



Our mission: "To promote the appreciation, conservation and restoration of ecosystems, focusing on the biological diversity of birds, other wildlife, and their habitats, particularly in San Luis Obispo County"

HELP AUDUBON PASS CLEAN WATER/WETLANDS BILL SB 1477

Audubon California and many Audubon Chapters are sponsoring a major clean water and wetlands bill to fill in a huge gap created recently in the federal Clean Water Act. Senate Bill 1477, authored by Senator Byron Sher (D- Palo Alto), will require the State Water Resources Control Board to regulate fill and discharges into non-navigable, intrastate waters that are no longer federally protected. Those waters include California's seasonal rivers, streams and lakes, vernal pools, more than half of the state's wetlands, many of the streams and lakes in the Sierras, and the drinking water sources for more than half of all Californians.

Following a very narrowly worded Supreme Court decision in 2001, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued a "guidance" to its field offices that virtually eliminates federal protection for almost 20 million acres of sensitive wetlands and thousands of miles of streams. In response to overwhelming public and state opposition, the EPA dropped its formal rulemaking process to codify the change, but did not withdraw the "guidance" to its field offices to eliminate protection of these waters, in effect leaving the enormous and very dangerous loophole in place. Several states, including New York, Wisconsin and Ohio, have introduced legislation to fill in the gap.

California has as much or more at stake than other states. Because California receives most of its rain and snow during the winter, many of its streams and lakes are dry for much of the year. Many others are simply not navigable. Many of these wetlands provide pollution protection and additional sources for some or all of the drinking water for more than twenty million Californians. These non-navigable waters are no longer provided the basic protections of the Federal Clean Water Act.

Clean water is essential to human health. It is also essential to California's economy. Many of these unprotected waters provide important flood and erosion control, water filtration, and habitat for fisheries, endangered species, and game species. In California alone, wildlife related activities add \$2.6 billion annually to the State's economy. The water filtration and flood control services provided by these unprotected waters save millions of dollars as well. And even the President's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) found recently that pollution control laws save far more in public health dollars than they cost to implement.

Californians overwhelmingly support clean water protection and, not surprisingly, rank it as one of the State's biggest priorities. Eighty percent of all Californians are concerned about water pollution in California. 76 percent only drink bottled or filtered tap water. Water pollution, like most types of pollution, disproportionately affects low-income communities and California's most vulnerable populations: children, the elderly and those with impaired immune systems. But it affects us all.

Please help Audubon California and your Audubon Chapter to pass SB 1477 by contacting your state Senator and Assemblymember and urging them to support SB 1477. You can find out who your state legislators are by going to www.vote-smart.org. To get their contact information go to www.senate.ca.gov or www.assembly.ca.gov and click on "legislators."

For a concise summary and a sample support letter, see pages 5, 6 and 7

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RARE BIRD ALERT

Morro Coast Audubon	528-7182
Monterey	831 375-9122
Northern California	415 681-7422
Los Angeles/Southern California	323 874-1318
Santa Barbara	964-8240
Pacific wildlife Care	543-WILD

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Electronic Subscription

Morro Coast Audubon Society's newsletter *Pacific Flyway* is available as a download on our web site, www.gliderpilots.org/audubon. It is a PDF file, and you must have the program Acrobat Reader in order to read it (If you don't have the program, it is easily downloadable for free.)

After looking at the .PDF version and If you are a **member of the Audubon Society or otherwise regularly receiving the Flyway in the mail**, and you decide that you wish to no longer receive the printed version, and instead have the PDF version of **each issue** sent to you **automatically** by e-mail as soon as it is posted, e-mail Rosalie Valvo at rvalvo@slonet.org with the name that your Flyway is mailed to. (Your e-mail address on the message to Rosalie will be used for the electronic subscription). The mailing of the Flyway will be discontinued, but your membership will not be affected.



CHECK IT OUT!

