



# The Sandpiper

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2012



REDWOOD REGION AUDUBON SOCIETY [www.rras.org](http://www.rras.org)

## FIELD TRIPS

**Every Saturday: Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary.** Our famous rain-or-shine, docent-led field trips take place at the marsh; bring your binocular(s) and have a great morning birding! Meet in the parking lot at the south end of I Street in Arcata at 8:30 a.m.

**Saturday, February 11: eBird Site Survey—Shay Park.** This monthly trip sounds more formal than it really is! Join Rob Fowler (707-839-3493; [migratoriusfwlr@gmail.com](mailto:migratoriusfwlr@gmail.com)) as we survey the extent of Shay Park in Arcata for 1 to 3 hours and count every species present. For more info, visit this link at ebird.org: [http://ebird.org/content/ebird/about/eBird\\_Site\\_Survey](http://ebird.org/content/ebird/about/eBird_Site_Survey). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Shay Park parking lot, eastern end of Foster Avenue.

**Sunday, February 12: Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge.** This is a leisurely 2- to 3-hour trip for those wanting to learn the birds of the Humboldt Bay area. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Refuge Visitor Center off Hookton Road exit. Call Jude Power (707-822-3613) for more info.

**Sunday, February 19: Southern Humboldt Community Park.** Jay Sooter (707-444-8001) and/or John Gaffin will lead this monthly walk. All ages/experience levels are encouraged to participate in this easy, 2- to 3-hour walk. No dogs, please; steady rain cancels. Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the parking lot on Kimtu Road in Garberville.

**Sunday, March 4: Eureka (aka PALCO) Marsh.** Join Jude Power (707-822-3613) and Pat Bitton for some great birding in downtown Eureka. Spend 1 to 2 hours on a flat loop through a variety of habitats, from bay and mudflat to riparian and marshland. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot at the foot of West Del Norte Street.

**Sunday, March 11: Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge.** See February 12.

**Sunday, March 18: Southern Humboldt Community Park.** See February 19.

**Saturday, March 17: eBird Site Survey—Shay Park.** See February 11.

## ANNUAL BANQUET

On Saturday, February 18, Redwood Region Audubon Society is holding its Annual Banquet & Auction at the Six Rivers Masonic Lodge in Arcata. Dr. Matt Johnson, the featured speaker, will talk on:



Dr. Johnson, a professor in the Humboldt State University wildlife department, specializes in ecology and conservation of migratory songbirds, tropical wildlife, and wildlife-habitat relationships and selection.

### “Birds for Hire! How Birds Provide Ecosystem Services.”

The banquet will feature a buffet dinner, silent auction, and award presentations. A no-host social hour starting at 5:30 p.m. will be followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the speaker at 7:30 p.m.

**Purchase Banquet Tickets by February 11**

Tickets must be purchased in advance, with checks received at the RRAS post office box no later than February 11. Tickets are on a sliding scale from \$35 to \$50. You must purchase a banquet ticket to attend the lecture. Checks should be made payable to RRAS, with “Banquet” in the notation line, and mailed to PO Box 1054, Eureka 95502. Printed tickets will not be mailed; names will be placed on a check-in list.

The Masonic Lodge is located at 251 Bayside Road in Arcata. If you have questions, call Chet Ogan at (707) 442-9353.

## MARCH PROGRAM



### LAST FEROCIOUS BEAST OF THE FOREST

Poet and novelist Jeffrey Greene will share the fascination he has developed with the golden-bristled wild boar after he purchased a home in Burgundy, France and was presented with a side of the animal by a neighbor. He will take us on an international journey in which he met hunters, chefs (who shared their recipes), museum curators, scientists, and European countryfolk who for generations have shared their forests with these creatures. His talk and visual presentation on the wild boar includes tales about the feral hog of the West Coast. Besides *The Golden-Bristled Boar*, Professor Greene has penned the nature book *Water from Stone* and several collections of poetry.

This program will be held **Friday, March 9** starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Humboldt County Office of Education at Myrtle and West Avenues in Eureka. Please come fragrance free.

