

Wendy St. John

Field Journal

March, 2011

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20/20

St. John, 2011

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Laguna de Santa Rosa
21 March, 2011

1350 - 1420

Sunny, light breeze, 22°C / 70°F

Began at Falsetti Park on
Gizavstein Way, Lotati, and
walked along ~250m of this
channel of the Laguna de Santa
Rosa, on the NE side of the creek.

~ Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*),
1 heard, later spotted near playground

~ ~~to~~ American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*),
5 or 6 in the area, present during
full duration of my walk

~ Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

1 male on creek, 2 flying north

~ Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), 1

~ House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) ~ 10

~ Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*)

1, flying south along creek.

~ American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*)

mostly approx 8, ID'd by call

~ House finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), ~ 5

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Laguna de Santa Rosa

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~ California Scrub Jay (Aphelocoma
californica), 1

~ California Towhee (Melospiza
crissalis), 1

na

Possible "Audubon's" warbler
(Dendroica coronata)

UID Butterfly ~ 5 cm, orange
with heavy black margins. Could not
get close enough for a good look.

Small (4 cm tall) orange-brown
mushrooms in bark (on playground)

Puffball (~10 cm long) in grass
near trees. Top "cracked" open,
overall shape oval.

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Laguna de Santa Rosa
24 March, 2011

1430 - 1505

Wet, rained earlier in the day,
but not raining during observations.

13°C / 55°F

Began at Draper Park on Wilfred Road, Cotati, then walked on bike trail along SW side of creek. First went N to Commerce, then backtracked and continued S to Gravenstein Way (overlaps small part of area observed on 21 March).

- Pacific Tree Frog (*Pseudacris regilla*)
Heard 2, possibly 3, individuals
- American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*)
At multiple locations, total seen ~ 8
- Am. Crow (*C. brachyrhynchus*), ~ 5
- Black Phoebe (*S. nigricans*), 3
- CA Towhee (*M. crissalis*), 2
- CA Scrub Jay (*A. californicus*), 2
- Rock Dove (*Columba livia*), ~ 2
- Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*,
juvenile (very brown, no red plumage yet))

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Laguna de Santa Rosa 4

- Turkey vulture (Cathartes aura), 3
- Goldfinch, Amer. (S. tristis), heard
- Anna's hummingbird (C. anna), 1
- Mallard (A. platyrhynchos), 2, flying
- House finch (C. mexicanus), ~20
- Bush tit (Psaltriparus minimus), ~5
an unusually small flock foraging in a tree near the path. SO LATE!
- Song Sparrow (Melospiza melodia)
just heard 1 - usually there are more along this path (still early in season)
- Chestnut-backed chickadee (Poecile rufescens), 1

Several WD gulls (high overhead)

- Miner's lettuce (Claytonia perfoliata)
- Himalayan blackberry (Rubus armeniacus) - invasive
- Thistle spp.
- Fennel
- "English" Ivy

large (6 cm diameter) light tan mushrooms w/ greyish gills.

GALBREATH PRESERVE

(general location)

marker = Elkhorn Rd.



Galbreath Preserve

8 April, 2011

Arrived 10:30, 20°C / 68°F
Sunny & clear w/ light breeze

Visited Galbreath ~~with~~ on a field trip with Vert Bio. We stopped at several locations in the preserve, looking for specific target species at each location. It is a beautiful preserve, and I'm very glad to have been able to visit it, finally.

At Emily's Research station, we viewed animals she collected:

Foothill yellow-legged frog
(*Rana boylei*)

Taricha granulosa
Taricha rivularis

We made a stop at the Restroom, and took a few minutes to look around.

Buttercup

Borage

Miner's Lettuce

Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*)

John Zill

Galbreath Preserve 6

Wood Duck Pond - we stopped to look at vents at this location. This is apparently the largest body of water on the preserve, and has water year-round. At this site we saw signs of rooting by wild pigs.

