



# The Sandpiper



**REDWOOD REGION AUDUBON SOCIETY** [WWW.ITAS.ORG](http://WWW.ITAS.ORG)

February/March 2013

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## FIELD TRIPS

**Every Saturday: Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary.** These are our famous rain-or-shine, docent-led field trips at the Marsh. Bring your binocular(s) and have a great morning birding! Meet in the parking lot at the end of South I Street (Klopp Lake) in Arcata at **8:30 a.m.** Trips end around 11 a.m. **February leaders:** 2, Tony Kurz; 9, Ken Burton; 16, Pat Bitton; 23, Ralph Bucher.

**Saturday, February 9: eBird Site Survey—Shay Park.** Join Rob Fowler (707-839-3493) to survey Shay Park in Arcata for up to 3 hours, counting every species present. For more info on the eBird site survey, visit [ebird.org/content/ebird/about/eBird\\_Site\\_Survey](http://ebird.org/content/ebird/about/eBird_Site_Survey). Meet at **8:00 a.m.** at parking lot at the east end of Foster Avenue. Waterproof shoes or boots are recommended, as we typically walk through a grassy field off-trail and up and down steep stairs that aren't maintained.

**Sunday, February 10: Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge.** This is a wonderful 2- to 3- hour trip for people wanting to learn the birds of the Humboldt Bay area. It takes a leisurely pace with emphasis on enjoying the birds! Beginners are more than welcome. Meet at the Refuge Visitor Center at **9:00 a.m.** Call Jude Power or David Fix (707-822-3613) for more information.

**Sunday, February 17: Southern Humboldt Community Park.** Guest leader will be Rob Hewitt, joining Jay Sooter (707-444-8001) and/or John Gaffin on this monthly walk. All ages and experience levels are encouraged to participate and revel in the beauty of the park and

**MORE FIELD TRIPS ON PAGE 2!**

## RRAS BANQUET MARCH 2

On Saturday, March 2, RRAS is holding its Annual Banquet & Auction at the Six Rivers Masonic Lodge in Arcata. The featured speaker is Dr. Julia Parrish on "Life Lessons of an Inveterate Seabird Biologist." Dr. Parrish is executive director of the Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST), a citizen-science program involving over 800 participants collecting monthly data on the identity and abundance of beach-cast birds. A professor at the University of Washington, she has spent more than 20 years examining the role aggregation plays in the ecology and conservation of marine organisms, from schooling fish to colonially nesting birds.

The Banquet will feature a buffet dinner, silent auction, and award presentations. A no-host social hour starting at 5:30 p.m. will be followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the speaker at 7:30 p.m.

**Tickets must be purchased in advance, with checks received at the RRAS post office box no later than Tuesday, February 26.** Tickets are on a sliding scale from \$35-\$50. You must purchase a banquet ticket to attend the lecture.

Checks should be made payable to RRAS, with "Banquet" in the notation line, and mailed to PO Box 1054, Eureka 95502. Printed tickets will not be mailed; names will be placed on a check-in list.

The Masonic Lodge is located at 251 Bayside Road in Arcata.

Call Syn-dee Noel at (707) 442-8862 for further information.



## FEBRUARY PROGRAM

### ECOSYSTEM EFFECTS OF NON-NATIVE FISH IN MOUNTAIN LAKES OF THE TRINITY ALPS WILDERNESS

Research wildlife biologist Karen Pope of the U.S. Forest Service's Redwood Science Lab will discuss a research experiment she conducted in the Salmon-Trinity Alps that assessed whether introduced trout alter the type and number of aquatic insects and aquatic/terrestrial amphibians. If the trout do have an effect, are populations of predators—such as birds, bats, and snakes—that feed on the aquatic organisms affected?

The program will be held at the Humboldt County Office of Education at Myrtle and West Avenues in Eureka on **Friday, February 8, starting at 7:30 p.m.** Bring a mug to enjoy shade-grown coffee and come fragrance free.

**There will be no monthly program in March due to the RRAS Banquet.**

### *Field Trips (continued)*

its avian inhabitants on this easy, 2- to 3-hour walk. Binoculars are not provided, and dogs are not allowed; field guides are usually available, but please provide your own if possible. Steady rain cancels. Meet at **9:30 a.m.**, parking by the kiosk near the farmhouse in the main entrance.

**Sunday, February 17: Eureka (aka Palco) Marsh.** Join Ralph Bucher (707-499-1247; [thebook@reninet.com](mailto:thebook@reninet.com)) for some great birding in downtown Eureka. Spend an hour or 2 on a flat loop through a variety of habitats, from bay and mud-flat to riparian and marshland. Meet in the parking lot at the foot of West Del Norte Street at **9:00 a.m.**

**Sunday, March 10: Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge.** See February 10.

**Saturday, March 16: eBird Site Survey—Shay Park.** See February 9.

**Sunday, March 17: Southern Humboldt Community Park.** See February 17 (without Rob Hewitt).

**Sunday, March 17: Eureka (aka Palco) Marsh.** See February 17.

**Thursday, March 28: Hammond Trail.** McKinleyville has some really nice birding spots, and this multiuse trail is one of the best. Meet leader Ken Burton (707-499-1146) at south end of Fischer Road in McKinleyville at **8:00 a.m.** We'll shuttle vehicles from there to the north opposite the airport and walk south with the wind, if any, at our backs. We'll probably take a couple of detours and be back to the cars around noon. Normal walking shoes will suffice; total distance will be 4-5 miles.

