We had an excellent beginning to our fourth season of monthly birding field trips with 15 participants finding 88 species on our January 21 field trip around Bolinas. We can thank early Marin Audubon Society members for successfully saving Bolinas Lagoon from state plans to build a freeway through the area and local developer plans to dredge a harbor and build a marina on the lagoon. Today the lagoon is one of California’s Important Birding Areas (IBA) and has been designated as a “Wetland of International Significance.”

Fitting nicely between rain storms, high tides, and raging surf, our group observed 8 gull species including Thayer’s and Herring at the Pine Gulch Creek delta, 13 kinds of ducks with a bright-headed Eurasian Wigeon on the west side of Bolinas Lagoon, and a Burrowing Owl in the pasture south of Commonweal. A Bald Eagle, a flying Virginia Rail, and a Swamp Sparrow offered fine views for the few willing to have wet and muddy shoes and a full day.

Report by Jim White