



601 Embarcadero, Suite 11 Morro Bay, California 93442
805-772-3834 Fax 805-772-4162

MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: Ann Kitajima, Program Manager
Phone: 805-772-3834

For Immediate Release
June 21, 2005

CALLING ALL BIRDERS... YOUR SKILLS ARE NEEDED!

Break out those binoculars and spotting scopes and join other experienced shorebirders for the Morro Bay National Estuary Program's Volunteer Monitoring Program (VMP) fall shorebirding effort. The VMP is seeking volunteers with shorebird identification experience for a census on Saturday, August 27 from 8:30 am to noon.

Under the coordination of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, shorebird surveys were conducted in Morro Bay between April 1988 and August 1994. Using the same protocol, the VMP has continued the effort with spring and fall surveys since 2003. Birders will be observing from land with spotting scopes, from kayaks or canoes on the water, from the Sandspit, and from Morro Strand from Morro Rock to the Rocky Point (Northpoint).

Collecting these data will provide a view of the variability of shorebird numbers seasonally and annually, with the overall goal of tracking long-term trends. Shorebirds are an important bioindicator of the health of the bay and the Pacific Flyway.

If you are interested in participating, please call Ann Kitajima or Annie Gillespie at the NEP office at 772-3834. Please respond by August 12 to participate.

#####