



Albatross

PHOEBASTRIA NIGRIPES

Inside

Calendar of Events



Annual Silent Auction & Social

Santa Cruz Birds

Seabirding Trips



PARTING SHOT

Black-chinned Hummer - John Hickok
Northern Harrier - Lee Jaffe
Steller's Jay - Lisa Larson

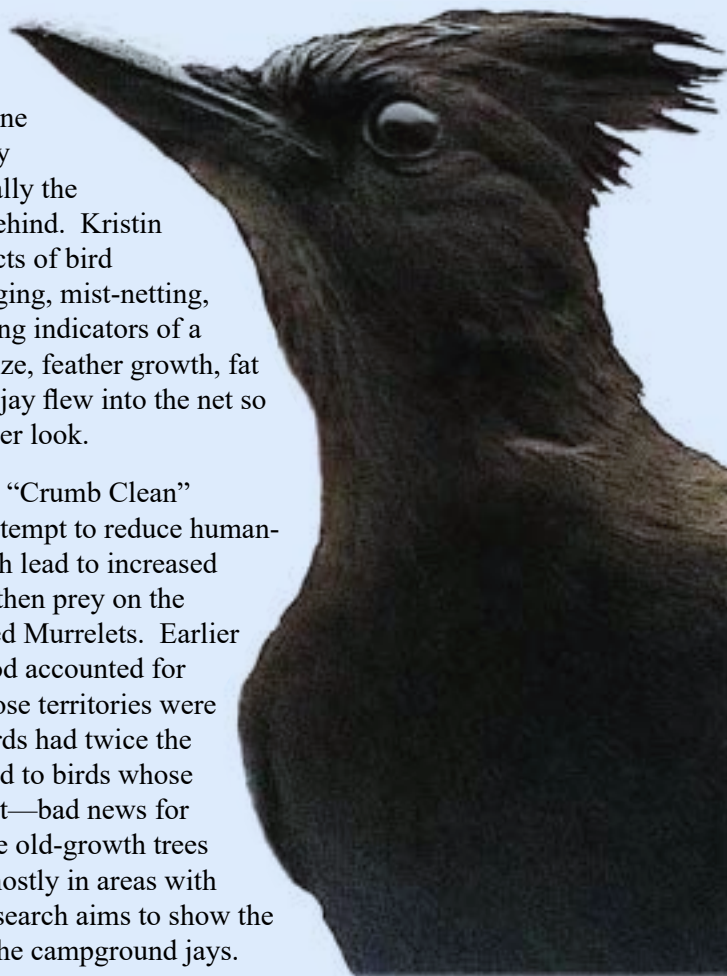
Members-only Event a Success!

- By Stephanie Singer

*I*t was a dark and stormy night... well, actually, it was a calm and foggy morning... when a dozen Bird Club members gathered at Big Basin State Park to learn about research on the Steller's Jay.

Club member and researcher Kristin Brunk generously shared her extensive knowledge of the resident jays at the park, in a demo scheduled especially for Bird Club members. She is building on previous work done there to determine how the jays are affected by human behaviors- specifically the food scraps people leave behind. Kristin demonstrated various aspects of bird research, such as radio-tagging, mist-netting, color-banding, and collecting indicators of a bird's health like weight, size, feather growth, fat stores. An obliging young jay flew into the net so everyone could have a closer look.

Big Basin launched a "Crumb Clean" Campaign in 2013, in an attempt to reduce human-derived food sources, which lead to increased corvid populations, which then prey on the endangered nesting Marbled Murrelets. Earlier work found that human food accounted for 50% of the diet of jays whose territories were in campgrounds. These birds had twice the number of young, compared to birds whose territories were in the forest—bad news for the murrelet, since the large old-growth trees they need for nesting are mostly in areas with campgrounds. Kristin's research aims to show the effect of Crumb Clean on the campground jays.



This is Kristin's 3rd and last year of field work. We hope that she'll come back once her data is analyzed and written up, to share her findings at a club meeting.

Many thanks to Kristin, and to the other club members who came!



Removing jay from mist net. The bird gets really tangled up and it takes quite a bit of delicate work to get it out.



Kristin Brunk is writing down data. From left observers are Simon Thornhill, Stephanie Singer, Tim Thompson. In foreground, holding papers, Dan Shapiro.



Kristin's tech Jessica Guenther is crimping a metal band on the leg



Kristin heat melting a color coded plastic band to seal it on the bird's leg.

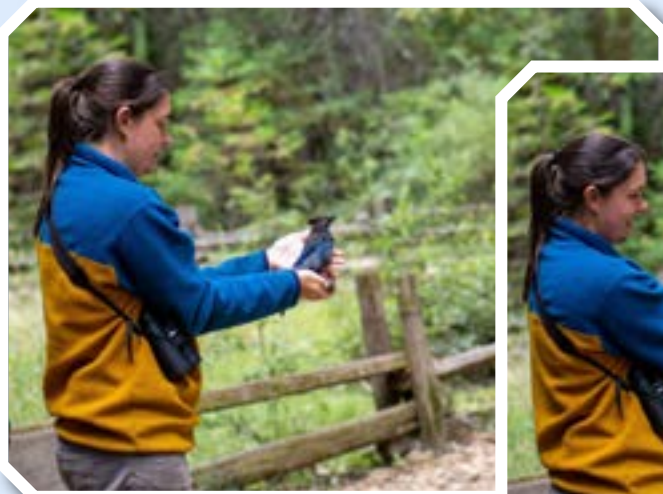


Jessica Guenther measuring the bird using calipers.

Blowing on the feathers so the skin below them is exposed so the technician can judge the size of the subcutaneous fat patch. The size of the fat patch indicates how well fed the bird is.



Taking a blood sample.



Free to go!



