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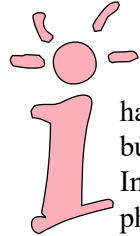
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PARTING SHOT



PHOEBASTRIA NIGRIPES

## The Endangered Short-tailed Albatross – Monterey Bay, California

- By Brad R. Lewis



I have always believed life is about being in the right place at the right time, but birding and wildlife photography has taken this belief to another level. In September 2021, I was on Monterey Bay in my boat looking for whales to photograph when the call came out that the Short-tailed Albatross had been spotted again for the second time in a week. A Captain out of Santa Cruz first spotted the bird, and then Captain Tim Zoliniak was able to stay with the bird till I arrived. Based on the spotting earlier in the week, Captain and Naturalist Kate Spencer and Don Baccus from Fast Raft had already started communicating with USFWS, NOAA, and other wildlife scientists. By the time I arrived at the bird, Kate had called me and relayed instructions to get video (if possible) and document the bird's general condition, takeoff, and flight. I recorded these requests during the next several hours, including four takeoffs, eating a Rock Cod, preening, and general overall behavior.

I was amazed at the team of seven scientists who had come together to evaluate this bird's condition. The bird had damage to its right-wing primary feathers and numerous other areas. The team anxiously waited while I uploaded nearly 2500 images grouped by takeoff/inflight and general categories. After reviewing the photos and my observations, the team concluded they should not capture this bird. One image captured the last three digits of a tag that the Yamashina Institute of Ornithology believes belongs to a chick banded on March 3, 2020 at the Hatsune-zaki colony on Torishima, which is very exciting.



Thank you to the scientists, boat captains, volunteers, and law enforcement teams from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, NOAA, UC Davis, rescue groups, and others for their dedication to this bird. I must admit I was awed at the level of detail and attention this group of over 20 people gave to ensuring the health and safety of this Albatross.

For me, it was the honor of being associated with such a unique and caring team of people, the once in a lifetime opportunity of spending several hours with a Short-tailed Albatross (an endangered species) and being in the right place at the right time in the middle of Monterey Bay.

We have three albatrosses in the North Hemisphere the Black-footed, Laysan, and the Short-tailed Albatross. The Black-footed Albatross is the smallest of the three, with the darkest plumage and often seen in the outer

for bird-friendly behavior and asks that vessels maintain a distance of 100 meters. Additionally, if you see the Albatross or snap a photo, please contact the Seabird Protection Network at [california.seabirds@noaa.gov](mailto:california.seabirds@noaa.gov). If you see the bird in distress or you spot the bird on land, please contact the International Bird Rescue's Bird Helpline at 707-207-0380, ext. 110.



Monterey Bay areas. The most distinctive difference with our Short-tailed Albatross is the large pink and white-tipped bill versus a smaller dark bill on the Black-footed Albatross.

Short-tailed Albatross's were nearly extinct in the mid-1900s. With the support of wildlife organizations, scientists, volunteers, and regulations such as the Endangered Species Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act, these Albatross's are making a comeback. Even still, Short-tailed Albatross's are endangered and protected by the Endangered Species Act. In their article, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services stated, "Don't Chum the Albatross!" these Albatross's are known to nest on a few remote islands of the North Pacific and travel great distances. The U.S. FWS has also published guidelines



*All photos by Brad R. Lewis*



## ***Breeding Bird Atlas Winter Update***

This winter our publication committee has been putting the final touches on the atlas publication plan, which is a guiding document that lays out what content will appear in the atlas and how we will publish the book. We will use this blueprint to assemble the atlas publication over the next two years.

We are looking to add members to our publication committee who have experience with publishing books, whether digital or print, to advise us on this process. We would also like to add an artist who can assist with commissioning and curating the illustrations that will appear in the publication. Please inquire with me if you have interest.

While fieldwork is about 96% complete and we have already begun writing the atlas, we are still planning to do one last year of fieldwork beginning this March. In this final year of fieldwork, the focus will be on finishing the few incomplete blocks, looking for target species in complete blocks, and filling in any other gaps in coverage. More details will be coming in March.

***[Read the BBA II Annual Report Year 5](#)***

Thanks as always to the atlasers for their tireless effort to make this project a success, and for sponsorship from the Santa Cruz Bird Club and its many supporters.

Alex Rinkert  
Project Director  
arinkert12@comcast.net



*Pied-billed Grebe Nest - Beth Hamel*

# Sponsor-A-Species campaign for the Breeding Bird Atlas successfully completed!

Thanks to 95+ donors, the Sponsor-A-Species campaign has reached a successful completion! We appreciate you all! All of the original 151 species, and the 6 others added based on the work of our intrepid atlasers, have been sponsored.

The Sponsor-A-Species campaign is one of the many building blocks used to help create the Breeding Bird Atlas—more on the others in a future Albatross. In the 2 years that the campaign has been going, just over \$20,000 has been raised for the atlas, primarily from species sponsors. This represents about 20% of the funds raised to date for the Atlas.