## CHAPTER LEADERS

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Secretary — Adam Brown.....abrown@epicislands.org  
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RRAS Web Page.....www.rras.org  
Arcata Bird Alert .....822-LOON (822-5666)

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P.O. Box 1054, Eureka, CA 95502.

## NEW MEMBERS

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

Arcata — John Barstow, Paul Carothers, Sandy Harper,  
Alicia Krueger, Elisabeth Petterson  
Blocksburg — L. Sherby  
Crescent City — Annamaria Padilla, April Quigley  
Eureka — Ken Clague, Pamela Coen, Harriet Hill, Barbara  
Howe, Lorien Kelly, Rhonda Lee, Jan Ramsey, Bill Shaw,  
Bear Winkle  
Fortuna — Leslie R. Ferguson, Elissa Mulholland  
Garberville — M.S. Klein  
Gasquet — Camille Garcia  
Hoopa — Barbara McNeil  
Hydesville — Eric T. Nelson  
Los Angeles — Barbara Rapoport  
McKinleyville — Patty Diaz, Margo Moorhouse  
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Myers Flat — J. Fenske  
Redway — Nelly Millard  
Scotia — Sadie Ekenberg  
Smith River — Teresa Burris  
Trinidad — Richard Eisner  
Whitethorn — Estrella Quiroga

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

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN: AUDUBON CITIZEN SCIENCE: MORE THAN ORNITHOLOGY

By Jim Clark

At a recent open house to discuss the Parcel 4 feasibility study, some who provided input to the study seemed unaware of easement restrictions and wanted to accommodate a wide range of activities for diverse groups. Chet Ogan and I voiced concerns about wildlife disturbance and user conflicts that some activities would pose (see Conservation Committee report and article below). Because both informed citizens and professionals in their fields were commenting, discussion and conflict resolution will be required at a professional level but also relate to and invite broad public participation.

A team of practical professionals is needed to carry research results forward from ornithology and wildlife science to implementation of projects that contribute to bird conservation and human quality of life. In other words, we need to recognize the art within

science and the real science within liberal arts. This goes beyond planning and design to dealing with many levels of government, other nonprofits, and the general public.

Our chapter is rarely without some kind of project to promote or implement bird conservation. One project that is never ceasing is the chapter itself. While helping with chapter administration may not add to your life list or save habitat directly, it could add to our capacity to do more to save bird habitat. Who knows? Your lifer might show up in that saved habitat.

If you have a skill, professional experience, or specific interest in just about any discipline, you could provide a valuable service to help run our chapter or implement a bird conservation project. If you are interested, contact any board member.

### STUDENT NATURE WRITING CONTEST DEADLINE MARCH 19

For the 7th year, RRAS is sponsoring a student nature writing contest. Up to 3 cash prizes will be awarded for the best essay(s) or poem(s) by a Humboldt or Del Norte county student in grades 4-12 on the topic, "What nature means to me." Winning entries will appear on the RRAS website, and awards will be presented at Godwit Days in April. Visit [www.rras.org](http://www.rras.org) to view a flyer with complete submission rules.

### RRAS SUPPORTS COUNTY SCIENCE FAIR

For the 10th year, RRAS is underwriting an award for the best project related to birds or their habitat at the Humboldt County Science Fair. A prize of \$50 will be given at the event, to be held at Humboldt State University the week of March 12.

### MARCH 23 DEADLINE FOR STUDENT BIRD ART CONTEST ENTRIES

For the 9th consecutive year, RRAS and Friends of the Arcata Marsh are cosponsoring a Student Bird Art Contest. Over \$500 will be awarded to Humboldt County K-12 students. All entries will be displayed at the Arcata Community Center during Godwit Days in April. Visit [www.rras.org](http://www.rras.org) to view a flyer with complete submission rules.

### PARCEL 4 FEASIBILITY STUDY RELEASED

The City of Eureka and Redwood Community Action Agency held an open house on 1/12 to discuss the 107-page feasibility study (posted at [http://naturalresourceservices.org/assets/files/Documents/EurekaParcel4/EurekaP4\\_CompleteDraftDoc\\_Final\\_web.pdf](http://naturalresourceservices.org/assets/files/Documents/EurekaParcel4/EurekaP4_CompleteDraftDoc_Final_web.pdf)). The study looked at opportunities to restore and enhance natural features for wildlife and to attract people to view wildlife. Some of the suggestions would conflict with the conditions of our easement that limit development to enhancement for wildlife and public viewing of wildlife. The feasibility study is the first step in developing and refining the actual development plan. Before funding can be made available, a brownfields assessment and possible mitigation and re-zoning needs to occur.



