

Announcements for December 2002

CBC Reminder

You can participate in the 103rd Audubon Christmas Bird Count by counting birds at your feeder, allowing counters access to your property, or joining a counting crew. Five counts will be held in or near Humboldt County.

- Saturday, December 14, the Arcata Count, which covers from Murray Road in McKinleyville to Bayshore Mall, including the Samoa peninsula and parts of Bayside; contact Ron LeValley, 839-0900.
- Sunday, December 15, the Del Norte Count, which covers Crescent City, Smith River, Fort Dick, Lake Earl, Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park/Redwood National Park, and the western portion of the Smith River National Recreation Area; contact Gary Lester, 443-8326 or 839-3373 or Alan Barron, 465-8904 or meet at 7 a.m. at the Denny's in Crescent City.
- Saturday, December 21, the Willow Creek Count; contact Gary Lester at 443-8326 or 839-3373.
- Saturday, December 28, the Lewiston Count, which covers the Lewiston and Weaverville areas; contact Barbara Peck, bapeck@jeffnet.org.
- Sunday, December 29, the Centerville Count, which covers from the Elk River Valley to Centerville Beach, including Loleta, Fields Landing, King Salmon, Fortuna, and Ferndale; contact Stan Harris, 822-3802.

Thank You, Birders & Pledgers

The RRAS fall Birdathon, held October 1-13, raised over \$1000. The proceeds will be split 75-25 with the Northcoast Environmental Center. RRAS would like to recognize the following participants: Jan Andersen, Fred Beaudry, Jim & Donna Clark, Elias Elias, Jean George, Luke George, Jeanne Hammond, Rob Hewitt, Sue & Tom Leskiw, Chris Ralls, Rebecca Pierce Ralls, Jay Sooter, James & Jean Van Bonn, Margaret Varga, and Gretchen Ziegler.

Donations of Goods & Services Sought for Silent Auction

For the third year, RRAS will be holding a Silent Auction at its Annual Banquet. This event has become the major fundraiser for our chapter.

If you work in a business, ask your employer to donate a gift certificate or merchandise. If you are an artist or photographer or needlecrafter, give a piece of your work. Offer to lead a birding trip or cook a dinner. Donate books or gently used optics or other field supplies. There are many types of services and objects on which people would be willing to bid, so don't be shy or uncreative!

Please contact Sue Leskiw at 442-5444 to make a donation or if you would be willing to contact businesses on our behalf. All donors will be recognized at the banquet on February 15 and in the *Sandpiper* as well as receive thank-you letters.

White Sharks Topic for Annual Banquet February 15

Peter Pyle, Farallon biologist at the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, will speak on the PRBO White Shark Project. The RRAS Annual Banquet will be held at the North Coast Inn, 4975 Valley West Boulevard, Arcata. The banquet will feature a buffet dinner, a silent auction, and awards presentations. A no-host social hour from 6-7 p.m. will be followed by dinner at 7 p.m. and the speaker at 8 p.m.

The Farallones are recognized as one of the best places in the world to study White Sharks in their natural environment. PRBO has been monitoring shark populations since 1968. The speaker grew up in Hawaii and has studied seabirds throughout the Pacific. His interest in landbirds led to authorship of the definitive banding guide for identifying passerines. Peter's other research interests include bats, butterflies, and cetaceans.

Tickets are on a sliding scale from \$25 to \$35 and must be purchased in advance. Checks should be made payable to RRAS, with "Banquet" in the notation line, and mailed to PO Box 1054, Eureka 95502, to arrive no later than February 5. Through the courtesy of RRAS board member Jay Sooter, you have the option of paying by credit card. Call 707- 444-8001 (or 800-824-1555) between 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Reminder: Scholarship Applications Due January 30

Applications for a \$100 scholarship to a K-12 student or classroom and a \$150 travel grant to an HSU student must be received by Thursday, January 30. Both awards will be presented at the RRAS annual banquet on February 15.

The K-12 scholarship is awarded for projects related to local habitats or species, conservation, or other environmental topic. The travel grant will help a student to attend and present the results of his/her research at a scientific meeting. The research presentation must focus on the ecology, conservation, or evolutionary biology of birds, with preference given to research conducted on birds in northern California.

Submit applications to: Louise Bacon-Ogden, Scholarship Chair, 123 F St, Eureka, CA 95501; phone 445-8304 or 445-1822; e-mail sftb@juno.com.

Conservation Committee - November 15

The Conservation Committee met at the Golden Harvest Cafe in Arcata at noon, November 15, 2002. Hal Genger, Barbara Kelly, Melvin McKinney and Jim Clark were present. Items for discussion continued from the last meeting were:

City of Eureka PALCO Marsh: A complaint was made to the Humboldt County Division of Environmental Health (DEH) about the nuisance conditions at the PALCO Marsh. Several campsites were located with associated trash and human fecal material. No action is known to have been taken by DEH to direct the city to abate the conditions. A "sweep" of the area west of Broadway removed 24 campers and some debris but cleanup of the most offensive material has yet to occur.

South Spit: Attendance at the Coastal Commission Meeting in San Francisco on December 11 to support protection of the south spit is encouraged. Our main concern is that permitted use of vehicles on the wave slope will damage other areas unless enforcement is improved.

Mariculture Monitoring Committee: The next meeting will be December 11, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. at the Harbor District Office. Jim Clark will report on this meeting at the next Conservation Committee meeting.

