**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. **April leaders:** 6, Larry Karsteadt; 13, Ken Burton; 20, Michael Morris (as part of Godwit Days); 27, Jude Power.

Monday, April 1: **Arcata Marsh & Bottoms.** This half-day trip will look for spring arrivals such as Red-necked Phalarope and Cliff Swallow, as well as migrant shorebirds and raptors, singing passerines, and late waterfowl. Meet leader Ken Burton (707-499-1146; shrikethree@gmail.com) at the first pullout on the right on South I Street (next to the land trust office at I and Samoa in Arcata) at 8 a.m.

Sunday, April 14: **Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge.** This is a wonderful, 2- to 3-hour trip for people wanting to learn 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 a.m. Call leaders Jude Power or David Fix (707-822-3613) for more information.

Saturday, April 20: **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 [http://ebird.org/content/ebird/about/eBird_Site_Survey](http://ebird.org/content/ebird/about/eBird_Site_Survey). PLEASE NOTE: This month’s survey is part of the eBird Site Survey—Shay Park.

**MAY 10 PROGRAM**

**LANDSCAPES & WILDLIFE OF ETHIOPIA**

RRAS field trip leaders Jude Power and Ken Burton recently visited Ethiopia separately, Jude as a birding tour participant and Ken as a researcher. Join us as they share their pictures from, experiences in, and perspectives on this fascinating country. The landlocked country of Ethiopia, in the Horn of Africa, long has labored under an image of poverty, famine, and civil war, but in reality it is a peaceful; scenie; and ecologically, culturally, and historically rich country increasingly popular as a tourist destination. Its habitats range from desert and savanna to rain forest and alpine moorland and include Africa’s Great Rift Valley with its bird-rich lakes. Ethiopia’s bird list is as lengthy as that of the entire Lower 48 and it has numerous species found nowhere else as well as many widespread African species and migrants from Eurasia.

Both programs will be held at the Humboldt County Office of Education at Myrtle and West Avenues in Eureka starting at 7:30 p.m. Bring a mug to enjoy shade-grown coffee and come fragrance free. **NOTE:** There will be no program in June, July, or August.

**APRIL 12 PROGRAM**

**Mantled Guerezas © Ken Burton.**

**THE LIFESTYLE OF THE PILEATED WOODPECKER, A CULTURAL ICON IN THE HOOPA VALLEY**

HSU graduate student Dawn Blake will relate the cultural significance and biology of the Pileated Woodpecker. She is studying its habitat selection by examining the woodpecker’s use of the various successional stages of forests. Dawn, a member of the Hoopa Valley Tribe, is capturing and radio-tagging Pileated Woodpeckers with the use of a mist net, playbacks of their penetrating calls, and a decoy. She has successfully tagged several woodpeckers and found some interesting behaviors and life history features. This year, she plans to capture as many as 20 birds. She will tell us of her use of extra-tall mist nets, coupled with clever use of features in the terrain, to overcome some of the challenges of capturing these birds that are fairly secretive and like to stay high in the forest canopy.

**NOTE:** There will be no program in June, July, or August.
Field Trips (continued)

Godwit Days festival. Go to www.GodwitDays.org to register for this free trip (SA44). Meet time will be 8:30 a.m. at the Arcata Community Center.

Sunday, April 21: Southern Humboldt Community Park, Jay Sooter (707-444-8001) and/or John Gaffin will lead this monthly walk. All ages and experience levels are encouraged to participate and revel in the beauty of the park and 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 a.m., parking by the kiosk near the farmhouse in the main entrance.

Sunday, April 21: Eureka (aka Palco) Marsh, Join Ralph Bucher (707-499-1247; 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 mudflat to riparian and marshland. Meet in the parking lot at the foot of West Del Norte Street at 9 a.m.

Saturday, May 4: 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 http://ebird.org/content/ebird/about/eBird_Site_Survey. Meet at 8 a.m. at the 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.

Saturday, May 11: Seabirds at Elk Head, Search the rocky shoreline for shorebirds (oystercatchers, turnstones, tattlers) and offshore rocks for nesting seabirds (murres, cormorants, puffins). We will attempt to identify the land birds and flowering plants encountered along the trail to the bluffs. Bring a spotting scope if you have one. Meet leader Gary Lester (707-839-3373; garys.lester@gmail.com) at the Elk Head Parking lot at 8:30 a.m.

Sunday, May 12: Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge, See April 14.

