

## **Morro Bay Christmas Bird Count Sector Information**

### Sector 1 - Highway 41/ Morro Creek Road

Highway 41 - check willows along Morro Creek. Especially check eucalyptus grove and willows behind Grange Hall. Look for flycatchers, warblers, orioles and *Selasphorus* (Allen's) hummingbirds. Check Miner's Hardware garden center. Walk Morro Creek upstream of Main Street (access at the bridge) and check feeders at mobile homes along the creek. Nashville, Lucy's, Palm, and Wilson's Warblers plus a Willow Flycatcher have all been found along the creek during the count.

Morro Creek Road - Check eucalyptus grove and residences at sharp right turn (1/4 mile from Ratcliff Ave) for orioles, warblers, and *Selasphorus* hummingbirds. Check open hillsides for Burrowing Owl and Roadrunner. Check raptors for Ferruginous Hawk and Prairie Falcon. Watch for Mt. Bluebird in open fields. Check sparrow flocks for unusual species.

If time permits, check the neighborhoods north of Hwy 41 for Great-tailed Grackle.

### Sector 2 - San Bernardo Creek Road

Check willows along creek as much as possible. If possible gain access to: upper reaches of canyon to check for turkeys and magpies and the pond south of road and east of Hwy. 1 for ducks and Wilson's Snipe. Check fields for Horned Lark, American Pipit, and Lark Sparrow. Watch for raptors. If owling, listen for Pygmy and Screech Owls.

### Sector 3 - Cuesta Ridge

TV Tower Road is only access. Explore area by walking main road and roughly cut side roads. Find old road down to rock quarry on west side of road. It is found about 20 yards south of area with metal pipe barrier. This is well past the first tower area near Botanical preserve where pipe barriers have also been constructed. Throughout section look and listen for Townsend's Solitaire, Mt. Quail, Band-tailed Pigeon, Mt. Chickadee, Western Tanager, Green-tailed Towhee, Sage Sparrow, and Cassin's Finch. All have been found on the ridge in winter.

### Sector 4 - San Luisito Creek Road

San Luisito Creek Road - Watch for raptors. Check any accessible ponds. Try to gain access to upper canyon as turkeys and magpies have been found there in past.

Gilardi Road / Shooting ranges - check sparse willows near Hwy 1 and wet spots for Wilson's Snipe. Drive roads for Burrowing Owls, Horned Lark, American Pipit, and Lark Sparrow.

### Sector 5- Rancho el Chorro / Chorro Regional Park

Check Pennington and Dairy Creeks - Rancho el Chorro, Chorro Regional Park, and the Dairy Creek Golf Course. Much of this sector must be covered on foot. If owling, be alert for Screech and Pygmy Owls.

Rancho el Chorro - Check pond, around buildings for sparrows. Watch for raptor, Burrowing Owls, and Turkeys.

El Chorro Regional Park and Dairy Creek Golf Course - Check pepper trees for sapsuckers and watch for White-tailed Kite. Check the campground and the ponds on the golf course.

#### Sector 6- Camp San Luis / Chorro Reservoir

Check creeks especially around eucalyptus groves. In open fields, watch for Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Horned Lark, Mountain Bluebird, American Pipit, and Lark Sparrow. Upper canyons can have Wild Turkey, Mt. Quail, and Townsend's Solitaire has been found there. Check rocky areas for Rock Wren.

Camp San Luis walnut orchard and pepper trees - Check for Sapsuckers as all Red-breasted, Red-naped, and Yellow-bellied have been recorded here. In the eucalyptus grove next to the orchard look through sparrows and juncos for oddities. Listen and watch for Cassin's Kingbird and Yellow-billed Magpie.

Chorro Reservoir - Check reservoir and small ponds up northeast drainage for geese and ducks. In particular look for Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-neck Duck, and Hooded Merganser. Be alert for American Bittern, Green Heron, Virginia Rail, Sora, and Wilson's Snipe. Check downstream area for Yellow-billed Magpie.

