



# The Sandpiper

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2014



REDWOOD REGION AUDUBON SOCIETY [www.rras.org](http://www.rras.org)

## 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: 1st, Moe Morrisette; 8th, Jude Power; 15th, Gary Friedrichsen; 22nd, Tony Kurz.

**Saturday, February 1: 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). Even though "survey" is in the title, this is basically a birding trip. 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.

**Sunday, February 9: 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 a.m.** Call

Jude Power or David Fix (707-822-3613) for more information.

**Sunday, February 16: Southern Humboldt Community Park.** Jay Sooter (707-444-8001) and/or John Gaffin 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 **9:30 a.m.**, parking by the kiosk near the farmhouse at the main entrance.

**Sunday, February 16: Eureka Waterfront.** Meet at **9 a.m.** at the foot of Del Norte St. in Eureka where we will scope for birds off the public dock until everyone assembles. We will then drive to the base of the Hikshari' Trail at Truesdale St. and bird along the trail to the Elk River Wildlife Sanctuary. Contact leader Ralph Bucher (707-499-1247; [thebook@reninet.com](mailto:thebook@reninet.com)) for more information.

**Saturday, February 22: King Salmon/Fields Landing.** We'll use spotting scopes to look for waterfowl, grebes, and loons, plus other waterbirds. Meet at **8:30 a.m.** near Gils by the

Bay restaurant in King Salmon. Dress warmly. Rain cancels. For more information, call Matt Wachs (707-476-9349).

**Saturday, March 8: eBird Site Survey--Shay Park.** See February 1.

**Sunday, March 9: Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge.** See February 9.

**Sunday, March 16: Southern Humboldt Community Park.** See February 16.

**Sunday, March 16: Eureka Waterfront.** See February 16.

**Winter Raptor Census:** This is the 7th year of the Loleta-Ferndale winter raptor census. By car and in a group, we count all vultures, raptors, and shrikes along a 27.2-mile x 1-km transect running from Hookton Slough to the Ferndale Bottoms. Surveys begin at **8 a.m.** and finish by 3 p.m. New participants are welcome. Counts are scheduled opportunistically based on weather conditions; to be added to the notification list (no commitment), contact Ken Burton, [shrikethree@gmail.com](mailto:shrikethree@gmail.com), or call (707-499-1146) for more information.



## ANNUAL BANQUET SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>

### FEBRUARY 4 IS THE DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS AT ANNUAL RRAS BANQUET

As most members are aware, the annual RRAS banquet takes place **Saturday, February 8, 2014**. Speaker Anna Weinstein, the seabird and marine program leader for Audubon California, will summarize results of a 2011 breeding bird survey of the Black Oystercatcher. This charismatic intertidal shorebird has a global population of likely less than 15,000 and is considered an indicator of the health of rocky intertidal habitats. The survey, which included participation from RRAS, revealed important and surprising new information about this beloved species and the importance of our region to it. Anna will share stories from other chapters and discuss future plans and thoughts on how to protect the oystercatcher in California as climate change and increasing coastal use affect its world.

The banquet, to be held at Six Rivers Masonic Lodge, 251 Bayside Road, Arcata, features a delicious buffet dinner by Uniquely Yours Catering and locally renowned French chef Alex Begovic, a silent auction, and awards. A no-host social hour starts at **5:30 p.m.**, followed by dinner at **6:30 p.m.**, and the speaker at **7:30 p.m.** Last day to reserve a spot is Tuesday, February 4!

Reservations are available on a sliding scale from \$35 to \$50. Send checks payable to RRAS, with "Banquet" in the notation line, to RRAS, P.O. Box 1054, Eureka, CA 95502. You must purchase a banquet spot to attend the lecture. Banquet info: [rras@rras.org](mailto:rras@rras.org).