Sunday, May 19: Alderpoint, Enjoy the birds, plant life, and reptiles of the Eel River canyon on this half-day trip just south of Alderpoint. We will walk the railroad tracks about 2 miles to Cain Rock trestle and back (there are no trains). In 2012, a washout along the tracks made it a bit of work to cross the gap. Be prepared to walk down and up a steep bank to get around the washout. Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and similar birds of dry habitats in southeast Humboldt County can be expected. A short side trip to Smith Point Bridge to enjoy White-throated Swifts may be made following the trip. Diogenes’ lantern, interior live-oak, and birch-leaf mountain-mahogany are expected. Bring sun protection, layered clothing, lunch, and water. Meet in the Garberville Ray’s Food Place parking lot at 8:30 a.m. Plan to return to the Humboldt Bay area by mid-afternoon. Contact leader Tony Kurz (559-333-0893; tonyk.71220@hotmail.com) for more information.

Sunday, May 19: Southern Humboldt Community Park, See April 21. Tom Leskiw will be a guest leader. New meet time: 8:30 a.m.


Sunday, May 19: Mendocino Coast Audubon Society Pelagic trip. This pelagic departs from Noyo Harbor in Ft Bragg. Contact Karen Havlena (khavlena@yahoo.com) before sending payment. Cost: $105 per person, prepaid by check or through PayPal button at www.mendocinocoastaudubon.org. Make check payable to “MCAS” and mail to Karen Havlena, POB 40, Ft Bragg, CA 95437. Meeting time is 7 a.m., returning around 3:30 p.m. Boat will be the TELSTAR, with Captain Randy Thornton. (There is no galley, so bring your own food.) Although not guaranteed whatsoever, the past 2 years, we have seen Short-tailed Albatross and other rarities such as Thick-billed Murre, Scripp’s Murrelet, and Black Tern. Rob Fowler will have space available in his vehicle if people want to carpool with him the night before the trip.

Saturday, June 1: Patricks Point State Park Bird & Plant Walk, Gary Lester (707-839-3373; garys.lester@gmail.com) will lead a plant and bird walk as part of the 40th birthday celebration for the Park’s native plant garden (see article, page 3). Meet Gary at the park entrance at 9 a.m.

Participants in past Lassen Camp-out.

Lassen NP Camp-out with Wintu and Altacal Audubon Societies. As this issue went to press, a date for this annual event had not yet been set. Visit www.rras.org for updates or contact Bill Oliver at www.liver9@gmail.com.

Can You Help Us?

Audubon’s volunteers are the driving force behind achieving our mission. Our volunteers serve as an integral part of conservation actions while meeting and socializing with local bird enthusiasts. Your dedication, time, and energy are needed to accomplish various RRAS activities. If no contact name is given, please contact RRAS president Jim Clark at dancebirds@sbcglobal.net or 707-445-8311.

Godwit Café: Sell drinks and snacks. To Godwit Days attendees. Shifts are at least 1 hour between 6 a.m. and 4 p.m. April 20-21 at the Arcata Community Center. Contact Chet Ogan at oganc@sbcglobal.net or 707-496-9001.

Student Bird Art Hangers: Help hang contest entries on Friday, April 19, 1-3 p.m., Arcata Community Center. Bring a light hammer and something to hold pushpins (e.g., carpenter’s belt, fanny pack). Contact Sue Leskiw at sueleskiw@suddenlink.net or 707-442-5444.

Volunteer Coordinator: Recruit help for special events; maintain spreadsheet of active volunteers; help plan fall volunteer appreciation event.

Sandpiper Editor(s): Copyedit (and potentially write) articles for bimonthly chapter newsletter; interface with layout person; proofread results; send to web designer for uploading.
Patricks Point Native Plant Garden 40th B-Day Celebration June 1

By Tom Leskiw

In 1973, members of the Patricks 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, 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. There will be a lighted tables and displays. Volunteers from the North Coast Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (Donna Wildearth, Jenny Hanson), RRAS (Gary Lester, Tom Leskiw), North Group Sierra Club (outings chair Bill Knight), and Park personnel will lead tours of the garden, Sume Village, and further afield in the Park beginning at 9 a.m. Meet Gary Lester (707-839-3373; garys.lester@gmail.com) at the entrance into the park at 9 a.m. for his walk.

There is a day-use fee if you drive into the Park. A final program was pending when we went to press. Visit the Audubon website, www.rras.org, during May for an updated schedule of events. E-mail me at tomleskiw@suddenlink.net if you’d like to help.

