



The Sandpiper

FEBRUARY 2009



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** (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.

Sunday, February 1: Loleta/Ferndale Raptor Survey. This is the second year of this survey, which is part of the Hawk Migration Association of North America's winter monitoring program. The 30-mile route runs along Hookton Slough and through the Loleta and Ferndale Bottoms and in previous surveys has produced Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Northern Shrike, and many other species. Meet project coordinator Ken Burton ([707] 825-1124) at the beginning of Ranch Road (near the Hookton Road exit) at 8 a.m. We'll finish by 3 p.m. Participants should expect to help record data. Carpools: Trinidad 7:15 a.m., HSU 7:30 a.m.

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] 496-0764) for more information. Carpools: Trinidad 8:10 a.m., Eureka 8:05 a.m., Fortuna 7:45 a.m. &

Sunday, February 8: 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 a.m., HSU 8:25 a.m., Eureka 8:45 a.m., Fortuna 8:45 a.m. &

Sunday, February 15: Palco Marsh. These monthly walks offer some great birding in downtown Eureka. We spend an hour or two on a flat loop that takes us through a variety of habitats from bay and mudflat to riparian and marshland. Meet in the parking lot at the west end 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 15: Southern Humboldt Community Park. Jay Sooter ([707] 444-8001) leads 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. &

Sunday, February 22: Hiller Park. Join Kerry Ross ([707] 839-4365) for some fun morning birding at this great local park. We will check a variety of habitats, including shore pines, willows along the creek, and ponds at the water treatment plant, and do a sea-watch from the bluff. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot, off Hiller Road. Carpools: Trinidad 8:15 a.m., HSU 8:20 a.m., Eureka 7:55 a.m., Fortuna 7:40 a.m.

7th Annual Aleutian Cackling Goose Fly-off at the Refuge

Join us at Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge (HBNWR), Richard J. Guadagno Headquarters and Visitor Center in Loleta, for the 7th Annual Aleutian Cackling Goose Fly-off & Family Fun Weekend Saturday and Sunday, **March 7 & 8, 2009**, rain or shine, 6 a.m. to noon. There will be interpretive stations along the trail at sunrise. Visitors may observe thousands of Aleutian Cackling Geese fly off from the refuge wetlands. There will be a "Treats for Treats" bake sale and coffee along with free, fun, and educational family activities 8 a.m. to noon that will include wetland microscopes, songbird house construction, and waterfowl and shorebird silhouette painting.

This event is sponsored by the Friends and Staff of HBNWR. Parking is limited; please carpool.

Free Guided Bird Walks at HBNWR

Join Volunteer Naturalist Louise Bacon-Ogden on **Wednesdays, February 4 and 18 and March 4 and 18, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**, for bird walks at the Salmon Creek Unit of Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Everyone is welcome. Take the Hookton Road Exit, #696, off Hwy 101 near Loleta, and follow the brown signs to the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge Salmon Creek Unit Headquarters and Visitor Center.

For more information or special accommodation, call (707) 733-5406 or visit <http://www.fws.gov/humboldtby>.



American White Pelicans over Eel River © Gary Bloomfield



2008-09 Christmas Bird Count Results

by Sean McAllister

Del Norte Count - December 14, 2008. With the participation of about 25 people, the Del Norte County CBC tallied 158 species. A sad note was that Del Norte physician Onik Arian died in the effort to count birds that day on the Crescent City jetty. Birds of note included Orchard Oriole and Bullock's Oriole in Smith River; a long-present Franklin's Gull at Alexandre Dairy and Tyron Ranch; the continuing Crested Caracara along Lake Earl Drive just off Hwy 101; many Eurasian Collared-Doves, especially in the town of Smith River, a bird first recorded in the county in 2005 and a Common Yellowthroat and a Swamp Sparrow at the end of Lakeview Drive. Notable count-week birds found include Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Rusty Blackbird.

Arcata Count - December 20, 2008. With no fewer than 51 participants, 181 species were tallied. The highlights include Northern Fulmar, Sooty and Short-tailed shearwaters, Heermann's Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Pomarine Jaeger, Ancient Murrelet, Northern Waterthrush, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Swamp Sparrow,

Lark Sparrow, and Tricolored Blackbird.

Willow Creek Count - December 27, 2008. With the participation of 14 people, Willow Creek recorded a total of 85 species. Highlights included an Orange-crowned Warbler and a Northern Mockingbird.

Centerville Count - January 4, 2009. With about 40 people participating, the Centerville CBC had the highest species count in its 40+ years: 189. New for the count were American White Pelican, Mountain Plover, Red-naped Sapsucker, and Hooded Oriole. Other highlights include Barrow's Goldeneye, Black-necked Stilt, numerous Ancient Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklet, Glaucous Gull, Heermann's Gull, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Northern Shrike, Say's Phoebe, possibly the first anywhere of a documented Say's x Black Phoebe hybrid, Common Yellowthroat, and Wilson's Warbler.

Thanks to all of the hearty participants and to the compilers!

FEBRUARY PROGRAM



© Gary Bloomfield

Craig Strong, of Crescent City, will give a presentation on his seabird research.

