



# Albatross

PHOEBASTRIA NIGRIPES

## OH MENTOR, OUR MENTOR

- Unanimous

Remembering Steve Gerow, a true naturalist—he could talk about trees and wildflowers or butterflies and dragonflies—for us in the birding community, he was The Birdman of Santa Cruz County. All that knew him and learned from him will miss him dearly. A truly kind and giving person who was loved by many.

- Bob & Bernadette Ramer



Steve was that all too rare and respectable combination of being a careful, knowledgeable birder/naturalist yet also a ridiculously kind and patient human being. I'll miss running into him at Bethany Curve and his other favorite patches in town, whether he was wandering by himself or had a group of devoted birders in tow.

- John Garrett

I instantly fell in love with his subtle, shy humor, his way of relating to the birds and their habitat. He had this wonderful way of seeing the entire setting: what kind of vegetation would attract what birds, rattle off the plant, bird names, interrupt himself to listen to a far off bird song.

- Jane Mio

A lot has been said about Steve as a person and as a birding instructor. It wasn't that he just happened to know a lot about birds. He learned about birds by studying and reading, and above all by spending long hours in the field. His skills were extraordinary. I remember hearing years ago that birders from outside the county were skeptical of his reports until they realized that he was one of the state's premier birders. He amazed me with his ability to identify chips and the songs a mockingbird was imitating

I interacted constantly with Steve during the years that I was Bird Club web master. One of his major contributions to the site was the quizzes we posted some years ago. They required a lot of time and work. Steve wrote them as another of his many contributions to the Bird Club. This same dedication led him to become Club President and to lead weekly trips, in spite of his inherent shyness.

- Barry McLaughlin



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**SCBC SOCIAL MEETING**  
**BBA UPDATE**



SANTA CRUZ BIRDS  
CONSERVATION NEWS  
*Seabirding Trips*



Birder's  
Notebook  
IN PARTING

Bewick's Wren  
Wilson's Warbler - Lisa Larson

We join you all in tribute to our close friend Steve. His "rock" during the last two years of his courageous battle, Mary Crouser, described his last moments: "Just about the time he was taking his last breath, one of the pair of neighborhood hawks (I think they were red tailed) flew low over the house barely above the roof top and calling. I would like to believe they were there to escort Steve's spirit into whatever exists beyond the end of our physical body." We stepped back inside. Mary took his hand one last time, a couple of last breaths, and then Steve peacefully left us. We would like to think that Steve heard that last one bird call. Perhaps they were saying, "Come join us brother." That tribute flyover will stay with us forever. It was an honor to share Steve's last moments. Now he soars with eagles, glides with condors, and, yes Lisa, hovers with the white hummer.

We knew Steve for the last eleven years and over time he became one of our closest friends. We shared so many moments and birding adventures with him be it the scores of Friday bird walks, birding San Juan Road and Fremont Peak, or our memorable trip to the Eastern Sierras. A couple of months ago he joined us for Todd Newbury's UCSC Arboretum walk. Santa Cruz's own "Ardent Birder" introduced Steve to the group as "Santa Cruz County's best birder". Steve in his unassuming and humble manner was a bit embarrassed. But it was true, Steve was without peer. His encyclopedic knowledge of natural history (mostly self taught), willingness to mentor and share that knowledge, and make all our lives richer will be missed. Friday mornings will never be the same.

Most of all we will miss his friendship, his sense of humor and wit, and his humility. He was a treasure. Thank you to all that shared Steve's life and especially those who helped him through the last two years. Mary, what can we say? The support and love you gave to Steve throughout his ordeal was Sainly. Kent, we are so happy that you, as one of those who knew him the longest, were able to share Steve's last birding outing. It was only fitting. We are all richer for having known him.

*- With enduring gratitude and love,  
Rich Griffith & Margaret Perham*



I was a very close friend of Steve's father Bruce Gerow, who I met on my first birding excursion after moving to Monterey County in 1982. I met Steve soon after. When Bruce passed away I wrote a memorial for him to MBB. With tears in my eyes, I now have to think about the passing of my good friend Steve. I saw him on May 7th at the Santa Cruz Wharf with Mary. He told me he only had about two months to live. So I was shocked to learn that he has passed away so soon after my seeing him. He was so much like his father, not just in appearance but in being such a sweet, wonderful person who was secure in his birding skills but at the same time self-effacing.

When my wife passed away three years ago (another of Steve's many friends), what everyone said about her was that she was a nice person. I think this is the highest compliment that a human can earn.

Steve was a very nice person. An inspiration for all that knew him.

*- Kent Van Vuren*

We have lost a giant of our local birding world. A humble soul.

*- Debi Love Shearwater*





I joined the club in early 2004 and from the start Steve was a patient mentor and friend. I could not be the birder I am today without his help. There are so many wonderful memories that it would be impossible to cover them all, but I would like to share a few.

Very early in my birding career Steve found a Chestnut-Sided Warbler at Bethany Curve. Without a clue as to what I was doing I went over there and searched fruitlessly for it for a while. Then Steve turned up, heard it, found it and pointed it out to me. That was a pattern that repeated over the years, and it has become part of the joy of birding for me to try to carry on this tradition. A few days ago this was brought home to me when I went to the wharf and found a Fork-Tailed Storm Petrel. A few minutes later Nickie Zavinsky arrived and I was able to show the bird to her. I remarked to her that this was something I really enjoyed about birding. It was only later that I recalled that my earliest experiences of this kind of sharing were with Steve.

A couple of years later I was birding again at Bethany Curve. I found a Wood-Peevee there that was making an odd call, so I walked over to Steve's house and knocked on his door. He said he was busy so I went back on my own, but a few minutes later he appeared at my elbow and we watched and listened to the bird. He went on to explain in patient detail why it was a Western Wood-Peevee and not what I had hoped (Eastern). Despite having disturbed him for a mistaken ID he was cheerful and gracious, we can all aspire to be as generous and polite to our fellow birders.

I too was Field Trip coordinator for a number of years. It was after a family holiday to the East Coast where I tagged along on a local bird walk that the germ of the idea of a weekly walk was born. Their weekly walks were usually in the same place and very disorganized, but I suggested the idea to Steve and he brought it to life. I think that the Friday morning walks will be remembered by everyone who attended them as a highlight for the club.

The depth and breadth of his knowledge are irreplaceable. His warmth, inclusiveness and friendly trips are going to be missed by all of us.

- Phil Brown

...a great, humble human being and a treasure trove of knowledge is gone. He will be missed.

- Madeline Spencer

Throughout Steve's illness, he continued to bird and to share his wealth of knowledge with us. We've lost a good man. May his legacy live on, flying with the birds.

- Jean Brocklebank

Wisdom, not pretense  
as he lists the birds he sees:  
"Robin, Kestrel, Pinecone."

- Elisabeth Foster


We were lucky enough to count Steve as one of our early birding mentors. Some 10 years ago I posted this to mbb:

"In addition to his daily rounds and detailed reports, Steve leads outstanding trips. His patient, non-confrontational style, coupled with superb birding skills, have made many a trip quite memorable. Thanks Steve."

A gentle, unassuming soul who kindly shared with us, but never bragged about, his encyclopedic knowledge of the local natural world.

RIP Steve, you are remembered fondly.

- Pete and Nancy Solé



*Yellow-green Vireo*  
*Neary Lagoon*  
*-Steve Gerow 10-18-11*

Steve was one of the kindest, most humble, most generous people I've ever met, and one of the most knowledgeable and talented birders ever to live in Santa Cruz.

Steve didn't have a car as far as I know, and I often saw him walking back down Mission Street at dusk from a day of birding the patches that came to be synonymous with Steve: Antonelli Pond and especially Bethany Curve, between which he found not only Santa Cruz' first record of Dusky Warbler, but also its second!

There was a palpable depth to his knowledge that came from the slowness and thoroughness of his approach (as well as from having spent his entire life paying attention to natural history of this bioregion—he grew up in Salinas and his father was also an avid birder and botanist).

A few times I had just finished birding a patch and Steve would arrive afterwards and find some delightful rarity... he was always a reminder to slow down and really listen and look.

Hundreds of people went on his Friday bird walks over the years—from the few I went on, I was struck at how remarkably lucid and patient he was as a teacher, whether you were a professional ornithologist or a complete beginner.

