As I drove in to the SJWS, I noticed that ground fog covered the UCI marsh across the street with only the bare branches of the tree tops sticking up through the mist. Fortunately, the SJWS was clear and the white pelicans & dark-colored cormorants clustered on the island at pond 2 stood out prominently against the blue of the water. Small flocks of Canada Geese and White-faced Ibises were flying overhead out of the marsh and clouds of Scaupy-breasted Munias were rising up above the vegetation at pond E, circling around, and then settling down again in a new spot. Two Red-shouldered Hawks were perched high in a tree making their presence known by a lot of vocalizations which could be heard all over the marsh for most of the morning. Pond C was the center of activity for both ducks and shorebirds. Usually this pond is rather full of water, but at the present time it has just the right amount of water to attract 5 sp. of ducks, 78 stilts & 18 avocets, 115 Western and 33 Least Sandpipers, 116 Long-billed Dowitchers, along with a number of other species including 50 Mourning Doves! Other count highlights included 2 raccoons up a tree at pond 4 and a coyote at pond E early in the count (that may have been the reason why there were no birds along the shore there), Lincoln Sparrows at pond C and along the creek, a Peregrine Falcon spiraling above pond E, 3 grebe chicks at pond 1 as well as a pair of Western Grebes on a late nest there, visible wing tags on 2 of the 27 American White Pelicans on the island at pond 2, and hearing my first White-crowned Sparrow song of the season!

It was a wonderful morning to be out birding!