



# Albatross

PHOEBASTRIA NIGRIPES

## What Bird Did You Sponsor and Why?

From SCBC Members

### INSIDE

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



BBA: Year 5 UPDATE



Sponsor-a-Species Campaign

Santa Cruz Birds



Birder's Notebook

PARTING SHOT

Anna's Hummers, Acorn Woodpecker - Margaret Perham  
Pine Siskin - Lisa Larson

**M**argaret sponsored the **ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD**. During the pandemic she has developed a penchant for finding and monitoring many Anna's nests. In her next life she would like to come back as a hummer living somewhere in the tropics, but wants to be a male so she could take it easy and not have to be involved in nest building and raising young.

Rich chose the **GREAT BLUE HERON**. It was one of his "spark" birds that first inspired him to take up birding over 40 years ago.

Margaret and Rich noticed that **SEVERAL SPECIES OF WOODPECKERS** remained orphaned. They decided to adopt them in honor and memory of their late mentor and friend Steve Gerow. They recall how Steve loved to seek out woodpeckers, both by sight and sound, on his many walks along the Park Way Trail at DeLaveaga Park.

Rich and Margaret also sponsored the **PINE SISKIN** in memory of those of that species who have fallen due to the salmonella outbreak during this past winter.

- Margaret Perham & Rich Griffith



Hairy Woodpecker - Gail West

I chose the **PIGEON GUILLEMOT**.



- Phil Brown

It is one of my favorite birds because:

- a) it is undeniably cute, the red feet and mouth combined with sleek black plumage and a white stripe are very striking.
- b) I look forward to their arrival in March every year, for me a surer sign of spring than any swallow.
- c) they nest all along Westcliff, so are a welcome sight in the summer with their squeaking their calls to their young and each other.

Pigeon Guillemots - Lisa Larson

I chose **LONG-EARED OWL** because Owls are my favorite species of bird. Who does not like Owls? The Long-eared Owl is pretty rare in Santa Cruz County so that's why I chose it over the other Owls.

- *Andrew Kenny*



- John Fox

I sponsored **BUSHTITS**. I love those little birds. Flocks often appear in my front yard and bathe in the bird bath. Last year they made a nest under the arbor and I was fascinated by its intricacy and the birds' craft, and interested to learn that both members of the pair work on the nest, sometimes with the help of "friends." The hanging nest was constructed using spider webs and lichens as well as twigs and dried grasses. I took it down to examine after the breeding season. It was lined with feathers and down, securely fastened using spider web and had a clever round opening.

- *Sylvia Patience*



- Lee Jaffe



- Thy Bun

The **PEREGRINE FALCON** is and always will be a very special species for me and for my family. My dearly-loved grandson Pippin (formal name Alfred Peregrine Seales), my daughter's son, died at age 11 in a cave-in at Natural Bridges State Beach in 2008. Pippin was a budding birder and naturalist and my frequent companion on birding forays around town and he was especially fascinated by his namesake bird. For those of us who loved him, seeing one of those magnificent raptors never fails to raise our spirits, making it easier to imagine our sweet boy now ever-powerful and free to soar at will, easing a bit the pain of missing him. So when I was ready to choose a SCBC sponsor species, there was never a doubt about which bird I would choose. Pippin would have loved knowing that by my sponsoring



- Lisa Larson



- Lee Jaffe

"his" bird, he was indirectly able to give financial support toward the Breeding Bird Atlas, a project that he'd no doubt have participated in directly if he'd been able.

- *Sharon Hull*

I chose a bird that is not particularly loved or sexy, since it is so aggressive and territorial with nest boxes—the **HOUSE WREN**. As a nest box volunteer at Quail Hollow, I know we discourage them from taking over the boxes, as they will kill birds in the box and claim boxes they don't use. But my mom loved them. When I was a child growing up in Maryland, she placed a "Wren House" on a tree in our backyard with the hopes of attracting a pair to nest there. Honestly, I can't remember if we ever got any to nest, however I did pick up on my mom's love of birds. She wasn't particularly able to identify all the birds we saw, in our yard and on trips, but we always enjoyed watching birds. Any interest I have in birds today is because of her. She died in 2011 at the age of 81; it is in her honor that I chose the House Wren to support the Breeding Bird Atlas.

