

Field Notes
by Stan Harris
27 October-30 November 2002

Only one (count them) rain storm, 7-9 Nov, but generally weather continued unseasonably dry, HBNWR has virtually no water, and No Name Pond was dry the first half of the period as were most swales in the bottomlands. Abbreviations used: AB= Arcata Bottoms; AMP = Arcata Marsh Project; AOP = Arcata Oxidation Pond; BSLP = Butcher Slough Log Pond; EM = Expected Migrant; ERWA = Eel River Wildlife Area; FR = Few Records; HBNWR = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; ID = Interesting Date; IIT = Interesting, if true; IL = Interesting Location; IN= Interesting Numbers; MKSP = MacKerricher State Park; MRWA = Mad River Wildlife Area; mo = Many Observers; MS = Monitored Species; NC = Not confirmed by a second party; ND = No Details; SD = Storm Driven; SRB = Smith River Bottoms; SWWR = Sea Watch from Wedding Rock.

HIGHLIGHTS: ARCTIC LOON (IIT, NC): 1 reported, partial phone description, SWWR, 13 Nov (KI); **BULLER'S SHEARWATER (ID):** 1, SWWR, 17-18 Nov (KI); **SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER (IL; NC):** 1 reported, partial phone description, SWWR, 17 Nov (KI); **AMERICAN BITTERN (FR):** 1, BSLP, 5, 28 Nov (SH, BC); 1, MRWA, 18 Nov (KR); 1, AMP, 24 Nov (C&AC); **GREAT EGRET (IL, IN):** 6, So. Fork, Eel River, Meyers Flat, 30 Oct (JG); 5, Hettenshaw Valley, 30 Oct (TL); **CATTLE EGRET (FR):** 1, AB, 11 Nov (KR); 1, AB, 28 Nov (PS); **SNOW GOOSE (FR):** 2, Hookton Slough, 17 Nov (MN); 1-3, AB, AMP, 21-30 Nov (SH, PS, et al.); **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (FR):** 1-5, AB, 7-8 Nov (KR); 1, Hookton Slough, 16 Nov (DW, RC); 1 known shot by hunters, SRB, 23 Nov (KR); **DUSKY CANADA GOOSE (FR):** 1, AB, 8 Nov (KR); **ALEUTIAN CANADA GOOSE (EM):** 11, Hufford Road, 27 Oct (SH, DF, JP, et al.); 45 flyby AMP, 28 Oct (SH); 2000, Smith River Bottoms, 29 Oct (ZL); 2000 roosting on Lake Earl, 29 Oct (JB); 5000 reported on Smith River Bottoms, 29 Oct (BA) (reported to have arrived about 8 Oct); 200-250+, AB, 5-11 Nov (KR); 1500, Smith River Bottoms, 300 HBNWR (aerial counts), 13-14 Nov (SH, et al.); 825 in flyoff from Castle Rock, 22 Nov (KR); 114 in flyoff from Castle Rock, 24 Nov (KR); 40 known to have been shot, SRB, 23-27 Nov (KR).

Other Geese from Canada

ACKLING CANADA GOOSE (FR): 4, AB, 6 Nov (FA); 3 known to have been shot, SRB, 23-27 Nov (KR); **EURASIAN WIGEON (EM):** 1-2 males, 1 female, AMP; 2-22 Nov (CO, SH, KR, ST); **BLUE-WINGED TEAL (FR):** 1-2 males, 1 female, BSLP, 30 Oct-30 Nov (SH, BC, et al.); **CANVASBACK (IL):** 1 male, 1 female, Lake Cleone, 2, 12-13 Nov (DT); **REDHEAD (IL):** 2 males, Lake Cleone 2 Nov (DT); **LESSER SCAUP (IL):** 3, Ruth Lake, 29 Oct (TL); **HARLEQUIN (FR):** 1-3, King Salmon, 6-13 Nov (MW, ST); 15, Glass Beach, 22 Oct-20 Nov (DT); 3, Ward Ave., MKSP, 26 Oct (DT); **LONG-TAILED DUCK (FR):** 1, Cock Robin Island, 23 Nov (SP); **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (FR):** 1 male, 1 possible female, lower Mad River, 23-24 Nov (FB, RN, FA); **HOODED MERGANSER (IL):** 8, Hettenshaw Valley, 30 Oct (TL); 1, AOP, 1 Nov (MV); **BALD EAGLE (MS):** 1 ad., Ruth Lake, 29 Oct (TL); 1 ad, Miranda, 4 Nov (JS); 1 imm, Smith River Bottoms, 14 Nov (SH, et al.); 1 imm, Blue Lake, 15 Nov (JL); **HARLAN'S RED-TAILED HAWK (FR, NC, ND):** 1, Cock Robin Island, 13 Nov (SP); **FERRUGINOUS HAWK (FR):** 1 AB, 11-24 Nov, (KR, RN); 1 near Hydenville, 10 Nov (EE); **PRAIRIE FALCON (FR):** 1, West End Road, near Blue Lake, 3 Nov (FA); **LESSER SANDHILL CRANE (FR):** 1, short straight bill, brownish plumage, flyby, BSLP, 28 Nov (BC, SH); **SNOWY PLOVER (IL):** 1, Lake Talawa, 8 Nov (anon); **ROCK SANDPIPER (EM):** 3, Laguna Point, MKSP, 17 Nov (DT); **PECTORAL SANDPIPER (IIT, ID, NC):** 1, lower Mad River, 16 Nov (very late) (MeH); **RUFF (FR):** 1 male, King Salmon, Fields Landing, reported 5 times, 29 Oct-13 Nov (MW); **RED PHALAROPE (SD):** few to 100's reported from coastal plain locations, Del Norte to Ft. Bragg, 8 Nov-16 Nov (mo).

A couple of German hunters

POMARINE JAEGER (ID): 1, SWWR, 10 Nov (KI); **PARASITIC JAEGER (ID):** 1, SWWR, 17-18 Nov (KI); 1, off Ward Ave, MKSP, 18 Nov (DT); **FRANKLIN'S GULL (FR):** 1 imm., Blue Lake Bottoms, 14 Nov (JL); **HERRING GULL (IN):** 3-48, SWWR, 6-18 Nov (KI); **THAYER'S GULL (IN):** 1-15, SWWR, 7-17 Nov (KI); 1

imm., Woody Island, 10 Nov (ST): **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (FR)**: 1, SWWR, 7 Nov (KI); 3, 28 Oct; 2, 17 Nov; 1, 18 Nov, all off Laguna Pt. (DT): **SABINE'S GULL (IL, ID)**: 1, SWWR, 18 Nov (KI): **LONG-EARED OWL (IL, FR)**: 1, MRWA, 6 Nov (MC): **COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD (FR)**: 1 male, Fortuna, 17-18 Nov (BN): **SAY'S PHOEBE (FR)**: 1, Scotia, 30 Oct (anon): **TROPICAL KINGBIRD (FR)**: 1, AB, 2 Nov (BC): **NORTHERN SHRIKE (FR)**: 1, AB, 2 Nov (BC); 1, ERWA, 14 Nov (MK): **HORNED LARK (IL)**: 2 heard, MRWA, 30 Oct (JT): **ROCK WREN (FR)**: 1, Kneeland, seen daily 3-12 Nov (BB, DVZ).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD (FR): 2, Briceland, late Oct (Georgie, fide JS): 1, Garberville, still present, early Nov (JS); 1, Mt. Trashmore, 10 Nov (PL): **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (FR)**: 1, McKinleyville, 9-19 Nov (KR); 1, AB, 12 Nov (KR): **GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (FR, ID)**: 1, near Ward Ave, MKSP, 13 Nov (DT): **RUSTY "EASTERN" FOX SPARROW (FR)**: 1, Sunny Brae, 31 Oct-27 Nov (SH): **SWAMP SPARROW (FR)**: 3, AMP, 11, 15 Nov (EE); 1, AOP, 23 Nov (ST): **HARRIS'S SPARROW (FR)**: 1, Patricks Point State Park, 27 Oct (HB, MD); 1 Loleta Bottoms, 20 Nov (TMcK, SP).

Buntings with long toes

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR (FR): 1, Lake Talawa, 31 Oct (JLo): **LAPLAND LONGSPUR (FR)**: x, Lake Talawa, 31 Oct-1 Nov (AB): 2-4 MRWA, 17-18 Nov (DF, JP, KR): **SNOW BUNTING (FR)**: 1-3, Lake Talawa, 29 Oct-4 Nov (AB, EC, JG, anon); 1, Ender's Beach, 30 Oct (JM); 1, MRWA, 30 Oct, 17-23 Nov (JT, et al.); 1, off Laguna Point, 11-16 Nov (anon, DT): **TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD (IN)**: "at least 200," Bald Hill at Ft. Bragg ("a regular spot in fall"), 11 Nov (DT): **BULLOCK'S ORIOLE (ID)**: 1, Arcata, 10 Nov (JHe):

NOTES FOR YOUR ATTENTION: RED-THROATED LOON (EM): 150, seen from shore along 3 miles north of Westport, 4 Nov (DT): **DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT (IL)**: 1, Hettenshaw Valley, 30 Oct (TL): **NORTHERN FULMAR (EM)**: about 20 per hour seen many days in period off Laguna Point from shore (DT); 1 sick, mouth Mad River, 30 Oct (JM); 2-6, SWWR, 17-18 Nov (KI): **SOOTY SHEARWATER (ID)**: 1-10, SWWR, 7-18 Nov (KI): **PINK-FOOTED SHEARWATER (ID)**: 1-10, SWWR, 7-18 Nov (KI): **WESTERN CANADA GOOSE (IN)**: 830, AB, 22 Nov (PS); 750, Brizard Field, Arcata, 28 Nov (PS); 400-500, vic AOP, 29-30 Nov (SH): **TUNDRA SWAN (EM)**: 1, Hookton Slough, Long Pond, 13-17 Nov (SH, DW, RC, MN): **COMMON GOLDENEYE (EM)**: 3, King Salmon, 13 Nov (MW): **WHITE-TAILED KITE (IL)**: 1-2 seen daily Kneeland 27-31 Oct (BB, DVZ): **NORTHERN HARRIER (IL)**: 1, Ruth Lake, 22 Oct (update, TL): **ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK (MS)**: 1, MKSP, 22 Oct (DT): **MERLIN (MS)**: 6 reports of singles from Hufford Road, McKinleyville, AB, AMP, Freshwater Slough, Elk River Mouth, 27 Oct-24 Nov (mo): **PEREGRINE FALCON (MS)**: 8 reports of 1-2 from AMP, AB, Blue Lake, 28 Oct-30 Nov (SH, KR, JL): **BLACK OYSTERCATCHER (IL)**: 1, King Salmon, 8 Nov (MW): **LESSER YELLOWLEGS (EM)**: 2-3, AB, 5-8 Nov (KR); 3, AMP, 15 Nov (EE): **COMMON SNIPE (EM)**: 2, McKinleyville, 6 Nov (JF): **BONAPARTE'S GULL (EM)**: 50, SWWR, 9 Nov (KI): **HEERMANN'S GULL (ID)**: 1, Klopp Lake, 4 Nov (SH).

All good terns for the Solstice counts

CASPIAN TERN (IL): 1, off Laguna Point, 17 Nov (DT): **FORSTER'S TERN (EM)**: 1-20, AMP, AOP, 5-30 Nov (SH): **PIGEON GUILLEMOT (ID)**: 1 off Ward Ave, MKSP, 27 Oct (DT): **PYGMY OWL (FR)**: 1, Blue Lake, 25 Nov (SB): **SHORT-EARED OWL (EM)**: 1-2, MRWA, 30 Oct-18 Nov (JT, KR): **PILEATED WOODPECKER (IL)**: 1 Sunny Brae, 28 Oct ("Richard"); 1 among beach driftwood west of mouth of Mad River, 29 Nov (KR): **WESTERN BLUEBIRD (MS)**: 4, Mail Ridge, 4 Nov (JG): **NASHVILLE WARBLER (ID)**: 1, Bayshore Mall, 25 Nov (TL): **PALM WARBLER (EM)**: 1, AMP, 10-11 Nov (PL, EE, SH); 1, MRWA, 18 Nov (KR); 1, Eureka Sewage Marsh, 16 Nov (RH); 1, River Walk, Fortuna, 26 Nov (RC, SC): **COMMON YELLOWTHROAT (ID)**: 1, Hufford Road, 27 Oct (TL); 1, AMP, 30 Oct (SH): **SAVANNAH SPARROW (IL)**: 2, Ruth Lake, 29 Oct (TL): **LINCOLN'S SPARROW (IN)**: 7, MRWA, 18 Nov (KR): **SLATE-COLORED JUNCO (EM)**: 1, Arcata, 20 Nov (EE).

Four probable Blue Whales were seen from shore at Laguna Point, 2 Nov (DT).

Many thanks to the following who submitted observations this month: Blake Alexandre, Frank Anderson, Jan Anderson, Keith Anderson, Sue Barnstein, Alan Barron, Heather Beeler, Jeff Black, Gary Bloomfield, Jane E. Bloomfield, Fred Bodree, Barbara Burek, Bryon Cariss, Rema Carroll, Cara & Aaron Coore, Eileen Cooper, Ruth Crane, Sandi Crane, Mike Duncan, Elias Elias, David Fix, Joe Friedman, John Gaffin, Joe Gartland, Melody Hamilton, Stan Harris, Pablo Herrera, Rob Hewitt, John Hewston, Ken Irwin, Mary Kuehner, Zack Larsen, Tom Leskiw, Lauren Lester, Paul Lohse, Jim Lomax, Jim Lyons, Brooke McDonald, Jeanne Mayer, Jerry McCollum, John McKellerman, Tristan McKee, Janet Miller, Russ Namitz, Beverly Neal, Michele Nuss, Chet Ogan, Steve Pagliughi, Jude Power, "Richard", Victor Smith, Jay Sooter, Paul Springer, Jim Tietz, Dorothy Tobkin, Steve Tucker, Matt Wachs, Dan Van Zile, Margaret Varga, Don Wattenbarger.

