

Field Notes
by Stan Harris
24 October-27 November 2005

The failure of the Arcata Bird Box has seriously curtailed the reports I have to share this month. Many thanks to Rob Fowler, Matt Wachs, and Kerry Ross for their efforts to keep me informed. Until the box is up and running again, I ask observers to **phone me directly** (707-822-3802, or e-mail me at my son's site: mhharris@quik.com) with any reports you care to share. Abbreviations used: **AB** = Arcata Bottoms; **AMP** = Arcata Marsh Project; **AOP** = Arcata Oxidation Pond; **EL** = Expected Location; **EM** = Expected Migrant; **FR** = Few Records; **GD** = Good Description; **GW** = Gee Whiz report; **HO** = Hold Over from last month; **ID** = Interesting Date; **IIT** = Interesting, If True; **IL** = Interesting Location; **IN** = Interesting Numbers; **LMR** = Lower Mad River; **mo** = Many Observers; **MKSP** = MacKerricher State Park; **MS** = Monitored Species; **NC** = Not Confirmed by a second party; **ND** = No Description or Details; **OP** = Oxidation Pond. .

Returning Geese

White-fronted Goose (EM): 2-3, V St. Loop with domestic geese, 25-26 Oct (RF, KR). **Snow Goose (FR):** 1 ad., Lake Cleone, Oct-13 Nov (DT); 1, AB, 25 Nov (KR). **Ross's Goose (EM):** 1, flyover, north Arcata, 27 Nov (BD, SC). **Black Brant (EM):** 400 ±, King Salmon, 27 Oct (MW). **Taverner's Cackling Goose (FR):** 24, AB, 26 Nov (SH). **Aleutian Cackling Goose (EM):** 1, Allen Marsh, 2 Nov (SH); 2, V St. Loop with domestic goose flock, 25 Oct (RF); 1, AB, 26 Nov (SH). **Western Canada Goose (EL):** 1, Denny, 9 Nov (LM). **Tundra Swan (EM):** 12, AB, 8 Nov (DD); 1, flyover, AOP, 10 Nov (JK). **Wood Duck (EL):** 3, Ferndale OP, 25 Nov (MW). **Gadwall (IN):** 50-180+, feeding on duckweed, Allen Marsh, 24 Oct-10 Nov (SH). **Eurasian Wigeon (EM):** 1 male, V St. Loop, 19-26 Nov (SC, KR); 1 imm. male, Allen Marsh, 24 Nov (SH). **Eurasian Green-winged Teal (FR):** 1 male, Butcher Slough, 24-26 Nov (SH). **Eurasian Green-winged x American Green-winged Teal intergrade (FR):** 1, AOP, 23-24 Nov (SH, et al). **Canvasback (FR):** 1, AOP, 23 Oct; 1, LMR, 27 Nov (both SC). **Redhead (FR):** 2, King Salmon, 18 Nov (MW). **Ring-necked Duck (IL, IN):** up to 12 AOP, 27 Oct-12 Nov (SH). **Harlequin (EM):** up to 19, Glass Beach, 22 Oct-20 Nov (DT); 2-4, King Salmon, 30 Oct-27 Nov (RH, SC, MW). **White-winged Scoter (EM):** 20, King Salmon, 16 Nov (MW); 55 flying north past North Jetty, 19 Nov (SC). **Black Scoter (FR):** 1, North Jetty, 29 Oct-25 Nov (SC, KR); 1, King Salmon, 30 Oct-21 Nov (RH, MW). **Long-tailed Duck (FR):** 1-2, King Salmon, Field's Landing, 30 Oct-27 Nov (RH, MW, JT). **Common Goldeneye (EM):** 1, V St. Loop, 13 Nov (RF); 1, 23 Oct; 3, 15 Nov, both King Salmon (MW); 1-2, Klopp Lake, 19-26 Nov (SC, SH, et al). **Hooded Merganser (FR):** 1 female, AOP, 23 Oct (SC); 2 females, mouth of Little River, 9 Nov (KS); 6, King Salmon, 15 Nov; 3 Field's Landing, 27 Nov (both MW); 1, LMR, 27 Nov (SC). **Red-breasted Merganser (EM):** 16-21, King Salmon, 27 Oct-29 Oct (MW).

Wild Pheasant?

Ring-necked Pheasant (FR): 1, near Pelican Bay Prison, 13 Nov (BH). **Red-throated Loon (EM):** 5-136, King Salmon, 26 Oct-23 Nov (MW, JT); southward movements noted all month (MW). **Pacific Loon (ED):** 2, North Jetty, 24 Nov (MW, JT). **Horned Grebe (EM):** 13, King Salmon, 23 Oct (MW). **Red-necked Grebe (EM):** 5-14, King Salmon, 27 Oct-15 Nov (MW); 2, Freshwater Lagoon, 7 Oct (AL). **Northern Fulmar (IL):** 3, from Wedding Rock, 26 Nov (MW, JT). **Short-tailed Shearwater (FR):** 1, off North Jetty, 29 Oct (SC), 24 Nov (MW). **Brandt's Cormorant (ID):** 1, North Jetty, 25 Nov (MW, JT). **American Bittern (FR):** 1 BSLP, 27 Oct (SH). **Cattle Egret (FR):** 1-3, V St. Loop, Moxon Road, 13-27 Nov (RH, KR, SH, BD, et al.). **Osprey (ID):** 1, mouth of Eel River, 27 Oct (DD); 1, MKSP, 9 Nov (DT). **Bald Eagle (MS):** 1 adult, junction of Trinity and South Fork, 31 Oct (SC); 1 adult, 6-10 Nov, Douglas City (DK); 1 adult, Cannibal Island, 25 Nov (MW, JT). **Goshawk (FR):** 1 adult, Douglas City, 11 Nov (MK). **Rough-legged Hawk (ID):** 2, Capetown, 12 Nov (SMcA); 1, AB, 13-27 Nov (RH, TCC, JD, et al.). **Merlin (EM):** 1, Klopp Lake, 30 Oct (RF); 1, King Salmon, 28 Oct (MW); 1, Moxon Road, said to be race *richardsoni*, 26 Nov (KR). **Peregrine Falcon (EM):** 1, mouth of Eel River, 27 Oct (DD); 1, King Salmon, 28 Oct (MW); usual pair at AMP, off and on most of month (mo); 1, V St. Loop, 27 Nov (TCC, JD, et al.). **American**

Golden-Plover (FR, ID): 1 Crab Park, 2 Nov (second latest seasonal record ever) (SMcA). **Pacific Golden Plover (HO):** 1, Foster Road, AB, 25 Oct (RF). **American Avocet (IN):** Many fewer than expected at AMP, Klopp Lake, Butcher Slough, with only 30-100, all month (SH); 1, King Salmon (maybe the first ever record for that specific location, 10 Nov (MW)). **Greater Yellowlegs (IN):** 55, LMR, 26 Nov (SH). **Lesser Yellowlegs (ID):** 1, AB, 25 Nov (KR). **Red Knot (ID):** 1-16, King Salmon, 28 Oct-15 Nov (MW). **Dunlin (EM):** 5000±, roost on breakwater, King Salmon, 10 Nov (MW). **Pectoral Sandpiper (HO)** 1, AB, 25 Oct (KB). **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (FR):** 1, AB, 16 Nov (SC). **Rock Sandpiper (EM):** 2-4, North Jetty, 9-25 Nov (KS, MW, JT, KR, SC); 1, MKSP, 31 Oct, 19 Nov (DT). **Ruff (FR, HO):** 1 “reeve,” AB, 25 Oct (RF); 1 AB, 16 Nov (SC).

Red Phalarope (ED): 1, from Wedding Rock, 26 Nov (MW, JT). **Bonaparte’s Gull (EM):** 30, Crab Park, 5 Oct (SC); 8-79, mouth of Mad River, 6 Oct-9 Nov (SC, KS); 6-30, North Jetty, 29 Oct-19 Nov (SC). **Thayer’s Gull (FR):** 1, along beach, 0.25 miles south of mouth of Little River, 24 Oct (KB); 1, Klopp Lake, 19 Nov (SC); 1, North Jetty, 25 Nov (KR). **Glaucous Gull (FR):** 1 first year bird, AOP, 9 Nov (SH). **Black-legged Kittiwake (EM):** 3-75, North Jetty, 29 Oct-24 Nov (SC, MW, JT). **Forster’s Tern (EM):** 2-12, AMP/AOP, 27 Oct-24 Nov (SH). **Pigeon Guillemot (ID):** 1, winter plumage, King Salmon, 2 Nov (MW, HB); 1 off Todd’s Point, 31 Oct; 1, off Laguna Point, 4 Nov (both DT). **Marbled Murrelet (MS):** 5-20, North Jetty, 29 Oct-24 Nov (SC, MW, JT). **Ancient Murrelet (FR):** 1-3, North Jetty, 29 Oct, 24 Nov (SC, MW, JT). **Rhinoceros Auklet (IL):** 4 seen from North Jetty, 19 Nov (SC). **Horned Puffin (IIT, ND, NC):** 1 flyby, Manila Beach, 8 Nov (JoK). **Tufted Puffin (FR):** 1, winter plumage, seen from North Jetty, 24 Nov (MW, JT). **Burrowing Owl (FR):** 1, South Spit, 24 Nov (MW, JT). **Saw-whet Owl (FR):** 1, Denny, 8, 15 Nov (LM). **Nuttall’s Woodpecker (GW, GD):** 1, Douglas City, 5 Nov (D & MK). **Dusky-capped Flycatcher (GW):** 1, north Arcata, 23-27 Nov (KS, SMcA, et al.). **Tropical Kingbird (FR):** 1, Vance Road, north spit, 30 Oct (MS); 1, AB, 4, 13 Nov (RF); 1, Mad River Road, 27 Nov (SC). **Cassin’s Vireo (GD, ID):** 1, Shay Park, 30 Oct (SC). **Plumbeous Vireo (FR):** 1, Arcata, 12 Nov (JK, AS, RF, photos). **Barn Swallow (ID):** “at least 10,” MKSP, 16 Nov (DT). **Gray Jay (EL):** up to 7 off and on regularly, Greenwood Heights (JC); 3, Centerville Beach Bluff, 7 Nov (DD). **Scrub Jay (IL):** 1, Greenwood Heights, 29 Oct (JC). **Horned Lark (IL, IN):** 5, dunes near mouth of Mad River, 9 Nov (KS); 1-2, King Salmon, 18-21 Nov (MW).

Only one Varied Thrush?

Varied Thrush (IL): 1, northern Trinity Alps, 7, 18 Oct (DK). **Mockingbird (FR):** 1, AB, 13 Nov (RF). **American Pipit (IN):** 200±, cornfield at Crab Park, 2 Nov (MW). **Orange-crowned Warbler (ID):** 1, Arcata, 19 Nov (SC); 1, Lake Cleone, 19 Nov (DT). **Nashville Warbler (EM):** singles at Fairhaven and Arcata, 29 Oct-21 Nov (SC, RF, GB), and 2 at Bayshore Mall willows, 9 Nov (TL). **Yellow Warbler (ID):** 1, north Arcata, 23-27 Nov (BS, BD, et al.). **Palm Warbler (EM):** 1, V St. Loop, 9 Nov (KS); 1, AMP, 4-11 Nov (AL, BD). **Black-and-white Warbler (FR):** 1, AMP, 30 Oct-20 Nov (RF, AL); 1, Arcata, 12-19 Nov (RF, SC). **Common Yellowthroat (ID):** 1, AOP, 12 Nov (DF, JP). **Wilson’s Warbler (ID):** 1, Moxon Road, 17 Nov (BS). **Clay-colored Sparrow (FR):** 1, AMP, 8-10 Nov (AL, JK, AS). **“Rusty” Fox Sparrow (FR):** 1, Arcata, 13 Nov (RF); 1 Arcata, 20 Nov (JHe). **Swamp Sparrow (EM):** 1, AMP, 29 Oct-26 Nov (KB, RF, SC, BD). **Slate-colored Junco (EM):** 1, Ft. Bragg, 11-13 Nov (DT). **Lapland Longspur (EM):** 15, 5 Oct (SC), 5, 2 Nov; 20±, 25 Nov (MW, JT), all observations in the cornfield at Crab Park; 1, King Salmon, 8 Nov (MW). **Chestnut-collared Longspur (FR):** 1 heard in flight, cornfield at Crab Park, 2 Nov (MW); 5, Bear River Ridge, 12 Nov (SMcA). **Yellow-headed Blackbird (FR):** 1, Moxon Dairy, 17-26 Nov (KR). **Baltimore Oriole (FR, ND):** 1 imm male, sugar feeder, Azalea Hill, 11-12 Nov (L & G L).

Many thanks to the following who shared their observations with us this month: Gary Bloomfield, Heather Brown, Barbara Burek, Ken Burton, Scott Carey, Jannette Carroll, Tall Chief Comet, Bruce Deuel, Duke Diehl, Jeff Dunk, Fred Ferguson, David Fix, Rob Fowler, Stan Harris, Rob Hewitt, John Hewston, Denise Homer, Bart Hunter, Ken Jarvela, Jhermie Kellerman, Joe Kellerman, Dale and Margie Kuhn, Alexandra Lamb, Tom Leskiw, Lauren and Gary Lester, Sean McAllister, Linda Munk, Jude Power, Kerry Ross, Barry Sauppe, Mary Severdia, Keith Slauson, Amy Stercho, Joyce Talbot, Jim Teitz, Dorothy Tobkin, Becky Valdez, Matt Wachs, Dan Van Zile.

Field Notes
by Stan Harris
27 September-24 October 2005

Waterfowl migration is in full swing with new birds arriving daily. Landbird migration seems to be pretty much over. Pelagic trips out of Ft. Bragg on 25 Sep (fide EE) and out of Eureka on 2 Oct (fide SH) had smaller than normal numbers of nearly everything, continuing the legacy of a poor upwelling summer offshore. Perhaps the best find was 2 Blue Whales off Eureka. Foraging River Otters in Klopp Lake have delighted most observers all month. Balmy, very nice fall weather, one welcome shower, and fog pretty much confined to the early a.m. provided generally good viewing conditions, but these were somewhat offset by prices at the gas pump of \$3.00+ a gallon and the failure of the Arcata Bird Box in mid Oct, both of which seriously curtailed the reports I have to share. Please make efforts to car pool and phone me directly with any future reports you care to share until the Bird Box is up and running again. Abbreviations used: **AB** = Arcata Bottoms; **AMP** = Arcata Marsh Project; **AOP** = Arcata Oxidation Pond; **BRR** = Bear River Ridge; **BSLP** = Butcher Slough Log Pond; **CRI** = Cock Robin Island; **EB** = Entrance Bight, Humboldt Bay; **EL** = Expected Location; **EM** = Expected Migrant; **FR** = Few Records; **GW** = Gee Whiz report; **ID** = Interesting Date; **IIT** = Interesting, If True; **IL** = Interesting Location; **IN** = Interesting Numbers; **mo** = Many Observers; **MRCP** = Mad River County Park; **MS** = Monitored Species; **NC** = Not Confirmed; **ND** = No Description or Details; **OP** = Oxidation Pond; **SRNF** = Six Rivers National Forest (*Trinity Co.*); **UCI** = Uncertain Identification; **x** = Numbers not reported.

