

Field Notes
by Stan Harris
25 October-2 December 2001

The rains have returned, fields are flooding, fall migration is pretty well over, and Christmas Counts are nearly upon us. A generally routine month birdwise. Abbreviations used: AB = Arcata Bottoms; AMP = Arcata Marsh Project; AOP = Arcata Oxidation Pond; BSLP = Butcher Slough Log Pond; EL = Expected Location; EM = Expected Migrant; ERB = Eel River Bottoms; ERWA = Eel River Wildlife Area; FD = Few Details; FOP = Ferndale Oxidation Pond; FR = Few Records; GW = Gee Whiz Report; HBNWR = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; ID = Interesting Date; IIT = Interesting, if true; IL = Interesting Location; IN = Interesting Numbers; MRWA = Mad River Wildlife Area; MKSP = MacKerricher State Park; mo = Many Observers; MS = Monitored Species; ND = No Details, Not Confirmed

HIGHLIGHTS: ARCTIC LOON (IIT, FD): 1, off Palmers Point, 30 Nov (KI): **PINK-FOOTED SHEARWATER (ID):** 6, off Wedding Rock, 9 Nov (DF): **BULLER'S SHEARWATER (ID, IL, IN):** 50 (!), North Jetty, 28 Oct (MW, KR): **SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER (IN):** 150±, 1 mile off Wedding Rock, 9 Nov (DF): **SNOW GOOSE (FR):** 1-2, AB, 11-26 Nov (mo): **ROSS'S GOOSE (FR):** 1, AB, 27 Nov (SH, W&EH): **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (ID):** 2, AB, 16 Nov (KR): **ACKLING/ALEUTIAN GOOSE (ID):** 1-6, AB, North Humboldt Bay, 14-21 Nov (KR, SH): **WOOD DUCK (IL):** These become scarce in the lowlands in winter so the following reports are of interest: 1, No Name Pond, 27 Nov (MA, SH); 6, Ferndale Oxidation Pond, 18 Nov (SMcA): **BLUE-WINGED TEAL (EL):** 1 male, BSLP, 31 Oct-27 Nov (mo): 3 females (How Identified, details?), AOP, 9 Nov (JT): 1 male, FOP, 18 Nov (SMcA): **EURASIAN WIGEON (FR):** 1 male Mad River Lagoon, 11 Nov (G&LL); 1 Gearheart Marsh, 17 Nov (MM); 1, AB, 26 Nov (W&EH): **LONG-TAILED DUCK (FR):** 1, flying past Patricks Point, 30 Oct (DF): **HARLEQUIN (FR):** 1-2, King Salmon, 27 Oct-29 Nov (DF, JP, MW, GB); up to 16, Glass Beach, Ft. Bragg, 23 Oct-20 Nov (DT): **HOODED MERGANSER (FR):** 1 near Fernbridge, 31 Oct-4 Nov (RH, MA); 1, AOP, 9 Nov (JT); 1 FOP, 18 Nov (SMcA); 1, Mad River Fish Hatchery, 17 Nov (MM): **NORTHERN GOSHAWK (FR):** 1, Mail Ridge, 5 Nov (JG): **HARLAN'S HAWK (FR, ND):** 1, mouth Van Duzen River, 7 Nov (TMcK): **FERRUGINOUS HAWK (FR):** 1 ad, ERB, 15-29 Nov (TMcK, PH, LN); 1, Bear River Ridge, 11 Nov (PH); 1, Arcata/AB, 12-22 Nov (EE, FA): **PRAIRIE FALCON (FR):** 1 imm, Garberville, 29 Oct (JS); 1, Bear River Ridge, 3-11 Nov (DF, JP, JT, PH, LN); 1, BSLP, 20 Nov (SH): **PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER (FR):** 1, AB, 3 Nov (DF, JP, JT): **ELEGANT TERN (ID):** 1, Eureka Channel, 19 Nov (MW).

Last of the Guillemots

PIGEON GUILLEMOT (ID): 2, 7 Nov; 1 imm, 8 Nov (both MKSP, DT): **ANCIENT MURRELET (FR):** 2, off North Spit, 1 Nov (DF): **LONG-BILLED MURRELET (GW, FD, IN):** 3 (!), off Wedding Rock, 13 Nov (KI): **MARBLED MURRELET (MS):** 1, King Salmon, 27 Oct (DF, JP); 7-8, North Jetty, 28 Oct (KR, MW); 2, North Jetty, 4-18 Nov (BD, MW, KR); 2, off Wedding Rock, 9 Nov (DF): **BURROWING OWL (FR):** 1-2, North Dike, Humboldt Bay, AOP, Klopp Lake Dikes, 2-25 Nov (mo): **WHITE-THROATED SWIFT (ID, IL, GW):** 1 found dead, H.S.U. Campus, 26 Nov (LP, fide TD): **LEWIS'S WOODPECKER (FR):** 12, Bald Hills, 25 Nov (MH): **SAY'S PHOEBE (FR):** 1, Azalea Hill, 17-25 Nov (G&LL): **ROCK WREN (FR):** 1, near Westport, 9 Nov (DT): **SWAINSON'S THRUSH (ID):** 2 (1 with a radio attached), Lanphere Dunes, 30 Oct (JT): **BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER (FR):** 1, Manila, 3-13 Nov (JN, DA): **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (FR):** 1, Westport Recycling Center, 9 Nov (DT); 1, Ferndale Oxidation Pond, 21 Nov (KR, MW); 1, Bayside, 27 Nov (DF): **FOX SPARROW (RED MORPH)(FR):** 1, caught and banded, Orleans, 2 Nov (AO): **SWAMP SPARROW (FR):** 1, Eureka, 2 Nov (DF); 1, AMP, 6 Nov (EE, JT): **TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD (FR; IN):** "at least" 200, Bald Hill near Ft. Bragg, 2, 11 Nov (DT):

Statistical Section

RED-THROATED LOON (EM): 100, off North Jetty, 28 Oct (KR, MW): **PACIFIC LOON (EM):** 600-700 off North Jetty, 28 Oct (MW, KR), 14, fly south past Patricks Point, 30 Oct (DF); 100's, migrating past North Jetty, 4 Nov (BD): **COMMON LOON (EM):** 50, King Salmon, 27 Oct (JP, DF): **RED-NECKED GREBE (EM):** 1, King Salmon, 27 Oct (DF, JP); 1, North Jetty, 11 Nov (JT); 1, Cock Robin Island, 15 Nov (KR): **CLARK'S GREBE (EM):** 1, King Salmon, 28 Oct (anon); 3, North Jetty, 11 Nov (JT): **NORTHERN FULMAR (IL)** 1 (white), off North Spit, 1 Nov (DF): **SOOTY SHEARWATER (IN; IL):** 70-80, off North Jetty, 28 Oct (KR, MW); 600±, off Wedding Rock, 9 Nov (DF): **AMERICAN BITTERN (FR):** 1, BSLP, 12 Nov (anon): **TUNDRA SWAN (EM):** 13, HBNWR, 18 Nov (SMcA): **SURF SCOTER (EM):** 400, North Jetty, 28 Oct (MW, KR): **WHITE-WINGED SCOTER (EM):** 9 (only), North Jetty, 28 Oct (MW, KR): **OSPREY (ID):** 1, Ft. Bragg, 16 Nov (DT); 1, Cock Robin Island, 17 Nov (SMcA): **BALD EAGLE (MS)** 1 ad, Freshwater Lagoon, 15 Nov (FA); 1, near Hawkins Bar, 16 Nov (MC, et al.), 1 imm, mo. Van Duzen River, 29 Nov (LN); 1 ad, Upper Larabee Creek, 29 Nov (LN): **ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK (EM):** 6 reports of 1-4 from AB, Cock Robin Island, Bear River Ridge, 2-17 Nov (mo): **GOLDEN EAGLE (EL):** 1, Bear River Ridge, 3, 11 Nov (DF, JP, JT, PH, LN): **MERLIN (MS):** 5 reports of 1-2 from AB, AMP, Fay Slough, 6-23 Nov (mo): **PEREGRINE FALCON (MS):** 15 reports of 1-3 from Wedding Rock, AB, AMP, near Fernbridge, Bear River Ridge, 28 Oct-27 Nov (mo): **BLUE GROUSE (EL):** 5, Friday Ridge Road, 28 Oct (TL); 1, Brannon Mountain, 30 Oct (T&SL): **MOUNTAIN QUAIL (IL):** "some" at 600-1200 feet elevation along South Fork, Trinity River road, 30 Oct (TL): **BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER (IN):** 900, Cannibal Road, 2 Nov (DF).

Spots in the tide wrack

SNOWY PLOVER (MS): 26, north end, Centerville Beach, 2 Nov (DF): **BLACK OYSTERCATCHER (IL):** 3, base of North Jetty, 9-16 Nov (MW): **SPOTTED SANDPIPER (EL):** 1, Willow Creek, 16 Nov (SH): **RUDDY TURNSTONE (EL):** 1, King Salmon, 27 Oct (DF, JP); 1, Elk River mouth, 27 Oct (DF, JP); 1-4, Fields Landing, 1-26 Nov (KR, W&EH): **SURFBIRD (EM, IL):** 1, King Salmon, 17 Nov (MW): **RED KNOT (EM):** 1-12, Klopp Lake, Fields Landing, 29 Oct-12 Nov (mo): **ROCK SANDPIPER (EM):** 1, Fields Landing, 3 Nov (DF, JP, JT); 2, MKSP, 1, 14 Nov (DT); 1-2, North Jetty, 14-26 Nov (KR, MW, W&EH): **PARASITIC JAEGER (ID):** 1, (+ 1 P/P) North Jetty, 28 Oct (KR, MW); 1, North Spit, 1 Nov (DF): **BONAPARTE'S GULL (EM):** 30, North Jetty, 28 Oct (MW, KR): **THAYER'S GULL (NC):** 1 immature (how identified?), AMP, 6 Nov (EE): **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (EM):** 20, North Jetty, 28 Oct (KR, MW); 1, North Spit, 1 Nov (DF); 1, North Jetty, 4 Nov (BD); 8, Wedding Rock, 9 Nov (DF): **RHINOCEROS AUKLET (IL):** 2, Wedding Rock, 9 Nov (DF): **CASPIAN TERN (ID):** 1, King Salmon, 27 Oct (DF, JP); 3, Crab Park, 2 Nov (DF): **FORSTER'S TERN (EM):** The wintering flock on North Bay had increased to about 30 by mid Nov (SH): **BAND-TAILED PIGEON (ID, IN):** 3 flocks (20, 15, 13) Mail Ridge, last half of Oct; 70, Mail Ridge, 5 Nov (both JG): **GREAT HORNED OWL (FR):** 1, MRWA, 6, 26 Nov (SH, BC): **SHORT-EARED OWL (EM):** 3 (chasing a Great Horned Owl, MRWA, 6 Nov (EE); 2, ERWA, 11 Nov (MA); 12, MRWA, 16 Nov (JT): **WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKER (EL):** 1, Friday Ridge Road, near Board Camp Mountain, 28 Oct (TL): **PILEATED WOODPECKER (EL):** 1, Surprise Valley, near Willow Creek, 5 Nov (TL); 1, east side, Freshwater Lagoon, 17 Nov (FA); 1, Mail Ridge, 25 Nov (JG): **SCRUB JAY (IL):** 1, one mile east of Blue Lake, Highway 299, 5 Nov (TL): **RAVEN (IN):** 100, soaring with 6 Turkey Vultures, 1 mile south Blue Lake, 17 Nov (MM): **HORNED LARK (EL, IL):** x, Bear River Ridge, 11 Nov (PH, LN); 4, Bald Hill near Ft. Bragg, 11 Nov (DT): **VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW (ID):** 2, AMP, 14 Nov (JT): **BARN SWALLOW (ID):** 1 juv., Lanphere Road, 7 Nov (JT): **DIPPER (FR):** 4, Coon Creek x South Fork, Trinity River, 5 Nov (TL); 4, Willow Creek x Trinity River, 16 Nov (MC, et al.); 1 up Freshwater Creek 3 miles from mouth, 26 Nov (TR): **WESTERN BLUEBIRD (MS):** "lots," Friday Ridge Road, 28 Oct (TMcK); x, Bear River Ridge, 11 Nov (PH, LN); 5, west of Azalea Hill, 17 Nov (GL): **TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE (EL):** 3 (2 singing), Friday Ridge Road, 28 Oct (TL): **NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD (FR):** 1, Ferndale Bottoms, 29 Oct (TMcK); 1, AMP and vic, 7-17 Nov (AMcG, SH, EE); 1, Loleta Bottoms, 17 Nov (SMcA).

Still Some Warblers

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (ID): 4, ERB, 18 Nov (SMcA); 1 (“eastern type”), Ft. Bragg, 8 Nov (DT); **NASHVILLE WARBLER (ID):** 1, Camp Weott Road, 18 Nov (SMcA); 1, Arcata, 29 Nov (GB); **YELLOW WARBLER (ID):** 1, Camp Weott Road, 18 Nov (SMcA); **BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER (ID):** 1, AOP, BSLP, 9-15 Nov (FA, JT); **PALM WARBLER (EM):** 5 reports from AB, AMP, AOP, near Fernbridge, 31 Oct-10 Nov (RH, EE, JT, BMcI); **COMMON YELLOWTHROAT (ID):** 1, Arcata, 8 Nov (JT); **WILSON’S WARBLER (ID):** 1 caught and banded, Orleans, 2 Nov (AO); **CHIPPING SPARROW (ID):** 1, Mad River and Highway 101, 19-22 Nov (KR, MM); **WHITE-THROATED SPARROW (EM):** 13 reports of 1-5, from Orleans, AB, Arcata, AMP, Fay Slough, Ferndale, Ft. Bragg, 2-30 Nov (mo); **SLATE-COLORED JUNCO (FR):** 1, Arcata, 20-21 Nov (EE); **LAPLAND LONGSPUR (EM):** 1, Eel River Bottoms, 28 Oct (TMcK); 1, AB, 4 Nov (BD); 5, Lanphere Road, 13 Nov (JT).

