

The date: 12/28/2021

The week number: 52

The walk number: 1642

The weather: 52 F; partly cloudy

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

The birds (25)

No.	First Name	Last Name	Prob
4	Western	Bluebird	0.86
20		Bushtit	0.86
2	American	Crow	1
7	Mourning	Dove	0.57
11	House	Finch	0.86
1	Northern	Flicker	1
11	American	Goldfinch	0.43
4	Lesser	Goldfinch	1
1	Species	Gull	0.29
1	Cooper's	Hawk	0.29
1	Red-tailed	Hawk	0.57
2	Selasphorus	Hummingbird	0.57
4	Dark-eyed	Junco	0.71
6	Ruby-crowned	Kinglet	1
1		Mallard	0.57
1	Northern	Mockingbird	1
1	Black	Phoebe	1
5	Band-tailed	Pigeon	1
4	Common	Raven	1
1	California	Towhee	0.71
2	Orange-crowned	Warbler	0.43
1	Townsend's	Warbler	0.29
24	Yellow-rumped	Warbler	1
15	Cedar	Waxwing	0.86
7	Acorn	Woodpecker	1

Walk lasted between 12:00 and 14:02. Tournament Park was closed.

We had a good walk but we expected more. We expected a record. And that was because it had rained the previous day. Last time that happened we did set a record. Nonetheless, we observed 25 species, above the median and only 3 short of a record for the week. And that week is week 52, last walk of 2021. And it has been a spectacular year, Caltech birding wise. As you know, each walk gets a score, based on the number of sigma above (or below) the mean of the distribution of the number of species observed for all walks since 1987 for that week. And that leads to a score for the year, gotten by averaging up the weekly scores. If you take a look at the 3rd plot from the top at http://birdwalks.caltech.edu/bird_data/species_time.html, you'll see

that 2021 is going to be the highest scoring year ever. So, 2021 was the best year ever, in terms of bird walks at Caltech. Congratulations to those who walked in 2021. May 2022 be even better and not just in terms of bird walks!

Alan,
12/29/2021