**Winter Raptor Surveys:** If you are interested in participating in this winter's raptor surveys in Loleta and Ferndale, contact Ken Burton (707-499-1146; [shrikethree@gmail.com](mailto:shrikethree@gmail.com)) for more information or to be put on the notification list. **Last survey will be in February.**

### **RRAS Supports Science Fair**

For the 11th year, RRAS will underwrite a \$50 award for the best project related to birds or their habitat at the Humboldt County Science Fair, to be held at Humboldt State University in mid-March. Volunteer judges will evaluate exhibits created by elementary, middle, and high school students to choose a winner.



*Pileated Woodpecker by Henry Fulk.  
2012 First Place Winner for K-garten.*

### **March 22 Deadline for Student Bird Art Contest**

For the 10th year, RRAS and Friends of the Arcata Marsh are co-sponsoring a Student Bird Art Contest in conjunction with Godwit Days. \$550 in prizes will be awarded to Humboldt County students from kindergarten through high school who submit a drawing of one of 40 suggested species or another common local bird. Special prize(s) will be awarded for the best rendition of birds in their natural habitat.

Winners will be announced at a ceremony at the Arcata Community Center as part of the 18th Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival. All entries will be displayed at the Community Center during the festival, and copies of winning artwork will be shown at the Interpretive Center during May.

A flyer with complete rules and a list of suggested birds are posted at <http://www.arcatamarshfriends.org> or <http://www.rras.org> or can be picked up at the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center, Strictly for the Birds in Old Town Eureka, or by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Louise Bacon-Ogden, 2337 B St, Eureka 95501. Flyers have been mailed to all schools in Humboldt County.

Artwork may be dropped off at Strictly for the Birds, 123 F St, Eureka, or the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center, 569 South G St, Arcata, or mailed to Louise at the address listed above. Entries must be received by Friday, March 22, to be considered. Questions should be e-mailed to [sueleskiw@suddenlink.net](mailto:sueleskiw@suddenlink.net).

### **Audubon Nature Writing Deadline March 22**

RRAS is sponsoring its 8th annual student nature writing contest. Up to 6 cash prizes will be awarded for the best essay(s) or poem(s) on "What Nature Means to Me" by Humboldt or Del Norte County students in grades 4 through 12. Winners will be published on the RRAS website, [www.rras.org](http://www.rras.org), with awards presented at the 18th Godwit Days Festival in Arcata in mid-April.

Entries should be no more than 450 words in length; one entry per person. Topics suitable for exploration include, but are not limited to, bird feeding, duck hunting, animal rescue, and observations of the natural world.

Entries must include the student's name, home address, phone number and/or e-mail, teacher name, grade, and school. Deadline for receipt is Friday, March 22, 2013. Send submissions as text within the body of an e-mail to [tomleskiw@suddenlink.net](mailto:tomleskiw@suddenlink.net) or mail a printout to Tom Leskiw, 5440 Cummings Rd, Eureka 95503.



### **Patrick's Point Native Plant Garden 40th B-Day Celebration June 1**

In 1973, members of the Patrick's Point Garden Club (PPGC) established a native plant garden at their namesake state park. More than 40 species grace the site, including labrador tea, tan oak, and large specimens of vine maple and Pacific dogwood.

Tom Leskiw began tending the garden in June 2011 and wants to honor PPGC's efforts to educate the public on the virtues of native plants by throwing a birthday celebration on Saturday, June 1.

Details to follow in the April-May issue of *The Sandpiper*, but there will be plant and bird walks led by knowledgeable docents. If you wish to help out with event planning or implementation, contact Tom at [tomleskiw@suddenlink.net](mailto:tomleskiw@suddenlink.net).



## Godwit Days Pints for Nonprofits February 6

Buy a beer, fund a festival! Join Godwit Days for Pints for Nonprofits Night at Mad River Brewery in Blue Lake on Wednesday, February 6. One dollar of every beer sold will support the 18th annual spring migration birding festival in mid-April. Live music starts at 4:30 p.m. with RRAS field trips chair and mandolin player Rob Fowler and his fiddlin' friends, followed by the Lonesome Roses until 8:30 p.m. Taqueria La Barca will be selling food to go with your beer, and there will be a Silent Auction to further benefit Godwit Days.

## RRAS CBC Reports

### *Arcata, by Daryl Coldren*

Despite cold and rainy weather, roughly 40 birders tallied a reasonable 180 species. Highlights in no particular order include the continuing Dusky-capped Flycatcher and Tennessee Warbler at Gary Bloomfield's house in Arcata, Say's Phoebe, Tropical Kingbird, Northern Shrike, Northern Waterthrush, Northern Mockingbird, several Nashville Warblers, Lapland Longspur, Tricolored Blackbird, a Selasphorus hummingbird, Harlan's (Red-tailed) Hawk, Prairie Falcon, and Northern Fulmar. Feeder watchers produced a Rose-breasted Grosbeak and a Harris's Sparrow.

### *Del Norte, by Gary Lester*

A great crew of Del Norte, Humboldt, and Central Valley birders helped so much, albeit in sideways, drenching rain. Total species count was 162. Highlights were Black-footed Albatross (flying just beyond the beach), Tennessee Warbler, Cassin's Vireo (new for this CBC), White-breasted Nuthatch, Harris's Sparrow, Barrow's Goldeneye, and Bullock's Oriole.

