

The date: 7/15/2026

The week number: 29

The walk number: 1878

The weather: 94 F; sunny

The walkers: Alan Cummings, Viveca Sapin-Areeda, Chip O'Connor, Bella Barrera, Kevin Kan, Ellen Yu, Wan-Ying Kan, John Beckett, Isabella Mueller

The birds (21)

No.	First Name	Last Name	Prob
2	Western	Bluebird	0.62
3	Red-whiskered	Bulbul	0.88
5		Bushtit	0.62
8	Mourning	Dove	1
5	House	Finch	1
2	Lesser	Goldfinch	1
1	Red-tailed	Hawk	0.25
2	Anna's	Hummingbird	1
2	Selasphorus	Hummingbird	0.62
7	Dark-eyed	Junco	1
1	Northern	Mockingbird	0.88
1	White-breasted	Nuthatch	0.12
2	Hooded	Oriole	0.12
32	Mitred	Parakeet	0.12
1	Black	Phoebe	0.75
3	Band-tailed	Pigeon	0.50
2	Common	Raven	0.75
1	Species	Swift	0
8	Acorn	Woodpecker	1
1	Nuttall's	Woodpecker	0.12
2	Bewick's	Wren	0.25

Walk lasted between 12:00 and 13:42

Unbelievably, we set another record for the week. That is three weeks in a row for doing that. We observed 21 species when the record for the week was 20. The prediction was 17.6. It was hot, unbelievably hot. I got thirsty and I drank two 8 oz water bottles, unusual for me. Despite the heat, the birds were there, except for the American Crow. That black 100% probable bird took the hot day off. But we saw four 12 percenters to help out with the numbers. I most enjoyed the White-breasted Nuthatch over behind IPAC. It gave everyone a good view, mostly an upside down one. I almost forgot to mention that Wan-Ying brought the results of some research she did on two questions: what is the largest difference between observed and predicted numbers and who is in the 100-walk club. I attach a photo of the sheet of paper she gave me with the answers on it. Thanks, Wan-Ying! It turns out Ellen recently joined the 100 walk club. Congratulations to her!

LARGEST DIFFERENCES

05/28/26 Alan asked: "What's the largest difference between the observed number and predicted number of species?"

I enlisted Calvin's help in finagling the data, then took a first peek at all the SPECIES vs. TIME plots, looking for large gaps between the open (predicted) and closed (observed) circles.

I then forgot about it all until last week, when we 'crushed' the 'measly' 17.4 prediction with 25 observed species. At that point, I decided to dig into the raw data. While, +7.6 seems like a large difference, it's only good for about tenth place.

THE LARGEST DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE OBSERVED NUMBER AND PREDICTED NUMBER OF SPECIES IS +11.4, set on 11/12/25 (Week 46, Walk 1845) where only 20.6 species were predicted, but 32 were observed (smashing the previous record of 26). A very close second is +11.2, set on 3/23/23 (Week 12, Walk 1705) where 23.8 species were predicted, but a whopping 35 species were observed, including a new one: yellow-bellied sapsucker!

The largest underperformance to date is -8.5, set on 9/10/24 (Week 37, Walk 1779), where 18.5 species were predicted but only 10 were observed. Well, it was 95 F and sunny, so not too surprising. Alan commented: "bad walk"

The 100-WALK CLUB

Out of the 253 individuals who have participated in the Caltech Birdwalks since its inception, only one birder has completed more than a thousand walks: Alan Cummings (Walker #1) with 1671 walks and counting!!

Seventeen people have completed 100 walks or more, listed below by increasing Walker # (with date of first walk and number of walks completed as of 07/08/2026)

10/15/86	#2	Ernie Franzgrote	217
05/17/88	#5	Tom Garrard	129
07/05/88	#7	Jim Campbell	210
04/27/95	#20	Daniel Williams	111
11/03/98	#32	Glen Hammell	353
01/23/01	#46	Bill Schaefer	107
01/30/01	#47	Kent Potter	462
04/23/02	#56	Ashish Mahabal	119
12/12/06	#83	Beth Moore	160
*07/17/07	#92	Viveca Sapin-Areeda	855
06/10/08	#100	Darren Dowell	110
*12/21/09	#115	John Beckett	426
07/26/10	#121	Vicky Brennan	335
*12/26/11	#130	Chip O'Connor	249
*08/05/20	#186	Chris Moreno	226
*08/24/21	#194	Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi	109
*07/11/23	#218	Ellen Yu	105

* Current birders whose walk totals will likely continue to increase

Alan,
7/16/2026