- *Bethany Kilzer*

I selected the **CEDAR WAXING** which I did not know even existed 20 years ago. When I redid the landscaping and put in large cotoneaster bushes, one winter when all the leaves were dropping and the tree was filled with lovely bright red berries, in my nearby (also bare) birch tree were **DOZENS** of these colorful birds—I was so excited I called a birder friend, described them, and she said they were Cedar Waxwings. From that moment on, I was a confirmed birder! Supporting the Breeding Bird Atlas just goes along with supporting



our feathered friends in whatever way I can.

- *Mari Tustin*

I chose two birds for the Breeding Bird Atlas sponsorship that frequent my yard in fairly large numbers year-round so I can count on them to always be in view and, as a result, they have found a solid place in my heart.

The birds I sponsored were the **DARK-EYED JUNCO** and the **CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEE**. The juncos can sometimes be overlooked because they are so common and can be nondescript in color, but after years of observing them at my feeders and birdbath, I have come to appreciate their individuality. Not only do I find them to be attractive little birds, but I enjoy their trilling song and watching them at my feeders, foraging on the ground, and in the bird bath. I was also treated to having a leucistic bird in my yard for several months—here is a photo of the cute little fellow.

The Chestnut-backed Chickadee, while also being one of my favorites, was truly my mother's favorite. She visited me from Florida where they don't have this particular Chickadee, so she would delight in sitting in her rocker on my front porch and watching them in the birdbath or fly right-up close to her to the rafters of the porch to pull cobwebs. They didn't mind her being there one bit. She passed last summer and every time I see a chickadee I'm reminded of her.

I'm so grateful to the SCBC to have taken-on this atlas, which is so important, and am happy to have been able to participate in a small way with these sponsorships.

- *Debbie Diersch*



- *Debbie Diersch*



- *Beth Hamel*



- *Gail West*



Print - By *David Hagerbaumer*



- *Cathy Summa-Wolfe*

We sponsored the **BLUE GROSBEAK**. In May of 2018, we saw a blue bird at our feeder on the lower west side of Santa Cruz. At first we thought a jay had flown into the yard, but it didn't seem like a jay. Then we thought it was a bluebird which would have been a new yard bird for us. When we finally were able to get closer, we realized it was a blue grosbeak. Having never seen one in Santa Cruz, we were quite surprised. To our delight, it stayed at our feeder for several days. We would love to learn more about the breeding habits of this seldom seen bird in Santa Cruz County.

- *Erika Perloff and Paul Keel*

I don't have a memory that makes it clear why I'm drawn to kingfishers (in California, the **BELTED KINGFISHER**). I can remember seeing a kingfisher on a wire above a stream running along highway 880 in Fremont when I arrived in the parking lot at the company I worked at as a software engineer in the 1990s. I didn't know the particular names of birds at that time. For the last three years since I retired, I've taken the Birding Basics course offered by the incredible birder and fond friend Nanci Adams. I enjoyed our time in the field and learned little by little how to spot and identify birds with the wonderful people in the class. When my brother had a framing shop in Tacoma, he said I could pick out a print I liked. The one that caught my eye was a small print of a Belted Kingfisher by David Hagerbaumer that I have hanging in the sunroom at home. Through friends I attended a few presentations for the SCBC and became a member. When a friend's mom died, he offered to make a donation to a group of my choice. I picked the Breeding Bird Atlas because it's local and not going to easily find funding outside our

community. We need to do what we can to maintain the habitat for birds, and the BBA will provide useful data we can use in that effort.

- *Steve Leonard*

When I was three my family moved to Atascadero (SLO county) and near the house was a small seasonal marshy area. In the spring the reeds attracted **RED WINGED BLACKBIRDS**. They were probably one of the first birds I could ID and it was a joy to listen to them calling and singing. Red Winged Blackbirds have always had a special place in my memory.

For my husband's birthday gift I sponsored the **SNOWY EGRET** because he has taken great photos of these flashy elegant birds. I enjoy watching them shovel their feet, stirring up the murky water looking for food.

