

Albatross

PHOEBASTRIA NIGRIPES

In Praise of Two Bird-habitat Heroes

By Surrey Kent

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Bird Walks are resuming!



Raptor Day Success!

Santa Cruz Birds



Birder's Notebook

PARTING SHOT

Years go, I bought a small house on Westside, Santa Cruz, which backs up against Arroyo Seco (also referred to as Meder Canyon). The front yard was a scruffy, gopher-inhabited lawn; the back slope had been regularly denuded with Round-Up for years. I was an East Coast birder/gardener, just beginning to learn about Central Coast California native plants and the habitat needs of birds and other native species. Spending hours exploring local native plant nurseries, and finding wonderful books such as *The California Wildlife Habitat Garden* and websites such as calscape.org (created by the California Native Plant Society), I gradually shifted from planting Eastern favorites to Mediterranean Climate gardening, to native plant gardening in general, and finally to oak woodland habitat restoration. Horticulturally, I'm self- and community-taught, so I'm sharing my experiences and enthusiasm to encourage other birders to venture into bird habitat gardening: it's easy to get started.

Just beyond my backyard patio, at the edge of my "back-40" no-summer-water oak woodland, I've made a zone of riparian and part-shade natives, which I can provide occasional deep watering in summer as needed. The birds have decided that their favorites are Blue Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*) and Twinberry Honeysuckle (*Lonicera involucrata*).

Unlike the delicate, vining native honeysuckle of local shady woods (*Lonicera hispidula*), Twinberry is a large, sturdy perennial shrub with many upward-growing branches and large bright green oval leaves with pointed tips. It thrives in full sun, and grows rapidly, up to 15 ft. high by 3-4 ft. wide. It responds to being pruned back to 2-3 ft. high in winter by a rejuvenated vigorous growth in very early spring. As each



Band-tailed Pigeon

branch grows, it continuously forms pairs and triplets of red to yellow 3/4 inch long tubular flowers, which rapidly form juicy black berries containing several small seeds. In my yard, flower and berry production starts by late February to early March and continues through July. It has little fragrance, and doesn't seem attractive to bees. However, Calscape lists 25 butterfly and moth species for which it is a "likely" host plant.

As one might expect, Twinberry is a hummingbird magnet, providing both nectar and tiny insects through the entire breeding cycle. In my yard, male Allen's and Anna's Hummingbirds competed for its territorial control in March, with the Allen's male ascendant and staying in the territory for several weeks. Females of both species, who utilize several other nectar sources in my yard as well, also regularly slip in for Twinberry nectar. Meanwhile, Spotted Towhees, Dark-eyed Juncos, and several species of sparrows and finches use the bush for cover. The berries are rapidly eaten.

In the somewhat shadier side of my yard is the Blue Elderberry, a large, fast-growing deciduous shrub, often multi-trunked, which can grow as a fountain-shaped tree 15 to 30 feet in height. It has a wide range, from Oregon to Baja extending east to western Texas. It is often riparian, but can thrive in a wide variety of soil moisture and sun/shade exposure conditions. It forms creamy white small flowers



Top right: Female Black-headed Grosbeak on elderberries
Center: Twinbetties
Lower left: Blue Elderberry Tree



in many flat-topped clusters, which continue to form and bloom from April to June. Hummingbirds explore the foliage and flowers during the spring, not nectaring but appearing to be seeking the small insects which they attract. The flowers are followed by large clusters of small, juicy, blue-black berries, with a powdery light blue coating, which are attractive and edible to humans as well as birds. All parts of the tree were used by the indigenous peoples of North America, including using the pith-filled young branches to make flutes and whistles. (The genus name, *Sambucus*, was derived from a Greek word for an ancient wind instrument, according to an Audubon Society wildflower field guide.)

At least twenty-five species of California Central Coast bird species relish eating elderberries, as documented by the National Audubon Society and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, including Black-headed Grosbeak, Western Tanager, House Finch, California Towhee, California Thrasher, Downy and Nuttall's Woodpeckers, Northern Mockingbird, Orange-crowned Warbler, Warbling Vireo, Swainson's and Hermit Thrush, and Western Bluebird. The most dramatic entrances are made by the Band-tailed Pigeons, always

arriving in a group or flock, clambering over the flexible branches with their large yellow feet and frequently hanging upside-down to reach the berry clusters. The Grosbeaks announce their presence by their soft, melodic calls to each other. In contrast, last year at the end of July, a Wilson's Warbler and two Warbling Vireos slipped in silently. This year for the first time, I found a wrenit singing persistently from my yard right next to the house (near my blueberry bushes . . .) rather than from the dry oak woodland edge. A week later he appeared side-by-side with his mate, skulking along the side fence and into the elderberry. Another newcomer to my yard since I planted the elderberry is a Pacific-slope Flycatcher, which I observed recently plucking a single berry in mid-flight and returning to a nearby perch.

