



# UPWIND

from the Arcata Marsh  
Interpretive Center  
Vol 22, Issue 2, Spring 2015

**Our Mission:** To stimulate understanding of the Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary, its relationship with Arcata's integrated wastewater treatment system, the surrounding watersheds and bay, and their link with the Earth's water cycle

*In This Issue: Ant Talk... Amazon Smile... Fire Lecture... Poster Art Reception... HSU Volunteer Fair... Duck Day... Science Fair Awards... TACO Day... Zoo Outing... Work Days... Boys & Girls Club Talk... Thanks Godwit Days Volunteers... What's New at AMIC... Sydney Stewart... Student Bird Art Contest Results... Turtle Talk... Starling Story... Artists... TripAdvisor... Desperately Seeking Volunteers... Calendar... Visitor Log... Members & Donors*



John Helie with a thatch ant mound, circa 1978, near Airport Road in McKinleyville.

## Ant Behavior Lecture May 15

FOAM is sponsoring a free public lecture by John Helie at the Interpretive Center starting at 7:30 p.m. Helie is an HSU behavioral science graduate who studied thatch ant (*Formica rufa*) mounds in the late 1970s and early 1980s. His particular interest is in how these super-organism mounds, which are found in many areas in Humboldt County, control their temperature. For more information, or to guarantee a seat, call 826-2359.

## FOAM Can Earn \$ through Amazon Smile

Those of you who shop online through Amazon can have a percentage (0.5%) of your purchases automatically donated to FOAM. There is no extra cost tacked on to your purchase: all you have to do is go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and select "Friends of the Arcata Marsh" as your designated charity. Then, begin any search for products at the Smile URL. (Starting at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) will remind you to do that).

## Fire Ecology Talk June 19

Jeff Kane, director of HSU's Wildland Fire Lab, will give a free public lecture on "The importance of pyrodiversity to northern California ecosystems." Given the fire at the Marsh last August, there was high interest in finding a speaker to tell us about the effects of fire, so thank you, Elliott, for scheduling this talk!

The diversity of ecosystems in northern California is partially due to the pyrodiversity of the region. Pyrodiversity is the variation of fire characteristics across space and time. In most cases, organisms are not simply adapted to fire, but require specific fire characteristics to persist on the landscape. This talk will present regional examples of native plants and their different strategies to persist in fire-prone ecosystems. However, changes to the fire regimes due to past land management and current issues as-

sociated with climate change pose unique challenges to many northern California ecosystems.

Kane's research focuses on better understanding the impacts of fire and other disturbances on wildlands and to provide information that will improve the management, restoration, and conservation of these ecosystems. He is assistant professor of Fire Ecology and Fuels Management in the Department of Forestry and Wildland Resources at HSU.



## 2014-15 Board of Directors & Officers

### Officers

*President:* Mary Burke (also Education)

*Vice-President:* Elliott Dabill (also Education; Lectures; Computer)

*Secretary:* Katy Allen (also Education; Exhibits; Membership)

*Treasurer:* Sue Leskiw (also UPWIND Editor; Mailing; Publicity; Exhibits; Scrapbook; Website)

### Other Board Members

David Couch (Special Events)

Betsy Elkinton (Education)

John McNeely (Education)

Ivan Soto (Habitat Concerns; Publicity)

Alex Stillman (Special Events)

Janet Zich (Membership; Website; Facebook)

George Ziminsky (Habitat Concerns)

**FOAM website: [www.arcatamarshfriends.org](http://www.arcatamarshfriends.org)**



(From left) Gary Bloomfield, Rick Kruse, Sara Starr, Joan Dunning, Linda Parkinson, and Patricia Sennott. Photo by Sue Leskiw.

## Two Decades of Godwit Posters

By Sue Leskiw

Six of the 13 individuals who have created artwork featured on 20 years' worth of Godwit Days festival posters were among the more than 60 people who attended a reception at the Interpretive Center on April 3. The event was co-sponsored by Friends of the Arcata Marsh and Godwit Days to showcase the many ways that the Marbled Godwit, the signature species of Arcata's annual spring birding event has been depicted.

I made special bird-shaped cookies (lavender-mint hummingbirds, lemon-poppysseed chicks, chocolate owls, and gingerbread ducks) and Alex Stillman, Katy Allen, and Gretchen O'Brien also contributed desserts. A big thank you to the North Coast Co-op for donating roll-ups and mini-muffins.

