



The Sandpiper

MARCH 2009



Redwood Region Audubon Society

www.rras.org

FIELD TRIPS

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. Remember to offer your driver gas money.

Sunday, March 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, March 8: Table Bluff & South Spit. This will be a half-day trip to explore various coastal habitats including ocean, bay, dunes, and jetty. Meet leader Ken Burton ([707] 825-1124) at 8:00 a.m. (Daylight Time!) at the Eureka Park & Ride or 8:15 a.m. at the beginning of Ranch Road near the Hookton exit. Carpools: Trinidad 7:10 a.m., Fortuna 8 a.m.

Sunday, March 15: Southern Humboldt Community Park. Jay Sooter ([707] 444-8001) and Robert Sutherland 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. Steady rain cancels. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot just off Kimtu Road in Garberville. Take Sprowel Creek Road west and immediately before the bridge over the south fork of the Eel, turn left onto Kimtu Road. Proceed down Kimtu Road for about 1/2 mile and turn left into the parking lot by the lone oak. Carpools: Trinidad 7:00 a.m., HSU 7:20 a.m., Eureka 7:35 a.m., Fortuna 7:55 a.m. ♿

Sunday, March 15: Eureka Marsh. This monthly walk (Sept-March) offers some great birding in downtown Eureka. We will spend an hour or 2 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 foot of West Del Norte Street at 8:30 a.m. Call Pablo Herrera ([707] 268-8052) for more information. Carpools: Trinidad 7:55 a.m., HSU 8:10 a.m., Fortuna 8:05 a.m. ♿



Merlin © Kerry Ross

Sunday, March 22: Hiller Park, McKinleyville. Join Kerry Ross for a fun morning of birding at this great local park. We will bird a variety of habitats, including shore pines, willows, marshes, 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.

Sunday, May 17: 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 Ray's Food Place parking lot in Garberville at 8:30 a.m. We should return to the Humboldt Bay area by midafternoon. 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.



Pelagic Cormorant © Ron LeValley

Sunday, May 17, 2009: Mendocino Audubon Society's Pelagic Boat Trip. Leaders will be Ron LeValley and Kerry Ross. Both of them have excellent knowledge of both seabirds and sea mammals, and they will enthusiastically call out what species we will see and help beginners learn field marks. The meeting time is 7:30 a.m. for an 8:00-a.m. departure. The charter boat Trek II will depart from Noyo Harbor, Fort Bragg, for this 7-hour cruise above either Navarro or Noyo Canyons or Tolo Bank. Sea canyons and banks create upwellings of nutrient-rich water that ocean birds can detect. We should see albatrosses, shearwaters, jaegers, auklets, and murre. Sea mammals could include whales, dolphins, seals and sea lions. Cost is \$95 per person.

Note: Payment by check: Make check payable to MCAS. We must have full names and contact information of everyone in your party: e-mail addresses, phone numbers, and mailing addresses. Address your envelope as follows: K. Havlena – Pelagic Trip, PO Box 40, Fort Bragg, CA 95437-0040. **Payment by credit card:** Please e-mail me (jkhavlena@yahoo.com) with your telephone number and a good time to call you to take your credit card information. Credit card approval must be made at least 2 days before the trip (May 15). Confirmations will be sent to you with helpful suggestions regarding directions, food to bring (there is no galley on board), attire, and preventive measures for seasickness.

MARCH PROGRAM

Join us on an exploration of the beauty and complexity of the *avifauna of* the beaches and mangrove marshes of the *Caribbean coast of Costa Rica*, where for some 15 years bird banders and counters have been following the ebb and flow of populations and laying the foundation for the entertaining stories that experienced naturalist and scientist **Jared Wolfe**, a graduate student at Humboldt State in Wildlife, will tell us. His investigations into the life histories and foraging of the resident and migrant birds of the tropics are insightful, showing not just how but why birds have good years and bad ones.

This program will be held on **Friday, March 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

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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)

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Local Chapter Code: **C9ZC240Z**

Please make checks to the National Audubon Society.

