

41st Annual Conference of Western Field Ornithologists

Humboldt, CA • September 28-October 2, 2016

Conference Schedule

River Lodge Conference Center—Fortuna

Wednesday, September 28

3:00—6:00 PM Early registration is open in the **River Lodge Conference Center Steelhead Room**

Thursday, September 29

5:30—7:00 AM Registration is open in the **Conference Center Steelhead Room**

5:30—7:00 AM Breakfast Grab & Go bag (**PRE-ORDERED**) available in the **Conference Center Steelhead Room**

5:30—7:00 AM Box lunches (**PRE-ORDERED**) available in the **Conference Center Steelhead Room**

FIELD TRIPS: ALL TRANSPORTATION BY CARPOOLING

5:30 AM Assemble in the **Conference Center** at the appropriate trip sign for full day field trip departure

- 1A: Del Norte County

6:00 AM Assemble in the **Conference Center** at the appropriate trip sign for full day field trip departure

- 2A: Redwood National Park: Ruffed Grouse and More
- 3A: Horse and Grouse Mountains

6:15 AM Assemble in the **Conference Center** at the appropriate trip sign for full day field trip departure

- 4A South Fork and Blake Mountains
- 5A: Shelter Cove & California Thrashers
- 10A Kneeland to Bridgeville

6:30 AM Assemble in the **Conference Center** at the appropriate trip sign for full day field trip departure

- 6A Vagrant trip
- 6C Vagrant trip
- 7A Mad River Estuary to north McKinleyville
- 7C Mad River Estuary to north McKinleyville
- 8A Trinidad and Patrick's Point State Park
- 9A Humboldt Coastal Lagoons State Park

6:45 AM Assemble in the **Conference Center** at the appropriate trip sign for full day field trip departure

- 11A South to Petrolia and the Mattole River
- 12A Shorebirding Trip
- 12C Shorebirding Trip

11 AM—4:00 PM WFO Board Meeting in the **Coho Room**

4:30—5:30 PM Registration is open in the **Conference Center Steelhead Room**

Friday, September 30

- 5:30—7:30 AM Registration is open in the **Conference Center Steelhead Room**
- 5:30—7:30 AM Breakfast Grab & Go bag (**PRE-ORDERED**) available in the **Conference Center Steelhead Room**
- 5:30—7:30 AM Box lunches (**PRE-ORDERED**) available in the **Conference Center Steelhead Room**
- FIELD TRIPS: ALL TRANSPORTATION BY CARPOOLING; (All Field Trips return by 11 AM)**
- 6:00 AM Assemble in the **Conference Center** at the appropriate trip sign for half day field trip departure
- 18A Blue Lake Area
- 6:15 AM Assemble in the **Conference Center** at the appropriate trip sign for half day field trip departure
- 13A Spotted Owl trip
 - 16A North Spit of Humboldt Bay
 - 17A Bird Banding at Humboldt Bay Bird Observatory
- 6:30 AM Assemble in the **Conference Center** at the appropriate trip sign for half day field trip departure
- 14A Arcata Marsh
 - 14C Arcata Marsh
 - 15A Arcata Hotspots
 - 15C Arcata Hotspots
 - 19A Eureka Hotspots
 - 19C Eureka Hotspots
- 6:45 AM Assemble in the **Conference Center** at the appropriate trip sign for half day field trip departure
- 20A Hikshari' Trail
 - 21A King Salmon and Fields Landing
 - 22A Loleta Bottoms, Table Bluff and the South Spit
 - 23A Centerville, Ferndale and Ferndale Bottoms
- 7:45 AM Assemble in the **Conference Center** at the appropriate trip sign for half day field trip departure
- 24A Humboldt Bay NWR: Salmon Creek to Hookton Slough
- 8:00—11:00 AM **Molt Workshop: "Everything You've Been Afraid to Know and Haven't Wanted to Ask."** with Peter Pyle in the **Coho Room**
- 8:00—11:00 AM **Warbler Workshop: "Identification of Fall Warblers"** with Jon Dunn in the **Chinook Room** [Field Trip offered Saturday]
- 8:00—11:00 AM **Woodpeckers Workshop: "The Lives of Western Woodpeckers"** with Steve Shunk in the **Fireside Room**. [Field Trip offered Saturday]
- 11:00 AM—12 PM Lunch break.
- 11:00 AM—12 PM Registration is open in the **Conference Center Steelhead Room**
- 12:15—3:40 PM **Plenary & Science Sessions** in the **Chinook Room**
- 4:00—5:30 PM **Bird Sound Identification: Team Challenge**—Nathan Pipelow in the **Chinook Room**
- 5:30—6:30 PM Registration is open in the **Conference Center Steelhead Room**

6:30—9:00 PM **WFO Reception**, Sponsored by Rockjumper Worldwide Birding Adventures. Reception & Cash Bar in the **Chinook Room**. This reception is open to all conference registrants.

Saturday, October 1

5:30—7:30 AM Registration is open in the **Conference Center Steelhead Room**

5:30—7:30 AM Breakfast Grab & Go bag (**PRE-ORDERED**) available in the **Conference Center Steelhead Room**

5:30—7:30 AM Box lunches (**PRE-ORDERED**) available in the **Conference Center Steelhead Room**

FIELD TRIPS: ALL TRANSPORTATION BY CARPOOLING; (All SAT Field Trips return by 11 AM)

6:00 AM Assemble in the **Conference Center** at the appropriate trip sign for half day field trip departure

- 18B Blue Lake Area
- 25B Warbler Field Trip with Jon Dunn

6:15 AM Assemble in the **Conference Center** at the appropriate trip sign for half day field trip departure

- 13B Spotted Owl trip
- 16B North Spit of Humboldt Bay
- 17B Bird Banding at Humboldt Bay Bird Observatory

6:30 AM Assemble in the **Conference Center** at the appropriate trip sign for half day field trip departure

- 14B Arcata Marsh
- 14D Arcata Marsh
- 15B Arcata Hotspots
- 15D Arcata Hotspots
- 19B Eureka Hotspots
- 19D Eureka Hotspots

6:45 AM Assemble in the **Conference Center** at the appropriate trip sign for half day field trip departure

- 20B Hikshari' Trail
- 21B King Salmon and Fields Landing
- 22B Loleta Bottoms, Table Bluff and the South Spit
- 23B Centerville, Ferndale and Ferndale Bottoms

7:30 AM Assemble in the **Conference Center** at the appropriate trip sign for half day field trip departure

- 26B Woodpecker Field Trip with Steve Shunk

7:45 AM Assemble in the **Conference Center** at the appropriate trip sign for half day field trip departure

- 24B Humboldt Bay NWR: Salmon Creek to Hookton Slough

7:00—11:00 AM **Workshop: "Bird Specimen Preparation"** with Philip Unitt. Meet in the **Steelhead Room** and Carpool to HSU

8:00—11:00 AM **Workshop: "Identifying Birds by their Sounds"** with Nathan Pieplow in the **Coho Room**

8:00—11:00 AM **Workshop: "Field Identification Issues Posed by Naturalized and Escaped Birds in Western North America"** with Kimball Garrett in the **Chinook Room**

8:00—11:00 AM **Workshop: "Illustrating Birds"** with Christine Elder in the **Fireside Room**

11:00 AM—12 PM	Lunch break.
11:00 AM—12 PM	Registration is open in the Conference Center Steelhead Room
12:15—3:40 PM	Plenary & Science Sessions in the Chinook Room
4:00—5:30 PM	Bird Photo ID: Expert Panel with Ed Harper in the Chinook Room
5:30—6:30 PM	Registration is open in the Conference Center Steelhead Room
6:30—9:30 PM	Annual Meeting and Election, Banquet, Silent Auction <i>"The World's Plovers: Global Diversity, Population Biology and Conservation"</i> with Mark Colwell in the Chinook Room

Sunday, October 2

5:30—7:00 AM	Registration is open in the Conference Center Steelhead Room
5:30—7:00 AM	Breakfast Grab & Go bag (PRE-ORDERED) available in the Conference Center Steelhead Room
5:30—7:30 AM	Box lunches (PRE-ORDERED) available in the Conference Center Steelhead Room

FIELD TRIPS: ALL TRANSPORTATION BY CARPOOLING

5:30 AM	Assemble in the Conference Center at the appropriate trip sign for full day field trip departure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1B: Del Norte County
6:00 AM	Assemble in the Conference Center at the appropriate trip sign for full day field trip departure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2B: Redwood National Park: Ruffed Grouse and More • 3B: Horse and Grouse Mountains
6:15 AM	Assemble in the Conference Center at the appropriate trip sign for full day field trip departure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4B South Fork and Blake Mountains • 5B Shelter Cove & California Thrashers • 10B Kneeland to Bridgeville
6:30 AM	Assemble in the Conference Center at the appropriate trip sign for full day field trip departure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6B Vagrant trip • 6D Vagrant trip • 7B Mad River Estuary to north McKinleyville • 7D Mad River Estuary to north McKinleyville • 8B Trinidad and Patrick's Point State Park • 9D Humboldt Coastal Lagoons State Park
6:45 AM	Assemble in the Conference Center at the appropriate trip sign for full day field trip departure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11B South to Petrolia and the Mattole River • 12B Shorebirding Trip • 12D Shorebirding Trip

WFO Field Trips and Workshops

FIELD TRIPS

NOTE: All trips are by Carpool and will leave from the Conference Center Entrance.

