

UC Santa Barbara

Newsletters

Title

NCOS News - October 2019

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/72n7b1dx>

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Publication Date

2019-10-01

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UC SANTA BARBARA

North Campus Open Space Restoration Project

NCOS NEWS *October 2019*



Lesser Nighthawk at NCOS on September 30, 2019. Photo by Jeremiah Bender.

UPDATES & EVENTS

A Day of Caring at NCOS

The 2019 United Way Day of Caring at NCOS was a great success! Day of Caring is a community-focused project where more than 1,200 community members spend part of a Saturday volunteering at local organizations in Santa Barbara and Goleta. CCBER hosted a Day of Caring event at NCOS on September 14, and we had a great turnout - 93 volunteers came out to plant native species, weed out invasives, and help with maintenance of our shade-house.



Day of Caring volunteers helped weed out invasive plants from the Mesa slopes.



These volunteers are planting a diverse palette of native species to restore Coastal Sage Scrub habitat.



A big thank you to all the Day of Caring volunteers who came out to help restore NCOS!

Solar Powered ROOST

The NCOS project took another step towards sustainability this month with the installation of solar panels on the ROOST. These panels will provide power for charging our electric vehicles (Gators) as well as for a small office.



Solar panel array on the ROOST.

A Fruitful Bird Survey

September's bird survey at NCOS had some exciting finds! Among them were sightings of the threatened Western Snowy Plover, a large number of great and snowy egrets, and the secretive Virginia Rail.



This group contains approximately 80 Snowy Egrets and 40 Great Egrets, as well as several Great Blue Herons and others.



Western Snowy Plover among Semipalmated Plovers.

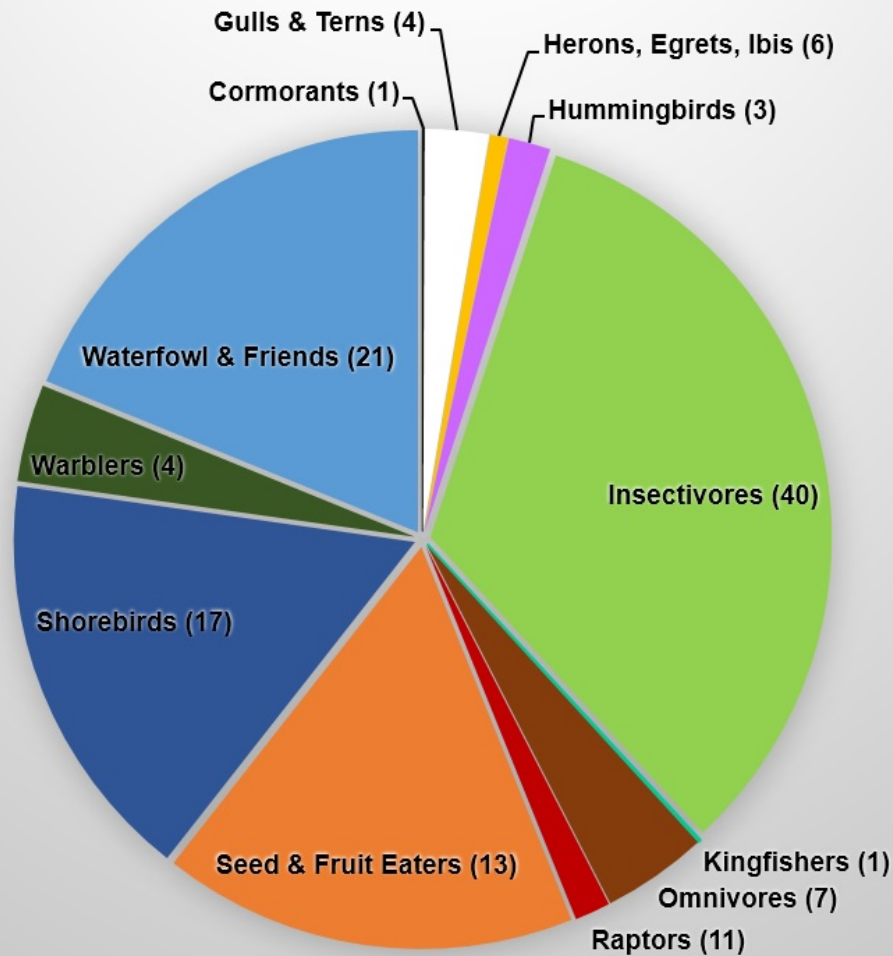


Virginia Rail.

