

CALIFORNIA REDWOODS BIRDING TRAIL

DEL NORTE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Enter the realm of the California Redwoods Birding Trail after crossing the state line, a landscape containing 419 recorded species of birds and characterized by majestic redwood groves and coastal lagoons. The major town is Crescent City, with the Birding Trail extending through the redwoods south to the Klamath River, and east a short distance along the Smith River. Stop by the Chamber of Commerce on Front Street for a more comprehensive 43-site California Redwoods Birding Trail map and guide. Highlights include Lake Tolowa and Lake Earl near Crescent City; together they comprise the largest coastal lagoon south of Alaska. Castle Rock National Wildlife Refuge is the third largest seabird colony in the Lower 48 states, with 11 species of nesting seabirds. Special birds to watch for are Aleutian Cackling Geese in the verdant fields of the Smith River bottoms and the Northern Spotted Owl in the redwood forests. Perhaps the most exciting and unusual site of the entire birding trail is eight nautical miles to the west of Crescent City on Saint George Reef—a pelagic site and home to the Saint George Reef Lighthouse. A visit by boat will delight you with views of Black-footed Albatross, Sooty Shearwater, and Rhinoceros auklet.



151. Smith River Mouth

From Hwy 101 at OR/CA border, drive 5 mi S to Mouth of Smith River Rd, turn R, and go 0.5 mi to parking lot. The Wild and Scenic Smith River, its free-flowing waters among the cleanest in the lower 48 states, supports large runs of wild salmon. The estuary and mouth are habitat for a variety of year-round resident and migrant birds including Common and Pacific Loon, Brown Pelican, Western Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, and Western and Glaucous-winged Gull. The estuary is the best spot in the county to see Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron and Great Blue Heron. Watch for harbor seal basking in the sun or a local family of river otter.



Sponsor: Crescent City-Del Norte County Chamber of Commerce

152. Alexandre EcoDairy Farm

From Hwy 101 at OR/CA border, drive 10.5 mi S, cross the Smith River, turn R on Lake Earl Dr, then first R on Bailey, first L on Mosley, turn R at T on Lower Lake Rd, drive 1 mi to turnout by red building on R to view pond. Best birded by car, the pond and verdant fields of this beautiful EcoDairy is a must-see because of the concentrations of waterfowl and shorebirds and the possibility of rarities. The pond's water is lowest in fall and highest winter-spring when Mallard, Gadwall, American Wigeon, yellowlegs, dowitchers and sandpipers congregate and Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawk and Peregrine Falcon appear. Rarities have included Eurasian Wigeon, Tundra Swan, and Emperor Goose. Common birds are Bald Eagle, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Great Blue Heron, and Aleutian Cackling Goose. A small herd of American Bison roam the fields.



Sponsor: Alexandre EcoDairy Farms

153. Pala Road and Smith River Bend

From Hwy 101 at the OR/CA border, drive 10.5 mi S, cross the Smith River, turn R on Lake Earl Dr, then first R on Bailey, first L on Mosley, turn R at T on Lower Lake Rd and drive through the Smith River bottoms until road ends at Tedsen Dairy. Turn L onto Pala Rd (graveled) to end at a locked gate and parking area.

The Smith River bottomlands during spring migration offer the spectacle of thousands of Aleutian Cackling Goose, an Endangered Species Act success story, grazing in the fields. Look in trees bordering the pasturelands for roosting Great Egret and Great Blue Heron and an occasional Bald Eagle. Through the gate to the first dune is a good area for White-tailed Kite, Northern Harrier, American Pipit, Horned Lark, and Lapland Longspur. North of the parking area, take the trail towards the river and walk the banks to see Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Tundra Swan, and gulls in winter. Black-crowned Night-heron often roost on the opposite shore. A colony of Bank Swallow and all seven species of swallows including Purple Martin occur in summer.



