

# The Sandpiper

DECEMBER 2007/JANUARY 2008



Redwood Region Audubon Society [www.rras.org](http://www.rras.org)

## FIELD TRIPS

**Carpooling** to and on RRAS field trips is strongly encouraged. It's economical, it's fun, and it's the right thing to do! Impromptu carpools to trips meet in the following parking lots at the times indicated in the trip announcements: **Trinidad** (Park & Ride, Main St. exit, W side of 101), **HSU** (NW corner of Harpst and Rossov Sts., opposite Student Services), **Eureka** (Park & Ride, Herrick Ave. exit), and **Fortuna** (Park & Ride, Kenmar Road exit). Be there a few minutes early and see if anyone else is there for ridesharing. If you would like to prearrange a carpool, try using the RRAS listserv. Please offer your driver some gas money.

**Every Saturday. Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary.** These are our famous rain-or-shine field trips at the marsh; take your binocular(s) and have a great morning birding! Meet in the Klopp Lake parking lot, S end of I Street, at 8:30 a.m. Call Kerry Ross ([707] 839-4365) for more information. Carpools: Trinidad 8:10 a.m., Eureka 8:05 a.m., Fortuna 7:45 a.m. ♿

**Saturday, December 1. Raptor Survey.** RRAS is establishing a raptor survey route that will be part of the Hawk Migration Association of North America's winter monitoring program. Join the inaugural run of this 30-mile route through the Loleta and Ferndale Bottoms with project coordinator Ken Burton

([707] 839-5179). Meet at the corner of Eel River and Hookton Roads at 9 a.m. We'll finish by noon. Carpools: Trinidad 8:15 a.m., HSU 8:30 a.m.

**Sunday, December 9. Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge.** This is a wonderful 2- to 3-hour trip for people wanting to learn the birds of the Humboldt Bay area. It takes a leisurely pace with emphasis on enjoying the birds! Beginners are more than welcome. Meet at the Refuge Visitor Center at 9 a.m. Call Jude Power or David Fix ([707] 822-3613) for more information. Carpools: Trinidad 8:10 a.m., HSU 8:25 a.m., Eureka 8:45 a.m., Fortuna 8:45 a.m. ♿

**Sunday, December 9. Bird Counting 101.** With the Christmas Bird Count season upon us, it's time to start polishing our bird-counting skills. Come on this outing to begin learning how to look at a flock and estimate or count the number of birds accurately and quickly (or refresh your skills if you're a more experienced counter). We will begin by counting small numbers of waterfowl and shorebirds and work up to estimating larger numbers that can be somewhat mind boggling at times – such as the thousands of roosting shorebirds on Klopp Lake at high tide! Meet Rob Fowler ([707] 822-5095) in the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center parking lot at 12:30 p.m. for this fun and educational birding trip, and you don't have to get up early! Carpools: Trinidad 12:10 p.m., Eureka 12:05 p.m., Fortuna 11:45 a.m.

**Saturday, December 15. Arcata Christmas Bird Count.** Call Kerry Ross ([707] 826-0300).

**Sunday, December 16. Del Norte Christmas Bird Count.** Call Alan Barron ([707] 465-8405) or Gary Lester ([707] 839-3373).

**Sunday, December 16. Eureka Marsh.** Join this monthly walk for some great birding in downtown Eureka. We will spend an hour or two on a flat loop that will take us through a variety of habitats from bay and mudflat to riparian and marshland. Meet in the parking lot at the foot of W Del Norte Street at 8:30 a.m. Call Pablo Herrera ([707] 845-8166) for more information. Carpools: Trinidad 7:55 a.m., HSU 8:10 a.m., Fortuna 8:05 a.m. ♿

**Sunday, December 16. Southern Humboldt Community Park.** Jay Sooter ([707] 444-8001), Robert Sutherland, and/or Doug Wallace (peregrination@asis.com) will lead this monthly walk. All ages and experience levels are encouraged to participate and revel in the beauty of the park and its avian inhabitants on this easy, 2- to 3-hour walk. Binoculars are not provided, and dogs are not allowed; field guides are usually available, but please provide your own if possible. Steady rain cancels. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot on Kimtu Road in Garberville. Carpools: Trinidad 7:00 a.m., HSU 7:20 a.m., Eureka 7:35 a.m., Fortuna 7:55 a.m. ♿

**Saturday, December 22. Willow Creek Christmas Bird Count.** Call Gary Lester ([707] 839-3373).

**Saturday, December 29. Christmas Bird Count scouting.** We will scour the entire Centerville Beach to King Salmon CBC circle to try to turn up some stakeout birds for the count the next day. This will be an all-day trip. Call leader Kerry Ross ([707] 839-4365) for more information. Meet in the Eureka Park & Ride lot at 8:00 a.m. Carpools: Trinidad 7:20 a.m., Fortuna 7:40 a.m.

