

LOCALLY UNIQUE WILDLIFE OF THE  
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY COASTAL ZONE

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for the Santa Cruz County Local Coastal Program

1980

<u>Vernacular Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Comments</u>
BIRDS:			
Common Loon	<u>Gavia immer</u>	CDF&G Bird Species of Special Concern List (BSSCL)-Highest Priority	Common in winter in Santa Cruz County Coastal Zone (SCCCZ). No breeding sites. No local concern.
Pied-billed Grebe	<u>Podilymbus podiceps</u>		
Brandt's Cormorant	<u>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</u>	CDF&G BSSCL-Second Priority	Very small, localized breeding populations in SCCCZ; Schwans Lagoon, Corcoran Lagoon, Baldwin Lake, Gordola Pond, Swanton Reservoir, Scott Creek Marsh, Waddell Pond. Highly localized breeding colony and roosting site at Davenport pier. National Audubon Society Blue List 1979 (NASBL-79). Possible small breeding population at Davenport pier. Traditional communal roosts at Schwans Lagoon, Davenport pier. Highly localized breeding colonies on North Coast cliffs. Localized breeding & wintering areas (riparian zone along Pajaro River, possibly elsewhere). Roost site near Hanson Slough. NASBL-79 at possibly 1 or more small breeding populations. Traditional communal roosting sites, SC Museum & Yacht Harbor mouth; near Hanson Slough, possibly Pajaro River. NASBL-79; Probable breeding population in Watsonville Slough area.
Double-crested Cormorant	<u>Phalacrocorax auritus</u>		
Pelagic Cormorant	<u>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</u>		
Green Heron	<u>Butorides virescens</u>		
Great Egret	<u>Casmerodius albus</u>		
Black-crowned Night Heron	<u>Nycticorax nycticorax</u>		
American Bittern	<u>Botaurus lentiginosus</u>		

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<b>INVERTEBRATES:</b>			
Mckenzie's Cave Scud	<u>Stygobromus mackenziei</u>	Proposed for status review by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in 1975.	Endemic to Santa Cruz County, known only from Empire Cave. May be present in other nearby caves.
Strohbeen's Parnassian (butterfly)	<u>Parnassius clodius strohbeeni</u>		Formerly observed in Mt. Ben Lomond area. Host plant- <u>Dicentra formosa</u> . Probably extinct.
Monarch Butterfly	<u>Danaus plexippus</u>		Large aggregations form in certain trees along the coast during winter.
<b>AMPHIBIANS:</b>			
California Red-legged Frog	<u>Rana aurora draytoni</u>	CA. State Statute 40.00 designated Protected Amphibian. May not be collected.	Populations are becoming extirpated through habitat loss.
California Tiger Salamander	<u>Ambystoma tigrinum californiense</u>	CA. State Statute 40.05 limits take of 2. Fishing license required.	Populations are becoming extirpated through habitat loss.
<b>REPTILES:</b>			
Horned Lizard	<u>Phrynosoma coronatum</u>	CA. State Statute 40.15 limits take of 2.	Populations are becoming extirpated through habitat loss.
California Legless Lizard	<u>Anniella pulchra</u>	CA. State Statute 40.15 limits take of 1.	Populations are becoming extirpated through habitat loss.
Western Whiptail Lizard	<u>Cnemidophorus tigris</u>	No limit	Only recently found in inland sand deposits in county. Expected to occur in comparable habitat in coastal zone.
Western Pond Turtle	<u>Clemmys marmorata</u>	CA. State Statute 40.15 limits take of 2.	Populations are becoming extirpated through habitat loss.



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Ruddy Duck	<u>Oxyura jamaicensis</u>		Highly localized breeding populations at Schwans Lagoon, Corcoran Lagoon, Scott Creek Marsh, possibly Waddell Pond, Swanton Reservoir, Gordola Pond, Baldwin Reservoir.
Turkey Vulture	<u>Cathartes aura</u>		Very low breeding population at higher elevations in North Coast. Local populations significantly reduced from reduced amounts of carrion.
White-tailed Kite	<u>Elanus leucurus majusculus</u>		Once nearly extinct (1930). Small breeding population at Watsonville Slough & adjacent slough system. Local population in decline since 1976.
Cooper's Hawk	<u>Accipiter cooperi</u>	CDF&G BSSCL-Third priority	NASBL-79. Small scattered breeding population. Declining in region.
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<u>Accipiter striatus velox</u>	CDF&G BSSCL-Third priority	NASBL-79. Very rare as breeding species. Prefers forested areas.
Red-shouldered Hawk	<u>Buteo lineatus</u>		NASBL-79. Limited breeding population in riparian areas of Pajaro River & possibly other riparian zones.
Swainson's Hawk	<u>Buteo swainsoni</u>	CDF&G BSSCL-Highest priority	NASBL-79. Rare migrant in grassland areas of North Coast & Watsonville Slough region. Formerly more common.
Ferruginous Hawk	<u>Buteo regalis</u>		NASBL-79. Rare/migrant in grassland areas of North Coast & Watsonville Slough region. Preys upon ground squirrels.