Many thanks to the following who shared reports this month: Marge Adams, David Anderson, Frank Anderson, Marcus Ziehm, Gary Bloomfield, Barbara Burek, Bryon Cariss, Mark Colwell, Tamar Danufsky, Bruce Deuel, Elias Elias, David Fix, John Gaffin, Cara Gore, Warren & Ellie Harrington, Stan Harris, Pablo Herrera, Rob Hewitt, Matt Hinton, Ken Irwin, Tom & Sue Leskiw, Gary & Lauren Lester, Sean McAllister, Aaron McGregor, Bryan McIntosh, Tristan McKee, Mark Morrissette, Bob Murphy, Laura Nelson, Gerald Nusbaum, Andy Orahosoke, Lisa Perronne, Jude Power, Terry Roelofs, Kerry Ross, David Rowe, Paul & Virginia Springer, Jay Sooter, Jim Tietz, Dorothy Tobkin, Matt Wachs.

Field Notes
by Stan Harris
30 September - 27 October 2001

Fall migration is winding down, but it has been a good fall with more than average numbers of “good” birds reported. Weather remains dry with no real rain yet, only a trace of drips and drops. WE NEED RAIN! BSLP is nearly dry from lack of seasonal rain and the fact that the city did not pump water into it this summer, the Bottoms are really dry, affecting the distribution of fall migrants. Abbreviations used: AB = Arcata Bottoms, AMP = Arcata Marsh Project; AOP = Arcata Oxidation Pond; BSLP = Butcher Slough Log Pond; EM = Expected Migrant; FR = Few Records; GW = Gee Whiz Reports; HBNWR = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; IIT = Interesting, if true, but report not confirmed; ID = Interesting Date; IL = Interesting Location; IN = Interesting Numbers; MKSP = MacKerricher State Park; mo = Many Observers; MS = Monitored Species; MRCP = Mad River County Park; NC = Not Confirmed, No Details.

Sightings from the field

Common Loon (IL): 1, Trinity Lake, 5 Oct (GH, JH); **Pacific Loon (EM):** 68 in the water at North Jetty 16 Oct (MW), and 1 in Klopp Lake, 26 Oct (DW, SH) represent expected migrants: **Red-necked Grebe (EM);** 7 reports of 1-3 from Trinidad Harbor, lower Mad River, North Jetty, King Salmon, near Westport, MKSP, 24 Sep-22 Oct (mo) reflect normal fall arrival: **Pied-billed Grebe (IN):** The tight raft of 13 seen at Fields Landing, 17 Oct (MM), probably represented new arrivals: Seeing a **Northern Fulmar** from shore, MKSP, 21 Oct (DT) must have been fun! **Pink-footed Shearwater (IL):** 1 seen from end of North Jetty, 7 Oct (SH, MP): **Sooty Shearwaters** continued to be seen from the end of North Jetty, 4-5 reported, 16 Oct and 10 reported 25 Oct (MW): **Buller’s Shearwater (IL, ID):** 1, seen from North Jetty, 25 Oct (MW): **White Pelican (IIT):** a second-hand report of 1 flying across Samoa Bridge into Humboldt Bay, 8 Oct (RW) was never confirmed: **American Bittern (FR):** 1, AMP, 6 Oct (BC): **Cattle Egret (FR):** 1, Shelter Cove, 19 Oct; 1, Ferndale Bottoms, 23 Oct (both DF): **Snow Goose (FR):** 1, AB, AOP, 13-18 Oct (JP, DF, FA, MZ, KR): Meanwhile, the resident **Ross’s Goose** on AB was reported 22-26 Oct (HB, SH, DW): **White-fronted Goose (GW):** This fall we had more reports than ever of birds seen on the ground, and of flocks seen or heard passing over, I received 23 reports of flocks of 1-170 from Gold Bluff Beach, Big Lagoon, Azalea Hill, AB, Little River, AOP, Fickle Hill, North Spit, HBNWR, near Ettersberg, near Whitmore, 10-mile River, 30 Sep-22 Oct (only 4 of the 23 reports were after 3 Oct) (mo): **Western Canada Goose (IL):** 100, Trinity Lake, 5 Oct (GH, JH).

Aleutian Geese not stopping

Aleutian Canada Goose (EM): While the historic migration of these birds has begun in mid October, this year we had reports of flocks passing southeast 1 Oct (up to 6 flocks), 5 Oct (Lake Earl), at least 5 flocks on 6 Oct, and 10+ flocks in the more normal 12-23 Oct time-period. PS tells me these birds are going straight down to the San Joaquin Valley without stopping at Lake Earl or near Colusa as has been the pattern in most past years: **Cackling Canada Goose (FR, NC):** 1, Trinity Lake, 5 Oct (GH, JH); 5, AB, 17 Oct (KR): **Blue-winged Teal (FR):** 1 male, BSLP, 9-27 Oct (SH, MW, HB, BMcD): **Ring-necked Duck (EM):** Arrived at BSLP right on time, 1 seen 20 Sep, increased to 25-30 by 8 Oct (mo): **Harlequin (FR):** 1-2, King Salmon, 10-27 Oct (MW, MM, BMcI): On an aerial waterfowl census conducted by Calif. Dept. F&G, 25 Oct, most of the **Surf Scoters** seen were within ½ mile of the beach just south of the Klamath River mouth (SH), but many flocks were reported passing North Jetty on 7 and 16 Oct (SH, MP, MW): **Bald Eagle (MS):** Only 3 reports received, 1 Redwood Creek, 21 Oct (GL); 1 immature, Freshwater Lagoon, 25 Oct (SH); 1, McKinleyville, 27 Oct (KS): **Northern Goshawk (FR):** 1 imm. migrating over Fickle Hill, 2 Oct (DF); 1, Elk Mountain (Dyerville Loop, said to be location of resident pair), 21 Oct (RS): **Ferruginous Hawk (FR):** 1, Bald Hill (Ft. Bragg), 17 Sep-21 Oct (DT); 1 adult, Tyee City, 9 Oct (KI); 1, Sandy Prairie, 17 Oct (RH,

TMcK): **Rough-legged Hawk (EM)**: 1 juv., Tyee City, 9 Oct (KI); 1, AB, 17-22 Oct (PH, HB, FA): **Golden Eagle (FR)**: 1 pair carrying sticks to a known nest site, containing 1 juv?, near Whitmore, 21 Oct (RS): **Merlin (MS)**: 11 reports of 1-3 from mouth of Willow Creek, McKinleyville, AB, AMP, Bayshore Mall, 10-mile River, MKSP, Bald Hill (Ft. Bragg), 22 Sep-27 Oct (mo): **Peregrine (MS)**: 12 reports of 1-2 from AB, AMP, Eureka, Westport, near Ft. Bragg, 5-26 Oct (mo): **Blue Grouse (FR)**: 1, Board Camp Mtn., 26 Oct (TL): **Ruffed Grouse (FR)**: 1, near Bald Hills gate (above Orick), 21 Oct (GL): **Sandhill Crane (IIT)**: 4 large “all gray” birds with long necks and long legs reported flying SW into Humboldt Bay, 12 Oct, may have been this species, but this observation has not been confirmed (TT): **American Golden Plover (FR)**: “Some” of a flock of 5, AB, 3 Oct (MV, CW); 1, AB, 7 Oct (SH, MP): **Pacific Golden Plover (FR)**: “Some” of a flock of 5, AB, 3 Oct (MV, CW); 1, Cock Robin Island, 25 Oct (DF): **Snowy Plover (MS)**: 19, lower Eel River, 22 Oct (DF, JP): **Mystery plover sp (IIT)**: A flyby, thought by the observer to be a **Mountain Plover** was reported at Cock Robin Island, 24 Oct (SMcA), but not confirmed later. **Lesser Yellow-legs (EM)**: 2, Cock Robin Island, 16 Oct (DF): **Long-billed Curlew (IL)**: 1, 10 mile Beach, 19 Oct (JH): **Marbled Godwit (EM)**: The 3000 reported at Hookton Slough, 14 Oct (DF, JP) was noteworthy for its numbers.

Shorebirds moving through

Pectoral Sandpiper (EM): 1, MKSP, 28 Sep; 1, Hare Creek (near Ft. Bragg), 11 Oct (both DT): **Rock Sandpiper (FR)**: 2, North Jetty, 25 Oct (MW): **Ruff (FR)**: 1 male, lower Eel River, 22 Oct (DF, JP): **Long-billed Dowitcher (IL)**: The 5 reported at Trinity Lake, 5 Oct (GH, JH) were at a seldom-checked location: **Common Snipe (EM)**: New arrivals were represented by 1 on North Bay Mudflats (!), 26 Sep (SH), 9 along Old Arcata Road, 14 Oct (TL), 1 at No Name Pond 15 & 23 Oct when it was being harassed by a **Sora (SH)**, 1 on Hydrocotyle mat at BSLP, 16 & 27 Oct (SH, BMcD), and 2 at Blue Lake in Mad River 21 Oct (FA).

Skua (FR): 1 seen from the air off Patrick’s Point, 3 Oct (BD): **Pomarine Jaeger (EM)**: 1, MKSP, 29 Sep-1 Oct (DT): **Parasitic Jaeger (EM)**: 1, North Jetty, 7 Oct (SH, MP); 1, MKSP, 29 Sep, 13 Oct (DT): **Franklin’s Gull (FR)**: 1 first year (flyby), Patrick’s Point, 7 Oct (GB): **Common Tern (FR)**: 1, Klopp Lake, 10 Oct (SH): **Forster’s Tern (EM)**: The wintering flock expected at AMP seems to be gathering, 3-4 seen 10 Oct, had increased to 14 by 23 Oct (SH): **Marbled Murrelet (MS)**: 8-10, North Jetty, 16, 25 Oct (MW): **Barred Owl (MS)**: 1, Ammon Ridge, 3 Oct (PH, EE): **Pygmy Owl (FR)**: 2 at Ammon Ridge, 3 Oct (PH, EE) must have been a treat: **Saw-whet Owl (FR)**: 1, Ammon Ridge, 3 Oct (PH, EE): **Short-eared Owl (EM)**: 1, 15 Oct (MZ) was in a portion of the Mad River Wildlife Area that has become famous locally as a wintering area for raptors but is slated to be converted to a cordgrass monotype of little wildlife value(!); another was reported along Hookton Slough 14 Oct (JP, DF): **Common Nighthawk (GW, ID)**: 1, sound shot only, calling “peent”, above fog Humboldt Bay, 20 Oct (RH): **Lewis’s Woodpecker (FR)**: 1-3 (update), Kneeland, 8, 19, 21, 22 Sep (BB); 12, Bald Hills (near School House Peak), 27 Sep (KS); 3, Horse Mountain, 9 Oct (TL): **Red-naped Sapsucker (FR)** 1, Hookton Road, 19-21 Oct (SMcA, AT, MW, MZ, KR).

World Series Outfielders

Say’s Phoebe (FR): 1 (update), Kneeland, 6, 12, 13, 15 Sep (BB); 1, Ammon Ridge, 3 Oct (PH, EE): **Ash-throated Flycatcher (ID)**: 1, BSLP, 29-30 Sep, 6 Oct (MS, SB, DF, JP) created a stir from the not so typical call it was making: **Tropical Kingbird (EM)**: 1-2, Ferndale Bottoms, 4-15 Oct (GaH, MW, TMcK); 1, AB, 8, 16 Oct (KI, SB); 1, MKSP, 11 Oct (DT): **Eastern Kingbird (FR)**: 1, Pacific Shores, 2 Oct (AB, JoG): **Blue-headed Vireo (FR)**: 1, Shay Park, 3-6 Oct (DF, et al.): **Cassin’s Vireo (ID)**: 1, Eureka, 19 Oct (DF) was toward the end of their migration period: **Philadelphia Vireo (FR, NC)**: 1, mouth Redwood Creek, 2 Oct (KI): **Red-eyed Vireo (FR; NC)**: 1, Aldergrove Swamp, 8 Oct (GrL): **Horned Lark (IL)**: x, Bear River Ridge Pond, 19 Oct (DF); 1 flyover in pipit flock, Azalea Hill, 20 Oct (GL); 1, Ten-mile Beach, 19 Oct (DT): **Violet-green Swallow (IN)**: records of migrants

as follows: 30 at Ammon Ridge, 4 Oct (PH, EE); 700 (in 30 minutes, 1100 in 50 minutes), Grouse Mountain, 5 Oct, 250 there, 15 Oct, but only 1 on 26 Oct (TL): Other somewhat late season swallows were a **Rough-winged** at Ft Bragg, 9 Oct (DT), and a **Barn** at AMP, 23 Oct (SH): **Pygmy Nuthatch (FR, GW)**: heard calling along Centerville Road, 15 Oct (TMcK); and at Hiller Park, McKinleyville, 27 Oct (JH); have these invaded the lowlands this fall? **Dipper (FR)**: 1, Home Creek, Prairie Creek State Park, 23 Oct (DW): **Ruby-crowned Kinglet (EM)**: First noted at AOP, 20 Sep (SH), these had become regular by mid Oct in suitable habitat: **Western Bluebird (MS)**: 8-20, Grouse Mountain, 5-26 Oct (TL); 4, Fickle Hill, 23 Oct (DF): The **Swainson's Thrush** reported at Bayshore Mall, 5 Oct (TL) was on the late side: **Northern Mockingbird (FR)**: 1 "resident," Garberville, singing, 27 Oct (JS): **American Pipits** had arrived in large numbers by 3 Oct when DF reported 400 in one field on AB: As usual, the blackberry crop at BSLP attracted 250 + **Cedar Waxwings** 1-15 + Oct (mo).