“Cackling” Cackling Goose (FR): 1 with 90 Western Canada Geese, AOP, 22-23 Oct (SH, MV); **Aleutian Cackling Goose (EM):** I have received at least 21 reports of flocks of 50-200 flying generally south and southeast over the region, 4-24 Oct (mo); **Wood Duck (IN):** 1 discrete flock of 21 observed at BSLP and momentarily along the north shore of Klopp Lake, 8 Oct (MA, SH); **Gadwall (IN):** 50-120, feeding on duckweed, Allen Marsh, 7-17 Oct (SH); **Eurasian Wigeon (EM):** 1 male, Hookton Slough, 1 Oct (SMcA); 1 male, AMP, 9 Oct; 1-2 females, AMP (mostly Gearheart and Allen Marshes), 28 Sep-20 Oct (SH, EE, KR, SC); 1 female, Eureka Sewage Ponds, 22 Oct (SMcA); **Blue-winged Teal (EM):** 1 female, Ferndale OP, 29 Sep (SMcA); 9 reports of up to 2 males and 5 females at AMP/AOP, 28 Sep-12 Oct (SH, AL, anon); **Ring-necked Duck (IL, IN):** 14, AOP, 24 Oct (SH, AL); **Harlequin (EM):** 3-4, King Salmon, 10-18 Oct (MW, KB); **Black Scoter (FR):** 1, King Salmon, 18 Oct (MW, KB); **Long-tailed Duck (FR):** 1, King Salmon, 16-18 Oct (MW, KB); **Bufflehead (EM):** First seen (13 birds), 23 Oct, Klopp Lake, and adjacent bay (SH); **Hooded Merganser (FR):** 1 female, BSLP, 8 Oct (SH, AL).

Loons coming south

Pacific Loon (EM): 27, EB, 14 Oct (MW); **Yellow-billed Loon (ND, NC, IIT):** 1 reported, Hookton Slough, 4 Oct (MM) but a follow-up search 2 days later found only a Common Loon; **Red-necked Grebe (EM):** x-12, King Salmon, 2-18 Oct (MW, KB); 2, Freshwater Lagoon, 7 Oct (AL); **Horned Grebe (EM):** 3, Bay at AOP, 24 Oct (SH, AL); **Western Grebe (EM):** 45 at EB on 2 Oct had increased to 455 by 19 Oct (MW); **Short-tailed Shearwater (FR):** 3, off Ft. Bragg, 25 Sep (EE); **Double-crested Cormorant (IN):** 1,500, King Salmon, 2 Oct (MW); **Brandt’s Cormorant (IL):** An unexpected distribution offshore on 2 Oct included birds constantly in sight all the way out to 11 miles and 30 at a bait station 3-4 miles out (LG, SH, et al.); **American Bittern (FR):** 1 AMP, 12 Oct; 1, AOP, 17 Oct (both SH); **Cattle Egret (FR):** 1, V St. Loop, 22 Oct (SH); **Ferruginous Hawk (FR):** 1, BRR, 12 Oct (AT, SMcA); 1, Bald Hills Road, Fort Bragg 18 Oct (RLeV); **Rough-legged Hawk (ID):** 1, BRR, 28 Sep (SMcA); **Merlin (EM):** Singles at AMP/AOP, 29-30 Sep (GC, SH), King Salmon, 15 Oct (MW), and Mad River Slough, 18 Oct (DD); **Sandhill Crane (FR):** 1 chased by car across part of Eureka resulted in an adequate “no binocular” description based substantially on reports of this species’ unique **wing beat!**, 15 Oct (RF, JC).

Plovers from both sides

American Golden-Plover (FR): 1, CRI, 15-16 Oct (SMcA, rumors of photos?, RF, SC); **Pacific Golden-Plover:** Singles reported at King Salmon, 27 and 29 Sep (MW), and in a plowed field north of the P.G.&E power plant, 1 Oct (SMcA), possibly represent the same bird; another on Foster Road, AB, 23-24 Oct (RF), 3, end of Pala Road, Del Norte County, 8 Oct (RLeV); **American Avocet (IN):** Many fewer than expected at AMP, Klopp Lake, Butcher Slough, with maximum counts in the low 30s (usually fewer), 1-23 Oct (SH); **Wandering Tattler (IL):** 1, King Salmon, 2 Oct (MW); **Whimbrel (EM):** Only 2 reported, both at Woodley Island, 2 Oct (SH, LG); **Red Knot:** Singles (only) reported at Klopp Lake, 28 Sep (EE), and Hookton Slough, 1 Oct (SMcA); **Surfbird (IL):** 3 at King Salmon, 26 Sep, were somewhat out of expected places (MW); **Pectoral Sandpiper (EM):** 2, MRCP, 29 Sep (KR); 1, AB, 23-24 Oct (RF); **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (FR):** 1, King Salmon, 1 Oct (SMcA); **Dunlin (EM):** Had arrived in force by mid-Oct with 500-600 at Klopp Lake, 10-23 Oct (mo); **Ruff (FR):** 1 “imm,” CRI, 9 Oct (SC); 1 “reeve,” AB, 24 Oct (RF); **Red-necked Phalarope (ID):** 1 at CRI, 16 Oct (SC), was on the late side. **Pomarine Jaeger (EM):** 2, off Ft. Bragg, 25 Sep (EE); 3, off Eureka, 2 Oct (LG, SH, et al.); **Forster’s Tern (EM):** 1-5 seen at AMP, 12-24 Oct, are perhaps the beginning of our usual wintering flock (SH, SC, AL).

Only Gull?

Mew Gull (EM): 1 imm, mouth of Redwood Creek, 2 Oct (SC); 15, foot of I Street, Arcata, 18 Oct (SH); **Common Murre (IN):** Many fewer than expected (only 15) off Ft. Bragg, 25 Sep (EE), but somewhat more normal numbers (250-300) off Humboldt Bay, 2 Oct (LG, SH, et al); **Marbled Murrelet (MS):** 1 (only) off Freshwater Lagoon Beach, 2 Oct (SC); **Cassin’s Auklet (IN):** Only 5 off Ft. Bragg, 25 Sept (EE), and only 20-30 off Humboldt Bay, 2 Oct (SH), far fewer than expected in fall; **Tufted Puffin (FR):** 1 on water, winter plumage, good study, 8 miles west of Table Bluff, 2 Oct (SH, LG, et al.); **Northern Pygmy Owl:** 1, near Fish Lake, 6 Oct (TL); 1, SRNF, 17-18 Oct (TL); **Saw-whet Owl (FR):** 1, SRNF, 17-18 Oct (TL); **Vaux’s Swift (ID):** x, Big Lagoon, 2 Oct (SC); **Probable Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (FR, UCI):** 1 immature, Bayside, 16 Oct (DF); **Yellow-shafted Flicker (ND, NC):** 1, Hookton Slough, 19 Oct (DD); **Pacific-slope Flycatcher (ID):** 1 calling, Trinidad, 7 Oct (MeH); **Say’s Phoebe:** 1, Kneeland, 25 Sep (BB, DVZ); **Tropical Kingbird (FR):** 1, Eureka, 10 Oct (BS); **Western Kingbird (ID):** 1, Trinidad, 7 Oct (MeH); **Blue-headed Vireo (ND, NC):** 1, above Indian Beach, Trinidad, 6 Oct (MeH); **Violet-green Swallow (ID):** 75, Big Lagoon, 2 Oct (SC); **Barn Swallow (GW):** The last one I saw this summer was caught after 10 passes in midair and **carried away by a Merlin**, over AOP, 30 Sep (SH); **Gray Jay (EL):** 1, Sunny Brae, 27 Sep (MMo); 1, Gold Bluffs Beach (Boat Creek), 22 Oct (G&LL); **Steller’s Jay (IL):** 1, Lanphere Dunes, 29 Sep (JW); **Clark’s Nutcracker (FR):** 1, Horse Mountain, 5 Oct (AL); **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (FR, IL):** 1, MRCP, 29 Sep (KR); **Rock Wren (FR, IL):** 1, on railing of Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center, 2 Oct (JS, fide TL); **Dipper (EL):** 2, mouth of Ti Creek (*Siskiyou Co*), 12 Oct (TL); x, New River at Denny, 16 Oct (LM); **Swainson’s Thrush: (ID):** 1, Trinidad, 7 Oct (MeH); **Mockingbird:** 1, Fairhaven, 8 Oct (MW); 1, Loleta, 12 Oct (GL); **Nashville Warbler (EM):** singles at Arcata, 27 Sep (JK), at AMP, 7 Oct (GC), and above Indian Beach, 6 Oct (MeH); **Yellow Warbler (ID):** 2, Orick Dump, 2 Oct (SC); 1 above Indian Beach, 6 Oct (MeH); **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** Singles reported at Orick Dump, 26 Sep (KI), Aldergrove Pond, Arcata, 27 Sep (BA), and base of North Jetty, 29 Sep (DF); **Magnolia Warbler (FR):** 1, Fairhaven (Horse Pasture), 29 Sep (KS); **Black-throated Gray Warbler (EM):** Singles at Myers Flat, 2 Oct, and at Bayshore Mall willows, 3 Oct (both TL); **Hermit Warbler (ID):** 1, Orick Dump, 2 Oct (SC); **Palm Warbler (EM):** 1, AMP, 17-20 Oct (SH, KB); **Bay-breasted Warbler (ND, NC):** 1, along V St. Loop 28 Sep (JW); **Blackpoll Warbler (FR):** 3 reports of singles from Bayshore Mall willows, Eureka, and CRI, 1-3 Oct (TL, LB-O, SMcA); **Black-and-white Warbler (FR):** 1, BSLP, 27 Sep (DF); 1, Allen Marsh, 19 Oct (JT, RF, DF); **Wilson’s Warbler (ID):** 2, above Indian Beach, 6 Oct (MeH)

No more Warblers

Western Tanager (ID): x, above Indian Beach, 6 Oct (MeH); **Spotted Towhee (EM):** 1, Denny, 5 Oct (LM); **Clay-colored Sparrow (FR):** Singles reported 0.5 mile east of Orick Oxbow, 26 Sep (KI); Fulmor Road, 2 Oct (SMcA); Eureka, 19-21 Oct (TL, KB); Bayside, 20-24 Oct (DF); and AMP, 22 Oct (FA, LT, et al.); **Vesper**

Sparrow (FR): 1, Freshwater Lagoon Beach, 2 Oct (GB); **White-throated Sparrow (EM):** Usual wintering birds appeared at feeders and elsewhere throughout the month (mo); **Swamp Sparrow (EM):** 1, AMP, 17-19 Oct (SH, JT); **Lapland Longspur (EM):** x, plowed field north of PG&E Power Plant, 1 Oct (SMcA); 2, Freshwater Lagoon Beach, 2 Oct (GB); 1 flyover, V St. Loop, 8 Oct (RF); **Chestnut-collared Longspur (FR):** 1, BRR, 22 Oct (SMcA); **Bobolink (FR):** 2 flyover, heard only “pink calls,” Eureka, 3 Oct (BS); **Western Meadowlark (EM, IL):** x, Denny (“here every fall”), 5 Oct (LM); **Evening Grosbeak:** 5, Hiller Park, 30 Sep (KR, MaM); 4, Redwood Sciences Lab, 4 Oct (KS).

Observers: Many thanks to the following who shared their observations with us this month: Marge Adams, Brooks Allen, Frank Anderson, Louise Bacon-Ogden, Gary Bloomfield, Barbara Burek, Ken Burton, Scott Carey, Gary Crites, Jennifer Curtis, Duke Diehl, Elias Elias, David Fix, Rob Fowler, Luke George, Melody Hamilton, Stan Harris, Ken Irwin, Jhermie Kellerman, Alexandra Lamb, Tom Leskiw, Gary and Lauren Lester, Ron LeValley, Mike Marsh, Sean McAllister, Mark Morrissette, Mildred Mossman, Linda Munk, Kerry Ross, Barry Sauppe, Jay Seegar, Keith Slauson, Jim Tietz, Lauren Tompkins, Amber Transou, Matt Wachs, Jared Wolfe, Dan Van Zile. Let’s all put in a prayer to the bird gods that the Arcata Bird Box is up and running again soon; the number is or will be (707) 822-5666.

Field Notes
by Stan Harris
22 August-26 September 2005

The silly season is in full swing! Typical fall days, no rain, fall migrants are busy doing their thing. One pelagic trip to 11 miles west of Eel River by the HSU Ornithology Class found smaller than expected numbers of most species, a legacy, no doubt, of the upwelling failure this summer. Many fall migrants seemed to arrive or pass through a few days earlier than normal. **Abbreviations used:** *AB* = Arcata Bottoms; *AMP* = Arcata Marsh Project; *AOP* = Arcata Oxidation Pond; *BR* = Brood Record; *BRR* = Bear River Ridge; *BSLP* = Butcher Slough Log Pond; *CRI* = Cock Robin Island; *EB* = Entrance Bite, Humboldt Bay; *EL* = Expected Location; *ERWA* = Eel River Wildlife Area; *Elk RWA* = Elk River Wildlife Area; *EM* = Expected migrant; *GM* = Gearheart Marsh; *GW* = Gee Whiz report; *HBNWR* = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; *HO* = Hold Over; *ID* = Interesting Date; *IL* = Interesting Location; *IN* = Interesting Numbers; *mo* = Many Observers; *MRCP* = Mad River County Park; *NC* = Not Confirmed; *ND* = No Description or Details; *OP* = Oxidation Pond; *UD* = Uncertain Details.