Thursday, September 29

1A Del Norte County:

Leader: Lucas Brug

Del Norte, the northwestern-most county in CA is legendary amongst California birders for some of the rarities that have shown up, with the first ABA record (outside of Greenland) of Common Scoter being the most recent star bird. The day will be spent birding the main hotspots in Del Norte County such as the Crescent City Harbor, Point Saint George, Lakes Earl and Tolowa, and the famous Alexandre Dairy in the Smith River Bottoms. Any rarities that have been reported from the county recently will also be looked for. It's a ~ 2 +/- hour drive to Crescent City from the River Lodge in Fortuna but most of it is scenic, driving through mostly coastal coniferous forests and coastal lagoons and over the Klamath River along on the way.

Departure time: 5:30AM

Return time: late-afternoon/early-evening

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~ 105 mi

Time driving (one way): ~ 2 hrs.

Restroom facilities: many options

Difficulty level: Most birding will be done from near a car but some minimal walking on flat ground may be required.

2A Redwood National Park: Ruffed Grouse and More:

Leaders: Daryl Coldren & Clifford Hawley

The beginning of this trip will prioritize looking for Ruffed Grouse along the Tall Trees Rd. at Redwood NP. The rest of the day will be spent looking for with migrants and potential rarities. Redwood specialists like Varied Thrush and Pacific Wren are probable and Marbled Murrelet can potentially be found scoping the ocean opposite of Freshwater Lagoon. Other possible locations to check on this trip are the base of Bald Hills Rd., Davison Rd. meadow and creek, Gold Bluffs Beach, Fern Canyon, Redwood Creek mouth and riparia, Orick Bottoms, the Orick Dump and more. Roosevelt Elk sightings are almost guaranteed on this trip, too.

Departure time: 6:00 AM

Return Time: late-afternoon.

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~70 miles

Time (one way): ~1.5 hours

Restroom facilities: Minimal

Difficulty level: Most birding will be done from near a car but some minimal walking on uneven ground may be required.

3A Horse and Grouse Mountains

Leaders: Gary Bloomfield & Don Marsh

When birders in Humboldt County want to look for montane species their first choice is the Horse/Grouse Mountain area due to its close proximity to the Humboldt Bay region. Mountain Quail, Sooty Grouse, White-headed Woodpecker and Red-breasted Sapsucker are the most wanted birds for out-of-state birders here. This may very well be one of the most dependable locations for Mountain Quail as they are seen along the road on most occasions during early-morning trips. This trip will leave early from the Fortuna River Lodge to take advantage of hoping to catch up with quail and grouse in the early-morning hours along the roadside. The rest of the day will be spent trying working the Mountain Chickadee flocks to look for migrants.

Departure time: 6:00 AM

Return time: mid-afternoon

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~ 60 miles

Time (one way): ~1 hr. 20 minutes

Restrooms: none available as we'll be on a (paved) Forest Service road. Restrooms will be available along Highway 299 in Arcata.

Difficulty level: Most birding will be done from near a car but some minimal walking on uneven ground may be required.

4A South Fork and Blake Mountains

Leader: Tom Leskiw

While the Horse and Grouse Mountain Trip tackles the northern beginnings of Forest Service Route 1 for high elevation montane species and focuses on Sooty Grouse and Mountain Quail this trip will focus on the southern end of Route 1, focusing on finding high elevation species like White-headed Woodpecker, Cassin's Finch, and—if we are really lucky maybe a high elevation rarity. South Fork and Blake Mountains are the highest mountains along Forest Service Route 1 (highest elevation around 5905 ft.) and are generally more productive for high elevation species like Northern Goshawk, Cassin's Finch, and White-headed Woodpecker in the Shasta Red Fir forests here. Most of the birding on this trip will be in Trinity County.

Departure Time: 6:15AM

Return Time: mid- to late-afternoon

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~ 50 miles

Time (one way): ~ 1 hour, 15 minutes

Restrooms: none available as we'll be on a (paved) Forest Service road. Restrooms will be available along Highway 36 to and from.

Difficulty level: Most birding will be done from near a car but some minimal walking on flat ground may be required.

5A: Shelter Cove & California Thrashers:

Leaders: Tony Kurz & Casey Ryan

Shelter Cove is the southernmost coastal community in Humboldt County, being sandwiched right in the middle of the Lost Coast. Morning will start in Shelter Cove looking for landbird migrants and coastal seabird species within this quaint coastal community that generally gets light birding coverage. After birding Shelter Cove a special trip will be made to attempt locate the very local California Thrasher in the Kings Range National Conservation Area.

Departure Time: 6:15 AM

Return Time: mid- to late-afternoon

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~ 70 miles

Time (one way): ~ 1.5 hrs.

Restrooms: Will be available in Shelter Cove, perhaps not during the rest of the day.

Difficulty level: Most birding will be done from near a car, but some minimal walking on uneven ground may be required. Some walking uphill and downhill hiking on a narrow but maintained trail may be required for the California Thrasher search.

6A Vagrant trip

Leader: Scott Terrill

Late-September to early-October is a great time for finding vagrants and rarities along the coastal slope in Humboldt County. With the help of the area's keen birders this trip may range anywhere countywide to locations of currently known rarities, maybe even discovering some new ones along the way! It is all up for grabs and should be an interesting and unpredictable trip.

No telling what the terrain will be like depending on what rarities will be chased but most will probably be easy to minimal walking.

Departure Time: 6:30 AM

Return Time: TBD

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): TBD

Time (one way): TBD

Restrooms: will be available

Difficulty level: No telling what the terrain will be like depending on what rarities will be chased but most will probably be easy to minimal walking.

6C Vagrant trip

Leader: Rob Fowler

Late-September to early-October is a great time for finding vagrants and rarities along the coastal slope in Humboldt County. With the help of the area's keen birders this trip may range anywhere countywide to locations of currently known rarities, maybe even discovering some new ones along the way! It is all up for grabs and should be an interesting and unpredictable trip.

No telling what the terrain will be like depending on what rarities will be chased but most will probably be easy to minimal walking.

Departure Time: 6:30 AM

Return Time: TBD

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): TBD

Time (one way): TBD

Restrooms: will be available

Difficulty level: No telling what the terrain will be like depending on what rarities will be chased but most will probably be easy to minimal walking.

7A Mad River Estuary to north McKinleyville

Leader: Brad Elvert

The Mad River estuary, though smaller than larger rivers in Northwestern California is a spectacular birding area that has attracted an impressive variety of birds over the years, with many rarities. Of all of the Asian vagrants that have appeared in Humboldt County in recent years the area around the Mad River Estuary has attracted almost all of them: Common Greenshank (2001), Brown Shrike (2010-11), and Little Bunting (2013). Obviously we can't honestly expect a repeat of any of those Asian vagrants BUT one can expect good times birding the migrant traps of Mad River County Park and the new School Rd. trail in McKinleyville, looking for shorebirds in the estuary itself, searching for migrants and waterbirds at Hiller Park in McKinleyville, looking for loafing gulls and shorebirds at the mouth of the Mad and then ending the day looking for Snowy Plovers and other species on Clam/Little River State Beach.

Departure time: 6:30 AM

Return Time: Mid- to late-afternoon

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~ 33 miles

Time (one way): ~ 50 minutes

Restrooms: will be available

Difficulty level: Some walking may be required ducking under branches and on uneven trails, slippery mud, and sand. Overall should be easy walking.

7C Mad River Estuary to north McKinleyville

Leader: TBA

The Mad River estuary, though smaller than larger rivers in Northwestern California is a spectacular birding area that has attracted an impressive variety of birds over the years, with many rarities. Of all of the Asian vagrants

that have appeared in Humboldt County in recent years the area around the Mad River Estuary has attracted almost all of them: Common Greenshank (2001), Brown Shrike (2010-11), and Little Bunting (2013). Obviously we can't honestly expect a repeat of any of those Asian vagrants BUT one can expect good times birding the migrant traps of Mad River County Park and the new School Rd. trail in McKinleyville, looking for shorebirds in the estuary itself, searching for migrants and waterbirds at Hiller Park in McKinleyville, looking for loafing gulls and shorebirds at the mouth of the Mad and then ending the day looking for Snowy Plovers and other species on Clam/Little River State Beach.

Departure time: 6:30 AM

Return Time: Mid- to late-afternoon

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~ 33 miles

Time (one way): ~ 50 minutes

Restrooms: will be available

Difficulty level: Some walking may be required ducking under branches and on uneven trails, slippery mud, and sand. Overall should be easy walking.

8A Trinidad and Patrick's Point State Park Leader: Gary Lester

Visit the hotspots and beautiful rocky coastline of Trinidad and Patrick's Point State Park on this field trip. Various nearshore ocean waterbirds will be looked for and passerine migrants and potential rarities will be looked for in chickadee flocks. Marbled Murrelet, Gray Jay, and Red Crossbill are all good possibilities on this trip. Locations to be visited will be Elk Head, Luffenholtz County Park, Patrick's Point State Park and more. Patrick's Point is an excellent example of classic Pacific Northwest coastal conifer forest with fine examples of old growth Sitka Spruce trees.

Departure Time: 6:30 AM

Return Time: Mid- to late-afternoon

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~ 40 miles

Time (one way): ~ 50 minutes

Restrooms: Will be available.

Difficulty level: Most birding will be easy walking on level trails; some birding will be near the car.

