

# Albatross

PHOEBASTRIA NIGRIPES

## INSIDE

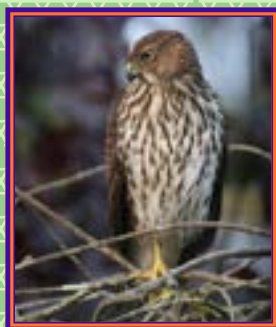
**No Events** due to Covid-19 Pandemic



Sponsor-a-Species Campaign



Santa Cruz Birds



Birder's Notebook

PARTING SHOT

White-tailed Kite - Beth Hamel  
Prairie Warbler - Lisa Larson  
Cooper's Hawk - Pete Solè

## ADVENTURES IN BIRDING

- Phil Brown

**D**uring the first first year of the Atlas project I tallied a very meager half dozen records, so we will draw a veil quickly over that.

At the start of the second year Alex ran some training sessions, so I attended a couple. Inspired I asked for an Atlas block close to my commute route so that I could do surveys before work. Alex assigned me to the block that is essentially downtown Santa Cruz. It has some interesting areas including Neary Lagoon, Aran Gulch, part of DeLaveaga and the levees. eBird app at the ready I set off exploring.

Initially it was rather annoying, far more breeding records were found on my Bird Club field trips in other blocks than in the block I was supposed to be covering. One club trip to Meder Canyon in the nextdoor block found 9 records including an Allen's Hummingbird nest that was located by Elisabeth Foster. I did knock off the extremely easy species (Cliff and Northern Rough-winged Swallows under and on the bridges across the San Lorenzo), but the first couple of months went slowly.

At the end of April and into the start of May things really picked up, adding Pacific-Slope Flycatcher actually sitting on a nest, Wilson's Warbler carrying food, and a fortuitous mud patch at Arana Gulch that added Barn Swallow to my list. As we got deeper into May there was lots of feeding activity with Pygmy Nuthatches and Violet-green Swallows added to the count. Juveniles started to appear as well, first Bushtit babies, then Chestnut-backed Chickadees.

July and August wound the season down, finishing with a very late Mourning Dove carrying nesting material.

I ended up with over 150 breeding records for the year, but only about half of them for the block I was supposed to be surveying. Too many club trips found breeding records elsewhere, though Alex would probably say that all data is useful.

*Barn Swallows gathering mud for nest-building - Carole Rose*



With the start of the third year I got a new block. This one included Baldwin Creek mouth and a long hilly trail into Wilder called the Baldwin Loop. This trail would become my nemesis.

As usual, Bird Club trips were a distraction, opening the season with 4 Bushtit nests found at Neary Lagoon in my previous block, all on the same morning. However, things did start reasonably well in my assigned block, with an early Orange-crowned Warbler confirmation followed by an absolute delight, a Pacific Wren carrying redwood bark fluff for a nest. I could hear the Pacific Wrens all over the upper part of the long trail, seeing them doing anything was much harder.



*Pacific Wren with nesting material  
- Lisa Larson*

Things went rapidly downhill after that. And yes, the trail goes rapidly downhill as well. The Western side of the Baldwin Loop was thoroughly infested with ticks. I succumbed to one, and every time I walked the trail afterwards I would throw all my clothes into the washing machine as soon as I got home, and take a long shower. Ticks still occasionally found their way up into my hairline, much to my horror. Elisabeth Foster joined me for a morning outing to that area but we had to quickly give up after she got several on her clothing.

Soldiering on I did see White-tailed Kites carrying nesting material, and Common Yellowthroats and Wrentits carrying food. A bit of an oddity was a Barn Swallow nest on the wall of the pedestrian tunnel that runs under Highway 1 to the base of the Baldwin Loop trail. This was a successful nest as chicks eventually fledged, despite the fact that the tunnel ceiling is very low, I could take a photo of the eggs by just reaching up with my phone.



