



### Santa Cruz Bird Club Newsletter Vol. 69 No. 11 November 2025

Welcome to The Albatross! A monthly eNewsletter that can be viewed directly from your email on a computer or mobile device. You can also download a pdf version from our [website](#). We hope that you enjoy it and encourage your feedback and recommendations.



#### Join Us for Our November Meeting Presentation Seabirds Across Time at Año Nuevo Island: *Oikonos Legacies and Shifting Horizons*

Parker Forman, Oikonos Project Leader overseeing fieldwork and monitoring at Año Nuevo Island, will explore the past and present of seabirds at this important breeding ground in our own backyard. Discover their stories of change and the new approaches that are shaping their future.

**Date:** Thursday, November 20, 2025  
**Time:** 7 PM  
**Place:** Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History  
1305 East Cliff Drive  
Santa Cruz, CA

About *Oikonos*: Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge is a Santa Cruz, California-based non-profit organization focused on science and community-driven conservation in the Pacific. Operating for over two decades, Oikonos conducts research, restoration, and protection of seabird populations and their ecosystems, including work on Año Nuevo Island and tracking species like the Black-footed Albatross.

*Photo of birds on Año Nuevo Island courtesy of Parker Forman*



#### Santa Cruz Birds by Alex Rinkert

*Including reports from March 1 to May 31, 2025*

This past spring was marked by cool and wet weather that, along with severe drought in some areas further south, was speculated to result in a delayed and sparse spring migration throughout California. Here in Santa Cruz County, it was noticed to some degree, but may not have been as acute as reported in other regions.

Headlining the rarities found this spring were two new species for the county: Thick-billed Kingbird and Wood Stork. With the addition of these two species, and the recent reevaluation and acceptance by the California Bird Records Committee of a Stejneger's Scoter seen at Zilis Road in 2014 (J.G. NL), there are now 477 species of birds documented in Santa Cruz County. In addition to these exceptional species, there was a nice assortment of overwintering rarities that lingered well into spring. An especially unlikely assortment of birds could be seen on some days in April, when the Wood Stork, White Wagtail, and Lark Bunting could all be chased within a 10 minute drive!

There is much more to read about in the full report available by clicking below.

[Read the Report](#)

*Photo of Wood Stork courtesy of Alex Rinkert*



#### SCBC November Field Trips

- November 4, 2025 - Beginning Birding: Henry Cowell Sandhills - 8:30 to 11:15 am
- November 14, 2025 - Zayante Trail to Roaring Camp - 8:30 to 11:15 am
- November 20, 2025 - Henry Cowell State Park - 8:30 to 11:15 am
- November 25, 2025 - Beginning Birding: Juvenile Hall/Ponderosa Lodge - 8:30 to 11:15 am

[Get Field Trip Details Here](#)

*Photo of Say's Phoebe courtesy of Kimberly Butts*

#### More November Events

There's a lot going on in November so we want to share several free walks, talks, and presentations sponsored by other organizations doing great work in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. Take a look and click on any of the events for more information.

**Central Coast Birding Collective Watch Party!**  
LISTERS: A Glimpse Into Extreme Birdwatching  
November 1, 2025 - 2 to 4 pm - Aptos Branch Library

**Santa Cruz County Parks**  
Beginning Birding - Quail Hollow Ranch County Park  
November 2, 2025 - 8 to 10 am

**UCSC Arboretum & Botanical Garden**  
First Tuesday Free Admission  
November 4, 2025 - 9 am to 5 pm

**Wild Farm Alliance**  
Rancho Corralitos Bilingual Field Day  
November 6, 2025 - 8 to 1 pm - Watsonville

**Monterey Audubon Society**  
Presentation: Demystifying eBird with Brian Sullivan  
November 11, 2025 - 7:30 pm  
Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History

**Central Coast Birding Collective**  
Struve Slough Stroll  
November 16, 2025 - 9 to 11 am - Watsonville

**Ventana Wildlife Society**  
The Condor Chat  
November 20, 2025 - 4 pm - ZOOM



#### Be On The Lookout for These Birds in November

It's November and even though fall migration is slowing down, there are still many species of birds to watch for this month. The peak of landbird migration has past, but waterbird migration is still moving well throughout the month. November has a long history of rarities, so keep checking the coastal vagrant traps for late eastern warblers, rare flycatchers, and more. Flowering Eucalyptus in Santa Cruz, Capitola, Pajaro Dunes, and elsewhere may harbor late tanagers and orioles as well. It's also time to look for irruptive species such as Varied Thrush, Red Crossbill, and perhaps Evening Grosbeak.

Scan fields along the north coast for Tricolored Blackbirds, and look for uncommon raptors such as Merlin and Peregrine Falcon, and possibly Ferruginous Hawk. This is a good time to search for Burrowing Owls at some of the few places where they have been found in recent years: Swanton Pond, Wilder Ranch, UCSC, and Pajaro Valley High School.

There are many more birds described in the full article available by clicking on the button below.

*These articles are archived on the Santa Cruz Bird Club website from previous years and provide an informal list of birds that are leaving and those arriving as well as the most likely places to see them. The text is by Randy Wardle and the photos and compilation are by Pete Sole.*

[Read the Full Article Here](#)

*Photo of Green-winged Teal courtesy of Pete Sole*



#### Good News for Downtown Santa Cruz

Exciting news was recently announced by the Coastal Watershed Council about the amazing 55-foot tall mural "Echoes of a Wetland" (photo upper left) that was recently completed at the RiverChow apartments on Front Street. You can read the full story along with photos of the illustrations [HERE](#).

And there is more good news for the ducks about the San Lorenzo Park Duck Pond (photo upper right) that was recently cleaned and refilled after a year of being mostly muddy or dry. It is already hosting several pairs of mallards. The area around the pond was replanted with mainly native and/or drought tolerant plants.

*Upper left photo courtesy of Coastal Watershed Council and upper right photo courtesy of Jane Orbuch.*



#### Important Club Announcements

Welcome New Members! We are pleased to welcome the following new members to the Santa Cruz Bird Club!

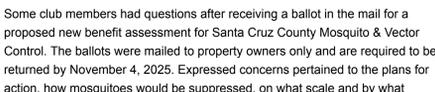
**Wendy Barley, Donna Penwell, Kathryn Swart**

It is easy to join as a new member or renew your membership. Currently dues are as follows:

- Individual membership: \$25.00 per year**
- Family membership: \$35.00 per year**
- Life membership: \$400.00 one time fee**

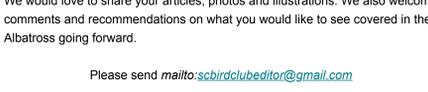
[Join or Renew Your Membership Here](#)

*California Scrub Jay photo courtesy of Joe Mikulsky*



#### Proposed New Benefit Assessment 2025

Some club members had questions after receiving a ballot in the mail for a proposed new benefit assessment for Santa Cruz County Mosquito & Vector Control. The ballots were mailed to property owners only and are required to be returned by November 4, 2025. Expressed concerns pertained to the plans for action, how mosquitoes would be suppressed, on what scale and by what means. Because many birds rely on mosquitoes for food this is a concern. Details about the program and the new assessment are available [HERE](#). Please take this opportunity to learn more as needed.



#### Want To Contribute 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 send <mailto:scbirdclubeditor@gmail.com>

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