Sponsor: Alexandre EcoDairy Farms

154. Lake Tolowa Estuary

From Hwy 101 at the OR/CA border, drive 10.5 mi S, cross the Smith River, turn R on Lake Earl Dr, then first R on Bailey, first L on Mosley, turn L at T on Lower Lake Rd and turn R on Kellogg Rd. Go 0.8 mi to L on Tell Blvd in the failed Pacific Shores subdivision. Go 0.4 mi to 3rd intersection, turn R 0.2 mi to T and turn L. Bear left at 0.1 and 0.6 mi from T and continue straight for 2.4 mi to end and park.

Lake Tolowa and Lake Earl comprise the West's largest coastal lagoon south of Alaska and form the heart of 11,000 acres of protected land. This is a designated California Important Bird Area with 300 bird species recorded. On the straightaway before the lagoon, look for Northern Shrike and American Pipit in winter and Vesper and Savannah Sparrow in summer. Northern Harrier, Short-eared Owl, Horned Lark, and Lapland Longspur are also seen in this area. Walk south either via the beach or along the lagoon to Lake Tolowa mouth. See American and Pacific Golden-Plover, Pectoral Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, Western Sandpiper, Great Egret, Great Blue Heron, and Western Snowy Plover. Rarities have included Mountain Plover, Upland Sandpiper, Elegant Tern, and Snow Bunting.



Sponsor: Tolowa Dunes Stewards

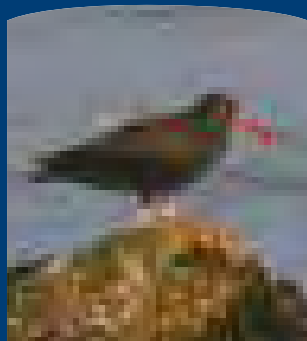


PHOTO BY: RICHARD GRONBERG

Black Oystercatcher

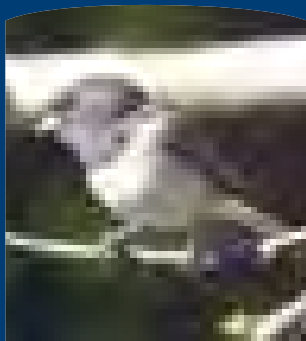


PHOTO BY: LOIS MILLER

Dark-eyed Junco

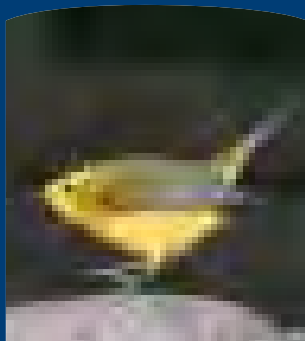


PHOTO BY: TERRY STEELE/NATUREPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Wilson's Warbler

BIRDING TIP

Winter storms with sustained westerly winds can push seabirds close to shore, but be sure to dress appropriately for inclement weather.

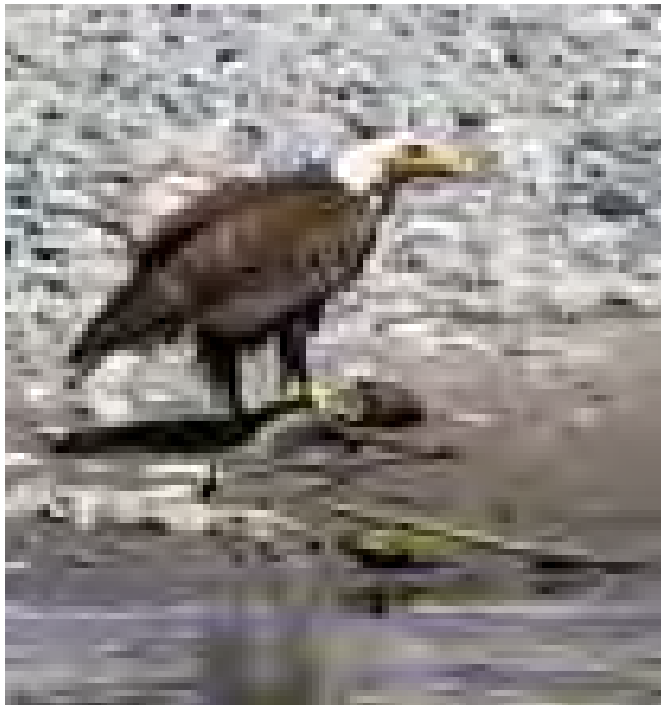


PHOTO BY: LOIS MILLER

Bald Eagle

155. Lake Earl Coastal Lagoon Trail

From Hwy 101 at the OR/CA border, drive 10.5 mi S, cross the Smith River, turn R on Lake Earl Dr, and follow S 4.6 mi to parking lot on R.

