

Albatross

PHOEBASTRIA NIGRIPES

INSIDE

No Events due to
Covid-19 Pandemic



2020 CBC Results

BBA: Year 5 Begins!



Sponsor-a-Species Campaign

Santa Cruz Birds



Birder's
Notebook

PARTING SHOT

Western Bluebird - Lisa Larson

Canvasback - Pete Solè

Belted Kingfisher - Michelle Lamberson

A DAY "AT THE OFFICE"

By Jennifer Parkin



If you were to shadow me for a day at "my office" you would be rewarded with a lot of beautiful scenery and undoubtedly you would hear the loud and charismatic calls of the Black Oystercatcher (BLOY). I study these lovely dark colored birds with their bright yellow iris and red-orange eye ring coupled with a matching long red/orange beak and flesh colored legs and feet, mainly during the breeding season from April through September. Often when one hears their iconic calls, they are interacting with others of their kind, defending their territory, talking to their mate, or chasing away possible predators. They have many different calls and if you spend some time observing a pair you may just determine what some of these calls mean.

I am the Project Biologist for the California Central Coast Black Oystercatcher Project. A part of a California coast-wide, multi-year effort that began in 2011, and is coordinated by Audubon California in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management's California Coastal National Monument, California State Parks, and five Audubon chapters. This statewide effort is a large-scale, mainly community science-based effort, to gather data on the reproductive success of this Federal species of conservation concern. A major objective of this study is to assess the use of BLOY data to help address the effects of climate change on the health of the rocky intertidal ecosystems affected by climate change, including sea-level rise, ocean acidification, and pressures from humans. This information will ultimately be used to develop conservation measures that will protect the rocky intertidal habitat and the plants and animals that inhabit this crucial ecosystem and most importantly, to determine actions that would protect and improve nesting sites and habitat for the Black Oystercatcher.

"My office" is the rocky coastline ranging from Point Lobos State Natural Reserve to Pescadero State Beach. As of 2020, I, along with the Regional Coordinator, Assistant Project Biologist, and more than 30 community science volunteers, monitored 73 territorial pairs along this stretch of coast. In 2016, Santa Cruz County and San Mateo County were added to expand the number of areas monitored for this study, which started with a distribution and abundance survey in 2011 and the monitoring of about 20 pairs in Monterey



Peninsula and Point Lobos State Natural Reserve in 2012. We currently have a very robust study of the Central Coast.

These top predators of the rocky intertidal, range from Baja to the Aleutian Islands but are year-round residents along our coast. They can be found foraging for mussels, limpets, chitons, snails, and other intertidal animals. Often, during a high tide they can be found in a protected spot, away from the waves, napping, or preening.

Black Oystercatchers mature in 4 to 5 years and at breeding age will form a strong pair bond. They usually mate for life with re-mating occurring occasionally. Their average estimated life span is 10 to 15 years, but some banded individuals were documented to live 20 to 25 years. Bonded pairs look for a territory that they can call home and will nest and forage within this territory, vigorously defending it from other Black Oystercatchers. Prime territorial habitats are difficult to find for younger pairs, as established pairs may remain there for the remainder of their life. Sometimes these pairs, referred to as interlopers, will try to move into an occupied territory, causing quite the fantastic territorial fights in the air and on the ground. Often the noise and aerial acrobatics will draw one's attention swiftly.

Black Oystercatchers nest above the high tide line on offshore rocks, rocky shores, and sand/gravel beaches. They typically build a low bowl made of rock flakes, pebbles, and shell fragments and lay 1 to 3 eggs. Incubation ranges from 26 to 32 days and both the male and female share in nesting and raising chicks. Often one to two chicks, and sometimes even 3 chicks, are raised to fledging when successful.



Chicks are able to walk almost immediately after hatching. Hatchlings are brooded for the first few days and then intermittently until they are too large. Adults provision chicks regularly, bringing them small invertebrates or ripping larger prey into smaller pieces. Chicks usually fledge within 38-42 days after



hatching and will start flying around the territory following the parents to be fed and to learn foraging skills alongside an adult. Eventually, the parents stop feeding the fledglings and encourage them to be independent. Fledglings are often seen within the parental territory, but far away from their parents at this stage. Ultimately, fledglings are completely “kicked out” of the territory within 3 to 6 months from hatching. Typically, they are found with other fledglings in areas we call “neutral zones” where many juveniles and unattached adults are found. Here, the fledglings will learn more foraging skills and may eventually find a mate.

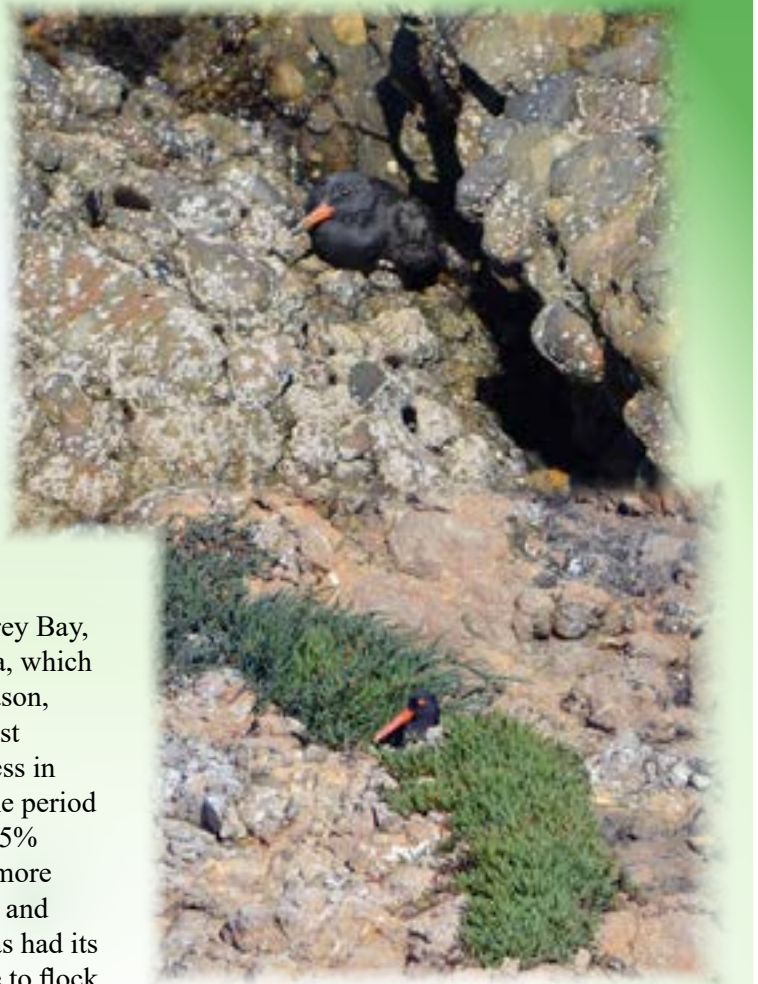
Because the male and female Black Oystercatchers are morphologically very similar, sexing them in the field has been quite difficult. This is a common problem with many shorebird and seabird species. However, there have been recent studies indicating that there is a difference in the eye flecks of the male and female Black Oystercatcher. With this knowledge and a spotting scope, one can see that a female often has a larger eye fleck on each iris, while the eye flecks are absent or only slight on the male (Guzzetti et al. 2007). During our monitoring, we can record if the male or female is sitting on the nest or provisioning the young if we are close enough to see the eyes of the individuals.