This program will be held on **Friday, February 13, 2009, 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

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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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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

New Members

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

Arcata — Julian Berg, Tony Gonsalves, Carrie Grant, John Hunter, Lierre Keith, the Moore Family, Nicole Paul, Meredith Powell, John Rice, Greg Toleno, Esther Wallace, Jemma Williams,

Mary Wilson, Mary Wright

Bayside — Nina Potter, Deanna Thrift

Blue Lake — Lois Stone

Bridgeville — Linda Ward

Burnt Ranch — Betty Allen

Crescent City — Lee Beising, Diana Clark, Nova Clarke, Phil Garcia, Grant Ivson-Lane, S. Jerabek, Joan Kienzle, Valerie Luks, Lynda Mather, Margot McGuire, Michelle & Mark Moschetti,

Richard Postal, Diana Sorritelli, Michele Thomas, Louise White

Eureka — Gaye Ayton, Lorraine Bessellieu,

Mary Sullivan Bryant, Marshasue Cohen,

Noelani Davis, Larry DePuy, Jed Douglas,

Thomas Estrada, Elizabeth Hamb, Debi Mattheis,

Joan McDowell, Lee Montgomery, Edie Nelson,

Jim Pombo, Dick Stein, Barb Stevens,

Les Tollner, Beth Wylie

Fortuna — Jonathan Boos, Jan DeGrandchamp

Garberville — Renee Crowley, Robert Froehlich,

Jay Ginsberg, Evelyn Miller, S. Thompson

Kneeland — Jill Bucher

Loleta — Linus & Vanessa Lorenzen

McKinleyville — Frieda Bradley, Rothwell &

Phyllis Broyles, Katherine McNeil,

Teresa Minich, Esther Radtke, Rema Sadak,

Lonnie Tamboury

Orleans — Becky Woodman

Petrolia — Marcia Ehrlich

Phillipsville — Jeff Kocheran

Redway — Sarah Foster, Adona White

Smith River — Jo Redland

Trinidad — Dustin Bagnell, Cierra Toombs

Whitethorn — Lorne Weaver

Willow Creek — Norman

Bensky, Alice Whitson

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



Black-legged Kittiwake © Kerry Ross

Annual RRAS Banquet and Auction

The RRAS Annual Banquet and Auction will be held on Saturday, April 4, 2009. The featured speaker will be Allen Fish from the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory who will give an overview of the organization's 20-plus years of raptor monitoring. More details about the banquet will be forthcoming in the March issue. In the meantime, if you have donations (bird related and art items are greatly appreciated) or wish to volunteer, please contact Jennifer Tompkins at (707) 443-6959 or tompkins@telis.org.

2009 Children's Writing Contest

Students in grades 4 through 12 are invited to enter the 4th annual writing (essay or poem) competition sponsored by RRAS. Prizes will be awarded to up to 3 winners, depending on number and quality of entries, and the first-place winner will have his or her essay published in the May 2009 Children's Issue of the Sandpiper. Entries should be 200 to 300 words in length on the subject of "What Nature Means to Me." Participants are encouraged to explore topics that range from bird feeding to duck hunting to animal rescue and observations of the natural world.

The deadline for receipt of essays is March 23, 2009. One entry per person. Send submissions to Tom Leskiw, 5440 Cummings Road, Eureka, CA 95503 or e-mail (no attachments; send as text within e-mail body) to tomleskiw@suddenlink.net. Include entrant's name, home address, phone number, teacher's name, grade, and school.

Conservation Committee Notes for January 15, 2009

By Chet Ogan

Attendees: Chet Ogan, chair; Jim Clark, John Hewston, John Hunter, Mel McKinney, and Gil and Mediha Saliba.

John Hunter drafted a comment on the Marina Project Environmental Impact Statement (comments being due January 28). Because the Marina Project EIS is so large, it would be hard for any single group to comment on its entirety, so concerned groups are picking sections within their expertise to comment on. John also brought up a series of questions concerning California Department of Fish and Game management of local wildlife areas. Specific questions arise about how decisions are made about management plans. No one recalls any opportunity for public or user input from local biologists and birdwatchers. Tide gates and levees are being rebuilt in areas where they will likely be breached as a result of climate change.

Chet presented a letter by Ed Voice, a Garberville resident who, along with other southern Humboldt residents, has expressed concerns about Southern Humboldt Community Park's plans to hold concerts on the park grounds. This property is currently zoned agricultural exclusion. RRAS Conservation Committee opposes a rezoning that would encourage large-venue concerts with high decibel levels that could disturb wildlife. Such proposed use could also further degrade the Eel River.

Gil commented that the Trinity Management Council has not renewed the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group charter. TMC director Doug Schuesner retired last year. Concerns are that increased Trinity water flows have favored hatchery fish over natural fish stocks in the river.

Jim has been representing the NEC in the Klamath River chronicles. RRAS favors removing the 4 lower Klamath dams in hopes of cleaning up the river water and restoring salmonid fish runs. Neither RRAS nor NEC has signed onto the Klamath Agreement in Principle because of concerns that upstream conditions still need to be addressed to really clean up the river. Meanwhile, Pacific Power wants to dump gravel downstream of the dams with the hope that this will alleviate the paucity of spawning gravels for salmonids. But is there a scientific study showing this will help?

Also discussed was another proposed peripheral canal around the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. This is another area that needs to be closely studied around concerns of climate change sea-level rise.

March 27 Is Deadline for Entries for Student Bird Art Contest

For the sixth 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) also 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 14th Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival on Friday, April 17, 2009. 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 during May.

Artwork may be in color or black and white. Any media may be used: crayons, pastels, paint, pencil, collage. Maximum size is 8.5 by 11 inches. Do not frame; artwork must be able to be push-pinned to a wall for display. 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 Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center 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 Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center, South G Street, Arcata, or mailed to Ms. Leskiw. Entries must be received by Friday, March 27, to be considered.

eBird Festivals: Winter Wings and Godwit Days

We are pleased to announce that the Winter Wings Festival (Klamath Falls, Oregon) and Godwit Days (Arcata, California) will be using eBird to contribute data to science and conservation in 2009. All bird walks at these festivals will be eBird walks.

