

---

**Volume 39 Issue 7 Morro Coast Audubon Society**                      **December 2004 January 2005**

*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"*

---

*to Morro Coast Audubon... from Henry Pontarelli*

What are Audubon members but a group of individuals who have in some way been touched by a bird in its habitat? **But we are more.** We have been touched, AND we have ACTED. We have each taken resources of time and money and banded together with other individuals who also feel the necessity of preserving these habitats. And most importantly, we are helping to teach others about the importance of habitat and diversity. These actions may be the admission that we humans are more likely to fair well, raise strong offspring and perpetuate our species if that bird continues to have access to that habitat. The health of our collective species is linked. The strength of our Audubon Society hinges on the strength of its members. Not just the 11 board members, but each and every member. Each board, with guidance from the members at large, sets the stage for the next period of advancement. We are presently in the act of springing forward to become a more visible and effective "preserver" of habitat, teacher and guide. Here's what we're doing:

**World Wide Web:** Our new and expanding website under Mike Stiles's supervision is a good example of our vibrancy. Check it out at [www.morrocoastaudubon.org](http://www.morrocoastaudubon.org).

**Programs:** The Morro Coast Audubon is attracting nationally recognized speakers; Bernardo Alps (President L.A. Cetacean Society), see his photos of Humpback Whales, Sea Lions and Shearwaters from our recent trip; [www.morrocoastaudubon.org](http://www.morrocoastaudubon.org)., Jessica Dooley (Field Coordinator, Bald Eagle Reintroduction Program Santa Cruz Island). Melinda Alvarado, who has been rehabbing bats since 1995, addressed our group and showed live specimens. Eric Kerschner, who did his PhD work on San Clemente Island studying the Loggerhead Shrike, will address the MCAS in February.

**Field Trips:** The MCAS has a very active program of field trips, by land and by sea, to a great variety of locations and habitats and made possible by the volunteer efforts of expert leaders. Alan Schiemerer is doing a wonderful job of organizing this program and acting as leader himself on many occasions.

**Lands:** Our land. YES, your Audubon owns and manages the Sweet Springs preserve in Los Osos and conducts the Birds at Ebb-Tide program there. We thank John Perkins and Gloria Rasmussen for their efforts.

**Education:** Our Education chair, Kara Hagedorn is making space for our community on a research vessel conducting bird censuses in the bay. Data collected from these trips will be made available in print and in the classroom. Contact us for more information.

**Special Programs:** California Condors are not only being tracked using radio signals but with luck VISUALLY from the HiMountain Lookout in the Pozo Range. The MCAS has supported and will continue to support this program. Information regarding HiMountain can be accessed from our website ([morrocoastaudubon.org](http://morrocoastaudubon.org)).

**Eureka:** A special thanks to Tom Edell for maintaining the EUREKA column in our Flyway, a scientifically-significant list of what species of birds are in our county, when they first appear as well as when they depart.

**MEMBERS, WE CANNOT DO ALL OF THIS WITHOUT YOU. WE NEED YOUR HELP. NO, THIS IS NOT A PLEA FOR MONEY. WE SEEK YOUR PARTICIPATION.** We seek your attendance at our programs, field trips and the winter bird count. There are many opportunities to help the MCAS in its conservation and education efforts, pelagic study, restoration projects, essay contest, bird festival and the establishment of a scholarship fund as well as contributing to our "Flyway".

Please contact me with any question on how you might join us in our efforts 528 4587.

---

## COMING FIELD TRIPS

---

### DEC 4<sup>th</sup>: ARROYO GRANDE AREA

Meet leader Alan Schmierer at 8:00AM at the east end of the downtown Arroyo Grande parking lot. (Exit off of Rte 101 at Grand Ave / Rte 227 exit. Go east. Just after Traffic Way, turn right onto Bridge Street and then immediately left into the parking lot.) As time permits, we will also visit several nearby coastal spots. We will finish before noon. Suitable for birders of all skill levels.

For more information call Alan Schmierer 534-9194 or e-mail [aaschmierer@yahoo.com](mailto:aaschmierer@yahoo.com)

### DEC 18<sup>th</sup>: MORRO BAY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Not too late to sign up. Call or e-mail Bert and Elaine Townsend 543-1373, [berttownsend@slonet.org](mailto:berttownsend@slonet.org)

### JAN 1<sup>st</sup>: CARRIZO PLAIN CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The Carrizo Plain CBC will be on Saturday, January 1, 2005. We will be meeting at the Community Center/Fire Station on Soda Lake Road at 8:00 a.m. If interested please email or call me to let me know that you are participating.

