

GGAS Volunteer Profile: John Luther, Teacher Extraordinaire

The tradition of bestowing bird nicknames to birders is said to have started in Austin, Texas with Edgar Kincaid. Kincaid was known as the Cassowary, the only bird known to attack humans with a terrifyingly sharp claw. Apparently, Kincaid was known to prefer birds over the members of his own species.

although his eyes maintain a merry glint of mischief most of the time. His lightly graying beard was once as red as the falcon's breast, and like the falcon he prefers wide, open spaces.

Recently, Luther has been spending a lot of time on the wide, open spaces of the former airfield at the Alameda National Wildlife Refuge. He has become the unrivalled leader of field trips to the refuge. Not many are aware that he has led more people there in pursuit of birds and knowledge about the refuge's natural resources than any other volunteer of the Friends of the Alameda National Wildlife Refuge committee. But then, Luther's long experience as an Audubon volunteer has always been one of "firsts" and quiet leadership.

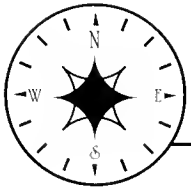
From a very early age, Luther knew he loved the outdoors. He and his two sisters could hardly turn out otherwise. His parents would take them on month-long summer camping trips from their home in Castro Valley, a tradition which Luther would repeat with his own son. David, now 26 years old, went on his first birding trip at the tender age of 6 months, riding on his father's back.

A lifelong love affair with birds officially began with the first two birds on Luther's life list, which he estimates now stands at around 2,500 species. On a trip to Montana's Glacier National Park when he was 14 or 15 years old, he



John Luther (r) pictured with Alan Harper at the Alameda Wildlife Refuge (fall 1998)

A birder cannot name himself or herself. To do so is considered extremely bad form. A bird nickname should also fit the personality and physical attributes of the bearer. GGAS volunteer John Luther's bird name - the Aplomado Falcon - suits him well. His vision is finely tuned from years of active birding,



Field Trips Calendar

GAS field trips are conducted by experienced birders who wish to share their knowledge and love of birds with others. All trips are free of charge (except for entrance fees that may be charged by regional, state, or national parks) and are open to everyone, regardless of membership in the National Audubon Society or Golden Gate chapter.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 7, STRYBING ARBORETUM.

See December 5 trip for details. Leaders: Allan Ridley and Helen McKenna (415) 566-3241

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 10, MINI-TRIP TO AQUATIC PARK, BERKELEY, AND OTHER NEARBY AREAS.

See October Gull for details. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510)351-9301 and Jean-Marie Spoelman.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 13, COYOTE HILLS REGIONAL PARK.

Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot on the left (beyond the fee booth). From the East Bay take I-880 south to Rt. 84/Dumbarton Bridge exit. Turn right and continue west. Exit on Paseo Padre Pkwy. Turn right and continue north one mile to Patterson Ranch Road and follow signs to Coyote Hills. Bring lunch and liquids. This is a unique park with fresh water and salt pond habitat. We should see ducks, waders and much more. Beginners welcome. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Peter Allen (415)892-8063. \$ (*)

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 14, A DUCK WALK AT PALO ALTO BAYLANDS.

We should score a dozen ducks, and perhaps - with luck - score a score of ducks. We live here year round but many ducks are only here for the mild winter. We'll also add a dozen shorebirds and numerous songbirds, perhaps even a kite or a rail. Expect the Lesser Scaup, two teal, two goldeneye, Canvasbacks, Gadwall, No. Shovelers, Canada Geese, American White Pelicans and more. We'll bird the southern Bay shore. Heavy rain cancels. Expect cool and wet weather. Bring lunch. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the round cement duck pond, Palo Alto Baylands, east end of Embarcadero (east of Palo Alto Airport). Leader: Harry Fuller (415) 668-8229, harry_fuller@zd.com (*)

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 14, A BIRDING TRIP FOR CYCLISTS.

Jeff Black will lead a 20-mile cycling trip through Mill Valley and Tiburon, stopping to bird the marshes along the way. Call Jeff at (510) 526-7068 for meeting place and time.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 21, CORTE MADERA MARSH, MARIN COUNTY.

Meet at 9 a.m. at the Larkspur Ferry Parking Lot, section H, from where we will take a short drive to the marsh. We will be looking for ducks and shorebirds. This trip may be muddy and boots could come in handy. This trip is especially recommended for

beginners and families. Rain cancels. Leader: Jeff Black (510) 526-7068.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 28, CRAB COVE, ALAMEDA.

Meet at 9 a.m. at the Crab Cove Visitor Center, Crown Memorial State Beach, at the southern end of McKay Ave. in Alameda. We will be looking for shorebirds, ducks, gulls, and perhaps an interesting raptor or two. Beginners welcome on this half day trip. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Anthony Fisher (510) 658-8769, Loveisant@aol.com.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 5, STRYBING ARBORETUM.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the front gate of the Arboretum (9th Ave. and Lincoln Way) for this regular 1st Sunday of the month half-day trip. The Strybing Arboretum is a delightful section of Golden Gate Park, with several "micro-habitats" attracting a varied array of resident, migrant and vagrant birds. Beginners and all others welcome. Leaders: Allan Ridley and Helen McKenna (415) 566-3241.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 5, U.C. BOTANICAL GARDENS, BERKELEY.

Meet at 9 a.m. at the entrance for this half day trip for wintering landbirds. The U.C. Botanical Gardens is on Centennial Drive, above the main campus. Park at the pay lot across the street from the gardens. Leader: Lillian Fujii (510) 236-4167, steveandlil@worldnet.att.net. \$ (parking and entrance fee)

GGAS Calendar

November Meeting

Thursday, November 18
Northbrae Community Church
7:00 Refreshments
7:30 Program
There will be no meeting in
December

October Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, October 25, 1999;
7:30 p.m.
GGAS office, Berkeley

Quail Habitat Planting

Saturday, December 11, 1999
Contact: Alan Hopkins
415-664-0983
ash@sfo.com

Christmas Bird Counts

Oakland: Sunday,
December 19
San Francisco: Tuesday,
December 28

FAWR Winter Bird Class

Begins on Wednesday,
January 19
Alameda College and ANWF

FAWR Spring Bird Class

Begins on Wednesday,
March 14
Alameda College and ANWF

Panama Field Trip

March 18- 26, 2000

Plan Ahead:

- 1) Saturday January 8, Palo Alto Baylands w/ Dan Murphy (tentative);
- 2) Sunday January 9, Crissy Field w/ Alan Hopkins; 3) Sunday, January 23, San Leandro Reservoir w/ Bob Lewis. }

Trips marked with a (\$) go to parks or other sites which require an entrance fee. Carpooling arrangements will be attempted by leader for trips marked with a (*). Problems, etc.: If you need a ride or can take a passenger (even if a trip is not marked with an (*), if you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, if you have suggestions for trips, or if you are interested in leading a trip, call Lillian Fujii (510) 256-4167, Field Trips Committee Chair.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 8, MINI-TRIP TO LAKE MERRIT, OAKLAND.

Meet at the Rotary Science Center at 9:30 a.m. Go east on Grand Ave. to Lake Merritt. Continue to the Rotary Science Center (on the right just beyond the duck pond). This is a good opportunity to review waterfowl. Beginners welcome. Lunch optional. Rain cancels trip. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510) 351-9301 and Jean-Marie Spoelman.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 & 12, GRAY LODGE AND SACRAMENTO WILDLIFE REFUGES.

