



# Pacific Flyway

Newsletter of the Morro Coast Audubon Society

Volume 45 Issue 10, April 2011

## Jan Surbey Named Audubon California Volunteer of the Year!

Ms. Jan Surbey was recently named Volunteer of the Year by Audubon California Executive Director Graham Chisholm. She was given the honor at the recent Audubon Assembly Conference held in San Diego. Jan has been an MCAS board member for the past five years, serving as President Elect, then President and Past President from 2007 to the present. During Jan's presidency she championed MCAS's mission through countless accomplishments including the acquisition and permanent protection of eight acres adjacent to the existing Sweet Springs Nature Preserve in Los Osos.

Jan has also been a trip leader for the Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival for the past 4 years, led dozens of bird walks in Morro Bay and Santa Margarita, and attended several public outreach activities advocating MCAS's mission. Several MCAS members were asked what they thought of Jan and here are just a few of the many positive remarks that were received:

- "Jan has a gift of making everyone she works with feel as though they are important and special. She always greets you with a warm smile and a hug. Because of Jan's welcoming spirit, I feel motivated to be a part of Audubon by volunteering my time helping in places I can be useful."

- "Jan has such a positive outlook and amazing energy that make people of all ages want to join in on what she's doing."

- "It can't be done is something you will never hear from Jan. She continues to raise the bar."

A retired teacher from St. Louis, Missouri, Jan moved to the central coast in 1999 to enjoy year-round running. Even after traveling to all seven continents, Jan's favorite places on this planet remain southern Utah and Santa Margarita Lake, where she birds, lives, and works on the weekends. Jan's loyalty to the environment and desire to teach others about MCAS has been inspiring and made her a logical choice for this year's Volunteer of the Year.



*David Yarnold, President and CEO of National Audubon Society, honors Jan during the Audubon Assembly Conference. Photo courtesy of Stephanie Little.*

# MCAS 2010-2011 BOARD

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## Morro Coast Audubon Society Office and Outreach Center

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Hours: Thursday, 10am-Noon

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1507, Morro Bay CA 93443

Website: www.morrocoastaudubon.org

Printed on recycled paper

## BULLETIN

### Thank You MCAS Donors!

Richard & Brenda Allman  
Karen & James Clarke  
Samuel Essex  
HP Retired Employees Club  
*in memory of Jim Barbour*  
Cindi & Henry Jones  
Daniel J O'Neill  
Joel Weiss

### Bird Fun Fact

#### A NEW SPECIES OF SEABIRD HAS BEEN FOUND!

A five-person multi-national expedition led by British seabird expert Peter Harrison captured twelve of the mystery storm-petrels at sea near Puerto Montt, Chile, on February 18, 19, and 21, and it can now confirm the existence of a new species. This is the first new sea bird found for 55 years, and the first new storm-petrel for 89 years. This tiny black-and-white seabird belongs to a group of seabirds known as storm petrels, which appear to dance on the water, pushing off with webbed feet on long legs and, with wings spread, they are able to gather small food items from the surface of the water.

For the complete story, visit

[www.wildlifeextra.com/go/news/harrison-petrel.html](http://www.wildlifeextra.com/go/news/harrison-petrel.html)



Storm-petrel, photo courtesy of Peter Harrison

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Have an Item you Want to Trade or Sell?

MCAS is taking ad submissions for items you would like to trade or sell. Submissions will be considered for posting in the Pacific Flyway and/or on the MCAS website. Please refer to the rules and guidelines below for details.

#### Rules & Guidelines for Use:

- Listing must be submitted by MCAS members only.
- Purchaser need not be MCAS member.
- No commercial advertising.
- Items should relate more or less directly to birding, nature, or other MCAS activities, i.e. bird books, binoculars, scopes, tripods, cameras, etc.
- Descriptions must be 30 words or less.
- All transactions must be made between seller and buyer; MCAS holds no responsibility or liability in the goods sold or exchanged.
- Send ad info to [mcas@morrocoastaudubon.org](mailto:mcas@morrocoastaudubon.org) by the first week of the month to be considered for posting in the Flyway and/or MCAS website.
- It is suggested that a donation of about 10% of the sale price be made to MCAS.