Roger Zachary  
[rzachary@charter.net](mailto:rzachary@charter.net)  
(805)466-6222  
Atascadero, CA

### JAN 14<sup>th</sup> thru JAN 17<sup>th</sup>: MORRO BAY WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL

For details, see  
[www.morro-bay.net/bird](http://www.morro-bay.net/bird)

---

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

---

### **Lopez Lake Boat Trip**

After predictions of rain for Saturday morning, we got lucky and had a spectacular clear and warm morning! It was an enjoyable morning with good company. Of the 60 species observed from the boat, and by some of us who lingered to do a little land birding afterwards, perhaps none was unexpected. A few noteworthy birds were: 3 Common Mergansers, good looks at 2+ Ospreys, several fly-bys by a dark phase Red-tailed Hawk, Bonaparte's Gull (what a beautiful and graceful bird !!), 15 Wilson's Snipe in a single 15 foot stretch of mudflat, 10 Long-billed (?) Dowitchers, and 2 imm Golden Eagles. The latter 2 species were seen after the boat trip by those of us who did some land birding by the lake shore.

A special thanks to Mary Adams for helping with the arrangements and our special rates! ..... And for spotting the 2 Golden Eagles!

*Alan Schmierer, Los Osos.*

## Hi Mountain Lookout Project

The Hi Mountain project website ([www.condorlookout.org](http://www.condorlookout.org)), developed and managed by Paul Andreano, has been recently updated with new photos. Click on the photo galleries to see past open house events, volunteers and staff at work, wildlife observations, and condors. An upcoming issue of AUDUBON magazine will be featuring an article about Morro Coast Audubon Society and the Hi Mountain Lookout Project. Take a look!

We are seeking new volunteers who are interested in occasionally staffing the lookout visitor center and/or participating in condor radio tracking research. Please contact me if you would like to get involved in training sessions and receive a volunteer handbook.

Steve Schubert  
Volunteer Coordinator  
#805 528-6138



\*\*\*\* GIFTS of LASTING SUPPORT \*\*\*\*

Remembering the Morro Coast Audubon Society (MCAS) in your will or living trust is a thoughtful way to help our chapter continue its programs in habitat conservation and children's environmental education.

Amendments to existing wills and to revocable living trusts can easily be accomplished by an attorney. Bequests of specific dollar amounts or a percentage of your estate can be included in your plans.

The opportunity to leave a lasting gift to MCAS is most needed in the General Fund, where a future Board of Directors could decide how best to use your special gift.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.  
For more information contact Jim Havlena.

528-6484

**OFFICERS**

President	Dick Parker		528-8272
	rsparkkp47@aol.com		
President t-Elect	Henry Pontarelli		534-1493
	wisohen@hotmail.com		
Past President	David Roark		
Treasurer	Jim Havlena	hm	528-7965
	havlenas@fix.net	wk	528-6484
Chapter Administrator	Stephnie Wald		489-9840
	swaldcoho@hotmail.com		

**CHAIRPERSONS**

Programs & Publicity	Rosemary Flamion		528-8193
	rflamebird@aol.com		
Field Trips	Alan Schmierer		534-9194
	aaschmierer@yahoo.com		
Hospitality	Dawn Williams		545-8412
	slodawn1@aol.com		
Conservation	Dominic Perello		543-9085
	dperello@calpoly.edu		
Membership	Mary S. Adams		474-0147
	mary@rb3.swrcb.ca.gov		
Education	Kara Hagedorn		772-3915
Lands	John Perkins		528-0540
	TeleEar@aol.com		
Communications	Dick Boyd		772-3993
	dickboyd@charter.net		

**DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE**

Ted Pope		hm	545-9705
TNBPope@charter.net		wk	547-0242
		Fax	547-0142
Linda Tanner			534-9919
Tannerland@Charter.net			

**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

**Reporting Marine Mammal Problems**

- To report a dead sea otter south of Cambria 772-1135
- To report a dead sea otter north of Cambria 927-3893
- To report a live stranded marine mammal (415) 289-7325

*PACIFIC FLYWAY* is published ten times per year.  
 Deadline for copy submitted is the 1 st Monday of the Month.  
 Printed at Hay Printing, Morro Bay, on recycled paper.  
 Labeled & mailed at Achievement House.

