shorebirds here have included Semipalmated, Baird's and Pectoral Sandpipers. Walk west along the south shore of **Limantour Estero** for grebes, herons, egrets, geese (3 Emperors wintered 1977-78), many ducks may include Tufted, many shorebirds, gulls and terns. Return along the ocean beach for loons, grebes, Brant and sea ducks, possibly jaegers, Black-legged Kittiwake and alcids. A scope helps.

From below the parking lot **Muddy Hollow Trail** goes west along a slough and small pond, where shorebirds have included Pectoral

Sandpiper and Ruff, then turns north. Along the Estero scan ducks on the water and shorebirds on the mudflats (Semipalmated Sandpiper has been here). Continue on to Muddy Hollow Pond for grebes, herons, ducks (Tufted has wintered), Belted Kingfisher, swallows and Marsh Wren. In chaparral are hummingbirds, Bewick's Wren, Wrentit and sparrows. The trail goes on to Muddy Hollow (see below).

To reach the pond northeast of the parking lot, head east and turn right on the first road until it bends left. Walk the trail to the pond for American Bittern, ducks, rails, Marsh Wren and Common Yellowthroat.

Return east 1½ miles on Limantour Road and turn left to Muddy Hollow parking lot. Among many birds here are Purple Martin (rare, summer), several warblers have included Northern Parula and Hooded. The trail back to Muddy Hollow Pond has good birding in spots with Great Horned Owl, woodpeckers, flycatchers, Wrentit, Western Bluebird, kinglets, warblers, sparrows, Purple and House Finches. The trail north goes through a wet area with open canopy and such birds as Winter Wren, thrushes and warblers. The trail reaches a small pond with a few waterfowl and swallows.

3. WHITE HOUSE POOL and OLEMA MARSH.

Back at Bear Valley Road turn left to Sir Francis Drake Blvd., turn right then promptly left to **White House Pool**. Check vegetation for varied landbirds and scan pastures north from the wooden footbridge for herons, egrets and Black-shouldered Kite. A Sandhill Crane was here winter 1983.

In **Olema Marsh** across the road are American Bittern, Black (rare) and other rails, Marsh Wren, Common Yellowthroat and Swamp Sparrow (winter). Shields Salt Marsh Study Area, on the right along Sir Francis Drake Blvd. in Inverness, has Swamp Sparrow and other marsh species. Stay OUT of the marshes and on high ground!

4. PIERCE POINT ROAD.

Head north on Sir Francis Drake Blvd., go right about a mile on Pierce Point Road and turn right into **Tomales Bay State Park** (fee) to Heart's Desire Beach. Scan the bay then walk the trail north from the restroom for woodland species. Spotted Owl has been seen here. At Indian Beach check the bay and the little marsh on the left, From the far side of the beach walk left on the fire road about ¼ mile and take the righthand trail uphill to a junction. Look for Spotted Owl and woodland birds in the area.

Continue north on Pierce Point Road about 2 miles to **Abbott's Lagoon** parking lot on the left. Walk the trail west, a 3-mile round trip. In the grassland are falcons, Black-shouldered Kite, Burrowing Owl, Horned Lark, Western Bluebird, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike

and perhaps Grasshopper Sparrow (summer). Among winter ducks on the first lagoon have been Eurasian Wigeon and Tufted Duck, and Little Blue Heron has been here.

Cross between the 2 lagoons and walk the north shore of the second. Here are waterbirds, ducks, many shorebirds have included Lesser Golden-Plover, Semipalmated and Snowy Plovers, Semipalmated, Baird's and Pectoral Sandpipers, Red Phalarope some years, gulls, and terns included Black in August 1980. During heavy winter weather the sea may break through the sandbar. At the beach scan the ocean for loons, grebes, cormorants, ducks and alcids. Shearwaters and Black-legged Kittiwake may be offshore and shorebirds patrol the beach. The west side of the second lagoon has many shorebirds and gulls, the south shore has had Baird's and Stilt Sandpipers among shorebirds, and a King Eider graced the east shore in November 1980.

Go north on Pierce Point Road about 2 miles to **Kehoe Beach** parking lot on the left, A Blackpoll Warbler was in willows here in June 1977. Walk the trail to the ocean, checking the marshy area for Black (rare) and Virginia Rails, Sora, Common Snipe, Marsh Wren and Common Yellowthroat, Sharp-tailed Sparrow was here December 1973. Bird the beach for species as at Abbott's Lagoon. A White-Rumped Sandpiper was seen here June 1978.

Drive to **McClure's Beach** parking lot at road's end. Around the ranch just to the east avoid the house, a ranger's residence, and look for landbirds which have included Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Mountain Bluebird and vagrant warblers. Walk the trail to the beach for birds as at Abbott's Lagoon plus Harlequin Duck and 3 scoters. Good tide pools are here at low tide but beware of high tide and large sneaker-waves!

From the parking lot follow **Tomales Point** signs cross-country uphill. Atop the hill a dirt road leads north toward the point. Several Buff-breasted Sandpipers were along the ridge 2+ miles out in August 1978. From Upper Pierce Point Ranch (cypress trees, no buildings, 3+ miles out) the trail is less defined as it goes through meadows. Check Bird Rock just offshore on the west. Bird from the Point where there is a grand view of Bodega Bay and the mouth of Tomales Bay. Among birds often here are Harlequin Duck. **STAY AWAY** from the cliffs! It could be disastrous as they may crumble underfoot.

5. ESTERO TRAIL and HOME BAY.

On Sir Francis Drake Blvd. 2 miles west of Pierce Point Road turn left to the parking lot at the end of the public section of the road. Lark Bunting was here in March 1980. Walk easy **Estero**

Trail southwest over the hill a mile or so to the dam at Home Bay, checking groves of trees for Common Barn-Owl. Long-eared Owl (uncommon winter) and Pygmy Nuthatch. The pond at the dam has waterbirds and ducks in winter. The bay has loons and grebes, many ducks may include Eurasian Wigeon, and shorebirds are on mudflats as the tide recedes. The trail goes across the dam then along the east side of **Home Bay** for 2½ miles to the mouth of Drake's Estero.

6. OUTER POINT REYES.

Return to Sir Francis Drake Blvd. and turn west to Schooner Bay at MP-33.67. As high tide ebbs, shorebirds swarm to exposed mudflats near the road to feed. Morning light is best.

At the **RCA Station**, MP-34.8, park on the right. A sign says, "No Admission without Prior Authorization" but you may bird the cypress trees along the entrance road on foot. Common Barn-Owl and landbirds may be in the cypresses and the clump of pines at the end. Trees behind the buildings are **off limits**. Fields on either side of RCA may have wintering Lesser Golden-Plover and Mountain Plover. Just before RCA, Lapland Longspur may be among Horned Larks, 3 Bobolinks were here in June 1983.

Abandoned Ranch, MP-35.3, on the left has had Great Horned Owl as well as vagrants in the cypress trees. On windy days Common Ravens often sail here and their acrobatics are great fun to watch. Turn right to **North Beach**, MP-36.4, for migrating California Gray Whales in winter. Ancient Murrelet is sometimes among wintering birds here.

NOTE. Dairy ranches are Seashore land leased back to ranchers so be sure to respect their property rights and privacy. Avoid buildings and gardens. If a bird is between you and a house, move to avoid aiming binoculars at a window. Avoid disturbing cattle. Do not block any gate with cars. Leave all gates just as you find them. We MUST abide by the rules or we may see "keep out" signs instead of birds. Advise errant birders of correct behavior. Most ranchers are tolerant of birders but be extra careful at Nunes Ranch as it has been touchy there in the past.

At **Drake's Corner**, MP-38.6, scan both sides of the road for Lesser Golden-Plover among Black-bellied Plovers. Eurasian Skylark and Snow Bunting were here in November 1982. Turn left on Drake's Beach Road and look along the road for Lesser Golden-Plover and sometimes Mountain Plover. Buff-breasted Sandpiper was along here in September 1977.

Beyond **Hall Ranch**, just before Drake's Beach, is a walk-through gate on the left. Enter and check Horned Lark flocks for Lapland

and Chestnut-collared Long-spurs. Eurasian Skylark has wintered in recent years, Red-throated Pipit and McCown's Longspur were here October 1978, and Buff-breasted Sandpiper was near the road September 1979. From the far side of the hill is a view of Horseshoe Pond, Drake's Estero and Limantour Spit.

At **Drake's Beach** parking lot turn right to the cypress clump at the monument. Check cypresses and willows between here and the pond to the west for migrants and vagrants. Cross the bridge through the marsh to check the pond for waterbirds, ducks, Common Moorhen and gulls. In the parking lot check gulls on the pavement and look for warblers in the trees. Scan the bay from the Visitor Center for Red-necked Grebe, waterbirds and scoters. Walk ½ mile east along the beach to Horseshoe Pond where rarities are often among waterbirds, ducks and shorebirds.

Back at Sir Francis Drake Blvd., turn left to **Spaletta Ranch**, MP-39.39, park just before the buildings and go through the gate on the left. At 2 small muddy ponds below the barns shorebirds some years include Solitary, Pectoral or Sharp-tailed Sandpiper in fall. Check the large pond below for ducks and shorebirds. Drive 0.8 mile, walk through the gate on the left and bird the fields on the hill beyond, Spaletta Plateau. Among Horned Larks may be Lapland and Chestnut-collared Longspurs in fall or winter, McCown's was here November, 1983, and a Eurasian Skylark wintered 1984-85. Lesser Golden-Plover may be down the draw left of the gate.

At **Mendoza Ranch**, MP-41.04, park across from the pond which has ducks in winter. Shorebirds in migration have included Semipalmated, Baird's, Pectoral, Sharp-tailed (1983) and Stilt (1982) Sandpipers, Red and Red-necked Phalaropes. Check the row of cypress trees for warblers and other birds. To bird these trees you may go through gates but leave them the way you find them. The farmyards across the road are off limits. Just south of here a small row of cypresses across the road from the old schoolhouse has had Cerulean Warbler (1978) among fall warblers.

On the left as you go down the hill toward **Nunes Ranch**, MP-42.68, is a cattle feeding area which has had longspurs among Horned Larks. You may look from the road but do not enter the field. Park by the trees at the ranch but not along the house, please. If there are too many cars, park at Road Forks Pool beyond and walk back. Go through the space in the wire fence on the north side of the buildings and closely examine the trees where several rarities have been among the many migrants. Carefully scan the wet area below the trees and the fenceline beyond. Stay under the trees and within the fences here and keep out of the farmyard!

Road Forks Pool is at the junction at MP-42.83. The pond,

surrounding lupine, and the old quarry above have had migrants, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, vireos, warblers, American Tree and Clay-colored among many sparrows, and Lark Bunting. A Green-tailed Towhee was here September 1984.

Lesser Golden-Plovers are sometimes along the narrow road to the left. Drive that road to the **Fish Docks** parking lot at the end. Avoiding the garden at the house, a ranger's residence, scrutinize cypresses from below and from the hillside. The water tanks may drip and bring birds to drink and bathe. Check the little gully behind the garage and the short row of pines beyond. A number of rarities are on the long list of migrants seen in this area. Walk the trail to **Chimney Rock** at the point. Tufted Puffins and Black Oystercatchers have nested, Rhinoceros Auklet and Rock Wren may be seen. Check the bay along the entire area of the Fish Docks for Yellow-billed Loon (rare), Red-necked Grebe, Harlequin Duck, Oldsquaw (rare) and Black Scoter. Sooty Shearwater, jaegers and Sabine's Gull have been seen from here.

To reach New Willows, walk the road toward the docks until it bends back parallel to the shore. Bear left on the trail along the bluff to a gulch with a streamlet through some willow clumps. Follow the path up the ravine, closely checking willows below and lupine on the hillsides. Among good finds here have been Black-billed Cuckoo (September 1980), Eastern Kingbird, Veery, Mourning and Canada Warblers; vagrants and migrants are regular.

Return to Road Forks Pool, turn left uphill $\frac{1}{4}$ mile and park beyond the cattle guard. Walk through the **Poison Hemlock** down the hill on the right where some years there are warblers, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Clay-colored Sparrow among many species.

Continue to the **Lighthouse** parking lot at road's end. Check lupine along the road beyond the gate for warblers, Clay-colored and Brewer's among sparrows. Carefully examine cypresses along the road near the residence and lupine around that area. Birds of many species, including rarities, are seen regularly but can be very hard to find.

The observation area at the end of the Point has a clear view of the ocean for pelagics, gulls, and perhaps Tufted Puffin among alcids. On rocks below is a large Common Murre colony in summer, also many Brown Pelicans, cormorants, shorebirds and gulls. This is a good spot from which to watch migrating California Gray Whales in winter but publicity brings hordes of non-birding whale watchers. A walk down to the Lighthouse is very interesting but is a long climb back up.

7. NICASIO RESERVOIR.

Return in summer via SR-1 north through Pt. Reyes Station, turn right 3 miles on Pt. Reyes-Petaluma Road to a stop sign, turn left 3 miles then right on Nicasio Valley Road. East of the lake bear right onto the “bypass road” (a section of old road). Grasshopper Sparrows are in grass to the south or sometimes singing atop roadside fences. Continue east to a road fork, bear right to Sir Francis Drake Blvd. then left to US-101 or bear left on scenic Lucas Valley Road to US-101, turn south.

BEST BIRDING. September and October, especially the middle of that period, are excellent for all kinds of vagrants; the northward flight is late May through June. The Point juts into the sea and misoriented migrants, finding isolated “islands” of trees, dive in to feed and rest. Birds, sometimes in a wave, come in when a weather front goes through and the wind shifts to the south. Coastal fog with the inland clear, particularly with wind through Carquinez Strait, produces migrants and vagrants. Birds usually stay when the coast remains foggy, but if the fog dissipates they often move on especially if nights are clear. Fair, windy weather produces far fewer birds. Most fall birds are in winter plumage and quiet, many are immature, but spring birds, in breeding plumage, are singing.

Facilities: restrooms at Bear Valley and Drake’s Beach Visitor Centers, Tomales Bay State Park and North Beach; latrines at other spots; tables at 5-Brooks, both Visitor Centers and Tomales Bay State Park. Seashore brochure, recreation map (\$1), and checklist (25¢) at both Visitor Centers.

Other birds: Almost any species found in Northern California has turned up at Point Reyes at some time, many uncommon ones do so regularly. Among birds recorded have been Broad-winged Hawk, White-winged Dove, Snowy Owl, Common Poorwill, Least Flycatcher, Gray Catbird, Sage and Brown Thrashers, Gray-cheeked Thrush, White-eyed, Yellow-throated and Philadelphia Vireos, 37 warbler species, Summer Tanager, Dickcissel, 18 sparrow species, Rusty Blackbird and Orchard Oriole.



12. PUTAH CREEK and LAKE SOLANO

Solano County

Set amid hills with grassland and oak woodland, Lake Berryessa has rather sparse vegetation along its shore but downstream along Putah Creek and around Lake Solano are grasslands, riparian woodland, chaparral and oak woodland. Rocky slopes at Monticello Dam are very attractive to Rock and Canyon Wrens.

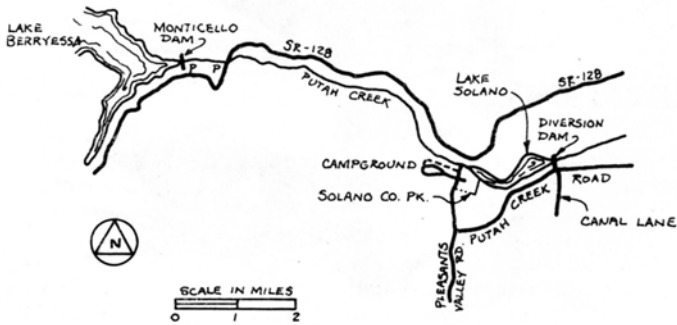
Take I-80 east past Fairfield to Cherry Glen Road, cross the freeway, go 1 mile then turn north on Pleasants Valley Road 13 miles and turn west 5 miles on SR-128 to the top of Monticello Dam. Or continue east on I-80 past Vacaville, turn north on I-505 to Winters then west 10 miles on SR-128 to the dam.

Birding can be good along **Pleasants Valley Road**, especially just north of Cherry Glen Road, in the vicinity of Foothill Road, the Gates Canyon Road turnoff, and between MP-10 and 10.5.

Atop **Monticello Dam** scan slopes and the creek for Greater Roadrunner (rare), Rock and Canyon Wrens and Townsend's Solitaire (uncommon, winter), rocks in the creek have had American Dipper and a Snow Bunting was at the foot of the dam November-December 1977. Walk west and look for Rock Wren along the road, Canyon Wren, Townsend's Solitaire and Rufous-crowned Sparrow upslope and for Golden and Bald (rare, winter) Eagles and White-throated Swift overhead. Lake Berryessa has Common Loon, grebes, a few ducks and Caspian Tern (summer). It is often windy here, especially afternoons.

Drive back below the dam, turn left just before the bridge, bird the parking area and creekside vegetation and walk south along Cold Creek, then work west along Putah Creek toward the dam. East of the bridge check the creek for American Dipper, flat areas above for landbirds. In these areas are Spotted Sandpiper, Northern Pygmy-Owl, woodpeckers, flycatchers (summer), House, Winter, Bewick's, Rock and Canyon Wrens, Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets (winter), warblers, Rufous-crowned Sparrow and Northern Oriole (summer), perhaps Townsend's Solitaire or "Slate-colored" Junco.

Drive east along **Putah Creek**, stopping to bird only if off the roadway in a fishing access or turnout. Fishing Access #1 has birds of woodland and riparian habitats while Access #4 also has grasslands, Say's Phoebe (winter), Western Bluebird, Lark Sparrow, Lesser and American Goldfinches. Across the road may be Rock Wren on the rocky outcrops, Vesper Sparrow (winter) on hillsides. Throughout this area along the creek are Wood Duck, Common and Hooded (uncommon) Mergansers in winter, Belted Kingfisher, Western Kingbird (summer) and Savannah Sparrow (winter). Ospreys



perch near, and fish in, the creek; Ferruginous Hawk and Prairie Falcon may be overhead in winter. A small fee is charged for the Fishing Accesses.

At Pleasants Valley Road turn right, cross the bridge and turn left into **Solano County Park** day-use area (fee). Check the water (the upper end of Lake Solano), shore and islands for waterbirds, Wood and Ring-necked Ducks and Hooded Merganser among ducks, Green-backed Heron and Common Moorhen. Walk east along the bank and look for Red-shouldered Hawk, Osprey, Red-breasted Sapsucker (winter), Lewis' (past years), Nuttall's and Downy Woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Western Bluebird, Phainopepla around mistletoe clumps in trees, flycatchers, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, vireos and warblers (spring, fall).

At the east end of the park look for Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs and Water Pipit (winter) on mudflats, Song and Lincoln's (winter) Sparrows in the reeds. Return west, take the first walkway to the upper parking area and look for woodpeckers, Phainopepla, sparrows and possibly Lawrence's among the goldfinches.