#### Sector 7 - Stenner Creek / Cal Poly fields and ponds

Stenner Creek Road - Check fields for sparrows. Watch and listen for Turkeys and Cassin's Kingbirds in the vineyards and in Eucalyptus at Cheda Reservoir. Check pond north of road and west of railroad tracks for American Bittern, Green Heron, and rails. From Railroad trestle to end of road (public access) is good for Poorwill at dusk (playing calls is helpful). Check along Stenner Creek as it parallels Hwy 1 for Chipping Sparrow and other sparrows. Wood Duck and Hooded Merganser has been found at Cheda Reservoir (by eucalyptus grove north of Stenner Creek Road).

Cal Poly ponds - Check all ponds (there are ten) for waterfowl, American Bittern, Green Heron, Sora, Virginia Rail, and Common Moorhen. Look through blackbird flocks for Tri-colored and Yellow-headed blackbird, especially at dairy facilities.

Poly Canyon - Watch for Band-tailed Pigeon in the canyon.

#### Sector 8 - Cal Poly Campus

Walk the campus. All three species of sapsucker have been found in pepper trees in front of the library and along University Drive. Check lawns and hedge rows for sparrow flocks - White-throated and Harris's sparrows have been found on campus. Check pines behind the campus president's residence, alders around campus and hillsides behind the student housing. Check all flowering eucalyptus for hummingbirds, warblers, Western Tanagers, and orioles. Walk Stenner Creek and watch for sparrow flocks and unusual warblers. Check the water feature on the lawn by the business building (California Blvd)

where Eastern Phoebe has been found. Check the area around the church across the railroad tracks from the stadium on California Blvd.

#### Sector 9- Cuesta County Park / Santa Rosa Park

Check both parks and Stenner Creek. Look for Dipper on San Luis Obispo Creek and flycatchers, warblers, tanagers, and orioles in riparian and ornamental planting along banks, especially adjacent to Sierra Vista Hospital. Search through flocks of bushtits and chickadees for oddities in the parks. Check areas of mature plantings in residential neighborhoods.

Cuesta County Park - Check flower eucalyptus, sycamores, and oaks along creek for warblers, orioles, and tanagers. Look for sparrow and junco flocks. Sage Sparrow was once reported on hillsides north of park.

#### Sector 10- Downtown SLO

Check as much of San Luis Creek as possible; American Dipper is possible. This area requires walking or possibly biking. The eastern section near Hwy 101 and the neighborhood around it can be productive. Watch for feeders and flowering eucalyptus and mature plantings as they could hold *selasphorus* or other hummingbirds, warblers, tanagers, or orioles.

#### Sector 11-San Luis Obispo High

Check eucalyptus and lawns around San Luis Obispo High and the old Jr. High. Check eucalyptus off Woodland Drive - Townsend's Solitaire has been found on the hillside above. Check various trees along Fairview Street and Ruth Street watching for sapsuckers, orioles, and tanagers. Check plantings around French Hospital. Walk and drive area looking for mature plantings and check all creeks and drainages.

#### Sector 12- Meadow Park

Check Meadow and Mitchell parks. Also check the cemetery across street from the CalTrans office on South Higuera. Walk the drainage that goes through Meadow Park. Check the fields off the end of Margarita Ave and Calle Lupita for Mountain Bluebird, Burrowing Owl, and raptors. Walk the South Hills open space for Rock Wren, Loggerhead Shrike, soaring raptors and possibly Burrowing Owl. Also, walk and drive looking for areas of mature plantings and feeders and check the small creeks and drainages.

#### Section 13-South Higuera

Check open fields for raptors, Cattle Egrets, Horned Larks, and pipits. Check small creeks and willow patches. In southern part of section, check San Luis Creek from intersection of Higuera and Hwy 101 south (one mile stretch of creek in this section, walk if possible - boots). Check east fork of San Luis Obispo Creek from Buckley Road.

#### Sector 14 - SLO Sewage Plant / South Higuera

Check sewage plant and ponds at southern end of bike trail for waterfowl, shorebirds (Black-necked Stilt), gulls, blackbirds (Rusty, Yellow-headed, Tricolored), and sparrows.

Cover as much of San Luis Obispo Creek as possible (walk). Check eucalyptus groves for warblers – Tennessee and Worm-eating warbler have been found along the creek.