Pseudacris regilla - several specimens, in a variety of colors
T. granulosa, caught in traps
Dragonfly spp - larvae & nymph stages

Sheep Barn - there is a structure at this site; we spent most of our time turning over pieces of wood and small rocks, or looking around the rocky area.

Steller's Jay (Cyanocitta stelleri)
Aneides flavipunctatus - found 2 of these salamanders at this site - one under a piece of fallen tree (I found this one), and another under a plank of wood near the barn. Decided these were Black (not Arboreal) based on the relative size of the head to the body.

St. John Zoll

Galbreath Preserve⁷

Batrachoseps attenuatus - found on hill, under a rock.

Pseudacris regilla - green color.

Sceloporus occidentalis 5-6 cm

Eumeces skiltonianus (Western Skink)

Diadophis punctatus (Ring-necked Snake)

From the hilltop where we stopped for lunch, we saw a couple of species (and heard several in the woods below, but I wasn't able to ID)

Turdus migratorius

Buteo jamaicensis - easy to ID because it ~~was calling~~ called several times to another R-T.

2nd Barn area - we stopped here briefly - mostly explored a large wood pile, but a few specimens were found elsewhere.

S. occidentalis

~~S. punctatus~~ A. flavipunctatus

P. regilla

E. skiltonianus - juvenile, showing distinctly blue tail.

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Galbreath Preserve⁸

Waterfall - this is a beautiful spot, with a shallow creek, and small waterfall (~12 ft) flowing into a pool. (Reversing the vehicles back out of the area was also an adventure, as there was no place to turn around).

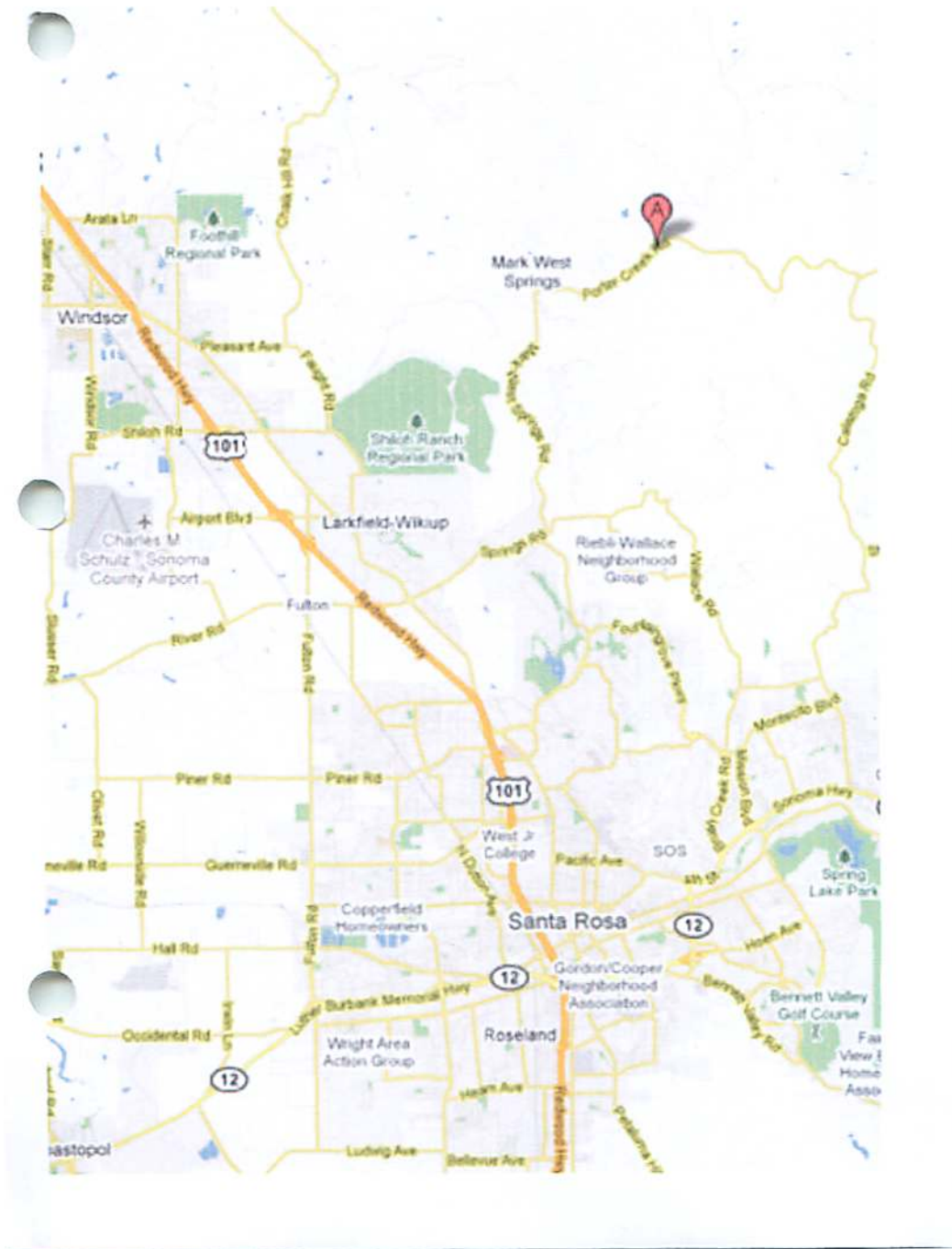
Taricha rivularis - these newts are abundant here in the stream and small pools near the waterfall. We saw dozens of individuals, and they were easy to catch and examine in hand.

