



# **Southern California: Resident Specialties and Fall Migrants**

## **Detailed Itinerary**

### **Day 1: Arrival in Los Angeles, CA**

Participants may arrive at any time today. The hotel provides complimentary shuttle transportation from the airport.

Overnight Los Angeles

### **Day 2: Coastal Birding and Yellow-billed Magpie**

Our first target bird will be California Gnatcatcher. Once we find them, we will search for Spotted Doves, if any are being seen along our route north and toward the coast. We will then concentrate on coastal sites, looking for Surfbird, Wandering Tattler, Black Turnstone, Heerman's Gull, Elegant Tern and many other seabirds and shorebirds.

Highlight of the afternoon will be finding the California-endemic Yellow-billed Magpie. These can be found in the area about an hour north of our hotel. Once we find them, if it is not too late we will stop at Lake Los Carneros, near Santa Barbara, to look for White-tailed Kites and migrant songbirds.

Overnight Ventura

### **Day 3: Santa Cruz Island boat trip**

While the main reason for making this trip is to see the endemic Island Scrub-Jay, the boat trip also gives us a great chance to see more seabirds, like Brandt's Cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant and Red-necked Phalarope, as well as some pelagic species like

jaegers, Black-vented Shearwater, Sabine's Gull, Craveri's Murrelet, or Black Storm-Petrel.

On the island itself, we will look for the resident races of Allen's Hummingbird, Orange-crowned Warbler and Song Sparrow. Hopefully a Pacific-slope Flycatcher will still be around.

Once back on shore in the early evening, we will do some additional coastal birding, as well as checking farm fields for plovers – Pacific Golden-Plover is always a possibility.

Overnight Ventura



#### **Day 4: Birding Los Padres National Forest, Maricopa and Mount Pinos**

We move away from the coast today, into the mountains. We'll be birding during the drive along winding roads from sea level to over 5000 feet in elevation and back down again, eventually reaching the Maricopa area. This drive can be done in just over 2 hours, but it will take us all morning as we make birding stops on the way.

As we drive through the Cuyama Valley on our way to Maricopa we will scan the skies for California Condors. In Maricopa, we will look for LeConte's Thrasher, then return to the higher elevations around Mount Pinos, where we will concentrate on any target species not seen on the morning drive.

Targets include Mountain Quail, Band-tailed Pigeon, White-headed Woodpecker, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Clark's Nutcracker, Wrentit and Fox Sparrow.

Overnight near Frazier Park



### **Day 5: Mount Pinos to Indio**

An early start today will give us our best chance at Mountain Quail. We will continue birding the higher elevations until it is time to begin the drive to the southeast.

Once finished in the Mount Pinos area, we will drive toward the mountains northeast of San Bernardino, continuing our quest to find birds that prefer higher elevations. We may make a stop or two along the way if there are good chances to find new birds - or just to stretch our legs.

If time allows, we will visit Big Morongo Canyon Preserve, a great place for fall migrants, but we may need to save this site for Day 7.

Overnight Indio

### **Day 6: All Day Birding around the Salton Sea**

Today will be spent birding around the Salton Sea, mostly along the east side. Prepare for temperatures that may get above 100 degrees F.

Yellow-footed Gull is one of the main targets, along with Gambel's Quail, Clark's Grebe, Ridgway's Rail, American Avocet, Greater Roadrunner, Burrowing Owl, Gila Woodpecker, Crissal Thrasher and Abert's Towhee.

Rare but somewhat regular possibilities include Brown Booby as well as Blue-footed Booby, and Magnificent Frigatebird.

Overnight Indio

### **Day 7: Birding During Drive to Los Angeles**

Today will be a day to look for any species we may have missed, as we work our way back towards Los Angeles. We may visit Big Morongo Canyon Preserve, the San Jacinto Mountains, or the hills north of Los Angeles. We may even have time to return for coastal birding, if traffic cooperates.

You will have the option of flying home this evening, though flights later on Day 8 will allow even more birding the following morning.

Overnight Los Angeles

### **Day 8: Departure for Home**

Birding this morning will depend on when departing flights begin.