The Black Oystercatcher has been designated as a Federal Species of Concern by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The vast majority of the population was thought to be in Alaska and British

Columbia. In fact, until recently, little was known about the status and distribution in California. As a result of this on-going study, there are an estimated 3,500 - 5,000+ Black Oystercatchers in California, making the state population critical to the overall population of the species. If this estimate is correct, the California population is possibly one quarter to one third of the entire range-wide population of approximately 12,000 Black Oystercatchers.

In 2018, National Audubon completed a literature study which indicated that an annual reproductive success rate greater than 64% suggests a healthy local population, while a reproductive success rate of less than 40% indicates a population at risk. The average annual reproductive success of the Monterey Bay area Black Oystercatcher population for the last five years (2016 to 2020) is 43%. However, when we tease apart the north and south study areas of Monterey Bay, we see a much different picture. The northern study area, which generally has less human impact during the breeding season, has averaged a reproductive success of 78% until this past breeding season (2020). In 2020, the reproductive success in the north dropped precipitously to 32%. During the same period the southern study area of Monterey Bay has averaged 25% for the last five years. Therefore, it seems that there are more detrimental impacts occurring in the southern study area and more overall monitoring is warranted. The year 2020 has had its challenges, including the pandemic causing more people to flock to the coast and wildfires that created unusually dark days during the summer months. We are hoping the reproductive success in the Monterey Bay region, as a whole, increases this year.

What are you waiting for? Grab your spotting scope and/or binoculars and take a walk along the rocky coast to get a peek into the world of the Black Oystercatcher. If you are interested in volunteering or supporting the CA Central Coast Black Oystercatcher Project please contact j.parkin127@gmail.com or rickhanksscnm@yahoo.com.



*Top: Youngster
Center: Adult on nest
Below Left: Single Chick
Below Right: 3 chicks & parents*





The 64th Annual Santa Cruz Christmas Bird Count December 19, 2020

The 64th annual count was a bit different this time around due to COVID-19. Participants were asked to count on their own and to avoid gathering at any point during the day to keep themselves and others safe. While unfortunately there was no countdown dinner at the end of the day, the virtual countdown using a shared Google Sheet turned out to be a hit!

The count fielded a record 100 participants and, combined with most participants counting on their own this year, coverage within the count circle was exceptionally high. Participants counted on nearly every trail in every park and beach, and many also counted in their neighborhood and backyard. Weather on count day was about as good as anyone could have asked for in December: cool, calm, and crystal clear. Despite record participation, the 221.7 total field hours was about 13% lower than the recent (10-year) average. This was perhaps because participants were assigned fewer areas to cover on count day due to the need for participants to count on their own, and resultantly many participants only needed a half-day to adequately cover their assigned areas.

The final species total was 167 species found on count day. This figure is right on the recent average of 166.8 species, but further solidifies an overall decreasing trend in species found on the count. An additional six species were found during count week—the six days bookending count day—but they are not included in the species total. Both the total number of birds counted (39,935 birds) and the number of birds counted per field hour (180 birds/hour) were close to the recent averages for each (43,535 and 182, respectively).

One species, the wintering White Wagtail at the San Lorenzo River mouth, was new for the count as was a Glaucous-winged x Glaucous Gull hybrid at Wilder Ranch. Other rarities found on the count included Summer Tanager (6th record), Pigeon Guillemot (6th record), and Snow Goose (10th record).

The total counts of some species were especially high compared to the recent average. Those of us that have bird feeders know Pine Siskins are staging a major irruption this winter, and count data reflected that phenomenon. Pine Siskins were 285% more abundant on the count compared to the recent average, and the total number of siskins tallied (3,085) was the third highest ever on this count. Both Golden-crowned and White-crowned Sparrow were also especially abundant, being 136% and 118% above the recent average, respectively. Wild Turkey (332% above the recent average), Western Bluebird (325%), and Canada Goose (319%) all continued to increase dramatically on the count.



*Snowy Egrets and White Wagtail
-David Sidle*

Numerous species were also much scarcer on count day compared to the recent average. Some participants seawatching noted there were fewer birds offshore than usual, and these anecdotal observations were confirmed in many total counts of the more common ocean species: Heermann's Gull (44% less than the recent average), Brown Pelican (47%), Brandt's Cormorant (48%), Common Murre (57%), Western Gull (59%), California Gull (63%), Pacific Loon (83%), and Mew Gull (91%). A handful of expected species—those found on 10 of the last 15 counts—that were missed on count day included the following: Snowy Plover (found 14 of last 15 counts), Burrowing Owl (12 of 15), Willet (11 of 15), and Forster's Tern (11 of 15). While their presence is more variable than other species, several ducks—Gadwall, Northern Pintail, Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal—were also missed on count day.

Many thanks to the incredible number of participants for their patience with last minute instructions and assignments, as well as my two co-compilers, Nicholas Levendosky and Phil Brown, who were instrumental in organizing the count. We are very much looking forward to resuming a more normal count next December.

Alex Rinkert
Co-compiler



*American Kestrel,
female
- Carole Rose*

Participants

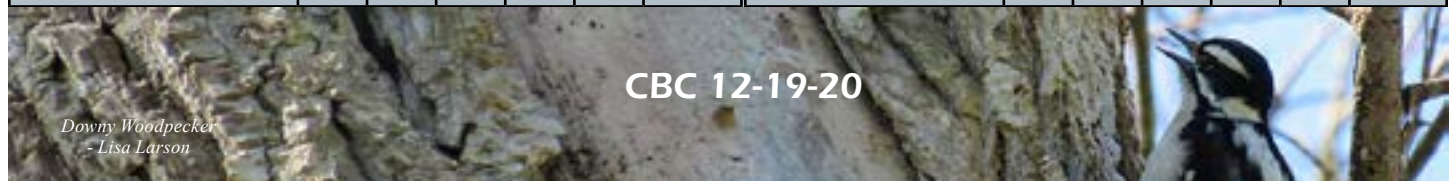
Robin Abu-Shumays, Jennifer Anderson, David Apgar, Kumaran Arul, Emma Arul, Julian Arul, Erika Arul, Eileen Balian, Barbara Banfield, Bonnie Bedzin, Travis Blymyer, Mike Bolte, Frances Bolte, Ronald Bourret, Linda Brodman, Martha Brown, Philip Brown, Christine Caldwell, Ann Chandler, Liz Chapman, Matthew Coale, Bryan Cockel, Judy Donaldson, David Ekdahl, Eric Feuss, Abram Fleishman, Elisabeth Foster, Alexander Gaguine, Karin Gallagher, Lois Goldfrank, Joachim Gonzalez, Richard Griffith, Thomas Helman, Sharon Hull, Lee Jaffe, Kent Johnson, Matthew Josselyn, Paul Keel, Suzanne Kent, Linda Kishlansky, Lisa Fay Larson, Earl Lebow, Susan Leo, Margaret Leonard, Nicholas Levendosky, Lynda Lewit, Lester Markarian, Stephanie Martin, Gary Martindale, Bobbie Mayer, Brian McElroy, Barry McLaughlin, Greg Meyer, Paul Miller, Jane Mio, Shirley Murphy, Liam Murphy, Eileen Murphy, Valerie Neer, Todd Newberry, Jane Orbuch, Carol Panofsky, Sandi Pensinger, Margaret Perham, Erika Perloff, Kenneth Petersen, David Pilleo, Shantanu Phukan, Steven Pousty, Bernadette Ramer, Bob Ramer, Alex Rinkert, Barbara Riverwoman, Elena Scott, Christa Seidl, Lisa Sheridan, Mike Shur, David Sidle, Stephanie Singer, Jeff Smith, Cooper Smith, Pete Sole, David Somerton, Logan Southall, Madeline Spencer, Mandy Spitzer, Linda St. John, Kitty Stein, Glen Tepke, Scott Terrill, Tim Thompson, Simon Thornhill, Matthew Timmer, Breck Tyler, Norman Uyeda, Julia van der Wyk, Jonny Wahl, Les Watts, James Williams, Craig Wilson

