

Field Trip Report: West Coast Water Birds

December 10, 2011

Trip Leader: with Jim White

Jim shared his knowledge and experience and expertly led twenty of us at Stinson Beach and around Bolinas Lagoon. All levels of birding expertise were represented, several spotting scopes



Whimbrel

white but definitely light colored overall. Another highlight was a **Peregrine Falcon** that flew closely overhead and perched 200 feet away for a nice view.

By Dave Herrema

Photo by Len Blumin

were available, and everyone enjoyed the beautiful day. Of the sixty plus species seen on the day, two thirds were waterbirds: ducks, loons and grebes, herons and egrets, shorebirds, and gulls. It was a nice cross section of birds found in this aquatic habitat.

An unusual sighting was a leucistic hen duck (probably **Northern Pintail**). Leucism is caused by a developmental or genetic abnormality that reduces the amount of pigment deposited in some or all of the feathers. This duck was not