



A Checklist of

Birds

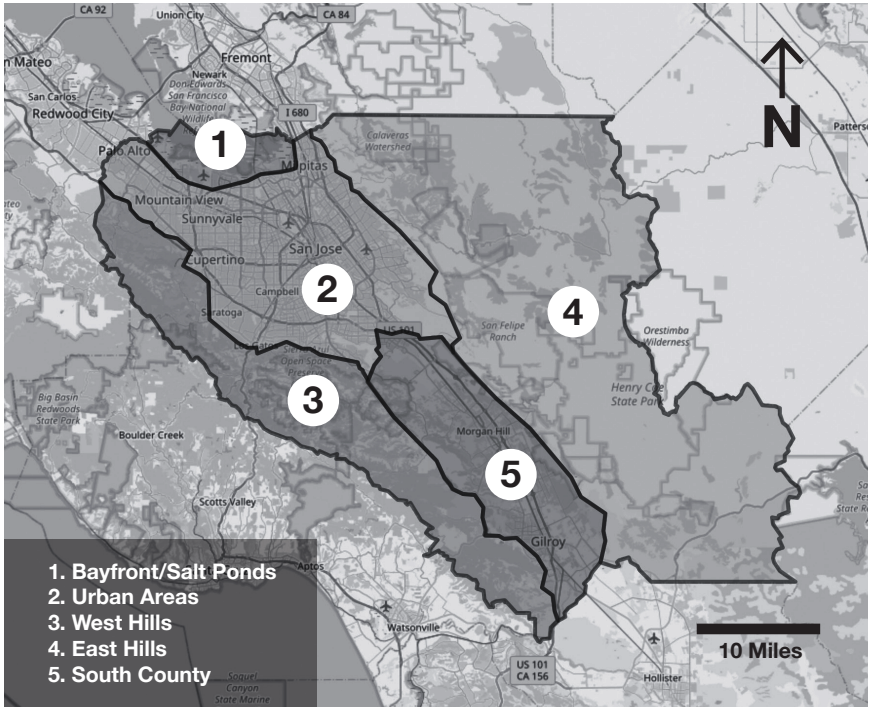
of Santa Clara County

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

Version 3.0

Released 10/08/2023

Birding in Santa Clara County



Birding Zones:

Santa Clara County can be divided into five major zones, each of which has different habitats and unique birding opportunities. The map above shows the zones, and below is a selection of productive birding destinations within each zone. For more information about these zones and the birds that can be found there, please visit our self-guided field trip section on the SCVAS website: scvas.org/self-guided-field-trips.

1. Bayfront/Salt Ponds

Don Edwards NWR, Charleston Slough, Shoreline Lake, Palo Alto Baylands

2. Urban Areas

Ulistac Natural Area, Vasona Lake Park, Almaden Lake Park

3. West Hills

Sanborn County Park, Stevens Creek County Park, Picchetti Ranch Preserve

4. East Hills

Ed Levin County Park, Alum Rock Park, Joseph D. Grant County Park

5. South County

Santa Teresa County Park, Calero County Park, Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve

A Checklist of

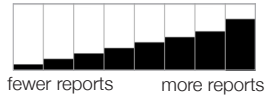
Birds

of Santa Clara County

Covering the **414 species** observed in Santa Clara County, CA

Symbols:

- ** (**bold**) Frequent breeder in the county
- * (**bold**) Infrequent breeding bird
- † Historical rarity (see back page)
- (*) Former county breeder



Bar Charts: seasonal status of birds:

Rarity codes: annual county status

- 1 **Common**, always seen in habitat in season
- 2 **Fairly common**, usually in habitat in season, missed sometimes
- 3 **Uncommon**, always around, but sometimes you can't find
- 4 **Rare**, occurs yearly in the county, but not always in same places
- 5 **Very rare**, does not occur every year
- 6 **Casual** or **Vagrant**, generally fewer than 10 records