Find an injured or abandoned bird  
or wild animal?

Call the  
**Humboldt Wildlife Care Center**  
at **707-822-8839**  
[www.humwild.org](http://www.humwild.org)

### 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: C2ZC240Z**

*Please make checks to the National Audubon Society.*

*Send this application and your check to:*

**National Audubon Society**

**P.O. Box 422250**

**Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250**

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

## THE CASE OF THE MISSING PEANUT

It was a dark and stormy night. The Humboldt winter rain, buffeted by gale-force winds, pelted sideways, and the tarp covering our canoe had slipped its moorings, flailing and rustling like a spastic specter. Sue and I were hunkered down, watching “The Maltese Falcon,” a cinema classic with Humphrey Bogart playing the part of detective Sam Spade.

I tried to concentrate on the story line involving a femme fatale but, instead, found myself perusing my Humboldt County checklist. One by one, I wryly greeted the holes in the list—my “wish-to-see” species. Little Gull, Scarlet Tanager, Pygmy Nuthatch. “Ah... PYNU, my sweet Peanut. Why hast thou forsaken me?” Pygmy Nuthatch’s absence in Humboldt was frustrating beyond measure.

Although I already knew the grim stats by heart, I pulled out “the Bible”—Doc Harris’s *The Birds of Northwestern California*. Peanut had occurred but twice in Humboldt: on August 1987 at King Salmon and on September 1977 near Orleans. Both records were of a single individual. “Just two birds and no seasonal pattern,” I ruminated. Suddenly my head felt heavy, and I settled back into deep recline in my chair. Dilladidit, Dilladidit: Wayne and Gar do the wavy hand thing, indicating that a dream sequence follows.

There was a knock at the door. “Who’s there?” I inquired. “Excuse me,” responded a female voice. “My name’s Alex Wilson. I... I need to speak to you about a missing... well, ... could we talk *now*?” “Certainly.” I got up and opened the door. “Are you Micky Lohm, the detective?” she inquired. “Yes. Please, take a seat. Now, what’s your problem?” It’s about a missing... well, technically it’s not *really* a missing b-b-...” “Boyfriend?” I offered. “No, that’s just it. I came to you because, as a birder, I think you can... Well, feel my pain, so to speak.”

“Precisely what would that pain be?” Alex pulled a bottle of the latest trendy water from her handbag, took a sip, and continued. “Here’s my problem. I’m an avid

birder, a hard-core lister. I’ve seen Pygmy Nuthatch in every county north of Butte in northern California except for Humboldt. I’d like you to help me find one here.”

In my line of work, people come to me to help them relocate all kind of things: errant spouses and dogs, stolen jewelry. I’d found plenty of birds in my time—lost and otherwise—but this was the first time someone was offering to pay me. Alex cut short my reverie. “I know what you’re thinking. Money’s no object. Grandfather’s taken good care of us all.”

“So you want me to locate a Pygmy Nuthatch within the borders of Humboldt County and get you onto it? Is that right?” “Yes, that’s the deal. I took the liberty of setting up a bank account for our project. Simply keep track of your hours and withdraw money at whatever intervals you deem appropriate.” For the first time, Alex smiled. “You see, I’ve done some sleuthing of my own. Everyone I’ve talked to says your enthusiasm for birds is matched only by your honesty.” “OK, I’ll take the case, but I must warn you: it’s a total long shot.” “I know,” she sighed. “That’s why I’ve come to you.”