Misoriented Warblers

Blue-winged Warbler (GW, FR): 1, Shay Park, 6 Oct (G & LL, DF, JP, RN): **Tennessee Warbler (FR)**: 1 imm. Lanphere Dunes, banded, 1 Oct (SB); 1, MRCP, 3-5 Oct (KI): **Virginia's Warbler (FR)**: 1, MRCP, 3-5 Oct (KI): A somewhat late **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was reported at Bayshore Mall, 5 Oct (TL): **Prairie Warbler (FR)**: 1, MRCP, 5-6 Oct (KI, RN): **Palm Warbler (EM)**: 11 reports of 1-2 from AB, AMP, Fickle Hill, Lanphere Dunes, Bayshore Mall, Cock Robin Island, Westport, 10 mile Beach, MKSP, 4-25 Oct (mo): **Bay-breasted Warbler (FR)**: 1, lower Van Duzen River, 1 Oct (SP): **Blackpoll Warbler (EM)**: 1 adult banded, Lanphere Dunes, 1 Oct (SB); 1, Orick Dump, 2 Oct (KI); 1, Fairhaven (airport willows), 8 Oct (KI); 1, Tyee City, 9 Oct (KI): **Black-and-white Warbler (EM)**: 1, Orick Dump, 20 Oct (JP); 1, Bayshore Mall, 16-25 Oct (TL); 1, King Salmon, 23-25 Oct (DF, KR): **Northern Waterthrush (FR)**: 1, AOP, 3 Oct (VS); 1, Weaverville, 5 Oct (GH, JH): **Mourning Warbler (GW, FR, NC)**: 1, AMP, 5 Oct (DF): **Canada Warbler (FR, NC)**: 1 female, near Trinidad, 3 Oct (MeH): **Western Tanager (ID)**: 1, Shay Park, 6 Oct (AT, SMcA, et al.): **Chipping Sparrow (ID)**: 1, BSLP, 30 Sep (BC): **Clay-colored Sparrow (FR)**: 1, Eel River Bottoms, 30 Sep (DF, JP., et al.); 1, Elk Head, 5 Oct (GL); 1, Fay Slough, 16 Oct (MM); 1, Vigo St. Marsh, 21 Oct (PH, et al.); 1, Freshwater Valley, 27 Oct (RH): **Swamp Sparrow (FR)**: 1, Mt. Trashmore, 9, 25 Oct (JT, BC); 1, Eureka Sewage Marshes, 16 Oct (DF); 1, Hookton Slough, 14 Oct (JP, DF): **Slate-colored Junco (FR)**: 1 banded, Lanphere Dunes, 10 Oct (SB); 1, Jacoby Creek Canyon, 25 Oct (DW): **Chestnut-collared Longspur (FR)**: 1, AB, 3 Oct (DF): **Longspur sp**: 1 (?) with Horned Larks, Bear River Ridge Pond, 19 Oct (DF): **Bobolink (FR)**: 1, Eel River Bottoms, 30 Sep (DF, JP, et al.); 1, Pacific Shores, 2 Oct (AB, JoG): **Yellow-headed Blackbird (FR)**: 1 female, Moxon Road (AB), 3 Oct (CW, MV); 1, AB, 8 Oct (KI); 1, Eureka Sewage Marshes, 16 Oct (DF): **Orchard Oriole (NC, GW, FR)**: 1, Shelter Cove, 19 Oct (DF): **Lawrence's Goldfinch (FR, GW)**: 1 male at feeder, Ferndale, 7 Oct (TMcK, MW).

Many thanks to the following who shared reports this month. Keep up the good work. Frank Anderson, Jane Barrett, Alan Barron, Ole Bernstein, Gary Bloomfield, Heather Brown, Suzie Bulger, Barbara Burek, Bryon Cariss, Bruce Deuel, Duke Diehl, Joe Dobbs, Dominic, Elias Elias, David Fix, Gary Friedrichsen, John Gaffin, Joe Gartland, Melody Hamilton, Stan Harris, Gjon Hazard, Pablo Herrera, Rob Hewitt, Gail Hodskins, Denise Homer, John Hunter, Ken Irwin, Tom & Sue Leskiw, Lauren & Gary Lester, Greg Levendosky, Sean McAllister, Brooke MacDonald, Bryan McIntosh, Tristian McKee, Michael Morris, Archie Mossman, Russ Namitz, Steve Pagliughi, Pesquide, Myron Petrosky, Jude Power, Kerry Ross, Kristin Schmidt, Mary Severdia, Victor Smith, Jay Sooter, Paul Springer, Reid Storre, Morgan Strachen, Robert Sutherland, Jim Tietz, Dorothy Tobkin, Terry Torgenson, Amber Transou, Margaret Varga, Matt Wachs, Rob Wall, Catharine Walling, David Weiss, Marcus Ziehm. Think Christmas Counts

Field Notes

by Stan Harris

17 August-30 September 2001

A better-than-average fall migration with enough 'good' things reported to force me, once again, to omit migration reports of usual species for lack of space, but please do continue to report these. Only 0.2 inches of rainfall in Sep, things pretty dry, generally good visibility. I received reports on 3 pelagic trips conducted off North Coast waters, one out of Ft. Bragg on 5 Sep and 2 out of Humboldt Bay on 9 and 15 Sep. Abbreviations used: AB = Arcata Bottoms; 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; HBNWR = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; IB = Interesting Behavior; ID = Interesting Date; IIT = Interesting, if true; IL = Interesting Location; IN = Interesting Numbers; MKSP = MacKerricher State Park; mo = Many Observers; MS = Monitored Species; NC = Not confirmed by a second party, no details or description; PPSP = Patricks Point State Park.

HIGHLIGHTS: PINK-FOOTED SHEARWATER (IN): usually fairly common in fall, the 500-700 recorded off Humboldt on 9 Sep was more than expected (SH, et al.); **FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER (FR):** 1, 2 miles west of the mouth of Redwood Creek, 14 Sep (PH); 1, 8 miles west of Humboldt Bay, 15 Sep (SH, MJ, et al.); **BULLER'S SHEARWATER (IL, IN):** expected in fall fairly far offshore in moderate numbers, but the 600+ seen off Humboldt on 9 Sep (SH et al.), and the 80 seen **from north jetty, 25 Sep**, (GrL), were notable: **ASHY STORM-PETREL (FR):** The 600+ seen in a raft 13 miles west of mouth, Eel River, 9 Sep (SH, et al.) compared with none in the same place, 15 Sep (SH): and only 3 off Ft. Bragg, 5 Sep (DS, et al.): **FORK-TAILED STORM-PETREL (IN):** At least 400 were in the raft with the 600 Ashy Storm-petrels seen off Eel River, 9 Sep (SH, et al.), the largest flock ever recorded off the North Coast: **WILSON'S STORM-PETREL (IIT):** 1 reported, no details, off Ft. Bragg, 5 Sep (DS, et al): **LITTLE BLUE HERON (FR, NC):** 1 immature at Lake Earl, 13 Sep (AB), one of fewer than 5, ever reports: **CATTLE EGRET (ID, IL):** 1, Trinity Lake, 12 Sep (SG, JH), seems really early and out of place! **WHITE-FACED (?) IBIS (ID):** 1 reported as "dark ibis sp.", almost certainly this species, flew over AOP, 24 Sep (EE), for one of the few fall records: **BLUE-WINGED TEAL (FR):** recovering from the summer molt, these are beginning to be identifiable again, 1, Hookton Channel, 3, Ferndale Oxidation Pond, both 15 Sep (SMcA); and 1, BSLP, 20-28 Sep (SH, BMcI): **HARLEQUIN DUCK (FR):** up to 8 constantly present at MKSP, 3 Aug-8 Sep (DT, JH), with 1-3 at Glass Beach 14 Aug and 11 Sep (DT) indicating an oversummering population. **HOODED MERGANSER (GW):** BY reported that 8 nest boxes installed at Big Lagoon held some Hooded Merganser eggs this summer; 4 of these were incubated by Hooded Mergansers (3 hatched), 1 contained 17 unincubated Hooded Merganser eggs, 2 mixed clutches were hatched by Wood Ducks and another mixed clutch was unincubated. **BALD EAGLE (MS):** 1 imm., mouth of Little River, 30 Aug (EE), and 1 adult, Trinity River/South Fork Junction, 7 Sep (TL) are fewer reports than expected: **NORTHERN GOSHAWK (FR, EL):** 1, between Horse and Grouse Mountains, 3 Sep (KR, MW): **ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK (ID):** 1, AB, 16 Sep (SB) and 2, Eel River Bottoms, 24 Sep (CW, MV) are on the early side: **MERLIN (MS):** 4 reports of singles received from AB, AOP, North Spit, Lost Coast Headland, 13-28 Sep (KI, TL, SH, PS): **PEREGRINE FALCON (MS):** 4 reports of 1-2 from lower Mad River, AMP, AOP, and mouth of Jacoby Creek, 2-29 Sep (SH, RR, BC, PL, et al.): **GOLDEN-PLOVER Sp. (FR):** 2 (flyover), ERWA, 10 Sep (KI); 1-7, AB, 23-28 Sep (mo): **AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER (FR):** 1, MKSP, 29-30 Aug (DT); 2-5, AB, 23-28 Sep (mo): **PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER (FR):** 1, Glass Beach, Ft. Bragg, 15 Sep (DT); 1-4 (?) (at least 2), AB, 23-28 Sep (mo): **SEMPALMATED PLOVER (IL):** 1, Trinity Lake, 25 Aug, 12 Sep (JH, JS, BW): **SNOWY PLOVER (EL):** 20, Ten Mile Beach, 3 Sep (JH): **AMERICAN AVOCET (IL):** up to 11, Lake Earl, 9-13 Sep (JH, TE, AB): **BLACK-NECKED STILT (FR):** 2-4, AB, 11, 22 Sep (GL, K & JR); 1, Lake Earl, 14-15 Sep (AB): **RED KNOT (FR):** 6 reports of 1-18 from lower Mad River, North Humboldt Bay, and MKSP, 1-26 Sep (mo): **SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER (FR):** 1, Butcher

Slough, 31 Aug (DF): **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER (ED)**: 8 reports of 1-4 from lower Mad River, mouth of Widow White Creek, Ten Mile River, MKSP, 17 Aug-28 Sep were about the normal number of fall migrant reports expected:

PECTORAL SANDPIPER (IL, IN): 1, Trinity Lake, 12 Sep (JH) was at a location not often searched; coastwise, 8 reports from Lake Earl, ERWA, along Eel River at Holmes, Ten Mile Beach, and MKSP, 3 Sep-29 Sep included flocks of 27 and 37 at ERWA and 30 at Lake Earl! **SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER (FR)**: 1, lower Mad River, 4, 8 Sep (FL, JC) was not confirmed by others; 1-2 juv at Jordan Creek near Lake Earl 8-13 Sep (JH, TE, MV, CW, AB); 1, ERWA, 29 Sep (KI): **STILT SANDPIPER (FR, NC)**: 1, Jordan Creek, Lake Earl, 9 Sep (AB): **RUFF (FR)**: reports of 3 separate birds as follows: 1, Butcher Slough, North Humboldt Bay, 30 Aug-16 Sep (SH, et al., mo), possibly also seen 29 Sep (MV); 1, lower Mad River, 1-13 Sep (BD, et al, mo); 1, mouth Jordan Creek, Lake Earl, 8-15 Sep (JH, TE, AB, JG).



COMMON GREENSHANK (GW)

Without a doubt, the bird of the year, this first record for the lower 48 states was found along lower Mad River on 27 Aug by Ken Irwin and seen subsequently by many observers. The last report was 17 Sep by Donna Lusthoff

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER (FR): 1, Ten Mile Beach (good written description), 1 Sep (CV, MM, GC, DT); 1, HBNWR, 2 Sep (SMcA), 1, Crab Park, 5 Sep (SMcA): **LONG-TAILED JAEGER (IN)**: 93 (!), up to 16 miles off Ft. Bragg, 5 Sep (DS, et al.): **SOUTH POLAR SKUA (FR)**: 1, off Ft. Bragg, 5 Sep (DS, et al.): **SABINE'S GULL (IN; IL)**: the 500-600 seen off Humboldt Bay 9 Sep had declined to 100-200 by 15 Sep but these were still more than usually seen (SH, et al.); single close-in birds were seen from North Jetty 27 Sep (MW) and in nearshore waters off Trinidad, 30 Aug (EE, PH, BO'B).

The 80 **COMMON** and 50-60 **FORSTER'S TERNS** reported in Eureka Channel 18-21 Sep (KI) certainly were noteworthy! **ARCTIC TERN (ED)**: 1, 8 miles off Humboldt Bay, 9 Sep (SH); 52, off Ft. Bragg, 5 Sep (DS, et al.): **LONG-BILLED MURRELET (IIT)**: Singles reported on 13 Aug, 28 Aug, 5 Sep, and 22 Sep in nearshore waters between Big Lagoon and Eel River by Marbled Murrelet survey crews represent an unknown number of individuals; hopefully, more documentation will be forthcoming. **XANTUS'S MURRELET (FR, NC)**: 1, 6 miles off Humboldt Bay, 9 Sep (SH): **TUFTED PUFFIN (FR)**: 1, off Ft. Bragg, 5 Sep (DS, et al.); 1, 8 miles west of Eureka, 15 Sep (SH, MJ, et al): **ACORN WOODPECKER (IL)**: 1, Fairhaven, Ft. Humboldt, 15-17 Sep (MW, GL): **LEWIS'S WOODPECKER (FR)**: 3, Horse Mountain, 3 Sep (KR, MW): **WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKER (FR)**: 3, 1 mile north Onion Camp, 7 Sep (TL); 2, 1 mile north Grouse Mountain, 20 Sep (MV, CW): **PILEATED WOODPECKER (IL)**: 1, Arcata, 29 Sep (SK): **OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER (ID)**: 1, near Grove's Prairie, 19 Sep (TL): **WILLOW FLYCATCHER (FR)**: 11 reports from Todd Ranch, mouth of Willow Creek, Mad River at Blue Lake, AMP, AOP, North Spit, Centerville Beach Road, 3-25 Sep (mo) indicates this may be more common than previously thought: **LEAST FLYCATCHER (FR)**: 1, AOP, 17 Sep (JP, DF): **CORDILLERAN**

