



Santa Cruz County Breeding Bird Atlas II

Year 2 Annual Report

By

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With contributions from

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Analysis

and

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Maps

Cumulative Progress Through Year 2

6,100

**Breeding
Confirmations**

In two years atlasers have submitted over 6,100 breeding confirmations from throughout Santa Cruz County. About 30% of confirmations have come from the backyards and neighborhoods of atlasers.

127

**Species
Confirmed**

Atlasers have confirmed breeding for 127 species, about 80% of those thought to be breeding in Santa Cruz County. Exciting species confirmed breeding include Black Swift, Bald Eagle, and Cedar Waxwing.

67

Volunteers

Atlasing participation nearly doubled in Year 2. Our goal is to receive observations from 100 volunteers throughout the project.

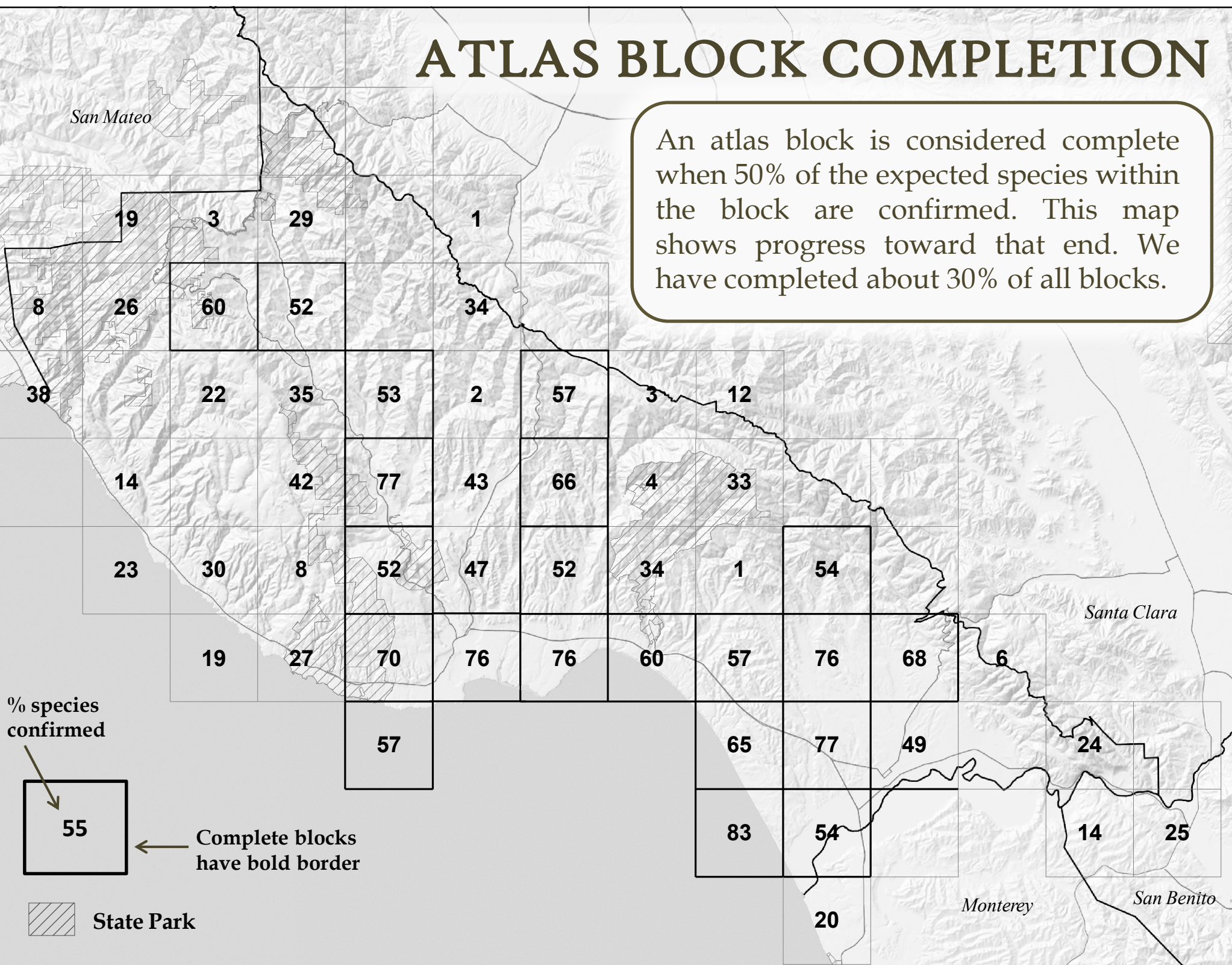
2,730

**Volunteer
Hours**

Atlasers have spent over 2,730 hours looking for breeding confirmations. Other volunteers have spent hundreds of hours with project management, data analysis and mapping, and fundraising.