FEATURE STORY

[2nd Annual NCOS vs. COPR Bird Survey Roundup](#)

Individuals Observed per Group NCOS - Year 2 (Sept 2018-Aug 2019)



Fall is here, and that means it's the time of year when we review and tally up our bird survey data from the last 12 months. [Check out the results for NCOS and COPR](#), and learn about the Pacific Flyway Shorebird Survey!

[This feature story is continued on page 14.](#)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



"Second Saturdays" at NCOS

This month: October 12, 9:30-12:30

Please RSVP to ncos@ccber.ucsb.edu

**Help us restore and create NCOS with plants and more!
Meet at 6969 Whittier Drive at 9:30 am. Bring water,
sunscreen, and wear a hat, clothes, and shoes suitable for
garden work.**

Saturday Tree Plantings

See in you in the Fall!



You can help Your Children's Trees plant oaks and other saplings at NCOS! Please contact [Your Children's Trees](#) for more information and to RSVP.



Thursdays - CCBER Greenhouse Associates

Come help transplant seedlings of native plants with the CCBER team from 9:00 - 12:00. To join, please send an email to ncos@ccber.ucsb.edu.



Group Volunteer Opportunities

We gladly welcome local business, non-profit, school and other community groups to come out to NCOS to help with planting and other activities. For more information, please send an email to ncos@ccber.ucsb.edu.

COMMUNITY FORUM & PHOTOS

We are interested in any observations of wildlife activity on NCOS. Please send your observations, with or without photos, to ncos@ccber.ucsb.edu. Thanks!



American Avocets and a Black-necked Stilt in the Slough. Photo by Jeremiah Bender.



Lesser Nighthawk. Photo by Jeremiah Bender.



Carpenter Bee on California Bush Sunflower. Photo by Jeremiah Bender.

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**For more information on the
North Campus Open Space Restoration Project, [Click here](#), or email ncos@ccber.ucsb.edu**



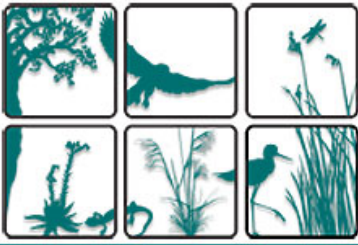
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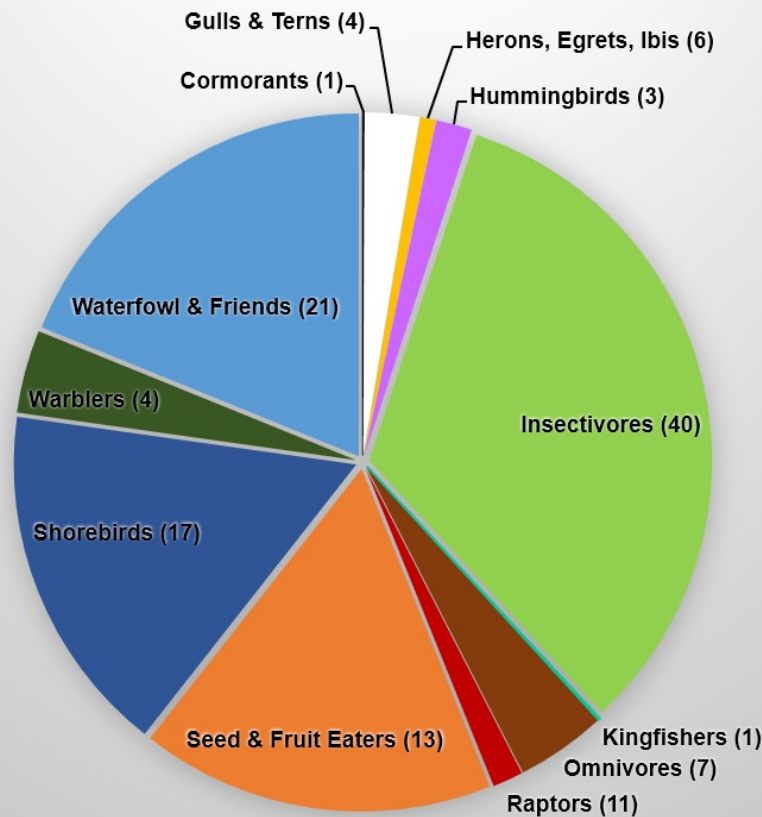
2ND ANNUAL NCOS vs. COPR BIRD SURVEY ROUNDUP

Fall is here, and that means it's the time of year when we review and tally up our monitoring data from the last 12 months, starting with the monthly bird surveys. As we did with [the first year of bird surveys](#), we are continuing to compare and contrast North Campus Open Space (NCOS) with its neighbor, Coal Oil Point Reserve (COPR) - an important reference site for the majority of bird species that we expect to see at NCOS as the restoration progresses.