Send this application and your check to:

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P.O. Box 422250

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-----LOCAL CHAPTER-----
REDWOOD REGION AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 1054
EUREKA, CA 95502

FROM RRAS'S NEW CHAPTER PRESIDENT

By Ken Burton

While my ascendancy has been overshadowed by that of a certain other new president, I am now your Audubon chapter president. It seems a very short time ago that I was first asked to join the RRAS Board; it just goes to show what can happen when you say yes to something! I've handed field trip responsibility over to Kerry Ross, in whom I have full confidence. I also want to thank my predecessor, Pablo Herrera—who was beginning to look like President-for-Life—for his many years leading the chapter.

Although this is my first chapter presidency, I have been affiliated with various chapters since high school. RRAS is one of the most vibrant of them. We offer a dizzying array of field trips, have an active Conservation Committee, sponsor 4 Christmas and a picnic. Our membership is younger and more professional than that of most chapters, and that bodes well for our future.

Even with all our successes, there are some things we could be doing better. I would like to see our chapter more active in education and will be working with our new Education Program Chair, David Tompkins, to try to make that happen. Our Webmaster has been seeking a replacement for years, and our site needs an upgrade. I'd like to see our Conservation Committee's actions more visible to the membership and the community. I want to develop a stronger volunteer program within the chapter to accomplish cleanup and monitoring projects; Jennifer Tompkins, our Volunteer Coordinator, is the perfect person for the job and is already busy helping plan this year's banquet and staffing Godwit Days Café. And I would like our chapter to be more aggressive in securing—and helping others secure—grant money from the state and national Audubon societies.

Most of all, I want to make sure we never lose sight of the fact that this is your chapter and that we are elected by and accountable to you. We want to know what your priorities are, but we can't accommodate you if you don't make your voice heard. Don't hesitate to let me or any other board member know your suggestions, complaints, concerns, or questions.

That other new president has prodded the collective conscience with a call for higher levels of community service. Here in northwest California, RRAS is the perfect place to put newfound energy to work. Please call Jennifer if you have some time to spare. We especially need a Webmaster and a Grant Coordinator/Fundraiser. I would like to thank Susan Calla of our Lake Earl Branch for graciously offering to fill the role of Treasurer left vacant by the tragic death of Sam Price and Lew Norton for keeping the books in the interim.

With admittedly some anxiety, I look forward to serving as your chapter president for at least the next year. It's a big job, and I can't do it alone, so I hope I can count on your help. And if I ever do feel overwhelmed . . . well, thinking of the tasks that other new president has taken on will put things into perspective.

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.

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.

NEW MEMBERS

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

Alderpoint – Margaret Minarcin
Arcata – Benjamin Allright, Barbara Barratt, Ella Barry, Deborah Bushnell, D. Chisholm, Danza Chisholm-Sims, Humboldt State University Library, Patrice Reed, Dave Spangenburg, Richard Stanewick, Leslie Tucci, Gianpaolo Venturi, Sarah & Matt Walker, Shakati Walsh
Bayside – Iris Gray
Blue Lake – Dell'Arte School Of Theatre
Crescent City – The Crabtrees, Iris Morgan, Robert Mutchie, Diann Sargeant, Richard Wardlaw
Eureka – Amaya Bechler, Elizabeth Blue, Kim Bushing, Greg Chapman, Vicky Daniels, Phil DeLorme, Allan Fawkes, Mary Beth Fitzpatrick, Mark Hapgood, Joyce Hill, Humboldt County Library, Kara Lynn Klarner, Brenda Morgan, Susan Pence, Angie Unruh
Ferndale – Barbara Lindsay, James & Kathleen Moore
Fortuna – Chris Curtis, Eudie Rodrigues
Garberville – Tim Metz
Kneeland – David & Jennifer Tompkins
McKinleyville – Nancy Correll, The Jones Family, Scott Kelly, Ben Luckens, John Petersen
Miranda – Kerry & Mark Topper
Redway – Celeste Pinney, Kate Stadig
Smith River – Ralph Wolfe
Whitethorn – Karin Dunphy

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

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 Redwood Region Audubon Society. Prizes will be awarded to up to three 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 the 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, with 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.

14TH ANNUAL GODWIT DAYS SPRING MIGRATION BIRD FESTIVAL

Join us for Godwit Days, to be held April 16 to 22, 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 (Saturday and Sunday, April 18 and 19, 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.



FEED THE BIRDERS

Help is needed to feed the birders at this year's Godwit Cafe, the only food venue at the Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival, taking place this year April 17–19, 2009 (<http://www.godwitdays.com>). Chet Ogan, dedicated RRAS Conservation Chair, will be serving up some delicious soup and chili, along with beverages and snacks. Proceeds from the Cafe raise funds for RRAS. Please contact Jennifer Tompkins, RRAS Volunteer Coordinator, at (707) 443-6959 or tompkins@telis.org if you can help out any time on Saturday, April 18, or Sunday, April 19.

MARCH 27 IS DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES FOR STUDENT BIRD ART CONTEST

RRAS and Friends of the Arcata Marsh are teaming for the sixth year to sponsor a student bird art contest at Godwit Days. Some \$500 in prizes will be awarded in various grade categories, including awards for the best depiction(s) of a bird in its habitat. All entries will be displayed in the Community Center during Godwit Days, with the winners receiving their awards following the opening reception on Friday, April 17. Copies of prize-winning artwork will be shown at the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center during May.

Complete entry rules and a list of birds to select from are available on-line at <http://www.arcatamarshfriends.org> (click on Education, then on Student Bird Art Contest); at the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center or Strictly for the Birds in Old Town Eureka; or by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Sue Leskiw, 5440 Cummings Rd, Eureka 95503. Entries must be received by Friday, March 27, either by dropping off at the two locations above or by mailing to Ms. Leskiw.

A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN KING CLONE'S COURT



photo by Tom Leskiw

The two sets of directions we had to “King Clone” disagreed. The desert guidebook had said 0.6 miles out the Bessemer Mine Road, whereas the BLM brochure stated the distance was 1.2 miles. We were looking for a nondescript circle of *Larrea tridentata*, creosote bush plants. The barren area in its center once nurtured the clonal parents of the plants now occupying the periphery. Scientists have estimated that the parent plants lived 13,000 years ago, making this unassuming cluster of plants the oldest living organism on earth.

Sue and I came to a place where the bottom fence wire was down. “Maybe this is the place,” I suggested. We “limboed” beneath the remaining wires and walked eastward for a minute before encountering a group of bushes in a circular arrangement. The ring of plants was elevated about 18 inches above the surrounding plain, no doubt the result of trapping sand particles during windstorms. I snapped photographs while slowly circling the creosote cluster. Our reference book, *California Deserts*, included a picture of King Clone taken by noted photographer Galen Rowell. Perhaps for this reason, I sensed that we’d yet to find the correct cluster. Maybe this grouping was a “*Larrea*-come-lately”—no more than 7,000 or so years old.

When we returned to our truck to eat lunch, a BLM employee stopped to inquire if we had vehicle problems. “No, . . . We’re looking for King Clone, an ancient creosote bush plant.” He eyed us quizzically. “Never heard of it,” and drove on.

Slowly, we drove southward. Not far from where we’d first stopped, a rock cairn had been erected at the base of a steel fencepost. A piece of electrical wire was tied to the topmost strand of fence. I now suspected we’d come to the trail that led to King Clone. The subtle signage seemed appropriate for a plant that few would consider “charismatic megafloa.” The cairn is clue enough, if you’re here, looking for me. Sue elected to stay in the truck this time. I thought I’d spend awhile among the cluster, so I lugged along my beach chair.

After several minutes of walking, I came to a likely-looking circle. I pace-measured the cluster: 30 feet, which was consistent with the info we had. I took more photographs, trying to locate vantage points that would emphasize the circular arrangement of the

plants. Near the center were four dead creosote bushes that I avoided as I set up my chair. In absolute silence, I began to meditate. The sun, hot on my shoulders and back, unknotted road-wear muscles. I reflected on the presence of a single seed germinating in this very spot 13,000 years ago, in response to the end of the ice age. I tried to wrap my mind around the cycle of the seasons—spring wind, summer heat, autumn cool, winter frost and snow—around and around, for 13 millennia. I failed, but the question of what a plant knows, whether it is capable of memory, intruded into my thoughts.

A distant dirt bike shattered the silence, returning me to the present. With fuel prices on the rise, how much longer will the Petroleum Age last? Twenty years? Fifty? I weighed the length of the Petroleum Age—say, 200 years—relative to the age of King Clone. If this organism was capable of memory, would the meteoric rise and fall of the Petroleum Age even merit a mention in its memoirs?

Earlier that morning, Sue and I had stopped at the BLM Visitor Center in Barstow looking for information on the King Clone. The receptionist responded that they had none. Several minutes later, I came across a stack of info sheets—on King Clone!—in the lobby rack. I thought about diplomatically pointing out that their office did, in fact, have the brochures we sought but decided to let it lie.

I’m not ashamed to disclose that I sought counsel from a bush that day. Government agencies often encourage their employees—regardless of which department they work in—to learn something of their area’s unique features so they might enhance the experience of visitors. To me, the urge to travel to the southern California desert in search of King Clone was a logical extension of the maxim, “Respect your elders.” My hope is that its presence might someday pique the curiosity of BLM employees and casual visitors alike.

Writer’s Note: Regarding the title, for those not in the know, Sue lived in Connecticut until 20 years of age.

Tom Leskiw
February 29, 2008

Field Notes

Winter (23 Jan – 19 Feb 2009)

Field Notes is a compilation of bird sighting reports for Humboldt, Del Norte, western Trinity, and northern Mendocino counties. Sources include the RRAS bird alert and birders' information phone line ([707] 822-LOON), the online northwestern California birding and information exchange (nwcalbird@yahoogroups.com), the Mendocino County birders' listserv (mendobirds@yahoogroups.com), and reports submitted directly to the compiler. Reports may be submitted to any of the sources mentioned; by e-mail to sean@madriverbio.com; by mail to Sean McAllister, 417 2nd St., Suite 201, Eureka, CA 95501; or by phone at (707) 268-0592.

Abbreviations: HBNWR = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Salmon Creek Unit; MOB = many observers.

The long-anticipated winter conditions arrived, flooding lowland fields with water and fowl. Flocks of Aleutian Cackling Geese continue to build, carpeting most of the available grasslands around Humboldt Bay and the river bottoms. Thanks largely to the efforts of the late Dr. Paul Springer, we can now enjoy dawn and evening flights of enormous flocks of this species, which was once—hard to imagine—nearly extinct. Reports of early spring migrants such as *Selasphorus* hummingbirds and Ospreys are trickling into the bird box, and some resident birds such as Snowy Plovers are already courting and nest-scraping. Despite the often-poor weather, this is a good time to get out and enjoy viewing and identifying large flocks of waterfowl, gulls, and shorebirds before they depart to their northern breeding grounds. For more details about how to find any of the rarities, call the Arcata “Bird Box” or me. Good birding!

Rarity Highlights: Tufted Duck (new this period), American White Pelican, Crested Caracara, Gyrfalcon, Sandhill Crane, Mountain Plover, Black-necked Stilt, “Kumlien’s” Iceland Gull, Brown Thrasher, Rusty Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole.

Greater White-fronted Goose: 1, *Alexandre Dairy*, 26 Jan (SC); 12, *Arcata Bottoms*, 12 Feb (RF) • **Snow Goose:** 8, HBNWR, 8 Feb (DF, et al.); 1-2, *Arcata Bottoms*, 17-18 Feb (RF, KB) • **Ross’s Goose:** 3, HBNWR, 23 Jan (LTu, DC, BZ); 7, *Eel River Bottoms*, 8 Feb (KB, et al.); 1, *Arcata Bottoms*, 16 Feb (SC); 8, *Ferndale Bottoms*, 17 Feb (RF, MW) • **Eurasian Wigeon:** 1, HBNWR, 23 Jan – 14 Feb (MOB); 1, *Ferndale Bottoms*, 17 Feb (RF, MW); 8 males, HBNWR, 19 Feb (RF, TE) • **Blue-winged Teal:** 1-3, *Arcata Marsh*, 27 Jan-7 Feb (TK, PL, LM); 1, *Loleta Bottoms*, 17 Feb (RF, MW) • **Northern Shoveler X Cinnamon Teal hybrid** (probable): 1, *Arcata Marsh*, 12 Feb (RF, DF, EE) • **Eurasian Green-winged Teal:** 1-2, *Arcata Marsh*, 27 Jan-3 Feb (TK, DF); 1, HBNWR, 14 Feb (RF, LG, GH) • **American X Eurasian Green-winged Teal:** 1, *Arcata Marsh*, 15 Feb (DF, JP); 1, *Alexandre Dairy*, 15 Feb (AB) • **Tufted Duck:** 1 female, *Stone Lagoon*, 6-19 Feb (JA, SC, RF, TK, DS) • **Harlequin Duck:** 6, *North Jetty*, 27 Jan (KR,

RS, RF) • **Black Scoter:** 1, *MacKerricher S.P.*, 16 Feb (BK) • **Long-tailed Duck:** 1, *Big Lagoon*, 3 Feb (TL); 1, *MacKerricher S.P.*, 16 Feb (BK); 1, *Smith River estuary*, 19 Feb (KR, RS, TL) • **Sooty Grouse:** 1, *Bald Hills Road (Hum)*, 13 Jan (LM) • **Black-footed Albatross:** 2, *off North Jetty*, 15 Feb (SC); 4, *4-5 mi. w of South Spit*, 15 Feb (MW) • **American White Pelican:** 2, HBNWR, 8-17 Feb (AL, DF, JP, RF, LG, GH, et al.) • **Osprey:** 1, *Crescent Beach*, 31 Jan (JR), 1, *nr Little River*, 9 Feb (GK); 1, *Humboldt Bay*, 12 Feb (EE) • **Bald Eagle:** 5 (4 imm, 1 ad), *Blue Lake*, 31 Jan (PL); 1, *Maple Creek*, 1 Feb (AW); 3, *Mad River fish hatchery*, 7 Feb (TK); 1, *Arcata Bottoms*, 7 Feb (LM); 2, HBNWR, 8 Feb (DF, et al.); 1, *Bayside*, 12 Feb (EE); 1 imm, *Eel River mouth*, 17 Feb (RF, MW); 1 ad, *Ferndale Bottoms*, 12 Feb (RF, MW) • **Harlan’s Red-tailed Hawk:** 1 imm. light morph, *Fernbridge*, 28 Jan (RF, MW); 1 ad, *Copenhagen Rd.*, 4 Feb (KB, et al.) • **Ferruginous Hawk:** 1, *Ferndale Bottoms*, 4 Feb (KB, et al.); 2, *Arcata Bottoms*, 8 Feb (KB); 1, *Smith River Bottoms*, 19 Feb (KR, RS, TL) • **Rough-legged Hawk:** 1, HBNWR, 23 Jan & 19 Feb (LTu, DC, BZ, RF, TE); 2, *Smith River Bottoms*, 15 Feb (LB) • **Golden Eagle:** 1, HBNWR, 8 Feb (DF, et al.) • **Crested Caracara:** 1, *Smith River Bottoms*, 19 Feb (KR, RS, TL) • **Merlin:** 1 “prairie form,” HBNWR, 8 Feb (DF, et al.); 1, *V St. loop*, 15 Feb (SC) • **Gyrfalcon:** 1, *Alexandre Dairy*, 23 Jan (LB) • **Peregrine Falcon:** 2, *Blue Lake*, 31 Jan (PL); 1, *Arcata Bottoms*, 7 Feb (LM); 1, *Arcata Bottoms*, 19 Feb (GSL) • **Prairie Falcon:** 1, *Arcata Bottoms*, 1-18 Feb (OH, CB, JB, AL, SC, TK); 1, *Ferndale Bottoms*, 4-7 Feb (KB, CB, et al.) • **Sandhill Crane:** 2, *Ferndale Bottoms*, 7 Feb (CB) • **Pacific Golden-Plover:** 1-2, *Alexandre Dairy*, 25 Jan & 5 Feb (KB, CM, CO, LB) • **Snowy Plover:** 7-10, *South Spit*, 29-31 Jan (MW) • **Mountain Plover:** 1, *South Spit*, 23-31 Jan (LTu, DC, BZ, SMcA, AT) • **Black-necked Stilt:** 1, HBNWR, 23 Jan-19 Feb (AL, DF, et al., RF, TE) • **Lesser Yellowlegs:** 6, *Eel River delta*, 17 Feb (RF, MW) • **Red Knot:** 6-10, *Arcata Marsh*, 7-8 Feb (LM, KB) • **Rock Sandpiper:** 1-4, *North Jetty*, 27 Jan-15 Feb (KR, RS, RF, LG, GH, SC); 3, *Virgin Creek*, 16 Feb (BK) • **Thayer’s Gull:** 1, *North Jetty*, 27 Jan (KR, RS, RF); 1, *Stone Lagoon*, 14 Feb (TK, DS); 1 ad, *Todd’s Point*, 16 Feb (BK) • **“Kumlien’s” Iceland Gull:** 1-2, *Smith River bottoms*, 5&16 Feb (LB) • **Glaucous Gull:** 1-9 (!), incl. 1 ad, *Alexandre Dairy*, 24 Jan-19 Feb (MOB); 1, *Fernbridge*, 28 Jan (RF, MW); 1, *Hiller Park*, 30 Jan (KR, RS); 1, *Todd’s Point*, 16 Feb (BK) • **Caspian Tern:** 3, *Ferndale Bottoms*, 28 Jan (RF, MW); 1, HBNWR, 8 Feb (DF, et al.); 3, *Ferndale Bottoms*, 19 Feb (TE) • **Pomarine Jaeger:** 1, *North Jetty*, 27 Jan (KR, RS) • **Ancient Murrelet:** 1-3, *Humboldt Bay entrance*, 23-27 Jan (MOB) • **Rhinoceros Auklet:** 1-3, *Humboldt Bay entrance*, 23-27 Jan (LTu, DC, BZ, KR, RS, RF) • **Burrowing Owl:** 1, *Mad River mouth*, 9 Feb (GL, LL) • **Long-eared Owl:** 1 (dead), *Lake Tolowa spit*, 15 Feb (MMcD, fide AB) • **Rufous Hummingbird:** many reports, earliest 3 Feb (RF, GL, LL) • **Allen’s Hummingbird:** 1, *e. McKinleyville*, 7 Feb (GL) • **Say’s Phoebe:** 1-2, *Ferndale Bottoms*, 28 Jan-17 Feb (RF, MW, KB, et al.); 1, *Virgin Creek*, 16 Feb (BK) • **Black X Say’s Phoebe:** 1, *Port Kenyon Rd.*, 28 Jan-17 Feb (RF, MW, OH) • **Northern Shrike:** 1, *Pacific Shores*, 16 Feb (LB); 1, HBNWR, 19 Feb (RF, TE) • **Western Scrub-Jay:** 1, *Smith River*, 25 Jan (KB, CM, CO) • **Tree Swallow:** 2-6, *Arcata Marsh*, 26&31 Jan

