Thirty birders joined the October "First Thursday" Marin Audubon walk at Las Gallinas, continuing in the tradition of Bruce Bajema. Susan Kelly, Jim White and others helped the group get onto an excellent variety of birds, including a Sora that stayed in the open for all to see in the scope. As we walked the ponds we saw at least five Yellow Warblers and maybe 100 Yellow-rumped Warblers, along with many hundreds of the dabbling ducks. The Green-winged Teals are coming in, joining scores of American Wigeons, Gadwalls and Northern Pintails, plus a few Cinnamon Teals. There were two Mute Swans and the continuing summer plumage Eurasian Wigeon drake. Passerines included White-Crowned, Golden-crowned, Lincoln (one) and Savannah Sparrows, and a probable Clay-colored Sparrow on the north side brambles spotted by Jim White. Three grebe species present (Horned, Eared, Pied-billed), perhaps ten Common Gallinules, and a male Great-tailed Grackle. Not a gull was seen during the entire morning. Earlier sightings at the ponds, from Michael Stevenson, included two Palm Warblers along the path near the solar array, and several Orange-crowned Warblers. Raptors were not plentiful, but we did see American Kestrel, White-tailed Kite, Northern Harriers and both Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks. Vaux's Swifts and several swallow species added to the non-stop action. A few of us got to see a pair of Wood Ducks in front of the first island around 12:30, but they quickly swam to the back side of the island for cover. American White Pelicans were abundant and entertaining.

By Len Blumin