NCOS Bird Numbers

The 2nd year of bird surveys at NCOS saw a total of 6256 fully identified individuals counted from 128 species (a few additional birds that were not completely identified to species are not included in the total). That's an overall increase in abundance and diversity from the 1st year by more than 1400 individuals and 24 species. Some of the additional species observed in year two include 4 Raptors (most notable were the Burrowing Owls), Belted Kingfisher, 4 Shorebirds, 4 Waterfowl and 5 Insect eaters amongst a few others. Similar to the 1st year of surveys, the group with the greatest abundance and diversity observed were Insectivores, accounting for 2068 individuals from 40 species. While this group includes several different types of mainly terrestrial and aerial insect eaters such as Blackbirds, Flycatchers, some Sparrows, Swallows, Woodpeckers and Wrens, 3 species accounted for half of the total individuals observed: Cliff Swallow, White-crowned Sparrow and Song Sparrow. A group that saw a notable increase in abundance and diversity were Waterfowl (including Grebes and Rails), where the number of individuals observed was more than double the total in year 1. Most of this increase was in the number of American Coot seen, which went from 6 in the first year to 404 in year 2! [Click here](#) for a complete list of the species observed in each group.

Individuals Observed per Group NCOS - Year 2 (Sept 2018-Aug 2019)

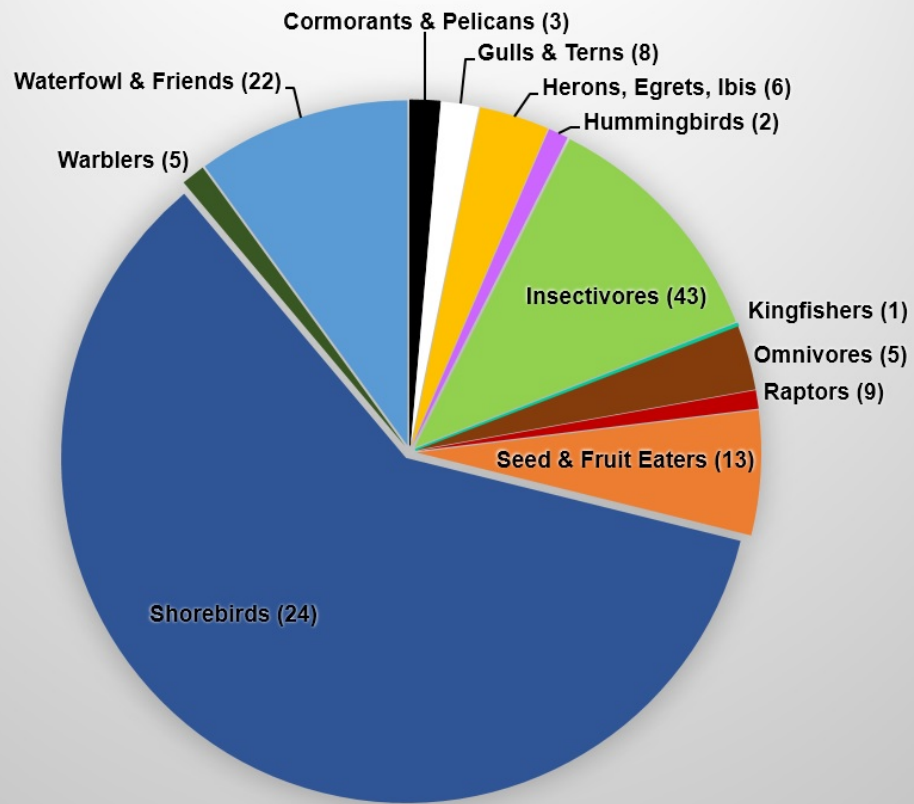


Pie chart of the proportion of total observations of birds by group or guild with the number of species in parentheses recorded during monthly bird surveys of North Campus Open Space from September 2018 through August 2019.