Field Notes
by Stan Harris
30 September-26 October 2002

Still dry, a rather slow fall migration. One pelagic trip off Eel River Canyon, 12 Oct, had 7 Humpback Whales, 1 Gray Whale, and 2 groups of Dall's Porpoise, along with the expected Black-footed Albatross (only 8), Sooty, Pink-footed, and Buller's Shearwaters, Northern Fulmars and Cassin's Auklets (SS, GG). Besides the expected gluttony of Cedar Waxwings, Starlings, Robins, and various sparrows working on the annual blackberry crop, readers can add a pair of Mallards seen walking along the road of the AOP dike to their list of known blackberry pluckers-and-eaters (SH)! Abbreviations used: AB = Arcata Bottoms; AMP = Arcata Marsh Project; AOP = Arcata Oxidation Pond; BSLP = Butcher Slough Log Pond; EL = Expected Location; EM = Expected Migrant; ERWA = Eel River Wildlife Area; FR = Few Records; GW = Gee Whiz Record; IB = Interesting Behavior; ID = Interesting Date; IL = Interesting Location; IIT = Interesting, if True; IN = Interesting Numbers; IP = Interesting Plumage; mo = Many Observers; MKSP = MacKerricher State Park; MRCP = Mad River County Park; MRWA = Mad River Wildlife Area; MS = Monitored Species; NC = Not Confirmed; ND = No Details; SMB = Smith River Bottoms

HIGHLIGHTS: EURASIAN WIGEON (FR): 1 female, Gearheart Marsh, 12-16 Oct (SH, ST, FA, et al.); 1 male, Gearheart Marsh, 19 Oct (DC): **BLUE-WINGED TEAL (FR):** 1 male and up to 2 females, BSLP, 3-26 Oct (SH, FA, MS, et al): **HARLEQUIN DUCK (FR):** up to 17, Glass Beach, 23 Sep-21 Oct (DT); 2, King Salmon, 16 Oct (MW): **LONG-TAILED DUCK (FR):** 1, at sea off Eel River, 12 Oct (SS, GG): **RUFFED GROUSE (FR):** 1, 7.9 miles up Big Hill Road, 19 Oct (TL); 1, 5.6 miles north Mill Gap, 19 Oct (TL): **PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER (FR):** 1, Klopp Lake, 5-24 Oct (PL, MC, et al.); 1, Mad River Slough, 18 Oct (MC): **SNOWY PLOVER (IN):** 45, Clam Beach, 25 Oct (MC): **AMERICAN AVOCET (IL):** 2, Cock Robin Island, 3 Oct (BS); 7, CC Harbor, 20 Oct (AB); 35, ERWA, 21 Oct (MT): **COMMON GREENSHANK (FR, GW, WOW!):** 1, Klopp Lake, 18, 23-24 Oct (JW, PL, KR, et al.); this is likely the same bird seen in the Mad River estuary last year: **GREATER YELLOWLEGS (IN):** 82 (!) in one flock, Mad River Slough, 23 Sep, 11 Oct (MC); 70, Mad River Slough, 18 Oct (MC): **RED KNOT (FR):** 1-8, Klopp Lake, 15-24 Oct (MC, JT, et al.): **SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER (FR):** 1, ERWA, 4 Oct (KI): **ROCK SANDPIPER (EM):** 1, Trinidad, 23 Oct (MH): **RUFF (FR):** 9 reports representing at least 6 birds from SRB, AMP and vic, ERWA, and Port Kenyon Road, 2-19 Oct (mo): **MARBLED MURRELET (MS):** Early A.M. flights of 4+, Prairie Creek State Park, 23 Oct (EE): **TUFTED PUFFIN (FR):** 2, 10-15 miles off Eel River, 12 Oct (SS, GG): **TROPICAL KINGBIRD (FR):** 1, Bayshore Mall, 10 Oct (TL); 1, Fernbridge, 26 Oct (PH, et al.): **RED-EYED VIREO (FR):** 1, MRCP, 5 Oct (KI): **HORNED LARK (FR):** 1, MRWA, 2 Oct (BC); x, Bear River Ridge, 26 Oct (PH et. al): **BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (FR):** 1, MRCP, 13 Oct (ST): **AMERICAN PIPIT (GW):** 1 with bright red legs and quite heavy streaking underneath (possible the japonicus race?), South Fk. Trinity River, 5 Oct (MW): **TENNESSEE WARBLER (FR):** 1, Orick, 11 Oct; 1, MRCP, 14-16 Oct (both KI): **BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER (FR, NC, ND):** 1, Orick, 11 Oct (KI): **BLACKPOLL WARBLER (FR):** 1, MRCP, 5, 14 Oct (KI): **BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER (FR):** 1, Orick, 11-18 Oct (KI): **AMERICAN REDSTART (NC, ND):** 1, BSLP, 15 Oct (JC): **OVENBIRD (FR):** 1 found dead, Kneeland, about 7 Oct (CLaF): **AMERICAN TREE SPARROW (FR, NC, ND):** 1, BSLP, 7 Oct (WY) (if correct, the earliest seasonal record ever by 3 days): **VESPER SPARROW (FR):** 1, Pacific Shores, 3 Oct (AB, JG); 1, Hufford Road at Orick, 17 Oct (KI): **HARRIS'S SPARROW (FR):** 1, Crescent City, 23-24 Oct (JG, AB, JH): **LAPLAND LONGSPUR (FR):** 1, Clam Beach, 8 Oct (SMcA); 50, Lake Talawa, 17 Oct, declined to 25 by 20 Oct and to 1 by 24 Oct (AB, et al.): **CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR (NC, ND):** 2, mouth of Redwood Creek, 21 Oct (KI): **MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR (FR, NC):** 1, mouth Redwood Creek, 25-26 Oct (KI): **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (FR):** 1, SRB, 3 Oct (AB, JG):

NOTES FROM THE TRAVEL DESK AND FROM HERE AND THERE: EARED GREBE (EM, IB): 1 at AOP, 8 Oct, had increased to 8-10 by 20-26 Oct when they were feeding at the surface without diving by just dipping their heads under (on Daphnia?, SH): **NORTHERN FULMAR (IL):** "Fairly numerous", seen from shore at Ft. Bragg, 8-21 Oct (DT): **SOOTY SHEARWATER (IL):** 10 seen from North Jetty, 28 Sep (RH): **PINK-FOOTED SHEARWATER (IL):** 1 seen from North Jetty, 28 Sep (RH): **BROWN PELICAN (IN):** 400+ in a feeding frenzy in Trinidad Bay were eclipsed by 1000+ loafing on nearby rocks, all 22 Oct (MH): **DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT (IN):** 1500-2000 in a feeding frenzy, Janes Creek Estuary, 22 Oct (SH): **AMERICAN BITTERN (FR):** 1, MRWA, 2 Oct (BC); 1, MKSP, 8 Oct (DT); 1, BSLP, 11 Oct (SH); 1, BSLP, 25 Oct (VS): **GREAT EGRET (IL):** 2 along main stem, Eel River, McCann, 23 Oct (JG): **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** 1 at Crab Park, 6 Oct (BS), 1 flock of 110 over Cummings Road, Eureka, 7 Oct (TL), 1 at Pudding Creek, 8 Oct (DT), and 1 at Lake Cleone, 8-10 Oct (DT) were all at a time when flocks were known to be migrating through the northcoast. The 150 (2 flocks) at Cummings Road, Eureka, 19 Oct (TL, SL), the 70 (1 flock) over North Fork of Eel River, 22 Oct (TL), and the 17 on AB, 20 Oct (MW) were all reported at a time when many flocks of Aleutian Canada Geese were known to be moving through the area. **LESSER SNOW GOOSE (FR):** 1-3, AB, 4-21 Oct (PH, FA, DC): **ROSS'S GOOSE (FR):** 1, AB, 21 Oct (KI): **ALEUTIAN CANADA GOOSE (EM):** at least 18 flocks of 10-130 reported from SRB, McKinleyville, AB, AMP, King Salmon, Fortuna, 29 Sep-26 Oct (mo): **CAACKLING CANADA GOOSE (FR):** 1, Allen Marsh, 11-16 Oct feeding on duckweed (SH): **WOOD DUCK (IL):** 17, North Fk., Eel River, 22 Oct (TL): **GREEN-WINGED TEAL (IP):** a "half" intergrade male on Gearheart Marsh, 26 Oct (SH) was probably the same bird seen last spring on Allen Marsh. This bird has both a horizontal and vertical white bar on the right side, but only a vertical bar on the left side! **CANVASBACK (FR):** 1, mouth Eel River, 6 Oct (BS); 1-2, AOP, 8-17 Oct (SH, ST, FA): **RING-NECKED DUCK (EM):** 18-26 at BSLP (+2-4 at AOP, Allen Marsh), 8-14 Oct, increased to 70 at BSLP (+4 at AOP and 4-6 at Allen Marsh) by 17 Oct, and then declined again to only 6-7 at BSLP by 26 Oct (all SH); **WHITE-WINGED SCOTER (MS):** 13, King Salmon, 17 Oct (MW): **HOODED MERGANSER (FR):** 2, ERWA, 9 Oct (SMcA): **WHITE-TAILED KITE (IL):** 1, base of Big Hill, Hoopa Valley, 17 Oct (TL): **HARLAN'S HAWK (FR):** 1, Smith River Bottoms, 20 Oct (FA, AB): **FERRUGINOUS HAWK (EM):** 1-3, SMB, 3-20 Oct (AB, et al.); 1, AB, 15 Oct (KR): **ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK (EM; EL):** 1 Cape Mendocino, 12 Oct (BA); 1, Klopp Lake, 19 Oct (JT); x, Bear River Ridge, 26 Oct (PH, et al.): **MERLIN (MS):** 4 reports of singles at AB, AMP, AOP, Bayshore Mall, 30 Sep-23 Oct (KR, SMcA, SH, JL, TL, et al.) is fewer than expected. **PEREGRINE FALCON (MS):** 10 reports of 1-2 from AMP, Fernbridge, 2-26 Oct (mo): **MOUNTAIN QUAIL (IL):** 10 at 700 feet elevation, Humboldt Redwoods State Park, 5 Oct (JG) seems a bit low down: **PECTORAL SANDPIPER (EM):** 6 reports of 1-15 from SMB, lower Mad River, AB, ERWA, Virgin Creek Beach, 28 Sep-20 Oct (mo): **THAYER'S GULL (FR):** 1, Eureka Channel, 12 Oct (SS, GG); 1, Klopp Lake, 19-24 Oct (JT): **ELEGANT TERN (ID):** 10-12, Eureka Channel, 9 Oct (RL): **FORSTER'S TERN (EM):** 2, Eureka Channel, 9 Oct (PL); the 1-5 at AMP, 10-19 Oct had increased to 13 by 21 Oct (SH): **NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL (FR):** 1 heard, South Fk., Trinity River, 5 Oct (MW); 1, Mail Ridge, 7 Oct (JG); 2 heard, Prairie Creek State Park, 23 Oct (EE): **BARRED OWL (MS):** 1, Prairie Creek State Park, 23 Oct (EE): **BAND-TAILED PIGEON (IN):** 40, Mail Ridge, 16 Oct (JG); the summer 25-40 at my feeders in Sunny Brae declined to 6 on 19 Oct and 1 on 26 Oct (SH): **YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER (ND, EM):** 1, west end, Bear River Ridge, 26 Oct (GF): **WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE (ID):** 1, Fairhaven, 1 Oct (PL): **SAY'S PHOEBE (EM):** 1, Hufford Road, 26 Oct (KI): **CASSIN'S VIREO (ID):** 1, Bayshore Mall, 4 Oct (TL): **STELLER'S JAY (IIT, GW):** 1 at Lanphere Dunes, if correctly identified, was said to be the first ever record for that location, 6 Oct (JT): **BARN SWALLOW (ID):** 1, AOP, 16 Oct (SH): **WESTERN BLUEBIRD (MS):** 7, Hettenshaw Valley, 22 Oct (TL); x, Bear River Ridge, 26 Oct (PH, et al.): **TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE (EL):** 2, near Orleans, 17 Oct (TL): **SWAINSON'S THRUSH (ID):** 1, Lanphere Dunes, 18 Oct (JT): **NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD (FR):** 1, Mt. Trashmore, 8 Oct (DF); 1, Arcata, 21 Oct (JH): **CEDAR WAXWING (IN):** the expected 100-300 working on blackberries at AB, AMP, AOP, 4-21 Oct (mo) was eclipsed by the 1000 estimated along the Eureka waterfront, 15 Oct (RC): **NASHVILLE WARBLER (ID):** 1, MRCP, 16 Oct (KI): **BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER (ID):** 2, Shay Park, 4 Oct (FA): **PALM WARBLER (EM):** 1, vic Westport, 1 Oct (JH); 2, mouth, DeHaven Creek, 1 Oct (JH); 1, Pacific Shores, 3 Oct (AB, JG); 1, Arcata, 15 Oct (GB): **COMMON YELLOWTHROAT (EM):** the

usual fall migration was winding down by mid October, but still DF reported 5 at AOP on 15 Oct. **WESTERN TANAGER (ID)**: 1, Bayshore Mall, 11 Oct (TL); **LINCOLN'S SPARROW (IN)**: 40, migratory 'pulse', Mt. Trashmore, 8 Oct (DF); **SWAMP SPARROW (EM)**: 1, Lake Earl, 3 Oct (AB, JG); 1, Crannell Road, 17 Oct (KI); 1, mouth, Redwood Creek, 18 Oct (KI); **WHITE-THROATED SPARROW (EM)**: Right on schedule with 1, SRB, 3 Oct (AB, JG); 1, Arcata, 12 Oct (GB); 1 near Trinidad, 17 Oct (MH); + others at feeders, mostly: **EVENING GROSBEAK (FR)**: x, Patrick's Point State Park, 29 Sep (RH); 24 at Catfish Lake on 30 Sept had declined to a more usual 5-6 there by 22 Oct (MW).

Many thanks to the following who submitted reports this month. Brian Acord, Frank Anderson, Alan Barron, Barbara Burek, Gary Bloomfield, Bryon Cariss, Kathy Castelein, Mark Colwell, John Comstock, David Cook, Ruth Crane, Elias Elias, Gary Falxa, David Fix, John Gaffin, Joe Gartland, Greg Gillson, Melody Hamilton, Stan Harris, Pablo Herrera, Rob Hewitt, John Hunter, Ken Irwin, Cherry LaForge, Zack Larsen, Richard Laursen, Dave Lauten, Sue Leskiw, Tom Leskiw, Steve Lewis, Paul Lohse, Jim Lyons, Sean McAllister, Laura Nelson, Jude Power, Kerry Ross, Mary Severdia, Steve Shunk, Bruce Slocum, Paula Smith, Victor Smith, Paul Springer, Jim Tietz, Dorothy Tobkin, Maria Topper, Steve Tucker, Amber Transou, Dan Van Zile, Margaret Varga, Matt Wachs, Jared Wolfe, Will Yovorsky.

