



The Sandpiper

DECEMBER 2011/JANUARY 2012



REDWOOD REGION AUDUBON SOCIETY

www.rras.org

FIELD TRIPS

Every Saturday: Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary. Our famous rain-or-shine docent-led field trips at the marsh; take your binoculars 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.

Sunday, December 18: Southern Humboldt Community Park. Jay Sooter and/or John Gaffin (707-943-3096) will lead this monthly walk. All ages and experience levels are encouraged to participate and revel in the beauty of the park and its avian inhabitants on this easy 2- to 3-hour walk. Binoculars are not provided, and dogs are not allowed; field guides are usually available, but please provide your own if possible. Steady rain cancels. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot on Kimtu Road in Garberville.

Saturday, January 7: Winter Rarities. We'll start in Arcata and end in the Ferndale area, concentrating on looking for rarities that were found on the Arcata and Centerville CBCs while also enjoying all the species we could expect to see along the way. Rob Fowler will lead. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Arcata Marsh G Street parking lot. Bring a lunch and expect to end around 2-3 p.m. or later. Dress warmly; heavy rain cancels.

Sunday, January 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 (707-822-

3613) or David Fix (707-825-1195) for more information.

Sunday, January 15: Potawot Health Village. Join Mark Morrisette (707-441-1917) for this unique and educational half-day trip. Bird the trail system that winds through the integrated landscape that surrounds the health clinic. Come see the wildlife using the Ku' wah-dah-wilth Restoration Area, organic permaculture garden, and storm-water system that maintain wetlands on the village conservation easement. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot at the end of Weott Way in Arcata (off Janes Road opposite Ernest Way).

Sunday, January 15: Southern Humboldt Community Park. See Dec 18.

Saturday, January 21: eBird Site Survey—Shay Park. This monthly trip sounds more formal than it really is! Join Rob Fowler (707-839-3493; migratoriusfwlr@gmail.com) to survey the extent of Shay Park in Arcata for 1-3 hours and count every species present. For more info on the eBird site survey, visit this link at ebird.org: http://ebird.org/content/ebird/about/eBird_Site_Survey. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Shay Park parking lot located at the east end of Foster Avenue.

Winter Raptor Surveys: If you are interested in participating in any of this winter's raptor surveys in Loleta and Ferndale, contact Ken Burton (707-499-1146 or shrikethree@gmail.com) for more information or to be put on the notification list.

RRAS ANNUAL BANQUET & ART AUCTION

Save the date! **Saturday, February 18, 2012**, is the date of our next Annual Banquet & Art Auction. HSU wildlife professor Dr. Matthew Johnson will be the featured speaker. Watch for a flyer in your mail announcing the location, topic, and price. Also check the web page (www.rras.org), where information will be posted as it becomes available.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS



Arcata: Saturday, Dec. 17, Daryl Coldren (916-384-8089; QuiAvisPetit@aol.com). The count circle is centered on Arcata, stretching north to McKinleyville south of Murray Road, west to Samoa and Manila, east to Bayside up to the Baywood Golf Course, and south including Freshwater and to Eureka along the waterfront to Bayshore Mall. Compilation at Rita's Mexican Restaurant (banquet room), 1134 5th Street, Eureka, beginning at 6 p.m.

Del Norte: Sunday, Dec. 18, Alan Barron (707-465-8904; flockfinder@yahoo.com) or Gary Lester (707-839-3373; garys.lester@gmail.com). The count circle includes Crescent City, Smith River, Fort Dick, Lake Earl, Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park/Redwood National Park, and the western portion of the Smith River National Recreation Area. Compilation at Pizza King in Crescent City beginning at 4:30-5 p.m.; morning start at Denny's in Crescent City at 7 a.m.

Willow Creek: Friday, Dec. 23, contact Gary Lester (see Del Norte). The count circle, centered on Willow Creek, includes Horse Mountain, portions of the South Fork & Main Stem of the Trinity River, the small community of Salyer, and the southern Hoopa Valley.

Centerville: Sunday, Jan. 1, Gary Lester (see Del Norte CBC). The count circle is centered on Loleta, divided into geographic sectors of (1) Fields Landing, King Salmon, College of the Redwoods; (2) Table Bluff; (3) Loleta; (4) Fortuna; (5) Ferndale; (6) Centerville Road; (7) Port Kenyon Road; (8) Grizzly Bluff Road; (9) South Spit; (10) Centerville Beach; (11) Elk River Valley; (12) Humboldt Hill; and (13) Salt River.