**Sunday, December 30. Centerville Beach to King Salmon Christmas Bird Count.** Call Stan Harris ([707] 822-3802).

**Saturday, January 5. Raptor Survey.** See December 1.

**Sunday, January 6. Del Norte County.** Come explore the birding bounty of our northern neighbor with Rob Fowler ([707] 822-5095). This trip will include stops at Crescent Harbor, Pebble Beach Drive/Castle Rock, Alexandre Dairy, Lakes Earl and Tolowa, and more. Depending on weather and desire, we will bird until 3-4 p.m. and return to Arcata around 5-6 p.m. Pack a lunch and prepare for changing weather conditions (heavy rain cancels). Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Espresso 101 in Arcata; please park on the street.

**Saturday, January 12. King Salmon.** Matt Wachs ([707] 476-9349) will lead this walk on his home turf to work on loon, grebe, and duck identification. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in front of Gill's By the Bay Restaurant (please park on the street, not in the restaurant parking lot). Dress warmly. Carpools: Trinidad 7:15 a.m., HSU 7:30 a.m., Fortuna 7:40 a.m.

**Sunday, January 13. Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge.** See December 9.

**Sunday, January 20. Eureka Marsh.** See December 16.

**Sunday, January 20. Southern Humboldt Community Park.** See December 16.

## DECEMBER PROGRAM

### CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT PREVIEW AND POTLUCK DINNER



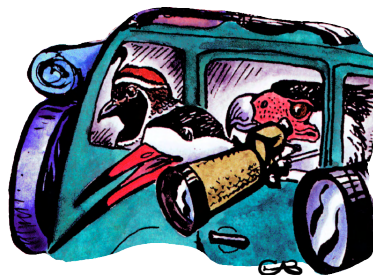
Our annual CBC preview is a look at both the expected birds and some historical CBC rarities. Biologist-photographer-pelagic birder extraordinaire Ron LeValley discusses bird identification and distribution in preparation for the upcoming CBCs. Ron is founder and senior biologist of Mad River Biologists in Arcata and founding member of Mendocino Coast Photography Guild and Gallery in Fort Bragg. Join us for this popular event sure to be enjoyed by birders of all birding levels and persuasions.

Preceding the program, to be held on **Friday, December 14, 2007**, is our annual December **potluck dinner**. Note that this is the eve of the Arcata CBC. The potluck starts at **6:30 p.m.**, followed by the program at **7:30 p.m.** in the Sequoia Room of the Humboldt County Office of Education west of the Burre Center at Myrtle and West in Eureka. Bring a dish to share; drinks and place settings will be provided

## JANUARY PROGRAM

### BIRD DISTRIBUTION DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Gary Langham, Ph.D., as Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon California, is the head scientist there. He has a long association with National Audubon as his father was president of Sacramento Audubon, and for 20 years Gary was a professional bird tour leader throughout the Americas. He will discuss some of the cutting-edge technology being used to predict shifts in bird distribution due to climate change. These tools will provide invaluable information about where restoration dollars are best spent over the next 60 years and how best to save the birds of California.



The program will be held on **Friday, January 11, 2008<sup>th</sup>**, starting at **7:30 p.m.** at the Humboldt County Office of Education near the Burre Center at Myrtle and West in Eureka. Bring a mug (or purchase one there) and enjoy shade-grown coffee.

Thank you for ensuring that our meetings are fragrance-free.

**CHAPTER LEADERS  
OFFICERS**

President—Tracy Cline.....268-8052  
 Im. Past President- Pablo Herrera.....845-8166  
 President-Elect-- .....  
 Secretary—Adam Brown.....abrown@prbo.org  
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Jan Andersen .....444-3501  
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 Kerry Ross .....839-4365  
 Shana Stearn .....442-1461  
 C.J. Ralph .....822-2015  
 Jay Sooter .....444-8001

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Arcata Marsh Docents-Kerry Ross.....839-4365  
 Conservation—Chet Ogan .....442-9353  
 Education—Shana Stearn .....442-1461  
 Field Trips—Ken Burton .....839-5179  
 Historian—John Hewston .....822-5288  
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 NEC Representative—C.J. Ralph.....822-2015  
 Observations—Stan Harris .....822-3802  
 Programs—C.J. Ralph.....822-2015  
 Publicity—Sue Leskiw.....442-5444  
 Sandpiper—Jan Andersen .....444-3501  
 —Gary Bloomfield .....822-0210  
 Volunteer Coordinator.....HELP NEEDED  
 Lake Earl Branch—Sue Calla.....465-6191  
 Birds in the Balance—Rob Hewitt.....269-0271  
 RRAS Web Page.....www.rras.org  
 Arcata Bird Alert .....822-LOON (822-5666)

The Sandpiper is published ten times each year by  
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 P.O. Box 1054, Eureka, CA 95502.

**Thinking of Joining the  
National Audubon Society?**

If so, please use the coupon below. By sending in your membership on this form, rather than replying to solicitations from National Audubon, \$20 is sent directly to RRAS. This is how NAS rewards local chapters for recruiting national members. (Otherwise, the RRAS dues share per new member is only a couple of dollars.) Thank you.

**Chapter Membership Application**

**Yes, I'd like to join.**

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of my local chapter. Please send AUDUBON magazine and my membership card to the address below.