This campaign was made possible in large part by Phil Brown, our Webmaster, who set up the webpage for this project, and kept things going behind the scenes. Thank you Phil!

What's next?

It is tricky to predict how costs may change between now and publication, but we feel confident that the Atlas is on solid footing—due to your contributions, along with several grants we have received. We are anticipating the synthesizing of data and publishing will take about two years, which means the atlas book will be available sometime in 2024. Of course, we will be sending out many updates on the progress that is being made during the publication process.

Our partnership with San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory—which allowed contributions to be eligible as tax-deductions—ended December 31, 2021. At this time, we don't have another partnership in place which would allow that. [We'll keep you informed if that should change.] However, we certainly are able, and happy, to continue to accept any donations! As of January 1, 2022, donations by check, made out to "Santa Cruz Bird Club" can be sent to: SCBC, PO Box 1304, Santa Cruz 95061.

Speaking of publication, when it gets closer, we'll reach out to sponsors to confirm how you want your name(s) to appear.

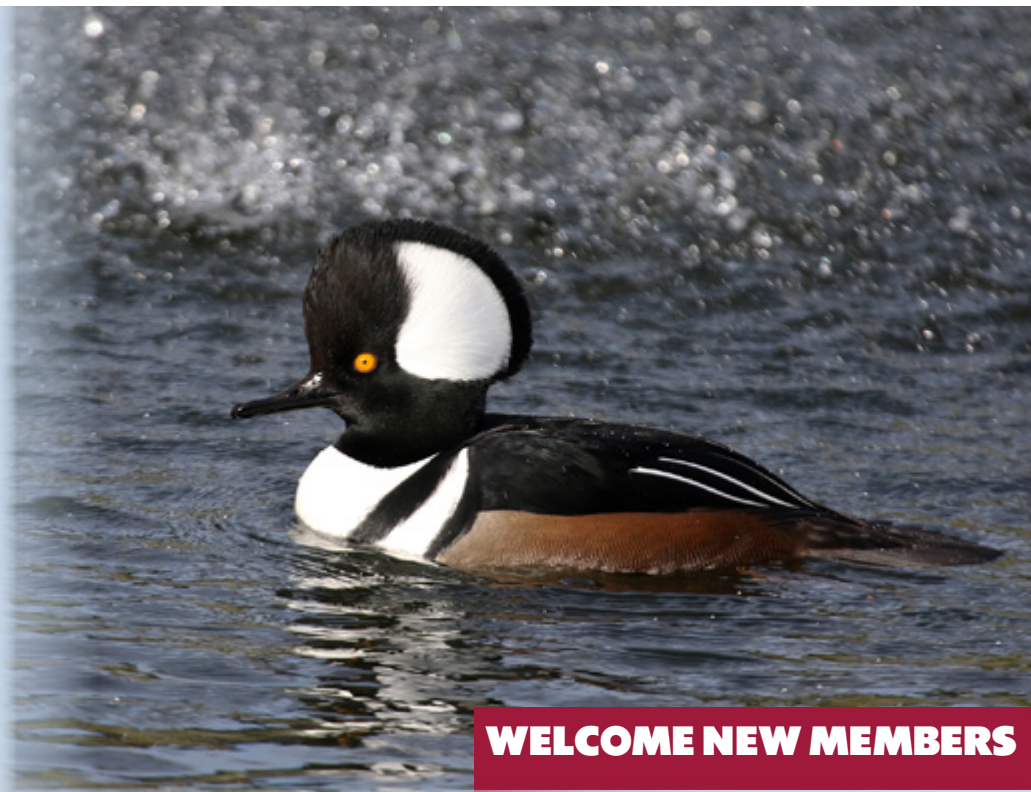




## Breeding Bird Atlas RECENT DONORS

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 Karen DeMello  
 Norman Uyeda  
 Melanie Wirtanen  
 Susan Leo & Diane Syrcle  
 Betsy Riker  
 Matthew Coale  
 Jerry Busch

**THANK YOU!**



*Hooded Mergansers  
 (male top, female below)  
 - Pete Solè*



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Dave Burnham	Nov 2021
Abram Fleishman	Nov 2021
Betsy Koch	Nov 2021
Linda Leum	Nov 2021
Sara Meszaros	Nov 2021
Cindy Cummings	Nov 2021
Mary Eriksen	Nov 2021
Alisa Baker	Nov 2021
Ron Clegg	Nov 2021
Jasper Barnes	Nov 2021
Erik Enbody, Family	Nov 2021
Linda Smith	Nov 2021
Chandra Go, Family	Nov 2021
Amelia Pedersen	Nov 2021
Hetty Yelland	Nov 2021
Howard Higley	Nov 2021
Jack Carroll	Nov 2021
Ty Hichman	Nov 2021
Niko Rutherford	Nov 2021
Cliff Halverson	Nov 2021
Julie Allen	Nov 2021
Gary Yules, Family	Nov 2021
Tanya Rogers	Dec 2021
Nancy Dixon	Dec 2021
Bryn Young, Family	Dec 2021
Susan Nemitz	Dec 2021
Cheralynn Johnston	Dec 2021
Martha McNulty	Dec 2021
April Vollmer- converted to Life Membership	Dec 2021



# Santa Cruz Birds

By Alex Rinkert

Including reports from September 1 to October 31, 2021

This fall was highlighted by a number of exceptionally rare birds that included two 1st county records, three 2nd county records, and one 3rd county record—almost all of which were widely seen by birders. The two firsts—Grace’s Warbler and Louisiana Waterthrush—bring the number of bird species seen in Santa Cruz County to 460.

