



Albatross

PHOEBASTRIA NIGRIPES

The Penguin in the Redwood

And Other True Tales

By Lisa Fay Larson

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**SANTA CRUZ
BIRDS**



**Birder's
Notebook**

It was the last day in the year 2006. We were hiking in Big Basin Redwoods State Park above Sempervirens Falls on a cold New Year's Eve midday. It was my first outing with my brand-new binoculars that I had generously received from my brother for Christmas. He lives in Owasso, Oklahoma, where winter is pretty bleak. It was really good to be back in the land of blue and green. I had my binos on my right shoulder and my camera on my left—which is now my iron-clad rule—so I know which to grab and when. The binoculars (with image stabilizer, so no hand shake) and camera are both of the same brand. I won't say the name of the brand but it is akin to a huge ground gun that ejects large iron balls.

We were half way up Slippery Rock off Sequoia Trail when I turned to check out the view. My first bird that I saw through those new binos was an Acorn Woodpecker which had flown into some huge redwood trees across the gap. Despite the distance, I was thrilled to see it so well. Shortly after I saw a small, pudgy black and white bird fly into the redwood. I was mystified! Nonplussed! Astounded AND perplexed! I exclaimed to my husband, "*It looks like some sort of Penguin!*"


Upon scouring my bird field guides I later learned that I had the great fortune of a rare deep-forest view of a Marbled Murrelet—an endangered alcid that nests in old growth redwoods usually over 200 years old.

My passion for birding thus had become an obsession, largely due to that Christmas gift.

It is amazing what silly things an inexperienced birder can say. But that's OK! I must say genuine, heartfelt enthusiasm can (and should be) contagious. It can bring out the best in us.

Not too long after that adventure, we were parked at the end of Jetty Road in Moss Landing. We were looking out over the water, enjoying the activity of otters and sea lions. I looked down and again I was floored by the strange and awkward-looking bird I saw standing on the embankment below. I blurted, "*Mike! It looks like some kind of auk!*"





No, not an auk. A duck. A sea duck, to be exact. That bird with the large and surprisingly candy-corn-colorful bill was my first Surf Scoter. A male, of course.

Some things have been instrumental in my education about birds. My cousin Leslie gave me this clock that has a different bird song for every hour. There's a picture and name of each bird in its appropriate place. You've seen those clocks, right? There are actually quite a number of different sets of bird species in variations of these clocks.

So... Mike and I on an overnight backpacking trip in Henry Coe State Park. We stop at a pond at the top of an exerting climb so that Mike can refill water bottles using his hand-pumped purifier. I found a nice place to sit, relax and look around. I hear a lilting, beautiful song that I instantly recognize as the five o'clock bird. I looked at Mike and cried, "*It's a Western Meadowlark!*" And there it was, singing atop a flat rock maybe 35 feet away. Wondrous!

Over the years I have witnessed many times how birding can bring out the best behavior in human beings. As a case in point, I refer to September 28th, 2012. Once Steve Gerow affirmed the presence of a Common Cuckoo, I hurried down to Ford Street. I began walking up to a group of maybe 10 or 12 people with binoculars, scopes and cameras. One person (Norm K.) began waving vehemently toward the group, thus communicating, '*Come here quick!*' I pointed to my chest and looked behind me before realizing that he was motioning to me! I got there just in time to see the extraordinary cuckoo through his scope. Birders genuinely and unselfishly want to share the joy of their sightings with other birders.

OK, I told you those stories so I could tell you this one...and if you have delicate sensibilities, you may wish to

discontinue reading this.

Mike (who by now is my husband) and I are hiking Pinnacles—what is now a National Park—on an eight-ish mile loop from the west side: over the high peaks, down to Bear Gulch, up the West fork of Chalone Creek, over the Balconies, past Machete Ridge and back to the parking area. On the way up, we see such wonders as California Condors, a mature Bald Eagle (which seemed to burst out from behind a peak and soared past within 30 feet of us) and battling Peregrine Falcons!

Trudging down the trail on the East side, we enter a large and open grassy knoll that has oaks and pines and is loaded with woodpeckers of various flavors. Enchanting.

We proceed down and down a bit more into a dry and rocky area and, hark! A familiar, beautiful cascading call we recognized as our favorite bird from our clock—seven o'clock, to be precise—is heard! We look at each other simultaneously and whoop, "*Canyon Wren!*" I immediately follow with, "*No way!*" because I didn't think we had them here.

Instantly we are scrambling and scrabbling over each other up a steep, inhospitable hillside. Never-mind the thorns, poison oak, rattlesnakes, or what have you. Of course Mike is in the lead. I say, "*Hey! I am the birder!*" He retorts, "*You don't own them!*" "*What about ladies first?*" "*I don't care!*" "*Shhh!*" "*YOU shhhh!*" And so the feud goes on and on loudly up the brambly slope. So much for the birding ethical code of common courtesy. The thorns, branches and slippery rock do their dirty work on our limbs. "*Ouch!*" "*Dang it!*" (Feel free to liberally insert as many terrible epithets as you can think of here—on both our parts.)

We have become reduced to a couple of deranged,

The Pinnacles - East of the High Peaks - LFL



immature siblings, spitting out expletives all the way up the hillside.

