



The Sandpiper

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2008



Redwood Region Audubon Society 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 Street exit, west side of Hwy 101), **HSU** (NW corner of Harpst and Rossow 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, south 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. ♿

Sunday, February 3: Table Bluff/South Spit. Join Scott Carey ([707] 444-8220) and Matt Wachs ([707] 476-9349)

on a visit to South Humboldt Bay's mud flats and jetty for shorebirds, ducks, and raptors and Table Bluff for a sea watch. In addition to your binocular, bring your spotting scope (if you have one). Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Hookton Slough parking lot off Hookton Road. Carpools: Trinidad 7:40 a.m., HSU 7:55 a.m., Fortuna 8:15 a.m.

Sunday, February 10: 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, the Salmon Creek Unit, 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, February 17: 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 West 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. ♿

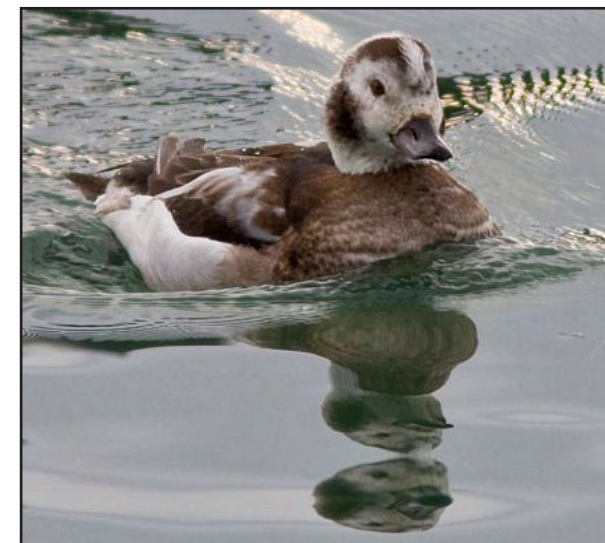
Sunday, February 17: Southern Humboldt Community Park. Jay Sooter ([707] 444-8001), Robert Sutherland, and/or Doug Wallace (peregrination@asis.com) will lead this monthly walk. All ages and experience levels are encouraged to participate and revel in the beauty of the park and its avian inhabitants on 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. ♿



Peregrine Falcon, South Spit Humboldt Bay
©2008 Kerry Ross

Monday, February 18: Raptor Survey. This will be the final run of the winter for the raptor survey through the Loleta and Ferndale Bottoms. Meet project coordinator Ken Burton ([707] 826-0319) at the corner of Eel River and Ranch Roads at 8 a.m. We'll finish by 2:00 p.m. Carpools: Trinidad 7:15 a.m., HSU 7:30 a.m.

Sunday, February 24: Del Norte County. Come explore the birding bounty of our northern neighbor with Rob Fowler ([707] 822-5095). This trip includes 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 to 4 p.m. and return to Arcata around 5 or 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.



Long-tailed Duck ©2008 Ron LeValley

2008 RRAS BANQUET & AUCTIONS Saturday, March 1st

Once a year, our chapter sponsors a members' banquet and silent and live auctions. The 2008 RRAS Banquet and Auction will be held at Days Inn (formerly the North Coast Inn), 4975 Valley West Blvd, Arcata. This is RRAS's principal fundraiser to support activities throughout the year, and we will have many attractive items to bid on. Come to the no-host social hour from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., browse and bid on the silent-auction items, and hang out with friends old and new, during which you'll enjoy live music. Dinner follows at 6:30 p.m. and then the guest speaker at 7:30 p.m. During the evening, we will present awards and conduct a live auction.

Our featured speaker is **Terry L. Root, PhD**, professor and senior fellow at the Center for Environmental Sciences and Policy, Stanford University. Her topic will be the very timely:

"Our Fossil-Fuel Addiction: Changing Climate and Changing Wildlife."

We are all familiar with the "canary-in-the-mine" effect (if the canary dies, run for your life!). The canary isn't dead yet but showing signs that all's not well with the environment. Dr. Root will discuss how migrating birds are most affected by climate change.

The banquet, a buffet dinner, offers a choice of herb-crusted lemon pepper chicken, roast pork with brandied apple, or vegetarian lasagna. Tickets **MUST** be purchased in advance, with checks received at the RRAS PO Box 1054, Eureka 95502, no later than February 15. Please indicate your menu choice. Jay Sooter has graciously agreed to accept credit card orders for tickets; call Jay Sooter's Spas and Saunas at 444-8001. Printed tickets will not be mailed; your name(s) will be placed on a check-in list.

