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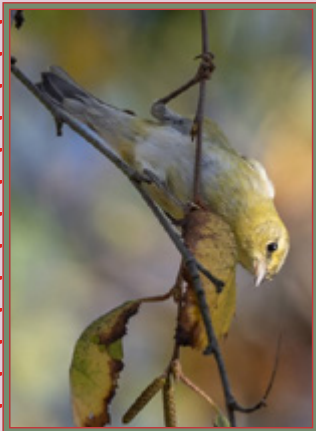


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PARTING SHOT



PHOEBASTRIA NIGRIPES

Mindful Birding Breaks Down Barriers For New (and Old) Birders

- By Amanda Preece Monterey Audubon Society (montereyaudubon@gmail.com)



This year, Monterey Audubon Society (MAS) embarked on a program to make our public outreach and field trips more inclusive to people with mobility challenges. "Mobility challenges" can mean someone with a temporary ankle injury or someone who is a full-time wheelchair user. The goal is to remove barriers that keep people from enjoying the numerous physical and mental health benefits that come from birding. We have dubbed these new monthly field trips our Mindful Birding series, which occur around the region at various parks that are fully or partially accessible.

It all started when a wonderful MAS member, Bev Gatliff, contacted me about accessibility on our public field trips. Bev had knee surgery a few years back but the knee hadn't fully recovered. She was using a rollator walker (**Fig 1**) to increase the distances she could walk, but this device only works on flat, solid surfaces and the field trips that were posted on our website didn't include information about the suitability of the trails. Having been an active birder prior to knee surgery, Bev knew that traditional bird walks often travel fairly long distances, begin early in the morning, and go for many hours. It seemed like there wasn't an option for someone who couldn't be on their feet for long stretches of time.

I had posted a link in our MAS digital newsletter about a nonprofit called Birdability. Their mission is to share the joys of birding with people who have disabilities and other health concerns. Bev had seen this and wondered if we could try something similar. We started re-thinking about how to make our field trips more accessible for people with mobility challenges. What information do we need to convey so people can make informed decisions about participating in a field trip?



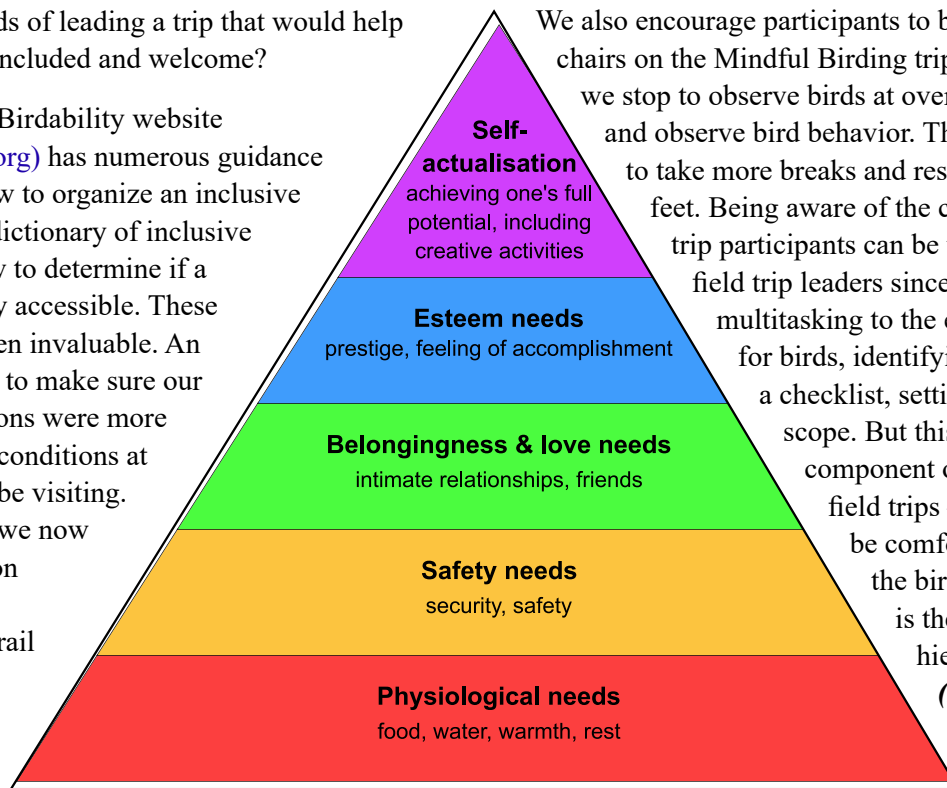
(Fig 1) Bev using her rollator walker with a monopod attachment to stabilize her binoculars.