### *Willow Creek, by Gary Lester*

After dodging 2 snowstorms and with rescheduling and luck, we conducted the Willow Creek CBC on December 27. Fifteen capable birders tallied 87 total species. Highlights included Say's Phoebe, Northern Harrier, California Towhee, Nashville Warbler, Turkey Vulture, and White-breasted Nuthatch. Notable effort was that of 5 counters who walked through 2 feet of fresh snow in 3 different areas near Horse Mountain for 6 total miles to record 8 birds of 4 species!

### *Centerville to King Salmon, by Gary Lester*

A mix of perfect weather and eager, capable participation of 37 birders brought a load of rarities and overall satisfaction in a job well done. The species total was 187. Unusual reports included Long-eared Owl, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Selasphorus sp., White-throated Swift (1st count record), Vaux's Swift (only 1 previous record), Say's Phoebe, Wilson's Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Hermit Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Yellow Warbler, Western Tanager, Vesper Sparrow, and Common Grackle (1st count record). Notable efforts included 8 warbler species total from 2 separate parties; a foraging Hermit Warbler on a Ferndale lawn; a dizzying mixed foraging flock of 1 Tree Swallow, 2 Violet-green Swallows, 2 Vaux's Swifts, and 22 White-throated Swifts; and a late-night owling effort on Graham/Tompkins Hill roads that produced 6 owl species, including the infrequently reported Northern Saw-whet Owl. We thank everyone's participation, eager contributions, and those behind the scenes that provide access, transportation, and support to continue this worthwhile Audubon-sponsored citizen science. Maybe next year, we can have Isabella Juliano read off the species list and do her Common Raven imitation!

### *Tall Trees, by Ken Burton*

Twenty-three people participated in the second year of this count, centered on the Tall Trees Grove in Redwood National Park. After a very wet December, count day was clear, albeit windy (and cold) at higher elevations. Again, we were unable to get a boat out on the ocean. We tallied 125 species (up from 121 last year), plus 3 additional count-week species. The birds seen numbered 12,815, only half of

last year's number, probably because last year's dry conditions concentrated birds on the lagoons and this year's wet conditions did not. Last year's most-numerous species, American Coot, was down 99% and came in 33rd this time! This year's top 5 were Ruddy Duck (1,858), American Robin (1,390), Bufflehead (877), unidentified scaup (840), and Western Grebe (558). Of these, only Bufflehead was in last year's top 5. Highlights were a Tennessee Warbler and a count-week Black-and-white Warbler, both found at the Stone Lagoon Visitor Center.



## RRAS Volunteers in 2012

RRAS would like to thank all the volunteers whose dedication allows our chapter to function. From board members and committee chairs to field trip leaders, Sandpiper contributors, program speakers, and helpers at special events like Godwit Days, please know that you are greatly appreciated. Following is a list of our helpers between November 2011 and October 2012:

*Jan Andersen, Sandy Andersen, Leslie & Mike Anderson, Louise Bacon-Ogden, Marika Benko, Pat Bitton, Gary Bloomfield, Adam Brown, Ralph Bucher, Ken Burton, Sue Calla, Joe Ceriani, Greg Chapman, Donna & Jim Clark, Daryl Coldren, Linda Doerflinger, David Fix, Rob Fowler, Gary Friedrichsen, John Gaffin, Rob Hewitt, Matt Johnson, Larry Karsteadt, Tony Kurz, Sue & Tom Leskiw, Gary Lester, Anita Leipper, Sharon Levy, Paul Lohse, Kate McClain, Michael Morris, Moe Morrissette, Cindy Moyer, Syndee Noel, Judie & Lew Norton, Brian O'Donnell, Chet Ogan, Jude Power, David Price, CJ Ralph, Rich Ridenhour, Josée Rousseau, Gil & Mediha Saliba (and grandson Silas), Jay Sooter, Liz Swingdler, Matt Wachs, Ryan Wells, Carol Wilson, George Ziminsky.*

RRAS also recruited new volunteers during its 2 Toyota Together Green invasive plant eradication workdays, held at the Arcata Marsh and Trinidad.



## Great Backyard Bird Count February 16-18

Spend as little as 15 minutes as a citizen-scientist to help create a population snapshot for more than 600 bird species. This 16th annual event—hosted by National Audubon Society, the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, and Bird Studies Canada—is perfect for beginning birders who don't want to spend hours in the field on a Christmas bird count. The event is free and no registration is required. Simply watch and count birds for at least 15 minutes on any day of the 4-day period, then enter your results at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org).

## President's Column: Why Audubon?

*By Jim Clark*

I chose to begin my affiliation with Audubon upon the formation of Tulare County Audubon Society, having learned about how it differs—and what it has in common with—other conservation organizations. Chapters are autonomous; actions are based on education, science, and law. Audubon is not viewed as a radical environmental group and therefore appeals, or at least does not offend, people of varying ideological and political beliefs.

RRAS incorporation in 1985 allowed us to win a settlement with Humboldt County that funded the purchase of a tract of mudflats that was, in turn, sold to Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge for nearly twice what we paid for it. This has allowed RRAS to contribute to the conservation and restoration of additional bird habitat. None of this would have been possible without assertive legal action.

Our bylaws state that our purpose is to “1. Act to promote a wise, balanced, responsible and ethical use of natural systems on a local, national and global scale; and 2. To protect the biotic and abiotic compo-

nents of local, national and global natural systems.” The choice not to include “bird” in our purpose statement was the result of careful consideration. We felt that birding is a means to accomplish our purpose, rather than a primary purpose, of RRAS. The fact that we are a National Audubon Society chapter is adequate to associate us with birds.