The 64th Annual Santa Cruz Christmas Bird Count December 19, 2020

*Cedar Waxwing
- Lisa Larson*

Species	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	10-Year Average	Species	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	10-Year Avg
Snow Goose	0	1	0	-	1	0.1	Clark's Grebe	7	6	2	-	10	17.3
Ross's Goose	0	0	0	-	0	0.0	Western/Clark's Grebe	271	668	638	-	339	431.1
Snow/Ross's Goose	0	0	0	-	0	0.0	Rock Pigeon	1218	913	1197	-	876	1642.9
Greater White-fr. Goose	0	3	0	-	1	5.6	Band-tailed Pigeon	776	1160	575	-	152	1188.6
Brant	0	1	0	-	0	1.3	Eurasian Collared-Dove	55	26	46	-	48	90.4
Cackling Goose	0	4	3	-	50	3.3	Mourning Dove	287	170	141	-	157	243.0
Canada Goose	38	31	63	-	82	19.6	Common Poorwill	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
goose sp.	0	0	0	-	0	0.1	White-throated Swift	0	1	0	-	CW	5.9
Tundra Swan	0	0	0	-	0	0.0	Anna's Hummingbird	350	353	437	-	590	394.9
Wood Duck	11	63	21	-	26	32.9	Costa's Hummingbird	CW	0	0	-	0	0.0
Blue-winged Teal	4	4	0	-	0	1.4	Rufous Hummingbird	0	0	0	-	0	0.2
Cinnamon Teal	0	4	0	-	CW	0.8	Virginia Rail	7	2	6	-	3	5.6
Blue-wing. x Cinn. Teal	0	0	0	-	0	0.0	Sora	3	1	2	-	1	2.1
Northern Shoveler	0	1	25	-	20	14.2	Common Gallinule	1	CW	CW	-	0	0.4
Gadwall	0	5	0	-	0	1.7	American Coot	756	904	549	-	849	918.2
Eurasian Wigeon	0	0	0	-	0	0.0	Sandhill Crane	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
American Wigeon	16	18	50	-	34	24.1	Black-necked Stilt	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Mallard	612	441	604	-	493	575.4	Black Oystercatcher	26	14	28	-	28	22.6
Gadwall x Mallard	0	0	0	-	0	0.1	Black-bellied Plover	8	26	63	-	12	60.1
Northern Pintail	10	CW	1	-	0	43.3	Pacific Golden-Plover	0	1	0	-	0	0.1
Green-winged Teal	16	0	8	-	9	12.1	Snowy Plover	CW	46	77	-	CW	95.4
teal sp.	0	0	0	-	0	0.4	Semipalmated Plover	0	0	0	-	0	0.1
Canvasback	1	1	1	-	0	0.4	Killdeer	6	60	152	-	137	113.1
Redhead	0	0	CW	-	0	0.0	Whimbrel	5	0	29	-	75	43.7
Ring-necked Duck	59	102	142	-	44	93.7	Long-billed Curlew	27	6	12	-	26	6.3
Tufted Duck	0	0	0	-	0	0.0	Marbled Godwit	10	10	23	-	13	25.2
Greater Scaup	0	4	0	-	4	2.2	Ruddy Turnstone	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Lesser Scaup	2	13	0	-	1	3.2	Black Turnstone	64	27	225	-	82	113.2
Greater/Lesser Scaup	0	0	CW	-	9	0.5	Red Knot	0	0	0	-	0	0.1
Harlequin Duck	0	0	0	-	0	0.0	Surfbird	56	39	52	-	57	72.6
Surf Scoter	970	657	464	-	854	1002.3	Sanderling	276	309	513	-	590	618.2
White-winged Scoter	0	0	0	-	1	0.4	Dunlin	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Black Scoter	1	0	0	-	CW	0.2	Rock Sandpiper	0	0	0	-	0	0.1
Long-tailed Duck	0	0	0	-	0	0.0	Least Sandpiper	1	5	5	-	5	3.7
Bufflehead	86	106	47	-	97	97.2	Western Sandpiper	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Common Goldeneye	70	40	40	-	65	46.6	Short-billed Dowitcher	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Barrow's Goldeneye	0	0	0	-	0	0.0	Long-billed Dowitcher	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Hooded Merganser	6	16	14	-	11	11.3	Short-bill./Long-bill. Dow.	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Common Merganser	18	25	8	-	11	18.0	Wilson's Snipe	4	4	1	-	2	3.9
Red-breasted Merganser	8	14	11	-	27	19.1	Red-necked Phalarope	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Ruddy Duck	59	49	65	-	110	62.4	Red Phalarope	19	0	4	-	6	19.4
California Quail	251	258	188	-	183	250.4	Red-neck./Red Phalarope	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Ring-necked Pheasant	0	0	0	-	0	0.0	Spotted Sandpiper	10	7	7	-	7	6.8
Wild Turkey	50	50	127	-	184	42.6	Wandering Tattler	1	0	0	-	0	0.1
Pied-billed Grebe	51	73	48	-	44	64.1	Greater Yellowlegs	2	1	0	-	1	1.3
Horned Grebe	7	9	5	-	7	13.2	Willet	1	CW	0	-	0	23.4
Red-necked Grebe	5	2	1	-	8	2.2	Lesser Yellowlegs	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Eared Grebe	7	130	13	-	62	48.4	Pomarine Jaeger	2	0	1	-	0	0.6
Western Grebe	463	412	393	-	571	397.9	Parasitic Jaeger	0	1	0	-	0	0.1