Tall Trees: Wednesday, Jan. 4, Ken Burton (707-499-1146; shrikethree@gmail.com). A new count circle between Big Lagoon and Orick, inland to Lyon's Ranch in Redwood National Park.

JANUARY PROGRAM

PREDATORS OF THE POND: CALIFORNIA DRAGONFLIES

Kathy Biggs, a birder who became interested in dragonflies, will give us a fascinating introduction to colorful dragonflies and damselflies of California. Kathy has written several books on dragonflies of California, the Southwest, and North America, as well as dragonfly activity books for children. She and her husband, both Humboldt State University alums, live in Sebastopol, where they give workshops on building ponds to attract wildlife. Kathy advises a citizen science program monitoring ponds to discovering more about distribution and variety of pond dragons.

Friday, January 13, 2012, starting at 7:30 p.m.
The program will be held at the Humboldt County Office of Education at Myrtle and West avenues in Eureka.



CHAPTER LEADERS

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Vice President — Chet Ogan 442-9353
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Field Notes — Daryl Coldren.....916-384-8089
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Programs — C.J. Ralph.....822-2015
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Sandpiper (editorial) — Tom & Sue Leskiw.....442-5444
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Sandpiper (layout) — Gary Bloomfield.....822-0210
Volunteer Coordinator — Josée Rousseau.....839-5763
Website Gatekeeper — Sue Leskiw442-5444
Lake Earl Branch — Sue Calla.....465-6191
RRAS Web Page.....www.rras.org
Arcata Bird Alert822-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 — Caroline Allander, Donald Hosterman, Samuel P.
& Pearl Oliner, Diana York
Bayside — Katherine Blume
Blue Lake — Roy Dahlberg & Carrie Peyton-Dahlberg
Bridgeville — Bridgeville Community Center
Carlotta — Nancy & Daniel Carter, Ida Schellhaus
Crescent City — Gloria M. Long, Ray Solbau,
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Catherine McNally, Beth Powell, Dolores Terry,
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Myers Flat — Sandra L. Estrada
Rio Dell — Patty Haao
Salyer — Lpat Haydon, Charlene Lundblade
Trinidad — Gail Kenny
Willow Creek — Robert Van Orden
Whitethorn — Ron Broughton

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

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN: ATTRACTING THE RIGHT SPECIES

By Jim Clark

Sandpiper: Media Changes, Message Remains

The other day, friends of ours mentioned that one of their favorite Facebook sites was Audubon California (AC). They like it because they can find out quickly what is going on at AC and go to what interests them. What caught my attention was not that they liked Facebook but that they are of my boomer generation and probably fairly typical RRAS members. In their case, AC has been successful in using social media to spread the word about what it is doing—in other words, serving its members.

When the Northcoast Environmental Center's (NEC) financial situation required cutting back on ECONews publication frequency, we found that *The Sandpiper*, which is copublished with it, could not provide timely service to our members. Also, RRAS had never paid the true cost of publication (printing and distributing). As a result of this change, the Board of Directors considered several combinations of printed and web-based media for *The Sandpiper*.

As you might imagine, there is a wide range of opinions of how to best serve our members and spread the word about RRAS activities. There was no controversy about publishing *The Sandpiper* on our website, but opinions differed as to the extent the printed version should be replaced by the web version. Opinions varied from "If it is not printed and on my coffee table, it won't get read" to "If it isn't on the web, it won't get read." The projected annual publication and distribution cost of the printed *Sandpiper* at \$8,900, compared with the website publication cost of less than \$100/year, also weighed heavily in the decision.

Our revamped website by Marika Benko is now up-to-date and well managed by gatekeeper Sue Leskiw. However, we have yet to include social media (Facebook, Blog, Twitter) that can alert people to many time-critical events. [Our appeal in the June-July issue for an electronic media specialist and website advisory subcommittee volunteers went unanswered.] There is also the potential for an online chapter store through online service providers such as Café Press.