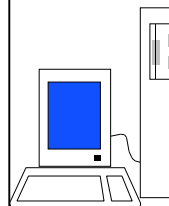
Next General Meeting: April 19. **"Recovering Jewels on the Beach".** with **Vince Cicero** and **Chris Coulter** concerning the Plover recovery program.....page **3**

Clean Water/Wetlands Bill Sb 1477
..... pages **1, 5, 6, 7**

OUR WEBSITE

www.gliderpilots.org/audubon

The current and recent past editions of the **PACIFIC FLYWAY** are available as .pdf downloads at this site.



Coming events

MCAS BOARD MEETING

Monday April 5 , 2004

MEGA Office near corner of 2nd St. and Santa Ysabel in Baywood Park. 6:45 PM. All interested members are invited to attend the board meeting.

GENERAL MEETING

Monday, April 19, 2004, 7:30 p.m.

The Congregational Church
11245 Los Osos Valley Road
San Luis Obispo

Recovering Jewels on the Beach

Join us to learn about the imperiled coastal population of the **Western Snowy Plover**. Find out what's happening to recover the population of 1,600 plovers and get your questions answered regarding the controversy of their delisting. **Vince Cicero**, Senior Resource Ecologist for California State Parks, will present the biology, nesting habits, and recovery management plans for these jewels of the beach. Through a "play and protect" approach, the Sharing the Beach Plover Management Program works to ensure the coexistence of wildlife and recreation. The WSP Volunteer Watch Program combines birding with conservation by surveying recreational uses at the beach. **Chris Coulter**, Volunteer Coordinator, will present program highlights which bring together community folks for conservation.. Elaine Townsend 543-1373

Invite friends to join you, and stay afterward for refreshments and sharing.

Elaine Townsend, Program chair

For more information, please call Elaine, 543-1373.

and

Election of Officers

before the program. See page 9 for the slate.

BIRDS AT EBB TIDE

Morro Coast Audubon invites visitors and newcomers to our area to come to the Audubon Overlook to enjoy the spectacle. Telescopes, binoculars, and bird field guides are available for your use and Audubon members will be there to help with identification.

April

Fri April 2nd 11:30 am

The Overlook is in Baywood Park and can be reached by turning west on Santa Ysabel-the traffic light on South Bay Blvd., then going west to Third Street. Turn right on Third to the end of the street, turn right again onto a short dirt lane to the Overlook parking area.. For further information call 772-1413. Heavy rain cancels! *Gloria Rasmussen*



SECOND SATURDAY AT SWEET SPRINGS

10 April 2004

9:00 AM till 12:00 Noon

During the last month we had another fruitful Second Saturday, 8 volunteers planted about 60 more native species, mostly dune lupine. We had a small crew from the Civilian Conservation Corps in to do some veldt grass removal on the Binscarth Property. They took out about 20 garbage bagsfull. Additionally they replaced the redwood edging on about 30 feet of the trail just before the first bridge. They also replaced several of the "water bars" that assist in drainage on the path. On the day of the recent big storm, we lost one cypress tree and limbs from two others. These trees were scheduled for removal by our tree surgeon, Ray Rudell. The storm saved us some money.

Hope to see everybody on the Second Saturday in April.

Meet at the main entrance to your preserve on Ramona St. in the community of Los Osos. Bring your guide books and binoculars and we'll do a little birding afterward. For additional information contact John Perkins at 528 0540.

COMING MCAS FIELD TRIP

Field Trip
Birding and Wildflowering
Saturday and Sunday, April 17 and 18
8:00 am
Wind Wolves Preserve
Kern County, CA

Wind Wolves Preserve is the largest privately owned preserve in the western U.S. It is nearly 100,000 acres and encompasses habitat from the valley floor of the San Joaquin Valley to over 5000 feet elevation. Tule Elk have been released there, and it is home to nesting Golden Eagles, Prairie Falcons and some of the largest Tri-colored Blackbird colonies in California. We will bird enormous wetland areas that harbor Yellow-breasted Chat, Willow Flycatcher, and many other species of birds. On Sunday, we will take a wildflower tour with the preserve manager. In April, the hillsides should be solid expanses of wildflowers.

