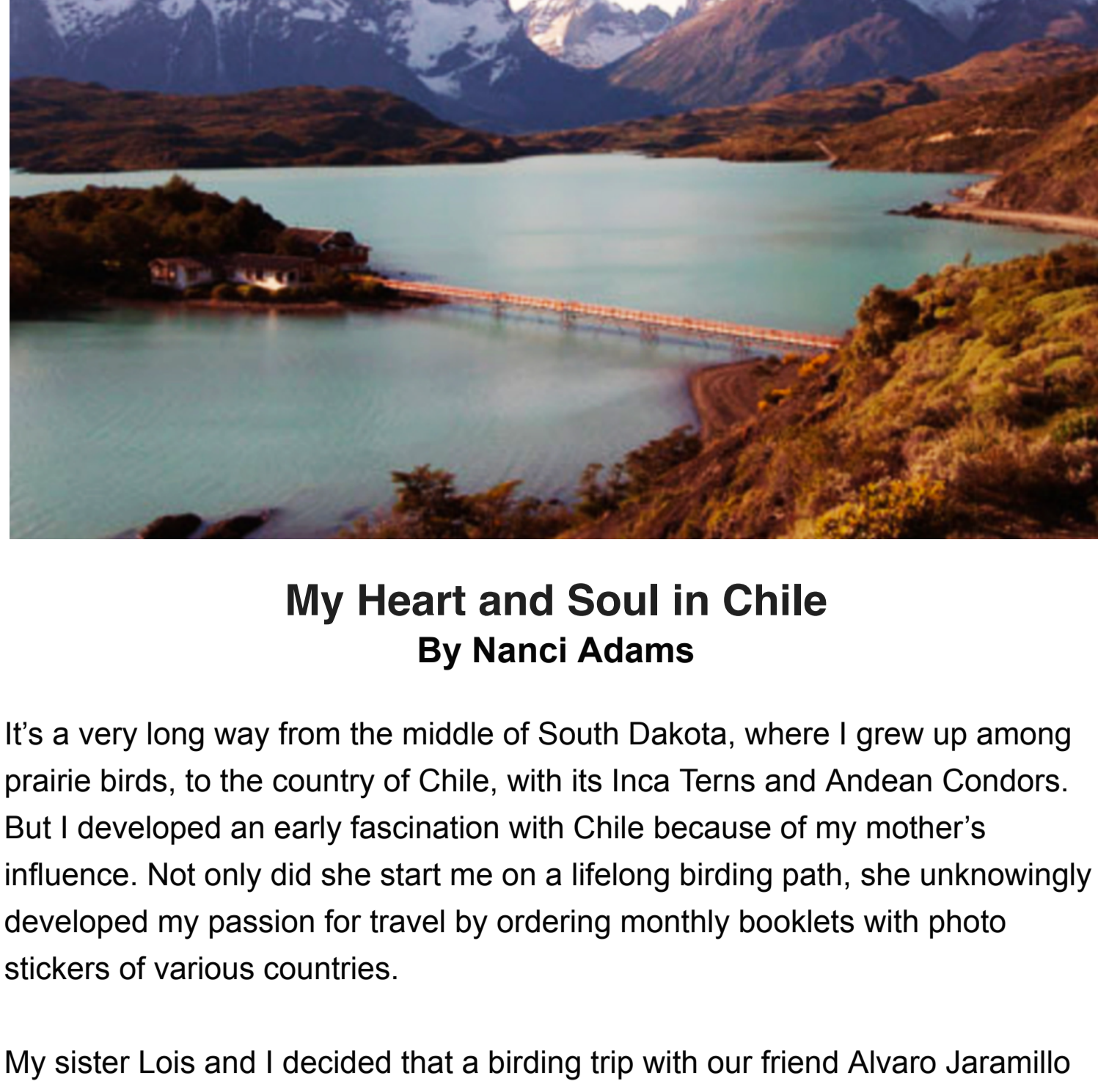




Santa Cruz Bird Club Newsletter

Vol. 69 No. 6 June 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.