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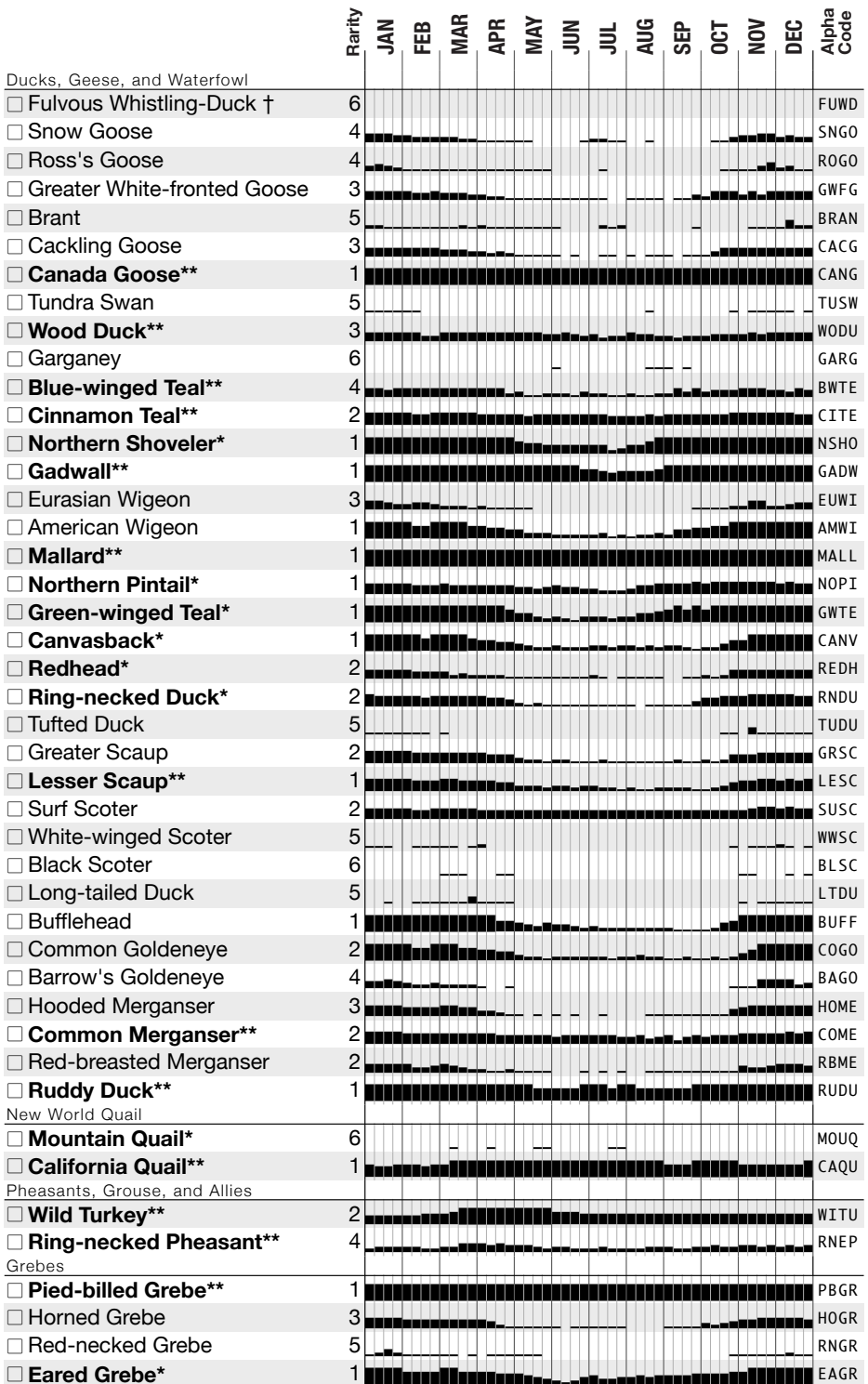