And where do you suppose Mr. Canyon Wren is?

Well, of course he is patiently and calmly waiting for us in his Bird-a-Lounger on the rocky outcropping at the top of the hill, placidly puffing on his termite and spider-filled pipe. A bottle of bubbly is in a bucket of ice on a grass “Welcome!” mat that he wove all by himself!

He isn't?

Well, you are correct—he's long gone.

We usually stop to eat lunch on that same rocky outcropping when we return to hike the Pinnacles. But we easily access it from the *top*. We have never seen or heard another Canyon Wren in that particular spot, but we have in multiple other locations on that hike. I have no idea why we both lost it when we heard that magical sound for the first time.

Remember how I said, “genuine, heartfelt enthusiasm can (and should be) contagious. It can bring out the best in us”? Perhaps I should reconsider that statement.



Illustrations by Lisa Larson

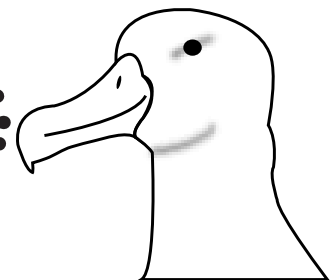


The Albatross Needs YOUR Input!

Please help to keep
your SCBC newsletter aloft!

Don't be shy!

Your stories, photos, book reviews, tips, quotes –
all things bird-related are **NEEDED!**



Ally Face - LFL

Events Calendar

November - December 2014



Sunday, November 2 Quail Hollow Ranch County Park

Quail Hollow is a beautiful Santa Cruz Park with a good variety of species and habitats. Join us for a relaxed morning birding. Beginning birders are welcome!

Directions: Meet at 8:00 AM in the Quail Hollow parking lot.

Leader: Eric Feuss, (831) 477-0280
ericfeuss@sbcglobal.net

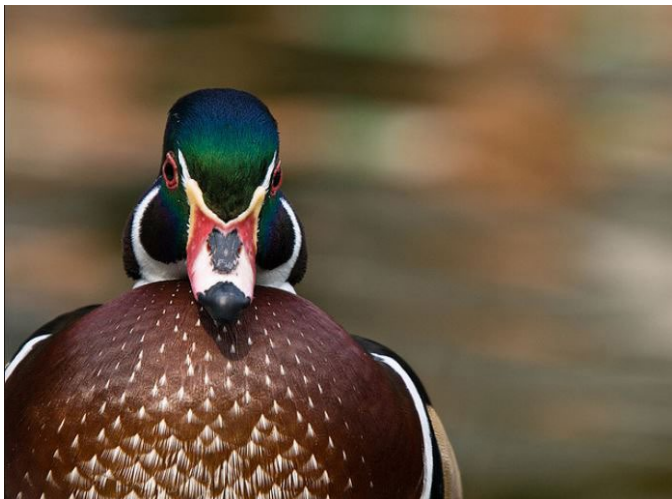


Friday, November 7 Neary Lagoon

The winter species should all be in by now, but a late migrant or two is not out of the question. Plus, this is the most reliable spot in the county for close looks at Wood Ducks.

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

Leader: Steve Gerow, stephengerow@aol.com



Sunday, November 8 Beginning Birding Walk at Natural Bridges

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. A nice variety of habitat should yield a fair number of species.

Directions: Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Delaware road entrance to Natural Bridges.

Leader: Phil Brown, pdpbrown@gmail.com

Red-shouldered Hawk - Andy Knorr



Friday, November 14 Terrace Point

The coastal scrub and weedy grasslands here are often productive for a mix of sparrows, raptors, and others. We'll also check the rocky coast, plus maybe check Younger Lagoon and/or Antonelli Pond.

Directions: Meet at 8:00 AM at the west end of Delaware Avenue, near the intersection with Shaffer Road.

Leader: Steve Gerow, (831) 426-2476

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.

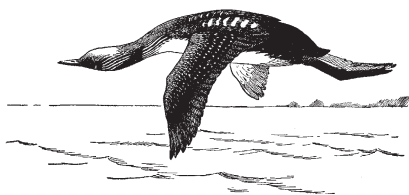


**Sunday, November 16
Seacliff State Beach & Vicinity**

Sometimes late fall can bring large flights of loons or grebes, and with winter gulls trickling in, who knows what might appear? This trip will start by scoping the sea and shore above the cement ship. Then depending on activity we might take a stroll out to the Aptos Creek mouth along the beach, or if conditions are poor along the coast, we can check out the Porter-Sesnon area.

Directions: Directions: Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot above the cliff at Seacliff SB. From Highway 1 take the State Park Dr. exit, make a right, and continue to the State Park kiosk. Dress warm.

Leader: Nicholas Levendosky
n.levendosky@gmail.com



**Wednesday, November 19
Pinto Lake County Park**

There should be a good mix of water birds and land birds at this time of the year.

Directions: Meet at the County Park at the north end of Pinto Lake at 8:00 AM. We'll assemble in the first parking lot area and then walk down the path to the lakeshore and boardwalk. Rain cancels.

Leader: Bob Ramer, (831) 426-7342
rjramer@sbcglobal.net

Hutton's Vireo - Christian Schwarz



**Friday, November 21
Watsonville Slough**

The sloughs in this area should have a mix of wintering waterfowl, and we should also find a nice assortment of Passerines, some raptors, and others.

