

Announcements and Happenings from December 2004 Sandpiper

Godwit Days 10th Anniversary

The theme of the 2005 Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival – to be held April 15-17 at the Arcata Community Center -- is “Accomplishments in Citizen Science.” Evening lectures and special events are planned to showcase how average people can get involved in research and activities to benefit birds in particular and our planet in general. It is expected that one such major local citizen science project, the Humboldt County Breeding Bird Atlas, will be unveiled at the Festival. This 5-year data collection effort involved nearly 100 individuals – both resource professionals and interested laypersons – who surveyed for bird behavior in every corner of our county.

As usual, Godwit Days will feature field trips, workshops, lectures, exhibits, vendors, an art show, and family activities. The registration website is at www.godwitdays.com.

Audubon Election Materials

Watch your mailbox in early January for a ballot to select 2005 RRAS board members and officers, as well as a flyer with information about the annual banquet and member survey. Please take the time to vote!

Reminder: HSU Research/Travel Grant Funding Available

February 2 is the application deadline for up to \$300 to conduct a research project or attend and present research results at a scientific meeting. The research or presentation should focus on bird ecology, conservation, or evolutionary biology, with preference given to research conducted on birds in northern California.

Both undergraduate and graduate students are eligible to apply; up to two proposals may be selected. Awards will be presented at the RRAS annual banquet in February. Winners are expected to give a 45-minute presentation of his/her research, geared to the informed layperson, at the May 13, 2005, RRAS general meeting.

To receive an application form, contact Louise Bacon-Ogden, Scholarship Chair, 2337 B Street, Eureka, CA 95501; phone 445-8304; e-mail sftb@juno.com. The following materials should be attached to the application form:

- A 1-page synopsis of the research project or abstract of the scientific presentation
- A budget of expected project or travel expenses
- A resumé
- A letter of recommendation from your advisor

Applications must be received by Wednesday, February 2, 2005. The awards will be presented at the RRAS annual banquet in March.

RRAS Sponsors Science Fair Award

Again this year, RRAS will be sponsoring an award at the Humboldt County Science Fair for the best project dealing with birds and their habitat. The event will be held in mid-March at Humboldt State University. RRAS volunteer judges will evaluate exhibits created by elementary, middle, and high school students to choose a winner. The prize is a \$50 check and a 1-year local RRAS membership.

Student Bird Art Contest at Godwit Days

RRAS, in cooperation with Friends of the Arcata Marsh (FOAM), will again sponsor a children's art contest this April. Up to \$300 in prizes will be awarded divided by grade categories (K-12). Winners will be announced at the Godwit Days opening reception on Friday, April 15. All entries will be posted at the Arcata Community Center and winners also will be displayed at the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center during May.

Complete rules will be published in the next issue of *The Sandpiper*.

Your Chapter Needs YOU!

There are several ways that members – or even nonmembers – can help out RRAS in the upcoming months.

Our most urgent need is for a President Elect, with a term starting in February 2005. Outgoing President Jim Clark is willing to continue as President for another year, to ease his successor into the position. At least one other Director slot for a 2-year term will be vacant. Election materials must be mailed to members in early January, so please call Chet Ogan ASAP if you can help at 442-9353.

We are also looking for a volunteer coordinator, someone who is willing to keep a list of people available to help with special events and work to fill slots in a schedule.

Two events will be happening in early March and mid-April where help is needed. First, we're seeking people to make calls to potential donors and pick up items for our Silent Auction at the Annual Banquet on March 5. A script and list of past donors will be provided; even 5 calls would help tremendously with our largest fundraiser. Second, RRAS will again be operating the Café at the Godwit Days birding festival. Shifts will be on Saturday and Sunday, April 16-17 at the Arcata Community Center. Tasks include set up and clean up, taking food orders, collecting money, and serving hot food.

Contact Chet at 442-9353 if you can serve our chapter in any way.

Donations of Goods & Services Sought for Silent Auction

For the fifth 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, jewelry, CDs... there are many types of services and objects on which people would be willing to bid, so don't be shy or uncreative!

To make a tax-deductible donation, call Sue Leskiw at 442-5444. All donors will be recognized at the banquet and in *The Sandpiper* as well as receive thank-you letters.

Conservation Committee Report By Chet Ogan

Last spring our chapter participated in a survey to assess what policy options we thought Audubon California should cover. In mid November of this year, Glenn Olson, California Audubon Executive Chair, presented an overview of Audubon California and Julia Levin presented policy issues. Criteria for choosing the policy issues were importance for bird conservation, likelihood of success, chapter support and interest, potential to raise funds, potential visibility, outreach opportunities, and likelihood of support from National Audubon. Our chapter, along with other chapters, have been asked to rank the following policy issues keeping in mind the above goals:

1. Expand landowner stewardship program to Imperial Valley/Salton Sea area
2. San Francisco Bay-Delta program (salt marsh restoration, etc.)
3. Begin building framework and support for 2006 conservation funding bond
4. Launch California Condor campaign
5. Pass bill to recognize/protect Important Bird Areas in California or in state parks
6. Establish siting and technology requirements for new wind power generation.

We were also asked if there are any other topics we thought should be included. At least two additional topics were raised:

1. Awareness and eradication of invasive and nuisance species,
2. Providing protection for state endangered species and species of special concern.

I would be glad to hear your thoughts. Contact me at chet_ogan@yahoo.com

Vance Russell gave a talk on the Audubon Land Stewardship Program. This sounds like an avenue we could use to deal with providing essential habitat for the recovery program for the Aleutian Cackling Goose. Virtually all of the Aleutian goose population stages here before returning each spring to breeding grounds in Alaska.

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

Arcata – Ananda Hazzard, Nathan Keenan, Andrea Romero, Norma Stephens

Carlotta – Jodie Ellis

Crescent City – James Ansell, Roger Galbraith, Karen Nakashima, Andrea Williams

Eureka – Frank Demling, Loren Farber, Katherine Granfield, Joseph Laden, Mary Miller

Fortuna – Mr & Mrs Christopher Andrews

McKinleyville – George Pickens

Petrolia – Trish Stefanik

Keep Up to Date via RRAS Listserv

Be reminded about field trips and programs and learn about upcoming meetings, public hearings, and symposia of interest to RRAS members and other concerned nature lovers. 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@yahoogroups.com. 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.

Thinking of Joining the National Audubon Society?

If so, please use the coupon on our Membership page (www.rras.org/chmember.htm). By sending in your membership on this form, rather than replying to solicitations from National Audubon, \$20 is sent directly to RRAS. This is how NAS rewards local chapters for recruiting national members. (Otherwise, the RRAS dues share per new member is only a couple of dollars.) Thank you.