Talk about mixing business with pleasure! I too, had been seeking Peanut in Humboldt, compiling information on likely spots—stands of pine trees—where they might be seen. I reviewed my notes: sugar pines on Packsaddle Ridge east of Hoopa, the Gasquet-Orleans Road out of Orleans, and road 3N06, just west of Blake Mountain. Plantations of forester-induced Frankensteinian Monterey pine x knobcone pine hybrids on FS Rt. 6, aka the Salyer-Mad River Road. And knobcone pines atop Chemise Mountain in the King Range. The latter site held the most promise, as it was a mere 30 miles north of PYNU’s known nesting habitat in Mendocino County.

I loaded up some grub and camping supplies and, one-by-one, visited these spots... and more. Nothing. Zippo. Defeat left a bitter taste in my mouth, one I didn’t care for in the slightest. Out of desperation, I called the Arcata Bird Box. I fast-forwarded through some chaff

before pausing at “This is Alan Barron. I’ve just had 3 Pygmy Nuthatches near the end of the G-O Road on the Del Norte County side.” Slackjawed, I reached for my DeLorme atlas. The birds were about 6 miles from Humboldt airspace, but it was still a red-hot lead. So I blasted my way toward Orleans, headed up the sinuous G-O Road, stopped, and listened. Nothing. I broadcast Peanut calls from my boom box. Still nothing. That night, I camped alongside the road, to no avail.

When I got back to Arcata, I called Alex. “Still nothing, but I’m workin’ on it. Say, I’m leading a field trip this Saturday to the Lost Coast Headlands near Centerville south of Centerville Beach. There’s some Monterey pines at the old naval station. Of course, I’d be amazed if our target bird was there, but I think the break from molar-grinding listing would do both of us some good.” “Sure, count me in,” replied Alex.

Early Saturday morning, lightning—in the form of disembodied Peanut calls—struck. We tracked the wispy calls around and around, until, finally... Alex and I had two Pygmy Nuthatches in view at once. I couldn’t believe it. The case of the missing Peanut: **Solved**.

*Writer’s Note:* on 9/16/01, I led an RRAS field trip to the Lost Coast Headlands. Jan Andersen—the lone participant—and I heard a scant 4 call notes of what we independently identified as PYNU. We never saw the bird(s). Because it would have been my 400th Humboldt species, more convincing evidence was needed. I returned the next day. No luck. On the 18th I returned with John Hunter, where, not far from the initial audio detection, we spotted 3 PYNU. Doc Harris soon arrived for his county tick. Finding my 400th Humboldt species with John, and then sharing with Doc, was sweet—even sweeter than if Alex *had* paid me for my time.

Tom Leskiw  
March 2, 2011

## CONSERVATION NEWS

By Chet Ogan, Chair

In December the RRAS Conservation Committee submitted comments on the DEIR/DEIS on Klamath Facilities (dam) Removal (see Oct/Nov 2011 *Sandpiper*). We did not support coupling dam removal with acceptance of KBRA and KHSA. KBRA and KHSA were not conducted under CEQA or NEPA guidelines: public input was not used to formulate these agreements. The agreements, coupled with dam removal, did not provide adequate clean water in wildlife refuges in low-water years. Future benefits of dam removal should improve the economy of communities along the river and coastal cities from Ft Bragg to Brookings.

Jennifer Savage of Ocean Conservancy updated us on 1/19 about the MLPA initiative (see Feb/

Mar 2010 *EcoNews*; Aug/Sep 2010 *Sandpiper*). After slightly changing some MLPA-managed area boundaries, Cal Fish & Game accepted the plan. It was a difficult compromise among fishermen, tribes, and conservation organizations, coupled with a scientific advisory panel, to agree on protected areas. A DEIR/DEIS is expected within 2 months.

Jim Clark and I attended a Parcel 4 feasibility meeting on 1/12. RCAA presented results of its consulting with City of Eureka about implementing the RRAS open space easement on this property behind Bayshore Mall. RRAS has emphasized that the area should be used as a wildlife sanctuary rather than recreation. RCAA scoping sessions had elicited ideas such as dog walking trails, disc golf courses, jogging trails, climbing walls, personal watercraft launches, and playgrounds. We would like to see the coastal trail pass through the east side of this parcel, with interpretive signs and wildlife viewing platforms.