SCVAS

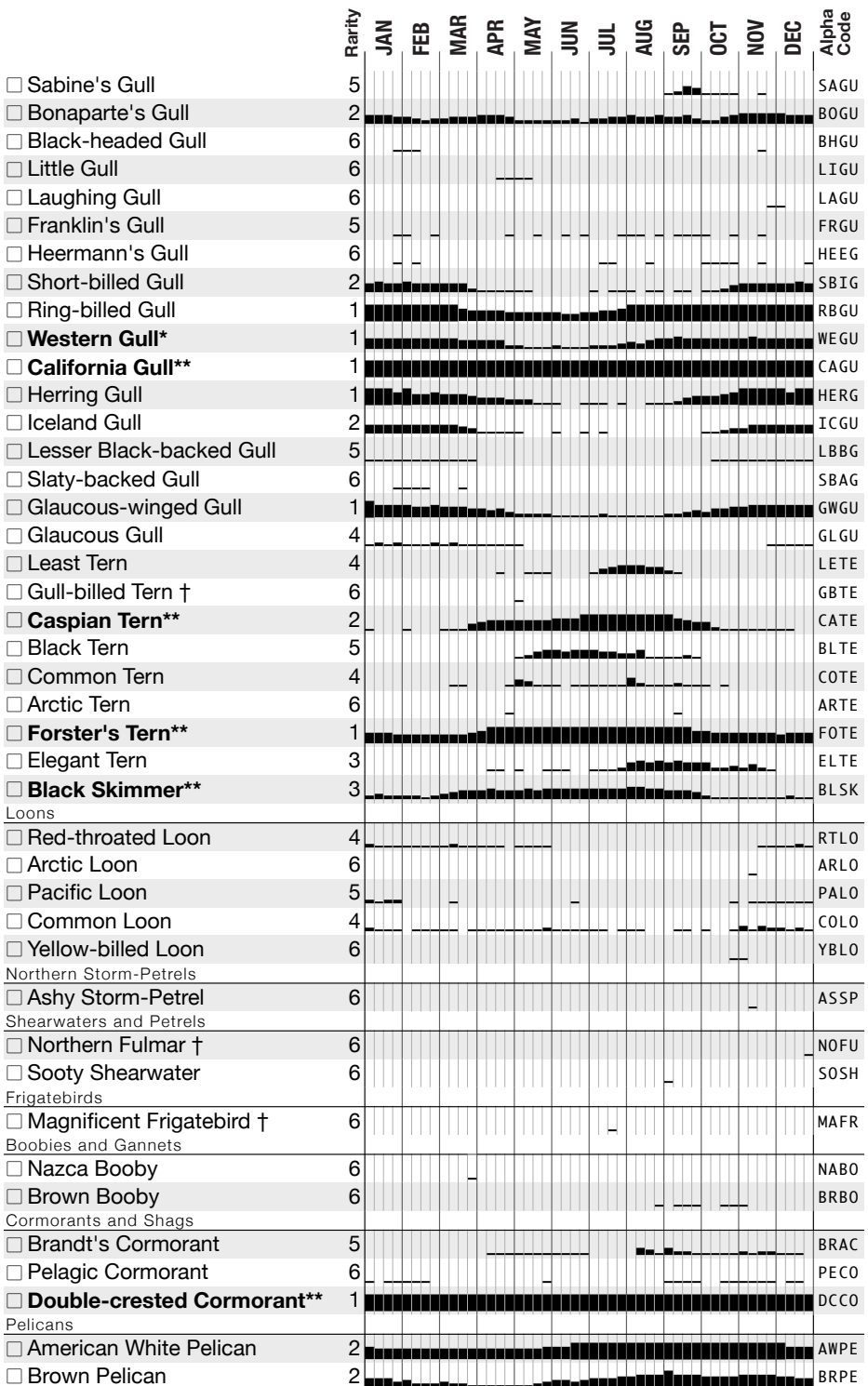
Santa Clara Valley
Audubon Society

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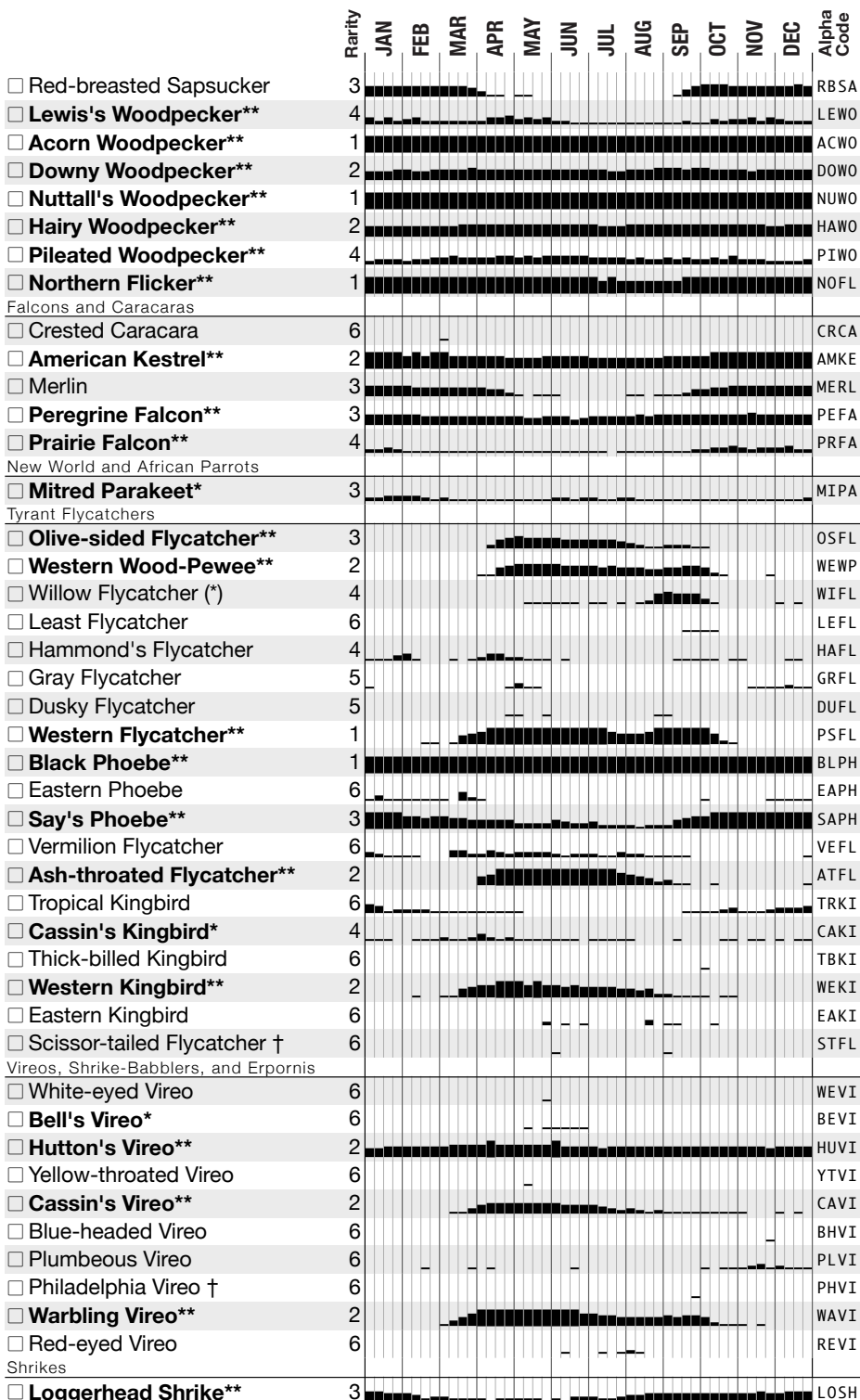
Released 10/08/2023



	Rarity	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Alpha Code
<input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer**	1	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	KILL
<input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Plover †	6													MOPL
Sandpipers and Allies														
<input type="checkbox"/> Whimbrel	3	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	WHIM
<input type="checkbox"/> Long-billed Curlew	2	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	LBCU
<input type="checkbox"/> Bar-tailed Godwit	6													BTGO
<input type="checkbox"/> Hudsonian Godwit	6													HUGO
<input type="checkbox"/> Marbled Godwit	1	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	MAGO
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruddy Turnstone	5													RUTU
<input type="checkbox"/> Black Turnstone	6													BLTU
<input type="checkbox"/> Red Knot	4													REKN
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruff	5													RUFF
<input type="checkbox"/> Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	6													SPTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Stilt Sandpiper	5													STSA
<input type="checkbox"/> Curlew Sandpiper	6													CUSA
<input type="checkbox"/> Sanderling	4													SAND
<input type="checkbox"/> Dunlin	1	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	DUNL
<input type="checkbox"/> Baird's Sandpiper	4													BASA
<input type="checkbox"/> Little Stint	6													LIST
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Sandpiper	1	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	LESA
<input type="checkbox"/> White-rumped Sandpiper	6													WRSA
<input type="checkbox"/> Buff-breasted Sandpiper	6													BBSA