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Announcements and Happenings for November 2004

Still Seeking Garden Tour Sites

December 10 is the deadline for suggesting gardens for inclusion in the Third Annual Wildlife & Native Plant Garden Tour next July, co-sponsored by RRAS and the California Native Plant Society.

If you are a garden owner who has selected plants to attract birds, bees, and butterflies or have focused on including natives in your landscaping, we would like to hear from you about participating in this fundraising and community education effort. All the garden owners on the first two tours told us that they had a positive experience and would do it again. It's a great motivator for getting yardwork done!!

Please let us know of your interest by sending an e-mail to tomleskiw@aol.com or calling 442-5444 by December 10. Also, if you know of someone else with a candidate garden, we are willing to contact them if you provide information.

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Conservation Notes By Chet Ogan

Waterfront Drive: Sue Leskiw compiled the comments from several of us, and delivered them to Lisa Shikany on the City of Eureka's notice of preparation on the Waterfront Drive Extension (WDE) plan. Besides the procedural aspects dealing with severely bending of laws and statutes, the project will disrupt and divide a wetland ecosystem and its associated wildlife. Eureka will hold a series of consensus meetings on this project. Besides a waterfront hiking and biking path, another traffic alternative needs to be explored for a Broadway bypass. See San Francisco Chronicle, October 20, 2004, for a similar project and their solution. City of Eureka will be holding a public workshop, place, date, and time to be announced. Humboldt Bay Watershed Stewards will be holding an Economic Forum November 15, 2004, at the Wharfinger Building at 6 p.m. Eureka City Manager Dave Tyson will bring his 12-foot long maps of the project and attempt to muster support for the economic aspects of the WDE project. Dan Ihara will present some of the economic benefits of a wetland.

Gulches and Greenways: Eureka Gulches and Greenways committee submitted their report to the Planning Commission in October. Apparently key people were not notified of this meeting.

Aleutian Goose recovery plan: HSU wildlife professor Jeff Black is seeking help developing a recovery plan for the Aleutian Cackling Goose. Humboldt County hosts 40,000 Aleutian geese: 20,000 are found in the Eel River bottoms, another 20,000 in the Arcata bottoms. Another 20 to 40,000 Aleutian geese are found in Del Norte County, California, and Curry County, Oregon. They might roost on freshwater and brackish ponds and offshore islands but compete for forage with cattle on the agricultural fields during the day. A combination of land trusts, easements, refuges, and compensation programs may be needed.

Next Conservation Committee meeting will be Nov 18, noon, at the Golden Harvest Restaurant in Arcata.

Research/Travel Grant Funding Available

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Announcements and Happenings for October 2004

The Rare Bird Finders

Humboldt County's bird checklist stands at approximately 450 species. Anyone desiring to find a new species encounters long odds. Truly, the addition of **two** new species—a mere 18 days apart—borders on the mind-blowing. Pictured above are the two fortunate finders: Ron LeValley (left, Crested Caracara at the mouth of Jacoby Creek on September 4th) and Matt Wachs (right, Black Skimmer at the mouth of the Elk River on August 17th).

Eureka Marsh: Progress & Threat? By Sue Leskiw

Long-delayed enhancements to the Eureka (aka Palco) Marsh moved forward September 7 when the Eureka City Council voted to accept the Phase 1A Work Plan. Phase 1A calls for upgrading a culvert connecting the marsh to the bay, replacing or removing tide gates, dredging and cleaning out clogged channels, eradicating common reed and other invasive plants, planting vegetation, and landscaping. Restoring full tidal influence to the salt marsh portion will have the added benefit of decreasing breeding areas for mosquitoes.

In a related development, the city has issued a Notice of Preparation for a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Waterfront Drive Extension Project. This 101 bypass would run from the current terminus of Waterfront Drive near Del Norte Street south to Hilfiker Lane, constructing a two-lane road alongside the Eureka Marsh. Copies of the notice document are available from the Eureka Community Development Department for \$11.70 (call before picking up); comments are due to Lisa Shikany (268-5265) by October 8.

Ron's Occasional Picture of the Day

Long time Auduboner and naturalist Ron LeValley is sending out an "Occasional Picture of the Day" to interested natural or photography enthusiasts. If you are interested in receiving a daily nature-oriented picture in your e-mail, send a message to ron@madriverbio.com

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Whether it is time to honor someone special in your life, write or revise your will, or searching for tax benefits that will go towards conservation, Redwood Region Audubon Society (RRAS) is looking for gifts that will help support the mission of the organization. You can help us in many different ways, from asking for people to send donations instead of flowers in an obituary, to leaving a bequest of real or personal property. We are always looking for the ways and means of supporting the healthy ecology of birds in our region, so please consider contributing to RRAS, the next time an opportunity arises. Contact any one of our board members (see box) for more information.

Seeking Candidates: President Elect, Board Members

Hello Audubon member and birders! We are looking for people who would like to become active with a vital organization. The rewards are working with and meeting fun people on interesting topics and local conservation issues. Jim Clark is our current president, now on his 3rd non-consecutive term. The President serves a 3-year commitment, first year as President-elect, 2nd year as President, 3rd year as Immediate Past-president. The year as President-elect term gives new electees a chance to see how our board of directors operates before serving a year as chair. Contact Chet Ogan if you are interested in running for this position. Many other positions are available on long or short-term. Please contact Philip Smyser, our Volunteer Coordinator who works closely with the board

scheduling people into activities such as the Godwit Cafe and various other community activities. There are plenty of rewarding ways to get involved!

Wildlife Welcome Mat? Share It During 2005 Garden Tour

Have you selected landscape plants to attract birds, bees, and butterflies? Would you like to share your experience with others in our community and further the creation of wildlife habitat? Then, we'd like to hear from you about participating in the Third Annual Wildlife & Native Plant Garden Tour!

Please don't be deterred from nominating your garden because it lacks extensive native plantings. Native plants were heavily represented in the 2004 tour, while properties featuring non-native plants attractive to wildlife for their showy flowers or delicious fruit were scarce. We'd like to return to a balance of garden types this year, as was featured in the inaugural 2003 tour.

All the garden owners on the first two tours told us that they had a positive experience and would do it again. It's a great motivator for getting yardwork done!!

Please let us know of your interest by sending an e-mail to tomleskiw@aol.com or calling 442-5444 by December 10. Also, if you know of someone else with a candidate garden, we are willing to contact them if you provide information.

The selection committee expects to tour suggested properties in January 2005, with the Tour most likely in July. Please help RRAS and the local chapter of the California Native Plant Society continue this successful event that raises funds AND community awareness of planting for wildlife and natives.

Board Outing

RRAS board members joined birders from Crescent City and southern Oregon on a field trip to Lake Tolowa led by Alan Barron. This marked the second year that the board has held a monthly meeting in Del Norte County, where Lake Earl Branch members welcomed them with a wonderful potluck dinner.