**My check for \$20 is enclosed. (Introductory offer)**

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*Please make checks to the National Audubon Society.*

*Send this application and your check to:*

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-----LOCAL CHAPTER-----

**REDWOOD REGION AUDUBON SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 1054  
EUREKA, CA 95502**

**Join Us for the 108th  
Christmas Bird Counts**

RRAS invites everyone to join in the 2007 Christmas Bird Counts. These are important citizen science events involving over 50,000 observers worldwide, most of them amateur birders. Participants join a team assigned to a specific area and bird from dawn to dusk or until completely covering all the birds in that area. If you don't want to be on a counting team, you can still participate by signing on as a feeder watcher, keeping track of the birds that visit your yard that day. Those with "birdy" yards can also invite counters onto their property the day of the count. To see maps of the counts listed below, go to the web site [www.rras.org/cbc/cbc\\_full\\_extent.htm](http://www.rras.org/cbc/cbc_full_extent.htm), where you can find out whether your property lies within a count area.

**Arcata CBC, Saturday, December 15; contact Kerry Ross ([kerry@madrivernbio.com](mailto:kerry@madrivernbio.com)).** The count circle is centered on Arcata, stretching north to McKinleyville south of Murray Road, west to Samoa and Manila, east to Bayside up to the golf course, and south to Eureka along the waterfront to just south of the Bayshore Mall. The location of the compilation will be announced later.

**Del Norte CBC, Sunday, December 16; contact Alan Barron ([707] 465-8904) or Gary Lester (work [707] 443-8326, home [707] 839-3373, [garylester@w-and-k.com](mailto:garylester@w-and-k.com)).** The count circle includes Crescent City, Smith River, Fort Dick, lake Earl, Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park/ Redwood National Park, and the western portion of the Smith River NRA. Participants meet at 7 a.m. at Denny's on Hwy 101, Crescent City.

**Willow Creek CBC, Saturday, December 22 (weather permitting; call Gary beforehand); contact Gary Lester (see above).** The count circle, centered on Willow Creek, includes Salyer and the southern Hoopa Valley. The compilation is held at Cinnabar Sam's.

**Centerville Beach to King Salmon CBC, Sunday, December 30; contact Stan Harris ([707] 822-3802).** The count circle, centered on Loleta, divides into geographic sectors of (1) Fields Landing, King Salmon, College of the Redwoods; (2) Table Bluff; (3) Loleta; (4) Fortuna; (5) Ferndale; (6) Centerville Road; (7) Port Kenyon Road; (8) Grizzly Bluff Road; (9) South Spit; (10) Centerville Beach; (11) Elk River Valley; (12) Humboldt Hill; and (13) Salt River. The compilation is held at the Village Pantry on South Broadway in Eureka.

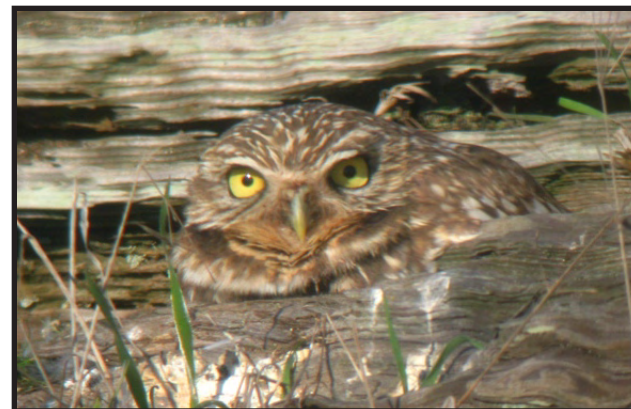
**Keep Up-to-Date Through RRAS Listserve**

Be reminded about field trips and programs and learn about upcoming meetings, public hearings, and symposia of interest to RRAS members and other concerned nature lovers. Subscribe in 1 of 2 ways: through a Web page link at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rras> or by e-mail to [rras-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:rras-subscribe@yahoo.com). Postings should have complete information. This listserv is not for posting bird sightings.

**Redwood Region Audubon Society  
welcomes the following new  
members and subscribers:**

Arcata – Dora Astacio  
 Bayside – Sam Gregerson  
 Eureka – Robert Hoisington, Christine Holm,  
 Marsha Mello, Sylvia Shaw  
 Garberville – Carolyn Hino Bourassa  
 McKinleyville – Jenny Hutchinson  
 Salyer – Erica Kimnach  
 Trinidad – David Giovannetti

We look forward to seeing you on field trips and at our monthly programs.



Burrowing Owl, South Spit of Humboldt Bay © Kerry Ross

**November 15, 2007  
Conservation Committee**

*By Chet Ogan*

**Attendees:** Chet Ogan, chair; Mel McKinney, and Gil Saliba.

Gil was unable to attend the Trinity River Restoration Project biological findings meeting November 8 and 9 because he had been traveling.

On November 9, Arcata dedicated the Jacoby Creek-Gannon Slough open space. RRAS, along with many other agencies and groups, helped create this open space area between Hwy 101 south of Old Arcata Road and Bayside Cutoff. Now all the area along Humboldt's north bay between Manila and Bayside Cutoff has been set aside as wetlands.

Arcata is working on a management plan for the Jacoby Creek bottoms. A side-opening fish-friendly tide gate was installed at Gannon Slough at the mouth of Campbell and Beith creeks, both of whose banks have been planted with willows and alders. Future plans include removing levees and scraping low areas so that tidal salt marsh and wetland areas can be created. Arcata would like Audubon-led field trips in this area in the future. The area will be open for Christmas Bird Counts.

