



Albatross

PHOEBASTRIA NIGRIPES

Counting... one bird at a time

by Alex Rinkert

One of the most engaging and rewarding activities that birders participate in is counting and recording birds. Recording species seen and how many of each is second nature for many birders, but what is it all for anyway? What is there to gain from counting the herds of grazing coots at College Lake or the trilling, buzzing grassland birds near Davenport? Why do we count birds?

To learn—that’s one reason we count birds. In fact, learning is really unavoidable once you start counting. Patterns begin to emerge with repeated observations. After visiting a location and recording the number of species, you may start to notice things more than just the presence or absence of a species.

Are Golden-crowned Sparrows more numerous than White-crowned Sparrows in winter at the Homeless Garden? Do Anna’s Hummingbird numbers fluctuate during the year in the chaparral habitat at Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park? It is questions like these that spark our interest. And counting the birds of interest can often times answer them.

Record-keeping also has important implications for tracking sensitive species. How would we know that the Rusty Blackbird in the eastern United States has severely declined—85-99% in the last forty years—if birders hadn’t consistently recorded their numbers? And more locally, how would we know that the Loggerhead Shrike and other grassland species are declining in Santa Cruz County without the help from birder’s observations (or lack of them)?

It is not just the sensitive and rare species that need to be counted though. Common birds can just as easily end up on the endangered species list due to some unforeseeable change in the future. So make sure to count those American Coots at College Lake! It’s hard to imagine in the present, but someday a common species just might go the way of the Passenger Pigeon. If one begins to decline, there will be a record of their numbers from previous observations, and we will be able to see the decline and do something before it is “too late.”

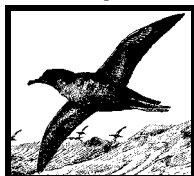
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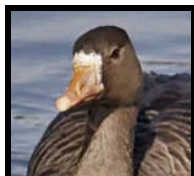
Calendar

**2011 CBC
Summary
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**Seabirding
Trips**



**Santa Cruz
Birds**



Events Calendar

March - April 2012

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

<http://www.santacruzbirdclub.org>



Saturday & Sunday, March 3-4

Hummingbird Days

at the UCSC Arboretum

Time: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM both days

Cost: \$5.00 adults, Free for ages 17 & under.

See details at:

<http://arboretum.ucsc.edu/events/humbird2012/>



Friday, March 16
San Lorenzo River

We will see if any of this winter's rarities are still around and maybe find a few early migrants.

Directions: Meet at 8:00 AM at San Lorenzo Park by the duck pond.

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



Sunday, March 4
Beginning Bird Walk
Natural Bridges State Beach

Our local birding hotspot is a great place to get an introduction to the birds of Santa Cruz County. Take a relaxed walk with a local birder at a beautiful local park, where a nice variety of habitat should yield a fair number of species.

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

Leader: Phil Brown, pdpbrown@gmail.com



Friday, March 9
Wilder Ranch State Park

The varied habitats of this park hold a good variety of birds and other wildlife. We may check coastal and/or inland parts of the park in a few miles of mostly easy walking.

Directions: Meet at 8:00 AM in the main parking lot. There is an entrance fee (currently \$10, \$9 for seniors)

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



Harris's Sparrow--Photo by Steve Gerow



Saturday, March 17
Manresa State Beach

An area loaded with coffeeberry and ceanothus bushes for passerines but also good for raptors. This is a diverse habitat in a small area, with good views over the beach and ocean.

Directions: Meet in the camping section at 8 AM. Parking is \$10.

Leader: Kathy Kuyper, chswift@hotmail.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.



Thursday, March 22
SCBC Meeting @7:30 PM
Speaker: David Moen

**California Condor Recovery on the Central Coast:
 Listening to Condors in the Age of Restoration**

David Moen, Wildlife Biologist with Ventana Wildlife Society, is in the trenches with California Condors as the species continues its recovery. Drawing from years of hands-on experience with these majestic birds, David will bring into focus the importance of systems science when addressing the problem of extinction. By emphasizing the combination of scientific and traditional ways of knowing, a new understanding of a shared sense of place emerges for the purposes of ecological restoration and community healing. This interdisciplinary approach to condor conservation includes the social and historic dimensions of endangerment that are too often left out of modern species recovery models. We live in an age in which the problem of extinction is growing, and the concept of "species restoration" is gaining momentum. Do condors continue to face an uncertain future here in our backyard? What meaning does this powerful symbol hold for us? Are we listening to the condor's message? Come find out.

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



Friday, March 23
Natural Bridges

Many wintering species will still be around, and we should have some new spring arrivals.
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



Monday, March 26
Watsonville Sloughs

A short morning trip of a few hours to visit two or three areas of the sloughs at the transition into spring. We'll see what waterbirds are around and look for returning migrant landbirds.
Directions: Meet at 7:30 AM at the Red Roof Inn at West Beach Drive in Watsonville. Rain cancels.
Leader: David Suddjian, dsuddjian@aol.com



Friday, March 30
Arana Gulch

We should find a mix of residents and spring migrants, plus a few lingering winter birds.
Directions: Meet at 8:00 AM at the entrance on Agnes Street, by the end of Mentel Avenue (off the south side of Soquel Avenue two blocks east of Trevethan and Hagemann)
Leader: Steve Gerow, (831) 426-2476, stephengerow@aol.com



Saturday, April 7
Pogonip

We will look and listen for newly arrived spring migrant birds, while not ignoring the plants and other wildlife in the grasslands and forests of this park. Expect about three miles of hiking and some hills.
Directions: Meet at 8:00 AM at the north end of Spring Street, off High Street in Santa Cruz.
Leader: Steve Gerow, (831) 426-2476, stephengerow@aol.com



Friday, April 13
Antonelli Pond & Terrace Point

A mixture of species is possible in this area.
Directions: Meet at 8:00 AM at the west end of Delaware Avenue, just past Antonelli Pond.
Leader: Steve Gerow, (831) 426-2476, stephengerow@aol.com



Sunday, April 15
Quail Hollow

Spring is a busy season at Quail Hollow Ranch. We will look for the five species of breeding flycatchers and hopefully Western Bluebirds will be around. Of course we'll enjoy blooming, endemic Sandhills flora.
Directions: Meet in the Quail Hollow parking lot at 8:00 AM.
Leader: Alex Rinkert, arinkert12@comcast.net



Friday, April 20
Moore Creek Preserve

This is the best time of year to compare the songs of territorial Grasshopper and Savannah Sparrows. Migrant kingbirds and several breeding species of flycatchers, unusual native plants, and usually several mammal species are among the other possibilities. Expect a few miles of walking on moderate slopes.
Directions: Meet at 8:00 AM on Shaffer Road across from the end of Mission Street.
Leader: Steve Gerow, (831) 426-2476, stephengerow@aol.com



Saturday, April 21
Green Big Day (or Half-day)

Late April is one of the best times of the year to see returning breeders and straggling winter residents at the same time. Celebrate Earth Day by joining me for a “green big day” by foot—either full or half-day. As part of the 2nd international Green Big Day event, we will have fun identifying as many bird species as we can without using our cars once we begin. If you enjoy walking, hiking, and birding, this is a field trip for you. Join for a few hours or stay the course until we run out of daylight! We will be birding locations such as Seabright Beach, San Lorenzo Park, Neary Lagoon, West Cliff Drive, Natural Bridges area, etc.

