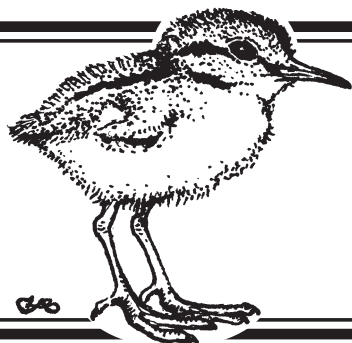


MAY
2008



The Sandpiper

5th Annual Children's Issue

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 101), **HSU** (northwest corner of Harpst and Rossow Streets, opposite Student Services), **Eureka** (Park & Ride, Herrick Avenue 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 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 7:4 a.m. &

Saturday, May 3: Kings Range/Shelter Cove. Keith Slauson ([707] 839-9056; kslauson@fs.fed.us) and Robert Sutherland will lead this all-day trip to the chaparral, oak woodlands, and coast of southwestern Humboldt County in search of California Thrasher and nesting seabirds, among others. High-clearance vehicles, especially 4WD, would be handy. Those wishing to leave Friday evening (May 2) and camp (\$8/night/site, no showers) can carpool or caravan with Keith; contact him to coordinate meeting location

and time. Those wishing to join the trip Saturday morning can meet the group at the BLM'S Nadelos Campground on Chemise Mountain Road promptly at 8:30 a.m.; please notify Keith before May 2 if you plan to do this. Saturday morning carpools: Trinidad 6:05 a.m., HSU 6:15 a.m., Eureka 6:40 a.m., Fortuna 7:00 a.m.

For those wishing to combine the previous and following trips into a two-day camping adventure (Friday and Saturday nights), we will camp again at Nadelos Campground Saturday night and depart Sunday morning to join the Alderpoint trip in Garberville. Contact Keith at the number or e-mail address above to arrange transportation.

Sunday, May 4: Alderpoint. Enjoy the birds, plant life, and reptiles of the Eel River canyon on this half-day trip just south of Alderpoint. We will walk the railroad tracks about 2 miles to Cain Rock trestle and back (there are no trains). Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and similar birds of dry habitats in southeast Humboldt County can be expected. A short side trip to Smith Point Bridge to enjoy White-throated Swifts may be made following the trip. Diogenes' lantern, interior live-oak, and birch-leaf mountain-mahogany will be seen as well. Take sun protection, layered clothing, and a small pack for carrying lunch and water. Meet in the Ray's Food Place parking lot in Garberville at 8:30 a.m. We should return to the Humboldt Bay area by mid-afternoon. Contact David Fix or Jude Power ([707] 822-3613 or dfxjcp@humboldt1.com) for more information. Carpools: Trinidad 6:35 a.m., HSU 6:50 a.m., Eureka 7:15 a.m., Fortuna 7:30 a.m.

Saturday, May 10: International Migratory Bird Day Walk in Orleans. (See details inside.) Carpools: Trinidad 5:40 a.m., HSU 5:45 a.m., Eureka 5:25 a.m., Fortuna 5:10 a.m.

Saturday, May 10: Del Norte County. (See details inside.) Carpools: Trinidad 7:40 a.m., HSU 7:25 a.m., Eureka 7:05 a.m., Fortuna 6:50 a.m. &

Sunday, May 11: 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 9:00 a.m. Call Jude Power or David Fix ([707] 822-3613) for more information. Carpools: Trinidad 8:10, HSU 8:25, Eureka 8:45, Fortuna 8:45. &

Sunday, May 11: Mother's Day Walk at Dry Lagoon. Join John Hewston ([707] 822-5288) for this annual trip to Dry Lagoon. The morning will be spent walking north along the marsh, with a return via the beach. Take a lunch and stay for a hike among the Sitka Spruce on a forest trail, ending 2-3 p.m. Meet John at 8:15 a.m. at the HSU carpool site, 8:30 a.m. at the Trinidad carpool site, or 9 a.m. in the Dry Lagoon parking lot. Carpools: Eureka 8:05 a.m., Fortuna 7:45 a.m.

Sunday, May 18: Southern Humboldt Community Park. Jay Sooter ([707] 444-8001), Robert Sutherland, and/or Doug Wallace (peregrination@asis.com) will be leading 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 2-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 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot on Kimtu Road in Garberville. Carpools: Trinidad 6:00 a.m., HSU 6:20 a.m., Eureka 6:35 a.m., Fortuna 6:55 a.m. &

Saturday, May 24: Seabirds at Elk Head, Trinidad. We will be searching the rocky shoreline for shorebirds (oystercatchers, turnstones, tattlers) and the offshore rocks for nesting seabirds (murre, cormorants, puffins). We also will attempt to identify the landbirds and flowering plants encountered along the trail to the bluffs. Take spotting scopes if you have them. Meet Gary Lester ([707] 839-3373) at the Elk Head parking lot at 8:30 a.m. Carpools: HSU 8:10 a.m., Eureka 7:45 a.m., Fortuna 7:30 a.m.

