

## 2026 Godwit Days Event Description List

**THURSDAY, 16 APRIL 2026**

**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: [eBird info](#)

**MEETING LOCATION: 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 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 up 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 road easier so bring a mask if concerned about carpooling with others. Bring a lunch. See the birds found at these locations during April here. [eBird info](#)

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors**

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

What does one need to say about the Arcata Marsh: NOT MUCH!!!!.... except it is the best birding location in Northwestern California with currently 345 species that have occurred here. Sure, we have dawn choruses and shorebird fly off trips scheduled at the Marsh during the festival. And there's a 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: [eBird info](#)

**MEETING LOCATION: 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 possible in April here: [eBird info](#)

**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: [eBird info](#)

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors**

**TH06 Azalea Statee Reserve** **\$10**  
**8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Leader: Gary Lester**

Azalea State Reserve in McKinleyville is a great reserve dominated by Sitka Spruce, red alder and a lush understory of Western Azalea (*Rhododendron occidentale*) which may be blooming by then. Common Northwestern coastal forest species can be expected like Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Wrentit, Pacific Wren, Hermit Warbler (may be early for them), Purple Finch, and more. The trails are easy to moderate walking with some change in elevation. After visiting the reserve participants are invited to visit the Lester's yard for a feeder watch. Red Crossbills are often a highlight at the feeders! A quick trip to experience this little slice of Humboldt County nature. Species seen in April at the Azalea State Reserve here: [eBird info](#)

**MEETING LOCATION: Azalea State 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. [eBird info](#)

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

**TH08 Trinidad Head & Flatiron Rock \$10**  
**9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Leader: Michael Morris**

Enjoy the beautiful coastal views of the ocean and the picturesque town of Trinidad on this easy (but somewhat steep in short parts) 1.7 mile hike around Trinidad Head. Common coastal birds like Chestnut-backed Chickadee and Golden-crowned Kinglet inhabit the isolated conifer forests and Anna's Hummingbird and Wrentit can be found in the coastal scrub that dominates the head. After hiking around Trinidad Head the trip will scope Flatiron Rock and coastal waters to check on the breeding cormorant and murre colonies. See the bird species recorded here: [eBird info](#)

**MEETING LOCATION: South end of Trinidad State Beach parking lot. [View map.](#)**

**TH09 Shorebird Spectacle at the Arcata Marsh 2 CLASSIC \$15**  
**10:30 a.m.-1:30 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 (#FR26), Saturday (#SA49) and Sunday (#SU77). To see what shorebirds are possible look at the eBird bar charts for April here. [eBird info](#)

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Marsh Klopp Lake Parking lot:**  
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/xCzrVYktKJajiE8v7>

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

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: [eBird info](#)

**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: Nora Papian**

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: [eBird info](#)

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Outside front doors**

**FR12 Blue Lake Levee Trail** **NEW** **\$15**

**7:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Leader: Aidan Brubaker**

Despite having trips to Blue Lake Cottonwoods and Mad River Fish Hatchery since the beginning of Godwit Days, we've never had a trip that just focused on the levee trail that starts at the east end of Taylor Way and continues east across hatchery way for about a mile on a flat gravel trail. Bird species will be similar to what is present at the Blue Lake Cottonwoods and Mad River Hatchery but it's possible to see more grassland-oriented species with the open pastures that comprise a lot of the eastern portion of the levee trail on one side. The other side is nice mature riparian with towering cottonwoods and a nice willow understory. See the species seen at this location during April here: [eBird info](#)

**FR13 Arcata Mad River Parks** **\$15**

**7:30 a.m.-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: [eBird info](#)

**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: [eBird info](#)

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby**

**FR15 Humboldt Botanical Garden \$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: [eBird info](#)

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

**FR16 South Humboldt Bay Hotspots NEW \$30**

**8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Leader: Kathryn (Wendel) West**

This trip will give a nice sample of the diversity of the habitats that south Humboldt Bay has to offer. The trip will start at the south end of Eureka at the Elk River mouth, then head to the new and excellent shorebird habitat of the South Elk River restoration area. From there stops at King Salmon and Fields Landing and then Ocean Ranch unit of the Eel River wildlife area will be visited. Expect a diversity of waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls and songbirds on this trip. See the bird species seen during April here: [eBird info](#)