Festival bird walk leaders will be provided with instructions and forms specially designed by Klamath Bird Observatory to ensure that their checklists are appropriately prepared for submission to the online Klamath-Siskiyou eBird database (www.ebird.org/Klamath-Siskiyou).

KBO and Klamath-Siskiyou eBird partners will host an eBird booth at both festivals, where bird walk checklists will be continually submitted and the latest eBird festival data will be displayed. At Winter Wings, we will partner with the Klamath WingWatchers and the Klamath Basin Audubon Society and at Godwit Days with Humboldt Bay Bird Observatory and RRAS. By entering eBird data at the booth, we will keep track of our festival bird checklists, share them with participants, and explore bird observation data from throughout the region. Further, we will contribute to conservation science by providing data to the Avian Knowledge Network (www.avianknowledge.net) through Klamath-Siskiyou eBird. Also at the booth, festival participants will be able to create their own accounts and receive one-on-one eBird training. Our goal is to recruit 50 new eBirders at each festival!

Please join us in supporting these eBird festivals. Winter Wings Festival will be February 13 to 15, 2009 (www.winterwingsfest.org), and Godwit Days will be April 16 to 22, 2009 (www.godwitdays.com).

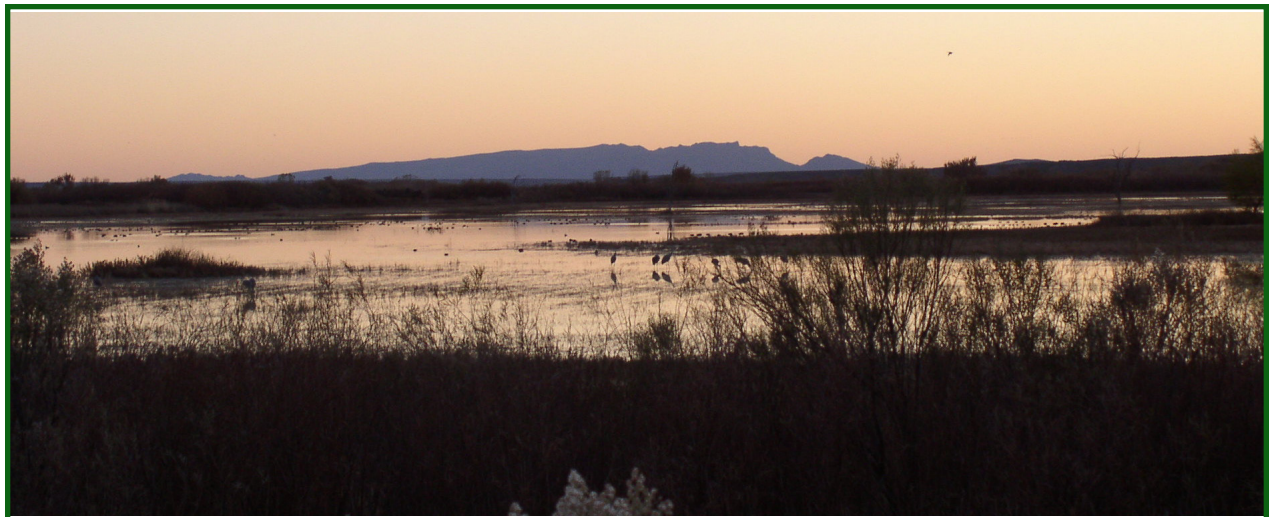


Godwit Days Is Right Around the Corner!

The 14th annual Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival will be held April 17 to 19, 2009, at the Arcata Community Center. During the festival, RRAS will be leading two Arcata Marsh walks that are free to the general public, operating the Godwit Café (open Saturday and Sunday from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m.), and selling RRAS merchandise.

For the sixth year, RRAS is cosponsoring a Student Bird Art Contest with Friends of the Arcata Marsh (see related article). Last year brought the biggest response ever, with over 550 entries received from K-12 students and posted in the Community Center lobby.

This year's keynote speaker is Pete Dunne, noted author and director of the Cape May Bird Observatory. Godwit Days offers over 100 field trips, workshops, lectures, and boat excursions. Free community events include an art show, vendor booths, opening reception, live raptors on display, several field trips and workshops, and family nature activities. For easy online registration and a complete list of events, visit <http://www.godwitdays.com> or call (707) 826-7050.



“Untitled”

photo by Tom Leskiw

The wonder is there to be seen and heard every autumn. In late October, the soft “kroo, kroo” cries of the Sandhill Cranes begin to break the desert stillness as the birds arrive in magnificent flocks, some a mile long. Throughout the winter, they forage in the fields and grass, roosting quietly at night in the protection of the refuge marshes.

--Roger Morris, speaking of Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge

The dusk fly-in at Bosque del Apache's Festival of the Cranes had been an amazing spectacle. As we stood on the levee at the edge of a wetland, raucous flocks of Snow Geese passed low overhead before banking and then landing. Swirling black-and-white clouds alighted on roiled water, jostling for position among the throng. Suddenly I was startled by the rush of air beneath a flock's wings as they banked hard, barely clearing the levee. Meanwhile, Sandhill Cranes, aligned in V-shaped flocks numbering from 20 to 40 birds, sliced through the air—heading for nearby fields, their preferred roost. The din of tens of thousands of Snow Geese melded with the more-distant calls of the cranes to create an aural and visual palette of abundance and fecundity.