In my low-elevation yard, the elderberries are all gone by mid-September, so my tree doesn't attract the migrating and winter berry-lovers such as Cedar Waxwings, Hermit Thrushes, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. However, it continues in use daily as the main perching portal to the suet feeder.

Because elderberry grows so fast, in my experience growing it as a backyard tree both its size and its form are best controlled by pruning it hard each winter, in the way that one would prune a domestic fruit tree. If it is becoming too large for the available space, it can be cut to a stump, and new growth easily trained into a newly attractive, blooming tree, even in one season. In drought conditions, a young tree would need occasional but regular summer water to establish it, but thereafter it could be seldom watered, although it may then go deciduous in late summer, similarly to a Buckeye tree.

If this article has inspired you to plant either Elderberry or Twinberry this autumn (the best planting time for survival and establishment during the winter rains), how can you find one to purchase? As a general native plant resource, the Calscape website lists California nurseries which may provide each native species, but there has been so much change for businesses over the past two years that one must contact each nursery to see if it even continues to sell retail plants. Luckily, Central Coast Wilds native nursery in Santa Cruz has 1-gallon Blue Elderberries available (sales currently via online order and pick-up only). For Twinberry, I found that a native plant nursery in Carmel Valley called

Blue Moon Native Garden has it in stock, with online purchasing only available currently. They also carry Blue Elderberry. Both of these shrubs are fairly easy to propagate by cuttings and of course could be grown from seed. Check out offerings of spring and fall native plant sales by CNPS, Cabrillo College, and Watsonville Wetlands Watch. Perhaps Bird Club members could even make a small bulk order together; email me (surreykent@baymoon.com) if you're interested in that. And for all of us, never pass by either of these habitat hero species in the wild without taking a good look at who may be visiting.



Left: Female Lesser Goldfinch enjoying elderberries

Below: Twinberry in bloom



Breeding Bird Atlas Year 5 Conclusion

The fifth and final year of the breeding bird atlas has now concluded! While the datasheets are still trickling in, I can say at this point that fieldwork for the project is about 98% complete. The handful of incomplete blocks that remain will be finished in 2022. However, the publication process is set to begin this fall—we are not missing a beat!

I am grateful for the 50+ atlasers who contributed observations this year. Thank you for the many hours you spent atlasing and recording your observations. I look forward to sharing a concluding report on the project later this fall.

Alex Rinkert
Project Director



*Above: Northern Rough-Winged Swallow - Simon Thornhill
Top right: Steller's Jay nestlings - Lisa Larson*

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS RECENT DONORS

Lisa Fay Larson
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Nick Levendosky
Phil Brown

Thank you!

The **Sponsor A Species Campaign** for the Breeding Bird Atlas has been a resounding success, thank you! We very much appreciate all the wonderful folks who have sponsored and/or donated to the Atlas!

There are still a few species left to be sponsored, won't you help? We have reduced the cost to \$80 and discontinued the offer of an extended club membership, effective immediately. 100% supports the Atlas, which is transitioning to the analysis & publication phase!! Orphan birds and instructions are at: <https://santacruzbirdclub.org/auction/>. Plan ahead to the holidays ~ surely someone you know would enjoy the gift of having a species sponsored in their honor?!



SCBC BIRD WALKS/FIELD TRIPS

The Santa Cruz Bird Club will resume field trips beginning in September and will be scheduled on an on-going basis. Please navigate to the Santa Cruz Bird Club website (santacruzbirdclub.org/field-trips-and-meetings/) for a list of trips with relevant information. All field trips will be limited to 12 participants and a sign-up link will be provided in the trip description on the calendar. Due to a very high demand for field

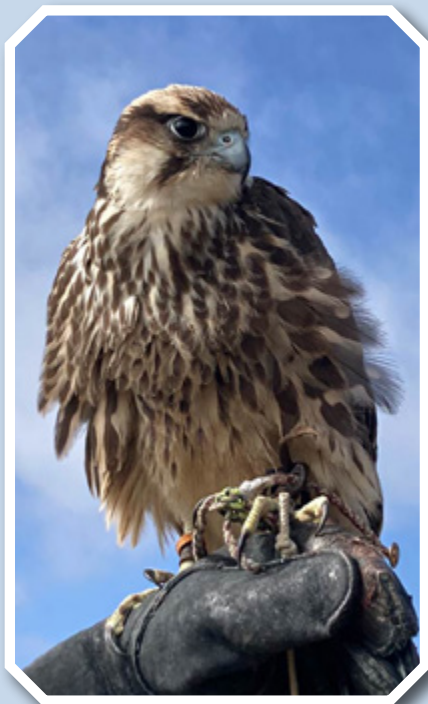
trips, they are currently only being offered to current bird club members and limited to 12 participants. Additionally, be mindful that if you cannot attend a trip for which you are signed-up, please remove your name from the roster so others may sign-up. Masks will be required for unvaccinated individuals and appropriate social distancing will be enforced. If you have any questions about upcoming trips, email Field Trip Director Nick Levendosky: (n.levendosky@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you out there!