Shorebird habitat slowly improved throughout the fall, but by the time there was a significant amount of mud in the Pajaro Valley, peak shorebird migration had already passed. Elsewhere in the county, the unusually low water level at Swanton Pond even attracted a few shorebirds at this otherwise deep water body. The poor showing of winter irruptive species this fall suggests they will be scarce to absent in the county in the coming months. Only a few Red-breasted Nuthatches and low numbers of Pine Siskins showed up on the coast, while all other species went unreported.

A major flight of **Greater White-fronted Geese** on September 23 brought flocks of hundreds into the county. While it is hard to estimate exactly how many were seen, several flocks totaled in the hundreds, with the largest being 389 over Rio Del Mar (AM, SR) and 300 over Larkin Valley (BK). **Cackling Geese**



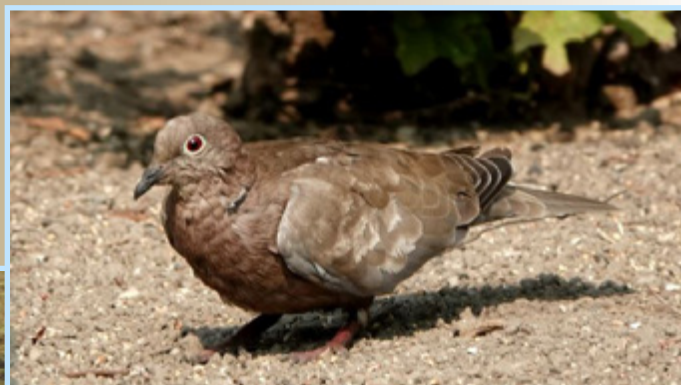
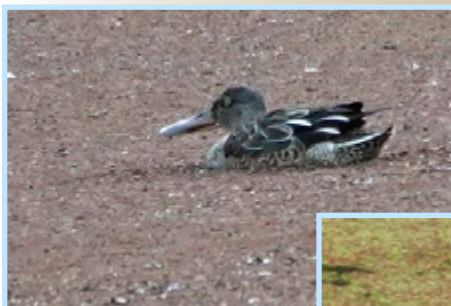
arrive in the county (CC).

A good movement of **Band-tailed Pigeons** was evident at a few places on the coast this fall; XXXX flying east over Wilder Ranch State Park on October 19 were migrating (AR, NL), as were 140 passing over Seabright on October 27 (AR). An unusual bird photographed visiting a

seemed to be more numerous this fall, with many flocks of 20–60 noted throughout late September and October; an especially large flock of 124 passed over Seabright on October 11 (AR). The **Mute Swan** at Laguna Beach remained until October 9 (v.ob.).

feeder at Interlaken on September 26 appeared to be a **Mourning Dove x Eurasian Collared-Dove** hybrid,

A **Northern Shoveler** at the Quail Hollow



Ranch pond was noteworthy for the mountains (BS). Hybrid ducks at Pinto Lake included male **Eurasian x American Wigeon** on October 17 (FT), **Gadwall x Mallard** on October 14 (EL). A female/immature **Black Scoter** off Lighthouse Point on October 25 was earlier than most



a rarely reported taxon and the first record for the county (NU). Only one large flock of migrating **Vaux’s Swifts**—33 at Arana Gulch on September 23 (AR, ES)—was an especially poor showing for this species in fall. Numerous more **Black-chinned Hummingbirds** were reported

through October 1, bringing the fall total to a robust 14 individuals (AR, CF, v.ob.). **Common Gallinules** away from the Pajaro Valley included

From top, clockwise:  
Cackling Geese - Alex Rinkert  
MODO x ECDO - Norman Uyeda  
Northern Shoveler - Brian Scanlon  
EUWI x AMWI - Francis\_Toldi



Montage: Lesser Sand Plover - Simon Thornhill

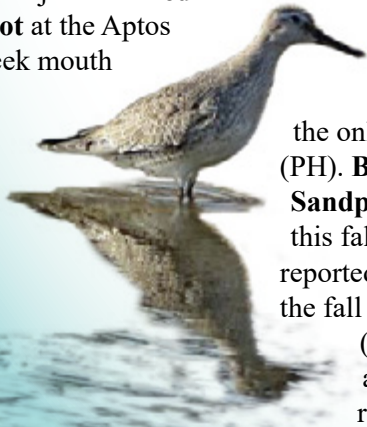
two separate individuals at Laguna Beach on September 23–25 and October 23 (AL, AF, v.ob.).