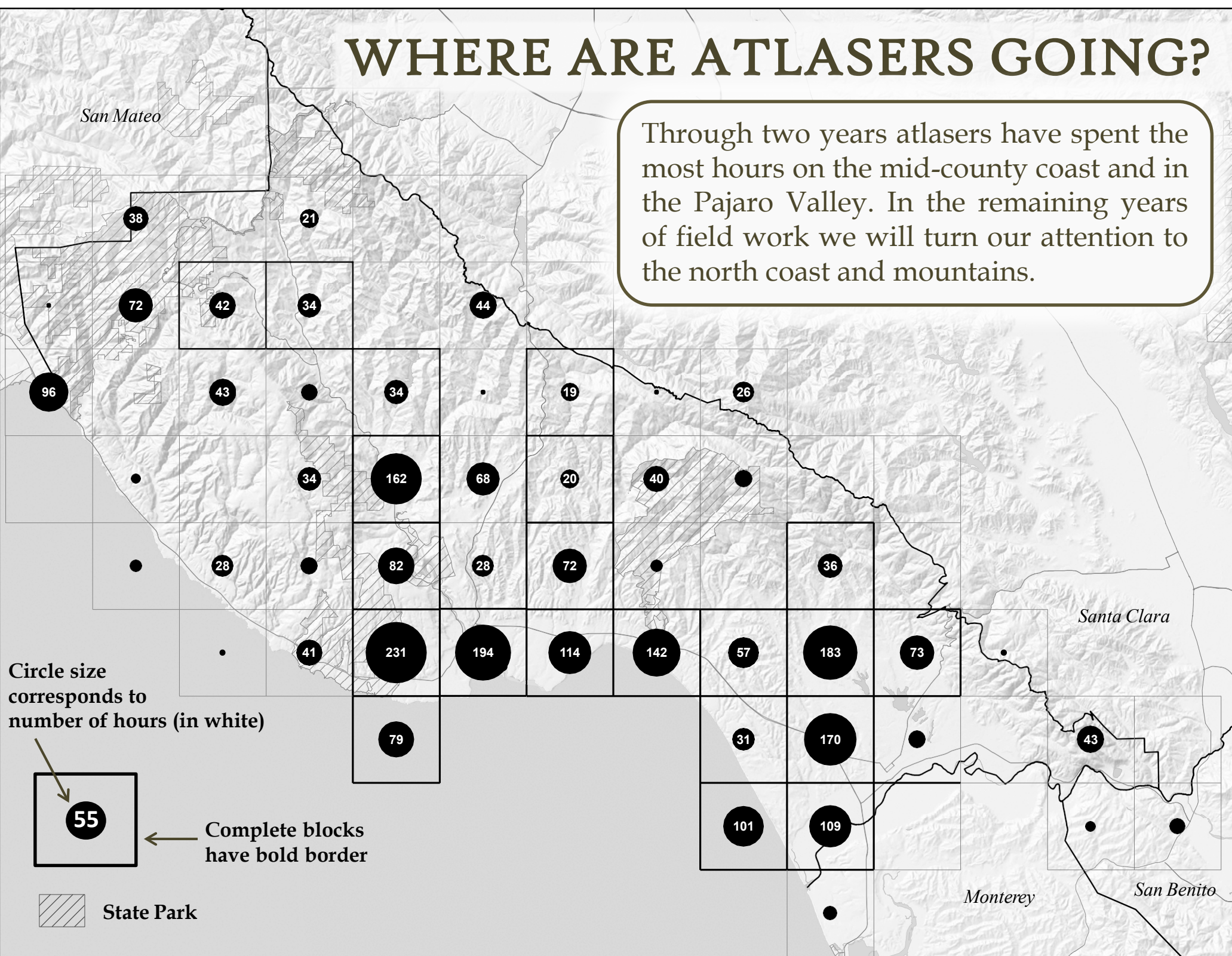
ATLAS BLOCK COMPLETION

An atlas block is considered complete when 50% of the expected species within the block are confirmed. This map shows progress toward that end. We have completed about 30% of all blocks.



