

Field Notes
by Stanley W. Harris
25 October-25 November 2000

A normal, rather quiet month, made rather boring by the continued unavailability of the Arcata Bird Box. Please call your observations to me at (707) 822-3802 if you want them included in the next Field Notes edition. Abbreviations used: **AB = Arcata Bottoms; AMP = Arcata Marsh Project; AOP = Arcata Oxidation Pond; BSLP = Butcher Slough Log Pond; EM= Expected Migrant; ERWA = Eel River Wildlife Area; FR = Few Records; FSWA = Fay Slough Wildlife Area; GW = Gee Whiz Report; HBNWR = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; ID = Interesting Date; IIT = Interesting, If True; IL = Interesting Location; IN= Interesting Numbers; MKSP = Mackerricher State Park; MRWA = Mad River Wildlife Area; MS = Monitored Species; mo = Many Observers; NC = Not Confirmed; ND = No Details; WR = Wedding Rock.**

HIGHLIGHTS: CATTLE EGRET (MS): 1-3, AB (Old Samoa Blvd), 8-21 Nov (JT, EE, SH, MiH, CW, MV):
WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (FR): 1 juv. AB, 1 Nov (KR, SP, PS): **LESSER SNOW GOOSE (FR):** 1-2 white, 1 blue, HBNWR, 26 Oct-14 Nov (ED, JP, DF, MM); 1, AB, 12 Nov (RH, ST): **DUSKY CANADA GOOSE (FR):** 1, AB, 24-25 Oct (PS): **EURASIAN GREEN-WINGED TEAL (FR):** 1 female, BSLP, 26 Oct (SH):
HARLEQUIN DUCK (FR, IN): 1-2, King Salmon, 31 Oct-18 Nov (MW, TL, SL): x, Glass Beach, 21 Oct-21 Nov (20 counted on 21 Oct!) (DT): **BLACK SCOTER (FR):** 1-2, Elk Head, 4-12 Nov (RH, ST, MH): **LONG-TAILED DUCK (FR):** 2, mouth Klamath River, 10 Nov (EE, JT); 1-3, King Salmon, 10-20 Nov (MW); 1, North Jetty, 12 Nov (RH, ST): **HOODED MERGANSER (FR):** 2 females, Lake Talawa, 10 Nov (EE, JT): **BALD EAGLE (MS):** 1 imm. Mail Ridge, 12 Nov (JG); 1 imm., Klamath, 18 Nov (DFx); 1 ad, Highway 96 and Dillon Creek, near Happy Camp, 21 Nov (RK, fide TL); 1, mouth Willow Creek, 24 Nov (TL): **HARLAN'S HAWK (FR, ND, NC):** 1, Round Valley, 7 Nov (EE, JT): **FERRUGINOUS HAWK (FR):** 8 records of 1-2 from Azalea Hill, AB, Tompkins Hill, Ten Mile River and Bald Hill near Ft. Bragg, Round Valley/Covelo, 25 Oct-21 Nov (mo): **GOLDEN EAGLE (FR):** 2, five miles south Horse Mtn, 24 Oct (TL): **RING-NECKED PHEASANT (FR):** 1, Hookton Slough Wildlife Loop, 29 Oct (LC, DW): **COMMON MOORHEN (FR):** 1, Pudding Creek, 22 Oct-21 Nov (DT):
SANDHILL CRANE (GW, IN, NC, ND, IIT): 200±, in flight over South Fork, Trinity River, 15 Oct (JL, fide TL) (could these have been Aleutian Canada Geese which were migrating through the area in large numbers at the same time?): **SNOWY PLOVER (IN):** 42, Ten Mile Beach, 17 Nov (DT): **ROCK SANDPIPER (FR):** 1, on rocks at King Salmon, 1-14 Nov (MW); 1-4, North Jetty, 4-22 Nov, (MW, DF, JP, T&SL); 1, Crescent City Harbor, 4 Nov (JG); 1-3, MKSP, 30 Oct-21 Nov (DT): **GLAUCOUS GULL (FR):** 1-3 (first year), WR, 22 Oct-8 Nov (KI):
SABINE'S GULL (FR): 1 seen off MKSP, 28 Oct (DT): **PIGEON GUILLEMOT (ID):** 2, MKSP, 30 Oct (DT): **BARRED OWL (FR):** 1 Fieldbrook, 19 Oct (DB): **BURROWING OWL (FR):** 1, Eureka (Washington St), 25 Nov (MW): **LEWIS'S WOODPECKER (FR):** 1, near Covelo, 7 Nov (EE, JT): **NUTTALL'S WOODPECKER (FR):** 4, 6 miles east Covelo, 7 Nov (EE, JT): **SAY'S PHOEBE (FR):** 2, Round Valley, 7 Nov (JT, EE): **TROPICAL KINGBIRD (FR):** 1, AB (Lanphere Road), 2-9 Nov (mo); 1, Fairhaven, 21 Oct (KI); 2, Crescent City, 3-4 Nov (JG, RH, ST): **HORNED LARK (FR):** 1, near Glass Beach, 26 Oct (DT): **CANYON WREN (FR):** 2, Etsel Ridge Campground, 7 Nov (EE, JT): **MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD (FR):** 6(!), Bald Hill near Ft. Bragg, 16 Nov (DT):
BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER (FR): 1 imm female!, Pt. St. George, 4 Nov (AB): **AMERICAN TREE SPARROW (FR):** 1, ERWA, 31 Oct (MM); 1, AOP, 17 Nov (SH): **CHIPPING SPARROW** 1, Bayside, 26-27 Oct (DFx, JP): **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (FR):** 1, Ft. Bragg, 28 Oct (DT): **LARK SPARROW (IL):** 1, Bayside, 14 Nov (DF): **FOX SPARROW (EASTERN, RED TYPE, FR):** 1, Etsel Ridge, 7 Nov (EE, JT): **LAPLAND LONGSPUR (FR):** 2, Crannell Road, 22 Oct (KI); 1, MKSP, 30 Oct (DT): **SWAMP SPARROW (FR):** 1, AOP, 26 Oct (SH): **SNOW BUNTING (FR):** 1, WR, 10 Nov (KI): **BOBOLINK (FR):** 2, Hookton Road, 4 Nov (SMc): **TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD (IN):** 200 (!), Bald Hill, near Ft. Bragg, 29 Oct (DT):

STATISTICAL SECTION: **RED-THROATED LOON** (EM): 40 in 2.5 hours, WR, 27 Oct (KI): **RED-NECKED GREBE** (EM): 1, King Salmon, 1-18 Nov (MW): **EARED GREBE** (EM): 1-3, AOP/AMP, 14-22 Nov (CW, MV, SH): **NORTHERN FULMAR** (EM): 35, North Jetty, 12 Nov (RH, ST); 2-10, 24 Oct-14 Nov, seen from shore, Northern Mendo. County, (DT): **AMERICAN BITTERN** (FR): 1, MRWA, 11 Nov (GB): 1, AMP, 23 Oct (ArB): **SNOWY EGRET** (IN): 12, Hookton Slough, 29 Oct (LC, DW); 30-35, fishing in Klopp Lake, 6-22 Nov (SH): **ROSS'S GOOSE** (FR): 1, AB, 24 Oct-14 Nov (mo): **ALEUTIAN CANADA GOOSE** (EM): 5 reports of 60-92, AMP/AB, 26 Oct-8 Nov (SH, EE, JT, KR, SP, PS): **CAACKLING CANADA GOOSE** (FR): 4-5, AB, 24 Oct -1 Nov (PS); 2-3, Pudding Creek, 21 Oct-21 Nov (DT): **TUNDRA SWAN** (EM): 1, AB, 1 Nov (KR); 2, HBNWR, 5 Nov (DR, JP): **BLUE-WINGED TEAL** (FR): 1 male or 1 pair, BSLP, 31 Oct-20 Nov (mo): **CANVASBACK** (EM): 1-2 Klopp Lake, 17, 20 Nov (SH): **RING-NECKED DUCK** (EM): 1-30, BSLP, Hauser Marsh, 26 Oct-20 Nov (mo): **SURF SCOTER** (IN): 1450, fly past North Jetty in 70 minutes, at the same time only 3 White-winged Scoters were seen, 4 Nov (MW): **COMMON GOLDENEYE** (EM,IL): 4, AOP, 27 Oct (SH); 3-9, King Salmon, 12-17 Nov (MW): **WHITE-TAILED KITE** (IN, IL): 17-32, FSWA, 29 Oct-9 Nov (CO); 23-30, MRWA, 8-11 Nov (GB, EE, JT); 2, Briceland, 1 Nov (NW); 2, Round Valley, 7 Nov (EE, JT): **ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK** (IN): 14 reports of 1-5 from AB, MRWA, Jacoby Creek Bottoms, Manila, FSWA, College of the Redwoods, HBNWR, 23 Oct-18 Nov (mo): **MERLIN** (MS): 8 reports of singles from AB, AMP, Manila, FSWA, King Salmon, Etsel Ridge, 1-25 Nov (mo): **PEREGRINE FALCON** (MS): 8 reports of 1-2 from WR, AB, AMP, South Humboldt Bay, Catfish Lake (where seen chasing Gray Jays!), 27 Oct-22 Nov (mo): **AMERICAN AVOCET** (IL): 2, Lanphere Road, 5 Nov (PS): **LONG-BILLED CURLEW** (IN): 28, Klopp Lake Island, 7 Nov (SH): **RED PHALAROPE** (EM): 340 passed by WR in 4 hours, 25 Oct, but only 32 in 2.5 hours on 27 Oct (KI): **PARASITIC JAEGER** (ID): 1, off MKSP, 28 Oct (DT): Gull migration peaked at 400-1000 per hour, 8-10 Nov; these were about 50 percent Glaucous-winged, 30 percent Western, 8 percent California, 2 percent Herring, and 10 percent unidentified or minor species (all Wedding Rock KI): **HEERMANN'S GULL** (ID): 43, WR, 8 Nov (KI): **CASPIAN TERN** (ID): 3, Hookton Slough, 12 Nov (JP, DF): **FORSTER'S TERN** (EL): 10-34, AMP, 22 Oct-20 Nov (SH): **SHORT-EARED OWL** (IN): 12, MRWA, 8-11 Nov (JT, EE, GB); 9, FSWA, 9 Nov (CO): **RUFOUS/ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD** (ID): 1-2 as late as 16 Nov, Ft. Bragg (DT): **PILEATED WOODPECKER** (FR): 1, Kneeland, 24 Oct (BB): **GRAY JAY** (MS): 6 reports of 1-8 from Fieldbrook, Azalea Hill, Arcata, Catfish Lake, 24 Oct-21 Nov (LL, GL, CW, MiM, RG, MW): **MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE** (IL): 5 reports of 1-2 from Patricks Point, Elk Head, AMP, 3-18 Nov (KI, DL): **BUSHTIT** (FR): 20, Scotia, 18 Nov (GB): **NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD** (FR): 1, Eureka, 5, 20 Nov (CO, GL); 1, Arcata Airport, 14 Nov (GS): **YELLOW WARBLER** (ID): 1, Arcata, 20 Nov (GB): **HERMIT WARBLER** (ID): 1, Bayside, 12 Nov (JP, DF, JT): **PALM WARBLER** (EM): 5 reports of 1-3 from AMP, HBNWR, 23 Oct-12 Nov (BMcI, JP, DF, MS): **COMMON YELLOWTHROAT** (ID): 1 ad male, HBNWR, 5 Nov (DF, JP): **WHITE-THROATED SPARROW** (EM): 12 reports of 1-2 from Fieldbrook, AB, Arcata, AMP, Eureka, 23 Oct-20 Nov (mo): **EVENING GROSBEAK** (FR): 2, Azalea Hill, 25 Oct (GL); 5, Patrick's Point, 27 Oct (KI).