Cross to the campground, walk the creekside path and look for Acorn and other woodpeckers, wrens, thrushes, California Thrasher, vireos and warblers. Also along the trail are Dutchman's Pipe vines and the lovely attendant Swallowtail butterflies. At the west end, walk to the upper level, turn east and look for Yellow-billed Magpie, Western Bluebird, Phainopepla, warblers, sparrows, Pine Siskin and sometimes Lawrence's with other goldfinches. Trees at the campground entrance have Plain Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, kinglets, warblers and sparrows.

Go south on Pleasants Valley Road a mile and turn east on Putah Creek Road a mile or so to a wide turnout on the right at MP-5.89. On **Lake Solano** can be egrets, Tundra Swan, Wood Duck, 3 teal, Gadwall, Eurasian and American Wigeons, Canvasback, Redhead and Ring-necked Duck among many wintering waterfowl,

and shorebirds including Greater Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper and Common Snipe. Landbirds may include Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, California Thrasher, Phainopepla, Rufous-crowned and Fox (winter) Sparrows and goldfinches.

Continue east to Putah Diversion Dam at MP-5.5, park on the right at Canal Lane and look for waterbirds and waterfowl as above. Just east of the dam walk down to the creek and look for Common Yellowthroat, Song and Lincoln's Sparrows, perhaps Yellow-breasted Chat (summer) and goldfinches.

Facilities: restrooms at the park and campground; latrines at fishing accesses; picnic tables at the park and fishing accesses.

Best birding: fall-spring; hot summer not conducive to birding. May be crowded on warm weekends. Many spring wildflowers through the area.

Other birds: 4 grebes, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, 21 ducks, Black-shouldered Kite, accipiters, Ring-billed and California Gulls, Band-tailed Pigeon, Anna's and migrant Rufous and Allen's Hummingbirds, 9 flycatchers may include Willow and Dusky, 5 swallows, Swainson's (summer) and Hermit and Varied (winter) Thrushes, Wrentit, 3 vireos, "western" and a few vagrant warblers, Hepatic (September 1976) and Western (migrant) Tanagers, in summer Black-headed Grosbeak and Lazuli Bunting, Chipping and White-throated (uncommon, winter) Sparrows.



42. REDWOOD REGIONAL PARK

Alameda County

This 2489-acre park is an area of grassland, chaparral-covered slopes, lush fern-filled canyons, woodland and evergreen forest as well as the stands of redwoods for which the park is named. Along the creek there is thick riparian woodland.

Go east on I-580 to Redwood Road, turn left over the freeway and go up Redwood Road $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles beyond Skyline Blvd. to the park entrance then turn left to road's end. A parking fee may be collected.

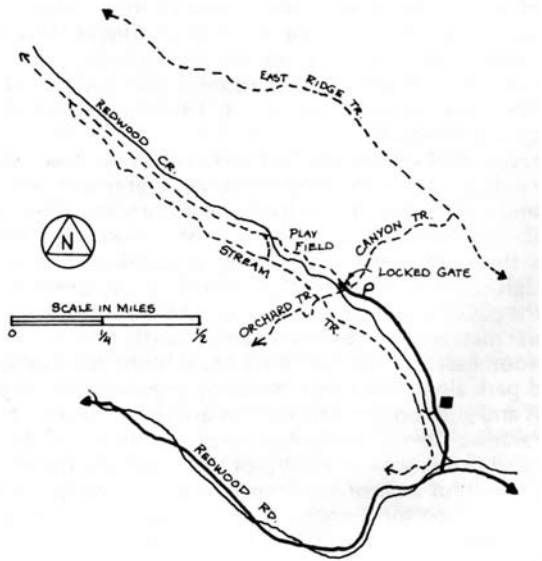
Near the **parking lot**

check willows along the creek in summer for Ash-throated and other flycatchers, wrens, Swainson's Thrush, vireos, and warblers including Yellow and MacGillivray's. Bird along the road toward the entrance, checking oaks and creekside vegetation for hummingbirds, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Willow and Western Flycatchers, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, wrens, kinglets, warblers and sparrows. Watch overhead for hawks, Band-tailed Pigeon, White-throated Swift and 5 swallow species.

Near the service yard, cross the creek to **Stream Trail** and turn left. In the area of the park entrance are flycatchers, House and Bewick's Wrens, Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes, vireos, warblers, Song and Lincoln's (winter) Sparrows. Retrace your path and continue on Stream Trail, checking riparian growth in the creek and the upslope woodland for birds of those habitats. Turn right on Orchard Trail to your car to make this a short walk.

When Stream Trail reaches the paved road, bear left and check redwood groves which have a few birds including Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren and Varied Thrush. Northern Saw-whet Owl may also be in the area. The trail follows the creek through several small redwood groves then climbs the hill through woodlands to Skyline Gate at Pine Hills Road and Skyline Blvd. if a long walk interests you.

Return on the paved road. Near the **play field** bird vegetation along the creek, trees along the road and the old fruit trees for



woodpeckers, House and Bewick's Wrens, both kinglets, thrushes, vireos, several warblers, including MacGillivray's, and sparrows. In chaparral on nearby hillsides are California Quail, Wrentit and California Thrasher.

At the parking lot turn left up **Canyon Trail** where chaparral soon gives way to woodland. Watch for birds of those habitats as you climb as far as you wish before returning to your car.

Facilities: tables, barbecues and latrines through the area. **Best birding:** spring-fall, may be good in winter.

Other birds: accipiters, Golden Eagle, Western Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Anna's, Rufous (spring) and Allen's (summer) Hummingbirds, Red-breasted Sapsucker (winter), 3 vireos, Orange-crowned, Yellow-rumped (winter), Townsend's, Hermit (migrant) and Wilson's (summer) Warblers, Black-headed Grosbeak (summer), Rufous-sided and Brown Towhees, Northern Oriole (summer), Purple and House Finches, Pine Siskin, Lesser and American Goldfinches.

21. RICHARDSON BAY

Marin County

The open bay lures thousands of waterbirds and ducks each winter, while shorebirds and gulls use the mudflats. Along the shore the grassy and weedy areas, varied shrubs and trees draw a number of species while the small water treatment plant adds another bit of habitat attractive to birds.

Cross the Bay Bridge, go north on US-101 to Mill Valley and head east on Tiburon Blvd., SR-131. Turn right on Greenwood Cove Road, which becomes Greenwood Beach Road, to the National Audubon Society Wildlife Sanctuary, free to NAS members, 50¢ to others.

The **Sanctuary** has good overlooks of the bay and trails for land-birding. With boats excluded from a large area of the bay October-March, there are large numbers of migrating and wintering waterbirds, ducks, shorebirds and gulls, with 20-40,000 individuals, as many as 200,000 during peak herring runs, especially in January. There are bird walks with a naturalist on Sundays at 9 am and 1 pm. Information: 376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon, CA 94920; (415) 388-2524. Closed Monday and Tuesday.

Continue east to **Richardson Bay Park** at Greenwood Beach Road and Tiburon Blvd. Walk the paved trail south along the shore. Waterfowl, sometimes including Tufted Duck, and gulls gather at the freshwater outfall to drink and bathe on the mudflat on ebb tide. From outside the fence of a small water treatment plant on the left check the ponds and surrounding vegetation then wander

along the bay and through trees on the hill. Also check grassy areas and the trees and bushes along the paved trail near the road. In early spring Western Grebes perform their spectacular mating dance before heading north.

Continue southeast on Tiburon Blvd., turn right on **San Rafael Avenue** in Belvedere and park along the street. Benches provide comfort as you scan huge flocks of ducks and gulls on the bay. Rarities are regularly seen from here.

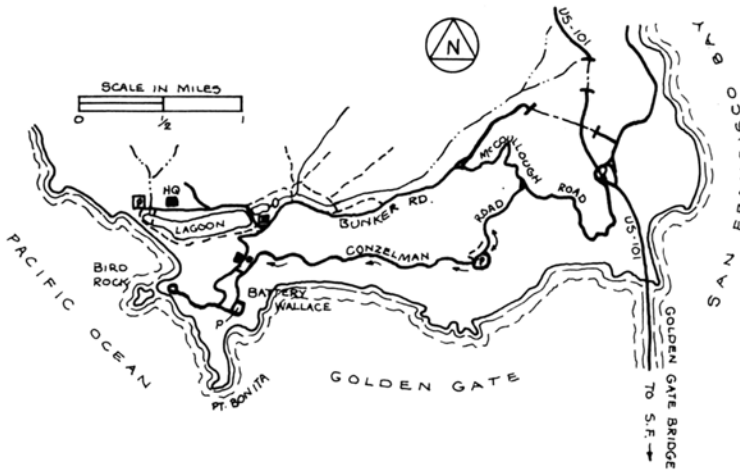
To reach **Paradise Cove County** Park (fee) continue on Tiburon Blvd., which becomes Paradise Drive, around the tip of the peninsula then back on the north shore. Enjoy a beautiful view of San Francisco Bay as you lunch in this somewhat sheltered spot then look for birds such as accipiters, Band-tailed Pigeon, Brown Creeper and kinglets.

Facilities: restrooms, picnic tables at the Sanctuary and both parks. **Best birding:** fall-late spring; morning light is best. A scope is almost a necessity to see the birds well on the open water.

Birds: loons, 5 grebes, Brown Pelican, herons, egrets, many ducks (may include Eurasian Wigeon, both scaups, Oldsquaw, Black Scoter, Barrow's Goldeneye, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers), hawks have included Osprey and Broad-winged, many shorebirds can include Red Phalarope, Glaucous has been among 10 gull species, several terns, Common Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, Anna's and Allen's (summer) Hummingbirds, Yellow-bellied and Red-breasted Sapsuckers have been among woodpeckers, Black and Say's (winter) Phoebes among flycatchers, Red-breasted Nuthatch (winter), Winter and Bewick's Wrens, Hermit Thrush (winter), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (rare, summer), Hutton's and Warbling (summer) Vireos, warblers include MacGillivray's and Wilson's (summer), Common Yellowthroat, Western Tanager (migrant), Black-headed Grosbeak (summer), both towhees, winter sparrows have included Fox, Lincoln's and White-throated, Hooded and Northern Orioles (rare, summer), Purple and House Finches, Lesser and American Goldfinches.

24. RODEO LAGOON and MARIN HEADLANDS Marin County

The valley, surrounded by grassy hills, includes willows and other riparian vegetation, chaparral, Monterey cypress, ponds and a large lagoon in its habitats. Atop the headlands are grasslands, chaparral and cypress clumps while from the bluffs are good views of the ocean and its rocky shore. A major fall attraction is the hawk lookout atop Hill 129.



Cross the Bay Bridge and take US-101 north. Just north of the Golden Gate Bridge take Alexander Avenue exit, bear right then follow Golden Gate National Recreation Area signs through the tunnel on Bunker Road.

Near the tunnel, in chaparral, willows and bog are House, Bewick's and Marsh Wrens, Orange-crowned, MacGillivray's and Wilson's (summer) among warblers, Common Yellowthroat, Fox and Lincoln's (winter) and Song Sparrows. Go west to the stables and walk the short willow-lined loop nearby for hummingbirds, wrens, kinglets, Swainson's (summer) and Hermit (winter) Thrushes, Wrentit, vireos, warblers, sparrows, Purple and House Finches, Lesser and American Goldfinches. Near the west end of the loop cross a little footbridge to grassland beyond for Black-shouldered Kite, Say's Phoebe (winter) and Savannah Sparrow. Long-eared Owls may winter near here.

Continue west to the pond just before large **Rodeo Lagoon**. At this pond and the little marshy one at its east end are Pied-billed Grebe, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Ring-necked among winter ducks, rails, Common Moorhen, Belted Kingfisher. Black Phoebe, 6 swallows at times (summer), Marsh Wren, thrushes, warblers as above plus Yellow (summer) and Yellow-rumped (winter).

Across the road the lagoon has Horned, Eared and Western Grebes (winter), Brown Pelican (summer-late fall), Great Blue and Green-backed Herons, both egrets, winter ducks include Gadwall, Redhead and Ring-necked, gulls and terns. In marsh and on mudflats are rails, shorebirds (may include Semipalmated Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, Long-billed Curlew and Spotted Sandpiper plus Baird's and Pectoral in fall), Marsh Wren and Common Yellowthroat.

Continue along the north side of the lagoon; stop off the road to scan the water for birds. Park near the firehouse, bird the lagoon

then walk uphill behind the station for Loggerhead Shrike on wires, warblers, including vagrants, in trees. Across from the parking lot at road's end look for waterbirds, ducks, gulls and terns on the lagoon and shorebirds along its edges, and scan the sea for loons, Black Scoter among ducks, and alcids. Bird Rock, at the far end of the beach is often covered with Brown Pelicans, Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorants.

Return to the small pond, turn right uphill past an old Nike site and between 2 buildings, turn left then promptly turn right to the cypress trees at **Battery Wallace**. Many birds in the trees and shrubs here include both kinglets, vagrants among several warblers. Northern Saw-whet Owl has been here. Trees to the west are reached through the north tunnel. Below the overlook at the south end are loons, many Western Grebes and ducks, on small beaches are a few shorebirds, and Great Horned Owls roost in the cypress grove.

Beyond here pass Point Bonita turnoff, bear right to **Bird Rock overlook**. Sanderlings may join the large birds there. On rocks near the water below are Black Oystercatcher, Wandering Tattler and both turnstones. At sea may be loons, grebes, ducks, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot and Marbled Murrelet. Rock Wren is around the cliffs.

Return to Bunker Road, turn right 1½ miles, right again on McCullough Road to the top then go right on Conzelman Road until it narrows and becomes one-way. Walk uphill to **Hill 129 - "Hawk Mountain"** - at the end. Hawks in fall, mostly Sharp-shinned and Cooper's, can include Osprey, Northern Harrier, Broad-winged, Red-tailed, Rough-legged, Golden Eagle, American Kestrel and Merlin; Mississippi Kite, Goshawk, Swainson's and Peregrine have all been seen. Also overhead are Band-tailed Pigeon flocks, migrating Black and Vaux's with White-throated Swifts and several swallows, In trees and chaparral are Northern Flicker, Bewick's Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Orange-crowned, Palm and other warblers, sparrows are mostly Song and White-crowned.

Return down Conzelman Road and stay on the south side of the hill to US-101, turn right toward San Francisco, left for points north.

Facilities: latrines, picnic tables in several spots. **Best birding:** fall-spring. Weather often windy, cool. Point Bonita Lighthouse will open to the public in 1985.

Other birds: Tundra Swan and Canada Goose (rare), 18 ducks, California Quail, 24 shorebirds, 10 gulls have included Black-legged Kittiwake, Caspian, Elegant (fall), Common (fall) and Forster's Terns,

Common Barn-Owl, several flycatchers in summer, all 3 nuthatches, 25 warblers have been recorded, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak (summer), both towhees, 15 sparrows have included Vesper (winter), Rufous-crowned, Chipping (summer), Golden-crowned (winter) Whitecrowned, White-throated (winter) and several vagrants, Northern Oriole (summer) and Pine Siskin.

18. SACRAMENTO

Sacramento County

Purple Martins are regular here late March to early August. East of the city, Scott Road crosses open grassland with scattered oaks while Deer Creek has good riparian habitat. American River Parkway includes typical valley riparian woodland in its varied habitats.

Go east on I-80 then Bus. 140 into Sacramento, take the O Street exit north and park near the Capitol Avenue overhead.

Under the freeway, European Starlings and House Sparrows use a martin house but Purple Martins nest in holes on the underside of the overhead and perch on nearby utility wires on both sides of the freeway. Drive north to I Street, turn left and follow signs to the Railroad Museum at the west end at Old Sacramento, northwest of the State Capitol. Martins are under the nearby I Street overpass.

Another place of special interest is the **Scott Road/Deer Creek** area east of the city. From Bus. 140 go east on US-50, turn right on Howe Avenue and follow SR-16 (Jackson Road) east about 16 miles. Turn left on Latrobe Road about 3½ miles then left again on Scott Road. Turn left ½ mile on White Rock Road then right on Prairie City Road to US-50 and return west. The riparian woodland around Deer Creek has the most varied birding, especially in spring and early summer.

Throughout this area look for wintering Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Lewis' (winter) and other woodpeckers, Western Kingbird among flycatchers in summer, Horned Lark, Rock, Bewick's and House Wrens, Western and Mountain (winter) Bluebirds, Phainopepla, warblers (migrant), Lazuli Bunting (spring), Vesper (winter), Lark and Savannah (winter) Sparrows, Northern Oriole (summer), Lesser and American Goldfinches. Wood Ducks may be in the creek; on ponds near the road should be ducks in winter.

American River Parkway follows that stream for several miles with access at bridges and the several parks along its length. Ancil Hoffman Park in Carmichael has varied habitats and birds, as does Goethe Park just downstream. Jedediah Smith National Recreation Trail runs through the Parkway from Discovery Park at the Sacramento River to Folsom Lake State Recreation Area which also has a number of good birding spots.

Facilities in the many parks in the city. **Sacramento Rare Bird Alert:** (916) 481-0118.

13. SACRAMENTO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE and GRAY LODGE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA Glenn, Butte Counties

These refuges have large shallow ponds, marshes and sloughs with willows and other riparian vegetation while varied grassland, shrubs and trees are in the uplands and on the levees. Grain plantings help to hold waterfowl on the refuges and out of neighboring agricultural lands.

Sacramento: Go north via I-80, I-505 and I-5 to Norman Road 18 miles north of Williams then north on the old highway 2 miles to the refuge; open daily dawn to dusk.

Gray Lodge: Go north via I-80, SR-113 and SR-99 to Live Oak then follow refuge signs west on Pennington Road; open daily 8:00 am to ½ hour after sunset.

About 2½ hours travel to either refuge.

In **Sacramento NWR** walk around the Display Pond along the entrance road and look for Eurasian Wigeon among the many ducks. Walk or slowly drive the Tour Route road, carefully checking ponds and the surrounding vegetation. At the display kiosk by the parking lot near Headquarters get a refuge map, birdlist, "Self-Guiding Tour Route" and "Recreation Guide" or write Refuge Manager, Route 1, Box 311, Willows, CA 95988; (916) 934-2801.

Between the refuges, go east on Norman Road, turn north on Princeton Road, east on SR-162, south on Road Y, then zig-zag southeast to Gridley-Colusa Highway. Turn east to Pennington Road then south to Gray Lodge. If the Princeton Ferry is running, cross the river there and go east to Road Y. Watch along these roads for Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Short-eared Owl, Lewis' Woodpecker, Yellow-billed Magpie, Yellow-headed and Tricolored Blackbirds.

At **Gray Lodge WMA** walk or slowly drive the 3-mile Tour Loop road, parking only in designated areas. Walkers may cut across halfway out. Other hiking routes are near Headquarters. Available at the entrance are a refuge map and birdlist, or write California Department of Fish and Game, 1419 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814; refuge phone: (916) 846-3315.