#### Sector 15- San Luis Creek

Primary goal is to cover as much of San Luis Creek as possible; walking recommended. Also bird the stretch of Brizzolara Creek. The persimmon trees in yard on Dana Street worth a check for waxwing and tanagers. Look for sparrows around Mission School. Check cemetery along Elks Lane for sapsuckers.

#### Sector 16 - Foothill Sector

Check drainage that winds it's way east on south side of Foothill and then turns south through residential neighborhood and into Brizzolara Creek. Check north of foothill around school and any eucalyptus stands for tanagers and orioles. Pre-scout to determine most productive areas. Check the park on Cuesta Street and Bishop's Peak School. Check pepper trees on hillside of Cerro San Luis Obispo for sapsuckers from southern end of Hill Street. Check Bishop Peak Trail that starts from the northern end of Patricia Drive – a Sage Thrasher was here once. Check hillsides and neighborhoods at west end of Highland Drive – Painted Redstart and White-breasted Nuthatch have been found in this area.

#### Sector 17- Laguna Lake

Primary goal is to census around lake looking for water birds, gulls, swallows, and sparrows. Target species include Greater White-fronted, Snow, Ross's, Canada and Cackling Goose, mergansers, Thayer's and Herring gull, American Bittern, Virginia's Rail, Sora, and swallows. Eastern Phoebe and Swamp Sparrow have been recorded along the peninsula. Past years' birds have included Clark's Grebe, Common Mergansers and Common Moorhen. Check hillsides for Rock Wren, open fields for Burrowing Owl, Cattle Egret, and Mountain Bluebird. Look for Greater Roadrunner over hill in cactus patch behind Madonna center. At dusk check rocky hillsides for Poorwill (use recorded calls) and watch for Short-eared Owl.

Prefumo Creek - walk creek from Los Osos Valley Road to lake if possible (Boots will be necessary). In past Swamp Sparrow, Eastern Phoebe, Black-headed Grosbeak, Wilson's Warbler have been found along the creek.

Los Osos Valley Rd. / Foothill Rd. - Drive and watch for raptors, Burrowing Owl, waterfowl, Mountain Bluebird, and Cattle Egret.

#### Sector 18- Prefumo Creek / Froom Ranch / Irish Hills Natural Area

Walk creek from Madonna Road to Hwy 101 and from Los Osos Valley Road to sector boundary. Census as much of golf course as possible. Check open fields and crop lands for raptors and sparrows. Check eucalyptus groves for hummingbirds, warblers, tanagers and orioles. Check residential areas with mature plantings and feeders. Check parking lot around Costco food court for Great-tailed Grackle and Froom Ranch marsh and ponds between the Home Depot Center and Calle Joaquin for waterfowl and Wilson's Snipe.

The Irish Hills Natural Preserve is not within the map boundaries, but is considered part of the sector. The trailhead can be reached by turning west on Madonna Road from Los Osos Valley Road and driving to the road end. Park on the street and walk up the dirt road to the trailhead. Watch for Varied Thrush.

#### Sector 19- Perfumo / See Canyons / Johnson Ranch Trail

This sector is often divided into subsections, split at the top of Perfumo and See Canyons. Also the possibility of a separate party for the Johnson Ranch. This is a large area with a variety of habitats. Nighttime owling has produced Western Screech, Spotted, Long-eared, Saw-whet, and Pygmy owls in both canyons. Check orchards for sapsuckers and fruit eaters such as tanagers, grosbeaks, and orioles. Listen and watch for Varied Thrush in dense woodlands.

Davis Canyon - check if time allows.

#### Sector 20- Diablo Canyon / PG & E property

Access to the sector is controlled by PG&E and must be prearranged. Drive and walk canyons including Diablo, Pecho, and Irish. Walk areas of riparian habitat and drive ridge road. Some of coastal bluff is within sector but no shoreline. Crowbar Canyon not in sector. Species recorded here include Greater Roadrunner, Band-tailed Pigeon, Steller Jay, Varied Thrush, and unusual warblers such as Hermit and Nashville. Check mature oaks for Brown Creeper. Owling could be productive but night access has never been available.

#### Sector 21 – Upper Coon Creek

No public access. Trails and dirt roads into area from upper Perfumo / See Canyon road.