Many thanks to the following who shared their observations with us this month: Don Baldwin, Art Barab, Alan Barron, Glen Beshears, Gary Bloomfield, Heather Brown, Barbara Burek, Bryon Cariss, Lina Carro, Mark Colwell, Elaine David, Duke Diehl, Joe Dobbs, Elias Elias, David Fix, John Gaffin, Joe Gartland, Rocky Gutierrez, Melody Hamilton, Mike Harris, Stan Harris, Rob Hewitt, Denise Homer, Ken Irwin, Rick Knott, Josh Koepke, Cindy and Guy Kuttner, Jack Lahr, Carol Lawrence, Sue and Tom Leskiw, Gary and Lauren Lester, D. Lottso, Sean McAllister, Bryon McIntosh, Deb Meredith, Mary Meyers, Cerise Mora, Michael Morris, Mildred Mossman, Todd Newberger, Chet Ogan, Steve Pagliughi, Jude Power, Kerry and Megan Ross, Greg Schmidt, Mary Severdea, Paul Springer, Jim Tietz, Dorothy Tobkin, Steve Tucker, Margaret Varga, Heather Verville, Matt Wachs, Catherine Walling, Don Wattenbarger, Kevin Westfall, Nancy Wilson. Keep the reports coming. If, by some miracle, the Arcata Bird Box gets going again someday, you can, as a last resort, trying calling 707 822-5666, leave a message, and hope I can get it off there!

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26 September-21 October 2000

For a month in the middle of fall migration this seemed rather quiet as judged by the relatively few reports received. It is uncertain how much of this is because of the general unavailability of the bird box and how much is real. Birdathon efforts provided a few good records, but all in all, fewer than we expect for this time of year. Migration seems to be progressing normally, we have had, to date, only 2 days with any rain, so the generally dry summer weather still prevails.

Abbreviations used: **AB** = Arcata Bottoms, **AMP** = Arcata Marsh Project; **AOP** = Arcata Oxidation Pond; **BSLP** = Butcher Slough Log Pond; **EM** = expected migrant; **ERWA** = Eel River Wildlife Area; **FR** = few records; **IC** = interesting concentration; **ID** = interesting date; **IL** = interesting location; **IN** = interesting numbers; **MKSP** = MacKerricher State Park; **mo** = Many Observers; **MS** = Monitored Species; **NC** = not confirmed; **ND** = no description;

HIGHLIGHTS

NORTHERN GOSHAWK (FR): 1, Pilot Ridge, 3 Oct (TL); **FERRUGINOUS HAWK (FR, EM)**: 1, Azalea Hill, 30 Sep (GL); 1 ad., Bald Hill, near Ft. Bragg, 2 Oct (DT); 1 subad., AB, 10-15 Oct (KI, SH, DS); 1 ad., AB, 18 Oct (KI); **COMMON MOORHEN (FR)**: 1, Pudding Creek Estuary, Ft. Bragg, 15-21 Oct (DT, JH); **SANDHILL CRANE (FR, NC)**: 1, in flight very high with unknown geese over Etersburg, identification based mainly on voice, 6 Oct (Woods); **GOLDEN-PLOVER SP. (EM, FR)**: 1 with 2-note call, flying over Morgan Slough Road, identification based mainly on voice, 15 Oct (SMc, et al.); **AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER (FR, NC, ND)**: 1, mouth of Elk River, 23 Sep (ST); 1, Klopp Lake, 26 Sep (BMcD); **PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER (FR, NC, ND)**: 1-2, lower Mad River opposite School Road, 26 Sep, 15 Oct (KI); **PACIFIC-SLOPE FLYCATCHER (ID)**: 1, BSLP, 15, 21 Oct (RH, PS, VS, BMcI); **SAY'S PHOEBE (FR)**: 1, lower Van Duzen River, 25 Sep (MW); 1, 1.4 miles north Petrolia, 20 Oct (RH); **TROPICAL KINGBIRD (FR)**: 1, AOP, 12 Oct (SH); **BLUE-HEADED VIREO (FR, NC, ND)**: 1, "horse pasture," Fairhaven, 7 Oct (BMcI); **RED-EYED VIREO (FR)**: 1-2, Orick Dump, 28 Sep (KI, DF); **YELLOW-GREEN VIREO (FR, NC)**: 1, Orick Dump, 28 Sep (KI); **HORNED LARK (FR, IL)**: 2, near Glass Beach, Ft. Bragg, 13 -21 Oct (DT, JH); **WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH (IL, NC, ND)**: 1, Fieldbrook, 6 Oct (RG); **BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (FR)**: 1 (singing), "horse pasture," Fairhaven, 3 Oct (KM); **PRAIRIE WARBLER (FR)**: 1, "horse pasture", Fairhaven, 7-12 Oct (BMcI, KI); **PALM WARBLER (EM)**: 1, Orick Dump, 28 Sep (KI); 2, AB, 22 Oct (MW); 1-3, AMP/AOP, 13-22 Oct (BMcI, PS, VS, SH, TC, CM); 2, Camp Weott Road, 15 Oct (DF, et al.); **BLACKPOLL WARBLER (FR)**: 1, Orick Dump, 28 Sep (KI); **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (FR)**: 1, lower Mad River, 26 Sep (KI); **ORCHARD ORIOLE (FR, NC, ND)**: 1, BSLP, 2 Oct (DM).

STATISTICAL SECTION

RED-NECKED GREBE (EM, ED): 1-2, King Salmon, 10-16 Oct (mo); 5, lower Mad River, 15 Oct (KI); **NORTHERN FULMAR (IL)**: 1 (sick?), floating in entrance channel with incoming tide, North Jetty, 15 Oct (SH, DS); **DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT (IN)**: Concentration of at least 1000 in a low tide channel just west of AMP, feeding with 30 Great Egrets and 10+ Brown Pelicans on a trapped school of fish, 10 Oct (SH); **AMERICAN BITTERN (FR, EL)**: 1, AMP, 2-16 Oct (MV, DM, KR, CW); **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (FR)**: 45±, Ft. Bragg, 19 Sep (DT); 3-4, AB, 15-22 Oct (DSh, RH, et al.); **ROSS'S GOOSE (FR)**: 1 adult, AB, 15-22 Oct (mo); **ALEUTIAN CANADA GOOSE (EM)**: Major migration through area, week of 16 Oct (mo); examples: at least 7 flocks of 50-150 each recorded over Azalea Hill, 17-18 Oct (LL); 3 flocks totaling 600+ at AMP 18-19 Oct (SH); 2

flocks (possibly 4, identification by call in fog) at Orick, 19 Oct (KI): **CAACKLING CANADA GOOSE (IL)**: 2, Lake Cleone, MKSP, 14 Oct (DT): **TUNDRA SWAN (ID)**: 2 in flight over Eureka, 2 Oct (CO); 1, AB, 14-22 Oct (this is probably the cripple that has been there for 2+ years) (MW): **BLUE-WINGED TEAL (EL)**: 1 molting male, Pudding Creek estuary/Virgin Creek, 26 Sep-5 Oct (DT); 1 male, BSLP, 8-21 Oct (SH, P&VS, et al.); 1 female, BSLP, 12 Oct (SH); 1 female, AOP, 22 Oct (LG, et al.): **CANVASBACK (FR, EM)**: 1 female, AOP, 12-13 Oct (SH): **REDHEAD (FR, EM)**: 6, South Bay, 16 Oct (DF, et al.): **RING-NECKED DUCK (EL)**: numbers at BSLP peaked at 50-60, week of 16 Oct, feeding on Sago Pondweed along with numbers of Coots, Cinnamon Teal, Gadwalls, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Mallards, and a few Scaup: **GREATER SCAUP (EM)**: sudden increase of new migrants at AOP from only 2 seen all summer to 80 on 12-13 Oct (SH): **SURF SCOTER (EM)**: major early A.M. migration past Table Bluff (400 in 40 minutes, DF, et al.) and North Jetty (600+ in 1 hour, SH, et al.), with many long strings still migrating in evening (MW), all 15 Oct.

Lots of Harlequins at Glass Beach!

HARLEQUIN DUCK (FR, IN): 4, False Klamath Cove to Enderts Beach, 24 Sep (MM); 1-2 females, King Salmon, 4-15 Oct (MM, SMC, DF, et al.); 3-21 (8 males), Glass Beach, Ft. Bragg, 18-21 Oct (JH, DT): **HOODED MERGANSER (FR)**: 2 female plumage, AOP, 12-14 Oct (SH, BD): **RED-BREASTED MERGANSER (EM)**: 2, lower Mad River, 15 Oct (KI); 10, King Salmon, 16 Oct (SH, DS): **OSPREY (ID)**: 1, Eureka Channel, 1, lower Mad River, both 15 Oct (SH, DS): **AGAIN, ANOTHER MONTH WITH NO (!) BALD EAGLE REPORTS (!)**: **ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK (ID)**: 1, Schoolhouse Peak, 4 Oct (KS); 1 AB, 22 Oct (ST, MW): **MERLIN (MS)**: 8 reports from Big Lagoon, AOP, AMP, Eureka, King Salmon, 25 Sep-22 Oct (mo): **PEREGRINE FALCON (MS)**: 15 reports from Freshwater Lagoon, Trinidad Head, AMP, AOP, North Humboldt Bay, Fernbridge, 25 Sep-22 Oct (mo).

SEMPALMATED PLOVER (IN): 30, Manila Beach, 11 Oct (HB): **AMERICAN AVOCET (IL)**: 12-24, ERWA, 6-7 Oct (KI); 105, Hookton Overflow Pond, Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge, 16 Oct (SH): **LESSER YELLOWLEGS (EM)**: 1, lower Mad River, 15 Oct (KI): **LONG-BILLED CURLEW (IN)**: 15, mouth Jacoby Creek, 23 Sep (KI): **RED KNOT (IN)**: 10, mouth Jacoby Creek, 23 Sep (KI): **SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER (FR)**: 1, ERWA, 6 Oct (KI): **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER (ID)**: 1, MKSP, 20 Sep, 9 Oct (DT); 1, opposite School Road, lower Mad River, 26 Sep-15 Oct (KI); 1, ERWA, 25 Sep (KI): **PECTORAL SANDPIPER (FR)**: 1, Glass Beach, Ft. Bragg, 20 Sep, 9 Oct (DT); 5, ERWA, 25 Sep; 1-19, lower Mad River, 26 Sep-15 Oct; 9, AB, 15 Oct (all KI).