For further information or to offer much-needed help for the banquet or auction, please call Jennifer Tompkins at 443-6959 or Jan Andersen at 444-3501

**CHAPTER LEADERS
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Birds in the Balance—Rob Hewitt.....269-0271
RRAS Web Page.....www.rras.org
Arcata Bird Alert822-LOON (822-5666)

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**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)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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STATE _____ **ZIP** _____

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Local Chapter Code: C24 7XCHA

Please make checks to the National Audubon Society.

Send this application and your check to:

**National Audubon Society
Chapter Membership Data Center
P.O. Box 51001
Boulder, Colorado 80322-1001**

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

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

**March 31 Deadline for Student
Bird Art Contest Entries**

For the fifth year, Redwood Region Audubon Society and Friends of the Arcata Marsh are cosponsoring a Student Bird Art Contest. Some \$500 in prizes will be awarded to students from kindergarten through high school who submit a drawing of one of 40 selected bird species. Special prize(s) will be awarded for the best rendition of a bird in its natural habitat.

Entries will be judged by local wildlife artists and educators. Winners will be announced at the opening reception of the 13th Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival on Friday, April 18. Entries will be displayed at the Arcata Community Center during the festival, and copies of winning artwork will be shown at the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center (AMIC) during May.

Artwork may be in color or black and white. Any media may be used (e.g., crayons, pastels, paint, pencil, collage). Subject must be a rendering of bird(s) from a list of 40 species. One entry per person.

Flyers with complete rules are available at the AMIC and Strictly for the Birds in Old Town Eureka or by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Sue Leskiw, 5440 Cummings Road, Eureka 95503.

Artwork may be dropped off at Strictly for the Birds, 123 F Street, Eureka, or the AMIC, South G Street, Arcata, or mailed to Ms. Leskiw. Entries must be received by Monday, March 31, to be considered.



**RRAS-Sponsored Student
Writing Contest & Science
Fair Award**

For the third year, RRAS is sponsoring a student writing contest. This year, \$50 will be awarded for the best essay or poem by a student in grades 5-12 on the topic, "What nature means to me." The winning essay will be published in the May 2008 children's issue of The Sandpiper. Entries should be a maximum of 300 words in length, one entry per person. Topics suitable for exploration include, but are not limited to, birding, summer camp, traveling, days spent at the river or lake, hunting or fishing trips, caring for injured wildlife, gardening. Include student's name, address, phone number, grade, and school. Deadline for receipt: Friday, March 21. Send submissions as text within the body of an e-mail to tomleskiw@suddenlink.net or mail a printout to Tom Leskiw, 5440 Cummings Rd, Eureka 95503. Award will be presented at the Godwit Days opening reception on Friday, April 18.

For the sixth year, RRAS is underwriting an award at the Humboldt County Science Fair for the best project related to birds or their habitat. The event will be held the week of March 17 at Humboldt State University. RRAS volunteer judges will evaluate exhibits created by elementary, middle, and high school students to choose a winner. The prize is a \$50 check and a 1-year local RRAS membership.

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@yahoogroups.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 – Tania Brunell, Andrea Chatfield, David Ledger, Virginia Plambeck
Bayside – Christine Keil
Blue Lake – Louise Iversen
Crescent City – Terry Allaway, Marj Dessert, Judy Hammond, Grant Werschkuhl
Eureka – Bettye Baldock, Robert Berg, Julia Graham, Marsa Jordan, Thom McCormack, Suzanne Ogden, Gail Peterson, Robert Quinsey, Amber Ringwald, Joann Taylor
Flagstaff, AZ – Cecelia Overby
Fortuna – Alice Griesbach, Rosamond Mitchell, John & Diana Mogel, Austin-Zacharah Verduci
Hydesville – Eric Dahlstrom
Lolita – Gillian Sparrow
McKinleyville – B. A. Lowery
Petrolia – Bird Jowaisas
Rio Dell – Shirley Barsanti, Peter Rostow
Trinidad – Cherou Obrian, Mark Youdall

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

**RRAS Conservation Committee
December 2007 and January 2008**

Attendees: (Dec.) Chet Ogan, chair; Jim Clark, Mel McKinney, Gil Saliba; (Jan.) Ogan, Clark, McKinney

Trinity River Restoration Project: Gil Saliba reported on the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group (TAMWG) meeting in December in Weaverville. A number of appointees have resigned for various reasons, and the committee chair, Arnold Whitridge, asked whether Gil would apply for one of the vacated seats. The \$10.2M budget for 2008 is still awaiting action by Congress. Rod Wittler, the science director, is working on setting the science priorities for the Integrated Assessment Plan. Mike Long of US Fish & Wildlife Service and Brian Person of US Bureau of Reclamation recognize that obstacles have developed in interpretations of the rules, regulations, goals, and budget requirements between agencies, and they are working to resolve those differences.

