



The Sandpiper

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2015



REDWOOD REGION AUDUBON SOCIETY 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. Oct. 3: Tristan McKee; Oct. 10: Gary Friedrichsen; Oct. 17: Jude Power; Oct. 24: Rob Fowler; Oct. 31: Carol Wilson.

Sunday, October 4: Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary. A Marsh walk on a Sunday? Why not? This can be an interesting time of year at the Marsh, with the possibility of vagrant land birds, early waterfowl, and plenty of shorebirds. Meet leader Ken Burton (707-499-1146) at the first parking lot on South I Street, just before the gate, at **9 a.m.** Be prepared to walk 2 to 3 miles.

Sunday, October 11: 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.

Saturday, October 17: Southern Humboldt Community Park. Tom Leskiw will guest-lead this monthly walk with Jay Sooter (707-444-8001) and/or John Gaffin. 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 bring your own if possible. Steady rain cancels. Meet at **9 a.m.**, parking by the kiosk near the farmhouse in the main entrance.

Sunday, October 18: Eureka Waterfront. Meet at **9 a.m.** at the foot of W. Del Norte St., 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 Street and bird along the trail to the Elk River Wildlife Sanctuary. Leader: Ralph Bucher (707-499-1247; thebook@reninet.com).

Sunday, November 8: Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge. See October 11.

Sunday, November 15: Eureka Waterfront. See October 18.

Saturday, November 21: Southern Humboldt Community Park. See October 17 (no guest leader).



OCTOBER PROGRAM: FRIDAY, OCT 9

WHY URBAN ECOLOGY IS IMPORTANT FOR AVIAN CONSERVATION



The expansion of urban areas worldwide is of conservation concern because it greatly modifies native ecosystems by changing land cover and communities of fauna and flora. Human behavior can also influence other species. In this talk, **Barbara A. Clucas, PhD**, research associate at Humboldt State University in the Department of Wildlife, examines human-avian interactions in urban areas from both ecological and cultural/socioeconomic perspectives. She addresses the relationships between human behavior and avian diversity and composition, as well as the economic value of birds in two cities in North America and Europe. Understanding these relationships is important for conservation of nature within and perhaps outside cities.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM: FRIDAY, NOV 13

SEABIRD MONITORING IN NORTH COAST MARINE PROTECTED AREAS



Are seabirds indicators? What do they indicate? **Dan Barton**, an assistant professor of Quantitative Population Ecology in the Department of Wildlife at Humboldt State University, will suggest that,

in general, seabirds are easier to count than fish. But when we count seabirds and observe their changes in abundance and distribution over time, we often infer that these changes indicate changes in the marine environment. What kinds of changes are being indicated, and how do we know? Are some seabirds inherently "better" indicators than others?

Programs start at **7:30 p.m.** at **Eureka High School Lecture Hall** at the corner of Humboldt and K Streets. Bring a mug to enjoy shade-grown coffee, and please come fragrance-free.

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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.

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-----LOCAL CHAPTER-----

REDWOOD REGION AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 1054, EUREKA, CA 95502

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Hal Genger

RRAS has another busy year ahead. To help clarify our goals, the board is having its yearly retreat in October to discuss last year's goals and decide which ones to concentrate on this year. I will discuss the results in the next issue. Currently we are diligently working on the bird collection at Eureka High. This is an incredible collection of mounted birds and eggs collected mostly in the 1800s. Dennis Cahill, who coordinated the use of this collection, has since retired and asked us to promote its use. The RRAS Education Committee is surveying the condition of the collection with the help of Tamar Danufsky, curator of the bird collection at Humboldt State University, to see if repairs are needed. They plan to check and update the names of the specimens and develop some participation activities for students who visit the collection.

The Conservation Committee is researching two issues concerned with agriculture. RRAS is collaborating with California Audubon in studying the proposal for increased use of Humboldt Bay mudflats and eelgrass beds for oyster production. We support a wise, balanced, responsible, and ethical use of natural systems, including local resources like eelgrass. While aquaculture can be compatible with birds, this proposed project requires a comprehensive environmental review to protect vital bird habitat and the general health of the bay.

How do we regulate marijuana agriculture on private and public land? A hot topic, as recent investigations have shown increased illegal grading, water theft and storage, and use of large quantities of pesticides and rodenticides. None of these are compatible with wise land usage and need

to be regulated and enforced for the benefit of birds and users downstream. RRAS is working with Dan Ehresman at NEC to develop a written proposal for legislators to consider.

Last, all activities accomplished by the local chapter are done by volunteers. To again thank these people, we are hosting our annual volunteer appreciation event on Friday, October 30, 6 to 8 p.m., at Humboldt Area Foundation. See the announcement elsewhere in this issue, and please come!

NEW MEMBERS

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

Bayside — Bruce M. Smith
Crescent City — Lathrop Leonard
Cutten — Susan E. MacLeod
Eureka — Mary Hashash, Nichelle Kershner, Anita D. Leipper, Sue Radcliffe, Christine Stenlund
McKinleyville — Mary A. Hanson, Elizabeth A. Kelsey, Marie C. Stine
Trinidad — Barbara Snell
Whitethorn — Janice Sadon

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

HUMBOLDT COUNTY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Look for announcement in the Dec-Jan issue of *The Sandpiper* of local CBCs, starting December 19 (Arcata) and December 20 (Del Norte County). RRAS will have a brush-up program and potluck dinner, details provided later.

CONSERVATION NOTES

THINKING GLOBALLY AND ACTING LOCALLY FOR BIRD CONSERVATION

By Jim Clark

Jay Sooter, Dan Ehresman, and I met September 9 at the Golden Harvest Café in Arcata. We discussed details of the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District's (District) pre-permitting proposal for mariculture leases, the Eureka City Council's inaction on Parcel 4 property management, and the progress of legislation concerning cannabis cultivation.

On September 8, Susan Penn and I met with District Commissioner Mike Wilson and Deputy Director Adam Wagschal to discuss details of the District's mariculture pre-permitting proposal. The parcels proposed for mariculture lease are almost entirely in no-eelgrass or spotty eelgrass areas and at the upper limit of mariculture elevation. An updated map showing the parcel outlines in relation to eelgrass density will soon be available. We suggested that monitoring be included as part of the lease agreements with reports available to the public. We would also like to see temporal information for bird activity charted with mariculture activity so that the relationships of these activities over time can be more easily understood. Based on the available spatial and temporal data, it does not appear that mariculture on the potentially leased parcel would have a substantial adverse effect on birds.

On September 3, I spoke at the Eureka City Council meeting, advocating for the proposed ordinance that would enable management of Parcel 4 (behind Bayshore Mall)

and Eureka Marsh in compliance with environmental regulations. Generally, the proposal was for an ordinance that would be less harsh and more realistic than enforcing the City's existing camping ordinance. Public comments indicated that homelessness was the main contributing problem to illegal camping at the Eureka Marsh and Parcel 4. It was generally felt that the homelessness problem would not be solved any time soon, so the ordinance, which would require people to leave during the day, would be inappropriate. The Council tabled the item until January, thus failing to solve either problem.

At the conservation meeting, I proposed and all present agreed that Parcel 4 has gone from a neglected opportunity to a serious environmental problem. A position statement on management of Parcel 4 and adjacent parcels will be presented to the RRAS Board for approval.

Dan Ehresman updated us on state legislation on cannabis cultivation: the previous bills were gutted, and the rewritten ones will, it is hoped, be reintroduced, approved, and signed by this year's legislative deadline. Approval of the bills would make it easier for Humboldt County to draft its own ordinance. California Cannabis Voice Humboldt's proposed ordinance may be stalled due to external and internal conflicts.

The next Conservation Committee meeting, unless otherwise announced, will be at noon on October 14, 2015.



© Gary Bloomfield

MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLERS AND WILDFIRES

In an article on the Barntini fundraiser, Tom Leskiw writes about a possible link between the high number of MacGillivray's Warblers seen on the coastal slope this fall and inland wildfires: <http://madriverrunions.com> (September 16 edition).

RRAS VOLUNTEER PARTY!

We greatly appreciate our volunteers! Please join us for the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Celebration **Friday, October 30, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.**, at the Humboldt Area Foundation, Emerson Room, 363 Indianola Rd, Bayside.

All individuals who donated time to our chapter in the past year are invited. RRAS will furnish a selection of pastas, sauces, salads, beverages, and desserts. Keeping with the season's tradition, you are welcome to wear a special hat or costume.

Please RSVP with your choice of beverage and number in your party by October 23 to Denise at daseeger@gmail.com or 707-444-2399. Thank you!

RRAS 2016 BANQUET IN LATE FEBRUARY

Please reserve the date of **Saturday, February 27, 2016**, for the RRAS annual banquet. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Geoff Hill, who will no doubt talk about plume coloration in birds.



KEEP UP-TO-DATE THROUGH RRAS LISTSERVE

Be reminded about field trips and programs and learn about upcoming meetings, public hearings, and symposia of interest to RRAS members and other concerned nature lovers. Subscribe in 1 of 2 ways: through a Web page link at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rras> or by e-mail to rras-subscribe@yahoo.com. Postings should have complete information. This listserv is **not** for posting bird sightings.

THE SAGE AND THE CLOWN

Brad Elvert and I were birding the Boat Ramp patch last Friday when a calling bird—a loud, emphatic *wheep*—flew overhead. I recalled the trip Sue and I took to Connecticut in late May of this year, when I'd seen and heard Great-crested Flycatchers. I wracked my brain for other possibilities but came up empty. Brad pulled out his smartphone and played a GCFL's call. "It does sound similar," we agreed. I'd caught a glimpse of the bird as it flew over the willow patch heading southeast. We ran onto the road and listened. "The bird's calling from that stand of eucalyptus, right down the road!" Brad returned to his car for his camera, while I set mine on video mode, trying to record the bird's call as I frantically raced toward the eucs. The voice of reason tried to weigh in: Great-crested Flycatcher is more expected in early October. Yeah, I know, I responded. But...

The bird was calling, but only at maddeningly long intervals. We heard only several wheeps over a 20-minute period. Brad then played his smartphone a time or two. The bird seemed to respond to the call. Scanning the trees produced nothing. "Brad, I'm torn between calling this MAYBE bird in, versus saying nothing. What if it takes us another half-hour to get a visual on the bird? And, it is, in fact, a Great-crested Flycatcher. Suppose we get photos and recordings, but then the bird vanishes. Just another 10-minute wonder. Don't you think some folks are going to be upset at not having been given the chance to chase this first county record?"

"Well, I hear what you're saying," Brad responded. "Still, I think we should wait until..." "I'm calling the Bird Box," I interjected. "This is Tom Leskiw. Brad Elvert and I are out here on the North Spit. We had a fly-over bird give a call that sounded like a Great-crested Flycatcher. We're not saying that's what the bird is, but we thought we'd give folks who want to chase a MAYBE bird the chance to do so. It's in the first stand of eucs south of the Samoa Boat Ramp. I was in Connecticut this past spring, so I got pretty dialed in on their calls..."

"I'm on the bird," Brad shouted. "It's a... Cockatiel." Because I was still in the process of leaving my message on the Bird Box, I was forced to abruptly shift gears. "Sorry. False alarm. It's a... um... Cockatiel." Brad and

I laughed. Then we laughed some more. Brad "took the high road"—there was no need to remind me that he was opposed to leaving a message. "Sorry for dragging you into this," I lamented.