Directions: Meet at 8:00 AM at the Watsonville Wetlands Nature Center, 30 Harkins Slough Road (the south side of Ramsay Park) in Watsonville.

Leader: Steve Gerow, stephengerow@aol.com



Marbled Godwits and Dowitchers - Lisa Sheridan



**Sunday, November 23
Salinas River Mouth**

We will focus on shorebirds, coastal birds and recently reported sightings there. Depart 7 AM from Aptos Wells Fargo Bank or meet before 8 AM at the Salinas river mouth parking lot.

Directions: Hwy 1 south beyond Castroville; just after Salinas River, take the Del Monte Ave exit. Turn right (toward bay), follow dirt road to parking lot. A one-stop morning trip with optional afternoon extension at either Moon Glow Dairy, Zmudowski State Beach, or (south to) Fort Ord Dunes State Park. Bring snack/drink. Come rain or shine.

Leader: Eric Feuss, 831-477-0280 (email is not a good way to reach leader; for alternate arrangements, please call ahead; mobile for day of trip only 408-717-0421).



Friday, November 28
DeLaveaga Park (south side)

We should find good numbers of resident and wintering species, for close studies of some of the common birds, plus possibly some of the harder to find forest species.

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

Leader: Steve Gerow, stephengerow@aol.com



Friday, December 5
Natural Bridges State Beach

There is always a good variety of birds here, and often something unexpected.

Directions: Meet at 8:00 AM at the Delaware Avenue entrance to the park, across from the south end of of Natural Bridges Drive.

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



Saturday, December 13
Lower UCSC Campus

The grasslands and other habitats of this area, including the Farm and the Arboretum, often produce an interesting mix of species.

Directions: Meet at 8:00 AM at the south side of the East Remote Parking Lot off Hagar Drive. To get here, enter the campus through the main entrance at the end of Bay Street, which becomes Coolidge Drive. Turn left on Hagar, then turn right into the parking lot, about 0.65 miles up Hagar.

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



Friday, December 26
San Lorenzo River

We should find sparrows, diving ducks, and a mix of gulls, among other things. The trees around San Lorenzo Park and the County Building sometimes hold rare wintering species, so surprises are possible.

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

Leader: Steve Gerow, (831) 426-2476

Pileated Woodpecker - Lisa Larson



Thursday, December 4
SCBC Meeting @ 7:30 PM
Speaker: Greg Meyer
Topic: Islands in a Vermillion Sea

The Midriff islands in the Gulf of California have been called Mexico's Galapagos because of their abundant wildlife, endemic species and seabird colonies. Greg Meyer has been leading college marine biology classes to this area since 1985 and has been involved in a number of bird and mammal research projects there. In this talk he will describe the natural history of the area, discuss some of the 250 bird species which have been sighted there, and share his wonderful scenic and animal photographs.

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



Red-billed Tropicbird - Greg Meyer



58th Annual Christmas Bird Count for Santa Cruz County Saturday, December 20, 2014

The National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count (CBC) for Santa Cruz County will be held this year on Saturday, December 20th¹. Please mark your calendars now and prepare for a day of birding, fun and excitement for the experienced and new birders alike.

Let us see what this year brings!

Last year, the count day was a clear day, bringing a cold morning and warm afternoon—therefore a much greater temperature difference (30 degrees) than the ten year average (25 degrees). This day was also in the early half of a long winter dry spell. Many water sources were dry or very, very low. The species tally of 174 species for count day was almost at the recent 10-year average (one species above average). We had 84 observers in the field, logging 253.25 total party hours, 24.45 hours over the recent 10-year average. There were many beginning birders on this year's count (15), which is good news for future counts. I would love to see these people return and promise to place them with nurturing section leaders.

This year, we have already had two rains in September! Typically the first rains are received around Halloween. The precipitation was nothing that satisfied the fruit trees, but causes a birder to sit up on his/her seat, paying attention to weather patterns for the remainder of this year and beyond. What will the weather in December and on count-day be like?

The fall migration has been quite thrilling this year. We'll see what birds join us for December. A surprising vagrant is always fun. However, diversity and abundances remain the focus of the count. Though rare birds get the limelight, the real value of the CBC is in the counting of "regular" birds, which, when added to past years' data, help track the ups and downs of the local bird populations, as well as tracking down the uncommon ones (species of concern) in each section. This value grows with the long-term tracking of numbers of individuals of each species across the years. The Christmas Bird Count can be considered the progenitor of eBird...well, for some of us

The 15-mile diameter count circle reaches from Davenport to New Brighton and from Boulder Creek to the ocean, thus encompassing a wide array of habitats.

Please join the 58th annual Christmas Bird Count, and then enjoy the countdown dinner! All are welcome to join the all-day event which happens rain or shine.

If you want to join the count, email or call Eric Feuss at ericfeuss@sbcglobal.net or (831) 477-0280.

¹The Santa Cruz circle for the National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is always on the first Saturday of the Audubon Society's official count period. The period always begins December 14th and ends January 5th.





Santa Cruz Birds

By Steve Gerow

Including reports from June 1 to August 31, 2014

Rarities, record counts, out of season birds, odd dispersal patterns, interesting breeding records. . .like most seasons, this summer brought us a little bit of everything!

