

Birding and Wildlife Sites in Santa Cruz County

SOUTHERN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

- 1 Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
- 2 Pajaro Dunes and Pajaro River Mouth
- 3 Pinto Lake
- 4 Scott Park/Freedom Lake
- 5 Struve Slough at West Marine
- 6 Sunset State Beach
- 7 Wetlands of Watsonville

MID SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

- 8 Antonelli Pond
- 9 Capitola Beach, Wharf and Bluffs
- 10 Forest of Nisene Marks State Park
- 11 Natural Bridges State Beach
- 12 New Brighton State Beach
- 13 Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf
- 14 Seacliff State Beach
- 15 Seymour Marine Discovery and Younger Lagoon Natural Reserve
- 16 UCSC Arboretum
- 17 West Cliff Drive

NORTHERN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

- 18 Año Nuevo State Reserve
- 19 Big Basin Redwoods State Park
- 20 Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park
- 21 Quail Hollow Ranch County Park
- 22 Rancho del Oso State Park
- 23 Wilder Ranch State Park

MONTEREY BAY

- 24 Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary



Bird Checklist

The seasonal bird checklist which appears on the next page was adapted for the Santa Cruz County Birding and Wildlife Guide from records meticulously compiled and edited by **David Suddjian** and the **Santa Cruz Bird Club**. These include species reports from many thousands of observations, Christmas Bird Count data, Breeding Bird Atlas data, data from dozens of field studies, and hundreds of published and unpublished references. Due to limited space, some of the notations included in the original checklist were omitted here. Readers may download the complete checklist from the Santa Cruz Bird Club's web site at www.santacruzbirdclub.org.

The following checklist follows the common "four-season" format. However, for many species, the patterns of seasonal occurrence do not fit neatly into the four-season format. For example, southbound "fall" migrants occur principally during the summer months for some species, or "spring" breeding populations may return by late January. Where species bend typical seasonal boundaries, codes were placed in the seasonal columns that best expressed the overall pattern of occurrence. For detailed information on seasonal abundance for specific species, please contact the Santa Cruz Bird Club.

Key to Bird Checklist Status Codes

- **Common to abundant.** Moderate to large numbers in proper habitats in the indicated season(s). Nearly always present and easily located.
- **Fairly common.** Moderate to small numbers in proper habitats in the indicated season(s). Usually present and easily located. May occur locally in large numbers under optimal conditions.
- **Uncommon.** Small numbers in proper habitats in the indicated season(s). Usually present but may require searching to locate.
- **Rare.** Very small numbers annually (or virtually annually) in proper habitats in the indicated season(s). Often requires a specific search to locate. Occurrence predictable and regular.
- **Casual.** Few records in the indicated season(s).
- **Irregular.** Abundance varies substantially year to year from principal code; less numerous or absent in some years.
- **Local.** Typically occurs at few localities or only in a small portion of the county during the indicated season(s).
- **Extirpated.** Formerly regularly present in indicated season(s), but unrecorded for 20+ years. Parentheses () around codes indicate known or approximate former status where there are no recent records.
- **Breeding Species.** Breeding confirmed in the county. Parentheses (*) indicates former nesting, now discontinued for at least 10 years.

