

Albatross

PHOEBASTRIA NIGRIPES

Magical Visitation

- Anonymous

Nature has a way of sorting thoughts out for us . . . if we're paying attention. My brush with the wild world did not take place deep in the woods. Instead, it played out in the small backyard of our home in a lively Santa Cruz neighborhood. On a particularly somber day at the end of July, deep into the quarantine with Covid-19 numbers soaring and the anniversary of my mother's death floating through my mind, Nature unexpectedly led me down a magical path.

I was walking along the side of our house picking up bits of garden debris when I noticed an unusually large amount of bird poop streaming down the drainpipe and onto the flowering maple. Shielding my eyes from the sun, I followed the poop path and landed eye-to-eye with an astonishingly beautiful little owl perched on our drainpipe, his* huge yellow eyes staring back at me. It was one of those moments where time truly stands still. I could not believe what I was seeing. My heart was racing. I felt a combination of wonderment and fear. I dashed inside to observe him through the window and he swiveled towards me, tilted his tiny head, and stared back at me looking rather annoyed.

Questions overflowed. Was he a fledgling? Is his mother close by and watching? Does he look sick? Who should I call? It seemed that he kept lifting up one leg and one wing slightly and then setting it back down. Was he injured? I thought it was odd that he should be out in broad daylight. Excited and concerned phone calls and texts were exchanged with family and friends for advice. I stood at that window all day and soaked up every bit of him and snapped photos. Even though he was maybe only 6 or 8 inches tall, he had such a strong presence and the patterns on his feathers were simply stunning. Judging by online images, I thought he might be a juvenile Western Screech Owl.

* Use of gender is purely arbitrary.
Left: Western Screech Owl - Lisa Sheridan



INSIDE

No Events due to Covid-19 Pandemic



Sponsor-a-Species Campaign



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Santa Cruz Birds



Birder's Notebook

PARTING SHOT



I decided to call Native Animal Rescue who sent out a volunteer who was in the area. He explained that he knew very little about owls but that he would capture him, put him in a box, and bring him in for possible rehab. The owl was not remotely interested in being captured and would casually fly from one drainpipe to another to avoid “the gloved man.” While moving the ladder, we lost sight of him and after looking closely around the house and yard, determined that he must have been healthy enough to find a safer spot to perch.

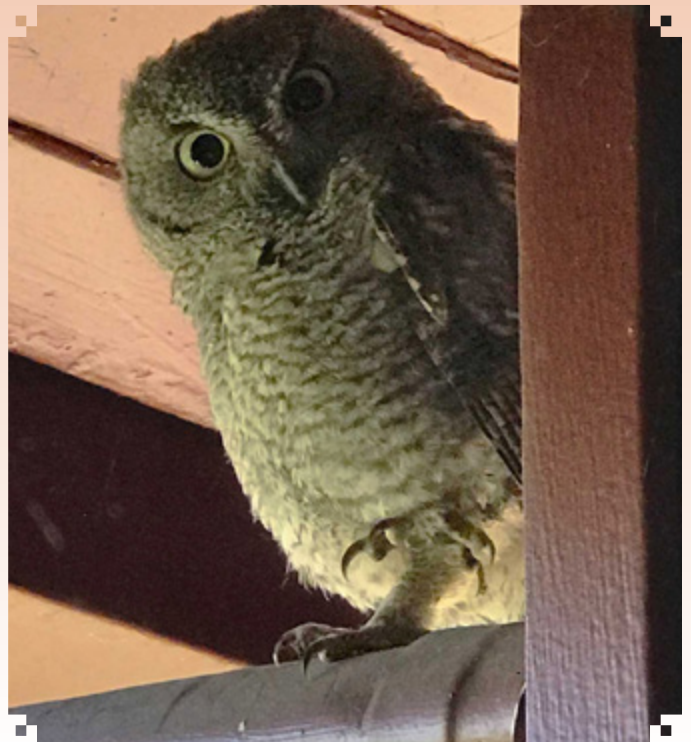
This had been a once-in-a-lifetime encounter with an amazing owl . . . end of story. UNTIL the next morning when we rolled up the noisy door of our little backyard garage to find the sleepy owl comfortably perched in the rafters. Yikes! What to do now? Whenever I entered the space he would draw his wings in tightly, elongate his body, and close his eyes. Did he seem thin and weak? I later learned that this behavior allows the owl to look like the tree branches he is perching on when predators appear . . . so clever! We left the garage doors open all night so that he could fly off when he was ready.