My Heart and Soul in Chile

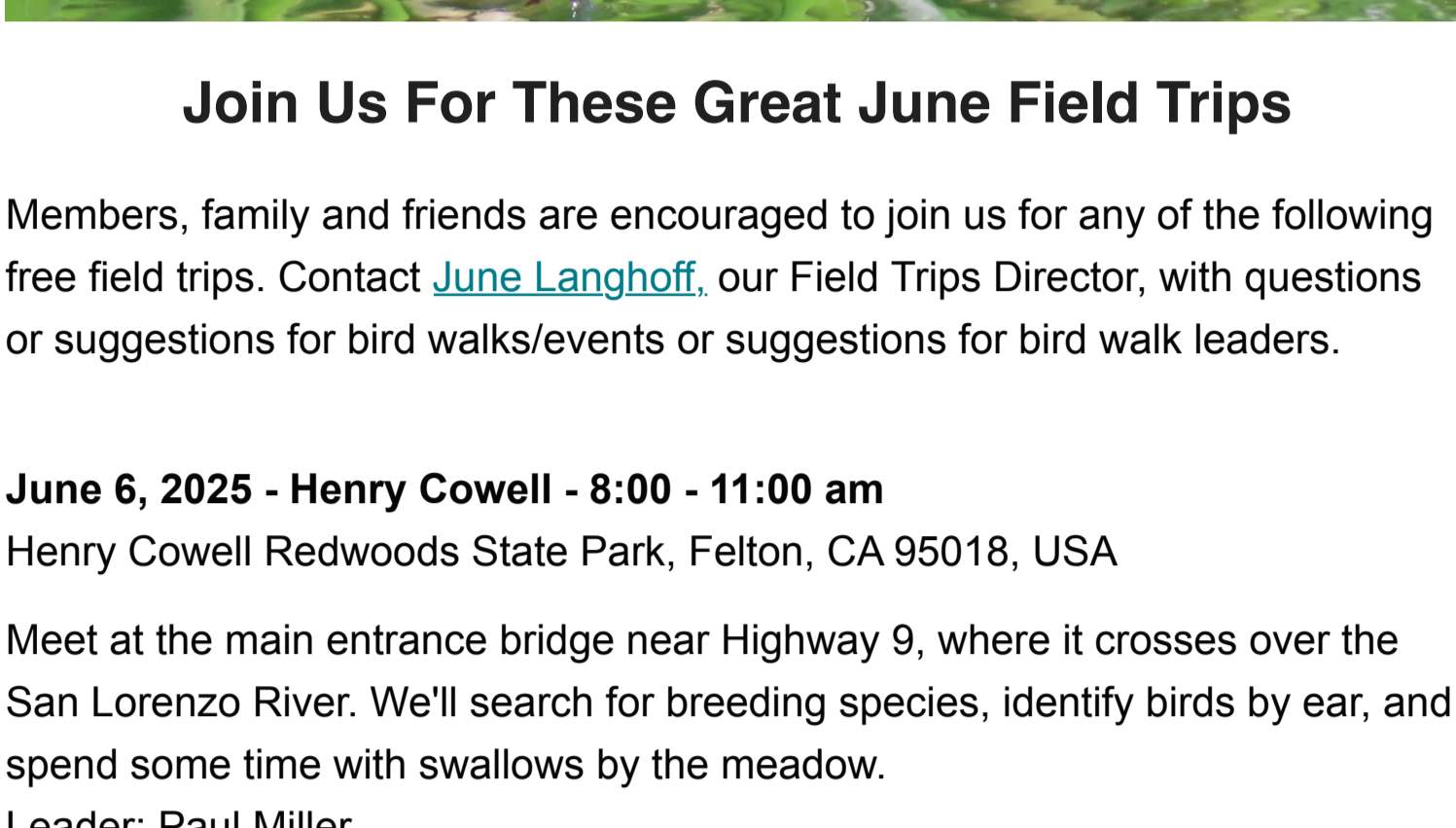
By Nanci Adams

It's a very long way from the middle of South Dakota, where I grew up among prairie birds, to the country of Chile, with its Inca Terns and Andean Condors. But I developed an early fascination with Chile because of my mother's influence. Not only did she start me on a lifelong birding path, she unknowingly developed my passion for travel by ordering monthly booklets with photo stickers of various countries.