By Sean McAllister

(RF, PL) • **Brown Thrasher:** 1, *Sunny Brae*, 23 Jan-19 Feb (SH, et al.) • **Palm Warbler:** 1, *Crescent City Harbor*, 24 Jan & 16 Feb (TK, LB); 2, *Arcata Marsh*, 7 Feb (TK) • **Chipping Sparrow:** 1, HBNWR, 31 Jan-17 Feb (LTu, DB, LTo, DS, RF, LG, GH, JP)



Lark Sparrow © Gary Bloomfield

Lark Sparrow: 1, *Arcata feeder*, 23 Jan-19 Feb (GB) • **Swamp Sparrow:** 1, HBNWR, 8 Feb (PB, JC) • **White-throated Sparrow:** 15+ (!), *Bayside feeder*, 11 Feb (DF) • **Lapland Longspur:** 3, *Big Lagoon*, 3 Feb (TL); 2, *V St. loop*, 18 Feb (TK) • **Indigo Bunting:** 1, *Eureka*, 14 Feb (B&RA, WS) • **Tricolored Blackbird:** 2-7, *Smith River Bottoms*, 26 Jan-19 Feb (SC, RF, AB, KR, RS, TL)



Rusty Blackbird © Alan Barron

Rusty Blackbird: 1, *Smith River Bottoms*, 25 Jan-15 Feb (KB, CM, CO, SC, RF, AB) • **Orchard Oriole:** 1, *Smith River*, 24-26 Jan (TK, SC) • **Bullock’s Oriole:** 1, *Fort Bragg*, 15 Feb (DJ); 1, *Crescent City*, 15 Feb (AB) • **Baltimore Oriole:** 1, *Smith River*, 24-26 Jan (TK, SC) • **Evening Grosbeak:** 3, in Onik Arian’s yard north of *Crescent City*, 17 Feb (AB).

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