

OHCC Birdwatchers Club Lake Hodges Walk Report and list - photos 11/14/19

From: William Saltzman (willesalt@gmail.com)

Bcc: timpentel@yahoo.com

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Thank you everyone who came on the walk to Lake Hodges last Thursday Nov 14th. Also many thanks to Russ Butcher for the Lake Hodges Walk write-up and bird list. Kudos to photographers Ann Baldwin, Mike Baldwin, Joan Comito and Russ Butcher for the wonderful photos,

See Russ's five second video attachment way below of the birding group with California qualls calling in the background. **Turn the sound up for that one.** So sorry I was not able to make the walk due to a very needed dental repair.

Enjoy, Bill Saltzman

Lake Hodges, Bernardo Bay

November 14, 2019 – 40 species

Our morning bird walk provided bright sunshine and only an occasional light breeze, with temperatures ranging from the upper 60s and nudging into the 80s. Highlights included a flock of 20 to 30 American White Pelicans that were tightly clustered together in a sculpture-like line that was reflected in the mirrored surface of the lake. There were hundreds of Clark's and Western Grebes on the lake, communicating back-and-forth with their loud, raspy calls, while a few pairs of grebes performed their spectacular courtship dance known as "rushing" – running and splashing side-by-side on the surface of the lake. There was also a scattering of waterfowl – American Wigeons, Northern Pintails, Ruddy Ducks and Mallards; and one each of the stately Great Egret and Great Blue Heron.

A pair of Red-tailed Hawks circled overhead, and an Osprey and a Northern Harrier glided by. We spotted two species of warblers: Common Yellowthroat and Yellow-rumped Warbler. Even smaller birds were the Blue-Gray and California Gnatcatchers, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Bushtits and Anna's and Allen's Hummingbirds.

By far the most entertaining bird of the day was the California Quail that we first heard calling from hidden places on the hillside above us. We then watched as a flock of seven or eight of them below us near the lakeshore dashed upslope among the shrubbery. One-by-one they zipped comically across the trail just ahead of us. Only one slowed down long enough to obligingly provide a photo op.

Most of the group enjoyed lunch at a Black Angus restaurant in Escondido.



Lake Hodges Bernardo side. Photo Joan Comito



Birding group minus Joan Comito who took this photo.
See White Pelicans on lake in back.



California Quail Ann Baldwin



3 Clark's Grebes out of hundreds of Clark's and Western Grebes seen on the lake. These were just getting ready to Rush (Water Walk)
Photo Joan Comito



Lake Hodges White Pelicans - Russ Butcher

Osprey in flight - Mike Baldwin



California Quail on the run - Mike Baldwin



Anna's Hummingbird Ann Baldwin

Yellow Rumped Warbler Joan Comito



Cassin's Kingbird Ann Baldwin

Say's Phoebe Joan Comito



Flock of White Pelicans on lake - Photo By Joan Comito



Clark's Grebe - Ann baldwin Note that the eye is inside the black crown.



Great Blue Heron -Ann Baldwin



Northern Pintail Ducks and Western Grebe - Poto Joanb Comito
Notice the eye on the Western Grebe is below the black cap



White-crowned Sparrow Ann Baldwin

House Finch - Joan Comito



House Wren - Ann baldwin



Ring-billed Gull Ann Baldwin



Red-tailed Hawk Ann Baldwin

Northern Pintail Ducks - Ann Baldwin



White Pelicans relaxing - Ann Baldwin



Osprey - Ann Baldwin



Harrier Hawk Ann Baldwin



Mallard Male - Ann Baldwin

Bird List - Russ Butcher

Clark's Grebe

Western Grebe

Double-crested Cormorant - 1

Mallard

Northern Pintail

American Wigeon

Ruddy Duck

American Coot – 1

American White Pelican

Ring-billed Gull

Great Blue Heron - 1

Great Egret - 1

California Quail

Northern Harrier - 1

Red-tailed Hawk

Osprey - 1

Belted Kingfisher – (heard only)

Anna's Hummingbird

Allen's Hummingbird - 1

Northern Flicker – 1

Cassin's Kingbird

Black Phoebe

Say's Phoebe – 1
Swallow (N. Rough-winged?)
Crow
California Scrub-Jay
Bushtit
House Wren – 1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher
California Gnatcatcher
California Thrasher – 1
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Common Yellowthroat – 1
White-crowned Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Spotted Towhee - 1
California Towhee – 1
House Finch
Lesser Goldfinch

William (Bill) Saltzman
5005 Santorini Way
Oceanside, California 92056
email: <willesalt@gmail.com>
Cell: (760) 613-1771
Home: (760) 305-8981



Russ Quail IMG_3407.MOV
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