Off you go!



Steller's Jay - Lisa Larson



MONTEREY BAY BIRDING FESTIVAL 2019

Please see montereybaybirding.org for more information and registration!

The 15th Annual Monterey Bay Birding Festival is dedicated in memoriam to Nancy Lockwood - a devout environmentalist and birder who worked for the City of Watsonville for 27 years in Public Works & Utilities and helped design the Wetland Nature Center as well as the wetland trail system enjoyed by our local community and birders from far and wide. Nancy was a founder of the festival in 2004 and a supportive friend of all our efforts until her too early passing this year.

The dedication will be held during the *Taste of the Pajaro Valley* opening reception on Friday, September 21, 2019, between 5:30 and 7:15 PM.

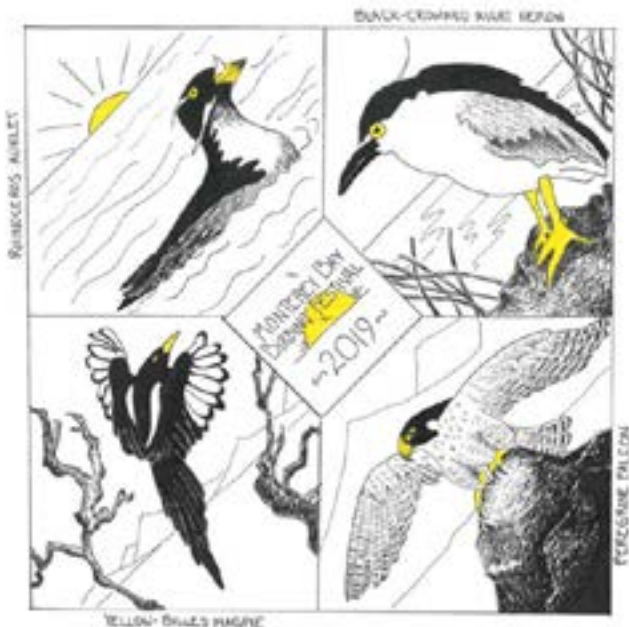
We hope you will join us to honor this remarkable woman who did so much to educate us on the importance of preserving and restoring wildlife habitats for birds and people alike.

The Monterey Bay Birding Festival has **volunteer opportunities** September 19-22, 2019. Volunteers will earn a festival T-shirt, admittance to both night Keynote Speaker Presentations, and Workshop #115, plus one field trip per 3-hour shift. To learn more contact Paige at WingTeamforthebirds@gmail.com.



CA Condor, Pinnacles National Monument- John Fox

T-SHIRT DESIGN



- 
MOUNTAINS:
 SANTA CRUZ · GABILAN · SANTA LUCIA
- 
VALLEYS:
 CARMEL · SALINAS · SANTA CLARA · PAJARO
- 
FRESH WATER:
 SAN LORENZO · SALINAS · PINTO LAKE
 CARMEL · PAJARO
- 
SALT WATER:
 BIG SUR · CARMEL BAY · RANCHO DEL OSO · PAJARO
 NATURAL BRIDGES · ELK HORN SLOUGH
 MOSS LANDING · WATSONVILLE SLOUGH · POINT PINOS



American White Pelican
- Jeff Roisman

Central Valley Birding Symposium 2019



23rd CVBS
November 2019 - Stockton, California

The Central Valley Bird Club will be hosting the 23rd annual Central Valley Birding Symposium Nov. 21-24, 2019, at the Stockton Hilton Hotel in Stockton, CA. The Great Central Valley, in the heart of California and the Pacific Flyway, is uniquely situated for excellent birding. Please join us as the CVBS again celebrates the best of birding in the Central Valley!

Presentations include:

Thursday: Ed Harper, with his program, "**Simply in Awe of Birds**".

Friday: "**The Language of Birds**" by Nathan Pieplow, author of the Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds.

Saturday: "**The Genius of Birds**" by acclaimed science and nature writer, Jennifer Ackerman. Learn how birds make and use their own sophisticated tools, teach one another new skills, exercise astonishing feats of memory, create works of art, navigate, communicate in ways that resemble language, and even pass along cultural traditions.

Informative and entertaining workshops, Friday & Saturday field trips, Bird ID Panel, and Birder's Market are some of the great things to enjoy. Add camaraderie of hundreds of like-minded folks, and you know you'll have a good time! There's something for everyone interested in birds. Come and join us to bird, learn, and just have fun!

To look over the schedule of events, go to: cvbirds.org/events/symposium
Registration begins September 6, 2019.

Third Annual Silent Auction and Social Event

We will be hosting our annual silent auction this 24th day of October at the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History. This year, we welcome donations of ALL types, including non-bird related items such as gift certificates. We still 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, drawings or folk art. All donation proceeds will benefit the Breeding Bird Atlas Fund. If you are a bird club member and would like to donate to this event, please contact Stephanie Singer (singersa@aol.com). 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.



***I SAID IT'S A
SILENT AUCTION!***



*Western Wood-Pewee chicks
- Lisa Larson*

Events Calendar

September-October 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
Sunday, September 8th	Beginning Bird Watching Natural Bridges	Phil Brown
Friday, September 13th	Upper Struve Slough	Bob Ramer
Wednesday, September 25th	West Branch Struve Slough	Lisa Fay Larson
Saturday, September 28th	Davenport	Nick Levendosky
Friday, October 6th	Terrace Point and Younger Lagoon	Phil Brown
Wednesday, October 9th	Anna Jean Cummings Park	Lisa Fay Larson
Friday, October 20th	Neary Lagoon	Phil Brown
Saturday, October 26th	Meder Canyon	Nick Levendosky

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.



Red-necked Phalarope
- Andy Knorr

"SPONSOR A SPECIES" FOR BBA IS COMING!