*Tick - Michael Bolte  
Poison Oak in bloom  
- Lisa Larson*



In May the trail got me again. I had a close encounter with poison oak, ended up at Urgent Care and was given steroids. To this day I am still not sure which was worse, the poison oak or the steroids. They both made me feel awful.

I saw lots of food carrying in May, adding Wilson's Warbler, Dark-eyed Junco and Song Sparrow. The end of May and the start of June saw the juveniles venture forth, so I could add Song Sparrow and California Scrub Jays (very noisy), and my first Warbling Vireo record for the Atlas.

*California Quail - James Maughn*



At this time I encountered a lovely lady on the trail who tagged along on my survey for the morning. She was a geologist, and told me about the ages of the different terraces on our walk, but when the subject of ticks came up she very unfortunately pointed out that you can see the ticks on the ends of the grass stalks if you look for them. Once seen I could not unsee them, and they seemed to multiply in every direction. Four waiting on the end of a single grass stalk put me close to my breaking point.

July and August finished up with California Quail and Spotted Towhee families. The season completed with about 50 breeding records for the block, more than 100 ticks picked off my clothing and body, and one poison oak rash.

For the fourth year Alex asked for volunteers for various blocks, and initially I was going to survey around Boulder Creek. This block is very difficult due to lack of access other than on roads, and with the advent of COVID-19 I asked if I could move to a more remote area. Alex then suggested the lower parts of Castle Rock park. This area is remote and rarely visited.

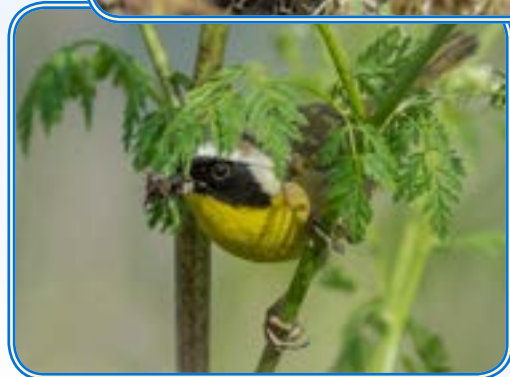
I walked many miles on the trails and almost never saw any other people. One trail in particular was very beautiful and remote, a wide and scenic fire road. This trail yielded many of my best finds in the block, including a Black-throated Gray Warbler carrying bugs. Other finds included Pacific Wren, Steller's Jay and Dark-eyed Junco.

Over the course of the summer I became a peripatetic surveyor, Alex sending me here and there looking for confirmations. I surveyed the trail between 3 mile and 4 miles beaches looking for White-Crowned Sparrows. There were half a dozen males at least singing along this stretch, and I got a few confirmations. There were a couple of Northern-Rough Winged Swallows repeatedly visiting a cliff nesting site, a big surprise for the location.

Back up at Castle Rock I found a Hermit Thrush juvenile and another carrying food, Wilson's Warbler and Brown Creeper were nice finds.

On my wanderings up at the Bonny Doon ecological reserve (the trails were very overgrown), I saw Purple Martins feeding young, but little else. At the Loch Lomond reservoir I found another Brown Creeper record, and added Canada Goose and Steller's Jay. None of the confirmations that Alex wanted but an interesting outing. For independence day I was sent back to the dreaded Baldwin Loop, fortunately no ticks this time. I got none of the confirmations asked for, but did get my first Swainson's Thrush carrying food, a Wild Turkey family (wrong holiday - I know), Purple Finch, Pacific Wren, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Lesser Goldfinch, and Red-tailed Hawk juveniles.

Birding has already taken me to many places in the county. Atlasing has expanded the scope of places I have been and added new experiences. I feel that it reinvigorated my birding, making me look closer at the everyday birds, deepened my understanding of their behavior and put me in touch with other animals in the landscape (maybe sometimes too close).