Greater White-fronted Goose (**EM**): x (heard only), Trinidad, 26 Aug (early!), (KI); 61, flying high over the Bucktail River access near Lewiston, 21 Sep (EE); "few," vic Davison Road, 22 Sep (KI); 1, MRCP, 24 Sep (JK, AS); Tundra Swan (**ID**): 1 (early or perhaps oversummering?), flyover, CRI, 16 Sep (SMcA); Blue-winged Teal (**EM**): 1 female, Ferndale OP, 5-6 Sep (SMcA); 1 male, GM, 17 Sep (SC); 1-2 males, 3 females, BSLP, 22-23 Sep (SH, MV); Harlequin Duck (**HO**): 1, King Salmon, 1-23 Sep (MW); Surf Scoter: 125-130 suddenly in EB, 1-15 Sep (MW); **White-winged Scoter**: x, Crescent Beach, 24 Aug (HB); 3 at EB, 10 Sept (MW, first seen there since Jun); **Hooded Merganser**: 1, juv., 25 Aug, ERWA (SMcA); 1 male, 4 females, Stone Lagoon, 4 Sep; 1 male, AOP, 5 Sep (both SC); Ruffed Grouse (**EL**): 1, near Somes Bar, *Sisk. Co.* (6 Sep) TL; Mountain Quail (**IL**): 2 adults + 12 juv, Kneeland Road, 17 Aug (BB); Pacific Loon (**IN, ID, HO**): 21-126 seen almost daily, EB, 23 Aug-23 Sep (MW); Red-necked Grebe (**EM**): 5-12, King Salmon, 6-23 Sep (MW); Eared Grebe (**EM**): 1, AOP, 22 Sep (SH); Western Grebe (**EM**): 15 (new arrivals), EB, 13 Sep (MW); **Laysan Albatross**: 1, 8 miles west of Eel River mouth, 10 Sep (LG, et al.); 2, near Humboldt Bay, 12 Sep (GF, fide BR); Ashy Storm-Petrel: 1, 8 and 11 miles west of Eel River (same bird?), 10 Sep (RF, LG, et al.); White Pelican: 1, Lake Earl, 28 Aug-4 Sep (AB); Brown Pelican (**IN, IL**): 200+ feeding frenzy with 3-4 Great Blue Herons, 10 Snowy and 60-70 Great Egrets, 150 Double-Crested Cormorants, 200-300 Western and Heermanns Gulls, and 5-6 Caspian Terns, in channel near AMP, 15 Sep (SH).

Cormorants are Common

Double-crested Cormorant (**IN**): 2,400 resting on mud channel banks of North Bay at low tide south of AMP/AOP, 22 Sep (SH); Great Egret: 1, flying over Trinity River, Douglas City, 19 Sep (DK); Bald Eagle: 1, Todd Ranch, 21 Aug (TL); 2 (first-year birds together), King Salmon, 23 Aug (MW); 1 ad., 7 miles down Klamath River from Happy Camp (*Sisk. Co.*), 13 Sep (CO); Northern Goshawk (**ND, NC**): 1, seen to take a jay or a flicker, near Trinidad, 13 Sep (MeH); Ferruginous Hawk (**ID**): 1, Alexandre Dairy, 25 Sep (AB, JG); **Merlin**: 7 reports (8 birds), from Shay Park, Orick, BRR, Elk RWA, mouth of Willow Creek, Fairhaven, Tangle Blue Trail (*Trinity Co.*), 15-25 Sep (mo); Virginia Rail (**BR**): 1 adult with 3 new black chicks, Potawat Pond, 6 Aug (MV); migrants very vocal by mid-Sep (mo); Sora (**EM**): 1 full-grown juvenile bird, HBNWR, 11 Sep (DF, JP), others, conspicuously vocal by mid-Sep (mo); Pacific Golden Plover: 5 reports (6 birds) of 1-2 from mouth of Elk River, Ferndale Bottoms, CRI, AMP, South Spit, 1-24 Sep (BS, SMcA, DM, KR); American Avocet (**IL**): 2, South Bay at Field's Landing (Clam Island), 6 Sep (MW); 3, Lake Earl, 28 Aug (AB); Greater Yellowlegs (**IN**): 30-200; ERWA, 2-14 Sep (DF, JP, SMcA); Lesser Yellowlegs (**IN**): 37-90, ERWA, 2-14 Sep (SMcA, DF, JP); **Solitary Sandpiper**: 1, Kinman pond on BRR, 26 Aug (SMcA); 1, end of Pala Road, 25 Sep (AB, JG); Wandering Tattler: 1, mud edge of lower Jolly Giant Creek, AMP, 31 Aug (SH); Red Knot: 5 reports of 1-6 from ERWA, AB, Klopp Lake, 29 Aug-20 Sep (SMcA; DF, JP, SC, DM); **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: 1, bay flats at AOP, 24 Aug (DF); 1, V St. Loop, 4 Sep (SC); **Baird's Sandpiper**: 5 reports of 1-3 from South Spit, King Salmon, Mad River Beach, mouth of Mad River, CRI, 25 Aug-6 Sep (BS,

MW, MV, DF, SMcA); **Pectoral Sandpiper**: 8 reports of 1-6 from AB, MRCP, ERWA, AMP, BRR (Kinman Pond), 27 Aug-24 Sep (KI, DF, SMcA, SC, EE, JK, AS); Dunlin (ID): 1, ERWA, 14 Sep (DF); 1, AMP, 18 Sep (EE); 7, South Spit, 24 Sep (KR); **Stilt Sandpiper**: 1-3, ERWA, 5-14 Sep (Lucas, DF, SMcA, JP); **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**: 1, South Spit, 25 Aug (SM, KR, BS); 1, AB, 2-3 Sep (KR, RF, SC); **Ruff**: 1 juv. male, ERWA, 2-7 Sep (mo); 1 juv male, Lake Earl, 4 Sep (AB); Long-billed Dowitcher (ID): 20, ERWA, 14 Sep (DF); 2, Kinman Pond, 21 Sep (SMcA); Wilson's Snipe (ID): 1, V St. Loop, 10 Sep (SC).

Skuaaaaaaa

South Polar Skua: 1, 45 miles west of Trinidad, 17 Sep (PR); Pomarine Jaeger (EM): 1 (only) off Eel River to 11 miles, 10 Sep (RF, SH, et al.); 1, flying along BRR (!), 21 Sep (SMcA), joined a flight of Turkey Vultures (!), who else has had a mixed flock of Pomarine Jaeger and Turkey Vultures? What kind of sauce do you suppose the jaeger (or observer) was on? Parasitic Jaeger: 2 (only) off Eel River to 11 miles, 10 Sep (RF, et al.); 1, King Salmon, 23 Aug; 12 Sep (MW); Sabine's Gull: 11 in groups of 1-3, off Eel River to 11 miles, 10 Sep (SH, LG, RF, et al.); Elegant Tern: 50, foot of Truesdale Street, 1 Sep (BS); 0 seen in a cruise the entire length of Eureka Channel and back, 10 Sep (SH, et al.); 5 (only), King Salmon, 13 Sep (MW); Common Tern: 3, Foot of Truesdale Street, 1 Sep (BS); 3 (reported as "Commic"), King Salmon, 7 Sep (MW); Pigeon Guillemot: 1, entrance of Humboldt Bay, 10 Sep (SH, et al.); Marbled Murrelet: 7, off Crescent Beach, 24 Aug (HB); x (heard only), Carruther's Cove, 31 Aug (HB); Cassin's Auklet: 3 (only), to 11 miles off Eel River, 10 Sep (LG, RF, SH, et al.); Tufted Puffin: 1, 7-8 miles west of Table Bluff, 10 Sep (SH, LG, et al.); Northern Pygmy Owl: 1, Big Bar on Klamath River (*Sisk Co.*), 12 Sep (CO); 1, Eureka, 25 Sep (LC); Burrowing Owl: 1, Redwood Creek Dike at Orick, 9 Sep (KI); 1, above Big Flat Campground, Trinity County, apparently catching insects on the road at night, 22 Sep (EE); Common Nighthawk (Update): 1, Crescent Beach, 18 Aug (HB); Poorwill: 1 catching moths at night over road above Big Flat Campground, Trinity County, 22 Sep (EE); Vaux's Swift: 100, ERWA, 11 Sep (DF, JP); Lewis's Woodpecker: 1, Ft. Dick, 18 Sep (AB); 6, Bucktail River Access, below Lewiston, 21 Sep (EE, PH); Acorn Woodpecker (IL): 3, BRR, 23 Sep (SMcA); Downy Woodpecker (IN): 6 in 2.5 miles of Salt River riparian cover, 11 Sep (SMcA); Olive-sided Flycatcher (ID): 1, Bayside, 3-5 Sep (sang 4 times on the 5th, DF); 1, Arcata, 18 Sep (RF); Wood Pewee (EM): 1, Blue Lake Hatchery, 11 Sep (SC); 1, Trinidad, 20 Sep (MeH); Willow Flycatcher: 15 reports of 1-2 from Arcata, Trinidad, Blue Lake, BSLP, Orick, Davison Road, ERWA, MRCP, 25 Aug-24 Sep (mo). **Least Flycatcher (ND, NC)**: 1, Blue Lake, 29 Aug (DF); 1, Davison Road, 10 Sep (KI); Say's Phoebe: 1, Douglas City, 9, 19 Sep (D & MK); 1, BRR, 21 Sep (SMcA); 2, Pt. St. George, 25 Sep (AB, JG); **Eastern Kingbird**: 1, vic, Orick Dump, 30 Aug (BS); **Blue-headed Vireo (UD, ND, NC)**: 1, Capetown, 10 Sep; 1, ERWA, 16 Sep (both SMcA); 1, Orick/Orick Dump, 7, 17 Sep (KI); **Philadelphia Vireo (ND, NC)**: 1, Orick Dump, 29 Aug (KI); **Red-eyed Vireo (ND, NC)**: 1, Blue Lake Bottoms, 25 Aug (KS); 1, Orick Dump, 29 Aug, 5 Sep (KI); Horned Lark (BR): 5 new fledglings, BRR, 27 Aug (SMcA); Violet-green Swallow (EM): 380 on wires, Kneeland Road, 18 Aug (BB, DVZ); 400 on wires (2 flocks), AB, 11 Sep (SC); Bank Swallow: 1, AOP, 26 Aug (EE); Clark's Nutcracker: 4, Tangle Blue Trail, 25 Sep (DK); Black-capped Chickadee (IN): 32 in 2.5 miles of Salt River Riparian, 11 Sep (compares to only 7 Chestnut-backed Chickadees in the same stretch, SMcA); Bushtit: "big flock," Centerville Beach, 30 Aug (DF); White-breasted Nuthatch: 1, Fortuna, 20 Aug (RC); Rock Wren: 1, AOP, 26-27 Aug (DF, KR, SC); House Wren (EM): 1, mouth of Elk River, 29 Aug ; 1, Fernbridge, 21 Sep (both SMcA); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (EM): 1, Azalea Hill, 10 Sep (GL); 1, Blue Lake Bottoms, 11 Sep (SC); Townsend's Solitaire: 1, GO road near Summit Meadow, 25 Aug (TL); Swainson's Thrush: 1, mouth of Willow Creek, 20 Sep (TL); **Gray Catbird (HO)**: 1, Blue Lake riparian (seen eating berries), 28 Aug (JC); Northern Mockingbird: 1, Shay Park, 4 Sep (JK, AS); 1 Centerville Road, 21 Sep (SMcA); **Yellow Wagtail (GW)**: 1, Virgin Creek Beach, 16-17 Sep (DT, et al., photos by RLeV; first Mendocino County record); **Phainopepla (UD; NC)**: 1 female reported, Rio Del, 28 Aug (IS).

The Vagrants are here!

Tennessee Warbler: 1, Fairhaven, 19 Sep (RS); 1, Orick Dump, 21-22 Sep (KI); Orange-crowned Warbler: 4 in 2.5 miles of Salt River Riparian, 11 Sep (SMcA); **Northern Parula (NC, ND)**: 1, Base of Bald Hills Road, 10, 22 Sep

(KI); **Yellow Warbler**: the usual mid- September wave passed along the immediate coast, up to 60 seen at Shay Park, 14-15 Sep (DF, RF), 19 recorded in 2.5 miles of Salt River riparian cover, 11 Sep (SMcA), and numbers were reported to have declined by 17-18 Sep (DF, KI, et al.); **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: 5 reports of singles at base of Bald Hills Road, Fairhaven, MRCP, Orick Dump, and Fernbridge, 7-21 Sep (KI, DF, SMcA); **Magnolia Warbler**: 5 reports of singles from base of Bald Hills Road, Orick Dump, Eureka, King Salmon, Fairhaven, 7-23 Sep (KI, BS, MW, KS); **Blackburnian Warbler (ND)**: 1, MRCP, 27-28 Aug (RF, SC, DF, JP, et al.); 1, Woodley Island, 15-16 Sep (JH, RS); 1, Orick Dump, 5, 22 Sep; 1, base of Bald Hills Road, 22 Sep (all, KI, [ND, NC]); **Prairie Warbler**: 1, Stagecoach Road, 14 Sep (MeH); **Palm Warbler**: 1, Redwood Creek Dike at Orick, 9 Sep (KI); **Bay-breasted Warbler (NC, ND)**: 1, Orick Dump, 21 Sep (KI); **Blackpoll Warbler**: 6 reports of singles from Orick Dump, Salt River, Orick Oxbow, Trinidad, Cooper Gulch, 10-24 Sep (KI, SMcA, MeH, JP, DF); **Black-and-white Warbler**: 1, Orick Dump, 17 Sep (KI); **American Redstart**: 1, MRCP, 27 Aug (RF, SC, et al.); 1, Fairhaven, 16-21 Sep (RS, DF, RF); **Northern Waterthrush**: 1, ERWA, 14 Sep (DF); MacGillivray's Warbler: 1 adult feeding a juvenile above Houda Point, 20 Sep (MeH); Common Yellowthroat: Along with the usual coastal Sep migratory wave, 9 recorded in 2.5 miles of Salt River riparian cover, 11 Sep (SMcA); Wilson's Warbler: 6 recorded in 2.5 miles of Salt River riparian, 11 Sep (SMcA); **Summer Tanager (ND, NC)**: 1, Orick Dump, 29 Aug; 1, base of Bald Hills Road, 17 Sep (both KI); Spotted Towhee (**EM**): 1, Azalea Hill, 11 Sep (GL)

Clay-colored Sparrow: 1, HBNWR, 20 Sep (RS); **Vesper Sparrow**: 1, V St. Loop, 24 Aug (BS); **Lark Sparrow**: 1, Little Bald Hill, Del Norte Co., 8 Sep (HB); 1, Moonstone Beach, 20-21 Sep (DM); Sage Sparrow (Updates): 1 adult and 2 young, Summit Creek Road east of Hayfork, 14-15 Aug (SG, fide JH); 1, same location, 20 Aug (JL, fide JH); Lark Bunting: 1 molting male, near Fay Slough Wildlife Area, 24-27 Aug (OR, et al., fide RF); Savannah Sparrow: 8-10, Douglas City, 13 Sep (DK); White-throated Sparrow (**EM**): 1, Little River x Hwy 101, 23 Sep (KR); Golden-crowned Sparrow (**ID**): 1 (heard only), Arcata, 29 Aug (RF); first seen, Azalea Hill, 5 Sep (GL); Lapland Longspur: 3, BRR, 21 Sep (SMcA); 1 flyover, Orick Dump, 22 Sep (KI); 1, end of Pala Road, 25 Sep (AB, JG); Chestnut-collared Longspur (ND, NC): 1, end of Pala Road, 24 Sep (T & SL); **Blue Grosbeak**: 1 juv, Redwood Creek Estuary, 25 Sep (KI); **Dickcissel**: 1, Davison Road, 8 Sep (KI); **Bobolink**: 1 juv., ERWA, 2 Sep (SMcA); 2, end of Pala Road, 25 Sep (AB, JG); **Yellow-headed Blackbird**: 1, Orick, 18 Sep (KI); Red Crossbill: 15-20, Westhaven, mid-Sep (SDR); 14 juv; Arcata feeder, 23 Sep (SC); Lawrence's Goldfinch (**ND, NC**): 1 (heard only), BRR, 21 Sep (SMcA); Evening Grosbeak: 2, Azalea Hill, 11 Sep; 2, Ferndale, 22 Sep (both GL).