**MEETING LOCATION: Elk River mouth parking area**

**FR17 Freshwater Farms Reserve Trail FREE**

**8:15 a.m.-11:15 a.m. Leaders: Alissa Fogg & 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: [eBird info](#)

**FR18 Seawood Cape Preserve**

**FREE**

**8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Leaders: Emily Afriat & 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: [eBird info](#)

**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 & Cedric Von Briel**

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 birds found at these locations during April here: [eBird info](#).

**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: [eBird info](#).

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

**FR21 McKinleyville Community Forest bird hike** **NEW** **\$20**

**8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Leader: TBD**

The newly acquired 599 acre McKinleyville Forest is a mix of second growth Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*), Redwood (*Sequoia sempivirens*), and Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), along with some nice riparian habitat along Widow White and Mill Creek, the two main watersheds within the forest. Many miles of trails are found within the forest and this exploratory trip will explore some of those trails. Expect a decent hike with much uphill and downhill slopes and maybe around 2 miles total walking distance. Allen's Hummingbirds will be on territory, Pileated Woodpeckers are possible and, if they show up during the festival, Hermit Warblers will be staking out their territories. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and bring snacks or a lunch and plenty of water. Restrooms are not available here yet. See the birds found at this locations during April here: [eBird info](#). It's a small species list with a lot of gaps so join the trip to help contribute more data and add to the species list!

**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: [eBird info](#).

**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: [eBird info](#).

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

**FR24 Humboldt Bay NWR–Hookton Slough** **NEW**

**FREE**

**9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Leader: Owen Sinkus**

Godwit Days has never done a specific trip to the Hookton Slough unit of the Humboldt Bay NWR so now's the time! Enjoy a casual three mile walk out and back along an even trail that takes you out to the edge of Humboldt Bay and back. The trail borders brackish estuary and impressive freshwater marsh that holds numerous dabbling ducks and other water birds. Wear sturdy shoes and bring beverage, a snack and/or lunch. See the birds found at this location during April here: [eBird info](#)

**MEETING LOCATION: Hookton Slough unit parking lot.** [View map](#).

**FR25 Butterflies of Ma'lel Dunes: BROWN ELFINS!**

**\$15**

**10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Leader: Clint Pogue**

Join us to enjoy some of our earliest flying butterflies at Ma-Le'l Dunes North! We will learn a handful of local butterflies at this great gateway to butterfly appreciation. We'll be hiking approximately two miles across sandy terrain, including a steep hike on loose sand near the start and finish. We'll explore an interspersed of shore pines and kinnikinnick which support two types of elfin butterflies: the western pine elfin and the brown elfin. These spring fliers overwinter as pupae and emerge when the weather gets nice. We may also see some echo azures, acmon blues, and painted ladies! We plan to be there for approximately 3 hours,

though this is an out-and-back walk where participants can pace themselves and easily depart at any time. Please bring comfortable sturdy shoes, water, extra water, food, extra food, sunscreen, sunglasses, hat, binoculars, field guides, camera (optional), enthusiasm, and whatever other butterfly gear you may desire!

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby**

**FR26 Shorebird Spectacle at the Arcata Marsh 2 CLASSIC \$15**  
**10:30 a.m.-1:30 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. Restrooms available. Event repeats Saturday (#SA49) and Sunday (#SU77). To see what shorebirds are possible look at the eBird bar charts for April here: [eBird info](#)

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Marsh Klopp Lake parking lot**

**FR27 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 Saturday (#SA53) and Sunday (#SU78).

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby**

**FR28 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**

**FR29 Opening Reception** **FREE**

**5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.**

Light snacks served. Wine, beer, and soda available for purchase, or with Friday night drink ticket.

