



Santa Cruz Bird Club Newsletter
Vol. 69 No. 4 April 2025

Welcome to The Albatross! A monthly eNewsletter that can be viewed directly from your email on a computer or mobile device. We hope that you enjoy it and encourage your feedback and recommendations.

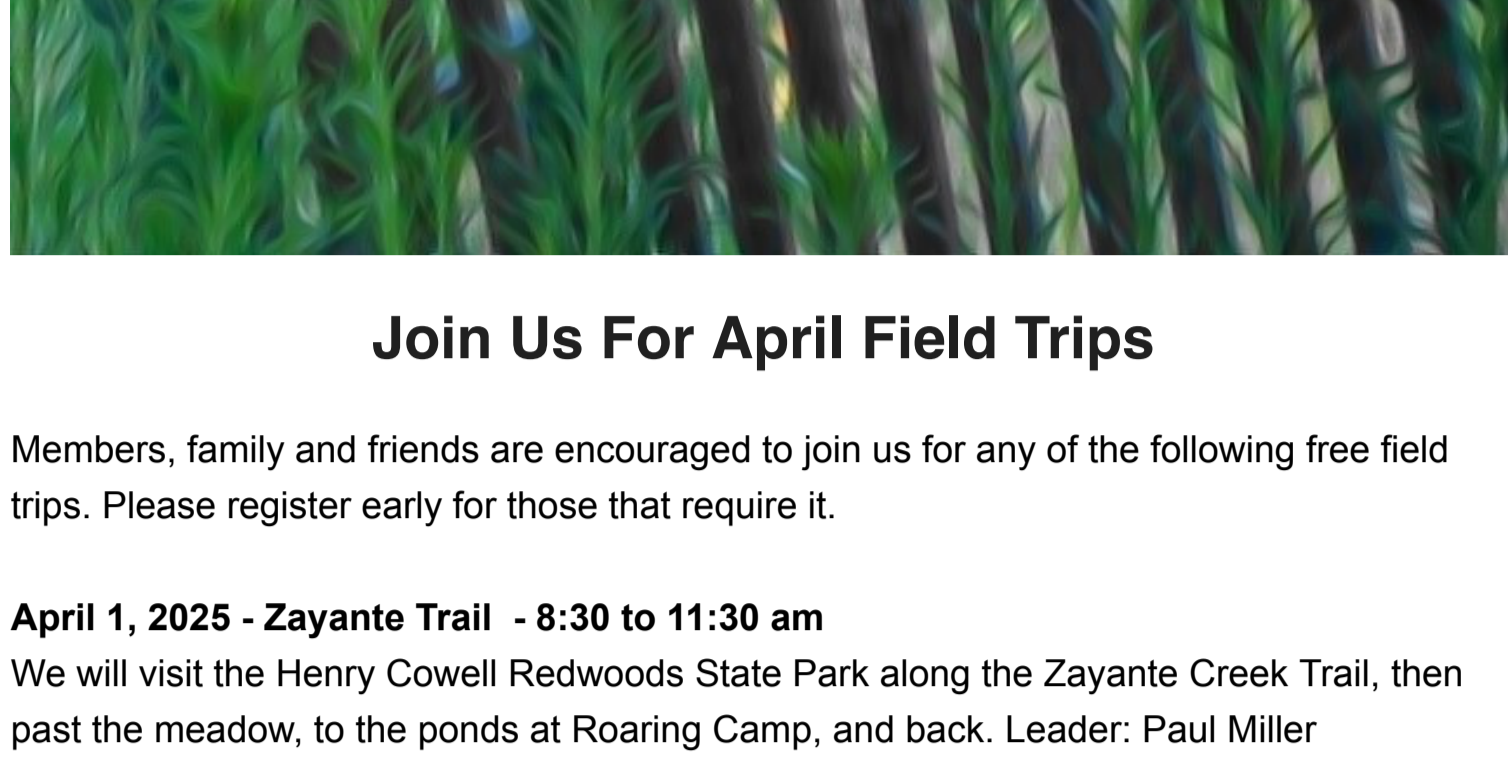


Presentation: Nest Box Programs at UCSC and Glenwood Open Space Preserve

Please join us at our next SCBC Bird Club meeting when Clive Bagshaw, who monitors nest boxes at the UCSC Arboretum, and Bethany Kizer, who monitors nest boxes at West Glenwood Open Space Preserve, will give a joint presentation on their respective monitoring programs. The presentations will include the history and impact of the nest boxes, plus photos and videos of the bird species that use the nest boxes.