The NEC and RRAS have agreed that interest on a previous loan to the NEC will be paid in-kind by covering the printing costs of *The Sandpiper* until the interest is paid off. When that occurs, publication and distribution of the current 4-page *Sandpiper* within ECONews will cease. Instead of a pull-out insert, there will be a half-page "Least Sandpiper" in ECONews consisting of selected information from the complete website edition. The board discussed offering a subscription option for those who wanted to continue to receive a printed edition, but it was decided that RRAS does not have the volunteer capacity to deal with the extra complexity, and paying someone to do it would not be cost-effective. It is the board's intent to use the savings in printing and distribution costs for other outreach, such as individual mailings and website enhancements.

On behalf of the RRAS Board, I regret that some of you may not be able to read the complete *Sandpiper* as you would like to, or at all, as we transition to electronic media. I hope that many readers will learn to enjoy the rich content that our web-based version offers.

MARCH 23 DEADLINE FOR STUDENT BIRD ART CONTEST ENTRIES

For the 9th consecutive year, RRAS and Friends of the Arcata Marsh are co-sponsoring 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 to view a flyer with complete submission rules.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

Social Media Coordinator: Now that we've updated our website, we're seeking someone familiar with Facebook, Twitter, and/or blogging to set up and moderate one or more of these sites. This is a twofer: provide a valuable service to RRAS and add the experience to your resume.

Publications Chair: Guide and direct the flow of the chapter's newsletter, field guides, and other materials. Possibility exists for creating other publications.

NEC Representative: Be the chapter liaison between RRAS and the Northcoast Environmental Center. You will receive guidance in what is required.

Board Member: The RRAS Board of Directors meets monthly to carry out the chapter mission.

If interested in this or any other position, please contact current president Jim Clark (dancebirds@sbcglobal.net) or one of the chapter leaders listed on page 2.

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: C1ZC240Z

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

STUDENT NATURE WRITING CONTEST DEADLINE 3/19

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 to view a flyer with complete submission rules.

PLOVER SUCCESS AT BIG LAGOON

By Ken Burton

The coastal population of the Western Snowy Plover is federally listed as a threatened species. Threats include spread of exotic plants; disturbance and nest destruction by humans and dogs; and predation, primarily by ravens. The problem is particularly severe in our area, which has the lowest breeding success rate anywhere, putting the population in what can be termed an "extinction vortex." Most readers probably are aware of the local controversy surrounding this population, especially at Clam/Little River Beach, until recently the only remaining breeding site in California north of Humboldt Bay.

Snowy Plovers used to nest regularly on the Big Lagoon spit, but essentially disappeared from there in the 1990s, except for the continued presence of wintering birds. Last year, RRAS received a \$7500 grant from Audubon California through the Audubon Endowment for State Parks to improve conditions on the spit, in the hope of enticing Snowy Plovers to nest there once again. The site already was in relatively good shape, with far less disturbance and exotic vegetation than Clam/Little River.

RRAS partnered with State Parks and Friends of the Dunes to erect symbolic fencing and deploy docents to patrol the beach, documenting numbers of people, dogs, and ravens; informing visitors of park regulations (especially prohibition of dogs); watching for plovers; monitoring the fenced area; picking up trash; and pulling exotic plants. In 2010, we logged over 200 hours on the spit from March to October, with dozens of visitor interactions and many pounds of trash removed.

An additional aspect of the project was the experimental use of wooden Snowy Plover decoys as an attractant. Although this technique has not been proven effective with Snowy Plovers, the species exhibits a number of traits, such as semi-colonial nesting, that make it potentially a good candidate, and there is a long history of decoy use for the hunting of shorebirds. Decoys were placed in the fenced area last year and again this year.

No plover nesting occurred at Big Lagoon last year, which was somewhat discouraging. However, 3 nests were initiated near the decoys this year (the first at Big Lagoon since 2005) and successfully fledged a total of 4 young. Although this is a small number, it accounts for fully half of this year's reproductive output between Sonoma County and Oregon!

State Parks is attempting to secure funding to continue the decoy study in order to ascertain whether decoys do, in fact, lure birds to potential nest sites. Regardless of the connection, we are thrilled that plovers are once again nesting at Big Lagoon and proud of our role in making the site more attractive to them.

HOORAY FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS!

By Sue Leskiw and Josée Rousseau

RRAS could not operate without many types of volunteers. To recognize their contributions of time and energy during the past year, a Volunteer Appreciation evening was held on November 4. Nearly 40 people attended this first of what we hope will become an annual tradition.

