

Albatross

PHOEBASTRIA NIGRIPES

BIRDING MORE, CHASING LESS:

A JOURNEY TO THE GREEN BIG DAY

by Scott Smithson

I had a breakthrough this morning. Instead of chasing an Iceland Gull found yesterday in Half Moon Bay, I went birding by bike within a few miles of home. I somehow resisted the urge to immediately hop in the car for a life bird, saving gas and money, getting some exercise, and being there for the family on a beautiful Saturday. Friends and family can attest that it is not easy for me to resist a good chase!

We who call ourselves birders seem to fall into three major categories. Some of us stay local and enjoy immersing ourselves in the home neighborhood or county. Others spend time, energy, and money seeking out rare birds all over the state. At the far end of the spectrum are the folks who compete in national Big Year Competitions, ticking off birds from Attu Island to Key West.

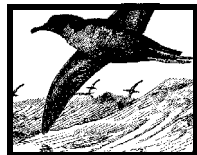
I freely admit I am probably the last person who should be writing about the greenbirding movement. I've chased rare birds all across California and beyond most of my life, and until recently, had no second thoughts about driving hundreds of miles by myself to see a life bird. It's confession time. While in high school, I had an agreement with my principal that I could get a parental note after the fact if I needed to immediately chase a rarity...got my first Horned Puffin using this system and was back at school the same day. I once flew to Portland to visit a dear friend but really was there to chase a Redwing in Olympia and a Falcated Duck in Eugene. I considered chasing the Lompoc Baikal Teal in 2005 that was discovered right around my wife's due date. Don't worry, I made the right choice and was present for Selva's birth.

"You mean you drove all that way for just one bird?" How many times have I heard that comment from an incredulous friend or family member? Then I

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explain migratory mishaps and the excitement of seeing an extraordinary rarity, but their eyes still roll. However, their nagging questions remain in the back of my head. Why *did* I drive all that way by myself, and was checking it off my list really worth putting a thousand miles on my car?

With the recent advent of the Bigby (Big Green Big Year) in 2008, there has been more attention given to greenbirding than ever before. (See the Nov/Dec 2008 Albatross—http://www.santacruzbirdclub.org/53_2a.pdf). Those who are participating in this movement seek to promote carbon-neutral birding via walking or biking, and there are several interesting blogs tracking individual birders in their efforts to make a difference.

I confess that in spite of my own view that we are responsible for the environmental stewardship of this planet, I am still inexorably drawn to the adventure of chasing mega-rarities. However, now that I am becoming more sensitive to my own ecological footprint, I feel a conviction to somehow offset the impact of my own birding. It was on my recent Taiga Bean-Goose chase to the Salton Sea with Alex Rinkert that I brainstormed some creative ways to do this. A bit ironic, yes, and maybe laced with some personal guilt...but if you could have seen the look on Alex's face when he saw his life Yellow-footed Gull!

First and foremost, on April 23, 2011, I invite all Santa Cruz birders to participate in what I hope will become an international annual tradition—The Green Big Day. (See the calendar listing.)

It would be great for the Santa Cruz Bird Club members to take a leadership role in the greenbirding movement by participating in this free event. My com-

petitive nature wants Santa Cruz County to take home the cumulative total species count, but that will depend upon how many of us get involved! You can read more detailed information and sign up here:

<http://www.greenbigday.org>

Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions you have.

Below are a few more ideas for greener birding, based on what I have purposed to do this year in my own life. I know many of you already do this!

1. Adopt a few local birding spots within walking or biking distance of home. For me, I am drawing a circle around my home with a radius of ~3 miles and keeping a list for the year—sort of a big year with a little area.
2. When you chase birds, chase responsibly. To me, this means to attempt to fill my car with people if I travel a long distance to see a rare bird. Or—heaven forbid—it will sometimes mean I stay home. (Did I just write that?)
3. Offset your carbon use through donations to conservation non-profits in the area to which you are traveling. There are several websites that I will be using to calculate the carbon footprint of any long trips I take in the future.

So I missed the opportunity to see an Iceland Gull today, but I was not thinking about the gull while I was standing next to the Walton Lighthouse, shielding my scope from the ocean spray. I spent two hours birding in perfect February weather and observed 50 species just a few miles from home! Of course, my parents live just north of Half Moon Bay, so it may be time for a visit soon.

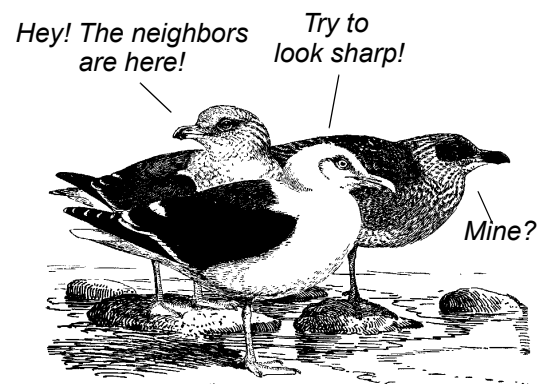
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Want to try Some Local Birding?

If you live in Santa Cruz County, remember that the SCBC Web Site has lots of information for local birders. Go to the main page and select *Birding in Santa Cruz*.

You will find links to the exceptionally detailed Birding Guide and other guides and checklists.

http://santacruzbirdclub.org/Birding_in_Santa_Cruz.html



Events Calendar

March - April 2011

Check the online SCBC Calendar of Events for any recent updates:

<http://www.santacruzbirdclub.org>



Friday, March 4 Wilder Ranch State Park

The rare Dusky-capped Flycatcher may still be around at this date, and if not, there is always a lot to see here. We may check coastal or inland parts of the park, or a little of both.

Directions: Meet at 8:00 AM in the main parking lot. There is an entrance fee (\$10, \$9 for seniors).

Leader: Steve Gerow, (831) 426-2476, stephengerow@aol.com



American Kestrel



Friday, March 11 San Lorenzo River

Some surprises turned up this winter, so we'll see what is still around and perhaps find something new.

Directions: Meet at 8:00 AM at San Lorenzo Park by the duck pond.

Leader: Steve Gerow, (831) 426-2476, stephengerow@aol.com



Sunday, March 13 San Mateo Bayfront and Coast

We'll visit Coyote Point, Foster City, and Radio Road in the morning and Half Moon Bay / Princeton Harbor in the afternoon (9+ ft high tide at ~ 11:20 AM). Itinerary may vary as we'll try for any recent sightings provided on the peninsula birding list server (pen-bird) appropriate to these locations. Bring lunch for a full day's birding. Heavy rain cancels.

Directions: Meet at the County Government Center at 7:00 AM (near sign at Ocean Street parking entrance). Plan to carpool, if possible. Please call leader before trip if you want to arrange for another meeting place and time.

Leader: Eric Feuss (831) 477-0280 or mobile-day of trip only (408) 717-0421



At San Lorenzo Park in December, this first-cycle Glaucous Gull was photographed by David Sidle.

Santa Cruz Bird Club programs and field trips are open to the public—non-members are welcome. People needing rides to field trip sites are advised to contact field trip leaders. Carpooling is encouraged. Dress in layers and bring liquids. Lunches are optional on half-day trips. Heavy rain cancels.