Date: Thursday, April 24, 2025
Time: 7 PM
Place: Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History
1305 East Cliff Drive
Santa Cruz, CA

Click [HERE](#) for more information on presentations.



Join Us For April Field Trips

Members, family and friends are encouraged to join us for any of the following free field trips. Please register early for those that require it.

April 1, 2025 - Zayante Trail - 8:30 to 11:30 am
We will visit the Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park along the Zayante Creek Trail, then past the meadow, to the ponds at Roaring Camp, and back. Leader: Paul Miller

April 4, 2025 - East Glenwood Preserve - 8:30 to 11 am
This will be an easy 2-ish mile loop through the grasslands and oak woodland of the preserve with a stop at the pond. No bathrooms available. Leader: Paul Miller

April 5, 2025 - Taxidermy Demonstration and Bird Specimen collection UCSC Tour Kenneth Norris Center - 9:30 to 11:30 am
Santa Cruz Bird Club members are invited to a free tour of UC Santa Cruz's Norris Center bird specimen collection and a demonstration of taxidermy techniques. Pre-register!

April 6, 2025 - El Jarro Point - 7:00 - 10:00 am
El Jarro Point just north of Davenport is one of the best places in the county to see the spring migration of seabirds returning to their breeding grounds located from the Farallon Islands north to the Arctic Circle. Leader: Alex Rinkert

April 7, 2025 - Quail Hollow - 8:30 to 11 am
Quail Hollow Ranch County Park 800 Quail Hollow Rd, Felton, CA
Meet at main lot, walk Discovery Loop as well as scoping the pond. White-breasted Nuthatch often heard and seen. We'll continue up the trail if time allows. Leader: Paul Miller

April 10, 2025 - Ponderosa Lodge Trail - 8:30 - 11:30 am
3650 Graham Hill Rd, Felton, CA
We will walk into the Ponderosa Lodge area and look for the regular species, focusing on songs and calls. We also hope to find a Pileated Woodpecker, but no guarantees. Meet at Juvenile Hall parking lot, 3650 Graham Hill Rd. Leader: Paul Miller

April 16, 2025 - Manresa Uplands Campground - 8:00 - 10:00 am
This is a great place to bird before the camping begins in May! I hope to find great breeding bird activity from raptors to Bushitts. Meet at the end of Zils Road off San Andreas Road.
Leader: Lisa Larson

April 19, 2025 - Beginning Birding at Natural Bridges - 8:00 - 11:00 am
Natural Bridges State Beach, 2531 W Cliff Dr, Santa Cruz, CA
A beginners bird walk. We will start with a look at the ocean for seabirds migrating North, then will walk the trails looking for newly arrived summer breeding birds and local residents. Mostly easy walking for about a mile.

Click [HERE](#) for more details and directions.

California Quail photo art courtesy of Debbie Diersch



Be On The Lookout for These Birds in April
By Randy Wardle

It's April, spring is in full bloom, and migrants are arriving every day to Santa Cruz County. During this month there will be a major migratory movement of many species, on land and at sea.

You should also find many species in the midst of breeding as spring continues. Watching for specific behaviors of breeding such as courtship rituals, carrying nesting material and nest building, and carrying food for a mate or young adds to the excitement of bird watching this time of year.

Randy's article, archived from previous year's, provides an informal list of birds that are leaving and those arriving as well as the most likely places to see them.

Click [HERE](#) to read the full article.



Santa Cruz Birds Fall 2024
by Alex Rinkert

Including reports from September 1 to November 30, 2024

Another exciting fall is in the books. This past fall of 2024, some places such as Swanton Pond and the Lighthouse Field area kept producing some fantastic birds. leading to trip after trip back to these favored locales. Highlighting this season were several species— Lark Bunting, Dickcissel, Prothonotary Warbler—with very few records in the county in the past few decades. Other significant rarities found this fall for which there are ten or fewer records in the county included Neotropical Cormorant, Black-throated Sparrow, Canada Warbler, and Scarlet Tanager.