Walkin' Godwits (Marbled Godwits)
- Lisa Larson



RAPTOR DAY

JULY 17, 2021



*Above: Lanner Falcon
Right: Kenny Elvin holding a
Lanner Falcon*

*Below: Kate Livingston holding a
Barn Owl
Lower right: Kookaburra*

As most local birders know, the UCSC Arboretum and Botanic Garden is home to dozens of species of birds, including raptors of almost every variety. On July 17th we added a few more to the bird list when Kenny Elvin of Full Circle Falconry brought his birds to the Arboretum's inaugural Raptor Day.

We unlocked the gate shortly after 6:00 in the morning for the early bird birders and photographers, then watched in amazement as hundreds of people filled the garden. Experienced birders guided walks over the course of the morning, introducing a hundred people to the birds of the Arboretum. The walks concluded in time for people to gather in the Australia garden for the falconry demonstration.



Kenny, who has almost 20 years of experience as a falconer, brought a variety of birds including a kookaburra, a barn owl, a great horned owl, a peregrine falcon, a kestrel, and a Harris hawk. Kenny and his falconry friends showed the birds throughout the crowd and it was great to see all the smiling faces of both children and adults as they saw these magnificent birds up close—and even stroke their feathers!—for the first time ever. Then Kenny's hawks and falcons put on a dazzling display of flight that had the crowd gasping in amazement. I think my favorite bird that day was the kookaburra, which is, of course, a native of Australia, and new to me. That bird had personality galore —kookaburras really do laugh!



To further enrich the experience we welcomed a select group of organizations to table the event, including the Santa Cruz Bird Club and the Bird School Project, aiming to encourage birders of every age. Raptors Are The Solution (RATS!), an organization founded at UC Berkeley, distributed lots of material about the horrific impact of rodenticides on the raptor population.

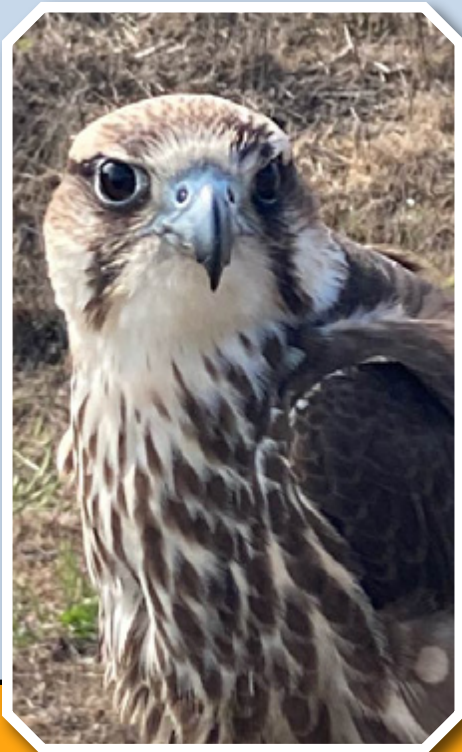
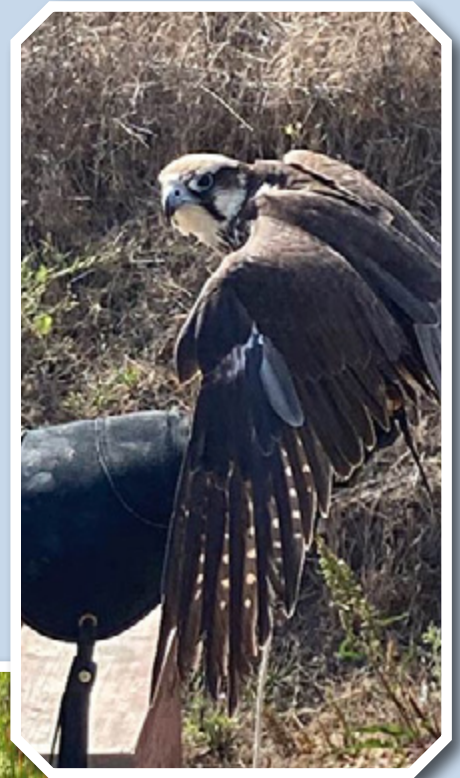
We estimate that more than 700 people came to the Arboretum that day, and all left with a greater appreciation for the birds we love. It was such a success that we anticipate making it an annual event.

