



Albatross

PHOEBASTRIA NIGRIPES

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- Lisa Larson

Still Soaring High

At 43, the Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group Gets a New Set of Wings

- By Zeka Glucs, Ph.D.
SCPBRG Director



To say that the Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group (SCPBRG) has risen to the status of local legend would be an accurate statement. The group's origin reads like an Edward Abbey novel: In 1975 three gentlemen scientists get the wild idea to start a captive breeding and research facility to recover a critically endangered peregrine falcon on the California coast. Against all odds and despite the nay-sayers, they miraculously succeed.

These adventurous and forward thinking folks were Ken Norris, Jim Roush, and Brian Walton. The impact they left on the bird world and in our community is deeply felt. Thanks in large part to their efforts, and those of hundreds of students, recent graduates, and citizen volunteers, the peregrine falcon population in the Western United States is soaring with over 300 pairs in California alone. The educational outreach arm of SCPBRG, run for decades by past director Glenn Stewart, has reached thousands of local students and community members. The captive breeding and reintroduction techniques pioneered by SCPBRG have directly influenced countless other recovery programs for threatened and endangered species including the bald eagle, Channel Island fox, and California condor.

Peregrine digital painting
- Lisa Larson



Forty-three years after the group's founding, I am taking on the leadership of SCPBRG to continue the concurrent missions of raptor research, conservation, and public engagement into the future. SCPBRG is so many things at once: a hub of raptor research on the west coast, a curator of raptor conservation history, a field training institution, an environmental education program, and a source of inspiration. I am grateful for this opportunity to honor these accomplishments, continue our work to conserve birds of prey, and ensure that SCPBRG serves our community for years to come.

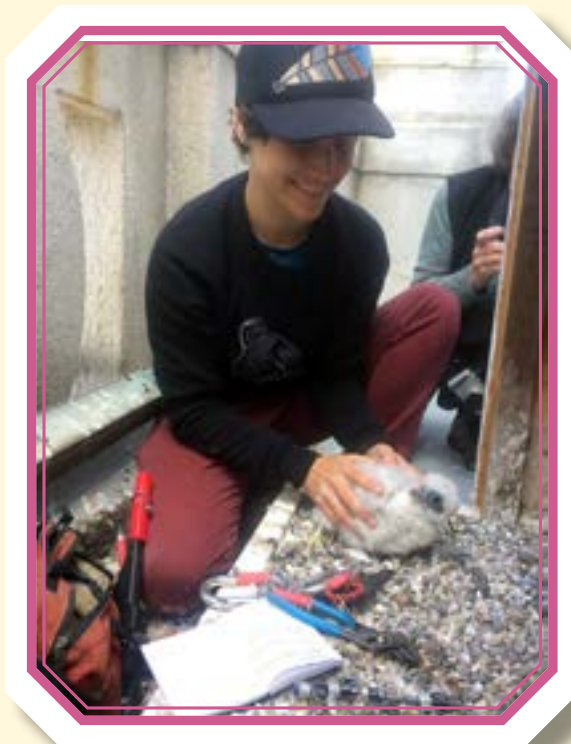
My journey into the world of raptor conservation began at UC Davis where I studied Environmental Biology and Management. I fell hard for ornithology during a field quarter abroad in Costa Rica where I recorded the song repertoires of black-faced solitaires. Upon my return I was able to take advantage of the many avian science courses offered at the UC, including two raptor biology classes taught by Golden Gate Raptor Observatory (GGRO) researchers. I went on to study birds across the state; trapping and banding migrating hawks in the Marin Headlands with GGRO, establishing transects in the Sierra backcountry for the Institute for Bird Populations, and even monitoring urban peregrine nest sites for SCPBRG. I ultimately joined the California Condor Recovery Program, first as a field intern for Ventana Wildlife Society and Pinnacles National Park then eventually as a doctoral student studying the impacts of lead poisoning on the central coast flock. I completed my Ph.D. at UC Santa Cruz in March 2018.

As the new director of SCPBRG I am excited to further our impact in the years to come. Over this past year we have expanded the education and training opportunities for young raptor enthusiasts in our area. Santa Cruz County is a region of impressive raptor abundance and diversity. I have found that by creating internship and volunteer research opportunities closer to home we have been able to serve more local college students from more diverse backgrounds than in previous years. With more students leading the research we receive the added

benefit of diversifying our research program. This spring we have 10 interns from UC Santa Cruz, Cabrillo, and CSU Monterey Bay observing great horned owls, white-tailed kites, and golden eagles. As these aspiring scientists explore their passion and hone their field skills, they will improve their chances of landing a field job after graduation and inject the raptor biology field with fresh perspectives.

