

Approx early 70's

AN ANNOTATED CHECKLIST OF
THE BIRDS OF ANACAPA AND SANTA BARBARA ISLANDS

Compiled by Lee Jones

This is a preliminary report of the birds of Santa Barbara and Anacapa islands based on the published literature and various unpublished field notes, primarily those of Dr. George Hunt, Dr. Jared Diamond and myself. I have omitted any species for which there is any question of occurrence in my mind. Because of the limited amount of field work which has been carried out on these islands the status of many species is sketchy at best. In many cases I have extrapolated a species' status from data available for the other islands and the adjacent mainland. Nearly every trip to these islands yields one or more new species for the particular island, thus this list is sure to be out-dated almost as soon as it is completed. For instance, almost no work has been done on either of these two islands during the period of fall migration, the time of year when the greatest variety of birds should be present.

In the list below, an "A" or a "B" to the left of the species indicates that species' occurrence on Anacapa or Santa Barbara Island, respectively. Species which breed, or have bred are marked with an asterisk.

- C A B Arctic Loon (Gavia arctica): fairly common winter visitor to the islands; late September to early June.
- B Eared Grebe (Podiceps nigricollis): probably occurs regularly in winter around both islands. As yet, no record for Anacapa, however.
- B Western Grebe (Aechmophorus occidentalis): should be regular winter visitor to both islands, but there is no specific record for Anacapa.
- C B Northern Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis): common around the islands some winters, absent in others (no specific record for Anacapa).
- C A B Pink-footed Shearwater (Puffinus creatopus): fairly common around the islands from May to October.
- C A B Sooty Shearwater (Puffinus griseus): common to abundant around the islands from May to October. This species sometimes congregates by the hundreds of thousands in the Santa Barbara Channel.
- A B Black Storm-Petrel (Oceanodroma melania): occasionally seen near the islands in summer; common in mid-channel.
- C A* B* Brown Pelican (Pelecanus occidentalis): common year round on both islands. A few breed on West Anacapa. It formerly bred on Santa Barbara and may still occasionally breed there (last definite nesting was 1967). Numbers increase in late summer and early fall as birds move north from breeding areas in Mexico.
- C A* B* Double-crested Cormorant (Phalacrocorax auritus): common breeding resident.

- C A* B* Brandt's Cormorant (Phalacrocorax penicillatus): very common breeding resident.
- C A* B* Pelagic Cormorant (Phalacrocorax pelagicus): fairly common winter visitor, a few are present in summer and may breed. It has bred on both islands in the past.
- A B Great Blue Heron (Ardea herodias): occasionally seen in kelpbeds and on rocks any time of year.
- C A B White-winged Scoter (Melanitta deglandi): fairly common winter visitor; October to May.
- A B Surf Scoter (Melanitta perspicillata): fairly common winter visitor; October to May.
- A B Red-breasted Merganser (Mergus serrator): regular winter visitor to Anacapa; October to May.
- A* B Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis): occasionally seen on Anacapa and has bred there; one record for Santa Barbara - mid July, 1968.
- X A* B* Bald Eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus): formerly bred on both islands; disappeared from Santa Barbara around 1911 and from Anacapa around 1950. One seen on Santa Barbara 23 August 1960.
- R A Marsh Hawk (Circus cyaneus): one record for Anacapa, 15 March 1911.
- C R A* Osprey (Pandion haliaetus): formerly bred on Anacapa, but not since around 1960. Still occasionally seen in winter.
- A* B* Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus): formerly bred on both islands. It is not known when it last bred, but the last sight record was from Santa Barbara on 24 September 1961.
- C A* B* American Kestrel (Falco sparverius): common breeding resident on Anacapa; one or two pairs bred on Santa Barbara in 1973 and probably earlier.
- A? B* American Oystercatcher (Haematopus palliatus): one present on West Anacapa from 24 May 1964 until 20 November 1971; one record for Santa Barbara, 2 June 1863 (a female collected with fully developed egg in oviduct).
- C A* B* Black Oystercatcher (Haematopus bachmani): common breeding resident, particularly on Anacapa.
- B Black-bellied Plover (Pluvialis squatarola): one record for Santa Barbara, 1 June 1973. It should be a regular spring and fall visitor to both islands, but for some reason has gone unnoticed.
- C A B Black Turnstone (Arenaria melanocephala): common migrant and winter visitor; August to May.
- R B Long-billed Curlew (Numenius americanus): one record for Santa Barbara, 23 July 1973.
- B Whimbrel (Numenius phaeopus): four records for Santa Barbara; surprisingly, none for Anacapa, though probably a regular migrant to both.
- C A B Spotted Sandpiper (Actitis macularia): undoubtedly regular during migration, though there are few actual records.
- Wandering Tattler (Heteroscelus incanus): common migrant and winter visitor; July to May.

- C E Willet (Catoptrophorus semipalmatus): fairly common migrant, probably to both islands, but not yet recorded from Anacapa.
- * A Dunlin (Calidris alpina): one record for Anacapa, 20 May 1928
- A B Red Phalarope (Phalaropus fulicarius): fairly common in the vicinity of the islands in fall; August to November. Occasional in spring.
- A B Northern Phalarope (Lobipes lobatus): same status as the preceding species.
- A* B* Western Gull (Larus occidentalis): abundant resident year round.
- A B California Gull (Larus californicus): common winter visitor; October to early June.
- A Franklin's Gull (Larus pipirican): one record for Anacapa; 22 May 1971.
- B Boneparte's Gull (Larus philadelphia): one record for Santa Barbara; 11 and 12 November 1928 (many seen).
- A B Heermann's Gull (Larus heermanni): present all year, though scarce in late spring and early summer.
- B Caspian Tern (Hydroprogne caspia): one record for Santa Barbara, 1 July 1972
- A* B* Pigeon Guillemot (Cephus columba): fairly common breeding resident on both islands.
- A* B* Xantus' Murrelet (Endomychura hypoleuca): common breeding bird on Santa Barbara; has bred, and probably still does, on Anacapa.
- A B* Cassin's Auklet (Ptychoramphus aleuticus): occasionally seen around the islands in winter though it normally remains well offshore. Formerly bred on Santa Barbara, but cats destroyed the colony.
- A B Rhinoceros Auklet (Gerorhinca monocerata): occasionally seen near shore in winter.
- A* B² Tufted Puffin (Lunda cirrhata): formerly bred on Anacapa and probably Santa Barbara; no recent breeding records, though there was one at Santa Barbara on 22 August 1960.
- B Band-tailed Pigeon (Columba fasciata): occasional vagrants reach Santa Barbara (24 July 1968, 21 August 1968, 24 July 1973) and undoubtedly Anacapa.
- A Rock Dove (Columba livia): an occasional vagrant from the mainland reaches Anacapa.
- A B Mourning Dove (Zenaida macroura): regular vagrant from the mainland; at times common, but they never stay long.
- B Yellow-billed Cuckoo (Coccyzus americanus): one record for Santa Barbara, 1 June 1973.
- A* B* Barn Owl (Tyto alba): uncommon resident on Santa Barbara and formerly, at least, on Anacapa.
- A B* Burrowing Owl (Speotyta cunicularia): breeds on Santa Barbara and has been recorded on Anacapa, probably as a migrant.
- B Short-eared Owl (Asio flammeus): one record for Santa Barbara, April 1973.
- R A Poor-will (Phalaenoptilus nuttallii): one record for Anacapa, 6 April 1906.

- A B Lesser Nighthawk (Chordeiles acutipennis): occasionally seen during spring and fall migration; primarily May and September.
- A* B^y White-throated Swift (Aeronautes saxatalis): breeds on Anacapa (present year round); occasionally seen in spring and summer on Santa Barbara in recent years.
- A B* Costa's Hummingbird (Calypte costae): formerly bred on Santa Barbara and may have bred there in 1973. Several seen on Anacapa, 19 May 1973.
- B Anna's Hummingbird (Calypte anna): a few present on Santa Barbara in the spring of 1973.
- B Rufous Hummingbird (Selasphorus rufus): occasionally seen on Santa Barbara (most individuals of the species are impossible to tell from the next in the field, thus its status is uncertain).
- A* B Allen's Hummingbird (Selasphorus sasin): common breeding resident on Anacapa; occasionally seen on Santa Barbara.
- A B Belted Kingfisher (Megaceryle alcyon): uncommon winter visitor.
- A B Common Flicker (Colaptes auratus): occasional vagrant to the islands; August to April.
- A B Western Kingbird (Tyrannus verticalis): two records for Santa Barbara (19 August 1968, 2 June 1972) and one record for Anacapa, 19 May 1973.
- A B Cassin's Kingbird (Tyrannus vociferans): one record for Anacapa (spring, 1968) and one on Santa Barbara 23 and 24 July 1973.
- A B Ash-throated Flycatcher (Myiarchus cinerascens): uncommon spring and fairly common fall migrant; April and May, mid-July to September.
- A B Black Phoebe (Sayornis nigricans): occasional winter visitor to both islands.
- A B Say's Phoebe (Sayornis saya): uncommon and irregular migrant and winter visitor to both islands.
- A B Willow Flycatcher (Empidonax traillii): fairly common migrant, late April to early June and mid August to late September.
- A B Hammond's Flycatcher (Empidonax hammondi): fairly common migrant; early April to late May and late August to early October.
- A* B Western Flycatcher (Empidonax difficilis): breeds on Anacapa late March to mid October; common migrant on Santa Barbara (late March to May and late August to late October).
- A B Western Wood Pewee (Contopus sordidulus): uncommon migrant; late April to early June and September to October.
- B Olive-sided Flycatcher (Nuttallornis borealis): two or three present on Santa Barbara in May and early June 1973.
- A* B* Horned Lark (Eremophila alpestris): abundant resident on Santa Barbara; formerly bred on Anacapa, but not seen in recent years.

- A B Violet-green Swallow (Tachycineta thalassina): one record for Anacapa (1968) and one for Santa Barbara, 12 May 1973.
- A Rough-winged Swallow (Stelgidopteryx ruficollis): one record for Anacapa (1968).
- A* B Barn Swallow (Hirundo rustica): common summer resident on Anacapa (mid March to October); uncommon migrant on Santa Barbara.
- A B Cliff Swallow (Petrochelidon pyrrhonota): occasional spring and fall migrant to both islands.
- A Yellow-billed Magpie (Pica nuttallii): one record for Anacapa, 9 April 1961. This is an extremely unusual record!
- A* B* Common Raven (Corvus corax): formerly bred on both islands; still occasionally seen on Anacapa (birds from Santa Cruz?). Last seen on Santa Barbara around 1940.
- B Red-breasted Nuthatch (Sitta canadensis): one record for Santa Barbara, April 1973.
- A House Wren (Troglodytes aedon): occasional migrant to Anacapa.
- A* B Bewick's Wren (Thryomanes bewickii): common breeding resident on Anacapa; has occurred on Santa Barbara, (1870 and 27 March 1927).
- B Marsh Wren (Telmatodytes palustris): one record for Santa Barbara, 20 May 1973.
- A* B* Rock Wren (Salpinctes obsoletus): uncommon breeding resident on West Anacapa; nearly extinct on Santa Barbara, but at least one pair bred on the cliffs below Signal Peak in 1973.
- A B Common Mockingbird (Mimus polyglottos): occasional vagrant to both islands anytime of year.
- A Bendire's Thrasher (Toxostoma bendirei): one record for Anacapa, spring 1968.
- A B American Robin (Turdus migratorius): occasional migrant to both islands.
- A B Hermit Thrush (Catharus guttatus): occasional winter visitor to both islands; mid October to mid April.
- B Swainson's Thrush (Catharus ustulatus): two records for Santa Barbara (16 May 1897, 12 May 1973).
- R B Western Bluebird (Sialia mexicana): two records for Santa Barbara (1 May 1908, 21 October 1972).
- A B Ruby-crowned Kinglet (Regulus calendula): occasional spring and fall migrant, probably to both islands, though only one record for Santa Barbara (11 and 12 May 1973).
- A B Cedar Waxwing (Bombycilla cedrorum): probably an occasional winter visitor (October to early June); though the only records are 19 May 1973 (Anacapa) and 11, 12, and 20 May and 1 June 1973 (Santa Barbara).
- A* Loggerhead Shrike (Lanius ludovicianus): uncommon breeding resident on Anacapa. There are two unconfirmed reports for Santa Barbara.
- A* B* Common Starling (Sturnus vulgaris): recent immigrant to both islands. First recorded on Anacapa in the mid 1960's and on Santa Barbara in 1972.

- B Solitary Vireo (Vireo solitarius): one record for Santa Barbara, 11 May 1973.
- C A B Warbling Vireo (Vireo gilvus): fairly common spring and fall migrant; late March to late May and early September to late October.
- R B Black-and-white Warbler (Mniotilta varia): one record for Santa Barbara, 27 March 1927.
- C A* B? Orange-crowned Warbler (Vermivora celata): common breeding resident on Anacapa; uncommon spring and fall migrant on Santa Barbara and may have formerly bred.
- B Northern Parula (Parula americana): one record for Santa Barbara, May 1968.
- C A B Yellow Warbler (Dendroica petechia): fairly common spring and fall migrant.
- R B Magnolia Warbler (Dendroica magnolia): one record for Santa Barbara, 15 May 1897.
- R B Yellow-rumped Warbler (Dendroica coronata): three records for Santa Barbara, 15 May 1897, 29 March 1918, 21 October 1972). Probably a common spring and fall migrant and regular winter visitor to both islands despite the lack of records.
- A Black-throated Gray Warbler (Dendroica nigrescens): one record for Anacapa (1968).
- C A B Townsend's Warbler (Dendroica townsendi): fairly common spring and fall migrant, primarily in May, September and October.
- C A B Hermit Warbler (Dendroica occidentalis): fairly common spring and fall migrant, primarily in May, September and October (less common than the preceding species).
- B Chestnut-sided Warbler (Dendroica pensylvanica): one record for Santa Barbara, 18 June 1972.
- B Palm Warbler (Dendroica palmarum): one record for Santa Barbara, 12 May 1973.
- A Northern Waterthrush (Seiurus noveboracensis): one record for Anacapa, 9 May 1971.
- B Kentucky Warbler (Oporornis formosus): one record for Santa Barbara, 1 June 1973. There are only three other records for this species on the west coast of North America.
- A B MacGillivray's Warbler (Oporornis tolmiei): uncommon spring and fall migrant, primarily in May and September.
- A B Common Yellowthroat (Geothlypis trichas): uncommon spring and fall migrant; only one record for Santa Barbara to date, however (20 May 1973).
- C A B Wilson's Warbler (Wilsonia pusilla): very common spring and fall migrant to both islands; late March to early June and late July to late October.
- B American Redstart (Setophaga ruticilla): one record for Santa Barbara, 12 May 1973.
- B Bobolink (Dolichonyx oryzivorus): one record for Santa Barbara, 24 July 1973.
- C A* B* Western Meadowlark (Sturnella neglecta): very common breeding resident on both islands.