We woke the following morning to see that our guest had decided to stay . . . testing out a variety of perches around the garage, judging by the droppings. My concern was growing that something might be wrong with him. A phone call to the Santa Cruz Bird Club provided the

support that I needed. Lisa Sheridan kindly came to my house right away to see the owl, confirm his species, take photos, and offer advice (you should not be looking directly into his eyes, tape X’s on the garage windows to avoid him flying into them, etc.) Lisa contacted several expert resources and they provided suggestions on how to proceed. One of them visited the following day to attempt to assess the owl’s health. I had even been warned not to share his location with others due to predatory bird thieves. Who knew such crazy people existed? I felt a huge responsibility to make the right decisions.

As is often the case with any group of individuals who are passionate about protecting a species, the strong opinions varied greatly surrounding questions of feed or don’t feed, take to a rehab center or not, encourage the owl to leave the garage or let him rest there for a while, and so on. After forwarding photos, talk of pellet contents, poop descriptions, and discussions about overall behavior, the consensus was to attempt feeding in an effort to help him gain some strength.

A bit squeamishly, I ventured into the world of owl delicacies . . . thawed mouse pieces, wriggling crickets-on-a-stick, and active mealworms on a cookie sheet. Testing each, I observed from under the wisteria arbor. The winner was mealworms and he wasted no time flying down from his perch, hopping on each teeny worm, and polishing them off. I slowly moved to the door of the garage for a closer view of the action. This did not seem to bother him at all. He was in wide-eyed predator mode



and extremely animated. He would look at me intently after a few snacks and then resume attacking and eating. I was mesmerized. When finished, the owl would jump onto the vice clamped to the workbench and swivel his head around and take in his surroundings . . . including me. We simply watched each other for minutes at a time. I could not believe my luck in being able to observe a wild creature this closely and make that kind of connection. I fed him mealworms once a day for two more days.

Very educational and heated discussions continued among members of the local bird community. I vacillated between utter joy observing him and deep worry about how to move forward in the owl's best interest. I decided to watch the garage door closely beginning at dusk to see if he actually left at night to hunt. I listened closely for the unique call of the Western Screech Owl but heard only the Great Horned Owls hooting in the distance. Darkness approached and just as I was about to give up, I saw a "brown blur" in my peripheral vision. He had exited the garage. The next morning he was perched back on the drainpipe where I had first spotted him. Entering the garage I saw that raccoons had ransacked the open garage and ripped open a sealed container of dog food right below the owl's favorite perch. This may have encouraged his move from the rafters back to the drainpipe.



I needed to make a decision. He had stayed in the garage for almost a week now, becoming more and more comfortable with my presence. My heart really wanted him to stay with us but I felt that he was healthy and believed that I was not respecting his "wildness" by continuing to house and feed him. We closed the garage up that evening. He perched on an exterior pipe near the garage door for two more days and then moved on.

In retrospect, this owl probably did not need me to intercede in his life at all. He instinctively knew what to do. It's much more likely that I needed HIS help at the moment he arrived. I was reminded that is not always best to "do something" immediately. Patience, acceptance, listening to your inner voice and collecting your thoughts, calmly observing without judgment, simplify rather than complicate life . . . wise lessons from a small but spectacular Western Screech Owl.

Thank you to Native Animal Rescue (NAR), Lisa Sheridan, Rebecca Dmytryk, Melanie Wirtanen, Charles Prentiss, and Nikki Silva for the information and helpful suggestions you offered to help this little owl!



Page 3-4 photos - Anonymous

SPONSOR-A-SPECIES Campaign

Species Sponsorships Open to Public

The fundraising campaign for the Breeding Bird Atlas is moving ahead with the next phase. Starting this month, the opportunity to sponsor a species and help support the publication of the atlas will be opened up to the general public. The early bird still gets the worm, though, so go out to santacruzbirdclub.org and snag your worm (er, your bird) while supplies last.

