



Albatross

PHOEBASTRIA NIGRIPES

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Santa Cruz Birds



PARTING SHOT

Horned Lark, Tri-colored Blackbirds, Panoche Valley - Debi Shearwater

Panoche Valley Today How I See It

- By Debi Shearwater

From quicksilver miners, to cattle ranchers, to off-road vehicle users and target shooters, Panoche Valley has attracted a wide variety of visitors. Well known to birders for a plethora of wintering raptors and grassland birds, the Panoche Valley also has a long history with the Santa Cruz Bird Club.

HISTORY

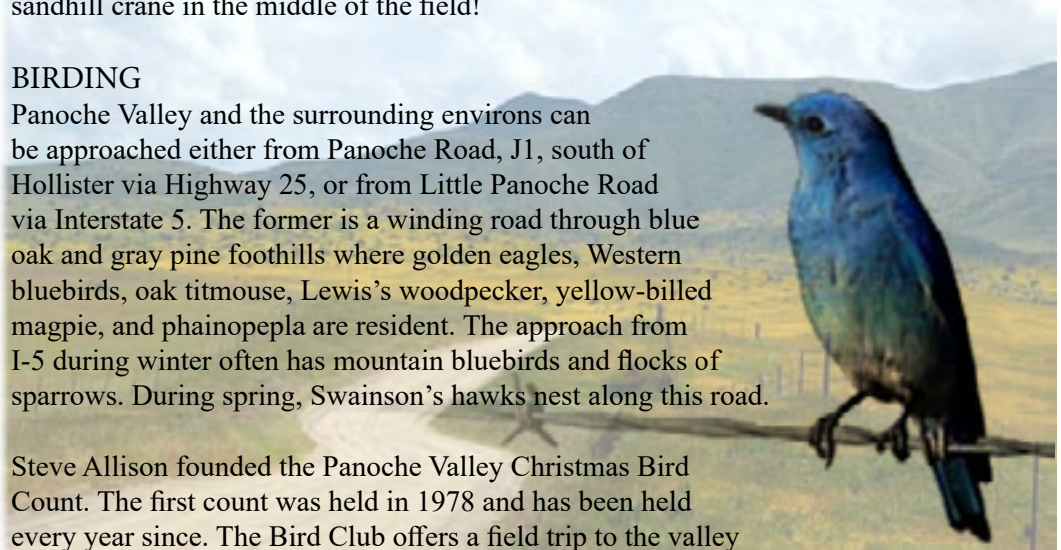
There is only one place in the world named Panoche. The origins of the name, “panoche” is not entirely clear, but it may have come from panocha, a popular Mexican sugar. Others have speculated that it was an Indian word for a kind of sugar that was extracted from a cane plant that grew in the wetlands (near Panoche dam).


Decades ago, as the story was told to me, two club members, Carolyn Frederiksen and Steve Allison, “discovered” Panoche Valley. Carolyn and Steve were beloved members of the Bird Club who enticed birders to Panoche Valley to see the specialty birds of the area. Steve, in particular, led many field trips to the valley beginning in the late 1970’s. Both Carolyn and Steve have passed away. We remain thankful that they lured so many birders to this unique (to our area) habitat. There are many “old time” stories; once as they were just dropping down to the valley floor from the McCullough ranch, they saw a sandhill crane in the middle of the field!

BIRDING

Panoche Valley and the surrounding environs can be approached either from Panoche Road, J1, south of Hollister via Highway 25, or from Little Panoche Road via Interstate 5. The former is a winding road through blue oak and gray pine foothills where golden eagles, Western bluebirds, oak titmouse, Lewis’s woodpecker, yellow-billed magpie, and phainopepla are resident. The approach from I-5 during winter often has mountain bluebirds and flocks of sparrows. During spring, Swainson’s hawks nest along this road.

Steve Allison founded the Panoche Valley Christmas Bird Count. The first count was held in 1978 and has been held every year since. The Bird Club offers a field trip to the valley





every winter. Clay Kempf has been leading this trip for many years. Birders from many Audubon chapters in the surrounding areas also have field trips to the valley.

Most birders visit the valley during winter when many species of raptors can be found, including: bald and golden eagles; ferruginous hawk, prairie falcon, merlin and rarely, condor. On the valley floor burrowing owl, mountain bluebird, mountain plover, long-billed curlew, horned lark, and many sparrows, including vesper sparrow can be found. Greater roadrunner is often sighted at Shotgun Pass, or near Panoche Creek, or along New Idria Road.