Samoa Development: The proposal to redevelop the town of Samoa no longer includes an R.V. park on natural resource zoned land. As of this writing, there has been no development plan or EIR. We hope that RRAS will be able to provide positive input into the planning process for this development when an application is made. Stay tuned.

New Business:

Old Little Lake Industries property: Jim submitted a draft position statement on the development of this property for discussion and the committee agreed that it should be submitted to the RRAS Board of Directors for approval, and then sent to Arcata City Manager, Dan Hauser, if approved.

Humboldt County General Plan: Jim reported that the Community Development web site is out of date and does not provide for public input.

King Range: A new management plan for the King Range Conservation Area is being drafted.

Beach and Dunes Committee: It appears that the Beach and Dunes Committee is evolving from a stakeholder group that agencies were invited to take part in to an agency group that some stakeholders may be invited to take part in. The Committee is concerned about this development. Resource agencies should coordinate in management of Humboldt County's beaches and dunes, but stakeholders and interested citizens should have an autonomous group that presents policies from a non-agency perspective.

Marine Life Preservation Area task force: Hal Genger is the environmental representative on the Marine Life Preservation Area task force and I am his alternate. I will present some basic RRAS objectives for MLPAs to the board for approval.

Next Meeting: December 20, 2002, 12 noon, Golden Harvest Cafe, Arcata. Please e-mail items for the agenda to Jim Clark at <jimdonna@humboldt1.com> one week in advance.

-- *Jim Clark*

Redwood Region Audubon Society welcomes the following new members and subscribers:

Arcata – Stephanie Clemens, Carol Vander Meer

Bayside – Joel Armin Hoil, Marilyn Underwood, Carol Ann Wilson

Eureka – Elizabeth Lucero, Richard Stein

McKinleyville – Eve & Rick Miller

Trinidad – Larry Karsteadt

Announcements for November 2002

Gorgeous Weather, Great Food, Scintillating Company

Thirty people attended the RRAS member picnic on October 13 at Freshwater Park. The Humboldt fall cooperated so fully that some attendees were seeking shade! A low-key bird sighting list reached 20 species. Luke George reported that his student "Half-Day Big Day" team found 83 species for the Birdathon. Any other participants in this fundraiser should collect their pledges and submit them to the RRAS PO box as soon as possible.

Are RRAS members interested in continuing to have an annual picnic? Please contact event organizer Sue Leskiw with your thoughts.

RRAS Testifies Before Coastal Commission on South Spit

Sue Leskiw presented testimony on behalf of RRAS at the California Coastal Commission meeting October 9 in Eureka. The agenda item was approval of the BLM's South Spit Interim Management Plan that allowed OHV use on the waveslope.

The RRAS statement concurred with the recommendation of Snowy Plover researchers from Humboldt State University and Mad River Biologists that "management plans for the South Spit prohibit waveslope driving owing to the negative relationship between human activity and reproductive success at Clam Beach and throughout the plovers range" (Colwell et al., Final Report: 2002 Snowy Plover Breeding in Northern California, with Emphasis on Humboldt County). The statement also opined that BLM's proposed twice-weekly patrols would be insufficient to control illegal OHV use.

After listening to statements by RRAS, the Sierra Club, and EPIC, the commissioners disagreed with its staff's recommendation to approve the Interim Plan and asked BLM to appear at the Commission's December meeting with revisions.

Conservation Committee Report - October 18

Seven people were present at our meeting Oct 18, 2002.

Eureka - RCAA is working on putting together ideas for interpretive signs at Elk River Wildlife Sanctuary. Jennifer Graves is seeking any ideas. It looks like the work that Mel and Christine have done on the Eureka Marsh might be paying off. The City of Eureka has actually assigned someone to it! According to Moira McEnespy of the State Coastal Conservancy, the City of Eureka is proceeding with plans to complete its Eureka Marsh enhancement plans. Lisa Shikany at the City in the Community Development Dept. is taking charge of moving the marsh restoration work forward.

South Spit - The California Coastal Commission Board met in Eureka October 8, 9, and 10 to discuss the fate of the South Spit along Humboldt Bay. BLM presented its interim management plan. Many groups presented testimony opposing ORV use including a statement by Sue Leskiw for Redwood Region Audubon. The Coastal Commissioners were not in favor of ORV use and asked BLM to return with a better plan. The next Coastal Commission meeting will be in the Bay Area during the second week of December. RRAS plans on being

represented there. California Vehicle Code section 38319 prohibits operation of a motor vehicle in such a manner that destroys wildlife, habitat, or property.

Coast Seafood - Rules for the enforcement of compliance with California Department of Fish and Game's regulations regarding Coast Seafood's properties within Humboldt Bay are being written.

Arcata Bottoms Pilot Study - Michael Sweeney, PCJV Coordinator, gave us an update on the Arcata Bottoms Pilot Study which is patterned after the San Francisco Bay Management Plan. He has 1941 aerial photo coverage of the bottoms. Many local wetland enhancement projects are held up for years by requirements of California Coastal Conservancy and U S Army Corps of Engineers, both agencies of which are headquartered in the Bay Area.

Property - We are actively seeking to sell our bay front property. October 25 is a deadline to contact Audubon of California with properties they can help us purchase. Is there a location we could seek to establish a site for a National Estuarine Reserve?

On the horizon - In its management plan Samoa is proposing changes to the dune forest across Old Navy Base Road from the Samoa Cookhouse which may involve locating a trailer park there. Kneeland Prairie penny-cress, a rare plant in the crucifer family, is causing changes at Kneeland airport.