Sponsorship costs \$200 per species. Sponsors will receive a “BBA Sponsor” decal in the mail and, when the atlas is published, you will have your chosen name, group or organization listed as a sponsor. You can sponsor more than one species (we encourage you to do so!) and species choice is on a first come, first served basis.

Remember: *By sponsoring a species now, your club membership will be extended through May, 2021*

SPONSORSHIP INSTRUCTIONS:

Simply log onto santacruzbirdclub.org, scroll down to the “BBA Sponsor-A-Bird Auction” button, find your bird and add it to your cart. Birds that have already been sponsored will have a “sold” flag across them and are unavailable for sponsoring.

If you'd like to pay by credit card make sure to click the red “Pay at SFBBO site” button during checkout. This will lead you to the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory's website where they have a page dedicated to fundraising for the Santa Cruz BBA. Select the tan “Breeding Bird Atlas” button at the bottom of the page, choose your donation or “sponsorship” amount (multiples of \$200) and then checkout. If you'd like to pay by check, the instructions are clearly defined under the BBA Donations dropdown tab on the SCBC website.

Keep an eye out in future Albatross updates about the date and location of the SCBC silent auction during which the remaining species will be available for reduced price sponsorship.

HAPPY BIRDING!



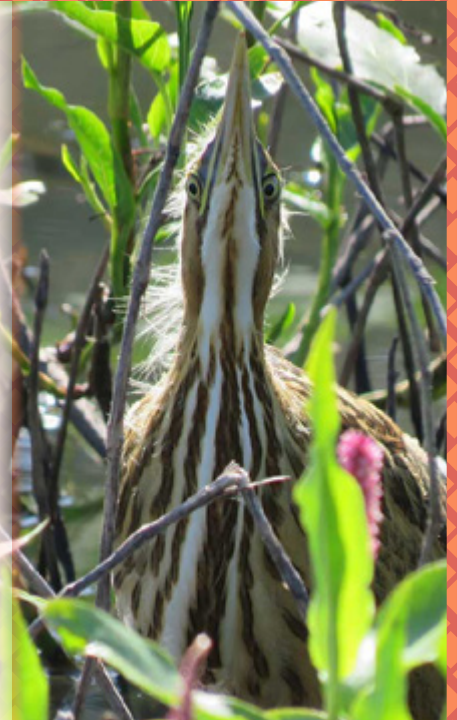
Black-crowned Night Heron - Jeff Roisman

Breeding Bird Atlas: Year 4 Report

The Year 4 annual report is now available!

We made incredible progress on the breeding bird atlas this year. Atlasers submitted 45% more breeding confirmations and spent 60% more hours atlasing in Year 4 than in any year previously. The fieldwork for this project is now 80% complete thanks to the tremendous effort of atlasers. This winter we will be planning where atlasers are needed in Year 5 and how to collect post-fire data in the mountains. Next year could be the *last year* of atlasing! Thanks to all the atlasers for their tireless efforts this year, and those who have financially supported the project. The atlasing season will resume in March 2021. Until then, enjoy the winter break.

Alex Rinkert
Atlas Director



American Bittern juvenile - Lisa Larson



Immature Bald Eagle - Clay Kempf

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS RECENT DONORS

Stephanie Martin
Thomas Sutfin
Steve Leonard
Ketury Stein
Janice Lasnier
Dan Frisch
Jennifer McNulty
Gary Kittleson
Anne Bourdeau
Nick Levendosky
Amanda Preece
Julia Jackson
Sharon Hull

Thank you!

IT'S ON!

Santa Cruz County CBC

Saturday 19 December

The Santa Cruz County Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will continue this year, but in a vastly different format, due to impacts by COVID 19 and this year's fires. My heart goes out to anyone and all who have been impacted. This year's count is the 64th CBC for the county and will be held on Saturday, December 19, 2020. Please mark your calendars now. Interested counters can contact me directly for coverage options. Keeping to health and safety considerations, the count will not have sections and section leaders. As such (compilation considerations), electronic reporting will be encouraged. Participants will be given specific instructions/resources for data submission. Instructions will cover eBird submissions, which will be encouraged, too. Come and see what birds join us for December; a surprising vagrant is always fun. However, as always, diversity and abundances remain the focus of the count. Last year, we had 161 species on count day and 165 species during count week. The current 10-year species count average now stands at 167. These annual data points remain as important as ever—so everyone's help is greatly appreciated (and desired)! The last two years, 92 observers were in the field. Please contact Eric Feuss at ericfeuss@sbcglobal.net or at 831-477-0280.