IMBD in Orleans May 10-11

International Migratory Bird Day will be celebrated in Orleans on May 10 and 11. The local event, “Tony Hacking Memorial Bigfoot Birding Day,” will kick off Friday evening with a presentation, “Bird Surveys during 2012 at Humboldt County Organic Farms,” by HSU student Megan Garfinkle (and possibly a community potluck).

On Saturday starting at 7:30 a.m., Tom Leskiw, Daryl Coldren, Rob Hewitt, and Megan Garfinkle will lead a bird walk to 2 locations in Orleans. Both events will be held at the Panamnik Building, 38150 Hwy 96, Orleans. Local entries in the Student Bird Art Contest cosponsored by RRAS will be posted. For more information, contact LeRoy Cyr at leyr@fs.fed.us.

Come to Godwit Days

April 18-24
Arcata Comm Ctr
www.godwitdays.org
707-826-7050

RRAS Sponsors 11th Annual Science Fair Award

By Sue Leskiw

“Bird Diversity in Kneeland” by Perrin Turney, a 6th grader at Kneeland School, received a $25 prize as the best project related to birds or their habitat at the annual Humboldt County Science Fair held in mid-March. The quality of the entries this year led the judges to give out a $15 second prize to Meiwan Gottschalk, a 4th grader at Garfield School, for “Cats and Birds” and a $10 third prize to Kyra Adams, a 6th grader at Garfield, for “Who-o-o Gives a Hoot?”

Perrin hypothesized that bird diversity would be higher in summer than other times of the year. He collected data over an entire year (3/12-2/13), including great photos of most of the 33 species he tallied. Perrin counted 21 species in both April and July (partially supporting his hypothesis) and the most individual birds during January. The month with the least diversity was September and the fewest individuals in August.

Meiwan investigated whether cats would react more to native or non-native bird songs, hypothesizing that native sounds would stimulate cats more. She tested 15 cats, ranging in age from 1.5 to 18 years old, with 4 bird songs: House Sparrow and Chestnut-backed Chickadee (which she categorized as native) and Lark Bunting and Brewer’s Sparrow (which she categorized as non-native). Each song was played 10 times in a row, with each cat’s behavior/body language noted as to whether it appeared interested or not. Meiwan received the most reaction to the songs of Lark Bunting and Brewer’s Sparrow, which went against her hypothesis. She offered possible reasons for her findings: non-native songs were “much more interesting” and new to the cats; the age or “skittishness” of the cats; the time of day; and whether they were indoor-only cats.
Local Highlights of 2013
Great Backyard Bird Count

By Sue Leskiw

A gaggle of Humboldt and Del Norte County residents participated in this year’s 16th GBBC, cosponsored by Audubon, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and Bird Studies Canada. Counters were asked to spend at least 15 minutes as a citizen-scientist, in order to create a population snapshot over the 4-day time frame of February 15 through 18.

Counters from 103 countries submitted nearly 135,000 checklists, representing 3510 species (more than one third of the world’s total) and over 34 million individual birds. Data showed that the effects of Hurricane Sandy’s blowing European birds to North America are still being felt and that 2013 was a big year for Canadian finches such as the Common Redpoll to move south into the US. For Humboldt and Del Norte, rare sightings were 200 Aleutian Cackling Geese tallied in the Smith River Bottoms. Noteworthy species were a Ruffed Grouse in Hoopa, 28 Band-tailed Pigeons and 2 White-breasted Nuthatches in Kneeland, a Northern Saw-Whet Owl in Korbel, and 15 Black-legged Kittwakes at Wedding Rock, Trinidad.

Del Norte County rustled up 82 species, with 200 Aleutian Cackling Geese tallied in the Smith River Bottoms and 104 Western Grebes on the Coastal Trail north from the Klamath Overlook being the highest species single location reports. Rare sightings were 9 Tundra Swans at Lake Earl, 5 Black Oystercatchers at Point St. George, and a Baltimore Oriole in downtown Crescent City.

Results can be viewed at www.birdcount.org.

President’s Column:
City, Country

By Jim Clark

The other day, while walking from my house to the hardware store and barber, I passed a couple of ravens that had laid claim to an unemptied trash can, scavenging what they could and spreading the rest out for the rats from the local ivy bed to feast on at night. When I moved to my neighborhood in 1987, there were no ravens here. Now, a new crop of ravens is produced every year within sight of my house.