The Arboretum is open every day by 9 am and admission is \$10 for adults. We encourage you to buy a membership so that you can come in at 6am on the 3rd Saturday of every month.

The Arboretum is a stunning collection of plants and trees from the 5 areas of the world with which we share our climate, as well as a birding hot spot. Don't wait until the next Raptor Day to visit—we have kites and hawks and owls and falcons on display every day.

<https://arboretum.ucsc.edu/>

Susan Leo, President, UCSC Arboretum Friends Board; SC Bird Club member.



Top and left: Lanner Falcon

Above: Joshua Burbuly is holding an Anatum Peregrine tiercel

"It's great fun to staff a Bird Club table ~ you don't need to be an expert on birds or the club. It's a wonderful way to meet others who share your love of birds. If you'd like to help with tabling at future events—Covid protocols permitting—please let us know at scbirdclub@gmail.com. No events are scheduled at this time."

What Bird Did You Sponsor and Why?

WHITE – THROATED SWIFT

It is our pleasure to support the Santa Cruz County Breeding Bird Atlas project. Our sincere thanks to the organizers and participants. This is citizen science at its best.

We were inspired to sponsor the White-Throated Swift after a sighting near Sandhill Bluff last fall. On a hike across the agricultural fields, we noticed several birds with swept-back wings circling above. Not swallows, but White-throated Swifts! And not a few but 30 or more in a loose flock that lingered for nearly an hour.

This unexpected encounter was a joy to behold and it prompted fond memories of swifts in the mountains and canyons of the Eastern Sierra and Great Basin, of hearing the “chittering” calls echo off cliff faces and watching racing birds disappear into narrow crevices.

- Breck Tyler, Martha Brown



White-throated Swift - Gail West

AMERICAN KESTREL

This beautiful falcon—petite, just as I am—has been my totem animal since I was eight years old. That year, my family moved from in-town to a house on the outskirts of my eastern Pennsylvania home city, with a farmer’s alfalfa field bordered by hedgerows just beyond out back lawn. My avid-birder parents prioritized erecting a huge metal pole topped by a beautiful Purple Martin house overlooking the field. Soon our anticipation changed to dismay, as Starlings noisily took up residence. Only a few weeks later, however, the starlings were evicted by a Kestrel pair, who claimed the entire box and field as their territory. Thereafter Kestrels continued to nest there for years, and our local Audubon Society chapter provided a strong young birder to shinny up the pole for several seasons to band the nestlings prior to fledging. Here in California, and on backpacking trips in other Western states, sighting a Kestrel always gives me special joy.

- Surrey Kent



American Kestrel - Lee Jaffe

SONG SPARROW

I chose to sponsor the Song Sparrow in part because it was one of the first birds whose song I learned to recognize as a child. Additionally, ever since the COVID-19 pandemic kept me staying at home most of the time, and unable to see my far-away family, the mixed flock of sparrow and towhee species coming to my backyard for millet cheered me up and invited careful ornithological observation. At the first onset of breeding activity this year, that lovely Song Sparrow song rang out from the bushes.

- Surrey Kent



Song Sparrow - Lisa Larson

SANTA CRUZ BIRD CLUB

Officer Positions available:

Program Director
Outreach/Publicity Director
Editor

Please see:

santacruzbirdclub.org/club-information/club-officers-2/
for a description of officer duties.



Western Screech Owl- Gail West

SANTA CRUZ BIRDS

By Alex Rinkert

Including reports from March 1 to May 31, 2021

The rarity highlights this spring included Short-tailed Albatross (2nd record) and Little Gull (5th record), as well as the continuing White Wagtail which stayed into late March. Anchovy masses in the nearshore waters brought in good numbers and diversity of gulls and terns in late April and early May, especially off Santa Cruz. The first few months of fieldwork in the CZU burn area found massive numbers of breeding Lazuli Buntings, but far fewer birds of most other species. Continued fieldwork this summer will provide more insights into how the avifauna has changed following the fire.

A Greater White-fronted Goose flying past Laguna Creek Beach on May 4 was rather late (ST). The county's breeding population of **Canada Goose** continues to expand. A pair with a gosling at Swanton Pond on May 13 extended their breeding range several miles up the north coast (GS). Several sightings of **Mute Swans** were perhaps from the established population in the northern San Francisco Bay and delta. A flock of seven was seen flying by Pleasure Point on May 5 (EE), and then what was likely to be the same seven flew over Interlaken on May 6 (NU). Seven at Paicines Reservoir in San Benito County remained from May 29 through August (DSh, v.ob.), and could have been the same as those seen in Santa Cruz County. Another Mute Swan, first seen at Año Nuevo State Park in San Mateo County on May 5 (AG, KP), was found at Younger Lagoon on May 6 (DSt) and then split its time between Swanton Pond and Wilder Ranch State Park, where it remained at these two places through May (v.ob.). Prior to these sightings, there were only a handful of records for the county of birds presumably from established populations.