Hal Genger is representing Audubon at the Marine Life Preservation Area committee meetings.

Remember to study the candidates, the issues, and to VOTE November 5th.

Next meeting 15 Nov 2002 at noon at the Golden Harvest Restaurant in Arcata.

- *Chet Ogan*

December 2 Garden Nomination Deadline Reminder

RRAS is still looking for gardens to feature on its summer 2003 tour. If your yard – or a portion of it -- has been planted to welcome wildlife or showcase native plants, we want to hear from you! Nearly every garden is a “work in progress,” so please don’t be hesitant about applying.

The event – tentatively scheduled for Saturday, July 26 – is co-sponsored by the North Coast Chapter of the California Native Plants Society. It is intended to increase community awareness of back-yard habitats and to raise funds for both organizations.

Please send your name, address, phone, e-mail, and 1-paragraph description of your garden by Monday, December 2, to Tom Leskiw, 5440 Cummings Road, Eureka CA 95503; phone 442-5444; e-mail tomleskiw@aol.com.

Redwood Region Audubon Society welcomes the following new members and subscribers:

Arcata – Josh Chapman, Alexandra Goodell, Jeanne Hammond, Kristin Jesenko, Timothy Nelson, the Schildhauers, Carol Suarez, Michael Willemsen

Crescent City – Ita Lynn

Eureka – Kenzie Mullen, Upton-Roelofs, Jared Serfling, Althea Stevens

Fortuna – Ruth Dino

Garberville – David Dickinson

McKinleyville – Rothwell Broyles, Nora Golub

Redway – Stacey Rohrbaugh

Trinidad – Jack Mannix

Brookings, OR – Fred & Miriam Yates

Announcements for October 2002

Member Picnic and Birdathon in October

Here's an opportunity for RRAS members to "meet and eat!" Many of you weren't able to attend last February's banquet and our monthly programs don't allow much time for socializing. So whip up your favorite potluck item and come out to Freshwater Park on **Sunday, October 13**, starting at noon. This is also the culmination of the **Annual Bird-a-Thon** fundraising event. [Click here for the Calendar and further details on both activities.](#)

Wanted: Wildlife-Friendly Gardens

Have you a haven for hummingbirds at your home? A buffet for butterflies in your backyard? A neighborhood niche for native plants? If so, we want to hear from you!

Redwood Region Audubon Society, in partnership with the North Coast Chapter of the California Native Plants Society, is sponsoring a garden tour for summer 2003 (tentative date: Saturday, July 26).

We are searching for 8 to 10 gardens in the Eureka-Arcata area to showcase. If you are the proud owner of such a garden – or would like to suggest someone who is – please send your name, address, phone, e-mail, and one-paragraph description of your garden by Monday, December 2, to Tom Leskiw, 5440 Cummings Road, Eureka CA 95503; phone 442-5444; e-mail tomleskiw@aol.com.

RRAS to Sponsor Two Educational Awards in 2003

In addition to awarding a \$100 scholarship to a K-12 student or classroom, the Board voted to create a \$150 travel grant for an HSU student to attend and present the results of his/her research at a scientific meeting. The research presentation must focus on the ecology, conservation, or evolutionary biology of birds, with preference given to research conducted on birds in northern California.

Travel grant applicants should submit the following materials: 1) resume; 2) the abstract they have submitted (or plan to submit) for inclusion in the scientific program, including the list of authors and the title; and 3) a short summary of the costs of attending the meeting. The winner is expected to give a 45-minute presentation of his/her research, geared to the informed layperson, at an RRAS general meeting.

Flyers advertising the K-12 scholarship -- for projects related to local habitats or species, conservation, or other environmental topic – were distributed to all Humboldt County schools. Application forms should be requested from scholarship chair Louise Bacon-Ogden (see contact information below).

Applications for both awards must be received by January 30, 2003. The awards will be presented at the RRAS annual banquet in February. Submit applications to: Louise Bacon-Ogden, Scholarship Chair, 123 F St, Eureka, CA 95501; phone 445-8304 or 445-1822; e-mail sftb@juno.com.

Christmas Is Coming, the Birds Are Getting Counted by Sue Leskiw

Did you know that by participating in the Christmas Bird Count (CBC), you:

- Are joining more than 50,000 observers?
- Are contributing to the longest-running database in ornithology?

- Are setting an example of citizen science in action?
- Don't even need to leave your house? (feeder observations count, too!)

Prior to the 20th century, people commonly engaged in a holiday tradition known as the Christmas "Side Hunt." They would choose sides and go afield with their guns; whoever brought in the biggest pile of feathered quarry won. Conservation was then in its beginning stages and many observers were becoming concerned about the indiscriminate slaughter of wildlife and concurrent declines in bird populations.

On Christmas Day 1900, ornithologist Frank Chapman, of the Audubon Society, called for an end to the slaughter. He suggested that, rather than shooting birds, people count them. So began the Christmas Bird Count. Thanks to the inspiration of Chapman and the enthusiasm of 27 dedicated birders, 25 CBCs were held that day. The locations ranged from Toronto, Ontario to Pacific Grove, California, with most counts in or near the population centers of northeastern North America. Those original 27 Christmas Bird Counters tallied a total of 90 species on all the counts combined.