Yes, I whispered to myself as I laced my boots, Bosque had truly been a spectacle! Donning my parka to ward off the late November high desert Arizona chill, I exited the warm cocoon of our camper. The “krooing” of the cranes—audible in the camper—rose to a crescendo. The sky along the eastern horizon lightened a bit, and details began to emerge from a nearby shadowy hollow. Frozen gravel crunched beneath my feet as I made my way closer to the cranes. Because fields next to the wetland furnished a safe night roost, there were hundreds of cranes standing right in front of me.

Bosque del Apache had been amazing, but to experience up close and personal the cranes at first light—without another soul around—was breathtaking, transformative. A pack of coyotes yelped in the distance, and I smiled, my lips slow to move in the chill air. Our camper's overnight parking spot was on land owned by the State of Arizona. When the former owner sold it, he demanded a stipulation be included that people still be allowed to camp there. Although I know nothing of the specifics of his reasoning, I suspect that it had something to do with people who enjoy wildlife being able to behold a morning like this.

Yep, I thought to myself, just another morning in paradise here at

My apologies for the abrupt “screech of literary brakes,” but I was suddenly reminded of something. Gus Orviston, the protagonist in David James Duncan's novel *The River Why*, had a father who authored a fishing column. Gus was still of tender age when he perceived the irony inherent in his father's line of work: traveling to and experiencing pristine, fish-filled waters and writing about them—so that the hordes could follow in his footsteps. All too often, the fishing declined and what had been pristine settings became littered with discarded worm containers, plastic packages of pre-tied hooks, soda and beer cans, and balls of monofilament adorning streamside trees like random, misguided Christmas ornaments.

Not that I'm claiming there's a birder analog to “slob fishers.” However, because the experience of waking up with the cranes at this special place is unlikely to be enhanced by a sea of RVs or tents, I'm keeping its location vague. Although I feel privileged to know this place, it's not “mine,” it's not my backyard fishing hole. So, out of deference to those who do consider it their neighborhood patch—and in keeping with McQueen's ethos—mum's the word. You might already know the location of this spot. (Sue and I will be attending a birding festival that visits “Untitled” even as you read this, if you seek an additional clue.)

Some historical background on both Bosque and “Untitled” is in order. Neither spot is pristine: both sites only began to furnish habitat for huge numbers of Snow Geese and Sandhill Cranes following the conversion of nearby land to agriculture, chiefly corn. In “Untitled's” case, Midwesterners who migrated to the area during the Dust-Bowl era of the 1930s converted over 26,000 acres of desert to irrigated cropland. Cranes were first noted using nearby fields in the 1960s. On average, 10,000 Sandhill Cranes now winter here: about the same number as winter at Bosque del Apache.

In many respects, we live in an era of wildlife scarcity and gloom-and-doom projections. Because there are numerous examples of habitat alteration depressing or eliminating wildlife populations, some might believe that such activities are always detrimental. The abundance of raucous, showy species at places like Bosque and “Untitled” is emphatic evidence to the contrary.

I'd rather wake up in the middle of nowhere than in any city on Earth.

--Steve McQueen

Tom Leskiw
December 26, 2008

Field Notes

Winter (26 Nov 2008 – 22 Jan 2009)

A compilation of bird sighting reports for Humboldt, Del Norte, western Trinity, and northern Mendocino counties. Sources include the Redwood Region Audubon Society bird alert and birders' information phone line ([707] 822-LOON), the online northwestern California birdwatching and information exchange (nwcaldbird@yahoo.com), the Mendocino County birders' listserv (mendobirds@yahoo.com), and reports submitted directly to the compilers. Future reports may be submitted to any of the sources mentioned above, by e-mail to sean@madriverbio.com, by phone ([707] 268-0592), or by mail to Sean McAllister, 417 2nd St., Suite 201, Eureka, CA 95501.

Abbreviations: AB – Arcata Bottoms; AD – Alexandre Dairy; AM – Arcata Marsh; AOP – Arcata [Marsh] Oxidation Ponds; BRR – Bear River Ridge; CR – College of the Redwoods; CRI – Cock Robin Island; CBC – Christmas Bird Count; ERB – Eel R. Bottoms; ERM – Eel R. Mouth; FL – Fields Landing; HBNWR – Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; KS – King Salmon; MSP – MacKerricher State Park; NJ – Humboldt Bay North Jetty; RCM – Redwood Ck. mouth; SJ – Humboldt Bay South Jetty; SRB – Smith R. Bottoms; TB – Table Bluff.

Highlights: Trumpeter Swan, American White Pelican, Crested Caracara, Gyrfalcon, Common Moorhen, Black-necked Stilt, Mountain Plover, Slaty-backed Gull, Vega Gull, Laughing Gull, Sandhill Crane, Black X Say's Phoebe hybrid, Mountain Bluebird, Brown Thrasher, Pink-sided Junco...