WHERE ARE ATLASERS GOING?

Through two years atlasers have spent the most hours on the mid-county coast and in the Pajaro Valley. In the remaining years of field work we will turn our attention to the north coast and mountains.



BREEDING CONFIRMATIONS

Atlasers have provided coordinates for over 4,800 breeding confirmations. The elevation and habitat where species breed can be determined from these breeding confirmations.



San Mateo







Santa Clara

Monterey

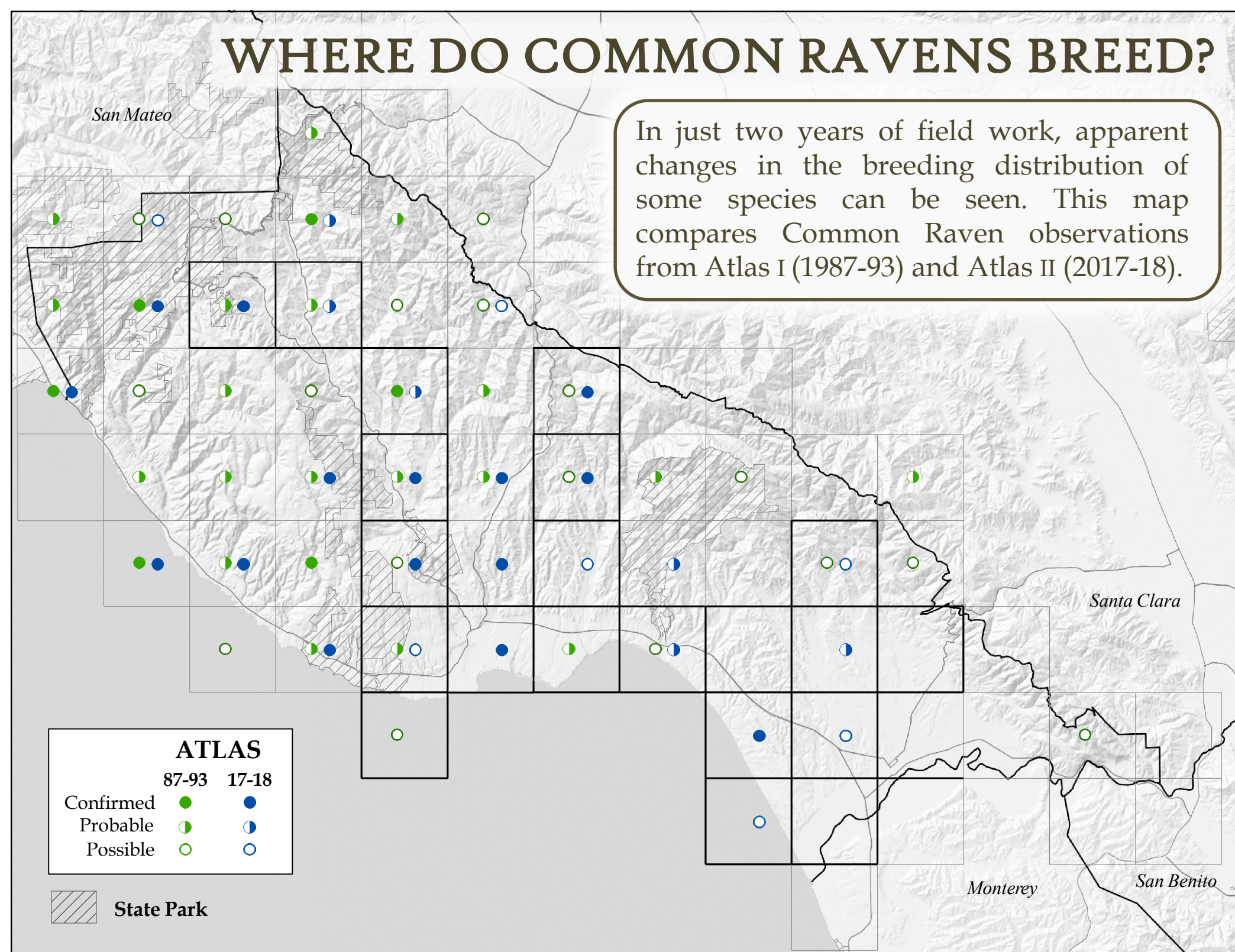
San Benito

WHERE DO COMMON RAVENS BREED?