Announcements and Happenings for September 2004

Kudos for an Arcata Marsh Docent

Here's a letter to warm the hearts of all our invaluable RRAS trip leaders:

“Dear Audubon Friends:

While my wife and I were on vacation in Arcata on May 22, we went on a bird walk in the Arcata Marsh led by an Audubon volunteer. At that time I was contemplating birding as a hobby. Your volunteer did a wonderful job of awakening me to the possibilities of birding and I have pursued it since with growing enthusiasm.

I don't know the name of your volunteer, but he did say he was a baker who volunteered during his work breaks. I enclose a check of \$25 as a token of my thanks.

Cordially, Stan Mickel, Springfield, OH

Thank you, Michael Morris, for your inspiration to this visitor!

Garden Tour Continues to Be Popular

Nearly 300 tickets were sold for the second annual Wildlife & Native Plant Garden Tour held June 26. Following are highlights of surveys of attendees, volunteers, and garden owners.

Attendees

RRAS and CNPS reached a new audience through the event, as 48% of ticketbuyers responding to the survey belonged to neither organization.

82% had attended garden tours sponsored by other groups (so are knowledgeable when making comments).

When asked to rate the Garden Tour on a scale of 1 to 10, the responses were nearly equally divided between 8 and 10, with a few 9's and some lower scores.

66% were “very likely” to attend a future tour, with an additional 28% “somewhat likely.”

Comments:

“A festive, friendly atmosphere”

“Knowledgeable owners were glad to share information”

“Gave us ideas and inspiration to work in our own yard, landscape our new home”

“Enlightening and just plain wonderful”

“A lovely day, thanks for the effort”

”Liked meeting the designers; appreciated plant lists and labels”

“A lovely way for nature lovers to have a field day together”

Volunteers

96% of the volunteers returning the survey were “very likely” to help on future tours!

50% gave their experience a 10; no one said it was below an 8.

Comments:

“Everyone was very enthusiastic”

“I was impressed by the enthusiasm and warm hospitality of the garden owners”

“Attendees thanked the owners for sharing their garden”

“Thanks for pairing me with such great people. The owners were so knowledgeable and spent an enormous amount of time with the visitors, who were very grateful”

“Well-received by all”

“The VIP Tour was fabulous and the picnic was way beyond fabulous”

Garden Owners

75% rated their experience a 10.

78% are “very likely” to open their garden for a future tour (others were “somewhat likely.”)

Comments:

“The organization and communication from A to Z were world class”

“Visitors were very courteous and gentle to our garden”

“A lot of excited attendees who couldn’t believe it [Potawot] was here. They are going to begin coming to tour the trails and birdwatch on a regular basis.”

“Wow! You sure are lucky to live here”

Thank You, Garden Tour 2004 Owners & Volunteers

We couldn’t have done it without you! This year’s owners were Bob & Anna Mae Botley, Freshwater Farms, Pete & Judy Haggard, Gael Hodgkins, Ron, Melanie & Betty Kuhnel, Joe & Deborah Roberts, Tom Schallert of the Blood Bank, and Eric Johnson representing Potawot.

Our crew of volunteers, who worked on jobs such as ticket takers, parking attendants, set up/clean up, picnic planning, interpretive docents, and site designers, were George Burtchett, Berit Carlsen, Gwynneth Carothers, Jim & Donna Clark, Andrea Culbertson, Sylvia de Rooy, Doug Deppe, Peggy Dunavan, Janelle Egger, Marcy Foster and her mom, Mark Fritzke, Mary Gearheart, Eve Gilmore, Margaret Gow, Judie Hinman, Bernie Huston, Nancy Ihara, Eric Johnson, Guy & Cindy Kuttner, Anita Leipper, Eric & Carol Larsen, Sue & Tom Leskiw, Grace Marton, Jane Meyer, Wanda Naylor, Chet Ogan, Carol & CJ Ralph, Gisela Rohde, Stan Shaffer, Philip & Rhonda Smyser, Shana Stearn, Gwen Thoele, Vicki Turner, Jill Tuttle, Cliff Van Cott, Jo Weisgerber, Berti Welty, Donna Wildearth, Joy Williams, and Leon Zlatkoff.

VIREO Looking for Support

Visual Resources for Ornithology (VIREO) -- a collection of 112,000 slides of 6500 bird species – is seeking funding to digitize its photo collection. A project of the Academy of National Sciences of Philadelphia, VIREO provides low-cost photographs to educators, birders, anyone who needs a slide for a presentation or publication. (For instance, RRAS purchased three for the Pam Flowers talk at this year’s banquet.)

All donations are tax deductible. For more information, e-mail VIREO@acnatsci.org or visit www.acnatsci.org/vireo.

Join Project FeederWatch

You can help scientists study winter bird populations by joining this project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. It’s as easy as putting up a feeder, counting birds that visit, and submitting your counts through the Internet. Over 16,000 citizen scientists in the US and Canada are already involved. A participation fee of \$25 brings you instructions, bird-feeding information, a poster, and a calendar. To learn more, call 800-843-BIRD or visit www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw.

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Announcements and Happenings for July 2004

Weekly Summer Nature Programs

Where: Lake Earl Wildlife Area & Tolowa Dunes State Park Visitor Center

North Coast Redwood Interpretive Association is pleased to announce a series of weekly summer interpretive programs at Tolowa Dunes State Park and the Lake Earl Wildlife Area, held from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Nature related field trips and/or slide presentations led by local and regional experts will take place every Sunday afternoon at the Tolowa Dunes State Park and the Lake Earl Wildlife Area Visitor Center, 2591 Old Mill Road, (off Northcrest Drive) Crescent City, California.

Upcoming events include birding trips, native plant walks, dune ecology tours, habitat hikes, and Tolowa heritage programs. Local and regional groups sponsoring and leading weekly programs include Lake Earl Audubon Branch, Redwood Region Audubon Society, California Native Plant Society, Friends of the Dunes, North Group Sierra Club, Tolowa Dunes Volunteers, and the Redwood Economic Development Institute.

Coinciding with the weekly events is the opening of a new Tolowa Dunes State Park and Lake Earl Wildlife Area Visitor Center and Nature Store. Open for the first time this summer during selected hours on the weekend, visitors to the Park and Wildlife Area can get free trail maps, birding and native plant information, as well as an array of books and nature items for sale.

Consult the list under [Field Trips on the Calendar page](#) for a list of events. **Contact for more information:** Sue Calla – 1-707-465-6191

July 15 Deadline for Purchasing Breeding Bird Atlas Art

One method of raising money to publish the Humboldt County BBA is to sell drawings commissioned from local wildlife artists. Donors purchase an illustration of their favorite species for \$125, receiving the original artwork and being credited in the atlas for sponsoring that species. The money generated is split between the artist and the atlas.