Field trips can pose hazards. Reluctantly, we have decided we must publish and implement this policy:

The Santa Cruz Bird Club or its field trip leaders cannot be responsible for damage, injury, or loss incurred by the acts or omissions of any member or visitor during Club field trips or during commutes to or from them.

Field trip participants must release the Club from any liability for such damage, injury, or loss.

Ordinarily, field trip participants sign a waiver releasing the Club from such liability, but in the absence of such a signed waiver, participation on a Club field trip in itself implies consent to and agreement with this waiver.

NOTICE: The MARCH & APRIL MEETINGS are scheduled on the THIRD THURSDAYS to accommodate the availability of the speakers.



Thursday, March 17 (3rd Thurs.)
SCBC Meeting @7:30 PM
Speaker: Clay Kempf

Topic: Panoche Valley

Panoche Valley is a common destination for birders and birding groups from all around California, and it has even been designated a Globally Important Bird Area. But 30 years ago, it was relatively unknown, until Santa Cruz Bird Club upstarts Steve Allison and Carolyn Frederickson started exploring the area. SCBC field trips soon followed, and the rest is history. Today the Panoche Valley is in danger, with the recent approval of a large solar power plant in its midst. Join Panoche Valley CBC Compiler and former SCBC President Clay Kempf for a lecture on birding from Paicines Reservoir to the valley floor, a discussion of the special birds and creatures of the area, and the potential impact of the Solargen project.

Location: Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History
1305 East Cliff Drive, Santa Cruz, CA



Saturday, March 19
Pogonip

We will look and listen for newly arrived spring migrant birds, while not ignoring the plants and other wildlife in the grasslands and forests of this park.

Directions: Meet at 8:00 AM at the north end of Spring Street, off High Street in Santa Cruz.

Leader: Steve Gerow, (831) 426-2476,
stephengerow@aol.com



Other Pogonip wildlife—a pair of banana slugs.
Photo by Steve Gerow.



Sunday, March 20 (half day)
Gray Whales & Seabirds

Monterey Seabirds excursion--see page 7 for details.



Friday, March 25
West Cliff Drive

The beginnings of coastal migration should be evident by now, and with luck we may get one more look at the Rock Sandpiper, by now mostly in breeding plumage.

Directions: Meet at 8:00 AM at the intersection of West Cliff Drive and Woodrow Avenue.

Leader: Steve Gerow, (831) 426-2476,
stephengerow@aol.com



A sea watch from 2008. Let's hope for dry weather.



Saturday, March 26
Santa Cruz Sea Watch

Are you looking to see some of the thousands of birds that live on the water like shearwaters, alcids, and even albatrosses but don't want to get on a boat? We'll explore the thrills and challenges and share tricks-of-the-trade in identifying birds over the ocean from shore.

Directions: Meet in front of Seymour Marine Discovery Center (at Terrace Point) on westside Santa Cruz at 8:00 AM, or at the front gate in case it is locked at that hour. Spotting scopes are highly recommended, but all are welcome regardless.

Leader: Rod Norden, (408) 656-4669,
rod.norden@gmail.com



Friday, April 1
Schwan Lake area

We should find a mix of residents and spring migrants, plus a few lingering winter birds.

Directions: Meet at 8:00 AM at the parking lot of the Simpkins Family Swim Center, 979 17th Avenue.

Leader: Steve Gerow, (831) 426-2476, stephengerow@aol.com



Friday, April 8
Natural Bridges

We'll look for spring migrants and nesting birds.

Directions: Meet at 8:00 AM at the Delaware Avenue entrance to Natural Bridges State Beach.

Leader: Steve Gerow, (831) 426-2476, stephengerow@aol.com

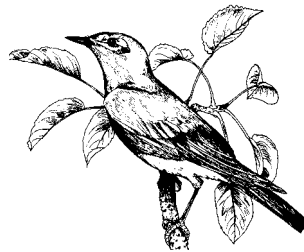


Sunday, April 10
Quail Hollow

Western Bluebirds and other spring birds will likely adorn the wildflower-filled meadows and sandhills.

Directions: Meet in the Quail Hollow parking lot at 8:00 AM.

Leader: Alex Rinkert, arinkert12@comcast.net



Western Bluebird



Friday, April 15
Moore Creek Preserve

This is the best time of year to compare the songs of territorial Grasshopper and Savannah Sparrows. Migrant kingbirds and several breeding species of flycatchers, some unusual native plants, and usually several mammal species are among the other possibilities.

Directions: Meet at 8:00 AM on Shaffer Road across from the end of Mission Street.

Leader: Steve Gerow, (831) 426-2476, stephengerow@aol.com



Saturday, April 16
Pelagic Seabirds (full day)

Monterey Seabirds excursion--see page 7 for details.

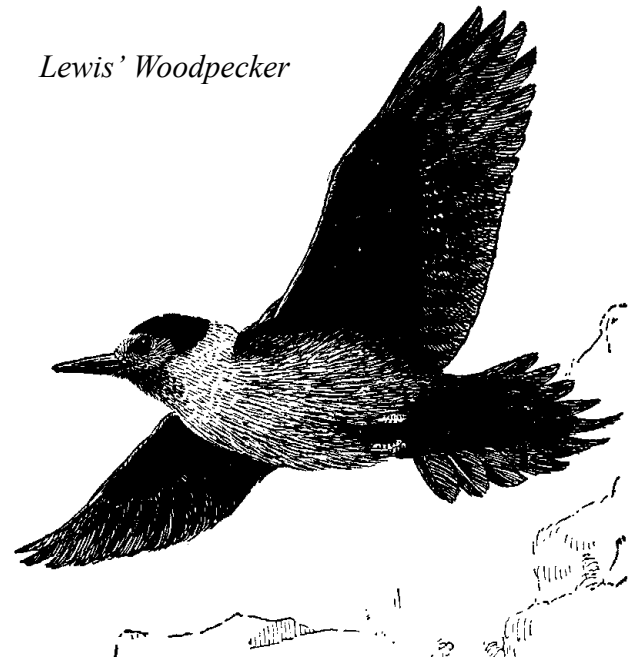


Sunday, April 17
Mines Road,
San Antonio Valley

Mines Road is one of the Santa Cruz Bird Club's favorite birding and wildflower trips. The birds have always been very good, and if we are lucky, the flowers will put on a good show for us also. The birds we hope to see are Northern Oriole, Lewis' Woodpecker, Phainopepla, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Lazuli Bunting, Western Tanager, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, House Wren, Golden Eagle, Greater Roadrunner, and many more. We will return via the scenic route over Mt. Hamilton.

Directions: Meet at the County Government Center (701 Ocean St) near the corner of Water & Ocean St. at 6:15 AM or at the intersection of Mines and Del Valle Roads outside Livermore at 8:00 AM. A full tank of gas is highly recommended. Bring lunch and liquids as facilities are scarce. To get to the 8 AM meeting spot, take HWY 17 to San Jose; proceed to Livermore via HWY 680, and then via HWY 84.