Saturday, June 7: Patrick's Point State Park. Gary Lester ([707] 839-3373) will lead a 3-hour walk through the forests and along the bluffs of this beautiful local park in search of land and seabirds. Wear sturdy shoes. Meet in front of the park visitor center at 8:30 a.m.; free parking is available along Patrick's Point Drive north of the park entrance. Carpools: HSU 8:05 a.m., Eureka 7:45 a.m., Fortuna 7:30 a.m.

MAY PROGRAM



WHITE SHARKS of Northern California

Biologist **Adam Brown** will talk about his work with white sharks from both the Farallon Islands and Humboldt County. Adam will discuss some of the discoveries his team has made in 20 years of researching white sharks off the California coast, including his work focusing on white shark predation behavior as well as annual and seasonal migration patterns of this top predator. Along with slides, Adam will show some video of white shark "interactions" with seals and sea lions.

This program will be held **Friday, May 9, 2008**, starting at **7:30 p.m.** in the **Madrone Room** of 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— Pablo Herrera.....845-8166
President-Elect-- Ken Burton.....839-5179
Secretary— Adam Brown.....abrown@prbo.org
Treasurer— Sam Price.....499-9450

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COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Arcata Marsh Docents— Kerry Ross.....839-4365
Conservation— Chet Ogan442-9353
Education— Shana Stearn442-1461
Field Trips— Ken Burton839-5179
Historian— John Hewston822-5288
Membership— Lew & Judie Norton.....445-1791
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Observations— Stan Harris822-3802
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Publicity— Sue Leskiw.....442-5444
Sandpiper— Jan Andersen444-3501
— Gary Bloomfield822-0210
Volunteer Coordinator
— Jennifer Tompkins.....443-6959
Lake Earl Branch— Sue Calla.....465-6191
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 _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

email _____

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

Orleans Tony Hacking
Bigfoot Birding Day
(Celebration of International
Migratory Bird Day),
May 9 and 10.

Slideshow: Friday, May 9, 7:30 p.m. Bird Walk: Saturday, May 10, 7:30 a.m.

All events are free, open to the public, and will begin at the Panamnik Building, 38150 Highway 96, in downtown Orleans. The evening slideshow by Keith Slauson will feature amazing photos, songs, and calls of the birds we hope to see the following day. Also available for viewing at Panamnik will be a selection of artwork submitted by children in the Orleans area for the 5th Annual Godwit Days Student Bird Art Contest and the winning entries for the 3rd Annual Children's Nature Writing Contest, both sponsored by Redwood Region Audubon Society.

This event is part of the International Migratory Bird Day celebration and honors longtime Orleans area Forest Service biologist Tony Hacking, whose work protecting wildlife habitat served as an inspiration to all. Slauson and Tom Leskiw will lead the Saturday walk through local riparian habitats. Both of them have many years' experience leading trips for local Audubon chapters and bird festivals. Bring the whole family! Binoculars will be available for loan, and spotting scopes will be set up for up-close views.

For out-of-towners, lodging is available at Sandy Bar Ranch and elsewhere. Contact Blythe or Mark at mail@sandybar.com for details. Contact Tom ([707] 442-5444) for event information.

International Migratory
Bird Day Field Trips
in Del Norte County

International Migratory Bird Day is held on the second Saturday of May every year to celebrate the incredible journeys of migratory birds between their wintering grounds in Mexico and Central and South America and their breeding and nesting locations in North America, Canada, and the Arctic Circle. This year, international events take place on several continents and focus on "Tundra to Tropics" bird migration and conservation with field trips, festivals, and educational fairs. In Del Norte County, 2 local conservation groups celebrate the weekend with several birding field trips, a special documentary film, presentations, and a luncheon potluck.

Saturday, May 10, 2008 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Crescent City.

Meet at 9 a.m. in the Crescent City Harbor at the back of the Chart Room Restaurant at the end of Anchor Way. The group will carpool from there to several locations for best bird viewing and to scout for recent vagrants. Walking will be minimal. Bring binoculars or spotting scopes if you have them, a sack lunch, water, and snacks. Led by field ornithologist Rob Fowler. For further information, call Sue Calla (707) 951-9089.

Sunday, May 11, 2008 – 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Western Snowy Plover Presentation, Film, & Potluck

Hosted by the Tolowa Dunes Stewards. Meet at the Lake Earl Wildlife Area Headquarters, 2591 Old Mill Road, Crescent City (off Northcrest Drive). Getting to know the endangered Snowy Plover and its life history brings a greater understanding and appreciation of the places we share with them and how we can help them survive. This event is supported by California Coastal Commission's Whale Tail License Plate grants program. Please RSVP for potluck: Terri Klemetson (707) 834-5471.