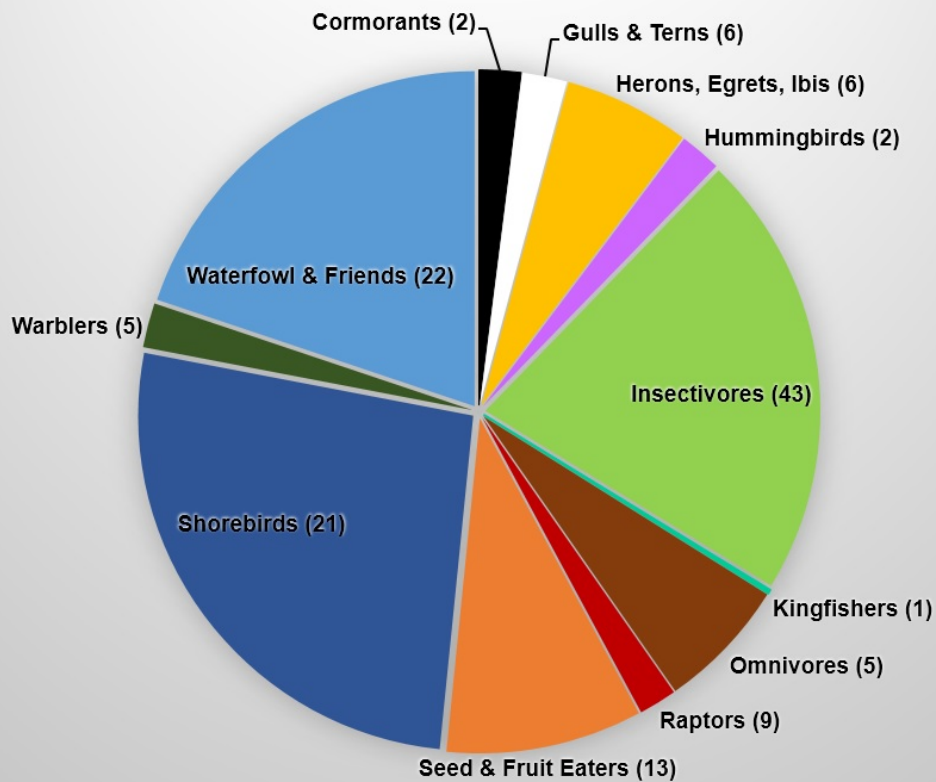
COPR Bird Numbers

COPR also had an increase in abundance and diversity from the previous year, with a total of 8134 fully identified individuals observed from 141 species. However, when comparing with NCOS we excluded the beach habitat that is part of the COPR surveys since this type of habitat doesn't exist at NCOS, and this makes the two sites more balanced in comparison. Excluding the beach, there was still an increase in diversity by 6 species (135 vs. 129 in the previous year), but a slight decrease in the total number observed (3824 vs. 3938 in the previous year). The groups where counts were less than in the previous year were Waterfowl and Gulls & Terns, while counts of Insectivores and Seed Eaters increased. Shorebirds continue to be the most abundant group at COPR, while, like NCOS, Insectivores is the most diverse. [Click here](#) for a complete list of the species observed in each group at COPR (excluding the beach).