*Gabb's checkerspot, photo courtesy of Alan Schmierer*

### Welcome to Our New MCAS Members!

*Arroyo Grande*  
Susan Blifeld

*Atascadero*  
Lara Anderson  
Kara Hagedorn  
Louise Joyce  
Royce Lapp  
Kathleen Pomi  
Angel Robinson  
Loretta J Wiens  
Amie Young

*Avila Beach*  
Robert Strong

*Cambria*  
Donald Antoine

*Cayucos*  
Jan Ames

*Grover Beach*  
Harold & Sarah Green  
Roberta Knapp

*Los Osos*  
Jovito Batalla  
Joanne Milburn  
Dorothy F Sanford  
Patti Tackett

*Morro Bay*  
Dawn Beattie  
Kasi Day  
Jean H Frein  
Saralyn Pettitt  
Susan Wilson

*Nipomo*  
Jean W Byrne  
Bruce Weis

*Paso Robles*  
Randy J Derhammer  
John R Gonzales  
Madeline Lapeyre  
Catherine Larson  
Charlene Martyn  
Manuel Toscano

John R Steinbeck

*San Luis Obispo*  
Jim Allan  
George L Beardsley  
Donna Brown  
Ana Hartig  
Brenda Helmbrecht  
Melissa Maino  
Evelyn Winslow

*Santa Margarita*  
Dale Magee

*Templeton*  
Jeanne Flory  
Ruth E Fralich

## LOCAL EVENTS, FIELD TRIPS & PROGRAMS

### MCAS Community Program - California's Grasslands: Why Birders Should Eat More Beef and Drink Less Wine

*Presented by Ed Pandolfino*

**Monday, April 18 at 7:00pm**  
**El Chorro Park, SLO Botanical Garden Oak Glen Pavilion (across from Cuesta College)**

Over the past 30 years, the grasslands of California's Central Valley and Coast Range have been lost at a higher rate than any other habitat type. Ed Pandolfino will talk about bird population trends in the Central Valley and why those data suggest an urgent need to re-align current priorities for conservation in the state. Using data from Christmas Bird Counts, Breeding Bird Surveys, and a three-year winter raptor survey project, he will show links between population trends and changing land uses in California.

After a checkered and inconsistent college experience that included dropping out and touring Europe as a drummer for a rock & roll band, Ed finally settled down and earned a PhD in biochemistry. He spent over twenty years working in various management positions in the medical device industry until his growing obsession with birds helped him to retire early. Ed is on the board of Sierra Foothills Audubon Society and is Vice-president of Western Field Ornithologists. He serves as a Regional Editor for Northern California for *North American Birds* and is on the editorial committee of for the Central Valley Bird Club Bulletin.

This month's "5 Good Minutes" will be presented by Dick Boyd. All MCAS Community Programs are free and open to the public. Refreshments will be provided; bring your own mug. As always, all ages are welcome.



*Ed Pandolfino, photo courtesy of Walt Carnahan*

### A Short Membership Meeting to Precede April Program

MCAS will hold its one yearly membership meeting preceding the April community program. The only agenda item is Board elections. Thankfully, most of the current Board members have graciously agreed to serve another term. The candidate for the one-year term of "Director-at-Large" is Kali Beard. MCAS is still seeking candidates for President-elect and Conservation chair, terms to begin in May. Please contact any current Board member if you are interested or know someone who would be an appropriate candidate for these positions.

### Sixth Annual MCAS / California Native Plant Society Collaborative Picnic

**Sunday, May 1 at Santa Margarita Lake**

Join the festivities taking place during our sixth annual collaborative picnic at the lake. Activities include several birding field trips, plant hikes and walks, guided kayaking and canoeing, an optics fest, and an art event featuring wildflowers. Of course, the most enjoyable event remains the "picnic potluck" at noon. Bring a dish to share and your own (preferably reusable) place setting. Visit [www.morrocoastaudubon.org](http://www.morrocoastaudubon.org) for a complete schedule and directions to the lake, or contact Jan Surbey at [jansurbey@earthlink.net](mailto:jansurbey@earthlink.net).

### Lopez Lake Area Birding Walk

**Saturday, April 23, 2011 from 8:00 to 12:00 noon**  
**at Mabel French Boy Scout Camp (Lopez Lake area)**

Meet leader Maggie Smith before 8:00am near the swinging bridge in Arroyo Grande. From here we will caravan to the Boy Scout camp where we will bird the oak woodlands habitat. We may also climb up to a ridge overlooking Lopez Lake. We could see one of the Bald Eagles that nest there. Most of the walking is easy, on dirt paths except for a short uphill hike to the ridge. This trip is suitable for birders of all ages. Bring binoculars, water, a snack and a field guide if you have one. We should be back in Arroyo Grande by noon. There is a limit of 12 people, so please RSVP to Maggie at [milleniummaggs@charter.net](mailto:milleniummaggs@charter.net) or 805-710-4356.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the Grand Ave / CA 227 exit off US 101. Drive east on Rte 227 for a few blocks past Traffic Way. Turn right (south) onto Bridge Street. Make an immediate left (east) into a parking area behind the shops.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONT.