Still our strength is deeply rooted in our past accomplishments. SCPBRG has been banding peregrine falcons since their reintroduction program began in 1977. Beyond the completion of the captive breeding program in the 1990's we have continued to band peregrine nestlings in eyries on cliff faces, high-rise roofs, and bridges around California. With the increase in peregrine population and peregrine falcon observers in the San Francisco and Monterey Bay Areas we have been able to focus our monitoring efforts here for the past decade. As a result we house one of the longest running databases on a breeding population of recovered peregrine falcons. Monitoring projects of

this duration and scale are rare and incredibly valuable for catching longer-term trends in population dynamics. In addition to the traditional silver USGS band we place a black visual identification (VID) band with bold silver alphanumeric codes readable through binoculars or scopes. This enables falcon observers to report on the movements and longevity of living birds more easily. Over the past 10 years we



*Above: Glenn Stewart accessing Summit Nest
Below: Zeka Glucs banding a female peregrine chick on the UC Berkeley Campanile in 2018 - Glenn Stewart*

have banded 218 wild peregrine chicks and received 88 band recoveries on 39 of these individuals, a respectable 18% recovery rate. One of the greatest pleasures of this work has been observing the wild young set up house in our study area and raise young of their own. One of the chicks we banded in San Jose in 2007 (nicknamed "Hiko") has been returning his East Bay Area territory to breed for 11 years now. With continued banding and re-sighting efforts we will be able to determine fluctuations in population status, nest site choice and fidelity, breeding success, and identify potential novel threats to this recovered peregrine falcon population. Of course, none of this work would be possible without the dedicated work of dozens of birders and volunteers scouring the Bay Area for banded falcons.

There are several ways to get involved with SCPBRG and follow our program. Want to see what we are up to right now? Check out our new website for blog posts along with our live nest cams where peregrine falcons are currently raising their chicks. We have also entered the social media landscapes of Facebook and Twitter @SCPBRG, where we share pertinent local raptor news and follow along with the raptor breeding season in real time. To share our raptor passion with even more folks around the world, the interns and I are developing an educational podcast on birds of prey entitled "Hawk Calls." Look



SCPBRG logo art

for it in your podcast feed later this spring! Know a child with an interest in raptors? We continue to share the story of peregrine falcon recovery with local K-12 schools and have been aligning our lesson plans with Next Generation Science Standards. For more information on these programs please contact zekaglucs@ucsc.edu. And if you are interested in supporting our mission, SCPBRG relies on private donations which can be made by check or online at our website: pbrg.pbsci.ucsc.edu.

♥ Red-taileds!



*Red-tailed Hawks
Left - Lee Jaffe
Right - Beth Hamel*

Fundraising to Publish the Breeding Bird Atlas

A message from the Atlas Committee

In the past two years the Santa Cruz Bird Club has received many generous donations from atlasers and supporters of the Santa Cruz County Breeding Bird Atlas II. These donations have funded all five years of fieldwork but expenses related to publishing the atlas are on the horizon. An unpublished atlas has little utility which is why the atlas committee is dedicated to ensuring its timely publication. Of the many dozens of breeding bird atlases completed in North America 30 years ago, only one California county and a few states and provinces have published an updated atlas. With a complete dataset on hand from the first breeding bird atlas (1987-1993) and now nearly half way through collecting data for the second atlas, we are in a good position to be one of the few organizations to publish an updated atlas. Over the past year, the atlas committee has developed a plan for raising the funds necessary to see this through.

The remaining atlas expenses fall into three categories: writing, publication preparation, and publishing. The bulk of the expenses are for the writing and research that goes into species accounts, which in addition to maps are the primary components of a breeding bird atlas. In the publication, each of the 160 breeding species in Santa Cruz County will have an account discussing the historical and current breeding population and projections for its future. The species accounts are a synthesis of atlas data (from the first and current atlas) and other sources such as published

studies, nest and egg collections, and eBird data. A tremendous amount of research is involved with this aspect of producing a breeding bird atlas and as such, we are anticipating this will be a major expense and one necessary to ensure timely publication.

Another major expense will be preparing the content of the breeding bird atlas for publication. The atlas committee envisions a design that is aesthetically pleasing, comprehensive in scope, and accessible to a wide range of readers. To that end, professional services such as copy editing, graphic design, and illustration are needed to produce a high quality product. Additional costs include website fees and purchasing an ISBN number.

There will be expenses associated with the publication and distribution of the breeding bird atlas. There have already been lively debates within the atlas committee about what medium—electronic or print—in which the atlas will appear.

A combination of electronic media and print is also being considered. We know there will be expenses associated with whatever course is taken.

A portion of these expenses will be offset by sales of the publication; however, the income generated from sales will fall short of the expenses that will total \$50,000. The atlas already has major financial support coming from several sources. Last winter the Santa Cruz Bird Club made a commitment to contribute \$12,000 from their



Pied-billed Grebe with her chicks - Barry McLaughlin



Brewer's Blackbird Nest - Lisa Larson

general fund over the next four years toward publishing the breeding bird atlas. The Santa Cruz Bird Club also inherited funds raised in the 1990s for the first breeding bird atlas that were not spent. Those funds, which total \$10,000, are earmarked for the atlas. Additionally, a generous anonymous donor has pledged to match dollar-for-dollar up to \$20,000 in donations during four years of fieldwork; over \$10,000 of donations have already been matched and two years remain on the pledge. As it stands, these committed and conditional funds will cover the majority of the publication expenses. However, over the next four years we will need to raise \$18,000 to ensure timely publication of the breeding bird atlas.

The atlas committee has developed a fundraising plan with several elements. We plan to continue the annual art auction in October which has been a great success in both fundraising and bringing club members together. There are several small grants we will be applying for to support ongoing fieldwork as well as publication costs. And lastly, in 2020 we will begin a campaign to sponsor the research and writing of the 160 species accounts that will appear in the publication. This campaign will be similar to those of other atlases in that each species will be sponsored by an individual, organization, or other entity. The name of the sponsor will be prominently recognized in the species account that they sponsored. Now is the time to start thinking about which species you want to sponsor!

