

Field Notes
By Stan Harris
20 October-30 November 1996

Winter has arrived with our usual rain and blustery weather. After an outstanding fall, things have settled down in to a more normal early winter pattern:

HIGHLIGHTS

BLUE WHALE! 2, 15-18 miles off Pt. Gorda, 10 Nov (RLeV, et al.): FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER: 1, off Pt. Gorda, 10 Nov (RLeV, et al.): STILT SANDPIPER: 1, Arcata Bottoms (AB), 27-28 Oct (RH, SMc, DF): NUTTALL'S WOODPECKER: 1 female, Weaverville, 9 Nov (JH, GS): MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD: 3-5, Trinity Lake, 19-21 Oct (GH, JH, TL); 1 female, AB, 29 Oct (SMc, GH); 1 male, Bear River Ridge, 4 Nov (DF, JP): SAY'S PHOEBE: 1, Ocean House, 4 Nov (DF, JP); 1, Ship-a-shore, 20 Nov (DF): EMPIDONAX sp. (POSSIBLE LEAST): 1, Arcata Marsh Project (AMP), 11 Nov (KN): TENNESSEE WARBLER: 1, Bayshore Mall, 21 Oct; 28 Nov (DF; CO): ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK: 1 female, AMP, 22 Oct (SH); 1 male, 28 Nov, Fieldbrook (NR): CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: 1, North Spit, 29 Oct (RLeV): 1, Cock Robin Island, 3 Nov (DF, JP); 1, Ferndale Bottoms, 9 Nov (SMc): CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR: 1, AB, 28 Oct-1 Nov (sound shots, DF, SMc, RLeV); 1, Bear River Ridge, 2 Nov (TL): SNOW BUNTING: 1, Clam Beach, 28 Oct (NC); 2, Mouth Eel River, 2 Nov (GH); 1, Mouth Mattole River, 4-10 Nov (DF, JP, V&A H, CO, RP, et al): CASSIN'S FINCH: 1 heard calling, Del Norte Landfill Dump, 27 Nov (GL; one of very few lowland records).

Travel Desk

NOTES FROM THE TRAVEL DESK: COMMON LOON: 1, Lewiston Lake, 9 Nov (JH, GS); 3, Ruth Lake, 23 Nov (JH): PACIFIC LOON: 1, Lewiston Lake, 9 Nov (JH, GS); major migration past North Jetty and offshore, 10 Nov (DJ, KD, RLeV, et al.): WESTERN GREBE: 1, Ruth Lake, 23 Nov (JH): CLARK'S GREBE: 1, Little River, 31 Oct (KI); 1, South Jetty, 15 Nov (SMc): HORNED GREBE: 1, Ruth Lake, 23 Nov (JH): EARED GREBE: 1, Ruth Lake, 23 Nov (JH): RED-NECKED GREBE: 1, King Salmon, 27 Oct (BD); 1, HBNWR, 31 Oct (KN, BC): BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSS: 2 (only), to off Pt. Gorda, 15-18 miles, 10 Nov (RLeV, et al.): PINK-FOOTED SHEARWATER: 4, seen from North Jetty, 23 Oct (EE): AMERICAN BITTERN: 2, AMP, 17 Nov (GS); 1, Mill Street Pond (Bayshore Mall), 22 Nov (CO); 1, Bayshore Mall pond, 28 Nov (CO); 1, AMP, 30 Nov (PSP): CATTLE EGRET: 1, end of Camp Weott Road, 20 Oct (BC, KN, BS); 4-8, AB, 26 Oct-15 Nov (RLeV, PS, DA): TUNDRA SWAN: 1, AB (with domestic geese--has been there at least 2 years), 2 Nov (P&VS); 14+, HBNWR, (new migrants), 2 Nov (DF, JP); 8, HBNWR, 6 Nov (KD); 9, HBNWR, 23 Nov (JP, SMc); 1, AMP, 23 Nov (GL); 9, ERWA, 9 Nov (DD): BLACK BRANT: 40+, North Jetty, 10 Nov (DJ, KD).

Canada Geese Varieties

SMALL CANADA GEESE: "several", AB, 25 Oct (GH); 13, AMP, 26 Oct (EE); 50 (probably Aleutians), HBNWR, 22 Nov (SMc): CACKLING CANADA GOOSE: 1, AB, 2-14 Nov (V&PS, BK, DG); 1, HBNWR, 12 Nov (SMc): ALEUTIAN CANADA GOOSE: 6, HBNWR, 6 Nov (PSC); 2, HBNWR, 12 Nov (SMc); 10+, HBNWR, 22 Nov (SMc): TAVERNER'S CANADA GOOSE: 1, HBNWR, 12 Nov (SMc): CANADA GOOSE (RACE UNKNOWN): 3, Hyampom, 8 Nov (JH, GS): LARGE (PROBABLY WESTERN) CANADA GOOSE: "several flocks", AB, 25 Oct (GH): WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: 1, AMP, 26 Oct (KN, EE); 2, Hyampom, 8 Nov (JH, GS); 2, Lewiston Lake, 9 Nov (GS, JH): SNOW GOOSE: 1, Manila and AB, 12 Nov (GH); 4, AB, 21 Nov (KI); 5, AB, 24 Nov (JP): WOOD DUCK: 1-3, AMP; 21-26 Oct (SH, G&KS): EURASIAN GREEN-WINGED TEAL: 1, AMP, 24 Nov (DH): BLUE-WINGED TEAL: 1 male, AMP, 21-29 Oct (SH): GADWALL: 5-10+, AMP,

26-29 Oct (KN, SH): EURASIAN WIGEON: 1, HBNWR, 22 Oct-12 Nov (EE, SMc); 1, Lower Mad River, 16 Nov (RLeV): REDHEAD: 1, AMP, 22-23 Oct; 30 Nov (SH, EE); 1, AMP, 14 Nov (DG, BK); 87, South Humboldt Bay, 23 Nov (JP, SMc): RING-NECKED DUCK: 2-5, AMP, 11-14 Nov (KN, BK, DG): HARLEQUIN DUCK: 1 male, King Salmon, 21 Oct (SMc); 1 male, Wilson Creek, Del Norte Co., 2 Nov (J&KH): 1 male, North Jetty, 10 Nov DJ, KD); 6 males, 2 females, Glass Beach, Ft. Bragg (DT): COMMON GOLDENEYE: 5 females, South Humboldt Bay, 23 Nov (JP, SMc): OLDSQUAW: 1, Wilson Creek, 2 Nov (J&KH); 1, Mad River Est., 9-16 Nov (RLeV); 2, Lower Mad River, 24 Nov (G&SS): BLACK SCOTER: 1, North Jetty, 23 Oct (EE); 1, South Jetty, 15 Nov (SMc): HOODED MERGANSER: 5, AMP, 27 Oct (SH); 7, Beatrice Slough, 2 Nov (DF, JP); 1 female, AMP, 7 Nov (JS); 1, Lower Mad River, 16 Nov (RLeV); 1 Ruth Lake, 23 Nov (JH); 1, HBNWR, 23 Nov (JP, SMc); 5, Willow Creek, 26 Nov (TL): RUDDY DUCK: major migratory arrival at AMP/AOP, 27-29 Oct (1000+ on AOP on 29 Oct) (SH): OSPREY: 1, HBNWR, 22 Oct (EE); 1, AMP, 23 Oct (EE); 1, Willow Creek, 25 Oct (LB-O): BALD EAGLE: 2-"several", Trinity Lake, 19-21 Oct (GH); 1, AB, 1 Nov (DF, JP); 1 ad, Trinity Center, 8 Nov (GS, JH); 1, Smith River Bottoms, 20 Nov (DF); 1, Ruth Lake, 23 Nov (JH); 1 imm, HBNWR, 29 Nov (RP, TL): NORTHERN GOSHAWK: 1, ERWA, 9 Nov (DD): RED-SHOULDERED HAWK: 1, Hayfork, 29 Oct (JH); 2, Hyampom, 8 Nov (JH, GS): FERRUGINOUS HAWK: 1, HBNWR, 22 Oct (EE); 1, AB, 26 Oct-8 Nov (RLeV, RC); 1, Hayfork, 8 Nov (JH, GS); 1, Smith River Bottoms, 20 Nov (DF): ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: 1-2, Eel River Bottoms, 20 Oct (BC, KN, JK, PM) 2, Eel River Bottoms, 10 Nov (JK, MH); 1, Eureka/Arcata Bottoms, 26 Nov (SMc): NORTHERN HARRIER: 1, Hettenshaw Valley, 23 Nov (JH): GOLDEN EAGLE: 1, Mouth of Mattole River, 4 Nov (DJ); 1, Hayfork, 8 Nov (JH, GS).