In addition to the valley floor, there are a number of other excellent birding areas. These include: Panoche Hills BLM, Griswold Hills BLM, and Mercey Hot Springs. The BLM areas have no entrance fees and are open during winter. Panoche Hills is a very interesting area where “Bell’s” sparrows are resident. On recent CBC’s, the sagebrush sparrow has been well documented. Occasionally, sage thrasher or Northern shrike can be found. Chukar is often found here, as well as at the Griswold Hills. Both canyon and rock wrens are resident at the Griswold Hills. Mercey Hot Springs is privately owned. There is a fee to enter for birding and/or photography after 10 a.m. See their web site for details.

New Idria Road has been an often overlooked birding road. I strongly suggest birding along this rugged, nearly one lane road. Many of the valley floor species can be found here with far less road traffic, most days. The old mining town at the end of the road burnt down quite a few years ago. It is a SuperFund CleanUp Site due to the presence of mercury in the soil, water, and air.

Spring birding in the valley is often overlooked, but it can be excellent with loads of Lawrence’s goldfinches, especially near the Griswold Hills BLM picnic site. Grasshopper sparrows nest very early, moving inland to second brood once the summer heat hits the valley.

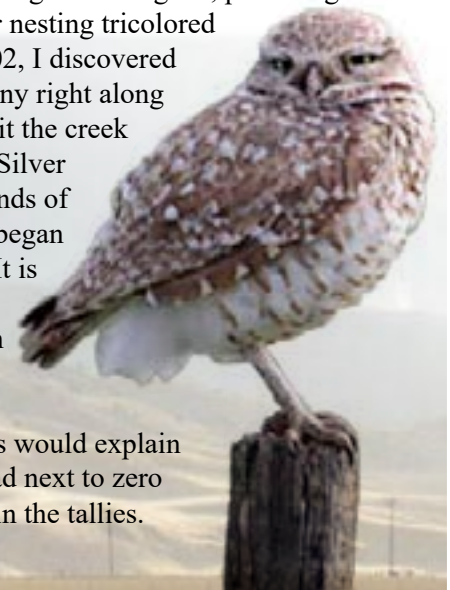
eBird hot spots are plentiful in the valley and along the entrance roads. The most important thing when doing an eBird checklist is to record birds along Panoche Road foothills separately from birds on the valley floor as this represents a change in habitat. eBird recommends limiting traveling checklists to five miles. Also, be aware of the county lines. Along Little Panoche Road at Shotgun Pass the county lines for Fresno and San Benito meet.

The National Audubon Society recognized Panoche Valley as an Important Bird Area (IBA) decades ago.

CHANGES

It would have been difficult to imagine the number of changes that would occur at Panoche Valley and its environs over the past forty years. For instance, Mercey Hot Springs was nothing like it is today. It was overrun with a pack of vicious dogs. Counting birds on the CBC was mostly accomplished from being safely inside of a car. It was not uncommon to see ferruginous hawks along Panoche Road—nailed to the barbed wire fences, killed by the locals. Few of us dared to enter the ghost “town” of New Idria due to the threatening and hostile signs. Thankfully, these things have changed.

One of the biggest changes in the valley has been the reemergence of vegetation along Panoche Creek. Google maps shows that floods of the El Nino winter, 1998 washed away all vegetation along the creek, taking out any bullrushes or tules that might have been present. Years passed, and the vegetation regrew, providing an excellent substrate for nesting tricolored blackbirds. About 2002, I discovered the first breeding colony right along Panoche Road where it the creek crosses the road near Silver Creek Ranch. Thousands of tricolored blackbirds began nesting in the valley. It is likely that something similar happened with denuding of the creek during the massive 1982-83 El Nino. This would explain why the old CBC’s had next to zero tricolored blackbirds in the tallies.



Tricolored blackbirds are the most colonial bird in North America. They have a complicated and complex natural history, with many requirements in order for them to nest successfully. So, while the nesting substrate returned, the species requires protein-rich food to rear their young. In this, Panoche Valley was a gold mine with loads of grasshoppers!

Not only do tricolored blackbirds populate this naturally restored habitat but other species now do as well. Virginia rail, sora, common yellowthroat, marsh wren, and other species now reside along the creek. Wilson's snipe winter along the muddy edges of the creek. Swainson's hawk, Northern harrier and short-eared owls began nesting in recent years. A walk along Panoche Creek is truly like going back in time to the Old West.

More changes came to the valley in 2008 when solar industry folks wanted to build a very large installation on the valley floor. A heated battle followed. An agreement was finally reached in August 2017 between the Sierra

Club, Defenders of Wildlife, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, CA State Fish and Wildlife and the Panoche Valley Solar LLC. The project was greatly reduced in size.

The Panoche Valley Preserve was designated as mitigation for the project to protect the endangered San Joaquin kit fox, blunt-nosed leopard lizard, and giant kangaroo rat, as well as the many species of birds. The preserve comprises 26,400 acres which will be held in perpetuity by the Center for Natural Lands Management. Half of the valley floor and much of what was Silver Creek Ranch where much of Panoche Creek flows, is in the preserve.