The Santa Cruz Bird Club has partnered with the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of birds and their habitats through science and outreach, to facilitate donating. Tax-deductible donations to the atlas can be made through SFBBO on their website or by mail. Please make checks payable to SFBBO with a memo titled "Breeding Bird Atlas" and send to: San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, 524 Valley Way, Milpitas, CA 95035.

We appreciate all your support from the past two years and look forward to the time when there will be an atlas comparing present bird populations in Santa Cruz County to those documented 30 years ago, as well as predicting what changes lay ahead.

Sincerely,
The Atlas Committee

BBA RECENT DONORS

Thank you!
Jeffrey Roisman
Deborah Goodell
Glen Tepke
Brian Weed
Susan Giddings
Celia & Peter Scott
Sue Myers



Above: Black-headed Grosbeak Fledgling - Jeff Bleam

Right: Fledgling Great-horned Owl - Jeff Roisman



Renewal Time



Spring is the time when the birds renew pair bonds and start nesting – Is now the time to renew your Bird Club membership? **the membership year runs from June to May** {Many thanks to our Life Members and those who renewed for multiple years or have already sent in for this year!}

A Bird Club membership is still a great value – dues have been at the same low level since **2007!** You can mail us a check... payable to 'Santa Cruz Bird Club', and mail to **PO Box 1304, Santa Cruz, CA 95061**

OR: you can pay online, using **PayPal**... Just go to the website and follow the links: **www.santacruzbirdclub.org**.

Why not take a moment now, so you won't miss the next great issue of *ALBATROSS*.

As you probably know, the Santa Cruz Bird Club is the only organization focused completely on

the enjoyment, study and conservation of wild birds and their habitats in Santa Cruz County.

Your membership dues help to:

- ⇒ Support the **Breeding Bird Atlas for SC County**—a multi-year project to document our breeding birds;
- ⇒ Keep members informed about local and regional bird related issues and activities through our website, Facebook page and direct emails to members;
- ⇒ Publish the bi-monthly Albatross newsletter online;
- ⇒ Cover rental expense for monthly member meetings at the Museum of Natural History;
- ⇒ Provide Guest Speakers with a modest honorarium;
- ⇒ Support the annual Christmas Bird Count and Monterey Bay Birding Festival.

Some of the interesting projects the club is involved with now, in addition to the Atlas, field trips and monthly meetings with topics of birding interest:

Supporting the **Bird School Project**, which is giving local school children hands-on opportunities to learn about and enjoy our birds;

Quail Hollow Nest Box Project, over ten years of nesting successes—bringing back breeding Western Bluebirds and strengthening populations of other cavity-nesters;

Monitoring local government **Master Plan revisions** and major developments to assure birds and their habitat needs are addressed.



*Above: Common Merganser
- Jeff Roiman*

*Right: About to fledge, Western Bluebird
- John Ellis*

Events Calendar

May-Aug 2019

Please see SCBC website Calendar for event details!

Changes to event times/ place are sometimes necessary after publication. We suggest checking our Facebook page or our website Calendar for the latest information. Time permitting, we also send out a member-wide email notification. If you haven't been receiving these, please check your spam filter & let us know at: scbirdclub@gmail.com.

DATE	LOCATION	LEADER
Sunday, May 5	Loma Prieta	Alex Rinkert
Tuesday, May 7	Arana Gulch	Lisa Fay Larson
Saturday, May 11	Natural Bridges (Migratory Bird Day)	Phil Brown
Tuesday, May 14	Anna Jean Cummings Park	Lisa Fay Larson
Friday, May 17	Upper Struve Slough	Bob Ramer
Sunday, May 19	Russian Ridge & Monte Bello Open Space Preserves	Eric Feuss
Friday, May 24	Watsonville Care Park Nests	Nick Levendosky
Sunday, May 26	Henry Cowell – Zayante Creek	Phil Brown
Sunday, June 2	Quail Hollow Ranch County Park	Eric Feuss
Sat-Sun, June 15-16	Yuba Pass (<i>details on page 14</i>)	Clay Kempf
Saturday, June 22	Rancho del Oso	Nick Levendosky
Saturday, July 13	Wilder Ranch SP	Jonah Svensson
Saturday, July 20	Neary Lagoon	Jonah Svensson
Wednesday, August 7	Sooty Shearwater Chase	Alex Rinkert

*Santa Cruz Bird Club programs and field trips are open to the public—non-members are welcome. People needing rides to field trip sites are advised to contact Nicholas Levendosky: nlevendosky@gmail.com. Carpooling is encouraged. Dress in layers and bring liquids. Lunches are optional on half-day trips. **Heavy rain cancels.***

Field trips can pose hazards. Reluctantly, we have decided we must publish and implement this policy:

The Santa Cruz Bird Club or its field trip leaders cannot be responsible for damage, injury, or loss incurred by the acts or omissions of any member or visitor during Club field trips or during commutes to or from them.

Field trip participants must release the Club from any liability for such damage, injury, or loss.