Two broods of **Wood Ducks** with small ducklings at the Roaring Camp ponds on April 28 (DE) and May 16 (BB) were unexpected at that



*Mute Swan - Michael Bolte
Barrow's Goldeneye - Alex Rinkert
Black-chinned Hummingbird - Sharon Hull*

location. A male **Blue-winged Teal** at Younger Lagoon from May 29–31 was a late spring migrant (JW, v.ob.). Up to six **Redheads** were seen at Struve Slough through May 15 (v.ob.), and one was at Drew Lake on May 22 (NU).

Eight **Black Scoters** were reported between March 1 and April 20 (v.ob.).

A female **Long-tailed Duck** was off the Pajaro River mouth on March 1 (NL, AR). A female

Bufflehead and female **Common Goldeneye** lingered on the lower San

Lorenzo River through May 21 (v.ob.).

An immature male **Barrow's Goldeneye** was at Quail Hollow Ranch on April 17, the latest record for this species in the county and first for the mountains (AR, ES).

Single **Wild Turkeys** continued at Pajaro Dunes through May 12 (v.ob.), La Selva Beach through May 3 (NC), and Natural Bridges through May 19 (v.ob.). Other sightings where they are pushing the boundary of their distribution included six at Hidden Beach Park on March 6 (PH) and one in a neighborhood near Cabrillo on March 27 (RK). Two **Red-necked Grebes** off Live Oak on May 8 were getting late (EE). A male **Black-chinned Hummingbird** was at CARE Park on April 17 (SH, LG, AS), and two males and a female were found at Loma Prieta between April 15 and May 9

(KP, BS, BK, GG). A male **Calliope Hummingbird** was also at Loma Prieta on April 15 (KP).

A pair of **Snowy Plovers** made two nesting attempts at Laguna Creek Beach this spring, one of which was successful in producing young (ST, LSo). A large flock of 10 **Ruddy Turnstones** dropped in to West Cliff on their migration north (KE), and an enormous flock of 40 **Red Knots** flew over the San Lorenzo River mouth on May 3 setting a new high count for the county (AMM). Two more Red Knots were at Pajaro Dunes from May 1–2 (NS). A gathering of 33 **Wilson’s Snipes** at Watsonville Slough on March 31 was a rather high count for the county (AF). An **Ancient Murrelet** flying by El Jarro Point on March 25 was unexpected considering the poor showing by this species on the Monterey Bay this winter (AR).

A movement of 21 **Black-legged Kittiwakes** at El Jarro Point on March 18 was a rather high count from shore (AR). A first-cycle **Little Gull** was photographed roosting in a flock of **Bonaparte’s Gulls** at the San Lorenzo River mouth on May 13 (AR, EJJ). This was the

5th record for the county. An adult **Franklin’s Gull** was also at the San Lorenzo River mouth, seen roosting there and feeding on anchovies in the Santa Cruz Harbor



between May 7–10 (AR, v.ob.). An adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** roosting at Waddell Beach on March 3 was the first spring record for the county (AR). Two **Black Terns** were foraging in the waters of Struve Slough on May 8 (PH). Numerous **Black Skimmers** this spring were the

most present in the county in many years.

Four were at Pajaro Dunes on March 24 (NU) and up to five Black Skimmers were at the San Lorenzo River mouth from May 12–17 (NU, v.ob.). One was at Seacliff State Beach on April 27 and May 11 (PH, SB, v.ob.), then two were at Seacliff from May 27–28 (DF, v.ob.), and another was at Pajaro Dunes from May 4–12 (BT, LH, v.ob.).

A 1st or 2nd-cycle **Short-tailed Albatross** seen about nine miles offshore of Davenport on May 1 was the 2nd record for the county (MF). A **Laysan**



*From top: Little Gull (red legs) - Alex Rinkert
Ruddy Turnstones - Kate Edwards
Black Skimmers - Simon Thornhill*





Albatross was seen offshore on March 20 (CO). A **White-tailed Kite** at Glenwood Preserve from May 5–6 could have been a migrant, or may have been breeding nearby (BB). The breeding pair of **Bald Eagles** in Watsonville tended to a chick at their nest through May (GK). About four individuals were reported elsewhere in the county at Quail Hollow Ranch, Loch Lomond, Wilder Ranch, Scotts Valley, and Loma Prieta (BS, ES, AR, JS, HS, v.ob.).