To date, 44 species have been sponsored. The following three birds – already commissioned -- are available to good homes: Cliff Swallow, Common Raven, and American Dipper. Also, many species that birders know and enjoy may be ordered prior to July 15: examples are Snowy Egret, Cinnamon Teal, Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Flicker, Barn Swallow, Marsh Wren, American Robin, Lazuli Bunting, Spotted (Rufous Sided) Towhee, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, and Western Meadowlark.

If you would like to support the BBA by purchasing art, call Jude Power at 822-3613.

Garden Tour Again Proves Popular Event

RRAS and the North Coast Chapter of the California Native Plant Society would like to thank the following for contributing to the continuing success of the Second Wildlife & Native Plant Garden Tour, held June 26. Nearly 300 people purchased tickets to visit the nine backyard habitats – both residential and commercial -- designed to attract pollinators or that featured native plants.

- Amy Stewart at the North Coast Journal, Mike Dronkers at KHUM, The Times-Standard, Arcata Eye, McKinleyville Press, Eureka Reporter, NCC Radio Group, KMUD, and News Channel 3, for their interviews, articles, and photographs.
- Ticket outlets: Strictly for the Birds, Miller Farms Nursery, Pierson's Garden Shop & Nursery, Garden Gate, Mad River Gardens, Northcoast Environmental Center, and Freshwater Farms.

- The Luddite String Band, for providing old-time, Celtic, and bluegrass music at the refreshment stop.
- Larissa, Cindy, and the rest of the staff at Freshwater Farms (get well soon, Rick!).
- The garden selection committee.
- The 43 volunteers, who staffed the check-in tables, served refreshments, supervised parking, set up/cleaned up for the refreshment stop and picnic, or performed docent interpretation at the commercial properties.
- The garden owners, who opened their properties to the public and were on hand for 6 hours to answer questions from attendees.
- Sue Leskiw, who handled logistics and publicity for the Garden Tour and ensuing volunteer appreciation tour and picnic.

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

Arcata – Julianne Brown, Lee Mitchell Brown, Carl Chatfield, Gail Crosby, Ernest Frei, Patricia Larson, Alice Lassiter, Karen Orsolics, Benjamin Tankersley, Richard Vincent, Sarah & Matt Walker, Esther Wallace, Rebecca Waters

Bayside – Joan Elk

Blue Lake – Jerry Stewart, Sue Walker

Crescent City – Mary Daniels, Katie Hyre, Martha Knight, Louise Norris, Sandra Rowan, A.W. Wellman

Eureka – James & Connie Cash, Lisa Embree, Dawn Gomersall, Karynn Merkel, Richard Miller, Betty Mueller, Sherman Nelson, Marianne Pennekamp, B. Post, Scott Shirk, Christopher Tonra

Fieldbrook – Edith Smith

Fortuna – R.M. Dino, Dick & Lee McDowell, Dagnija Meyer, Jeremy Rodriguez, Nikki Rosa, Mary Waters

Garberville – James Drews, Pansy King

Gasquet – The Roberts

Klamath – Norma Davis

McKinleyville – Christie Buchanan, Patricia Daniels, Barbara Morrison, Harry Neale, Virginia Prusha, Deborah Williams, Wesley Windsor, D.J. Yale

Myers Flat – Linda Sanders

Petrolia – Anita Roman

Redway – Estrella Quiroga

Trinidad – Joseph Christian, Elizabeth Hegy, Ron & Melanie Johnson, Tom Lindquist, The Marshalls, Ralph Reiner, Kimberlea Thorpe

Whitethorn – Marie Mills

Announcements and Happenings for May 2004

Special Children's Issue By Tom Leskiw, guest editor:

This past winter, it occurred to me that RRAS isn't as inclusive of children as it might be. It is they who will inherit the mantle of environmental stewardship; they who will need to find a way to co-exist with the other 6 billion (and counting!) inhabitants of this planet. The month of May is synonymous with rebirth and growth, as the Northern Hemisphere awakens to the sights, sounds, and smells of spring. For these reasons, it seems fitting to dedicate May 2004 as *The Sandpiper's* first annual Children's Issue. We would like to produce the Children's Issue once each year. Send your feedback to me at tomleskiw@aol.com or 442-5444.

I'd like to say a few words about the contributors. I met Brianne Yokoyama when she and my wife took a bird class from John Hewston in 1999. Tagging along on their trip to Elk Head, I immediately grasped that here was a future hot birder. She's now 16, a high school junior. Besides birdwatching, her favorite activities include beachcombing, playing the piano, reading, gardening, and drawing.

Once this issue was a "go," I contacted some parents for their input. Kerry Ross disclosed that he was "closet" maze-maker and would welcome the chance to contribute. In order to flourish, the birding community requires period infusions of younger birders replacing those of us who don't get out as often as we once did. Kerry's skills and enthusiasm ensure that Humboldt's reputation for nurturing hot birders continues.

When in need of environmentally themed artwork, locals often turn to Gary Bloomfield. In addition to original prints, his artwork graces posters, T-shirts, etc. He's a Humboldt mainstay. Who else you gonna call to produce this month's Children's Issue banner?

Mail Garden Tour Ticket Orders by June 16

Use the form below to attend the 2nd Annual Wildlife & Native Plant Garden Tour on Saturday, June 26. \$15 buys you entry to nine private and commercial gardens between Eureka and McKinleyville designed to attract hummingbirds, butterflies, and other wildlife or that feature native species.

If you miss the mail order deadline, you can buy tickets through the day of the tour at these locations: Eureka – Pierson's Garden Shop & Nursery, Strictly for the Birds, Freshwater Farms; Arcata – Northcoast Environmental Center, Garden Gate, Mad River Gardens; McKinleyville – Miller Farms Nursery.

Conservation Report by Chet Ogan

What's on the scope? Wave power. It seems that "location" has been a key element for projects here. Wal-mart had chosen the balloon tract for their site. If Eureka is to have any chance at using its seaport as a trans-shipping location, it needs a fairly large site to serve as a hub to offload cargo from seagoing containers onto trucks or railroad cars. The logical site is the balloon tract.

Now a Minnesota company is looking at areas around Humboldt Bay to build a wave-generated power facility. This sounds like a relatively clean potential power source, but where are the snags? Location. The plan is to use the wave power to pump water from the ocean into a large reservoir or tower on land then use gravity to power turbines to provide electricity. Fishermen will be concerned that fishing grounds may be taken to site the array of pumps. A large enough reservoir site will need to be procured to hold the water. McKinleyville, Table Bluff, and Samoa Peninsula have been suggested as potential reservoir locations. What about Centerville? Let's hear out the proposal.