For a **scenic route home,** south of Gray Lodge turn west on N. Butte Road and work southwest via W. Butte, Lower Pass and Mawson Roads, SR-20, SR-45, Sycamore and Grimes-Arbuckle Roads to I-5 in Arbuckle and turn south. Butte Sink, west of W. Butte Road,

has many waterbirds and waterfowl, while the riparian woodland and oaks along the roads have varied landbirds.

Facilities: restrooms at Sacramento NWR main parking lot, latrines in both refuges. **Best birding:** late November through February when waterfowl abound. Refuge roads may be closed to vehicles after heavy rain. **Motels** in Willows, 4 miles north of Sacramento NWR, and Gridley, 8 miles northeast of Gray Lodge WMA. **Camping** in Colusa State Recreation Area, 10 miles east of Williams. A map of the Sacramento Valley will aid in getting around the area.

Birds, similar at both refuges with some differences in occurrence and abundance, include grebes, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, herons, egrets include Cattle, Least (occasional, summer) and American Bitterns, White-faced Ibis (rare, winter), Tundra Swan, several geese include Ross' and sometimes "Blue", many ducks of many species, several hawks can include Osprey (Gray Lodge), Bald and Golden Eagles have both been seen, Sandhill Crane (mostly Gray Lodge), rails, several shorebirds may include Lesser Yellowlegs and Baird's Sandpiper, terns include Black in summer, owls may include Long-eared, swallows, Purple Martin (rare, summer), White-breasted Nuthatch, Rock, Bewick's and Winter Wrens, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher occasionally, several warblers, among sparrows may be Vesper, Lark, Lincoln's and White-throated, Northern Oriole (summer), and goldfinches may include Lawrence's.

56. SAN FRANCISCO BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE Alameda County

In this 23,000-acre refuge are bay waters, salt evaporator ponds, mudflats, ponds and puddles, salt marsh, sloughs and estuaries, and some upland. High tides flood mudflats and marshes and flow into sloughs. This diversity of habitats attracts great numbers of birds.

Go south on SR-17 to Fremont, take the Dumbarton Bridge/SR-84 West exit 2 miles then take the Thornton Avenue exit and follow Refuge signs to the large parking lot at Headquarters on Marshlands Road.

The 1½-mile self-guiding **Tidelands Trail** from the Visitor Center goes to sloughs, salt marshes and salt ponds and explains the ecology of South Bay marshes.

Newark Slough Trail crosses the slough below the Visitor Center to levees along the slough and past marshes, ponds and mudflats, looping back to the two bridges below the Center. Here are many waterbirds, shorebirds, gulls, terns and Common Yellowthroat, At

high tide Great Blue Herons, Great and Snowy Egrets and Black-crowned Night-Herons are easy to see and Clapper Rails may be forced out into view.

To reach **Shoreline Trail** along the bay, drive west to the parking lot at the east end of the Dumbarton Bridge. Marshlands Road became a hiking/biking, as well as auto, road after completion of the new freeway. Occasionally the salt company dredges salt ponds and deposits the spoils on levees, making them impassable for some time. Ask at Headquarters about this area.

Shoreline Trail runs south along salt ponds to marshland, the long loop heads north. Eared Grebes, Wilson's and Red-necked Phalaropes and Bonaparte's Gulls can be here in huge numbers, perhaps with Red Phalarope, numerous some years. On the bay float rafts of ducks, on salt ponds are many ducks, shorebirds and gulls. About 2 miles north is Ideal Marsh which is a good place for Clapper Rail and Short-eared Owl. A trail from Coyote Hills Regional Park comes in from the east. The trail continues north to the Flood Control Channel and follows it east to Bay View Trail in Coyote Hills (see Guide). A pedestrian crossing over the freeway from the Headquarters area to trails in Coyote Hills will soon be completed.

The **boat launch** near the east end of Newark Slough has a parking lot off Thornton Avenue east of Headquarters. A canoe is a great way to bird but be aware of tides as you can get stuck in mud at low tide and will have to wait for the tide to float you free. Just west of the boat launch is a trail north to an observation platform from which you can check the shallow ponds and mudflats for rarities among the many shorebirds, Snowy Plover and Lesser Yellowlegs can be seen here. Morning light is best.

East of the boat launch area are the upper end of Newark Slough and several shallow ponds with many shorebirds which included a Ruff in August 1983. On Thornton Avenue about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile east of the boat launch is a small "Animal Shelter" sign. Walk the levee road south and west from here along the ponds and slough for waterbirds, shorebirds, gulls, terns and other birds.

To reach **Alviso Slough Trail**, return to SR-17, go south toward San Jose, turn west on SR-237 (watch for Cattle Egrets in winter), north on Taylor Street then right on Hope Street toward Alviso Marina. Walk the 9-mile loop trail northwest along the slough toward the bay. Look for Clapper Rails at high tide, hordes of feeding shorebirds as the tide ebbs, exposing mudflats. Little Blue Herons have been in this area, The trail continues east along Coyote Creek, past Triangle Marsh with its many birds, then turns south back to the Marina.

Facilities: restrooms in the Visitor Center; 2 tables below the Center. **Best birding:** greatest concentration and variety is fall-spring. The gate is open 7:30 am-5 pm. If you arrive early or plan to stay late, park at the boat launch parking lot off Thornton Avenue. Don't get locked in—move your car from the Visitor Center lot before 5 pm! Trails open daily, dawn-dusk; Center open daily, except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years, 10-5. Phone (415) 792-3178 for recorded information on activities. Information, bird list and map at the Center or write Refuge Manager, SF Bay NWR, P.O. Box 524, Newark, CA 94560; (415) 792-0222.

Stay on established trails as getting stuck in deep, soft mud can be dangerous! Watch where you walk as eggs may be laid on trail edges. Caspian and Forster's Terns on territory dive bomb people, Avocets and Stilts dive on intruders near nests or chicks, so if attacked by birds, back off and leave the area.

Other birds: 3 grebes, American White and Brown (uncommon) Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorant, American Bittern, many ducks can include Blue-winged Teal, Redhead, both scaups, Barrow's Goldeneye, and mergansers, Black-shouldered Kite, Virginia, Sora and Black (rare) Rails, 30 shorebird species may include Wandering Tattler (rare), Red Knot, Baird's and Pectoral Sandpipers in migration, and Common Snipe, Glaucous and Franklin's (both rare) among many gulls, Least and other terns, Burrowing Owl, Black and Say's Phoebes, Bewick's and Marsh Wrens, Water Pipit (winter), Loggerhead Shrike, sparrows include Savannah, Song and, in winter, Fox, Lincoln's, Golden-crowned, White-crowned and, rarely, Sharp-tailed and Swamp, blackbirds include Tricolored, Lesser and American Goldfinches.

39. SAN LEANDRO BAY REGIONAL SHORELINE Alameda County

Nearly circling this bay is a series of paved trails and small new parks. Around the shore are marshes, sloughs and some uplands, with extensive mudflats emerging at high tide. As park plantings mature they will provide more habitat for landbirds.

Go south on SR-17, take the High Street exit down to the signal and proceed straight across High Street onto Oakport Street and continue to the parking lot on the right on the south side of the East Creek Slough bridge. From the south, exit at 66th Avenue, go west then turn right on Oakport Street.

Walk paved **Oakport Trail** along tidal East Creek Slough to the bay where many grebes, ducks and gulls winter on the water. As high tide ebbs, mobs of shorebirds come to emerging mudflats of

slough and bay to feed. The trail goes south along the bay then turns away from the shore to Damon Marsh near 66th Avenue and ends just north of Damon Slough. Eventually there may be a crossing over the slough to the rest of the shoreline but for now retrace the mile-long trail. Morning light is best.

To reach **Garretson Point**, go south on Oakport Street, turn right on Hassler Way, right again on Edgewater Drive to the end then continue north on the narrow access road to the parking lot. Gulls, some shorebirds and a few Water Pipits (winter) are in and near rain pools east of the access road. The northeast area of the park overlooks Damon Slough, Damon Marsh and the bayshore. Shorebirds rest in the marsh at high tide then hordes of them appear on the mudflats as the tide ebbs, and rails may be along the far edge of the slough. Some waterbirds are on the slough at high tide; many are on the open water of the bay.

To the west across San Leandro Channel is Arrowhead Marsh. The paved trail goes south along the shore of the bay and San Leandro Creek to Hegenberger Road, with access between the trail and Edgewater Drive near Hassler Way and also Pardee Lane. Morning light is best.

Arrowhead Marsh is reached from Garretson Point by going south on Edgewater Drive then right on Hegenberger Road. Turn right on Pardee Drive, left on Swan Way then right into the park to a nearby parking lot. Walk right along the Airport Channel trail for cormorants, gulls and terns atop pilings, grebes and ducks on the water. The trail bends right along a deep channel which protects the 70-acre marsh and its nesting and resting birds. Look for marsh birds from the trail and from out on the boardwalk then just beyond go up on the observation platform, accessible by stairs or a long ramp. This area may be reached directly by car by driving to the parking lot at the north end of the access road,

Beyond here check waterbirds out on San Leandro Channel from near the fishing pier beyond which the trail turns south along San Leandro Creek to Hegenberger Road. If you drive to the parking lot at the observation platform, check rain pools along the road for shorebirds and gulls.

To reach **Doolittle Beach** go west on Swan Way then right on Doolittle Drive to the entrance north of the boat launch. Arrowhead Marsh is fairly close to this shore. Gulls and terns fly over Airport Channel between the park and marsh, shorebirds feed on mudflats along the shores, Great Blue Herons, Great and Snowy Egrets and Black-crowned Night-Herons are in the marsh and rails may be seen there at high tide. Afternoon light is best here.

Doolittle Pond is a short distance to the north, **Alameda South Shore** is not far beyond. See the Guide for those areas.

Facilities: well-located tables, barbecues and restrooms; benches are scattered throughout. The paved hiking/biking trail through these areas should eventually circle San Leandro Bay. **Best birding:** fall-spring, but can be good in summer also; birdlife varies with the tides.

Other birds: 3 loons, 5 grebes, American White (winter) and Brown (summer, fall) Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorant, Canada Goose, Brant has been seen, many wintering ducks may include Eurasian Wigeon or Barrow's Goldeneye, Black-shouldered Kite, Golden Eagle (rare), Clapper and Virginia Rails, Sora, many shorebirds include Red Knot and, in migration, Baird's Sandpiper, 9 gulls, among terns are Common and Least (summer), Arctic and Black (rare), Black and Say's (winter) Phoebes, several swallows (summer), Loggerhead Shrike, Savannah, Song, White-crowned and, in winter, Fox and Golden-crowned Sparrows, Lesser and American Goldfinches. More landbirds will be seen in the future as park plantings mature.

66. SAN MATEO COUNTY COAST San Mateo County

Along this 28-mile section of coastline are open ocean, rocky shores and sandy beaches, ponds, lagoons and marshes, open fields, chaparral, riparian thickets and some groves of trees. Above the sea are flat headlands of varying width and grassy hills to the east.

Go south on SR-17 to Hayward, west on SR-92 across San Mateo Bridge and continue west to SR-1 in Half Moon Bay (MP-29) then turn south. The \$2 parking fee charged at Año Nuevo State Reserve and some days at the state beaches is good at all on the day purchased.

Turn right on Redondo Beach Road, MP-27, to the end and scope the sea for pelagics. Pasturelands near the parking lot have had Lesser Golden-Plovers among Black-bellieds in winter. Continue down SR-1, checking swifts for Vaux's (summer, a few winter). Turn left 4-5 miles up Tunitas Creek Road, MP-21, to look for Northern Saw-whet Owls. From SR-1 turn east on Stage Road, MP-19.45, in summer and listen for the insect-like buzz of Grasshopper Sparrows in short-grass areas. Continue south on SR-1 to San Gregorio Beach, MP-18, where ducks, which have included Harlequin, may winter under the bridge while shorebirds and gulls use the beach.

Park opposite **Pescadero Lagoon**, MP-14.50. On the large lagoon are waterbirds, sometimes all 3 teal among winter ducks, Red-necked

and perhaps Red Phalaropes in fall. Shorebirds around the edges may include Lesser Yellowlegs, Semipalmated (uncommon), Baird's, Pectoral and rarely Sharp-tailed or Stilt Sandpipers in migration. Marsh vegetation has rails, Marsh Wren and Common Yellowthroat. The small pond has grebes, ducks, rails, Common Moorhen and phalaropes. Walk the trail uphill to the overlook; scan the marsh below for herons, egrets, American Bittern, ducks and shorebirds. Swallows of 6 species fly over the marsh at or below eye level.

Return to the road, walk to the bridge and down to Pescadero Creek. The left trail goes through the marsh. On the sandbar just east of the bridge may be rarities among shorebirds, several gull species, perhaps Common, Arctic or Least Terns among Caspian, Elegant (fall) and Forster's. Return to the road and cross to the dunes to scan beach and offshore rocks for Black Oystercatcher, Wandering Tattler, both turnstones and Surfbird among shorebirds; gulls have included Franklin's (fall) and Glaucous (winter).

At **Pescadero Beach**, MP-13.80 at Pescadero Road, turn right into the parking lot. Scan beach, offshore rocks and ocean for pelagics, grebes, ducks, shorebirds and gulls—a scope helps. The large flat-topped rock just offshore can be crowded with cormorants, shorebirds and gulls. Drive east on Pescadero Road, park on the right at MP-0.66 or on the left at MP-0.80 and check Pescadero Marsh for Virginia Rail, Sora and shorebirds including Common Snipe and uncommon migrants.

Back on SR-1, turn south to **Pebble Beach**, MP-12, and walk the trail south atop the bluffs. Check rocks below and offshore for wintering Rock Sandpiper among Wandering Tattlers, turnstones, Surfbirds and other shorebirds, Many Ancient Murrelets were close offshore in November 1979.

Bean Hollow and Lake Lucerne are on Bean Hollow Road, a left turn near MP-11. Park just north of the bridge and check the marshy pond to the west and the lake to the east (lake property is posted so look from the road) for waders, ducks, shorebirds, Belted Kingfisher and Common Yellowthroat. Nearby chaparral has varied landbirds.

At MP-8.73, turn right on **Pigeon Point Road**, check nearby fields for Lesser Golden-Plover (uncommon) then continue nearly to the lighthouse. Here are Band-tailed Pigeon and Tricolored Blackbird. Shorebirds on the beach and rocks include Black Oystercatcher, Wandering Tattler, both turnstones and Surfbird.

Excellent pelagic birding here has included Black-footed and sometimes Laysan Albatross (check behind any passing freighter), Northern Fulmar, shearwaters, Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers, several gulls have included Black-legged Kittiwake, Sabine's and, in

1977, Little Gull, Common and Arctic Terns among others, alcids may include Ancient Murrelet (winter) as well as Marbled, Rhinoceros and rarely Cassin's Auklet. Early morning is best, mid-April is the best date.

Turn right on New Year's Creek Road, MP-1, to **Año Nuevo State Reserve** or park near the intersection and walk in. Along the trail northwest from the parking lot are large flocks of House Finches, Pine Siskins and both goldfinches. At the pond are ducks, rails, Red-necked and perhaps Red Phalaropes, gulls, Bank and other swallows in summer, Marsh Wren and Common Yellowthroat. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was in willows at the back of the pond in October 1981. Black-shouldered Kites perch nearby. Atop the bluff beyond the pond look for cliff-nesting cormorants and Pigeon Guillemots and for Harlequin Ducks on or near the "aircraft carrier" and other offshore rocks. Watch overhead in summer for Black Swifts and for Bank Swallows which nest in the cliffs.

West of the Staging Area, which is halfway out, **the outer areas are closed December-April** except to ranger-led walks to see Elephant Seals and their pups. These closure dates could be expanded in the future. Permits, available at the entrance, may be required May-November; for a large group, make arrangements ahead.

Crossing the dunes, bear left on the trail along the bluffs, go down by the water when you reach the beach and walk along the shore to Año Nuevo Point. The beach, sandy between the bluffs and the point, becomes a bit more difficult north from the point. When Elephant Seals are hauled out here, you must walk atop the dunes and not on the beach. Anywhere along these beaches may be Brant, Harlequin Duck, many shorebirds including Snowy Plover, Wandering Tattler, both turnstones, Surf-bird and Red Knot, Baird's, Pectoral and Sharp-tailed (rare) Sandpipers are here in fall, Ruff has been seen, and Curlew Sandpiper was here in August 1981.

At Pillar Point Harbor, in Princeton 5 miles north of Half Moon Bay on SR-1, turn left on Capistrano Road to the pier. Check among the boats for possible Yellow-billed among winter loons, grebes, ducks including Oldsquaw (rare) and mergansers. Bird north along the bay on Capistrano, turn left on Prospect Way then left on Broadway to scan the beach and bay. Backtrack a bit, turn left on Princeton Avenue, right on West Point Avenue to a large willow clump on the right where vagrant warblers in migration may join more common birds. The pond on the left, dry in summer, may have shorebirds; and Black-shouldered Kite may be overhead.

Move on to a rutted dirt road to the left at the base of the hill. Park here and walk (drive if you dare) to the harbor then walk to

the right along the shore to the breakwater. In this area are loons, grebes, ducks including all 3 scoters, shorebirds, gulls and terns in the harbor and on the ocean. A Rock Sandpiper often winters along the harbor's edge near the breakwater.

Facilities: restrooms at Pillar Point Pier and Bean Hollow State Beach; latrines at several beaches; picnic tables at beaches. **Birding** can be good any time of year. **Elephant Seal Tours**, December-April; information: California Department of Parks and Recreation, San Mateo Coast Area, 95 Kelley Avenue, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019; (415) 726-6238; reservations, \$2.50/person, through Ticketron, (415) 879-0227.

Other birds: 4 loons, 5 grebes, shearwaters have included Pink-footed, Buller's, Sooty and Black-vented, Great, Snowy and Cattle (rare) Egrets, Green-backed Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, 25 duck species, hawks have included Osprey, Northern Harrier, accipiters, Red-shouldered, Red-tailed, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon and, in winter, Ferruginous and Rough-legged, 38 shorebird species have included Solitary Sandpiper (fall), 13 gull species, several alcids, Purple Martin (summer), Pygmy Nuthatch, Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets (winter), many warblers have included Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian and Hooded in migration, sparrows include Lark, Song and, in winter, Fox, Lincoln's, White-throated, Golden-crowned and (rare) Clay-colored and Swamp.

67. SANTA CRUZ

Santa Cruz County

Neary's Lagoon has cattails and willows with weedy areas and tall trees nearby while around the Lighthouse is open Monterey Bay with rocky shores and sandy beaches.

