



The Sandpiper

November 2020



Redwood Region Audubon Society

www.rras.org

FIRE: Life or Death?

By Chet Ogan

If you look at a primeval forest, the growth is often patchy. It is not one continuous, even stand. Maybe a large old-growth tree fell, taking a few smaller trees with it, creating a small clearing. Maybe a lightning fire burned out a half-acre patch, or a few bark beetles invaded a stand of red fir trees that died, creating an opening. Stunted tanoaks sprang to life again, surrounded by bunch grasses such as bear grass. The nearby riparian corridor with the water tumbling over rocks past alders and willows provides relief to thirsty forest denizens. Strong winds blew over trees, whose roots were softened by the moisture.



over 5000 regurgitated Spotted Owl pellets. Occasionally I'd find a pellet full of mandibles, from what are protein-packed, ponderosa wood borers.

If a downed log scorches a tree heavily enough, it can create a basal cavity that extends up inside the trunk. You might find a bear denned in the basal hollow, with a bat colony living inside the top of it. Another large tree, scorched through the middle, the heavy bark protecting the outside where green limbs still grew; may have its top broken off by a strong wind, creating a "chimney" within which Vaux's Swifts could nest.

This is the landscape that Native Americans inherited when they first arrived in North America. This forest was their pantry, their garden, provided part of their wardrobe, and their hardware store. They just needed to maintain it, which they did by lighting ground fires periodically, sometimes yearly or every five to ten years. When I helped on a fire history project, with advice from Yurok and Karuk elders, we cut wedges from buttress roots of recently felled trees at duff level – where the tree meets the soil under the organic layer of dead and rotted leaves and twigs. Here we saw healed fire scars of many small fires at five- to 15-year intervals in redwoods and Douglas fir. The wedges I cut were 36 to 44 inches, deep dating back up to 200 years before white settlers inhabited our area.

Forests and brush lands in North America are adapted in different ways to fire and may burn in different ways. The 1988 fires around Yellowstone burned tens of thousands of acres of lodgepole pine.

(Continued on page 3)

Left: Artwork by Gary Bloomfield.

Fire is a natural method of land management. Perhaps a forest fire burned through the duff and understory mostly as a ground fire, occasionally burning a few beetle-killed trees, or caught in a log and scorched a patch of trees. That can create a mosaic of different-aged conifers mixed with a few hardwoods. The opening created by fire allows grasses and brush to take hold, lowering the successional stage, giving the forest some diversity in not only plant species but also the forest denizens that use the open space within the forest, such as a small colony of woodrats.

A large downed log becomes home to chipmunks, voles, lizards, ring-necked snakes, salamanders, snails, slugs, beetles, termites, and carpenter ants. Mountain Quail can find protection under the brush to place a nest and lay a dozen eggs. Ground-nesting birds might find a crevice in the stump left by the fallen tree or in the fallen log to build a nest. As the tree falls, it loosens the soil, so moles and shrew moles could burrow more easily. As the large tree rots, raccoons will find refuge in its myriad of crevices. Bears will pull through rotten tree stumps for carpenter ants. Pileated Woodpeckers will peck open trunks for tunnels full of wood-boring beetle larvae – as did a few Spotted Owls I discovered when I dissected

Thanksgiving: Two Indigenous Perspectives

By Hilanea Wilkinson, Wiyot

In our family, Thanksgiving is not about remembering the atrocities that took place, but being thankful for the family and friends that are here now. The day is a time for elders to share family recipes and teach the youth ways in the kitchen. It is a time of the year when people come from far away to gather with loved ones.

Thanksgiving has evolved so much that it is now a day to bring people of all backgrounds together to help those who need it. All we can do is remember what happened and try to make this day into a time to help people and have a reason to be thankful. Though every family has different traditions, memories, and tables, we should try to make the best out of what we have today.

By Sean Sherman, Oglala Lakota Sioux, founder of *The Sioux Chef* and author of *The Sioux Chef's Indigenous Kitchen*, which won the 2018 James Beard Award

Many of my indigenous brothers and sisters refuse to celebrate Thanksgiving, protesting the whitewashing of the horrors our ancestors went through, and I don't blame them. But I have not abandoned the holiday. I have just changed how I practice it. We do not need that illusion of past unity to actually unite people today. Instead, we can focus simply on values that apply to everybody: togetherness, generosity, and gratitude. And we can make the day about what everybody wants to talk and think about anyway: the food.