Field Notes
by Stan Harris
30 August-29 September 2002

A smashing month full of surprises and old friends. Bone dry weather, the north pond of the No Name Complex dried completely up for the first time ever. Pelagic trips out of Humboldt Bay (8 Sep), Crescent City (14 Sep), and Ft. Bragg (21 Sep) each recorded the expected species, such as 15-20 Black-footed Albatrosses, 5-75 Pink-footed Shearwaters, 1 to 30 Buller's Shearwaters, 16 to 50 Sooty Shearwaters, 3-35 Cassin's Auklets, 6-150 Rhinoceros Auklets and totals of only 2 Northern Fulmars, 8 Pomarine and 11 Parasitic Jaegers. The "Wow" observations from these trips are detailed below. Noteworthy mammals recorded this period included 2 Blue Whales (8 Sep), 4 Humpbacked Whales (8 Sep), 2 Gray Whales (14 Sep), 6 Right Whale Dolphins (21 Sep), 3-4 Risso's Dolphins (8 & 14 Sep), 2-5 Dall's Porpoise (8 & 21 Sep), 6 Pacific White-sided Dolphins (21 Sep), 2 Elephant Seals (14 Sep), 1 Northern Fur Seal (14 Sep), 1 mink (at AMP, 2 Sep, SH), and 400-600 bats (Mexican Free-tailed?) departing a roost at the New Fortune Restaurant at 14th and G., Arcata, 28 Sep (EE).

Abbreviations Used: AB = Arcata Bottoms; AMP = Arcata Marsh Project; AOP = Arcata Oxidation Pond; BSLP = Butcher Slough Log Pond; CC = Crescent City; CGC = Coast Guard Cypress at base of North Spit; CRI = Cock Robin Island; ECP = Elk Creek Park (Crescent City); ER = Eel River; ERWA = Eel River Wildlife Area; FB = Fort Bragg; FR = Few Records; IB = Interesting Behavior; ID = Interesting Date; IL = Interesting Location; IN = Interesting Numbers; MKSP = MacKerricher State Park; MRE = Mad River Estuary; mo = Many Observers; MS = Monitored Species; NBF = North Humboldt Bay Mud Flats; NC = Not Confirmed by a second party; PCSP = Prairie Creek State Park; TDAD = Trinidad.

HIGHLIGHTS: FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER: 1, off ER 10-12 Miles, 8 Sep (SH, MC, et al.); 1 bird seen 3 times off CC, 14 Sep (JH, et al.): **BLACK-VENTED SHEARWATER:** 6, off FB, 21 Sep (RLeV, PP, SH, et al.): **EURASIAN WIGEON:** 1, near Rockport, 17 Sep (JH): **HARLEQUIN:** up to 8, summered at FB to at least 20 Sep (DT): **SWAINSON'S HAWK (NC):** 1 imm., AB, 21 Sep (JT, AC), possibly seen again on AB, 28 Sep (JK, fide KR): **WOOD SANDPIPER (NC):** 1, Lake Earl, 12 Sep (AB, JG): **RED-NECKED STINT (NC):** 1, ERWA, 4 Sep (KI): **SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER (NC):** 1, MRE, 9 Sep (PW, fide MW): **STILT SANDPIPER:** 1 juv, ERWA, 27 Aug-4 Sep (KI, SMcA); 1 ad, ERWA, 28-31 Aug (KI): **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER:** 1, Lake Talawa, 7-8 Sep (JH, AB); 1, CRI, 9 Sep (SMcA): **RUFF:** an outstanding year for this species with 16 reports representing at least 7 different individuals from MRE, AMP, NBF, ERWA, CRI, 28 Aug-25 Sep (mo): **WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** 1-3, ERWA, 25 Aug-4 Sep (KI, SMcA); 1, NBF, 1 Sep (PL): **SOUTH POLAR SKUA:** 1, 20 miles west ER, 8 Sep (BMcD, SH, MC, et al.); 2, off CC, 14 Sep (JH, et al.); 2-3 off FB, 21 Sep (PP, RLeV, SH, et al.): **LONG-TAILED JAEGER:** 1-4, off ER, 8 Sep (SH, et al.); 5, off CC, 14 Sep (JH, et al.); 50+, off FB, 21 Sep (PP, RLeV, SH, et al.): **GLAUCOUS GULL (ID):** 1 ad, present "off and on" at TDAD all of Aug, last seen, 31 Aug (MeH): **SABINE'S GULL:** 30 + , off ER, 8 Sep (SH, MC, et al.); 40, off CC, 14 Sep (JH, et al.); 5, off FB, 21 Sep (PP, RLeV, SH, et al.); 1 juv, Eureka Channel, 12 Sep (SG), 1 ad, AOP, 14-15 Sep (SM, SH, RH): **THICK-BILLED MURRE:** 1, CC, 14 Sep (JH, et al.): **XANTUS'S MURRELET:** 2, off CC, 14 Sep (JH, et al.); 2, off FB, 21 Sep (RLeV, SH, PP, et al.): **TUFTED PUFFIN:** 2, off CC, 14 Sep (JH, et al.); 1, off FB, 21 Sep (SH, RLeV, PP, et al.).

Sparkling Jewel Lost!

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD (WOW!) The first, ever, northcoast record, represented by an immature male at a feeder, Lanphere Dunes, 27-29 Sep (JT, KH, et al.): **EASTERN KINGBIRD:** 1, Tompkin's Hill, 9 Sep (MW): **RED-EYED VIREO:** 3 (!), Little River, 14 Sep; 1, MRE, 24 Sep (both KI): **ROCK WREN:** 1, Kneeland, 14-15 Sep (BB, DVZ); 1, south fork, Trinity River, 22 Sep (MW); 1, beach rocks, Westport, 17 Sep (JH, et al.): **NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD (IL):** 1, Patterson Road, near Willow Creek, 9 Sep (Ann): **BROWN THRASHER:** the bird reported last month was still present at CC 2 Sep (JG, AB, fide JH):

TENNESSEE WARBLER: 1, Enderts Beach, 7 Sep (AB); 1, ECP, 14 Sep (AB); 1, Fairhaven, 23 Sep (PL): **NORTHERN PARULA:** 1, Lanphere Dunes, 12 Sep (KR); 1 imm male, CRI, 6 Sep (SMcA): **CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER:** 1, CGC, 13 Sep (KR, FA); 1, Vance Road, 15 Sep (MW); 1, Fairhaven, 19 Sep (PL, BC, MW): **MAGNOLIA WARBLER:** 1, CGC, 13 Sep (KR, FA); 1 imm., Glass Beach (FB), 12-14 Sep (DT): **PRAIRIE WARBLER:** 1 imm male, Jacoby Creek Est., 13 Sep (DF); 1, Fairhaven, 24 Sep (KI); 1 (possibly the same) Fairhaven, 29 Sep (BA): **BAY-BREASTED WARBLER:** 1, Stagecoach Road, north of TDAD, 21 Sep (MeH): **BLACKPOLL WARBLER:** 1, Fairhaven, 12 Sep (SG); 1, CGC, 13-14 Sep (FA, BA); 1, ECP, 21 Sep (CH, StH); 1, Bayshore Mall, 23 Sep (TL); 1, Elk River Wildlife Area, 25 Sep (TL); 1, Ferndale OP, 28 Sep (SMcA): **AMERICAN REDSTART:** 1, Fairhaven, 12 Sep (SG); 1, CGC, 13 Sep (KR); 1, near Westport, 17 Sep (JH, et al.); 1, Fairhaven, 19 Sep (BC, PL, MW); 1, MRE, 24 Sep (KI): **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** 1, ECP, 13 Sep (GH, et al., fide RH): **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** 1, CRI, 13 Sep (SMcA); 1, Elk River Wildlife Area, 24-29 Sep (TL); 1, Bayside, 25 Sep (DF); 1, Eel River Bottoms, 29 Sep (SMcA, RLeV., AT, CMcA): **ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK:** 1 imm. male, Lanphere Dunes, 20 Sep (JT): **BLUE GROSBEAK:** 1, Lanphere Dunes, 24 Sep (SC, HBe, fide PH): **INDIGO BUNTING:** 1, Smith River Bottoms, 2 Sep (AB): **TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD:** 75+, Bald Hill, near FB, 13 Sep (DT).

NOTES FROM THE TRAVEL DESK: ARRIVAL DATES OF WINTERING BIRDS: RED-NECKED GREBE: 4, King Salmon, 9 Sep (MW): **EARED GREBE:** 1, AOP, 13 Sep (SH): **BLUE-WINGED TEAL:** 1, AMP 17 Sep (BC): **RING-NECKED DUCK:** 1, BSLP, 13 Sep (SH): **GREATER SCAUP:** 1, Lake Cleone, 12-14 Sep (DT); 6, AOP, 15 Sep (SH).

Great Spotting!

BLACK SCOTER: 1, mouth Redwood Creek, 29 Sep (SMcA, AT, RLeV, CMcA): **FERRUGINOUS HAWK:** 1 imm., College of the Redwoods, 25 Sep (KR): **ROCK SANDPIPER:** 1, Elk Head, 20 Sep (MeH): **DUNLIN:** 1 adult in breeding plumage, ERWA, 25 Aug (KI): 1 in winter plumage, ERWA, 4 Sep (SMcA, AT, DF, JP): **HERRING GULL:** 1, off CC, 14 Sep (JH, et al.): **LEWIS'S WOODPECKER:** 2-16, near Junction City, 21-28 Sep (KR, MM); 2, Black Lassic, 20 Sep (TL): **RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET:** 1, Hookton Road, 12 Sep (SMcA): **MYRTLE WARBLER:** 4, AOP, 24 Sep (SH): **PALM WARBLER:** 1, Elk River Wildlife Area, 23 Sep (TL): **FOX SPARROW:** 1, Enderts Beach, 7 Sep (JH): **LINCOLN'S SPARROW:** 1, Mail Ridge, 10 Sep (JG): **GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW:** 3, Mail Ridge, 10 Sep (JG); **OREGON JUNCO:** 1, Sunny Brae, 14 Sep (SH).

NOTES FROM THE TRAVEL DESK: PASSAGE BIRDS: GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: The largest flight ever recorded was a week earlier than normal when I received reports of at least 16 flocks of 30-300 + passing overhead, mostly going southeast or east, 20-22 Sep (mo); of interest were reports of birds passing east up Smith (EE), and Trinity (KR, MM) Rivers and southeast up Eel River (RLeV, JG). **SNOW GOOSE:** 2 in a flock of White-fronted Geese at CC, 21 Sep (CO, JH): **GOLDEN-PLOVER SP.:** 1-5, CRI, ERWA, 12-13 Sep (PL, BC): **AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER:** 1, CRI, 9 Sep (SMcA), 1 juv, MRE, 15 Sep (KI): **PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER:** 2, MRE, 15 Aug (KI); 1, MRE, 28 Aug (KI); 1, Mouth Jacoby Creek, 1 Sep (KI); 2, CRI, 13 Sep (SMcA); 1, ERWA, 13 Sep (PL, BC); 1, MRE, 15 Sep (KI); 1 CRI, 28 Sep (SMcA): **SOLITARY SANDPIPER:** 1, No Name Pond, 2-4 Sep (MV, AMcG, SH): **RED KNOT:** 7 reports of 1-12 from AMP, NBF, Mouth Jacoby Creek, ERWA, Crab Park, 31 Aug-22 Sep (KI, BA, KR, PL): **SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER:** 1 juv. ERWA, 25 Aug (KI): **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER:** 10 reports of 1-30+ (!) from MRE, ERWA, CRI, 24 Aug-13 Sep (KI, SMcA, AT, PL, KR, BC): **PECTORAL SANDPIPER:** 1, ERWA, 1-4 Sep (DF, JP, SMcA, AT); 1, MRE, 3 Sep (DF); 1, near Westport, 17 Sep (JH); 5 W. end of Lanphere Road 29 Sep (RLeV, SMcA, AT, CMcA): **COMMON TERN:** 1, AMP, 14 Sep (SH, PL); 4, off CC, 14 Sep (JH, et al.): **WILLOW FLYCATCHER:** 8 reports of 1-2 from near CC, Blue Lake, South Fork of Trinity River, North Fork of Eel River, Westport, MKSP, 30 Aug-19 Sep (T&SL, JH, AB, DT, ST): **SAY'S PHOEBE:** 1-2, Kneeland, 12-14 Sep (BB, DVZ); 1, Bald Hill near FB; 17 Sep (DT); 1, near Lewiston, 28 Sep (KR): **SCRUB JAY:** 1, near CRI, 12 Sep (SMcA): **YELLOW WARBLER:** many reports

including one of 200(!) along lower Jacoby Creek 13 Sep (DF), represented our normal September movement of this species. September also marked the passage of numerous **COMMON YELLOWTHROATS** which were everywhere in suitable habitat for most of the month. **LARK SPARROW**: 1, Smith River Bottoms, 2 Sep (AB); 1, CRI, 13 Sep (SMcA); 1, ECP, 14 Sep (AB), 5 Hettenshaw Valley, 19 Sep (TL); **BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD**: 1, 15 miles at sea off ER, 8 Sep (mo); 300, AB, 28 Sep (SH):

NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE: BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON (IL): 1, near Lewiston, 27 Sep (KR); **SMALL FORM CANADA GOOSE**: 50 over King Salmon, 29 Sep (SMcA, AT, RLeV, CMcA); **HOODED MERGANSER (IL)**: 1-2, AOP, Klopp Lake, 4, 14 Sep (SH, PL, MS); **BALD EAGLE (MS)**: 1 juv, Big Lagoon., 11 Aug (KI); 1 ad, Hayden Flat, 7 Sep (KL); 2, Lewiston to Junction City, 28 Sep (KR); **GOLDEN EAGLE (MS)**: 1-2, Lewiston to Junction City, 22, 28 Sep (KR, MM); 1, South Fk, Trinity River, 22 Sep (MW); **PEREGRINE FALCON (MS)**: 1, offshore CC, 14 Sep (JH, et al.); 1, AOP, 13 Sep (SH); 2, AMP, 27 Sep (SH); 2, ERWA, 1 Sep (DF, JP); **RUFFED GROUSE (FR, IL)**: 1, west side of Larabee Valley, 11 Sep (TL); 1 Bald Hills (above Orick), 29 Sep (SMcA, AT, RLeV, CMcA); **BLUE GROUSE (FR, IL)**: 3, Black Lassic, 20 Sep (TL); **SNOWY PLOVER (IL)**: 14, south side of CRI, 5 Sep (SMcA); **AMERICAN AVOCET (IL, IN)**: 20, CRI, 13 Sep (SMcA); **LESSER YELLOWLEGS (IN)**: 40-42, ERWA, 25-27 Aug (KI); 4, ERWA, 1 Sep (DF, JP); 2, ERWA, 4 Sep (KI); 1, MKSP, 1 Sep (DT); 4, Fortuna River Walk, 23 Sep (RC); **RED PHALAROPE (IL)**: 2, AOP, 15 Sep (SH).