Later that afternoon, I reflected on the roller-coaster ride of the past week. On Tuesday, I'd seen a Swainson's Hawk near Table Bluff, which was a looong-sought County Bird for me. My inability to see this species in Humboldt had turned it into a Nemesis Bird. Sue and I were out of town when Tony Kurz found a Swainson's Hawk on March 6, 2013, the first chaseable SWHA in Humboldt since 1979. Then I thought of the plans I'd made to bird lower Friday Ridge Road on May 3 of this year, on the day of the Kurz-Fowler-Coldren-Ryan Big Day effort. "I can phone you if I see anything amazing," I told Tony. But when the day came, I was too tired to make the drive and stayed home. Imagine my frustration when I discovered that Tony had found another SWHA on Friday Ridge Road that morning. He could have phoned me if I was out there, saying "Hey, Tom, look up in the sky..."

So to have obtained several crummy, yet diagnostic, photos of the hawk was of the utmost importance. I was acutely aware that I wanted this species so badly for the county that, in the absence of physical evidence, I'd doubt what my own eyes told me I was seeing. These highs and lows a mere 3 days apart reminded me of the lyrics to a Mark Knopfler song: "Sometimes you're the windshield, and sometimes you're the bug." To which I'd add, "Sometimes you're the sage, and sometimes you're the clown."

Because it's September, I think I'll head back to Table Bluff tomorrow with our dog Zevon in tow. That's the amazing thing about peak migration periods: each day presents us with the opportunity to find something amazing... or play the clown. NOTE TO SELF: Embrace and learn from last Friday's lesson. You do not want a repeat performance. And if things go haywire, my new mantra is "If you can't laugh at yourself, it's time to find a new line of work... er, play."

Tom Leskiw
September 9, 2015



American Golden-plover, © Rob Fowler,
NE Humboldt Bay, HUM Co.



Grasshopper Sparrow, © Elias Elias,
Southern Humboldt Community Park, HUM Co.

Field Notes

SUMMARY OF NORTHWESTERN CALIFORNIA BIRD REPORTS

By Sean McAllister

1 July to 31 August 2015

Field Notes is a compilation of select bird reports from the field, covering Humboldt, Del Norte, Trinity, western Siskiyou, and northern Mendocino counties. Reports are acquired from eBird (ebird.org/content/klamath-siskiyou), the "Bird Box" (822-LOON), nwcabird listserv (nwcabird@yahoo.com), and those emailed directly to the compiler (whiteouters@gmail.com). These sources can be accessed directly for more-detailed information. Note: Not all reports presented here have been vetted.

Weather during the period was characterized by high pressure, record high temperatures, below average rainfall, and periodic southerly winds that brought warm seawater to the area. One brief rain event was encouraging but did little to relieve the drought.

July marks the onset of early fall migration, when masses of shorebirds begin to move into and through the area and songbirds become quiet after their young have fledged and they begin post-breeding dispersal. In August, migration has begun in earnest, and birders rejoice.

I want to acknowledge Daryl Coldren for serving as Field Notes compiler in my stead for the past 3+ years. Thanks, Daryl, great job!

AMWS = Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary; HO = Hold over; HBNWR = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; MObs = Many observers; RRAS = Redwood Region Audubon Society (hosted field trip); SP = State Park