For this two day trip, meet on Saturday at 9:00 a.m. in lot # 14 at Gray Lodge. Drive east on I-80 15 miles beyond Davis to route 99 exit. Go north 52 miles on route 99 to the town of Gridley. Turn left (west) on Colusa Hwy and continue five miles to Pennington Road. Turn left and follow signs to Gray Lodge Wildlife Refuge. Proceed through the checking station (entrance fee) and continue to parking lot # 14. We will caravan through Gray Lodge Wildlife Refuge on Saturday, and then visit some other sites in Sutter County and Butte County, depending on where the birds are (so make sure you have plenty of gasoline before arriving at Gray Lodge). On Sunday, we will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the visitors' parking lot at the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge (entrance fee). To get there from I-5 take the Norman Rd. exit (just north of the Glenn Co. line), and

follow signs to the Refuge. We will be looking for migrating geese (four species), Tundra Swans, a variety of ducks, raptors and Sandhill Cranes. Allow two and one-half hours driving time from the Bay Area. (AAA map of Sacramento Valley Region is helpful.) For accommodations, you might try the Blue Gum Willows Motel off I-5 at Willows (530) 934-5401 or other motels (including a Best Western) in Willows. There is no lodge at Gray Lodge. Camping might be possible at the State Park in Colusa. Bring lunch, scopes, and clothes appropriate for the Sacramento Valley in December (cold, with wind and rain always possible). Heavy rain cancels trip. Leaders: Steve and Renee Margolin. (530) 342-6476.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 12, BERKELEY AQUATIC PARK.

Meet at 9 a.m. for this half day trip. Directions: heading West on Ashby, turn right on 7th Street, right again on Folger, left on Hollis, right on 67th (crossing the railroad tracks) and finally, right onto Bay St. Bay will pass over Ashby on a bridge. You will see the two smaller ponds on your left and a seabird rehabilitation center on your right. Go straight and park in the small parking lot. (Note: Long distance landmark - radio antennae). This is a wonderful location for waterfowl in the Berkeley area. Redheads are usually found. Leader: Rusty Scalf (510) 666-9936, rscalf@jps.net.



Time for Bay Area Hawk watching

Fall is my favorite season, although this year it has been odd weatherwise. I look forward to warm, clear days and cool nights. The usual yard birds are rested after the hectic summer raising families and are taking a break from those frantic days by fattening up for the winter and molting those tired feathers. Fall is almost as interesting as spring migration in that we have birds going south from their breeding grounds to find warmer weather and plentiful food. Some stop here to winter, others go further south.

Aficionados of raptors (hawks, falcons, eagles and vultures, and owls) tend to get excited about hawk watching about now. We are fortunate to have a premier spot at Marian Headlands (the north end of the Golden Gate Bridge) from which to view this happening. Here, birds are count-

ed and some are banded, by dedicated people who are also quite willing to share information with the public. Weekends can be somewhat crowded; and before planning a trip, check the weather, as it is always a big factor. Beware of a heavy fog, which will obliterate everything!

The reason the headlands attract migrating raptors (not the nocturnal owls) is that many of these birds follow the coastline. The thermals above the coastal mountains allow the birds to soar, saving precious energy. When they reach the straits—the entrance to S. F. Bay—they often circle above the headlands, gathering momentum for the dash over the water. Accipiters (Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks), falcons, and buteos (Swainson's, Red-tailed, Rough-legged, Ferruginous, and Red-shouldered) all seem to need a

stiff wind to get them moving. Dress warmly (gloves and hat too), take a pad or pillow to cushion the rocks, sunblock, a field guide, food and beverages, your best binoculars and prepare either to lie down or to have a stiff neck.

Hanging out with expert hawk-watchers will hone your identification skills. They seem to remember what it was like to be a novice, and each has his or her own little idiosyncratic tips. Although you will be looking up a lot, you can get rare glimpses of the backs of flying raptors as well. Here are some quick tips for identifying the raptors you might see during our fall migration:

Turkey Vulture – Long wings with silver undersides held up in a V. Tips side to side when gliding. Red head on adults, gray on immatures.

Osprey – White undersides, dark above. Head appears white from distance; may be mistaken for bald eagle when seen from above or behind.

White-tailed Kite – Delicate, pale gray bird with falcon-like wings held in a shallow dihedral. Black shoulders. Often hovers while hunting.

Bald Eagle – Large, heavy-bodied bird with planklike wings held flat. Head appears to stick as far forward as tail does behind. Adults have white head (golf ball in the sky) and tail with dark undersides. Immatures vary in amounts of mottling on back and undersides.

Golden Eagle – Huge, all-dark bird with wide, flat wings.

GGAS Contributes to Urban Service Project

For the second year in a row GGAS has contributed \$2,000 to Urban Service Project to help support two full-time AmeriCorps Community Coordinators placed at the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, Natural Areas Division.

Specifically, GGAS funds, along with other contributions from the Randall Museum, Urban Service Project, and McKesson support the

School Stewardship Program. This unique program is designed to encourage ethnically and racially diverse students in environmental education and habitat restoration activities in San Francisco parks to develop an ethic of land stewardship and a deeper understanding of the natural world.

During the past year the program engaged over 400 students in grades 4-12 in monthly field trips.

Head appears smaller than bald eagle and if seen in proper light is brassy from its head on down to its shoulders. Immatures sometimes have white wing patches.

Northern Harrier – Glides with shallow dihedral, flaps with deep, labored wingbeats. Wings and tail long and narrow. Adult males are pale gray with black wingtips while females and immatures are rusty or brown. All have white or pale rump patch.

Sharp-shinned Hawk – Dove-sized accipiter flies with quick, snappy wingbeats of its rounded wings. Alternates flapping with short glides. Slim tail is banded and squared off or notched. It has a short head. Back is dark and breast is rusty and barred. Immatures are brownish. Often confused with Cooper's.

Cooper's Hawk – Color and markings same as the Sharpie but it is a bit larger with a heavier body. Its head protrudes beyond its wings. Flies with slower, deeper wingbeats than Sharpie. Tail is more rounded than Sharp-shinned and has a broad white band at tip.

Red-shouldered Hawk – Medium-sized buteo which flies like accipiter. If bird is back-lit it shows windows in wings. Shoulders are rusty, chest is robin red, ample tail is banded.

Red-tailed Hawk – Wide tail is brick-orange only on adults. Heavy bird with brown back and light breast which may or may not have a dark belly band. From below, look for dark markings along leading edge and at bend of wings. Often hovers on

motionless wings (called kiting). Appears in several phases: dark and light.

Ferruginous Hawk – Large, Eagle-like buteo with rusty leggings. Very pale underneath. From above, white wing patches and rump patch visible.

Swainson's Hawk – Long tapered wings and long tail. Wings held in shallow dihedral when soaring, crooked like Osprey's wings when gliding. Flight resembles Harrier. Appears in light and dark phases.

Rough-legged Hawk – Plumage varies from all-dark to pale. Long wings. The long tail is white with broad black band or bands near tip. Often hovers.

American Kestrel – Small falcon with buoyant flight. Wings are especially long and tapered. Male has bluish upper wing surface while females are rusty. Hovers on rapid wingbeats. Perches on utility wires.

Merlin – A small, compact bird, sturdier than a Kestrel, which suggests a miniature Peregrine. Male is blue-gray with black bands on gray tail. Female and young are brown with banded tail. Aggressive and pugnacious, they will harass other birds of prey. Territorial even in migration.

Prairie Falcon – Medium-sized falcon with pale, sandy plumage. Dark wing-pits. From above, brown wings and body contrast with paler head and tail. Bold, dark triangles form inner core of wings. Prefer gliding to soaring.