Species	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	10-Year Avg	Species	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	10-Year Avg
Pomarine/Parasitic Jaeger	0	0	0	-	0	0.1	Brown Pelican	1584	879	843	-	379	719.3
Common Murre	180	34	196	-	371	870.1	American Bittern	1	0	0	-	0	0.2
Pigeon Guillemot	0	0	0	-	1	0.1	Great Blue Heron	21	19	26	-	25	20.8
Marbled Murrelet	1	CW	5	-	6	4.8	Great Egret	15	31	27	-	15	21.2
Ancient Murrelet	3	3	10	-	0	4.7	Snowy Egret	72	41	104	-	68	55.9
murrelet sp.	0	0	0	-	0	0.3	Cattle Egret	0	0	0	-	0	0.2
Cassin's Auklet	0	3	1	-	0	5.4	Green Heron	9	2	5	-	4	5.9
Rhinoceros Auklet	11	2	85	-	110	40.1	Black-crowned Night-Heron	25	16	39	-	24	22.2
Tufted Puffin	0	0	0	-	0	0.0	White-faced Ibis	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Black-legged Kittiwake	0	0	0	-	0	0.1	Turkey Vulture	23	22	23	-	79	19.7
Bonaparte's Gull	1	3	3	-	7	5.0	Osprey	6	7	6	-	2	3.4
Heermann's Gull	849	266	109	-	132	234.0	White-tailed Kite	13	15	26	-	22	15.1
Mew Gull	280	136	111	-	26	302.1	Golden Eagle	2	2	1	-	2	1.1
Ring-billed Gull	43	32	44	-	31	41.9	Northern Harrier	7	13	42	-	35	15.8
Western Gull	2428	963	1547	-	1199	2944.9	Sharp-shinned Hawk	23	10	5	-	11	9.2
California Gull	1701	498	1085	-	886	2399.8	Cooper's Hawk	11	13	19	-	23	12.6
Herring Gull	109	28	85	-	118	70.4	Cooper's/Sharp-shin. Hawk	2	3	4	-	5	3.0
Iceland Gull	7	9	14	-	23	12.6	Bald Eagle	1	3	1	-	0	0.9
Glaucous-winged Gull	1332	225	441	-	764	968.2	Red-shouldered Hawk	76	39	90	-	84	57.7
Glaucous Gull	1	0	0	-	1	0.4	Broad-winged Hawk	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Western x Gl.-winged Gull	23	23	21	-	6	112.1	Swainson's Hawk	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Herring x Gl.-winged Gull	15	15	6	-	25	5.4	Red-tailed Hawk	81	119	112	-	137	86.8
Gl.-winged x Glaucous Gull	0	0	0	-	1	0.0	Rough-legged Hawk	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
gull sp.	3711	1632	1272	-	2198	3006.9	Ferruginous Hawk	2	0	1	-	2	0.3
Caspian Tern	3	0	0	-	0	0.3	hawk sp.	0	0	0	-	1	0.0
Common Tern	0	0	0	-	0	0.0	Barn Owl	CW	2	2	-	3	2.0
Forster's Tern	1	0	0	-	0	12.3	Western Screech-Owl	5	6	4	-	2	9.8
Elegant Tern	0	0	0	-	0	0.0	Great Horned Owl	12	7	20	-	64	13.9
Black Skimmer	0	0	0	-	0	0.0	Northern Pygmy-Owl	0	3	2	-	3	1.6
Red-throated Loon	46	80	106	-	294	193.3	Burrowing Owl	1	2	2	-	0	1.5
Pacific Loon	152	80	133	-	191	1131.1	Long-eared Owl	0	2	0	-	0	0.4
Common Loon	20	30	35	-	54	36.8	Short-eared Owl	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
loon sp.	182	108	133	-	424	213.7	Northern Saw-whet Owl	3	4	3	-	6	6.5
Black-footed Albatross	0	0	0	-	0	0.0	Belted Kingfisher	0	17	16	-	16	11.2
Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel	0	0	0	-	0	0.0	Williamson's Sapsucker	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Northern Fulmar	3	1	0	-	35	5.2	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	0	0	1	-	0	0.2
Pink-footed Shearwater	0	0	0	-	0	0.2	Red-naped Sapsucker	0	0	0	-	0	0.3
Flesh-footed Shearwater	0	0	0	-	0	0.0	Red-breasted Sapsucker	8	2	16	-	6	9.3
Sooty Shearwater	0	0	0	-	0	0.0	Red-naped x Red-br.	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Short-tailed Shearwater	0	0	0	-	0	0.0	Sapsucker						
Sooty/Short-tail. Shearwater	0	1	0	-	0	4.1	sapsucker sp.	0	0	1	-	0	0.1
Manx Shearwater	0	0	0	-	0	0.0	Lewis's Woodpecker	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Black-vented Shearwater	37	0	2	-	0	647.2	Acorn Woodpecker	340	178	418	-	462	302.4
shearwater sp.	0	0	0	-	0	2.8	Downy Woodpecker	31	17	39	-	34	28.3
Brandt's Cormorant	907	501	762	-	570	1090.0	Nuttall's Woodpecker	12	12	34	-	26	22.6
Pelagic Cormorant	76	54	60	-	73	72.0	Hairy Woodpecker	51	28	54	-	80	45.8
Double-crested Cormorant	196	340	386	-	220	263.6	Downy/Hairy Woodpecker	0	0	3	-	0	0.3
cormorant sp.	0	0	0	-	43	33.9	Pileated Woodpecker	5	2	8	-	9	5.9
American White Pelican	0	0	0	-	0	0.0							