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

Arcata – Mike & Leslie Anderson, Ras Johnson
Eureka – Frances Pond, Frank Demling, Kathy Polifroni,
Laura Bringham, Martha Cook
Fort Dick – Evelyn DeRusha
Hoopa – Alfred & Vida Lewis
McKinleyville – Flavio Gontijo
Whitethorn – Jacque Campbell

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

Conservation News

By Chet Ogan

At our last Conservation Committee meeting April 17, 2008, most of the conversation involved Parcel 4 (Eureka). Several months ago, Joel Gerwein of the California Coastal Conservancy offered RRAS a chance to dedicate a conservation easement on Parcel 4 behind Bayshore Mall. The City of Eureka was given more than 20 years to deal with this parcel, at which time the Coastal Conservancy would be able to designate this as a conservation easement. Parcel 4 consists of about 4 acres of upland that used to be part of the drying kilns for Palco's mill, surrounded by 11 acres of degraded wetland. Two plants listed as endangered are found on this parcel.

RRAS would like to work with Eureka on making this property a focal point for wetland habitat restoration. With its wonderful views of Humboldt Bay, it has the potential to become a world-class birding destination. Along with Palco/Eureka Marsh, it has just the mix of salt marsh, mudflat, and fresh and brackish water wetlands with upland components to encourage a variety of wildlife.

Our next Conservation Committee meeting will be May 15 at 12 noon at the Arcata Golden Harvest Restaurant.

RRAS Thanks
Godwit Café Volunteers

Heartfelt thanks go out to Audubon members and friends who helped make this year's Godwit Cafe a success, starting with Jim Clark, who obtained the temporary food service permits from the county health department. Joe Roberts provided the coffee brewer for the organic shade-grown Western Tanager blend coffee donated by Sacred Grounds. Rick Hiser, Jay Sooter, Bev Post, and Larry Womack helped with early-morning setup. C.J. Ralph, Sue Calla, and Adam Brown helped run the cafe. David Tompkins brought in coffeepots and helped serve on Sunday. Susan Whaley, Joan Watanabe, and Marie Greshaw helped on Saturday, along with Don McClure who donated 4 hours. On Sunday Debbie Marshall, Annette Leshner, and Sue Leskiw worked the lunch and afternoon shifts. Most important, Judie and Lew Norton helped with cleanup on Sunday. Finally, thanks especially to Jennifer Tompkins for coordinating all the great volunteers. We couldn't have done it without you!

Amazing Amphibians
of the Refuge
Friday, May 23

Join Fish and Wildlife Service Biologist Jamie Bettaso on Friday, May 23, 2008, at 7 p.m., at the Richard J. Guadagno Visitor Center, Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Salmon Creek Unit, for an entertaining presentation on the ecology, biology, and secret lives of the amphibians found on the refuge. This is also an opportunity to visit the refuge during the late evening. The presentation is free, and everyone is welcome. Light refreshments will be provided by the Friends of Humboldt Bay NWR. Take the Hookton Road Exit off Hwy 101 and follow the signs for the Salmon Creek Unit of the refuge. For more information and special accommodations, call (707) 733-5406.

Western Field Ornithologists (WFO)
Annual Meeting: October 9-12, 2008,
San Mateo Marriott, San Mateo, CA

If you are interested in birds and birding and would like a chance to interact with some of North America's most respected experts, this is the meeting for you. WFO is a unique organization that seamlessly blends birding with ornithology. WFO meetings are only occasionally held in Northern California. So, if your interest in birds goes beyond just adding another tic to your list, don't miss this one.

There will be field trips visiting most of the San Francisco Bay Area's hotspots. Workshops will cover topics like sketching birds and using GPS in the field. Al Jaramillo will lead an ecological transect of the San Mateo Peninsula. Scientific sessions will give a glimpse into the most current ornithological research, and expert ID panels will educate and amaze.

To learn more and to register for the meeting, visit the WFO website: <http://www.wfo-cbrc.org>.

RRAS Sponsors 6th Annual Science Fair Award

“Feathered Friend or Foe” by Jace Jackson, a 7th grader at McKinleyville Middle School, was selected as the best project related to birds or their habitat at the annual Humboldt County Science Fair held in mid-March.

Jace tested 4 possible methods to deter birds from a feeder. He hypothesized that tinsel would deter birds from seed more than a fake owl, fake crow, or miniature

windmill because “tinsel is an unnatural deterrent that birds haven’t seen before and will be hesitant to approach.” For 2 weeks before introducing the deterrents, Jace measured daily seed consumption at a pre-established feeding site, to obtain a baseline. He then introduced the deterrent for 2 days and measured consumption, followed by repeated measurements, alternating between no deterrents and 1 of the 4.

Jace found that his hypothesis was incorrect: the false owl (which moved) proved to be the best deterrent

(only 12 birds on average came to feed compared with a control level of 26), followed by the fake crow, tinsel, and windmill, which actually attracted birds. The real-world application would be to keep birds away from vegetable gardens.

Judges were Sue and Tom Leskiw. The \$50 prize was awarded during a ceremony at Humboldt State University.



**Angelica Garrison,
Green Point School,
1st Place, Grade 3,
“Western Grebe”**

Student Bird Art Contest Biggest Ever!



**Naomi Anderson,
Six Rivers
Charter High School,
3rd Place, Grades 9-12,
“California Quail”**

By Sue Leskiw

Over 550 local K-12 students pulled out paints, pencils, pastels, or paste to enter the Fifth Annual Student Bird Art Contest held in association with Godwit Days. RRAS cosponsored the competition with Friends of the Arcata Marsh. All art was displayed at the Arcata Community Center during the Festival (April 18-20). Copies of the winners will be hung at the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center during May and June.