	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
DUCKS, GEESE, & SWANS				
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	□	□	□	□
Greater White-fronted Goose	□	□	□	□
Emperor Goose	□	□	□	□
Snow Goose	□	□	□	□
Ross's Goose	□	□	□	□
Cackling Goose	□	□	□	□
Canada Goose	□	□	□	□
Brant	□	□	□	□
Tundra Swan	□	□	□	□
Wood Duck	□	□	□	□
Gadwall	□	□	□	□
Eurasian Wigeon	□	□	□	□
American Wigeon	□	□	□	□
Mallard	□	□	□	□
Blue-winged Teal	□	□	□	□
Cinnamon Teal	□	□	□	□
Northern Shoveler	□	□	□	□
Northern Pintail	□	□	□	□
Garganey	□	□	□	□
Green-winged Teal	□	□	□	□
Canvasback	□	□	□	□
Redhead	□	□	□	□
Ring-necked Duck	□	□	□	□
Tufted Duck	□	□	□	□
Greater Scaup	□	□	□	□
Lesser Scaup	□	□	□	□
Harlequin Duck	□	□	□	□
Surf Scoter	□	□	□	□
White-winged Scoter	□	□	□	□
Black Scoter	□	□	□	□
Long-tailed Duck	□	□	□	□
Bufflehead	□	□	□	□
Common Goldeneye	□	□	□	□
Barrow's Goldeneye	□	□	□	□
Hooded Merganser	□	□	□	□
Common Merganser	□	□	□	□
Red-breasted Merganser	□	□	□	□
Ruddy Duck	□	□	□	□
GROUSE & TURKEYS				
Wild Turkey	□	□	□	□
NEW WORLD QUAIL				
Mountain Quail	□	□	□	□
California Quail	□	□	□	□
LOONS				
Red-throated Loon	□	□	□	□
Pacific Loon	□	□	□	□
Common Loon	□	□	□	□
GREBES				
Pied-billed Grebe	□	□	□	□
Horned Grebe	□	□	□	□
Red-necked Grebe	□	□	□	□
Eared Grebe	□	□	□	□
Western Grebe	□	□	□	□
Clark's Grebe	□	□	□	□
ALBATROSSSES				
Laysan Albatross	□	□	□	□
Black-footed Albatross	□	□	□	□
SHEARWATERS & PETRELS				
Northern Fulmar	□	□	□	□
Murphy's Petrel	□	□	□	□
Cook's Petrel	□	□	□	□
Streaked Shearwater	□	□	□	□
Pink-footed Shearwater	□	□	□	□

Flesh-footed Shearwater	□	□	□	□
Greater Shearwater	□	□	□	□
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	□	□	□	□
Buller's Shearwater	□	□	□	□
Sooty Shearwater	□	□	□	□
Short-tailed Shearwater	□	□	□	□
Manx Shearwater	□	□	□	□
Black-vented Shearwater	□	□	□	□
STORM-PETRELS				
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	□	□	□	□
Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel	□	□	□	□
Leach's Storm-Petrel	□	□	□	□
Ashy Storm-Petrel	□	□	□	□
Black Storm-Petrel	□	□	□	□
Least Storm-Petrel	□	□	□	□
TROPICBIRDS				
Red-billed Tropicbird	□	□	□	□
BOOBIES & GANNETS				
Masked/Nazca Booby	□	□	□	□
Brown Booby	□	□	□	□
Red-footed Booby	□	□	□	□
PELICANS				
American White Pelican	□	□	□	□
Brown Pelican	□	□	□	□
CORMORANTS				
Brandt's Cormorant	□	□	□	□
Double-crested Cormorant	□	□	□	□
Pelagic Cormorant	□	□	□	□
FRIGATEBIRDS				
Magnificent Frigatebird	□	□	□	□
BITTERNS, HERONS & EGRETS				
American Bittern	□	□	□	□
Least Bittern	□	□	□	□
Great Blue Heron	□	□	□	□
Great Egret	□	□	□	□
Snowy Egret	□	□	□	□
Little Blue Heron	□	□	□	□
Cattle Egret	□	□	□	□
Green Heron	□	□	□	□
Black-crowned Night-Heron	□	□	□	□
IBIS AND SPOONBILLS				
White-faced Ibis	□	□	□	□
NEW WORLD VULTURES				
Turkey Vulture	□	□	□	□
California Condor	□	□	□	□
HAWKS, KITES & EAGLES				
Osprey	□	□	□	□
White-tailed Kite	□	□	□	□
Bald Eagle	□	□	□	□
Northern Harrier	□	□	□	□
Sharp-shinned Hawk	□	□	□	□
Cooper's Hawk	□	□	□	□
Northern Goshawk	□	□	□	□
Red-shouldered Hawk	□	□	□	□
Broad-winged Hawk	□	□	□	□
Swainson's Hawk	□	□	□	□
Red-tailed Hawk	□	□	□	□
Ferruginous Hawk	□	□	□	□
Rough-legged Hawk	□	□	□	□
Golden Eagle	□	□	□	□