CBC 12-19-20

Downy Woodpecker
- Lisa Larson

The 64th Annual Santa Cruz Christmas Bird Count
December 19, 2020



Species	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	10-Year Avg	Species	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	10-Year Avg
Northern Flicker	82	37	110	-	100	91.0	Pacific Wren	6	15	14	-	19	11.0
Red-shafted	49	29	39	-	18	37.6	Marsh Wren	15	12	19	-	15	16.6
Yellow-shafted	0	0	0	-	0	0.6	Bewick's Wren	148	89	163	-	139	132.6
Intergrade	1	0	0	-	0	0.8	American Dipper	0	CW	1	-	1	0.8
Crested Caracara	0	0	0	-	0	0.0	European Starling	712	1313	1044	-	653	1335.8
American Kestrel	34	30	46	-	42	37.1	California Thrasher	13	2	29	-	21	13.4
Merlin	4	6	12	-	8	8.8	Northern Mockingbird	33	16	19	-	31	33.3
Peregrine Falcon	6	6	9	-	3	7.9	Western Bluebird	63	86	113	-	202	47.6
Prairie Falcon	0	0	0	-	0	0.1	Mountain Bluebird	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Olive-sided Flycatcher	0	0	0	-	0	0.0	Townsend's Solitaire	0	0	0	-	0	0.1
Least Flycatcher	1	0	0	-	0	0.1	Varied Thrush	15	51	25	-	58	194.1
Dusky Flycatcher	0	0	0	-	0	0.1	Swainson's Thrush	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	0	0	0	-	0	0.0	Hermit Thrush	110	72	146	-	235	163.1
"Western" Flycatcher	0	0	0	-	0	0.1	American Robin	628	567	2515	-	648	2036.8
Black Phoebe	294	255	285	-	333	249.2	Bohemian Waxwing	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Say's Phoebe	35	44	49	-	41	33.0	Cedar Waxwing	181	133	909	-	388	457.3
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	0	0	0	-	0	0.2	House Sparrow	43	36	18	-	26	58.6
Ash-throated Flycatcher	0	0	0	-	0	0.0	White Wagtail	0	0	0	-	1	0.0
Tropical Kingbird	0	0	1	-	CW	0.2	American Pipit	96	34	527	-	372	112.8
Western Kingbird	0	0	0	-	0	0.0	Brambling	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Hutton's Vireo	54	37	81	-	55	48.4	Evening Grosbeak	0	0	0	-	0	0.6
Plumbeous Vireo	0	0	0	-	0	0.3	House Finch	615	299	603	-	1015	589.9
Warbling Vireo	0	0	0	-	0	0.1	Purple Finch	62	23	143	-	89	92.4
Loggerhead Shrike	0	2	3	-	2	1.2	Cassin's Finch	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Steller's Jay	153	80	223	-	266	272.7	Red Crossbill	0	0	0	-	0	17.7
California Scrub-Jay	348	183	383	-	440	350.3	Pine Siskin	7	365	2	-	3085	890.7
Clark's Nutcracker	0	0	0	-	0	0.0	Lesser Goldfinch	87	70	165	-	542	204.7
American Crow	1295	1630	968	-	1427	973.0	Lawrence's Goldfinch	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Common Raven	341	463	484	-	725	412.8	American Goldfinch	615	108	147	-	97	245.1
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	704	492	640	-	955	727.6	Grasshopper Sparrow	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Oak Titmouse	89	56	89	-	175	84.9	Chipping Sparrow	0	0	0	-	0	0.2
Horned Lark	0	0	0	-	0	0.0	Clay-colored Sparrow	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Tree Swallow	1	4	0	-	0	0.6	Lark Sparrow	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Violet-green Swallow	0	0	23	-	0	3.3	Fox Sparrow	64	76	70	-	93	89.4
Tree/Violet-green Swallow	0	0	0	-	0	0.0	Sooty	0	0	0	-	19	0.0
Barn Swallow	0	2	1	-	0	0.3	Slate-colored	0	0	0	-	1	0.0
swallow sp.	0	4	0	-	0	0.6	Red	0	0	0	-	0	0.1
Bushtit	676	631	1004	-	1192	849.2	Dark-eyed Junco	0	0	0	-	872	87.2
Wrentit	57	65	91	-	95	76.7	Oregon	713	1026	904	-	178	918.8
Golden-crowned Kinglet	4	2	25	-	9	18.6	Slate-colored	0	0	0	-	1	1.0
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	306	185	429	-	515	349.3	Gray-headed	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Red-breasted Nuthatch	0	3	0	-	3	6.8	White-crowned Sparrow	889	604	745	-	1783	910.4
White-breasted Nuthatch	0	2	0	-	2	0.3	Puget Sound	0	0	0	-	60	0.0
Pygmy Nuthatch	217	136	179	-	292	197.0	Gambel's	0	0	0	-	7	0.0
Brown Creeper	55	83	80	-	99	82.0	Golden-crowned Sparrow	991	1161	741	-	2240	1052.8
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	9	5	13	-	9	7.3	White- x Golden-crown.	1	0	0	-	0	0.1
Rock Wren	0	0	0	-	0	0.1	Sparrow				-		
Canyon Wren	0	0	0	-	0	0.0	Harris's Sparrow	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
House Wren	10	7	13	--	6	9.1	White-throated Sparrow	0	5	3	--	9	6.3

Species	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	10-Year Avg
Vesper Sparrow	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Savannah Sparrow	58	29	28	-	60	44.7
Song Sparrow	248	200	270	-	301	217.2
Lincoln's Sparrow	85	37	52	-	42	77.8
Swamp Sparrow	3	1	2	-	1	1.8
California Towhee	341	176	270	-	285	335.1
Green-tailed Towhee	0	0	0	-	0	0.1
Spotted Towhee	131	81	174	-	174	149.7
Western Meadowlark	216	192	197	-	500	210.7
Orchard Oriole	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Hooded Oriole	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Bullock's Oriole	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Red-winged Blackbird	376	48	382	-	410	408.9
Tricolored Blackbird	347	30	153	-	184	300.9
Brown-headed Cowbird	4	19	35	-	17	18.8
Brewer's Blackbird	326	121	333	-	334	579.9
blackbird sp.	176	0	35	-	280	145.7
Northern Waterthrush	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Black-and-white Warbler	1	CW	1	-	0	0.8
Tennessee Warbler	0	0	0	-	0	0.2
Orange-crowned Warbler	2	1	14	-	5	8.7
Lucy's Warbler	0	0	0	-	0	0.1
Nashville Warbler	0	0	0	-	CW	0.0
MacGillivray's Warbler	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Common Yellowthroat	8	5	41	-	49	27.4
Hooded Warbler	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
American Redstart	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Cape May Warbler	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Magnolia Warbler	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Blackburnian Warbler	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Yellow Warbler	0	0	0	-	0	0.3
Chestnut-sided Warbler	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Black-throated Blue Warbler	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Palm Warbler	1	0	0	-	2	1.1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	455	330	337	-	643	378.6
Audubon's	228	181	213	-	231	340.0
Myrtle	69	98	21	-	15	86.7
Prairie Warbler	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Black-throated Gray Warbler	1	CW	0	-	2	0.4
Townsend's Warbler	177	83	152	-	173	213.3
Hermit Warbler	0	0	0	-	1	1.0
Townsend's x Hermit Warbler	0	0	0	-	0	0.1
Wilson's Warbler	0	0	0	-	0	0.2
warbler sp.	0	0	0	-	0	0.1
Summer Tanager	0	0	0	-	1	0.0
Western Tanager	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
Black-headed Grosbeak	0	0	0	-	0	0.1
Indigo Bunting	0	0	0	-	0	0.0
# Individuals	36015	26154	32831	-	39935	33734
# Species	167	170	165	-	167	166.8
# Participants	76	92	98	-	100	77.2
# Field Hours	316.5	290.3	343.6	-	221.7	253.5



Pileated Woodpecker
- Andy Knorr

Breeding Bird Atlas - Year 5 Begins

The month of March marks the beginning of the atlasing season, and this one could be the last! This year our primary goal will be to finish fieldwork in the handful of atlas blocks that remain incomplete. Most of these incomplete blocks are in the Santa Cruz Mountains, especially along the ridge dividing Santa Cruz and Santa Clara counties, but others are in the southeast corner of the county and encompass the Pajaro River and Aromas in San Benito County.

Some atlasers will also be revisiting blocks where fieldwork has already been completed, and others will be observing species that are underrepresented in the atlas database. These underrepresented species include rare breeders such as Belted Kingfisher and Cinnamon Teal, but also others that may take a special effort to observe, such as White-throated Swift and owls. And of course, many atlasers will be observing in their backyard, neighborhood, and on casual outings around the county. These observations help tremendously in providing a complete picture of where and when our birds are breeding.