*From Top:*  
*Black-throated Gray Warbler*  
*carrying food*  
*- Jeff Bleam*  
*Wild Turkey chick*  
*- Lisa Larson*  
*Common Yellowthroat*  
*carrying food - Jeff Bleam*  
*Immature Red-tailed Hawk*  
*- Lee Jaffe*

# ATLASING REFLECTIONS

- Robin Abu-Shumays

Atlasing took me to places I wouldn't normally go. Last year I atlased in a coastal block (7090, between Laguna Street and Bonny Doon Road) and a more inland, forested block (9500, an area containing the western Soquel demonstration Forest and parts of Nisene Marks). It was striking how each presented different challenges.

At first the lonesome railroad tracks of the coastal block made me uneasy, but I soon I grew comfortable with the area. There were a lot of birds, but there was also a dense network of vegetation providing excellent cover. I could get a little peek inside the brush by the tracks by entering an opening I called "the poison oak cave". A long-tailed weasel made an appearance not far from the cave once, an unexpected bonus.

Most of the forested block was not easily accessible and required a big-time commitment to reach. I rode my mountain bike up Aptos Creek fire road through Nisene Marks to the Sand Point Overlook to atlas, but besides Dark-eyed Juncos and Steller's Jays didn't see many birds. Alex suggested I focus on Olive Springs Road near the western boundary of the block. It was a great call. It was birdy, accessible, and had friendly neighbors, several of whom I came to know by name.

Some species that were easy to confirm in one block would be difficult and require much more effort in the other block. Song Sparrows and European Starlings were a snap in the coastal block. There were so many Song Sparrows! After May arrived, I confirmed breeding for them most of the times I visited. I had to willfully ignore them in an effort to see other birds. European Starlings were also easy

to confirm as they carried nesting material and food near the coastal farm buildings.

Starlings and Song Sparrows, however, were hard for me to see, much less confirm in my forested block. Driving up Soquel San Jose Road to atlas, I found myself wishing it would be the day for a starling. That day has yet to come.

On the other hand, it was much easier to confirm towhees and robins on Olive Springs Road than in the coastal block.

Atlasing, clearly, made everyday birds exciting. My forested block has ponds located on private property. I knew there must be breeding ducks and coots there, but they seemed beyond reach. I found spots on the road above the ponds where beneath the foliage a sliver of water was visible. I felt incredibly lucky one day to see a Mallard with her ducklings gliding through a small window of view.

High in an oak in the forested block, I saw a begging bird being fed, but could identify neither the fledgling nor its fast moving parents. I took pictures of the fuzzy baby from below that revealed pinkish legs and a rounded streaky body. Alex said it was a Brown headed Cowbird.

After this, I saw begging cowbird fledglings along the north coast tracks being fed by Wilson's Warblers—also near a marshy area by Corcoran Lagoon. It got me thinking about the impact of these parasites on the breeding lives of our local birds.

Atlasing improved my birding skills immeasurably, making me a more patient observer with greater appreciation for how birds vary over space and time. It allowed me to enjoy the wonders of "everyday" birds.



*European Starling Nestling - Lisa Larson  
Fledgling California Towhee - Beth Hamel  
Wilson's Warbler with his Brown-headed  
Cowbird fledgling - Beth Hamel*



# Coming Soon: Year 5 of the Breeding Bird Atlas

This year will be the LAST YEAR of atlasing! After a tremendous effort in 2020, fieldwork stands at about 80% complete and we need your help to finish this year. Atlaser trainings will begin in late March; details will be announced in the next issue of the Albatross and on the Monterey Bay Birders listserv. For those who may have missed it, the Year 4 annual report summarizing the progress made through 2020 can be viewed here: [https://santacruzbirdclub.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Atlas\\_Year4\\_Report\\_Final.pdf](https://santacruzbirdclub.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Atlas_Year4_Report_Final.pdf)

The breeding season has already begun for some birds. What breeding birds should you be looking for right now in January and February? Anna's Hummingbirds and Bushtits are feverishly building their first nests of the year, while Great Horned Owls and Red-tailed Hawks may already be sitting on eggs. Make sure to record these early breeding observations on the datasheet that can be downloaded here: <https://santacruzbirdclub.org/breeding-bird-atlas/>

*Alex Rinkert*  
Atlas Director



## BREEDING BIRD ATLAS RECENT DONORS

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Patricia Bacchetti  
Robin Abu-Shumays  
David Somerton  
Judy Donaldson  
Pamela King

*WOW! Thank you!*

*Great Horned Owl on nest.  
-John Fox*

# SPONSOR-A-SPECIES Campaign

for the Breeding Bird Atlas – Update!



We've extended our Holiday Special Price for sponsoring a species into the New Year! For just \$100 you can:

- ♥ be recognized in the published Atlas;
- ♥ contribute to a premier reference on Santa Cruz County birds, which will be used by birders, researchers and resource professionals for years to come;
- ♥ feel great about supporting our local breeding birds;
- ♥ receive a classy decal to display as you like;
- ♥ receive a tax deduction (subject to applicable laws).

*Valentine's Day is not far away... does your special someone have a special bird they just love? What better way to honor them than with a sponsored bird in the Atlas! Or, drop the hint to them to get you your special bird!!*

We're over half-way to our fundraising target of \$20,000 for this campaign, and just over half of our breeders have been sponsored. We had hoped to be through by now, but, you know, Covid.

To sponsor, go to [santaacruzbirdclub.org/auction](https://santaacruzbirdclub.org/auction)

*Follow the instructions carefully, and if you pay by credit card, be sure to click on the "Donate to Breeding Bird Atlas" button, and **not** the generic "Donate" button.*

Due to a generous donation received anonymously, we do expect this to be our last big push for donations from club members. We are very grateful for the support received thus far.

## HAPPY BIRDING!



*Great Blue Heron in the rain - Michael Bolte*

*Anna's Hummingbird  
- Lee Laffe*

New Members  
**WELCOME**

Molly Donovan	<i>Oct 20</i>
Patricia Bacchetti	<i>Nov 20</i>
Terence Degain	<i>Nov 20</i>
Pamela King	<i>Nov 20</i>



*Caspian Tern - Lee Laffe*  
*Ruby-crowned Kinglet - Lisa Larson*  
*Red-tailed Hawk - Gail West*



# Take The Plunge!

**Santa Cruz Bird Club  
Officer Positions available:**

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

Please see  
<https://santacruzbirdclub.org/club-information/club-officers-2/>  
for a description of officer duties.

# Santa Cruz Birds

By Alex Rinkert

Including reports from September 1 to October 31, 2020

**A** he most few first county records headlined the many rare birds found this fall. A Bar-tailed Godwit at Waddell State Beach (NS, LS, MS, BSk) was a bit overdue considering the numerous records in adjacent counties, while a Phylloscopus warbler—tentatively identified as a Willow Warbler (BB)—at Neary Lagoon on October 8 was extraordinary. Otherwise, this fall had a good diversity of warblers and some sparrows (Brewer’s, Lark, Chipping, “Gambel’s” White-crowned) were found in higher numbers than usual.

Most bizarre was a “smoke eclipse” across the region on September 9, which was caused by smoke from wildfires in northern California and a persistent marine layer that day. The sky was an unusually dark orange and by early afternoon twilight had arrived! The daylight was so dim that the American Crows were making their evening commute over Santa Cruz to Neary Lagoon at 3:45 pm, a full four hours before sunset (AR)! Great Horned Owls were also noted as being active much earlier than normal that afternoon at Live Oak (SH) and UC Santa Cruz upper campus (AR).