As I see it, thousands of acres of land that were once in private landownership will now be managed for wildlife. Now, and forever. There will be no fields of cotton or cantaloupes, or almond orchards. I see the glass half-full despite the presence of the solar installation. There's only one "Panoche."

SOME USEFUL RESOURCES:

Panoche Valley Christmas Bird Count Compiler:
Debi Shearwater: debi@shearwaterjourneys.com

Panoche Valley Preserve Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/PanocheValleyPreserve/>
Please note that the preserve is not open to the public.

Center for Natural Lands Management:
<https://cnlm.org>

Panoche Hills BLM:
<https://www.blm.gov/visit/panoche-hills>

Griswold Hills BLM:
<https://www.blm.gov/visit/griswold-hills>

Mercey Hot Springs:
<https://www.merceyhotsprings.com>

Panoche Inn:
<https://www.yelp.com/biz/panoche-inn-paicines>
Serves food. Check hours.

Superfund:
<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/learn-about-superfund>

*All Images - Debi Shearwater
Page 1 - Mountain Bluebird
Page 2 - Greater Roadrunner,
Burrowing Owl
Page 3 - Ferruginous Hawk*

“Hello Goodbye” *Albatross*

You say “yes”, I say “No”
You say “Stop” and I say “Go, go, go”
. . . I don’t know why you say “Goodbye, I say hello”



Dear SCBC Members,

Yes, John Lennon and McCartney’s words can become our new mantra. The SCBC Board said “YES” after over a year of careful consideration of lengthy board discussions and outreach to the Bird Club Membership. The Board was united in its unanimous decision to end the printed edition of the *Albatross*. Yes, the last printed edition will be March/April 2019.

We know for many this will be a loss and not an easy shift from print to an on-line edition. Although sad for some of us, we are grateful that if we choose, with today’s home printers we have the option to print it in either black and white or color from home or to read your downloaded full-color edition pdf.

As we lean into these changing times we also humbly appreciate that we must have a budget that allows for our Bird Club social needs, more diversity in media outreach and continue more than ever to promote conservation.

Some of the significant reasons why we felt it necessary to make this change included:

- Maintaining our club's financial health is imperative. With rising costs we have been spending over 80% of our membership dues on printing and mail expense.
- Providing two different formats of the *Albatross*, one for the on-line edition and the other for print had become a cumbersome responsibility and needed hours and hours of volunteer time from our dedicated editor.
- Saving a significant portion of our membership dues also allows us to pursue goals to expand our outreach through social media, educational programs and community environmental projects. This includes funding for the seven year Breeding Bird Atlas Project, bird nesting boxes, informational signage and local bird research.
- Lowering our environmental footprint by saving trees and reducing fossil fuels needed to produce the paper version was another important factor for us as an environmental organization.

I hope you agree this was the right choice! But I will still leave you with a parting thought, may you find yourself saying -
“Yes . . . go, go, go.”

Lisa Sheridan, President SCBC



The Santa Cruz Bird Club is pleased to announce contributions to the **Santa Cruz County Breeding Bird Atlas II** are now tax-deductible!

The Santa Cruz Bird Club recently partnered with the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of birds and their habitats through science and outreach. Our partnership allows all donations to be tax-deductible and gives the atlas more administrative support, eligibility to apply for grants, and limited liability coverage for all atlas participants.

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory's work over the past 40 years has been instrumental to the conservation and management of bird populations in the rapidly changing San Francisco Bay estuary. For more information about their projects, please visit sfbbo.org. We believe partnering with organizations such as the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory helps move the atlas closer toward publication, which will benefit both birders and local birds as an indispensable resource and conservation tool.

BBA RECENT DONORS

Bonnie Bedzin
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As of 12/1/18: % membership participating in BBA, via donations or atlasing: 40%, 130 people!

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.

Please help us meet our goal of 100%

To make a tax-deductible contribution to the atlas, please visit the atlas website: sfbbo.org/breeding-bird-atlas-project

Checks payable to "SFBBO" with a memo titled "Breeding Bird Atlas" can be sent to:

San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory
524 Valley Way
Milpitas, CA 95035

100% of your donation goes to the Santa Cruz County Breeding Bird Atlas II.