We will be camping on the preserve, but there are motel accommodations less than 20 miles distant in Maricopa and along Highway 5 at the base of the Grapevine. I will be at the campsite on Friday and you are welcome to come then. We will bird around the campground early Saturday and meet the Saturday arrivals at 8:00 am.

Directions: From Highway 101 just north of Santa Maria, take the Hwy 166/Maricopa-Bakersfield exit and travel east to the town of Maricopa. Continue on 166 for 13 miles and watch for the Wind Wolves sign on your right. Enter the preserve and follow the signs and arrows to Wind Wolves and San Emigdio Canyon. When you come to a cement creek crossing, drive across the creek and take an immediate left and follow the signs to the Willows. We will camp at the willows. It is approximately 2.5 hours from Morro Bay to the preserve.

Please RSVP to Mike Stiles at 528-1515 or mstiles@calpoly.edu if you need further directions, and so I can give the preserve manager an idea of how many to expect.

FIELD TRIP REPORT

On March 6, Al Schmierer and I led an owling field trip for the Morro Coast Audubon. We started near dusk at the corner of Turri Rd and South Bay in Los Osos, and walked into the grassy hillside there. About 6:25 we had two SHORT-EARED OWLS hunting along the grassy slopes, and then saw a BARN OWL carrying food toward Cerro Cabrillo.

After dinner, we headed up Perfumo Canyon, stopping occasionally to listen and play tapes. At our second stop, just past the new parking area for the trails into the city open space, we had great looks at a WESTERN SCREECH OWL just overhead in an oak tree.

A few more stops yielded no more owls on Saturday (although Al and I had a GREAT HORNED OWL calling near a large group of mailboxes on Friday) until we were near the top of Perfumo. At a large open area just south of the windmill we had another Barn Owl. It was here the night before on our scouting trip, that Al and I had a pair of Western Screech Owls calling from an oak tree near the road.

At the windmill (the classic spot along that road for owls) we were blanked both nights. Just south of the windmill, in a large meadow on the west side of the road, we had another Screech Owl both nights.

On the way back down, we heard at least two COMMON POORWILLS calling from the grassy slopes.

We didn't have a great diversity of owl species, but we had a good time on a warm, full moon night.

Mike Stiles



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**SUPPORT CALIFORNIA CLEAN WATER LEGISLATION
SB 1477 (Byron Sher)**

SB 1477 (Byron Sher, D-Palo Alto) requires the State Water Resources Control Board to regulate fill and discharges into non-navigable, intrastate waters in California that were until recently protected by the Federal Government. Since 2001, the Federal Government has dropped protection of many of California's waters, including many of the State's drinking water supplies, wetlands, seasonal streams and lakes. SB 1477 requires California to protect those waters in order to maintain the drinking water quality, wildlife habitat, pollution and flood control services provided by those waters.

SB 1477 is Critical to Protect California's Drinking Water.

More than half of all Californians receive some or all of their drinking water from groundwater sources fed by or affected by isolated, non-navigable waters. Many of those waters and wetlands, which remove harmful pollutants from the State's drinking water, are no longer protected under Federal law. SB 1477 will protect drinking water supplies by controlling pollution, fill and other discharges into the non-navigable water sources of our drinking water supply.

SB 1477 Provides Flood Control and Pollution Control in California.

Wetlands and other seasonal waters provide millions of dollars worth of flood control in California by absorbing excess water in the winter and spring. New York and other states are finding it less expensive to protect wetlands and other non-navigable waters than to build costly water filtration plants. SB 1477 will maintain the flood control and other services provided by wetlands and other seasonal waters by reducing pollution and destruction of wetlands.

SB 1477 is Critical to Protect Habitat for Wildlife, Fisheries and Game Species.

Wildlife-related activities in California contribute \$2.6 billion annually to the State's economy. Many of these activities, including hunting, fishing and bird-watching, rely on the State's isolated, non-navigable waters, particularly wetlands, seasonal streams and non-navigable tributaries. SB 1477 will benefit California's economy by maintaining habitat for these species.