Must have been hungry!

CALIFORNIA GULL (IB): 1-4 juvenile birds walking along south I street in Arcata, plucking and eating **BLACKBERRIES** from low roadside bushes, 9-12 Sep (SH); **ELEGANT TERN (IB)**: 600+ milling and circling high over the center of North Humboldt Bay in a "chimney flight," 8 Sep (MC, SH, et al.); **MARBLED MURRELET (MS)**: 1 off South Spit, Humboldt Bay, 8 Sep (BMcD); 8 off CC, 14 Sep (JH, et al.); **PYGMY-OWL (FR)**: 1, PCSP, 4 Sep (EE); 1, South Fork, Trinity River, 22 Sep (MW); **BARRED OWL (MS)**: 1 calling at 0300 hours, PCSP, 4 Sep (EE); **DIPPER (FR)**: 1, North Fork., Eel River, 11 Sep (TL); **WESTERN BLUEBIRD (MS)**: 7, Hettenshaw Valley, 19 Sep (TL); **EVENING GROSBEAK (FR)**: 2 at Catfish Lake, 9 Sep, had increased to 24 by 28 Sep (MW). MW checked the seldom-visited Bracut Willows and reported **1 Hutton's Vireo** and **4 Black-capped Chickadees**, 18 Sep. TL reported many species hawking flying insects (probably ants or termites) at Black Lassic, 20 Sep. Among these were **1 Red-breasted Sapsucker**, **2 Lewis's Woodpeckers**, an **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, **25 Mountain Chickadees**, **3 Red-breasted Nuthatches**, **12 Western Bluebirds**, and **3 Audubon's Warblers**. At AMP/AOP **Red-winged Blackbirds** and **Starlings** occasionally were seen feeding on *Spartina* seed in the adjacent salt marshes in early Sep (SH).

Many thanks to the following who submitted reports this month. Keep up the good work: Brian Acord, Marge Adams, Frank Anderson, Ann, Alan Barron, Heather Beeler, Heather Brown, Barbara Burek, Stacy Campbell, Bryon Cariss, Anna Clarke, Mark Colwell, Ruth Crane, Bruce Deuel, Linda Doerflinger, Jean Durbin, Elias Elias, David Fix, John Gaffin, Joe Gartland, Steve Glover, Melody Hamilton, Steve Hampton, Stan Harris, Gjon Hazard, Pablo Herrera, Rob Hewitt, Kim Hollinger, Cliff Holly, John Hunter, Ken Irwin, Jhermy Killeman, Sue Leskiw, Tom Leskiw, Ron LeValley, Paul Lohse, Karen Loveless, Brooke McDonald, Dan Maxwell, Sean McAllister, Aaron McGregor, Tristian McKee, Scott Mitchell, Mark Morrissette, Chet Ogan, Aida Parkinson, Jude Power, Peter Pyle, Kerry Ross, Kristin Schmidt, Mary Severdia, Paul Springer, Jim Tietz, Dorothy Tobkin, Amber Transou, Steve Tucker, Margaret Varga, Dan Van Zile, Matt Wachs, Peter Walsh, Don Wattenbarger.

Field Notes
by Stan Harris
19 July-31 August 2002

A dry, typical summer, rather quiet, but fall migration of our usual birds is beginning and the “silly season” with its vagrants can’t be far behind. Read on for a few of the early “Sillies.” Abbreviations used: **AMP = Arcata Marsh Project; AOP = Arcata Oxidation Pond; ED = Expected Date; EM= Expected Migrant; ERWA = Eel River Wildlife Area; FR = Few Records; GW= Gee Whiz Report; ID = Interesting Date; IL = Interesting Location; LMR= Lower Mad River; MKSP = MacKerricher State Park; mo = Many Observers; MS = Monitored Species; NC = Not confirmed by a second party; ND = No Details; NR = Nesting Record.**

HIGHLIGHTS: Yellow-billed Loon: 1, Ft. Bragg, 17 Aug (DS et al., fide RK): **Flesh-footed Shearwater :** 1, offshore, Ft. Bragg, 17 Aug (DS, et al., fide RK): **Manx Shearwater (GW):** 1, offshore, Ft. Bragg, 17 Aug (DS, GMcC, MSM, fide RK): **Streaked Shearwater (GW):** 1, offshore, Ft. Bragg, 17 Aug (DS et al., fide RK) (the first ever reported for the north coast): **Harlequin (ID):** 12, Virgin Creek Beach, Ft. Bragg, 19 Jul-22 Aug (DT): **Coot (NR):** 1-2 downy young, AOP, 14-21 Jul (MW); 2, juv plumage, 13-21 Aug (SH): **Lesser Golden-Plover (type, sp) (FR):** 1, Centerville Beach 25 Jul (JD); 3, ERWA, 30 July (JD): **Solitary Sandpiper (FR):** 2, pond near Lanphere Road, 20 Aug (JT): **Semipalmated Sandpiper (FR):** 3-11, Lake Earl, 4-5 Aug (AB, JG, HW, SH, RR); 2, AOP, 3 Aug (MW); 1, AMP, 8 Aug (DF); 1, LMR, 16 Aug (SH, KR): **White-rumped Sandpiper (GW, NC):** 1 adult, Lake Earl, 4 Aug (AB, JG, HW); 1 juv ?, LMR, 16 Aug (KR) (if true, the first ever records for the northcoast): **Buff-breasted Sandpiper (FR):** 1, Glass Beach, Ft. Bragg, 22 Aug (DT): **Ruff (FR):** 1, vic Crescent City, 11 Aug (AB); 1 male, North Bay flats at Klopp Lake, 4 Aug (BC, MV, KR, PL); 1 female, Little River Estuary, 15 Aug (KI): **Wilson’s Phalarope (FR):** 1, Lake Earl, 4 Aug (AB); 2, bay flats at Klopp Lake, 4 Aug (BC, MV, KR, PL); 1, Caspar Creek Est., 29 Jul (DT): **Franklin’s Gull (FR):** 1 juv., AOP, 12, 20 Aug (SH): **Sabine’s Gull (ED):** 15 ±, 3-5 miles west Humboldt Bay, 2 Aug (SH et al.): **Least Tern (FR):** 1, mouth Elk River, 22 Jul (MW, SH, DF, JP): **Caspian Tern (NR):** 8-10 flightless juv + adults, Sand Island, 13 Aug (MC):

Pigeon Guillemot (NR): 1 juv., MKSP, 24 Jul (DT): **Xantus’ Murrelet (FR):** 4, offshore, Ft. Bragg, 17 Aug (DS et al., fide RK): **Yellow-billed Cuckoo (FR):** 1 seen and heard, Cock Robin Island, 23 Jul (GF): **Black Swift (FR, ND):** 3-4, Elk Head, 25 Jul (BA): **Red-eyed Vireo (FR):** 1, molting, confluence of Van Duzen with the Eel River, 4 Aug (JT): **Willow Flycatcher (FR):** 1 (update), MKSP, 13 Jun (DT); 2, AMP, 28 Aug (SH, MA); 2, Todd Ranch, So. Fk. Trinity R., 30 Aug (S& TL): **Brown Thrasher (FR):** 1, Crescent City, 27 Jul-11 Aug (AB, GL, JH): **American Redstart (FR):** 1 (first year male, Update) MKSP, 13 Jun (DT): 1, Little River Est., 24 Aug (JP): **Rufous-crowned Sparrow (FR):** 1-2, North Yolla Bolly Mtn, Trinity/Tehama Co. line, summer 2002 (KR): **Rose-breasted Grosbeak (FR):** 1 (update), Fay Slough Wildlife Area, 25 Jun (JD); 1, Rio Dell, 23-24 Jul (LN): **Blue Grosbeak (FR):** 1 male, V. st. Log Pond, west Arcata, 24 Aug (BA): **Indigo Bunting (NC, ND):** 1 pair, Jacoby Creek Road, 1-2 Aug (TJ): **Dickcissel (FR):** 1, (Update), Crescent City, 12-13 Jun (MG, GW):

NOTES FOR YOUR ATTENTION: Black-footed Albatross (IL, GW): 80+ seen from shore, Todd’s Pt., Ft. Bragg, 25 Jul (DT); 50 + 3-5 miles west Humboldt Bay, 2 Aug (SH, et al.): **Sooty Shearwater (IL):** 30+ (in 30 minutes), seen from shore, Laguna Pt., MKSP, 15 Jul (DT): **Pink-footed Shearwater (IL):** 2 seen from shore, Todd’s Point, Ft. Bragg, 2 Aug (DT): **American Bittern (FR):** 1, AMP, 4 Aug (BC, MV, KR, PL): 1, Lake Earl, 5 Aug (SH): **Green Heron (MS, NR):** 10 reports of 1-6 from Blue Lake, AMP, BSLP, No Name Pond, (includes 2 adults and 4 new young seen 4 Aug), 25 Jul-28 Aug (mo): **White-faced Ibis (Update, FR):** 31 (1 flock), ERWA, 24 May (JD): **Bald Eagle (MS):** 4 reports of 1-4 from Freshwater Lagoon, Trinity River, Humboldt Bay, 11 July-11 Aug (BA, JT, JA, “Brian”): **Peregrine Falcon (MS):** 3 together, circling 4 miles from Garberville, 28 Jul (JS); 1 pair, Lake Earl, 4-5 Aug (SH, RR); 2 at sea 6.3 miles west of Trinidad, 21 Aug (MG, GW): **Ruffed Grouse (MS):** 1, South Fork Smith River, milepost 13.22, 29 Aug (TL): **As usual in late summer both Sora and Virginia Rails**

have become easy to view in early morning at No Name Pond since about mid-August (mo): Lesser Yellowlegs (EM): 3 reports of 1-11 from LMR, Elk River Est, ERWA, 23 Jul-16 Aug (mo): **Black Turnstone (IN, IL):** 34, LMR, 16 Aug (KR, SH): **Red Knot (EM):** 1, mouth Elk River, 22 Jul (DF, JP): **Baird's Sandpiper (EM):** 1-2, Lake Earl, 4-5 Aug (AB, et al.); 3, Ten Mile beach, MKSP, 13 Aug (DT): **Pomarine Jaeger (EM):** 4-6 adults, 3-5 miles west Humboldt Bay, 2 Aug (SH, et al.): **Bonaparte's Gull (EM):** 1, LMR, 16 Aug (KR): **Common Tern (EM):** 2-5, Elk River Est., 21 Jul-3 Aug (MW, SH, DF, JP, FA): **Rhinoceros Auklet (IL):** 3 seen from shore, Todd's Point, Ft. Bragg, 10 Aug (DT); 2 seen from shore, MKSP, 19 Aug (DT): **Spotted Owl (IL):** 1, Humboldt Redwoods State Park, 21 Aug (JG): **Common Nighthawk (MS):** 1-2, Stagecoach Road near Trinidad, all July to 17 Aug (MeH): **Pileated Woodpecker (IL):** 5 reports for singles from Sunnybrae, Bayside, Cummings Road (Eureka), 27 Jul-26 Aug, probably represent usual post-breeding dispersal (TL, DC, SH): **Gray Jay (NR):** 4 adults + 5 juv, vic Trinidad, 21 Jun-14 Jul (MeH); 2 Arcata Community Forest, 17 Aug (anon): **Purple Martin (EM):** 5-6, Azalea Hill, 3 Aug (RR); x, Cummings Road, Eureka, last 10 days in Jul to 2 Aug (TL); x, AMP Tower, 4 Aug (BC, MV, PL, KR): **Green-tailed Towhee (EL):** 1, North Yolla Bolly Mtn, on Trinity/Tehama County Line, summer 2002 (KR): **Grasshopper Sparrow (EL):** x, Mail Ridge, 28 Jul (JS): **Lark Sparrow (EL):** x, Mail ridge, 28 Jul (JS); 20 (one flock), Mail Ridge, 2 Aug (JG): **Lazuli Bunting (IL):** 4, Mad River Slough Wildlife Area (by old silo) 19 Jul (JD): **Evening Grosbeak (MS):** some seen nearly daily all summer, maximum of 12 on 22 Jul, Catfish Lake (MW).

Many thanks to the following who submitted reports this month: Brian Acord, Marge Adams, Frank Anderson, Jan Andersen, Ashley, Alan Barron, Art Barab, Dennis Cahill, Bryon Cariss, Mark Colwell, Cara Coone, Ruth Crane, Jeff Dayton, Elias Elias, Gary Falxa, David Bigger, David Fix, Mourad Gabriel, John Gaffin, Joe Gartland, Melody Hamilton, Stan Harris, Rob Hewitt, Denise Homer, John Hunter, Ken Irwin, Tom Jones, Robert Keiffer, Tom & Sue Leskiw, Gary Lester, Paul Lohse, Brooke McDonald, Guy McCaskie, Laura Nelson, Chet Ogan, Jude Power, Richard Ridenhour, Kerry Ross, Michael San Miguel, Debra Shearwater, Jay Sooter, Paul & Virginia Springer, Roy Sundstrom, Jim Tietz, Dorothy Tobkin, Margaret Varga, Matt Wachs, Catherine Walling, Don Wattenbarger, Heidi Wendt, Greta Wengert, Nancy Wilson.

Field Notes
by Stan Harris
21 April-18 July 2002

A rather quiet summer so far, this period was marked by the “normal” passage and arrival of late spring migrants and summer visitants. Pelagic trips were conducted on 21 & 28 Apr and 12 May (out of Eureka), and 2 Jun (out of Ft. Bragg). Beside the usual numbers of **Black-footed Albatrosses, Pink-footed and Sooty Shearwaters, Northern Fulmars, Pomarine (6 reported) and Parasitic (1 seen) Jaegers, Rhinoceros Auklets and Red-necked Phalaropes**, special marine mammals noted on these trips were **2 ORCA**, 12 May (JT, et al), **2 HUMP-BACKED WHALES**, and **35-40 RIGHT-WHALE DOLPHINS**, both 28 Apr (SH, et al.). Special pelagic birds seen on these trips are detailed below.

Abbreviations used: AB = Arcata Bottoms; AMP = Arcata Marsh Project; anon = name not available; AOP = Arcata Oxidation Pond; BSLP = Butcher Slough Log Pond; CN = Confirmed Nesting; EL = Expected Location; ERB = Eel River Bottoms; ERWA = Eel River Wildlife Area; ES? = Escape?; FR = Few Records; GW = Gee Whiz Report; HBNWR = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; IB = Interesting Behavior; ID = Interesting Date; IL = Interesting Location; IN= Interesting Numbers; KR = Klamath River; KS = King Salmon; MKSP = MacKerricher State Park; mo = Many Observers; MS = Monitored Species; NC = Not Confirmed; ND = No Description; SRB = Smith River Bottoms, TRV = Trinity River Valley.