Maybe if all the rest of us follow your example we can fill at least one of your shoes. We'll miss you!

*- Christian Schwarz*

Steve Gerow was a lovely and generous man. I looked forward to his Friday bird walks, a highlight of my week. Steve was an excellent and patient teacher always willing to answer and explain questions posed by both beginning and advanced birders. I learned a tremendous amount from him over the years.

One of my favorite memories is of standing next to him a few years ago while listening the the call of a visiting Whip-poor-will.

His contributions to our birding community were many and will live on. He will be sorely missed by all.

*- Nickie Zavinsky*

Beyond rare  
He is unique  
Our white hummingbird, who  
has touched so many lives.  
Irreplaceable  
Uncannily wise—he amazes us—  
this white hummer.  
Tolerant, gentle  
He leads without leading.  
And we follow, seeking more.  
How we need your light!  
Asking for nothing,  
giving so much—unexpected as snow  
on a Santa Cruz beach.  
Off to change his form,  
our white hummingbird flies...  
Always to be remembered—  
forever loved—  
our one and only  
white hummer.

*- Lisa Larson*



Steve will be terribly missed as will his always-generous sharing of his vast knowledge. He was my go-to guy any time I had a puzzling bird and he never failed to graciously give me not only the information I had requested but always much more. And he always gave the information in a manner that never made me feel foolish or made me sorry I had asked. Same thing whenever he had to correct something I'd reported on eBird. He was adept at turning the correction into a learning session and in the process, preserving my dignity. I think he inspired everyone who crossed paths with him to become a better birder and he set such a fine example on how to be a better mentor for young and inexperienced birders. I'm glad he didn't have to suffer for a prolonged period, but oh! how we in the birding community here will feel his loss!

- Sharon Hull



...a wonderful biodiversity giant.

- Bob Hargis

What a wonderful fellow and incredibly knowledgeable birder and naturalist. Someone described him as a "gentle teacher" and this describes my interactions with him perfectly. Every once in awhile in one of my e-Bird reports I'd have a bird that I was not 100% certain of the ID. For an amazing fraction of those, I'd get an email a few days later from Steve with a gentle suggestion that it would be unusual to see that species at that place at that time and could it have been a something else. I'd usually slap myself on the forehead and say to myself "of course that's what that was!"

Or, I'd send him a photo of a small flycatcher I'd seen in Yosemite to see if he could help with sorting it out and I would get back an amazingly detailed set of questions about the elevation where I saw the bird, subtle things about the song/call, subtle behavior characteristics, exactly environment and comments about very detailed morphology of the bird. I marveled at the responses and the depth of his knowledge.

I miss him.


- Michael Bolte

He was so kind to me as I posted my first mistaken identity pictures and posts...I feel so fortunate to have known him.

- Lisa Sheridan



**Above:** Steve at Younger Lagoon - David Suddijan  
**Below:** Steve "gentle teacher" - Michael Bolte



A number of years ago I was the field trips coordinator for 5 years. We had trips here and all over CA. The best thing I ever did was to approach a painfully shy Steve and ask him to co-lead a couple of trips with me. He really had trouble talking to people and I thought groups especially could be intimidating. Soon he was leading on his own and enjoying it. Watching him do that was like seeing him come out into the sunlight. As much as he was good for the Santa Cruz Bird Club, the SCBC was good for him.

I love to see the growth of our members, young or at any age, not just as birders, but as people, as members of our community.

Thank you all for your membership and involvement over the years. We have a very special bird club. Lucky us!

...Steve had a way of being able to share his amazing skills and knowledge without any ego. He was never pedantic or full of himself. So many birders who become really serious become so invested in their status or are critical of others. He was in it for the pure love of the birds and nature and that love was the bridge he used to connect with people. Birding made him a better person he made others better birders in return.

It is hard to see a good man go too soon.

- Cliff Bixler


I thought of Steve at least once every day this week. Each time I saw a first of the year bird, an uncommon species, or an active nest, I had to check the impulse to fire off an email to Steve to share my joy. He's helped me immensely over the past 20 years since I first met him wandering around Neary Lagoon, then wandering the San Lorenzo River, then Moore Gulch, then Watsonville Slough, College Lake, Delaveaga...the list pretty much covers Santa Cruz County. After a few chance meetings and friendly chats he offered to help with an ID by simply saying, "email me a picture." And that's never stopped until this month. For years I did not know just how integral to the Bird Club and local birding community Steve was. He was, like me, just another birder with a smile on his face.

Steve was a great all-around naturalist and always shared my excitement about various non-bird occupants of our local habitats. And he stands alone as the only person to photo a juvenile western pond turtle at Neary Lagoon. I've trapped that lagoon regularly for the past 15 years and have never even seen a juvenile pond turtle there. When I mentioned that point to Steve, he promptly sent over a photo of a young turtle basking right next to one of my marked adult turtles. That's just how he was. A genuinely good guy.

- Gary Kittleson

How fortunate we were to know him. And that he allowed us all to let him know how much he was appreciated during the last two years.

- Bonnie Bedzen

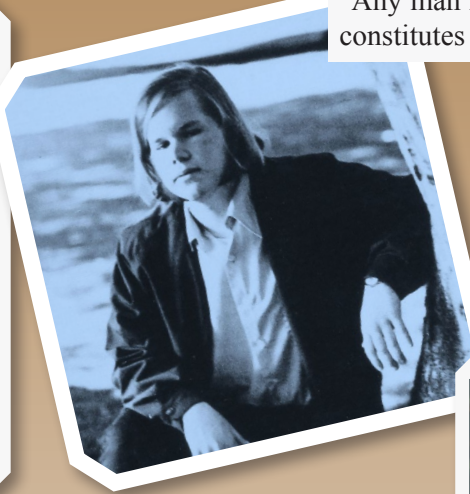


There wasn't a better birder/naturalist than Steve Gerow anywhere in my experience. If he didn't know something, he studied until he did. He was the gentlest teacher imaginable, and thus among other things, he taught me that you don't need a PhD or a professorship to embody a humble, questing attitude toward the world. In our last encounters, at the infusion center, he was smiling and graceful. Our birding community has lost its lodestar, and we'll never be the same.

- Wally Goldfrank



Steve's self-portrait, taken while in college



Steve, the young fisherman

"Any man more right than his neighbors constitutes a majority of one."

*CENTER:* Steve chose the above right quote from Henry David Thoreau to be printed with his high school senior photo. Steve's character demonstrated that he continued to live by these words.



Mary Crouser, Steve's closest friend, assembled this photo board with photos from Steve's life, from babyhood to adulthood. This beautiful effort was graciously displayed at Steve's Celebration of Life. Some of these photos are on this page for you to appreciate. Thank you so much, Mary!

## Celebration of the Life Steve Gerow July 8, 1956 - May 10, 2017 at DeLaveaga Park on Steve's Birthday, July 8th, 2017

Bittersweet day. The Santa Cruz birding community celebrated the life of our beloved Steve Gerow, gone much too soon. Steve was many things to many people but friend and mentor to us all. 75 of us turned out to pay homage to his memory, share tears and laughter, funny and profound stories of his kindnesses, his generosity and his amazing talents. He will be sorely missed.