T. granulosa - we found a small number (1-3) of these newts here.

Restroom stop - Before leaving Galbreath, we had a look around this area again, and I found uroctonus mordax - (probable)

I want to do a bit more research on the ~~idea~~ ID, but it seems this is likely the scorpion spp. I found under a rock. Dark-colored, ~3cm

SAFARI WEST



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Safari West

15 April, 2011 73°F / 25°C
Overcast, arrived at 11:30

Vertebrate Biology class field trip. Safari West is located at 3115 Porter Creek Road in Santa Rosa, about 7 miles ~~from~~ east of Hwy 101. The class took a driving tour of the large animal enclosures, as well as a visit to the walk-in aviary. This journal entry records ONLY the NATIVE (and non-captive) wildlife I saw during my visit to the park. Most were seen on the jeep tour.

House sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)
Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*)
Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)
Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*)
American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)
Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)
Starling (*Sternus vulgaris*)

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Safari West 10

Scalp SPP.

California ground squirrel
(*Spermophilus beecheyi*)

Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*)

Western Pond Turtle (*Emys marmorata*)

Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*)

Golden-crowned Sparrow
(*Zonotrichia atricapilla*)

White-breasted Nuthatch
(*Sitta carolinensis*)

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*)

White Swan (*Cygnus olor*)

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*)

Pacific-slope Flycatcher
(*Empidonax difficilis*)

Violet-green Swallow
(*Tachycineta thalassina*)

American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*)

Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*)

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*)

Western Bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*)

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*)

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius
phoeniceus*)

POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY



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Point Reyes Bird Observatory
6 May, 2011

0730 ~59°F clear, light breeze

Vertebrate Biology field trip to the Palomarin field station, to see the techniques they use for mist-netting and banding. We walked the net route twice, but did not see any birds caught in the net. We were able to view at close range three birds that had been netted, so we got to see the banding & data collection process. The PRBO staff were very helpful, and were happy to help me ID some of the bird calls we heard while walking the site.

