



Volume 42 Issue 3 Morro Coast Audubon Society

July-August 2007

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"

MCAS is not just for the birds, or birders!

When a bird-friendly gardener was questioned recently by our membership chair, Rosalie Valvo, about the possibility of joining Morro Coast Audubon Society (MCAS), the gentleman replied, "I can't join MCAS; I don't know enough about birds." Since most of you reading this article are already MCAS members, you are well aware that knowing anything about birds is certainly NOT a requirement for membership. But your friends, neighbors, families and acquaintances may not know this; I am asking you to help spread the MCAS mission and message.

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."

The MCAS "message" (included in our nearly completed MCAS Strategic Plan for the next five years) is best described using the acronym CREED (Conservation, Research, Education, Expansion, and Diversity). Each of these areas encompasses goals and objectives that MCAS will be striving to accomplish. Did you notice that there is no "B" in CREED?? No "B" for Birds, Birders, Bird-brains, Bird-lovers, Bird-watchers, or other names most of us have been labeled. True, most of us are interested in birds, some of us are definitely "experts" (excluding myself), and MCAS is an organization where people can learn about birds. Nevertheless, MCAS is reaching out "to any person interested in the purposes of MCAS" (the membership "definition" according to our by-laws). That's where "Expansion" and "Diversity" come in. And you, our members, can help with "Education" by encouraging others to participate in the organization, and attend our free community programs, field trips, and events.

So, please start practicing the CREED. And remember, there is no "B", but perhaps we should add an "F" for Fun! Join us for our FUN TRIPOD series of receptions on July 13th and August 10th at the MCAS office featuring member's photography, Jeff Blight's Spanish guitar music, drinks, and light snacks. NO BIRD KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED!

Jan Surbey
MCAS President

OFFICERS

President	Jan Surbey jansurbey@earthlink.net	772-7273
Strategic Development Chair	Henry Pontarelli wisehen@gmail.com	528-4587
Treasurer	Holly Sletteland hslettel@calpoly.edu	
Secretary	Priscilla Akin pakin@charter.net	534-0280

CHAIRPERSONS

Programs	Cheryl Lensinski clesinski@mbnep.org Rouvaishyana R@hearstcastle.com	wk 772-3834
Publicity	Charles (Carlo) Christian carlocc@sbcglobal.net	801-2991
Field Trips	Alan Schmierer aaschmierer@yahoo.com	772-2026 cell 801-3701
Hospitality	Cheryl Lish cheryl-lish@earthlink.net	481-8945
Membership	Rosalie Valvo rvalvo@sbcglobal.net	772-1429
Education Co-chairs	Dawn Williams slodawn1@aol.com Stephanie Little stephjoy13@hotmail.com	545-8412 610-6229
Lands	Trevor Keith slotimes@yahoo.com	458-0479
Communications Flyway	Co-chairs Dick Boyd dickboyd@charter.net	772-3993
Website	Mike Stiles mstiles@calpoly.edu	528-1515
MorroBay CBC Compiler	Tom Edell TEdell@aol.com	995-1691
Carrizo CBC compiler	Roger Zachary rzachary@charter.net	466-6222
Conservation	Andrea Jones	772-1995
IBA Coordinator	ajones@audubon.org	

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Barbara Burke	barburke@sbcglobal.net	528-8662
Ted Pope	TNBPope@charter.net	wk 547-0242 hm 545-9705

CHAPTER ADMINISTRATOR Emily Jagger
ejagger@charter.net

RARE BIRD ALERTS

see Eureka column April 2007, page 7.

To report a sick or injured wild animal including birds:

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 (805) 771-8300

PACIFIC FLYWAY is published ten times per year. Deadline for copy submitted is the 1st week of the Month previous to. Printed at Hay Printing, Morro Bay, on 100% recycled paper with Soy-based ink. Labeled & mailed at Achievement House.

Subscriptions are available to non-members at \$12 /yr. Send check payable to The Morro Coast Audubon Society PO Box 1507 Morro Bay CA 93443-1507

E-mail subscription to Flyway

Rosalie Valvo

We ask you to consider changing your Pacific Flyway subscriptions to e-mailed PDF files. We're now sending out over ninety electronic Flyways each month! This enables us to do our part in conserving paper, a forest product. If you haven't switched over yet, you can simply by e-mailing me at rvalvo@sbcglobal.net. You will need Adobe Reader on your computer, but if you don't yet have it you can download it free at www.adobe.com. You should also be aware that if you are connected on a dialup telephone it will take several minutes to download.