Note that some late August records fit in better with the patterns of September/October, and so will be reported or summarized in the next issue.

Wood Ducks are unexpected in the Watsonville Slough system, especially in summer, so two in Struve Slough on July 5 (LGo, WG), and one in Harkins Slough on July 16 (LGo, BR) were of interest. There were also several reports from the sloughs in August. One or more **Blue-winged Teal**, a rarity in summer, were at Struve Slough July 5-13 (LGo, NZ). Other uncommon dabbling ducks for June/July included a pair of **Northern Shovelers** in Struve Slough July 21-22 (AR, BR, RR), and at least one **Northern Pintail** reported from a few spots around the sloughs starting June 24 (RR, BR, AR). A female **Redhead** photographed in Struve Slough on August 15 also presumably summered in the area (AR). A male **White-winged Scoter** was off Pajaro Dunes July 14-21 (LGr, AR), for one of the very few summer records for the county in recent years. An apparently unhealthy male **Bufflehead** lingered around the San Lorenzo River area into June (JM, SG, v.ob.), last seen nearby in Branciforte Creek on June 23 (SP).

Quite rare for the season was a **Horned Grebe** photographed in lower Watsonville Slough on July 21 (AR) and July 22 (LFL), for the first summer record for Santa

Cruz County. July and August brought some spectacular (for recent years, at least) concentrations of **Sooty Shearwaters** to the nearshore waters of Santa Cruz County, with a peak count of 138,000 off Terrace Point on August 1 (AR). Up to three **Manx Shearwaters** were in county waters on an August 23 pelagic trip (AJa, LK, v.ob.), and one was off West Cliff Drive on August 31 (AR). Warm water along the coast this season brought **Black-vented Shearwaters** north earlier than usual, arriving in Monterey Bay by late July. Two off West Cliff Drive on July 21 (SG) were the first reported for Santa Cruz County this season.

Brandt's Cormorants returned to same nesting sites used in other recent years, with the big colony again at Seacliff State Beach's Cement Ship, with ongoing nesting through the season involving several hundred pairs. Smaller colonies were again on the old Davenport Pier, which had 19 nests as of May 11 (AR), and at Natural Bridges, with 30 nests as of July 1 (SG). **Double-crested Cormorants** nested again at Pinto Lake, which had 41 nests on May 6 (RR, BR), and the larger colony was at Schwan Lake, with 143 nests counted on June 24 (SG), (but with earlier and later nestings at the colony, the total

Double-crested Cormorants - Jeff Bleam



number of nests through the season was greater than this). **Great Blue Heron** nests observed this year included 9 at the Santa Cruz Harbor (SG, v.ob), and just one at Pinto Lake (BR, RR). Pinto Lake also had three **Great Egret** nests as of May 6 (RR, BR), the only ones known in the county this year.

Late summer brought unusual numbers of egrets to the Watsonville Sloughs and some Santa Cruz area spots. A concentration of 157 **Great Egrets** at Struve Slough on August 25 (AR) was just a few short of setting a new record for the county. **Snowy Egrets** became notably abundant at the San Lorenzo River mouth for a while in August, with a very high count of 56 there on August 19 (AR). A few reports of **White-faced Ibis** from the Watsonville Slough System in June and July ranged from 1-5 birds (v.ob.). The **Bald Eagle** family reported on last issue stayed around the general area of Harkins Slough into mid-August (v.ob.), but the juvenile was not reported after August 14. An immature **Bald Eagle** was at the Waddell Creek mouth on August 27 (GS), possibly the same bird that was being seen in that area last winter.

A **Common Gallinule** in the San Lorenzo River from August 6-23 (SG, LS, v.ob) was unexpected for the Santa Cruz area. A **Black-necked Stilt** was at Younger Lagoon on August 17, another species that is rare away from the Pajaro Valley (AR). And **American Avocets** away from the Pajaro Valley included one at Corcoran Lagoon July 2-3 (SG, GM), likely a different one at Corcoran on August 12 (SG), and 5 at the San Lorenzo River mouth on August 18 (LS, LFL). **Lesser Yellowlegs** showed up at Struve Slough July 21-27 (AR, PB), and Younger Lagoon August 5-7 (MB, AR, NZ). Three reports of an adult **Ruddy Turnstone** at Pajaro Dunes from July 15 to August 8 (JW, AR) perhaps all involved the same bird. Three juv. **Baird's Sandpipers** turned up between August 4-29 (v.ob.)

Four **Pectoral Sandpipers** found from July 29- August 12 were all adults (SG, DW, CS, AR). Most fall reports of Pectorals in this county, and throughout California, involve juveniles, which migrate later, and adults are generally considered quite rare here. But this year, for some reason, there was an unusual movement bringing multiple adults to many sites through the state. An alternate-plumaged **Dunlin** at Aptos Creek mouth on June 10 (KK) was either a very late spring migrant, or summering locally. A juv. **Semipalmated Sandpiper** visited West Struve Slough on August 8 (AR). Fall migrant **Wilson's Phalaropes** moved through the county in record numbers starting July 9. A total of about 80 in the Watsonville Slough System on July 28 (JW) set a new record high count for the county, far exceeding all previous totals.