For years, especially as the head of a company that focuses on indigenous foods, I have explored Native foods. It has given me – and can give all of us – a deeper understanding of the land we stand on. It's exciting to reconnect with the nature around us. We Americans spend hours outdoors collecting foods like chanterelles, morels, ramps, wild ginger, chokecherries, wild plums, crab apples, cactus fruit, paw paws, manzanita berries, cattails, maple, wild rice (not the black stuff from California, which is a modified and completely different version of the true wild rice growing around the Great Lakes region), cedar, rose-hips, hickory, acorns, and walnuts. We can work with Native growers producing heirloom beans, squash, and pumpkins, and Native corn varieties, all coming in many shapes, sizes, and colors. We can have our feasts include dishes like cedar-braised rabbit, sunchoke with sumac, pine-stewed venison, smoked turkey with chestnuts, true wild rice with foraged mushrooms, native squash with maple, smoked salmon, and wild teas.

No matter where you are in North America, you are on indigenous land. And so, on this holiday, and any day really, I urge people to explore a deeper connection to what are called "American" foods by understanding true Native-American histories, and begin using what grows naturally around us, and to support Native-American growers. There is no need to make Thanksgiving about a false past. It is so much better when it celebrates the beauty of the present.

Excerpt reprinted from an article in Time.

For a fuller understanding of Thanksgiving, view this website: https://americanindian.si.edu/sites/1/files/pdf/education/thanksgiving_poster.pdf



Above: Squash, beans and corn – some Native foods to give thanks for. Photo courtesy of Seed Savers Exchange.

For a healthy model of a Native foods program in progress, check out the Food Sovereignty Lab of HSU's Native American Studies Department. For the latest article on The Food Sovereignty Lab in The Lumberjack go to <https://thelumberjack.org/2020/09/17/students-advocate-for-award-winning-food-sovereignty-lab/>

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Wildlife photographer Ann Constantino — captured Sharp-shinned Hawks learning the ropes in Southern Humboldt, by the South Fork of the Eel River. They don't seem so sure yet of what will make good prey and can be especially aggressive with flickers and Steller's Jays. The aggression seems to go both ways, with the jays and flickers teasing the young sharpies in a kind of aerial game of "Chicken."



Above: Steller's Jay out-dances an immature Sharp-shinned Hawk. Photo by Ann Constantino.



President's Column

By Gail Kenny

RRAS Vacancy for Field Trip Chair!

This is a great opportunity to organize field trips to places you want to explore. I enjoyed planning trips to interesting locations when I was the Redwood Region Audubon Society Field Trip Chair. You can plan ahead a few months at a time or for the year; line up your trip leaders, and most of the work is done. If you are interested this is a fun way to join our Board. Willing to learn how, or want to know more? Please contact me at gailkenny@gmail.com.

Our socially distanced public field trips are happening again, including weekly Saturday morning walks at the Arcata Marsh, a monthly walk at Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and a special Humboldt Bay walk to

review pending Oyster farming expansion. These trips are by reservation only and limited to 7 people plus the leader. Go to our website at rras.org for more details and to sign up.

We are having Zoom presentations on the second Friday of each month. Since it is online, people from anywhere can join in, we can have speakers from outside the area. I hope you will join us for the November 13 program on Spotted Owls.



Spotted Owl female and juvenile by Peter Carlson.

Corvid Town Hall

By Pia Gabriel

Those of us who live along the forest edge—where large stands of redwoods are transitioning into a mosaic of open landscaping, ornamental shrubbery, giant picturesque stumps, and loose stands of tall conifers—can watch and hear a spectacle on many evenings, especially in fall and winter. Overhead, usually flying just high enough to skim the tree tops, is a crow, and then another, and then three more crows, and then a pair of ravens, and then more and more crows and ravens, some noisily, some quietly, but all busily heading up from the bottoms and town east into the woods. Sometimes, if you have one of those yards with large enough stands of mature conifers, you will be lucky enough to witness noisy tornadoes of maybe 50 ravens or 150 crows swirling around one clump of trees, most of them alighting on it and



starting an intense discussion. The discussion turns into a disagreement, and the entire murder swirls up into the air again, shedding a few individuals who decide they have heard enough of today's news and settle down for the night or swerve off in another direction, perhaps to their favorite sleeping tree. The main body of this enormous gathering, how-