MCAS ALERT!

Get the latest Morro Coast Audubon news by joining our email announcement service. Members will receive timely notices of general meetings and programs, field trips, and other MCAS happenings.

To join, go to the website at <http://morrocoastaudubon.org> and click on the MCAS Alert! link. There you can sign up with an online form. You can also join by sending an email to Mike Stiles at mstiles@calpoly.edu and ask to join MCAS Alert

Our Website

www.morrocoastaudubon.org

Past issues of the *Flyway* are available at the website

e-mail:

mcas@morrocoastaudubon.org





TRIPOD

Three-Part Nature Photography Series Already a Hit!

After hours of patching, painting and designing the one year-old MCAS shared office space, brilliant blue walls emerged and a great time was had by all during June's TRIPOD Nature Photography Exhibit and Open House. MCAS Member Photographers, Mike Baird, Bryan Cole, Kevin Cole and Alan Schmierer delivered what their lenses had captured in the field and helped us kick off the new space with nature on film and in action. Education Co-chair, Stephanie Little provided a Great Western Snowy Plover Conservation Program display demonstrating MCAS's efforts toward birding and habitat conservation.

Surprises were afoot as guitar player, Jeff Bright treated us all to a variety of classical guitar repertory ranging from Renaissance and Baroque through various contemporary composers including American Andrew York and Cuban Leo Brouwer. Bright, a retired State Park Ranger, will play at each of the upcoming events as well featuring the Latin genre including works by Heitor Villa-Lobos and Egberto Gismonti. Don't miss this!

The TRIPOD series will feature a different photography theme and introduces new and renewing photographers each month as well as shine the spotlight on one of MCAS's programs. There are two more chances to enjoy the changing and dramatic images, refreshments and classical guitar by Jeff Bright during the July and August receptions. All are welcome to bring friends and enjoy this benefit for MCAS.

Upcoming Friday night Open House receptions located at 601 Embarcadero, Morro Bay (upstairs in the Marina Square Building next to the National Estuary Program Visitor Center. The focus is on...

JULY 13 – BIRDS 5 – 8 P.M. (Loon Program spotlighted)

AUGUST 10 – BOTANICALS & LANDSCAPES 5 – 8 P.M. (Lands Program spotlighted)

The exhibits will run through each month with the Saturday after the Open House staffed by volunteers 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. **Interested in Volunteering for TRIPOD or another MCAS program?** Please email Emily Jagger, Chapter Administrator at mcas@morrocoastaudubon.org or call (805) 772-1991.

MCAS BOARD MEETING

(No July Meeting)

August 6, 2007

6:45 PM Marina SQ Office

Next Community Program

September 17, 2007

Details in September Flyway

FIELD TRIPS FOR JULY-AUGUST

2007:

JULY 14th (SATURDAY): SAN SIMEON

STATE PARK: Meet leader, Alan Schmierer, at the SW corner of the Morro Bay Spencer's Market parking lot at 7:00 AM. (Spencer's Market is on Main Street, a short distance NORTH of Route 41.) We will walk a slow-paced 3 to 4 mile loop thru grasslands, pines and willows, finishing around noon or a little after. We will be on trails, mostly flat, but with several short up-grades. **This trip is suitable for birders of all levels, including beginners and youth.** Bring water and snacks. (Some may want to have lunch before returning south.) As on most "caravanning" trips, an FRS/walkie-talkie radio tuned to 11.22 will be useful. Please RSVP Alan at aaschmierer@yahoo.com or 772-2026 if you plan to attend.



AUGUST 11th (SATURDAY): OSO

FLACO: Meet leaders at 8:00 AM at the Oso Flaco parking lot. (Leaders Joanna Iwanicha, Environmental Scientist, and Cheryl Lish, Environmental Services intern (and MCAS Board member); both with Resource Dept of Oceano Dunes District, CA State Parks.) We will bird the lake, over the boardwalk and a short distance past the lake into the dune scrub habitat. We will talk a bit about unique habitats of the dune complex and the different birds and other wildlife that make their homes there. We will also talk about our work to protect Western Snowy Plovers and Least Terns. With luck we will see adult and juvenile Least Terns foraging at the lake. Wheelchair accessible and children are welcome. Finish at about 11:00 AM.