A 1-mile loop trail traverses coastal sitka spruce/grand fir forest, where views of Lake Earl and Brush and Jordan Creek estuaries may reveal flocks of waterfowl or shorebirds in migration, with Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon interspersed. In the marshes see Northern Harrier, Great Egret, Green Heron, Common Yellowthroat, and Marsh Wren. Find American Bittern, Virginia Rail, and Sora in winter. When lagoon level recedes, mudflats support large numbers of shorebirds, mostly sandpipers and Long and Short-billed Dowitcher.



Sponsor: Flight Feathers Wild Bird Rescue

156. Lake Earl Coastal Lagoon Boat Launch

From Hwy 101 at the OR/CA border, drive 10.5 mi S, cross the Smith River, turn R on Lake Earl Dr and follow 5.5 mi S. Turn R on Lakeview Dr and go 0.8 mi to boat launch.

Alive with waterfowl from fall-spring, fluctuating water level ensures ever-changing bird variety, including Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Snipe, Black Phoebe, Marsh Wren, Common Yellowthroat, Red-winged Blackbird, Peregrine Falcon, and Red-shouldered Hawk. Band-tailed Pigeon frequent nearby spruce trees. Pied-billed Grebe, American Bittern, Gadwall, Virginia Rail, American Coot, Marsh Wren, and an isolated colony of Western Grebe breed at the lagoon.



Sponsor: Lake Earl Audubon Branch/Redwood Region Audubon Society

157. Point St. George

From Hwy 101 S in Crescent City, take Washington Blvd exit W. From Hwy 101 N take Parkway Dr exit, turn W on Washington Blvd to Pebble Beach Dr, follow curve to R and park in any turnout on L, or drive 1.1 mi to parking lot.

Look northwest to see the St. George Reef Lighthouse built after the wreck of the steamer (*Brother Johnathan*) in 1865. Find Black-legged Kittiwake, Marbled Murrelet, Rock Sandpiper, Sanderling, Surfbird, Tufted Puffin, Rhinoceros Auklet, Aleutian Cackling Goose, Northern Harrier, Western Meadowlark, American Pipit, Cliff Swallow, Lapland Longspur, and Savannah Sparrow, rarely a Black-footed Albatross. At winter's dusk, look for a Short-eared Owl in the grasslands to the east of the parking lot.



Sponsor: Elk Valley Rancheria

158. Castle Rock National Wildlife Refuge

From Hwy 101 S in Crescent City, take Washington Blvd exit W. From Hwy 101 N, take Parkway Dr exit, turn W on Washington Blvd and proceed to coast turning S or NW to access pullouts.

Castle Rock, part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, is the second largest seabird colony in California and third largest in the Lower 48 states. Spotting scopes are strongly recommended to view this large offshore island from the pullout or hike to bluff top. Eleven seabird species breed here: 80,000+ Common Murre, Leach's Storm-Petrel, Cassin's Auklet, Brandt's Cormorant, Western Gull, Pigeon Guillemot, Pelagic Cormorant, Rhinoceros Auklet, Fork-tailed Storm-petrel, Black Oystercatcher, and Tufted Puffin. May to July is the best time to experience breeding activity. In late-March annual Aleutian Goose Festival: A Celebration of Wildness in Crescent City coincides with thousands of Aleutian Cackling Geese using Castle Rock as primary spring stag-

ing ground. See spectacular fly-offs at dawn. View the Rock upclose by charter, see St. George Reef (Pelagic site) description.



Sponsor: Aleutian Goose Festival



PHOTO BY: DON MUNSON

Allen's Hummingbird

159. Pebble Beach Drive

From Hwy 101 in Crescent City, go W on 9th St to Pebble Beach Dr, turn L or R for birding and coastal access (*Brother Jonathan Overlook to L, most of Pebble Beach Dr to R*).