Visitors during April were encouraged to vote for their favorite posters. The results were #1—Gary Bloomfield's 2015 design; #2—Joan Dunning's 2008 illustration from her book, *Secrets of the Nest*; and #3—a tie between Gary's 2004 godwit's-eye view of Arcata and Linda Parkinson's 1998/99 group of shorebirds.

## Career Expo & Volunteer Fair

By Katy Allen

On February 12, Humboldt State held its annual Career Expo & Volunteer Fair. Over 70 businesses and nonprofits tabled the event. FOAM City Council Liaison Paul Pitino and I were there to answer questions and, hopefully, recruit volunteers. About 40 people, mostly students, stopped by to ask about volunteer opportunities at the Marsh. Many were environmental majors of some sort. Twenty-five were serious enough about volunteering to submit names, phone numbers, and e-mails, requesting to be notified of future volunteer events.

## Lucky Ducks at the Marsh

Duck Day at the Marsh on February 28 saw 31 kids and 23 adults come through the Interpretive Center to partake of the free crafts and educational event sponsored by the HSU Student Chapter of the California Waterfowl Association. KIEM Channel 3 news stopped by and took some footage of this third annual event cosponsored by FOAM. Volunteers were Liz Belo-Rex, Ian Clark, Matt Ruso, Steven Jensen, Diana Gutierrez, Sarah Conger, Mindy McClurg, Ariella Friedman, Eloy Lopez, and Scott Capra.



## FOAM Science Fair Awards

By Sue Leskiw

For the 10th year, FOAM sponsored an award at the Humboldt County Science Fair in mid-March for the best project related to wetlands. Due to the quality of the projects in 2015, a second-place prize was given.

First place of \$50 went to "Death by Salt: An experiment to test the salinity tolerance of microorganisms at the Arcata Marsh" by Perrin Turney, a 9th-grader at Six Rivers Charter High School. He hypothesized that marsh microorganisms would be salt tolerant (i.e., able to survive more than one week) to a ratio of 0.6 g of sea salt to 100 ml of water. His experiment, which followed the survival rates of nine microorganisms in varying salt solutions, found that most protozoans, algae, and microscopic aquatic organisms died quickly in salinities over 0.5 g/mL. While most could tolerate mild salinity (up to 0.2 g/mL) for a couple of days, they could not survive long term.

Second prize of \$25 was awarded to Nigella Baur, an 8th-grader at Sunny Brae Middle School. Her project was "Can the Number of Birds Be a Predictor of Coliform Levels in the Arcata Marsh?" She counted birds and collected water samples at the outlets of Allen, Gearheart, and Hauser Marshes. Nigella hypothesized that higher numbers of birds would correlate with increased coliform levels. However, her research "trend lines" showed that there was no significant relationship between bird numbers and coliform concentrations. One real-world application of her information is that "shellfish farmers on Humboldt Bay should not rely on bird counts to predict whether the water surrounding their farms is in danger of coliform contamination."

Perrin, Nigella, and Zoie Andre, a 6th-grader at Sunnybrae Middle School who researched soil organic carbon at the Marsh, were among the 18 Humboldt students selected to present at the California State Science Fair Competition in Los Angeles. They have all been invited to display their projects at the Interpretive Center during June.





*A family peers out from the Log Pond dock. Photo by Ivan Soto.*

## TACO Day Attracts Hundreds

*By Sue Leskiw*

FOAM was among the many nonprofit environmental education groups that participated in the third annual Take a Child Outside (TACO) Day held March 28 at the Arcata Marsh. Some 325 people checked in at the welcome table in the South G Street parking lot, including teachers from 17 different schools and many children and their families.

FOAM Board member Ivan Soto took visitors out on the Log Pond dock to quietly observe wildlife for four solid hours, while I staffed an information table inside the Interpretive Center. Organizer Allison Poklemba from the HSU Natural History Museum and Redwood Science Project reports nothing but positive feedback from those visiting the activity stations around the Log Pond loop and AMIC during this nature exploration day and environmental education resource fair for kids, parents, and teachers.

