



Godwit Days 2025 Schedule of Events

THURSDAY, 17 APRIL 2025

TH01 Dawn Chorus – Arcata Marsh Field Trip 1 **CLASSIC** **\$10**
6:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m. Leader: Michael Morris

The Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary is the center of the universe for Humboldt birding, with more species being recorded here than at any other single location in the county. This trip, a “Godwit Days Classic” pre-breakfast outing, is planned to catch the dawn chorus in full swing at the Marsh. Willows along the trails host songbirds and the reed beds support chattering Marsh Wrens. Orange-crowned, Wilson’s and Yellow-rumped Warblers and Common Yellowthroats are in full song, while Song Sparrows sing for mates and re-establish their territories. This trip will provide an introduction to the variety of birds at the Marsh. Terrain is mostly flat on maintained trails. Event repeats Friday (#FR11). See the bird species seen on last year’s Dawn Chorus trips [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center parking lot, 569 South G Street. [View Map](#).

TH02 Grouse of Humboldt County **\$30**
7:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m. Leader: Rob Fowler

We’ll start the morning driving Tall Trees access road in Redwood National Park for Ruffed Grouse. After the Tall Trees road Ruffed Grouse search, we’ll head up to Bald Hills Road to look for male Sooty Grouse booming along the road. Up in the oak savannah up in the actual “Bald Hills” we should also encounter the local White-breasted Nuthatch, Western Bluebirds, Chipping Sparrow and other oak woodland species. There might even be a chance to see Golden Eagle or...dare we say....California Condors? This will be mostly a roadside birding trip but some walking up and down hills may be involved in the Bald Hills area so wear sturdy footwear. We will limit this trip to 11 participants and only 4 cars and will carpool to make grousing on

Tall Trees access road easier so bring a mask if concerned about carpooling with others. Bring a lunch. See the bird species seen on last year's trip [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors

TH03 Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary **\$20**
8:00-12:00 p.m. Leader: Kathryn Wendel

What does one need to say about the Arcata Marsh: NOT MUCH!!!!!!.... except it is the best birding location in Northwestern California with currently 344 species that have occurred here (with the recent Summer Tanager #344!). Sure, we have dawn choruses and shorebird fly off trips scheduled at the Marsh during the festival. And there's an Audubon-sponsored marsh walk every. Dang. Saturday of the year. But, have you gone on a Godwit Days trip that is specifically at the Marsh to enjoy all the birds and habitats found at this legend of a location? No? Well, do yourself a favor and sign up. NOW!! (did we say.....NOW?!). This is a great trip for birders that have never birded in Humboldt County before. See the bird species seen at the Arcata Marsh during April [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center parking lot, 569 South G Street. [View Map](#).

TH04 Elk River Estuary & Wildlife Sanctuary **\$20**
8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Leader: Gary Falxa

In 2022, the City of Eureka did a major salt marsh restoration effort south of the Elk River channel, adding many acres of new wetland and mudflats that have proven to be very attractive to waterfowl and shorebirds. Part of the trip will be spent birding this new habitat. The rest of the time will be spent birding the Elk River Wildlife Sanctuary, looking for songbirds in the riparian and other waterbirds on the Elk River. Expect a few miles of walking on very easy and mostly paved terrain. With the close proximity of various wetland and riparian habitats, many species should be seen on this trip. No restrooms available. See the bird species seen on last year's trip [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Herrick Avenue Park-and-Ride at south end of Eureka. [View Map](#).

TH05 Godwit Days Mystery Tour **CLASSIC** **\$35**
8:30 a.m-3:30 p.m. Leader: IT'S A MYSTERY, SILLY!

Oh the suspense is killing us! Who will be the leader for this trip and where will he/she/they take the trip participants? One thing's for sure: you're guaranteed to see birds – hopefully a lot of them – in the various habitats around Humboldt Bay and

beyond. Bring lunch. Restrooms are available at some point but it's a "mystery" when. Varied terrain is possible but none will be hard walking or hiking. See the bird species seen on last year's trip [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors

TH06 Azalea State Natural Reserve

\$10

8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Leader: Gary Lester

Godwit Days has never done a field trip to the quaint and attractive Azalea State Natural Reserve in McKinleyville so this year that all changes! It's a great reserve dominated by Sitka Spruce, Red Alder and a lush understory of Western Azalea (*Rhododendron occidentale*) which may be blooming a little bit by then. Common Northwestern coastal forest species can be expected like Hairy and Down Woodpeckers, Wrentit, Pacific Wren, Hermit Warbler (may be early for them), Purple Finch, and more. Expect easy walking on forest trails with little change in elevation. A quick trip to experience this little slice of Humboldt County nature. Species seen in April at the Azalea State Natural Reserve [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Azalea State Natural Reserve . [View map](#).

TH07 Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge

CLASSIC

FREE

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Leaders: Cashell Villa & Denise Seeger

See a startling diversity of bird life and hear about refuge management for migratory birds and other wildlife. Refuge staff will lead a leisurely, level walk around the refuge on a 2-mile loop trail where numerous waterfowl, shorebirds, and songbird species reside. Restrooms available at refuge headquarters. Spotting scopes available for general use to scan the open water from the viewing window at the refuge. [NOTE: From the Arcata Community Center, it takes about 35 minutes to get to the refuge, which is south of Eureka at the Hookton Road exit of Highway 101.] See the bird species seen at the Humboldt Bay NWR in April [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: HBNWR Visitor Center, 1020 Ranch Road, Loleta. [View map](#).

TH08 Aldergrove Marsh & Arcata Ridge Trail

FREE

9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Leader: George Ziminsky

Aldergrove Pond is a small urban pond (renovated in 2022) with some associated riparian habitat. After visiting Aldergrove pond the trip will head over to the The Arcata Ridge Trail access off West End Road. Part of the City of Arcata's Community Forest trail system, the ridge trail follows along Janes Creek, with redwood-forested slopes

above. On the lower beginnings, the trail winds through alder riparian habitat adjacent to a mill site that has some cattail marsh and common riparian-associated birds. The trail then winds upslope into second-growth redwood forest, where the usual redwood forest birds abound. The pace of this trip will be relaxed, it will cover our basic forest and woodland birds. Not much need for a scope, moderate walking on well-maintained but STEEP trails for part of the trip. This is probably the trip with the steepest trails so be prepared for that aspect. Bring lunch, water, and wear sturdy footwear. See the bird species seen at these locations during April [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors

TH09 Shorebird Spectacle at the Arcata Marsh 1 CLASSIC \$15
2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Leader: Mark Colwell

Witness the spectacle as flocks of thousands of shorebirds become tens of thousands, and then form a huge milling swarm. North Humboldt Bay is a shorebird staging site clearly of hemispherical significance. The birds are colorful, sexually charged, and are flying in an energetic manner not seen in fall or winter, plus they often give snatches of summer “song” and other utterances seldom heard at other times. The number of birds on the move can be staggering and can be experienced daily during this northward spring migration push. Shorebird species expected include: Western and Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Marbled Godwit, Willet, dowitchers, Black-bellied Plover and American Avocet. You may want to bring a snack, there are picnic tables and benches available. Bring a spotting scope if you have one. There will be a restroom available. Event repeats Friday (#FR12), Saturday (#SA40) and Sunday (#SU66). See the shorebird species seen at these locations during April [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Marsh Klopp Lake Parking lot. [View map](#).