Directions: Meet at 8:00 AM in front of the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History.

Leader: Scott Smithson, wscottsmithson@gmail.com



Thursday, April 26
SCBC Meeting @7:30 PM
Title: Neotropical Raptor Conservation

Speaker: Ryan Phillips, Executive Director,
Belize Raptor Research Institute

After three years in Belize working on The Peregrine Fund’s Harpy Eagle Restoration Project, raptor biologist Ryan Phillips realized that most Neotropical raptor species were virtually unknown and faced many threats. To address these issues, Ryan formed the Belize Raptor Research Institute (BRRI), a non-profit organization dedicated to raptor research and conservation. Located on the Caribbean coast and bordered by Mexico and Guatemala, Belize is home to a large number of rare and endangered species including the Jaguar, Baird’s Tapir, and Harpy Eagle. With approximately 70% of its native forest still intact, this small Central American country is an ideal location for research and conservation efforts. During this talk you will learn about BRRI’s cutting edge conservation biology projects involving the Solitary Eagle, Stygian Owl and Hawk-Eagles. Ryan currently teaches in the Environmental Studies Department at De Anza College where he utilizes one of the most powerful conservation tools, education, to spread his passion about biodiversity to engage the next generation of aspiring conservation biologists.

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



Friday, April 27
West Cliff Drive

This time of year we are likely to see migrating loons and Brant, nesting Pigeon Guillemots, and maybe a breeding plumaged Wandering Tattler. We’ll also look for migrant land birds in Lighthouse Field and Bethany Curve Park.

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

*Black-throated
 Gray Warbler*



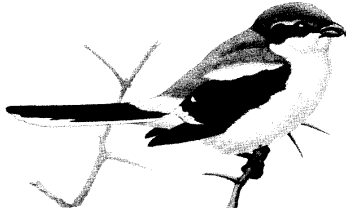
Sunday, April 29
Castle Rock State Park

This park is scheduled for closure, so take this opportunity to visit and bird a remote part of the county. Join us for a 3-mile moderate hike through Castle Rock State Park. The birding and wildflowers should be great. We hope to see or hear many spring nesting birds, including Hermit Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Townsend’s Warbler, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Black-headed Grosbeak, Purple Finch, and many more. We’ll hike along the Saratoga Gap trail to the campground and back. The trail starts from the parking lot and goes through a stretch of mixed Redwoods, Oak, Doug Fir, and so on, and then enters a long section of chaparral and live oak. Next we will enter an area of black oak and wildflowers and from here go uphill through more woods, with old Canyon Oaks. This hike is one of the better spring hikes in Santa Cruz County for birding and great vistas of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Directions: Meet at the Santa Cruz Government Center, 701 Ocean St., Santa Cruz, at 6:30 AM or at the main parking lot of Castle Rock State Park at 7:30 AM (There may be a parking fee.) Bring lunch. Heavy rain cancels.

Leader: David Ekdahl (831)335-5742,
 dekdahl49@comcast.net

Counting (continued)



Loggerhead Shrike

In the case of the Rusty Blackbird and Loggerhead Shrike, we have learned from our observations and recognized a pattern. This not only gives us knowledge about bird populations but helps preserve the very birds we count. In many cases, species get protective status because they are declining in numbers. This is only known because we counted and recorded those species over a period of time

Aside from the above reasons, counting birds can just simply be enjoyable. I'm sure many birders were thrilled to count the (one) Yellow-green Vireo last fall at Neary Lagoon!

So how can your own observations and counts of birds today make a difference? In the age of the internet, the free online bird checklist program, eBird (www.ebird.org), might be the way to go. Entering your observations into this database not only contributes to citizen science, but also opens up the opportunity to explore and learn from your own records in a new light. The question about numbers of Golden- and White-crowned Sparrows at the Homeless Garden and Anna's Hummingbird numbers in Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park might be easier to answer with this tool.

Submitting your bird observations and counts to eBird isn't the only way your observations can contribute, though. To join forces with other birders in the local area, consider participating in this year's Santa Cruz Christmas Bird Count. Participating will help us count and record our local birds and also add to the knowledge about their distribution here at home. In this issue of the Albatross, you will find a summary of the 2011 Santa Cruz Christmas Bird Count. Take a look and see what was counted, who's increasing, and who's declining. You might be surprised at what you find.



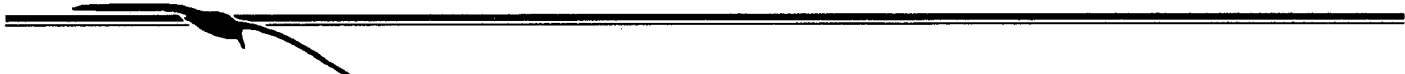
Santa Cruz County eBirds!

The way we gather observations of birds in Santa Cruz County is undergoing a major revolution over recent years, and it is a huge change for the better. The "way things were" was for birders to mostly report the rare and unusual birds or first of season records and other records that were in some way out of the ordinary. These focused largely on one portion of our birds, but largely ignored the species that make up the core of our avifauna—the many that are not rare. We had thorough data on occurrences of Palm Warbler but very little information recorded about Brewer's Blackbird. Reporting expanded with the advent of list serves like Monterey Bay Birds (MBB), making it easy for more people to report, but the focus remained largely the same: rare birds or unusual occurrences. But then came the "eBird revolution", as from 2006-2009 use of eBird began to really take hold among Santa Cruz Counties active birders. Since 2009 it has continued to grow by leaps and bounds. eBird has made it easy to now report observations of ALL birds at ALL times in a publicly accessible database that makes it convenient to manage and learn from huge volumes of data. And more and more people are contributing, including many people who are not connected to the local birding community that reports on MBB.

It is great to see that little Santa Cruz County is at the forefront of eBird participation. A recent summary of checklist submissions to eBird as of December 2011 found that Santa Cruz County ranked third among California's 58 counties in the number of checklists submitted (33,362), trailing only the much larger and more populous Los Angeles and San Diego counties. When adjusted for the size of the county, Santa Cruz ranked second (75/sq. mile)!