FLYCATCHER (IIT): 1 possible bird, ID based on call, Fairhaven, 11-12 Sep (KI, BMcI): **EASTERN PHOEBE (FR):** 1, mouth Willow Creek, 7 Sep (TL): **SAY'S PHOEBE (FR):** 1, Todd Ranch, 24 Sep (TL); 2, 1 mile north Grouse Mountain, 20 Sep (MV, CW, B&NI): **RED-EYED VIREO (FR):** 1, Smith River Bottoms, 9 Sep (AB); 1, Fairhaven, 11-12 Sep (KI, BMcI), 1, PPSP, 16 Sep (KI): **PHILADELPHIA VIREO (NC):** 1, Fairhaven, 11 Sep, 1 PPSP, 16 Sep, 1, Fairhaven, 20 Sep (all KI): **CLARK'S NUTCRACKER (FR):** 1, G-O Road, Del Norte Co., 20 Sep (KS): **BANK SWALLOW (FR):** 1, AOP, 16-19 Sep (BC, PL, SH): **PYGMY NUTHATCH (FR):** 1-3, Centerville Beach Road and Centerville Naval Facility, 16-18 Sep (TL, JA, et al.) One of the very few Humboldt County records: **SWAINSON'S THRUSH (IN):** 50-100 calls **per minute** reported over Arcata 2200-0400 hours, night of 24-25 Sep by 2 independent observers (BC, GrL): **NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD:** 1, Garberville, 23 Sep (JS); 1, Fairhaven, 26 Sep (MW) **TENNESSEE WARBLER (FR):** 1, King Range Parking Lot, 20 Sep (TMcK); 1, Ferndale, 27 Sep (DF): **NORTHERN PARULA (FR):** 2, PPSP, 16 Sep (KI); 1, Manila, 17 Sep (GL): **CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (IN):** 8 reports of 7 individuals from PPSP, Trinidad, Shay Park, Manila, Fairhaven, Bayshore Mall, Centerville Naval Facility, 16-26 Sep (mo): **MAGNOLIA WARBLER (FR):** 1, Bayshore Mall, 14-15 Sep (TL); 1, Salt River, 15 Sep (SMcA); 1, Fairhaven, 18 Sep (KI): **PRAIRIE WARBLER (FR):** 1, Fairhaven, 25-26 Sep (GrL, MW): **PALM WARBLER (EM):** 4 reports, AB, AMP, ERWA, Eel River Bottoms, 24-29 Sep (DF, JP, SMcA, KI): **BAY-BREASTED WARBLER (FR):** 1, Lake Earl, 9 Sep (JH, TE, AB): **BLACKPOLL WARBLER (EM):** 7 reports from BSLP, Fairhaven, Bayshore Mall, lower Eel River, 12-26 Sep (mo): **BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER (FR):** 1, Fairhaven, 11-16 Sep (MW, KI, RLeV, BMcI): **AMERICAN REDSTART (FR):** 1, near Trinidad, 17 Sep (BMcI), 1, Fairhaven, 15 Sep (BMcI), 1, Eel River Bottoms, 25 Sep (SMcA); 1, Centerville Naval Facility, 16-17 Sep (TL): **NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH (FR):** 1, AOP, 3, 15 Sep (MV, RH): **MOURNING WARBLER (NC):** 1, Crannell Road, 13 Sep (KI): **RUFOUS-CROWNED SPARROW (FR):** 10, vicinity Cain Rock, 18 Sep was a new northcoast high count (MW): **LARK BUNTING (FR):** 1, Westport, 7 Sep (DT): **VESPER SPARROW (EM):** 1, ERWA, 10 Sep (KI): **LAPLAND LONGSPUR (EM):** 1, mouth Lake Talawa, 15 Sep (JH): **ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (FR):** 1 male, Eel River Bottoms, 16 Sep (SMcA): **INDIGO BUNTING (FR):** 1, McKinleyville, 18 Sep, (JD, SS): **BOBOLINK (FR):** 1, AOP, 11-23 Sep (SH, BMcI, RH, DF): **RED CROSSBILL (IB):** 8 apparently feeding on a clay bank, Trinity County, north of Highway 36, 5 Sep (TL).

Many thanks to the following who shared observations with us this month. Keep up the good work! Brian Acord, Marge Adams, David Anderson, Frank Anderson, Jan Anderson, Alan Barron, Dennis & Patricia Braddy, Hal Bridge, Heather Brown, Susie Bulger, Barbara Burek, Bryon Cariss, George Chaniot, Jessie Conklin, Bruce Deuel, Joe Dobbs, Jeff Dunk, Todd Easterly, Elias Elias, Brian Fitch, David Fix, Mick Freeman, Steve Glover, Stan Harris, Gesila Hennessey, Pablo Herrera, Rob Hewitt, Dan Heyerly, Dennis Holmes, John Hunter, Bojan and Norman Ingle, Ken Irwin, Matt Johnson, Gail Kenny, Sidney Kilkenny, Ron LeValley, Greg Levendosky, Tom Leskiw, Fred Lessor, Gary Lester, John Lewis, Paul Lohse, Donna Lusthoff, Matthew Matthison, Sean McAllister, Brook McDonald, Bryan McIntosh, Tritian McKee, Michael Morris, Mildred Mossman, Laura Nelson, Brit O'Brian, Chet Ogan, Trent Orr, Elin Pierce, Jude Power, Bill Rodstrom, Jamie Ross, Kerry Ross, Megan Ross, Mike Scram, Rosalie Sehele, Keith Slauson, Jay Sooter, Sabra Steinberg, John Sterling, Paul and Virginia Springer, Pete and Nancy Spruance, Ruth Sullivan, Amber Transou, Dorothy Tobkin, Margaret Varga, Chuck Vaughn, Matt Wachs, Catharine Walling, Jim Watkins, Bud Widdowson, Bryan Yost.

Field Notes
by Stanley W. Harris
29 April-26 August 26 2001

As usual, after 4 months without a Sandpiper, I only have room for the highlights of the summer's observations. Once again, I want to emphasize the importance of continuing to report migration dates, interesting numbers, unusual locations, etc., of the "expected" species as this kind of information all adds to our growing base of knowledge of the Northcoast's birds. Please continue such reports even though you may not find them listed in this month's *Sandpiper* for lack of space. Abbreviations used: **AB** = Arcata Bottoms; **AMP** = Arcata Marsh Project; **AOP** = Arcata Oxidation Pond; **BSLP** = Butcher Slough Log Pond; **EL** = Expected Location; **ERB** = Eel River Bottoms; **ERWA** = Eel River Wildlife Area; **FR** = Few Records; **GW** = Gee Whiz Report; **HBNWR** = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; **ID** = Interesting Date; **IL** = Interesting Location; **MKSP** = MacKerricher State Park; **mo** = Many Observers; **MS** = Monitored Species; **NC** = Report not confirmed by a second party; **NR** = Nest Record; **PCSP** = Prairie Creek State Park; **SRB** = Smith River Bottoms;

Observations

WHITE-FACED IBIS (FR): Continuing the pattern of wanderers in May established some years ago, 26 (a new record) flocks of 1-100± were reported from **SRB, AB, AMP, Blue Lake, Freshwater Valley, HBNWR, ERWA, ERB, Shelter Cove, 10-mile River**, 14-30 May (mo): **LONG-TAILED DUCK (ID)**: 1, mouth, **Elk River**, 20 May (PH): **HARLEQUIN (ID)**: 1 female, **King Salmon**, 30 Apr (BW); 4, **Crescent City**, 6 July (anon); 4, 1 Jun-11 Jul; 8, 12-31 Jul, both **MKSP (DT)**: **HOODED MERGANSER (NR)**: BY reported 4 females **on nests** in wood duck boxes (3 hatched successfully) at **Big Lagoon and nearby Maple Creek** this summer. This was the third known year for one female to nest there and the second known year for a second female: **BALD EAGLE (MS)**: 11 reports of 1-2 from near **Orleans, South Fork of Trinity River, Humboldt Bay, lower Eel River, near Alderpoint**, 5 Mar (update)-1 Jul (mo).

Hawks in the mountains

GOSHAWK (FR): 1, **7 miles south of highway 299 along south fork of Trinity River**, 3 Jun (MW): **SWAINSON'S HAWK (GW, NC)**: 1, **Fickle Hill** (adequate phone description, nothing written received), 9 May (TMcK, F & JN): **GOLDEN EAGLE (IL)**: 1, **Cock Robin Island**, 18 Aug (BS): **PEREGRINE FALCON (MS)**: 7 (only) reports of singles from **Blue Lake, AMP, North Spit, ERWA**, 22 May-25 Aug (mo): **RUFFED GROUSE (FR)**: 3 of 4 reports were from **Big Hill or Hoopa Valley (MHi, DR, RH)**, the fourth from **Strawberry Rock near Trinidad** (5 Jul, MS): **COMMON MOORHEN (FR)**: 1, **MKSP**, 23-29 Apr (DT): **BLACK-NECKED STILT (FR)**: 2, **Lanphere Road**, 3 May (SL); 1, **Klopp Lake**, 31 May (G&RN); **AMERICAN AVOCET (NR)**: about 20 adults, apparently nesting at **HBNWR**, 14-22 May (SL) had produced at least 2 broods by 4-7 Jun (MW); 1, **10 Mile River**, 20 May (DT): **SOLITARY SANDPIPER (FR)**: 1, **Highway 299 x Mad River**, 3 May (ST); 1 **HBNWR**, 2 May (SH): **RED-NECKED STINT (GW, NC)**: 1 reported, good phone description, **AB**, 2 May (KI): **SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER (FR)**: 1, **AMP**, 21 Jul (KI); 1, **Klopp Lake**, 4 Aug (BMcI): **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER (NC, FR)**: 1, no description of any kind!, **ERWA**, 25 Aug (MF): **WILSON'S PHALAROPE (FR)**: 1, **AMP**, 20 May (RH, ST); 1, **ERWA**, 10 Aug (MW); 1, **AOP**, 16 Aug (SH).



Summer Gulls

LAUGHING GULL (FR, NC): 1 (reported as "second year"), **Bracut**, 7 May (RH, ST, PH, TMcK); 1 ("second year"), **Crescent City Harbor**, 18 Jun (AB, fide GL) (no oral or written reports received on either bird): **FRANKLIN'S GULL (FR, NC):** 1, **Crescent City**, 17, 18 Jun (AB, fide GL); 1 adult, **Crescent City**, 6 Jul (AB); 1, **Clam Beach**, 14 Aug (KR): **MARBLED MURRELET (MS):** 5 (only reports of 2-"lots" from PCSP, offshore at **Redwood Creek, North Jetty, MKSP**, 8 May-21 Jul (EE, DF, BD, DT) **XANTUS'S MURRELET (FR, IL, NC):** 1, ("hypoleuca race" !) **Crescent City Harbor**, 8 Jul (CO): **CASPIAN TERN (NR):** 150-200, defending nesting site and carrying fish into grass on **Sand Island, North Humboldt Bay**, 10-13 Aug (DD) (the first confirmed nesting of this species at Humboldt Bay in more than 30 years!); **TUFTED PUFFIN (MS):** 1, 2 May (SH, et. al); 1, 12 May (MW, et. al), both **Green Rock:** **WHITE-WINGED DOVE (FR):** 1, **Fieldbrook**, 3 Jun (TD, reported by property owners to have been there about 2 weeks prior to 3 Jun): **YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO (GW, FR):** 1 actively calling territorial calls, **Singley Bar near Fernbridge**, 30 Jun-10 Jul (SMcA, AT, TMcK, et al.): **WESTERN SCREECH OWL (NR):** at least 3 nests were reported in wood duck boxes on Simpson Land from **Klamath to Big Lagoon (BY): BARRED OWL (FR):** 1, 3 May (SH, RR, DR), 1, 6 May (RH, et. al), both **Big Hill**; 1, **Freshwater Valley**, 28 May (SP); 1, **15+ miles out Highway 36**, 8 Jun (KR); 1, **PCSP**, 23 Jun (BD): **SAW-WHET OWL (NR):** 1 nested in wood duck box, **Big Lagoon Mill Pond**, (BY).

Nighthawks on the Beach

COMMON NIGHTHAWK (MS): 6 reports (including reports of 2 nests at **Clam Beach!**), from **Ship Mountain, Lake Earl Drive, Clam Beach, near Meyers Flat**, 5 May (!)-mid Jul (JS, TL, DLV, MC, CO): **BLACK SWIFT (FR):** 5 reports of 1-12 migrants from near **Hurdy Gurdy Creek, mouth of Redwood Creek, Freshwater Lagoon, Azalea Hill, AB**. 2-5 Jun (CO, DF, GL, PH): **WHITE-THROATED SWIFT (FR):** seen daily at **Garberville**, early May (JS); 1-4, **Wagner Bridge south of Garberville**, 12 May, 24 Jun (KR, DF, JP, MM, JS, MT, EE); found entering apparent nest crevices in bluffs at **Holmes**, Apr-May (LN): **COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD (FR):** 1 male, near **A.W. Way Campground, Mattole Valley**, 30 Jun-1 Jul (GL, LL); 1 male, **McKinleyville**, 15 Jul-19 Aug (J&DD, S &LH): **WILLOW FLYCATCHER (MS):** 11 reports of 1-2 from **Klamath Glen, PCSP, near Patricks Point, Little River Valley, AOP, Eureka, Larabee, near Meyers Flat**, 5 May-23 Aug (DF, KI, CO, JS, MT, EE, RH, LN, SH): **GRAY FLYCATCHER (FR):** 1, **Davison Road Bridge**, 31 May (KI).

WHITE-EYED VIREO (GW): The first, ever, **Humboldt County Record** and only the second North Coast record, a bird found 10 Jun at **Elk Head (KI)**, remained until at least 30 Jun singing every day (mo): **BLUE-HEADED VIREO (NC):** 1, **Blue Lake Bottoms**, 24 May (KI): **RED-EYED VIREO (NC):** 1, **Fairhaven**, 23 Jun (KI): **PURPLE MARTIN (IN):** 8 reports of spring migrants, 3 May-4 Jun (mo), included an all time record count

of 132 at AMP, 15 May (JT): **ROCK WREN (FR): 1, Kneeland, 20 May (AD); 2, Ship Mountain, 7 Jun (TL): CANYON WREN (FR): 1, 3 miles downstream from Alderpoint, 1 Jul (GB): BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (FR): 2, near Alderpoint, 12, 21 May (KR, DF, JP, MM, GB); 1, 6 miles north Crescent City, 29 May (KR).**

Great Warblers!