<input type="checkbox"/> Pectoral Sandpiper	4													PESA
<input type="checkbox"/> Semipalmated Sandpiper	4													SESA
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Sandpiper	1	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	WESA
<input type="checkbox"/> Short-billed Dowitcher	2	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	SBDO
<input type="checkbox"/> Long-billed Dowitcher	1	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	LBDO
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Snipe	3	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	WISN
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Phalarope	2													WIPH
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-necked Phalarope	2													RNPH
<input type="checkbox"/> Red Phalarope	5													REPH
<input type="checkbox"/> Spotted Sandpiper*	3	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	SPSA
<input type="checkbox"/> Solitary Sandpiper	5													SOSA
<input type="checkbox"/> Wandering Tattler	6													WATA
<input type="checkbox"/> Greater Yellowlegs	1	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	GRYE
<input type="checkbox"/> Willet	1	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	WILL
<input type="checkbox"/> Lesser Yellowlegs	3	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	LEYE
Skuas and Jaegers														
<input type="checkbox"/> Pomarine Jaeger	6													POJA
<input type="checkbox"/> Parasitic Jaeger	5													PAJA
<input type="checkbox"/> Long-tailed Jaeger	6													LTJA
Auks, Murres, and Puffins														
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Murre	5													COMU
<input type="checkbox"/> Pigeon Guillemot	6													PIGU
<input type="checkbox"/> Ancient Murrelet †	6													ANMU
<input type="checkbox"/> Cassin's Auklet	6													CAAU
Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers														
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-legged Kittiwake	6													BLKI