The **Red-breasted x Red-naped Sapsucker** hybrid at Natural Bridges State Beach continued through March 12 (MB). **American Kestrels** attempted to nest at Quail Hollow Ranch this spring but were apparently evicted by aggressive Acorn Woodpeckers before their young could fledge (PB, ES, LS). At least one **Tropical Kingbird** in Santa Cruz was last seen on March 31 (AR), while the last sighting in the Watsonville sloughs was April 15 (PH). A flock of 44 **Horned Larks** continued near Watsonville through March 22 (GK). A pair of **Tree Swallows** bred in newly constructed nest boxes at DeAnza Mobile Home Park, representing a new breeding site in the county for this species (JA et al.). A **Bank Swallow** was at Swanton Pond from May 13–23 (GS, v.ob.).

A pair of **House Wrens** were building a nest at Sunset State Beach on May 3 (NU). This species primarily breeds in the southeast corner of the county, but has bred sporadically at other places over the years, including on the south coast at Sunset State Beach. The **White Wagtail** continued daily at the San Lorenzo River mouth until March 26 (v.ob.). So long and maybe see you next November! **Lawrence's Goldfinches** were found nesting at Chittenden in late April (NU) and Kelly-Thompson Ranch in late May (EL).

A resurgence of four singing **Black-chinned Sparrows** at Loma Prieta this spring was welcomed; their population at Loma Prieta had been dwindling the past few years (v.ob.). A migrant **Lark Sparrow** was at Lighthouse Field State Beach on April 12 (DS). After an above average number of reports in early May, the last **Golden-crowned Sparrow** was seen at Interlaken on May 16 (NU). At least 24 **White-throated Sparrows** and zero **Swamp Sparrows** were reported this period (v.ob.). The spring's only **Yellow-breasted Chat** was singing at Davenport on May 23 (GS).

A striking adult male **Orchard Oriole** was also at Davenport from May 20–22 (BH, v.ob.). Up to three **Great-tailed Grackles** were seen at Swanton Pond between May 15–21 (MB, v.ob.), while two were at Westlake Pond beginning on May 8 (JAI). Other sightings away from the Pajaro Valley in April and May included one at Nearly Lagoon (KE), one flying over Seabright (AR), and two flying over the Santa Cruz Wharf

*From top:
Bald Eagle chick on nest
Bald Eagle chick out of nest
Bald Eagle Fledges as parent watches - Gary Kittleson*

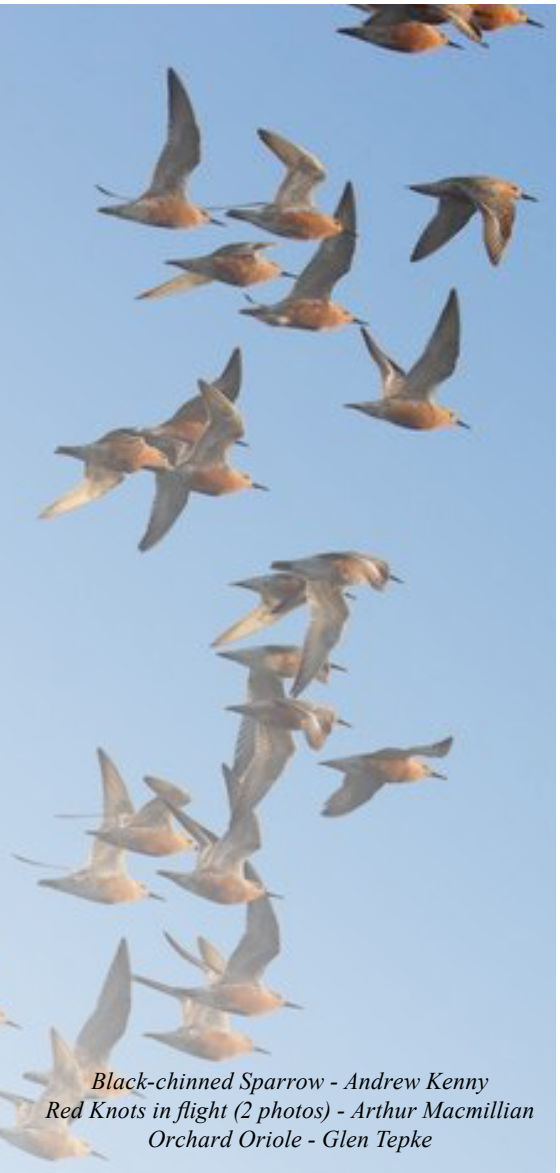


(AR)! A **Black-and-white Warbler** at Peery Park on March 29 probably wintered there (AS). Two **Nashville Warblers** were reported this spring, at Natural Bridges and Loma Prieta (PH, EL et al.). The wintering **Summer Tanager** at Natural Bridges State Beach lingered until March 30 (v.ob.). A flock of up to eight **Scaly-breasted Munias** were at Lighthouse Field State Beach from April 8–10 (TR, CC), the first time

they have been found there. One was at a farm in the Pajaro Hills on May 28 (NU), another new location for this species. Three at Pinto Lake on March 24 (BT) and a flock of up to twenty-four visiting a feeder at Interlaken (NU) were at places they are known to frequent.