Pacific-slope Flycatcher - Lisa Larson



Thank you

EVENTS CALENDAR

January-February 2019

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
Friday, January 11	Gulls	Alex Rinkert
Sunday, January 13	San Lorenzo Park & River Levees	Phil Brown
Saturday, January 19	Homeless Garden & Antonelli Pond	Nicholas Levendosky
Sunday, January 20	Santa Clara Co. & South Bay Birds	Eric Feuss
Thursday, January 24	SCBC Meeting: Birds of the American West	Norman Kikuchi
Saturday, January 26	College Lake	Jerry Busch
Sunday, January 27	Natural Bridges	Phil Brown
Saturday, February 2	Panoche Valley	Clay Kempf
Saturday, February 9	Gulls	Alex Rinkert
Sunday, February 10	Watsonville Waterfowl	Phil Brown
Sunday, February 17	Merced & San Luis National Wildlife Refuges	Eric Feuss
Friday, February 22	Upper Struve Slough	Bob Ramer
Sunday, February 24	Meder Canyon	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.



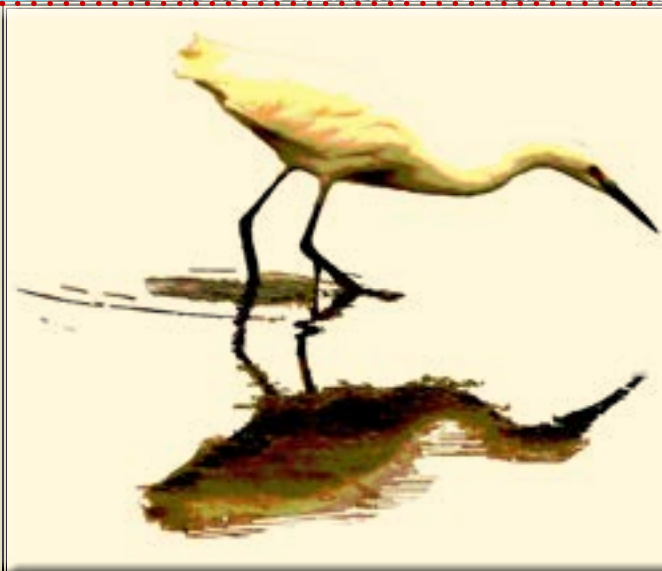
American Goldfinch - Cathy Summa-Wolfe

*To Every Season Tern,
Tern, Tern ...*



*Shorebird Photography Exhibit Live
Oak Public Library
January 2 - February 2019*

*Presented by Friends of Corcoran Lagoon Beach
foclb.weebly.com*



Save the Date for the **FIFTEENTH ANNUAL MONTEREY BAY BIRDING FESTIVAL** to be held from September 20th to 22nd, 2019. Great speakers, field trips, workshops, family events, and much more will be announced in the coming months. Email montereybaybirdingfestival@gmail.com to subscribe to our mailing list to receive ongoing updates. Visit our Facebook page at [Monterey Bay Birding Festival](#).

Great Egret - Lisa Larson



Santa Cruz Birds

By Alex Rinker

Including reports from September 1 to October 31, 2018

In many ways this fall seemed more exciting than the past few. An unexpectedly strong push of adult vagrants in late August continued through early September and birding coverage on the lower westside Santa Cruz was high through early October.



Resultantly, most of the expected rare fall migrants were found in addition to a few much rarer species. But due to the high water level in the Watsonville Slough system and elsewhere, shorebird numbers were very low this fall. Peep flocks were hard to come by and few Baird's and very few Pectoral Sandpipers were found. Wilson's Phalaropes were not found after July and Solitary Sandpiper was missed entirely. Moreover, so far there has been no sign of an irruption from any of the winter finches, thrushes, nuthatches or other irruptive species.



Santa Cruz County received excellent pelagic coverage this fall, however unusual oceanic conditions in the Monterey Bay led to an initially slow pelagic season until late September and October. The only seabird that seemed unaffected by the chlorophyll-rich water inside the bay was Rhinoceros Auklet, which was abundant for most of the season. A few regularly occurring species were in very low numbers or absent entirely until late fall. Sabine's Gulls were almost missed until 33 were found on September 29, and then several large flocks totaling 610 were found September 30 (SJ). Cassin's Auklets and Arctic Terns were particularly scarce, as were South Polar Skuas (only five reported; SJ). Only four Common Terns were reported this fall, all offshore (SJ, MS) and at times even Pink-footed Shearwater was scarce. Despite many birds being scarce in early fall, higher shearwater diversity and abundance returned in the second half of the season. Highlights from the season offshore were the first and second county records of Red-footed Booby, seen on September 30 (SJ) and October 21 (LT, STe, SJ). These Red-footeds were part of a statewide influx of unprecedented magnitude this fall. A subadult Masked Booby, the third county record, was particularly cooperative on October 13 allowing close approach while resting on the water (BK, SJ).