My sister Lois and I decided that a birding trip with our friend Alvaro Jaramillo was just the thing to do. I already had Alvaro's *Birds of Chile*, the first Chilean guide book. It's such a classic in Chile and opened up birding for so many that even when we were in a remote nature reserve, young people were coming up with the book to ask for Alvaro's autograph. Lois and I were more than ready to see every bird on the cover at the very least, such as the Ashy-headed Goose, Humboldt Penguin, and Des Murs' Wiretail. We did, too, plus many more for a total of over two hundred species. My final lifer (never seen before by me) count was 129. My sister, who had never birded South America, had about 160!

This wonderful story complete with photos of exotic Chilean birds is available to read by clicking the link below.

[Read the Full Story Here](#)



Join Us For These Great June Field Trips

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

June 6, 2025 - Henry Cowell - 8:00 - 11:00 am

Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park, Felton, CA 95018, USA

Meet at the main entrance bridge near Highway 9, where it crosses over the San Lorenzo River. We'll search for breeding species, identify birds by ear, and spend some time with swallows by the meadow.

Leader: Paul Miller

June 8, 2025 - CARE Park - 8:00 - 11:00 am

<https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L1522155>

We will bird the gallery riparian forest along the Pajaro River at the peak of breeding season. This is one of the last places in the county where Yellow Warblers still breed, and it is a prime time for spring vagrants, so a rare warbler, flycatcher, or something else is not out of the question. Meet at 8 am at the CARE Park parking lot at the end of Clearwater Lane. Leader: Alex Rinkert

June 11, 2025 - Anna Jean Cummings County Park - 8:30 - 11:00 am

461 Soquel San Jose Rd, Soquel, CA 95073

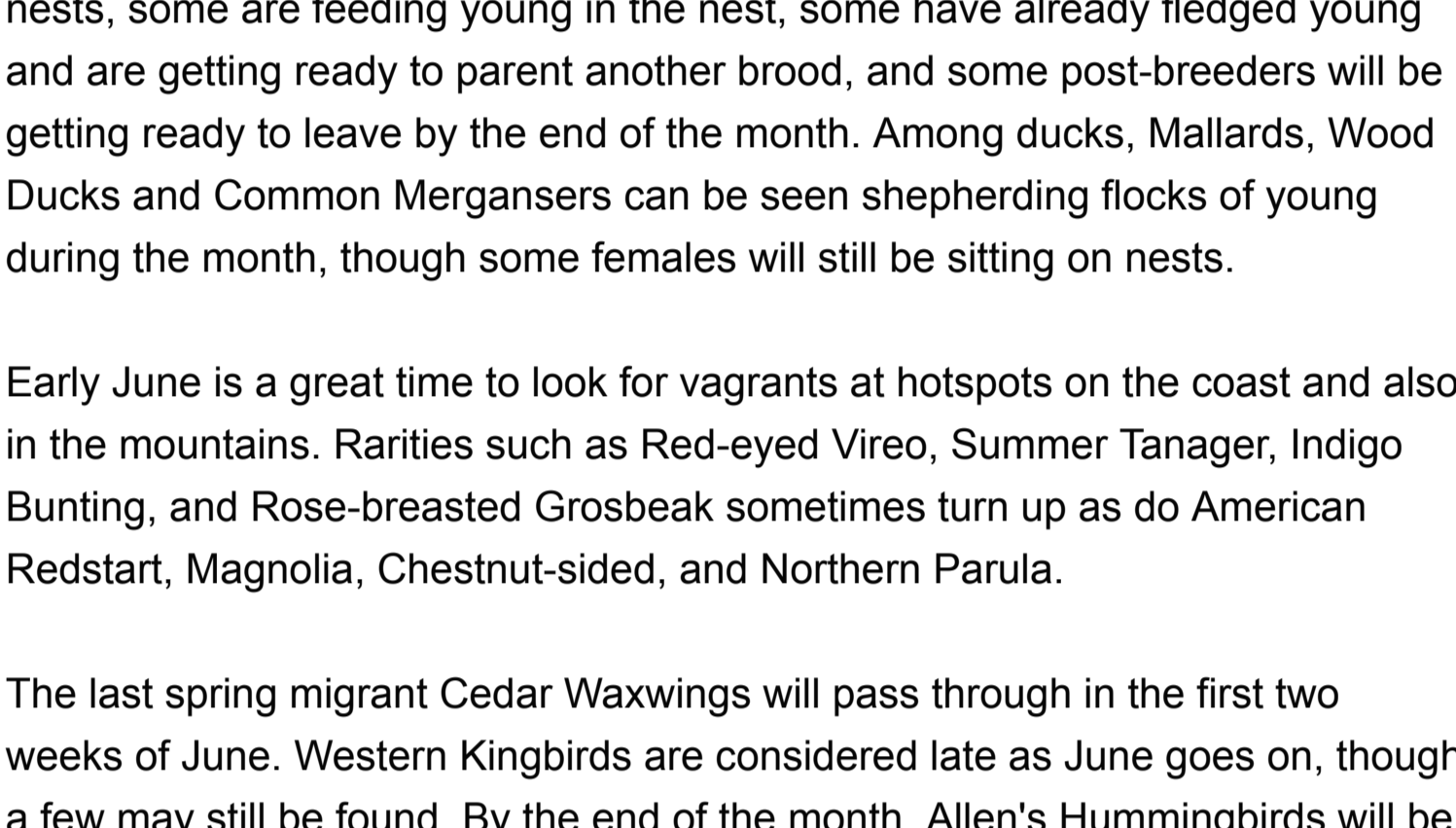
Park at the top by the last soccer field at the end. Typically a number of Hooded and Bullock's Orioles breed there, as well as California Thrashers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, towhees, Western Bluebirds, Violet-green Swallows, and more! Leader: Lisa Larson