CARACARAS & FALCONS				
Crested Caracara	□	□	□	□
American Kestrel	□	□	□	□
Merlin	□	□	□	□
Peregrine Falcon	□	□	□	□
Prairie Falcon	□	□	□	□
RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS				
Yellow Rail	□	□	□	□
Black Rail	□	□	□	□
Clapper Rail	□	□	□	□
Virginia Rail	□	□	□	□
Sora	□	□	□	□
Common Moorhen	□	□	□	□
American Coot	□	□	□	□
CRANES				
Sandhill Crane	□	□	□	□
LAPWINGS & PLOVERS				
Black-bellied Plover	□	□	□	□
American Golden-Plover	□	□	□	□
Pacific Golden-Plover	□	□	□	□
Snowy Plover	□	□	□	□
Semipalmated Plover	□	□	□	□
Killdeer	□	□	□	□
Mountain Plover	□	□	□	□
OYSTERCATCHERS				
Black Oystercatcher	□	□	□	□
STILTS & AVOCETS				
Black-necked Stilt	□	□	□	□
American Avocet	□	□	□	□
SANDPIPERS, PHALAROPES & ALLIES				
Spotted Sandpiper	□	□	□	□
Solitary Sandpiper	□	□	□	□
Wandering Tattler	□	□	□	□
Greater Yellowlegs	□	□	□	□
Willet	□	□	□	□
Lesser Yellowlegs	□	□	□	□
Whimbrel	□	□	□	□
Long-billed Curlew	□	□	□	□
Marbled Godwit	□	□	□	□
Ruddy Turnstone	□	□	□	□
Black Turnstone	□	□	□	□
Surf-bird	□	□	□	□
Red Knot	□	□	□	□
Sanderling	□	□	□	□
Semipalmated Sandpiper	□	□	□	□
Western Sandpiper	□	□	□	□
Least Sandpiper	□	□	□	□
Baird's Sandpiper	□	□	□	□
Pectoral Sandpiper	□	□	□	□
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	□	□	□	□
Rock Sandpiper	□	□	□	□
Dunlin	□	□	□	□
Stilt Sandpiper	□	□	□	□
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	□	□	□	□
Ruff	□	□	□	□
Short-billed Dowitcher	□	□	□	□
Long-billed Dowitcher	□	□	□	□
Wilson's Snipe	□	□	□	□
Wilson's Phalarope	□	□	□	□
Red-necked Phalarope	□	□	□	□
Red Phalarope	□	□	□	□
GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMERS				
Laughing Gull	□	□	□	□

Franklin's Gull	□	□	□	□
Little Gull	□	□	□	□
American Gull	□	□	□	□
Heermann's Gull	□	□	□	□
Mew Gull	□	□	□	□
Ring-billed Gull	□	□	□	□
California Gull	□	□	□	□
Herring Gull	□	□	□	□
Thayer's Gull	□	□	□	□
Western Gull	□	□	□	□
Glaucous-winged Gull	□	□	□	□
Virginia Gull	□	□	□	□
Sabine's Gull	□	□	□	□
Black-legged Kittiwake	□	□	□	□
Least Tern	□	□	□	□
Caspian Tern	□	□	□	□
Black Tern	□	□	□	□
Common Tern	□	□	□	□
Arctic Tern	□	□	□	□
Forster's Tern	□	□	□	□
Royal Tern	□	□	□	□
Elegant Tern	□	□	□	□
Black Skimmer	□	□	□	□
SKUAS				
South Polar Skua	□	□	□	□
Pomarine Jaeger	□	□	□	□
Parasitic Jaeger	□	□	□	□
Long-tailed Jaeger	□	□	□	□
ALCIDS, MURREES, & PUFFINS				
Common Murre	□	□	□	□
Thick-billed Murre	□	□	□	□
Pigeon Guillemot	□	□	□	□
Marbled Murrelet	□	□	□	□
Long-billed Murrelet	□	□	□	□
Xantus's Murrelet	□	□	□	□
Craver's Murrelet	□	□	□	□
Ancient Murrelet	□	□	□	□
Cassin's Auklet	□	□	□	□
Parakeet Auklet	□	□	□	□
Rhinoceros Auklet	□	□	□	□
Horned Puffin	□	□	□	□
Tufted Puffin	□	□	□	□
PIGEONS & DOVES				
Rock Pigeon	□	□	□	□
Band-tailed Pigeon	□	□	□	□
Eurasian Collared-Dove	□	□	□	□
White-winged Dove	□	□	□	□
Mourning Dove	□	□	□	□
Common Ground-Dove	□	□	□	□
CUCKOOS, ROADRUNNERS & ANIS				
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	□	□	□	□
Greater Roadrunner	□	□	□	□
BARN OWLS				
Barn Owl	□	□	□	□
TYPICAL OWLS				
Flammulated Owl	□	□	□	□
Western Screech-Owl	□	□	□	□
Great Horned Owl	□	□	□	□
Snowy Owl	□	□	□	□
Northern Pygmy-Owl	□	□	□	□
Burrowing Owl	□	□	□	□
Spotted Owl	□	□	□	□
Long-eared Owl	□	□	□	□
Short-eared Owl	□	□	□	□