Falcons, Falcons, Falcons

MERLIN: 1, Ferndale Bottoms, 20 Oct (JK, PM); 2, HBNWR, 22 Oct (EE); 1, AB, 28-29 Oct (RLeV); 1, Hayfork, 8 Nov (JH, GS); 1, Trinity Center, 8 Nov (JH, GS); 1, AB, 16 Nov (DA); 1, Smith River Bottoms, 20 Nov (DF): PEREGRINE FALCON: 2, Trinidad Head, 27 Oct (G&KS); 1, AB, 28 Oct (RLeV); 1, Patrick's Point, 7 Nov (Anon); 1, HSU, 10 Nov (CC); 1, Ruth Lake, 23 Nov (JH): PRAIRIE FALCON: 1, Eel River Bottoms, 25 Sep (BS); 1, Hayfork, 29 Oct-8 Nov (JH, GS): RING-NECKED PHEASANT: 1 female, AB, 31 Oct (VS, MB): PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER: 1, HBNWR, 22 Oct (EE); 1, North Jetty, 28 Oct (DF); 1, MacKerricher State Park, 12 Nov (DT); 1, Crab Park, 22 Nov (SMc): SNOWY PLOVER: 9, South Spit, 15 Nov (SMc); 53, Mouth Eel River, 15 Nov (SMc); 5 (1 with colored leg band), Clam Beach, 16 Nov (GS); 1, Mouth Lake Talawa, 30 Nov (RH): WHIMBREL: 1, AOP, 31 Oct (SH, MP): RED KNOT: 'several', AB, 26 Oct (RH); 17, Mouth Elk River, 16 Nov (SM); 1, Crab Park, 22 Nov (SMc): PECTORAL SANDPIPER: 1, north of Hayfork, 18 Oct (GH); 1, Ruth Lake, 18 Oct (GH); 1-3, AB, 22 Oct-1 Nov (GH, DF, JP); 1, AMP, 23 Oct (EE); 5, Lanphere Road, 27 Oct (DF, JP); 2 at nearly 14,000 feet just south of Mt. Aconcagua, Argentina, 3-15 Nov (SH, BC): ROCK SANDPIPER: 1-3, North Jetty, 23 Oct-10 Nov (EE, KN, DF, RLeV, DJ, KD): RED PHALAROPE: 1, North Jetty, 23 Oct (EE): BONAPARTE'S GULL: 1, Trinity Lake, 19-21 Oct (GH, JH, TL); 1, Little River, 8 Nov (TL): RING-BILLED GULL: 1, Hyampom, 29 Oct (JH): CALIFORNIA GULL: 200, Mattole River Mouth, 4 Nov (DF, JP): HERRING GULL: 1, Trinity Lake, 19 Oct (GH); 7, Trinidad Harbor, 31 Oct (KI); 15, Mouth of Mattole R, 4 Nov (DF, JP); 1, Houda Point, 22 Nov (KI): THAYER'S GULL: 1, AMP, 26 Oct (RH); 1 (first year), Trinidad, 3 Nov (KI); 1 (first year), Mouth Mattole, 4 Nov (DF, JP); 1 (first year), AMP, 12 Nov (DF); 1 (second year), AMP, 12 Nov (DF); 1 (first year), Crab Park, 22 Nov (SMc): BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: 2-10, Jetties, Humboldt Bay, 23 Oct-15 Nov (EE, DF, JP, SMc); 20, ERWA, 3 Nov (DF, JP); 8-9, Mouth Smith River, 30 Nov (RH): CASPIAN TERN: 1, Mouth Mad River, 27 Nov (TL): RHINOCEROS AUKLET: 3, North Jetty, 23 Oct (EE); 1, King Salmon, 16 Nov (SMc): ANCIENT MURRELET: 50, 15-18 miles off Pt. Gorda, 10 Nov (RLeV, et al.): MARBLED MURRELET: 1, Big Lagoon Spit, 16 Nov (TL); 2, South Jetty, 15 Nov (SMc).

Screech, Hoot

BARN OWL: 1, Blake Mtn.. Burn, 30 Oct (GS): NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL: 1, Humboldt Redwoods State Park, 24 Oct (JG): SHORT-EARED OWL: 1-5, AB, 1-21 Nov (PM, MM, KI); 1, Mouth Eel River, 2 Nov (JH); 1, Fay Slough Wildlife Area, 8 Nov (TL); 1, Centerville, 23 Nov (JP, SMc); 1, ERWA, 29 Nov (RP, TL): LONG-EARED OWL: 1, AB, 9-12 Nov (MM): BURROWING OWL: 1, near Mad River (town, at 3300 feet elevation); 30 Oct (GS); 1, Elk River Spit, 11 Nov (Anon): RUFOUS/ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD SP.: 1, McKinleyville, 15 Nov (TL): YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER: 1, Arcata, 16 Nov (DG): PILEATED WOODPECKER: 1, Long Ridge, 4 Nov (TL); 1, Waterman Ridge, 5 Nov (TL): TROPICAL KINGBIRD: 1, Manila, 28 Oct (GH); 1, HBNWR, 30-31 Oct (PS, RL, KF, BC, KN, KS); 1, Ferndale Bottoms, 9 Nov (SMc); 1, AMP, 11-16 Nov (GH, KN, EE); 1, AB, 28 Nov (GB): HORNED LARK: 1-10, Mt. Trashmore, 26-27 Oct (G&KS, SH); 1, Trinidad Head, 27 Oct (G&KS); 2, AB, 2 Nov (P&VS); 1, Little River Beach, 6 Nov (TL); 1, Dry Lagoon, 9 Nov (TL): VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW: 12-20, AMP, 26 Oct (MM): BARN SWALLOW: 1, AB, 1 Nov (DF, JP): GRAY JAY: 3, near Trinidad, 22 Nov (KI): CLARK'S NUTCRACKER: 5, Grouse Mountain, 2 Nov (MMax): CHICKADEE MADNESS: 3 species reported at RLeV's feeders in McKinleyville 9-16 Nov; additional MOUNTAIN CHICKADEES as follows: 1, Azalea Hill, 7-13 Nov (DG); 1, Arcata, 18 Nov (JHEW): BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE: 3, Freshwater Valley, 30 Nov (RH): RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: 4-5, McKinleyville, 1-7 Nov (JHouck): MARSH WREN: 8, Lewiston Lake, 9 Nov (JH, GS): WESTERN BLUEBIRD: 1, Willow Creek, 25 Oct (LB-O): NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD: 1-3, Hydesville, 22-24 Oct (IC); 1, Fortuna, 24 Oct (RC); 1, Arcata, 13 Nov (EE); 1, AB, 22 Nov (DG): NORTHERN SHRIKE: 1, mouth Eel River, 2 Nov (GH); 1, AMP, 11-17 Nov (BF, GS); 3, Smith River Bottoms, 26-30 Nov (AB): BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER: 1, Arcata, 26 Oct (KN); 1, Hettenshaw Valley, 28 Oct (JH): PALM WARBLER: 1, Eel River Bottoms, 20 Oct (BC, KN); 1, AB, 21 Oct (GH); 2, Mt. Trashmore, 27 Oct (RH); 1, mouth Mad River, 31 Oct (KI); 1, AB, 11 Nov (RJA); 1, AMP, 12 Nov (GH): WESTERN TANAGER: 1, Arcata, 24 Oct (KN).

Sparrows

CHIPPING SPARROW: 1, AB, 27 Oct (DF, JP): VESPER SPARROW: 1, AB, 28 Oct (GH): LARK SPARROW: 1, King Salmon, 21 Oct (SMc); 1, AB, 25 Oct, GH); 1, HBNWR, 2 Nov (DF, JP): LINCOLN'S SPARROW: 1, HBNWR, 31 Oct (KS): SWAMP SPARROW: 1, AMP, 4-23 Nov (EE, GS, HG, GL): WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: Many reported from usual places 20 Oct-30 Nov (many observers): "SLATE-COLORED" JUNCO: 1, Ferndale Bottoms, 9 Nov (SMc); 1, AB, 11 Nov (RJA); 1, Azalea Hill, 13 Nov (DG); 1, McKinleyville, 16 Nov (GS); 1, AMP, 20 Nov (RJA); 1, Brown's Camp (Trinity Co); 23 Nov (JH): LAPLAND LONGSPUR: 1, HBNWR, 23 Oct (EE); 2+, AB, 27 Oct-1 Nov (RH, DF, RLeV, JP, SMc); 2, ERWA, 3 Nov (DF, JP, SMc); 13, Ferndale Bottoms, 9 Nov (SMc); 3, Mouth Eel River, 15 Nov (SMc): RED CROSSBILL: 3, AMP, 23 Oct (EE); x, Azalea Hill, 24 Oct (DG); x, HSU, 31 Oct (CO); 15, Azalea Hill, 7 Nov (DG); 2 flocks, Ft. Bragg, 11 Nov (DT); 7, AB, 11 Nov (RJA): EVENING GROSBEAK: 11, HSU, 25 Oct (GH).