SEPT 2007 ANNUAL MCAS PELAGIC

TRIP :

When: Sunday, **September 30, 2007** from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Where: Out of Morro Bay, CA heading out toward the Santa Lucia Banks, but going wherever the birds are ...all within San Luis Obispo County waters. Expect a good variety of sea mammals.

Boat: The 55 ft "Fiesta". We used this boat last year and although it is smaller than we have had in the past, it is also substantially faster. (See www.morrobaysportfishing.com for photo.) There will be NO "hot galley" this year since it wasn't used last year.

Leaders: Tom Edell and Brad Schram, both expert and experienced pelagic trip leaders.

Cost: \$75 per person. Sign up early. Last year we filled up by August.

For more information and an Application Form: contact Maggie Smith at milleniummaggs@charter.net or call her at 805-710-4356.



TO FIND OUT ABOUT SHORT-
NOTICE FIELD TRIPS, TELL MIKE
AT <mstiles@calpoly.edu> TO SIGN
YOU UP FOR THE E-MAIL "MCAS
ALERT!" SYSTEM.



to our new members

Atascadero

Claudia Collier

Avila Beach

Suellen Cerise

Cambria

Peggy Wentworth

Cayucos

Joan Lalka

Grover Beach

Care Morrow

Robert Shortridge

Los Osos

Mimi Bull

Virginia Cornwell

Faith Phelps

Morro Bay

Howard Barnes

Jon Olson

Nipomo

H Canning

Paso Robles

Theresa Becker

Stanley Heyne

San Carlos

Mary Watt

San Luis Obispo

Bertha Foxford

Nancy Howland

Margot McDonald

Pat & Bonnie McKin

Lynne Peterson

Audubon's 4th Street Overlook Seeks "Friends"

On August 19, 1974, the SLO County Board of Supervisor's declared "Lot 36, Block 28 in the town of El Moro" to be "surplus property" and sold it to MCAS for \$50 with the following stipulation, "The buyer must forever maintain the property for the use of the entire public as a place devoted to the practice of bird-watching."

Since that time, MCAS has indeed maintained the property for bird-watching, attracting both local and not-so-local birders. Currently, the information kiosk is in poor repair and needs "weatherproofing" to enclose the materials being displayed. Thanks to a National Estuary Program (NEP) grant which will partially fund the project, MCAS is in the process of repairing the ailing kiosk.

MCAS is now seeking volunteers who would "check and update" the materials being displayed. Each volunteer would pick up the necessary materials at the MCAS office, then post them at the kiosk. These "Friends of the 4th St. Overlook" would be on a rotating schedule, responsible for updating the kiosk materials perhaps once per month. Interested "friends" should contact MCAS Lands committee chair, Trevor Keith at slotimes@yahoo.com or leave a message at the MCAS office 772-1991.



May 12 Hi Mtn Event Report

The May 12 event at Hi Mountain Lookout was attended by 22 persons. Another 12 - who were attending the annual Pozo to Hi Mtn. wildflower field trip - arrived at noon to join the group for a picnic lunch. The lookout project planning session was attended by staff, interns, and volunteers representing USFWS Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge, Ventana Wildlife Society, U.S. Forest Service, Morro Coast Audubon Society, and the Santa Barbara Zoo. A number of hard workers put in time trimming and reducing the height of the tall chaparral brush growing near the lookout, necessary to reduce the fire fuels. **Thank-you to all who attended and helped out!**

Steve Schubert

A slideshow of the workday / picnic event can be viewed at the following link:

http://new.photos.yahoo.com/album?c=raptor93412&aid=576460762401320686&pid=&wtok=TfCY9Y4wfhdHVw7j_7OFjw--&ts=1179028262&.src=ph

MOTHER'S DAY WITH MOTHER NATURE

MCAS members joined hosts Jim and Carol Moran and SLO Botanical Garden members celebrating Mother's Day in the Moran's bird-friendly garden featured in the SLO Botanical Garden Tour in Paso Robles. MCAS members distributed membership information, answered questions, sold MCAS merchandise, and shared their knowledge of birds with visitors on the tour.