- Sharon Hull



***Some attendees and speakers:***

Phil Brown, Larry Corridon,  
Mary Crouser, Elisabeth Foster,  
Rich Griffin, Sharon Hull,  
Pamela King, Lisa Larson, Jane  
Mio, Shirley Murphy, Georgette  
Neal, Bob Ramer, Bernadette  
Ramer, Alex Rinkert, Peter  
Scott, Lisa Sheridan, Randy  
Wardle, Nickie Zavinsky

*Female Orange Bishop  
- Jeff Bray*





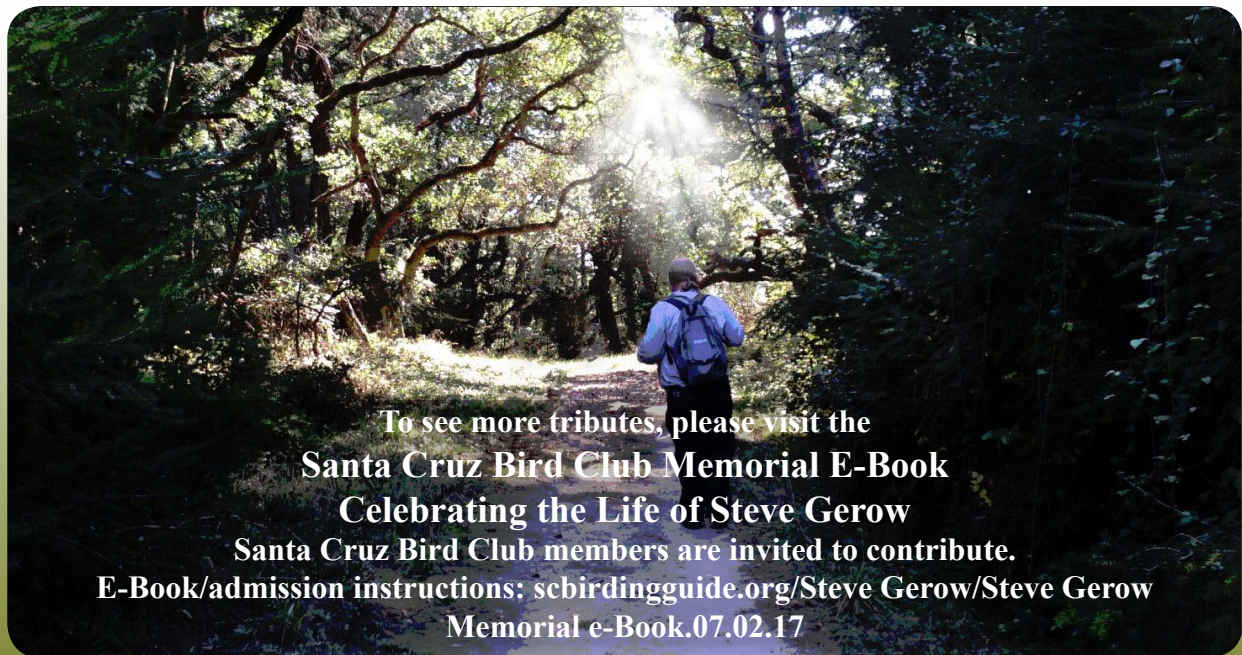


**Thanks to the many people who have graciously and generously donated to the Bird Club since January! Many of these have been in honor and memory of Steve Gerow. In a tribute to him, all donations are being used to support the Breeding Bird Atlas II Project. He was very supportive in getting this project up and running.**

*Thank you—*

<b>Robert Orrizzi</b>	<b>Shirley Murphy</b>
<b>Stephen Fuehrer</b>	<b>Margaret Leonard and Clare Sheils</b>
<b>Cathy Gamble</b>	<b>Jane Henderson</b>
<b>David Meyers</b>	<b>Linda Brodman</b>
<b>Celia and Peter Scott</b>	<b>Elisabeth Foster</b>
<b>Sol Katzman Family</b>	<b>Surrey Kent</b>
<b>Judy Donaldson</b>	<b>Keffi Bell</b>
<b>Lyn Dremalas</b>	<b>Mari Tustin</b>
<b>Kathy Kuyper</b>	<b>Lisa Sheridan</b>
<b>Lorraine Gaudin</b>	<b>Nancy Collins and Pete Solé</b>
<b>Jenny and John Anderson</b>	<b>Noreen Feuss</b>
<b>Sue Dumller</b>	<b>Ann Rogers</b>
<b>Bernadette &amp; Bob Ramer</b>	<b>Jane Orbuch and Bryan Cockel</b>

*\*As of today: 12.5% of club members have either trained as atlassers or donated.*



**To see more tributes, please visit the  
 Santa Cruz Bird Club Memorial E-Book  
 Celebrating the Life of Steve Gerow  
 Santa Cruz Bird Club members are invited to contribute.  
 E-Book/admission instructions: [scbirdingguide.org/Steve Gerow/Steve Gerow  
 Memorial e-Book.07.02.17](http://scbirdingguide.org/Steve_Gerow/Steve_Gerow_Memorial_e-Book.07.02.17)**



## Breeding Bird Atlas Update

After five months of atlassing, field work in the first year of the Santa Cruz County Breeding Bird Atlas II is coming to a close. Now that most birds have finished breeding, we are collecting datasheets from all atlasers. The thousands of breeding records we have collected this year will be entered into an atlas database, proofed, and reviewed for errors. Please look for a summary of this year's effort in the next issue of the Albatross. In the meantime, here are a few highlights from the second half of the breeding season:

**Brandt's Cormorant**—An adult incubating a nest in a Pelagic Cormorant colony at Wilder Ranch SP provided only the third instance they have been found nesting on the face of vertical seacliffs in the county.

**Great Egret**—A nest with two young at the Santa Cruz Harbor marked the fourth time they have nested at this location.

**Osprey**—A large juvenile was seen on a nest at Loch Lomond, the first breeding confirmation for this location in 10 years.

**Marbled Murrelet**—This is one of the most difficult species to confirm breeding so observations indicating an active nest was present at Big Basin Redwoods SP was exciting.

*A full summary of this year's effort will be in the next issue of the Albatross!*

Thank you to all 45 atlasers who participated in field work this year, and the many others who made a financial contribution to support this important work that benefits both birds and birders.

Alex Rinkert  
Project Coordinator



*Great Egret - Lee Jaffe  
Brandt's Cormorant - Beth Hame  
Marbled Murrelet nest with egg - Nick Hatch U.S. Forest Service*



## Randy Morgan

*...another great one of Santa Cruz County (and beyond)  
birding and natural historian has passed*

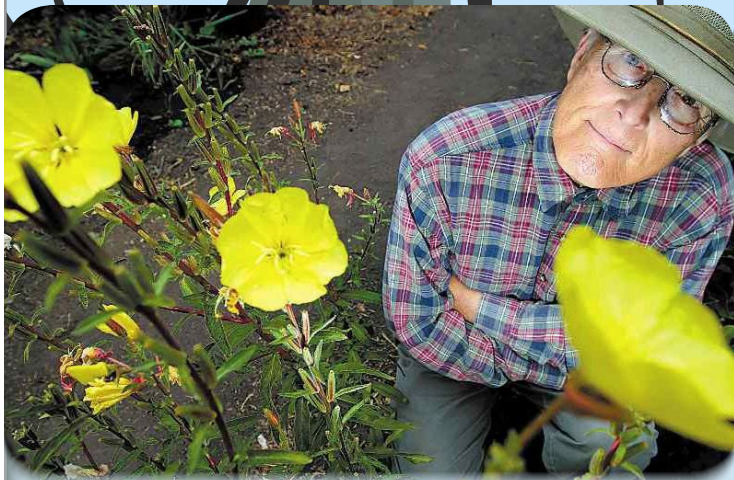
*- David Suddjian*

Randy was, like Steve Gerow, one of the very best among the county's birding and natural history luminaries. Although he was more behind the scenes in the birding world over recent decades, and not too active in the Santa Cruz Bird Club after the early 1990s (he was an Honorary Life Member), Randy was one of the seminal figures in the county's bird history. And of course, he had huge impact in areas of regional botany and entomology as well. He was a mentor for me, and a dear man.

See more and share more:

[facebook.com/groups/celebratingRMorgan](https://facebook.com/groups/celebratingRMorgan)

News article: [santacruzsentinel.com](http://santacruzsentinel.com)



It's hard to overstate the magnitude of the contribution Randy made towards our understanding of the natural world in Santa Cruz County. Randy was an early pioneer of bird records here (and found some stunning rarities, including Greater Pewee!), but he left his biggest legacy in the world of botany and insects. He described many new plants (including some county endemics), and helped recognize and describe the

Ohlone Tiger Beetle as a distinct (county-endemic and Endangered) species.

I remember working with him in the Greenhouses at UCSC, sorting seeds from his beloved Trifoliums— separating them from the fragrant, papery, spent flowerheads... all the while marveling at his incessant and delightful whistling...

He would talk about all sorts of things - I remember him explaining his past life in linguistics research, demonstrating different kinds of Xhosa clicks, and drawing extended parallels between the evolution of language and the evolution of organisms.

He was so quiet and self-effacing, but wickedly sharp and funny; he would sometimes catch me off guard with a zinger when I said something of dubious intellectual merit.

I somehow sort of knew that Steve Gerow and Randy would depart the world in the same year.

As it turns out, it was within a month of each other. The chasm they leave in our naturalist community is immense. I'm going to need to go for a long walk in the woods soon.