Peregrine Falcon – Large, long-winged bird which flies with

Donations

Peregrine Falcon

(\$500 or more)

For Friends of the Alameda Wildlife Refuge – Afton Crooks

Gifts (under \$100)

Wilma B. Ghiorso, Rudolph R. Cook, Toni and William Link, Diana Chan, Ellen Yamamoto, Richard Stookey, Regine Phelps, and Roger James,

For the Bird Box:

Courtenay Peddle

In Memoriam:

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Burian, Mr. and Mrs. Rod Full, Joseph and Sonja Darling, in memory of John R. Pierce. Carolyn Kolka in memory of Caroline Plant

The Society Welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor of or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use of general GGAS activities of for special programs of the Society. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2550 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley, CA 94702. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in *The Gull*, as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.

swift, powerful wingbeats. Adults are blue gray above and their chests are pale and heavily barred. Looks as if it is wearing a football helmet to me.

If you can't make the trek to Marin County you might pop up to the top of Mt. Diablo for a look-see. I've seen some great raptors there all year round. Or you may have your very own favorite hot hawk spot. Grab your binocs and your field guide and start scanning the skies for some exciting aerodynamic maneuvers.

Christmas Bird Counts

Oakland: Sunday, December 19; San Francisco: Tuesday, December 28

Join Us For The 100th Anniversary Of The Christmas Bird Count In The United States

We invite everyone, experienced and beginner birders alike, to join us for this year's Christmas Bird Counts (CBC). GGAS sponsors two CBCs; one in Oakland on Sunday, December 19, and one in San Francisco on Tuesday, December 28. Bird watchers of all skill levels are invited to participate, either by joining a team in the field or by watching a feeder at home. Notices, with sign-up details, will be mailed in late October to all who have participated in the past five years. Anyone else wanting to participate should telephone

the GGAS office (510-843-2222) to be put on the mailing list. Compiler(s) (coordinators) for the San Francisco CBC is Alan Hopkins; for the Oakland CBC, Joelle Buffa and Clyde Morris. If you are a long-time birder in the Bay Area, you have probably participated in our CBCs for years and will be joining your friends to spend a day in the field birding. If you are a beginner, we encourage you to participate with us for your first time. You can learn a new area to go birding and discover which birds are found there in the winter.

The CBC's have become one of the Bay Area's special holiday events. We join others throughout the world in one of the great conservation traditions. This will be the 100th year of CBCs in the

nation. Over 1750 CBCs are conducted last year; 1735 in Canada and the United States (including Hawaii) and 45 in Latin America, Caribbean, and the Pacific Islands. The Oakland CBC is usually among the top 20 counts in the country averaging 170+ species seen each year with the San Francisco count close behind with 160+ species. The Oakland CBC averages about 180 participants each year ranking it among the top 5 most popular counts in the country.

On a CBC, volunteers record as many species and individuals as possible in 24-hours, in a circle that covers a 15-mile diameter. We break into teams led by local experts to search fields, shorelines, suburbs and mountain trails for wintering birds. Others stay at home and count the birds coming to their bird feeder. After a day of birding, everyone gets together at the informal count dinner (good, wholesome and reasonably priced!). Exchanging adventures at the dinner, we learn who has the funniest CBC experience, who saw the 'best' bird, or a new bird for their area, who had the tastiest noon-time treats. Some groups of participants have been covering the same area for so many years it is as much a social event as a bird count. However, the count is serious too. Being accurate and comprehensive are important because the information we collect is submitted to the National Audubon Society, and made available to researchers studying bird distribution and population trends. }

Join Our Field Trip to Panamá in March, 2000

Join GGAS past president Steve Margolin for our fourth birding trip to Panamá, March 18 through March 26, 2000. At the tropical junction between two continents, we can find a broad range of species in a number of habitats during our nine-day trip.

The focus of this trip will be the western Panamá provinces of Chiriquí and Bocas del Toro, but first we will spend two nights at the Canopy Tower Lodge in Soberanía National Park, overlooking the Panama Canal. The Finca Hartmann, a shade coffee plantation in the highlands of far western Chiriquí along the border with Costa Rica, will be our home for two days. We will stay at the Rancho Ecológico, an ecotourism camp near the Palo Seco Protection Forest, and bird the Fortuna area of Chiriquí and the Atlantic slope in Bocas del Toro over the next three days, before returning to Panama City.

Our guide in Panamá will be Lorna Engleman, an expert on birds and birding in Panamá. The group will be limited to ten participants. We hope to enjoy the birds we encounter, rather than targeting particular species. The birding should be superb. The estimated cost, including airfare is \$2,275 per person, double occupancy.

For more information, including a detailed itinerary, please contact Steve Margolin at 530-342-6476. }

John Luther

Continued from page 1

remembers recording his first sightings of an Osprey and a Dipper. These days, Luther is in the elite company of birders who are striving to see 200 species in all 58 California counties. To date, Luther has 175 species in all but 4 counties.

Like most birders committed to the sport, Luther has had his share of adventures and associations with local and national birding legends. For a time, he studied under Dr. Howard L. Cogswell at Cal State Hayward. He also joined with Dr. Cogswell and Phil Gordon to found the Ohlone Audubon Society in the late 1960's. A few years later when he served as President of Ohlone Audubon, Luther, then-GGAS President Josh Barkin, and Chris Nelson of Mt. Diablo Audubon Society hatched the idea of the Bay Area Audubon Council at the Nut Tree Restaurant, a landmark familiar to many off I-80.

When asked to share his most memorable birding moment, he recalled his first visit to Mexico years ago with Rose Anne Rowlett and Susanne Methvin. They were visiting Palenque, site of ancient Mayan pyramids in southern Mexico, near Villa Hermosa. Early one morning, before his trip companions arose, Luther climbed the Great Temple. From his vantage-point in the dawn light, eye-level with the treetops, he could see the birds coming in for their breakfast of fruit. Suddenly, an electric blue male Lovely Cotinga appeared. The jungle setting and the unexpected view of the Cotinga among the ruins captured the vision of that particular

bird in his memory forever.

Fortunately for the FAWR committee and birds everywhere, Luther is also an enthusiastic and natural teacher. In addition to serving as trainer to dozens of FAWR docents, he teaches a general ecology class as part of the Oakland Museum docent training. His "day job" is as a biology instructor for the College of Alameda. He finds teaching an Introduction to Biology class for

non-majors particularly rewarding and important because, "it may be the only exposure to biology they get in their lives."

As for his work with FAWR, John says the most satisfying part is sharing the Alameda National Wildlife Refuge and its birds with others. Teaching, according to John, is really sharing. If that is so, John Luther is one of the most generous birders around. }

— Dana Kokubun

FAWR Winter: Spring Bird Classes

John Luther will teach two classes next year dealing with birds and habitats of the Alameda National Wildlife Refuge. The winter class will begin on January 19th and the spring class on March 15th.

The schedules for both classes are as follows:

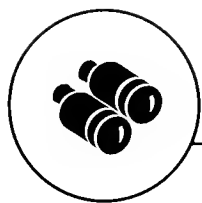
Winter: Wednesday, 6:45-8:45 PM on January 19 and 26th and February 2. These will be in room D-115 at the College of Alameda. Saturday classes will be held at the refuge on January 22 and 29th and February 5th from 8:00 am until noon.

Spring: Wednesday, 6:45-8:45 PM on March 15, 22, and 29. These will be held in room D-115 at the College of Alameda. Saturday classes will be held at the refuge on Saturday March 18 and 25 and the last will be on Friday, March 31 from 8:00 am until noon.