**A juvenile Lesser Sand-Plover**

at Laguna Beach was seen by several hundred birders from September 17–24 (ST, v.ob.). This was only the second record in the county for this rare species in California, where there are only sixteen total records. The sand-plover flocked with a group of Snowy Plovers on the beach until it was apparently depredated by a

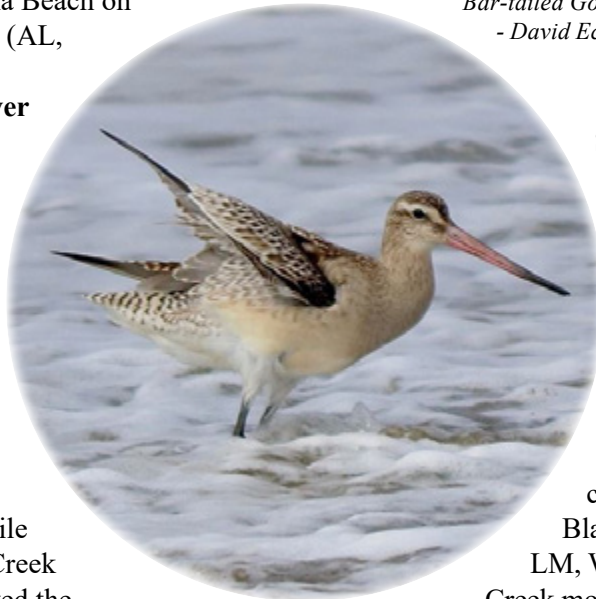
Merlin on September 24! A juvenile **Bar-tailed Godwit** at the Aptos Creek mouth on September 12 represented the second record for the county (AR, v.ob.). The bird was seen regularly through October 1 working the sandy shores between New Brighton State Beach and Pajaro Dunes. A comparison of photos indicated this was the same individual seen a few days previously at Moss Landing on September 9 (AL et al.).

**A juvenile Red Knot** at the Aptos Creek mouth



Red Knot - Paul Heady

on September 21 was the only reported this fall (PH). **Baird's** and **Pectoral Sandpipers** were both scarce this fall; only two Baird's were reported in September bringing the fall total to 5–6 individuals (LF, SM et al.), while about 9 Pectoral reported in September



Bar-tailed Godwit  
- David Eckdahl

and early October were the only found this fall (v.ob.).

**A Red Phalarope** was rare to see inland at Struve Slough on October 21 (DSO).

**A Guadalupe Murrelet** seen about 20 nmi outside the Monterey Bay on September 4 was one of few records for the county (AR, JW, NU, PH, DU). Five total **Tufted Puffins** were reported offshore on two pelagic trips on September 25 and October 10 (v.ob.). A first-cycle **Franklin's Gull** found at Black Point on September 6–7 (GM, LM, WM) was later seen at the Aptos Creek mouth and near Manresa State Beach from September 11–18 (AL, v.ob.). A

congregation of up to 15–20

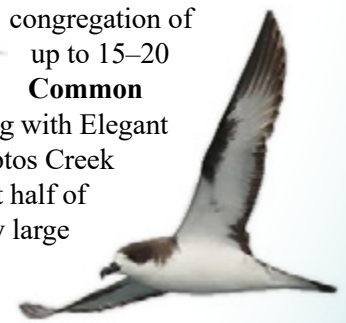
**Common**

**Terns** roosting with Elegant Terns at the Aptos Creek mouth in the first half of

September was an especially large number to be seen from shore (RR, BR, v.ob.).

**A Hawaiian Petrel**

was photographed as it made a close pass by a pelagic boat about 14.5 nmi southwest of Bonny Doon Beach on September 25 (AR, NL, NU, PH, DU). This was the third record for the county, and the first since 2013. Single **Short-tailed Shearwaters** seen on the Monterey Bay on September 12 (BA et al.) and September 27 (AJ et al.) were unusually early arrivals, but coincided with



Hawaiian Petrel  
Left: Norm Uyeda  
Right: Alex Rinkert



unprecedentedly large numbers reported in the Pacific Northwest in early fall. A **Manx Shearwater** was seen during a pelagic trip on the Monterey Bay on September 11 (AJ et al.).

Three **Brown Boobies** were seen on the Monterey Bay during two pelagic trips between September 25–27 (AR, PH, NU, NL, DU, AJ et al.).

In addition to a few individuals seen on westside Santa Cruz and the north coast, a flock of 22 **White-faced Ibises** flying over Antonelli Pond on October 3 was notable for that area (EF). The resident adult **Bald Eagles** continued in the Pajaro Valley, and migrating first-year birds were seen at Arana Gulch on September 23 (AR, ES) and Swanton Pond on October 23 (AF). **Light-morph Ferruginous Hawks** were seen over Seabright on September 29 (NL), the Homeless Garden on October 9 (AR, ES), and at Swanton Pond and Sand Hill Bluff on October 14–15 (AR, BS). One juvenile at Chittenden on September 13 (ST) remained there until at least October 23 (RC, DR). A **Burrowing Owl** first seen on October 21 at Pajaro Dunes was the only one found this fall (BLL, DS).