Due to health and safety considerations, there will be no countdown dinner. A post count countdown will occur by virtual video conference and can be joined by phone (no video) as an option. Details/logistics will be sent to count participants and interested individuals.

Cedar Waxwings - Lee Jaffe



SANTA CRUZ BIRDS

By Alex Rinkert

Including reports from June 1 to August 31, 2020

The most significant event this summer was the CZU Lightning Complex fire that tore through the Santa Cruz Mountains beginning on August 16. Over a five-week period the fire burned nearly 87,000 acres in the northwestern corner of the county and initial assessments have revealed much of the landscape was devastated. This fire, the largest on record in Santa Cruz County, will undoubtedly have profound impacts on the avifauna of the Santa Cruz Mountains in future years. The species that may be hit the hardest is the Marbled Murrelet. Much of the murrelet's southern population nested within the fire perimeter and known nest sites are already reported as being lost.

Future changes in the avifauna as a result of the fire may include a boom of woodpeckers and secondary-cavity nesters in burned areas. Purple Martins are likely to become much more common breeders in the mountains, and Black-chinned Sparrows may colonize regrowing chaparral slopes. There could also be an increase in breeding Chipping Sparrows where the fire created the open woodland this species uses for nesting elsewhere in its range. Interestingly, there was no indication of birds being displaced by the fire.

Elsewhere in the county, mud was scarce in the Pajaro Valley but that has become the new normal. Formerly annual shorebirds missed this August included Wilson's Phalarope, Solitary Sandpiper, and Pectoral Sandpiper. There was a nice showing of spring vagrants in June concurrent with a state-wide influx of species primarily breeding in the southwestern USA, and a coordinated survey for Black Swifts produced an estimate of our breeding population.



A **Snow Goose** at Loch Lomond on June 20 was exceptional in summer, and especially so in the mountains (PB). Likewise, a **Ross's Goose** at the Pajaro River mouth from July 1–11 was also exceptional in summer (JM, MN, v.ob.). **Wood Ducks** at Tynan Lake on June 27 (NU), Pinto Lake on July 17 (ES), and Struve Slough on July 26 (AR) were probably post-breeding dispersant from the Pajaro River. No **Redheads** were reported this summer which suggests the sightings earlier in spring were migrants rather than breeders. A **Ring-necked Duck** at Struve Slough on July 26 may have been an early fall migrant (NU), as could have been an adult male **Hooded Merganser** at Lake Tynan on June 27 (NU). A **Wild Turkey** continued to strut at Natural Bridges State Beach this summer (v.ob.).

Black Swifts were present at three breeding locations on the coast this summer. At Sand Hill Bluff, at least one and likely two nests were active in July and August (AR, BL). Swifts made numerous cave visits throughout the summer at Ohlone Bluff at Wilder Ranch suggesting



several nests were active there as well (SM). At least one pair showed interest in some caves near Yellow Bank Beach, where breeding activity has not been noted in recent years (ES, AR).

On July 26 a group of 21 birders conducted a coordinated evening survey for Black Swifts between Año Nuevo and Santa Cruz. Observers were stationed at eleven areas where the species currently or historically has nested. Only four of the eleven areas had swift activity during the survey, with 3–7 individuals seen at these four areas. Based on the timing and location of the swift sightings, the breeding population on the coast this summer was about 22 Black Swifts.

Vaux's Swifts continued to show interest in chimneys in a neighborhood on Graham Hill Road, however no breeding evidence materialized this year (AR, ES).

Black-chinned Hummingbirds were at Loma Prieta on August 7 and westside Santa Cruz on August 19 and 23 (AR, KB, PB). A mostly white **Anna's Hummingbird** visited Mexican sage at Cabrillo College from June 6–7 (BB, LS). An adult male



From top: Snowy Plover chick - Simon Thornhill
Hooded Merganser - Norm Uyeda

Rufous Hummingbird at Rancho Del Oso on June 25 was a rare early fall migrant (LJ).