These classes will be an introduction to winter and spring birds and their habitats found at the Alameda National Wildlife Refuge. There will be lectures with slides in the classroom and observations on the trips to the refuge.

To Enroll: If you have not attended a Peralta College in the last two terms you must complete an admission application either online (www.peralta.cc.ca.us/), by phone (510-748-2228), or in person at the College at 555 Atlantic Avenue in Alameda (just off Webster St after going through the tube to Alameda from Oakland).

Enrollment is limited so you should enroll early. This is a one-unit class. The fee is \$11 for the class plus a \$2 campus use fee. Course number for the winter class is 048AB-Code 0732. Course number for the spring class is 048AC-Code 0733. }



August 28 - September 27, 1999

The fall migration got off to a promising start with a great number of unusual Wood Warblers and a 2nd state record for a very rare tern species. The list of CBRC species totaled 21, the highest in my tenure as observations editor. Besides more than 400 sightings of Wood Warblers, other land birds rare to Northern California were well-represented, and over 100 observers sent in reports. On a more mundane note, "my" Golden-crowned Sparrows returned on exactly the same date as last year (Sept. 27) and now fill the mornings with exuberant song.

Albatross to Storm-Petrels

A **Shy Albatross** (*Thalassarche cauta*), a bird of the Southern Hemisphere, was seen on a pelagic trip (PT) out of Bodega Bay on Sept. 24-25(DLSh, CK). This is the same species reported Aug. 24 at a similar location. There are only two accepted North American records and no previous CA records of this species. Photographs and audio and video recordings of the first sighting are being submitted to the CBRC for review (see Joe Morlan's Website for the video). Three Laysan Albatross were recorded, one each on an Aug. 29 pelagic trip to the Cordell Banks (RS), on a beach in HUM Co., Sept. 9 (EE), and on a Sept. 25 trip to the Bodega Canyon (DN). High counts for the Black-footed Albatross were 145 on a Sept. 25 trip to the Bodega Canyon (DN), 85 on the aforementioned Cordell Banks PT (RS) and 85 on a Sept. 6 trip to the same location (DN), while 50 were seen offshore from HUM, Sept. 11 (H). The Cordell Banks trip also yielded 20 Northern Fulmar (RS).

A Sept. 6 pelagic trip to the Cordell Banks reported 65 Pink-footed Shearwaters, and another 65 were found on a Monterey Bay pelagic outing Sept. 13 (CK, DLSh), but a Bodega Canyon excursion on Sept. 25 recorded 95 of them (DN). At least 20 Flesh-footed Shearwaters were recorded from Monterey, Cordell Banks, Big Sur Canyon, Albacore Grounds and Bodega Canyon pelagic outings during the period. A light morph **Wedge-tailed Shearwater** (*Puffinus pacificus*) was identified and well-photographed 0.4

mi. off the coastguard jetty, MTY, Sept. 26 (DLSh, CK). In October of 1998, a dark phase morph of this species was identified in SCZ county waters. CA records are extremely few for this tropical species, and could represent a 4th or 5th N. American record. Wonderful to see must have been the 100,000 Sooty Shearwaters "counted" on a Sept. 13 MTY PT (CK, DLSh). The first Short-tailed Shearwater of the season was spotted on a Sept. 6 MTY pelagic trip (JB). There were two reports of the **Manx Shearwater** (*Puffinus puffinus*) during the period, on Monterey pelagic trips on Sept. 6 (JB) and Sept. 14 (DLSh). Seven Wilson's Storm-Petrels were seen on pelagic outings, 3 on a Sept. 13 at the Cordell Banks (DLSh), one on Sept. 25 in MTY, one Sept. 26 in MTY, and two more in MTY the same day (MPRBA). One Least Storm-Petrel was found Sept. 13 at the Cordell Banks, two were there on Sept. 13, and another on a MTY pelagic trip Sept. 25 (DLSh).

Cormorants to Murres

Mark Rauzon reports from Berkeley that in 1999, there were 794 Double-crested Cormorant nests on the SF-Oakland Bay Bridge, up from 465 in 1990! (Something to enjoy while stuck in traffic!). More seriously, what will happen to these sites if the bridge replacement/retrofit ever begins? Several reports of White-faced Ibis came from unusual locations: two near Zanker Rd., SCL, Sept. 1 (SR), one near Schoellenberger Park, SON, Sept. 2 (AW), two south of Hwy. 156, MTY, Sept. 11 (MR), one there Sept. 18 (SG), and one at the Farallones ~Sept. 20-21, the first since 1884 (PRBO). Our best wishes go out to the nine California Condors flying free in the Ventana Wilderness...it is hoped that they can avoid the huge forest fires burning in the area. Two 4-month-old chicks and an adult female mentor bird were evacuated to a ranch in Big Sur on Sept. 17, where the free-flying birds may be able to find them since they had visited there previously. It was feared however, that the base camp and customized flight cage could be in the path of the fire (reported by Dr. Elizabeth Van Dyke of the Ventana

Wilderness Society). Eight hundred Wood Ducks were at Lake Almanor, PLU, Sept. 8 (SG), and the only Eurasian Wigeon report came from Abbott's Lagoon, PRNS, MRN, Sept. (MM). An Oldsquaw was at Johnson's Oyster Farm, MRN, Aug. 28, 30 (DN, ES).

One dark morph Broad-winged Hawk flew over Hawkwatch Hill, MRN, Sept. 16 (TB), 3 juveniles were seen over Miller/Knox Regional shoreline, CC, Sept. 26 (SG), another flew over the Nunes Ranch, PRNS, MRN, Sept. 26 (MM), and one was over the San Carlos Hills, SM, Sept. 27 (SG). On Sept. 24, a very busy day on Hawkwatch Hill, 15-20 of this species including another dark morph were counted (fide JC), but the next day over 30 of them as well as a dark-morph were seen (DSu). Single Swainson's Hawks were observed in four locations: in Capitola, Sept. 8, SCZ, said to be 4th fall record for SCZ county, (DSu), at Slacker Ridge, MRN, Sept. 16 (TB), in San Geronimo valley, MRN, Sept. 20 (BN), and at Piper Slough, CC, Sept. 22,25 (SG).

Individual American Golden-Plovers were reported from the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant, SCL, Sept. 5 (MR), Drake's Corner, PRNS, MRN, Sept. 11 (KG), Abbott's Lagoon, PRNS, MRN, Sept. 19 & 26 (RS, MM), and two juveniles were at Doran Co. Park, SON, Sept. 10 (CC). Two Pacific Golden-Plovers were seen from Molera Point, Big Sur, MTY, Aug. 28 (MPRBA), 4 were at Drake's Corner, PRNS, MRN, Sept. 11 (KG), one was at Abbott's Lagoon, PRNS, MRN, Sept. 19 (RS), five at Loleta, HUM, Sept. 19 (E), and another at Tye City, HUM, Sept. 19 (S). Six individual Solitary Sandpipers were reported: one continued at Harkins Slough, MTY through Sept. 1 (JDo, BBe, MOB), others were at the Ukiah Treatment Plant, MEN, Sept. 6 (CV fide JW, JW), at the Carmel R. mouth, MTY, Sept. 9 (MPRBA), at Spaletta Ranch, PRNS, MRN, Sept. 11 (KG), at Baldwin Creek, SCZ, Sept. 13 (DSu), and at Pescadero Creek, SM, Sept. 22 (AWi).