Ordinarily, field trip participants sign a waiver releasing the Club from such liability, but in the absence of such a signed waiver, participation on a Club field trip in itself implies consent to and agreement with this waiver.



Warbling Vireo - Lee Jaffe



On Mother's Day weekend,
Celebrate future Mothers of a different feather...
Learn about the Amazing Journeys of Migratory Birds at the

World Migratory Bird Day Festival at Natural Bridges

On Saturday, May 11, California State Parks and Santa Cruz Bird Club invites you to fly, walk, bike or drive to the first International Migratory Bird Day at Natural Bridges State Beach. This event is FREE and fun for the whole family!

Early bird walks start at 8am, with everything else from 10am – 3pm. Call in advance to ensure a space at the mini-workshop, the 8 or 9am bird walks, or the bird “listens”.

Come learn about the hows & whys of migration, and how you can help, with:

- A variety of guided bird walk for different levels
- Family bird walks led by The Bird School Project
- Bird “listens” (bird by ear), a safari to identify birds by their calls and songs
- Educational booths
- Information on how to build nesting boxes
- Ideas and plant information for creating an inviting backyard habitat
- FREE app for identifying a bird by answering 5 questions
- Crafts, a bird scavenger hunt, and face painting for the children
- A mini-workshop on how to identify local birds by their call and songs
- You can borrow binoculars if you need them for our walks.

In the late 1800's, people were surprised to learn that birds actually flew hundreds or thousands of miles to and from different locations. Even now, we often have no idea of how far birds travel, and how they know when and where to go on their challenging and often heroic twice-yearly journeys. These flying future mothers and their mates depend on essential stop-overs on their migratory flyways for refueling and resting. Natural Bridges, with its large variety of different habitats, is one of those vital locations on the Pacific Flyway. Come join the Migration, and learn how to enjoy and support the birds on their journey! ***Come join the Migration, and learn how to enjoy and support the birds on their journey!***

Natural Bridges State Beach is located at the end of West Cliff Drive in Santa Cruz. Take Swift Avenue west from Highway 1, or follow West Cliff Drive north along the in-town bluffs until it ends at Natural Bridges. For more information, call the park at (831) 423-4609, or visit www.parks.ca.gov/.

This event is made possible by California State Parks, Santa Cruz Bird Club, California State Park Docents, and Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks



PROTECT BIRDS:
BE THE SOLUTION
TO PLASTIC POLLUTION

SCBC MEMBERSHIP MEETING FOR BOARD NOMINATIONS

The yearly membership meeting for nominations for Board members was held on April 25, 2019.

Nominations for positions were as follows:

President Lisa Sheridan (Returning)
Treasurer possibly Stephanie Singer
Membership possibly Stephanie Singer
(Stephanie will fill one position or the other)
Hospitality Nickie Zavinsky (Returning)
Webmaster Phil Brown (Returning)
Editor Lisa Larson (Returning)
Historian Elisabeth Foster (Returning)
Field Trips Nick Levendosky (Returning)
Secretary Larry Corridon (Returning)
Breeding Bird Atlas and Bird Records
Alex Rinkert (Returning)
Conservation Jennifer Hoskins

Currently one position is unfilled:
The one that Stephanie does not take.
(Treasurer or Membership)

The vote is normally held on the third Thursday in May, which is May 16th.



Monterey Bay Birding Festival 2019

Please see montereybaybirding.org for more information!

The Monterey Bay Birding Festival Association is pleased to announce that **Brian Sullivan** will be presenting the Saturday, September 21, 2019 Evening Keynote Presentation

eBird: Innovating Citizen-science, Big Data Research, and Bird Conservation

Today eBird is arguably the fastest-growing biodiversity network in existence. Find out how we've taken a novel approach to crowdsourcing, and turned the birding community's global passion for birds into a vast data resource for science and conservation.



Santa Cruz Birds

By Alex Rinker

Including reports from January 1 to February 28, 2019

For the most part, winter irruptive species continued to be missing in action. A push of American Robins in January was all that we got this winter. A few of the stellar rarities, including the Anna's x Costa's Hummingbird and Lesser Black-backed Gull, from earlier in winter continued into this period and the Red-footed Booby remained at Seacliff State Beach until mid-January. A one-day wonder Baltimore Oriole and the continuing presence of Scaly-breasted Munias in Watsonville raised questions.

The only white geese found this period were 3 **Snow Geese** at coastal Wilder Ranch State Park on January 3 (CF, TF) and one in the Watsonville sloughs on February 22 (GK). In addition to reports of single or small flocks of **Greater White-fronted Geese** in the Pajaro Valley this winter, a flock of up to 65 frequented agricultural fields on West Beach Street and Harkins Slough from January 22 into early February (JW, ST, PSo, v.ob.). A **Brant** was at Seacliff State Beach on January 8 (KR). A handful of **Cackling Geese** were reported in the Pajaro Valley and on the north coast (v.ob.), but more unusual was a small flock heard over Scotts Valley on February 24 as they are rare in the mountains (JS, PS). A **Mute Swan** at Harkins Slough from January 22-23 was noteworthy as there are few recent records in the county of this non-native species (JW, GK, NU). Two **Tundra Swans** were in Struve Slough on February 6 (CK).