Best birded by car and with a spotting scope, Pebble Beach Drive boasts beautiful beaches, abundant tidepools and superb viewing of shorebirds including Rock Sandpiper, Willet, Wandering Tattler, Whimbrel, Black Oystercatcher, Black Turnstone, and Surfbird. Watch for Bar-tailed Godwit at Marhoffer Creek. During spring and fall migration, watch and listen for all species of swallows, also sparrows, pipits, blackbirds, crows and ravens. Scope offshore rocks and surf for Brown Pelican, Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorant, Black Scoter, and Common Murre. At Brother Jonathan Overlook S of 9th Street watch gray whales in winter.



Sponsor: Elk Valley Rancheria

160. Battery Point Lighthouse

From Hwy 101 in Crescent City, turn W on Front St to A St, turn L and go 2 blocks to Battery Point parking lot. The lighthouse is accessible only at low tide.

Spectacular location with views of the harbor, rocky coastline, and Pacific Ocean from the longest continually occupied lighthouse on the West Coast (seasonal tours). Good for Heermann's Gull, Brown Pelican, Osprey, Caspian Tern, Black Oystercatcher, Wandering Tattler, Black Turnstone, and Surf-bird. Rarely, spot a Rock Sandpiper. Fish or crab without a license or bird on nearby ADA-accessible B Street Pier.



Sponsor: Del Norte County Historical Society

161. Elk Creek Mouth

From Hwy 101 and Front St in Crescent City, go 0.3 mi W on Front St, turn S on Stamps Way into Beachfront Park, and go 0.15 mi to Howe Dr. Elk Creek is to L approx 100 yards, next to paved bike/ped trail.

Estuary and expansive tidal flats cre-

ate an excellent spot for Western, Glaucous-winged, Mew, California, Heermann's and Herring Gull. This location is seasonal for Caspian Tern, and best local spot for Elegant Tern. Also good for Black-crowned Night-Heron, Western Grebe, Osprey, Great Egret, Red Phalarope, Whimbrel and Sanderling. Walk the trail upstream for rarities including Least Tern. Walking distance to North Coast Marine Mammal Center, Redwood National Park Headquarters, Shoreline RV Park, Ocean World and Cultural Center, where Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center stocks Alan D. Barron's *A Birdfinding Guide to Del Norte County*.



Sponsor: City of Crescent City

162. Crescent City Harbor

From Hwy 101 in S Crescent City, turn W into the harbor on Anchor Way or Citizens Dock Rd, and proceed to parking.

At Anchor Way, the sandy expanse of South Beach is favored by resting Sanderling and Whimbrel. From the top of Whaler's Island spot Common Loon, Western Grebe, Surf Scoter,

and Rhinoceros Auklet in the late fall. Spring to fall, Marbled and Ancient Murrelet are often seen. Watch gray whale migration in winter. From Citizens Dock Road see harbor seal and California sea lion. Surf Scoter, Harlequin Duck, Black and Ruddy Turnstone, Surf-bird, Willet, Whimbrel, Brown Pelican, and Double-crested Cormorant are common among the docks. Good for Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorant, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, and Red-breasted Merganser. Occasional Long-tailed Duck, Osprey, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon. Gulls commonly include Western, Glaucous-winged, Heermann's in June or July, Mew, California, Herring, or Ringed-bill in winter, and occasional Thayer's or Glaucous. Terns are usually Caspian, but may include Elegant.



Sponsor: Aleutian Goose Festival

163. St. George Reef (Pelagic Site)

Six to 11 Nautical mi WNW of Crescent City Harbor. The St. George Reef Lighthouse is at the NW edge of the reef, at approximately 41° 50' 13" N, 124° 22' 30" W.

This is a pelagic (open ocean) area providing a doubly unique experience: rarely seen open-ocean species and close-up of the St. George Reef Lighthouse, completed in 1892. Best visited spring to fall to see Black Footed Albatross, shearwaters, auklets, jaegers, and Ancient and Marbled Murrelet. Guided trips available during the Aleutian Goose Festival (late March/early April, www.aleutian-goosefestival.org) and through the Siskiyou Field Institute (www.thesfi.org.) Charters may also be available at the Crescent City Harbor.



