

# Albatross

PHOEBASTRIA NIGRIPES

## Inside

**No Events** due to  
Covid-19 Pandemic



### BIRD-SAFE BUILDING DESIGN



### Santa Cruz Birds

This Bears  
Repeating!



### PARTING SHOT

Orange-crowned Warbler - Lisa Larson  
Allen's Hummingbird - Jeff Roisman  
Yellow Warbler - Michelle Lamberson



## Going the *D i s t a n c e*

- By Emily Coletta

I could say a lot of things about this story. I could highlight the unlikely fact that a Laysan Albatross crash landed in the Santa Cruz Mountains. That it sat there without getting eaten for at least two days. That it landed in the best possible place—on a “perfectly flat grassy runway” within a half mile of two seabird biologists. I could joke about how it wasn’t an April Fool’s Day prank. Mostly though, I want to celebrate this unexpected pelagic visitor and the twin acts of paying attention and taking action—seeing something strange and taking the matter to hand. If there was ever a time to celebrate cooperation across distance, it is now.

It is late on the evening of March 31st when I get a video text from my friend Kate Jaffe. My phone screen is bright. I squint at the video and play it twice. In it, a Laysan Albatross sits in the grass. The bird swivels its white head from side to side as though it’s watching a tennis match. Its brown eyes follow the camera, the surrounding feathers making each into a dark, smudged comma. A man’s voice asks, “What’s going on buddy?” My thoughts exactly—this video was taken on Rodeo Gulch Road, Soquel.

I forward the video to Jessie Beck and Ryan Carle, a husband/wife seabird biologist pair at Santa Cruz’s Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge and, coincidentally, residents of Rodeo Gulch. I ask, in so many words, is this remotely normal? On the morning of April 1st, Jessie responds using no fewer than fifteen exclamation points. No, it is not normal!

Jessie volunteers to pick up the bird and take it to the SPCA of Monterey County. We discuss the rescue on a large group text message. Where is the bird?



Laysan Albatross, video capture -  
Jessie Hersch

What time can you come and get it? Is it okay with the landowners? How are we going to do this and maintain social distancing? Do you have a box? Do you need help so I can rubberneck this bird pick-up?

We make arrangements for Jesse Hersh—the man who took the video and caretaker at the Rodeo Gulch property—to guide Jessie Beck to the bird at 2:30 pm. I bow out of rubbernecking. Then, at 11:37 am, Jessie texts, “I got the bird.” We are baffled. How had Jessie managed to find the property on her own and locate the albatross on a 150-acre parcel?

Unbeknownst to the rest of us, Ryan Meeks—resident of Rodeo Gulch Road and friend to Jessie Beck—had been working on this same ridgetop property when he saw something white and out of place. “I’m not a big bird guy, but I knew what it was,” he said of seeing the albatross. On the morning of the 1st, he drove to Ryan Carle and Jessie Beck’s house to alert them. Jessie, already aware of the bird by virtue of our texts that morning, jumped in her truck and followed Ryan Meeks to the bird.

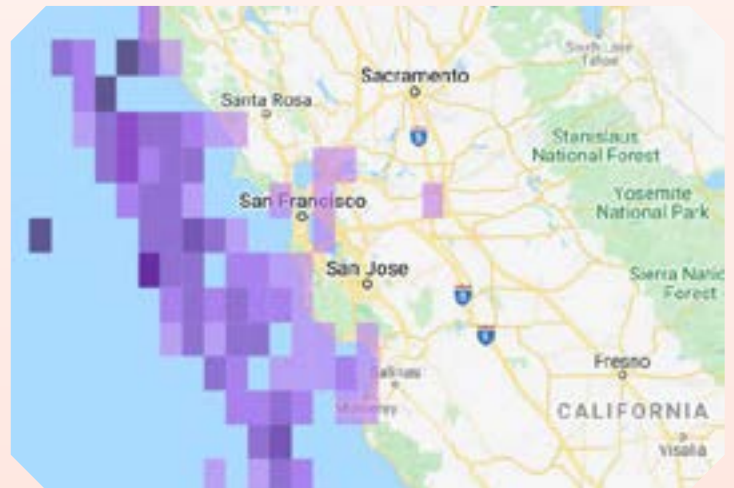
In the meadow, Jessie knelt down and stabilized the albatross’ wings against its body. She hoisted the heavy-bodied, muscular bird—albatrosses can weigh nearly ten pounds—and wrapped it loosely in a towel. She then placed the wriggling bundle into a cardboard box for safe transport. The feathered passenger “bill clacked and honked the whole way” to the SPCA of Monterey County.