## MARCH PROGRAM FRIDAY, MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup>

### THE SOUTHERN LATITUDES' PELAGIC EXTRAVAGANZA

The remote subantarctic islands of Australia and New Zealand are the breeding grounds for 11% of the world's seabirds, including endemic penguins, cormorants, and albatrosses. The islands are also home to seals, whales, and unique land birds. Former seabird biologist Laurie Ness recently visited the region and will share photos of its wildlife, including the 2nd photo ever taken of the Chatham Petrel at sea and images of the critically endangered Magenta Petrel, once thought extinct. She'll also tell us a little about the islands' fascinating history. Join us for a warm, dry visit to this cold, wet place that few ever get to see. Bring your Dramamine!



Southern Royal Albatrosses "gamming" on Campbell Island. Photo by K. Ovsyanikova.

Program starts at **7:30 p.m.**  
at Humboldt Area Foundation on Indianola Cutoff  
Bring a mug and enjoy shade-grown coffee.

## CHAPTER LEADERS

### OFFICERS

President— Hal Genger ..... 707-499-0887  
 Vice President — Ken Burton .....707-499-1146  
 Secretary— Adam Brown..... 707-826-0319  
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 P.O. Box 1054, Eureka, CA 95502.

## NEW MEMBERS

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

**Arcata** — Kate Brice, Raven Czigenyi, Michelle Dobosh, Suzanne & Ned Forsyth, Sallie Grover, Sherri Miller, Alexander Robinson, Fiona Shaughnessy, Stefan Solat, Yeager  
**Bayside** — B. May, Gena Pennington  
**Blue Lake** — Scott Frazer  
**Crescent City** — Eulis Bradshaw, Gilbert Clevenger, Stephen Gibbs, Dawna Gunnerson, Anita Janis, Robert Mutchie  
**Cutten** — David Hombrook  
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**Ferndale** — Ellin Beltz  
**Fortuna** — Sally Dwelley, Edward Henning, Bette Moore  
**Garberville** — R. Hemsch  
**Loleta** — Kaitlyn Zoerhoff  
**McKinleyville** — Mary Almquist, Carol Wilson  
**Miranda** — Richard Michelini  
**Petrolia** — Trish Stefanik  
**Redway** — Katherine Stadig  
**Samoa** — Marta Tennant  
**Trinidad** — Kathy O'Shea

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

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN: THE BEND IN THE BRIDGE

By Jim Clark

The initial formation of Redwood Region Audubon Society was triggered by plans to build a bridge across Humboldt Bay from Eureka to the North Spit. The bridge, as initially drawn up, would have gone through the egret rookery on Indian Island. Instead, efforts of RRAS and others resulted in a completed bridge in 1971 that bent around the rookery. Our chapter was born in activism to conserve bird habitat.

Soon after our chapter was incorporated in the late 1980s, we appealed a decision by the Humboldt County Planning Department to allow development in wetlands in the McKinleyville area. This resulted in a settlement that required the planning department to submit wetland reviews to RRAS for 5 years and provided seed money that made it possible to buy tidal lands that are now part of the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge (HBNWR). Selling those tidelands to the US Fish and Wildlife Service nearly doubled our initial investment, and we now have a healthy wetland and sanctuary fund.

The activism that started in 1969 and reached a settlement in the late 1980s, however, has been dormant for too long. Although we have written letters of support and testified at public meetings for many causes, our chapter has not taken a serious stand on a local conservation issue in over 20 years. This is not for lack of important conservation issues that need attention.

As I was compiling our annual chapter report to National Audubon, I was impressed that we led 113 field trips

with nearly 1,000 participants. Not having any education programs or participants and only one environmental improvement project for the same year, however, is disconcerting.