The RRAS Board of Directors has voted to accept an offer to dedicate a conservation easement from the Coastal Conservancy on a wetland parcel behind Bayshore Mall.

**Upcoming meetings: December 5:** A TPZ (timber production zone) information meeting, 7 p.m. at Azalea Hall, McKinleyville. The RRAS Conservation Committee would like to find a member to become involved in TPZ matters.

**December 6:** North Coast Water Quality Control Board, 9 a.m., Wharfinger Building, Eureka.

**December 20 and January 17:** Conservation Committee at Golden Harvest restaurant, Arcata, at noon. All interested members are invited.

## Salmon Spawning Adventures November—January

Redwood National and State Parks, Save-the-Redwoods League, and North Coast Redwood Interpretive Association are offering free guided trips to view the annual fall migration and spectacle of spawning salmon. These spawning trips are scheduled each weekend (water or fish conditions permitting) November through January in the Mill Creek Watershed, Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. Morning trips will start at 9 a.m. and run through noon. Afternoon tours will run from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

During the Mill Creek Watershed trips, participants carpool in their own vehicles on gravel roads to select viewing locations. Visitors view salmon spawning in the Mill Creek Watershed, a tributary of the Smith River, that is regarded as one of California's most ecologically significant areas and a top productive stream for coho salmon. During the Prairie Creek trips, participants will drive to various locations, park, and hike among old-growth redwood to prime viewing spots.

For both areas, walking short distances over uneven ground may be required. Wet-weather gear and sturdy hiking shoes are recommended, and polarized glasses are suggested for the best viewing of fish. Tours will go rain or shine whenever water and/or fish conditions allow. Participation is limited, and preregistration is required.

Call Rick Hiser at (707) 465-6191 for details and preregistration.

## Free Guided Bird Walks at Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Join volunteer naturalist Louise Bacon-Ogden on **Wednesday, December 5, and Wednesday, December 19, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**, for bird walks at the Salmon Creek Unit of HBNWR. Everyone is welcome. Meet at the Richard J. Guadagno Visitor Center. Take the Hookton Road Exit off Highway 101 and follow the brown signs to the HBNWR Salmon Creek Unit Headquarters and Visitor Center. For more information or special accommodation, please call (707) 733-5406.



Clay-colored Sparrow, Point St. George © Alan Barron

## Humboldt Sparrow-Banding Project

Sparrows are being color-banded at several homes in the Humboldt Bay area. If you see a color-banded sparrow, please note the species, color combination, date, and location and report the information to Ken Burton at [brdnrd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:brdnrd@sbcglobal.net). Ken is looking for more yards in which to catch sparrows; contact him if you're interested in offering yours.

## Crossing Paths with Thunderbird

Here the redwood made its last stand,  
At dawn its majesty  
is almost painful  
to behold.  
That same prehistoric look.  
The look of always.  
Nature smiling at herself in the mirror of eternity.  
-Henry Miller



The sparkling ocean below me, I rotate the scope slowly, scanning the horizon to the southeast. Three... no, four, large birds soar together in the distance. I'm encouraged by the lack of upturned wings and what appear to be short tails. There's no flapping or teetering to their flight; they soar from point A to point B with authority. A single bird splinters off and heads straight for me. It closes the distance to me by about one-half and banks. I make out the elongated white patches on the leading edge of the underwing, close to the body.

Ecstatic, I pump my fist in the air: Golden Eagle has been eliminated from consideration. A man turns to me, points to the ocean, and says, "Why are you looking up that way? The view is over here." I try to explain: "I'm looking at a kind of bird I've never seen before... A rare California Condor." I knew of what he spoke, though. The Big Sur coastline, with its azure coves, sage-scented hillsides, redwood canyons, and peaks thrusting their way skyward remains as magical as I recall from my youth.

I consider 1987 a watershed year for several reasons. After some flirtations with birding dating back to 1983, I started to seek out the winged ones in earnest. On April 19, 1987, the bird known as AC9, the last free-flying California Condor, was trapped by biologist Pete Bloom, joining the remaining 26 in captivity.

The Monterey-California Condor association is a long and storied one. The first mention of the species by a European is credited to Father Antonio de la Ascension, who in 1602 wrote of a flock feeding on a dead whale on the shores of Monterey Bay. Early explorers and missionaries soon learned that Native Americans worshipped the condor for its ability to hold up the world, create thunder and lightning, and control eclipses. They were considered messengers between the living and the dead and were slain as a part of a burial rite. The species was first described to science in 1792 by George Vancouver when he encountered a lone condor dining on whale carrion at Monterey Bay.

The fossil record for California Condor dates from the Pleistocene, 40,000 years before the present. Fossil locations include New York, Florida, and Nuevo León, Mexico. Myriad

factors contributed to their decline: the collapse of the terrestrial mammalian megafauna at the end of the Pleistocene and the laying of just one egg every two years, the lowest reproductive rate of any North American bird. Later, shooting, to procure their feather quills for gold dust storage, lead poisoning from feeding on hunter-killed game, and strychnine from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-"dispatched" coyote, fox, and squirrels came into play.