Coming this spring, the Santa Cruz Bird Club will be launching a "Sponsor a Species" fundraising effort to help finance the Breeding Bird Atlas Program. Although some details are still being worked out, this will be an opportunity for YOU to sponsor your favorite species and receive recognition in the Breeding Bird Atlas when it is published. And get a TAX CREDIT for your donation!

There are 160 breeding species in Santa Cruz County and each species will have only one sponsor but one person can sponsor several species. The fund drive will be introduced in 4 stages with the first phase beginning March 1st, 2020. (Please Note: within each phase, choices will be on a first come/first served basis.)

March 2020: Major Donors

Individuals who have generously contributed \$500 or more to BBA by March 1, either in one donation or cumulative donations, will have first choice of a species without additional contributions. If there is a species you MUST have, this gives you your best chance.

April 2020: Atlassers and previous donors

Previous donors (any amount) and active

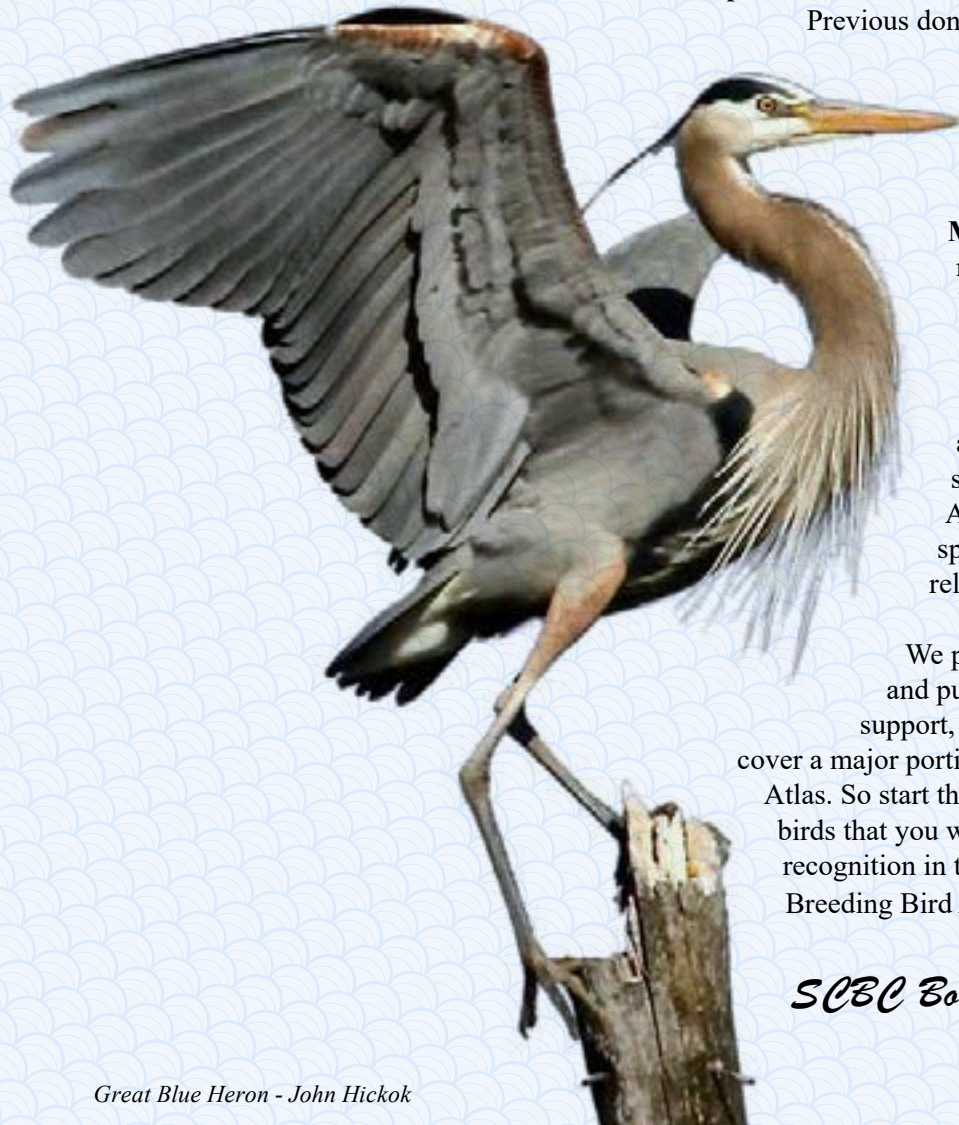
Atlassers for the project will get the first chance to reserve a species with a donation of \$200 per species.

May-September 2020: SCBC members and general public will be able to reserve a species for \$200/species.

October 2020: There will be an auction for any unchosen species at the Annual SCBC Silent Auction. The starting bid for each species will be \$100. Details to be released in a future article.

We plan to have the Atlas completed and published in 2022. With your support, "Sponsor A Species" will help cover a major portion of the cost to prepare the Atlas. So start thinking about that special bird or birds that you would like to sponsor and receive recognition in the Completed Santa Cruz County Breeding Bird Atlas.