LUCY'S WARBLER (GW, NC): 1 seen and heard singing, near Patricks Point, 5 May (KI): NORTHERN PARULA (FR, NR): 1, mouth Redwood Creek, 22 May (KI); 1, Lower Lake Drive, 30 May (AB); 1, Hookton Road, 31 May (there for the third year in a row) (KI); 1, Azalea Hill, 2 Jun (GL); 1, Lanphere Dunes, 27-28 Jun (CJR); 1 pair nested, Patricks Point Drive, and fledged at least 2 young, 16 Jun-17 Jul (KI), seen by mo 28 Jun-12 Jul: **BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER (FR): 1 singing, McKinleyville, 31 Jul (SMcA, RLV): CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (FR): 1 male singing, Scenic Drive, 11 Jun; Canal School, 12 Jun (both KI); BSLP, 13 Jun (SH): MAGNOLIA WARBLER (FR, NC): 1, near Patricks Point, 5 May (KI): CAPE MAY WARBLER (FR, NC): 1, Scenic Drive, 20 Jun (KI): AMERICAN REDSTART (FR): 1 imm. male, MKSP, 6 Jun (DT); 1 singing male, Patricks Point, 10 Jun (KI); 1 male singing, Cock Robin Island, 15 Jun (DF, JP, GFa): OVENBIRD (FR): 1 seen and heard, Dedrick Turnoff, north of Junction City, Trinity County, 9 Jun (TMcK): NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH (FR): 1, Salt River, 30 Jun (DF); 1 caught and banded, Yager Creek, 25 Aug (AO): HOODED WARBLER (FR): 1, Scenic Drive, 16 Jun (KI): CALIFORNIA TOWHEE (IL): 1 singing, H.S.U. CAMPUS, 25 Jun (AD): RUFOUS-CROWNED SPARROW (EL): 2-4, near Cain Rock, 12, 21 May (KR, MM, DF, JP, GB); 2, 3 miles downstream from Alderpoint, 1 Jul (GB): BREWER'S SPARROW (FR): 1 singing, Crescent City, 21-22 May (AB): GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (EL): 9 reports of 1-8 from near Orleans, Blue Lake, Kneeland, ERB, near Bridgeville, Bear River Ridge, Cape Mendocino Beach, east of Dyerville, 12 May-30 Jun (mo): HARRIS'S SPARROW (ID): 1, Eureka, 4 May ("been here a month") (DB): ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (FR): 1 male, Elk Head, 26-28 May (BC, et .al); 1 male, MKSP, 24 May (DT); 1 male, Azalea Hill/Park, 21-22 Jun (GL, KR); 1 male, Eureka, 3-4 Jul (BCL): INDIGO BUNTING (FR): 1, Highway 101 x Mad River, 25 May-1 Aug (KR); 1, 1 mile north Queens Peak, 13 Jun (anon): DICKCISSEL (FR): 1 male singing, Happy Camp, 2 May (TC): BOBOLINK (FR): 1 male singing, near Crescent City, 27-28 May (AB): TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD (FR): 1 pair, Bear River Ridge pond, 15 Jun (CO); 3-12, SRB, 12 Jun-11 Jul (AB, JG): YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (FR): 1, ERB, 30 Jun (fide BS): GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE (FR): 1, SRB, 10-11 Jul (KR, AB, JG): ORCHARD ORIOLE (NC): 1 imm male, Fairhaven, 21 Jun (KI): BALTIMORE ORIOLE (FR): 1 male, AMP, 25 Apr (MA); 1 male singing, Lanphere Dunes, 2 Jun (CJR): HOODED ORIOLE (EL): 1 male, Trinidad, 3, 24 May (MHa, KI); 1, Eureka, 31 May (nesting in palm) (anon); 1 imm male, Mendocino Botanical Gardens, 1 Jun (DT); 2, Stewart St., Ft. Bragg, 1 Jun (DT); 3, Arcata, 26-28 Jul (RM); 1 male, Arcata, 4 Aug (BMcI): LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH (FR): 1 male, Kneeland, 20 May (BB, DVZ, JP, DF).**

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Field Notes
by Stanley W. Harris
20 March-29 April 2001

Spring Migration in full swing, birds arriving and departing more or less on time with few surprises. Weather generally on dry side. Good weather for the Godwit Days festival at the end of the period. Abbreviations used: **AB = Arcata Bottoms; A-EB = Arcata-Eureka Bottoms; AMP = Arcata Marsh Project; AOP = Arcata Oxidation Pond; BE = Blessed Event; BSLP = Butcher Slough Log Pond; EM = Expected Migrant; FR = Few Records; GW = Gee Whiz Report; HBNWR = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; ID = Interesting Date; IL = Interesting Location; MKSP = MacKerricher State Park; MS = Monitored Species; SRB = Smith River Bottoms.**

HIGHLIGHTS

Del Norte's small nesting colony of **GREAT EGRETS** (2-3 pairs) began to show activity 2 Apr (AB): **CATTLE EGRET (MS)**: 1, AB, 5 Apr (P&VS, E&MRW): **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (ID)**: 1, HBNWR, 27 Mar (KR); 3, SRB, 29 Apr (AB): **SNOW GOOSE (ID)**: 1, SRB; 24 Mar (RH): **ROSS'S GOOSE (ID)**: 1, HBNWR, 27 Mar (KR); 1, AB, 5-28 Apr (P&VS, E&MRW, et al.): **BLUE-WINGED TEAL (FR)**: 1 male, AMP, 19-28 Apr (DF, et al.): Eurasian Green-winged Teal (**FR**): 1 male, Fay Slough, 26 Apr (DF); **EURASIAN WIGEON (ID)**: 1 male, AB, 31 Mar-1 Apr (PS, SH, TL, MH); 2, HBNWR, 26 Apr (GB, et al.); 1, SRB, 29 Apr (AB): **HARLEQUIN (FR)**: 3, MKSP; 21 Mar (DT); 17, Glass Beach, 21 Mar (DT); 13, Crescent City, 24 Mar (AB, RH); 6-8, MKSP, 28 Mar-23 Apr (DT); 1, King Salmon, 27 Apr (TMcK, et al.).

No more Oldsquaw

LONG-TAILED DUCK (FR): 2, Crescent City Harbor, 24 Mar (RH); 1, MKSP, 23 Apr (DT); 3, Smith River estuary, 29 Apr (AB): **HOODED MERGANSER (FR)**: 1 female, Klopp Lake, 11 Apr (TR); at least 2 females in boxes on eggs near Big Lagoon late in Apr (BY): **BALD EAGLE (MS)**: 8 reports of singles from So. Fork, Trinity River, Arcata Bay and Lanphere Spit, 7 Mar-27 Apr (mo): **GOSHAWK (FR)**: 1, Blocksburg, 23-25 Mar (BC, RS); 1, Tish Tang Ridge, 21 Apr (PH): **RED-TAILED HAWK (GW)**: Reported **nesting** for the **29th year in a row** in her yard in Fortuna (RC): **FERRUGINOUS HAWK (ID)**: 1, AB, 1 Apr (TL, SH); wintering bird last seen in Del Norte, 3 Mar (AB): **ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK (ID)**: 1, HBNWR, 27 Mar (KR); 2, south of Ferndale "along coast," 31 Mar (KR); 1, AB, 1-5 Apr (TL, SH, P&VS, E&MRW): **RUFFED GROUSE (FR)**: 1, near Patricks Point State Park, 24 Apr (PH, et al.); 1, near Todd Ranch, 27 Apr (MW); 1 seen, 3 heard, near Hoopa, 29 Apr (MH, BMcD, et al.): **WILD TURKEY (FR)**: several gobbling, Blocksburg, 9-13 Mar; 23-25 Mar (both BC, RS): 1 female, Kneeland, 3 miles south of Lawrence Ck. Bridge, 5 Apr (BB, DVZ): **COMMON MOORHEN (FR)**: 1, MKSP, 23 Apr (DT): **SOLITARY SANDPIPER (FR)**: 1, HBNWR, 26 Apr (GB): **LESSER YELLOWLEGS (EM, FR)**: 2, SRB, 29 Apr (MM): **GLAUCOUS GULL (FR)**: 1 imm, Crescent City Harbor, 26 Apr (AB); **ANCIENT MURRELET (FR)**: 1 flying south past Wedding Rock, 21 Apr (DF, JP): **TUFTED PUFFIN (MS)**: **Continued decline of this species indicated by only 1 at Green Rock, 27-29 Apr (GB, GL) and only 2 pairs (first seen 31 Mar) reported at nesting areas at Castle Rock this spring (AB).**

Brown-eyed Owls

BARRED OWL (MS): 2, Prairie Creek State Park, 6-26 Apr (RH, et al.): **SPOTTED OWL (MS)**: 1, Blocksburg, 23-25 Mar (BC, RS); 1, Kneeland, 27 Apr (PH): **NIGHTHAWK SP. (ID)**: 1, studied for some time as it flew at 10-Mile River near Ft. Bragg, 19 Apr (DT), thought to be possibly a Lesser, based on the early date, narrow white bar near tip of wing, and buffy ("orange" according to one casual observer) cast to body plumage; seen as it flew

without vocalizing, and was not seen perched; was not found later despite attempts. **WHITE-THROATED SWIFT (FR)**: 5-6, Scotia Bluffs, 27 Mar (GL): **LARGE DARK SWIFT SP.** 1, Pigeon Point Road, Eureka, reported as "possible Chimney," 21 Apr (DW), but "all dark, larger than Vaux's with slow wing beat, much gliding" certainly does not rule out Black Swift, far more likely. **CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD (FR, ID)**: 1 male, well seen and described over phone, Kneeland, 30 Mar (BB, DVZ); 1, Azalea Hill, 22 Apr (GL): **WILLOW FLYCATCHER (FR, ID)**: 1, Bayside Road, 28 Apr (TMcK, JeS); 1 reported singing at BSLP, 28 Apr (no details): **HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER (IL, FR)**: 1, Shay Park, 29 Apr (DF, JP): **NORTHERN SHRIKE (FR)**: 1, Pacific Shores, 24 Mar (AB, only Del Norte record for the winter): **PLUMBEOUS VIREO (FR)**: 1, BSLP, 20 Apr (SH, only about the 10th documented record): **CLARK'S NUTCRACKER (GW)**: 1, flying south past Big Lagoon, 21 Apr (TMcK): **GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (FR)**: 1 singing, Davison Road Bridge, 25-26 Apr (DF, KR): **INDIGO BUNTING (FR)**: 1, Moonstone Heights, 26-27 Apr (LV): **TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD (FR)**: 1 (only), Cannibal Road, 27 Mar, RH, TMcK): **BALTIMORE ORIOLE (FR)**: 1 male, singing 6-23 Apr (EE, et al., seen by many observers; the first record for the northcoast since 1996 and only about the 20th record ever): **HOODED ORIOLE (FR, IL)**: 2 at a sugar feeder, Orick, 16-17 Apr (GC, fide KR): **LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH (IL, FR)**: 1 male, singing, north Arcata, 21 Apr (KR).

Other Interesting Reports of Migrants, Etc

RED-THROATED & PACIFIC LOONS (EM): "low numbers" Wedding Rock, 21 Apr (DF, JP): **RED-NECKED GREBE (ID)**: 3, MKSP, 23 Apr (DT); 3, Humboldt Bay, 29 Apr: **CLARK'S GREBE (FR)**: 1, Arcata Bay, 10-27 Apr (JT, et al.): **BROWN PELICAN (ID, EM)**: 1, Ft. Bragg, 16-22 Apr (DT): 2, flying north past Wedding Rock, 21 Apr (DF, JP); 1, Elk Head, 27 Apr (GB): **BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSS (EM)**: 5, Eel Canyon, 15 Apr (HG); 150, offshore Eureka, 28-29 Apr (RLeV, TMcK): **SOOTY SHEARWATER (EM)**: 5, Eel Canyon, 15 Apr (HG); 40, offshore Eureka, 28-29 Apr (RLeV, TMcK): **AMERICAN BITTERN (FR)**: 1, BSLP, 6 Mar, 12 Apr (BMcI, ST); 1 "booming" in plain view, AMP, 18 Apr (EE): **GREEN HERON (EM, FR)**: 1, Mad River Road, 5 Apr (P&VS, E&MRW): 1, mouth of Redwood Creek, 17 Apr (anon, please give your name when you put reports on the bird box!); 1, College of the Redwoods, 18 Apr (KR); 2, Blue Lake riparian, 21 Apr (DF, JP): **WESTERN CANADA GOOSE (BE)**: First new brood of the season hatched from the east island of Klopp Lake (7 goslings) by at least 9 Apr (SH, et al); by the end of the period at least 3 other broods had been reported: **ALEUTIAN CANADA GOOSE (EM)**: x, HBNWR, 27 Mar (KR); 3000, AB, 5 Apr (KR); not seen in AB after mid-Apr, but at least 2000 still present on Smith River Bottoms in mid Apr (AB): **WOOD DUCK (EM)**: have returned to AOP as usual in spring where 2-12 have been seen regularly since 28 Feb (many reports, MA, et al.): **MALLARD (BE)**: first broods seen at AOP and Gearheart Marsh, 19-20 Apr (SH): **GADWALL (IN)**: 20 (10 pairs), Arcata Bay near AOP, 19 Apr; 5-6 pairs, AMP, 19-29 Apr (mo): **RING-NECKED DUCK (IL)**: 1-5, AMP, 26 Mar-27 Apr (mo); 1 pair, Mad River at Blue Lake, 20 Apr (KR, MM); 1, Fay Slough, 19 Apr (DF); 2, SRB, 29 Apr (MM).