The following observers submitted reports for this month: R. J. Adams, David Anderson, Louise Bacon-Ogden, Alan Barron, Gary Bloomfield, Muriel Bramwell, Richard Candis, C. Campbell, Bryon Cariss, Nola Chow, Irene Crane, Ruth Crane, Bruce Deuel, K. Dickson, Dick Diehl, Elias Elias, David Fix, Kevin Foerster, Brad Freeman, John Gaffin, Dan Garrison, Helen Green, Stan Harris, Gjon Hazard, Rob Hewitt, John Hewston, M. Hostetter, Doug Hubbard, Vernon and Andrew Howe, Jake Houck, John and Kim Hunter, Ken Irwin, Dave Juliano, J. Kidd, Brent Kritch, Tom Leskiw, Ron LeValley, Gary Lester, Rich Lewis, Matthew Marshall, M. Maxwell, Sean McAllister, Paul Morey, Michael Morris, Kristy Nelson, Chet Ogan, Mark Phillips, Roy Poucher, Jude Power, Nikki Rosa, Greg, Kristin, and Sam Schmidt, Pete Schmidt, Jay Seegar, Keith Slauson, Bruce Slocum, Paul and Virginia Springer, D. Tobkin.

Field Notes
By Stan Harris
20 September-20 October 1996

An outstanding September, one of the best for vagrants in many years. The rain gods emerged from their summer aestivation and started trying to figure out how to do it again in the past few days. Some rather strange patterns, perhaps related to the severe dry conditions here in late summer; among these were 3-4 times the normal number of SCRUB JAYS wandering into the lowlands, more than usual numbers of CLARK'S NUTCRACKERS, and many more than normal numbers of SAY'S PHOEBES (10 reported this fall so far).

HIGHLIGHTS: YELLOW RAIL: One was flushed and well seen as it flew across an opening showing distinct white patches in the secondaries at the small pocket marsh at the extreme SW corner of the Vigo Street Marsh, 27 Sep (TA). This could hardly be anything else and is only about the 5th ever Northcoast record: BAR-TAILED GODWIT: 1 seen and photographed (good, clear photos), Eel River Wildlife Area (ERWA), 2 Oct (SM): SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER: 1, ERWA, 25 Sep-9 Oct (SM, DF, JP, BC, KN); 1, Arcata Bottoms, 2-3 Oct (KI): RUFF: 1, Klopp Lake, 23-25 Sep (EE, KS); 1, ERWA, 30 Sep (SM): BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER: 1 Fly-by (no details!), Cape Mendocino, 27 Sep (JS): BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: 1, Fairhaven (Horse Pasture), 2 Oct (holdover from last month's report) (CO, BR, J & KH): COMMON POORWILL: 1, Kneeland, 26 Sep (AD): YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER: 1 female, Willow Creek, 9 Oct (TL): RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER: 1 male reported, no details, Harris, 6 Oct (MB).

Flycatchers

SAY'S PHOEBE: 1, McKinleyville, 26 Sep (TL); 1, Little River, 28 Sep (KI); 2, Bear River Ridge, 29 Sep (KH, et al.--this is the third party this fall to see 2 in one day, so much for that record!); 1, Pilot Ridge, 1 Oct (GS); 1, Centerville Navy Station, 19 Oct (SM): TROPICAL KINGBIRD: 1, Table Bluff, 3 Oct (CO, SM); 1, AMP, 7 Oct (GF): MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD: 8 (!), Bear River Ridge, 14 Oct (CO): SAGE THRASHER: 1, Westhaven, 28-29 Sep (GH, GS, BR); 1, Arcata Bottoms (AB) 2 Oct (CR): BLACK-BACKED WAGTAIL: 1, Caspar Creek just south of Ft. Bragg, 27-29 Sep (JW, DT) (could this be the same bird that was at Crescent City about a week earlier?): LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: 1, Mad River County Park, 8 Oct (DG): YELLOW-THROATED VIREO: 1, Houda Point, 27 Sep-1 Oct (TL, et al.): PHILADELPHIA VIREO: 1, Salt River, 2 Oct (SM): WARBLERS: SINCE 1 SEPTEMBER, WE HAVE RECORDED 28 SPECIES!--AN OUTSTANDING FALL. In 1996, since 1 January, we have recorded 32 species. This is the best fall in many years for these and reminds some of the old timers of the nostalgic days of 1975 and 1976. We still have 2 or 3 species to find, so let's get out and get them! Things have slowed down since about 10 Oct: TENNESSEE WARBLER: 1, Salt River, 7 Oct (SM); 1, Salt River, 11 Oct (SM) (2 different birds): CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER: 1, Houda Point, 29 Sep (GS, BR): BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER: 1, Fairhaven, 3 Oct (RLeV); 1, Horse Pasture, 4 Oct (DJ): BAY-BREASTED WARBLER: 1, Clam Beach Lagoons, 30 Sep (SM): BLACKPOLL WARBLER: 1, caught, banded, photographed, Lanphere Dunes, 23 Sep (fide CJR); 1, Little River, 28 Sep (KI); 1, Houda Point, 29 Sep (SM GS, BR); 1, Fairhaven (Horse Pasture), 29 Sep-2 Oct (KH, GH, RS, CO, BR); 1, Salt River, 2-7 Oct (SM); 1, Shay Park, 5 Oct (RJA): PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: 1, Clam Beach Lagoons, 30 Sep-2 Oct (SM, SH, GH, DJ, et al.): OVENBIRD: 1, caught, banded, photographed, Lanphere Dunes, 23 Sep (fide, CJR): NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH: 1, Clam Beach (rose patch), 28 Sep-1 Oct (TL, GH); 1, Elk Head, 30 Sep (BF); 1, ERWA, 4 Oct (GH): KENTUCKY WARBLER: 1, Butcher Slough Pond, Arcata Marsh Project, 5-7 Oct. (SB, P&SS, et al.): HOODED WARBLER: 1, Houda Point, 28-29 Sep (KI, GS, BR).

Grosbeaks and Sparrows

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK: 1, Bayshore Mall, 24-26 Sep (DF): CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: 1, Singley Bar, near Fernbridge, 25 Sep (JS); 1, Mt. Trashmore, 11 Oct (BC); 1, Shelter Cove, 19 Oct (DF, JP): BREWER'S SPARROW: 1, Scenic Drive, Trinidad, 27 Sep (JS): VESPER SPARROW: 1, McKinleyville, 26 Sep (TL); 1-2, Houda Point, 28-29 Sep (JH, GS, BR); 1, Trinidad, 30 Sep (DF, JP); 1, Lanphere Road, 5 Oct (CJR, et al.); 1, Shelter Cove, 19 Oct (DF, JP): CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR: 1, ERWA, 4 Oct (SM): TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD: 1, Hayfork, 12 Oct (JH, GH): YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: 1, AB, 2 Oct (GH):

NOTES FROM THE TRAVEL DESK: ARRIVALS, DEPARTURES, HANGERS-ON!

PACIFIC LOON: 1, winter plumage, Lewiston Lake, 13 Oct (GH, JH): HORNED GREBE: 1, King Salmon, 26 Sep (SM): EARED GREBE: 1, ERWA, 2 Oct (SM): BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSS: 7-15, offshore, Eureka, 30-31 Aug (HG, update); 4, offshore Eureka to 17 miles, 12 Oct (JP, DF, JJ): SOOTY SHEARWATER: "many", offshore Eureka, 30-31 Aug (HG); 30, offshore Eureka to 17 miles, 12 Oct (JP, DF, JJ): BULLER'S SHEARWATER: 2-4, offshore Eureka, 30-31 Aug (HG); 100 (!), to 17 miles off Eureka, 12 Oct (DF, JP, JJ): PINK-FOOTED SHEARWATER: 2-3, off Eureka, 30-31 Aug (HG); 1, off Eureka to 20 miles, 13 Sep (HG); 10, off Eureka to 17 miles, 12 Oct (DF, JP, JJ): GREAT EGRET: 8 (!), Sylvan Glade on upper Eel River, 30 Sep (JG): CATTLE EGRET: 4-5, AMP, Moxon Road, 1-3 Oct (SH, GH): 1, ERWA, 3 Oct (GH).

