

The date: 11/26/2019

The week number: 48

The walk number: 1535

The weather: 62 F; partly cloudy

The walkers: Alan Cummings, Viveca Sapin-Areeda, Darren Dowell

#### The birds (24)

- 1 Northern Mockingbird
- 1 Mourning Dove
- 8 House Finch
- 2 Common Raven
- 3 Anna's Hummingbird
- 7 Acorn Woodpecker
- 5 American Crow
- 11 Dark-eyed Junco
- 5 Black Phoebe
- 25 Yellow-rumped Warbler
- 9 Lesser Goldfinch
- 1 Mallard
- 3 California Towhee
- 12 Bushtit
- 1 Hummingbird, Selasphorus
- 1 Say's Phoebe
- 2 Townsend's Warbler
- 4 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- 2 Orange-crowned Warbler
- 15 American Goldfinch
- 2 American Robin
- 1 Red-breasted Sapsucker
- 1 Cassin's Kingbird
- 1 Peregrine Falcon

This was a fantastic walk! For one thing we had Darren Dowell along, who is an absolute expert birdwatcher. He can identify quickly and accurately by sound and he did so immediately when he heard a Townsend's Warbler down on Arden Rd. He soon located it visually. Another feature of having good hearing and good identification skills via sound is that you know when you can leave an area, having seen or heard about all you are going to get. I don't recall that advantage being pointed out before. That occurred to me when we were standing around the Arden Rd. area for a while and Darren said "let me know when it's time to move." I took that to mean he didn't think we were going to get more birds at that stop.

We had some great birds on the walk: Red-breasted Sapsucker, Cassin's Kingbird, and Peregrine Falcon. If not for Darren, we would probably not have called the Peregrine correctly. It likely would have been a Hawk, sp. or maybe a Falcon, sp., at best. Now for the bombshell: the Peregrine Falcon is new for the Caltech list! I just now discovered that. I told Darren on the walk that I didn't think it

was new and he agreed that it was unlikely that it was new. But a search reveals that it is new. We have Falcon, sp., Merlin, and American Kestrel on the list but no Peregrine Falcon. Whoopeddoo! We are up to 128 unique species identified on the Caltech bird walks since their inception on 15 October 1986. This was our 1535<sup>th</sup> walk.

I add that Darren is by no means a newcomer to the walks. This was his 106<sup>th</sup> walk, having started on 6/10/2008. He is in 14<sup>th</sup> place on number of walks out of 178 walkers. He comes back after few years off, and boom, we have a new bird for the list. Thank you, Darren.

Alan, 11/27/19