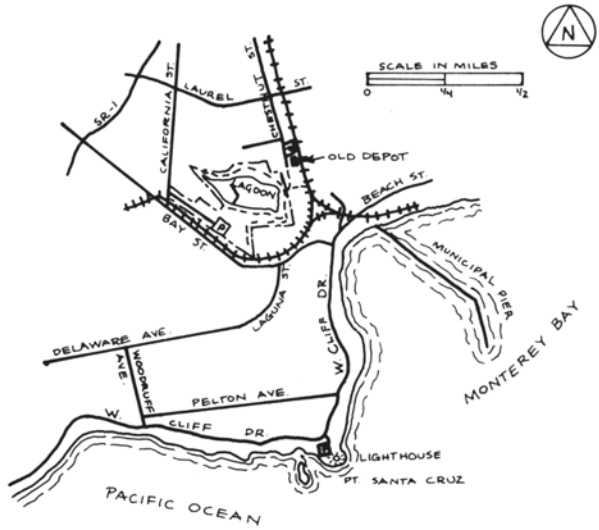
Go south on SR-17 to Santa Cruz and take SR-1 North ½ mile, turn left on Chestnut Street ¼ mile, continue south on an unpaved drive to the end and park near the old railroad depot.

At **Neary's Lagoon** the weedy field adjacent to the parking area is good for sparrows which included LeConte's and American Tree in October 1983. Walk through the large willow thicket and also check the tall trees beyond the fence for vagrants which may include Virginia's, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided or Palm Warblers; Prothonotary and Connecticut have also been seen.

Return up Chestnut, turn left on Laurel Street, left on California Street and left again by the railroad tracks to the Nature Area parking lot. On the open water of the pond or in the thick cattails are grebes, Wood and Ruddy Ducks, rails, Common Moorhen, Marsh Wren, Common Yellowthroat and Song Sparrow. Also look around the edge of the sewer plant just to the south for varied birds.

Drive back to California, turn left across the tracks, promptly left again on Bay Street, right on West Cliff Drive to the **Lighthouse** at Pt. Santa Cruz then left into the parking lot. A pair of Black Swifts nests in the small nearby cove on the cliff above the water. From the point look for loons, grebes, shearwaters (late summer, fall),

Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorants, 3 scoters, Red-breasted Merganser, Thayer's among winter gulls, Caspian, Elegant (summer, early fall) and Forster's Terns, and alcids. Drive west on West Cliff Drive and from turnouts along the bluffs look for seabirds and for Harlequin Ducks which may be seen along here.



Facilities in area parks. **Best birding:** fall-spring. Good birds can be found in summer but hordes of people descend on the area then, especially on weekends, and traffic can be a mess getting into, around, and out of town.

Other birds: Double-crested Cormorant, few shorebirds, several gulls, hummingbirds, Belted Kingfisher, Black Phoebe, swallows (summer), Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Bewick's Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet (winter), thrushes, "western" warblers (mostly migrant), Loggerhead Shrike, blackbirds, several sparrows, Lesser and American Goldfinches, and Evening Grosbeak (March 1980). An Eastern Phoebe was in gardens along Cowell Street near West Cliff Drive (February-April 1980).

25. SEARS POINT ROAD (SR-37)

Solano County

Along this roadway are shallow ponds, ditches and sloughs, mudflats and big marshes. Extensive agricultural lands with a few trees north of the road attract landbirds as do the weeds and bushes along the shoulder.

Go north on I-80 through Vallejo, turn west 2 miles on SR-37, cross SR-29 and park on the north side of the parking lot behind

buildings at the northwest corner of that intersection (MP-9.5). This area is on the way to/from many North Bay birding areas.

From atop the levee thoroughly examine the area beyond. Birds can be hidden behind vegetation clumps so scan slowly several times. Birds are quite far out on mudflats at low tide, resting elsewhere at high tide, but in close as high tide drops, mudflats emerge and hordes of hungry birds arrive. Continue west, turn left on Enterprise Street and park. Check north of the highway from either side of the road.

Just west of Enterprise Street park in a small turnout at the west end of a little bridge over White Slough, MP-9. Scope from here or walk north a bit and get closer to the birds. Tides determine where you can go. Also check the flooded area south of the road. Drive west and park just east of the Sacramento Street signal. Large waders may be in the marshy area to the north, a Little Blue Heron was here in August 1980. Head west, turn right on Wilson Avenue and park in the small lot below the bridge. Walk to the water's edge, scan mudflats for shorebirds on ebbing tide and open Napa River for waterbirds. Walk out on the fishing pier and check the water and shoreline. Continue west.

Two large ponds between MP-4 and MP-2.5 are shallow and may have extensive mudflats which can have thousands of shorebirds; larger waders may be anywhere. In fall Red-necked Phalaropes may be here by the hundreds, possibly Red Phalaropes, Bonaparte's Gulls in large numbers. Turn north on Skaggs Island Road, drive slowly and stop often as marsh on the east and ponds on the west can have many species. Do NOT cross the bridge as that is Navy property. On SR-37 again, park at Sonoma Creek bridge (MP-0.0) to check ponds and the creek.

West from the Napa River, birds are in the extensive tidal marsh south of the road and in channels beside the highway. Going east, park at the "Mare Island ½ Mile" sign, MP-6.5, and walk east to the shallow pond but beware of high-speed traffic.

CAUTION. Traffic is fast and can be heavy so use extreme care in stops, starts and turns! No **facilities** except restrooms at gas stations. **Best birding:** fall-spring; high, ebbing tide is best.

To combine this area with Cader Lane Ponds (see Guide) continue west 4 miles from Sonoma Creek, turn north on Lakeville Road (SR-116) about 10 miles and turn left on Cader Lane.

Birds include grebes, American White (late summer, fall) and rarely Brown Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorant, American Bittern, Great Blue Heron, egrets, Black-crowned Night-Heron, many ducks in winter, Black-shouldered Kite, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks

(winter), Golden Eagle, Merlin and Prairie Falcon (winter), many shorebirds have included Lesser Golden-Plover (fall), Snowy (rare) and Semipalmated Plovers, Greater and Lesser (fall) Yellowlegs, Long-billed Curlew, Red Knot, Baird's and Pectoral Sandpipers (fall) and Longbilled Dowitcher among 23 species, several gulls, Caspian (summer), Elegant and Common (fall), Least and Black (rare) and Forster's Terns, Band-tailed Pigeon, Short-eared Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Marsh Wren, Water Pipit (winter), Loggerhead Shrike, Tricolored among blackbirds, Savannah, Song, Golden-crowned and White-crowned Sparrows.

52. STOCKTON OXIDATION PONDS San Joaquin County

These open ponds, surrounded by gravel levees, attract rare gulls. At the main ponds a marshy ditch runs along the north side and flat weedy areas adjoin the east shore. If the north pond is drawn down, many shorebirds may be there. The tanks at the main treatment plant are in a busy work area so use caution when birding there.

Go east toward Stockton via I-580, SR-24 and SR-4 (or from Walnut Creek via Ygnacio Valley, Clayton and Marsh Creek Roads and SR-4). Just west of the San Joaquin River bridge turn north on John Turk Road to the ponds behind a levee.

A sign says "Private Road - No Trespassing, Hunting, Fishing" but birders are welcome on all levees anytime gates are open, as long as they stay out of the way of workmen. Gates are open 8-4, weekdays, usually weekends; call (209) 466-5261 about holidays. A scope is helpful when birding here as the ponds are large.

At the **main ponds** proceed from the entrance along the paved road where, on sunny winter days, Bonaparte's Gulls often warm themselves on the pavement. Check carefully for wintering Franklin's, Little and Common Black-headed Gulls, Early morning is best. Large numbers of Eared Grebes and many ducks are on the water. Park near the "T" and check the marshy ditch beyond for Common Moorhen and Marsh Wren.

At the "T" turn east, slowly drive the outer levee and check the ditch on the left for American Bittern, Green-backed Heron, Common Moorhen and shorebirds and watch for Belted Kingfisher on overhead wires. Gulls often congregate at the northeast corner of the pond, feeding in the channel between levees or resting atop the levees or on the water. By a small pumphouse is ample room to park and/or turn around and a walkway spans the channel.

Continue down the east side of the pond to an area with pieces of pipe and concrete where the levee bears right then left. Parking and turnaround space is here. The gull flock may be in this area;

look also for Burrowing Owl and Loggerhead Shrike, and check the White-crowned Sparrow flock as a Harris' was here March-April 1983.

West of the entrance road drive around the ponds on the inner and transverse levees. Here are good views of grebes, ducks and gulls which can include the rare ones. Tundra Swans may be near the southwest corner and Canada Geese may be on these ponds.

At times the gulls are on **North Pond**. Near the "T" on the entrance road approach the railroad crossing slowly to activate the gate and carefully drive across. Or, from the entrance go west on SR-4 to Daggett Road, turn north and cross the railroad tracks to the gate on the right. Drive this area carefully as equipment and storage facilities are to be avoided.

The rare gulls also feed at the **main treatment plant tanks**. Return to SR-4, go east across the river, turn left on Tillie Lewis Drive, left again on Navy Drive to the Headquarters and park in the visitors' lot. Tell the receptionist in the office that you are birding and ask permission to check the tanks. She can direct you to them. This area is open weekdays only.

Along SR-4 a few miles west of the oxidation ponds American Bittern and Common Moorhen may be among birds on Trapper Slough on the north side of the levee road between Bacon Island Road and Middle River. Large flocks of Tundra Swans usually winter on Victoria Island between Middle and Old Rivers.

Facilities: restrooms in Headquarters and a small office at the east end of North Pond. **Good birding:** late summer-spring. Plant personnel are courteous and helpful, you act likewise. Do NOT block passage of company vehicles on levees—remember that birders are guests here.

Other birds: Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, egrets, ducks have included all 3 teal, Redhead, Ring-necked, Tufted (March 1984) and Oldsquaw (October 1980), Black-shouldered Kite, Sora, Sandhill Crane (rare, winter), among shorebirds have been Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Greater Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, Black Turnstone and, in migration, Wandering Tattler (August 1980), Solitary and Pectoral Sandpipers, all 3 phalaropes have been seen, Parasitic Jaeger (September 1982), among many gulls have been Mew, Herring, Thayer's and Sabine's (October 1980, September 1982), Forster's, Arctic (June 1980) and Black (in May) Terns, Black and Say's Phoebes, Western Kingbird (summer), Water Pipit (winter), Northern Oriole (summer), Blue Grosbeak (rare, summer), and Lesser Goldfinch.

60. SUNOL REGIONAL WILDERNESS

Alameda County

Along Alameda Creek is beautiful riparian woodland while above the valley are grassy hills, chaparral and oak woodland. The flatlands include lovely meadows and open woodland. A guide kit may be checked out at the Visitor Center to help you enjoy the spring wildflowers which carpet vast areas.

Go east on I-580, south 9 miles on 1-680 to Calaveras Road, turn left 4 miles on Geary Road then left 2 miles to the park.

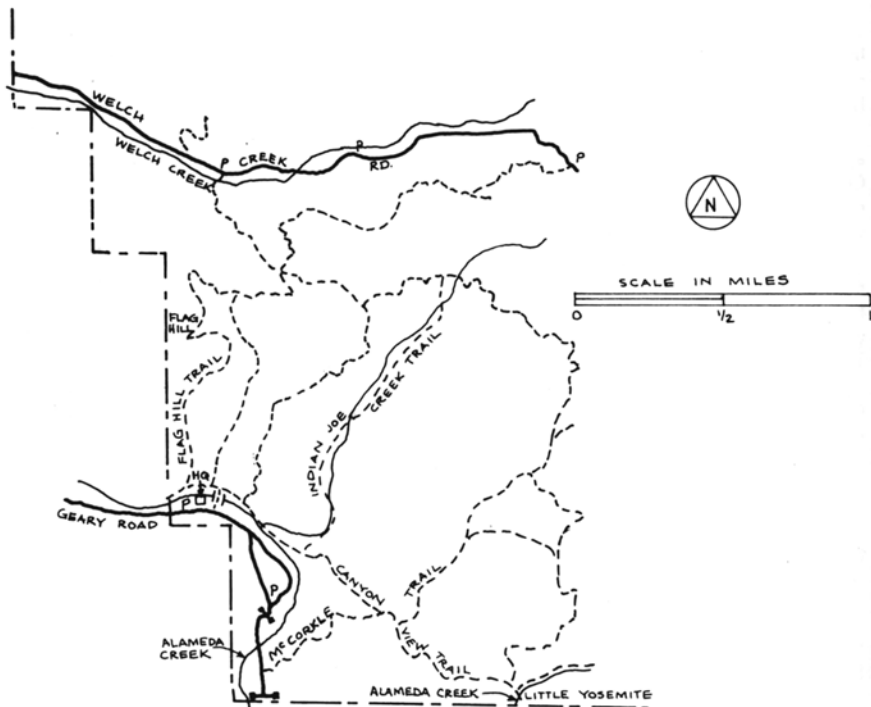
In the **Headquarters area** are Acorn Woodpecker, both jays, Yellow-billed Magpie, House Wren (summer), Varied Thrush (winter), vireos, warblers, Western Tanager (migrant), Black-headed Grosbeak (summer), both towhees, Northern Oriole (summer) and other woodland species. Behind the buildings and along the creek look for migrant MacGillivray's Warbler, Brown Thrasher (rare) and White-throated Sparrow (winter). American Dipper is occasionally in the creek.

Walk the road along the creek from Headquarters to the bridge at the south end of the picnic areas. Along the stream are Black Phoebe, Belted Kingfisher, American Dipper has been along here, Lark, Fox (winter), Song and Harris' (1972) among several sparrows. Throughout the picnic areas look for Nuttall's and Downy Woodpeckers, Red-breasted Sapsucker (winter), thrushes, Western Bluebird, vireos, warblers, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, towhees and Northern Oriole.

Along the fire road upstream from the bridge to and beyond Little Yosemite, an easy $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile walk, is good birding but the San Francisco Water Department has closed the $\frac{1}{2}$ mile section of road through their property. I hope that someday this can be changed but in the meanwhile bird along the road as far as the gate looking for woodland species, and check the creek for Common Merganser and American Dipper.

To reach Little Yosemite, a short distance beyond the bridge turn left up the hill on McCorkle Trail, a moderate climb, then bear right on Canyon View Trail. Or, from Headquarters, cross the footbridge, turn right along the creek and follow Canyon View Trail on a gentle climb up the hill through oak woodland and grasslands. Watch for Prairie Falcon and other hawks overhead, Say's Phoebe and Horned Lark. Look for Canyon Wrens (have nested) in the vicinity of Little Yosemite then continue along the creekside trail for a pleasant, level walk.

Indian Joe Creek Trail leads through riparian areas up to oak woodland with birds of those habitats. At Headquarters cross the footbridge, turn right along the creek then left up Indian Joe Creek.



From atop **Flag Hill**, up a fairly short but steep trail, is a magnificent view of the area and any hawks nearby.

Welch Creek Road is off Calaveras Road $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of the Geary Road turnoff. Obtain a parking permit at Headquarters and drive up along Welch Creek for woodland birds, possibly Canyon and House Wrens and MacGillivray's Warbler. Park only in designated areas at MP-1.6, 2.2 and 2.7.

Facilities: latrines, tables, barbecues at Headquarters and picnic areas. **Good birding:** fall-spring; summer is quite warm. Park brochure, birdlist at Headquarters.

Other birds: Black-shouldered Kite, Bald Eagle may fly over, Sharp-shinned, Cooper's and Red-tailed Hawks, Band-tailed Pigeon, Greater Roadrunner (rare), Common Barn-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Common Poorwill (summer), Vaux's (migrant) and White-throated Swifts, Williamson's Sapsucker (rare), summer flycatchers include Olive-sided, Western Wood-Pewee, Willow and Western, 5 swallows, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, warblers include Orange-crowned, Yellow (summer), Yellow-rumped (winter) and migrant Nashville, Black-throated Gray, Townsend's, Common Yellowthroat and Wilson's, among sparrows are Chipping in summer, Lincoln's, Golden-crowned, White-crowned and Dark-eyed Junco in winter, Purple and House Finches, Pine Siskin, Lesser and American Goldfinches.

22. TENNESSEE VALLEY

Marin County

With grassy hills on both sides, the trail goes through the valley along a small stream with thick riparian growth including willow, alder and eucalyptus, across a large meadow, past a pond and a willow-lined marsh to a lovely, sheltered cove.

Cross the Bay Bridge, take US-101 north to Mill Valley, go west $\frac{1}{4}$ mile on SR-1 then left on Tennessee Valley Road $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the parking lot at road's end.

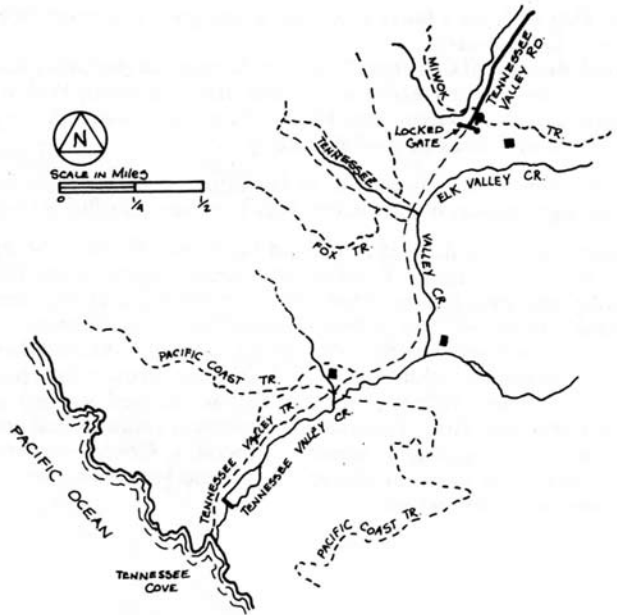
To the northeast, back along the road, a small stream thickly grown with willows and eucalyptus can be very birdy. South of the parking lot in eucalyptus and willows along Elk Valley Creek are also a number of species.

Walk west from the parking lot on the paved road, checking grassy hillsides for Black and Say's (winter) Phoebes, Western

Meadowlark and sparrows, chaparral for California Quail, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, both towhees, and sparrows and rock outcrops for Rock Wren. Accipiters, many Red-tails, other hawks, and Common Ravens fly over ridges.

In about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, towhees and sparrows are in and near Elk Valley Creek as it reaches the road. Beyond here a long row of eucalyptus borders the creek. Check weeds for thrushes, towhees, sparrows and goldfinches, creek vegetation for Winter Wren and bushes and trees for Downy Woodpecker, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets (winter), thrushes, warblers, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak (summer) and Northern Oriole (summer). In winter the sparrow flock between creek and road includes Lincoln's, sometimes White-throated and "Slate-colored" Junco.

Across the road, the trail to Haypress Camp goes up the east side of willow-lined Tennessee Valley Creek, Fox Trail goes up the



west side a short way then turns uphill but follow along the creek from there. A side trip up either trail $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to a small pond, northeast of the camp, may be productive. Lawrence's Goldfinch has been seen here.