RRAS has an excellent field trip program, with over 100 trips and 1000 people attending per year. But because the same individual can attend many different trips, we don't know how many of our more than 850 members, plus the general public, attend field trips: Fifty? One hundred? This small “birding club” within our chapter is appropriate but, by itself, is not adequate to fulfill our purpose. To be effective in promoting our purpose, we need to extend, and to be perceived as extending, our programs to the entire community.

Local opportunities to reach out abound; for example, the upcoming Northcoast Stormwater Coalition's “Reining in the Rain” workshop. RRAS will be there to promote bird-friendly stormwater management.

Many of our members have expertise that is valuable to our purpose and to birds. Why not adopt a specific area of interest for our chapter for a year or two? Help us be part of the community, rather than apart from it.

## Waterfront Drive Extension: R.I.P. 1975-2012

*By Tom Leskiw*

Opponents of the City of Eureka's ill-conceived scheme to extend Waterfront Drive from Truesdale Avenue north to Del Norte Street received an early Christmas present on April 15 of last year when the Eureka City Council voted 3-2 to kill the project. Assistant City Manager Mike Knight said the City had spent \$558,000 on the project over the last decade. At the April Council meeting, all but one of the citizens that addressed the Council were opposed to the road project, instead strongly supporting reallocation of the remaining funds to build a bike and pedestrian trail.

The California Coastal Conservancy bought the Eureka (aka Palco) Marsh from Pacific Lumber in 1985 and donated it to the City of Eureka. The purpose behind the acquisition and transfer was



protection of sensitive wetland habitat. Instead, the City proposed to build a 2-lane road there. At several junctures during the environmental review process for Waterfront Drive Extension (WDE), conservation groups pointed out that putting a road through a wetland was inconsistent with the property's purpose, but the City pushed ahead with the project.

Perhaps the most important roadblock to WDE was expressed in an October 2006 strongly worded letter from the California Coastal Commission, which has regulatory authority over development in the coastal zone. Executive Director Peter Douglas wrote:

“It has been brought to my attention that the City is continuing to expend staff time and public resources on the preparation of environmental review documentation for the extension of Waterfront Drive... Despite numerous written and oral communications from our agency expressing our concerns, this development proposal is apparently still considered a viable transportation improvement project eventually requiring approval from the Coastal Commission... The project is not an authorized use for filling of wetlands and is therefore not consistent with the Coastal Act... We respectfully recommend that the City not expend additional resources pursuing a project that cannot, in our opinion, be found consistent with enforceable Coastal Act policies.”

And yet, the City continued spending money and time pursuing WDE for more than 5 years after receiving that letter. The Coastal Conservancy chimed in that it would never have purchased and donated the wetland if it had known the City would attempt to build a road through it. Such construction could have caused the Conservancy to ask Eureka to return the money it paid Pacific Lumber for the property.

*(continued on page 5)*

## Waterfront Drive Extension (continued)

Wildlife watching is big business, generating \$32 billion in the United States in 2001 (<http://www.fs.fed.us/outdoors/naturewatch/start/economics/Economic-Analysis-for-Birding.pdf>; pg 15). Many people use the Eureka and Mauer Marshes and nearby areas to look for birds. Road construction would have greatly diminished the habitat values that attract people to the marshes. Although one purported benefit of WDE construction was to increase waterfront accessibility, existing road access points at Truesdale and Del Norte Streets and throughout Downtown Eureka are more than adequate for enjoying Humboldt Bay.

Following up on its April 15 vote, the City Council voted on June 5 to reallocate WDE funds toward a hiker/biker trail north from Truesdale to Del Norte Street, passing behind Bayshore Mall and through Parcel 4 (over which Redwood Region Audubon Society has a conservation easement) and alongside Eureka and Mauer Marshes. It would connect with the bayfront Hikshari' trail, completed in fall 2012, which runs from Herrick/Pound Road north to Truesdale. Progress is being made in obtaining required approvals from other government agencies.

Once completed, this yet-to-be-named segment, combined with the Hikshari' Trail and a C Street to Del Norte segment now in the pipeline, will total nearly 4 miles of Eureka's Waterfront Trail. By using a combination of streets and trails, pedestrians and bicyclists will be able to travel from the southern boundary of Eureka to the Target store at the north end of town. This ability to run errands, bike commute to work, and recreate on trails will contribute to congestion relief on Hwy 101, while preserving valuable habitat along the Bay.

This is not to contend that the areas that would have been disturbed by WDE construction are pristine. For instance, the Eureka Marsh site once housed a lumber mill and dry shed. These former industrial areas that are now revegetating are best described as "brownfields." To give these areas their due, we must acknowledge that, even in their degraded condition, brownfields support a complex web of life. To believe that we know them because we named them is false.

Klamath-Siskiyou  
eBird



## eBIRD TIP № 14: BIRDTRAX & eBIRDCM

By Rob Fowler

This month's eBird tip will be quick and easy: it just recommends checking out a website that has some really neat eBird-related apps that you can embed into your iGoogle page, on your webpage (or blog), or into your own eBird checklists.

First, go to the Birdventure website: [www.birdventurebirding.com](http://www.birdventurebirding.com). There are 2 eBird-savvy applications on this page that can benefit the dedicated eBirder: *BirdTrax* and the eBirdGM function.