9A Humboldt Coastal Lagoons State Park Leader: Rob Hewitt

Big, Dry, Stone and Freshwater Lagoon all make up Humboldt Lagoons State Park, the largest complex of coastal lagoons in the Lower 48 states. On this scenic trip the lagoons will be scoped for waterbirds (except Dry, which IS actually dry), coastal conifer forest will be scoured for species like Gray Jay and Red Crossbill and expected species like Varied Thrush and Pacific Wren. The ocean off of the lagoons can produce scoters both coastal cormorants, loons and grebes and Marbled Murrelets. Like the Redwood National Park trip, Roosevelt Elk are a likely on this one as well.

Departure Time: 6:30AM

Return Time: Late-afternoon

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~ 50 miles

Time (one way): ~ 1 hr.

Restrooms: Will be available.

Difficulty level: Most birding will be done from near a car but some minimal walking on flat ground may be required.

10A Kneeland to Bridgeville

Leader: Greg Chapman

This trip will start at Freshwater Park to look for American Dipper and then head up to Kneeland prairies up near the Kneeland airport to look for such birds like Golden Eagle and other raptors, flocks of migrant sparrows (rarities like Clay-colored and Lark Bunting have been found here in the past) and Oak Woodland species like Acorn Woodpecker and White-breasted Nuthatch, the latter species being very local in Humboldt County. The trip will then head towards Bridgeville with hopes of coming across Sooty Grouse while driving the road. Other species that are local or found more in southern Humboldt County like Lewis's Woodpecker (rare migrant), California Towhee or Lawrence's Goldfinch (rare) are also possible. After reaching Bridgeville the trip will then head back via Highway 36 to the River Lodge.

Departure Time: 6:15AM

Return Time: Mid-afternoon

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~ 25 miles

Time (one way): ~ 40 minutes

Restrooms: will be available at Freshwater Park and at the Kneeland Airport but not the rest of the trip.

Difficulty level: Most birding will be done from near a car but some minimal walking on flat ground may be required.

11A South to Petrolia and the Mattole River mouth

Leaders: Tristan McKee & Forrest Rowland

This trip will head towards Ferndale, starting by searching for whatever stakeout rarities in the greater Ferndale Bottoms area might be present. The trip will then head south towards the small town of Petrolia on Wildcat Road. Many underexplored locations will be checked along the way with coastal grassland and riparian habitats being priority. The Mattole River is an excellent and relatively underbirded migrant trap and is the southernmost limit for breeding Black-capped Chickadees. This has become a popular trip during the local "Godwit Days" festival and generally sells out. Not a lot of birders make it down to this area regularly so there's always room for great surprises—especially during the peak of Fall Migration!

Departure Time: 6:45AM

Return Time: Late-afternoon

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): TBD

Time (one way): TBD

Restrooms: minimal availability

Difficulty level: Most birding will be done from near a car but some minimal walking on flat ground may be required.

12A Shorebirding Trip

Leaders: Ken Burton & Lisa Hug

Humboldt County is one of the best locations in California for both large numbers and great diversity of shorebirds, with the Globally Important Humboldt Bay being the centerpiece. Every year millions of shorebirds stop off in the county and many interesting or rare shorebirds are found by birders scouring the large flocks—especially during fall. Locations for this trip will be determined by the leader(s) depending on where the best shorebirding is, if any rare shorebirds are staked out, and how tidal cycles affect shorebirding potential at tidally dependent areas attractive to shorebirds. Potential shorebirding locations can include: Arcata Marsh, Jacoby Creek mouth, the Mad River estuary, the North Jetty of Humboldt Bay, Crab Park at the Eel River mouth, the south side of Cock Robin Island in the Eel River estuary, and the Centerville area. This trip will be flexible based on the locations chosen by the leader in advance and what species are known to be present or staked out. Though shorebirds will be the focus of this trip every species encountered will be appreciated.

Departure Time: 6:45AM

Return Time: late-afternoon

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): TBD

Time (one way): TBD

Restrooms: Will be available.

Difficulty level: Most locations visited will require some walking. If visiting the jetty it is imperative to watch your feet and make sure you have good footing there while walking on it.

12C Shorebirding Trip

Leader: TBA

Humboldt County is one of the best locations in California for both large numbers and great diversity of shorebirds, with the Globally Important Humboldt Bay being the centerpiece. Every year millions of shorebirds stop off in the county and many interesting or rare shorebirds are found by birders scouring the large flocks—especially during fall. Locations for this trip will be determined by the leader(s) depending on where the best shorebirding is, if any rare shorebirds are staked out, and how tidal cycles affect shorebirding potential at tidally dependent areas attractive to shorebirds. Potential shorebirding locations can include: Arcata Marsh, Jacoby Creek mouth, the Mad River estuary, the North Jetty of Humboldt Bay, Crab Park at the Eel River mouth, the south side of Cock Robin Island in the Eel River estuary, and the Centerville area. This trip will be flexible based on the locations chosen by the leader in advance and what species are known to be present or staked out. Though shorebirds will be the focus of this trip every species encountered will be appreciated.

Departure Time: 6:45AM

Return Time: late-afternoon

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): TBD

Time (one way): TBD

Restrooms: Will be available.

Difficulty level: Most locations visited will require some walking. If visiting the jetty it is imperative to watch your feet and make sure you have good footing there while walking on it.

Friday, September 30

NOTE: All half-day field trips on Friday & Saturday, except the Spotted Owl trip, will have available restroom facilities at some point in the trip.

13A Spotted Owl trip

Leaders: Green Diamond Biologists

Join Green Diamond resource biologists on a trip to find known Spotted Owls. This trip will travel to Green Diamond forest land and try to locate Spotted Owls at their known territories and call them in and “mouse” them (i.e., feed them mice). Many times they will fly right in and wait to be fed a mouse! This is one of the trips that always sell out fast during the local spring “Godwit Days” festival. In the fall the owls can be a bit more unpredictable since they won’t be nesting but there is still a good chance to see and find a Spotted during the day time before having to return to the River Lodge by 11AM.

Departure time: 6:15AM

Return Time: 11:00AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): TBD

Time (one way): TBD

Restrooms: Maybe available

Difficulty level: Most birding will be done from near a car but some very minimal walking on flat ground may be required.

14A Arcata Marsh

Leaders: Alexandra Lamb & Lisa Hug

The Arcata Marsh is world famous for being the first sewage treatment plant in the world to incorporate creation of wildlife habitat and recreation into its treatment of Arcata’s effluent and wastewater beginning in the late-1970’s. Since the Marsh’s creation, 330 species of birds have been recorded here, giving it the

distinction of being the most diverse and popular birding location in Northwestern California. The morning will be spent looking for waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds and passerines in the Marsh's many diverse habitats.

Departure time: 6:30 AM

Return Time: 11:00 AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~30

Time (one way): ~35 minutes

Restrooms: Will be available.

Difficulty level: Almost all birding will be done from while walking trails on flat ground.

14C Arcata Marsh

Leader: TBA

The Arcata Marsh is world famous for being the first sewage treatment plant in the world to incorporate creation of wildlife habitat and recreation into its treatment of Arcata's effluent and wastewater beginning in the late-1970's. Since the Marsh's creation, 330 species of birds have been recorded here, giving it the distinction of being the most diverse and popular birding location in Northwestern California. The morning will be spent looking for waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds and passerines in the Marsh's many diverse habitats.

Departure time: 6:30 AM

Return Time: 11:00 AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~30

Time (one way): ~35 minutes

Restrooms: Will be available.

Difficulty level: Almost all birding will be done from while walking trails on flat ground.

15A Arcata Hotspots

Leader: Rob Fowler & Raymond VanBuskirk

This trip will focus on the local hotspots in the Arcata area visiting locations like Shay Park, Potowat Health Village, and other riparian areas that have harbored migrants and vagrants in the past. Shay Park has hosted many interesting vagrants in the past such as Connecticut, Worm-eating and Yellow-throated Warblers, Blue-headed Vireo, etc. and the Potowat Health Village is a spectacular restoration area that is growing into a wonderful riparian and open field habitat with nice paved trails. If any rarities are present at these areas or other locations in Arcata focus will be made to refind them on this trip.

Departure time: 6:30AM

Return Time: 11:00AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 28 miles

Time (one way): ~ 40 minutes

Restrooms: Will be available.

Difficulty level: Most birding will be done by walking trails on flat ground.

15C Arcata Hotspots

Leader: TBA

This trip will focus on the local hotspots in the Arcata area visiting locations like Shay Park, Potowat Health Village, and other riparian areas that have harbored migrants and vagrants in the past. Shay Park has hosted many interesting vagrants in the past such as Connecticut, Worm-eating and Yellow-throated Warblers, Blue-headed Vireo, etc. and the Potowat Health Village is a spectacular restoration area that is growing into a wonderful riparian and open field habitat with nice paved trails. If any rarities are present at these areas or other locations in Arcata focus will be made to refind them on this trip.

Departure time: 6:30AM

Return Time: 11:00AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 28 miles
Time (one way): ~ 40 minutes
Restrooms: Will be available.
Difficulty level: Most birding will be done by walking trails on flat ground.

16A North Spit of Humboldt Bay

Leader: Rob Hewitt

This trip will start at the north jetty of Humboldt Bay to look for rocky shorebirds and do a seawatch off of the tip on the rising tide. After the jetty the rest of the morning will be spent birding the famous vagrant traps of the north spit (Cypress Patch, Entrance Patch, Airport and Horse Pasture) where many rare vagrant passerines have been found in past years, including such legendary ones as Black-billed Cuckoo and Golden-winged and Cerulean Warblers.

