

Albatross

PHOEBASTRIA NIGRIPES

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WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SPECIES?

Santa Cruz Birds

SCBC 2019 Silent Auction Roundup



PARTING SHOT

Chestnut-backed Chickadee - Lisa Larson
American Goldfinch - Cathy Summa-Wolfe

What Goes On Out There?

A Look Into The Año Nuevo Nesting Project

- By Lisa Fay Larson

Mysterious isn't it? Driving up the coast from Santa Cruz past Rancho Del Oso, you gaze out over Año Nuevo Bay to a lonely, windswept island that appears terribly inhospitable. What goes on out there?

Año Nuevo is actually quite hospitable, indeed, to marine mammals such as the northern elephant seal and the California sea lion and it is a very important nesting area for seabirds: Rhinoceros and Cassin's Auklet, Pigeon Guillemots, Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorants, and Western Gulls.

It is a perfect habitat for the burrowing colonies of auklets because it is removed from the whirlwind of onshore human activity and predation by mammals. But the auklet populations were declining and the nesting site was in serious trouble due to erosion, but also because the California sea lion can power all over the island like tanks, leaving nests and chicks crushed in it's wake. Curious about the scientific research going on out there, in particular the ceramic nesting project, I decided to reach out to project manager Ryan Carle to find out more. *(The following interview is paraphrased.)*

Lisa: How did the Año Nuevo Island nest project come about?

Ryan: It began with habitat restoration in 2010. Boats with flat-bottoms and back drop-gates like they used in Korea were employed to bring in thousands of native grasses and shrubs as well as huge eucalyptus logs. The logs were used to build "exclusion fence" barriers to keep the sea lions out of the nesting areas. The seal lions were the main cause





Above from left: Adult Rhinoceros Auklet, Sea Lion Exclusion Fence, Adult Cassin's Auklet

of destruction of nests, as they can climb to most areas on the island. The Northern Elephant Seals cannot climb up the terrain, so they stick to the shorelines and are not a threat. It was quite an effort to bring those materials in!

Lisa: Do the same birds return to the same nests year after year?

Ryan: Yes, they do. We know which nest the tagged pairs return to, so this will help us to monitor them for years to come. They are long-lived birds (30 years for the auklets) and they are monogamous—most pairs stay together for all of their lives. Initially wood and PVC pipes were used to make nests, which required more maintenance because wood eventually rots and the pipes creates trash. So ceramic was a much better way to go.

Lisa: Fantastic idea! Did the birds take to the ceramic nests right away?

Ryan: The auklets began using the nests the first year.

Lisa: Where did the idea for ceramic nests originate?

Ryan: The ceramic nest idea originated at the California College of the Arts in Oakland. Nathan Lynch is the (master) ceramist who developed auklet prototype modules in 2018.



Lisa: Was Año Nuevo the first place these ceramic nests were used?
CA Sea Lions

coast where Rhinoceros Auklets nest: Año Nuevo, the Farrallons, and Castle Rock near Crescent City in northern California. Since the success of ceramic nests in Año Nuevo, their use has expanded to the Farrallons for Cassin's Auklets, Channel Islands of California for Ashy Storm-petrels, and for Wedge-tailed Shearwaters in Oahu, Hawaii.



Lisa: Were there a number of iterations of the modules before an accepted design for the Rhinoceros Auklet was completed?

Ryan: Yes, each species had to have it's own design.

The Rhinoceros Auklets are larger [crow sized] and they could go into the nests of the smaller [plump robin-sized] Cassin's, so a module with a smaller hole was made for the Cassin's Auklets.

[Some Pigeon Guillemot pairs used the modules designed for Rhinos, some nested in burrows under the

raised boardwalk, and others nested in rocky crevices.]

Lisa: Who is the apex predator? Ravens or gulls? [They both nest on the island.]





Chicks inside modules

Ryan: Both!

Lisa: How often do the nests need to be replaced? Is there a demand for additional nests because of the success of the project?

Ryan: The ceramic nests are very durable, but more have been made for the growing number of birds. There are more ceramic nests than bird pairs right now.

Lisa: What difference has the project made in the breeding populations of these birds?

Ryan: The population of the rhinos has more than doubled—478 Rhinoceros Auklets bred in 2018. [This is the highest number on record.] The central terrace area is where the ceramic nests are lined up and buried shallowly so that we can access the nests through a hatch in the module.

Lisa: So the removable hatch is at the surface like a man-hole cover in a street?

Ryan: Yes.

Lisa: Brilliant! It's great to hear such a success story. What is one of your most memorable experiences while out there?

Ryan: We stayed overnight on the island so we could capture the birds in mist nets and tag them. All the sounds you hear at night— like the sea lions

barking . . . and the stars are really amazing! The parents come in with food for their chicks at about 2 am after fishing during the day.

