

July 4, 2012

To: John Roberts, Executive Director, Natomas Basin Conservancy

From: Frank Gray, Field Trip Leader, Sacramento Audubon Society

Subject: Field Trip on Sunday, June 24, 2012 at the BKS Preserve, Sacramento County

A total of 13 observers participated in the trip, including myself. It was completed by walking within the Silva Tract, mainly around the perimeter of Pond R. We started at the parking area near Tretheway Grove, going past Ayala Bridge and on the road between Ponds R and Q.

Weather was sunny with no wind. We were at the preserve from about 0840 until about 1030 hours. A total of 42 bird species were seen this trip, representing 23 taxonomic groups. This is more than the 13 species that were seen last year. Additional species probably would have been noted except that I was frequently providing narrative to the participants about the preserve.

I believe that there were better opportunities to observe birds this year, at least partly because there was a lower number of participants. The number this year worked very well.

In addition to the birds, one muskrat was seen.

Bird Species Observed. Known numbers or ranges of numbers are noted.

Pelicans

American White Pelican (15-20) This was a group feeding together on Pond R

Hérons, Egrets, and Bitterns

Black-crowned Night Heron (2-3)

Great Egret (5-10)

Great Blue Heron (2)

American Bittern (2)

Stilts and Avocets

American Avocet (2-3)

Black-necked Stilt (5-10)

Coots and Rails

American Coot (10-20)

Blackbirds, Orioles, and Allies

Bullock's Oriole (1)

Great-tailed Grackle (5-10)

Western Meadowlark (5-10)

Brown-headed Cowbird (1) (heard only)

Red-winged Blackbird (10-20)

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Brewer's Blackbird (<5)

Pigeons and Doves

Mourning Dove (5-10)

Cormorants

Double-crested Cormorant (2-3)

Ducks and Geese

Canvasback (1)

Canada Goose (20-30)

Mallard (3-4)

Northern Shoveler (1)

Cinnamon Teal (3)

Ibis

White-faced Ibis (15-20)

Vultures

Turkey Vulture (3-4)

Hawks

White-tailed Kite (2)

Falcons

Peregrine Falcon (1) seen in flight at west end of property

American Kestrel (2)

Wrens

Marsh Wren (1) –several heard

Sparrows

Song Sparrow several, heard only

Grouse, Turkeys, and Allies

California Quail (1)

Wood Warblers

Yellow Warbler (1)

Plovers

Killdeer (4-5)

Owls

Great Horned Owl (1) single bird in flight

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Swallows

Barn Swallow (5-10)
Tree Swallow (20-30)
Cliff Swallow (15-20)

Flycatchers

Black Phoebe (1-2)
Western Kingbird (5-10)

Mockingbirds and Thrashers

Northern Mockingbird (2-3)

Crows, Jays (and relatives)

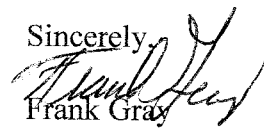
Yellow-billed Magpie (2-4) seen along access road to Silva Tract
American Crow (3-4)

Finches

House Finch (2-3)
American Goldfinch (1-2)

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments. I can be reached by phone at 916-723-5249 or via e-mail at fgray4birds@aol.com

Sincerely,



Frank Gray

Antelope