**Arcata Community Center, Main Hall**

**FR30 Keynote Presentation with the Integral Ecology Research Center** **FREE**

**6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.**

Title: *Listening to the Wrong Owl for the Right Answer*. How Barred Owls Help Uncover Toxic Threats to Spotted Owls and other Forest Wildlife.

**Arcata Community Center, Main Hall**

**FR31 Arcata Marsh Night Walk** **\$15**

**7:45 p.m.-9:15 p.m. Leaders: Lauren Dusek & Christine Champe**

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 demonstrate an acoustic bat detection system to identify the many species of bats that frequent our local area. We'll also be keeping our eyes and ears open for other crepuscular and nocturnal wildlife. Bring a flashlight and wear long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, and other protective clothing for mosquitos. Terrain is flat but may be wet, and we'll keep the lighting low to help us observe wildlife. Restrooms available at the Community Center before the trip.

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby**

**SATURDAY, 19 APRIL 2025**

**SA32 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 (#SU57). Species encountered in April at this location can be seen here: [eBird info](#).

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors**

**SA33 Dawn Chorus – Potowat Health Village** **\$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. Species encountered in April at this location can be seen here: [eBird info](#)

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors**

**SA34 Blue Lake Cottonwoods & Mad River Hatchery** **CLASSIC** **\$25**

**6:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Leader: Owen Sinkus**

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 hatchery.

See the birds found at these locations during April here: [eBird info](#)

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors**

**SA35 West Coast Specialties**

**\$35**

**7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Leaders: Tony Kurz and Cedric Von Briel**

It's been some years since we've offered a West Coast Specialties trip. This trip will be ideal for the out-of-town birder that hasn't birded on the West Coast before and would like to see many of the western specialty birds that call Humboldt County home. Many different habitats will be visited to increase the chances of tallying most of the expected West Coast specialties like Cinnamon Teal, California Quail, Black Turnstone, Surfbird, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Band-tailed Pigeon, Varied Thrush and others. Expect much driving and getting out and walking short distances in varied terrain, most of which will be easily walkable. Not sure of all the locations that will be visited during this trip as it will be up to Tony and Cedric but here's the eBird bar charts for April in Humboldt county here: [eBird info](#)

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, lobby**

**SA36 Big Day Bus Competition 1**

**GOLD**

**\$90**

**7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Leaders: Scott Carey & Mary Severdia**

Last year we tried to do a carpool big day competition but decided that the big day bus is a much better format and easier on the leaders to corral participants from one spot to another. So we're bringing back the Big Day Bus competition! This will be a fast-paced trip that will visit numerous locations in an attempt to see how many species can be found by both teams during 10 hours of intense birding! Expect over 100+ species on this trip. Restrooms available at many locations. Event repeats on Sunday (SU60). Trip report from last year's Big Day trip can be seen here: [eBird info](#)

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors**

**SA37 Horse Mountain & High-Elevation Habitats**

**CLASSIC**

**\$25**

**7:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Leader: Jim McIntosh**

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. Trip report from last year's trip can be seen here: [eBird info](#)

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby**

**SA38 Kneeland & Coastal Prairies of Humboldt** **\$35**

**7:00 a.m.-2:00 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 birding 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. Trip report from last year's trip can be seen here: [eBird info](#)

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors**

**SA39 Birding with the Keynote Speakers** **GOLD** **\$125**

**7:15 a.m.-1:15 p.m. Leaders: Krisztina Scheeff, CJ Ralph**

A unique and interesting birding opportunity is provided on this premier trip. Join this year's keynote speaker, Krisztina Scheeff, and local research ornithologist and Godwit Days board member, Dr. CJ Ralph, on a leisurely field trip to the Bald Hills region to try and photograph California Condors! Krisztina has never had the opportunity to photograph California Condors so we're going to try and help her achieve that wish! This will be a great trip to learn some photography tips from one of the leading professional wildlife photographers in California! After hopefully photographing condors on Bald Hills a private catered lunch will take place at a private residence in Arcata. Restrooms will be available at some stops. Also, be sure to check out the flight photography workshop Krisztina is offering on Sunday (SU70).