Interesting Breeding Records

Green Heron: 3 downy young, AMWS, 10 Jul (GZ), 2nd nesting record for the Marsh • **Northern Goshawk:** Nesting records for this species are sparse in the region; a nest with 2 young near Orleans was monitored through 9 July (SM) • **Caspian Tern:** On 19 July, while kayaking on south Humboldt Bay, BE discovered "multiple" Caspian Terns that "appeared to be sitting on nests" on Teal Island, with "some birds in aerial courtship display"; he captured a photo of a chick. Before this discovery, Caspian Terns were known to nest only regionally, on Sand Island, north Humboldt Bay. • **White-throated Swifts** continue to expand their local breeding range since being first discovered in the region along the Eel R in 1998 (DF, JP). Reports from this and last period illuminate that expansion: 1-11, Eel R, 20 Jun-15 Aug (JS, EE, JG); 6, Van Duzen R, 18 Jul (EE); 1 flyover, Arcata, 11 Jun (LF, SM); 1-2, Mad R, 7-23 Jun (AL, RF, RH, EE, MMA, KB); 1, Little R, 27 Jun (LF); 1, Klamath R, 2 Jun (LB) • **Mountain Bluebird:**



Hudsonian Godwit, Clam Beach,
HUM, © Lizzie Feucht



Franklin's Gull, Mad River Estuary,
HUM, © Rob Fowler

adult female feeding 3 young (13 Jul) along the Doctor Rock Trail in Del Norte Co, confirming breeding by this species for 3rd consecutive year (LB) • **Lark Sparrow:** 1 young fledgling observed along the lower Eel R at Sandy Prairie on 12 Jul (AT). This little-known, unusual breeding site has been used at least intermittently for more than 10 years.

Interesting Dates (early/late migrants, holdovers, etc.)

Greater White-fronted Goose: 1, AMWS, HO-26 Aug (MObs) • **Golden-Plovers:** 1 to 3 golden-plovers were reported from the shorebird hotspot between the Jacoby Creek mouth and the Arcata oxidation ponds, 27 Jun-10 Jul (TM, MObs). □At least 1 of those birds was a male **American Golden-Plover** in mostly alternate (breeding) plumage, but at times, birders found it difficult to rule out the very similar and less-rare **Pacific Golden-Plover**. One of each alternate-plumaged American and Pacific Golden-Plovers were photographed at Lake Tolowa (LB), 8 Jun, and thought to be continuing from late May. Summer records of either species are exceedingly rare, with only 1-2 previous records of alternate-plumaged AGPL. • **Lesser Yellowlegs:** 3, Eel R estuary, 5 Jul (BE) • **Dunlin:** 1, Arcata Bay, 9-14 Jul (EE, AL, LF, DK-B, TK, KB, RF) was exceptionally early! • **Wilson's Snipe:** 1, Alexandre Dairy, 17 Aug (LB) • **Elegant Tern:** 3, Crescent City, 26 Jun (AB); 1, Eel R mouth, 3 Jul (MC) • **Rufous Hummingbird:** 1, Hiller Park, 4 Jun (TM) • **American Pipit:** 1, McKinleyville, 31 Aug (RF) (few August records) • **Townsend's Warbler:** 1, Eureka, 17 Aug (TL); 1, Elk Head, 23 Aug (NP) • **Golden-crowned Sparrow:** 1, Lake Earl, 6 Aug (SL) (if true, this would beat the earliest seasonal record by over a month!).