Cited Observers:

Julie Allen, Jenny Anderson, Scott Bentall, Michael Bolte, Brian Bullard, Cindy Cummings, Nanda Currant, Kate Edwards, David Ekdahl, Erik Enbody, David Fickel, Abram Fleishman, Michael Force, Gabriel Gartner, Alane Gray, Lucie Hamilton, Paul Heady, Bill Henry, Everardo Jaime Jr., Brooke Keeney, Ruth Kerr, Gary Kittleson, Earl Lebow, Nick Levendosky, Arthur MacMillan, Chris Overington, Kenneth Petersen, Karen Pinckard, Alex Rinkert, Tanya Rogers, Brian Scanlon, Nico Schnack, Elena Scott, Debi Shearwater, Logan Southall, Daniel Stephens (DSt), Gary Strachan, Hanna Svensson, Jonah Svensson, Simon Thornhill, Breck Tyler, Norman Uyeda, Jonny Wahl, “v.ob.” means various observers. ***Please enter interesting observations into eBird or report them to Alex Rinkert at arinkert@comcast.net.***



*Black-chinned Sparrow - Andrew Kenny
Red Knots in flight (2 photos) - Arthur Macmillian
Orchard Oriole - Glen Tepke*



Birder's Notebook

Recollections and musings from Bryan Deisenroth

High up in the Sierra Nevada mountain range sitting on a rocky point on the southwestern shore of Upper Blue Lake I saw something unusual. Considering the five-weight fly rod in my hand and the elusive rainbow trout hidden within the tepid clear waters below I wondered. In this relatively closed environment are the trout more or less equal in intelligence and physical abilities? I would be satisfied catching any regardless of their cast in life. Preferably the strongest but the least intelligent would offer the easiest opportunity and the greatest fun at the point in time when setting the hook.

Although the sun rising in the east caused me to tilt my wide-brimmed felt hat downward I was able to catch glimpses of movement in the sky. An American Bald eagle in shallow dive came into view. It was only then I noticed the floundering fish on the surface. Breakfast time. Wild Rainbow trout sounded good to me too. The surface of the lake was similar to a sheet of glass except for the ever-so-slight disruption caused by the poor trout's tail. The eagle came in only to pass and climb again into position.

Again and again, he did this but seemed reluctant to reach out and eat.

Maybe he wasn't hungry or possibly thought this opportunity would dangle in his face all day. They seldom do. At this point, I forgot the rod in my hand and recalled my earlier thoughts regarding intelligence. Is this guy stupid? Or is hesitation one aspect of missed opportunities? At this time I spied another Bald Eagle flapping her wings heading north. She did not seem to miss a beat but simply lowered her flaps, glided underneath the hesitant one, skewered her breakfast, and continued northbound.

I was satisfied, she was satisfied, he was not and the trout was not. I guess that's life. I wonder.