Klamath River update: The Klamath River pact involving a diverse group of fishers, farmers, agencies, tribes, and environmental groups has been announced. The agreement involves allowing better water flows for the river as well as water for farmers. None of the parties are completely happy, but every group is getting something.

Tolowa grazing: The state park system in Del Norte County is trying to control exotic plants to provide better habitat for western lily and Oregon checkerspot butterflies. The chosen method has been flash-grazing, which involves releasing a large herd of goats on the areas. The question is whether the management plan allows for this technique. Goats are effective grazers, but their sharp hooves cut into the fragile soil and cuts roots.

Mel McKinney reported on some questionable grading and filling at the site of the old Ebb Tide trailer park.

Jim Clark reported that at a recent CEQA session he attended, the proposed Highway 101 realignment through Richardson Grove State Park was brought up as an example where road adjustments such as minor widening and paving a few extra feet should not involve a full-blown environmental statement.



10th Annual Aleutian Goose Festival: A Celebration of Wildness March 28-30, 2008, Crescent City

Come join us at this popular nature-appreciation festival. 60+ workshops and field trips will feature outstanding birding, a pelagic trip, Yurok and Tolowa Native American heritage, geology, rare plants, dunes and beach ecology, Smith River watershed, shorebirds, a "Del Norte Big Day," Spotted Owls, and more. This year's keynote address, "Secrets of the Redwood Canopy," will be presented by Professor Stephen Sillett of Humboldt State University, the subject of the recent best-selling book, *The Wild Trees*, by Richard Preston. Register online at <http://www.aleutiangoosefestival.org> or call us at (707) 465-0888.

Free Guided Bird Walks at Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Join volunteer naturalist Louise Bacon-Ogden on **Wednesday, February 6 and 20, 2008**, and **Wednesday, March 5 and 19, 2008**, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., for bird walks at the Salmon Creek Unit of Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Everyone is welcome. Meet at the Richard J. Guadagno Headquarters and Visitor Center.

Friday Night at the Refuge: What Is a Fly-off?

Join HBNWR Project Leader Eric Nelson **February 22** at 7 p.m. at the Salmon Creek Unit for an informative presentation about Aleutian Cackling Geese and their natural history. This Friday Night at the Refuge presentation will help participants at the 6th Annual Aleutian Cackling Goose Fly-off & Family Fun Weekend understand what a "fly-off" is and why it's worth getting up and out before sunrise to watch.

6th Annual Aleutian Cackling Goose Fly-off & Family Fun Weekend

This takes place **Saturday and Sunday, March 1 and 2**, rain or shine, at the Salmon Creek Unit. **Please carpool.** The refuge will open at 6:00 a.m. both days. Guided walks will occur both mornings at sunrise. Visitors may observe thousands of Aleutian Cackling Geese fly off from the refuge wetlands. Morning refreshments will be offered: coffee, juice, etc. Following the fly-off, from 8 a.m. to noon, there'll be more fun, educational, and family activities, including guided walks, songbird house construction, nature art, and storytelling.

All events are sponsored by the Friends and Staff of Humboldt Bay NWR, all events are free, and everyone is welcome.

Directions from the South: Take the Hookton Road Exit (#696) off Hwy 101 and follow the brown signs west over the freeway; turn right onto the refuge entrance road. Follow the entrance road north until you reach the parking area in front of the Visitor Center.

Directions from the North: Take the Hookton Road Exit (#696) off Hwy 101. Turn right and then immediately left onto the refuge entrance road. Follow the entrance road north until you reach the parking area in front of the Visitor Center.

For more information on any event and special accommodations, please call (707) 733-5406.

Funny Gulls and the Demons of Doubt



©2007 Tom Leskiw

Columbia, Missouri; November 17, 2007. "The Smith's [Longspur] is in the scope. Here, take a look." I studied the bird for about 7 seconds—underparts, facial pattern, chest color—before it ambled into taller grass and disappeared. "This is where we find them, eating the seeds of prairie three-awn grass, *Aristida oligantha*." Brad Jacobs, my birding contact, had located this life bird for me within 10 minutes of beginning our search, a difficult feat in light of the bird's notoriously skulky behavior. I thanked him, and we continued our search, in hope of obtaining a more prolonged view.

It was not to be, although we saw many in flight and had ample opportunities to compare the flight calls of Lapland and Smith's.

