

Albatross

PHOEBASTRIA NIGRIPES

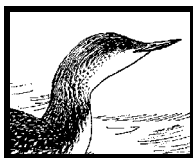
55th Annual Santa Cruz County CBC

Saturday, December 17, 2011

It's time to count the birds...

Inside:

Calendar



Meeting



Santa Cruz Birds



Cuckoo



Try Albatross Online

For a birder, is there a better way to spend a winter day along the central California coast than counting birds? Join our 55th annual Christmas Bird Count and countdown dinner! The CBC helps us track the ups and downs of the local bird populations. The count is a highlight of our birding year and is always fun for experienced and new birders alike. All are welcome to join the all-day event.

The 15-mile diameter count circle reaches from Davenport to New Brighton and from Boulder Creek to the ocean, encompassing a wide array of habitats. Each year 60 to 80 birders join together to search the woods, walk the fields, and scan the seas. Rare birds may get the lime-light, but the best fun comes from counting the "regular" birds and tracking down the uncommon ones in each counting area. Our long-term tracking of numbers of individuals of each species is the real fruit of the CBC. The end-of-the-day potluck dinner and species countdown wraps it all up as we share the day's adventures and discoveries.

If you want to join the count, email or call Phil Brown to sign up.

pdpbrown@gmail.com -or- (831) 334 4249

There is a \$5.00 fee for each participant.

Potluck count-down dinner to follow at St. Joseph's Church parish hall, 435 Monterey Avenue, Capitola. See the calendar listing on page 4 for potluck information and directions.



Events Calendar

November - December 2011

Check the online SCBC Calendar of Events for any recent updates:

<http://www.santacruzbirdclub.org>



Friday, November 4 Schwan Lake

The focus will be on wintering birds and maybe some late migrants of live oak woodlands and grassland, but the lake itself may have something interesting as well.

Directions: Meet at 8:00 AM at the parking lot of the Simpkins Family Swim Center, 979 17th Avenue.

Leader: Steve Gerow, (831) 426-2476, stephengerow@aol.com



Birding at Schwan Lake 2009. Photo by David Sidle



Sunday, November 6 Beginning Birding Walk Natural Bridges State Beach

All welcome for a bird walk at a local hotspot. Take a relaxed walk with a local birder at a beautiful Santa Cruz Park. A good variety of habitat should yield a good variety of species.

Directions: Meet at 8:30 AM at the Delaware entrance to Natural Bridges Park.

Leader: TBD



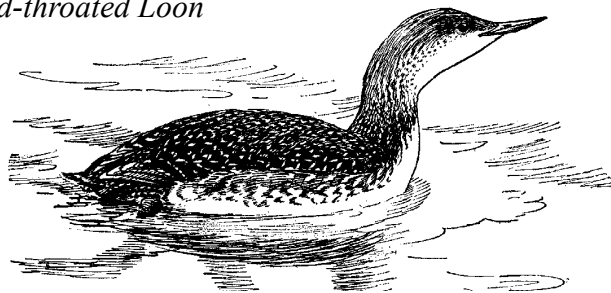
Monday, ~~November 7~~ * changed to November 14* La Selva & Manresa Uplands

A "Monday mini trip" to the La Selva & Manresa SB Uplands. Our mini trip will last 2-3 hours as we search for migrant and wintering landbirds of scrub and woodland, and scan the bay waters for scoters, loons, and more.

Directions: Meet at 7:00 AM at La Selva at the end of Playa Blvd. From Highway 1 take San Andreas Road coastward to La Selva. Turn right on Playa and continue to its ending at the coastal bluffs. There may be a state park entrance fee at one stop. Rain cancels.

Leader: David Suddjian, dsuddjian@aol.com

Red-throated Loon



Friday, November 11 Antonelli Pond and vicinity

We may also visit the Homeless Garden, the Terrace Point fields, Natural Bridges, and/or other nearby locations.

Directions: Meet at 8:00 AM on the west side of the pond at Delaware Avenue.

Leader: Steve Gerow, (831) 426-2476, stephengerow@aol.com

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 field trip leaders. 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.