One More Scoter

BLACK SCOTER (ID): 4, MKSP, 23 Apr (DT): **COMMON GOLDENEYE (FR)**: 1 female, Klopp Lake, 4-25 Apr (mo): **RUDDY DUCK (GW)**: 1 male with an all dark head, AOP, 24-26 Apr (SH, MA): **OSPREY (EM)**: 7 reports of 1-3 from Arcata Bay, Blue Lake, Fortuna, and north spit near Manila where a new nest was occupied, 21 Mar-27 Apr (mo): **WHITE-TAILED KITE (IL)**: 1, Blue Lake, 4 Apr (CW, MV): **MERLIN (MS, ID)**: 11 reports of singles from Elk Prairie, Lanphere Dunes, AB, AMP, Arcata Bay, HBNWR, Fernbridge, 21 Mar-28 Apr (mo): **PEREGRINE FALCON (MS)**: 17 reports of 1-2 from SRB, Klamath Glen, Espa Lagoon, Davison Road, mouth of Redwood Creek, AB, AMP, AOP, Eureka, HBNWR, 27 Mar-29 Apr (mo): **RING-NECKED PHEASANT (GW)**: Singles seen on six occasions near Elk River Road exit, 14 Mar-10 Apr (MJ, KR) were probably recent releases from captivity: **VIRGINIA RAIL (ID)**: 1, No Name Pond, 5, 23 Apr (SH); 1, BSLP, 10 Apr (CO): **SORA (ID)**: 3,

AMP, 10 Apr (JT); 1, No Name Pond, 16, 18 Apr (SH): **SNOWY PLOVER (MS)**: 1, Clam Beach, 31 Mar (CW, MV); 7 Clam Beach, 28 Apr (SMcA, AT):: **AVOCET (IL)**: 4, HBNWR, 27 Apr (GB): **WHIMBREL (EM)**: 1, Klopp Lake, 7 Apr (MS); 16-25, near Orick, 17-23 Apr (anon, DF): **RED KNOT (FR)**: 2, AMP, 21 Apr (BC); 1, Woodley Island, 27 Apr (TMcK): **ROCK SANDPIPER (ID)**: 1, MKSP, 22 Mar (DT): **SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER (EM)**: first identified 21 Mar, Klopp Lake (BMcI), common by end of period: **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (ID)**: 15, Crab Park, 10 Apr (TMcK): **CASPIAN TERN (EM)**: 2, Klopp Lake, 21 Mar (BMcI); 40, lower Mad River, 31 Mar (PS); 30, migrating as singles past Stone Lagoon, 1000-1100, 31 Mar (SH): **MARbled MURRELET (MS)**: 2, Eel Canyon, 15 Apr (HG); 2, MKSP, 23 Apr (DT); x, offshore, 29 Apr (TMcK); "regular numbers," dawn flights, Elk Prairie, all month (mo): Only 4 **RHINOCEROS** and 6 **CASSIN'S AUKLETS**, reported on Godwit Days boat trip 28 Apr (RLeV). **PYGMY-OWL (FR)**: 1-2 calling, Prairie Creek State Park, 3-26 Apr (RH, et al.): **SHORT-EARED OWL (ID)**: 1, HBNWR, 27 Mar (KR); 6 (!), Hookton Slough, 8 Apr (MS, DF, JP); 4, Hookton Slough, 18 Apr (JD); JD reported that, in spring 2000, sometime before 1 July, he saw an "obvious" family unit group of 5 at Hookton Slough Trail of HBNWR, so a male and female displaying over the same area on 29 Apr (RLeV, SMcA) was notable; 1-3 reported "flushed from tree roost," Kneeland, 22-23 Mar (AD), could these have been Long-eared Owls?: **SAW-WHET OWL (FR)**: 1, Blocksburg, 23-25 Mar (BC, RS); 1, Kneeland, 27 Apr (PH): **RUFous HUMMINGBIRD (EM)**: Additional, usual, reports of these were received; example: 1 seen on 12 days, 11-31 Mar at Kneeland (BB): **ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD (EM)**: Became well established at feeders throughout region and period, example: 1-2 seen on 21 days, 9-31 Mar at Kneeland (BB): **HAIRY WOODPECKER (GW)**: 1 pure white (dark eye) bird reported near Trinidad, 30 Mar (MeH): **PILEATED WOODPECKER (FR)**: 4 reports of 1-2 from Todd Ranch, Elk Head, Arcata Community Forest, Horse Mountain, 25-28 Apr (mo): **GRAY JAY (MS)**: 1, Klamath Glen, 17 Apr (EE): **MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE (IL)**: 1-5, Elk Head, 23-28 Apr (MeH, STu). **DIPPER (FR)**: 2, Lost Man Creek, 24-28 Apr (GB, et al.): **RED CROSSBILL (BE)**: MeH reported 2 pairs of adults with 3 and 5 juvenal-plumage young near Trinidad, 22-23 Apr. Timely reports of other expected migrants were as follows: **Wandering Tattler**, 29 Apr, North Jetty; **Vaux's Swift**, 17 Apr, Freshwater (RH); **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, 24 Apr, Monument Creek (GL); **Pacific-slope Flycatcher**, 2 Apr, Elk Valley (GL).

First Grassland Royalty

Western Kingbird, 19 Apr, Arcata (DF): **Warbling Vireo**, 23-25 Mar, Blocksburg, (BC, RS); **Purple Martin**, 7 Apr, AMP (MV, CW, MS); **Cliff Swallow**, 26 Mar, AMP (SH); **Rough-winged Swallow**, 24 Mar, Smith River mouth (PS); **Western Bluebird**, 2 seen on 16 days in Mar at Kneeland, where they are known to nest in boxes (BB); **Swainson's Thrush**, 23 Apr, Orick (DF); **Northern Mockingbird**, 14 Apr, So. G. Street, Arcata (DF, JP); AMP, 17 Apr (BMcI); **Townsend's Warbler**, 4-5 still present, 18 Apr, Cummings Road, Eureka (T&SL); **Hermit Warbler**, 29 Mar, Redwood Science Lab (CO); 14 Apr, Azalea Hill (GL); **Black-throated Gray Warbler**, (wintering bird last seen at AMP, 9 Mar (AB); obvious spring migrant present 20 Apr, Blue Lake riparian (KR, MM); **Palm Warbler**, wintering bird(s) still at AMP, 29 Apr (anon): **MacGillvray's Warbler**, 21 Apr, Miranda (JS); **Common Yellowthroat**, common at AMP/AOP after 26 Mar (SH); **Wilson's Warbler**, 26 Mar, Sunny Brae (SH), many after early April (mo); **Yellow-breasted Chat**, 27 Apr, Blue Lake (RH); **Western Tanager**, 10 Apr, HBNWR (TMcK): **Chipping Sparrow**, 31 Mar, Azalea Hill (GL); **Vesper Sparrow**, 24 Mar, Trinity Center (JH, JS); **Black-headed Grosbeak**, 17 Apr, Eureka (HG); **Lazuli Bunting**, 29 Apr, Hoopa (BMcD); **Bullock's Oriole**, 15 Mar, Crescent City (AB); **Evening Grosbeak**, 1-8 seen in Eureka 1-10 Apr (BS).

Many thanks to the following who shared observations with us this month: Marge Adams, Keith Anderson, Alan Barron, Art Barab, Gary Bloomfield, Heather Brown, Barbara Burek, Bryon Cariss, Gene Cox, Ruth Crane, Brent Critch, Anthony Desch, Joe Dobbs, Elias Elias, David Fix, Greg Frankfurter, Hal Genger, Melody Hamilton, Michael Harris, Stan Harris, Pablo Herrera, Rob Hewitt, Mark Higley, Denise Homer, Gretchen Hoiness, John Hunter, Matt Johnson, Josh Koepke, Dale Kuhn, Carol Lawrence, Sue & Tom Leskiw, Gary Lester, Ron LeValley,

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Field Notes
by Stanley W. Harris
22 February-20 March 2001

Another quiet month, birdwise. Rather dry with some frosty mornings, some sunny days and strong northwest winds. Abbreviations used: AB = Arcata Bottoms; AMP = Arcata Marsh Project; AOP = Arcata Oxidation Pond; BSLP = Butcher Slough Log Pond; CR = College of the Redwoods; EL = Expected Location; EM = Expected Migrant; FR = Few Records; GW = Gee Whiz Report; HBNWR = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; IL = Interesting Location; IN = Interesting Numbers; McSP = Mackerricher State Park; mo = Many Observers; MS = Monitored Species; NCD = Not Confirmed, No Details.

HIGHLIGHTS

Cattle Egret (MS): 1, AB, 26 Feb (PS); 2, BSLP, 28 Feb (SH, BC, RS): **Greater White-fronted Goose (FR):** 22, Smith River Bottoms, 8 Mar (PS): **Ross's Goose (FR):** 1, AB, 11 Mar (P&VS): **Snow Goose (FR):** 1, Loleta Bottoms, 4 Mar (KR): **Eurasian Wigeon (FR):** 1-2 males, AB, 4-16 Mar (P&VS, RH, RD, SH); 2, Smith River Bottoms, 24 Mar (fide RH): **Harlequin Duck (FR):** 2, King Salmon, 23 Feb (DR); up to 13, Glass Beach and McSP, 26 Feb-17 Mar (DT): **Long-tailed Duck (FR):** 1, Fields Landing, 5-7 Mar (KR, RH): **Hooded Merganser (FR):** 7, Gold Bluff Beach, 18 Mar (EE): **Ferruginous Hawk (FR):** 2, AB, 3 Mar (P,J,VS): **Prairie Falcon (FR):** 1, Bear River Ridge, 25 Feb (MM): **Ruffed Grouse (FR):** 1, Lost Man Creek, 14-16 Mar (KR): **Ruff (FR):** 1, mouth Eel River, 14 Mar (TMcK): **Pomarine Jaeger (ID):** 1, offshore, Crescent City, 23 Mar (fide RH): **Glaucous Gull (FR):** 1, Cannibal Island Road, 5 Mar (RH); 1 (first year), mouth Eel River, 7 Mar (DF); 1 (first year), Fernbridge, 14 Mar (TMcK): **Pigeon Guillemot (EM, ID):** 1 (breeding plumage), McSP, 25 Feb (very early) (DT); 1, Gold Bluff Beach, 18 Mar (EE): **Rhinoceros Auklet (IL):** "several", offshore, Crescent City, 23 Mar (fide RH): **White-throated Swift (FR, IN, IL):** 2-17, Scotia Bluffs, vocalizing and investigating cracks in cliff face, same location as seen last year, 5-20 Mar (LN, DF); 27 (!) Wagner Bridge, So. Humboldt Co., 20 Mar (DF).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (FR, GW) 1, male studied for prolonged time through spotting scope, well described over phone, definitely **not** a Red-naped, Sunny Brae, 16-23 Mar (A&PB): **Say's Phoebe (FR):** 1, Burnt Ranch, 20 Mar (AW): **Solitary (type) Vireo (possible Blue-headed, described as with a gray face and head) (GW):** 1, Arcata, 14 Mar (JB): **Northern Shrike (FR):** 1, Smith River Bottoms, 24 Mar (fide RH): **Pygmy Nuthatch (NCD):** 10, near Arcata Airport, 15 Feb (report not received until a week+ after the fact), (RD): **Mountain Bluebird (FR):** 3, Trinity Center, 24 Mar (JH, JS): **Tricolored Blackbird (FR):** 20, Bald Hill, Ft. Bragg, 28 Feb (DT).

OTHER INTERESTING REPORTS

Red-throated Loon (EM): 1 adult, North Jetty, 4 Mar (PS); 1, King Salmon, 6 Mar (KR); 8, off Trinidad, 11 Mar (MeH): **Pacific Loon (EM):** 17, off Trinidad, 11 Mar (MeH): **Horned Grebe (IL):** 14, Trinity Center, 24 Mar (JH, JS): **Clark's Grebe (FR):** 1, Crescent City Harbor, 8 Mar (PS): **Red-necked Grebe (FR):** 1, King Salmon, 6 Mar (KR): **Brown Pelican (ID):** 1, King Salmon, 6 Mar (KR); 4, McSP, 26 Mar (DT): **Brandt's Cormorant (EM):** 1, North Jetty, 5 Mar (P&VS): **Aleutian Canada Goose (EM):** 10 reports of 220-7800 from AB, Humboldt Bay, HBNWR, Loleta Bottoms, 27 Feb-16 Mar (mo). This bird was delisted from the Endangered Species list March 19th, having recovered from a population of less than 800 in the early 1970's to 40,000± presently. **Tundra Swan (EM):** 5, Loleta Bottoms, 27 Feb (KR); 176, HBNWR, 27 Feb (KR); 118 in flight, migrating north, AMP, 16 Mar (SH); 35, AB, 16 Mar (PS): **Wood Duck (EL):** 2, returned to AMP/AOP after several months' absence, 15-20 Mar (SH, EE): **Greater Scaup (IL):** 24 (no Lesser), Lewiston Lake, 24 Mar (JH, JS): **Common Goldeneye (EL):** 2, King Salmon, 6 Mar (KR): **Common Merganser (IL):** 2, Bear River, 25 Feb (MM): **Osprey (EL):** 1, King Salmon, 6 Mar 2, CR, 6 Mar (both KR); 1, Mad River, 11 Mar (P&VS); 2, carrying fish east from North Bay, 20 Mar (KR):

Bald Eagle (MS): 5 reports from Mad River x 101, HBNWR, CR, Hawkins Bar, 18 Feb-6 Mar (KR, RH, CC):
Rough-legged Hawk (IN): 1-3, AB/AMP, 3-11 Mar (P,J,VS; RH, BMcI); 2-3, Bear River Ridge, 25 Feb (MM):
Golden Eagle (EL): 3 (1 pair mating), Bear River Ridge, 25 Feb (MM): **Merlin (FR):** 1, HBNWR, 27 Feb (KR):
Peregrine Falcon (MS): 2, flew from Sugar Loaf Rock offshore at Cape Mendocino, 25 Feb (MM); 1, HBNWR, 27 Feb (KR); 1, AMP, 19 Mar (BMcI, DH); 1 Field's Landing, 23 Mar (KR): **Semipalmated Plover (IN):** 106, Manila, 5 Mar (HB): **Greater Yellowlegs (IL):** 19, Trinity Center, 24 Mar (JH, JS): **Lesser Yellowlegs (FR):** 1, AB, 3 Mar (KR, MMo): **Ruddy Turnstone (FR):** 2-7, Fields Landing, 5-20 Mar (KR, DF): **Red Knot:** 2, Klopp Lake, 10 Mar (BMcI): **Rock Sandpiper (FR):** 1-4, McSP; 3-7 Mar (DT): **Heermann's Gull (ID):** 1, Crescent City, 8 Mar (PS); 1, Eureka, 15 Mar (KR): **Herring Gull (IN):** 130, mouth Eel River, 7 Mar (DF): **Black-legged Kittiwake:** 1, Gold Bluff Beach, 18 Mar (EE); small numbers, northern Mendocino County coast, 26 Feb-17 Mar (DT); x, Crescent City, 24 Mar (fide RH): **Caspian Tern:** 1 Mad River, 12 Mar (EE): **Forster's Tern (EL):** 10-12, AMP/Bay pilings, 25 Feb (MM).

