



Albatross

PHOEBASTRIA NIGRIPES

DAVID SUDDJIAN DEPARTS FROM SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

By Steve Gerow

"WHY DO I COUNT CROWS?
BECAUSE SOMEBODY HAS TO!"
-DAVID SUDDIGAN

The big news for the local birding community is that David Suddjian has moved from Santa Cruz County. David left Capitola at the end of November to take a new job in Colorado, and he and his family will be making that their new home.

David has been a key figure in local birding since he first came to Santa Cruz County in 1985. He has served as the county Bird Records Keeper ever since 1986, compiled the Santa Cruz Christmas Bird Count starting in 1989, was President of the Santa Cruz Bird Club from 1994-1998, and also kept the club's history files for many years. Over the years he conducted or coordinated numerous projects and studies that greatly expanded our knowledge of the avifauna of Santa Cruz County and the Santa Cruz Mountains region in general. Among these were some large-scale projects involving many volunteers from the bird club, including the county breeding bird atlas project, and the Forest Bird Monitoring Program. Many important discoveries have also come from surveys and studies David worked on as a field biologist, and from his extensive (at times almost relentless) birding around the county (it takes quite a bit of time and effort to find 414 species in this county!) A quick scan through the Santa Cruz County reports in eBird will speak for itself. In addition, David was the editor and a principal author of the Santa Cruz County Birding Guide (available online through the SCBC web site). It was also his idea for the club to conduct a "Big Year" in 2008, when the club recorded a collective total of 276 species on the numerous field trips held that year (two or three trips, and sometimes more, each week).

While many are now wondering who will keep track of the crow roosts and grebe flocks, and who will watch for all those rarities that seem to favor a flight path over Monterey Avenue in Capitola, there are plenty of us who will continue to watch and study birds here, and good finds and new discoveries will continue to be made. But it is likely that those who watch the listserves and eBird reports will be noticing a marked increase in reports from certain parts of Colorado.

Anyway, we wish David and his family good-bye and good luck in their new home, and, of course, good birding!



Sad Crow - LFL

INSIDE:

Calendar of Events

Santa Cruz Birds



Amazing Fall Photos

A TIP for Bird Feeders
or Bird Baths!



Events Calendar

January-February 2014



Friday, January 10
Schwan Lake

We'll explore the live oaks, riparian, grassland, and other habitats of the upland portion of Twin Lakes State Beach.

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

Leader: Steve Gerow, stephengerow@aol.com



Saturday, January 11
Rancho Del Oso

Morning walk in search of wintering songsters along Wadell Creek valley.

Directions: Meet in Santa Cruz at 8AM at COMPANION (once Beckmann's) BAKERY, ocean side of Mission St just before Swift St. We will scan Waddell Creek Beach while waiting for late-comers to join us there by 8:30, then walk the road along the marsh's west side, past the corrals, and on to the redwoods.

Leader: Todd Newberry, 831-426-8741.



Friday, January 17
West Cliff Drive and vicinity

West Cliff should have a good mix of nearshore species, rocky shore specialists, gulls, and others, and Bethany Curve Park and/or Lighthouse Field will provide some land birding.

Directions: Meet at 8:00 AM at the corner of West Cliff Drive and Woodrow Avenue

Leader: Steve Gerow, stephengerow@aol.com



Sunday, January 19
Palo Alto Bayland

The tides are not spectacular this day (low tide of 1.7 ft at 9:17 AM and a high tide at of 7.1 ft at 1:53 PM), but we will look for Clapper Rail and any other rail species. We will bird the duck pond, lagoon and trails around the Environmental Education Center (Lucy Evans Baylands Nature Interpretive Center), the Palo Alto flood control basin including the bordering Matadero and Adobe Creeks, Charleston Slough, Mountain View Forebay, Coast-Casey Forebay, Shoreline Lake, Pond A1 and A2, and then possibly further outlying areas such as Crittenden Marsh, etc.. We may be moving around a bit if one or more interesting birds have been reported in the vicinity during the week.

Directions: Meet at the County Government Center at 6:45 am (near sign at Ocean Street parking entrance) or at the Palo Alto Baylands at 8:00 am - preferably at the Environmental Education Center. Sometimes the gate is still locked. If so, there is still a parking lot outside the gate and some great mud flats (right there) in the basin to be birded. Please call leader before trip if meeting at the latter location or if one wishes to make arrangement for another meeting place and time.

Leader: Eric Feuss 831-477-0280 (408-717-0421 mobile – day of trip only).