Near the pavement's end, where the creek is full of thick vegetation with eucalyptus on the banks, quietly watch for skulkers like Winter Wren and Fox Sparrow (winter). On the left just beyond here in a wet area full of sedge clumps look for Marsh Wren, Common Yellowthroat, Song and Lincoln's (winter) Sparrows. Across the creek a flat grassy area may have Water Pipits in winter.

Take Tennessee Valley Trail along the creek when the road swings uphill a bit from the stream toward a house. Pacific Coast Trail crosses this meadow and bridges the creek which can also be jumped at narrow spots to search willows for woodpeckers, flycatchers, wrens, kinglets, thrushes, warblers and goldfinches. In a very soggy area the last willow clump above the pond, especially good in migration, has had rarities and, in winter, Long-eared Owl. Behind the latrine on the main trail near the end of the meadow check a small gully full of willows for Long-eared Owl.

The pond beyond the meadow has grebes, cormorants, winter ducks including Ring-necked, Red-breasted Merganser, Eurasian Wigeon perhaps, and gulls. On mudflats at the east end look for shorebirds and Water Pipits in winter. The path south of the pond is bordered by poison oak in many places. From along the broad main trail are good views of the pond, especially at a slightly elevated spot toward the east end. Below the dam a willow-lined marsh has Sora (uncommon), wrens, kinglets, thrushes, warblers and sparrows.

Beyond the marsh is pebbled Tennessee Beach in lovely, sheltered Tennessee Cove. On the small beach are few shorebirds, offshore are all 3 loons, Western Grebe, Brown Pelican, cormorants, all 3 scoters, gulls and alcids.

On your return walk, east of the pond take the fire road, which swings uphill to the northeast, to bird the grassy hillside. Look for Western Bluebird, Water Pipit and goldfinches, check sparrow flocks for rarities. Near the house scan the willows and eucalyptus for owls and other birds but respect the privacy of the people here. The trail then heads downhill to rejoin Tennessee Valley Trail.

Facilities: latrines at the parking lot, near the pond, and at Haypress Camp; picnic tables at the parking lot and the camp. **Best birding:** fall-spring. The 2-mile trail is fairly level, easy walking. With little shade on the trail it may be warm in summer, but a windbreaker is recommended as it may be cool near the ocean. Many wildflowers are in meadows. Bobcats are occasionally seen.

joggers, abundant on weekends, provide safety for lone birders, but can spook birds near trails.

Other birds: Horned and Eared Grebes (winter), Great Blue Heron, both egrets, Osprey (uncommon), Black-shouldered Kite, Golden Eagle, Common Snipe in any wet area in winter, Band-tailed Pigeon, Great Horned Owl, White-throated Swift, Anna's, Rufous (spring) and Allen's (summer) Hummingbirds, Belted Kingfisher, in summer Western Wood-Pewee, Olive-sided and Western Flycatchers and Western Kingbird, Yellow-billed Magpie (December 1978), Red-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren has been along Tennessee Valley Creek, Brown Creeper, warblers have included Tennessee, Palm, Blackpoll, American Redstart and Canada (September 1981) along with "western" species, Rose-breasted Grosbeak (June 1982), Savannah, Lark, Golden-crowned (winter) and White-crowned among sparrows, Purple and House Finches, Pine Siskin (winter), Lesser and American Goldfinches.

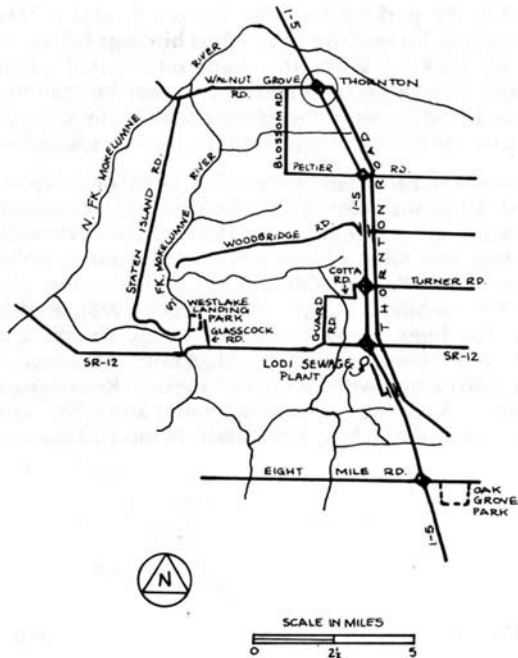
28. THORNTON AREA

San Joaquin County

On the northern edge of The Delta, this area is flat agricultural and pastureland laced with many sloughs. There is good riparian habitat, including cottonwood, willow and blackberry, along these waterways with small marshes in places. Thick brushy tangles are along some of the backroads, while Oak Grove County Park is open oak woodland.

Go east via I-580, SR-24 and SR-4, north on SR-160 over the Antioch Bridge to Rio Vista, turn right 11½ miles on SR-12, then turn left on Glasscock Road to small Westgate Landing County Park.

Watch for birds along SR-12 but use caution with any stops and starts as traffic is fast. Geese and ducks feed in stubble fields (are hard to spot), Black-shouldered Kite, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks may be over fields or atop



poles, and Belted Kingfishers perch over roadside ditches.

Westgate Landing Park has varied landbirds around the parking lot, Marsh Wren, Common Yellowthroat and Song Sparrow in the small marsh. The river has few birds but the levee provides a good viewing spot. In nearby fields can be Great Blue Heron, Tundra Swan, geese, Black-shouldered Kite, Sandhill Crane, shorebirds in wet areas, and blackbirds. Along the dirt road beyond the park are sparrows and other birds.

Return to SR-12 and turn left 5 miles to Thornton Road just east of I-5, **or** turn left 3½ miles to Guard Road, left to Cotta (Victor) Road then right to Turner and Thornton Roads. Guard and Cotta are poor roads but a slow drive along them can be productive.

Turn north on Thornton Road then west on **Woodbridge Road** to the end. There can be thousands of Sandhill Cranes, also Cattle Egret, Tundra Swan, ducks, Burrowing Owl and Water Pipit in fields, Green-backed Heron and Common Moorhen in roadside ditches, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks and Merlin overhead or atop poles and trees. Listen for Sandhill Crane calls which carry far and watch courting cranes dance in February.

Back at Thornton Road head left to **Peltier Road**, turn west and watch fields for Sandhill Cranes and roadside tangles for large sparrow flocks. Park where the road turns right onto Blossom Road and quietly bird the slough for American Bittern, Green-backed Heron, rails, Common Moorhen, Marsh Wren and Common Yellowthroat. Willows and tall trees here can have Red-shouldered Hawk, Common Barn-Owl, Red-breasted Sapsucker and other woodpeckers, thrushes and warblers. Long-billed Curlews have been in nearby fields.

Along **Blossom Road** watch trees, slough and fields for birds, and at the bridge check reeds for American Bittern, rails and Common Moorhen and Beaver Slough for waterbirds, waterfowl and Green-backed Heron, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks are often in this area.

Continue north, turn west 3 miles on Walnut Grove Road then south on **Staten Island Road** and look for waterfowl and cranes. If not on the other roads, waterfowl may congregate along this one.

To reach the **Lodi Sewage Plant** southwest of I-5 and SR-12, return to east of that junction, go south on Thornton Road, turn west under the freeway then north to the plant office and sign the guest register. Drive levees at the oxidation ponds where Cattle Egret, Eurasian Wigeon, Lesser Golden-Plover, Semipalmated and Baird's Sandpipers have been among the birds seen.

Continue south on I-5 and turn east on Eight Mile Road to **Oak Grove Regional Park** (fee) which has Red-shouldered Hawk, woodpeckers, Yellow-billed Magpie and Brown Creeper among birds

in open oak woodland. The most direct return route from here is via I-5 south then SR-4 west.

Facilities: restrooms, water in both county parks, tables in Oak Grove Park. **Best birding** in winter, especially February for dancing cranes. Thick tule fog in winter usually lifts sufficiently by mid-morning to see the birds.

Other birds: egrets, geese may include Ross', 13 duck species, Prairie Falcon among hawks, shorebirds can include Mountain Plover, both yellowlegs and Common Snipe, several gulls, Short-eared Owl, Horned Lark, swallows return in February, Hermit and Varied Thrushes, Western Bluebird, both kinglets, Phainopepla (Cosumnes River north of Thornton), Loggerhead Shrike, sparrows include Lark, Fox, Song and Lincoln's, check blackbird flocks for Tricolored and Yellow-headed plus Brown-headed Cowbird, American and Lesser Goldfinches.

34. TILDEN REGIONAL PARK

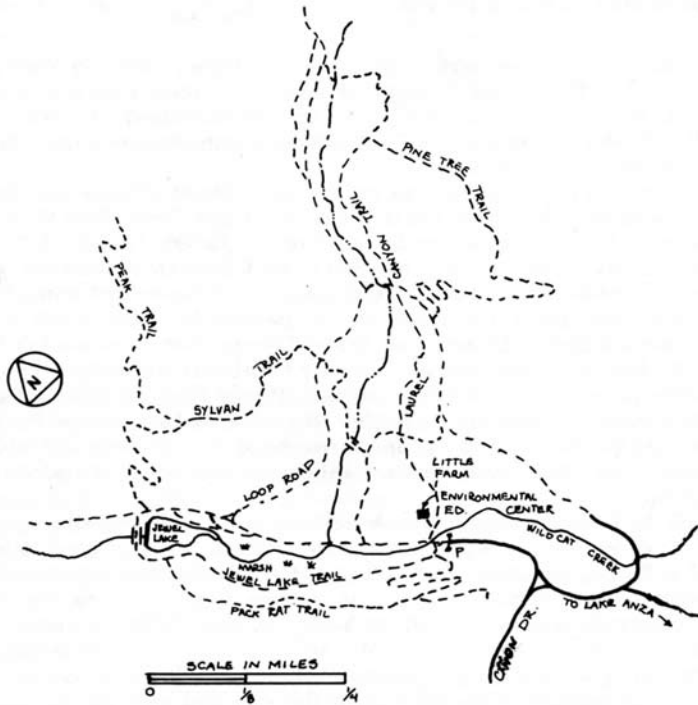
Contra Costa County

Although our most developed regional park, Tilden is a lovely place of diverse habitats and birdlife. Going through Lake Anza then Jewel Lake as it runs through the park, Wildcat Creek supports good riparian woodland. The area has varied woodlands which extend up into side canyons, large areas of chaparral, and hills with extensive grasslands.

Go north on I-80 and turn east on Buchanan Street (Albany exit) then Marin Avenue into Berkeley. From the traffic circle, follow Tilden Park signs uphill on Los Angeles Avenue and left on Spruce Street to Grizzly Peak Blvd. at the top of the hill. Across this intersection, turn left down Cañon Drive then left again at the bottom of the hill to the Nature Center parking lot at the end of Central Park Drive.

Birding trees along the creek by the parking lot, walk north toward the **Environmental Center**. Diverse trees beyond the parking area have had Chestnut-sided Warbler, Rose-breasted and Evening Grosbeaks and Indigo Bunting along with woodpeckers, Varied Thrush (winter), Purple Finch, goldfinches and other regular species. Sometimes ducks other than tame Mallards are on the tiny pond on the right and Band-tailed Pigeons fly overhead. At the Center are exhibits, park map and hiker's map. Also here are brochures for the other regional parks in the system.

Walk the fire road north toward **Jewel Lake** thoroughly checking conifers, oaks and willows for many varied species. Just beyond the boardwalk a meadow on the right has Rufous and sometimes Calliope Hummingbirds in migration. Return to and walk the boardwalk, stopping often in this riparian area for Downy Woodpecker,



flycatchers (summer), Winter Wren, Swainson's Thrush (summer), vireos, warblers (Tennessee, Northern Parula, American Redstart, Hooded and Canada are rare in migration; Orange-crowned, Yellow and Wilson's in summer).

From the boardwalk go left toward the lake and look for vireos, warblers, Black-headed (summer) and Evening (September, October 1979) Grosbeaks and Purple Finch. Hummingbirds and Northern Oriole are in the eucalyptus and Olive-sided Flycatchers sing from high perches in summer. On the lake in winter with tame Mallards may be Wood and Ring-necked Ducks and Hooded Merganser among others. A Belted Kingfisher may be seen perched or flying over the water. Continue north on the road beyond the lake for chaparral birds such as California Thrasher, Lazuli Bunting (summer) and towhees and look for hawks perched atop power towers.

Back at the lake, Black Phoebes nest near the bridge, American Dipper has been seen on the creek. Cross the bridge and scan the thick conifers for Golden-crowned Kinglet (winter) and a few other birds. Around the bend where the trail briefly follows the shore look for ducks, rails and perhaps Green-backed Heron, nearby have been Tennessee and Black-and-White Warblers, both uncommon.

At the junction, **Jewel Lake Trail** on the left passes wet areas which have had Worm-eating and Hooded Warblers among many

species then rejoins Pack Rat Trail by the parking lot. **Pack Rat Trail**, uphill to the right, quickly reaches an open area full of birds then turns south through thick berry tangles and climbs gently to open areas from which to see hawks, Band-tailed Pigeon, White-throated and migrating Vaux's Swifts, swallows in summer. In trees are flycatchers, kinglets, thrushes, Solitary (migrant) and many Warbling Vireos (summer) while flocks of small birds in the large oaks include several warbler species. In fall, Varied Thrushes feed on berries in the madrone trees.

Twinberry patches may have Calliope among Anna's and Allen's (summer) Hummingbirds, Wrentits skulk through bushes, Fox Sparrows and Rufous-sided Towhees scratch in the underbrush and Indigo Bunting has been in the poison oak. Just past a junction look again for Calliope Hummingbird, then return and head downhill past Jewel Lake Trail which comes in at the foot of the slope.

Walk east past the Little Farm to Loop Road and the entrance to **Laurel Canyon**. In the open area on the west side of Loop Road are House and Bewick's Wrens, while up the canyon are Wrenit, Bewick's Wren, California Thrasher and Lazuli Bunting; and Rose-breasted Grosbeak has been seen. In spring Calliope Hummingbirds are occasionally near the power towers; farther up, in chaparral, are Rufous-crowned, sometimes Black-chinned and Sage Sparrows. This trail reaches Nimitz Way atop the ridge.

To reach **Caves Trail** drive back on Central Park Drive to the tennis courts and turn left to the picnic area under tall conifers which often have Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper and kinglets. Head south across the creek (Ovenbird was here September 1976) to the open grassy model airplane field and check vegetation around the edges. Gray Flycatcher has been in willows in spring, and from April to mid-May Calliope Hummingbirds may be 200 feet beyond the southeast corner of the field. From the southwest corner take Caves Trail up Wildcat Creek and check oaks for warblers which have included Black-and-White on several occasions and Hooded (July 1980), and many other woodland birds.

Drive south again, turn left toward **Lake Anza** and left again to Brook Camp. Many birds along the creek have included Hooded Warbler and Northern Waterthrush; and some winters ladybugs have congregated here, all over everything. Few birds are on Lake Anza but Hooded Merganser has wintered and Northern Saw-whet Owls may be around the north end of the lake.

Head south again on Wildcat Canyon Road to the **Botanic Garden** where there are many interesting plants as well as birds which have included American Dipper, Hermit Warbler and Evening Grosbeak.

Across from the garden entrance turn right uphill ½ mile to **Big Springs Trail** on the left and walk the fire road which climbs to Sea View Trail on the ridge. There are Rufous-crowned Sparrows on hillsides on the way, beautiful views from the top. In summer, Common Poorwills can be found at dusk a short walk up the trail.

To walk **Nimitz Way**, return to Wildcat Canyon Road, turn right about 1½ miles then left into the large Inspiration Point parking lot on the ridge. The paved trail starts west then promptly turns north to follow San Pablo Ridge through grasslands past chaparral and trees. In about 2 miles, near the Rotary Peace Grove, a detour to the top of nearby Wildcat Peak will reward you with a spectacular view. From here the trail continues north through adjacent Wildcat Canyon Regional Park.

Along this walk look for hawks, woodpeckers, flycatchers, Common Raven, nuthatches, kinglets, Western Bluebird, Wrentit, California Thrasher, vireos, warblers, Lazuli Bunting, several sparrows including Song, White-crowned and, in winter, Fox, Golden-crowned and Dark-eyed Junco, in summer, perhaps Black-chinned, Western Meadowlark and sometimes Lawrence's Goldfinch.

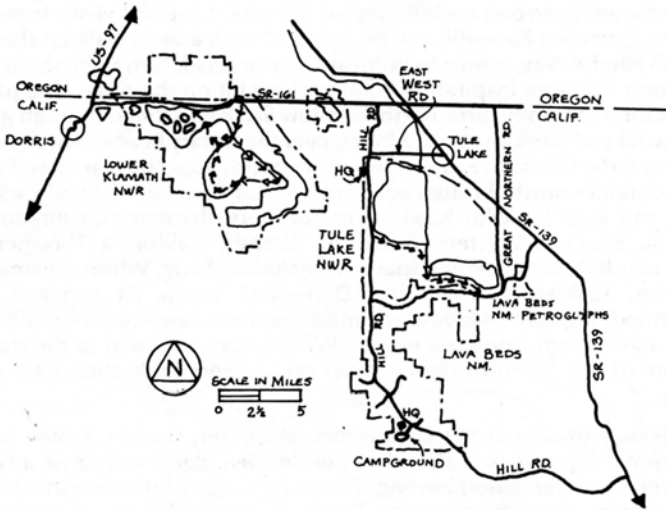
For an easy return, continue east on Wildcat Canyon Road to the stop sign at the bottom of the hill, turn right 3 miles on Camino Pablo then right on SR-24 in Orinda.

Facilities: restrooms in the Environmental Center, latrines, tables, barbecues in many spots. Poison oak is abundant and leafless plants will cause a rash so be careful even in winter. **Good birding** all year although a little slow in midsummer; weekends can be somewhat crowded. The Environmental Center is open 10-5 daily, closed on Monday; phone (415) 525-2233 for information about activities.

Other birds: Black-shouldered Kite, accipiters, Great Horned Owl, Redbreasted Sapsucker (winter), Acorn, Nuttall's and Hairy Woodpeckers, Ash-throated, Western and other Empidonax flycatchers in summer, Cedar Waxwing, Hutton's and Red-eyed (rare migrant) Vireos, among warblers are Nashville, Black-throated Gray, Hermit, MacGillivray's and sometimes vagrants in migration, Townsend's and Yellow-rumped in winter, Western and Summer (September 1982) Tanagers, sparrows include Chipping (summer), White-throated (uncommon, winter), Lesser and American Goldfinches.