- *Ann Chandler*

I chose the **WHITE-TAILED KITE**. The breeding bird atlas blocks I was working on were up in the mountains. I lived in Corralitos for 28 years and had never seen a kite up over the forest. But two years ago I did and the pair was exhibiting mating behavior. Lowered legs and spinning around each other. I thought, "Here?". So I did some research and they are not normally found in the mountains. As the months went by I got fleeting but regular glimpses of adults, but never a carried stick or holding prey to confirm breeding. I could not find a nest or even narrow down where they were heading from or to. Then one day near the end of the atlasing "season" I was walking one of my regular routes on a ridgeline road and I heard the cries of young raptors. I ran up the road to get a better look



- *John Hickok*



- *Carole Rose*



- *Lisa Larson*



- *Jeff Roisman*



- *Lisa Larson*

into the treetop from where the calls came and as I broke into the open, three young, White-tailed Kites streaked overhead chasing an adult. I whooped for joy! I had found a mountain-nesting pair of White-tailed Kites!

- *Jeff Manker*

My great grandfather Guy Atherton spent much of his time in the last years of his life campaigning for legislation to save the **MOURNING DOVE**. Guy established the organization "Conservation Militant" to address the issue of hunting Mourning Doves for sport and to recruit others to lobby for the birds.

Thanks for the work YOU are doing,  
- *Ann Brohmer*

We selected the **RED TAILED HAWK** to sponsor for the Santa Cruz County Breeding Bird Atlas. We chose it because it is one of the most frequently seen Hawks in our Soquel neighborhood. They are often seen soaring above our home. It was one of the first birds we learned to recognize because of their dark Petagial Bars on the leading edges of their wings. They are majestic raptors and we are always thrilled to see one.

- *Lynda and David Lewit*



- *Andy Knorr*



Last year in mid-summer while visiting a friend I heard some unfamiliar vocalizations. I taped them and sent the video to Alex for some id help.

It was the chattering of a family group of **OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHERS**. I had heard the usual song at that location, but I don't remember ever hearing

this chatter. One of the best parts of birding is being able to learn something new every day.

- *Bonnie Bedzin*

I have a special affection for the **BROWN CREEPER**, such an obscure little bird that it feels like part of the tree it creeps up before it flies to another and creeps up that one, too.

- *Todd Newberry*

We have a long history with the **MARBLED MURRELET**, going back to the 1970s in Big Basin State Park. It captured our interest and before long, it captured our hearts. Two memories that stand out are seeing the parent bird flying into a giant old-growth tree in the foggy, pre-dawn darkness, with a fish for its chick, and, with other Bird Club members, making the first-ever observation of a nestling fledging from its tree nest.

Steve had a strange reason for selecting the **NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL**. Its lengthy repetitive single-note call ruined several of his attempts to record Marbled Murrelet vocalizations!

We chose **VAUX'S SWIFT** in memory of Randy Morgan, who was the Bird Club Record Keeper and ID expert in the late '70s & early '80s. Randy had an uncanny ability to detect the



- *John Fox*



- *Randy Wardle*



- *Gail West*



- *John Fox*



- *Gail West*

Vaux's Swift flying overhead in the old-growth forest at Big Basin.

- *Stephanie & Steve Singer*

I chose the **AMERICAN BITTERN** but it was a tough decision. Pileated Woodpecker, Hooded Oriole and the ubiquitous Black Phoebe ("A bird walk isn't finished until you see one") were in the running for me. I went with American Bittern because I had the luck to see the breeding activity of one lovely female. I watched from the very first day she began the nest (stomping down some weeds on Pinto Lake); to the first day she laid the eggs in the nest of twigs and small branches that she had built (the eggs weren't there the day before); to the day the first egg hatched (I had been going almost every day since the nest was begun); to the day the hatchlings took their first trips from the nest (just a couple of feet); to the day they had all left the nest for good.

- *Larry Corridon*



- *Lisa Larson*





- Gail West



- Gail West



- Lisa Larson



- Lisa Larson

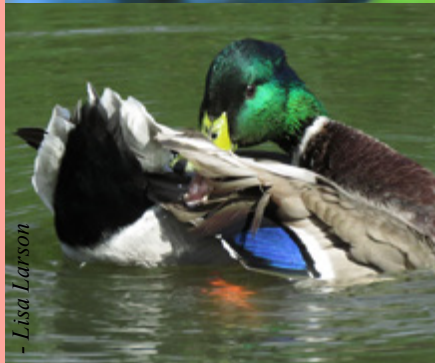
I sponsored a **VARIETY OF BIRDS** in memory of Steve Gerow because they make me smile when I see them.