Last of the Sandpipers arrives

DUNLIN (IL): 11, Virgin Creek Beach, Ft. Bragg, 21 Oct (JH, DT): **RED-NECKED PHALAROPE (ID)**: 1, Vigo Street Marsh, 13-16 Oct (RC, JS, SH, DS); 1, Ferndale Oxidation Pond, 15 Oct (DF, et al.): **PARASITIC JAEGER (EM)**: 1, North Jetty, 1 Oct (RH); 2, King Salmon, 9 Oct (MM): **POMARINE JAEGER (IL)**: 1, MKSP, 23 Sep (DT): **HEERMANN'S GULL (IN)**: 20 migrating past Wedding Rock during a 2-hr. seawatch, 20 Oct (KI): **MEW GULL (EM)**: 3, Wedding Rock, 20 Oct (KI): **CALIFORNIA GULL (EM)**: 16 passed by Wedding Rock in 2 hours, 20 Oct (KI): **HERRING GULL (FR)**: 3-4, Wedding Rock, 20 Oct (KI): **THAYER'S GULL (FR)**: 1 (first year), MKSP, 14 Oct (DT); 2 adults, Wedding Rock, 20 Oct (KI): **GLAUCOUS GULL (FR)**: 1 (first winter), Wedding Rock, 20 Oct (KI): **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (IL)**: 1 (first year), offshore Todds Pt., Ft. Bragg, 23 Sep (DT): **COMMON TERN (FR)**: 3, offshore, Todd's Pt, 23 Sep (DT): **FORSTER'S TERN (EM)**: 1, Bayshore Mall Channel, 20 Sep-3 Oct (TL); 1-11, AMP, 10-22 Oct (SH, TC): **PIGEON GUILLEMOT (ID)**: 4, False Klamath Cove to Enderts Beach, 24 Sep (MM): **MARbled MURRELET (MS)**: 2, offshore, Westport, 22 Sep (DT); 36, False Klamath Cove to Enderts Beach, 24 Sep (MM); 16, False Klamath Cove to mouth, Klamath River, 25 Sep (MM): **RUFOUS/ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD (ID)**: 2 (at least), Ft. Bragg Botanical Gardens, 17

Oct (DT): **GRAY JAY (IL)**: 2, Sunnybrae, 1-18 Oct (MiM, SH); 7, Patricks Point State Park, 11 Oct (GL); 2, Azalea Hill, 12 Oct (GL, LL): **MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE (IL)**: 1, Orick Dump, 28 Sep (DF): **NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD (FR)**: 1, near mouth Van Duzen River, 4 Oct (RH); 1, AB. 22 Oct (MW): **AMERICAN PIPIT (EM)**: 100 flyover, Fairhaven, 30 Sep (KI): **OUTSTANDING BLACKBERRY CROP THIS YEAR, MUCH APPRECIATED BY CEDAR WAXWINGS, STARLINGS, VARIOUS SPARROWS, ETC. EXAMPLE: 220-250 Cedar Waxwings at AMP, 5-10 Oct (mo); 100+, Aldergrove Pond, 6 Oct (SH): NASHVILLE WARBLER (ID)**: 1, "Horse Pasture," Fairhaven, 15 Oct (MW): **YELLOW WARBLER (ID)**: 1, Ferndale Bottoms, 15 Oct (DF, et al.); 1, AOP, 15 Oct (SH, DS): **BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER (IC)**: 20-30, Orick Dump, 28 Sep (KI): **TOWNSEND'S WARBLER (IC)**: 20-60, Orick Dump, 28 Sep (KI, DF); 12-20, Orick Dump, 13 Oct (KI): **WESTERN TANAGER (IN, ID)**: 12, Orick Dump, 29 Sep (DF).

White-throateds arriving

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW (EM): 4 reports from Azalea Hill, North Spit, Van Duzen x Eel River, 3-18 Oct (G&LL, RH, SH): **SLATE-COLORED JUNCO (EM)**: 1, Azalea Hill, 19-21 Oct (G&LL): **LAPLAND LONGSPUR (EM)**: 1-4, Fairhaven, 12 Oct (KI); 1, near Glass Beach, 20 Oct (DT): **BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK (ID)**: 1 imm. male, Mad River at Highway 299, mid Sep (SG): **EVENING GROSBEAK (FR)**: 2, Trinidad, 5 Oct (GL); 8 near Trinidad, 6 Oct (KI); 40, Tompkins Hill, 5 Oct (MW): **AND LAST, BUT NOT LEAST, A "MYSTERY BIRD" SEEN AT AMP BEGINNING 16 OCT** (BMcD, MS, MD, AF) resembling a blackbird with orange cheek patches and a crest, is now thought to be a diseased immature male Red-winged Blackbird with cancerous-like growths on the cheeks and under the crown skin.

In the Gee Whiz, Wow, category we have the following from DC--a **GREEN STURGEON** seen porpoising in Arcata Channel past the old Wharf Ruins on 1 Oct! Also the sight of a Humpbacked Whale seen breaching from the beach, 23 Sep near Ft. Bragg must have been fun (DT).

Many thank to the following who shared observations with us this month: Louise Bacon-Ogden, Alice Baird, Heather Brown, Susie Bulger, Tom Cockle, David Couch, Ruth Crane, Mike Day, Bruce Deuel, Elias Elias, Annie Feldman, David Fix, Luke George, Sam Giannandrea, Rocky Gutierrez, Stan Harris, Robert Hewitt, Denise Homer, John Hunter, Ken Irwin, Alan Laurent, Dick Laursen, Tom Leskiw, Gary and Lauren Lester, Scott Mateu, Sean McAllister, Brooke McDonald, Bryon McIntosh, Tim Meehan, Cara Millsap, Karley Moore, Michael Morris, Mildred Mossman, Derek Muschalek, Todd Newburger, Chet Ogan, Jude Power, Kerry Ross, Daniell Saylor, Kristin Schmidt, Mary Severdia, Don Shuford, Jay Sooter, Paul and Virginia Springer, Wendi Steffen, Don Stoecker, Robert Sutherland ("Woods"), Dorothy Tobkin, Amber Transou, Steve Tucker, Margaret Varga, Catherine Walling, Margaret Widdowson.

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Fall migration is in full swing, most swallows are long gone, usual fall migrant waterbirds, warblers, and sparrows are arriving: **EXAMPLES: GREEN-WINGED TEAL** increased at AOP/AMP from 1-5 on 1-2 Sept to 30-40 by 5 Sept, to 60 by 9 Sept and 150 by 15 Sept: **SHOVELERS** at AOP increased from 5 in late Aug to 150 by 1 Sep: **COOTS** increased from 1-5 on 1-2 Sept to 25 by 10 Sept and 200 by 21 Sept: **AVOCETS** increased from 4 on 2 Sept to 100 by 7 Sept and 141 (actual count) on 8 Sept. By the end of the period only a few barn swallows with the odd "white-bellied" were still around. By early Sept a veritable avalanche of **YELLOW WARBLERS** and **COMMON YELLOWTHROATS** had invaded the area (30 Yellow Warblers seen at AOP/AMP on 7 Sept (DF): Just think what we might have recorded if the Bird Box had been up and running 100 percent!

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HIGHLIGHTS

LAYSAN ALBATROSS (FR): 1, 37 miles west TDAD, 25 Aug (PR): **FORK-TAILED STORM-PETREL (FR):** 6, 37 miles west TDAD, 25 Aug (PR); 8-10, 12-17 miles west Eel River, 10 Sep (SH, MJ, et al.): **LEACH'S STORM-PETREL (FR):** 100, 37 miles west TDAD, 25 Aug (PR): **ASHY STORM-PETREL (FR):** 10 ±, 12-17 miles west Eel River, 10 Sep (SH, MJ, et al.): **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (EM):** 175 ±, overhead, AMP, 21 Sep (SH): **LESSER SNOW GOOSE (FR):** 1, Hookton Road, 3 Sep (DF, JP): **HARLEQUIN DUCK(FR):** 3, MKSP, from last winter through 17 Sep (DT); 4, vic. Crescent City, 12 Sep (MM):.

Where are the Eagles?

BALD EAGLE (MS): ?? NO REPORTS !! DID YOU GUYS NOT SEE ANY OR JUST NOT REPORT THEM? (first time in many months we haven't had **some** reports): **PRAIRIE FALCON (FR):** 1, Caribou Basin, 9-16 Sep (EE, BC): **PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER (FR):** 1, MRCP, 13 Sep (KI); 1, Fairhaven (flyover), 14 Sep (KI); 1, ERWA, 16 Sep (KN, GG): **WANDERING TATTLER (IL):** 1, well described, 7 miles up South Fork, Trinity River from Highway 299, 9 Sep (MW); 1, MRCP, 21 Sep (MW, TL): **SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER (FR):** 1, mouth Elk River, 16 Aug (KI- update): **LEAST SANDPIPER (IL):** 15, Caribou Basin flyover, 9-16 Sep (EE, BC): **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER (EM):** 2-5, mouth Mad River, 14 Aug-10 Sep (KI); 1, ERWA, 3 Sep (DF, JP); 1-2, Glass Beach, Ft. Bragg, 7-13 Sep (DT); 1, MKSP, 14 Sep (DT): **PECTORAL SANDPIPER (FR):** 4-6 feeding/resting on *Azolla* mat, Allen Marsh, AMP, 1-2 Sep (mo); 6-9 overhead, Klopp Lake/AOP, 2-7 Sep (SH, DF); 2, ERWA, 3 Sep (DF, JP); 1, MKSP, 7-9 Sep (DT); 1 Ten Mile River, 14 Sep (DT): **SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER (FR):** 1-2, ERWA, 16-17 Sep (KN, GG): **RUFF (FR):** 1 imm., Camp Weott Road, 30 Aug (SMc); 3 (2 males), Smith River Bottoms, 4-5 Sep (RH, ST, AB, CD, photos); 1 male, Klopp Lake, 23 Sep (EE, et al.).

The prettiest gull

SABINE'S GULL (IN): x, 18 miles west Ft. Bragg, 3 Sep (PR); 2 (only), 12-16 miles west Eel River, 10 Sep (SH, MJ); 1 imm., on tip of North Jetty, 23 Sep (SH, et al.): **XANTUS'S MURRELET (TYPE):** 2, 18 miles west Ft. Bragg, 3 Sep (PR); 4, 20 miles west Ft. Bragg, 11 Sep (fide DT): **WHITE-WINGED DOVE (NC/ND):** 1, Arcata,

12 Sep (JB): **BURROWING OWL (FR)**: 1, King Salmon, 16 Sep (MW): **WILLOW FLYCATCHER (EM)**: 8 reports (9 birds) from Todd Ranch, Blue Lake Bottoms, AMP, Fairhaven, Fernbridge, 10 Mile River, 28 Aug-23 Sep (mo): **LEAST FLYCATCHER (NC/ND)**: 1 reported caught and banded, 2 miles east Groves Prairie, 22 Sep (BF); **GRAY FLYCATCHER (NC/ND)**: 1 reported caught and banded, near Hayfork, ± 14 Sep (fide EE): **SAY'S PHOEBE (FR)**: 1, Kneeland, 8, 11, 13 Sep (BB): **CASSIN'S KINGBIRD (GW!)**: 1, MKSP, 16 Sep (JW, DT, GC, CV; good description; first Mendocino Co. record, third Northcoast record!); **RED-EYED VIREO (FR)**: 1 (hatch year), caught and banded, Groves Prairie, 13 Sep (BF); 1 (adult with red eye), Freshwater, 14 Sep (B&MW): **BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (IL)**: 1, Airport Willows, Fairhaven, 19-21 Sep (KI, MW, TL).