15. TULE LAKE and LOWER KLAMATH Siskiyou, Modoc Counties NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES and LAVA BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Diverse habitats in the Klamath Basin refuges include open water, marshes and uplands, plus grain acreage to feed waterfowl and reduce depredations on surrounding agricultural lands. During fall migration, waterfowl at 36,000-acre Tule Lake and 47,000-acre Lower Klamath peak at well over a million birds on each. Lava Beds has grassland, sagebrush, chaparral and juniper with coniferous forest at higher elevations and includes fascinating volcanic formations to visit. In a detached section, petroglyphs are carved on the bluffs.



Go north via I-80, I-505 and I-5 to Weed, turn northeast 45 miles on US-97 then east on SR-161 (State Line Road).

State Line Road passes lakes, ponds and wet areas for 3½ miles then crosses several miles of the northern part of Lower Klamath NWR. Drive carefully as birds fly low across the highway. This road is an excellent place from which to see birds and a traveler on US-97 can have a brief, productive detour. In an hour or so 50 species may be seen, including grebes, American White Pelican, herons, egrets, ducks, hawks, shorebirds, gulls, terns and swallows.

Near the eastern end of **Lower Klamath NWR** turn right into the refuge then drive slowly and stop often on the 1-way tour route. The short tour is 6 miles, the long one is 16, and visitors may also walk designated refuge trails. It is easy to spend hours here.

Back at SR-161 turn right 11 miles then south on Hill Road 4 miles to Klamath Basin Refuge Headquarters. Obtain refuge map

and birdlist then continue south 5 miles, turn left on the 10-mile 1-way tour route through **Tule Lake NWR** and leisurely move along past the ponds. At the end of the tour route, turn east 2 miles to Great Northern Road, north to SR-139 and left again through the town of Tulelake to SR-161, or turn west to Hill Road.

At Hill Road turn south 9 miles through adjoining **Lava Beds National Monument** to the Headquarters. This fascinating volcanic area hosts about 200 bird species. Driving roads, walking trails, visiting scenic spots, or just wandering around the campground area will produce many birds.

The 9-mile drive north on **Hill Road** to the Refuge Headquarters can be good birding with such species as Red-shouldered Hawk, Golden Eagle, California Quail, Common Barn-Owl, Say's Phoebe, Western Kingbird, Black-billed Magpie, Bewick's Wren, Yellow and Wilson's Warblers.

Facilities: latrines in refuges and the park picnic area; restrooms in the campground near Lava Beds Headquarters; motels in Tulelake, 5 miles east of Refuge Headquarters via East West Road. **Good birding** all year; huge concentrations of waterfowl in October, spring flight peaks the first of March. Western Grebes perform their mating dance in spring and broods of grebes and ducks are everywhere in summer.

Refuges **open** daily dawn to dusk. State Line Road is always open, refuge roads may be impassable at times in winter. Information, maps, birdlists: Refuge Manager, Klamath Basin NWR, Route 1, Box 74, Tulelake, CA 96134, (916) 667-2231; Superintendent, Lava Beds NM, P.O. Box 867, Tulelake, CA 96134, (916) 667-2282.

Refuge birds: Eared and Western Grebes, American White Pelican (summer), herons, egrets, Tundra and Trumpeter (February 1979 and 1985, December 1984) Swans, Ross', Emperor (rare) and other geese, 24 ducks, raptors include Bald Eagle (peak in January, February), Rough-legged Hawk (winter) and Golden Eagle, 29 shorebirds include rarities, gulls, Caspian, Forster's and Black Terns (summer), Short-eared among owls, Common Nighthawk (summer), flycatchers include Gray and Ash-throated (summer), swallows, Black-billed Magpie, wrens, Northern (winter) and Loggerhead Shrikes, some warblers, among sparrows (mostly summer) are Brewer's, Vesper, Lark and Sage, Tricolored and Yellow-headed among blackbirds.

Monument birds: Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Sage Grouse, owls, Common Nighthawk, hummingbirds (summer), Lewis' Woodpecker (erratic), Gray and other flycatchers, Purple Martin and 6 swallows (summer), Pinyon

jay (erratic), Rock, Canyon (summer) and House Wrens, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (summer), Western and Mountain Bluebirds, Townsend's Solitaire, Sage Thrasher (summer), Northern and Loggerhead Shrikes, several warblers, Lazuli Bunting (summer), sparrows in summer include Brewer's, Vesper, Lark, Black-throated and Sage, Northern Oriole (summer) and goldfinches.

43. UPPER SAN LEANDRO RESERVOIR Contra Costa County

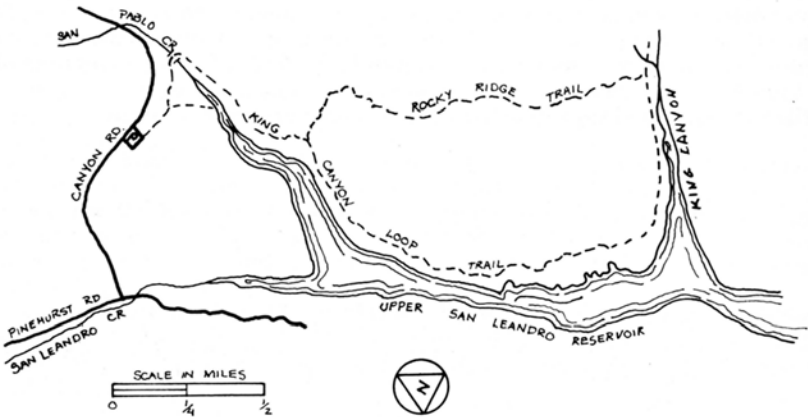
At the upper end of this reservoir are flat grassy areas, Monterey pine forest and thick riparian woodland where Moraga Creek drains into the lake. The surrounding hills have some extensive grasslands as well as large areas of chaparral and varied woodlands which are quite dense in places.

A **Trail Use Permit** from East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) is required and is valid on all EBMUD trails. Available at Lafayette and San Pablo Reservoirs or local EBMUD offices, they cost \$5 for 1 year, \$10 for 3 years; a driver's license is needed for identification.

Go east on I-580 and SR-24 to Orinda, turn south 5 miles on Camino Pablo and Moraga Way then right a mile on Canyon Road to Valle Vista Staging Area.

Walk **King Canyon/Rocky Ridge Trail** east through grassland with chaparral hillsides to the south and pine trees to the north watching for hawks, Golden Eagle, Black and Say's (winter) Phoebes, Bear right to willows at the water's edge for Canada Goose (winter), Allen's Hummingbird and Ash-throated Flycatcher (summer) and warblers. Return and take the left fork through the pines for woodpeckers, Western Flycatcher (summer), Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches, both kinglets (winter) and Purple Finch. Riparian vegetation at the bridge has hummingbirds, flycatchers, wrens, vireos, warblers and Western Tanager (summer). Beyond the bridge look for Black-crowned Night-Heron and Wood Duck in tangles in the water.

Follow **King Canyon Trail** along the fire road. East of the road is a grassy hill, to the west is a row of pines with the reservoir beyond. Look for both phoebes, Western Bluebird and Western Meadowlark in the grassland, woodpeckers, vireos and warblers in the pines, and Pied-billed and Western (winter) Grebes, waterfowl and Caspian Tern (summer) on or over the water. The trail skirts the shore, where there may be Killdeer and Spotted Sandpiper, then crosses grassland with a few fruit and other trees. Here are hummingbirds, Western Bluebird, vireos, warblers, Black-headed Grosbeak (summer), Rufous-sided and Brown Towhees, sparrows, Northern Oriole (summer) and goldfinches.



Bear right up through woodland (checking uphill draws) and chaparral, sometimes with views of the water. Look in these areas for accipiters, hummingbirds, Red-breasted Sapsucker (winter) among woodpeckers, Western Flycatcher (summer), Swainson's (summer) and Hermit and Varied (winter) Thrushes, vireos, warblers, Black-headed Grosbeak and goldfinches. The trail enters rolling grassland and areas of chaparral and woodland with California Quail, White-throated Swift, both phoebes, California Thrasher, Lazuli Bunting (summer), sparrows and goldfinches.

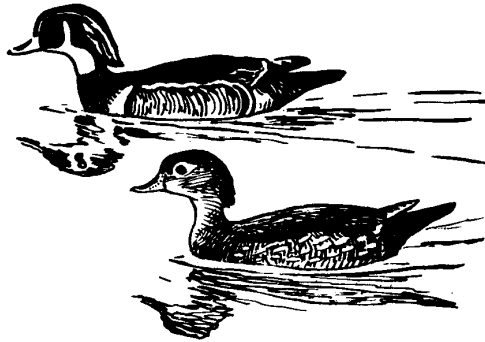
Turn east along the shore of King Canyon to a tree farm at the end of Camino Pablo (private road) for waterfowl, hawks, Spotted Sandpiper, White-throated Swift, woodpeckers, Ash-throated Flycatcher, phoebes, Western Bluebird and Lazuli Bunting. Retrace 3-mile King Canyon Trail or bear left onto Rocky Ridge Trail, a 2-mile walk.

Follow **Rocky Ridge Trail** north along the fence, across a streamlet then left up a steep grassy hill (trail not well defined) to a junction of 2 wide trails near the chaparral and bear right. Here are California Quail, White-throated Swift, woodpeckers, Say's Phoebe, California Thrasher, warblers and Lazuli Bunting. Beyond a small stream the trail is a narrow path but soon rejoins the main, wide trail through chaparral, grassland and some woodland with the above birds plus thrushes, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (summer) and kinglets.

The trail drops steeply down to grassland where there are Western Bluebird, sparrows and Western Meadowlark. At the fence turn left downhill to King Canyon Trail and turn right a mile to the staging area.

Facilities: latrines at the staging area; carry water. **Birding** good all year, trails muddy after rains. Free "EBMUD Trails" with map and information from EBMUD.

Other birds: Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, winter ducks include Green-winged Teal, American Wigeon, Ring-necked, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Hooded (rare) and Common Mergansers, several hawks, a few gulls, Band-tailed Pigeon, Western Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Anna's and Rufous (spring) Hummingbirds, Belted Kingfisher, Nuttall's, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, 5 swallows (summer), both jays, Bewick's Wren, Wrentit, Loggerhead Shrike, our "western" warblers, sparrows include Lark, Savannah, Fox (winter), Song and White-throated (uncommon, winter) and Pine Siskin (winter).



68. WATSONVILLE SEWER PLANT

Santa Cruz County

The sewer ponds and the thick riparian woodland along the adjacent Pajaro River attract many birds.

Go south on SR-17 to Santa Cruz, turn south on SR-1 to Watsonville and exit west on Riverside Drive. Promptly turn north on Lee Road, left 0.6 mile on Beach Road, left on Panabaker Lane and park off the road outside the gate.

Head right, outside the fence, to a paved trail atop the levee. Walking the trail both east and west from here, check the ponds, river, and streamside trees and bushes.

No facilities. Can be good birding all year. Another way to reach this area is to continue west on Beach Road, turn left on Thurwachter Road, park by the bridge and walk east on the levee.

Birds here have included Lesser Golden-Plover, Solitary, Baird's and Semipalmated Sandpipers and Ruff among shorebirds, Yellow-billed Cuckoo (rare), woodpeckers, wrens, Black-backed Wagtail (August-September 1979, July-September 1980), Philadelphia and other vireos, Northern Parula and Chestnut-sided among warblers, and Orchard Oriole (rare).

14. WOODSON BRIDGE STATE RECREATION AREA

Tehama County

In this area are beautiful oak woodlands beside the Sacramento River with cottonwoods as well as oaks, thick riparian woodland and dense tangles to shelter birds. The oxidation pond area is open water with some mudflats, some marshy vegetation and a few trees.

Go north via I-80, I-505 and I-5 to South Avenue near Corning then follow signs east 6 miles to Woodson Bridge SRA.

Bird the **campground** for Red-shouldered Hawk, woodpeckers, Western Wood-Pewee, Plain Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Bewick's and House Wrens, Western Bluebird, warblers, Western Tanager and Black-headed Grosbeak. From the campground entrance turn right to the turnaround at road's end. Walk right on the levee along the river, watch for Great Blue Heron, Common Merganser, Spotted Sandpiper and swallows, and listen for cooing of Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Where the dirt road bends right is a gap in thick riparian growth across Deer Creek. Look and listen for cuckoos (rare), Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat and other warblers which have included American Redstart. Along the creek are Green-backed Heron and Belted Kingfisher and the nearby orchard may have cuckoo and all 3 goldfinches.

To reach the **Natural Preserve**, drive to the park entrance, turn right across the river then right on Old Gardner Ferry Road. At the "Y" bear right on Dale Road a short distance, turn right to the end of gravel Seillano Road and walk to the river. Backtrack a bit to a trail to the right (may be hard to spot and follow) through thick riparian vegetation to an open area beyond. Cuckoo and other species as above may be in these areas.

To reach **another area** for possible cuckoos, return to I-5, go south 12 miles, turn east on SR-32, then a mile beyond the Sacramento River turn south on River Road 2½ miles to Sacramento Avenue and turn right to the slough. In thick riparian tangles may be Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat and Blue Grosbeak, especially at the north end of the slough. Many birds of oak habitat are in the trees here.

To bird **Chico Oxidation Ponds**, continue south on River Road to the end, turn left on Chico River Road 0.8 mile and turn right to the ponds. Among birds around the ponds may be 3 grebes, Green-backed Heron, Snow and Ross' among geese, 22 ducks, Black-shouldered Kite, Bald Eagle, several hawks, many shorebirds may include Solitary, Spotted, Pectoral and Baird's Sandpipers, Lesser Yellowlegs and 3 phalaropes, Black Tern, 6 swallows, Northern

Shrike (winter) and Blue Grosbeak (in trees at the south end).

Facilities: restrooms, tables, excellent campground at Woodson Bridge SRA. **Good birding** in spring and fall; summer is very warm but the rare cuckoo does not arrive until late May or early June and you must work to see them if they are here but do NOT use tapes. Birdlist at the park. A 1-day trip is possible but is a 3-hour drive each way.

Other park birds: Black-shouldered Kite and other hawks, Common Barn-Owl, Western Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, White-throated Swift, Black-chinned and Anna's Hummingbirds, Acorn, Nuttall's and Downy Woodpeckers, Western Kingbird, Ash-throated and Western Flycatchers, Yellow-billed Magpie, both kinglets, Hermit Thrush, Loggerhead Shrike, Warbling Vireo, our "western" warblers (mostly migrant), Lazuli Bunting, Rufous-sided and Brown Towhees, Lark, Savannah, Fox, Song and Lincoln's among sparrows, Tricolored and perhaps Yellow-headed among blackbirds.

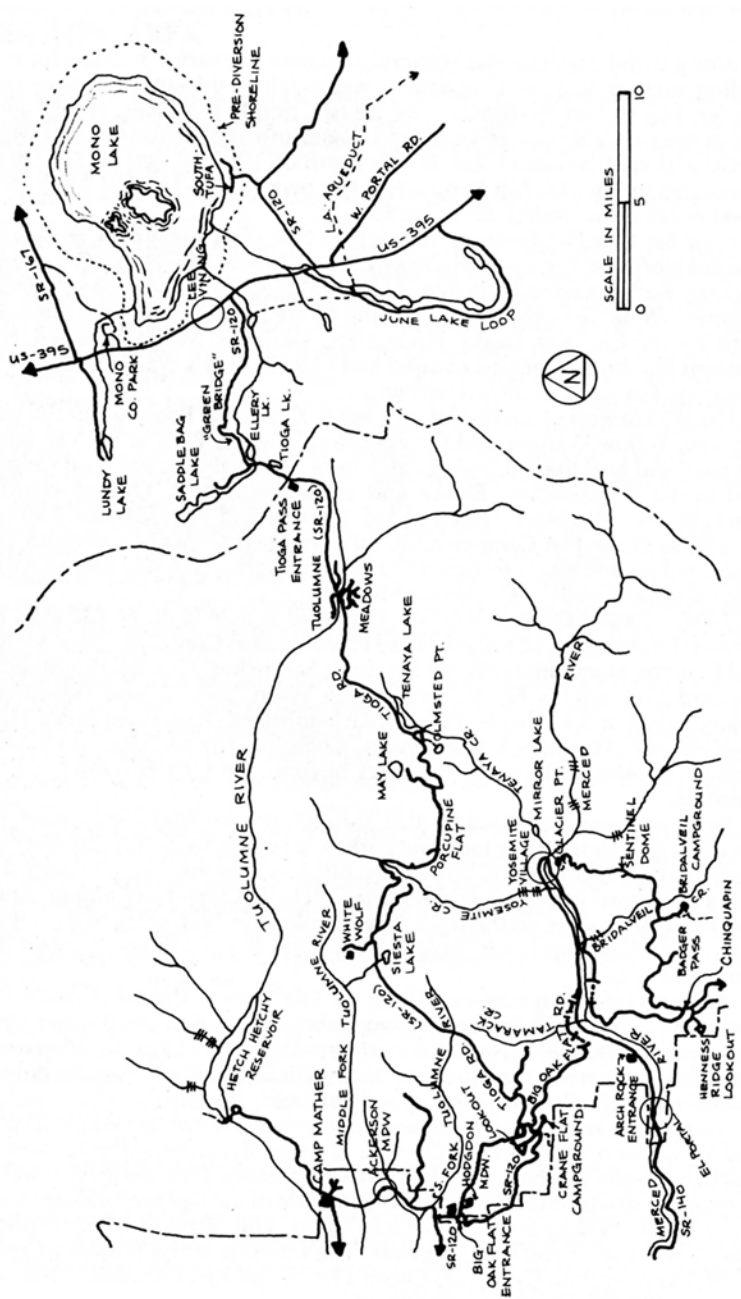
65. YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK Mariposa, Tuolumne Counties

Along with its spectacular scenery. Yosemite has varied habitats for mountain birding such as large wet meadows, willow/alder thickets, montane chaparral, conifer, red fir and lodgepole pine forests, ponds and lakes, creeks and rivers. East of the park are riparian woodland, sagebrush and pinyon/juniper woodland.

Go east via I-580 and I-205, briefly north on I-5 then east on SR-120 through Groveland to Big Oak Flat Entrance at the park (Or SR-140 east from Merced or SR-140 north from Fresno). Entry fee \$3.

Near Big Oak Flat Entrance turn left to **Hodgdon Meadow Campground** and look for Northern Pygmy-Owl, Downy, Hairy, White-headed and Pileated Woodpeckers, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Black-throated Gray, Townsend's and Hermit Warblers. Walk through the group camp to the meadow and take the trail on the edge for Willow and Dusky Flycatchers, swallows, White-breasted Nuthatch, Western Bluebird, Orange-crowned and MacGillivray's Warblers, Lazuli Bunting, Chipping, Fox and Lincoln's Sparrows.

On SR-120 west of **Crane Flat** turn left to Crane Flat Lookout for the view, Tree Swallow, Yellow Warbler and Green-tailed Towhee. Back at SR-120, park across the road and bird the Manzanita Patch here then walk the fire road southwest for Red-breasted Sapsucker, Dusky and other flycatchers, Orange-crowned and MacGillivray's Warblers, Green-tailed Towhee and Fox Sparrow. Farther along SR-120, in Crane Flat Campground, may be Great Gray Owl, Pileated



and other woodpeckers and Black-throated Gray among warblers. A trail opposite the campground turnoff leads to Crane Flat Meadow.