Departure time: 6:15AM

Return Time: 11:00AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 25 miles

Time (one way): ~ 40 minutes

Restrooms: Will be available.

Difficulty level: Some walking may be required ducking under branches and on uneven trails along with slippery surfaces on the north jetty where you must watch your footing. Overall, though, it should be easy walking.

17A Bird Banding at Humboldt Bay Bird Observatory

Leaders: Kim Hollinger & HBBO Banders

Come out and watch the bird banding process happen at this long-time bird banding station, founded in 1982 by C.J. and Carol Ralph. HBBO is located at the Lanphere Dunes unit of the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Riparian and coastal pine forest, open grassland, and restored coastal dune habitat and saltmarsh bordered by the Mad River Slough estuary make this location attractive to a variety of bird species. Many rarities have also shown up here and/or been banded here with the most recent highlights being Cerulean Warbler and the state first of Lesser Frigatebird and the 1st county record of Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

Departure time: 6:15AM

Return Time: 11:00AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 30 miles

Time (one way): ~ 50 minutes

Restrooms: Will be available.

Difficulty level: Easy walking on mostly flat ground.

18A Blue Lake Area

Leader: Keith Slauson

The Mad River Fish Hatchery and the “Blue Lake Cottonwoods” are very popular with local birders in the spring time during migration and for summer neotropical residents. During the fall, though, these locations aren’t covered much due to the coastal bias of birders scouring the migrant traps along the immediate coast. Both locations have great potential to turn up interesting migrants in the fall—and have! There may also be an opportunity to visit a local organic farm ran by a birder that has built quite a list up for his farm over the years and it’s often a spectacular spot to look for fall sparrows with many species present.

Departure time: 6:00AM

Return Time: 11:00AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 40 miles

Time (one way): ~ 50 minutes

Restrooms: will be available

Difficulty level: Easy walking on mostly flat ground

19A Eureka Hotspots

Leaders: Brad Elvert & Samantha Bacon

Cooper Gulch and Woodley Island are some of Eureka's best migrant traps, producing many rarities in past years and focus will be put on covering both of those areas thoroughly in the morning, hoping for migrant landbirds and maybe a vagrant. Woodley Island is at the north end of the Eureka Channel on Humboldt Bay so various waterbirds are possible, too. If time is left before heading back, this trip will check various spots along Eureka Waterfront will be made before heading back to Fortuna.

Departure time: 6:30AM

Return Time: 11:00AM

Cost: Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 20 miles

Time (one way): ~ 30 minutes

Restrooms: Will be available.

Difficulty level: Easy walking on mostly flat ground

19C Eureka Hotspots

Leader: TBA

Cooper Gulch and Woodley Island are some of Eureka's best migrant traps, producing many rarities in past years and focus will be put on covering both of those areas thoroughly in the morning, hoping for migrant landbirds and maybe a vagrant. Woodley Island is at the north end of the Eureka Channel on Humboldt Bay so various waterbirds are possible, too. If time is left before heading back, this trip will check various spots along Eureka Waterfront will be made before heading back to Fortuna.

Departure time: 6:30AM

Return Time: 11:00AM

Cost: Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 20 miles

Time (one way): ~ 30 minutes

Restrooms: Will be available.

Difficulty level: Easy walking on mostly flat ground

20A Hikshari' Trail

Leaders: Chris Heys & Cliff Hawley

This is a new 1.5 mile trail at the south end of Eureka, providing birders with easy walking access to such hotspots such as the Elk River mouth and the Elk River Wildlife Sanctuary on a nice and wide paved trail. The trip will start at the south end of the trail, birding the riparian looking in chickadee flocks for migrants and vagrants at the wildlife sanctuary and then look for various shorebirds, terns and gulls and other waterbirds around the Elk River mouth.

Departure time: 6:45AM

Return Time: 11:00AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 15 miles

Time (one way): ~ 15 minutes

Restrooms: Will be available.

Difficulty level: Easy walking on a wide paved multiuse trail.

21A King Salmon and Fields Landing

Leaders: Chet Ogan & Forrest Rowland

King Salmon and Fields Landing are the best locations to look for waterbirds from the east side of south Humboldt Bay. Equal time will be spent at each location to maximize finding most species present at these locations. Expect waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls, terns and maybe even an alcid from either of these locations. Harlequin and Long-tailed Ducks have been seen many times over the years from either location and Marbled Murrelets are occasionally seen by scoping the entrance channel from King Salmon.

Departure time: 6:45AM

Return Time: 11:00AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 15 miles

Time (one way): ~ 15 minutes

Restrooms: Will be available.

Difficulty level: A mixture of birding near the cars and some minimal walking on flat ground and/or sand will be required.

22A Loleta Bottoms, Table Bluff and the South Spit Leader: Tom Leskiw

These three general locations can be covered in an early morning of birding being so close to Fortuna. Loleta Bottoms is excellent for raptors, waterfowl (if water is present), and often has a small wintering flock of golden-plovers, along with interesting sparrows. A stop at Crab Park at the Eel River mouth can turn up interesting waterbirds and shorebirds. If the Ocean Ranch unit is good that year it can be excellent for shorebirding. The new Lighthouse Ranch is now open at the west end of Table Bluff County Park and is excellent for seawatching and has an “Outer Point Reyes Feel” to it with the many Monterey Cypress trees that are present. The South Spit is now owned and managed by the BLM and is an excellent birding destination with many access points to birding south Humboldt Bay.

Departure time: 6:45AM

Return Time: 11:00AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 8 miles

Time (one way): ~ 10 minutes

Restrooms: Will be available.

Difficulty level: A mixture of birding near the cars along roads and some minimal walking on flat ground and/or sand will be required.

23A Centerville, Ferndale and Ferndale Bottoms Leader: Sean McAllister

Similar to the “Loleta Bottoms, etc. trip” but different in that one of the priorities of this trip will be finding Gray Jay at one of the many locations they are found near Ferndale. There can also be decent shorebirding potential around the Centerville area (water level dependent), the Ferndale Bottoms, and vantage points along the Eel River. Ferndale Bottoms is the largest section of pasture bottomland habitat along the coastal slope of Humboldt County and by this time of year should have a couple of wintering Ferruginous Hawks showing back up and always has good potential to turn up interesting rarities. The Salt River riparian has turned up many notable vagrant warblers in past years. The Victorian village of Ferndale is great urban birding with many manicured yards and the Ferndale Cemetery can have Gray Jays, along with nearby Russ Park; the latter location also having the distinction of having the southernmost Sitka Spruce forest in California.

Departure time: 6:45AM

Return Time: 11:00AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 8 miles

Time (one way): ~ 10 minutes

Restrooms: Will be available.

Difficulty level: A mixture of birding near the cars and some minimal walking on flat ground and/or sand will be required.

24A Humboldt Bay NWR: Salmon Creek to Hookton Slough Leaders: Dave Irons & Shawneen Finnegan

The Salmon Creek Unit of the Humboldt Bay NWR is the premier National Wildlife Refuge in Humboldt County and is the most popular unit in the Humboldt NWR complex. A level walking trail goes through freshwater marsh, riparian and grassland habitats. Depending on the amount of water present good numbers of waterfowl

and shorebirds can be present and this is a reliable place to detect Virginia Rails and Sora. Good numbers of raptors can be found in the open grassland areas during winter and fall migration and this is a reliable spot for Bald Eagle and Black-capped Chickadee. This is a good trip for birders not wanting to get up too early every day during the conference. With time allowing, after birding the trail at Salmon Creek the trip will head over to the Hookton Slough portion of the refuge to look for waterbirds and from that area.

Departure time: 7:45AM (refuge opens at 8:00 AM)

Return Time: 11:00AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 14 miles

Time (one way): ~ 15 minutes

Restrooms: Will be available.

Difficulty level: A mixture of birding near the cars and some walking on maintained trails will be required.

Saturday, October 1

13B Spotted Owl trip

Leaders: Green Diamond Biologists

Join Green Diamond resource biologists on a trip to find known Spotted Owls. This trip will travel to Green Diamond forest land and try to locate Spotted Owls at their known territories and call them in and “mouse” them (i.e., feed them mice). Many times they will fly right in and wait to be fed a mouse! This is one of the trips that always sell out fast during the local spring “Godwit Days” festival. In the fall the owls can be a bit more unpredictable since they won’t be nesting but there is still a good chance to see and find a Spotted during the day time before having to return to the River Lodge by 11AM.

Departure time: 6:15AM

Return Time: 11:00AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): TBD

Time (one way): TBD

Restrooms: Possibly.

Difficulty level: Most birding will be done from near a car but some very minimal walking on flat ground may be required.

14B Arcata Marsh

Leaders: Ed Harper & Nora Papian

The Arcata Marsh is world famous for being the first sewage treatment plant in the world to incorporate creation of wildlife habitat and recreation into its treatment of Arcata’s effluent and wastewater beginning in the late-1970’s. Since the Marsh’s creation, 330 species of birds have been recorded here, giving it the distinction of being the most diverse and popular birding location in Northwestern California. The morning will be spent looking for waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds and passerines in the Marsh’s many diverse habitats.

Departure time: 6:30AM

Return Time: 11:00 AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~30miles

Time (one way): ~35 minutes

Restrooms: Will be available.