The flock I'd scoped out continued to ride the thermals above a distant ridge. Getting a closer look didn't seem likely, so I continued southward. Later that afternoon, I came upon the Henry Miller Museum, an eclectic bookstore and gathering place. I chanced on a flyer that alerted me to a condor photo exhibition by Daniel Bianchetta at the Big Sur Lodge. I made my way to the lodge, eager to take in the photos. The exquisite close-ups of soaring, in-your-face birds had me spellbound... and a bit choked up when I considered how close to extinction they'd come.

Over the past 20 years, I've periodically reflected on how seeing a "countable" California Condor pre-1987 would have felt. I have searched for rare Hawaiian endemics, and what I keep coming back to is this: there is no joy in adding a species to one's life list a short time before it disappears forever. Although seeing a condor pre-1987 would have been exhilarating, the experience would have been overwhelmed by a sense of foreboding.

The Ventana Wildlife Society has been instrumental in the reintroduction of condors to Big Sur, beginning in 1997. This past April, the first wild condor chick hatched in Central California in 100 years. Also a first: nesting in a coast redwood. Named Centennia, the chick is a positive development, lending credence to the 1987 decision—extremely controversial at the time—to bring the remaining wild condors into captivity.

Tom Leskiw  
November 3, 2007

# Field Notes

by Stan Harris

Fall (25 Oct-22 Nov 2007)

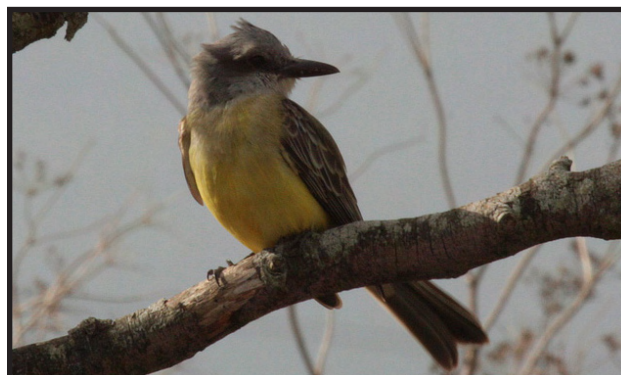
Abbreviations used: **AB** = Arcata Bottoms; **AD** = Alexandre Dairy (Smith River Bottoms); **AEB** = Arcata-Eureka Bottoms along Hwy 101; **AMP** = Arcata Marsh Project; **AOP** = Arcata Oxidation Pond; **BRR** = Bear River Ridge; **BSE** = Butcher's Slough Estuary; **BSLP** = Butcher Slough Log Pond; **EC** = Eureka Channel; **ERB** = Eel River Bottoms; **GW** = Gee Whiz report; **HBNWR** = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; **HO** = Hold Over from previous report; **KL** = Klopp Lake; **KS** = King Salmon; **LP** = Laguna Point (MKSP); **MKSP** = MacKerricher State Park; **mo** = many observers; **MRE** = Mad River Estuary; **NB** = North Humboldt Bay; **NC** = Not Confirmed by a second party or photos; **ND** = No Details or descriptions; **NJ** = North Jetty; **NS** = North Spit; **PSG** = Point St. George; **SB** = South Humboldt Bay; **SJ** = South Jetty; **SRB** = Smith River Bottoms; **SRE** = Smith River Estuary; **SS** = South Spit; **TB** = Table Bluff.