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby**

**SA40 Cock Robin Island and Loleta Bottoms** **\$20**

**7:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Leaders: To be determined**

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: [eBird info](#)

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors**

**SA41 Humboldt's Best Birding Spots **GOLD CLASSIC** \$80**

**7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Leader: Keith Slauson & Kathryn (Wendel) West**

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. Trip report from last year's trip can be seen here: [eBird info](#)

**SA42 Bear River Ridge \$35**

**7:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Leader: TBD**

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: [eBird info](#)

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors**

**SA43 Spring Shorebird ID Workshop \$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. Have trouble telling alternate plumaged dowitchers, peeps, the two species of yellowlegs, etc? This is the workshop you need! After the presentation we'll head out into the field and look to practice our newly-learned identification skills on shorebirds in the field! Last year we even found a Baird's Sandpiper, a first for Godwit Days! Restrooms will be available at the community center and various locations while out studying shorebirds. All spots visited during the field portion will be easy walking or roadside birding. Bring a lunch.

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Dining Room**

**SA44 California Condors in Humboldt County! 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! See the bird species seen on last year's trips here: [eBird info](#)

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby**

**SA45 Birding and Biking the Bay Trail \$20**

**9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Leader: Greg Gray & Vitek Jirinec**

This past June (2025) the Humboldt Bay Trail was finished, connecting Arcata to Eureka through a paved multi-use trail! This bike birding trip will explore this recently completed section of the trail, stopping frequently to scope the bay on the rising tide, bringing birds close to the edge of the bay in good lighting. This is a great opportunity to explore parts of Humboldt Bay that before the new trail was put in was basically off limits to the public! Of course bring your bike, snacks, drinks and a lunch if needed. Expect to ride at least 2-4 miles out and back.

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors**

**SA46 Kids' 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, a responsible adult should accompany the child.

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center Lobby**

**SA47 Herpetology Field Trip** **CLASSIC** **\$20**

**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: 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 Shorebird Spectacle at the Arcata Marsh 2** **CLASSIC** **\$15**

**11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.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. Event repeats Sunday (#SU77). To see what shorebirds are possible look at the eBird bar charts for April here: [eBird info](#)

**SA50 Ethnobotany of Humboldt County****FREE****12:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Leader: Adam Canter**

Join Weott Tribe biologist, Adam Canter, on a walk through the new Digawutkh (formerly Samoa Dunes and Wetlands) where you will learn about ecological communities and the cultural uses of plants by local native american tribes. This will be the first trip that Godwit Days has scheduled at this location and Adam has a huge wealth of knowledge about numerous plant species and their cultural uses. A trip not to be missed if you are interested in the cultural significance of local native plants!

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors****SA51 Dune Ecology & the Humboldt Coastal Nature Center****FREE****12:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Leader: Suzie Fortner**

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 renovated earth shelter home that was 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 are available at the Nature Center. Bring a snack and something to drink.

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby****SA52 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****SA53 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 (#SU78).

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby**

**SA54 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**

**SA55 Banquet catered by Cassaro's Catering**

**\$40**

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

Unwind and share highlights of the day with fellow attendees and Godwit Days board members. The menu consists of your choice of Chicken Marsala with mushroom sauce OR vegetarian lasagna; garden salad with shredded beets, carrots, sliced strawberries, and green-onion vinaigrette; grilled vegetables; bread and butter; and Italian Almond Bars with whipped cream and berries. Wine, beer, sparkling water, and coffee will be served. (Pre-dinner wine/beer/soda available for purchase in the main hall during "Happy Hours").