Difficulty level: Almost all birding will be done from while walking trails on flat ground.

14D Arcata Marsh

Leader: TBA

The Arcata Marsh is world famous for being the first sewage treatment plant in the world to incorporate creation of wildlife habitat and recreation into its treatment of Arcata’s effluent and wastewater beginning in the late-1970’s. Since the Marsh’s creation, 330 species of birds have been recorded here, giving it the

distinction of being the most diverse and popular birding location in Northwestern California. The morning will be spent looking for waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds and passerines in the Marsh's many diverse habitats.

Departure time: 6:30AM

Return Time: 11:00 AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~30miles

Time (one way): ~35 minutes

Restrooms: Will be available.

Difficulty level: Almost all birding will be done from while walking trails on flat ground.

15B Arcata Hotspots

Leader: Rob Hewitt

This trip will focus on the local hotspots in the Arcata area visiting locations like Shay Park, Potowat Health Village, and other riparian areas that have harbored migrants and vagrants in the past. Shay Park has hosted many interesting vagrants in the past such as Connecticut, Worm-eating and Yellow-throated Warblers, Blue-headed Vireo, etc. and the Potowat Health Village is a spectacular restoration area that is growing into a wonderful riparian and open field habitat with nice paved trails. If any rarities are present at these areas or other locations in Arcata focus will be made to refind them on this trip.

Departure time: 6:15AM

Return Time: 11:00AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 28 miles

Time (one way): ~ 40 minutes

Restrooms: Will be available.

Difficulty level: Most birding will be done by walking trails on flat ground.

15D Arcata Hotspots

Leader: TBA

This trip will focus on the local hotspots in the Arcata area visiting locations like Shay Park, Potowat Health Village, and other riparian areas that have harbored migrants and vagrants in the past. Shay Park has hosted many interesting vagrants in the past such as Connecticut, Worm-eating and Yellow-throated Warblers, Blue-headed Vireo, etc. and the Potowat Health Village is a spectacular restoration area that is growing into a wonderful riparian and open field habitat with nice paved trails. If any rarities are present at these areas or other locations in Arcata focus will be made to refind them on this trip.

Departure time: 6:15AM

Return Time: 11:00AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 28 miles

Time (one way): ~ 40 minutes

Restrooms: Will be available.

Difficulty level: Most birding will be done by walking trails on flat ground.

16B North Spit of Humboldt Bay

Leaders: Cédric Duhalde & Tom Leskiw

This trip will start at the north jetty of Humboldt Bay to look for rocky shorebirds and do a seawatch off of the tip on the rising tide. After the jetty the rest of the morning will be spent birding the famous vagrant traps of the north spit (Cypress Patch, Entrance Patch, Airport and Horse Pasture) where many rare vagrant passerines have been found in past years, including such legendary ones as Black-billed Cuckoo and Golden-winged and Cerulean Warblers.

Departure time: 6:15AM

Return Time: 11:00AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 25 miles

Time (one way): ~ 40 minutes

Restrooms: Will be available

Difficulty level: Some walking may be required ducking under branches and on uneven trails along with slippery surfaces on the north jetty where you must watch your footing. Overall, though, it should be easy walking.

17B Bird Banding at Humboldt Bay Bird Observatory

Leaders: Kim Hollinger & HBBO Banders

Come out and watch the bird banding process happen at this long-time bird banding station, founded in 1982 by C.J. and Carol Ralph. HBBO is located at the Lanphere Dunes unit of the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Riparian and coastal pine forest, open grassland, and restored coastal dune habitat and saltmarsh bordered by the Mad River Slough estuary make this location attractive to a variety of bird species. Many rarities have also shown up here and/or been banded here with the most recent highlights being Cerulean Warbler and the state first of Lesser Frigatebird and the 1st county record of Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

Departure time: 6:15AM

Return Time: 11:00AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 30 miles

Time (one way): ~ 50 minutes

Restrooms: Will be available

Difficulty level: Easy walking on mostly flat ground.

18B Blue Lake Area

Leaders: Alexandra Lamb & Lizzie Feucht

The Mad River Fish Hatchery and the “Blue Lake Cottonwoods” are very popular with local birders in the spring time during migration and for summer neotropical residents. During the fall, though, these locations aren’t covered much due to the coastal bias of birders scouring the migrant traps along the immediate coast. Both locations have great potential to turn up interesting migrants in the fall—and have! There may also be an opportunity to visit a local organic farm ran by a birder that has built quite a list up for his farm over the years and it’s often a spectacular spot to look for fall sparrows with many species present.

Departure time: 6:00AM

Return Time: 11:00AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 40 miles

Time (one way): ~ 50 minutes

Restrooms: Will be available.

Difficulty level: Easy walking on mostly flat ground

19B Eureka Hotspots

Leaders: Rob Fowler & Lisa Hug

Cooper Gulch and Woodley Island are some of Eureka’s best migrant traps, producing many rarities in past years and focus will be put on covering both of those areas thoroughly in the morning, hoping for migrant landbirds and maybe a vagrant. Woodley Island is at the north end of the Eureka Channel on Humboldt Bay so various waterbirds are possible, too. If time is left before heading back, this trip will check various spots along Eureka Waterfront will be made before heading back to Fortuna.

Departure time: 6:30AM

Return Time: 11:00AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 20 miles

Time (one way): ~ 30 minutes

Restrooms: Will be available.

Difficulty level: Easy walking on mostly flat ground

19D Eureka Hotspots

Leader: TBA

Cooper Gulch and Woodley Island are some of Eureka's best migrant traps, producing many rarities in past years and focus will be put on covering both of those areas thoroughly in the morning, hoping for migrant landbirds and maybe a vagrant. Woodley Island is at the north end of the Eureka Channel on Humboldt Bay so various waterbirds are possible, too. If time is left before heading back, this trip will check various spots along Eureka Waterfront will be made before heading back to Fortuna.

Departure time: 6:30AM

Return Time: 11:00AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 20 miles

Time (one way): ~ 30 minutes

Restrooms: Will be available.

Difficulty level: Easy walking on mostly flat ground

20B Hikshari' Trail

Leaders: Brad Elvert & Samantha Bacon

This is a new 1.5 mile trail at the south end of Eureka, providing birders with easy walking access to such hotspots such as the Elk River mouth and the Elk River Wildlife Sanctuary on a nice and wide paved trail. The trip will start at the south end of the trail, birding the riparian looking in chickadee flocks for migrants and vagrants at the wildlife sanctuary and then look for various shorebirds, terns and gulls and other waterbirds around the Elk River mouth.

Departure time: 6:45AM

Return Time: 11:00AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 15 miles

Time (one way): ~ 15 minutes

Restrooms: Will be available.

Difficulty level: Easy walking on a wide paved multiuse trail.

21B King Salmon and Fields Landing

Leaders: Dave Irons & Shawneen Finnegan

King Salmon and Fields Landing are the best locations to look for waterbirds from the east side of south Humboldt Bay. Equal time will be spent at each location to maximize finding most species present at these locations. Expect waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls, terns and maybe even an alcid from either of these locations. Harlequin and Long-tailed Ducks have been seen many times over the years from either location and Marbled Murrelets are occasionally seen by scoping the entrance channel from King Salmon.

Departure time: 6:45AM

Return Time: 11:00AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 15 miles

Time (one way): ~ 15 minutes

Restrooms: Will be available.

Difficulty level: A mixture of birding near the cars and some minimal walking on flat ground and/or sand will be required.

22B Loleta Bottoms, Table Bluff and the South Spit

Leaders: Sean McAllister & Greg Chapman

These three general locations can be covered in an early morning of birding being so close to Fortuna. Loleta Bottoms is excellent for raptors, waterfowl (if water is present), and often has a small wintering flock of golden-plovers, along with interesting sparrows. A stop at Crab Park at the Eel River mouth can turn up interesting waterbirds and shorebirds. If the Ocean Ranch unit is good that year it can be excellent for shorebirding. The new Lighthouse Ranch is now open at the west end of Table Bluff County Park and is excellent for seawatching and

has an “Outer Point Reyes Feel” to it with the many Monterey Cypressess that are present. The South Spit is now owned and managed by the BLM and is an excellent birding destination with many access points to birding south Humboldt Bay.

Departure time: 6:45AM

Return Time: 11:00AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 8 miles

Time (one way): ~ 10 minutes

Restrooms: Will be available.

Difficulty level: A mixture of birding near the cars along roads and some minimal walking on flat ground and/or sand will be required.

23B Centerville, Ferndale and Ferndale Bottoms

Leader: Deven Kammerichs-Berke

Similar to the “Loleta Bottoms, etc. trip” but different in that one of the priorities of this trip will be finding Gray Jay at one of the many locations they are found near Ferndale. There can also be decent shorebirding potential around the Centerville area (water level dependent), the Ferndale Bottoms, and vantage points along the Eel River. Ferndale Bottoms is the largest section of pasture bottomland habitat along the coastal slope of Humboldt County and by this time of year should have a couple of wintering Ferruginous Hawks showing back up and always has good potential to turn up interesting rarities. The Salt River riparian has turned up many notable vagrant warblers in past years. The Victorian village of Ferndale is great urban birding with many manicured yards and the Ferndale Cemetery can have Gray Jays, along with nearby Russ Park; the latter location also having the distinction of having the southernmost Sitka Spruce forest in California.

Departure time: 6:45AM

Return Time: 11:00AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 8 miles

Time (one way): ~ 10 minutes

Restrooms: Will be available.