The Humboldt Area Foundation proved to be an excellent venue for people to chat, eat, and drink. Event planning was performed by Josée Rousseau, Sue Leskiw, Jim Clark, and Adam Brown, with set-up help from Sue Calla and Gary Bloomfield. Josée put together a

Adam Brown,
Jim Clark,
Sue Leskiw,
and
Josée Rousseau.



Cindy Moyer,
Pat Bitton,
and
Jude Power.



Jan Andersen,
Jay Sooter,
and
Gary Bloomfield.

Tom Leskiw
and
Kate McClain.



PowerPoint presentation showing volunteers in action and giving hour totals for certain types of tasks.

We also posted comments submitted by volunteers and asked people to ID the writers. All blurbs and names appear in quiz form at www.rras.org under "News."

Our volunteers have demonstrated skills and enthusiasm through a wide range of tasks and activities. Leading field trips, producing *The Sandpiper*, attending meetings, redesigning the website, mailing membership information, working at the Godwit Café, planning special events—the total number of tasks achieved by our volunteers and the number of hours donated weekly, monthly, and annually is simply astonishing!

eBird TIP № 5 USING THE eBIRD MAPPING FUNCTION TO DISCOVER NEW BIRDING LOCATIONS

By Rob Fowler

Many—if not most—birders are creatures of habit. We generally know where the birds are and go to locations that regularly produce a large variety of species—specific species that are very local and hard to find elsewhere—and locations that are most likely to provide rarities. Take winter birding, for instance. If you want a large species list and good numbers of birds for your outing, then you will probably spend the morning eBirding most of Arcata Marsh or Humboldt Bay NWR. In September, if you want to have the best chance of finding vagrant flycatchers, vireos, and warblers, you head out to the various well-established vagrant-trap willow patches on the North Spit of Humboldt Bay. You want large numbers of shorebirds in late August to early September? Most people this fall went to the new hotspot, the Centerville (or Russ Ranch) wetlands, to see up to and possibly over, 20 species of shorebirds. This novel location now has an associated eBird hotspot marker after being discovered by visiting rarity-digger, Todd Easterla (read T. Leskiw's Oct.-Nov. 2011 *Sandpiper* article if you're not familiar with Todd). Before Easterla discovered it, however, few birders birded there, possibly due to past conditions that weren't conducive to concentrating shorebirds. Nonetheless, like the Centerville wetlands, quite a few of these little-known eBird "hotspots" can be discovered with just a bit of work with the eBird mapping function. Let's look at how to do this easy yet productive task of finding new or little-known locations to go eBirding.

Assuming you have an eBird account already, go to the eBird homepage and click the link "Submit Observations." Next click the "Find It on a Map" link. Now choose the county and state you are going to bird in (we'll enter Humboldt and CA, respectively). Let's look at one city and zoom into the Arcata area. Remember, hotspots are the red markers, and the blue are your personal (private) locations. Many locations in the small Arcata area are hotspots that are seldom checked out. How

many times do you suppose birders go to the Greenwood Cemetery (just southeast of Shay Park) or the 8th and N riparian hotspot (northwest of K St. and Samoa Blvd.)? Do you know about the Potawot Health Village Restoration Area? Go check it out! You've heard about the Aldergrove Marsh but aren't sure where it is but want to go there? There's a hotspot for that to make it easy to find. Go out on the North Spit. Did any of you go out to the Eureka Airport Pond this fall? If not, make a note to yourself to do that *next* fall.

Looking at hotspot locations in the eBird mapping function can also be helpful in planning a trip out of the area. Are you going to be down in the San Diego area this winter? Check out the *hundreds* of hotspots down there. There are almost too many locations to go eBirding! I would also recommend checking their local birding listserv: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SDBIRDS/> to narrow down your choices.

eBird Update: Right now eBird is being beta-tested for the ability to attach pictures to eBird checklists. No more having to add a link to your photos to Flickr of your great find of a Northern Wheatear or Red-Flanked Bluetail. Soon you'll be able to attach specific photos directly to your checklist. Stay tuned.

Last, here's a helpful article on the difference between "personal locations" and "shared locations" (hotspots) by California hotspot reviewer, Amy McDonald: <http://dl.dropbox.com/u/16832999/eBirdLocationsAndHotspots.pdf>.

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 any other eBird-related questions, contact RRAS eBird liaison Rob Fowler at migratoriusfwr@gmail.com. Rob reviews eBird records for Humboldt, Trinity, and Siskiyou counties and openly admits to his eBird addiction.



Field Notes

By Daryl Coldren

SUMMARY OF NORTHWESTERN CALIFORNIA BIRD REPORTS

September 23 to November 11, 2011

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), the Mendocino County birders' listserv (mendobirds@yahoo.com), eBird (<http://ebird.org/content/klamath-siskiyou>), and reports submitted directly to the compiler. Future reports may be submitted to any of the sources mentioned above or to Daryl Coldren: 916/384-8089; QuiAvisPetit@aol.com.

HO = holdover from previous period; HBBO = Humboldt Bay Bird Observatory; MOB = many observers; SP = State Park.

Greater White-fronted Goose: 1,800!, *Smith River Bottoms*, 18 Oct (AB); many reports of 1-300, *V St Loop, McKinleyville, Arcata Bottoms, Eureka, Ocean Meadows, Blue Lake*, 28 Sep-6 Nov (MOB) • **Snow Goose:** 1, *Arcata*, 17 Oct (TK); 1, *Humboldt Hill*, 6 Nov (DC, LT, MOB) • **Ross's Goose:** 1, *Arcata Bottoms*, 23 Oct (MMA); 1, *V St Loop*, 8 Nov (KI, AM, BH) • **"Aleutian" Cackling Goose:** many reports of 1-500, *Arcata, Eureka, Ocean Meadows, McKinleyville*, 30 Sep-Nov 11 (MOB) • **Eurasian Wigeon:** 1, *Arcata Marsh*, 10 Oct (RF, MOB) • **Blue-winged Teal:** 1-5, *Arcata Marsh*, 1 Oct-6 Nov (JO, RF, RB, BH); 1, *Palco Marsh*, 26 Oct (RB) • **Harlequin Duck:** 2, *Humboldt Bay*, 25 Oct (DB) • **Long-tailed Duck:** 2, *North Jetty*, 8 Nov (JC); 1, *King Salmon*, 19 Oct-5 Nov (MW, JO, MMA) • **Black Scoter:** 1-2, *Humboldt Bay Mouth*, 29 Oct-2 Nov (TK, DR) • **Hooded Merganser:** 1, *Arcata Marsh*, 24 Sep (AM), 9 Oct (RB), 28 Oct (JO); 2, *Orick*, 7 Oct (KI); 3, *Mad River Slough*, 30 Oct (MMA); 5, *Hammond Bridge*, 31 Oct (RB); 4, *V St Loop*, 6 Nov (DC, LT, MOB) • **Ruffed Grouse:** 1, *Big Hill*, 13 Oct (DC, LT); 1, *Snow Camp Rd*, 19 Oct (MMo); • **Red-necked Grebe:** 1-5, *Humboldt Bay*, 7 Oct-5 Nov (MOB); 1-2, *Big Lagoon*, 7-9 Nov (TK) • **Laysan Albatross:** 1, *Eel River Canyon*, 29 Oct (DC, TK, MOB); 1-2, *Ft Bragg Pelagic*, DATE?Nov (RF, MOB) • **Green Heron:** 1, *Mad River County Park*, 15 Oct (AM, BH); 1, *Arcata Marsh*, 18 Oct-7 Nov (GZ) • **Bald Eagle:** 2, *Big Lagoon*, 1 Nov (TK) • **Northern Goshawk:** 1, *Bear