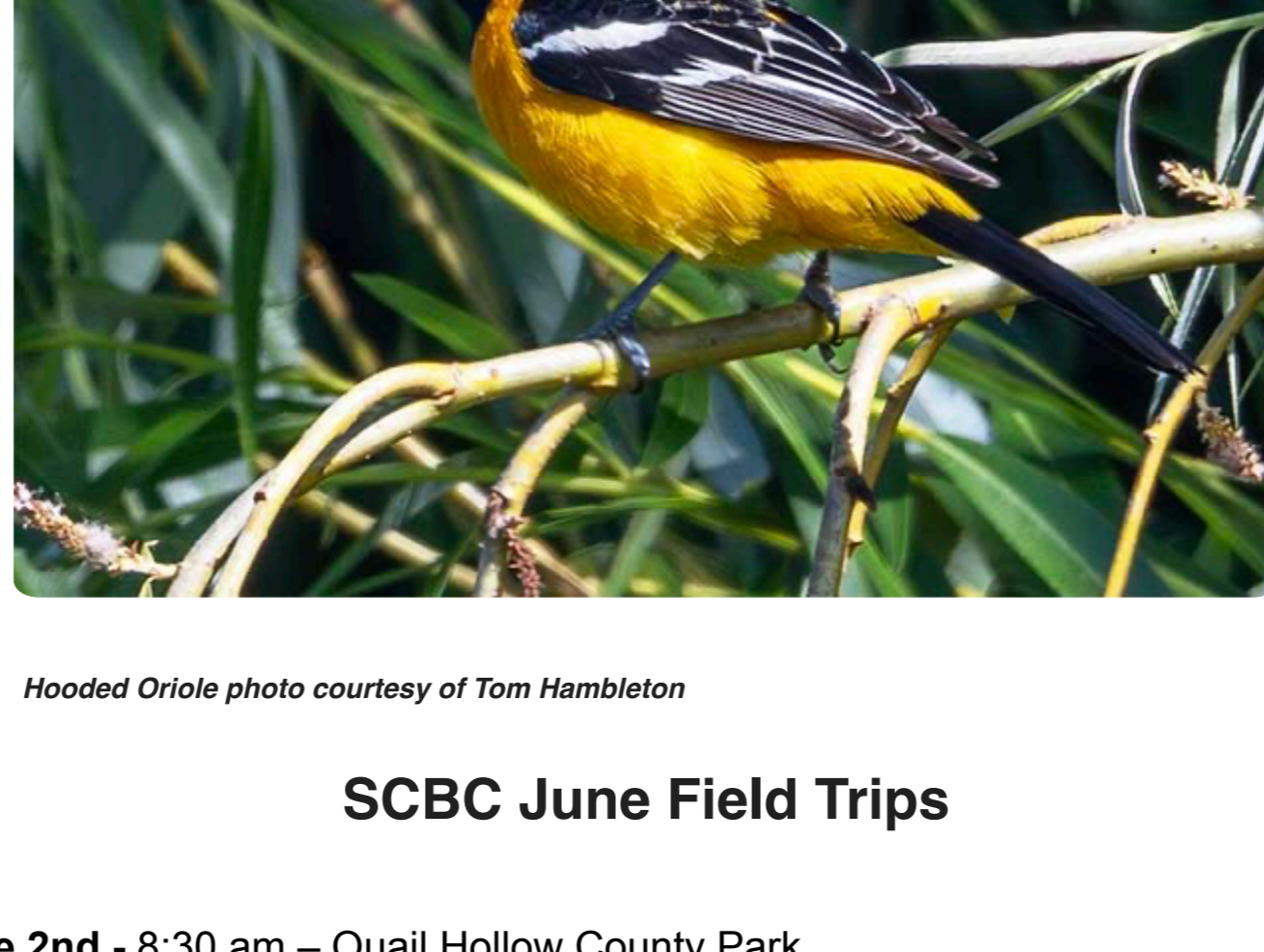




### Santa Cruz Bird Club Newsletter Vol. 70 No. 6 June 2026

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.