Sponsor: Bicoastal Media

164. Lagoon Creek Coastal Trail and False Klamath Cove

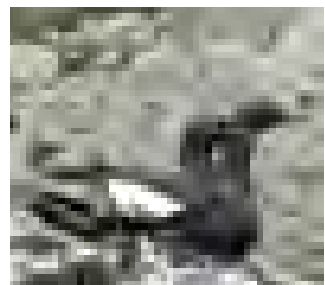
From Hwy 101 & Front St in Crescent City, drive S 14 mi through Del Norte Redwoods State Park. Past the ocean

beach at Wilson Creek, turn R into Trail parking lot.

Easy access to the Pacific Ocean on a hiking trail through coastal willow and brush to an incredible view of a large seastack, False Klamath Rock, which is home to the fourth largest seabird breeding colony on the California coast. More than 25,000 Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, and Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorant nest on the rock. Surf-bird, Brown Pelican, Black Oystercatcher, and Black Turnstone are common in surf and tidal areas.



Sponsor: Trees of Mystery



Pigeon Guillemot

PHOTO BY: DAVE LEDIG/US FISH&WILDLIFE

165. Klamath River Overlook

From Hwy 101 & Front St in Crescent City, drive S 17.7 mi, turn W on Requa Rd, and follow uphill 2.3 mi to Klamath River Overlook.

One of the north coast's most spectacular views is from 600 feet above the river mouth.

Scope Bald Eagle, Osprey, American Kestrel, Common and Pacific Loon, Red-necked and Western Grebe, Surf Scoter, and Black-legged Kittiwake. Common Murre and Pigeon Guillemot are seen in breeding season. Hillside below overlook is alive in spring with Allen's Hummingbird, Wrentit, and Orange-crowned Warbler. May to June watch for migrating Black Swift among Vaux's Swift and swallows. A steep trail near the parking lot entrance winds far down the bluff to a viewing platform, best place to spot seals, sea lions, and whales. The ancestral territory of the Yurok people (People of the Salmon) extends from the mouth



Cedar Waxwing

PHOTO BY: LOIS MILLER

40 miles upriver. They are the largest California tribe with continuous occupancy of their aboriginal lands and still maintain sovereign rights to fish in traditional ways for salmon.



Sponsor: Trees of Mystery

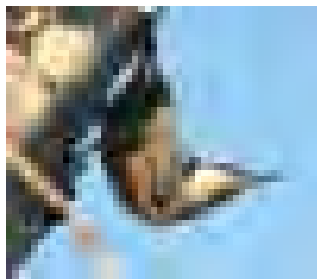
166. Klamath River Mouth

From Hwy 101 & Front St in Crescent City, drive S 21 mi, cross Klamath River, turn R past end of bridge on Klamath Beach Rd, 0.3 mi to Stop sign, turn L, and use turnouts on right to view river area. At 3.2 mi, park on R shoulder before gated road at Yurok Ceremonial Dancing Grounds, walk through Dancing Grounds to beach trail, or at 3.5 mi, view mouth from overlook on R.

Along the lower river, almost any duck is possible, especially in winter including Wood Duck, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Common Merganser, Bufflehead, and Greater Scaup. Watch river bars or treeline for Bald Eagle and Osprey. Estuary attracts large flocks of Western and Glaucous-winged Gull, Double-crested Cormorants, often hundreds of Brown Pelican and Heermann's Gull interspersed with Caspian and Elegant Tern. Common Raven rest on the beach or driftwood. On the ocean side is a haulout for harbor seals and California sea lion. Watch for Common, Pacific, and Red-throated Loon, Western Grebe, Surf Scoter, and Black-legged Kittiwake in winter. Scope for Marbled and Ancient Murrelet. River otters glide and feed along the edge.