TH10 Nighttime Owls CLASSIC \$15
7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Leader: Rob Fowler

If you have never gone “owling,” this is a great chance to see what is involved. Help scout potential locations through the Arcata Bottom looking for Barn Owl and Short-eared Owl, then visit various locations using tapes or voice calling to elicit responses from nighttime forest owls, including Barred Owls as they become more common in the area. Requires good luck, a flashlight, and warm clothes. SEEING (as opposed to hearing) an owl is never guaranteed, but seeing a Short-eared or Barn Owl is quite possible. Expect variable terrain and possibly wet ground. May be able to use a spotting scope until dark. Restrooms not available once the trip leaves the Community Center.

Rain cancels this trip. See the bird species seen on last year's trips [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors

FRIDAY, 18 APRIL 2025

FR11 Dawn Chorus – Arcata Marsh Field Trip 2 CLASSIC \$10

6:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m. Leader: Michael Morris

The Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary is the center of the universe for Humboldt birding, with more species being recorded here than at any other single location in the county. This trip, a “Godwit Days Classic” pre-breakfast outing, is planned to catch the dawn chorus in full swing at the Marsh. Willows along the trails host songbirds and the reed beds support chattering Marsh Wrens. Orange-crowned, Wilson’s and Yellow-rumped Warblers and Common Yellowthroats are in full song, while Song Sparrows sing for mates and re-establish their territories. This trip will provide an introduction to the variety of birds at the Marsh. Terrain is mostly flat on maintained trails. See the bird species seen on last year’s Dawn Chorus trips [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center parking lot, 569 South G Street. [View Map](#).

FR12 Shorebird Spectacle at the Arcata Marsh 2 CLASSIC \$15

6:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m. Leader: Mark Colwell

Witness the spectacle as flocks of thousands of shorebirds become tens of thousands, and then form a huge milling swarm. North Humboldt Bay is a shorebird staging site clearly of hemispherical significance. The birds are colorful, sexually charged, and are flying in an energetic manner not seen in fall or winter, plus they often give snatches of summer “song” and other utterances seldom heard at other times. The number of birds on the move can be staggering and can be experienced daily during this northward spring migration push. Shorebird species expected include: Western and Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Marbled Godwit, Willet, dowitchers, Black-bellied Plover and American Avocet. You may want to bring a snack, there are picnic tables and benches available. Bring a spotting scope if you have one. Restrooms available. Event repeats Saturday (#SA40) and Sunday (#SU66). See the shorebird species seen at these locations during April [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Marsh Klopp Lake Parking lot. [View map](#).

FR13 Arcata Mad River Parks NEW \$15

7:30-10:30 a.m. Leader: Jonny Sperling & Jasmine Andrea

Nineteen acre Carlson Park is the only public access to the Mad River within Arcata city limits and provides access to some healthy riparian habitat with easy walking trails. Carlson has only been accessible to birders since 2017 and for such a small park has already tallied 145 species of birds. Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District Park, just east of Arcata, is popular with summer river visitors looking for a good river spot near Arcata but few birders visit it for birding but it is certainly worthy of more coverage. This trip will spend equal time between these two locations, the latter location being the first time Godwit Days has had a trip to this spot. See the species seen at both locations during April [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors

FR14 Sue-meg State Park **CLASSIC **FREE**
7:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Leader: Mark Morrisette**

Join California State Parks staff for a birding and cultural tour of Sue-meg State Park (formerly Patricks Point SP). A State Park interpretive specialist will lead participants on a short tour (30 minutes) of Sumeg Village, a reconstructed Yurok village. There will be opportunities to view seabirds and species associated with the park's Sitka spruce forests and meadows. Participants hopefully will see resident Red Crossbills and Canada Jays, as well as Pacific Wrens and Varied Thrushes. Restrooms are available. California State Parks is a major sponsor of Godwit Days and provides a variety of trips, access to the parks, and their expert staff as guides. Bring a lunch. Restrooms are available. See the bird species seen at Sue-meg State Park during April [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby

FR15 Humboldt Botanical Garden **NEW **\$20**
8:00 a.m.-12:00 a.m. Leader: Dan & Jody Greaney**

The Humboldt Botanical Gardens feature 10 majestic gardens that feature ornamental and rose gardens, and even a native riparian and native plant garden. Godwit Days has never had a trip to the Humboldt Botanical Gardens. Dan and Jody Greaney have been leading bird walks at the location regularly and this trip will be a combination of birding and enjoying the various beautiful gardens here. Part of the fee of this trip will go towards the entrance fee to access the gardens. Easy walking expected. Restrooms available. See the bird species seen during April [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Humboldt Botanical Garden. [View map.](#)

FR16 Bear River Ridge **NEW **\$25**
8:00 am.-1:00 p.m. Leader: Ken Burton**

It's been some years since Godwit Days have offered a field trip to Bear River Ridge so time to bring it back! This is the only location in Northwestern California where Horned Larks breed and we'll spend time looking for them and hope for lingering wintering raptors like Ferruginous or Rough-legged Hawk. Golden Eagle is possible year-round and Western Bluebird is regular. One year on a Godwit Days trip a first county record of Smith's Longspur was found! All birding will be from cars alongside the road with very minimal walking on mostly dirt/gravel roads. Bring a lunch. Restrooms are available before and after visiting Bear River Ridge. See the birds found at these locations during April [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors

FR17 Freshwater Farms Reserve Trail

FREE

8:15 a.m.-11:15 a.m. Leaders: Kate Howard & Riley Martel-Philips

Join the Northcoast Regional Land Trust for a birding tour and discussion at Freshwater Farms Reserve. This beautifully restored 74-acre wild and working landscape demonstrates complementary land uses, supporting both ecological enhancement and agriculture. The nature trail meanders through meadows and rich pasture land into abundant salt marsh and estuary habitat. Wood Creek runs through the property, meeting with Freshwater Slough, which is part of the larger Humboldt Bay tributary complex. More than 175 species of birds have been seen on Freshwater Farms Reserve, including hawks, waterfowl, warblers and other songbirds, and a resident Barn Owl. The walk is approximately 1 mile on a maintained trail and includes a viewing platform overlooking the restored wetland. Wear appropriate footwear– the trail may be muddy in some areas. Restrooms available. See the bird species seen during April [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby

FR18 Seawood Cape Preserve

FREE

8:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Leaders: Patrick Myers & George Ziminsky

Seawood Cape Preserve is owned and operated by The Wildlands Conservancy, whose mission is to preserve the beauty and biodiversity of the Earth and provide programs so that children may know the wonder and joy of nature. Located in Yurok Ancestral Territory, situated between Trinidad Head and Sue-meg State Park, the preserve protects 128 acres of habitat that stretches from rocky coast to redwood forest. A pocket of wild – including coastal bluff, wet meadow, alder woodland, and spruce-fir and redwood forests – Seawood Cape Preserve provides refuge to a diversity of birds and other organisms in an otherwise human-altered landscape. Join us for a morning exploring this special place and its extensive biodiversity. This property is usually not

open to the public – except by reservation – so this is a special opportunity. Most of the trails are level and easy but can be wet on the east side. Restrooms available. See the birds found at this location during April [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby

FR19 North Jetty Sea Watch & Woodley Island CLASSIC \$20

8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Leader: Jude Power

The North Spit provides a variety of birding spots out to the jetty. Here the rocky shore specialists -- Surfbird, BlackTurnstone, and Wandering Tattler – can be found. Sometimes even a late Rock Sandpiper is still present. If you have a spotting scope, this is an excellent time to bring it for scanning the ocean for seabirds and migrating Pacific Loons. Woodley Island, Vance Road, and the Samoa Bridge harbor nesting egrets, various other waterbird species, and shorebirds. Restrooms available near the North Jetty. A no-host group lunch is planned at the trip's end at Café Marina on Woodley Island. See the bird species found at these locations during April [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors

FR20 Sequoia Park and Zoo \$25

8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Leader: David Juliano

Join Godwit Days trip as we visit the Sequoia Park Zoo early before it opens to the public and we get to go birding in the zoo and see what birds are using their extensive native plantings. The trip will also visit the new Redwood Sky Walk, giving a bird's eye perspective to redwood forest bird species like Golden-crowned Kinglet, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, and Brown Creeper. After visiting the zoo David will lead the group down to Sequoia Park where such charismatic species like Wood Duck and Barred Owl are possible. Fee includes entrance fee to Sequoia Park Zoo. See the birds found at these locations during April [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Sequoia Park Zoo, 3414 W. St. Eureka, CA 95503. [View map.](#)

FR21 Conifers & Birds of Horse Mountain \$50

8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Leader: Michael Kauffmann

Michael, an author and co-editor of the new book *The Klamath Mountains: A Natural History*, will lead a journey to Horse Mountain. Participants will explore the mutualistic relationships between birds and conifers and search out regionally exceptional examples of each. Stops include montane forest, serpentine ridgelines, and mountain meadows. Be prepared for snow and/or cold weather. Bird highlights could include Cassin's Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Bewick's Wren, Wilson's Warbler, Red-breasted

Sapsucker, and Townsend's Solitaire. Exceptional conifers include Port Orford-Cedar, Western White Pine, and Pacific Yew. Bring lunch, drink, hiking shoes, and warm clothes. Restrooms may be available along the way. [NOTE: The trip fee includes one book of your choice, up to \$25 value, from the Backcountry Press catalog (www.backcountrypress.com). E-mail godwitdaysreg@yahoo.com with your book choice. If you would like to receive the new Klamath Mountains book – which costs \$55 – bring the difference of \$30 in exact change to give to Michael.] **Michael will be our keynote speaker on Friday night.** See the bird species seen on last year's trip [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors

**FR22 Birding North to Trinidad with Lunch at Seascap Restaurant CLASSIC \$30
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Leader: Gary Bloomfield**

The picturesque coastal town of Trinidad is a well-known hotspot for coastal birding and Gary will lead you to all the best-known locations: Elk Head for songbirds and viewing the large murre colonies found on Flatiron and Green Rocks; Trinidad Bay for cormorants and rocky shorebirds; Luffenholtz Beach and Scenic Drive for amazing coastal views and more options for seafaring birds like scoters, loons, and maybe even Marbled Murrelets. Time for a no-host lunch will be flexible; sometime after noon at the Seascap Restaurant at Trinidad Harbor. After lunch, the trip may venture to the Trinidad Museum to view the amazing native plant garden and/or make a quick trip to Clam and Little River State Beaches to view local Snowy Plovers on the way back to Arcata. Restrooms available at various locations. See the bird species seen on last year's Birding North trip [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors

**FR23 Birding South to Ferndale with Lunch at Tuyas in Ferndale CLASSIC \$30
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Leader: Rob Fowler**

Meet at the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge visitor center parking lot to start the trip by looking for songbirds such as Pacific-slope Flycatcher and lots of singing Yellow-rumped Warblers, plus various sparrows and finches that visit the feeders and native plant garden. We'll then walk the shorebird loop trail looking for waterfowl holding over from the winter, migrant shorebirds, and other marsh-associated species. After the refuge, we'll make our way to either the Loleta or Ferndale Bottoms, depending on recent reports or participants' desires. We might even head towards Ferndale and visit the cemetery to look for Canada Jays. Around 12:30-1:00 p.m we'll head to Tuyas Mexican Restaurant in Ferndale for lunch. With time permitting after lunch we'll make a few more birding stops before getting back to Arcata by 3 p.m. Always a fun trip and a good one for beginners, as the pace is relaxed and we make a point to enjoy all species

encountered. Restrooms available at various locations. [NOTE: From the Arcata Community Center, it takes about 35 minutes to get to the refuge, which is south of Eureka at the Hookton Road exit of Highway 101.] See the bird species seen on last year's Birding South trip [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: HBNWR Visitor Center, 1020 Ranch Road, Loleta. [View map](#).

FR24 Late Risers Birding Trip \$20

9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Leader: Kathryn Wendel

We're sure everybody has heard the saying "the early bird gets the worm." Most of the time, one has to get up early to get the best birding hours in, especially when songbirds and the like are most active! But maybe you're just getting into birding and are not really sure about the whole "get-up-before-dawn-and-get-out-by-sunrise" common theme of birding? Or maybe you're a serious birder but just can't stand getting up early to save your life? That's OK, that's who this trip is meant to cater to: the Late-Rising Birder. Despite the late start, there still will be plenty of birds to see and hear wherever the trip leader decides to take you. Walking will be easy and restrooms are available at some locations. See the bird species seen on last year's trip [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby

FR25 Spotted Owls on Green Diamond Land 1 CLASSIC \$25

1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Leader: Green Diamond Resource Co Biologists

This trip is the epitome of what we term a "Classic Godwit Days Trip." Nowhere else in North America can you sign up for a trip and be almost guaranteed to SEE Spotted Owl. These trips have never missed Spotted Owls and often the experience is (enter any superlative you come up with!). Participants will visit known activity centers of Northern Spotted Owls in their nesting habitat with Green Diamond Resource Company biologists. The biologists are extremely knowledgeable about Spotted Owl biology, so not only will you hopefully get great looks at this threatened species, but you also will walk away knowing a lot more about their life history and biology. If the owls cooperate, this trip offers superb photographic opportunities. The owls come amazingly close as they swoop down for offered mice. Because the trip goes beyond a locked gate onto Green Diamond property, it cannot be joined up with after the group leaves the Community Center. Wear sturdy footwear, as off-trail hiking is sometimes involved, but many times walking is along gravel or dirt forest roads. No restrooms after the Community Center. Event repeats on Saturday (#SA51) and Sunday (#SU74).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby

FR26 Owl Pellet Dissection Workshop for Kids**FREE****4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Leader: Karen Reiss**

Children age 5 and up, with their adult companions, will have fun breaking apart owl pellets to see what the birds have been eating. Rodent bone identification sheets will be provided along with the owl pellets and tools for dissecting them, generously donated by Out Of This World. The pellets have been disinfected and created especially for exploration – kids love it!

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Dining room**FR27 Opening Reception****FREE****5:00 p.m.-6:30p.m.**

Light appetizers on small plates (catered by Cassaro's Catering) will be served, and there will be a cash bar with wine and beer for purchase and free non-alcoholic lemonade punch. Visit with other attendees, board members, and field trip leaders. The silent auction will be open for bidding and some of the vendor booths will stay open later just to talk with you! View the hundreds of bird art contest entries created by Humboldt County K-12 students that will line the walls of the lobby and hallways. [Participants registered for the multi-day festival pass who are age 21 or above will receive one free drink ticket, good for Friday only.] This free event is open to members of the general public.