Before what was no doubt its first ride in a Tacoma pick-up, where did this bird come from? With a wingspan of nearly seven feet, it could have traveled a long way. Birds from major albatross breeding colonies in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands are known to transit across the Pacific and visit central California waters. The Soquel bird apparently isn’t from a smaller colony



*Above: Jessie Beck stabilizes albatross  
- Ryan Meek*

*Center: eBird distribution map screen capture*



How unusual is this encounter? Laysan Albatross are considered rare but regular in the Monterey Bay area this time of year. The eBird map for Laysan Albatross has many records offshore of California, but inland observations are sparse. There is one lone block of purple in the Stockton area and a few that edge into



*Laysan Albatross - Chriss Hartzell*

land adjacent to the San Francisco Bay, Bodega Bay, Monterey Bay, Morro Bay, and up the Mendocino coast.

Laysan Albatrosses do occasionally turn up farther inland. The Southwestern Naturalist lists six records for Laysan Albatross in the Salton Sea area and two near Yuma, Arizona. The birds in the Salton Sea area were seen flying overhead, striking power poles, hanging out by the edge of the inland sea, or, unfortunately, as carcasses. Lost and battered Laysan Albatross are not limited to California—according to Lindsay Young, Laysan Albatross banded on Oahu have crashed into buildings inland and south of Tokyo, Japan.

The bird that crash-landed in Rodeo Gulch was given a rare opportunity: a ride back into the Pacific. After its time at the SPCA of Monterey County, JD Bergeron of International Bird Rescue took the albatross to their facility in Fairfield, CA, where it spent a week of rehabilitation. Bergeron reports that the bird had sustained a few bruises but was quick to heal. Unable to secure a boat for a launch out of San Francisco, Bergeron reached out to Jan Loomis—former volunteer on the Midway Atoll albatross monitoring project and friend to Don Baccus and Kate Spencer of Moss Landing’s Fast Raft Ocean Safaris. Wearing protective, N95 face masks and maintaining social



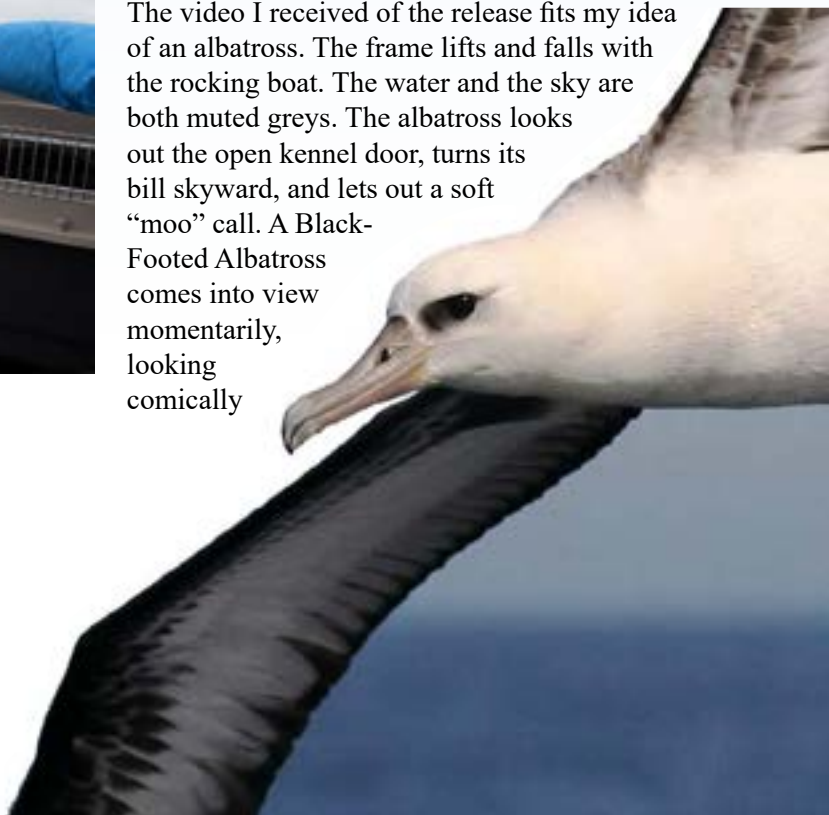
*Above right photos at Moss Landing - Jeff Manker*

distance on their thirty-three-foot vessel, the crew sets off into Monterey Bay for release on April 11th.