## Stampede at the Zoo

*By Sue Leskiw*

On a sunny Sunday, April 26, Ivan Soto and I took a FOAM craft activity to the Sequoia Park Zoo's Party for the Planet. Ivan had suggested offering toilet paper tube binoculars that the kids could decorate. I added a Bird Color Bingo game, with those successfully completing the card having their choice of a Marsh Wood Duck postcard or Great Blue Heron temporary tattoo. There was hardly a lull during our nearly 4-hour shift, as families took advantage of the free admission day. More than 130 kids stopped by our table to draw on the binoculars and many of them returned to claim their prize. Some even played "Black-out Bingo" and checked off all 9 squares on the bingo card, or wrote the name of the bird next to its appropriate color. Ivan deserves special recognition for gluing the tubes together, hole punching them, and stringing the jute straps.



*Decorating and showing off binoculars. Photos by Ivan Soto.*



## February Work Days

*By George Ziminsky*

At FOAM's February 7 work day, an HSU student left contact information about helping around the Marsh, working with other members of BLESD (Buikwe Local Education & Sustainability Development), a nonprofit formed to help a village in Uganda. Five volunteers from that group came on February 25 (plus Ned Forsyth, a Sierra Club volunteer who often makes it to work days) and continued working north through the burn area, removing hemlock and Himalayan blackberry. The HSU students are hoping to be regular volunteers at the Marsh! FOAM thanks Arcata Pizza & Deli for donating three large pizzas on Feb. 7. The next Marsh work day co-sponsored by the City is on July 11.



## Leslie Presents at Eureka Boys & Girls Club

On March 20, the Redwoods Teen Center was the site of a slide presentation given by long-time FOAM volunteer Leslie Scopes Anderson. Her talk, entitled "Keep Wetlands Wild," focused on the importance of coastal marshes for wildlife habitat and humans' quality of life. The Arcata Marsh provided the backdrop, as she used many of her photographs to show the beauty and variety of plants, birds, and mammals there.

The many habitats—salt marsh, freshwater marsh, tidal mudflats, and grassy uplands—were featured and explained. Threats to and tips for preserving wetlands were also mentioned. About 25 teens and a few staff members from the Boys & Girls Club attended, asked questions, and enjoyed the presentation.



## Godwit Days Volunteers

By Sue Leskiw

FOAM sends out a heartfelt thank you to the following people who volunteered to help with FOAM activities at the 20th Annual Godwit Days Festival in April:

► Milt Boyd and George Ziminsky gave a Friday night “Spotlight Organization” Powerpoint presentation about the Arcata Marsh—focusing on birds and wastewater treatment—that was created by Mary Burke.

► FOAM’s Bird Fair booth was staffed by Milt Boyd, Gail Coonen, Sue Leskiw, Karolyn Merz, Paul Pitino, Beverly Post, and Janet Zich.

► Helpers who hung the 515 pieces of student bird art were Katy Allen, Ken Burton, Sue Leskiw, Syndee Noel, Susan Penn, Lucy Salazar, and George Ziminsky. Thanks to Sue Leskiw, Alex O’Brien, David Price, and several Klamath Bird Observatory associates for taking it down.

► Our appreciation goes to Jay Seeger for taking photos of the art winners and to Sue Leskiw and Denise Seeger for handing out the awards.

► Katy Allen, Sue Leskiw, high schoolers Marycarmen Murillo and Braedon Lee, Susan Ornelas, Barbara Reisman and four of her HSU ESL students (Matheus Siqueira Barros, Moreno Pereira, Fahad Al-jawaid, and Almahdi Alsalam), and Mary Romaidis—plus Scott Capra, Molly Shea, and Yvette Ferrerira from the HSU student chapter of the California Waterfowl Association—welcomed well over 60 children plus their parents during 2 hours of nature craft activities. Stations were peanut hummingbird ornaments, rock ducks, wooden bird calls, fish prints, peanut butter pinecone bird feeders, owl hangers, and oyster shell refrigerator magnets.

► Betsy Elkinton and Katy Allen led children’s bird walks at the Marsh, while George Ziminsky and David Couch led a combined bird walk/wastewater treatment plant tour, where a Sage Thrasher—the rarest bird of the entire festival—was spotted (see photo, p. 9)



*Scenes from Godwit Days family nature crafts. Photos by Sue Leskiw.*



## What's New at AMIC

By Gretchen O'Brien

We have a new naturalist on staff, Sydney Stewart, a recent HSU graduate who also works at the Northcoast Environmental Center [see article in right column].