*BirdTrax* is a Google Gadget that you can embed into your iGoogle page or any webpage. You can use it to quickly browse eBird observations, rarities, and checklists in your own predefined area, whether it is something as vast as the entire state of California or a small radius only 2 miles from your house. I have one *BirdTrax* gadget for Humboldt County and one for Del Norte County. They keep me up-to-date on all eBird sightings in both counties.

eBirdGM confers the ability to embed Google maps into your eBird checklists. First, visit the link on Birdventure (<http://www.birdventurebirding.com/p/maps-for-ebird-comments.html>). You can then plot up to 3 different locations and embed the associated Google Map into your checklist. This can be helpful for giving precise locations for whatever bird species you might have entered. I tried it out to give an idea of where Daryl Coldren and I had seen Black Scoters from the mouth of Redwood Creek: <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S12469321>. Want to know where Daryl and I had a Swamp Sparrow on Davison Road in Redwood Park on the same date? Here you go: <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S12469572>.

It should be mentioned that neither of these applications was created by Team eBird but rather by dedicated eBirder Zachary Debruine. You can read about Zachary on "Nemesis Bird" [here](#). Zachary was also featured as "eBirder of the Month" in January of 2012. Thanks for your hard work on these novel apps, Zachary!!

### Now go eBirding!

*The Sandpiper eBird Tip is a column that hopes to inspire increased eBird use in north-west California. If you have suggestions for an eBird Tip or any other eBird-related questions, contact RRAS eBird Liaison Rob Fowler at [migratoriusfwlr@gmail.com](mailto:migratoriusfwlr@gmail.com). Rob reviews eBird records for Humboldt and Trinity counties and openly admits his eBird addiction.*

As Canadian poet Don McKay observed, "But even 'apt' names touch but a tiny portion of a creature, place, or thing... [demonstrating the] the abject thinness of language." Pavement, chain-link fences, discarded appliances, and other garbage are common fixtures of brownfields. How can we learn to respect these sites? Are we capable of crafting a new relationship, one that gives permission to love the unlovely? In *Space and Place: The Perspectives of Experience*, Y. F. Tuan offers insight, "What begins as undifferentiated space becomes place as we get to know it better and endow it with value." In this

case, familiarity does *not* breed contempt: the continued exploration of sites once dismissed as wasteland often proves fruitful—creating openings for their reassessment.

As families struggle to make ends meet, it's increasingly difficult to allocate the time required to take a classic road trip vacation. Concurrently, high gasoline prices erode our ability to travel long distances. That's precisely why open space within or proximal to cities is more important than ever.

(continued on page 6)

## Waterfront Drive Extension (continued)

In the 1950s, engineers proposed constructing a highway through Washington, DC's Rock Creek Park, a place revered for its tranquil greenery amid a bustling metropolis. An unknown editorial writer for the *New York Times* responded to the proposal by writing:

"But a little lonesome space, where nature has her own way, where it is quiet enough at night to hear the patter of small paws on leaves and the murmuring of birds, can still be afforded. The gift of tranquility, wherever found, is beyond price."

We can be thankful that neither Waterfront Drive Extension nor a highway through Rock Creek Park was built. Kudos to the individuals and organizations that have worked tirelessly to preserve this important bit of greenery and bayfront in Eureka. Mauer and Eureka Marshes boast an amazing list of resident, summer breeding, and migrant birds. Noteworthy migrants include Black-necked Stilt (has bred at Eureka Marsh), Red-necked Stint, Costa's Hummingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Tropical Kingbird, Plumbeous Vireo, Brown Thrasher, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Lucy's Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Hermit Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Palm Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, American Redstart (multiple singing birds; possibly bred in Mauer Marsh during the 1990s), Northern Waterthrush, Hooded Warbler, Western Tanager, and Clay-colored Sparrow.

If you are a birder, chances are that you or someone you know tracks all species of birds seen in each of California's 58 counties. Surprisingly, avid birders who travel the state in search of species they've not yet recorded for a particular county often operate under the radar of those who foster and encourage tourism. Some of the birds to grace Mauer Marsh stayed for a considerable length of time, such as a Black-throated Green Warbler (Dec 18, 1993-Feb 27, 1994) and a Hooded Warbler (May 22-at least Sept 26, 2009). The longer a bird lingers, the more money it generates: it's that simple. In today's cyber-connected world, word of rarities gets out immediately, further fueling out-of-town visits to Humboldt and concomitant revenues.



Read Rob Fowler's Winter Rarities trip report from January 5 on his website blog. It includes a bunch of great bird shots. See it at <http://www.fowleropebirding.com/2/post/2013/01/winter-rarities-trip-5-january-2013.html>. And here's a photo of attendees goofing around the "Berding" Street sign in downtown Ferndale during the field trip. (From left) George Ziminsky, Bear Winkle, Ken Burton, Judie Norton, Lew Norton, Rob Fowler. Photo by Rob's camera timer.

Places like Eureka and Mauer Marshes are assets to the City of Eureka—albeit underappreciated ones. If Eureka could only figure out how best to manage places such as these wetlands for recreation, they'd see a significant upward spike in ecotourism dollars from visiting folks that include birders and bikers.