*Above photos of release - Don Baccus*

The video I received of the release fits my idea of an albatross. The frame lifts and falls with the rocking boat. The water and the sky are both muted greys. The albatross looks out the open kennel door, turns its bill skyward, and lets out a soft “moo” call. A Black-Footed Albatross comes into view momentarily, looking comically



nonchalant as it bobs in the water. Jan Loomis reports that soon after the release, eight more Black-footed Albatross arrived. In a photo, these eight birds wait with an air of expectation, like ducks in a city park. At the end of the five second video, somebody laughs. I laugh too, relieved.

Thank you to Martha Brown, Breck Tyler, and Jessie Beck for their editorial contributions and to all parties, named and unnamed, who helped with rescue and release.



*Above: The Welcoming Committee, Eight Black-footed Albatross - Janette Loomis*



*Above: Laysan enters with a splash  
Right: Laysan is up and joining the nonchalant Black-footed Albatross  
- Janette Loomis*



*Laysan Albatross chick Kauai Feb 2017 - Beth Hamel*



*Feet of Laysan at Monterey Bay Aquarium - Margaret Perham*



# Breeding Bird Atlas Year 4 Update

Aah, at long last we are approaching the heart of the breeding season. Atlasers have been busy finding our first nests of Belted Kingfisher, American Avocet, Western Meadowlark, and Golden Eagle, as well as making good progress on their assigned areas.

It's not too late to contribute your observations! Prospective atlasers should contact Alex Rinkert, Atlas Director (arinkert12@comcast.net), to find out how to become involved with the project.

Thanks to all of our generous supporters and of course, the atlasers, for keeping the project humming.



*Violet-green Swallow with nesting material  
- Alex Rinkert*

## SPONSOR-A-SPECIES Campaign for the Breeding Bird Atlas: **POSTPONED**

We have decided to postpone Phase 2 of the Sponsor-A-Species fundraising campaign for the Atlas, scheduled to launch in mid-April. During this time of work furloughs and general financial uncertainty, it just didn't seem right to be asking our members for donations.

Thanks to the generosity of donors and auction participants over the past 3 years, we have sufficient funds to continue the Atlas for the next year or so. The funding will become important when we reach the writing and publishing phases.

The Sponsor-A-Species campaign will be revived in the future, so you can be thinking of which bird you might like to sponsor! Bird Club members eligible for Phase 2 (atlasers & prior atlas donors) will be notified via the club email process when it's time.

A few species were sponsored during Phase 1, and won't be available for sponsoring: Green Heron, Great Egret, American Bittern, Marbled Murrelet, Pigeon Guillemot, Cooper's Hawk, Golden Eagle, Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Violet-Green Swallow, Tree Swallow, California Quail and Anna's Hummingbird.



~SCBC Board of Officers

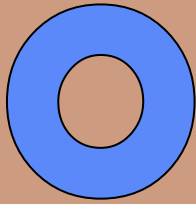
## BREEDING BIRD ATLAS RECENT DONORS

Christina Floyd  
Madeline Spencer  
Scott Terrill  
Irene Reti  
Jane Orbuch  
Richard Griffith  
Debi Shearwater  
Phil Brown  
Glen Tepke  
Lisa Sheridan  
Brian and Nico Schnack  
Jenlyn Stenske and  
Laney White (February  
presenters)

*Thank you!*

# Bird-Safe Building Design

- By Jane Mio



In February 22nd, 2020 the California Sierra Club Conservation Committee took an important protection step for the #2 reason of the North America bird population steep decline. The Resolution 'Support Bird-Safe Material and Design Features for California Building Standards' became the California Sierra Club's position thanks to the delegates' unanimous vote.

We all have heard & witnessed the heartbreaking #2 reason: birds colliding with window glass, which causes the annual deaths of approximately 1 billion local & migratory birds in North America.

To prevent this deadly bird trap the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) published in 2015 the Bird-Safe Building Design (BSD) standards, which lays out various measures and guidelines necessary to protect birds from glass collisions such as reduction of excessive glass façades, description of providing birds with visual clues on glass surfaces & best exterior and interior lighting practices. The BSD Standards received nationwide promotion from Federal and State agencies, ABC, the Audubon Society and multiple well-respected ornithologists such as David A. Sibley. Consequently they have been integrated nationwide into Cities and Counties Planning Dept. building permits.