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, January 23
SCBC Meeting@ 7:30 PM
Speaker: Christian Schwarz
Topic: Mushrooms! (and Birds?)

When we venture into the local forests and fields in winter, we often find a wide array of mushrooms - these organisms (lacking feathers or wings) may seem exceptionally unfamiliar to ornithophiles...

Come learn the basics of mushroom biology and identification, their roles in local ecosystems, and some of the ways their lives intersect with those of birds around the world.



Surfbird - Michael Bolte



Friday, January 24
Seabright

We will check Seabright Beach, the Santa Cruz Harbor, and possibly some other nearby spots

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

Leader: Steve Gerow, stephengerow@aol.com



Sunday January 26
Beginning Bird Walk at Quail Hollow

A relaxed morning walk looking for Woodpeckers, Thrushes, Finches and any other wintering species we can find. All are welcome.

Directions: Meet in the parking lot for Quail Hollow SP at 8:30 am

Leader: Phil Brown (831) 334 -4249



Friday, January 31
Corralitos area

We will visit a few locations in this part of the county, starting at Scott Park. Places we may go from there include Amesti Road, Merk Road, locations around Corralitos itself, and/or several other possibilities (to be determined later).

Directions: Meet at 8:00 AM at the parking area of Scott Park (3101 Freedom Blvd., just over a half mile north of the intersection of Freedom Blvd. and Corralitos Road). The parking lot is at the south end of the park, just north of Corralitos Lagoon (AKA Freedom Lake). Parking is limited (very limited at some of the possible birding spots), so carpooling is recommended.

Leader: Steve Gerow, stephengerow@aol.com



Saturday, February 1
Tres Pinos Canyon and Panoche Valley

The first Saturday in February marks the long-standing traditional SCBC trip to Panoche Valley, an area first birded by SCBC members Carolyn Frederickson and Steve Allison before their untimely departures from our world. Panoche has since been designated as a globally important bird area by the National Audubon Society.

The birding trip will seek out all the regional specialties, including Phainopepla, Western and Mountain Bluebird, Lewis' Woodpecker, Greater Roadrunner, Prairie Falcon, Merlin, Ferruginous Hawk, Bald & Golden Eagle, Mountain Plover, Chukar, Vesper Sparrow, and Bell's Sparrow. Viewing Long-eared Owls now includes a \$25 per person entry fee, so that will be optional. Carpooling encouraged.

Participants wishing to order a lunch from the Panoche Inn (sandwich, soda and chips for \$7) should e-mail your sandwich of choice to the leader by midnight on Wednesday, January 29th. Choices are Pastrami, Chicken Salad, Tuna Salad, Ham, or vegetarian. Include your choice of bread (wheat, rye, sourdough); condiments (mayo, mustard, tomato, onion, lettuce), and cheese (jack, cheddar, swiss).

Directions: Meet the leader at 8:00 a.m at the Paicines Store on Hwy 25, approximately 12 miles south of Hollister. Those coming from Santa Cruz who want to carpool can meet at the Aptos Wells Fargo at 6:30 a.m.

Leader: Clay Kempf, (831) 761-8260, or ltjaeger@att.net



Friday, February 7
Neary Lagoon

Riparian and marsh birds, Wood Ducks, and maybe something unexpected.

Directions: Meet at the west entrance (off Bay and California) at 8:00 AM

Leader: Steve Gerow, stephengerow@aol.com



Friday, February 14
Upper Struve Slough

We will start with a walk up the upper reaches of Struve Slough, which may have an interesting mix of Passerine species. If we get enough rain, there also may be good duck habitat along part of this trail. From there we may check some other spots in the Watsonville area, depending on time and conditions.

Directions: Meet at 8:00 AM. To get to our meeting place, go into the Watsonville Square Shopping Center (which includes Nob Hill Market, etc.), which is on the north side of Main Street southeast of the intersection with Green Valley Road. Turn right after entering the parking lot, and go to the extreme southeast part of the shopping center (this is a small parking lot separated from the main parking area). The trail starts here.

Leader: Steve Gerow, stephengerow@aol.com



White-tailed Kite at Upper Struve- LFL



Sunday, February 16
San Mateo Bayfront and Coast

We'll bird up the coast, in the morning, visiting areas between and including Pigeon Point and Princeton Harbor, before heading over Hwy 92 to bird Redwood Shores and Radio Road in the afternoon. Itinerary may vary as we'll attempt for any recent sightings provided on the peninsula birding list server (pen-bird) appropriate to these locations or thereabouts. High tides are 5.2 ft at around 11 AM, Princeton Harbor, and 8.0 ft at around 1 PM, Redwood City Wharf. Bring lunch for a full day's birding. Heavy rain cancels.