For more information on the Eureka City Council's decision, see Larry Glass's article in the June 2012 EcoNews, pg 4 <http://yournec.org/content/econews-vol-42-no-3-junejuly-2012>

## NEW MEMBERS & SUBSCRIBERS

Arcata—Craig Knox, Jennifer Mason, Leonard McCarthy, Becca McLachlan, Kendra Miers, Bob Peck

Bayside—Marika Robert

Covelo—Brett Lovelace

Crescent City—K Brown, Marj Dessert, LJ English, James Koster, Teresa Mandel, Jim Matthews, Dona Orr, Catherine Raymond, Warren Rehwaldt, Fred Tidmore, Monika Voges, Frank Walmer

Eureka—Andy Fikan, Susan MacLeod, Rena Richterweston, Clayton Strand, Elizabeth Yee

Ferndale—Kara Renfer

Fortuna—Richard McDowell

Klamath—Karen Greathouse

McKinleyville – Patricia Brennan, Mark Bruce, Colin Fiske, Richard Fowler, Judi Jones, Matthew Poston, Alison Sweeten

Miranda – Debbie Vosevich

Redway – Donna Mendes

Salyer – Amanda James

Trinidad – Helen Mulligan, Leslie Zonder-van-Droz

Weott – Theresa Martin

Whitethorn – RK Donscheski, Kathryn McMahor

We look forward to seeing you on field trips and at our monthly programs.

## RRAS MEETINGS

Our Conservation Committee meets the third Thursday of every month at **noon** at the Golden Harvest Café in Arcata.

The RRAS Board of Directors meets the third Thursday of every month from **5:30 to 8 p.m.** at the NEC office, 1385 Eighth Street, Suite 215, Arcata.

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RedwoodRegion  
AudubonSociety](http://www.facebook.com/RedwoodRegionAudubonSociety)

# FIELD NOTES

By Daryl Coldren

## Summary of Northwestern California Bird Reports, 15 November 2012-15 January 2013

Field Notes is a compilation of bird sighting reports for Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity, northern Mendocino, and western Siskiyou counties. Sources include the RRAS bird alert (707-822-LOON), the online northwestern California birding and information exchange ([nwcalbird@yahoo.com](mailto:nwcalbird@yahoo.com)), eBird (<http://ebird.org/content/klamath-siskiyou>), and reports submitted directly to the compiler. Reports may be submitted to any of the sources mentioned above or to Daryl Coldren: 916-384-8089; [QuiAvisPetit@aol.com](mailto:QuiAvisPetit@aol.com).

HBBO = Humboldt Bay Bird Observatory; HBNWR = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; MOB = many observers.

### HUMBOLDT COUNTY

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** 5, *Willow Creek*, 27 Dec-1 Jan (KB, MHam, RF, RN); 2, *Ferndale Bottoms-Hwy 211/Dillon Rd*, 30 Dec-2 Jan (DC, GC, CO) • **Snow Goose:** 7, *Arcata Bottoms-Lanphere Rd*, 9 Dec (AM); 6, *Arcata Bottoms-Foster Rd*, 17 Dec (RF, EE); 6-8, *HBNWR/Hookton Rd*, 22 Dec-1 Jan (ZS, DC, GC, KB); 7, *Arcata Bottoms*, 29 Dec (SH, MH); 1, *Bigfoot Golf & Country Club (Willow Creek)*, 1 Jan (RN); 1, *Table Bluff-Quinn Rd*, 6 Jan (CB); 1, *Indianola Cutoff*, 12 Jan (CB) • **Ross's Goose:** 5, *Hookton Slough Rd*, 1 Jan (DC, GC, KB); 2, *HBNWR*, 6 Jan (CB) • **Eurasian Green-winged Teal:** 1, *Arcata Marsh*, 31 Dec-6 Jan (SH, MH, RF) • **Eurasian-American Green-winged Teal:** 1, *Arcata Marsh*, 31 Dec (SH, MH) • **Long-tailed Duck:** 1, *North Spit-Bay St*, 16 Nov (RF) • **Harlequin Duck:** 2, *North Jetty*, 23 Nov (BT, JC); 1, *South Jetty*, 30 Dec (RF); 1, *North Jetty*, 31 Dec (SM) • **Black Scoter:** 10, *Redwood Creek Mouth*, 2 Jan (RF, DC); 1, *Stone Lagoon*, 10 Jan (TK) • **Osprey:** 5, *Garberville*, 23 Nov (JSO); 1, *South Spit*, 30 Dec (RF) • **Golden Eagle:** 1, *Dyerville Loop/Ft Seward Rd*, 27 Nov (JG); 1, *Lost Coast Trail*, 9 Dec (JGi); 1, *HBNWR*, 6 Jan (CB) • **(Harlan's) Red-tailed Hawk:** 1, *Arcata*, 8 Dec (RF) • **Ferruginous Hawk:** 1-3, *Ferndale Bottoms*, 10 Dec-6 Jan (RF, MW, KB, DC, RN, MOB); 1, *McKinleyville Bottoms*, 31 Dec (RF) • **Rough-legged Hawk:** 1, *Loleta Bottoms-Cannibal Island Rd*, 5 Dec (DC, MS); 1, *HBNWR*, 9 Dec (JP); 1, *Bear River Ridge*, 18 Dec (DC, MS); 1, *Loleta Bottoms-Copenhagen Rd*, 7 Jan (RF, DC); 1, *Cannibal Island Rd*, 7 Jan (RF, DC) • **Sandhill Crane:** 1, *Arcata/McKinleyville Bottoms*, 26 Nov-4 Dec (RF, DC, MOB) • **Pacific Golden-Plover:** 1, *Arcata Bottoms-S. of Lanphere Rd*, 15 Dec (GB); 1, *Arcata Bottoms-Jackson Ranch Rd*, 18 Dec (RF); 1, *Arcata Marsh-Klopp Lake*,



*Sandhill Crane, with Great Egret*  
© Rob Fowler.