Brad had to leave to honor a holiday commitment. "So, are there any other life birds you're looking for here in the Midwest?" "Well, I can't think of any... except maybe a funny gull or two." We exchanged goodbyes, and Brad headed slowly down the gravel road of Bradford Farm. With my scope, I continued to scan the field. Although "Lappies" cooperated in nearby corn stubble, I was learning first-hand that my target species' reputation of disappearing in grass just tall enough to conceal them was well-deserved. Beholding the Missouri prairie, I pondered the mystery of how an Arctic-nesting bird manages to fly up to 2,800 miles and locate a diminutive patch of cultivated grass, little more than an acre in size.

The next day, Sue and I headed to Bill Rowe's yard in the St. Louis suburbs to see the introduced yet countable Eurasian Tree Sparrow. (A birding contact, Bill had put me in touch with Brad for the Smith's Longspur.) As we pulled into his driveway, about 12 Eurasian Tree Sparrows flew from his neighbor's feeder into his shrubbery. When Bill came outside, I thanked him for helping me see both target species for the trip. "Have you checked your e-mail lately?" he inquired. "No" "There's a Black-tailed Gull you may want to chase... found yesterday at Saylorville reservoir near Des Moines, Iowa." I turned to Sue. She nodded her OK. "I'd like to join you, but I have a birding class to teach," Bill said. "I'm planning on birding in several days. You're welcome to come along." "That would be great," I responded. I'll be in touch."

The Eurasian Tree Sparrow had been my Lower-48 bird #682. I was on the home stretch to #700, even if reaching that milestone might take years. We returned to Sue's sister's house. There was homework to do: retrieve info from the Iowabirds listserv. *Bird still being seen.* Mapquest: about a 7-hour drive. I packed and made plans to leave the following day, just after the morning rush hour.

The next day, about an hour west of St. Louis, I experienced a "synchronicity of the avian kind." I passed a tractor trailer carrying two immense sections of pipe, each about 8 feet in diameter. The number 699 was spray-painted on one pipe and 700 on the other. I reflected on my impromptu chase for the gull and its place in the larger milestone scheme. The meaning of the numeral 700 was clear. But why 699?

I arrived at Saylorville Reservoir at 3 p.m. Scope in hand, I made my way to the water's edge. Among the birders searching for the gull was John O'Neil, a former Mendocino resident. My initial excitement was tempered by news that the bird had briefly shown at 8:30 a.m. and not since. About 90 minutes of searching through gulls on the water produced nothing. Then, picking through the swirling mass in a far-off cove, I twice spotted a gull with a black subterminal band. John opined that no other gull there had such a field mark. Although my look was distant and fleeting, *the gull was still there!* Then I lost the bird. Several minutes passed. Hope and daylight were fading fast. A group of birders at the end of the point suddenly stopped their random scanning and pivoted, as if a single organism. Shouts and gestures. We got onto the gull: in flight and on the water. Relief. Triumph. High-fives all around.



Bradford Farm ©2007 Tom Leskiw

Three days later, I checked the Illinois Rare Bird Alert and learned that a Little Gull was being seen at the Carlyle Lake sewer ponds. *St. Louis is right on the state line; it can't hurt to see how far it is from Carlyle.* Mapquest: only an hour away. Time to check in on tomorrow's birding with Bill. "Not to hijack the route you'd planned, but about the Little Gull at Carlyle..." "Is it a lifer for you?" Bill asked. "Well, when I first started birding, I ticked a stakeout bird at the Santa Cruz pier. However, not writing a description of the bird, I've periodically wondered if it could have been a Bonaparte's. If you're willing, it'd be great to clean up this possibly sleazy tick." Bill had no problem with this, so the next morning I was treated to a scope view of a Little Gull, both on the water and in flight.

Four ABA-area birds for the trip: double my expectations! Suddenly, the meaning of the numeral 699 became clear. Suppose I'd reached #700 without clearing up my doubts about the first Little Gull, the demons of doubt would surely have paid me a call. *Now, what about that Little Gull? Tell me again why it wasn't a Bonaparte's...*

Tom Leskiw
December 31, 2007

Field Notes

by Stan Harris

Winter (23 Nov 2007-16 Jan 2008)

Rain, rain, rain marked this period generally. Christmas Bird Counts were the main birding activity for most folks. **Preliminary** totals for our local counts: Arcata (ACBC, 15 Dec, 186 species, new record, good weather); Centerville (CVCBC, 30 Dec, 184 species, tied for second highest ever, good weather); Del Norte (DNCBC, 16 Dec, 165 species, rather poor weather); Willow Creek (WCCBC, 22 Dec, 82 species, weather could have been better). Far-fewer-than-normal Fox Sparrows were seen.