Ancient Murrelet (FR): 1, McSP, 25 Feb (MaM): **Short-eared Owl (ID):** 1, AB, 4 Mar (PS): **Rufous Hummingbird (EM):** 1, Trinidad, 28 Feb (MeH); 1, Azalea Hill, 3 Mar (GL); 1, Stagecoach Road, 12 Mar (MeH); 1 pair, Trinidad, 12 Mar (MeH); 2, Azalea Park, 23 Mar (KR): **Allen's Hummingbird (EM):** 1, Sunny Brae, 15 Mar (SH); 1, Azalea Park, 23 Mar (KR): **Yellow-shafted Flicker (EM):** 1, Stagecoach Road, 28 Feb (MeH); 1, Arcata, 3 Mar (MC): **Gray Jay (MS):** 7, Stagecoach Road, 28 Feb (MeH): **Horned Lark (EL):** 10, Bear River Ridge, 25 Feb (MM): **Violet-green Swallow (EM):** x, Fortuna, 27 Feb (DD); 6, AMP, 4 Mr (RH); 2, Freshwater, 7 Mr (RH): **Rough-winged Swallow (EM):** 1, AMP, 20 Mar (EE): **Cliff Swallow (EM):** 3, AMP, 26 Mar (SH): **Mountain Chickadee (IL):** 3-7, Stagecoach Road, 28 Feb-19 Mar (MeH); 1, AMP, 17 Mar (EE); 1 Azalea Park, 23 Mar (KR): **Western Bluebird (MS):** 1-8 Kneeland, 13-14 Feb (BB): **Northern Mockingbird (FR):** 1, Elk River Road, 19 Mar (MJ): **American Pipit (EL):** 2, North Jetty, 4 Mar (PS): **Black-throated Gray Warbler (ID):** 1, BSLP, 14 Mar (MW): **Palm Warbler (FR):** 1, AMP, 26 Feb-16 Mar (JK, BMcI, KR, MR): **Slate-colored Junco (FR):** 1, BSLP, 17 Mar (MeH): **Red Crossbill:** 8, Freshwater, 7 Mar (RH); 2, Stagecoach Road, 19 Mar (MeH).

Many thanks to the following who shared observations with us this month: Adrienne and Paul Barrett, Jay Bishop, Heather Brown, Barbara Burek, Christine Cahill, Bryon Cariss, Mark Colwell, Ryan Dewitt, Duke Diehl, Rick Dimmick, Elias Elias, David Fix, Melody Hamilton, Stan Harris, Rob Hewitt, Denise Homer, John Hunter, Ken Irwin, Matt Johnson, Bob Keiffer, Josh Koepke, Gary Lester, Tristian McKee, Matthew Matthiessen, Michael Morris, Mark Morrissette, Laura Nelson, Dominic Romano, Kerry Ross, Megan Ross, Dan Ruthrauff, Rosalie Schele, Vern Skjonsby, Jim Springer, Paul Springer, Virginia Springer, John Sterling, Dorothy Tobkin, Matt Wachs, Abe Wilson.

Field Notes
by Stanley W. Harris
15 January- 23 February 2001

A period of rather normal rain, marked by the beginning of spring migration, with some cold, frosty mornings, and relatively little activity by local birders, following the usual midwinter "let down" most of us experience after the intensity of Christmas Bird Counts. Abbreviations used: **AB = Arcata Bottoms; AMP = Arcata Marsh Project; AOP = Arcata Oxidation Pond; BSLP = Butcher Slough Log Pond; EL = Expected Location; EM = Expected Migrant; FR = Few Records; GW = Gee Whiz Report; HBNWR = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; IB = Interesting Behavior; ID = Interesting Date; IL = Interesting Location; MRWA = Mad River Wildlife Area; mo = Many Observers; MKSP = MacKerricher State Park; MS = Monitored Species; NC = Not Confirmed, No Details;**

HIGHLIGHTS

Cattle Egret (MS): 2-3, BSLP, AB, 19 Jan-11 Feb (mo): **Taverner's Canada Goose (FR):** 6, AB, 4 Feb (PS): **Eurasian Wigeon (FR):** 1-2, AB (Old Samoa Road), 14 Jan-8 Feb (GB, RH, et al.); 6- 7 (!), North Bay just west of AMP, 8, 24 Feb (EE); 1, mouth Jacoby Creek, 27 Jan (BMI): **Blue-winged Teal (FR):** 1 pair, BSLP, 17 Jan-5 Feb (mo, gone by 6 Feb): **Redhead (MS):** 144, Fields Landing, 10 Feb (MW); 50, Fields Landing, 18 Feb (T&SL, DF): **Harlequin (FR):** 1-2, King Salmon, 19 Jan-10 Feb (MW, KR); up to 10, Glass Beach, 15-24 Jan (DT); 3, Glass Beach, 30 Jan-15 Feb (DT); 5, MKSP, 30 Jan-15 Feb (DT): **Long-tailed Duck (FR):** 1, Fields Landing, 20 Jan- 18 Feb (MW, GL, T&SL, DF); 2, mouth Smith River, 16 Jan (EE): **Hooded Merganser (FR):** 9, HBNWR, 19 Jan (DD); 1 pair, South Fork, Smith River, 12 Jan (AP); 6, near Rio Dell, 18 Feb (T&SL, DF): **Bald Eagle (MS):** 12 reports of 1-2 (mostly adults) from mouth Smith River, Mad River x 101, AB, AMP, HBNWR, near Ferndale, Highway 36 x 101, Phillipsville, Benbow. 16 Jan-22 Feb (EE, KR, BC, DD, TrM, JS, MT,): **Northern Goshawk (FR):** 1, diving, apparently in courtship, Cummings Road, 15 Feb (T&SL): **Ferruginous Hawk (FR):** 1, Bald Hill, Ft. Bragg, 3 Feb (GL); 1, Highway 36 x 101, 10 Feb (RH): **Prairie Falcon (FR):** 1, near Ferndale, late Jan (TrM): **Rock Sandpiper (FR):** 2-3, North Jetty, 14 Jan-18 Feb (BMI, MM, HB); 1-5, MKSP, 15 Jan-15 Feb (5 on 30 Jan) (DT): **Heermann's Gull (ID):** 1 (first year), MKSP, 12 Jan (DT): **Glaucous Gull (FR):** 1, near Fernbridge, 21 Jan-5 Feb (TrM, KN): **Cuckoo sp (Update, GW, NC):** 1 reported (second hand report) at Piercy in July 2000 (DM, fide MT, JS): **Northern Pygmy-Owl (FR):** 1, Benbow, 21 Jan (JS); 1, Elk River Trailhead, 21 Feb (RC, MB): **Burrowing Owl (FR):** 1, Washington Street, Eureka, 9 Feb (KR): **Barred Owl (FR):** 1 calling, Lady Bird Johnson Grove, 3 Feb (KR): **Say's Phoebe (FR):** 1, Trinidad, 16-27 Jan (MeH); 1, Azalea Hill, 27 Jan (LL, AL): **Loggerhead Shrike (FR):** 1, Alton, 7-18 Feb (PH, RH, T&SL, DF, JP)

Birds from the north

Northern Shrike (FR): 1, near Loleta, 27 Jan (TrM); 1, North Spit, 3 Feb (RH): **Northern Mockingbird (FR):** 1, Garberville, 28 Jan-12 Feb (JS); 1, Petrolia, 5 Feb (DD): **Yellow Warbler (ID):** 1, AMP, 19 Jan-16 Feb (BMI, EE, BC): **Black-throated Gray Warbler (ID):** 1, AMP, 19 Jan-2 Feb (EE, BMI); 1, south Arcata (same?), 16 Feb (EE); 1 Elk Head, 28 Jan (MeH): **Hermit Warbler (ID, GW, NC):** 1, Elk Head, 28 Jan (MeH): **Black-and-White Warbler (FR):** 1, Fernbridge, 2 Feb (GG, KN); 1, Highway 36 x 101 (same?), 10 Feb (RH): **Swamp Sparrow (FR):** 1, Redwood National Park HQ, 2, 11 Jan (Update, KS), 1, Cannibal Island Road, 17 Jan (TrM); 1-2, AMP, 31 Jan-8 Feb (EE): **Lapland Longspur (FR):** 14-19, MRWA, 14-27 Jan (GB, KR): **Rose-breasted Grosbeak (FR):** 1, Westhaven, 16 Jan, 4-7 Feb (TM); 1, Garberville, 22 Jan-12 Feb (MT, JS): **Tricolored Blackbird (FR):** 20, Sandy Prairie Road, 3 Feb (but only 1 on 13 Feb (both JS):

Other Interesting Observations:

Red-necked Grebe (EL): 7-13, King Salmon, 20 Jan, 10 Feb (MW): **Brown Pelican (ID):** 5, Shelter Cove, 3 Feb (RS); 8, South Humboldt Bay, 11 Feb (DF, JP), 1, MKSP, 12 Feb (DT): **Brandt's Cormorant (ID):** 1, North Jetty, 4-19 Feb (HB, MM): **Snowy Egret (IB):** 40, hunkered down in sun on lee side of willows inside BSLP on a cold windy early morning in a location not usually used, 6 Feb (SH): **Turkey Vulture (EM):** 1 (first seen for spring), Mail Ridge, 26 Jan (JG); 1, AOP/AMP, 13-20 Feb (SH): **White-fronted Goose (FR):** 1, AB, 22 Jan-11 Feb (EE, RH, PS); 12, mouth Smith River, 16 Jan (EE): **Snow Goose (FR):** 1, Smith River, 16 Jan (EE); 1, AB, 4 Feb (PS): **Ross's Goose (FR, EL):** 1, AB, 22 Jan-11 Feb (EE, RH, PS): **Aleutian Canada Goose (EM):** 50-1900, AB, 14 Jan-22 Feb (mo): **Tundra Swan (IL)** 37-40, AB, 11-22 Feb (PS, KR): **Northern Shoveler (IB):** 45-200 in active shoulder to shoulder, "swarming" feeding behavior (feeding on *Daphnia* ?), north AOP, 20 Jan-23 Feb (SH): **Evidence of Migration:** Ducks wintering on BSLP abruptly abandoned the pond 5-7 Feb. Examples: **Ring-necked Duck:** 25-35 present daily 16 Jan-30 Jan, only 15 present on 5 Feb, none afterward. 5-6 present on Allen Marsh, 7-23 Feb; and 36 on Starvation Flat Pond, 17 Feb (RC): **Cinnamon Teal:** 30-35 present daily, 16 Jan-5 Feb, only 16 present on 6 Feb, none afterward; 2-6 on Allen Marsh 21-23 Feb: Same pattern held true for Mallards, Shovelers, Green-winged Teal, Gadwalls, American Wigeon, and even Coots. **Common Goldeneye (FR):** 4, King Salmon, 19 Jan (KR).

Osprey (ID) 1, being pursued by a Bald Eagle intent on stealing his fish!, North Bay, 16 Feb (EE, BC): **White-tailed Kite (IL):** 1, Kneeland, 21 Jan (BB): **Rough-legged Hawk:** 17 reports of 1-5 from AB, AMP, HBNWR, Cannibal Road, 14 Jan-22 Feb (mo): **Golden Eagle (IB):** 1 carrying nesting stick, Benbow, 29 Jan (JS): **Merlin (MS):** 10 reports (at least 3 of pale inland race) from AMP, North Spit, HBNWR, Cannibal Island Road, Highway 36 x 101, near Rio Dell, 17 Jan-22 Feb (mo): **Peregrine Falcon (MS):** 11 reports of singles from AB, AMP, North Spit, College of the Redwoods, 26 Jan-22 Feb (mo): **Semipalmated Plover (ID):** 1, North Jetty, 16 Feb (HB): **Spotted Sandpiper (ID):** 1, Benbow ("always there"), 21 Jan (JS); 1, Trinidad Harbor, 18 Feb (MeH): **Long-billed Curlew (IN):** 39, Klopp Lake, 21 Feb (SH): **Ruddy Turnstone (EL):** 2, Fields Landing, 18 Feb (T&SL, DF): **Black Turnstone (IL)** 20, AMP, 27 Jan (GB): **Red Knot (FR):** 1-6, Klopp Lake, 28 Jan-6 Feb (JP, SH, RS, EE); 1, King Salmon, 6-20 Jan (MW): **Short-billed Dowitcher (ID):** 1-4, AMP, 15-19 Jan (BMI, SH): **Common Snipe (IL):** 2-4, Benbow, 21 Jan-20 Feb (JS): **Forster's Tern (EN):** 6-18, AMP/AOP, 16 Jan-22 Feb (SH): **Marbled Murrelet (MS):** 1, Trinidad Harbor, 4 Feb (MiM): **Band-tailed Pigeon (EM):** 1-5, Sunny Brae, 31 Jan-23 Feb (SH); 3, Arcata, 21 Feb (GB): **Short-eared Owl (FR):** 1-3, MRWA, 27 Jan-22 Feb (KR, PS, T&SL, RH) ; 1, AOP, 6-7 Feb (SH, EE).

