



California Condors & Coastal Migration

September 9-13, 2024

Tentative Itinerary

Day 1 – Monday, September 9, San Jose to Hollister

Arrive at the San Jose International Airport to meet your trip leaders. We will take a short trip north to the Palo Alto Baylands, one of the largest remaining undisturbed marshlands in the San Francisco Bay Area, where we will look for sea ducks, Burrowing Owls, and Ridgway's Rail. Depending on our timing, we may have birding stops on our way to Hollister.

Lodging: Fairfield Inn Marriott Hollister

Day 2 – Tuesday, September 10, Pinnacles National Park

We will have a later start than usual so we can spend the early evening in Pinnacles National Park to hopefully watch California Condors fly in to roost for the night (the roost itself is not visible). We will spend the day exploring the Gabilan Range of California's Coast Ranges to search for the endemic Yellow-billed Magpie, Oak Titmouse, and California Thrasher. A 3-mile hike on the Condor Gulch Trail that is to the south of a California Condor release site may give us our first Condor sighting as well as Rufous-crowned Sparrow and Golden Eagle. **Our return to the hotel will be later than usual without a break before dinner.**

Lodging: Fairfield Inn Marriott Hollister

Day 3 – Wednesday, September 11, Hollister to Monterey

As we move from the inland mountains to the California Coast, we will have stops along Elkhorn Slough to search for White-tailed Kites, Wrentits, and maybe a wayward migrant like a Black-and-white Warbler. In the afternoon, we will bird the

Point Pinos Lighthouse Reservation where we may see jaegers, murrelets, auklets, five species of shearwater, and Black-footed Albatross over the waters of Monterey Bay. Other stops around Monterey have been known to have eastern migrants such as Philadelphia Vireo, Blackpoll Warbler, and Orchard Oriole.

Lodging: Best Western Park Crest Inn, Monterey

Day 4 – Thursday, September 12, Big Sur

We will head south to spend the day in the picturesque Big Sur where mountains rise abruptly from the Pacific Ocean. We will have a number of stops as California Condors are possible anywhere along our journey in Big Sur. A 2.5-mile roundtrip hike in Andrew Molera State Park could turn up Harlequin Duck, Yellow-throated Vireo, American Dipper, and a number of migrating warblers. Peregrine Falcons frequent the coast here and we could also find a number of shorebirds.

Lodging: Best Western Park Crest Inn, Monterey

Day 5, Friday September 13, Hollister to Oakland

We will travel north along the coast, stopping at Salinas River NWR to search for shorebirds and Moss Landing to see Southern Sea Otters and possibly a Snowy Plover and if we just happen to be there at the right time, Black Skimmers. We will have lunch at Ano Nuevo State Park to the north of Santa Cruz, where we will take a 3–4-mile roundtrip hike to see Elephant Seals. Along the way, we may see Wandering Tattlers, Vaux's Swifts, Red-throated and Pacific Loons, Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorant, and Purple Finches. We will arrive at the San Jose International Airport with plenty of time to make your late evening flights.

Trip Leaders

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