Bald Eagle illustration - Lisa Larson

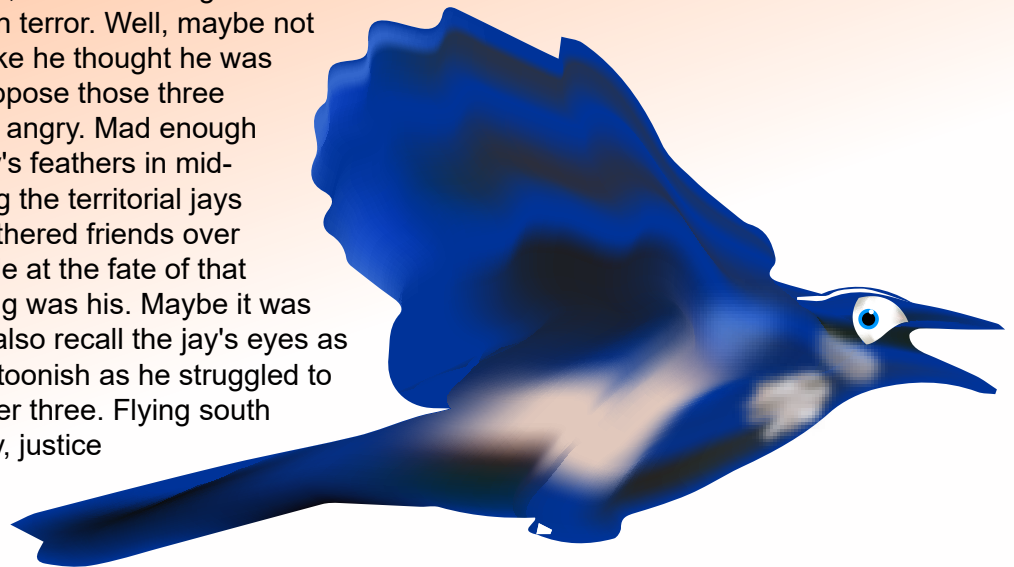
Birder's Notebook . . . cont'd

Recollections and musings from Bryan Deisenroth

On many mornings, or rather most mornings, I have the pleasure of waking to nature's alarm clock. The sounds of songbirds seem loudest prior to the sun rising. Maybe it's the cool still air or, possibly, the fact much daytime chatter is us, humans, using our tools for survival. Cars, tractors, Harley Davidsons, trains, planes, school busses, garbage trucks, semi-trucks, and even all the garden leaf blowers. These ear-piercing mechanical devices are so common. I wonder why few folks ever take their precious time to find places where the only sound waves are those caused by nature and wildlife.

On one crisp morning, I was walking through my redwood trees on my way to a barn housing all my noisemakers. Of course, my machinery was silent at this point so it was easy to know, by ear, what sort of creatures were in my presence.

Behind me and coming fast toward me was a different alarm. This one sounded more like an emergency vehicle. The type that can startle any motorist driving on autopilot. Instinctively I ducked while turning to observe the commotion. What passed by about the elevation of my pre-ducked head was hilarious. Traveling about as fast as any scrub jay could fly was four birds. The scrub jay in the lead followed by a dove, a robin, and a mocking bird. The scrub jay was screaming in terror. Well, maybe not a scream but something like he thought he was going to die. Anyway, I suppose those three birds chasing the jay were angry. Mad enough to be plucking the poor jay's feathers in mid-air. Frankly, after observing the territorial jays harassing all my other feathered friends over the months I had to chuckle at the fate of that guy who thought everything was his. Maybe it was only my imagination but I also recall the jay's eyes as he passed. They were cartoonish as he struggled to keep his lead over the other three. Flying south while looking north. Oh my, justice always prevails after all.



California Scrub Jay illustration - Lisa Larson

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Lifetime Member: Sara and Joe Mikles Feb 2021

NEW MEMBERS

Anne Spence	Feb 2021	Kat Crichton & Family	July 2021
Beth Landry	Feb 2021	Jennifer Cannon & Famil	July 2021
David Philleo	Feb 2021	Tahiry Lagrand	July 2021
Jean Laws & Family	Feb 2021	Joanne Madril & Family	July 2021
Lola Ross & Family	Feb 2021	Emily Marriott	July 2021
Mik Moore and Nancy Rosenberg	Feb 2021	Sue Fitchen	July 2021
Pat Tobin & Family	Feb 2021	Richard Moss & Family	July 2021
Ruth Kerr	Feb 2021	Robert Meads	July 2021
Sue Martinez & Family	Feb 2021	Bill Samsel & Family	July 2021
Sam Rawlins	Mar 2021	Roy Poucher	July 2021
Dave Osterhoudt & Family	Mar 2021	Mary DeVoy & Family	July 2021
Don Fukuda	Mar 2021	Meg Corman	July 2021
Jane Sooby	Mar 2021		
Glen Brown	Mar 2021		
Jennifer Cobas	Mar 2021		
Andrew Hands	Apr 2021		
Judi Clayton	Apr 2021		
Brent Londre	Apr 2021		
Kerstin Wasson	Apr 2021		
Valerie Lemke	Apr 2021		
Paul Heady & Family	Apr 2021		
Paula Maxfield	Apr 2021		
Natasha Fraley & Family	Apr 2021		
Jean Catino	May 2021		
Howard Schneider & Family	May 2021		
Alexander Gilbert	May 2021		
Allyn Romanow	May 2021		
Tony Britton & Family	May 2021		
Maria (Hardesty) Borges	May 2021		
Pamela Iriguchi	May 2021		
Patricia Mahoney			
Larry Holland & Family			
Amy Sibiga			
Storey La Montagne & Family			
Jeanette Howard & Family			
Sathish Srinivasan & Family			
Roger Lucas			
Judith Donaldson			
Judy Keenan			

American Goldfinch - Lee Jaffe



DEADLINE

submissions for
NOV/DEC issue

OCT 1, 2021



Turkey Vulture Breakfast - Lisa Larson



Allen's Hummingbird
- Simon Thornhill

Right: Tree Swallow nestlings - 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

~ Lisa Fay Larson, Editor

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Great Horned Owl
- Arthur Macmillian

ALBATROSS



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PARTING SHOT: "STAY IN FORMATION!" SANDERLINGS - MICHELLE LAMBERSON



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