Location: Main Hall of the Arcata Community Center**FR28 Friday Night Keynote with Michael Kauffmann****FREE****6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.**

The evening begins with a welcome by The City of Arcata Mayor and the presentation of the 2024 Bird of the Year Award. We then hear our Friday night keynote, "The Klamath Mountains: A Natural History with Michael Kauffmann". Take a journey through the biotic and abiotic wonders that define the Klamath Mountains as one of the most unique mountain ranges in North America. Ecologist and author Michael Kauffmann will take us across the range based on his book *The Klamath Mountains: A Natural History*. He will share a variety of inimitable stories about the Klamath Mountains including climate, geology, water, fire, plants, and animals (birds!) — all of which, when taken together, define one of the most biodiverse temperate mountain ranges on Earth.

Location: Main Hall of the Arcata Community Center.

FR29 Arcata Marsh Night Walk**\$15****7:45 p.m.-9:15 p.m. Leaders: Christine Champe & Lauren Dusek**

Once again, we feature the delights of the Marsh, but with a twist. Join this tour for a unique perspective from twilight to dark at the Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary. We'll look for birds at twilight and signs of mammals after dark, including a bat hunt using an acoustic bat detection system. Dusk hours are prime mosquito time. Wear long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, and other protective clothing and use mosquito repellent. Terrain is flat but may be wet. Restrooms available at the Community Center before the trip. Light will be low for optics use. You may want to bring a small flashlight.

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby**SATURDAY, 19 APRIL 2025****SA30 Marbled Murrelets 1****CLASSIC****\$20****5:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m. Leader: Moe Morrisette**

Discover the endangered and mysterious Marbled Murrelet, set in dramatic old-growth redwood forest with a local biologist. This trip to Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park near Orick is for early birds! The first detection of a "MAMU" will probably be the loud "keer" call, the most common call you hear during these dawn flights. The dawn chorus – including Varied Thrush, Pacific Wren, possibly Pileated Woodpecker, and often Northern Pygmy and Barred Owls – accompanies pre-dawn flights of the murrelets. It's quite the experience seeing small seabirds that live most of their life on the ocean in flight among the ancient redwoods. Flat terrain, but can be damp so prepare for such conditions. Roosevelt Elk sightings are highly likely along the route. Restrooms are available at Prairie Creek Visitor Center. 90 miles round-trip travel. Event repeats on Sunday (#SU55). See the bird species seen at this location during April [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors**SA31 Dawn Chorus – Potowat Health Village** **NEW****\$10****6:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m. Leader: Max Brodie**

Potowat Health Village is part of the United Indian Health Services and began in 2001. The grounds have a network of trails and almost all the vegetation is native, planted when the village was started. It has grown into an amazing location for birds with many interesting species turning up here in recent years, including a Gray Flycatcher that was present during Godwit Days in 2023. Switching it up from the usual Arcata Marsh dawn chorus we'll see what species we encounter singing and calling at this birdy spot in

urban Arcata before breakfast. Walking on flat terrain and mostly paved trails. See the bird species seen at this location during April [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors

SA32 Blue Lake Cottonwoods & Mad River Fish Hatchery CLASSIC \$25
6:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Leader: Greg Gray

When you're a Humboldt birder and you want to look for spring songbird migrants, often the first place one thinks of is the Blue Lake cottonwoods and/or the Mad River Fish Hatchery. Both can be excellent for migrant songbirds that use the extensive riparian habitat at both locations for fueling up on their migration and for summer residency to raise the next generation of their species. By this time of year, Warbling Vireos and Orange-crowned, Yellow-rumped, and Wilson's Warblers will be in full song and Black-throated Gray Warblers probably will have just arrived and started setting up territories. This is a great trip to practice and get familiar with bird songs. You never know what interesting species might turn up at either of these locations during a Godwit Days trip! Easy walking on flat trails; restrooms available at the hatchery. See the bird species seen at these locations during April [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors

SA33 Humboldt Lagoons Hotspots \$30
6:30 a.m.-12:30 a.m. Leader: Tony Kurz & Cedric Von Briel

Humboldt Lagoons State Park lies on the sandy, windswept edge of ocean and forest. Formed by the clash of two tectonic plates, it's part of the largest lagoon system in the United States. The marshland habitat supports a rich variety of marsh plants, birds, and other animals. Expect a diverse group of ducks, loons, grebes on the lagoons themselves. Canada Jay is possible in the coastal coniferous forests. Black Scoter and Marbled Murrelet are possible on the ocean offshore of the lagoons themselves and American Bittern is possible at Dry Lagoon. Expect variable terrain, bring a reusable water bottle, lunch, and a spotting scope if you have one. See the birds found at these locations during April [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby

SA34 Carpool Big Day 1 GOLD \$80
7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Leaders: Scott Carey & Mary Severdia

This year we are switching it up for the Big Day! No more bus—all carpool! Only 4 cars and still 10 participants and the trip will be repeated on Sunday, so a friendly competition will happen between both days to see which team wins the prize [to be

determined; probably large sums of cash since birding is so lucrative, you know! (joke)] Expect a long day with fast paced birding and around 120 + species to be expected! All of the trip will be easy walking short distances and birding near the vehicle. Restrooms available at many locations. **This smaller group event includes a bag lunch, please let us know if you have dietary restrictions by sending an e-mail to godwitdaysreg@yahoo.com with details.** See the bird species seen on last year's trip [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors

SA35 Horse Mountain & High-Elevation Habitats **CLASSIC \$25**

7:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Leader: Jim McIntosh & Forrest Rowland

Head to Horse Mountain (about 30 minutes inland), the nearest high-elevation montane habitat where species such as Sooty Grouse, Mountain Quail, White-headed Woodpecker, and Mountain Chickadee reside. Bring lunch, warm clothes, and expect beautiful scenery! There may even be snow on the ground, but that never discourages the chickadees! Much of the land in Horse Mountain proper is managed by Six Rivers National Forest. Due to tight (mostly paved) roads, we need to keep car numbers to a minimum. Expect variable terrain, possibly snow or wet ground. Restrooms are not available. Some opportunities to use a spotting scope, if you have one. Bring a lunch. See the bird species seen on last year's trip [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby

SA36 Kneeland & Coastal Prairies of Humboldt \$25

7:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Leader: Ken Burton

The Kneeland area is a beautiful inland region that comprises mixed conifer forest, coastal prairies (like the Bald Hills of Redwood National Park), and oak woodland. The views are spectacular and so are the birds with such species as Sooty Grouse, Golden Eagle, Acorn Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Grasshopper and Chipping Sparrows being some of the highlights expected. This trip is roadside-birding-focused, and all birding will be done along the road. Some brief stops might be made around the Freshwater area on the way up the road to Kneeland but most of the time will be spent birding the Kneeland Loop that goes out to Showers Pass and then returns via Mountain View Road. Restrooms are not available on the loop but are found at Freshwater Park. See the bird species seen on last year's trip [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors

SA37 Birding with the Keynote Speaker Rosemary Mosco **GOLD** **\$125**
7:15 a.m.-1:15 p.m. Leaders: Rosemary Mosco, CJ Ralph

A unique and interesting birding opportunity is provided on this premier trip. Join this year's keynote speaker, Rosemary Mosco, and local research ornithologist and Godwit Days board member, Dr. CJ Ralph, on a leisurely field trip to local birding hotspots. The locations visited on this trip will be up to Rosemary's desires and C.J.'s suggestions and the trip will end with a catered lunch by Cassaro's Catering at a private residence in Arcata.