Wood Ducks are rare in Corralitos and its vicinity so three reports from there this period were noteworthy. Singles were at Hazel Dell Road on January 1 and Merk Pond on January 18 (NU). Seven were seen at the latter location on February 14 (LL). At least five **Blue-winged Teal** were reported this period: at least four in the Pajaro Valley and one on the north coast (GM, KS, LG, SH, LL, RW, v.ob.). A male **Eurasian Wigeon** was at Pinto Lake on January 31 (NU, LC), and then perhaps the same was seen at College Lake on February 8 (GK). The continuing male **Eurasian x American Wigeon** was last seen at Pinto Lake on January 4, completing the fourth consecutive winter it has spent there (RW, NU, BR, RR).



A **Canvasback** continued at various waterbodies on the north coast through February 25 (ST, LJ, v.ob.). Up to 7 **Redhead** were at Struve Slough between January 21 and February 24 (DS, BR, TD, v.ob.). A male **Greater Scaup** was at Scott Creek mouth and Swanton Pond from January 2-3 (JW, SH, LG), while a Lesser was at Westlake Pond from January 30-February 11 (KA, SS, v.ob.). Seven **White-winged Scoters** were reported

this period (v.ob.).

A rafter of 40 **Wild Turkeys** on Valencia School Road in Aptos on January 4 was an especially high count (CH). Elsewhere, up to 11 Wild Turkeys near Harkins and Hanson Slough between February 22-28 added to a growing number of records for the Watsonville Slough system (RR, EL, BR, AR, NU, LM). Five **Red-necked Grebes** were



Clockwise from top:
Baltimore Oriole
- Randy Wardle
Blue-winged Teal
- Lisa Larson
Long-billed Dowitcher &
Lesser Yellowlegs
- Norman Uyeda



Laughing Gull - Zach Hampson

reported this period (v.ob.). The male **Anna's x Costa's Hummingbird** continued visiting a feeder in Aptos through January 1 (RW).

A **Snowy Plover** at Waddell State Beach from January 1-2 was at a place they are not often seen

anymore (DW, JR). A flock of up to thirty at Seacliff State Beach this winter was similarly noteworthy (GS, JR, v.ob.). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** at lower Watsonville Slough near the Pajaro River on January 28 was rare in winter (NU). A **Pigeon Guillemot** at Lighthouse Point on February 19 was the first spring arrival, and a bit on the early side (BLL, VLL). **Ancient Murrelets** went unreported this period.

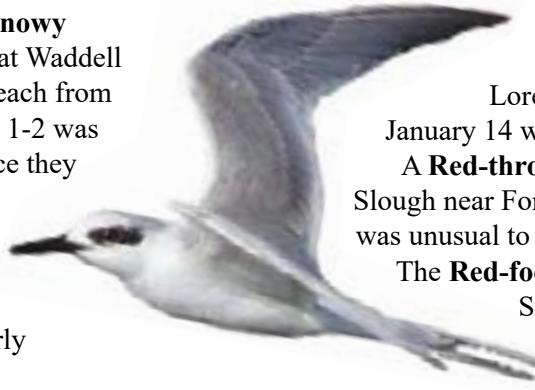
A **Laughing Gull** photographed at the San Lorenzo River mouth on January 30 was a nice find (ZH, JJ). Laughing Gulls have been found in an impressive six of the last eight years; there were only seven records for the county prior to this run of increasing frequency. A third-cycle **Lesser Black-backed Gull** continued at Pinto Lake through January 4 (JW, WS, SH, LG). The only **Glaucous Gull** reported this winter was a first-cycle at Harkins Slough from February 23-28 (AR, NU, RW), then seen at Pajaro Dunes on February 28 (JW). The only other rare gull this period was a first-cycle **Glaucous-winged x Glaucous Gull**

Black Skimmer - Simon Thornhill



photographed at Main Beach on January 29 (ST).

In January, **Forster's Terns** made an incursion into the mid-county coast where they are somewhat uncommon to rare. Most reports were from January 11-13 (v.ob.). Most notable were three at Baldwin Creek mouth on January 14 (ST) where exceptional on the north coast in winter, and a high count of 45 off



Egrets stalked

College Lake pulling up worms out of the sodden green from January 18-February 28 (HSt, NU, v.ob.).

A flock of over 50 **Turkey Vultures** in Soquel on January 16 was an unusually high count and perhaps related to a wild storm that day (LS). A communal roost of 20-25 **White-tailed Kites** was found in upper Struve Slough in January (LC). In addition to the adult pair of **Bald Eagles**

resident in the Watsonville slough system, which were confirmed to be nesting again this year (GK), an immature was seen on February 9 in lower Watsonville Slough (PSo). Four **Ferruginous Hawks** continued at Swanton Pond, UCSC, and

Watsonville, and four **Burrowing Owls** continued at Swanton Pond, Table Rock, Seabright State

Forster's Terns - Peter Svensson



Beach, and Pajaro Dunes (v.ob.). A **Short-eared Owl** was seen at dusk near lower Harkins Slough on January 1 (SH, BM).

A “Yellow-shafted”

Northern Flicker

was found at Pogonip on February 10 (JS, HS, PS). Wintering **Tropical Kingbirds** continued at the San Lorenzo River (GW), Schwan Lake (GW), and the Watsonville slough system (v.ob.). Only one wintering in the Pajaro Valley was fewer than in most recent winters.