Rarities

ARCTIC LOON (probable): 1, Humboldt Bay near Samoa Bridge, 3 Aug-3 Sep (TM, KB, CO, SM) (too distant for positive ID) • **White-faced Ibis:** 1, AMWS, 7 Jul (DO, ML, TrK, DK-B); 1, AMWS, 1 Aug (JP, RRAS); 1, Ocean Ranch, 2 Aug (LF); 1, Alexandre Dairy, 14-19 Aug (LB, LN) • **Northern Goshawk:** 1, Horse Mt, 11 Jul (BE, EE) • **Sandhill Crane:** 1, Smith R Bottoms, 2 Jul (MK-J); 1, Tolowa Dunes SP, 15 Jul (TK) • **American Golden-Plover:** 1, Crescent City, 21 Aug (LB) • **Pacific Golden-Plover:** 3, Lake Tolowa, 20 Aug (LB); 1, Crescent City, 21 Aug (LB); 24(!), Crescent City, 30 Aug (LA) • **Black-necked Stilt:** 1, Alexandre Dairy, 28-31 Aug (LB) • **BAR-TAILED GODWIT:** 1 ad female, South Spit, 12 Aug (ML, LF) • **Red Knot:** 1-6, Arcata Bay, 27 Jun-21 Jul (TM, MObs); 2, Crescent City, 8 Aug (JK); 2, Lake Tolowa, 14 Aug (LB); 2, South Spit, 23 Aug (LF) • **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 1, AMWS, 5 Jul (TM); 1, HBNWR, 3 Aug (BE); 1-2, Lake Earl, 9-12 Aug (RRAS, CD, DK-B); 1, Centerville, 14 Aug (ML); 1-2, McDaniel Slough, 16-28 Aug (KB, EE, GB); 1, Lake Tolowa, 20 Aug (LB) • **Baird's Sandpiper:** 1, Lake Earl, 1-9 Aug (LB, RH, TM, RRAS); 3, Big Lagoon, 4 Aug (TK, CR); 4, Centerville, 14 Aug (ML); 1-4, Lake Tolowa, 14-24 Aug (LB, GM); 1, Alexandre Dairy, 17 Aug (LB) • **Pectoral Sandpiper:** 1, Alexandre Dairy, 17-24 Aug (LB, JTU); 1, McDaniel Slough, 24 Aug (DF) • **Stilt Sandpiper** (probable):

1, Arcata Bay, 17 Aug (DF) • **Ruff:** 1, Alexandre Dairy, 31 Aug (LB) • **Wilson's Phalarope:** 1-51, AMWS, 28 Jun-11 Aug (GB, TrK, LF, EE, RF, MObs); 5, Alexandre Dairy, 8 Jul (TK, CR); "a handful," Centerville, ~ 20 Jul (BE); 1, Alexandre Dairy, 28 Aug (LB) • **LAUGHING GULL:** 1, Lake Earl, 1-3 Aug (LB) • **Franklin's Gull:** 1, Arcata Bay, 29 Jun-17 Jul (LF, TM, ML, JP, DF); 1 juv, Mad R estuary, 22-31 Aug (TK, CR, RF, EE, MObs) • **Sabine's Gull** (rare near shore): 1 flyby, Vance Ave, 18 Aug (TM) • **LEAST TERN:** 1, Lake Earl, 1 Aug (LB) • **Black Tern:** 1, Lake Tolowa, 31 Aug (LB) • **Common Tern:** too many reports to list; high count of 66(!), Centerville Beach, 18 Aug (LF) • **Tufted Puffin:** 1, Wilson Creek mouth, 5 Aug (WB); 2, Castle Rock, 12 Aug (CD, DK-B) • **White-winged Dove:** 1, Arcata Bottoms, 29 Aug (EC) • **YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO:** 1, AMWS, 27 Jul-5 Aug (AL, MObs) (2nd record for AMWS) • **Common Nighthawk** (rare along the coast): 1, Lake Tolowa, 11 Aug (IA); 1, Big Lagoon, 16 Aug (KP, MG) • **CHIMNEY SWIFT:** 1, Arcata, 23 Jul (TM) • **Least Flycatcher:** 1, Smith R riparian, HO-10 Jul (LB, AB, MObs) • **Eastern Kingbird:** 1, False Klamath Cove, 19 Aug (HB) • **Loggerhead Shrike:** 1, Doctor Rock Trail-Del Norte Co, 13 Jul (LB) • **Plumbeous Vireo:** 1, Klamath Glen, HO-29 Jul (LB, KB) • **Red-eyed Vireo:** 1, Klamath Glen, HO-1 Jul (LB); 1, Orick, HO-6 Aug (GL, LL, KB) • **House Wren** (rare in lowlands): 1, School Rd Trail, 15-16 Aug (RF, MC) • **Northern Mockingbird:** 2, Eureka waterfront, 9 Aug (BB); 1, Ferndale Bottoms, 22 Aug (LF, JTo); 1, Mad R estuary, 30 Aug (RF, CD) • **BROWN THRASHER:** 1, South Spit, 15 Jul (TM, BE) • **Tennessee Warbler:** 1, AMWS, 26 Aug (AL) • **Northern Parula:** 1-3, Orick, HO-2 Aug (GL, LL, EE, TM, MObs); 1, Arcata, 12-14 Jul (MC); 1, AMWS, 25-30 Aug (AL, GZ) • **Magnolia Warbler:** 1, Jacoby Creek, 23-24 Aug (GS, DO, LF) • **American Redstart:** 1, McKinleyville, 1-10 Jul (MMc, MObs); 1, School Rd, 30 Aug (RF, CD) • **Northern Waterthrush:** 1-2, AMWS, 16-30 Aug (RF, DM, AL, EE); 1, HBNWR, 19 Aug (LF); 2, Mad R estuary, 30 Aug (RF, CD, KB) • **SUMMER TANAGER:** 1, Orick, 28-29 Aug (KB) • **Vesper Sparrow:** 1, Arcata Bottoms, 30 Aug (AL) • **Indigo Bunting:** 1, Arcata, 15-21 Jul (TM, MObs); 1, Dyerville Loop Rd, 25 Jul (LS); 1, AMWS, 6-25 Aug (AL, RF, RH) • **Bobolink:** 1, McKinleyville, 30 Aug (RF, CD); 1, Arcata, 31 Aug (EE) • **Yellow-headed Blackbird:** 1, Lake Tolowa, 4-24 Aug (SL, LB) • **Great-tailed Grackle:** 1, Trinidad, 3-6 Jun (GK, MH, MObs); 1, Shelter Cove, HO-2 Jul (MMo) • **Evening Grosbeak:** 2, McKinleyville, 3 Jul (GL); 2, Little River, 4 Jul (TM); 1, Horse Mt, 11 Jul (EE, BE).

