



Albatross

PHOEBASTRIA NIGRIPES

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FREE BirdFUNfestival

*Monterey Bay
Birding Festival*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ANNUAL
SOCIAL
EVENT



**Santa Cruz
Birds**

Seabirding Trips



Birder's
Notebook

PARTING SHOT

*Black-headed Grosbeak - Pete Sole
Fledgling Barn Swallows - Cathy Summa-Wolfe*

Celebrating Sixty years of the "Albie"

- By Elisabeth Foster



Santa Cruz Bird Club

*From masthead:
Jan/Feb issue, 1958*

Part of my role as club Historian is the keeping of our early paper documents. Of course, the first thing I did when I brought the giant plastic containers of paper home was to rifle through the oldest volumes of *Albatross* and accompanying treasures, such as old photos and notes. The early back issues of the "Albie", as we have come to call it, are just wonderful. The pages are yellowed, hand typed, and full of the writing style of their time. I'm slowly working on getting together an electronic copy of these oldest issues, but it is a challenge because I just want to sit and read everything I find. I thought I would share with you some of the highlights of our sixty-year-old publication.

Volume One, Number One was dated September-October 1956. This first publication of *Albatross* is brimming with excitement and a clear love for Santa Cruz and its feathered denizens. It opens, "In this inaugural number of the "Albatross", our bimonthly bulletin, your President wishes to express his [sic] apretion for the splendid spirit of cooperation you have shown in the formative months just past and the enthusiasm demonstrated." There are handwritten notes on the weathered copy of this first issue that indicate it was published 10 months after the first meeting of the Santa Cruz Bird Club. The club first met, according to the impeccable penmanship, on December 5th, 1955 with 12 people present.

I was curious about what the source of the name, "Albatross", for our newsletter. To me, at least, there are any number of fascinating and common birds seen all over Santa Cruz County that would have been a more obvious choice. So why did our founding members choose a bird with a huge global range that does not breed anywhere near

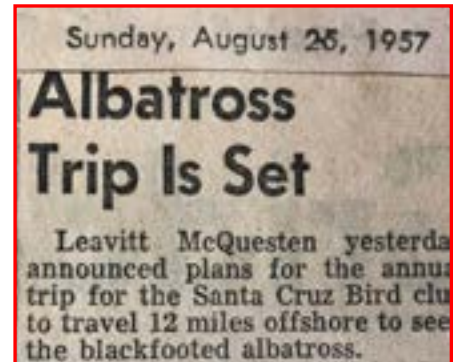


Santa Cruz? To find my answer I had to leave the pages of *Albatross* and rifle through the early meeting minutes. What I found was that one of the club's first members, Leavitt McQuesten, lead regular pelagic trips with the Stagnaros, specifically to look for Black-footed Albatross. From the May 1957 meeting notes, "Another boat trip to see the albatross was announced for June 19th. Mr. McQuesten suggested the albatross as a club symbol." So, there we have it! A piece of club mystery is explained.

I was struck by the notable differences between the 1956 birding world and the 2018 birding world. These early issues are full of references to places now forgotten or that have perhaps been developed, such as "Hooper Hollow" and "Woods Lagoon". The birds have changed a bit as well, such as reports of "Plain Titmice" and "Brown Towhees". While many things have changed for the worse since 1956, at least these two familiar Santa Cruz birds now have better names. There is a lot to be learned about changes in bird populations from the reports in the early days of the club. One exciting instance is a write-up on an irruption of Clark's Nutcrackers at Rancho Del Oso in 1962: "They were everywhere, picking up food of some form from the earth." In many ways, however, the early issues are like the modern *Albie*. They contain details of upcoming field trips, suggestions for bird-related reading,



Malio Stagnaro (black cap) and Leavitt McQuesten



and recent local rarities. There is a lot more personal information about members, presumably because membership was so small.

In the August 1961 edition, for example, we learn that "Edith has gotten herself a broken wing, but it is mending nicely and very soon she will be back at the cook stove, when not out birding with us." I suppose it would have been immediately obvious to the members of the time that Edith was a colleague and not a bird.

Albie logos over the years



The more recent issues are also filled with birding gems. Over the years, many experienced birders have contributed their poems, articles, photographs, and musings. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that our friend and mentor, Steve Gerow, was quite a prolific writer. Like so many others, I learned a great deal from Steve not only through his extensive knowledge of the natural world, but also through his example in treating his fellow humans with kindness and patience. It struck me that these articles provided Steve the opportunity to teach us in a different way than he may have been able to on large walks with his adoring but sometimes chatty fans. Steve's

articles are a treasure, especially to newer members like me who were not around when the articles were first published. In the May-August 2008 issue, Steve wrote an article called, "A Rocky Road to Birding Revelations", about how the practice of observing the habits and features of rare birds can enhance our birding skills for more common species. He writes, "The more we observe, the more we find out, and the more our focus expands... Watching long-staying rarities like the Rock Sandpiper can help to both focus and broaden our perception, while honing our general ability to observe, giving us much more than just another filled space on a checklist. We increase our ability to learn from our observations, leading to more frequent, and more interesting, discoveries. Thus, birding never gets old or mundane, and the fascination just keeps growing."

