

Field Notes
by Stan Harris
26 October-28 November 2004

Kind of a slow month, punctuated by a little longspur hysteria and a few good birds. Don't forget to join one or more of the upcoming Christmas Counts. We need your help. Abbreviations used: **AB = Arcata Bottoms; AMP = Arcata Marsh Project; AOP = Arcata Oxidation Pond; anon = observer unknown, either missing or unintelligible on bird box or observation sheet; BRR = Bear River Ridge; BSLP - Butcher Slough Log Pond; ED = Expected Date; EL = Expected Location; EM = Expected Migrant; EMSN = Expected Migrant in Small Numbers; ENLD = Expected Number, Location and Date; ES = Expected Straggler; FR = Few Records; GW = Gee Whiz report; HBNWR = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; HS = Hookton Slough; ID = Interesting Date; IIT= Interesting, if true; IL = Interesting Location; IM = Interesting Morph; IN = Interesting Numbers; mo = Many Observers; MRE = Mad River Estuary; MRSWA = Mad River Slough Wildlife Area; MS = Monitored Species; NC = Not Confirmed by an independent party; ND= No details or description given; x = unknown number, not reported by observer.**

Goose migration is pretty well over, a few stragglers remain: Examples: **White-fronted Goose (ES):** 3 imm., Lake Cleone, 25 Oct (DT); 1 ad, Bald Hill near Ft. Bragg, 16 Nov (DT): **Lesser Snow Goose (EM):** 95 in flight toward SE over Grove's Prairie, 4 Nov (TL); **(ES)** 1, HBNWR, 11 Nov (JT, et al.); 1, Humboldt Bay flats, 17 Nov (JT, et al.); 1, Lake Cleone, 12-20 Nov (DT): **Taverner's Cackling Goose (FR):** 4, mouth of Elk Creek, Crescent City, 13 Nov (RF, AB, reported as Dusky Canada Geese, but description given ["half way in size between Western and Cackler"] fits this species and form better): **Eurasian Wigeon (EMSN):** 5 reports of 1-3 males from McKinleyville OP, AMP, HS, 5-20 Nov (SC, KR, JT, et al.); **Blue-winged Teal (EMSN):** 1, BSLP, 6 Nov (JA); 1 pair, BSLP, 19 Nov (JT et al.); 1, Gearheart Marsh, 25 Nov (SC): **Redhead (EMSN):** 1-2, Allen Marsh, 10-19 Nov (FA, JT, et al., DD); "1 or more in just about every scaup flock", South Humboldt Bay, 26 Nov (DB): **KING EIDER (GW):** 1 in female plumage, reported to be a "hatch-year" bird, was shot on South Humboldt Bay, 26 Nov (JTo), only the 8th acceptable record for the northcoast, and the 4th known specimen which will be privately mounted. **Harlequin (EMSN):** 1 male or 1 pair at King Salmon or North Jetty, 8-16 Nov (EE, MW, JT, JW, EW): **Black Scoter (EMSN):** 1 female, on beach at South Spit on a "big seas" day, 26 Oct (SMcA); 2, Trinidad, 16 Nov (MH).

Oldsquaws in Danger

Long-tailed Duck (EMSN): 1-2, MRE, 20-25 Nov (SC, JoP, RSa): **Common Goldeneye (EMSN, EL):** 1-3, MRE, 20-25 Nov (SC): **Hooded Merganser (EMSN):** 1 pair, south end, Clam Beach, 31 Oct (BA); 1 female, MRE, 21 Nov (SC): **Ruffed Grouse (FR):** 1, Grove's Prairie, 4 Nov (TL): **Red-necked Grebe (EMSN):** x, Shelter Cove, 6 Nov (RS, et al.): **Black-footed Albatross (ENLD):** 5, up to 15 miles off Eureka, 30 Oct (BA): **Northern Fulmar (ENLD):** 45 (only 4 white ones), up to 15 miles off Eureka, 30 Oct (BA); x, seen from shore at Shelter Cove, 6 Nov (RS, et al.); 1, seen from North Jetty, 16 Nov (JW, EW): **Pink-footed Shearwater (ED):** 1, up to 15 miles off Eureka, 30 Oct (BA); 1, seen from shore, Shelter Cove, 6 Nov (**ID**) (RS, et al.): **Buller's Shearwater (ID):** 7, up to 15 miles off Eureka, 30 Oct (BA); (**IL**), 1 seen from shore, Shelter Cove, 6 Nov (RS, et al.): **Short-tailed Shearwater (GW, ND, NC):** 35, seen from shore, Shelter Cove, 6 Nov (RS, et al.); 6 seen from North Jetty, 20 Nov (SC): **Black-vented Shearwater (GW, ND, NC):** 20 reported from shore, Shelter Cove, 6 Nov (RS, et al.): **Brown Pelican (IN):** 400 "flying north" past Shelter Cove, 6 Nov (RS, et al.): **Cattle Egret (FR):** 5, Front Street Park, Crescent City, 9 Nov (AB, EC); 1, AMP, Klopp Lake, 13-18 Nov (JT, et al.): **Green Heron (FR):** 1, Klopp Lake, 17 Nov (JT, et al.): **Crested Caracara (GW):** 1, with Turkey Vultures, Ferndale Bottoms, 28 Nov (CD): **Osprey (ID):** 1, AMP, 19 Nov (JT, et al.): **White-tailed Kite (IN):** 5, HBNWR, 7 Nov (RC): **Bald Eagle (MS):** 3 imm., Fish Hatchery, Blue Lake, 21 Nov (SC); 2 ad, Willow Creek, 19 Nov (MC, et al.); 1 ad, near Junction City, 19 Nov (MC, et al.): **Goshawk (FR, ND, NC):** 1, Waterman Ridge, 14 Nov (KI): **Red-shouldered Hawk:** 1 banded bird seen, Old Arcata Road, 7 Nov (LT): **Red-tailed Hawk (IN, IM):** 6, BRR, 13 Nov (SMcA); 1 dark morph, near

Freshwater School, 7 Nov (LT): **Ferruginous Hawk (EMSN)**: 1, Big Lagoon, 21 Nov (KI); 1, Mad River Bottoms, 28-30 Oct (RF, DM, EMcK); 1 near Fortuna, 14 Nov (SC); 1, BRR, 5 Nov (SMcA); 1-3 Cape Ridge, 4-14 Nov (SMcA); 1, Bald Hill at Ft. Bragg 25 Oct (DT): **Rough-legged Hawk (ED)**: 1, end Cannibal Road, 6-7 Nov (DF, JP); 1 dark subad, 1 other, BRR, 11 Nov; 2, BRR, 13 Nov; 1, Cape Mendocino, 13 Nov (all SMcA); 1, Bald Hills, 21 Nov (KI): **Golden Eagle (FR)**: 1-2, BRR, 5-13 Nov (SMcA); 2, Waterman Ridge, 14 Nov (KI): **Merlin (MS)**: 12 reports including 1 dark *suckleyi* from Trinidad, Crannell Road, AMP, MRE, MRSWA, HS, Fortuna, 26 Oct-25 Nov (mo): **Peregrine Falcon (MS)**: 16 reports of 1-2 birds from Blank Rock, MRSWA, AMP, Blue Lake Fish Hatchery, Pigeon Pt. Road, south Eureka, HBNWR, HS, King Salmon, South Jetty, BRR, Bunker Hill Road, Cape Mendocino, and 10 miles at sea, 30 Oct-24 Nov (mo).

Raptors on the Ridge

Prairie Falcon (FR): 1, Cape Ridge, 4 Nov; 1, end of BRR, 12 Nov (both SMcA): **Snowy Plover (MS)**: 2, mouth of Lake Talawa, 13 Nov (RF, AB): **Spotted Sandpiper (EM)**: 2, Trinidad, 16 Nov (MH): **Wandering Tattler (ID)**: 1, Glass Beach, 2-22 Nov (DT, at site where one wintered last year): **Red Knot (FR)**: 2, Klopp Lake Isl, 26 Nov (SC): **Rock Sandpiper (FR)**: 10 reports of 1-5 from Pt. St. George, Trinidad, North Jetty, King Salmon, Field's Landing, Shelter Cove, Glass Beach, Laguna Point/Virgin Beach, 25 Oct-20 Nov (mo): **Red-necked Phalarope (IT, ND, NC)**: 5 reported, no details given on identification, offshore, 30 Oct (BA) latish for this species: **Red Phalarope (EM)**: 2, MRE, Humb. Bay, 20 Oct (SC): **Parasitic Jaeger (ID)**: 1, chasing a Mew Gull, south end of Clam Beach, 25 Nov (SC): **Herring Gull (FR)**: x, Shelter Cove, 6 Nov (RS, et al.); 2, Trinidad, 16 Nov (MH): **Thayer's Gull (FR, NC, ND)**: first year, mouth Mattole River (SMcA); x, Shelter Cove, 6 Nov (RS, et al.); 1, AMP, 20 Nov (SC): **Glaucous Gull (FR)**: Trinidad Pier, 28 Nov (MH): **Black-legged Kittiwake (EM)**: 2, off Eureka, 30 Oct (BA); 1, MRE, 12 Nov (KR); 15-20, North Jetty, 16-20 Nov (JW, EW, SC): **Caspian Tern (ID)**: 1, King Salmon, 10 Nov (JT, et al.); 2, HS, 11 Nov (JT, et al.); 1, mouth Elk River, 16 Nov (SC): **Elegant Tern (ID)**: 1, Eureka Channel, 31 Oct (BA): **Forster's Tern (ED)**: 21, AMP, 13 Nov (JT, et al.): **Marbled Murrelet (FR)**: 4, nearshore, 30 Oct (BA): **Cassin's Auklet (IN)**: 1 (only), to 15 miles offshore, 30 Oct (BA): **Rhinoceros Auklet (EM)**: 25, offshore to 15 miles, 30 Oct (BA): **Tufted Puffin (MS, FR)**: 1, offshore to 15 miles, 30 Oct (BA): **White-winged Dove (FR)**: 1, feeder, south Eureka, 20-27 Nov (DJ, et al.): **Great Horned Owl**: 1, hooting, Fortuna, 12 Nov (RC): **Burrowing Owl (FR)**: 1, Bald Hill at Ft. Bragg, 20 Oct-21 Nov (DT): **Barred Owl (FR)**: 1, eating a shrew, photographed, Arcata Comm. Forest, 9 Nov (BC); 1, Trinidad, 14 Nov (KI): **Short-eared Owl (EM)**: 1, Bald Hill, Ft. Bragg, 7 Nov (DT); 2-4, MRSWA, 20-23 Nov (JT, RG): **Pileated Woodpecker (MS)**: 1, McKinleyville, 11 Nov (RD): **Tropical Kingbird (EMSN)**: 1, Copenhagen Road, 29 Oct (RH); 1, AB, 16 Nov (ST, RF, et al.); 1, McKinleyville, 12 Nov (KR): **Northern Shrike (EMSN)**: 1, AB (V st. loop), 18-20 Nov (RF, JT, RG): **Cassin's Vireo (ID)**: 1, Bayshore Mall, 29 Oct (TL): **Horned Lark (FR)**: 2, mouth, Lake Talawa, 4 Nov (AB); 3-7, Cannibal Road, 29 Oct-7 Nov (SMcA, RH, KR, et al.); 5, BRR, 22 Nov (SMcA); x, Shelter Cove, 6 Nov (RS, et al.): **Western Bluebird (MS)**: 8-10, Salmon Creek near Miranda, 3 Nov (KK): **Northern Mockingbird (EMSN)**: 1, north Arcata, 26-28 Nov (JH, MH): **Orange-cr. Warbler (ID)**: 1, AMP, 20 Nov (SC): **Nashville Warbler (FR)**: 1, Ft. Bragg, 6 Nov (DT); 1, AMP, 11-25 Nov (mo): **Yellow Warbler (ID)**: 1, AMP, 5-19 Nov (SC, JT, EE).

Lingering Warblers

Black-throated Gray Warbler (ID): 1, Bayshore Mall, 28 Oct (TL); 1, Eureka, 2 Nov (LB-O): **Palm Warbler (ED)**: 10 reports of 1-3 from AMP, King Salmon, 5-25 Nov (mo): **Black-and-white Warbler (FR)**: 1, AMP, 17 Nov (JT, et al.): **Northern Waterthrush (FR)**: 1, BSLP, 26 Nov (MH): **Common Yellowthroat (ID)**: 1, AMP, 16-20 Nov (JW, EW, SC): **Lark Sparrow (FR)**: #, Shelter Cove, 6 Nov (RS, et al.): **Swamp Sparrow (FR)**: 1-3, AMP, 13-21 Nov (JT, et al.): **Harris's Sparrow (FR)**: 1, AMP, 3 Nov (PL); 1, Eureka, 27 Nov (RF): **Lapland Longspur (FR)**: 80 ± Cannibal Road, 26 Oct-15 Nov (mo); 2, BRR, 22 Nov (SMcA); 3-10, MRSWA, 20-23 Nov (JT, et al.); 1, V St. Loop, 28 Nov (SC): 2, Pt. St. George, 13 Nov (RF, AB); 8, mouth Lake Talawa, 4 Nov (AB): **Chestnut-collared Longspur (FR)**: 7, BRR, 22 Nov (SMcA); 1, Cannibal Road, 7-14 Nov (RF, SMcA, et al.); 1-2 mouth Lake Talawa, 2-10 Nov (AB, JG): **Snow Bunting (FR)**: 5 together, Pt. St. George, 30 Oct (AB), 1 still there,

5 Nov (AB); 1, mouth, Lake Talawa, 4 Nov (AB); 1, end of Kellogg Road, 13 Nov (AB, RF); 1, Mad River Beach, 27 Oct (MK); 1, Shelter Cove, 6 Nov (RS, et al.): **Possible Painted Bunting (NC)**: 1 possible, Bridgeville, 4-5 Nov (DB), described over phone as “small finch, all green with greenish yellowish underparts, about size of house finch or junco, no marks of any kind, no wing bars or eye rings, or streaks—coming to grain feeder” No photos, darn: **Dickcissel (FR)**: 1, Cannibal Road, 29 Oct-7 Nov (RF, KR, KI, et al., photos): **Tricolored Blackbird (FR)**: 100 ± males only, Bald Hill, Ft. Bragg, 25 Oct (DT): **Orchard Oriole (FR)**: 1 female, AMP, 26 Oct-18 Nov (JK, JT, et al.): **Red Crossbill (IN)**: flocks described variously as 20-270, from BRR, Bald Hills, Groves Prairie/Waterman Ridge, Miranda, 4 Nov-27 Nov (mo); KI reports more than 1 song type in these flocks.