In just two years of field work, apparent changes in the breeding distribution of some species can be seen. This map compares Common Raven observations from Atlas I (1987-93) and Atlas II (2017-18).

ATLAS		
	87-93	17-18
Confirmed		
Probable		
Possible		

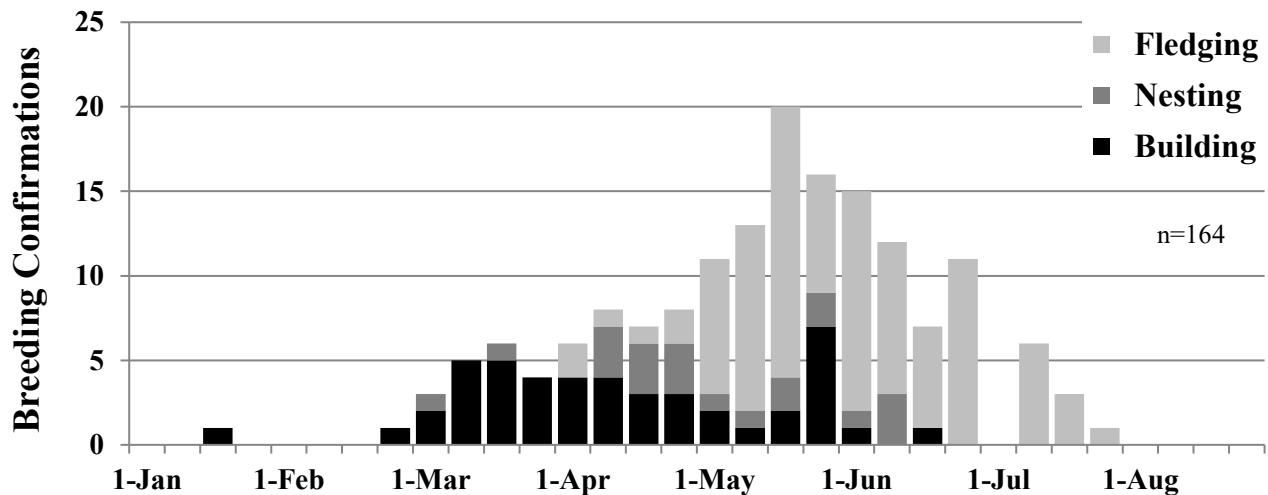
 State Park



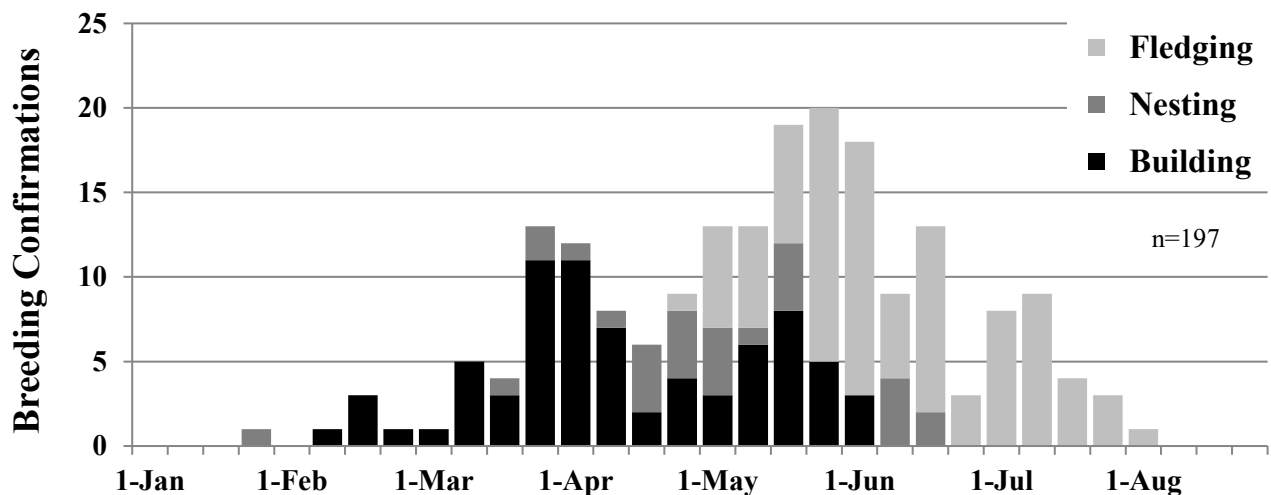
Breeding Phenology

Phenology is when certain life history events, such as breeding, occur. The timing of when a bird builds its nest, has eggs or nestlings, and tends to dependent fledglings can be visualized in a bar chart. The phenology of Bushtit in Atlas I and Atlas II is compared in two charts below. As more observations are submitted, the phenology of our local breeding species becomes clearer and differences in the phenology from 30 years ago may become apparent.