Sponsor: Green Diamond Resource Company



Red-breasted Nuthatch

BY: KEVINSMITHNATUREPHOTOS.COM

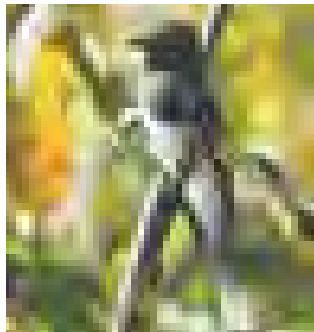
167. Howland Hill Road

From Hwy 101 N of Crescent City, take Hwy 199 E 4.5 mi to Hiouchi, continue 1.5 mi to South Fork/Howland Hill Rd, turn R and cross two bridges. After 2nd bridge, bear R and bird along 10-mi dirt road connecting Hiouchi and Crescent City.

This is an old wagon road that twists through the heart of old-growth redwood forest and provides access to Mill Creek and several hiking trails. Watch for American Dipper, Common Merganser or Osprey from the bridge over Mill Creek. Look and listen for tiny Winter Wren and Swainson's or Varied Thrush along the densely wooded roadside. You may see or hear Marbled Murrelet, Barred Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Vaux's Swift, Wilson's Warbler, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Chestnut-backed Chickadee.



Sponsor: Elk Valley Rancheria



Black Phoebe

PHOTO BY: LOIS MILLER

168. Stout Grove, Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park

From Hwy 101 N of Crescent City, take Hwy 199 E 4.5 mi to Hiouchi, continue 1.5 mi to South Fork/Howland Hill Rd, turn R and cross two bridges. After 2nd bridge, bear R onto Howland Hill Rd, and drive 2.4 mi to the grove.

A ½-mile loop trail is an easy walk in a majestic grove of ancient redwoods, among the first areas protected by Save-the-Redwoods League in California. Forest species include Marbled Murrelet, Swainson's and Varied Thrush, Winter Wren, and



PHOTO BY: RON GREEN

Ospreys

Red-breasted Nuthatch. A short side trail leads from the grove to the banks of the Smith River and the mouth of Mill Creek. Survey the river corridor for Common Merganser, Harlequin Duck, American Dipper, Belted-Kingfisher, and Osprey.



Sponsor: Redwood National and State Parks

169. Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park Campground

N of Crescent City on Hwy 101, take Hwy 199 E 4 mi to Jedediah Smith Redwood State Park Campground, entrance on R.

Beautiful campground among towering redwoods nestled in a curve of the Wild and Scenic Smith River. Possible sightings throughout the campground and day-use area include Vaux's Swift, Hairy and Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Olive-sided and Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Western Wood-pewee, Gray Jay, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hutton's Vireo, Yellow-rumped, Townsend's, Hermit, and Wilson's Warbler, Western Tanager, Purple Finch, Red Crossbill, and Pine Siskin. Along the river look for Common Merganser, Turkey Vulture,

Spotted Sandpiper, Band-tailed Pigeon, Common Raven, and Warbling Vireo. In spring, catch an early morning glimpse of Marbled Murrelet along the river corridor as they fly above the treetops to and from the ocean.



Sponsor: Redwood National and State Parks

170. South Fork Road

From Hwy 101 N of Crescent City, take Hwy 199 E 4.5 mi to Hiouchi, continue 1.5 mi to South Fork/Howland Hill Rd, turn R and cross two bridges. After second bridge, bear left on South Fork Rd.

On the next 14 miles, view and access the Smith River, and pass through creekside riparian areas and varying forest types for good birding, especially during warmer months. Look for Band-tailed Pigeon, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Violet-green Swallow, Steller's Jay, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, American Dipper (at bridges) Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Cassin's, Hutton's and Warbling Vireo. In winter, see breeding Purple Finch, Red Crossbill, and Pine Siskin.



Sponsor: Flockfinders (Alan D. Barron)

171. Gasquet-Orleans (GO) Road

From Hwy 101 N of Crescent City, take Hwy 199 E 4.5 mi to Hiouchi, continue 1.5 mi to South Fork/Howland Hill Rd, turn R, and cross two bridges. After second bridge, bear left on South Fork Rd and continue 14 mi to turnoff for GO Rd and a hard R across river bridge. Follow until the road ends at trailhead for Siskiyou Wilderness. Road subject to winter closure.