- **Mary Crouser**

See Mary's sponsored bird IDs on page 9.



- Jeff Bleam



- Lisa Larson



- Jeff Bleam



- Jeff Bleam



- Cathy Summa-Wolfe



- John Fox



- Lee Jaffe



- Margaret Perham



- Lee Jaffe



- Lisa Larson





- Lisa Larson



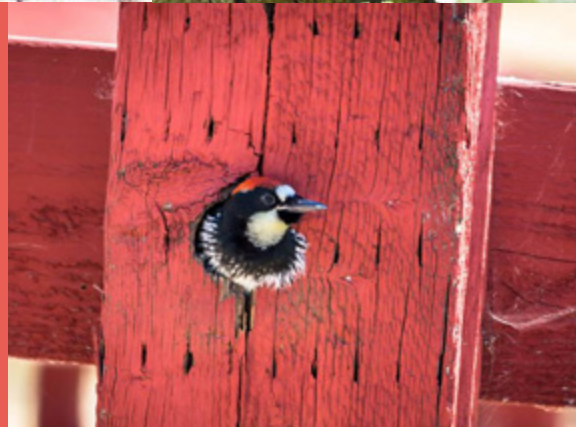
- Arthur Macmillian



- Lisa Larson

I picked the **ACORN WOODPECKER**, because I live in Ben Lomond and I hear/see them every day. I supported the bird atlas because I have owned one which covers another part of California, and it was very handy for both birding and bird identification.

- *Susan Miracle*



- Carole Rose

I sponsored the **WARBLING VIREO**. Although not flashy, this bird has the prettiest face! Their nests are works of art and I am on a mission this year to find one! The Warbling Vireo has a song with a message: always end on a high note!

- *Lisa Larson*



- Jeff Bleam

**If you'd like to share your sponsorship story**, please email [scbirdclubeditor@gmail.com](mailto:scbirdclubeditor@gmail.com).

This Sponsor-a-Species campaign is raising funds for the Breeding Bird Atlas. If you'd like to sponsor a species in support of the Breeding Bird Atlas, there's still time -- 33 species are still 'orphaned'. Check out the list at <https://santacruzbirdclub.org/auction/> (ie, birds not marked "sold" are still available). Surely you'll find one that speaks to you!

Directions are on the website. Species can be also be chosen to honor someone, or in memory of someone. You can also join with others to co-sponsor, but once that species is taken, we won't 're-sell' it to anyone else. If you have questions, email: [scbirdclub@gmail.com](mailto:scbirdclub@gmail.com).

# Breeding Bird Atlas Year 5 Update

We are making good progress in the final year of fieldwork for the breeding bird atlas. Over 60 atlasers are participating this year in their backyard to the furthest reaches of the county. Some nice finds this spring have included our first Wood Duck nest and rare nests of Red-breasted Nuthatch, American Kestrel, and Band-tailed Pigeon. Atlasers have also documented record early nesting by House Finches and Northern Mockingbirds.

About three months remain in the altasing season—what else will we find? It's still not too late to sign up and participate! We need all the observations we can get to produce a premier breeding bird atlas. Sign up here to get more information: <https://forms.gle/jHxR33vrh2n6sVbM8>.

Alex Rinkert  
Atlas Director



*Northern Mockingbird fledgling  
- Michelle Lamberson*



*American Robin Nest - Bisa Fay Larson*

## BREEDING BIRD ATLAS RECENT DONORS

Rich Griffith & Margaret Perham  
Larry Corridon

*Thank you!*



## Letter from the Editor:

Dear SCBC Members,

I am nearing the end of 7 years as your Editor. It has been a great pleasure to serve the club and a great creative outlet. Come 2022, I would like to hand over the reins to a new Editor. You may create the newsletter with whatever software you are comfortable with. As I did, you can make it your own. Please contact me at [scbirdclubeditor@gmail.com](mailto:scbirdclubeditor@gmail.com) and we can discuss the position, addressing any questions you may have. I can train you during the months preceding the end of the year. and I will be available for questions.

My time as Editor has been immensely rewarding and I thank you for all your support! *Special thanks* to Stephanie Singer, who has always come through for me when I needed ideas or support.