Fall Warblers

TENNESSEE WARBLER (FR): 1, Horse Pasture, Fairhaven, 16 Sep (KI): **MAGNOLIA WARBLER (FR)**: 1, BSLP, 5 Sep (BMcl): **BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER (FR)**: 1, Hookton Road, 23 Sept (SMc, AT): **PALM WARBLER (EM)**: 1, AOP, 21 Sep (SH): **BLACKPOLL WARBLER (EM)**: 2, Coast Guard Cypress, 10, 18 Sep (TE, JH, KI); 1, Ft. Bragg, 13, 16 Sep (DT); 1, Airport Willows, Fairhaven, 16 Sep (KI): **MOURNING WARBLER (IIT)**: 1, BSLP, 29 Aug (BMcl): **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (FR)**: 1, Hookton Road, 23 Sep (SMc, AT): **BREWER'S SPARROW (FR)**: 1, AOP, 31 Aug (SH): **VESPER SPARROW (FR)**: 10 (!); Pacific Shores, 4 Sep (AB): **LARK SPARROW (IL)**: 1, King Salmon, 14-17 Sep (MW, KN, GG): **LAPLAND LONGSPUR (FR)**: 1, Smith River Bottoms, 4 Sep (AB); 1 (sp?, flyover), Horse Pasture, Fairhaven, 12 Sep (KI): **ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (FR)**: 1 male, Ft. Bragg, 18 Aug (update), (DT); 1 male, Arcata, 2 Sep (K&MR, S&MaM): **INDIGO BUNTING (FR)**: 1 female, BSLP, 15 Sep (SH): **PAINTED BUNTING (GW!)**: 1 female, Airport Willows, Fairhaven, 10 Sep (TE, JH, green back seen, bunting chip heard):

More Usual Things

Offshore, "normal" numbers of **Black-footed Albatrosses, Pink-footed and Sooty Shearwaters** were seen in early Sept, but fewer than expected numbers of **Northern Fulmars and Buller's Shearwaters** and many fewer **Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers, Marbled Murrelets, and Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets** than normal. "Good" to more than normal numbers of **Brown Pelicans**, with a lower percentage of adults than expected, (EXAMPLE= only 8 adults in a flock of 40 at AMP, 21 Sep, evidence of better than normal nest success?) Fewer **Western Canada Geese** than in the recent past, evidence of poor nest success and excessive hunting mortality? **GREEN HERON (FR)**: 1, Salt River, 16 Aug (BS); 1, lower Eel River, 16 Aug (BS); 1, Butcher Slough, 6 Sep (MV, CW): **NORTHERN PINTAIL (EM)**: 30, flyover AOP, 31 Aug (SH); 30, flying south 6 miles offshore, Table Bluff, 10 Sep (SH): **RING-NECKED DUCK (EM)**: 11, BSLP, 24 Sep (SH, MW): **WHITE-WINGED SCOTER (IN)**: 1 (only), Humboldt Bay entrance, 10 Sep (MJ, SH, et al.); **COMMON MERGANSER (IL)**: 1 subadult male, Gannon Slough/Butcher Slough tidal estuary, 1-23 Sep (SH): **MERLIN (EM, ID)**: 1, ERWA, 3 Sep (DF, JP).

Where are the Falcons?

PEREGRINE FALCON (MS): only 5 reports, all at AMP 1-23 Sep (SH, DH, anon) (**come on, some of you must surely have more records than this or did they get lost with your Bald Eagle reports?**): **SORA (EM)**: showed up and became obvious in No Name Pond (as usual) in late Aug, early Sep, until rain raised the pond level and drove them back into cover, but then Great Egrets and Great Blue Herons moved into the pond and may have eaten them too. By the end of the period both **VIRGINIA RAILS** and **SORAS** were common in *Hydrocotyle* mats at AMP/AOP (mo): **SNOWY PLOVER (MS)**: only 1 report, 30 (!), on Ten Mile Beach, 14 Sep (DT) (How about some further update Ron?): **LESSER YELLOWLEGS (EM)**: 1, mouth Mad River, 28 Aug (KI); 2, MKSP, 7 Aug (Update, DT); these the only reports in spite of the fact that 25 and 40 or more Greater Yellowlegs were reported

respectively at Klopp Lake and ERWA: **RUDDY TURNSTONE (EM, IN)**: "up to 15", lower Eel River ± 10 Sep (BS, fide GB); 6, mouth Eel River, 16 Sep (GB): **RED KNOT (IN)**: 1 (only), MKSP, 4, 11 Aug (Update, DT); 1-4, Klopp Lake, 23-24 Sep (EE, BD, anon): **RED-NECKED/RED PHALAROPE (EM)**: Usual scattering of Red-necked on coastal shore sites: examples: 8, mouth Mad River, 1 Sep (KI); 20-25, AOP, 1-3 Sep (mo). Usual offshore numbers; example: 80 mixed Red/Red-necked seen off Eel River 10 Sep (SH, MJ); in the phalarope gee whiz category, DF and JP reported Red-necked swimming low and fast, creating a bow wave big enough to hide behind as a way to sneak on and catch agile surface swimming shore flies, ERWA, 3 Sep! (More than one way to skin a cat!). **PARASITIC JAEGER (IL)**: 1 juv., AMP/AOP, 24 Sep (BD, et al.): **HEERMANN'S GULL (IL)**: usual numbers in the bay and nearshore, but more than expected numbers at baitings up to 15 miles offshore!

One good tern...

ELEGANT TERN (EM): at Humboldt Bay, 23 seen on 20 Jul (update, PR); 250 on 22 Aug (KI), and 140 on 10 Sep (SH): Elsewhere, 20 at mouth Mad River on 1 Sep (KI), and 6 off Laguna Point, MKSP, 16 Sep (DT): **COMMON TERN (EM)**: 1, off Laguna Pt., 16 Sep (DT); 1, Klopp Lake, 23 Sep (EE): **ARCTIC TERN (NC/ND)**: x, 18 miles west Ft. Bragg, 3 Sep (PR): **MARbled MURRELET (MS)**: only reports were 2 at Crescent City, 12 Sep (MM), and 1 at North Jetty, 14-15 Sep (MW, KN, GG): **RHINOCEROS AUKLET (IN)**: only substantial numbers reported were "at least" 30 off Laguna Point, 24 Aug (DT), and 40 ± near Crescent City, 22 Aug (MM): **PILEATED WOODPECKER (IL)**: 1, Horse Pasture, 12 Sep (KI); 1 pair, Kneeland, 12 Sep (BB, DVZ): **GRAY JAY (EL)**: 1-2, Azalea Hill, 2-13 Sep (GL); 6, one mile north Groves Prairie, 14 Sep (TL); 15±, Coffee Creek, 9-16 Sep (EE, BC): **CLARK'S NUTCRACKER (EL)**: 10±, Caribou Basin ridges, 9-16 Sep (EE, BC, GZ)

Little Kings return

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET (EM, ID): 1, Blue Lake Bottoms, 29 Aug; 1, Fernbridge, 30 Aug (both BW): **NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD (FR)**: 1, McKinleyville, 6 Sep (KI): **AMERICAN PIPIT (EM)**: 2, Fairhaven, 12 Sep (KI): **MYRTLE WARBLER (EM)**: 1, BSLP, 21 Sep (SH): **GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE (EL)**: 2, Crazy Peak, 1 Sep (AB): **CALIFORNIA TOWHEE (IL)**: 2-3, Ore./Calif. State Line, Ill. River Road at Dunn Creek, 1-7 Sep (AB, GL, RC, CD) (first Del Norte County record?): **SAVANNAH SPARROW (IL)**: x, Caribou Basin in meadows, 9-16 Sep (EE): **FOX SPARROW (EM)**: 2, AMP, 5 Sep (BMcI): **LINCOLN'S SPARROW (EM)**: 1, AMP, 6 Sep (BMcI): **GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW (EM)**: 1, one mile north Groves Prairie, 14 Sep (TL); 5-6, AMP/AOP, 21 Sep (SH): **RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD (EM)**: as usual, 600-800 at AOP/AMP to eat cordgrass seeds in early Sep (SH): **RED CROSSBILL (ID)**: 2, Arcata, 16 Sep (KR): **BLUE WHALE (FR)**: 1, six miles west Table Bluff, 10 Sep (MJ, SH, et al.): **WATER SHREW (FR)**: 1, Caribou Lakes, 9-16 Sep (GZ, EE, BC).

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Field Notes
by Stanley W. Harris
26 April-25 August 2000

Gleanings from the bird grapevine this summer have been pretty difficult, and I am grateful to those who made special efforts to report their observations even though the Arcata Bird Box has been out of commission since early June. We never realize how much we depend on something until we have to do without. Let's hope the Bird Box will be up and running again in time for the 'silly season.' Pelagic trips were conducted out of Eureka on 6 May and out of Ft. Bragg on 20 May, 30 July, and 19 August.

Abbreviations used: **AB** = Arcata Bottoms; **A-EB** Arcata-Eureka Bottoms; **AMP** = Arcata Marsh Project; **AOP** = Arcata Oxidation Pond; **BSLP** = Butcher Slough Log Pond; **ED** = Expected Date; **EL** = Expected Location; **EM** = Expected Migrant; **ERWA** = Eel River Wildlife Area; **FR** = Few Records; **GW** = Gee Whiz Report; **HBNWR** = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; **ID** = Interesting Date; **IL** = Interesting location; **IN** = Interesting Numbers; **MKSP** = MacKerricher State Park; **mo** = Many Observers; **MRCP** = Mad River County Park; **MS** = Monitored Species; **NC/ND** = Not Confirmed/No Details; **PPSP** = Patricks Point State Park.

Since this report covers 4 months, I only have room for the Highlights this time, but please **do continue** to report observations of more mundane things such as early and late dates for migrants, out of habitat occurrences, etc., as these all add to our collective knowledge about local bird distributions and population changes.

LAYSAN ALBATROSS (IN): 2, off Eureka, 6 May (MJ): 4-6, (up to 10?), off Ft. Bragg, 20 May (mo): **DARK-RUMPED PETREL (GW!):** 1, well seen, photographed, 8 miles west Ft. Bragg, 19 Aug (RLeV, mo), represents only the second, ever, (and the first confirmed) report for this species in Northcoast waters: **BLACK-VENTED/MANX TYPE SHEARWATER (GW, NC):** 1, nearshore off McKinleyville, 5 Jul (EE) (we **still** need a **confirmed** record for Humboldt Co.): **WILSON'S STORM-PETREL (NC/ND):** 1, 3-4 miles west Ft. Bragg, 30 Jul (PP, ST) (still looking for the first **confirmed** report for the Northcoast): **ASHY STORM-PETREL (FR):** 10-20, 30 Jul; 50-100, 19 Aug, both 10-30 miles west Ft. Bragg (mo): **MARKHAM'S STORM-PETREL (GW, NC):** 1, 28 miles wnw Ft. Bragg, 19 Aug (RLeV, mo): **CATTLE EGRET (FR, MS):** 1-4 AB, 3-20 May (S&LH, B&MW); 3, near Loleta, 12 May (present since at least Nov 1999, KI): **BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (IL):** first confirmed **nesting** at BSLP, 4 new fledglings seen together, 1-2 Aug (SH, DH): **WHITE-FACED IBIS (FR, ID):** outstanding spring flight through the Northcoast, 17 reports of 1 to 75 (!), near Ft. Bragg, Ferndale Bottoms, HBNWR, Fay Slough, A-EB, AB, Blue Lake, Crescent City, Lake Earl, 12 May-8 Jun (mo); 1, AMP, **±9 Jul (PL):** : **LESSER SNOW GOOSE (FR):** 2 white, 3 blue, HBNWR, South Humboldt Bay, 19 May (SL, MW); 1 white, 1 blue, HBNWR, 2 Jun (SL): **LIGHT-BELLIED BRANT (FR):** 1 (flyby), Shelter Cove, 3 May ("Woods"): **BLUE-WINGED TEAL (FR):** 16 reports of 1-46 (!) from Ft. Bragg, ERWA, HBNWR, Fairhaven, AOP, AMP, near Gasquet, Smith River Bottoms (includes a single flock of 46, the most ever seen together on the Northcoast, 7 Jun, AB), 29 Apr-29 Jun (mo): **NORTHERN SHOVELER (ID):** first positive **nesting** report since 1993, 1 female with 4 half-grown young, AOP, 21 Jul (SH): **HARLEQUIN DUCK (FR, ID):** 3-5 males, 1-2 females, MKSP, 29 Mar through Jul (DT, MM); 1 pair, Pt. St. George, 10 Aug (AB): **NORTHERN GOSHAWK (FR):** 1 imm., Horse Mountain, 29 Apr (KN, GG): **AMERICAN KESTREL (IL):** 1 pair, **nesting** (very rare event for the lowlands), Lake Earl Wildlife Area, 15 Jun (AB): **SORA (ID,EM):** 1, McLaughlin Pond, **3 Jul (AB);** 1, BSLP, 20 Jul (C&GK), 1, No Name Pond, 21 Jul (SH): **PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER (ID):** 1, breeding plumage, Lake Talawa, **15 Jul (AB, EC):** **BLACK-NECKED STILT (FR):** 1, AB, 4 Jun (BM): **SURFBIRD (ID):** 1 (full breeding plumage); MKSP, **29 Jun (DT):** **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER (ED):** 7, mouth Elk River, 27 Jul (KI): **RED KNOT (ID):** 19, AB, 13 May (KI); 1, MKSP, 21 May (DT), 1-2, Klopp Lake, 2 Jun, 16 Jun, 2 Aug (anon, SH, CM): **SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER (ED):** 1, Orick, 7 Jul (KI); 1, ERWA, 2, 27 Jul (DF, JP, KI): **RUFF (FR)** 1 male, molting, 24-28 Jul, mouth Butcher Slough, Jacoby Creek, (SY, KI); 1 female, ERWA, 31 Jul (KI):