ever, goes on to repeat its swirling, settling, chattering, arguing, and circling display until eventually, somehow, an agreement about a suitable night roost is reached. Behavioral ecologists have increasingly described such nightly group roosting behaviors as "information centers," where individual birds might learn about the whereabouts of profitable food sources, or might recruit comrades to gang up and gain access to a large carcass that would otherwise be successfully defended by a territorial raven pair. Whatever those smart, charismatic corvids are truly discussing in their night roosts, they give us a spectacle to behold when they gather in our redwood canopies for a corvid town hall. I never get tired of looking up at and appreciating some of our most common birds whose large brains and personalities leave so much to be discovered.

~ November's Virtual Program ~ Spotted Owl Status in NW California and the Impact of Barred Owls

Join Redwood Region Audubon Society for this Zoom presentation with Peter Carlson on:

Friday, November 13 at 7 pm

Peter began studying spotted owls in the San Bernardino mountains in 1992 and has worked on the NW California demography study since 1994. He has fond memories of working briefly with Barred Owls and other raptors. He previously worked for Humboldt State University, and since 2005 has worked through Colorado State University as a research associate for the study. He currently lives in Arcata.

Barred Owl populations have been increasing in the Pacific Northwest for several decades and are now impacting Northern Spotted Owls throughout their range. To address this problem, several Barred Owl removal studies have been initiated which included areas of local long-term demographic studies on Green Diamond property, the Hoopa Reservation, and the Six Rivers and Shasta-Trinity National Forests. Peter Carlson, currently

working for Colorado State University as a long-time member of the research team for the studies on national forest lands, will discuss some of the impacts of Barred Owls, the recent trends of the owls, and status of the removal studies. While the impacts of Barred Owls are of real concern, that is only one of several ongoing threats to the Spotted Owl. Peter will also discuss the Barred Owl issue in the context of multiple stressors.



Peter Carlson (L) and Mark Higley (R), Hoopa biologist, with a Spotted Owl. Photo by Shannon Mendia.

“FIRE: Life or Death?” (Continued from page

This was in areas that had not burned in over a century. Lodgepole pines seem to need these stand-replacing fires. These fires were beneficial for elk, bison, and wolves. They opened areas where elk could browse willows and aspens, allowing beavers to re-establish themselves in the creeks, thereby creating pools that supported trout. Plants of Mediterranean climate, chaparral forests of central and southern California are adapted for fire. A root ball just below the soil surface holds much of these plant’s nutrients during the dry season after the plants have sprouted, flowered, and seeded during the wet season. Species such as chamise and some *Ceanothus* reach full maturity between 15 and 25 years after a fire, when up to 50% of the above ground mass contains dead wood. Ash from fires return nutrients back to the soil, where it becomes reabsorbed by the plant roots.

Many of our Northern California forest hardwoods are fire-adapted, with roots containing much of the nutrition needed to resprout plants following a fire. I recall in 2008, when I was on the mid-June fires above Orleans, seeing Saddle oaks burned to the ground. Fires were still burning in July when I returned to the same area to see these same Saddle oaks with new 12- and 18 inch sprouts; tanoaks and madrones were already resprouting. These were healthy forests; native plants and animals are adapted to these forests and have adjusted their life patterns to thrive with periodic small fires. By preventing fires for the past 100 years, and allowing accumulation of above-ground woody debris, we have created a situation that is now out of balance with nature.

Fire agencies often don’t have the proper personnel hired and on hand to do the prescribed or controlled burning on the landscape needed to create healthy forests or do the light under-burning needed to maintain a safe level debris accumulation every year. If one looks at GIS maps created during and after a large fire has swept through, you will see it is a mosaic of areas where the fire mostly crept along the ground, gently burning ground fuels. Occasionally, when conditions were present, fire found a fuel ladder into the canopy. Where the canopy opened out with more widely spaced trees, the fire slowed and went back to creeping along the ground. Where fire reaches an even-aged forest with a tight canopy, such as plantations and mature forest stands where natural fires have not regularly occurred, devastating crown fires wipe out large swaths. Fire managers recognize this, so where there is enough experienced personnel available to attack hotspots and to prevent fire from spreading into undesirable areas – in areas such as wilderness and roadless areas where life and property are not threatened – fires are monitored and allowed to burn. Many of the fire scenes we see on news programs are of backfiring operations.