Some 56 awards totaling \$600 were given out, thanks to RRAS, FOAM, and a private donor. The number of monetary prizes was increased to 30, plus 16 honorable mentions were chosen. This year, an award for the best depiction of birds in their habitat was instituted at the suggestion of Julie Neander with the City of Arcata’s Environmental Services Department, with 10 entries selected. Southstream Art Services in Arcata provided gift certificates to the teachers with the most winning students: Augustine Amaro of Fuente Nueva and John Palmer of Green Point School.

Judges were Leslie Anderson, Louise Bacon-Ogden, Art Barab, Denise Homer, Sue Leskiw, Marsha Mello, and Sara Starr. Art hangers (who spent over 2 hours each push-pinning 552 artworks to the walls) were Leslie Anderson, Louise Bacon-Ogden, Art Barab, Sue Leskiw, and Melvin McKinney; Sue and Tom Leskiw did the removal.

The winners:

Kindergarten

- 1st: Lauren House, Morris Elementary School, Wood Duck
- 2nd: Lindsey Maher, Alder Grove Charter School, Pileated Woodpecker
- 3rd: Ada Bavin, Mad River Montessori, Anna’s Hummingbird

Grade 1

- 1st: Calvin DiMaggio, Mattole Valley Charter School, Common Loon
- 2nd: Savannah Hirsch, Big Lagoon School, Red-breasted Nuthatch
- 3rd: Donald Horton, Rio Dell School District After School Program, Steller’s Jay

Grade 2

- 1st: Mina Mayer, Jacoby Creek School, Red-breasted Nuthatch
- 2nd: Reid Mather, Maple Creek School, Long-billed Curlew
- 3rd: Jonathan Archibald, Salmon Creek Community School, Bald Eagle

Grade 3

- 1st: Angelica Garrison, Green Point School, Western Grebe
- 2nd: Roland Carter, Fuente Nueva, California Quail
- 3rd: Elias Atkinson, Alder Grove Charter School, Spotted Owl

Grade 4

- 1st: Natalie Opalach, Arcata Elementary School, Northern Flicker
- 2nd: Ardiana Halligan, Fuente Nueva, Red-shouldered Hawk
- 3rd: Zia Oakland, Fuente Nueva, American Goldfinch

Grade 5

- 1st: Aidan Carter, Fuente Nueva, Peregrine Falcon
- 2nd: Margo LaClair, Morris Elementary School, Northern Flicker
- 3rd: Elizabeth Marshall, Green Point School, Snowy Plover

Grade 6

- 1st: Ashley Allgier, Orleans Elementary, American Wigeon
- 2nd: Jacob Windbigler, Maple Creek School, Great Blue Heron
- 3rd: Vera Heidmann, Jacoby Creek School, California Quail

Grade 7

- 1st: Morgan Tomfohr, Jacoby Creek School, Spotted Owl
- 2nd: Sheifa Punla-Green, Big Lagoon School, Red-shouldered Hawk
- 3rd: Reba Thompson, Jacoby Creek School, Chestnut-backed Chickadee

Grade 8

- 1st: Cody Wolfberg, Green Point School, Wood Duck
- 2nd: Justin Heidrich, Jacoby Creek School, Forster’s Tern
- 3rd: Taylor Markin, Junction Elementary School, Purple Finch

Grades 9-12

- 1st: Lateal Shumpert, Six Rivers Charter High School, Great Egret
- 2nd: Sarah Albers, Ferndale High School, Tufted Puffin
- 3rd: Naomi Anderson, Six Rivers Charter High School, California Quail

Honorable Mention

- Kindergarten: Brandyn Martinez and Ursula Newman

Grade 1: Josh Bianchi

Grade 3: Robbie Bollmann and Kobi Jones

Grade 4: Markeese Mosher and Azoline Gaudin-Dalton

Grade 5: Gretta Schmidt

Grade 6: Brandon Tripp and Tehva Kastel

Grade 7: Maya Kaup and Grant Harman

Grade 8: Jason Paira and Jasmine Schatz

Grades 9-12: Tessa Opalach and Bailee Harrison

Special Award for Best Depiction of a Bird in Its Habitat

Grade 1: Lana Sharkey, Spotted Owl

Grade 3: Lexie Allen, American Avocet

Grade 3: Elizabeth Uemura, Bald Eagle

Grade 3: Olivia Kline, Peregrine Falcon

Grade 4: Kaliana Keegan, Anna’s Hummingbird

Grade 5: Rhea Burtram, Steller’s Jay

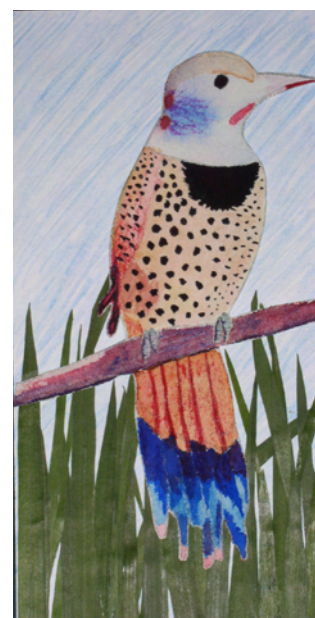
Grade 5: Adam Gunderson, Great Blue Heron

Grade 8: Summer Goodwin, Cedar Waxwing

Grade 12: Brandy Goodner, Snowy Plover

Grade 12: Meagan Hill, White-tailed Kite

Check out part 2 of the newsletter for more pictures of the winning bird art!



