Field Trip Report
Carson Ridge/Pine Mountain/Lake Lagunitas
July 19, 2014
Trip Leader: Jim White

A cooling cover of clouds provided a nice break from the summer heat for the July 19 Birding in Marin Field Trip to Carson Ridge, which was followed by an afternoon hike around Lake Lagunitas.

Encouraged onward and upward by Leader Jim White, participants hiked most of the way along Carson Ridge to Pine Mountain and were rewarded for their efforts with views of several species uncommon here in Marin. These chaparral birds included four Rufous-Crowned Sparrows which teed up cooperatively for our ease in viewing, two California Thrashers (regrettably not seen by all members of the group), four Purple Martins, and numerous Wrentits.

While birds provided the main focus for our trip, many of the group enjoyed looking closely at several of the serpentine endemic plants found adjacent to the trail, the Leather Oak and Sargent Cypress. We also admired the Jepson's Ceanothus and Chaparral Pea, both endemic to California.

After a satisfying morning on the mountain, some of the group continued on to Lake Lagunitas where we enjoyed lunch together and hiked around the lake encountering a variety of forest and lakeshore birds. Numerically speaking, twenty-one birders hiked 5 1/2 miles, and saw a total of 47 species. Non-numerically speaking, a fun time seemed to have been had by all!

By Jane Medley