Above left:
Pectoral Sandpiper &
Least Sandpiper
- Michael Bolte
Above right:
Baird's Sandpipers
- Peter Svensson
Right:
Masked Booby
- Alex Rinkert



Back on land, a strong northeastern breeze blew into Santa Cruz County on the evening of October 6. The breeze continued into the next day and produced conditions favorable for observing landbird migration during the day, a phenomenon seldom encountered in Santa Cruz County away from a few locations such as Loma Prieta. When I stepped outside that morning I noticed quite a few Yellow-rumped Warblers and other birds streaming over my urban backyard in Seabright. Over the course of two and a half hours I saw surprising numbers of some species normally much scarcer or absent in the urban areas of the mid-county coast. Birds flying over were:

7 Killdeer	1 Lawrence's Goldfinch	42 Tricolored Blackbird	66 Yellow-rumped Warbler
2 Sharp-shinned Hawk	3 American Goldfinch	131 Red-winged/Tricolored Blackbird	55 Audubon's Warbler
3 American Pipit	19 Savannah Sparrow	48 Brewer's Blackbird	2 Myrtle Warbler
55 Cedar Waxwing	27 Western Meadowlark	40 Blackbird sp.	5 Townsend's Warbler



Two female **Wood Ducks** at Swanton Pond from October 13 onward were at an unusual location (WBT, RC, v.ob.). **Blue-winged Teal** were numerous this period; at least fifteen were found on the north coast and at least nine were found in the Pajaro Valley (v.ob.). A group of ten at Baldwin Creek mouth on October 7 was a high count (CS). A flock of five **Northern Shovelers** flying across the Monterey Bay about five miles offshore was noteworthy (SJ). The summering female **Common Goldeneye** on the lower San Lorenzo River continued through the period (SP, v.ob.). Eight **Common Mergansers** were seen at Pajaro Dunes on September 30 (KA, NS, BS), and nine remained on October 1 (LG, BM).

Wild Turkeys were seen at Harkins Slough and in the vicinity from September 13-29 (BR, NL, RS, RR, EL, LP, JH, EH). Harkins Slough is the only area in the Watsonville Slough system where turkeys are somewhat regularly found, although it seems only a matter of time before they become established in uplands around the neighboring sloughs. Along with the expected scattering of singles and small flocks of **Vaux's Swifts** this fall there was a sizable passage of 88 over Neary Lagoon on September 23 (AR). Five to seven **Black-chinned Hummingbirds** were found from September 2-16 (AR, NL, CS, BR, RR, SH, v.ob.)

bringing the fall total to at least six. A freshly road-killed **Sora** was found on Lighthouse Avenue near Lighthouse Field on September 2 (AR, NL).

There were two reports of **Sandhill Cranes** this fall: a flock of four flying over Natural Bridges SB on September 10 (ST) and at least two heard over Santa Cruz on September 24 (NL). A **Black-necked Stilt** at Younger Lagoon on September 15-16 was rare away from the Pajaro Valley (MB, FB, v.ob.). Three **Baird's** and 6-8 **Pectoral Sandpipers** were found this period (PB et al., JS, HS, PS, CF). The Pectoral total was especially low for Sep-Oct, but reflective of how little mud there was in the Pajaro Valley and elsewhere.

A late **Pigeon Guillemot** was off Terrace Point on October 24 (WBT). A **Tufted Puffin** was photographed offshore on September 9 (MS). An adult **Black-legged Kittiwake** also photographed offshore on October 6 was one of the earliest ever fall arrivals in the county (fide SJ, AR). An adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at the San Lorenzo River mouth on October 26 was the second or third record for the county (AR). A **Caspian Tern** flew south over Scotts Valley on September 4 (JS, HS). While not uncommon to see passing over the Santa Cruz Mountains in spring, Caspians are rarely encountered in the mountains in fall. An **Elegant Tern** at Struve Slough on September



Black-chinned Hummingbird - Simon Thornhill
Tufted Puffin - Carole Rose



2 was rare inland (DS). A congregation of 1500 Elegant Terns off Black Point on September 1 was the highest count this fall (KVV).

Brandt's Cormorants were observed nest building on a small rock off Lighthouse Point on September 11



Willow Flycatcher - Lois Goldfrank

(AR). At least three nests were under construction; one was about half built and the other two were in the initial stages of construction. Brandt's formerly nested on rocks off Columbia Street but nesting activity has not been observed there or at Lighthouse Point in over 15 years. The rock hosting this year's late nesting attempt is normally covered with loafing California sea lions.

The high count for **American White Pelicans** this fall was 210 at Struve Slough on September 29 (NU, LL). 134 **Great Egrets** at the same place on October 13 was also a high count (NU). **White-faced Ibises** turned up in quite a few places away from the Pajaro Valley this fall.