New temporary displays include "The near-demise of Snowy Egrets due to the 'Bird Hat Craze' of the late 1800s" (which I created) and "The restoration of Indian Island." The latter was produced and donated by Wiyot tribal member and HSU student Patty Torres.

The native plant garden is coming along nicely. Thanks go to Arcata's Environmental Services Department and Northern Humboldt Employment Services for creating the new path; Lost Foods Native Plant Nursery for donating the plants; Beneficial Living Center for donating compost; Sonoma State Alternative Spring Break students for weeding; George Ziminsky for transplanting native lupine; and FOAM for purchasing the plant labeling products. A formal dedication will be held this summer.

A flyer display case has been built and donated by Eagle Scout Westin McHaney and is awaiting installation on the outside wall of the Interpretive Center (so we can finally clear the front door of poster clutter). Another generous donation came from Milt Boyd in the form of a carved wooden Great Blue Heron that stands over 2 feet tall and is intended to be placed on the ledge above the presentation screen.

Old track lighting bulbs have been replaced with high-efficiency LED bulbs, thanks to Redwood Coast Energy Authority.

Donations to our children's library have come from Joe Mateer, Jane Wilson, Julie Neander, Alex Stillman, Mary Langley, Janet Fesler, Cathy Falletta, Mary Jane Ashton, Sue Leskiw, and myself.

The Interpretive Center experienced a spike in visitation over the Godwit Days weekend! Visitors and locals alike enjoyed several guided birding walks around the Marsh.



Westin with case. Photo by Mary Burke.



Milt's egret. Photo by Gretchen O'Brien.

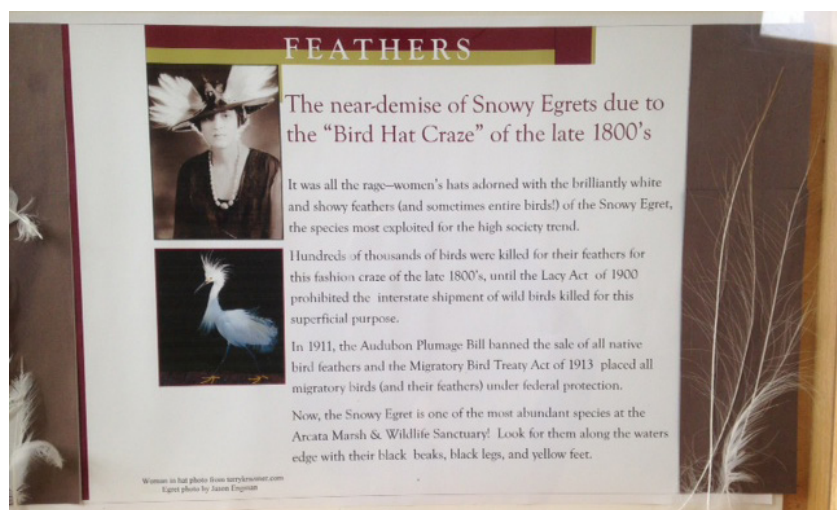


## Hello, Sydney

My name is Sydney Stewart. I have spent the last six years in Humboldt County and recently graduated from HSU with a BS in Environmental Management and Protection, Planning emphasis. I also work as the membership associate at the Northcoast Environmental Center and am studying to earn my Wilderness EMT certificate at the end of May.

As an avid backpacker and hiker, I have grown a deep appreciation not only for the vast, wild landscapes in our area and beyond, but also for the smaller intricacies found within those landscapes, such as the botany and wildlife.

Working at AMIC has allowed me to share my passion for nature and the outdoors while learning a great deal from visitors. Interacting with folks and hearing about experiences or knowledge is truly the highlight of my day; so next time you're at the Marsh, please come by to say hello!



Egret feather exhibit. Photo by Gretchen O'Brien.



## Student Bird Art Contest Results

By Sue Leskiw

Some 515 local K-12 students pulled out paints, pencils, pastels, or paste to enter the Twelfth Annual Student Bird Art Contest held in association with the 20th Annual Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival in mid-April. Friends of the Arcata Marsh (FOAM) and Redwood Region Audubon Society (RRAS) cosponsored the competition.