Pelagic Sightings

FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER (FR): 1, offshore, Eureka, 12 May (KR, TMcKe): a **MANX SHEARWATER (GW):** 1 reported with strongly contrasting black upper parts and white underparts with definitely white undertail coverts, small size, off Ft. Bragg, 2 Jun (DT, et al.); 1 white-bellied, small shearwater, undertail coverts not noted, seen briefly with Sooty Shearwaters 800 m off Patricks Point, 10 Jul (EE): **CATTLE EGRET (FR):** 1, Indian Island, 5 May (TMcKe); **GREEN HERON (MS):** 10 reports of 1-8 from TRV (where 8 were reported 3-7 Jun), Blue Lake, BSLP, No Name Pond, HBNWR, Meyers Flat, 2 May-21 Jun (mo): **WHITE-FACED IBIS (FR):** 8 reports of flocks containing 1-31 from SRB, AB, HBNWR, ERWA, ERB, 16-30 May (TMcKe, DD, MW, BD, JH, SL): **TURKEY VULTURE (CN):** Observation of a flightless bird in juvenal plumage walking down a road near Mad River Fish Hatchery, 14 Jul (MW), provides one of the very few confirmed nesting records for this species locally: **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (ID):** 1, Lake Cleone, through 3 Apr (update, DT); 1, HBNWR, 20 Apr (DF, SL, JP); 1 South Bay, 2 May (MW); 1, Salt River, 8-15 May (BS): **MUTE SWAN (ES?):** 1, Essex Pond (resident?), 2 May (RR, SH); **EURASIAN GREEN-W. TEAL (FR):** 1 male, HBNWR, 19 Apr (DFx); 1 male (horizontal stripe only on right side, no vertical stripes), AMP, 26-29 Apr (SH): **BLUE-WINGED TEAL (IN):** 8 reports of 1-5 from SRB, lower Mad River, AMP, HBNWR and the Trinity River, 24 May-16 Jun (mo), were eclipsed by the 40 males and 10-15 females seen on SRB, 22 Jun (JH): **EURASIAN WIGEON (FR):** 1, Hookton Road, 21 Apr (CO); 1, HBNWR, 29 Apr (KR): **LESSER SCAUP (ID):** 1 seen flying offshore at Clam Beach, 10 Jul (EE): **HARLEQUIN DUCK (FR):** 1-2, KS, 20 Apr-5 May (DF, JP, CO, TMcKe); up to 14, Glass Beach, MKSP, 21 Mar-31 May (DT): **LONG-TAILED DUCK (FR):** 1, KS, 1-5 May (MW, TMcKe); 1, MKSP, 15 Mar-2 Apr (update, DT): **BLACK SCOTER (ID):** 1, jetty channel, 15 Jun (PH).

Scoters in Peril?

OTHER SCOTERS (IN): The 1000's of Surf Scoters reported migrating past Elk Head, 22 Apr were expected, but **only 30 WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS** seen at the same time gives cause for alarm (RN). This species seems to have suffered a drastic decline in numbers in recent years: **HOODED MERGANSER (CN):** 3 females on eggs in nest boxes (one for the 4th year in a row) near Big Lagoon, 30 Apr (BY): **BALD EAGLE (MS):** 13 reports of 1-2 (mostly adults) from KR (where 3 active nests were reported (BY), Freshwater Lagoon, McKinleyville, Blue Lake, Arcata, AMP, AOP, TRV, 23 Apr-9 Jul (mo): **WHITE-TAILED KITE (IL):** 2 seen daily at Boye's Prairie, 18 Feb-4 Jul and believed nesting (DFx et al.); 1, Cape Mendocino Ridge, 16 Jul (SH): **RED-SHOULDERED HAWK (CN):** pair nesting, Shay Park, 22 May (FA): **GOLDEN EAGLE (EL):** 4 reports from Kellmar Road, (Del Norte

Co.), TRV, Bear River Valley, near Ft. Seward, 28 Apr-10 July (JH, KR, MaM, GB, AO): **PEREGRINE FALCON (MS)**: 7 reports of 1-3 from Elk Head, Azalea Park, AMP, HBNWR, South Spit, Garberville, 23 Apr-7 Jul (mo): **RUFFED GROUSE (FR)**: 3 drumming, Hennessey Ridge Road, 2 May (MH, SH); 1, acting broody, 1 mile no. Mill Creek, 26 Jun (GB): **WILD TURKEY (FR)**: 1, Blocksberg Road, 24 Jun (GB): **AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER (FR)**: 1, South Spit, 5 May (TMcKe): **BLACK-NECKED STILT (FR, CN)**: 4, North Humboldt Bay, 21 Apr (SH, et al.); 2 (nesting, chicks eaten by ravens), HBNWR, 23 Apr-24 May (mo).

Avocets eaten by Ravens

AMERICAN AVOCET (CN): 8-9 pairs nested (the most ever) at HBNWR, first chicks seen on 3 May (DF), but all chicks apparently were eaten by ravens (EN): **SOLITARY SANDPIPER (FR)**: 1, HBNWR, 20 Apr-3 May (DF, JP); 1, ERB, 4 May (KI): **SPOTTED SANDPIPER (CN)**: 1 nest on levee at Orick, 1-6 Jul (KI): **PECTORAL SANDPIPER (FR)**: 3, HBNWR, 8 May (MW); 11 (!), ERB, 11 May (KI): **STILT SANDPIPER (FR)**: 1 (breeding plumage), ERWA, 11 May (KI): **WILSON'S PHALAROPE (FR)**: 1-5, HBNWR, 3-13 Jun (MW, SL); 6, AOP, 13 Jul (MW): **FRANKLIN'S GULL (FR)**: 1, Indian Island, 1 May (MM); 1, Crescent City, 4 May (JH); 1, near Trinidad, 17 May (SP): **GLAUCOUS GULL (ID)**: 1, College Cove, 1-2 May (MHa, SH, RR): **SABINE'S GULL (IN)**: 80, offshore, Eureka, 12 May (JT, et al.): **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (FR)**: 1, Crab Park, 3 May (TMcKe): **ARCTIC TERN (FR)**: 1 offshore, Eureka, 12 May (JT, et al.): **CASPIAN TERN (IN, IB)**: 50+ on ground defending apparent nest sites, Sand Island, early May (MC); 120 seen foraging and carrying fish toward Sand Island, 25 Jun (DF); these reports suggest near-certain reoccupation of Sand Island as a nest site; 80-100, South Spit, 16 Jul (MW). **ELEGANT TERN**: 6-100, Humboldt Bay, 30 Jun – 18 Jul (mo).

THICK-BILLED MURRE (GW): interesting videos of 4 separate birds 10-12 miles off Eel River, 12 May (EE, JT, DFx, RN, BC, KR) were the 3rd-6th ever seen on the north coast: **LONG-BILLED MURRELET (FR, ND)**: 1, 1600 m. west of Clam Beach, 10 Jul (EE): **TUFTED PUFFIN (MS)**: Continued near-catastrophic declines of this species is indicated by only 3 at Castle Rock, 21 Apr (AB, et al.), and only 1 report of a single bird at Green Rock, 22 Apr (fide RN): **YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO (GW)**: 1, calling, downstream from Fernbridge, 5 Jul for the third summer (SMcA, AT): **FLAMMULATED OWL (FR)**: 1, Island Mtn. Road, 11-12 May (MW, TL); 1, end of Go Road, Del Norte Co., 7 Jun (JH): **WHIP-POOR-WILL (GW, NC)**: 1 reported calling above Yager Creek, 23 May (DJ); attempts to confirm 2 nights later failed: **POORWILL (FR)**: 6 calling, Hull Mtn on Mendocino/Lake County line, 14 Jun (JH): **BLACK SWIFT (FR)**: 3, Centerville Beach, 10 May (TMcKe); 4, Lewiston, 3-7 Jun (MM, KR); 1, Fernbridge, 13 Jul (AO): **WHITE-THROATED SWIFT (FR)**: 10, Wagner Bridge, 11 May (DF, JP): **CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD (FR)**: 1, Arcata, 17 Apr (SW, fide BB); 1, Kneeland, 23 Apr (BB); 1, Azalea Hill, 27 Apr-1 May (GL, LL): **PILEATED WOODPECKER (CN)**: 2, Arcata, early Jun (NI); a nest at Big Lagoon, active 27-28 May, had fledged 2 young by 4 Jun (KI): **WILLOW FLYCATCHER (MS, CN)**: 12 reports of 1-3 from Enderts Beach, Davison Road, Orick, Crannell, Fairhaven, middle fork of Trinity River, Blue Lake, vic of Fernbridge/Van Duzen River, 10 Jun-14 Jul (TL, KI, KR, MM, AO, RH), included a female caught and banded that had a brood patch and a detectable egg in the oviduct, 24 Jun (AO): **HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER (IL)**: 1, Sandy Prairie, 19 May (TMcKe): **EASTERN KINGBIRD (FR)**: 1, Freshwater Lagoon, 6 Jun (KI); 1, Cape Mendocino vic., 22 Jun (GL): **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE (FR, ID)**: 1, Humboldt Hill, 21 May (MW): **RED-EYED VIREO (FR)**: 1, Van Duzen x Eel R., 8 Jul (TMcKe): **GRAY JAY (MS)**: 7 reports from Lost Man Creek, Trinidad, Aldergrove Road, Arcata, Catfish Lake (where the bird was imitating an Osprey, MW), 24 Apr-16 Jul (mo) included reports of 4 fledglings at Arcata, 6 Jun (NI): **PURPLE MARTIN (IN)**: 10 reports of 1-100+(!) from Crescent City, AMP, North Spit, HBNWR, ERWA, Shelter Cove, Juan Creek, 1 May-12 June (mo): **OAK TITMOUSE (FR)**: 4, Island Mtn Road, 11-12 May (MW, TL): **ROCK WREN (FR)**: 1, Stevens Creek Bridge, Smith R., 8 Jun (DFx, JCP): **CANYON WREN (FR)**: 1, Eel River near Ft. Seward, 23 Jun (GB): **RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET (ID)**: 1, Ten Mile River, 23 May (DT): **CALIFORNIA THRASHER (FR, EL)**: 3, Shelter Cove, 30 May (TL): **NORTHERN PARULA (FR)**: 1, Elk Head, 18 Jun; 1 Hookton Road, 19 Jun; 1 Tyee City, 24 Jun (all KI); 1, Caspar, 27 Jun (JH): **CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (FR)**: 1, Crannell Road, 14 Jun; 1, Pt. Kenyon Road, 19 Jun; 1 Crannell (town), 22 Jun (all KI); 1, mouth Redwood Creek, 24 Jun (RC, fide GL):

TOWNSEND'S WARBLER (IL, ID): 1, 10 miles at sea, 12 May (JT, et al.); 1 faded bird that may have been some kind of hybrid, mouth Redwood Creek, 13 Jun (KI): **PALM WARBLER (ID, NC):** 1, near Fernbridge, 30 Apr (RH); 1, Elk River Wildlife Area, 31 May (FA): **BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER (FR):** 1, Elk Head, 17-18 Jun; 1, Crannell (town), 27 Jun (both KI): **AMERICAN REDSTART:** 6 reports of singles from Fairhaven, North Spit, mouth Redwood Creek, AB, Salt River, 10-29 Jun (all KI): **OVENBIRD (FR):** 1 (heard only), Trinidad, 1 Jun (KI); 1 (heard only), Lanphere Dunes, 11 Jun (fide EE, no details)

Towhees at the northern edge

CALIFORNIA TOWHEE (IL): 1, Blue Lake Riparia, 28 Apr-2 May (MM, RR), later seen carrying food, 20 Jun (MV, CW); 9, TRV, 3-7 Jun (KR, MaM) were in a more expected location: **RUFOUS-CROWNED SPARROW (FR):** 2, upstream from Alderpoint, 11 May (DF, JP, et al); 2, downstream from Alderpoint, 23 Jun (GB): **BLACK-CHINNED SPARROW (FR):** 1, Windy Point, Hull Mtn, 14 Jun (JH): **BREWER'S SPARROW (FR):** 1, Sandy Prairie, 19 May (TMcKe): **VESPER SPARROW (FR):** 1, Davison Road, 24 Apr (DF): **LARK SPARROW (IL):** 1, Davison Road, 24 Apr (DF); 4 (copulation seen), Mail Ridge, 5 May (JG); 1, Sandy Prairie, 19 May (TMcKe): **GRASSHOPPER SPARROW:** 9 reports of 1-6 from Blue Lake, Kneeland, Table Bluff, Bear River Ridge, Island Mountain Road, Mail Ridge, 11 May-11 Jul (MW, TL, GB, BB, KI, CO): **SWAMP SPARROW (ID)** 1 (singing), Pt. Kenyon Road, 19 Jun (KI): **LINCOLN'S SPARROW:** 1, AB, 4 May (BD); 1-2 singing, Spruce Grove, Hull Mtn., 14 Jun (JH): **LAPLAND LONGSPUR (ID):** 1, south spit, 3 May (TMcKe): **ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (FR):** 1, west Azalea Hill, late May-14 Jul (DK, GL); 1, Patricks Point, 25 Jun (RG): **INDIGO BUNTING (FR):** 1, AB, 12 Jun (KI); 1, near Carlotta, 18-20 Jun (CL, RH); 1, 2 miles west Petrolia, 22 Jun (GL): **COMMON GRACKLE (NC):** 1 reported, Shelter Cove, 25-26 May (GS, fide BD) was not confirmed despite a search by KI and TL on 30 May: **EVENING GROSBEAK:** 8 reports of 1-6 from Big Lagoon, Jacoby Creek, Freshwater, Eureka, CR, Catfish Lake, Ferndale, 1 Apr-29 May (mo): **LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH (FR):** 1 pair, middle fork, Trinity River, 12-14 Jun (KR, MaM); 1 pair, Hayfork Airport, 25 Jun; 1 male singing, Hayfork water treatment plant, 25 Jun (both GL).

Many thanks to the following who submitted reports this summer. I apologize that I don't have room to include all of your observations. Frank Anderson, Alan Barron, Gary Bloomfield, Barbara Burek, Bryon Cariss, Ron Clark, Mark Colwell, Jeff Dayton, Bruce Deuel, Duke Diehl, Elias Elias, David Fix, Danny Franks, John Gaffin, Ron Garrett, Melody Hamilton, Stan Harris, Pablo Herrera, Rob Hewitt, John Hewston, Mark Higley, Jake Houck, John Hunter, Norman Ingles, David Juliano, David Kitchen, Dick Laursen, Carla Leopardo, Tom Leskiw, Gary & Lauren Lester, Steve Lewis, Sean McAllister, Tristan McKee, John Mello, Michael Morris, Mark Morrissette, Russ Namitz, Eric Nelson, Chet Ogan, Andy Orahoske, Jeanie O' Neil, Steve Pagliughi, Aida Parkinson, Jude Power, Don Ridenhour, Richard Ridenhour, Kerry Ross, Megan Ross, Kristin Schmidt, Bruce Slocum, Jay Sooter, Paul Springer, Gary Stacey, Robert Sutherland (who reported far fewer than normal breeding neotropical migrants in southern Humboldt County), Jim Tietz, Dorothy Tobkin, Amber Transou, Matt Wachs, Catharine Walling, Susan Wardrup, Margaret Varga, Brian Yost.