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by Stan Harris
27 September-25 October 2004

One or more Humpback Whales in the entrance of Humboldt Bay gave residents a thrill this month, even if one was identified wrong in the newspaper! On the FBP, mammal highlights were a Blue Whale, up to 400 Pacific White-sided Dolphins, up to 100 Right Whale Dolphins, 35 Dall's Porpoises, 3 Northern Elephant Seals, and 2 Northern Fur Seals. A family of 4 river otters at AMP was easily seen off and on. One major winter rain brought welcome relief from the usual dry summer and another is brewing as I write this. We are moving into the late fall migration period when the last of our ducks and our swans should be arriving, plus some landbird surprises.

Abbreviations used: AMP = Arcata Marsh Project; AOP= Arcata Oxidation Pond; BRR = Bear River Ridge; BSLP = Butcher Slough Log Pond; CRI = Cock Robin Island; EM=Expected Migrant; ERM = Expected Rare Migrant; ERWA = Eel River Wildlife Area; ESC = Escaped Captive; FBP = Ft. Bragg Pelagic Trip, 25 Sep, all data fide DT; FR = Few Records; GW = Gee Whiz report; HBNWR = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; HO = Hold Over from last month; IB = Interesting Behavior; IAD = Inadequate Details; ID = Interesting Date; IL = Interesting Location; IN = Interesting Numbers; mo = Many Observers; MRCP = Mad River County Park; MS = Monitored Species; OFFE = Pelagic Trip 12 Miles offshore from Eureka, 25 Sep (BA); PPSP = Patricks Point State Park.

Egyptian Goose (GW, ESC): 1, Klopp Lake, 13 Oct (KR, GC): **White-fronted Goose (EM):** Right on historic schedules, 9 reports of 1 to 600 passing SE overhead, Arcata, Eureka, Ft. Bragg, Orick, 27 Sep- 6 Oct (mo), and 4 reports of 1-3 on the ground at Shelter Cove, south Clam Beach, Copenhagen Road, and Lake Cleone, 9-24 Oct (DT, JT, KR, SMcA): **Black Brant (EM):** 30, FBP; 1, lower Mad River, 27 Sep (JK); "lots" flying north past Table Bluff, 23 Oct (SC): **Cackling Goose (FR):** 1, Lake Cleone, 19 Oct (DT): **Alutian Cackling Goose (EM):** 8 reports of 1-500+ mostly in flight to the SE, mouth of Redwood Cr, Arcata, Eureka, Eel River Bottoms, 25 Sep-20 Oct (mo): **Dusky Canada Goose (FR):** 1, Copenhagen Road, 20 Oct (SMcA): **Wood Duck (IL):** 8, Trinity River, 27 Sep (AP): **Eurasian Wigeon (ERM):** 10 reports of 1-5 (!) in American Wigeon flocks on duckweed mats at AMP, Hookton Overflow, 27 Sep-24 Oct (mo): **Blue-winged Teal (FR):** 5 reports of 1-3 at AMP, 27 Sep-14 Oct (mo): 4 reported in female plumage as this species (why not Cinnamon?), Trinity River, 27 Sep (AP): **Canvasback (FR):** 1-2, AOP, 3-5 Oct (RF, JW, ST, SH): **Redhead (FR):** 1, AMP, 23 Oct (JT): **Ring-necked Duck (EM):** 1, AOP, 27 Sep (SC); 1, BSLP, 20 Oct; 5, Gearheart Marsh, 24 Oct (both SH): **Harlequin (ERM):** 2, King Salmon, 25 Sep-10 Oct (MW, SC, JK, AS), 4-15 Glass Beach, 8, 18, 25 Oct (DT): **Long-tailed Duck (ERM):** 1, mo. Redwood Creek, 19 Oct (KM); 1, mouth Mad River, 20-21 Oct (JT, et al.): **Surf Scoter (EM):** right on time, "100's" passing North Jetty, 1 Oct (BA, KR): **Black Scoter (ERM):** 1, King Salmon, 18 Oct (MW); 1 female, lower Mad River, 20-22 Oct (JT, RF, et al.); #? sea-watch from Table Bluff, 23 Oct (SC): **Bufflehead (EM):** 1, Gearheart Marsh, 24 Oct (SH).

Blue Grouse (FR): 1, 10 miles west Dinsmore, 20 Oct (TL): **Ruffed Grouse (FR):** 1, Del Norte G-O Road, 29 Sep (TL); 1, near Fish Lake, 6 Oct (TL); 1 **seen drumming**, at Elk Creek, near Happy Camp, 21 Oct (EE): **Horned Grebe (EM):** 1-3, Klopp Lake, 21-23 Oct (SH): **Red-necked Grebe (ERM):** 1-2, Trinidad Harbor, 26 Sep, 15 Oct (MH, MM); 2, King Salmon, 23 Oct (SC); 2, Shelter Cover, 22 Oct (RS): **Eared Grebe (EM):** 2, Elk River Slough, 6 Oct (SC) + others later: **Clark's Grebe (ERM):** 1, Eureka Channel, 20 Oct (SC): **Black-footed Albatross (EM):** 1, OFFE; 5 only, FBP: **Northern Fulmar (EM):** 4, FBP: **Pink-footed Shearwater (EM):** 10, OFFE; 25, FBP; **Buller's Shearwater (EM):** 10, FBP; 5, OFFE; #?, 2 miles off Eureka, 2 Oct (ST); #?, seen from Table Bluff, 9 Oct (SC): **Sooty Shearwater (EM):** 50, FBP; 8, OFFE; 1, seen from North Jetty, 1 Oct (BA, KR): **Ashy Storm-Petrel (FR):** 15, FBP: **American White Pelican (FR):** 1, Klopp Lake, 5 Oct (KL, LK, fide, ST, RF); 1 (same?) flying north, later south, past Wedding Rock, 12 Oct (BS): **American Bittern (FR):** 1, AMP, 14, 24 Oct (FA, RF, JT):

Green Heron (FR): 1, Klopp Lake, 24 Oct (JT, RF); **Bald Eagle (MS):** 1 ad, Orick, 29 Sep (KI); 1 juv., mouth Redwood Creek, 25 Sep (JK); 1 ad, Trinity River, near No. Fork, 27 Sep (AP); **Ferruginous Hawk (ERM):** 1, BRR, 7-8, 14 Oct (SMcA, RLeV); 1, Cape Ridge, 7 Oct (SMcA, RLeV); 1-2, Ft. Bragg Bald Hill, 18-22 Oct (DT); 3 along Highway 1 between Westport and Ten Mile River, 24 Sep (DT); **Golden Eagle (MS):** 2 ad; BRR, 1, 14 Oct, (SMcA); 2 subad, BRR, 7 Oct (SMcA, RLeV); 2 ad, 1 imm, Garberville, 3 Oct (JS); **Merlin (EM):** 1, King Salmon, 23 Oct (SC); **Peregrine Falcon (MS):** 18 reports of 1-4 from mouth of Mattole River, Garberville, mouth of Elk River, North Jetty, ERWA, Table Bluff, AMP, lower Mad River, 28 Sep-23 Oct (mo); **Prairie Falcon (FR):** 1, Ferndale Bottoms, 1, BRR, both 8 Oct (SMcA).

Common Moorhen (FR): 1, BSLP, 2-25 Oct (SH, JW); **Pacific Golden-Plover (ERM):** 1, South Spit, 1 Oct (TL); 1-3, CRI, 6-24 Oct (SMcA, MM, BA, KR, SC); 1, mouth of Lake Talawa, 20 Oct (L); **Snowy Plover (MS):** on CRI mudflats, 8 Oct (1, MM), 20 Oct (36 SMcA); **Lesser Yellowlegs (EM):** 21, MER, 25 Sep (MW); 1, Pudding Creek estuary, 23 Sep-22 Oct (DT); **Bar-tailed Godwit (GW, FR, records of only 12 previous birds ever for the northcoast):** 1 large female type, Klopp Lake, 25 Sep (JA), probably the same bird at CRI, 5-15 Oct (good photos show it to be the race *baueri*, SMcA, mo); **Red Knot (MS):** 1-2, CRI, 6-15 Oct (SMcA, MM, SC); 2, mouth Elk River, 20 Oct (SC); **Pectoral Sandpiper (ERM):** 1, ERWA, 27 Sep (DF); 2, King Salmon, 7 Oct (MW); 1, Crab Park, 9 Oct (SC); 2, mouth Mattole River, 9 Oct (JK, AS); **Rock Sandpiper (EM):** 1, Glass Beach, 2, Laguna Point, both 25 Oct (DT); **Ruff (ERM):** 1 imm. male, ERWA, 27 Sep (DF); 1-2, CRI, 10-24 Oct (BA, KR, SMcA, RF, SC, JK); **Wilson's Phalarope (FR):** 1, King Salmon, 27 Sep (MW); **Red-necked Phalarope (EM):** 10, FBP; **Red Phalarope (EM):** 30; 1, OFFE; small flocks passing Table Bluff, 9, 23 Oct (SC); **South Polar Skua (FR, IAD):** 1, 2 miles off Eureka, 2 Oct (ST); 1, sea watch from PPSP, 12 Oct (BS); **Pomarine Jaeger (EM):** 2, FBP; 1, OFFE; 1 mile off Eureka, 2 Oct (ST); **Parasitic Jaeger (EM):** 15, FBP; 1-2, Humboldt Bay entrance, 27 Sep-9 Oct (mo); 1, sea watch, Table Bluff, 23 Oct (SC); **Long-tailed Jaeger (EM):** 2, FBP; 1 full adult plumage, directly over North Jetty, 1 Oct (BA, KR); **Sabine's Gull (EM):** 2, FBP; 5, OFFE; 2, 2 miles off Eureka, 2 Oct (ST); **Elegant Tern (IB):** chasing and grabbing tail streamers of a Parasitic Jaeger, King Salmon, 25 Sep (MW); **Common Tern (EM):** 4, FBP; 1 imm., MRCP, 27 Sep (SC); **Forster's Tern (EM):** 16, AOP, 21 Oct (SH); **Pigeon Guillemot (ID):** 1 in winter plumage, Trinidad, 15 Oct (MM); 4, Shelter Cove, 22 Oct (RS); **Band-tailed Pigeon (MS):** 35, near Fish Lake, 6 Oct (TL); 50, Mail Ridge, 9 Oct (JG); 75-200 attracted to outstanding madrone berry crop, near Miranda, 5-25 Oct (JK); **European Collared-Dove (GW):** 1, Eureka, 15 Oct (GL); N. **Pygmy Owl (FR):** 1 hooting, Davison Road pond, 21 Oct (TL); **Selasphorus Hummingbird sp. (ID):** 1, Lanphere Dunes, 19 Oct (JT).

Willow Flycatcher (EM): 1, Lake Cleone, 24 Sep (DT); 1, Southern Humboldt Comm. Park, 26 Sep (JS); 2, mouth Redwood Creek, 27 Sep (KI); **Say's Phoebe (FR):** 1, Bald Hill, FT. Bragg, 23 Sep (DT); 1, mouth Mattole River, 9 Oct (JK, AS); 1, Hettenshaw Valley, 20 Oct (TL); 1, Orick, 21 Oct (KS); **Ash-throated Flycatcher (EM):** 1, Shay Park, 27-29 Sep (RF); **Tropical Kingbird (EM):** 6 reports of singles from Shelter Cove, near Crab Park, ERWA, Copenhagen Road, Hookton Road, mouth of Widow White Creek, 28 Sep-24 Oct (JT, SMcA, RF, MW, PH, BO'D, KR); **Cassin's Vireo (EM):** 1, mouth Mattole R., 9 Oct (JT et al.); **Warbling Vireo (EM):** #?, 29 Sep, Trinidad, (MH); **Gray Jay (MS):** 1, Elk Head, 27 Sep (SC); 1, Sunnybrae, 6 Oct (MM); **Horned Lark (IL):** 1, mouth Redwood Creek, 27 Sep (KI); **Violet-green Swallow (ID):** 45, Dry Lagoon, 10 Oct (TL); 7, 150, 70, 75, AMP, Lanphere Dunes, MRCP, 19-23 Oct (JT et al.); **Bank Swallow (FR):** 1, King Salmon, 25 Sep (MW); **Barn Swallow (ID):** 1, AMP, 24 Oct (JT, RF et al.); **American Dipper (FR):** #?, near Shelter Cove, 10 Oct (JT et al.); 1, South Fork, Smith River, at mile post 13, 21 Oct (TL); **American Pipit (EM):** "large flocks", mouth Mattole R, 10 Oct (JT et al.); 80, BRR, 22 Oct (SMcA); sev 100, Cannibal I. Road, 23 Oct (DF, JP); **Cedar Waxwing (ID):** 30-40 on Madrone berries, near Miranda, 5-24 Oct (KK); **Orange-cr. Warbler, gray headed (FR):** 1, Fairhaven, 9 Oct (SC); **Nashville Warbler (EM):** 2, Trinidad, 24 Sep (MH); **Yellow Warbler (ID):** 1, Allen Marsh, 24 Oct (JT, RF et al.); **Chestnut-sided Warbler (FR):** 1 banded, Lanphere Dunes, 28 Sep (CJR); **Audubon Warbler (ID, IL):** 1 still up on snowy Mt. Lassie 20 Oct (TL); **Black-throated Gray Warbler (EM):** 1, Elk River Wildlife Area, 1 Oct (TL); **Prairie Warbler (FR):** 1, AOP, 3-4 Oct (JK, ST); 1, Fairhaven, 3 Oct (RF, JC); 1, ERWA, 24 Oct (SMcA); **Palm Warbler (EM):** 16 reports of 1-3 from Ft. Bragg, Shelter Cove, Capetown, Cape Ridge, Camp Weott Road,

7-mile Slough Road, CRI, ERWA, HBNWR, mouth of Elk River, North Spit, AOP, AMP, BSLP, Hufford Road, 2-25 Oct (mo): **Blackpoll Warbler (FR)**: 1, Trinidad, 24 Sep (MH): **Black-and-white Warbler (ERM)**: 1, King Salmon, 7 Oct (MW); 1, Allen Marsh, 24 Oct (JT, RF et al.): **American Redstart (ERM)**: 1, Fairhaven, 3 Oct (RF, JW): **Northern Waterthrush (ERM)**: 1 banded, Lanphere Dunes, 15 Oct (JW); 1, AOP, 1-23 Oct (DF, RF, JW, BC); 1, BSLP, 23-24 Oct (BC, JT, RF et al.); 1, Allen Marsh, 24 Oct (JT et al.); 1, Eureka Sewage Marshes, 7 Oct (SMcA, RLeV): **Common Yellowthroat (ID)**: 9 reports of 1-2, Luffenholtz Creek, MRCP, Lanphere Dunes, AMP, AOP, Vigo St. Marsh, Hilfiker Lane, CRI, Shelter Cove, 1-24 Oct (TL, JT, SMcA, JW).