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Fulvous Whistling (Tree) Duck	<u>Dendrocygna bicolor helva</u>	CDF&G BSSCL-Highest Priority	NASBL-79; Formerly a possible resident in marshes of SCCCZ.
Gadwall	<u>Anas strepera</u>		Very small, highly localized breeding population along lower Watsonville Slough & Pajaro estuary
Pintail	<u>Anas acuta</u>		May occasionally nest along lower Watsonville Slough & Pajaro estuary
Cinnamon Teal	<u>Anas cyanoptera</u>		Local breeding population significantly reduced by habitat destruction. Very small, localized breeding at lower Watsonville Slough, Pajaro estuary, & Harkins Slough
American Wigeon	<u>Anas americana</u>		Traditional wintering area (about 60 birds) at Wilder Pond.
Wood Duck	<u>Aix sponsa</u>		Local population significantly reduced by habitat destruction. Very small, localized breeding populations at Waddell Creek & tributaries.
Redhead	<u>Aythya americana</u>		Formerly wintered in mid-county lagoons.
Canvasback	<u>Aythya valisneria</u>		NASBL-79. Small wintering flocks in Pajaro estuary, Scott Creek Marsh, mid-county lagoons.
Barrow's Goldeneye	<u>Bucephala islandica</u>	CDF&G BSSCL-Highest Priority	Sporadic visitor to coastal lagoons & estuaries in winter.
Harlequin Duck	<u>Histrionicus histrionicus pacificus</u>	CDF&G BSSCL-Highest Priority	Rare but regular winter resident along coast in surf in Waddell Creek area and West Cliff area, possibly elsewhere.

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Virginia Rail	<u>Rallus limicola</u>		Breeding population reduced by habitat destruction & rat predation. Recent breeding record for Sunset Beach marsh.
Sora	<u>Porzana carolina</u>		Breeding population reduced by habitat destruction & rat predation. Recent breeding record for Sunset Beach marsh.
Yellow Rail	<u>Coturnicops noveboracensis</u>	CDF&G BSSCL-Highest priority	No definite records for SCCCZ but expected occasionally in fresh marsh during migration.
Common Gallinule	<u>Gallinula chloropus</u>		Small, highly localized population at Baldwin Creek reservoir and probably a few other fresh marshes.
Black Oystercatcher	<u>Haematopus bachmani</u>		Resident in small number along intertidal zone of North Coast. Few, if any breeding.
Snowy Plover	<u>Charadrius alexandrinus</u>	CDF&G BSSCL-Second priority	NASBL-79. Small, localized breeding populations at Pajaro Dunes, Wilder Beach. Other local populations extirpated due to human disturbance at beaches.
Spotted Sandpiper	<u>Actitis macularia</u>		Very small, highly localized breeding population along Pajaro River above Thurwachter Rd. Possibly occasionally along other streams.
Black-necked Stilt	<u>Himantopus mexicanus</u>		Very small, localized breeding population at Watsonville Slough.
American Avocet	<u>Recurvirostra americana</u>		Very small, localized breeding population at Watsonville Slough.



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Rough-legged Hawk	<u>Buteo lagopus</u>		Winter visitor in grassland areas, mainly North Coast.
Golden Eagle	<u>Aquila chrysaetos</u>	CDF&G BSSCL-Third priority	Nominated for NASBL-79. Recent populations significantly reduced. Formerly nested in Waddell area. Observed occasionally over North Coast area, & hunts regularly over Watsonville grassland area.
Marsh Hawk	<u>Circus cyaneus hudsonius</u>	CDF&G BSSCL-Second priority	NASBL-79. More common formerly. One breeding record at Palm Beach/Watsonville Slough. Regular in winter in grasslands & wetlands along coast.
Osprey	<u>Pandion haliaetus carolinensis</u>	CDF&G BSSCL-Second priority	Fairly regular observations at Pajaro estuary, expected along entire coastline/ & at reservoirs & lagoons. No breeding records in CZ but possible on North Coast
Prairie Falcon	<u>Falco mexicanus</u>	CDF&G BSSCL-Third priority	NASBL-79. One questionable report of nesting on North Coast. Rare visitor to SCCCZ grasslands.
Merlin	<u>Falco columbarius columbarius</u>	CDF&G BSSCL-Highest priority	NASBL-79. Uncommon winter resident in coastal & inland habitats, apparently adaptable & increasing.
American Kestrel	<u>Falco sparverius</u>		NASBL-79. Very small breeding population, although common in winter.
Ring-necked Pheasant	<u>Phasianus colchicus</u>	Game bird	Local populations of this introduced bird have been significantly reduced due to habitat destruction. Now limited to south county slough region.

