



A Checklist of

Birds

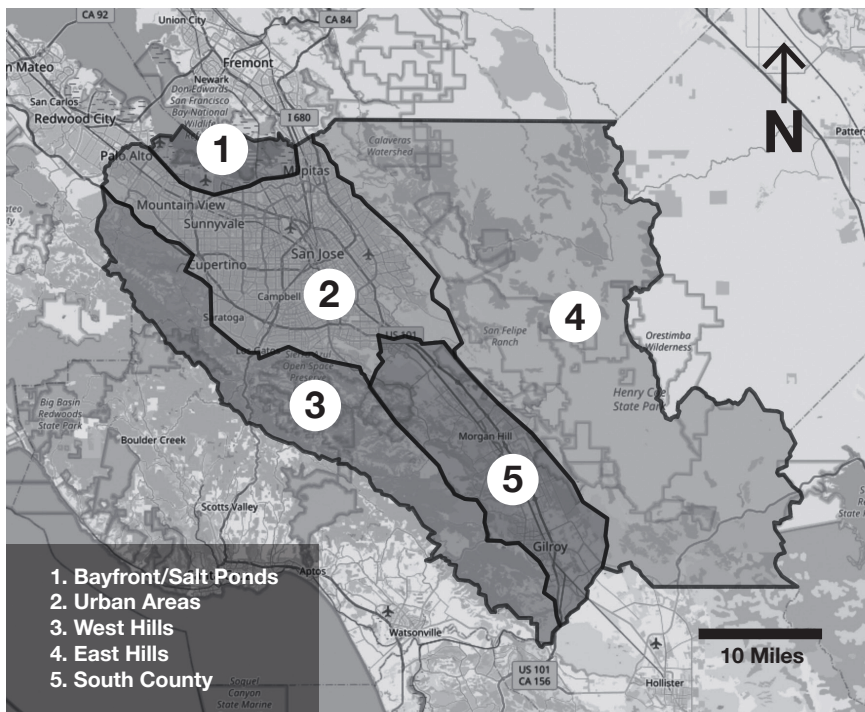
of Santa Clara County

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

Version 3.1

Released 06/08/2024

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

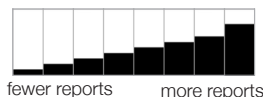
A Checklist of Birds of Santa Clara County

Covering the **417 species** observed in Santa Clara County, CA

Symbols:

- **** (bold) Frequent breeder in the county
- *** (bold) Infrequent breeding bird
- (*) Former county breeder
- † Rarity not in eBird (see page 12)

Bar Charts: seasonal status of birds:



Rarity codes: annual county status

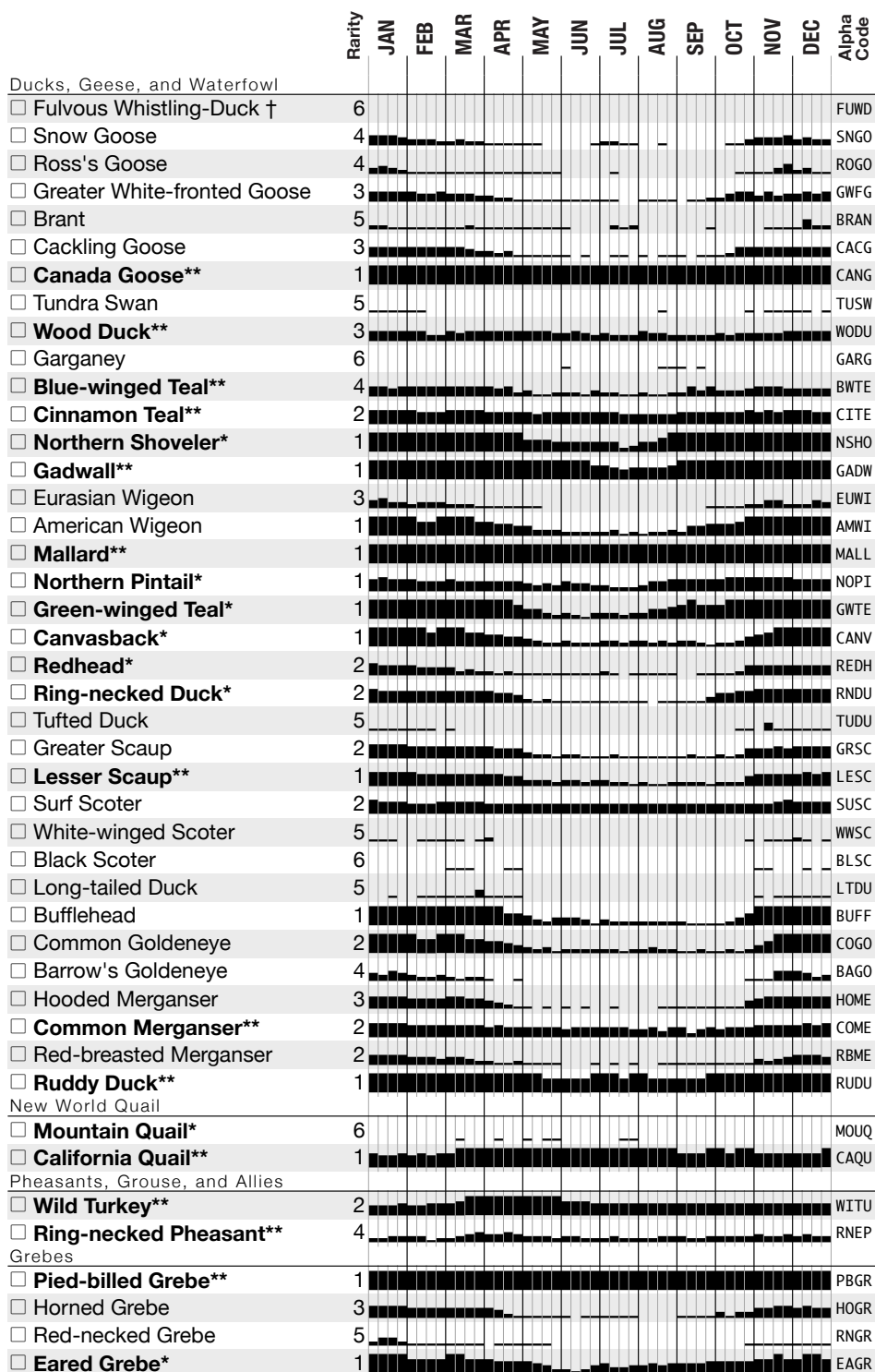
- 1 **Common**, always seen in habitat in season
- 2 **Fairly common**, usually in habitat in season, missed sometimes
- 3 **Uncommon**, always around, but sometimes you can't find
- 4 **Rare**, occurs yearly in the county, but not always in same places
- 5 **Very rare**, does not occur every year
-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

