



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



A Checklist of

Birds

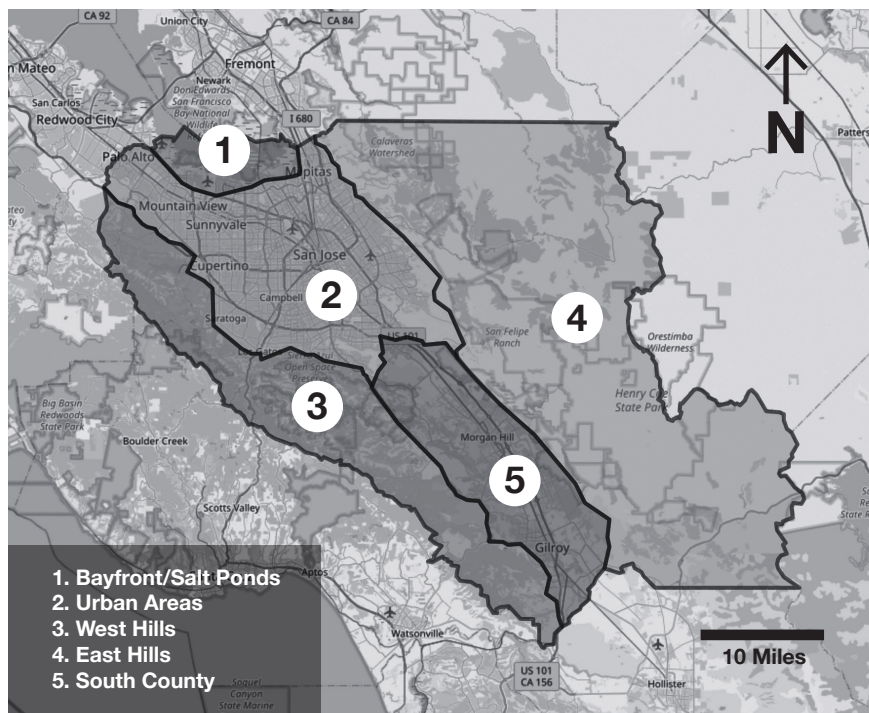
of Santa Clara County

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

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 Duntun, Eric Goodill, Richard Jeffers, Andrew Melnick, Brooke Miller, Mike Rogers, Steve Rottenborn

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	

Become a member today!

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

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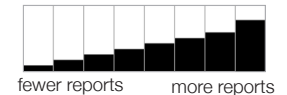
Birds of Santa Clara County

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

Symbols:

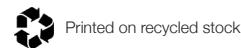
- ** (**bold**) Frequent breeder in the county
- * (**bold**) Infrequent breeding bird
- † Historical rarity (see back page)
- (*) Former county breeder

Bar Charts: seasonal status of birds:



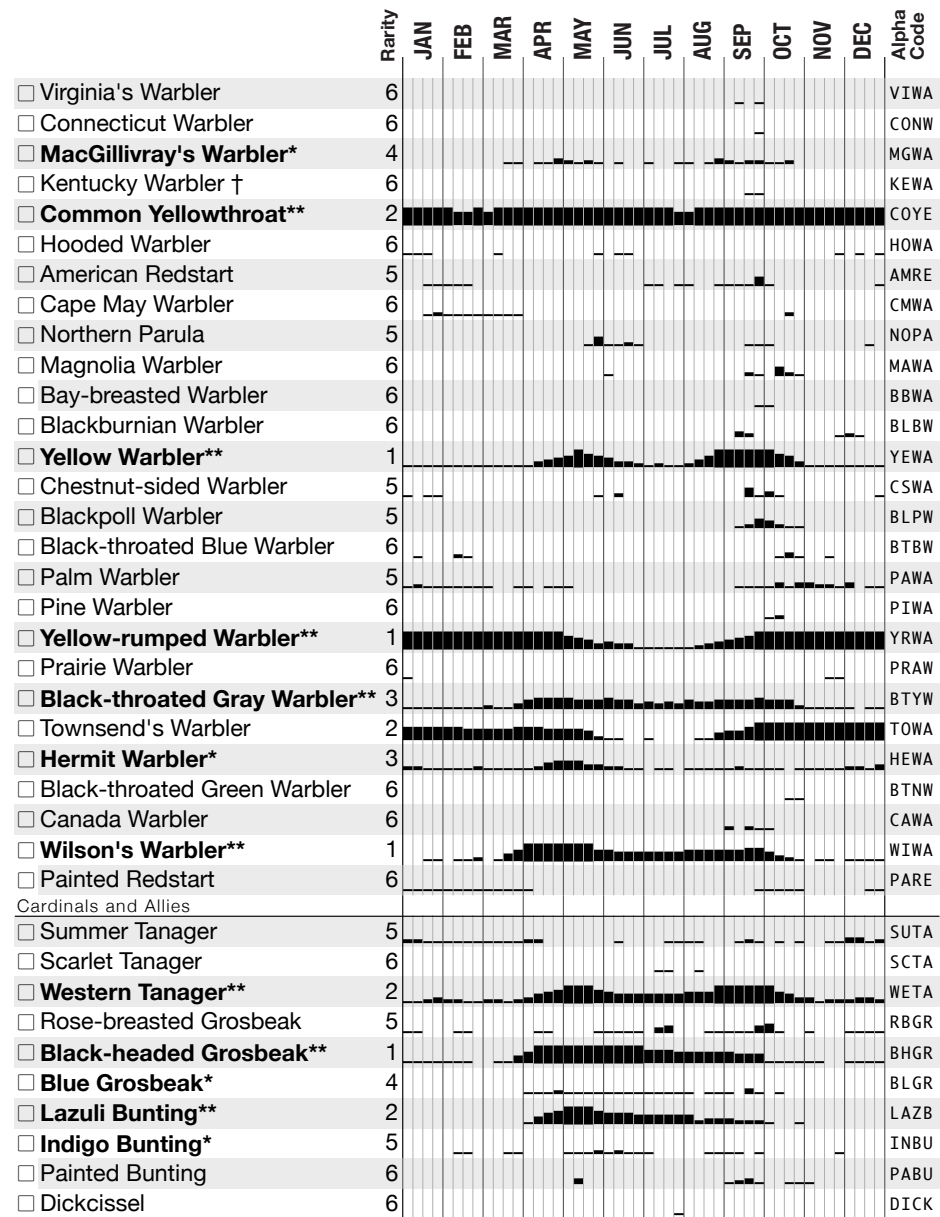
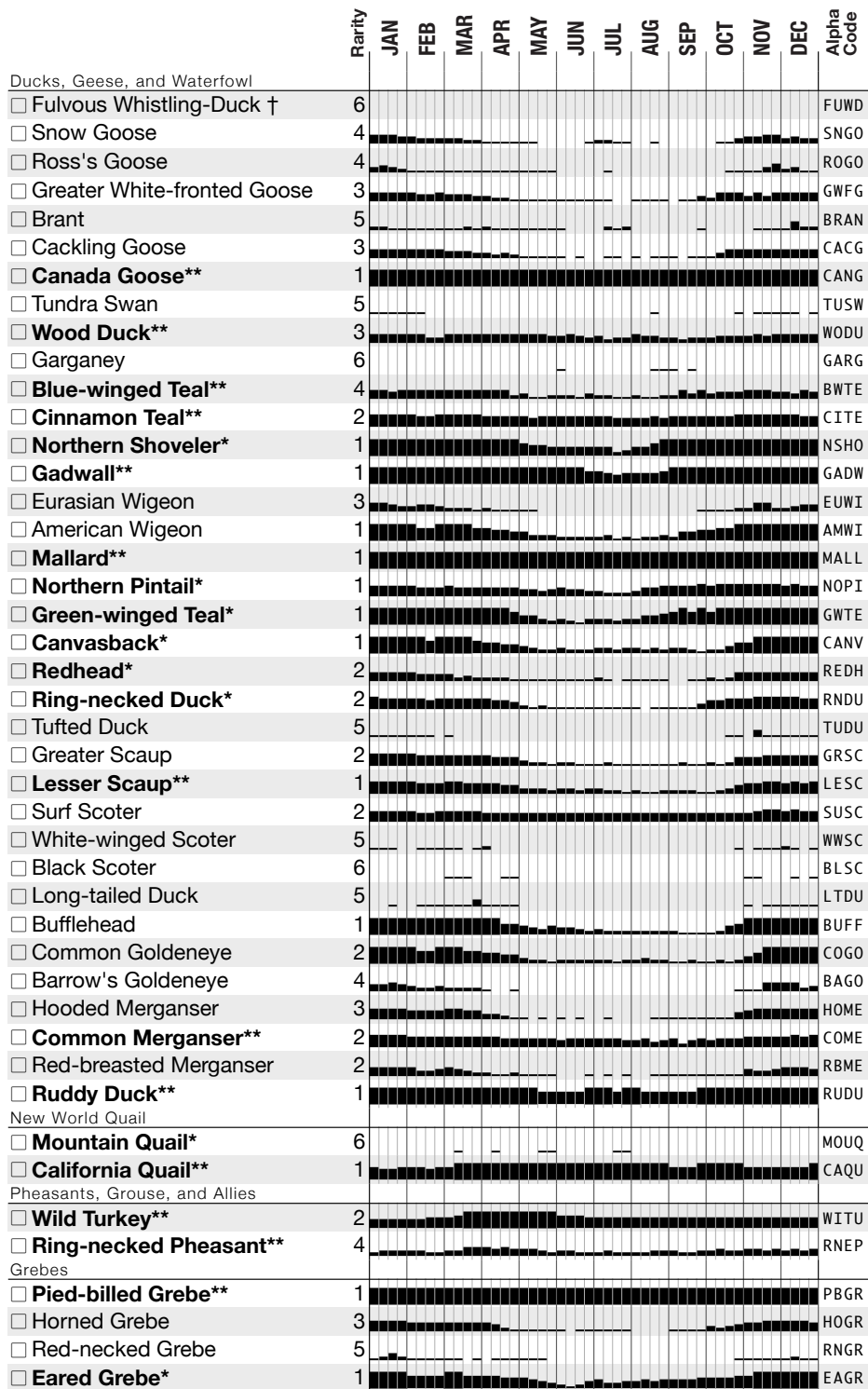
Rarity codes: annual county status

- 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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Notes:

