

**Field Notes**  
**by Stan Harris**  
**1 December 2003-10 January 2004**

“Normal” winter weather, some rain, but a few nice days. The annual Christmas Count Madness is over, Arcata CBC (20 Dec) recorded a near record 180 species on a nice day. Del Norte CBC (14 Dec) had 153 species on an OK day, Willow Creek CBC (27 Dec) recorded a respectable 79 on a marginal day with fog, snow flurries, mist, and clear periods, Centerville CBC (4 Jan) recorded 178 on a very nice day.

**Abbreviations used:** AB = Arcata Bottoms; ACBC = Arcata CBC; AMP = Arcata Marsh Project; AOP = Arcata Oxidation Pond; BSLP = Butcher Slough Log Pond; CvCBC = Centerville CBC; DNCBC = Del Norte CBC; EL = Expected Location; EM = Expected Migrant; ERB = Eel River Bottoms; ERWA = Eel River Wildlife Area; FR = Few Records; ID = Interesting Date; IIT = Interesting, if true; IL = Interesting Location; IN = Interesting Numbers; MKSP = MacKerricher State Park; mo = Many Observers; MRWA = Mad River Wildlife Area; MS = Monitored Species; NC = Not Confirmed; ND = No Description or Details; SRB = Smith River Bottoms; WCCBC = Willow Creek CBC.

**ARCTIC LOON (IIT, ND, NC):** 1, Shelter Cove, 21 Dec (RS); **RED-NECKED GREBE (MS):** 1 King Salmon, 10 Dec (JS, et al.); 3, CvCBC; 8, MKSP, 21 Nov (DT); **NORTHERN FULMAR (IN):** seen all along the coast in nearshore waters from northern Mendocino County, “few to many; 19 Nov-20 Dec” (DT); to North Jetty, “3, 8 Dec” (SC), 1, 30 Dec (PR) and Wedding Rock, “few,” 27 Dec (MW, EMcB); ACBC 205, CvCBC, 177; **PINK-FOOTED SHEARWATER (ID):** x, ACBC; **SOOTY SHEARWATER (ID):** x, ACBC; **DARK SHEARWATER SP:** 6, CvCBC; **BLACK-VENTED SHEARWATER (FR, NC, ND):** 1-7, Shelter Cove, 21-22 Dec (RS); **AMERICAN BITTERN (FR):** singles reported from MRWA, 2 Dec (RB, JT); ACBC; AMP, 22 Dec (SH); CvCBC; **CATTLE EGRET (FR):** only 1 bird known to be frequenting the area, reported 5 times 6-30 Dec from AB, AMP (mo); **GREEN HERON (FR):** 1, AOP, 20 Dec (PL, et al.); **FRIGATEBIRD sp (ND, NC, IIT, ID):** 1 reported, third hand, in Eureka Channel, “hovering over sail boat; all 4 adults on board agreed it was a Frigatebird.” Reported to be large with a long forked tail and a white head, 21 Dec (MH, et al., fide TL); if true, this would be the latest seasonal record by 35 days.

**Winter Geese**

**GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (FR):** 5 reports of 1-6 from Lake Cleone, CvCBC, WCCBC, ACBC, AB, 19 Nov-5 Jan (mo); **LESSER SNOW GOOSE (FR):** 6 reports of 1-2 from AB, 3 Dec-1 Jan (mo); **ROSS’S GOOSE (FR):** 3 reports of 2-3 from Eel River Bottoms or HBNWR, 10 Dec-4 Jan (mo); **ALEUTIAN CANADA GOOSE (EM):** 1, Ft. Bragg, 5-7 Dec (DT); 76, AB, 3 Dec (PS) had declined to 12 by 20 Dec (RR, JL, SH); birds seen on ERB, 10-11 Dec had increased to 2000+ by 4 Jan (EN, RH, et al.; 3233 tallied on CvCBC probably included some duplicate counts between field parties); **ACKLING CANADA GOOSE (FR):** 4, Bald Hill near Ft. Bragg, 26 Nov (DT); **TUNDRA SWAN (EM):** 13 early birds along Centerville Road, 2 Dec (CW) had increased to a total of 530 for the entire CvCBC circle; **EURASIAN WIGEON (FR):** 6 records of 1-7 from Alexandre Dairy, AMP, AB, CvCBC, 1 Dec-4 Jan (mo); **BLUE-WINGED TEAL (FR):** 1 male or 1 pair, BSLP, 3 Dec-6 Jan (SH, JT, RG); 1 male, Standard Veneer Pond, 14 Dec (PS, FA, et al.); **EURASIAN GREEN-WINGED TEAL (FR):** 9 reports of 1-2 males from BSLP or Allen Marsh, 20 Dec-10 Jan (mo); 1, CvCBC; 1, Alexandre Dairy, 7 Jan (AB); **TUFTED DUCK (FR):** 1 male, AMP, seen almost daily, 6 Dec-6 Jan (mo); **BLACK SCOTER (MS):** 55, Pt. St. George, 27 Dec (MW, EMcB); **LONG-TAILED DUCK (FR):** 1, King Salmon, 4 Jan (BD); **BARROW’S GOLDENEYE (FR):** 1 female, King Salmon, 4-9 Jan (SH, SMcA); 1 female, Salt River, 4 Jan (GL, et al.); **HOODED MERGANSER (FR):** 7 reports of 1-12 from Lagoon Creek Pond, Gambi Pond, Fountain Ranch, Little River Estuary, Trinity River, ACBC, CvCBC, 3 Dec-4 Jan (mo); **OSPREY (ID):** 1, AMP, 7 Dec (JT); 1, Freshwater Lagoon, 7 Jan (KS); **BALD EAGLE (MS):** 13 reports of 1-5 from Prairie Creek State Park, Freshwater Lagoon,

Trinity River at Willow Creek and Salyer, AB, AMP, Jacoby Creek mouth, ERB, Benbow 7 Dec-4 Jan (mo): **FERRUGINOUS HAWK (FR)**: 1 ad, AB, 10-20 Dec (BC, BD, RF, SH, JL, RR); 3, CvCBC: **ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK (IN)**: 4 reports (only) of 1-3 from ERB, Arcata-Eureka Bottoms, 15 Dec-4 Jan (DF, JP, RF, MW, EMcB, et al.): **MERLIN (MS)**: 10 reports of singles from Manila, AMP, AB, ERB, Fortuna, 30 Nov-10 Jan (mo), plus 15 reported on CvCBC: **PEREGRINE FALCON (MS)**: 13 reports of 1-2 from Gold Bluff Beach, MRWA, AMP, Benbow, 3 Dec-10 Jan (mo) plus 18 reported on CvCBC: **PRAIRIE FALCON (FR)**: 1, MRWA, 3-8 Dec (JT, KR, RLV, SC); 1, Airport Road, Fortuna, 12 Dec (anon): **RUFFED GROUSE (FR)**: 1, 1 mile east of Trinidad, 25 Dec (SN): **MOUNTAIN QUAIL (IL)**: “small group,” Jed Smith State Park, 22 Dec (MR).

### Christmas Rail

**VIRGINIA RAIL (IL)**: we expect numerous wintering birds, but one in a load of Christmas Trees, Fortuna, 9 Dec (RC) is a bit much! **COMMON MOORHEN (FR)**: 1 juv, Allen Marsh 10 Dec-10 Jan (mo): **SANDHILL CRANE (FR; NC)**: 1 flyby, Essex Pond, 7 Jan (BA): **PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER (FR)**: 14-19, Cannibal Road, 10-11 Dec (JS, RF, MW, KR, et al.); 1, AB, 14 Dec (PL); 18, Pt. Kenyon Road, 4 Jan (RLV, et al.): **SNOWY PLOVER (MS)**: 3 banded birds seen, Lake Tolawa Beach (DNCBC); 32, Centerville Beach, (CVCBC): **AMERICAN AVOCET (IL, IN)**: 2, Mad River Slough at Lanphere Bridge, 20 Dec (SH, JL, RR); **218 !** CvCBC: **LESSER YELLOWLEGS (ID)**: 5 reports of 2-10 from AB, ERB, 11 Dec-4 Jan (mo): **RUDDY TURNSTONE (FR)**: 3, DNCBC; 2, Fields Landing, 10 Dec-4 Jan (JS, et al, RR): **RED KNOT (FR)**: only 3 reports of 1-15, AMP, AB, 7-20 Dec (JT, RF, PL): **ROCK SANDPIPER (EL)**: 1-2, North Jetty, 6-20 Dec (ST, SC, ACBC); 3, Laguna Point, 19Nov-20 Dec (DT); x, Shelter Cove, 21 Dec (RS): **RED PHALAROPE (EM)**: 1-2, ACBC, CvCBC: **PARASITIC JAEGER (ID)**: 1, North Jetty, 8 Dec (SC): **HEERMANN’S GULL (ID)**: 4 (2 with all white heads), Laguna Point, 20 Dec (DT): **GLAUCOUS GULL (FR)**: 1, Lake Tolawa; 1, mouth, Smith River (both DNCBC): **CASPIAN TERN (ID)**: 1, ACBC; 9, CvCBC: **FORSTER’S TERN (EM)**: up to 32, AOP/AMP, 20 Dec-10 Jan (mo); 1, Jetty Channel, 4 Jan (MC): **MARBLED MURRELET (MS)**: 6, Wedding Rock, 27 Dec (MW, EMcB); 2, North Jetty, 30 Dec (MW, EMcB, G & LS), 2, CvCBC, (GF): **ANCIENT MURRELET (FR)**: 3, CvCBC (GF): **XANTUS’S MURRELET (TYPE)**: 2, Shelter Cove, 21-22 Dec, underwing not seen (RS): **RHINOCEROS AUKLET (IL)**: x, ACBC (GF): **WHITE-WINGED DOVE (FR)**: 1, Ft. Bragg, early Nov, early Dec-20 Dec (HB, DT, CV, GC): **BURROWING OWL (FR)**: 1, Laguna Point, 25 Nov (DT); 1, South Spit, Humboldt Bay, 17-18 Dec (MK, RF), this bird apparently flooded out by Dec **HIGH** tides.

### Lots of Owls

**SHORT-EARED OWL (MS)**: an outstanding concentration of 24 birds, MRWA, 20 Dec (JT) emphasizes the importance of the tall perennial grass cover at this location for raptors, a vital habitat, to say the least: **WHITE-THROATED SWIFT (ID)**: 1, Benbow, 15 Dec (JS): **COSTA’S HUMMINGBIRD (FR)**: 1 male at feeder, Fortuna, seen continuously from mid Sep to at least 4 Jan (BN, KB, EC, et al.); 1 female, Jacoby Creek Farms, 15-20 Dec (DF, JP): **LEWIS’S WOODPECKER (FR)**: 4, Snow Camp Road, 16 Dec (KJ): **ACORN WOODPECKER (IL)**: 1, lower elevations of Fickle Hill, 20 Dec (MM): **YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (FR)**: 1, Elk River Valley, 4 Jan (T&SL): **SAY’S PHOEBE (FR)**: 1, Orick, 10 Dec-7 Jan (KS); 1, Hydenville, 4 Jan (EN); 1, Ft. Bragg, 19 Nov (DT): **NORTHERN SHRIKE (FR)**: 1, AB, 2-8 Dec (JK, SC): **GRAY JAY (IN)**: 114 (a new all time record), CvCBC: **HORNED LARK (IL)**: 1, **running with Sanderlings (!)**, Centerville Beach, 4 Jan (KR, MM), only the second record ever for the CvCBC: **VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW (ID)**: 1, Yontucket Slough, 14 Dec (EE, et al.): **BARN SWALLOW (ID)**: 8 seen by 4 parties, ACBC; 1, AMP, 30 Dec-7 Jan (MW, EMcB, G&LS, SH, RH, JK); 1, CvCBC; 8, Alexandre Dairy, 7 Jan (AB): **WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH (FR)**: 2, near Berry Summit Vista Point, 27 Dec (PL, BC): **AMERICAN DIPPER (FR)**: 1, Jacoby Creek, 20 Dec (JP): **BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (FR)**: 1, ERB, 11 Dec (RF, MW, KR): **NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD (MS)**: 1, Lake Earl, 1-8 Dec (AB); 1, Arcata, 13-15 Dec, (JW, EE); 3, CvCBC: **TENNESSEE WARBLER (FR)**: 1, AMP, 7 Dec (PL, JT); 1, Salt River, 4 Jan (SMcA, AT): **NASHVILLE WARBLER (ID)**: 1, AMP, 30 Dec-6 Jan (MW, EMcB, G&LS, JK); 3, CvCBC: **YELLOW WARBLER (ID)**: 1, AMP, 20 Dec-10 Jan (JT, DF, JP, BC): **BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER (ID)**: 1, Ferndale, 4 Jan (GL, LL): **HERMIT WARBLER (ID)**: 1,

Eureka, ACBC: **PALM WARBLER (EM)**: 11 reports of 1-10 from SRB, AMP, ERB, Fortuna, Shelter Cove, 6 Dec-4 Jan (mo): **BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER (FR)**: 1, BSLP, 8-18 Dec (SH, EE); 4, ACBC (3 parties): **AMERICAN REDSTART (ID)**: 1 female, Arcata Cemetery, 1-5 Dec (SC, RF): **COMMON YELLOWTHROAT (ID)**: 10 reports of singles from SRB, Lake Earl, AMP, Eureka, ERB, ERWA, 8 Dec-7 Jan (mo): **WILSON'S WARBLER (ID)**: 1, Elk River Wildlife Area, 10 Jan (BA): **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (FR)**: 3, CvCBC; 1, Arcata, 6-7 Jan (GB, RH, et al.).

### **Sparrow of the year**

**LECONTE'S SPARROW (FR)**: 1, MRWA, 2-30 Dec (RG, JT, mo), only the second, ever Humboldt County record and the first one that has been chaseable: **"EASTERN" (RUSTY) FOX SPARROW (FR)**: 1, Arcata, 30 Nov-6 Jan (GB, et al.): **SWAMP SPARROW (FR)**: 6 reports of 1-3, from Lake Earl, AMP, ERB, 3 Dec-4 Jan (mo): **LAPLAND LONGSPUR (FR)**: 2-20, ERB, 10-11 Dec (JS, et al., RF, et al.); x, MRWA, 20 Dec (JT); 1, Whaler Island, 14 Dec DNCBC: **SNOW BUNTING (FR)**: 1, Whaler Island, 12 Dec (AB, EC): **ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (FR)**: 1, King Salmon, 1 Dec (MW): **DICKCISSEL (FR)**: 1, Arcata, 2-10 Jan, seen daily (PK, BK, et al.): **TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD (FR)**: 2-4, AB, 2-11 Dec (KR, RF, Pl, MeH): **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (FR)**: 1, AB, 6 Dec (KR, Pl, ST); 1, Alexandre Dairy, 30 Nov (AB): **COMMON GRACKLE (FR)**: 1, AB, 2 Dec-3 Jan (mo); 1, SRB, 30 Nov-7 Jan (AB, JG, et al.): **BULLOCK'S ORIOLE (ID)**: 1 female, Arcata, 2-10 Jan (EE, et al.): **EVENING GROSBEAK (ID)**: 1 heard only, Arcata Cemetery, 1 Dec (SC).

Many thanks to all the birders who helped out on the Christmas Bird Counts. Even though you may not be listed here individually, please know that your efforts are deeply appreciated by the entire Northcoast Birding Community. My personal thanks to the following who took the time to call in their observations this period: Brian Acord, Marge Adams, Bill Anderson, Frank Anderson, Alan Barron, Henrietta Bensussen, Gary Bloomfield, Kristin Brown, Scott Carey, George Chaniot, Eric Concannon, Eileen Cooper, Ruth Crane, Anthony Desch, Bruce Deuel, Elias Elias, Gary Falxa, David Fix, Rob Fowler, Gary Friedrichsen, Joe Gartland, Rebecca Green, Melody Hamilton, Stan Harris, Tony Hasking, Gjon Hazard, Maggie Herbelin, Rob Hewitt, Jake Houck, Kamila Huff, Matt Johnson, Ken Jarvela,, Jhermie Kellermann, Pearl Kelso, Bill Kelso, Mary Kuhner, Sue Leskiw, Tom Leskiw, Gary Lester, Lauren Lester, Ron LeValley, Paul Lohse, Joan Loitz, Jim Lomax, John Luther, Erica McBride, Michael Morris, Mark Morrisette, Beverly Neal, Eric Nelson, Susan Nolan, Chet Ogan, Jude Power, Richard Ridenhour, Kerry Ross, Paul Rousch, Martha Roy, Kristin Schmidt, Gordon Schremp, Lori Schremp, Jay Seeger, Patty Sennett, Bruce Slocum, Jay Sooter, Mike Sportiello, Paul Springer, John Sterling, Robert Sutherland, Roy Sunstrom, Jim Tietz, Dorothy Tobkin, Steve Tucker, Margaret Varga, Chuck Vaughn, Matt Wachs, Catharine Walling, Abe Walston, Jared Wolfe, Ron Woods.

**Field Notes**  
**by Stan Harris**  
**28 October-30 November 2003**

Rather normal rains have returned to the Northcoast and we are into a wintertime, “not much more movement” migration pattern. The last of our normal migrants have passed through or arrived, and now it is mainly a matter of survival for our wintering birds. Visits to feeders are peaking out, while winter rains are making pastures available to all number of things by flooding invertebrates out and floating up seeds. Berry, fruit, duckweed, and pondweed crops are being depleted. We can expect a few late flights of loons and scoters along the coast and as snow accumulates in the high country, more and more robins, varied thrushes, juncos, etc, in the lowlands. But, all in all, what you see now is pretty much what you’ll get for the next few weeks. The past month has been pretty much routine, but did hold some surprises, noted below:

Abbreviations used: **AB = Arcata Bottoms: AEB = Arcata-Eureka Bottoms: AMP = Arcata Marsh Project: AOP= Arcata Oxidation Pond: BSLP = Butcher Slough Log Pond: EL = Expected Location: EM = Expected Migrant: FR = Few Records: GW = Gee Whiz Report: ID = Interesting Date: IIT = Interesting, if True, not confirmed by a second party: IL = Interesting Location; IN = Interesting Numbers: MRWA = Mad River Wildlife Area: mob = Many Observers: MS = Monitored Species: MOP = McKinleyville Oxidation Pond: NC = Not Confirmed: ND = No Details:**

And away we go! **PACIFIC LOON (EM):** As an example of normal migration: ‘many’, flying south past Wedding Rock, 27 Nov (PL, BC): **RED-NECKED GREBE (EM):** 9, Shelter Cove, 1 Nov (RS); 3, King Salmon, 15 Nov (RF); 1, lower Mad River, 18 Nov (KR); ‘gobs’ (when asked what that means, he said “about ten,” so ‘gobs’ = 10!), Eureka Channel at Elk River Spit, 26 Nov (PL): **LAYSAN ALBATROSS (GW):** Although out of the geographic area we usually cover, the arrival of “Al,” the albatross that has wintered in Pt. Arena Cove, for the TENTH consecutive year deserves special mention, 25 Nov (GS). Perhaps he/she is trying to establish a new nesting location, as this is the correct season for arrival on nesting grounds! **NORTHERN FULMAR (IN):** 13 reports of 1-100 birds, from “northern Mendocino coast,” Shelter Cove, Table Bluff, King Salmon, Eureka Channel (**GW**), North Humboldt Bay (**GW**) (feeding on a dead wigeon!), Trinidad, Elk Head, Wedding Rock, and off Freshwater Lagoon, 19 Oct-28 Nov (mob), all seen from shore, is far more reports than usual: **PINK-FOOTED SHEARWATER (ID):** 1, seen from Shelter Cove, 1 Nov (RS); 1, seen from the mouth of Mad River, 18 Nov (KR): **BULLER’S SHEARWATER (ID, IL):** 3, seen from Pt. St. George, 1 Nov (AB, JG); 4 seen from Shelter Cove, 1 Nov (RS): **SOOTY SHEARWATER (EM):** only 1 reported, at Shelter Cove, 1 Nov (RS): **SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER (FR):** “lots” (whatever that means), at Shelter Cove, 1 Nov (RS); 1, possibly 2, from Wedding Rock, 9 Nov (JT, RG): **BROWN PELICAN (IN):** 1500 (!), at mouth of Klamath River, 9 Nov (TD) **must** have indicated some special foraging opportunity for them. **AMERICAN BITTERN (MS):** 7 reports of singles, 6 from AMP, and 1 at Big Lagoon, 1-27 Nov (mob) were more than usual: **CATTLE EGRET (MS):** singles reported at Klopp Lake, 29 Oct (RF), Moxon Dairy, 4 Nov (JT), AB, 12&30 Nov (DC, FA), likely represents the same bird. This species has become very rare in the past few years: **GREEN HERON (FR):** a single seen at Klopp Lake, 10&25 Nov (SH) is about normal for this time of year.

**WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (FR):** 5, pasture south of School Road, 11 Nov (SC); 1, MOP, 18 Nov (KR); 1, McKinleyville, 23 Nov (JH); could these all be part of the same flight? **SNOW GOOSE (FR):** 20 flyby Laguna Point, Ft. Bragg, 26 Oct (DT); 2, MRWA, 3-8 Nov (SH, JT, RG, et al.); 1, Foster Road, 28 Nov (BA, KR): **ROSS’S GOOSE (FR):** 1 flyby with Snow Geese, Laguna Point, 26 Oct (DT); 1, AB/AOP, 4-12 Nov (JT, SH, et al): **TAVERNER’S CANADA GOOSE (FR):** 5-6, AOP, 12-13 Nov (SH): **ALEUTIAN CANADA GOOSE (EM):**

only 2 reports, 1, MOP, 18 Nov (KR); 2, AB, 28 Nov (BA, KR): **BLACK BRANT (EM)**: 30, flew past North Jetty, 15 Nov (RF); 7, flew south past north Humboldt Bay, 23 Nov (JK): **MUTT SWAN (FR)**: 1, Hookton Slough, 28 Nov (RSt, et al.): **TUNDRA SWAN (EM)**: 4-5, Butcher Slough, 1 Nov (MD); 4, AB, 1 Nov (SC); 3, AMP flyby, 18 Nov (SH); 13, AB, 28 Nov (BA, KR); x, Hookton Slough, 28 Nov (RSt, et al.): **EURASIAN WIGEON (EM)**: 1-4, AMP, 28 Oct-26 Nov, seen almost daily (mob); 1, 3 Hookton Slough, 13&28 Nov (MM, RSt et al.): **BLUE-WINGED TEAL (FR)**: 1-4, seen almost daily, 28 Oct-27 Nov, AMP units (mostly BSLP) (mob): **NORTHERN PINTAIL (IL)**: 1 migrating with a flock of scoters, Trinidad Bay, 19 Nov (MeH): **CANVASBACK (FR)**: 1, Klopp Lake, 24 Nov (SH); 1, Big Lagoon, 27 Nov (BC), only reports: **REDHEAD (FR)**: 1-2, AMP/AOP, 1-13 Nov (mob); 78, South Humboldt Bay, 20 Nov (MW): **TUFTED DUCK (FR)**: 1, Allen Marsh/Klopp Lake, 10-28 Nov, seen daily (EE, et al.); 1, different bird, South Humboldt Bay, 20 Nov (MW) (only about 18-20 previous northcoast records): **HARLEQUIN DUCK (FR, EL)** up to 10, Glass Beach, 19 Oct-18 Nov (DT); 1-2, North Jetty, King Salmon, 9-28 Nov (MW, RF, HB); 1, Trinidad/Luffenholtz, 14-19 Nov (JT, MeH): **WHITE-WINGED SCOTER (MS)**: 50, King Salmon, 26 Nov (BA, KR); 80, from Table Bluff, 28 Nov (RSt, et al.)—another species that seems to have become increasingly rare in recent years: **BLACK SCOTER (FR)**: 13, Patricks Point, 9 Nov (JT, RG); 15, North Jetty, 15 Nov (RF); 2, Trinidad, 19 Nov (MeH): **LONG-TAILED DUCK (FR)**: 1, Cock Robin Island Channel, 9 Nov (SC); 1, Elk Head, 9 Nov (JT, RG): **COMMON GOLDENEYE (EM; EL)**: 4, King Salmon, 9 Nov (MW); 2, Big Lagoon, 27 Nov (PL, BC); 4, lower Mad River, 28 Nov (BA, KR, PL): **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (FR)**: 1 female, Klopp Lake, 26 Nov (SH): **HOODED MERGANSER (FR)**: 4, Eureka Slough, 31 Oct (PH); 2, AOP, 1 Nov (SC); 1, Klopp Lake, 10 Nov (JT, et al.); 2, lower Mad River, 12 Nov (DC): **BALD EAGLE (MS)**: only 2 reports; 1 adult, Eel River near Benbow, 11 Nov (DD); 1, Hookton Slough, 9 Nov (MW): **NORTHERN GOSHAWK (FR)**: 1, Marble Valley, Siskiyou County, 25 Oct (AW): **HARLAN'S HAWK (FR; ND; NC)**: 1, "gorgeous," Bracut, 28 Nov (RSt et al.): **FERRUGINOUS HAWK (FR)**: 5 reports of 1 adult, AB, 30 Oct-30 Nov (KR, FA, RF, EC, GB) probably all represent the same returning winterer: **ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK (MS)**: 1, Arcata, 15 Nov (MaM).

**GOLDEN EAGLE (FR)**: 1 adult, Orleans, 5 Nov (MaD); 1, Junction City, 21 Nov (MC, et al.): **MERLIN (MS)**: 5 reports of singles from AB, AMP, 28 Oct-24 Nov (JT, CS, SH): **GYRFALCON (IIT)**: 1, reported flying north past Humboldt Bay jetties, 27 Oct (anon, bird box report, no name given, please call and 'fess up' so we can complete the record); 1 "large dark falcon" seen harassing Aleutian Canada Geese, AB, 3 Nov (KR): **PEREGRINE FALCON (MS)**: 17 reports of 1-3 from Shelter Cove, Benbow, Eureka Channel, AMP/AOP (most reports), AB, vic Trinidad, Stone Lagoon, 29 Oct-29 Nov (mob): **GOLDEN-PLOVER sp. (FR, IL)**: 1, King Salmon, 9 Nov (MW): **SNOWY PLOVER (IL; IN)**: 36, hunkered down in sand near South Jetty, 29 Oct (CW): **LONG-BILLED CURLEW (IN)**: 200, Eel River Bottoms, 18 Nov (CW): **RUDDY TURNSTONE (EL)**: 1, Fields Landing, 26 Nov (BA, KR): **RED KNOT (FR)**: 1-14, Klopp Lake islands, 8-18 Nov (JT, RG, SC, PL); 13, mouth Elk River, 17 Nov (KR): **ROCK SANDPIPER (EL)**: 1, Laguna Point, 24 Oct-18 Nov (DT); 3, North Jetty, 15 Nov (RF): **WILSON'S SNIPE (IN)**: 45, Copenhagen Road, 29 Oct (CW), plus 4 scattered reports of 1-2 (including 1 foraging in suburban Eureka in a gutter, mob): **RED-NECKED PHALAROPE (ID)**: 1, King Salmon, 15 Nov (MW): **HEERMANN'S GULL (IN, ID)**: 200 flew south past Wedding Rock in 2 hours, 27 Nov (PL, BC): **MEW GULL (EM)**: 1000 foraging in one flooded field, AB, 29 Nov (SH): **HERRING GULL (EM)**: 6 reports of up to 35 moving south past Wedding Rock, Elk Head, mouth of Mad River, AOP, Shelter Cove, 28 Oct-18 Nov (mob): **SABINE'S GULL (IL)**: 1, flyby, Laguna Point, 24 Oct (DT): **CASPIAN TERN (ID)**: 3, mouth of Elk River, 15 Nov (RF), 1, headed N, at Table Bluff 27 Nov (RSt et al.): **FORSTER'S TERN (EM)**: 4-15, AMP bay pilings, 31 Oct-19 Nov represent winterers settling in (mob): **PIGEON GUILLEMOT (ID)**: 1, Laguna Point, 20 Oct (DT); 4, Shelter Cove, 1 Nov (RS): **MARbled MURRELET (MS)**: 2, Laguna Point, 18 Nov (DT); 4, Table Bluff, 28 Nov RSt, et al); 2, Trinidad Bay, 14 Nov (BA); 8 flew south past Freshwater Lagoon, 14 Nov (JT): **LONG-BILLED MURRELET (GW)**: 1, (FIRST, EVER, RECORD FOR MENDOCINO COUNTY), off Laguna Point, 20-24 Oct (DT, et al.): **ANCIENT MURRELET (EM)**: 5, from Wedding Rock, 23 Nov (DF, JP): **BAND-TAILED PIGEON (ID)**: 4, Sunnybrae feeder, 28 Nov (SH): **BURROWING OWL (FR)**: 1, Laguna Point, 20 Oct (DT); 1, Klopp Lake outer

dike, 23 Nov (MW, EMcB, JK): **SHORT-EARED OWL (EM; IN)**: 1-4, 28 Oct-13 Nov; but then on 30 Nov, **23 (!)** were seen, all of these at MRWA (JT, RG; CS, ST):

**LEWIS'S WOODPECKER (FR)**: about 20, Sanger Peak Road, Del Norte County, 1 Oct-14 Nov, seen almost daily (anon from Arcata Bird Box, no name given, please call and 'fess up' so we can complete this record): **SAY'S PHOEBE (FR)**: 1, Burnt Ranch, 31 Oct (AW): **TROPICAL KINGBIRD (EM)**: 6 reports of singles at ERWA, Hookton Road, North Spit, west Arcata, Arcata Cemetery, and AB, 31 Oct-22 Nov (mob): **NORTHERN SHRIKE (EM)**: 1, ERWA, 13 Nov (MM); 1, AB, 13-17 Nov (ST, KR, RF, MeH); 1, Pacific Shores, 1-11 Nov (AB, JG, EE, KB): **CLARK'S NUTCRACKER (FR)**: 1, Marble Valley, Siskiyou Co., 25 Oct (AW): **VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW (ID)**: 1, MRWA, 30 Nov (JT, RG): **DIPPER (FR; EL)**: 2, Willow Creek, 21 Nov (MC, et al.); 4, mouth of Maple Creek x Mad River, 24 Nov (JK), **RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET (IN)**: flock of 40 (!), near Trinidad, 7 Nov (MeH): **BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (FR)**: 1, near Trinidad, 7 Nov (MeH); 1, Ship-a-Shore, 11 Nov (EE, KB): **VARIED THRUSH (ID)**: arrived in lowlands in southern Humboldt County 3-6 weeks later than normal (RS, DW): **NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD (FR)**: 1, Vigo Street Marsh, Eureka, 6-8 Nov (MM, PL); 1, I Street, Eureka, 5 Nov (GL): **CEDAR WAXWING (ID)**: 'big flock' feeding on leftover grapes, Orleans, 17 Nov (MaD): **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (ID)**: 1-2, AMP, 27 Oct-27 Nov (JT, SH, et al.): **NASHVILLE WARBLER (ID)**: 'small flock', Shelter Cove, 1 Nov (RS); 1 said to be **feeding a young**, near Trinidad, 7 Nov (MeH): **NORTHERN PARULA (ID)**: 1, near Trinidad, 7 Nov (MeH): **YELLOW WARBLER (ID)**: 1, AMP, 30 Oct-24 Nov (JT, PL, et al.): **PRAIRIE WARBLER (FR, ID)**: 1, McKinleyville yard, 23 Nov (JH): **PALM WARBLER (EM)**: 8 reports of 1-3 at AMP/AOP, 29 Oct-24 Nov (mob): **BLACKPOLL WARBLER (FR, ID)**: 1, near Trinidad, 7 Nov (MeH): **BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER (FR)**: 1, AMP, 29 Oct (JT, RF); 1 banded, Lanphere Dunes, 31 Oct (JT): **AMERICAN REDSTART (FR)**: 1, Arcata Cemetery, 22 Nov (GB): **NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH (FR)**: 1, AMP, 30 Oct (JT): **COMMON YELLOWTHROAT (ID)**: 1-4, AMP, 30 Oct-24 Nov (JT, PL, et al.): **AMERICAN TREE SPARROW (FR)**: 1, mouth of Red Cap Creek, Klamath River, 30 Oct (EE, et al.): **VESPER SPARROW (FR)**: 1, AB, 10 Nov (RLV): **'GRAY-HEADED' FOX SPARROW (IL)**: 1, AMP, 28 Oct (FA): **'RED' FOX SPARROW (FR)**: 1, feeder in Arcata, 30 Nov (GB, photos): **SWAMP SPARROW (FR)**: 4 reports of 1-6, Butcher Slough along AMP railroad, 30 Oct-16 Nov (JT, BD, SC, et al.); 1, Clam Beach lagoons, 5 Nov (DF); 1, Hookton Slough, 28 Nov (RSt, et al.): **LAPLAND LONGSPUR (FR)**: 2-5, MRWA, 28-29 Oct (JT, CS); 1 flying south over Elk Head, 9 Nov (JT, RG); 3, Lake Talawa, 1 Nov (AB, JG): **CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR (FR)**: 2, Lake Talawa, 1 Nov (AB, JG): **TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD (FR)**: 100+, Bald Hill, Ft. Bragg, 19 Oct-18 Nov (DT); 5-10, AB, 28-30 Nov (RSt, et al.): **COMMON GRACKLE (GW)**: 1, Smith River Bottoms near Ft. Dick, 9-22 Nov (AB, JG, EE, KB); 1, AB, 28-30 Nov (RSt; GL, LL, DF, JP, TL, JH, MW, GB, RH, CO)-- **only the second, ever, Humboldt County record, the 1<sup>st</sup> in 1975!**

My sincere thanks to the following who shared their observations with us this month. Brian Acord, Frank Anderson, Alan Barron, Gary and Jane Bloomfield, Heather Brown, Barbara Burek, Ken Burton, Dennis Cahill, Bryon Cariss, Scott Carey, Mark Colwell, Eric Concannon, David Cook, Jennifer Curtis, Melanie Dabill, Tamar Danufsky, Bruce Deuel, Mike DeVega, Duke Diehl, Mark Gondero, Elias Elias, Frank Ferguson, David Fix, Rob Fowler, Joe Gartland, George Green, Rebecca Green, Melody Hamilton, Stan Harris, Pablo Herrera, Rob Hewitt, Denise Homer, John Hunter, Ken Irwin, "John", Robert and Ryan Keiffer, Jhermie Kellermann, Gary Lester, Lauren Lester, Ron LeValley, Paul Lohse, Steve Marlin, Michael Morris, Mark Morrissette, Erica McBride, Tristan McKee, Chet Ogan, Jude Power, Richard Ridenhour, Krysta Rogers, Kerry Ross, J. Seeger, Skip Shoemaker, Rich Stallcup (RSt), Christine Steele, Grace Sterer, Roy Sunstrom, Robert Sutherland (RS), Jim Tietz, Dorothy Tobkin, Steve Tucker, Matt Wachs, R. Walcott, Katharine Walling, Doug Wallace, Abe Walston, Jared Wolfe, Dan Van Zile, Margaret Varga.

**Field Notes**  
**by Stan Harris**  
**22 September-27 October 2003**

**ABBREVIATIONS USED:** **AB** = Arcata Bottoms, **AMP** = Arcata Marsh Project; **AOP** = Arcata Oxidation Pond; **BSLP** =Butcher Slough Log Pond; **CR** = College of the Redwoods; **ED** = Expected Date; **EL** = Expected Location; **EM** = Expected Migrant; **EN** = Expected Numbers; **ERWA** = Eel River Wildlife Area; **FR** = Few Records; **GW** = Gee Whiz Report; **IL** =Interesting Location; **IN** = Interesting Numbers; **IP** = Interesting Plumage; **MKSP** = MacKerricher State Park, Ft. Bragg; **mo**= Many Observers; **MRCP** = Mad River County Park; **MRWA** = Mad River Wildlife Area; **MS** = Monitored Species; **NC** =Not Confirmed; **ND** = No Details; **NJ** = seen from North Jetty, Humboldt Bay.

Another dry month with virtually no rain. Some sunny days with foggy mornings in between clear days and nights, the period was marked by normal expected movements of migrants, with only a few surprises. Landbird migration seems to be winding down, most of our wintering birds have arrived, most summer residents have departed, and we are looking forward to any late arrivals. The arrival of abnormal numbers of Scrub Jays and Acorn Woodpeckers in the lowland along the coast leads one to wonder about the acorn crop this year. We still have a few Red Phalaropes being reported and early Mew Gulls are starting to show up.

**BLACK VULTURE (GW): 1, along lower Jacoby Creek, roosting overnight in virtually the same tree as our only other northcoast record almost exactly 10 years ago. Who says lightning doesn't strike twice in the same place? First found by DF on 8 Oct as it flew south past AOP, seen on roost and leaving roost on 9 Oct by at least 7 other local birders. The best bird of the fall? (But see below!)**

**Tundra Swan** 3, ERWA 26 Oct (RLeV, CMcA): **Aleutian Canada Goose (EM):** right on time, 18 flocks of 1-500 were reported from Stone Lagoon, Patricks Point/Trinidad, AB, AMP, HBNWR, Copenhagen Road, ERWA, 10-26 Oct (KI, KR, JW, SH); there must be many in Del Norte County, but no reports were submitted from there: **Snow Goose (EM):** 1, Lake Talawa, 18 Oct (RF, AB, KR): **White Goose sp (EM):** 1 **Ross** or **Snow** with Aleutian Canada Geese, 14 Oct, AMP (KR): **Eurasian Wigeon (FR):** 1, near Lake Earl, 28 Sep (AB); 1, Lake Earl 18 Oct (RF, AB, KR); 1-5 females, AMP, 25-27 Oct (JW, DM, SH, JT, RG, KR): **Blue-winged Teal (FR, EM):** 1-6, BSLP, AMP, 23 Sep-27 Oct (mo): **Harlequin Duck (EL):** 3, mouth of Wilson Creek (Del Norte Co.), 26 Oct (JT): 1 female, North Jetty, 5 Oct (SC); 1-2, King Salmon, 20-26 Oct (SC, SH, PF); up to 10, Glass Beach, Ft. Bragg, 25 Sep-19 Oct (DT): **Black Scoter (EL):** 8-10, Pt. St. George, 18 Oct (RF, AB, KR): **Hooded Merganser (FR):** 1, ERWA, 26 Sep (SMcA): **Common Merganser (IL, IN):** 100, ERWA, 26 Sep (SMcA): **No Bald Eagle Reports!** **Ferruginous Hawk (FR):** 1, Smith River Bottoms, 8, 15, 19 Oct (FA, RLeV): **Merlin (MS):** 9 reports of singles from Elk Head, MRWA, AMP, AOP, ERWA, Shelter Cove, 22 Sep-12 Oct (mo).

**GYRFALCON (GW, FR): 1, ERWA, Copenhagen Road, 16-17 Oct (KI, DF), 23 Oct (EN): Only the second, ever, northcoast record and the first for Humboldt County, in the running for the best bird of the fall!**

**Ruffed Grouse (FR):** 1, Bald Hills Road, 27 Sep (DD): **Blue Grouse (EL):** 1+, Mail Ridge, 24 Sep-5 Oct (JG): **Sandhill Crane (GW, FR):** 1, AB, 24 Sep (JM, MW): **Golden Plover sp (EM):** 1, ERWA, 27 Sep (KR): **American Golden Plover (FR):** 1, MKSP, 5 Oct (DT): **Pacific Golden Plover (EM):** 1, I Street mud flats, Arcata, 24 Sept, 3 Oct (NJ, CO); 1, Ferndale Bottoms, 28 Sep (CO); 1, MKSP, 19-26 Sep (DT): **Black Oystercatcher (IN):** 72 (!) counted at one time, bathing at a small creek on Indian Beach, Trinidad, 20 Oct (MeH), with others (not counted) on nearby rocks! It must have been a pretty crowded creek when you add in the 50 **Heermann's Gulls** also present! Ignoring Christmas Count totals, this is a new all-time record for the number of migrant oystercatchers at

one site: **Black-necked Stilt (FR)**: 2, Cock Robin Island, 14 Sep (Update, DD): **American Avocet (IL)**: 7, Lake Earl/Lake Talawa, 28 Sep (AB): **Greater Yellowlegs (IN)**: 100 (actual count), ERWA, 24 Oct (SH): **Lesser Yellowlegs (EM)**: 10, ERWA, 27 Sep (KR); 6, ERWA, 24 Oct (SH); 1 MKSP, 21 Aug-through 5 Oct (DT): **Hudsonian Godwit (GW, FR)**: 1 juv (tail band and dark underwings seen), Lake Talawa, 18 Oct (AB, KR, RF): **Marbled Godwit (IN, IL)**: 200+, Lake Talawa, 18 Oct (KR, AB, RF): **Baird's Sandpiper (EM)**: 11, Lake Talawa, 18 Sep (AB); 2, Samoa Beach, 27 Sep (JW): **Pectoral Sandpiper (EM)**: 1- 6, from mouth of Lake Talawa, Redwood Creek, AB, ERWA, MKSP, 22 Sep-20 Oct (KR, KI, RF, AB, SC, DT): **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (FR)**: 1 ERWA, 22 Sep (SMcA, KR, KI, RF): **Ruff (FR)**: 1, Lake Earl, 6-7 Oct (AB, JG): **Pomarine Jaeger (EM)**: 1, to 8 miles off Eureka, 4 Oct (JT); 2, NJ, 16 Oct (KR, MW): **Parasitic Jaeger (EM)**: 1 (sick), mouth, Mad River, 25 Sep (SC); 1 off Todd's Point, Ft. Bragg, 7 Oct (DT): **Black-headed Gull (FR)**: 1 (adult winter plumage), Lake Earl (has last month's bird molted out into adult winter plumage?), 28 Sep-7 Oct (AB, et al.) **Laughing Gull (FR)**: 1, ERWA (holdover from last month), 26 Sep-16 Oct (SMcA, KR, KI): **Thayer's Gull (FR)**: 2, mouth of Wilson Creek (Del Norte Co.), 26 Oct (JT): **Elegant Tern (ID)**: 1, North Bay at Klopp Lake, 27 Oct (SH): **Arctic Tern (FR, ND, NC)**: 1, mouth, Elk River, 28 Sep (TMcK ST): **Common Tern (EM)**: 1, NJ, 25 Oct (SC): **Forster's Tern (EM)**: 1-7 North Bay at Klopp Lake 14-27 Oct (KR, SH): **Marbled Murrelet (MS)**: 6, NJ, 16 Oct (KR, MW): **Cassin's Auklet (EM)**: 100's, off Eureka, 4 Oct (JT); 1, inside Humboldt Bay, 25 Oct (HB); 10, off Eureka, 26 Oct (JW): **Rhinoceros Auklet (EM)**: 6, up to 8 miles off Eureka, 4 Oct (JT); 50, off Eureka, 26 Oct (JW): **Tufted Puffin (FR)**: 1, Shelter Cove, 27 Sep (DW): **Short-eared Owl (MS)**: 2, MRWA, 27 Oct (JT, RG): **Saw-whet Owl (FR)**: 2 calling near Trinidad, 20 Oct (MeH):

#### Bushtit chip

**Costa's Hummingbird (FR)** 1 female (!), Jacoby Creek Farms 19 Oct (DF "a little Bushtit-like chip note") **Lewis Woodpecker (FR)**: 4, flying north along Del Norte Co., G-O Road, 24 Sep (TL); 3, Douglas City, 14 Oct (DK); 28, Kneeland, 18, 21 Oct (BB, DVZ); 1 Mail Ridge, 27 Oct (JG): **Acorn Woodpecker (IL)**: 1, Pt. St. George, 21 Sep (AB, JG); 1, Lanphere Dunes, 25 Sep-5 Oct (JT, CJR); 1, Horse Pasture, Fairhaven, 25 Sep (SC); 1 Bayside, 26 Oct (DF): **Yellow-shafted Flicker (EM)**: 1, McKinleyville, 19 Oct (MaM): **Willow Flycatcher (EM)**: 1, AOP, 23 Sep (SH); 1, Elk Head, 27 Sep (TMcK, ST, JHa, SH): **Say's Phoebe (FR)**: a bumper crop with 8 reports representing 14 birds from Smith River Bottoms, Bald Hills Road, Orick, Kneeland, Mail Ridge, coastal northern Mendocino county, 20 Sep-4 Oct (mo) + an update report of one at Douglas City in March 2002 (DK): **Ash-throated Flycatcher (ID)**: 1, Entrance Willows, 3 Oct (SC): **Tropical Kingbird (EM)**: 1, Lake Earl/Talawa, 23 Sep (AB); 1, AB (V St. Loop), 21 Oct (JW, MP); 1, North Spit, Humboldt Bay, 2 Oct (MW); 1, Eureka Slough, 18 Oct (GO'B); 1, Copenhagen Road, 24 Oct (CW): **Red-eyed Vireo (FR)**: 1, base of Bald Hills Road, 7 Oct (KI): **Gray Jay (MS)**: MeH reports that 6 pairs are known to have fledged 19 young near Trinidad this summer; 1, Arcata Community Forest, 17 Oct (JT): **Steller's Jay (IL)**: 1, Lanphere Dunes, 28 Sep (JT): **Scrub Jay (IL)**: 10!, Enderts Beach, 21 Sep (AB, JG); 1, Lake Earl, 28 Sep (AB); 1, head of Skunk Cabbage Trail, 4 Oct (KR); 1, McKinleyville, 17 Oct (RLeV): **Violet-green Swallow (IN, ID)**: 500-1000, foraging over Mad River Slough, 1 Oct (JT); 15, AMP, 11 Oct (ST, SH): **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (FR)**: 1, Enderts Beach, 21 Sep (AB, JG); 1, base of Bald Hills Road, 17 Oct (KI): **Townsend's Solitaire (Update, IL)**: 1 ad. feeding a spotted young, Kneeland, 10 Aug (BB): **Varied Thrush (IL)**: 1, tip of North Jetty, 27 Oct (SMcA): **Northern Mockingbird (FR)**: 1, Enderts Beach, 21 Sep (AB, JG); 1, Davison Road, 11 Oct (KR); 1, McKinleyville, 22 Sep (SH); 1, Table Bluff, 25 Oct (RF, JC); 1, near CR, 27 Oct (KR); 1, Douglas City, 8 Oct (DK): **Red-throated Pipit (ND, NC)**: 1, Ferndale Bottoms, 28 Sep (TMcK, ST); 1, Cannibal Island Road, 1 Oct (BF); x, Lake Earl, 4 Oct (AB).

#### Those vagrant warblers

**Tennessee Warbler (FR)**: 1, Enderts Beach (Update), 7, 20 Sep (AB); 1, MRCP, 27 Sep (JW); 1, Fairhaven, 3 Oct (SC): **Virginia's Warbler (NC, FR)**: 1, "bold white eye-ring, overall gray color, bright yellow undertail coverts, bobbing tail quite a bit, no streaks on breast," AMP, 27 Oct (RF): **Chestnut-sided Warbler (FR)**: 1 banded, recaptured, Lanphere Dunes, 26, 28 Sep (JT, MJ); 1, Elk Head, 27 Sep (TMcK, ST, JHa); 2, near Orick, 4 Oct (KI); 1, Howard Creek, northern Mendocino County, 18 Oct (JH): **Palm Warbler (EM)**: 15 reports (18 birds) from Lake Earl, Lake Talawa, near Orick, Elk Head, AB, AMP, North Spit, HBNWR, ERWA, Camp Weott, Shelter Cove,

Glass Beach, Ft. Bragg. 18 Sep-27 Oct (mo): **Blackpoll Warbler (FR)**: 1, base of Bald Hills Road, 7-8 Oct (KI); 1 banded, Lanphere Dunes, 26 Sep (JT); 1, Camp Weott, 27 Sep (SMcA); **Black-and-white Warbler (FR)**: 1, Elk Head, 27 Sep (TMcK, ST. JHa); 1, base, Bald Hills Road, 11 Oct (KI); 1, AMP, 26-27 Oct (JT, et al.): **American Redstart (FR)**: 1, mouth, Redwood Creek, 8 Oct (KI); **Northern Waterthrush (FR)**: 1, AOP, 23 Sep (SH); 1 recapture (banded on 21 Sep), Lanphere Dunes, 26, 28 Sep, 5 Oct (JT): **Western Tanager (ID)**: 1, Lanphere Dunes, 5 Oct (JT, JW): **Spotted (type) Towhee (IP)**: 1 male (?) with only 6 tiny white spots in parts of 2 rows on each wing and a faint gray smudge on each side of the scapulars, otherwise dark on back and wings, made us wonder about an Eastern Towhee for a while, Elk Head, 25-28 Sep (ST. MC, BA. SH, et al.): **California Towhee (IL)**: 1, mouth of Redwood Creek, 8 Oct (KI): **Clay-colored Sparrow (FR)**: 1, Ferndale Bottoms, 28 Sep (TMcK, ST): **Brewer's Sparrow (FR)**: 1, beach at mouth, Redwood Creek, 2-4 Oct (KI): **Lark Sparrow (EL)**: 10, Mail Ridge, 10 Sep (JG): **Swamp Sparrow (FR)**: 1, Lake Earl/Lake Talawa, 28 Sep (AB); 1, AMP, 7 Oct (RF); 1, Bracut Salt Marsh, 15 Oct (DF); 1-2, Butcher Slough, 26-27 Oct (JT, et al.): **Golden-crowned Sparrow (IP)**: 1, albino, all white, pink bill, and feet, dark eye, Briceland, 11 Oct (RS): **White-throated Sparrow (EM)**: Arrived right on schedule, examples: 1, Smith River Bottoms, 28 Sep (AB); 1 Ft. Bragg, 17-19 Oct (DT); 1, Sunny Brae, 22 Oct (SH): **Slate-colored Junco (FR)**: 1 banded, Lanphere Dunes, (JT): **Lapland Longspur (EM)**: 2, Lake Talawa, 18 Oct (RF, AB, KR); 1 by call, mouth, Redwood Creek, 27 Sep (KI); 1-3, South Spit, Humboldt Bay, 18-26 Oct (RLeV, MW, RF, JC) 1, Briceland, 10 Oct (RS): **Chestnut-collared Longspur (FR)**: 1, Lake Earl, 4 Oct (AB, JG); 1, Pt. St. George, 18 Oct (AB, RF, KR): **Rose-breasted Grosbeak (FR)**: 1 male, still at Orick, 27 Sep (KI): **Dickcissel (FR)**: 1, Smith River Bottoms, 28 Sep (AB); 1, Briceland, 10 Oct (RS): **Bobolink (FR)**: 1-7, Smith River Bottoms, 28 Sep-18 Oct (AB, RF, KR); 3, AB, 22 Sep (ST); 1, mouth, Jacoby Creek, 9 Oct (RF); 2, AOP, 15 Oct (SH); 1, ERWA, 22 Sep (SMcA, KR): **Yellow-headed Blackbird (FR)**: 1, Smith River Bottoms, 1-18 Oct (FA, RF, AB, KR, RLeV): **Common Grackle (ND, FR)**: 1, Alexandre Dairy, Smith River Bottoms, 18 Oct (KR, RF).

#### Wow, meanwhile at nature's buffet

The observation (from a kayak!) of a **Great White Shark** "killing and consuming" a harbor seal near Trinidad, 25 Sep, must have made MM a bit uneasy, but then JW and MP watched a **Great White** eat another harbor seal from the safety of NJ, 20 Oct! Local surfers, beware! Seven or eight Western Gulls were seen mobbing a harbor seal that had a rather large salmon in Eel River at Cock Robin Island Bridge, 19 Oct (SH). They kept the seal underwater by diving on it and standing on it's back and pecking its head every time it tried to come up for air, but traffic on the road prevented me from observing the ultimate outcome! SC watched a **Red-tailed Hawk** eat a **White-tailed Kite**, 22 Oct. MRWA, but was uncertain if the hawk killed the kite or found it as carrion. SH watched a Peregrine knock down a **dowitcher**, but then, after many aerial dos-i-dos, lost it to a **Harrier**, who, in turn, lost it when it escaped and ran into heavy reeds at ERWA, 24 Oct. probably to be eaten at night by a raccoon? It ain't easy being a predator!

**Good Mammals** reported: **Ring-tailed Cat**, near Somes Bar, 25 Oct (RLeV, CMcA); Humpbacked Whale, 3, off Eureka, 26 Oct (JW).

Many thanks to the following who shared observations with us this month. Keep up the good work: Frank Anderson, Art Barab, Alan Barron, Ode Bernstein, Gary Bloomfield, Heather Brown, Barbara Burek, Scott Carey, Mark Colwell, Eric Concannon, Irene and Warren Crane, Ruth Crane, Jennifer Curtis, Elliot and Melanie Dabill, Kit Davenport, Sylvia DeRoy, Duke Diehl, Ray Ekstrom, Patric Field, David Fix, Rob Fowler, Barry Frauppe, John Gaffin, Joe Gartland, Rebecca Green, Jessica Hallman, Melody Hamilton, Mike Harris, Stan Harris, Matt Hinton, Denise Homer, John Hunter, Ken Irwin, Nicholas Jensen, Matt Johnson, Dale Kuhn, Tom Leskiw, Ron LeValley, John Mahan, Dan Maxwell, Charlene McAllister, Sean McAllister, Tristian McKee, Michael Morris, Mark Morrisette. Eric Nelson, Gary Nielsen, Gretchen O'Brien, Chet Ogan, Jayne Oliver, Mike Paladini; C. J. Ralph, Bill Rodstrom, Kerry Ross, J. Seegar, Mary Severdia, Skip Shoemaker, Dennis Shuber, Paul Springer, Tim Stewart, Roy

Sunstrom, Jim Tietz, Dorothy Tobkin, Steve Tucker Eric W., Matt Wachs, Doug Wallace, Catharine Walling, Woods (Robert Sutherland), Jared Wolfe, Dan Van Ziles, Margaret Varga.

**Field Notes**  
**by Stan Harris**  
**25 August-21 September 2003**

**Abbreviations used: AMP = Arcata Marsh Project; AOP = Arcata Oxidation Pond; BSLP = Butcher Slough Log Pond; EL = Expected Location; EM = Expected Migrant; ERWA = Eel River Wildlife Area; FR = Few Records; GW = Gee Whiz Report; HBNWR = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; ID = Interesting Date; IIT interesting, if true; IL = Interesting Location; IN = Interesting Numbers; MRCP = Mad River County Park; mo = Many Observers; MS Monitored Species; NC = Not Confirmed; ND = No Details; SHCP = Southern Humboldt Community Park, Garberville.**

Nice summer weather, but a dry month broken by one day of misty showers including a little snap, crackle, and pop of thunder! Three pelagic trips were conducted with not much to shout about, but the usual suspects. Birds seemed somewhat more abundant off Ft. Bragg on 13 Sep than off Eureka on either 7 or 14 Sep. September is our prime month for fall migration and many old friends either left us or arrived right on historic schedules: Examples were a RED-NECKED GREBE at mouth of Elk River on 6 Sep (RH), 1 GREEN-WINGED TEAL at Briceland 6 Sep (CO, RS), and the arrival of the first RING-NECKED DUCK at BSLP on 16 Sep (SH). Beginning in late Aug RAILS, had increased to 16 VIRGINIAS and 3-5 SORAS detected at AOP/AMP by 16 Sep (mo), the usual summer population of 6-8 COOTS at AOP increased to 50 by 3 Sep and to 100+ by 16 Sep (SH). The onshore flights of RED-NECKED PHALAROPES that began last month continued into Sep with a peak of 400 seen at AOP on 5 Sep, but only 1 was left by the 8<sup>th</sup> (SH). The usual September trickle of expected migrants along the coast of things like CASSIN'S AND WARBLING VIREO, BLACK-THROATED GRAY, TOWNSEND'S, AND WILSON'S WARBLERS and WESTERN TANAGERS turned into a virtual avalanche of WILLOW FLYCATCHERS (20 reports of 1-4 from Orick, Little River, Shay Park, MRCP, North Spit, Junction City; Willow Creek, AMP/AOP, Eel River, HBNWR, SHCP, FT. BRAGG, including 4 reported banded, 23 Aug-18 Sep (mo), YELLOW WARBLERS (20+ at MRCP and 8-15 at AMP/AOP, 30-31 Aug., JK, JT et al.) and COMMON YELLOWTHROATS (10+ at AOP, 29 Aug, SH, et al.). The first of our wintering LINCOLN'S SPARROWS were seen 17-18 Sep at Crescent City and BSLP (FA, KR), apparent migrant WHITE-CROWNED AND GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROWS appeared at Willow Creek, Groves Prairie, AMP, and Sunny Brae, 16-21 Sep (TL, SH, et al) and our usual wintering SOOTY FOX SPARROWS arrived right on schedule with 1 at MRCP, 8 Sep (BA, CR); and 9+ at BSLP, 18 Sep (KR, BA). Meanwhile, seasonal food sources in the form of ripe blackberries and cord grass seed attracted 10's to 100's of CEDAR WAXWINGS, STARLINGS, AND RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS at AMP/AOP and elsewhere. Read on for the "Wow" things and more details about the march of the seasons.

BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSS (EM): 50 seen off Ft. Bragg, 13 Sep (RLeV et al.); 5-15 off Eureka, 7, 14 Sep (MC, et al.); PINK-FOOTED SHEARWATER (EM): most common shearwater seen off Eureka, where they outnumbered Sooty Shearwaters 2 to 1 with 200 seen on 7 Sep and 50 on 14 Sep (MC et al.), but at Ft Bragg, this species was outnumbered by Sooty Shearwaters, 5 to 1 (RLeV et al.); 1 was seen from shore, foot of Murray Road, 17 Sep (RF); BULLER'S SHEARWATER (EM): 3 off Eel River and Eureka, 7 Sep (MC, et al); 3-4 off Eureka, 14 Sep (MC, et al.); 15 off Ft. Bragg, 13 Sep (RLeV et al.); BLACK-VENTED SHEARWATER (FR): 1 off Ft. Bragg, 13 Sep (RLeV, et al.); BROWN PELICAN (IN): 2200, Trinidad, 7 Sep (MeH); AMERICAN BITTERN (FR): 1, Gearheart Marsh, 27 Aug (JB, LLR); 1, AOP (JT, BC, SH); 1, BSLP, 21 Sep (KR): Mystery small white heron/egret, with gray feathers in back, otherwise like Snowy, (Little Blue?, ID. not certain), ERWA, 18 Sep (SMcA); GREEN HERON (FR): 5 reports of 1-2 from BSLP, SHCP, 30 Aug-21 Sep (JT, JS, SH. KR): BLUE-WINGED TEAL (FR): 4 reports of singles from AMP, 30 Aug-18 Sep (JT, FA, SH); HARLEQUIN DUCK (FR): 1, King Salmon, 2-6, Ft. Bragg, 16 Aug-14 Sep (DT); 12 Sep (BA, CR); 1, south end, Spanish Flat, Lost Coast, 31 Aug (RR, TR); HOODED Merganser (FR): 2, AOP, 3 Sep (BC, SH); 2, lower Mad River, 18 Sep (BA); BALD EAGLE (MS): only 1 report!, 1 ad, Todd Ranch, 19 Sep (T& SL); AMERICAN KESTREL (IN): 14!, Spanish Flat

to Big Flat, Lost Coast, 29 Aug-1 Sep ( RR, TR): MERLIN (MS): 1 (black), Cock Robin Island, 7 Sep (SMcA): PEREGRINE FALCON (MS): 13 reports of 1-2 from Lake Earl, Clam Beach, lower Mad River, AMP, AOP, Woodley Island, SHCP, 26 Aug-19 Sep (mo), many reports of 2 chasing Red-necked Phalaropes on AOP: RUFFED GROUSE (FR): 3, north of Orleans nearly to Humboldt/Siskiyou County line, 17 Sep (IL): BLUE GROUSE (IN): 12, seen between Berry Summit and Highway 36 along Forest Service Route 1, 27 Aug (IL): AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER (FR): 1, MRCP, 6 Sep (ST): PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER (FR): 1, lower Mad River, 30 Aug (KI); 1, Cock Robin Island, 13 Sep (KI): 1, ERWA, 17, 20 Sep (SMcA); 1, Ft Bragg, 19 Sep (DI): SNOWY PLOVER (MS): 10 pairs, 31 nesting attempts, only 1 chick fledged, Clam Beach; 2 pairs, 3 nesting attempts, 3 chicks fledged, South Spit and ERWA Beach; 28 chicks fledged, Eel River gravel bars, all “Summer 2003” (MC): BLACK-NECKED STILT (FR): 1, Gobel Lane, Ferndale Bottoms, 2-11 Sep (SMcA): LESSER YELLOWLEGS (MS): 10, south end, Clam Beach 3 Sep (KR); 1, Eel River gravel bar up from Fernbridge, 5 Sep (RH); 1, Virgin Ck. Beach, Ft. Bragg, 21 Aug-19 Sep (DI): SOLITARY SANDPIPER (FR): 1, mouth of Widow White Creek, 2 Sep (KR, JM); 1, Arcata Bottoms, Pacheco Lane, 10 Sep (KR): WANDERING TATTLER (IN): 17, Houda Point, 2 Sep (MeH): RUDDY TURNSTONE (EL): 4 reports of singles from MRCP, Klopp Lake, ERWA, 30 Aug -13 Sep (JT, JK, FA, BA, CR): SURFBIRD (IL): 1, Klopp Lake, 30 Aug (JT): RED KNOT (IN): 11 reports of 1-23(!) from AOP, AMP, mouth Jacoby Creek, Elk R. mouth, ERWA, Cock Robin Island, Ft. Bragg, 30 Aug-20 Sep (mo): SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER (FR): 2-3, Lake Earl, 30 Aug (TE); 1, south end, Clam Beach, 4 Sep (BA): BAIRD’S SANDPIPER (IN): 12 reports of 1-84 (! a new record for a single count) from Lake Talawa, Crescent Beach, Clam Beach, MRCP, Elk River mouth, Cock Robin Island, ERWA, Ft. Bragg, 25 Aug-13 Sep (mo): PECTORAL SANDPIPER (EM): 6 reports of 1-21 (!) from Lake Earl, MRCP, AB, 25 Aug-19 Sep (mo): STILT SANDPIPER (FR): 1, Lake Earl, 30 Aug (TE); 1, Cock Robin Island, 7 Sep (BA, CR); 1, ERWA, 7,20 Sep (KI, SMcA): BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER (FR): 1 juv, Lake Talawa, west side, 4 Sep (AB, JG): RUFF (FR): 1, Eel River gravel bar upstream from Fernbridge, 5 Sep (RH).

#### **Gray, Gray, Gray**

SOUTH POLAR SKUA (FR): 3-5, off Ft. Bragg, 13 Sep (RLeV); 1, off Eureka, 14 Sep (BA, RF, et al): Ten reports of PARASITIC JAEGERs offshore Eureka and Ft. Bragg and around Humboldt Bay, 5-14 Sep (mo) were about as expected, but only 2 reports of POMARINE JAEGERs, offshore Eureka and Ft. Bragg, were fewer than usual. LONG-TAILED JAEGER (EM): 1, off Eel River, 7 Sep (MC, SH, et al.); 4, off Ft. Bragg, 13 Sep RLeV, et al): LAUGHING GULL (FR): 1 remained at ERWA, 24 Aug-20 Sep (BA, CR, JH, IL, KI, SMcA): BLACK-HEADED GULL (FR): 1 juv, still present at Lake Earl, 23-30 Aug (GC, MM, CV, BA, RW): SABINE’S GULL (EM): 200, off Eel River and Eureka, 7 Sep (MC, SH, et al.) (but none off Ft. Bragg, 13 Sep. RLeV, DT, et al.): ARCTIC TERN (EM): 1, off Ft. Bragg, 13 Sep (RLeV, et al.): LEAST TERN (FR, GW): 1 juv, Virgin Creek Beach, Ft. Bragg, (only the second record ever for Mendocino County, the first was last month!) 25-26 Aug (DI): LONG-BILLED MURRELET (FR, GW): 1 in winter plumage, Trinidad Harbor, 30 Aug-2 Sep (PH, et al., well studied photos): TUFTED PUFFIN (FR): 1, off Ft. Bragg, 13 Sep (DI, et al.): BARRED OWL (MS): 1, calling, Carlotta, 21 Aug (JW): BLACK SWIFT (ID): 2, Azalea Hill, 6 Sep (GL); 1, near Lake Earl, 6 Sep (KR): COSTA’S HUMMINGBIRD (FR): 1 male, apparently returned to a FORTUNA feeder for the second straight year, 12 Sep (BN): CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD (IIT): 1 possible bird reported at Fieldbrook, 5 Sep (ID based on size only, JaG): LEWIS’S WOODPECKER (FR): 1, near Junction City, 28 Aug (EE); 1, mouth of Grouse Creek x Trinity River, 18 Sep (MG): ACORN WOODPECKER (IL): 1, Lanphere Dunes, 27 Aug (JI); 1, AMP, 9 Sep (DM): EASTERN PHOEBE (IIT): 1 ad, 1 juv, reported (description incomplete, ID?) , Trinity Center, 13 Aug (BH): SAY’S PHOEBE (EM): 1, Pala Road, Smith River Bottoms, 6 Sep (KR, SMcA); 1, Burnt Ranch, 7 Sep (AW); 1, SHCP, 14 Sep (DW): EASTERN KINGBIRD (FR): 1, mouth, Elk River, 25 Aug (MW, KR); 1, Ft. Bragg, 6 Sep (DT): PLUMBEOUS VIRIEO (FR): 1, Scenic Drive near Trinidad, 2 Sep (MeH, “very gray and white”): BLUE-HEADED VIREO (FR, NC, ND): 1, Orick Dump, 31 Aug (KI.) 1. Salt River, 10 Sep (SMcA): RED-EYED VIREO (FR, NC, ND): 2, base of Bald Hills Road, 16 Sep (KI): HORNED LARK (IN): 12, Bear River Ridge, 20 Sep (SMcA): TREE, VIOLET-GREEN AND BARN SWALLOWS (IN): sudden appearance of “100’s” just after thundershowers, Ferndale, 3 Sep (WD, fide CO): DIPPER (FR): 2, along Mad River just north of Highway 36, 27

Aug (TL); 1, along creek, Lost Coast, Spanish Flat to Big Flat, 30-31 Aug (RR, TR): NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD (MS): 1 Horse Pasture, Fairhaven, 30 Aug (KR, MW); 1, Entrance Patch, Fairhaven, 7 Sep (JH): TENNESSEE WARBLER (EM): 1, above Baker Beach, 21 Sep (MeH); 1-2, MRCP, 31 Aug-2 Sep (JT, KI); 1, Bayshore Mall, 3 Sep (TL); 1, Orick Dump; 1, base of Bald Hills Road, both 18 Sep (KR, RF): VIRGINIA'S WARBLER (FR): 1, Lake Cleone, Ft. Bragg, 15-16 Sep (DT) (only the second Mendocino County record): PARULA WARBLER (FR): 1, MRCP, 2-6 Sep (RF, BA, CR): CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (FR): 1, MRCP, 31 Aug (JT); 1, Orick Dump, 16 Sep (KI): MAGNOLIA WARBLER (FR): 1, Orick Dump, 31 Aug (Ki): TOWNSEND'S X HERMIT WARBLER (IIT; ND): 1, base of Bald Hills Road, 18 Sep (KR, RF): BAY-BREASTED WARBLER (FR): 1, vic Trinidad, 2 Sep (MeH), "buff on flanks and undertail coverts": BLACKPOLL WARBLER (FR): 1, vic Trinidad, 2 Sep (MeH); 1, Woodley Island, 9 Sep (MW, RF): BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER (FR): 1 female, vic. Trinidad, 2 Sep (MeH); 2, KOA Campground, Bracut, 17 Sep (F & CS fide DF): AMERICAN REDSTART (FR): 1 female, MRCP, 2 Sep (JK, KI); 1, Airport Willows, Fairhaven, 5 Sep (MW): NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH (FR): 1, AOP (SH); 2, HBNWR, (PH) all 2 Sep; 1 banded, Lanphere Dunes, 21 Sep (fide RF): GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE (IL): 1, No Name Pond, 30 Aug (BA); VESPER SPARROW (FR): 1, SHCP, 20 Sep (RS): LARK SPARROW (IL): 1, Hilfiker Lane, Eureka, 1 Sep (KR); 1, SHCP, 14 Sep (DW): FOX SPARROW (GRAY-HEADED) (FR): 25+, up Canyon Creek Road north of Junction City at 500-700 feet elevation in burnt over tobacco plants and scrub oak, 6 Sep (EE): ROSE- BREASTED GROSBEAK (FR): 1 female, vic. Trinidad, 2 Sep (MeH), good phone description; 1 male, Orick Dump, 16 Sep (KI, FA): DICKCISSEL (FR): 1 flyover, sound shot, Lanphere Dunes, 10 Sep (JT): YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (FR): 3, AOP/AMP, salt marsh with Red-winged Blackbirds, 28-30 Aug (JT, et al.); 1 female, Moxon Road, 12 Sep (KR): HOODED ORIOLE (ID): 1 female, Arcata, 1 Sep (GB): RED CROSSBILL (ID): adults and new fledglings at feeders, Fortuna and Bayside, 16-17 Sep (RC, DF, JP).

**Interesting Mammals** were reported as follows: BLUE WHALE, 1 off Table Bluff, 0.75 miles, 7 Sep (MC, SH, et al.); 6 off Ft. Bragg, 13 Sep (RLeV, et al.): HUMPBACKED WHALE, 3 off Eel River, 8 miles, 7 Sep ( MC, SH et al.); 6-8 off Eureka, 8 miles, 14 Sep (MC, SH, et al.): ELEPHANT SEAL, 1 off Eel River, 7 Sep (MC, et al.); 2 off Ft. Bragg, 13 Sep (RLeV, et al.): DALL'S PORPOISE, 25-30 off Eel River, 7 Sep (MC, SH, et al.): STELLER'S SEA LION, 1 off Ft. Bragg, 13 Sep 03, (RLeV, et al): MINK, 2 (1 small), AOP, 21 Aug (DC): SHORT-TAILED WEASEL: 1 nest, in shed at AOP, summer (MS).

Many thanks to the following who shared reports this month. Keep up the good work. Brian Acord, Frank Anderson, Alan Barron, Jim Boone, Kristin Brown, George Burchett, Bryon Cariss, George Chanot, Tracy Cline, David Couch, Mark Colwell, Ruth Crane, Will Drew, Todd Easterly, Elias Elias, David Fix, Rob Fowler, Mourad Gabriel, John Gaffin, Joe Gartland, James Gast, Melody Hamilton, Stan Harris, Ben Hawkins, Pablo Herrera, Rob Hewitt, Denise Homer, John Hunter, Ken Irwin, Jeremiah Kellermann, Liz La Rue, Tom and Sue Leskiw, Gary and Lauren Lester, Ron LeValley, Beverly Neal, Matthew Mattheissen, Jason Mayer, Dan Maxwell, Sean McAllister, Michael Morris, Chet Ogan, Jude Power, Richard & Terrie Ridenhour (who provided observations from the seldom-visited Lost Coast area), Crystal Rogers, Kerry Ross, Frank and Catharine Severson, Mike Shoemaker, Bruce Slocum, Jay Sooter, Robert Sutherland, Jim Tietz, Dorothy Tobkin, Steve Tucker, Chuck Vaughn, Matt Wachs, Doug Wallace, Abe Walston, Russ Wentworth, Jared Wolfe.

**Field Notes**  
**by Stan Harris**  
**23 June-24 August 2003**

Well, what I thought was a quiet, rather dull summer has picked up considerably lately. We've generally had a dry, hot (for us) summer with less than usual low overcast and fog and more than usual sunshine. The breeding season seems to have progressed pretty much as normal. Meanwhile, fall migration of shorebirds is well underway, local nesting land birds are completing nesting and leaving (local swallows almost gone already), a few fall migrant land birds are beginning, but get out there in the next month, crawl through the willow patches on the spit and enjoy the "silly season" when all manner of surprises show up! Some of the more notable mammal observations reported are: 3 weasels at Happy Camp Campground, east of Willow Creek, 22 July (TL); 3 gray whales off Stone Lagoon, one of them in a frantic breach mode, 13 Aug (MM), and **FROM SHORE, DT, ON 4 AUG, saw 3 BLUE WHALES AND 2 HUMPBACK WHALES!** That must have been a treat!

Abbreviations used: AMP = Arcata Marsh Project; AOP = Arcata Oxidation Pond; BSLP = Butcher Slough Log Pond; ED = Expected Date; EL = Expected Location; EM = Expected Migrant; EN = Expected Numbers; FR = Few Records; GW= Gee Whiz Report; HBNWR = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; IB = Interesting Behavior; ID = Interesting Date; IIT= Interesting, if true; mo = Many Observers; MS = Monitored Species; NC = Not Confirmed by a second party; ND = No Written Description yet seen; NR= Nesting Record.

**HIGHLIGHTS: WHITE-FACED IBIS (FR, ID):** 3, HBNWR, 25 Jun (EN); 1, AMP, 26 Jun (LL): **BLUE-WINGED TEAL (ID):** 2, AOP, 1 Jul (SH); 1, Allen Marsh, 15-20 Aug (SH): **NORTHERN GOSHAWK (FR) 1,** Friday Ridge Road, 19 Aug (TL): **MERLIN (IIT, ID):** 1, Smith River, 26 Jul (MW, EMcB): **SORA (ID):** a bird at AOP, 8, 9, 11 July may have stayed all summer (SH); by 1 Aug, up to 3 a day responded vocally at AMP (SH): **COOT (NR):** evidence of a brood (at least 4 young seen) at AOP, 29 Jul-20 Aug (SH, et al.) and another youngster at Big Lake, near Willow Creek, 1 Aug (TL, et al.): **AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER (FR):** 1, South Spit, 26-30 Jun (SMcA, KR): **POSSIBLE RED-NECKED STINT (IIT, NC):** 1 reported, thin description, foot of I street, Arcata, 21 Aug (KI): **LAUGHING GULL (FR):** 1, second year, ERWA, 23-24 Aug (SMcA, MW, KR): **FRANKLIN'S GULL (FR):** 1 imm. Eel River Delta, 8 Aug (SMcA): **BLACK-HEADED GULL (FR):** 1 juv. Lake Earl, 2-16 Aug (AB, et al.): **LEAST TERN (FR):** 1, Virgin Creek Beach, 25 Jul (DT): **HORNED PUFFIN (FR):** 1, dead on Luffenholtz Beach, 6 Aug (RB): **TUFTED PUFFIN (FR):** 4, Castle Rock, 27 Jul (MW, EMcB): **LONG-EARED OWL (FR):** 2 calling at dusk, Groves Prairie, Humboldt County, 16 Aug (JH): **WHITE-THROATED SWIFT (NR):** young in nest under bridge, So. Hum. Community Park, Garberville, 11 Jul (DW, RS); 1 adult seen there, 25 Jul (RS): **LEAST FLYCATCHER (GW, IIT, ND, NR):** 1 **ON A NEST**, near Holmes, 2-3 Jul (TMcK, ST): **EASTERN KINGBIRD (FR):** 1, Crescent City, 12 Jul (MW): **BANK SWALLOW (NR):** New nesting colony discovered, along coastal bluff, 0.5 miles north of Prince Island, 50-70 birds seen, 150 holes in main colony plus 50 other scattered holes, 27 Jun (L&MB); 1 foraging, foot of Murray Road, 22 Jul (KR): **WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH (FR):** 1, Lone Pine Ridge, 9 Aug (GB): **CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (FR):** 1, near Dry Lagoon, 26 Jun (KI): **AMERICAN REDSTART (FR):** 1, Bald Hills Road x Highway 101, 30 Jun (KI): **OVENBIRD (FR):** 1, singing, Titlow Hill Road x Highway 299 along pond edge, 9-18 Jul (KI, et al.): **VESPER SPARROW (FR, ID):** 1, Kneeland, 7 Jun (BB): **TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD (IL, FR):** 1, Lagoon Creek Rest Stop, 12 Jul (RF): **HOODED ORIOLE (FR):** 1, 8<sup>th</sup> and O, Eureka, 12 Jul (CO).

**NOTES FROM THE TRAVEL DESK AND MATERNITY WARD: RED-THROATED LOON (ID):** 1, Entrance Bight, Humboldt Bay, 8 Jul (MW): **PACIFIC LOON (ID):** 4, Entrance Bight, Humboldt Bay, 8 Jul (MW): **COMMON LOON (EM):** a tight flock of 12 giving the appearance of new arrivals, Entrance Bight, Humboldt Bay, 30 Jul (SH, RR, CH): **PIED-BILLED GREBE (NR):** 1 on nest, Gearheart Marsh. 9-22 July, (SH, et al), nest hatched 4 chicks, 23 July (SH); 1 young, 2/3 grown, Allen Marsh, 25 July (SH); 2 broods afloat,

HBNWR, early July (MW): **RED-NECKED GREBE (ID)**: 2, Entrance Bight, Humboldt Bay, 8 Jul (MW): **BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSS (ED; EN)**: 6, fly past North Jetty, 14 Jul (MW); 85, 10-15 miles west of Trinidad, 28 Jul (JM): **PINK-FOOTED SHEARWATER (ED)**: 2 seen from North Jetty in 1 hour, 25 Jul (MW); 6, 10-15 miles west of Trinidad, 28 Jul (JM): **SOOTY SHEARWATER (ED, EN)**: 1, near offshore rocks at Trinidad, 22 Jun (MM); 5, North Jetty, 19 July (MW); 100, seen from North Jetty in hour, 25 Jul (MW); 6, 10-15 miles west of Trinidad, 28 Jul (JM): **GREEN HERON (EL; NR)**: 10 reports of 1-2 adults at AMP, 24 Jun-21 Aug (mo), including 1 perched for a few seconds on a telephone cable along South I Street before flying on, 27 Jun (SH), and 1 adult with 4 begging juv (still with down on heads), No Name Pond, 5 Jul (PL): **CAACKLING CANADA GOOSE (ID)**: 1, AOP, 29 Jul (SH, CH): **WOOD DUCK (EL; NR)**: up to 6 broods at AOP, 1 at BSLP and 1 at Allen Marsh (mo): **GADWALL (NR)**: At least 3 broods seen in June/July, AMP (SH): **CINNAMON TEAL (NR)**: 2 broods, AMP, July (SH): **PINTAIL (ED)**: 250, Lake Earl, 22 Aug (KR, JR, AB): **HARLEQUIN (ID)**: 5, off Virgin Creek Beach, daily in June/July, 15 Aug (DT); 1, King Salmon, 30 July (SH, RR, CH): **HOODED MERGANSER (FR)**: 6, Lake Earl, 22 Aug (KR, JR, AB): **RED-BREASTED MERGANSER (ED)**: 1, Crescent City Harbor, 22 Aug (KR, JR, AB): **BALD EAGLE (MS)**: 7 reports of 1-2 adults from Freshwater Lagoon, Humboldt Bay, McCann/Mail Ridge, Lone Pine Ridge, 25 Jun-9 Aug (mo) and 1 report of a juvenile drinking from a stock trough on Mail Ridge, 1 Aug (JG): **SHARP-SHINNED HAWK (ID)**: 1, mobbing a Goshawk, Friday Ridge Road, 19 Aug (TL): **COOPER'S HAWK (ID)**: reports of singles from Eureka, 3, 12 Jul (TL, CO) and Arcata, 24 Jul (FA): **GOLDEN EAGLE (EL)**: 1, Titlow Hill Road, 15 Jul (RF, BMcD): **KESTREL (IL)**: x, Boulder Lakes, Trinity Alps, 8 Aug (SL): **PEREGRINE (MS)**: 17 reports (11 from AMP) of 1-3 from Patricks Point to Garberville, 25 Jun-22 Aug (mo): **MOUNTAIN QUAIL (IL; NR)**: 1 brood, 800 feet elevation, Mail Ridge, 10 Aug (JG): **VIRGINIA RAIL (ED)**: 8 reports of 1-3 per day at AMP/AOP, HBNWR, 28 Jun; 29 Jul-20 Aug (SH, DF, JP, et al.): **AMERICAN AVOCET (NR)**: 3-4 young raised at HBNWR, 25-28 June (MW, EN); first fall migrants = 4 in high plumage, Butcher Slough, 1-2 Aug (DH, SH), this had increased to 30-35 by 15 Aug.

**GREATER YELLOWLEGS (EM)**: 6, Eureka, 1 July (PL); 40-50, Klopp Lake, 19 July (DF, JP): **LESSER YELLOWLEGS (EM)**: 1, HBNWR, 27 Jun (MW): fall birds seen from 18 Aug (3, Mad River Est, KR, VL). On 23 Aug SMcA reported ratios of 5 Lesser:1 Greater at ERWA: **WILLET (EM)**: 230 new arrivals, Klopp Lake, Butcher Slough, 24 June (SH, MV): **RED KNOT (FR)**: 1, Entrance Bight Beach, 8 July (MW): **SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER (FR)**: 6 reports of 1-3 from Lake Earl, AMP, ERWA, 25 Jul-22 Aug (mo): **WESTERN and LEAST SANDPIPERS (EM, ED)**: increasing numbers seen from 28 June onward (mo): **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER (EM, ED)**: 5 reports of 2 to 6 from Clam Beach to 10 Mile Beach, 17 Jul-21 Aug (mo): **PECTORAL SANDPIPER (EM)**: 3, HBNWR, 7 Aug (MW); 1, Lake Talawa, 22 Aug (KR, JR, AB): **DUNLIN (ID)**: 1, winter plumage, Klopp Lake, 29 June (EE); 1, mouth of Mad River, 7 July, (KR); 1, Lake Earl, 22 Aug (KR, JR, AB): **RUFF (FR)**: 1, Klopp Lake, 7 Aug (MeH); 1, narrows, Lake Earl, 10 Aug (RF, PH): **LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER (ID)**: 1, Butcher Slough, 20 Aug (SH); 5, Lake Earl, 22 Aug (KR, JR, AB): **WILSON'S PHALAROPE (EM; ED)**: 8 reports of 1-11 from Lake Earl, mouth of Klamath River, mouth of Mad River, AOP, HBNWR, ERWA, 27-28 Jun; 29 Jul-6 Aug (mo): **RED-NECKED PHALAROPE (EM)**: more than normal occurrence onshore from 24 Jul to 24 Aug, including 100-200 at AOP (mid Aug) and 1500+ at ERWA, 23 Aug (SMcA): **MEW GULL (ID)**: 1 juv., AOP, 23 Aug (DF, JP, JT): **ELEGANT TERN**: 8, n. end Woodley I., 21 Aug (DF): **MARBLD MURRELET (MS)**: 10 reports of 2 to 25 birds from Crescent City, Boyes Prairie, Trinidad, Clam Beach, Humboldt Bay, Juan Creek, 21 Jun-22 Aug (mo): **RHINOCEROS AUKLET (FR)**: 6 reports of 1 to 12 from Trinidad to Ft. Bragg. 28 Jun-12 Aug (mo): **COMMON NIGHTHAWK (MS)**: reports of singles from Onion Lake, Prairie Creek State Park, Grouse Mountain, and North Spit, 30 Jun-6 Aug (TL, KR, MM): **WILLOW FLYCATCHER (MS)**: 1, west end, Crannell Road, 25 June (KI); 1, AOP (first fall), 14 Aug (RF); 1, Allen Marsh, north edge, 17 Aug (SH); 1 (first fall), Todd Ranch, 20 Aug (TL) : **WESTERN KINGBIRD (IB)**: summer residents pigging out on grasshoppers, So. Hum. Community Park, 9-15 Aug (Woods): **BANK SWALLOW**: HBNWR, 10 Aug (DF): 1, **PURPLE MARTIN (NR)**: 4 pairs nesting under Juan Creek Bridge near Westport, 16 Jun-8 Aug (DT); 2-25 seen in snags daily, Eureka, 20 Jul-9 Aug (DW, LC); 2, Eureka, 6 Aug (MM): **DIPPER (FR)**: 1, Chezem Road x Redwood Creek, 26 Jul (FA); 1 in still wetland near Boulder Lakes, Trinity Alps, 8 Aug (SL):

**WESTERN BLUEBIRD (NR):** second nesting in boxes at Hydesville well underway by 26 June (EN). At Kneeland, 1-6 seen on 21 days in June and 1-5 seen daily in July. At least 3 young in box by 20 June. For the entire summer, a total of 20 young were fledged from 2 boxes (2 nestings per box) at Kneeland (BB, DVZ). One of the young from a first nesting appeared to be helping with the second brood at one box: 2, Garberville, 29-29 Jun (JS); 6, Grouse Mountain, 22 Jul (TL): **SWAINSON'S THRUSH (IL):** 1, Happy Camp Campground, east of Willow Creek, 22 Jul (TL): **NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD (NR):** 1 in juv. plumage, Southern Hum. Community Park, Garberville, 9 Aug (RS); 1, Arcata, 24 Jul (GB); 1, ERWA, 28 Jul (KR): **GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (NR):** 16 adults in nesting colony, So. Hum. Community Park, Garberville, 11 Jul (DW, RS); "numbers" there, 26 Jul (RS); adults carrying food there, 9 Aug (RS); 1, Kneeland 6,16, 22 Jun (BB).

*Many thanks to the following who shared observations for this report:* Without your continuing cooperation, this kind of summary would not be possible: Brian Acord, Frank Anderson, Art Barab, Gary Bloomfield, Laura and Mike Bradley, Rachael Brillbeck, Heather Brown, Barbara Burek, Matt Clinton, Eileen Cooper, David Couch, Melanie Dabill, Colin Dillingham, Marshall Iliff, Elias Elias, David Fix, Rob Fowler, John Gaffin, Melody Hamilton, John Hammond, Christy Harris, Lorie Harris, Stan Harris, Pablo Herrera, Denise and Steve Homer, Fred Hummel, John Hunter, Ken Irwin, Jeremy Kellerman, Tom Leskiw, Sharon Levy, Linda Long, Vanessa Loverti, John Mahan, Brooke MacDonald, Sean McAllister, Erica McBride, Tristan McKee, Jim Moon, Michael Morris, Eric Nelson, Chet Ogan, Sarah Ogdan, Nancy and Louis Pointer, Jude Power, Richard Ridenhour, Kerry Ross, Lee Schlesinger, Philip Smyser, Jay Sooter, Robert Sutherland, Jim Teitz, Dorothy Tobkin, Steve Tucker, Dan Van Zile, Margaret Varga, Matt Wachs, Kevin Walsh, Doug Wallace, Jared Wolfe, Summer Woods. I've had welcome reports from interior locations that are seldom covered, and while most were of expected species, even information on "normal species" helps fill in gaps in our geographic and seasonal knowledge about the interior and is most welcome. I especially thank Sharon Levy, Barbara Burek, Dan Van Zile, Doug Wallace and Robert Sutherland for these reports. Dorothy Tobkin deserves special mention for her faithful monthly reports for northern Mendocino County. My thanks to all who are willing to share their observations with us.

**Field Notes**  
**by Stan Harris**  
**21 April-22 June 2003**

Because I have to squeeze 2 months' observations into 1 report, I only have room to list the highlights of the season. We had only 1 pelagic trip this period, 4 May, out of Ft. Bragg, which turned up the usual suspects for that time of year. Weather was rain, rain, rain for the last 10 days of April and then the rain gods turned off the water and we are into what looks like another dry summer. Interesting mammals reported were a Gray Whale spy-hopping seen from the beach off Klamath River, 22 April (RN); 1-2 Steller Sea Lions at the same place and date; and an Orca seen from the tip of North Jetty 13 May (RF, JW). Our usual spring migrants arrived right on time, matching historic patterns. Nesting is well underway and we are awaiting the arrival of our first fall migrants, due in early July.

Abbreviations used: AB = Arcata Bottoms; AMP = Arcata Marsh Project; AOP = Arcata Oxidation Pond; CB = Confirmed Breeding; ED = Expected Date; EL = Expected Location; EN = Expected Numbers; ERB = Eel River Bottoms; FR = Few Records; GW = Gee Whiz Report; HBNWR = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; ID = Interesting Date; IIT = Interesting, if True; IL = Interesting Location; IN = Interesting Numbers; MRWA = Mad River Wildlife Area; mo = Many Observers; NB = North Humboldt Bay; MS = Monitored Species; NC = Not Confirmed; ND = No Description

**PACIFIC LOON (ID):** 2, Entrance Bite of Humboldt Bay, 7-12 June (MW): **PIED-BILLED GREBE (CB):** 1 adult feeding a young, HBNWR, 7 June (MW): **EARED GREBE (ID)** 1 in breeding plumage, King Salmon, 12 June (MW): **RED-NECKED GREBE (ID):** 1, North Jetty, 3 May (KR): **SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS (IIT):** a 3<sup>rd</sup> hand rumor of one off Eureka sometime during the period by the crew of the "Dandy Bill" has not been confirmed. **LAYSAN ALBATROSS (FR):** 2, offshore, Ft. Bragg, 4 May (DT): **BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSS (IL):** 2, seen from shore, just off North Spit, 9 May (DF): **GREAT EGRET (IL):** The nesting/roosting status of 25 seen up in trees east of Fay Slough Wildlife Area, 2 June remains undetermined (CB, fide JD): **AMERICAN BITTERN (EL):** 3 heard pumping at Essex Pond, 1 May (RR, DR, SH), and 1 at Copenhagen Road, 5 May (KI) were at known locations: **GREEN HERON (ED, EL):** 15 reports of 1-2 birds from Stone Lagoon, Essex Pond, Junction City, AMP, Vance Road, Woodley Island, near Fortuna, 1 May -19 June (mo): **WHITE-FACED IBIS (FR):** 2, ERB, 3 May, BK; 15, AMP/MRWA, 22 May (ST, JB): **LESSER SNOW GOOSE (ID)** 2, HBNWR, 21-30 Apr (SL, RR, PS, SH): **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (ID):** 1, ERB, 9 May (RF, JW): **BLUE-WINGED TEAL (EN, EL, ED):** 13 reports of 1-3 from AMP, AOP, HBNWR, ERB, 5 May-18 Jun (mo): **EURASIAN WIGEON (IN, ID):** 1-6 (!) reported at NB and HBNWR, 26 Apr-9 May (mo) included a count of 6 (out of only 30 total wigeon) at HBNWR on 4 May (SMcA)! **HARLEQUIN (IN, ID):** up to 13 were present constantly at Virgin Creek Beach through 22 May when males were seen in eclipse plumage (DT)

**OSPREY (IN):** DF and JP counted 11 foraging over Humboldt Bay 1 May and 7 over Eureka Channel 2 May to give an idea of size of our local population: **BALD EAGLE (EL):** 13 reports of 1-3 from Blue Lake, NB, Elk River, ERB, Alderpoint, AOP, ERWA, Piercy, 26 Apr-8 Jun (mo): **COOPER'S HAWK (FR):** 1 scolding bird at Big Hill, 1 May (MH, SH) probably represented a nesting territory. **NORTHERN GOSHAWK (FR):** single birds were reported at Grouse Mountain, 8 June (MW, PH) and Brush Mountain, 10 June: (TL): **RED-TAILED HAWK (GW):** RC reports that young were "born" into the nest in her yard at Fortuna for the 31<sup>st</sup> consecutive year! **MERLIN (ID):** 1 reported at Clam Beach, 13 May (KR) seems late: **PEREGRINE FALCON (MS)** only 9 reports received of 1-2 from Lake Talawa, Arcata, AMP, MRWA, Bayside, HBNWR, near Orleans, 1 May-18 Jun (mo): **RUFFED GROUSE (FR, EL):** 2, Hoopa Reservation, 1 May (MH, et al.); 1 drumming, Tall Trees Trail, 25 May (RF); 1, 5 miles north Orleans, 31 May (DF, JP); **COMMON MOORHEN (FR):** 1, AMP, 26 Apr-9 May (RF et al), the first record in Humboldt County since 1994.

**PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER (FR):** 2, AB, 21 Apr (KI); 4-5, mouth of Eel River, 28-30 Apr (JD, SMcA, SH, RR, PS); 1, Alexandre Dairy, 4 May (BD): **SEMIPALMATED PLOVER (IN):** 100 seen at mouth of Elk River, 29 Apr (SH, RR, PS): 2 **BLACK-NECKED STILTS** and up to 30 **AVOCETS** are summering at HBNWR, where some are nesting (mo): **SOLITARY SANDPIPER (FR):** 1, Alexandre Dairy, 2 May (AB, JG): **RUDDY TURNSTONE (ID):** 1, HBNWR, 30 May (RR, TR): **RED KNOT (FR):** 3-9, AB, mouth of Elk River, 29 Apr-10 May (KR, RF): **SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER (IIT; ND, NC):** 1, foot of I Street, Arcata, 21 Apr (KI) and 1, Butcher Slough, 6 May (PL) were both without descriptions or details or confirmation by a second party—there are only 7 previous spring reports: **LAUGHING GULL (FR):** 1 off Ft. Bragg, 4 May (RLeV, DT.), only the 7<sup>th</sup> Northcoast record: **MEW GULL (ID):** 6 at mouth of Eel River, 30 Apr (SH, RR, PS) and 1 at 10 Mile Beach, 9 May (DT) are among the latest spring records ever. Suspected reoccupation of the historic breeding site on Sand Island by **CASPIAN TERNS (UPDATE)** was confirmed for 2002 when details were received that downy young were seen there on 26 July 2002 (JM, NK): **BLACK TERN (FR):** 2, Lake Earl, 11 June (L&BB): **COMMON MURRE (IL):** “several hundred,” **Kibesillah Rock**, south of Westport, 21 Apr, apparently represents a new nesting (?) location (DT): **PIGEON GUILLEMOT (IL):** 2 at the base of South Jetty and entrance channel to South Bay, 24 May-4 Jun (MW): **MARBLED MURRELET (IL; IN):** 28, King Salmon/Entrance Bay, Humboldt Bay, 4 Jun (MW, DF).

**WHITE-WINGED DOVE (FR):** 1, Fairhaven, 31 May-1 June (SaH): **BLACK SWIFT (FR):** 2-5 reported migrating over Bayside and Eureka, 22-26 May were at expected times and places (DF, CO): **WHITE-THROATED SWIFT (FR):** 2 “nesting under the bridge,” over So. Fk, Eel River at Southern Humboldt Community Park, 20 June (DW): **CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD (FR):** 1 male, Azalea Hill, 25 Apr (LL, DL): **LEWIS’S WOODPECKER (FR):** 1, Hiouchi, 7 May (MR); 1, base of Bald Hills Road, 14 June (KI): **ACORN WOODPECKER (IL):** 1, North Spit, Humboldt Bay, 28 May (GL); 5, Shelter Cove, 20 June (KR, MW): **WILLOW FLYCATCHER (MS):** 1, Big Lagoon, 19 May (KI); 1 vic. Weaverville, 20 May (RF, BMcD); 1, Davison Road, 23 May (KI); 1, Hufford Road, 23 May (KI); 1 singing, mouth Van Duzen River, 22 Jun (PH): **MYSTERY FLYCATCHER (IIT):** a bird singing an aberrant Pacific Slope Flycatcher type call, thought to resemble the call of **CORDILLERAN FLYCATCHER** was found near the base of Bald Hills Road, 11-13 June (KI, RF). Given the extreme difficulty of separating this from the Pacific Slope Flycatcher, the variability of the calls of both species, and the fact that we are so far removed from the normal breeding range of the Cordilleran Flycatcher, any such reports must be viewed with skepticism. It would be really nice if someone could come up with a fool-proof way to separate them.: **GRAY FLYCATCHER (FR):** 2, Orleans Bar, 21 April (BCI); 1, near Alderpoint, 27 Apr (DF, JT, et al.); 1, Junction City, 2 May (RR, DR, SH); 1, 5 miles north of Red Mountain Creek, 7 May (TL); 1, Orleans Bar, 10 May (KS): **CASSIN’S KINGBIRD (IIT, NC):** 1 in the top of a spruce tree, Patricks Point State Park, 13 May (KI) certainly was out of habitat but the brief phone description given seems plausible; this would be only the 4<sup>th</sup> Northcoast record! **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE (FR):** 1, King Salmon, 3 May, (MW) 1, ERB, 5 May (KI).

**YELLOW-THROATED VIREO (FR, GW):** 1 trapped, banded, photographed, Lanphere Dunes, 7 June (KH, et al.), present nearby at least until 12 June (CJR); this is only the 5<sup>th</sup> Northcoast record: **RED-EYED VIREO (FR):** 1, near Orick, 6-11 June (KI, DF): **BANK SWALLOW (FR):** 1, AMP, 3 May, (JT, et al.): **OAK TITMOUSE (FR):** 1, Alderpoint, 27 Apr (JT): **BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (FR):** 1, Orleans Bar, 21 Apr (BCI); 1, Freshwater, 28 Apr (RH); 1, near Alderpoint, 27 Apr (DF, JT, et al); 1 pair, 5 miles north of Red Mountain Creek, 7 May (TL): **TOWNSEND’S SOLITAIRE (IL):** 1, Coast Guard Cypress, North Spit, 4 June (MW): **NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD (FR):** 1, King Salmon, 4 June (MW); 1, Eureka, 1-7 May (DH): **SAGE THRASHER (FR):** 1, near Orleans, 8 May (KS): **CALIFORNIA THRASHER (FR):** 1 reported along Redwood Creek at edge of a meadow, 21 May (BA) seems out of habitat and range; 1 singing and seen, 6 miles up Kings Peak Road, then 4 miles up Saddle Mountain Road, southern Humboldt County and 1 singing by the store at Shelter Cove, both 20 June (KR, MW) were in known locations: **GRAY CATBIRD (FR):** 1, mouth of Redwood Creek, 13 June (KI, KR, MW); this is only the 4<sup>th</sup> Northcoast record: **NORTHERN PARULA (FR):** 1, Big Lagoon, 11 May (KI); 1, Pound

Road, south Eureka, 27 May (DF); 1, Trinidad, 3 June (KI); 1, Enderts Beach Road, 14 June (AB); 1, Bald Hills Road x 101, 15 June (BF): **CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (FR)**: 1, Fernbridge, 8 June (KR): **BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER (FR)**: 1, Patricks Point Drive, 18 June (KI): **BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER (FR)**: 1 singing, near mouth of Klamath River, 15-17 June (BF, KI): **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (FR)**: 1, Scenic Drive, 18 June (KI): **PALM WARBLER (ID)**: 1-2, BSLP, 22 Apr-9 May (DC, BC, ST, MW, RR): **BAY-BREASTED WARBLER (FR)**: 1 singing, Patricks Point State Park, 9 June (KI): **BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER (FR)**: 1, King Salmon, 30 May (MW); 1, Bald Hills Road, 19 June (KI); 1, mouth of Van Duzen River, 22 June (PH): **AMERICAN REDSTART (FR)**: 1, Manila, 8 June (KI); 1, Bayshore Mall, 12 June (TL); 1, 1 mile south of the mouth of Klamath River, 17 June (KI); 1, Davison Road, 19 June (KI): **OVENBIRD (FR)**: 1, Branscomb Mountain Road, 22 June (RRo, JC, SS, GF); **CALIFORNIA TOWHEE (IL)**: 1, Blue Lake Bottoms, 1 May (RR, DR); 1, Arcata, 12 May (JT); 1, Fortuna where they are a regular breeder, 16 May (RC); 1, Cooper Gulch, Eureka, 24-25 May (CO); 1, McKinleyville, 25 May (RLV); 2 singing, Hatchery Road, 25 May (KI): **RUFOUS-CROWNED SPARROW (FR, EL)**: 1, south end, Cain Rock Trestle, 27 Apr (DF, et al.): **VESPER SPARROW (FR)**: 2, AB, 5 May (KI); 1, Kneeland, 7 June (BB): **GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (FR)**: 5, Bear River Ridge, 7 June (CO); 2, Southern Humboldt Community Park, 20 June (DW): **WHITE-THROATED SPARROW (ID)**: the last of the wintering birds lingered at a feeder in Sunny Brae until 2 June (SH): **ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (FR)**: 1 male, Willow Creek, 14 May (JM); 1, Patricks Point State Park, 19 May (KI); 1 female, Hilfiker Unit, Elk River Wildlife Area, 27 May (DF); 1, near Orick, 6 June (KI); 1, Crescent City, 7-8 June (JG): **INDIGO BUNTING (FR)**: 1, Fountain Ranch, near Salyer, 19-25 May (RF, BMcD, JH); 1 near Crescent City, 10 June (AB, JG); 1, AOP trail, 11 June (DF): **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (FR)**: 1, Alexandre Dairy, 26 Apr (AB): **COMMON GRACKLE (FR)**: 1 male displaying, Smith River Bottoms 22 Apr-11 May (AB, et al.); 1 male displaying, Crescent City, 22 Apr-4 May (AB et al) These are only the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> records for the Northcoast, all but 1 in Del Norte County! **HOODED ORIOLE (FR)**: 1 pair, vic. 14<sup>th</sup> x I street, Arcata, 26 May-1 June (KS, DF, BMcD); 1 pair, north of Manila, 28 May (KR, MR):

Many thanks to the following who submitted reports or made observations this period. Please keep the reports coming: Brian Acord, Frank Anderson, Jan Andersen, Art Barab, Alan Barron, Charles Bartolotta, Larry and Betty Bebee, Jeff Black, Gary Bloomfield, Helen Brown, Barbara Burek, Christine Cahill, Dennis Cahill, Tracy Campbell, Bryon Cariss, Bob Claypole, Don Cook, Jim Cotton, Ruth Crane, Jeff Dayton, Bruce Deuel, Elias Elias, Barry Sauppe, David Fix, Rob Fowler, Fred (sorry Fred, I couldn't make out the rest of your name from the observation sheet), Gary Friedrichsen, Brad Freeman, Jeremy Froland, Joe Gartland, Rebecca Green, Melody Hamilton, Stan Harris, Sandy Haux, Bernice Hensell, Pablo Herrera, Rob Hewitt, Mark Higley, Kim Hollinger, Denise Homer, John Hunter, Ken Irwin, Neil Kalson, Barbara Kanann, Dick Laursen, Sue Leskiw, Tom Leskiw, Dana Lester, Gary Lester, Lauren Lester, Ron LeValley, Steve Lewis, John Mason, Brooke MacDonald, Sean McAllister, Jerry McCollum, Kate McKay, Tristan McKee, John Mello, Mark Morrisette, Stephanie Morrisette, Russ Namitz, J. Nusbery (sp.?), Chet Ogan, Jude Power, C. J. Ralph, Don Ridenhour, Richard Ridenhour, Terry Ridenhour, Richard Rowlett, Kerry Ross, Megan Ross, Martha Roy, Cecila Seccor, Jay Seegar, Scott Sinclair, Keith Slauson, Bruce Slocum, Phil Smyson (sp?), Paul Springer, Peter Starr, Roy Sunstrom, Jim Tietz, Dorothy "Toby" Tobkin, Steve Tucker, Dan Van Zile, Margaret Varga, Matt Wachs, Doug Wallace, Don Watenbarger, Jim Welsh, Jared Wolfe, Christine Woods, Summer Woods, Marcus Ziehm. Please send future reports to me at 1595 Charles Ct., Arcata, Calif, 95521, call them to me at (707) 822-3802, or to the Arcata Bird Box at (707) 822-5666 or write them on the bird observation sheet at the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary Interpretive Center.

**Field Notes**  
**by Stan Harris**  
**21 March-20 April 2003**

Generally nice weather interspersed with **RAIN**. Aleutian Goose Days at the beginning of the period and Godwit Days at the end of the period, some highlights from those trips included. Pelagic trips were conducted for Godwit Days on 19 and 20 April and for the H.S.U. Ornithology Class on 19 April, details below: This period was marked by the expected arrivals of spring migrants and breeders and the gradual departure of wintering birds, some of which still lingered through the end of the period. Abbreviations used: **AB** = Arcata Bottoms, **AMP** = Arcata Marsh Project; **AOP** = Arcata Oxidation Pond; **BSLP** = Butcher Slough Log Pond; **EE** = Expected Event; **EL** = Expected Location; **EM** = Expected Migrant; **EN** = Expected Numbers; **FR** = Few Records; **GW** = Gee Whiz report; **HBNWR** = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; **ID** = Interesting Date; **IL** = Interesting Location; **IN** = Interesting Numbers; **MS** = Monitored Species, **NC** = Not Confirmed; **ND** = No Details; **SRB** = Smith River Bottoms.

**Notable mammals reported:** **Gray Whale:** 1, North Jetty, 29 Mar (MW); 1 North Jetty, 19 Apr (JLy, et al.); 1, Eureka Channel at Coast Guard Station, 19 Apr (JLy, et al.); **Hump-backed Whale:** 1, northwest of Humboldt Bay, 19 Apr (TMcK, et al.); **Dall's Porpoise:** 3 groups reported offshore, 19 April (TMcK, et al., JLy et al.).

**BIRDS:** **Red-necked Grebe (FR, ID):** 3, seen from South Jetty, 20 Apr (RLV, et al.); **Short-tailed Albatross (GW):** Only the 3<sup>rd</sup> ever record for the northcoast, an immature "with a big pink bill" was reported 21.5 miles west of Table Bluff, 6 Apr (TP, fide EE), very likely the same bird reported last month off the Humboldt/Del Norte County line; **Laysan Albatross (FR):** 1, northwest of Humboldt Bay, 19 Apr (TMcK, et al.); 1, 22 miles west of Table Bluff, 19 Apr (JLy, SH, et al.), almost certainly 2 different birds; **Black-footed Albatross (EL):** Up to 20 at bait stations beyond 8 miles from shore, 19 Apr (JLy, SH, TMcK, et al.); **Northern Fulmar (IN):** Only 12 in scattered groups of 1-6, off Table Bluff, 9-23 miles, 19 Apr (JLy, SH, et al.); **Pink-footed Shearwater (EN):** Only 2 to 4 seen all day off Table Bluff, 18-22 miles (JLy, SH, et al.); **Short-tailed Shearwater (NC, ND):** 2 reported northwest of Humboldt Bay, 19 Apr (TMcK, et al.); **Brown Pelican (ID):** 1, North Jetty, 29 Mar (MW); 15, fly past Dry Lagoon, 15 Apr (GB); 1, Off-Trinidad Rock, 18 Apr (DF, JP); 1, Humboldt Bay, 19 Apr (SH, et al.); **American Bittern (FR):** 1, BSLP, 11 Apr (PL); 1, near Ferndale, 13 Apr (JW, et al.); 1, Dry Lagoon, 15 Apr (GB); 2, near Loleta, 20 Apr (RLV et al.); **Green Heron (FR):** 1, BSLP, 11 Apr (PL); 1, AOP, 2 Apr (DH); 1, Hookton Road (sitting in top of a tree!), 20 Apr (RLV, et al.).

**White-fronted Goose (FR):** 1, SRB, 23 Mar (RH); 3-12, V.St. Loop, 12-13 Apr (FA, DF); 1, SRB, 12 Apr (KR); **Snow Goose (FR):** 2, HBNWR, 17 Apr (DF); **Ross's Goose (FR):** 1, SRB, 12 Apr (KR); **Western Canada Goose (EE):** new broods seen since 4 Apr (SH, et al.); **Aleutian Canada Goose (EM):** Numbers at Castle Rock declined from 9650 on 11 Apr to 1215 on 19 Apr (KR); **Brant:** 1 light bird reported on South Humboldt Bay, 13 Apr, may have been a partial albino from the description given (JW, et al.); **Wood Duck (IN):** up to 17 at AOP (17 Apr, MW), throughout period (mo); 5, near Smith River, 12 Apr (KR); **Gadwall (IN):** 150, Hookton Overflow Pond, 13 Apr (DF, JP et al.); **Eurasian Wigeon (FR):** 10 reports of 1 to 3 from near Crescent City, AB, North Humboldt Bay, HBNWR, 25 Mar-20 Apr (mo); **Mallard (EE):** first brood reported for the season, AMP, 10 Apr (DF); **Blue-winged Teal (FR):** 2, near Loleta, 13 Apr (JW, et al.); 1 pair, Lake Earl, 12 Apr (KR); 1 pair, AB, 20 Apr (JW, et al.); **Northern Shoveler (IN):** besides the usual 75 to 150 at AOP, the concentration of 2000 at HBNWR, 25 Mar had declined to 300 by 19 Apr (DF); **Northern Pintail (IN):** 600, HBNWR, 25 Mar (DF); 200+, North Humboldt Bay, 29 Mar (SH); **Eurasian Green-winged Teal (FR):** 1 Allen Marsh, 11, 15 Apr (ST, SH); 1 intergrade, BSLP, 12 Apr (JW); **Harlequin (FR) (UPDATE):** 6-8, Virgin Creek Beach, 22 Feb-2 Mar, (DT); 1, Fields Landing, 2 Apr (KR); **Black Scoter (FR):** 1, off South Jetty, 20 Apr (RLV, et al.); **White-winged Scoter (MS):** 14, North Jetty, 29 Mar (MW); 1, Wedding Rock, 8 Apr (JW); 4, North Jetty, JL, SH, et al.); **Long-tailed Duck (FR):** 2, Crescent City

Harbor, 22 Mar (fide, RH); 1, Lewiston Lake, 31 Mar (RF, BMcD); 1, Smith River, 3-18 Apr (KR); 1, mouth, Klamath River, 6-15 Apr (RF, et al.): **Hooded Merganser (FR)**: 1, near Crescent City, 22 Mar (fide RH); 4, Clam Beach Ponds, 31 Mar (KR); 1, near Ferndale, 13 Apr (JW).

**Bald Eagle (MS)**: 12 reports of 1 to 3 from Smith River, Trinidad Head, Blue Lake, Fay Slough, North Bay, Todd Ranch, HBNWR, 22 Mar-19 Apr (mo): **Ferruginous Hawk (ID)**: 1, AB, 24 Mar (RS), 1, AB, 1 Apr (DF): **Golden Eagle (EL)**: 1, So. Fk. Trinity R., 18-19 Apr (GOB); 1, Chezem Road, 18 Apr (GOB): **Merlin (MS)**: 6 reports of 1-2 from AB, AMP, HBNWR, 28 Mar-19 Apr (mo): **Peregrine Falcon (MS)**: 13 reports of singles from Prince Island, Trinidad, AB, AMP, North Hum. Bay, Blue Lake, King Salmon, HBNWR, 23 Mar-20 Apr (mo): **Prairie Falcon (FR)**: 1, Bald Hills near Schoolhouse Peak, 30 Mar (MB): **Blue Grouse (EL)**: 1, Double A Ranch, 17 Apr (TL); 1, Titlow Hill Road, 19 Apr (GOB).

**Snowy Plover (MS)**: 6, Clam Beach, 31 Mar (KR): **Semipalmated Plover (IN)**: 84, Clam Beach, 31 Mar (KR): **Avocet (IN)**: 40, HBNWR, 19 Apr (DF): **Lesser Yellowlegs**: 1-2, AB, 12-20 Apr (FA, DF, JW); 1, near Ferndale, 13 Apr (JW, et al.); 2, HBNWR, 19-20 Apr (DF, RLV, et al.): **Ruddy Turnstone (ID)**: 1, Elk Head, 20 Apr (PH): **Red Knot (EN)**: 6, Klopp Lake, 9 Apr (PL); 1, Klopp L., 17 Apr (DF); 1 Cock Robin Island, 20 Apr (CO, et al.): **Rock Sandpiper (FR) (UPDATE)**: 1-3, Laguna Pt, 22 Feb-21 Mar (DT); 2, North Jetty, 31 Mar (DF, JP); 1, North Jetty, 5 Apr (JW); 2, South Jetty, 13 Apr (JW): **Heermann's Gull (ID) (UPDATE)**: 2 adults (breeding plumage), Laguna Point, 26 Feb (DT); 1, Woodley Island, 17 Apr (RF), 2, Eureka Channel, 19 Apr (SH): **Thayer's Gull (FR)**: 1, mouth Mad River, 19 Apr (RN): **Glaucous Gull (FR)**: 4 reports of first year birds from Laguna Point, Fernbridge, Crescent City Harbor, Trinidad, 17 Mar, 5, 6 Apr (DT, SMcA, GB, DF): **Black-legged Kittiwake**: 11, North Jetty, 29 Mar (MW); 150, mouth Klamath R., 6 Apr (RF); 6, Elk Head, 19 Apr (MW); 2 imm., 20 miles off Table Bluff, 19 Apr (SH, et al.): **Caspian Tern (IN)**: 35, east island, Klopp Lake, 17 Apr (DF, DP): **Pigeon Guillemot (ID)**: 40, Trinidad Harbor, 24 Mar (DF): **Marbled Murrelet (FR) (UPDATE)**: 6, Laguna Pt., 6 Mar (DT); 1, North Jetty, 29 Mar (MW), 4, Humboldt Bay Entrance and vic., 19 Apr (JL, SH, et al.); 4, Luffenholtz Cove, 20 Apr (RLV): **Ancient Murrelet (FR)**: 2, nw. of Humboldt Bay, 19 Apr (TMcK, et al.): **Tufted Puffin (MS)**: 8, Castle Rock, 19 Apr (AB).

**Barred Owl (FR)**: 1, Walker Road, 22 Mar (RH); 1 pair, Boyes Prairie, 14 Apr (DF, et al.): **Vaux's Swift (EM)**: 1, Arcata, 4 Apr (BC); 1, Bayside, 11 Apr (DF): **Calliope Hummingbird (FR)**: 1, Kneeland, 14 Apr (BB); 1, S. Brae, 19 Apr (KK, GF): **Pacific Slope Flycatcher (EM)**: 1, Arcata, 8 Apr (RF): **Say's Phoebe (FR)**: 1, Eureka, 25-26 Mar (GL): **Western Kingbird (EM)**: 1, Alexandre Dairy, 11-12 Apr (KR): **Loggerhead Shrike (FR)**: 1, AOP, 3 Apr (MW); 1, Crescent City, 11 Apr (KR, AB): **Warbling Vireo (EM)**: x, Shay Park, 21 Mar (FA): **Purple Martin (EM)**: 1, Arcata, 5 Apr (BC): **Rough-winged Swallow (EM)**: 1, AMP, 30 Mar (DF): **Cassin's Vireo (EM)**: x, Todd Ranch, 16 Apr (TL): **Dipper (FR)**: 1, Lost Man Creek, 15, 19 Apr (GB, DF): **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (FR)**: 1, Blue Lake Riparian, 20 Apr (J & MM): **Townsend's Solitaire (EL)**: 1 singing, near Swim Ridge, 17 Apr (TL): **Palm Warbler (IN)**: 8 reports representing 4 birds from Crescent City (1), HBNWR (1) and AMP (2), 31 Mar-19 Apr (mo): **Wilson's Warbler (EM)**: x, Eureka, 8 Apr (PL): **Common Yellowthroat (EM)**: 6 reports of 1 to 6 from SRB, AMP, Redwood Creek, HBNWR, 11-18 Apr (mo): **California Towhee (IL)**: 1, Redwood Creek, 19 Apr (FA): **Chipping Sparrow (EM)**: 1, Eureka, 10 Apr (PH); 4, Todd Ranch, 16 Apr (TL): **Vesper Sparrow (FR)**: 1, Lake Earl, 30 Mar (KR): **Swamp Sparrow (FR, ID)**: 1, AMP, 8 Apr (RF); 2, AMP, 18 Apr (TMcK et al.): **Slate-colored Junco (FR)**: 1, Cummings Road, Eureka, 31 Mar (TL): **Black-headed Grosbeak (EM)**: 1, south Arcata, 5 Apr (fide EE): **Common Grackle (FR)**: 1, Smith River Bottoms, 26 Mar-19 Apr (KR, AB, et al.); 1, Crescent City, 8-19 Apr (AB, et al.): **Red Crossbill (EL)**: 4 reports of up to 30, 29 Mar-19 Apr from Boye's Prairie, Patrick's Point State Park, and Cummings Road, 29 Mar-19 Apr (TL, DF): **Evening Grosbeak (EM)**: 4-5, Azalea Hill, 18-19 Apr (GL, et al.).