(over)

SB 1477 Provides Certainty where Federal Law is Ambiguous and Contradictory.

Federal water quality protection for non-navigable waters is currently quite murky. In 2001, the Federal Government issued a "Guidance" to its regional offices on the scope of federal jurisdiction over non-navigable waters. The EPA then issued a proposed rulemaking that was not entirely consistent with the Guidance. Nearly a year later, the EPA withdrew the proposed rulemaking, but left the Guidance in place, leaving a large loophole and great uncertainty over the extent of federal jurisdiction over non-navigable waters. SB 1477 provides certainty to regulated industries about the scope of protection for these waters and the process for compliance.

Californians Overwhelmingly Support Water Quality and Wildlife Protection.

Californians overwhelmingly support clean water protection and, not surprisingly, rank it as one of the State's biggest priorities. Eighty percent of all Californians are concerned about water pollution in California. 76 percent only drink bottled or filtered tap water. A strong majority of Californians believe that the Federal Government is not doing enough to protect water quality and that the State should step in to fill in the gaps in water quality protection.

For more information about SB 1477, please contact Julia Levin, State Policy Director of Audubon California, at 510-558-0125 or jlevin@Audubon.org. see also www.audubon-ca.org.



**SAMPLE LETTER TO LEGISLATORS
IN SUPPORT OF SB 1477**

[DATE]

The Honorable XXX
California State Assembly/Senate
P.O. Box YYYYYY
Sacramento CA [zip]

Re: Support for SB 1477, The Water Quality Protection Act of 2005

Dear Senator/Assemblymember XXX:

I am writing this letter [on behalf of the XXXX Chapter, which has YYY members in your district] to urge you to support SB 1477 (Byron Sher). Passage of SB 1477 is vital to protect California's drinking water, wildlife and public health.

During the past few years, the Federal Government has scaled back important public health protections under the federal Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act. In 2001, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency instructed its regional offices to drop any protection or regulation of non-navigable, intrastate waters. Those waters include many of California's streams and rivers [give a few examples in your area - such as the LA, SD and San Gabriel Rivers], more than half the state's wetlands, numerous seasonal lakes and streams, vernal pools and the drinking water sources for more than half of all Californians. These waters provide important wildlife habitat, flood protection and pollution controls. Wildlife related activities alone generate \$2.6 billion annually for California's economy, and the flood control and pollution control that they provide is worth hundreds of millions more per year. Without SB 1477, these waters will receive no protection whatsoever from pollution, discharges and fill.

Last year, California passed SB 288 to fill in the gap created in federal air quality protections. SB 1477 will fill in the gap in water quality protection created by the Federal Government. Doing so will plug an important hole in public health protection.

For all these reasons, I urge you to support SB 1477.

Sincerely,

Name
Home Address

bcc: Julia Levin



To our newest members

Arroyo Grande

Tony Aycock
Jean Buckner
L&J Nickols
Vernon Silva
William Taylor

Avila Beach

Metha Harper
Zetha Sceytt

Cambria

Barbara Dallmann
Deborah Gutierrez

Donna Karnes
Chris Siebutir

Grover Beach

Marcia O'Neil Frasier

Los Osos

John & Joy Gault
Virginia Jennings
The Kellets
Suzanne Martin
Janice Rohn
Shirley Young

Morro Bay

Samantha Keogh

Nipomo

Dee Hall

Pismo Beach

Karen & Art Brandt

San Luis Obispo

Randall Harris
Duffy Littlejohn
Vera Philbin
Sue Sunderland

AUDUBON LOOSES A FRIEND

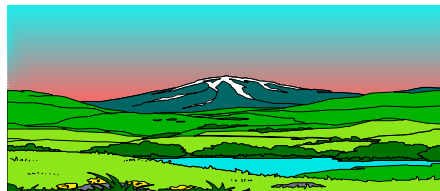
The environmental community lost a long time activist recently. Henry "Bud" Meyer died on Jan 23, 2004 at his home in Mount Vernon, Washington.