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Field Notes
by Stan Harris
24 April-22 August 2005

Summer is gone already, and fall migration is heating up. Because this report covers 4 months, I received many more reports than I have room for, so if your observation is not listed, please don't think we are not interested; keep them coming. Failure of normal summer upwelling made pelagic trips out of Ft. Bragg, 22 May and 14 Aug, and out of Eureka, 19 Jun, 24 Jul, and 14 Aug, rather quiet without anything special reported. By far the most special critter reported was a **sea otter** video-taped off Humboldt Bay 4 Aug (EE, et al.) and resighted 5 Aug off Trinidad and Big Lagoon. Abbreviations used: **AB** = Arcata Bottoms; **AMP** = Arcata Marsh Project; **AOP** = Arcata Oxidation Pond; **BRR** = Bear River Ridge; **BSLP** = Butcher Slough Log Pond; **EDLN** = expected date, location, numbers; **EM** = expected migrant; **ERWA** = Eel River Wildlife Area; **ESR** = expected summer resident; **FR** = few records; **GW** = gee whiz report; **HBNWR** = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; **HO** = hold over; **I?** = is it possible this bird was misidentified?; **ID** = interesting date; **IL** = interesting location; **LMR** = lower Mad River; **MKSP** = MacKerricher State Park; **mo** = many observers; **MS** = monitored species; **NBR** = noteworthy brood record; **NC** = not confirmed; **ND** = no details; **NLS** = noteworthy late straggler or over-summering bird; **SD** = startling date; **UD** = update.

White-fronted Goose (NLS): 2, Shelter Cove, 6 May (RS); 1-3, Lake Cleone, 29 Apr-24 Jun (DT); “**Cackling**” **Cackling Goose (NLS):** 1, HBNWR, 22 May (SC, MW). **Tundra Swan (NLS):** 6, flyby, Pigeon Point, Eureka, 30 Apr (JK). **Eurasian Wigeon (NLS):** 2, AB, 30 Apr (JT). **Harlequin (NLS, HO):** Up to 13 present continuously, Virgin Creek Beach (through 21 Aug [DT]); 1-2, near South Jetty, King Salmon, mid-Jun through Jul (MW, RR). **White-winged Scoter (NLS, IN):** 300-400, off Gold Bluff Beach, 21 Jun (EE). **Common Merganser (IL):** 3-5, on bay at Fields Landing, ±22 May (MW). **Ruffed Grouse (FR):** 1, Redwood Valley, 3 Apr (ES, BS); 3, lower end of Titlow Hill Road, 2 May (SC); 1, Ship Mtn BBS route, 30 Jun (TL); near Korbel, 9 Aug (SCo).

Loony Sightings

Pacific Loon (EDLN): 895 counted in 2 hours passing Shelter Cove, 6 May (RS); 20, North Jetty, 1 May (SC); ±13 summering over in the Entrance Channel were joined by up to 69-151, 22 Jul-22 Aug (MW, RR); 45 off Gold Bluff Beach, 21 Jun (EE). **Arctic Loon (GW, ND, NC):** 1 reported, Shelter Cove, 6 May (RSu). **Red-necked Grebe (NLS):** 2, Jetty Channel, 19 Jun (MW). **White Pelican (FR):** 1, Lake Earl/Talawa, 14-21 Aug (AB, et al.). **American Bittern (FR):** 1, Loleta Pond, 20 Jun (BS). **White-faced Ibis (FR):** 1, AB, 30 Apr (SC). **Bald Eagle (MS):** 20+ reports of 1-2 from Tompkins Hill (new nest site, LB), near King Salmon, Blue Lake, Humboldt Bay, Arcata, Willow Creek, Salmon Creek (near Miranda), Todd Ranch, Mattole River (mo). **Goshawk (FR):** 1, Horse Mountain, 21 Jun (JHe); 1, Maple Spring, Trinity Co., 2 Aug (TL). **Merlin (SD, I?):** 1, Mad River Fish Hatchery, 22 May (KR). **Crested Caracara (GW):** 1, Smith River Bottoms, 5-10 Jul (AB, LB, MB, et al.); 1, near Fernbridge, 19 Jul (ST, KB). **Virginia Rail (ID):** 3, heard giving the “kicker” call, Loleta Pond, 20 Jun (BS); species became vocally obvious generally again in early Aug. **Sora (ID):** 1 heard, HBNWR, 27 Apr (RLeV); 2, Marshall Pond, 21 May (KR). **Common Moorhen (IN):** 1, AMP, 28 Apr-2 May (MV, FA, EE); 1, HBNWR, 10 May (MW, BS); 1, Copenhagen Road, 10 May (MW, BS). **Pacific Golden-Plover (ID):** 15, Centerville Beach, 7 Mar; 1, Eel River Spit, 4 May (both SMcA); 6, ERWA, 24 May (JD); 1, “breeding plumage”, 26 Jul (Lake Talawa [RH]). **Lesser Sand-Plover (GW):** 1 ad, breeding plumage, Clam Beach, 10-12 Jul (ZN, CW, et al, photos; stunning bird). **American Avocet (NBR):** 2 on nests, HBNWR, 8 May (DF, JP). **Black-necked Stilt (FR):** 1-4, HBNWR, 7-22 May (mo); 3, Lake Cleone, 25 Apr (DT).

Inland Solitary

Solitary Sandpiper (FR): 1, heard only, flyby; 1 mile south of junction of Blue Creek and Klamath River, 21 Jul (DF); 1, Lake Earl, 19 Jul (Lucas). **Pectoral Sandpiper (ID):** 1, mouth of Lake Talawa (Lucas). **Stilt Sandpiper**

(FR): 1, Vigo Street Marsh, 17-18 Aug, BS, et al, photos); 1-2, Lake Cleone, 14-19 Aug (DT, RLeV, et al., photos). **Wilson's Phalarope (EM):** 1-11, AOP, AB, BRR, LMR (12-28 Jul (mo). **Pomarine Jaeger (EM):** 1, on Clam Beach, 1 Jul (KR); 1, LMR, 18 Aug (RF). **Franklin's Gull (FR):** Groups of 1, 2, 1, flyby, Patricks Point, 24 May (BS). **Glaucous Gull (FR):** 1, base of Table Bluff, 7 May (MaMo); 1 second year, Manila Gun Club area, 11 May (JW); 1, mouth of Eel River, 10 May (MW, BS); 1, on Cape Beach inshore from Steamboat Rock 26 Jun (GL). **Black Skimmer (GW):** 1, Clam Beach, 19 Jul (KR, photo). **Pigeon Guillemot (IL):** 9, Entrance Bight, Humboldt Bay, 19 Jun (MW). **Marbled Murrelet (MS):** 208 counted in groups of 1-5 (mostly less than 5) off Freshwater Lagoon in a patch of water about 1 km by 1.5 km in size, many in less than full breeding plumage (DF); 32 counted in the same place, 23 May (KR); Humboldt Bay Entrance, 13 on 22 May and 55 on 19 Jun (both MW); 19 (copulation seen), Crescent City Harbor, 21 May (KR); 99 detections, early a.m. murrelet watch, Prairie Creek State Park, 9 Jun (DF); 5, off South Spit 19 Jun (RLeV, SMcA); 2-70, Entrance Bight, 2 Jul-13 Aug (MW). **Tufted Puffin (MS):** 1 emerged from a hole on Green Rock, 3 May (MH); 1 flyby Patricks Point southbound, no visible food being carried, 24 May (BS). **Eurasian Collared Dove (MS):** 1, HBNWR, 8 May (DF, JP); 1, McKinleyville, 18 May (KR); 1, Vigo Street Marsh, 10 Jun (TL); 1, South Broadway, Eureka, 13 Aug (BS).

Going Cuckoo?

Yellow-billed Cuckoo (GW, FR): 1 heard calling between Rio Dell and mouth of Van Duzen River, 4 Jun (CO); 1 (same?), heard, seen, recorded, photographed, along Eel River near Fortuna, 6 Jun (SMcA); 1 (same?) at BSLP, heard and seen 19 Jun (EE, et al.) and heard 20 Jun (SH, DH); 1 said to have been heard (same?) at Sandy Prairie Bar, 6 Jul (JT). **Burrowing Owl (ID, GW):** 1, Mtn View Road, Kneeland, 19 Jul (BS) (only Jul record ever). **Common Nighthawk (MS):** 1, Trinidad, 12 May (MH), 27 Jun (KI); 1 calling over Eureka, 20 May, 9 Jun (BS). **Black Swift (FR):** 2, flyby, Arcata, 16 May (SC); 11, base of Bald Hills Road, 16 May (BS); 1, Lone Pine Ridge, 12 May (CO); 1, HBNWR, 22 May (BD, MW); 2, foraging over Patricks Point, 24 May (BS); 5, flyby, Manila, 29 May (SC); 1 flyby, McKinleyville, 14 Aug (KR). **Vaux's Swift (IL):** 6, Douglas City, 22 May (DK). **White-throated Swift (FR):** 2, over north end of Elk Head, 13 May (MH); 5, Wagner Bridge, 20 May (MW, BS); 8, Scotia Bluffs, 25 May (GL). **Calliope Hummingbird (FR):** 1, Blue Lake Fish Hatchery, 27 Apr (RF); 1, Denny, week of 20 May (LM). **Lewis's Woodpecker (ID):** 1, Horse Mountain Ridge, 12 Jul (JHe). **Olive-sided Flycatchers (EM):** 4 reports of 1-3 apparent migrants singing at Blue Lake, Shay Park, above Little River and at Manila, 28 Apr-11 May (SC, MH, JW). **Willow Flycatcher (MS):** 11 records of 1-2 singing birds from Blue Lake riparian cover, cutover forest land between Korbell and Maple Creek, Boyes Prairie, Davison Road, mouth of Redwood Creek, AMP, Ender's Beach, Klamath Glen, 19 May-26 Jun (mo) 2, Todd Ranch, 16 Aug (TL). **Gray Flycatcher (FR):** 1, near Orleans, 30 Apr (BS).

Last of the Blue Jay

Blue Jay (HO, ID): last seen at feeder in Redwood Valley, 25 May (KH). **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (FR):** 1, near Honeydew, 12 Aug (BF). **Bank Swallow (FR):** 1, AMP, 23 Jul (EE, GZ). **Oak Titmouse (FR, EL):** 1-3, near Alderpoint, 20 May (BS, MW); 5 Jun (KR, MW). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (FR, EL):** 2-5 at Union Hill near Douglas City, 2-5 Apr (DK); 2, near Alderpoint, 20 May (MW, BS); 3 along lower Friday Ridge Road, 2 Jun (TL); 30± (!), near Ant Point, 27 Jul; 1 south of Kettenpom, 2 Aug (both TL). **Western Bluebird (MS):** 12 reports of birds present or nesting at Denny, Bear River Ridge, Kneeland, Union Hill (Douglas City); above Miranda, Alderpoint, Blue Lake, BRR, Ant Point, Shower's Pass, Lassics, 2 Apr-5 Aug (mo). **Mountain Bluebird (FR):** 1 female with 1 Juv., Spruce Grove, 13 Jul (AM, fide JH). **Gray Catbird (GW, FR):** 1, Blue Lake riparian, 21 Aug (SC, KR).

Feeling Thrashed

California Thrasher (EL): 1, Shelter Cove, 4 Jun (BS). **Phainopepla (FR):** 1, pair, well described, Denny, week of 20 May (LM). **Northern Parula (FR):** 1, Trinidad, 31 May (KI); 1, vicinity of Bald Hills Road, 14 Jun (BS); 1 pair, North Bank Road, 27 Jun-30 Jul (KI, et al., adults seen carrying food ± 26-27 Jul). **Chestnut-sided Warbler (FR):** 1, Dry Lagoon, 9 Jun (KI); 1, Big Lagoon, 13-14 Jun (KI, RF); 1, west end Crannell Road, 19 Jun (KI); 1, south end of Centerville Beach Road extension, 20 Jun (BS); 1 "female," Blue Lake Riparian, 25 Jul (ST).

Townsend's Warbler (ID): 1, at sea 10-13 miles, 14 Aug (RF, et al.); 1, Blue Lake riparian, 21 Aug (SC). **Palm Warbler (ID):** 1 singing, AMP, 25 Apr-1 May (BA, JT). **Blackpoll Warbler (GW, ID):** 1 singing (very few spring records), Fairhaven, Airport Willows, 21 Jun (GL). **Black-and-white Warbler (FR):** 1, singing, Big Lagoon, 30 May-1 Jun (KI, et al.); 1, Dry Lagoon, 8-9 Jun (KI). **American Redstart (FR):** 1 singing under Fernbridge, 8 Jun (SMcA). **Field Sparrow (GW):** 1, Blue Lake Bottoms, 11-17 Jul (KB, RF, ST, et al., 1 photo; first Northcoast record). **Lark Sparrow (IL):** 1, Lakeview Drive, Lake Earl, 20 Jun (Lucas). **Grasshopper Sparrow (FR):** 1-4, Hettenshaw Valley, 25-27 Jul (TL); 1-2, Kneeland, 26-31 Jul (BB, DVZ). **Thick-billed Fox Sparrow (EL):** Apparent migrants reported at Douglas City, 11 Apr (DK); and singing, apparently breeding birds reported at Titlow Hill Road, Horse and South Fork mountains, 5 Jun-4 Jul and 16 miles up Del Norte Go Road, 20 Jun (KR, MW, Lucas). **White-throated Sparrow (ID):** 1, Azalea Hill, 11 Jun (GL).