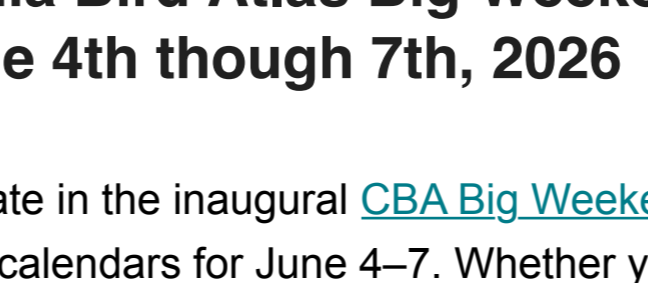


*Hooded Oriole photo courtesy of Tom Hambleton*

#### SCBC June Field Trips

- June 2nd** - 8:30 am – Quail Hollow County Park
- June 4th** - 1:30 pm - Pinto Lake County Park - CA Bird Atlas Big Weekend
- June 6th** - 8:00 am – CARE Park, Watsonville
- June 12th** - 8:30 am - Henry Cowell Observation Deck
- June 17th** - 8:30 am - Glenwood Preserve East

[Get Field Trip Details Here](#)



#### California Bird Atlas Big Weekend June 4th through 7th, 2026

You are invited to participate in the inaugural [CBA Big Weekend](#), an annual flagship event! Mark your calendars for June 4–7. Whether you're a lifelong birder or just starting out, your data is key to understanding and protecting California's birds.

- **Join** a field trip, guided bird walk, workshop, or other birding event. A statewide roster of California Bird Atlas Big Weekend events will be posted soon.
- **Document** breeding birds anywhere in the state, solo or with friends. Whether you're atlasing remote habitat or documenting birds in backyards, balconies, and neighborhood parks, every eBird checklist contributes valuable data to the California Bird Atlas during Big Weekend.
- **Host** your own California Bird Atlas Big Weekend event. Already planning an outing, workshop, or gathering? Register it [here](#), and we'll add it to the statewide roster.

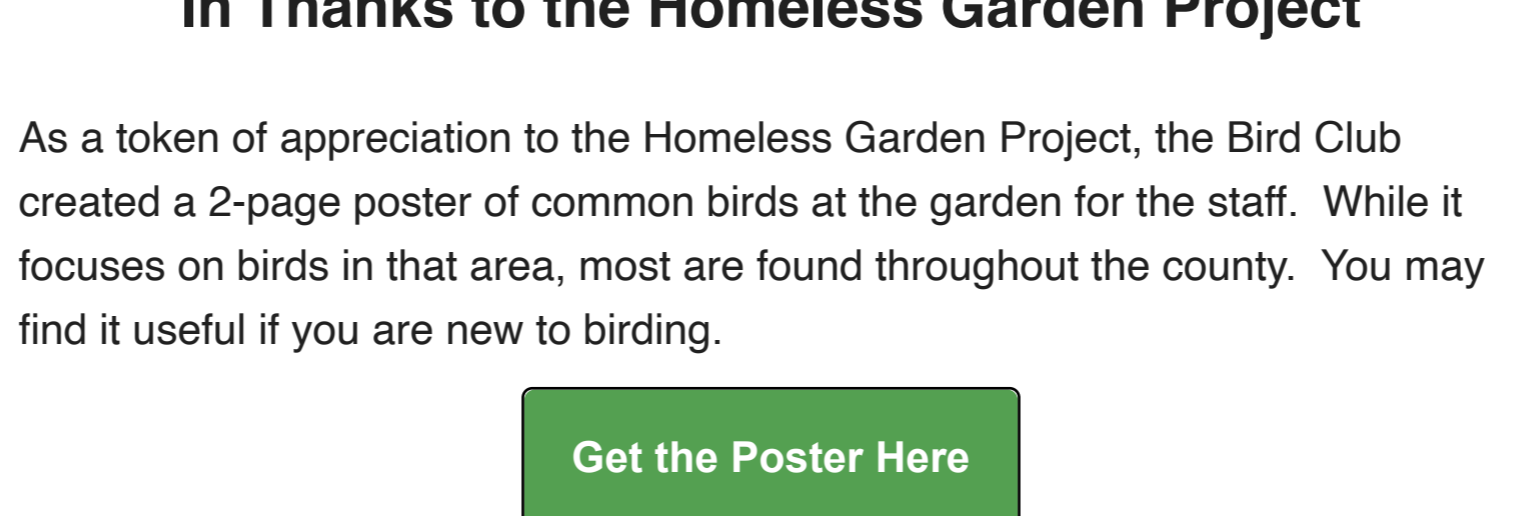
If you have more questions about CBA Big Weekend, feel free to reach out to [info@californiabirdatlas.org](mailto:info@californiabirdatlas.org).