Difficulty level: A mixture of birding near the cars and some minimal walking on flat ground and/or sand will be required.

24B Humboldt Bay NWR: Salmon Creek to Hookton Slough

Leaders: Ken Burton & Ruth Rudesill

The Salmon Creek Unit of the Humboldt Bay NWR is the premier National Wildlife Refuge in Humboldt County and is the most popular unit in the Humboldt NWR complex. A level walking trail goes through freshwater marsh, riparian and grassland habitats. Depending on the amount of water present good numbers of waterfowl and shorebirds can be present and this is a reliable place to detect Virginia Rails and Sora. Good numbers of raptors can be found in the open grassland areas during winter and fall migration and this is a reliable spot for Bald Eagle and Black-capped Chickadee. This is a good trip for birders not wanting to get up too early every day during the conference. With time allowing, after birding the trail at Salmon Creek the trip will head over to the Hookton Slough portion of the refuge to look for waterbirds and from that area.

Departure time: 7:45AM (refuge opens at 8:00 AM)

Return Time: 11:00AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 14 miles

Time (one way): ~ 15 minutes

Restrooms: Will be available.

Difficulty level: A mixture of birding near the cars and some walking on maintained trails will be required.

Sunday, October 2

1B Del Norte County:

Leader: Rob Hewitt

Del Norte, the northwestern-most county in CA is legendary amongst California birders for some of the rarities that have shown up, with the first ABA record (outside of Greenland) of Common Scoter being the most recent star bird. The day will be spent birding the main hotspots in Del Norte County such as the Crescent City Harbor, Point Saint George, Lakes Earl and Tolowa, and the famous Alexandre Dairy in the Smith River Bottoms. Any rarities that have been reported from the county recently will also be looked for. It's a ~ 2 +/- hour drive to Crescent City from the River Lodge in Fortuna but most of it is scenic, driving through mostly coastal coniferous forests and coastal lagoons and over the Klamath River along on the way.

Departure time: 5:30 AM

Return time: late-afternoon/early-evening

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~ 105 mi

Time driving (one way): ~ 2 hrs.

Restroom facilities: Many options.

Difficulty level: Most birding will be done from near a car but some minimal walking on flat ground may be required.

2B Redwood National Park: Ruffed Grouse and More:

Leaders: John Sterling & Forrest Rowland

The beginning of this trip will prioritize looking for Ruffed Grouse along the Tall Trees Rd. at Redwood NP. The rest of the day will be spent looking for with migrants and potential rarities. Redwood specialists like Varied Thrush and Pacific Wren are probable and Marbled Murrelet can potentially be found scoping the ocean opposite of Freshwater Lagoon. Other possible locations to check on this trip are the base of Bald Hills Rd., Davison Rd. meadow and creek, Gold Bluffs Beach, Fern Canyon, Redwood Creek mouth and riparia, Orick Bottoms, the Orick Dump and more. Roosevelt Elk sightings are almost guaranteed on this trip, too.

Departure time: 6:00 AM

Return Time: late-afternoon.

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~70 miles

Time (one way): ~1.5 hours

Restroom facilities: minimal

Difficulty level: Most birding will be done from near a car but some minimal walking on uneven ground may be required.

3B Horse and Grouse Mountains

Leader: Ruth Rudesill

When birders in Humboldt County want to look for montane species their first choice is the Horse/Grouse Mountain area due to its close proximity to the Humboldt Bay region. Mountain Quail, Sooty Grouse, White-headed Woodpecker and Red-breasted Sapsucker are the most wanted birds for out-of-state birders here. This may very well be one of the most dependable locations for Mountain Quail as they are seen along the road on most occasions during early-morning trips. This trip will leave early from the Fortuna River Lodge to take advantage of hoping to catch up with quail and grouse in the early-morning hours along the roadside. The rest of the day will be spent trying working the Mountain Chickadee flocks to look for migrants.

Departure time: 6:00 AM

Return time: Mid-afternoon

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~ 60 miles

Time (one way): ~1 hr. 20 minutes

Restrooms: none available as we'll be on a (paved) Forest Service road. Restrooms will be available along Highway 299 in Arcata.

Difficulty level: Most birding will be done from near a car but some minimal walking on uneven ground may be required.

4B South Fork and Blake Mountains

Leader: Brad Elvert

While the Horse and Grouse Mountain Trip tackles the northern beginnings of Forest Service Route 1 for high elevation montane species and focuses on Sooty Grouse and Mountain Quail this trip will focus on the southern end of Route 1, focusing on finding high elevation species like White-headed Woodpecker, Cassin's Finch, and—if we are really lucky maybe a high elevation rarity. South Fork and Blake Mountains are the highest mountains along Forest Service Route 1 (highest elevation around 5905 ft.) and are generally more productive for high elevation species like Northern Goshawk, Cassin's Finch, and White-headed Woodpecker in the Shasta Red Fir forests here. Most of the birding on this trip will be in Trinity County.

Departure Time: 6:15AM

Return Time: Mid-to late-afternoon

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~ 50 miles

Time (one way): ~ 1 hour, 15 minutes

Restrooms: none available as we'll be on a (paved) Forest Service road. Restrooms will be available along Highway 36 to and from.

Difficulty level: Most birding will be done from near a car but some minimal walking on flat ground may be required.

5B: Shelter Cove & California Thrashers:

Leaders: Cliff Hawley & Don Marsh

Shelter Cove is the southernmost coastal community in Humboldt County, being sandwiched right in the middle of the Lost Coast. Morning will start in Shelter Cove looking for landbird migrants and coastal seabird species within this quaint coastal community that generally gets light birding coverage. After birding Shelter Cove a special trip will be made to attempt locate the very local California Thrasher in the Kings Range National Conservation Area.

Departure Time: 6:15 AM

Return Time: mid- to late-afternoon

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~ 70 miles

Time (one way): ~ 1.5 hrs.

Restrooms: Will be available in Shelter Cove, perhaps not during the rest of the day.

Difficulty level: Most birding will be done from near a car, but some minimal walking on uneven ground may be required. Some walking uphill and downhill hiking on a narrow but maintained trail may be required for the California Thrasher search.

6B Vagrant trip

Leader: Jon Dunn

Late-September to early-October is a great time for finding vagrants and rarities along the coastal slope in Humboldt County. With the help of the area's keen birders this trip may range anywhere countywide to locations of currently known rarities, maybe even discovering some new ones along the way! It is all up for grabs and should be an interesting and unpredictable trip.

No telling what the terrain will be like depending on what rarities will be chased but most will probably be easy to minimal walking.

Departure Time: 6:30 AM

Return Time: TBD

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): TBD

Time (one way): TBD

Restrooms: will be available

Difficulty level: No telling what the terrain will be like depending on what rarities will be chased but most will probably be easy to minimal walking.

6D Vagrant trip

Leader: Rob Fowler

Late-September to early-October is a great time for finding vagrants and rarities along the coastal slope in Humboldt County. With the help of the area's keen birders this trip may range anywhere countywide to locations of currently known rarities, maybe even discovering some new ones along the way! It is all up for grabs and should be an interesting and unpredictable trip.

No telling what the terrain will be like depending on what rarities will be chased but most will probably be easy to minimal walking.

Departure Time: 6:30 AM

Return Time: TBD

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): TBD

Time (one way): TBD

Restrooms: will be available

Difficulty level: No telling what the terrain will be like depending on what rarities will be chased but most will probably be easy to minimal walking.

7B Mad River Estuary to north McKinleyville

Leader: Keith Slauson

The Mad River estuary, though smaller than larger rivers in Northwestern California is a spectacular birding area that has attracted an impressive variety of birds over the years, with many rarities. Of all of the Asian vagrants that have appeared in Humboldt County in recent years the area around the Mad River Estuary has attracted almost all of them: Common Greenshank (2001), Brown Shrike (2010-11), and Little Bunting (2013). Obviously we can't honestly expect a repeat of any of those Asian vagrants BUT one can expect good times birding the migrant traps of Mad River County Park and the new School Rd. trail in McKinleyville, looking for shorebirds in the estuary itself, searching for migrants and waterbirds at Hiller Park in McKinleyville, looking for loafing gulls and shorebirds at the mouth of the Mad and then ending the day looking for Snowy Plovers and other species on Clam/Little River State Beach.

Departure time: 6:30 AM

Return Time: TBD

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~ 33 miles

Time (one way): ~ 50 minutes

Restrooms: will be available

Difficulty level: Some walking may be required ducking under branches and on uneven trails, slippery mud, and sand. Overall should be easy walking.

7D Mad River Estuary to north McKinleyville

Leader: TBA

The Mad River estuary, though smaller than larger rivers in Northwestern California is a spectacular birding area that has attracted an impressive variety of birds over the years, with many rarities. Of all of the Asian vagrants that have appeared in Humboldt County in recent years the area around the Mad River Estuary has attracted almost all of them: Common Greenshank (2001), Brown Shrike (2010-11), and Little Bunting (2013). Obviously we can't honestly expect a repeat of any of those Asian vagrants BUT one can expect good times birding the migrant traps of Mad River County Park and the new School Rd. trail in McKinleyville, looking for shorebirds in the estuary itself, searching for migrants and waterbirds at Hiller Park in McKinleyville, looking for loafing gulls

and shorebirds at the mouth of the Mad and then ending the day looking for Snowy Plovers and other species on Clam/Little River State Beach.