It is of utmost importance that the BSD Standards become part of the California building permits, because the State is in the Pacific Migratory Flyway. A vast majority of the 386 Western Hemisphere (neo-tropical) migratory bird species depend on the California habitats for their survival due to the State's very rich, diverse



*A Red-tailed hawk may see its reflection as a territorial rival to be driven away, resulting in a collision - photo courtesy of Audubon*

mosaic of natural communities, which ranks 1st out of 50 States. The California building boom with its design trend of exceeding 50% of the buildings' glass façades, spells trouble for local and migratory birds, because many of the 175 important habitat sites neighbor cities and man-made infrastructure.

North America already lost approximately 3 billion in the last 50 years, that is 1 in 4 birds, according to the recent Cornell Lab/American Bird Conservancy study. This is an urgent call that we protect our California 600 bird species, which is about two-thirds of all bird species in North America and that we demonstrate responsible stewardship of the Pacific Migratory Flyway. Applying the BSD Standards shows an accountable human



*Front Street Project*



*View from Laurel Bridge looking north along the riverwalk*

response to the biological fact: birds don't recognize man made glass as their death trap.

[Read the entire report:](#) *Support Bird-safe Material and Design features for California Building Standards*



*Right: A volunteer with NYC Audubon's Project Safe Flight holds a dead female Common Yellowthroat in front of the Time Warner Center in Manhattan. Photo: Francois Portmann*



*Master Architect; The Cliff Swallow  
- Lee Jaffe*

# SANTA CRUZ BIRDS

By Alex Rinkert

*Including reports from January 1 to February 29, 2020*

**J**anuary and February were exceptionally dry and the winter storms that often bring seabirds further south were nowhere to be seen. The dry weather perhaps facilitated a strong early start to the breeding season, which included a record-early nesting by Dark-eyed Junco. Most of the regular wintering rarities were found as were a few exceptionally good birds: Baltimore Oriole, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Barrow's Goldeneye, and another rarity that was identified by a lost feather!



A **Greater White-fronted Goose** at Quail Hollow Ranch on February 18 was rare for the mountains (JR), as were **Cackling Geese** at Scotts Valley on February 11 (DP) and 18 (JS). A great flight of Cackling Geese on January 1 brought hundreds to the area which were seen by participants on the Moss Landing Christmas Bird Count. Large flocks were noted throughout the Pajaro Valley, with the largest flock being 350 at Rio Del Mar (JH). A **Northern Shoveler** at Spring Lakes in Scotts Valley stayed from February 21-27 (JL). A male **Gadwall x Mallard** hybrid was at Watsonville Slough near San Andreas Road from January 1-17 (CK, GM). Up to three **Redheads** were seen at Struve Slough from January 1-February 15 (PB, v.ob.). **Ring-necked Ducks** were in good numbers at College Lake this winter; the high count there was 357 on February 14 (GK). Two **Black Scoters** were at Waddell State Beach from February 16-19 (PB et al, v.ob.). A few Black Scoters regularly winter just north of the county line in Año Nuevo Bay, but they rarely come further south into county waters. A female **Barrow's Goldeneye** on the lower San Lorenzo River was enjoyed by many from February 17-29 (AR, NL, v.ob.). This was the first reported in the county since winter 2010-11. A **Ruddy Duck** was at the Quail Hollow Ranch pond beginning February 27 (JR, BS,

v.ob.), where rare.

**Wild Turkeys** were reported at Harkins and Hanson Slough in January and February where they are now somewhat regular (GM, MT). A **Common Poorwill**



*Barrow's Goldeneye (dark head) counterclockwise from top: Pete Solè, Lee Jaffe, Lisa Larson, Randy Wardle*



was flushed from hiding at the Santa Cruz landfill on January 24 which providing a rare winter record (GK). The male **Anna's x Costa's Hummingbird** hybrid continued at an Aptos feeder through January 18 (RW). A **Pacific Golden-Plover** at Pajaro Dunes on January 1 was especially rare in winter (BB). A first-cycle **Glaucous Gull** was at Sunset State Beach from January 11-18 (PS, NU). A **Black Skimmer**

was found standing on the pedestrian path at Seacliff State Beach on January 19 (PW).

Two **Cattle Egrets** moved around Pajaro Dunes and the agricultural fields along West Beach Road from January 3-15 (KJ, v.ob.). A report of five **White-faced Ibis** foraging in a field near Highway 152 on January 12 was interesting (NU). While this species commonly makes use of fields throughout its range, it is



rarely observed in such a setting in Santa Cruz County, instead being found in sloughs and lake margins.