Modern-day CBCs are not limited to Christmas Day but are scheduled for a 24-hour period between December 14 and January 5. Celebrating the CBC's second century in 2000, 52,471 participants were involved in 1,823 counts. In 2002, 51,913,289 birds were tallied in 1,936 counts. The counts have expanded beyond the original United States and Canada to include locations as far south as Argentina, changing the focus from North America to the Western Hemisphere.

The CBC's primary objective is to monitor the status and distribution of populations through an all-day census of early winter bird numbers. When these data are combined with other surveys (e.g., Breeding Bird Surveys), we begin to see a picture of how the continent's bird populations are changing.

All are welcome to participate on any CBC. If you've ever heard yourself say, "Maybe it'd be fun to learn birds," here's a great opportunity. Beginning birders are teamed with experienced ones. [Personal note: I make myself useful to my team by keeping track of how many of which birds are seen and exclaiming "There's a bird!" for others to ID.] Participants count within a designated 15-mile circle on the given day. At the end of the day, counters are invited to meet at a local restaurant for the 3 C's: Compilation (of results), Camaraderie, and (a bit of friendly) Competition as to whom located the rarest bird!

Each December, RRAS holds a pre-CBC brush-up session on bird identification. A local expert shows slides of species that may be seen locally.

As long as there are birds to be counted, the Christmas Bird Count will go on being the most popular, fun, and rewarding bird census the world over. We look forward to welcoming YOU to our growing community of citizen scientists.

Want to access the data from past counts? Visit the National Audubon Society website at www.audubon.org/bird/cbc. You can make maps of bird distribution, construct graphs of species trends, view raw count data, or see what's happened in your count circle over time.

[Author's note: Thanks to Joan Loitz for pointing out the need for a general information article to promote CBC participation outside the "usual circle of suspects." Next month's issue will contain details on the 5 local counts: Arcata, Centerville, Willow Creek, Del Norte, and Lewiston.] (web note: these will also be added to the Calendar when announced.)

Conservation Committee Report - September 20

The Conservation Committee met September 20, at the Golden Harvest Restaurant in Arcata. Attending were J.Andersen, J. Clark, S. Leskiw, and C. Ogan.

South Spit Management Plan: The plan proposes to allow Off Road Vehicle (ORV) use on the wave slope. All present were opposed to this because it is doubtful that the use restrictions could be effectively enforced and even if they were, such use is in conflict with protection of the Snowy Plover.

Commentor's Consortium: Sue proposed that the committee participate in a reviewer's consortium that would be an e-mail network to alert potential plan reviewers in several conservation organizations to documents available for review. Through informal communications, members of the consortium could consolidate comments by reviewers that have expertise in specific subjects. Those interested in being part of the consortium should contact Sue Leskiw.

Eureka (PALCO Marsh) Project: Information is coming to light that The City of Eureka's lack of action and inefficiency in utilizing the Coastal Conservancy grant may be even more egregious than first thought. The committee discussed possible action that RRAS and other conservation organizations might take to raise the priority of this project.

Science takes a holiday, politics takes over: Remember last year when it was pointed out that the rationale for a decrease in diversions from the Klamath was scientifically flawed? I expect to hear soon that the death of thousands of salmon from a disease that is known to be caused by warm and poor quality water is "merely anecdotal." Perhaps what needs to be included in the fisheries management strategy for the Klamath and its tributaries is upriver flow management based on down river monitoring of water quality. Also, where is our Regional Water Quality Control Board? The waters of the state are supposed to be maintained for "all beneficial uses." We need to know if water quality, which includes thermal qualities and other parameters essential to fish, has been compromised by up river use. The first priority should be to maintain water quality for all beneficial uses. Provided this objective is met, other uses such as irrigation could be permitted.

Please contact Jim Clark (contacts section) if you would like to participate in the conservation committee and suggest any changes in time and place that would help you do so.

- Jim Clark

Next Board Meeting

The next Redwood Region Audubon Society Board meeting will be held November 7, 2002 at the Redwood Sciences Lab, Arcata CA.

Announcements for September 2002

Member Picnic and Birdathon in October

Here's an opportunity for RRAS members to "meet and eat!" Many of you weren't able to attend last February's banquet and our monthly programs don't allow much time for socializing. So whip up your favorite potluck item and come out to Freshwater Park on **Sunday, October 13**, starting at noon. This is also the culmination of the **Annual Bird-a-Thon** fundraising event. [Click here for the Calendar and further details on both activities.](#)

Conservation Committee Report - August 16

Mel McKinney, Barbara Kelly and Jim Clark met at the Conservation Committee meeting on August 16.

We discussed what we hoped would be positive step in getting the City of Eureka off the dime with the PALCO/Eureka Marsh project. The report submitted to the City Council states the Department of Public Works is "hopeful" that the project will be completed by the end of summer 2003.

True to the triad of Audubon principles of action, we will continue to educate the public about the value of this marsh to wildlife and what the city is doing to enhance it, use science (natural and political) to back up our action, and if need be use the law to protect the public trust.

Little else new was occurring due to the summer doldrums except the Biscuit Fire. We discussed the possibility of a move by industry to capitalize on the fires to promote cutting more timber.

Jim suggested that the committee consider expanding to non-geographical conservation issues. This type of conservation activity takes little time or effort, yet can influence large corporations if enough people participate. All it takes is awareness and maybe even saving some money in the long run. When you buy a product, consider its overall effect on the environment. Recycled content, simple packaging and non-wood alternatives are all things to consider.