### 17 SPONSORED BIRD IDS FROM PAGES 6-7

**Page 6 clockwise from upper left:** *Steller's Jay, Pied-billed Grebe, Black-crowned Night Heron, American Coot, Barn Swallow, Wood Duck, CA Scrub Jay, Osprey, House Finch, Common Raven, Mallard, Black Phoebe.* **Center page 6:** *Turkey Vulture, Western Meadowlark, Osprey.* **Top row page 7:** *Northern Mockingbird, Rock Pigeon, American Robin.*

Thank you Mary Crouser!

I need to turn my energies back to oil painting—focusing on birds—when I am not focused on birding, of course, which is my greatest passion as an activity\*.

Sincerely,

*Lisa Fay Larson*

\*I specified "activity" so as not to offend my kitties or my husband, who are my greatest love!



IS IT TIME TO  
RENEW MY SCBC  
MEMBERSHIP?

No worries! We'll be emailing a renewal reminder to those who are due.

*Steller's Jay - John Fox*

# Santa Cruz Birds

By Alex Rinkert

Including reports from January 1 to February 28, 2021

**N**o major surprises were found this period, but numerous wintering rarities kept things exciting. The White Wagtail continued through February as did the Summer Tanager, and three sapsucker species plus a hybrid in a single backyard was remarkable. A major windstorm in mid-January surprisingly did not result in anything spectacular being found. The status of Pacific-slope Flycatcher and a subspecies of Orange-crowned Warbler in the county is discussed.



Four **Wood Ducks** at Gallighan Slough on January 29 were rare for the Watsonville slough system (GK). A male **Gadwall** x **Mallard** hybrid was at Pinto Lake from January 21–26 (NU, AK). Up to two Redheads were at Struve Slough from January 17 to February 22 (SP, v.ob.) and one was near the Pajaro River mouth on February 28 (DSO). A **Black Scoter** off Seascape on January 3 was perhaps continuing since December (BK). A **Long-tailed Duck** continued at Pajaro Dunes through January 9 (v.ob.), while another was off Seacliff State Beach on February 16 (BKt). A female **Barrow's Goldeneye** showed nicely on the lower San Lorenzo River from January 28 to February 13 (AK, v.ob.). Counts of up to 34 **Hooded Mergansers** at College Lake in February were notably high for this popular wintering site (ZS, GK, BM).

A **Wild Turkey** continued at La Selva through February 16 (NC). A rafter of 20–25 turkeys reported several times near Harkins Slough and Struve Slough may now regularly occur in that area (PH, RR, EL). A turkey in neighborhoods along Branciforte Creek in Santa Cruz was exploring new territory (CM). A **Common Poorwill** on upper Eureka Canyon Road on February 27 was a rare find for winter (LM, GD). A male **Anna's** x **Costa's**

**Hummingbird** hybrid continued daily at an Aptos feeder but then suddenly disappeared after January 15 (RW). A **Common Gallinule** at Neary Lagoon from January 29 to February 8 was notable away from the Pajaro Valley (PH, CB).

A **Wandering Tattler** spent much of the winter at Mitchells Cove from January 12 through the end of February (SH, v.ob.), while a **Lesser Yellowlegs** continued at Pajaro Dunes through February (v.ob.). A **Pigeon**

**Guillemot** was seen off El Jarro Point on January 6 (LM, BT). The only

**Black-legged Kittiwake** reported was an adult at Waddell State Beach on January 14 (BS). A first-cycle **Glaucous** x **Glaucous-winged Gull** hybrid was at the San Lorenzo River mouth from January 20–21 (AR, BS). Seawatching efforts confirmed **Northern Fulmars** remained scarce this winter (AR).



Left side:  
*Long-tailed Duck and Barrow's Goldeneye*  
- David Eckdahl

Right side:  
*Wandering Tattler - Michael Bolte*  
*Greater & Lesser Yellowlegs - Randy Wardle*



Twenty-five **White-tailed Kites** were observed descending into an evening roost near Watsonville on January 5 (JM). The resident pair of **Bald Eagles** in Watsonville began nesting again in February (GK). Light-morph **Ferruginous Hawks** continued at UC Santa Cruz through January 20 (v.ob.) and up to two were at Soda Lake from February 5–23 (NU, TL, v.ob.). Two **Burrowing Owls** wintered near San Andreas Road, staying through February (GK). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** at Rio Del Mar Ecological Reserve on January 11 was at a location where they are not expected, close to the coast and in a live oak forest (AM, ARo, ER).