Lisa: Do they vocalize when they come in?

Ryan: No, they vocalize when they are at the nests. (He makes a grunting sound, laughs.)

Lisa: How do the birds hold a load of fish? Can they store it in a crop?

Ryan: No, they hold the fish across their bills, maybe as many as ten a time.

Lisa: How do they catch another fish when they are already holding lots in their bill?



Top right: Ecologist Emily Coletta maps Cassins Auklet modules

Kelly (right) and Sierra (left) work with Modules

Above: Rhinoceros Auklet with a mouthful of food - Michael Bolte



Ryan: We don't know. It is amazing because these birds dive 100 feet down, and it is pitch dark, and they catch the 10th fish after holding nine.

Lisa: How did you get the project manager job?

Ryan: I got started on the project after I had worked for Santa Cruz district state parks for a couple years on their resource crew. I saw the job announcement, applied even though I was way underqualified (they were looking for a phd who knew how to drive boats on the ocean), and got started as a field tech.

Lisa: What is your role as project manager?

Ryan: In my role as project manager I am really a jack of all trades. Duties include leading and orchestrating field work; everything from making study designs to organizing volunteers, to troubleshooting outboard motors to carpentry. I work on data management and analysis and writing reports and scientific publications; outreach including presentations and talking to journalists. Fundraising is a big part of the job, including grant writing and administration.



*Rhino adult with chick in module
- Tara Johnson Kelly*



Rhinoceros Auklet chick

We've had hundreds of volunteers work on the project over the last 10 years but we work with a crew of 4 people during the monitoring season and crews of 4-10 staff and volunteers for restoration activities.

Lisa: That sounds like a lot of work! The Santa Cruz Bird Club certainly will forward to hearing a presentation from you in the future!



*Ryan Carle,
Habitat restoration,
Fall 2011*

*All photos courtesy of Oikonos,
unless otherwise credited*

Habitat Ridge



To emphasize the former dire situation:

NO Cassin's Auklet breeding was recorded for 2005 and an estimated low count of ten breeding pairs were recorded for 2006-2007.

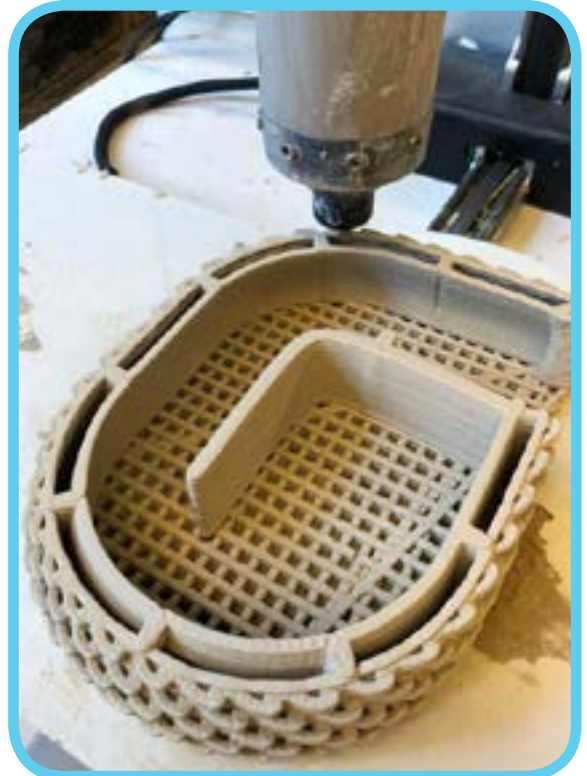
Both kinds of auklets breeding on the central terrace portion of Año Nuevo have been monitored using infrared burrow cams in natural burrows, or by hand in ceramic nest modules. Since the inception, hundreds of pairs of the three burrowing species have used the ceramic modules!

More details, facts and statistics about the project can be found on the Año Nuevo Island website: oikonos.org/ano-nuevo-island

Oikonos is an international non-profit organization dedicated to studying and protecting imperiled ecosystems with a focus on engaging diverse communities through scientific and artistic collaborations— working with Año Nuevo Island State Reserve, owned and operated by California State Parks.