**Natalie Opalach,
Arcata Elementary School,
1st Place, Grade 4,
“Northern Flicker”**

Children's 3rd Annual Nature Writing Contest

Tom Leskiw, Guest Editor:

And the winner is... Astiana Borquez, an 8th grader who attends Redwood Christian School in Eureka. Beginning this year, the essay theme was broadened from "What Birds Mean to Me" to "What Nature Means to Me." The judges were thrilled to see a significant increase in the number of submissions, so they decided to also award prizes for 2nd and 3rd place.

The judges wish to thank everyone for their contribution; the high quality of the writing made our decision difficult. Below are the three winning entries. The judges were impressed with Astiana's essay for several reasons. Her depiction of the oxygen-carbon dioxide cycle illuminates the bond—intertwined and inseparable—between humans and plants. Framing our relationship in this manner makes clear that any perceived division between the human and natural community is an illusion: we are part of, not separate from, the natural community. Furthermore, reflecting on our ecological "footprint" is a crucial first step in becoming better stewards of this planet that sustains us.



What Nature Means to Me

One word can't describe Nature. It's too abundant to say so little. So instead I'll say what I feel.

Nature is life to all creatures of the world. It's also life to humans as well. Without plants and trees, we wouldn't be able to get enough oxygen. And plants and trees also need us. We give them the carbon dioxide that they need. So, really, nature and humans have to balance each other out to have harmony. And to keep that harmony, we need to keep nature clean.

It's insane how many people drop their garbage in the ocean or a forest. And it's not just lazy people, it's all of us. We may think that we have never done anything to cause harm to nature, but that's a lie. Every single person has caused harm to nature, and they might not even realize it. And I'm not pointing fingers. Even I have done it. But everyday the air and ocean can become more polluted just by the simple things we use everyday. Everyone has the power to change that.

When I look out at the ocean, I don't want to see the sky so dark because of all of the chemicals in it. When I look out into the sky, when I'm all alone, I feel at peace, like nothing can touch me. And that's when I feel at complete harmony with nature.

Some people take the things around them for granted. It's not until they go to a place less fortunate than them that they realize how lucky they really are. We should be thankful to live in places where we can enjoy nature.

So I said that I would tell you what I feel about nature. And I told you it is my time of peace. But nature isn't only somewhere, where people can run away to. It's home for over a million creatures.

So when you think about throwing your garbage into the ocean or somewhere else, don't think it's just one piece of garbage. Think how you could be destroying animals, fish, and their homes.

--Astiana Borquez, Grade 8,
Redwood Christian School in Eureka
1st Place

Nature Is!

Nature is the sound of the ocean.
Nature is the sound of birds singing.
Nature is that calm growth of plants.
Nature is the small animals in the woods.

Nature is the smell of the flowers in bloom.
Nature is the rush of the wind.
Nature is the world around us.
Nature is the grass in the fields.

Nature is the fish in the sea.
Nature is the smell of wet moss.
Nature is the taste of fruit from a tree.
Nature is the animals running free.

The sound of the ocean makes me calm.
The song of the birds is relaxing.
The calm growth of plants is fun to watch.
The small animals in the woods slowly grow.

The smell of flowers in bloom is peaceful.
The rush of the wind is calming.
The world around us is nature.
The grass in the field is plenty.

The fish in the sea are pretty.
The smell of wet moss is delicious.
The taste of fruit is yummy.
The animals running free are fun to watch.
Nature is God's creation.

-- Sierra Breen, Grade 7,
Redwood Christian School in Eureka, 2nd Place



Nature

Nature is a bed of spring flowers
joyfully growing to face the sun.
It's a place to go when looking for peace.
but elsewhere finding none.
Nature is a creek
bubbling merrily as it flows
over smooth pebbles in its wake.
It is the slithery, scaly
back of a snake.
Nature is birds singin'
to a high flying tune.
It's a wolf howling at a round,
full moon.
Nature is the pounding of waves in the sea.
That's what nature means to me.