One of my favorite Steve Gerow articles is called "Relax and Enjoy the Birds." Finding this article came at the right moment for me and although it was published in the November-December 2006 edition of *Albatross*, I am certain it will remain relevant for many of us throughout our birding lives. Steve reminds us, "We may bird as a challenging game, or to add to the scientific knowledge of birds, or just as a way of getting out and enjoying nature. Whatever our goals or combination of goals, birding works. There are no rules, and no quotas, and if we make mistakes, we learn something for the next time around. It all works better, though, when we allow ourselves a little creativity and freedom to explore, and above all, to relax and enjoy ourselves."

In closing, I'll say simply that *Albatross* is a captivating snapshot not only of the historical details of birding in Santa Cruz, but also of the birders' own thoughts and lives. We are lucky as a club to have had this

publication for over sixty years. It takes a lot of work and passion to put together each issue, and we are so grateful for our dear editor.

The third issue of the *Albatross* closes with a poem so charming and relevant that I couldn't resist including it here. I did some digging and this poem was written in 1957 by Angelo Heweston, a bird enthusiast and club member. His poem makes me nostalgic for a time through which I didn't even live, and I hope you enjoy it as much as I do.

THE GOLDEN CROWNED SPARROW

In Spring and Fall from bush and tree,
 We hear his plaintive "Oh dear me,"
 To vary it, two notes ring clear,
 Which unmistakably say "Oh dear,"
 And sometimes when he's on the go,
 The little sparrow sings just "Oh."
 However many notes there be,
 They're always in a minor key,
 So now, each year, as leaves turn yellow,
 We listen for this little fellow.

- Angelo Heweston



Above: Golden-crowned Sparrow - Lisa Larson
 Below: Past SCBC Editors from "Santa Cruz Bird Club (1956-1981); A Brief History" - Viola Washburn

Editor	
1956-	Clarence Selden
1957-58	Luella & Earl DeVore
1958	Esther Van Buren
1959-61	Dorothy Hunt
1960-61	Mrs. Homer Glans
1961-64	Annie Davies
1966-69	Viola Anderson
1970-73	Mary P. Bates
1974-76	Fred Jewett
1976-77	Mary Turner
1977-80	Don Starks
1980	Winifred Greene



Rock Sandpiper, Алеутский Район,
 Kamchatka Krai, Russia, June 29 2017
 - Jeff Bleam

Thank you to alert reader **Tim Thompson**, who brought to my attention the booklet "Santa Cruz Bird Club (1956-1981); A Brief History ". I checked it out of the Live Oak Public Library and found it *very* interesting, indeed! Tim was especially touched by the following story. I think you will be, too.

Ashy Storm Petrel - Beth Hamel

Ashy

By Helme Smith
Teacher at Pacific School, Davenport 1952
From *1957 Albatross*



Ashy came to us in rather unusual manner; unusual because he was discovered on land in a chicken-yard in the [sic] San Vincent Canyon at Davenport, instead of out on the sea where one might expect to find him.

The family who found him fixed chicken mash and water for him but Ashy was not happy and would not eat. Several days passed. Worried, Janice brought him to me at school, in a box with his supply of food.

"My father found this bird. It won't eat. It can't fly. You may have him", she said magnanimously.

After placing the box on a low cupboard I lifted out the bird to show him to the children. His feathers were black with a little white on the underside of the wings. His length was seven and one-fourth inches. I spread his beautifully-shaped wings so that the children could see the contours before putting him back into the box. That morning he was lively, but in the afternoon he slept most of the time.

Why he was on land in Davenport was a mystery to us. Had he been blown in from sea during the terrific October storm of the preceding night? Who knows? He proved to be an Ashy Petrel and petrels are intrepid fliers who seem to enjoy the buffeting of storms.

If he had by chance been in close to the cliffs, the heavy southeast winds may have sucked him into the draw of the canyon.

Ashy enchanted us. His small presence and determination, in an environment so foreign to his way of life, were a delight for the few days he lived with us. He was quiet and showed no fear. The children thoughtfully suggested that he would be less afraid if no one handled him except "teacher".

No amount of coaxing would induce Ashy to eat, at least to our knowledge. I sent for canned fish, and tried gently to force-feed this. He'd spit it out. I tried bits of bread sopped with a little milk. He'd spit them out. I tried several times during the day but Ashy wasn't having any! We decided to let him feed himself if he would.

The next morning was Thursday. When I unlocked my classroom door the children who were early-arrivals could

hardly wait to peek into Ashy's box . . . NO Ashy! . . . The children were startled. I hastily relocked the doors to keep others from entering. We inspected every desk, every nook, every corner, but we couldn't find Ashy. As a last resort, I moved a heavy bookcase, thinking he might be behind it, hoping at the same time that I wouldn't crush him if he were.