The Bird Club would like to strongly encourage more local birders to become eBirders, and those who only occasionally submit checklists to grow in their participation. The staff at eBird are continually making it easier to enter information and providing an increasing number of ways you can learn from your information and have fun with it. You can find all about how eBird works here: <http://ebird.org/content/ebird/about>

~David Suddjian



The 55th Annual Santa Cruz County Christmas Bird Count

December 17, 2011

Thank you to everyone who helped with our 55th annual count! Thanks to all our bird counters, the section leaders, and those who helped with our end-of-the-day countdown dinner.

This year we enjoyed beautiful weather—a welcome change from last year’s rain. Coverage was similar to recent years, although we had no boat venture offshore. We fielded 64 observers, six less than the 10-year average. Our 204 “party hours” (the best measure of field effort) were down 12% from average.

We found 171 species, seven below the 10-year average, continuing our recent pattern of low species totals. But we did find a respectable cross-section of rare or otherwise notable birds to make up in some quality for the shortfall in quantity. Two species were added in “count week.” In contrast to the low species tally, we counted 39,605 individuals, which was 4% above the recent average when standardized for field effort.

The five most abundant species this year were Western Gull (2,181), California Gull (2,104), Common Murre (2,085), European Starling (1,778), and American Robin (1,713). Species found in numbers exceeding 100% above average included: Greater White-fronted Goose (39; 2nd highest ever), Green-winged Teal (13), Eared Grebe (81; 2nd highest ever), Turkey Vulture (20; new record high), Black-bellied Plover (278; record), Snowy Plover (112; record), Killdeer (281), Marbled Godwit (134; record, and missed last year!), Red Phalarope (150), Common Murre (estimated 2085; record), Band-tailed Pigeon (1348; 2nd highest ever), Eurasian Collared-Dove (80), House Wren (11; record), Western Bluebird (27; best since 1985), Orange-crowned Warbler (18), and Lincoln’s Sparrow (125; record).

One species was new for the count: Rufous Hummingbird. Other especially rare birds found count day were: Red-naped Sapsucker, Dusky Flycatcher (3rd

record), “Western” Flycatcher, Dusky-capped Flycatcher (7th record), Warbling Vireo (2nd record), Tennessee Warbler (7th record), Lucy’s Warbler (2nd record), Yellow Warbler (3rd record), Black-and-white Warbler, Wilson’s Warbler, and Black-headed Grosbeak.

“Misses” on count day—species we have found on count day in at least 10 of the last 15 years—were: Gadwall (found in 13 of the last 15 years), Northern Pintail (13 of 15), Greater Scaup (11 of 15), White-winged Scoter (12 of 15), Osprey (14 of 15), Ruddy Turnstone (11 of 15), Bonaparte’s Gull (12 of 15), Forster’s Tern (14 of 15, but found count week), White-throated Swift (11 of 15), White-breasted Nuthatch (12 of 15), Nashville Warbler (10 of 15), and Black-throated Gray Warbler (13 of 15). Species with notably low counts were Sharp-shinned Hawk (4), Heermann’s Gull (only 2!), Ring-billed Gull (37), Marbled Murrelet (5), Loggerhead Shrike (1), Red-breasted Nuthatch (only 1!), Golden-crowned Kinglet (19), Cedar Waxwing (58), Tricolored Blackbird (90), and Pine Siskin (28).

~David Suddjian, compiler

List of Participants:

2011 Santa Cruz County Christmas Bird Count

R.J. Adams, Emma Arul, Kumaran Arul, Barbara Banfield, Bonnie Bedzin, Cliff Bixler, Lindsay Black, Linda Brodman, Phil Brown, Rachel Brown, Kevin Clark, Tom Deetz, Judy Donaldson, David Ekdahl, Eric Feuss, Rick Fournier, Rob Furrow, Alexander Gaguine, Steve Gerow, Lois Goldfrank, Wally Goldfrank, Rich Griffith, Sharon Hull, Jared Karr, Ken Kellman, Clay Kempf, Kathy Kuyper, Daniel Labeaune, Inga Labeaune, Timothy Lambert, Chris Lay, Earl Lebow, Janet Linthicum, Marybelle Lukins, Barry McLaughlin, Barbara Monahan, Kevin Monahan, Shirley Murphy, Wendy Naruo, Todd Newberry, Sylvia Park, William Park, Margaret Perham, Bernadette Ramer, Bob Ramer, Leighton Reid, Alex Rinkert, Barbara Scharfenstein, Christian Schwarz, David Sidle, Jeff Smith, Lauren Smith, Scott Smithson, Pete Solé, Madeline Spencer, Linda St. John, Matthew Struss-Timmer, David Suddjian, Thomas Takano, Connie Unsicker, Jeff Wall, James Williams, Deb Wirkman, Joe Yuhas.

2011 Santa Cruz County CBC

SPECIES	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Avg.
Greater White-fronted Goose	0	1	134	4	39	14.1
Snow Goose	0	0	4	0	0	3.2
Ross's Goose	0	0	1	0	0	0.4
Cackling Goose	1	1	165	1	0	17.1
Canada Goose	8	1	582	5	8	61.2
Brant	0	0	21	6	0	4.3
Tundra Swan	0	0	6	0	0	0.6
Wood Duck	20	63	10	22	31	25
Gadwall	CW	3	9	3	0	3.1
Eurasian Wigeon	0	0	0	CW	0	0
American Wigeon	43	40	48	40	30	29.7
Mallard	852	680	724	746	604	760.5
Cinnamon Teal	0	1	2	CW	0	0.7
Northern Shoveler	6	9	30	0	9	5.6
Northern Pintail	0	226	412	10	0	70
Green-winged Teal	2	3	7	CW	13	4.6
Canvasback	0	0	1	0	0	0.5
Redhead	0	0	0	0	0	0.2
Ring-necked Duck	114	124	93	87	153	81.5
Tufted Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0.2
Greater Scaup	61	1	24	1	0	9.5
Lesser Scaup	4	1	1	2	2	2.2
Greater/Lesser Scaup species	0	0	500	0	2	50
Harlequin Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0.1
Surf Scoter	563	500	2928	1602	624	822.5
White-winged Scoter	1	0	1	2	0	1.2
Black Scoter	0	0	1	0	0	0.6
Bufflehead	141	88	142	76	98	87.7
Common Goldeneye	51	22	36	20	32	17.6
Hooded Merganser	1	7	11	7	8	5.5
Common Merganser	11	16	15	15	12	21.1
Red-breasted Merganser	19	12	12	30	13	13.3
Ruddy Duck	67	27	53	58	68	46.3
Wild Turkey	113	39	42	22	12	46.9
California Quail	301	329	304	205	393	313
Red-throated Loon	90	311	161	17	151	82.3
Pacific Loon	97	946	75	263	144	425
Common Loon	42	21	27	13	17	28
Loon species	114	47	92	170	76	128.4
Pied-billed Grebe	63	42	62	41	43	53.5
Horned Grebe	44	8	13	2	15	13.9
Red-necked Grebe	0	3	1	0	1	0.8
Eared Grebe	46	25	40	11	81	23.8
Western Grebe	306	969	521	111	263	386
Clark's Grebe	15	62	22	2	13	14.9
Western/Clark's Grebe sp.	244	469	717	79	225	267.9
Northern Fulmar	3	0	1	5	0	33.5
Pink-footed Shearwater	0	0	0	1	0	0.6
Sooty Shearwater	1	0	0	0	0	0.6
Short-tailed Shearwater	0	0	0	0	0	0.5
Black-vented Shearwater	0	0	1	0	0	4.4
Dark shearwater species	0	0	0	0	30	1
Brown Pelican	101	579	188	179	262	352.2
Brandt's Cormorant	492	888	794	301	532	462.2
Double-crested Cormorant	242	212	110	111	169	261.1
Pelagic Cormorant	37	44	74	45	44	45.1
American Bittern	0	0	0	0	0	0.1
Great Blue Heron	18	19	20	25	18	20.7