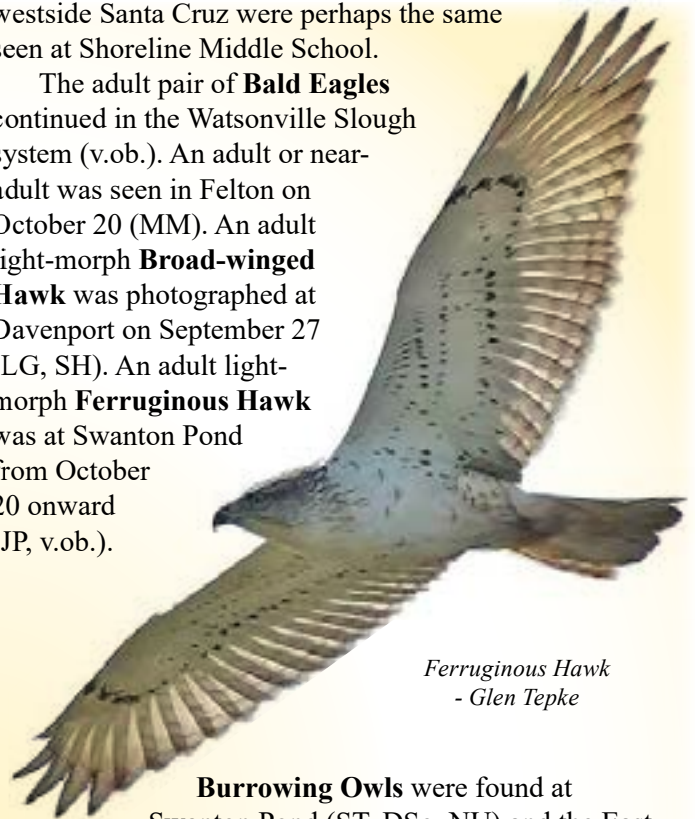
The most notable was one foraging on the playing field at Shoreline Middle School on September 26 (GM) which was joined by four more on September 29 (RAS). One was still there on October 1 (DS). Elsewhere, 24 were seen flying past New Brighton State Beach on September 24 (KK), 19 flew by Seacliff State Beach on October 27 (LP), and there were six reports between September 23 and October 6 of up to four ibises flying over Natural Bridges and Antonelli Pond (JS, PS, PB, SH, LG, CJ). The ibises seen over



Burrowing Owl - Lee Jaffe

westside Santa Cruz were perhaps the same seen at Shoreline Middle School.

The adult pair of **Bald Eagles** continued in the Watsonville Slough system (v.ob.). An adult or near-adult was seen in Felton on October 20 (MM). An adult light-morph **Broad-winged Hawk** was photographed at Davenport on September 27 (LG, SH). An adult light-morph **Ferruginous Hawk** was at Swanton Pond from October 20 onward (JP, v.ob.).



Ferruginous Hawk - Glen Tepke

Burrowing Owls were found at Swanton Pond (ST, DSo, NU) and the East Meadow at UCSC (MB, FB, LJ).

A second-year male **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was present in Soquel from October 12-20 (AG, CF). An **Acorn Woodpecker** at Ramsey Park in Watsonville on September 15 was unexpected (MD et al.). This species is very locally distributed on the Pajaro Valley floor. The main areas of occurrence are where there are stands of live oaks, such as at western Harkins Slough and Pinto



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - Craig Fosdick



Lake. A **Pileated Woodpecker** at Natural Bridges State Beach on September 3 was the second record the park (AR, v.ob.).

An impressive 16-17 **Willow Flycatchers** were reported between September 1-28—with most between September 1-1—bringing the fall total to 19-20 (v.ob.). A **Least Flycatcher** was at Neary Lagoon on September 3 (NL). An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** at Antonelli Pond stayed unusually late into fall. After being found on September 1 it remained in the same weedy area through September 30 (RR, BR, NL, v.ob.). Another Ash-throated was at Struve Slough from September 16-20 (HSt). Five **Tropical Kingbirds** were reported between September 18-October 28 (NU, JMi, DS, DSt, MB, FB, v.ob.).



Tropical Kingbird - Norm Uyeda



Clay-colored Sparrow - Lois Goldfrank

About 10 **Loggerhead Shrikes** were reported this period (v.ob.). Three **Horned Larks** were in agricultural fields at Wilder Ranch on October 19 (NL) with another or one of the same present there on October 22 (ST). Four **Purple Martins** joined a flock of aerial foragers over Gray Whale Ranch on

September 20 (KA). A **White-breasted Nuthatch** was up North Rodeo Gulch on September 1 (NZ). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were scarce through October as were **Golden-crowned Kinglets** in the lowlands. Seven **Western Bluebirds** flying over a backyard was a rare occurrence for westside Santa Cruz (CS). **Lawrence's Goldfinches** were found at Wilder Ranch State Park on October 11 (CS), Seabright on October 7 and 23 (AR), and Soquel on October 7 and 19 (AG).