Western Tanager (IN): ~ 30 in mixed flock on Cascara, Trinidad, 24 Sep (MH): **Chipping Sparrow (EM)**: 1, McKinleyville, 29 Sep (JH); 1, Kneeland, 30 Sep (BB, DVZ): **Clay-colored Sparrow (ERM)**: 1, Davison Road, 1, mouth Redwood Creek, both 29 Sep (KI); 1, Ft. Bragg, 20 Oct (DT): **Vesper Sparrow (FR)**: 1, mouth Redwood Creek, 27-29 Sep (KI); 1, BRR, 14 Oct (SMcA): **Lark Sparrow (EM)**: 1, AMP, 11-13 Oct (GC); 1, King Salmon, 7 Oct (MW); 1, Shelter Cove, 10 Oct (JT): **Black-throated Sparrow (FR, HO)**: 1, Davison Road, 29 Sep (KI): **Fox Sparrow (Gray-headed race, yellow bill) (FR)**: 1, Cummings Road, Eureka, 3 Oct (TL): **Lincoln's Sparrow (IN)**: ca 35, Mt. Trashmore, 27 Sep (RF): **Swamp Sparrow (EM)**: 1, MRCP, 12 Oct (ST, RF, JW); 1, Klamath, 14 Oct (KI); 1, Trinidad, 14 Oct (KI); 1, AMP, 19 Oct (JT); 1, AOP, 23 Oct (SC): **White-throated Sparrow** 2, downtown Crescent City, 10 Oct (RLeV): 1, 15 miles down river from Happy Camp, 22 Oct (EE) + others on usual schedules: **Slate-colored Junco (ERM)**: 1, AMP, 25 Oct (JW): **Lapland Longspur (EM, IN)**: 6 reports of 1-200+ from BRR, Cannibal I. Road, King Salmon, North Jetty, North Spit, 1-24 Oct (SMcA, RF, DF, JP, SC, JK, MW): **Chestnut-collared Longspur (FR)**: 1, BRR, 22 Oct (SMcA); 1, Cannibal I. Road, 23 Oct (DF, JP): **Black-headed Grosbeak (EM)**: 1, Sunnybrae, 4-6 Oct (SH): **Dickcissel (FR)**: 1, Cannibal I. Road, 24 Oct (RF): **Western Meadowlark (IN)**: 20, Mail Ridge, 5 Oct (JG): **Yellow-headed Blackbird (FR)**: 1, Arcata Bottoms, 12 Oct (KR): **Orchard Oriole (FR)**: 1, AMP, 24 Oct (JT, RF, et al.): **Pine Siskin (IN)**: after a year with few, this is shaping up pretty good, 50, Del Norte G-O Road, 29 Sep (TL); 250, near Orick, 1 Oct (KI); total of 1200 at 27 of 31 stops between Klamath and Trinidad, 14 Oct (KI); "many," BRR, 7 Oct; 500 on 10 stops along BRR, 14 Oct (both SMcA): "large flocks," Miranda, 5-25 Oct (KK).

Many thanks again to all who shared their observations this month. Keep up the good work: Brian Acord, Justin Alvarez, Frank Anderson, Adam Brown, Barbara Burek, Scott Carey, Bryon Cariss, Matt Collins, Gary Crites, Jennifer Curtis, Elias Elias, Gary Falxa, David Fix, Rob Fowler, John Gaffin, Rebecca Green, Melody Hamilton, Stan Harris, Pablo Herrera, Jake Houck, Ken Irwin, Kyle Keegan, Jherime Kellerman, Leann Klingonsmith, Kelly Leshner, Tom Leskiw, Gary Lester, Lucas, Ron LeValley, Kyle Max, Sean McAllister, Aaron McGrone, Mary Meyers, Brian O'Donnell, Aida Parkinson, Jude Power, C. J. Ralph, Krystal Rogers, Barry Sauppe, Kristin Schmidt, Amy Stercho, Jay Sooter, Dutch Sullivan, Robert Sutherland, Jim Tietz, Dorothy Tobkin, Steve Tucker, Dan Van Zile, Margaret Varga, Matt Wachs, Stu Wilson, Jared Wolfe.

Field Notes
by Stan Harris
30 August-26 September 2004

Fall migration of land birds is in full swing. My impression is that a few species arrived a few days earlier than normal. Now that West Nile has arrived, do we need to monitor Corvids? Humpbacked Whales continue to be sighted close to shore. Typical summer weather. Abbreviations used: **AB = Arcata Bottoms; AMP = Arcata Marsh Project; AOP = Arcata Oxidation Pond; BRR = Bear River Ridge; BSLP = Butcher Slough Log Pond; CRI = Cock Robin Island; ED = Expected Date; EL = Expected Location; EM = Expected Migrant; ERWA = Eel River Wildlife Area; FR = Few Records; GW = Gee Whiz report; HBNWR = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; ID = Interesting Date; IIT = Interesting, if true; IN = Interesting Numbers; MER = Mouth of Elk River; M = Migration record; MRC = Mouth of Redwood Creek; MRE = Mad River Estuary; MKSP = MacKerricher State Park; mo = Many Observers; MRCP = Mad River County Park; MRWA = Mad River Slough Wildlife Area; MS = Monitored Species; NC = Not Confirmed; ND = No details or description; OU = Origin Unknown.**

White-fronted Goose (ED): 1 flyby, MER, 18 Sep (CO); 35, flyby, BRR, 18 Sep (SMcA, KR): **Aleutian Cackling Goose (ID):** 4, AB, 11 Sep (BA): **Northern Pintail (EM):** 23, ERWA, 5 Sep (SC): **Garganey (IIT, NC, ND):** 1 “juv” reported from Hookton Channel (“look at face”), 5 Sep (DG): **Green-winged Teal (EM):** x, ERWA, 5 Sep (SC): **Harlequin (FR):** 1 female, MER, 29 Aug (SC); up to 9, MKSP, summered over, present to at least to 12 Sep (DT): **Hooded Merganser (FR):** 3, MRC, 25 Sep (KI): **Ruffed Grouse (FR):** 2, 6 miles west of Dinsmore, 8 Sep (TL); 1, 7 miles up Big Hill Road, 14 Sep (TL): **Ring-necked Pheasant (OU, FR):** 1 male, MRCP, 19 Sep (SC): **Red-necked Grebe (ID):** 2-4, MKSP, 4-11 Sep (DT): **Pink-footed Shearwater (ED):** 1, 4 miles off Humboldt Bay, 12 Sep (MC): **Sooty Shearwater (ED):** 3-20 seen from North/South Jetties and Wedding Rock 3-19 Sep (mo): **Osprey (EL, ED):** 1 each, mouth Willow Creek, Sandy Bar, both 3 Sep (TL): 1 each, Boulder Lake, Little Boulder Lake, Trinity Alps, 6000-6350 feet elevation, 1 Sep (DK).

Raptor's Return

Bald Eagle (MS): 1 ad, Todd Ranch, 1 Sep (JL, fide TL): **Sharp-shinned Hawk (EM):** 4 reports of 1-2 apparent migrants from Douglas City, Westhaven, Fairhaven, BRR, 20 Aug-19 Sep (mo): **Cooper's Hawk (EM):** 6 reports of apparent migrants from AB, Sunny Brae, Fairhaven, ERWA, BRR, 3-17 Sep (mo): **Red-tailed Hawk (IN):** 8, BRR, 9 Sep (SMcA): **Golden Eagle (MS):** 1-2, BRR, 10, 17 Sep (SMcA, KR): **Merlin (ID; EM):** 1, AB, 4 Sep (BA): **Peregrine (MS):** 7 reports of 1-3 from MRWA, AMP, ERWA, BRR, 28 Aug-25 Sep (mo): **Prairie Falcon (FR, ID):** 1, BRR, 9 Sep (SMcA): **CRESTED CARACARA (GW):** 1, mouth of Jacoby Creek, AB, 4-6 Sep (RLeV, et al): The first ever record for Humboldt County, likely the same bird reported last month for northern Mendocino County. Only one other northcoast record, a bird in Del Norte in Apr 1989. **Common Moorhen (FR, NC, ND):** 1, BSLP, 4 Sep (BA): **Avocet (IL):** 1, ERWA, 7 Sep (KI): **American Golden Plover (FR, EM):** 1, holdover from Aug, Klopp Lake, 3-4 Sep (RF, FA); 1 “maybe this species,” ERWA, 6 Sep (SMcA); 1, ERWA, 10 Sep (KI): **Pacific Golden Plover (FR, EM):** 1 adult, 2 juv, ERWA, 5-21 Sep (SMcA, BA, KI); 1 juv, CRI, 8 Sep (SMcA): **Lesser Yellowlegs (EM):** 5 reports of 1-14 from Humboldt Hill Bottoms, ERWA, MKSP, 28 Aug-25 Sep (mo): **Solitary Sandpiper (FR, EM):** 1, ERWA, 6 Sep (KI): **Red Knot (FR):** 3, MER, 15 Sep (SC); “several,” ERWA, 25 Sep (ST, JW): **Semipalmated Sandpiper (FR, EM):** 1, AB, 12 Sep (RF): **Baird's Sandpiper (FR, EM):** 7 reports of 1-7 from MRE, HBNWR, CRI, MKSP, 26 Aug-10 Sep (RF, SC, MW, SMcA, DT): **Pectoral Sandpiper (EM):** 7 reports of 1-4 from AB, ERWA, 7-25 Sep (mo): **Dunlin (EM):** 6, ERWA, 5 Sep (SMcA), increasing numbers after (mo): **Buff-breasted Sandpiper (FR, GW):** 1, South Spit, 4-6 Sep (DZ, et al.): **Ruff:** 1,

“juv female,” ERWA, 10 Sep (KI): **Wilson’s Snipe (EM)**: 1-3, AB, 12-19 Sep (BA, ST): **Wilson’s Phalarope (FR)**: 1, ERWA, 10 Sep (KI).

Jaegers harassing terns again

Pomarine Jaeger (EM): 1 ad., South Jetty, 5 Sep (SC); 1, South Jetty, 11 Sep (MW): **Parasitic Jaeger (EM)**: 8 reports of 1-6 from Humboldt Bay, MER, King Salmon, North Jetty, South Jetty, MKSP, 4-25 Sep (mo): **Black-legged Kittiwake (EM)**: 1, South Jetty, 11 Sep (MW): **Caspian Tern (IN)**: 150, flying north past Wedding Rock, 3 Sep (KI): **Elegant Tern (IL, IN)**: 6-8, MKSP, 31 Aug (DT); 700, flying north past Wedding Rock, 3 Sep (KI); 800-1000, South Spit & MER, 12 Sep (MW): **Common Tern (EM)**: 1, Klopp Lake, 4 Sep (FA, SC, RF); 1, MKSP, 10 Sep (DT), both first year birds: **Black Swift (FR)**: 1, Enderts Beach with Vaux’s Swifts, 12 Sep (CO): **Pileated Woodpecker (EL)**: 1, Trinity Lake, 3 Sep (DK): **Willow Flycatcher (MS)**: 14 reports of 1-3 from Douglas City, Sandy Bar, mouth of Willow Creek, Davison Road, AMP, Shay Park, Fairhaven, 23 Aug-22 Sep (mo): **Say’s Phoebe (FR)**: 1, Southern Humboldt Com. Park, 5 Sep (MT); 1 or 2 ?, Kneeland, 4-6 Sep (BB, DVZ, GB); 1, AB, 13 Sep (CJR); 1, Davison Road, 22 Sep (TL); 1 MRC, 25 Sep (KI): **Ash-throated Flycatcher (EM)**: 1, Shay Park, 3 Sep (MM).

Royalty Arrives

Tropical Kingbird (FR): 1, King Salmon, 13 Sep (MW); 1, AMP, 18 Sep (PH); 1, South Spit, 25 Sep (ST, JW): **Cassin’s Vireo (EM)**: 1, Bayshore Mall, 9 Sep (TL): **Warbling Vireo (EM)**: apparent migrants at Davison Road, Orick Dump, MRCP, Bayshore Mall, 30 Aug-22 Sep (TL, BA, KI): **Philadelphia Vireo (FR, NC, ND)**: 1, Davison Road, 13 Sep (KI); 1, Orick Dump, 22 Sep (KI): **Red-eyed Vireo (FR, NC, ND)**: 1, Orick Dump, 22 Sep (KI): **Steller’s Jay (IL)**: 1, Fairhaven, 17 Sep (JT); 1, Lanphere Dunes, 19 Sep (JW): **Western Scrub Jay (IL)**: 1, King Salmon, 1-14 Sep (MW): **Horned Lark (EL)**: 1, BRR, 3 Sep (SMcA): **Violet-green Swallow (EM)**: “1000’s, mostly this species,” AB, 19 Sep (ST): **Bank Swallow (FR)**: 1 flyby, Lanphere Dunes, 29 Aug (JT): **Dipper (FR)**: 2, Red Cap Bridge, south of Orleans, 14 Sep (TL).

Minor Royalty also arrives

Ruby-crowned Kinglet (EM): 1, Fairhaven, 17 Sep (JT): **Western Bluebird (MS)**: 2, Grouse Mountain, 3 Sep (TL): 6, 6 miles north of Box Camp, 14 Sep (TL); 8, BRR, 3 Sep (SMcA): **Townsend’s Solitaire (ID, IL)**: 1, Blue Lake Fish Hatchery, 12 Sep (MP, JMi): **Swainson’s Thrush (GW, M)**: 100’s heard passing over in pre-dawn darkness, Arcata, 12 Sep (ST); 100’s for at least 3 hours heard passing over King Salmon after dark, evening of 12 Sep (MW, EMcB): **American Pipit (EM)**: 3, ERWA, 6 Sep (KI); 15, BRR, 10 Sep (SMcA): **Tennessee Warbler (FR)**: 1, Davison Road, 13 Sep (KI): **Northern Parula (FR)**: 1, MRC, 25 Sep (KI): **Chestnut-sided Warbler (FR)**: 1, MRC, 25 Sep (KI): **Myrtle Warbler (EM)**: 1 each, MRCP, AMP, 24 Sep (RF); 1, BSLP, 25 Sep (SS, SH): **Townsend’s Warbler (EM)**: 4 reports of singles, from Cummings Road, North Spit, Westhaven, Davison Road, 6-22 Sep (TL, FA): **Hermit Warbler**: 1, Davison Road, 22 Sep (TL): **Prairie Warbler (FR)**: 1 AOP trail, 9 Sep (JB): **Palm Warbler (EM)**: 1, MRC, 25 Sep (KI): **Black-and-white Warbler (EM)**: 1, AMP Interp. Center, 20 Sep (GC): **American Redstart (FR)**: 1, Bayshore Mall, 30 Aug (TL): **Ovenbird (FR)**: 1, banded, Lanphere Dunes, 20 Sep (fide, CJR): **Northern Waterthrush (FR)**: 1 reported (second hand) banded, upper Jacoby Creek, 7 Sep (fide, JW); 1, Manila, 22 Sep (GL): **MacGillvray’s Warbler (ID)**: x, MRCP, 6 Sep (BA); 1, Box Camp, 14 Sep (TL): **Canada Warbler (FR)**: 1 banded, Lanphere Dunes, 22 Sep (fide, CJR). The usual fall swam of Yellow Warblers and Common Yellow-throats were here in Sep. **Western Tanager (EM)**: 1, Shay Park, 29 Aug (SC): **Black-headed Grosbeak (ID)**: 1, Douglas City, 3 Sep (DK); 1 banded, Lanphere Dunes, 16 Sep (JW): **Lazuli Bunting (ID)**: last of up to 30 summering at Kneeland seen on 27 Aug (BB, DVZ).