**Subscriptions are available to non-members at \$12 /yr.**  
**Send check payable to The Morro Coast Audubon Society, P. O. Box 160, Morro Bay, CA 93443-0160**

**Electronic Subscription**

Morro Coast Audubon Society's newsletter *Pacific Flyway* is available in electronic form as a .PDF file that is distributed by e-mail. You must have an e-mail address 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.) The .PDF versions are being archived on the Chapter's Website(see bottom of page). After looking at a .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, then e-mail Rosalie Valvo at [rvalvo@slonet.org](mailto: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 otherwise affected.

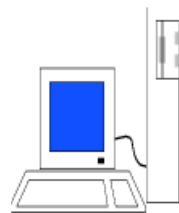


**CHECK IT OUT!**

**Next General Meeting:**

Dec 18 CBC potluck ..... page 3

**Plover Volunteers Honored.....page 5**



Our Website  
[www.morrocoastaudubon.org](http://www.morrocoastaudubon.org)

Past issues of the *Flyway* are available at the website e-mail:

[mcas@morrocoastaudubon.org](mailto:mcas@morrocoastaudubon.org)

## 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.

9 Dec. at 11:00 am,

13 Dec at 1:30 pm

---

January 14-17

The Overlook will be staffed with Bird Festival volunteers

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

Saturday 11 December 2004  
9:00AM to 12 Noon

Meet at the main entrance to Sweet Springs on Ramona Ave in Los Osos, bring only yourself and perhaps a pair of gardening gloves. Additionally bring your binoculars and birding book. The waterfowl and shorebirds will be here in their usual large numbers, we'll relax and do a little birding from the viewing platform after the "work" party over, Call John at 528 0540 for further information.

### Raffle Donations:

#### Juniper Ridge Western Wild Goods

([www.juniperridge.com](http://www.juniperridge.com)) A catalog for western wild plant enthusiasts - an assortment of high quality, sustainably wildcrafted products from the mountains and deserts of the west.

**Ecological Laboratories, Inc.** ([www.microbelift.com](http://www.microbelift.com))  
Biological mosquito control

**Wild Birds Unlimited - SLO**([stores.wbu.com/sanluisobispo](http://stores.wbu.com/sanluisobispo)) gift certificate

**Rosemary Flamion** - plants, suet feeder

**Henry Ponterelli** - Sibley's Field Guide, wine, water bottle

**Al Schmierer** - miscellaneous donations

If you have a donation to our raffle, please contact Rosemary Flamion ([RFlameBird@aol.com](mailto:RFlameBird@aol.com)) or 528-8193 or bring to our next meeting.

## MCAS BOARD MEETING

**Monday Dec 6 , 2004**  
6:45 P. M.

The Board Meeting will be held at the Los Osos Fire Station conference room and is located at Bayview Heights and Ninth. All interested members are invited to attend.

## GENERAL MEETING

Come one – come all!

**Saturday, December 18, 2004 at 6:00 PM**

Trinity Methodist Church  
Los Osos Valley Road at Pine St  
Los Osos

Please join us for fun after the annual **Christmas Bird Count**. You don't have to bird in the Christmas Bird Count to join us for a POTLUCK SUPPER. You'll find out the preliminary tally of the count and meet the participants. Bring a side dish, salad, desert, condiments as well as your utensils. MCAS will provide turkey and drinks. We'll have a **raffle** as well as a special raffle for a "Bird Quilt."

Rosemary Flamion, Program chairperson  
For more information, please contact Rosemary at 528-8193



## DONATIONS

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



MCAS MEMORIAL: In memory of **David Roark**  
from: **Norma Wightman**  
**Barbara & Laurence Passmore**



MCAS General/Support: **Joan Harper**

If you would like to contribute to one of our funds (such as Education, Hi Mtn Condor Lookout, Snowy Plover), 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!

## Thank you Morro Coast Audubon Society and Volunteers!

It wouldn't be possible to do the Western Snowy Plover Watch Volunteer Program without you all. We've made tremendous strides this season for our precious beach jewels and hope more of you can join us next year. Looking forward to growing and expanding the program in the coming years.

Pictured from left to right: Jay Bonestell, Sylvia Rosenberg, Barbara Akle, Rosemary Flamion, Lynda Merrill, Henry Pontarelli, Chris Coulter, Dick Parker, & Kara Hagedorn.