Bumper Grosbeaks

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (FR): a bumper crop this year, as follows: 1 male, Lanphere Dunes, 10 Jun (KH); 1 male, 3-G's, at Hwy 299 x Mad River 14 Jun (SG); 1 male, Moonstone Beach, 16 Jun (GD); 1 male, Quarry Road, middle Jacoby Creek, 24 Jun (SW); 1 male, Fieldbrook, 28 Jun (TC, CL); 1 male singing, Azalea Hill, 3-10 Jul (GL, et al.); 1 male near Ferndale, 25 Jun (TR); 1, Korbel, 2 Aug (SCo). **Indigo Bunting (FR):** 1 male singing, Blue Lake, 23 Jun (BS); 1 Fountain Ranch, 2-9 Jul (RS, RF). **Great-tailed Grackle (FR):** 1 female, Greenhorn Park, Yreka, 2 Jun (ST). **Hooded Oriole (MS):** Fewer than normal reports, 1 male along Stagecoach Road, 4 May (MH); 1, Bayside, ± 5 May (DF). **Bullock's Oriole (IB):** KK reported birds nesting **inside** mistletoe clumps in white oak trees above Salmon Creek near Miranda, 19 May. **Baltimore Oriole (FR):** 1 male singing, Stagecoach Road, 15 Jun (BS); 1 ad. male, singing, AMP, 1 Jul (SH). **Cassin's Finch (EL):** Singing birds reported from Grouse and South Fork mountains, west of Dinsmore, Trailhead to Youngs Peak, and 16 miles up the Del Norte Go Road, 21 May-19 Jul (BS, SC, KR, Lucas, TL). **Red Crossbill (IN):** Widespread throughout area, good numbers reported of pairs with and without begging juveniles, plus flocks of up to 50 from Titlow Hill Road, Bayside Golf Course Road, Klopp Lake Parking Lot; Sunny Brae, near Miranda; King Crest Trail, Azalea Hill, 24 Apr-21 Aug (mo). **Lawrence's Goldfinch (FR):** 2 females or immatures, Showers Pass Road, 4 Aug (BS). **Evening Grosbeak (FR):** 15-20, Bayside Golf Course Road, 24 Apr (RF, MP, JM); 1 female feeding on ground under a feeder, Douglas City, 27 May (DK).

Many thanks to the following who supplied reports this period: Brian Acord, Frank Anderson, Louise Bacon-Ogden, Alan Barron, Laura Bradley, Kristin Brown, George Burchett, Barbara Burek, Ken Burton, Scott Carey, Tom Cockle, Sarah Colvig, Gary Crites, Gary Davidson, Jeff Dayton, Bruce Deuel, Duke Diehl, Elias Elias, David Fix, Rob Fowler, Brad Freeman, John Gaffin, Sam Giannandrea, Melody Hamilton, Stan Harris, Pablo Herrera, John Hewston, Linda Hills, Kathy Hinz, Kim Hollinger, Richard Holmes, Denise Homer, John Hunter, Ken Irwin, Ken Jarvela, Kyle Keegan, John Keller, Jherime Kellerman (JhK), Titzza and David Kritch, Dale Kuhn, Dick Laursen, Carol Lawrence, Tom Leskiw, Gary & Lauren Lester, Ron LeValley, Sharon Levy, Lucas, Jim Mailliard, Andrea Mannis, Sean McAllister, Yalmaki Miliva, Art Morley, Michael Morris, Bob Morrison, Mark Morrissette (MaMo), Mildred Mossman, Linda Munk, Zach Nelson, Chet Ogan, John Pelabigue, Mike Pelegrini, Jude Power, Richard Ridenhour, Terrie Ridenhour, Kerry Ross, Rob Santry, Barry and Eileen Sauppe, Jimmy Smith, Paul Springer, Amy Stercho, Craig Strong, Robert Sutherland, Ryan Terrill, Jim Tietz, Dorothy Tobkin, Lauren and Jennifer Tompkins, Khanh Tran, Steve Tucker, Beverly Unck, Margaret Varga, Matt Wachs, Abe Walston, Ron Ward, Jim & Virginia Waters, Sylvia White, Carol Wilson, Jared Wolfe, Gretchen Ziegler, Dan Van Zile. Many thanks to Dave Fix for filling in for me when I was out of town in April.

Field Notes
by David Fix
28 March-28 April 2005

Most of our spring migrants have arrived, some in numbers, while wintering raptors and waterfowl have moved out. Migrant waterbirds can be seen daily from coastal points. An amazing *three Swainson's Hawks* popped up this month, providing Humboldt County's 5th-7th records. Will White-faced Ibis make an appearance again this May? Godwit Days sightings not reported to the Bird Box were unavailable. Thanks, Stan, for the opportunity to write up our notes while you were out of town. In the interest of space, some Expected Spring Abbreviations have been omitted here.

Greater White-fronted Goose: 3, L. Cleone, 28 Mar-20 Apr (DT); 3-7, AB, 27 Mar-10 Apr (RbF, KGR, SCa); 2, HBNWR, 2 Apr (SFB); Brant: 75, w. of Eureka Marsh, 6 Apr (TWL); Wood Duck: 2, Big Lagoon, 5 Apr (KGR); 2, Outlet Ck. n. of Willits, 10 Apr (JTz, RGr); Eurasian Wigeon: 5 m., AB, 9-10 Apr (KGR, SFB); Northern Shoveler: 800, HBNWR, 28 Apr (DFx); Ring-necked Duck: 9, Big Lagoon, 5 Apr (KGR); 44, Outlet Ck. n. of Willits, 12 Apr (JTz, RGr); Common Goldeneye: 1, Trinidad harbor, 19 Apr (MHa); Harlequin Duck: up to 9, Virgin Ck. and Glass Beach, 28 Mar-20 Apr (DT); 1 m., n. spit, 17 Apr (SCa); White-winged Scoter: 1-2, Klopp L., AMWS, 29 Mar-5 Apr (m.ob.); Black Scoter: 1 m., n. jetty, 10 Apr (SCa); 1-3, w. of Freshwater Lagoon, 4/16&19 (JCP, DFX+); 1, Trinidad harbor, 19 Apr (MHa); White-tailed Kite: 1, s. of Laytonville, 12 Apr (JTz, RGr); **Common Black-Hawk?**: 1 possible, not confirmed, over HSU, 19 Apr (LR); Red-shouldered Hawk: 1, Douglas City, 27-29 Mar (DK); Swainson's Hawk: 1, Manila, 17 Apr (JTz, RGr); 1, over s. Arcata, 23 Apr (JTz+); 1, Fay Slough, 26 Apr (BS); Bald Eagle: ad., Garberville, 29 Mar (JDS); 1, North Bay, 1&4 Apr (SFB, MB); ad. and juv., near Benbow, 10 Apr (JDS); subad. chasing Osprey with fish, Freshwater Lagoon, 16 Apr (DFx, JCP+); ad. there 17 Apr (BM); ad. and imm., AMWS, 23 Apr (JTz+); Golden Eagle: 1, near Del Loma, 1 Apr (SCa); Peregrine Falcon: 1, AMWS, 1 Apr (SFB); 1, Outlet Ck. n. of Willits, 14 Apr (JTz, RGr); ad., Freshwater Lagoon, 16 Apr (DFx, JCP+); ad., HBNWR, 20&28 Apr (DFx).

Blue Grouse: several "booming," 23 Apr, Horse Mountain (JW, MP); Sora: 1, HBNWR, 20&27 Apr (DFx, RLeV); Red-necked Grebe: 1, foot of I St., Arcata, 2 Apr (RbF); 1, Crescent City, 9 Apr (PAH, RbF+); 1, n. spit, 10 Apr (SCa); Clark's Grebe: 7, off Jacoby Ck., 4, Fields Landing, 2, n. jetty (all 2 Apr, SFB); 1, n. spit, 10 Apr (SCa); Green Heron: 1-2, Douglas City, 25-29 Mar (DK); American Bittern: 1, AMWS, 1 Apr (SFB); 1, HBNWR, 20 Apr (DFx); 1, Boyes Prairie, PCRSP, 27 Apr (DFx, KGR+); Brown Pelican: 8, n. past Mendocino Headlands, 23-24 Apr (RLeV); 5 imm., Trinidad harbor, 24 Apr (BAC); 1 imm., Gold Bluffs Beach, 24 Apr (GSL, LPL); Black-necked Stilt: 1, HBNWR, 30-31 Mar (SLw, RbF); 2 there, 21 Apr (GAB+); Spotted Sandpiper: pair "crane dancing," Trinidad, 19 Apr (MHa); Wandering Tattler: 1, Glass Beach, 4 Apr (DT); Lesser Yellowlegs: 1, HBNWR, 2&20 Apr (SFB, DFX); 4 there, 21 Apr (GAB+); Solitary Sandpiper: 3, Fay Slough, 26 Apr (BS); "oddwit," either Bar-tailed Godwit or aberrant Marbled Godwit: 1, with mixed shorebirds, Little R. estuary pastures, 21-22 Apr (KI, KB, RbF); Rock Sandpiper: 1, Pt. St. George, 9 Apr (PAH, RbF+); at least 3, n. jetty, 10 Apr (SCa); Red Knot: 12, Klopp L., AMWS, 9 Apr (BAC); 1, Woodley I., 20 Apr (GAB+); Short-billed Dowitcher: 350, HBNWR, 28 Apr (DFx); Whimbrel: 1, Klopp L., AMWS, 4 Apr (EE, SWH); 1, Del Norte St. flats, Eureka, 5 Apr (SCa); Cassin's Auklet: 1, Trinidad, 19 Apr (MHa); Marbled Murrelet: many flying by, n. jetty, 10 Apr (SCa); many heard and up to 22 seen, PCRSP, on 16 mornings 5-22 Apr (DFx, KGR, SMcA+); 44, Trinidad harbor, 24 Apr (BAC); Rhinoceros Auklet: 1, Trinidad harbor, 24 Apr (BAC); Tufted Puffin: 1, Trinidad, 19 Apr (MHa).

Band-tailed Pigeon: 8, Douglas City, 28 Mar (DK); 20, daily, Sunny Brae, 30 Mar-6 Apr (SWH); probable **Eurasian Collared-Dove**: 1, Eureka, 27 Apr (LB-O); Northern Pygmy-Owl: 1-2 heard, PCRSP, 19-20 Apr (DFx, KGR, SMcA+); Short-eared Owl: 1, MRSWA, 9 Apr (SCa); Vaux's Swift: 5, Arcata, 1 Apr (JTz); White-throated Swift: 3, Wagner Bridge s. of Benbow, 17 Apr (JDS); Rufous Hummingbird: 1 m., Arcata, 15 Apr (JTz); 1st at Kneeland 5 Mar, seen on 10 of 31 days in Mar (update, BBu, DVZ); Western Kingbird: 1, Crescent City, 2-9 Apr

(ADB, PAH, RbF+); 2, Outlet Ck. n. of Willits, 10 Apr (JTz, RGr); 1, Requa, 22 Apr (DFx); 2, Crannell Rd., 26 Apr (FAn); Pacific-slope Flycatcher: 4, PCRSP, 6 Apr (DFx); **Gray Flycatcher**: 1, 24 Apr, Orleans (PAH, BCI+); Cassin's Vireo: 1, Hewitt Rd., McKinleyville, 10 Apr (GSL); Warbling Vireo: 1, Eureka, 12 Apr (TWL); **Loggerhead Shrike**: 1, s. spit, 26-31 Mar (LK, BS, MWa, RbF); 1, mouth Redwood Ck., 3 Apr (KGR); Purple Martin: 1, Bayside, 11 Apr (DFx) and 24 Apr (RbF); several, Aldergrove Pond, 17 Apr (SCa); 1, from n. Klamath R. mouth overlook, 22 Apr (DFx); several, Eureka, 28 Apr (TWL, SLs); Cliff Swallow: 3, Kneeland, 30 Mar (BBu, DVZ); albino swallow: 1, Jacobs Ave., Eureka, 18 Apr, said to be pure white (TS); **Blue Jay**: winterer at Redwood Valley continued until at least 9 Apr (CH); Steller's Jay: 40+, Kneeland, 1 Mar (update, BBu, DVZ); 1, AMWS, 23 Apr (JTz+); Gray Jay: 1, AMWS, 30 Mar (GC, EE); 1-5, PCRSP, many dates, Apr (DFx, KGR, SMcA+).

Cedar Waxwing: 100+, Douglas City, 16 Mar (update, DK); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 1, BLR, 9 Apr (BAc); 1, Hiller Park, McKinleyville, 17 Apr (JEH, XQH); House Wren: 1, Todd Ranch, So. Fk. Trinity R., 15 Apr (TWL); 1, PCRSP, 27 Apr (DFx, KGR+); American Dipper: pairs nesting at Todd Ranch, 15 Apr (TWL), at Wagner Bridge s. of Benbow, 17 Apr (JDS), and under two bridges along Lost Man Ck., 16 Apr (DFx, JCP+); single bird heard along Boyes Ck. w. of Drury Parkway at PCRSP, 20&22 Apr (DFx); 1, Horse Linto campground, 23-24 Apr (TWL, SLs); Western Bluebird: several, Bald Hills, 22 Apr (HEB); **Sage Thrasher**: 1, Orleans, 24 Apr (PAH, BCI+); Nashville Warbler: 1, Aldergrove Pond, 9 Apr (BAc); Yellow Warbler: female believed wintering for her fourth year last reported 2 Apr at AMWS (RbF); 1, Eureka, 1 Apr (GSL); Myrtle Warbler: 15, Outlet Ck. n. of Willits (JTz, RGr—only two Aud's.); Black-throated Gray Warbler: 1, AMWS, 10 Apr (SFB); 1, Redwood NP, 22 Apr (HEB); Hermit Warbler: 1, Redwood NP, 22 Apr (HEB); arrivals said to be “trying to take over the world” at Arcata Comm. Forest, 24 Apr (JTz, RGr); Palm Warbler: 1-3, AMWS, 9 Apr (SFB, BAc); 1, 2nd and H, Eureka, 14 Apr (GSL); one of several winterers still at AMWS, 25 Apr (BAc); MacGillivray's Warbler: 1, PCRSP, 27 Apr (DFx+); Common Yellowthroat: 1, Douglas Cty, 26 Mar (DK); 3, Eureka Marsh, 4 Apr (TWL); Yellow-chested Brat [sic]: 1, BLR, 21-23 Apr (JhK, JW, MP); Wilson's Warbler: 1, AMWS, 30 Mar (EE).

Northern Waterthrush: winterer last reported at AMWS 2 Apr (RbF); Vesper Sparrow: 1, Jacoby Ck. estuary, 2 Apr (SFB); Chipping Sparrow: 1, Kneeland, 24 Mar (update, BBu, DVZ); Grasshopper Sparrow: 3, first of year, So. Hum. Comm. Park, Garberville, 17 Apr (DW+); Swamp Sparrow: 1-2, AMWS, 1&4 Apr (SFB, RbF); 1 still there, 14 Apr (EE, DP); White-throated Sparrow: 1, Garberville, 9 Apr (JDS); 3 singing, Bayside, 18 Apr (DFx); Hooded Oriole: singles at Eureka, 28 Mar (BS); Bayside, 14 Apr (DFx); and AMWS, 23 Apr (JTz+); Bullock's Oriole: 1, Outlet Ck. n. of Willits, 10 Apr (JTz, RGr); Lapland Longspur: 1, BLFH, 21 Apr (JhK); Red Crossbill: 3, Eureka, 31 Mar (TWL); 1, building nest, Patricks Pt., 5 Apr (KI); widely noted near coast in Apr (m.ob.); Evening Grosbeak 15-50, 20-28 Apr, Bayside (JS, MP, JM, RbF, DFx, JCP).

River Otter: 1, Butcher Slough, 10 Apr (SFB); Bobcat: one crossed Hwy. 101 just w. of Orick 26 Apr (KGR, DFx).