Departure time: 6:30 AM

Return Time: TBD

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~ 33 miles

Time (one way): ~ 50 minutes

Restrooms: will be available

Difficulty level: Some walking may be required ducking under branches and on uneven trails, slippery mud, and sand. Overall should be easy walking.

8B Trinidad and Patrick's Point State Park Leader: Gary Lester

Visit the hotspots and beautiful rocky coastline of Trinidad and Patrick's Point State Park on this field trip. Various nearshore ocean waterbirds will be looked for and passerine migrants and potential rarities will be looked for in chickadee flocks. Marbled Murrelet, Gray Jay, and Red Crossbill are all good possibilities on this trip. Locations to be visited will be Elk Head, Luffenholtz County Park, Patrick's Point State Park and more. Patrick's Point is an excellent example of classic Pacific Northwest coastal conifer forest with fine examples of old growth Sitka Spruce trees.

Departure Time: 6:30 AM

Return Time: mid- to late-afternoon

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~ 40 miles

Time (one way): ~ 50 minutes

Restrooms: will be available

Difficulty level: Most birding will be easy walking on level trails; some birding will be near the car.

9B Humboldt Coastal Lagoons State Park Leader: Chet Ogan

Big, Dry, Stone and Freshwater Lagoon all make up Humboldt Lagoons State Park, the largest complex of coastal lagoons in the Lower 48 states. On this scenic trip the lagoons will be scoped for waterbirds (except Dry, which IS actually dry), coastal conifer forest will be scoured for species like Gray Jay and Red Crossbill and expected species like Varied Thrush and Pacific Wren. The ocean off of the lagoons can produce scoters both coastal cormorants, loons and grebes and Marbled Murrelets. Like the Redwood National Park trip, Roosevelt Elk are a likely on this one as well.

Departure Time: 6:30AM

Return Time: late-afternoon

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~ 50 miles

Time (one way): ~ 1 hr.

Restrooms: will be available

Difficulty level: Most birding will be done from near a car but some minimal walking on flat ground may be required.

10B Kneeland to Bridgeville Leader: Chris Heys

This trip will start at Freshwater Park to look for American Dipper and then head up to Kneeland prairies up near the Kneeland airport to look for such birds like Golden Eagle and other raptors, flocks of migrant sparrows (rarities like Clay-colored and Lark Bunting have been found here in the past) and Oak Woodland species like Acorn Woodpecker and White-breasted Nuthatch, the latter species being very local in Humboldt County. The trip will then head towards Bridgeville with hopes of coming across Sooty Grouse while driving the road. Other species that are local or found more in southern Humboldt County like Lewis's Woodpecker (rare migrant),

California Towhee or Lawrence's Goldfinch (rare) are also possible. After reaching Bridgeville the trip will then head back via Highway 36 to the River Lodge.

Departure Time: 6:15AM

Return Time: mid-afternoon

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~ 25 miles

Time (one way): ~ 40 minutes

Restrooms: will be available at Freshwater Park and at the Kneeland Airport but not the rest of the trip.

Difficulty level: Most birding will be done from near a car but some minimal walking on flat ground may be required.

11B South to Petrolia and the Mattole River mouth

Leaders: Tony Kurz & Casey Ryan

This trip will head towards Ferndale, starting by searching for whatever stakeout rarities in the greater Ferndale Bottoms area might be present. The trip will then head south towards the small town of Petrolia on Wildcat Road. Many underexplored locations will be checked along the way with coastal grassland and riparian habitats being priority. The Mattole River is an excellent and relatively under birded migrant trap and is the southernmost limit for breeding Black-capped Chickadees. This has become a popular trip during the local "Godwit Days" festival and generally sells out. Not a lot of birders make it down to this area regularly so there's always room for great surprises—especially during the peak of Fall Migration!

Departure Time: 6:45AM

Return Time: late-afternoon

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): TBD

Time (one way): TBD

Restrooms: minimal availability

Difficulty level: Most birding will be done from near a car but some minimal walking on flat ground may be required.

12B Shorebirding Trip

Leaders: Nora Papian & Deven Kammerichs-Berke

Humboldt County is one of the best locations in California for both large numbers and great diversity of shorebirds, with the Globally Important Humboldt Bay being the centerpiece. Every year millions of shorebirds stop off in the county and many interesting or rare shorebirds are found by birders scouring the large flocks—especially during fall. Locations for this trip will be determined by the leader(s) depending on where the best shorebirding is, if any rare shorebirds are staked out, and how tidal cycles affect shorebirding potential at tidally dependent areas attractive to shorebirds. Potential shorebirding locations can include: Arcata Marsh, Jacoby Creek mouth, the Mad River estuary, the North Jetty of Humboldt Bay, Crab Park at the Eel River mouth, the south side of Cock Robin Island in the Eel River estuary, and the Centerville area. This trip will be flexible based on the locations chosen by the leader in advance and what species are known to be present or staked out. Though shorebirds will be the focus of this trip every species encountered will be appreciated.

Departure Time: 6:45AM

Return Time: late-afternoon

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): TBD

Time (one way): TBD

Miles; Time: TBD

Restrooms: will be available

Difficulty level: Most locations visited will require some walking. If visiting the jetty it is imperative to watch your feet and make sure you have good footing there while walking on it.

12D Shorebirding Trip

Leader: TBA

Humboldt County is one of the best locations in California for both large numbers and great diversity of shorebirds, with the Globally Important Humboldt Bay being the centerpiece. Every year millions of shorebirds stop off in the county and many interesting or rare shorebirds are found by birders scouring the large flocks—especially during fall. Locations for this trip will be determined by the leader(s) depending on where the best shorebirding is, if any rare shorebirds are staked out, and how tidal cycles affect shorebirding potential at tidally dependent areas attractive to shorebirds. Potential shorebirding locations can include: Arcata Marsh, Jacoby Creek mouth, the Mad River estuary, the North Jetty of Humboldt Bay, Crab Park at the Eel River mouth, the south side of Cock Robin Island in the Eel River estuary, and the Centerville area. This trip will be flexible based on the locations chosen by the leader in advance and what species are known to be present or staked out. Though shorebirds will be the focus of this trip every species encountered will be appreciated.

Departure Time: 6:45AM

Return Time: late-afternoon

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): TBD

Time (one way): TBD

Miles; Time: TBD

Restrooms: will be available

Difficulty level: Most locations visited will require some walking. If visiting the jetty it is imperative to watch your feet and make sure you have good footing there while walking on it.

WORKSHOPS

Friday, September 30

Molt Workshop: *"Everything You've Been Afraid to Know and Haven't Wanted to Ask."*

Workshop Leader: Peter Pyle

Time: 8:00AM–11:00AM

Where: COHO Room

Cost: \$20

Workshop description: Peter will begin the session with a PowerPoint trip through the various angles of bird molt, clarifying the tangled historical terminology and presenting the vastly improved H-P (Humphrey-Parkes) system in lay-person terms. He will consider the interactions between bird molt and plumage color, illustrate the fascinating molt patterns of ducks, ptarmigan, alcids, herons, raptors, parrots, passerines, and larger birds that undergo Stafflemauser, and conclude with some thoughts on stable isotopes and molt, molt in tropical birds, and avenues for future research. After a short break, the focus will be on ageing birds in the field using molt limits and other molt-related clues, as illustrated in PowerPoint images. Peter encourages participants to bring images and questions they have on molt, in general or in specific taxa, to discuss with the class.

Leader's Bio: Peter Pyle's knowledge of molt is based on a thorough familiarity with the scientific literature during years of working with the subject, as well as the examination of over 100,000 specimens in museum skin collections. He has published more than 45 scientific papers on molt and his Identification Guides to North American Birds includes detailed accounts of molt in all North American bird species. Peter is currently revising molt and plumage sections for all online Birds of North America accounts.

Warbler Workshop: *"Identification of Fall Warblers"*

Workshop includes a classroom session on Friday and a field session on Saturday. Registrants may sign up for the classroom session only or classroom PLUS field session. NOTE: places for field session are limited so register early if you'd like to attend both.

Workshop Leader: Jon Dunn

Time: 8:00AM–11:00AM

Where: CHINOOK Room

Cost: \$40 for Friday classroom session PLUS Saturday field session; \$20 for classroom session only. Only 12 participants for the Saturday field trip.

Classroom Session: Jon Dunn will cover various aspects of field identification, status and distribution, and geographical variation in fall wood-warblers of western North America. He will start with a review of the genera of wood-warblers, including a discussion of recent taxonomic changes. He will then use a handful of the most familiar western warbler species to explore patterns of variation by age, sex, and subspecies. This will be followed by a survey of the species, appropriately grouped, that are most often found in the Pacific states—including many vagrant species from (primarily) eastern North America—with an in-depth exploration of key identification characters and occurrence patterns. Images, audio recordings, and specimens will all be used to explore key characters. The classroom session will close with selected problems in identification, status and distribution, geographical variation, and speciation that deserve further attention.

Field Trip: The destination for the Saturday field trip will likely be to park-like habitats within a 20-30 minute drive of the River Lodge—the exact site(s) will be determined within a week of the field trip date to maximize success in finding a variety of species to study. The field portion of the workshop will deal with species identification, ageing and sexing criteria, vocalizations (particularly “chip” and flight notes), and various aspects of behavior. We can expect to see eight to twelve species, but we’ll discuss field identification techniques.