Just as we made the Route 255 bridge over the bay re-route around the egret rookery, it's time that our chapter change course toward increased activism, to assure that we and those after us can continue to enjoy birding. To that end, I have agreed to reformulate the Conservation Committee to have more topically oriented meetings that will focus on taking action on the most important local and regional issues

To join us in this effort, consider attending the monthly Conservation Committee meetings at noon at the Golden Harvest Cafe in Arcata on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

## CONSERVATION MEETING FEBRUARY 12

The next Conservation Committee meeting will be February 12 at noon at the Golden Harvest Cafe, 1062 G St., Arcata. The meetings have been changed to the 2nd Wednesday of each month. The topic for February 12 will be forming a chapter position on environmental impacts of large-scale marijuana cultivation.

## MARCH 28 DEADLINE FOR STUDENT BIRD ART CONTEST ENTRIES

For the 11th year, RRAS and Friends of the Arcata Marsh are co-sponsoring a Student Bird Art Contest in conjunction with Godwit Days. Some \$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. Prize(s) also will be awarded for the best rendition of a bird in its natural habitat.

Entries will be judged by local wildlife artists and educators. Awards will be presented at the 19th Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival on Saturday, April 19, at 11:30 a.m. All entries will be displayed at the Arcata Community Center during the Festival, and copies of winning artwork will be shown at the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center during May.

A flyer with complete rules and a list of suggested birds is posted at <http://godwitdays.org/learning/activities-children/bird-art-contest/> 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 Street, Eureka 95501. Flyers have been mailed to all schools in Humboldt County.

Artwork may be dropped off at Strictly for the Birds, 123 F Street, Eureka, or the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center, 569 South G Street, Arcata, or mailed to Louise at the address listed above. Entries must be received by Friday, March 28, to be considered. Questions should be e-mailed to [suleskiw@suddenlink.net](mailto:suleskiw@suddenlink.net).

### Thinking of Joining the National Audubon Society?

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

### Chapter Membership Application

Yes, I'd like to join.

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of my local chapter. Please send AUDUBON magazine and my membership card to the address below.

**My check for \$20 is enclosed. (Introductory offer)**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

**Local Chapter Code: C24 C1ZC240Z**

*Please make checks to the National Audubon Society.*

*Send this application and your check to:*

**National Audubon Society**

**P.O. Box 422250**

**Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250**

-----LOCAL CHAPTER-----  
**REDWOOD REGION AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
 P.O. BOX 1054  
 EUREKA, CA 95502



# FIELD TRIP REPORT: WINTER RARITIES, 4 JANUARY 2014

By Rob Fowler

Another year has come and gone, and as far as rare birds in Humboldt County, 2014 kicked off with a bang! Many rarities were found on the Arcata and Centerville to King Salmon Christmas Bird Counts, and a couple have popped up in the new year that weren't discovered beforehand. On my 4th annual RRAS winter rarities field trip, the game plan included at least 8 or 9 potential stakeout rarities to re-find—certainly enough to fill the day! Also, even though we are focused on re-finding staked-out rarities, we make a point to enjoy every bird we come across along our journey. So how did we do?

**Northern Waterthrush:** After the group of 25+ signed in and I briefly explained the plan for the day, we headed for our first target bird. At the brown wall at the southeast corner of Butcher Slough Log Pond at the Arcata Marsh, I briefly pished, and about a minute later, the NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH started calling. It came in close but stayed out of view. More often than not, this waterthrush is heard but is difficult to see, so we were satisfied with a “heard-only.”

**Summer Tanager:** Because we were a large group, I called the homeowners that were hosting this species and received assurance that it was OK to visit them. We carpoled to the house on California St. in Arcata and quietly gathered in the front yard to watch the black oil sunflower feeder the bird was frequenting. Within 10 minutes, the SUMMER TANAGER came in, grabbed a seed, and quickly flew out of view. We stuck around for another 10 minutes, and it came back, providing prolonged views.