Sure enough, from under the case walked Ashy, as undisturbed as if several minutes hadn't been spent looking for him and as if no clamorous children were outside the door awaiting entrance, wondering why I didn't let them in.

About two hours later Ashy wanted more exploring. He climbed from his box and floated to the floor. Down the aisle he walked, raising those graceful wings and seeming to barely touch the floor as he walked "on tiptoe".

I explained to the children that petrels derive their name from the Latin "petrus" which means "Peter", because they seem to walk on the water.

Ashy gave us a good demonstration that that was also his method of locomotion on land. His movement down the aisle and around the room was a part of his personality that tugged at our heart-strings. I don't know when we had so enjoyed a bird.

That afternoon I brought Ashy home to Bonny Doon. As he needed a bath I ran water into the bathtub so that he would have plenty of room to swim and to wash his soiled feathers. He looked cunning paddling around with his little webbed feet.

When dinner dishes were done, I turned the box over on its side on the kitchen floor, placed his food and water nearby, shut the door and left him to his own devices.

Petrels are restless creatures and move around a great deal both by day and night. We could hear Ashy's light movements during the night.

Having discovered that Ashy could fly some, even though his right wing was slightly injured, but healed, and a few feathers were missing from his left wing, we thought it best to release him. He was in fine shape in spite of his lack of appetite but that circumstance wouldn't last forever. Maybe he should have been banded but we knew then of no one who banded birds in Santa Cruz.

On Friday morning, after the children had had a chance to see him for the last time, we gave him into the keeping of my husband who drove him to Waddell Beach. There he carried Ashy to the water's edge and Ashy began to pick around in the wet sand at once.

No doubt he had found something that appealed to a hungry little Ashy Petrel. Satisfied that he was alright, my husband left him.

We all hoped that the sea which he loved would be kind to him, now that the storm had abated and the water was comparatively calm. We know it was better for him to seek his own kind than to be languishing on land.



FREE
Downtown BirdFUNfestival!
September 14-16

Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History,
 705 Front Street, Santa Cruz

MAKE Masks and join a mini-migration, **MOVE** with Birds along the San Lorenzo River, **PLAY** with art materials, all about Birds who live in Downtown Santa Cruz and Beyond!

Friday, Sept. 14, from 5-8pm Opening Event: Downtown BirdFUNfest!

MAKE: a Bird Mask, Pose for your Portrait, Fly with the mini-migration to Pacific Avenue at 6pm & 8pm.

Saturday, Sept. 15. Meet at Beach Flats Park at 10am

MOVE: Bilingual Birdwalk on the San Lorenzo River

- ✗ Learn some bird language, make some new connections to birds, art and history along the RiverWalk.



- ✗ Arrive to the MAH in time to enjoy the Student Art show and the Café Charla (Spanish Conversation over coffee).

Sunday, Sept. 16, from 11am-2pm

PLAY: Family BirdFUNfest in Abbott Square

- ✗ Learn to Sketch hawks, pelicans and owls from the UCSC Norris Center for Natural History
- ✗ Listen to Spoken "Bird is the Word " Poetry and Performance
- ✗ Enjoy Activities with Local Bird Stewardship Artists and Agencies

More info:

mailchi.mp/a657295a7527/dtbirdfunfest1

Great Blue Heron - Elizabeth Van Dyke



Come see **Debi Shearwater** be presented with a prestigious honor at the **MBBF** on Saturday night!

The ABA Ludlow Griscom Award

Outstanding Contributions in Regional Ornithology

Given to individuals who have dramatically advanced the state of ornithological knowledge for a particular region. This may be through their long-time contributions in monitoring avian status and distribution, facilitating the publication of state bird books, breeding bird atlases and significant papers on the regional natural history of birds. This may also be through the force of their personality, teaching and inspiration.

Monterey Bay Birding Festival 2018

Keynote Speakers:

Friday, September 28 | John Muir Laws
 Saturday, September 29 | Jonathan Franzen

EXTRAORDINARY FIELD TRIP LEADERS, PRESENTERS & WORKSHOPS

Designed for birders of all levels, as well as outdoor lovers, the festival offers a unique opportunity to explore and appreciate world-class habitats, including the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Elkhorn Slough and Moss Landing, and Pinnacles National Monument. There are outings in the mountains, shoreline, chaparral, sloughs, and grasslands. One special trip goes to Big Sur River mouth followed by seeking California Condors in likely locations. Join a pelagic trip by Shearwater Journeys to one of the world's most productive regions for albatrosses, shearwaters, storm-petrels, and more.

All field trips are led by friendly, expert leaders. For more info:
montereybaybirding.org



EVENTS CALENDAR

September–October 2018

Please see SCBC website Calendar for event details! Changes to event times/ place are sometimes necessary after publication. We suggest checking our Facebook page or our website Calendar for the latest information. Time permitting, we also send out a member-wide email notification. If you haven't been receiving these, please check your spam filter & let us know at: scbirdclub@gmail.com.