SPECIES	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Avg.
Great Egret	6	5	4	15	11	11
Snowy Egret	24	19	26	54	22	27.7
Cattle Egret	0	0	0	0	0	0.1
Green Heron	6	5	6	8	7	4.9
Black-crowned Night-Heron	17	13	12	17	13	11.5
Turkey Vulture	10	9	13	1	20	4.6
Osprey	3	1	1	1	0	1.4
White-tailed Kite	29	11	26	9	29	22.2
Bald Eagle	0	0	1	0	0	0.1
Northern Harrier	19	11	15	5	19	14.9
Sharp-shinned Hawk	10	11	10	10	4	12.2
Cooper's Hawk	14	9	17	10	12	12.6
Cooper's/Sharp-sh. Hawk sp.	4	4	4	5	4	4.5
Red-shouldered Hawk	69	82	50	29	50	51.3
Red-tailed Hawk	128	101	83	46	103	101
Ferruginous Hawk	0	0	0	0	0	0.2
Rough-legged Hawk	0	0	0	0	0	0.1
Golden Eagle	4	2	2	1	1	1.8
American Kestrel	43	32	40	26	56	46.4
Merlin	6	7	11	7	14	9.3
Peregrine Falcon	6	5	7	8	9	5.5
Prairie Falcon	0	0	0	0	0	0.3
Virginia Rail	9	4	10	8	5	9.8
Sora	3	5	4	0	6	4.8
Virginia Rail/Sora species	0	0	0	0	0	0.1
Common Gallinule	0	0	0	0	1	0.6
American Coot	1213	749	647	833	1130	683.7
Black-bellied Plover	68	67	69	17	278	95.3
Snowy Plover	82	28	56	37	112	61.6
Killdeer	266	234	160	31	281	129.1
Black Oystercatcher	35	25	12	30	25	23.6
Greater Yellowlegs	1	0	CW	3	3	1.3
Willet	65	20	19	0	85	69.2
Wandering Tattler	0	0	0	0	0	0.2
Spotted Sandpiper	5	8	7	6	3	7.9
Whimbrel	17	21	37	19	50	26.2
Long-billed Curlew	2	2	3	1	2	1.7
Marbled Godwit	27	14	13	0	134	31.9
Ruddy Turnstone	0	0	0	0	0	0.7
Black Turnstone	154	58	193	73	92	132.2
Surfbird	34	11	56	60	77	53.8
Sanderling	214	86	480	974	746	741.1
Least Sandpiper	0	7	5	0	2	3.3
Rock Sandpiper	1	1	1	1	0	0.7
Dunlin	0	0	0	0	0	0.8
Wilson's Snipe	4	4	1	0	4	7.3
Red Phalarope	0	0	0	0	150	0.5
Phalarope species	0	0	0	0	0	0.1
Pomarine Jaeger	0	0	1	1	0	0.7
Pomarine/Parasitic Jaeger sp.	0	0	0	0	0	0.1
Bonaparte's Gull	8	0	0	5	0	39.4
Heermann's Gull	86	128	22	90	2	266.7
Mew Gull	161	184	236	1040	269	507.6
Ring-billed Gull	36	108	111	148	37	128.6
California Gull	1584	2055	1181	6109	2104	3016.8
Herring Gull	27	29	8	71	45	49
Thayer's Gull	5	4	5	11	10	8.8
Western Gull	3162	2901	2381	4198	2181	3245.8

2011 Santa Cruz County CBC

SPECIES	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Avg.
Glaucous-winged Gull	440	570	138	1379	735	659.3
Herring X Gl.-winged Gull	0	2	4	0	1	1.3
Western X Gl.-winged Gull	97	253	50	431	46	205.1
Glaucous Gull	0	0	0	1	0	0.5
Black-legged Kittiwake	0	0	0	0	1	0.2
Gull species	459	427	925	2757	1385	1358
Common Tern	0	0	0	0	0	0.1
Forster's Tern	7	3	10	48	CW	50.8
Common Murre	346	1668	1234	181	2085	465.7
Pigeon Guillemot	0	2	0	0	0	0.2
Marbled Murrelet	8	9	13	5	5	21.8
Ancient Murrelet	0	10	18	0	2	4.3
Murrelet species	0	0	2	0	3	0.2
Rhinoceros Auklet	48	123	195	1	115	168.6
Rock Pigeon	1476	1095	1933	1765	1678	1492.7
Band-tailed Pigeon	299	574	410	50	1348	498.7
Eurasian Collared-Dove	9	63	50	137	80	46.5
Mourning Dove	484	476	370	339	266	492
Barn Owl	14	1	5	1	3	8.1
Western Screech-Owl	64	21	61	4	9	38.5
Great Horned Owl	36	27	40	9	15	32.9
Northern Pygmy-Owl	5	2	5	1	1	3.2
Burrowing Owl	2	3	5	2	4	3.1
Long-eared Owl	3	1	0	0	0	0.9
Short-eared Owl	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Saw-whet Owl	41	19	44	1	4	25.8
Common Poorwill	1	1	0	0	0	0.4
White-throated Swift	0	4	12	0	0	9.2
Anna's Hummingbird	611	474	617	234	604	535.9
Rufous Hummingbird	0	0	0	0	2	0
Belted Kingfisher	12	10	14	6	11	15
Acorn Woodpecker	244	213	258	104	301	202
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	0	0	0	0	0	0.2
Red-naped Sapsucker	1	0	0	0	1	0.6
Red-breasted Sapsucker	7	14	9	4	11	8.3
Nuttall's Woodpecker	25	41	23	14	30	18.4
Downy Woodpecker	28	36	36	11	30	32.9
Hairy Woodpecker	54	60	54	26	61	45.6
Northern Flicker (form?)	97	88	97	47	104	95.7
""Yellow-shafted" Flicker "	0	1	0	0	1	0.3
""Red-shafted" Flicker"	47	49	62	28	45	56.1
Nor. Flicker (R.-sh x Y-sh.)	1	5	2	1	1	2.7
Pileated Woodpecker	13	18	16	3	8	10.8
Olive-sided Flycatcher	0	0	0	0	0	0.1
Dusky Flycatcher	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
Pacific-sl./Cordilleran Flycat. sp.	0	0	1	0	1	0.2
Black Phoebe	287	243	342	213	253	268
Say's Phoebe	36	19	24	13	35	29.4
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	0	0	0	1	1	0.2
Tropical Kingbird	0	0	0	0	0	0.1
Loggerhead Shrike	2	0	1	0	1	3
Hutton's Vireo	47	65	43	25	56	57.9
Warbling Vireo	0	0	0	0	1	0
Steller's Jay	370	301	294	143	470	385.9
Western Scrub-Jay	499	465	459	296	464	475.8
American Crow	486	518	568	575	430	460.2
Common Raven	439	738	484	495	366	420.6
Tree Swallow	0	0	0	0	0	0.6