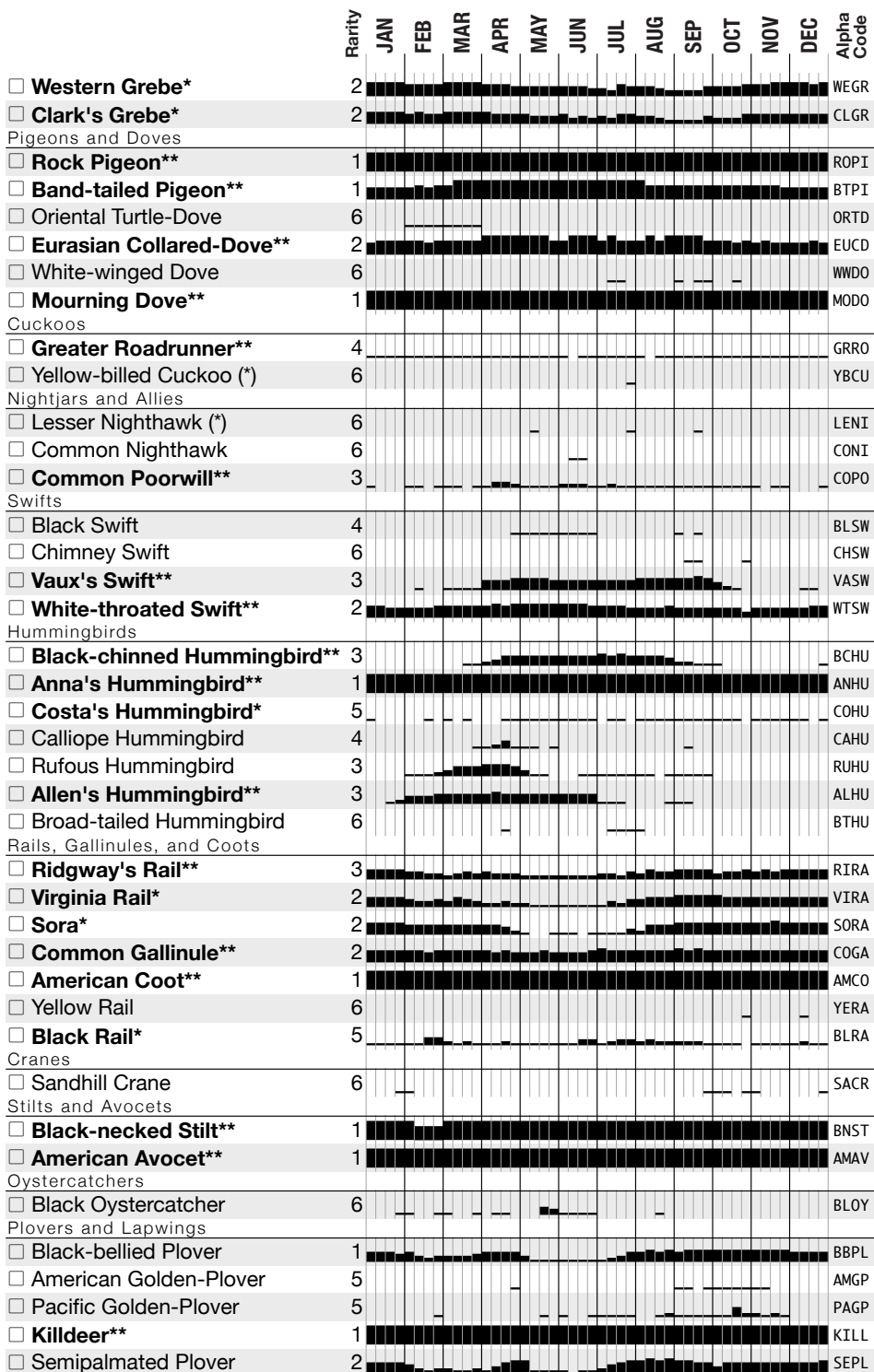


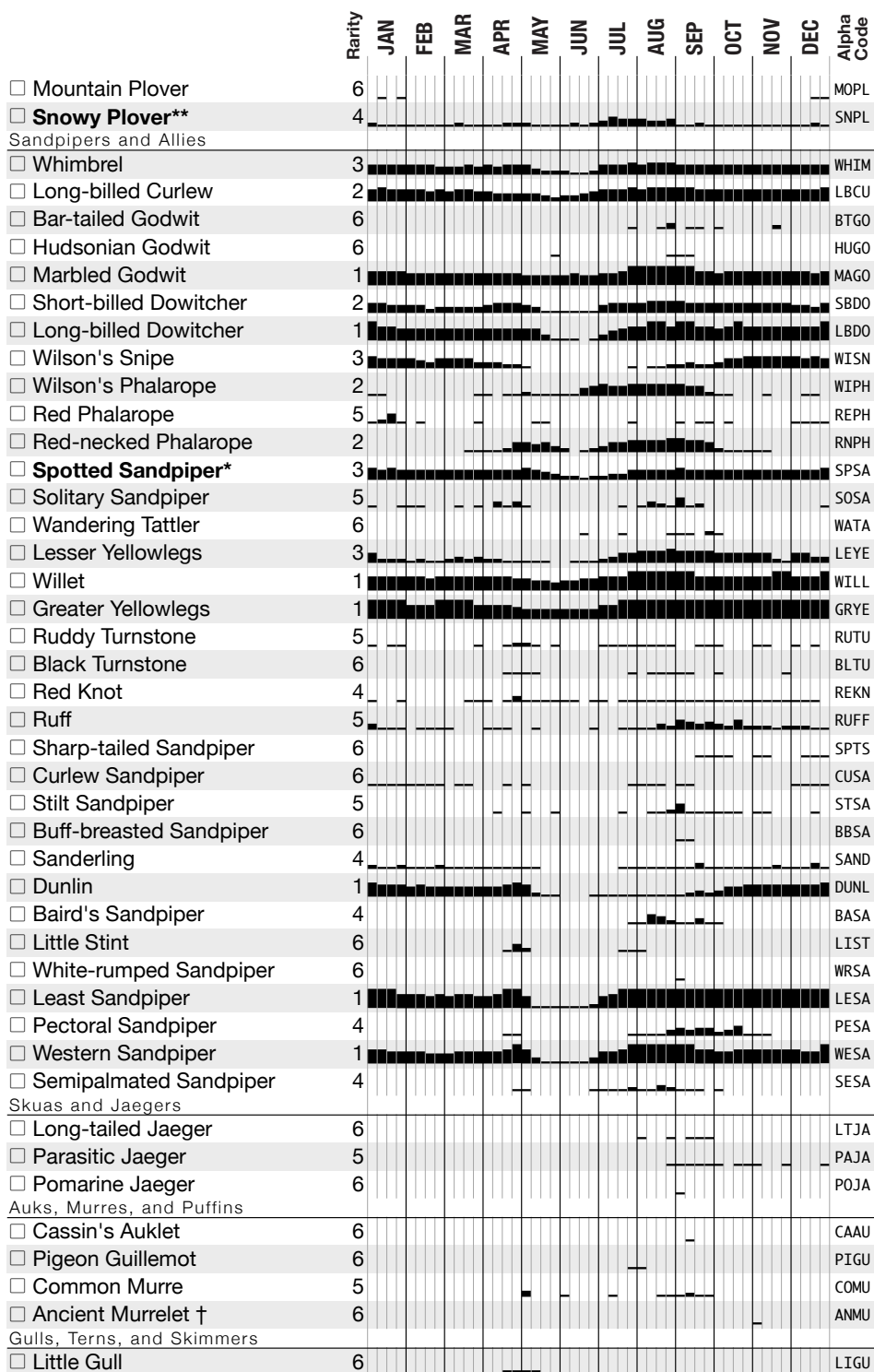
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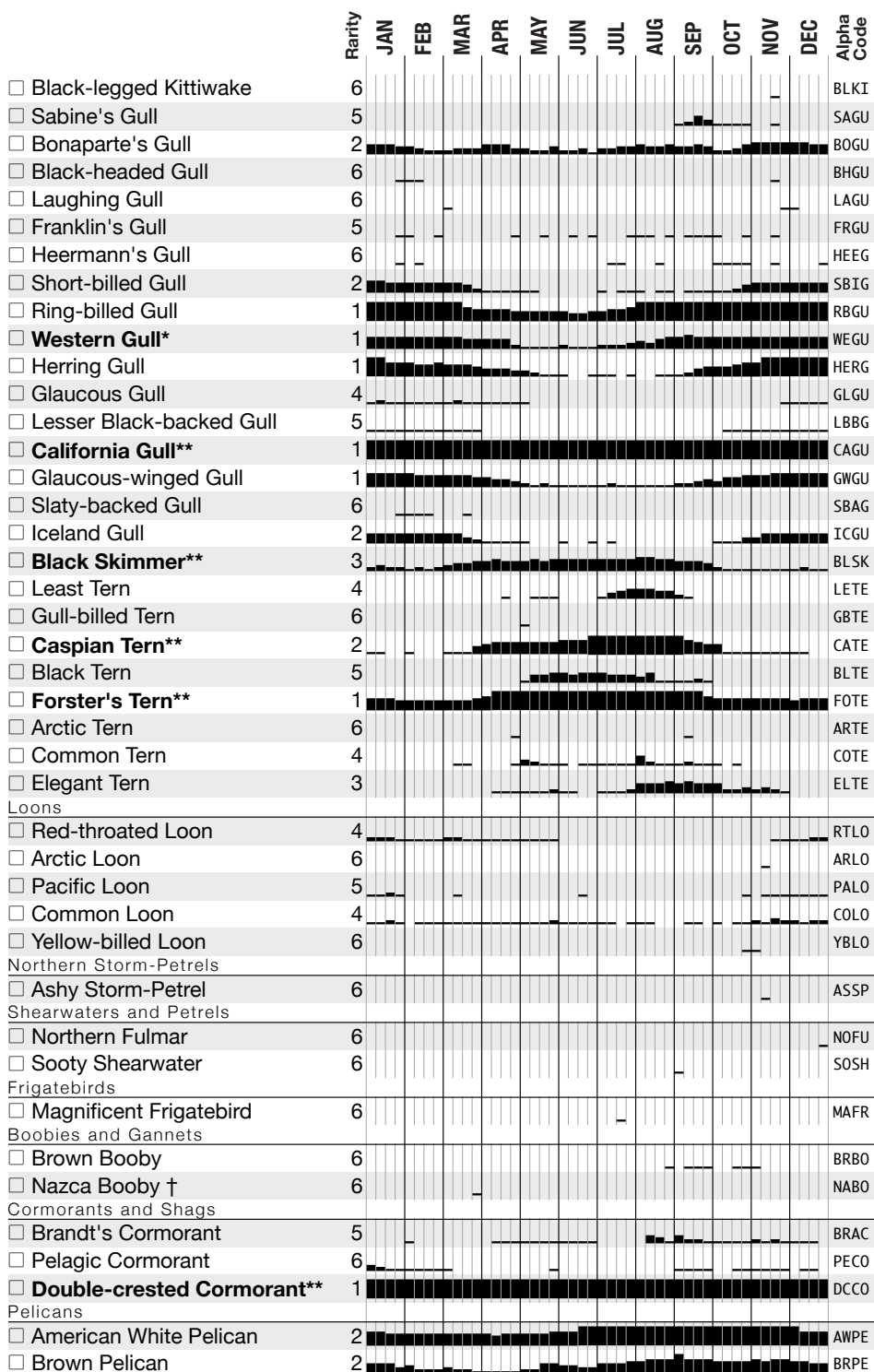