#### Benefit for Native Animal Rescue June 28, 2026 - 4 - 5:30 pm Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History in the Garden Room 705 Front St Santa Cruz, CA

All Birds speak their own species' songs — but they also share a common language of alarms, families, and awareness. Join Jeff Caplan for an interactive workshop exploring how birders can recognize and interpret bird voices and behavior in parks, backyards, and wild places everywhere. Learn the five most common songbird vocalizations, how birds signal danger, and practical bird language skills while you can support local wildlife rescue and protection. We hope you join us at The Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History in their Garden Room for an engaging afternoon of discovery, connection, and conservation. Whether you're a seasoned birder or simply curious about the natural world around you, this workshop will help you tune in to the hidden conversations happening all around us.

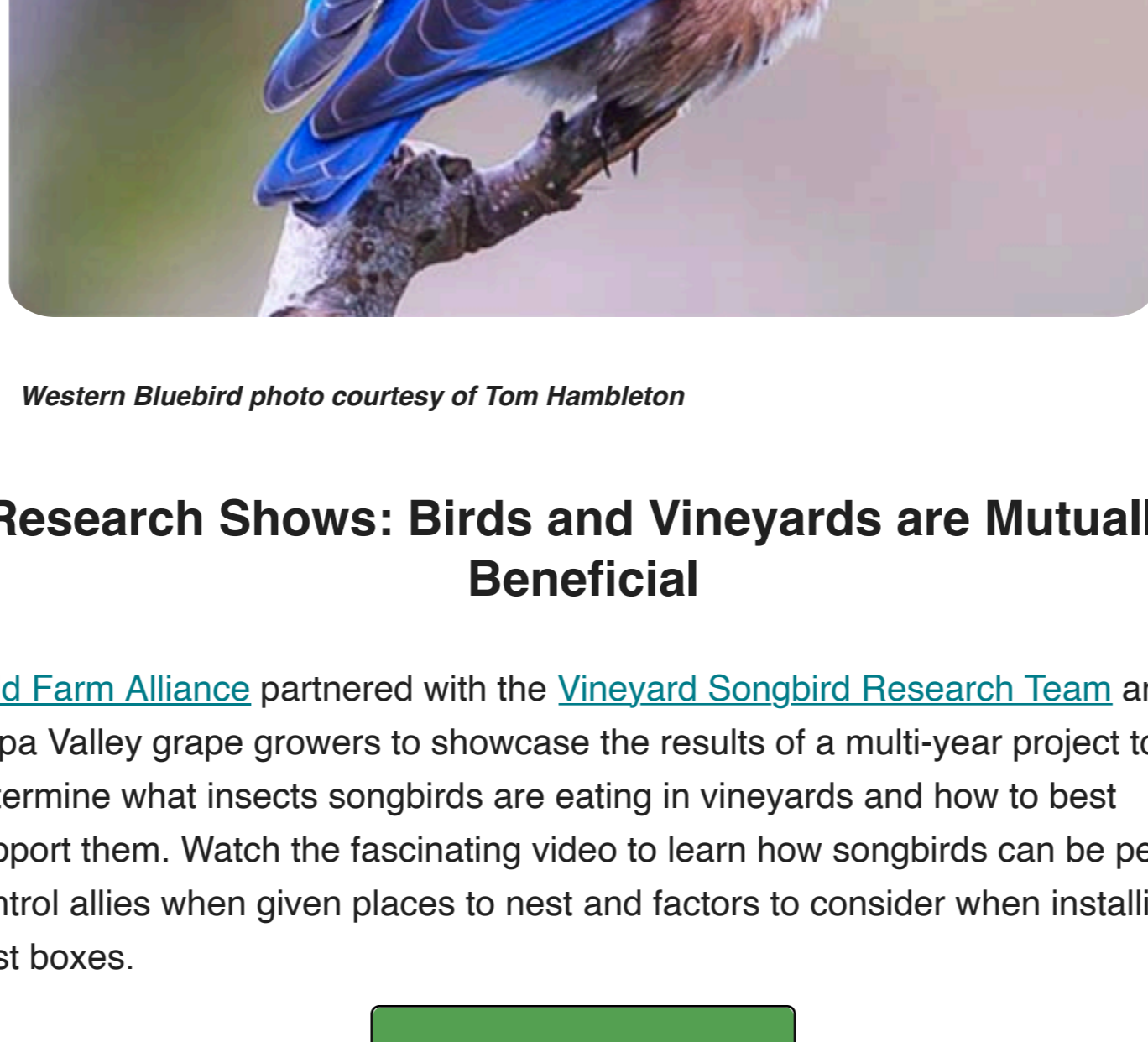
[Learn More and Get Tickets Here](#)



#### In Thanks to the Homeless Garden Project

As a token of appreciation to the Homeless Garden Project, the Bird Club created a 2-page poster of common birds at the garden for the staff. While it focuses on birds in that area, most are found throughout the county. You may find it useful if you are new to birding.