Click [HERE](#) to read the full report with photos.

Dickcissel photo courtesy of Alex Rinkert



Free Community Days at the UCSC Arboretum

The first Tuesday of each month is free to visitors at the UCSC Arboretum & Botanical Gardens.

The mixed habitats of the UCSC Arboretum and Botanic Garden provide a haven for birds and birders alike. The grounds are a well-known location for birders and the gardens are a recognized hot-spot on eBird ([@Birds UC Santa Cruz Arboretum](#)), where recent sightings and historical records can be found.

Of particular note are the congregation of hummingbirds attracted by the year-round nectar-rich blossoms in the Australia and South Africa gardens. Come by and enjoy the beauty of the birds and the gardens.

Located at UCSC Arboretum & Botanic Garden 120 Arboretum Rd, Santa Cruz, CA 95064

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Anna's Hummingbird photo courtesy of Heather Treen



Birding Tour of Elkhorn Ranch

Saturday, May 17, 2025 9:00 am - 12:00 noon
Please register by Friday, May 9

Friends of the Norris Center members are invited to a birding tour of a private ranch along the North side of Elkhorn Slough, led by UC Santa Cruz professor Dr. Bruce Lyon. We are grateful to Robert Stephens for hosting us on his beautiful property and for the additional birding expertise he and Lisa Sheridan will provide.

Expect to see a large number of avian species and be prepared for some walking! The site includes extensive pastures and winter fresh water ponds, and hosts a wide variety of water fowl, a robust number of raptors, winter and resident wading birds, including Rails, Sora and Black-necked Stilts, and resident and migrating songbirds. Golden Eagles and Shrikes have been seen regularly. If you've ever driven by the Slough and wanted to bird this location across from Moon Glow Ranch, now is your chance.

Please note: this event is designed for current members of the Norris Center and their guests. If you are not a current member, please join us! You can [join online here](#). Space on the tour is limited and registration is required.

Learn more about the [Friends of the Norris Center](#)



One-Third of U.S. Birds Need Conservation Action

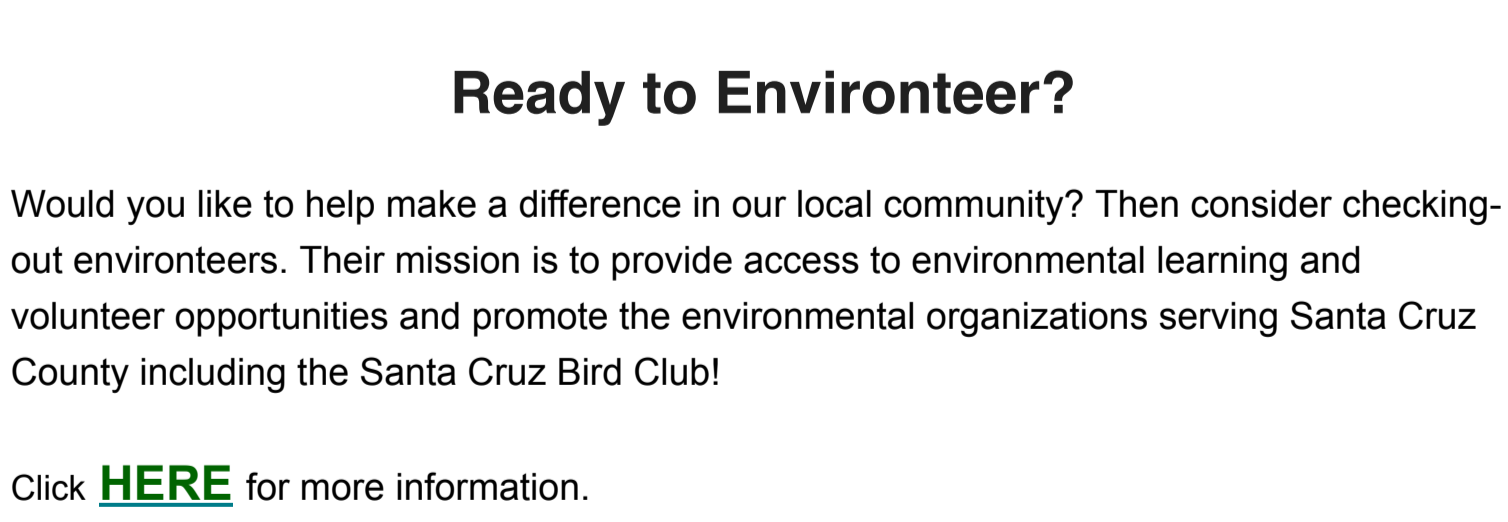
Birds are telling us that the habitats people depend on are vanishing. Declines are happening across the board: in grasslands, aridlands, western and eastern forests, in Hawaii's fragile ecosystems; and with our shorebirds and seabirds. Even waterfowl, which had rebounded strongly thanks to decades of conservation work, are seeing sharp recent declines.

