

The date: 4/16/2025

The week number: 16

The walk number: 1809

The weather: 60 F; cloudy

The walkers: Alan Cummings, Viveca Sapin-Areeda, Chris Moreno,
Chip O'Connor, Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi

The birds (29)

No.	First Name	Last Name	Prob
1	Western	Bluebird	0.62
1	Red-whiskered	Bulbul	1
20		Bushtit	1
1	American	Crow	1
2	Mourning	Dove	1
6	House	Finch	1
6	Lesser	Goldfinch	1
1	Cooper's	Hawk	0.62
1	Red-shouldered	Hawk	0.12
1	Red-tailed	Hawk	0.50
1	Anna's	Hummingbird	1
3	Selasphorus	Hummingbird	0.75
3	Dark-eyed	Junco	1
1	Northern	Mockingbird	1
3	Red-crowned	Parrot	0
3	Common	Peafowl	0
1	Black	Phoebe	1
7	Band-tailed	Pigeon	0.88
1	Common	Raven	1
1	Species	Shore/water_bird	0
5	House	Sparrow	1
2	European	Starling	0.50
8	Species	Swallow	0
2	White-throated	Swift	0.25
1	California	Towhee	0.62
1	Turkey	Vulture	0.12
1	Yellow-rumped	Warbler	0.75
6	Acorn	Woodpecker	1
1	Bewick's	Wren	0.50

Walk lasted between 12:00 and 14:15

This was maybe the most interesting bird walk ever in the history of Caltech bird walks. For one thing, we set the record for the week by observing 29 species, breaking the previous record for week 16 by one. For another thing, we saw some interesting birds. Chris arrived late and missed us until we were on Holliston. But, she had seen 3 Common Peafowl

on the roof of a house on Wilson. She brought pictures and they were all females. We've only seen these a handful of times on campus.

She also had seen a Yellow-rumped Warbler, which I suspect will be the last we see until around week 40 of this year.

We also saw lots of swallows and swifts and three species of hawks. And, while on Holliston, we saw a large bird fly overhead

that we could not identify. I have a category for that called Shore/water bird, species. It was definitely a new

bird for the day, so it gets counted. It was a definitely banner bird day. But, what added to the interest is that we observed a TORNADO on the walk. Not a big tornado, more like a dust devil that I had seen in Texas.

We were in Tournament Park and all of a sudden we hear this racket being made by a large tarp on the athletic field that was whipping around every which way to Sunday, to use some of my Texas

terminology. It didn't last long, but there was no question it was an atmospheric phenomenon.

I've never seen this on campus and I don't recall ever seeing it in California.

So, this was a walk for the record books, in more ways than one.

Alan,

4/16/2025