SPECIES	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Avg.
Violet-green Swallow	32.00	9.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.3
Tree/Violet-green Swallow sp.	0	0	0	0	0	0.1
Barn Swallow	0	0	0	0	0	1.3
Swallow sp.	0	0	0	1	0	0.1
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	788	927	888	595	824	971.3
Oak Titmouse	79	89	95	83	97	84.8
Bushtit	1097	912	1031	678	849	1068.9
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	17	2	9	1	8.8
White-breasted Nuthatch	0	1	0	0	0	0.8
Pygmy Nuthatch	186	316	350	164	187	261.5
Brown Creeper	78	116	139	50	91	121.6
Rock Wren	0	0	0	0	0	0.1
Bewick's Wren	147	155	184	115	181	139.8
House Wren	9	5	6	6	11	4.9
Pacific Wren	12	11	23	6	19	19.4
Marsh Wren	10	29	29	10	26	16.2
American Dipper	2	0	1	0	1	1.1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	5	46	42	14	19	59.7
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	673	434	389	262	368	625.5
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	0	3	1	5	1.7
Western Bluebird	9	2	21	0	27	3.2
Townsend's Solitaire	0	0	0	0	0	0.1
Hermit Thrush	175	150	190	125	248	188.8
American Robin	1622	889	2768	888	1713	3153.1
Varied Thrush	8	108	40	6	292	249.1
Wrentit	142	118	111	71	116	108.4
Northern Mockingbird	39	40	62	43	36	46.8
California Thrasher	20	17	24	10	15	19.2
European Starling	1690	1514	1268	2321	1778	1625.5
American Pipit	204	131	88	10	103	123.3
Cedar Waxwing	551	272	980	318	58	587.4
Tennessee Warbler	0	0	0	1	1	0.3
Orange-crowned Warbler	6	10	9	12	18	9.7
Nashville Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	0.9
Lucy's Warbler	0	0	0	0	1	0
Yellow Warbler	0	0	0	0	1	0
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	0.3
Yellow-rumped Warbler (form?)	306	312	385	336	272	330.2
""Myrtle" Warbler"	209	136	118	74	98	132.2
""Audubon's" Warbler"	323	338	452	465	691	453.2
Black-throated Gray Warbler	0	1	1	1	0	1.2
Townsend's Warbler	298	269	200	176	304	345.2
Hermit Warbler	0	1	0	0	3	1.7
Townsend's x Hermit Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	0.1
Palm Warbler	0	1	0	0	0	0.7
Black-and-White Warbler	0	0	0	1	1	0.7
American Redstart	1	0	0	0	0	0.2
Northern Waterthrush	0	0	0	0	0	0.1
Common Yellowthroat	38	23	31	38	36	31.2
Wilson's Warbler	0	1	0	0	1	0.3
Summer Tanager	1	1	0	0	0	0.4
Western Tanager	0	1	1	0	CW	0.6
Tanager sp.	0	0	0	0	0	0.3
Spotted Towhee	182	182	192	95	235	164.2
California Towhee	338	378	494	336	478	428
Chipping Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0.2
Lark Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0.2
Savannah Sparrow	142	48	55	4	57	55.2

2011 Santa Cruz County CBC

SPECIES	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Avg.
Grasshopper Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0.7
Fox Sparrow (Sooty)	149	88	70	44	126	119.1
Fox Sparrow (Red)	0	0	1	0	1	0.1
Song Sparrow	158	173	308	229	201	233.9
Lincoln's Sparrow	98	34	68	29	125	44.5
Swamp Sparrow	0	1	1	2	2	1.1
White-throated Sparrow	5	11	2	6	5	8.9
Harris's Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0.1
White-crowned Sparrow	681	763	750	879	713	871
Golden-crowned Sparrow	1357	1052	1023	741	826	1235.8
"Dk.-eyed "Oregon" Junco"	869	610	756	600	1385	943.7
"Dk.-eyed "Slate-colored" Junco"	1	1	1	CW	0	1.1
Sparrow species	0	0	0	0	0	1.4
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	0	1	1	0	0	0.5
Black-headed Grosbeak	0	0	0	0	1	0.2
Red-winged Blackbird	708	255	461	186	535	547.7
Tricolored Blackbird	680	867	58	5	90	691.2
Western Meadowlark	197	289	287	29	383	235.3
Brewer's Blackbird	1216	1471	916	592	915	1428.4
Blackbird species	0	0	30	0	0	3
Brown-headed Cowbird	17	15	28	15	37	20.5

SPECIES	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Avg.
Orchard Oriole	0	0	0	CW	0	0
Hooded Oriole	0	0	CW	0	0	0
Bullock's Oriole	0	0	1	0	0	0.3
Purple Finch	201	184	113	45	138	117.9
House Finch	761	655	775	584	756	807.6
Red Crossbill	0	0	0	0	0	1.2
Pine Siskin	134	595	148	71	28	297.4
Lesser Goldfinch	353	315	238	184	117	209.6
Lawrence's Goldfinch	0	0	0	0	0	0.1
American Goldfinch	819	815	584	270	344	487.4
Evening Grosbeak	0	0	0	CW	0	0.2
House Sparrow	66	64	111	89	97	93.8
No. of Individuals	37042	38900	41615	39634	39605	43379.3
No. of Species	165	171	178	161	171	176.8
No. of Observers	73	70	69	58	64	70
Total Daytime Field Hours	253.5	227	222.75	182.5	204	232.175

SEABIRDING with Shearwater Journeys

Get a jump on fall migration!

Half Moon Bay Pelagic trips

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Dates: July 28, 29; August 12, 27.

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Classic summertime trips for albatrosses and shearwater, whales and dolphins. This is our 36th year of offering seabird trips from Monterey.

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Reservations: Debi Shearwater—Send payment with your full name, address, phone, cell phone, and email to: Shearwater Journeys

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Contact Debi: debi@shearwaterjourneys.com

See: <http://www.shearwaterjourneys.com> or .

