



Bird Notes

Please report rarities to
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Spring & Migration

White-faced Ibis occurred in each month during the period, with spring migration accounting for the majority of the records. One flew over Coast Casey Forebay on 5 May (DBI), the high count of 63 overflowed San Jose on 8 May (WP, KON), four were at Coast Casey Forebay on 21 May (LzF), and another large group of 22 passed over the Sunnyvale WPCP on 29 May (FP, BM). Single Ibis visited once in June (at New Chicago Marsh on the 19th (RWR)) and once in July (over A13 on the 26th (CG)). Migrant **Western Sandpipers** utilize San Francisco Bay as a stopover point in both spring and fall, and birds with numbered leg flags provide a glimpse into their life histories. One present at Alviso pond A13 on 29 Apr had been banded at Topolobampo in Sinaloa, Mexico on 13 Sept, 2019, then resighted at the Gulf of Santa Clara in Sonora on 29 Mar and 12 Apr, 2020 before its northward journey to San Francisco Bay later in April (PDu). A **Franklin's Gull** was a nice find on 21 May at the Sunnyvale WPCP eastern pond (ABu). The sighting was regrettably brief, all the more so given this was the first in the county since 2017. A **Dusky Flycatcher** was among the migrants passing over Loma Prieta on 2 May (JVs). They are found about one year in every two. A **Tropical Kingbird** was seen along San Francisquito Creek on 2 May (MDo). One to two spent the winter in the area of Byxbee Park, the Palo Alto airport, and San Francisquito Creek after arriving last October. A **Bank Swallow** at the Sunnyvale WPCP on 22 May towards the end of spring migration was a nice find (MJM). Two **Black-and-white Warblers** stopped for only a day, one at Rancho Canada del Oro on 6 May (JPa) and one at Christmas Hill Park in Gilroy on 5 Jun (AWa). A **Magnolia Warbler** on 4 Jun was another of the nice finds from the Loma Prieta spring migration watch (MJM). It was only the 10th record for the county. **Yellow-breasted Chats** were found in the last week of April and first two weeks of May. Between 2 - 6 May, one was along Llagas Creek at Old Oak Glen Ave (MDo, m. ob.). Another was along Llagas Creek at the Gilroy SCRWA from 4 - 5 May (RWR, FV). And two individuals were found along Los Alamitos Creek, one north of Camden on 8 May (MFa) and one south of Camden on 9 May (STu). An adult male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was a nice addition to a yard list near Summit Rd and Hwy 17 on 19 Jun, though unfortunately the Grosbeak didn't stay long (TGi). Ed Levin CP has hosted **Blue Grosbeaks** in past years, and on 28 Apr a female returned (TKP). She was noted again on 13 May (TKP).



Wilson's Phalarope
Garrett Lau



Northern Parula
Zane Pinkus



Black Skimmer
Eric Goodill

A male was singing at Almaden Quicksilver CP on 1 May (fide *eBird*). The last **Yellow-headed Blackbird** migrants this spring were two alongside Alviso pond A12 on 1 May (WBG) and a single blackbird in Mallard Slough adjacent to Alviso pond A16 on 25 May (FV).