Field Notes
by Stan Harris
March 21-April 23 2002

Spring-like weather without heavy rains characterized this past month. The anticipated mix of lingering winter birds, northbound migrants, and arriving breeding birds spiced the report period. Godwit Days, 19-21 Apr, proved enjoyable for many out-of-town visitors as well as local birder-naturalists. Enhanced native plantings as well as increased water flow to wet fields at the Salmon Creek unit of Humboldt Bay refuge has made this location shine in recent weeks. Congratulations to Shannon Smith, Eric Nelson, Steve Lewis and other staff at the refuge for their diligent work and view to the future.

Abrvtns used: **AB**= Arcata Bottoms, **AEB**= Arcata/Eureka Bottoms, **AMP**= Arcata Marsh Project, **anon.**= we couldn't understand your name on the phone message (or you didn't leave it), **AOP**= Arcata oxidation ponds, **BSLP**= Butcher Slough log pond, **EM**= expected migrant, **ES**= escapee, **et al.**= and others, **FR**= few records, **HBNWR**= Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge, **ID**= interesting date, **IL**= interesting location, **IN**= interesting numbers, **KS**= King Salmon, **MKSP**= McKerricker State Park, **mo**= many observers, **MRWA**= Mad River Slough Wildlife Area, **MS**= monitored species, **ND**= no details or description, **SRB**= Smith River Bottoms.

HIGHLIGHTS: **Clark's Grebe:** 1, north jetty, 1 Mar; 1, n.e. Humboldt Bay, 10 Mar; and 13 (!) in sight at once, n.e. Humboldt Bay 23 Mar (all JT); **Black-footed Albatross:** 30, 2 mi. w. of Pt. St. George, 24 Mar (JH); **Short-tailed Albatross:** 1 imm., 18 mi. w. Eel R. mouth HUM, 4/2/02 (Tim Peretti fide EE); this is the first modern northcoast report!

Northern Fulmar: 30, 2 mi. w. of Crescent City, 24 Mar (JH); **Pink-footed Shearwater:** 2, 2 mi. w. of Pt. St. George, 24 Mar (JH); **Sooty Shearwater:** 15, 2 mi. w. of Pt. St. George, 24 Mar (JH); **Short-tailed Shearwater:** 1, 2 mi. w. of Crescent City, 24 Mar (JH); **Brown Pelican:** 1, Castle Rock, 24 Mar (JH); 1, Crescent City, 5 Apr (KGR); **Greater White-fronted Goose:** 3, Fort Dick, 5-13 Apr (KR); **Snow Goose:** 1, Arcata Bottoms, 28 Mar (KR); **Ross's Goose:** 2, Fort Dick, 29 Mar (KR); 1 there, 14 Apr (KR); 1, continuing, AB, to 20 Apr (m.o.); **Emperor Goose:** 1, Arcata Bottoms, 10-28 Mar (JT, KR); **Western Canada Goose:** brood of 6 goslings, mouth Gorman Slough, n.e. Humboldt Bay, 15 Apr (DF, JP); **Cackling Canada Goose:** 3, Fort Dick, 5 Apr (KR); **Aleutian Canada Goose:** 13,915, fly-off from Castle Rock, 6 Apr (KR); 240, AB, 13 Apr (PS); Brant: 500, Fairhaven, 31 Mar (MM); **Tundra Swan:** latest report, 1, AB, 27 Mar (PS); **Eur. Green-winged Teal:** 1, Butcher Slough, 2 Mar (JT); 1, HBNWR, 14-20 Apr (DF, JP et al.); **Mallard X Northern Pintail:** 1, Freshwater, 31 Mar (SP); **Blue-winged Teal:** 1-2, Lake Earl, 5-13 Apr (KR); **Northern Shoveler:** 350, most believed migrants, HBNWR, 19-20 Apr (DF, JP et al.); **Eurasian Wigeon:** 1, AB, 13 Apr (FA); pair, identified by gray axillars in flight, mouth Jacoby Ck., 23 Mar (JT); 1, Fay Slough, 31 Mar (MM); **Harlequin Duck:** 1, north jetty, 1 Mar (JT); 3, King Salmon, 8 Apr (MW); 1, King Salmon, 20 Apr (JP et al.); **Hooded Merganser:** 2, Crescent City, 13 Apr (KR).

White-tailed Kite: a pair at the big elk meadow in Prairie Creek Redwoods S.P. 22 Apr were the first kites DF had ever seen there in 10 springs; **Bald Eagle:** 1 subad., mouth Mad River, 19 Apr (JJ); **Ferruginous Hawk:** wintering ad. in n.e. AB last reported 9 Apr (DF); **Peregrine Falcon:** 5 reports of 1-3 from Castle Rock to Arcata, 27 Mar-20 Apr (m.o.); **Ruffed Grouse:** 2, Happy Camp CG, 11 Apr (TL); **Pacific Golden-Plover:** 17, mouth Eel R., 26 Mar (SM); **American Avocet:** 5-7 pairs nesting, with 3 clutches being incubated, HBNWR, 14-20 Apr (DF, JP et al.); **Lesser Yellowlegs:** 1, HBNWR, 14-20 Apr; 1, AOP, 22 Apr (DF, JP et al.); **Solitary Sandpiper:** 1, HBNWR, 20 Apr (DF, JP et al.); **Rock Sandpiper:** 4, Fairhaven, 13 Apr (RN, no details); **Short-billed Dowitcher:** 10, apparent arrivals (the first of many!), mouth Jacoby Ck., 23 Mar (JT); **Red-necked Phalarope:** 1, Fay Slough, 31 Mar (MM); **California Gull:** group of 220 migrants, Crescent City, 26 Mar (KR); **Thayer's Gull:** 1 ad., mouth Jacoby Ck., 26 Mar (RN); **Black-legged Kittiwake:** 5 reports of 1-100 from Crescent City to Centerville Beach, 24 Mar-13 Apr

(m.o.); **Caspian Tern**: migrant flock of 350 on schedule at Klamath R. estuary, 14 Apr (KR); **Common Murre**: 25,000, on Castle Rock, 6 Apr (KR); **Marbled Murrelet**: 2, Fairhaven, 7 Apr (MW); typical flight activity at Prairie Creek Redwoods S.P., first 3 wks. of Apr (m.o.); **Ancient Murrelet**: 1, Fairhaven, 7 Apr (MW); **Barred Owl**: 1-2, Prairie Creek Redwoods S.P., 11 Apr+ (m.o.); Northern Pygmy-Owl: 1, Boyes Prairie, 21 Apr (fide DF); **Vaux's Swift**: 4, Arcata, 7 Apr (EE); becoming numerous by 23 Apr (m.o.); **White-throated Swift**: 1, near colony, Wagner Mem. Br., Hwy. 101 s. of Benbow, 29 Mar (DF); **'Western' Flycatcher**: 1, Lanphere Dunes, 3 Apr (EE); widespread by mid-Apr (m.ob.); **Say's Phoebe**: 1, Arcata Bottoms, 24 Mar (CO); **Loggerhead Shrike**: 1, Crescent City, 29 Mar (KR); **Cassin's Vireo**: 1, Mad River Slough Wildlife Area, 11 Apr (TL); **Purple Martin**: 3, College of the Redwoods, 17 Apr (KR); **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**: 1, Salyer, 12 Apr (TL); **Townsend's Solitaire**: 1, Brush Mtn., 10 Apr (TL); **Northern Mockingbird**: 1, Freshwater, 4 Apr (RH); **Nashville Warbler**: 1, n. Arcata yard, 10 Apr (KR); "lots," Todd Ranch, 12 Apr (TL); 1, HBNWR, 20 Apr (DF); **Black-throated Gray Warbler**: "lots," Todd Ranch, 12 Apr (TL); **Common Yellowthroat**: 2, Arcata, 2 Apr (FA); 1, lower Smith R., 5 Apr (KR); **Black-headed Grosbeak**: first reports from n. Arcata and Rolf's, n. of Orick, both 23 Apr (KR, DF); **Vesper Sparrow**: 1, Trinidad, 7 Apr (MH); **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow**: wintering bird at mouth Jacoby Ck. again seen 20 Mar (JT) and 25 Mar (RN); **Swamp Sparrow**: 2, AMP, 3 Apr (EE); **White-throated Sparrow**: 1, AB, 10 Apr (EE); 4, Rio Dell, 13 Apr (LN); **Evening Grosbeak**: 6, Catfish L., 1 Apr (MW).

OBSERVERS: Frank Anderson, Elias Elias, David Fix, Stan Harris, Rob Hewitt, Matt Hinton, John Hunter, Jeff Jacobsen, Tom Leskiw, Sean McAllister, Michael Morris, Russ Namitz, Laura Nelson, Chet Ogan, Steve Pagliughi, Jude Power, Kerry Ross, Paul Springer, Jim Tietz, Matt Wachs.

Field Notes
by Stan Harris and David Fix
20 February-20 March 2002

The past month has been generally rainy. Wintering ducks continue to depart, swallows and Rufous/Allen's Hummingbirds continue to arrive, and Aleutian Canada Geese have been present locally in large numbers. The deciduous hardwoods are leafing out, tree-frog tadpoles are free from their egg sacs---and honeybees, butterflies, short sleeves, and smiles are more in evidence as the days lengthen. Watch for Northern Rough-winged Swallows, Common Yellowthroats, Brown-headed Cowbirds, and alternate-plumaged migrant shorebirds to arrive soon.

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Red-necked Grebe (EL): 2, KS, 22 Feb (JT); **Clark's Grebe (EL):** 1, North Jetty, 1 Mar; 1, JC, 10 Mar (both JT); **Tundra Swan:** 45, Lake Earl, 17 Mar (KR); **Greater White-fronted Goose (FR):** 1, Lake Cleone, 23 Jan-21 Feb (update, DT); 1, Lake Earl, 15 Mar (KR); **Emperor Goose (FR):** 1, MRWA, 10 Mar (JT); **Snow Goose (FR):** 1-2, SRB, 10-15 Mar (KR); **Ross's Goose (IL):** 2, Lake Earl, 17 Mar (KR); **Dusky Canada Goose (FR):** 6, SRB, early Mar (KR); **Cackling Canada Goose (EM):** small numbers reported with Aleutian Goose flocks through period in the coastal plain (mo); **Wood Duck (MS):** up to 3 pairs, Jacoby Creek Quarry Road, 2-3 Mar (FA); up to 4, AOP, 26 Feb-8 Mar (SH, MA); 3, Marshall Pond, 9 Mar (JB et al.); **Eurasian Green-winged Teal (FR):** 1, North Bay at JC, 27 Feb (DF); 1 (same?), North Bay at AOP, 2 Mar (GB); **Eurasian Wigeon (FR):** 1, HBNWR, 27 Feb (JG); 1, AB, 7-19 Mar (KR et al.); **Harlequin Duck (FR):** up to 18 from Glass Beach to Virgin Creek Beach, MKSP, 23 Jan-21 Feb (update, DT); 1, North Jetty, 1 Mar (JT); 1, Crescent City harbor, 9 Mar (JB et al.); **Black Scoter (FR):** 4, off Enderts Beach, 27 Feb (KS, JW); **Long-tailed Duck (FR):** 2, off Ward Ave., MKSP, 9-12 Feb (update, DT); **Hooded Merganser (MS):** pair, Enderts Beach Pond, 27 Feb (KS, JW); **Common Merganser (IL):** 1 (fly-by), MRWA, 10 Mar (JT); 2, JC, 10 Mar and 1, 20 Mar (JT); **Red-breasted Merganser (EL):** 1, North Bay at AMP, 27 Feb (FA).

Turkey Vulture (EM): 1 (first seen this spring), Kneeland, 22 Feb (BB); **Osprey (EM):** 1, AMP, 25 Feb (FA); 1, AMP, 2 Mar (EE); 1, Klamath River, 9 Mar (JB, SH et al.); **White-tailed Kite (IL):** 1-3, seen on 18 of 19 days in Feb, Kneeland (BB); **Bald Eagle (MS):** 6 reports of 1-2 from Big Lagoon (pair courting, KI), Blue Lake (juv., FA), AMP, Mad River at Hwy 299, 22 Feb-9 Mar (KI, TL, EE, SG, FA); **"Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk (FR, ND):** 1, Hwy 101 at Indianola Cutoff, 2 Mar (CO); **Ferruginous Hawk (FR):** 1 ad., Bald Hill near Fort Bragg, 23 Jan-21 Feb (update, DT); **Rough-legged Hawk (EM):** 1, Kneeland, 28 Feb (BB); **Golden Eagle (EL):** 1, Kneeland, 26 Feb (BB); **Merlin (MS):** singles reported from AB, JC, Hookton Slough, AB, 22 Feb-7 Mar (mo).

Long-billed Curlew (IN): 210 (!), Loleta Bottoms, 1 Mar (PS); **Rock Sandpiper (EL, ED):** up to 5, MKSP, 23 Jan-21 Feb (update, DT); 1, North Jetty, 1 Mar (JT); **Heermann's Gull (ID):** 1 ad., KS, 22 Feb (JT); **Black-legged Kittiwake (EL, ED):** at least 6, ocean off Westport, 8 Feb (update, DT); 1 ad., North Jetty, 1 Mar (JT); **Caspian Tern (ID):** 3 (including 1 juv. still begging), KS, 22 Feb (JT); 1, Hookton Slough, 10 Mar (DF, JP); 3 (migrants?), JC, 15 Mar (DF).

