

## **RRAS Volunteer “Blurb” Quiz**

*How much do YOU know about your fellow RRAS volunteers? Try to match the volunteer statement (letters A-W) to the name of who said it (numbers 1-23.)*

1. Adam Brown
2. Chet Ogan
3. Cindy Moyer
4. Daryl Coldren
5. Debbie Marshall
6. Gary Falxa
7. Gary Lester
8. Gil Saliba
9. Jan Andersen
10. Jay Sooter
11. Jim Clark
12. Josée Rousseau
13. Jude Power
14. Judie Norton
15. Kate McClain
16. Lew Norton
17. Marika Benko
18. Moe Morrissette
19. Pat Bitton
20. Rob Fowler
21. Sue Leskiw
22. Syn-dee Noel
23. Tom Leskiw

A. I have enjoyed volunteering in the cafe during Godwit Days.

B. I moved here 10 years ago not really knowing anybody, and soon after, I was invited to join the board. I think word had gotten out that I was an Audubon board member down in the Bay Area. I began meeting people immediately and making friends. It's been a great way to meet people who, like me, care about the environment and want to do what we can to protect habitat for birds and wildlife. And to feel an integral part of the community.

C. Since we started doing the membership work in 2007, we have helped trying to keep the US Post Office solvent by mailing well over 2000 letters. That's a lot of envelope stuffing!

D. Without volunteers, there would not be any RRAS. Volunteers are the bones, the vision, the heart of RRAS. Thanks to all of you!!

E. For over 25 years I've led the traditional Tufted Puffin Walk at Elkhead (unfortunately there are no longer puffins breeding offshore & it's now the seabird walk). I enjoy sharing

Elkhead and take pleasure pointing out the black crowberry population I found in 1974 (only Humboldt Co population & southern most location known), I also enjoy explaining the historical and current seabird populations breeding on the offshore rocks, historic bird rarities found along the trail (including my first Humboldt Co. record) and the location of where my wife & I were married 26 years ago!

F. My greatest contribution to the Chapter is the fact that I am a general pain in the neck at the Board meetings. I happily cause all kinds of conflicts to make the meetings more interesting!

G. My favorite volunteer task with RRAS is the Student Bird Art Contest. It's fun to see the winning kids, spiffed up in their best clothes, walk up on stage to audience applause. It's gratifying to witness the improvement of renditions by students who enter every year. And I always enjoy seeing kids, parents in tow, search the halls of the Community Center for their entry and proudly say, "I drew that" (to which the parents often respond, "And yours is better than the winners!")

H. Board Member 2007-2012. Co-chair Membership: assists Lew in all that writing, stuffing, stamping, and sealing of over 2,000 (and still counting) letters!

I. The thing I love most about leading tours is getting new people excited about bird watching, natural history, science and learning... especially the youngsters!

J. I am so grateful to RRAS for all the free education they provide in field trips and meetings. Volunteering is one way of paying a small part of that back.

K. I find leading bird walks for kids, such as the City of Arcata summer camp that FOAM and RRAS help support, to be as challenging as they are rewarding. For many kids, it's the first time they've tried to locate a moving bird with their bins, which can be frustrating. George Ziminsky, David Fix, Chet Ogan, and others who have co-led these trips with me share my enthusiasm for getting the kids scope views of birds. Challenging? Of course. But to see the look in their eyes and the ""Wow Moment"" that unfolds when they see an adult male hummer's gorget up close in bright sunlight...

Humboldt's inland areas receive scant birding coverage during the nonbreeding seasons. I'd long wanted to lead an overnight trip to Orleans, which came to fruition this past May. Hope Woodward of the Forest Service was instrumental in getting us access to Coates Vineyard. Following the sighting of a Gray Flycatcher and a Black-throated Sparrow, our host Robin Coates improved upon the indelible moment by treating us to their organic wine and sharing with us aspects of the organic wine-making process. Little could we have foreseen that we'd find two more Black-throated Sparrows the following day at the mouth of Camp Creek.