[Get the Poster Here](#)



*Western Bluebird photo courtesy of Tom Hambleton*

#### Research Shows: Birds and Vineyards are Mutually Beneficial

[Wild Farm Alliance](#) partnered with the [Vineyard Songbird Research Team](#) and Napa Valley grape growers to showcase the results of a multi-year project to determine what insects songbirds are eating in vineyards and how to best support them. Watch the fascinating video to learn how songbirds can be pest control allies when given places to nest and factors to consider when installing nest boxes.

[View the Video Here](#)

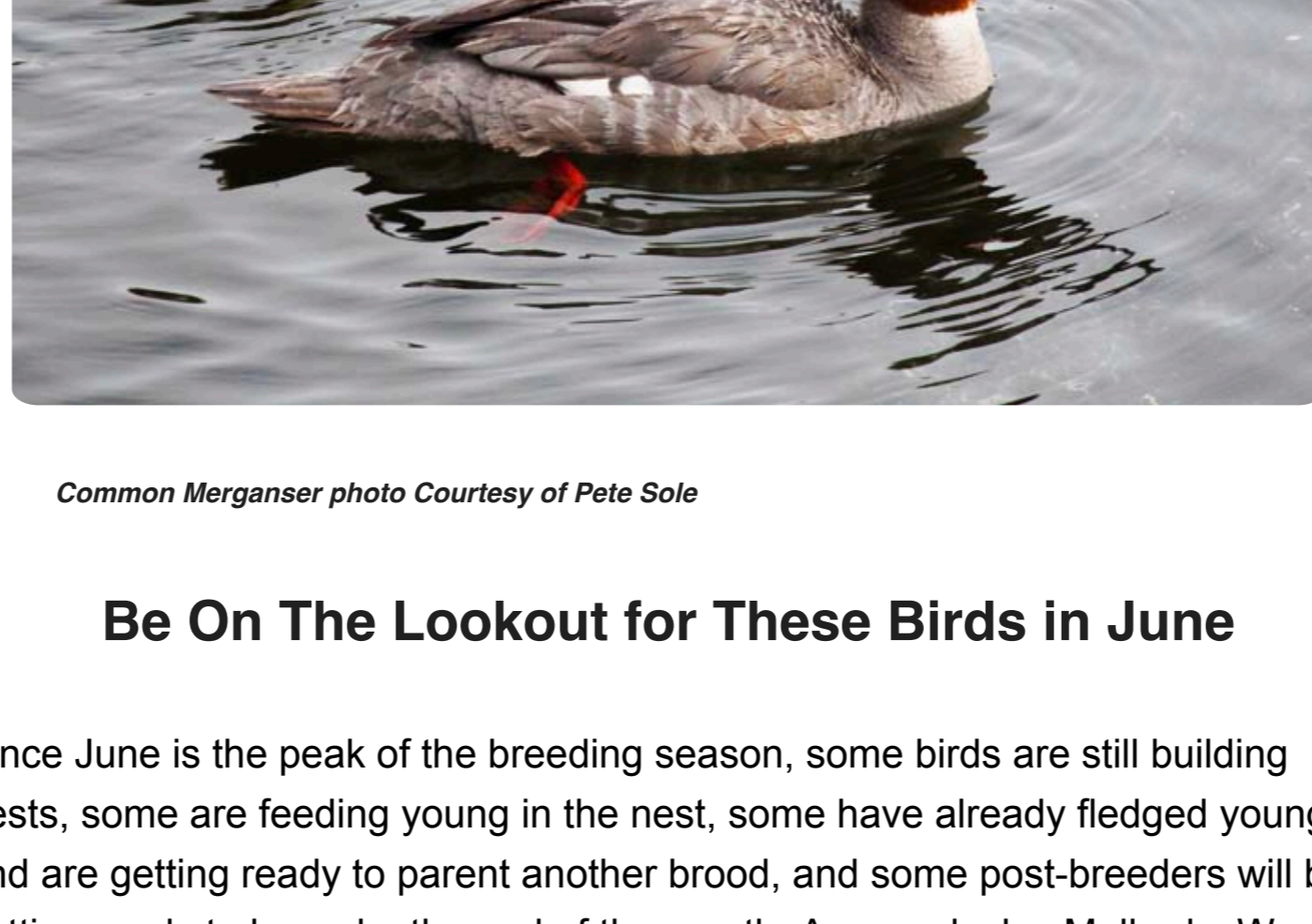
#### City Birds: New Study Shows Urban Habitat Matters for Migrating Species

Songbirds generally make their migratory flights at night, and during spring migration tens of millions of birds may be streaming north above us as we sleep. But when the sun rises, where do these tired birds choose to stop, rest, and refuel?