Abbreviations used: **AB** = Arcata Bottoms, **AD** = Alexandre Dairy; **AEB** = Arcata-Eureka Bottoms; **AMP** = Arcata Marsh Project; **AOP** = Arcata Oxidation Pond; **BRR** = Bear River Ridge; **BSLP** = Butcher Slough Log Pond; **CCH** = Crescent City Harbor; **EC** = Eureka Channel; **ERB** = Eel River Bottoms; **ERWA** = Eel River Wildlife Area; **HBNWR** = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; **KS** = King Salmon; **mo** = many observers; **MRC** = mouth of Redwood Creek; **MRE** = Mad River Estuary; **NC** = not confirmed; **ND** = no details; **NJ** = North Jetty; **SRB** = Smith River Bottoms; **Tdad** = Trinidad.



Red-necked Grebe ©2008 Ron LeValley

Greater White-fronted Goose: 3 (CVCBC), 7, MRE, 2 Jan (KS). **Lesser Snow Goose:** 5-6, HBNWR, 7-9 Dec (EN, et al.); 1, Bald Hill at Ft. Bragg, 10 Dec (DT); 4 (CVCBC); 1, AB, MRE, 5 Dec-2 Jan (ACBC, mo). **Ross's Goose:** 1, AD, 26 Nov (LB). **Black Brant:** Record numbers (12, 824) reported on South Bay, 30 Dec (RF, KR, CVCBC). **Tundra Swan:** 5, HBNWR, 28 Nov (RF, MW); 575 (CVCBC); 1 flyby, Freshwater Slough, 16 Jan (CO). **Eurasian Wigeon:** 1-2 almost daily, AMP, EC, KS, 28 Nov-15 Dec (ACBC, mo); 12 (CVCBC); 1 North Humboldt Bay, 11 Jan (RF). **Eurasian Green-winged Teal:** 1, AOP, 22 Dec (BBo). **Eurasian Green-winged Teal x American Green-winged Teal intergrade:** 1, North Humboldt Bay at foot of I Street, Arcata, 11 Jan (RF). **Canvasback:** 1-3, AMP, 24 Nov-10 Jan (mo); 1 (ACBC); 14 (CVCBC); 25, 200+ Big/Stone Lagoons, 2, 9 Jan, respectively (TL, KR, respectively). **Redhead:** 2, Lolita Pond, 12 Dec (RF, MW); 355 (CVCBC). **Harlequin:** 6, Glass Beach, 19 Nov (DT); 10, mouth of Wilson Creek, 30 Nov (LB); 1 (ACBC); 2-3, KS, 25 Nov-30 Dec (MW, CVCBC). **White-winged Scoter:** 26, Laguna Point, 24 Nov (DT); 79 (CVCBC). **Black Scoter:** 1, KS, 1-31 Dec (MW); 1, NJ, 1 Jan (SC). **Long-tailed Duck:** 1, CCH, 30 Nov (LB); 1-4, MRE, NJ, 2 Dec-2 Jan (ACBC, mo). **Hooded Merganser:** 1 female, Bayside Golf Course Road, 4 Dec (CK); 1-2, KS, 24 Nov, 8, 30 Dec (MW, CVCBC). **Ruffed Grouse:** 1, Kane Road near Big Lagoon, 9 Nov (JA, photo). **Wild Turkey:** 17, Fruitland Ridge, 16 Dec (JohnG). **Pacific Loon:** 1, Trinity Lake, 14 Dec (FO). **Red-necked Grebe:** 6-11 daily, KS, 21 Nov-20 Dec (MW); 3, off Patrick's Point, 10 Dec (DD); 1, Tdad, 23 Dec (MeH); 3 (CVCBC). **Clark's Grebe:** 4, Lower Eel River, 12 Dec (MW, RF); 1-7, KS, 14-20 Dec (MW); 30 (CVCBC). **Sooty Shearwater:** 6 (ACBC); **Short-tailed Shearwater:** 8 (ACBC). **Manx Shearwater (NC):** 1 (ACBC; BS). **American Bittern:** 1, AMP, 25, 29 Nov (LT, SH); 1 (CVCBC). **Little Blue Heron:** 1 adult, AD, 28 Dec (AB). **Cattle Egret:** 1, AB, BSLP, 24 Nov-24 Dec (mo). **Green Heron:** 2 (CVCBC). **Osprey:** 1-2, Pudding Creek, Lake Cleone, 16 Nov (DT); 1, Hookton Slough, 22 Nov (DD); 1, AMP, 22 Nov (LT); 1 (ACBC). **White-tailed Kite:** 20, 26 Nov; 23, 5 Dec, both AB (RF). **Bald Eagle:** 7 reports of 1-6 from Kneeland, Eureka, Fortuna, Willow Creek, HBNWR, SRB, 22 Nov-3 Jan (mo).

