Twenty-five participants spent a clear and calm Super Bowl Sunday travelling up the Sacramento/ San Joaquin Delta on board the Delphinus. Captain Ronn Patterson provided interesting information on the history of the area and David was our guide to the biology and natural history of the Delta’s channels, islands, islets and hidden corners. Tens of thousands of shorebirds and hundreds of thousands of waterfowl occur in the Delta in winter and during migration. From the deck of the boat we could look over the levees to see large numbers of Greater Sandhill Crane, Tundra Swan, Snow, Canada and White-fronted Geese feeding and resting. More flew over in great, noisy flocks. Other highlights included many raptors, terns, American Bittern and passerines. We also enjoyed seeing river otters and a pair of beavers sunning themselves on their lodge.

By Vicky Van Meter, Photos by Dave Herrema