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