Bushtit Phenology – Atlas I



Bushtit Phenology – Atlas II



Colonial Waterbirds

This year we monitored nesting colonial waterbirds at an intensity and scale as never before. Every colony in the county was visited twice a month during the breeding season and key life history information for each nest was recorded. This data provides valuable insight into the timing and reproductive success of our colonial waterbirds. Selected results from this year are presented below.

Brandt's Cormorant



Photo by Bruce Lyon

459 nests
3 colonies

Pelagic Cormorant



Photo by Mike Bolte

51 nests
8 colonies

**Double-crested
Cormorant**



Photo by Kat Avila

235 nests
2 colonies

Great Blue Heron



Photo by Rich Hoeg

35 nests
3 colonies

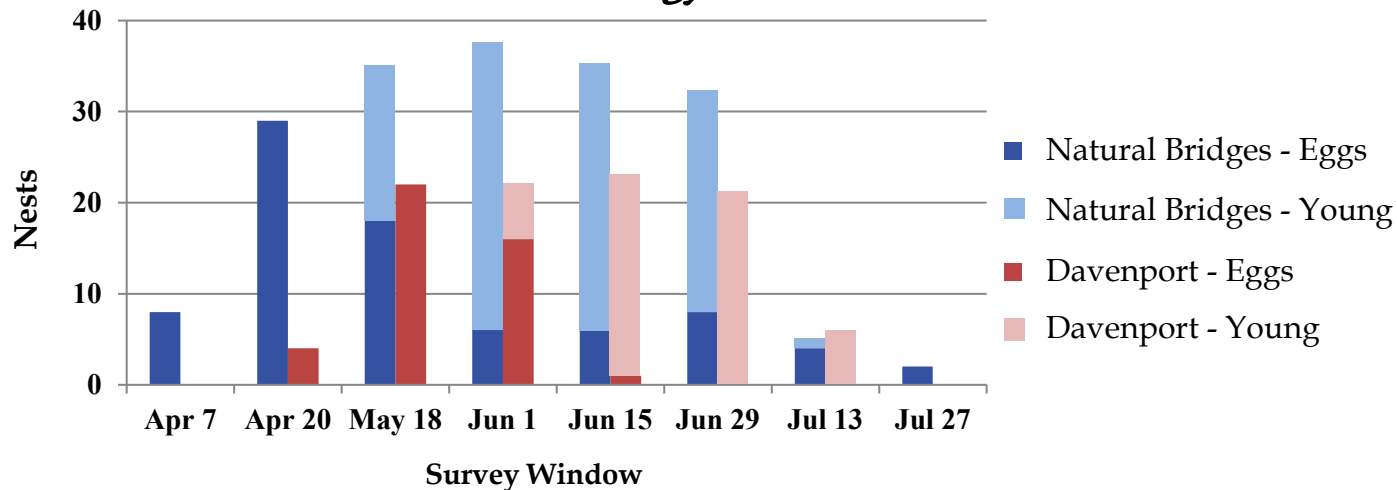
Great Egret



Photo by Matthew Paulson

27 nests
2 colonies

Brandt's Cormorant Phenology at Two Colonies



Many thanks to the following volunteers who monitored colonies: **Stephanie Martin, Bobbie Mayer, Kent Johnson, Robin Abu-Shumays, Hanna Svensson, Jonah Svensson, and Peter Svensson.**

Fundraising

This year the atlas committee developed a fundraising plan that will guide the atlas to publication. We plan on raising **\$18,000** over the next four years to cover publication expenses that include professional editing, artwork, publication fees, and the research and writing that go into synthesizing atlas data. We received **\$3,908** in donations this year which will be generously matched dollar-for-dollar by an anonymous donor.