CEQA = California Environmental Quality Act, DEIR = Draft Environmental Impact Report, DEIS = Draft Environmental Impact Statement, KBRA = Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement, KHSA = Klamath Hydrologic Settlement Agreement, MLPA = Marine Life Protective Act, NEPA = National Environmental Policy Act, RCAA = Redwood Community Action Agency.

## eBird TIP Nº 6

### SPECIES ENTRY EASY WITH THE “JUMP TO SPECIES” FEATURE

By Rob Fowler

I’ve been eBirding since 2005 and had not used the “jump to species” search engine on the top right corner of the checklist entry page until recently. Ken Burton told me he used the 4-letter alpha codes for species to enter a checklist, and it worked well. I found it much easier and faster to enter my lists!

Next time you enter an eBird list, try this feature, which works for full species names, 6-letter codes, and 4-letter alpha codes. If, like me, you keep your lists in a notebook and note

species as you see them, this feature makes it much quicker to enter your lists! Try it out and...**go eBirding!**

*The Sandpiper eBird tip is a column that hopes to inspire increased eBird use in northwestern California. If you have suggestions for an eBird tip or other eBird-related questions contact RRAS eBird liaison Rob Fowler at [migratoriusfwlr@gmail.com](mailto:migratoriusfwlr@gmail.com). Rob reviews eBird records for Humboldt, Trinity, and Siskiyou counties and openly admits to his eBird addiction.*

### GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT FEB 17-20

Spend as little as 15 minutes as a citizen-scientist to help create a population snapshot for more than 600 bird species. This 15th annual event—hosted by Audubon, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and Bird Studies Canada—is perfect for beginning birders who don’t want to spend hours in the field on a Christmas count. The event is free, and no registration is required. Simply watch and count birds for at least 15 minutes on any day of the 4-day period, then enter your results at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org).

# Field Notes

## SUMMARY OF NORTHWESTERN CALIFORNIA BIRD REPORTS

By Daryl Coldren

### November 12, 2011 to January 17, 2012

Field Notes is a compilation of bird sighting reports for Del Norte, Humboldt, northern Mendocino, Trinity, and western Siskiyou counties. Sources include the RRAS bird alert (707-822-LOON), the online northwestern California birding and information exchange ([nwcalbird@yahoo.com](mailto:nwcalbird@yahoo.com)), the Mendocino County birders' listserv ([mendobirds@yahoo.com](mailto:mendobirds@yahoo.com)), eBird (<http://ebird.org/content/klamathsiskeyou>), and reports submitted directly to the compiler. Reports may be submitted to any of the sources mentioned above or to Daryl Coldren: (916) 384-8089; [QuiAvisPetit@aol.com](mailto:QuiAvisPetit@aol.com).

HBBO = Humboldt Bay Bird Observatory; HBNWR = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; HO = holdover from previous period; MOB = many observers; NC = not confirmed/ documented; Oxi = Oxidation