Bud retired from Lockheed Aircraft Corp. in 1969 and moved to Los Osos. He soon became active in Audubon and the California Native Plant Society. Bud was also an avid photographer. His interest in photography culminated in the production of a book of photographs of plants by Robert Hoover. Most of the photographs in this book were the work of Bud.

The largest project Bud undertook was a campaign against a proposal by Standard Oil to build a mono-buoy system in Estero Bay. Bud convinced local officials that the facility would do irreparable harm to the environment. As a result Standard Oil withdrew its application to construct the facility.

In the 1970s there was a proposal to pump agricultural waste water from the San Joaquin Valley to Soda Lake on the Carrizo Plains. As a result of Bud's work the Nature Conservancy acquired over 200,000 acres of the plains which later became a national monument.

Audubon planted an oak tree at the Sweet Springs Nature Preserve in Los Osos on March 13, 2004 in his memory.





BOARD HIGHLIGHTS **March 1, 2004 @ MEGA Office**

Board members present: Chris Crescioli, Dick Parker, John Perkins, David Roark, Mike Stiles, Linda Tanner, Elaine Townsend, Norma Wightman; Chpt. Adm. Stephnie Wald
Guests: Henry Pontarelli and Alan Schmierer

No Quorum Present—Notes below are not an official board meeting.

Call to order by President Roark. Minutes of the February meeting were in order.

Committee Reports:

Field Trips—Alan Schmierer, incoming field trip leader, obtained feedback from members present on the idea of a longer pelagic trip that would go out to the Davidson Sea Mount area. He also expressed concerns about poor communication on pelagic trips. Radio Shack has a 2 channel wireless mike system that could plug into the boat's PA system for around \$250. Parker suggested putting this amount into the next budget.

Programs—Elaine commented on the poor attendance at many general meetings; (8) at the February meeting. Flyers to publicize the March program featuring Kara Hagadorn and the redtail hawk, Sunshine. were passed out

Old Business

MB Sign Project—Janice Peters has forwarded the design for the new bird sanctuary signs to be placed in various city locations.

Retreat—Dick Parker announced the May 1 board retreat will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Sycamore Springs. It was suggested that past presidents be invited. Stephnie will prepare the agenda to go out ahead of time to the board.

Nominating Committee—Dick announced the new slate of officers. Hospitality Chair will be eliminated by omitting coffee from meetings. Linda Tanner volunteered to coordinate the meal events (Sept. potluck, picnic, Christmas Bird count potluck). The position of publicity and programs chairs will be combined as Rosemary Flamion has

agreed to serve in both capacities. The recording secretary position has not been filled.

New Business

A possible topic at the retreat might be program meetings and the need to rethink the format to appeal to a broader audience, i.e. collaborating with other organizations on programs at different times and places to appeal to families, retirees, etc.

Abstracted by the *Flyway* from the minutes of *Norma Wightman*
Recording Secretary

According to the MCAS bylaws there are seven openings to be filled by election at the General Meeting in April this year. Listed with their nominations are:

Officers

President: Dick Parker (succeeds to President from President-elect).

President-Elect: Henry Pontarelli - Elected for a one year term with the commitment that he will take over as president the following year. Henry is a Plover Volunteer and has recently returned from a week on Santa Cruz Island working on the Golden Eagle project.

Committee Chairpersons

Conservation: Dominic Perello - Dominic has been a member of MCAS for more than 20 years. He is a retired Cal Poly professor and lives in San Luis Obispo

Program/Publicity: Rosemary Flamion - Rosemary has agreed to combine the positions of Publicity and Programs and serve in both capacities. She will be responsible for scheduling speakers for seven special programs during the year. She has an extensive newspaper background.