An influx of anchovies brought impressive numbers of **Elegant Terns** to the county coast, peaking at an amazing 6790 tallied in the area of the San Lorenzo River mouth and Seabright Beach on August 1 (AR), this total carefully counted from a series of photographs. Also likely anchovy-related were multiple reports of 1-2 **Black Skimmers** along the coast from June 3 to August 24 (JM, AR, BB, MB, v.ob.) with most reports from the San Lorenzo River mouth to the Live Oak coast, and also at the Pajaro River mouth (these mostly within Monterey County). While there were never more than two reported at once, the reports were scattered in time and locations, so it is difficult to say how many individuals were involved.

Two **Band-tailed Pigeons** with oddly cinnamon-colored tail bands visited a Rodeo Gulch area home on July 14 (JP), perhaps siblings from the same nest? A series of **Black Swift** observations from July 25 to August 9 were the only reports this year excepting one spring migrant in May (SG, AR, NL, JB). Most reports involved groups of 6-9 birds, and most were from west Santa Cruz to Wilder Ranch. The timing was odd—early for fall



Black Skimmer - David Sidle



Ruddy Turnstone - Jeff Wall



Elegant Terns at Seabright State Beach - Jeff Bleam

migrants, and the lack of other reports makes any breeding presence within the county this season seem unlikely, but the concentration of reports in a short time period makes it seem like these were more than just random dispersants. A pair of **American Kestrels** nested in a hangar at Watsonville Airport this season, fledging three young by June 12 (GK, BM). While the species perhaps breeds regularly in small numbers in the Pajaro Valley, nesting confirmations from that part of the county have been mostly lacking in recent years.

A **Say's Phoebe** showed up at Younger Lagoon on the odd date of August 8 (JB), about a month ahead of normal fall arrival. Perhaps it was a dispersant from a nearby inland population. A late **Western Kingbird** was at Smith Grade on June 14 (KJa). Fall migration for Western Kingbirds seemed to start exceptionally early this year, with three reports of four birds from July 25-30 (SG, RW, KW, BR, RR), and more found in very early August. An **Eastern Kingbird** stopped at Antonelli Pond August 8-9 (SG, v.ob.). A **Loggerhead Shrike** at UCSC on June 30 (AR) was almost certainly a post-breeding dispersant from a nearby county; one at Moore Creek Preserve on July 28 (AR, AJo) might have also been a dispersant, or maybe an early migrant.

A spring vagrant **Red-eyed Vireo** singing in the uplands of Wilder Ranch was photographed on June 24 (AR). A male **Purple Martin** sang as it flew over Ben Lomond on June 21 (AR), an odd location for the species,

especially in late June. A **Bank Swallow** visited Swanton Pond on June 13 (KJo). This is interesting especially since there were several June-July reports at this same spot in 2013, which is about 7.5 miles from the nearest known nesting area at Ano Nuevo. A fall migrant **Bank Swallow** foraged at Pajaro Dunes on August 3 (AR, PG). Some **White-breasted Nuthatches** made unusual summer appearances in near-coastal parts of the county, presumably dispersing from further inland. One was at Arana Gulch July 19-August 2 (SG, JB), one visited a Rio Del Mar feeder August 1-2 (RPM), and one was in DeLaveaga Park on August 24 (SG). A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** singing in

a redwood grove on June 14 was an interesting breeding-season discovery on a survey at Star Creek Ranch, in the southeast corner of Santa Cruz County (AR). This is about five miles southeast of the nearest known nesting site in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Four **Cedar Waxwings** near Antonelli Pond on August 8 were quite early, just one day short of the early record for the county.

Another noteworthy find in Star Creek Ranch on June 14 (in the Pescadero Creek drainage) were six territorial male **MacGillivray's**

Warblers, and one female carrying food (AR), for a rare breeding confirmation from that part of the county. Very little of the southeast end of the Santa Cruz Mountains is normally accessible to birding. A male **Magnolia Warbler** singing on the forested edge of a meadow was a nice find on the upper UCSC campus on June 9 (AR).



Eastern Kingbird - Steve Gerow

The fall warbler season got off to a good start with a **Northern Waterthrush** and a **Yellow-breasted Chat** at Natural Bridges starting August 24 (KA, JA, v.ob.), and a Tennessee Warbler at Bethany Curve Park on August 29



site just outside of the county (in San Benito County) near Chittenden (AR). **Hooded Orioles** were confirmed nesting in Scotts Valley, Ben Lomond, and Davenport this season (AR), all locations with very little breeding evidence for this species. Some dispersing **Lawrence's Goldfinches** showed up near the coast in mid-summer, with one at Corcoran Lagoon on July 7 (CS, AS), and one in northeast Santa Cruz on July 18 (SG).