Jim Clark reported at our Conservation Committee meeting about a new system called "pictrometrix" that uses low angle photo images taken over different periods of time to detect changes in land uses. This system has been used to detect illegal wetland fills.

At the recent Pacific Coast Joint Venture meeting, it was reported that state bond money has been used to purchase several key properties near Lake Earl.

Good news-bad news? According to California Department of Fish and Game, more Aleutian Geese are now found feeding and roosting near Humboldt Bay than are using areas near Crescent City. These geese are foraging primarily on the Arcata Bottoms and flying to the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge to roost at night. This is a concern to dairy farmers in the bottoms. Unfortunately the Aleutian geese are not heavily using Mad River Slough Wildlife Area, but instead use fields adjacent to Samoa Blvd. and Lanphere Road.

In the early 1990's, RRAS Conservation Committee considered trying to get Humboldt Bay designated as a Ramsar site. Chad Roberts, Conservation Committee chair at that time, suggested as a first step we should consider becoming a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) site. In 1998 I was instrumental in getting that designation for refuges around Humboldt Bay. At the Humboldt Bay Symposium last March 15 several people mentioned that it would be good to seek Ramsar designation for Humboldt Bay. David Hull, Chairman of the Humboldt Bay Harbor Commission, was among those seeing the benefits of such a designation, after all, Bolinas Lagoon and Tomales Bay are already Ramsar sites. A Ramsar designation suggests "*wetlands should be selected for the List on account of their international significance in terms of ecology, botany, zoology, limnology or hydrology.*" The Humboldt Bay region certainly qualifies. We are already recognized as an Important Bird Area by both American Birding Association and National Audubon.

The Conservation Committee meets the third Thursday each month at noon at the Golden Harvest Restaurant in Arcata. Members are welcome. The next meetings are scheduled for May 20 and June 17.

Thank You, Godwit Café Donors & Volunteers

RRAS sends its appreciation to Los Bagels for donating the bagels and Brio Breadworks for the bread sold in the Café and to Has-Beans and Strawhouse Coffee for giving us coffee to brew. A huge "chef hats off" to Troy Leopardo and his helper Philip Smyser, who crafted the beef stew and pea soup, and to Philip Smyser and Chet Ogan for putting the whole thing together.

The Café operated 20 hours during the Godwit Days festival, raising \$600 for RRAS. This feat required yeoman efforts from the following volunteers: Marji Anderson, Richard & Chris Beresford, Laura & Mike Bradley, Jim Clark, David Fix & Jude Power, Laura Julian, Barbara Kelly, Troy Leopardo, Grace Marton, Rinda & Don McClure, Dick & Ann McWorter, Chet & Barbara Ogan, and CJ Ralph.

First Student Bird Art Contest a Hit By Sue Leskiw

During Godwit Days April 16-18, drawings from over 100 Humboldt County school children were displayed at the Arcata Community Center. Friends of the Arcata Marsh (FOAM) and Redwood Region Audubon Society (RRAS) teamed to sponsor this first annual student bird art contest. Over \$200 in prizes were awarded at the festival's opening reception.

2004 Art Contest Winners. Front row (left to right): Nicholas Thomas, Ryan Thomas, Jenafer Knight. Back row: Emily Uemura, Sam Vaughn, Gregory Arena, Lauren Tompkins, Chelsea Stewart-Fusek. Not shown: Madelin Pitts, Cebre Allen, Jasmine Dorrell, Treena Yampolsky, Alisha Brown.

Some 143 students – from kindergarten through high school senior -- responded to the call for drawings of any of 40 bird species. The results were judged by a panel of local wildlife artists and educators, who selected 13 winners, as follows. There are clickable links to each group's artwork

Grades K-3

- First Place, Nicholas Thomas, Dow's Prairie School

- Second Place, Ryan Thomas, Dow's Prairie School
- Third Place (tie), Jenafer Knight, Castlerock Charter School, and Madelin Pitts, Blue Lake School

Grades 4-6

- First Place, Emily Uemura, St Mary's School
- Second Place, Sam Vaughn, St Mary's School
- Third Place (tie), Gregory Arena, St Mary's School, and Lauren Tompkins, home schooled

Grades 7-9

- First Place, Cebre Allen, Fieldbrook School
- Second Place, Chelsea Stewart-Fusek, Fieldbrook School

Grades 10-12

- First Place, Jasmine Dorrell, South Fork High
- Second Place, Treena Yampolsky, South Fork High
- Third Place, Alisha Brown, South Fork High

Entries were received from 18 different schools throughout the county: Bloomfield, Trillium Charter, Salmon Creek, Dow's Prairie, Mattole Valley Spanish Immersion, Sunset, Whitethorn, Blue Lake, Lafayette, Grant, Castle Rock Charter, Cutten, St Mary's, Alice Birney, Jacoby Creek, Pacific Union, Fieldbrook, Eureka High, South Fork High, plus one home-schooled child.

Third graders (35%) and first graders (18%) accounted for over half the entries. The most popular birds drawn were Great Blue Heron (14), Bald Eagle (13), Marbled Godwit (12), and Great Egret (10). No one drew the signature birds of the two sponsoring groups: Marsh Wren for FOAM and Marbled Murrelet for RRAS!

Thanks go to the judges – Louise Bacon-Ogden, Gary Bloomfield, Rick Kruse, Linda Parkinson, Sara Starr, and Gwen Thoele – and to Sue Leskiw for coordinating the event.

Redwood Region Audubon Society Local Membership Category

Local membership in RRAS is available for our supporters who want to receive *The Sandpiper*, but not be members of National Audubon. The cost of this service is \$15. Please make checks payable to RRAS and send to P.O. Box 1054, Eureka, CA 95502. Write LOCAL MEMBERSHIP on your check.

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

Arcata – Shawna Bell, Jane Cole & John Sawyer, Nicole Hutchins, Sara Starr, Tim Weber

Bayside – Kenneth Byrne

Crescent City – Paul Galloway, Joan Hayes

Eureka – Liz Burko, Corinne Moen, Claire Perricelli, Mike Seeber, D.M. Souza

Lolita – Colleen Sullivan

McKinleyville – Dixie Garrett

Trinidad – Paul Ely

Announcements and Happenings for April 2004

Godwit Days Are Here!

Arcata invites you to the 8th annual Godwit Days, the three-day spring migration festival celebrating the Marbled Godwit and all birds of the coastal redwoods, bays and marshes of Northern California!

More than 75 birding field trips and workshops are offered in and around Arcata - in the heart of California's redwood coast.

Amid our ancient redwood forests, marshes and the Pacific Ocean, 450 species of birds have been recorded visiting here annually. Won't you visit too?