Sunday, November 13
Watsonville Sloughs

This late afternoon-to-sunset foray will seek water-birds and others in the sloughs of Watsonville, with a view to seeing birds come in to roost. Rain cancels. **Directions:** Meet at 12:00 NOON at the parking lot behind the West Marine building along Struve slough, off Harkins Slough Road. **Leader:** Rod Norden, rod.norden@gmail.com



Thursday, November 17
SCBC Meeting @7:30 PM
Speaker: Dena Spatz

Topic: Threats to Seabirds on Islands and Conservation Priorities

Seabirds are the marine animals most threatened by human impacts at sea and on land. At sea, the most common threats are fisheries by-catch and pollution from oil and plastic. On land, the most common threats are coastal development, exploitation, invasive species, and (potentially) rising sea levels due to climate change. Sixty-nine percent of these threats occur on breeding islands. Recognizing that island-breeding birds face a high risk of extinction, international and local conservation organizations have teamed together to designate breeding islands as important centers of global biological concern and to promote protection of the most-threatened species. Two examples of their approaches are: establishing protected areas and eradicating invasive species. However, the logical first step in developing island conservation planning is developing an unbiased system to set priorities for wise investment of limited conservation funding on global and regional scales.

Dena Spatz is a graduate student in the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department at UCSC and is affiliated with the Coastal Conservation Action Lab.

Location: Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History
1305 East Cliff Drive, Santa Cruz, CA

Dena Spatz with a young American Avocet



Friday, November 18
West Cliff Drive

We'll look for seabirds and rocky shore specialties. (Maybe the Rock Sandpiper will be back?) Also some land-birding at Lighthouse Field and Bethany Curve. **Directions:** Meet at 8:00 AM at the intersection of West Cliff Drive and Woodrow Avenue. **Leader:** Steve Gerow, (831) 426-2476, stephengerow@aol.com



Monday, November 21
Rio Del Mar & Seacliff

A "Monday mini-trip" to the Seacliff State Beach & Rio Del Mar area. Our mini trip will last just about 2 hours as we sample birds of the sea and shore. Sometimes late fall can bring large flights of loons or grebes, and with winter gulls trickling in, who knows what might appear? **Directions:** Meet at 7:30 AM at the Rio Del Mar Unit of Seacliff SB. From Highway 1 take Rio Del Mar Blvd to its end at the beach parking lot. Dress warm. Rain cancels. **Leader:** David Suddjian, dsuddjian@aol.com



Friday, November 25
Neary Lagoon

A relaxed break from the Thanksgiving weekend with riparian species, Wood Ducks, and others. **Directions:** Meet at 8:00 AM at the west entrance (off Bay and California) **Leader:** Steve Gerow, (831) 426-2476, stephengerow@aol.com



Saturday, December 3
DeLaveaga Park

We will hike easy to moderate trails through stands of Monterey pine, live oaks, exotic acacia and mixed conifer forests, searching for sapsuckers and other winter residents of our forests. Maybe we'll dig up an unusual surprise at this uncommonly birded park. **Directions:** Meet 8:00 AM at the main DeLaveaga Park parking lot by the sports fields (not up at the golf course). Leave the clubs at home, we're after different "birdies" this time. **Leader:** Scott Smithson, scottndawn@sbcglobal.net



Sunday, December 4
Henry Cowell Redwoods SP

We'll check Zayante Trail and amble along River Trail and through the picnic area, looking for sapsuckers and Varied Thrushes. Dress for the weather and bring water and snacks.

Directions: Meet in the visitor center parking lot, entrance fee \$10 per vehicle, at 8:00 AM.

Leader: Kathy Kuyper (831) 431-0122 or chswift@hotmail.com



Monday, December 5
O'Neill Ranch Open Space

A Monday mini-trip to the O'Neill Ranch and Anna Jean Cummings Park in Soquel. Our mini trip will last just 2-3 hours as we walk the dirt paths (some uphill) to seek a variety of wintering landbirds and raptors.

Directions: Meet at 8:00 AM at the upper end of the parking lot for Anna Jean Cummings Park (a.k.a. Blue Ball Park). From Highway 1 take the Porter Street exit, and going inland. Continue north across Soquel Drive, as the road now becomes Old San Jose Road. Go less than a mile and watch for the drive into the park after passing the entrance road for Soquel High School. Rain cancels.