Directions: Meet at the County Government Center at 7:00 a.m. (near sign at Ocean Street parking entrance). Plan to carpool, if possible. Please call leader before trip if one wishes to make arrangement for another meeting place and time.

Leader: Eric Feuss 831-477-0280 (408-717-0421 mobile – day of trip only).



Friday, February 21
Natural Bridges State Beach



A visit to one of our most reliable local birding spots—who knows what we'll find?

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

Leader: Steve Gerow, stephengerow@aol.com



Little Panoche Valley Road - LFL



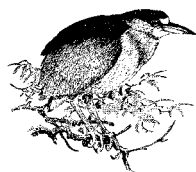
Thursday, February 27
SCBC Meeting@ 7:30 PM
Speaker: Noelle Antolin and Lou Rose

Topic: Watsonville Wetlands, and Project Tierra

The Watsonville Slough System has some of the richest wildlife habitat in the county. Noelle Antolin and Lou Rose from Watsonville Wetlands Watch will tell us about the birds and other wildlife in the sloughs, and about the work of Watsonville Wetlands Watch. A particular focus of tonight's program will be on Project Tierra, a citizen-science project where you can help the effort to learn more about the sloughs. Ongoing projects invite volunteers to help monitor bird populations, plants, aquatic insects and water quality.



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Struve Slough -Pete Sole



Sunday, February 23
Beginning Bird Walk at Watsonville Sloughs

It is winter, so the best time to see ducks of all varieties. We will bird around the sloughs looking for waterfowl of all kinds.

Directions: Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the back of West Marine where the parking lot overlooks the sloughs. You will need to drive all the way to the back of the lot to find the meeting place.

Leader: Phil Brown (831) 334-4249



Brown Creeper DeLaveaga Park -Jeff Bleam



Friday, February 28
DeLaveaga Park (southeast)

We should find good numbers our regular forest species, usually including a nice mix of woodpeckers, lots of Pygmy Nuthatches, Brown Creepers, Townsend's Warblers, etc. The earliest of the spring arrivals (Allen's Hummingbird, Violet-green Swallow, Orange-crowned Warbler) are also among the possibilities. Expect a couple of miles of walking with some hills.

Directions: Meet at 8:00 AM at the trail head at the north end of Park Way (the section to the north of Highway 1), off Prospect Heights. Note that parking is limited in this area. There are a few parking spaces in a dirt lot by the park entrance, but these can be difficult for low-clearance vehicles. There is usually some on-street parking on Prospect Heights and nearby side streets. Car pooling is suggested.

Leader: Steve Gerow, stephengerow@aol.com

Santa Cruz Birds

By David Suddjian & Steve Gerow

Including reports from September 1 to October 31, 2013

The year's strong pattern of first county records continued into fall, with two more this period: Blue-footed Booby and Mississippi Kite! These and several other fairly rare species made for a great season for county list-builders.



Elegant Terns Capitola Beach - Alex Rinkert

Immense schools of anchovies were continually present along the mid-county coast from early September through November, creating a show of feeding birds that was unprecedented in modern memory. During this time there were continuous feeding frenzies of 1000s of birds that persisted in the same spots for weeks at time, also attracting many humpback whales, sea lions, and dolphins. Prominent bird species varied with the season's progress, but it was only a small subset of birds that responded with exceptional abundance. Brown Pelican, Heermann's Gull, Western Gull and Elegant Tern reigned supreme in September and early October, the latter attracting high numbers of Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers. Pelicans remained exceptionally abundant into late November, but terns moved on; Heermann's lessened, while Brandt's Cormorant, California and other gulls picked up. Common Murres were also abundant in some places. An invasion of Blue-footed Boobies occurred independently in the midst of it all, leading hopeful birders to scan from coastal points in hopes of picking a Sulid needle from the haystack of feeding, flying and loafing birds. Some exceptional notable high counts included: 12,100 Brandt's Cormorants passing Terrace Point in 2.5 hours on November 1 (AR), 15,330 Brown Pelicans passing there at the same time (AR), 6,420 passing off Seacliff on November 2 (DSu), 37 Parasitic Jaegers at New Brighton on September 13 (DSu), and 3,600 Elegant Terns from Capitola to Seacliff on September 10 (DSu).