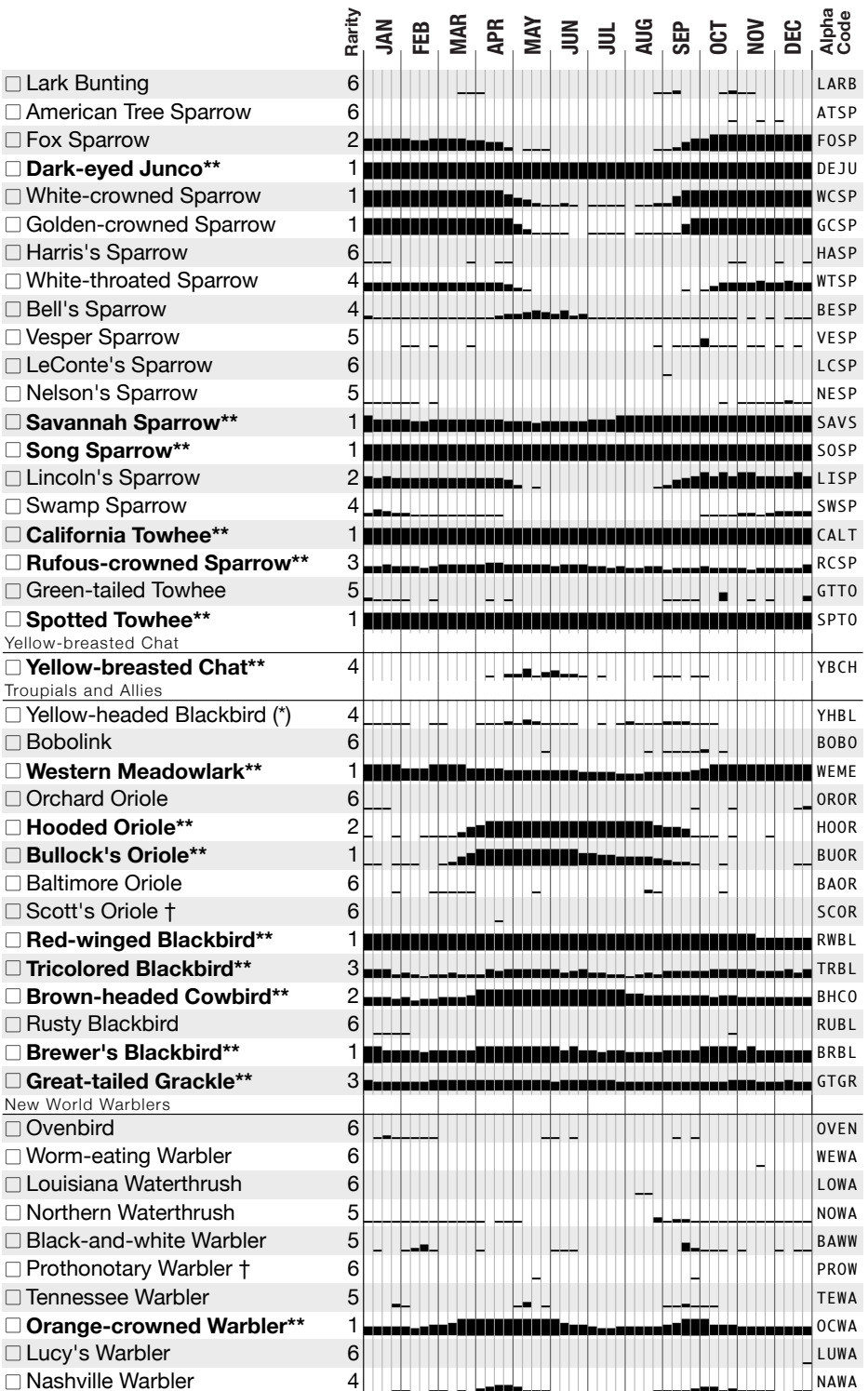


	Rarity	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Alpha Code
Hérons, Egrets, and Bitterns														
<input type="checkbox"/> American Bittern*	4													AMBI
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Bittern*	6													LEBI
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Heron**	1													GBHE
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Egret**	1													GREG
<input type="checkbox"/> Snowy Egret**	1													SNEG
<input type="checkbox"/> Little Blue Heron*	6													LBHE
<input type="checkbox"/> Cattle Egret*	5													CAEG
<input type="checkbox"/> Green Heron**	3													GRHE
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-crowned Night-Heron**	1													BCNH
Ibises and Spoonbills														
<input type="checkbox"/> Glossy Ibis	6													GLIB
<input type="checkbox"/> White-faced Ibis*	4													WFIB
New World Vultures														
<input type="checkbox"/> California Condor	6													CACO
<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Vulture**	1													TUVU
Osprey														
<input type="checkbox"/> Osprey*	3													OSPR
Hawks, Eagles, and Kites														
<input type="checkbox"/> White-tailed Kite**	2													WTKI
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden Eagle**	3													GOEA
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Harrier**	2													NOHA
<input type="checkbox"/> Sharp-shinned Hawk**	3													SSHA
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooper's Hawk**	2													COHA
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goshawk	6													AGOS
<input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle**	3													BAEA
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-shouldered Hawk**	2													RSHA
<input type="checkbox"/> Broad-winged Hawk	6													BWHA
<input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Hawk*	4													SWHA
<input type="checkbox"/> Zone-tailed Hawk	6													ZTHA
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk**	1													RTHA
<input type="checkbox"/> Rough-legged Hawk	5													RLHA
<input type="checkbox"/> Ferruginous Hawk	4													FEHA
Barn-Owls														
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn Owl**	2													BANO
Owls														
<input type="checkbox"/> Flammulated Owl †	6													FLOW
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Screech-Owl**	2													WESO
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Horned Owl**	1													GHOW
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Pygmy-Owl**	3													NOPO
<input type="checkbox"/> Burrowing Owl**	3													BUOW
<input type="checkbox"/> Long-eared Owl*	4													LEOW
<input type="checkbox"/> Short-eared Owl*	4													SEOW
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Saw-whet Owl**	3													NSWO
Kingfishers														
<input type="checkbox"/> Belted Kingfisher**	3													BEKI
Woodpeckers														
<input type="checkbox"/> Williamson's Sapsucker	6													WISA
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	5													YBSA
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-naped Sapsucker	5													RNSA



	Rarity	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Alpha Code
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Shrike	6													NSHR
Crows, Jays, and Magpies														
<input type="checkbox"/> Pinyon Jay †	6													PIJA
<input type="checkbox"/> Steller's Jay**	1	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	STJA
<input type="checkbox"/> California Scrub-Jay**	1	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	CASJ