Unfortunately, the public has not been educated on this critical issue. When prescribed fires have been tried in the past, residents frequently complain about the smoke from these controlled burns. But if we are going to change the current trend of super-fires, we have to understand that some smoke from a prescribed burn is worth tolerating, to avoid many of those residents’ homes from being reduced to ashes in fires where we do not have control.

September’s Tim McKay Bird-a-thon The Wandering Talliers Report!

By CJ Ralph



The Four Musketeers – Can you identify the lineup of the Wandering Talliers team members?

For the past five years Redwood Region Audubon Society (RRAS) has held an annual Bird-a-thon fundraiser for RRAS and the Northcoast Environmental Center. As a result of the pandemic this year, we postponed it to the fall with some modifications. Holding the count in September as opposed to May was more challenging, as birds are not calling nearly as much as they do when setting up breeding territories in the spring. However, like the Phoenix, the Bird-a-thon rose again and several teams competed. Here is the story of one of them.

We started September 18 (in the infamous year of 2020) at leader Gary Friedrichsen’s home on Buttermilk Lane with freshly brewed coffee and delicious warm fruit turnovers. Our team, “Wandering Talliers,” included Greg Chapman, Gary Friedrichsen, Gary Bloomfield, and CJ Ralph. We all donned our face masks and, like a bunch of bandits, drove with our windows down for the next 12 hours!

Our first stop was at the cottonwoods on the Mad River, just over the bridge from Blue Lake. Birds might have still been recovering from the smoke, as they seemed a bit quiet. The smoke had shut us all down a few days ago, as it was so thick then that it made it hard to read a newspaper even at noon outside. However, things were MUCH better that day, finding the always-reliable chickadee flocks in the cottonwood canopy, we also got a few warblers – including an amazing Yellow-throated Warbler – despite being at a painful “warbler neck” angle. The trees were gaily festooned with abundant and colorful

Poison Oak, making it hazardous to lean back against them to rest our backs and necks. Despite this, three of us got decent looks at this very special bird of the Southeast that should have been heading towards Central America and the Caribbean.

After snagging a few more species a bit upriver near the fish hatchery, we zoomed up to Trinidad and bagged some ocean-loving birds, and then back south and a pre-high tide look for shorebirds at the Arcata Marsh. Luckily a Black-necked Stilt was still present, along with several ducks and waders. Then it was off to Eureka and scanning for Bay specialties.

At a high point at the bay shore, known as the “Bayshore Willows,” was a roost of over 300 Elegant Terns (see below), sitting on pilings, and chattering among themselves. Seen almost nowhere else, they were a happy, handsome, boisterous lot!



Some Black Turnstones were there for a bonus. As we came around the corner at the mouth of the Elk River, the U.S. Antarctic Programs’ research ship Nathaniel B. Palmer loomed large across the way. This unexpected vessel is a 300-foot icebreaker. It certainly looked really out of place so far from the Southern Hemisphere. No penguins aboard, though.

We then scanned the bay from the heights of Buhne Point at King Salmon, which yielded a very special Red-necked Grebe, among the more-usual Bay species. Towards the end of the afternoon, trying to get the few more species we were missing, we swung over to Cooper Gulch in the center of Eureka. This has been a recent host to several rare birds in its abundant riparian habitat. The cacophony of skateboarders, all unsafely zipping around without helmets or masks, made it a bit difficult to hear those warbler call notes. We wandered around listening and would have heard something had it been there, but found almost nothing... five birds of three species (goldfinch, flicker, and the ubiquitous raven) So much nothing, we decided to dub this stop “Cooper Zilch.”

The day was drawing to a close, and some clouds were gathering on the horizon and heading our way, so we skittered over to the V Street Loop close by the Arcata Marsh “Project” (as some old-timers call it). There we started racking up species, one at a time. “Doc” Harris appreciated its open, grazed fields, and might not be fully appreciative of the new active riparian restoration going on, scraping away pasture. Before that takes place, with planned fence-to-fence willows, we got our only Peregrine Falcon, White-tailed Kite, Red-tailed Hawk, and Red-shouldered Hawk. Oh, let’s not forget our only Savannah Sparrow of the day! Not wanting to face the shame of also missing House Sparrow and Brewer’s Blackbird, we stopped briefly at the Moxon Road dairy. A fitting climax to the day, as a few spritzes turned into a steady drizzle that kept our windshield wiper going as we headed for the barn (well, the Friedrichsen’s home), with visions of food and good (socially-distanced) conversations. After finishing the day out on the Friedrichsens’ spacious patio, we were treated to a delicious tuna melt and beverages to cap the day. Thanks, Jan!