Broad-winged Hawk (NC): 1, north Arcata, 17 Jan (JH). **"Harlan's Hawk":** 1, AEB (ACBC). **Ferruginous Hawk:** 10 reports of 1-4 from AB, Ferndale Bottoms, Bald Hill at Ft. Bragg, BRR, 16 Nov-31 Dec (mo). **Rough-legged Hawk:** 14 reports of 1-10 (!) from AB, AMP, BRR, Freshwater Farms, Hookton Road, ERB, HBNWR, 24 Nov-31 Jan (mo). **Golden Eagle:** 1, Kneeland, 14 Nov (Bbu, DVZ); 1 (WCCBC). **Yellow-headed Caracara:** 1 adult, ERB, 30 Dec (seen by at least 3 crews on CVCBC). **Crested Caracara:** 1 adult, apparently returning, ERB, 30 Dec (seen by at least 2 crews on CVCBC). **Merlin:** 10 reports of 1-2 from Blue Lake, AB, ERB, HBNWR, 26 Nov-30 Dec (mo). **Peregrine:** 21+ reports from Lanphere Dunes, AMP, AB, KS, South Spit, ERB, WCCBC, 25 Nov-17 Jan (mo). **Prairie Falcon:** 1, AD, 11, 25 Dec (LB); 1, AB, 15 Dec (KR, ACBC); 1, ERB, 2 Dec (KBU); 1 (CVCBC). **Pacific Golden-plover:** 1, Klopp Lake, 24 Nov-22 Dec; 11 Jan (RF, et al.); 1, Crab Park, 21 Dec (anon); 1, Cannibal Road, 27 Nov (RF, MW); 19 (CVCBC). **Snowy Plover:** 37, near mouth of Eel River, 30 Dec (SMcA, AT, CVCBC); 10, South Spit, 17 Jan (KR, RSm). **Mountain Plover:** 1, Centerville Beach, 23 Nov (KBr). **Black-necked Stilt:** 1, ERWA, 12 Dec (DD); 1, HBNWR (CVCBC). **Wandering Tattler:** 1, Tdad, 21 Dec (MeH). **Red Knot:** 2, Klopp Lake, 28 Nov (PL); 1, ERB, 29 Dec (JSO, JohnG, RSu). **Rock Sandpiper:** 5, South Jetty, 30 Dec (RF, KR, CVCBC). **Herring Gull:** Among the several reports, usually at coastal river mouths, were the following of special interest: 200+, mouth of Redwood Creek, 2 Jan (SC); 1, Trinity Center, 14 Dec (FO); and 1 first-year bird thought maybe to be a "Vega" subspecies, AB, 8-9 Jan (RF, et al.). **Iceland (Kumlien's) Gull:** 1 "first-year," SRB (LB). **Slaty-backed Gull:** 1 "3rd-year" ("white eye"), AD, 26 Nov (LB, et al, poor photos, DNCBC?). **Glaucous Gull (all first-year):** 1, MRE, 22 Dec, 2 Jan (RF, LD, respectively); 1, MRC, 2 Jan (SC). **Pomarine Jaeger:** 1 (ACBC); 1 (CVCBC). **Pigeon Guillemot:** 1, Shelter Cove (RSu). **Marbled Murrelet:** 18 (ACBC). **Ancient Murrelet:** 7 (ACBC, BS); 1 (CVCBC); 1, NJ, 1 Jan (SC). **Cassin's Auklet:** 1 inside Entrance Bay at KS, 11 Dec (MW). **Rhinoceros Auklet:** 1 (CVCBC). **Band-tailed Pigeon:** 21, Kneeland Airport, 27 Nov (LT); 1, Cummings Road, Eureka, 3 Jan (TL). **Eurasian Collared Dove:** Seems well established at Smith River, 55 seen on 16 Dec (DNCBC) and 72 there on 29 Dec (AB), at School Road in McKinleyville, 17 there on 11 Dec (KR, RS), and around Arlynda Corners near Ferndale, up to 25 there in late Nov (RF) and 73 reported on the entire CVCBC. **Ringed Turtle Dove:** 1, Smith River, 22 Dec (RF, et al.); 1 (CVCBC). **Northern Pygmy Owl:** 11 incidental reports (not counting birds found on CBCs) of singles from Trinidad Head, Azalea Hill, North Bank Road, Arcata, AB, Friday Ridge Road, Willow Creek, Blue Lake Fish Hatchery, Eureka, 27 Nov-1 Jan (mo) is far more than usual for this period. **Burrowing Owl:** 1, CVCBC (South Spit); 2, South Spit, KR, 17 Jan (KR, RS). **Great Gray Owl:** 1 live bird, badly emaciated, picked up near Myrtle and Freshwater Road, given to Humboldt Wildlife Care Center, but died, specimen now at HSU (MMi), only the third confirmed North Coast record. **Long-eared Owl:** At least 1 continuing at HBNWR through at least 10 Dec when 2 (no details) were reported (DC); 1 (CVCBC, not on the refuge). **Rufous Hummingbird:** 1 male, Azalea Hill, 25 Nov-1 Jan (GL, et al.). **Selasphorus sp.:** 1, Azalea Hill, 27 Dec-1 Jan (GL); 1, Fortuna, 30 Dec (LD, CVCBC). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 1 imm. male, (J&LN, TL, WCCBC). **White-headed Woodpecker:** 1, Horse Mountain, 22 Dec (JA, WCCBC). **Say's Phoebe:** 1, Crescent City airport, 26, 30 Nov (LB); 1, Shelter Cove, 29 Nov (RH); 1, V St. Loop, 15, 23 Dec (JSt, ACBC, SC); 1, vicinity Arlynda Corners, 30, 31 Dec, (OH, et al.); 1, V St. Loop, 9 Jan (OH). **Tropical Kingbird:** 2 together, V St. Loop, 26 Nov (PH, KS); 1, V St. Loop, 4 Dec (AL); 1, vicinity Mad River Road, 4-17 Dec (4 reports) (RF, KR, LM); 1, Pt. St. George, 28 Dec (AB). **Northern Shrike:** 1, Klamath Glen, 26 Dec (LB). **Cassin's Vireo:** 1, Bayshore Mall, 30 Nov-15 Dec (TL, et al.). **Western Scrub Jay:** 1, Smith River (RF, et al., DNCBC). **Horned Lark:** 1 flyby, AB, 26 Nov (RF); 3, end of Cannibal Road, 28 Nov, 12 Dec (RF, MW). **Tree Swallow:** 3, Lanphere Dunes, 27 Nov (LT); HBNWR,