White-breasted Nuthatch- Jeff Bleam

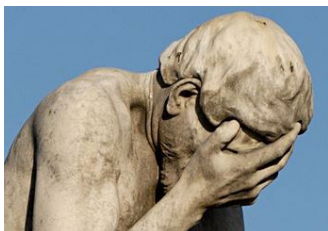


Cited Observers: Julian Arul, Kumaran Arul, Bonnie Bedzin, Jeff Bleam, Michael Bolte, Phil Brown, Darrow Feldstein, Steve Gerow, Penelope Gillette, Lois Goldfrank (LGo), Wally Goldfrank, Laurie Graham (LGr), Kimberly Jannerone (KJa), Alvaro Jaramillo (AJa), Kent Johnson (KJo), Alex Jones (AJo), Logan Kahle, Gary Kittleson, Kathy Kuyper, Lisa Fay Larson, Nick Levendosky, Gary Martindale, Jane Mio, Bryan Mori, Shantanu Phukan, Jeff Poklen, Roseanne Prevost-Morgan, Bernadette Ramer, Robert Ramer, Alex Rinkert, Adam Searcy, Christian Schwarz, Gary Strachan, Jeff Wall, Randy Wardle, Karen Watkins, David Wilhelm, Nickie Zavinsky

v.ob.). See the next issue for a full summary of rare migrant warblers for this fall season.

A **Bell's Sparrow** on Summit Ridge near Loma Prieta on July 18 was the only one detected in the county this year (AR). A male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** visited Natural Bridges on June 6 (DF, v.ob.) In addition to the Wilder Ranch site reported last issue, **Tricolored Blackbirds** also nested at a traditional site on Last Chance Road this season, as well as another newly-found

Wilson's Phalaropes- Jeff Wall



CORRECTION

It has been brought to my attention that my photo of Moore Creek Preserve in the last issue of the Albatross is misleading. It was placed under the Oct. 23 SCBC meeting about the Santa Cruz Land Trust in the Events Calendar. My apologies!

It seemed to suggest that the conservation easement on that property was held by the Santa Cruz Land Trust. Actually, it is held by the State of California Wildlife

Conservation Board, and the property is owned by the City of Santa Cruz as the result of a successful local ballot measure (Measure G) in 1998. The WCB donated funds to augment the funding provided in Measure G, but stipulated that a conservation easement had to be part of their funding agreement. The Santa Cruz Land Trust is responsible for management of a portion of that easement; the remainder is managed by the City of Santa Cruz.

Birder's Notebook

Subject: Kenn Kauffman Monterey Bay Bird Festival Keynote Speaker

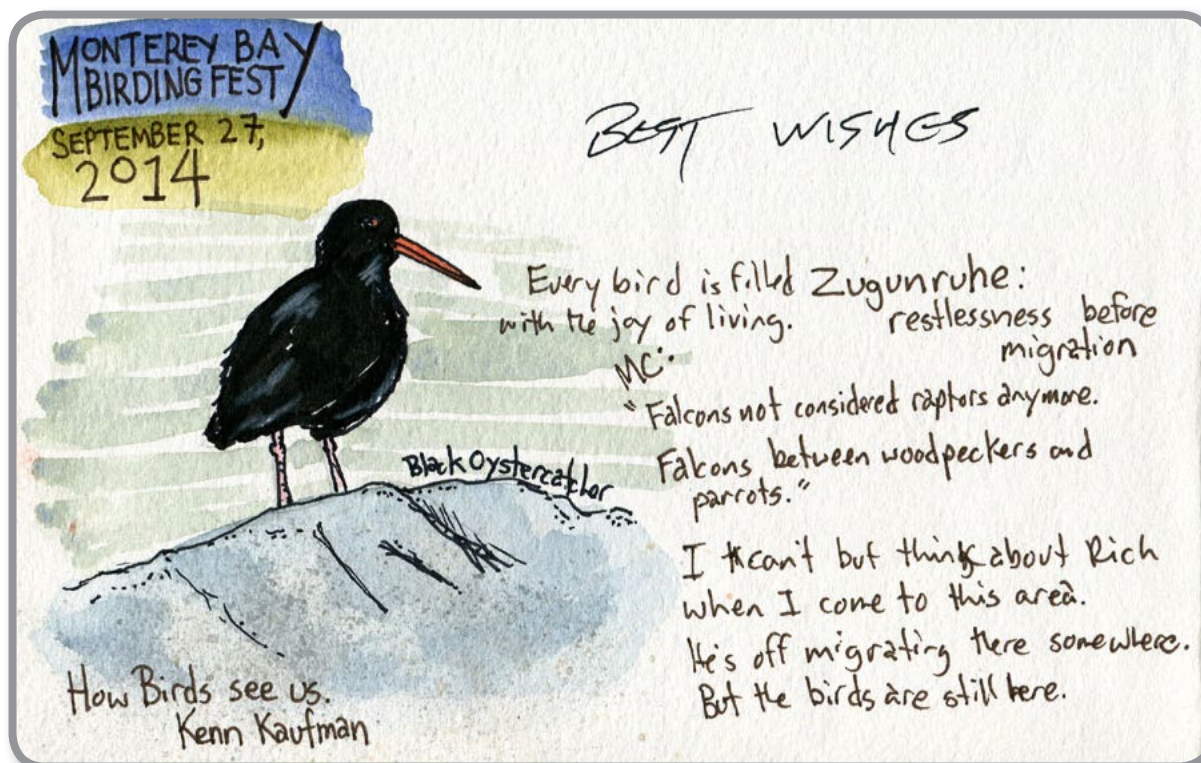
Sketchbook Artwork by John Perry

Story by Lisa Fay Larson

I had the good fortune of the second best seat in the house. I was in the front row, one seat in from the center isle, and the podium was almost directly in front of me. Seated in the aisle seat was a man sketching away in his pad. He was working on drawing the Black Oystercatcher that was on a slide up on the screen. I could not stop watching his progress. Realizing I was not exactly being as clandestine as I had hoped, I began asking questions. The man's name was John Perry, a birder and a fourth grade teacher. John told me that he uses watercolors on the pages later and he showed me a sketch he did of Vaux's Swifts of McNeer's brickyard in Marin County. Now I was captivated, but it was time for our own illustrious Bob Ramer to introduce Kenn. Bob informed us of the new ordering of birds (and it is being used in eBird): "Falcons are not considered raptors anymore. Falcons are somewhere between woodpeckers and parrots."