Summer & Nesting

Lesser Scaups nested in the vicinity of Alviso pond A16, where a female with five ducklings in tow was seen on 11 July (STu). Most summers a few Scaup stay in the area and raise young, while the majority head north to breed. Young **Black Skimmers** were reported from two colony locations. On 1 Jul 32 adults and 7 young were on the small island in Shoreline Lake (WGB), and on 17 Jul there were 46 adults and 16 young (RPh). Young were also present at the smaller colony on one of the islands in A16 on 11 Jul (STu) and 26 Jul (GL). The distribution of **Black-chinned Hummingbirds** in the county during the nesting season was mapped during the field work for the county breeding bird atlas. The presence of both a male and female a mile and a half west of the Guadalupe River in Santa Clara on 9 Jul was unexpected (RJ), and a reminder that there is always more to add to the picture we have of local bird life. The **Vermilion Flycatcher** at J Grant CP that arrived on 13 Apr has remained into July, with the last report on 7 Jul (COv). A **Loggerhead Shrike** at Coyote Valley OSP on 20 Jun was a promising sign (MJM). Shrikes have become hard to find in the summer anywhere outside the Gilroy SCRWA area. A singing male **Northern Parula** at the entrance to Almaden Quicksilver CP in New Almaden was an exciting find on 21 May (JPa). Despite the long odds, the songster attracted a female Parula on 22 May (MMR), and both birds were present through 14 Jun (CG, m. ob.). 14 Jun was a banner day for Parulas, as another singing male was found in the Willow Glen neighborhood of San Jose (BM). And on the 16th of June, two singing males were advertising for mates in Willow Glen (BM). One to two stayed in Willow Glen through 18 Jun (SPz, m. ob.), and in New Almaden the last report was of the male on 28 Jun (ZP). A female **Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warbler** chose an odd location to begin building a nest - on 18 May the warbler was seen adding to a nest in a Sycamore tree at Sunnyvale Baylands Park (SCR). Yellow-rumped Warblers have nested successfully in the county, at locations along the crest of the Santa Cruz Mountains, and occasionally in the Diablo Range, but not at low elevations between the two mountain ranges.

Fall & Migration

A **Western Sandpiper** banded in Peru was at Alviso pond A15 on 20 Jul (PDU). For every 10,000 or so Western Sandpipers, one Semipalmated Sandpiper passes through the county during fall migration. Single **Semipalmated Sandpipers** stopped at Alviso pond A17 on 2 Jul (PDU) and pond A16 on 5 Jul (MSt, LSt). The first **Wilson's Phalarope** of the year



Almaden Quicksilver
Eve Meier

SELF-GUIDED FIELD TRIPS

New! SCVAS trip leaders have been developing a series of self-guided field trips. We will pick out a few special places to bird each month based where you can socially distance and enjoy the best of the birding season.

Visit <https://scvas.org/self-guided-field-trips> to see this month's selection. Regular field trips have been suspended but will resume as soon as it is safe to do so.

was at the Sunnyvale WPCP eastern pond on 27 May (DW). On 19 Jun, the count of returning Wilson's Phalaropes was up to 42 in New Chicago Marsh (WGB, RWR). Peak counts typically occur in late July to early August. In early July a **Common Tern** visited Alviso pond A16, where colonies of Forster's Terns, Caspian Terns, and Black Skimmers are nesting. The Common Tern arrived on 5 Jul (MSt, LSt), about two weeks ahead of the expected arrival of the earliest fall migrants, and stayed through 14 Jul (COv, m. ob.). Three **Least Terns** were noted over pond A2E on 9 Jul (BP), and their numbers increased to eleven by 17 Jul (MMR) and 35 by 26 Jul (MDo). A2E has historically been a site the Least Terns stage at before fall migration. Single adult, male **Rufous Hummingbirds** visited feeders at locations on the western edge of the Diablo Range on 29 Jun (WP, KON) and 10 - 13 Jul (EGa). Sightings of adult males this late in the year are seldom reported.

Observers Dan Bloch (DBI), Bill Bousman (WGB), Adam Burnett (ABu), Matthew Dodder (MDo), Pete Duntun (PDU), Marion Farber (MFA), Liz Frith (LzF), Carter Gasiorowski (CG), Elinor Gates (EGa), Taylor Gilbert (TGi), Richard Jeffers (RJ), Garrett Lau (GL), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Brooke Miller (BM), Liam Murphy (LmM), Kitty O'Neil (KON), Chris Overington (COv), Federico Pacheco (FP), Janna Pauser (JPa), Ben Pearl (BP), William Pelletier (WP), Sergio Perez (SPz), Tracy K Pham (TKP), Ryan Phillips (RPh), Zane Pickus (ZP), Bob Reiling (RWR), Mike Rogers (MMR), Steve Rottenborn (SCR), Lucas Stephenson (LSt), Mark Stephenson (MSt), Steve Tucker (STu), Frank Vanslager (FV), Jason Vassallo (JVs), Adam Wachtel (AWa), Dave Weber (DW)