Virginia Rail fledglings were at Last Chance Pond on June 19 (RR) and Swanton Pond on June 30 (LL). **Snowy Plovers** were seen with precocial young at Laguna Beach on June 30 marking the second successful nesting attempt at that beach this year (ST). Somehow the plover nests survived several warm holiday weekends and unusually high beach traffic related to COVID-19. Two **Baird's Sandpipers** at 21st Beach from August 29 through the end of the month were the only reported this fall (LM, v.ob.), an especially slim showing. **Red Phalaropes** were unusually abundant outside the Monterey Bay in late August and in some areas vastly outnumbered Red-necked Phalaropes, which typically are more abundant at that time of year (AJ, AR, NU).

Single **Elegant Terns** at Struve Slough on Aug 29 and 30 were rather rare inland (DP, AR). A **Black Skimmer** was resting on Seacliff State Beach on June 4 (DSO). A few **Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels** outside the Monterey Bay on July 27 were noteworthy for that month, as were two **Leach's Storm-Petrels** on the same date (both JWa, NU, PB). Interestingly, the evening feeding frenzies of **Sooty Shearwaters** were largely absent on the Santa Cruz

coast this summer and early fall. Humpback whales were also scarce along the Santa Cruz coast so the food may have been elsewhere this year.



Brandt's Cormorants were found nesting on the vertical cliffs above Steamers Lane, the first time they have nested at that location (AR). Five nests, most with large young, were noted there in June. At least one **Pelagic Cormorant** nest was active on the southern side of Sand Hill Bluff on June 2, and fledged young were seen in August confirming they nested successfully at this new breeding location (AR, ES). Pelagic Cormorants also nested at Opal Cliffs (11 nests; MP, ES) and Ohlone Bluff at Wilder Ranch (9 nests; SM), where they were not known to do

so previously. Both of these new colonies are sizeable compared to most of the others in the county. The colony near Fern Grotto at Wilder Ranch State Park, traditionally the largest in the county, only had two nests this year (LL). This and the several new nest sites suggest a redistribution of the locally breeding colonies.



Green Herons nested at Quail Hollow Ranch for the first time; a family group with two

From top: Pelagic Cormorant nest - Breck Tyler
Pelagic Cormorant nest - Lisa Larson
Baird's Sandpipers- Lisa Larson





fledglings was seen at the pond in early June (JW, JR). Adding to the report of Green Herons breeding at Natural Bridges earlier this year, they were also found nesting at many other locations: downtown Santa Cruz (DS), lower Soquel Creek (SW), Lake Tynan (two broods; NU), Drew Lake (NU), Watsonville Slough (NU), and Pinto Lake (ES, JB). While none of these are new or unusual breeding sites for this species, it was nice to see so many successful nests in the county this summer. A flock of 17 **White-faced Ibises** flew over Younger Lagoon on August 28 (LG).

Five **Osprey** nests were active this year (v.ob.); all were in the Pajaro Valley except for one at Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park. An Osprey hauling off a Pigeon Guillemot in its talons at Pelican Rock on July 20 was quite a surprise (RR)! A juvenile **Western Screech-Owl** found in a garage near Santa Cruz on August 2 was in an unusual setting (LS). Three groups of begging **Northern Pygmy-Owls** at Cascade Creek and the interior of Big Basin between July 15–23 added to the other fledgling records that are primarily in July (AR). A pair of pygmy-owls tending to a nest with young at Cascade Creek on June 20 was a treat to see (AR). A **Prairie Falcon** was photographed near Davenport on August 11 was especially rare in August (LG, SH).