Captured Birds:

Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*) F
Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*)
Pacific (formerly "winter") Wren
(*Troglodytes pacificus*)

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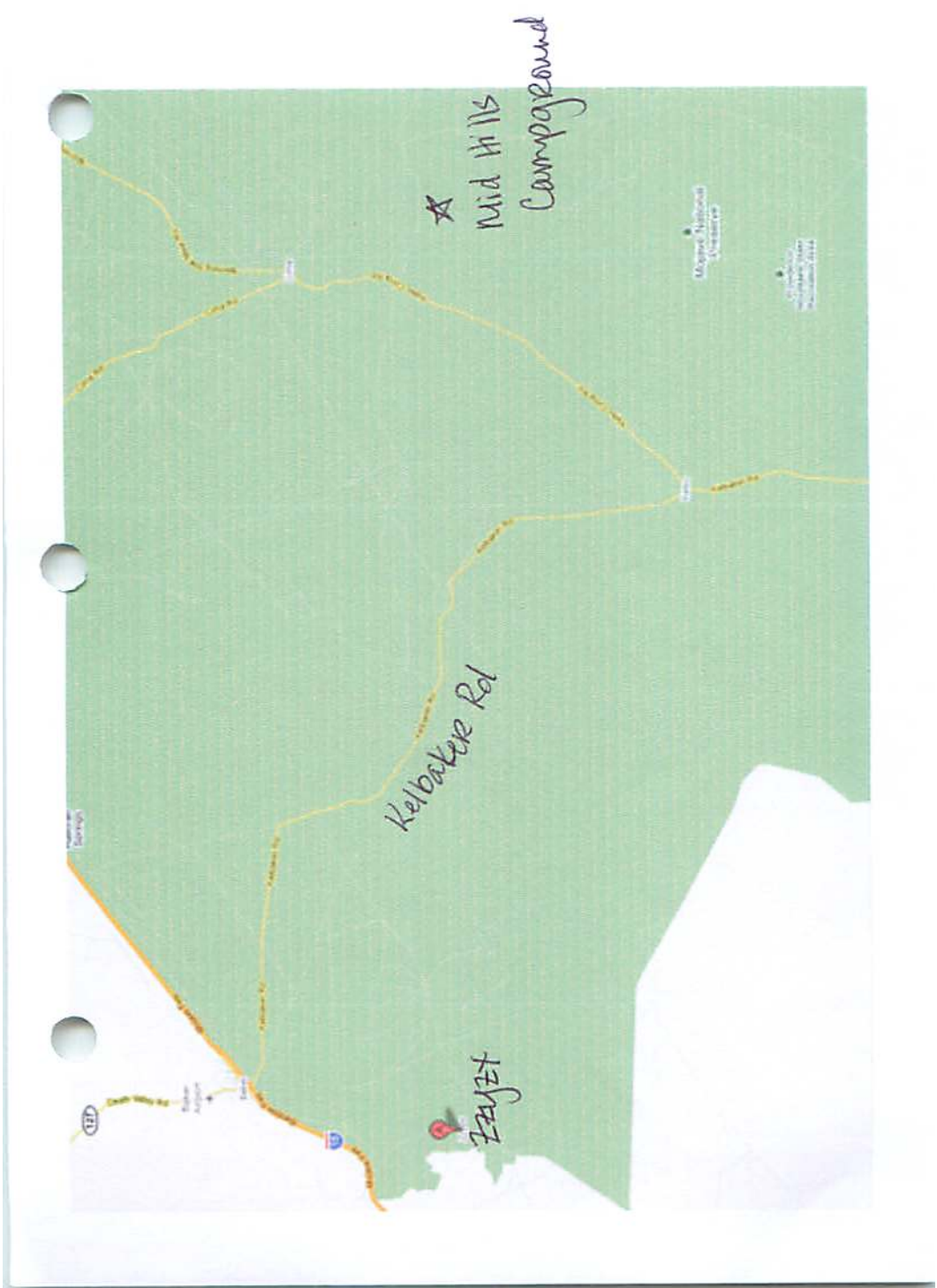
PRBD

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Birds seen & heard on walks:

- ↓ Song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*)
- Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*)
- Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon*
pyrrhonota)
- Steller's Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*)
- ↓ Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*)
- ↓ Wrentit (*Chamaea fasciata*)
- Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas*
fasciata)
- ↓ Orange-crowned warbler
(*Vermivora celata*)
- ↓ Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*)
- ↓ Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*)
- Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)
- Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*)

ZZYEX & LOCAL AREA



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Zzyzx
12 May 2011

18:35 88° / 32°

Clear, very warm

Zzyzx Desert Study Center located off the Zzyzx exit from I 15 (see map). On our first day at the Zzyzx with our Vertebrate Biology field trip, I took a short walk near the big pond, and out past the swimming pool, and ~~past~~ ~~past~~ ~~the~~ along the salt flat.

American Coot (*Fulica americana*)
with four chicks

Desert Cottontail (*Sylvilagus auduboni*)

Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*)

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)

Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*)

~~the~~ - possible warbler, grey-dark on back, light underneath. → Lucy's warbler, confirmed

Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*)

Grey fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*)

Desert Wood Rat (*Neotoma lepida*)

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Night Drive - Kelbaker Road
12 May, 2011

21:00 - 00:30 (13 May)

We drove after dark along Kelbaker Road, between ~~the~~ Baker & Kelso Depot, looking primarily gekkos & nocturnal snakes. The technique is to drive relatively slowly (20-30 mph), while spotters watched for wildlife, & especially animals crossing the road. All distances listed are from the "Welcome to the Mohave Preserve" sign at the Baker end of the road.

Desert Cottontail (Sylvilagus auduboni)
several seen

Black-tail Hare (Lepus californicus)
Banded Gekko (Coleonyx variegatus)
- spots, no banding. At 6.9 mi.

Leaf-nose Snake (Phyllorhynchus decurtatus)
At 2.9 mi

Desert Horned Lizard (Phrynosoma platyrhinos) At 3.0 mi & at 1.3 mi

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Kelbaker Rd ¹⁵

Kangaroo Rat (Dipodomys sp.)
WD Solpugida sp.
WD Mantid (Mantodea sp.)

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Zzyzx & Baker, CA
13 May, 2011

0730

87°F

Saw a variety of species on the Zzyzx property, while driving, and in the town of Baker.

At Zzyzx:

Am. coot^s, chicks (*F. americana*)

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*)

Lucy's warbler (*Dreothlypis luciae*)

Mourning dove (*Z. macroura*)

White-throated Swift (*Aeronautes saxatalis*)

While driving in Baker

* Chukar (*Meleagris gallopavo*)

Common Raven (*Corvus corax*)

European Starling (*Sternus vulgaris*)

Rock Dove (*Columba livia*)

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)

great~~er~~-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*)

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) mexicanus

~~great~~er~~ Roadrunner (*Geococcyx*)~~
~~great~~er~~ Roadrunner (*Geococcyx*)~~

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Kelbaker Road $\frac{1}{2}$ Kelso Dunes
13 May, 2011

0900

Species seen while driving on
Kelbaker Road, from Baker to
Kelso: Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*)
Greater Roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*)
Western Swallowtail (*Papilio rutulus*)
Desert Tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*)

At Kelso Dunes:
Zebra-tailed Lizard (*Callisaurus
draconoides*)
Leopard Lizard (*Gambusia wislizenii*)
Western Whiptail (*Cnemidophorus tigris*)
Fringe-footed Lizard (*Uma scoparia*)

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Midhills Campground
13 May, 2014

13:30 much cooler than desert
at lower elevation.

Accessed this area via Black
Canyon Road. This campground is
located in a montane forest habitat,
with juniper trees, as well as other
trees and vegetation. Parts of the area
experienced a fire in the past few
years, and the burned areas have
not yet recovered.

Common Raven (Corvus corax)
Sceloporus occidentalis - large,
arboreal morph.

Side blotched lizard (Uta stansburiana)
Empidonax spp.