COMMON SNIPE (ID): 1, Lake Talawa, 15 Jul (AB, EC): **WILSON'S PHALAROPE (FR):** 2, Smith River Bottoms, 4-7 Jun (AB); 6, ERWA, 22 Jul (SMc); 2, MKSP, 2 Jun (JeW, KC, RI): **SOUTH POLAR SKUA (FR):** 1-3 (?), off Ft. Bragg, 19 Aug (RLeV, et al.): **LONG-TAILED JAEGER (FR):** 3, off Ft. Bragg, 20 May (mo); 15-20, off Ft. Bragg, 19 Aug (RLeV, et al.): **ELEGANT TERN (ID/N):** rather common at Humboldt Bay this summer, but only 1 report for Crescent City, 7 on 23 Jul (AB): **MARBLED MURRELET (MS):** 25-50 visual and audio detections were usual at Boyes Prairie 8-10 May (DF); from shore, 6, near North Jetty, 7 May (MW), at least 8 north of Westport, 13 May, 24 Jun (DT); at-sea surveys in Jul-Aug revealed **none** south of Table Bluff, 60-100 from Orick to Klamath River, and 45 from Pt. St. George to the Oregon border (EE): **LONG-BILLED MURRELET (GW, NC):** 1 reported, off Crescent City, 14 Jul; another (different plumage), off Lake Earl, 5 Aug (both EE): **ANCIENT MURRELET (FR):** 1, off Capetown, 5 Jul (BO): **TUFTED PUFFIN (MS):** maximum number seen at Castle Island= 6 at 3 burrows 5 Jul, when one burrow was still being dug, late?, (AB); 2 at nest hole, Green Rock, 18 Jun (MeH); 1 at sea west of Ft. Bragg, 19 Aug (RLeV, et al.); Jul-Aug surveys in nearshore waters = 2 flyby Big Lagoon (July?), maximum count of 5 in water near Castle Island (EE): **MOURNING DOVE (IN):** 33 (!), 15-16 May; 7-15 daily in Jun and Jul, Kneeland (BB): **YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO (FR, GW, NC):** 1, near Cock Robin Island, responded to tape, seen and heard, 25 Jun (GFa): **FLAMMULATED OWL (FR):** 1, Spruce Grove, Etsel Ridge, 24 Jun-1 Jul (CV,GC, BD, MaM, JH, SR, et al.): **SHORT-EARED OWL (NC):** 2-3 (apparent family group), Kneeland, 14-15 Jul (BB, JP, et al., reported as Long-eared Owls, but written description supports Short-eared): **COMMON NIGHTHAWK(MS):** 1, (identification not confirmed) Ft. Bragg, 19 May (PP); 1, Arcata, 14 Jun (EE); 2, Lake Earl, 24 Aug (EE); Lack of urban records indicates continuing decline of lowland population: **POORWILL (FR):** 1, near Hettenshaw Valley, 30 Apr (SP): **BLACK SWIFT (EL, FR):** 2, Grizzly Falls, 15 Jul (TL, JH): **VAUX'S SWIFT (IN):** 420 (actual count), entering a chimney, 14th and I, Arcata, 11 May (EE, GZ, LD): **WHITE-THROATED SWIFT (FR):** 3, early Apr; 6, 16 Jun (both Scotia Bluffs, LH): 1, near "Sandbank Cliff," Covelo Road, 3 Jun (CV, MaM); 5 ± going into holes, Wagner Bridge, so. Humboldt Co., 17 Jun, 10 Jul (MW, DF, JP); 2, near Dos Rios, 1 Jul (JH, SR); 1, Cooks Valley (so. Hum. Co.), 18 Jul (MWi): **CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD (FR):** 1, Willits feeder, 2 May (ScH); 1 male, Etsel Ridge, 7 Jun (SG); 1, 1 mile no. Grouse Mountain, 4 Jul (MW): **RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD (ID):** last spring migrant at Kneeland, 3 May, returned, 16-19 July (BB): **ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD (ID):** 1 bright male, Crescent City, 25 Aug (AB): **WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKER (EL):** 1, near Horse Mountain, 29 Apr (KN, GG); 1, near Grouse Mountain, 4 Jul (MW); 2, Onion Camp, 8 Aug (TL): **WILLOW FLYCATCHER (FR):** 1 singing, Junction City, 5 May (MH); 1, near Fortuna along Eel River, 29 May (RH); 1 singing, mouth Redwood Creek, 15 Jun (KI); 3, near Todd Ranch, 15 Aug; 2, Willow Creek, 22 Aug; 3, Sandy Bar, 24 Aug (all TL): **EASTERN KINGBIRD (FR):** 1, mouth Redwood Creek, 15 Jun (KI); 1, Monument Ridge, 30 Jun (LN): **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE (FR):** 1, Ferndale Bottoms, 19 May (SMc, MC): **PLUMBEOUS VIREO (FR):** 1 singing, Azalea Hill, 20 May-15 Jun (GL, DF, JP, BD, et al.): **RED-EYED VIREO (FR):** 1, Arcata, 4 Jul (EE): 1, AB (Canal School), 1-8 Jul (KI); 1, Bayshore Mall willows, 5-6 Jul (TL): **CLARK'S NUTCRACKER (FR):** 1, Snow Camp Road near Maple Creek Road junction, 25 Jun (CW, MV): **PURPLE MARTIN (EM):** 13 reports of 1-12, AMP, mouth Van Duzen River, North Jetty, Pigeon Pt. Road, Westhaven, MKSP, near Dos Rios, near Juan Creek, 28 Apr-14 Jul (mo): **BANK SWALLOW (FR):** 1, AMP, 5 May (DF); 1, mouth Redwood Creek, 15 Jun (KI); 1 Fernbridge, 29 Jun (SMc, DLV): **OAK TITMOUSE (FR):** 4, near Cain Rock, 6 Aug (MW, LN): **PYGMY NUTHATCH (FR):** 3, end of "GO" Road (near Doctor Rock, only the second record for Del Norte Co.) 30 Jul, (AB, PS, et al.): **ROCK WREN (FR):** 3, near Cain Rock, 6 Aug (MW, LN): **CANYON WREN (FR):** 1, Highway 162, Eel River Canyon, Covelo Road, 7 Jun (SG): **TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE (IL):** 1, ½ mile east Trinidad, 4-5 Jul (KI): **BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (FR):** 1, Big Trees Parking Lot, 4 May (PH); 2 Red Mountain Trail (near Ant Point, Trinity Co.), 18 Jun (TL); 2, near Cain Rock, 6 Aug (MW, LN): **SAGE THRASHER (FR):** 1, Ft. Dick, 5, 16 May (AB, RT): **CALIFORNIA THRASHER (EL):** 2, Red Mountain Trail near Ant Point, 18 Jun (TL), 1 Hull Mountain, 1 Jul (JH, SR): **GOLDEN-WINGED (TYPE) WARBLER (FR):** 1 Blue Lake Bottoms, 25-26 May (anon, KI): **VIRGINIA'S WARBLER (FR, NC):** 1, Fairhaven, 26 Jun (KI): **NORTHERN PARULA (FR):** 1, Freshwater Lagoon, 3 May (SP); 1, PPSP, 6 Jun, 18 Jun (KI); 1, west end Crannell Road, 18 Jun, 1 Jul (KI); 1, Fairhaven, 23 Jun (KI); 1 apparent "Sutton's" type Parula x something or other? (hybrid), Fairhaven, 30 Jun (KI): **CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (FR):** 1, PPSP, 6 Jun

(KI); 1 singing, west end Crannell Road, 18 Jun (KI); 1, Scenic Drive south of Trinidad, 18 Jun (KI); 1, Arcata, 5 Jul (KR): **MAGNOLIA WARBLER (FR)**: 1, Big Lagoon School, 16 May, 30 Jul (KI): **TOWNSEND'S WARBLER (ID)**: 1 male, Grizzly Flat, Etsel Ridge, 24 Jun (CV, MaM): **AMERICAN REDSTART (FR)**: 1-2 males singing, Blue Lake Bottoms, 29-31 May, 10-11 Jun (KI, RH, EE); 1 MRCP, 25 Jun (KI): **OVENBIRD (FR, NC/ND)**: 1, ½ mile east Trinidad, 2 Jun (KI); 1, Orick Dump, 11 Jul (KI): **HOODED WARBLER (FR)**: 1 female, Holmes Flat, Eel River, 14 Jul (PH): **RUFIOUS-CROWNED SPARROW (FR)**: 1-2+, along Covelo Road, 7 Jun, 14 Jul (SG, RK); 3, near Cain Rock, 6 Aug (MW, LN): **BREWER'S SPARROW (FR)**: 1, Lagoon Creek Trail, Del Norte Co., 13 May (AB): **BLACK-CHINNED SPARROW (NC/ND)**: x, Ant Point, ± 11 Jun (JB, fide TL): **VESPER SPARROW (FR)**: 1, Ten Mile River, 19 May (JeW): **SAGE SPARROW (FR)**: 1, Hull Mountain, 25 Jun (CV, GC, MaM): **GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (FR)**: 1, Covelo, 22 May (DS, JL); 1, Bear River Ridge, 9 Jun (CO); 24, Bald Hills, 11 Jun (AB); 6, 7 miles east of Garberville, 2 Jul (MW); 1, 2 mi west Laytonville, 14 Jul (RK); 1 singing, Kneeland, 17, 20 Jul (BB); 1 singing, Table Bluff Dump site, 31 Jul (KI): **WHITE-THROATED SPARROW (EM)**: last seen, feeder (bum leg), Sunny Brae, **18 May (SH)**: **GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW (EM)**: last seen, feeder (blind in one eye), Humboldt Hill, **1 Jun (PeS)**: **HARRIS'S SPARROW (FR)**: last seen, feeder (healthy!), Azalea Hill, **21 Apr (GL)**: **ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (FR)**: nine reports, Ft. Bragg, Fortuna, Azalea State Reserve, Azalea Hill, Trinidad, Klamath River Road, 11 May-12 Aug (mo): **INDIGO BUNTING (FR)**: 1, Blue Lake Bottoms, 26 May-11 Jun (KI, GL, RH, KS, EE); 1, mouth Van Duzen River, 5 Jun (BW); 1, Sunny Brae, 1-3 Jul (G&JF); 1, Arcata, 10 Jun-10 Jul (KR, SM): **DICKCISSEL (FR)**: 1, mouth Redwood Creek, 28 May (GL): **BOBOLINK (FR)**: 2, AOP, 19 Aug (MV): **TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD (FR)**: 5, Drake Hill Road, 1 May (JS); 12±, McQuire Hill Pond, east Ft. Bragg, nesting, 20 May (AM, fide RK); 1 singing (NC/ND), Freshwater Lagoon, 1-5 Jul (PW): **HOODED ORIOLE (FR)**: 1 male, Bayside, 30 Apr, 5 Jun (DF, JP); 1 male, 14th and I st., Arcata, 4 May (SH, PS); 1 pair nested, Ft. Bragg, 7 Apr-27 May-7 Jul-22 Jul (feeding fledglings on 22 Jul) (DT, RK): **CASSIN'S FINCH (FR, EL)**: 1 singing, Black Lassic, week of 17 Apr (SP); 1 female, south Horse Mountain, 29 Apr (KN, GG).