* * *

Greater White-fronted Geese were noted beginning September 27, but the only reports of more than one or two were flocks of 32 and 37 over Capitola on October 31 (DSu). **Cackling Goose** was well represented, with 11 reports beginning September 26 (v.ob.). Neary Lagoon continues as the county's best gathering spot for **Wood Ducks**, with a count of 50 on September 6 providing a high tally (SG). Two at Watsonville Slough on September 21 were good for the Pajaro Valley, where the species has

become rare in recent years (CK, EL, RR). A hybrid **Mal-lard x Gadwall** visited Schwan Lake on October 21 (SG). A **White-winged Scoter** was at Capitola Beach on October 30 (DSu). A small number of **California Quail** at New Brighton State Beach on September 12 included one half-grown and two smaller young, providing the first breeding confirmation for the park and the Capitola-Seacliff area in recent decades (AR). A **Wild Turkey** trotting at New Brighton on October 12 was the first for the park (DSu).

Two **Red-necked Grebes** at Davenport on September 8 were early (EF et al.), while three more were found in October. Seventeen **Pink-footed Shearwaters** seen from Terrace Point on October 10 was a high shore-based count for the county (AR). There were a series of shore-based sightings of **Manx Shearwater**: New Brighton on September 30 (DSu), West Cliff Drive and Terrace Point (same?) on September 30 (AR, PB), and one or more at West Cliff Drive on October 3 (AR, NL, JG). Meanwhile, one was seen from a pelagic birding boat on September 27 (fide DSh). **Black-vented Shearwaters** made a brief incursion that peaked in late September (v.ob.).

A most remarkable rarity event this fall was an invasion of **Blue-footed Boobies**, perhaps the largest documented in California's history, bringing birds up the coast at least as far as Sonoma County, and first county records and then some for Santa Cruz. Sightings at central California began on September 15 and peaked in the third week of September, with birds continuing to be seen into November. With many seen on the move and many contemporaneous and likely repeat sightings, it is impossible to gauge how many individuals were present. The great majority were juveniles or sub-adults, but a small number of adults were seen. Santa Cruz County alone had 18 occurrences from September 16 to November 2 (v.ob.) (see table on pg. 11) with the first county record being one at Capitola September 16 (DSu). Most were seen from Seacliff to Terrace Point, but two reports were from Waddell Creek Beach.



BFBO at Black Point 9-17-13 -Will Lawton

Brandt's Cormorants nesting at Seacliff concluded their second round of nests by the end of September, but one remained sitting on eggs as late as November 1 before

finally giving up (DSu). The period's high count of **American White Pelicans** was 275 at the confluence of Watsonville and Struve Sloughs on September 14 (EL). The county's first **Mississippi Kite** was a beautifully photographed juvenile seen at Schwan Lake on September 13 (DJ). Three or four **Broad-winged Hawks** were spotted October 7 to October 25 (JG, SG, DSu, AR et al). Three **Ferruginous Hawks** were found October 5-12 (AR, SG, JG). **Sandhill Cranes** show up sporadically in the county, with many of our reports from October. This season a flight in early October brought cranes to several spots along the California coast, including five photographed at Watsonville Slough on October 4 (GK) and three soaring over Capitola on October 5 (DSu).



Mississippi Kite -Douglas Joo

A **Pacific Golden-Plover** was at Swanton Berry Farm on September 18 (DSu). A **Snowy Plover** was rare



Sharp-tailed Sandpiper 10-16-13 Lee Road- Andy Knorr

inland at Struve Slough on September 8-14 (SH, PM, EL). Three more **Solitary Sandpipers** through September 26 (DSu, GM) gave us four for the season. Approximately 35 **Lesser Yellowlegs** were found this fall from August 1 to October 9, all in the Pajaro Valley with a peak of seven at Harkins Slough on September 19 (BR, LG et al). A **Ruddy Turnstone** visited Younger Lagoon on September 12-13 (PB, SG). A cooperative **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** (or were

there two?) visited Struve Slough from October 5-16 to be enjoyed by many, providing the third county record and allowing some excellent photographs (RW, AR, v.ob.). There were about seven **Baird's Sandpipers** found from August 30 to October 12 (all but one at the Pajaro Valley), and over 80 **Pectoral Sandpipers** were found September 5 to October 27 (over 80% in the Pajaro Valley). Pectorals included a large gathering at Struve Slough October 6-10 that peaked at a county record high of 32 on October 9 (CK). Six or seven **Semipalmated Sandpipers** from September 5-19 brought the season's total to a high seven to eight individuals (v.ob.).