**Snow Goose:** 1, Arcata, 12 Nov-8 Dec (TK, JO, MOB); 1, Crescent City Harbor, 5 Dec- 6 Jan (AB); 1-3, Humboldt Hill, 10-15 Dec (DC, LT, MOB); 1-6, HBNWR, 27 Dec- 2 Jan (MOB) • **Ross's Goose:** 1, Arcata, 12 Nov (TK, JO); 1, Crescent City Harbor, 5 Dec-6 Jan (AB) • **Arcata Marsh,** 8 Jan (RF, MOB); • **Eurasian Wigeon:** 25, S. Humboldt Bay, 25 Dec (MW, DC) • **Tufted Duck:** 1, Klamath River Estuary, 7 Dec (KS) • **COMMON EIDER (2nd state record!):** 1, Crescent City Harbor, 20-29 Nov (AB, MOB) • **Harlequin Duck:** 2, King Salmon, 3 Dec (MW) • **Long-tailed Duck:** 1, Mad River, 16 Nov (KI); 2, King Salmon, 3 Dec (MW) • **Barrow's Goldeneye:** 3, Smith River, 27 Nov-6 Jan (AB, MOB) • **Smew (NC):** 1, Smith River, 18 Nov (MR) • **Cattle Egret:** 1, Smith River, 4 Dec (JO); 1, Smith River, 4 Jan (AB) • **Northern Goshawk:** 1, Hoopa, 23 Dec (DF, JP, DC) • **Broad-winged Hawk:** 1, Alexandre Dairy, 3 Jan (LB) • **Harlan's Hawk:** 1, Jacoby Creek, 14-27 Nov (RF, TK, MOB); 1, Arcata, 29 Nov (RF); 1, Loleta Bottoms, 2 Dec (DC, LT, MB) • **Ferruginous Hawk:** 1, Ferndale Bottoms, 13 Nov (TK); 1, Smith River, 14 Nov (TK); 2, McKinleyville, 12 Dec (GL) • **Rough-legged Hawk:** 1, Bear River Ridge, 4 Dec (RH, MS) • **Golden Eagle:** 1, HBNWR, 12 Nov-8 Jan (GC, MOB); 1, Showers Pass Rd, 18 Nov (RH); 2, Bear River Ridge, 4 Dec (RH, MS) • **Crested Caracara:** 1 (HO), Smith River, Jul 2008-6 Jan (MOB) • **Prairie Falcon:** 1, V St Loop, 20-26 Nov (RF, KS, MOB); 1, Bear River Ridge, 4 Dec (RH, MS); 1, Arcata Bottoms, 17 Dec (GB) • **Pacific Golden-Plover:** 7, Crab Park, 11 Nov (DC, MW); 8, Ferndale Bottoms, 21 Nov (RF, MW); 2, Lower Eel River, (GB) • **Rock Sandpiper:** 2-6, North Jetty, 5-17 Dec (TK, DC, MMA, MOB) • **Franklin's Gull:** 1, Fernbridge, 13-17 Jan (TE, MMa, DC, TK, JS) • **Glaucous Gull:** 3, Fernbridge, 13-14 Jan (TE, TK, JO) • **Burrowing Owl:** 2, South Spit, 13 Nov-Jan 8 (DC, MOB); 1, Eureka, 1 Jan (GL); 1, S. Clam Beach, 2 Jan (GL, LL) • **Short-eared Owl:** 1, Arcata Bottoms, 14 Dec (MOB); 2, Arcata Marsh, 1 Jan (GZ) • **Lewis's Woodpecker:** 4, High Divide, 18 Dec (GL) • **Yellow-bellied**