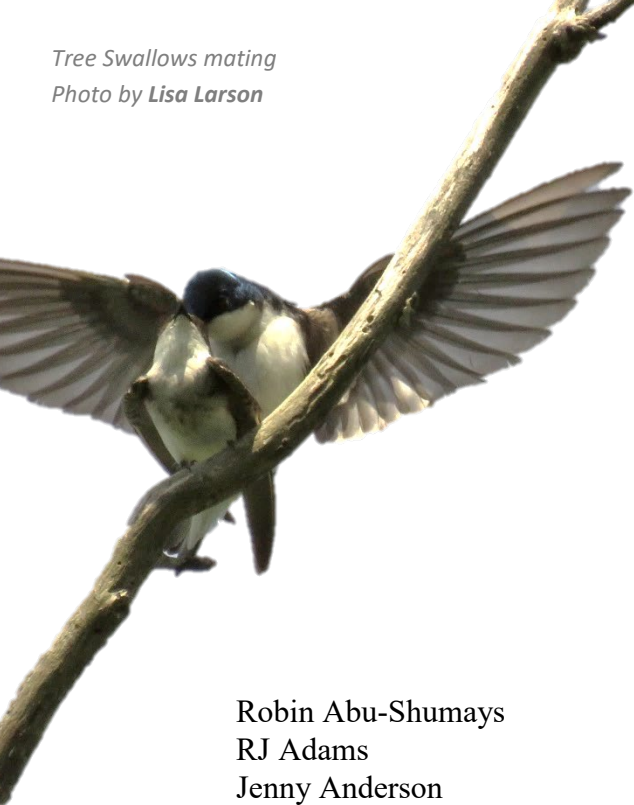
*Mallard female with ducklings
Photo by Pete Solé*

Thank you for your donation in 2018!

Jenny Anderson
Peter Beckmann
Anne Bourdeau
Matthew Coale
Pete Solé & Nancy Collins
Larry Corridon
Deb Diersch
Sue Dumller
Noreen Feuss
Cindy & Charlie Frakes
Dan Frisch
Gloria Linder & Inman Gallogly
Cathy Gamble
Susan Giddings
Debby & Jerry Goodell
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Tim & Barb Jolly
Surrey Kent
Norm Kikuchi
David Lavorando
Laurie Leonard
Bobbie Mayer
Peter Metropulos
David Meyers
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Jane Mio
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Marg Leonard & Clare Sheils
Alice Sickels
Kitty Stein
Francis Toldi
Mari Tustin
Elizabeth Van Dyke
David Ekdahl & Connie Vigno
Susan & Jeffrey Wall
Carolyn Watanabe
Andrea Welles
Melanie Wirtanen



Volunteer Recognition

Thank you to all the volunteers who submitted observations this year. Every observation contributed to an increasing understanding of breeding birds in Santa Cruz County.

Robin Abu-Shumays
RJ Adams
Jenny Anderson
Ann Brohmer
Jessica Brohmer
Phil Brown
Lleni Carr
Bryan Cockel
Kaia Colestock
Larry Corridon
Ben Dudek
David Ekdahl
John Ellis
Gilles Faggio
Craig Fosdick
Dan Frisch
Aaron Gabbe
Richard Griffith
Linda Huffman
Sharon Hull
Lee Jaffe
Kent Johnson

Tim Jolly
Surrey Kent
Spencer Klinefelter
Robin Kopit
June Langhoff
Lisa Fay Larson
Inger Marie Laursen
Earl Lebow
Nicholas Levendosky
Juliette Linossier
Bruce Lyon
Jeff Manker
Stephanie Martin
Bobbie Mayer
Jane Mio
Sophie Noda
Jane Orbuch
Vivienne Orgel
Carol Pecot
Margaret Perham
Quail Hollow Nest Box Project
Bernadette Ramer

Bob Ramer
Alex Rinkert
Rusty Scalf
Lisa Sheridan
Tomoko Shimotomai
David Sidle
Stephanie Singer
Jeff Smith
Pete Solé
Howard Stephenson
Matthew Strusis-Timmer
Hanna Svensson
Jonah Svensson
Peter Svensson
Scott Terrill
Simon Thornhill
Norman Uyeda
Connie Vigno
Elizabeth Van Dyke
Randy Wardle
Jim Williams
Amy Yee

Special recognition goes to **Stephanie Singer, Lisa Sheridan, Nick Levendosky, Phil Brown, and Kitty Stein** for their tremendous help with project management. **Sharon Hull** provided a venue for atlaser trainings, and **Simon Thornhill** and **Rusty Scalf** donated their professional skills to prepare the analysis and maps used in this report.

