



Santa Cruz Bird Club Newsletter Vol. 69 No. 5 May 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: Monitoring Peregrine Falcon Nests

Please join us at our next SCBC Bird Club meeting when Zeka Glucs, Director of the [Predatory Bird Research Group](#) (PBRG), will speak on the legacy of the PBRG at UC Santa Cruz and their ongoing community science monitoring program tracking the population of Peregrine Falcons in our region.

Date: Thursday, May 22, 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.

Zeka Glucs with Peregrine Falcon eyases photo courtesy of Zeka Glucs.



Join Us For These Great May Field Trips

Members, family and friends are encouraged to join us for any of the following free field trips. Contact [June Langholtz](#), our Field Trips Director, with questions or suggestions for bird walks/events or suggestions for bird walk leaders.

May 2, 2025 - UCSC Forest - 8:30 am - 11:00 am

We will be walking the trails and listening for Golden-crowned Kinglets, Hermit Warblers, and any other singing birds. Pileated Woodpecker is often found in this area as well.
Leader: Paul Miller

May 6, 2025 - UCSC Forest - 8:30 am - 11:00 am

We will be walking the trails and listening for Golden-crowned Kinglets, Hermit Warblers, and any other singing birds. Pileated Woodpecker is often found in this area as well.
Leader: Paul Miller

May 9, 2025 - Moore Creek Preserve - 8:00 am - 11:00 am

We will walk through the coastal prairie looking and listening for Grasshopper Sparrow and Savannah Sparrow, as well as Western Kingbird, Chipping Sparrow, Western Bluebird, and other grassland species such as the Ohlone tiger beetle. Leader: Alex Rinkert

May 10, 2025 - Natural Bridges - 8:00 am - 11:00 am

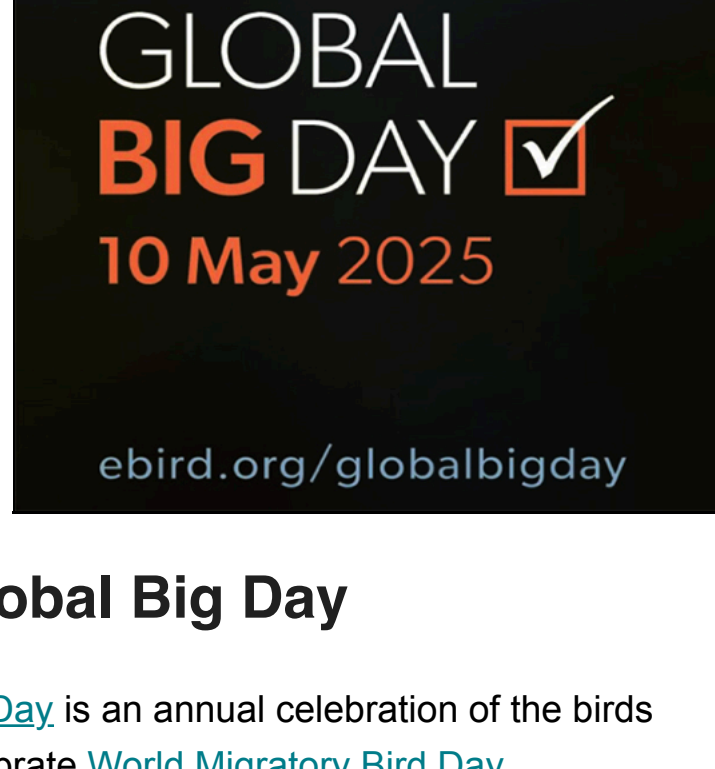
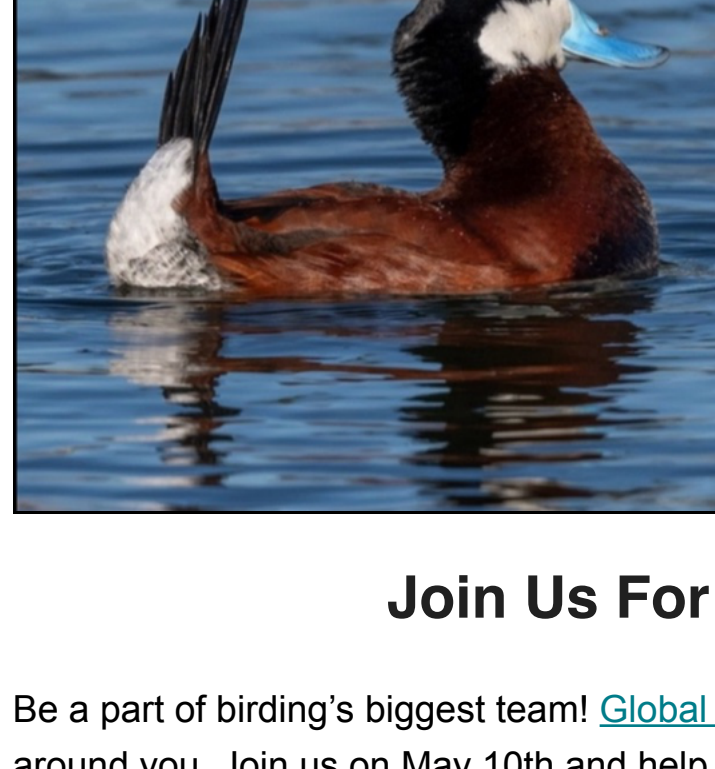
A walk for Global Big Day! We will start with a look at the ocean for seabirds, then will walk the trails looking for summer breeding birds and local residents. Mostly easy walking. If time permits will continue to Antonelli pond and the Homeless Garden Project.
Leader: Phil Brown