**Lawrence's Goldfinch and Northern Shrike:** Paul Lohse's farm is adjacent to the famous “Blue Lake cottonwoods.” Although the cottonwoods are a popular birding location—especially during spring migration—his farm is always worth a walk-through and Paul welcomes birders throughout the year. His farm is especially attractive to seed eaters, especially from fall through winter, and has attracted many interesting species like Clay-colored, Chipping, and Swamp sparrows, along with Gray Flycatcher and rare eastern vireos and warblers.

Paul personally led us through his farm, looking for the female Lawrence's Goldfinch. Every few steps we took, sparrows would burst out of the fallow beds (especially plots with quinoa and amaranth). Within minutes we tallied all expected winter sparrows: Spotted Towhee, White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Lincoln's, Sooty Fox, and White-throated. Everyone also got to enjoy a male Yellow-shafted Flicker, which according to Paul, has been present all winter.

After about an hour, we walked to the northwest corner and someone pointed out a small, gray finch atop some vegetation: the female LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH! The bird took some time to emerge from the vegetation; it then flushed with accompanying sparrows and landed in the open branches of a leafless tree some distance away. Everyone was able to get scope views of this bird, which is only the 2nd winter record for northwestern California.

We hadn't seen the Northern Shrike, but on the way out of Blue Lake, we ran into local birder Alexandra Lamb. She had just seen the shrike to the west of the Mad River

bridge. A few of us cruised over to where she saw it, but a brief search failed to produce it.

We then spent about an hour at the foot of South I Street at the Arcata Marsh, where we ate lunch and added birds to our day list. One species we saw can only be found at this location: Forster's Tern. This bird is somewhat rare in northwestern California throughout the year, but in the winter, a group of 10-20 winters in north Humboldt Bay.

Moving on, we left the Marsh and drove to Eureka for our next target: Harris's Sparrow. I won't belabor our experience walking around urban Eureka looking for a rare bird, but just say we didn't find it. We did find a female Bullock's Oriole, first identified and called out by Ken Burton. This would be *the* rarity found during the trip. (Last year on this trip, the highlight was a Baltimore Oriole spotted in Loleta).

It was time to leave Eureka and move on to birdier areas. The passengers in my car spotted a NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD perched high in a tree. This bird is technically a rarity in northwestern California, so we added it to our score for the day. Our next stop was Quinn Road outside of Loleta to look for the LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE. This individual has been at this location since 27 October and has been seen consistently since. It took a couple of minutes, but we got distant views of the bird.

Soon after reaching Copenhagen Road from Quinn and heading toward Loleta, we came upon 3 Snow Geese, which were year birds for most and a quick treat on our way to our next targets. Snow and Ross's Goose are low-grade rarities (though the latter is a bit rarer overall) because a few show up in the fall and winter in flocks of Cackling Geese; both are abundant in the Central Valley.

**Cattle Egret:** This was easily spotted in a pasture off Goble Lane in the Ferndale Bottoms hanging out near, what else? cattle. Local bird extraordinaire and author David Fix calls Cattle Egrets “Beef Bitterns.” Even though the Cattle Egret was our target bird, most people enjoyed even more the Ferruginous Hawks and Tundra Swans that flew over us.

**Crested Caracara:** To try for this bird, we got permission to visit the “Eel River Estuary Preserve,” which is currently private property but en route to be open to the public. [Check out the Wildlands Conservancy website to learn more about this new preserve.] Long story short: we missed it. This bird was the most-expected miss, however. Nonetheless, some of the group did see a Prairie Falcon, which is rare in the winter along the coastal plain in Humboldt County, with only 1 to 2 wintering locally. We also saw a distant Rough-legged Hawk and many red-tails.

**Sandhill Crane:** This bird, first discovered by Casey Ryan and Tony Kurz on 18 December, has consistently been in the same location since: off Grizzly Bluffs Road just east of Lawson Lane/Pleasant Point Drive. As expected, we drove right up to the bird. It was now time to call it a productive day. Ending score: 7/10 rarities. Total species: 93.

To see the full trip report with photos and video from the day, visit Rob's Fowlerope Birding Tours blog at: [www.fowleropebirding.com/blog.html](http://www.fowleropebirding.com/blog.html).



Lew & Judie  
Norton  
© Sue Leskiw



Laurie Lawrence & Ken Burton  
© Sue Leskiw

## RRAS VOLUNTEERS IN 2013

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 2012 and October 2013:

*Julie Alderson, Jan Andersen, Mark & Melinda Bailey, Pat Bitton, Dawn Blake, Gary Bloomfield, Adam Brown, Ralph Bucher, Ken Burton, Sue Calla, Joe Ceriani, Jill Demers, Greg Chapman, Donna & Jim Clark, Daryl Coldren, Linda Doerflinger, David Fix, Rob Fowler, Gary Friedrichsen, Harry Fuller, Pia Gabriel, John Gaffin, Megan Garfinkle, Hal Genger, Will Goldenberg, Harriet Hill, Larry Karsteadt, Christine Keil, Tony Kurz, Laurie Lawrence, Sue & Tom Leskiw, Gary Lester, Ron LeValley, Sandra Lingle, Paul Lohse, Michael Morris, Moe Morrissette, Cindy Moyer, Syn-dee Noel, Judie & Lew Norton, Chet Ogan, Susan Penn, Karen Pope, Jude Power, CJ Ralph, Josée Rousseau, Gil & Mediha Saliba, David Scheerer, Jay Sooter, Matt Wachs, Ryan Wells, Carol Wilson, and George Ziminsky.*

## AUDUBON NATURE WRITING DEADLINE MARCH 21

RRAS is sponsoring its 9th 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 19th 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 21, 2014. Send submissions as text within the body of an e-mail to [tomleskiw@suddenlink.net](mailto:tomleskiw@suddenlink.net) or mail a printout to Louise Bacon-Ogden, 2337 B Street, Eureka 95501.



# Field Notes

## SUMMARY OF NORTHWESTERN CALIFORNIA BIRD REPORTS

By Daryl Coldren

November 15, 2013, to January 15, 2014

Field Notes is a compilation of bird-sighting reports for Del Norte, Humboldt, and Trinity counties. Sources include the RRAS Bird Box (707-822-LOON), the online northwestern California birding and information exchange ([nwcalbird@yahoo.com](mailto:nwcalbird@yahoo.com)), eBird (<http://ebird.org/content/klamathsiskiyou>), 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).

FOS = first of season; HBNWR = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; MOB = many observers; NC = not confirmed by another party/not photographed