- Amanda Preece

Were there methods of leading a trip that would help people feel more included and welcome?

Lucky for us, the Birdability website (www.birdability.org) has numerous guidance documents, on how to organize an inclusive birding outing, a dictionary of inclusive language, and how to determine if a location is actually accessible. These resources have been invaluable. An easy first step was to make sure our field trip descriptions were more explicit about the conditions at the location we'd be visiting. For all field trips, we now include information about the planned distance, terrain, trail surface, parking and bathroom accessibility, and more.

Another critical step is to always visit the location beforehand and inspect the amenities and trails with a critical eye. Things that might seem trivial to me personally, like a step to get into the restroom, is a barrier for someone who is using wheels to get around. Using the Birdability Site Review Checklist has radically changed the way I view the built environment, both when visiting local parks and even just around town.



(Fig 2) Maslow's hierarchy of needs (Picture: Wikimedia Commons)

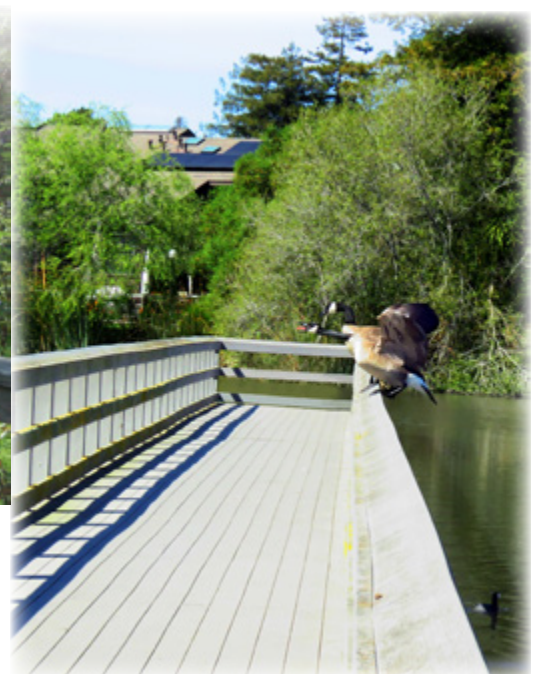
We also encourage participants to bring small folding chairs on the Mindful Birding trips to use when we stop to observe birds at overlook spots or sit and observe bird behavior. This allows people to take more breaks and rest their legs and feet. Being aware of the comfort level of trip participants can be tricky for some field trip leaders since we are already multitasking to the extreme – looking for birds, identifying them, keeping a checklist, setting up a spotting scope. But this is a critical component of our accessible field trips – people have to be comfortable to enjoy the birds after all. There is the classic Maslow's hierarchy of needs (Fig 2) that shows the needs of people, with basic needs at the bottom and then mindful engagement

nearer the top. We have to make sure the bottom portion is taken care of before participants can listen and learn about birds or start contemplating complex conservation topics. This is a useful framework for all trip leaders to remember during outings.

There is a dual-purpose to our efforts of offering more



Natural Bridges Monarch Trail Boardwalk



Nearby Lagoon boardwalk - Lisa Larson

accessible bird trips: many of our long-time birders are themselves getting to a point where the traditional trips are no longer doable. And if we stop and think about it, all of us will likely face limitations to our mobility in our lifetime – some of us sooner than others. As some disability rights activists like to put it, you’re just not disabled *yet*. This is a really good reason, even if self-serving, for everyone to advocate for accessibility in our parks and towns. Next time you walk down a sidewalk, think about if you were trying to travel the same route but had to use a wheelchair. Could you visit the same places you currently enjoy? Similar to birding, once someone points this subject out to you, you’ll notice it everywhere! Through our Mindful Birding trips, we are supporting seasoned birders with changing mobility needs plus making a welcome space for people who might have never had the opportunity to participate in birding before. And there are also many participants who don’t necessarily have a mobility challenge, but still like to travel at a slower pace, to better observe bird behavior or learn calls and songs. Some folks don’t even like to use optics and just want to listen!

But thanks to a Monterey County Fish and Game Advisory Commission grant, we purchased twelve Nikon Monarch binoculars and field guides to offer to participants, allowing everyone, no matter their income level, to participate more fully in the activity. I always make time at the beginning of a trip to go over how to use binoculars, ways to make the view better, and reassure everyone that it takes practice to be able to quickly find birds using binoculars. It’s often helpful to remind myself how challenging things felt when I was just starting to use binoculars or a spotting scope. It’s not easy, so making space for learning and questions is important.