A fall transient **Hudsonian Godwit** (*Limosa haemastica*), a bird of the Arctic with numbers decimated by hunting, was found in Loleta, HUM Sept.17-19 (I,CN). A **Bar-tailed Godwit** (*Limosa lapponica*) was sighted at the SE Farallones Sept. 11-

12 (PRBO). An extremely rare Eurasian visitor, this species was nonetheless last reported in Northern CA this past July. A juvenile Ruddy Turnstone at the Lincoln Sewage Ponds, PLA, Sept. 2, was reported as a first county record (CH), while a Black Turnstone at Clear Lake State Park, may be a first record for LAK county (DaW fide JW). At least 12 Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported over HUM, LAK, MON, MTY, PLA, SM, and SCL counties. Pectoral Sandpipers were numerous, more than 60 birds being seen over ALA, CC, HUM, SM, MTY, SAC, SM, SCL, SCZ, SF, SON, TRI, YOL counties, with a high count of 15 at the Consumnes R. Preserve, SAC, Sept. 14 (JT).

A **Curlew Sandpiper** (*Calidris ferruginea*), a Eurasian species and very rare fall transient (Small, 1994) was identified at the Bolinas Lagoon, MRN, Sept. 15–20 (MO fide RS & KE; GG). Single Stilt Sandpipers were found at several locations: continuing at Calbajas Ponds, SCL, Aug. 27 (JDP), at State & Spreckles, Alviso, SCL, Sept. 1–11 (SR, CL, MOB), at the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin, SCL, Sept. 9 (SR), at Pillar Point Marsh, SM, Sept. 10–12 (ST, AWi), at Lakeville Sewage Treatment Plant, SON, Sept. 13,15 (DN), at Loleta, HUM, Sept. 19,23 (E, I, P), and at Bolinas Lagoon, MRN, Sept. 23 (DA). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was in Orick, HUM, Sept. 15,17 (M, I) and a second sighting was in Patrick's Pt. S. P., HUM, Sept. 25–26 (He, A). This species is a rare fall transient, with a few reported each year (Small, 1994). Like the Pectoral Sandpiper, it breeds in Northern Canada and usually migrates through the central U.S.

High counts for South Polar Skuas on pelagic outings were 25 at the Albacore Grounds Sept. 19 (JD) and 28 at MTY Sept. 19 (DLSH). The most Long-tailed Jaegers (62) were seen on the Aug. 29 Cordell Banks trip (RS). An unusual inland sighting of a Long-tailed Jaeger was at Indian Valley Reservoir, LAK, which was present as early as Aug. 20 and remained up to Sept. 11 (JW). Two Laughing Gulls were observed, one just offshore of Bodega Head, SON, Aug. 29 (RS), and the other off Pebble Beach, SM, Sept. 11 (AWi). There were single Franklin's Gulls at Arcata, HUM, Aug. 30–Sept.5 (W, Lo), at City of

Davis, YOL, Wetlands, Sept. 1 (SH), at Corcoran Lagoon, SCZ, Sept. 8 (DSu), at Palo Alto Baylands, SCL, Sept. 14–27 (DH, MD, JM), at Zmudowski State Beach, MTY, Sept. 17–20 (MPRBA, MF), and at Moonglow Dairy, MTY, Sept. 23 (AE). An unusual mountain location for a Common Tern was north of Truckee, SIE, Sept. 8 (SG). Another reported first record for LAK Co. was a flock of Common Terns at Clear Lake S.P. (JW).

The most exciting Larid of the period was a first summer-plumaged **White-winged Tern** (*Chilidonias leucopterus*) first reported Sept. 6 at the Moonglow Dairy, MTY, and remaining through the period (EK, a Florida birder, DR, EL, MOB). If accepted, this visit would be a first MTY county and 2nd California record (see Don Roberson's website for photograph: http://montereybay.com/creagus/MTY_rare.html). Black Skimmers are spreading: One was at Abbott's Lagoon, PRNS, MRN, Aug. 28 (DN), the pair at Hayward Shoreline, ALA, had at least 3 eggs as of Sept. 1 (PD), there were two adults at Gaffney Point, SON, Sept. 20–22 (DN fide MP, MP, DHo), at least one bird was at Spud Point, Bodega Bay, SON, Sept. 21,25 (MP, DN), and another at Twin Lakes State Beach, SCZ, Sept. 24 (DSu). The Alcids were represented by several rarities. Most unusual was a **Thick-billed Murre** (*Uria lomvia*) found on a Big Sur PT, 2 mi. off of Pt. Sur Sept. 19 (JB). This species breeds in the Arctic and is a very rare and irregular fall and winter visitor, with most records from the MTY bay region (Small, 1994). Three Craver's Murrelets were sighted on a trip to Sur Canyon PT Sept. 19 (JB), and there was an Ancient Murrelet reported from the Farallones Aug. 28 (PRBO).

Swifts to Wagtails

Two Chimney Swifts were seen at the Farallones ~Sept. 20–21 (PRBO). The exceedingly rare (Small, 1994) **Violet-crowned Hummingbird** (*Amazilia violiceps*) was found at Westhaven, HUM, Sept. 21–25 (H). There are about 5 previous CA records for this species normally found in Mexico and SW Arizona. Black-chinned Hummingbirds were reported

Abbreviations for Observers: A, Accord; DA, Dick Ashford; JB, Jim Bair; BBe, Bedzin Bonnie; JB, Jim Booker; BB, Bob Brandriff; JC, Josiah Clark; LC, Luke Cole; CC, Chris Corben; HC, Hugh Cotter; JD, Jim Danzenbaker; GD, Gary Deghi; DD, David DeSante; MD, Matthew Dodder; JDo, Judy Donaldson; PD, Peter Dramer; E, Easterla; TE, Todd Easterla; ME, Mark Eaton; AE, Al Eisner; EE, Elias Elias; AEn, Andy Engilis; ME, Mike Feighner; GF, George Finger; BE, Brian Filch; F, Fix; RF, Rob Fowler; DE, Dan Froelich; TG, Tom Gardali; AG, Alexander Gauquine; AGE, Arlene Gemmill; SGe, Steve Gerow; SGs, Steve Gerstle; SG, Steve Glover; GG, George Griffith; KG, Kevin Guse; SH, Steve Hampton; KH, Keith Hansen; H, Harris; CH, Cliff Hawley; Hz, Hazard; DH, Donna Heim; KHe, Kristie Hein; He, Hewitt; DHo, David Hoffman; JH, Jim Holmes; ASH, Alan S. Hopkins; Hu, Hunter; RH, Ralph Hunter; I, Irwin; PJ, Pete Jacobsen; AJ, Al Jaramillo; CK, Clay Kempf; AK, Anna Kopitov; KK, Keith Kwan; EK, Ed Kwater; EL, Earl Lebow; L, Leskiw; NL, Nick Lethaby; Lo, Lohse; CL, Calvin Lou; KL, Kay Loughman; MM, Mike Mammoser; MOB, Many Observers; JM, John Mariani; MM, Matthew Mattiessen; BM, Bert McKee; KM, Kevin McKereghan; PM, Peter Metropoulos; M, Moore; JMo, Joe Morlan; CN, Christy Nelson; DN, Dan Nelson; BN, Bill Noble; MO, Michael O'Brien; O, Ogan; P, Paluga; MP, Mike Parmeter; JDP, J.D. Phillips; Po, Power; R, Ralph; DR, Don Roberson; MR, Mike Rogers; SR, Steve Rottenborn; SRv, Steve Rovell; RR, Rudecill Ruth; PS, Paul Saraceni; RSc, Rusty Scaff; DSc, Don Schmoltd; DLSH, Debra Love Shearwater; DSI, Dan Singer; S, Slawson; BS, Bo Soderstrom; RS, Rich Stallcup; MS, Michael Stevenson; ES, Emily Strauss; DSu, David Suddjian; ST, Scott Terrill; RT, Ron Thorn; JT, John Trochet; KVV, Kent Van Vuren; CV, Chuck Vaughn; AW, Alan White; JW, Jerry White; W, Widdowson; DW, Denise Wight; AWi, Adam Winer; RW, Roger Wolfe; DWo, Dennis Wolff; DaW, Dave Woodward
Abbreviations for Counties and Others: ALA, Alameda; AMSP, Andrew Molera State Park; BSOL, Big Sur Ornithology Laboratory; CBRC, California Bird Records Committee; CC, Contra Costa; GGP, Golden Gate Park; HUM, Humboldt; LAK, Lake; MRN, Marin; MEN, Mendocino; MON, Mono; MTY, Monterey; MPRBA, Monterey Peninsula Rare Bird Alert; PT, Pelagic Trip; PLA, Placer; PLU, Plumas; PRBO, Point Reyes Bird Observatory; PRNS, Point Reyes National Seashore; SAC, Sacramento; SF, San Francisco; SM, San Mateo; SCL, Santa Clara; SCZ, Santa Cruz; SIE, Sierra; SON, Sonoma; TEH, Tehama; TRI, Trinity; YOL, Yolo

