

The date: 7/29/2026
 The week number: 31
 The walk number: 1882
 The weather: 88 F; sunny
 The walkers: Alan Cummings, Chip O'Connor, Bella Barrera,
 Kevin Kan, Wan-Ying Kan, John Beckett, Katie Clark,
 Maria Kretzmann, Ellen Yu, Travis Cummings

The birds (19)

No.	First Name	Last Name	Prob
1	Western	Bluebird	0.25
3	Red-whiskered	Bulbul	0.88
30		Bushtit	0.75
1	American	Crow	0.75
4	Mourning	Dove	1
1	House	Finch	0.75
2	Lesser	Goldfinch	1
3	Selasphorus	Hummingbird	0.75
4	Dark-eyed	Junco	1
1	Cassin's	Kingbird	0
1	Northern	Mockingbird	0.62
4	Hooded	Oriole	0
1	Black	Phoebe	0.88
1	Band-tailed	Pigeon	0.38
1	Common	Raven	0.75
1	California	Scrub-Jay	0.25
2	California	Towhee	0.38
5	Acorn	Woodpecker	1
3	Bewick's	Wren	0.12

Walk lasted between 12:00 and 13:53

We had a good walk, observing 19 species when the prediction was 15.6. We were short of the record for the week, for a change, which was 21. Last week, we had two Kevins on the walk, and I asked Wan-Ying if it had ever happened before that two people with the same first name had walked a walk together. She answered this week. See below. She also asked herself which were the hottest and coldest walks. I was surprised to see we walked one at 108 F! And further surprised that 6 people went on that one. We had a couple of interesting observations. At the corner of Del Mar and Michigan (?), we debated about two birds and finally entered them as a Hooded Oriole and a Kingbird, sp. The lighting and distance made the two calls a little iffy. But, then, a short time later on Holliston, we clearly saw a Kingbird and were able to call it a Cassin's when it flew and there were no white edges on the tail feathers. Then at the Turtle pond, we saw a family of Hooded Orioles, male included! So, that sealed the deal on the earlier iffy call. And, also at the Turtle pond we saw a family of three Bewick's Wrens. So, it was an interesting walk. What was missing was an Anna's Hummingbird and a House Sparrow. With those two, we would have tied the record. But, the Anna's was not guaranteed, as its probability was only 62%. The House Sparrow was more likely at 88%, but the Polytechnic school crew have made a

concerted effort to keep them out of the attic of the building where we usually record them. Anyway, no real complaints; good walk.

Alan,
7/30/2026

A TALE OF TWO KEVINS

07/23/26 Alan asked: "Have we ever had two people with the same name, any name, on the walk?"

Until 07/22/2026 (Week 30, Walk 1881) when two walkers by the name of Kevin appeared, the answer is no. Although there have been 6 Dan/Daniel, 5 Jon/John/Jonathan, as well as 5 Tom/Thom/Thomas and 4 Mike/Michael who have ever walked the walk, they've never overlapped. Incidentally, there has never been another Alan, though somebody with the surname Allen walked once in 2004.

Speaking of surnames, there were 8 Potters on the same birdwalk back on 03/27/2001 – a record! Second place goes to the 5 Kans who walked on 12/23/2025.

ANOTHER FUN FACT: American Robins are quite common on the birdwalk, but they have never been observed on the 18 occasions that Walker #219 has shown up. Who is Walker #219? Her name—as you might have guessed—is Robin.



Uh-oh, Walker #219
is approaching...
QUICK, FLY AWAY!!

SOME LIKE IT HOT

The recent high temperatures had me curious about the hottest walk on record. Alan started recording temperature and weather conditions back in 1988.

I thought 94 F was hot, but there have in fact been seven walks of 100 F or more. Can you guess the record? [see below for the answer]

There have also been seven walks of 50 F or cooler. Again, try to guess the record. [see below for the answer]

IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING...

The hottest walk on record birdwise was 03/28/2011 (Week 13, Walk 1084) when 37 species were spotted. The weather? it was 62 F, partly cloudy.

HOTTEST WALK:

09/27/2010 (Week 39, Walk 1058): 108 F, partly cloudy
Six walkers braved the heat and spotted 12 species

COLDEST WALK: (tie)

01/13/1997 (Week 2): 45 F, cloudy; 21 species observed
03/21/2011 (Week 12): 45 F, cloudy; 31 species observed