Leader: David Suddjian, dsuddjian@aol.com



Friday, December 9
Natural Bridges area

Always a good variety of birds here, and often something unexpected.

Directions: Meet at 8:00 AM at the Delaware Avenue entrance to Natural Bridges State Beach.

Leader: Steve Gerow, (831) 426-2476, stephengerow@aol.com



Sunday, December 11
Quail Hollow

Wilson's Snipe and wintering Western Bluebirds may be around the park at this time.

Directions: Meet in the Quail Hollow County Park parking lot at 8 AM.

Leader: Alex Rinkert, arinkert12@comcast.net



Sunday, December 11
Watsonville Sloughs

This afternoon-to-sunset foray will seek waterbirds and others in the sloughs of Watsonville, with a view to seeing birds come in to roost. Rain cancels.

Directions: Meet at 12:00 NOON at parking lot behind the West Marine building along Struve slough, off Harkins Slough Road.

Leader: Rod Norden, rod.norden@gmail.com



Birders at Lee Road. Photo by David Sidle.

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| | <p>Saturday, December 17 SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT <i>Details on page 1</i></p> | |
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Saturday, December 17
Countdown Potluck Dinner
after the Bird Count.

Location: Parish Hall, St. Joseph's Church
435 Monterey Avenue, Capitola

Doors open: Anytime after 4:30 PM

Bring your bird list and a dish to share—main, vegetable, salad, dessert, bread, and a drink if you want something special. There will be paper plates, cups, and utensils, but bringing your own tableware will reduce waste and cost. Soft drinks and hot water for tea or hot chocolate will be available.

Directions: (You can get a map online.) Coming from Hwy 1, take Bay Street toward the ocean. Go through two stop signs on Bay, and then turn left on Monterey Ave. (If you go too far you will cross the RR tracks and drop down to Capitola Village.) Go left on Monterey for about 0.2 mile, and turn left into the church parking lot, directly across from Washburn Ave. Please continue past the left side of the church down into the lower parking lot to find the parish hall.



Friday, December 23
Seabright area

We'll start with a look around Tyrell Park (the small park surrounding the museum), then move on to Seabright Beach and the outer harbor. Depending on time and circumstances, we may also visit the San Lorenzo River mouth and Ocean View Park.

Directions: Meet at 8:00 AM by the whale sculpture at the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History

Leader: Steve Gerow, (831) 426-2476, stephengerow@aol.com



A young Snowy Plover photographed by David Sidle on Seabright beach, September 2010.



Saturday, December 31
Lower UCSC Campus

We'll explore a variety of habitats including grassland, patches of riparian, and evergreen forest, and may also visit the Farm and Arboretum.

Directions: Meet at 8:00 AM at the south side of the East Remote Parking Lot, off Hagar Drive on the UCSC campus. Hagar Drive is a left turn off Coolidge Drive when coming from the main entrance at the north end of Bay St. The parking lot is on the right about 0.65 miles up Hagar.

Leader: Steve Gerow, (831) 426-2476, stephengerow@aol.com



Sunday,
January 1, 2012
Moss Landing
Christmas Bird Count

*Happy
New Year!*

The Moss Landing CBC will be held on Sunday, January 1, 2012. The count circle covers some of the prime birding areas in southern Santa Cruz County and northern Monterey County. As always, we're looking for more observers. Because the week between Christmas and New Year's becomes quite hectic for many people, please let us know your intentions before Christmas so we can assign people to their territories before the holiday festivities begin. Sign up, join us, and then enjoy the warm, friendly (and delicious) countdown dinner at Pajaro Dunes. If you are interested in participating in this year's count, please contact: Bob Ramer, 831-426-7342 or rjrramer@sbcglobal.net).



Red-tailed Hawk at Moore Creek Preserve, July 10, 2011. Photo by Wendy Naruo.