A **Willow Flycatcher** at Neary Lagoon on August 28 was the only reported in August (SK). An **Eastern Kingbird** dropped in to Three Mile Beach at Wilder Ranch State Park on June 16 (SM). A **Loggerhead**



*Photos from top:
Prairie Falcon - Lois Goldfrank
Barn Swallows - Alex Rinkert
Purple Martins - Brian Scanlon*

Shrike near Davenport on June 22 was on the early side for a post-breeding dispersant, which typically arrive in early to mid-July (BME). Two shrikes in a remnant patch of grassland at Interlaken on June 30 could have been breeding locally (NU). This species bred in the grassland on southern Ben Lomond Mountain and in the Pajaro Valley as recently as 1987, but has since been considered extirpated. A stream of 202 **Common Ravens** flying inland at dusk in Aptos was an especially large gathering for the breeding season. These birds were apparently heading to a roost further into the mountains, as has been observed in previous years (RW). **Horned Larks** were near Harkins Slough on June 1 (GK) and CARE Park on August 20 (AR). On June 28 a **Barn Swallow** nest with two large young was found on a building at the Santa Cruz Wharf, where there are no recent breeding records.

Purple Martins were present through the season at Loma Prieta and were presumed to breed there again this year. Martins also continued nesting at Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve where there was at least one active nest through June 17 (ES, PB). However, by June 22 several Acorn Woodpeckers were observed viciously defending the martin nest cavities, apparently evicting them while they still had active nests (AR, HD). The good news is that some (or other) martins were found nesting in snag nearby, and they successfully fledged young by late July (HD).

There were numerous sightings of Purple Martins elsewhere in the county in June and July. In addition to those near Bonny Doon and Loma Prieta, martins were seen at places far from where they are known or





suspected to be breeding: McCrary Ridge and China Grade at Big Basin Redwoods State Park (AR), Cascade Creek (AR), and Scotts Valley (JS). Breeding was also confirmed for the first time in the Chalks in the upper Big Creek watershed where a female was seen feeding a fledgling on July 16 (AR). Approximately five martins were regularly present in the area leading up to this sighting and are considered to be part of a different colony than those breeding at the not too distant Bonny Doon.

Six **White-breasted Nuthatches** were found at various places in mid-June and July; all are assumed to be post-breeding dispersants (STe, EL, PS, BT, DR). Family groups of recently fledged **House Wrens** at Swanton Road near Mill Creek on June 14 (AR) and San Lorenzo River near Crossing Street on June 17 (GK) were at new breeding locations for this species.

Several reports of **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** in the southern Pajaro Hills in June were curious (EL, LG). Could these be early post-breeding dispersants from Aromas or Summit Ridge where they are known to breed, or could a few pairs be breeding in the Pajaro Hills? In Santa Cruz County, gnatcatchers are typically found breeding at much higher elevations than the Pajaro Hills. A few **Golden-crowned Kinglets** in the upper Pescadero Creek watershed and near Bodefish Creek in June and July provided rare evidence of this species' presence during the breeding season in the Pajaro Hills (EL, NL).

Western Bluebirds breeding at Aptos Village and Las Cumbres Road near Skyline Boulevard in June added several new breeding locations for this recovering species (SP, STe). An adult **Hermit Thrush** found

injured at Watsonville High School on July 25 was at an unusual location for summer (AC). This species does not breed in the Pajaro Valley floodplain. There is very little precedent of post-breeding dispersal by this species in July and August, but interestingly most of these few records are from the Pajaro Valley. A **Sage Thrasher** near Davenport on June 19 was the first spring record for the county (LG, SH).

Cedar Waxwings nested again in the Pajaro Valley this summer. An adult pair was found with an active nest in a cottonwood at CARE Park on July 26 (AR). The pair was feasting on elderberries when they were incubating the nest, and then later on they were seen bringing coffeeberries to the nestlings until the young fledged on August 21 (ES, HD, AR). Two **Phainopeplas** flying north over Loma Prieta on June 3 were exceptional (DA); the five other records for the county have all been in fall.

*From Top: Cedar Waxwings - Norm Uyeda
Sage Thrasher - Sharon Hull*



Red Crossbills continued to be found at Castle Rock State Park, Cascade Creek, and Empire Grade in June and July (AR, DE). Those identified to call type were "type 2", the expected call type to be found in the Santa Cruz Mountains in summer (AR). A pair of **Lawrence's Goldfinches** continued at a residence in Soquel through June and then showed up with begging fledglings on July 14 (LS).