TIOGA PASS ROAD at Big Oak Flat Road is mile (0.0). At **Chevron Meadow** behind the station can be Band-tailed Pigeon, Great Gray Owl, Vaux' Swift, Rufous and Calliope Hummingbirds, Williamson's Sapsucker, Pileated Woodpecker, Willow and Hammond's Flycatchers, House Wren, Solitary and Warbling Vireos Orange-crowned, Nashville, Yellow, Black-throated Gray, Townsend's, Hermit and MacGillivray's Warblers, Lazuli Bunting, Chipping, Fox and Lincoln's Sparrows and Evening Grosbeak. Through the trees beyond the far left corner is Crane Flat Meadow.

Drive to **Crane Flat Meadow** (0.5), turn left toward Tuolumne Grove, promptly left again on a short 1-way loop and park near the highway. Bird the dirt road south parallel to the highway and through an old camp. At the meadow work the edges and scan willows out in the middle. The trail from Crane Flat Campground crosses the meadow upslope to the right. The meadow on both sides of the highway has Great Gray Owl and other meadow birds and the surrounding forest may have Mountain Quail.

At **Siesta Lake** (13) bird west along the lake then to the south end for Williamson's Sapsucker, Black-backed Woodpecker, Hammond's and other flycatchers, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Nashville and Hermit Warblers, Lincoln's Sparrow and Pine Grosbeak. Across the road look for Mountain Quail, Black-backed Woodpecker, Townsend's Solitaire and Green-tailed Towhee.

Turn left to **White Wolf** (14.5) and look around the corral area for Red-breasted and Williamson's Sapsuckers, Dusky and other flycatchers, White-breasted Nuthatch, Nashville Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow, finches, Pine Siskin, Pine and Evening Grosbeaks. At a turnout (15.5) on the north side of the highway walk to the meadow to look for Williamson's Sapsucker, Hairy and Black-backed Woodpeckers, Clark's Nutcracker and Pine Grosbeak, The west side of the Yosemite Creek bridge (19.8) may have Pine Grosbeak, Cassin's Finch and Red Crossbill. If Porcupine Flat meadow (24) is fairly dry, work edges to look for Blue Grouse, Williamson's Sapsucker, Black-backed Woodpecker, Lincoln's Sparrow and Pine Grosbeak.

At **Olmsted Point** (29.5) look for Blue Grouse, in or near trees atop a small dome below the overlook, and Clark's Nutcracker. If not here, Blue Grouse may be at Hidden Lake which is reached by trail south along the ridge from the west end of the parking lot. At Tioga Pass Entrance look for Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Bluebird and Rosy Finch in the meadow.

At the **Green Bridge** (50.8) look for Rufous and Calliope Hummingbirds, Clark's Nutcracker, American Dipper in the creek

below, Mountain Bluebird and nesting Rosy Finch. In Lee Vining Canyon (turnoff at 55.8) may be Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Willow Flycatcher, American Dipper, House Wren, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Nashville and Virginia's Warblers, Lazuli Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee and Brewer's Sparrow.

Around **Mono Lake** are Eared Grebe, shorebirds, Long-eared Owl, Common Nighthawk, Pinyon Jay, Black-billed Magpie, Gray Flycatcher, Sage Thrasher, Sage and Brewer's Sparrows and Yellow-headed Blackbird. To look for these birds: graveled West Portal Road (turn east 7 miles south of town); along SR-120 beginning at South Tufa Grove turnoff 6 miles east of US-395; lakeview turnouts on US-395; and, 5 miles north of town, Mono Lake County Park and the nearby northwest arm of the lake. For information on these areas, see **Mono Lake Guidebook** (\$3.95) or the Mono Lake Information Center, US-395 at 3rd Street in Lee Vining; PO Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541.

Return to Big Oak Flat Road, turn south to SR-140, east to SR-41 then south to **Bridalveil Fall** where Black Swifts fly with White-throated along the cliff face. Swifts also fly over the Wawona Tunnel turnout.

GLACIER POINT ROAD and SR-41 at Chinquapin is mile (0.0). Badger Pass (5), around the parking loop and the adjacent meadow, has Mountain Quail, Rufous and Calliope Hummingbirds, woodpeckers, flycatchers, 3 nuthatches, House Wren, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Black-throated Gray, Townsend's, Hermit, MacGillivray's and Wilson's Warblers, Lazuli Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, Fox, Lincoln's and other sparrows, Pine and Evening Grosbeaks.

Turn right toward **Bridalveil Campground** (7.8) and bird the road and campground area for Williamson's Sapsucker, Hairy, White-headed and Black-backed Woodpeckers, Hammond's Flycatcher, Nashville among warblers, Green-tailed Towhee, Chipping and Lincoln's Sparrows, Pine and Evening Grosbeaks. Great Gray Owls have nested in the area.

Along the old road west from a phone booth at the campground entrance are woodpeckers, flycatchers, Pine Siskin and Pine Grosbeak. In about ½ mile, just across a small wet meadow, take the left fork uphill toward Westfall Meadow and look for Blue Grouse, Mountain Quail, Williamson's Sapsucker, Hairy, White-headed, Black-backed and Pileated Woodpeckers, Hammond's Flycatcher, Townsend's Solitaire, Black-throated Gray and Hermit Warblers and Pine Grosbeak. At big Westfall Meadow are Willow and Dusky Flycatchers, perhaps Northern Goshawk and Great Gray Owl.

At Sentinel Dome (13.6) may be Blue Grouse, Black-backed and Pileated Woodpeckers and Northern Goshawk. At Washburn Point

(15) are a lovely view and Black and White-throated Swifts. **Glacier Point** (15.9) overlook has spectacular views and perhaps Northern Goshawk and both swifts. Bird down along 4-Mile Trail a half mile or so for Northern Goshawk, Blue Grouse, Pileated Woodpecker, Townsend's Solitaire, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Black-throated Gray, Hermit and Wilson's Warblers and Pine Grosbeak.

OTHER SPOTS. A mile north of Big Oak Flat Entrance turn east 3 miles on Evergreen Road to **Ackerson Meadow** (private property so stay on the road) for possible Great Gray Owl, Willow Flycatcher, Western and Mountain Bluebirds, warblers and perhaps Lawrence's Goldfinch.

Continue on to **Hetch Hetchy** to look for swifts, swallows and Rock Wren around the dam and American Dipper in the river below. Cross the dam, walk through the tunnel and look for Canyon Wren around its north end, Mountain Quail can be anywhere along Hetch Hetchy Road. Returning south, take care in Camp Mather not to miss the left turn on Evergreen Road.

Tamarack Flat Campground, 3 miles out Tioga Pass Road then 2 miles down the side road, has had Blue Grouse, Northern Pygmy-Owl and Spotted Owl,

On SR-41 just south of Chinquapin go west, take the third left turn to a wire across the road then walk to **Henness Ridge** Fire Lookout for excellent owling and Mountain Quail.

Do NOT trample meadows but work along the edges where most birds are. Some species mentioned for several locations are not as common as this may indicate; see **Birds of the Yosemite Sierra** by David Gaines for an excellent reference. Tioga Pass Road usually opens early to mid-June and closes in November.

Facilities all-year **only** at Yosemite Valley, Wawona and El Portal. Restrooms or latrines in campgrounds and the Visitor Center. Motels: El Portal near Arch Rock Entrance on SR-140, Groveland 25 miles west on SR-120, and Lee Vining. Accommodations in Yosemite Valley, White Wolf, Tuolumne Meadow and Wawona, early reservations recommended: Yosemite Park and Curry Co., Yosemite National Park, CA 95389, (209) 373-4171. Gas stations at Crane Flat, Tuolumne Meadow, Yosemite Valley and Wawona. **Park information:** (209) 372-4461 or National Park Service, San Francisco, (415) 556-4122. Recorded weather, road and camp information: (209) 372-4605 or, in San Francisco, (415) 556-6030.

Other birds: accipiters, Spotted Sandpiper (Tuolumne Meadow), California Gull, Common Poorwill, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Western Wood-Pewee, Violet-green and Barn Swallows, Common Raven, Mountain Chickadee, Brown Creeper, Hermit Thrush, both kinglets,

Yellow-rumped and sometimes vagrant warblers (7 warbler species known to nest), Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Song, "Gambel's" and "Mountain" White-crowned Sparrows, Dark-eyed Junco, Red Crossbill is common but erratic, Purple Finch and Lesser Goldfinch.

17. YUBA PASS and SIERRA VALLEY Sierra, Plumas Counties

The Yuba Pass area has typical High Sierra habitats such as boggy meadows, willow/alder thickets, aspens and coniferous forest. Only a few miles east of the summit, Sierra Valley is a contrast in habitats and birdlife. The source of the Feather River, this large valley with dry meadows and vast areas of sage has in its center wet meadows, marsh, grassland and sluggish streams. The dry Red Rock Canyon has pinyon pine and sage habitats.

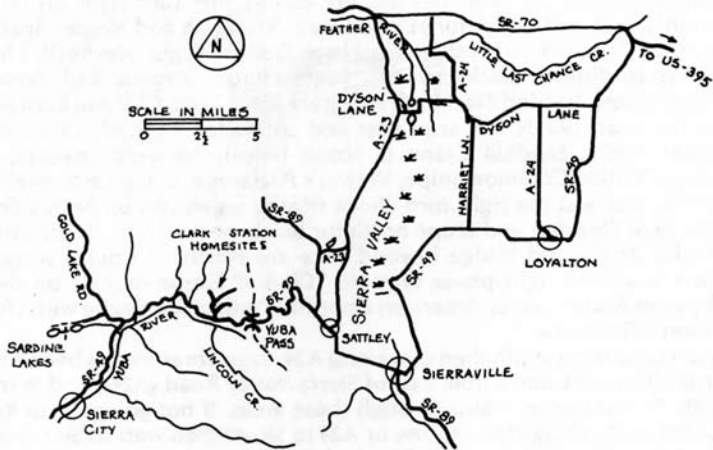
Take I-80 east through Truckee, SR-89 north through Sierraville, then SR-49 west to Yuba Pass. A shorter, winding scenic route is SR-49 east from I-80 in Auburn. Travel time is 4 hours by either route.

Just **east of Sattley** on SR-89/49 watch roadside fenceposts for Common Snipe. In Sattley look for Northern Oriole around the store and for Mountain Bluebird along the highway.

Check roadsides near **YUBA PASS** parking area for Cassin's Finch, Red Cross-bill, Pine and Evening Grosbeaks. A walk through the campground can produce Hairy, White-headed, Black-backed and Pileated Woodpeckers, Hammond's Flycatcher, kinglets, vireos, warblers and other forest species. Around the meadow look on both sides of the highway for Blue Grouse, Mountain Quail, flycatchers, Tree Swallow, Mountain Chickadee, House Wren, vireos and warblers, Lincoln's Sparrow is in willows; Black-backed Woodpecker has nested in aspens in the meadow and beside the highway.

From SR-49 walk the dirt road north perhaps a mile and south a mile or so looking for Blue Grouse, Mountain Quail, Red-breasted and Williamson's Sapsuckers, other woodpeckers, Hammond's and Dusky among flycatchers, Clark's Nutcracker, Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, thrushes, 7 warblers, Chipping and Lincoln's Sparrows, Red Crossbill, Pine and Evening Grosbeaks.

Drive west on SR-49, turn left at Lincoln Creek, cross the bridge and look for Black-backed and Pileated Woodpeckers. At MP-38.90 just to the west, 3 miles from the Pass, turn right up a dirt road to Clark Station Homesites, turn left at the first fork and park at the second one. Walk up the right fork here for Calliope Hummingbird, Pileated Woodpecker, Dusky Flycatcher, kinglets, several warblers,



Green-tailed Towhee, Fox and Lincoln's Sparrows.

Continue down SR-49 to Gold Lake Road at MP-34.30, turn right to Sardine Lake Road and turn left to the end. Along the lakeside trail check hillsides and trees for Calliope Hummingbird, Dusky and other flycatchers, vireos, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Yellow, MacGillivray's and other warblers, Green-tailed and Rufous-sided Towhees, Fox Sparrow and Cassin's Finch.

Return to SR-49, turn west to the waterfall on the right at MP-32.32. American Dipper has nested behind the fall and is also seen across the highway along this stretch of the Yuba River.

To reach **SIERRA VALLEY** go east on SR-49 to SR-89 and turn north to MP-21. Check the area for Common Nighthawk, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Downy, Hairy and White-headed Woodpeckers, Gray Flycatcher, White-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatches, House Wren, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Warbler and Green-tailed Towhee. Turn east on Calpine Road (A23) a mile or so then north to the "Sierra Valley Ranch" sign on the right just south of MP-5. Walk the sagebrush west of the road for Common Nighthawk, Horned Lark, Black-billed Magpie, Sage Thrasher, Savannah, Brewer's (rapid, buzzy song) and Vesper Sparrows and Western Meadowlark.

Continue north, 3.6 miles beyond the county line turn right on dirt Dyson Lane (unmarked) and watch for Horned Lark, Savannah and Vesper Sparrows on fences, Sage Thrasher in brush and perhaps Golden Eagle overhead. The marsh has American Bittern, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Virginia Rail, Sora, Marsh Wren and Yellow-headed Blackbird. Flying are Black Tern, Cliff and Barn Swallows. Where the road bends left scan east and south for Mallard, Cinnamon Teal and other ducks, Sandhill Crane (a scope helps), American Avocet, Greater Yellowlegs, Willet, Common Snipe, Wilson's

Phalarope, Black Tern, swallows and blackbirds. Just past the right turn check nearby sagebrush on both sides of the road for Sage Thrasher and scope north for Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet and ducks. At the old bridge beyond here are Northern Rough-winged, Cliff and Barn Swallows; light-phase Western "Clark's" Grebe may be on the water. Check ponds farther on for American Coot and Pied-billed Grebe with chicks and for Wilson's Phalarope.

Dyson Lane turns south then east along A24. Sage Thrasher has been a mile east of Harriet (Heriot) Lane, a mile east of Sierra Valley Road (A24), and ½ mile west of SR-49. Prairie Falcon is also through these areas. If not going on to Red Rock Road, bird south along Harriet Lane or A24 to SR-49 then west to Sierraville.

Turn left on SR-49, right on SR-70 to Hallelujah junction, left 10 miles on US-395 to just beyond MP-14.00, then right on dirt **RED ROCK ROAD**. In the first mile or two pinyon pine/sage areas should have Black-chinned Hummingbird, Gray Flycatcher, Pinyon Jay, Black-billed Magpie and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Beyond the pines is sagebrush with possible Golden Eagle, Burrowing Owl and Common Poorwill (at dusk). Easy return from here is south on US-395 to Reno then west on I-80.

Motels in Sierra City and Sierraville; several campgrounds include Yuba Pass, Lincoln Creek, Chapman Creek; Wild Plum near Sierra City. Snow is usually melted sufficiently in the Pass areas by mid-June.

Other mountain birds: Great Horned Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Western Wood-Pewee, Brown Creeper, Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes, Solitary and Warbling Vireos, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Gray, Townsend's, Hermit and Wilson's Warblers, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Song and White-crowned Sparrows and Pine Siskin.

Other valley birds: Swainson's Hawk (now rare), Northern Harrier, Ring-billed and California Gulls, Forster's Tern, Willow Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Rock Wren, Loggerhead Shrike and Song Sparrow.

Where The Birds Are

You will have more success in looking for a particular species when you are in the proper habitat although migrants may or may not be in their usual areas. *Birds of Northern California* (see Introduction) will give you a big headstart in your quest. *The Birds of California* by Arnold Small also has excellent information but if you do not own a copy and cannot find one, try the local library. Field guides give general information on the types of areas in which to look. A little homework ahead of time will save you much frustration when birding. Each Site Guide briefly describes overall habitats then refers to specific habitats along the recommended birding routes.

Species listed below include some which area birders actively seek and others which we may almost ignore but which are on the “wish lists” of visitors. Locations, listed alphabetically, refer to Site Guides to areas where the species is most likely to be found. For ease in reading, site names have been abbreviated, a name in parentheses indicates the one listed first in the Guide title. The terms Sp, S, F, and W refer to the seasons.

Red-throated and Arctic Loons — (F-Sp) Coastline and bays, Monterey to Bodega Bay.

Red-necked Grebe — (W) Bodega Bay, Monterey, Pt. Reyes, Richardson Bay.

Shearwaters — From shore along the coast, especially San Mateo Co.

Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorants — Anywhere along the coast.

Least Bittern — (rare, S) Gray Lodge WMA (Sacramento NWR).

Little Blue Heron — (S) Palo Alto, San Francisco Bay NWR.

Green-backed Heron — In marshes, sheltered ponds, wooded streambanks but can be hard to spot.

White-faced Ibis — (S) Honey Lake; (W) Los Banos/Merced.

Tundra Swan — (W) Eastern Contra Costa Co., Los Banos/Merced, Sacramento, Gray Lodge, Thornton, Tule Lake/Lower Klamath.

Ross' Goose — (W) Los Banos/Merced, Sacramento/Gray Lodge.

“Black” Brant — (mostly Sp) Bodega Bay, Gualala Point, Monterey; huge numbers near Arcata.

Other geese — (W) Eastern Contra Costa Co., Los Banos/Merced, Sacramento/Gray Lodge, Thornton, Tule Lake/Lower Klamath.

Wood Duck — Quiet waters with wooded edges; Alameda Creek, Golden Gate Park, Putah Creek, Upper San Leandro Res.

Blue-winged Teal — (W) Bolinas Lagoon, Coyote Hills RP, Lake Merced, Palo Alto.

Cinnamon Teal — Common in ponds and marshes.

Eurasian Wigeon — (W) Arcata, Bolinas Lagoon, Golden Gate Park,

Palo Alto, Pt. Reyes, Richardson Bay.

Harlequin Duck — Mendocino Co., Monterey, Pt. Reyes, San Mateo Co.

Oldsquaw — (rare, W) Bodega Bay, East Bay Shoreline, Mendocino Co., Monterey, Pt. Reyes, Richardson Bay.

Black Scoter — Bodega Bay, Fort Funston, Mendocino Co., Monterey, Pt. Reyes.

Surf and White-winged Scoters — Coastline and bays.

Barrow's Goldeneye — (W) Bodega Bay, East Bay Shoreline, Foster City, Lake Merced, Lake Merritt, Richardson Bay.

Hooded Merganser — (W) East Bay Shoreline, Foster City, Lake Merritt, Mendocino Co., Pt. Reyes.

Red-breasted Merganser — Coastline and bays.

California Condor — Mt. Pinos.

Black-shouldered Kite — Common over grassland and marsh: Altamont Pass, Coyote Hills RP, Eastern Contra Costa Co., Palo Alto.