The GO Rd was planned for logging access and a paved road from Del Norte County to the tiny town of Orleans on the Klamath River. Construction was halted to protect sacred sites for the Karuk, Hoopa, and Yurok tribes. Make frequent stops for best birding, including Northern Pygmy-owl, Common Nighthawk, Hairy and Pileated Woodpecker, Bushtit, and Red-breasted Nuthatch. Ruffed and Blue Grouse, Mountain Quail, Flam-mulated Owl, Saw-whet Owl, White-headed Woodpecker, Hammond's and Dusky Flycatcher, Cassin's Vireo, and Hermit Warbler breed along this route. This area has easiest and best places to see the Siskiyou/Klamath endemic weeping Brewer's spruce, a relict species from the last ice age.



Sponsor: California Wilderness Coalition

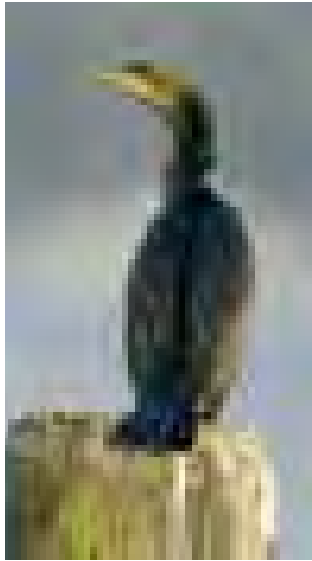


PHOTO BY: RON GREEN

Double-crested Cormorant

172. Knopki Creek Road

From Hwy 101 N of Crescent City, take Hwy 199 E to the town of Gasquet. From the small white Smith River NRA visitor center on L, continue 15.4 mi to graveled Knopki Creek Rd (18N07), turn R. Bird along this ascending road for 13.4 miles to the Young's Valley/Sanger Lake trail marker. Road subject to winter closure.

A scenic route into the Smith River National Recreation Area to view high elevation birds, the first few miles climb through a Douglas-fir and



PHOTO BY: RICHARD CRONBERG

Bonaparte's Gull



PHOTO BY: RICHARD CRONBERG

Golden-crowned Sparrow

tanoak dominated forest. Watch for Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Cassin's and Hutton's Vireo, and Black-throated Gray and Hermit Warbler during the breeding season. Northern Pygmy-owl are in the area and often attract the harsh calls of Bushtit, Wrentit, Nashville, and MacGillivray's Warbler, and Spotted Towhee. Good high country candidates are Mountain Quail and Ruffed Grouse. The alder- and maple-lined creeks and riparian areas attract swallowtail and sisters butterflies in the hottest weather.



Sponsor: Flockfinders (Alan D. Barron)

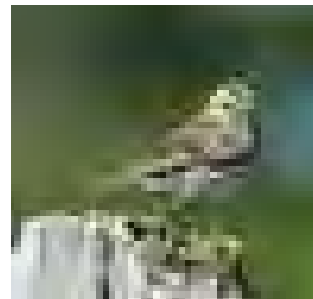


PHOTO BY: LOIS MILLER

Savannah Sparrow

173. Young's Valley and Sanger Lake

From Hwy 101 N of Crescent City take Hwy 199 E to the town of Gasquet. From the small white Smith River NRA visitor center on L continue 15.4 mi to the graveled Knopki Creek Rd (18N07) and turn R, drive 13.4

miles to the Young's Valley/Sanger Lake trail marker. Drive R 1.5 mi to Young's Valley Trail or L 0.5 mi to Sanger Lake.

The high country has serpentine soils that host a unique variety of endemic plants and trees, which support species of birds that are otherwise rare to the region. Old-growth cedars and fir host Brown Creeper, Mountain Chickadee, Cassin's Finch, and Dark-eyed Junco. Watch for Red-breasted Sapsucker and White-headed Woodpecker. Rarities include Northern Goshawk and Golden Eagle. Wildflowers and hummingbirds abound in late summer in Young's Valley, one of the jewels of the Siskiyou Wilderness. Many wonderful backpacking routes begin at this trailhead. Tiny Sanger Lake attracts thirsty wildlife on warm days.