Many thanks to the following who shared their observations with us over the summer: David Anderson, Mark Azine, Pamela Baker, Alan Barron, Mark Baumann, Gary Bloomfield, Heather Brown, Rachael Brunke, Joelle Buffa, Barbara Burek, Bryon Cariss, Lena Carro, Kris Carter, George Chaniot, Mark Colwell, Sarah Colvig, Eileen Cooper, Brent Critch, Leigh Detwiler, Bruce Deuel, Duke Diehl, Colin Dillingham, Barbara Dolan, Elias Elias, Gary Falxa, Gary and Jan Friedrichsen, David Fix, Brad Freeman, Steve Glover, Greg Gray, Melody Hamilton, Lorie and Stan Harris, Scott Harris, Gisela Hennessey, Pablo Herrera, Mark Higley, Denise Homer, Gretchen Horness, John Hunter, Ben Hurd, Richard Irvin, Ken Irwin, "Jane", Alvaro Jaramillo, Matt Johnson, Deborah Kallish, Gail Kenny, Robert Kieffer, Mary Kuehner, C & G Kuttner, Gary Lester, Dylan LeValley, Ron LeValley, Steve Lewis, Paul Lohse, Jim Lomax, "Lucas", Scotty Mateu, Matthew Matthiesson, Sean McAllister, Brooke McDonald, Bryon McIntosh, Cara Millsap, Art Morely, Michael Morris, Mark Morrissette, Stephanie Morrissette, Brennan Mulrooney, Kristie Nelson, Laura Nelson, Brit O'Brien, Chet Ogan, Steve Pagliughi, Ed Pandalfino, Marion Perry, Jude Power, Peter Pyle, C. J. Ralph, Richard Ridenhour, Kerry and Megan Ross, Steve Rovell, Debi Shearwater, Keith Slauson, Bruce Slocum, Jay Sooter, Paul Springer, Pete Spruance, Peggy Stebbins, Althea Taylor, Margaret Taylor, Scott Terrill, Richard Tryon, Margaret Varga, Chuck Vaughn, Matt Wachs, Catharine Walling, Justin Ward, Don Wattenbarger, Phil Wedge, Chris and Jim Welsh, Kevin Westfall, Jerry White, Bud and Margaret Widdowson, Nancy Wilson, "Woods", Shuzo Yochihara, Gretchen Ziegler.

A personal note to all my friends on the Northcoast. I am more grateful than I can tell you for the outstanding gift some of you are responsible for. The new binoculars already have a substantial year and life list, and were given their own name by one of my new friends when we were on Komodo Island recently. They are now officially known as "Oh Wows". I thank you all from the bottom of my heart, whoever you are!

Field Notes
by Stanley W. Harris
26 March-26 April 2000

Spring migration is in full swing, with new arrivals every day. Our wintering birds are rapidly disappearing and being replaced with breeders. Generally dry weather except for Godwit Days!

Abbreviations used: AMP = Arcata Marsh Project; AOP = Arcata Oxidation Pond; BSLP = Butcher Slough Log Pond; EE = Expected Event; EL = Expected Location; EM = Expected Migrant; EN = Expected Numbers; ES = Escape; ERWA = Eel River Wildlife Area; FR = Few Records; GW = Gee Whiz Report; HBNWR = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; ID = Interesting Date; IN = Interesting Numbers; MKSP = MacKerricher State Park; mo = many observers; MS = monitored species; NC = Not confirmed, details?;

Highlights: **CATTLE EGRET (MS):** 2-4, Lanphere Road, 15-18 Apr (mo); **MUTE SWAN (ES):** 1, AOP, mouth Jacoby Creek, 30 Mar (DF, JP); **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (MS):** 10, AB, 7 Apr (PS); **ROSS'S GOOSE (IN):** 2, HBNWR, 30 Mar (SL); 3-19! (the largest single flock (17) ever recorded along the northcoast), AB, 28 Mar-14 Apr (PS, JD, RLeV, RH, DF); **SNOW GOOSE (FR):** 6, lower Eel River, 1-8 Apr (BS); **CINNAMON X BLUE-WINGED TEAL HYBRID (FR):** 1, Eel River Bottoms, 7 Apr (KI); **EURASIAN WIGEON (FR):** 1 pair, Copenhagen Road, 9 Apr (KI); **HARLEQUIN DUCK (FR):** 2-5, MKSP, 29 Mar-10 Apr (DT); **FERRUGINOUS HAWK (FR):** 1, Mad River Bottoms, 5 Apr (DF); **PRAIRIE FALCON (FR):** 1, chasing shorebirds, Humboldt Bay, 23 Apr (MC).

Elusive Ruffed Grouse

RUFFED GROUSE (FR): 1, 13 miles up Bluff Creek Road, 5, 23 Apr (TL); 1, Tall Trees Road, 9 Apr (LB-O, DO); 1, Red Cap Road, 11 Apr (TL); 1, Bald Hills Road, 20 Apr (CO); **BLACK-NECKED STILT (FR):** 3, Fay Slough, 6 Apr (CB, SL, fide MK); **SOLITARY SANDPIPER,** 1, Orick, 22 Apr (DF); **SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER (FR, NC, ID):** 1, ERWA, 31 Mar (KI); 1, AB, 19 Apr (KI); **WESTERN SANDPIPER (IN):** A major migration occurred at Humboldt Bay during the week of 20-27 Apr when up to 100,000+ were recorded on North Humboldt Bay plus several thousand others in South Humboldt Bay and Mad River Slough (MC, DF, KI, et al.); **GLAUCOUS GULL (FR):** 1 imm., 4 Apr (KN); 2 imm., Fernbridge, 3 Apr (SMc, AT); **MARBLED MURRELET (MS):** few to many early morning detections, Boyes Prairie, 4-18 Apr (DF); "few," Humboldt Bay Channel, 15 Apr (RLeV, BC); 7, off Manila, 19 Apr (DF).

No Auklets

CASSIN'S AUKLET (IN): NONE seen offshore, 15 Apr (RLeV); **BARRED OWL (MS):** 1-2 calling, Boyes Prairie, 4-18 Apr (DF); **WHITE-THROATED SWIFT (MS):** 2-5, Smith Point Bridge, 26 Mar-20 Apr (JS, JW); **WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKER (IL):** 1, Davison Road, 2 Apr (KI); **HORNED LARK (FR):** 2, Bear River Ridge, 23 Apr (GB); **GRAY JAY (FR):** 2, lower end, Headwaters Trail, 28 Mar (PR); 2, east of Hydesville, 4-5 Apr (GL); **PURPLE MARTIN (EM):** 13-35, AMP, 16-18 Apr (SH, JP, DF, et al.); **BANK SWALLOW (FR):** 2, Elk Head, 16 Apr (SH); **OAK TITMOUSE (FR, IL):** 1, Bald Hills Road, 20 Apr (CO); **NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD (FR):** 1, Garberville, 2 Apr (JS, MT); 1, Moxon Road, 20 Apr (PS); **SAGE THRASHER (FR):** 1, AB, 10 Apr (PH); **BREWER'S SPARROW (FR):** 1, Dry Lagoon, 2 Apr (KI); **HARRIS'S SPARROW (FR):** 1, Azalea Hill, 1-14 Apr (GL); **POSSIBLE EASTERN MEADOWLARK (NC, GW):** Based on songs heard over an extended period and compared to nearby, clear Western Meadowlarks, 1, west of Eel River at Salmon Creek, southern Humboldt County, 30 Mar (BW); **GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE (FR):** 1 female, AMP, 5-30 Mar (JK,

KN, SH, BA): **HOODED ORIOLE (FR)**: 1 imm. male, Ft. Bragg, 15 Apr (DT); 1 pair, Arcata, 14th and I streets, 15 Apr (CW):

STATISTICAL SECTION: PACIFIC LOON (EM): several 100 migrating offshore, 15-16 Apr (RLeV, SH, et al.): **CLARK'S GREBE (FR)**: 1-2, Butcher Slough and vic, 13-16 (Pl, SH, et al.); 1, Eureka Channel, 15 Apr (BC): **RED-NECKED GREBE (FR)**: 5, King Salmon, 5 Apr (MW); 7, MKSP, 8 Apr (DT); 3, Entrance Bay, 26 Apr (KN): **HORNED GREBE (EL)**: 2 (breeding plumage), Hookton Slough, 9 Apr (JP).

Offshore sightings

BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSS (IN): 200, 13 miles off Eel River, 15 Apr (RLeV, et al.): **NORTHERN FULMAR (IN)**: 10, to 13 miles off Eel River, 15 Apr (RLeV, et al.), 1 seawatch from Manila, 19 Apr (DF): **PINK-FOOTED SHEARWATER (EN)**: 4-5, to 13 miles off Eel River, 15 Apr (RLeV, et al.): **SOOTY SHEARWATER (EN)**: 40-50, to 13 miles off Eel River, 15 Apr (RLeV, et al.): **BROWN PELICAN (EM)**: 1 adult, Eureka Channel, 1 Apr (KN, BD); 1 adult migrating past Freshwater Lagoon, 23 Apr (DF); 1 adult, North Spit, 26 Apr (KN): **DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT (IL)**: 3, mouth Willow Creek, 30 Mar (TL); 1, Eel River at Cain Rock, 2 Apr (JS, MT); 1, Orleans, 10 Apr (TL): **AMERICAN BITTERN (FR)**: 1, BSLP, 10 Apr (SH): **GREEN HERON (FR)**: 2, Freshwater Valley, 14 Apr (BW): **WESTERN CANADA GOOSE (EE)**: new broods afloat, 15-17 Apr, AMP, (mo): **ALEUTIAN CANADA GOOSE (IN)**: Final population estimate for this spring= 35,500 (PS); 35, AB, 26 Apr (KI): **REDHEAD (FR)**: 1 male, AMP, 13-19 Apr (mo): **RING-NECKED DUCK (IL)**: 1 pair, AMP, 14-26 Apr (mo): **BALD EAGLE (MS)**: 10 reports, 30 Mar-16 Apr, from mouth Willow Creek, HBNWR, Big Lagoon, Freshwater Lagoon, lower Eel River, lower Mad River, Humboldt Bay, Redwood Creek, Todd Ranch (mo): **ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK (ID)**: 1, AB, 4 Apr (DF): **GOLDEN EAGLE (FR)**: 1 calling, Benbow, 26 Mar (JS); 2, upper Yager Creek, Kneeland, 3 Apr (BW); 1 adult, Alderpoint Road, 20 Apr (JW): **MERLIN (MS)**: 4 reports, 4-15 Apr, from north Bay, AMP, AB, (mo): **PEREGRINE FALCON (MS)**: 3 reports, 14-18 Apr, from AMP, Elk Head (PL, SH, PS, TL): **SNOWY PLOVER (ID)**: 2 nests, south Clam Beach, 31 Mar, both later abandoned (RLeV): **AMERICAN AVOCET (EM)**: 1 (last date), AMP, 24 Apr (SH): **LESSER YELLOWLEGS (EM)**: 1, HBNWR, 5 Apr (GB): **RED KNOT (FR)**: 3-6, AMP, 14-23 Apr (Pl, MC, et al.); 1, Eel River Bottoms, 16 Apr (CO); 4, mouth Jacoby Creek, 20 Apr (KI): **RUDDY TURNSTONE (ID)**: 1, mouth Elk River, 25 Apr (KN).