We found this a great seasonal reset, for what is “normal” for abundances of various species in mid-fall. Going around looking for each and every species, we found we were missing some that we would have thought pretty common. We never would have thought we would have to work hard to get the American Robin... we got only one! It was only a very few weeks ago that The Ralphs had 14 on their little front lawn. Other things that seemed strange was only a single House Sparrow and we missed several fall Migrants, with a shocking 31 species that we found only a single individual. This is a good wake-up call for us as the season rapidly slides towards the autumnal equinox... maybe there is something to this climate change thing, after all!

If you missed this year’s foray, you can still be part of the 2021 event. Stay tuned to our website at rras.org.



Tuna melt to cap the day! All photos by Gary Bloomfield.

Local Researchers Determine Habitat Restoration Improves Snowy Plover Nest Success!

By Mark A. Colwell, Professor, Wildlife Department, Humboldt State University, and Katelyn M. Raby, Biological Consultant.

The Snowy Plover (*Charadrius nivosus*) is a small shorebird that occupies ocean-fronting beaches year-round. In 1993, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service listed the Pacific Coast population as “Threatened” under the Endangered Species Act. Several factors interact to negatively affect plover breeding success, compromising persistence of the population. Chief among these limiting factors is loss and degradation of suitable habitat, stemming from spread of non-native vegetation. One remedy for poor quality habitat is restoration. This includes removal of invasive plants such as European beach grass, which humans introduced to stabilize dunes. In coastal Northern California, state and federal agencies have undertaken numerous projects to remove European beach grass with the goal of improving the attractiveness of habitat for plovers. Examples include Little River State Beach (California State Parks) and the South Spit of Humboldt Bay (Bureau of Land Management).

A small percentage (ca. 1-3% annually) of the Pacific Coast population breeds in coastal Northern California. For the past 20 years, monitoring has shown that breeding plovers concentrate at just a few sites within the Del Norte, Humboldt, and Mendocino counties and breeding success is generally low at most sites. Many of these locations are managed by county, state, and federal agencies, which offer the opportunity to enhance plover breeding success through habitat restoration.

Our recent research on plover nest success using 14 years (2004-2017) of data at eight sites in Humboldt County indicates that plovers benefit from restoration. In Humboldt County, plovers prefer wide, sparsely vegetated habitats year-round. In winter, small flocks occur predictably on some beaches. During daylight hours, nonbreeding plovers often can be found roosting above the high tide line. During the breeding season, plovers tend to nest on these same wide beaches.

Compared with unrestored habitats, plover nests tend to survive better (i.e., are more likely to hatch) on beaches where natural processes scour vegetation and deposit debris and where human restoration removes European beach grass. Why do plovers favor such sites? The likely answer: ease of predator detection. Worldwide, the 40-odd species of plover are well known for their keen eyesight. Whether they are avoiding a Peregrine Falcon or a Common Raven (intent on making a meal of an adult, chick, or egg), plovers respond to the approach of a predator by leaving an area or nest before they are detected by a predator. In other words, it is harder for a predator to sneak up on a plover in the open, sparsely vegetated habitats they favor.

Interestingly, we found differences in nest success among habitats subjected to restoration, or natural processes, versus unrestored areas. Plovers had higher nest

success in areas cleared of vegetation naturally by tidal overwash (e.g., sand spits and river mouths) than human-restored areas. This suggests that restoring natural restoration processes could benefit plover nest success. Nest success varied widely among human-restored habitat at different sites, but nests were still more likely to hatch in human-restored habitat than unrestored habitat.

So, restoration has produced positive results for the local plover population. And, it has recreated natural habitats that harbor native flora and fauna. Restoration is ongoing in a variety of ways by California State Parks, Bureau of Land Management, and the Wildlands Conservancy, at several locations up and down the coast of Del Norte, Humboldt and Mendocino counties. Some agencies are specifically targeting plovers whereas most state parks’ efforts are directed at restoration of dune ecosystems.