*Christian Schwarz*

# EVENTS CALENDAR

September–October 2017



**Sunday, September 10**  
**Westcliff Drive and Lighthouse Field**

The mix of rocky shore specialists should be present by now along West Cliff Dr. We will also check Lighthouse Field, which produces some interesting migrants in fall.

**Directions:** Meet at 8:00 AM on West Cliff Drive at Woodrow Avenue.

**Leader:** Phil Brown, 831-334-4249, pdpbrown@gmail.com



**Thursday, September 21, 2017**  
**SPECIAL SOCIAL MEETING @ 7:30 PM**

**PLEASE SEE PAGE 15 FOR DETAILS!**

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



**Sunday, September 24**  
**Antonelli Pond and Younger Lagoon**

We'll check the immediate pond area, possibly including the Homeless Garden Project. Afterwards we will wander over to Younger Lagoon to see what fall migration has brought in.

**Directions:** Meet at 8:00 AM on the west side of Antonelli Pond at Delaware Avenue.

**Leader:** Phil Brown, 831-334-4249, pdpbrown@gmail.com



*Hermit Thrush*  
- James Maughn



**Friday, September 15**  
**Sunset State Beach**

This park offers a variety of habitats, giving us the opportunity for lingering breeders, migrants and winter arrivals. Plan for a moderate amount of walking, some on beach and uneven surfaces.

**Directions:** Meet at 8:00 AM at the parking area near the entrance kiosk. If you have a state park pass, please bring it, otherwise bring \$10 for an entrance fee.

**Leader:** Reef Comer, reefcomer@gmail.com



*Green Heron* - Cathy Summa-Wolfe



**Monday, September 25**  
**Rancho del Oso**

This is a great time of the year to visit the north coast seeking migrants, wintering birds and possible rare species. We always enjoy a nice variety of species in the varied habitats, from ocean and beach to riparian and evergreen forest.

**Directions:** Meet at 8:00 AM at the Waddell Beach parking lot off Highway 1.

**Leader:** Christian Schwarz, waxwingboheme@gmail.com



*Lark Sparrow* - Jeff Bleam

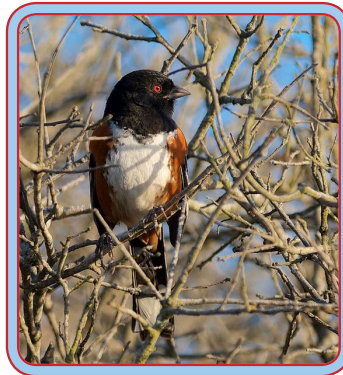


**Friday, September 29**  
**Schwan Lake**

This area offers a good mix of willows, oaks, pines, and scrub. We'll look for raptors, woodpeckers, nuthatches, kinglets, sparrows, and some water birds in the east finger of Twin Lakes.

**Directions:** Meet at 7:30 AM behind Simpkins Swim Center off 17th Avenue in Live Oak.

**Leader:** Lisa Larson, scbirdclubeditor@gmail.com



*Spotted Towhee - Michael Bolte*

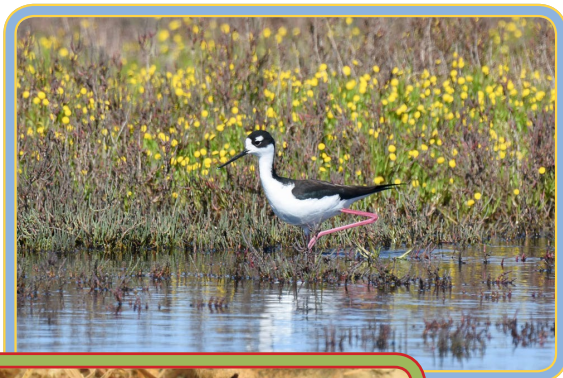


**Sunday, October 1**  
**Pajaro Dunes**

Watsonville Slough out to Pajaro Dunes and the adjoining beach is a good place to find shorebirds, scoters, and gulls. We will also check the cypress around the condos for land birds and if there is time, the Watsonville Sloughs as well. A spotting scope is recommended.

**Directions:** Meet at 7:30 AM at the coastal end of West Beach Road outside the Palm Beach parking lot.

**Leader:** Nicholas Levendosky, n.levendosky@gmail.com



*Black-necked Stilt - Lee Jaffe*



*Coast Garter Snake - Lisa Larson*



**Friday, October 6**  
**Arana Gulch**

This open space preserve has good habitat for sparrows, warblers, flycatchers and others. Who knows what might show up this time of year.

**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 Hagemann Avenue).

**Leader:** Lisa Larson, scbirdclubeditor@gmail.com



**Sunday, October 8**  
**Natural Bridges State Park**

This is a great time of the year to visit the north coast seeking migrants, wintering birds and possible rare species. We always enjoy a nice variety of species in the varied habitats, from ocean and beach to riparian and evergreen forest.

**Directions:** Meet at 8:00 AM at the entrance gate off of Delaware Street.

**Leader:** Phil Brown, 831-334-4249, pdpbrown@gmail.com



*American Bittern - Michelle Lamberson*



**Friday, October 13**  
**Pinto Lake County Park**

There is a lot of bird diversity this time of year at Pinto Lake. We'll be looking for bitterns, rails, and other water birds, as well as land birds.

**Directions:** Meet at 8:00 AM at the north end of Pinto Lake on the County Park side. We'll assemble in the first parking lot area and then walk down the path to the lakeshore and boardwalk. Plan for 3 hours of relatively easy walking if you want to do the entire walk out to the peninsula.

**Leader:** Bob Ramer, rjramer@sbcglobal.net



**Friday, October 20  
Porter-Sesnon Property**

Some interesting fall migrants could show up at this location. We will traverse Potbelly Gulch via a trail, then cross over the railroad tracks to Porter-Sesnon Property, which is comprised of coastal prairie and surrounded by mixed oak woodlands. Scoping off the bluff over beach and ocean is possible as well.

**Directions:** Meet at 8:00 AM at gate just before the railroad tracks on New Brighton Road off McGregor Drive.

**Leader:** Lisa Larson, scbirdclubeditor@gmail.com



**Sunday, October 22  
Nearby Lagoon**

Fall migration continues, so we'll see what's around this riparian and marsh habitat in the middle of Santa Cruz.

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

**Leader:** Phil Brown, 831-334-4249, pdpbrown@gmail.com



**Monday, October 23  
Rancho del Oso**

This is a great time of the year to visit the north coast seeking late migrants, wintering birds and possible rare species. We always enjoy a nice variety of species in the varied habitats, from ocean and beach to riparian and evergreen forest.

**Directions:** Meet at 8:00 AM at the Waddell Beach parking lot off Highway 1.

**Leader:** Christian Schwarz, waxwingboheme@gmail.com



Townsend's Warbler - Michael Bolte



Bonaparte's Gulls - Jean Brocklebank

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

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

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

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

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



**Thursday, October 26**

**SCBC Meeting @ 7:30 PM**

**Speaker: Norman Kikiuchi, M.D.**

**Topic: Birds of Alaska: THE GREAT LAND**

According to photographer, Norman Kikiuchi, Alaska, the GREAT LAND, is a birder's paradise. It should be at the top of a birdwatcher's list to make the pilgrimage at least once in his or her lifetime. THE GREAT LAND is a paradise for birds, who find that the vast expanses of tundra and boreal forests offer less competition for breeding sites, relatively low density of predators per square mile, and an insect biomass which in summer rivals that of the Amazon Basin. Alaska is an ideal place for birds to breed and raise young. Norman has been fortunate to visit THE GREAT LAND almost annually for the past 20 years, with each visit yielding things wonderful and unexpected. His presentation will feature photos from Nome on the Seward Peninsula, Barrow on the North Slope, St. Paul in the

Pribilofs, and Homer on the Kenai Peninsula. Norman's childhood interest in birds began while stalking Ring Necked Pheasants in the foothills of Mt. Diablo, but his real bird epiphany occurred during his college days when he witnessed the impalement of a Western Fence lizard by a Loggerhead Shrike on a Joshua tree spine. He was transfixed by the moment!

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



*Loggerhead Shrike with impaled lizard*

*Peeps - Andy Knörr*

## SCBC SPECIAL SOCIAL MEETING 9-21-17 @ 7:30 PM

The Club will be having a special "social" meeting on **September 21, 2017** at the Santa Cruz Natural History Museum at **7:30 PM**.