Watch Marbled Murrelets arcing through towering redwoods at dawn, have face-to-face encounters with spotted owls, and take small boat tours of Humboldt Bay to view migrant shorebirds at their peak.

For more information, call toll-free at 800-908-WING or log on to <http://www.godwitdays.com/>.

Conservation Report by Chet Ogan

The Clam and Moonstone Beach Draft Management Plan will be discussed at Azalea Hall, McKinleyville on March 31. A paper in the Journal of Field Ornithologists by Tamiko Ruhlen showed that most damage to snowy plover populations at Pt. Reyes occurred on weekends, evidence that human disturbance reduces snowy plover chick populations. We owe a word of gratitude to the County Board of Supervisors for their efforts to create a management plan for this area. Although the majority of people are complying with the new regulations, incidents are occurring that threaten the snowy plover population stabilization in this area.

BLM staff in the Kings Range has been encouraging swallows to nest on the sides of the buildings away from doors and walkways and by discouraging them along the sides of their buildings where staff and visitors enter.

RRAS is increasingly frustrated by the lack of action by the City of Eureka to comply with the provisions of the contract with the California Coastal Commission to improve the Eureka Marsh. The culverts that allow tides to enter the marsh need to be reengineered to allow for adequate tidal exchange and the agreed upon improvements need to be completed.

Calpine Corporation decided to pull out of negotiations to site an LNG (Liquified Natural Gas) plant on Humboldt Bay. RRAS did not join the coalition against LNG, though we supported the coalition, because we felt our voice could be better expressed by giving our own statement. Sue Leskiw read the statement at the public meeting March 16 emphasizing the need to conserve the environment and protect wildlife.

The Conservation Committee meets the third Thursday each month at noon at the Golden Harvest Restaurant in Arcata. Members are welcome. The next meeting is scheduled for April 15.

Wildlife & Native Plant Garden Tour to Be Held June 26

Nine gardens – from downtown Eureka to McKinleyville, including residential and commercial sites – will be featured in the second annual Wildlife & Native Plant Garden Tour. The event, to be held Saturday, June 26 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., is co-sponsored by the Redwood Region Audubon Society and the North Coast Chapter of the California Native Plant Society.

The selected gardens showcase plants that attract wildlife (especially pollinators such as hummingbirds and butterflies) or emphasize native species. The event is intended to increase community awareness of backyard habitats and to raise funds for both nonprofit groups.

Tickets will go on sale in April/May and cost \$15. Eureka ticket outlets are Pierson's Garden Center, Strictly for the Birds, and Freshwater Farms; Arcata/McKinleyville sales locations are the Northcoast Environmental Center, Garden Gate, Mad River Gardens, and Miller Farms Nursery.

RRAS Sponsors Science Fair Award

"Wildfires: Give Me a Break" by Joshua Compton, a seventh-grader at Pacific Union School, was selected as the best project dealing with birds and their habitat at the annual Humboldt County Science Fair held in March. This was the third year that RRAS has sponsored a prize at the fair.

Joshua's project determined the effects of ridgetop fuelbreaks in a conifer stand on moderate (35%) and steep (65%) slopes. He constructed a small-scale (1/150th) model in his back yard using pine branches, alder twigs, chemise brush, pine shavings, and moss. The fuels were ignited and results gridmapped according to the degree of vegetation consumed. He found that ridgetop fuelbreaks can be an effective tool in fire management.

RRAS judges Louise Bacon-Ogden, Sue Leskiw, Gary Bloomfield, Hal Genger, and Shana Stearn evaluated exhibits created by students in grades 4 through 8 to choose a winner. The prize – a \$50 check and 1-year RRAS membership – was awarded during a ceremony on March 19 at Humboldt State University.

Joshua also was selected as one of 14 grand prize winners from Humboldt County, which means that he will have his expenses paid for a trip to the state competition at the University of Southern California in May.

Thank You to More Auction Donors!

Our apologies to the following people who were inadvertently left out of the donor listing in the March issue: Carol Andersen, Frank & Marji Anderson, Joan Dunning, John Hewston, and Jim & Virginia Waters.

West Nile Virus Surveillance

The State Department of Health Services (DHS) is asking birders to help track the timing and regional spread of West Nile virus (WNV) in California. Last year, 8,670 dead birds were reported; of 1,750 tested, 96 birds were positive for WNV (approximately 80% of them being crows).

You can report dead birds by calling toll-free 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473) Monday-Friday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. The DHS and local vector control agencies will collect and test species most susceptible to the virus: corvids, sparrows, finches, and raptors. To be acceptable for testing, a bird must be dead no longer than 24 hours. Birds can be refrigerated but do not put carcasses in a regular freezer. For more information, visit the DHS website at www.westnile.ca.gov.

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Bayside – Kenneth Byrne

Crescent City – Paul Galloway, Joan Hayes

Eureka – Liz Burko, Corinne Moen, Claire Perricelli, Mike Seeber, D.M. Souza

Loleta – Colleen Sullivan

McKinleyville – Dixie Garrett

Trinidad – Paul Ely

Announcements and Happenings for March 2004

Awards Presented at Annual Dinner

Over 110 people attended the RRAS banquet held February 14 at the North Coast Inn. Keynote speaker Pam Flowers delivered a funny and poignant account of her 2500-mile solo trans-Arctic dogsled expedition, the longest such journey by a woman in recorded history.

Tom Leskiw was presented the RRAS Member/Volunteer of the Year Award for 9 years of service on the board of directors, a decade of Sandpiper columns, work on the Humboldt County Breeding Bird Atlas, leading field trips, and chairing the Wildlife & Native Plant Garden Tour.



Member/Volunteer of the Year recipient Tom Leskiw [left] accepts his award from RRAS president Jim Clark.

Two \$150 awards were given to Humboldt State University students: a travel grant to Cheryl Millett to attend the western section meeting of The Wildlife Society to present her work on Snowy Plover breeding and a research grant to Theresa Spang to support her investigation of Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary use by domestic cats. Boyd Smith of Eco Gardening accepted the \$100 K-12 scholarship on behalf of the Trillium Community Charter School's Gardening/Nature Studies Program Project.

The Conservation Award was presented to Tim Ayres and Aryay Kalaki of the Beach & Dunes Stewards for more than a decade of service addressing enforcement and public safety issues related to implementation of the county's Beach & Dunes Management Plan.

A check for half the fall 2003 Bird-a-thon proceeds was presented to Tim McKay, executive director of the Northcoast Environmental Center. An additional donation was made to the NEC's Rebuild It Fund.

Thank You, Auction Donors & Bidders!