Geese and Ducks

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: 1, Big Lagoon, 26 Sep (MH); 1, Stone Lagoon, 28-29 Sep (CJR); 1, AB, 28 Sep (RJA); 18-25 (2 counts), Lanphere Road, 2 Oct (CR, DJ); 14, Samoa Blvd, 2 Oct (RJA); 12, ERWA, 2 Oct (SM); 11-100, AB, 4-9 Oct (GH, PSP, RJA); 16-30, Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge, 7-19 Oct (PS, RH): SNOW GOOSE: 80 flyover, Bull Creek, 16 Oct (JG): SMALL CANADA GOOSE (Race undetermined): 200 fly-by, Eel River Bottoms, 24 Sep (SM): ALEUTIAN CANADA GOOSE: 6, Alexandre Dairy, 3 Oct (fide PSp); 16 flyby, ERWA, 16 Oct (PSc): CACKLING CANADA GOOSE: 3, Hookton Road (SM); 40± flyby, Fay Slough, 15 Oct (PS): WOOD DUCK: 25, Clam Beach Lagoons, 17 Oct (TL): BLUE-WINGED TEAL: 1 male, AMP (log pond), 24 Sep-20-Oct (JP, SH, MM, MW): EURASIAN WIGEON: 1, Hookton Road, 25 Sep (SM): REDHEAD: 5, Eureka Sewage Marshes, 19 Oct (SM): RING-NECKED DUCK: 15, AMP (log pond), 3 Oct (SH); 3, Eureka Sewage Marshes, 19 Oct (SM): HARLEQUIN DUCK: 6, MacKerricher State Park, 20 Sep (DT): HOODED MERGANSER: 1 female, ERWA, 25 Sep (SM); 2, Mouth Little River, 2 Oct (TL): NORTHERN GOSHAWK: 1, Salmon Mountain, 28 Sep (KL, GL, et al.); 1, Fickle Hill, 7 Oct (KSu): GOLDEN EAGLE: 1, Bear River Ridge, 29 Sep (KH, et al.): ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: 4, Cape Mendocino Beach Bluffs, 14 Oct (CO): FERRUGINOUS HAWK: 1, Azalea Hill, 17 Oct (GL): MERLIN: 1, North Jetty, 20 Sep (DJ); 1, near Grouse Mountain, 22 Sep (RLeV); 1, Little River State Beach, 22 Sep (KS); 1, McKinleyville, 24 Sep (TL); 2, AB, 5 Oct (PSP); 1, Hayfork, 12 Oct (GH, JH); 1, North Spit, 14 Oct (KS); 1, McKinleyville, 18 Oct (TL): PEREGRINE FALCON: 1, offshore Eureka, 30 Aug (HG): 1 imm, Manila, 20 Sep (KS, DJ); 1, King Salmon, 28 Sep (KS); 1, Fairhaven, 29 Sep (TL); 2, Klopp Lake, 25 Sep (KS); 1, Big Lagoon, 26 Sep (MH); 1, AB, 3 Oct (KI); 2, Mad River Co. Park, 4 Oct (TL); 1, AB, 4 Oct (TL); 2, AMP, 5 Oct (SL, et al.); 1, ERWA, 9 Oct (KN, BC), 2, erwa, 14 Oct (DF): RING-NECKED PHEASANT: 1 male, AB, 4 Oct (TL): BLUE GROUSE: 1, Fickle Hill, 26 Sep (JaS): RUFFED GROUSE: 1, Happy Camp Campground, 75 airline miles east of Willow Creek, 17 Oct (TL).

Shorebirds

GOLDEN PLOVER SP: 1, AB, 3 Oct (RLeV); 1, ERWA (possible American Golden Plover), 3-4 Oct (GH, SM): PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER: 12, ERWA, 3 Oct (GH); 1, North Jetty, 14 Oct (KS): SNOWY PLOVER: 2 flocks of 27 and 5 at Clam Beach, 15 Oct (TL): BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: 1, ERWA, 2 Oct (SM): RED KNOT: 1, ERWA, 25 Sep (SM); 5-12+, Klopp Lake, 25 Sep-9 Oct (KS, MM, SH): PECTORAL SANDPIPER: Continuing the

outstanding flight of these this year: 11, Eureka Sewage Marshes, 22 Sep (BD); 3, Mouth of Redwood Creek, 24 Sep (MH); 66 (!), Moxon Dairy Pond, 26 Sep (DF), some still present 2 Oct (GH); 10, Lanphere Road, 2 Oct (GH, KI); up to 20, ERWA, 2-4 Oct (SM, GH); 3, Ruth Lake, 12 Oct (JH, GH); 2, Hayfork, 12 Oct (JH, GH): POMARINE JAEGER: 2, North Jetty, 20 Sep (KS, DJ): 4, to 17 miles off Eureka, 12 Oct (JP, DF, JJ): SOUTH POLAR SKUA: 1, 9.7 miles WSW Eureka, 12 Oct; 1, 13 miles WSW Eureka, 12 Oct (both DF, JP, JJ) (ties the latest ever seasonal record): MEW GULL: 1, Arcata Oxidation Pond, 9 Oct (SH); 7, Ferndale Oxidation Pond, 19 Oct (SM): HERRING GULL: 1, Freshwater Lagoon, 4 Oct (KI); 1, ERWA, 4 Oct (GH): BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: 4, off Eureka, 30 August (HG); 1, Shelter Cove, 19 Oct (DF, JP): SABINE'S GULL: 1, North Jetty, 9 Oct (BC, KN): COMMON TERN: 4, King Salmon, week of 20 Sep (SM): MARBLED MURRELET: 4, 20 miles off Eureka, 13 Sep (HG): RHINOCEROS AUKLET: 5, to 17 miles off Eureka, 12 Oct (DF, JP, JJ): CASSIN'S AUKLET: 1, 20 miles off Eureka, 13 Sep (HG); 450, almost all flying south up to 17 miles off Eureka, 12 Oct (DF, JP, JJ): NORTHERN PYGMY OWL: 1, hooting, Lone Pine Ridge, 17 Oct (TL): BURROWING OWL: 1, Willow Creek, 3 Oct (TL): NORTHERN SAW WHET OWL: 1, Stone Lagoon, 28 Sep (CJR): NIGHTHAWK SP. (Probably Common): 1, Bayside, 24 Sep (DF): WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKER: 4, Lassic Mtns, 6 Oct (GL): NORTHERN FLICKER: 1 intergrade, mostly Yellow-shafted, Salt River, 19 Oct (SM): PILEATED WOODPECKER: 1 pair, Humboldt Redwoods S.P., 1 Oct (JG).

Flycatchers again

WILLOW FLYCATCHER: 1, AMP, 24 Sep (JP); 1, Houda Point, 29 Sep-1 Oct (GS, KI): HORNED LARK: 1, Bald Hills Road, 24 Sep (MH): TREE SWALLOW: 85 (! --pretty late for this many at once), Waterman Ridge, 17 Oct (TL): BANK SWALLOW: 1, AMP, 24 Sep (EE): GRAY JAY: 2, Fickle Hill, 7 Oct (KSu): SCRUB JAY: 1, Azalea Hill, 29 Sep-1 Oct (GL); 1, FieldBrook, 29 Sep (SC); 1, Cape Mendocino, 2 Oct (KI); 10, Smith River, 2 Oct (AB); 21 (!), Endert's Beach, 3 Oct (AB); 1, Arcata, 7 Oct (EE); 3, Centerville Naval Station, 19 Oct (SM): CLARK'S NUTCRACKER: 16, near Grouse Mountain, 22 Sep (RLeV); 1, Titlow Hill Road, 26 Sep (JS): MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE: 1, Fairhaven, 3 Oct (RLeV, JS): RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET: x, Horse Pasture, 22 Sep (BD): WESTERN BLUEBIRD: 12, Shelter Cove, 19 Oct (DF, JP): TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE: 1, near Grouse Mountain, 22 Sep (RLeV): SWAINSON'S THRUSH: 1, AMP, 7 Oct (JS): AMERICAN ROBIN: 1 juv still in spotted plumage, pretty late, Sunny Brae, 23 Sep (SH): VARIED THRUSH: 1, Azalea Hill, 4 Oct (RR): NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD: 1, Hydesville, 18 Oct (IC); 1, Arcata, 18 Oct (KSu); 2, Shelter Cove, 19 Oct (DF, JP): AMERICAN PIPIT: "small flock", Fickle Hill, 26 Sep (JaS): CEDAR WAXWING: 300+, Butcher Slough Pond blackberries, 1 Oct (SH): SOLITARY VIREO: 1, Mouth Mattole River, 29 Sep (KH, et al.); 1, Houda Point, 29 Sept (DF, et al.) (This bird thought to be a bright "Eastern" type); 1, Orick Dump, 4 Oct (KI); 1, Hilfiker Lane, 20 Oct (JH, TL).