*Chris Coulter*



## HIGH-LIGHTS from NOVEMBER 1, 2004 BOARD MEETING

**Attending** Dominic Perello, Dawn Williams, John Perkins, Jim Havlena, Henry Pontarelli, Al Schmierer, Linda Tanner, Dick Parker, Kara Hagedorn, Rosemary Flamion, Ted Pope, Dick Boyd, Steph Wald

**Salton Sea (Dominic and Henry):** Henry visited the area as a result of being contacted by the Salton Sea Coalition. They are asking for MCAS name in support. He will learn more about the issue at the State Assembly regarding NAS position.

**Nominating Committee for 2005 (Henry):** Dom suggested putting solicitation in Flyway/website. The election of officers and chairpersons takes place at the April General meeting. . The deadline is Feb. Recording Secretary - Open this year, nice to get it filled in 2005

Directors at Large - Serve one year terms  
Membership, Education, Communication and Lands will be open in 2005.

Nominating Committee is to be composed of 5 Chapter members, three from the board and two from general membership. Slate of nominees is to be published in the March Newsletter, (therefore due end of February).

**New Location For Board Meetings (Henry):** The Los Osos Fire Station conference room is available located at Bayview Heights and Ninth. Stayed tuned.

**Attendance at State Assembly in Stockton (RSP):** Henry and Dick P are attending.

**Funding for Pelagic Study (Kara and Henry):** Henry distributed next draft of financial obligations for the study which is a departure from previous MOUs as Dr. V.

indicated it was not feasible to enter into an MOU with CalPoly. Henry proposed and Jim seconded that board release \$6,500 to get underway.

**Birding Brochure (Ted and RSP):** RSP requested financial assistance from County Supervisors discretionary fund. Jim will begin application process, then pass it on to Dick and Ted.

Ted indicated he was interested in sponsoring an essay contest on birds/nature. Possible co-sponsors to be the Tribune, MCAS and Wild Birds Unlimited. Theme to be celebration of birds for grades 4-6.

**National Audubon Position Paper (RSP):** NAS position paper comments are due December 10<sup>th</sup>. Please forward comments to Steph by 12/5.

**At Large**—Linda Tanner—following up on having items to sell at meetings. Henry/Kara propose that MCAS purchase 50 hats with “Morro Coast Audubon” and whatever bird the bird festival chooses for their hats. Proposal passed.

**Lands – John Perkins**—Sweetsprings now has MUTT MITT dispenser on front gate donated by Liz Blake and Dorothy Rooney. Bill Moore and John have been at Festivals with a tent and brochures and fancy pigeons. Bill has requested some help.

**Education – Kara Hagedorn**—Has contacted previous education chair and is developing ideas for activities to use at Birds at Ebb Tide and other venues.

**Treasurer – Jim Havlena**—distributed statement for review. Reminded folks that deductions can be claimed for their nonprofit activity expenses.

*abstracted by the Flyway from minutes of Steph Wald*

### Miscellaneous Department

FREE ---- CAMERA ADAPTER to attach 35 mm camera (film or digital, as long as it has removable lenses) to a Kowa TSN (or other Kowa?) scope. As-new condition. New, retails for \$200+. ALAN

SCHMIERER 534-9194.

*Eureka cont'd from page 7*

Exotic/Escapees Reported: A female **East African Weaver** of the genus *Ploceus* was in upper Deer Canyon in northeast Arroyo Grande on 2 Oct (BKS).

**OBSERVERS:** Thanks to the many birders that report their sightings. The following people are cited above: Jackie Allison, Jerry Ambrose, Doug Buckmaster, Karen Clarke, Tom M. Edell, Steve Glover, Dave M. Lawrence, Jim S. Royer, Ron M. Ruppert, Alan F. Schmierer, Brad K. Schram, Steve C. Schubert, Kathy Sharum, Gregory P. Smith, Maggie L. Smith, Bob Stafford, Mike D. Stiles, Mike Tyner, Eric Weir, and Roger H. Zachary. For information about birds or locations mentioned in this report, contact Tom Edell at (805) 995-1691 or tedell@aol.com....*Tom Edell*

## Eureka!

### THE BIRDS OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY – October 2004

The following birds are noteworthy based on their status and distribution in SLO County. A good source for status and distribution information is the Morro Coast Audubon pamphlet *The Birds of San Luis Obispo County, California*.