**Snow Goose:** 1-2, HBNWR, 16 Nov-3 Jan (BE, AL, CB); 1-5, Arcata Bottoms, 22 Nov-12 Jan (IG, CB, AF, MOB); 2-4, McKinleyville Bottoms, 13-19 Dec (MOB); 3, Loleta Bottoms, 2-8 Jan (MOB) • **Ross's Goose:** 1, Arcata Bottoms, 18 Nov-2 Jan (GB, BE, RF, SB); 1, McKinleyville Bottoms, 13-16 Dec (MOB); 1, HBNWR, 3 Jan (CB); 1, Loleta, 14 Jan (MC) • **Harlequin Duck:** 1, North Spit, 7-30 Dec (AL, CR, MOB); 1, Humboldt Lagoons-Sharp Point, 7 Jan (KB, JA) • **Long-tailed Duck:** 1, Humboldt Lagoons-Sharp Point, 7 Jan (KB, JA); 2, King Salmon, 13 Jan (MW, RF, DC) • **American White Pelican:** 1, Smith River Bottoms (Del Norte), 29 Nov (LB); 1, flying above Arcata, 13 Dec (CR) • **Cattle Egret:** 1, Ferndale Bottoms-Goble Lane, 18 Dec-8 Jan (CR) • **Green Heron:** 1, Arcata Marsh, 10 Dec (MP) • **Osprey:** 1, Orick, 10 Dec (CD) • **Golden Eagle:** 1, Dyerville Loop, 11 Dec (JG); 1, Bear River Ridge, 25-26 Dec (MD, KO); 1, Ferndale Bottoms, 3-8 Jan (KB, BE, KO, MOB); 1, Alder Point Rd, 4 Jan (CB) • **Ferruginous Hawk:** many reports of 1-2, Bear River Ridge, Ferndale Bottoms, Loleta Bottoms, McKinleyville Bottoms, 23 Nov-15 Jan (MOB) • **Rough-legged Hawk:** many reports of 1-2, Bear River Ridge, Ferndale Bottoms, Loleta Bottoms, McKinleyville Bottoms, 1 Nov-15 Jan (MOB) • **Sandhill Crane:** 1, Arcata Bottoms-Moxon Rd, 9 Dec (RF); 1, Ferndale Bottoms, 18 Dec-15 Jan (CR) • **Pacific Golden-Plover:** 2, Arcata Bottoms, 6-15 Dec (RF, JL); 1-5, Ferndale Bottoms, 8-26 Dec (PC, KO, AL, BM); 1, Loleta Bottoms, 20 Dec (PC, KO) • **Ruddy Turnstone:** 1, North Spit-Vance Rd, 7 Dec (BM); 1, North Jetty, 31 Dec (CS) • **Red Knot:** 1, Arcata Marsh-Klopp Lake, 13 Dec (AL, PL); 1, Arcata Marsh-Klopp Lake, 11 Jan (KB) • **Rock Sandpiper:** many reports of 1-6, North Jetty, 8 Nov-11 Jan (BE, SB, MOB) • **Glaucous Gull:** 1, Fernbridge, 22 Nov (PC, KO) • **Burrowing Owl:** 1, McKinleyville-Clam Beach, 17 Nov-2 Jan (AL, DC, MOB); 1, Bear River Ridge, 22 Nov-14 Dec (PC, KO, CR); 2, South Spit, 29 Dec (RF, RH) • **White-throated Swift:** 42!, Ferndale, 17 Dec (SB) • **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 1, Fortuna-Clendenen's Cider Works, 15-23 Dec (JSt, MOB) • **White-headed Woodpecker:** 1, Horse Mountain, 21 Dec (AP, MB, MOB) • **Crested Caracara:** 1, Ferndale Bottoms, 29 Dec-2 Jan (JA, KS) • **Prairie Falcon:** 1, Arcata Bottoms, 7 Dec (CO); 1, Ferndale Bottoms, 18 Dec-14 Jan (CR, RF, BE, OH, MOB); 1, McKinleyville Bottoms, 19 Dec (CB, HV); 1, Bear River Ridge, 25 Dec (MD) • **Say's Phoebe:** 1, Redwood Creek Mouth, 17 Nov (CB, HV); 2, Loleta Bottoms-Copenhagen