The gulch behind the houses across the street still has redwoods, even though it was logged and partially filled in the days when cars had spoked wheels, as evidenced by uncovered fill material. Fill now consists of illegally dumped yard clippings and cat litter. Escaped non-native plants fight native species for root hold and light. Rusty water from an upstream storm drain still runs down the channel.

During the December 13, 2012 King Tide, I watched as illegal campsites on Parcel 4 (over which our chapter has an open space easement) were flooded. Water flowed through human waste and back into Humboldt Bay.

There is a lot to be corrected in my city, and probably in yours, too. The dream promoted by developers since the late 1940s was to move away from urban areas to escape cities and their problems. However, this trend created its own problems, including obesity and heart disease, high carbon emissions, and loss of “quality” time due to time spent in cars.

I lived in a rural area for 12 years, but now live in town. Almost all the services I need—including redwood forests and great food—can be reached in less than 15 minutes of walking or biking. My wife and I can easily age in place actively.

On the whole, urban living is healthier and more environmentally sound than rural living. Being active in Audubon is a way to make urban living more appealing and sustainable.

Follow RRAS on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/RedwoodRegionAudubonSociety

New Members & Subscribers

Arcata–Dorothy Hampton, Drew Hyland, Andra Tafoya
Crescent City–Karen & Mark Davis, Kerry Gibbs, Carolyn Gilbert, Connie McDonald
Eureka–Darren Brown, Julia Chapman, Karma Christiansen, Marilyn Colson, Charles Day, Michele Fell-Casale, Ginni Hassrick, Martin Hauan, Dan Lockett, Si-vert Log, Kate McKinnon, Karynn Merkel, Janice Murayama, Donna Nelson-Lutje, John Patterson, Georgia Trehey
Fortuna–Dennis Hanson, Lori Hendrick, Gene Lodes, Mary Stockham
Gasquet–Anne Petrik
Kneeland–Cheyenne Spetzler
McKinleyville–Maia Beh, Ruth Doyle, Sofia Potter
Petrolia–John Brown
Redway–Juliet Hegdal
Trinidad–Marial Delo, Bonnie Etz-Mott, Kate Green, Bea Stanley

We look forward to seeing you on field trips and at our monthly programs.
Ebb Tide, Flood Tide
By Tom Leskiw

There is a tide in the affairs of men
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;
Omitted, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows and in miseries.

— William Shakespeare, Julius Caesar

Searching high and low, I eventually spotted an adult male Allen’s Hummingbird atop a coyote bush. The bird rotated its head slowly from side to side, sunlight momentarily igniting its bejeweled orange-red throat. I motioned for 5-year-old Maja to take a look. For a long moment, her expression was blank, as her eyes adjusted to looking through a spotting scope. Then, as she saw the bird clearly at 40 power, she giggled with delight at the hummingbird’s shimmering colors.

“Let me look,” implored Tatum, her little sister. Sneaking a glance to make sure the bird hadn’t moved—its wings were whirring, yet it remained perched on top of the bush—my attention shifted to Tatum. Her eyes widened with wonder and, not unlike a typical adult, she fumbled for words to describe the sight of the hummingbird’s semi-transparent wing-whir, pugnacious posture, and garish green and orange-red iridescence. Reluctant to surrender the scope, she drank up the image until Maja interrupted her with a request for another look.

Her observation of the bird was cut short, as it abruptly took to flight. Maja had stepped away from the tripod when I heard the hummer buzz back in, landing near its initial perch. Panning the scope, I found the bird and refocused. Still swiveling its head, the cadence of dazzling light on its throat, followed by inky shadow, then back again recalled a blinking neon sign. Ablaze. Off. Ablaze.

As an avid birder and a field trip leader, I enjoy introducing people to the pastime of birding. As 2007 dawned, it was clear that the winds of change were blowing, evidenced by an amazing confluence of events the past 2 years. First, a bit of background on birding is in order. Within organizations such as the American Birding Association, the lack of ethnic diversity among those who share a passion for wild birds has been a national issue for many years. Changing demographics in the U.S.—where 28 million people now speak Spanish at home—have alerted conservationists and educators of the need to involve all cultures and ethnicities in bird conservation.