As Kenn spoke, John began to sketch him, as well as take down quotes that he found interesting onto his sketch pages. My attention now was riveted on Kenn, someone who I have admired for years.

His talk centered largely on what emotions a bird may feel, citing instance after instance he had witnessed supporting the idea that birds do experience emotions. I am sure most—if not all of us, have seen birds express love, joy, sorrow, jealousy, fear, and even political affiliations to their kind. The scientific mind may disagree with this. In the birds' defense, Kenn said, "*Humans frequently don't think.*" And, "*It is more dangerous to view them as robots with feathers. It diminishes their being.*"



Here's a new-to-me vocabulary word: Zugunruhe—a German compound word consisting of Zug (move, migration) and Unruhe (anxiety, restlessness). More emotions!

Kenn was entertaining, absorbing and humorous. Of the male Anna's Hummingbird he said, the bird was “*starting from a disadvantage because he's a male named Anna*”. Out of respect for the awesome feat of migration he said, “*I can't flap my arms for twelve hours without getting tired.*” And self-deprecatingly, “*I hope people were checking for tomatoes at the door.*”

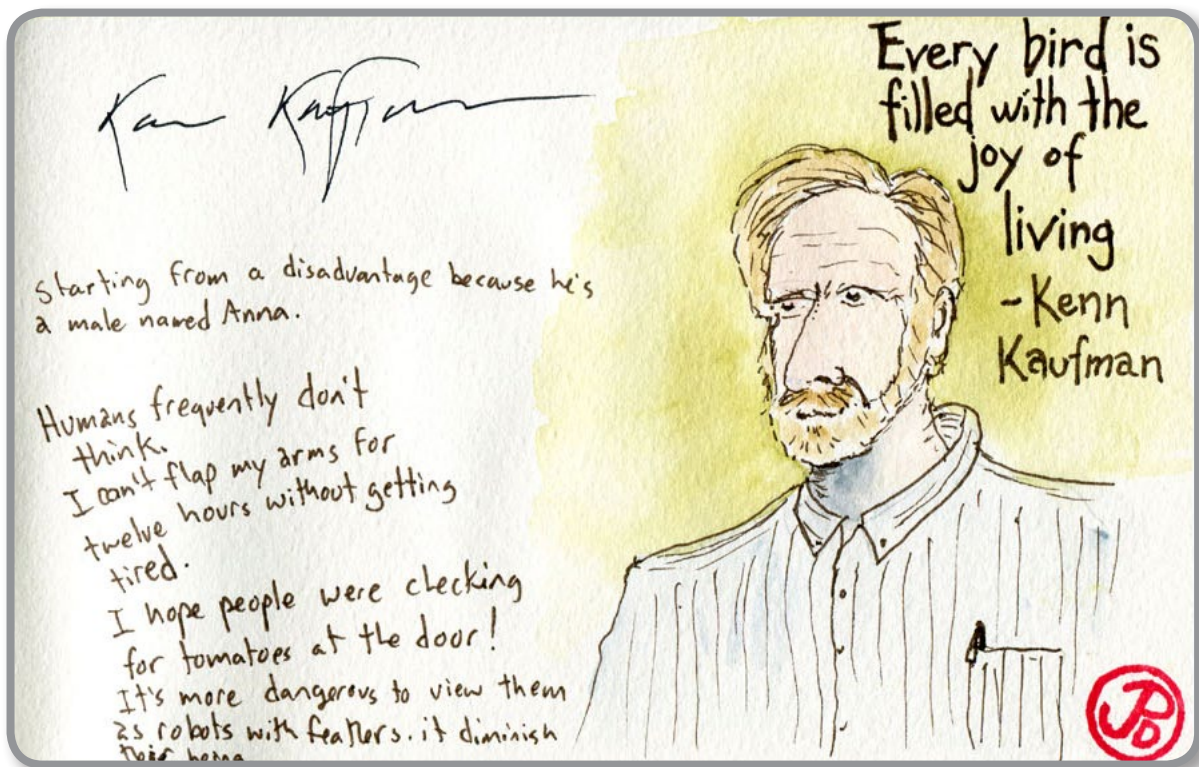
On a more serious note, of his dearly departed friend and mentor the Ohioan said, “*I can't but think about Rich (Stallcup) when I come to this area. He's off migrating out there somewhere. But the birds are still here.*” Rich Stallcup was instrumental in Kenn's bird education in his youth, as described in his book, “*Kingbird Highway*”.