- A B Yellow-headed Blackbird (Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus): occasionally seen during spring and fall on both islands.
- A Hooded Oriole (Icterus cucullatus): occasional visitor to Anacapa during migration.
- A B Northern Oriole (Icterus galbula): regular, though uncommon, migrant; mid March to early May and early August to early October.
- B Brewer's Blackbird (Euphagus cyanocephalus): one record for Santa Barbara, 24 July 1973.
- A B Brown-headed Cowbird (Molothrus ater): occasional spring and fall migrant; one summer record for Anacapa, 1 July 1973.
- A B Western Tanager (Piranga ludoviciana): fairly common migrant, late April to late May and early August to early November.
- B Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Pheucticus ludovicianus): one record of three birds for Santa Barbara, 20 May 1973.
- A B Black-headed Grosbeak (Pheucticus melanocephalus): fairly common spring and fall migrant; early April to early June and early August to late October.
- B Blue Grosbeak (Guiraca caerulea): one record for Santa Barbara, April 1973.
- A B Indigo Bunting (Passerina cyanea): one record for Anacapa (19 May 1973) and three records for Santa Barbara (10 July 1972, 12 May and 1 June 1973).
- A B Lazule Bunting (Passerina amoena): common migrant; mid April to late May and late August to early October.
- A* B* House Finch (Carpodacus mexicanus): common breeding resident on Anacapa (population seems to fluctuate markedly from year to year); occasional vagrant to Santa Barbara. Formerly bred on Santa Barbara.
- B Pine Siskin (Spinus pinus): one record for Santa Barbara; 11 May to 1 June 1973 (two or three birds).
- B Lesser Goldfinch (Spinus psaltria): Occasional spring and fall vagrant to Santa Barbara and probably Anacapa.
- B Lawrence's Goldfinch (Spinus lawrencei): one record for Santa Barbara, 12 May 1973.
- A B Savannah Sparrow (Passerculus sandwichensis): fairly common winter visitor; late September to early May.
- B Vesper Sparrow (Poocetes gramineus): one record for Santa Barbara, 21 May 1972 (several birds).
- A* Rufous-crowned Sparrow (Aimophila ruficeps): fairly common resident on Anacapa.
- A B Dark-eyed Junco (Junco hyemalis): occasional migrant (and winter visitor?) to both islands.
- B Black-throated Sparrow (Amphispiza bilineata): one record for Santa Barbara, 23 July 1973.
- A* B Chipping Sparrow (Spizella passerina): summer breeding resident on Anacapa (mid-March to October); fairly common spring and fall migrant on Santa Barbara.
- A B White-crowned Sparrow (Zonotrichia leucophrys): common migrant to both islands and common winter visitor to Anacapa; status on Santa Barbara in winter is unknown.

- A B Golden-crowned Sparrow (Zonotrichia albicapilla): same as preceding species, though less common most years.
- B Fox Sparrow (Passerella iliaca): uncommon migrant and winter visitor on Santa Barbara and undoubtedly Anacapa, also, though no records to date.
- B Lincoln's Sparrow (Melospiza lincolni): same as above.
- A B* Song Sparrow (Melospiza melodia): prior to 1959 it was a very common breeding resident on Santa Barbara. A fire in 1959 destroyed most of the scrubby habitat on the island and the species has since disappeared as a breeding bird, though occasional vagrants are seen; there is a reference to its presence on Anacapa in large numbers on 28 March 1927, but it is not clear whether or not it was breeding or even if they were correctly identified.
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