Grasshopper Sparrows turned up near Kelly Lake on September 6 (NU) and Porter-Sesnon Property on October 7 (AG). At least three **Clay-colored Sparrows** were reported through October (NU, NL, v.ob.). One seemed to stay at the Homeless Garden from September 21 through the end of October (AR, v.ob.). Four **Lark Sparrows** were reported between September 17-30

(LG, SH, AR et al., JS, GM). The partially albino **White-crowned Sparrow** whose plumage resembles a Snow Bunting returned for its fifth winter at Swanton Pond by October 20 (ST, v.ob.). At least nine **White-throated Sparrows** were found this period (v.ob.) while **Vesper Sparrow** was missed. A **Swamp Sparrow** was at Rancho Del Oso on October 6 (PS, JS).

Single **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were found near West Branch Struve Slough on September 23 (LG, SH) and West

Beach Road on October 9 (JW). A **Bobolink** was at Harkins Slough on September 13 (AR). A striking adult male **Orchard Oriole** was attracted to red flowering gum near Lighthouse Field State Beach on September 6 (CS). An adult **Baltimore Oriole** was photographed in a



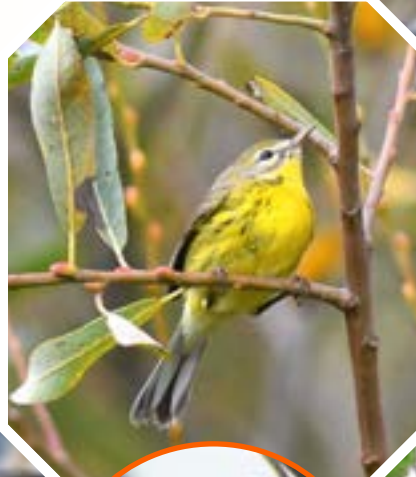
Orchard Oriole - Christian Schwarz

Davenport backyard on October 6, the first found in the county since 2008 (JM). Notable **Tricolored Blackbird** reports this period include three in a parking lot at Scotts Valley on October 10 (HS, JS, PS) and 150 feeding in an agricultural field at Manresa on September 6 (LL).

A **Virginia's Warbler** at the Homeless Garden from September 24-27 was the warbler highlight this fall (WBT, v.ob.), but a **Prairie Warbler** at Davenport from September 23-25 was also quite rare (CS, KJ). This was a good fall for **Canada Warbler** in central coastal California; one was found at Natural Bridges State Beach on September 2 and stayed through the following day (ZM, TB). **Northern Waterthrushes** were found at lower Aptos Creek on October 4 (CH) and Harkins Slough on September 13 (AR); the latter was profusely singing! Surprisingly no waterthrushes were reported from Natural Bridges or Antonelli Pond where one or two have been found nearly every fall in recent years. Four



September 16 (PB). Single **Blue Grosbeaks** were at Neary Lagoon from September 26-October 3 (RW, LS) and the Homeless Garden from October 4-6 (MB, FB). An **Indigo Bunting** was at Wilder Ranch State Park on September 1 (NL).



or five **Tennessee Warblers** (AR, GM, LJ, TB, ZM) and six **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were above the fall average (MB, FB, NL, STe, LT, AR et al., ST). An adult male **American Redstart** at Rancho Del Oso on September 23 was the only found this fall (CS), and only two **Blackpoll Warblers** were found: at Seabright on September 6 (AR) and Antonelli Pond on October 6 (AGg, v.ob.). Six **Nashville** and nine **Palm Warblers** were reported, and **Black-throated Gray, Hermit, and MacGillivray's** were found in average numbers (v.ob.).



*Top right: Painted Redstart
- Christian Schwarz*

*Clockwise top: Prairie Warbler
- Christian Schwarz*

*Right: Canada Warbler
Kumarin Arul*

*Bottom: Virginia's Warbler
- Sharon Hull*

*Left: Blackpoll Warbler
- Peter Svensson*

*Center: Northern Waterthrush
- Alex Rinkert*

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were at Neary Lagoon (AR, NL) and Rancho Del Oso (STe, LT) on September 3, and Meder Canyon on



