



Bird Notes

Please report rarities to
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Hawks through Skimmers

The first **Swainson's Hawk** noted this spring was one in the south county on 29 Mar, with three more nearby in San Benito county (SCR). The pair nesting in Coyote Valley near Bailey Ave were spotted on 30 Mar (SK). Single migrants were over Mitchell Park in Palo Alto on 3 Apr (FP) and over Charleston Slough/Coast Casey Forebay on 26 Apr (MMR, RJ). **Black Rail** encounters were infrequent, with single reports in Feb, Mar, and Apr. Rail calls were heard at Alviso Marina on 26 Feb (SCR), from Alviso Slough upstream of the marina on 9 Mar (SCR), and from the triangle-shaped marsh between Alviso ponds A15 and A17 on 28 Apr (WP). Three **Solitary Sandpipers** at the shallow ponds along the Penetencia Creek Trail on 23 and 24 Apr was a nice count (SvW, m. ob.) Two more stopped at Llagas Creek along Old Oak Glen Ave on 28 Apr (GL). A **Western Sandpiper** at Alviso pond A13 on 26 Mar (PDU) had been banded at Estero de La Paz last September 2019, as a first-year female. She was on her first journey north, having covered over 1100 miles from the southern tip of Baja California to the southern end of SF Bay. Her arrival was the first indication of migration of Western Sandpipers, whose incredible numbers create problems for anyone interested in following the course of spring migration. The 23 **Red Knots** at Palo Alto Baylands on 25 Apr (STu) were the most ever tallied during the month of April. Eight came in with the rising tide on the evening of the 26th (GL, ABu). The first **Red-necked Phalaropes** arrived on 11 Apr at Alviso ponds A15 (MA, SKr, GL) and A16 (STu), where three each were tallied. A first-cycle **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at Ogier Ponds on 5 Feb was a nice find (NoA, DPe), and only the second noted this winter. A group of 50–100 **Black Skimmers** stayed over the winter at the Foster City shell bar in San Mateo county. One to two visited Charleston Slough/Coast Casey Forebay and Shoreline Lake between 20 Jan and 22 Mar, numbers increased to five by the end of the month, and to 48 by Apr 27 (RPh). A group of 28 was on the small island in pond AB1 on 18 Apr (DBI) and six were on the island where Caspian Terns nest at pond A16 on 29 Apr (PDU).

Owls through Woodpeckers

The last date a **Short-eared Owl** was seen over the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin was 13 Apr (FP). Hummingbird activity picked up on 5 Apr, when the first **Black-chinned Hummingbird** of the year visited feeders in a Willow Glen



Calliope Hummingbird
Garret Lau



Vermilion Flycatcher
Pete Dunten



Western Sandpiper
Pete Dunten

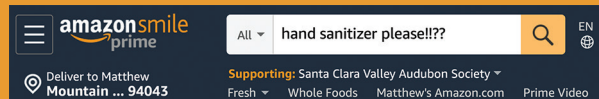
backyard (BM), and the first **Calliope Hummingbird** visited feeders in an Almaden Valley backyard (JPa). Single Calliope Hummingbirds on migration were also noted at the SCVWD, where one stopped between 8 and 11 Apr (STu, m. ob.) and at a San Jose backyard feeder on 15 Apr (MCo). Four visited a temporary feeder set up at Loma Prieta on 15 Apr (AR, NL). The last migrant was seen near J Grant CP on 23 Apr (WP, KON). In five hours of observation at Loma Prieta on 15 Apr, 202 **Rufous Hummingbirds** were tallied (AR, NL). The **Red-naped Sapsucker** spending its second winter along Guadalupe Creek in Los Gatos was last seen on 14 Mar (BLL, VLL). The **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** wintering near the SCVWD headquarters was last reported on 8 Mar (STu).

Flycatchers through Blackbirds

Two male **Vermilion Flycatchers**, the county's 3rd and 4th, delighted observers in April. One was seen at J Grant CP between 13–25 Apr (WP, KON, m. ob.) and the other was at Sunnyvale Baylands on 18 and 23 Apr (CWf, PDu). While these could be considered spring vagrants, a male Vermilion Flycatcher was present from late July through late Sept last year at J Grant CP, raising the possibility the Flycatcher there is a returning individual. After being missed in Feb and Mar, a **Tropical Kingbird** was resighted at the Palo Alto Airport on 15 Apr (ABr). A pair of **Cassin's Kingbirds** returned to San Felipe Rd in the south county on 26 Feb (MJM, BH). Another was found at Santa Teresa CP on 6 Apr (DN) and nearby on IBM property on 25 Apr (JPa). The **Plumbeous Vireo** that arrived in early November was last seen at Charleston Rd Marsh on 17 Feb (SW). Included among the stars on 19 Apr at Lick Observatory on Mt Hamilton were two **Townsend's Solitaires** (EGa). Another uncommon migrant, the **Yellow-breasted Chat**, was found in the Diablo Range at J Grant CP on 26 Apr (fide eBird). The Chat was also present on 27 Apr (JY, AL). The **Summer Tanager** wintering along Guadalupe Creek Trail in Los Gatos was last heard from on 6 Feb (DN), and the Summer Tanager wintering along Stevens Creek Trail above El Camino Real was last seen on 15 Feb (KBk, JoC). The two late-winter **Yellow-headed Blackbird** reports include the continuing second-year Blackbird at the Sunnyvale WPCP, seen again on 27 Feb (RW), and an adult male along Palm Ave in Coyote Valley on 2 Mar (GL).

Observers Mike Ambrose (MA), Noah Arthur (NoA), Kathleen Black (KBk), Dan Bloch (DBI), Andrew Bradshaw (ABr), Adam Burnett (ABu), Joan Chavtur (JoC), Michael Costello (MCo), Matthew Dodder (MDo), Pete Dunten (PDU), Elinor Gates (EGa), Bob Hirt (BH), Richard Jeffers (RJ), Stephanie Klein (SK), Sonja Kramer (SKr), Barry Langdon-Lassagne (BLL), Virginia Langdon-Lassagne (VLL), Garrett Lau (GL), Amy Lauterbach (AL), Nicholas Levandosky (NL), Mike Mammoser (MJM), David Nickerson (DN), Kitty O'Neil (KON), Federico Pacheco (FP), Janna Pauser (JPa), William Pelletier (WP), Don Pendleton (DPe), Ryan Phillips (RPh), Alex Rinkert (AR), Mike Rogers (MMR), Steve Rottenborn (SCR), Steve Tucker (STu), Rebecca Watters (RW), Savannah Weaver (SvW), Susan Weinstein (SW), Christine Wolfe (CWf), James Yurchenco (JY)

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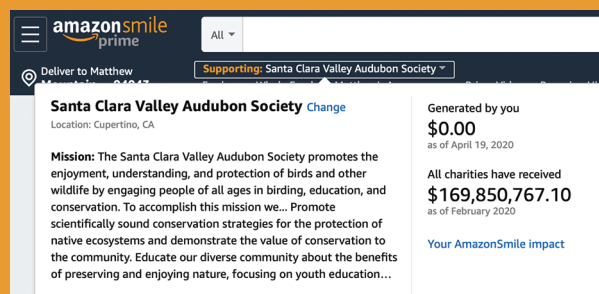


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Birder, Photographer & Writer