WOWities!

PHAINOPEPLA: 1, Bell Springs Rd, 7 Jul (CR). Only 3 confirmed records ever for Humboldt County. Unfortunately, it was not confirmed by 2nd party or photograph. • **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** 1, Elk River mouth, 7-30 Aug (TK, CR, TM, MObs), possibly/likely the same bird as the 1 that TM found this time last year, when it appeared in a much different, more-challenging plumage for use in species ID. This is a 1st record for Humboldt.

Thanks to all who submitted their reports—keep 'em coming! Special thanks to Rob Fowler, Lucas Brug, Gary Lester, and Lizzie Feucht for helpful reviews and contributions.

Cited Observers

Larry Arnold, Ian Axsom, Alan Barron, Gary Bloomfield, Bruce Bodjack, Heather Brown, Lucas Brug, Ken Burton, William Buskirk, Mark Colwell, Eric Culbertson, Cédric Duhalde, Elias Elias, Brad Elvert, Lizzie Feucht, David Fix, Rob Fowler, John Gaffin, Maureen Geiger, Melody Hamilton, Rob Hewitt, Deven Kammerichs-Berke, Janet Kelly, Maureen Kevany-Jahn, Gail Kinney, Trevor Kumece (TrK), Tony Kurz, Alexandra Lamb, Matt Lau, Tom Leskiw, Gary Lester, Lauren Lester, Sky Lloyd, Mark Magnuson (MMA), Gary Maschmeyer, Darwin Mayhew, Sean McAllister, Tristan McKee, Moe Morrisette (MMO), Liz Northrup, Chet Ogan, David Orluck, Nora Papien, Ken Poemer, Jude Power, Casey Ryan, Arthur Sanchez, Greg Schrott, Larry Siemens, Jay Sooter, Jeremy Tout (JTo), Jeffrey Tufts (JTU), Amber Transou, George Ziminsky.