Extensive fieldwork in the Pajaro Hills turned up **Lark Sparrows** on four or five

territories in grassland bordered by oak canyons (NU, EL, AR, JWa). This is the most breeding individuals that have been found in the county in decades. **Rufous-crowned Sparrows** were confirmed breeding at Soda Lake, where there is a small resident population (EL,

NU, SH, LG); dependent fledglings were seen between June 8–18. A juvenile Rufous-crowned Sparrow photographed at Loma Prieta on August 7 was just the second record in the county away from Soda Lake (AR). An immature male **Hooded Oriole** at Felton from July 20–28 may have been a dispersant (BS), while a pair near Summit Road from June 1–July 18 may have been breeding (TG). It was encouraging to get a report of about 50 **Tricolored Blackbirds** breeding at Kelly-Thompson Ranch in the Pajaro Hills this July (EL, NU), as they are on the verge of being extirpated as a breeding species in the county.

Special attention was given to **Great-tailed Grackles** this summer in an effort to better understand their breeding phenology in the county. The relatively few breeding confirmations of this recently established species suggest they breed later than other blackbirds. Several grackle nests with young were found at Drew Lake in mid-June (NU) and Pinto Lake in early July (ES). Dependent fledglings were seen at Drew Lake from early through mid-July (NU), while at Pinto Lake fledglings were begging from early

From top:

*Northern Pygmy Owl - Alex Rinkert
Mac Gillivray's Warbler - Liam Murphy
Tri-colored Blackbirds - Norman Uyeda*



July through August 20 (ES, AR). A dependent fledgling was still pestering a female at Struve Slough on the late date of August 30 (AR). All this suggests nest building begins in late April and May, nests are active from late May through July, and fledglings can be seen in July and August.

The month of June brought an excellent array of vagrant warblers to the county, some of which were concurrent with increased reports across the state. A **Black-and-white Warbler** was on Graham Hill Road on June 22 (PH). **Hooded Warblers** were singing at UCSC upper campus on June 13 (PM) and at Arana Gulch near DeLaveaga between June 29 and July 4 (JB). A male **American Redstart** was at Natural Bridges State Beach on June 21 (AG). A **Northern Parula** was singing on Valencia Road on June 1 (JWa) and a **Magnolia Warbler** was at Loma Prieta on June 4 (JWa, LM, MM). On a more local note, a **MacGillivray's Warbler** was singing near Bodfish Creek in the Pajaro Hills on June 4 (EL), where they are not known to breed.

An above-average 6 **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were found this summer. These included an adult male at a yard near Summit Road on June 19 (TG) and second-year males at feeders in Watsonville on June 13 (LC), Soquel on July 1 (TT), and Interlaken on August 30 (NU). A male visited a feeder in Felton on July 10 (DE,

CV) and one was heard singing at Peery Park in Capitola on June 18 (JD). A **Scaly-breasted Munia** visited a residence in Seascape on June 18 (BK, GG) while a flock of up to 16 continued at a feeder in Interlaken through August (NU).

Cited Observers:

Dorian Anderson, Barbara Blau, Jasper Barnes, Phil Brown, Karen Burnson, Andrea Castillo, Larry Corridon, Judy Donaldson, Hannah Doniach, David Ekdahl, Gabriel Gartner, Taylor Gilbert, Aaron Gomperts, Lois Goldfrank, Portia Halbert, Sharon Hull, Alvaro Jaramillo, Brooke Keeney, Gary Kittleson, Spencer Klinefelter, Lisa Larson, Earl Lebow, Nick Levendosky, Bruce Lyon, Jeff Manker, Stephanie Martin, Brian McElroy, Mike Mammoser, Paul Miller, Liam Murphy, Michelle Nelson, Sandi Pensinger, Doug Pio, Robert Ramer, Alex Rinkert, Jim Roe, David Rogers, Brian Scanlon, Elena Scott, Lisa Sheridan, David Sidle, Pete Solé, David Somerton (DSO), Tim Thompson, Scott Terrill (STe), Simon Thornhill, Breck Tyler, Norman Uyeda, Connie Vigno, Jonny Wahl (JWa), Randy Wardle, Steve Westen, Jim Williams, “v.ob.” means various observers. ***Please enter interesting observations into eBird or report them to Alex Rinkert at arinkert12@comcast.net.***



Baird's Sandpipers & David Sidle - Lisa Larson

Greater White-fronted Geese - Clay Kempf



BIRDER'S NOTEBOOK

Stephanie Martin makes aquatint etchings celebrating California's botanical and avian treasures. With Covid shuttering the UCSC art facilities she relies on to etch her copper plates, she is spending more time in the field. She is grateful to the wonderful SBBC members who so generously share their knowledge.