Leader: Eric Feuss (831) 477-0280 or mobile—day of trip only (408) 717-0421



Lewis' Woodpecker



Thursday, April 21 (3rd Thurs.)
SCBC Meeting @7:30 PM
Speaker: Ryan Carle

Topic: Habitat Restoration for Nesting Seabirds on Ano Nuevo Island

Ryan Carle is a Project Ecologist for Oikonos, a non-profit organization working to increase ecosystem knowledge through science, art, technology, education, and applied conservation. Ryan will speak about habitat restoration on Ano Nuevo Island and will share his experiences working with ecologists, habitat restoration experts, artists, and designers to restore degraded habitat—especially for Rhinoceros Auklets which are a California Species of Special Concern.

Location: Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History
 1305 East Cliff Drive, Santa Cruz, CA



Saturday, April 23
Santa Cruz County
GREEN Big Day!

The first international Green Big Day is a fun opportunity for Santa Cruz birders to help lead the way in the emerging "green birding" movement. How many bird species can we collectively identify in one day in Santa Cruz County without using our cars? Join birders from around the world on Saturday, April 23, in a friendly competition. You can lead or join a bicycle team, walking team, or simply count birds in your backyard/neighborhood to participate.

Sign up at: <http://www.greenbigday.org> or email the coordinator, Scott Smithson, wscottsmithson@gmail.com



Friday, April 29
Nearby Lagoon

We should see and hear a good variety of breeding species, and some interesting migrants are possible.
Directions: Meet at the west entrance (off Bay and California) at 7:30 AM.

Leader: Steve Gerow, (831) 426-2476, stephengerow@aol.com



Saturday, April 30
Castle Rock

Join us for a 3-mile moderate hike through Castle Rock State Park. The birding and wildflowers should be great. We hope to see or hear many spring nesting birds, including Hermit Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Townsends Warbler, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Black-headed Grosbeak, Purple Finch, and many more. We'll hike along the Saratoga Gap trail to the campground and back. The trail starts from the parking lot and goes through a stretch of mixed Redwoods, Oak, Douglas Fir, and so on, and then enters a long section of chaparral and live oak. Next we will enter an area of black oak and wildflowers and from here go uphill through more woods, with old Canyon Oaks. This hike is one of the better spring hikes in Santa Cruz County for birding and great vistas of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

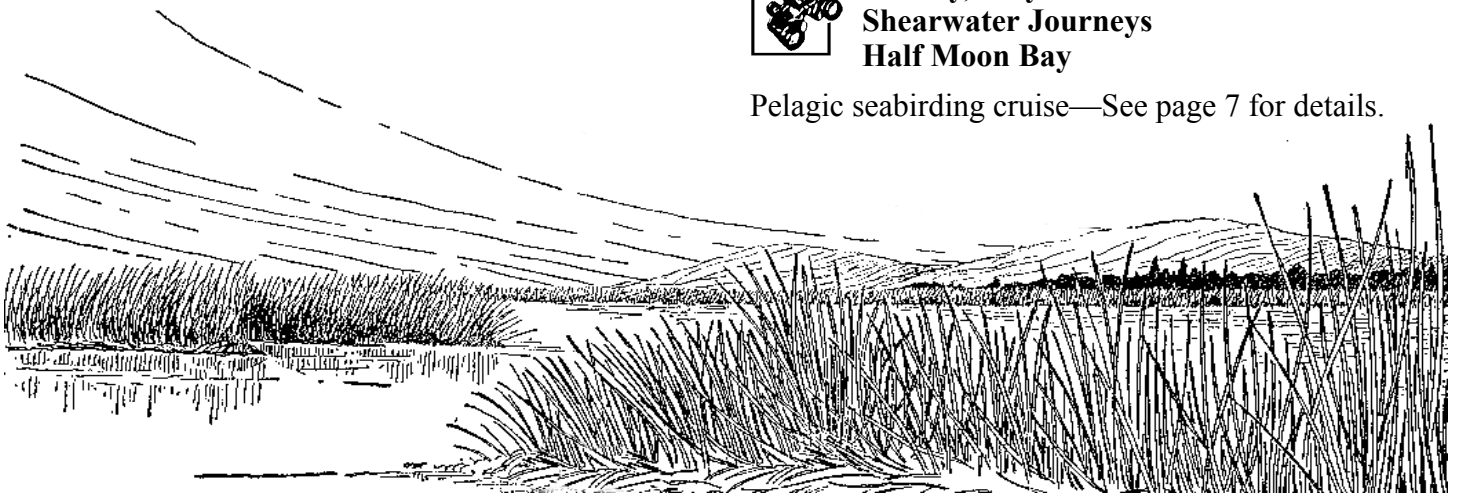
Directions: Meet at the Santa Cruz Government Center, 701 Ocean St., Santa Cruz, at 6:30 AM or at the main parking lot of Castle Rock State Park at 7:30 AM (There may be a parking fee.) Bring Lunch. Heavy rain cancels.

Leader: David Ekdahl (831) 335-5742, dek Dahl49@comcast.net



Sunday, May 1
Shearwater Journeys
Half Moon Bay

Pelagic seabirding cruise—See page 7 for details.



Seabirding Specials for SCBC Members

Monterey Seabirds and Shearwater Journeys are offering discounted pelagic birding excursions to SCBC members. Group size is limited so make your reservations early, before the trips sell out.

Monterey Seabirds

Gray Whales and Spring Seabirds (Half-day —4-hours)

This trip is longer than most winter whale watches, allowing time for observing both whales and seabirds and is suitable for families and children. As Gray Whales migrate from the lagoons in Baja California back to the Arctic, some interesting behavior can be observed.

Mating activity is not limited to the breeding grounds and is often seen on the northbound journey. Did you know that it takes three Gray Whales to copulate successfully? Springtime also offers the best chance of seeing Orcas (Killer Whales) in action as they try to prey on migrating whale calves, seals, and sea lions. In previous March outings we have recorded five species of shearwaters. Black-legged Kittiwakes are likely, and Fork-tailed Storm Petrel is possible.

Date: Sunday, March 20, 2011, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Cost: \$40 for SCBC members, \$25 for their kids under 12 (non-members \$45 and \$3)0.

Pelagic Seabirds (Full day)

Join us for an all day springtime pelagic seabirding trip. Spring can be an exciting time to be out on the Monterey Bay. On our April 2007 trip we found a young Short-tailed Albatross. Other interesting seabirds seen on previous April trips have included Fork-tailed Storm Petrel, Ancient Murrelet, Short-tailed Shearwater, Arctic Tern, and Brown Booby.

Date: Saturday, April 16, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$110 for SCBC members (non- members \$120).

Reservations required. Call 375-4658 or go to: <http://www.montereyseabirds.com>

Trips may be cancelled due to stormy weather. Please call to confirm if necessary.

Departure: From the Monterey Bay Whale Watch Center at 84 Fisherman's Wharf in Monterey.

Leader: Roger Wolfe et al.

Shearwater Journeys

Half Moon Bay trip

Join world class Shearwater leaders on a pelagic trip to search for rare gadfly petrels, especially Murphy's Petrel. Of course, we shall observe the regular spring seabirds, as well.

Date: Sunday, May 1, 7:00 a.m. Trip duration is 7 hours—longer if the weather is good, up to 12 hours.

Cost: \$145 for SCBC members, non-refundable. Parking is free.

Departure: Half Moon Bay trips depart from Huck Finn Center, Pillar Point Harbor, Half Moon Bay.