You may picture a nature preserve or grassy field, but a study published earlier this year in the journal *Nature Cities* shows that a large percentage of these birds are making their "stopovers" in cities, illustrating the importance of urban conservation efforts. So why would migrating birds choose city habitats? Read the full study to find out.

This story was originally published by [The Revelator](#).

[Read the Full Story Here](#)



*Common Merganser photo Courtesy of Pete Sole*

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

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 at 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.

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](#)



*Bewick's Wren photo courtesy of Heather Treen*

#### Important Club Announcements

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 fourth Thursday of the month with the September meeting. Stay tuned for more information about the next meeting presentation that will be announced in the September Albatross.

#### Thank You New Donors!

Linda Brodman, Norm Kikuchi, and Mari Tustin

#### Welcome New Members!

We are pleased to welcome Lisa Crane, Susan Craig, and Paul Stevens

#### It's Renewal time for your Santa Cruz Bird Club membership

If you haven't yet renewed then please do so to keep your membership current.  
Dues are \$25 Individual, \$35 Family, Life Membership just \$400.

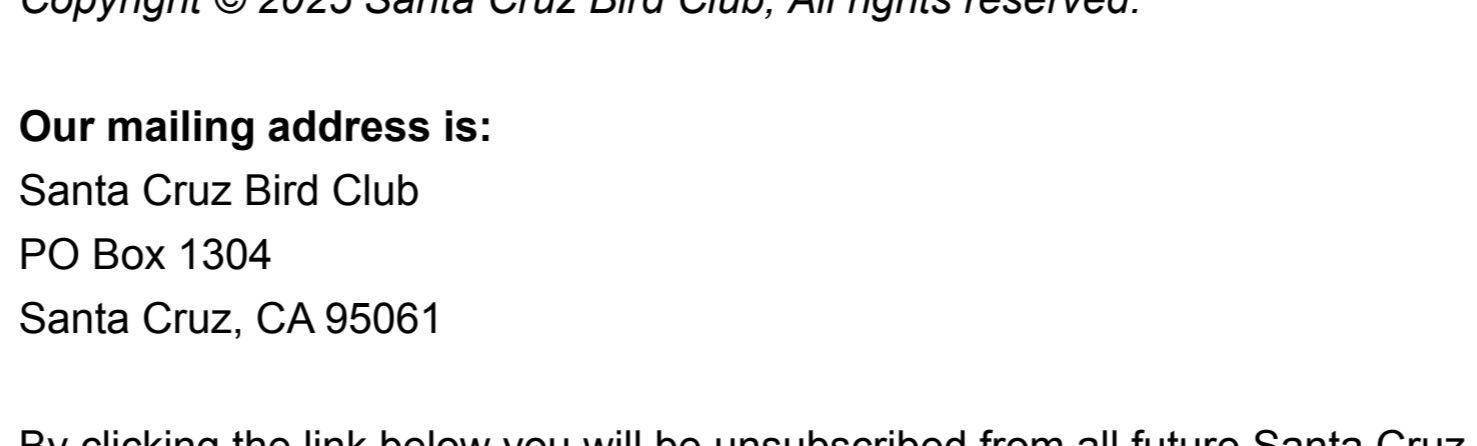
You can pay online, using PayPal. Just go to the website and follow the links: [www.santacruzbirdclub.org](http://www.santacruzbirdclub.org). Or you can mail us a check, payable to 'Santa Cruz Bird Club' and mail to PO Box 1304, Santa Cruz, CA 95061

#### Announcing an easier way to donate to the Bird Club!

We're happy to announce that you can now make donations on our website via PayPal. Simply go to the Join/ Renew section of our website and The "Donate" button is at the bottom below the Automatic Renewal options. You can enter any amount you desire. We appreciate any and all donations, which are used to enhance club activities for members and to support the good work that other organizations are accomplishing for the benefit of all.

Of course, you can always mail us a check, to PO Box 1304, Santa Cruz, CA 95061!

[Join or Renew Your Membership, or Donate Here](#)



#### 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 mail to: [scbirdclubeditor@gmail.com](mailto:scbirdclubeditor@gmail.com)

#### Our mailing address is:

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PO Box 1304  
Santa Cruz, CA 95061

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