Atlaser trainings will be held virtually this March. To receive more details on when trainings will be happening, please sign up here: <https://forms.gle/WzNn5ud52fpQqMYD8>

Alex Rinkert
Atlas Director

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS RECENT DONORS

Karen Laing
Louisa Squires
Norman Uyeda
Kathleen Toner
Bethany Kilzer
Ann Chandler
Anonymous, The Meadow
Fund of Silicon Valley
Comm. Fnda
Kent Johnson
Jennifer McNulty
Rich Sandkuhle
Susan Leo
David Suddjian
Debby Goodell
Steve & Stephanie Singer
Steven Penrose
Jane Ann Harper
Jacquelyn Pio
Alexander Gaguine
Michael O'Malley
Barry McLaughlin
Ann Rogers
Anonymous
Additional Donation to
the Club's General Fund
from The Robert Stephens
Nonendowed Donor-
Advised Fund

Thank you!

Bushtits in Love - Gail West



SPONSOR-A-SPECIES in the BBA

- GREAT PROGRESS AND FUN NEW INFO!



We're excited to announce that the Sponsor-A-Species campaign for the Breeding Bird Atlas has exceeded 70% of eligible species being sponsored! Many thanks to all those who have supported the Atlas with their sponsorships!

The remaining birds are beginning to feel a bit left out ~ and so we are reaching out to them in hopes of making them more attractive for adoption.



The Sponsor-A-Species committee is currently negotiating with these birds for additional perks for sponsors who display the decal. There are, however, no guarantees. Some of the species we are working with are not known for their intelligence and others are too smart for us! Following are some of the results to date.

We have asked the **Hairy & Downy Woodpeckers** to evolve further, so that their size differences are more easily seen. They keep asking why they should when is there a Pileated Woodpecker, and not them, on the decal.

Several species including **Blackbirds** and **Starlings** have vowed to try not to poop on your car. This may not work perfectly because when a birds gotta go, it's gotta go.

The **Sharp-shinned Hawk** agreed to prioritize taking House Sparrows over native birds. (Don't tell the sparrows!)

Cliff Swallows with nests under eaves of homes with decal will poop on your neighbor's house.

Doves, Pigeons and **House Sparrows** will try to refrain from eating any more than half of all the food in your bird feeders. (Fat chance that one will work!)

Some local golf courses might want to consider sponsoring. We hope to arrange for the **Canada Geese** to not wreck their greens if the decal is displayed.

The **Great Blue Heron** is stumped... he wonders how he can possibly be any more majestic!

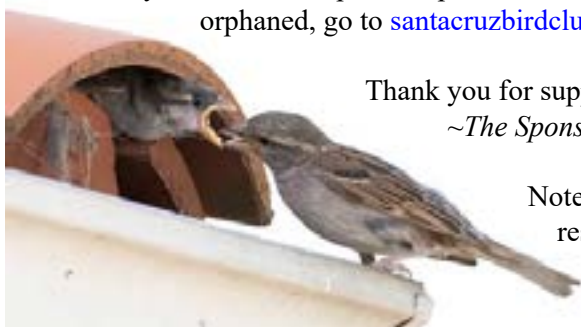
Clockwise from top:
Downy Woodpecker - Lisa Larson
Cliff Swallow - Jeff Bleam
Sharp-shinned Hawk - Pete Solè
House Sparrows - Lee Jaffe



If you'd like to help these species, and the others still orphaned, go to santacruzbirdclub.org/auction

Thank you for supporting the Atlas!
~The Sponsor-A-Species Committee

Note: The Albatross takes no responsibility for the truth or accuracy of the above article—
The Editor



Santa Cruz Birds

By Alex Rinkert

Including reports from November 1 to December 31, 2020

Late fall and early winter felt much like a continuation of fall until some winter storms made their way to Santa Cruz in mid-December. The nearshore waters were unusually productive this period, especially between Lighthouse Point and Seabright. From late November through mid-December, frenzies of birds would congregate to feast on anchovies in the mornings and evenings as they do in the late summer and fall. In addition to the frenzies of gulls and pelicans, several Long-tailed Ducks and quite a few Red-necked Grebes were present, along with a nice concentration of Marbled Murrelets and some Elegant Terns that may have been persuaded to stay in the area later than they would otherwise.

Most of the winter irruptive species were scarce or in moderate abundance, with Pine Siskin being the only species that was especially abundant this winter. Red-breasted Nuthatches and Golden-crowned Kinglets were scarce in the lowlands, and large flocks of American Robins were largely absent in the mountains.



A flock of 37 **Snow Geese** near Struve Slough on December 20 was an especially high count for the county, and the highest this winter (NU). Single **Cackling Geese**, perhaps the same individual, were seen on November 18 and December 10 flying over Scotts Valley, where rare (JS, HS, PSv). A sizeable flock of **Canada Geese**



while what was perhaps a different male visited Shorebirds Pond at Pajaro Dunes through mid-December (MF, v.ob.). A male **Gadwall x Mallard** hybrid continued at Pinto Lake and Merk Pond through November 19 (RW, CK, JM). A female or immature **Redhead** on the lower San Lorenzo River from November 10–29

wintered in Santa Cruz, further establishing what is now a year-round presence in this area of the county. The highest counts were between 70–75 in November (BB, AR, ES). Four **Tundra Swans** flying up the coast from Swanton Pond on December 1 (ST) were refound later that day further north at Pescadero in San Mateo County, where they remained in the general area into January. Five more Tundra Swans were seen flying over Harkins Slough on December 16 (BB).

was rare on the mid-county coast (AM, v.ob.). About 12 **White-winged Scoters** reported along the coast between Waddell and Sunset state beaches this period was a decent showing for this scarce species (v.ob.). Four or five **Black Scoters** were reported between November 16–December 16 (AR, ES, SH, LG, BS, LM, KP).

A male **Eurasian Wigeon** continued at Pinto Lake,

An exceptional five **Long-tailed Ducks** were reported beginning in late November. An immature male and female were at the Santa Cruz Wharf on November 24 (NU, AM, v.ob.), and the female stayed



From top, clockwise:

White-winged Scoter with Surf Scoters- Alex Rinkert

Long-tailed Duck - Garret_Lau

Redhead - Arthur Macmillian





through November 29 (v.ob.). Photographs distinguished a different immature male at the nearby San Lorenzo River mouth on December 7 (AR, GM, v.ob.); this individual stayed there through December 14 but was then was found at the

Baldwin Creek lagoon on December 16 (KA). Another immature male was in lower Watsonville Slough at Pajaro Dunes beginning December 14 and stayed into January (GK, v.ob.). And finally, a dapper adult male was seen on the coast between Aptos Creek mouth and Manresa State Beach from December 11–26 (GL, ARo, AM).