I recently bought three replacement fence posts made from recycled automobile trim. An eight foot 4x4 weighs more than the wettest pressure treated (PT) wood post and they don't rot, rust or leach toxic material. They cost more than the traditional PT post but have an expected life of 75 to 100 years. They also come in a 6x6" "barrier post" that weighs in at 150 pounds. I got them at the Mill Yard. I have also re-sided part of my house with exterior paneling made by the James Hardie Company that is made of concrete, ground sand and a small amount of cellulose fiber. Termites don't like it and it doesn't rot. Although probably not "tree free" it makes a tree go a long way.

Our next meeting will be at the Golden Harvest Cafe at noon on Friday September 20, 2002. Hope to see you there.

- Jim Clark

Next Board Meeting

The next Redwood Region Audubon Society Board meeting will be held October 3, 2002 at the Redwood Sciences Lab, Arcata CA.

Redwood Region Audubon Society welcomes the following new members and subscribers:

Arcata – Valerie Eurs, Barbara Lane

Eureka – Diane Dubow, Blake Earhart, Dauille Hichen, Helen Hui, Robert & Kathleen Hutchinson, Claire Talmadge

Hydesville – William Shapeero

Korbel – Sarah Colvig

Miranda – Margaret Lewis

Petrolia – Ellen Estabrook

Phillipsville – Jeff Kocheran, Judy Stanfield

Trinidad -- Stephanie Coughtry

Announcements for August 2002

October Member Picnic and Birdathon Being Planned

RRAS will hold a member picnic at Freshwater Park the afternoon of Sunday, October 13. The potluck event will cap a weekend of fundraising via our fall Birdathon.

Birdathon pledge forms will be available in September at the NEC and Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center and Strictly for the Birds in Eureka. Contact event chair Luke George (826-0479) for information on joining a team or otherwise participating.

Redwood Region Audubon Society welcomes the following new members and subscribers:

Arcata – Meredith Harris, Kaye Humphrey, Jill McCoy, Brian O'Donnell, William Ruark

Bayside – Lee & Bill Bragg, Rabbi Les Scharnberg

Blue Lake – Christine Holm

Bridgeville – Dolores Snyder

Crescent City – Judy Hughes, Earle Koeble, Deborah Savage, Donna Thompson

Eureka – Lina Carro, Marilyn Hagar, Edward & Josephine Noyes

Garberville – Emily Quindry, Bruce Riley

McKinleyville – Mary Barber, Evelyn Fuller, Nanette Meind

Redway – Scott & Clair Bliss

Santa Barbara – Melissa Kelly

Brookings, OR – Cory Rush

Announcements for May 2002

Strictly for the Birds Expands!

Strictly for the Birds at 123 F Street, Old Town Eureka is hosting a ribbon-cutting and grand re-opening on Friday, May 17th. Louise Bacon-Ogden, owner and active Audubon member, is the hostess.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony begins at 2 p.m. Friday afternoon. Charlotte Mc Donald of Eureka Main Street will do the honors. The new space now occupied by Strictly for the Birds was formerly the location of the Main Street office. This addition doubles the present space. At 6:00 p.m. the re-opening party will begin. Everyone is invited. Staff will be present to welcome guests. Refreshments will be served. Come share in the merriment!

Next Board and Conservation Committee Meetings

The next Redwood Region Audubon Society Board meeting will be held May 2, 2002 at the Redwood Sciences Lab, Arcata CA. The next Conservation Committee meeting will be on May 17, 2002, at the Golden Harvest Cafe in Arcata.

Both meetings are open to members and the general public.

Redwood Region Audubon Society welcomes the following new members and subscribers:

Arcata – Roberta & Tom Allen, Katherine Clague, Jodi Despot, Jessica Gardner, Heather Verville

Crescent City – Heather Hutchinson, Richard Miles

Eureka – Stephen Beckman, Rick Kruse, Marilyn Martino, Christopher Tonra

Fortuna – Susan Branham

Manila – Carol Andersen

McKinleyville – Mr. & Mrs. Randy Eagle, Thomas Lisle & Family

Trinidad – Pat Collum-Salafia, Melinda McComb

Announcements for April 2002

RRAS Sponsors Science Fair Award

“What Color Do Birds Like Best?” by Cole Salmon, a fifth-grader from Scotia Elementary School, was selected as the best project dealing with birds and their habitat at the annual Humboldt County Science Fair held in mid-March. Cole’s experiment tested three colors of feeders – purple, orange, and green – at two locations in his yard. He found that birds ate the most seed from the green feeders, followed by purple, then orange.

RRAS judges Louise Bacon-Ogden, Gary Bloomfield, Hal Genger, and Sue Leskiw evaluated exhibits created by students in grades 4 through 10 to choose a winner. The prize – a \$50 check and 1-year membership in the National Audubon Society -- was awarded during a ceremony on March 22 at Humboldt State University.

Wanted: Interesting sightings

Sightings from the Eureka/Palco Marsh, Del Norte Street Pier and Bayshore Willows area are requested. Pablo Herrera is putting together a species list for the Eureka Marsh and would like any records for that area. Send sightings to: Pablo Herrera P. O. Box 5565, Eureka, CA 95502 or (preferred) icteria@hotmail.com

Conservation Committee 3/15/2001 by Jim Clark

The conservation committee met at noon at the Golden Harvest Cafe in Arcata on March 15, 2002. Attending were Christine Ambrose, Jim Clark, Maggy Herbelin, Sue Leskiw, Tim McKay, Mel McKinney, Rudy Ramp and Jeff Robinson.