River Ridge*, 5 Nov (TK, DC, MOB) • **BROAD-WINGED HAWK:** 1, *Bear River Ridge*, 7 Oct (DC, LT); 1 (probable), *Elk River*, 8 Oct (SM); 1, *V St Loop*, 27 Oct (KI) • **"Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk:** 1, *Bayside*, 10 Nov (DC) • **Ferruginous Hawk:** 1, *Smith River Bottoms*, 3 Oct (LB), 18 Oct (AB); 1, *Dyerville Loop Rd*, 21 Oct (DC, PC); 1, *Ocean Meadows*, 27 Oct (KH); 1, *Kneeland*, 5 Nov (TK, JO); 1, *Bear River Ridge*, 5 Nov (DC, MOB) • **Golden Eagle:** 1, *Bear River Ridge*, 12 Oct (TL); 1, *Dyerville Loop*, 18 Oct (JG); 1, *Shower's Pass Rd*, 5 Nov (TK, JO) • **Crested Caracara:** 1 (HO), *Smith River Bottoms*, - Nov (AB) • **GYRFALCON:** 1, *Lake Tolowa*, 26 Sep (LB); 1, *V St Loop*, 26 Sep & 26 Oct (KI); 1, *North Spit*, 27 Sep (CO); 1 (same as Arcata bird?), *Redwood Creek Mouth*, 29 Sep (KI), 30 Sep (TL, DC, LT), 2 Oct (DC, RH) • **Prairie Falcon:** 1, *Blue Lake*, 25 Oct (KI); 1, *V St Loop*, 27-29 Oct (AM, JH, KI); 2, *Shower's Pass Rd*, 5 Nov (TK, JO) • **Sandhill Crane:** 5, *Eureka*, 30 Sep (CO) • **American Golden-Plover:** 1, *Mad River Bottoms*, 6 Oct (RF) • **Pacific Golden-Plover:** 3-6, *Cannibal Island Rd*, 26 Sep-8 Oct (TK, RH, JO); 2, *Morgan Rd*, 15 Oct (MW, DC); 1-2, *Mad River Bottoms*, 24-31 Oct (RF, DR) • **Ruddy Turnstone:** 1, *Crab Park*, 14 Oct (GC); 1, *Klopp Lake*, 29 Oct (JP, DF) • **Ruff:** 1, *Lake Tolowa*, 2 Oct (LB); 1, *Morgan Rd*, 15 Oct (DC, MW) • **Red-necked Phalarope:** 1 (late), *V St Loop*, 29 Oct (RF) • **Sabine's Gull:** 1, *Mad River Beach*, 16 Oct (RR, LD) • **Pigeon Guillemot:** 1, *King Salmon*, 19 Oct (MW) • **Xantus's Murrelet:** 2, *Centerville Overlook*, 15 Oct (MW, DC) • **Tufted Puffin:** 2, *Centerville Beach*, 22 Oct (MW, DC) • **White-winged Dove:** 1-2, *Arcata*, DATE?-15 Oct (GB, MOB) • **Burrowing Owl:** 1, *V St Loop*, 27 Oct (KI); 1, *Bear River Ridge*, 5 Nov (TK, DC, MOB); 1, *South Spit*, 5 Nov (DC, LT, AP, MOB) • **Short-eared Owl:** 1, *V St Loop*, 11 Oct-3 Nov (TK, AM); 1-2, *Arcata Marsh*, 19-24 Oct (GZ, MOB) • **White-throated Swift:** several reports of 4-200, *Garberville, Redway*, 26 Sep-30 Oct