*Cassin's
and
Rhino
Auklet
chicks*



*Top left: Sea Lion Exclusion Fence
Left: Module Prototype
Above: Potter bot base - note baffle-wall*

EVENTS CALENDAR

January-February 2020

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 3rd	Pinto Lake County Park	Jeff Manker
Saturday, January 11th	Palo Alto Baylands and Surrounding Areas	Eric Feuss
Sunday, January 12th	Lower Struve Slough	Phil Brown
Wednesday, January 15th	Pajaro Dunes	Jeff Manker
Sunday, January 19th	Wilder Old Cove Landing	Jonah Svensson
Wednesday, January 22nd	New Brighton State Beach Campground	Jeff Manker
Thursday, January 23rd	SCBC meeting 6:30-7:30pm (see next page)	Kriss Neuman
Saturday, January 25th	Beginning Birding – Natural Bridges	Phil Brown
Sunday, January 26th	Davenport Owls	Alex Rinkert
Wednesday, January 29th	Zmudowski State Beach	Jeff Manker
Saturday, February 1st	College Lake	Jerry Busch
Sunday, February 2nd	Terrace Point	Jonah Svensson
Wednesday, February 5th	Pinto Lake County Park	Jeff Manker
Sunday, February 9th	Merced and San Luis National Wildlife	Eric Feuss
Friday, February 14th	Upper Struve Slough	Bob Ramer
Sunday, February 16th	Waddell Beach & Rancho del Oso	Phil Brown
Wednesday, February 19th	Pajaro Dunes	Jeff Manker

Santa Cruz Bird Club programs & 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 & bring liquids. Lunches are optional on half-day trips. Heavy rain cancels.

Field trips can pose hazards. Reluctantly, we have decided we must publish & 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 & agreement with this waiver.



American Bittern - Logan Southall



*Golden Marbled Godwits & Willet,
Snowy Plover yawning
- Lisa Fay Larson*

January 23rd SCBC meeting 6:30-7:30pm

Speaker: Kriss Neuman, Point Blue Conservation Science

Title: Shorebirds and Sandy Beaches.

Come learn about the ecology of snowy plovers and other shorebirds found on sandy beaches in California. Kriss has been studying plovers for more than two decades in the Monterey Bay area.



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



FREEDOM
*Brown Pelicans
Marty Cooper*

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SPECIES?



With the SPONSOR-A-SPECIES campaign starting in March, you'll have a chance to recognize your favorite county breeding species in the upcoming Breeding Bird Atlas!

Each of the county's 160 breeding species will have one sponsor. Species can be sponsored by an individual, group, organization, or other entity and will receive prominent recognition in the two-page species account they sponsored. An individual can sponsor more than one species.

The campaign will be introduced in 2020 in four phases:

March 2020: Major Donors

Individuals who have generously contributed a cumulative \$500 or more to the Breeding Bird Atlas by March 1, 2020 will have first choice of a species. If there is a species you **MUST** have, this gives you your best chance! (You'll get an email reminder in late February if you are in this group.)

April: 2020: Atlasers and previous donors

Individuals who have generously contributed any amount (including those who donated items to the auction) and atlasers who have contributed observations will get the next chance to reserve a species with an additional donation of \$200 per species.

Please note within each phase, choices will be on a first-come, first served basis.

Phases 3 & 4 are detailed in the Sept/Oct 2019 Albatross.

Your support through "Sponsor-A-Species" will help cover a major portion of the remaining cost to prepare the Atlas. Now is the time to start thinking about that special bird you would like to sponsor and receive recognition for in the Santa Cruz County Breeding Bird Atlas II!

If you have questions, you may contact Larry Corridon at: Larry961357@sbcglobal.net.

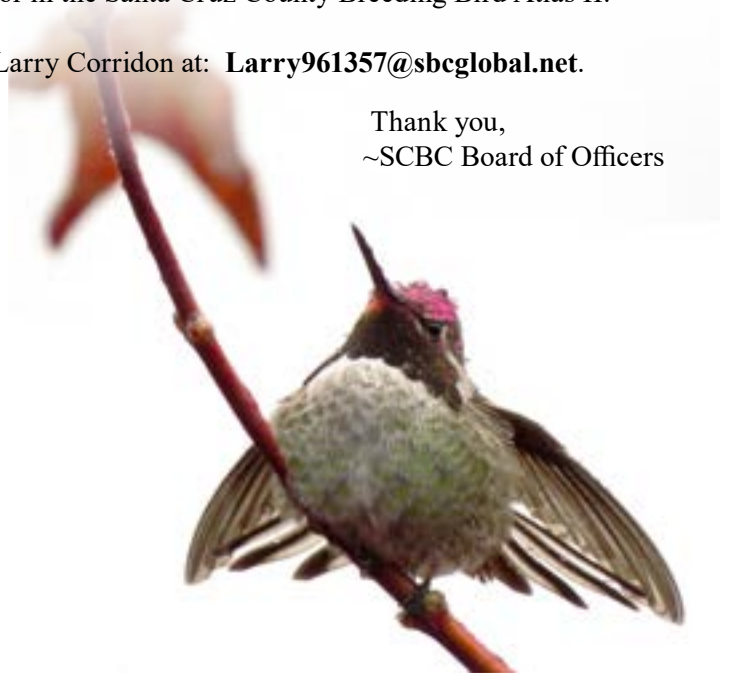
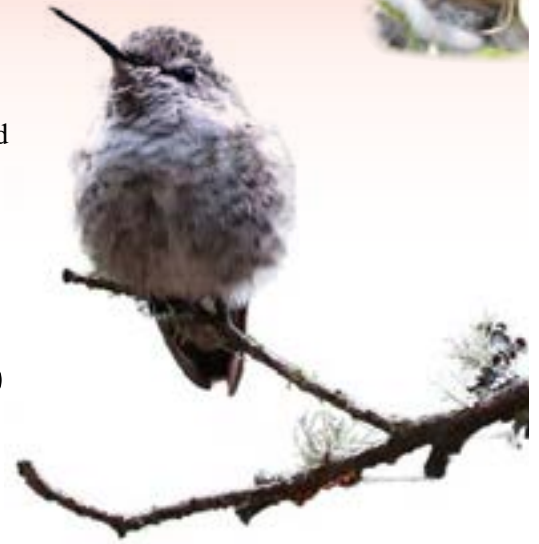
Thank you,
~SCBC Board of Officers