Greater White-fronted Goose: 2, *Lewiston Lake*, 28 Nov (SLO); 1, *Lake Cleone*, 2 Dec (KAHV); 4, *AB*, 5 Dec (RF); 13, *ERB*, 6 Dec (KB); 30, *AM*, 11 Dec (RF); 4, *ERB*, 25 Dec (OH); 17, *HBNWR*, 10 Jan (SMc, CMc); 1, *HBNWR*, 11 Jan (JP); 12, *HBNWR*, 12 Jan (BS) • **Snow Goose:** 5, *Fruitland Ridge*, 21 Nov (JG); 2, *Bald Hill (Mendo)*, 5 Dec (DT); 2, *HBNWR*, 23 Dec (CW); 6, *AB*, 9 Dec (KS); 5 flyby, *Eureka*, 30 Dec (AY) • **Ross's Goose:** 1 flyby, *AM*, 7 Dec (PH); 1, *AB*, 9 Dec (KS); 1, *AM*, 11 Dec (RF); 4, *HBNWR*, 11 Jan (JCP) • **Black Brant:** 2, *Crescent City harbor*, 7 Dec (AB, JGar) • **Cackling Goose:** 1, *Bald Hill (Mendo)*, 22 Nov and 5 Dec (DT); 37, *Willow Ck.*, 27 Dec (CBC) • **Aleutian Cackling Goose:** 3, *Bald Hill (Mendo)*, 22 Nov (DT); ~1,000, *Loleta Bottoms*, 6 Dec (RF, MW, BC) • **Western Canada Goose:** 610, *AB*, 5 Dec (RF) • **Trumpeter Swan:** 1 flyby, not confirmed, *Lewiston Lake*, 29 Dec; hunters reported 5 there on 27 Dec (LM) • **Tundra Swan:** 6, *HBNWR*, 23 Dec (CW); 17, *HBNWR*, 12 Jan (BS) • **Eurasian Wigeon:** 3, *Eureka Slough*, 2 Dec (TL); 3, *Lake Tolowa*, 3 Dec (AB); 1, *HBNWR*, 11 Jan (JP) • **Blue-winged Teal:** 1, *AM*, 20 Jan (RF) • **Cinnamon Teal:** 1, *HBNWR*, 5 Jan (DF, JP) • **Eurasian Green-winged Teal:** 2, *AM*, 26 Dec (OH); 1, *AM*, 29 Dec (SC); 1, *AM*, 20 Jan (RF) • **Canvasback:** 1, *AM*, 5 Dec (RF); 300+, *Stone Lagoon*, 7 Dec (JA); 1, *AM* (SC); 7, *FL*, 1 Jan (MW); 45, *Freshwater Lagoon*, 8 Jan (MeH) • **Redhead:** 1, *FL*, 12 Dec (MW); 2, *AM*, 26 Dec (OH) • **Tufted Duck:** 1, *Lake Tolowa*, 10 Dec (B&LD) • **Harlequin Duck:** 5, *KS*, 28 Nov (MW); 5, *NJ*, 7 Dec (LM); 19, *mo.*, *Wildon Ck.*, 7 Dec (LB); 4, *KS*, 8 Dec (DD); "pair," *SJ*, no date (SC); 3, *NJ*, 20 Dec (KR, RSm); 2, *NJ*, 23 Dec (CW) • **Black Scoter:** 1, *MSP*, 6 Dec (KAHV); 8, *MSP*, Dec (DT); 1, *Noyo Harbor*, 10 Jan (RLeV); 2, *Trinidad*, 13 Jan (MeH); 7, *Cleone*, 13 Jan (DT) • **Long-tailed Duck:** 1, *Pudding Ck.*, 1 flyover, *Laguna Pt.*, 23 Nov (DT); 1, *AOP*, 28 Nov, 4 Dec (BB, DF, SC, RF); 1, *AM*, 5 Dec (SH, MH, PH); 1, *AM*, 30 Nov (SC); 1, *Big Lagoon*, 9 Dec (TL); 2, *Lake Cleone*, 25-26 Dec (RA); 2, *MSP*, 28 Dec (MM); 2, *KS*, 5 Jan (KR, RSm, KB); 2, *FL*, 12 Jan (BS); 3, *Cleone*, 13 Jan (DT) • **Barrow's Goldeneye:** 19-21, *Lewiston Lake*, 22-28 Nov (TL); 1, *Trinity Center*, 28 Dec (LM); 40, *Lewiston Lake*, 31 Dec (RF) • **Hooded Merganser:** 2, *KS*, 28 Nov (MW); 5, *LL*, 28 Nov (SC); 4-5, *AB*, 1-4 Dec (RF); 1, *Redwood Ck.*, 2 Dec (RF); 9, *AM*, 29 Dec (SC); pair, *Lake Cleone*, no date (DT); 2, *AM*, 5 Jan (KR, RSm) • **Red-breasted Merganser:** 1, *Cleone*, 13 Jan (DT) • **Wild Turkey:** 8, *Eel R.*, 5 Dec (JG) • **Red-throated Loon:** 60, *TB*, 6 Dec (RF, BC, MW) • **Pacific Loon:** 350, *TB*, 6 Dec (RF, BC, MW) • **Common Loon:** No.?, *Trinity Lake*, 28 Nov (SLO); 50, *TB*, 6 Dec (BC, MW, RF) • **Horned Grebe:** 1, *Lewiston Lake*, 31 Dec (RF) • **Red-necked Grebe:** 3, *MSP*, 6 Dec (KAHV); 1, *NJ*, 7 Dec (LM); 2, *NJ*, 20 Dec (KR, RSm); 3, *Lake Cleone*, 13 Jan (DT) • **Clark's Grebe:** 1, *CRI*, 6 Dec (RF, MW, BC) • **American White Pelican:** 2, multilocations: *Crescent City*, 2 Jan (JR); *n. Humboldt Bay*, 3 Jan (KR); *HBNWR*, 4-5 Jan (CBC, DF, DP, SL); *Eel R.*, 11, 18 Jan (RF, DF); flyby, *nr Humboldt Hill*, 13 Jan (MW); flyby, *e. McKinleyville*, 19 Jan (LL). These were the first "chaseable" White Pelicans here since 1992 • **Brown Pelican:** 28, *TB*, 6 Dec (RF, BC, MW); 2, *ERM*, 6 Dec (RF, BC, MW); 2, *AM*, 5 Dec (RF) • **Brandt's Cormorant:** 2, *KS*, 27, 28 Nov (RF, MW) • **American Bittern:** 1, *AM*, 29 Dec (SC) • **Osprey:** 1, *Lake Cleone*, 3 Dec (DT) • **Bald Eagle:** 4,