In lieu of a formal presenter this meeting will focus on bird photography as practiced by members of the Bird Club. Any one who has checked out the bird photos featured on the Club's web site can attest that we are rich in photographers. These are amateurs, mostly, who share the joys and frustrations of capturing images of our feathered friends.

The point of this "show and tell" is to provide a venue to share images, stories, techniques, and camera talk. Members are welcome to bring up to three of their favorite photos as prints (5x7s or 8x10s would be best). Please jot down the metadata for each shot. Date and location are not important. Matting or protective sleeves are up to you.

We also plan to offer attending member photographers an opportunity to help support the Club's on-going

efforts to compile a **County Breeding Bird Atlas** by donating prints for a silent auction to be held during the meeting. Club members will be able to bid on their favorite images and take them home that night. All proceeds will go to the Club's Atlas fund.

**If you are interested in donating a print or prints please contact Tim Jolly (tjolly3@cruzio.com) for more information.** We have made arrangements with Bay Photo at Soquel and Branciforte in Santa Cruz to provide members with printing discounts for this event, if you are interested.

Other bird art such as stained glass or sculpture is also welcome, but please keep in mind that there is limited room at the museum for display of auction items. So please contact us well before the meeting to reserve a spot on the table.

As usual there will be lovely refreshments!

**Contact:** Tim Jolly, Secretary (tjolly3@cruzio.com)

# SANTA CRUZ BIRDS

By Alex Rinkert

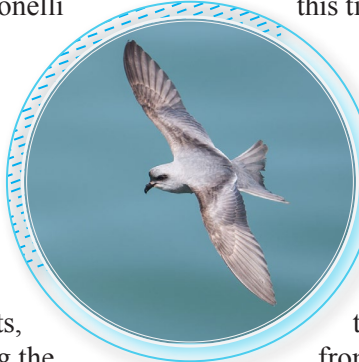
*Including reports from March 1 to May 31, 2017*

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at College Lake on April 29 (AG). A Snow Goose visited Antonelli Pond and a stock pond at Wilder Ranch SP between March 10 and April 9 (SK, v.ob.). A **Cackling Goose** found at Wilder Beach on April 26 was last seen May 7 (JS, PS, TU). **Canada Geese** are fairly rare breeders away from the Pajaro Valley so evidence of breeding at Corcoran Lagoon (SH) and the lower San Lorenzo River (GK, BR) was noteworthy. There were also numerous reports, perhaps the most ever, of Canada Geese along the north coast. Breeding was confirmed at Laguna Creek (ST) and Wilder Beach in June.

Two **Wood Ducks** at Wilder Ranch SP on March 23 was a rare find for the north coast (LG, JW). Two **American Wigeons** at Pajaro Dunes on May 13 were late (HS, JS, PS). Beginning in late March a pair of **Redheads** frequented Struve and Harkins Sloughs (NU, v.ob); the pair stayed into early May but no evidence of breeding materialized. A **White-winged Scoter** off Capitola Beach on May 9 was late (KK), as were a lingering **Bufflehead** at Struve Slough on May 8 (AR) and a **Common Goldeneye** on May 4 (JM). Two **Red-breasted Mergansers** at College Lake on April 29 were rare inland (AG).

Loons on inland waterbodies this spring included a **Red-throated Loon** at Harkins Slough on May 1 (JR) and a **Pacific Loon** on Schwan Lake on May 18 (BK). There were 4-6 **Red-necked Grebes** found this spring, all on the mid-county and north coast (v.ob.). An **Eared Grebe** was at Struve Slough on May 21 (RR, EL, AG). At least 10 **Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels** put on a show around the Santa Cruz Wharf from May 6-12 (AR, v.ob.). Others reported elsewhere during this time included two off Pajaro Dunes on May 6 (AG), some offshore on May 10 (PF); many were seen

elsewhere in the Monterey Bay in Monterey County during this time as well.



**Brandt's Cormorants** were found nesting at all three colonies (Seacliff SB, Natural Bridges SB, and Davenport) that have been active in recent years (v.ob.). **Double-crested Cormorants** nested at Pinto Lake and Schwan Lake (v.ob.). The **American Bittern** at Antonelli Pond was last seen on March 15 (MB, FB). The rarity highlight this spring was a **Least Bittern** at Pinto Lake from May 22-29 (RR, AR, BR, RW, v.ob.), the 2nd modern record for the county. **Great Blue Herons** and **Great Egrets** only nested at the Santa Cruz Harbor and Pinto Lake this spring. **Ospreys** nested at College Lake and at least tried to nest at Harkins Slough (v.ob.).



An immature **Bald Eagle** battled with an Osprey at Terrace Point on March 7 (WBT). The pair of Bald Eagles in the Watsonville Slough system hatched a chick on the previously used nest by April 12 (JR, RW, GK). **Common Gallinules** are rare away from the Pajaro Valley so one at Schwan Lake on March 18 was notable (AR, ST). A **Sandhill Crane** flying up the coast past Davenport Landing on May 28 was the first spring record for the county (MK).



A **Ruddy Turnstone** was at Pajaro Dunes on May 3 (RW). A **Least Sandpiper** attracted to a puddle near the UCSC Farm was the first record for campus (MB). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at Pajaro Dunes on May 2 was the 2nd spring record for the county (NL, BR, LG). In addition to the Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels, **Red Phalaropes** also made a nearshore and onshore appearance from May 3-7 (v.ob.), with a high count of three at Pajaro Dunes (RW). A **Solitary Sandpiper** at College Lake on April 29 (AG) and a **Lesser Yellowlegs** at Pajaro Dunes on March

*From top:*

Fork-tailed Storm Petrel - Michael Bolte  
Red Phalarope - Randy Wardle  
Eared Grebe - Glen Tepke



21 (NU) were the only ones reported.

**Parasitic Jaegers**, rare in spring, were at the Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf on May 7 (MP, DT) and 9 (AR). Following a good winter showing of **Black-legged Kittiwakes**, eight more were found through April 1 (AR, AG, ZM, NU). A first-cycle **Laughing Gull** was at College Lake on April 30 (AR, RC). An adult **Franklin's Gull** circled over lower Harkins Slough on May 19 (AR, BR). A late **Mew Gull** was on the lower San Lorenzo River on May 9 (WBT). A seven hour seawatch at El Jarro Point on March 5 tallied 867 **Herring Gulls** flying north, a record high count for the county (AR, AG). A **Glaucous Gull** was at Wilder Beach on March 23 (NR, ER). Large numbers of **Forster's Terns** were present along the mid-county coast and Pajaro Dunes in late April and early May (v.ob.). The highest count this spring was 213 at Pajaro Dunes on April 30 (AR, RW, RC).

On April 19 two **Eurasian Collared-Doves** paused in chaparral on the McCrary Ridge in Big Basin SP—well away from any areas of regular occurrence—before continuing north (AR). A singing Eurasian Collared-Dove on Jamison Creek Road was similarly notable (AR). Increased coverage in Ben Lomond this spring found at least seven pairs of Eurasian Collared-Doves (AR). This is the furthest into the Santa Cruz Mountains they are known to breed and the most that has been found at this location. The famous leucistic **Anna's Hummingbird** at the UCSC Arboretum continued through April, but developed a severely deformed bill (v.ob.). A male **Calliope Hummingbird** was at Loma Prieta on April 29. The male **Red-naped Sapsucker** at Henry Cowell SP was last seen March 6 (MM).

A **Hammond's Flycatcher** was at Loma Prieta on May 19 (WB, JV). A **Pacific-slope Flycatcher** near Soquel on March 8 was early (AG). **Tropical Kingbirds** were at Struve Slough on



March 8 (NU) and April 4 (LJ). A **Western Kingbird** carrying food on Peckham Road east of Watsonville provided a very rare breeding record for the county (AR).

A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** briefly stayed at Wilder Ranch SP from May 13-14 (RS, BM, v.ob), the 4th record for the county and first since 2002.

Beginning April 15, **Purple Martins** were seen investigating cavities at Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve, the only active breeding location in the county (AR, NU, MST). The first report of Purple Martins at Loma Prieta this spring was on April 20 (AR); most or all of the martins near Loma Prieta breed in Santa Clara County. There

were three coastal reports of coastal martins from May 1-14 (AG, JA, KA, PS), and four reports from the San Lorenzo Valley at Empire Grade, Quail Hollow Ranch County Park and north of Boulder Creek between May 18-29 (AR, PF).