Burrowing Owl (FR): 1, AOP dike, 26 Feb-2 Mar (MA, EE, PS); **Rufous Hummingbird (EM):** males reported from Arcata, Bayside, Eureka, 27 Feb-12 Mar (EE, KR, RL, SW, anon.); **Allen's Hummingbird (EM):** 1, Arcata 2 Mar (KR); **"Yellow-shafted" N. Flicker (EM):** singles from Manila, Arcata, Lake Earl, 21 Feb-1 Mar (MZ, BMCD, KR); **Pileated Woodpecker (MS):** 1, Jacoby Creek Quarry Road, 3 Mar (FA); 1, Cummings Rd. yard, Eureka, 11 Mar (TL); **Say's Phoebe (FR):** 1, Blue Lake, 6 Mar (MM); **Loggerhead Shrike (FR):** 1, Hookton Slough, 10 Mar (DW, DF, JP et al.); **Gray Jay (MS):** 1, Bayside feeder (1st in 32 years' residence there), 6 Mar (DC); **American Crow (IL):** 20, Big Lagoon, 24 Feb (KI); **Tree Swallow (EM):** 2, MKSP, 21 Feb (DT); **Violet-green Swallow (EM):** 2, inspecting nest box, 27 Feb, Arcata (EE); 20+, Marshall Pond, 9 Mar (JB et al.); 15+, AMP, 10 Mar (mo); "droves," SRB, 16 Mar (KR); **Barn Swallow (EM):** 1, AB, 7 Mar (PS); **Black-capped Chickadee (IL):** 1, ex. n.e. Del Norte Co., 2 Mar (JH, TL); **Western Bluebird (MS):** 1-6 seen on 6 of 19 days in Feb, Kneeland (BB); 2, Old Mill Road near Lake Earl, 17 Feb (MA); 5, SRB, 10 Mar (KR); **Nashville Warbler (IL):** 1, Fort Bragg, 2-10 Feb (update, DT); **Palm Warbler (ID):** 2, n. side Lake Earl, 17 Mar (KR); **California Towhee (IL):** 1, northeast Del Norte Co., 2 Mar (JH, TL); **"Slate-colored" Dark-eyed Junco:** 1, Arcata, 27 Feb-13 Mar (EE); **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (FR, ID):** 1 (assumed continuing from mid-Dec, same location), JC, 20 Mar (JT).

Many thanks to the following who submitted reports this month: Marge Adams, Frank Anderson, Jeff Black, Gary Bloomfield, Barbara Burek, Dennis Cahill, Elias Elias, David Fix, John Gaffin, Sam Giannandrea, Stan Harris, John Hunter, Ken Irwin, Tom Leskiw, Brooke McDonald, Michael Morris, Chet Ogan, Jude Power, Kerry Ross, Kristin Schmidt, Paul Springer, Jim Tietz, Dorothy Tobkin, Dan Van Zile, Don Wattenbarger, Jim Watkins, Sylvia White, Marcus Ziehm.

Field Notes
by Stan Harris
19 January-22 February 2002

Typical winter, early spring weather with some nice days interspersed with rain and mist. Early migration beginning, many wintering ducks have left, Western Canada Geese are establishing nesting territories, early swallows are here, Band-tailed Pigeons began to use feeders again in late January, and Aleutian Canada Geese are moving through the area in large numbers. Abbreviations used: AB= Arcata Bottoms; AEB = Arcata-Eureka Bottoms; AMP = Arcata Marsh Project; AOP = Arcata Oxidation Pond; BSLP = Butcher Slough Log Pond; EM= Expected Migrant; ES = Escape; FR = Few Records; HBNWR = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; ID = Interesting Date; IL = Interesting Location; IN = Interesting Numbers; MKSP = MacKerricher State Park; mo = Many Observers; MRWA = Mad River Wildlife Area; MS= Monitored Species; NC= Not Confirmed, No Description.

Red-throated Loon (IN): 80, Humboldt Bay, 23 Jan (DF): **Eared Grebe (IN):** 60, Fields Landing, 23 Jan (DF): **Cattle Egret (FR, MS):** 3, AMP, 20 Jan (KR, MW, JT): **White-fronted Goose (FR):** 1, AMP, 20 Jan (JT, et al.); 1, MKSP, 23 Dec-21 Jan (DT): **Emperor Goose (FR, GW):** 1, MRWA, 13 Jan-10 Feb (mo): **Snow Goose (FR):** 1, MRWA, 15 Jan-1 Feb (mo): **Ross's Goose (FR):** 1, AB, 23 Jan-5 Feb (DF, RN, EE); 1, Copenhagen Road, 14 Feb (PS): **Aleutian Canada Goose (EM):** 15 + reports of 85 to 20,000+ from Smith River Bottoms, AB, MRWA, North Jetty, Fields Landing, HBNWR, 12 Jan-21 Feb (mo): **Cackling Canada Goose (FR):** 3, near Ft. Bragg, 24 Dec-21 Jan (DT); others, mixed in Aleutian Goose Flocks, not specifically separated or reported: **Black Swan (ES):** 1, Humboldt Bay Waterfront, 20 Jan (anon); 1, ocean at Trinidad, 21 Jan (SS): **Bewick's Swan (GW):** 1, first, ever northcoast record, HBNWR, Cannibal Road, 15 Jan-3 Feb (DF, RH, et al.): **Tundra Swan (EM):** 3-35, AB, 13 Jan-3 Feb (JT, PS, MWk); 60-400, HBNWR, 20 Jan-21 Feb (mo); 300+, Eel River Bottoms, 24 Jan (JD); 50-60, Smith River Bottoms, 24 Jan (JD): **Wood Duck (ID):** 4, near Pigeon Pt. Road, 25 Jan (FA): **Eurasian Wigeon (FR):** 1, AMP, 20 Jan (JT, et al.); 1, HBNWR, 23-30 Jan (SL, RD, JT, et al.); 1, AB, 9-12 Feb (FA, RH): **Mallard x Gadwall Hybrid (GW, NC):** 1 reported at Freshwater Corners, 14 Feb (SP): **Blue-winged Teal (FR):** 1-3, BSLP, 14-22 Jan (KR, SH): **Eurasian Green-winged Teal (FR):** 1, AOP, 15-26 Jan (MW, JA): **Canvasback (FR):** 1 male, AMP, 20 Jan (JT, et al.); 18, Stone Lagoon, 3 Feb (DF, JP): **Harlequin Duck (FR):** up to 23, Glass Beach, 24 Dec-21 Jan (DT): **Common Goldeneye (FR):** 3-8, King Salmon, 18 Jan-21 Feb (FT, SH, et al.); 1, Mad River Fish Hatchery, 15 Feb (BY); 1, AMP, 18 Jan (SH): **Hooded Merganser (FR):** 1 pair, upper Crannell Road, 15 Jan (BY); 1 pair, Big Lagoon, 15 Jan (BY); 1-2 pair, South Fork, Smith River 12-19 Jan (AP): **Osprey (ID):** 1, Humboldt Bay, 20 Jan, (JT, et al.): **White-tailed Kite (IL):** 1-2, Mail Ridge, mid Jan (JG, RS); 2 seen on 27 days in Jan, Kneeland (BB); 8-10, MRWA, 1 Feb (EP): **Bald Eagle (MS):** 13 reports of singles from Bald Hills, Trinidad, Willow Creek, North Fork of Mad River near Korbell, Hatchery Road, AB, near Bayside, Eureka, Kneeland, HBNWR, near Legget, near Willits, 16 Jan-22 Feb (mo): **Ferruginous Hawk (FR):** 1, AB, North Bank Rd x 101, 13 Jan-14 Feb (KR, PS, EE, RR, BR); 1 Rhonerville, 5 Feb (FA): **Rough-legged Hawk (MS):** 1-2, MRWA, 13 Jan-1 Feb, MRWA (JT, et al., EP); 1, North Humboldt Bay flats, 20 Jan (JT, et al.); 1, Kneeland, 27 Jan-14 Feb (RH, anon).

Golden Eagle (EL): 2, Mail Ridge, 17 Jan (JG); 1, Bald Hills, 26 Jan (RN); 1, Kneeland, 14 Jan (BB): **Merlin (MS):** 1, AMP, 13 Jan-4 Feb (JT, et al.); 1, Arcata, 13 Feb (EE); 1, Eureka Waterfront, 5 Feb (EE): **Peregrine Falcon (MS):** 9 reports of 1-2 from Trinidad, AB, MRWA, AMP, Fields Landing, 13 Jan-13 Feb (mo): **Prairie Falcon (FR):** 1, Arcata Airport, 3 Jan (MH); 1, Bald Hills, 2 Feb (GB): **Wild Turkey (FR, MS):** 20, 5 miles north Legget, 26 Jan (DL): **Wandering Tattler (ID):** 1, Trinidad, 7 Jan (MH): **Long-billed Curlew (IN):** 250, AB, 23 Jan (PS): **Ruddy Turnstone (FR):** 2, Trinildad, 7 Jan (MH); 2-5, Fields Landing, 23 Jan-21 Feb (RR, SH, KR, RC): **Surfbird (IL):** 1-3, King Salmon, late Nov-17 Feb (MW): **Rock Sandpiper (FR, EL):** 3-5, MKSP, 24 Dec-21 Jan (DT); 1, Trinidad, 27 Jan (MH): **Ruff (ID, FR):** 1, Fields Landing, 11-15 Feb (MW, KR, RC, JL); 1, Cock Robin Island, 15 Feb (anon): **Thayer's Gull (FR):** 1 imm, AMP, 20 Jan-5 Feb (JT, et al., SH); 1 imm, Eureka Waterfront, 21 Feb (JT., et al.): **Pigeon Guillemot (ID):** 1, off MKSP, 4 Jan (DT): **Burrowing Owl (FR):** 1, AOP, 20-26 Jan

(JT, et al., PS): **Short-eared Owl (IN)**: 6-14, MRWA, 13 Jan-1 Feb (JT, EP): **Saw-Whet Owl (FR)**: 1 (photo), McKinleyville, 9 Jan (DM): **Selasphorus Hummingbird sp (ED)**: 1, Arcata, 5 Feb (JT): **Allen's Hummingbird (EM)**: 1 male, Cummings Road, Eureka, 22 Feb (TL): **Lewis's Woodpecker (FR)**: 4-20, Bald Hills (near Schoolhouse Peak), 13 Jan-2 Feb (mo); 3, Horse Mountain, 24 Jan (PL): **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (FR)**: 1, Ferndale, 20 Feb (TMcK): **Yellow-shafted Flicker (EM)**: 1, 101 x Mad River, 13 Jan (KR); 1, Fay Slough, 26 Jan (DW): **Pileated Woodpecker (MS)**: seen nearly daily in Jan, Willow Creek (PL): **Say's Phoebe (FR)**: 1, AB, 30 Jan (PH): **Northern Shrike (FR)**: 1 imm, AEB, 18 Jan (DF): **Gray Jay (MS)**: 3, near Elk Head, 22 Jan (KR): **Tree Swallow (EM)**: 3-30, AMP, 27 Jan-18 Feb (PL, EE, SH): **Barn Swallow (EM)**: 2, 10-Mile River, 11 Jan (DT); 1, AMP, 13 Jan (JT); 2, Eureka Waterfront, 5 Feb (EE): **Black-capped Chickadee (IL)**: 1, Fay Slough, 26 Jan (DW): **Canyon Wren (historical record)**: 1, singing, mouth Surprise Creek, South Fk, Trinity River, July 1978 (JW, fide TL): **Western Bluebird (MS)**: 14 reports of 1-10 from Trinidad, Arcata Airport, Manila, Sunny Brae, Bayside, Korbell, Freshwater, Kneeland, Eureka, Eel River Bottoms, 30 Dec-15 Feb (mo): **Northern Mockingbird (FR)**: 1, McKinleyville, 28 Jan (GF); 1, Arcata, 3 Feb (MS): **Nashville Warbler (ID)**: 1, Arcata, 14 Jan (KR); 1, 101 x Van Duzen, 24 Jan (RH): **Yellow Warbler (ID)**: 2, AMP, 20 Jan (JT, et al.): **Black-throated Gray Warbler (ID)**: 1, BSLP, 14-28 Jan (KR, JT, et al.); 1, Elk Head, 15 Feb (MH): **Townsend's Warbler (IN)**: 30, Elk Head, 15 Feb (MH): **Palm Warbler (FR)**: 1, AMP, 13-20 Jan (JT, et al.): **Black-and-White Warbler (FR)**: 1-2, Elk Head, 27 Jan-15 Feb (DW, MH): **Northern Waterthrush (FR)**: 1, AOP, 15 Jan-12 Feb (MW, DF): **Swamp Sparrow (FR)**: 1, AMP, 13 Jan (JT); 1-2 mouth of Jacoby Creek, 17 Jan (CW); 2, AMP-AOP, 20 Jan (JT, et al.): **Lapland Longspur (FR)**: 6-30, MRWA, 13-18 Jan (JT-CW, MV): **Hooded Oriole (ID)**: 1 male, Ft. Bragg, 23 Dec-21 Jan (DT):

Many thanks to the following who called in reports this month: Frank Anderson, Jan Anderson, Gary Bloomfield, Fred Bodrey, Heather Brown, Sara Colvig, Ruth Crane, Jeff Dayton, Elias Elias, David Fix, Gary Friedrichsen, John Gaffin, Melody Hamilton, Stan Harris, Pablo Herrera, Rob Hewitt, Denise Homer, Jenny, Dick Laursen, Tom Leskiw, Steve Lewis, Paul Lohse, Joan Loitz, Tristian McKee, Desiree Meidari, Eric Nelson, Rick Niemith, Chet Ogan, Steve Pagliughi, Aida Parkinson, Elin Pierce, Jude Power, Rich and Bonnie Ridenhour, Kerry Ross, Mary Severdia, Scott Shannon, Paul Springer, Reid Storre, Jim Tietz, Dorothy Tobkin, Margaret Varga, Matt Wachs, Martin Walkeen, Catharine Walling, Don Wattenbarger, Jan Williams, Bryan Yost, Gretchen Ziegler, Mark and Linda Ziehm.

Field Notes
by Stan Harris
3 December 2001-12 January 2002

Christmas counts have come and gone and the winter season is well along. Some wintering birds should be leaving and early migrants arriving in the next few weeks. Our generally rainy period continued throughout this period. I only have room for the highlights because of the massive number of reports associated with Christmas Counts. My apologies to those who submitted reports I was unable to include here, but your reports do add to our total knowledge and data base for the northcoast so please keep them coming. **Abbreviations used:** AB = Arcata Bottoms; ACBC = Arcata Christmas Count, 15 Dec; AMP = Arcata Marsh Project; AOP = Arcata Oxidation Pond; BSLP = Butcher Slough Log Pond; CC = Crescent City; CCBC = Crescent City Christmas Count, 16 Dec; CVCBC = Centerville Christmas Count, 30 Dec; E = Eureka; ECBC = Etna Christmas Count, 29 Dec; EL = Expected Location; ERB = Eel River Bottoms or Delta; FB = Ft. Bragg; FR = Few Records; GB = Glass Beach; GW = Gee Whiz Report; HBNWR = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; IB= Interesting Behavior; ID = Interesting Date; IL = Interesting Location; IN = Interesting Numbers; KL =Klopp Lake; KS = King Salmon; LC = Lake Cleone; LCBC = Lewiston Christmas Count, 28 Dec; LMR = Lower Mad River; MKSP = MacKerricher State Park; MRWA = Mad River Wildlife Area; MS = Monitored Species; NB= North Humboldt Bay; NC = Not Confirmed; NJ= North Jetty; O = Offshore, Humboldt Bay; SB = South Humboldt Bay; SJ = South Jetty; SRB = Smith River Bottoms; WCBC = Willow Creek CBC, 22 Dec.