Seven **Loggerhead Shrikes** were found this period (v.ob.). Three **Horned Larks** were singing in bare fields near Harkins Slough on February 23, the only place in the county where they regularly occur (AR, BR). A flock of 7 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** was at Harkins Slough on January 26 (PSo). None had been present earlier in winter so these were probably early spring migrants, a few weeks ahead of the average first spring arrival in the county. A **White-breasted Nuthatch** continued at Pinto Lake City Park through February 13 (GM, v.ob.).

Western Bluebirds

generally shun suburban and urban areas in the county so three attracted to a persimmon tree on Rigg Street in Santa Cruz was notable (AR). A **Townsend’s Solitaire** was photographed at Chalk Mountain on January 2 (JW). A yellow-variant **Purple Finch** continued visiting a feeder in Aptos through February (RW). A **Lawrence’s Goldfinch** at Harkins Slough unexpectedly turned up on February 23 (AR). Most records are from May to July and September to October, with few in the



*From top: Vesper Sparrow - JonnyWahl
White-breasted Nuthatch - Howard Stevenson
Palm Warbler - Lee Jaffe*

winter months between. About 22 **White-throated** and 6 **Swamp Sparrows** were reported this period (v.ob.). A **Vesper Sparrow** at Table Rock between February 11-12 was a nice find for winter (LG, BM, v.ob.).

A **Bullock’s Oriole** on the lower westside on February 15 was the first winter report since 2015 (AF). The most surprising find this winter was an adult male **Baltimore Oriole** which turned up in a Watsonville backyard on February 3 (NU). During the day that the oriole was present, it

would boldly visit a suit feeder but curiously it did not return after the day it was found. The early February date is much earlier than when migration is expected, and with an unlimited amount of food available in this well-stocked backyard, one must wonder why it did not stick around as wintering vagrants so often

do. **Tricolored Blackbirds** were concerningly sparse this period. Up to 60 were at Swanton Pond on January 10 (RW), a flock of 20 was at Pinto Lake on January 3 (KA, EA, JuA, JeA), and eight were at College Lake on January 19 (PB). And that was it.

The **Black-and-white Warbler** at Bethany Curve continued through February (v.ob.), and another was found at Rio Del Mar on January 26 (RW). A **Yellow Warbler** on the lower San Lorenzo River from February 14-18 headlined a slim showing of rare warblers this winter (AR,

BRi). A **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was at Struve Slough on January 1 (DS) and **Hermit Warblers** were at Pinto Lake on February 10 (LC) and Rancho Del Oso on February 24 (JJ, ZH). **Nine Palm Warblers**

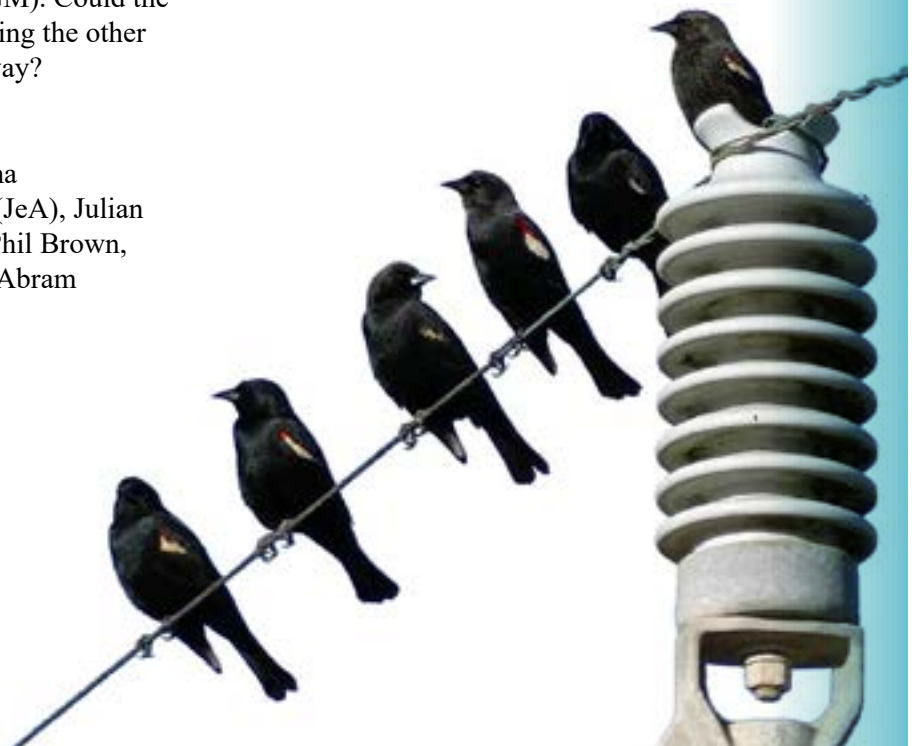


were found this period (v.ob.). Five **Black-headed Grosbeaks** turned up at feeders between January 1-February 13 (ST, OM, EF, PSo).

A flock of up to 14 **Scaly-breasted Munias** continued at a feeder in Watsonville (NU) and one immature returned to a feeder in Corralitos on January 8 (NA). The small flock at Pinto Lake vanished within days of being found in mid-December but then ten were seen there on February 6 (ZH, JJ). The munia flock remained through February 13 and were observed visiting a feeder in a neighboring backyard (SH, LG, NU, GM). Could the munias at Pinto Lake be the same visiting the other Watsonville feeder about two miles away?