Santa Cruz Birds

*By David Suddjian & Steve Gerow
Including reports from
June 1 to August 31, 2011*

The most memorable avian event of this period was precipitated by an unusual late-season storm on June 4th, which brought several inches of rain to the county at a time of year when any rain at all is unexpected. This coincided with an unusually strong and late passage of migrant Passerines, creating a remarkable fallout first noted after the storm passed on the 4th, and continuing through June 5th and to a lesser extent for the next few days. Significant migrant fallout events are quite unusual for Santa Cruz County, even during the peak of spring passage, but this event was especially odd in that most of the species involved were well past their normal migration period. Dozens of birds were noted, with at least 27 species involved. Most reports came from the heavily-birded area near the coast from Santa Cruz to Seacliff, but a good number of late migrants were also noted inland at Quail Hollow.

The rarest bird found during this fallout was the first Santa Cruz County record of a **Scott's Oriole** (details later in this article). Other highlights included a record-breaking spring showing of **Willow Flycatchers**, with around 15-17 reported from June 4-11 (v.ob.), about four times the previous spring record. A **Nashville Warbler** in the Porter-Sesnon area of New Brighton State Beach on June 5 (DSu) set a new late date for spring in the county. Around 35-40 **Townsend's Warblers** reported in the first seven days of June were mostly fallout birds, and by far a record total for the month. Just the second June record of **Lincoln's Sparrow** for Santa Cruz County was at Porter-Sesnon on June 5 (DSu).

Three **Cassin's Vireos** June 4-5 (SG, DSu), two **Black-throated Gray Warblers** June 4-5 (SG, DSu), four Hermit Warblers June 4-7 (SG, DSu, PB), two **MacGillivray's Warblers** June 5-7 (DSu, SG), a **Chipping Sparrow** at Seacliff on June 5 (DSu), and three **Lazuli Buntings** June 4-5 (SG, DSu) were

exceptional June showings for species that are typically uncommon in the county's coastal lowlands, even in the normal period of spring migration. A remarkable 21 **Western Wood Pewees** at Quail Hollow on June 5 (AR) may have included a few local breeders, but most were migrants, and seven migrant wood-pewees were in Lighthouse Field on June 4 (SG). Other high counts of flycatchers at Lighthouse Field included 14 **Pacific-slope Flycatchers** on June 4 (SG), and 5 **Ash-throated Flycatchers** on June 5 (DSi). Unexpected numbers of **Western Kingbirds**, **Warbling Vireos**, and **Yellow** and **Wilson's Warblers** were also noted during this exciting event.



This Lazuli Bunting was photographed by Steve Gerow at Wilder State Park, June 2, 2011

And the big rainy season and late storms kept College Lake partially flooded all the way through mid-July, providing summer mudflat habitat at a site that has not had any in modern memory. Although birding coverage was slight, some visits from July 10-16 found several waterbirds taking advantage of the unusual summer opportunity (KK, HS, LG, JW, BR, RR). Among these were 120 **Canada Geese**, up to 123 **American White Pelicans**, two **Common Gallinules**,

three **Black-necked Stilts**, 250 **Western Sandpipers**, and 100 **Least Sandpipers**.

* * *

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** at Pajaro Dunes on August 28 and afterward was probably summering locally (LG, WG). A female **Wood Duck** on Soquel Creek in Capitola on August 25 was exceptional for Capitola (DSu). Rare summer records of **Northern Shoveler** were one at Younger Lagoon on June 9 (SG) and three at Watsonville Slough on June 22 (SG, RR). A male and female **White-winged Scoter** appeared at Seacliff State Beach on June 16, providing the first June record for the county in many years (DSu). Then a male White-winged was consistently with a flock of summering Surfs there from July 18-August 5 (DSu, KK). A tardy **Bufflehead** was at the San Lorenzo River on June 3 (SG), while a summering bird was at Watsonville Slough June 22 to August 28 (SG, RR, RW). A **Red-breasted Merganser** at the Pajaro River on August 22 was the first summering report for the county in a number of years (BR, RR).