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby

SA38 Cock Robin Island and Loleta Bottoms **NEW** **\$20**
7:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Leaders: Lucas Stephenson & Owen Sinkus

Cock Robin Island is located in the lower Eel River estuary and has acres of riparian forest, seasonal wetlands, and expansive shorebird habitat (on the south side of the island). Part of the morning will be spent birding the dirt road that transects through the island and—if possible—will continue to the south side of the island to look for migrant shorebirds on the falling tide. Afterwards the trip will bird Crab Park at the end of Cannibal Island Road looking for various waterfowl and shorebirds at the Eel River mouth. Some off trail walking is possible so wear sturdy footwear. See the bird species seen in the Cock Robin Island and Loleta Bottoms area during April [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors

SA39 Humboldt's Best Birding Spots **GOLD CLASSIC** **\$80**
7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Leader: Keith Slauson

The emphasis is on introducing participants to some of the county's premier birding sites and enjoying birding at a relaxed pace. Terrain is mostly flat but not good for access-limited persons. We will sample the birds at a half-dozen of the best birding spots in Humboldt County. The trip usually tallies near 100 species. This is definitely a classic Godwit Days trip that sells out every year! Restrooms available. **This smaller group event includes a bag lunch, please let us know if you have dietary restrictions by sending an e-mail to godwitdaysreg@yahoo.com with details.** See the bird species seen on last year's trip [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors

SA40 Shorebird Spectacle at the Arcata Marsh 3 **CLASSIC** **\$15**
7:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Leader: Mark Colwell

Witness the spectacle as flocks of thousands of shorebirds become tens of thousands, and then form a huge milling swarm. North Humboldt Bay is a shorebird staging site clearly of hemispherical significance. The birds are colorful, sexually charged, and are flying in an energetic manner not seen in fall or winter, plus they often give snatches of summer “song” and other utterances seldom heard at other times. The number of birds on the move can be staggering and can be experienced daily during this northward spring migration push. Shorebird species expected include: Western and Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Marbled Godwit, Willet, dowitchers, Black-bellied Plover and American Avocet. You may want to bring a snack, there are picnic tables and benches available. Bring a spotting scope if you have one. There will be a restroom available. Event repeats Sunday (#SU66). See the shorebird species seen at this location during April [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors

SA41 Birding Photography NEW \$15

8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Leader: Sasha Cahill & Aidan Brubaker

Both Sasha and Aidan are amazing bird photographers (and birders!). Spend the morning with them learning some of their tried-and-true methods to bird photography! Sasha and Aidan will give a brief introduction on the gear they use and then in the field will explain the techniques and settings they use to take the amazing photos they both consistently produce. Check out some of Sasha’s photos in eBird [here](#). Check out some of Aidan’s photos in eBird [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby

SA42 Spring Shorebird ID Workshop NEW \$35

8:00 am.-3:00 p.m. Leader: Rob Fowler

This workshop will start with an hour-long presentation on the identification of spring shorebirds that occur in Humboldt County. After the presentation we’ll head out into the field and look for shorebirds on the falling tide from south Eureka to the south spit of Humboldt Bay, hitting spots like Elk River mouth, the South Elk River Restoration area, Ocean Ranch and the south spit and south jetty for rocky shorebirds. Almost 30 species have been recorded from these combined locations in April! See the bird species seen at both of the above locations during April [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Classroom

SA43 Beginning Birding at the Arcata Community Center \$10

8:45 am.-10:45 p.m. Leader: Jonny Sperling & Jasmine Andrea

This is the trip that opens the gateway into the world of birds and birding. Outside of the community center, learn how to use binoculars and focus them to your eyes and use them to get on birds quickly, learn how to identify the most common birds, bird topography, etc. Learn how to use a field guide to help identify the birds you see. Then go birding around the habitats around the community center to learn some of the common birds.

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors

SA44 California Condors in Humboldt County 1 **GOLD \$125**

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Leaders: Gary Bloomfield & Chris West

Join Gary and Yurok Tribe condor biologist Chris West on this trip to search for California Condors, which were just re-introduced to Humboldt County in 2022!! We'll head up to Dolason Prairie for our first location where we will search for condors. From there, we'll head up to the Lyons Ranch/Schoolhouse Peak area of Bald Hills to look for some of the specialities up there such as Golden Eagle, Acorn Woodpecker, and White-breasted Nuthatch. If necessary, we will walk up to Schoolhouse Peak to scope the area and further look for condors. The price includes transportation. We expect this opportunity to sell out quickly! **This smaller group event includes a bag lunch, please let us know if you have dietary restrictions by sending an e-mail to godwitdaysreg@yahoo.com with details.** See the bird species seen on last year's trips [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby

SA45 Birds, Bikes, and Brews \$20

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Leader: Janelle Chojnacki & Frank Fogarty

Meet at Redwood Curtain Brewery (no, there will be no drinking at the brewery before the trip!) with your bike and join Janelle & Frank on a bike birding trip through the Arcata Marsh and Arcata Bottoms and then return to the brewery afterward for a refreshing beer or cider (kombucha and other non-alcoholic beverages are also available) and maybe some lunch from South G Kitchen located at the brewery. The trip will be on mostly flat pavement and will keep an eye out for waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds and songbirds. See the bird species seen at these locations during April [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Redwood Curtain Brewery. [View map](#).

SA46 Kids' Birding & Nature Trip at the Arcata Marsh FREE

9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Leader: Mark Wilson

This field trip is designed for young naturalists, age 5 and up, accompanied by a responsible adult. An introduction to birds, how to use binoculars, and identification tips will precede a leisurely walk around the Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary, practicing what the youngsters have learned. Small binoculars suitable for children will be on loan to use during the trip, courtesy of trip sponsor Friends of the Arcata Marsh. The terrain is mostly flat, groomed trails. Restrooms available at the interpretive center and at Klopp Lake (foot of South I Street). Please only register your child as taking a space for this event. Place the accompanying adult's name next to child's in the name field (child name + adult name).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center , 569 South G Street, Arcata [View Map](#).

SA47 Herpetology Field Trip **CLASSIC** **\$25**

9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Leader: Matt Kluber

Reptiles and amphibians are sometimes overlooked, but they can be fascinating! Matt, a biologist for Green Diamond Resource Company, specializes in herpetology (the study of reptiles and amphibians). The redwood forest is home to the Pacific Giant Salamander, which can grow to nearly 1 foot in length and is one of the only salamanders that vocalize – a faint yelp when captured! Uncover the world of snakes, turtles, salamanders, frogs, and more. Bring a lunch. Walking should be easy but wear sturdy footwear.

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors

SA48 River Otters of the Arcata Marsh **\$15**

9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Leader: Gina Y. Culver & Tylor Bell-Rogers

At the Arcata Marsh River Otters are the most common mammal to be seen—sometimes daily! In recent years, Cal Poly Wildlife Professor, Jeffrey Black, and his students have been intensely studying the daily routines of River Otters at the Marsh and have made many surprising discoveries! Did you know that otters feed on the abundant waterfowl in fall when all the American Wigeon show up to feed on the duckweed in the treatment marshes? This trip will talk about that and so many more interesting observations Dr. Black and his team have learned over the years while looking for and hopefully seeing the River Otters of the Arcata Marsh!