Several more reports of **Willow Flycatchers** in September brought the fall total to about nine individuals (v.ob.). Seven **Tropical Kingbirds** were reported on the north coast, westside Santa Cruz, and Pajaro Valley in October (NU, NL et al., LS, KE, v.ob.). The **Eastern Kingbird** at Antonelli Pond continued there until September 3 (v.ob.). Three or four **Loggerhead Shrikes** were reported through October (v.ob.).

A **White-eyed Vireo** at Antonelli Pond from September 25–October 7 was the second record for the county and the first to be widely viewed by birders (EE et al., v.ob.). The vireo was faithful to the coast live oaks, poison

oak, and willows at the northwestern corner of the pond where it gleaned caterpillars, often conspicuously to the delight of photographers. Three **White-breasted Nuthatches** were reported away from the Pajaro Hills this fall (NU, BK, JB).

A male **Phainopepla** at Soquel on October 25 was a stellar find; this was the seventh record for the county (LFL). The bird posed nicely for photographs near a fruiting *Pyracantha* bush at the Everett Family Farm in the Soquel-San Jose corridor, but it was soon chased out of the area by a territorial Northern Mockingbird and did not return.

About 12 **Chipping Sparrows** were found this fall (v.ob.). Five **Clay-colored Sparrows** were reported this fall (DS, STe, BT, PB), with one photographed at Garrahan Park north of Boulder Creek on October 17 being exceptional for the mountains (KMG, DV). **Brewer's Sparrows** were at the Homeless Garden from September 22–23 (MB, FB), Lighthouse Community Garden from October 1–9 (DS), and at Younger Lagoon on October 1 (SLM et al.). A juvenile **Black-throated Sparrow** in the chamise at Loma Prieta on September 22 was the sixth record for the county and the first away from the coast (AR, NL). An especially many 16 **Lark Sparrows** were reported this fall, along with a more modest nine **White-throated Sparrows** (v.ob.). A **Vesper Sparrow** at the Homeless Garden on October 8 was the only



*Phainopepla* - Lisa Larson

*Black-throated Sparrow* - Alex Rinkert



*White-eyed Vireo*  
Above: Lisa Sheridan  
Left: Randy Wardle



reported this fall (BB).

An adult female **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was in a mixed blackbird flock at Sand Hill Bluff on October 31 (NU). Two **Bobolinks** were at the Homeless Garden from September 24–26 (EL, v.ob.), while one was at coastal Wilder Ranch State Park on October 19 (AR, NL). A recently fledged **Great-tailed Grackle** begging to an adult at Westlake Pond indicated the pair nesting there earlier in the year had a second brood (RAS, BL). At least one grackle continued at the park through October 25 (PL).

Two warbler species found this fall represented the first records for the county, and remarkably, both were found in the same area! A **Grace's Warbler** was in the blackwood acacias and pines in a parking lot adjacent to Struve Slough near Harkins Slough Road on September 18 (AR, ES, v.ob.). The bird only stayed one day but was seen by many birders. Then, on September 28 a waterthrush photographed on the other side of Struve Slough near Ohlone Parkway was subsequently identified as a **Louisiana Waterthrush** (NU). These two warbler species are especially rare in northern California, where there are only a handful of records for each.

Two other warblers found this fall that occur less than annually in the county. A **Lucy's Warbler** at the Homeless Garden on October 23 (EE) survived a strong storm to be seen again from October 25–29 (v.ob.). A **Blackburnian Warbler** was photographed at Watsonville Slough on October 8 (NU).

Some “Eastern” warblers found

annually in small numbers included 3–4 **Northern Waterthrushes**, 6 **Black-and-white Warblers**, 3 **Tennessee Warblers**, 1 **American Redstart**, and 4 **Chestnut-sided Warblers** (v.ob.). Some of the scarcer “western” warblers found this fall included 18 **Black-throated Gray**, 1–2 **Hermit**, 5 **MacGillivray's**, 2 **Nashville**, and 5 **Palm** (v.ob.).

Special attention to **Orange-crowned Warblers** this fall turned up a surprising number of those showing characteristics of the “sordida” subspecies (*Leiothlypis celata sordida*), which breeds on the Channel Islands and locally on the southern California mainland where insular populations disperse to in fall. The total of twelve individuals identified as the sordida subspecies this fall doubles the number of records of this subspecies in the county! The sordida found this fall included nine on the mid-county coast, one on the north coast, and two in the Pajaro Valley (all AR, ES, NL). Most (75%) of those found this fall were in coast live oak forest with the remainder being in mixed willow-coyote brush scrub.

The sordida subspecies is known to disperse as far north as Humboldt County but is generally regarded as rare in northern California. The 22 Orange-crowned Warblers I could visually identify this fall comprised the following subspecies: 55% sordida, 14% lutescens (locally breeding subspecies), 9% orestera (uncommon migrant from the Great Basin), 5% celata (rare migrant from the boreal forest), and 18% of undetermined subspecies. Perhaps sordida is the more common subspecies



From top: Grace's Warbler - David Sidle  
American Redstart - Andrew Kenny  
Waterthrushes (photo melange):  
Louisiana top rt. Norm Uyeda,  
Lower left Northern - Michael Bolte  
Blackburnian Warbler - Norm Uyeda



in fall? More fieldwork and photographs of the Orange-crowned Warblers in Santa Cruz County are needed to resolve the subspecific status and distribution.