This was Jeff Robinson’s first meeting with us, and he gave us a rundown on his duties as Conservation Specialist with the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District. Jeff has too many projects going now to fully explain here, but his two top priority items are getting the updated Harbor District website on line with its new GIS data, and compiling and organizing the public input information being collected by the Humboldt Bay Management Plan Task Force. We look forward to working with Jeff in the future.

Jim announced that about half of the active Coast Seafoods oyster beds have been plotted using GPS. Once the active beds are mapped, the historical beds will be plotted. This should provide usable information on the short and long term effects of different types of oyster culture on eelgrass in Humboldt Bay.

Mel reported on the progress of Eureka’s Trails Project, the Eureka Marsh Restoration Project draft plan review and renaming of the City of Eureka Wildlife Areas to Wildlife Sanctuaries. The bureaucracy involved in a name change is truly amazing!

Based on a query from Santa Clara Audubon, the Heritage Tree Initiative was discussed. It was felt that the initiative is probably not the best way to deal with removal of old-growth trees that serve as valuable habitat for species such as the Marbled Murrelet, but it is better than the existing situation. Tim McKay pointed out that at least the public will have the opportunity to vote on it. Since the initiative applies only to trees in existence before 1850, Eucalyptus, California’s largest weed, need not be spared the chain saw.

Jim reminded those present of the recent purchase of timberland in Del Norte County by the Save the Redwoods League, and the additional five million dollar fund assigned to the county. This appears to be a breakthrough in

addressing lost revenue from taxes and jobs. Conservation organizations need to be as good at economics as biology if they are to be successful.

Maggy Herbelin announced the Eureka Creeks Fair at Cooper Gulch May 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fair will be the culmination of tours on April 20, April 27, and May 4 and will provide access to information on conservation easement and other means to protect and restore streams and gulches. Jim Clark and Louise Bacon-Ogden are co-leading the May 4 trip(s). The April 27 tour is of the Eureka Municipal Golf Course is to review plans to improve the stream that goes through the course for water quality and fish habitat improvement. We are particularly interested in some Audubon golfers going on this one. This is an opportunity to not only improve water quality but wildlife habitat and the course as well. Call Debbie Hart-Harris at RCAA, 269-2058 for more information and to sign up for the April 27th walk.

The next meeting will be on April 19, 2002, same time, same place.

Next Board Meeting

The next Redwood Region Audubon Society Board meeting will be held April 4, 2002 at the Redwood Sciences Lab, Arcata CA.

Redwood Region Audubon Society welcomes the following new members and subscribers:

- Arcata – Adrienne Arnold, Katie Coar, Hilary Cooke, M.J. Cord, Jane Riggan, Judy Treman
- Bayside – Tom & Katy Allen, George Cocks, Gena Pennington
- Blue Lake – Adrian Bruce
- Carlotta – June Ady, Nancy Carter
- Crescent City – Stan Ottenbreit, June & Bob Robinson, Lisa Robles
- Eureka – Jorie Colwell, Bob Davis, Shelley Holstein, Kevin Peterson, Bob Saemmer, Diana Stoecken, Russell Turpin, Rob Willis
- McKinleyville – Kenneth Fisher, Martha Hirsch
- Miranda – Irene Stevenson
- Redway – Iris Carpenter
- San Francisco – Judith Park
- Trinidad – Cheron Brian, Gerard & Melody Hamilton, Malcolm Stevens
- Upland – Chris JR Wn

Announcements for March 2002

Awards Presented at RRAS Annual Dinner

Some 90 people attended the RRAS banquet held February 9th at the Eureka Elks Lodge. Geoffrey Geupel of Point Reyes Bird Observatory delivered the keynote lecture on the status of songbirds in the state's riparian areas.

Ken Irwin of Trinidad was presented the RRAS Member of the Year Award for his rare bird finds that boosted local ecotourism. The chapter's Conservation Award went to the leadership of the Lake Earl Branch for their efforts to protect the natural resources of Del Norte county. Sue Calla, Alan Barron, and Sandra Jerabek accepted the plaque and framed certificate.

Humboldt State University wildlife student James Hall won a \$100 scholarship for his research on Snowy Plover nesting survival.

Luke George presented a \$1,408 check to Tim McKay, executive director of the Northcoast Environmental Center. The amount represented 75 percent of the proceeds from the October 2001 Bird-a-thon fundraiser chaired by George.

Thank You, Silent Auction Donors & Bidders!

Nearly \$2,200 was raised at the Silent Auction held in conjunction with the RRAS Annual Banquet. The Board would like to recognize Tim McKay for serving as emcee of the live auction segment, Dick Laursen and other members for calling potential donors, and Sue Leskiw for organizing the event. Special mention goes to Carol Andersen, CJ Ralph, Jay Sooter, and Southport Landing Bed & Breakfast for their donations of "big-ticket" items for the live auction.