Black and White Warbler, © Matt Brady,  
Loleta Bottoms, Humboldt County

**Sapsucker:** 1, McKinleyville, 30 Nov-9 Jan (GL, LL, MOB); 1-2, Ferndale, 1-4 Jan (GL, MOB) • **Red-naped Sapsucker:** 1, Smith River, 27 Nov-14 Dec (AB); 1, Orick, 3 Dec (KR); 1, Redwood House Rd, 8 Dec (MJM); 1, Trinidad, 27 Dec (SD) • **Eastern Phoebe:** 1, Lake Earl, 14 Nov (fide AB) • **Say's Phoebe:** 1, Centerville Beach, 1 Jan (SM) • **Tropical Kingbird:** 1, Lake Earl, 16 Nov (AB); 1, Loleta Bottoms, 5 Dec (GC, KB); 1, Arcata Bottoms, 17 Dec (AB, CW); 1, Loleta, 3-15 Jan (LD, KB, MOB) • **Loggerhead Shrike:** 1, Eureka, 17-19 Dec (RF, LT, JO, MOB) • **Northern Shrike:** 1, Pacific Shores, 30 Nov (DC, LT, MB); 1, Kellogg Rd, 30 Nov-11 Dec (DC, MB, LT, MOB), 1, Lanphere Dunes, 17 Dec (LT) 1, Centerville Rd, 8 Jan (CB) • **Cassin's Vireo:** 1, Fortuna, 5 Dec (KB); 2, Arcata, 10-17 Dec (RF, GB); 2, Eureka, 17 Dec (RF), Ferndale Bottoms, (GL) • **Blue-headed Vireo:** 1, Elk River, 8 Dec (KB) • **Horned Lark:** 1, V St Loop, 12 Nov (TK, JO) • **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** 1, Salt River, 1, Jan (GL) • **Northern Mockingbird:** 1, Crab Park, 11 Nov (DC, MW); 1, Arcata, 1-17 Dec (CM, RB, DC, MOB); 1, Arcata Airport, 14 Dec (GL); 1, Eureka, 2 Jan (GC) • **Red-throated Pipit:** 1, V St Loop, 13 Nov (KI) • **Nashville Warbler:** 2, Salt River, 21 Nov-13 Jan (OH, DC, RF, MW, MOB); 1 (Eastern), Salt River, 2 Dec (MB, LT); 3, Eureka, 17 Dec (RF, PB, MOB); 1, Eureka, 8 Jan (JW); 1, Fernbridge, 13 Jan (TE) • **Yellow Warbler:** 2, Loleta Bottoms, 2 Dec (MB, LT, DC); 1, Arcata Oxi Ponds, 5 Dec (RH); 1, Eureka, 27 Dec (EE) • **Black-throated Gray Warbler:** 1, Lake Tolowa, 11 Dec (MMA); 1, Arcata, 11 Dec (MMA); 1, Arcata, 17 Dec (GB); 1, Arcata Marsh, 8 Jan (GZ) • **Hermit Warbler:** 1, Centerville Beach Road, 31 Dec- 1 Jan (SM, GL) • **Palm Warbler:** numerous reports of 1-2, Arcata Marsh, McKinleyville, Los Bagels, Eureka, Salt River, V St Loop, 11 Nov-16 Jan (MOB) • **Black-and-white Warbler:** 1, Loleta Bottoms, 2 Dec (MB, LT, DC); 1, Fernbridge, 13 Jan (TE) • **Northern Waterthrush:** 1, Arcata Marsh, 16-27 Dec (PL, GZ, CB, MOB); 1, Eureka, 17 Dec (RF) • **MacGillivray's Warbler:** 1, Arcata Marsh, 16-21 Dec (PL, GZ, RF, EE) • **Wilson's Warbler:** 1, McKinleyville, 13 Jan (CW) • **Western Tanager:** 1, Crescent City, 5 Dec (SL);

1, McKinleyville, 7-17 Dec Jan (GL); 1, Hoopa, 23 Dec (DC) • **Clay-colored Sparrow:** 1, V St Loop, 12-20 Nov (TK, JO, RF, MOB); 1, Lanphere Rd, 13 Nov (RF); 1, Ft Dick, 18 Dec (CO, JO); 1, Willow Creek, 23 Dec (DF, JP, DC); 1, Ferndale, 30 Dec-8 Jan (OH, MOB) • **Lark Sparrow:** 1, Camp Weott, 10 Dec (DI, SF) • **Vesper Sparrow:** 1, V St Loop, 12 Nov (TK, JO) • **Lark Bunting:** 1, Lanphere Rd, 16-17 Jan (JO, MOB) • **Grasshopper Sparrow:** 1, HBNWR, 11 Dec (RF, MOB) • **Swamp Sparrow:** numerous reports of 1-3, Arcata Marsh, Indian Island, Arcata Oxi Ponds, Lake Earl, 11 Nov-15 Jan (MOB) • **White-throated Sparrow:** flock of 10!, Willow Creek, 23 Dec (DF, JP, DC) • **Lapland Longspur:** 1, King Salmon, 10 Nov (DC); 5, V St Loop, 12 Nov (TK, JO); 1, Indian Island, 20 Nov (RF); 1, V St Loop, 26 Nov (KS) • **Snow Bunting:** 1, Bald Jesse Peak, 15 Nov (MJM); 1, Sand Island (Hum Bay), 30 Nov (JSm, TP); 2, S. of Table Bluff, 1 Jan (GC, KB); 1, Kellogg Rd, 16 Jan (TK); 3, Bald Jesse Peak, 17 Jan (KR, RS, SM) • **Tricolored Blackbird:** 3, Arcata Bottoms 17 Dec (AB, GB, DC, CW) • **Great-tailed Grackle:** 1, Coffee Creek, 1 Jan (CO) • **Orchard Oriole:** 1, McKinleyville, 27-29 Nov (KS; 3rd year in a row for KS's yard!) • **Bullock's Oriole:** 2, McKinleyville, 8 Dec (RF); 1, Smith River, 27 Dec (AB), 1 ad male, Ferndale, 1 Jan (LL, GL) • **Evening Grosbeak:** 10, McKinleyville, 14 Dec (GL).