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 stating "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.

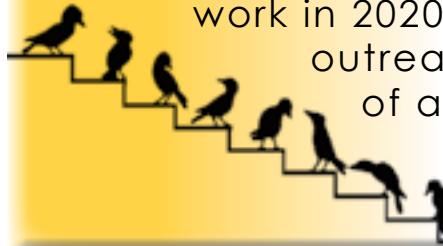


BREEDING BIRD ATLAS RECENT DONORS

Zeka Glucs	June Ralston
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Glen Tepke	Terry Grove
Earl LeBow	Valerie Neer
Kristin Brunk	Jennifer Parkin
	Liam Murphy

Thank you!

The Atlas Steering Committee has received the good news that we have been awarded a grant from the County of Santa Cruz Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission. The monies, \$1950, will be used to increase the scope and depth of atlas field work in 2020, including outreach and training of atlasers.



BIRDS OF CORCORAN LAGOON BEACH

Annual Photography Exhibit
January 2, 2020 through February 29, 2020

LIVE OAK PUBLIC LIBRARY
2380 Portola Drive
Santa Cruz
Hours: Monday-Thursday 10 AM-7 PM
Friday-Saturday 10 AM-5 PM
Sunday 1 PM-5 PM

Produced by Friends of Corcoran Lagoon Beach
foclb.weebly.com/wildlife-habitat-2019



Bruce Frye photographer



Santa Cruz Birds

By Alex Rinkert and Jonah Svensson

Including reports from September 1 to October 31, 2019

This fall was a bit slower than normal, and perhaps made more noticeable by the near-absence of many shorebirds. There was certainly very little exposed mud as the Watsonville Sloughs slowly become more ecologically equivalent to lakes, but where there was mud at coastal lagoons and tidal reaches, sandpipers were less abundant than usual. Numerous rare but annual species were missed (Wilson's Phalarope, Solitary Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper) and very few of the more abundant Baird's and Pectoral Sandpiper were found. Whether the missing shorebirds are only a result of local conditions or a phenomenon on a larger scale is unclear.

Otherwise, late fall saw the beginning of a Red Crossbill irruption, two rare hybrids found last winter returned to their favorite haunts, and a new species was found offshore bringing the county list to 454 species.

A large goose flock in agricultural fields in Watsonville included a **Snow Goose** beginning October 25 (KJ, v.ob.). This flock also had up to 150 **Cackling Geese**—a sizeable flock for the county. Most of the Cackling were of the more common "Aleutian" subspecies, but up to 20 were of the scarcer subspecies *B. h. minima* (KJ, JM, v.ob.). A Cackling Goose flying with Canada Geese over Scotts Valley on October 13 was noteworthy for the mountains, as was a **Greater White-fronted Goose** at Scotts Valley High School from October 18–30 (both JS).

Wood Ducks at Antonelli Pond on September 13 (TJ et al.) and Younger Lagoon from October 11–13 (LG v.ob.) were away from usual haunts, as were ones at Struve Slough on September 13 (NL) and Pinto Lake on October 16 (TD). Seven **Green-winged Teal** at the Quail Hollow Ranch pond on October 6 was an especially high count for this species that is only rarely found in the mountains (JW et al.). A **Red-necked Grebe** off Natural Bridges State Beach on October 10 was the only reported this fall (PB).

A **White-winged Dove** at Pajaro Dunes stayed from October 23–25 (LM, v.ob.). **Black Swifts** are rarely found in fall so one at Moore Creek Preserve on September 9 was notable (NL). Strong passages of **Vaux's Swift** are typically reported on only one day or sometimes several consecutive days in fall. This year October 4–6 seemed to be when a strong passage was happening as evidenced by several flocks of 25–40 being seen across the county during



that period (KA, STe, BB, RW, AR). Only one **Black-chinned Hummingbird** was found this fall: one at Lighthouse Field State Beach on September 11 (LG). An apparent male **Anna's x Costa's Hummingbird** visited a feeder in Aptos beginning September 25, likely the same individual that wintered last year (RW).