#### Sector 22- Los Osos Valley Road - southwest

Drive along Los Osos Valley Road stopping regularly (be very careful of traffic) to scan southwest side of road. Check all roads where access is possible including Sycamore Canyon Road. Watch for Horned Lark, American Pipit, Tricolored and Yellow-headed blackbirds in blackbird flocks, Burrowing Owl in fields, and raptors. Check willow patches. Check the pond off Jacaranda Lane. Check Paradise Lane.

#### Sector 23 - Los Osos Valley Road -northeast / O'Conner Way

Los Osos Valley Road - Drive the road stopping frequently (be very careful of traffic) to check willows (scope?) for birds. Explore any access toward center of section. Watch for Tricolored and Yellow-headed blackbirds in mixed blackbird flocks. Watch for Cattle Egret, Burrowing Owl and raptors, especially White-tailed Kite, Ferruginous and Rough legged Hawk. Check fields for Horned Lark and American Pipit.

O'Conner Way - Drive the road looking for species mentioned above.

Foothill Blvd - Same as above plus check wet areas for waterfowl and Common Snipe. There is walking access to Bishop Peak where Canyon Wren is possible.

Turri Road - Same as above.

#### Sector 24- Cuesta College / Camp San Luis Obispo

This sector's main access is in Hwy 1 and runs from north of Cuesta College to Stenner Creek Road at Cal Poly. It includes the Men's Colony wastewater evaporation ponds on Cal Poly property north of Cuesta College, the campus, Camp SLO, the County Jail and other county facilities on Kansas Ave.

Evaporation Ponds - Check all three ponds for waterfowl. Look through blackbird flocks for Tricolored and Yellow-headed – Common and Great-tailed Grackles have been found here. Watch for raptors.

Cuesta College / Camp SLO - Check sparrow flocks on lawns around buildings, and cover as much of creek riparian as possible (great potential). Check area on southwest side of Chorro Creek to Men's Colony Sewage Treatment Plant for sparrows, etc. Also look through pines on southwest side of creek. Check along road to Achievement house.

Kansas Ave - Check riparian areas for sparrows and warblers. Look over surrounding hillsides for Burrowing Owl.

Hwy. 1 - Drive highway stopping frequently (safely) to check for birds. Utilize any access off highway such as at horse facility.

#### Sector 25- Hollister Peak / Hwy. 1

Stop along Hwy. 1 where possible and scan open fields. Drive any access roads such as Canet Road and south Quintana Road to check around residences. Attempt to gain access to Chorro Creek Ecological Reserve through the Morro Bay National Estuary office and cover as much as possible (walking - boots?). Watch for raptors and check sparrow flocks. On creek look for mixed flocks that may contain unusual species. Look through blackbird flocks for Tricolored or Yellow-headed blackbird. Listen for Canyon Wren below Hollister Peak.

#### Sector 26- Turri Road

Turri Road is the only road in this section. Walk or drive road stopping frequently (safely) where possible. Watch for raptors such as Ferruginous Hawk and Prairie Falcon. Check for Horned Lark and American Pipit and Burrowing Owl. Check eucalyptus grove below the summit for Yellow-billed Magpie. If accessible, walk hillsides.

#### Sector 27 - Warden Lake

Check fence rows in this area for flycatchers. Cassin's and Tropical kingbirds and Vermilion Flycatcher have wintered here.

Warden Lake - With access, check the lake for waterfowl. Check all habitats along drainage. Look through willows for warblers and marshy areas for Swamp Sparrow, American Bittern and Green Heron. Watch for swallows.

Pond off Turn Road - If possible, gain access to this small pond. Road to pond located about 1/4 mile from Los Osos Valley Road on Turri Road. Look for waterfowl and swallows.

Fields - Check fields for Horned Lark and American Pipit. Scan hillsides for Burrowing Owl and fence rows for flycatchers.

Los Osos Cemetery - Check cemetery for Common Snipe and sparrow flocks on lawn.

#### Sector 28- Clark Valley Road

Clark Valley Road - Drive road stopping frequently to look over fields and other habitats. Check with land owners in advance for possible contact in upper valley. Owling good in upper valley as Western Screech, Long-eared, and Spotted have all been found there. Watch for Varied Thrush in areas with dense oak canopy. Check open hillsides for Burrowing Owl.