Pacific Loon (IL, IN): 1-3, KL, 3-4 Dec (SH, DF, EE); 80, O, 30 Dec (GF): **Yellow -billed Loon** (GW, NC, ACBC): 1, NB (KR,MW,et al.): **Red-necked Grebe (IL EL):** 1, KL, 3-4 Dec (MR, EE, et al.); 3-5, MKSP, 23 Nov-27 Dec (DT); 1-3, KS, SB, 30 Dec-7 Jan (SH, BD, KR, MW, RH) **Black-f. Albatross (ID):** 1, O, 15 Dec (GF); **Short-tailed Shearwater (FR):** 1, O, 15 Dec (GF): **Brown Pelican (ID):**11, CVCBC; 1, E, 27 Dec (T&LH-H); 2, South Spit, 28 Dec (T&L H-H, SH); 1, mouth Elk River, 1 Jan (SH): **Brandt's Cormorant (ID):** 1, SJ, 28 Dec (SH, et al.): **American Bittern (FR):** 1 (cripple), ERB, 2 Dec (BS): **Cattle Egret (FR):** 1-3, AB, BSLP, 6 Dec-3 Jan (JT,EE): **White-fronted Goose (FR):** 4 reports of 1-3 from WCBC, MRWA, KL, LC, 14 Dec-5 Jan (RR,DT,PL,JR): **Emperor Goose (FR):** 1, CC, 29 Dec (G&LS); 1 NC report ("gray goose with zebra pattern on back, flying with brant"), SB, 30 Dec (TH-H); 2, Klamath, 1-2 Jan (anon); 1, LMR, AB, 7-12 Jan (KR, HB, MC, et al.): **Ross's Goose (FR):** 1, Lanphere Road, 2 Jan (EE): **Lesser Snow Goose (FR):** 1-2, AB, 6 Dec, 2 -12 Jan (JT,EE,BD); 1 SMB, 16 Dec (RH); 1 SB, HBNWR, 4 Jan (KR,MW,SH): **Mute Swan (GW):** 1, HBNWR, 2 Jan (DF): **Tundra Swan (IN, CVCBC):** 350-400 (only), ERB, HBNWR, 4 Jan (JD, SH); 6, AB, 4 Jan (SH); **0(!), SRB,** 4 Jan (SH,JD): **Eurasian Wigeon (IN):** 1, AB, 6 Dec -10 Jan (mo); 2, NB, 15 Dec (MW); 1 female, HBNWR, 30 Dec (SH,et al.); 1, Salt River, 30 Dec (JT); **14 (!);** SB, 4 Jan (KR,MW): **Blue-winged Teal (FR):** 1-3, BSLP, 15 Dec-6 Jan (JT,SH,RH): **Eurasian Green-winged Teal (FR):** 1, AOP, 19 Dec, 7 Jan (MW); 1, BSLP, 23 Dec (L&T H-H,EE); 1 ERB, 23-30 Dec (MW,JL,JT): **Canvasback (IL):** 2, ERB, 30 Dec (RLeV,et al.);4-8, SB, 3-4 Jan (MW,KR); x, KL, 5 Jan (JT): **Redhead (IN):** 300, SB, 4 Jan (MW,KR).

Duck with a pony tail

Tufted Duck (GW, FR): 1 male, SB, 30 Dec (D&RR); 1 male, LMR, 8 Jan (DV): **White-winged Scoter (IN):** 80, SB, 4 Jan (KR,MW): **Harlequin (FR):** 18, vic CC, early Dec (AB,fide PS); 1, NJ, 24 Dec, 9 Jan (MW,BMcD); 1-2, KS, 26-31 Dec (mo); up to 20, GB, 23 Nov-27 Dec (DT): **Long-tailed Duck (FR):** 1, CC, early Nov-3 Dec (AB); 1 ERB, 30 Dec (GB,et al.): **Black Scoter (FR):** 5, CVCBC; up to 10, MKSP, 23 Nov-27 Dec (DT): **Barrow's Goldeneye (FR, IN):** 1 male, LMR, 11-15 Dec (mo); **8(!), LCBC: Common Goldeneye (EL, IN):** 1-3, LMR, 11 Dec-8 Jan (mo); 1-2, AMP, 18 Dec-9 Jan (FA,KR,MW,P&VS); 15, SB, 30 Dec (SH,RR,et al.); 3, ERB, 30 Dec (GB,et al.); **181 (!), LCBC: Hooded Merganser (MS):**14 reports of 2-45 (!) from South Fork of Smith River, Mad River Fish Hatchery, KL, ERB, WCBC, ECBC, LCBC (mo): **Osprey (ID):** 4 reports of 1-4 from Klamath Glen, Freshwater Lagoon, AMP, NB, 15 Dec-2 Jan (CD,DF,KR,FA,JT): **White-tailed Kite (IL):** 3, Bald Hills, 21 Dec

(MiMo); 1-2, Kneeland, 22 days in Dec (BB); 2, vic Benbow, 5 Jan (JS); 1, Mail Ridge, 3 Jan (JG); 2, Briceland, resident, through Dec (NW): **Bald Eagle (MS)**: WCBC (7 birds); LCBC (6); ECBC (11); ACBC (1); CVCBC (1); plus 9 other reports of 1-5 from SMB, Orick, Trinity River Valley, Mad River Fish Hatchery, McKinleyville, AB, HBNWR, ERB, Benbow, 8 Dec-6 Jan (mo): **Goshawk (FR)**: 1, WCBC, 1, LCBC: **Ferruginous Hawk (FR)**: 4, ECBC; plus 6 reports of singles at SRB, AB, ERB, Bald Hill near FB, 11 Dec-2 Jan (mo): **Rough-legged Hawk (ED)**: 16, ECBC; plus 11 reports of 1-2 from AB, AMP, Kneeland, KS, ERB, 6 Dec-6 Jan (mo): **Merlin (MS)**: 10, CVCBC; plus 8 reports of 1-3 at ECBC, WCBC, AB, Arcata, KL, ERB, 6 Dec-5 Jan (mo): **Peregrine Falcon (MS)**: 20 (probably includes some duplicate counts), CVCBC; 5, WCBC; plus 12 reports of 1-2 from Hoopa, AB, MRWA, AMP, KS, MKSP, 3 Dec-11 Jan (mo).

Watch for Turkeys

Wild Turkey (FR): 4-5 resident, Briceland, Dec (NW); 19, WCBC; 39, ECBC: **Pacific Golden-Plover (FR)**: 20, ERB, 30 Dec (RLeV, et al.): **Snowy Plover (MS)**: 13, CVCBC; 22, Centerville Beach Parking Lot, 6 Jan (JD): **Black Oystercatcher (IL)**: 1-6, NJ, SJ, 1-30 Dec (KR, MW, T&L H-H, SH, GO, CH); 3, flyby, mouth Mad River, 7 Jan (KR, HB): **Rock Sandpiper (EL)**: 1-5, NJ, 8 Dec-9 Jan (mo); 6, CVCBC; 3, MKSP, 23 Nov-27 Dec (DT): **Pomarine Jaeger (ID)**: 1 flyby, Mad River Beach, 15 Dec (RLeV): **Heermann's Gull (ID)**: 1-2, E, 22 Dec-6 Jan (T&LH-H,PR,RH): **Herring Gull (IN)**: 1147(!), CVCBC: **Thayer's Gull (FR)**: 2, Lewiston Fish Hatchery, 2 Nov-5 Jan (JH); 3, CVCBC; 1, lower Elk River, 7 Jan (RH): **Glaucous-winged Gull (IL)**: 1, LCBC: **Caspian Tern (ID)**: 1-2, Humboldt Bay, 7 Dec-6 Jan (mo): **Forster's Tern (EL)**: 9-19, AMP, AOP, 3 Dec-11 Jan (MR, SH, JT): **Marbled Murrelet (MS)**: 1-4, O, 15, 30 Dec (GF); 2, MKSP, 22 Dec (DT): **Ancient Murrelet (ED)**: 1, O, 15, 30 Dec (GF): **Band-tailed Pigeon (IN)**: 363(!), WCBC; 24, LCBC; 12, CVCBC; 2 flocks of 50-75 each, Kneeland, 8 Dec (BB); 2-15, Sunny Brae, 24 Dec-12 Jan (SH): **Burrowing Owl (FR)**: 1-2, AOP, 7 Dec-11 Jan (mo); 1, South Spit, 14-31 Dec (MK, et al.): **Barred Owl (FR)**: 1, Headwaters Trail, 30 Dec (L&TH-H,GG,CH): **Short-eared Owl (EL)**: 3-5, MRWA, 6 Dec-3 Jan (JT, EE, PL, JD); 1, Arcata, 5 Dec (CO); 2, CVCBC: **Saw-whet Owl (FR)**: 1, Headwaters Trail, 30 Dec (L&TH-H,CH,GG): **White-throated Swift (ID)**: 19, foraging high over Scotia Bluff, 4 Dec (LN): **Selasphorus Hummingbird sp (ID)**: 1, Ferndale, 4 Dec (T McK): **Lewis's Woodpecker (FR)**: 10-24, Bald Hills, 29 Nov-21 Dec (WW, RH, fide, AB, MiMo): **Acorn Woodpecker (EL)**: 10, Bald Hills, 21 Dec (MiMo): **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (FR)**: 1, Elk River Valley, 30 Dec (T&SL); 1-2, Ferndale, 30 Dec-6 Jan (G&LL, et al.): **Red-naped Sapsucker (FR)**: 1, LCBC: **Yellow-shafted Flicker (FR)**: 1, Arcata, 2 Jan (GB): **Pileated Woodpecker (EL)**: 1 near Trinidad, 11 Dec (MH); 1, vic Willow Creek, 21 Dec (TL); 1, WCBC; 1, Kneeland, 31 Dec (BB): **Eastern Phoebe (GW)**: 1, ERB, 30 Dec 7th Humboldt County Record, (GB,JE,BS,EE,GZ): **Say's Phoebe (FR)**: 1, Centerville Beach, 30 Dec (KR, MM): **Solitary Vireo sp (ID)**: 1, E, 8 Jan (RH): **Gray Jay (EL)**: 10, Patricks Point (MH); 6, Centerville Beach Road, 23 Dec (MW); 8, Ferndale Cemetery, 23 Dec (MW); 77 CVCBC: **Tree Swallow (ID)**: 1-2, AMP, 15-19 Dec (ACBC, JT).

Early Barn Swallows

Barn Swallow (ID): 5, SMB, 16 Dec (RH); plus 8 reports of 1-11 from AMP, 11 Dec-11 Jan (mo): **Black-capped Chickadee (IL)**: 1, Hoopa, 22 Dec (JT): **Western Bluebird (MS)**: 277 (about normal numbers for there), CCBC; 8, LCBC; 17, WCBC; 4, ACBC; plus 6 reports of 1-25 from Bald Hills, Trinidad, McKinleyville, Kneeland, HBNWR, 6 Dec-31 Dec (mo): **Mountain Bluebird (GW, FR)**: 1 female, well described, Patricks Point, 14 Dec (MH): **Swainson's Thrush (GW, ID)**: 1 caught, measured, and banded, Lanphere Dunes, 9 Jan (BF): **Mockingbird (FR)**: 1, WCBC; 1, Arcata, 7-15 Dec (JT, EE); 1, E, 14 Dec (JD); 1, Loleta, 23 Dec (MW); 1-2, Garberville, 28 Dec-5 Jan (JS, MT): **American Pipit (GW, IB)**: 10-12, feeding on "shrimp" with Western Sandpipers, beach at Mad River mouth, 24 Dec (WB): **Cedar Waxwing (IN)**: x, Aldergrove Pond, 6 Dec (JT); x, ACBC; 100 feeding on madrone berries, Miranda, 16 Dec (KS); 2, Tompkins Hill, 30 Dec (MW, PH): **Orange-crowned Warbler**: 30, ACBC; 31, CVCBC: **Nashville Warbler**: 15+, ACBC; 5, CVCBC: **Tennessee Warbler (FR)**: 1, E, 15 Dec-6 Jan (T&SW): **Yellow Warbler (ID)**: 1-2, AMP, 7 Dec-11 Jan (JT, EE); 1 Samoa Blvd, 19 Dec (EE): **Black-throated Blue Warbler (GW, FR, ID)**: 1 male, Ferndale, 30 Dec-4 Jan (G&LL, et al.): **Black-throated Gray Warbler (ID)**: 1, AMP, 7 Dec-11 Jan (JT, EE, et al.): **Hermit Warbler (ID)**: 1, ERB, 30 Dec (JL, et al.): **Palm Warbler**: 9, CVCBC;

1. ACBC; plus 4 reports of singles from SMB, AB, AMP, 7 Dec-5 Jan (JT,RH): **Black-and-white Warbler (FR):** 1, ACBC; 1, CVCBC: **Northern Waterthrush (FR):** 1, AMP, 24 Dec (PL); 1, AOP, 9 Jan (MW): **Common Yellowthroat (ID):** 3, CVCBC; 1-2, AMP, 7-15 Dec (JT, EE): **Wilson's Warbler (ID):** 1, Klamath Glen, 29 Dec (FA); 1, AMP, 9 Jan (KR).

Fancy Fringillids

Rufous-crowned Sparrow (FR, IL): 2, near Benbow, 31 Dec (MT, JS): **Clay-colored Sparrow (FR, ID):** 1, Trinidad, 9 Dec (MH): **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (FR):** 1, mouth Jacoby Creek, 15-16 Dec (CD, DF, JP, JH, et al.): **Swamp Sparrow (IN):** 9 reports of 1-7 from Willow Creek (!), AMP, AOP, mouth Jacoby Creek, NB, 4 Dec-11 Jan (mo): **Rose-breasted Grosbeak (FR, ID):** 1, Lanphere Dunes, week of 12 Dec (CR); 1 female, Briceland, 28 Dec-2 Jan (NW); 1 male, Garberville, 5 Jan (JS): **Yellow-headed Blackbird (FR):** 1, SMB, 3-16 Dec (AB, RH); 1, AB, 15-21 Dec (ACBC, MiMo): **Bullock's Oriole (ID):** 1, Arcata, 29 Dec (HB); 1 dull female, E, 6 Jan (Mi Mo).

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