This winter had a nice variety of sapsuckers. One residence in Aptos remarkably hosted a female **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** on January 1 (PH), a female **Red-naped** from February 11–18 (PH), a male **Red-naped x Red-breasted** on February 20 (JP), and at least 2 **Red-breasted** off and on through winter! Away from this sapsucker haven, Red-naped x Red-breasted Sapsuckers were also at Davenport on January 11 (NA) and Natural Bridges State Beach from January 31 through the end of February (AR, ES, v.ob.). A **Pileated Woodpecker** at Meder Canyon on February 24 was just outside the periphery of this species' range in the Santa Cruz Mountains (BS).

A "**Western**" **Flycatcher** at Rio Del Mar Ecological Reserve on January 22 was most likely wintering (AM, ARo), but one at Gallighan Slough on February 22 may have been an exceptionally early spring



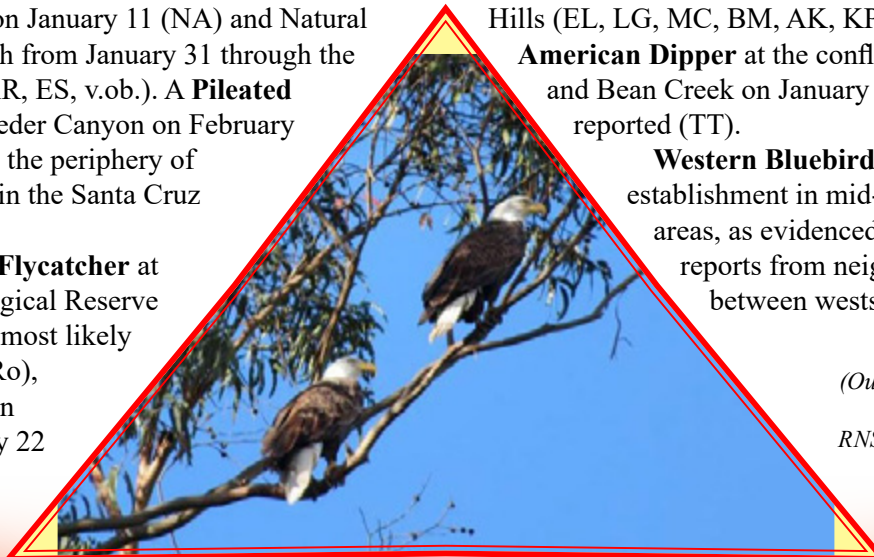
migrant (GK). This species typically first arrives in early to mid-March, although there is a local trend in the average arrival of this species becoming earlier. Four other "Western" or Pacific-slope Flycatchers were also found in the last week of February in Monterey and Santa Clara County suggesting these very early arrivals may be the early arrivals rather than locally wintering individuals. A **Tropical Kingbird** was near Neary Lagoon from January 3 through the end of February (RW, v.ob.), and two wintered through February at Struve Slough (v.ob.).

Six or seven **Loggerhead Shrikes** were found in January and February (v.ob.). A few **Horned Larks** were present near Watsonville Slough and San Andreas Road (AR, ES, v.ob.), while an exceptionally large flock of 54 elsewhere near San Andreas Road continued through February (GK). A handful of **Barn Swallows** were reported on the north coast and Pajaro Valley in January and February (v.ob.). **White-breasted Nuthatches** were found at Quail Hollow (DS, NU),



Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve (PS), and the Pajaro Hills (EL, LG, MC, BM, AK, KP) this winter. An **American Dipper** at the confluence of Zayante and Bean Creek on January 7 was the only reported (TT).

**Western Bluebirds** continue their establishment in mid-county urban areas, as evidenced by over a dozen reports from neighborhoods between westside Santa Cruz and



*(Our prettiest) Pine Siskin  
- Lisa Larson  
RNSA-x-RBSA - Alex Rinkert  
Bald Eagle Pair  
- Gary Kittleson*





Field state beaches from January 2 to February 17 (EB, AG, AH, MB, NS, DA). With the exception of flock of 225 **Tricolored Blackbirds** at Wilder Ranch on February 2 (AR), the species were scarce on the north coast and in the Pajaro Valley this winter.