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**Field Notes**  
**by Stan Harris**  
**28 February-23 March 2003**

**A rather quiet month, reasonable weather most of the time. Many thanks to David Fix for writing up last month's column in my absence. My trip to Costa Rica was a success. Thanks Dave.** Abbreviations used: AB = Arcata Bottoms, AMP = Arcata Marsh Project; AOP = Arcata Oxidation Pond; CCH = Crescent City Harbor; EB = Expected Behavior; EL = Expected Locations; EM = Expected Migrant; EN = Expected Numbers; FR = Few Records; GW = Gee Whiz Report; HBNWR = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; ID = Interesting Date; IIT = Interesting, if true, mo = Many Observers; MS = Monitored Species; NC = Not Confirmed by a second party; SRB = Smith River Bottoms.

**Red-necked Grebe (EL, EN):** 1, CCH, 9 Mar (RF); 3-4, King Salmon/Fields Landing, 15 Mar (JT, SH, et al.): **Short-tailed Albatross (GW!):** 1 all dark bird "with a BIG PINK BILL" reported about 29 miles west of the Humboldt/ Del Norte County line, 6 Mar JB, thanks to JM, PS, EE for calling attention to this report (good phone description, only the second ever Northcoast record for this species, the first was off Eel River in March of 2002): **Laysan Albatross (FR):** 1, about 31 miles west of the Humboldt/Del Norte County line, 18 Mar (JB): **Brandt's Cormorant (EM):** 2, Trinidad Harbor, 15 Mar (MH): **Great Blue Heron (EB):** About 35 near or at the Table Bluff nesting rookery, 9 Mar (LC, DW): **Green Heron (FR):** 1, Eureka, 3 Mar (MM): **White-fronted Goose (FR):** 1, near Crescent City, 2 Mar (KR); 1, SRB, 16 Mar (KR); 1, with Aleutian Canada Geese, AB, 5 Mar (PS); 6 to 8, AB, 9, 18 Mar (MM, RH): **Ross's Goose (FR):** 2, HBNWR, 8 Mar (RH): **Aleutian Canada Goose (EM):** 14 reports of flocks of 104 to 20,000 from SRB, Castle Rock, AB, HBNWR, Eel River Bottoms, and flying south past Wedding Rock and McKinleyville OP, 28 Feb-20 Mar (mo): **Cackling Canada Goose (FR):** 4, near Crescent City, 2 Mar (KR): **Tundra Swan (EM):** Only a few reports, local population seems to be down this winter; 2 flew past North Humboldt Bay, 25 Feb (PL); flocks of 25 and 70 flew north past Arcata, 28 Feb (JT); 170, Meridian Road near Ferndale, 3 Mar (CW); 20-30, HBNWR, 15 Mar (SH, et al.); 5, Alexandre Dairy, SRB, 16 Mar (KR): **Wood Duck (EL):** 1-10+ have begun to use the AOP throughout the period, a regular spring pattern the past few years: **Eurasian Wigeon (FR):** 1-2, HBNWR, 8, 17 Mar (RH, ST); 1, SRB, 16 Mar (KR): **Eurasian x Green-winged Teal (intergrades)(FR):** 1, Butcher Slough, 11 Mar (JW); 1, HBNWR, 17 Mar (ST): **Canvasback (FR) :** 1 female, Klopp Lake, 12 Mar (JW): **Harlequin (FR):** 1-2, King Salmon/Fields Landing, 7, 15 Mar (MW, JT, SH, et al.); 1, CCH, 8 Mar (RF, BMcD): **Black Scoter (FR):** 1 male, South Humboldt Bay, 7 Mar (MW): **Common Goldeneye (FR):** 1, Smith River, 6 Mar (KR).

**Osprey (EM):** 1, Arcata, 4 Mar (EE,FH); 2, AMP/AOP, 8 Mar (JT): **Bald Eagle (MS):** 10 reports of 1 to 3 from SRB, vic Klamath, Arcata, 101x Indianola Road, HBNWR, Meyers Flat, 21Feb-16 Mar (mo): **Ferruginous Hawk (FR):** 1, vic Crescent City, 16 Mar (KR): **Rough-legged Hawk (FR):** 1, SRB, 5-9 Mar (PS, RF): **Merlin (FR):** 1, King Salmon, 15 Mar (SH, JT, et al.); 1, HBNWR, 17 Mar (ST); 1, AMP, 5,23 Mar (JW,BC): **Peregrine (MS):** 7 reports of 1 or 2 from Prince Island, Smith River, AMP, HBNWR, 28 Feb-17 Mar (mo): **Ruffed Grouse (FR, EL):** 2, milepost 7 north of Somes Bar, Highway 96, Siskiyou Co., 12 Mar (GC): **Snowy Plover (MS):** 5, north end, Clam Beach, 10 Mar, no bands (MW): **Lesser Yellowlegs (EM):** 1, AB, 18 Mar (RH): **Ruddy Turnstone (EL):** 4, Fields Landing, 15 Mar (SH, JT, et al.); 3, Trinidad, 15 Mar (MH); 4, CCH, 16 Mar (KR): **Red Knot (FR):** 1-3, Klopp Lake, 26 Feb, 4 Mar (PL, RF, JW); 4, Bay flat west I St. Park Lot, Arcata, 8 Mar (PeS): **Rock Sandpiper (EL):** 1, North Jetty, 1, 6 Mar (MW): **Ruff (FR, ID):** 1 male, HBNWR, 17 Mar (ST): **Pomarine Jaeger (FR):** 1, mouth Mad River, 28 Feb (KR): **Thayer's Gull (FR):** 1, Eureka, 4 Mar (RF); 1 (first year), AMP, 8 Mar (JT): **Herring Gull (IL):** 1 (first year), AMP, 8 Mar (JT): **Glaucous Gull (FR):** 1, mouth of Elk Creek, CCH, 24 Mar (RH); 1, McKinleyville OP, 28 Feb (KR): **Black-legged Kittiwake (IN):** 10 reports of 1 to 100+ from CCH, mouth of Klamath River, mouth of Mad River, North Jetty, King Salmon, 28 Feb-14 Mar represents many more reports than in normal winters; some birds were reported on nearly every visit to proper habitats in this period (mo): **Red-**

**legged Kittiwake (IT, GW, NC):** 1, with BLK, studied, described, ID based on red legs and short yellow bill, mouth Klamath River, 9 Mar (RF, BMCD), not found by many observers the next day: **Caspian Tern (EM):** 5, Klopp Lake, 26 Feb (PL): **Forster's Tern (EL):** 5-30, AOP/AMP, 3-17 Mar (SH); 11-15, King Salmon, 13-14 Mar (MW): **Marbled Murrelet (FR):** 6, North Jetty, 1 Mar (MW): **Mourning Dove (IN):** 40, SRB (Goodwins Pond), 5 Mar (PS): **Pileated Woodpecker (FR):** 1, Arcata, 4 Mar (RF); 2, Bayside, 8 Mar (PC, DC); 1, Eureka, 16 Mar (TL): **Gray Jay (IL):** 'several,' north of Trinity Village, 11 Mar (GC): **Raven (IN):** 44 together, McKinleyville OP, 14 Mar (KR): **Black-capped Chickadee (EL):** x, Shay Park, 21 Mar (FA); 2, BSLP, 15 Mar (MeH): **Mountain Chickadee (IL):** 1, BSLP, 23 Mar (AB): **Mountain Bluebird (FR):** 1, SRB, 16 Mar (RT, AB, KR): **American Pipit (IP):** 1 with dull pink legs, Mad River Wildlife Area, 6 Mar (MW): **Cedar Waxwing (EM):** 30-40, Sunny Brae, 10 Mar (SH); 14, Arcata, 12 Mar (GB): **Palm Warbler (EM):** 1, BSLP, 15 Mar (MeH): **"Eastern" (Rusty) Fox Sparrow (FR):** 1 continues at Sunny Brae feeder, seen daily throughout period (SH): **White-throated Sparrow (EM):** 1-4+, seen daily throughout period at Sunny Brae feeder (SH); 1, McKinleyville, 28 Feb (KR): **Black-headed Grosbeak (EM):** 1 male, near Trinidad, 20 Mar (MH): **Red Crossbill (EL):** 4, east of McKinleyville, 11-18 Mar (HW).

OBSERVERS: Many thanks to the following who submitted reports this month: Frank Anderson, Art Barab, Alan Barron, Jared Byrant, George Burtchett, Dennis and Pam Cahill, Bryon Cariss, Lena Carro, George Chaniot, Elias Elias, Rob Fowler, Rosalie Freixas, John Gaffin, Sam Giannandrea, Melody Hamilton, Stan Harris, Rob Hewitt, Fred Hummel, John Hunter, Ken Irwin, Barbara Kannan, Tom Leskiw, Carla Leopardo, Paul Lohse, John Mahan, Brooke McDonald, Mary Meyers, Eric Nelson, Jane Patrick, Kerry Ross, Paul Springer, Pete Spruance, Richard Tryon, Jamie Thompson, Jim Tietz, Steve Tucker, Margaret Varga, Catharine Walling, Don Wattenbarger, Jared Wolf, Matt Wachs, Hal Work.

**Field Notes**  
**by Stan Harris**  
**13 January-26 February 2003**

Following the intense rainfall earlier in the season, January and February were cool and rather dry. Wintering raptors and waterfowl are still in the region in high numbers. Aleutian Canada Geese appeared in abundance by February, staging in dairy pastures. Bald Eagle reports indicated 2-3 around s.e. Humboldt Bay and (were some eagles the same?) near Arcata. Again this winter, a few remarkably unseasonal Barn Swallows were encountered. Few semi-hardy wintering songbirds have been reported. I thank Stan Harris for the opportunity to compile our sightings in his absence. A correction to the last Sandpiper: The warbler found dead at Hydesville 17 June 2002, originally believed to be a Mourning Warbler, was reidentified at the time of specimen preparation as a MacGillivray's.

Abbreviations: AB- Arcata Bottoms; AMP- Arcata Marsh Project; AOP- Arcata oxidation ponds; BSLP- Butcher Slough logpond at the AMP; CR- College of the Redwoods; ERWA- Eel R. Wildlife Area; HBNWR- Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; LEWA- Lake Earl Wildlife Area and vic., Del Norte Co.; MKSP- MacKerricher State Park, Mendocino Co.; MRSWA- Mad R. Slough Wildlife Area; m.ob.- many observers; NJHB- north jetty Humboldt Bay; m.- male, f.- female.

**Birds Start Here**

RED-NECKED GREBE: 1, Hookton Slough, 12 Jan (JP, DF); 2, King Salmon, 17 Jan (RF); 1, North Bay, 29 Jan (ST); CLARK'S GREBE: 1, Butcher Slough, 21 Jan (PL) and on adjacent Klopp L., 25 Jan (KR); 1, Bracut, 11 Feb (DF); BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSS: 1, offshore Eureka, 8 Feb (HG); LAYSAN ALBATROSS: 1, offshore Eureka, 8 Feb (HG); NORTHERN FULMAR: 15/hr., n. Mendocino Co. coast, 22 Jan, with small numbers all through Feb (DT); 1, Wedding Rock, 2 Feb (RF, JW); 4, offshore Eureka, 8 Feb (HG); 4-5, off NJHB, 14 Feb (MW); SOOTY SHEARWATER: 1, Wedding Rock, 2 Feb (RF, JW); 15, offshore Eureka, 8 Feb (HG); 14, off Mad R. mouth, 18 Feb (KR); 25, off NJHB, 14 Feb (MW); SOOTY/SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER: 85, off Mad R. mouth, 18 Feb (KR); SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER: 1, following boat off Clam Beach, 24 Feb (BD); MOTTLED PETREL: 1, seen to fly in and crash-land on South Spit; died later and specimen is at HSU (fide SH).

BROWN PELICAN: all of diminishing numbers present well into Jan throughout Humboldt Bay (m.ob.) had appeared to depart by early Feb.; small numbers present along n. Mendocino Co. coast to 8 Feb (DT); AMERICAN BITTERN: 1, MRSWA, 26 Jan (JH); GREAT BLUE HERON: had appeared at Table Bluff herony by 28 Jan (AT, SM); CATTLE EGRET: 1, in night-heron roost at BSLP, 21 Jan (PL) and probably the same bird in AB, 26 Jan (KR); GREEN HERON: 1, AOP, 21-23 Jan (JW, RF); 1, AMP, 17 Feb (MS). GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: 2, HBNWR, 17 Jan (RF); 2, LEWA, 6&9 Feb (KR); 1, Fort Bragg, 14 Feb (DT); 1, AB, 9-20 Feb (RLeV, DF, m.ob.); SNOW GOOSE: 2, HBNWR, 17 Jan (RF); 1, AB, 26 Jan (KR); SNOW/ROSS'S GOOSE: 2, HBNWR, 28 Jan (KR); ROSS'S GOOSE: 1, Copenhagen Rd., 17 Jan (RF); 6-10, AB, 2-17 Feb (RF, m.ob., Humboldt record number--10 on 10 Feb, RLeV, county record—'six and three in different fields and one single'); 3, AB, 20-22 Feb (DF, JP).

**It's a dead goose**

EMPEROR GOOSE: 1, shot during Brant season (thus 11-9 to 12-10), s. Humboldt Bay, specimen privately held (fide SP); BRANT: 30, just off Klopp L., 11 Feb (DF); TUNDRA SWAN: scarcer by a magnitude all season, with 40-50, Eel R. Bottoms, 15 Jan (SH) the high count; 16-35, AB, 26 Jan-17 Feb (KR, ST, FA) were in an area where not annually seen; ALEUTIAN CANADA GOOSE: Migration was revealed by counts in the AB of 700, 12 Jan (PS); 1275, 26 Jan (KR); 5000+, 7 Feb (DF); and 3000, 22-23 Feb (DF, BD). In addition, 115 flying S opposite Mad R. mouth, 18 Feb (KR) and 500+ doing so opposite Patricks Pt., 25 Feb (KI) may have been birds responding to intense hazing by dairymen in the Fort Dick-Smith River area. CACKLING CANADA GOOSE: 10, AB, 12 Jan (PS); 3, AB, 13 Jan (KR); 2, AB, 6 Feb (ST).

WOOD DUCK: 20-25, Clam Beach ponds, 24 Jan (KR); EUR. GREEN-WINGED TEAL: 1 m., BSLP, 23 Jan-22 Feb (JW, SC, m.ob.); 1 m., Hiller Park, McKinleyville, 18 Feb (KR); EUR. X AM. GREEN-WINGED TEAL: 1 m., AMP, 17 Jan-14 Feb (JW, SN, JW, SH, DF); BLUE-WINGED TEAL: 2-3, BSLP, 20-26 Jan (PL, JW, SH); EURASIAN WIGEON (all m.): 1, HBNWR, 17 Jan (RF); 1-2, 'V St. Loop', s. AB, Jan-Feb (m.ob.); 4, HBNWR, 2 Feb (PH, RH); 1, LEWA, 6 Feb (KR); 1, AMP, 6 Feb (ST); and 1, Hookton Slough, 9 Feb (DW, DF, JP, RF, m.ob.); CANVASBACK: 200-300, LEWA, 15 Jan (aerial, SH); 1 m., Klopp L., 28 Jan (FA); HARLEQUIN DUCK: 8, Glass Beach, to 22 Jan (DT); 1, Fields Landing, 27 Jan-10 Feb (MW); 1, NJHB, 14 Feb (MW); 2, Crescent City harbor, 16 Feb (KR); 8, Virgin Ck. Beach, 18 Feb (DT); BLACK SCOTER: 6, Fort Bragg, to 22 Jan (DT); SURF SCOTER: ~9000, Cape Mendocino to s. Crescent City, 15 Jan (aerial, SH); HOODED MERGANSER: pr., near Somes Bar, 30 Jan (AW); 5, mouth Smith R., 9 Feb (KR); 6, n. end MRSWA, 9 Feb (SC); 5, n. end MRSWA, 10 Feb (RF).

OSPREY: 1, North Bay, early Jan-10 Feb (DF, JP); 1, AMP, 7 Feb (FA, MA); 1, ERWA, 9 Feb (RF).

#### **More and more eagles**

BALD EAGLE: Fourteen reports of 1-4 birds from Humboldt Bay to Smith River, summed as: 1 ad., outer Eel R. Bottoms, 15 Jan (SH); 1-2 ad. and imm., s.e. South Bay, 12 Jan-5 Feb (m.ob.); detailed below; 1 imm., Tall Trees trail, 20 Jan (GL); 2 imms., Elk Head, 21 Jan (KR); 2 ads., , Blue Lake, 23 Jan (MM); 1 ad., Smith R. Bottoms, 15 Jan (SH); 2 ads., 1 imm., LEWA, 6&16 Feb (KR); and 2 ad., 2-3 imms., Arcata area, 6-10 Feb (DJ, m.ob.); FERRUGINOUS HAWK: 1, Fernbridge, 21 Jan (RLeV); imm., Bald Hill near Fort Bragg, to 31 Jan (DT); 1 ad., n. AB, 29 Jan (KR); 1, s. AB, 26 Jan (JH); ad., Ten Mile R., 8 Feb (DT); 1 ad., LEWA, 9&16 Feb (KR); PEREGRINE FALCON: Thirteen reports of 1-3 birds from Fortuna, Humboldt Bay, and Lake Earl/Smith R. Bottoms, 26 Jan-23 Feb (m.ob.); PRAIRIE FALCON: 1, AB, 2 Feb (RF).

AMERICAN AVOCET: 375, Jacoby Cr. mouth, 28 Jan (DF); 180, HBNWR, 12 Jan (DF, JP); LESSER YELLOWLEGS: 2, AB, 5 Feb (KR); 3, ERWA, 9 Feb (RF); WHIMBREL: 5, AB, 26 Jan (KR); 1, Eureka, 16 Feb (RC); MARBLED GODWIT: 2200, Butcher Slough and Klopp L., 28 Jan (DF); RUDDY TURNSTONE: 2-3, Fields Landing, 29 Jan-9 Feb (KR, RF); 4, Crescent City harbor, 16 Feb (KR); RED KNOT: 1, Butcher Slough, 22 Feb (PeS); ROCK SANDPIPER: 2, NJHB, 13 Jan-8 Feb (RF, MW, ST); up to 5, MKSP, to 28 Jan (DT); RUFF: 1 m., among surfbirds and turnstones, NJHB, 19 Jan (MW).

POMARINE JAeger: 1, NJHB, 29 Jan (ST); LAUGHING GULL: 1, first-winter, L. Cleone, 1-16 Feb A&JC, DT); BONAPARTE'S GULL: up to 15 at AOP, mid-Jan (m.ob.); 80, Jacoby Cr. mouth, 21 Feb (DF); HEERMANN'S GULL: 1 dead, Little R. beach, 23 Jan (SN); HERRING GULL: 5, Moonstone Beach, 23 Jan (RN); THAYER'S GULL: 1 first-winter, Moonstone Beach, 23 Jan (RN); 1 ad., 1 imm. flying over Arcata Plaza, 27 Jan (JT); 1, FW, NJHB,.

#### **Returning Terns?**

29 Jan (ST); BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: 2-30, NJHB, 29 Jan (ST) to 14 Feb (MW); 10, from Wedding Rock, 2 Feb (RF, JW); 6, offshore Westport, 4 Feb (DT); 13-17, Mad R. mouth, 17-18 Feb (KR); CASPIAN TERN: 2, Hookton Slough, 12 Jan (JP, DF); 1, Hookton Slough, 17 Jan (RF); 4, mouth Jacoby Creek, 22 Feb (DF- early N migrants?); FORSTER'S TERN: 5-20 seen, n.e. North Bay, mid-Jan (SH, DF, SN); 24, AOP, 20 Feb (DF); COMMON MURRE: 3000 on Off-Trinidad Rock and 300 on Tower Rock, 15 Jan (SH); 12,000, Castle Rock, 6 Feb (KR); MARBLED MURRELET: 3, MKSP, 17 Jan (DT); 2, Wedding Rock, 2 Feb (RF, JW); 2, off NJHB, 14 Feb (MW). ANCIENT MURRELET: 3, MKSP, 10&16 Feb, and 8 there, 14 Feb (DT).

NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL: 1, Elk Head, 15 Jan & 11 Feb (MH); 1, CR, 28 Jan (KR); 1, HSU campus, 12 Feb (JW); BURROWING OWL: 1, s. point of North Bay levee, 17 Jan (BC); SHORT-EARED OWL: 7, MRSWA, 26

Jan (JT, JH); COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD: m. at Fortuna seen to 14 Jan (BN); it or another in Fortuna 26 Feb (JTh fide EE).

### **First of the Spring!**

RUFOUS/ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD: 1 f., Fort Bragg, 21 Jan (DT); 1, Arcata, 1 Feb (JT); RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD: 1, West End Rd., 3 Feb (EE); ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD: 1, 7 Feb, Cummings Rd. (TL); PILEATED WOODPECKER: 1, just n.e. of BSLP, 12 Feb was a rare visitor in the vicinity of the Arcata Marsh (GG); SAY'S PHOEBE: 1, n. of Singley Cr. mouth, 25 Feb (RH); TREE SWALLOW: 6, AMP, 21 Jan (PL); BARN SWALLOW: 4, Lake Cleone and 1, MKSP, 15 Jan (DT); 5, MRSWA, 26 Jan (JT) and 28 Jan (DF); 11, Elk R. mouth, 29 Jan (KR); 12, AMP, 1 Feb (DF, JP); NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD: 1, South G St., Arcata, 23 Jan (EE); WESTERN BLUEBIRD: 2-5 on 13 of 31 days, Kneeland, Jan (BB, DV); TENNESSEE WARBLER: 1, 141 South G Street, Arcata, 15-16 Jan (EE, BC, KR, JW); NASHVILLE WARBLER: 1, BSLP, observer's first-ever in ten years (DF); YELLOW WARBLER: 1, 9<sup>th</sup> and J, Arcata, 12 Jan (EE); PALM WARBLER: 1-3, AMP, 15-23 Jan (m.ob.); 1, e. side 'V St. Loop', 2 Feb (FA).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW: 1, AMP, 15-23 Jan (CO, JW); SWAMP SPARROW: 1-2, AMP, 14-23 Jan (JW, RF); 1, Jacoby Cr. mouth, 28 Jan (DF); 'RED' FOX SPARROW: 1, Sunny Brae, 8-24 Jan (SH); 1, Arcata, 18 Feb (SK); SLATE-COLORED JUNCO: 1, to 18 Jan, Patricks Ct., Arcata (RF); 1, Arcata, 'all winter' to 1 Feb (EE); LESSER GOLDFINCH: 1, Elk Head, 21 Jan, was a bit out of place (KR).

OBSERVERS: Marge Adams, Frank Anderson (FA), Margie Anderson (MA), Barb Burek (BB), Bryon Cariss (BC), Stephanie Clemens (SC), Ruth Crane (RC), Art and Janet Cupples (A&JC), Bruce Deuel (BD), Elias Elias (EE), David Fix (DF), Rob Fowler (RF), Hal Genger (HG), Melody Hamilton (MH), Jeanne Hammond (JH), Stan Harris (SH), Pablo Herrera (PH), Rob Hewitt (RH), Diego Johnson (DJ), Siddig Kilkenny (SK), Tom Leskiw (TL), Gary Lester (GL), Ron LeValley (RLeV), Paul Lohse (PL), Sean McAllister (SM), Michael Morris (MM), Russ Namitz (RN), Beverly Neal (BN), Steve Norman (SNo), Chet Ogan (CO), Steve Pagliughi (SP), Jude Power (JCP), Kerry Ross (KR), Mary Severdia (MS), Keith M. Slauson (KS), Paul Springer (PS), Pete Spruance (PeS), Jim Tietz (JT), Jeanne Thompson (JTh), Dorothy Tobkin (DT), Amber Transou (AT), Steve Tucker (ST), Dan Van Zile, Matt Wachs (MW), Abe Walston (AW), Jared Wolf (JW).

**Field Notes**  
**by Stan Harris**  
**30 November 2002-12 January 2003**

Our drought broke with a vengeance in early December, and the Christmas Counts were conducted in the rain or sandwiched between rainy periods with wet conditions underfoot and much lowland flooding that hampered access to many count areas. Consequently, count totals and total number of species seen were lower than average for most recent years. Abbreviations used: AB = Arcata Bottoms; AMP = Arcata Marsh Project; AOP - Arcata Oxidation Pond; BSLP = Butcher Slough Log Pond; EM = Expected Migrant; ES = Escape; FR = Few Records; GW= Gee Whiz Report; HBNWR = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; IB = Interesting Behavior; ID = Interesting Date; IL = Interesting Location; IN = Interesting Numbers; MKSP = MacKerricher State Park; MRCP = Mad River County Park; MRWA = Mad River Wildlife Area; MS = Monitored Species; mo = Many Observers.

**HIGHLIGHTS: UPDATE: MOURNING WARBLER (GW, FR):** 1 bird flew into a window at Hydesville, 17 June 2002, the specimen was recovered (J & TS, fide W&IC, RC) and will be placed in the H.S.U. collection. This represents the first-ever Northcoast specimen of this species. **RED-NECKED GREBE (IL):** 1, off Wedding Rock, 6 Dec (EE, et al.); 1 Hookton Road, 12 Jan (JP, DF): **BLACK-VENTED SHEARWATER (FR):** 3, Laguna Point, 3 Dec (DT): **AMERICAN BITTERN (FR):** 1, MRWA, 4 Dec (JT): 1, AMP, 5-7 Dec (SH, JT): **CATTLE EGRET (FR):** 2, AMP, 7 Dec (KR, et al.): **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (FR):** 1, Bald Hill (Ft. Bragg), 16 Dec (DT); 1, Willow Creek CBC, 21 Dec: **SNOW GOOSE (FR):** 1, AMP/AOP, 5-7 Dec (mo); 2-3 Arcata CBC, 14 Dec; 36 (!) Eel River Delta, 18 Dec (BS); 2, AB, 19 Dec (KR); 3, Centerville CBC, 29 Dec: **EURASIAN WIGEON (FR):** 8 reports of 1-3 from McKinleyville, AB, North Bay, Hookton Road, HBNWR, 7 Dec-12 Jan (mo): **BLUE-WINGED TEAL (FR):** 10 reports of 1-3 at Alexandre Dairy (1 female, 15 Dec) (RH, et al), and BSLP (throughout, up to 2 males and 1 female), (mo); 1 flushed from a cornfield (!) north of Willow Creek, 21 Dec (JT): **EURASIAN GREEN-WINGED TEAL (FR):** 4 reports of single males at BSLP, AMP, AOP, Hookton Road, 7 Dec-1 Jan (mo) plus 1 intergrade with a muted vertical bar at AMP, 11 Dec (SP): **HARLEQUIN (FR):** up to 15, Glass Beach, 21 Nov-21 Dec (DT); 2 pair, Wedding Rock, 2 Dec (KI); 1 female, Wedding Rock, 6 Dec (EE, et al.); 1 imm. male, King Salmon, 19 Dec (MW): **LONG-TAILED DUCK (FR):** 2, Big Lagoon, 22 Dec (T & SL); 1, Cock Robin Island, 29 Dec (JP, DF, et al): **BLACK SCOTER (FR):** 2, vic. Ft. Bragg, 11 Jan (CO): **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (FR):** 1-2 (male, pair), lower Mad River, 1-14 Dec (mo): **WHITE-TAILED KITE (IL, IN):** 1, Willow Creek CBC, 21 Dec; 43 at roost, Cock Robin Island, 29 Dec (DF, JP, et al.): **BALD EAGLE (MS, IN):** 11 adults, 7 immatures, Willow Creek CBC, 21 Dec; 1 adult calling, Davison Road x Highway 101, 4 Jan (FA); ; 1, Elk River Valley, 29 Dec (JHe, et al.); 1 ad, Cannibal Isl. Road, 29 Dec (DF, JP, et al.); 1 ad, Hookton Road, 12 Jan (JP, DF): **GOSHAWK (FR):** 1, Willow Creek CBC, 21 Dec: **FERRUGINOUS HAWK (FR):** 4 reports of 1-3 from Alexandre Dairy, AB, Centerville CBC, vic Ft. Bragg, 21 Nov-21 Dec (mo) plus a rare dark-morph bird near Hoopa, 21 Dec (DF, et al.): **ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK (FR):** 5 reports of 1-6 from AB, Crab Park, Centerville CBC, 26 Nov-29 Dec (mo): **GOLDEN EAGLE (MS):** 1, near Salyer, 21 Dec (KR, et al.); 1, near Centerville Beach, 29 Dec (KR, et al): **PRAIRIE FALCON (FR):** 1, Bald Hill, Ft. Bragg, 4 Dec (DT); 1, AMP, 30 Dec (PL): **RUFFED GROUSE (FR, IL):** 1, Jacoby Creek Canyon, 7 Dec (RS): **SANDHILL CRANE (FR):** 1, South Spit flyby, 8 Dec (CB): **SNOWY PLOVER (MS):** 59, Centerville Beach, 29 Dec (KR, et al.): **AVOCET (IN):** 161, Centerville CBC, 29 Dec; 4-35, feeding in flooded pastures, AB, 31 Dec-2 Jan (KR, DF); 100, Hookton Road Unit, HBNWR, 12 Jan (JP, DF): **RUFF (ID, FR):** 1, North Spit, 14 Dec (KR, et al.); 1 male, AB, 2 Jan (DF); 1, King Salmon, 3 Jan (MW): **HEERMANN'S GULL (ID):** x, Arcata CBC, 14 Dec: 1-2, MKSP, 16-17 Dec (DT); **GLAUCOUS GULL (FR):** 1 second winter, Wedding Rock, 11 Dec (KI); 1, first winter, Smith River, 15 Dec (DF, JP, JT, PL.): **MARBLED MURRELET (MS):** 7, Laguna Pt, 3 Dec (DT): 20, Wedding Rock, 2 Dec (KI): **XANTUS'S MURRELET (ID, IL):** 2, just off Wedding Rock, (1 seen to be caught by a Peregrine, remains salvaged), 30 Nov (KI): **ANCIENT MURRELET (EM):** 2, Wedding Rock, 2 Dec (KI); "lots," just offshore along Humboldt coast, 21 Nov-7 Dec, BO'D fide EE); 1, Wedding Rock, 26 Dec (DF): **RHINOCEROS AUKLET (ID):** 30 seen in 1.5

hour seawatch from Laguna Point, 24 Nov (DT); 1, Wedding Rock, 30 Nov (KI): **BURROWING OWL (FR)**: 1, HBNWR, 25 Nov (SL, fide EN); 1, Centerville Beach, 29 Dec (KR, et al.); 1, Mail Ridge, 31 Dec (GL): **LONG-EARED OWL (FR)**: 1, MRWA, 30 Nov-3 Jan (KS, GB, et al.): **COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD (GW)**: 1 male, Fortuna, still present from Nov through 29 Dec (B & JN, et al.); 1 male, present at Trinidad from Nov throughout Dec to 8 Jan (LK): **YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (FR)**: 1 imm male, Freshwater, 1-7 Dec (SP, ST); 1 ad. male, Ft. Bragg, 9 Dec (DT); 1 female, Eureka, 14 Dec (GO'B); 1 female, Ferndale, 29 Dec (G&LL): **SAY'S PHOEBE (FR)**: 1, McKinleyville Oxidation Pond, 25 Dec (KR, JR); 1, Centerville Beach, 29 Dec (KR, et al.): **BARN SWALLOW (ID)**: 1, AOP, 27 Nov (SMcA): **WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH (IL)**: 1, High Divide, 15 Dec (GL): **BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (FR)**: 1, Azalea Park, 14 Dec (GL): **TENNESSEE WARBLER (FR, ID)**: 1, Arcata, 7 Jan (EE): **YELLOW WARBLER (ID)**: 1, AMP, 11-14 Dec (JT); 1, Ferndale Bottoms, 29 Dec (RLeV, et al.); 1, Arcata, 12 Jan (EE): **WORM-EATING WARBLER (GW, FR, ID)**: 1, Aldergrove Pond, 27 Nov (MV): **COMMON YELLOWTHROAT (ID)**: 2, Salt River, 29 Dec (TMcK): **WILSON'S WARBLER (ID)**: 1, Arcata CBC, 14 Dec: (CO) **WESTERN Tanager (ID)**: 1, Ferndale, 29 Dec (G&LL).

**TREE SPARROW (FR)**: 1, AMP, 7 Dec-3 Jan (KR, CO): **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (ID, FR)**: 1, AMP, 26-30 Nov (JT): **"EASTERN" FOX SPARROW (FR)**: 1, remaining at Sunnybrae throughout (SH, et al.); 1, Ferndale Bottoms, 29 Dec (RLeV): **SWAMP SPARROW (FR)**: 4 reports of 1-8 (!) from AMP, Bracut Marsh, Arcata CBC, Centerville CBC, 7 Dec-31 Dec (KR, DF et al.): **LAPLAND LONGSPUR (FR)**: 7, MRCP, 28 Nov (KS, et al.); 1-4, Crab Park, 29 Nov-4 Dec (KS, KR, et al.); 1, Ferndale, 29 Dec (GL); 1, Eureka, 23 Dec (GL): **SNOW BUNTING (FR)**: 1, MRWA, 28 Nov-4 Dec (KS, et al., JT, et al.): **ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (FR, ID)**: 1 winter male (good description). Fortuna, 4 Dec (MP): **BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK (ID)**: 1 female, Trinidad, 2 Jan (GK): **BLUE GROSBEAK (FR)**: 1, Trinidad, 21 Dec (GK, MW): **TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD (FR)**: 1, Alexandre Dairy, 15 Dec (RH, et al.); **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (FR)**: 1, Alexandre Dairy, 15 Dec (RH, et al.): **ORCHARD ORIOLE (FR, ID)**: 1 McKinleyville, 22 Dec (JH).

**MORE MUNDANE ITEMS OF INTEREST: PACIFIC LOON (IB, EM)**: singles recorded in flooded pastures, tipping up with ducks (!), AB, 29-31 Dec (FA, MeH); "1000's" migrating past Wedding Rock, 6 Dec (EE, et al.): **SOOTY/SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER SP (EM)**: 1, Wedding Rock, 26 Dec (DF); 4, seawatch, Centerville CBC, 29 Dec: **NORTHERN FULMAR (EM)**: 1 to 50 + seen from shore along the northern Mendocino coast (DT) and at Wedding Rock, mid-Nov-26 Dec (KI, DF, EE, et al): **BROWN PELICAN (ID)**: 2-15, Big Lagoon, Arcata & Centerville CBC, Klopp Lake, 14 Dec-7 Jan (mo): **ALEUTIAN CANADA GOOSE (EM)**: 80-89, AB, mo. Jacoby Creek, 31 Dec (KR, DF); 700, AB, 12 Jan (PS): **CAACKLING CANADA GOOSE (FR)**: 1, Bald Hill, Ft. Bragg, 16 Dec (DT); 3, AB, 31 Dec (KR); 10, AB, 12 Jan (PS): **TUNDRA SWAN (IN)**: 6 (first report, late), HBNWR, 7 Dec (SMcA); 131 (low count), Centerville CBC, 29 Dec: **MUTE SWAN (ES)**: 1, Blue Lake OP, 15 Dec (MH); 1, Centerville Beach, 29 Dec (KR, et al.): **CANVASBACK (FR)**: 1, Klopp Lake, 30 Dec (PL); 2, Fields Landing, 2 Jan (MW): **REDHEAD (IN)**: 244, Fields Landing, 3 Jan (MW): **HOODED MERGANSER (MS)**: 2, Lower Mad River, 29 Nov (MeH); 2, Blue Lake, 10 Dec (CL); 23, Willow Creek CBC, 21 Dec; 12, Centerville CBC, 29 Dec: **OSPREY (ID)**: 1, Big Lagoon, 22 Dec (T&SL); 1, Arcata CBC, 14 Dec: **KESTREL (IB)**: 1 seen going to roost at Hammond Bridge, 6 Dec (EE, et al.): **PEREGRINE FALCON (MS)**: 9 reports of 1-12 from Willow Creek CBC, AB, Humboldt Bay, Crab Park, AOP, AMP, Wedding Rock, Salt River, Centerville CBC, 3-29 Dec (mo): **MERLIN (MS)**: 5 reports of 1-13 from Willow Creek, Arcata, Centerville CBCs, AMP, Bayshore Mall, 4-29 Dec (mo): **LESSER YELLOWLEGS (FR)**: 1-3, AB, 31 Dec-2 Jan (KR, DF); 5, Centerville CBC: **RED KNOT (FR)**: x, Arcata CBC: **ROCK SANDPIPER (FR)**: 4, Laguna Pt., 3 Dec (DT); 1, North Jetty, 29 Nov-14 Dec (KS, et al.): **RED PHALAROPE (IN)**: storms forced numbers on shore throughout the region, 10-31 Dec when 1-100+ were seen (mo): **PARASITIC JAEGER (ID)**: 1, Wedding Rock, 6 Dec (EE, et al.): **POMARINE JAEGER (ID)**: 2, Wedding Rock, 11 Dec (KI); 1, North Spit, 14 Dec (KR, et al.): **HERRING GULL (EM)**: 20, Wedding Rock, 6 Dec (EE, et al.); x, AMP, 7 Dec (KR, et al.); 25 (mostly adults), Wedding Rock, 26 Dec (DF): **THAYER'S GULL (FR)**: 6 reports of 1-3 from Wedding Rock, lower Mad River, AB, AMP, Fields Landing, Centerville CBC, 6 Dec-2 Jan (mo): **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (IN)**: 5, Laguna Pt, 25 Nov (DT); x, Ft. Bragg 11 Jan (C); 50,

Wedding Rock, 6, 26 Dec (EE, et al., DF): **CASPIAN TERN (ID)**: 1-2, Arcata Bay, Elk River Wildlife Area, 14 Dec-7 Jan (TL, PL, et al.); 1 ad, 1 juv, Hookton Road, 12 Jan (JP, DF): **BAND-TAILED PIGEON (ID)**: 17, Willow Creek CBC, 21 Dec; 5, Sunnybrae, 3-7 Jan (SH): **PILEATED WOODPECKER (IL)**: 1, McKinleyville, 8 Dec (KR): **WESTERN BLUEBIRD (EL)**: 12, Harris, 12 Jan (CO): **AMERICAN PIPIT (IL)**: 2, vic Hoopa, 21 Dec (DF): **NASHVILLE WARBLER (ID)**: 1, Trinidad, 31 Dec (MeH); 5, Centerville CBC, 29 Dec: **PALM WARBLER (EM)**: 3 (only) reports of 1-10 from AMP, Eureka, Centerville CBC, 26 Nov-29 Dec (mo): **WESTERN MEADOWLARK (IN)**: 25-75, Mail Ridge, 11 Nov-7 Dec (JG): **RED CROSSBILL**: 2, Trinidad, 31 Dec (MeH); 4, Eureka, 31 Dec (T&SL): **EVENING GROSBEAK (FR)**: 6, Catfish Lake, 18 Dec (MW).

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