Cited Observers: Robin Abu-Shumays, Kumaran Arul, Theadora Block, Frances Bolte, Mike Bolte, Phil Brown, Ryan Carle, Matthew Dodder, Craig Fosdick, Aaron Gabbe, Alexander Gaguine (AGg), Lois Goldfrank, Eric Halverson, Jennifer Halverson, Cole Heim, Sharon Hull, Lee Jaffe, Chris Johnson, Shearwater Journeys, Brad Keitt, Kathy Kleinsteiber, Lisa Larson, Nick Levendosky, Mike Martin, Gary Martindale, Bobbie Mayer, Jennifer McNulty, Zack Mikalonis, Jane Mio (JMi), Laura Paulson, John Perry, Shantanu Phukan, Bernadette Ramer, Robert Ramer, Alex Rinkert, Richard Sandkuhle, Brian Schnack, Nico Schnack, Christian Schwarz, Monterey Seabirds, Lisa Sheridan, David Sidle, David Somerton (DSO), Howard Stephenson, David Styer (DSt), Linda Terrill, Scott Terrill (STe), Simon Thornhill, W. Breck Tyler, Norman Uyeda, Kevin Vande Vusse, Jonny Wahl, Randy Wardle, Nickie, Zavinsky, “v.ob.” means various observers. **Please enter interesting observations into eBird or report them to Alex Rinkert at arinkert12@comcast.net.**



*Top right: American White Pelicans,
Struve Slough
- Lisa Larson*

*Below Burrowing Owl,
UCSC East Meadow
- Michael Bolte*



*Blue Grosbeak
- Michael Bolte*



Atlasers in training, 4-Mile Bluff - Lisa Larson



Launch of the Raven - Lisa Larson

New Members W E L C O M E

Stephanie Kirby	Nov 2018
Jeff Manker	Nov 2018
Andrea Ratto	Nov 2018
Jim Frandeen Family	Nov 2018
Lisa Ferguson Family	Nov 2018

Geese in flight - Lisa Larson

DEADLINE

submissions for
MAR/APR Issue
FEB 1, 2019



Merlin with damner dragonfly - Michelle Lamberson
Yellow Warbler - Norman Uyeda



SUBMISSION TO THE *ALBATROSS* Guidelines

Acorn Woodpecker chick - Lisa Larson

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)

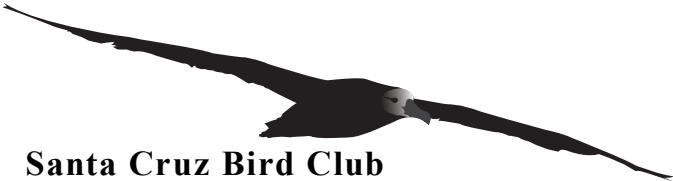
If you wish to submit an article, please contact the editor about it **AT LEAST 2 weeks before** the submission deadline.

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

~ Lisa Fay Larson, Editor

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Santa Cruz Bird Club
P.O. Box 1304
Santa Cruz, CA 95061

OFFICERS

President

Lisa Sheridan:
trotrider@aol.com

Bird Records Keeper

Alex Rinkert
arinkert12@comcast.net

Programs

Hannah Nevis
hnevins@abcbirds.org

Field Trips

Nick Levendosky
n.levendosky@gmail.com

Treasurer

Kitty Stein
ketury@cruzio.com

Secretary

Larry Corridan
larry961357@sbcglobal.net

Editor

Lisa Fay Larson
scbirdclubeditor@gmail.com

Webmaster

Phil Brown
pdpbrown@gmail.com

Conservation Director

Jane Mio
jmio@earthlink.net

Membership Director

Stephanie Singer
singersa@aol.com

Hospitality Director

Nickie Zavinsky
nickiezee0111@gmail.com

Historian

Elisabeth Foster
elisabethif@gmail.com

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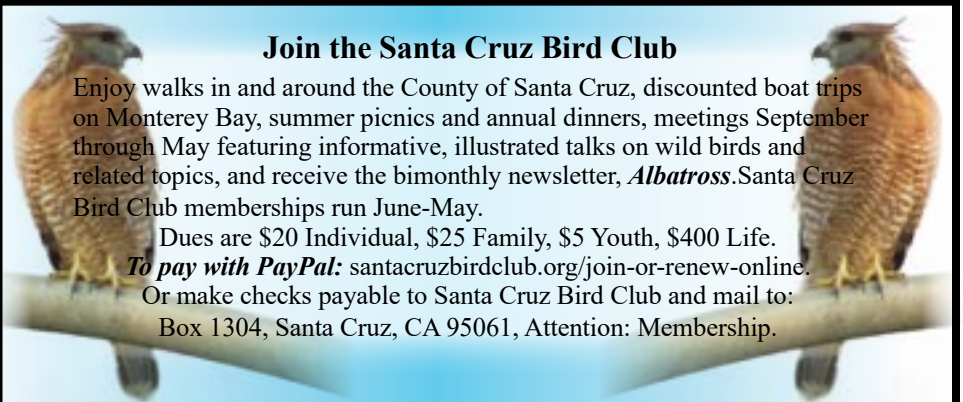
PARTING SHOT: "**BALANCING ACT**"
BROWN PELICANS & RED-FOOTED BOOBY, CEMENT SHIP PIER
- ELIZABETH VAN DYKE



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