Leader’s Bio: Jon Dunn is the co-authored (with Kimball Garrett) *A Field Guide to Warblers of North America* and has co-led warbler field workshops at Pt. Pelee and elsewhere. Jon has a passion for teaching about field identification, status and distribution, both in the field and the classroom. He is the co-author of the sixth edition of the National Geographic Field Guide to the *Birds of North America* (and chief consultant for all previous editions). Jon co-authored (with Kimball Garrett) *Birds of Southern California, Status and Distribution* and Peterson Field Guide to Warblers, and co-authored (with Steve Howell) *Gulls of the Americas*. Jon has served as a member of the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list Committee, the A.B.A. Checklist Committee, and the California Bird Records Committee. He is a field trip leader for WINGS and serves on the board of Western Field Ornithologists.

Woodpecker Workshop and Field Trip: “The Lives of Western Woodpeckers”

Workshop includes a classroom session on Friday and a field session on Saturday. Registrants may sign up for the classroom session only or classroom PLUS field session. NOTE: places for field session are limited so register early if you’d like to attend both.

Workshop Leader: Steve Shunk

Time: 8:00AM–11:00AM

Where: FIRESIDE Room

Cost: \$40 for Friday classroom session PLUS Saturday field session; \$20 for classroom session only. Only 12 participants for the Saturday field trip.

Classroom Session: From the Red-breasted Sapsucker of the temperate rainforests to the Gilded Flicker of the desert southwest, each woodpecker species possesses a suite of anatomical and behavioral adaptations unique to its specialized lifestyle. Join North American woodpecker specialist, Steve Shunk, on a journey through the natural history, ecology, and conservation of western woodpeckers. Steve will start with a synopsis of the amazing woodpecker anatomy, which makes woodpeckers some of the most specialized birds in the world. He will tie their anatomy to unique behaviors, and he will take us into woodpecker habitat ecology to understand how each species interacts with its environment. Finally, Steve will discuss woodpecker conservation—in theory and practice—as a path toward healthier forests and woodlands across the continent.

Field Trip: Five woodpecker species reside permanently in the Humboldt Bay region, with several additional species recorded in the fall, and the forests and woodlands surrounding the bay set a perfect stage for observing these amazing forest carpenters. Join North American woodpecker specialist Steve Shunk for this field introduction to the woodpeckers of the Humboldt Bay area. Steve will take you into prime habitats to discuss forest ecology and interpret woodpecker behavior and natural history. He will cover various aspects of field identification, status, and distribution, as well as geographical variation among the woodpecker species that occur in our region.

Leader's Bio: Steve Shunk started birding in the San Francisco Bay Area in 1989, and in 1997 he moved to central Oregon's "Woodpecker Wonderland", where 11 woodpecker species breed annually in an area smaller than the surface area of Humboldt Bay! For the last 18 years, Steve has closely studied the woodpeckers of North America—and the world. Recently, he spent three seasons as a field biologist for the Institute for Bird Populations studying Black-backed Woodpeckers of California's Sierra Nevada and Cascade Mountains. Steve now lectures and leads birding tours across North America and beyond, and he is the associate editor for the online Nature Travel Network. Steve's long-awaited Peterson Reference *Guide to Woodpeckers of North America* hit the shelves in May 2016 and will be available during the conference.

Saturday, October 1

Workshop: "Bird Specimen Preparation"

Workshop Leader: Philip Unitt

Time: 7:00AM–11:00AM

Where: River Lodge Lobby for carpooling to Humboldt State University

Cost: \$20

Workshop description: Specimens are as fundamental to ornithology today as they were 100 or 200 years ago. However, the art of making bird skins is a skill that must be handed down from one generation to the next, as from master to apprentice. In this workshop Phil will demonstrate some diverse ways in which research specimens of birds are prepared. He'll talk about the kinds of information recorded during preparation and the ways in which specimens are used for research once prepared and integrated into museum collections.

This will be an excellent opportunity to learn more about birds' external and internal anatomy. He will show how we learn about molt, fat deposition (migration), gonadal development (breeding phenology), parasites, and diet during the process of specimen preparation. Participants can see the different approaches different species and uses require and compare various techniques. If you have experience in skinning birds and would like to work on one with Phil, please notify Phil Unitt (birds@sdnhm.org) by Friday September 20th so he has adequate tools and specimen's ready—even experienced preparers learn from each other.

The workshop will take place at the Humboldt State University, a forty minutes' drive from the River Lodge. All participants must carpool from the lodge at 7:00 AM. Because we will be entering the university and parking together in a designated area, we cannot accommodate late arrivals. Phil welcomes questions and discussion throughout the workshop.

Leader's Bio: Phil Unitt has served as editor of *Western Birds* since 1986 and as collection manager then curator of the Department of Birds and Mammals of the San Diego Natural History Museum since 1988. He is the author of the San Diego County Bird Atlas (2004) and co-author of *Birds of the Salton Sea* (2003), publications in which specimen and observational data are integrated. He has prepared ~4000 bird specimens, from Calliope Hummingbirds to Common Loons and Canada Geese.

Workshop: "Identifying birds by their Sounds"

Workshop Leader: Nathan Pieplow

Time: 8:00—11:00 AM

Where: Coho Room

Cost: \$20

Workshop Description: “It is sometimes said that expert birders make 90 percent of their identifications by ear. It is also said that no aspect of birding is more frustrating for the beginner and more difficult to master than voice identification.” So says David Sibley in the introduction to the *Sibley Guide to Birds*, and many birders would agree.

Until recently, most attempts to teach bird sound identification have relied almost entirely on memorization techniques. This workshop will take a different approach. We will work on advanced listening skills, learning how to pay attention to the fine details of a sound. In the process, we will learn a common vocabulary for describing bird sounds. Just as beginning birders learn the different parts of the bird and how to distinguish colors like “buff” and “rufous”, we will learn the different parts of a sound and how to distinguish tone qualities like “burry” and “polyphonic”. We will also study how to visualize sounds and read spectrograms, and we will use these skills to tackle some of the more significant audio identification challenges in the western United States, from *Empidonax* flycatchers to thrashers.

No matter what your level of experience, this workshop will help you listen to sounds more analytically, describe them more accurately, and use them more effectively in identifying birds.

Leader’s Bio: **Nathan Pieplow** is the author of the upcoming *Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds*. He is the founder of the bird sound blog Earbirding.com, one of the authors of the Colorado Birding Trail, and the former editor of the journal *Colorado Birds*. Nathan teaches writing at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

Workshop: “*Field Identification Issues Posed by Naturalized and Escaped Birds in Western North America*”

Workshop Leader: Kimball Garrett

Time: 8:00AM–11:00AM

Where: CHINOOK Room

Cost: \$20

Workshop description: Naturalized non-native bird populations are a fact of life in western North America (and elsewhere), with an especially high and increasing diversity of such species in urban areas of the West Coast. Add to these a long list of species that have occurred here as free-flying escapees and the field identification challenges for the western birder really mount. Using photos and study skins, the workshop will review the naturalized bird species in the West and look at identification issues within such groups as parrots, munias, bishops, doves and white-eyes. We’ll look at potential pitfalls when introduced birds can resemble native species, such as the resemblance of female and immature bishops (*Euplectes*) to native grassland sparrows or of immature Mute Swans to native swans. And, we’ll look at examples of escapees being misidentified as native species through the combination of “the single field mark syndrome” and unfamiliarity with species not treated in standard North American field guides. Finally, we’ll underscore the importance of monitoring non-native birds, including the application of ageing criteria to understand population dynamics and breeding phenology.

Leader’s Bio: **Kimball Garrett** has been the Ornithology Collections Manager at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County since 1982. Stuck in urban Los Angeles, he has developed a healthy (?) fascination for non-native, naturalized bird species in that region and regularly deals with identification conundrums experienced by birders when they encounter escapees or unfamiliar naturalized species. Kimball has been a member of WFO since its inception and served as its tenth president.

Workshop: “*Illustrating Birds*”

Workshop Leader: Christine Elder

Time: 8:00AM–11:00AM

Where: FIRESIDE Room

Cost: \$20

Workshop description: Join Christine Elder for a hands-on workshop to learn quick and easy bird sketching techniques for birders. Learning some basics of bird sketching can be useful in giving a new way to interact with and appreciate birds, improving identification skills and enhancing the quality of field research notebook. Anyone can learn basic drawing skills even if drawing isn't perfect. It's the process and not the product that counts in learning about bird form and behavior. In this 3 hour workshop, Christine will first present a slideshow that reviews bird anatomy and shows examples of sketching techniques used in the field. Next, Christine will lead the group in a step-by-step guided sketching demonstration. Lastly, participants will try their hand at sketching their own bird using photographs and a technique handout while Christine offers individual guidance.

Leader's Bio: Christine Elder is a naturalist, biological illustrator and environmental educator who enjoys helping folks form a deeper connection to the natural world through the practice of field sketching. She has given presentations and led workshops at birding events in the US, Jamaica and Mexico. Christine also co-leads birdwatching tours with her partner Stephen Shunk of Paradise Birding, and in that capacity has birded from Alaska to Honduras and also leads nature sketching holidays. She is a graduate of the University of California Scientific Illustration program and has worked with a variety of state and federal agencies, non-profits and scientists to create interpretive graphics used for publications, museums, interpretive trails and education programs. Christine earned her Master's degree in Biology at Humboldt State University and is thrilled to return to California's north coast to present at the WFO conference.