Los Osos Valley Road - Check sod farm and residential areas

Los Osos Creek - Census creek up into equine farm. Watch for flycatchers, sparrows, warblers, and Varied Thrush.

Los Osos Oaks Reserve and trailer parks - Look through dense oaks for mixed flocks – Wilson's Warbler has been found here. Watch for sapsuckers and Varied Thrush.

#### Sector 29 - Islay Creek

Walk road on north side of creek to end. Hike side trails if possible. Check willow riparian for mixed flocks and hopefully something unusual. South facing slopes have Rufous-crowned Sparrows. Common Poorwill possible along road on mild evenings.

#### Sector 30 - Coon Creek

Walk creek trail to end. Check riparian area for mixed flocks and unusual species. Sapsuckers have been found drilling mature willows in the past. Winter Wrens can be found in the dense understory along the trail – study calls before count day. Canyon Wren possible.

#### Sector 31 - Pecho Coast

Walk the three mile trail from Coon Creek south. - Census the willow riparian along Coon Creek from road to ocean looking for mixed flocks and unusual species. Check the fields for raptors, Burrowing Owl, Greater Roadrunner, and unusual sparrows. Check the pond at the southern end for rails, snipe, and sparrows.

Check coast line for rocky shorebirds such as Spotted Sandpiper, Wandering Tattler, Surfbird, and Ruddy and Black Turnstone. Be on the lookout for Rock Sandpiper. Scope offshore for shearwaters, gulls, terns, jaegers, and alcids.

Crowbar Canyon (requires PG&E permission) - watch for Greater Roadrunner. Check willows and oak woodland in upper drainage for warblers.

Ridge Road (requires PG&E permission) - Drive road watching for areas and birds of interest.

### Sector 32 - Spooner's Cove

Campground - Check campground for unusual species in mixed flocks. Watch for sapsuckers, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Red-breasted Sapsucker, and Wilson's Warbler.

Islay Creek mouth - Check riparian at creek mouth for unusual species.

Bluff and Rocky Shoreline - Census sparrows and other passerines along bluff. Look for Spotted Sandpiper, Wandering Tattler, Surfbird, Ruddy and Black Turnstone and possibly Rock Sandpiper. Scope offshore for shearwaters, White-winged Scoter, jaegers, alcids, gulls, and terns. Also be on the lookout for waterfowl such as Harlequin Duck.

### Sector 33 - Hazard Canyon

Check the coastal scrub habitat. Check Hazard Canyon for mixed flocks and be alert for Winter Wren in willow understory. Watch and listen for sapsuckers in eucalyptus. On beach look for rocky shorebirds including Spotted Sandpiper, Wandering Tattler, Surfbird, Ruddy Turnstone, and possibly Rock Sandpiper. Scope offshore for pelagic species including shearwaters, gulls, terns, jaegers, and alcids.

Sandy shoreline - Check near shore for mixed scoter flocks. Be alert for Harlequin Duck, Long-tailed duck, and Black and White-winged scoters.

### Sector 34 - East Hazard Canyon

Hike up canyon checking various habitats. Watch for sapsuckers in eucalyptus. Look for Winter Wren in dense understory. Explore as much as possible. Probably good for owling at night.

### Sector 35 - Los Osos Heights

Check through residential streets and hillsides above. Look for Sage Sparrow which in past was recorded upslope of Bayview Heights Drive. Check feeders for warblers, tanagers, orioles and sparrows. Hike hills to check different habitats.

### Sector 36 - Baywood / Los Osos Streets

Primary goal is to walk and drive streets checking pines and other plantings. Sought after species include Red-breasted, White-breasted, and possibly Pygmy nuthatch. Check mixed flocks of Chestnut-backed Chickadees and Bushtits for unusual warblers such as Hermit, Black-throated Gray, and Wilson's. Check sparrow flocks for unusual species. Check concentrations of pines such as those between Von's and Ralph's markets. Check doves for White-winged Dove.