Western Tanager (Piranga ludoviciana)
* Brown-crested Flycatcher (Myiarchus)
Western Whiptail (C. tigris) (tyrannulus)

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Kelbaker Road $\frac{1}{2}$ Zzyzyx
13 May, 2011

Late afternoon

Driving along Kelbaker Road:

Loggerhead Shrike (Lanius ludovicianus)

On Zzyzyx property:

Tui Chub (Gila bicolor mohavensis)
Lesser Nighthawk (Chordeiles
acutipennis)

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Kelbaker - Night Drive

13 May, 2011

Another night drive on Kelbaker Road, although we did not go as far as we went on the previous night.

Banded gekko (C. variegatus) -

"classic" banded coloration 1.2 mi

Glossy snake (Arizona elegans) 3.9 mi

Shovel-nosed snake (Chionactis occipitalis) 3.9 mi

Blacktail hare (Lepus californicus)

Common Poorwill (Phalaenoptilus nuttalli)

Sideminder (Crotalus cerastes) 11.3 mi

Dead-on-Road Shovelnose Snake 4.1 mi

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

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Zuzyx
14 May, 2011

0745 82°, Sunny

Took a short walk on the property
before the rest of the day's activities.

Desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus auduboni*)
Green heron (*Butorides virescens*)
Tui Chub (*Gila bicolor mohavensis*)
Belted Kingfisher (*Megascyle alcyon*)
Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*)
Turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*)
Spotted sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*)
American coot (*Fulica americana*)
Great-tailed grackle (*Quiscalus
mexicanus*)

0834:

Patch-nosed snake (*Salvadora hexalepis*)
adult male, orange belly

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Kelbaker Road

14 May, 2011

0945, sunny, warm

Stopped at various spots to release
reptiles collected on night drive, as
well as stopping for desert tortoises
spotted while driving.

Desert tortoise (Gopherus agassizi)
~5", tan/pink shell 11.3 mi

Desert tortoise ~15-year-old
~15" 14.5 mi from entrance sign.

Sideminder (Crotalus cerastes) 1.3 mi
Mohave Ground Squirrel (Spermophilus
6-7" mohavensis)

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Microtower Road

14 May, 2011

Drove up this primitive road through rocky hills, up to a site with microwave towers. Accessed via Kelbaker Road. Stopped whenever something was spotted from the lead van.

Side-blotched lizard (~~Uta stansburiana~~)
(Uta stansburiana)

Chuckwalla (Sauromalus obesus)

Speckled Rattlesnake (Crotalus mitchelli)

Collared Lizard (Crotaphytus insularis)

Desert Spiny Lizard (Sceloporus magister)

Phainopepla (P. nitens)

Mojave Ground Squirrel (S. mohavensis)

Gopher spp.

We did walk down and back up through the wash in search of lizards, but didn't locate anyone.

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~~23~~
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Kelbaker Rd - Night Drive

