

The date: 7/22/2026

The week number: 30

The walk number: 1881

The weather: 87 F; sunny

The walkers: Alan Cummings, Viveca Sapin-Areeda, Chip O'Connor, Bella Barrera, Kevin Kan, Wan-Ying Kan, John Beckett, Kevin Zhen, Katie Chiu, Maria Kretzmann, Brian Canfield

The birds (22)

No.	First Name	Last Name	Prob
4	Western	Bluebird	0.50
3	Red-whiskered	Bulbul	0.88
5		Bushtit	0.75
1	American	Crow	1
4	Mourning	Dove	1
4	House	Finch	0.88
4	Lesser	Goldfinch	0.88
3	Anna's	Hummingbird	0.88
1	Selasphorus	Hummingbird	0.75
4	Dark-eyed	Junco	0.88
1	Northern	Mockingbird	0.75
1	Hooded	Oriole	0
1	Black	Phoebe	0.62
2	Band-tailed	Pigeon	0.75
2	Common	Raven	0.62
1	California	Scrub-Jay	0
1	House	Sparrow	1
1	Oak	Titmouse	0
2	California	Towhee	0.75
8	Acorn	Woodpecker	1
1	Nuttall's	Woodpecker	0.38
1	Bewick's	Wren	0.62

Walk lasted between 12:00 and 13:50

So, another week, another record. That is four weeks in a row. Every walk in July has set the record for the week. We observed 23 species. The previous record was 21. The prediction was 16.7. Hmm... the word prediction makes me think of the Prediction Market. Maybe people should start betting on how many species we will see on the Caltech bird walks. Can I make any money on that? Probably not, unless I place a bet and then manipulate the numbers. Hmm... We had some one-time-before walkers along. These were Kevin Zhen, Katie Chiu, both from Caltech Facilities, and Maria Kretzmann and Brian Canfield, both of whom did their walk on 6/19/2023. They had moved away for a few years but are now back local and I expect we will see more of them. The walk itself was another hot one. I kept imagining a headline from the next day's paper which said a group of Caltech bird walkers melted in place and left a big oil slick on Holliston Ave in Pasadena. But, hot as it was, it was cooler than last week's walk. What was unusual about the walk? Well, the California Scrub-Jay for one. It was seen at great distance and

first identified by Maria. Maria also first identified the Nuttall's Woodpecker. So, good for her. Other good birds, also zero probability birds like the Scrub-Jay, were the Oak Titmouse and the Hooded Oriole. When we got to the ending spot, the turtle ponds, we were a couple of birds short. I managed to call up a Bewick's Wren, which tied the record. Then, as we were milling about, reminiscing, Kevin (Kan) pointed out a Black Phoebe that gave us the record. That's right, we had two Kevins on the walk. I assume that is a record itself – right Wan-Ying? Have we ever had two people with the same name, any name, on the walk? 1881 bird walks can generate a lot of questions!

Alan,
7/23/2026