South Bay Community Park - Check for sparrows. Check willow patch in open area northwest of park and coastal scrub around willows. Also check scrub across South Bay Blvd from Los Osos Jr. High.

Los Olivos Ave. - Check willows near Mountain View Dr. and other patches nearby. Watch for Wilson's Warbler.

#### Sector 37 - Eastern Los Osos

Los Osos Creek - cover as much of the creek as accessible. If possible, gain access to Eto Lake. Check eucalyptus grove along the creek near Los Osos Valley Road for hummingbirds, especially Allen's (*selasphorus*), kingbirds, warblers, and tanagers. Lots of good sparrow habitat, so be alert for unusual species such as Harris's, White-throated, or Clay-colored.

Residential - Good sparrow habitat. Drive and walk streets looking for sparrow flocks. Check willows along Willow Drive and other locations for mixed flocks of Chestnut-backed Chickadees and Bushtits.

Los Osos Middle School - Check the campus and coastal scrub around campus. Look for Sparrows and goldfinch (Lawrence's has been found here in past) flocks. Check pines and willows below sports fields. A huge flock of crows forms here at dusk that likely roosts nearby.

Willows at east end of Santa Ysabel Ave - Very important location. Walk east on abandoned east end of Santa Ysabel through willows and across old bridge to creek. Cross small drainage and walk along edge of Los Osos Creek and into willow thicket. Wander round in thicket searching for mixed passerine flocks. Wilson's and Black-and-white warblers and Winter Wren have been found here and Varied Thrush is also a possibility. A marshy area along the right side of the closed section of Santa Ysabel usually has both Sora and Virginia's Rail. Watch overhead for White-tailed Kite.

#### Sector 38 - East South Bay Blvd / Batista Property

Most of area, except south of Turri Road is State Park Property. Walk or bike the area. Park in lot below old rock quarry and walk into hills. Watch for White-throated Swift that roost in rock crevices. Be alert for sparrows here and in rest of sector. Grassy hillsides have traditionally had Short-eared Owls which were kicked up by walking the area or checking for flying birds at dawn or dusk. Costa's Hummingbird has wintered here.

Turri Road - Check slough and tidal ponds along the road for shorebirds and the willows for unusual species in mixed flocks. Be alert for Swamp Sparrow. Black Rail used to respond to recorded calls from across the slough before dawn.

#### Sector 39 - Chorro Willows / Chorro Creek

Chorro Willows – Gated entrances into this large willow complex are at two locations along South Bay Blvd. One is .25 mile south of Quintana Road and the other is .15 mile south of State Park Road (no parking here). Another access is off of Quintana Road

approximately .45 mile east of South Bay Blvd. Good idea to wear boots to allow walking in creek as that is the easiest way to get around. Check mixed flocks for unusual species: Long-eared Owl, Solitary Vireo and warblers such as Nashville, Black-throated Gray and Wilson's have been found here. Look for Stellar's Jay, Varied Thrush, and Green Heron. Check as much of creek as possible (walk along fields if no boots.)

Fields - Check for sparrow and pipit flocks. Watch for White-throated and Swamp sparrow and raptors. Check around trailer park, residences, and eucalyptus groves for hummingbirds, tanagers and orioles.

#### Sector 40- North Black Hill / Morro Bay Streets

Check back of Black Hill first. Recently the most active location has been in the pines just east of the Las Tunas and La Loma entrance trail. Look thru pines for mixed flocks of chickadees, bushtits, warblers. Also check sparrow and junco flocks for unusual species or races and sapsuckers. Walk streets checking concentrations of pines for White-breasted, Red-breasted, and Pygmy Nuthatch and Pine Siskin. Watch for feeders where White-throated Sparrow may be found. Kings Ave, Kern Ave, Ridgeway St., and Piney Way should definitely be walked. A feeder at 365 Bernardo has been good recently (2008).

#### Sector 41 - Streets of Morro Bay / Embarcadero

Walk and drive streets. Check concentrations of pines for mixed flocks. Olive Street, Carrito Place, and Main Street between Olive and Acacia should definitely be covered. Check the eucalyptus along Morro Ave near Olive for orioles and tanagers.