DATE	LOCATION	LEADER
Sunday, September 2	Younger Lagoon	Phil Brownt
Sunday, September 9	Devil's Slide & Gray Whale Cove Trails	Eric Feuss
Friday, September 14	Upper Struve Slough	Bob Ramer
Sunday, September 16	Meder Canyon	Phil Brown
Friday, September 21	Moore Creek	Alex Rinkert
Thursday, September 27	Rancho del Oso	Christian Schwarz
Sunday, October 7	Point Reyes National Seashore	Eric Feuss
Wednesday, October 10	Pinto Lake County Park	Bob Ramer
Sunday, October 14	Quail Hollow County Park	Alex Rinkert
Saturday, October 20	Santa Cruz North Coast	Nicholas Levendosky
Sunday, October 28	Watsonville Sloughs	Phil Brown

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.

The Santa Cruz Bird Club will be having its second
ANNUAL SOCIAL EVENT
 Silent Auction Bird Art and shared Appetizers
October 25, 6:00-8:00
 See details on page 16!



Belted Kingfisher - Andy Knorr



Wren-tit with nesting - Lisa Larson



Continued thanks to the growing numbers of people who have graciously and generously donated to the Bird Club! 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 —

**D
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R
S**

Anderson, John & Jenny
Collins Nancy & Pete Sole
O'Connell, Chris
Hickok, John & Diane
Mio, Jane
Scott, Peter & Celia
Gamble, Cathy
Tustin, Mari
Norton, Gus & Joy
Welles, Andrea
Myers, Sue
Dumller, Sue

Mikles, Sara & Joe
Nelson, Janis
Gustafson, Ed
Olivier, Phillip & Kathryn
Leonard, Margaret & Clare Sheils
Beckmann, Peter
Jolly, Tim & Barb
Mayer, Bobbie
Bourdeau, Anne
Stein, Kitty
Wirtanen, Melanie
Meyers, David

Lavorando, David
Frakes, Cindy & Charlie
Nevins, Hannah
Hunter, Mary
Feuss, Noreen
Naruo, Wendy
Leonard, Laurie
Sickels, Alice
Coale, Matthew
Kent, Surrey
Rogers, Ann

A very generous, anonymous donor has offered to match any donations to the atlas project.

Santa Cruz Bird Club needs your help to complete the Breeding Bird Atlas Project!

36% of Club members are participating in some form!

The Atlas is a multi-year, multi-phase undertaking, and it would be great if everyone in the club participated in some way. You can help by actual atlasing, or with behind-the-scenes work like research or fundraising, or by monetary donations. So far, 36% of membership has participated.

Please help us meet our goal of 100%

*Please send check to:
Santa Cruz Bird Club
Box 1304
Santa Cruz, CA 95061
Attention: Breeding Bird Atlas*



Baby Red-breasted Mergansers, Aptos Creek - John Ellis

SANTA CRUZ BIRDS

By Alex Rinkert

Including reports from March 1 to May 31, 2018



Numerous encounters with a partially albino female Wild Turkey were fun to keep track of in early spring. As reported in the last issue of the Albatross, a flock of turkeys including a partially albino female was seen at Schwan Lake on February 25 (RAS). This flock was seen in a Live Oak backyard the next day (GM), and then the day after back near Schwan Lake at Simpkins Swim Center (CC). In the first few days of March a flock of turkeys was reported flying across Highway 1 between Soquel



Drive and 41st Avenue (JF), again presumed to be the same flock wandering around. Turkeys are very rarely seen on the mid-county coast, especially away from the wooded slopes abutting the northern reaches of the residential sprawl.

Then on March 8-9, the flock turned up on Cherryvale Avenue in Soquel where a male was observed copulating with the partially albino female (LS). The flock soon moved on from Soquel to parts unknown.

Interestingly, just before the mid-county flock disappeared, a partially albino female turkey was seen with a flock at Quail Hollow Ranch from March 4 into late May where she successfully bred (SH, BM, RW, LL, AR, SP). Photos of the females at Quail Hollow Ranch and on the mid-county coast are indistinguishable, but it seems unlikely the mid-county flock took an 8+ mile stroll into the mountains only to return to Soquel a few days later. Another partially albino turkey was at Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park in late winter 2017, perhaps one of the two individuals seen in 2018 (PH). Be on the lookout for partially albino turkeys!



WILD TURKEYS Top: "Post-cloacal" on Cherryvale - Lisa Sheridan | At Quail Hollow; Left: 2 Hens, Right: Do "GentleToms" really prefer blondes? - Lisa Larson

Two **Greater White-fronted Geese** lingered on the lower San Lorenzo River through April 24 (SP, GK, BRi). **Canada Geese** continue to establish a breeding season presence on the north coast. A Canada Goose incubating a nest on a seastack at Panther Beach was the furthest north this species has nested on the coast (AR). Canada Geese were first noted on north coast seastacks—perhaps prospecting breeding sites—in 2007, and then confirmed breeding on top of them in 2009.