Monterey Bay trips

Monterey Bay remains our classic seabird trip. During our trips at this time in 2010, we had many sightings of Laysan Albatross. Short-tailed Albatross has also been recorded in early August.

Dates: June 24; August 5, 12

Cost: \$130 for SCBC members, non-refundable. Parking is discounted with these trips.

Departure: From Chris' Fishing on Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey at 7:00 a.m., return at 3:00 p.m.

Reservations: Debi Shearwater—Send payment along with your full name, address, phone, cell phone, and email to: Shearwater Journeys, PO Box 190, Hollister, CA 95024. Contact Debi: debi@shearwaterjourneys.com
See: <http://www.shearwaterjourneys.com> or <http://shearwaterjourneys.blogspot.com> for more information.



Santa Cruz Birds

By David Suddjian & Steve Gerow

Including reports from
October 16 to December 31, 2010

Greater White-fronted Geese were reported often through early winter, with the high count for this period being 39 at Harkins Slough on November 1 (CK). **Snow Geese** were reported from November 6 onwards (v.ob.). Notable counts were 34 over Capitola on November 16 and flocks of 32 and 140 over Capitola on December 12 (DSu). The latter represented one of the largest flocks on record for the county. Six reports of **Ross's Geese** from November 16 through December 31 were of 1-4 individuals, mostly at College Lake (JWa, OJ, CK, DSu, LG, JP). Reports of **Cackling Geese** came mostly after mid-November, with a high of 36 at Struve Slough on December 12 (DSt). **Brant** are decidedly rare in fall migration in this county, as evidenced this year by just three reports of one to six birds from November 13 to December 18 (DSu, JP).

Six **Tundra Swans** flew past Capitola Beach on December 29 (DSu). South county wetlands had a few male **Eurasian Wigeon**, such as one or two at Struve and West Struve sloughs from November 14 onwards and up to two at College Lake on December 28-31 (v.ob.). But the species has been seldom found away from the Pajaro Valley, so one male at Younger Lagoon on December 21 was notable (JK). Three hundred and thirty **Green-winged Teal** at College Lake on December 31 provided a nice count (DSu). A female **Harlequin Duck** was at Seacliff State Beach on November 26, while **Long-tailed Ducks** flew past Seacliff on October 16 (early for this county) and Capitola Beach on December 29 (DSu). All five reports of **Black Scoters** came from Seacliff from November 8 to December 5 (DSu, PS, NC), with a high count of four on November 20 (DSu).

Three reports of **White-winged Scoters** came from the mid-county coast December 18-30 (DSu, SG). We normally see **Red-breasted Mergansers** just one to a few at a time, so a flock of 24 flying past Capitola on December 18 was a rare treat (DSu). An exceptional gathering of **Red-throated Loons** in Soquel Cove on November 8 included at least 1,485 birds, with a single flock of 650 (DSu)! Migrant **Pacific Loons** are more

expected in large numbers in late fall, but an estimated 17,000 seen from Seacliff on November 20 was still exciting (DSu). Three **Red-necked Grebes** were reported at the mid-county coast from October 23 to December 1 (DSu, JR). A **Pink-footed Shearwater** was spied from Soquel Point on December 18 (CK).

A **Cattle Egret** at Wilder Ranch State Park on November 8 was the only one reported this fall (SG). Up to 10 **White-faced Ibis** were found at Struve Slough and vicinity from October through December (v.ob.). Notable reports elsewhere were one flying by Terrace Point on October 16 (MD et al), one at Laguna Creek Beach on October 25 (DSi), 17 at Pinto Lake on November 26 (BR, RR), and one there on December 15 (LG, JP). Reports of **Merlin** were plentiful, with 12 reports in October, 20 in November, and a robust 29 in December (v.ob.). Among these, birds showing characteristics of the *Prairie* subspecies were at Natural Bridges on November 19 (DSi, SG et al), at Seacliff on November 26 (DSu), and western Santa Cruz on December 7 (SG), while one of the *Black* subspecies was near Quail Hollow on December 1-5 (AR). A late **Lesser Yellowlegs** visited Struve Slough on November 21 (LR, RB). West Cliff Drive's **Rock Sandpiper** returned for its 8th winter stay by November 30 (PB)! How many breaking waves has that bird dodged in its long life?

A flock of 120 **Bonaparte's Gulls** at Struve Slough on December 6 was a good count (LG, BR). One Bonaparte's on the fields at Branciforte Middle School in Santa Cruz on December 21 was in an exceptional setting (AGa). We are unaware of other reports of this species at playing fields in this county. **Glaucous Gulls** were well reported from December 3 onward, but perhaps only four individuals were noted (v.ob.). One at San Lorenzo Park was much more cooperative than usual for birds visiting our county, staying for a period of weeks and being seen by many birders. A high count of 12,600 **Common Murres** flying out of the bay off Seacliff after a stormy night were probably just the "tip of the iceberg," as they were very far out, and it is likely that many more were too distant to view (DSu). Two **Cassin's Auklets** noted in that same flight were notable, as we seldom see them from shore in this county (DSu).

Two **White-winged Dove** reports were late for Santa Cruz County. One stopped in western Santa Cruz

on October 31 (SG). Then one at Seacliff State Beach on November 26 was the latest fall migrant ever for the county (DSu). A **Burrowing Owl** spent the late fall/early winter season at Younger Lagoon, first noted on October 23 (RoC, DSi, v.ob.). The lower UCSC grasslands, usually the most reliable spot for wintering Burrowing Owls in the county, had no reports until December 18, when just one was found (JL). An adult male **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** along the San Lorenzo River in northern Henry Cowell State Park on December 24 (AR, JWi, AW) was likely the same one that inhabited that area last winter. An **Eastern Phoebe** appeared near San Lorenzo Park in Santa Cruz on December 2 (BR), then further up the San Lorenzo Valley another turned up in northern Henry Cowell State Park starting December 23 (JWa). The fall's fourth **Tropical Kingbird** visited Lighthouse Field State Beach on October 28 (SG). Two were present at Struve Slough from November 1-18 (CK, DSt, JS, v.ob.) with at least one of these staying well into January, most likely the same one that wintered there last year. Then another **Tropical Kingbird** was found in Capitola on December 27 (JD).



A Tropical Kingbird at Struve Slough on November 15, 2010. Photo by David Sidle.



The Dusky-capped Flycatcher poses at Wilder Ranch on December 23, 2010. Photo by Pete Solé.

A **Dusky-capped Flycatcher** found a winter home near the Wilder Ranch historic building complex starting December 15 (KK, JWa, SG, v.ob) and was studied and photographed by many. This is the eighth record for Santa Cruz County (pending CBRC approval). **Loggerhead Shrikes** were very sparse, with just a few reports involving about three birds, all in the Pajaro Valley. A few **Barn Swallows** showed up in December, a fairly normal occurrence in recent years. All reports were of single birds: the first at Struve Slough December 15 (DSt), one at Antonelli Pond December 21 (SG), one around the Struve/Watsonville Slough confluence December 26-28 (CK, EL, AR), and one at College Lake December 31 (DSu). **Chestnut-backed Chickadees** are abundant in our local forests, but over 70 streaming across a trail in Pogonip on December 5 was an unusually large number for one flock (SG et al.). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were reported widely in the county away from usual areas, though numbers overall were not large (v.ob.).