In response to these concerns, May 2005 saw the very first field guide to North American birds published in Spanish: Guía de campo Kaufman a las aves de Norteamérica. The Birds of North America, published by Houghton Mifflin, was co-authored by birding legend Kenn Kaufman, with translation by Patricia Manzano Fischer and Héctor Gómez de Silva describing bird songs and calls for the reader.

In 2006, Frank Anderson, a professional translator and birding colleague—along with biologist Chet Ogan began translating the bird checklist for the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary into Spanish. Located along Humboldt Bay in northern California, the marsh is world renowned for its innovative complex of wetlands used to treat local sewage and as a hotspot that boasts more than 300 species of birds sighted.

Another ongoing issue for those interested in the natural world is the distinct “graying” of the birding community. Young people, for a variety of reasons, are underrepresented among those who consider themselves birding aficionados. One day, after reflecting on these two shortcomings, my wife Sue opined, “Why not have a field trip targeted toward the Hispanic community and youth and their families? The event can be sponsored by Friends of the Arcata Marsh (FOAM) and RRAS. I’ll do the publicity and you, Frank, and 15-year-old Lauren Tompkins—the youngest avid birder we know—can lead the trip.”

So began our journey into, what was for our area, uncharted waters. Sue produced flyers for posting at several markets that cater to Hispanic clientele. Public service announcements were sent to local newspapers, in addition to a local Spanish newspaper. Details on the bird walk were included in the RRAS newsletter and the board of directors was encouraged to promote the walk. As an added enticement for youngsters to attend the walk, all our promotional materials indicated that the winning entries in the student bird art contest co-sponsored by FOAM and RRAS would be displayed at the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center during the month of the special walk. Frank’s day job was in the health care field, so he shared the event with associates, patients, and families who might be receptive.

However, as the day for the event drew nearer, several concerns kept gnawing at us. “It feels like we’re on the outside [of the Hispanic community] looking in. How do we find someone who will champion the event from the inside? Even if young kids want to come, they’ll have to rely on their families for transportation. If the parents have no interest in the walk, they’re not just going to drop their kids off with strangers—there’s a trust issue involved.” Although we had our doubts, we persevered, secure in the knowledge that the event can be sponsored by Friends of the Arcata Marsh (FOAM) and RRAS. I’ll do the publicity and you, Frank, and 15-year-old Lauren Tompkins—the youngest avid birder we know—can lead the trip.”
that leading this inaugural walk was the right thing to do.

The night before the event, Sue devoted several hours in the kitchen to bake her widely acclaimed “hoot owl” cookies, complete with a cashew beet and chocolate chip eyes. Some people might consider preparing home-baked treats a small gesture or even one that’s superfluous—why not settle for store-bought cookies? However, those of us who know Sue better understand that her attention to detail and devotion to the natural world spring from her rural Northeastern roots and values imparted to her from her father, a former wildlife professor at the University of Connecticut.

The day of the walk, May 19, 2007, dawned. Homemade cookies and beverages—usually a sure thing to attract interest—were set out. Nervously, we checked and re-checked our watches. Finally, 5th-grader Peter Hogan and his friend Alan arrived with his mother. Peter’s poignant essay on an Anna’s Hummingbird that had succumbed to below-freezing temperatures at his feeder one winter night had won first place in that year’s student nature writing contest that Sue and I co-ordinate. Alex Stillman, a friend and former mayor of Arcata, brought her granddaughters, Maja and Taturn. I wish I could say that others attended, but that wasn’t the case.

It’s not easy for neophytes—especially kids—to get the hang of using binoculars. For this reason, I make a special effort to ensure that I locate birds in my spotting scope for newbies to view. Finding an adult male Allen’s Hummingbird atop a bush, I turned my scope over to Maja, and Taturn. When they’d had their fill, it was Peter and Alan’s turn to study this brightly colored sprite.

“Wow!” said Alan, his enthusiasm palpable.

“That’s so cool!” shouted Peter.

I couldn’t help but be reminded of his essay about the hummingbird he’d dubbed “Al” and his grief upon finding his friend frozen one winter morning.

Several minutes later, Frank spotted a Peregrine Falcon scanning Humboldt Bay’s mudflats for a shorebird meal. Up-close-and-personal scope views of this charismatic raptor had everyone beaming.

“Fastest bird in the world,” Peter said. A voracious reader, his encyclopedic knowledge was impressive, even when compared to seasoned, life-long birders.

But everyone agreed: the highlight of the walk was a family group of Black-capped Chickadees. The adults’ beaks stuffed with grubs, they returned again and again to a nest hole in a lichen-encrusted dead willow, provisioning their unseen, rau-cously peeping young.