Two pairs of **Wood Ducks** were at a private pond enclosed with willows near Corralitos on April 17 to May 16, a place where breeding could occur but has not been confirmed yet (EL, NU). A Wood Duck calling from Galligan Slough on May 19 was also in a place they

are not known to breed (AR). Up to 2 **Blue-winged Teal** were regularly seen at Pajaro Dunes through May 9 (NU, RW, v.ob.) while three reports came from elsewhere in the Pajaro Valley (NU, GK). Two **Cinnamon Teal** lingering at Antonelli Pond until May 2 were later into spring than most stay on the mid-county coast (PCS). Similarly, up to 7 **Northern Shovelers** staying at College Lake until May 30 were late (GK). Another late Northern Shoveler at Corcoran Lagoon on May 24 was especially unusual for the mid-county coast (NU). Late **Northern Pintails** were at Laguna Creek mouth on May 18 (ST) and College Lake on May 30 (GK). Up to 6 **Redheads** were seen in the Watsonville Slough system, centered

around West Branch Struve Slough, through the period (AG, PSo, DS, v.ob.). A male **Ring-necked Duck** lingered at College Lake until May 28 (GK). Three **White-winged Scoters** were reported this period (JS, PS, HS, CW). Two late **Hooded Mergansers** stayed at College Lake through May 25 (GK, EL, NU).

Wild Turkeys are becoming more frequently seen in the Pajaro Valley. One was seen flying across Highway 1 near La Selva on April 2 (DSi) and seven were in strawberry fields between Harkins and Hanson Slough on April 14 (AR, RR); five were still there on April 30 (RR). A turkey nest with eggs at UCSC was perhaps the first actual nest found in the county (SN). A late **Horned Grebe** was at College Lake from May 28-30 (GK). Three or four **Red-necked Grebes** were reported this period, all in early March (AR, NU, RW). A flock of 3 **American White Pelicans** cruised over Star Creek Ranch on May 6 (RR et al.). **Great Blue Herons** nested in record numbers at the Santa Cruz Harbor (15 nests), while **Great Egrets** did so at Pinto Lake (20 nests) (AR). Thirty **White-faced Ibis** at Pinto Lake on May 5 was the highest count reported this period (JM). A handful of others were found at various other places in the Pajaro Valley (v.ob.).

For the first time multiple Osprey pairs bred at College Lake; two pairs successfully raised young in nests placed on platforms (GK, NU, EL). Elsewhere, the Osprey nest at Henry Cowell was still active as of May 31 (CF) while after many years of productivity the pair at Harkins Slough failed to initiate (RW). A pair of **White-tailed Kites** courting



and carrying nest material at Anna Jean Cummings Park through the period was a notable breeding record for Soquel (LS). The pair of **Bald Eagles** in the Watsonville Slough system raised one chick in the same nest used since 2014 (RW, GK, AR). An adult Bald Eagle was seen at various places in Santa Cruz and Live Oak (Schwan Lake, San Lorenzo River mouth, the harbor, Corcoran Lagoon) between March 1-20 (SP, JMi, SHi, SH, GK, LM, RC). A light-morph **Swainson's Hawk** soared over the Pajaro River on May 8 (GM). Another rare bird flying over the Pajaro Valley was a **Sandhill Crane** seen over Harkins Slough on March 30, one of the very few spring records for the county (RR, BR). An **American Avocet** nest was found at College Lake on May 30, providing a rare breeding record for the county (GK).

For the first time in many years **Snowy Plovers** nested at Laguna Creek Beach; one nest was found on April 18 (JV) after several observations of a pair there earlier in the season (ST). More encouraging were two nests found at Seabright State Beach on April 6 and 7 (CE). This beach is best known for hosting a substantial number of the Snowy Plovers wintering in the county, but this marks the first time they have bred there. Perhaps the recent dune restoration surrounded by symbolic fencing attracted them. Increased predator populations and human activities as well as a slowly dwindling regional population led to the decline and eventual extirpation of breeding plovers on the north coast by 2002, and almost entirely preclude breeding on the mid-county coast. These plover nests on the north and mid-county coast, as

*Photos from top:
White-tailed Kites; She rolls to prevent male from mating
- Lisa Sheridan
Franklin's Gull (Bonaparte's behind)
- Lois Goldfrank
Male White-tailed Kite takes on Red-shouldered Hawk - Lisa Sheridan*

well as a nest found at Gazos Creek Beach in San Mateo County where they have not nested in many years (fide CE), are perhaps spillover from a recovering regional population. None of these extralimital nests successfully fledged (fide CE), but it is encouraging to see them trying to breed away from their strongholds. Elsewhere, Carleton Eyster reports poor hatch rates in the Sunset State Beach and Pajaro River spit area—the breeding stronghold in Santa Cruz County—however a small number of nests at Manresa State Beach had good hatch and fledge rates.