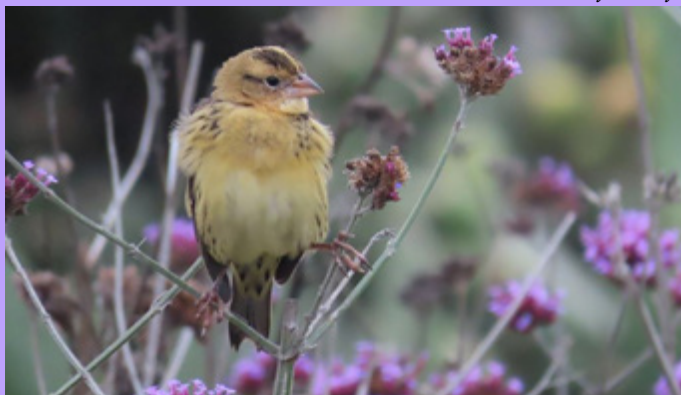
A female **Summer Tanager** was at Neary Lagoon from September 3–14 (GK) and a male was at Chittenden on September 6 (LM). A juvenile **Blue Grosbeak** visited a birdbath in a westside Santa Cruz backyard on October 10 (KDV). **Scaly-breasted Munias** visiting a feeder in Larkin Valley were the first reported in that area of the county. A flock of up to 20 munias were present at Pinto Lake beginning October 20 (NU, v.ob.), while up to 11 munias intermittently visited a feeder in Interlaken (NU).

**Cited Observers:**

Robin Abu-Shumays, Bernardo Alps, Jasper Barnes, Frances Bolte, Michael Bolte, Phil Brown, Brian Bullard, Rita Carratello, Chip Clouse, Kathy DeVoy, Kate Edwards, Erik Enbody, Luke Faust, Abram Fleishman, Craig Fosdick, Elisabeth Foster, Paul Heady, Alvaro Jaramillo, Bryan Kett, Gary Kittleson, Storey LaMontagne, Alex Lamoreaux, Lisa Fay Larson, Barry Langdon-Lassagne, Andrew Lawrence, Earl Lebow, Patrick Lee, Nick Levendosky, Bruce Lyon, Gary Martindale, Kavanagh McGeough, Annie Meyer, Suga Moriwaki, Liam Murphy, William Murphy, Bernadette Ramer, Robert Ramer, Alex Rinkert, Don Roberson, Sasha Robinson, Brian Scanlon, Elena Scott, Lisa Sheridan, David Sidle, David Somerton (DSO), Simon Thornhill, Francis Toldi, Steve Tucker (STu), Breck Tyler, Darrell Uyeda, Norman Uyeda, Dara Vasquez, Jonny Wahl, “v.ob.” means various observers. **Please enter interesting observations into eBird or report them to Alex Rinkert at arinkert12@comcast.net.**



*Blue Grosbeak - Kathy Devoy*



*Bobolink - Phil Brown*



*Lucy's Warbler - Earl Lebow*



*Grace's Warbler - Pete Solè*



*Eastern Kingbird - Lisa Larson*



# A Tale of Two Twitches



Yesterday the Santa Cruz birding world was alerted to an extreme rarity, and the result was this chronicle. After much thought I have decided to allow publication of this story in two prestigious English periodicals, Which do you ask?

It was the Bicester Times and the Worcester Times,

The intrepid author set off this morning as day broke. After a brief stop at the local caffeine emporium he set a course for South County, destination the famed Pinto Lake. There are two ends to Pinto Lake, the South end has easy access and close parking so he started there. Many Coots were observed along with various mongrel ducks, but the only cormorants observed were of the Double Crested variety flying over. Frustrated with a lack of success the author moved to the other end of this watery vista.

So began a long trek. Up hill and down dale. First he visited the shrine and boardwalk. Many Coots Egrets and Herons were seen, but no cormorants. Slipping on the surprisingly icy boardwalk planks he set off toward the next peninsula. A winding muddy trail with many disc golf hazards led to a vantage point where he could see a lot of reeds and many Ruddy Ducks, but little else.

Consulting with the maps of Google he found that there was another peninsula to explore. More walking and he found another vantage where some American Wigeons could be seen, and then could observe some of a further inlet, but apart from Black-Crowned Night Heron and Mallards not many waterfowl. Lots of Towhees (California and Spotted), a Ruby Crowned Kinglet, White and Golden Crowned Sparrows, a few Yellow Rumped and Townsend's Warblers, but no cormorants.

They seek him here, they seek him there, those twitchers seek him everywhere.  
Is he in heaven or is he in hell, that damned elusive Nannopterum brasilianum.

Crestfallen, tired and cold our author returned home.