And paramount to everything is the need to practice empathy. Even before finding and identifying a cool bird, leaders need to remember that participants have to feel like they are valued, are welcome, and can ask questions and make mistakes in this group.

Putting people first on these bird trips is a tough hurdle for us birders to overcome – just like it’s hard not to correct someone who points to a Great Egret and says “Look at that crane!” But if we want to make the birding community a welcome place for folks from different backgrounds and with different needs, we need to make sure to think outside of the classic birder box sometimes. Organizing activities that account for accessibility is one way to be kind and welcome more people to the wonderful world of birds.



Great Egret - Lee Jaffe

Birding doesn’t always have to be about seeing the most species or getting the best picture. It can be about sharing the beauty and character of the birds that live among us, who share this amazing planet with us, with people who are awakening to the gift of nature around them. All people should have the opportunity to enjoy birds – and our organizations can help make that happen!

Please email me if you have questions about our accessible birding activities. There are many opportunities for collaboration and idea-sharing. Thank you for reading and happy birding!



(Fig 3) MAS Mindful Birding trip to Point Lobos with Sacramento Audubon president and Birdability captain, Paul Miller (front) (www.FSHDbirder.org). (Photo: Susan Lambert)

Breeding Bird Atlas Writing is Underway

Good progress is being made on preparing the breeding bird atlas publication. About 15% of the text is now written, which includes some species accounts and introductory chapters. I believe the species accounts will be some of the most thoroughly researched and detailed of any breeding bird atlas. Most species accounts will include a discussion of the status and distribution, abundance, habitat requirements, phenology, population trends, threats, and conservation recommendations.

In addition to writing, the first drafts for some of the graphics have been prepared for the publication. The phenology graphics are based on data collected during Atlas I (1987–1993) and Atlas II (2017–2022), and show when the nest building, nesting, and fledging stage is for a species. Data from the Santa Cruz and Moss Landing Christmas Bird Count, as well as a USGS Breeding Bird Survey route in the Santa Cruz Mountains, are being used to evaluate trends in the local breeding populations of some species, and graphics depicting these trends will be included in the publication.

Lastly, I am working with Simon to finalizing the atlas database. This winter, over 40,000 records from Atlas II and 15,000 records from Atlas I were reviewed. Additionally, an abundance estimate was made for every species in every block, and these estimates are being reviewed and finalized by the atlasers that spent dozens to hundreds of hours conducting fieldwork in the past few years. These estimates will allow a course estimate to be made of the local breeding population.

More updates to come in a few months

Thanks,
Alex Rinkert
Project Director
arinkert12@comcast.net



*Western Bluebird
with Toyon Berry
- Gail West*

About Alex

- By Phil Brown



I first met Alex Rinkert when he was in middle school. He claims to have been introduced to birding by my Mother-in-law, Dorothy Herceg, and then joined the Santa Cruz Bird Club and would participate in walks. Initially I had a big advantage over Alex in that being old and in possession of my own transport I could drive to places around the county to bird, whereas he had to rely on lifts from others. Once this advantage disappeared he rapidly accelerated past me both in terms of the birds he found, and the skills he developed as a birder.

In 2008 he led his first Bird Club walk at Quail Hollow, and since then has led over 50 trips for the club. His trips to Loma Prieta stand out as excellent opportunities to see rarer birds during migration. His comprehensive local birding knowledge ensures that any trip he leads will be an educational experience. You just have to make sure you can hear him over the bird song.

Alex has been the ebird reviewer for Santa Cruz for 5 years, which is a source of frequent disappointment (when he refutes a dubious ID), and sometimes unexpected delight (when he turns an ordinary sighting into a rarity such as the recent Ruby-Throated Hummingbird). He is also the birds records keeper for the club, which means we can draw on his expertise at board meetings.

During his time birding in Santa Cruz Alex has racked up an impressive 6 first county records, Lesser Black-backed gull, Jouanin's Petrel, Grace's Warbler, Yellow Throated Warbler, Neotropic Cormorant and the latest spectacular find - Worm Eating Warbler.

Alex's biggest undertaking in the Santa Cruz birding world has been the Breeding Bird Atlas for Santa Cruz County. This multi-year project has meant that he has traveled to the furthest corners of the county, often to places not often if ever birded. His leadership has inspired a large team of volunteers who have amassed an astonishing 20,000 breeding bird records. Alex's problem now is to collect all the data into usable formats and then to publish the results.