A **White-breasted Nuthatch** was near Pescadero Creek on March 26 (AR). **House Wrens** are rare, ephemeral breeders away from the Pajaro Hills and the crest of the Santa Cruz Mountains so singing on territory

where Molino Creek crosses Swanton Road on March 23 was noteworthy (AR, NL). **Townsend's Solitaires** were seen at Loma Prieta on May 7 (AR et al.) and May 13 (NU). A **Swainson's Thrush** at Natural Bridges SB on April 10 was early (PB).

The wintering **Black-and-white Warbler** at Bethany Curve was last seen on March 11 (AG). Four **Nashville Warblers** were found this spring (AR, NL, AK). **MacGillivray's Warblers** were found at three known breeding locations this spring: Rancho Del Oso, Molino Creek at Swanton Road, and Star Creek Ranch (v.ob.). A **Palm Warbler** continued at Antonelli Pond on March 13 (JS, PS), and perhaps the same individual was seen again at Natural Bridges SB on April 15 (SG, EF). The most intriguing report this spring was a



*From top:*

MacGillivray's Warbler - Lee Jaffe  
Swainson's Thrush - Lisa Larson  
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher - James Maughn

female **Yellow-rumped “Audubon’s” Warbler** observed and photographed collecting nest material at CARE Park along the Pajaro River on May 9 (NU). The location is well away from suitable breeding habitat (high elevation Douglas-fir forest and knobcone chaparral in the Santa Cruz Mountains) and it was not re-found so the record was left unconfirmed. The only **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at lower Harkins Slough on May 19 (AR, BR).

Remarkably the only **Grasshopper Sparrow** report this period was of one on May 29 at Moore Creek Preserve (NU). Five **Chipping Sparrows** were on Litchfield Lane in Corralitos beginning May 15 (BR, RR, DS) and a pair was seen copulating on Scurich Road near the Pajaro Hills (AR). All were in low elevation apple orchards, a habitat and region of the county where there are no breeding records. Several visits in suitable habitat earlier in the season found none. **Black-chinned Sparrows** arrived at Loma Prieta later than in previous years, perhaps delayed by the last few winter storms. The first reported this spring was on April 30 (AG). Migrant **Lark Sparrows** were found at Loma Prieta on April 20 (NL, AR) and the lower San Lorenzo River on April 29 (GK). A juvenile **Dark-eyed Junco** being fed by an adult in Santa Cruz on March 26 was an early report of fledged young of this species (AR). A lingering “Puget Sound” **White-crowned Sparrow** stayed at a feeder in Aptos until May 26 (RW) and a similarly late **Golden-crowned Sparrow** was at Scotts Valley on May 30 (JS). Eight **White-throated Sparrows** were found this spring (v.ob.). A **Savannah Sparrow** was singing on territory in the dunes at Pajaro Dunes beginning April 30 (AMR, RW, RC, CF, AG); they are only known to breed in the Pajaro Valley at lower Harkins Slough.



The male **Summer Tanager** visiting a feeder in Rodeo Gulch was last seen March 20 (KS). An immature male **Blue Grosbeak** was at Struve Slough on May 5 (AR, ST, PB). No **Tricolored Blackbird** breeding activity was noted this spring. A female **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was on the lower San Lorenzo River on May 4 (JM). Two male **Great-tailed Grackles** at Swanton Pond on April 23 and one at Younger Lagoon on May 12 (WBT) were rare away from the Pajaro Valley (DS, AR, AK). A pair of **Hooded Orioles** was in Brook Lomond and likely breeding (AR), rare for the Santa Cruz Mountains. There were four reports of **Lawrence’s Goldfinches** from Loma Prieta (AR, AG, v.ob.), one from the Pajaro Hills (AR), and one from Pajaro Dunes (NU).

**Cited Observers:** Julian Arul, Kumaran Arul, Frances Bolte, Michael Bolte, Will Brooks, Phil Brown, Reef Comer, Parker Forman, Elisabeth Forrest, Aaron Gabbe, Steve Gerow, Lois Goldfrank, Sharon Hull, Bethany Kilzer, Gary Kittleson, Ana Kopitov, Mark Kudrav, Kathy Kuyper, Spencer Klinfelter, Earl Lebow, Nick Levendosky, Michael Martin, Bobbie Mayer, Zach Mikalonis, Jane Mio, Michael Park, Robert Ramer, Alex Rinkert, Barbara Riverwoman, Jeff Roisman, Nick Rosen, Emma Rosen, Reed Schneider, David Sidle, Pete Solé, Kitty Stein, Matthew Strusis-Timmer, Hanna Svensson, Jonah Svensson, Peter Svensson, Simon Thornhill, David Tomb, W. Breck Tyler, Tom Unsicker, Norman Uyeda, Jason Vassallo, Jeff Wall, Randy Wardle



*Top:* Blue Grosbeak - Gail West

*Left:* "Puget Sound" White-crowned Sparrow - Lisa Larson

See [creagrus.home.montereybay.com/MTYbirdsWCSP2](http://creagrus.home.montereybay.com/MTYbirdsWCSP2) for info on different forms of White-crowned Sparrows. **Thank you, Don Roberson!**

## CONSERVATION NEWS

### Drones in local State Parks

In the beginning of this year the California State Parks Santa Cruz District was exploring avenues to draft regulations to limit drone use in its district. On February 2, 2017 the Santa Cruz Bird Club wrote a letter to Chris Spohrer, California State Parks Santa Cruz District Superintendent, addressing drone impact on birds in local State Parks. In June NBC announced, "Chris Spohrer joined other regional park districts in May when he signed new restrictions on drone use at its parks". Read full story, *Local Park Orders Prohibit Drones on California State Parks...* on [nbcbayarea.com](http://nbcbayarea.com). To read the Santa Cruz Bird Club letter, please go to [santacruzbirdclub.org/conservation](http://santacruzbirdclub.org/conservation).

### San Lorenzo River Paddling

After four years the San Lorenzo River Paddling issue is off the water table according to City Council member Chris Krohn and CWC spokesperson Laurie Eagan. Thank you to the many Santa Cruz Bird Club members who wrote letters to the Santa Cruz City Council on behalf of protecting the San Lorenzo River bird habitat, aiding the local and migratory bird population to enjoy a paddler-free river life!

### UPCOMING CONSERVATION ITEMS:

The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Wharf Master Plan and the Downtown Recovery Plan will be ready for public comment soon. Check the **Conservation** section on the Santa Cruz Bird Club website for more details. Both Plans will effect bird habitat and our members are encourage to respond with their avian conservation concerns to the respective EIR.

The CONSERVATION COMMITTEE is looking for Santa Cruz Bird Club members to join and make a positive difference for the bird population. Since there is a diverse range of topics, you should be able to find your theme of interest! Thank you for contacting Jane Mio <[jmio@earthlink.net](mailto:jmio@earthlink.net)> for further info.



**Update on SB49** – *the bill that will assure that important protections for endangered species, air quality and water quality will continue in California even if federal law changes.*

As we go to press, SB49 has two more steps in the state Assembly—Appropriations Committee and a floor vote. It looks good for passage there and may be on the governor's desk by **early September**. The Governor has not said if he will sign it, so it is critical that we let Governor Brown know how important this bill is. SB49 will strengthen the California Endangered Species Act (ESA) and broaden its coverage to equal the level of the federal ESA under President Obama. Without these protections, the California Condor, Marbled Murrelet, Western Snowy Plover, Steelhead Trout, Southern Sea Otter and many other species may become extinct. SB49 will keep the current level of endangered species protections in place no matter what the President or Congress might do.

***Please write or email him this week!*** {c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173, Sacramento, CA 95814} *or* email: [govapps.gov.ca.gov/gov39mail](mailto:govapps.gov.ca.gov/gov39mail). *Thank you!!*

Your note does not have to be long or complex—you can just say "Please sign SB49" and list one or two talking points.