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-billed Magpie †	6													BBMA
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-billed Magpie**	2	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	YBMA
<input type="checkbox"/> Clark's Nutcracker	6													CLNU
<input type="checkbox"/> American Crow**	1	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	AMCR
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Raven**	1	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	CORA
Tit, Chickadees, and Titmice														
<input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut-backed Chickadee**	1	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	CBCH
<input type="checkbox"/> Oak Titmouse**	1	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	OATI
Larks														
<input type="checkbox"/> Horned Lark**	3		█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	HOLA
Swallows														
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Rough-winged	2			█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	NRWS
<input type="checkbox"/> Purple Martin**	4					█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	PUMA
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow**	2	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	TRES
<input type="checkbox"/> Violet-green Swallow**	1	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	VGSW
<input type="checkbox"/> Bank Swallow (*)	5					█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	BANS
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn Swallow**	1	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	BARS
<input type="checkbox"/> Cliff Swallow**	1		█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	CLSW
Leaf Warblers														
<input type="checkbox"/> Arctic Warbler †	6													ARWA
Long-tailed Tits														
<input type="checkbox"/> Bushtit**	1	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	BUSH
Sylviid Warblers, Parrotbills, and Allies														
<input type="checkbox"/> Wrentit**	1	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	WREN
Kinglets														
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	RCKI
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-crowned Kinglet*	4													GCKI
Nuthatches														
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-breasted Nuthatch**	3	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	RBNU
<input type="checkbox"/> White-breasted Nuthatch**	2	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	WBNU
<input type="checkbox"/> Pygmy Nuthatch**	4	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	PYNU
Trecreepers														
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Creeper**	2	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	BRCR
Gnatcatchers														
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**	2			█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	BGGN
Wrens														
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Wren**	3	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	ROWR
<input type="checkbox"/> Canyon Wren**	4													CANW
<input type="checkbox"/> House Wren**	2	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	HOWR
<input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Wren**	3	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	PAWR
<input type="checkbox"/> Marsh Wren**	2	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	MAWR
<input type="checkbox"/> Bewick's Wren**	1	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	BEWR
Dippers														
<input type="checkbox"/> American Dipper**	4	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	AMDI
Starlings														
<input type="checkbox"/> European Starling**	1	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	EUST