All 10 of us on the walk enjoyed ourselves, despite attracting far fewer participants than we’d hoped for and no Spanish-speakers. Our spirits were dampened, but not defeated. More than ever, wild places and their denizens need advocates to champion their cause. The younger generation’s fixation with electronic devices leaves little time for what used to be universal childhood pursuits: bike riding, fort building, tree climbing, bug collecting, splashing in rainwater pools. This ongoing estrangement from the natural world is unsettling, for it is today’s youth who will be forced to confront rampant climate change, sea level rise, and the increasing cost of energy and goods. How are they to make crucial, informed decisions about policies that impact the natural world when their vital connection to it was never forged?

Reflecting on the scarcity of participants on our bird walk, we drew inspiration from Albert Einstein: “Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new.” Slowly, after much deliberation and making new contacts, we drafted an action plan for future walks.

We remained enthusiastic about the prospects for field trips that are more inclusive of both youth and our multicultural society. Shakespeare, too, furnished consolation, bolstering our confidence for the retooled bird walk. As Brutus continued in Act 4, Scene 3 of *Julius Caesar*:

> On such a full sea are we now afloat, And we must take the current when it serves, Or lose our ventures.

Several years passed. Plans were made for the 2012-13 school term: a bilingual walk with schoolchildren and their parents from the McKinleyville EcoClub. We eagerly awaited this rising tide of students slated to board our “avian ark.” The investment of a bit of our time paled next to the commitment made by Kaufman: he used his own funds to publish *de campo Kaufman a las aves de Norteamérica*.

Over the past quarter-century, I’ve led a number of bird walks for kids, usually as part of an elementary school’s environmental education program. It isn’t easy getting restless minds to listen, to focus on voices, movements, and cycles not their own. But in those golden moments when a connection is forged, the rewards are huge. Usually, a spark ignites for no more than two or three of the 20-plus students. I had little interest in birds until my mid-thirties and regret the absence of a mentor when I was younger, someone to usher me into a world that too few heed.

For this reason, I never tire of seeing a beaming youngster’s face, of hearing his or her awe-filled shouts or whispers, for I know from experience just how far such enthusiasm can take them.

**EPILOG:** Sue and I were out of town and unable to participate in the December 2, 2012 walk at the Arcata Marsh described below. The following story first appeared in the FOAM Winter 2012-13 newsletter UPWIND. After several years, it finally seems as though our “interest tide” is rising. I thank Katy and George for permission to reprint their article here.

**Ecocub Visits the Marsh**

*By Katy Allen & George Ziminsky*

On Sunday, December 2, the Bilingual McKinleyville EcoClub paid a visit to the Marsh. Days of nearly nonstop rain halted long enough to fit in a bird walk and invasive plant removal. The group of elementary school children and their parents toured the Marsh and offered their services for a little clean-up as well.

Audubon tour guide Frank Anderson headed up the bird walk, speaking in both Spanish and English, as needed. The group returned to the Interpretive Center during a brief squall to look at the exhibits. Katy Allen, Betsy Elkinton, and Alex Stillman provided background on Marsh history and sewage treatment plant operations.

Then, George Ziminsky organized about an hour’s work time for the group, which headed out the trail south of the Interpretive Center parking lot to clip seed heads off fennel. It was pretty cute watching the kids cooperate, one bending down the tall fennel stems so their sibling could reach
the seeds and take them off, while another held the bucket to collect them for transfer to big yard waste bags. George took the time to tell each little work group about what they were doing and why. One woman talked about how bad the environmental scene was in Mexico where she grew up and relayed how she is so happy to be raising a family in a beautiful place that is taken care of by the people and the government.

Most of the children are enrolled in Morris Elementary School’s Spanish Immersion program. Some of the parents, although living in McKinleyville, had never heard of, let alone visited, the Arcata Marsh. After the tour, they indicated that they enjoyed all that it has to offer and plan to return. Those whose native language is Spanish particularly appreciated being given the Marsh bird list in Spanish (courtesy of the free Redwood Region Audubon Society translation, compiled by Frank with Chet Ogan).