SCBC Board of Officers



Great Blue Heron - John Hickok

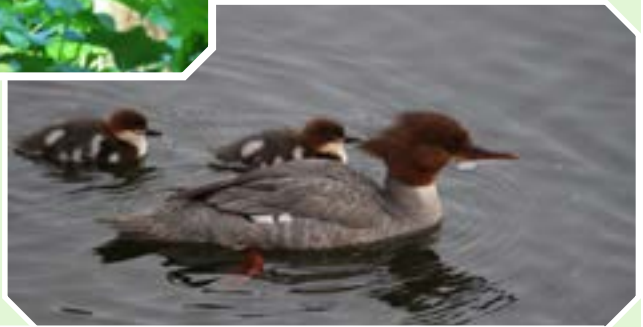
Babies of Summer



From top left:
CA Towhee - Margeret Perham
American Bitterns - Lisa Larson
Western Bluebird - John Ellis
Common Mergansers - Pete Solè
Mallard Superbrood - Alex Rinkert
Tree Swallows - Andy Knorr

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS RECENT DONORS

- Sandy Gant
- Scott Terrill
- Robin Abu-Shumays
- Richard Griffith/Margaret Perham
- Edward Cohen
- Melanie Wirtanen
- Sara & Joe Mikles
- Mari Tustin
- Jenny & John Anderson
- Sue Dumller
- Jane Orbuch
- Janice Lasnier
- Dan Frisch



Thank you!



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.

Santa Cruz Birds

By Alex Rinkert and Jonah Svensson
Including reports from March 1 to May 31, 2019

This spring had a nice variety of unusual birds highlighted by a Greater Roadrunner in Aptos (!), Canyon Wren, and dark-morph Pink-footed Shearwater. The Red-footed Booby returned to Seacliff State Beach just in time for summer. Numerous breeding species established themselves at new locations which was encouraging to see.

A **Ross's Goose** at College Lake on May 6 was late (GK), as were 2 **Greater White-fronted Geese** at Watsonville Slough on May 3 (RR). A **Brant** found in a flooded field near San Andreas Road on March 29 stayed through April 2 (NU, RW, v.ob.). Inland occurrences of this species are very rare in the county. An "**Aleutian**" **Cackling Goose** flocking with Canada Geese at Laguna Creek mouth on May 2 was the last of seven reports across the county in April and early May (AR, v.ob.). In the past few years **Canada Geese** have become well-established during the breeding season on the north coast between Santa Cruz and Davenport. This year there were over 35 reports from this stretch of the coast (AR, ST, v.ob.) including a nest found on a sea stack at Yellow Bank Beach (ST). Canada Geese were also regularly present at Loch Lomond (DE) as well as at Quail Hollow Ranch where a pair raised a few goslings (v.ob.).

Reports of **Wood Ducks** in the ponds at Roaring Camp—two on March 24 (JW, DMM) and one on May 27 (MM)—were somewhat unusual for the location and date, especially the latter report in May. Wood Ducks breed in the San Lorenzo River and Zayante Creek nearby but rarely venture to the small ponds at Roaring Camp. Wood Ducks were also found at several stock ponds in the Pajaro Hills east of Watsonville were noteworthy (EL, NU). Seven reports of **Blue-winged Teal** this spring—all from the Pajaro Valley—was a decent showing (v.ob.). Late **Northern Shovelers** were at Watsonville Slough on



May 3 (RR) and College Lake on May 24 (GK).

A wintering **Canvasback** remained at Swanton Pond through March 7 (LM). Spring sightings of **Redheads** have

become regular only recently, but they are still worth noting. This spring the only report was a pair at Struve Slough on March 26 (NU). A female **Ring-necked Duck** at College Lake on May 24 was late (GK) and 9 **Lesser Scaup** at Struve Slough on April 9 were notable for spring (KJ). Five **White-winged Scoters** were reported between March 3 and April 28 (v.ob.). A **Hooded Merganser** lingered at College Lake until May 6, about a month later than when most depart the county for their breeding grounds elsewhere (GK). This spring, **Ruddy Ducks** were regularly seen at the Quail Hollow Ranch pond beginning on March 12 (JR). Three were present through March (JR, BK, RW), up to two were seen through April (v.ob.), and then a male continued through May (BS, SP). During the breeding season Ruddy Ducks are fairly common in the Pajaro Valley and occur more locally distributed on the north coast, but are not known to breed at Quail Hollow Ranch or elsewhere in the mountains making their regular presence there in spring unusual.

Wild Turkeys seen at Harkins Slough on March



Above: "Aleutian" Cackling Goose
- Alex Rinkert

Left: Ruddy Duck - Sharon Hull



Greater Roadrunner
- Kenneth Peterson

2 and 29 (JWa, JY) and upper Hanson Slough on May 16 (RR, MST) added to a growing number of records for that area of the Watsonville Slough system. Twelve **Red-necked Grebes** on the north coast between March 5 and April 28 was a good showing for spring (v.ob.). Especially notable were six at Scott Creek Beach on March 18 (NU).

The most surprising find this period was a **Greater Roadrunner** in Aptos on May 2 (KP). The

circumstances were just as incredible as the bird itself: the roadrunner was caught on a home security camera as it traveled through a backyard! Roadrunners formerly



Calliope Hummingbird - Sharon Hull
Black & Ruddy Turnstones - Randy Wardle

occurred at various places across Santa Cruz County through the mid-1900s until they became extirpated from their last known area of regular occurrence in the San Lorenzo Valley. The only other modern record is of one at Soda Lake in fall 2004. Two **Black Swifts** were seen at Pinto Lake on May 17 and 19 (RW, NU). A male **Calliope Hummingbird** was nicely photographed at CARE Park on

the Pajaro River on April 22 (SH, JY).

Good numbers of **American Avocets** were seen in lower Watsonville Slough and near its confluence with the Pajaro River in late April and early May; the high count during this time was twenty-six on April 29 (JM). An avocet at the Baldwin Creek mouth on April 22



Red Phalarope - Pete Solè

was rare away from the Pajaro Valley (AR). **Snowy Plovers** once again bred on Seabright State Beach; two nests with eggs were found in the first half of April, but both ultimately failed to hatch (CE). A gathering of 36 **Long-billed Curlews** foraging in a field near College Lake on March 11 was a good concentration for the county (NS). Very few rare shorebirds were found this spring. A **Ruddy Turnstone** was at West Cliff Drive on April 28 (RW) and a **Red Phalarope** was found at Shorebirds Pond on May 21 (NU, v.ob.). Not rare, but unusual was a **Spotted Sandpiper** was heard flying around a neighborhood in Seabright on the night of May 1 (AR). Whether a migrant or a summering bird moving between local water bodies, it represented a rare occurrence away from water. For the second year in a row, no **Solitary Sandpipers** were found in spring despite frequent coverage at the San

Lorenzo River and College Lake where they are found almost annually. Eight

Greater Yellowlegs at College Lake on May 24 was a nice count for late May (GK).