At least five **Western Bluebirds** remained near the UCSC Arboretum until at least November 6 (JA). Seven along Swanton Road on November 21 provided the only fall report from the north coast area of the county (HS, RS), and two were in Moore Creek Preserve on December 12 (SG). Two **Townsend's Solitaires** visited both sides of the Santa Cruz/Santa Clara county line along Skyline Blvd. on December 30 (DSu). The fall's only **Lapland Longspur** flew down the coast over Seacliff State Beach on October 28 (DSu). A **Tennessee Warbler** near Majors Creek

mouth on December 18 was a good find, especially for the county's north coast in December (DE et al.). The fourth fall report of a **Nashville Warbler** was at Struve Slough November 7 (JK), bringing the season total to less than half the recent average. A **Yellow Warbler** was photographed near Struve Slough in Watsonville on December 24 (DSi), a good find for winter in Santa Cruz County.



Chestnut-sided Warbler, near Branciforte Creek, photographed by David Sidle on November 22, 2010.

The second **Chestnut-sided Warbler** of the fall was a very late migrant along Branciforte Creek in Santa Cruz from November 28 to December 1 (SE, WPr, SG, WN, SP, v.ob.). A couple more **Black-throated Gray Warblers** turned up in November, bringing the fall total to 22, almost exactly matching the average of the last ten years. A **Hermit Warbler** in Big Basin on October 28 (KK) was the only one reported this fall, compared to the average over the last decade of about ten. It was a slightly above-average fall for **Palm Warblers**, with about 18-20 individuals noted in October and November (v.ob.) One of these was snatched in flight and carried off by a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** in front of a group of birders at UCSC on October 16 (SG et al.)! The second **Black-and-white Warbler** of the fall was in Capitola on October 30 (LL), and one crept through the trees of the Soquel



A Brewer's Sparrow at Antonelli Pond, photographed by David Sidle on November 22, 2010.

Creek riparian in Capitola from December 13-18 (DSu). Another very late migrant was the third **Northern Waterthrush** of the fall, bobbing along the Shorebirds Pond at Pajaro Dunes on November 21 (KVV).

A **Green-tailed Towhee** fluttered in front of a birder's window in Boulder Creek on December 27 (KJ), then stayed around well into January, providing just the second wintering record for Santa Cruz County. The eighth **Chipping Sparrow** of the fall was near Lighthouse Field on November 4 (AG), and the season's fifth **Clay-colored Sparrow** was in Santa Cruz on October 30 (SG). The only **Brewer's Sparrow** for the year was a late migrant studied and photographed by many near Antonelli Pond from November 18-22 (SG, v.ob.), for the first November record for the county. A **Vesper Sparrow**, the season's second, stopped at the famous Seacliff State Beach parking lot on October 16 (DSu), and the fall's fifth **Lark Sparrow** was in Ben Lomond on November 6 (JWi). Single **Swamp Sparrows** stayed at Antonelli Pond starting November 25 and Neary Lagoon from November 26 (SG, v.ob.). The local Swamp Sparrow haven, College Lake, held 10 on December 31 (DSu) – impressive, but not that unusual a number for that site.

A **Fox Sparrow** showing characteristics of the *Red* form was on the upper UCSC campus on December 27 (SG). **White-throated Sparrow** reports from October 10 through the end of December involved about 15 individuals (v.ob.). A **Dark-eyed Junco** of the *Slate-colored* form was northeast of Scotts Valley on

December 6 (BMo). **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** visited feeders north of Boulder Creek on November 5 (JB) and in Santa Cruz near Natural Bridges on November 21 (WPa). **Black-headed Grosbeaks** in Corralitos from October 17-22 (NA) and in Santa Cruz on November 12 (BMc) were late. A tally of 136 **Great-tailed Grackles**, apparently flying to a roost site at Struve Slough on December 22 was a new high total for the county (DSu). A wintering **Orchard Oriole** was first found at Natural Bridges on December 16 (DM, ReC) and stayed into January. Another female oriole of the Orchard/Hooded type visited a Capitola yard from December 15-January 5 (JG).

A few **Red Crossbills** were noted from Santa Cruz and the Felton area November 1-10 (SG, KK, AR), suggesting a small scale movement, though there were no other reports through the end of December. **Pine Siskins** were in good numbers in some mountain areas of the county, with some counts in the hundreds (SG, AR, v.ob.), but they were quite sparse in the coastal lowlands. The first notable irruption of **Evening Grosbeaks** in California in some time brought some to Santa Cruz County from November 12 onward, with reports from various sites including Capitola, UCSC, Empire Grade, and Santa Cruz (DSu, BL, SG, v.ob.). By mid-December, fairly good numbers had concentrated in the riparian area along the San Lorenzo River in Henry Cowell State Park, where they feasted on the good crop of box elder seeds. There were numerous reports starting December 14 (IM, DE, CV, v.ob.), with the highest count noted being 51 on December 31 (AR).

Cited Observers: Nanci Adams, Jenny Anderson, Jeff Bleam, Phil Brown, Rachel Brown, Rebecca Clark (ReC), Robert Clark (RoC), Nancy Collins, Matthew Dodder, Judy Donaldson, David Ekdahl, Sandi Elsik, Alexander Gaguine, Steve Gerow, Lois Goldfrank, Janette Gross, Kent Johnson, Oscar Johnson, Clay Kempf, Jacob Kirkland, Kathy Kuyper, Lisa Larson, Earl Lebow, Janet Linthicum, Bruce Lyon, Ingrid Mednis, Barry McLaughlin (BMc), Barbara Monahan (BMo), David Moldoff, Wendy Naruo, William Park (WPa), Shantanu Phukan, Jeff Poklen, Warren Pruess (WPr), Bernadette Ramer, Robert Ramer, Leighton Reid, Alex Rinkert, Jennifer Rycenga, Heidi Sandkuhle, Richard Sandkuhle, David Sidle (DSi), Pete Solé, David Styer (DSt), Jane Styer, David Sudjian (DSu), Jeff Wall (JWa), Anne Williams, Jim Williams (JWi), Kent Van Vuren, Connie Vigno

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SCBC Supports Efforts to Save Panoche Valley



Last November, the San Benito County Board of Supervisors gave their final approval to a proposed large-scale solar energy development that would affect about 5000 acres of the floor of Panoche Valley. Many Santa Cruz County birders are familiar with this remote rural valley at the eastern edge of the inner Coast Ranges, and Santa Cruz Bird Club members were among the first to discover and explore the value of this site as a wildlife resource.

In December, Save Panoche Valley (a group organized to stop this proposed development) and the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society filed a lawsuit in Superior Court, challenging the approval of this project. The legal petition states that the environmental analysis submitted for the project is inadequate, and fails to address many potential environmental impacts and other significant issues. (More detailed information can be found here: <http://audcalchapternet.blogspot.com/2010/12/santa-clara-valley-audubon-files-lawsut.html>)

Taking this issue to court is a costly process, so many local and statewide birding, wildlife, and environmental organizations are doing what they can to help out financially. The Santa Cruz Bird Club officers recently voted to contribute to this effort and were able to find \$500.00 in the club's reserve budget to help the cause. The board members agreed that while developing more solar energy facilities is very important, locating them where they damage significant habitat and threaten the survival of various rare and diminishing species is by far the wrong approach.