An especially large rafter of **Wild Turkeys** was again present at Moore Creek Preserve this winter, with up to 77 seen there on December 5 (BT). One turkey continued in the neighborhoods at La Selva Beach, where they are unusual so close to the coast (NC). Beginning in late November, **Red-necked Grebes** were especially numerous with about 30 being reported along the mid-county and north coast through December. The nearshore waters between Lighthouse Point and Seabright harbored an especially high concentration, with 3–7 often being reported, and up to 16 being seen at once on November 26 (AG). The adult male **Anna's x Costa's Hummingbird** hybrid was present daily at a feeder in Aptos through December (RW). Four **Sandhill Cranes** flying north from Sand Hill Bluff on December 4 (BT) were seen later in the day flying past Pescadero in San Mateo County.

A **Pacific Golden-Plover** continued on lower Watsonville Slough at Pajaro Dunes through November 3 (JJ, ZH), while another was in the lagoon at Scott Creek on November 15 (AR). A flock of up to 23 **Snowy Plovers** at Laguna Creek Beach from late October

through early December was a nice count for the north coast (ST, v.ob.). A **Pigeon Guillemot** seen off Three Mile Beach on December 19 was rare in winter (AR, ES). Nice concentrations of **Marbled Murrelets** were reported off Santa Cruz in late November and



early December. High counts included 66 between Lighthouse Point and Seabright on November 24 (AR) and 31 in the same area on December 1 (NL, AR).

An adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was at the San Lorenzo River mouth on December 27 county (AR, ES). All nine records of this species in the county have been since 2016. Also at the San Lorenzo River mouth in December were two different first-cycle **Glaucous Gulls**, seen on the 19th and 21st (JG, BS). Adult **Glaucous x Glaucous-winged Gull** hybrids were at the San Lorenzo River mouth on November 17 (AR) and Wilder Ranch State Park on December 19 (AR, ES). A handful of **Elegant Terns** lingered into early December around the San Lorenzo River mouth, with the latest being seen on December 15 (RC). A **Laysan Albatross** was



*Clockwise: Costa's Hummingbird - Randy Wardle
Red-necked Grebe - Michael Bolte
Laysan Albatross - Chris Overington
Pacific Golden Plover - Pete Sole
Costa's Hummingbird - Randy Wardle*

nicely photographed on the Monterey Bay on December 29 (CO). **Black-vented Shearwaters** continued to be present in small numbers in early November but became scarce by the end of the month; the highest count in November





was 200 from West Cliff on November 19 (AF).

In addition to an adult and juvenile **Bald Eagle** in Watsonville, presumably part of the local breeding pair, there were three other reports eagles this period.

Juveniles were at Glenwood on November 19 (BB) and Corcoran Lagoon on November 24 (PF), and an adult with an injured eye moved up and down the coast between Swanton Pond and Santa Cruz from November 2 to December 4 (BME, MC, DS). An adult or near-adult was also over Aptos on December 3 (SPe).



Ferruginous Hawks were at Swanton Pond by December 4 (AR) and UCSC by December 18 (MB), which were later fall arrivals than in recent years. Sadly, no **Burrowing Owls** were found this period despite effort to find them at their haunts. The **Short-eared Owl** at El Jarro Point was last seen on November 9 (AR), while one at Wilder Ranch State Park was last seen on November 7 (BM, LG, NU).

A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** returned to a residence in Soquel by October 12, the third consecutive year it has wintered there (AGb). Another Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, a juvenile, was found near Soquel-San Jose Road on November 29 (ST, LL). A **Gray Flycatcher** well-documented at Manresa Uplands State Beach from December 7–11 provided

Photos from top:
Gray Flycatcher - Norm Uyeda
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - Simon Thornhill
Loggerhead Shrike - Michael Bolte
White Wagtail - Lisa Larson



the 1st winter record for the county (AB, v.ob.). **Tropical Kingbirds** were reported at DeAnza Mobile Home Park on November 25 (SS, SWS, JA), Live Oak from November 16–December 7 (SLM, v.ob.), and Struve Slough where there were two present (v.ob.).

Five **Loggerhead Shrikes** were reported this period, all from expected locations (v.ob.).

A **Horned Lark** in the coastal fields at Wilder Ranch State Park on November 5 was the only reported away from the Pajaro Valley (AR, NL). A **Barn Swallow** was at Pajaro Dunes on December 20 (IL). Up to two **White-breasted Nuthatches** were at Quail Hollow Ranch from November 24–December 26 (SP, EF et al.).

Western Bluebirds are undoubtedly becoming an increasingly regular species in urban areas on the mid-county coast. In addition to what is now a regular presence around Natural Bridges State Beach and Antonelli Pond, bluebirds were reported near Mission Street on the westside, the lower San Lorenzo River, upper Seabright neighborhoods, Corcoran Lagoon, various Capitola neighborhoods, and even at the Capitola Mall (LS)! Further down the coast, a flock was noted at Seacliff State Beach where they are still rare (DSO). With this recent change in occurrence, it seems only a matter of time before they begin breeding in the urban areas of the county as they do in the south San Francisco Bay.

The rarest bird found this period was a **White Wagtail** which appeared on a sandbar at Corcoran Lagoon on November 14 (SH). The next day, this individual was surprisingly refound on a beach near Pescadero in San Mateo County! The wagtail was thought to be long gone after daily coverage the subsequent week at Corcoran Lagoon, but remarkably it returned one

week later on November 21 (ARo), and to the delight of many it was seen almost daily at Corcoran the next few weeks. Some birders noted it was not always present at Corcoran, and it was sometimes seen it flying off to the east or west and not returning. On November 23, it was found visiting the San Lorenzo River mouth (AR) and through December 7 it split its time between the San Lorenzo and Corcoran, often at the river mouth in the morning and evening,



Nashville Warbler
Tri-colored Blackbirds
- Breck Tyler

and Corcoran midday. Once it was even seen flying over the lower Seabright neighborhood in transit between its two favorite hangouts (AR)! After a high tide flooded Corcoran Lagoon and submerged its favorite sandbar in early December, the wagtail took up residence at the San Lorenzo into 2021. This individual is the 3rd record of White Wagtail in the county, and the first since 1990. The extensive white in the remiges identified it as an adult of the “Black-backed” subspecies, *M. a. lugens*, which breeds in northeastern Asia.

Six reports of **Red Crossbills** between were all from the mountains except for a flock at Natural Bridges State Beach on November 2 (PB). A **Chipping Sparrow** at Pinto Lake on November 25 was probably a late fall migrant (EG). A “**Slate-colored**” **Fox Sparrow** was near Soquel-San Jose Road on December 19 (STe). As in October, “**Gambel’s**” **White-crowned Sparrows** seemed to be more numerous than usual this fall and winter. Especially high counts at places where they are normally scarce included 40 at Wilder Ranch State Park on November 3

Hermit Warbler
- Alex Rinkert



(AR), 19 at Seabright State Beach on November 20 (AR), and 20 in a Seascape neighborhood on December 18 (AR, ES). A **Harris’s Sparrow** was present near Kelly Lake from December 9–16 (BKt). About 39 **White-throated** and 4 **Swamp Sparrows** were reported this period (v.ob.).

A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** continued at Swanton Pond until November 1 (BS). A male **Bullock’s Oriole** visited a feeder in Soquel on November 20 (PS). A flock of 400 **Tricolored Blackbirds** were seen in the fields near Yellow Bank Creek on December 14 (AR), but this flock must have moved on as most other reports this winter were less than 100.