American Avocets at Younger Lagoon on September 20 and Aptos Creek mouth on October 29 were rare away from the Pajaro Valley (NS, BSk, JE). A **Whimbrel** circled over Scotts Valley High School on September 18 (JS). While there are few records of Whimbrels in the mountains, they have been occasionally reported from there previously during spring and fall migration.

Pectoral and Baird's Sandpipers were both scarce this fall; four Pectoral were reported between September 19 and October 25 (v.ob.) and only two Baird's were found in September (LC). The water level in the Watsonville Slough system never receded enough to support good numbers of shorebirds this fall, however coastal lagoons and sloughs did have good habitat in September and into October. Was this a bad year for some of the High Arctic breeding shorebirds? The lone species in good numbers this fall was **Red-necked Phalarope** which continued to be abundant at some coastal lagoons on westside Santa

Cruz. The high count this fall was 276 at Younger Lagoon on September 10 (AR).

From Top:

*Cassin's Auklet - Russel Hillsley
American Avocet - David Sidle
Pectoral Sandpiper - Randy Wardle*





Eleven Lesser Yellowlegs at Pajaro Dunes on September 16 was a good count for one location (AS).

Cassin's Auklets were very scarce in the Monterey

Bay this fall (SJ). Seven **Tufted Puffins** reported on the Monterey Bay between September 7 and October 5 was a good showing (SJ). A juvenile **Black-legged Kittiwake** seen offshore on October 5 was an early arrival and the only reported this fall (SJ).

An adult "Thayer's"

Iceland Gull photographed on the Seacliff State Beach pier on September 26 was an early arrival (CE, PSi). **Common Terns** were scarce this fall; only one was reported from land and few were found offshore (GS, SJ). While none made landfall, **Arctic Terns** were found in good numbers offshore.

Large flocks of storm-petrels were mostly absent in the Monterey Bay this fall, however, there were still three reports of **Wilson's Storm-Petrel** and a brief flurry of **Black Storm-Petrels** in mid-September following a surge of warm water into the bay (SJ). Four **Flesh-footed Shearwaters** were reported offshore between September 12 and October 12 (SJ).

The rarest seabird found this fall was a 2nd-cycle **Nazca Booby** that flew by a birding boat about 12 miles offshore on October 5 (DMQ, TMQ, SJ). An unprecedented number have been found in California the past three years being seen as far north as San Francisco, however this represents the first record for Santa Cruz County. The **Red-footed Booby** returned to Seacliff on September



11 after a brief absence (LP) and continued daily until it was last seen September 28 (KR, JS, KS, SH, PB, JA). An immature **Brown Booby** seen offshore on October 20 made for a record three species of boobies found in the county this year (SJ).

American Bitterns were at Antonelli Pond on September 22 (PC) and October 15–21 (NU, v.ob.),

and perhaps another was seen flying over nearby Natural Bridges State Beach on October 10 (NL). Two in the marsh at Sunset State Beach on September 19 were also away from their usual haunts in the Watsonville Slough system and surrounding lakes (CR).

Great Egrets were found roosting at a few places

in Santa Cruz, a little known facet of their fall and winter occurrence in the county. Roosts were found in the Eucalyptus along Moore Creek at Natural Bridges State Beach, Corcoran Lagoon, and the Santa Cruz Harbor (RAS). Fourteen at the Natural Bridges roost on September 25 was the highest count at any of three roosts (RAS). A Great Egret photographed feeding a recently fledged juvenile at Pinto Lake on October 3

was surprising for the late date (LL). Most egret nests in the county fledge by August and there is little observable parental care subsequent to



From top:
Tufted Puffin (left) - Alex Rinkert
Common Tern (right) - Connor Cochrane
Brown Booby (center) - Corey Husic
Nazca Booby (above) - Alex Rinkert
Arctic Tern (right) - Alex Rinkert.





Great White Egret Feeds fledgling - Lisa Larson

Bald Eagles were found at Henry Cowell State Park on October 21 and at Loch Lomond on October 26 (DP), while an adult in the Watsonville Slough system was presumably part of the breeding pair in that area (v.ob.). Two **Ferruginous Hawks** were found near Last Chance Road on October 31 (LM). A **Western Screech-Owl** was mobbed by Bushtits and a California Scrub-Jay at Natural Bridges State Beach on September 7, the first record for that park (CF). **Burrowing Owls** were first reported this fall at the UCSC campus on October 13 (MB); no others were found in late October. A **Long-eared Owl** was calling near Soquel-San Jose Road on September 5 (STe).