First Hummingbirds

Allen/Rufous Hummingbird (ID): 1, Ft. Bragg, 15 Jan-15 Feb (DT): **Allen's Hummingbird (EM):** 1 ad. male, Root Creek Drainage, upper Van Duzen, 23 Feb (GL): **Gray Jay:** 9, Trinidad, 26-31 Jan (SB): **Tree Swallow (EM):** 5, AMP, 26-30 Jan (EE, BC, SH), increased to 40-50 by 7-17 Feb (RH, PS): **Violet-green Swallow (EM):** 3, AMP, 26 Jan (EE, BC): **Barn Swallow (EM)** 1-3, AMP, 6-7 Feb (SH, EE, RH): **Black-capped Chickadee (IL)** 2-3, Elk Head, 28 Jan-3 Feb (KR, MeH): **Mountain Chickadee (IL):** 1, AMP, 19 Jan-8 Feb (BMI, EE, BC); 7 (!), Elk Head, 28 Jan (MeH): **Western Bluebird (MS):** 6, Azalea Hill, 27 Jan (GL); 6, Garberville, 28-29 Jan (JS); 2-8 seen on only 3 of 30 days in January at Kneeland (BB); 5, Alton, 8-18 Feb (PH, RH, T&SL, DF, JP); 4, Petrolia, 5 Feb, DD): **Nashville Warbler (EL):** 1-2, AMP, 27 Jan-16 Feb (GB, BMI, EE, BC); 1, Eureka, 4 Feb (MiM); 2, near Fernbridge, 2 Feb (GG, KN): **Palm Warbler:** 5 reports of 1-2, AMP, 17 Jan-7 Feb (mo): **Townsend's Warbler (IN):** 35 (flock contained the Hermit Warbler mentioned above), Elk Head, 28 Jan, (MeH): **Lincoln's Sparrow (IL):** 1, Garberville, 11-12 Feb (JS): **Slate-colored Junco (EM):** 1-2, south Arcata, 8-16 Feb (EE, BC): **Green Sea Turtle, sick on beach at Samoa, 23 Jan (HB).**

Many thanks to the following for sharing their reports with us this month. Thea Benson, Ann Black, Gary Bloomfield, Muriel Bramwell, Heather Brown, Suzie Bulger, Barbara Burek, Bryon Cariss, Ruth Crane, Duke

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Field Notes
by Stanley W. Harris
25 November 2000-14 January 2001

A generally dry, rather warm period, except for early January. There wasn't much bird movement recorded, continuing disability of the Arcata Bird Box hampered communication between observers. Christmas counts completed as follows: 16 Dec, Arcata, 173 species; 17 Dec, Del Norte, 162 species; 23 Dec, Willow Creek, 79 species (rain!); 29 Dec, Lewiston, 81 species; 30 Dec, Etna, 75 species, Centerville, 31 Dec, 185 species.

Abbreviations used: **AB** = Arcata Bottoms; **A-EB** = Arcata-Eureka 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; **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; **MS** = Monitored Species; **NC** = Not Confirmed, No Details.

Highlights

BULLER'S SHEARWATER (ID): 1, off Crescent City, 17 Dec (KS, BW); 1, off North Jetty, 1 Jan (KN): **SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER (FR)**: 3, working off Wedding Rock, 3 Dec (DF, JP): **BLACK-VENTED SHEARWATER (NC, GW)**: 1 reported dead on beach, Samoa, 9 Dec (HB): **CATTLE EGRET (FR)**: 5, Arcata CBC; 3, BSLP, 4 Jan (BMcI); **HARLEQUIN DUCK (FR)**: 1, King Salmon, 22 Nov-30 Dec (BM, MM, MW); up to 14, Glass Beach, 26 Nov-31 Dec (DT): **LONG-TAILED DUCK (FR)**: 2, King Salmon, 22 Nov (BM); 2, Lake Talawa, 17 Dec (PS): **HARLAN'S HAWK (FR, NC)**: 1, South Spit, 5 Dec (KI): **PRAIRIE FALCON (FR)**: 1, AB, 17 Dec (BMcI); 1, Centerville CBC; 2, Etna CBC: **RUFFED GROUSE (FR)**: 1, Willow Creek CBC, 23 Dec (GL): **PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER (FR)**: 7, Centerville CBC: **WANDERING TATTLER (FR, ID)**: 1, South Jetty, 31 Dec (KR, MaM): **CASPIAN TERN (ID)**: 4, Centerville CBC: **ANCIENT MURRELET (FR)**: 15-120, Wedding Rock, 3-4 Dec (DF, JP); 1, Pt. St. George, 17 Dec (RH, KS, BW); 6-20, Laguna Point, MKSP, 28 Nov-24 Dec (DT); 2, North Jetty, 5 Jan (EE, BC): **HORNED PUFFIN (UPDATE, FR)**: 1, Glass Beach; 1, flying south with Surf Scoters, Laguna Pt. (both 17 Nov, GC): **BURROWING OWL (FR)**: 1, Showers Pass Road, 30 Nov (GF); 1, South Spit, 5-31 Dec (KI, MK, et al.); 1, Washington St., Eureka, 10-31 Dec (CO, DW, LC): **LONG-EARED OWL (FR)**: 1, Fortuna, 31 Dec (AD): **RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD (ID)**: 1 male, well described, Fortuna, 31 Dec (JB): **WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER (FR)**: 1, Cold Springs Camp, 30 Dec (DN): **YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (FR)**: 1, Elk River Valley, 31 Dec (T&SL); 1, Ferndale, 31 Dec (GL): **RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER (NC, GW)**: 1, Cutten, 31 Dec ("Jonathan"): **SAY'S PHOEBE (FR)**: 1, Arcata CBC; 1, Azalea Hill, 25 Dec (LL); 1, Ferndale, 31 Dec (GL): **NORTHERN SHRIKE (FR)**: 1, North Spit, 31 Dec (DW, LC); 1, Fortuna, 31 Dec (AD, SF).

Swallows are back!

VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW (ID): 2, AMP, 13 Jan (JB): **ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW (GW, ID)**: 1, AMP, 13 Jan (JB): **BARN SWALLOW (ID)**: 1, AMP, 13 Jan (JB): **HOUSE WREN (GW, ID)**: 1, base of Table Bluff, 31 Dec (JW): **BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (FR, ID)**: 1, Eel River near Fernbridge, 31 Dec (DJ): **SWAINSON'S THRUSH (GW, ID)**: 1 SPECIMEN picked up dead under a window, H.S.U. Campus, 2 Jan (AD): **MOCKINGBIRD (FR)**: 1, Arcata, 15 Dec (EE): 1, Garberville, 1 Jan (JS): **CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (FR, ID)**: 1, lower Jacoby Creek, 16 Dec (DF, JP, CD): **BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER (ID)**: 1, Smith River, 17 Dec (AB); 1-2, AOP/AMP, 26 Dec-4 Jan (mo): **HERMIT WARBLER (ID)**: 1, Crescent City, 17 Dec (AB): **WILSON'S WARBLER (ID)**: 1, Fernbridge, 11 Jan (GH, RH); 1, North Spit, 13 Jan (JB): **TREE SPARROW (FR)**: 1, AOP, 29 Dec (DF); 1, Bayside (different bird!), 20-22 Dec (DF, JP, KR): **CLAY-COLORED**

SPARROW (FR): 1, Eureka, 6 Dec (LB-O); 1, mouth Jacoby Creek, 4 Dec (EE): **LARK SPARROW (ID):** 1, Arcata CBC: **SWAMP SPARROW (FR):** 2, Arcata CBC; 2, Centerville CBC: **HARRIS'S SPARROW (FR):** 1, north Arcata, 4-17 Dec (KR, et al.): **LAPLAND LONGSPUR (IN):** 1-90, AB (in new burn, Mad River Wildlife Area), 4-24 Dec (mo): **ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEEK (FR):** 1 Garberville, 11 Dec-7 Jan (JS); 1, Lanphere Road, 16 Dec (Arcata CBC); 1, Trinidad, 1 Jan (TMcK): **ORCHARD ORIOLE (NC):** 1, Arcata CBC: **BULLOCK'S ORIOLE (ID):** 1, Fortuna, 31 Dec (KN, AD, SF): **COMMON REDPOLL (GW, NC):** 1 reported at a feeder at Orick, 24-27 Dec, (CM, GC).

OTHER INTERESTING REPORTS: RED-THROATED LOON (EM): 30 flyby, Wedding Rock, 4 Dec (DF, JP): **PACIFIC LOON (EM):** 300, flyby, Wedding Rock, 4 Dec (DF, JP): **NORTHERN FULMAR (EM, IN):** 350 flyby in 3 hours, Wedding Rock 29 Nov (KI); 2-6 (only), Wedding Rock, 3-4 Dec (JP, DF); 40+, Pt. St. George, 17 Dec (RH, et al.); **SOOTY SHEARWATER (IN):** 650 seen working-3 hours--off Wedding Rock, 29 Nov (KI).

Hérons Make News!

AMERICAN BITTERN (FR): 1, AB, 7 Dec (MJ); 1, HBNWR, 13 Dec (KR); 1, Arcata CBC; 1, AMP, 4 Jan (BMcl): **GREEN HERON (FR):** 2, Willow Creek CBC; 1, Fortuna, 31 Dec (AD, SP): **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (FR):** 1-10, AB, 4-16 Dec (mo); 12-16, Smith River Bottoms, 17 Dec-3 Jan (mo); 12, ERWA, 31 Dec (RH, et al.); 1, Willow Creek Golf Course, 23 Dec (SH, RR); 30, Etna CBC: **LESSER SNOW GOOSE (FR):** 1, AB, 26 Nov-13 Jan (mo); 1, Smith River Bottoms, 17 Dec-3 Jan (mo); 8 (includes 1 Blue-phase bird), Centerville CBC: **ROSS'S GOOSE (FR):** 1, AB, 26 Nov-13 Jan (mo); 1, Ft. Dick, 17 Dec (RH, et al.): **ALEUTIAN CANADA GOOSE (ID):** 200, AB, 11 Jan (PS): **CAKCLING CANADA GOOSE (FR):** 70, AB, 11 Jan (PS): **BLACK BRANT (EM):** 60+ fly south past Laguna Point, 28 Nov (DT); 905, South Humboldt Bay, 31 Dec (PS, et al.): **MUTE SWAN (!):** 1, HBNWR, 28 Dec (DS): **TUNDRA SWAN (IL):** 2, Trinity River near Willow Creek, 23 Dec (TL, GL); 1, on seastack, Trinidad, 29 Nov (MH): **EURASIAN WIGEON (FR):** 6+ reports of 1-4 from Ft. Dick, Lake Talawa, AB, A-EB, Centerville CBC, 6 Dec-11 Jan (mo): **BLUE-WINGED TEAL (FR):** 1-2, BSLP, 19 Dec-5 Jan (mo); 1 male, Ft. Bragg, 26 Nov, 2 Dec (DT).

Ducks are Diving

REDHEAD (IN): 44 (only), South Humboldt Bay, 31 Dec (SH): **RING-NECKED DUCK (EL):** 20, BSLP, 13 Dec-5 Jan (SH, CW); 35-40, Stafford Pond, 25 Dec (MW); 81, Lewiston CBC: **COMMON GOLDENEYE (IN):** 32, Centerville CBC: **HOODED MERGANSER (IN, IL):** 1, King Salmon, 1 Dec (MW); 8, HBNWR, 6 Dec (SL); 19 (!), Willow Creek CBC; 17, Lewiston CBC: **OSPREY (ID):** 1, Ft. Bragg, Pudding Creek, 30 Nov, 19 Dec (DT); 1, Mad River, Arcata, North Bay, 1-27 Dec (mo): **WHITE-TAILED KITE (IL):** 2, Briceland, 6 Dec (NW); 1, Kneeland, 12-14 Dec (BB); 1, Willow Creek Golf Course, 23 Dec (RR, SH): **BALD EAGLE (MS):** 8 reports of 1-9 from Lewiston (CBC), South Fork Trinity River, Willow Creek (CBC); Smith River Bottoms, Big Lagoon, lower Eel River, Benbow, 1 Dec-31 Dec (mo): **FERRUGINOUS HAWK (FR):** 1-2, AB, 28 Nov-16 Dec (mo); 1, Fay Slough, 6 Dec (MV, CW); 6, Etna CBC; 4 Centerville CBC: **ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK (IN):** 1-6, AB, 26 Nov-11 Jan (mo); 3-5, Fay Slough, late Nov-16 Dec (mo); 24, Arcata CBC; 27 (!), Centerville CBC; 1, Lewiston CBC; 20, Etna CBC: **MERLIN (MS):** 6 reports of singles from AB, North Spit, Willow Creek, Scott Valley + 11 on the Centerville CBC and 9 on the Arcata CBC, 7-31 Dec: **PEREGRINE FALCON (MS):** 7 reports of 1-2 from Wedding Rock, AB, Humboldt Bay, HBNWR, AMP, 4 Dec-4 Jan (mo) + 13 on the Centerville CBC, 11 on the Arcata CBC and 3 on the Willow Creek CBC: **BLUE GROUSE (FR):** 2, Cold Springs Camp, 30 Dec (DN).

Plover News!

SNOWY PLOVER (MS): 16. Stone Lagoon Beach (lagoon side), 20 Dec (TR); 75!, mouth Eel River, 12 Jan (SMcA, AT): **AMERICAN AVOCET (IN, IL):** 140 (actual count); Hookton Slough Overflow, 31 Dec (SH): **LESSER YELLOWLEGS (ID):** 1, AB, 4 Dec-11 Jan (EE, PS); 5, Loleta Bottoms, 28 Dec (DF, JP); 4, Centerville CBC; 13, Arcata CBC: **ROCK SANDPIPER (EM):** 1-4, Laguna Point, 26 Nov-31 Dec (DT); 1-10 (!), North Jetty, 16 Dec-5 Jan (Arcata CBC, BD, EE, BC, PR); 1, South Jetty, 31 Dec (KR, MaM): **GLAUCOUS GULL (FR):** singles (all first year) from Smith River, Eureka, lower Mad River, 14 Dec-1 Jan (EE, DF, BMcI): **FORSTER'S TERN (MS):** 6-20, AMP/North Bay, 12 Dec-5 Jan (SH): **MARBLED MURRELET (MS):** 2, off Wedding Rock, 4 Dec (JP, DF); 13, off Pt. St. George, 17 Dec (RH); 2, off Table Bluff, 30 Dec (DF): **GRAY JAY (IN):** 108 (!), Centerville CBC: **DIPPER (IN):** 11, Willow Creek CBC: **TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE (FR):** 1, Horse Mountain, 23 Dec (GL): **AMERICAN ROBIN (IN):** 53,196, Willow Creek CBC: **YELLOW WARBLER (FR):** 1, King Salmon, 6 Dec (DL); 1, AMP, 27 Dec-13 Jan (BMcI, JB): **PALM WARBLER (EM):** 9 reports of 1-6 from AMP, south Eureka, Eel River Bottoms, 8 Dec-13 Jan (mo): **COMMON YELLOWTHROAT (ID):** 1, Salt River, 31 Dec (JT): **CALIFORNIA TOWHEE (IL):** 1, Willow Creek CBC: **RED CROSSBILL (IN):** 185, Trinidad to Patricks Point, 24 Nov (KI); 60-65, Big Lagoon, 6 Dec (KI); 96, Centerville CBC; 66, Arcata CBC.

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