If you can't think of your own, here are some talking points you could use:

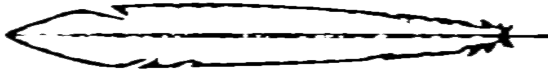
- \* Since SB49 simply keeps in place current protections (existing state and federal as of Jan., 2017), there are no new regulations for business or industry and no adverse economic impact.
- \* Humans have an ethical and moral obligation to protect other species on the earth. We should not let species go extinct for the sake of short-term economic plunder.
- \* Plants and animals are, just like people, being adversely impacted by climate change. The strengthening of endangered species protections in SB49 will not only protect endangered species, but humans as well, by providing another tool to use to restrain human actions that would accelerate climate change.

**For more details on the bill:** [leginfo.legislature.ca.gov](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov)  
Read the letters from the club on the Conservation page of our website: [santacruzbirdclub.org/conservation](http://santacruzbirdclub.org/conservation).



## MARbled MURRELET MANAGEMENT PLAN RELEASED

The California State Parks Department has recently released a Marbled Murrelet Management Plan for parks and other lands in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The Plan reports a population size that is between 400 to 1000 individuals, and found 37 different stands with evidence of nesting. It estimates that there are 15,000 acres or more of potentially suitable habitat in the Santa Cruz Mountains, although much of this is currently unused for nesting. Bird club members who would like a digital copy of the Plan (223 pages) can send an email to Steve Singer ([swsingerms@aol.com](mailto:swsingerms@aol.com)) and put "Murrelet Plan" in the subject line.



## INN TO INN BIRDING - OCTOBER 2-6, 2017 with Alvaro Jaramillo (the guy who lives here & wrote the book)

Enjoy North America's ONLY Inn to Inn Birding and Walking Adventure. This is a 5 day/4 night inn to inn birding/walking vacation. You will stay at coastal lodging each night from Half Moon Bay to Moss Beach, California, as you walk and bird this amazing and diverse coastline with expert ornithologist, Alvaro Jaramillo, a resident of the area. Walking will be mostly flat and on well-marked paths. Your luggage will be moved from inn to inn while you enjoy birding and walking, free from the hassle of buses, vans, or other transportation.

Call or text Margaret at 831-332-7923 or email [slowadventure@icloud.com](mailto:slowadventure@icloud.com) to reserve a spot.  
For more info: [www.slowadventure.us](http://www.slowadventure.us)



# Thirteenth Annual Monterey Bay Birding Festival

Saturday, September 23rd, 2017

Strategically hosted during fall migration, the festival provides participants with the opportunity to see many of the 250 bird species that frequent Monterey Bay and its surrounding areas.

Serious birding enthusiasts can add to their lists California specialty life-list birds such as the California Thrasher, California Towhee, Bell's Sparrow, Oak Titmouse, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Elegant Tern, and the endangered California Condor. Local birders will have unusual access to private lands on some trips, and new birders will find supportive leaders and trips to boost skills quickly.

This year's **keynote speaker** is the renowned Ornithologist, **Peter Pyle**, who will present "Ecology and Conservation of the Gulf of the Farallones." Peter will also host an educational workshop on "Adventures in Molt." Film Director, **Maya Khosla**, will screen her beautiful documentary film: "Searching for the Goldspot: The Wild after Wildfire."

To round out activities, the **City of Watsonville Nature Center** will host "Family Days", offering bi-lingual family fun, bird walks and snacks for kids of all ages. The **Elkhorn Slough Reserve** will offer a birding field trip along with other educational activities and snacks during their Open House, kayaking in Elkhorn Slough is available through Kayak Connections, and pelagic boating trips will be offered by **Shearwater Journeys**.

Don't miss this opportunity to view the birds and other wildlife in one of the most beautiful places on the planet during fall migration, the Monterey Bay on the California Central Coast.

**REGISTER at [www.montereybaybirding.org](http://www.montereybaybirding.org).**

*About the Monterey Bay Birding Festival Association, Inc.* An all-volunteer 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to promoting bird watching, conservation and education through hosting the annual Monterey Bay Birding Festival and other activities throughout the year. Learn more at [www.montereybaybirding.org](http://www.montereybaybirding.org).



*California Thrasher  
-Lisa Larson*



**Monterey Bay Birding Festival  
Association, Inc.**

250 Main Street  
Watsonville, California 95076  
(888) 909-7829

**Contact: Debbie Diersch**

Monterey Bay Birding Festival  
(888) 909-7829

[montereybaybirdingfestival@gmail.com](mailto:montereybaybirdingfestival@gmail.com)

**Watsonville Wetlands Watch**  
**Presents: Reconsider the Coot**

the Crazy Reproductive Antics of a Common Marsh Denizen  
Wednesday, September 13th  
**BRUCE LYON**

Please join us when **Bruce Lyon**, Professor of Evolutionary Ecology at the University of California, Santa Cruz, will talk about the American Coot, a bird that is often overlooked because they are so common.

Dr. Lyon has been studying the reproductive antics of American coots for the past two decades and has discovered that there is far more to this bird than meets the eye. He'll highlight discoveries about the parental and reproductive strategies of coots, from both a natural history and scientific perspective.

Coots are bizarre when it comes to raising their chicks, and there are many puzzling features of coot parental care behavior. For example, why do coots lay far more eggs than they can normally raise and why do they beat up their kids so much? And, finally, why are baby coots born with such a ridiculously fluorescent orange plumage? He will answer these questions and many more during his talk.

From **6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** in the Fitz Wetlands Educational Resource Center at the top of the Pajaro Valley High School campus located at 500 Harkins Slough Road, Watsonville.

**Admission is free**  
**Seating is limited**

**Reserve a seat:** [www.watsonvillewetlandswatch.org](http://www.watsonvillewetlandswatch.org)



*Right: Coot feeding chick - Pete Solé*

*Below: The heavy lifter male coot with nest material - Lisa Larson*





## Shearwater Journeys

### MONTEREY BAY, HALF MOON BAY

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

Departing from Monterey:	Departing from Half Moon Bay:
September 1, 7, 8, 10, 14, 22, 23, 24, 30	September 2, 3, 15, 16
October 8	October 7

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



*Buller's Shearwater-  
Jeff Bleam*

## Monterey Seabirds

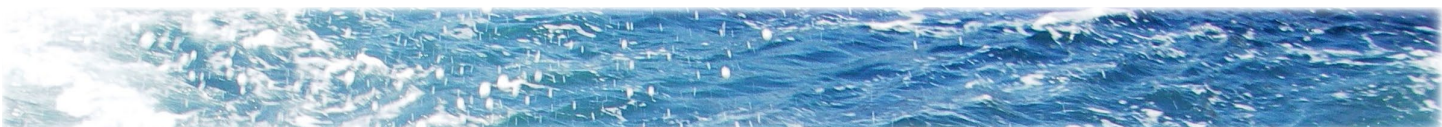
Monterey Seabirds features year-round pelagic trips enabling you to experience the seabirds of the Monterey Bay in their respective seasons. In the interest of having a reasonably sized group conducive to pelagic birding and photography, space is limited to 25 participants. Folks can register online: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

### 8-hour trips:

Tues Sep 5, Sun Sep 10, Sun Sep 17, Thurs Sep 21, Tues Sep 26  
Sun Oct 1, Sun Oct 15

### 12-hour Trips are on Mondays:

Sep 11, Sep 18, Sep 25  
Oct 2, Oct 16

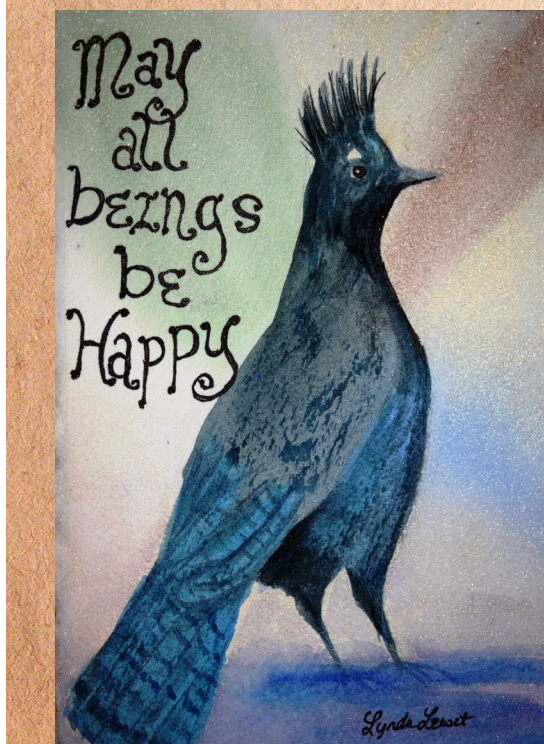


## Birder's Notebook



### *Paintings of Hope and Inspiration* -Linda Lewis

These paintings came about from many years of collecting inspirational quotes and drawing in nature journals. While recovering from a surgical complication, my physician recommended that I rest more and take up a sedentary interest. I started taking watercolor painting classes in 2012. Part of my healing from the complication was to paint positive affirmations of the optimal health outcomes that I visualized. During my years as a Public Health Nurse in Santa Cruz County, I taught my clients about the benefits of positive thinking. I began learning about the world of birding by taking classes with Nanci Adams through Watsonville Adult School in 2014.