After some work and lunch, he decided to give it another try. Braving the Friday afternoon southbound traffic he headed back to the park. As he neared the North entrance he received a call from the hero of this story, the Right Honorable E LeBow,

"We have the bird, go to the dock at the south end. We are in a boat."

Pulling a fast illegal U-ie he turned back and set course for the South end of the lake. Reaching the dock he set up his trusty scope and quickly found the boat, several fellow Twitchers aboard, and all focused on the bird, easily found in the cormorant flock cruising the lake's waters.

This was fine, but BVD. Views from more than 200 yards are less than optimal, and no photographic opportunities.

The boat returned, other friends arrived, and so was set the scene for a second epic twitch.

The Protagonists:

Sharon - the plant goddess - Hull  
Pete - have you seen the size of my lens - Solè  
Dave - don't make me angry the hulk - Lavorando  
Scott - I'm sandbagging my county list - Terrill  
Phil - the ballast - Brown

Due to the generosity of Mr Heady the aforementioned boat was still available so we all piled in and set off for the far reaches of the lake. Wading through an enormous flock of gull sp. we searched for cormorants. Distracted by a group sunning on a log we spent some minutes deciding that we had been deceived before locating the bird swimming with some Double Crested nearer the bank,

Cameras, binos scopes were all deployed. Much joy from refinding Alex's first county record of Neotropic Cormorant. The bird was enjoyed by all for a few minutes before it took off and flew into one of the Eastern inlets.

Our self appointed captain Pete wanted more looks so we pattered off in its wake. Kingfishers, Wigeon, Coots, Ruddy Ducks and more were seen, but no cormorant.

The on board conversation turned to county lists. Pete confessed to an outrageous South American Chiloe Wigeon tick so that he could get to 350 on his county list. Phil admitted that Northern Red Bishop and of all things, Budgerigar, were on his eBird list. Scott confessed to keeping multiple lists of varying integrity. There was much hilarity about the "football hooligan" bird (otherwise known as Eurasian Collared Dove - because it's call is "Uniiited - Uniiited- Uniiited").

Despite some tricky encounters with shallow water and thick mud the group returned to shore safely, having enjoyed a wonderful afternoon's birding.

Photos of the guilty are attached. You can clearly see me in the top edge of the second picture.

- Phil Brown

**PS:** for those Americans on this list a Twitcher is British slang for a rarity chasing birder, so a "twitch" is such a journey. Also, Bicester is pronounced Bister and Worcester is pronounced Wuster, BVD = Better View Desired.

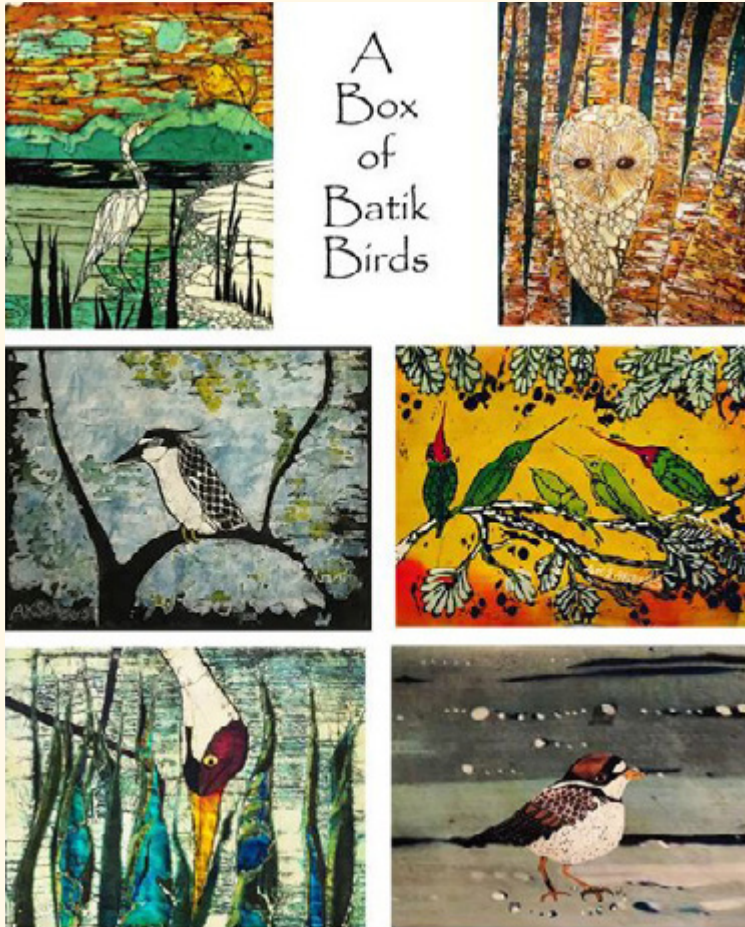


*Above from left: Sharon Hull,  
Scott Terrill, Dave Lavondoro  
Right: Pete Solè*





# Birder's Notebook



A  
Box  
of  
Batik  
Birds

Featuring:

*The Lady Who Loves Birds*

**Alexandra Sanders**

[www.ladywholovesbirds.com](http://www.ladywholovesbirds.com)

I consider myself both a designer and an environmentalist. I am all about the wild-things AND the domestic pets. But the birds, particularly the BIMBY or Birds-In-My-Back-Yard, jump start my creative juices. Creating ART from the little birds that frequent the many fountains and feeders in my Victorian garden on the Westside of Santa Cruz couldn't be more rewarding. I live there with my family, 4 dogs and a cat named Woody.