Observers: Brian Acord (BAc), Frank Anderson (FAn), Louise Bacon-Ogden (LB-O), Stephen F. Bailey (SFB), Alan Barron (ADB), Gary Bloomfield (GAB), Mary Brittingham (MB), Heather Brown (HEB), Barb Burek (BBu), Ken Burton (KB), Scott Carey (SCa), Bryon Cariss (BCa), Bob Claypole (BCl), Greg Crites (GC), Elias Elias (EE), Gary Falxa (GFa), David Fix (DFx), Rob Fowler (RbF), Rebecca Green (RGr), Melody Hamilton (MHa), Stan Harris (SWH), Pablo Herrera (PAH), Cathy Hinz (CH), John Hunter (JEH), Xiaoqing Hunter (XQH), Ken Irwin (KI), Jherime Kellerman (JhK), Lucas Knox (LK), Dale Kuhn (DK), Gary Lester (GSL), Lauren Lester (LPL), Sue Leskiw (SLs), Tom Leskiw (TWL), Steve Lewis (SLw), Sean McAllister (SMcA), Jen Millard (JM), Bill Miller (BM), Diane Pettey (DP), Jude Power (JCP), Mike Paladini (MP), Larry Rose (LR), Kerry Ross (KGR), Barry Sauppe (BS), Jay Sooter (JDS), Jessica Stauffer (JS), Tom Stokes (TS), Jim Tietz (JTz), Dorothy Tobkin (DT), Steve Tucker (STu), Dan Van Zile (DVZ), Matt Wachs (MWa), Doug Wallace (DW), Jared Wolfe (JW), many observers (m.ob.).

Sites Mentioned: Arcata Bottoms (AB), Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary (AMWS), Bear River Ridge (BRR), “Blue Lake riparia” (BLR), Blue Lake Fish Hatchery (BLFH), Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge (HBNWR),

King Salmon (KS), MacKerricher State Park (MKSP), Mad River Slough Wildlife Area (MRSWA), Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park (PCRSP).

Field Notes
by Stan Harris
21 February-27 March 2005

The period was characterized by dry weather with some rain late in the period. One pelagic trip in the fog went out from HSU, on 12 Mar. It was slow for birds, but at least 20 Gray Whales were seen.

Abbreviations Used: **AB= Arcata Bottoms; AMP = Arcata Marsh Project; BRR = Bear River Ridge; EL= Expected Location; EM = Expected Migrant; EN = Expected Numbers; EWSN = Expected in winter in small numbers; FR = Few Records; GW = Gee Whiz Report; HBNWR = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; ID = Interesting Date; IL = Interesting Location; IN = Interesting Numbers; KS = King Salmon; MKSP = MacKerricher State Park; MRWA = Mad River Slough Wildlife Area.; mo = Many Observers; MS = Monitored Species; NC = Not confirmed by a second party; ND = No details or description; x = number not reported.**

White-fronted Goose (IN): 3, Lake Cleone, 26 Jan-20 Mar (DT); x, HBNWR, 4 Mar (EN); 61, Loleta Bottoms, 5 Mar (AD, et al). **Snow Goose (EWSN):** x, HBNWR, 4 Mar (EN); **Ross's Goose (EWSN):** x, HBNWR, 4 Mar (EN); 2, AB, 7 Mar (SC); **Aleutian Cackling Goose (EN):** 1-50, vic. Ft. Bragg, reported as "Cackling Canada Geese," 20-28 Feb (DT); 1000's, AB, HBNWR, 22 Feb-20 Mar (mo); **Tundra Swan (EM):** flocks of up to 50 reported flying north over Eureka, Arcata, McKinleyville, 3-13 Mar (mo); **Eurasian Wigeon (EM):** 1, HBNWR, 17 Feb (DD); 1, AB, 7-12 Mar (SC, RF, et al.); 1, North Bay, 21 Feb (EE); 1, mouth Jacoby Creek, 15 Mar (SC); **Eurasian Green-winged Teal (FR):** 1, HBNWR, 12 Mar (RF); 1, AB, 12 Mar (RF); 1, Klopp Lake, 11 Mar (SH); **Tufted Duck (FR):** 1 male, South Bay, 14 Mar (JTo); **Ring-necked Duck (EL):** 2, Alton Pond, 3 Mar (RC); 4, Freshwater Lagoon, 12 Mar (JK); 3, Dry Lagoon, 26 Mar (JK); **Harlequin (EN):** 1-3, KS, 12 Feb-16 Mar (MW, RF); 2-18, Ft. Bragg beaches, 14 Feb-9 Mar (DT); **Long-tailed Duck (FR):** 1, Fields Landing, 21 Feb-16 Mar (MW); 1, AMP, 10-12 Mar (BMcN, CO, et al.); **Hooded Merganser (FR):** 3, KS, 21 Feb-3 Mar (MW); 4, Gold Bluff Beach, 7 Mar (KS); **Mountain Quail (EL):** 1 calling, Mail Ridge, 25 Mar (JG); **Red-throated Loon (EM):** 30-100, South Bay, 2-16 Mar (MW); 1, Klopp Lake, 13 Mar (SH); **Pacific Loon (EM):** 1, Humboldt Bay Channel/South Bay, 21 Feb-12 Mar (MW, SH); **Horned Grebe (ED):** 80, South Bay, 16 Mar (MW); **Red-necked Grebe (EN):** 7-8, South Bay, 12-16 Mar (SH, MW); **Eared Grebe (IN):** 304 (actual count, more too far away to ID); South Bay, 16 Mar (MW); **Western Grebe (EN):** 280, South Bay/Entrance Bay, 16 Mar (MW); **Clark's Grebe (EL):** 1, bay at AMP, 21 Feb (EE); 1, Eureka Channel, 12 Mar (SH); 1, mouth, Jacoby Creek, 15 Mar (SC); **Black-footed Albatross (EL):** 17 responded to bait, 8 miles west of Eureka (only ones seen all day), 12 Mar (SH, et al.); **Short-tailed Shearwater (ID):** 5, responded to 8 mile baiting, only shearwaters seen all day, 12 Mar (SH, et al.); **Dark Shearwater sp.:** 1 reported from tip of North Jetty, 5 Mar (SC); **Brown Pelican (ID):** 1, MKSP, 22 Feb (DT); **American Bittern (FR):** 1, BSLP, 1-25 Mar (EE, BC, PL); **Green Heron (FR):** 1, Sunnybrae, 1 Mar ("John").

Osprey (EM): 1, Samoa Bridge, 5 Mar (SC); **Bald Eagle (MS):** 6 reports of singles from Big Bar, Benbow, South Spit, Mad River Hatchery, North Bay, 20 Feb-25 Mar (mo); **Northern Goshawk (FR, ND, NC):** 1 immature reported, Willow Creek, 21 Feb (J & JM); **Merlin (MS):** 6 reports of singles at AMP, mouth Jacoby Creek, MRWA, 3-15 Mar (mo); **Peregrine Falcon (MS):** 1, HBNWR, 17 Feb (DD); 1, Benbow, 28 Feb (JS); 1, Garberville, 21 Feb (JS); 1, South Spit, 16 Mar (MW); 1-2, AMP, 11-24 Mar (SH, CO, DH); **Prairie Falcon (FR):** 1, MRWA, 2 Mar (RF); 1, AMP, 5 Mar (RF); **Avocet (IN):** 50, South Bay, 3 Mar (MW); **Red Knot (FR):** 2, Klopp Lake, 21 Feb (EE); 1, Samoa Bridge, 5 Mar (SC); **Rock Sandpiper (FR):** 1-4, Laguna Point, 7-8 Feb (DT); 2, North Jetty, 5 Mar (SC); **Wilson's Snipe (IL):** 1, BRR, 15 Mar (SMcA); **Pigeon Guillemot (ID):** 7, 2-3 miles offshore, 12 Mar (SH); **Marbled Murrelet (MS):** 2-4, North Jetty, 21 Feb-12 Mar (MW, SC, SH); **Glaucous Gull (FR):** 1, Crab Park, 27 Feb (RF, MW); 1 (first year), Ft. Bragg, 1 Mar (DT); 1 (first year), Eureka, 22-23 Mar (GL); **Black-legged**

Kittiwake (EM): 2, Crab Park, 27 Feb (RF, MW); 4-5, 8 miles offshore, 12 Mar (SH); **Caspian Tern (EM):** 2, Crab Park, 27 Feb (RF, MW); 3, mouth, Jacoby Creek, 15 Mar (SC); **Pygmy Owl (FR):** 1 calling, Eureka, 10 Mar (TL); **Burrowing Owl (FR):** 1, Bald Hill Area, Ft. Bragg, 26 Jan-7 Mar (DT).

White-throated Swift (EL): 7-10, Wagner Bridge, x 101, 7 Mar (JH); 4, 101 bridge in northern Mendocino County, 7 Mar (JH); **Rufous Hummingbird (EM):** 1, AMP, 2 Mar (EE, PL); 1, Redwood Valley, 6 Mar (FA); 1, Sunnybrae, 14-15 Mar (SH); **Allen's Hummingbird (EM):** 1, Sunnybrae, 2 Mar (SH); 3, Blue Lake Hatchery, 13 Mar (SC); **Yellow-shafted Flicker (FR):** 2, north McKinleyville, 23 Mar (RD); **Pileated Woodpecker (FR):** 2, Arcata Community Forest, 38 Feb (EP); 1, Mail Ridge, 25 Mar (JG); **Least Flycatcher (FR):** 1 (hold over), 8th and N, Arcata, 5-12 Mar (RF, SC, et al.); **Say's Phoebe (FR):** 1, V St. Loop, 2-5 Mar (JT, RF, et al.); **Blue Jay (GW):** 1, Redwood Valley (holdover), 21 Feb-19 Mar (BA, RF, CL, et al.); **Horned Lark (EL):** 6 pairs, BRR, 15 Mar (SMcA); **Tree Swallow (EM):** up to 100's, AMP 6-19 Mar (mo); 1,000, HBNWR, 27 Feb (RF); "loads," Gold Bluff Beach, 7 Mar (KS); **Violet-green Swallow (EM):** 5-10, AMP, 23 Feb-19 Mar (mo); 2, HBNWR, 27 Feb (RF); 4, Ferndale, 1 Mar (GL); x, Wagner Bridge, 7 Mar (JH); **Rough-winged Swallow (EM):** 1, Arcata Community Forest, 9 Mar (BC); several, AMP, 19 Mar (SC); **Barn Swallow (EM):** 1-10 at HBNWR, Manila, AMP, 27 Feb-19 Mar (RF, SC); **Mockingbird (FR):** 1, north Arcata, 5 Mar (RF); **Orange-crowned Warbler (EM):** 1-2 singing, AMP, Shay Park, Arcata, 23 Feb-12 Mar (SC); several singing, Dry Lagoon 26 Mar (JK); **Nashville Warbler (EWSN):** 1, Shay Park vic, 5-10 Mar (BA, SC); 1 AMP, 25 Mar (EE); **Yellow Warbler (ID):** 1, AMP, 21 Feb-10 Mar (EE, PL, BC, RF); **Palm Warbler (EWSN):** 1-4, AMP, 21 Feb-25 Mar (mo); **Northern Waterthrush (FR):** 1, BSLP, 25 Feb-25 Mar (BC, EE, PL); **White-throated Sparrow (EWSN):** 1-2, Redway, Sunnybrae, Eureka, Redwood Valley, 3-19 Mar (DG, SH, TL, CL); **Lapland Longspur (FR):** 2, MRWA, 2 Mar (RF); **Chestnut-collared Longspur (FR):** 11, BRR, 15 Mar (SMcA); **Bullock's Oriole (ID):** 1, AMP, 4 Mar (PL); **Red Crossbill (EL):** x, Gold Bluff Beach, 7 Mar (KS).

Many thanks to the following who shared observations with us this month: Brian Acord, Frank Anderson, Art Barab, Barbara Burek, Scott Carey, Bryon Cariss, Ruth Crane, Duke Diehl, Rick Dimmick, Alex Drummond, Elias Elias, Gary Falxa, David Fix, Rob Fowler, John Gaffin, Chris Givens, David Gurley, Stan Harris, Denise Homer, John Hunter, Chris Kearns, Jherime Kellerman, Paul Lohse, Tom Leskiw, Gary Lester, Cindy Lieurance, Sean McAllister, Brandy McNall, John and Jennifer Mason, Catherine Michael, Cathy Michaels, Miranda, Michael Morris, Eric Nelson, Chet Ogan, Eddie Painter, W.B. Phillips, Christy Riebling, Rochelle Ryan, Kristin Schmidt, Jay Sooter, C. Soriso, Jim Tietz, Dorothy Tobkin, Jeremy Todoroff, Steve Tucker, Garrett, W., Matt Wachs, Dan Van Zile.

Field Notes
by Stan Harris
7 January-20 February 2005

Winter is over, we are moving into the unspectacular Early Spring migration period, marked by the usual subdued birding activity on the part of observers, the gradual disappearance of local waterfowl, the arrival of the first Ospreys, Aleutian Cackling Geese, Band-tailed Pigeons, hummingbirds, and swallows, but the main spring migration is yet to come. The period just past was marked with generally nice weather and little rain. The only significant mammals reported were 3 Orcas seen on a PPSPSW.

Abbreviations Used: **AB** = Arcata Bottoms; **AMP** = Arcata Marsh Project; **BRR** = Bear River Ridge; **BSLP** = Butcher Slough Log Pond; **EL** = Expected Location; **EM** = Expected Migrant; **EN** = Expected Numbers; **ERB** = Eel River Bottoms; **ERWA** = Eel River Wildlife Area; **EWR** = Expected Winter Resident; **EWSN** = Expected in winter in small numbers; **FR** = Few Records; **GW** = Gee Whiz Report; **HBNWR** = Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge; **hc** = highest count; **IL** = Interesting Location; **IN** = Interesting Numbers; **KS** = King Salmon; **LC** = Lake Cleone; **LMR** = Lower Mad River; **mo** = many observers; **MRSWA** = Mad River Slough Wildlife Area; **MS** = Monitored Species; **NB** = North Humboldt Bay; **NC** = Not confirmed by a second party; **ND** = No Description; **PPSP** = Patrick's Point State Park; **PPSPSW** = 3.5-hour sea watch from Patrick's Point State Park, 6 Jan by Barry Sauppe; **SB** = South Humboldt Bay; **SHCP** = Southern Humboldt Community Park; **SR** = Seldom Reported; **x** = no numbers reported.