Rd, 3 Dec (KB, MOB); 1, McKinleyville Bottoms, 14 Dec (LP, KZ); 1, Arcata Bottoms, 14-24 Dec (GB, LP, KZ, GC, CD); 1, Big Rock, 15 Dec-1 Jan (MC); • **Vermilion Flycatcher:** 1, Ferndale Bottoms-Salt River, 29 Dec-15 Jan (GB, MOB) • **Ash-throated Flycatcher:** 1, Arcata Bottoms, 14-22 Dec (AB, MOB) • **Tropical Kingbird:** 1, Arcata Bottoms-V St Loop, 15-23 Nov (BE, AF); 1, Arcata Bottoms-Moxon Rd, 15 Nov-3 Dec (KO, PC, RF, MOB); 1, Loleta Pond, 22 Nov (RF); 1, Ferndale Bottoms-Pleasant Point Rd, 20 Dec (PC, KO); 1, Arcata Bottoms-Foster Ave, 21 Dec (TQ, SQ) • **Loggerhead Shrike:** 1, Loleta- Quinn Rd, 27 Oct-8 Jan (GC, MOB) • **Northern Shrike:** 1, Redwood Creek Mouth, 24 Nov-5 Jan (TK, MOB); 1, Blue Lake-Cottonwoods, 27 Dec-4 Jan (BE, MOB); 1, Humboldt Hill, 29 Dec (PB) • **Horned Lark:** 1, Kneeland-Barry Rd, 18 Nov (KO); 1, Smith River Bottoms, 22 Nov (LB); 1-10, Bear River Ridge, 22 Nov-25 Dec (RF, CR BE, MOB) • **Tree Swallow:** 1, Arcata Marsh, 18 Nov (RF); 1, Fernbridge, 14 Dec (BE); 1, Big Rock, 15 Dec (MC) • **Violet-green Swallow:** 1, Arcata Marsh, 18 Nov (RF); 1, Arcata Marsh, 21 Dec (KS, MOB); 1, Arcata Marsh, 1 Jan (BBr); 1, Blue Lake, 3 Jan (KS, RF, DC) • **Barn Swallow:** 1, South Spit, 29 Dec (RF, RH); 4, McDaniel Slough, 1 Jan (PR) • **Rock Wren:** 1, Dyerville Rd, 31 Dec-11 Jan (RF, CB, KO, AL) • **California Thrasher:** 1, King Range, 31 Dec (RF) • **Northern Mockingbird:** 1, Garberville-Sprowel Creek



Vermilion Flycatcher, JAN 22, 2014, Salt River, HUM, © Rob Fowler

Rd, 15-30 Nov (JSo); 1, Arcata-Union/11th St, 5 Dec (AF); 1, Arcata-10th/D St, 12-14 Dec (CR, AT, MOB); 1, Eureka-Summer St, 14 Dec (RF); 1 (returning for 3rd year), Eureka-D St/Willow, 15 Dec-12 Jan (GC, DC, AL, BE) • **Red-throated Pipit:** 1, Orick, 26 Nov (LB, KB, CM) • **Lapland Longspur:** 6, Crab Park, 17 Nov (TM); 3, Arcata Bottoms-Mad River Slough WA, 25 Nov (RF); 1, Redwood Creek Mouth, 27 Nov (RF, GB); 2, Cock Robin Island, 14 Jan (MC) • **Ovenbird:** 1, Arcata Marsh, 8-9 Dec (AL) • **Northern Waterthrush:** 1, Arcata Marsh, 21 Nov-4 Jan (MOB); 1, Eureka, 14 Dec (RF); 1, Sunny Brae, 14 Dec (MD); 1, Copenhagen Rd, 29 Dec (KB) • **Black-and-white Warbler:** 1, Mad River Co. Park, Nov 23 (AW); 1, Humboldt Bay Bird Observatory, 28 Dec (MD) • **Nashville Warbler:** 1, Sunny Brae, 15 Nov (JH, AM); 1, Arcata-H St, 16 Nov-10 Jan (TQ, SQ); 1, Arcata-Zehndner Ave, 21 Nov (GB); 1, Arcata Marsh, 21 Nov-18 Dec (MC, MOB); 1, Eureka, 9 Dec-2 Jan (BE); 2, Arcata, 14 Dec (MD); 1, Eureka, 14 Dec (RF, CD); 1, Cock Robin Island, 27 Dec (KO); 1, HBNWR, 3 Jan (CB); 1, Arcata, 10 Jan (KB); 1, Eureka, 13 Jan (SM) • **Yellow Warbler:** 1, Eel River-Hwy 211 Bridge, Nov 22 (RF) • **Palm Warbler:** 1, Arcata Marsh, 21 Nov-7