June 13, 2025 - Glenwood Preserve East - 8:00 - 11:00 am

Park in the main lot along Glenwood Dr. We'll walk through the meadows looking and listening! California Thrashers are regularly seen here. Leader: Paul Miller

[Get Details on Upcoming Field Trips Here](#)

The American Coot "Cootlet" photo courtesy of Alex Fischer



Be On The Lookout for These Birds in June

By Randy Wardle

Since June is the peak of the breeding season, some birds are still building nests, some are feeding young in the nest, some have already fledged young and are getting ready to parent another brood, and some post-breeders will be getting ready to leave by the end of the month. Among ducks, Mallards, Wood Ducks and Common Mergansers can be seen shepherding flocks of young during the month, though some females will still be sitting on nests.

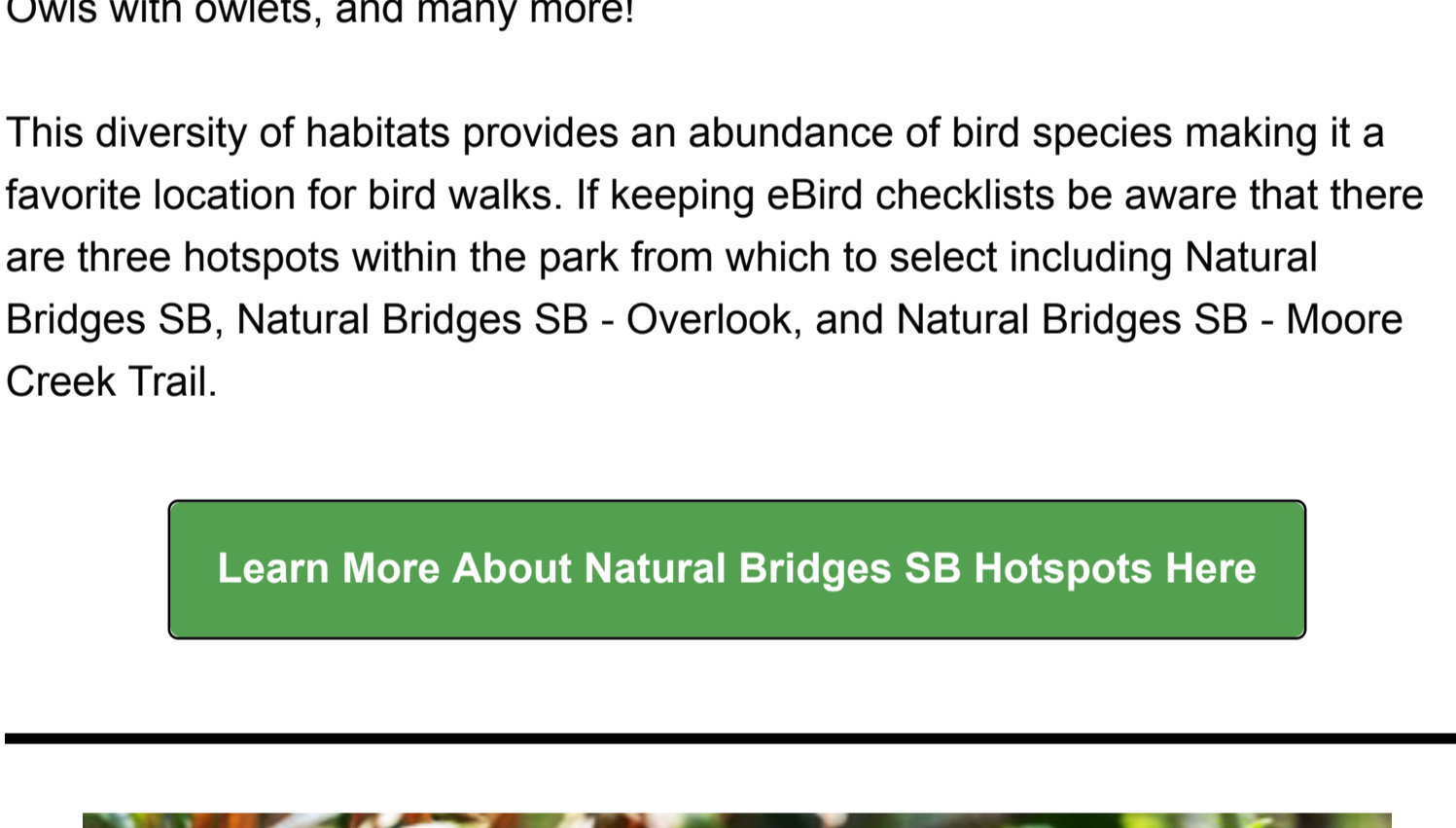
Early June is a great time to look for vagrants at hotspots on the coast and also in the mountains. rarities such as Red-eyed Vireo, Summer Tanager, Indigo Bunting, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak sometimes turn up as do American Redstart, Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, and Northern Parula.

The last spring migrant Cedar Waxwings will pass through in the first two weeks of June. Western Kingbirds are considered late as June goes on, though a few may still be found. By the end of the month, Allen's Hummingbirds will be seen in lower numbers, while the migrant Rufous Hummers will start to arrive. Watch for different species of swallow babies being fed now, but also keep an eye out for migrating or dispersing Purple Martins, as they are sometimes seen in places like Terrace Point, Natural Bridges, and in Watsonville. Black Swifts are possible now. Watch for them foraging with swallows in the afternoons on the north coast at places like Moore Creek Preserve, Wilder Ranch, and Sand Hill Bluff.

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.

[Read the Full Article Here](#)