Following is a complete list of donors, arranged alphabetically: Abraxas (earrings), Adel's (gift certificate), Adventure's Edge (kayak rental), Carol Andersen (original artwork, posters), Arcata Community Pool (10-swim pass), Arcata Exchange (puzzle), Arcata MainStreet (two Godwit Days registrations), Belle Starr (shawl), Gary Bloomfield (original artwork), Bubbles (gift basket), Chalet House of Omelettes (gift certificate), Marian Coleman (clock, vase), Critter Sitter (petsitting), Denny's (gift certificate), Eureka Natural Foods (two gift baskets), David Fix (birding trip), Freshwater Farms (gift certificate), Bob Frey (book), Gallery Dog (wall hanging), Gill's by the Bay (gift certificate), Gottschalk's (gift certificate), Hensel's Hardware (gift certificate), HomeTown Buffet (gift certificate), Humboldt Audio & Video (discman), LBJ Enterprises (two books), Sue Leskiw (wooden shelf), Mad River Biologists (Ron LeValley photograph), Bob Lockett and Adrienne Wolf-Lockett (two nights' lodging and guided tour, Portland, OR), Marie Callender's (pies), Mazzotti's (gift certificate), McKinleyville Ace Hardware (gift basket), Miller Farms Nursery (gift certificate), Nilsen Company (gift certificates), Northern Mountain Supply (hydration system), Chet Ogan (print), Pet Nurturing Services (petsitting), Pierson Building Center (gift certificate), Point Reyes Bird Observatory (baseball cap), Pro Sport Center (binocular straps), CJ Ralph (two paintings, numerous t-shirts), Sequoia Park Zoological Society (membership and print), Shafer's Ace Hardware (gift certificate), Sizzler (gift certificate), Jay Sooter's Spas & Saunas (water system), Southport Landing B&B (one night B&B for two), Strictly for the Birds (feeder), Subway (gift certificates), Sweet River Grill & Bar (gift certificate), Tomas Jewelry (earrings), Catherine Walling (print, framed stamps), Wildberries (gift certificate).

RRAS Appeal Raises Over \$4,000 for NEC

Last August, RRAS solicited the help of its members to rebuild the Northcoast Environmental Center that was destroyed by fire. We recently received a report from the Humboldt Area Foundation that 25 donors responded to our appeal, contributing \$4,040 to the Rebuild It Fund!

The RRAS Board would like to thank those generous members for their support and help in this effort.

How to Report a Sighting of a Color Marked Bird

The more information that you can provide, the more likely the individual bird or marking project can be identified. Important information to send is:

- Size, shape, color of marker, color of codes, shape and placement of codes on the marker (a sketch can be more useful than a written description).
- Age of the bird, sex of the bird if available
- Date the bird was observed
- Exact location the bird was observed
- Your name, address, and preferably a daytime telephone number in case we have a question.

Report your sighting one of several ways:

- on our report page (Field Notes);
- call your report in to 1-800-327-BAND (please do not use this number if you have live Canada Goose observations or several birds to report!);
- FAX it to 301-497-5717 (use this for shorebirds, peregrine sightings etc. where the position of the flags or codes may be easier to draw than to describe on the telephone!); or
- email to BBL@usgs.gov

Breeding Bird Art Sponsorships

You can make a significant contribution toward the publication of the Humboldt County Breeding Bird Atlas by purchasing an illustration of your favorite species. You will be credited in the book for sponsoring “your” illustration, and will also receive the original black and white artwork. The contribution for a species illustration is \$125, Please call Jude Power at 822-3613. **Many popular species remain to be sponsored!**

Redwood Region Audubon Society welcomes the following new members and subscribers:

- Arcata – George Burtchett, Fred Hummel, Shane O’Neill
- Bayside – Gregory & Rene Nesty
- Eureka – Mark Blackwood, Jean Hawkins
- Fortuna – DJ Porsley
- Kneeland – Ann Schmalz
- Trinidad – Ken Irwin

Announcements for January 2002

RRAS Listserv

The Redwood Region Audubon Listserv has been launched. It is intended to inform interested parties of upcoming meetings, hearings, symposia, etc, as well as to remind members about RRAS field trips, programs, and so forth.

For example, if the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors meeting will cover Waterfront Drive extension -- those interested in preserving the Eureka Marsh would want to attend. Other examples: The Fish & Wildlife Service is holding an informational meeting on the Snowy Plover recovery plan... The Harbor District is soliciting public comment on a draft management plan for the Bay... The California Native Plant Society is sponsoring a symposium on local rare plants... Letters are needed supporting removal of billboards on the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

Subscribe in one of two ways: 1) through a Webpage at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rras/> or 2) via e-mail at rras-subscribe@yahogroups.com Once you subscribe, you will be given instructions on how to unsubscribe, should it not be your cup of tea. All posts should give complete information on the event, sponsor (limited to nonprofit groups and governmental agencies), location, date/time, and contact. This site is NOT for reporting bird sightings; other venues exist for that purpose.

We hope it is used by our members -- and other concerned nature lovers -- to share information, alert others to threats to our environment, and offer ways to take action.

Send in Your Vote by January 28

All RRAS members in good standing should have received a ballot for the 2002 chapter election. Candidates for 2-year terms on the Board of Directors are Janice Andersen, Gary Bloomfield, Jim Clark, and CJ Ralph. Sue Leskiw is running for the post of Secretary and Frances Madrone for Treasurer. The office of President-elect is open. Any member interested in serving is urged to contact Hal Genger at 443-7147.

Donations of Goods & Services Sought for Silent Auction

For the second year, RRAS will be holding a Silent Auction at its Annual Banquet, one of two major fundraisers for the chapter. Since RRAS will be donating 75 percent (rather than the usual half) of its fall Birdathon pledges to the Northcoast Environmental Center and Audubon has reduced financial support to its chapters, the proceeds of the Silent Auction become even more important to fund RRAS activities.