Alex & Elena Scott - photo by Sharon Hull



*Kumaran Arul, Alex & Nick Levendosky
- photo by Lisa Larson*

Ducks' Tale

- By Larry Corridon

Once upon a time (actually the Spring of 2007), a female Mallard Duck, who lived near a very big lake called Clearlake flew into an open to the sky, but otherwise totally enclosed and rather small courtyard (this information is important later in the story!) in a hospital near a town called Lakeport. She must have known this courtyard would be very well protected from animals like cats and dogs and coyotes and other predators because:

Unknown to anyone at the hospital, she decided to lay 13 eggs, 12 of which hatched.



Suddenly, there were 13 ducks in the courtyard!



Luckily, the hospital Administrator was kind-hearted and decided to let them stay. The patients at the hospital (who could use some cheering up) were delighted to see these new baby ducks and would look at them from the windows into the courtyard all the time. The busy staff at the hospital enjoyed watching them, too.

They needed food, of course, They were able to eat some of the plants in the courtyard but they needed more than just the plants there to be healthy and grow.

So a staff member at the hospital, who was also a bird friend, learned what they needed to eat and was able to get them a mixed diet of corn and bird meal., which they found delicious.





Being ducks, they needed water to swim in and drink. Luckily, there was a small fountain in the courtyard, which they just loved. They swam in it and drank from it all day long.



Of course, as babies do, they started to grow. They grew and grew very fast and soon they were too big to fit in the fountain.

Although there are no pictures of it, their friend got a 5 foot plastic kiddy pool which they swam around and around in (taking turns because it wasn't that big), splashing, playing, washing...and pooping in, because birds for some strange reason, will do that.

So their friend washed out the kiddy pool and fountain several times over the next few weeks because birds, especially water birds, poop a lot and it's important to be clean, especially in a hospital!



Eventually they grew so big that it was time for them to learn how to fly. They started to flap their wings and build strong flying muscles, but there was a problem. The courtyard was not long enough for them to practice taking off and flying and landing without hitting the doors or windows or walls. That could be terrible! What to do?!

The best idea their friend could think of was to chase the young ducks into a crate and take them and their Momma to beautiful Clearlake where they could live happily and learn to fly. But what about Momma Duck? If she was chased she would just fly away. "Birds do fly, you know." **

Their friend had a plan. He had a beautiful Golden Retriever named Millie who had a very big doggie crate for when she traveled, and another hospital nurse had one, too.

So their friend made a way to close the door to one crate with a long piece of string. Then one day, he put some really good duck food in the big crate and when the momma went in it to eat,



he pulled the string and closed the door and caught her. Then right away, some people who worked at the hospital all went out to the courtyard and chased the young ducks into the crates, making sure Momma didn't get out.



It was great fun and really funny, too! Ducks and people were running back and forth, quacking and laughing. Because the people had to crouch down to herd the ducks, they waddled just like the birds did! Feathers were flying. One duck even ran right between the legs of a nurse! But finally all the ducks were in the crates.

Then off they went to the lake. There was a wonderful winery on Clearlake called Ceago owned by

Jim Fetzer. Not only did he make delicious wines and have a beautiful winery, but he too had a kind heart. So he said it would be fine for the friend to bring the ducks



right down to the lake on his property. It had the perfect home for the ducks, with lots of reeds and other green plants that the ducks could swim around in and also eat.



When they got to the lake, Momma duck was let out first, then her children.

They all gathered around their momma and off they waddled to the lake.



Even though it was the most water they had ever seen, they had learned how to swim in their swimming pool! So when they got to the water, they just walked right in and started swimming.

And then Momma and her big family headed out to enjoy their new home.



As their friend said goodbye to such a wonderful family (and in a way, he felt his family, too) the last thing he saw was their beautiful DUCK'S TALES.



The Beginning

** Thanks for the quote from Stephanie S.

Santa Cruz Birds

By Alex Rinkert

Including reports from September 1 to October 31, 2022



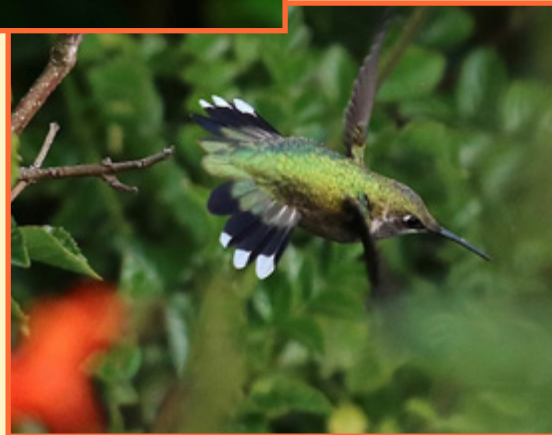
Wow, what a fall it was in Santa Cruz County! The plethora of rare birds was almost exhausting to keep up with. Three first county records—Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Worm-eating Warbler, and Pine Warbler—brought the total number of birds seen in Santa Cruz County to 464, but there were numerous other rare species found that had not been seen in the county for many years, which provided excitement for newer and more seasoned birders alike. Species not seen for at least ten years in the county included Chestnut-collared Longspur (1995), Mourning Warbler (1998), Brown Thrasher (2005), Least Storm-Petrel and Cassin's Finch (2010), and Gray Catbird (2013). The exceptionally high coverage received on westside Santa Cruz undoubtedly contributed to many vagrants being found, but a persistent dense marine layer that hung over Santa Cruz for several weeks in late September and early October may have created good conditions for vagrants to be found on the coast.