Individual SCBC members have also made contributions, including those who attended two recent combined field trip/luncheons in Panoche Valley—the field trips led by Clay Kempf and the luncheons hosted by small farmers from the valley who are active with Save Panoche Valley. If you would like to help out, or seek further information, visit this page on the SCVAS website:

http://www.scvas.org/index.php?page=text&id=cons_solar



54th Annual Santa Cruz County Christmas Bird Count December 18, 2010

Thank you to everyone who helped with our 54th annual count! Thanks to all our bird counters, the section leaders, and those who helped with our end-of-the-day count down dinner. It was a day with some challenges, but rain or shine, we come together each year and pull it off.

And rain was the order of the day for this count. Rain most of the night before count day took away most owling opportunity. Rain let up in some areas for part or most of the morning but then returned throughout the count circle by late morning or midday. Our offshore boat was cancelled due to the weather, and access issues prevented a visit to Loch Lomond Reservoir. Rain dampened participation, with 58 observers in the field being 15 less than the 10-year average. Consequently, our total of 182.5 party hours (the best measure of field effort) was 23% below average.

Most disappointing was a very low tally of 161 species found on count day—19 less than the recent average and our poorest result since 1978! Some of the species shortfall was a result of the weather, but a number of the missing species are those that have declined in our area and have become increasingly hard for us to bank on. Five species were added in during count week. In contrast to the low species tally, we counted 39,634 individuals, which was 18% above the recent average when standardized for field effort, much of it due to a strong showing by gulls.

The five most abundant species this year were California Gull (6,109), Western Gull (4,198), European Starling (2,321), Rock Pigeon (1,765), and Surf Scoter (1,602). Species found in numbers notably above average were few but included: Surf Scoter (2nd highest ever), Red-breasted Merganser (2nd highest ever and best since 1981), Snowy Egret (2nd highest ever), Mew Gull, California Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull (new record), and Eurasian Collared-Dove (new record).

There were no new species on count day, but a count week Orchard Oriole was the species' first appearance on our CBC list. Rare birds were rare on count day. The best were Dusky-capped Flycatcher and Tennessee Warbler, both making their sixth appearance on our count. Other notables were Cackling Goose, Pink-footed Shearwater, Rock Sandpiper, Glaucous Gull, and Black-and-white Warbler. Among

other count week finds, a Eurasian Wigeon was the first near miss since the species was last recorded on the count in 1988.

Misses—species we have found on count day in at least 10 of the last 15 years—were prominent: Northern Shoveler (found in 12 of the last 15 years), Northern Pintail (12 of 15), Green-winged Teal (13 of 15), Canvasback (10 of 15), Red-necked Grebe (10 of 15), Black-vented Shearwater (10 of 15), Sora (15 of 15, 1st miss since 1981), Willet (14 of 15), Marbled Godwit (15 of 15, 1st miss ever), Ruddy Turnstone (12 of 15), Wilson's Snipe (14 of 15), White-throated Swift (12 of 15), Loggerhead Shrike (13 of 15), White-breasted Nuthatch (13 of 15), American Dipper (12 of 15), Nashville Warbler (11 of 15) and Hermit Warbler (13 of 15).

The weather clearly impacts counts of many land birds in particular, leading to many tallies that were less than 50% of a given species average. However, weather aside, some low tallies on this year's effort seem significant. Some standouts in this department were: Horned Grebe (14% of average), Clark's Grebe (13%), Bonaparte's Gull (13%), Band-tailed Pigeon (12%, lowest since 1968), Varied Thrush (3%, lowest since 1982), Cedar Waxwing (10%), Savannah Sparrow (8%), Tricolored Blackbird (1%!), and Western Meadowlark (14%, lowest since 1958). Virtually all grassland associates were in low numbers, continuing a long term trend in our count circle.

David Suddjian, compiler

2010 Count Participants

R.J. Adams, Barbara Banfield, Bonnie Bedzin, Linda Brodman, Phil Brown, Louise Chiatovich, Autumn Chute, Kevin Clark, Judy Donaldson, Ray Dyer, Sandra Elsik, David Ekdahl, Eric Feuss, Bob Friedrichs, Alexander Gaguine, Steve Gerow, Lois Goldfrank, Wally Goldfrank, Mark Greene, Rich Griffith, George Hardie, Joan Hardie, Sharon Hull, Kevin Kaos, Kathy Kuyper, Daniel Labeaune, Inga Labeaune, Earl Lebow, Janet Linthicum, Marybelle Lukins, Barry McLaughlin, Barbara Monahan, Kevin Monahan, Daniel Mountjoy, Pam Myers, Wendy Naruo, Todd Newberry, Margaret Perham, Shantanu Phukan, Jeff Poklen, Dennis Porter, Mel Preston, Bernadette Ramer, Bob Ramer, Alex Rinkert, Barbara Scharfenstein, David Sidle, Scott Smithson, Pete Solé, Madeline Spencer, Linda St. John, David Suddjian, Tom Takano, Bronwyn Wagman, Ken Wagman, Jeff Wall, Joe Yuhas