A Silent & Live Auction held in conjunction with the RRAS Annual Banquet once again proved to be our chapter's largest fundraiser, netting over \$3,400. The Board would like to recognize Sue Leskiw for organizing the event, CJ Ralph for putting together the live auction, Tim McKay for serving as emcee, and Philip Smyser, Dick Laursen, Sue & Tom Leskiw, Frank Anderson, Elias Elias, Gary Bloomfield, and Luke George for contacting potential donors. Setup was accomplished by Shana Stearn, Tom & Sue Leskiw, CJ Ralph, Frank & Marji Anderson, and their friend Lee Anne, while Carol Ralph, Donna Clark, Sue Leskiw, and Jan Andersen served as cashiers.

Following is a complete list of donors, arranged alphabetically: Adel's, Adventure's Edge, A&L Feed and Garden, Arcata Community Pool, Arcata Exchange, Arcata MainStreet, Gary Bloomfield, Elizabeth Bollinger, Berit Carlsen, Carter House, Kay Gott Chaffey, Chalet House of Omelettes, Crosswinds, Denny's, Eureka Natural Foods, Folie Douce, Freshwater Farms, Chris Frolking, Gallery Dog, Gill's by the Bay, Golden Harvest, Gottschalk's, Hensel's Hardware, Humboldt Audio & Video, LBJ Enterprises, Sue Leskiw, Ron LeValley, Frances Madrone, Marie Callender's, McKinleyville Press, Marsha Mello, Miller Farms, Minor Theater Corporation, Natural Selection,

Wanda Naylor, Nilsen Company, Northtown Books, Jeanne O'Neale, Linda Parkinson, Pierson Building Center, Plaza Design, Pro Sport Center, CJ Ralph, Ray's Food Place, Jane Riggan, Safeway, Sizzler, Sjaak's, Strictly for the Birds, Gwen Thoele, Three G's Hay & Grain, Tin Can Mailman, Tomas Jewelers, Trinidad Rancheria, Bill Van Fleet, Village Pantry, Catherine Walling, Jim Welsh, and Pinky Zalkin.



Cashiers Carol Ralph and Sue Leskiw "show you the money" (over \$3400 in proceeds from live and silent auctions). Not shown: Donna Clark.

Conservation Report

The Conservation Committee met on February 19, 2004 at the Golden Harvest Cafe in Arcata at 12:00 noon.

Attending were Jim Clark, Barbara Kelly, Sue Leskiw, Tim McKay, Melvin McKinney and Philip Smyser.

Tim got the discussion going early about the liquefied natural gas facility proposed for Humboldt Bay's North Spit. Although most local conservation organizations are focusing on the public endangerment aspects of such a proposal, RRAS is going to limit its comments to potential local and global environmental consequences. The committee also has concerns about the place of massive natural gas importation in a sound (not the current one) national energy policy.

Mel reported that the Trails Committee wants the City of Eureka to take some action on trails beyond just talking about it and agreeing that it is a good idea. It appears that some additional commitment might be coming from the city. Getting people into the gulches and on trails the right way may enhance residential property values if done correctly. Jim mentioned that RRAS's multiple offers to assist and volunteer in several aspects of the Eureka Gulch and Greenways project had generated almost no response from the City. Sue remarked that it looked like it was time for Jim to lead another Eureka Gulches field trip.

Sue opened the discussion about the Hammond Trail extension across Widow White Creek. Jim pointed out that former Conservation Chairman Chad Roberts did not object to the extension of the trail but to the construction of the trail and bridge taking place without a coastal development permit. Sue offered to write a letter stating that RRAS was not opposed to the trail extension provided that it was done in accordance with the local coastal plan.

Next meeting is March 18, 2004; same time, same place, Chet Ogan presiding.

RRAS Co-sponsoring Humboldt Bay Symposium

All are invited to attend a free public symposium on "Current Perspectives on the Physical and Biological Processes of Humboldt Bay." The one-day session, crafted by the Humboldt Bay Stewards, will be held on Monday, March 15 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Wharfinger Building on the Eureka waterfront. Presentations will include the history of human influences, circulation modeling using LIDAR data, physical processes and functions, habitat relationships to physical functions, and future planning considerations. At the end of the day, a panel composed of scientists, business, environmental groups, and agency representatives will provide fresh perspectives on bay management and protection and identify information gaps. Lunch will be provided. Sponsors are RRAS, Friends of the Arcata Marsh, EPIC, Humboldt State University, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and Sea Grant.

March 29 Deadline for Student Bird Art Contest Entries

A reminder that RRAS, in cooperation with FOAM, is sponsoring an art contest this April. Some \$200 in prizes will be awarded in four grade categories (K-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12). Winners will be announced at the Godwit Days opening reception on Friday, April 16 and winning pieces will be displayed at the Arcata Community Center.

Artwork may be in color or black and white. Subject must be a rendering of bird(s) from a list of 40 species. Flyers with complete rules are available at the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center and Strictly for the Birds or by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to the RRAS post office box.

Artwork may be dropped off at Strictly for the Birds, 123 F Street, Eureka, or the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center, South G Street, Arcata; or mailed to RRAS, P.O. Box 1054, Eureka CA 95502.

Help Wanted

RRAS needs your help. With the Godwit Café in April, booths at public events, etc., we need volunteers to work with the public and behind the scenes. If you are available to give as little as 2 hours a month to insure the success of these ventures, please contact Philip Smyser, your volunteer coordinator, at 442-5904 or philipsmyser@yahoo.com.

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

Arcata – Erik Downs, Arielce Manoli, Robin Renshaw, Charles Rudd

Blue Lake – Ken Norman Family, Shane O'Neill

Crescent City – Steven & Loretta Farrell, Lucrecia Freeman, Darline Kiley, Lathrop Leonard, Paul Senyszyn

Eureka – Tracy Cline, Miles Esget, Dana Jacobs, Kara Lynn Klarner, Gretchen Konrady, Carol Richter, Mary Rowe, Christopher Scott, Robert Thompson, Rob Young

Ferndale – Joyce Ksicinski

Fortuna – Richard Johnson

Garberville – Elsie Branscomb

McKinleyville – David Elsebusch, Jennie & T. Hartwick, Daniel Humiston, Marta Priebe, Edith Robertson, Slade Sapora, L.J. Wren

Myers Flat – Merry Perkins

Trinidad – Jill McCoy, Ned Simmons Jr

Whitethorn – Miriam Alexander, Zoe Chapman

Announcements and Happenings for January 2004

RRAS Completes Successful Year of Field Trips by Sue Leskiw

During 2003, RRAS volunteers led 33 field trips in addition to weekly walks at the Arcata Marsh. Nearly 350 attendees took advantage of the birding expertise of these dedicated field trip leaders. The most popular trip was a visit to Horse Mountain in search of butterflies, led jointly by Pete Haggard of CNPS and Tom Leskiw of RRAS as a prelude to the Wildlife & Native Plant Garden Tour. Participant Bill Rodstrom pointed out that it was nearly 10 years to the day since a similar trip had been offered!