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors

SA49 Dune Ecology & the Humboldt Coastal Nature Center **FREE**

12:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Leader: Adam Canter

Explore the diverse and dynamic coastal dune ecosystem and visit the headquarters of local nonprofit, Friends of the Dunes. The Humboldt Coastal Nature Center is a restored house that was originally built into the dunes and still has a “living roof.” After touring the nature center, participants will take a short hike to the beach through beach pine forest, willow-dominated swale, and open sand dunes. Terrain is sandy and steeply undulating; wear closed-toed shoes and dress in layers. Restrooms available at the nature center. Bring a snack and something to drink.

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors

SA50 Native Plant Walk

FREE

12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Leader: Carol Ralph

Join California Native Plant Society members for a walk from the Arcata Community Center to Arcata Community Forest and back to see native plants in public and private landscapes and in a redwood forest. View a range of native and invasive plants, see wildlife in a native plant garden, and think about how to mimic wild habitats in the confines of gardens. Hopefully, trillium will be blooming in the forest. The walk is about 3 miles on sidewalks and good paths, with about a 250-foot elevation gain.

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby

SA51 Spotted Owls on Green Diamond Land 2 CLASSIC

\$25

1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Leader: Green Diamond Resource Co biologists

This trip is the epitome of what we term a “Classic Godwit Days Trip.” Nowhere else in North America can you sign up for a trip and be almost guaranteed to SEE Spotted Owl. These trips have never missed Spotted Owls and often the experience is (enter any superlative you come up with!). Participants will visit known activity centers of Northern Spotted Owls in their nesting habitat with Green Diamond Resource Company biologists. The biologists are extremely knowledgeable about Spotted Owl biology, so not only will you hopefully get great looks at this threatened species, but you also will walk away knowing a lot more about their life history and biology. If the owls cooperate, this trip offers superb photographic opportunities. The owls come amazingly close as they swoop down for offered mice. Because the trip goes beyond a locked gate onto Green Diamond property, it cannot be joined up with after the group leaves the Community Center. Wear sturdy footwear, as off-trail hiking is sometimes involved, but many times walking is along gravel or dirt forest roads. No restrooms after the Community Center. Event repeats on Sunday (#SU74).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby

SA52 Binoculars & Scopes Lecture**FREE****2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Leader: Marilyn Rose, Out of This World**

Whether you've just started birding or looking for an upgrade, this talk will introduce the many types and uses of optical aids. Get essential information about types, field of view, focus distance, magnification, high-density glass, and jargon related to birding optics. Out of This World will have a great selection of many binoculars and scopes from the top brands to try out.

MEETING LOCATION: Out of This World Booth, Arcata Community Center Main Hall**SA53 Banquet****\$40****5:00 p.m.-6:45 p.m.**

Relax after a full day of events with a gourmet banquet provided by Cassaro's Catering. The dinner buffet will include chicken marsala with mushroom sauce (meat option) or vegetarian stuffed shells with marinara sauce (vegetarian option); grilled vegetables; garden salad with shredded beets, carrots, and sliced strawberries and green onion vinaigrette dressing; bread and butter. Italian almond bars with berries and whipped cream for dessert. Coffee and tea will be served. A glass of beer or wine is also included. Tickets may be purchased a la carte (without a registration fee).

The Silent Auction in the Main Hall closes at 6:30 pm so be sure to place your final bids by then!

Location: Arcata Community Center Dining Room.**SA54 Saturday Night Keynote with Rosemary Mosco****\$10****7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.****Join us for the Saturday keynote, "Connecting through Comics: How Humor and Art Make Birding Better".**

Rosemary Mosco is an author, illustrator, and speaker whose work connects people with the natural world. More to come, stay tuned! See bio on website home page. Rosemary will be co-leading the Birding with the Keynote field trip on Saturday and the Field Sketching & Nature Journaling Workshop with the Keynote (with lunch!) on Sunday.

*Full Pass **includes** a ticket to the Saturday keynote (do not select or you will be charged). Otherwise, tickets may be purchased a la carte (without additional registration fee) online or at the door.

Location: Main Hall of the Arcata Community Center.

SUNDAY, 21 APRIL 2024

SU55 Marbled Murrelets 2 **CLASSIC** **\$20**

5:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m. Leader: Samantha Bacon

Discover the endangered and mysterious Marbled Murrelet, set in dramatic old-growth redwood forest with a local biologist. This trip to Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park near Orick is for early birds! The first detection of a “MAMU” will probably be the loud “keer” call, the most common call you hear during these dawn flights. The dawn chorus – including Varied Thrush, Pacific Wren, possibly Pileated Woodpecker, and often Northern Pygmy and Barred Owls – accompanies pre-dawn flights of the murrelets. It’s quite the experience seeing small seabirds that live most of their life on the ocean in flight among the ancient redwoods. Flat terrain, but can be damp so prepare for such conditions. Roosevelt Elk sightings are highly likely along the route. Restrooms are available at Prairie Creek Visitor Center. 90 miles round-trip travel. See the bird species seen at this location during April [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors

SU56 Dawn Chorus – Carlson Park **NEW** **\$10**

6:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m. Leader: Cedric Von Briel

See FR13 for some info on Carlson Park. This will be one of the other new locations where we will investigate what bird species will be singing and calling here in the early morning before breakfast. What species will we encounter here during the dawn chorus that we might not experience at the Arcata Marsh? Maybe species like Western Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo or Bewick’s Wren that don’t normally occur at The Marsh will be some of the species singing their “dawn chorus” here at Carlson. See the bird species seen at this location during April [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors

SU57 Del Norte Tufted Puffins **GOLD** **CLASSIC** **\$80**

6:45 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Leaders: Lucas Brug & Bob Brown

A classic Godwit Days trip that has never missed its target: the enigmatic and showy Tufted Puffin! After driving to Del Norte County, the group will rendezvous off Anchor Way in the Crescent City Harbor. After spending a few moments starting our species

day list by looking at harbor birds, we will make our way toward Castle Rock National Wildlife Refuge to search for Tufted Puffins at the only remaining location in California where they can be seen from land. Castle Rock not only hosts puffins, but is also an extremely important location for breeding seabirds, with 11 species known to nest there, including both Leach's and Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels (which only come into their nests at night; not possible to see on this trip). Tens of thousands of Common Murres are the most obvious nesting bird that we will view. After finding puffins (a scope is absolutely necessary; Lucas will have his but if you have one, bring it), the rest of the day is gravy, as we spend it birding some of the other popular locations in coastal Del Norte County: Alexandre Dairy, Lake Earl and/or Tolowa, Smith River Bottoms, etc. The hike to view puffins is uphill and rocky, but all other walking will be on flat terrain. **This smaller group event includes a bag lunch, please let us know if you have dietary restrictions by sending an e-mail to godwitdaysreg@yahoo.com with details.** See the bird species seen on last year's trip [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby

SU58 BIG Day Carpool Competition 2 GOLD \$80

7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Leaders: Kathryn Wendel & Lucas Stephenson