Even with all this excitement, it was hard to ignore the paucity of shorebirds as mudflats remained very limited in the Pajaro Valley and elsewhere due to unfavorably high waters. Evening gatherings of Sooty Shearwaters and other seabirds in the nearshore waters were also very underwhelming, and winter irruptive species were scarce to absent in the coastal lowlands and the mountains alike this fall. Every fall is different!



A flock of 300 **Greater White-fronted Geese** flying over Pajaro Dunes on October 11 occurring during a big flight of this species was a very high count (BK). A flock of up to 70 **Canada Geese** at Sand Hill Bluff and vicinity through the period was a rather high count for the north coast, and reflective of the expanding population of resident breeders in that area of the county (ST, BT, v.ob.). A male **Eurasian Wigeon** molted into its bright plumage at Shorebirds Pond beginning October 9 and remaining through the month (LE, PB).

A **White-winged Dove** dropped in to a feeder in Aptos from September 6–11 (RW, v.ob.). Five more **Black-chinned Hummingbirds** brought the fall total to at least seven (v.ob.). A hatch-year male **Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird** at Bethany Curve was initially presumed to be a Rufous based on its stay into October, when Allen's are virtually unknown in northern California. However, later that month excellent photos of the spread tail feathers were shared and it was identified by Sheri Williamson as an Allen's Hummingbird. The first date this hummer was photographed was on



September 19 (SH), but it may have been present earlier in September or even earlier in late summer, and it remained at Bethany Curve through October.

A female **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** at DeAnza Mobile Home Park was identified by Steve Tucker from hummingbird photos posted to eBird earlier in the day on September 7 (PH, GM, NU), which represented the 1st record for the county. This bird continued visiting the brilliantly colored Cape honeysuckle flowers through September 11, and was at various points joined by multiple Black-chinned,

Anna's, and Rufous/Allen's to make this honeysuckle a hummingbird hotspot!

Just one **Baird's Sandpiper** in September brought the fall total to a paltry two (DS). A **Red-necked Phalarope** at Spring Lakes Mobile Home Park in Scotts Valley

on September 18, and then two there the following day, were

*Photos from top:
Ruby-throated Hummingbird - Gary Martindale
Ruby-throated Hummingbird - David Eckdahl*

exceptionally rare for the mountains (JL). A **Solitary Sandpiper** at Struve Slough from October 16–18 was the only reported this fall (DL, NU, v.ob.), and was quite late too. Most fall records of this species are in August and September.

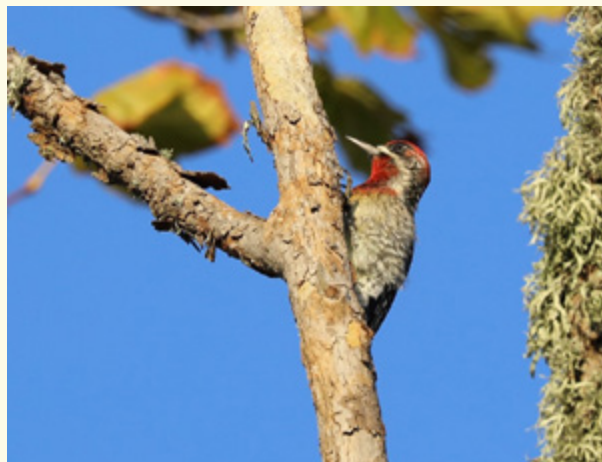
An overlooked but very notable record from the summer was at least two **California Gull** nests amid Western Gull nests on a rooftop near the Capitola Mall, seen on May 16 (SH). California Gulls have only nested a few times in the county, with all breeding records coming from the Capitola Mall and nesting last being noted in 2012. A **Sabine's Gull** in the lower San Lorenzo River on October 5 was rare to see from land (SBB).