Todd Ranch, 28 Nov (TL); 3, *Trinity Lake*, 27 Nov (SLO); 1, *Redwood Ck.*, 1 Dec (SC); 1, *Stone Lagoon*, 7 Dec (JA); 1, *AOP*, 29 Dec (SC); 1, 3 Jan, *Kneeland* (BBu, DvZ); 1, *Tennille River*, 10 Jan (DJ); 2, *HBNWR*, 11 Jan (JP); 2, *Arcata*, 15 Jan (LP) • **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 1, *Arcata*, 9 Dec (BF); 2, *Indian Beach*, 3 Jan (MeH) • **Cooper's Hawk:** 2, *Indian Beach*, 3 Jan (MeH) • **Northern Goshawk:** 1, *Angelo Reserve*, 30 Dec (JHv, KAHv) • **"Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk:** 1, *Bayside Cutoff*, 25 Nov (CO); 1 unconfirmed, *Fernbridge*, 5-11 Jan (RF, JT) • **Ferruginous Hawk:** 1, *BRR*, 29 Nov (RF et al.); 1, *AB*, 4 Dec (RF et al.); 2, *CRI*, 6 Dec (CO et al.); 1, *AD*, 7 Dec (AB, JGar); 1, *AB*, 22 Dec (SMc); 1, *AB*, 5 Jan (KR, RSm); 1, *SRB*, 10 Jan (KR, RSm); 1, *ERB*, 18 Jan (DF, JP); 2, *BRR*, 20 Jan (KR, RSm) • **Rough-legged Hawk:** 1, *BRR*, 29 Nov (RF et al.); 1, *Fay Slough*, 30 Nov (DF, JP); 1, *Kneeland*, 2, 3, 10 Dec & 10 Jan (BBu, DvZ); 1, *AB*, 4 Dec (RF); 1, *Covelo*, 4 Dec (KAHV); 1, *CRI*, 6 Dec (RF, BC, MW); 2, *ERB*, 12 Dec (RF); 2, *AB*, 20 Dec (SMc); 3, *AB*, 22 Dec (CW); 1, *NJ*, 2 Jan (KBU); 1, *AB*, 5 Jan (KR, RSm); 2, *BRR*, 20 Jan (KR, RSm) • **Golden Eagle:** 2, *Todd Ranch*, 28 Nov (TL); 1, *Ft. Seward*, 9 Dec (JG); 2, *Montgomery Woods*, 15 Dec (SMc) • **Crested Caracara:** 1, *SRB*, 7, 8, 12, 25 Dec, 1 Jan (AB, JGar, RSt) • **Merlin:** 1, *Arcata*, 26 Nov (LM); 1, *AB*, 22 Dec (CW); 1 "prairie form," *HBNWR*, 11 Jan (JP) • **Gyrfalcon:** 1, *SRB*, 20 Jan (LB) • **Peregrine Falcon:** 8 reports involving 10 birds during the period (m.ob.) • **Prairie Falcon:** 1, *SRB*, 21 Jan (KR et al.) • **Common Moorhen:** 1, *HBNWR*, 15 Jan (AS) • **Snowy Plover:** 1, *ERWA*, 11 Dec (EE); 35, *Clam Beach*, 3 Jan (GL); 7, *South Spit*, 17 Jan (MW)