This year we are switching it up for the Big Day! No more bus—all carpool! Only 4 cars and still 10 participants for this friendly competition, happening between both Saturday and Sunday attendees, to see which team wins the prize [to be determined; probably large sums of cash since birding is so lucrative, you know! (joke)] Expect a long day with fast paced birding and around 120 + species to be expected! All of the trip will be easy walking short distances and birding near the vehicle. **This smaller group event includes a bag lunch, please let us know if you have dietary restrictions by sending an e-mail to godwitdaysreg@yahoo.com with details.** Restrooms available at many locations. See the bird species seen on last year's trip [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors

SU59 Ferndale Bottoms and Ferndale \$30

7:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Leader: Aidan Brubaker & Owen Sinkus

Visit the Ferndale water treatment plant, Morgan Slough Rd., Ferndale Bottomland pastures for waterbirds, raptors and shorebirds. In Ferndale, visit the new native planted Hadley Gardens for passerines, Fireman's Park, Ferndale cemetery and more. Boots are recommended, dress in layers, and bring a spotting scope if you have one. Expect mostly flat terrain and several stops with a carpool. You may also want to bring a reusable water bottle and lunch. See the bird species seen at these locations during April [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby

SU60 Trinity River & Willow Creek **CLASSIC** **\$35**

7:15 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Leader: Tom Leskiw

Drive along the designated National Forest Scenic Highway as we head to inland Humboldt County, Willow Creek, and the Trinity River. Nesting birds of the warmer interior portions of the county (Western Kingbird, Acorn Woodpecker, Western Tanager) will be our focus. Sought-for species include Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Spotted Sandpiper, and American Dipper near the spectacular Trinity River. Expect variable terrain, including short, steep pitches on developed trails. Weather may be warmer than the coast, but there is always the possibility of rain. Bring lunch, snacks, and water. Restrooms are available 1 hour into the trip and on the return. Some opportunity to use a spotting scope, if you have one. One-way travel is about 1 hour.

See the bird species seen on last year's trip [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby

SU61 Humboldt Bay Bird Observatory Banding **CLASSIC** **\$20**

7:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Leader: HBBO Staff

Bird banding uses mist nets to capture small birds and place bands around their legs to enable continuous monitoring through re-capture. The Humboldt Bay Bird Observatory was established in 1982 by Dr. CJ Ralph and Dr. Carol Pearson Ralph. HBBO is adjacent to the Lanphere Dunes Unit of the Humboldt Bay NWR, bordered by Mad River Slough and coastal dune forest. This variety of habitats supports a high diversity of bird species. Bird populations and demographics have been monitored at the station continuously since 1982, making HBBO one of the longest-running stations in the nation. Education and volunteer programs provide the opportunity to observe and learn about birds, bird monitoring, and research techniques. The banding program has grown into the Klamath Demographic Network which runs banding stations from southern Oregon through the Klamath and California North Coast regions and south to Mendocino County. Expect narrow trails and possibly wet ground. Restrooms are available. With the focus on passerines, a scope is not necessary. Species that have been recorded at HBBO in April can be seen [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby

SU62 Birding by Ear Basics: Workshop & Field Trip **CLASSIC** **\$25**

7:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Leader: David Juliano

Spend the first hour in a classroom, focusing on methods for identifying bird songs, then key in on several local species. The remainder will be spent traveling to different habitats to practice. Expertise is not required for this primer designed to get you started on this critical aspect of bird ID. The simple whistle of the Pacific-slope Flycatcher or the jumbled trill of the Pacific Wren are two of the redwood bird songs focused on. While at the Arcata Marsh, the Song Sparrow and chattering Marsh Wren will be heard. Once started on this skill, with David's help, you will definitely finish this workshop with some new bird songs in your vocabulary. Prepare for forest trails, some hills, and flat marsh trails. Restrooms available.

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Dining Room

SU63 Gary's Dream Trip NEW GOLD \$80

7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Leaders: Gary Friedrichsen & Rob Fowler

Gary Friedrichsen, long time local birder and active member of the birding and conservation community, told us his dream trip for Godwit Days would be birding around Humboldt Bay with stops at Jacoby Creek mouth near Arcata, Elk River mouth in Eureka, a stop at King Salmon, and then heading across the Samoa bridge and birding at Manila Park, the V Street Loop, and finishing at the Arcata Marsh. So we said, "LET'S DO IT!" Since this is a gold trip participants will be limited to 10 and a bag lunch will be provided. Maybe at the Marsh they'll meet up and say hello to the Big Sit group, too? Join Gary and Rob on this large sampling of Humboldt Bay! Restrooms available at many locations. See the bird species seen on last year's trip [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors.

SU64 Eel River Estuary Preserve  NEW FREE

8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Leader: Rebecca Smith & George Ziminsky

The Eel River Estuary Preserve and Sounding Seas Dunes Reserve ("Preserves"), located in Humboldt County, are within The Wildlands Conservancy's (TWC) North Coast Region. They are part of TWC's expansive system of nature preserves, encompassing more than 315 square miles across 25 locations. TWC's mission is to preserve the beauty and biodiversity of the earth and provide programs so that youth may know the wonder and joy of nature.

Located where the Eel River meets the great Pacific, the Preserves encompass 1,300-acres of tidal wetlands, freshwater marsh, sand dunes, coastal grasslands, beach frontage, and a spectacular half-moon bay on the Eel River. Diverse habitats provide for a variety of species of birds including waterfowl, waders, shorebirds, birds of prey, and

songbirds. Walking will be on relatively flat terrain. Plan on wearing appropriate attire for this wet environment. See the bird species seen at this location during April [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby

SU65 BIG SIT 

FREE

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Leader(s): Max Brodie & Nora Papian

Never heard of a Big Sit before? It's basically standing (or sitting) in one location and trying to see how many species you can see from that one location in a predetermined time. This will be the first Big Sit event for Godwit Days! The only other Big Sit from this exact location years ago topped 100+ species during an all day sit. Just show up at the Klopp Lake parking lot at the foot of I St at the Arcata Marsh between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. and help contribute and learn about the Big Sit for however long you like. Benches are available, a portable restroom is nearby, and this event is accessible to birders with mobility challenges. See the bird species seen at this location during April [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center deck, 569 South G Street, Arcata [View Map](#)

SU66 Shorebird Spectacle at the Arcata Marsh 4 **CLASSIC**

\$15

8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Leader: Jude Power

Witness the spectacle as flocks of thousands of shorebirds become tens of thousands, and then form a huge milling swarm. North Humboldt Bay is a shorebird staging site clearly of hemispherical significance. The birds are colorful, sexually charged, and are flying in an energetic manner not seen in fall or winter, plus they often give snatches of summer "song" and other utterances seldom heard at other times. The number of birds on the move can be staggering and can be experienced daily during this northward spring migration push. Shorebird species expected include: Western and Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Marbled Godwit, Willet, dowitchers, Black-bellied Plover and American Avocet. You may want to bring a snack, there are picnic tables and benches available. Bring a spotting scope if you have one. There will be a restroom available. See the shorebird species seen at this location during April [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors

SU67 Hidden Gems of McKinleyville

\$20

8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Leader: Ken Burton

Once a spruce-covered marine terrace, the rapidly growing town of McKinleyville still contains quite a few good birding sites, most of them, especially those east of Highway 101, relatively unknown and seldom visited. This trip will showcase some of them, encompassing a variety of habitats and a good diversity of bird species. Expect to do a

moderate amount of easy walking. Please be prepared and willing to carpool as parking at some sites is limited. See the bird species seen at this location during April [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors

SU68 Trinidad Ocean and Forest Birds \$20

8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Leader: Tony Kurz

The spectacularly picturesque Trinidad area is known for its scenery but the seabirding here is also spectacular! Thousands of Common Murres nest on offshore rocks, Pigeon Guillemots bob and call from the water along with scoters, loons, grebes and Marbled Murrelets. Sometimes one can also see passerines like Canada Jays and Red Crossbills in the forested habitats adjacent to the oceanfront. Easy walking. Scopes are highly recommended. Restrooms are available at Trinidad Pier. Bring a reusable water bottle and lunch. See the bird species seen on last year's trip [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby

SU69 California Condors in Humboldt County! 2 GOLD \$125

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Leaders: Gary Falxa & Chris West

Join Gary and Yurok Tribe condor biologist Chris West on this trip to search for California Condors, which were just re-introduced to Humboldt County in 2022!! We'll head up to Dolason Prairie for our first location where we will search for condors. From there, we'll head up to the Lyons Ranch/Schoolhouse Peak area of Bald Hills to look for some of the specialties up there such as Golden Eagle, Acorn Woodpecker, and White-breasted Nuthatch. If necessary, we will walk up to Schoolhouse Peak to scope the area and further look for condors. The price includes transportation. We expect this opportunity to sell out quickly! **This smaller group event includes a bag lunch, please let us know if you have dietary restrictions by sending an e-mail to godwitdaysreg@yahoo.com with details.** See the bird species seen on last year's trips [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby

SU70 KING SALMON & FIELDS LANDING \$15

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Leader: Cedric Von Briel

This trip will start at King Salmon with scoping the Humboldt Bay entrance channel for various waterbirds, like Red-necked, Eared and Horned Grebes—all of which will be molting into their alternate plumage finery. Have you ever seen that purple sheen on a Horned Grebe when they are molting from their winter to summer plumage? It's a rare

thing to see that but possible during April from King Salmon! Caspian Terns should be fishing in the bay, Surf and possibly White-winged Scoters (latter now rare in HUM bay) will be present and Common Loons should be in mostly alternate plumage by now, and hopefully we'll get looks of their gorgeous green iridescence if the light is right. After scoping from King Salmon, the trip will head over to the Fields Landing boat ramp to continue scoping south Humboldt Bay and check off Brant, both species of scaup and maybe a late Common Goldeneye or some other lingering waterfowl. Easy walking on level, sometimes sandy trails or birding near the car. See the bird species seen at this location during April [here](#).

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors

SU71 Field Sketching & Nature Journaling Workshop with the Keynote \$50
9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Leader: Gary Bloomfield & Rosemary Mosco

This workshop will be led by our 2025 keynote speaker and Birds and Moon comics creator, Rosemary Mosco and our local artist and Godwit Days board member, Gary Bloomfield. The workshop will begin with a classroom session and Rosemary will talk about what tools and techniques she uses for comics and how she comes up with ideas for her [Bird and Moon Comics](#). Gary will introduce his drawing tools and techniques for art reference, visual note-taking, and other ways to create one's own nature journaling experience. The workshop will also include a crash course in bird anatomy shorthand for capturing gestures in moving birds. We will then head outdoors to practice these field sketching and comic creating techniques. Bring your own paper and drawing supplies. After spending some time in the field the group will head to Redwood Curtain Brewery for a beer (hard cider and non-alcoholic options also available) and lunch from South G Kitchen. Part of the fee of this trip goes towards lunch but participants are responsible for their own beer purchases.

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors

SU72 Dragonflies Workshop FREE
10:45 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Leader: Sandra Hunt-von Arb

Join local biologist Sandra Hunt-von Arb in exploring the Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary for spring examples of colorful and fascinating dragonflies and damselflies. Learn the difference between dragonflies and damselflies, where to go see them, and how to identify individual species. Find out why dragonflies are the Next Big Thing! Easy walking. This program will begin with a presentation inside the Interpretive Center, then move out to find dragonflies. Bring lunch and a reusable water bottle. Restrooms are available. Sponsored by Friends of the Arcata Marsh. Sandra and Kathy Biggs also

recently published (Aug 2024) a new book "[Dragonflies of California!](#)" This book will be available for purchase at a discount of \$35 (cash, check or Venmo) and Sandra will sign your copy!

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center, 569 South G Street, Arcata [View Map](#).

SU73 Lanphere Dunes

FREE

12:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Leader: Barbara Reisman

Join this Friends of the Dunes docent to enjoy the dynamic dunes ecosystem and associated rare and endangered plants. Formerly a Nature Conservancy property, the dunes are now part of the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The coastal spruce forest supports flocks of chickadees and Wrentits. Terrain is sandy, steeply undulating; wear closed-toed shoes. Dress in layers, bring a lunch/snack and something to drink. No restrooms available after starting the hike.

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby

SU74 Spotted Owls on Green Diamond Land 3 **CLASSIC**

\$25

1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Leader: Green Diamond Resource Co Biologists

This trip is the epitome of what we term a "Classic Godwit Days Trip." Nowhere else in North America can you sign up for a trip and be almost guaranteed to SEE Spotted Owl. These trips have never missed Spotted Owls and often the experience is (enter any superlative you come up with!). Participants will visit known activity centers of Northern Spotted Owls in their nesting habitat with Green Diamond Resource Company biologists. The biologists are extremely knowledgeable about Spotted Owl biology, so not only will you hopefully get great looks at this threatened species, but you also will walk away knowing a lot more about their life history and biology. If the owls cooperate, this trip offers superb photographic opportunities. The owls come amazingly close as they swoop down for offered mice. Because the trip goes beyond a locked gate onto Green Diamond property, it cannot be joined up with after the group leaves the Community Center. Wear sturdy footwear, as off-trail hiking is sometimes involved, but many times walking is along gravel or dirt forest roads. No restrooms after the Community Center.

MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby

SU75 Sunday Evening Social

FREE

5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Join us for a no-host social recap of the festival highlights and wind down before your trip home. This event is traditionally attended by festival organizers and trip leaders and keynote speakers. Participants are encouraged to join us and let us know what we can do to improve their bird festival experience. This year we will present an award to the winners of the Big Day Carpool Competition! If you know you will attend, please sign up so the venue will have an idea of how many to expect. You are welcome to just show up, if you want to play it by ear.

LOCATION TBD

Registration Pass Fees are as follows:

Your registration fee will be automatically added to your cart at checkout based on your event selections. This is in addition to the field trip and workshop fees.

Full registration (multi-day) is \$35 (\$10 non-refundable). Register for any field trips or workshops on any day. A drink ticket for the Friday night catered reception and the Saturday keynote ticket is included. You DO NOT need to select a ticket in this case, unless it is an extra.

One-day registration is \$20 (\$10 non-refundable). Register for any field trips or workshops on One day only.

Community pass is \$10 (non-refundable). Register for any no-fee/free trips only.

Children's (12 and under) registration fee is waived. Field trip fees may apply.

CLASSIC = Godwit Days trips that have been offered every festival for at least the past 5 years.

GOLD = Godwit Days trips that are limited to 10 participants and include lunch. Sometimes will include transportation, too (e.g. condor trips).

NEW = trips that are being offered that were not part of the festival the year prior. Could be brand new trips or trips revived from past festivals.