Sparrows aplenty

Chipping Sparrow (EM): 1, Tyee City, 19 Sep (ST); **Clay-colored Sparrow (EM, ID):** 1, ERWA, 6 Sep (KI); 1, AOP, 24 Sep (DF); **Vesper Sparrow (EM):** 1, AB, 9 Sep (KR); **Lark Sparrow (EL):** 1 juv, last seen at Kneeland, 29 Aug (BB, DVZ); 2, BRR, 3 Sep (SMcA); **Black-throated Sparrow (FR):** 1, Davison Road, 26 Sep (RF, KI, Kr, SM); **Savannah Sparrow (EM):** 3, foot of I. St., Arcata, 31 Aug (GC); **Grasshopper Sparrow (EL):** 1-3 seen on 14 Days in Aug, last on 22 Aug, Kneeland (BB, DVZ); **Sooty Fox Sparrow (EM):** 1 each, Shay Park, MRCP, 6 Sep (BA); **Lincoln's Sparrow (EM):** 1, AMP, 4 Sep (SC); **Golden-crowned Sparrow (ID):** 1 adult banded, Orleans, 2 Sep (EE); 3, AMP, 15 Sep (SH); **Lapland Longspur (EM):** 4-7, South Spit, 25 Sep (RF, ST, JW); **Yellow-headed Blackbird (FR):** 1, AOP, 6 Sep (BA).

Many thanks to all who shared observations with us this month. Little by little, knowledge of our bird distribution and seasonality accumulates through the efforts of many people, and I thank you all. Keep up the good work. Contributors this month: Brian Acord, Frank Anderson, Stephen F. Bailey, Jay Bishop, Gary Bloomfield, Barbara Burek, Scott Carey, Greg Crites, Elias Elias, Rob Fowler, Steven Gurley, Stan Harris, Pablo Herrera, Jessie Hollman, Denise Homer, Ken Irwin, Jhermie Kellerman, Jack Lahr, Tom Leskiw, Gary Lester, Ron LeValley, Dale and Margie Kuhn, John Mahan, Sean McAllister, Erica McBride, Tristan McKee, Jen Millard, Stephanie Morrissette, Michael Morris, Chet Ogan, Mike Palladini, C. J. Ralph, Kerry Ross, Lacy Rotta, Jay Sooter, Shana Stearn, Margaret Taylor; Gwen Thole, Jim Tietz, Dorothy Tobkin, Amber Transou, Steve Tucker, Matt Wachs, Jared Wolfe, Derek Zane, Dan Van Zile.

Field Notes
by Stan Harris
28 June-29 August 2004

Summer has gone, fall is here and so are some migrants. Our fall shorebirds are arriving right on schedule. The northcoast list was enlarged by 2 species this period. The Great White Fathers of the A.O.U Checklist committee have issued more decrees and rearranged the order of our birds a bit more and have split the Canada Geese into 2 species, so I guess we get yet another species by administrative edict. We now have large forms under the species "Canada Goose" and small forms under the species "Cackling Goose." A pelagic trip in mid July was not very exciting, the ocean waters were abnormally clear without much of a plankton bloom, The nearshore water temperatures were a warm 59 degrees. Abbreviations used: **AMP = Arcata Marsh Project; AOP = Arcata Oxidation Pond; BBHR = Base of Bald Hills Road; ED = Expected Date; EL = Expected Location; EM = Expected Migrant; ERWA = Eel River Wildlife Area; FR= Few Records; GW = Gee Whiz report; HBNWR = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; ID = Interesting Date; IIT = Interesting, if true; IL = Interesting Location; IN = Interesting Numbers; IP = Interesting Plumage, MKSP, MacKerricher State Park; mo = Many Observers; MRWA = Mad River Slough Wildlife Area; MS = Monitored Species; NC: Not Confirmed; ND = No Details or Description; PDO = Partial Description only; PPSP = Patricks Point State Park; SSO = Sound Shot Only.**

Black Brant (ID): 1, Big Lagoon, 10 Jul (MM); 1, lower Mad River, 24 Jul (ST); **Gadwall (FR):** 1 brood with 8 young, Class IIB (5 weeks old), HBNWR, 11 Jul (DF, JP); **Blue-winged Teal (ID):** 1 pair, Allen Marsh, 12 Jul (SH); 1, AOP, 25 Aug (SC, details?); 1, mouth Mattole River, 26 Aug (DW, RS, details?); **Harlequin (FR):** up to 9 throughout Jun; 7 males, 2 female types in eclipse plumage, 22 Jul (all at MKSP; DT); 2-5, Crescent City, 12-13 Jul (AB, FA); 1 female, mo. Elk River, 29 Aug (SC).

Arctic Eider Makes News

Common Eider (GW): 1 stunning adult male in full plumage, Crescent City 5-18 Jul (CV, et al. many photos), reported to begin molting before it left. A first ever northcoast and state record. **Surf Scoter (IN, ID):** est 900 with 50 **White-winged Scoters**, just offshore, Patricks Point to Klamath River, 5 Aug (EE, et al.). **Hooded Merganser (FR):** 1, lower Mad River, 24 Jul (ST); 1, AOP, 1 Aug (GB); **Wild Turkey (IL):** 1, PPSP, 29 Jun (KI); **Leach's Storm Petrel (IL):** 1, Eureka Channel, 17 Jul (MJ, et al.); **Green Heron (EL, ED):** 4 reports from Freshwater Creek, AMP, 30 Jun-31 Jul (DH, S & JN, SL, GC) **Bald Eagle (MS):** 4 reports from Humboldt Bay, near North Fork of Trinity River, Douglas City, 10-24 Jul (MM, AP, MK); **Golden Eagle (EL):** 1, upstream from Eel Rock, 27 Jun (GB); 1, Wildcat Road, 2 Aug (DH); **Crested Caracara (GW):** 1 at deer road kill with Turkey Vultures, Westport, 21-22 Aug (RHo, et al.); **Peregrine (MS):** 10 reports from AMP, MRWA, mo. of Elk River, North Fork of Elk River, flying out to sea at mouth of Mad River, ERWA, 29 Jun-18 Aug (mo); **American Golden Plover (ED):** 1, Klopp Lake, 28-29 Aug (JT, EE, RF); **Pacific Golden Plover (ED):** 1, breeding plumage, near Fernbridge, 20 Jul (ST); **Snowy Plover (MS):** 3 nests on 10 Mile Beach, 6 chicks hatched, 1 fledged by 22 Jul (DT); rumor of birds on lower Mattole River bars this summer (fide, DW, RS); **Black-necked Stilt (FR):** 1 ad, 4 juveniles, Vigo St. Marsh, 14 Aug (RLeV); **Long-billed Curlew (IN):** 100±, Woodley Island, 17 Jul (FA); **Red Knot (ED):** 4 reports of 1-6 from Klopp Lake, Stone Lagoon, 20 Jul-29 Aug (mo); **Sanderling (ID):** 1, Ft. Bragg, 10 Jul (DT); **Baird's Sandpiper (ED):** 9 reports of 1-4 from Big Lagoon, Clam Beach, lower Mad River, MRWA, mo. Elk River, HBNWR, Fernbridge, MKSP, 1-29 Aug (mo); **Semipalmated Sandpiper (ED):** 1, Vigo Street Marsh, 14 Aug (RLV); **Pectoral Sandpiper (ED):** 2, lower Eel River, 28 Aug (KI); **Stilt Sandpiper (FR):** 1, Elk River mouth, 24 Jul (MW, EMcB, PH, BS); **Wilson's Phalarope (ED, IL):** 1, South Fork Eel River, Garberville, 29 Jun (AC); 1-2, Butcher Slough, 17 Jul (BA, FA); 1, AOP, 8-11 Aug (FA, EE); 1, ERWA, 22 Aug (JT); **Mew Gull (ID):** 1 badly faded, frayed summer derelict taught us once again that you are never too old to learn something new, 27 Jul-18 Aug, mouth of Elk River (mo), beware of calling summer derelict gulls! **Sabine's Gull (IL, ID):** 1 on south spit

beach, flew away, 23 Jul (SMcA): **Caspian Tern (IN)**: 180, South Spit, 23 Jul (MW): **Royal Tern (IIT, NC, PDO)**: 1. lower Eel River estuary, 28 Aug (KI): **Common Tern (ID)**: 1-8, mouth, Elk River, 27 Jul-22 Aug (mo): **Forster's Tern (EM)**: 1, mouth of Elk River, 27 Jul (SMcA).



Skimmers Finally Arrive!

Black Skimmer (GW): 2, mouth Elk River, 17-27 Aug (MW, et al), wow another new bird for the all time northcoast list. **Long-billed Murrelet (FR; ND, NC)**: 1 in "near breeding plumage"(how identified?) 500 m. west mouth of Eel River, 15 Jul (EE, et al.): **Ancient Murrelet (FR)**: 1, 3 miles SW Crescent City, 24 Aug (EE): **Tufted Puffin (FR)**: 1 juv, Castle Rock, 11 Jul (MeH): **Black Swift (FR)**: 6, Salmon Creek and Borden Creek, Trinity Co., 3 Jul (GL): **Vaux's Swift (EL)**: 1 nest with 5 chicks, inside Chimney, Fieldbrook, 12 Jul (BY): **Willow Flycatcher (EM)**: 7 reports of 7 birds from Redwood Creek estuary, near 101 bridge on Klamath R., Big Lagoon, Shay Park, AMP, 29 Jun-29 Aug (KI, JT, et al.). **Philadelphia Vireo (FR)**: 1, Mad River Bottoms, 1-2 Jul (KI, et al. photos): **Red-eyed (?)Vireo**: 2, one being chased by the other, reported as Yellow-green Vireos, but identification disputed by some, near 101 bridge, Klamath River, 5-6 Jul (KI, et al.); 1, BBHR, 23 Aug (KI): **Bank Swallow (FR)**: mouth Mattole R., 26 Aug (DW, RS); 1, Lanphere Dunes, 29 Aug (JT): **White-breasted Nuthatch (FR)**: 1, Kneeland, 5 Jul (BB, DVZ): **Brown Thrasher** (second record for Mendocino County) Chadbourne Gulch near Westport, MEN 21 Jun (RLeV); **Gray Catbird (FR, ND; NC)**: 1, Blue Lake Bottoms, 9 Jul (KI): **Northern Parula (FR)**: 1, south of Centerville Beach, 28 Jun (SMcA); 1, Blue Lake, 1 Jul (DM); 1, Pacific Shores, 30 Jun (AB, et al.): **Chestnut-sided Warbler (FR)**: 1 each, Dry Lagoon (28 Jun), Westhaven (6 Jul), Big Lagoon (12 Jul), Klamath River Est (7 Jul) all KI.: **Black-throated Gray Warbler (EM)**: 1, Cooper Gulch, 29 Aug (T&SL): **Black-and-white Warbler (FR)**: 1, Trinidad, 1 Jul (KI): **American Redstart (FR)**: 9 reports from Centerville Beach Road, Bayshore Mall, Arcata Bottoms, Orick Dump, BBHR, Enderts Beach Road, 28 Jun-24 Aug (SMcA, JT, KI, TL, AB, EC). **Hooded Warbler (FR)**: 1 caught, photographed, banded, Eureka, 7 Jul (BP, fide LG): **Summer Tanager (FR)**: 1, Blue Lake Bottoms, 4 Jul (SC): **Green-tailed Towhee (EL)**: 2 worn adults (breeders?), Salmon Mountain, 7 Aug (DF, JP): **Spotted Towhee (IP, IL, ID)**: 1 in juvenile plumage, Azalea Hill, 17 Jul (bred locally? Do they migrate in this plumage? GL): **Rufous-crowned Sparrow (IL)** 2 ad and 1 new fledgling, 2.5 miles upstream from Eel Rock, 27 Jun (GB): **Clay-colored Sparrow (EM, ND, NC; would be earliest record ever by 2 weeks)**: 1, AMP, 25 Aug (RF): **Lark Sparrow (EL)**: 1 juv, Kneeland, 10-11 Aug (BB, DVZ): **Grasshopper Sparrow (EL)**: 1-2 adults, 1-3 juv seen on 17 days in Jul, Kneeland (BB, DVZ).

Sparrow Species To Be

Thick-billed Fox Sparrow (FR): 1, Salmon Mtn, 7 Aug (DF, JP): **Lincoln's Sparrow (ID)**: 1, AMP, 28 Aug (JT, et al.): **Lapland Longspur (SSO, NC, IIT; would be the earliest record ever by 3 weeks)**: 1 reported flying over Eureka, 18 Aug (BS): **Rose-breasted Grosbeak (FR)**: 1, BBHR, 3 Jul (KI): **Indigo Bunting (FR)**: 1, AMP, (holdover), 29 Jun (GC); 1 male photos, Kneeland, 2-7 Aug (BB, DVZ): **Bullock's Oriole (EL)**: 1 female with 2 young, Douglas City, 2 Jul (DK): **Hooded Oriole (FR)**: 1 male, Arcata, 30 Jun (SC); 1 pair and 2 young, Arcata, 30 Jul (BA, KR); 1 female, probable (ID not 100 %), Westport, 22 Aug (JW, DT). **Lawrence's Goldfinch (FR)**: 1 male feeding 2 fledglings, Kneeland, 1-13 Aug, photos (BB, DVZ): **Evening Grosbeak (MS)**: 5 reports of 1-6 from Fieldbrook, east of Trinidad, Azalea Hill, Eureka, 3-27 Jul (CL, KI, GL).