A **Semipalmated Plover** was heard calling as it made a nighttime flight over Boulder Creek on May 11 (AR). One **Wilson's Phalarope** at Pajaro Dunes on May 4 was the only reported this spring (RW). Surprisingly no **Solitary Sandpipers** were reported despite suitable water levels and good birding coverage at College Lake and elsewhere in the county.

Six **Black-legged Kittiwakes** were found at various places on the coast from March 3 to 25 (ZM, PB, BR, JS, PS, PSo). A **Franklin's Gull** turned up at aeration ponds near CARE Park on April 27 (NU, v.ob.). **Forster's Terns**, a species that has become somewhat scarce on the coast, were found in decent numbers in late April and early May. The high count for this spring was 75 at Pajaro Dunes on May 9 (ST, LG). **Elegant Terns** arrived in mid-April but then petered out after early May. The high count during this time was 108 at the San Lorenzo River mouth on April 23 (ZM). A **Black Skimmer** was seen roosting at Wilder Beach on April 21 (AR, AW).

A flock of 28 **Eurasian Collared-Doves** at Scotts Valley on March 16 was a high count for the mountains. Pioneering collared-doves showed up at various places in the mountains this spring—Boulder Creek, upper Empire Grade, Smith Grade—as has come to be expected (AR, ST), but how much long until they begin breeding at

these pockets of suitable habitat? **Burrowing Owls** were reported from five locations, three of which they are not typically found. One was in recently restored dunes at

Seabright State Beach on March 5 (fide HN), one was in riprap at Scott Creek mouth on March 11 (AP) and another was found on a ground-squirrel mound at the Watsonville Airport on March 18 (RR). Single wintering owls continued at UCSC (PB, DW, PS, JS) and Upper Hanson Slough (GM) into mid-March.

A female **Northern "Yellow-shafted" Flicker** was at Quail Hollow Ranch from March 15-18 (ST, JT, RW) and another was on Browns Valley Road on March 25 (JM). A **Pileated Woodpecker** flying over Anna Jean Cummings Park on March 25 was an unexpected find there (LS). Numerous observations of **American Kestrels** at Scotts Valley, the Henry Cowell sandhills, and Ponderosa Lodge through spring suggested they were nesting, but no breeding confirmations surfaced (v.ob.). A **Merlin** of the subspecies *suckleyi* at Pajaro Dunes on March 5 was a rare find in the county (GM, RW). A **Tropical Kingbird** lingered on the lower San Lorenzo River through May 3 (GK, SP).

Purple Martins returned to known breeding locations at Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve by April 10 (ST, KJ) and Loma Prieta by April 11 (BMi). More intriguing were several martins socializing and investigating holes in a dead tree near Maymens Flat about 3.2 miles southeast of the well-known breeding colony west of Loma Prieta in Santa Clara County (BR, RR). Martins were also seen flying over Maymens Flat (KJ) and upper Eureka Canyon Road below Maymens Flat on May 27 and in June (NL), suggesting continued presence in this area and raising hope there may be another breeding colony on Summit Ridge. Two migrant martins turned up at Scotts Valley on May 10 (JS) and one was at Soquel on May 29 (AG).



Northern Flicker - Sharon Hull



Merlin - Gary Martindale



American Dipper - Lisa Larson



Tree Swallows continued to show interest in nesting in nest boxes at Moore Creek Preserve, an area where there has been very little evidence of them breeding (AGg). A **White-breasted Nuthatch** carrying food at Old Chittenden Road on May 13 was probably breeding nearby (RW). The wintering **Rock Wren** at Hidden Beach was last seen on March 28 (BR, RR, RPM). A pair of **American Dippers** were noted nest building in mid-March behind Arcadia Falls at the confluence of Bean and Zayante Creek (v.ob.). **Nashville Warblers** were reported at Laguna Creek mouth on March 4 (AGg) and Loma Prieta on April 21 (NL). One or two **Palm Warblers** stayed at Watsonville until at least March 26 (HSt, GM, NU v.ob.). Four **Yellow-breasted Chats** reported between May 5-25 was a good showing for spring (JS, SH, GM, EL, NU).



Yellow-breasted Chat - Norm Uyeda

The first **Black-chinned Sparrows** found at Loma Prieta this spring were on April 23 (DWe). A Lark Sparrow at coastal Wilder Ranch State Park on April 22 was the only found this spring (JS, PS). A **Dark-eyed "Slate-colored" Junco** wintering at an Aptos feeder was last seen March 7 (RW). There was a late wave of migrant **Golden-crowned Sparrows**, with numerous reported in early to mid-May including three reports between May 14-17 (PB, GK, WBT). A wintering **Harris's Sparrow** at a Watsonville feeder was last seen April 19 (NU). At least 20 **White-throated Sparrows** were reported this period (v.ob.); late birds were seen at an Aptos feeder on May 12 (RW) and Rio Del Mar through the end of the period (LP). A **Bell's Sparrow** was found at Loma Prieta on May 2 (MD). A **Savannah Sparrow** at CARE Park in Watsonville on May 27 was unusual, being very late for a migrant and away from known breeding locations in the Pajaro Valley (RW). A **Swamp Sparrow** at Baldwin Creek on May 31 was the only reported this period (CF, AG).