Long-eared Owl © Kerry Ross

**Lesser Snow Goose:** 2, HBNWR, 30-31 Oct (SL, EN). **Aleutian Cackling Goose:** 55, Bald Hill at Ft. Bragg, 4 Nov (DT). **Wood Duck:** 1 in a flooded AB field, an unexpected habitat for this species, 31 Oct (RF). **Eurasian Wigeon:** 1, Eureka Sewage Ponds, 22 Oct (TL); 1 female, AMP, 25 Oct, 8 Nov (RF, DF, SH); 1 male, KS, 26 Oct, 4, 10 Nov (all MW); 1 male, 1, 1 female, AB, 4, 8, 12 Nov, respectively (KSI, GG; LM; RF, MB, respectively); 1 male, EC, 14 Nov (TL). **Blue-winged Teal:** 1-2, BSLP, 25 Oct-15 Nov (mo). **Eurasian Green-winged Teal:** 1 female, preening on edge of BSE; broad pure white bars on both sides of speculum clearly seen, 30 Oct (SH). **Canvasback:** 1-3, AMP, 25 Oct-20 Nov (mo). **Redhead:** 1 male, AMP, 24-29 Oct; 19 Nov (GC, MC, RF, AL; DH); counts of 250 or so, 125, 260, on SB, 27 Oct; 13, 14 Nov, respectively (KSp; MW, respectively). **Ring-necked Duck:** 1-9, AMP/AOP units, 25, 26 Oct; 8, 12 Nov (all SH); 1, MRE, 7 Nov (SH). **Harlequin:** 1-3, SJ, KS, 26 Oct-15 Nov (AL, MW); 7 off Ward Ave (MKSP), 20 Oct (DT); 4, off Glass Beach, 15 Nov (DT); 1 male, 2 females, mouth of Wilson Creek, 20 Nov (LB). **Surf Scoter:** usual fall migration and arrival in many waters emphasized by 904 seen during a sea watch from SJ, 5 Nov (RF, MW). **White-winged Scoter:** notable numbers reported included 10, SJ, 26 Oct (AL); 9-29 seen nearly daily at KS, 25 Oct-14 Nov (MW); 26 during a SJ sea watch, 5 Nov (RF, MW); and 60, sea watch from TB, 3 Nov (RH, MW). **Black Scoter:** singles at KS, 27 Oct, 3 Nov (MW). **Long-tailed Duck:** 1 off LP, 5 Nov (DT); 2 flyby, TB, 3 Nov (RH, MW); 1, MRE, 7 Nov (KR, SH); 1, SRE, 13 Nov (AB, KB). **Common Goldeneye:** 1 female, AOP, 9 Nov (SH); 1, KS, 10 Nov (MW). **Hooded Merganser:** 1 female, BSLP, 7 Nov (KSI). **Red-breasted Merganser:** usual wintering birds at KS: 1-9, 23-26 Oct, and "many," 14 Nov (when asked: "100+") (all MW). **Ruffed Grouse:** 1, Redwood National Park trailhead at base of Bald Hills Road, 6 Nov (KB). **Ring-necked Pheasant:** 1 female, Canal School, AB, 8 Nov (SH). **Red-throated Loon:** 256, sea watch, SJ, 5 Nov (RF, MW); and 125, NJ, 6 Nov (RF) all represented expected migration. **Pacific Loon:** about 100, sea watch, SJ, 5 Nov (RF, MW); 15 (only), NJ, 6 Nov (RF) were eclipsed by 1,000+ seen passing SJ in 20 minutes, 13 Nov (MW). **Common Loon:** 77, sea watch, SJ, 5 Nov (RF, MW); 20, NJ, 6 Nov (RF). **Pied-billed Grebe:** The 25-30 birds seen daily on KL declined abruptly to 1-5 after 1 Nov (SH). **Horned Grebe:** A tight flock of 14 at KS, 23 Oct, probably represented recent arrivals (MW). **Red-necked Grebe:** 6-11 daily, KS, 26 Oct-13 Nov (MW); 1, KL, 26-29 Oct (RF, AL, SH); 1, MRE, 7-8 Nov (KR, SH, et al.). **Clark's Grebe:** 1-2, KS, 29 Oct, 4, 11 Nov (MW); 1, BSE, 2 Nov (SH). **Northern Fulmar:** 1-6 seen from