Many thanks to all who shared reports with us this summer: Brian Acord, Frank Anderson, Tim Arnard (sp?); Alan Barron, Gary Bloomfield, Barbara Burek, Scott Carey, Mark Colwell, Gail Coonen, Eileen Cooper, Ann Constantino, Ruth Crane, Gary Crites, Bruce Deuel, Elias Elias, David Fix, Rob Fowler, John Gaffin, Luke George, Melody Hamilton, Stan Harris, Pablo Herrera, Stacy Hintz, Roger Hoestery, Denise Homer, John Hunter, Ken Irwin, Matt Johnson, Dale and Margie Kuhn, Dick Laursen, Carol Lawrence, A. Lauvent (sp?); Tom and Sue Leskiw, Gary Lester, Ron LeValley, Sylvia Maldee, Cheryl Millet, Dan Maxwell, Sean McAllister, Erica McBride, Wendy Mellberg, Michael Morris, Michelle Forsys, J & S Nelson, Chet Ogan, Aieda Parkinson, Becky Pierce, Jude Power, Krystal Rogers, Kerry Ross, S. Salmo, Barry Sauppe, Robert Sutherland, Jim Tietz, Dorothy Tobkin, Steve Tucker, Dan Van Zile, Margaret Varga, Chuck Vaughn, Matt Wachs, Doug Wallace, Matt Whinny, Jerry White, Jared Wolfe, J Wright, Bryan Yost.

Field Notes
by Stan Harris
27 April-June 2004

The more or less “official” number for the Aleutian Canada Goose population this spring was 70-75,000, quite a comeback from the 790 known to exist in 1973/74! Typical summer weather, dull overcast most days, in the 60’s, generally calm with some afternoon wind, no rain after mid May. Migration is over, many birds are already through nesting, the usual summer “swarms” of *Selasphorus* hummingbirds seem to have shown up at feeders a few weeks earlier than normal and early fall migrant Willets, Least Sandpipers, Greater Yellowlegs and Short-Billed Dowitchers all appeared by at least 24 Jun. Abbreviations used: **AMP = Arcata Marsh Project; AOP = Arcata Oxidation Pond; BBHR = Base of Bald Hills Road; BSLP = Butcher Slough Log Pond; EL = Expected Location; FR = Few Records; GW = Gee Whiz Report; HBNWR = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; HO = Hold Over from previous report; ID = Interesting Date; InD = Incomplete Description; IIT = Interesting, if true; IL = Interesting Location; IP= Interesting Plumage; MRSWA = Mad River Slough Wildlife Area; MS = Monitored Species; NC = Not Confirmed by a second party; ND = No Description; SHCP = Southern Humboldt Community Park near Garberville; UD = Update Report.**

Pacific Loon (ID): 1, King Salmon, 22 Jun (MW): **Leach’s Storm Petrel (IL):** 1, Eureka Channel, 1 May (MC, et al.): **White Pelican (FR):** 1, Clam Beach flyover, 19 Jun (CW, JM); 1, AMP flyover, 22 Jun (MV): **American Bittern (EL):** 1, BSLP, 3 May (RR); 2, near Copenhagen Road, 29 May (KI): **Green Heron (EL):** Nest fledged 3 young by 21-24 May, Douglas City (DK); 1-2, possibly nesting, BSLP/ No Name Pond, 19 May-26 Jun (mo): **White-faced Ibis (FR):** only 1 report; 3, HBNWR, 21 May (MW): **Trumpeter Swan (UD, GW, IIT, NC, ND):** 2-3 reported in flight over Eel River Delta, identification based on calls, later compared from memory to a tape, 27 Feb (BS): **Eurasian Green-winged Teal (FR):** 1 female, HBNWR, 7-8 May, (first thought to be “the garganey” reported 4-6 May; SH, et al. photos): **Garganey (FR, InD, IIT):** 1 female, HBNWR, 4-6 May (BSa, TMcK, RF): **Blue-winged Teal (FR):** 1-2, AMP, 27 Apr-9 May (mo); 1 pair, HBNWR, 8 May, 13 Jun (JT, et al.; JP et al.); 2 males, mouth, Redwood Creek, 24 Jun (KI): **Blue-winged Teal x Cinnamon Teal Hybrid (FR; NC, ND):** 1, HBNWR, 5 May (BSa, TMcK): **Eurasian Wigeon (ID):** 1 male, HBNWR, 8-9 May (JT, DF, JP, et al.): **Gadwall (GW):** nest found, MRSWA, 13 May (JT).

More Ducky sightings

Tufted Duck (ID, NC, FR): 1 ad. male with scaup, HBNWR, 8 May (JT, RG, et al.): **Harlequin (FR):** 2 males, King Salmon, 30 Apr, (SH, RR); 1 male, King Salmon, 18-24 Jun (MW, MM): **Long-tailed Duck (FR, NC, ND):** 1 male, Big Lagoon, 29 Apr (RF, JH, AT): **Hooded Merganser (FR):** on 13 May BY reported that he had females on eggs in 4 nest boxes at Big Lagoon, one of these for the 5th year in a row!: **Common Merganser (IP)** 1 blond (estimate only 20 percent normal plumage color) female in fir tree along Van Duzen River, 15 Jun (ST): **White-tailed Kite (IL):** 1, Horse Mountain, 12 Jun, (EMcB): **Bald Eagle (MS):** 8 reports of 1-2 from Big Lagoon, Del Loma, South Fork of Trinity River, Elk Head, North Bay, Garberville, 1 May-27 Jun (mo): **Sharp-shinned Hawk (ID):** 1, Douglas City, 18 May, (DK): **Cooper’s Hawk (ID):** 1, “acting territorial,” Eureka, 15 May (G&LL): **Red-tailed Hawk (GW):** on 6 May, young fledged from the same nest (after new repairs to winter storm damage) in Fortuna for the 32nd consecutive year! (RC): **Golden Eagle (MS):** 3 reports of 1-2 (plus 1 nest) from Island Mountain Ranch, Garberville, Dos Rios, 6-14 Jun (JS, KR): **Peregrine Falcon (MS):** 6 reports of singles from AMP, King Salmon, HBNWR, Garberville, 24 Apr-19 Jun (mo): **Blue Grouse (EL):** 1 Hatchet Creek Drainage near Trinity Lake, 21 May (DK): **Ruffed Grouse (FR):** 1, end of Norton Road, McKinleyville, 11 May (LL): **Virginia Rail (ID):** 2 calling, HBNWR, 13 Jun (JP): **Common Moorhen (FR):** 1, HBNWR, 8 May (JT, et al.).

Summer Shorebirds

Pacific Golden Plover (ID, ND, NC): 1, HBNWR, 6 May (SMcA): **Black-necked Stilt (ID):** 1, MRSWA, 10 Apr (MJ, BZ); 1-2, HBNWR, 6-8 May (KR, JT, RG, et al): **Avocet (ID):** several present, at least 1 incubating, HBNWR, 8 May (JT); 2 broods of 3 young each, HBNWR, 13 Jun (JP, et al.): **Lesser Yellowlegs (ID):** 1, V. St. Loop, 3 May (RR, SH); 1, HBNWR, 6 May (KR): **Solitary Sandpiper (FR):** 1, Loleta Bottoms, 15 May (DF, DI): **Surfbird (ID):** 1, North Jetty, 30 Apr (RR, SH): **Red Knot (ID):** 8, breeding plumage, Vance Road, 19 May (SC); 8 breeding plumage + 4 winter plumage, Woodley Island, 21 May (DF): **Pectoral Sandpiper (ID, NC, ND):** 1, HBNWR, 5 May (BSa): **Wilson's Phalarope (FR):** 1, HBNWR, 21 May (MW); 1, AOP, 26 May (SH, photos): **Parasitic Jaeger (ED):** 1 ad, 14 miles offshore, 1 May (JT, et al); 1 ad, mouth of Eel River, 13 Jun (SC): **Franklin's Gull (FR):** 1 subadult, off Ft. Bragg, 16 May (DT); 1 ad, breeding plumage complete with pink glow on breast, Spit/King Salmon, 24 Jun (MM, KR, SMcA): **Heermann's Gull (ED):** 1, Entrance Bite, Humboldt Bay, 10 Jun (MW): **Sabine's Gull (EL, ED):** 35-40, Off Eureka 15-24 miles, 1 May (JT et al.): **Caspian Tern (EL):** 61 on Sand Island, courtship, nest building, late Apr/early May (MC); 20 nests seen there on 6 Jun (MC), about 90 adults in Humboldt Bay, 11 Jun (MW). **Elegant Tern (ID):** 3, King Salmon, 24 Jun (MM): **Marbled Murrelet (MS):** > 10 Apr, up to 30 detections daily at Boyes Prairie, SMcA), 19 on water off Dry Lagoon, 30 Apr (SMcA); 10-12, near mouth Humboldt Bay, 1 May (JT, MC, et al.); 2, Entrance Bite, Humboldt Bay, 18 Jun (MW); "lots," Prairie Creek State Park, 20 Jun (PH): **Rhinoceros Auklet (IL):** 2, Green Rock on water, 30 Apr (RR, SH); 10-15 scattered at sea to 24 miles, 1 May (MC, et al.): **Collared Dove (GW):** 2, McKinleyville, 5 May (JH): 1, Pt. St. George, 20 May (AB, JG).

Common Nighthawk (MS): 1, flying over Clam Beach, 10 Jun (JSe); 2, Trinidad, 19-20 Jun (KI); 2, Crannell, 24 Jun (KI); 1, Hiller Park, 26 Jun (KI): **Common Poorwill (FR):** 2, Ft. Jones, 3 May (MW, EMcB): **Flammulated Owl (FR):** 1, Ft. Jones, 4 May (MW, EMcB): **Western Screech Owl (ED):** 1, Eureka, 26 May (CO); 2, Ft. Jones, 3 May (MW, EMcB): **Short-eared Owl (ID):** 1, MRSWA, 5 May (JD): **Black Swift (FR):** 5 reports of 1-3 from MRSWA, AMP, Bayside, Azalea Hill, Trinidad, 13-29 May (JT, DF, LL, KI, anon); 1 reported from BBHR, 20 Jun (PH): **White-throated Swift (EL):** 3-4 at Wagner Bridge, 2 May and 6 June (SMcA, JS); 4, middle fork of Eel River on Covelo Road Bridge, 13 Jun (KR): **Magnificent Hummingbird (HO):** last seen at feeder on Pigeon Point Road, 17 May (DW): **Costa's Hummingbird (HO):** the bird at the Fortuna feeder since last Sep was last seen on 22-23 Apr (BN, JN): **Calliope Hummingbird (FR):** 1, near Alderpoint, 4 May (BSa, TMcK); 1, near Miranda, 5 May (KK):

Another WOW Hummingbird

Broad-tailed Hummingbird (GW, NC, IIT): 1 male (seen from 8 feet without binoculars at feeder, good description seems to rule out similars, Klamath River, Siskiyou Co., 9 Apr (B&PC)) if confirmed this would have been the first ever, Northcoast Record!: **Selasphorus sp. (IP):** 1 seen through scope, Trinidad Head appeared to have a reddish gorget on the right half, but a green gorget on the left half! (back not seen), 5 May (DoH): **Yellow-bellied/Red-naped type Sapsucker (FR):** 1, Bayshore Mall, 12 May (TL): **Olive-sided Flycatcher** (23 May-4 Jun, SC, RC), **Western Wood Pewee** (18 May, TL), **Dusky Flycatcher** (14 May, DF, DI), **Hammond's Flycatcher** (14 May, DF, DI), and **Ash-throated Flycatcher** (4 May-11 Jun, KK, KJ, GC) all were reported from normal locations and on expected dates (mo), but the **Gray Flycatcher** at Orleans, 12 May (BSa), and the **Least Flycatcher** at BBHR, 21 Jun (KI) were noteworthy to say the least! Five reports of **Willow Flycatchers** from Crannell, the mouth of Redwood Creek, Davison Road, and Enderts Beach, 3-21 Jun (KI, AB, JG) and 4 reports of **Western Kingbirds** from the SHCP, Loleta, the V. St. Loop and Hufford Road, 5-23 May (MB, DoW, RS, DF, DI, SC) were more normal, but a Western Kingbird at mouth of Redwood Creek on 26 June seemed late for a migrant and the **Eastern Kingbird** on Trinidad Head, 19 Jun (MM) was definitely a surprise!! **Yellow-throated Vireo (FR):** 1 singing, BBHR 16-26 Jun (KI, et al.): **Plumbeous Vireo (FR):** 1, Vigo Street Marsh, 21 May (TL, SMcA, KR): **Red-eyed Vireo (FR):** 1, Patricks Point Drive, 22 Jun (KI); 1, Enderts Beach, 21-24 Jun (AB, JG, TL); 1, Elk Head, 27 Jun (KI): **Gray Jay (MS):** 1, Aldergrove Road, 3 May (RR, SH); 2 ad, 3 juv, Essex Lane, Jun (BP); 1, Onion Mtn, 22 Jun (CO): **Scrub Jay (IL):** 1, King Salmon, 20 May-1 Jun (MW): **Clark's Nutcracker (FR):** 2, Onion Mtn, 22 Jun (CO): **American Magpie (EL):** 10+, Ft. Jones, 3-4 May (MW, EMcB).

Bank Swallows Increasing?

Bank Swallow (FR): 10 going into holes at colony north of Smith River, 26 May (JH): 1, Orick, 5 Jun (KI); 2 at bank downstream from Fernbridge, 16 Jun (KR): **Oak Titmouse (EL):** 30-35, Ft. Jones and vic, 3-4 May (MW, EMcB): **White-breasted Nuthatch (EL):** 2 Kneeland, 16 Jun (BB, DVZ): **Rock Wren (FR):** 1, Kneeland, 24 May (BB, DVZ); 1, Island Mtn. Ranch, 14 Jun (KR): **Canyon Wren (FR):** 4, Island Mtn. Ranch, 14 Jun (KR): **House Wren (IL):** 1 nesting in a box, McKinleyville, 17-24 May (JaH): **Gray Catbird (IIT, NC):** 1, at a grain feeder!, Arcata, 6 May (GH), description sounds pretty good! **Northern Mockingbird (FR):** 1, Dos Rios, 13 Jun (KR): **Sage Thrasher (FR):** 1, V St. Loop, 3-4 May (MeH, et al. photos); 1, mouth Redwood Creek, 3 Jun (KI); 1, Enderts Beach, 21 Jun (AB, JG): **Northern Parula (FR):** 1, Stagecoach Road, 13 Jun (KI); 1 Fish Hatchery Road, 16 Jun (KI): **Chestnut-sided Warbler (FR):** 1, BBHR, 10-24 Jun (KI, et al.); 1 female, Enderts Beach, 27 Jun (AB): **Magnolia Warbler (FR):** 1, near Crescent City, 14 Jun (AB); 1, Hiller Park, 24-26 Jun (KR, MaM, KI): **Blackburnian Warbler (FR):** 1, Orick, 18 Jun (KI): **Yellow-throated Warbler (FR):** 1, Little River Drive, 8 Jun (KI): **Palm Warbler (ID):** 1, AMP, 27 Apr (RF, SB): **Bay-breasted Warbler (FR):** 1, Elk Head, 19 Jun (KI): **Black-and-white Warbler (FR):** 1, AMP, 24 Apr (FA); 1, Fairhaven, 19 May (SC); 1, Patricks Point Drive, 22 Jun (KI): **American Redstart (FR):** 1, Elk River Wildlife Area, 18 Jun (TL, SMcA); 1, Dry Lagoon, (KI); 1, BBHR, 19-27 Jun (2 present on 24, 26 Jun, KI, et al.); 1, Bayshore Mall, 23 Jun (TL).