White-fronted Goose (EWSN): 3, LC, 21 Dec-24 Jan (DT); 6-22, HBNWR, 11-12 Jan (RF); 2, BSLP, 27 Jan (EE); 1, AB with Aleutian Cackling Geese, 8 Feb (JTo); **Emperor Goose (FR):** 1 shot, ERWA, 15 Jan (DKy, fide BM, RF); **Lesser Snow Goose (EWSN):** 1, HBNWR, 12 Jan BS, RF); **Ross's Goose (EWSN):** 1-2, 11-25 Jan (RF, BS, MW); 2, ERB, 5 Feb (KR, MW); **Cackling Goose (EWSN):** 4-5, LC, 21 Dec-14 Jan (DT); 1, SHCP, 10 Feb (DW); 2, AB, 9 Jan (RF, et al.); 1, Trinidad Harbor, 30 Jan (MeH); **Aleutian Cackling Goose (EM):** many flocks, up to several thousand at HBNWR, ERB, and AB throughout period (mo); **Tundra Swan (EWR):** at counts of barely over 200 in ERB, fewer than expected. (mo); 21 flying north over LMR, 12 Feb (JT); **Bewick's Swan (GW, NC, ND):** 1 reported with Tundra Swans, ERB, 12 Jan (BS), only 1 other, ever northcoast record; **Eurasian Wigeon (EWSN):** 1, NB, 27 Jan (EE); **Blue-winged Teal (EWSN):** 1-2, BSLP, 10 Jan-10 Feb, seen almost daily (EE, JTo); **Eurasian Green-winged Teal (EWSN):** 1, BSLP, 16 Jan-6 Feb (FA, EE, SH, RF); **Intergrade American x Eurasian Green-winged Teal (FR):** 1, Klopp Lake, 30 Jan (RF); **Redhead (MS):** 239 (hc), SB at KS, 4 Jan (MW); 4, ERB, 12 Jan (RF); **Greater Scaup (IL):** 40+ Lewiston Lake, 19 Feb (SH, JH, TL); **Harlequin (EL, EN):** 19 (hc), Pt. St. George, 14 Jan (AB); 1-3, KS, Jetties, 9 Jan-14 Feb (mo); up to 10, Glass Beach, and 15, Ward Ave, 21 Dec-20 Jan (DT); **Long-tailed Duck (EWSN):** 1-2, SB, 13 Jan-14 Feb (MW), 2, Big Lagoon, 19-28 Jan (MM, RF, et al.); **Black Scoter (FR):** 1 female, No. Jetty, 13 Jan; 3, surf at Freshwater Lagoon, 12 Feb (SC, DS); **Barrow's Goldeneye (FR):** 5 males, 19 females, Lewiston Lake, 23 Jan (DKu), identification of females based on "yellow on bill" and on association in a tight flock with obvious males; **Hooded Merganser (FR):** 3, KS, 18 Jan (MW); 5, Lanphere Dunes Pond, 23 Jan (JW); 10 Lewiston Lake, 19 Feb (JH); 1, Trinity River, 19 Feb (TL).

Wild Turkey (EL, SR): flocks of 20-30 "resident" along Mail/ Fruitland Ridge (JG); "some," Redwood Valley, 13 Feb (SC); **Mountain Quail (IL):** 12, near Lewiston Lake, 23 Jan (DK); 3-4 at 600 ft. elevation, near Burnt Ranch, 19 Feb, (JH, et al.); **Red-throated Loon (EM):** 100, flying north (early spring migration?) 8 Feb, Trinidad (MM); **Pacific Loon (ID):** 1, KS, 14 Feb (MW); **Yellow-billed Loon (GW, FR):** 1, SB, 9 Feb (MW, BS, RH); **Red-necked Grebe (EL, EN):** 1, SB and channel, 9-28 Jan (SC, MW, SH); **Eared Grebe (IN):** 168, actual count, SB, 24 Jan (MW); **Clark's Grebe (FR):** 1, NB, mo. Jacoby Creek, 23 Jan-8 Feb (EE, PL); **Northern Fulmar (EM):** 1 (only), PPSPSW; **Sooty Shearwater (IN):** 2 (only), PPSPSW; **Short-tailed Shearwater (FR):** 21 reported, PPSPSW; **Brown Pelican (ID):** 1, LP, 6 Jan (DT); **American Bittern (FR):** 1, BSLP, 22-31 Jan (EE); **Cattle Egret**

(FR): 1-2, AB, BSLP, 8-26 Jan (RF, SC, EE); **Osprey (EM):** 8 reports of singles from Redwood Creek, Big Lagoon, PPSP, AMP, Humboldt Bay, 7-30 Jan (mo).

Bald Eagle (MS): 18 reports of 1-4 from mouth of Redwood Creek, Big Lagoon, Trinity River, Trinity Lake, Lewiston Lake, McKinleyville, LMR, Blue Lake, AB, HBNWR, Table Bluff, Benbow, 9 Jan-19 Feb (mo); **Northern Goshawk (FR):** 1 imm, studied while perched, Douglas City, 19 Jan (DKu); **“Harlan’s” Hawk (FR, ND, NC):** 1, Arcata/Eureka Bottoms, 14 Feb (SC); **Ferruginous Hawk (EWSN):** 1-2, AB 9-11 Jan (RF, JT, TMcK, et al.); 1, Lake Earl, all Jan (Lucas); 1, BRR, 2 Feb (LB); **Rough-legged Hawk (EM):** 1, BRR, 2 Feb (LB); **Golden Eagle (EL):** 1-2, BRR, 2-8 Feb (LB, BS); **Crested Caracara (FR):** second-hand verbal report that a “rancher in Eel River Bottoms” had this bird on his place “all month” (Jan), with Turkey Vultures eating road kills on his private road, no other details known. **Merlin (EWSN):** 12 reports of singles from AB, AMP, No. Spit, Garberville, including 1 “very pale bird” on AB, 10 Jan-13 Feb (mo); **Peregrine (MS):** 8 reports of 1-2, Trinidad, AMP, Field’s Landing, Benbow, Garberville, 9 Jan-14 Feb (mo), some seen to eat dunlins and other shorebirds; **Prairie Falcon (FR):** 1, BRR, 2-8 Feb (LB, BS); 2, near Smith Point Bridge, 7 Feb (JS).

Common Moorhen (FR): 1, AMP, 19 Jan-20 Feb (SC, EE, SH, RH, et al.), seen severely attacked by Coots on BSLP, found 2-3 days later over on Hauser Marsh (EE); **Snowy Plover (MS):** 7, Big Lagoon, 21 Jan (TL); 4-25, Clam Beach, 11-17 Jan (BS, SC); 10, South Spit, 2 Jan (RF); **Lesser Yellowlegs (ID):** 1, MRSWA, 20 Feb (JT); **American Avocet (IL):** 48, flat se of Fields Landing, 14 Feb (MW); **Wandering Tattler (ID):** 3, Trinidad, 7 Feb (MeH); **Ruddy Turnstone (IL):** 1, Trinidad, 7 Feb (MeH); **Red Knot (EWSN):** usual numbers seen at Klopp Lake 1-3, but hc of 9 Feb; 1 seen eaten by a peregrine on 27 Jan (both PL); **Rock Sandpiper (EWSN):** 1-2, North Jetty, 14-30 Jan (JB, SC); **Wilson’s Snipe (FR):** 8, AB, 11 Feb (KB, EC); **Pomarine Jaeger (ID):** 1, PPSPSW ; **Parasitic Jaeger (ID):** 1 fly past Freshwater Lagoon, 12 Feb (SC, DS); **Heermann’s Gull (ID):** 3, LP, 9 Jan (DT); 1 imm, AMP, 10-29 Jan (EE, et al.); 1, LMR, 12 Feb (JT); **Thayer’s Gull (IN):** up to 10-15, LMR, mo. Redwood Creek, Manila Dunes, Freshwater Lagoon, 9 Jan-12 Feb (mo); **Glaucous Gull (FR):** 1 first year, Ten-mile Beach, 8-9 Jan (DT); 1 Del Norte Co., 31 Jan (Lucas); 1 second year, Jetty Channel, 15 Feb (BS); **Black-legged Kittiwake (IN):** 17, PPSPSW; 10+ in 0.5 hours, Todd’s Point (DT); 1, Prisoner Rock, 8 Feb (MM); **Marbled Murrelet (MS):** 4, PPSPSW; 6, fly No. Past Trinidad, 8 Feb (MM); **Ancient Murrelet (EWSN):** 1, Ward Ave, 29 Dec (DT); **Horned Puffin (GW):** Carcasses recovered from beaches as follows; 1, barely south of Ore State Line, 10 Jan (OJ); 1, Crescent City, 10 Jan (SL, AB); 1, South Spit, 14 Jan (SP-C); 1 live bird seen near Off-Trinidad Rock, 8 Feb (MM); 1 live bird recovered from Samoa Beach, turned over to Humboldt Wildlife Care Center, 20 Feb (AA); **Burrowing Owl (EWSN):** 1, Crescent City, 9 Jan (PSy); 1, Ten-mile Beach, 8 Jan; (DT); 1, Bald Hill, Ft. Bragg, 24 Jan (DT); **Barred Owl (MS):** 1, East of Trinidad, 28 Jan (MeH).

Costa’s Hummingbird (FR): 1 holdover female, Redwood Roots Farms, 14 Jan (RF); **Anna’s Hummingbird:** 1, all Jan, at feeder, Douglas City (DKu); **Rufous Hummingbird (EM):** 1 male, AMP, 18 Feb (DB); **Allen’s Hummingbird (EM):** 1 male, Eureka Feeder, 31 Jan (BS); the first *Selasphorus* sp. was seen in Arcata, 30 Jan (JT, RG); **Yellow-shafted Flicker (EM):** 1 “pure bird,” Redwood Roots Farm, 13 Jan (RF); **Pileated Woodpecker (FR):** 2, SHCP, 30 Jan (JS); 1, Garberville, 23 Jan (JS); **Least Flycatcher (FR):** 1, 8th and N, Arcata, (holdover); 9 Jan-20 Feb (mo); **Say’s Phoebe (EWSN):** 1, near Centerville Bluffs, 5 Feb (KR, MW); **Blue Jay (GW):** 1 (only the 10th ever, northcoast bird) at a feeder, Redwood Valley, 2-19 Feb (K&TH, et al.); **Horned Lark (MS):** x, on top of Schoolhouse Peak, 2-3 Feb (KB); 13 (1 singing), BRR, 8 Feb (BS); **Tree Swallow (EM):** 1, AMP, 6 Feb (EE); 1, Trinity Lake, 19 Feb (JH); **Barn Swallow (EM):** 2-13, AMP, 28 Jan-6 Feb (EE, SC); 3, Redwood Creek Estuary, 22 Jan (SC); **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (IL):** 1, Big Rock turnout, highway 96, just north of Willow Creek, 31 Jan (BS); **Western Bluebird (MS):** 1 pair, BRR, 2 Feb (LB); x, BRR, 8 Feb (BS); 1, Korbel, 12 Feb (KJ); 2-9 seen almost daily in Jan, Kneeland (BB, DVZ); 4, Old Arcata Road x Jacoby Creek, 15 Feb (DF, TL); 2, Lewiston, 2, Trinity Center, both 19 Feb (JH); **Cedar Waxwing (EM):** 7, AMP, 6 Feb (EE).

Gray Catbird (GW): 1, Salmon Creek Road (near Miranda) and Highway 101, 7 Feb (BC), only the 4th northcoast record with convincing details; **Northern Mockingbird (FR):** 1, Eureka, 17-18 Feb (GP); 1, BSLP, 18 Jan (EE); 1, no. Arcata, 24-26 Jan (GH); **Nashville Warbler (ID):** 1-2, AMP, 10 Jan-6 Feb (EE, RF); 1, Crescent City, 13 Feb (RLV); **Yellow Warbler (ID):** 1, AMP 10 Jan-6 Feb (RF, EE, SC); **Palm Warbler (EWSN):** 1-2, AMP, 8 Jan-20 Feb (RF, EE, SC, FA, et al.); 2, 8th and N, Arcata, 13 Feb (SC); 2, ERB, 12 Jan (RF); **Black-and-white Warbler (EWSN):** 1, BSLP, 14-20 Feb (PL, SC, EE, RF); **Northern Waterthrush (EWSN):** 1, BSLP, 10 Jan-20 Feb (EE, RF, et al.); **Common Yellowthroat (EWSN):** 1, AMP, 10 Jan-8 Feb (RF, RH, EE); **Clay-colored Sparrow (FR, ID):** 2, ERB, 12 Jan (RF); **Swamp Sparrow (EWSN):** 1-2, AMP, 8 Jan-6 Feb (EE, RF, et al.); **Harris's Sparrow (FR):** 1, holdover, Ferndale, 11-12 Jan (RF, BS, LB); **Lapland Longspur (EWSN):** 1, Big Lagoon Spit, 28 Jan (RF); 4, MRSWA, 20 Feb (JT); 9, BRR, 8 Feb (BS); **Chestnut-collared Longspur (FR):** 1, id by call only, BRR, 8 Feb (BS); **Snow Bunting (FR):** 2, Big Lagoon Spit, 21 Jan (TL); 1 flyby, mouth, Redwood Creek, 31 Jan (BS); **Baltimore Oriole (ID):** 1 female, hold over, Arcata, 29 Jan (SC); 1 second year male, Crescent City, 13 Feb (RLeV).

Many thanks to the following who shared observations with us this month: Alena Austin, Frank Anderson, Alan Barron, Daniel Bennett, Gary Bloomfield, Jay Bogiatto, Laura Bradley, Kristin Brown, Barbara Burek, Ken Burton, Scott Carey, Bryon Cariss, Eric Concannon, "David," Todd Easterla, Elias Elias, David Fix, Rob Fowler, John Gaffin, Rebecca Green, Melody Hamilton, Stan Harris, Rob Hewitt, John Hewston, Kathy and Tom Hinz, Greg Holman, Denise Homer, John Hunter, Ken Jarvela, Richard Jeffers, Oscar Johnston, Dale Kuhn, Dave Kyle, Annette Leshner, Tom Leskiw, Gary & Lauren Lester, Ron LeValley, Sky Lloyd, Paul Lohse, "Lucas," Bert McKee, Michael Morris, Mark Morrisette, Brian Mulligan, Susan Mulligan, Shail Pec-Crouse, Gail Popham, Kerry Ross, Barry Sauppe, Paul Senyszyn, Dave Shuford, Jay Sooter, Paul Springer, Margaret Taylor, Jim Tietz, Dorothy Tobkin, Jeremy Todoroff, Steve Tucker, Dan Van Zile, Matt Wachs, Doug Wallace, Jared Wolfe.

Field Notes
by Stan Harris
29 November 2004-6 January 2005

Generally a dry period except for a week of rain beginning Christmas Day. Fields went from dry to flooded in 3-4 days. Christmas Bird Counts have come and gone, no real surprises, looks like Arcata CBC tied its old all-time record for species seen with 182! Dates for CBCs = Arcata 18 Dec; Del Norte, 19 Dec; Willow Creek, 24 Dec; Centerville, 2 Jan.