An **Eared Grebe** at Natural Bridges on August 8 was exceptionally early for the county, or maybe summering (PB). A **Great-winged Petrel** photographed offshore on August 26 (AB, JL, SJ) was a fantastic find, just the 4th for California, following on the heels of the county's first record last fall. The big flocks of **Sooty Shearwaters** made a nice showing along our coast this summer. The first flock was reported at Seacliff on June 9 (LP), and a high estimate for this period was 180,000 there on August 28 (DSu). An estimated 7,500 **Brown Pelicans** flying along the coast at Capitola on the evening of August 18 was a huge number for Santa Cruz County (DSu). Some wandered inland, such as one at Struve Slough at the beginning of August (AS) and one flying along the base of the hills north of Antonelli Pond on August 9 (SG).

Brandt's Cormorants nested successfully at Seacliff, Natural Bridges and Davenport this year. The effort at Seacliff was notable, where 421 nests on June 10 were over twice as many nests as had ever been built there before (DSu)! However, "only" about 380 nests proceeded past the incubation phase. **Double-crested Cormorants** continued nesting at Pinto and Schwan lakes, where there were 71 and 123 nests,

respectively (SG, BR, RR). Thorough coverage of **Pelagic Cormorant** nesting habitat along the north coast found only two colonies, with 12 nests at Wilder Ranch (SG) and four nests at El Jarro Point (DSu). Nesting efforts by this species have declined in the county. **American Bitterns** were present at an expected few spots in the Pajaro Valley this summer; seven fresh fledglings at Pinto Lake on July 30 were of interest (WM).

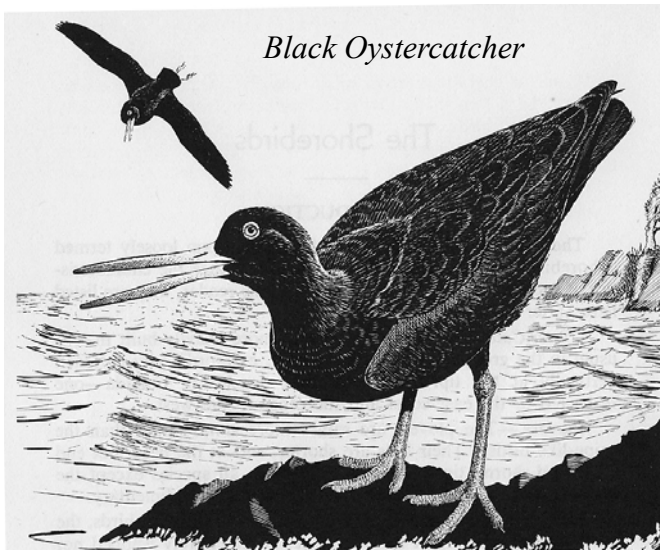


Nesting Brandt's Cormorants - Photo by David Sidle.

White-tailed Kites at unexpected spots for the nesting season included one over Soquel on June 10 (DSu, SS), one along Summit Ridge near Loma Prieta on July 4 (AR), and one east of Delaveaga Park on July 20 (PM, SH). Sightings of adult **Bald Eagles** at Watsonville Slough on June 26 and Struve Slough on July 10 may have involved the same bird (PB, KK). Early **Merlins** were at Struve Slough on August 23 (NA) and Capitola on August 31 (DSu). A **Prairie Falcon** at the western edge of Santa Cruz on July 2 and 13 provided just the 2nd summer record for the county (KK, SG). **Soras** calling at Pinto Lake on June 1 (BB, RR et al) and Watsonville Slough on June 25 (AR) added to our few summer records. An **American Avocet** at Natural Bridges on June 7 was rare for our coastline (SG).

We managed to cover all of the county's suitable nesting habitat for **Black Oystercatcher** to contribute to a statewide survey of the species that was conducted in early June. From June 2-11 we found 50-55 oystercatchers in the county (PB, SG, DSi, DSu, JW). Most were found along the north coast down to Natural

Bridges, but one outlying pair at Black Point on June 2 was notable for breeding season at the mid-county coast (DSi). A pair of adults with young at Natural Bridges on June 30 marked just the second time young have been hatched at that park according to our records (MCo), although the effort was apparently unsuccessful (SG).