Ovenbird (FR): 1, South Fork Mountain, 19 Jun (PH): **Canada Warbler (FR):** 1, Scenic Drive, near Trinidad, 19 Jun (KI): **Summer Tanager (FR):** 1, Stagecoach Road, 16 Jun (KI, MeH, TL): **Green-tailed Towhee (FR, EL):** x-10+. Horse Mtn, 14 May (DF, DI); 12 Jun (MW, EMcB, PH, et al.): **Rufous-crowned Sparrow (EL; FR):** 2, Cain Rock Trestle, 2 May (SMcA); 2 Middle Fork, Eel River at Dos Rios, 13 Jun (KR): **Clay-colored Sparrow (FR):** 1, Alexandre Dairy, 28 Apr (AB, JG); 1 singing, MRSWA, 13 May (JT): **Lark Sparrow (EL):** 1, Fortuna, 27 Apr (RC); 5, near Alderpoint, 15 Jun (KR): **Grasshopper Sparrow (EL):** 18-20, SHCP, 14 May (DW, RS); 3, Copenhagen Road, 29 May (KI); 3, Garberville, 14 Jun (KR); 4, Alderpoint, 14 Jun (KR): **Thick-billed Fox Sparrow (FR):** 1-x, singing, Horse Mtn, White Mtn, 14 May, 12 Jun (DF, DI, PH): **White-throated Sparrow (ID):** last date at Sunnybrae feeder, 21 May (SH): **Harris's Sparrow (FR):** 1 ad, Lanphere Dunes, 1-5 May (Ph, RF, photos): **White-crowned Sparrow (IL):** Singing birds were recorded at Bayshore Mall, 20 Jun (SH) and north of Grouse Mountain, 22 Jun (TL): **Rose-breasted Grosbeak (FR):** reports from Ft. Dick, Patricks Point Drive, Elk Head, Trinidad, Arcata, Ferndale Bottoms, 5 May-24 Jun (mo): **Indigo Bunting (FR) (all males):** 1, Blocksberg, 3 Jun (BSa); 1, Crescent City, 4 Jun (AB); 1, Patricks Point Drive, 21-22 Jun (KI); 1, AMP, 22-27 Jun (DM, MW, EMcB, SC, SH, photos): **Painted Bunting (GW, FR):** 1 imm male, good description, Red Mountain southeast of Piercy, County, 2 May (RS, ZC, JHe, et al) (only the third documented northcoast record!): **Hooded Oriole (FR):** 4 reports from Arcata, Lanphere Dunes, AMP, Bayside, 26 Apr-8 May (EE, SB, RF, DF).

That's all I have room for: Many thanks to all who shared observations with us this month, sorry I didn't have room to include them all: Frank Anderson, Louise Bacon-Ogden, Steve Bailey, Art Barab, Mary Barber, Alan Barron, Charles Bartolotta, Gary Bloomfield, Kristin Brown, Barbara Burek, Scott Carey, Brit Carlson, Lena Carroll, Zoe Chapman, Anna Cherokovsky, Bob and Patti Claypole, Mark Colwell, Eric Concannon, Ruth Crane, Gary Crites, Jeff Dayton, Bruce Deuel, Elias Elias, David Fix, Rosalle Foeger, Rob Fowler, Joe Friedman, Joe Gartland, Rebecca Green, Melody Hamilton, Joey Harris, Stan Harris, Jeff Hedin, Donna Heim, Pablo Herrera, Jake Houck, Denise Homer, Greg Hummel, John Hunter, David Irons, Ken Irwin, Ken Jarvela, Matt Johnson, Kyle Keegan, Siddig Kilkenny, Dale Kuhn, David Lancaster, Carol Lawrence, Sue and Tom Leskiw, Gary and Lauren Lester, Ron LeValley, Vanessa Loverti, Yalu Lozada, Dan Maxwell, Sean McAllister, Erica McBride, D. McClure, Tristian McKee, Jason Meyer, Michael Morris, Mark Morrisette, Beverly and Jim Neal, Eric Nelson, Barbara Parke, Aida Parkinson, Jude Power, Richard Ridenhour, Kerry Ross, Barry Sauppe, Jay Seeger, Bruce Slocum, Jay Sooter, Paul Springer, Seiko Sudo, Robert Sutherland, Jim Tietz, Dorothy Tobkin, Amber Transou, Richard Tryon, Steve Tucker, Dan Van Zile, Margaret Varga, Matt Wachs, Doug Wallace, Don Watenbarger, Carol Wilson, Miriam Yates, Bryan Yost, Bill Zielinski.

Field Notes
by Stan Harris
29 March-26 April 2004

Another new big day record for Godwit Days with 132 species recorded. A mixed month weatherwise, Wintering Oregon Juncos and Fox Sparrows have left feeders in the lowlands and have been replaced by Band-tailed Pigeons (Feathered Vacuum Cleaners!); a few Golden-crowned and White-throated Sparrows still linger at lowland feeders. Most spring migrants have arrived on or slightly before historic schedules, early broods of Mallards and Western Canada Geese are afloat, spring Wood Ducks have returned to the AOP, and we are moving into the nesting season with a vengeance. There is no Sandpiper scheduled for June, but one is planned for July, so please keep the reports coming in for the big July issue.

Abbreviations Used: AB = Arcata Bottoms; AMP = Arcata Marsh Project; AOP = Arcata Oxidation Pond; ECWMB = Edward C. Wagner Memorial Bridge (southern Humboldt County, Highway 101, also known as “Smith Point Bridge”); ED = Expected Date; EL = Expected Location; EM = Expected Migrant; EN = Expected Numbers; ERB = Eel River Bottoms; ES = Most Likely an Escaped Captive Bird; FR = Few Records; GW! = Gee Whiz Report; HBNWR = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; IL= Interesting Location; mo = Many Observers; MRWA = Mad River Wildlife Area; MS = Monitored Species; NB = Nesting Behavior; NR = Nesting Record; PP = Palmers Point, Patricks Point State Park; UD = Update Report.

PACIFIC LOON (ED, EN): “large flight,” “lots” migrating north past Trinidad and North Jetty, 11, 18 Apr (SC) 3440 counted flying past PP between 1200 and 1500 hours, 22 Apr (BF): **RED-NECKED GREBE (EL):** 1-4, Jetty Channel, King Salmon, 4-17 Apr (RF, BD, JG): **CLARK’S GREBE (EN):** 1, North Jetty, King Salmon, 27 Mar-10 Apr (MW, KR, RF, BD): **BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSS (IL):** 12 seen from tip of North Jetty, 18 Apr (SC): **NORTHERN FULMAR (ID):** 1, North Jetty, 4 Apr (RF): **FORK-TAILED STORM-PETREL (FR):** 1 seen in Jetty Channel, 19 Apr (BF): **BROWN PELICAN (ID):** 5 flying north past Trinidad Head, 11 Apr (SC); 1, Humboldt Bay, 12 Apr (JM): **AMERICAN BITTERN (FR):** 1, Copenhagen Road, 17-18 Apr (RF, et al): **GREAT EGRET (IL):** 1 flying north 1 mile offshore, 27 Mar (MW, KR): **GREEN HERON (FR):** 1, No Name Pond, 31 Mar (DH); 1, Allen Marsh, 10-17 Apr (MaM, JG, SH, et al., TH, FG); 1, Mad River Fish Hatchery, 18 Apr (GD); 1-3, Douglas City, 31 Mar-23 Apr (DK): **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (FR):** 2-9, HBNWR, 15-17 Apr (GB, RF, et al.): **ROSS’S GOOSE (FR):** 1-4, with Aleutian Canada Geese, ERB, Herrick Road, AB, 27 Mar-16 Apr (KR, MW, PS, GB): **TUNDRA SWAN (UD):** 55, Ferndale Bottoms, 17 Mar (CW): **EURASIAN WIGEON (FR):** 1, Copenhagen Road, 3 Apr (RF); 2, HBNWR, 15-17 Apr (GB, JG, et al.): **BLUE-WINGED TEAL (FR):** 1 male, HBNWR, 5-18 Apr (MW, JT); 1 pair, AMP, 5-17 Apr (KR, BD, JT); 1 male, Allen Marsh, 18-19 Apr (JT, BS): **EURASIAN GREEN-WINGED TEAL (FR):** 1, Klopp Lake, 27 Mar (JP); 1, AOP, 28 Mar (SC); 1, HBNWR, 17 Apr (JG): **HARLEQUIN (FR):** 1-2 males, King Salmon, 1-16 Apr (MM, BD, GB, SH, et al, PH); 3 male, 2 females, PP, 22 Apr (BF) up to 10, Glass Beach at MKSP, 21 Mar-20 Apr (DT): **WHITE-WINGED SCOTER (MS):** 5, North Jetty, 12 Apr (JM); 12,” off Luffenholtz, 17 Apr (RF): **BLACK SCOTER (FR, EL):** 30,” Pt. St. George, 27-28 Mar (RH, et al.): **LONG-TAILED DUCK (FR):** 1, off Luffenholtz, 15, 17 Apr (RF, JG); 1 with 346 Surf Scoters off PP, 22 Apr (BF): **HOODED MERGANSER (MS; UD):** 1, mouth of Mad River, 10 Apr (KR); 2 males, 4 females, ECWMB, all of Jan (JS).

OSPREY (ID): 1, Douglas City 31 Mar, 16 Apr (DK): **WHITE-TAILED KITE (IL):** 1, Salmon Creek, near Miranda, 18 Apr (KK): **BALD EAGLE (MS):** 6 reports of 1-2 from Eel River Bottoms, King Salmon, Blue Lake Fish Hatchery, South Fork of Trinity River, 4-18 Apr (SC, MW, GD): **RED-SHOULDERED HAWK (NR):** 1 on nest, Shay Park, 28 Mar (RF, SC): **GOLDEN EAGLE (MS):** 1 subadult flyby, Shay Park (“golden nape, white tail with terminal band”), 7 Apr (SC); 1 with nesting material, Benbow, 21 Mar (JS, DW); 1 pair, Mail Ridge, 31 Mar (RF, JC); 1 pair, Salmon Creek, Southern Humboldt, 16Apr (KK): **MERLIN (MS):** 1, Hookton Road, 1, Cannibal Road, both 18 Apr (GD): **PEREGRINE FALCON (MS):** 10 reports of 1-2 from Garberville, Cannibal Road,

HBNWR, College of the Redwoods, King Salmon, AMP, 28 Mar-18 Apr (mo): **RUFFED GROUSE (EL)**: 1 drumming, 1 miles up Titlow Hill Road, 4 Apr (SC); 1, Hennessy Ridge Road, 18 Apr (RH, et al.): **BLUE GROUSE (EL)**: 1 near Bridgeville, 9 Apr (MaM): **MOUNTAIN QUAIL (EL)**: “several,” 1 mile up Titlow Hill Road, 4 Apr (SC); calling, Salmon Creek (southern Humboldt); 16 Apr (KK): **COMMON MOORHEN (FR)**: 1, Hauser Marsh, 7, 14-15 Apr (FF, SH, et al., TC); 1 Lake Cleone, MKSP, 20 Apr (DT).

PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER (ID): 1 with Black-bellied Plovers, AB, 19 Apr (JT): **BLACK-NECKED STILT (FR)**: 4, 2, HBNWR, 5, 10 Apr (MW): **AMERICAN AVOCET (NB)**: 2, copulating, HBNWR, 10 Apr (MW): **LESSER YELLOWLEGS (ID)**: 6, HBNWR, 12, 15 Apr (DF, GB); 1, mouth of Elk River, 17 Apr (BD): **SOLITARY SANDPIPER (FR)**: 1, McKinleyville OP, 10 Apr (KR, SM): **SPOTTED SANDPIPER (EM)**: 2, McKinleyville OP, 10 Apr (KR, SM): **WHIMBREL (IL)**: 100, McKinleyville Middle School grounds, 14 Apr (BA, CR): **MARBLED GODWIT (IL)**: 300, McKinleyville Middle School grounds, 14 Apr (BA, CR): **RUDDY TURNSTONE (EL)**: 1, Fields Landing, 31 Mar, 18 Apr (PS, JT): **SURFBIRD (EL)**: 2, Elk Head, 15 Apr (JG, et al): **RED KNOT (FR)**: 4-5, Klopp Lake, 16 Apr (RF); 24 breeding plumage, flyby, PP, 22 Apr (BF): **ROCK SANDPIPER (EL, ID)**: 1 (breeding plumage), North Jetty, 16-24 Apr (SS, RF, SC): **POMARINE JAEGER (ID)**: 1 adult light phase, PP, 22 Apr (BF): **FRANKLIN’S GULL (FR)**: 1 flyover, Eureka, 24 Apr (BF): **GLAUCOUS GULL (FR)**: 1 immatures, Centerville Beach, 5 Apr (SMcA): **SABINE’S GULL (ID)**: 6, 6 miles off Humboldt Bay, 12 Apr (JM): **CASPIAN TERN (EM)**: 147, mouth of Mad River, 10 Apr (KR); 15,” mouth of Elk River, 15 Apr (SH, et al.): **MARBLED MURRELET (MS)**: 6-7 off North Jetty, 4 Apr (RF); 25 visuals, Boyes Prairie, 12 Apr (DF); 2, off Luffenholtz, 17 Apr (RF); 20 visuals, Boyes Prairie, 17 Apr (G & B O’B, et al.); 2, 4-5 off North Jetty, 18, 24 Apr (SC); 4, PP, 22 Apr (BF)

BAND-TAILED PIGEON (IL): 10, 20, Douglas City, 31 Mar (DK): **BURROWING OWL (FR)** 1, MKSP, 9 Apr (DT): **PYGMY OWL (FR)**: 1 heard, Hennessy Ridge Road, 18 Apr (RH, et al.): **SHORT-EARED OWL (EL)**: 1, MRWA, 16 Apr (KS): **COMMON NIGHTHAWK (ID, NC)**: 1, ID by call only, Arcata, 13 Apr (nearly the earliest record ever!) (SM): **VAUX’S SWIFT (EM)**: 3, Smith Point Bridge, 11 Apr (JS); 3, Mad River x 101, 11 Apr (SC); 2, 18 Apr; 100’s, 21 Apr, both Douglas City (DK): **WHITE-THROATED SWIFT (EL)**: 5, ECWMB, 11 Apr (JS).