shore at NJ, SJ, TB, LP, 3-19 Nov (mo) were eclipsed by 43 seen from SJ, 5 Nov (RF, MW). **Pink-footed Shearwater:** 1, off NJ, 4 Nov (KSI, GG). **Sooty Shearwater:** 1-10 seen off TB, SJ, NJ, 3-6 Nov (RH, RF, MW, KSI, GG). **Brown Pelican:** notable numbers = 226, sea watch, SJ, 5 Nov (RF, MW). **American Bittern:** 1, BSLP, 7, 13 Nov (FF, ZL, respectively); 1, Big Lagoon, 5 Nov (DD). **Little Blue Heron:** 1bird, now in adult plumage, has returned to AD, 8-18 Nov (LB, KB, AB). **Green Heron:** 1 immature, AMP, 31 Oct (AL). **White-faced Ibis:** 1 juv, AD, 29 Oct (JG, AB); 2, ERB, 19 Nov (BZ, et al.), the latest seasonal record ever except for a Dec specimen (Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley) from 1925. **Osprey:** 1, SRB, 7 Nov (AB). **Bald Eagle:** 1-2, AEB, 27 Oct, 1 Nov (KN, et al.); 2, NB, seen from AMP, 3 Nov (FW); 3, SRB, 7 Nov (AB). **"Harlan's Hawk":** 1, AEB, 10, 12 Nov (SH, KB, RF, MB). **Ferruginous Hawk:** 1, BRR, 3 Nov (PH, RF); 1, SRB, 13 Nov (KB); 1, AB, 17 Nov (RW); 1, ERB, 19 Nov (BZ, et al.). **Rough-legged Hawk:** 2, BRR, 3 Nov (RF, PH); 1, PSG, 8-9 Nov (AB, et al.); 1-2, AB, 12, 20 Nov (RF, MB). **Golden Eagle:** 1, Bald Hills Road, 11 Nov (ABr). **Yellow-headed Caracara:** 1 adult, ERB, 18 Nov (OH, et al., photos); a local resident (MG) reported that "it had been here for 2 months"—almost certainly the same bird reported by RH in late Jul 2007. Origin uncertain, to say the least, but hardly likely a true vagrant! **Crested Caracara:** 1, seen at SRB, 2 Nov (presumably continuing from summer) (CH, fide AB), but then 1 reported at Shelter Cove, 7 Nov (ABr), who was told by a road crew that it has been feeding on a nearby dead deer for the last "5" days (3-7 Nov), makes one wonder if there are 2 present in the north coast or merely 1 bird with travel orders. **Merlin:** 10 reports of 1-2 from AB, Arcata, AMP, North Eureka, KS, ERB, 26 Oct-15 Nov (mo). **Peregrine:** 22 reports of 1-2 from SRB, AB, east of Willow Creek, Manila, AMP, KS, SS, 27 Oct-17 Nov (mo). **Gyrfalcon:** A "large all-dark falcon with broad wings and a long tail" on SRB, 11-14 Nov, was ultimately determined to be this species (KR, LB, et al.). **Prairie Falcon:** 1, AD, 20 Nov (LB). **Sandhill Crane(?):** 1 probable flyover, AMP, southbound, 25 Oct (AL), description incomplete. **Pacific Golden-plover:** 2, SRB, 5 Nov (LB); 1-2, AB, 24 Oct, 4, 7 Nov (RF, KB, KSI, GG, AC, ZL); 1-2, KL, 11, 14 Nov (PL); 1, ERB, 3 Nov (RF). **Snowy Plover:** 1, SS, 3 Nov (KR, RS, DC). **Semipalmated Plover:** 163, roosting on NJ, 6 Nov (RF). **American Avocet:** about 90-100 daily, BSE, KL, 25 Oct-20 Nov (SH); 18-78 foraging at KS, 28 Oct-13 Nov (MW) thought to be part of the Hookton Slough population where MW & RH had 34 on 3 Nov. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** 1, Hunt Pasture, 27 Oct, 6 Nov, respectively (AL, LP, respectively). **Spotted Redshank:** 1 winter adult described, MRE, 6 Nov (ZL, AC), could not be confirmed despite concerted efforts on 7 and 8 Nov. **Long-billed Curlew:** High-tide roost numbers at KL: 7-13, 25 Oct-20 Nov (SH); MW reported 30 & 65 at KS, 31 Oct, 2 Nov, respectively. **Red Knot:** 1, KL, 27 Oct (AL). **Rock Sandpiper:** 1-3, NJ, 4-6 Nov (KSI, GG, RF). **Wilson's Snipe:** A concentration of 21 at the Pudding Creek Estuary, 12 Nov, seems noteworthy (DT). **Parasitic Jaeger:** 1, off LP, 21 Oct (DT). **Heermann's Gull:** 316, sea watch, SS, 5 Nov (RF, MW); 38, NJ, 6 Nov (RF). **Thayer's Gull:** 5 (1st year!), KL, 28 Oct (RF). **Slaty-backed Gull:** 1 (2nd year), AD, 7, 9, 13 Nov (AB, LB, KB), no descriptions. **Black-legged Kittiwake:** 2, off LP, 21 Oct (DT); 34, SJ, 5 Nov (MW, RF); 73, NJ, 6 Nov (RF). **Elegant Tern:** 1, 22 Oct, EC (AL). **Forster's Tern:** 2-23, AMP/AOP, 22 Oct-21 Nov (SH, MA). **Marbled Murrelet:** 1, 24, NJ, 4, 6 Nov, respectively (KSI, GG; RF, respectively); 41, sea watch, SJ, 5 Nov (RF, MW). **Ancient Murrelet:** 2, off LP, 5 Nov (DT). **Rhinoceros Auklet:** 1, 3, SJ, NJ, respectively, 5, 6 Nov, respectively (RF, MW). **Eurasian Collared Dove:** "flock," included 1 **White-winged Dove**, near Trinidad, 24 Oct (MH); 46, 52, Smith River and vicinity, 28, 29 Oct, respectively (AB, JG); 1, McKinleyville, 7 Nov (KR, SH); 19+ included 1 **Ringed Turtle Dove**, ERB, 18 Nov (KR, et al.). **Northern Pygmy Owl:** 1 calling, Cummings Road, Eureka, 4 Nov (TL). **Burrowing Owl:** 1, near PSG, 7 Nov (AB); 2, SS, 26 Oct, 3 Nov (AL, KR, RS, DC); 1, east end of BRR, 3 Nov (RF); 1, north of 10-Mile River