from three locations: at Piper Slough, CC, Aug. 31 & Sept. 3 (DW, SG), at the SE Farallones Sept. 8–10 (PRBO), and at Bethany Curve Pkwy., SCZ, Sept. 14 (DSu). Unusual for September was a Calliope Hummingbird on the Farallones Sept. 18–22 (PRBO). Mammoth Reservoir, PLA, hosted a Costa's Hummingbird Sept. 25 (CH).

Willow Flycatchers were abundant, with at least 40 sightings over ALA, CC, HUM, MRN, MTY, SAC, SM, SCZ, SON, SF, and TRI counties and the Farallones. Individual Least Flycatchers were found at the Lighthouse trees, PRNS, MRN, Sept. 9,10 (BS, SH), at the Fish Docks, PRNS, MRN, Sept. 12 (RS), at the Farallones ~Sept. 10–11, 15–14 and 18–22 (PRBO), at Pt. Pinos, Pacific Grove, MTY, Sept. 19 (MPRBA), at Consumnes R. Preserve, SAC, Sept. 25 (IE), and two at Piper Slough, CC, Sept. 22 (SG). A Hammond's Flycatcher was at Coyote Hills Regional Park, ALA, Sept. 6 and another at the Fish Docks, PRNS, MRN, Sept. 17 (RSc). Individual Dusky Flycatchers were observed in 5 locations: at the SE Farallones Sept. 8–10 (PRBO), Liddell Creek, SCZ, Sept. 15–15 (DSu), Moss Beach, SM, Sept. 17 (RT), PRNS Lighthouse, MRN, Sept. 20 (BS), and

Continued next page

Fairhaven, HUM, Sept. 22 (I). Single Eastern Phoebes were found in Fairhaven, HUM, Sept. 19 (CN), and in Samoa, HUM, Sept. 19 (L). A starring flycatcher was a **Great Crested Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus crinitus*) identified at the Carmel R., MTY, Sept. 16-20 (JB, DR, MOB) and reported to be a 3rd county record. This species breeds in the eastern and midwestern U.S. and is very rare on CA coast during the fall migration. However, on Sept. 18-20, a competing star arrived at Pescadero Creek, SM, in the form of a **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*), and is reported to be a 2nd county record (RT, GD, JH). This bird of Mexico and SE Arizona is an extremely rare fall transient, with all records from coastal areas (Small, 1994). A Tropical Kingbird was seen at the Eel R. mouth, HUM, Sept. 12 (Hu). Two Eastern Kingbirds were found on a beginning birder trip to Antonelli Pond, SCZ, Sept. 5 (PJ), a second was at Moonglow Dairy, MTY, Sept. 14 (JM, MPRBA), and a third was seen at Tunitas Creek, SM, Sept. 19 (RT).

Vireos also did very nicely. A **Yellow-throated Vireo** (*Vireo flavifrons*)

first discovered late July as reported in the October Gull, was refound near BSOL, AMSP, MTY, Sept. 3-17 (JB, MOB). Another young bird of that species was at Bear Valley and Limantour Rd., PRNS, MRN, Sept. 11 (RS). Single Plumbeous Vireos were reported from Stowe Lake, GGP, SE, Sept. 10 (BF) and Bodega Bay, SON, Sept. 11 (RR). There were five reports of the **Blue-headed Vireo** (*Vireo solitarius*): at BSOL, MTY, Sept. 12 (MPRBA), the SE Farallones Sept. 13-14 (PRBO), and the PRNS, MRN, Lighthouse Sept. 19 (KK), at Stinson Beach, MRN, Sept. 20 (KH), and at Owl Canyon, Bodega Bay, SON, Sept. 24 (RSc). Two observations of the **Philadelphia vireo** (*Vireo philadelphicus*) came from PRNS, MRN, one at Drake's Beach Sept. 12 & 15 (RS fide DD, RS), another at the Lighthouse Trees, PRNS, MRN, Sept. 13 (DD). Amazingly, three other reports of this rare but regular transient Canadian vireo occurred: one was at Tyee City, HUM, Sept. 20 (I), a second at Moss Beach, SM, Sept. 24-25 (RT, GD), and yet another at North Lake, SE,

Sept. 25-27 (ASH, CL). Five locations reported single Red-eyed Vireos: one was banded at AMSP, MTY, and observed Sept. 5-12 (RF, MPRBA), others were near Odello Lagoon, MTY, Sept. 11 (MPRBA), Stinson Beach, MRN, Sept. 11 (KH), Owl Canyon, Bodega Bay, SON, Sept. 11 (RR), Arcata, HUM, Sept. 12 (R), and Jewel Lake, Tilden Regional Park, CC, Sept. 23 (SG).

A **Gray-checked Thrush** (*Catharus miniuus*) recorded at the SE Farallones Sept. 8-10 (PRBO) is a very rare fall transient from N. Canada and Alaska, with most records from the Farallones and PRNS (Small, 1994). A **Gray Catbird** (*Dumetella carolinensis*) was on private land, PLA, Sept. 12 and reported to be a 1st county record (TE). A Le Conte's Thrasher was reported at Fish Slough, MON, Sept. 8 (PM). This species has rarely been observed in N. CA in recent years. A **Yellow Wagtail** (*Motacilla flava*) at the SE Farallones Sept. 12 (PRBO) hails from E. Asia and Alaska, and is an extremely rare fall transient (Small, 1994).

Wood Warblers to Orioles

Migrating Wood Warblers were reported in great abundance over the period (see chart). Space limitations preclude listing specific sightings of 49 Tennessee Warblers over 11 counties, 74 Chestnut-sided Warblers over 7 counties, 53 Blackpoll Warblers over 8 counties, and 69 American Redstarts over 8 counties. These four species were all seen on the Farallones, as well. The reports included three review species, all members of the same genus as MacGillivray's Warbler, *Oporornis*. The **Kentucky Warbler** (*Oporornis formosus*) breeds in the Eastern half of the U.S., south of the Great Lakes, and is an extremely rare fall transient (Small, 1994). The **Connecticut Warbler** (*Oporornis agilis*) is a Canadian bird that normally migrates through the eastern U.S. According to Small, 1994, it is a very rare fall transient, with 70% of the records from the Farallones, as was this bird. The **Mourning Warbler** (*Oporornis philadelphia*) resides in Canada and the northeastern U.S. and was reported from 6 Northern CA locations, includ-

ing 2 birds on the Farallones! It, too, is a rare fall transient, seen mostly on the Farallones and the coast. The bird seen at Tunitas Creek in SM is potentially a 2nd county record.