Several shorebirds were found in the Pajaro River mouth at a time which would indicate they were local summering birds in the narrow window between north and southbound migrations, and all were exceptional summering finds for Santa Cruz County: up to 37 **Semipalmated Plovers** and three **Sanderlings** on June 16-25 (GM, CE, AR) and one **Western** and 35 **Least Sandpipers** on June 25 (AR). Fitting better into the late migrant category, but still notable for June, were a **Wandering Tattler** at Wilder Ranch on June 3 (SG) and a **Black Turnstone** at Davenport Landing on June 9 (AR). Seven **Willetts** circling over Pinto Lake on August 10 were certainly unexpected at that inland location (SG, MCr). Rare migrant **Ruddy Turnstones** were at the Santa Cruz Harbor jetty on July 20 (BR, RR) and West Cliff Drive on July 27 (JH, BC).

A **Wilson's Phalarope** was at Watsonville Slough on August 13 (CK). A **Least Tern** near Harkins Slough on July 24 was especially good away from the immediate coast (CK). Another was at Aptos Creek mouth on August 21 (DSu). A complete survey of the area from the San Mateo County line to Yellow Bank Creek and at Sandhill Bluff (11.8 miles of coastline) on June 8-11 tallied an impressive 452 **Pigeon Guillemots** (DSu). **Ten**

Rhinoceros Auklets in the same area included one that flew into a cavity on the bluff near El Jarro Point on June 9, suggesting an active nest (DSu); we have not had a breeding confirmation in the county since 1997. A **Tufted Puffin** was observed on an August 26 pelagic trip (SJ). A **White-winged Dove** joined the collared-doves around Struve Slough from June 22-27 (SG, RR, BR), for just the second summer record for Santa Cruz County and the first for June. A fall migrant White-winged Dove was in Capitola August 25-26.

Easily among the best “yard bird” reports of the season was a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** that posed for photos at a Soquel residence on July 8 (PS), one of very few recent records for the county. Another quite rare and surprising sight was two **Common Nighthawks** flying around Capitola on the evening of August 20 (DSu). There were several reports of **Black Swifts** foraging over Moore Creek Preserve in June and July (v.ob), a fairly reliable spot to see these in recent years, though there were no reports there in summer. The last observation on July 17 involved a bird with a bulging throat (PB), presumably gathering food for a nest somewhere, but where? This species is known for very long-distance foraging flights, and they could be commuting to a site outside of Santa Cruz County. Two **Black Swifts** over Quail Hollow on July 3 (AR) and two over Capitola on July 4 (DSu) were from locations where they are unexpected in summer.



This rare yard bird—a Yellow-billed Cuckoo—appeared in Soquel on July 8. Photo by Pete Sole.

Reports of **Vaux's Swifts** were sparse this summer, but several observations of 1-2 over eastern Ben Lomond in June and July (AR) suggested possible nesting in that area. **Black-chinned Hummingbirds** arrived in late August in accordance with their recent pattern. The first, an adult male at a feeder north of Soquel on August 19 (JWa), was one of few fall records of adult males in Santa Cruz County. Two or three more in late August were expected female/immature types (SG, DSu), and more came in September. **Rufous Hummingbird** is another species where adult males are rarely seen locally during their southward passage, so one north of Soquel on August 17 was noteworthy (JWa) at the same feeder that hosted the Black-chinned two days later. **Olive-sided Flycatchers** are normally absent from the redwood forests of Big Basin proper, so one near the park headquarters on July 7 was of note (KK).



Olive-sided Flycatcher

The male **Dusky Flycatcher** that had resided at Ocean View Summit in Big Basin during the breeding seasons of 2006-10 apparently did not return this season (KK). A late nesting **Ash-throated Flycatcher** was feeding young at Baldwin Creek on August 16 (LG, JWa). Odd for July were two **Western Kingbirds** at Moore Creek Preserve July 1-4 (SG, KK, v.ob.). **Horned Larks** continued to reside in the Watsonville/Harkins/Hanson Slough area through the period, with multiple breeding confirmations in the one known nesting area (SG, RR), and an estimate of up to 40 individuals present in the general area (GK). Some late-nesting swallow reports included an active **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** nest on the lower San Lorenzo River on July 27, a **Tree Swallow** nest with

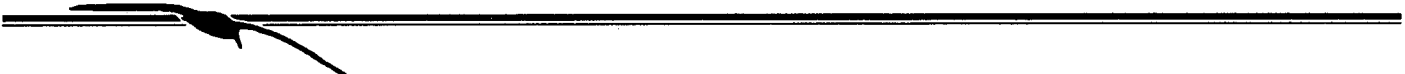
large young in a box at Neary Lagoon on August 2, and three **Cliff Swallow** nests still active on bridges over the lower San Lorenzo River on August 16 (SG).