Female Common Merganser and chicks photo courtesy of SCBC website



Get to Know Natural Bridges State Beach

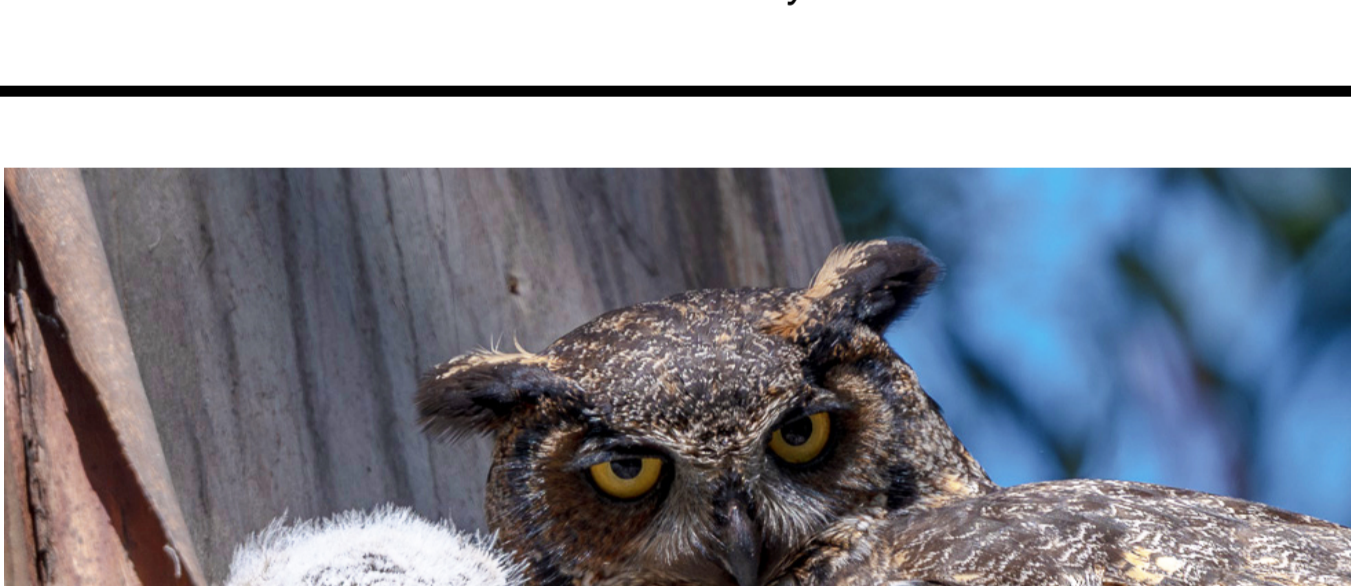
Birding Hotspot

Natural Bridges State Beach is an iconic spot for viewing shore birds, migrating whales, and seals and others playing offshore. Tidepools offer a glimpse of life beneath the sea in this Marine Protected Area. Low tides reveal sea stars, shore crabs, sea anemones, and other colorful ocean life. There is a large area of coastal scrub and grasslands, with bright native wildflowers in the spring. Moore Creek flows through the park, forming freshwater wetlands and a salt marsh before it reaches the sea. The Monarch Grove provides a temporary home for thousands of Monarchs. In 2024, 10,000 Monarch Butterflies overwintered here.

Phil Brown led a Santa Cruz Bird Club field trip here on [Global Big Day](#), May 10th, during which 58 species were observed including Yellow Warbler, nesting Brandt's Cormorants, Black Oystercatchers, Pigeon Guillemots, Great Horned Owls with owlets, and many more!

This diversity of habitats provides an abundance of bird species making it a favorite location for bird walks. If keeping eBird checklists be aware that there are three hotspots within the park from which to select including Natural Bridges SB, Natural Bridges SB - Overlook, and Natural Bridges SB - Moore Creek Trail.

[Learn More About Natural Bridges SB Hotspots Here](#)



Have You Seen This Bird?

North America has more than 50 species of warblers, but few combine brilliant color quite like the **Yellow Warbler**. In summer, the buttery yellow males sing their sweet whistled song from willows, wet thickets, and roadsides across almost all of North America. The females and immatures aren't as bright, and lack the male's rich chestnut streaking, but their overall warm yellow tones, unmarked faces, and prominent black eyes help pick them out.

Yellow Warblers eat mostly insects, so they don't come to backyard feeders. Larger yards that have small trees or are near streams may provide nesting habitat for these birds.