Shorebird Migration

Migratory flights of Whimbrels, Short-billed Dowichers, Dunlin, Western Sandpipers, Semipalmated Plovers, in large numbers, 12-25 Apr (mo): **BONAPARTE'S GULL (EM)**: 25, Humboldt Bay, 1 Apr (BD); 2, off Humboldt Bay, 15 Apr (RLeV): **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (FR)**: 1 winter adult on beach, MKSP, 3 Apr (DT): **CASPIAN TERN (EM)**: 8 reports, of 2-135+ from AOP, AMP, Centerville Beach, mouth Mad River, South Humboldt Bay, Redwood Creek Estuary, Elk Head, 29 Mar-16 Apr (mo): **RHINOCEROS AUKLET (FR)**: 2-"several", off Humboldt Bay, 15 Apr (RLeV, MW): **WESTERN SCREECH-OWL (ED)**: 9 calling, Kneeland Road, 3 Apr (BW): **SHORT-EARED OWL (ID)**: 1, Hookton Slough, 9 Apr (JP): **VAUX'S SWIFT (EM)**: 2-few, AMP, Arcata, Eureka, HSU, Garberville, Smith Point Bridge, 12-20 Apr (mo): **RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD (EM)**: 1, Dry Lagoon, 2 Apr (BF); 2, Garberville, 2 Apr (JS, MT); 1, Elk Head, 16 Apr (SH, RC): **PILEATED WOODPECKER (FR)**: 1, Dry Lagoon, 2 Apr (BF): **PACIFIC-SLOPE FLYCATCHER (EM)**: 1 calling, Hydesville, 4 Apr (GL); several, southern Humboldt County and near Orick, 11-13 Apr (BW, DF): **WESTERN KINGBIRD (EM)**: 1, AB, 19 Apr (KI): 2-5, Hufford Road, 22-26 Apr (DF): **CASSIN'S VIREO (EM)**: 1 singing, mouth Little River, 7 Apr (KI, KN, GL) (first thought to be a Blue-headed, but consensus is that it was a bright Cassin's); 1, Salmon Creek, southern Humboldt County, 11 Apr (BW): **WARBLING VIREO (EM)**: several, southern Humboldt County and Orick, 11-13 Apr (BW, DF): **ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW (EM)**: 1-30, AMP,

15-16 Apr (PL, SH, et al.): **CLIFF SWALLOW (EM)**: 20-25, AMP, 10 Apr (SH): **HORNED LARK (EL)**: 1 pair, Bear River Ridge, 23 Apr (GBe): **AMERICAN PIPIT (ID)**: 2, Bald Hills, 20 Apr (CO).

Returning Warblers

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (EM): several, southern Humboldt Co., Arcata and vic, 11-23 Mar (BW, GL, et al.): **NASHVILLE WARBLER (EM)**: 1, Aldergrove Pond, 16 Apr (BW): **BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER (EM)**: 1, Salmon Creek Road, 11 Apr (BW); 4, Elk Head, 15 Apr (TL): **TOWNSEND'S WARBLER (ID)**: 4, Dyerville loop, 13 Apr (BW); 1-2, Elk Head, 16 Apr (SH, et al.): **HERMIT WARBLER (EM)**: 1, Dyerville loop, 13 Apr (BW); 1, Elk Head, 15 Apr (Godwit Days folks); 1, north of Orick, 19 Apr (DF, HB): **PALM WARBLER (ID)**: 1-3, AMP, 31 Mar-24 Apr (SH, BZ, MV): **MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER (EM)**: 1 singing, Bayside, 6 Apr (DF); 1, near Orick, 19 Apr (DF, HB); 1, Essex Lane, 23 Apr ("Brian"): **COMMON YELLOWTHROAT (EM)**: 1, Cain Rock, 2 Apr (JS, MT); 1, mouth Little River, 2 Apr (BC); 1 pair, Old Samoa Road, 23 Apr (DA): **WILSON'S WARBLER (EM)**: 1 singing, east of Hydesville, 4 Apr (GL); 1, Elk Head, 15 Apr (TL); 3, Aldergrove Pond, 16 Apr (BW): **YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (EM)**: 1, Eel River near Miranda, 19 Apr (JG): **WESTERN TANAGER (EM)**: x, Dry Lagoon, 2 Apr (BF): **CALIFORNIA TOWHEE (EL)**: 1, Fortuna, 22 Apr (KW): **CHIPPING SPARROW (EM)**: 1, Bayside, 30 Mar (DF); 1, AB, 2 Apr (BC); 2, Dyerville Loop, 13 Apr (BW); 1, Arcata, 20 Apr (KN); 1, BSLP, 21 Apr (SH): **LARK SPARROW (EL)**: 3, Dyerville Loop, 13 Apr (BW): **RUFIOUS-CROWNED SPARROW (MS)**: continuing at Cain Rock, 2 Apr (JS, MT): **LINCOLN'S SPARROW (ID)**: 1 singing, Shay Park, 9 Apr (BA); 1, AB, 16 Apr (SH, et al.); 1, Eureka, 19 Apr ("Brian"): **WHITE-THROATED SPARROW (ID)**: 3 still at Sunny Brae, 27 Apr (SH): **BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK (EM)**: 1 singing, Goat Rock, Van Duzen River, 19 Apr (BW): **TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD (MS)**: None found at Drake Hill Road nesting site, 24 Apr (JP, DF), does anyone have any records for this year?: **BULLOCK'S ORIOLE (EM)**: 1, Arcata, 18 Apr (BC); 1, Todd Ranch, 23 Apr (JL).

Many thanks to the following who shared observations with us this month: Brian Acord, David Anderson, Louise Bacon-Ogden, Pamela Baker, Cheryl Bartlett, Charles Barttolotta, Glen Beshears, Gary Bloomfield, Heather Brown, Bryon Cariss, Mark Colwell, Ruth Crane, Stephanie Davis, Jonas Day, Bruce Deuel, Duke Diehl, David Fix, Brad Freeman, John Gaffin, Stan Harris, Pablo Herrera, Ken Irwin, Josh Koetke, Mary Kuehner, Gary Lester, Tom Leskiw, Ron LeValley, Steve Lewis, Sean McAllister, Mark Morrisette, Kristie Nelson, David Ogden, Jude Power, Paul Rouch, Bruce Slocum, Jay Sooter, Dorothy Tobkin, Amber Transou, Margaret Taylor, Matt Wachs, Catharine Walling, Kevin Westfall, Bud Widdowson, Margaret Widdowson.

Field Notes
by Stanley W. Harris
19 February-26 March 2000

A rather quiet month: some early spring migrants, the departure of most wintering ducks, and early Canada Goose nests. The second annual Aleutian Goose Festival at Crescent City, held 24-26 Mar, generated some reports (noted here as "AlGoo"). Abbreviations used: AB = Arcata Bottoms; AMC = Arcata Marsh Project; AOP = Arcata Oxidation Pond; BSLP = Butcher Slough Log Pond; ED = Expected Date; EL = Expected Location; EM = Expected Migrant; FR = Few Records; GW = Gee Whiz Report; HBNWR = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; ID = Interesting Date; IL = Interesting Location; MS = Monitored Species.

HIGHLIGHTS: GREEN HERON (FR): 1, Hookton Road, 19 Feb (TL, SO): **CATTLE EGRET (MS):** 4-5, AB, 29 Feb-18 Mar (EE, BC, JP, DF): **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (FR):** 2, Smith River Bottoms, 25 Mar (AlGoo); **SNOW GOOSE (FR):** 1-2, AB, 24 Feb-1 Mar (RH, BA); 2-3, HBNWR, 25 Feb-12 Mar (SL, JP): **ROSS'S GOOSE (FR):** 1, AB, 29 Feb-3 Mar (RH, KI, EE); 1, Smith River Bottoms, 24 Mar (AlGoo): **EURASIAN WIGEON (FR):** 1, HBNWR, 12 Mar (JP); 1, Orick, 19 Mar (JH, MB): **LONG-TAILED DUCK (FR):** 1, lower Mad River, 21 Feb-5 Mar (KD, BC); 1, AMP, 17 Mar (PL); 1, lower Smith River, 25 Mar (CD): **HARLEQUIN DUCK (EL):** x (both sexes), Castle Rock, 24 Mar (AlGoo): **FERRUGINOUS HAWK (FR):** 1, Highway 101 at Jacoby Creek, 1 Mar (EE); 1, AB, 22 Mar (BC): **PEREGRINE FALCON (MS):** 1, Moonstone Beach, 18 Feb (JO); 2, AMP, 15 Feb (SH): 3, Smith River Bottoms, 24 Mar (AlGoo); 1, HBNWR, 24 Mar (SL); 1, Castle Rock, 26 Mar (AlGoo): **MERLIN (MS):** 2, AMP, 6 Mar (JO); 1, Arcata, 16 Mar (TR, MM); 1, AMP, 21 Mar (BC, SH); 1, Smith River Bottoms, 25 Mar (AlGoo): **WILD TURKEY (FR):** 20+, southern Humboldt County, 15 Mar (BB, DVZ).

First Spring Ruff

RUFF (FR, ID): 1, Pt. St. George, 24 Mar (RLeV, et al): **GLAUCOUS GULL (FR):** 2 (first year), lower Smith River, 25 Mar (CD): **BURROWING OWL (FR):** 1, Eureka, 6 Mar (CO): **BARRED OWL (FR):** 2, Cal Barrel Road, 21 Feb (SP); 1-2, Walker Road, 17-25 Mar (AB, EC, JH, AlGoo): **RED-BREASTED X RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER (FR):** 1, Bayside, 21 Mar (DF): **LEAST FLYCATCHER** Humboldt's first-ever wintering bird continued to at least 3 March (GW): 1, BSLP, 3 Mar (SH, BA): **SAY'S PHOEBE (FR):** 1, Smith River Bottoms, 25 Mar (AlGoo): **CASSIN'S VIREO (ID):** 1, Shay Park, 29 Feb (CW, MV): **NORTHERN SHRIKE (FR):** 1 imm., HBNWR, 12 Mar (JP): **GRAY JAY (IL):** 2, Arcata Community Forest, 12 Mar (JW): **MOCKINGBIRD (FR):** 1, Garberville, 20 Feb-13 Mar (JS); 1, Arcata, 18 Feb (JO); 1, Briceland, 21 Feb (NW); 1, McKinleyville, 5-7 Mar (P&LR, BK): **NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH (FR):** 1, AMP, 2 Mar (EE): **CALIFORNIA TOWHEE (IL):** x, Freshwater, 1 Mar (RH): **SWAMP SPARROW (FR):** 2, AMP, 28 Feb (JP): **HARRIS'S SPARROW (FR):** 1, Azalea Hill, 20 Feb-14 Mar (GL); 1, Garberville, 30 Jan-27 Feb (JS); 1, Eureka, late Feb (MAP): **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (FR):** 1, AB, 18 Feb (GB); 1 adult, AB, 5 Mar (BC): **GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE (GW):** 1 female, AMP, 21-23 Mar (BC, SH): **BULLOCK'S ORIOLE (ID):** 1, HBNWR, 24 Mar (SL): **EVENING GROSBEAK (ID):** 2, Arcata, 5 Mar (KN).