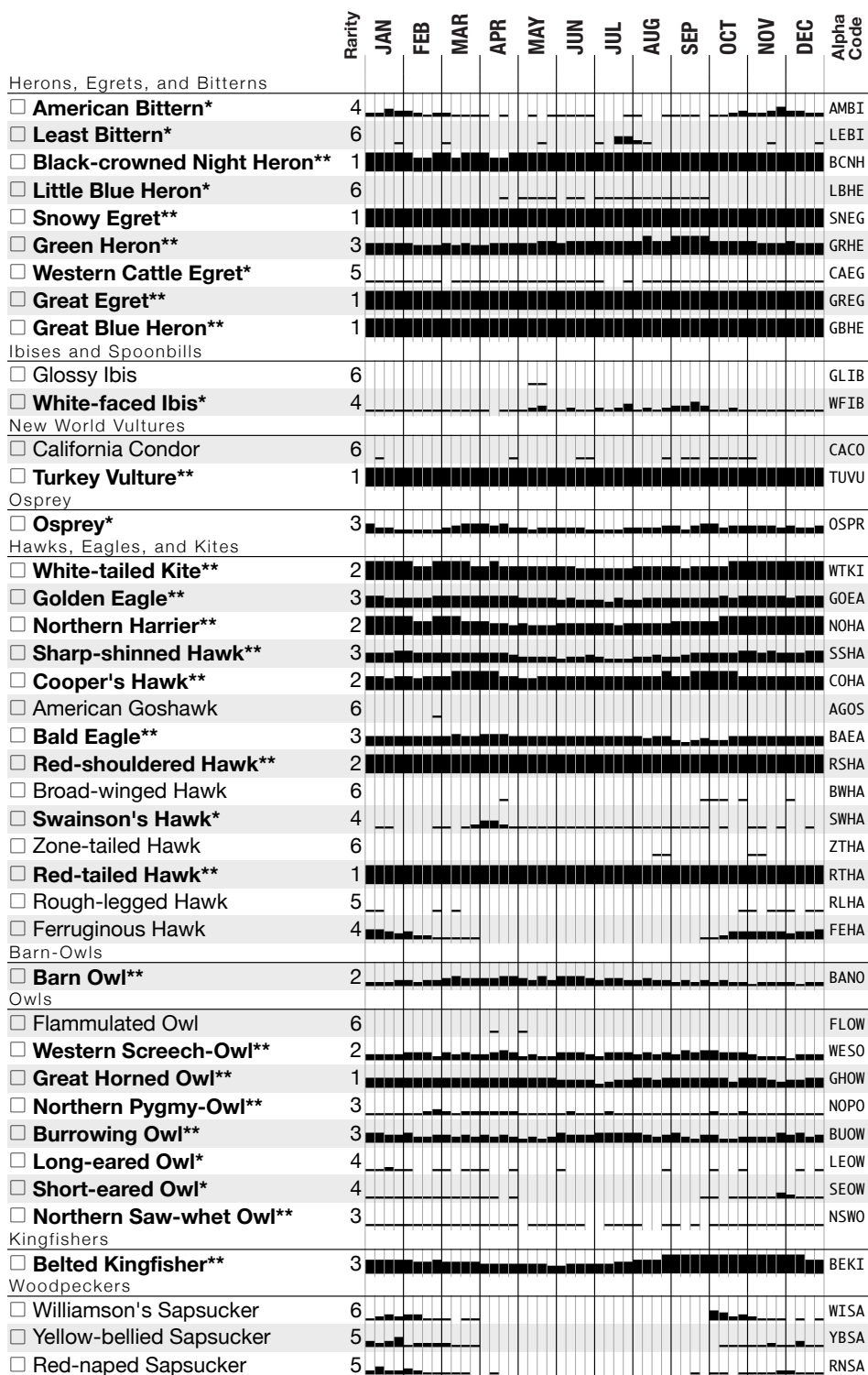
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