The spring's only **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was a male at Natural Bridges State Beach on May 22 (GS). A female **Blue Grosbeak** was found at Watsonville Slough on May 8 (RR, BR) and a male showed up at a feeder in Santa Cruz from May 3-4 (EP, PK). A report

of 15 **Tricolored Blackbirds** at Last Chance Road on May 26 suggested breeding was occurring there (DH), but otherwise the species went unreported at other colonies used in recent years. Up to 16 **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were found on Watsonville Slough at Pajaro Dunes, staying May 8-16 (RW, NU, ST, LG, v.ob.). Three **Great-tailed Grackles** at Swanton Pond on May 31 were out of place (JSt). A **type 3 Red Crossbill** flew over Loma Prieta on April 15 (AR, NL) and a flock of



Savannah Sparrow - Randy Wardle

11 was at Quail Hollow Ranch on May 5 (DE, CV). **Lawrence's Goldfinches** turned up at Table Rock on May 4 (AR), Soquel on April 22 (AG), and 2 on Old Chittenden Road on April 21 (NU), as well as at Loma Prieta and Pajaro Dunes where they are more predictably present (v.ob.).

Cited Observers: Robin Abu-Shumays, David Apgar, Phil Brown, Chris Campton, Ryan Carle, Matthew Dodder, David Ekdahl, Carleton Eyster, Jon Ford, Craig Fosdick, Aaron Gabbe, Alexander Gaguine (AGg), Lois Goldfrank, Steve Hill (SHi), Sharon Hull, Diana Humple, Kent Johnson, Paul Keel, Gary Kittleson, Lisa Larson, Earl Lebow, Nick Levendosky, Jeff Manker, Gary Martindale, Bobbie Mayer, Zack Mikalonis, Brooke Miller (BMi), Jane Mio (JMi), Liam Murphy, Hannah Nevins, Sophie Noda, Amy Patten, Erik Perloff, Lise Peterson, Ryan Phillips, Shantanu Phukan, Roseanne Prevost-Morgan, Bernadette Ramer, Robert Ramer, Alex Rinkert, Barbara Riverwoman (BRi), Pacific Collegiate School, Lisa Sheridan, Gregory Shilling, David Sidle (DSi), Pete Solé (PSo), Joshua Stacy, Howard Stephenson (HSt), David Styer, Hanna Svensson, Jonah Svensson, Peter Svensson, John Thornhill, Simon Thornhill, W. Breck Tyler, Norman Uyeda, Connie Vigno, Juan Villarino, Randy Wardle, Dave Weber (DWe), Casey Weissburg, David Wilhelm, Andrea Wuenschel, "v.ob." means various observers. *Please enter interesting observations into eBird or report them to Alex Rinkert at arinkert12@comcast.net.*



Seabirding Trips

SHEARWATER JOURNEYS PELAGIC TRIPS

This fall will mark the 43rd year of our pelagic trip operations on Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary! We've got a great fall line up of trips. Albatross, shearwaters, storm-petrels, jaegers, Sabine's Gull, Arctic Tern and other fall migrants are waiting for you! Our "Santa Cruz County" special pelagic trip is set for Friday, September 7th. We'll spend as much time as possible birding in Santa Cruz County on that date. Three trips will depart from Half Moon Bay. Check out our new low rates on our website. We give parking vouchers on all Monterey trips, thereby saving you an additional \$10. See: www.shearwaterjourneys.com for more information. Contact: debi@shearwaterjourneys.com. Debi is a Santa Cruz Bird Club Life Member.



Caspian Tern
- Lee Jaffe

Monterey Seabirds

Monterey Seabirds features year-round pelagic trips for observing seabirds and marine mammals of Monterey Bay. Our experienced trip leaders and skipper, boat, and policies will all contribute to your enjoyment of a safe, comfortable and rewarding trip.

Please see our 2018 schedule. Folks can register online at: www.montereyseabirds.com.

(831) 375-4658

If you have questions, contact Tim Amaral at: montereyseabirds@gmail.com.



Caspian Tern
- Lee Jaffe



2018 Logo Artist - Susie Nishio

Central Valley Birding Symposium 2018

The *Central Valley Bird Club* will be hosting the **22nd annual Central Valley Birding Symposium Nov. 15-18, 2018**, at the Stockton Hilton Hotel in Stockton, CA.

This year's keynote program, "The Trade Off" will be presented by John Kricher.

The symposium features speakers, workshops, field trips, and the Birder's Mart. There's something for everyone!

To look over the schedule of events, go to:
cvbirds.org/events/symposium

Birder's Notebook

LIMERICKS by Susan Giddings

I wish my gull neighbor would take a trip, even far as Jamaica.
Then I'd lose all the proof
he leaves on my roof
of his enormous, capacious cloaca.