Three **Tufted Puffins** were seen on pelagic trips from September 12-27 (fide DSh, AR). A **Mew Gull** at Waddell Creek on September 17 was early for the county (DSu) as was a **Thayer's Gull** near Soquel Point on September 19 (JP). A **Sabine's Gull** came in close to shore at New Brighton on September 13 (DSu). A **Least Tern** at Corcoran Lagoon Beach brought the season's tally to five (SG). More **Common Terns** than usual were reported along the shore (and even inland) than usual. 24 in a flock at Capitola Beach on September 11 provided a high shore-based count (AR). Struve and Harkins sloughs had reports of one to two birds from September 11-19 (v.ob.). An **Arctic Tern** paused at Aptos Creek mouth on September 10 (DSu). **Forster's Terns** showed the same pattern as the Common Tern, but they were even less common than Commons, highlighting their now rather uncommon status. The high count was seven in the flock at Capitola on September 11 (AR).

A **White-winged Dove** visited an east Santa Cruz yard on September 20 (EM). Single **Burrowing Owls** were reported from three sites starting October 7 (GK, NL, GM) all in the vicinity of the Watsonville Slough system. A **Common Poorwill** was at the UCSC Arboretum on October 7 (BL, JA); migrant Poorwills away from their breeding areas are rarely found in Santa Cruz County. Among several



Thayer's Gull - Jeff Poklen

reports of migrant **Vaux's Swifts** in September and early October, counts of 85 near Laguna Creek on October 7 (JG) and 71 along the Davenport coast on that same date (DSu) were above average for recent years, though counts larger than this used to be rather ordinary in past decades. Additional **Black-chinned Hummingbirds** through September 24 brought the fall total to 15-18 individuals (v.ob.) which is just a little above average for recent years. A **Lewis's Woodpecker** made a very brief visit to Antonelli Pond on October 4 (AR, JG, WG, LG, SG, v.ob.). Luckily it picked a date and time when both a Santa Cruz Bird Club field trip and a UCSC ornithology class were visiting the pond, so it did not escape notice. A **Red-naped Sapsucker** was along Branciforte Creek near downtown Santa Cruz on October 22 (SG).

A **Prairie Falcon** flew through Corralitos on October 22 (SG, MC). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at Porter-Sesnon on September 28 was a fairly late date for this species, but one there on October 25 was quite late (DSu). Eighteen **Willow Flycatchers** were noted between August 31 and September 28 (v.ob.), a healthy total for fall migration. **Ash-throated Flycatchers** are also fairly rare as fall migrants; about six were reported altogether, with two at Neary Lagoon on October 20 (DM) being late. **Tropical Kingbirds** were at Neary Lagoon on October 3 (CL), Struve Slough starting October 12 (JS, TE), with a second there starting October 27 (AR, v.ob.) and in Capitola on October 12 (DSu). At least a dozen **Western Kingbirds** turned up from August 8 to September 21 (v.ob.).

There were several **Loggerhead Shrike** reports probably involving about three individuals (v.ob.). Four **Cassins Vireos** were reported from August 23-October 7 (PB, SG, DSu, v.ob.). A rare **Red-eyed Vireo** visited Arana Gulch on September 16 (SG). Rarer still was a **Yellow-green Vireo** photographed at Bethany Curve Park on September 27 (NL). Although resident fairly close by in neighboring counties, **Yellow-billed Magpies** hardly ever seem to cross the line into Santa Cruz County; one photographed by Soda Lake on October 27 (AR) was the first in the county in over five years. Two **Horned Larks** were at the south end of Swanton Road on September 18 (DSu) and one was near Watsonville Slough on September 19 (SG, RR). It was a good fall for **Purple Martins** with four reports, including a remarkable 18 at Antonelli Pond on September 13 (SG) plus three other reports from September 3-21 (RF, SG et al., JB) involving a total of eight individuals. A **Lapland Longspur** stopped at Wilder Ranch on October 16 (AR, WL, NL, JG).