MAGNIFICENT HUMMINGBIRD (GW!): 1 female, (**THE FIRST, EVER, NORTHCOAST RECORD!, PHOTOS**); Pigeon Pt. Road, Eureka, 8-18 Apr (LC, DW, et al.): **COSTA’S HUMMINGBIRD (FR)**: 1 male, Cummings Road, Eureka, 2 Apr (TL); 1 male, Fortuna, 13 Apr (BN): **CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD (FR)**: 1 male, Kneeland, 2 Apr (BB, DVZ): **LEWIS’S WOODPECKER (FR)**: 1 (UD), Snow Camp Road, mid March (DJ); 1, 4 miles west of Lord Ellis Summit, 7 Apr (CO); 1, Blue Lake Riparian, 16-17 Apr (GD): **WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKER (EL)**: 2, Horse Mountain, 4 Apr (SC): **PILEATED WOODPECKER (EL)**: 1, Boyes Prairie, 17 Apr (G &BO’B): **WESTERN KINGBIRD (EM)**: 1st seen, Douglas City, 3 Apr (DK): **NORTHERN SHRIKE (FR)**: 1 Ferndale Bottoms, 27-31 Mar (KR, MW, BF): **PURPLE MARTIN (EM)**: up to 50, AMP, 16-22 Apr (TMcK, JT, RF); up to 40, HBNWR, 17-18 Apr (GD, JT): **BANK SWALLOW (FR)**: 1, AMP, 18 Apr (JT): **ROCK WREN (EL)**: 1, Mail Ridge, 31 Mar (RF, JC): **DIPPER (EL)**: 1, ECWMB, 11 Apr (JS): **BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (FR)**: 1, Cain Rock area, 31 Mar (RF, JC); 1+, Douglas City, 5 Apr (DK): **TOWNSEND’S SOLITAIRE (IL, EL)**: 1, Lanphere Dunes, 9 Apr (ST); 1 singing, Horse Mountain, 4 Apr (SC): **MOCKINGBIRD (FR)**: 1, north of Capetown on Petrolia Road, 17 Apr (GB); 1, Douglas City, 21 Apr (DK): **AMERICAN PIPIT (ID)**: 12, Stienner Flat, 18 Apr (DK): **PALM WARBLER (ID)**: 1-4, AMP, 2-22 Apr (RF, FA, GB, M, JT); 1, mouth of Elk River, 18 Apr (GL): **BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER (FR)**: 1, AMP, 2 Apr (RF): **COMMON YELLOWTHROAT (IL)**: 1-2, Douglas City, 1-5 Apr (DK): **CHIPPING SPARROW (EM)**: 1, Clam Beach, 17 Apr (GB); 1, Douglas City, 18 Apr (DK): **VESPER SPARROW (FR)**: 1, Gold Bluff Beach, 10 Apr (GL): **LARK SPARROW (EL)**: 2, Mail Ridge, 31 Mar (RF, JC): **WHITE-THROATED SPARROW (EM)**: larger than normal numbers at feeders suggested a migratory pulse as follows: 5-7, Sunnybrae, 15-19 Apr (SH); 4, Garberville, 20 Apr (JS); 8 (7 white phase birds), Bayside, 24 Apr (JP): **LAZULI BUNTING (ID)**: 1, “early April,” near Bridgeville (DJ): **HOODED ORIOLE (FR)**: 1 male, Bayside, 21 Apr (DF); **BULLOCK’S ORIOLE (ID)**: 1,

Douglas City, 24 Apr (DK): **EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH (GW, ES)**: 1 male, McKinleyville, 15 Apr (BM); 1 male, west Arcata, 16 Apr (JP).

And Last but not Least, the sight of a live **MOUNTAIN LION** on a trail north of Requa must have given KL and AL not only a thrill but a few butterflies! Boy would I like to see one of those just once!

Many thanks to David Fix for filling in for me last month when I was out of town: Many thanks to the following who shared observations with us this month: Brian Acord, Marge Adams, Frank Anderson, Ode Bernstein, Gary Bloomfield, Barbara Burek, Scott Carey, Lena Carroll, Jim Clark, Tracy Cline, Jennifer Curtis, Bruce Deuel, Doyle, Barry Sauppe, Fred Ferguson, David Fix, Rob Fowler, Jim Gain, Flip Garrison, The Godwit Days Observation Board (GB), Gorgon and Tammy Haag, Stan Harris, Pablo Herrera, Rob Hewitt, Denise Homer, David Juliano, Kyle Keegan, Dale Kuhn, Tom Leskiw, Amy Lester, Kelsey Lester, Gary Lester, John Mahan, Sean McAllister, Tristan McKee, Sheri Miller, Bill Moore, Michael Morris, Mark Morrisette, Stephanie Morrisette, Mortz, Beverly Neal, Chet Ogan, Francis Oliver, L. Pollard, Jude Power, Judith Putman, Crystal Rogers, Kerry Ross, Bill Scoggins, Mary Severdia, Kieth Slauson, Jay Sooter, Steve Sosinsky, Paul Springer, Jim Tietz, Dorothy Tobkin, Steve Tucker, Matt Wachs, Doug Wallace, Catharine Walling. Don Wattenbarger. Even though your sighting may not be listed individually, please know that your efforts are deeply appreciated. Everyone's reports are copied into the regional notebooks maintained for decades.

Field Notes
by David Fix
1 March-28 March 2004

Weeks of pleasant weather, falling rivers (so soon?), and the leaf-greening of creekbottoms marked this Field Notes period. The wintering Red-tailed Hawks and American Kestrels have begun to clear out, and Aleutian Canada Goose flocks have been staging for weeks in the dairy pastures. *Selasphorus* hummingbirds, most species of swallows, and Orange-crowned Warblers have reappeared. Wintering Yellow-rumped Warblers, White-crowned Sparrows, and Dark-eyed Juncos have begun to sing, sing, sing with the lengthening days, and many will soon depart. ABRVTNS: AB – Arcata Bottoms; AMP – Arcata Marsh Project; AOP – Arcata oxidation ponds; BSLP – Butcher Slough logpond; ERB – Eel River Bottoms; NJHB – north jetty of Humboldt Bay.

RED-NECKED GREBE: 1, Crab Park, 13 Mar (KR, MW); CLARK'S GREBE: 1, Cock Robin I. bridge, 23 Mar (KR, MW); LAYSAN ALBATROSS (late report): 1, 4 mi. W Eureka, 10&18 Feb (JM); BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSS: 40, 4 mi. W Eureka, 5 Feb (JM); NORTHERN FULMAR: seen, 4 mi. W Eureka, 10&18 Feb (JM); GREEN HERON: 1, Hilfiker St. pond, Eureka, 15 Mar (MW); AMERICAN BITTERN: 1, Blue Lake Fish Hatchery, 7 Mar (SC).

TUNDRA SWAN: 3, AB, 6 Mar (RF); apparent departure of some So. Humboldt Bay-Eel R. birds noted as a flock of 56 flew N over Arcata, 8 Mar (JK) and 75 over, 17 Mar (JT); SNOW GOOSE: 3, with Aleutians, Lanphere Rd., 29 Feb-6 Mar (JT, RF); ROSS'S GOOSE: 8, with Aleutians, Lanphere Rd., 6 Mar (RF); 1, Cannibal I. Rd., 23 Mar (KR, MW); ALEUTIAN CANADA GOOSE: 5000+, AB, 5-6 Mar (SH); 3000+, AB, 7 Mar (SH); EURASIAN WIGEON: 1, AB, 7-11 Mar (JD, TCC, P&VS, V&DF); EURASIAN GREEN-WINGED TEAL: 1 male, Butcher Slough off Klopp Lake, 4 Mar (RF), 20 Mar (JT et al.), and 28 Mar (SC); REDHEAD: female, AMP, 20 Mar (JT); LONG-TAILED DUCK: 1 male, Klamath R. mouth, 6 Mar (ST); HARLEQUIN: 2, King Salmon, 18 Mar (MW); BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: 1, Lewiston Lake, 6 Mar (PH, CO et al.); HOODED MERGANSER: 2-4, Mad R. Slough at Lanphere Rd, 1-6 Mar (JT); seen at Lewiston Lake, 6 Mar (PH, CO et al.); 6, near mouth of Mad R., 7 Mar (KR); pair, at ponds on Grassy Valley Trail between Lewiston and Douglas City, 7 Mar (DK); 1, on pond at King Salmon, 18 Mar (MW); OSPREY: 1, flying over AMP with a fish, 6 Mar (SC); it or another there 19 Mar (JK); 1, upper Trinity R., 9 Mar (DK); 1, So. Fk. Trinity R., 13 Mar (JT, RG)

BALD EAGLE: 1 ad., Klamath R. mouth, 6 Mar (ST); 1, 'third year', Hawkins Bar, 4 Mar (Abe Walston); 1 ad. over Sunset School in Arcata, 5 Feb (anon.); 3, Lewiston Dam, 6 Mar (PH, CO et al.); ad. 14 Mar and imm. 20 Mar, Trinity R. two miles below the N. Fork (AP); ad., Crab Park, 23 Mar (KR, MW); ad., Samoa Bridge, 27 Mar (SC); GOLDEN EAGLE: 1, Garberville, 28 Feb (CO); 1, So. Humboldt Comm. Park near Garberville, 2 Mar (RS, DW); 2, Hamilton Ponds along Trinity R., 6 Mar (PH, CO et al.); 2, So. Fk. Trinity R., 13 Mar (JT, RG); FERRUGINOUS HAWK: 1 ad., Rohnerville Airport, 4 Mar (LB); MERLIN: 6 reports of singles from AMP, Lanphere Dunes, Lanphere Rd., and Elk R. mouth, 6-20 Mar (SC, RF, JT et al.); PEREGRINE FALCON: 4 reports of 1-2 from AB, Arcata, etc., 5-21 Mar (JD, TCC, JK, P&VS, D&DF, MG, GW); PRAIRIE FALCON: 1, AB, 29 Feb, it appears a bird wintered in the area (JD, TCC).

RUFFED GROUSE: 1, So. Fk. Trinity R., 13 Mar (JT, RG); COMMON MOORHEN: wintering imm. at AMP seen as late as 11 Mar (P&VS, V&DF); SNOWY PLOVER: one pair as well as 14 'scrapes', s. end Clam Beach, 7 Mar (KR); RED KNOT: 1, Klopp Lake, 21 Mar (SC); several, NJHB, 27 Mar (SC); LESSER YELLOWLEGS: 1, seemingly wintered, V St. Loop, AB, 13 Mar (KR, MW); SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER: 1, Klopp Lake, 20 Mar (JT et al.); RUFF: 1, ERB, 13 Mar (KR, MW); THAYER'S GULL: 1 ad., crippled, Arcata Plaza where unusual, 7 Mar (RF, JT); 1, first-winter, lower Mad R., 24 Mar (JT et al.); GLAUCOUS GULL: 1, first-winter, on roof of house at 27th & Alliance, Arcata, 10 Mar (EE); this individual may have been seen earlier in the winter locally;

CASPIAN TERN: 1, North Bay, 21 Mar (SC); 13, lower Mad R., 24 Mar were in-migrants (JT et al.); MARBLED MURRELET: 1, King Salmon, 18 Mar (MW); 6 pairs, NJHB, 21 Mar (SC); LONG-BILLED MURRELET: 1, Trinidad, 21 Mar, not confirmed (MG, GW); NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL: 1, captured crowned sparrow at Bayside feeder, 7 Mar (JP, DF); 1, Founders Hall, HSU, 11 Mar (JK); 1, unusual in lower Eel R. riparia at Cock Robin I., 13 Mar (KR, MW); WESTERN SCREECH-OWL: 1 calling, Eureka yard, 27 Mar (TL); RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD: 1 male, Douglas City, 6 Mar (DK); YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER: 1, Mad R. County Park 25 Mar (GF); PILEATED WOODPECKER: 1, Rock Creek Ranch, So. Fk. Smith R., 16 Mar (DW); SAY'S PHOEBE: 1, Lewiston Lake, 6 Mar (PH, CO et al.); PACIFIC-SLOPE FLYCATCHER: 1, 28 Mar, Eureka (TL); TREE SWALLOW: 40, AMP, (SC) and seen at Lewiston Lake (PH, CO) both 6 Mar.

VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW: 10, AMP, 6 Mar (SC); BARN SWALLOW: 'many', Klopp Lake, 21 Mar (SC); CLIFF SWALLOW: 1, AMP, 20 Mar (JT et al.); BROWN CREEPER: 1, 'Mt. Trashmore', AMP, 20 Mar, seldom encountered there (JT et al.); AMERICAN DIPPER: attended nest, So. Fk. Trinity R., 13 Mar (RG, JT); NORTHERN SHRIKE: 1, Port Kenyon Rd., 13&23 Mar (KR, MW); HERMIT THRUSH: what were thought to be wintering birds were heard singing at Eureka, 22&24 Mar (TL) and at Bayside, 25 Mar (DF); WESTERN BLUEBIRD: 2-7 seen 16 of 26 days in Feb at Kneeland (BB, DVZ); MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD: 1 male, Douglas City, 5 Mar (Margie Kuhn).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: 'first noted 21 Mar, increasing by 23 Mar' (KI); NASHVILLE WARBLER: 1, BSLP, 5 Mar (KR); BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER: one wintering at AMP seen as late as 10 Mar (RF, MJ); YELLOW WARBLER: one wintering at AMP seen as late as 20 Mar (JT et al.); HERMIT WARBLER: 1 singing, Eureka, 29 Mar (TL); PALM WARBLER: 1-2, wintering in AMP and along So. I St., to 20 Mar (JK, FA); WILSON'S WARBLER: 1, Shay Park, 28 Mar (RF, JC); COMMON YELLOWTHROAT: one (of several, remarkably) wintering at AMP seen as late as 20 Mar (JT et al.); BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK: 1 singing, Eureka, 27 Mar (CO); SWAMP SPARROW: 1, AMP, 10 Mar (RF, MJ); 'SLATE-COLORED' JUNCO: 1, McKinleyville yard, 19 Mar (KR); BULLOCK'S ORIOLE: second-yr. male, Arcata yard, 15 Mar (GB); COMMON GRACKLE: 1, continuing through at least 4 Mar near Lake Earl (AB); PINE SISKIN: 12, AMP, 6 Mar (JK); RED CROSSBILL: 6, Lanphere Dunes, 6 Mar (JT); EVENING GROSBEAK: 2, So. Fk. Trinity R., 13 Mar (JT, RG).

Many thanks to the following who shared reports this month: OBSERVERS: Frank Anderson, Laura Bradley, Barb Burek, Scott Carey, Tall Chief Comet, Jennifer Curtis, Jeff Dunk, Elias Elias, David Fix, Vic and Donna Fonde, Rob Fowler, Greg Frankfurter, Mourad Gabriel, Rebecca Green, Stan Harris, Pablo Herrera, Ken Irwin, Matt Johnson, Jherime Kellerman, Dale Kuhn, Margie Kuhn, John Mahan, Chet Ogan, Kerry Ross, Paul and Virginia Springer, Robert Sutherland, Jim Tietz, Steve Tucker, Matt Wachs, Doug Wallace, Abe Walston, Darrel Warnock, Greta Wengert, Dan Van Zile.