Bald Eagle — (S) Honey/Eagle Lakes; (W) Altamont Pass, Calaveras Res., Eastern Contra Costa Co., Lake Hennessey, Panoche Valley, Tule Lake/Lower Klamath.

Swainson's Hawk — (S) Caswell SP, Durham Ferry SRA, San Luis NWR (Los Banos).

Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks — (W) Altamont Pass, Eastern Contra Costa Co., Panoche Valley, Pt. Reyes, Thornton.

Chukar — Dry rocky hillsides: Honey Lake, Panoche Valley, Mt. Pinos.

Blue Grouse — Honey/Eagle Lakes, Yosemite, Yuba Pass.

Sage Grouse — Local in the Great Basin; Honey Lake, Lava Beds (Tule Lake).

California Quail — Common, especially in chaparral and oaks.

Mountain Quail — Chaparral and woodlands of higher elevations: Gualala Point, Honey/Eagle Lakes, Lava Beds (Tule Lake), Monterey, Mt. Pinos, Yosemite, Yuba Pass.

Black Rail — Benicia SRA, Palo Alto, Pt. Reyes.

Clapper Rail — Alameda South Shore, Palo Alto, San Francisco Bay NWR.

Sandhill Crane — (S) Honey Lake; (W) Los Banos/Merced, Sacramento/Gray Lodge, Thornton.

Lesser Golden-Plover — (W) Arcata, Cader Lane Ponds, Pt. Reyes, San Mateo County, Sears Point Rd., Watsonville Sewer Ponds.

Snowy Plover — Bodega Bay, East Bay Shoreline, Hayward RS, Monterey, San Francisco Bay NWR, San Mateo Co.; (S) Mono Lake (Yosemite).

Mountain Plover — (W) Merced NWR (Los Banos), Panoche

Valley.

Shorebirds winter along the seacoast and bays, some nest (N).

Black Oystercatcher (N), Wandering Tattler, Black Turnstone, Surfbird: rocky shores.

Black-necked Stilt (N), American Avocet (N), Lesser Yellowlegs, Whimbrel, Long-billed Curlew, Marbled Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot: marsh, mudflats, beaches.

Sandpipers, Solitary, Semipalmated, Baird's and Pectoral — (F) with regularly wintering species along the coast, sometimes joined by Sharp-tailed, Stilt or Buff-breasted.

Rock Sandpiper — (W) Arcata, Bodega Bay, San Mateo Co.

Ruff — (rare, W) Bodega Bay, Monterey, Pt. Reyes, San Mateo Co.

Red Phalarope — Sporadic anywhere along the coast.

Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers — Uncommon along the coast: Bodega Bay, Monterey, Pt. Reyes.

Heermann's Gull — (S, F) Along the seacoast.

Thayer's Gull — (W) Alameda Creek, Altamont Pass, Eastern Contra Costa Co., Golden Gate Park, Palo Alto.

Glaucous Gull — (rare, W) Altamont Pass, Golden Gate Park, Monterey, Palo Alto, San Mateo Co.

Other "western" gull species — (mostly W) Seacoast, bays, around dumps, lakes and ponds.

Rare gulls — (W) Arcata, Stockton Oxi Ponds.

Terns — (mostly S) Alameda South Shore, Bodega Bay, Eastbay Shoreline, Hayward RS, San Mateo Co.

Black Tern — (S) Sacramento/Gray Lodge, Tule Lake/Lower Klamath, Sierra Valley (Yuba Pass).

Alcids — From shore: Bodega Bay, Gualala Point, Mendocino Co., Monterey, Pt. Reyes, San Mateo Co., Santa Cruz.

Band-tailed Pigeon — Golden Gate Park, Honey Lake, Lafayette Res., Las Trampas RW, Mt. Diablo SP, Mt. Pinos, Pt. Reyes, Redwood RP, San Mateo Co., Tilden RP, and others.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo — (S, becoming more rare) Woodson Bridge SRA.

Greater Roadrunner — Mines Rd./Del Puerto Cyn., Panoche Valley.

Spotted Owl — Muir Woods NM, Pt. Reyes.

Great Gray Owl — Yosemite.

Other owls — Monterey, Morgan Territory, Mt. Diablo SP, Mt. Pinos, Pt. Reyes, Lava Beds (Tule Lake), Upper San Leandro Res.

Lesser Nighthawk — (S) Los Banos/Merced.

Common Poorwill — (S) Black Diamond Mines RP, Ida Clayton Rd., Mines Rd., Mt. Diablo SP, Sunol RW, Tilden RP, Lava Beds (Tule Lake).

Black Swift — (S) San Mateo Co., Santa Cruz, Yosemite.

Vaux's Swift —(S) Arcata, Gualala Point, Mendocino Co., (Mig.) Black Diamond Mines RP, Coyote Hills RP, Mines Rd., Mitchell Cyn., Morgan Territory, Mt. Diablo SP, Pt Reyes, San Mateo Co.

Black-chinned Hummingbird — (S) Eastern Contra Costa Co., Red Rock Rd. (Yuba Pass).

Anna's Hummingbird — Common in parks, residential.

Costa's Hummingbird — (S) Del Puerto Cyn. (Mines Rd.).

Calliope Hummingbird — (Sp) Mt. Diablo SP, Tilden RP, (S) Mt. Pinos, Yosemite, Yuba Pass.

Rufous Hummingbird — (Sp) Parks and residential; (S) Mt. Pinos, Yosemite, Yuba Pass.

Allen's Hummingbird — (S) Common in parks, gardens; many in Golden Gate Park.

Lewis' Woodpecker — Local: Eastern Contra Costa Co., Honey Lake, Mines Rd./ Del Puerto Cyn., Panoche Valley, Sacramento (city).

Acorn Woodpecker — Common in oaks, parks, residential.

Red-breasted Sapsucker — Quiet, hard to spot; (S) Mt. Pinos, Yosemite, Yuba Pass; (W) Caswell SP, Golden Gate Park, Mt. Diablo SP, Pt. Reyes, Putah Creek, Sunol RW, Tilden RP, Upper San Leandro Res.

Williamson's Sapsucker — Honey/Eagle Lakes, Mt. Pinos, Yosemite, Yuba Pass.

Nuttall's Woodpecker — Common in oak woodland and chaparral, parks and residential.

White-headed Woodpecker — Honey/Eagle Lakes, Yosemite, Yuba Pass.

Black-backed Woodpecker — Honey/Eagle Lakes, Yosemite, Yuba Pass.

Pileated Woodpecker — Annadel SP, Ida Clayton Rd., Lake Lagunitas, Pt. Reyes, Yosemite.

Hammond's and Dusky Flycatchers — (S) Honey/Eagle Lakes, Mt. Pinos, Yosemite, Yuba Pass, (Sp) Mt. Diablo SP.

Gray Flycatcher — (S) Tule Lake/Lower Klamath/Lava Beds, Red Rock Rd. (Yuba Pass), Mono Lake (Yosemite).

Purple Martin — (S) Bodega Bay, Gualala Point, Ida Clayton Rd., Lava Beds NM (Tule Lake), Mt. Pinos, Pt. Reyes, Sacramento (city).

Bank Swallow — (S) Caswell SP, Fort Funston, Glen Ellen, Gualala Point, Lake Hennessey, Lake Merced, Mines Rd., San Mateo Co.

Gray Jay — Arcata, Mendocino Co.

Steller's Jay — Common in wooded areas in the hills; mountains.

Scrub jay — Common all over the lowlands.

Pinyon Jay — Mt. Pinos, Mono Lake (Yosemite), Red Rock Rd. (Yuba Pass).

Clark's Nutcracker — Honey/Eagle Lakes, Mt. Pinos, Yosemite, Yuba Pass.

Black-billed Magpie — Tule Lake/Lower Klamath/Lava Beds, Sierra Valley (Yuba Pass).

Yellow-billed Magpie — Calaveras Res., Caswell SP, Los Banos/Merced, Mines Rd./Del Puerto Cyn., Monterey, Panoche Valley, Putah Creek, Sacramento/Gray Lodge, Sunol RW, Woodson Bridge SRA.

Mountain Chickadee — Common in the Sierra Nevada; Yosemite, Yuba Pass.

Chestnut-backed Chickadee — Common in oaks, parks and residential; spreading eastward, rare in the San Joaquin Valley but is in the western Sierra Nevada at 3-5,000 feet.

Plain Titmouse — Common in oaks, parks and residential.

Pygmy Nuthatch — Golden Gate Park, Gualala Point, Honey/Eagle Lakes, Lincoln Park, Lake Merced, Mendocino Co., Monterey, Mt. Pinos, Pt. Reyes, Upper San Leandro Res.

Rock Wren — Fairly common in rocky outcrops.

Canyon Wren — Black Diamond Mines RP, Honey/Eagle Lakes, Ida Clayton Rd., Mines Rd./Del Puerto Cyn., Putah Creek.

American Dipper — Sunol RW, Yuba Pass.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher — (S, rare in W) Chaparral and oak woodland: Donner/Back Cyns, Glen Ellen, Lafayette Res., Lake Lagunitas, Las Trampas RW, Mines Rd., Mt. Diablo SP, Pt. Pinos, Rodeo Lagoon.

Western Bluebird — Fairly common in grasslands and oak woodland: Briones RP, Lafayette Res., Lake Lagunitas, Las Trampas RW, Mines Rd., Mt. Diablo SP, Mt. Pinos.

Mountain Bluebird — Tule Lake/Lava Beds, (S) Honey/Eagle Lakes, Yosemite, Sierra Valley (Yuba Pass), (W) Altamont Pass, Eastern Contra Costa Co., Panoche Valley.

Townsend's Solitaire — Honey/Eagle Lakes, Mt. Pinos, Lava Beds (Tule Lake), Yosemite, Yuba Pass, (rare, W) Black Diamond Mines RP, Mt. Diablo SP.

Varied Thrush — (W) Usually uncommon, but variable; in many parks.

Wrentit — Common but often hard to see even when singing; chaparral and bushy areas in parks.

Sage Thrasher — (S) Mt. Pinos, Panoche Valley, Lava Beds, (Tule Lake), Sierra Valley (Yuba Pass).

California Thrasher — Common in chaparral and shrubs; Caswell SP, Lafayette Res., Mines Rd., areas on Mt. Diablo, Putah Creek, Tilden RP.

Phainopepla — Black Diamond Mines RP, Mines Rd./Del Puerto Cyn., Morgan Territory, Panoche Valley, Putah Creek.

Northern Shrike — (W) Honey Lake, Lava Beds (Tule Lake).

Hutton's Vireo — Fairly common in parks and residential but can be hard to see even when singing.

“Western” warblers: Nashville (uncom), Black-throated Gray, Townsend's and Hermit — (Sp, F) Golden Gate Park, Lake Lagunitas, Las Trampas RW, Lincoln Park, Mines Rd., Mitchell Cyn., Mt. Diablo SP, Pt. Reyes, Redwood RP, Sunol RW; “Audubon's” — (com. W) In lowlands. Townsend's — (W) Golden Gate Park, Monterey, Pt. Reyes. Most western species are fairly common to common in the mountains in summer.

MacGillivray's Warbler — (S) Golden Gate Park, Ida Clayton Rd., Yosemite, Yuba Pass; (Sp, F) Annadel SP, Las Trampas RW, Mt. Diablo SP, Redwood RP, Tilden RP.

Yellow-breasted Chat — (Sp) Mines Rd./Del Puerto Cyn., Morgan Territory; (S) Annadel SP, Glen Ellen, Eastern Contra Costa Co., Woodson Bridge SRA.

“Eastern” warblers — (Sp, F) Often in good numbers at Pt. Reyes, Monterey, Santa Cruz.

Western Tanager — (Sp, F) Woodlands in parks, residential; (S) Mountains.

Blue Grosbeak — (S) Durham Ferry SRA, Eastern Contra Costa Co., Los Banos WMA, Woodson Bridge SRA.

Lazuli Bunting — (S) Annadel SP, Briones RP, Glen Ellen, Las Trampas RW, Mines Rd./Del Puerto Cyn., Morgan Territory, Tilden RP, Upper San Leandro Res.

Green-tailed Towhee — (S) Honey/Eagle Lakes, Mt. Pinos, Yosemite, Yuba Pass/Sierra Valley.

Brown Towhee — A “can't miss” in chaparral, bushes, residential.

Rufous-crowned Sparrow — Las Trampas RW, Mines Rd./Del Puerto Cyn., Mitchell Cyn., Mt. Diablo SP, Panoche Valley, Sunol RW, Tilden RP.

Brewer's Sparrow — (S) Mt. Pinos, Tule Lake/Lower Klamath, Sierra Valley (Yuba Pass); (W) Panoche Valley.

Black-chinned Sparrow — (S) Black Diamond Mines RP, Ida Clayton Rd., Mitchell Cyn., Mt. Diablo SP, Mt. Pinos, Tilden RP.

Sage Sparrow — Black Diamond Mines RP, Honey Lake, Ida Clayton Rd., Mines Rd., Mitchell Cyn., Mt. Diablo SP, Tilden RP.

Grasshopper Sparrow — (S) Bolinas Lagoon, Del Puerto Cyn., Gualala Point, Las Trampas RW, Nicasio Res. (Pt. Reyes), San Mateo Co.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow — (rare, W) Bolinas Lagoon, Palo Alto.

Golden-crowned Sparrow — (W) Common, often with White-crowns.

Lapland Longspur — (F, rare in W) Hayward RS, Pt. Reyes; (W) Honey Lake.

Chestnut-collared Longspur — (rare, F) Pt. Reyes, Honey Lake.

Tricolored Blackbird — Eastern Contra Costa Co., Hayward RS, Los Banos/Merced, Mt. View Sanitary Dist., Palo Alto, Pt. Reyes, Sacramento/Gray Lodge, San Mateo Co., Thornton; (S) Honey Lake, Tule Lake/Lower Klamath.

Yellow-headed Blackbird — Los Banos/Merced, Sacramento/Gray Lodge, Thornton; (S) Honey Lake, Tule Lake/Lower Klamath, Sierra Valley (Yuba Pass).

Hooded Oriole — (S) Local: Eastern Contra Costa Co., Monterey; regular in San Francisco Presidio and in central Contra Costa gardens.

Rosy Finch — Yosemite.

Pine Grosbeak — Mt. Pinos, Yosemite, Yuba Pass.

Cassin's Finch — Honey/Eagle Lakes, Mt. Pinos, Yosemite, Yuba Pass.

Red Crossbill — Erratic: Golden Gate Park, Gualala Point, Honey/Eagle Lakes, Lake Lagunitas, Lincoln Park, Mt. Pinos, Pt. Reyes, Yosemite, Yuba Pass. Listen for the loud sharp “kip, kip, kip” call.

Lawrence's Goldfinch — Black Diamond Mines RP, Las Trampas RW, Mines Rd./Del Puerto Cyn., Mitchell Cyn., Monterey, Morgan Territory, Mt. Diablo SP, Mt. Pinos, Panoche Valley, Putah Creek, Woodson Bridge SRA.

Evening Grosbeak — Erratic and local: Yosemite, Yuba Pass; (rare) Annadel SP, Ida Clayton Rd., Monterey, Tilden Park.



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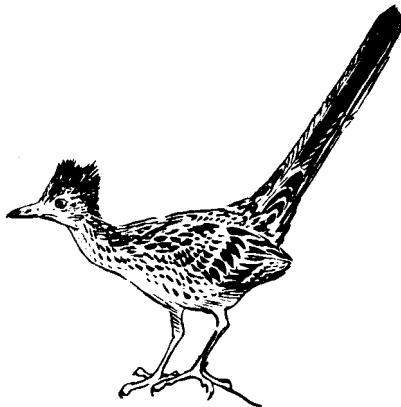
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Regional Park	18	Lafayette Reservoir	58
Bodega Bay	19	Laguna Lake	60
Bolinas Lagoon	22	Lake Bon Tempe	63
Briones Regional Park	24	Lake Hennessee	61
Cader Lane Ponds	26	Lake Lagunitas	63
Calaveras Reservoir	26	Lake Merced	65
Carmel River	85	Lake Merritt	67
Caswell Memorial State Park	27	Lake Solano	112
Chabot Regional Park	28	Land's End	70
Charleston Slough	101	Las Trampas	
Chew's Ridge	85	Regional Wilderness	68
Clifton Court Forebay	39	Lava Beds National Monument	144
Coyote Hills Regional Park	30	Limantour Estero	105
Crespi Pond	83	Lodi Sewer Ponds	139
Crown Memorial State Beach	11	Los Banos Wildlife	
Del Puerto Canyon	78	Management Area	73
Del Valle Regional Park	78	Los Padres	
Donner Canyon	32	National Forest Boundary	95
Doolittle Pond	11	Lower Klamath	
Doran County Park	20	National Wildlife Refuge	144
Drake's Beach	109	Marin Headlands	117
Durham Ferry State		Martinez Regional Shoreline	75
Recreation Area	34	Mendocino County Coast	76
Eagle Lake	53	Merced	
East Bay Shoreline	35	National Wildlife Refuge	73
Eastern Contra Costa County	38	Mines Road	78
Edmonston Pumping Plant	93	Mitchell Canyon	81
Emeryville Marina Park	35	Monterey Bay Pelagic Trips	86
Five Brooks	104	Monterey Peninsula	83
Fort Funston	41	Morgan Territory	87
Foster City	42	Mount Diablo State Park	89
Frick Lake	12	Mount Pinos Area	93

Mt. View Sanitary District	96	San Leandro Bay	
Muir Woods		Regional Shoreline	124
National Monumnt	98	San Lorenzo Trail	51
Neary's Lagoon	129	San Luis	
Palo Alto Baylands	99	National Wildlife Refuge	73
Panoche Valley	101	San Mateo County Coast	126
Pescadero	126	Santa Cruz	129
Pigeon Point	127	Santa Fe Grade	73
Point Isabel Regional Shoreline	36	Sears Point Road	130
Point Molate	37	Shell Marsh	96
Point Pinos	83	Sierra Valley	155
Point Reyes Bird Observatory	23	Solano County Park	113
Point Reyes National Shoreline	104	Stockton Oxidation Ponds	132
Point Richmond	37	Sunol Regional Wilderness	134
Putah Creek	112	Susanville	55
Raines County Park	80	Tennessee Valley	136
Red Rock Road	157	Thornton Area	138
Redwood Regional Park	115	Tilden Regional Park	140
Richardson Bay	116	Tomales Bay State Park	106
Robinson Canyon	85	Tule Lake	
Rodeo Lagoon	117	National Wildlife Refuge	144
Sacramento	120	Upper San Leandro Reservoir	146
Sacramento National		Watsonville Sewer Plant	148
Wildlife Refuge	121	Woodson Bridge	
Salmon Creek	21	State Recreation Area	149
San Antonio Valley Road	79	Yosemite National Park	150
San Francisco Bay		Yuba Pass	155
National Wildlife Refuge	122		