This [2025 edition of the State of the Birds report](#) is a status assessment of the health of the nation's bird populations, delivered to the American people by scientists from U.S. bird conservation groups.

Click [HERE](#) to read the full report.

environteers™

ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

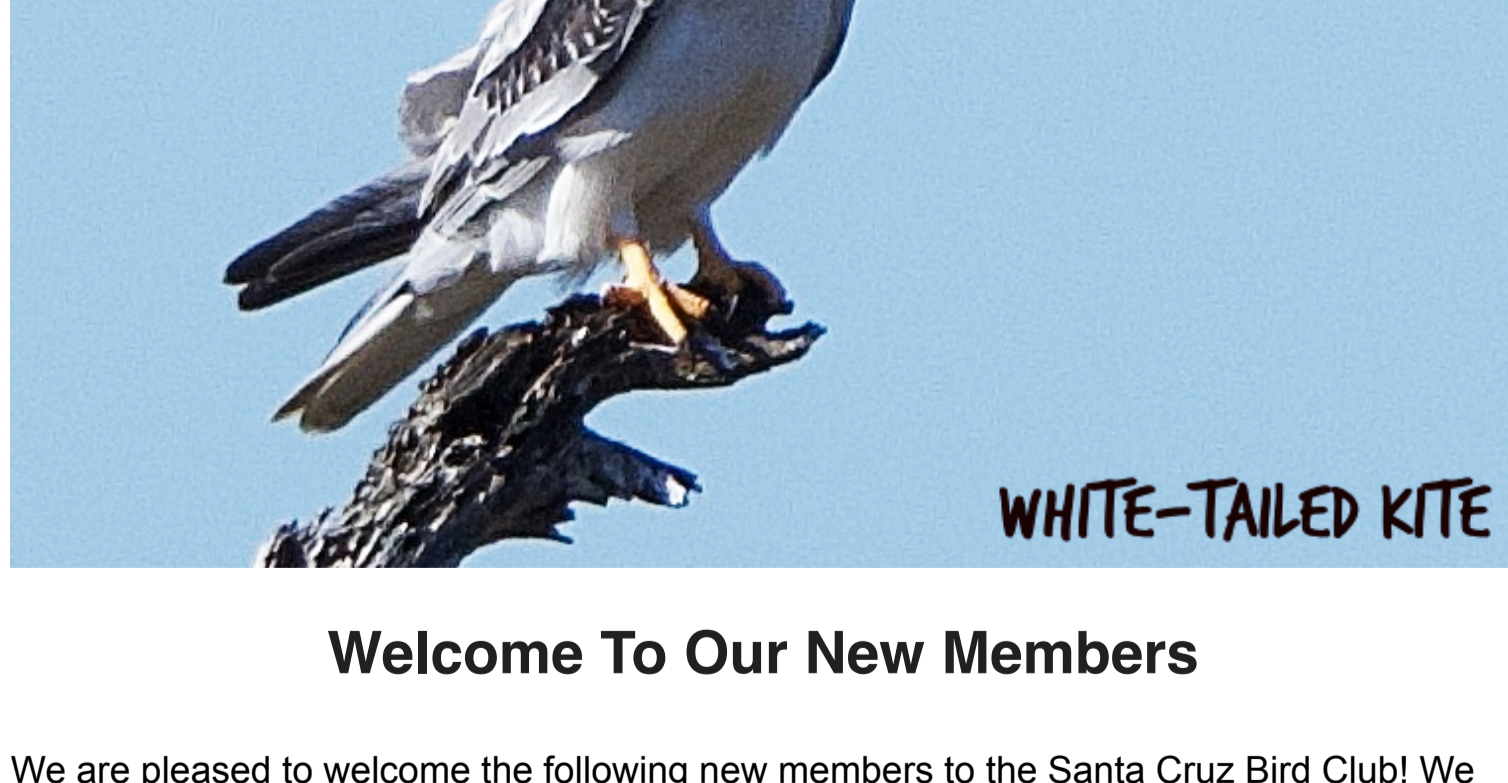


Ready to Environteer?