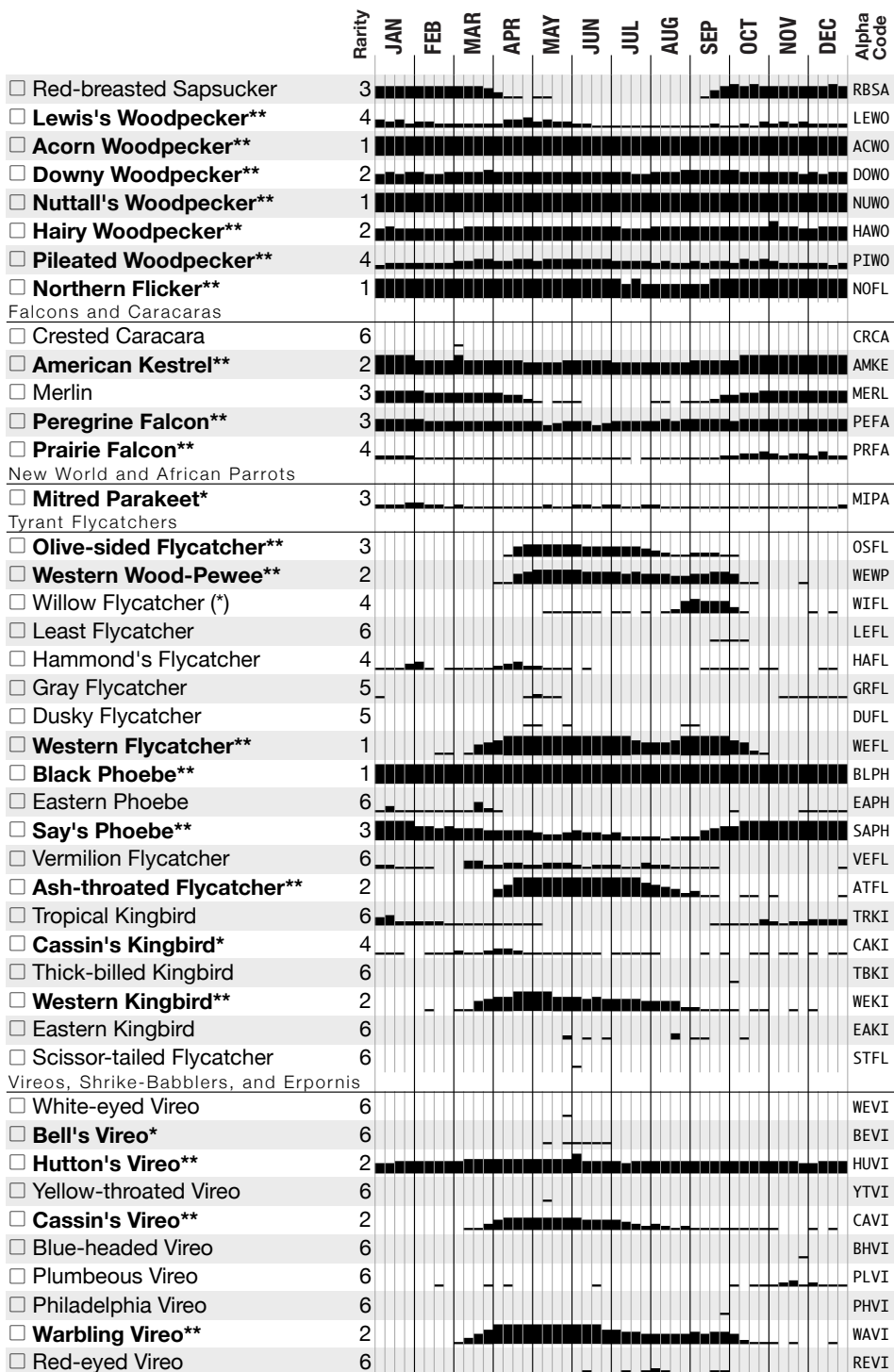