14 May, 2011

2030 - 2215

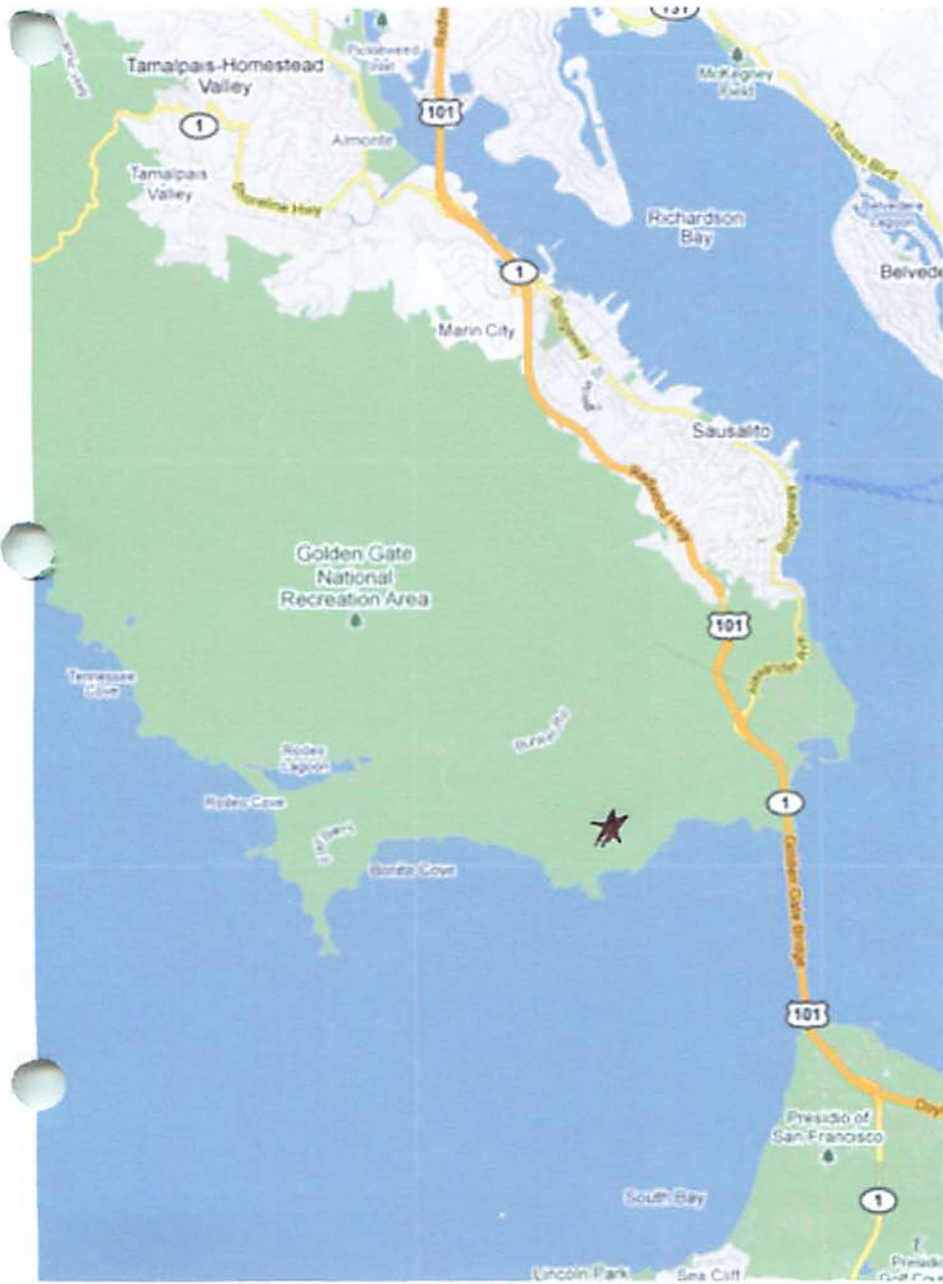
Our final night drive of the trip -
We drove the first ~6 mi of the Road
from Baker (and back), twice.

Horned lizard (*Phrynosoma platyrhinos*)
Glossy snake (*A. elegans*)
Banded gecko (3 individuals, all
with different coloration patterns)

DoR Shovel-nosed snake (*Chionactis*
occipitalis)

Collected for SSU museum collection

GOLDEN GATE RAPTOR OBSERVATORY
HAWK HILL



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Hawk Hill

20 May, 2011

1405 ~70°, sunny, clear, windy

As part of our field trip to the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory at the Marin Headlands, we went to the top of Hawk Hill. It is not a migration time, so we didn't see a large number of birds, but there were still a few feathered friends in the area.

Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*)

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*)

Turkey Vulture (*C. aura*)

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)
(spotted diving into the bay)

♫ Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*)

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

White-throated Swift (*Aeronautes saxatalis*)

Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*)