The EcoClub was honored to have with it a special visitor from El Paso, Texas: Dr. Gustavo Iturrelde, a physician who works for the Pan American Health Organization. Part of his mission is to promote environmental health, development of life skills, and healthy habits for children. He was very impressed with the beauty and wildlife at the Marsh, as well as its potential for recreational and educational opportunities.
By Daryl Coldren

Summary of Northwestern California Bird Reports, 15 January-10 March 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@yahoogroups.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.

FOS = first of season; HBNWR = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; HO = holdover from previous period; MOb = many observers; NC = not confirmed/documented.

**Humboldt County**

Greater White-fronted Goose: 5, Willow Creek-Bigfoot Golf & Country Club, 21-27 Jan (KB, RF, GB); 6-7, HBNWR, 25 Jan-2 Feb (RF, PC, KO); 2-4, V St Loop, 5-21 Feb (MD, CR, AT, PC, IG, CB); 1, Arcata Marsh, 14-18 Feb (MC, RW); 1, Fay Slough Wildlife Area, 1 Mar (TK) • Snow Goose: 1, HBNWR, 20 Jan (MM); 3, V St Loop, 28 Jan (BE); 1, HBNWR, 30 Jan (BE) • Ross’s Goose: 1-2, HBNWR, 27 Jan-13 Feb (ZS, RF, CB, BE) • “Eurasian” Green-winged Teal: 1, Moxon Dairy, 22 Feb (TK) • Harlequin Duck: 1-2, Humboldt Bay-N. Spit, 20-28 Feb (AM, JH, BH, BE); 1, King Salmon, 20-22 Feb (PC, CB) • Northern Fulmar: 1, Woodley Island, 25 Feb (TK, MS) • Osprey: 1, Samoa, 15 Feb (BE) • Golden Eagle: 1, Kneeland Airport, 16 Feb (PC) • Swainson's Hawk (first chase-able since 1979!): 1, V St Loop, 6-12 Mar (TK, MS, KB, MO) • Rough-legged Hawk: 1-2, Ferndale Bottoms-Dillon Rd, 16 Jan (OH); 1, Bear River Ridge, 20 Jan (RH, JO); 1, Arcata Marsh, 24 Jan-9 Mar (MC, MO); 1, HBNWR, 28 Jan-25 Feb (BE); 3, Loleta Bottoms, 1-17 Feb (KB, CR, AM, BE); 1, Ferndale Bottoms-Goble Ln, 3 Feb (MD); 1, Ferndale Bottoms-Mattole Rd, 16 Feb (IG); 1, Bald Hills Rd, 23 Feb (AM, JH, BH, JS); 1, Fay Slough Wildlife Area, 1 Mar (TK) • Pacific Golden-Plover: 9-10, Ferndale Bottoms-Morgan Slough Rd, 16-21 Jan (OH, GC, KB, RH, JO); 1-3, Arcata Bottoms-Jackson Ranch Rd, 7-8 Feb (RF, GC, KO, PC, AM, JH, CR, AT) • Ruddy Turnstone: 1, Eureka Waterfront, 22-23 Feb (CO, KB, JP) • Red Knot: 3-4 (HO), Kloppe Lake, 15 Jan-22 Feb (MC, RF, DC, CR, CB, MOB); 1, V St Loop, 8 Feb (RF); 1, V St Loop, 19 Feb (MC) • Rock Sandpiper: 1-6 (HO), North Jetty, 11 Jan-3 Mar (TK, CB, RF, JH, BH, KB, RH, MOB) • Burrowing Owl: 1, McKinleyville-Clam Beach Overlook, 22 Jan-8 Mar (KB, GC, AM, JH, CB, MOB) • Rufous Hummingbird: 1 (FOS), Eureka, 7 Feb (CO) • Allen’s Hummingbird: 1 (FOS), Garberville, 17 Feb (JSO, RH, JO) • Prairie Falcon: 1, Loleta Bottoms-Cannibal Island Rd, 27 Feb-2 Mar (PC, IG) • Eastern Phoebe: 1, Blue Lake, 12-27 Jan (TK, RF, DC, GB, MOB) • Say’s Phoebe: 1, Arcata Bottoms-Janes Rd/Bay School Rd, 15 Jan-9 Mar (DC, GC, RF, KB, JO, AM, MOB); 2, Janes Rd/Bay School Rd, 12 