Would you like to help make a difference in our local community? Then consider checking-out environteers. Their mission is to provide access to environmental learning and volunteer opportunities and promote the environmental organizations serving Santa Cruz County including the Santa Cruz Bird Club!

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Thank you to our Conservation Officer, Jane Orbach, for recommending this article.



WHITE-TAILED KITE

Welcome To Our New Members

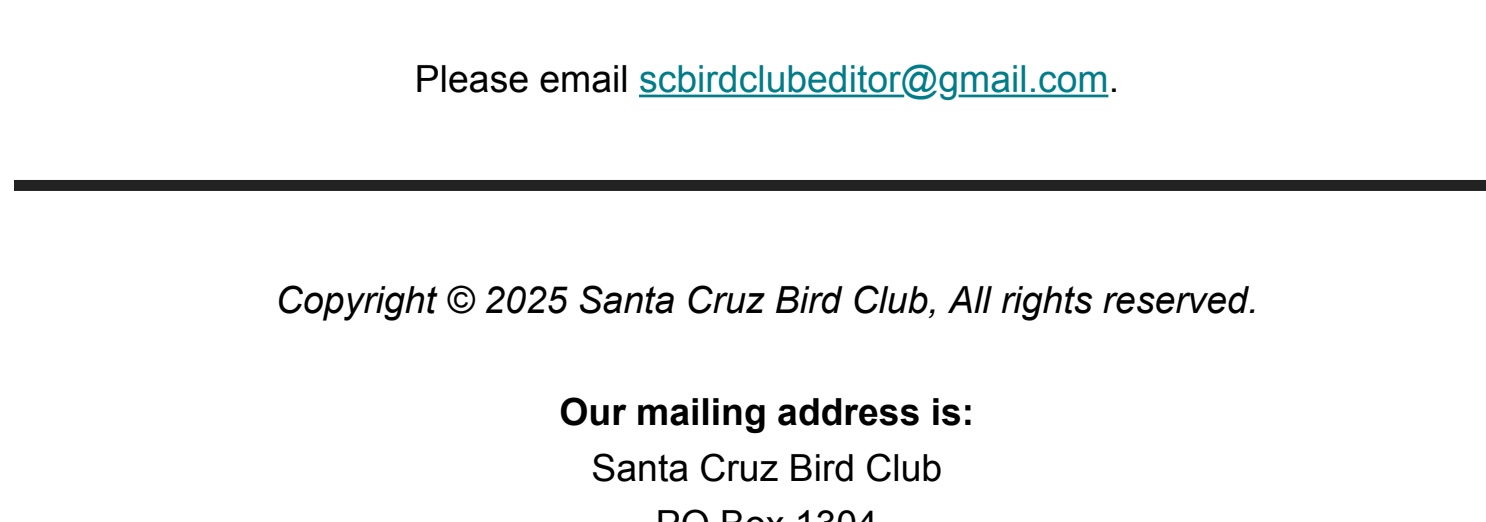
We are pleased to welcome the following new members to the Santa Cruz Bird Club! We look forward to seeing you at upcoming events.

Donna Cowan, Nicole Dubus, Janette Gross, Anna Huskey, Michael Martin, Greg Meyer, Paul Miller, Karen Moody, Martha Pallin, Michael Roberts, and Josephine Vincent.

If you know someone who might be interested in the Santa Cruz Bird Club then please invite them to join us!

Click [HERE](#) to join or renew your membership.

Photo of White-tailed Kite courtesy of Heather Treen.



Want To Contribute Content To The Albatross?

We would love to receive your articles, photos and illustrations. We also welcome comments and recommendations on what you would like to see covered in the Albatross going forward.

Please email scbirdclubeditor@gmail.com.

Our mailing address is:
Santa Cruz Bird Club
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Santa Cruz, CA 95061

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