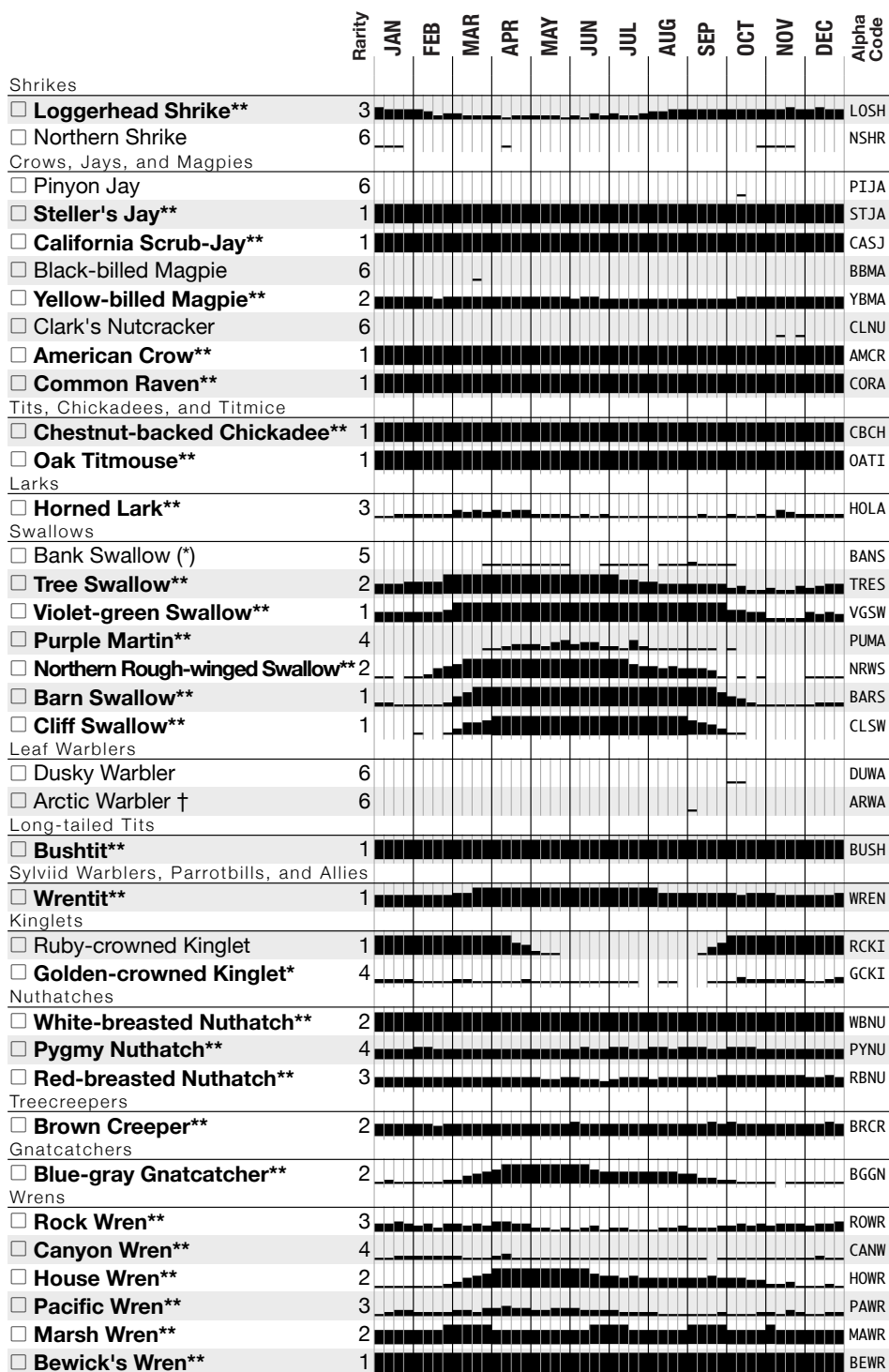


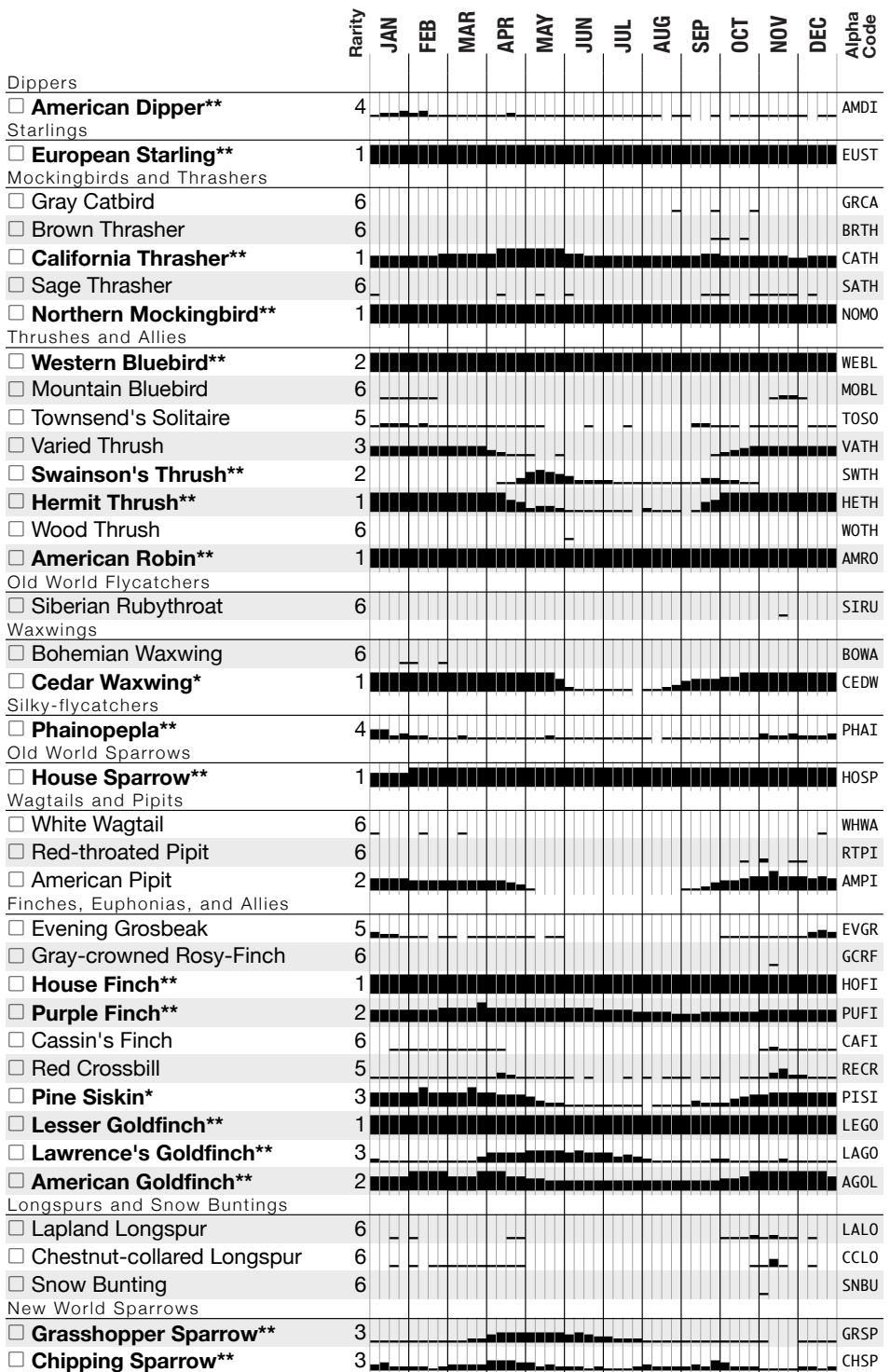


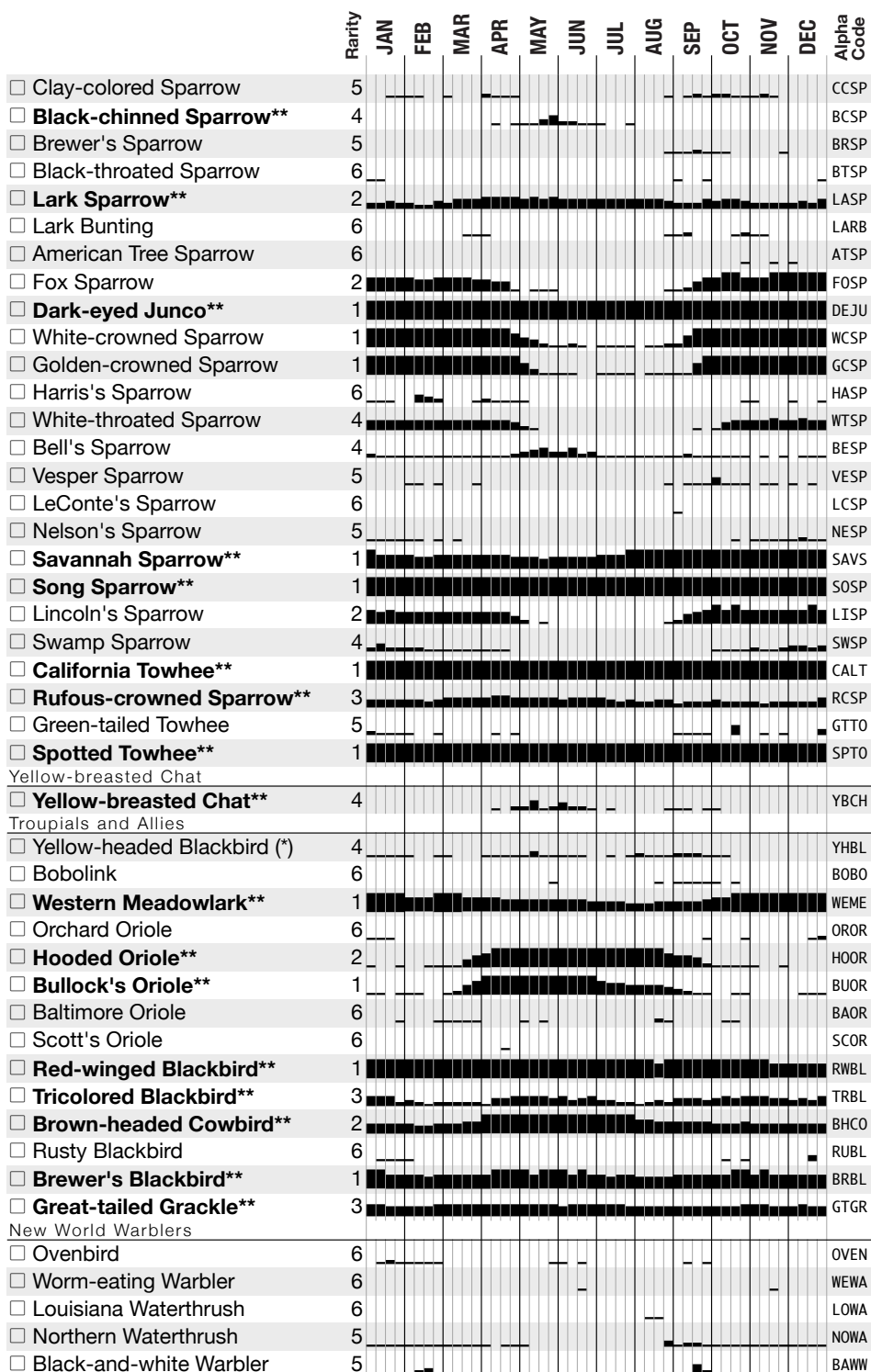


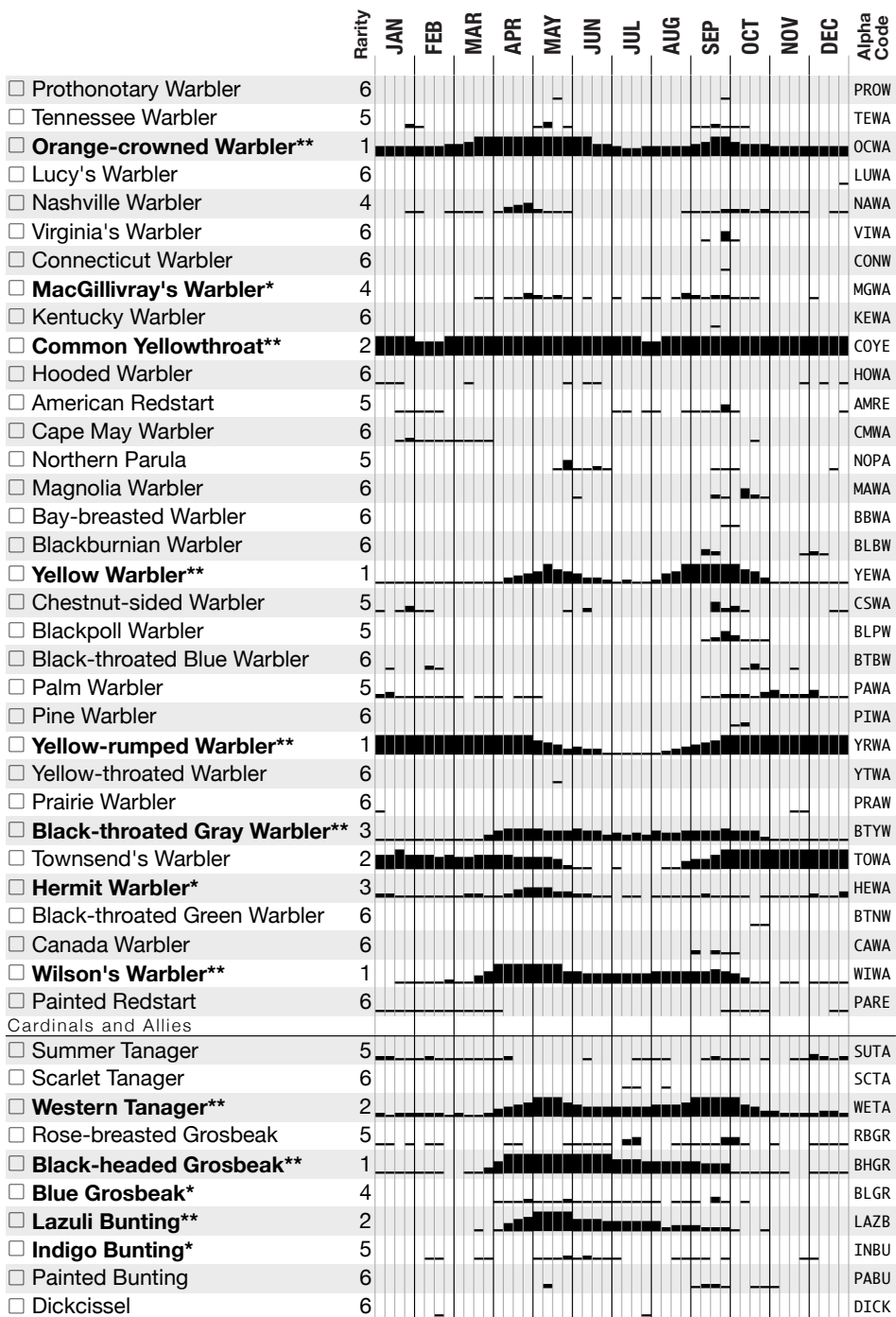












Notes

Additions to the V3.0 and V3.1 editions (Oct. 2023, Jun. 2024)

Western Cattle Egret (split from Eastern Cattle Egret)
American Goshawk (Split from Eurasian Goshawk)
Western Flycatcher (Pacific-slope and Cordilleran combined)
Siberian Rubythroat (first record)
Dusky Warbler (first record)
Gray-crowned Rosy Finch (first record)
Yellow-throated Warbler (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	

† **Rarities not in eBird:** These birds are included in the checklist, but are not listed in eBird.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck	<i>Insufficient details, (Snyder 1919)</i>
Ancient Murrelet	<i>Partial remains, not allowed</i>
Nazca Booby	<i>Complete remains, not allowed</i>
Arctic Warbler	<i>Prior to split. Exact ID not made</i>

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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!**

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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 July issue of Ornithology. We take this opportunity to update our county checklist and reflect any changes to the monthly status charts. In V3.1 we made numerous updates to the bar charts based on eBird reports: We removed Pacific-slope Flycatcher and replaced it with Western Flycatcher which also contains the population formerly referred to as Cordilleran Flycatcher. Finally we added 4 new species to our list, the **Siberian Rubythroat**, a mega-rarity that had never been recorded south of Alaska until November 2022. It was captured on a trail camera installed on the Google Campus, Mountain View, bringing our total species count to 414. Later, the first record of the long-awaited **Dusky Warbler** (415), followed by a truly remarkable **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch** (416) on Black Mountain. The last to be added was a singing **Yellow-throated Warbler** (417), a stunning “one day wonder” seen and recorded by one observer in May 2024 at Vasona Lake.

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 involved. We have also made several manual adjustments to these bar charts to reflect the actual number of individual birds. This is an ongoing project to incorporate eBird. We will continue to refine it. We have added **Alpha Codes**, also called banding codes. These 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 2023 eBird Taxonomy with updates from the American Ornithological Society (AOS) 10/24/23.

Compilation Barry Langdon-Lassagne

Editing, review, 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



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