More Warblers

NASHVILLE WARBLER: 1, Houda Point, 29 Sep (GS, BR): BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER: 1, Houda Point, 28 Sep (JH); 1, ERWA, 4 Oct (GH); 1, Shay Park, 5 Oct (RJA); 1, Salt River, 7-11 Oct (SM): HERMIT WARBLER: 1, Houda Point, 28 Sep (JH); 1, Clam Beach, 29 Sep (GH); 1, Cape Mendocino, 2 Oct (KI); 1, North Spit, 3 Oct (KI): PALM WARBLER: 1, Westhaven, 29 Sep (GS, BR); 1, Little River, 1 Oct (KI); 1, Manila, 8 Oct (GH); 1, AB, 8 Oct (GH); 1, Capetown, 8 Oct (KI); 1, North Spit, 9 Oct (KN, BC): WESTERN TANAGER: 5, Houda Point, 28 Sep (JH, et al.): CHIPPING SPARROW: 1, Azalea Hill, 29 Sep (GL): WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: 1, Willow Creek, 7 Oct (TL); 2-3 at my feeders in SunnyBrae by 15 Oct (SH): FOX SPARROW: suddenly became common in lowlands 20-21 Sep (many observers): GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW: 1-5 at my feeders in Sunny Brae, 27-29 Sep (SH): LAPLAND LONGSPUR: 2, Cape Mendocino, 27 Sep (JS); several, AB, 29 Sep (GH); 1-5, ERWA, 4 Oct (GH, SM); 1, Bear River Ridge, 15 Oct (MM); 1, ERWA, 19 Oct (SM): CASSIN'S FINCH: x, Titlow Hill Road, 27 Sep ; x, Whitey's Peak, 28 Sep; 5, Lassic, 6 Oct (All GL): EVENING

GROSBEAK: 10±, Westhaven, 12 Sep (TL); 2, Elk Head, 25 Sep (TL); 14, Loleta, 19 Oct (MW): 1, Shelter Cover, 19 Oct (DF,JP).

Many thanks to the following who submitted reports for this month's Sandpiper; keep up the good work: R. J. Adams, Todd Arnold, Mark Bailey, Alan Barron, Susie Bulger, Sheri Cappel, Bryon Cariss, Irene Crane, Anthony Desch, Bruce Deuel, Elias Elias, David Fix, Brad Freeman, Gary Friedrichsen, John Gaffin, Dan Garrison, Hal Genger, Stan Harris, Gjon Hazard, Rob Hewitt, Matt Hinton, Kim and John Hunter, Ken Irwin, Jeff Jacobson, Dave Juliano, Tom Leskiw, Gary and Kelsey Lester, Ron LeValley, Sharon Levy, Sean McAllister, Michael Morris, Kristy Nelson, Chet Ogan, Jude Power, C. J. and Carol Ralph, Richard Ridenhour, Bill Rodstrom, Rich Sawyer, Greg Schmidt, Pete Schmidt, Jay Seegar, Joan Sikkens, Keith Slauson, Paul Springer, Peter and Sara Starr, John Sterling, K. Sundeen, Dorothy Tobkin, Matt Wachs, Jerry White.

Field Notes
By Stan Harris
25 August-22 September 1996

A pelagic trip off Ft. Bragg on 15 Sep confronted warm (59°F) water close to shore (3 miles off) and alcids and gulls were in much smaller than normal numbers while species normally found farther offshore were in close. The trip, operated by Peregrine Audubon Society (Ukiah) and Bob Keiffer, reported the following: BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSS, 10: SOOTY SHEARWATER, 25-30: PINK-FOOTED SHEARWATER, 20: BULLER'S SHEARWATER, 175: ASHY STORM-PETREL, 1: GREATER SCAUP, 40-50: XANTUS' MURRELET, 2: CASSIN'S AUKLET, 10: RHINOCEROS AUKLET, 20-25: COMMON MURRE, 5: SOUTH POLAR SKUA, 5, the most ever seen on a single northcoast trip: POMARINE JAEGER, 10: PARASITIC JAEGER, 20: LONG-TAILED JAEGER, 40-50: SABINE'S GULL, 40-50: ARCTIC TERN, 40-50: COMMON TERN, 2-3: FORSTER'S TERN, 1: CALIFORNIA GULL, 25-30 (only): WESTERN GULL, 50: RED-NECKED PHALAROPE, 5: RED PHALAROPE, 100: Perhaps the highlight of the trip was the display put on by 2 HUMPBACKED WHALES, when they breached repeatedly right beside the boat for 15-20 minutes. On shore, the fall "silly season" is upon us, with fair numbers of "wow" birds being reported.

Unidentified Booby

HIGHLIGHTS: An unconfirmed report of an unidentified BOOBY from North Humboldt Bay, 20 Sept (GH) caused much excitement, but no further reports, darn. The return of the WHITE-WINGED TERN to the Arcata Oxidation Pond (AOP) and Marsh Project (AMP), 27 -30 Aug (DF, JP, et al.) was unexpected and created questions about its whereabouts since June! A Eurasian race WHIMBREL (our second such record) was reported at the mouth of 10-Mile River sometime this fall (no date yet, DT): Single SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPERS were at Vigo Street Marsh, 10 Sep (MM) and Pudding Creek estuary, 20 Sep (DT): A male RUFF was reported at Alexandre Dairy, 1 Sep (RH, et al.): STILT SANDPIPERS were in more-than-usual numbers; 1-4 at Eel River Wildlife Area (ERWA), 25 Aug-4 Sep (RLeV, DF, JP, TL, NL, et al.): One of the most outstanding birds in many years was the appearance of a chaseable BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO near Fairhaven 19-22 Sep (BC et al.), a county bird for all who saw it: A male WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER near Ship Mountain, 10 Sep (DF) was one of the very few records.

New Say's Phoebe Record

Tom Leskiw may have set a record on 11 Sep with 2 SAY'S PHOEBES in one day, 1 at Willow Creek, and 1 at the summit of Grouse Mountain, only to be tied by the 2 seen by Gjon Hazard on 13 Sep, 1 on Bell Springs Road, and 1 on Alderpoint Road (records are made to be broken or tied): SAGE THRASHER: 1, 31 Aug, Lanphere Road, TE, et al.): DF found an immature YELLOW WAGTAIL at APO, 27 Aug, a treat for many other birders who got down there that same evening; alas, the bird could not be found the next day, but JD reported one near Orick 7 Sep. Del Norte's second BLACK-BACKED WAGTAIL was reported 22 Sep at Crescent City (AB, fide GL): An 'eastern' SOLITARY VIREO was seen on Ferndale Bottoms, 21 Sep (SMc): RED-EYED VIREO: 1, Lanphere Road, 14 Sep (TL, JH): YELLOW-THROATED VIREO: 1, MacKerricher State Park, 14 Sep (RK, JW, DE et al.): About average numbers of vagrant warblers were reported as follows: NORTHERN PARULA: 1, Salt River, 31 Aug (SMc); 1, Wages Creek Campground, 15 Sep (GH): PRAIRIE WARBLER: 1, North Spit, 31 Aug (JH, et al.); 1, Fairhaven, 2-3 Sep (BD, GS): NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH: 1, Salt River, 31 Aug, (TL, et al.); 1, Clam Beach, 27 Aug (TL): CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER: 1, Arcata, 14 Sep, (KN) ; 1, Fairhaven, 19-20 Sep (CO, et al.): AMERICAN REDSTART: 1, Clam Beach, 23-25 Aug (TL); 1 first-year male, Clam Beach, 30 Aug (TL); 1, near Fairhaven, 31 Aug (DF, JP, JH, et al.); 1, McKinleyville, 13 Sep (CR); 1, North Spit, 18 Sep (RH, SMc): MAGNOLIA WARBLER: 1, Westhaven, 8 Sep (TL): BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER: 1, near Fairhaven, 13 Sep (CO): VIRGINIA'S WARBLER: 1 near Fairhaven, 13 Sep (GH, et al.): MOURNING WARBLER: 1 reported along Salt

River, 31 Aug (SMc, et al.): Other wow birds: INDIGO BUNTING: 1 juv., AMP, 8 Sep (DF): DICKCISSEL: 1, Willow Creek, 18-19 Sep (TL, GH, JP, DF) : LARK BUNTING: 1, Big Lagoon, 7-8 Sep (CJR, GH):

Noteworthy Seasonal and Other Reports

RED-NECKED GREBE: 3, King Salmon, 21 Sep (SMc): BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSS: 1 seen from North Jetty, 17 Sep (DF): SOOTY SHEARWATER: 4-25 from North Jetty, 8-17 Sep (DF): PINK-FOOTED SHEARWATER: 1, from North Jetty, 17 Sep (DF): An immature BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON at Sandy Bar was one of the few inland records, 8 Sep (GL): CATTLE EGRET: 6, AB, 26 Aug (GH): Our 2 crippled, resident TUNDRA SWANS, 1 on Lower Eel River and one on AB were reported several times (SH, BS, et al.): An adult WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE at ERWA, 10 Sep (SMc) was early. NORTHERN PINTAIL: 3, AMP, 6 Sep (SH, EE): BLUE-WINGED TEAL: 1 male, AMP, 9-10 Sep (SH, et al.): GREEN-WINGED TEAL: 20-30 (fall migrants), AMP, 6 Sep (SH): RING-NECKED DUCK: 1 male, AMP, 5-6 Sep (SH): COMMON GOLDENEYE: 1 female, AOP, 31 Aug (BD): BALD EAGLE: 1 adult, 1 subadult, So. Fork, Trinity River, 2 Sep (TL): RUFFED GROUSE: 1 road-killed, Redwood Creek and 299, 16 Sep (TL): SEMIPALMATED PLOVER: 20, Lower Eel River, 18 Jul (BS): PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER: 1, King Salmon, 14 Sep (SMc).