Large flocks of **Black Storm-Petrels**—an estimated 600 total—offshore on September 14 was a modern high count, and in these flocks was a **Least Storm-Petrel**, which had not been seen in the county since 2010 (AR et al.).



These storm-petrels were likely displaced by Hurricane Kay that made landfall in Baja California earlier in the month and brought frigatebirds and storm-petrels to inland locations in southern California. One **Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel** seen offshore on September 14 was the only one found this fall (NL, AR et al.).

An immature light-morph **Red-footed Booby** took a ride on the Velocity into Santa Cruz County waters on September 16 (JM) to become the 4th county record. Apparently, this bird



had been riding boats into the Moss Landing Harbor recently, and continued to do so through at least October 24 where it was photographed again on the Velocity in county waters (SM). A **Brown Booby** flew by the Pajaro River mouth on September 24 (PSO).

An **American Bittern** making an evening flight over westside Santa Cruz on September 16 was rare to see away from the Pajaro Valley (EE). A **Great Egret** nest with large young, still about 1–2 weeks from fledging, on September 15 at the Santa Cruz Harbor was a late nesting attempt for the county (AR, ES).

Bald Eagles were present around the county this fall with reports from the mountains, north coast, and Pajaro Valley, as well as the apparent pair on the mid-county coast (v.ob.). A light-morph juvenile **Ferruginous Hawk** was seen migrating over Seabright on October 7, and a day later a light-morph juvenile **Broad-winged Hawk** passed over the same area (both AR, NL). An intermediate juvenile **Swainson's Hawk** at Highway 1 near Buena Vista Drive on September 17 was the first reported in the county since 2018 (AJ).

A **Burrowing Owl** at UCSC on October 3 was sadly the only reported this fall (OM). A **Long-eared Owl** calling near Soquel-San Jose Road on October 2 was in an area of the county where they are irregularly found (STe).

A male **Red-naped x Red-breasted Sapsucker** hybrid may have returned for a second winter at Bethany Curve, first

*From top:
Solitary Sandpiper
- Gary Martindale
Red-footed Booby - Cindy Minges
Red-naped x Red-breasted Sapsucker
- Alex Rinkert*



seen on October 8 this fall (AR, ES, v.ob.). A **Pileated Woodpecker** near Seascape on September 10 was one of the few that has been found away from their typical montane habitats in fall (MH). A **Prairie Falcon** seen at Natural Bridges State Beach on September 3 (ARG, PH) and Wilder Ranch State Park on September 5 (AR, ES) was perhaps the same individual seen near Año Nuevo State Park in San Mateo County on September 6.

An apparent **Western Wood-Pewee** photographed at Lighthouse Field State Beach on October 25 was later than most fall records in the county (CS). Roughly 16–18 **Willow Flycatchers** this period brought the fall total to a substantial 17–19 individuals (v.ob.). The

county. One was at Bethany Curve on September 19 (PH), one was at Davenport from October 2–5 (AG, PS, v.ob.), and another was at Neary Lagoon on October 23 (PB). A **Red-eyed Vireo** was at CARE Park on September 30 (KVV).

At least 14 **White-breasted Nuthatches** reported this fall offered more evidence of their increasing regularity in the county (v.ob.). Multiple **Townsend's Solitaires** were again found at Castle Rock State Park, first seen on October 27 (BB) and remaining through the period (v.ob.).

A skulking **Gray Catbird** at the Homeless Garden on October 22 was the first seen in the county since 2013 (NU, v.ob.), while a **Brown Thrasher** at Wilder Ranch State Park on September 30 was also quite rare (CS), just the 6th record for the county and first since 2005! An adult **White Wagtail** of the *M. a. lugens* subspecies at Struve Slough from October 9–14 (PB, LE, v.ob.), provided the 4th record for the county. A **Cassin's Finch** recorded calling at Loma Prieta on October 24 was the first record



Least Flycatcher at Lighthouse Community Garden continued through September 3 (v.ob.). At least 13 **Tropical Kingbirds** seen on the coast and in the Pajaro Valley was an excellent showing for this species (v.ob.). Most notable was a group of at least six at Struve Slough on October 16 with some continuing through the month (KR, MR), which provided a record high count for a single location in the county. A **Western Kingbird** at Moore Creek Preserve on October 2 was rather late (AF). An **Eastern Kingbird** was in the Watsonville sloughs from at least September 4–16 (CC).

Three **Yellow-green Vireos** found this fall was exceptional; there were five previous records in the



From top:
White Wagtail - Patricia Bachetti
Yellow-green Vireo - Michael Bolte
Yellow-green Vireo - Pete Solè



Left: Gray Catbird - Sharon Hull
 Right: Chestnut-collared Longspur - Lisa Larson

in the county since 2010 and one of very few excluding those part of the 1996 irruption (AR).