2010 Santa Cruz County CBC

SPECIES	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Average	SPECIES	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Average
Greater White-fronted Goose	0	0	1	134	4	14.1	Northern Harrier	19	19	11	15	5	16.7
Snow Goose	26	0	0	4	0	31.3	Sharp-shinned Hawk	13	10	11	10	10	12.3
Ross's Goose	0	0	0	1	0	1.3	Cooper's Hawk	19	14	9	17	10	12.8
Cackling Goose	0	1	1	165	1	17.2	Cooper's/Sharp-sh. Hawk sp.	5	4	4	4	5	4.4
Canada Goose	1	8	1	582	5	62.7	Red-shouldered Hawk	57	69	82	50	29	52.9
Brant	0	0	0	21	6	3.7	Red-tailed Hawk	113	128	101	83	46	107.2
Tundra Swan	0	0	0	6	0	0.7	Ferruginous Hawk	0	0	0	0	0	0.3
Wood Duck	29	20	63	10	22	24.4	Rough-legged Hawk	0	0	0	0	0	0.2
Gadwall	5	CW	3	9	3	2.9	Golden Eagle	1	4	2	2	1	1.9
Eurasian Wigeon	0	0	0	0	CW	0	American Kestrel	50	43	32	40	26	48.6
American Wigeon	36	43	40	48	40	28.1	Merlin	12	6	7	11	7	9.1
Mallard	641	852	680	724	746	781.6	Peregrine Falcon	4	6	5	7	8	5.1
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	1	2	CW	0.8	Prairie Falcon	1	0	0	0	0	0.3
Northern Shoveler	2	6	9	30	0	6.5	Virginia Rail	5	9	4	10	8	10.1
Northern Pintail	0	0	226	412	10	69.4	Sora	9	3	5	4	0	5.7
Green-winged Teal	12	2	3	7	CW	4.8	Common Moorhen	2	0	0	0	0	0.7
Canvasback	0	0	0	1	0	0.7	American Coot	1032	1213	749	647	833	685.4
Redhead	0	0	0	0	0	0.2	Black-bellied Plover	107	68	67	69	17	103.7
Ring-necked Duck	88	114	124	93	87	77	Snowy Plover	17	82	28	56	37	62.1
Tufted Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0.2	Killdeer	180	266	234	160	31	126.5
Greater Scaup	0	61	1	24	1	10.3	Black Oystercatcher	36	35	25	12	30	23.3
Lesser Scaup	1	4	1	1	2	2.2	Spotted Sandpiper	7	5	8	7	6	8
Greater/Lesser Scaup sp.	0	0	0	500	0	50	Wandering Tattler	1	0	0	0	0	0.3
Harlequin Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	Greater Yellowlegs	1	1	0	CW	3	1.2
Surf Scoter	763	563	500	2928	1602	690.3	Willet	275	65	20	19	0	74.2
White-winged Scoter	2	1	0	1	2	1.7	Whimbrel	21	17	21	37	19	26.3
Black Scoter	1	0	0	1	0	0.6	Long-billed Curlew	0	2	2	3	1	1.7
Bufflehead	126	141	88	142	76	90.9	Marbled Godwit	45	27	14	13	0	34
Common Goldeneye	8	51	22	36	20	16.6	Ruddy Turnstone	1	0	0	0	0	0.9
Hooded Merganser	1	1	7	11	7	6.9	Black Turnstone	117	154	58	193	73	147.2
Common Merganser	26	11	16	15	15	22.8	Surfbird	66	34	11	56	60	51.8
Red-breasted Merganser	14	19	12	12	30	10.7	Red Knot	0	0	0	0	0	0.1
Ruddy Duck	37	67	27	53	58	45.6	Sanderling	861	214	86	480	974	679.5
Wild Turkey	69	113	39	42	22	44.7	Least Sandpiper	5	0	7	5	0	3.3
California Quail	280	301	329	304	205	328.9	Rock Sandpiper	1	1	1	1	1	0.6
Red-throated Loon	59	90	311	161	17	85.1	Dunlin	0	0	0	0	0	0.8
Pacific Loon	458	97	946	75	263	407.7	Wilson's Snipe	0	4	4	1	0	7.5
Common Loon	66	42	21	27	13	30.3	Red Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0	1.7
Loon species	456	114	47	92	170	206.8	Black-legged Kittiwake	0	0	0	0	0	0.2
Pied-billed Grebe	79	63	42	62	41	56.1	Bonaparte's Gull	CW	8	0	0	5	39
Horned Grebe	26	44	8	13	2	14.7	Heermann's Gull	405	86	128	22	90	263.6
Red-necked Grebe	1	0	3	1	0	0.9	Mew Gull	413	161	184	236	1040	433.2
Eared Grebe	59	46	25	40	11	23.8	Ring-billed Gull	243	36	108	111	148	129
Western Grebe	366	306	969	521	111	441.6	Western Gull	4445	3162	2901	2381	4198	3119.2
Clark's Grebe	9	15	62	22	2	15.4	California Gull	4991	1584	2055	1181	6109	2800.9
Western/Clark's Grebe sp.	85	244	469	717	79	287.7	Herring Gull	62	27	29	8	71	48
Northern Fulmar	0	3	0	1	5	37.6	Thayer's Gull	28	5	4	5	11	9.1
Pink-footed Shearwater	0	0	0	0	1	1.1	Glaucous-winged Gull	1052	440	570	138	1379	590.1
Sooty Shearwater	1	1	0	0	0	1.2	Herring X Gl.-winged Gull	3	0	2	4	0	1.3
Short-tailed Shearwater	0	0	0	0	0	1.8	Western X Gl.-winged Gull	537	97	253	50	431	167.7
Black-vented Shearwater	6	0	0	1	0	4.5	Glaucous Gull	1	0	0	0	1	0.5
Dark shearwater species	1	0	0	0	0	1.5	Gull species	1136	459	427	925	2757	1254.6
Brown Pelican	459	101	579	188	179	346.3	Common Tern	0	0	0	0	0	0.1
Brandt's Cormorant	418	492	888	794	301	452.7	Forster's Tern	134	7	3	10	48	47.1
Double-crested Cormorant	294	242	212	110	111	266.3	Elegant Tern	0	0	0	0	0	0.3
Pelagic Cormorant	52	37	44	74	45	42	Pomarine Jaeger	1	0	0	1	1	0.6
American Bittern	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	Pomarine/Parasitic Jaeger sp.	1	0	0	0	0	0.3
Great Blue Heron	24	18	19	20	25	20.1	Common Murre	357	346	1668	1234	181	515.5
Great Egret	14	6	5	4	15	10.5	Pigeon Guillemot	0	0	2	0	0	0.2
Snowy Egret	36	24	19	26	54	24.5	Marbled Murrelet	30	8	9	13	5	22.3
Cattle Egret	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	Ancient Murrelet	3	0	10	18	0	4.4
Green Heron	3	6	5	6	8	5.1	Rhinoceros Auklet	279	48	123	195	1	175.1
Black-crowned Night-Heron	14	17	13	12	17	10.3	Rock Pigeon	1515	1476	1095	1933	1765	1445.8
Turkey Vulture	5	10	9	13	1	4.6	Band-tailed Pigeon	981	299	574	410	50	521.5
Osprey	1	3	1	1	1	1.4	Eurasian Collared-Dove	8	9	63	50	137	14.2
White-tailed Kite	26	29	11	26	9	22.7	Mourning Dove	357	484	476	370	339	523.6
Bald Eagle	0	0	0	1	0	0.1	Barn Owl	11	14	1	5	1	8.3