Abbreviations Used: **AB = Arcata Bottoms, AMP = Arcata Marsh Project; AOP = Arcata Oxidation Pond; BSLP = Butcher Slough Log Pond; EL = Expected Location; EM = Expected Migrant; EMSN = Expected Migrant in Small Numbers; ERB = Eel River Bottoms; ES = Escape; FL = Fields Landing; 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; KS = King Salmon; LC = Lake Cleone; LMR = Lower Mad River; LP = Laguna Point; MKOP = McKinleyville Oxidation Pond; MKSP = MacKerricher State Park; mo = Many Observers; MS = Monitored Species; NC = Not Confirmed by a second party; NJ = North Jetty; N/SJ = North/South Jetty; SB = South Bay; SJ = South Jetty;**

White-fronted Goose (FR): 3, LC, 21 Nov-20 Dec (DT); 4, HBNWR, 2 Jan (EE); **Cackling Goose (FR):** 3, LC, 21 Nov -20 Dec (DT); 2, Ft. Bragg Botanical Gardens, 3 Dec (DT); **Aleutian Cackling Goose (EM):** 1,900, HBNWR, 2 Jan (EE); **Tundra Swan (EM):** 6-18, Arcata CBC; 500-600, Centerville CBC; **Mute Swan (ES):** 1, Essex Pond, 18 Dec (JHe); 1, Salt River, 2 Jan (JT, RG); **Eurasian Wigeon (EMSN):** 1, MKOP, 4 Dec (KR); 1, AB, 4 Dec (JK); 3 males, 1 female, AOP, 22 Dec (EE); 1 imm. male, Pudding Creek, 1-9 Dec (DT); 3, HBNWR, 3 Jan (RF, MW, DJ); **Blue-winged Teal (EMSN):** 1-2 females, BSLP, 22 Dec-6 Jan (EE); 1, Centerville CBC; **Eurasian Green-winged Teal (EMSN):** 1, AMP, 15 Dec (JW); 2, HBNWR, 3 Jan (RF, DJ, MW); **Redhead (FR, IN):** 3-1, BSLP, 4 Dec (JT); 478 (1 tight flock), SB, 2 Jan (RF); **Harlequin (FR):** up to 11, MKSP, 21 Nov-20 Dec (DT); 1 pair, KS, 25 Dec-2 Jan (SC, et al.); 1, N/SJ, 25 Dec-2 Jan (SC, RF); **Long-tailed Duck (FR):** 1-2, LMR, 29 Nov-5 Dec (DF, et al.); 1, Big Lagoon, 3 Dec (JD); 1, SB, 27 Dec-2 Jan (MW, SH); **White-winged Scoter (IN):** 368+, Centerville CBC; **Black Scoter (MS):** 1, N/SJ, 18 Dec, 2 Jan (KR, RF); 2, off Lanphere Dunes, 18 Dec (BA); up to 20, MKSP, 21 Nov-20 Dec (DT); **Common Goldeneye (EMSN):** 1-2 LMR, 2-12 Dec (SC, JPh, JK); 3, KS, 25-26 Dec (DW, LC, SC); 1, Big Lagoon, 27 Dec (MM); **Barrow's Goldeneye (FR):** 1 female, FL, 5 Dec (MW); 1 male, FL, 22 Dec (MW); **Hooded Merganser (EMSN):** 1, AB, 30 Nov (KR); 1, LMR, 4 Dec (JK); 2-4, KS, 10 Dec-2 Jan (MW, et al.); 16, Grizzly Bluff Road, 2 Jan (CO, DJ);

Ruffed Grouse (FR): 1, Terwer Creek, 15 Nov (RLeV); 1, Hurdy Gurdy Creek, 23 Nov (JD); **Red-throated Loon (EM):** 40, MKSP, 21 Nov (DT); **Pacific Loon (EM):** 200, MKSP, 21 Nov (DT); 9, Centerville CBC; **possible Arctic Loon (GW, IIT, NC):** 1 reported, ID based on white blaze at waterline of swimming bird, Trinidad Bay, 27 Dec (MeH); **Pied-billed Grebe (IL):** 1, Eel Rock, 5 Dec (JG); **Red-necked Grebe (EL):** 1-2, Entrance Bay at KS, 25 Dec-2 Jan (SC, SH, RF); 6-8, Eureka Channel, 3-6 Jan (EE, RF); **Northern Fulmar:** 1-10, vic. MKSP, 24 Nov-3 Dec (DT); 2, off Centerville Beach, 2 Jan (RS); **Brown Pelican (ID):** singles at Eureka, Sinkyone Wilderness, and Centerville Beach, 8, 14, 26 Dec, 2 Jan (JD, EE, RS); **American Bittern (FR):** 1, BSLP, Arcata, CBC, 12 Dec-5 Jan (TMcK&H, SH); **Cattle Egret (FR):** 2-4, AB, 3-4 Dec (KR, JK); 1-2, BSLP, 18 Dec-3 Jan (JT, SC); **Green Heron (ID):** 1, Arcata CBC;

Turkey Vulture (ID, IL): 1, Willow Creek CBC; **Osprey (ID):** singles at Big Lagoon, North Bay, Table Bluff, Benbow, LC, 30 Nov-2 Jan (mo); **White-tailed Kite:** 24 (1 roost), HBNWR, 19 Nov (EN); 5-6, pre-roost gathering, Greenwood Hts, 25-29 Dec (JC); 10, pre-roost, Cutton, 5 Jan (DA); 1, Outlook Overflow, Willits, 1 Jan (JT, RG); **Bald Eagle (MS):** 7 reports of 1-2 at Hawkins Bar, Weitchpec, Centerville Beach, Eel Rock, Miranda, near Benbow, and one found dead in a fence on Metropolitan Road, 21 Nov-2 Jan (mo); **Northern Goshawk (FR):** 1 ad, Horse

Mtn, 24 Dec (GL); **Harlan's Hawk (FR)**: 1, 101 x Freshwater Slough, fuzzy photo, 21 Dec (RF); **Ferruginous Hawk (EMSN)**: 5 reports of 1 (mostly)-2 from AB, near Willits, Bald Hill at Ft. Bragg, 21 Nov-2 Jan (DT, BA, SH, JT, RG, et al.); **Rough-legged Hawk (FR)**: 1, Wildcat Road, 10 Dec, 2 Jan (RW, CO, DJ); **Golden Eagle (EL)**: 3 reports of 1-2 at Benbow, Garberville, Snow Camp Road, 21 Nov-5 Dec (JS, JD); **Merlin (MS)**: 11 reports of 1-2 from AB, Eureka, Centerville CBC, 29 Nov-2 Jan (mo); **Peregrine (EM)**: 21 reports of 1-3 from Big Lagoon, AB, AMP, Manila, Eureka, SB, SJ, HBNWR, ERB, 13 Nov-2 Jan (mo); **Prairie Falcon (FR)**: 1, Centerville Beach, 2 Jan (RS, JS);

Crested Caracara (GW): 1, Indian Island, 29 Dec (SMA, fide KR); **Common Moorhen (FR)**: 1, BSLP, 11 Dec-4 Jan (DD, JT, EE); **Sandhill Crane (GW)**: 40-50 flyby going south high over Fortuna, good phone description of call, shape, and wing beat, 26 Dec (SD, CC); **Black Oystercatcher (EL)**: 2, N/SJ, 5 Dec, 2 Jan (KR, SM, RF); **Lesser Yellowlegs (EMSN)**: 1-24, KS, 4 Dec-2 Jan (MW, SH, et al.); 1, AB, 14-18 Dec (BA); **Long-billed Curlew (IN)**: 40, near Ferndale, 22 Dec (RC); 120 near Arcata, 18 Dec (SH, JC, KB); **Ruddy Turnstone (FR)**: 1, Trinidad, 3 Dec (MeH); 1, FL, 2 Jan (SH, RB); **Rock-Sandpiper (EL)**: 1-2, N/SJ, 5 Dec-2 Jan (mo); 1, Trinidad, 3 Dec (MeH); 1-4, Glass Beach, LP, Virgin Cr. Beach, 23 Nov-9 Dec (DT); **Wilson's Snipe (IL)**: 1, Showers Pass Road at 2000' elevation, 22 Nov (JD); 40, KS, 2 Jan (SH); **Parasitic Jaeger (ID)**: 1, seen from Clam Beach vista point, 12 Dec (SC); **Heermann's Gull (ID)**: 5 reports of 1-7, AMP, Sinkyone Wilderness, Centerville Beach, 22 Dec-6 Jan (KR, JT, EE, RS, et al.); **Glaucous Gull (FR)**: 1, Centerville CBC; **Black-legged Kittiwake (EM)**: 1, LP, 29 Nov (DT); 1, Sinkyone Wilderness, 26 Dec (EE); 1, NJ, 18 Dec (KR).

Marbled Murrelet (FR): 2, SJ, 2 Jan (RF); **Ancient Murrelet (FR)**: 1-3, NJ, 18 -25 Dec (KR, SC); 4, Pt. St. George, 19 Dec (CD); **Barred Owl (FR, IL)**: 1, near Redway, Whitmore Grove, Redwoods State Park, 22 Dec (BF); **Short-eared Owl (IN)**: 1-2, AB, 30 Nov-18 Dec (JT); 16, Centerville CBC; **Saw-whet Owl (FR)**: 1, near Hiouichi, 23 Nov (JD); **Band-tailed Pigeon (ID)**: 2, near Kneeland, 19-20 Dec (JC); **White-winged Dove (GW)**: 1, Eureka, photos, 20-27 Nov (DJ); **Costa's Hummingbird (FR)**: 1 female, ID on appearance and sound, Redwood Root Farm, Jacoby Creek Valley, 7-18 Dec (DF, et al.); **Selasphorus sp. (ID)**: 1, reported, Arcata CBC; **Nuttall's Woodpecker (EL)**: 1, Outlook Overflow near Willits, 1 Jan (JT, RG); **Pileated Woodpecker (FR)**: 1, Cutten, 6 Dec (JD); 1, Showers Pass Road, 22 Nov (JD); 4, Centerville CBC; **Least Flycatcher (FR)**: 1, Arcata, 8th and N streets; 18 Dec-5 Jan (EE, et al., photos); **Say's Phoebe (FR)**: 1, Azalea Hill, 18 Dec (GL); 1, Willow Creek CBC; 2, Centerville CBC; **Tropical Kingbird (FR)**: 1, Shelter Cove, 28 Nov (LM, fide GL); **Ash-throated Flycatcher (ID)**: 1, Arcata, 8th and K streets, 19-20 Dec (JK, JT); **Northern Shrike (FR)**: 1, V St loop, 3, 4, 8, 12, 18 Dec, (mo); 1, Lanphere Road, 19 Dec (BA, KR); **Oak Titmouse (FR)**: 1, Outlook Overflow, Willits, 1 Jan (JT, RG); **White-breasted Nuthatch (FR)**: 1 on dunes, Del Norte CBC; 1, Outlook Overflow, Willits, 1 Jan (JT, RG); **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (FR)**: 1, Willow Creek CBC;

Dipper (FR): 1, Freshwater Creek, 11 Dec (BA); 1 Arcata CBC; **Violet-green Swallow (ID)**: 1, near College of the Redwoods, 2 Jan (LH-H); **White-bellied Swallow sp.** 2, HBNWR, 3 Jan (RF, MW, DJ); **Barn Swallow (ID)**: 8, AMP, 5 Dec (SC); 8, Lanphere Dunes, 18 Dec (BA); 1, McKinleyville, 18 Dec (KS); **Northern Mockingbird**: 1, north Arcata, 30 Nov-18 Dec (BA, et al.); 1, Willow Creek CBC; 3, Ferndale, 2 Jan (GL); 1, Table Bluff, 2 Jan (JH, et al.); 1, Eureka, 3 Jan (LB-O); **Orange-crowned Warbler (ID)**: 7 reports of singles from AMP, north Arcata, BSLP, Ft. Bragg, Camp Kimtu, AB, 4 Dec-24 Dec (mo) + 29 reported on Centerville CBC; **Nashville Warbler (ID)**: 4-5 birds reported from Arcata, AMP, AOP, Eureka, 4 Dec-6 Jan (mo) + 9 reported on Centerville CBC; **Yellow Warbler (ID)**: 1, BSLP & nearby Arcata, 5 Dec-4 Jan (SC, EE); 1, Tooby Park, 22 Nov (JS); **Black-throated Gray Warbler (ID)**: 1, Tompkins Hill Road, 2 Jan (MW, et al.); **Palm Warbler (EMSN)**: 8-9 reported from Arcata, AMP, AB, Ferndale, 4-Dec-4 Jan (mo) + 12 on the Centerville CBC; **Black-and-white Warbler (EMSN)**: 1, BSLP, 22 Dec (EE); **Northern Waterthrush (EMSN)**: 1, AMP, 4 Dec-1 Jan (JT, PL, EE); **Common Yellowthroat (ID)**: 1, Arcata CBC; 1, Del Norte CBC 2, Centerville CBC; 1, AMP, 4 Jan (EE); **Western Tanager (ID)**: 1, East of Fountain Ranch (Trinity County, Willow Creek CBC, GL); 1, Ferndale Bottoms, 2 Jan (CDu);

California Towhee: 1, North Spit, 18 Dec (KR); 1, Willow Creek CBC; 3, Outlook Overflow, Willits, 1 Jan (JT, RG); **Clay-colored Sparrow (FR):** 1, Eureka feeder, 9 Dec (JD); **Swamp Sparrow (EMSN):** 5, North Dike, Humboldt Bay, 12 Dec (JT); 1-2 AMP, 22 Dec-6 Jan (EE); 1, HBNWR, 12 Dec (DF, JP); + 3 on Centerville CBC; **Harris's Sparrow (FR):** 1, Eureka feeder, 26 Nov-18 Dec (DJ); 1, Arcata, 12-18 Dec (GB); 1, Ferndale, 2 Jan (G&LL); **Lapland Longspur (EMSN):** 1-10 AB, 29 Nov-18 Dec (RF, BA, JT); **Snow Bunting (FR):** 1, Centerville Beach, 2 Jan (RS); **Rose-breasted Grosbeak (FR):** imm. male, Ferndale, 2-7 Dec (DW); imm. male, Eureka, 18 Dec (DJ); **Painted Bunting (GW!):** 1 female, Freshwater, 11-15 Dec (CF, SN, T&SL, et al., photos), this may well be the first ever presumably wild bird ever confirmed in the Northcoast region. **Tricolored Blackbird (FR):** 1, Mad River Road pumpkin patch field, 27 Dec (KR); **Meadowlark (IN):** 31 in a Fortuna yard, 18 Dec (RC); **Orchard Oriole (FR):** 1 imm. male, Arcata, 12 Dec (GB); 1, Smith River, 19 Dec (DF, JP); **Bullock's Oriole (ID):** 1 female, Arcata, 17 Dec-3 Jan (SC); 1 male, Arcata, 22 Dec (GB); **Red Crossbill:** x, Big Lagoon and Patricks Point State Park, 14 Dec (KI); 15-20, Kneeland, 11 Dec (BA); **Evening Grosbeak (ID):** 1, Terwer Valley, 15 Dec (RLeV); 4, Elk River Valley, 2 Jan (T&SL, L &JT).

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