A Summer Tanager was spotted at the Cosumnes River Preserve, SAC, Sept. 6 (AEn). Seventeen Clay-colored Sparrows were seen over MTY, SCZ, MRN, HUM counties and the Farallones, whereas there were eleven Brewer's Sparrows over MRN and SM counties and the Farallones. A juvenile Black-throated Sparrow was at AMSP, MTY, Sept. 4-5 (JB, ST, MPRBA). Two Lark Buntings were sighted; one at AMSP, MTY, Sept. 18 (MPRBA) and the other in Alviso, SCL, Sept. 18 (NL). Five Grasshopper Sparrows visited Half Moon Bay, SM, Sept. 9 (RT). Single Lapland Longspurs, uncommon in September, came to the Farallones Sept. 13-14 and Sept. 23-24 (PRBO) and there were 3 seen in HUM on Sept. 27 (I, Po). Ten Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were distributed over SM, TEH, MTY, SM, SCZ, MRN, counties and the Farallones, whereas there were seven Blue Grosbeaks seen over CC, MTY, SCZ, SON counties and the Farallones. An Indigo Bunting came to a feeder in southeast Berkeley, ALA, Sept. 1 (KL), others were reported from Piper Slough, CC, Sept. 3 (SG), and four were seen at PRNS, MRN during the period (RS, KH). A female **Painted Bunting** (*Passerina ciris*) was on the Carmel R., MTY, Sept. 19 (SRv). The question of escapee status for this bird must be considered. One Dickcissel was sighted at the SE Farallones Sept. 8-10 (PRBO), and the Farallones recorded 8 Bobolinks over the period (PRBO). Three other Bobolinks were seen at the Moonglow Dairy, MTY, Sept. 7 (RW), at the Ukiah Treatment Plant, MEN, Sept. 6 (JW), and in MEN county Sept. 26 (Hz), respectively. An Orchard Oriole was found at AMSP, MTY, Sept. 5-9 (JB, MPRBA), another was at the Fish Docks, PRNS, MRN, Sept. 17 (KH), and the Farallones had six individuals during the period (PRBO). Two sightings of the Baltimore Oriole were reported from the Nunes Ranch, PRNS, MRN, Sept. 11 (RS) and the SE Farallones Sept. 13-14 (PRBO).

Wood Warbler Sightings

Virginia's Warbler

Sept. 4-6 AMSP, MTY RF, MPRBA
 Sept. 8-10 SE Farallones PRBO
 Sept. 12 Natural Bridges SP, SCZ AK
 Sept. 11-12 SE Farallones PRBO
 Sept. 10 Crowley Lake, MON, Sept. 10 PM
 Sept. 13 Liddell Creek, SCZ DSu
 Sept. 14 Owl Canyon, Bodega, SON DN
 Sept. 19 Pescadero Creek, SM JMo
 Sept. 20 PRNS Lighthouse, MRN BS
 Sept. 18-22 Owl Canyon, Bodega, SON Dn
 Sept. 23 Fish Docks, PRNS, MRN MS
 Sept. 23 Mountain Lake Park, SF BF
 Sept. 23 Campbell Cove, Bodega Bay, SON DN

Lucy's Warbler

Sept. 6,8 AMSP, MTY MPRBA
 Sept. 4 Carmel R., MTY ST

Northern Parula

Sept. 4-20 (1-2) AMSP, MTY ME, HC, SGs, ST
 Sept. 11 Aptos Creek, SCZ DSu
 Sept. 15-20 Carmel R., MTY JM, RW, MR
 Sept. 21 Coyote Creek, SCL SR

Magnolia Warbler

Sept. 8-10 (2) SE Farallones PRBO
 Sept. 11-12 SE Farallones PRBO
 Sept. 13-14 SE Farallones PRBO
 Sept. 16 Tunitas Rd., SM RT
 Sept. 18-19 Pt. Pinos, Pacific Grove, MTY MPRBA
 Sept. 20-21 Farallones PRBO
 Sept. 18-19 Ten Mile R. Bridge, MEN JW
 Sept. 18-19 North Lake, GGP, SF KH, AGe
 Sept. 20-22 Fairhaven, HUM I, CN
 Sept. 18-22 Farallones PRBO
 Sept. 23-26 Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, SM BM, MOB
 Sept. 24 Alton Ave., Moss Beach AWi
 Sept. 24 Fairhaven, HUM I
 Sept. 25 Pescadero Creek, SM RT
 Sept. 25 Hwy. 1/Meyn Rd., SM Awi
 Sept. 26 Pajaro R., MTY KVV

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Sept. 8 New Brighton State Beach, SCZ DSu
 Sept. 15 Natural Bridges SP, SCZ AK
 Sept. 18 Nunes Ranch, PRNS, MRN MM

Black-throated Green Warbler

Sept. 4 Lighthouse Trees, PRNS, MRN DF
 Sept. 5 Nunes Ranch, PRNS, MRN BS

Blackburnian Warbler

Sept. 8-10 (3) SE Farallones PRBO
 Sept. 10-15(1-2) Ft. Funston, SF CL, HC, KM
 Sept. 11 Nunes Ranch, PRNS KG
 Sept. 11-12 SE Farallones PRBO
 Sept. 12 (2) PRNS, MRN RS

Sept. 13-15 Nunes Ranch, PRNS, MRN DD, RS
 Sept. 14-18(2) Ft. Funston, SF PS, CL
 Sept. 15 (2) Fairhaven, HUM W, F
 Sept. 13-14 SE Farallones PRBO
 Sept. 16 Pescadero Rd., SM RT
 Sept. 17-18 Nunes Ranch, PRNS, MRN KH, MM
 Sept. 20 Nunes Ranch, PRNS, MRN JMo
 Sept. 21-22 Fairhaven, HUM I, Hz
 Sept. 22 Chaney Creek, Bodega Bay, SON DN
 Sept. 23 Pescadero, SM BM
 Sept. 23 Fairhaven, HUM O
 Sept. 24 Fairhaven, HUM I
 Sept. 25 Lake Merced, SF LC fide ASH

Prairie Warbler

Aug. 29 Half Moon Bay, SM RT
 Sept. 2 Pilarcitos Creek, SM RT
 Sept. 2-6 (1-5) AMSP, MTY ME, HC, MOB
 Sept. 6 Nunes Ranch, PRNS, MRN BB
 Sept. 7 Natural Bridges State Beach, SCZ SGe
 Sept. 8,9 Lighthouse Trees, PRNS, MRN BB, BS
 Sept. 9 New Willows, PRNS, MRN BS
 Sept. 14 Half Moon Bay, SM AJ
 Sept. 18 Mendoza Ranch, PRNS, MRN fide MM
 Sept. 18 Pescadero Creek, SM RT
 Sept. 19 Pt. Pinos, Pacific Grove, MTY MPRBA
 Sept. 18-22(2) Farallones PRBO
 Sept. 23-24 SE Farallones PRBO
 Sept. 25 Bolinas Sewage Ponds, MRN TG

Palm Warbler

Sept. 18-22(2) Farallones PRBO
 Sept. 23,26(1-2) Nunes Ranch, PRNS, MRN MS, MM
 Sept. 24 Stowe Lake, GGP, SF BF
 Sept. 23-24(3) SE Farallones PRBO
 Sept. 26 Half Moon Bay, SM RT
 Sept. 27 Ano Nuevo State Park, SM PM
 Sept. 27 MEN Hz