All entries were displayed at the Arcata Community Center during the Festival, and copies of the first-, second-, and third-place winners, as well as Best Bird in Habitat awards, will be hung at the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center during May. A downloadable booklet containing the artwork, as well as group photos of the winners taken during the awards ceremony, will be posted at [www.rras.org](http://www.rras.org).

Prizes totaling \$550 were given out, thanks to FOAM and RRAS. Thirty-six of those were monetary prizes, plus 14 honorable mentions. The winners were:

### Kindergarten

First Place: Malachi Brown, Alder Grove Charter, Bald Eagle

Second Place: Rory Harling, Forks of Salmon Elementary, Hummingbird

Third Place: Keira Wiley, Green Point School, Steller's Jay

### Grade 1

First Place: Lorenzo Amaro, Fuente Nueva Charter, Snowy Plover

Second Place: Ozero Stroven, Mistwood Educational Center, Bald Eagle

Third Place: Bela Randles, Studio School/Union Street Charter, Red-breasted Nuthatch

### Grade 2

First Place: Ruby Soto, Junction Elementary, White-tailed Kite

First Place: Saanvi Virnave, Fuente Nueva Charter, Snowy Plover



Second Place: Solana Mendole-Nickole, Fuente Nueva Charter, American Avocet

Second Place: Shekina McCullough, Forks of Salmon Elementary, Anna's Hummingbird

Third Place: Kaelyn Gray, Fuente Nueva Charter, Red-breasted Nuthatch

### Grade 3

First Place: Marius Renzullo, Fuente Nueva Charter, Bald Eagle

Second Place: Meguire Bartosz, Fuente Nueva Charter, Snowy Plover

Second Place: Cadence Tyler, Fuente Nueva Charter, Common Yellowthroat

Third Place: Rafaela Ford, Coastal Grove Charter, Black Oystercatcher

Third Place: Vanessa King, Orleans Elementary, American Avocet

### Grade 4

First Place: Jordan Brown, Alder Grove Charter, Cinnamon Teal

First Place: Elizabeth Schroer, Six Rivers Montessori, Red-tailed Hawk

Second Place: Rogue Russell, Studio School/Union Street Charter, Red-tailed Hawk

Second Place: Cove Bavin, Fuente Nueva Charter, Bald Eagle

Third Place: Teryn Madison, Orleans Elementary, Western Tanager

Third Place: Mireya Luna Garcia, Fortuna Youth Arts, Northern Flicker

### Grades 5 & 6

First Place: Richard Elam, Morris Elementary, Belted Kingfisher

First Place: Finn Murphy, Union Street Charter, Peregrine Falcon

Second Place: Mackenzie Whightsil, Mattole Valley Charter, Steller's Jay

Second Place: Roselyn Soto, Junction Elementary, Brown Pelican

Third Place: Emma Foley, Hydesville Elementary, Northern Flicker

Third Place: Owen Harling, Forks of Salmon Elementary, Great Blue Heron





### **Grades 7 through 12**

First Place: Tori McConnell, Alder Grove Charter, Marbled Godwits in Flight

Second Place : Patrick Woldruff, Zoe Barnum High, American Robin

Third Place: Kailey Fuerstenberg, Mattole Valley Charter, Barn Owl

### **Best Depiction of Bird in Habitat Award**

Nate Hatter, Grade 2, Trinity Valley Elementary, Northern Flicker

Owen Donofrio, Grade 3, Orleans Elementary, Great Egret

Elisha Green, Grade 4, Kneeland School, American Kestrel

Ian Letts, Grade 5, Six Rivers Montessori, Marsh Wren

Slate Delsman, Grade 6, Jacoby Creek Elementary, Snowy Plovers

### **Honorable Mentions**

Kindergarten: Joe Jackson, Orleans Elementary, Pileated Woodpecker

Grade 1: Hailey McConaughy, Arcata Christian, Goldfinch, and Christopher Mellon, Orleans Elementary, Bald Eagle

Grade 2: Hannah McCullough, Trinity Valley Elementary, California Quail

Grade 3: Oliver Bagnell, Fuente Nueva Charter, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, and Frida King, Fuente Nueva Charter, Great Blue Heron

Grade 4: Nora Murphy, Fuente Nueva Charter, Great Egret, and Genevieve Stubblefield, Fuente Nueva Charter, Snowy Plover