I have my bachelor's degree in ART with emphasis in Textile Design with most of my training in BATIK. (BATIK is a ancient method of creating fabric that involves applying hot wax and dyes or inks repeatedly to a piece of fabric, alternating the wax and dyes to achieve unique patterns and designs.) To create a new piece, I like to start with a photograph which inspires a drawing that might become a watercolor and, if the design is right, I will create the BATIK. I have to be very selective as to which designs become BATIKS. Each piece can take weeks/months to create, and knowing what works and what doesn't is pretty important.

The best designs are put onto the computer, often altered a bit, combining and repositioning. They become illustrations that are turned into greeting cards and silk prints. These are the heart of my business on Etsy ([Etsy.com/Shop/LadyWhoLovesBirds](https://www.etsy.com/shop/LadyWhoLovesBirds)). My BATIK originals and prints can be viewed on my website, [LadyWhoLovesBirds.com](http://LadyWhoLovesBirds.com). I also open my studio, which is in the ground level basement of my home, for our county wide Open Studios during the month of October and for the holidays.

My love of birds started with me simply being







more observant of the visitors coming to my home many years ago. My very first such observation was an Audubon warbler that came back year after year. He was extremely territorial and would chase away other little birds, one in particular (turned out to be a Townsend warbler) that also liked our yard. I began realizing that there were many birds that visited. I felt blessed and wanted to know about them. I picked up a beginner's birding book and started identifying my BIMBY. They now form the basis of much of my art business, LadyWhoLovesBirds: bushtits, chestnut-backed chickadees, scrub jays, mourning doves, hermit thrushes, ruby-crowned kinglets, juncos, pygmy and red-breasted nuthatches, cedar waxwings, Audubon warblers, and of course, CROWS!

Who are YOUR BIMBY?

- Alexandra Sanders





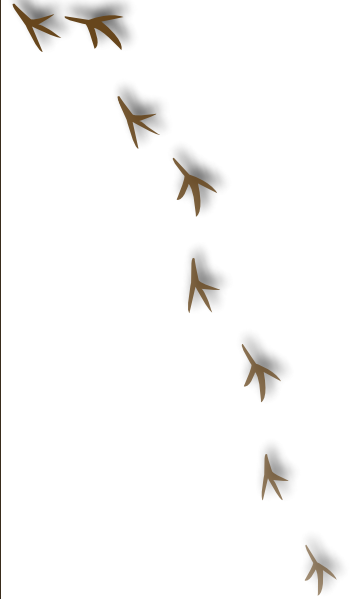
**WELCOME TO  
Emily Maddox**

*Our New Outreach/Publicity Director!*  
emc2maddox@gmail.com

*Swell, we still need  
an EDITOR  
and Program Director!*



*Burrowing Owls - Beth Hamel*



**NOTICE!**

**SANTA CRUZ BIRD CLUB**  
**Officer Positions needed:**

**Editor**  
**Program Director**

Please see:

[santacruzbirdclub.org/club-information/club-officers-2/](http://santacruzbirdclub.org/club-information/club-officers-2/)  
for a description of officer duties.



*Little Birds Singing - Alexandra Sanders*



# DEADLINE

submissions for  
Mar/Apr issue

## FEB 1, 2022



American Coot Fight - Lisa Larson



Young Rufous Hummer - Jeff Roisman

Pileated Woodpecker (digital painting) - 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



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*Big Leaf Maple Leaves - Lisa Larson*

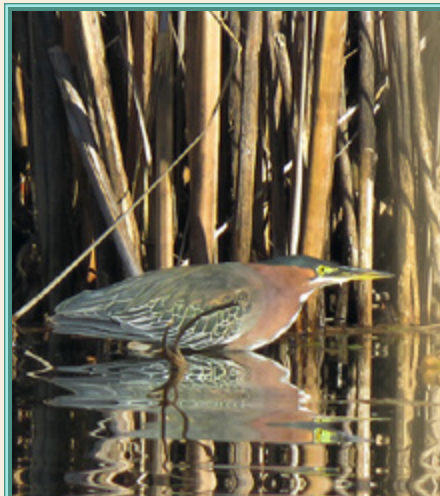
*Green Heron - Lisa Larson*

## ALBATROSS



is published five times a year  
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Download the online version and  
past issues on the SCBC website  
[santacruzbirdclub.org](http://santacruzbirdclub.org)

**PARTING SHOT: "THIS HOLIDAY EATING HAS GOT TO STOP!"**  
PIED-BILLED GREBE - LEE JAFFE



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