Bay - Check the bay from vantage points along the Embarcadero. Watch for loons, Red-necked Grebe, Long-tailed duck, Common Goldeneye, and Greater Scaup. Scope the inside of the sandspit across from Oliver Street where shorebirds and gulls accumulate at high tide and Black Skimmer is occasionally found.

#### Sector 42 - Morro Bay State Park

Walk as much of the park as possible. Check the campground, the maintenance and nursery area, and the pines around the amphitheater. Check the south side of the marina spit at the "corner" for sparrows. This is where Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow and "large-billed" Savannah Sparrow have been recorded at high tide. Watch for Semipalmated Plover and look and listen for Short-billed Dowitcher (mellow "tu-tu-tu", not harsh "keek" of Long-billed). Watch for Merlin and Osprey.

Walk perimeter of golf course and check pines, flowering eucalyptus, and bottlebrush. Check clumps of mixed trees across fairway from campground. Check Black Hill for mixed flocks and watch for unusual warblers or nuthatches. Check ornamental plantings around Inn at Morro Bay. Look for loons and waterfowl, especially Common Goldeneye and Greater Scaup, which seem to prefer Windy Cove and below the Bayshore Condos.

#### Sector 43 - Estuary - Chorro Creek to Los Osos Creek

Check the willows along the Chorro Creek drainage. Check estuary from South Bay Blvd. Park in the Quarry Trail parking area and walk south up onto a bench to scope the bay - especially good for ducks at high tide. Also, parking at the intersection of Turri Road and South Bay Blvd, walking across South Bay Blvd, and scoping from the bluff above the bay can also be very productive at high tide. Walk as much of the salicornia marsh as possible (boots). Listen for Short-billed Dowitcher (mellow “tu-tu-tu”, not the harsh “keek” of Long-billed). Check sparrows for Sharp-tailed and Swamp.

#### Sector 44- Elfin Forest / Estuary

Audubon Overlook - Scan bay (scope mandatory) from overlook watching for geese, Blue-winged Teal, Eurasian Wigeon, Semipalmated Plover, and Short-billed Dowitcher (listen for mellow “tu-tu-tu” call, Long-billed’s call is a sharp “keek”). Watch for Sora, Virginia Rail, and Swamp Sparrow in reeds below.

Residential Streets - Check through sparrow flocks. Investigate areas where groups of trees are found, especially flowering eucalyptus.

Elfin Forest - Walk this area. Scan the bay from the two wood deck overlooks. The 13<sup>th</sup> Street deck is usually best and a scope is essential). Watch for Merlin and for Short-eared Owl during the day and at dusk.

#### Sector 45 - Sweet Springs / Baywood Park

Sweet Springs - Census west to Pine Ave. Watch and listen for Swamp Sparrow at lower pond and in marsh to the east. Scan through waterfowl watching for Clark's Grebe, Eurasian Wigeon, Blue-winged Teal, Gadwall, Greater Scaup, Canvasback and Redhead. Check shorebirds closely for Semipalmated Plover, Short-billed Dowitcher (mellow “tu-tu-tu” call, not harsh “keek” of Long-billed), and Knot. Scrutinize gulls for Thayer's and Herring.

Third and Pismo Streets - Ok to enter property. Look for unusual warblers possibly White-throated or Swamp sparrows.

Baywood Streets - Check mixed flocks of chickadees and Bushtits for anything unusual.

Pasadena Ave Bay Access - Scan the bay for Clark's Grebe, Common Goldeneye, and terns (especially Royal or Caspian). Check the pines for unusual warblers.

Santa Lucia Ave – The 3rd Street bay access is a good location to scope from for waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls, and terns.

#### Sector 46 - Monarch Grove

Mudflats - Check for shorebirds including Semipalmated Plover, Red Knot, and Short-billed Dowitcher (mellow “tu-tu-tu” call, not harsh “keek” of Long-billed). Scan bay for Eurasian Wigeon and Common Goldeneye in particular and watch for Clark's Grebe.

Pecho Marsh - Check willows west of Pecho Road at Henrietta for Swamp Sparrow and look through mixed flocks for anything unusual.

Residential Streets - Walk streets, check areas with mature ornamental plantings. Also census eucalyptus groves. Look for feeders that might host tanager or orioles. Watch for White-winged Dove.