29 Dec (PL) • **Rock Sandpiper:** 1, *South Spit*, 30 Dec (RF) • **Red Knot:** 3, *Arcata Marsh-Klopp Lake*, 13 Dec (CB); 1, *Arcata Marsh-Klopp Lake*, 29 Dec (PL); 8, *Arcata Marsh-Klopp Lake*, 14 Jan (DC, MS) • **Ruff:** 1, *Crab Park*, 9-13 Jan (KB, DC, MW, RF, MOB) • **Franklin's Gull:** 1, *Arcata Bottoms-Mad River Rd*, 1 Dec (TK, CB); 1, *Dillon Rd*, 10 Dec (RF, MW, ST) • **Glaucous Gull:** 1 (adult), *Ferndale Bottoms-Waddington Rd*, 6-7 Jan (DC, MW, RF, KB) • **Burrowing Owl:** 1, *Ocean Ranch*, 2-8 Dec (RH, JO, BH); 1, *South Spit*, 30 Dec (RF); 1, *Centerville*, 30 Dec (KB); 1, *Redwood Creek Mouth*, 2 Jan (RF, DC) • **Long-eared Owl:** 1, *Arcata Bottoms-V St Loop*, 24 Nov (TC, KC); 1, *HBNWR*, 25 Nov (TC, KC); 1, *Arcata Bottoms-Liscom Slough*, 13-26 Dec (GZ, RF, DC, MOB); 1, *Hookton Slough Unit*, 24-25 Dec (KB); 1-2, *HBNWR-Hookton Slough Unit*, 24-27 Dec (DW) • **Vaux's**



*Ruff* © Meghan Still.

**Swift:** 2, *Ferndale Bottoms-Salt River*, 30 Dec (GL) • **White-throated Swift:** 22, *Ferndale Bottoms-Salt River*, 30 Dec (GL) • **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 1, *Ferndale*, 30 Dec (LL) • **Eastern Phoebe:** 1, *Ma-le'l Dunes*, 23 Nov (JC, BT); 1, *Blue Lake*, 12-15 Jan (TK, BV, RF, DC, MS, MOB) • **Say's Phoebe:** 1, *Copenhagen Rd*, 2 Dec (RH, JO); 1, *Mad River Rd*, 15-16 Dec (GB, CR, AT); 1, *Arcata Bottoms-Bay School Rd*, 15 Jan (DC, MS) • **Dusky-capped Flycatcher:** 1, *Arcata-Zehndner Ave/Q St*, 20 Nov-19 Dec (GB, JB, MOB) • **Tropical Kingbird:** 1, *Sunny Brae*, 8 Dec-1 Jan (DF); 1, *Ferndale Bottoms-California/Pt Kenyon*, 10 Dec (RF, MW, ST); 1, *Arcata Bottoms-Jackson Ranch Rd*, 12 Dec (DC, MS); 1, *V St Loop*, 13 Dec (DC, MS) • **Northern Shrike:** 1, *Arcata Marsh*, 15 Nov-16 Jan (JO, DF, GZ, TK, MOB); 1, *Copenhagen Rd*, 2 Dec (RH, JO); 1, *McKinleyville-S. Clam Beach*, 14 Dec-13 Jan (GL, LL, RF); 1, *Ferndale Bottoms-Morgan Slough Rd*, 30 Dec (GB); 1, *Loleta Bottoms-Quinn Rd*, 30 Dec-16 Jan (GC, KB, DC, RF, CB); 1 (grayish juv), *S. of Lanphere Rd*, 4 Jan (GB); 1, *Arcata Bottoms-V St Loop*, 12 Jan (TK, GC); 1 (juv caught), *HBBO*, 13 Jan (BV); 1 (adult), *HBNWR-Salmon Creek Unit*, 13 Jan (DF) • **Cassin's Vireo:** 1, *Zehndner Ave/Q St*, 26 Nov-3 Dec (RF, GB, MOB); 1, *Shay Park*, 31 Dec (RF) • **Mountain Chickadee:** 1, *McKinleyville*, 18 Dec (GL, LL) • **Violet-green Swal-**



*Dusky-capped Flycatcher* © Rob Fowler.