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Spotted Owl	<u>Strix occidentalis</u>	CDF&G BSSCL-Second priority	Rare resident. No definite records for CZ, but expected in forested areas, especially in North Coast.
Burrowing Owl	<u>Speotyto cunicularia</u>	CDF&G BSSCL-Second priority	NASBL-79. Rare resident in grasslands. Depends upon ground squirrel colonies. Nesting expected but not documented. Population much reduced.
Saw-whet Owl	<u>Aegolius acadicus</u>		Small breeding population expected in forest areas above 1000 ft. in North Coast area.
Flammulated Owl	<u>Otus flammeolus</u>		Very small breeding population expected in Ponderosa pine grove at Bonny Doon.
Poor-will	<u>Phalaenoptilus nuttallii</u>		Rare summer resident in Swanton area & probably other areas of North Coast having sparse chaparral.
Black Swift	<u>Cypseloides niger</u>	CDF&G BSSCL-Third priority	Small breeding population along North Coast cliffs & Berry Creek Falls.
Vaux's Swift	<u>Chaetura vauxi</u>		Small breeding population (Big Basin area, possibly elsewhere). Nest inside large hollow snags.
White-throated Swift	<u>Aeronautes saxatalis</u>		Small breeding population. Nests on cliffs along North Coast e.g. Major's Canyon, quarries near Davenport).



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California Gull	<u>Larus californicus</u>	CDF&G BSSCL-Third priority	Although of concern to CDF&G, is commonly observed but no breeding in SCCCZ. No local concern.
Caspian Tern	<u>Hydroprogne caspia</u>		Formerly nested at Pajaro estuary; breeding population extirpated due to disturbance & habitat alteration.
Elegant Tern	<u>Thalasseus elegans</u>	CDF&G BSSCL-Third priority	Regular at Pajaro estuary & elsewhere as a post-breeding visitor. No breeding in SCCCZ.
Forster's Tern	<u>Sterna forsteri</u>		Formerly nested at Pajaro estuary; breeding population extirpated due to disturbance & habitat alteration.
Common Tern	<u>Sterna hirundo</u>		NASBL-79. Uncommon visitor during migration.
Pigeon Gull/lemon	<u>Cepphus columba</u>		Breeding population in SCCCZ restricted to North Coast cliffs.
Marbled Murrelet	<u>Brachyramphus marmoratus</u>		Very small, localized breeding population at Big Basin but possibly also in CZ.
(Greater) Roadrunner	<u>Geococcyx californianus</u>		Very rare resident, possibly extirpated. Several records from Swanton & Waddell area (most recent 1975).
Long-eared Owl	<u>Asio otus</u>	CDF&G BSSCL-Second priority	Rare resident. One documented nesting colony. Observed near Swanton, expected elsewhere.
Short-eared Owl	<u>Asio flammeus</u>	CDF&G BSSCL-Second priority	NASBL-79. Rare winter visitor in marshy grassland (Watsonville Slough System). May have formerly nested Pajaro estuary.

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American Goldfinch	<u>Spinus tristis</u>		Small localized breeding populations in riparian woodland in South County & a few on North Coast.
Lawrence's Goldfinch	<u>Spinus lawrencei</u>		Very small breeding population in Sunset Beach area, formerly much more widespread.
Grasshopper Sparrow	<u>Aimodramus savannarum</u>		NASDL-79. Small, localized breeding populations in North Coast & South County grasslands.
Lark Sparrow	<u>Chondestes grammacus</u>		Breeding population very small - scattered pairs in grassland areas of North Coast & probably South County.
Chipping Sparrow	<u>Spizella passerina</u>		Small, localized breeding populations in meadows away from immediate coast - North Coast area.
Savannah Sparrow	<u>Passerculus sandwichensis</u>		Localized breeding populations - Salt marsh at Pajaro estuary, grasslands along North Coast & presumably South County.
MAMMALS:			
Santa Cruz Kangaroo Rat	<u>Dipodomys venustus</u>		Endemic to Santa Cruz Mts. Specimens known from Bonny Doon area. Requires sandy soils.
Badger	<u>Taxidea taxus</u>	Furbearer - CDF&G trapping regulations	Associated with sandy soils. Preys upon ground squirrels & other rodents of grasslands. Populations reduced by habitat loss & rodent control.
Muskrat	<u>Ondatra zibethica</u>	Furbearer - CDF&G trapping regulations	Introduced to coastal marshes from eastern California.

Incorporated areas not included.