	Rarity	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Alpha Code
Mockingbirds and Thrashers														
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird †	6													GRCA
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Thrasher †	6													BRTH
<input type="checkbox"/> California Thrasher**	1	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	CATH
<input type="checkbox"/> Sage Thrasher	6													SATH
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Mockingbird**	1	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	NOMO
Thrushes and Allies														
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Bluebird**	2	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	WEBL
<input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Bluebird	6													MOBL
<input type="checkbox"/> Townsend's Solitaire	5													TOSO
<input type="checkbox"/> Varied Thrush	3	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	VATH
<input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Thrush**	2													SWTH
<input type="checkbox"/> Hermit Thrush**	1	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	HETH
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Thrush	6													WOTH
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin**	1	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	AMRO
Old World Flycatchers														
<input type="checkbox"/> Siberian Rubythroat	6													SIRU
Waxwings														
<input type="checkbox"/> Bohemian Waxwing †	6													BOWA
<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing*	1	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	CEDW
Silky-flycatchers														
<input type="checkbox"/> Phainopepla**	4	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	PHAI
Old World Sparrows														
<input type="checkbox"/> House Sparrow**	1	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	HOSP
Wagtails and Pipits														
<input type="checkbox"/> White Wagtail	6													WHWA
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-throated Pipit	6													RTPI
<input type="checkbox"/> American Pipit	2	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	AMPI
Finches, Euphonias, and Allies														
<input type="checkbox"/> Evening Grosbeak	5													EVGR
<input type="checkbox"/> House Finch**	1	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	HOFI
<input type="checkbox"/> Purple Finch**	2	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	PUFI
<input type="checkbox"/> Cassin's Finch	6													CAFI
<input type="checkbox"/> Red Crossbill	5													RECR
<input type="checkbox"/> Pine Siskin*	3	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	PISI
<input type="checkbox"/> Lesser Goldfinch**	1	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	LEGO
<input type="checkbox"/> Lawrence's Goldfinch**	3	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	LAGO
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch**	2	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	AGOL
Longspurs and Snow Buntings														
<input type="checkbox"/> Lapland Longspur	6													LALO
<input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut-collared Longspur	6													CCLO
<input type="checkbox"/> Snow Bunting	6													SNBU
New World Sparrows														
<input type="checkbox"/> Grasshopper Sparrow**	3	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	GRSP
<input type="checkbox"/> Chipping Sparrow**	3	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	CHSP
<input type="checkbox"/> Clay-colored Sparrow	5													CCSP
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-chinned Sparrow**	4	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	BCSP
<input type="checkbox"/> Brewer's Sparrow	5													BRSP
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-throated Sparrow	6													BTSP
<input type="checkbox"/> Lark Sparrow**	2	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	LASP



	Rarity	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Alpha Code
<input type="checkbox"/> Virginia's Warbler	6													VIWA
<input type="checkbox"/> Connecticut Warbler	6													CONW
<input type="checkbox"/> MacGillivray's Warbler*	4													MGWA
<input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky Warbler †	6													KEWA
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat**	2													COYE
<input type="checkbox"/> Hooded Warbler	6													HOWA
<input type="checkbox"/> American Redstart	5													AMRE
<input type="checkbox"/> Cape May Warbler	6													CMWA
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Parula	5													NOPA
<input type="checkbox"/> Magnolia Warbler	6													MAWA
<input type="checkbox"/> Bay-breasted Warbler	6													BBWA
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackburnian Warbler	6													BLBW
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler**	1													YEWA
<input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut-sided Warbler	5													CSWA
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackpoll Warbler	5													BLPW
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-throated Blue Warbler	6													BTBW
<input type="checkbox"/> Palm Warbler	5													PAWA
<input type="checkbox"/> Pine Warbler	6													PIWA
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-rumped Warbler**	1													YRWA
<input type="checkbox"/> Prairie Warbler	6													PRAW
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-throated Gray Warbler**	3													BTYW
<input type="checkbox"/> Townsend's Warbler	2													TOWA
<input type="checkbox"/> Hermit Warbler*	3													HEWA
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-throated Green Warbler	6													BTNW
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Warbler	6													CAWA
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Warbler**	1													WIWA
<input type="checkbox"/> Painted Redstart	6													PARE
Cardinals and Allies														
<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Tanager	5													SUTA
<input type="checkbox"/> Scarlet Tanager	6													SCTA
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Tanager**	2													WETA
<input type="checkbox"/> Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5													RBGR
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-headed Grosbeak**	1													BHGR
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Grosbeak*	4													BLGR
<input type="checkbox"/> Lazuli Bunting*	2													LAZB
<input type="checkbox"/> Indigo Bunting*	5													INBU
<input type="checkbox"/> Painted Bunting	6													PABU
<input type="checkbox"/> Dickcissel	6													DICK