<http://shearwaterjourneys.blogspot.com>

for more information.

Santa Cruz Birds

*By David Suddjian & Steve Gerow
Including reports from
November 1 to December 31, 2011*

Lighthouse Field—a focus of birding in October—continued as a rarity hotspot from late fall into winter, hosting Dusky Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Lucy’s and Tennessee Warblers, and more. What makes a spot especially hot for vagrants in one year, but cooler in another? Simply having birders come to look for rarities found by others can raise the heat. A Dusky-capped Flycatcher found near San Lorenzo Park on the CBC brought birders into that area, leading to discoveries of Clay-colored Sparrow, Plumbeous Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Glaucous Gull, and others. It has been dubbed the “Patagonia Picnic Table Effect”, named after a certain roadside rest stop in Arizona. No matter where it occurs, the synergy of birders converging to search an area is always exciting. It makes you wonder about all the things we don’t find at all those places where we do not concentrate our efforts!

* * *

Among various reports of **Greater White-fronted Geese** this period, the largest flock counted was 60 over Rio Del Mar on November 26 (KKu). A count of 37 at Younger Lagoon on December 17 (EL, RFu) was a high total for geese on the ground away from the Pajaro Valley. Snow Goose reports included two moving around the Watsonville Slough system November 15-25 (JWa, v.ob.), six flying over New Brighton State Beach on November 18 (DSu), an immature at Aptos Creek mouth on December 26 (LP), and four at College Lake December 30-31 (DSu, AR). A **Ross's Goose** stopped at Antonelli Pond on December 11 (SG et al.), and four were at College Lake starting December 30 (DSu, AR). There were several reports of **Cackling Geese** this period, involving groups of one to 11 birds; one at Aptos Creek Mouth starting November 27 (KKu, DSu, v.ob.) was the only one known to be wintering away from the Pajaro Valley.

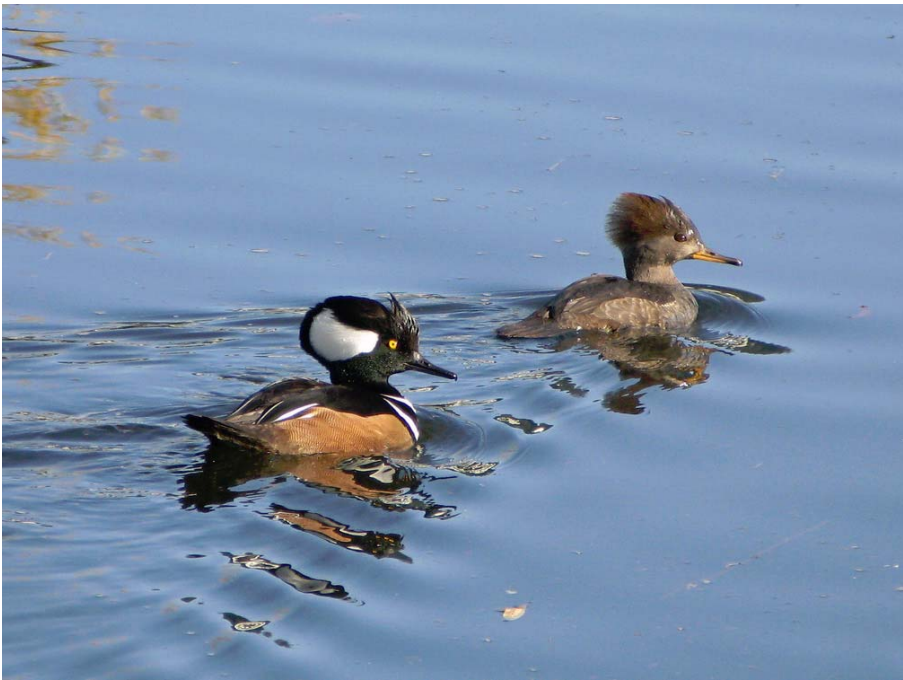
Migrant **Tundra Swans** were observed flying over the county, including one over Santa Cruz on November 1 (AG), six over Struve Slough November 13 (EF et al.), and seven east of Watsonville on December 1 (DSu). A **Gadwall** at Capitola Beach on December 23 was a rarity for the Capitola area (DSu). Three or four

male **Eurasian Wigeon** swam in Pajaro Valley's lakes and sloughs sites from November 22 onward (v.ob.). A female **Northern Pintail** wintering at Roaring Camp starting November 23 was a rare find for the San Lorenzo Valley (AR, JWi). Similarly notable for a montane site in Santa Cruz County was a **Green-winged Teal** in a vineyard pond northeast of Ben Lomond on December 17 (AR, JWi). The only **Greater Scaup** reported were one at Younger Lagoon on November 17 (SG, JWa) and 13 at the Struve/Watsonville Slough confluence on December 31 (AR). **Lesser Scaup** have been unusually scarce in the county in recent years; this period there were only three reports involving one or two birds each (NA, AG, CB, AR).



Two Greater White-Fronted Geese—an adult and an immature—were photographed by Jeff Poklen at Aptos Creek, November 1, 2011.

A male **Harlequin Duck** swam just off Terrace Point on November 5 (JG, AR, DSi et al.), and a female flew by Capitola Beach on November 28 (DSu). **Black Scoters** were off Davenport on December 3 (KJ) and Seaclyff State Beach on December 24 (DSu). The only **White-winged Scoters** were single birds off Capitola Beach on November 12 (DSu) and Davenport on



Above: Hooded Mergansers in a Scotts Valley pond, photographed by Alex Rinkert, December 7, 2011.

December 3 (KJ). **Hooded Mergansers** were reported in good numbers, with high counts including 16 in Struve Slough on November 17 (NA et al.) and 11 in a pond in Scotts Valley on December 7 (AR). A bit out of context was a pair of **Common Mergansers** flying over the dry grasslands of the lower UCSC campus on December 31 (SGe et al.). Pinto Lake held a **Red-throated Loon** and a **Pacific Loon** from December 29-January 1 (BR, RR), both species unexpected at an inland site in Santa Cruz County. A juvenile **Yellow-billed Loon** was photographed at the Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf on November 10 (SG) for the first Santa Cruz County record pending CBRC approval. Unfortunately, it did not linger.

Single **Red-necked Grebes** were on the Pajaro River near Pajaro Dunes on November 3 (NA et al.), off Capitola Beach on November 6 and there again on December 17 (DSu). There were no reports of **American White Pelican** in the county in November, and December only produced single birds at Harkins Slough on December 19 (SG, MC) and at Pinto Lake on December 29 (BR, RR). **American Bitterns** seemed to be in good numbers at their usual Pajaro Valley sites, including several counts of up to six in Struve Slough (v.ob.). There were four reports involving five **Cattle Egrets**, for the best season in over a decade: one to two at Younger Lagoon November 1-5 (JWa, RL, v.ob), one on the Cement Ship at Seacliff on

November 5 (DSu), one near Corralitos Lagoon December 13-16 (WSS), and one on a grassy median strip in Watsonville on December 19 (NA). Among various **White-faced Ibis** reports, 12 at Pinto Lake on November 22 was a good count for a site where the species is not often found (NA et al.).