At least four individuals of the Channel Islands subspecies of **Orange-crowned Warbler** (*L. c. sordida*) were found on the coast in January and February (LL, AR, NA). There are few documented records of this subspecies occurring in the county,

however, there are numerous reports in recent winters from Monterey

County. After reviewing Orange-crowned Warbler photos taken in Santa Cruz County on eBird, several more could be positively identified on the coast and in the Pajaro Valley from fall and winter in recent years. This subspecies may be more common in the county at certain times of year than the paucity of records suggests. Only two **Palm Warblers** were reported in January and February (PB, GM). Wintering **Wilson's Warblers** were at Davenport on January 11 (NA) and Struve Slough on February 19 (PH).



Seascape in January and February (v.ob.). The **White Wagtail** continued to split its time between Cowell Beach and the San Lorenzo River mouth until early February, when the latter place became its full-time residence (v.ob.). **Pine Siskins** continued to be numerous through February (v.ob.).

A striking "**Red**" **Fox Sparrow** visited a backyard feeder in

Interlaken from February 2-8 (NU). The bright, crisp plumage of this individual suggests it was the eastern breeding subspecies of the "Red" group, *P. i. iliaca*, which there are very few records of in the county. About 44 **White-throated Sparrows** were reported in January and February (v.ob.), while Swamp Sparrows went unreported. A **Green-tailed Towhee** found

at Laguna Creek Beach on January 12 continued scratching in the sand at the edge of the dunes through February 24 (AF, ZS, IBM, v.ob.).

At least one and perhaps two **Bullock's Orioles** were seen between Natural Bridges and Lighthouse



From top:  
 'Red' Fox Sparrow - Norman Uyeda  
 Tri-colored Blackbird - Sharon Hull  
 Black-headed Grosbeak - Nanda Currant  
 Bullock's Oriole - Michael Bolte



The **Summer Tanager** at Natural Bridges State Beach continued through February (v.ob.). A **Hooded Oriole** was near Live Oak on January 15 (ND).

Two **Black-headed Grosbeaks** continued at a feeder in La Selva through February (NC) and one showed up in a neighborhood near Aptos (AJ). Up to 35 **Scaly-breasted Munias** continued visiting a feeder in Interlaken (NU), while nine were found at Pinto Lake City Park beginning February 17 (NU, v.ob.). A flock of up to twelve were visiting a feeder near Neary Lagoon and this flock was also sometimes seen in the wetlands at Neary between January 13–February 16 (AR, v.ob.).

#### Cited Observers:

Dorian Anderson, Noah Arthur, Eileen Balian, Iza Bruen-Morningstar, Michael Bolte, Phil Brown, Connor Buchinski, Matthew Coale, Nanda Currant, Giulia Donato, Nicole Doyle, Abram Fleishman, Alexander Gaguine, Lois Goldfrank, Paul Heady, Adrian Hinkle, Sharon Hull, Alex Jones, Brooke Keeney, Andrew Kenny, Bryan Kett (BKt), Gary Kittleson, Allen Krabill, Lisa Larson, Tyler Lausten, Earl Lebow, Connie M., Jeff Manker, Gary Martindale, Bobbie Mayer, Annie Meyer, Liam Murphy, Bryan Mori, Sandi Pensinger, Kenneth Petersen, Robert Ramer, Alex Rinkert, Alexander Robinson, Eva Robinson, Brian Scanlon, Nico Schnack, Elena Scott, David Sidle, Pete Solé, David Somerton (DSO), Zeke Smith, Tim Thompson, 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](mailto:arinkert@comcast.net).**



First 2 from top:  
*Orange-crowned Warbler sordida*;  
dark centers of undertail covs, longish bill, grayish olive  
upperparts - Alex Rinkert  
*Green-tailed Towhee* - John Perry  
*Green-tailed Towhee in action* - Lisa Larson

# Birder's Notebook

## Quail Hollow

Think of the path as calligraphy—  
narrow where it borders  
the farm house and horse pens.

Think, how beyond the open gate,  
the stroke fattens, traveling  
upward into the dark

scrawl of live oak and bay.  
See how the light  
is a tender wash. Under

your feet, sand that once  
cradled a sea. Blue-bellies skitter,  
scratching like tiny scribes

among the leaves. Think  
how little ink is required to write  
ten million years.