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Yellow Warbler	<u>Dendroica</u> <u>patechla</u>		NASBL-79. Breeding populations limited to cottonwood groves along Pajaro River & Soquel Creek. Small breeding populations in North Coast area, mostly above 1000 ft. Very small breeding populations expected in North Coast riparian habitats.
Black-throated Gray Warbler	<u>Dendroica</u> <u>nigrescens</u>		
MacGillivray's Warbler	<u>Oporornis</u> <u>tolmiei</u>		
Common Yellowthroat	<u>Geothlypis</u> <u>trichas</u>		Very limited breeding distribution - Ilarkins-Gallighan Slough, Sunset Beach marsh, possibly North Coast marshes.
Yellow-breasted Chat	<u>Icteria</u> <u>virens</u>	CDF&G BSSCL-Second priority	NASBL-79. Breeding populations nearly extirpated. A few still expected in riparian habitat in South County.
Western Meadowlark	<u>Sturnella</u> <u>neglecta</u>		Small localized breeding populations - Watsonville Slough region possibly a few grassland areas along North Coast. Formerly more common & widespread.
Tricolored Blackbird	<u>Agelaius</u> <u>tricolor</u>		Very few breeding colonies & roost sites - Scott Creek marsh, possibly other marshes.
Blue Grosbeak	<u>Guiraca</u> <u>caerulea</u>		Small breeding populations extirpated. Formerly in south & mid-county riparian habitats.
Lazuli Bunting	<u>Passerina</u> <u>amoena</u>		Small breeding populations in North Coast area; more common formerly.



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Pileated Woodpecker	<u>Dryocopus pileatus</u>		Rare resident. Small breeding population in Big Basin area & possible elsewhere in mature forest in North Coast area. Recent observation at Swanton Rd.
Nuttall's Woodpecker	<u>Dendrocopos nuttallii</u>		Very small breeding population expected at Harkins-Gallighan Slough area in riparian & oak woodland.
Western Kingbird	<u>Tyrannus verticalis</u>		Apparently extirpated as a breeding species. Formerly in grassland areas of Watsonville Slough region & North Coast.
Willow (Traill's) Flycatcher	<u>Empidonax traillii</u>	CDF&G BSSCL-Highest priority	Rare migrant; a few may breed in SCCCZ in riparian habitats.
Horned Lark	<u>Eremophila alpestris</u>		Nearly extirpated; only recent breeding & wintering records. are from Younger Lagoon, but expected in grasslands of Watsonville Slough region & possibly in North Coast area.
Bank Swallow	<u>Riparia riparia</u>	CDF&G BSSCL-Second priority	Breeding populations extirpated. Former colonial nesting on coastal cliffs in mid-county. Possibly on coastal cliffs & sandstone banks in Watsonville Slough area
Purple Martin	<u>Progne subis subis</u>	CDF&G BSSCL-Second priority	Breeding population much reduced. Nest in woodpecker holes in snags in inland forest of North Coast.
Tree Swallow	<u>Iridoprocne bicolor</u>		Small breeding population in riparian woodland in Harkins-Gallighan Slough area, possibly Pajaro River.

Addendum to  
Locally Unique Wildlife of the  
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California Brackish Water Snail	<u>Tryonia imitator</u>	Proposed endangered species	

1. Incorporated areas not included.

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Common Raven	<u>Corvus corax</u>		Probably nested formerly on North Coast cliffs; very sensitive to human presence.
Common Crow	<u>Corvus brachyrhynchos</u>		Only roost in county at Harkins Slough. A few may also breed in the area.
Dipper	<u>Cinclus mexicanus</u>		Small populations resident along Scott & Waddell Creek & tributaries, & probably other rocky North Coast streams. Formerly more common.
Red-breasted Nuthatch	<u>Sitta canadensis</u>		Small, localized breeding populations - Martin Rd. area & possibly elsewhere in inland North Coast area.
Rock Wren	<u>Salpinctes obsoletus</u>		Rare winter resident in North Coast quarries & canyons; a few may breed.
Canyon Wren	<u>Catherpes mexicanus</u>		Possible resident in Major's Creek canyon & other canyons of North Coast.
Long-billed Marsh Wren	<u>Telmatodytes palustris</u>		Very limited breeding distribution - Baldwin Creek reservoir, Scott Creek marsh, Waddell marsh, possibly other fresh marshes.
Western Bluebird	<u>Sialia mexicana</u>		MASBL-79. Breeding populations much reduced. No recent breeding records in CZ.
Loggerhead Shrike	<u>Lanius ludovicianus</u>		MASBL-79. Very small breeding population. A few pairs expected to nest in Watsonville Slough area.
Bell's Vireo	<u>Vireo bellii</u>		MASBL-79. May have nested in small numbers in riparian woodland in Pajaro Valley.