Some exceptionally large flocks of **Greater White-fronted Geese** flew over the county on September 27; flocks of 200 at Pinto Lake (AF) and 350 near Soquel-San Jose Road (STe) were noted that day. Four reports of **Wood Ducks** in the Watsonville slough system between September 2–25 was unusually many for that area (SH, LG, NU, BR, RR, MT, AR). A male **Gadwall x Mallard** hybrid was at Pinto Lake on October 23 (EH), as was a male **Eurasian Wigeon** from October 17 through the end of the month (RR, v.ob.). A **Wild Turkey** continued at Natural Bridges State Beach through October 1 (MT, v.ob.). A rafter of 38 turkeys near Struve Slough on September 25 was a high count for the Watsonville slough system (MT, RR), while one in the La Selva Beach neighborhoods from October 3 through the end of the month was noteworthy so close to the coast (NC).

A gathering of 50 **White-throated Swifts** at Swanton Pond on October 10 was an especially high count for the county (MB). Five **Black-chinned Hummingbirds** reported in September brought the fall total to a rather low six individuals (v.ob.). A



female/immature **Costa’s Hummingbird** visiting flowering blue gums at Natural Bridges State Beach from September 12–17 was the first pure Costa’s in the county since 2016 (AR, v.ob.); all other reports of this species since then have turned out to be hybrids. The male **Anna’s x Costa’s Hummingbird** hybrid returned to a feeder in Aptos for the third winter in a row on September 30 and was present through October (RW).

A **Black-necked Stilt** at 21st Beach on September 9 was noteworthy away from the Pajaro Valley (JM, AR), as were **American Avocets** at Younger Lagoon on September 2 (GT) and Cowells Beach on October 1 (CB). Pajaro Dunes hosted a **Pacific Golden-Plover** from October 11 through the end of the month (DA, v.ob.) and a **Red Knot** on October 24 (NS, v.ob.). A juvenile **Bar-tailed Godwit** at Waddell State Beach from September 12–15 was the 1st record for the county (NS, LS, MS, BSk, v.ob.). Two **Baird’s Sandpipers** at Waddell State Beach on September 13 brought the fall total to a low

*From top: 9/9/20 Smoke Eclipse - Arthur Macmillian  
Costa's Hummingbird - Simon Thornhill  
9/9/20 Smoke Eclipse sunflower - Lisa Larson*



four individuals (AB, v.ob.). After none were reported in August, about **35 Pectoral Sandpipers** were reported from mid-

September through late October (v.ob.); nineteen

Pectorals at Struve Slough on October 2 was an especially high count for one location (BR,

RR). A **Tufted Puffin** was seen from a whale watching boat on the Monterey Bay on October 17 (CO). A **Least Tern** flying through a feeding frenzy off Seabright State Beach on September 1 was the first in the county since 2015 (AR). A **Leach's Storm-Petrel** was about 50 miles outside the Monterey Bay; even this far from land, this offshore species is still quite rare (AR, NL, NU, BS).

An adult and juvenile **Bald Eagle**, presumably part of the breeding pair, remained in the Pajaro Valley through mid-October (v.ob.). A juvenile was seen flying down the coast past Seascape on September 2 (BH) and an adult with an injured eye roamed between Swanton Pond and westside Santa Cruz from October 27–31 (AMM, v.ob.). A **Burrowing Owl** near Davenport on October 30 was the only reported this fall (BME). A migratory push of **Short-eared Owls** across the region brought five to the county between October 26–31 (GT, KS, AR, ES, MB, FB, AJ). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** returned to Soquel by October 12 for the third winter in a row (AG). An apparent **Red-breasted x Red-naped Sapsucker** hybrid was

photographed at Bethany Curve on October 21 (MB, EC). A **Pileated Woodpecker** at faculty housing at UC Santa Cruz on September 7 was out of place (BL), but the timing was consistent with other fall records in the county away from their usual habitat.



Left and right corners: Eastern Kingbird - Nathan Ranc  
Top center: Willow Flycatcher - Sharon Hulll  
Center: Phylloscopus warbler - Brian Bullard  
Lapland Longspur - Jeff Manker

Twelve **Willow Flycatchers** in September brought the fall total to a respectable thirteen individuals (v.ob.).