A **Red-naped Sapsucker** visited a backyard in Felton from September 30 to October 2 (BK). The apparent **Red-breasted x Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** that wintered at Wilder Ranch State



Western Screech Owl - John Fox



Park in 2018–2019 returned to its favorite wells by October 26 (NS). A female “**Yellow-shafted**” **Northern Flicker** was at Quail Hollow Ranch on October 31 (JMg). Three **Loggerhead Shrikes** were reported this fall (AR, RS, NU).

Six **Willow Flycatchers** were reported between September 2 and October 1 (v.ob.). Rarer flycatchers found this fall included a **Least Flycatcher** at Antonelli Pond on October 4 (STe) and a **Gray Flycatcher** at Swanton Pond on September 23 (GS). An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** at Manresa State Beach on September 19 was noteworthy as few are found each fall (LC). A **Tropical Kingbird** found at Terrace Point on October 1 continued through the month (RW, v.ob.); others were at Neary Lagoon on September 28 (ML)

Gray Flycatcher - Gary Strachan



Willow Flycatcher - Lois Goldfrank

and the lower San Lorenzo River on October 29 (JM).

Four **Horned Larks** near the confluence of Harkins and Watsonville Slough

on September 13 were at the only location they are resident in the county (NL). A migrant **Bank**

Burrowing Owl - Michael Bolte



Swallow was in a swallow flock at Moore Creek Preserve on

September 8 (AR). The strong influx

of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** beginning in early September may

lead to a good irruption this winter. A **White-breasted Nuthatch** was at Quail Hollow

Ranch from September 4 to October 7 (AL, SH, BS, BK). Two more were at Kelly-Thompson Ranch on September 24 where they regularly occur in fall and winter (AR, NU, EL).

Red Crossbills

began appearing in both the mountains and lowlands in mid-October suggesting an irruption was underway (v.ob.). All those sound recorded were identified to the “type 2” call type (AR, NL), which specializes on Ponderosa pine cones. Indeed, this type was found at Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve and Ponderosa Lodge where there are Ponderosa pine stands (AR, v.ob.), and Natural Bridges State Beach and Meder Canyon where there are comparable Monterey pines (NL et al., STe). **Lawrence’s Goldfinches** were found at Harkins Slough on September 13 (AR) and the UCSC Farm on September 23 (LL).

Five **Clay-colored Sparrows** were found this fall (v.ob.). A **Brewer’s Sparrow** was at the Homeless Garden from September 21–22 (KJ, AR et al.) and another turned up there on October 5-6 (v.ob.). Four **Lark Sparrows** were found between September 6 and October 22 (DS, LJ, NU, JW). A “**Slate-colored**” **Fox Sparrow** was at Old Turnpike Road on September 28 where they are not only annual but more frequent than the “Sooty” group (STe)! This strongly contrasts with the status of these two Fox Sparrow groups elsewhere in the county where Sooty is widespread and common while the Slate-colored group is rare but annually found. At least twelve **White-throated Sparrows** were found this period (v.ob.). A **Vesper Sparrow** was at the Homeless Garden on October 8 (AR). A **Green-tailed Towhee** at Lighthouse Neighborhood Park and Community Garden was confiding to birders during the time it was there,

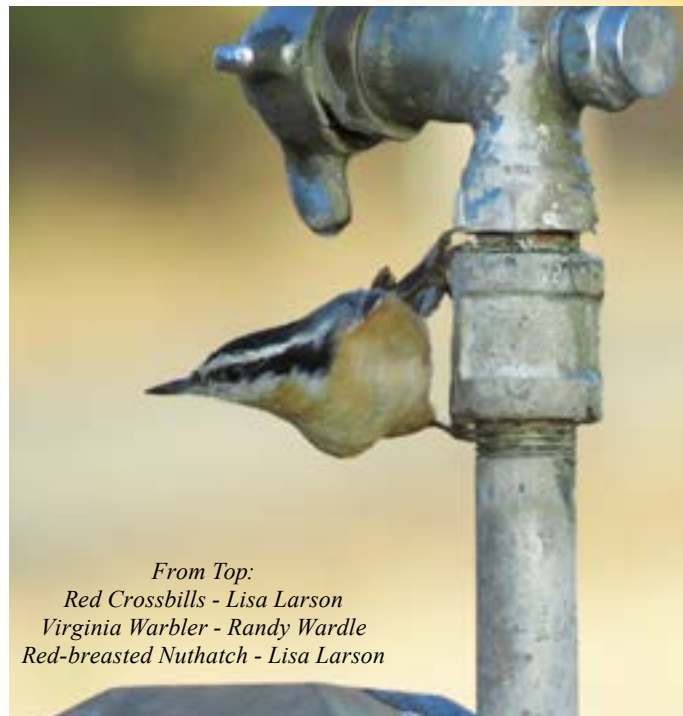
September 29 to October 1 (CS, v.ob.).