Six **Lesser Yellowlegs** were found this period (RR, BR, PS).

Two reports of **Parasitic Jaegers** were more than usual for spring; one was seen offshore on April 22 (BA) and another was chasing



Elegant Terns near the Pajaro River mouth on May 21 (NU, LM). Eleven to twelve **Black-legged Kittiwakes** were found on the north coast and in Santa Cruz from March 5-20 (LC, CF, ZH, JJ, AR, BT, ST, NU).

A **Black-footed Albatross** was spotted flying far offshore from West Cliff Drive on May 16 (AR). The few land-based reports of albatrosses in the county are mostly from spring and early summer when they are most abundant on the Monterey Bay. A very rare dark-morph **Pink-footed Shearwater** was photographed on the Monterey Bay on May 4 (JS). After an absence of over four months, the **Red-footed Booby** returned to its perch at the end of the Seacliff State Beach pier on May 28 (DL, v.ob.). Where had it been during the intervening months?

Pelagic Cormorants suffered a disastrous breeding season on the Santa Cruz coast. Only about half of the breeding colonies in the county were active this year and very few nests fledged young (AR, KJ, BM, AM, JJ, ZH). The species reportedly had similar reproductive failure at numerous other places on the Pacific coast, the cause of which is still unknown. The silver lining this year was the discovery of two new colonies on the north coast: one at Acid Beach and the other near China Ladder. An active nest was also



found underneath the Santa Cruz Wharf, only the second time they have been documented nesting there (AR).

An adult **Double-crested Cormorant** was seen circling and perching in the heron and egret rookery in the upper Santa Cruz Harbor, as if interested in nesting the Eucalyptus there. They have only nested there once previously, in 2013. **Great Blue Herons** and **Great Egrets** nested at Pinto Lake and the Santa Cruz Harbor this year (AR, v.ob.).

The 3 **Cattle Egrets** at the cemetery by College Lake continued through March 23 (ARG, v.ob.). The high count for **White-faced Ibis** in the Pajaro Valley this spring was four at College Lake on May 4 (SH).

A pair of **Ospreys** returned to nest at Henry Cowell State Park (BS, AR), while two pairs nested

at College Lake (GK) and another pair resumed nesting at Harkins Slough (v.ob.). The pair of **Bald Eagles** in Watsonville raised one chick this year. A 4th year Bald Eagle was seen circling around Pinto Lake on April 20-25 but apparently did not stick around longer (AR, LL). With regional population burgeoning, it is only a matter of time before there are multiple pairs of Bald Eagles breeding in the county. An adult Bald Eagle was seen flying down the San Lorenzo River near

Highway 1 on May 4 (EG). The **Burrowing Owl** at Seabright State Beach was last reported on March 6 (AR) while the one wintering at Swanton Pond stayed through March 7 (LM).

A **Pileated Woodpecker** drumming at Anna Jean



*From top:
Black-footed Albatross
RARE Dark-morph
Pink-footed Shearwater
- Joshua Stacy
Pelagic Cormorant
chick, Wilder Ranch
2018 - Lisa Larson*

Cummings Park on March 30 was a bit out of place (EF). A male “**Yellow-shafted**” **Northern Flicker** was at Quail Hollow Ranch on March 6 (*fide* JW). Three **Red-breasted Sapsuckers** found between April 2-7 at Quail Hollow Ranch, Empire Grade, and Soquel were later than most wintering birds stay (ST, BT, JW). Similarly, **Say’s Phoebes** at Moore Creek Preserve on April 12 and Wilder Ranch State Park on April 19 (ST) were late. Nearly



Slough in a large fallow field on April 20 (AR). Over the next month up to eight were seen in this field (SP) and breeding was confirmed on May 11 when a female was seen carrying food (PS). This field near San Andreas Road is only about half a mile from where they normally occur, but very rarely has the habitat been suitable for breeding as it was this year.

Purple Martins were found at Loma Prieta and Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve this spring (v.ob.). A pair of martins were observed going in and out of a nest hole at Maymens Flat on April 30 where they have been present in previous years (LL, CK). Elsewhere, martins were found at Back Ranch Road on April 12 and 17 (SH, LG, KS), Wilder Ranch on April 20 (PB), Wilder Beach on May 27 (DM), and McCrary Ridge in Big Basin State Park on May 31 (AR). Some of these sightings are likely migrants but others could be prospecting breeders. **Tree Swallows** bred in nest boxes at Moore Creek Preserve (AM) and Arana Gulch (AM, MS), the latter location being a new breeding location in the county.



all wintering Red-breasted Sapsuckers and Say’s Phoebes depart for their breeding grounds out of the county by the end of March. A wintering **Tropical Kingbird** stayed around Struve and Hanson Slough through April 18 (MST, SH, DS). The Tropical Kingbird at Schwan Lake was last reported on March 8 (LJ). A total of 45 **Western Kingbirds** reported this spring was a good showing (v.ob.). A pair at Kelly-Thompson Ranch that continued through May suggested they could be breeding there as they have rarely in previous years (EL, NU).