Male Magnolia Warbler, photographed at Antonelli Pond by Steve Gerow on June 9, 2011.

A **White-breasted Nuthatch** at Quail Hollow June 10-12 was near a nest box on the 10th (fide JA), and carrying a caterpillar on the 12th (LG, WG), but it was not seen thereafter despite regular birding coverage. The species is rare throughout the county and irregular in occurrence, with few breeding records. A singing male **Magnolia Warbler** was at Antonelli Pond in June 9 (SG). Also on June 9, a **Yellow-breasted Chat** singing at Davenport Landing (DSu) was apparently another very late spring migrant. **Chipping Sparrows** on territory in breeding habitat were only reported from the Gray Whale Ranch section of Wilder Ranch State Park this season (v.ob.), but seven found there on June 15 was a good number for Santa Cruz County in recent years (AR).

A **White-throated Sparrow** turned up in a Rio Del Mar yard on June 10 (LP), but was not seen after that date, so probably it was yet another exceptionally late spring migrant. Unusual in location and date was a male **Western Tanager** that landed on a fishing boat well offshore of Santa Cruz in the third week of June (fide BB). Four male **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were reported from June 27-July 15 DSu, DG, OM, BW, JWi). An adult **Black-headed Grosbeak** feeding



young at Baldwin Creek on August 16 (LG, JWa) provides another case of late nesting this season. A **Great-tailed Grackle** in Capitola on August 23 (JD) was a rarity away from the Pajaro Valley.

The most spectacular find among the varied migrants of the early-June fallout was a male **Scott's Oriole** that appeared at Seacliff State Beach on June 5 (DSu), the first record for the county. It turned up again on June 7 at a hummingbird feeder in the neighborhood three blocks away (MH). There were several reports of 1-3 **Lawrence's Goldfinches** near Watsonville Slough June 22- July 1 (SG, RR, JWa, v.ob.). An adult male was accompanied by two begging juveniles on July 1 (PB), suggesting they nested somewhere in the area.

* * *

Cited Observers: Nanci Adams, Jenny Anderson, Abe Borker, Phil Brown, Bob Burton, Matthew Coale (MCo), Bob Cohen, Mary Crouser (MCr), Judy Donaldson, Carleton Eyster, Steve Gerow, Lois Goldfrank, Wally Goldfrank, Diane Goodboe, Marilee Harris, Jane Henderson, Sharon Hull, Gary Kittleson, Kathy Kuyper, Jeri Langham, Wayne Macon, Gary Martindale, Olivia Millard, Pam Myers, Lauren Paulsen, Lise Peterson, Bernadette Ramer, Robert Ramer, Alex Rinkert, Heidi Sandkuhle, David Sidle (DSi), Shearwater Journeys (SJ), Pete Sole', Anne Spence, David Suddjian (DSu), Stephen Suddjian, Jeff Wall (JWa), Bill Walton, Jim Williams (JWi), Roger Wolfe.