A new series of trips (every other month) to the Potowat Village constructed by United Indian Health Services was initiated. In March, Tracy Cline and Gretchen O'Brien led a very successful walk in honor of International Women's Day. RRAS members also pitched in to clean up the Eureka Marsh in conjunction with Earth Day in April. Unfortunately, bad weather canceled Elias's Sage Grouse lek trek.

RRAS would like to take this opportunity to send out a heartfelt "Thank you" to the special field trip leaders who were willing to share their expertise with local residents (and many tourists) during 2003: Tracy Cline, Elias Elias, David Fix & Jude Power, Pablo Herrera, John Hewston, Mark Morrisette, Laura Nelson, Gretchen O'Brien, Brian O'Donnell, Chet Ogan, Kerry Ross, Matt Wachs, and Don Wattenberg.

And let's not forget those stalwarts who, during the past year, escorted birders through the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary, rain or shine, every Saturday at 8:30 am: Frank Anderson, Gary Bloomfield, Jim & Donna Clark, Brent Critch, Elias Elias, Gary Friedrichsen, Esther Gilcrist, Stan Harris, Larry Karsteadt, Paul Lohse, Carl Meyers, Michael Morris, Mark Morrisette, Chet Ogan, Bill Rodstrom, Mary Severdia, Paul & Virginia Springer, Pete & Nancy Spruance, Jim Tietz, and Jared Wolfe.

Help Wanted

RRAS needs your help. With the Silent Auction in February, Godwit Café in April, booths at public events, etc., we need volunteers to work with the public and behind the scenes. If you are available to give as little as 2 hours a month to insure the success of these ventures, please contact Philip Smyser, your volunteer coordinator, at 442-5904 or philipmyser@yahoo.com.

Conservation Committee Report by Jim Clark

The Conservation Committee met on December 20, 2003 at noon at the Golden Harvest Cafe in Arcata. Jim Clark, Barbara Kelly, Melvin McKinney, Chet Ogan and Philip Smyser attended.

Illegal ORV use was discussed, and Jim noted that the problem is not limited to the dune areas around Lake Earl but appears to be pervasive on the coast north of Mendocino County. He will contact Julia Levin of Audubon California to find out the most effective way of getting ORVs out of areas where they are supposed to be prohibited.

Eureka Marsh: Plans are going forward, including the Phragmites eradication. Mel thinks that there should be public information meetings to explain what the plans are in detail and clarify some issues. Jim got a call from someone concerned about the use of the glyphosate herbicide Rodeo® after reading erroneous information that it was a cumulative poison and equivalent to Roundup®. There is also a lack of adequate analysis to justify the culvert replacement which would significantly restrict tidal action in the re-created salt marsh.

Enforcement of environmental regulations on the South Spit of Humboldt Bay appears to have fallen below the agreed upon level. Fortunately, there was no intrusion into the Snowy plover exclusion area. This issue will be combined with the communication with Julia Levin as part of the larger issue.

Jim mentioned that a trade advertiser that he gets at work had an article that criticized the web site <www.environment2004.org> for being hard on **Bush's environmental actions** and cited the Everglades project as an example of a good project. Unfortunately, our president had little to do with that. Log on and you will find some friends and NAS Chair of the board there.

LNG: There will be a meeting with the City of Eureka on January 20.

McDaniel Slough EIR Draft is out and contains flaws. The representative species list contains species that are not common to the area. A revision of the list is needed. The most challenging aspect of this project may be controlling the brackish marsh. It is hoped that there will be adequate adjustment of tidal flows to mimic the brackish marsh habitat that has been severely reduced around Humboldt Bay

Next Meeting is February 19, 2004, same place, same time.

Donations of Goods & Services Sought for Silent Auction

For the fourth 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!

To make a tax-deductible donation, call Elias Elias at 826-2758. All donors will be recognized at the banquet on February 14 and in the Sandpiper as well as receive thank-you letters.

RRAS to Sponsor Educational Awards

A \$100 scholarship to a K-12 student/classroom and a \$150 grant for an HSU student to conduct a research project or attend and present the results of his/her research at a scientific meeting will be underwritten by RRAS.

Applications for both awards are due on February 2, 2004, and winners will be presented their checks at the RRAS annual banquet on February 14.

Flyers advertising the K-12 scholarship -- for projects related to local habitats or species, conservation, or other environmental topics -- will be distributed to all Humboldt County schools in early January and mailed to teachers who attended the environmental education fair at College of the Redwoods.

Preference for the college award will be given to research conducted on birds in northern California, although projects related to local habitats or species, conservation, or other environmental topics will be accepted. The winner is expected to give a 45-minute presentation of his/her research, geared to the informed layperson, at an RRAS general meeting.

To receive an application form, contact Louise Bacon-Ogden, Scholarship Chair, 123 F St, Eureka, CA 95501; phone 445-8304 or 445-1822; e-mail sftb@juno.com.

Children's Art Contest at Godwit Days

RRAS, in cooperation with Friends of the Arcata Marsh (FOAM), is sponsoring an art contest this April. Some \$200 in prizes will be awarded in four grade categories (K-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12). Winners will be announced at the Godwit Days opening reception on Friday, April 16 and winning pieces will be displayed at the Arcata Community Center.

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RRAS Sponsors Science Fair Award

Again this year, RRAS will be sponsoring an award for the best project dealing with birds and their habitat at the annual Humboldt County Science Fair. The event will be held in mid-March at Humboldt State University. RRAS

volunteer judges will evaluate exhibits created by elementary, middle, and high school students to choose a winner. The prize is a \$50 check and a 1-year local RRAS membership.

Thinking of Joining the National Audubon Society?

If so, please use the coupon on the membership page. By sending in your membership on this form, rather than replying to solicitations from National Audubon, \$20 is sent directly to RRAS. This is how NAS rewards local chapters for recruiting national members. (Otherwise, the RRAS dues share per new member is only a couple of dollars.) Thank you.

Redwood Region Audubon Society Local Membership Category

Local membership in RRAS is available for our supporters who want to receive *The Sandpiper*, but not be members of National Audubon. The cost of this service is \$15. Please make checks payable to RRAS and send to P.O. Box 1054, Eureka, CA 95502. Write LOCAL MEMBERSHIP on your check.

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Arcata – Arron McGregor, Jennifer Weaver

Eureka – Tomio Furusawa, Janet Humble, Anna Justus, Susan & Mary Lou, Pren Nothnagel, Alison Onstine

Ferndale – Jim Stretch

Whitethorn – Estrella Quiroga

Yuba City – Dale Kuhn