**Individuals Observed per Group
COPR - Year 2 (Sept 2018-Aug 2019)**

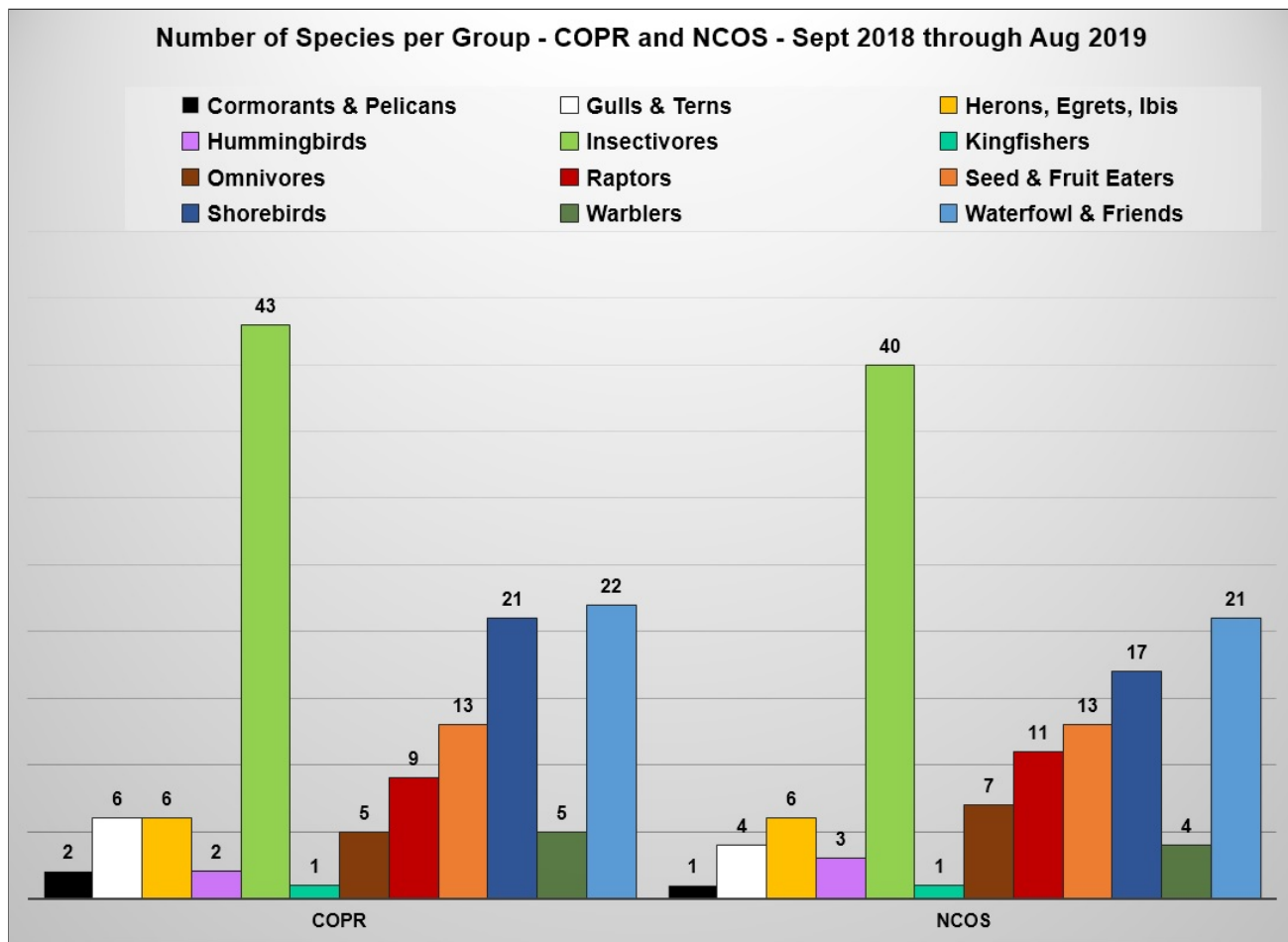


**Individuals Observed per Group
COPR (Excl. Beach) - Year 2 (Sept 2018-Aug 2019)**



Pie charts of the proportion of total observations of birds by group or guild with the number of species in parentheses recorded during monthly bird surveys of Coal Oil Point Reserve from September 2018 through August 2019. The top chart includes counts from all habitats while the bottom chart excludes counts from the beach habitat.

Excluding the beach, COPR and NCOS are generally similar in overall diversity and abundance. COPR tends to have a greater abundance of Shorebirds, Herons/Egrets and Cormorants, while NCOS currently tends to have more Insectivores and Seed/Fruit eaters.



Bar chart comparing the total number of species observed per group during monthly bird surveys from September 2018 through August 2019 at Coal Oil Point Reserve and North Campus Open Space.

eBird and Maps

There are indeed more species occurring at NCOS and COPR than what we've recorded in our monthly surveys. For example, some notable species seen at NCOS that haven't yet been observed during a survey include Peregrine Falcon, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, and Lesser Nighthawk. eBird contains more comprehensive lists of species seen at [NCOS](#) and [COPR](#). We are continuing to map the locations of birds on the monthly surveys, and you can view maps and details of each survey on eBird by searching for checklists submitted by Lisa Stratton for the UCSB North Campus Open Space. For example, check out the list for the August 2019 survey [here](#). In addition, you can also view interactive maps of the monthly surveys by searching for "NCOS Bird Survey" on [arcgis.com](#), such as [this example](#).

Pacific Flyway Shorebird Survey

Coming up later this fall, we are excited to be participating in our first [Pacific Flyway Shorebird Survey](#)! This is an annual survey of shorebirds conducted internationally between mid-November to mid-December and is coordinated by [Point Blue Conservation Science](#). We're collaborating with the team at COPR to participate in the survey at both NCOS and COPR on the same day. We look forward to the results and to seeing what next year's bird survey roundup will reveal - stay tuned!

Date:

Tuesday, October 8, 2019 - 08:30

File:

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