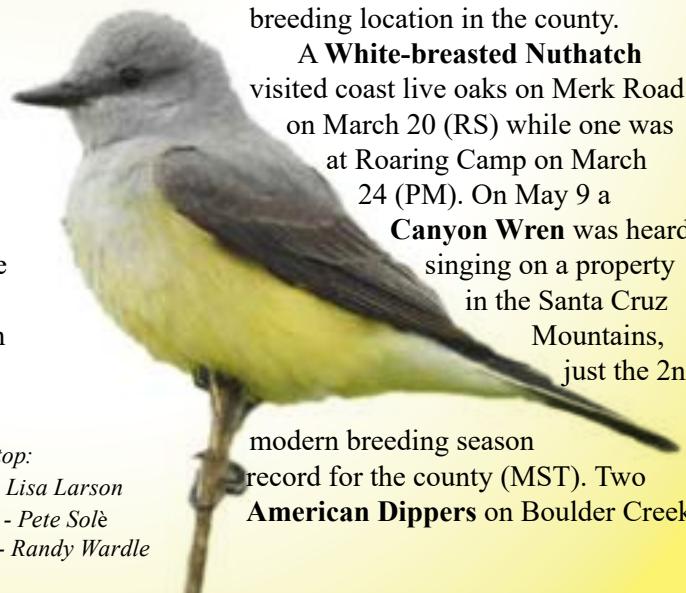
Three **Horned Larks** were near Harkins Slough on April 12, the only known place they occur year-round and breed in the county (BR, RR). Three larks were also seen from San Andreas Road near Watsonville

Wilder Beach on May 27 (DM), and McCrary Ridge in Big Basin State Park on May 31 (AR). Some of these sightings are likely migrants but others could be prospecting breeders. **Tree Swallows** bred in nest boxes at Moore Creek Preserve (AM) and Arana

Gulch (AM, MS), the latter location being a new breeding location in the county.

A **White-breasted Nuthatch** visited coast live oaks on Merk Road on March 20 (RS) while one was at Roaring Camp on March 24 (PM). On May 9 a

Canyon Wren was heard singing on a property in the Santa Cruz Mountains, just the 2nd



modern breeding season record for the county (MST). Two **American Dippers** on Boulder Creek

*From top:
Purple Martin - Lisa Larson
Horned Larks - Pete Solè
Western Kingbird - Randy Wardle*

about a mile upstream from the town on March 31 were at a noteworthy location (AF).

Western Bluebirds took quickly to new nest boxes set up at Arana Gulch this spring. Bluebirds were present early in spring (MP, RG) and nest building was observed on March 20 (SM) and May 1 (RAS). Fledged young were seen by May 7 (LL et al.), adding a new breeding location for the county. A **Townsend's Solitaire** was near upper

Soquel-San Jose Road from April 6-8 (STe, LT).

An **American Pipit** at Bonny Doon Beach on April 29 was late (AR).

Yellow-variant **Purple Finches** turned up at feeders in Capitola on March 6 (LL) and one

continued at Aptos through March 21 (RW). **Lawrence's Goldfinches** were found at Crest Ranch Christmas Tree Farm on April 25 (AR), Loma Prieta on April 27 and May 30 (JY, SP), and Kelly-Thompson Ranch on May 20 (NU, EL).

Migrant **Lark Sparrows** were found at Kelly-Thompson Ranch on April 12 (NU, EL), near Chittenden on April 22 (JWa), and at Loma Prieta on May 2 (NU). A "Slate-colored" **Dark-eyed Junco** wintered at a feeder in Soquel, last seen on March 10 (PS), and another wintering at a feeder in Aptos was last seen on March 13 (RW). Two additional Slate-colored Juncos were found: one at a feeder near Empire Grade on March 17 (BT) and another at Thompson Road in Watsonville on March 23 (NU, EL). A late "**Gambel's**"

White-crowned Sparrow was at Kelly-Thompson Ranch on May 20 (NU, EL) while a **Golden-crowned Sparrow** at a feeder in Aptos stayed until May 8 (RW). Thirteen **White-throated Sparrows** were found this spring (v.ob.). One that wintered at a

feeder in Aptos stayed until the late date of May 2 (RW). Rounding out the late winter sparrows was a **Lincoln's Sparrow** at Terrace Point on May 3 (BT). At least 2 **Swamp Sparrows** reported at Pinto Lake through March 25 were the only found this spring (v.ob.).

A **Hooded Oriole** present at Siltanen Park on May 13 was perhaps breeding nearby (JS). Small flocks of **Tricolored Blackbirds** near Last Chance Road on May 14 (LM) and May 17 (KVD) suggest some may have attempted to breed at the nearby Laguna de las Trancas, the most consistently active (and last?) breeding colony in the county. A flock of 35 Trikes at Kelly-Thompson Ranch on 27 May could have been from a breeding colony in the Pajaro Hills or nearby San Benito County (NU, EL). Two **Great-tailed Grackles** at Swanton Pond on April 7 (MB, FB) and one again on May 14 (LM) were rare away from the Pajaro Valley. A pattern of



spring appearances on the north coast and Santa Cruz has developed in recent years, but breeding has yet to be confirmed.

The wintering **Black-and-white Warbler** at Bethany Curve was last seen on April 6 (CH, LS). Three **Nashville Warblers** were reported between March 7 and April 24 (JM, NL, JY). A singing male **Northern Parula** showed up in the Eucalyptus at Natural Bridges State Beach on May 19 (ZM, v.ob.). At least four **Palm Warblers** were found this spring: at least one at Terrace Point from March 2 through April 19 (SS, BT) and three others in the Pajaro



From top:

Black & White Warbler

- Sharon Hull

Western Bluebird juvenile and father

- Lisa Larson

Yellow-variant Purple Finch

- Lisa Larson

Valley from March 3 to May 4 (SH, EL, NU). A **Black-throated Gray Warbler** at Quail Hollow Ranch on March 3 presumably wintered (JJ, ZH). The only **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** this spring was a male at Natural Bridges State Beach on May 24 (JSC, CP, SS). At least ten **Scaly-breasted Munias** continued visiting a feeder in Watsonville through March 16 (NU).