Snow Bunting, © MJ Mazurek

**Thanks to all who have submitted sightings!** Alan Barron, Pat Bitton, Gary Bloomfield, Matt Brady, Lucas Brug, Camden Bruner, Ralph Bucher, Ken Burton, Greg Chapman, Daryl Coldren, Linda Doerflinger, Susan Donahou, Todd Easterla, Elias Elias, Shawneen Finnegan, David Fix, Rob Fowler, Owen Head, Rob Hewitt, David Irons, Ken Irwin, Tony Kurz, Will Lawton, Gary Lester, Lauren Lester, Paul Lohse, Sky Lloyd, Mark Magnuson, Sean McAllister, Cindy Moyer, MJ Mazurek, Chet Ogan, John Oliver, Todd Pearl, Jude Power, M. Renaud, Kerry Ross, Jesse Sargent (JS), Keith Slauson, Jimmy Smith (JSm), Rachel Smith, Megan Still, Leslie Tucci, Matt Wachs, Joan Walls, Carol Wilson, George Ziminsky.

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT (CBC) HIGHLIGHTS

### Arcata, Dec. 17, Daryl Coldren, compiler

Total species count was 181. Most unusual find: Loggerhead Shrike (2nd record for CBC) at Humboldt Community Park in Eureka by Rob Fowler. Other highlights include Northern Shrike, Tropical Kingbird, Northern Mockingbird (2), Northern Waterthrush (2), Black-throated Gray Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Cassin's Vireo (several), Western Tanager, Tricolored Blackbird (3), and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

### Del Norte, Dec. 18, Alan Barron, compiler

A great crew of Humboldt birders helped so much in good weather. Total species count was 156. Highlights were Crested Caracara, Common Yellowthroat, Ross's, Snow, and Greater White-fronted Goose, Osprey, Lewis's Woodpecker (4; new for this CBC), White-breasted Nuthatch, Evening Grosbeak, Clay-colored Sparrow, Barrow's Goldeneye (5), and Hooded (2) and Bullock's (2) Oriole.

### Willow Creek, Dec. 23, Gary Lester, compiler

Fifteen birders participated in this "little count that can." It was conducted under mostly clear, sparkling conditions, with frost well into the afternoon, but little snow at Horse Mountain. Total species number was 87 (all-time high = 92). Highlights were Western Tanager, Northern Goshawk, Clay-colored Sparrow, red-race Fox Sparrow, and Orange-crowned Warbler (2). A Bewick's Wren was added to the total species list a day later with the submission of excellent photographs. Bigfoot Golf Course provided an impressive array of geese: White-fronted, Cackler, Aleutian, and Western Canada..

### Centerville, Jan. 1, Gary Lester, compiler

A total of 182 species were reported by 45 participants. Highlights were Snow Bunting (2), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (2), Say's Phoebe, Golden Eagle, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher,

Cassin's Vireo, Hermit Warbler, Bullock's Oriole, and Clay-colored Sparrow. Tantalizing reports for Long-eared Owl (same location as last year's Salt River roost), Great-tailed Grackle, and Pectoral and Curlew Sandpiper were unconfirmed despite significant efforts to relocate them.

### Tall Trees, Jan. 4, Ken Burton, compiler and originator

Twenty-two people conducted the inaugural Tall Trees CBC, which incorporates the Humboldt Lagoons, Orick, most of southern Redwood National Park, a great deal of Green Diamond land, and some ocean. The weather was great, though swells were too large for a boat to get out. A total of 121 species and 25,914 birds were tallied, with highlights being 12 Ruffed Grouse (undoubtedly a new state CBC record), Black-legged Kittiwake (143), Marbled Murrelet (24), Northern Pygmy-Owl (6), and Gray Jays (30). Most numerous were American Coot (10,686), Ruddy Duck (2,918), Bufflehead (2,350), European Starling (1,376), and Canvasback (1,007).