*These paintings are a combination of my love of positive affirmations, watercolor painting, and birds.*





## Birds high, birds low

Don't have to go far  
 just up on High Street  
 the hill rising to my left  
 A shriek of a cry with  
 an upward tilt at its end  
 A flash of white above the cypress  
 A huge raptor, chased by a crow  
 And even higher a second raptor  
 circling.

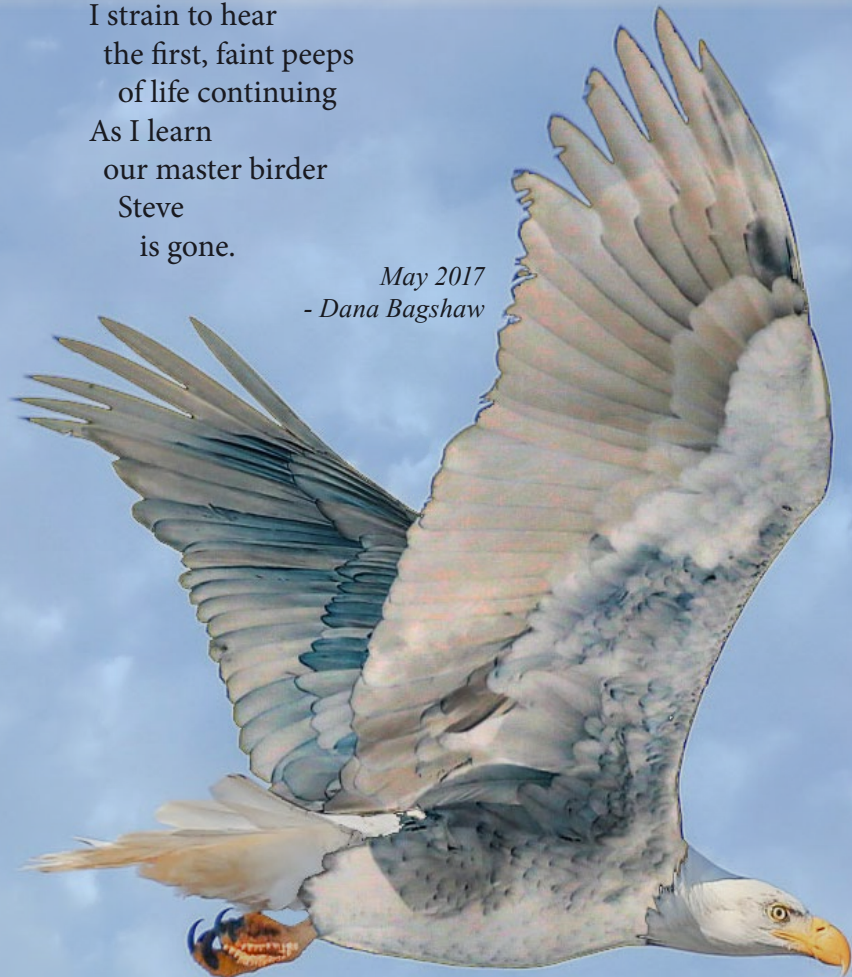
Back at home, an e-bird  
 echoes the call,  
 confirming  
 a bald eagle!  
 an e-mail from Steve  
 agrees it's possible.  
 The Albatross arrives  
 announcing  
 It could have been  
 a leucistic!  
 white feathers  
 No markings.

Birds high, birds low  
 On the walk beside my house  
 a dove patters along  
 leading away from its nest  
 up in the rafters.  
 A few days later a scrub jay  
 eats the eggs.

A towhee fledgling, one who made it  
 chases its mom, frantic for food  
 She turns on it, fiercely, then hops  
 away.

Titmice find refuge  
 in a box nailed high on the garage  
 When the sun hits it  
 the mom escapes for a quick flight  
 leaving a count of seven chicks.  
 Her mate makes a racket  
 at a cooper's hawk  
 stalking  
 And she returns.  
 I strain to hear  
 the first, faint peeps  
 of life continuing  
 As I learn  
 our master birder  
 Steve  
 is gone.

May 2017  
 - Dana Bagshaw



Bald Eagle  
 - Andy Knorr

## New SCBC Members Welcome!

Roseanne Prevost-Morgan	Apr 2017
Jaynie & Brian Miller	Apr 2017
Lori Samuels Family	May 2017
Patty & John Murray	May 2017
James Maughn	May 2017
Heidi Brown	May 2017
Kumaran Arul	May 2017
Randy Wardle	May 2017
Maryellen Boyle	May 2017
Jennifer Cobas	May 2017
Helene Milner & Family	May 2017
William Shanbrom	May 2017
Linnae Davenport	June 2017
Cathy Loewen	June 2017
Lorraine Castro-Neves	June 2017
Rachel O'Malley	June 2017
Thomas Sutfin & Family	June 2017
Juanita Carrillo	June 2017
Randolph Widera	July 2017
Barbara Banfield	July 2017
Orion Pappas	July 2017
Kori Shaw Family	July 2017
Josephine Cutter	Aug 2017
Alexi Sanders	Aug 2017
Jessica Howland	Aug 2017

### SCBC PURPOSE STATEMENT

*The goals of the Santa Cruz Bird Club are to unite those with a common interest in wild birds, in order to study and conserve them; and to promote good fellowship among bird lovers.*

*We have a new Santa  
Cruz Bird Club Historian!  
Welcome to  
Elisabeth Foster!*

*Mallard Ducklings at Shorebirds Pond - Lisa Larson*

Submissions NEEDED

*Deadline*

for Nov/Dec issue

**Oct 1, 2017**

SCBC Programs Officer  
**Position Opening**  
*effective November 1*

Dear Santa Cruz Bird Club Members and Albatross Readers,

Due to unforeseen personal circumstances, I must leave the Programs Officer position, effective November 1. It has been a sincere pleasure identifying and meeting up with presenters and attendees at the club's general meetings, whose calendar runs from September through May. It has been also an awesome opportunity to serve a very special group of caring people. Those interested in applying for the position may contact any board member listed on the last page of the Albatross.

Respectfully,  
Georgette Neal

See job description:  
[santacruzbirdclub.org/job-descriptions](http://santacruzbirdclub.org/job-descriptions)

Assembling Your

# ALBATROSS

Newsletter

## Submission to the Albatross Guidelines

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

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

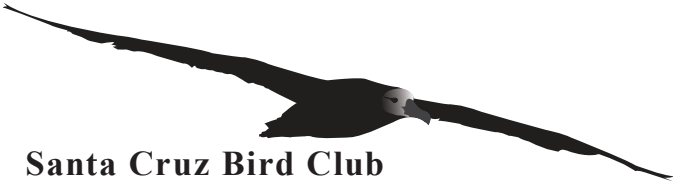
If you wish to submit an article, please contact the editor about it **AT LEAST 2 weeks before** the submission deadline.

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

~Lisa Fay Larson, Editor

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*Wally was a tremendously  
accomplished scholar and birder.  
Please read more about him online.*

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## In Loving Memory of Our Dear Lifetime Member and Friend, Wally Goldfrank

346 SCCO SPECIES



Shoebill



## ALBATROSS

is published five times a year  
by the Santa Cruz Bird Club.  
See the online version and past  
issues on the SCBC website,  
[santacruzbirdclub.org](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, *Albatross*. Santa Cruz Bird Club memberships run June-May.

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

**To pay with PayPal:** [santacruzbirdclub.org/join-or-renew-online](http://santacruzbirdclub.org/join-or-renew-online).

Or make checks payable to Santa Cruz Bird Club and mail to:  
Box 1304, Santa Cruz, CA 95061, Attention: Membership.