Grade 5: Meadow Jennings, Six Rivers Montessori, Peregrine Falcon, and Egor Tokarev, Studio School/South Bay Elementary, Black-crowned Night-Heron

Grade 6: Xavier Dozois, Mattole Valley Charter, Bald Eagle, and Nick Hillman, Junction Elementary, Pileated Woodpecker

Grade 7: Lauren House, Studio School, Cinnamon Teal

Grade 10: Matthew Bohne, Studio School/Zoe Barnum High School, Black-crowned Night-Heron







*Gaby holding two friends.*

## Turtle Talk!

*By Betsy Elkinton*

FOAM's April lecture featured HSU senior and wildlife major Gaby Ruso, who shared her research findings on the natural history and basking habits of Western pond turtles. Little is known about the behavior of these secretive animals.

Gaby received a research grant from FOAM to help support her senior thesis project, which took her to Sequoia National Park where she spent a summer field season snorkeling and walking the banks of Sycamore Creek and the North Fork Kaweah River searching for turtles. When she located them, Gaby affixed tiny data loggers to their shells to collect information on the air or water temperature where the turtles spent time.

She also took shell and body measurements and identified turtles as male or female. These data allowed Gaby to determine how much time turtles spent in the water vs. basking in the sun on land. She found that turtles spent more time in the water in evening/night. Younger turtles rarely came out of the water. The data loggers also recorded an unusual behavior of one adult female, who took an extended foray on land, possibly for nesting or exploration. Male turtles had poorer body condition than females, perhaps due to greater energy exerted during the breeding season.

Gaby's research provides a window into the secretive lives of the Western pond turtle and suggests that future research focus on habitat segregation between adult and juvenile turtles and the behavioral differences between habitats. FOAM wishes Gaby luck as she returns to her beloved Sequoia National Park this summer as a research technician continuing her work with turtles, as well as backpacking to high-elevation lakes to survey for frogs and restore their fragile habitat.

## In Defense of "Bad Birds"

*By Jane Wilson*

The first time I heard of European starlings, the picture was of a bully bird that stole other birds' nest holes and did not belong here. That is all true, but is not the whole story. I'd like to relay few other pleasing starling pictures to enjoy.

First, a little history of meddling. In 1890, Eugene Schieffelin introduced 60 starlings into New York's Central Park. He sought to have all the birds mentioned in Shakespeare be in the United States. "Nay I'll have a starling shall be taught to speak (*Henry the 4th*, Part 1)." He also wanted to exchange plants and animals from one part of the world to another. The effects nonnative organisms could have on local ecosystems was not unknown. The transfer of European starlings was tried three times before it was successful. Then, it was so successful that their population has increased to 50-200 million. (Remember, the starlings were minding their own business in Europe before they began this wildly successful populating of North America.)

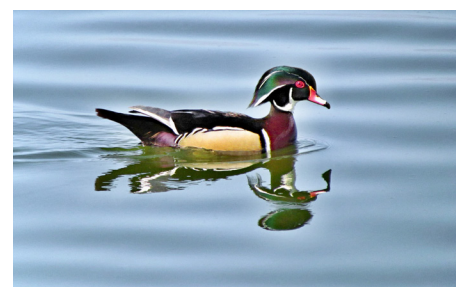
What was the starlings' story in Europe, in England? WH Hudson wrote in 1921's *A Shepherd's Life*: "The starling is regarded with affection by shepherds on the downs on account of its constant association with sheep. The dogs, the sheep and the crowd of starlings - lonely men's companions. And what a wise bird he is and how well he knows his friends from his enemies! There was nothing more beautiful to see than the behavior of a flock of starlings

when a hawk made its appearance. Instantly, the crowd of birds could be seen flying at furious speed toward the nearest flock of sheep and down into the flock they would fall like a shower of stones and instantly disappear from sight. There they would remain on the ground, among the legs of the grazing sheep, until the hawk had gone its way and passed out of sight."

Because male starlings are mimics, they made a variety of tinkling and clinking sounds, sounding like sheeps' bells. They use mimicry to impress mates with sounds like electronics, car horns, and other birds' songs. They're not as melodious as northern mockingbirds, but they keep your interest. Mozart reportedly had a pet starling that could sing the opening theme of the finale of piano concerto number 17, k453.

Males build a nest and decorate it with leaves and flowers when trying to attract a mate and, after mating, help brood eggs and feed chicks.