A **White-tailed Kite** near the Graham Hill Showgrounds on January 30 was noteworthy for the mountains (LM). In addition to the adult pair of **Bald Eagles** nesting in the

*Redhead Ducks - Randy Wardle*  
*Horned Lark - Gary Kittleson*  
*Northern Flicker - Brian Scanlon*  
*Ferruginous hawk - Michael Bolte*



Ranch, near Sunset State Beach, and Pajaro Dunes (EL, GK, SP, JG). Surprisingly, none were found at UC Santa

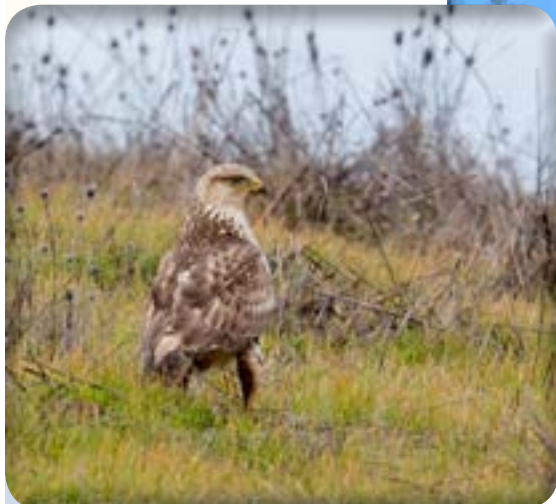
Cruz and Wilder Ranch despite many birders checking the traditional wintering areas. When was the last time Burrowing Owls did not winter at UC Santa Cruz? A **Short-eared Owl** continued at El Jarro Point through February 11 (ST, EL, v.ob.).

Pajaro Valley, there was at least one juvenile seen, perhaps the young that fledged from the local nest last summer (LM, GK). Adults were also seen at UC Santa Cruz (LJ), Scotts Valley (PM), and Main Beach (AR). A light-morph **Rough-legged Hawk** flew over Yellow Bank Beach on February 18 (LM). **Ferruginous Hawks** continued through the winter at Swanton Pond, UC Santa Cruz, and Chittenden (v.ob.). Five **Burrowing Owls** were found this winter at Kelly-Thompson

A “**Yellow-shafted**” **Flicker** was at College Lake on February 1 (JB et al.), while another was at Quail Hollow Ranch from January 3-February 7 (BS, NU). A remarkable record that was overlooked last period was a **Pileated Woodpecker** at Porter-Sesnon Property in November 2019 . . . identified by a lost secondary feather found on the trail (LL)! The feather was compared to various references and the size and pattern closely match that of a Pileated. There are only a few records of this species away from the heavily forested mountains, and most are from early spring when there is apparently a seasonal movement.



A “**Black**” **Merlin** flew by the Garden of Eden at Henry Cowell State Park on February 28 (AR). **Tropical Kingbirds** continued through February at the San Lorenzo River and Schwan Lake, and two continued in the Watsonville slough system (v.ob.). Eleven **Horned Larks** were noted at lower Harkins Slough on January 27, the only place they are resident in the county (GK). Two **Barn Swallows** in the Pajaro Valley and two at Westlake Pond in January were wintering or perhaps early spring migrants (BR, NU, LM). The first spring arrivals in most years are seen in late February or early March.



As in late fall and early winter, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were reported across the county reflecting a good winter showing for this irruptive species (v.ob.). **White-breasted Nuthatches** also had a good

winter, with reports coming from Bonny Doon, Empire Grade, Quail Hollow Ranch, Corralitos, and the Pajaro Hills (v.ob.). Three **House Wrens** at the end of Empire Grade on January 8 was an impressive number for winter in the mountains, where they are quite rare (AR). **Western Bluebirds** were found at various places in Santa Cruz and Live Oak including the San Lorenzo Garden Center, San Lorenzo River, and Rodeo Gulch (SH, BRi, GM). These urban winter records offered more evidence of their recent and increasingly regular presence in urban mid-county.

An **Evening Grosbeak** at Struve Slough on February 14 was a bit unexpected as there had been no significant irruption this winter (RR et al.). Flocks of **Red Crossbills** were noted throughout the mountains, and some persisted in the lowlands as well (v.ob.). Those identified to call type were all “type 2” (AR, RF).