L. (A Haiku) Big Night  
Sleeping in Rob's Pathfinder  
In the rain  
Mosquitoes pressed to the windows

M. I like leading field trips because I want to teach people that our birds are not really ours. They belong to other states or countries when they're not in Humboldt Co. I think the idea that it is not only important to provide habitat for birds here, but also to advocate for preserving it in other countries, is really important. I also simply love teaching people that they CAN be a birder! It is so satisfying to watch someone slowly learn to identify Song Sparrows and Golden-crowned Sparrows and Myrtle Warblers -- the most common birds are as special as the rarities, and getting to know them strengthens one's connection to the natural world.

N. For RRAS I compile the Field Notes for the Sandpiper, lead trips, and compile the Arcata Christmas Bird Count. I enjoy volunteering for RRAS because of the friendly and open birding community we have here on the north coast.

O. First specific bird call noted: Red-breasted Nuthatch, Kern Canyon, 1954  
Started Birding: Lewis Creek Rock Crusher ponds, 1962  
First really cool backyard bird: White-tailed Kite, Tulare County 1964  
Charter member Tulare County Audubon  
Four-time RRAS Chapter President  
Rarest bird seen: California Condor, Blue Ridge, Tulare County 1985

P. Here is a statement of admiration and respect for the people within our Audubon Society...a smile on their face, a can-do in their way and love in their style. I'm humbled to be involved with RRAS.

Q. I serve as the liaison to the Trinity River Restoration Program, a position that has allowed me to better understand the politics of water and the science of river restoration, to meet individuals with a real dedication to our environment, and to participate in a program most unique in the natural restoration world. I appreciate the opportunity and hope that my reporting keeps key members of Audubon up to date on the program.

R. I help with Godwit Cafe. Probably wearing those aprons is funny enough.

S. I think it's important to donate volunteer time to RRAS in the form of being the field trip coordinator, trip leader, board member, etc, because it's the only local nonprofit organization locally that focuses on birds and bird conservation. I feel it's my obligation to help promote the enjoyment of birds, birding, and bird conservation and find great satisfaction in being a part of Redwood Region Audubon in this way.

T. I can't put a date on it. It was probably a dozen years ago that I saw a bobcat on Mt Trashmore near the pines next to Hauser Marsh. I have seen gray foxes and fox sign, a short-tailed weasel hung out near the E Clampus Vitae sign. Mallard ducklings disappearing feet first, then seeing an otter with a meal. The bear tracks last year were memorable. I think the most fun I have had was when a British birder was on the walk and we spent the rest of the day birding all over areas near Humboldt Bay finding him new birds.

U. I enjoy leading the Saturday morning walks at Arcata Marsh, especially with new birders and visitors or new residents of the area. It's not so long since I was a beginner myself, so I think I can relate well to newcomers to birding, passing on little tricks I've learned to help others increase their knowledge. It's always my goal to make birding fun and accessible to anyone, and I hope that comes across.

V. My volunteer experience for the RRAS (so far) consists of creating the new website. It was great. I primarily worked with Sue Leskiw and she was fantastic. Everyone else I've interacted with at the RRAS has been very friendly and helpful.

W. My RRAS anecdote would be a memorable field trip to Grouse Mtn a couple summers ago -- probably one of (if not the only) where we had to call 911 to evacuate a participant who was diabetic and brought no food and only 1 pint of water on a day hike (despite instructions). Needless to say, he didn't advise us of his health conditions. His cramps got the better of him. Carol and CJ were also there. Quite memorable... It was dark by the time we hiked out, contacted 911, and the FS, Hoopa and Willow Creek responders got there in full regalia (including stretchers, chain saws to widen trail for stretchers). The man (surprised it was a male?) was carried out about a mile uphill in the dark. To add to the situation, a road we'd planned to connect with during the hike had been closed and decommissioned by the USFS. They'd done such a good job of closing it that we hiked right past the former road and kept on trucking downhill...and had to hike all the way back up!