-- Haleigh Dunk, Grade 6,
McKinleyville Middle School, 3rd Place



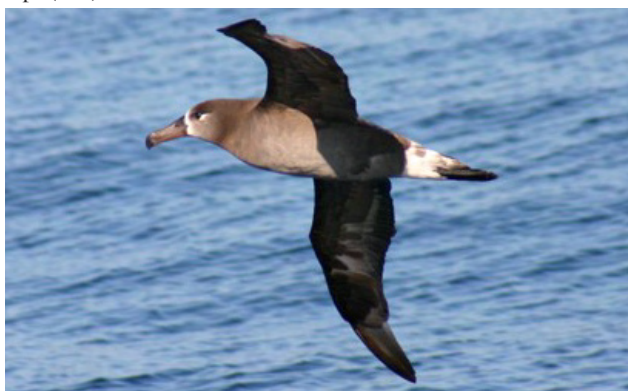
Field Notes

Spring Migration (27 Mar-23 Apr 2008)

Bird festivals have come and gone, many spring migrants arrived and are busy setting up housekeeping, and generally unsettled weather has been interspersed with nice days. One pelagic trip (HSU Ornithology Class) reported 6 Orcas, rarely seen off our coast, and 1 Gray Whale badly entangled in an Alaska crab-pot rope. The students and crew of the *Coral Sea* released the whale, but its prognosis was not good.

Abbreviations used: **AB** = Arcata Bottoms; **AD** = Alexandre Dairy; **AGBF** = Aleutian Goose Bird Festival, Crescent City vicinity; **AMP** = Arcata Marsh Project; **BRR** = Bear River Ridge; **BSLP** = Butcher Slough Log Pond; **CCH** = Crescent City Harbor; **GW** = Gee Whiz bird; **HBNWR** = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; **HSP** = Hayfork Sewage Pond and vicinity; **HSUPT** = Humboldt State University Pelagic Trip, 12 Apr (KR, et al.); **KS** = King Salmon; **MKSP** = MacKerricher State Park; **mo** = many observers; **NC** = not confirmed; **ND** = no details or description; **PCSP** = Prairie Creek State Park; **SRB** = Smith River Bottoms.

White-fronted Goose: 44, HBNWR, 2 Apr (JK). **Aleutian Cackling Goose:** 70, Bald Hill, Ft. Bragg, 20 Mar (DT). **Wood Duck:** 3 pair, Miranda, 2 Apr (KK); "few," Ruth Lake, 16 Apr (KP); x, HSP, 16 Apr (KP). **Eurasian Wigeon:** 1-5, AB, 2-19 Apr (RF, KR); 2, HBNWR, 4 Apr (RF); 1 female, Loleta Pond, 4 Apr (RF). **Eurasian Green-winged Teal:** 1, AD, 20 Apr (LB). **Eurasian x American Green-winged Teal:** 1, AD, 15 Apr (AB). **Cinnamon Teal:** 1 pair, HSP, 16 Apr (KP). **Cinnamon x Blue-winged Teal hybrid:** 1, AD, 6, 15 Apr (LB). **Harlequin Duck:** 1 pair, AGBF, 29 Mar (RH, PH, et al.); 6, MKSP, 2, 4 Apr (DT); 6 males, 3 females, mouth of Wilson Creek, 7 Apr (LB); 1, KS, 16-17 Apr (MW). **White-winged Scoter:** 1 adult female sporting bright orange nasal markers, Eureka Channel, 18-22 Apr (Sch, BD, SH, MH, photos); inquiry revealed that she was captured while nesting at Redberry Lake, central Saskatchewan, in July 2007 and that she hatched 7 of her 8 eggs on 28 Jul 2007 (JT, RA). **Black Scoter:** 1 female, CCH, 30 Mar (RH, PH); 1, KS, 16-19 Apr (MW, KR, et al.). **Long-tailed Duck:** 1-3, off shore, Pudding Creek, 2-16 Apr (DT); 3, 1, KS, 6, 19 Apr, respectively (MW, PH, KR, RF, et al.). **Hooded Merganser:** 1 pair, Miranda, 1 Apr (KK); 2 females, Eel River at Southern Humboldt Community Park, 3 Apr (RS). **Sooty Grouse:** x, AGBF, 28 Mar (RH, PH, et al.); 8-10, vic. Miranda, 4 Apr (KK); 5, Bald Hills, 10 Apr (DD); 2, Fruitland Ridge, 12 Apr (JG). **Mountain Quail:** x, Miranda, 4 Apr (KK).



Black-footed Albatross © Kerry Ross

Black-footed Albatross: 15, HSUPT. **Northern Fulmar:** 15, HSUPT. **Sooty Shearwater:** 5, HSUPT. **Pacific Loon:** 4, CCH, 10 Apr (LB). **Common Loon:** 1, Ruth Lake, 23 Apr (TL). **Double-crested Cormorant:** 18, Ruth Lake, 16 Apr (KP). **American Bittern:** 1, Eel River Wildlife Area, 3 Apr (DD); 1, Loleta Pond, 13 Apr (RH, MW, RF). **Great Blue Heron:** 1, Ruth Lake, 16 Apr (KP). **Great Egret:** 10-20 soaring high over BSLP, followed by rapid descent, and a second "soaring," 9 Apr (AL, KMe, DH). **Osprey:** 1, Blue Lake riparian, 28 Mar (Gabriel); 16 at one time, Freshwater Lagoon area, 31 Mar (DF); 2, 3, Ruth Lake, 14, 16 Apr, respectively (TL, KP, respectively). **Bald Eagle:** 8 reports of 1-4 from Ruth Lake, Blue Lake riparian, Mad River x HWY 299, AMP, SRB, KS, 30 Mar-23 Apr (mo); nest near Bayside said to be visible from AMP (DF). **Cooper's Hawk:** 1, Willow Creek vic., 20 Apr (TL). **Broad-winged Hawk (GW, NC):** 1 dark morph reported soaring over Shay Park, 1 Apr (SC). **Rough-legged Hawk:** 1, Freshwater Farms, 22 Mar (TL); 1 juv., V St.