Little Bunting, DEC 19, 2013, McKinleyville, HUM, © Rob Fowler

Jan (MC, MOB); 1, McKinleyville Bottoms, 17 Dec (RB); 1, Ferndale Bottoms-Grizzly Bluff, 29 Dec (CO); 1, Ferndale Bottoms-Salt River, 1-8 Jan (RF, DC, KB, MOB); 1, Goble Lane, 4 Jan (RB, CO) • **Black-throated Gray Warbler:** 1, Salt River, 10 Jan (OH) • **Hermit Warbler:** 1, Arcata-Zehndner Ave, 23-26 Dec (GB) • **Wilson's Warbler:** 1, Arcata-Zehndner Ave, 17 Nov (GB) • **Clay-colored Sparrow:** 1, Arcata, 12 Dec (SM) • **Swamp Sparrow:** 1, Lake Earl (Del Norte), 3 Nov (CD, MOB); 1-2, HBNWR, 15 Nov-14 Jan (AL, MC); 1-2, Arcata Marsh, 16 Nov-8 Jan (MOB); 1, Eureka Golf Course, 7 Dec (KB); 1, Redwood Creek Mouth, 7 Dec (IG); 2, Clam Beach, 14 Dec (LK); 1, Jolly Giant Creek, 23 Dec (EE) • **Harris's Sparrow:** 1, Eureka-Huntoon St, 14-21 Dec (RF, MOB); 1, McKinleyville-Salmon Ave, 14 Dec-15 Jan (KS, MOB); 1, Salt River, 31 Dec (MD, BE, MOB); 1, Eureka, 5 Jan (BE) • **LITTLE BUNTING!** 1, McKinleyville, 12-21 Dec (KS, MOB). This is the 1st record for Humboldt County, only the 4th for California, and the 5th in the lower 48 states. Well done, Keith! • **Summer Tanager:** 1, Arcata-California Ave, 26 Dec-15 Jan (SR, ML, RF, DC, MOB) • **Painted Bunting:** 1, Trinidad-Ocean Ave, 10 Jan (BBa, MOB) • **Tricolored Blackbird:** 1-3, Arcata Bottoms-Miller Lane/Warren Creek Farm, 16-17 Nov (RF, KO, AL); 4, Lanphere Rd, 6 Dec (RF) • **Bullock's Oriole:** 1, Eureka, 22 Dec (TQ); 1, Eureka, 4 Jan (RF, MOB) • **Lawrence's Goldfinch:** 1, Blue Lake-Lohse Farm, 28 Dec-15 Jan (PL, KS, RF, MOB) • **Evening Grosbeak:** 1, Ferndale-Centerville Rd, 17 Nov (TM); 1, Fay Slough Wildlife Area, 10 Jan (CB).

Thanks to all who have submitted their sightings! Special thanks to Rob Fowler for assistance with compiling records.

#### Cited Observers

Jeff Allen, Samantha Bacon, Alan Barron, Bob Battagin (BBa), Pat Bitton, Gary Bloomfield, Matt Brady, Bob Brown (BBr), Lucas Brug, Camden Bruner, Ralph Bucher, Ken Burton, Philip Chaon, Greg Chapman, Daryl Coldren, Mark Colwell, Matt Delgado, Cédric Duhalde, Elias Elias, Brad Elvert, Andrew Ford, Rob Fowler, John Gaffin, Ian Gledhill, Owen Head, Rob Hewitt, Jared Hughey, Logan Kahle, Tony Kurz, Alex Lamb, Margaret Lang, Josh Lefever, Paul Lohse, Bruce Mast, Sean McAllister, Tristin McKee, Annie Meyer, Cindy Moyer, Chet Ogan, Kurt Ongman, Michael Park, Amy Patten, Linda Pittman, Shilo Quetchenbach, Tom Quetchenbach, Steve Railsback, Casey Ryan, Keith Slausen, Jay Sooter (JSo), Catherine Spaulding, John Sterling (JSt), Anji Trujillo, Holly Vannoy, Matt Wachs, Andrew Wiegardt, Karen Zumwalt.