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);

EUROASIAN 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 (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);

RING-NECKED PHEASANT (FR): 1 seen off MKSP, 28 Oct (DT);

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);

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);

TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD (IN): 200 (!), Bald Hill, near Ft. Bragg, 29 Oct (DT);

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. Lotts, Sean McAllister, Bryon McIntosh, Deb Meredith, Mary Meyers, Cerise Mora, Michael Morris, Mildred Mossman, Todd Newberger, Chet Ogan, Steve Pagliugh, 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!
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.

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HIGHLIGHTS


STATISTICAL SECTION

flocks (possibly 4, identification by call in fog) at Orick, 19 Oct (KI): **CACKLING 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).

**SEMIPALMATED PLOVER (IN)**: 30, Manila Beach, 11 Oct (HB): **AMERICAN AVOCET (IL)**: 12-24, ERWA, 6-7 Oct (KI); 105, Hoopton 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): **SEMIPALMATED 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**


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

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!

ABBREVIATIONS USED: AMP = Arcata Marsh Project; AOP = Arcata Oxidation Pond; BSLP = Butcher Slough Log Pond: EL = Expected Location; EM = Expected Migrant; ERWA = Eel River Wildlife Area; FR = Few Records; GW! = Gee Whiz Report; ID = Interesting Date; IIT = Interesting, if true, no description submitted; 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 Description; TDAD = Trinidad.

HIGHLIGHTS


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): SEMIPALMATED 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


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 (MW, 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, 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: 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 (!), 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 bahtings 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 (BMcl): **LINCOLN’S SPARROW (EM):** 1, AMP, 6 Sep (BMcl): **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).

Many thank to the following who shared their observations with us: Alan Barron, Jay Bishop, Gary Bloomfield, Barbara Burek, Bryon Cariss, George Chaniot, Romaine Cooper, Bruce Deuel, Colin Dillingham, Todd Easterla, Elias Elias, David Fix, Bob Frey, Greg Gray, Stan Harris, Robert Hewitt, Denise Homer, John Hunter, Ken Irwin, Matt Johnson, Debbie Kallish, Tom Leskiw (my apologies to Tom for omitting his name last month), Gary Lester, Sean McAllister, Brooke McDonald, Bryon McIntosh, Cara Millsap, Michael Morris, Mark Morrissette, Stephanie Morrissette, Kristie Nelson, Jude Power, Paul Rouch, Kerry and Megan Ross, Bruce Slocum, Dorothy Tobkin, Amber Transou, Steve Tucker, Matt Wachs, Catherine Walling, Jerry White, Bud and Margaret Widdowson, Dick Van Zile, Margaret Varga, Chuck Vaughn, Gretchen Ziegler.
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.

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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-BELLED 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): **SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER (ED):** 1, Orick, 7 Jul (KI); 1, ERWA, 2, 27 Jul (DF, JP, KI): **RUSS (FR):** 1 male, molting, 24-28 Jul, mouth Butcher Slough, Jacoby Creek, (SY, KI): 1 female, ERWA, 31 Jul (KI):
\textbf{(KI): 1 singing, west end Crannell Road, 18 Jun (KI); 1, Scenic Drive south of Trinidad, 18 Jun (KI); 1, Arcata, 5 Jul (KR): \textbf{MAGNOLIA WARBLER (FR):} 1, Big Lagoon School, 16 May, 30 Jul (KI): 1, Arcata, 5 Jul (KR): \textbf{TOWNSEND'S WARBLER (ID):} 1 male, Grizzly Flat, Etzel Ridge, 24 Jun (CV, MaM): \textbf{AMERICAN REDSTART (FR):} 1-2 males singing, Blue Lake Bottoms, 29-31 May , 10-11 Jun (KI, RH, EE); 1 MRCP, 25 Jun (KI): \textbf{OVENBIRD (FR, NC/ND):} 1, ½ mile east Trinidad, 2 Jun (KI); 1, Orick Dump, 11 Jul (KI): \textbf{HOODED WARBLER (FR):} 1 female, Holmes Flat, Eel River, 14 Jul (PH): \textbf{RUFOUS-CROWNED SPARROW (FR):} 1-2+, along Covelo Road, 7 Jun, 10-11 Jun (KI, RH, EE); 1 MRCP, 25 Jun (KI): \textbf{BREWER'S SPARROW (FR):} 1, Lagoon Creek Trail, Del Norte Co., 13 May (AB): \textbf{BLACK-CHINNED SPARROW (NC/ND):} x, Ant Point, ± 11 Jun (JB, fide TL): \textbf{VESPER SPARROW (EM):} last seen, feeder (bum leg), Sunny Brae, 18 May (SH): \textbf{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): \textbf{DICKCISSEL (FR):} 1, mouth Redwood Creek, 28 May (GL): \textbf{BOBOLINK (FR):} 2, AOP, 19 Aug (MV): \textbf{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): \textbf{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): \textbf{CASSIN'S FINCH (FR, EL):} 1 singing, Black Lassic, week of 17 Apr (SP); 1 female, south Horse Mountain, 29 Apr (KN, GG).


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

RUDDY 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).

**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.):

**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.):

**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).

**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):

**Western Canada Goose (EE):** new broods afloat, 15-17 Apr (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 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): **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): **Warsbling Vireo (EM):** several, southern Humboldt County and Orick, 11-13 Apr (BW, DF): **Rough-winged Swallow (EM):** 1-30, AMP,
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 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 Bartolotta, 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 Morrissette, 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.


First Spring Ruff


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 GOLDENEGYE (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, Korbel, North Bay, AMP, 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

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:


Hummingbirds return


Hawks still here!


Many thanks to the following who shared observations with us this period: David Anderson, Mark Azine, Mark Baily, Charles Bartolota, Barbara Burek, Bryon Cariss, Mark Colwell, Colin Dillingham, Jean Durbin, Elias Elias, David Fix, Brad Freeman, Stan Harris, Bill Hine, Jake Houck, Ken Irwin, Karen Kovacs, Tom Leskiw, Gary Lester, Steve Lewis, Stephanie Morrissette, Michael Morris, Kristie Nelson, Aeida Parkinson, Jude Powers, Terry Ross, Dave Seegar, Idylene Siipola, Jimmie Smith, Jay Sooter, Paul and Virginia Springer, Bill Strickland, Nick Toroni, Margaret Varga, Matt Wachs, Catherine Walling, Kevin Westfall.