STATISTICAL SECTION: RED-NECKED GREBE (FR): 1, Whaler Island, 23 Mar (AlGoo): **BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON (IN):** 225 (actual count); BSLP, 16 Feb (SH): **TUNDRA SWAN (ID):** 24, flying over McKinleyville, 9 Mar (RB); 12, HBNWR, 12 Mar (JP); none reported at HBNWR, week of 17-25 Mar (SL): **BLACK BRANT (EN):** 16,480, Humboldt Bay, 17 Mar (SL); 23,500, Humboldt Bay, 23 Mar (SL).

Aleutian Canada Goose

ALEUTIAN CANADA GOOSE (IN): 20 reports of 2-18, 500 from AB, HBNWR, Smith River Bottoms, 29 Feb-23 Mar; careful counts, week of 10 Mar revealed a total of 22,800 in the Humboldt-Del Norte area; by 24-26 Mar, the numbers in the Smith River Bottoms, Del Norte area had increased to nearly 30,000 (PS, SL, VL, et al.). **WOOD DUCK:** 1, AOP, 25 Feb, 23 Mar (SH); 6, Jacoby Creek Road, 8 Mar (CB); 3, Clam Beach Lagoons, 8 Mar, (P&LR): **BLACK SCOTER (EL):** 1 male, vic. Crescent City, 24 Mar (AlGoo): **COMMON GOLDENEYE (FR):** 2, Elk River Lane, 23 Feb (AH); 1, AMP, 5-18 Mar (mo): **HOODED MERGANSER (MS):** 2, Davison Road, 4 Mar (BK, JK); 1-4, Clam Beach Lagoons, 17 Feb-8 Mar (CW, MV, SB, P&LR); x, McLaughlin Pond, 25 Mar (AlGoo): **OSPREY (EM):** 10 reports of 1-2 from Benbow, Ferndale, HBNWR, Korb, North Bay, AMP, Freshwater Lagoon, 18 Feb-19 Mar (mo): **BALD EAGLE (MS):** 13 reports of 1-2 from Benbow, HBNWR, AB, Arcata, Blue Lake, Junction City, Hayden Flat, McKinleyville, Freshwater Lagoon, 13 Feb-24 Mar (mo): **GOLDEN EAGLE (MS):** 1, North Fork, Trinity River, 26 Feb (AP); 1, Miranda, 2 Mar (RH); 1, Benbow, 13 Mar (JS): **ROUGH- LEGGED HAWK (FR):** 1, Bald Hills, 17 Feb (EE); 1, AB, 29 Feb (CW, MV) 1, HBNWR, 24 Mar (SL): **AMERICAN AVOCET (IN):** 85, HBNWR, 3 Mar (SL): **RED KNOT (FR):** 3, AMP, 3 Mar (PL).

One Good Tern

FORSTER'S TERN (ED): 1-3, AMP/AOP, 25 Feb-19 Mar (SH, PL): **CASPIAN TERN (EM):** 1-2, HBNWR, Humboldt Bay, 3, 19 Mar (SL, PL); 7, HBNWR, 24 Mar (SL): **MARBLED MURRELET (MS):** x, vic. Crescent City, 24 Mar (AlGoo): **BAND-TAILED PIGEON (EM):** 4-25, Azalea Hill, Westhaven, Sunnybrae, HBNWR, Benbow, 20 Feb-24 Mar (GL, TL, SH, JS, MT,SL): **WESTERN SCREECH-OWL (IL):** 1 calling, Arcata Community Forest, 29 Feb (CO): **NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL (FR):** 1, Fortuna, 29 Feb (KW); 1, Mad River Fish Hatchery, 6 Mar (CW, MV): **SHORT-EARED OWL (GW):** 1 preyed upon by a Red-tailed Hawk, HBNWR, 23 Feb (fide, SL): **PILEATED WOODPECKER (IL):** 1, Westhaven, 16 Feb (TL): **BARN SWALLOW (ED):** 1, Orick, 19 Mar (KJH, MB); 1 HBNWR, 24 Mar (SL): **BUSHTIT (FR):** 4, Korb, 18 Feb (SC): **WESTERN BLUEBIRD (FR):** 8, Crannell Road, 11 Mar (anon): **CEDAR WAXWING (EM):** 30, Fortuna, 23 Feb (KW): **PALM WARBLER (EM):** 1, AMP, 24 Feb-18 Mar (MM, SH, CO): **SLATE-COLORED JUNCO (FR):** 1, Etna, 22 Feb (EE): **RED CROSSBILL (EL):** 7, North Spit, 23 Feb (KI):

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Field Notes
by Stanley W. Harris
6 January-18 February 2000

Winter is winding down, the wintering ducks are leaving (or have left), the "white-bellied" swallows are arriving, as are the first summer hummers. Any day now we can say spring has sprung!

Abbreviations used: AB = Arcata Bottoms; AMP = Arcata Marsh Project; AOP = Arcata Oxidation Pond; BSLP = Butcher Slough Log Pond; EKWA = Elk River Wildlife Area; EM = Expected Migrant; FR = Few Records; HBNWR = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; GW = Gee Whiz Report; IB = Interesting Behavior; ID = Interesting Date; IL = Interesting Location; IN = Interesting Numbers; MS = Monitored Species:

HIGHLIGHTS: Short-tailed Shearwater (FR): 1, after a long sea watch, Wedding Rock, 17 Feb (DF): **Cattle Egret (FR):** 2, 5, AB, 31 Jan, 12 Feb (MV, CW, KN): **Ross's Goose (FR):** 1, AB, 6 Feb (DF, JP, EE): **EURASIAN WIGEON (FR):** 1, Hookton Slough overflow, 15 Jan (SH, CD): **OLD SQUAW (FR):** 1, Big Lagoon, 18 Jan (TL); 1, lower Mad River, 31 Jan (CW, MV): **BALD EAGLE (MS):** 10 reports of 1-2 from lower Mad River, Stevens Bridge (Smith River); lower Jacoby Creek, HBNWR, AB, AOP, Eureka, 15 Jan-18 Feb (JP, AP, DF, SL, KN, MW, CW, MV, MM): **PRAIRIE FALCON (FR):** 5 reports of 1, AB, 21 Jan-12 Feb (PS, DA, EE, MM, DF, JP, KN): **RED KNOT (FR):** 1-3, AB, 11 Jan, 3 Feb (DF, SH); 12, Klopp Lake, 29 Jan (MM): **BURROWING OWL (FR):** 1, Big Lagoon Spit, 18 Jan (TL); 1, Eureka waterfront, 10-17 Feb (fide, DS): **LONG-EARED OWL (FR):** 1, EKWA, 15 Jan (MW); 1, HBNWR, 22 Jan (SL); 1 road kill, Crannell Road, 9 Feb (MM).

Hummingbirds return

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD (EM): 1, Bayside, 7 Feb (DF, JP); 1, Fortuna, 8 Feb (KW): **ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD (EM):** 1, Garberville, 5 Feb (JS): **SWIFT SP (PROB. VAUX'S (ID):** 1, near Azalea Park, 26 Jan (KI): **LEAST FLYCATCHER (GW):** 1, BSLP, 15-26 Jan (KN, SH, MB, MV, CW): **SAY'S PHOEBE (ID):** 1, Azalea Hill, 22 Jan (GL): **TREE SWALLOW (EM):** 5-100, AMP, 11 Jan-18 Feb (DF, KN, SH): **VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW (EM):** x, AMP, 11 Jan, 13 Feb (DF, BA): **BARN SWALLOW (EM):** 1-3, AMP, 11 Jan, 1 Feb (DF, EE): **BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (FR):** 1, Blue Lake, 13 Feb (EE): **WILSON'S WARBLER (ID):** 1, BSLP, 20 Jan, 8 Feb (MB, SH): **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (FR):** 1, McKinleyville, 3-9 Feb (JD); 1, AB, 12 Feb (KN): **FOX SPARROW (GRAY-HEADED INLAND RACE) (IL, ID):** 1, Azalea Hill, 12 Feb (GL): **HARRIS'S SPARROW (FR):** 1, Azalea Hill, 15 Jan-17 Feb (GL): **GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE (GW):** 1, King Salmon, 15 Jan-18 Feb (SH, CD, KN): **BULLOCK'S ORIOLE (ID):** 1 imm. male, McKinleyville, 16 Feb (JH):

STATISTICAL SECTION: LESSER SNOW GOOSE (FR): 1-6, AB, 24 Jan-6 Feb (BC, DF, JP, EE); 1-3, HBNWR, 15 Jan-18 Feb (SL, "Jay"): **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (FR):** 5, 21, HBNWR, 18 Jan, 15 Feb (SL): **ALEUTIAN CANADA GOOSE (EM):** 340-1460, HBNWR, 15 Jan-18 Feb (SL); 125, AB, 21 Jan (PS): **WOOD DUCK (MS):** 2, Davison Road, 5 Feb (AP); 4, Clam Beach Lagoons, 9 Feb (MM): **COMMON GOLDENEYE (FR):** 2, King Salmon, 26 Jan, 18 Feb (CW, MV, KN): **HOODED MERGANSER (FR):** 1, Clam Beach Lagoons, 9 Feb (MM): **WHITE-TAILED KITE (IB):** 1, carrying sticks, Humboldt Hill, 6 Feb (JS, fide SL).

Hawks still here!

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: 8 reports from HBNWR, Jacoby Creek, AB, AMP, EKWA, Kneeland, 15 Jan-17 Feb ("Jay", BA, SL, KN, P & V S, CB, KK, BB): **FERRUGINOUS HAWK (FR):** 1, Arcata, AB, 14 Jan-17 Feb (TR, SM, MV, CW): **GOLDEN EAGLE (IL):** 1, HBNWR, 4 Feb (BH): **PEREGRINE FALCON (MS):** 1-2, AB,

AMP, HBNWR, 29 Jan-17 Feb (KN, SL, P&VS, SH): **MERLIN (MS)**: 1, AB, North Bay, AMP, HBNWR, AOP, 21 Jan-18 Feb (SH, MA, SL): **SNOWY PLOVER (MS)**: 37, 5, Clam Beach, 23, 27 Jan (DF, JP, MW): **AMERICAN AVOCET (IN)**: 479 (baywide census), 13 Feb (MC): **GREATER YELLOWLEGS (IN)**: 30, AB, 11 Jan (DF): **LESSER YELLOWLEGS (ID)**: 1, AB, 3-12 Feb (SH, KN): **THAYER'S GULL (FR)**: 1 adult, EKWA, 1-2 Feb (KN): **FORSTER'S TERN (EM)**: 8-9, AMP and vicinity, 15-17 Jan (P&VS, SH); 2, AOP, 15-18 Feb (SH): **CASPIAN TERN (ID)**: 2, HBNWR, 6 Feb (SL): **PYGMY OWL (FR)**: 1, Fortuna, 1 Feb (KW); 1, McKinleyville, 7 Feb (JD): **SHORT-EARED OWL (EM)**: 5-6, Mad River Wildlife Area, 8-17 Feb (prey exchange seen on 17 Feb (CB, KN): **MOURNING DOVE (IN)**: 40, EKWA, 8 Feb (CB): **GRAY JAY (IL)**: 2, Headwaters trailhead, 15 Jan (MB); 2, Patrick's Point State Park, 27 Jan (KI): **TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE (IL)**: 1 (sound shot only), Bayside, 26 Jan (DF): **WESTERN BLUEBIRD (MS)**: 2, Cutten, 5 Jan (BS); 1-7, Kneeland, Jan (BB): **NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD (FR)**: 1, AB, 22 Jan (DA); 1, Garberville, 5 Feb (JS): **CEDAR WAXWING (ID)**: 6, Fortuna, 5 Feb (KW): **PALM WARBLER (EM)**: 6 reports of 1-2, AMP, 15 Jan-18 Feb (P&VS, SH, MV, CW): **SLATE-COLORED JUNCO (FR)**: 1, Arcata, 13 Feb (EE).

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