Cited Observers: Nanci Adams, Emma Arulanantham, Jeremy Arulanantham (JeA), Julian Arulanantham (JuA), Kumaran Arul, Phil Brown, Keith Corliss, Tom Deetz, Eric Feuss, Abram

Fleishman, Tom Forwood Jr., Craig Fosdick, Don Glasco, Lois Goldfrank, Zach Hampson, Cole Heim, Sharon Hull, Lee Jaffe, Jazmine Jensen, Clay Kempf, Gary Kittleson, Barry Langdon-Lassagne, Virginia Langdon-Lassagne, Lisa Larson, Earl Lebow, Gary Martindale, Bobbie Mayer, Olivia Millard, Liam Murphy, Bernadette Ramer, Robert Ramer, Alex Rinkert, Barbara Riverwoman (BRi), Jim Roe, Kevin Rybczynski, Warren Samuels, Lisa Sheridan, David Sidle, Stephanie Singer, Howard Stephenson (HSt), Pete Sole (PSo), Gavin Stacey, Kitty Stein, Hanna Svensson, Jonah Svensson, Peter Svensson, Simon Thornhill, W. Breck Tyler, Norman Uyeda, Randy Wardle, Jonny Wahl, David Wayte, Gabriel Wiltz
 “v.ob.” means various observers. *Please enter interesting observations into eBird or report them to Alex Rinkert at arinkert12@comcast.net.*



*Above: Baltimore Oriole - Alex Rinkert
 Right: Tri-colored Blackbirds - Sharon Hull*



We all think
Nutmeg Mannikin
 or **Spice Finch** is cool.
 But **Scaly-breasted**
Munia sounds like we
 have some nasty disease!
 Would YOU want to be
 called scaly-breasted?
 Well, would ya?

Photo:
 James Maughn



Yuba Pass and Sierra Valley ~ **Saturday and Sunday, June 15-16, 2019**

The central California coast has spectacular birding, including a tremendous variety of winter species, great resident birds and unlimited potential during both Fall and Spring migrations. But how do we counter the post-breeding/pre-migration doldrums of mid-June and early July? Easy; head to the Sierras!

Our trip to Yuba Pass will also visit the eastern slope and provide a taste of Great Basin birding in Sierra Valley. We'll spend Saturday birding the Yuba Pass and Gold Lakes area, hoping to see Hairy, White-headed, and maybe a Black-backed Woodpecker, along with Red-breasted and Williamson's Sapsuckers. Songbird targets will include Audubon's (in breeding plumage), Nashville, Hermit and MacGillivray's Warblers; Cassin's Finch, Red Crossbill, Evening Grosbeak, singing Fox Sparrows, Lincoln's Sparrow, and Hammond's and Dusky and Flycatchers. We'll look for American Dippers and expect to see Calliope Hummingbird. Mountain Quail will be calling everywhere (but we'll have to get lucky to see them). Pine Grosbeak and Northern Goshawk are possible. Western Tanagers are common, and the songs of Hermit Thrushes will confirm that we're in the Sierras.

Sunday we'll venture into the Sierra Valley, hoping to see Vesper, Brewer's and Sage Sparrows, Gray Flycatcher, Green-tailed Towhee, Sage Thrasher, Clark's Nutcracker, assorted ducks and shorebirds, breeding White-faced Ibis, and maybe Sandhill Cranes.

Meet on Saturday morning at 7 a.m. sharp in the parking lot adjacent to Yuba Pass Campground on Highway 49. Participants are responsible for their own food, lodging, and transportation. Campgrounds, cabins and motels in the area often book up; reservations are recommended.

Leader: Clay Kempf

Trip limited to 15 participants. To sign up or ask questions, contact the leader at ltjaeger@att.net.



Williamson's Sapsuckers - David Sidle

Seabirding Trips

Shearwater Journeys

MONTEREY BAY, HALF MOON BAY, FARALLON ISLANDS

Shearwater Journeys invites members and friends of the Santa Cruz Bird Club to join us on offered pelagic trips along the central coast of California! Excellent and friendly leaders with worldwide seabirding experience will be on board. Discounts are available for all trips. August trips depart from Monterey, Half Moon Bay and Sausalito.

AUG. 2, Friday	Monterey Bay: Albatrosses & Early Fall Seabirds
AUG. 4, Sunday	Farallon Islands: Tufted Puffins & Breeding Seabirds
AUG. 10, Saturday	Half Moon Bay: Albatrosses & Early Fall Seabirds
AUG. 11, Sunday	Farallon Islands Tufted Puffins & Breeding Seabirds
AUG. 23, Friday	Monterey Bay Albatrosses & Early Fall Seabirds
AUG. 30, Friday	Monterey Bay: Albatrosses & Early Fall Seabirds

Please see our web site: shearwaterjourneys.com and blog: shearwaterjourneys.blogspot.com for more details.
Contact Debi, a Life Member of the Santa Cruz Bird Club:
debi@shearwaterjourneys.com.~



Parasitic Jaeger going after a California Gull - Jeff Bleam

Monterey Seabirds

Monterey Seabirds features year-round pelagic trips enabling you to experience the seabirds of the Monterey Bay in their respective seasons. In the interest of having a reasonably sized group conducive to pelagic birding and photography, space is limited to 25 participants. Folks can register online: montereyseabirds.com or by calling (831) 375-4658. Seabird trips we have a 2-week cancellation policy. If you have questions: birdtrips@montereyseabirds.com.