He flutes, pursing beak to a pucker,
"I'm wrongly called the sap sucker.
'Cause I'm not, as a rule,
a double-dyed fool.
So to the woman who named me, well....
she really should reconsider."



Red-breasted Sapsucker - Lisa Larson

"I'm aptly named the hummer,
As I buzz over flowers all summer,
With beak and tongue quite erotic
Till I dart off, quixotic,
And smash into a window - oh, bummer!"

A birding fanatic's called a twitcher
who tries to get rare ones in a picture.
If his girl falls behind
as they hike to a blind,
there's no doubt the twitcher will ditch 'er.

LARKIN VALLEY HAIKUS by John Hickok



March 13
First to start the day
California Towhees kick
leaves on my walkway

March 14
Great Horned Owl chicks chat
the parents hoot from tree tops
theirs the other world

March 15
White-tailed kites hover
Silently they float in air
Descend like spirits

March 16
Allen's Hummingbird
a shiny copper penny
Mexican jewel

March 17
Distinguished profiles
California Thrasher pair
local royalty

March 18
This Ring-necked Pheasant
so alive and surprising
Where did you come from?



March 19
Bossy Oak Titmouse
loud and strident he arrives
judging the nest box



March 20
Western Bluebirds dance
making rivals of themselves
pecking the window

March 21
Two Great Egret friends
gopher-hunting the green grass
white in white fences

March 22
Nuttall's Woodpeckers
wear their pajamas all day
His with Christmas Cap

Great Horned Owl
- Elizabeth Van Dyke
Ring-necked Pheasant
- John Hickok
CA Thrasher silhouette
- Lisa Larson

New Members WELCOME!

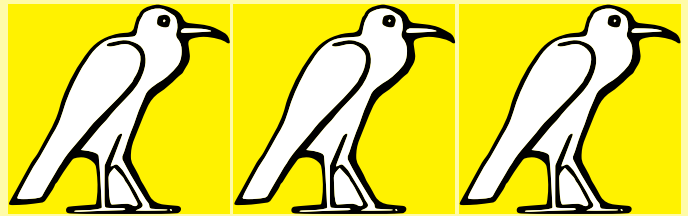
Kevin Lohman	Apr 2018
Junko Yoshida Family	Apr 2018
Bruce Stenman Family	Apr 2018
Chris O'Connell	Apr 2018
Kathy Toner Family	May 2018
Brendan Quirk	May 2018
Susan Hilinski	May 2018
Shirlee Ochala	May 2018
Brian Schnack Family	Jun 2018
Bonnie McDonald	Jun 2018
Gordon Snyder Family	Jul 2018
Laurie Leonard	Jul 2018
Michael Levy Family	Jul 2018
Mandy Spitzer	Jul 2018
Sylvia Patience	Jul 2018
Paul Havlak	Jul 2018
Peggy O'Shea	Aug 2018
Pam Keachie	Aug 2018



American Kestrel feeds her chicks - John Hickok

The **Santa Cruz Bird Club**
will be having its second
ANNUAL SOCIAL EVENT
Silent Auction Bird Art and shared Appetizers
October 25, 6:00-8:00

New Members Encouraged!



We invite our many talented and artistic members to exhibit and donate their bird art of any medium including ceramic, sculpture, stained glass, Photography, paintings, jewelry, sculpture, drawings or folk art.

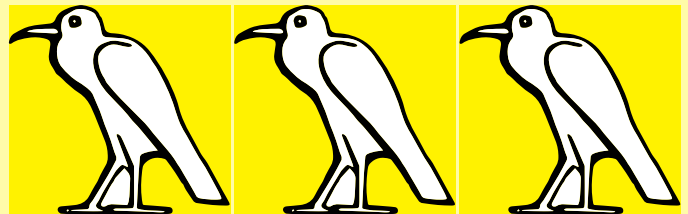
If you are a bird club member and would like to donate to this event we welcome seeing your creative expression and an opportunity to purchase your piece.

All donation proceeds will benefit the Breeding Bird Atlas Fund.

If your artistic talent is culinary, our flock might appreciate your talent for creating savory or sweet appetizers.

Members are entitled to bring one guest.

Please contact Tim Jolly tjolly3@cruzio.com if you have a piece to donate.



DEADLINE

for **submissions** for
NOV/DEC Issue

OCT 1, 2018



Woodlawn Cemetery in the fog, Santa Monica, CA - Susan Schalbe
(photoshopped Vermillion Flycatcher from Maxwell Cemetery - LFL)



Great Horned Owl - Elizabeth Van Dyke

Submission to the
ALBATROSS
Newsletter

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

~Lisa Fay Larson, Editor



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PARTING SHOT: "ANGELS IN MY BACKYARD"
BARN OWL FLEDGLINGS - JOHN HICKOK



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See the online version and past
issues on the SCBC website,
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.

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