2010 CBC (contd.)

SPECIES	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Average	SPECIES	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Average
Western Screech-Owl	40	64	21	61	4	39.3	Tennessee Warbler	1	0	0	0	1	0.2
Great Horned Owl	33	36	27	40	9	34.4	Orange-crowned Warbler	10	6	10	9	12	9.2
Northern Pygmy-Owl	3	5	2	5	1	3.5	Nashville Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	1
Burrowing Owl	3	2	3	5	2	3.4	Black-throated Blue Warbler	0	1	0	0	0	0.3
Long-eared Owl	CW	3	1	0	0	1	Yellow-rumped Warbler (form?)	221	306	312	385	336	337.9
Northern Saw-whet Owl	23	41	19	44	1	26.6	"Myrtle" Warbler	107	209	136	118	74	132.4
Common Poorwill	0	1	1	0	0	0.5	"Audubon's" Warbler	356	323	338	452	465	450.2
White-throated Swift	26	0	4	12	0	9.6	Black-throated Gray Warbler	0	0	1	1	1	1.2
Anna's Hummingbird	576	611	474	617	234	568.8	Townsend's Warbler	593	298	269	200	176	361.3
Belted Kingfisher	17	12	10	14	6	17.5	Hermit Warbler	1	0	1	0	0	2
Acorn Woodpecker	228	244	213	258	104	211.4	Townsend's x Hermit Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	0.1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	0	0	0	0	0	0.2	Palm Warbler	2	0	1	0	0	0.7
Red-naped Sapsucker	1	1	0	0	0	0.7	Black-and-White Warbler	0	0	0	0	1	0.7
Red-breasted Sapsucker	7	7	14	9	4	8.9	American Redstart	0	1	0	0	0	0.2
Nuttall's Woodpecker	10	25	41	23	14	19	Northern Waterthrush	1	0	0	0	0	0.1
Downy Woodpecker	44	28	36	36	11	36	Common Yellowthroat	58	38	23	31	38	29.2
Hairy Woodpecker	51	54	60	54	26	47.4	Wilson's Warbler	0	0	1	0	0	0.3
Northern Flicker (form?)	102	97	88	97	47	99.6	Spotted Towhee	219	182	182	192	95	171.7
""Yellow-shafted" Flicker	0	0	1	0	0	0.4	California Towhee	555	338	378	494	336	438.5
"Red-shafted" Flicker	52	47	49	62	28	60.9	Chipping Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	0.2
Nor. Flicker (R.-sh x Y-sh.)	3	1	5	2	1	3	Lark Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0.2
Pileated Woodpecker	13	13	18	16	3	11.1	Savannah Sparrow	34	142	48	55	4	62.7
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	0	0	0	0	0.1	Grasshopper Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0.7
Dusky Flycatcher	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	Fox Sparrow (Sooty)	243	149	88	70	44	123.7
Pac.-sl./Cordilleran Flycat.sp.	0	0	0	1	0	0.2	Fox Sparrow (Red)	0	0	0	1	0	0.1
Black Phoebe	309	287	243	342	213	273.8	Song Sparrow	334	158	173	308	229	254.8
Say's Phoebe	29	36	19	24	13	31.4	Lincoln's Sparrow	54	98	34	68	29	45.6
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	0	0	0	0	1	0.1	Swamp Sparrow	3	0	1	1	2	1
Tropical Kingbird	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	White-throated Sparrow	17	5	11	2	6	8.6
Loggerhead Shrike	5	2	0	1	0	3.2	Harris's Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0.1
Hutton's Vireo	75	47	65	43	25	62.6	White-crowned Sparrow	1369	681	763	750	879	888.5
Steller's Jay	592	370	301	294	143	430.9	Golden-crowned Sparrow	1550	1357	1052	1023	741	1253.6
Western Scrub-Jay	518	499	465	459	296	516.8	Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco	1021	869	610	756	600	1031.8
American Crow	469	486	518	568	575	437.4	Dark-eyed "Slate-clrd" Junco	5	1	1	1	CW	1.4
Common Raven	445	439	738	484	495	398.3	Summer Tanager	0	1	1	0	0	0.4
Tree Swallow	6	0	0	0	0	0.8	Western Tanager	1	0	1	1	0	0.7
Violet-green Swallow	40	32	9	0	0	8.8	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	0	0	1	1	0	0.5
Tree/Violet-grm. Swallow sp.	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	Black-headed Grosbeak	1	0	0	0	0	0.2
Barn Swallow	13	0	0	0	0	1.3	Indigo Bunting	0	0	0	0	0	0.1
Swallow sp.	0	0	0	0	1	0	Red-winged Blackbird	1284	708	255	461	186	609
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	703	788	927	888	595	1037.3	Tricolored Blackbird	1680	680	867	58	5	784
Oak Titmouse	67	79	89	95	83	84.2	Western Meadowlark	302	197	289	287	29	269.9
Bushtit	757	1097	912	1031	678	1162.7	Brewer's Blackbird	1929	1216	1471	916	592	1511
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	2	17	2	9	9	Blackbird species	0	0	0	30	0	3
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	0	1	0	0	0.9	Brown-headed Cowbird	17	17	15	28	15	23.8
Pygmy Nuthatch	244	186	316	350	164	268.2	Orchard Oriole	0	0	0	0	CW	0
Brown Creeper	118	78	116	139	50	126.6	Hooded Oriole	0	0	0	CW	0	0.1
Rock Wren	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	Bullock's Oriole	0	0	0	1	0	0.3
Bewick's Wren	147	147	155	184	115	143.3	Purple Finch	168	201	184	113	45	122.6
House Wren	3	9	5	6	6	4.7	House Finch	762	761	655	775	584	878.8
Pacific Wren	28	12	11	23	6	21.6	Red Crossbill	0	0	0	0	0	1.5
Marsh Wren	22	10	29	29	10	16.3	Pine Siskin	28	134	595	148	71	357.2
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	2	1	0	3	1	2.2	Lesser Goldfinch	100	353	315	238	184	214.2
American Dipper	1	2	0	1	0	1.3	Lawrence's Goldfinch	0	0	0	0	0	0.1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	114	5	46	42	14	84.6	American Goldfinch	409	819	815	584	270	517.5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1119	673	434	389	262	673.7	Evening Grosbeak	0	0	0	0	CW	0.4
Wrentit	104	142	118	111	71	114.9	House Sparrow	66	66	64	111	89	93.8
Western Bluebird	0	9	2	21	0	3.6	No. of Individuals	59126	37042	38900	41613	39634	43958
Townsend's Solitaire	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	No. of Species	179	165	171	178	161	180
Hermit Thrush	279	175	150	190	125	187.5	No. of Observers	66	73	70	69	58	73.1
American Robin	8143	1622	889	2768	888	3273.6	Total Daytime Field Hours	235.50	253.50	227.00	222.75	182.50	237.85
Varied Thrush	1548	8	108	40	6	253	*CW = observations during count week						
Northern Mockingbird	45	39	40	62	43	49.5							
California Thrasher	23	20	17	24	10	19.7							
European Starling	1736	1690	1514	1268	2321	1548.2							
American Pipit	258	204	131	88	10	125.5							
Cedar Waxwing	1163	551	272	980	318	636.2							

**New SCBC
Members
Welcome!**

John & Diane Hickok	Dec 2010
Tarini Rae	Jan 2011
Gloria Linder & Gray Gallogly	Jan 2011
Barbara Cushing	Jan 2011

**Input deadline for
May-August issue
of the Albatross—
April 3, 2011**

Submission for the

Assembling



Albatross

Albatross—Guidelines

In addition to regular features—calendar, Santa Cruz Birds, trip reports—the newsletter can include almost anything related to birding in general and to local birding in particular. Depending on space, submissions of any of the following are welcome:

- Feature articles
- Birding event announcements
- Stories about birders, serious or comic
- Reviews of birding literature or guides
- Conservation & outreach reports/stories
- Birding tips, descriptions of local sites
- Filler tidbits: Quotes or images
- Photos of people at our events (jpg, tif)

If you wish to submit an article, please contact me about it before the submission deadline.

I accept plain text, Word, or PDF files. Send items by email to: calqua@sbcglobal.net

~Judy Donaldson, Editor



Acorn Woodpeckers

Santa Cruz Bird Club
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Printed on recycled paper



Swamp Sparrow at Neary Lagoon. Photo by David Sidle on 11/26/11.

The ALBATROSS

is published five times a year by the Santa Cruz Bird Club. See the online version and past issues on the SCBC website,



<http://santacruzbirdclub.org/>

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Enjoy walks in and around the County of Santa Cruz, discounted boat trips on Monterey Bay, summer picnics and annual dinners, meetings September through May featuring informative, illustrated talks on wild birds and related topics, and receive the bimonthly newsletter, The Albatross. Memberships run June-May. Dues are \$20 Individual, \$25 Family, \$5 Youth, \$400 Life. Make checks payable to Santa Cruz Bird Club and mail to Box 1304, Santa Cruz, CA 95061, Attention: Membership Chairman.