Turkey Vultures were more common than usual in December, with 20 counted on the December 17 Santa Cruz County Christmas Bird Count, over three times the average (fide DSu). At least two different **Bald Eagles** were reported around the Pajaro Valley, with an adult seen mostly around the sloughs starting November 5 (GK, JWa, v.ob), and a Basic IV sub-adult at College Lake December 30-31 (DSu, AR). An adult

Broad-winged Hawk flying over Capitola on December 30 was especially rare for winter (DSu). A **Ferruginous Hawk** was photographed in the sandhills of eastern Henry Cowell State Park on November 3 (AR)

Below: Ferruginous Hawk photographed in the sandhills area of Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park, by Alex Rinkert.



probably the first ever for that park or anywhere in the San Lorenzo Valley. Another Ferruginous was at a more expected location at Swanton Pond on December 3 (KJ). A **Golden Eagle** over Pajaro Dunes on November 3 was unusual on the immediate coast (NA et al.).

Common Gallinules at the mouth of Wilder Creek on December 17 (KA) and on the San Lorenzo River in Santa Cruz on December 28 (PK) were notable away from the Pajaro Valley. **Snowy Plovers** rarely stray from a few favored beaches in Santa Cruz County, hence five on Capitola Beach December 23 (DSu), two at Rio Del Mar on December 26 (LP), and four at Seacliff on December 28 (DSu) were all unexpected. A now quite rare **Ruddy Turnstone** visited Seacliff's Cement Ship on November 23 (DSu). About 150 **Red Phalaropes** flew past Soquel Point on December 17 (CK, RFo), for a very high count from shore for December (apart from storm-related "wrecks"). An out-of-place **Wilson's Snipe** visited a Capitola mobile home park, and later, a neighboring backyard pond on December 4 (SMA, DSu).

Black-legged Kittiwakes stopped at Aptos Creek mouth on December 2 (JPo, BMC) and Capitola Beach on December 17 (DSu). **Heermann's Gulls** departed early this season and were remarkably scarce in December. Just two were found on the December 17 CBC (EL), only 1% of the average count for the last decade. A 2nd cycle **Glaucous Gull** was noted around the San Lorenzo River and downtown Santa Cruz beginning December 28 (SH, Kku, CS).

Below: A Black-legged Kittiwake and its shadow were photographed at Rio del Mar beach by Jeff Poklen.



Last winter a 1st cycle Glaucous frequented some of the same spots, so perhaps that same individual returned for a second winter. An **Elegant Tern** turned up at Seabright Beach on December 23 for a rare winter record (PB, SG, et al.); one photographed at Natural Bridges on December 25 (SG) was likely the same bird. Two **Ancient Murrelets** were spotted off Seacliff State Beach on November 23 (DSu), two were off Natural Bridges on December 5 (OJ, MB, et al.), and two were near Capitola Beach on December 17 (DSu).

Band-tailed Pigeons were found in above average numbers in many areas, with some record-setting totals from observations of early morning movements in the Aptos/Seacliff region. It was unclear if these involved migrants or local commuters traveling from roosts in the forested hills. A representative high count was of flocks totaling about 1,300 passing over the Cabrillo College and Porter-Sesnon region near sunrise on November 18 (DSu). A flock of about 200 at Seacliff SB on November 5 even passed over the ocean for a while as they roamed the area (DSu). A **White-winged Dove** visited a Capitola feeder on November 1 (DSu). A **Burrowing Owl** lingered at Younger Lagoon to November 4 (v.ob.), and one showed up on the beach at Seacliff on November 23 (DSu). Overwintering birds included one near Hanson Slough (JPi, GM), up to three at UCSC (JL), and two at Wilder Ranch State Park (JWa, LG et al.). **Short-eared Owls** were spotted over a residential area at the border of Capitola and Live Oak on November 6 (LL) and over Porter-Sesnon on November 18 (DSu), providing first records for both areas.

A **Common Poorwill** flushed along a trail at Wilder Ranch State Park on November 10 was perhaps a migrant (JWa), but it is unknown if the species might nest and be resident in the park. Two immature male *Selasphorus* hummers found at the UCSC Arboretum on October 24 lingered through January (SG, JG, BR, RR) and were finally documented by photographs to be **Rufous Hummingbirds** (SG, WN). These provided the county's first documented over-wintering record for this species. Prior records of wintering



A Dusky-capped Flycatcher is one of the rarities seen in December 2011. Photo by Pete Solé.

Rufous/Allen's in this county have been of just brief appearances; this is the first time they have been documented making a long stay from fall into winter.

A **Red-naped Sapsucker** was at Ben Lomond on December 17 (KKe).

A **Dusky Flycatcher** found at Lighthouse Field on November 5 (SG) lingered to December 24, for our 4th winter record. A "**Western**" **Flycatcher** was at Daventport on December 17 (DE, PS, JY, SM). An Empidonax at Meder Canyon on December 6 was probably a **Least Flycatcher**, but its identification remained unconfirmed (SG). The county's 9th **Dusky-capped Flycatcher** wintered along the San Lorenzo river in Santa Cruz from December 17 into January (JK, PB et al., v.ob.). Lighthouse Field attracted an **Eastern Phoebe** from November 18-21 (SG, v.ob.). One of the winter's exciting finds was a **Plumbeous Vireo** that obliged birders at San Lorenzo Park from December 28 into January (KKu, v.ob.), providing our first winter record and the first of nine county records to be viewed and photographed by many observers. A **Warbling Vireo**

at O'Neill Ranch Open Space on December 17 was also exceptional for that month (DSu).

Two **Loggerhead Shrikes** were near the southeast corner of the county in November (WSS), and one was at UCSC on December 17 (BR, RR et al.). Six **Horned Larks** were near Harkins slough on December 26 (DSu). **Western Bluebirds** showed up in some unexpected places. On the December 17 Christmas Bird Count we found one at Arana Gulch Open Space (WN, RG, MP), two at Alfadel Lane in Soquel (DSu), and eight at the main parking lot of Wilder Ranch SP (KA et al.) among a very strong tally of 27 for the day. Six were at the upper parking lot for Seacliff SB on December 24-28 (DSu). A wintering **Black-and-white Warbler** was near Antonelli Pond from November 7 to at least December 24 (SG, v.ob.), and one was at San Lorenzo Park December 30 into the new year (DSi et al.). **Tennessee Warblers** were at Lighthouse Field December 4-6 (JG, CB, SG) and at Laguna Creek on December 17 (DE, PS, JY, SM).