Yellowlegs

LESSER YELLOWLEGS: 100, ERWA, 25 Aug (DF, JP): GREATER YELLOWLEGS: 150, ERWA, 25 Aug (DF, JP): SOLITARY SANDPIPER: 1, Alexandre Dairy, 1 Sep (RH, et al.): LONG-BILLED CURLEW: 16, Lower Eel River, 2 Aug (BS): WANDERING TATTLER: 1, ERWA, 25 Aug (DF, JP): SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER: 1-3, ERWA, 25 Aug-4 Sep (RLeV, TL, NL); 1, Manila, 26 Aug (GH): BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: 1, Little River Estuary, 26 Aug (TL); 1, King Salmon, 16 Sep (SMc): RED KNOT: 2-4, King Salmon, 13-21 Sep (SMc): DUNLIN: 20-30, King Salmon, 13 Sep (SMc): PECTORAL SANDPIPER: 1, ERWA, 25 Aug (DF, JP); 2, Lower Mad River, 31 Aug (MC); x, Alexandre Dairy, 1 Sep (RH, et al.); 1, ERWA, 9 Sep (BC); 5, Eureka Sewage Marshes, 15 Sep (EE); 1, Freshwater Lagoon, 18 Sep (MH); 5, ERWA, 19 Sep (SH, BC); 5, Pudding Creek Est., 20 Sep (DT); 17, Hookton Road, 21 Sep (SMc); 24, Moxon Road, 21 Sep (GH); 5, Lower Mad River, 21 Sep (GH): COMMON SNIPES: 1, ERWA, 6 Sep (SMc): LONG-TAILED JAEGER: 1 flyby, Salt River, 31 Aug (TL, et al.), very rare onshore. PARASITIC JAEGER: 1-18 of these have been constantly harassing the Elegant Terns at North Jetty and nearby channels all though Sept (MO); they have been joined on occasion by 1-2 POMARINE JAEGERs, mostly in juv. plumage and therefore difficult to identify. ELEGANT TERN: Up to 50 have been in Humboldt Bay's main channel most of Sep (MO); TL reported 7 at Trinidad Bay, 14 Sep: COMMON TERN: 1-4 at North Jetty and at the tern roost on South Spit, 8-17 Sep (SMc, DF): FORSTER'S TERN: 1, AMP, 20 Sep, (SH); 1, South Bay, 21 Sep (SMc): ARCTIC TERN: 1, North Jetty, 7 Sep (GH, JH); 2, South Spit, 8 Sep (SMc).

Outstanding Willow Flycatcher Fall

WILLOW FLYCATCHER: an outstanding fall for this species as follows: 1-2, Clam Beach, 26 Aug-3 Sep (TL); 3, mouth of Willow Creek, 26 Aug (TL); 2, Endert's Beach, 1 Sep (RH, et al.); 1, AB, 2-7 Sep (BD, TL); 1, AOP, 2-4 Sep (BD, RJA); 2, AMP, 6 Sep (SH, EE); 4, Sandy Bar, 10 Sep (J&KH); x, near Fairhaven, 13 Sep (GH); 1, Arcata, 14 Sep (RJA); 1, Trinidad Head, 14 Sep (TL); 1, Clam Beach, 14 Sep (TL); 1, Clam Beach, 20 Sep (TL): WESTERN WOOD PEWEE: 1, AMP, 6 Sep (SH): TROPICAL KINGBIRD: 1, Eureka Boat Basin, 19 Sep (GL): PURPLE MARTIN: 4, Clam Beach, 26 Aug (TL); 8, AMP, 6-7 Sep (EE): CLARK'S NUTCRACKER: 1, south of Horse Mountain, 1-7 Sep (BC); 12, Titlow Road area, 14 Sep (DF, JP); 1, Blake Mountain Summit, 16 Sep (GS): GRAY JAY: 1, Fieldbrook, 12 Sep (GL): MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE: 1, near Fairhaven, 20-21 Sep (BC, et al.): BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE: 4, Clam Beach, 1 Sep (TL); 1-4, AMP, almost daily, (SH, et al.): ROCK WREN: 1, Alderpoint Road, 13 Sep (GH); 1, Kneeland, 18 Sep (AD).

Ship Mountain Lookout

AMERICAN PIPIT: 1, flying over Ship Mountain Lookout, 10 Sep (DF): NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD: 1, Clam Beach, 1 Sep (TL): PALM WARBLER: 1, Ferndale Bottoms, 1 Sep (SMc); 1, AMP, 5 Sep (CO): YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: 1, Moxon Road, 30 Aug (GH): CALIFORNIA TOWHEE: 1, Bayside, 21 Sep (DF, JP): LARK SPARROW: 1, Fortuna Dike, 25 Aug (RLeV); 1, North Spit, 14 Sep (TL, JH): WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: 1, North Spit, 14 Sep (DA): FOX SPARROW: 1, AMP, 6 Sep (SH): LINCOLN'S SPARROW: 1, AMP, 6 Sep (EE); 1, Clam Beach, 20 Sep (TL): CASSIN'S FINCH: 2, NE of Ship Mountain, 10 Sep (DF): EVENING GROSBEAK: 2, Fieldbrook, 11 Sep (GL); 1, Azalea Hill, 14 Sep (GL):

Many thanks to the following who submitted observations for this report: R. J. Adams, David Anderson, Alan Barron, Bryon Cariss, Mark Colwell, Anthony Desch, Bruce Deuel, Jeff Dunk, Todd Easterla, Damian Egbert, Elias Elias, David Fix, Stan Harris, Gjon Hazard, Robert Hewitt, Matt Hinton, John and Kim Hunter, Robert Keiffer, Tom Leskiw, Gary Lester, Ron LeValley, Sean McAllister, Michael Morris, Kristy Nelson, Chet Ogan, Jude Power, C. J. Ralph, Greg Schmidt, Keith Slauson, Bruce Slocum, Dorothy Tobkin, Jerry West.

Field Notes
By Stan Harris
26 April-24 August 1996

This was an outstanding (one of the best ever) late May and June, with things slowing down to more normal levels in July and August. With 4 months of data during this busy summer, this will be a long report. I apologize that I don't have room for all the reports submitted, but here goes anyway!