Of the many things Kenn Kaufman said, one stood out above the rest: “*Every bird is filled with the joy of living.*”



Welcome to this new feature of our newsletter! I hope you enjoyed it and will help to keep it going in future issues by submitting your own work. Please send me some feedback (positive, negative, constructive) about how you feel about this feature. Email: scbirdclubeditor@gmail.com

After Kenn's talk, I spoke to John about the possibility of using his artwork in the Santa Cruz Bird Club newsletter. I feared that he lost my contact information or changed his mind, but he did not and here we are! If you are interested in seeing more of John's work, please visit corvidsketcher.wordpress.com.



MOSS LANDING CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1

The Moss Landing CBC always takes place on NEW YEAR'S DAY. 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 rjramer@sbcglobal.net



Marsh Wren - LFL

College Lake *Threatened?*

“College Lake is one of the most significant freshwater wetlands for birds in the Monterey Bay region. Its importance for wintering waterfowl and spring migrant shorebirds is at times unmatched by other local freshwater sites.”

Thus opens David Suddjian’s 2003 report to the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency on its proposal to impound College Lake for summertime crop irrigation.

After describing use by “hundreds to thousands” of waterfowl and shorebirds, arrays of raptors, and a diversity of sparrows such that he once saw fourteen species in one visit, Suddjian notes this salient fact: “The seasonal nature of the lake is key and critical to its value to birds.”

The seasonal drawdown for crop production also produces marshland that supports a rich avifauna.

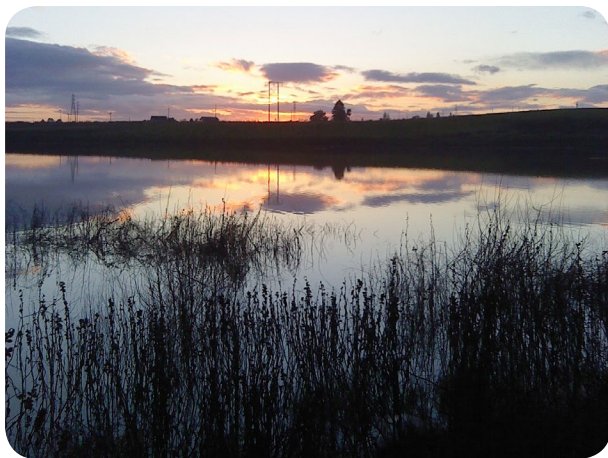
A new report¹ prepared by the Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District describes three water project options, all of which would eliminate spring shorebirds and undermine use by waterfowl. In one scenario, the PVWMA would impound water in the lake through September, wiping out fields of swamp timothy, millet and other food plants. The earliest proposed draw-down completion date in any option, June 30, is later than recommended for swamp timothy and could lead to cockle-bur infestation.

The outcome of environmental review, water rights applications and government permits, as well as the mitigation measures presented in the RCD report itself, may depend significantly on public opinion. If you are concerned about the lake and would like to learn more, the RCD will be convening a general public meeting of stakeholders in early November. Watch the SCBC website for announcements, or contact Jerry Busch at 600-5922.

¹ See the report: <https://www.hightail.com/download/UIRUZXQ3TERoMIU4RmNUQw>

New SCBC Members Welcome!

Elizabeth Van Dyke	Aug 2014
Susan Swanson	Aug 2014
Vivian Fenner-Evans	Sep 2014
Julio & Mary Gomez	Sep 2014
Carla Bentley	Sep 2014
Priscilla Marks	Sep 2014
Kim Richardson	Oct 2014



College Lake - Jerry Busch

Submissions **NEEDED!**

DEADLINE for
Jan/Feb issue

**December 1,
2014**

Submission for the Albatross—Guidelines



ALBATROSS

Your participation is WELCOME!

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 **needed**:

- 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 BIRDS or 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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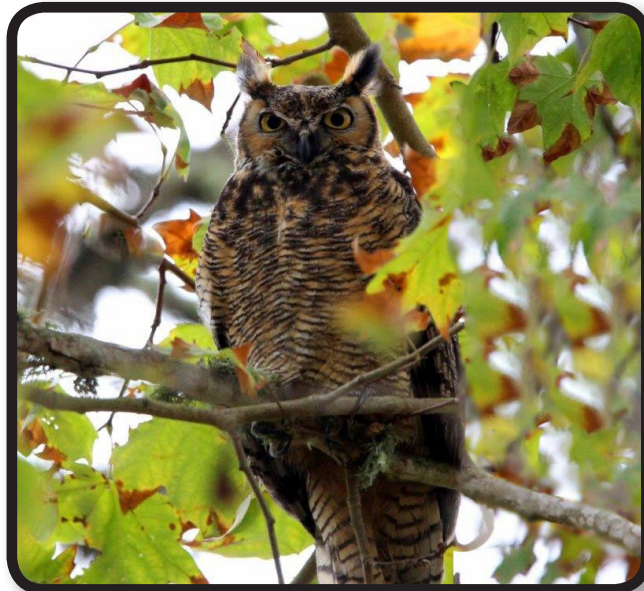
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PARTING SHOT: "WHOOO'S LOOKING AT YOOOUUU?"
GREAT-HORNED OWL AT BETHANY CURVE - BRUCE BARRETT



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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. Santa Cruz Bird Club 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.