A **Least Flycatcher** was photographed at Swanton Pond on September 19 (ST). Three **Tropical Kingbirds** were at westside Santa Cruz and Live Oak between September 25 and October 25 (LSO, CH, GM, NS, v.ob.).

An **Eastern Kingbird** photographed at Wilder Ranch State Park was the first fall record since 2014 (NR).

About 7–8 **Loggerhead Shrikes** were reported from expected locations this fall (v.ob.). Several flocks of **Horned Larks** totaling 69 individuals at Wilder Ranch State Park on October 27 was one of the highest modern counts in the county (AR). A female or

immature **Purple Martin** at Swanton Pond on September 13 was the only reported in the county this fall (MB).

Most remarkable this fall was a **Phylloscopus warbler** photographed

at Neary Lagoon on October 8 (BB). Some

characteristics of this bird point to Willow Warbler, an Old World species that is unrecorded in North America away from the Aleutian Islands. Unfortunately, the photos surfaced long after the sighting so it is unknown whether this bird stuck around. The California Bird Records Committee will be evaluating this record in 2021, stay tuned for another update in future issues of Santa Cruz Birds.

Away from the Pajaro Hills, the only **White-breasted Nuthatch** found this fall was one at Quail Hollow Ranch on September 18 (BK).

Three **Red Crossbills** at Seacliff on October 19 were also the only reported this fall (CK). Six **Lawrence's**

**Goldfinches** were found between September 19 and October 7 (BK, EL, AR, KB). A **Lapland Longspur** dropped in to Polo Grounds Park in Aptos and stayed from October



2–3 (JM, v.ob.). Not only was this at an unexpected location, but the bird was incredibly approachable, especially considering the number of dogs running around nearby. Three more Lapland Longspurs flew over coastal Wilder Ranch State Park on October 27 (AR).

**Grasshopper Sparrows** were at Struve Slough on September 20 (NU) and Wilder Ranch State Park on September 28 (AR). Thirteen **Chipping Sparrows** reported between September 4 and October 17 was a good showing of this scarce fall migrant (v.ob.), while 4 **Clay-colored Sparrows** reported between September 7 and October 11 was a bit below the recent fall average (v.ob.). A banner year for **Brewer's Sparrow** in central coastal California brought three or four to the mid-county coast of the county between September 14 and October 11 (AR, BS, v.ob.). Eight coastal reports of **Lark Sparrows** between September 14 and October 29 was also a nice showing for fall (v.ob.). Perhaps coinciding with an overall good fall for many sparrows in the region, "**Gambel's**"

**White-crowned Sparrow** (*Z. l. gambelii*) seemed to be more frequently encountered across the county than they typical are in fall, and this pattern became more pronounced in November (AR). Twenty-one **White-throated Sparrows** were found this period (v.ob.). While **Vesper Sparrows** seemed to be more frequently reported this fall in the San Francisco Bay area, only one was found in the county at Lighthouse Field State Beach from September 21–22 (SH, LG). A **Rufous-crowned Sparrow** at Soda Lake on October 14–16 added more evidence that this species is present year-round at that location (EL, NU). A **Green-tailed Towhee** was enjoyed by many at Neary Lagoon from October 4–9 (AR, v.ob.).

Three **Yellow-breasted Chats** on the mid-county coast between September 7–26 was a decent showing for this secretive fall migrant (RAS, KB, DL, v.ob.). A male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was near Davenport from September 12–15 (ST, v.ob.) while a female/immature was at Swanton Pond beginning October 27 (AR, ES, v.ob.). Single **Bobolinks** were



photographed at Antonelli Pond on September 26 (BB) and College Lake on October 21 (GK). A **Bullock's Oriole** visiting a feeder in Soquel beginning on October 18 was getting late (PS), as was a **Hooded Oriole** in Seascape that was last seen on October 1 (ES). The largest congregations of **Tricolored Blackbirds** reported on the north coast this fall ranged between 200–250 (PS, AF, LG, SH).

