On a blustery day Keith Hansen led 18 intrepid birders to Point Reyes' "Outer Point," where they searched the sea, shores, ponds, hills and trees for all things avian. We stayed "left of the fault," limiting our birding to Point Reyes National Seashore. Spots visited included the Fish Docks (Long-tailed Duck and White-winged Scoter!), Mendoza Ranch (Great Horned Owl), Drakes Beach and stops along the way. On leaving Drakes Beach we started to watch a flock of 30 Black-bellied Plovers but were distracted by a Ferruginous Hawk. Other raptors of note were Merlin, American Kestrel, and Peregrine Falcons.

Returning from the Outer Point we headed to Heart's Desire Beach, a section of Tomales Bay State Park. Walking the entrance road we spotted a good selection of woodpeckers and passerines, and another Merlin, which obliged the group by perching! Highlights of the day not mentioned above included Red-throated Loon, all six species of grebes (Red-necked is always the hardest), eye-popping views of the Golden-crowned Kinglet (Fish Docks), great looks at Tricolored Blackbirds (always near the cows), plus Brown Creeper, Downey, Hairy, and Acorn Woodpeckers, Northern Flicker and seven sparrow species, including a White-throated Sparrow. Wood-warblers included the Hermit, Orange-Crowned, Townsend's and Yellow-rumped Warblers. We ended the day behind Inverness Market, where about 11 Black-crowned Night-Herons blasted off to salute our arrival. Total for the 8 AM to 5 PM outing was 102 species. Rich Cimino helped immeasurably with the spotting and scorekeeping, and a good day was had by all. Keith is not only a superb leader, but a masterful jokester to boot.

By Len Blumin