Tropical Kingbird © Ronald Holland

mouth, 15 Nov (KH, fide DT). **Barred Owl:** 1, Eureka, 2 Nov (JA). **Spotted Owl:** 1, Shay Park, 7 Nov (CM, AW, DC, et al.). **Long-eared Owl:** 1, HBNWR, 30 Oct-13 Nov (SL, EN, et al.). **Short-eared Owl:** 2, AB (V St. Loop), 4 Nov (KSI, GG). **Selasphorus hummingbird sp.:** 1, Azalea Hill, 6-8 Nov (GL). **Lewis's Woodpecker:** 1, Kneeland, 10 Oct (BB, DVZ). **Pileated Woodpecker:** 1, east of Willow Creek 1.5 miles, all of Oct, including 2 Nov (JM). **Olive-sided Flycatcher (GW):** 1, only a partial description, Aldergrove Pond, 1 Nov (GS); the only record for November for the north coast ever, and only 2 records for Oct! **Say's Phoebe:** 1, Kneeland, seen 5 days in Oct, last on 19 Oct (BB, DVZ); 1, Hammond Bridge, AB, 7 Nov (LL); 1, ERB, 18 Nov (KR, et al.). **Tropical Kingbird:** 1, AMP, 25 Oct-1 Nov (AL, et al.); 1, AB (V St. Loop: same bird as for AMP?), 9-21 Nov (LM, CM, RF); 1, Vance Road (NS), 29 Oct (RF); 1, AB (Lanphere Road), 7 Nov (AC, ZL); 1, south of Ship-a-Shore 1 mile, 29 Oct (LB); 1, SRB, 16 Nov (OH). **Cassin's Vireo:** 1, Bayshore Mall, 31 Oct, 13 Nov (TL). **Clark's Nutcracker:** 2, BRR, 3 Nov (PH, RF). **Horned Lark:** 2, BRR, 3 Nov (PH, RF). **Mountain Chickadee:** 5, Trinidad, 23 Oct (MH); 1, near Ft. Humboldt, 12 Nov (DJ). **Bewick's Wren:** 1, AMP, 21, 25 Oct (SH, RF, respectively); only one other record for this location ever (26 Dec 1986). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (HO):** 1, end of Lanphere Road, 25-31 Oct (AL, RF). **Northern Mockingbird:** 1, Arcata, 29 Oct (LP); 1, Azalea Hill, 4 Nov (LL, GL). **Nashville Warbler:** 1, AMP, 25, 28 Oct; 9 Nov (RF, AL); 1, Bayshore Mall, 13 Nov (TL). **Black-throated Gray Warbler:** 1, Bayshore Mall, 31 Oct, 1, 2 Nov (TL). **Palm Warbler:** 6 reports of 1-6 from AMP and SS, 25 Oct-6 Nov (RF, AL, LP, SH, LT). **Northern Waterthrush:** 1, Arcata, 25 Oct (BF); 1, BSLP, 26 Oct, 7 Nov (RF, KSI). **MacGillivray's Warbler:** 1, near 10-Mile River, 21 Oct (DT); 1, Arcata, 1 Nov (LM). **Common Yellowthroat:** 1, AMP, 31 Oct (AL). **American Tree Sparrow:** 1, PSG, 8 Nov (LB, AB, OA). **Chipping Sparrow:** 1, PSG, 8 Nov (AB, OA); 1, AB, 21 Nov (LM). **Clay-colored Sparrow:** 1, PSG, 8-9 Nov (LB, AB, OA). **Harris's Sparrow:** 1, coastal bluff, north of 10-Mile River, 15 Oct (KH, fide DT); 1 adult, V St. Loop, 31 Oct (AL); 1, Arcata, 19 Nov (RF); 1, Lanphere Dunes, 21 Nov (PH, MaM, CJR). **Slate-colored Junco:** 1, AMP, 25 Oct (RF, AL); 1, Trinidad, 23 Oct (MH). **Lapland Longspur:** 1, KS, 2, 4 Nov (MW, L&JN). **Chestnut-collared Longspur:** 1, SRB, 29 Oct (LB); 1, Pala Road, 5-7 Nov (LB, AB). **Snow Bunting:** 1, vicinity Pudding Creek estuary, 20 Oct (SW, DFI, DT); 1, SS, 27 Oct (KSp); 1, KS, 4, 7 Nov (DJ, MW, KR, DC). **Tricolored Blackbird:** 2 males, 1.5 miles south of Smith River, 28-29 Oct (AB, JG); 1 male, AD, 18 Nov (LB). **Yellow-headed Blackbird:** 1, AD, 29 Oct, 13, 20 Nov (AB, JG, LB). **Rusty Blackbird (ND):** 1 male, 1.5 miles south of Smith River, 28 Oct (AB). **Common Grackle (ND, NC):** 1 reported second hand, Bald Hills Road, 23 Oct (fide KS).



Snow Bunting at King Salmon, 2007.11.07 © Kerry Ross

## Contributors

Many thanks to the following who shared reports with us this period: Marge Adams, Jan Andersen, Onik Arian, Alan Barron, Matt Brady, Adam Brown, Lucas Brug, Barbara Burek, Ken Burton, Daryl Coldren, Mark Colwell, Chris Collins, Aaron Corcoran, Gary Crites, Duke Diehl, Fred Ferguson, David Fix, David Floim (sp?), Rob Fowler, Brad Freeman, Joe Gartland, Mike Gay, Abhik Ghosh, Greg Gray, Melody Hamilton, Stan Harris, Karen Havlena, Owen Head, Pablo Herrera, Rob Hewitt, Denise Homer, Chris Howard, David Juliano, Alexandra Lamb, Tom Leskiw, Gary & Lauren Lester, Paul Lohse, Steve Lewis, Zac Loman, John Mason, Larry Maurin, Michael Morris, Mark Morrisette, Cindy Moyer, Eric Nelson, Ken Nelson, Lew & Judi Norton, Chet Ogan, Larry Pitts, C. J. Ralph, Jamie Ross, Kerry Ross, Greg & Kristin Schmidt, Keith Slauson, Rachael Smith, Kyle Spragens, Dorothy Tobkin, Lauren Tompkins, Matt Wachs, Adam Waehtel, Ron Ward, Sarah Wagner, Frank Watts, Dan Van Zile, Ben Zyla. Please call future reports to the Arcata Bird Box (707) 822-5666, to me at (707) 822-3802, send them to me at 1595 Charles Ct., Arcata, 95521, or write them on the observation board at the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center.