Long-tailed Duck ©2008 Scott Carey

9 Dec (fide JP); 1, AMP, 29 Nov, 28 Dec (RF, PL, BC); 12 (CVCBC); **Barn Swallow:** 4 (CVCBC); 2, Big Lagoon Spit, 2 Jan (TL); 3, NW Arcata, 16 Jan (RF). **Mountain Chickadee:** 1-2 continuing, Eureka through at least 15 Dec (DJ); 11 (!), Tdad, 24 Dec (MeH). **American Robin:** 10,000-30,000, China Flat, 19-21 Dec (JoM). **Black-throated Gray Warbler:** 1, Bayshore Mall, 30 Nov (TL); 1, Tdad, 24 Dec (MeH). **Palm Warbler:** 1, AMP, 24 Nov-14 Dec (mo); 1, mouth of Jacoby Creek, 25 Nov (RF); 1, Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, 21 Nov (DT); 1 (only) (CVCBC). **Black-and-white Warbler:** 1, Arcata, 14-22 Dec (LM, BBo, ACBC); 1, Tdad, 24 Dec (MeH). **Northern Waterthrush:** 1, BSLP, 26 Nov-15 Dec (mo). **Common Yellowthroat:** 1 AMP, 24, 25 Nov, 4, 14 Dec (RF, LT, AL, DF); 1, Ferndale, 30 Dec (GL, CVCBC). **Western Tanager:** 1, Bayside, 17-21 Dec (DF). **American Tree Sparrow:** 1, AMP, 16 Nov-15 Dec (LM, LP, RF, KR, EE-ACBC). **Chipping Sparrow:** 2 (WCCBC); 2 (CVCBC). **Lark Sparrow:** 1, Pt. St. George, 23, 26 Nov (LB); 1, Smith River, 16 Dec (TaE, DNCBC). **Red (type) Fox Sparrow:** 1, Bayside, 13-27 Dec (DF); 1, Azalea Hill, 15 Dec-1 Jan (GL, et al.). **Swamp Sparrow:** 1-6, AMP, 25 Nov-9 Jan (LT, LP, RF, AL, SH); 2, HBNWR, 9 Dec (JP, et al.); 1, MRE, 10 Dec (KS). **Harris's Sparrow:** 1, 10-Mile River, near Ft. Bragg continuing from Oct through 14 Dec (DT); another at Ft. Bragg, 8-13 Dec (fide DT). 1, Stone Lagoon, 26 Nov (JA, photos). **Gray-headed Junco (ND, NC):** 1 reported Tdad, before 21 Dec (fide MeH). **Lapland Longspur:** 15-30+, foot of Cannibal Road, 27 Nov-30 Dec (RF, MW, CVCBC); x (ACBC). **Snow Bunting:** 1 flyby along beach during a sea watch, North Spit, 15 Dec (BS, ACBC); 1, MRE, 17 Jan (NB). **Tricolored Blackbird:** 1, AB, 1 Dec (KR, DC); 1 male, AD, 28 Dec (AB). **Orchard Oriole:** 2 eating apples, Smith River (DF, JT, CD, DNCBC). **Bullock's Oriole:** 1 ad. male, McKinleyville, 4-5 Dec (JH); 1-2 apple eaters, Smith River, 16, 22 Dec (DF, JT, CD, et al. DNCBC). **Baltimore Oriole:** 1, Smith River (apple eaters' paradise), 16-26 Dec (DF, JT, CD, et al. DNCBC). **Evening Grosbeak:** 3 (CVCBC).