**American Goldfinches** continued to be numerous this winter (v.ob.).

A **Dark-eyed Junco** was seen building a nest in an ivy-draped Eucalyptus at Tyrrell Park on February 3 (AR). This was the earliest breeding record by this species in the county, and possibly the earliest in the central coast region.

The nest was mostly complete when it was found, so nest building likely began in late January—on par with when juncos begin nest building in San Diego



according to their breeding bird atlas! The nest was active by at least February 25, and nestlings were seen on March 9. On March 16, recently fledged young were seen near the park on Brook Street.



There have been a few especially early breeding records in the county, well ahead of the normal initiation of nest building by this species in the latter half of March. Recently fledged young were seen in western Santa Cruz on March 21, 1987 (DSu) and near Soquel Avenue on March 26, 2017 (AR). The record-early nesting this winter could have been

encouraged by the especially dry weather in January and February.

Eight “**Slate-colored**” **Juncos** was a good showing (v.ob.), while only one **Swamp Sparrow** was found (NL). The A **Rufous-crowned Sparrow** was photographed at Chittenden Gap on February 21 (JW). There are very few records of this species away from Soda Lake, the only place where it is known to occur in the county.

The wintering **Black-and-white Warbler** continued at Bethany Curve through February (NL, DS, v.ob.). A **Wilson’s Warbler** at Watsonville

*From Top:*  
*House Wren - A, ex Rinkert*  
*Rufous-crowned Sparrow*  
*- Jonny Wahl*  
*Tropical Kingbird*  
*- John Perry*

Slough from January 12-February 17 was a nice find for winter (JW, DS, LJ). A highlight this winter



was an adult male **Baltimore Oriole** seen on January 1 in the Watsonville neighborhood where one was seen for only one day last winter (AG). As was the case last winter, this oriole disappeared after being seen only one day despite efforts to relocate it around the neighborhood and at nearby Drew Lake. This adult male presumably returned for another winter, but where is it spending all of its time? A **Western Tanager** continued at the UCSC Arboretum through February 4 (BL, LM).

**Scaly-breasted Munias** were found at numerous new locations this winter. Eight visited a feeder near Ellicot Slough from February 16-20 (AS) and three were at a feeder from February 13 through the end of the month (ES). Ten showed up unexpectedly in the tules at Corcoran Lagoon on February 12, but were not seen there again (LM, AR). Three in the marsh at De Anza Mobile Home Park on February 27 were also one-day-wonders (JA). Munias continued at Pinto Lake and a feeder in Watsonville (BR, RR, NU, v.ob.). The latter location continued reeling in two large flocks totaling up to 45! They must like that bird seed.

**Cited Observers:**

Jenny Anderson, Bruce Barrett, Phil Brown, Jerry Busch, Rob Fowler, Alexander Gaguine, Judy Glass, Joel Herr, Sharon Hull, Lee Jaffe, Kent Johnson, Clay Kempf, Gary Kittleson, June Langhoff, Lisa Larson, Earl Lebow, Nick Levendosky, Bruce Lyon, Gary Martindale, Paul Miller, Liam Murphy, Sandi Pensinger, Doug Pio, Bernadette Ramer, Robert Ramer, Alex Rinkert, Barbara Riverwoman (BRi), Jim Roe, Brian Scanlon, Elena Scott, Ann Shelley, David Sidle, Pete Solé, David Suddjian



From Top:  
*Wilson's Warbler - Lee Jaffe*  
*Pileated Woodpecker Secondary feather - Lisa Larson*  
*Yellow-shafted Northern Flicker - Brian Scanlon*

(DSu), Jonah Svensson, Simon Thornhill, Matthew Timmer, Norman Uyeda, Randy Wardle, Jonny Wahl, Peter Wilton, "v.ob." means various observers.

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



# This Bears Repeating!

Dear Alby Readers,

I am taking the liberty of re-publishing the following 2 posts to MBB (Monterey Bay Birders' Listserv) on May 2-3, 2020. Pete's post inspired a flurry of about a dozen responding posts that continued for three days! Pete's posts, and one response in particular, have been re-assembled here. How wonderful it is to belong to this special community of Birders, who hear and see the miraculous which passes mostly unnoticed by non-birders.

~ Lisa, Editor

**Date:** 5/2/20 7:06 am

**From:** Pete Solè

**Subject:** [MBBIRDS]

## The Dawn Chorus

Good morning birders,

Woke up early, at least for me, this morning around 5:55am. Instead of going back to bed like a rational person, I decided to just listen in on the dawn chorus. I estimate it was about 10 minutes before peak. It was great fun to listen in on the birds as they made their daily operatic debut.