Northern Saw-whet Owl	□	□	□	□
GOATSUCKERS				
Lesser Nighthawk	□	□	□	□
Common Nighthawk	□	□	□	□
Common Poorwill	□	□	□	□
SWIFTS				
Black Swift	□	□	□	□
Chimney Swift	□	□	□	□
Vaux's Swift	□	□	□	□
White-throated Swift	□	□	□	□
HUMMINGBIRDS				
Black-chinned Hummingbird	□	□	□	□
Anna's Hummingbird	□	□	□	□
Costa's Hummingbird	□	□	□	□
Calliope Hummingbird	□	□	□	□
Rufous Hummingbird	□	□	□	□
Allen's Hummingbird	□	□	□	□
KINGFISHERS				
Belted Kingfisher	□	□	□	□
WOODPECKERS				
Lewis's Woodpecker	□	□	□	□
Acorn Woodpecker	□	□	□	□
Williamson's Sapsucker	□	□	□	□
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	□	□	□	□
Red-naped Sapsucker	□	□	□	□
Red-breasted Sapsucker	□	□	□	□
Nuttall's Woodpecker	□	□	□	□
Downy Woodpecker	□	□	□	□
Hairy Woodpecker	□	□	□	□
Northern Flicker	□	□	□	□
Pileated Woodpecker	□	□	□	□
TYRANT FLYCATCHERS				
Olive-sided Flycatcher	□	□	□	□
Greater Pewee	□	□	□	□
Western Wood-Pewee	□	□	□	□
Willow Flycatcher	□	□	□	□
Least Flycatcher	□	□	□	□
Hammond's Flycatcher	□	□	□	□
Gray Flycatcher	□	□	□	□
Dusky Flycatcher	□	□	□	□
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	□	□	□	□
Black Phoebe	□	□	□	□
Eastern Phoebe	□	□	□	□
Say's Phoebe	□	□	□	□
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	□	□	□	□
Ash-throated Flycatcher	□	□	□	□
Tropical Kingbird	□	□	□	□
Cassin's Kingbird	□	□	□	□
Western Kingbird	□	□	□	□
Eastern Kingbird	□	□	□	□
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	□	□	□	□
SHRIKES				
Loggerhead Shrike	□	□	□	□
VIREOS				
White-eyed Vireo	□	□	□	□
Bell's Vireo	□	□	□	□
Yellow-throated Vireo	□	□	□	□
Plumbeous Vireo	□	□	□	□
Cassin's Vireo	□	□	□	□
Blue-headed Vireo	□	□	□	□
Hutton's Vireo	□	□	□	□
Warbling Vireo	□	□	□	□

Philadelphia Vireo	□	□	□	□
Red-eyed Vireo	□	□	□	□
Yellow-green Vireo	□	□	□	□
JAYS & CROWS		</		