**Arcata Community Center, Dining Room**

**SA56 Keynote Lecture with Krisztina Scheeff**

**\$10**

**7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.**

Title: *Photographing the Spirit of Birds*. (see home page of the website)

**Arcata Community Center, Main Hall**

**SUNDAY, 19 APRIL 2026**

**SU57 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. Species encountered in April at this location can be seen here: [eBird info](#)

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors**

**SU58 Dawn Chorus – Carlson Park CLASSIC \$10**

**6:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m. Leader: TBD**

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. Species encountered in April at this location can be seen here: [eBird info](#)

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors**

**SU59 Del Norte Tufted Puffins GOLD CLASSIC \$80**

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

This is the classic Godwit Days focused on seeing Tufted Puffins from the only site available from land in California. **Please note that in recent years the puffins have been tougher to find and last year (2025) they were missed by the group.** 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 Puffins. 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 possibly 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. Any walking will be on flat terrain except for the uphill walk up to a vantage point on Point Saint George to try and find puffins. Trip report from 2025 can be seen here: [eBird info](#)

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby**

**SU60 Big Day Bus Competition 2** **Gold** **\$90**

**7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Leaders: Kathryn (Wendel) West & Owen Sinkus**

Last year we tried to do a carpool big day competition but decided that the big day bus is a much better format and easier on the leaders to corral participants from one spot to another. So we're bringing back the Big Day Bus competition! This will be a fast-paced trip that will visit numerous locations in an attempt to see how many species can be found by both teams during 10 hours of intense birding! Expect over 100+ species on this trip. Restrooms available at many locations. Event repeats on Sunday (SU60). Trip report from last year's Big Day trip can be seen here: [eBird info](#)

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby**

**SU61 Ferndale Bottoms and Ferndale** **\$25**

**7:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Leader: Cedric Von Briel**

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, Firemans 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. Potential species for this trip can be seen here: [eBird info](#)

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby**

**SU62 Snow Camp Road** **\$30**

**7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m Leader: Ken Burton**

This trip will take participants through mixed conifer forest interspersed with open prairies and oak woodlands as we climb from sea level to 3,500'. As we traverse the ridges we will scan the open skies for raptors. The oak groves host several species including Acorn Woodpecker, Western Bluebird, and White-breasted Nuthatch. All of the birding will be done roadside; spotting scopes are highly recommended. This

event has turned up some interesting species in the past! Pack warm clothes, a snack and plenty of water. There are no designated bathrooms along this route. The roads on this trip are narrow and pullouts are not always where the birds are. This trip is all carpool and all roadside birding. Dress in layers and bring a lunch and plenty of fluids. Potential species for this trip can be seen here: [eBird info](#)

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors.**

**SU63 Trinity River & Willow Creek**      **CLASSIC**      **\$40**  
**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. Trip report from last year can be seen here: [eBird info](#)

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby**

**SU64 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**

**SU65 Gary's Dream Trip**      **GOLD**      **\$80**  
**7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Leaders: Gary Friedrichsen & Rob Fowler**

Gary's Dream trip this year will do a bit of a different route, starting up in Trinidad at Elk Head to Trinidad pier. After Trinidad the trip will head to the Arcata Marsh and Jacoby Creek mouth to look at shorebirds on the rising tide and then head to the mouth of the Elk River and then onto King Salmon. We'll then work our way back through Eureka and maybe stop at the Marsh again depending on the tide or some other spots like Manila Park or the V Street Loop. 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. Trip report from last year can be seen here: [eBird info](#)

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors.**

**SU66 Eel River Estuary Preserve**

**NEW**

**FREE**

**8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Leader: Rebecca Smith and 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.