(JSo) • **Lewis's Woodpecker:** 3, *Bald Hills Rd*, 30 Sep (TL) • **Willow Flycatcher:** 1, *Orick*, 13 Oct (KI) • **Say's Phoebe:** 1, *Brown Rd*, 24 Sep (JGa); 1, *Bald Hills Rd*, 30 Sep (TL, DC, LT); 1, *Redwood Creek*, 1 Oct (AM, TK, JO); 1, *Capetown*, 12 Oct (TL), 24 Oct (DC, TL, LT, TK); 1, *Centerville Beach*, 2 Nov (DC, MW); 1, *Loleta*, 5 Nov (LT, DC, AP, MOB)



Tropical Kingbird, © Tony Kurz
Humboldt County

Tropical Kingbird: 1, *Manila*, 9-11 Oct (ST, DC, MOB); 1, *North Spit*, 17 Oct (??); 1, *Jacoby Creek*, 17 Oct (CO); 1, *Crescent City*, 17 Oct (JD); 1, *Cannibal Island Rd*, 17 Oct (MW, TL, DC); 3-1-???, *Vance Rd/255*, 18-25 Oct (DC, LT, TK, RF); 1, *Morgan Rd*, 22 Oct (MW, DC); 1, *Centerville Rd*, 23 Oct (MW, LT, AP, DC); 2, *Port Kenyon Rd*, 2 Nov (DC, MW); 1, *Mad River Rd*, 3 Nov (BH, JH); 1, *King Salmon*, 8-9 Nov (MW); 1, *Ft Humboldt*, 10 Nov (DJ) • **Warbling Vireo:** 1 (late), *Mad River Co Park*, 16-17 Oct (DC, RF) • **Philadelphia Vireo:** 1, *Mad River Co Park*, 16 Oct (DC) • **Clark's Nutcracker:** 1, *Trinidad*, 24 Sep (JK); 1, *Big Hill*, 13 Oct (DC, LT) • **Horned Lark:** 1, *Big Lagoon*, 1-9 Nov (TK); 2, *Bear River Ridge*, 5 Nov (DC, MOB); 2, *Stone Lagoon*, 7 Nov (DC, LT) • **White-breasted Nuthatch:** 2, *Bald Hills Rd*, 30 Sep (DC, LT); 1-4, *Dyerville Loop Rd*, 2-31 Oct (JGa) • **Rock Wren:** 1, *Dyerville Loop Rd*, 21 Sep (DC, PC) • **Bewick's Wren:** 1, *Redwood Creek*, 30 Sep (DC, LT, RF) • **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** 1, *Elk River Wildlife Area (Sanctuary??)*, 9 Nov (JO) • **NORTHERN WHEATEAR:** 1, *Anchor Bay (Mendo)*, 2-5 Oct (RT) • **Northern Mockingbird:** 1, *North Spit*, 30 Sep (LT, DC); 1, *McKinleyville*, 10 Oct (GL); 1, *Moxon Dairy*, 16 Oct (DC); 2, *Garberville*, 16-19 Oct (JSo); 1, *South Spit*, 17 Oct (DC, TL, MW); 1, *Arcata Bottoms*, 6 Nov (MMA); 1, *Eureka*, 8 Nov (GC); 1, *Eureka*, 9 Nov (CO); 1, *Arcata*, 11 Nov (LT) • **Tennessee Warbler:** 1 (HO), *Shay Park*, 24 Sep (RF, MOB) • **Nashville Warbler:** 1, *McKinleyville*, 1 Oct (RF); 1, *V St Loop*, 7 Nov (RF, DC, RH); 1, *MacKerricher SP*, 23 Oct (KH) • **Yellow Warbler:** 1 (late), *Arcata Oxi Ponds*, 6 Nov (BH) • **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 1, *Cooper Gulch*, 25-26 Sep (TL, TK, GZ); 1, *Janes Creek*, 26 Sep (RF); 1, *Cock Robin Island*, 26 Sep (TK, RH); 1, *Orick Dump*, 29 Sep (KI); 1, *Widow White Creek*, 1 Oct (RF); 1, *Orick*, 7 Oct (KI) • **Magnolia Warbler:** 1, *Crannell Rd*, 25 Sep (KI, DC, LT, MOB) • **Blackburnian Warbler:** 1, *Cooper Gulch*, 25 Sep (TL); 1, *Klamath Glen*, 28 Sep (LB); 1, *Mad River Co Park*, 6 Oct (TK, AM) • **Palm Warbler:** many Humboldt reports of 1-2, *V St, Arcata Marsh, HSU Campus, Centerville, Orick, North Spit, Redwood Creek*, 27 Sep-30 Oct (MOB); 1, *Ten Mile/Ocean Meadows (Mendo)*, 21 Oct (KH) • **Blackpoll Warbler:** 1, *Arcata Marsh*, 25 Sep (RF); 1 (breeding plumage male!), *Widow White Creek*, 30 Sep (DC, LT, RF); 1, *Arcata Marsh*, 11 Oct (RF, ST) • **Black-and-white Warbler:** 1, *Crannell Rd*, 27 Sep (KI) • **American Redstart:** 1, *Cannibal Island Rd*, 14 Oct (DC, LT) • **Northern Waterthrush:** 1, *Arcata Marsh*, 24 Sep-14 Oct (TK, JO, AM, MOB); 1, *Elk River*, 8 Oct