Sponsor: California Wilderness Coalition

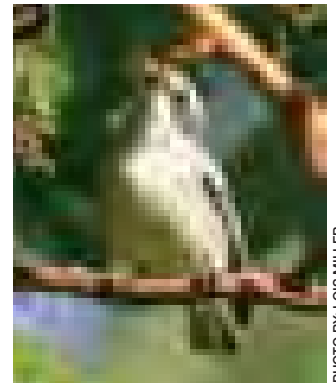
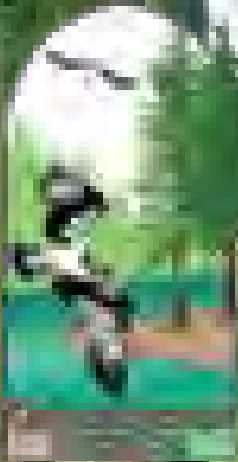


PHOTO BY: LOIS MILLER

Black-throated Gray Warbler

CALIFORNIA REDWOODS



Del Norte County is one of the most exciting and scenic places to visit in search of birds on the West Coast, or in the entire United States. This tiny county in the northwest corner of California has recorded more species of birds (419 as of 2006) than eighteen entire states and nine Canadian territories and provinces.

The rugged natural beauty of the California Redwoods Birding Trail is unrivaled. This is a place where ancient redwoods thrive, rivers run free, and wild salmon still spawn. Here, rare bird, plant, and fish species rebound rather than disappear.

GLOBAL NATURAL TREASURES

California's most northwest county contains over fifty miles of pristine coastline and tens of thousands of acres of public lands. Castle Rock National Wildlife Refuge protects the second largest seabird colony in the state. The Lake Earl Coastal Lagoon is the West Coast's largest estuarine lagoon outside of Alaska, and provides a major migratory stopover during peak times along the Pacific Flyway.

Redwood National and State Parks protect the world's tallest trees and include 75 miles of trails for exploration. The Smith River National Recreation Area offers outstanding recreation and showcases the Smith River, the nation's longest wild and scenic river. The adjacent Six Rivers National Forest contains unmatched geologic complexity and an immense plant diversity of global significance, as well as the rugged and pristine Siskiyou Wilderness. The Klamath River borders the southern entrance to the county and is, along with the Smith River, renowned for its world-class steelhead and salmon fishing.

CRESCENT CITY

The county's largest town, Crescent City, with its outlying ranch and farmlands, enjoys a quiet and casual atmosphere while offering comfortable lodging accommodations. Steeped in history and Native American culture, it hosts several museums, two lighthouses, and a variety of restaurants and recreational activities for every type of visitor and pocketbook, from golfing to beachcombing.

The growing and working harbor of Crescent City, where whale watching, fishing, and pelagic tours can be chartered, is also home to an established commercial fishing fleet that provides seafood for California markets, and seasonally sells fresh Dungeness crab or albacore right off the docks.

Brookings

OREGON
CALIFORNIA

Crescent
City

Del Norte
County

BACKGROUND PHOTO COURTESY OF
F. L. HISER, JR.

DESIGN BY GRADY GRAPHICS
GRADYGRAPHICS@CHARTER.NET

BIRDING TRAIL

Crescent City - Del Norte County

www.californiaredwoodsbirdingtrail.org

California Redwoods Birding Trail Sponsors



707.464.7483
www.crescentcity.org

TREES OF MYSTERY

707.482.2251
www.treesofmystery.net



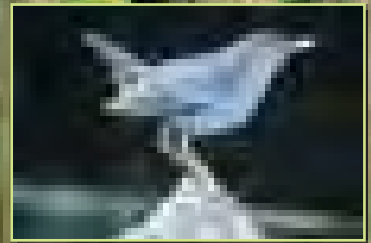
707.464.4680
www.elk-valley.com

707.487.1000 www.ecodairyfarms.com



Spotted Owl

PHOTO BY ROY IRVING



American Dipper

PHOTO COURTESY OF
REDWOOD NATIONAL & STATE PARKS



Wood Duck

PHOTO BY ROY IRVING



Aleutian Cackling Goose

PHOTO BY CLAY TAYLOR
SMAROVSKI OPTIK