Loop, 4 Apr (RF); 1, BRR, 17 Apr (SMcA, et al.). **Golden Eagle:** 1 adult, Hettenshaw Valley, 16, 23 Apr (KP, TL, respectively). **Crested Caracara:** 1, SRB, 30 Mar-18 Apr (RH, PH, LB, AB, et al.). **Peregrine:** 1 adult, 5 Apr. AMP (KR); 2, Mad River Ranger District inland, 11 Apr (TL). **American Coot:** 1, Ruth Lake, 16 Apr (KP). **Snowy Plover:** 2, bay side of South Spit, viewed from KS, 6 Apr (MW). **Black-necked Stilt:** 1, HBNWR, 1-20 Apr (JK, RF, et al.). **Lesser Yellowlegs:** 1, HBNWR, 13 Apr (RH); 1, AD, 22 Apr (LB). **Solitary Sandpiper:** 2, AD, 22 Apr (LB). **Whimbrel:** 18, AB, 31 Mar (RF). **Long-billed Curlew:** 82, AB, 31 Mar (RF). **Bar-tailed Godwit, ND, NC:** 1, AD, 21 Apr (LB). **Pectoral Sandpiper:** 1, HBNWR, 20 Apr (RF, et al.). **Rock Sandpiper:** 2, mouth of Pudding Creek, 12 Apr (DT). **Bonaparte's Gull:** 12, CCH, 10 Apr (LB). **Slaty-backed Gull:** 1 2nd-year, SRB, 7 Apr (LB); 1 adult, SRB, 27 Apr (AB). **Glaucous Gull:** 4-5 1st-year, 1 3rd-year, SRB, 26 Mar, Apr (KR); 1 1st-year, mouth of Strawberry Creek, 28 Mar (KR); 1, AB, 31 Mar (RF); 2 1st-year, Mad River Estuary, 1-4 Apr (KS); 1 1st-year, AMP, 5 Apr (KR); 1, ERB, 18, 20 Apr (OH, RF, et al., respectively). **Black-legged Kittiwake:** 1, HSUPT. **Marbled Murrelet:** 5, HSUPT; several detections, PCSP, 31 Mar, 11 Apr (DF, RH); 2, KS, 6 Apr (MW). **Ancient Murrelet:** 4 HSUPT. **Rhinoceros Auklet:** 5, HSUPT. **Band-tailed Pigeon:** 30+ in pairs, Elk Ridge, 4 Apr (KK). **Eurasian Collared Dove:** x, Ft. Dick, 28 Mar (AGBF); 3, Shay Park, 3 Apr (RF); 1, Kneeland, 13-14 Apr (BB, DVZ, photo); x, Garberville, 12 Apr (AC). **Ringed Turtle Dove:** 1, McKinleyville, 10 Apr (KR). **Pygmy Owl:** 1, PCSP, 11 Apr (RH); 1, Kneeland, 2, 13 Apr (BB, DVZ). **Barred Owl:** 1, Freshwater, 3, 5, 7 Apr (RH). **Short-eared Owl:** 1-2, Murray Field, 1-11 Apr (PH, CO). **Saw-whet Owl:** 1 Freshwater, 29 Mar (RH); 2 locations, Fickle Hill, 11 Apr (RH). **White-throated Swift:** 30-40 at overpass bridges along Hwy 101 between Piercy and Redway, 3 Apr (OH); 1, Garberville, 17 Apr (KB); 1, Founders' Grove, 17 Apr (KB). **Calliope Hummingbird:** 1 female, 10-Mile River, 2 Apr (KaH, good description); 1, Friday Ridge Road x Hwy 299, 22 Apr (RH, et al.).