Cited Observers: Robin Abu-Shumays, Bernardo Alps, Phil Brown, Lucas Corneliussen, David Ekdahl, Carleton Eyster, Craig Fosdick, Andrea Freeman, Eric Feuss, Lois Goldfrank, Eric Goodell, Rich Griffith, Zach Hampson, Cole Heim, Sharon Hull, Jazmine Jensen, Kent Johnson, Clay Kempf, Bryan Kett, Gary Kittleson, Lisa Larson, Earl Lebow, David Lewis, Jeff Manker, Michael Martin, Amelia Maurer, Bobbie Mayer, Dylan McManus, Paul Miller, David Moore, Liam Murphy, Shirley Murphy, Carol Pecot, Margaret Perham, Kenneth Petersen, Shantanu Phukan, Bernadette Ramer, Robert Ramer, Alex



From top:
Lincoln's Sparrow - Norm Uyeda
Scaly-breasted Munias & White-crowned Sparrow
- Norm Uyeda



White-breasted Nuthatch
- Guy Lichter

Rinkert, Jim Roe, Adam Romswinkel-Guise, Richard Sandkuhle, Brian Scanlon, Nico Schnack, Stephanie Singer, Pete Sole, Logan Southall, Julie St. Clair, Joshua Stacy, Kitty Stein, Matthew Strusis-Timmer, David Styer, Jonah Svensson, Linda Terrill, Scott Terrill (STe), Simon Thornhill, Breck Tyler, Norman Uyeda, Jonny Wahl (JWa), Randy Wardle, Jim Williams, Joe Yuhas. **Please enter interesting observations into eBird or report them to Alex Rinkert at arinkert12@comcast.net.**



SEABIRDING TRIPS

Shearwater Journeys

FORTY-FOUR YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN PELAGIC BIRDING

MONTEREY BAY, HALF MOON BAY, FARALLON ISLANDS

Debi Shearwater will be retiring after 44 years of amazing journeys at home and all over the globe! The Santa Cruz Bird Club bids a fond farewell to Shearwater Journeys at the end of the 2019 season. All of Debi's pelagic trips are SOLD OUT, but you may still contact her to join a wait list. Superb leaders with worldwide seabirding experience have accompanied Debi's trips throughout the years, and the SCBC thanks them as well!
Smooth sailing, Debi, and thank you!

Website: shearwaterjourneys.com

Blog: shearwaterjourneys.blogspot.com.

Contact Debi, a Life Member of the SCBC:
debi@shearwaterjourneys.com.

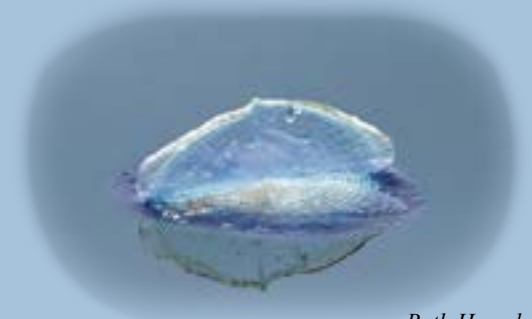


"Armed and Dangerous"
- Dustin Angell

Shearwater Journeys Half Moon Bay July 20, 2014

Debi suddenly comes running out of the wheelhouse shouting "Velella Velella!!!" "By-the-wind Sailor!" and we all start looking up, out, around - nothing! But we needed to go to the rail and look DOWN.where there were hundreds of these marvelous little plankton eating hydrozoans floating on the water surface. We continued to see them throughout the day. When the water was smooth and calm, and the sun was shining, they looked like sparkling gems and were quite ethereal.

- Beth Hamel



- Beth Hamel



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 or by calling (831) 375-4658. Seabird trips we have a 2-week cancellation policy. If you have questions: birdtrips@montereyseabirds.com.

8-hour trips and 12-hour Trips

Beginning Saturday, September 21 (12 hours)



See **Alvaro's Adventures**
for out-of-county pelagic trips:
alvarosadventures.com/boat-trips/pelagics
and out-of-country birding tours:
alvarosadventures.com



*Sooty Shearwaters 8-11-19
- Margaret Perham*

"This evening I counted SOOTY SHEARWATERS streaming by Seabright from 6:00-7:45 pm, with the Ramers for a while. The stream was heading west for the first two hours at around 1,800-3,250 per minute, then at 7:15 they came back east in full force at up to 6,600 per minute! Eventually well over 100,000 began feeding right off the Walton Lighthouse and Twin Lakes SB very close to shore. I've seen this many times before but still it is always an amazing sight that is hard to describe in words. Even at a good distance from the bluff above Seabright, there was so much shearwater activity that the sound of splashing from the feeding frenzy was audible—loud enough to drown out the sound of the crashing waves. Based on numerous counts throughout the time I was there, I estimate about 260,000 flew by Seabright this evening."