Even with my less than ideal hearing and bird song id skills, it was really nice to hear about 18 or so species announce the day, with little to no road noise in the background. By about 6:30am, the show was over. Or more likely, had moved on further west. I can't say whether I heard any rarities or not. I don't know their calls. :) But it was still fun to hear the "neighbors", or in some cases, those who cohabitate (is that a word?), on our edge of a California Central Coast suburbia lot. If curious, here is an ebird list of what I heard and saw. About 7/9 were heard: [ebird.org/checklist/S68236273](http://ebird.org/checklist/S68236273)

For fun, I only wrote in the comments for those species that I actually saw. A whopping 4 species: Chestnut-backed Chickadee (visited the feeder, practically ran into me as I was putting them out)



*Great Horned Owls - Chris Trent*

Band-tailed Pigeon (5 flying into a distant tree)  
American Crow (flapping through)  
California Scrub Jay (standing, hunching and raising itself importantly on a wire)

As I wrap up this email, the Mockingbird is loudly going through a repertoire of 5 or 6 bird species calls, and more.

I'll end with a "shout-out" to Todd Newberry, a real gentleman who was one of my first birding mentors. He was one of the first to try to describe to me, the wave of sound as it flows over the landscape in the North American spring. Hat's off to you Todd, thanks for opening my eyes, or better said, inviting me to listen-in, on the Dawn Chorus.

Good birding,  
Pete Solè Soquel, CA

**Addendum, 5-3-20, Pete Solè**

To me, the song of the Swainson's Thrush in the morning is one of the most beautiful sounds in nature. To hear multiple Swainson's Thrushes sing in a small valley, where different individuals sound like an echo of the previous singer, is almost transcendental. The song at different distances and different locations, over time... a recording just does not do justice to the soundscape. One has to experience it. All coming from an unobtrusive, not particularly colorful bird. :)

Pete

*Swainson's Thrush - Lisa Larson*



**Date: 5/4/20 10:16 am**

**From: L.T. Jaeger**

With apologies to all, in advance, for rambling a bit here, but...

Pete's post and this entire thread describes what to me is perhaps the greatest part of birding; the pure joy of the simplicities (and the complexities!) of the natural world. The words "Dawn Chorus" take me immediately to first light in Hodgeson Meadow or Crane Flat in Yosemite; hearing warblers and tanagers and thrushes and vireos and nuthatches and woodpeckers and Mountain Chickadees. The sublime beauty of fresh air and an alpine meadow; the rush of being surrounded by pure and simple sounds. And yes, the anticipation of spotting a Pileated Woodpecker, or, on every 5-10 trips, a Great Grey Owl.

And it makes me think of Big Days of the past; birding in the night to find owls to

*Great Horned Owl Brood - Seraphina Landgrebe*



add to the day's totals; making friendly bets about what the first songbird of the day will be. And hearing the passerines waking up with the sun, and knowing that the next hour will be our most productive hour for total species heard and seen, and the best time to pick up a rare migrant dropping down to feed and rest.

But it's not about rarities; it's about emerging oneself in nature; in losing self-importance and stress and just experiencing the world. Recognizing how small and insignificant our worries are and we are.

Every time I go birding I try to remember that aspect, that Joy of Birding, but "the dawn chorus" is the ultimate expression of it. We can hear and experience aspects of it wherever we are, but ESPECIALLY during spring, and how better to embrace our own homes and lives than doing it exactly as Pete describes, in our own backyards. Taking those few moments to listen and to breathe and to wonder at it all.

It's true birding; finding our own path into nature, and using our ears to immerse us. We all love to find our own rarities, but that's just a result of perseverance and effort in the birding experience. And while chasing a reported rarity can be great fun and an exercise in camaraderie and joy and excitement, it lacks the purity of simply listening to and looking for and immersing ourselves into nature and the natural world.

Birding. Bird now. Bird Often. Bird for the essence of it.

Thanks Pete~

Clay Kempf  
Elkhorn

Cornell Lab of Ornithology is offering:

## Science and Nature Activities for Cooped Up Kids

I am on the advisory Board for K-12 Education at the *Cornell Lab of Ornithology* and have been asked by the director Jennifer Fee, to get the word out about the free lessons they are generating weekly for students out of school.