May 14, 2025 - Brookwood Drive South Delaveaga - 8:30 am - 11 am

Breeding activities will be in full swing in this great birding area. We will watch and listen for thrushes, vireos, flycatchers, woodpeckers, warblers, swallows, and more! This is a mixed wooded riparian area that begins with a meadow frequented by Wild Turkeys. The walk will be on a paved access road to the archery range (which is closed on weekdays). Leader: Lisa Larson

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

Green Heron photo courtesy of Debbie Diersch



Join Us For Global Big Day

Be a part of birding's biggest team! [Global Big Day](#) is an annual celebration of the birds around you. Join us on May 10th and help celebrate [World Migratory Bird Day](#).

Phil Brown will lead our Global Big Day walk at Natural Bridges from 8:00 am to 11:00 am. The trip will start with a look at the ocean for seabirds, then will walk the trails looking for summer breeding birds and local residents. Mostly easy walking. If time permits will continue to Antonelli pond and the Homeless Garden Project.

Click [HERE](#) for more information about this field trip.

Ruddy Duck photo courtesy of Tom Hambleton.



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

It is May and most of our spring migrants have arrived by now and nesting activity for most species has begun in earnest. Seabird migration is still going strong during the first week or two of May.

While our regularly occurring migrant flycatchers such as Western, Olive-sided, Ash-throated, and Western Wood Pewees have arrived, there are also records for some of the rare ones in May. Keep an eye out for Willow, Hammond's, Dusky, and Gray Flycatchers.

This month is a good time to look for breeding Yellow, Hermit, MacGillivray's, and Black-throated Gray Warblers. A few migrant Nashville are possible as well. Also look for the less common Yellow-breasted Chats in riparian areas.

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 with a comprehensive list of birds to watch for in May.

MacGillivray's Warbler photo courtesy of SCBC website.



BirdCast Showcasing the Science of Bird Migration

Spring migration is in full swing! When, where, and how far will birds migrate? How many birds passed last night? BirdCast tools help you explore the answers to these and many other questions about bird migration.

Knowing when peak migration will occur in your area is valuable information! You can find sortable tables of peak periods of spring bird migration for the largest cities by human population size in the contiguous US.

Want to know the birds that passed through our area last night or a forecast for the future?