A **Tennessee Warbler** in the blue gums at Corcoran Lagoon from November 25–29 was probably a late migrant (NS, BSK, OM, v.ob.). **Nashville Warblers** were at Natural Bridges State Beach on November 9 and December 21 (GM, SK), Neary Lagoon on November 23 (BT), and Aptos from November 24–29 (RW). A late **Yellow Warbler** was at Corcoran Lagoon on November 25 (STe). A male **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was photographed visiting some feeders at a residence near Boulder Creek from November 18–28 providing the first record of this species since 2013 (JMC). Scarce



warbler species found this period included 7 **Palm**, 7 **Black-throated Gray**, and 2 **Hermit Warblers** (v.ob.). A **Wilson's Warbler** at Natural Bridges State Beach on November 27 was late (AF).

Not only were all three tanager species found this period, but all were found at one location! The county's 3rd record of **Scarlet Tanager** was at Pinto Lake from November 20–28 (RW, v.ob.), while a **Summer** and **Western Tanager** made appearances at the same exact location on November 29 (EE, KC, v.ob.) and November 24–25 (PF, v.ob.), respectively. Another Summer Tanager was also at Natural Bridges; first found on November 5 (ST), it stayed through December. A juvenile male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** visited a feeder in La Selva on December 23 (CR), while a **Black-headed Grosbeak** was seen at a feeder in Santa Cruz on December 2 (BR).



From top:
 Scarlet Tanager - Phil Brown
 Scarlet Tanager - Simon Thornhill
 Summer Tanager - Norm Uyeda
 White Wagtail - Stephanie Martin



A flock of up to 23 **Scaly-breasted Munias** continued visiting a feeder in Interlaken through December (NU), as did up to 9 in Seascape (BK, v.ob.). Two also returned to a feeder in La Selva on November 9, but were apparently only seen on that day (CR).



Cited Observers:

Jenny Anderson, Kumaran Arul, Aaron Bartley, Mike Bolte, Phil Brown, Brian Bullard, Ryan Carle, Matthew Coale, Kaia Colestock, Nanda Curren, Elias Elias, Mary Feliz, Paul Fenwick, Abram Fleishman, Elisabeth Foster, Aaron Gabbe (AGb), Alexander Gaguine, Lois Goldfrank, Joachim Gonzalez, Eli Gross, Zach Hampson, Sharon Hull, Jazmine Jensen, Brooke Keeney, Clay Kempf, Bryan Kett (BKt), Gary Kittleson, Spencer Klinefelter, Storey LaMontagne, Lisa Larson, Garrett Lau, Nick Levendosky, Irby Lovette, Arthur Macmillan, Jeff Manker, Bobbie Mayer, Jill McCrystal, Brian McElroy, Annie Meyer, Greg Meyer, Oscar Moss, Liam Murphy, Chris Overington, Sandi Pensinger, Ken Petersen, Shantanu Phukan, Alex Rinkert, Barbara Riverwoman, Alexander Robinson, Chris Rummel, Brian Scanlon, Brian Schnack (BSk), Nico Schnack, Elena Scott, Lisa Sheridan, Stephanie Singer, Steve W. Singer, Pete Solé, David Somerton (DSO), Daniel Stephens, Hanna Svensson, Jonah Svensson, Peter Svensson (PSv), Scott Terrill (STe), Simon Thornhill, Breck Tyler, Norman Uyeda, Randy Wardle, "v.ob." means various observers. **Please enter interesting observations into eBird or report them to Alex Rinkert at arinkert@comcast.net.**

Birder's Notebook
Featuring Art by Stephanie Martin and John Perry



*White Wagtail - watercolor on wood
By Stephanie Martin*



We Love
The White Wagtail!



*White Wagtail Sketch
- watercolor
By John Perry*

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.



Common Raven - Pete Solè



White-faced Ibis - John Hickok



California Quail - John Fox

New Members
WELCOME

Gabe Gartner	<i>Dec 20</i>
Carla Brennan	<i>Dec 20</i>
Sara Courtneidge	<i>Dec 20</i>
Diana Santos	<i>Dec 20</i>
William Johnson & Family	<i>Jan 21</i>
Scott Walker Family	<i>Jan 21</i>
Barbara Banfield & Family	<i>Jan 21</i>
Everardo Jaime, Jr.	<i>Jan 21</i>
Robyn Miranda Family	<i>Jan 21</i>

DeaDLine

submissions for
MAY/AUG issue

APR 1, 2021



Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve - Pete Solè



Osprey - Dave Lewit

Sunrise - Margaret Perham

Submission to the



ALBATROSS

GUIDELINES

In addition to regular features—*Events Calendar*, photos for *Santa Cruz Birds*, *Birders Notebook* and *Parting Shot*—the newsletter can include almost anything related to birding in general and to local birding in particular. Depending on space, submissions of any of the following are **needed**:

- **Feature articles**
- Birding event announcements
- **Stories about birds, birding, or birders**
- Reviews of birding literature or guides
- Conservation & outreach reports/stories
- Birding tips, descriptions of local sites
- Poetry, quotes, field sketches, artwork or photos
- Photos of BIRDS or people at our events (jpg, tif)

If you wish to submit an article, please contact the editor about it **AT LEAST 2 weeks before the submission deadline!**

I accept plain text, Word, or PDF files. Send items by email to: scbirdclubeditor@gmail.com

~ Lisa Fay Larson, Editor

SCBC OFFICERS

President

Lisa Sheridan:
trotrider@aol.com

Bird Records Keeper

Alex Rinkert
arinkert12@comcast.net

Field Trips

Nick Levendosky
n.levendosky@gmail.com

Treasurer

Stephanie Singer
singersa@aol.com

Secretary

Larry Corridan
larry961357@sbcglobal.net

Editor

Lisa Fay Larson
scbirdclubeditor@gmail.com

Webmaster

Phil Brown
pdpbrown@gmail.com

Conservation Director

Jennifer Parkin
J.parkin127@gmail.com

Membership Director

Brian Schnack
theschnack@gmail.com

Historian

Elisabeth Foster
elisabethif@gmail.com

ALBATROSS



is published five times a year
by the Santa Cruz Bird Club.

Download the online version and
past issues on the SCBC website,
santacruzbirdclub.org

PARTING SHOT: "BIRD IN WHITE CHANNELS MAN IN BLACK" SANDERLING - KENT JOHNSON



*Above: Leaf detail
- Lisa Larson*

*Right: Male Wood Duck
- Andy Knorr*



Join the Santa Cruz Bird Club

Enjoy walks in and around Santa Cruz County, a club pelagic trip, summer picnics, meetings Sept-May featuring informative, illustrated talks on wild birds and related topics, and Our newsletter *Albatross*.

\$20 Individual, \$25 Family, \$ Youth. \$400 Life.

To pay with PayPal:
santacruzbirdclub.org/join-or-renew-online
Or make checks payable to
Santa Cruz Bird Club and mail to:
P.O. Box 1304, Santa Cruz, CA 95061
Attention: Membership