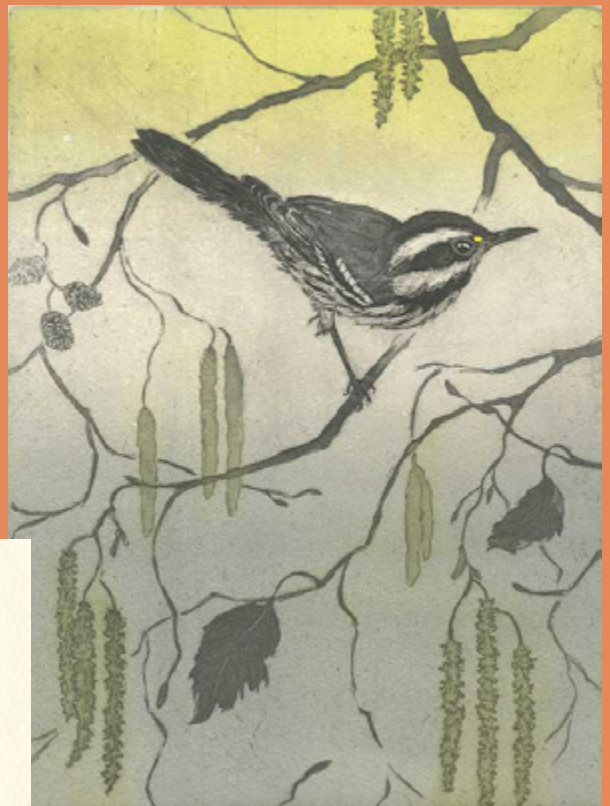
From top:
Yellow-breasted Chat
Black and White Warbler
Belted Kingfisher





5/40 Warbling Vireo smartin

From top:
Red-breasted Nuthatches
Warbling Vireo
Black-throated Gray Warbler
Wilson's Snipe



3/1520 Wilson's Snipe smartin

www.stephaniemartinart.com
www.instagram.com/stephaniemartinart



New Members **WELCOME**

Margaret A. Leonard *Sept 20*
and Clare Sheils  Life Membership

April Vollmer *July 20*

Lisa Lee Miller, *July 20*

Amy Sibo *July 20*

Elizabeth Hannah *Sept 20*

Jennifer Castillo *Sept 20*

Brooke Keeney *Sept 20*

Linda Abbey *Sept 20*

Doug and

Jackie Pio Family *Sept 20*

Glen Cornett Family *Sept 20*

Abraham Borker *Sept 20*

Penny Michael *Sept 20*

Glenn Seiler *Oct 20*

Daniel Brumbaugh *Oct 20*

Linda Kishlansky *Oct 20*

Deanne Edwards *Oct 20*

Kirin Rinehart Family *Oct 20*

Tama Malwaukie *Oct 20*



Bushtit - Lee Jaffe



Canada Geese - John Hickok

NOTICE!

**SANTA CRUZ BIRD CLUB
OFFICER POSITIONS AVAILABLE:**

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

Please see
santacruzbirdclub.org/club-information/club-officers
for a description of officer duties.



Brown Creeper - Lisa Larson

DEADLINE

submissions for
JAN/FEB issue

DEC 1, 2020



Cooper's Hawk - Andy Knorr



Above: Snowy Egret- Margaret Perham
Right: Bufflehead - John Hickok

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: "STICKING THE LANDING"

SHORT-EARED OWL

- MEL DIOTTE



Above: Salsify (Goatsbeard) Seed Head

- Lisa Larson

Right: Great Blue Heron

- Margaret Perham

To see more of Mel Diotte's
wildlife photography, please
[visit his Flickr page.](#)

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