One of the more remarkable finds this fall was a **Chestnut-collared Longspur** at the old Skypark Airport in Scotts Valley on October 15–16 (JS et al., v.ob.)! There is only one other record in the county from 1995. The montane location was most unexpected, and the bird seemed relatively unconcerned by the many people bustling around on the weekend, even flying into the dog park at times, but only stayed one day.

A “**Thick-billed**” **Fox Sparrow** at Tyrrell Park in Seabright on October 2 was just the second record of this species in the lowlands of the county (AR). Rare but regularly occurring sparrows in fall included about 7 **Clay-colored**, 10 **Lark**, 22–23 **White-throated**, and 3 **Swamp Sparrows** this period (v ob.). **Vesper Sparrows** were at Moore Creek Preserve on September 22 (AR) and Wilder Ranch State Park on September 25 (CS).

Four **Yellow-breasted Chats** was well-above the average for fall (JT, CS, BM, AK). A female **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was at Struve Slough on September 13 (GM). A flock of 9 **Bobolinks** in a fallow



Above: Yellow-headed Blackbird
 - Gary Martindale



Below:
 Palm Warbler, Chittenden Road
 - Norm Uyeda

field at College Lake on September 30 was a record count for the county (GK). Most records in the county are of 1–2 individuals, but a few groups of up to seven have been noted, with the most recent occurrence of three or more together being in 1998. **Orchard Orioles** were at Bethany Curve on October 7 and Lighthouse Community Garden on October 22 (both AF). There were a few reports of **Great-tailed Grackles** in Santa Cruz this fall (v.ob.).

Rarer “Western” warblers including **Hermit** (14), **MacGillivray’s** (5), and **Palm** (8) were close to their fall average, while 10 **Nashville Warblers** was more than typical (v.ob.). One **Palm Warbler** at Chittenden on October 29 was notable for being away from their areas of usual occurrence on the coast and in the lower Pajaro Valley (NU). Eleven **Orange-crowned Warblers** identified to the *L. c. sordida* subspecies was by far a record total for fall in the county (AR, ES, NL). This subspecies may occur more regularly than is suggested by the relatively few previous records in the county.

Of the more regularly occurring “Eastern” warblers, numbers of **Northern Waterthrushes** (7; AR, ES, DKG, KE, GM, v.ob.), **Chestnut-**

sided (8; NL, SBB, CS, SA, SH, RR, NU, v.ob.), and **Tennessee Warblers** (7; NL, NS, JW, MB, CS, JR, v.ob.) found this period were more than they average in recent years. Two **Northern Parulas** (including one that rode a boat into the county offshore; GM, MS), 2 **Blackpoll** (AK, GS, VN, v.ob.), 6 **American Redstarts** (STe, PH, AF, KJ, JS, PS, BR, RR, JT, v.ob.), 5 **Black-and-white Warblers** (GC, AP, DSJ, PH, BK, MK, AK, v.ob.), and 1 **Magnolia Warbler** (CS, v.ob.) were about how many occur on average each fall.

Among the rarer warblers found this fall were a **Lucy's Warbler** at Bethany Curve from September 30 through October 25 (KE, v.ob.) and two **Black-throated Blue Warblers**, a male at Sunset State Beach on September 23 (NU) and a female/immature at Bethany Curve on October 11 (PH, v.ob.). A hatch-year male **Mourning Warbler** was found at Tyrrell Park in Seabright on October 5 for just the 2nd record in the county, the first being in 1998 (AK, v.ob.). Birders flocking to the park the next morning were appalled to see a house cat catch the skulking warbler. Immediately intervening to prevent a very unfortunate end, the warbler was captured and released with minor injuries. It survived the rest of the day on October 6 but was not seen subsequently.

Two other rare species of warblers, both the 1st records for the county, were found this fall. A **Worm-eating Warbler** found at Bethany Curve on October 11 (AR, v.ob.) may have been present the previous day (AK), and remained at the park through October 13. The Worm-eating showed off its foliage gleaning technique to local birders in the London plane trees by creeping and hanging on dead leaf clusters while nabbing spiders and other invertebrates. Capping off a wild two weeks of birding in early October, a **Pine Warbler** was found at Struve Slough on October 14 (STe, v.ob.). Despite many

birders searching that evening and the following days, it was



*Above, counter-clockwise:
Mourning Warbler - Christian Schwarz
Northern Parula - Joel Barrett
Black-throated Blue Warbler - Paul Heady*

unfortunately not refound.