Among the rarest of this fall's vagrant warblers was

a **Bay-breasted Warbler** along Soquel Creek in Capitola on September 16 (NL) which was just the second record for Santa Cruz County. **Blackburnian Warblers** visited



Blackburnian Warbler - Alex Rinkert

Antonelli Pond on September 19 (CS, AP) and Arana Gulch on September 22 (GM). A male **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was a good find at CARE Park along the Pajaro River on October 10 (SM, CR, SG, WN). The season's second **Canada Warbler** was studied and photographed by many at Natural Bridges on October 24-25 (AJ, v.ob.). The only **Northern Waterthrush** this fall was one along Soquel Creek on September 27 (DSu). On the other hand, it was an exceptional year for **Tennessee Warblers**, with ten discovered between September 7 and October 24 (v.ob.), by far the most ever found in one season in Santa Cruz County. Totals for other "rare-but-regular" eastern vagrants through October 31 included six **Black-and-white Warblers**, at least seven **American Redstarts**, two **Chestnut-sided Warblers**, eight **Blackpoll Warblers**, and about fifteen **Palm Warblers**. Uncommon western migrants included seven **Nashville Warblers**, eight **MacGillivray's Warblers**, around 33-35 **Black-throated Gray Warblers**, just one **Hermit Warbler** (low), and one **Yellow-breasted Chat** (about average for fall).

Reports of migrant *Spizella* sparrows involved about 7-10 **Chipping Sparrows** and 4-6 **Clay-colored Sparrows** this fall (v.ob.) More **Vesper Sparrows** were found than usual, with five reports involving six birds from September 30-October 9 (JG, LG, JWa, DSu, NL). Up to 14 **Lark Sparrows** appeared from August 13-October 14 for an above-average fall passage. A **Grasshopper Sparrow** stayed at Arana Gulch from September 24-28 (AR, SG, v.ob), then an unusual grouping of 4-5 was near the UCSC Farm on October 12 (LG, JWa, JG, AR). **Swamp Sparrows** were spotted at West Struve Slough on October 18 (GM)

and Arana Gulch on October 30 (SG). Ten **White-throated Sparrows** turned up starting October 7 (v.ob.) Six **Summer Tanagers** discovered between September 5 and October 9 set a new record for fall migration in the county (DSu, EL, GM, FT V).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were at Natural Bridges on September 2 (JWi, AW), in Capitola on September 20, and at Davenport on October 7 (DSu). Two **Blue Grosbeaks** appeared near College Lake on October 2, with one staying to October 4 (GK), and another was in Davenport on October 7 (DSu). **Indigo Bunting** sightings included one at Antonelli Pond on October 4 (PB, JB) and one near Lighthouse Field from October 21-24 (AG, SG, PS). Two **Bobolinks** were near West Struve Slough on October 25 (GK). A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was among a mixed flock at Davenport on September 16 (DSu). A male **Great-tailed Grackle** away from its usual Pajaro Valley range turned up at Arana Gulch on September 29 (DSu). An **Orchard Oriole** visited Arana Gulch on September 23 (SG).

The only **Red Crossbill** reports this period were five at UCSC on October 25 (JG) and one at Porter-Sesnon that day (DSu); both "Type 2" birds. There were quite a few reports of small numbers of **Lawrence's Goldfinches** from various spots this fall, but a flock of 22 at Porter-Sesnon on October 26 (DSu) was exceptional for Santa Cruz County.



Black-throated Blue Warbler - Wendy Naruo

Cited Observers: Jenny Anderson, Jeff Bleam, Phil Brown, Mary Crouser, Todd Easterla, Rick Fournier, Alexander Gaguine, John Garrett, Steve Gerow, Lois Goldfrank, Wally Goldfrank, Sharon Hull, Alex Jones, Douglas Joo, Clay Kempf, Gary Kittleson, Caroline Lambert, Will Lawton, Earl Lebow, Nick Levendosky, Bruce Lyon, Gary Martindale, Douglas Mason, Eric Miller, Shirley Murphy, Pam Myers, Wendy Naruo, Amy Patten, Jeff Poklen, Bernadette Ramer, Robert Ramer, Alex Rinkert, Caroline Rodgers, Debi Shearwater (DSh), Christian Schwarz, Pete Sole', John Sterling, David Suddjian (DSu), Francia Taylor Voegelin, Jeff Wall, Randy Wardle, Jim Williams, Anne Williams.



Officers Still Needed!

Are you interested in becoming an officer for the Santa Cruz Bird Club? A number of our volunteer officer positions are now (or soon will be) vacant, and we need to find a few dedicated members with the time and interest to take over these important jobs.

We especially need a new Programs Officer, whose responsibility it is to find and schedule the programs for our meetings. Scott Smithson and Breck Tyler have been ably sharing the duties of this position for the last couple of years, and we thank them for all the great presentations they have brought to our meetings! Unfortunately neither is able to continue this year, so it is important that we find a person or two who can take over this task soon.