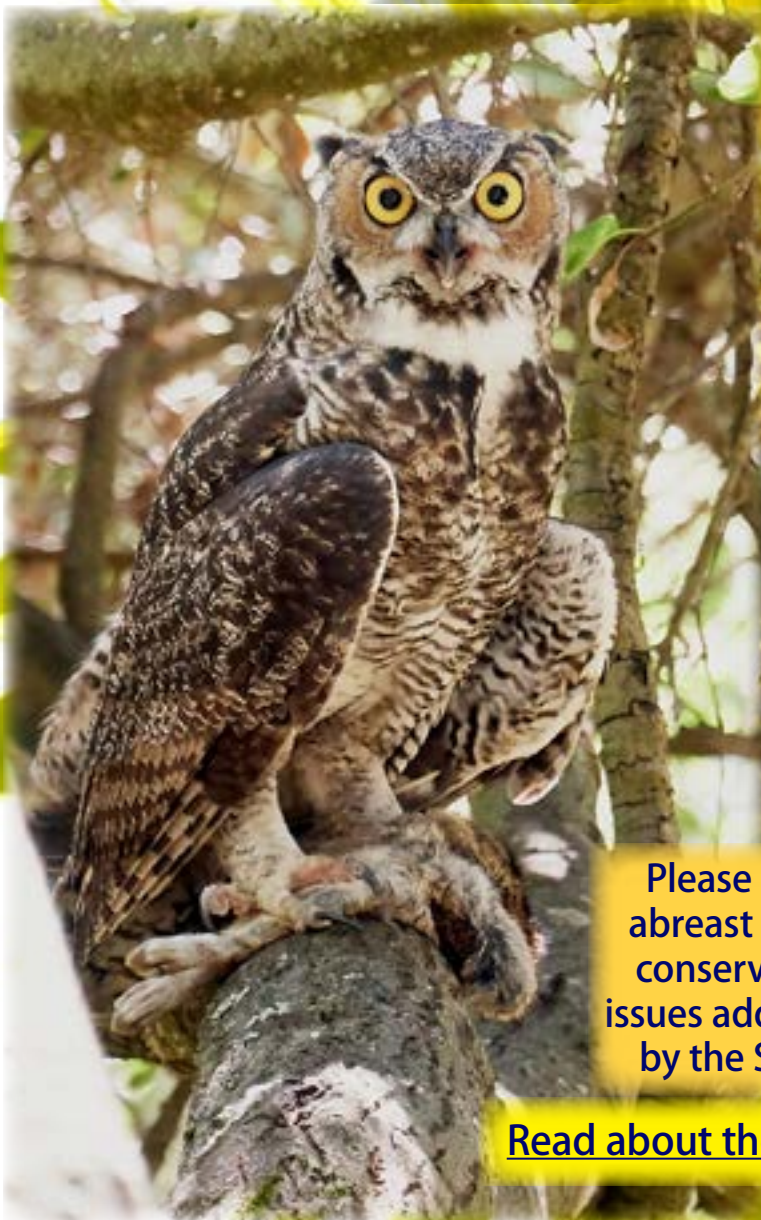
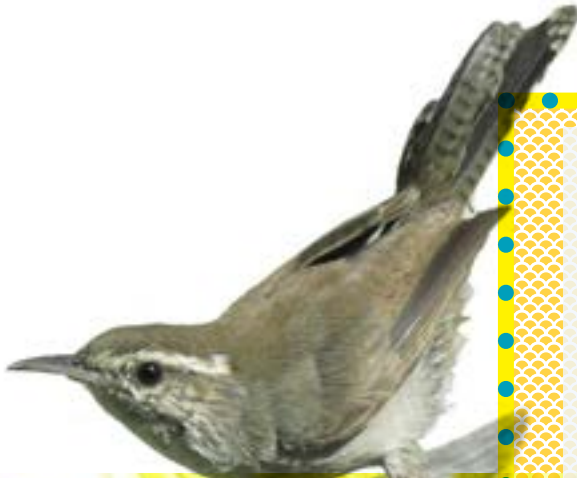
Alex Rinkert

New Members *WELCOME*

Kristin Brunk	<i>May-19</i>
Cathryn Gaty-Delia	<i>May-19</i>
Gary Martindale	<i>May-19</i>
Emily Maddox	<i>June -19</i>
Susan Miracle	<i>June-19</i>
Liam Murphy and Family	<i>June-19</i>
Sandi Pensinger	<i>June -19</i>
Rickey Popplewell	<i>June-19</i>
Logan Southall	<i>June-19</i>
Michele Fialer	<i>July-19</i>
Judy Jackson and Familt	<i>July-19</i>
Joan Ling-Zwissler and Family	<i>July-19</i>
Paula Mierau	<i>July-19</i>
Valerie Neer	<i>July-19</i>
Helen Wallis	<i>July-19</i>
Dawn Zizzo	<i>July-19</i>
Brad Lewis	<i>Aug 19</i>
Mary Vesey and Family	<i>Aug 19</i>
Ann Chandler and Family	<i>Aug 19</i>
Nancy Lenz	<i>Aug 19</i>
Deborah Benham	<i>Aug 19</i>
Richard Hadlock and Family	<i>Aug 19</i>
Katrina "Tree" Rozelle	<i>Aug 19</i>
K.A. (Kathleen) McCreesh and Family	<i>Aug 19</i>

And many thanks to Sandra Gant and family for her kind August donation to the Bird Club

Bewick's Wren - Lisa Larson
Honey Bee on Sunflower -
Lisa Larson
Great Horned Owl with rabbit
- Lee Jaffe



Please keep
 abreast of the
 conservation
 issues addressed
 by the SCBC!

Read about the current issues!

DEADLINE

submissions for
NOV/DEC issue

OCT 1, 2019



Mallard Feet - Lisa Larson



Pigeon Guillemots - Alex Rinkert

Wet Feather - Margeret Perham

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

~ Lisa Fay Larson, Editor

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ALBATROSS



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Download the online version and
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santacruzbirdclub.org

PARTING SHOT: "I SAID WAIT YOUR TURN KIDS!"
AMERICAN BITTERNS
- LEE JAFFE



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Family, \$5 Youth, \$400 Life.

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

Attention: Membership.



American White Pelican - Jeff Roisman
Red-breasted Nuthatch - Jeff Bleam