A seabird survey of Estero Bay on 29 Oct produced a single **Flesh-footed Shearwater**, 6-8 **Buller's Shearwaters**, and ~500 **Black-vented Shearwaters** (BKS). Single **Cattle Egrets** were at the ponds just north of Cuesta on 7 Oct (MLS) and on Morro Bay on 12 Oct (JLR). A sub-adult/adult **California Condor** was seen over Montana de Oro State Park on 28 Oct (SCS). The adult and two immature **Greater White-fronted Geese** found in the horse pasture south of Arroyo Grande Creek in Oceano last month continued through 3 Oct (MLS). A flock of 55 **Canada Geese** that flew over Morro Bay may have been winter arrivals (SCS). The 60 **Brant** found on Morro Bay on 31 Oct (MLS) were the first of the season. **Wood Duck** numbers have declined with only a male on the evaporation pond behind the San Simeon State Park Campground on 2 Oct (TME), a male and female on a Cal Poly pond on 31 Oct (MLS), and a few at the Atascadero wastewater ponds (RHZ) reported during the period. The first **Eurasian Wigeon** of the fall was a male seen on Morro Bay below the Elfin Forest on 12 Oct (JLR). Another seen there on 31 Oct may have been an **American x Eurasian Wigeon** hybrid. Its forehead was creamy colored, the head light rufous with a small patch of green behind the eye, and the back and sides were a combination of light gray and rufous cinnamon color (MLS). Fifteen **Canvasback** at Oso Flaco Lake on 31 Oct (DML) were the season's first. A male and female **Greater Scaup** were at Oceano County Park on 16 Oct (TME). A flock of 900 **Surf Scoter** off the Morro Bay sandspit on 16 Oct (JLR) and a **Bufflehead** at Whale Rock Reservoir on 17 Oct (MLS) were the first fall arrivals. The **Common Merganser** present at Oceano County Park since last fall has molted into adult male plumage (TME).

At least six **Osprey** were reported during the month with at least one around Oceano 2-30 Oct (mob), one around Morro Bay 10-29 Oct (mob), one at Oso Flaco Lake 10-13 Oct (MLS), and two over Hazard Canyon on 29 Oct (JLR). Adult **Bald Eagles** near Harmony on 3 Oct (DB) and at Whale Rock Reservoir on 11 Oct (MLS) may have been the same individual. A **Merlin** near Cuesta College on 17 Oct (Eric Weir) and a **Prairie Falcon** at Morro Bay on 1 Oct (RMR) were along the coast where they are rare. An influx of immature **Common Moorhens** early in the month produced birds at Oso Flaco Lake 1-13 Oct (MLS), Santa Rosa Creek near Shamel Park 2-11 Oct (TME), Oceano County Park 4 Oct (MLS), and the Cuesta Ponds on 7 Oct (MLS). A flock of 14 **Red Knots** was found on Morro Bay on 9 Oct (JSR). The latest **Baird's Sandpiper** of the fall was at Whale Rock Reservoir on 9 Oct (TME). Nine **Pectoral Sandpipers** were reported along the coast from Arroyo Laguna to the Morro Bay estuary between 2-15 Oct (mob). A first winter **Thayer's Gull** at Oceano County Park on 30 Oct was the first of the season (TME). A juvenile **Sabine's Gull** that flew over the Morro Bay estuary during the "Big Sit" event on 10 Oct was completely unexpected (SCS). Six basic plumage **Marbled Murrelets** were off the mouth of San Simeon Creek 2-11 Oct (TME).

Single **White-winged Doves** were at Spooners Cove Campground on 3 Oct (CAM) and in Los Osos on 23 Oct (GPS).