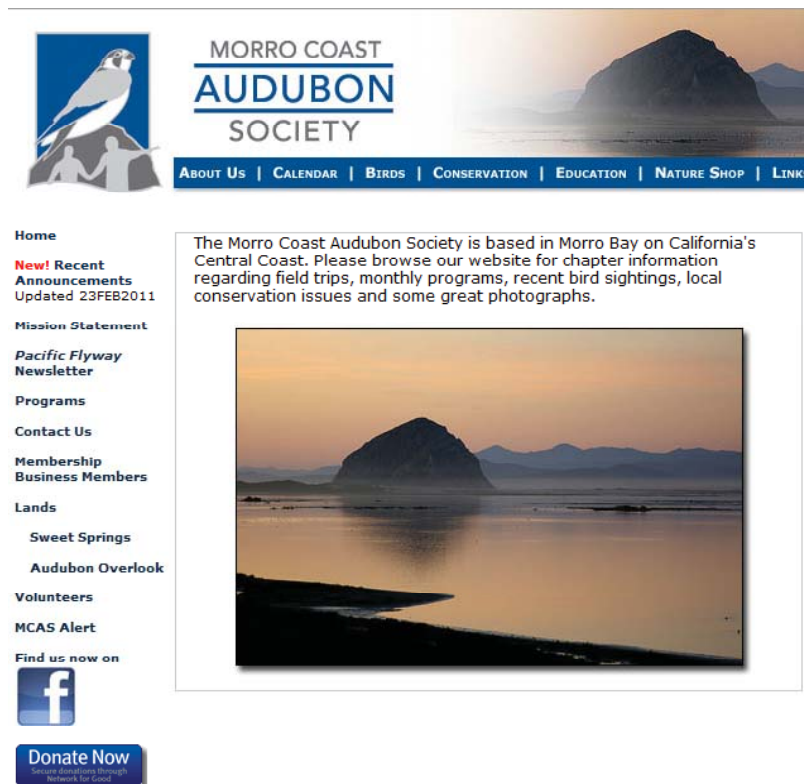
*The Eureka! Column will be back next month.*

## Have You Visited Our Website Lately? [www.MorroCoastAudubon.org](http://www.MorroCoastAudubon.org)

Our website is a terrific resource for MCAS members and the community to get information about our organization and our ongoing conservation and outreach efforts.

### Website Highlights

- We regularly post announcements about key initiatives taking place in the area, what we've been up to, and information on how to get involved in MCAS.
- Our new calendar is kept up-to-date on all upcoming programs, field trips, and events we will be participating in.
- You can download the latest copy of the Pacific Flyway newsletter.
- Visit our nature shop if you are interested in purchasing our snazzy merchandise or nature reference materials.
- Learn about our local birds by viewing the recent sightings page or downloading our birdfinding guides.
- Check out what we've been up to on the conservation and education front by visiting those sections.
- If you are interested in donating to MCAS, we make it easy through our website.



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Morro Coast Audubon Society website. At the top is a navigation bar with the organization's logo (a bird on a rock) and the text "MORRO COAST AUDUBON SOCIETY". Below the logo is a menu with links: "ABOUT US | CALENDAR | BIRDS | CONSERVATION | EDUCATION | NATURE SHOP | LINKS". The main content area features a large photograph of Morro Rock at sunset. To the left of the photo is a sidebar with a list of links: "Home", "New! Recent Announcements Updated 23FEB2011", "Mission Statement", "Pacific Flyway Newsletter", "Programs", "Contact Us", "Membership Business Members", "Lands", "Sweet Springs", "Audubon Overlook", "Volunteers", "MCAS Alert", and "Find us now on" with a Facebook icon. Below the sidebar is a "Donate Now" button with the text "Network for Good". To the right of the main photo is a text box that reads: "The Morro Coast Audubon Society is based in Morro Bay on California's Central Coast. Please browse our website for chapter information regarding field trips, monthly programs, recent bird sightings, local conservation issues and some great photographs."

## Morro Coast Audubon Society Membership Application

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PH \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

What type of membership would you like?

**Morro Coast Audubon Society and National Audubon Society combined membership**

(includes the Pacific Flyway newsletter and Audubon Magazine).

\_\_\_ \$15 Students/Seniors

\_\_\_ \$20 New/Intro

Make check payable to National Audubon Society.

**Morro Coast Audubon Society membership only**

(includes the Pacific Flyway newsletter)

\_\_\_ \$20 New or renewal

Make check payable to MCAS.

**MCAS Membership Details**

Please mark all that apply:

\_\_\_ I'd like to receive occasional "MCAS Alert!" email notifications of news and events.

\_\_\_ I would like to be contacted about volunteer opportunities.

\_\_\_ I would like to receive information about the MCAS planned giving program.

For questions, contact the Membership Chair. (Contact information on page 2.)

For both membership types, mail form & check to: MCAS, PO Box 1507, Morro Bay, CA 93443

To check the status of your National Audubon Society membership or request changes call 1.800.274.4201



MORRO COAST  
**AUDUBON**  
SOCIETY

**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.

### Morro Coast Audubon Society

P.O. Box 1507, Morro Bay CA 93443

805-772-1991

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