Bullock's Oriole, Smith River ©2007 Kerry Ross

Contributors

Many thanks to all the CBC participants and to the following who shared incidental reports with us this period: Marge Adams, Jeff Allen, David Anderson, Frank Anderson, Alan Barron, Gary Bloomfield, Bob Botkin, Kevin Brenneman, Adam Brown, Heather Brown, Lucas Brug, Barbara Burek, Noah Burrell, Ken Burton, Scott Carey, Bryon Cariss, Joe Ceraini, Daryl Coldren, Gary Crites, Tamar Dan ufsky, Duke Diehl, Colin Dillingham, Linda Doerflinger, Tanner Easterla, Elias Elias, Frank Ferguson, David Fix, Rob Fowler, Brad Freeman, John Gaffin, Joe Gartland, George Green, Melody Hamilton, Stan Harris, Tonna & Larry Harris-Haller, Owen Head, Pablo Herrera, Rob Hewitt, Denise Homer, John Hunter, David Juliano, Christine Kiel, Alexandra Lamb, Tom & Sue Leskiw, Gary & Lauren Lester, Steve Lewis, Paul Lohse, John Mason, Larry Maurin, Justin Max (?), Sean McAllister, Kate McClain, Dee Meyer, Matthew Mitchell, Michael Morris, Cindy Moyer, Eric Nelson, Judi & Lew Norton, Chet Ogan, Francis Oliver, Larry & Aurora Pitts, Gayle Popham, Jude Power, Kerry Ross, Lee Rusconi, Barry Sauppe, Jay Seegar, Keith Slauson, Rachael Smith, Dave Spangenburg, Patti Sennott, John Sterling, Jay Sooter, Robert Sutherland, Jim Tietz, Dorothy Tobkin, Lauren Tompkins, Amber Transou, Dan Van Zile, Matt Wachs, Jim Welsh, Harold West. 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.



Redwood Region Audubon Society

Presents Its February Program:

BIRDS OF THE ANGOLA ESCARPMENT

Angola is one of the 19 Endemic Bird Areas in Africa but is one of the least-known countries for birds on the continent. In January 2004, Dr. Cagan Sekercioglu and his colleagues traveled to Angola to investigate its bird community. The expedition in this war-torn, mine-riddled country was “the adventure of a lifetime” and yielded important results. They found that the Angola escarpment, particularly the Kumbira forest, still supports most of the endemic and threatened species, including the Gabela Akalat, which was found to be fairly common in modified “coffee forest” understory.

Dr. Sekercioglu is a Turkish conservation ecologist, tropical biologist, ornithologist, and nature photographer working as a senior scientist at Stanford University Department of Biological Sciences. His research focuses on the causes and consequences of bird extinctions around the world, with ongoing ornithological research projects in Costa Rica, Turkey, and Ethiopia. He is also interested in how ecotourism, especially birding, can contribute to community-based conservation in the developing world.



*Cagan Sekercioglu
holds a red-tailed hawk
at the Stanford Foothills Reserve.
(Credit: Stan Moore)*

The program will be held on
Friday, February 8, starting at 7:30 p.m.
at the Humboldt Area Foundation
373 Indianola Road, Bayside.

NOTE THE CHANGED LOCATION.

Bring a mug (or purchase one with the RRAS logo)
and enjoy shade-grown coffee and refreshments.

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

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