HIGHLIGHTS: TUFTED DUCK: 1 male, Ferndale Oxidation Pond, 28 Apr (DF, JP): SANDHILL CRANE: 1, Arcata Bottoms (AB), 26-28 May (JS, et al.): RUFF: 1-2, Eel River Wildlife Area (ERWA), 20-27 Jul (SMc, BD, DF, JP): STILT SANDPIPER: 1-3, ERWA, 15-18 Aug (SMc, RLeV, et al.); 4, Alexandre Dairy, 17-18 Aug (TE): LAUGHING GULL: 1 ad, Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge (HBNWR), 30 May-1 Jun (PS, DF, JP, et al.) (only two previous northcoast records): BLACK TERN: 1, Arcata Oxidation Pond (AOP), 4 Jun (MV, CW); 1, Lake Earl, 10 Jun (AB): WHITE-WINGED TERN: 1 ad., AOP/Arcata Marsh Project (AMP), 20-26 Jun (MV, CW, et al.) (first record for western North America south of Alaska): EASTERN KINGBIRD: 1, 1.5 miles north Petrolia, 8 Jul (PR): CLARK'S NUTCRAKER: 2, Scott Mountain, 17 Aug (JH, GH, TL); 9, Trinity Summit Guard Station, 17-18 Aug (MH): GRAY CATBIRD: 1, banded, near Orick, 1 Jul (fide CJR); 1, banded, Lanphere Dunes, 2 Jul (fide CJR) (only one previous northcoast record): RED-EYED VIREO: 1 singing, Elk Head, 21 Jun (TL): NORTHERN PARULA: 1 singing, Table Bluff, 28 Jun (JD); 1 singing, Elk Head, 3-4 Jul (SR, TL): MAGNOLIA WARBLER: 1-2 males singing; Elk Head, 18 Jun-5 Jul (GB, et al.): BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER: 1 male singing, Ender's Beach, 10 Jun (AB); 1 male singing, near Swillup Creek, Siskiyou Co., 4 Jul (KS): AMERICAN REDSTART: An outstanding year for these with 10 individuals reported as follows: 1 ad. male singing, Mad River Co. Park, 29 May-24 Jun (GH, TL, JM); 1 female carrying nesting material, being chased by above male, Mad River Co. Park, 27 Jun (JH); 1 imm. male, Mad River Co. Park, 28 Jun (TL); 1 male, singing, Crescent City, 22 Jun-1 Jul (AB); 1 male singing, Elk Head, 22 Jun (KI); 1 pair, junction of Bald Hills Road and Highway 101, female gathering nesting material, 2 & 29 Jul (DF); 1 female, Fairhaven, 3 Jul (SR); 1 female, Clam Beach, 8-21 Jul (TL); 1 imm. male, Clam Beach, 25 Aug (TL): OVENBIRD: 1 singing, Elk Head, 25-26 Jun (TL, GSc, CO): HOODED WARBLER: 1 male singing, AMP, 30 Jun-6 Jul (JHa, et al.): CANADA WARBLER: 1 female, Fairhaven, 14 Jun (GL) (only the second northcoast spring record): ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK: 1 male, McKinleyville, 14-15 Jul (KM); 1 female, Friday Ridge Road, 21 Aug (PSp): BLUE GROSBEAK: 1 male, AMP, 12 May (SL); 1 male, Hydesville, 26 Jun-4 Jul (VB, RC) (only 6 previous northcoast spring records): INDIGO BUNTING: 1 female, Fairhaven, 20 Jun (GH); 1 male, singing, Lower Mattole River, 22-23 Jun (GH); 1 male (at feeder), McKinleyville, 28 Jun (RR); 1, Table Bluff, 28 Jun (JD); 1 male, Hydesville, 2 Jul (RC): RUFOUS-CROWNED SPARROW: 1, Island Mountain along railroad, 14 Jun (RH); 2 ad and 1 juv, near Covelo, 29 Jun (RJK): BLACK-CHINNED SPARROW: 2, False Ant Point, 5 Jun (EE); 2, between Hull Mountain and Spruce Grove, 22 Jun (JW); 3 males heard, 1 female seen, Red Mountain (Trinity Co.), 27 Jun (EE): BLACK-THROATED SPARROW: 2, Red Mountain (Trinity Co.), 27 Jun (EE) (only 8 previous records): COMMON GRACKLE: 1, Crescent City, 16-17 May (JG, AB) (only 4 previous records, 3 of them in Del Norte County!): BALTIMORE ORIOLE: 1 female, Fairhaven, 26 Jun (GH, TL, CO) (now that this has been split again from the Bullock's Oriole, observers should watch for this species): LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH: 1, near Ruth Station, 5-6 Jun (EE); 15 reports turned in to the Mad River Ranger District during the summer (fide JH); 2, between Hull Mountain and Spruce Grove, 22 Jun (JW); 1, south of Ruth, 26 Jun (EE): OTHER REALLY GOOD (WOW!) STUFF: BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: 1 imm., Sandy Bar, 20 Jul (GL) (one of the very few inland records): WHITE-FACED IBIS: 22, mouth of Jacoby Creek, 12 May (G&JF): SOLITARY SANDPIPER: 1-2, Arcata Bottoms (AB), 1-4 May (GH, DF, et al.): SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER: 1, AMP, 29 Apr (DF) (only 6 previous spring records); "normal" numbers seen in fall, beginning 30 Jun, 1, Manila (GH, et al.): WILSON'S PHALAROPE: 2, North Humboldt Bay, 13 Jul (GH); 2-4, ERWA, 13 Jul-11 Aug (SMc, JP, DF): BARRED OWL: 1, Boyes (Elk) Prairie, 2 May (DF); 1, Big Hill, 4-9 May (mo): BLACK SWIFT: x, Eureka, 5 May (CO); 10, Elk Head, 15 May (TL); 55+, Manila, 21 May (GH); 6, Westhaven, 21 May (TL); 17+,

Freshwater Lagoon, 22 May (SMc); 15-20, AMP, 23 May (SH) ("normal" spring movement, but not recorded annually): CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD: 1, Red Cap Road, 4-5 May (G&JF); 1, Arcata, 14 May (LP): LEWIS' WOODPECKER: [update: 8-10, Snow Camp Road, 27 Jan (RJA)], larger than normal numbers apparently overwintered and lingered into spring as follows: 20+, Bald Hills, 28 Apr + (RH, et al.); "many", ridges along east side of Hoopa Indian Reservation, late Apr (fide MH): CALIFORNIA THRASHER: 6, Red Mountain (Trinity Co.), 27 Jun (EE): LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: 1, Table Bluff, 14-15 Aug (SMc, RLV): CANYON WREN: 1, Weitchpec Bluff, 28 Apr-4 May (DF, et al.); 1, Covelo, Eel River Canyon, 9 May (DT): ROCK WREN: 1, Dos Rios, 9 May (DT); 2, Alderpoint, Dyerville Road, 25 May (DF, JP); 6, Mail Ridge Rock, 27 May (LL); 1 singing, Ship Mountain, 11 Jun (JH, BD-C), 8 heard, Red Mountain (Trinity Co.), 27 Jun (EE); 2, Trinity Lake, 16 Aug (JH, et al.): TOWNSEND'S WARBLER: 1, Patrick's Point State Park, 10 Aug (JH) (early seasonal report!): CALIFORNIA TOWHEE: 1-3, Jacoby Creek Road, 4 May-1 Jun (DF, JP); 1, Fortuna, 10 May (PM); 1 heard, Gasquet, 19 Jul (DF) (first Del Norte Co. Record?); 1, juv. plumage, Sunny Brae (feeder), 28 Jul (SH) (except for the Fortuna report these are all out of normal range): GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: 9, Alderpoint Road, 26 May (DF, JP); 1, Endert's Beach, 20 May-2 Jun (AB); 9, Dyerville Loop Road, 27 May (G&LL); 15, Mail Ridge, Island Mountain Road, 27 May (G&LL); 6, Rio Dell, Bear River Ridge, 1 Jun (CO); 2, east end of Hettenshaw Valley, 5-6 Jun (EE); YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: 1, HBNWR, 22 May (PS); 1 female, near Westport, 12 May (DT): INTERESTING REPORTS FROM THE MATERNITY WARD: DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: Actual count of 768 nests on Teal Island, 30 May (PS) (but they have apparently abandoned the traditional nest site at the old Arcata Wharf ruins as observed from shore (SH): WESTERN CANADA GOOSE: Actual count of 63 nests on Teal Island in spring 1996 (fide KF): WOOD DUCK: At least 5 separate broods were reared on the AOP, Jun-Jul (mo), where did they nest?: GADWALL: At least 2 broods at AMP/AOP, late Jun/Jul (SH), and 2 at ERWA, 25 Jul (BD): AMERICAN COOT: One brood at Willow Creek Golf Course, 4 May (DF, et al.): SNOWY PLOVER: 2, Clam Beach, 29 Apr, 8 May, 10 Jul (TL, SH, RR, MM); records of 5-6 nesting pairs on gravel bars of Eel River near Fernbridge, 24 May-24 Jun (GL, DTu, RLeV): AMERICAN AVOCET: 6-8+ summered at HBNWR with at least 1 nest found in late May (KF, et al.); 1, ERWA, 21 Jul (SMc): WESTERN GULL: At least 1 nest on Teal Island, 31 May (GS): FLAMMULATED OWL: 4, Black Lassic Mountain, 5 Jun (JH, GSc, EE); 1, south of Ruth, 24-26 Jun (EE); 2, Hull Mountain, Jun (RJK); nest with young, early Aug, Pilot Ridge (fide CO): HORNED LARK: 1 ad. feeding young, Bear River Ridge, 7 Jul (D&LB-O): GRAY JAY: 10, including 4 juv, Russ Park, 9 Jun (MV); 3 young + adults, base of Poole Road 28 Jul (CO); 2, highway 101 rest stop near Patrick's Point, 28 Jun (JD): TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD: Peak numbers seen at Drake Hill Road Colony, 35 on 31 May (SH); singles seen near Rio Dell, 5 Apr (RH), Hettenshaw Valley, 27 May (L&DB-O), AB, 12 Jun (TL), and Hufford Road, 3 Jul (GH): NOTES FROM THE TRAVEL DESK: ARRIVALS, DEPARTURES, OVERSUMMER VISITORS: RED-NECKED GREBE: 1, College Cove (offshore), 22 Jun (BK): CLARK'S GREBE: 1, North Jetty, 4 May (DF): FORK-TAILED STORM-PETREL: 1, Entrance Bay, 4 May (DF, et al.); 1, Tepona Rock, 8 May (SH, RR): LEACH'S STORM-PETREL: 10-15, Tepona Rock, 8 May (SH, RR): BROWN PELICAN: 1, Elk Head, 3 King Salmon, both 8 May (SH, RR); 34, Elk Head and Mad River Mouth, 19 May (DF, JP): AMERICAN BITTERN: 3, ERWA, 28 Apr (DF, JP); 1, Hookton Road Pond, 4-8 May (DF, et al.); 1, Dry Lagoon, 12 May (RW); 1, AMP, 21 May-6 Jul (GG, SH, et al.): CATTLE EGRET: 1, high breeding plumage, Woodley Island pond, 8 May (SH, RR): TUNDRA SWAN: 1, AB, 4 May-22 Jun (DF, SH, et al.): WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: 1-3, HBNWR, 3-31 May (KS, PS, et al.): BLUE-WINGED TEAL: Single males at Willow Creek Golf Course, 4 May (DF, JP, et al.), AOP, 7-8 May (DF, SH, RR), and Fay Slough, 3 Jun (PS); 1 female, AMP, 25 Jul (BD): HARLEQUIN DUCK: 2 males, Ft. Bragg, 23 Apr-4 May (DT, et al.); 4, Castle Rock, 22 Jun (JH): BLACK SCOTER: 1 female, North Jetty, 4-8 May (DF, RR, SH, et al.): BALD EAGLE: 1, Arcata, 29 Apr (MA); 1, Blue Lake Bottoms, 4 May (DF, JP, et al.); 1, Freshwater Lagoon, 8 May (CK); 1, near Orleans, 6 Jun (RH); 1, Freshwater Lagoon, 11 Jun (MH); 1, Ship Mountain, 11 Jun (JH, BD-C): PEREGRINE FALCON: 1-2, Weitchpec Bluffs, 28 Apr-8 May (RH, MH, et al.); 1, Loleta, 8 May (PM); 1, Klamath River Mouth, 18 May (SL); 1, Fay Slough, 3-7 Jun (PS, RH); 1, Pt. St. George, 10 June (RH); 1 Castle Rock, 3 Jul (MM); 1 juv., lower Mad River, 2 Aug (JT, EE); 1 ad., AMP, 2 Aug (JT): COOPER'S HAWK: 1, Little River Delta, 5 Jul (TL): RUFFED GROUSE: 1, Big Hill, 4 May (DF, JP, et al.); 1, Maple Creek Road, 5 May (CK); 1, Hoopa Valley, 8 May (MH, SH, RR); 1-2 Hennessey Ridge, 8 May (MH, SH,