After the climb, the view,  
the final loop. You pass the houses  
of sleeping wood rats, the pond,

glassine slashed with cattails.  
Now, before getting into your car,  
consider with what ease

the rise and fall of robin song  
can erase a certain ache,  
the day's gathering premonitions.

—Cynthia White

*Quail Hollow - James Maughn*

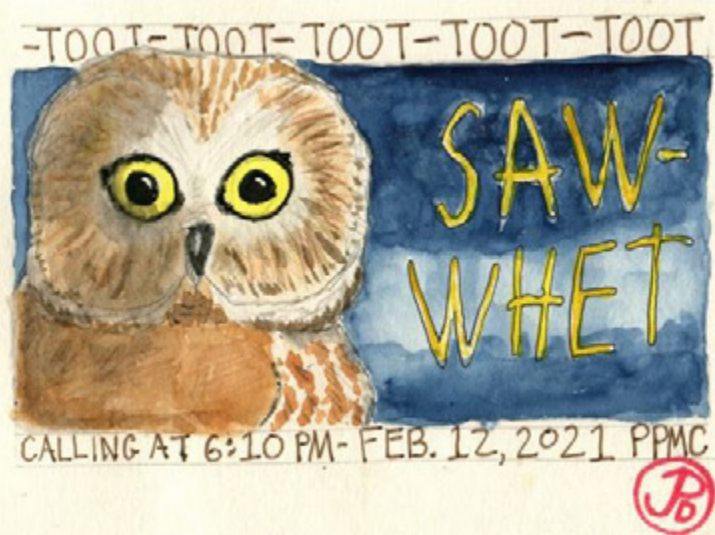


# Birder's Notebook

**Art of John Perry**  
**Santa Cruz County Birds**  
**FEBRUARY 2021**  
**(with links to his stories!)**



[Green-tailed Towhee](#),  
Laguna Beach 2-16-21



[Saw-whet Owl](#),  
Paradise Park 2-12-21

[Red-breasted Sapsucker](#),  
Trout Gulch Road 2-20-21



[White-throated Sparrow](#),  
Meder Canyon 2-21-21



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FIELD TRIPS:** As the County moves to less restrictive Covid tiers, we are considering how & when to start up Club field trips again. Obviously, the safety of participants is top priority, and we will comply with all Health Dept. guidance. We need to consider the size of the group, which locations can accommodate social distancing, the effect of our group on other people using the area, and other factors.

We'll let members know via email when trips are scheduled. ~Nick, Field Trip Director

**BIRD ZOOMING:** Want a front-row seat for an intimate look at birds at work and play? Try <https://explore.org>—It has links to all sorts of webcams of birds living their lives—nest cams, migration cams, and more. I learned about this during an Audubon Zoom called “I Saw a Bird”—a great way to spend an hour each month, hearing about a variety of bird topics. To sign up, or view prior episodes: <https://www.audubon.org/isawabird>.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR** for the **GLOBAL BIG DAY** of birding: **Saturday, May 5, 2021**. Sponsored by eBird and Cornell Lab of Ornithology. For more information: <https://ebird.org/globalbigday>. You don't need to be a bird expert or go out all day long—even 10 minutes of birding from home counts.

◆ If you're new to birding or to eBird or want to make your checklists more valuable for science and conservation, take the free [eBird Essentials](#) course.

◆ Get the Cornell Lab's [Merlin Bird ID app](#) for help identifying tricky species, then use eBird to report them so your sightings are part of the Global Big Day totals.



## 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.



Wilson's Warbler - Lisa Larson



LIST OF NEW MEMBERS COMING SOON!



# DEADLINE

submissions for  
SEP/OCT issue

# AUG 1, 2021



Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve - Pete Solé



Western Bluebird - Pamela King

Right: *Veleva veleva* - Lisa Larson

# Submission to the



# ALBATROSS

# GUIDELINES

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

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

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

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

~ Lisa Fay Larson, Editor



## 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



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Download the online version and  
past issues on the SCBC website,  
**[santacruzbirdclub.org](http://santacruzbirdclub.org)**

## **PARTING SHOT: "MONEYGULL"**

- ARTHUR MACMILLIAN



*Above: "Sanderling Blur"*

- Lisa Larson

*Right: "Elegant Turn"*

- 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](http://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