Click [HERE](#) to learn all about BirdCast and access the tools.



A Dawn and Two Dusks Special Free Events at UCSC Arboretum and Botanical Gardens

Dawn Chorus - Sunday, May 4th - 5:15 - 7:00 am

UCSC and community members are invited to attend a listening event at the UCSC Arboretum on International Dawn Chorus Day. Listen to the ambient dawn chorus of birds and other sounds awakening as the sun rises.

A Dawn and Two Dusks - Friday & Saturday, May 30-31 - 5:30 - 8:30 pm

Beginning at 5:30 pm and continuing until sunset, this event features live performance, installations, and a culminating event to watch the sky darken. Choose your own path through the grounds where you will find dance, music, theater, sound and visual art.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.



Welcome To Our New Members and Donors

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

Christine Boles, Donna Brown, Courtney Harrison, Kathe Hilberman, Laurie Hill, Katie Mahan, Jean Markarian, Penny Moseley, Lyn Olson, and Tarini Rae.

We also wish to give a heartfelt **Thank You** to **Mari Tustin** for her generous donation this past month!

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

Photo of Western Kingbird courtesy of Heather Treen.

Important Announcement About Membership Dues

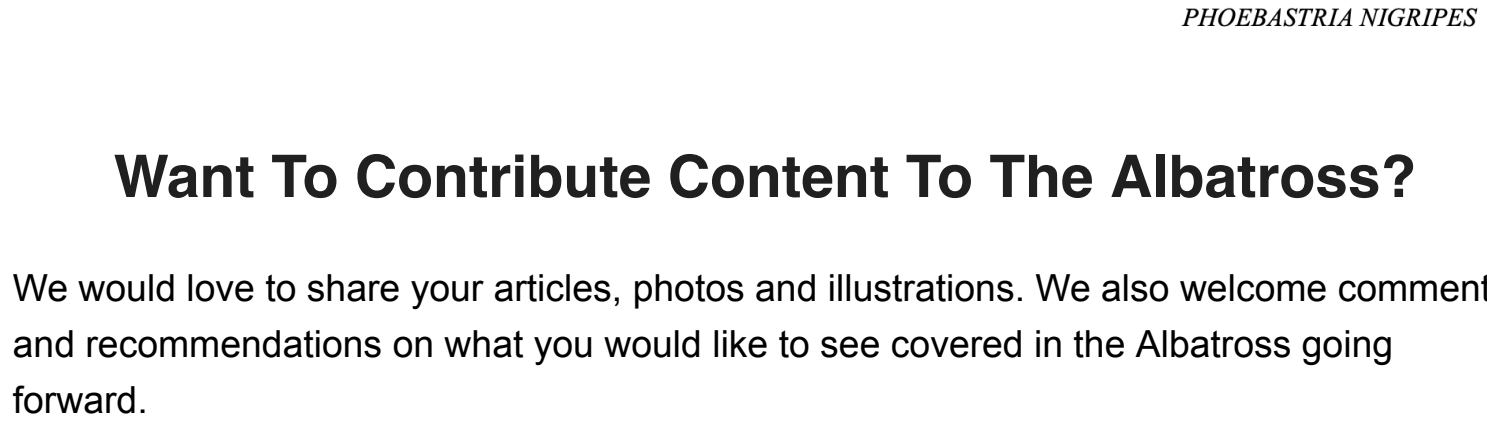
After 19 years, we had a unanimous vote of our members at the March 27th meeting to modify dues as follows effective as of June 1, 2025:

Individual membership: \$25.00/ year. (Increased from \$20.00)
Family membership: \$35.00/ year. (Increased from \$25.00)
Life membership \$400.00 (no change)

If you renew before June 1, 2025 you will still get the current rate!

Click [HERE](#) to renew your membership or to become a new member.

Note: If you are up for renewal now, you'll get a reminder email this month.



Want To Contribute Content To The Albatross?

We would love to share 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.

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