Field Notes
by Stan Harris
11 January-29 February 2004

The post-Christmas Count let down has come and gone and things are starting to happen again, some REALLY high tides at the same time as heavy rains made for interesting flooding on the coastal plain here and there. City workers skimmed the marsh pennywort mats and some cattails from the AMP units in Feb, causing a shift and departures of some birds, but many ducks had departed AMP units before the mat removal operations. All in all a pretty much HO HUM period with few surprises.

Abbreviations Used: AB = Arcata Bottoms; AMP = Arcata Marsh Project; AOP = Arcata Oxidation Pond; BSLP = Butcher Slough Log Pond; ED = Expected Date; EL = Expected Location; EN = Expected Numbers; ERB = Eel River Bottoms; FR = Few Records; GW = Gee Whiz Report; HBNWR = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; HO = Hold Over from previous months; ID = Interesting Date; IL = Interesting Location; IN = Interesting Numbers; IP = Interesting Plumage; MKSP= McKerricher State Park; mo= Many Observers; MRWA = Mad River Wildlife Area, MS = Monitored Species; NC = Not Confirmed by a second party; ND = No Description; SRB = Smith River Bottoms; UD - Updated report.

Great Grebes

Red-necked Grebe (EL, EN): 1-2, King Salmon, 3-5 Feb (JT); 1, Stone Lagoon, 21 Feb (SC): Clark's Grebe (EL): 1, North Humboldt Bay, 8 Feb (JT): Black-footed Albatross (EN, EL): 8, off Eureka 5 miles, 19 Jan (JM): Laysan Albatross (FR): 1, off Eureka 5 miles, 19 Jan (JM): Northern Fulmar (ED, EN): "few to many" seen from shore, northern Mendocino County, 21 Dec-20 Jan (DT); 100, off Eureka 5 miles, 19 Jan (JM): Snowy Egret (IN): 50, V St. Loop, 8 Feb (PS): Greater White-fronted Goose (EN): 7 reports of 1-"several" from AB, MRWA, HBNWR, 21 Jan-22 Feb (BF, JT, RG, KR, RF): Lesser Snow Goose (EN): 11 reports of 1-3 from Noyo Harbor (flyby), Bald Hill at Ft. Bragg, AB, Arcata, SRB, 23 Dec-29 Feb (mo): Ross's Goose (EN): 5 reports of 1-"a dozen" from Ft. Bragg, HBNWR, AB, SRB, 16 Jan-22 Feb (DT, MM, KR, SH, PS): Aleutian Canada Goose (EM, IN): 9 reports of 100 to 10,000's from ERB, HBNWR, AB, SRB, 14 Jan-22 Feb (mo) and 5 reports of A.M flights of 130 to 2,410 flying south past McKinleyville, Patricks Point, 30 Jan-21 Feb (KR, KI): Cackling Canada Goose (FR): 4-6, AB, 19-23 Feb (KR): Tundra Swan (IL, EL): 3, Bald Hill, Ft. Bragg, 11 Jan (DT); 35, AB, 8 Feb (BA); 442, ERB, 150, HBNWR, 4 (only) SRB, mid winter aerial inventory, all 21 Jan (JD, SH); 20 flyover, Arcata, 20 Feb (GB): Eurasian Wigeon (EN, EL): 8 reports of 1-3 males from HBNWR, No. H. Bay, V St. Loop, Alexandre Dairy, 31 Jan-29 Feb (AB, RF, KR, JT, PS, SC): Blue-winged Teal (EN): 1 male, BSLP, 22 Jan, 8-14 Feb (JB, SH); 1 male, Alexandre Dairy, 31 Jan (AB, RF); 1 male, Allen Marsh, 27 Jan-14 Feb (OB, SH); 1 male, Hauser Marsh, 27 Jan (OB); 1 male, Moxon Road, 19 Feb (KR): Pintail (IL): 1 pair, BSLP, 13 Jan (MD).

Teal from Asia

Eurasian Green-winged Teal (FR): 7 reports of 1-2 from AOP, Allen Marsh, Alexandre Dairy, 10 Jan-21 Feb (JT, SH, PL, AB): Canvasback (IN): 1 pair, Klopp Lake, 22-29 Jan (JT, P&VS, RF, CO); 118 (only), mid winter inventory, Lake Earl, 21 Jan (JD, SH): Redhead (FR): 1 male, Allen Marsh, 22-25 Jan (SH, PL): Ring-necked Duck (IN): 23 pairs, Fulmar Lane, 9 Feb (CW): Harlequin (EL): 5-7, Glass Beach, 21 Dec-20 Jan (DT); 1, North Jetty, 1 Feb, (PR); 1-2, King Salmon, 3-5 Feb (JT): White-winged Scoter (MS): 30 off Big Lagoon, 21 Feb (SC): Black Scoter (FR): 15, MKSP, 28 Dec (DT): Long-tailed Duck (FR): 1, Crab Park, 14 Jan (KR, MW); 1, Trinidad, 14 Jan (MeH); 7 (!), mouth, Klamath River, 31 Jan (JH): 1, mouth, Smith River, 18 Jan (KR, JK): Common Goldeneye (IL): 1 female, V St. Loop, F 16Jan-24 Feb (MeH, KR); 1 female, AMP, 1 Feb (JK): Hooded Merganser (FR): 6 pair, pond near Lewiston Lake, 29 Jan (DK); 1, V St. Loop, 24 Feb (KR); 3 female type, Lanphere Road, 29 Feb (JT); x, Klamath River, 30 Jan (RF); 2 pair, Lagoon Creek, 15 Jan (JD); 1 female, South Fork, Smith River 1 mile above Craigs Ck, 18 Jan (AP).

Osprey (ID): 9 reports of singles from Eureka, No. Humboldt Bay, AOP, Hammond Bridge, Trinidad, Big Lagoon, 21 Jan-21 Feb (mo): Bald Eagle (MS): 21 reports of 1-2 from Eel River, south Hum. Co, HBNWR, Arcata, McKinleyville, Dow's Prairie, Trinidad, near Bluff Creek, Redwood Creek, AB, SRB, 10 Jan-19 Feb (mo): Ferruginous Hawk (FR): 2, Monument Road, 7 Feb (PH); 1, ERB, 14 Jan (KR, MW); 1, west Arcata, 20 Jan (GB); 1, Alexandre Dairy, 31 Jan (AB, RF): Rough-legged Hawk (IN): only 5 reports of singles from Mail Ridge, Bear River Ridge, Cannibal Road, Freshwater, mouth of Jacoby Creek, 14 Jan-7 Feb (KR, MW, JG, EC, PH, BA), a rather poor year for this species: Golden Eagle (EL): 1, Highway 101, northern Mendo Co, 22 Jan (JT); 1, Garberville x 101, 28 Feb (CO, BOB); 2, Bear River Ridge, 7 Feb (PH): Merlin (MS): 9 reports of 1-2 from HBNWR. Arcata, AMP, AB, North Spit, 16 Jan-15 Feb (mo): Peregrine (MS): 15 reports of 1-3 from ERB, HBNWR, King Salmon, Elk River, AMP, Arcata, 12 Jan-21 Feb (mo).

Galloping Gallinule

Common Moorhen (FR, HO): 1 juv, Allen/Hauser Marsh, 11 Jan-25 Feb (D&K J, SH, FA, JK. KR): Snowy Plover (MS): 10-12 (2 banded), South Spit, near Jetty, 11 Jan (DL); 2, mouth Lake Talawa, 7 Feb (JR, fide AB): Avocet (IL): 1, Crab Park, 14 Jan (KR, MW); 2, pond on Centerville Beach, 13 Jan (SMcA): Lesser Yellowlegs (ID): 1, V St. Loop, 14 Jan, 20-24 Feb (MeH, KR): Wandering Tattler (ID): 1, Trinidad, 14 Jan, 15 Feb (MeH): Spotted Sandpiper (EL): 1, Indian Beach, 15 Feb (MeH): Long-billed Curlew (IN): 100's, Fulmor Lane, 9 Feb (CW): Ruddy Turnstone (FR): 2, Trinidad, 15 Feb (MeH): Surfbird (IL): 5, foot of Trusdale St, Eureka, 23 Feb (MW): Rock Sandpiper (FR): 3, Virgin Ck. Beach, 2 Jan (DT); 1, North Jetty, 1 Feb (PR): 1 ad, Arcata, 4, 18 Feb (JT): Glaucous Gull (FR): 1 ad (!), North Spit, 29 Feb (SC); 1 first year, Klopp Lake, 21 Feb (TMcK): Black-legged Kittiwake (IN): est 50-60 offshore from Big/Stone Lagoon, 21 Feb (SC), 1 ad, Arcata, 4, 18 Feb (JT): Glaucous Gull (FR): 1 ad (!), North Spit, 29 Feb (SC); 1 first year, Klopp Lake, 21 Feb (TMcK): Black-legged Kittiwake (IN): est 50-60 offshore from Big/Stone Lagoon, 21 Feb (SC).

Caspian Tern (ID): 6 reports of 1-4 from HBNWR, King Salmon, North Bay, 3-8 Feb (MW, JT); Forster's Tern (EL, EN): up to 20 seen on 6 dates, 10 Jan-29 Feb, AMP, AOP (SH): Band-tailed Pigeon (IN): 70, Mail Ridge, 22 Jan (JG); 5-12, Sunny Brae, 25 Jan-21 Feb (SH); 1, Eureka, 23 Feb (TL): Pygmy Owl (FR): 1, BSLP, 22 Jan (DH); 1 seen to catch and eat a vole, Douglas City, 4 Feb (DK); 1, Bear River Ridge, 7 Feb (PH); 1, Trinidad, 14 Feb (MeH): Burrowing Owl (FR): 1, South Spit, 20 Feb (AC): Long-eared Owl (FR, NC, ND): 1 reported calling at dusk, V St. Loop, 21 Jan (GB): Short-eared Owl (EL): 4-12, MRWA, 31 Jan-15 Feb (JT, RG); 1, Hookton Slough, HBNWR, 10 Feb (JG), once again confirming the vital importance of perennial grassland for winter habitat for this special species: Saw-whet Owl (FR): 1, Garberville, 16 Jan (GL): Rufous Hummingbird (ID): 1 male, Eureka, 3 Feb (GL): Lewis's Woodpecker (FR): 1, Mail Ridge, in same tree as one seen last Oct!, 23 Feb (JG): Yellow-shafted Flicker (FR): 1, good phone description clearly eliminates an intergrade, Chezom Road x Redwood Creek, 12 Feb (FA): Pileated Woodpecker (FR): 1, Douglas City, 11 Jan-4 Feb (DK); 1, Trinidad, 15 Feb (MeH): Say's Phoebe (FR): 1, Fountain Ranch, 21 Feb (RF): Gray Jay (EL): ca 9, near Trinidad, 6 Feb (RG), ID from description of appearance and actions given to KR, GL: Horned Lark (EL, IL): "several," Bear River Ridge, 7 Feb (PH); 2, mouth of Lake Talawa, 7 Feb (JR, fide AB): Tree Swallow (ID): 8 reports of 1-10 from Centerville Beach, AMP, AB, Wedding Rock, 13 Jan-29 Feb (mo): Barn Swallow (ID): 5 reports of 1-7 from AMP, AOP, Arcata, 22 Jan-6 Feb (JT, RF, SH, KR, EE, RG): White-breasted Nuthatch (EL); 1, Mail Ridge, 22 Jan (JG): Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (FR; IL): 1, Rio Dell, 4 Feb (GL): Western Bluebird (MS): 18, Mail Ridge, 28 Feb (JG); 2-9 seen on 24 of 31 days in Jan at Kneeland (BB, DVZ); x, Bear River Ridge, 7 Feb (PH); 2, Trinidad, 15 Feb (MeH).

Solitary Thrush

Townsend's Solitaire (IL): 1, downtown Willow Creek, 6 Feb (AW): Mockingbird (FR, HO): 1, Freshwater, 27 Jan (RH); 1, Douglas City, 10 Jan-9 Feb, hold over from last Oct (DK); 1, Eureka, daily through 25 Feb, hold over from at least 7 Nov (BF): Nashville Warbler (ID): 1, Arcata, 18 Jan (GB); 1, Trinidad, 14 Feb (MeH): Yellow Warbler (ID; HO): 1, AMP, 14 Jan-28 Feb (JM, SJ, RF, EE): Hermit Warbler (UD): 1 female, Eureka, 14 Dec-8 Jan (BF): Palm Warbler (ED): 1, AMP, 25 Jan-28 Feb (RF, MV); 1, AB, 8 Feb (P&VS): Black-and-white Warbler (FR): 1,

BSLP, 1 Feb (MV); 1 female, near Trinidad, 14 Feb (MeH): Common Yellowthroat (ID): up to 3, AMP, 6-8 Feb (MMi, RF): Summer Tanager (ID, GW, Photos): 1 female, Fortuna, 6 Jan-17 Jan (DM, et al.): California Towhee (IL): 1, upper Jacoby Creek, 31 Jan (PH); 1, Blue Lake Riparian, 24 Feb (EE, BC): Clay-colored Sparrow (FR): 1, Arcata, 18 Jan (GB): Rusty morph Fox Sparrow (FR, HO): 1, Arcata, 18-20 Jan (GB): Swamp Sparrow (FR): 1, Allen Marsh, 22 Jan (SH); 1, AMP Interp. Center, 3 Feb (FA): Junco spp (IP, NC): 1 male with black hood and body of Slate-colored, no rusty anywhere, probably from the northern Rocky Mtn race in Alberta or interior BC, AMP, 19 Feb (RF): Tricolored Blackbird (FR): 3, Alexandre Dairy, 18 Jan (AB, KR, JK, JoG): Rusty Blackbird (FR, GW, Photos): 1, Alexandre Dairy, 18-31 Jan (AB, KR, JK, RE, JoG, RF, JH): Common Grackle (FR, HO): 1, Lanphere Road, 14 Jan (DF); 1, SRB, 18-31 Jan (AB, KR, JoG, JK, RE, RF): Orchard Oriole (GW, NC, phone description only): 1, Eureka, mid-Jan-22 Feb (L B-O); seen together with following species on 17 and 21 Feb in Eureka (BF): Baltimore Oriole (GW, phone description only): 1 female (dull plumage with gray sides and lower belly, thought not to be a Bullocks because of lack of yellow on face and cleanly-drawn wing bars; but what about a hybrid?), Eureka, 19 Jan-23 Feb (BF, MW, et al.).

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