Rarer warblers found this fall included an elusive **Blackburnian Warbler** at Natural Bridges State Beach from September 12–16 (NS, LS, MS, v.ob.) and another photographed at Schwan Lake on October 4 (JP).

A **Prairie Warbler** was enjoyed by a daily crowd of birders at Bethany Curve between October 14–27 (KB, v.ob.). Some annual "eastern" warblers reported this fall include the following: 1 **Northern Waterthrush** (AR, v.ob.), 5 **Black-and-white Warblers** (NS, LG, MS, LS), 2 **Tennessee Warblers** (DS, RW, v.ob.), 3 **American Redstarts** (LL, CR, fide NA), 2 **Northern Parulas** (LM, LG), 3 **Chestnut-sided Warblers** (RW, EP, BS), and 5 **Blackpoll Warblers** (LJ, SH, LG, AR, ES, NU, CK). Some of the rarer "western" warblers reported include the

following: 4 **Nashville** (AR, ES, CS, SH, LG, v.ob.), 9 **MacGillivray's** (v.ob.), and 5 **Palm** (LM, GD, STe, AK, SH, MC), 7 **Hermit** (v.ob.), and about 48 **Black-throated Gray Warblers** (v.ob.).

Four **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were reported

*Photos from top:  
Brewer's Sparrow left, Clay-colored Sparrow right - Norm Uyeda  
Yellow-breasted Chat - Karen Burnson  
Green-tailed Towhee - Michael Bolte  
Bobolink - Brian Bullard*

from feeders in and near Santa Cruz between September 24 and October 8 (NT, PC, GM, CP). A flock of up to 18 **Scaly-breasted Munias** continued visiting a feeder in Interlaken through October (NU), and two at Watsonville Slough on October 22 added a new location where this species has been found in the county (NU).

**Cited Observers:**

Robin Abu-Shumays, Nanci Adams, Dorian Anderson, Clive Bagshaw, Meg Barron, Frances Bolte, Michael Bolte, Brian Bullard, Adam Burnett, Karen Burnson, Penny Chesluck, Matthew Coale, Ellyn Corey, Nanda Curren, Abram Fleishman, Aaron Gabbe, Lois Goldfrank, Cole Heim, Eliana Heiser, Sharon Hull, Bill Holland, Clay Kempf, Andrew Kenny, Bryan Kett, Gary Kittleson, Lisa Larson, Dave Lavorando, Earl Lebow, Bruce Lyon, Arthur Macmillan, Jeff Manker, Gary Martindale, Brian McElroy, Greg Meyer, Liam Murphy, Chris Overington, Carol Panofsky, Erika Perloff, Jenni Peters, Bernadette Ramer, Robert Ramer, Nathan Ranc, Alex Rinkert, Chris Rummel, Brian Scanlon, Brian Schnack (BSk), Nico Schnack, Christian Schwarz, Elena Scott, David Sidle, Pete Solé, Logan Southall (LSO), Katheryn Spence, Lucas Stephenson, Mark Stephenson, Glen Tepke, Nellie Thorngate, Matthew Timmer, Michelle Thurber, Scott Terrill (STe), Simon Thornhill, Norman Uyeda, Randy Wardle, “v.ob.” means various observers.  
***Please enter interesting observations into eBird or report them to Alex Rinkert at arinkert12@comcast.net.***



\* Extra difficult to capture!

*From Top:  
 Prairie Warbler - Arthur Macmillan  
 Tennessee Warbler - Michael Bolte  
 Black-throated Gray Warbler - Pete Solè  
 Blackpoll Warbler - Lisa Larson  
 Above Left:  
 \* Nashville Warbler- Norm Uyeda*

# More Warbler Hit Parade!

Editor's note: *It was just too difficult to rule out any of these great warblers. My apologies to those who also had great shots, but I tried to represent our numerous bird photographers' efforts!*