Despite being generated quickly, these are high quality, engaging activities that are mostly bird oriented and science based. They are also grade leveled by k-2, 3-5, 6-8 and High School.

They could be a god-send for parents and also get the next generation interested in birds!

**Read more:**

[www.birds.cornell.edu/k12/science-nature-activities-for-cooped-up-kids](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/k12/science-nature-activities-for-cooped-up-kids)

Thank you,  
Jeff Manker



*Top right: Fledgling House Finch*

*- Lisa Larson*

*Above: Ready to bail! Baby Bewick's Wren*

*- John Ellis*

*Left: Fledgling Oak Titmouse at 17 days*

*- Lisa Larson*

New Members  
**WELCOME**

Scott Lucas	<i>Mar 20</i>
Karl Fieberling	<i>Mar 20</i>
Elena Scott	<i>Mar 20</i>
Cathy Summa-Wolfe	<i>Mar 20</i>
Dana Cox	<i>Apr 20</i>

*Anna's Hummingbird - Jeff Roisman*



## Attention SCBC Members!

Due to the impact of the Covid 19 Virus on "normal" life, the SCBC Board has decided to **postpone the yearly renewal fee** for membership until September. A notice will be in the Sept/Oct issue of the Albatross.

**We wish you a happy and healthy summer!**



*"A perfect 10 on the high bar by Mr. Bullock"  
Bullock's Oriole - John Fox*

## NOTICE!

Santa Cruz Bird Club  
Officer Positions available:

**Program Director**  
**Outreach/Publicity Director**  
**Hospitality Director**

Please see [santacruzbirdclub.org/club-information/club-officers](http://santacruzbirdclub.org/club-information/club-officers) for a description of officer duties.

# Got the Covid-19 Restriction Blues?

*Dear Bird Club Members,* we hope you are staying safe and well during this challenging time. Maybe this will brighten your day-----

Are the County wide Park, Beach, Open Spaces closures putting a kink into your bird watching plans? Are you wondering what to do with that extra time?

The Santa Cruz Bird Club is suggesting two fun exercises to stretch your bird knowledge.

The **first** is from an Australian bird cartoon series artist, Jess Harwood, who applied bird traits to human behavior. He asks “**Which Quarantine Bird Are You?**”. His are based on Australian birds, but here are a few examples, adapted to our birds:

**Western Gull:** -still going to the beach;  
-argues with police about social distancing;  
-on its third warning;  
-suffering from chips withdrawal.

**Great Horned Owl:** - excellent social isolator;  
-life hasn't changed at all.

**Acorn Woodpecker:** "This isn't working for us at all! We are accustomed to coming and going at will, with the whole family caring for our brood!" - Jeana de la Torre



*Sign of the Times - Lisa Larson*

*Now it's your turn . . .*

We invite you to create a cartoon series of California birds, relevant to our area, situation and conduct. This can turn into a fun family/friends collaboration that will entertain us all

The **second** is a variation of the first, and maybe a little easier:  
“**A Bird's-eye View of the Pandemic Restrictions**”.

Here are a few to get you started:

**Wrentit:** “what's the big deal with sheltering in place? I never leave my home anyway.”

**Common Yellowthroat (male):** “I wouldn't think of going without my mask!”

**Common Yellowthroat (female):** “...and it makes you look so handsome!”

**Scrub Jay:** “I don't care if you had the roll of TP first- it's mine now!”

**Snowy Egret:** “Go out without my yellow gloves? Never!” - Lisa Larson

Now it's your turn...

We invite you to email your results to the club: [scbirdclub@gmail.com](mailto:scbirdclub@gmail.com). We'll compile and share back with members. We look forward to enjoying your creativity!

*With thanks to Jane Mio for getting this started!*



# DEADLINE

submissions for  
Sept-Oct issue

## AUG 1, 2020



*Brewer's Blackbird - David Sidle*



*Above: Red-shouldered Hawk Nest - Andy Knorr  
Right: Baby California Scrub Jay - 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](mailto:scbirdclubeditor@gmail.com)

*~ Lisa Fay Larson, Editor*

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*Leaf pattern*

*Ruddy Duck, Swanton Pond*  
- Lisa Larson

## ALBATROSS



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***santacruzbirdclub.org***

### **PARTING SHOT: "SYNCHRONICITY"** FEMALE COMMON MERGANSERS - GAIL WEST



### **Join the Santa Cruz Bird Club**

Enjoy walks in and around Santa Cruz  
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