Feb (GC); 1, Ferndale Bottoms, 12 Feb (KB); 1, V St Loop, 26 Feb-9 Mar (PC, CR, MD) • Loggerhead Shrike: 1, HBNWR, 22-28 Jan (DW, ZS, RF, DC) • Northern Shrike: 1 (HO), V St Loop, 15-18 Nov-8 Mar (JO, TK, CR, AT, RF, MOB); 1 (HO), Loleta Bottoms-Quinn Rd, 30 Dec-21 Jan (GC, KB, DC, RF, CB, MOB); 1, Garberville, 19 Jan (AC); 1, Jackson Ranch Rd, 31 Jan (BH, JH); 1, Bald Hills Rd, 23 Feb (AM, JH, JS); 1, Arcata Bottoms-Polaris Ln, 3 Mar (RH) • Barn Swallow: 1, Arcata Marsh, 12 Jan (MC); 1, Loleta Bottoms, 1 Feb (KB); 3, Ferndale Bottoms, 3 Feb (MD); 1, V St Loop, 9 Mar (CR, AT) • Northern Mockingbird: 1 (HO), Humboldt Hill Rd, 12 Dec-15 Mar (MC, MOB); 1, Hoopa, 20-21 Jan (MS, TK, DC, GC, AM, JH); 1 (HO), Eureka-D St, 13 Feb (GC); 1, King Salmon, 20-22 Feb (PC, CB); 1, Elk River Wildlife Sanctuary, 20-21 Feb (MC) • Northern Waterthrush: 1 (HO), Arcata Marsh, 9 Feb (AM, JH) • Nashville Warbler: 1, Sunny Brae, 28 Feb-1 Mar (AM) • Palm Warbler: 2, Ferndale Wastewater Treatment Plant, 13 Jan (OH); 1-2, HBNWR, 14 Jan-16 Feb (RF, RH, JH, MS, CR, MOB); 1-2, Arcata Marsh, 15 Jan-3 Mar (GZ); 3, Ferndale Bottoms-Coffee Creek Rd, 20 Jan (RH, JO); 1, Arcata Bottoms-Jackson Ranch Rd, 31 Jan (BH, JH); 1, Fernbridge, 5 Feb (RH, JH); 1, Arcata Community Ctr, 12 Feb (RH); 1, Loleta Bottoms-Cannibal Island Rd, 16 Feb (AM, JH, BH); 2, SoHum Community Pk, 20 Jan, (JG, JSO) • Common Yellowthroat: 1, HBNWR, 28 Jan (RF); 1, Arcata Marsh, 17 Feb (CR) • Chipping Sparrow: 1, Arcata Marsh-Brackish Pond, 17 Feb (CR) • “Pink-sided” Junco: 1 (first documented record for Humboldt), Willow Creek-Veteran’s Pk, 20-28 Jan (MS, TK, DC, GC, AM, RF, MOB); 1, Willow Creek-Hort Linto Creek Rd/Patterson Rd, 28 Jan (RF, GB) • Tricolored Blackbird: 1-5 (HO), Arcata Bottoms, 17 Dec-26 Feb (DC, RF, KB, CR, AT, PC, MOB) • Yellow-headed Blackbird: 1 (HO), Moxon Dairy, 1 Dec-9 Mar (RH, DC, RF, CR, AT, BC, GB, MOB); 1, Ferndale Bottoms-Goble Ln, 27 Feb (PC) • Common Redpoll: 1 (NC),
Arcata Marsh, 8 Feb (AC) • Lawrence’s Goldfinch: 1 (our region’s first winter record), Willow Creek-Big Rock River Access, 20 Jan (TK, DC, GC, MS) • Evening Grosbeak: 1-20, Arcata-Zehdner & Q Sts (GB, JB, MOb); 45, Blue Lake, 15 Feb (DH); 5, Warren Creek Rd, 27-28 Feb (RF, KB)

Del Norte County

Mountain Bluebird: 1, Lakeview Dr, 23 Feb (AB) • Bullock’s Oriole: 1-2, Crescent City, 29 Dec-16 Feb (SL) • Baltimore Oriole: 1, Crescent City, 13 Jan-8 Mar (JO, SL) • Glaucous Gull: 1, Crescent City, 5 Mar (SL) • Crested Caracara: 1, Ft Dick, 20 Jan (AB)


“Pink-sided” Junco © Tony Kurz.

Evening Grosbeaks © Camden Bruner.
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[NOTE: All phone numbers are area code 707, unless otherwise specified]

The **Sandpiper** is published online at www.rras.org 6 times per year (February, April, June, August, October, and December) by Redwood Region Audubon Society, PO Box 1054, Eureka CA 95502.

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