\* *Extra difficult to capture!*



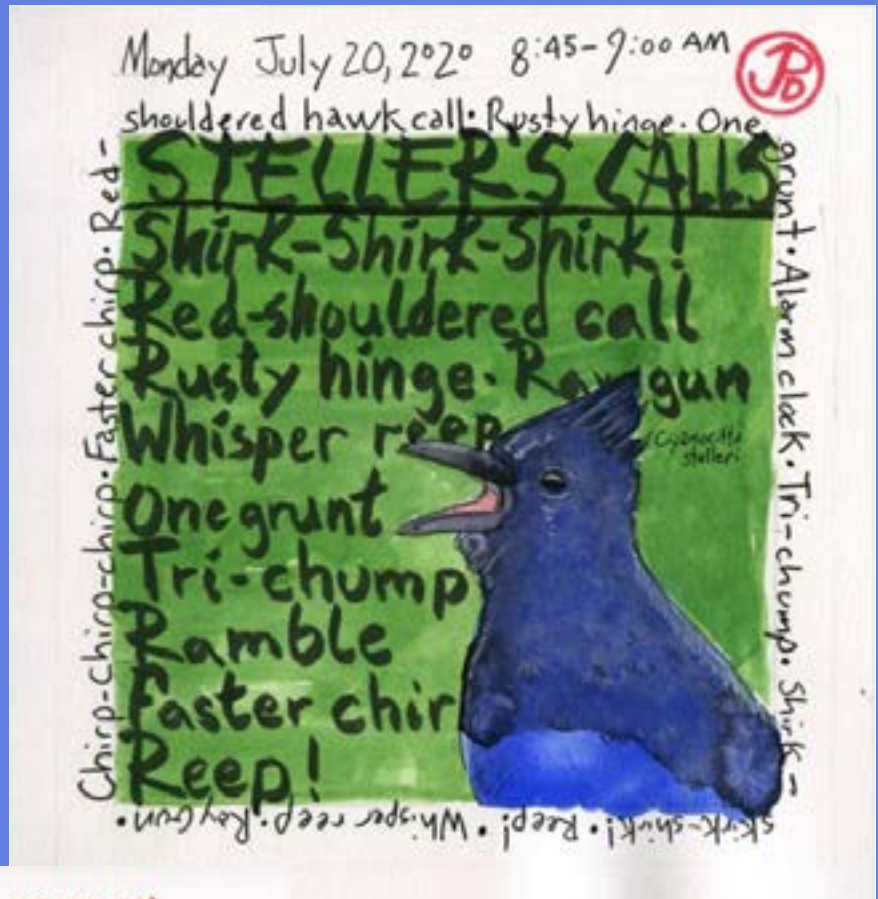
*From top:  
Mac Gillivray's Warbler  
- Alex Rinkert  
Hermit Warbler - Lee Jaffe  
\* Northern Parula - David Sidle  
Chestnut-sided Warbler  
- Randy Wardle  
Palm Warbler - Breck Tyler*

# Birder's Notebook

## Featuring Art by John Perry

The Voices of the  
Steller's Jay

STAY CURIOUS!



### Pygmy Nuthatch

What makes a Pygmy Nuthatch freeze?

While on the deck I noticed a nuthatch that appeared to be frozen on the suet feeder. Then I noted another pygmy on the retaining wall rail, also frozen. Upstream were agitated calls of Steller's Jays. Was there a predator in the area? A Cooper's Hawk? The nuthatches remained absolutely still for about five minutes. Was this an example of the predator warning system?



# DeaDLine

submissions for  
MAR/APR issue

**FEB 1, 2021**



*Domestic Goose - Lisa Larson*



*Western Tanager - Pete Solè*

Submission to the

*ALBATROSS*

*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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# ALBATROSS



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**PARTING SHOT: "2020 MADE MY HAIR STAND ON END!"**  
HOODED MERGANSER  
- BOB GUNDERSON



*Above: House Finch*

*- Lisa Larson*

*Right: Red-winged Blackbird*

*- Michael Bolte*

*To see more of Bob  
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