I think of all these things when I see starlings.



## JUNE ARTIST ANDREW SMITH

All photographs in my show were taken at the Arcata Marsh and range from the largest scales (landscapes) to the smallest (insects). I am a self-taught photographer who has lived in Arcata for the last 24 years. I started with black-and-white film, finally entering the world of digital color photography about four years ago. I mainly photograph wildlife and nature, particularly birds. My goal is to showcase the natural beauty that surrounds us daily but usually goes unnoticed because it is either too small or happens too fast to be easily seen. The Arcata Marsh is my favorite destination and field laboratory.





George Ziminsky leads Marsh bird tour during Godwit Days. Photo by Ivan Soto.



#### JULY ARTIST IVAN SOTO

Ivan is an HSU environmental studies major (and FOAM Board members) who has been taking close-up photos of insects at the Arcata Marsh since last year. He will share these "bug pics" during July.



In case you missed it in our masthead, FOAM has a new, more realistic Marsh Wren-and-Cattail logo, courtesy of Gary Bloomfield. It debuted on FOAM's new banner at Godwit Days.

### Marsh Rated #1 Thing to Do in Arcata

Reviewers at [www.tripadvisor.com](http://www.tripadvisor.com) have designated the Arcata Marsh as the best of 16 things to do in Arcata.

One Canadian visitor wrote: "We are happy we took in this wonderful piece of nature on our stop in Arcata. Wastewater management has done a nice job. Area changes daily with tides and you'll encounter, joggers, photographers, and birders. A gem just minutes from downtown."

And this from a traveler from Canton, Ohio: "Glorious wildlife and easy walking trails. This marsh is unique as it blends freshwater marshes with a wastewater treatment facility. I loved this place for its combination of natural beauty and environmental awareness."

### Thanks to Our Supporters, Mid-January through April 2015

► Sponsors (\$100+): Humboldt Traders; Cynthia & James Rudick\* (Canton, OH)

► **Best Friends** (\$50-99): Geba Greenberg\* (Forks of Salmon); Marie Kelleher-Roy; Frances Madrone & Patric Nagle; Frank & Christel Shaughnessy; Connie Word (Redding); Janet Zich

► **Friends** (\$18-49): M Carroll Baker\*; Pamela Brown\*; Ann & Steve Diver-Stamnes\*; Roger Galbraith\*; Mara Galvez & Joan Schuman\*; Esther & Neil Gilchrist; John Helie & Monica Simms\*; Glen & DeeAnne Jones; Volga & Melissa Koval; Alan Laurent; Mary Ellen Mahoney; John McNeely; Keith Mobbs (Brisbane); Paul Pitino\*; Katherine White; Robb & Phyllis Willis\*; Jane & Richard Wilson; Robin Wilson\* (gift membership from Jane Wilson)

► **Donations:** Redwood Curtain Brewing (\$150, from March Pints for Nonprofits event); Life Members Richard & Carol Laursen (Carmichael, \$100); Dorothy Klein (\$82, from sale of her prints); Yvonne Kern (\$20, following her AMIC art exhibit); Milt Boyd (carved wooden egret, see p. 5)

\* = New member (11 over this time frame!)

### Calendar of Events

[Docent tours leave the Interpretive Center every Saturday at 2 pm]

May—Winners of 12th Annual Student Bird Art Contest

May 14—FOAM Board Meeting, 6:30-8 pm

May 15—Ant behavior lecture, John Helie, 7:30 pm

June—Marsh photos by Andrew Smith

June 11—FOAM Board Meeting, 6:30-8 pm

June 19—Fire ecology lecture, Jeff Kane, 7:30 pm

July—Insect photos by Ivan Soto

July 9—FOAM Board Meeting, 6:30-8 pm

July 11—Invasive Plant Work Day at the Arcata Marsh, 9 am-1pm

July 17—Carbon credits lecture, Erin Kelly, 7:30 pm

### Volunteers Needed!

The City Naturalists have been scrambling to find enough help to keep the Interpretive Center open on weekends. It only takes a half hour to be trained how to staff the welcome desk. Here's your chance to give back to the Marsh and meet interesting people while you're doing it. Please call 826-2359 today!

### Visitor Log

The Interpretive Center had 1259 visitors in January, 1161 in February, and 1254 in March.