A **Long-eared Owl** was present at a ranch house in the southern Carrizo Plain National Monument in mid-Oct and on 31 Oct (KS). The female **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** that wintered last year in the pepper trees in front of the Cal Poly library returned on 27 Oct (MDS). A female **Red-naped Sapsucker** was on the Chimineas Ranch in the western Caliente Range on 9 Oct (BS). A **Western Wood-Pewee** at the Oceano campground on 5 Oct (AFS) and a **Willow Flycatcher** at the east end of the Lake Margarita on 2 Oct (AFS) were the latest reported. Three **Tropical Kingbirds** was above average for fall with single birds at Arroyo Laguna on 11 Oct (JSR), Oso Flaco Lake on 12-14 Oct (SG), and Oceano County Park on 15-16 Oct (fide MT). Another **Kingbird** that flew by the Oceano campground on 10 Oct (RHZ) could not be identified to species. A calling **Cassin's Kingbird** near the library at Cal Poly on 30 Oct (TME) was likely a returning wintering bird. A very late **Western Kingbird** found at the Atascadero wastewater ponds on 3 Oct (RHZ) tied the county's late date. Speaking of late, a **Red-eyed Vireo** along Coon Creek on 23 Oct was a bit tardy (JSR). An undocumented report of a **Yellow-green Vireo** along Islay Creek in Spooners Cove Campground on 2 Oct (JSR) would be only the fourth county record if accepted by the California Bird Records Committee. Five **Common Ravens** in Templeton on 30 Oct (JMC) were a bit west of their typical range. An impromptu **Winter Wren** survey along Coon Creek on 27 Oct produced 8, but suggested many more are present (AFS). Four **Phainopeplas** were feeding on elderberries at the Atascadero wastewater ponds on 3 Oct (RHZ).

A first fall **Tennessee Warbler** was along Santa Rosa Creek downstream of the Windsor Ave Bridge on 2 Oct (TME) and a first fall male **Northern Parula** was at Oceano Campground on 1-2 Oct (BKS). Single **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were found at Oso Flaco Lake on 1-4 Oct (MT) and 18 Oct (MLS), the Oceano campground 7-16 Oct (JA), and along Santa Rosa Creek, 12 Oct (SG). Single **Blackburnian Warblers** were at Oso Flaco Lake on 1 Oct, (MT) and in the Oceano campground, 12-13 Oct (SG). **Blackpoll Warblers** at the Oceano campground on 5 Oct (AFS), 14 Oct (DML), and 28 Oct (JSR) may have been different birds; one was also seen at Spooners Cove Campground on 22-23 Oct (MT). Four **Black-and-white Warblers** was about average for fall with one in the "Village" of Arroyo Grande on 5 Oct (DML), another at Oso Flaco Lake on 14-15 Oct (MT), and two at the Oceano campground on 16 Oct (TME). Two **American Redstarts**, one at Oceano campground 10-21 Oct (RHZ) and another at Cook Creek (MT), and only two **Palm Warblers**, one at San Geronimo Creek on 8 Oct (BKS) and one at Arroyo Laguna on 11 Oct (JSR), were fewer than expected. An immature male **Canada Warbler** at the Oceano campground on 15-16 Oct (MT) provided the 26<sup>th</sup> record for the county.

The Oceano Campground hosted a blotchy-red **Summer Tanager** on 1 Oct (BKS) and a female on 10 Oct (MLS). A **Green-tailed Towhee** that was photographed at a feeder in Nipomo on 14-18 Oct (JA) provided the county's 12<sup>th</sup> record. The only **Clay-colored Sparrow** reported this fall was one in Spooners Cove Campground on 10 Oct (AFS). Two rare sparrows returned to the Morro Bay State Park marina spit with a "large-billed" **Savannah Sparrow** and a **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** there on 15 Oct (GPS). Other interesting sparrows were a **Swamp Sparrow** near the native plant garden at Spooners Cove on 23 Oct (JSR) and an adult **White-throated Sparrow** at a feeder in Los Oso, 28 Oct (MDS). An immature male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was along Santa Rosa Creek upstream of Shamel Park on 2 Oct (Karen Clarke). Single first year male **Hooded Orioles** at a feeder in Cayucos on 2 and 19 Oct (TME) were likely the same bird. **Pine Siskins** are showing up through out the county this fall from the coast to the Carrizo Plain; three at a feeder at Hi Mountain on 2 Oct (AFS) were the first of the fall.

**Morro Coast Audubon Society Membership Application**

Yes, I would like to join the Morro Coast Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society, and receive the Flyway and Audubon Magazine. Enclosed is a check payable to the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY in the amount of:

\$15 Students/Seniors      \$20 Introductory      \$35 Basic(renewal)      Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ NEW MEMBER      RENEWAL

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ ( E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ )

Mail check and coupon to: MORRO COAST AUDUBON SOCIETY, P.O. Box 160, Morro Bay CA 93443-0160. To check the status of your subscription or request membership changes call 1-800-274-4201.

Morro Coast Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 160  
Morro Bay CA 93443-0160  
*Return Service Requested*

---

Non-Profit Org.  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
San Luis Obispo CA  
Permit No. 26

---

December 2004 /January 2005