A **Bobolink** was heard calling as it flew over Harkins Slough on September 13 (AR). Two female/immature **Orchard Orioles** were working the weedy outskirts of the Homeless Garden from October 6–7 (KD, LW, v.ob.). **Great-tailed Grackles** made their now-regular fall appearance away from the Pajaro Valley. One was seen at Antonelli Pond on October 13 (JS, v.ob.) and another was found at Baldwin Creek mouth on October 25 (SH, LG).

Rare warblers were sparse in the county this fall. The only species found less than annual in the county that turned up was a **Virginia’s Warbler** at Lighthouse Neighborhood Park and Community Garden, staying from September 29 to October 1 (AR, v.ob.). A **Northern**

Waterthrush reported at College Lake on September 20 was the only one found this fall (GM). Two **Tennessee** (NL, JWa, LC), 2 **Chestnut-sided** (DK, EW, STe), 2 **Blackpoll** (NU, STe), and 2 **Palm Warblers** (LM, AR) were found this fall—all below their respective 10-year averages—while **Black-and-white Warbler** went unreported.

A male **Summer Tanager** at Harbor High School on September 24 (ARG) and a male **Indigo Bunting** at Natural Bridges



*From Top:
Red Crossbills - Lisa Larson
Virginia Warbler - Randy Wardle
Red-breasted Nuthatch - Lisa Larson*

State Beach from September 20–21 (AK, v.ob.) were the only reported this fall. A **Blue Grosbeak** at Old Chittenden Road on September 9 was more likely a migrant than a lingering breeder on this date (NU).

Cited Observers:

Robin Abu-Shumays, Joy Alleman, Kumaran Arul, Mike Bolte, Peter Briggs, Phil Brown, Brian Bullard, Penny Chesluk, Lucas Corneliussen, Tom Deetz, Konshau Duman, Cameron Eckert, Craig Fosdick, Lois Goldfrank, Adam Romswinkel-Guise, Zach Hampson, Susan Hardy, Susan d’Hont, Sharon Hull, Lee Jaffe, Jazmine Jensen, Kent Johnson, Tom Johnson, Shearwater Journeys, Dan Kadra, Andrew Kenny, Bryan Kett, Doug Kibbe, Alex Lamoreaux, Lisa Larson, Earl Lebow, Nick Levendosky, Michael Levy, Jeff Manker, Gary Martindale, James Maughn (JMg), Jane Mio, Liam Murphy, Laura Paulsen, Alex Rinkert, Charles Ritter, Kathleen Rawdon, Richard Sandkuhle, Brian Scanlon, Brian Schnack (BSk), Nico Schnack, Christa Seidl, Jane Sender, Kathy Seymour, Bill Shanbrom, Pam Sinclair, Stephanie Singer, Andy Stepniewski, Gary Strachan, Jonah Svensson, Scott Terrill (STe), Breck Tyler, Norman Uyeda, Jonny Wahl (JWa), Elaine Wagner, Randy Wardle, Jim Williams, Lynette Williams.



Green-tailed Towhee - Randy Wardle

Please enter interesting observations into eBird or report them to Alex Rinkert at arinkert12@comcast.net.

Hold That Date!

COMING THIS FALL TO A HABITAT NEAR YOU!

Monterey Bay Birding Festival
OCTOBER 2,3,4 2020



*Long-billed Curlew holding Sand Crab
as Sanderling waits - Lee Jaffe*



Tagged Monarch?

I found this tagged Monarch Butterfly at the end of my street above a ravine at 8:45 AM on Oct.24th 2019. I sent this information to the E-mail on the tag: monarch@wsu.edu.



This monarch was tagged on October 9th in Santa Cruz at a cooperative that rears and tags local monarchs to see if they join the overwintering colonies or not. Thanks to Dr. David G. James, Department of Entomology, WSU for this information!

– Margaret Perham



Tagged Monarch Butterfly - Margaret Perham



Three Mile Beach, Wilder Ranch CBC, Dec.14

GULL STORY

. . . they were all grabbing it in a circle, and they would rotate, stampering their feet inch by inch as if attached to a maypole! It was quite a sight. I could never tell what they were squabbling over. They actually didn't express much interest until one gull tried to fly away with it. Most of them looked like first-year Western and Glaucous-winged Gulls.

– Alex Rinkert

Quit grabbing my head!



THE SCBC 2019 SILENT AUCTION

2019 Auction Donors:

Thanks so much to the many donors and shoppers at October's Silent Auction. The auction continues to be a significant fundraiser for the Breeding Bird Atlas – as well as a fun time for members to mingle.

There was a wide variety of items, from exquisite handcrafted artwork and eye-popping photographs, to gift baskets, gift certificates and many bird-themed knick-knacks. 90+ items and other supplies were donated by 24 people and 3 businesses, with 40+ buyers bidding. Nearly \$1700 was raised that evening!