8-hour trips and 12-hour Trips

Beginning Saturday, September 21 (12 hours)

Farther afield: See **Alvaro's Adventures** for out-of-county pelagic trips and out-of-country birding tours! alvarosadventures.com/boat-trips/pelagics

Photo Melange Artwork by John Hickok

John has created some interesting images by taking his bird portraits and combining them with his images of their habitats. I hope you enjoy these interesting and beautiful results!



Merlin taken in Panoche Valley set with New Idria Road (Panoche Valley area)



Loggerhead Shrike - New Idria Road (Panoche Valley area)



Western Kingbird and Owl Clover - Panoche Valley Road



American Kestrel



Downy Woodpecker
and oak tree reflections



American Robin and cypress trees



Angel-faced Barn Owl

Please keep
abreast of the
conservation
issues addressed
by the SCBC!



[Read about the current issues](#)

Rose-breasted Grosbeak - Unknown photographer

New Members **WELCOME**

Jeremy Goodland Family	<i>Feb-19</i>
Heidi Brancatelli	<i>Feb-19</i>
Lara Birchler	<i>Feb-19</i>
Tessa Janicke Family	<i>Feb-19</i>
Mary Martin	<i>Feb-19</i>
Lise Weir Family	<i>Feb-19</i>
Virginia Howard	<i>Mar-19</i>
Camille Moitozo	<i>Mar-19</i>
Wendy Wells	<i>Mar-19</i>
Brian Scanlon	<i>Mar-19</i>
Edward Knapp	<i>Mar-19</i>
Linda Wilson	<i>Mar-19</i>
Kathleen Curry	<i>Mar-19</i>
Suzie Shook	<i>Mar-19</i>
Brian Bullard	<i>Apr-19</i>
Tami Stolzenhaller- Tonsing Family	<i>Apr-19</i>



"Those who dwell, as
scientists or laymen,
among the beauties and
mysteries of the earth,
are never alone or
weary of life."

- Rachel Carson

DEADLINE

submissions for
SEP/OCT issue
AUG 1, 2019



Common Merganser "The Better to Bite You With" - Jeff Roisman



TEN Oak Titmouse eggs "Call Guinness Book - QUICK!" - John Ellis

Submission to the



Guidelines

In addition to regular features—*Events Calendar*, photos for *Santa Cruz Birds*, *Birders Notebook* and *Parting Shot*—the newsletter can include almost anything related to birding in general and to local birding in particular. Depending on space, submissions of any of the following are **needed**:

- **Feature articles**
- Birding event announcements
- **Stories about birds, birding, or birders**
- Reviews of birding literature or guides
- Conservation & outreach reports/stories
- Birding tips, descriptions of local sites
- Poetry, quotes, field sketches, artwork or photos
- Photos of BIRDS or people at our events (jpg, tif)

If you wish to submit an article, please contact the editor about it **AT LEAST 2 weeks before** the submission deadline.

I accept plain text, Word, or PDF files. Send items by email to: scbirdclubeditor@gmail.com

~ Lisa Fay Larson, Editor

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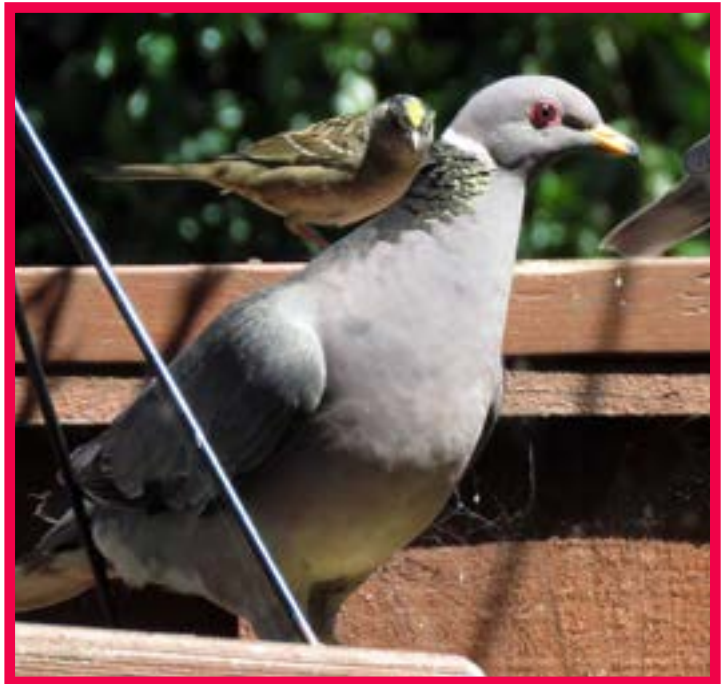


ALBATROSS



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Download the online version and
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santacruzbirdclub.org

PARTING SHOT: "**GET ME TO ALASKA AND STEP ON IT!**"
GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW & BAND-TAILED PIGEON
- LISA FAY LARSON



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