Mountain Plover © Sean McAllister

• **Mountain Plover:** 1, *ERM*, 1 Dec (KBr); 1, *North Spit*, 20 Dec (KR); 1, *Mad R. mo.*, 20-21 Dec (KS, GL, LL); 1, *South Spit*, 30 Dec-4 Jan (LD, JC, DP, KR, R, et al.) • **Black-necked Stilt:** 1, *HBNWR*, 4-5 Jan (CBC, SLe) • **American Avocet:** 1, *Big Lagoon*, 9 Dec (TL) • **Spotted Sandpiper:** 1, *Blue Lake*, 28 Nov (KI) • **Wandering Tattler:** 1, *NJ*, 7 Dec (LM); 1, *NJ*, 21 Dec (KR, RSm, KB) • **Lesser Yellowlegs:** 2, *Eel R.*, 6 Dec (RF, MW, BC); 2, *CRI*, 6 Dec (RF, BC, MW) • **Ruddy Turnstone:** 1, *Eel R.*, 12 Dec (RF, MW); 1, *FL*, 4 Jan (CBC) • **Red Knot:** 8, *AM*, 30 Nov (SC) • **Rock Sandpiper:** 3, *NJ*, 7 Dec (LM); 5, *NJ*, 20 Dec (KR, RSm); 1, *CRI* (!), 12 Dec (MW, RF); 3, *NJ*, 21 Dec (KB); 3, *MSP*, 9 Jan (DT) • **Laughing Gull:** 1, *AD*, 9 Dec (LB) • **Franklin's Gull:** 1-2, *AD*, 1-17 Dec (LB, AB) • **Bonaparte's Gull:** 1, *AM*, 30 Nov (SC); 1, *AD*, 17 Dec (AB); 1, *Mad R. beach*, 21 Dec (GL) • **Herrmann's Gull:** 2, *TB*, 6 Dec (RF, MW, BC); No.?, *TB*, 4 Jan (AB, CBC) • **Herring Gull:** 4, *RCM*, 1 Dec (SC); 2, *ERM*, 11 Dec (EE, JJ); 325, *ERM*, 4 Jan (SMc, MM) • **"Vega" Herring Gull:** 1, *AD*, 22 Dec (LB) • **Thayer's Gull:** 1, *Eureka*, 25 Nov (CO); ~10, *RCM*, 4 Dec (RF); 5, *RCM*, 10 Dec (SC) • **Slaty-backed Gull:** 1 unconfirmed, *SRB*, 13 Jan (LB) • **Glaucous Gull:** 1, *AD*, 9 Dec (LB); 1, *Fort Dick*, 18 Dec (LB); 1, *Mad R. beach*, 20 Dec (SMc); 2, *Elk Ck. mo.*, 22 Dec (LB); 1, *ERB*, 2-18 Jan (KB, RSu, DF, DP, JP, CBC); 1 adult, *Indian Beach*, 2 Jan (MeH); 4, *AD*, 4 Jan (LB); 1, *AD*, 9 Jan (LB); 3, *AD*, 21 Jan (RF, KR, RSm, DC) • **Black-legged Kittiwake:** No.?, *Pudding Ck.*, 22 Nov (DT); *RCM*, 1 Dec (SC); 15, *TB*, 6 Dec (RF, MW, BC); 2, *NJ*, 7 Dec (LM); 3, *NJ*, 20 Dec (KR, RSm) • **Caspian Tern:** 1, *TB*, 6 Dec (RF, MW) • **Forster's Tern:** 1, *Indian Beach*, 2 Jan (MeH) • **Marbled Murrelet:** 1-3, *Laguna Point*, 6 Dec (KAHV); 40-50, *NJ*, 15 Jan (AS) • **Ancient Murrelet:** 85(!), *TB*, 6 Dec (RF, MW, BC); 7, *NJ*, 21 Dec (KB); 15, *MSP*, 10 Jan (GC, CV); "about a dozen," *NJ*, 15 Jan (AS) • **Sandhill Crane:** 2, *Ferndale Bottoms*, 6-9 Dec (KBU, DF, KS, et al.) • **Eurasian Collared-Dove:** 75+, *AD*, 3 Dec (AB); 17, *ERB*, 6 Dec (RF, MW, BC) • **Barred Owl:** 1, *Elk R. Rd.*, 4 Jan (TL, SuL) • **Northern Pygmy-Owl:** 1, *Friday Ridge Rd.*, 28 Nov (TL); 1, *Kneeland*, 30 Dec (BBu, DvZ); 6, *Tompkins Hill*, 4 Jan (CBC) • **Burrowing Owl:** 1, *Pacific Shores*, 3-17 Dec (AB et al.); 1, *Widow White Ck.*, 20-21 Dec (KS, LL, GL) • **White-throated Swift:** 3, *Garberville*, 22, 26 Dec (JS) • **Lewis's Woodpecker:** 1, *nr Kneeland Airport*, 9 Jan (DvZ) • **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 1, *Sunny Brae*, 3 Dec (ABr); 1, *CR*, 21 Nov – 11 Jan (LTo et al.) • **Red-naped Sapsucker:** 1 ad. male, *Wrigley's Orchard*, *Elk R. Rd.*, 4-6 Jan (TL, SuL, KR, RSm, RF) • **White-headed Woodpecker:** 1, *Willow Creek*, 27 Dec (GL, CBC) • **Yellow-shafted Flicker:** 1, *CR*, 21 Nov–11 Jan (LTo et al.); 1, *Sunny Brae*, 17 Dec (ABr) •