Below: Another December rarity, this Plumbeous Vireo stayed around for quite a while. Photo by Alex Rinkert.





A Palm Warbler, photographed by Steve Gerow near Swift St on November 14, 2011.

A confiding **Lucy's Warbler** was well photographed at Lighthouse Field SB from December 4-31 (JG, v.ob.). A very late **MacGillivray's Warbler** was at Lighthouse Field on December 8 (SG). The fall's third **Blackburnian Warbler** visited a yard in Live Oak on November 2 (GM). Three late **Yellow Warblers** were reported in Santa Cruz in November (SG, DSi, MS), and one at Wilder Ranch on December 17 was very rare for us in winter (CS, KA et al.). Seven new **Palm Warblers** in November brought the fall total to 23 birds (v.ob.). A **Wilson's Warbler** stayed at Antonelli Pond from November 8 to at least December 17 (JG, RFu). Counts of rare but regular western warblers in December included two **Nashvilles** (SG, KKu), one **Black-throated Gray** (JG), and a strong nine **Hermits** (v.ob.). A late **Chipping Sparrow** was near Antonelli on November 30 (SG). Late fall **Clay-colored Sparrows** were near Schwan Lake on November 4 (SG, WN, MP) and at the Homeless Garden on November 8-13 (JWa, v.ob.), while a rare wintering bird was seen by many at San Lorenzo Park December 22 into January (AR, v.ob.).

A **Vesper Sparrow** was at Harkins Slough on December 19 (SG, MC). **Fox Sparrows** showing characteristics of the "Red" group were at Natural Bridges on November 10 (PB) and at Mission Springs on December 17 (WSS, MST). At least 11 **Swamp Sparrows** were found during this reporting period (SG,

DSu, v.ob.). **White-throated Sparrows** made a nice showing in late fall and winter. Of note was a high count of four at the Farm at UCSC on November 4 (AR, JG). Two "**Slate-colored**" **Dark-eyed Juncos** were found in November (DG, DSu). Three late **Western Tanagers** were noted in November (DSu, SG, DL, JG), and one was at Capitola on December 16 (DSu). A **Black-headed Grosbeak** near Antonelli Pond on November 14 was very late (SG). Two or three wintering birds visited feeders in the mountains in watershed of the West Branch of Soquel Creek from late November into January (ST, LT, BM, KM). The feeding stations were 1.5 miles apart, and it is possible that one of the birds was commuting between the two sites.

A late **Indigo Bunting** visited Capitola on November 24 (DSu). **Tricolored Blackbirds** have had a dismal showing in the county this winter. A flock of 200 near Younger Lagoon on November 4 (SG, WN) was the only count of more than 100 reported from fall through January. A late **Bullock's Oriole** was at Lighthouse Field on November 21 (SG). A small number of **Red Crossbills** were at Natural Bridges on December 9 (SG et al.), and a single **Evening Grosbeak** was at Quail Hollow Ranch County Park on December 11 (AR et al.).

Cited Observers: Nanci Adams, Kumaran Arul, Cliff Bixler, Matt Brady, Phil Brown, Mary Crouser, David Ekdahl, Eric Feuss, Rick Fournier (RFo), Rob Furrow (RFu), Alexander Gaguine, John Garrett, Steve Gerow, Lois Goldfrank, Diane Goodboe, Rich Griffith, Sharon Hull, Kent Johnson, Oscar Johnson, Clay Kempf, Jared Karr, Gary Kittleson, Ken Kellman (KKe), Pamela King, Kathy Kuyper (KKu), Richard Lange, Lisa Larson, Dave Lavorando, Earl Lebow, Janet Linthicum, Sally Makee (SMA), Gary Martindale. Barry McLaughlin (BMc), Barbara and Kevin Monahan, Shirley Murphy, Wendy Naruo, Margaret Perham, Lise Peterson, Jonathan Pilch (JPi), Jeff Poklen, Bernadette Ramer, Robert Ramer, Alex Rinkert, Christian Schwarz, Michelle Scott, David Sidle (DSi), W. Scott Smithson, Pete Solé, Matthew Strusis-Timmer, David Suddjian (DSu), Linda and Scott Terrill, Jeff Wall (JWa), Jim Williams (JWi), Joe Yuhas. "v.ob." means various observers.

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

**New SCBC
Members
Welcome!**

Jane Orbuch and Bryan Cockel	Dec 2011
Linda Holding Schure	Dec 2011
Barbara Ingman	Dec 2011
Carla Moss	Jan 2012
Tom Helman	Jan 2012
John Garrett	Jan 2012
Bruce MacFarlane	Jan 2012
Linda Sullivan	Jan 2012
Rick & Kathy Near	Jan 2012
Chris Lay	Jan 2012
Bill Henry	Feb 2012
Frank Drees	Feb 2012

**Input deadline for
May-August issue
of the Albatross—
April 1, 2012**

Submission for the



Albatross—Guidelines

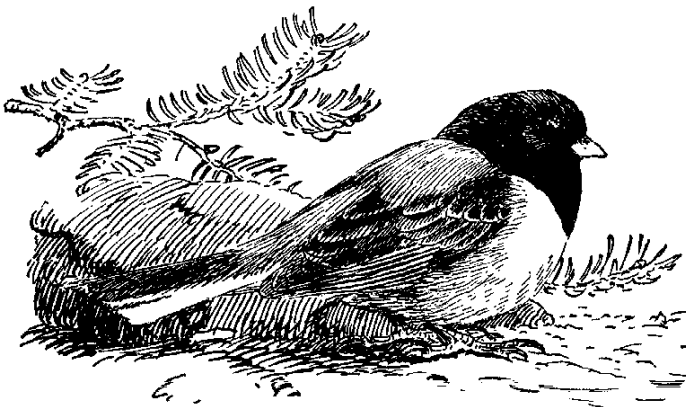
In addition to regular features—calendar, Santa Cruz Birds, trip reports—the newsletter can include almost anything related to birding in general and to local birding in particular. Depending on space, submissions of any of the following are welcome:

- 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.

I accept plain text, Word, or PDF files. Send items by email to: calqua@sbcglobal.net

~Judy Donaldson, Editor



Dark-eyed Junco

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GROS-BEAK!



A not-so-shy Evening Grosbeak was nicely photographed by Alex Rinkert at Henry Cowell Redwoods in January 2011.

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<http://santacruzbirdclub.org/>

Join the Santa Cruz Bird Club

Enjoy walks in and around the County of Santa Cruz, discounted boat trips on Monterey Bay, summer picnics and annual dinners, meetings September through May featuring informative, illustrated talks on wild birds and related topics, and receive the bimonthly newsletter, The Albatross. Memberships run June-May. Dues are \$20 Individual, \$25 Family, \$5 Youth, \$400 Life. Make checks payable to Santa Cruz Bird Club and mail to Box 1304, Santa Cruz, CA 95061, Attention: Membership Chairman.