

Field Trip Report: Abbott's Lagoon
Saturday, October 9, 2010
Trip Leader: Daniel Edelstein

The weather couldn't have been better for our day at Abbott's Lagoon! Fifteen of us joined Daniel Edelstein, a professional wildlife biologist and great field trip leader, for a perfect West Marin day of birding. Raptors for the day were **Northern Harrier** and **Red-tailed Hawk**, **White-tailed Kite**, close up looks at perched **American Kestrel** and **Cooper's Hawk**, an **Osprey** overhead, and the ubiquitous **Turkey Vulture**. Seven



Greater White-fronted Geese flew over in a line and joined numerous **Canada Geese** in the lagoon, along with **Double-crested Cormorant**, **Eared Grebe**, **Ring-billed Heermann's**, **California and Western Gulls**. Dabblers included **Mallard**, **Gadwall**, **Northern Shoveler**, **American Widgeon**, and **Northern Pintail**. **Great Blue Heron**, **Great Egret**, and **Snowy Egret** were in the pond. The many **White Pelicans** and a **Brown Pelican** made a double header. After

lunch, we saw **Pacific** and **Common Loons** off the beach, **Brandt's Cormorant**, **Surf Scoter** and **Pigeon Guillemot**. Daniel said that his "birds of the day" were the **White-fronted Geese**. My "birds of the day" were five river otters working their way along the freshwater pond above the lagoon.

By Dave Herrema
Photo by Richark Pavek