We also need a new Conservation Officer (who keeps up with, and sometimes represents the bird club, on local conservation issues), as Matthew Strusis-Timmer is no longer able to continue. Thanks to Matthew for his hard work filling this job!

Finally, it would be great if someone could take over as President sometime in the next few months!

There may also be other positions that need filling in the near future, and volunteers may be needed at times to help in other ways with other Santa Cruz Bird Club activities. If you are interested in helping with any of this, please contact Steve Gerow at stephengerow@aol.com.

-Steve Gerow

SHEARWATER JOURNEYS is pleased to announce our 2014 schedule of pelagic trips. We offer high quality seabird trips departing from Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey since 1976 and from Pillar Point, Half Moon Bay since 1999. (Half Moon Bay trips are just as easily reached from Santa Cruz as Monterey trips). Our Farallon Islands trip departs from Sausalito, August 3, and always sells out in advance. Enjoy the thrill of sailing under the Golden Gate Bridge, as well as watching Tufted Puffins at the islands. Since 1980, we have offered trips to the Cordell Bank and Bodega Canyon. Shearwater Journeys' leaders are friendly and knowledgeable, with worldwide sea birding experience. We would like to offer members of SCBC a special discount of \$35 on any of our trips, if booked prior to 1 June. Discounted trips are non-refundable. To make a reservation, please send payment to Debi Shearwater, POB 190, Hollister, CA 95024, include the name, address, email and phone for each person; debi@shearwaterjourneys.com. To see the complete 2014 calendar of trips: www.shearwaterjourneys.com/schedule.shtml

Debi Shearwater is a Life Member of the SCBC and a past officer. She will be joining you on every trip. See you out there!

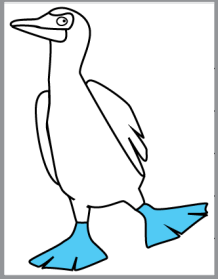


South Polar Skua - Steve_Rottenborn©



A Summary of Blue-footed Booby Reports in Santa Cruz County 9/16/13-11/2/13

*(note that this is a summary of reports, and likely includes repeated observations of the same individuals;
the actual total of birds involved is impossible to determine)*

Date	Location	Number	Observer(s)	notes
9/16/13	Capitola Bluffs	1 imm.	DSu	1st record for Santa Cruz County
9/17/13	Seacliff State Beach	1 imm.	AR, WL	1st to be photographed in the county
9/17/13	Black Point	2 imm.	AR, WL, ZO, LG, WG, v.ob.	resting on rocks, and also seen flying nearshore
9/17/13	Waddell Creek Beach	1 ad	DSu	only adult reported in Santa Cruz County
9/18/13	Black Point	1 imm	NL	flying with Brown Pelicans, maybe one of same as on 9/17
9/19/13	Terrace Point	1 imm	AB	diving nearshore
9/19/13	Soquel Point	1 imm	DSu	flew up the coast
9/19/13	Soquel Point	1 imm	JK	flew up the coast four hours later than above, so perhaps different
9/19/13	Natural Bridges & Lighthouse Point	1-2 imm	ST, LT, KG	uncertain if one or two birds involved
9/20/13	West Cliff Drive	1 imm	AR	flew up the coast in the early morning
9/20/13	Lighthouse Point	1 imm	TJ, SG, v.ob.	flew down coast at mid-morning, maybe same as above
9/21/13	San Lorenzo River mouth	1 imm	AR	
9/28/13	Seacliff State Beach	1 imm	DSu	
10/8/13	Baldwin Creek mouth	1	JL	
10/16/13	Terrace Point	1 imm	SG	
10/17/13	Capitola Beach	1 imm	DSu	
10/20/13	Waddell Creek Beach	1	GS, PM	
11/2/13	West Cliff Drive	1	GT, RG	separate observations and locations, but likely the same bird

Observers: Abe Borker, Steve Gerow, Kate Goldberg, Lois Goldfrank, Wally Goldfrank, Rich Griffith, Tim Jolly, Jacob Kirkland, Will Lawton, Nick Levendosky, Peter Metropulos, Zac Ormsby, Alex Rinkert, Gary Strachan, David Suddjian, Glen Tepke, Linda Terrill, Scott Terrill.