**low:** 2, *Ferndale Bottoms-Salt River*, 30 Dec (GL); • **Tree Swallow:** 1, *Ferndale Bottoms-Salt River*, 30 Dec (GL); 1, *Arcata Marsh*, 11-12 Jan (TK) • **Barn Swallow:** 1, *Arcata Marsh*, 12 Jan (MCo) • **Northern Mockingbird:** 1, *S. Humboldt Community Park*, 18 Nov (JG, JSO); 1, *Humboldt Hill Rd*, 12 Dec-16 Jan (MS, DC); 1, *Eureka-D St*, 15 Dec-2 Jan (GC, JSt, TE); 1, *Arlynda Corners*, 6 Jan (OH); 1, *Humboldt Hill Rd*, 13-14 Jan (DC, MS) • **Lapland Longspur:** 6, *V St Loop*, 2 Dec (BH) • **Worm-eating Warbler:** 1, *Shay Park*, 11 Jan (RF, TK, GB, DC, MS) • **Northern Waterthrush:** 1, *Arcata Marsh-Log Pond*, 16 Nov-9 Jan (DC, RF, KB, GZ, CB, MS, MOB) • **Black-and-white Warbler:** 1, *Ferndale*, 30 Dec (GL); 1 (female), *Stone Lagoon*, 5 Jan (DC) • **Tennessee Warbler:** 1, *Zehndner Ave*, 4-15 Dec (DC, GB, MOB); 1, *Stone Lagoon*, 2-3 Jan (PL, RH, KB) • **Nashville Warbler:** 1, *Zehndner Ave*, 25 Nov-12 Jan (GB); 1, *Salt River*, 10 Dec (RF, MW, ST); 4, *Salt River*, 17 Dec (JSt, TE, DC, MS); 1, *HBNWR*, 6-7 Jan (CB, KB) • **Common Yellowthroat:** 1, *Fay Slough Wildlife Area*, 15 Dec (RH, JO); 2, *Arcata Marsh*, 29 Dec (RH) • **Yellow Warbler:** 1, *Ferndale Bottoms-Salt River*, 30 Dec, (GL) • **Palm Warbler:** 2, *Ferndale Bottoms-Camp Weott*, 10 Dec (RF, MW, ST); 4, *Arcata Marsh-Brackish Pond*, 29 Dec (SH, MH); 1, *Zehndner Ave*, 29 Dec (GB); 1, *Foster Ave*, 6 Jan (RF, KB, MOB); 1, *Ferndale Bottoms-Sage Rd*, 6 Jan (DC, GC); 2-3, *HBNWR*, 6 Jan (CB) • **Hermit Warbler:** 1, *Ferndale*, 30 Dec (LL) • **Wilson's Warbler:** 1, *Salt River*, 17 Dec (JSt, TE, DC, MS); 1, *Loleta*, 17 Dec (MS, DC) • **Clay-colored Sparrow:** 2, *Ferndale Bottoms-Sage Rd/Hwy 211*, 5 Jan (RH, RF, KB, DC, GC) • **Swamp Sparrow:** 1-2, *Arcata Marsh*, 16 Nov-13 Jan (RF, TK, KB, JO, MOB); 2, *HBNWR*, 24 Nov-9 Dec (JC, BT, JP, MOB); 2, *Blue Lake*, 14 Dec (RF, DC, CB, MS); 1, *Orick-*



*Worm-eating Warbler* © Tony Kurz.



*Summer Tanager* © Tony Kurz.

*Davison Rd*, 2 Jan (RF, DC); 1, *Redwood Creek N. Levee*, 6 Jan (DC); 1, *Lanphere Rd Bridge*, 10 Jan (DC, MS); 3, *V St Loop*, 12 Jan (TK, GC); 1-2, *HBNWR*, 13 Jan (DF) • **Harris's Sparrow:** 1, *Eureka*, 14 Dec (BS) • **Summer Tanager:** 1 (EASTERN), *Zehndner Ave/Q St*, 6 Dec (TK) • **Tricolored Blackbird:** 1, *Mad River Rd*, 26 Nov (RF); 2, *Waddington Rd*, 6 Jan (DC, MW); 2-3, *Arcata Bottoms-Moxon Dairy*, 10 Jan (DC, MS); 1, *Mad River Rd*, 10 Jan (DC, MS) • **Yellow-headed Blackbird:** 1, *Moxon Dairy*, 1 Dec (TK, MS); 2, *Moxon Dairy*, 6 Dec (RF) • **Baltimore Oriole:** 1, *Loleta-Montgomery/Church St*, 5-10 Jan (RF, KB, GZ, DC, GC, MOB) • **Evening Grosbeak:** 1, *Humboldt State University*, 30 Nov (AM).

## DEL NORTE COUNTY

**Rough-legged Hawk:** 1 (dark morph), *Pt. St. George*, 16 Nov (AB) • **Sandhill Crane:** 1, *Alexandre Dairy*, 25 Nov (PR) • **Northern Shrike:** 1, *Lake Tolowa*, 7-8 Jan (RH, DB) • **Northern Mockingbird:** 1, *Crescent City*, 23 Nov-14 Jan (SL, AB) • **Short-eared Owl:** 1, *Pt. St. George*, 28 Dec (SL) • **Lapland Longspur:** 1, *Lake Tolowa*, 21 Dec (EE) • **Palm Warbler:** 1, *Battery Point Lighthouse*, 6 Jan (SL) • **Swamp Sparrow:** 3, *Lake Earl-Lakeview Dr*, 25 Nov (AB); 4, *Crescent City "behind Safeway"*, 7 Jan (RH) • **Harris's Sparrow:** 1, *Smith River Bottoms-Bailey Rd*, 16-17 Dec (KS, SL) • **Bullock's Oriole:** 1, *Crescent City*, 29 Dec (SL) • **Baltimore Oriole:** 1, *Crescent City*, 13-14 Jan (SL).



*Baltimore Oriole* © Rob Fowler.

## MENDOCINO COUNTY

**Harlequin Duck:** 4, *Ft Bragg-Glass Beach*, 25 Nov (MCu) • **Ferruginous Hawk:** 1, *Ocean Meadows*, 3 Jan (KH) • **Short-eared Owl:** 1, *Bald Hill Rd*, 5 Dec (DT) • **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 2, *Willits Skate Park*, 15 Nov (MCu); 1, *Rose Memorial Cemetery*, 1 Jan (DT) • **Palm Warbler:** 1, *Ft Bragg-Glass Beach*, 25 Nov (MCu); 1, *Ft Bragg*, 9 Dec (DJ) • **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** 1, *Inglennook*, 16 Nov (CK) • **House Wren:** 1, *Ocean Meadows*, 17 Nov (KH, JH) • **Lark Sparrow:** 1, *Ocean Meadows*, 4 Dec (KH) • **Yellow-headed Blackbird:** 1, *Ft Bragg*, 27-28 Nov (CK) • **Bullock's Oriole:** 2, *Rose Memorial Cemetery*, 9-13 Dec (DT, TB); 1, *Rose Memorial Cemetery*, 1 Jan (DT).

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