Rufous Hummingbird © Kerry Ross

Rufous Hummingbird: 5 reports of 1-2 from Eureka, Arcata, Manila, Ruth Lake, Friday Ridge Road x Hwy 299, 30 Mar-20 Apr (mo). **White-headed Woodpecker:** 2, Black Lassic, 29-30 Mar (JK). **Pileated Woodpecker:** 2 drumming, Fickle Hill, 19 Apr (RH, et al.); 1, south of Ruth Lake 16 Apr (TL). **Olive-sided Flycatcher:** 1 calling, BSLP, 20 Apr (CO, et al.). **Pacific Slope Flycatcher:** 9 reports of 1-5 from near Miranda, Whitlow, Etersburg, Garberville, Fruitland Ridge, Cooper Gulch, Blue Lake riparian, 1-13 Apr (mo). **Say's Phoebe:** 1, Kneeland, 11 Apr (BB, DVZ). **Western Kingbird:** reports of 1-3 from Elk Ridge above Miranda, 12 Apr (KK); Hettenshaw Valley, 14-16 Apr (TL, KP); AD, 20 Apr (LB). **Cassin's Vireo:** reports of 1-3 from Blue Lake riparian, 5, 7 Apr (AL, RF, KR); Garberville, 3 Apr (RS), Elk Ridge, 4, 12 Apr (KK); Whitlow, 12 Apr (JG). **Warbling Vireo:** reports of 1-2 from Elk Ridge, 2, 12 Apr (KK); Salmon Creek at Miranda, 2 Apr (KK); Fruitland Ridge, 11, 12 Apr (JG). **Horned Lark:** xx, including some in display, Bear River Ridge, 17 Apr (SMcA, et al.). **Purple Martin:** 1, 4, Shelter Cove, 1, 2 Apr (DE, SW); 4-9, AMP, 18-20 Apr (Sch, KR, et al.). **Rough-winged Swallow:** 1, south of Orick, 30 Mar (LM). **Bank Swallow:** 1, AMP, 19 Apr (KS). **Cliff Swallow:** 1-3 Kneeland, 31 Mar (BB, DVZ); 15, Miranda, 12 Apr (KK). **Oak Titmouse:** 1, east side of Ruth Lake, 16 Apr (KP). **White-breasted Nuthatch:** 2 at nest hole, Elk Ridge, 12 Apr (KK); 2, Dobbins Creek, Hwy 3, near Hayfork, 16 Apr (KP). **House Wren:** 1, Hettenshaw Valley, 16 Apr (KP). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** 1, Hayfork vic, 16 Apr (KP); 2, south of Ruth Lake, 16 Apr (TL); 1 pair, Friday Ridge Road, 20 Apr (TL, et al.); 1, Eureka, 21 Apr (KaR); 2, Hettenshaw Valley, 23 Apr (TL). **Western Bluebird:** "nesting in boxes has begun," Miranda, 29 Mar (KK); 1, Black Lassic, 29-30 Mar (JK); 11, Fruitland Ridge, 12 Apr (JG); 4, Larabee Valley, 14 Apr (TL); 5, vic. Willow Creek, 20 Apr (TL, et al.). **Townsend's Solitaire:** 1, Black Lassic, 29-30 Mar (JK). **Eurasian Starling:** 6 (including 1 leaving a nest hole), Mail Ridge near Ft. Seward, 12 Apr (JG). **Cedar Waxwing:** 14 feeding on mistletoe, Fruitland

by Stan Harris

Ridge, 12 Apr (JG). **Bohemian Waxwing(!) (GW, NC):** 1 flyby with 12 Cedar Waxwings, Eureka, 2 Apr (BS, OK description). **Black-throated Gray Warbler:** 15+ reports of new arrivals, 2-20 Apr, from Fruitland Ridge, Miranda, Elk Ridge, Garberville, Kneeland, Mad River County Park, AMP, Gray Falls Campground, Hettenshaw Valley (mo). **Hermit Warbler:** x, south of Ruth Lake, 16 Apr (TL). **Palm Warbler:** 1-2, AMP, 1-2, 21 Apr (RF, et al.); 1 singing, Eureka, 22 Apr (SMcA). **Northern Waterthrush:** 1, BSLP, 2, 8 Apr (RF, Dave). **Common Yellowthroat:** 9 reports of 1-6 from AMP, Fern Canyon, Willow Creek, Vigo St. Marsh, Whitlow, Hettenshaw Valley, 2-20 Apr (mo). **Wilson's Warbler:** 1 female, Klamath, 8 Apr (LM); 1, Etersburg, 4 Apr (RS); 5, Whitlow vic, 13 Apr (JG). **California Towhee:** x, Van Duzen x Hwy 101, 16 Apr (RH). **Chipping Sparrow:** 1 singing, Fruitland Ridge 12 Apr (JG); 6 singing, Elk Ridge, 12 Apr (KK); 1, Ruth Lake, 14 Apr (TL); 2, Hettenshaw Valley, 16 Apr (KP). **Vesper Sparrow:** 1, AB (V St. loop), 12 Apr (KS). **Lark Sparrow:** 1, Kneeland, 11 Apr (BB, DVZ); 8 (6 on territory), Mail Ridge above Ft. Seward, 12 Apr (JG); 2, vic. Hayfork, 16 Apr (KP). **Golden-crowned Sparrow:** 50, Elk Ridge, 4 Apr (KK).



Lapland Longspur © Kerry Ross

Lapland Longspur: 1 male, KS, 19 Apr (RF, KR, et al.). **Tricolored Blackbird:** 9 displaying males, McQuier Pond east of Ft. Bragg, early Apr (GC). **Western Meadowlark:** 19 on territory, Fruitland Ridge, 12 Apr (JG). **Bullock's Oriole:** 3 singing on territory, Elk Ridge, 12 Apr (KK); 1 singing, Azalea Hill, 10 Apr (GL).



Lawrence's Goldfinch © Gary Bloomfield

Lawrence's Goldfinch: 1 at feeder, Arcata, 18 Apr (GB).

Contributors

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