The event couldn't have happened without the hard work of the club's officers, and former officers Kitty Stein, Tim Jolly and Vivian Fenner-Evans! Thank you all!

Special thanks and recognition to these generous folks who donated items to make the auction happen!

Kat Bailey & Joe Mancino
Henry Cleveland
Mary Crouser
Sonia Deetz
Sue Dummler
Donna Elliott
Vivian Fenner-Evans
Elisabeth Foster
Cathy Gamble
Terry Grove
Tim Jolly
Lisa Fay Larson
Nick Levendosky
Kevin Lohman
Amanda Preece
Alexi Sanders
Heidi Sandkuhle
Lisa Sheridan
Stephanie Singer
Pete Sole
Mari Tustin
Tom & Connie Unsicker
Elizabeth VanDyke

Businesses:

Aptos Feed
Bay Photo
Cowbell Antiques

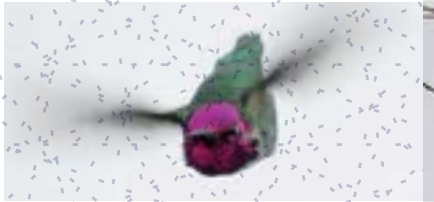
"Stilt Yoga" - Black-necked Stilt - Lisa Larson

New Members WELCOME

Christine Candelaria Family	Nov-19
Allen Royer	Nov-19
Peter Emanuel	Nov-19
Irene Reti	Nov-19
Nancy Knudegard	Nov-19
Loren Cruz	Nov-19
Andrew Kenny Family	Nov-19
Martha Dyer	Nov-19
Kerry Skyles	Nov-19
Aaron Bartley	Nov-19
Sherry Fleming	Nov-19
Bethany Kilzer	Nov-19
Teresa Luther	Nov-19
Shirley Johnson	Dec 2019
Craig & Diane Wilson Family	Dec 2019
Kriss Stout	Jan 20



Did you see that?



From Top:
 Black Phoebe - Norm Uyeda
 Red Crossbill - Andy Knorr
 Incoming Anna's - Lisa Larson
 Red-shouldered Hawks - Lee Jaffe

DEADLINE

submissions for
MAR/APR issue

JAN 1, 2020



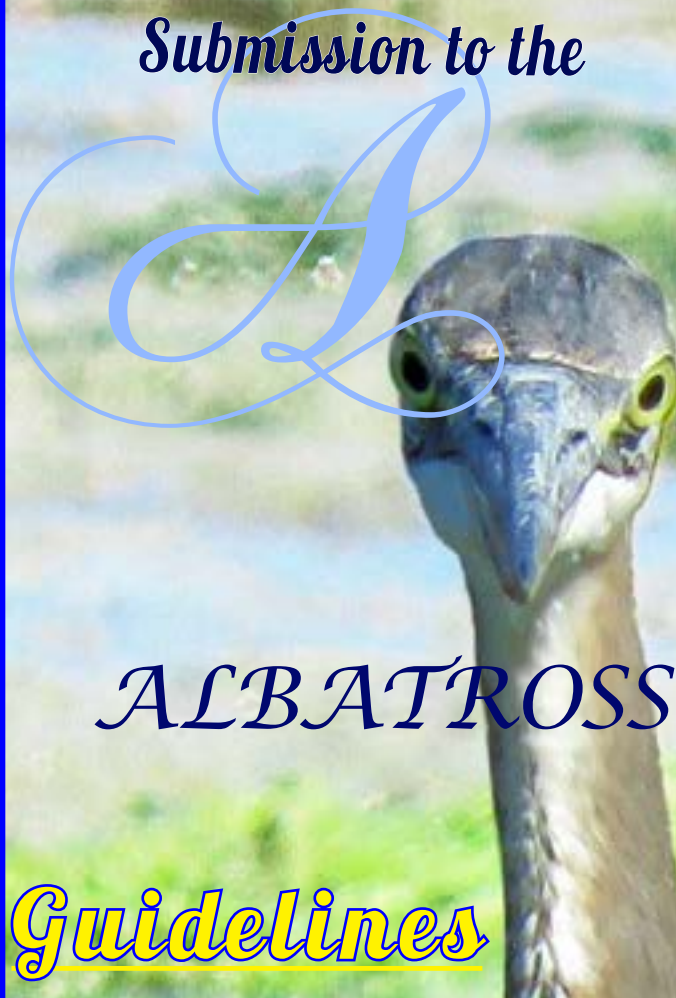
Red-shouldered Hawk - Lisa Larson



Acorn Woodpeckers - Margaret Perham

Great Blue Heron - Lisa Larson

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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PARTING SHOT: "WALK THIS WAY" SNOWY EGRETS

- LEE JAFFE



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