Black-and-white Warbler

Sept. 1 UC Botanical Garden, ALA DWo
 Sept. 10 Natural Bridges State Park, SCZ RW
 Sept. 11-12 SE Farallones PRBO
 Sept. 11-15 Borregas Gulch, Aptos, SCZ DSu
 Sept. 13-14 SE Farallones PRBO
 Sept. 18 Mendoza Ranch, PRNS, MRN MM
 Sept. 19 Albacore Grounds Pelagic Trip JD
 Sept. 20,25 Mendoza Ranch, PRNS, MRN BS, MS
 Sept. 21 Pt. Pinos, Pacific Grove, MTY MPRBA
 Sept. 21 Carmel R., MTY MPRBA
 Sept. 25 Pine Gulch Creek, MRN TG
 Sept. 25 Stowe Lake, GGP, SF ME fide ASH
 Sept. 26 Capitola, SCZ DSu
 Sept. 26 Nunes Ranch, PRNS, MRN MM

Prothonotary Warbler

Sept. 4, 6 Carmel R. mouth, MTY ME, HC, SGs
 Sept. 12 McKinleyville, HUM I
 Sept. 13 Nunes Ranch, PRNS, MRN DD

Ovenbird

Sept. 8-10 SE Farallones PRBO
 Sept. 10 Guadalupe R., San Jose, SCL SR
 Sept. 11-12 SE Farallones PRBO
 Sept. 13 Nunes Ranch, PRNS, MRN GF
 Sept. 13-14 SE Farallones PRBO
 Sept. 18-22 Farallones PRBO
 Sept. 20-21(2) Farallones PRBO
 Sept. 23-24 SE Farallones PRBO

Northern Waterthrush

Sept. 8-10 SE Farallones PRBO
 Sept. 11 Carmel, MTY MPRBA
 Sept. 11 Lighthouse, PRNS, MRN MS
 Sept. 11-12 SE Farallones PRBO
 Sept. 11 New Willows, PRNS, MRN RS
 Sept. 14-16 (1-2)Pilarcitos Creek, SM AWi, RT
 Sept. 15 Orick, HUM M
 Sept. 16 Branchiforte Creek, SCZ AG
 Sept. 16 Tyee City, HUM I
 Sept. 17 Mendoza Ranch, PRNS, MRN RS
 Sept. 18 Claire Creek, SM DSi
 Sept. 18 Mendoza Ranch, PRNS, MRN MM
 Sept. 18,19 AMSP, MTY MPRBA
 Sept. 19-20 Carmel R., MTY JMo, MPRBA
 Sept. 20 Stinson Beach, MRN RS
 Sept. 21 Moonglow Dairy, MTY MPRBA
 Sept. 21 Muir Beach, MRN JW
 Sept. 22-23 Mountain Lake Park, SF JC, RH
 Sept. 25 Water Lane/Stage Rd., SM RT
 Sept. 27 Capitola, SCZ DSu

Kentucky Warbler

Sept. 11 Bodega Bay, SON RR

Connecticut Warbler

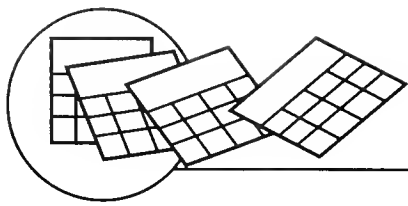
Sept. 23-24 SE Farallones PRBO

Mourning Warbler

Sept. 4 SE Farallones PRBO
 Sept. 11-12 Crespi Pond, Pt. Pinos, MTY ST
 Sept. 12 Tunitas Creek, SM RT
 Sept. 15 Banded at BSOL, MTY MPRBA
 Sept. 17 PRNS Lighthouse, MRN MM
 Sept. 20-21(2) Farallones PRBO

Canada Warbler

Sept. 4 PRNS Lighthouse, MRN DF
 Sept. 11-12 SE Farallones PRBO
 Sept. 18-22 Farallones PRBO
 Sept. 20-21 Farallones PRBO



Last Chance for the Black-Faced Dancer

Our program this evening will educate us on a topic that should always be of concern to people who appreciate and advocate for our wonderful natural resources. Barbara Butler, Coordinator and Project Director of SAVE International, A Project of the Earth Island Institute, will bring us up to date on the efforts of this organization to preserve the Black-faced Spoonbill (*Platalea Minor*) one of the most critically endangered birds in the world. According to the January 1999 census, 587 Black-faced Spoonbills were recorded worldwide. Over half of the world's remaining population, 363, winter in the Tseng-wen Estuary wetlands on the West Coast of Taiwan where an industrial complex has been proposed for this site. Although the Tseng-wen Estuary wetlands would be eligible for designation as a wetland of international importance under the United Nation's Ramsar Convention, the political status of Taiwan under the One China Policy prevents this delicate ecosystem

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Refreshments 7:00 p.m.

Program 7:30 p.m.

Northbrae Community Church

941 The Alameda, Berkeley

from international protection. Over the past three years faculty and students from National Taiwan University and the University of California, Berkeley together with the Berkeley-based SAVE International have been working to stop this proposed complex and advocate sustainable development based on ecotourism. This grassroots effort is the only hope for saving the Black-faced Spoonbill.

Come this evening and enjoy Barbara's beautiful slide show, while learning how you can help in the effort to save this remarkable and beautiful bird.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

As a member of National Audubon Society, you are automatically enrolled in the local chapter, Golden Gate Audubon Society. Chapter benefits include receipt of *The Gull*, access to field trips and programs, and the opportunity to volunteer. Call the office if you have any questions.

Golden Gate Audubon Society
2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G
Berkeley, CA 94702

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Oakland, CA
Permit No. 1702



ROSTER

President – Alan Hopkins, '00
Recording Secretary – Leslie Lethridge, '99
Corresponding Secretary – Pat Gannon, '99
Treasurer – Ann Howard

West Bay Directors
Hugh Cotter, '01
Allan Ridley

East Bay Directors
Leora Feeney, '99
Carolyn Kolka, '01

Committee Chairs

Conservation 510-845-2222
Education

Jean Lucken 510-530-4184
Field Trips – Lillian Fujii – 510-236-4167

Finance – Mary Foley

Hospitality – Ann Howard

Latin American Committee

Bob Risebrough 510-549-2476

Program – Carol Kern 650-370-3703

Publicity – Becca Freed 510-549-3235

Other

Observations

Collin G. Murphy, Ph.D. 510-845-2565

GGAS Webmaster

Mark Eaton – eaton@best.com

Northern California Bird Box

415-681-7422

Editor

Peter Caldwell 415-821-0212,

pcald@ibm.net

Executive Director

Arthur Feinstein 510-843-2222

Published each month except August by the Golden Gate Audubon Society. Special third-class postage paid in Oakland, CA.

Send address changes to office promptly. Post Office does not forward *The Gull*.

Monthly meeting: third Thursday, 7:00 p.m. Joint membership, local and national, \$30 dollars per year (\$20 per year new members) includes *Audubon Magazine* and *The Gull*. Renewals should be sent directly to National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *The Gull* separately: \$10 per year, single issues \$1.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 15, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948. *The Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month's issue.

The Gull -- ISSN 0164-971X

Golden Gate Audubon Society
2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G
Berkeley, CA 94702
Phone: (510) 843-2222
Fax: (510) 843-5551

Office Hours:
Tuesday – Friday 9–12, 1–4 (please call first)

Website: <http://goldengate.ca.audubon.org>