RR); 1, Patrick's Creek, 21-23 May (RH): VIRGINIA RAIL: 2, Lewiston Lake, 16 Aug (JH, et al.): SORA: 1 juv, Lower Eel River, 11 Aug (JG): PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER: 1, North Bay, 30 Jun (GH): AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER: 1-2, Humboldt Bay at Manila, 27-29 Jun (GH, SH, JD): LESSER YELLOWLEGS: 1, AB, 27 Apr (DF, JP); 2, AB, 8 May (SH, RR); 6, Lower Eel River, 22 Jun (BS): BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: 1-3, ERWA, 31 Jul-18 Aug (RH, et al.); 2, Mad River Wildlife Area, 10 Aug (RLeV): RED KNOT: 4, Manila, 29 Jun (SH, JD); 1, Klopp Lake, 7 Jul (SH); 3, South Spit, 31 Jul (TL); 2, Klopp Lake, 11 Aug (BR): PECTORAL SANDPIPER: 4, ERWA, 20-21 Jul (SMc): DUNLIN: 1, ERWA, 27 Jul (DF, JP): SURFBIRD: 1-3, North Jetty, 8-12 May (SH, RR, DF, JP): RUDDY TURNSTONE: 17, North Spit, King Salmon, 8 May (SH, RR); 1, North Bay, 13 Jul (GH); 1, Little River Beach, 14 Jul (TL); 1, Klopp Lake, 11 Aug (BR): COMMON SNIPE: 1, winnowing, Bayside, 8 May (DF): RED PHALAROPE: 11, North Jetty, 8 May (SH, RR): POMARINE JAEGER: 1, Elk Head, 1 May (DF); 1, North Jetty, 8 May (SH, RR): HEERMANN'S GULL: 1, Eureka, 13 May (GL); 5, King Salmon, 31 May (SH): SABINE'S GULL: 1, Elk Head, 3 May (GL); 1, 5 miles off North Jetty, 23 Jul (LL); 1, 1.5 miles off Trinidad, 19 Aug (LL): CASPIAN TERN: 1 ad. feeding flying young, Big Lagoon, 21 Jul (TL); 2, Trinity Lake, 16 Aug (JH, et al.): FORSTER'S TERN: 1, Manila, 4 Jun (GH); 1, AOP, 11 Aug (SH): COMMON TERN: 3, South Spit, 7 Jul (SMc); 1, Klopp Lake, 7 Jul (SH); 1-5, South Spit, King Salmon (SMc, DF, JP): ELEGANT TERN: 1, AOP, 24 Jun (BD); 38, South Spit, 7 Jul (SMc); 3, Klopp Lake, 7 Jul (SH); 200, South Spit, 31 Jul (TL); 18, 90, Big Lagoon, 21 Jul, 2 Aug (TL, DF): ANCIENT MURRELET: 1, Elk Head, 30 Jun (DL): TUFTED PUFFIN: 1-3, Green Rock, 8-10 May (SH, RR, GL, et al.): RHINOCEROS AUKLET: 1, Elk Head, 10 May (TL); 1, North Jetty, 12 May (DF, JP); 2, North Jetty, 28 Jun (JD): COMMON NIGHTHAWK: 1, Onion Mountain, 7 Jun (RH); 1 calling, Titlow Hill Road, 8 Jun (JP, DF): WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKER: 1, Hull Mountain, 29 Jun (RJK): WILLOW FLYCATCHER: 1 singing, Willow Creek, 22 May (TL); 1, Clam Beach, 15 Aug (TL); 3, Willow Creek, 20 Aug (TL); 1, South Fork Trinity River, 22-24 Aug (TL, JH); 1, Burnt Ranch, 24 Aug (JH): ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: 1, AB, 24 Apr (DW): BANK SWALLOW: 1, AMP, 4 May (DF, et al.); 30+, Smith River Colony, 22 Jun (JH): AMERICAN PIPIT: 1, AB, 9 May (SH): PURPLE MARTIN: 2, AMP, 4 May (DF, et al.): NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD: 1, Blue Lake, 3 Jun (MV): TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE: 1, Big Hill, 4 May (DF, et al.): HOUSE WREN: 1 singing, Sunny Brae, 28-30 Apr (PaS, JSi): BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE: 1-2, Blue Lake, 4-9 May (DF, SH, et al.); 4-5, Lower Mad River, McKinleyville, 5-20 May (JaH); 2, nesting, North Spit, 25 May (DF, JP); 2, AMP, 28 Jul (SH); 1-3, Little River/Clam Beach, 13-15 Aug (TL): BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER: 2-3, Friday Ridge Road, 28 Apr-4 May (JH, et al.); 1, South of Ruth, 26 Jun (EE): LARK SPARROW: 1, Fortuna Dike, 16 May (RC) and 25 Aug (RLeV): LAPLAND LONGSPUR: 1, Pt. St. George, 30 May (DF): EVENING GROSBEAK: 2-20, Arcata, McKinleyville, Hoopa, Redwood Valley, Fieldbrook, Ft. Bragg, 29 Apr -21 Jul (mo)

Many thanks to the following who submitted observations for this report: M. Ackerman, R. J. Adams, David Anderson, Louise and David Bacon-Ogden, Alan Barron, Gary Bloomfield, Virginia Bornemann, Shari Cappo, Brian Cariss, Ruth Crane, Jim Danzenbaker, Bruce Deuel, Brenda Devlin-Craig, Jean Durbin, Todd Easterlee, Elias Elias, David Fix, Gary and Jan Friedrichsen, Kevin Foerster, John Gaffin, Joe Gartland, Hal Genger, Sara Ginnandrea, George Green, Rocky Gutierrez, D. K. Hagans, Jean Harding, Michael, Lorie, and Stan Harris, Gjon Hazard, Robert Hewitt, Mark Higley, Matt Hinton, Jake Houck, Vernon and Andrew Houck, John Hunter, Ken Irwin, David Juliano, Christine Kile, Robert J. Kieffer, Diana Kriger, Brent Kritch, Tom Leskiw, Gary and Lauren Lester, Ron LeValley, Sharon Levy, Linda Long, Paul Lucy, Sean McAllister, Kathy Miller, Paul Morey, Joe Morlan, Michael Morris, Chet Ogan, Linda Parkinson, D. Perry, Roy Poucher, Jude Power, Joyce Quincy, C. J. Ralph, Richard Ridenhour, Bill Rodstrom, Paul Rouch, Steve Rovell, Greg, Kristin, and Sam Schmidt, Pete Schmidt, Jay Seegar, J. Sibley, Jean Sikkens, Keith Slauson, Bruce Slocum, Paul and Virginia Springer, Pete Spruance, Roy Sunstrom, Jim Tietz, Dorothy Tobkin, Don Tuttle, Margaret Varga, Catharine Walling, Ron Ward, Jane Westerville, Jerry White, Dan Wiemeyer.