If you work in a business, ask your employer to donate a gift certificate. If you are an artist or photographer or needlecrafter, give a piece of your work. Offer to lead a birding trip or cook a dinner. Donate books or gently used optics or other field supplies. There are many types of services and objects on which people would be willing to bid, so don't be shy or uncreative!

Please contact Sue Leskiw at 442-5444 to make a donation. All donors will be recognized at the banquet and in the *Sandpiper* as well as receiving thank you letters.

Next Board Meeting

The next regular meeting of the RRAS board will be Thurs Jan 31, 2002, at 7 p.m. at the Redwood Sciences Laboratory, 1700 Bayview, Arcata. For more information contact Sue Leskiw at 442-5444.

Help Scientists Track Birds in Your Community

Participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count, February 15-18, 2002. Information from the GBBC can help shed light on a variety of ecological phenomena, such as winter irruptions, and help track threatened and endangered species like the Bald Eagle. Last year, more than 53,000 checklists were submitted by volunteers from every state and province.

This event is hosted by the National Audubon Society and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. To participate, visit www.birdsource.org.

Conservation Committee by Jim Clark

The variety and extent of conservation topics preclude a full report on committee meetings and full details of what is going on other fronts this time; here are the highlights.

Pete Haggard from the Native Plant Society (NPS) and Rudy Ramp from the local League of Women Voters (LWV) attended the December Conservation Committee Meeting.

Pete presented a proposal to have RRAS support the NPS in requesting that CalTrans make a better effort to use local native plants for landscaping. Landscaping next to highways precludes the use of some native plants due to fire and safety considerations, but there are also many native plants that could and should be used in areas like the 101/299 interchange. For example: why plant Eucalyptus when Blue Blossom (*Ceanothus* spp.) can serve the same landscaping purpose? Pete will provide a letter to which RRAS can add its points. The committee agreed that RRAS should participate in this communication to CalTrans.

Rudy proposed that RRAS and LWV cooperate on positions related to wildlife and natural resource issues. LWV has a defined and rigorous procedure for establishing local, state and national positions on issues that voters need to be aware of. While Audubon chapters are not bound by such a procedure; the concept of establishing positions on various issues is a good one. The committee agreed that LWV and RRAS can and should cooperate on adopting position statements on environmental issues.

More on Eel River: On Saturday, January 19, a contingent of LWV members, including Rudy Ramp and Jim Clark, will participate in a discussion on Eel River water diversion in Santa Rosa with the LWV. A discussion on this is planned for the Conservation Committee meeting on January 18.

Mariculture Monitoring Committee: A short meeting and field trip occurred on Wednesday January 9. The meeting was routine but the field trip revealed unexpected findings. We visited three oyster beds in the east bay, one cleared ground culture bed, one recently planted long line bed, and one partially harvested ground bed. What we found was prolific eel grass growth where very little was expected due to location, activity and season. Eel grass growth was occurring in recently harvested areas, current ground culture areas and the new long line bed. Obviously, eel grass can re-grow almost anywhere within its depth regime, including dense, active oyster beds. Wider line spacing appeared to allow greater eel grass density. Because of these findings the next new long line bed will be laid out with a combination of more widely spaced lines in an effort to determine optimal spacing for eel grass growth and oyster culture.

Humboldt Bay Management Plan Task Force: The next stakeholders meeting will be Tuesday, January 22, 2002 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. This meeting the Environmental Stakeholders will gather input from environmental organizations and concerned citizens on their vision for Humboldt Bay. The following meeting on February 12 will be for non-consumptive recreation. Since Jim Clark is on the task force, others from RRAS will need to address our issues at these meetings.

The next Conservation Committee meeting will be at the Golden Harvest Cafe in Arcata on January 18, 2002 at Noon.

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Audubon Advisory Available to Members

To receive the best information on national conservation legislation, subscribe to National Audubon’s free biweekly e-mail service, the Audubon Advisory. Each issue will provide insider reports on legislation pending in the House, Senate, and governmental agencies. The Advisory will alert you to late-breaking action and provide a simple method to communicate with lawmakers on critical conservation issues. To subscribe, e-mail your name, address, city, state, and zip to audubonaction@audubon.org or leave the information on a toll-free message line 800-659-2622. You can also call this hotline to get short updates on issues.

Redwood Region Audubon Society welcomes the following new members and subscribers:

- Arcata -- Frank and Marji Anderson, William Buchanan, Berit Carlsen, Leonard Job, Carol McNeill, K Potter, John Schwabe, Greg & Aimee Strand, Mr & Mrs Kermit Thobaben, Tim Weber
- Blue Lake – Shawn Filbey
- Crescent City – Jim & Linda Barrett, Peter Craig, Gail Frazier, Mr & Mrs Clarence Neighbors, Susan Reese, Arthur Reeves
- Eureka – Gaye Ayton, Julie Buchanan, Jill Perry, Debra Towns
- Fortuna – Dennis Hazleton, Judy Rodrigues
- Klamath – Patricia Lewis
- Loleta – Tracy Coleman, Barbara Groom
- McKinleyville – Candice Chrestman, Michelle Elaine & Dylan Gray, Leonard Lytle, Jamal Wren
- Orick – Kathy Machado
- Rio Dell – Laurie Ruggles
- Trinidad – Jane Morrison, Marvin & Kristin Trump