Field Trips: Alan Schmierer - Alan has agreed to be in charge of field trips for the next two years. He is a well known birder, a member of the Society for many years and a participant and Compiler for the Christmas Bird Count.

continued next page

continued from preceeding page

Recording Secretary: Currently an open position. It will be temporarily filled by our Chapter Administrator, Stepnie Wald.

Education: **Kara Hagedorn** - Kara has agreed to fill this position for the one year left on the term. Kara is experienced in working with the local schools and will be recognized for presenting her Red Tailed Hawk, Sunshine, to the school children for the past year.

Directors at Large

Oone year term, and will be members of a standing committee or available for special assignments.

Linda Tanner: Linda is currently Hospitality Chair and designer of the new shade tree coffee triptychs.

Ted Pope: Ted is current Publicity Chair and remembered for his excellent essay on the shade tree coffee issue.

Dave Lawrence: Current Director at large and a long time member of MCAS.

The slate is presented by the nominating committee of Jim Havlena and Dick Parker, assisted by Rosalie Valvo and Karen Havlena.

Additional nominations may be made from the floor providing the nominee's consent has been obtained prior to the nomination.



DONATIONS



The Morro Coast Audubon Society would like to thank the following for donations received recently:

MCAS MEMORIAL FUND:

In memory of Gene Graves: Jo & Don Parham

In memory of Mary Thompson: Jo & Don Parham

HI MTN CONDOR PROJECT:

From: Bill Davies

MCAS GENERAL/SUPPORT FUND:

From: Anita & Ed Carson

Ron Rasmussen

Julie & Ray Smith

Joy Gault

If you would like to contribute to one of our funds (such as Education or Hi Mountain Condor Lookout), please send your check, payable to: Morro Coast Audubon Society, PO Box 160, Morro Bay, CA 93443-0160. Contributions are tax deductible under IRS Code 501(c)(3). Thank you!

Eureka!

THE BIRDS OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY – February 2004