A Tip for Bird Feeders or Bird Baths

-Larry Corridon

If your feeders and/or baths are hanging off of poles, attach branches to the poles (I used madrone branches held on with hose clamps) to increase the birds at your feeder and the activity level at the feeders. Even birds not very interested in the feeders perch on the branches and there is much more interplay between the birds. The birds tend to hang out at the feeders even if not eating which can give longer views of the birds!





Amazing Photos from an Amazing Fall Season



Beacuse one good tern
deserves another...

Capitola Beach Elegant Terns
-Alex Rinkert

Pelican Frenzy Pleasure Point,
Santa Cruz

Can you spot the Heerman's Gull?

-Jeff Poklen



Prepare for landing...

-Andy Knorr

COLLECTIVE NOUN ROUNDUP QUIZ

Just a few...just for fun

1. A _____ of herons.



14. ear-full, museum

2. A _____ of owls.



13. ostentation, pride, muster

3. A _____ of eagles.



12. mustering, flight, phalanx

4. A _____ of hummingbirds.



11. flight, gulp

5. A _____ of kingfishers.



10. descent

6. A _____ of ducks.



9. squadron, pod, scoop

7. A _____ of sandpipers.



8. host, tribe, ubiquity

8. A _____ of sparrows.



7. fling, bind, contradiction, hill, timestep

9. A _____ of pelicans.



6. brace or paddling

10. A _____ of woodpeckers.



5. crown

11. A _____ of cormorants.



4. charm, chattering

12. A _____ of storks.



3. aerie, convocation

13. A _____ of peacocks.



2. wisdom, parliament, stare

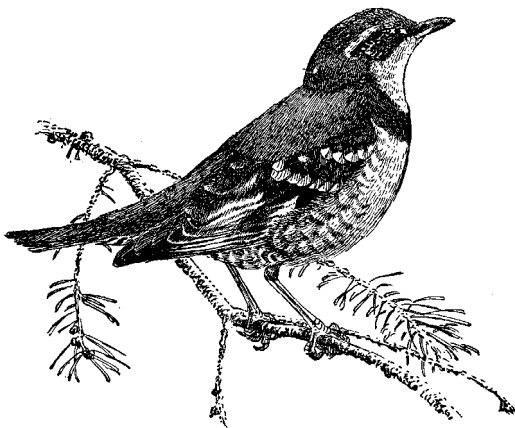
14. A _____ of waxwings.



1. hedge, sedge, rookery, seige

**New SBSC
Members
Welcome!**

JJ Mack & Evelyn Rosas	Oct 2013
David Wilhelm	Nov 2013
Carole DePalma	Nov 2013
Dave Burnham	Nov 2013
Andrew & Joanne Hogan	Dec. 2013
Suzanne Kent	Dec. 2013



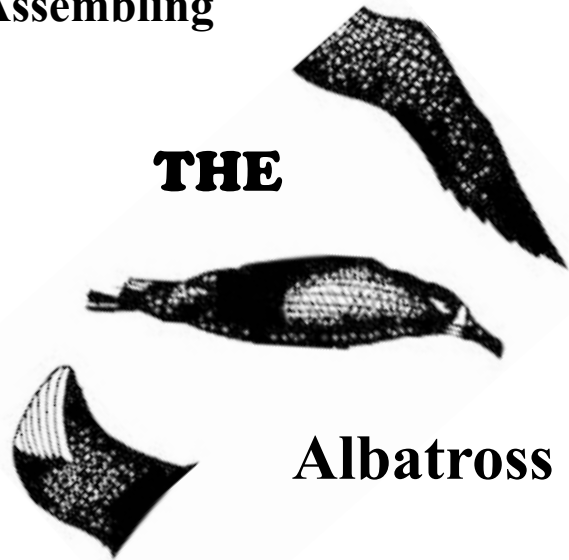
**Input deadline for
of the Albatross
Mar/Apr issue
February 1,
2014**



**Submission for the
Albatross—Guidelines**

Assembling

THE



Albatross

In addition to regular features—calendar, Santa Cruz Birds, photos—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 **a couple of 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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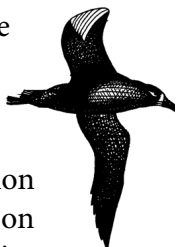


PARTING SHOT: "DOIN' THE FUNKY PELICAN" - ANDY KNORR



The ALBATROSS

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<http://santacruzbirdclub.org/>

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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. Santa Cruz Bird Club memberships run June-May.

Dues are \$20 Individual, \$25 Family, \$5 Youth, \$400 Life.

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