Dr. Mark Colwell headed a 20-year project monitoring Snowy Plovers in coastal Northern California. He has published nearly 90 scientific papers and two books on various aspects of shorebird ecology and conservation.

Katelyn Raby earned her Master’s degree in the HSU Wildlife Department working on a 15-year dataset of hundreds of plover nests, to determine what factors such as habitat, human activity, and predators influenced nest survival.



Top left: Photo of Snowy Plover chicks and egg courtesy of National Audubon Society. Top right: Snowy Plover in Humboldt County by Gisèle Albertine. Above: Snowy Plover nests in Humboldt County by Katelyn Raby.

Ms. Identified

By Sarah Hobart

Without a doubt, one of the pillars of good birding is spot-on identification. The other, of course, is the willingness to make a complete and utter ass of yourself.

Let’s face it: you’re not going to get it right all the time. But the beauty of birding is that a missed call is simply an opportunity to learn and grow, often in front of a bunch of people. And they’re laughing with you, almost certainly.

Fortunately, I consider myself a pretty good birder. And not to boast or anything, but there are a few areas where I really shine: male warblers in breeding plumage that sit still, large wading birds in breeding plumage that stand still, and museum specimens with labels pinned to them.

But in my fledgling days on the Arcata Marsh nature walks, I admit I missed a few. Um, hundred. Ah, the thrill of those early field trips! How can I forget the newbie enthusiasm with which I called out a Lincoln’s sparrow (House Sparrow), a Purple Finch (House Sparrow), a Pileated Woodpecker (three House Sparrows), a Rufous Hummingbird (dragonfly), and an American Bittern (tree stump?). And then there was the time I was certain I had a fast-flying Purple Martin and it turned out to be a speck of dirt on my binocular lens, haha! My chiropractor got a good chuckle out of that one.

But the other birders were always kind. And that’s a trait indigenous to most birders: kindness and generosity in sharing the knowledge picked up through years of experience. Because

they understand the challenges only too well. Close to 500 species have been recorded in Humboldt County and at least half of those are small, brown, and moving at 60 miles an hour.

Even a highly experienced birder might wrestle with their own Achilles hallux when it comes to identification. Maybe it’s sparrows, the original “little brown jobs.” Or warblers that suddenly drop their bright, distinctive patterns and turn the color of phlegm in the fall. Or those sneaky Empid flycatchers, so very alike there’s a catchall name to cover about seven species! Perhaps you’re piqued by peeps, the frantic little sandpipers that plaster themselves with mud in a deliberate ploy to hide their field marks. (I’ve considered dunking one of them in the Bay in order to make a proper ID.)

Or it could be raptors that rattle your cage, whereby you lie awake at night wondering if the Cooper’s Hawk on your checklist truly had a “fierce” look – or was it just a sharp-shinned having a bad day?

You wouldn’t be alone if gulls are your particular albatross. With their endless variations – summer, winter, first year, second year, election year – it’s all too easy to take a tern for the worse. And just when you think you have them sorted out at long last – they hybridize! Makes you wanna call them all seagulls and be done with it.

Maybe, if you’re like me, it’s all of the above. But birding is a migration, not a destination. So, what if you miss one – or a million – along the way? Let it go, like water off a duck’s back.

Or call it a House Sparrow. Can’t go wrong there

New Field Trip Scheduled!

**Bracut Levee, Humboldt Bay:
November 7 at 11am, to View Potential
Oyster Farming Expansion and the Impact
it Could Have on Birds!**

RRAS will lead a walk along the Bracut levee to view shorebirds and the beautiful Bay vistas. We will discuss shorebirds and migratory birds, and the potential impacts of the pending oyster project expansion on them.

There is a maximum of 7 participants so please email trip leader, Scott Frazer at genescottf@gmail.com (or call (661) 319-1243) asap for details and to register for this walk. County health regulations require masks.

For details on the expansion project go to the Humboldt Bay Harbor District website at <https://humboldt-bay.org> and click on the link for the *Draft Environmental Impact Report* for “Humboldt Bay Mariculture Pre-permitting Project and Yeung Oyster Farm.”

You may also read comments on the project in a letter from our local chapter and California Audubon, as well as the comment letters from Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge and US Fish and Wildlife Service on our website at rras.org.