#### Sector 47 - Sunset Terrace

Golf Course - Check pines for mixed flocks and unusual species. Small ponds have had geese and Wood Duck in past. Look through sparrows and blackbirds for unusual species. Several rarities have been found here over the years.

Shark Inlet / mudflats - Census shorebirds looking in particular for Semipalmated Plover, Red Knot, and Short-billed Dowitcher (mellow “tu-tu-tu” call, not harsh “keek” of Long-billed). Watch for Eurasian Wigeon. Also be alert for Swamp and Sharp-tailed Sparrows at estuary edge. Watch for raptors, particularly Osprey and Merlin, which have been recorded here in the past.

Coastal Scrub - From Montana de Oro coastal access parking lot, walk trail north into and around area. Be alert for Green-tailed Towhee (seen here once) and possibly Sage Sparrow.

#### Sector 48 - South Sandspit

Park at Montana de Oro State Park coastal access parking lot, proceed to beach and walk north. Watch for Snowy and Semipalmated plover. Offshore look through scoter flocks for Black and White-winged Scoter and also for Harlequin Duck and Long-tailed Duck. Also watch for jaegers, shearwaters, and alcids. Watch for Burrowing Owl along the dunes.

#### Sector 49 - North Sandspit

Access – Sectors 48 and 49 are typically covered by the same party by parking as in Sector 48 and walking the entire spit to the north end and arranging for boat to the Embarcadero.

Sandspit - Watch for Snowy and Semipalmated plover. Offshore look through scoter flocks for Black and White-winged Scoter Harlequin Duck and Long-tailed Duck. Also watch for jaegers, shearwaters, alcids and Royal Tern. In dunes watch for Burrowing Owl, especially at the base of the harbor’s south jetty.

North of Jetty - Same as above, but check for unusual loons and gulls such as Herring or Glaucous.

#### Sector 50 - Morro Rock/Morro Creek

Morro Rock - Check the harbor mouth. Watch and listen for Canyon Wren (a must, typically on south side) and Peregrine Falcon on Morro Rock or overhead. Scope offshore for shearwaters, alcids, and jaegers. Check the harbor mouth for Black and

White-winged Scoter and Long-tailed Duck. Carefully check the loons for anything unusual

Morro Creek mouth and beach - Check the creek mouth and willows if possible; watch for Swamp Sparrow. Walk the beach to north of high school looking for Snowy and Semipalmated plovers in particular. Offshore scan (scope?) through scoter flocks for Harlequin Duck, Long-tailed Duck, and Black and White-winged scoter. Watch for shearwaters, alcids, and Royal Tern. Watch and listen for Great-tailed Grackle.

Lila Kiser Park - Check sparrow flocks and willows for warblers such as Nashville and Wilson's. Watch and listen for Great-tailed Grackle.

Morro Bay High School - Walk campus checking lawns and trees for sparrows warblers and flycatchers. Watch and listen for Great-tailed Grackle.

#### Sector B1 - Grassy island

Particular shorebirds of interest in this area include Semipalmated Plover, Red Knot, and Short-billed Dowitcher (mellow "tu-tu-tu" call, not the harsh "keek" of the Long-billed). Watch for Clark's Grebe, Common Goldeneye, Herring Gull, Royal and Caspian terns.

#### Sector B2 - South Bay

Particular shorebirds of interest in this area include Semipalmated Plover, Red Knot, and Short-billed Dowitcher (mellow "tu-tu-tu" call, not the harsh "keek" of the Long-billed). Watch for Clark's Grebe, Common Goldeneye, Herring Gull, Royal and Caspian terns.

#### Sector B3 - Mid-Bay

Particular shorebirds of interest in this area include Semipalmated Plover, Red Knot, and Short-billed Dowitcher (mellow "tu-tu-tu" call, not the harsh "keek" of the Long-billed). Watch for Clark's Grebe, Common Goldeneye, Herring Gull, Royal and Caspian terns.

#### Sector B4 – Ocean

Need to arrange for a boat to go from Morro Bay to Point Buchon. Look for White-winged Scoter, loons, Northern Fulmar, shearwaters, jaegers, gulls, terns, alcids.