Notes:



Notes

Additions to the V3.0 edition (2023)

American Goshawk (Split from Eurasian Goshawk)
Western Flycatcher (Pacific-slope and Cordilleran combined)
Siberian Rubythroat (first record)

Introduced Birds: The following birds may be seen, some even regularly, in Santa Clara County, but do not have established local populations and so are not included in our checklist.

Mute Swan	Red-masked Parakeet
Egyptian Goose	Northern Red Bishop
Mandarin Duck	Scaly-breasted Munia
African Collared-Dove	Orange-cheeked Waxbill
Yellow-crowned Parrot	European Goldfinch
Nanday Parakeet	

† **Historical Rarities:** These species had not previously been listed in eBird due to the antiquity of the observations, but we are working to reconcile eBird and our county's historical records.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck	Gray Catbird
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	Brown Thrasher
Mountain Plover	Bohemian Waxwing
Ancient Murrelet	Scott's Oriole
Magnificent Frigatebird	Prothonotary Warbler
Flammulated Owl	Kentucky Warbler
Black-billed Magpie	

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Annual membership includes a complimentary copy of our location guide for Santa Clara County hotspots **Birding at the Bottom of the Bay**, and online access to the **Breeding Bird Atlas of Santa Clara County** by Bill Bousman, members-only field trips, early access to public field trips, discounts on Nature Shop purchases, as well as discounts on **Classes!**

Visit our Nature Shop

22221 McClellan Road,
Cupertino, CA 95014
Monday – Friday 10:00-4:30
Telephone: 408-252-3747
scvas@scvas.org



Why a new checklist?

Checklist updates occur each year after the American Ornithological Society (AOS) has completed its updates to the Checklist of North American Birds (7th ed.) and published their revised list in the July issue of *Ornithology*. At SCVAS, we take this opportunity to update our own county checklist, aligning it to the latest taxonomy and making changes to the monthly status charts. This year we replaced Pacific-slope Flycatcher with Western Flycatcher, which also contains the population formerly referred to as Cordilleran Flycatcher—a distinction many ornithologists had questioned for decades. Northern Goshawk has been split into American Goshawk (ours) and Eurasian Goshawk. Finally we've added a new county species: the Siberian Rubythroat. This mega-rarity had never been recorded south of Alaska until November 2022 when it appeared on a trail camera installed on the Google Campus in Mountain View, bringing our total species count to 414. Sadly, the time-stamped image was not discovered by researchers until long after the bird had moved on and the bird was never seen by human eyes.

Rarity Codes. These numerals refine our understanding of each species beyond the **Bar Charts** which tend to tell us more about how many *sightings* have been recorded, as opposed to the number of individual birds. We have made manual adjustments to some bar charts for rarities to accurately reflect their numbers. This year, we've added **Alpha Codes**, also called banding codes. These four-letter abbreviations are often used by bird banders, ornithologists, and birders as shorthand.

Sources

This checklist is a compilation of bird species observed in Santa Clara County, California. Data was derived from the following sources:

eBird.org, managed by The Cornell Lab of Ornithology,
Checklist of the Birds of Santa Clara County W.G.Bousman
Breeding Bird Atlas of Santa Clara County, California W.G.Bousman
Santa Clara County Bird list maintained by Brooke Miller
Institute for Bird Populations Alpha Codes as of 7/21/23
Clements 2022 eBird Taxonomy with AOS updates as of 10/01/23

Checklist compilation Barry Langdon-Lassagne
Editing, review and design Matthew Dodder
Additional review Pete Dunten, Eric Goodill, Richard Jeffers,
Andrew Melnick, Brooke Miller, Mike Rogers, Steve Rottenborn



OUR MISSION

The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society promotes the enjoyment, understanding, and protection of birds and other wildlife by engaging people of all ages in birding, education, and conservation.

Inspiring people to care about birds since 1925



scvas.org