(SM) • **MacGillivray's Warbler:** 1, *Widow White Creek*, 1 Oct (RF) • **Wilson's Warbler:** 1 (late), *V St Loop*, 7 Nov (LT) • **CANADA WARBLER:** 1, *Ft Dick*, 30 Sep-1 Oct (AB) • **American Tree Sparrow:** 1, *Arcata Oxi Ponds*, 26 Oct (LT, DC, RH) • **Brewer's Sparrow:** 1, *Klopp Lake*, 7 Oct (AM, BH, JH) • **Clay-colored Sparrow:** 1, *Arcata Marsh*, 25 Sep (RF, DC, TK, MOB); 1, banded at *HBBO*, 1 Oct (LT); 1, *Kneeland*, 3 Oct (LT, DC) 1-2, *Orick*, 13-16 Oct (KI); 1, *Big Lagoon*, 14 Oct (TK); 1, *School Rd*, 16 Oct (RF) 1, *Trinidad*, 18 Oct (?); 1, *Wages Creek (MEN)*, 27 Oct (KH); 1, *V St Loop*, 29 Oct (KI) 2, *V St Loop*, 6-7 Nov (DC, LT, RH, MOB); 1, *Lanphere Rd*, 9 Nov (RF) • **Vesper Sparrow:** 1, *Bald Hills Rd*, 30 Sep (DC, LT); 1, *Redwood Creek*, 2 Oct (KI) • **Lark Sparrow:** 1, *Humboldt Hill*, 12 Oct (DC); 1, *Redwood Creek*, 7 Nov (DC, LT); • **Grasshopper Sparrow:** 1, *Redwood Creek*, 18 Oct (JA) • **Swamp Sparrow:** 1, *Arcata Marsh*, 3 Oct-7 Nov (JP, DF); 1, *V St Loop*, 10 Oct (LT, DC); 1, *MacKerricher SP*, 23 Oct (KH); 1, *Capetown*, 24 Oct (DC, TL, LT, TK) 1, *Arcata Oxi Ponds*, 6 Nov (BH) • **Harris's Sparrow:** 1, *V St Loop*, 4 Oct (LT) • **White-throated Sparrow:** several reports of 1-2, *Arcata Bottoms, Bridgeville, Ocean Meadows, McKinleyville, Eureka*, 13 Oct-6 Nov (MOB) • **Slate-colored Junco:** 1, *Eureka*, 27 Oct (TL) • **MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR** (1st confirmed County record!); 1, *V St Loop*, 26 Oct-9 Nov (KI, DC, LT, CO) • **Lapland Longspur:** many reports of 1-3, *King Salmon, Humboldt Lagoons, Arcata Bottoms, Centerville*, 6 Oct-11 Nov (MOB); 1, *Mendocino Headlands*, 28 Oct (DT) • **Chestnut-collared Longspur:** 1, *Tolowa Dunes*, 13-18 Oct (TK, AB) • **Blue Grosbeak:** 1, *Arcata Bottoms*, 30 Sep (LT, DC) • **Bobolink:** 1, *Mad River Rd*, 17 Oct (RF) • **Tricolored Blackbird:** 1-3, *Mad River Rd*, 3-16 Oct (LT, DC, TK, BH); 1, *Smith River Bottoms*, 18 Oct (AB); 12, *Ocean Meadows*, 27 Oct (KH) • **Yellow-headed Blackbird:** 1, *Ocean Meadows*, 7 Oct (KH); 2, *Mad River Rd*, 16 Oct (TK, BH); 3, *Ferndale Bottoms*, 1 Nov (DC, RH) • **Cassin's Finch:** 1, *Big Hill*, 13 Oct (DC, LT) • **Evening Grosbeak:** 36, *Orick*, 7 Oct (KI); 1-2, *McKinleyville*, 23 Oct (RF).



Brewer's Sparrow, © Jared Hughey
Klopp Lake, Arcata, Humboldt County

Please remember to report unusual birds to the Arcata Bird Alert! (707) 822-LOON. Thanks to all who have submitted sightings!

Cited Observers: Jeff Allen, Alan Barron, Gary Bloomfield, Lucas Brug, Daniel Bylin, Joe Ceriani, Phil Chaon, Greg Chapman, Daryl Coldren, Jeff Davis, David Fix, Rob Fowler, Karen Havlena, Rob Hewitt, Brendon Higgins, Jared Hughey, Ken Irwin, David Juliano, Jeremy Kimm, Tony Kurz, Will Lawton, Tom Leskiw, Gary Lester, Paul Lohse, Mark Magnuson (MMA), Michael Morris (MMo), Sean McAllister, Annie Meyer, Chet Ogan, John Oliver, Amy Patten, Jude Power, Diane Rose, Jesse Sargent, Keith Slauson, Jay Sooter (JSo), Gary Stacey, Scott Terrill, Dorothy "Toby" Tobkin, Amber Transou, Rich Trissel, Leslie Tucci, Ben Vernasco, Matt Wachs, George Ziminsky.