Please report unusual or interesting observations to dsuddjian@aol.com

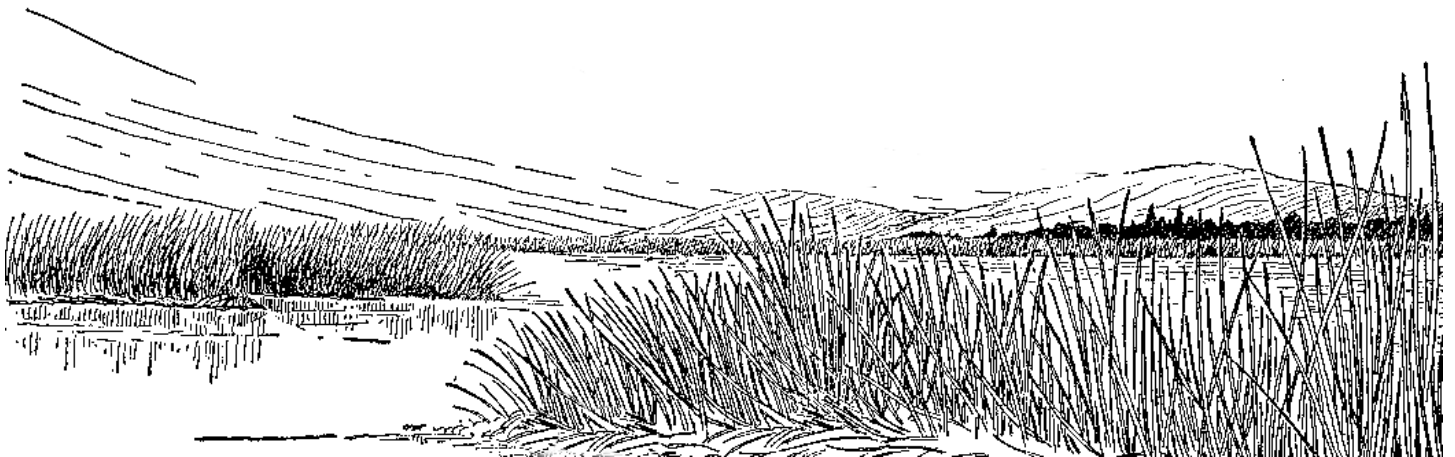


Still a rare bird— Yellow-billed Cuckoo

In the Nov/Dec 1991 Albatross, David Suddjian wrote:

*Another great find this season was a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** seen well at Wilder Ranch State Park on September 4 (RM). We have two other records from fall migration in the last fifteen years or so...[The] species nested along the Pajaro River (around 1900).*

Since that time, one was seen in 1996, two in 2009, and one this July, totaling seven reported Santa Cruz County sightings of the shy birds in about 35 years.



A message from SCBC Officers:



Albatross Online— for the Environment, SCBC, and You

In January 2008, we started publishing the Albatross online. The main reasons for doing so were to offer members a chance to reduce their environmental impact by saving paper and to save SCBC some money. How much money? The website costs \$175 per year; printing and postage for the Albatross currently costs \$3075 per year—our biggest single yearly expense. Obviously, reducing some of that cost would allow SCBC to allocate more funds to club-sponsored projects, local studies, and other environmental efforts.

If you don't use the internet

We are aware that not everyone uses the internet, and there is no plan to discontinue printing the Albatross at this time. However we think there are enough member/internet users who could make a difference in this effort to reduce costs and paper usage.

Advantages for you

There are advantages for you, besides saving trees and money. The online version has color photos and live hyperlinks to referenced web pages. You can print all or part of it for yourself, and you always know where to find it. Past issues are available online.

How does it work?

Notification of a new issue will come by email. The Albatross is within the SCBC web site at:

http://santacruzbirdclub.org/The_Albatross.html

The online issue is a PDF file. (portable data format), which is read by Acrobat Reader. If you don't have the program, it's available (free) at the Adobe web site. (Uncheck any other offers there, unless you really want them.) <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

Sign up for the online Albatross

To opt for the online-only Albatross, email your request to the SCBC Membership officer, David Ekdahl (dek Dahl149@comcast.net)

Please join us in this conservation effort.

**Input deadline for
Jan/Feb 2012 issue
of the Albatross—
December 1, 2011**

Assembling



Guide for Albatross submissions

In addition to regular features—calendar, Santa Cruz Birds, trip reports—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 welcome:

- Feature articles
- Birding event announcements
- Stories about birders, serious or comic
- Reviews of birding literature or guides
- Conservation & outreach reports/stories
- Birding tips, descriptions of local sites
- Filler tidbits: Quotes or images
- Photos of people at our events (jpg, tif)

If you wish to submit an article, please contact me about it *before* the submission deadline. All material is subject to editing. I accept plain text, Word, or PDF files. Email items to:
calqua@sbcglobal.net

~Judy Donaldson, Editor

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*Seasonal visitors:
Sooty Shearwater swarm at Natural Bridges State Beach
Photo by David Sidle - September 12, 2011*

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<http://santacruzbirdclub.org/>

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