Potential species that may be encountered on this trip can be seen here: [eBird info](#)

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby**

**SU67 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 third year Godwit Days and Redwood Region Audubon Society have co-hosted a Big Sit! The only other Big Sit from this exact location years ago topped 100+ species during an all day sit. Just show up at the deck of the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center 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, restrooms are in the interpretive center, and this event is accessible to birders with mobility challenges. Potential species for this trip can be seen here: [eBird info](#)

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center deck.**

**SU68 What's Up with them Bird Feet and Bills? NEW \$15**

**8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Leader: Janelle Chojnaki**

Why does an American Avocet have an upturned schimitar-like bill like the Dothraki's weapon of choice (Game of Thrones reference!)? Why does a Northern Shoveler have a shovel-like bill with serrations on the edge of it? Why does a sparrow have a conical bill? How do Marbled Godwits and Long-billed Curlews know when they have found prey deep in the mud while probing with their long, over-sized bills? Why do dabbling ducks have webbed feet while American Coots have lobed feet? All those questions and more will be answered by Janelle on this fun and informative trip focused on learning about the function of the various shapes and sizes of bird bills and feet!

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors.**

**SU69 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 your own beverages and lunch. Potential species for this trip can be seen here: [eBird info](#)

**SU70 Bird Flight Photography Workshop \$20**

**9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Leader: Krisztina Scheeff**

It can be incredibly rewarding to photograph birds in flight. Equally, however, there can be nothing more frustrating than the very same thing. In this classroom & field workshop professional photographer Krisztina Scheeff with KS Nature Photography will teach you lots of tips and tricks, camera settings and more to help you get those fantastic in flight bird shots. After a 1 hour room presentation you will join her in the field for a hands-on, real action photography lesson to put those skills you learned to work. The 2 hour field portion will truly test your patience and birds in flight photography skills but it will be a lot of fun and you will come away with added skills on how to photograph birds in flight!

Bring a camera, and a tripod or monopod, if you like. Suitable for beginner to advanced levels. This is not a workshop for photography with a cell phone.

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center dining room.**

**SU71 California Condors in Humboldt County! **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! See the bird species seen on last year's trips here: [eBird info](#)

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby**

**SU72 KING SALMON & FIELDS LANDING \$15**

**9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Leader: to be determined**

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 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. Potential species for this trip can be seen here: [eBird info](#)

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors**

**SU73 Field Sketching & Nature Journaling Workshop \$20**

**10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Leader: Gary Bloomfield & Eden Smith**

This workshop will be co-led by our 2026 Godwit Days artist, Eden Smith, and our local artist and Godwit Days board member, Gary Bloomfield. The workshop will begin with a classroom session and Eden will talk about how she goes about sketching birds and how she comes up with ideas for what medium she uses and 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 techniques. Bring your own paper and drawing supplies. After spending some time in the field the group will head to Redwood Curtain Brewery where they have beer, hard cider, and non-alcoholic options, and lunch from South G Kitchen available for purchase.

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors**

**SU74 Native Plant Yard Tour**

**FREE**

**10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Leader: Lynne Abels**

This trip will be a fun and engaging visit to several private residences that feature bird friendly native plant gardens. You'll learn about the importance of providing cover, host plants for moths and caterpillars, water, and nesting sites. We'll see which native plants are magnets for certain bird species and we'll look at ways you can use northern California native plants to create a beautiful habitat in your own yard.

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby**

**SU75 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**

**SU76 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 or opportunity to use a spotting scope.

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center Lobby**

**SU77 Shorebird Spectacle at the Arcata Marsh 4 CLASSIC \$15**

**12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Leader: To Be Determined**

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.

To see what shorebirds are possible look at the eBird bar charts for April here: [eBird info](#)

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Community Center, Outside front doors**

**SU78 Spotted Owls on Green Diamond Land 4 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 at HumBrews**

**FREE**

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

Join festival attendees, board members, and trip leaders for a pint and some food to wrap up the fun weekend festivities! Free to attend, you are responsible for purchasing your own food and beverages.

**MEETING LOCATION: Arcata Plaza - 856 10th St, Arcata**