American Bittern – 5-23 Feb, up to three were present on Oso Flaco Lake (BKS,AFS)
Least Bittern – 21-27 Feb, very rare in SLO County, one was seen at Oso Flaco Lake (DS)
Greater White-fronted Goose – 6 Feb, five were at a pond on Cottontail Creek Road (MA)
Ross's Goose – 3-29 Feb, 3 adults and 2 immatures were at Laguna Lake (RF); 8-14 Feb, the three at Oceano Lagoon continued (PR) with only one seen later; and 21 Feb, three first winter birds were on the Buckley Road Pond (AFS)
Wood Duck – 16 Feb, an incredible 132 were counted on the Atascadero Wastewater Ponds (RHZ)
Eurasian Wigeon – 15 Feb, two were seen on Morro Bay from the north end of Pecho Rd (fide JSR)
Blue-winged Teal – 14-24 Feb, up to 25 males with 5-6 females were west of the Baywood Pier (DL)
Harlequin Duck – 7-11 Feb, the wintering male was seen again north of Piedras Blancas Motel (MDS); 20 Feb, a female was observed below the Morro Bay Natural History Museum (FH); and 27 Feb, the male continued off the Estero Bluffs north of Cayucos (DT)
White-winged Scoter – 16 Feb, 10 males and 2 females off Morro Strand State Beach provided this year's highest winter count (TME)
Black Scoter – 6 Feb, one male and two females were seen on San Luis Bay (Port San Luis) (MDS)
Greater Scaup – 22-28 Feb, up to 27 were counted on Whale Rock Reservoir (TME)
Lesser Scaup – 28 Feb, twelve on Whale Rock Reservoir included a leucistic female (TME)
Hooded Mergansers – 16 Feb, a "pair" was in the pond along Buckley in SLO (AFS)
Common Merganser – 8 Feb, last date for the immature male wintering on the Oceano Lagoon (PR)
Red-breasted Merganser – 28 Feb, rare on freshwater, a female on Whale Rock Reservoir provided the first record for that location (TME)
Bald Eagle – 16 Feb, adult in one of the oak trees to the east of the Hwy 46 Shandon rest stop; 18 Feb, a likely 3rd year bird was one mile west of Bitterwater on Hwy 58 (MT)
Ferruginous Hawk – 18 Feb, dark morph bird was on Bitterwater Road (MT)
Red-tailed Hawk – 18 Feb, a dark morph bird was on Bitterwater Road (MT)
Mountain Plover – 15 Feb, "over 100" on the Carrizo Plain along Simmler Road near the water tank was a high count for the winter (JSR)
Bonaparte's Gull – 23 Feb, numbers increased since December with 120+ at SLO Wastewater Plant (AFS)
Laughing Gull – 5-29 Feb, the adult found at Oceano County Park in January continued its stay (mob)
White-winged Dove – 7-14 Feb, one was at a feeder at 846 N. 2nd Street in Grover Beach (Carol Thrope)
Common Ground Dove – 8-14 Feb, up to three were recorded near 166 Dana Foothill Blvd, Nipomo (mob)
Northern Pygmy Owl – 11 Feb, three (one seen) were in Los Padres National Forest land above the Ragged Point Inn (TME,AFS); 16 Feb, one was heard calling along upper Morro Creek (TME)
Burrowing Owl – 29 Feb, two were seen off Sprague Hill Road on the Carrizo Plain (RHZ)
Poorwill – 6 Feb, one was on a dirt driveway off Cottontail Creek Road (MA)
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – 8-29 Feb, juvenile female continued at Cal Poly Library (JSR)
Cassin's Kingbird – 2 Feb, winter flock along Arroyo Grande Creek in the Village of Arroyo Grande topped out at an astounding 42 birds (BKS) with only ten remaining on 23 Feb; 12 Feb, one was in sycamore trees on Duncan Lane in San Luis Obispo (RF)
Tree Swallow – 9 Feb, nesting bird returned to a home in Los Osos (JLR)
Cliff Swallow – 20 Feb, a "large flock" seen flying north along Morro Strand State Beach were early spring migrants (GSc); 22 Feb, one was at Whale Rock Reservoir (TME); and 23 Feb, six were at Oso Flaco Lake (AFS)
Barn Swallow – 22 Feb, 1-2 were on Whale Rock Reservoir (TME)
Sage Thrasher – 15 Feb, one was in a patch of scrub on Elkhorn Road just northwest of the intersection with Panorama (SM)
Nashville Warbler – 9 Feb, "adult female" at the Oceano Lagoon was likely the bird found in January (RF); 21 Feb, one was seen at Oso Flaco Lake (DS)
Black-throated Blue Warbler – 29 Feb, a well described male was along the entrance trail near the parking lot at Oso Flaco Lake (MSm)
Wilson's Warbler – 1-27 Feb, the male wintering at Oso Flaco Lake was singing on the 27th (DS,MDS)
Savannah Sparrow – 19 Feb, an unbanded large-billed race bird was the 6th one captured this winter on the Morro Bay State Park marina spit (GPS)
Swamp Sparrow – 22 Feb, one was in willows at Shark Inlet on Morro Bay (BAB)
White-throated Sparrow – 7 Feb, last date for the white-stripe bird coming to a feeder on 3rd Street in Los Osos (K&JH); 23-29 Feb, first winter white-stripe form bird at a feeder in Cayucos (CE)
Dark-eyed Junco – 1 Feb, last date for the "Slate-colored" race bird was at the Hi Mtn Lookout (AFS)
Tri-colored Blackbird – 29 Feb, a "large flock" was along Hwy 58 at Branch Mountain. Road (RHZ)
Great-tailed Grackle – 8 Feb, 93+ at Arroyo Grande Creek in Oceano provided a high count (BKS)
Hooded Oriole – 5 Feb, an immature male was seen in Shell Beach (BKS)

Likely escapees:

Mandarin Duck – 14 Feb, male on the ASTP (RHZ)
Ringed Turtle Dove – 16 Feb, pair of "pure" birds regularly at the nursery at the corner of Los Osos Valley Road and Pecho in Los Osos (AFS) *continued next page...*

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