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Black X Say's Phoebe: an apparent hybrid, possibly the first ever documented: 1, *Ferndale Bottoms*, 4-20 Jan (OH, JT, ABr, RF, KR, DF, JP) • **Say's Phoebe:** 1, *Virgin Creek*, 10 Dec (CMc, BBo); 1, *Centerville Bluff*, 14 Dec (SMc, AT); 1, *ERB*, 2 Jan (KB); 2, *Centerville*, 4 Jan (CBC); 1, *ERB*, 7 Jan (DS, LTo) • **Tropical Kingbird:** 1, *Del Norte*, 4-12 Dec (AB, EC, et al.) • **Northern Shrike:** 1, *ERB*, 2 Jan (KB); 1, *HBNWR*, 11, 16 Jan (JP, KR, RSm); 1, *RCM*, 15 Jan (KR, RF, AS, RSm) • **Cassin's Vireo:** 1, *Salt R.*, 6 Dec (RF, MW, BC); 1, *Lanphere Dunes*, 11 Jan (LTu, LTo) • **Tree Swallow:** 2, *Salt R.*, 4 Jan (GL, CBC) • **Violet-green Swallow:** 5, *nr Rio Dell*, 15 Dec (SC) • **Barn Swallow:** 1, *AB*, 30 Nov (LM); 3, *Ocean Ranch*, 11 Dec (EE, JJ); 2, *Lake Cleone*, 2 Jan (DJ); 7, *Centerville*, 4 Jan (SMc, CO, GL); 1, *AM*, 8 Jan (RF) • **White-breasted Nuthatch:** 1, *Willow Creek*, 27 Dec (GL, CBC) • **Bewick's Wren:** 1, *ERB*, 6 Dec (RF, MW, BC) • **House Wren:** 1 (not confirmed), *HBNWR*, 4 Jan (EN) • **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** 1, *Sunny Brae*, 14 Dec (ABr) • **Western Bluebird:** 15, *Mail Ridge*, 9 Dec (JG); 9, *Sea Scope Pt.*, 22 Dec (CW); 8, *Trinidad*, 3 Jan (TH-H et al.); 23, *Trinidad*, 13 Jan (MeH); 20, *BRR*, 20 Jan (KR, RSm) • **Mountain Bluebird:** 1, *Trinidad*, 1 Jan (RSt et al.) • **Northern Mockingbird:** 1, *TB*, 11 Dec (EE, JJ); 1, *Willow Creek*, 30 Dec (KR, TL); 1, *Ferndale*, 4 Jan (LL, GL, CBC); 1, *Loleta*, 5 Jan (DF, DP); 1, *Elk R. Rd.*, 4-6 Jan (TL, SLu, KR, RSm, RF); 1, *FL*, 7 Jan (DS, LTo); 1, *Hiller Park*, 7, 13 Jan (KR); 1, *Beatrice*, 12 Jan (SMc); 1, *Arcata*, 15 Jan (NB) • **Brown Thrasher:** 1, *Sunny Brae*, 26 Dec (ABr); 1, *Sunny Brae* (different location), 29 Dec, 18-22 Jan (TH-H, SH, et al.) • **Nashville Warbler:** 1-2, *Bayshore Mall*, 2, 5 Dec (TL); 1, *AM*, 5 Dec (RF) • **Hermit Warbler:** 1, *Trinidad*, 17 Jan (MeH) • **Palm Warbler:** 3, *AM*, 5 Dec (RF); 1, *AM*, 7 Dec (PH); 1, *Eureka*, 12 Dec (KI); 1, *Crescent City*, 12, 17 Dec (AB, JGar); 1, *AM*, 22 Dec (CW); 1, *Laguna Pt.*, 28 Dec (MM); 1, *MSP*, 4 Jan (FF); 1, *HBNWR*, 7 Jan (DS, LTo); 1, *MSP*, 13 Jan (MB) • **Black-and-white Warbler:** 1, *ERB*, 6 Dec (CO, KB, et al.); 1, *Indian Beach*, 16 Jan (MeH) • **Ovenbird:** 1, *Trinidad*, 3 Jan (MeH) • **Northern Waterthrush:** 1, *AM*, 5 Dec (RF); 7 Dec (AL) • **Common Yellowthroat:** 1, *SRB*, 12, 14 Dec (AB); 1, *AM*, 26 Dec (OH); 1, *Centerville*, 4 Jan (GL, CBC) • **Wilson's Warbler:** 1, *Eureka*, 3 Dec (GL); 2, *AM*, 5 Dec (GL, RF); 1, *AM*, 11 Dec (RF); 1, *Salt R.*, 4 Jan (GL) • **California Towhee:** 1, *Blue Lake*, 28 Nov (KI); 1, *Ocean Meadows*, 17 Dec (KAHV) • **Chipping Sparrow:** 1, *HBNWR*, 5 Jan (SC) • **Clay-colored Sparrow:** 1, *AB*, 30 Nov, 7 Dec (LM) • **Lark Sparrow:** 1, *Arcata*, 30 Nov, 17&26 Dec (GB); 1, *ERB*, 25 Dec (OH) • **"Red" Fox Sparrow:** 1, *SRB*, 10, 21 Jan (KR, RSm); 1, *AB*, 21 Jan (LTu) • **Swamp Sparrow:** 2, *AM*, 30 Nov (SC); 3, *SRB*, 14, 17 Dec (AB); 1, *AOP*, 29 Dec (SC) • **White-throated Sparrow:** 1, *Fort Bragg*, 18 Nov–18 Dec (DT); 6, *Sunny Brae*, 3 Dec (MH); 18, *Bayside yard*, 25 Dec (DF); 1, *Ocean Meadows*, 7 Dec (KAHV); 2, *Benbow*, 21-22 Dec (JS); 3, *Arcata*, 26 Dec (GB); 1, *ERB*, 7 Jan (DS, LTo) • **"Slate-colored" Junco:** 1, *Sunny Brae*, 14 Dec (ABr) • **"Pink-sided" Junco:** 1 unconfirmed, *Sunny Brae*, 17 Dec (ABr); 1 unconfirmed, *Garberville*, 26 Dec (JS) • **Lapland Longspur:** 1 unconfirmed, at feeder (!), *s. of Smith R.*, 15, 22 Dec, 7&8 Jan (PA); 30, *AB*, 7 Jan (KI); ~10, *AB*, 11 Jan (SC) • **Tricolored Blackbird:** 1, *SRB*, 19&25 Dec (AB, EC); 6, *SRB*, 21 Jan (RF, KR, RSm, DC) • **Rusty Blackbird:** 1, *SRB*, 19 Dec–19 Jan (AB, EC, LB, KR, SC, JL) • **Orchard Oriole:** 1, *Salt R.*, 5 Dec (OH); 1, *Smith R.*, 16-19 Dec (AB) • **Hooded Oriole:** 1, *Loleta*, 4 Jan (DF, JP, DW, et al.) • **Bullock's Oriole:** 1, *Smith R.*, 14-17 Dec (AB) • **Baltimore Oriole:** 1, *Smith R.*, 2-19 Jan (LB, JL) • **Red Crossbill:** "large invasion," *Patricks Pt.*, 12 Dec (KI); 17, *Trinidad*, 4 Jan (MeH) • **Pine Siskin:** 150, *Patricks Pt.*, 12 Dec (KI).

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