While a few individuals of this species are found

annually—and

often overwinter—in southern California, there are only about 14 records for northern California, almost all from coastal areas. Perhaps not coincidentally, two Pine Warblers were also found in Monterey County this fall.

Male **Summer Tanagers** were at New Brighton State Beach on October 6

(GMK) and Freedom on October 15 (JP).

Eight **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** reported this period was a substantial number



*Left:
Worm-eating Warbler
- John Sterloing*



*Righ:
Pine Warbler
- Scott Terrill*



(v.ob.). **Scaly-breasted Munias** were reported at various places in the Pajaro Valley (v.ob.).

Cited Observers:

Sequoia Audubon, Patricia Bacchetti, Sam Baxter-Bray, Michael Bolte, Bill Bousman Phil Brown, Cameron Chao, Linda Easter, Kate Edwards, Erik Enbody, Abram Fleishman, Aaron Gabbe, Paul Heady, Micah Huge, Sharon Hull, Alvaro Jaramillo, Kent Johnson, Alex Keitt, Andrew Kenny, Bryan Kett, Gary Kittleson, Mark Kudrav, D Kim Glinka, June Langhoff, Dave Lavorando, Nick Levendosky, Gary Martindale, Jim Maughn, Bobbie Mayer,



Gabe McKenna, Sidney Minges, Oscar Moss, Valarie Neer, Janice Pearson, Amanda Preece, Bernadette Ramer, Robert Ramer, Alex Rinkert, James Roethe, Adam Romswinkel-Guise, Ken Rosenberg, Michael Rosenberg, Debbie Saint John, Christian Schwarz, Elena Scott, Monterey Seabirds, Grace Simms, Pete Sole, David Somerton, Jonah Svensson, Peter Svensson, Scott Terrill, Simon Thornhill, Jaclyn Tolchin, Breck Tyler, Norman Uyeda, Kent Van Vuren, Jonny Wahl, Randy Wardle, "v.ob." means various observers. **Please enter interesting observations into eBird or report them to Alex Rinkert at arinkert12@comcast.net.**

*Above: Mourning Warbler - Andrew Kenny
Below: Mourning Warbler - Cindy Cummings*



Worm-eating Warbler - Michael Bolte

Birder's Notebook

Tony Britton Poetry
tonybritton.smugmug.com

Sweet Liberation

Restless brooks babble near the pine needle pathway
I stand where the falling stars grant wishes
Offering sword and shield for an unprotected heart and childlike
trust
Finding freedom in imperfection I step out of the shadows
Ready, eager, and conspicuous, destiny spots me
I welcome the new day
Used armour for sale



Everywhere

Avian artistry that dazzles and delights.
Living poetry gracing the sky with color and purpose.
I sing your praises.
My endless source of joy. My beautiful spiritual guides.
My heart dances to your sweetest melodies.
The stillness of the majestic Great Blue Heron beckons me out of
the relentless stream of thought and into the precious present
moment.
Closer to the truth. Closer to home.
To the domain of the observer where pure awareness resides.
Where ego dares not tread. And in this stillness I am everywhere.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Mary Anne Lange	Oct 2022
Margaret Burks	Nov 2022
Chelsey Myers	Nov 2022
Jennifer Shah	Nov 2022
Kate Hohn	Nov 2022
Adam Duchek	Nov 2022
Jennifer Carroll	Nov 2022
Gillian Greensite	Nov 2022
Reef Comer	Nov 2022
Kathleen Bennett Family	Nov 2022
Jessica Hansen	Nov 2022
Eric Berg Family	Nov 2022
Weiran Liu Family	Nov 2022
Victoria Wick	Nov 2022
Darvid Martone Family	Nov 2022
Zachiah Murray	Dec 2022

Santa Cruz Bird Club

Officer Position needed:

Conservation Director

PLEASE SEE

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

CONTACT: scbirdclubeditor@gmail.com

*Bushtit
On A
Dark, Rainy Day
- Pete Solé*



ALBATROSS



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Download the pdf and past issues on the
SCBC website
santacruzbirdclub.org

DEADLINE

submissions for
MAR/APR

FEB 1, 2023



Wide-mouthed Gull - Tony Britton

White-throated Sparrow - Lisa Larson



Submission to the *ALBATROSS* Guidelines

In addition to "Alby" regular features—*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. 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 SCBC MEMBERS (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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PARTING SHOT:

"No Way - REALLY?"

"FOR REALS!"

HERMIT THRUSHES - GAIL WEST

Do YOU have a parting shot you would like to see featured? Please email the editor!



Bald Eagle, near San Lorenzo River mouth - Lee Jaffe



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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.

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