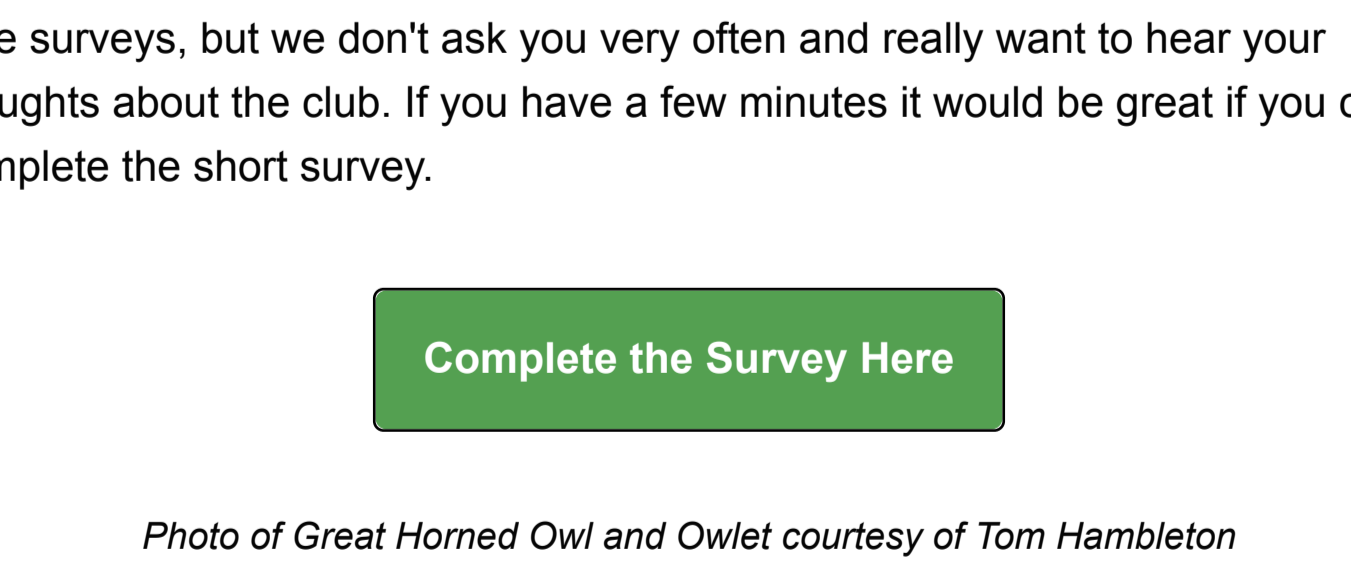
Listen for Yellow Warblers singing when you're in wet woods, thickets, or streamsides—they're one of the most commonly heard warblers in spring and summer. Their song isn't hard to learn—a tumbling series of whistles that sounds like *sweet sweet sweet / I'm so sweet*. Look for them in the tops of willows and other small trees.

Phil Brown and his group of birders who participated in the Global Big Day birding field trip held at Natural Bridges SB last month noted this bird as the highlight of the outing.

In addition, Alex Rinkert is hoping to see Yellow Warblers on his field trip to [CARE Park](#) on June 8th so if you haven't seen this bird yet you might want to come give it a try.

[Learn More About the Yellow Warbler Here](#)

Photo of Yellow Warbler courtesy of Tom Hambleton



Important Club Announcements

First Announcement - The Santa Cruz Bird Club monthly meetings and presentations will take a hiatus for the months of June, July, and August. Meetings will return on the third Thursday of the month with the September meeting. Stay tuned for more information about the next meeting presentation in the September Albatross.

Second Announcement - Welcome New Members! We are pleased to welcome the following new members to the Santa Cruz Bird Club! **Colleen Brad, Greg Crandall, Sherry Day, Alberto Gutierrez, Jeanette Howard, Cecily Martino, Robert Mayeda, Linda Moore, Terri Morgan, Sonya Padron, Bryan Petra, Jennifer Rieke, Scott Ruble, Monica Schuet, and Katherine Sparrow.**

Third Announcement - Membership Renewal. 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 per year
Family membership: \$35.00 per year
Life membership: \$400.00 one time fee

[Renew Your Membership Here](#)

Fourth Announcement - Thank you Donors! We are grateful to the following donors! **Clive Bagshaw, Norm Kikuchi, Bethany Kilzer, James Kimball Family, Ann Rogers and Kitty Stein. THANK YOU!**

Fifth Announcement - Member Survey. We know that most folks don't like to take surveys, but we don't ask you very often and really want to hear your thoughts about the club. If you have a few minutes it would be great if you could complete the short survey.

[Complete the Survey Here](#)

Photo of Great Horned Owl and Owlet courtesy of Tom Hambleton

Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History

Bright Future Campaign

As you may know, the Santa Cruz Bird Club holds our member's meeting at the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History. They have always been a great partner of ours and now we would like to return the favor by helping to announce their Bright Future Campaign.

Over the past decade, the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History membership reached a record high and today the Museum reaches more than 50,000 people each year within its galleries and out in nature. It is time for some much needed renovations to support the needs of our community.

If you would like to support the museum through the Bright Future Campaign then please visit santacruzmuseum.org/brightfuture for more information.

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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