Pictured left to right: Rosalie Valvo, Clarise Patton, Suzanne Joseph, Priscilla Akin, Carol Moran, Sue Singer, Jim Moran, Diane Zacher



Eureka!

THE BIRDS OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY – May 2007

Extended Version

- Snow Goose – 30-31 May, the immature present since March continues at Laguna Lake (TME)
- Mute Swan – 28 May, three seen at Whale Rock Reservoir and flying over Los Osos (LT, MLS) were most likely the same birds seen in April at Shark Inlet on Morro Bay
- Blue-winged Teal – 2 May, eight at Sweet Springs and three males along the shore in Baywood were late (MTH,TME)
- Harlequin Duck – 8 and 17 May, a male was in a flock of Surf Scoters off the Cayucos Pier and later off Old Creek (TME)
- Red-necked Grebe – 6 May, an alternate plumaged bird on Morro Bay provided the county's latest spring record (LT, photo at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/tedell>)
- White-faced Ibis – 7 May, the eleven off Foothill Blvd near Los Osos Valley Road (DGS, GPS) probably accounted for two seen at Laguna Lake on 30 May (MTH) and possibly the one at Whale Rock Reservoir on 8 May (TME)
- Swainson's Hawk – 6 May, a sub-adult that passed over Deer Canyon in Arroyo Grande was the latest this spring (BKS) and capped off the highest spring total recorded over at least the past 30 years
- Franklin's Gull – 17 May, an alternate plumaged adult was at Old Creek in Cayucos (MLS)
- Marbled Murrelet – 8 May, 17 seen from the Cayucos Pier (TME) likely accounted for the eleven found offshore of Cayucos during a seabird survey later that morning (MLS); 28 May, one was offshore of Arroyo de La Cruz (MLS)
- Xantus's Murrelet – 8 May, three were seen during an Estero Bay seabird survey (BAB)
- Common Ground Dove – 6-31 May, a high count of three were heard calling and one seen along Dana Foothill Road in eastern Nipomo (TME, MLS)
- Lesser Nighthawk – 8 May, one in the evening over Deer Canyon (BKS) was in western SLO County where it is rare
- Black Swift – 6 May, six were seen over Deer Canyon in Arroyo Grande (BKS)
- Calliope Hummingbird – 8 May, a male and female that visited a feeder in Deer Canyon, Arroyo Grande (BKS), brought this spring's total to an amazing 15 individuals
- Bank Swallow – 3-5 May, one at Oso Flaco Lake provided the only spring report (MLS, JMC)
- Winter Wren – 5 and 26 May, up to eight were singing along the Coon Creek in Montana de Oro State Park (RM, JSR)
- Phainopepla – 8 May, coastal migrants were found in a Los Osos (MC) and a few were moving north past Deer Canyon in Arroyo Grande (BKS)
- Tennessee Warbler – 20 May, a singing male was in Los Osos (JSR)
- Magnolia Warbler – 26 May, a singing male was along Coon Creek in Montana de Oro State Park (JSR)
- Ovenbird – 20 May, one that died after striking a window in San Luis Obispo provided the county's fourth spring record (IR)
- Summer Tanager – 27 May, a blotchy first spring male was singing near the north end of Pecho Road in Los Osos (JSR)
- White-throated Sparrow – 4 May, a tan-striped bird was at the lower parking area on the Cerro Alto Campground Road (MLS,AFS), 8 May, a white-striped bird re-appeared at Deer Canyon (BKS), and 1-10 May, one remained at a Canet Road feeder in the Chorro Valley (AFS)
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak – 22 May, a bright adult male was at a Camp KEEP feeder at Montana de Oro State Park (SCS) and 26 May, a calling male was along Coon Creek in Montana de Oro State Park (JSR)
- Yellow-headed Blackbird – spring migrants (mostly first spring males and females) continued to move through the county: 3 May, five male and seven females were at Oso Flaco Lake (MLS); 12 May, a flock of about 30 were along the entrance road into the Hearst Castle (JA); 16 May, about 20 were on the Mens Colony evaporation ponds on Cal Poly property north of Cuesta College (MTH); 19 May, 5 were at the Cal Poly Dairy Unit (MLS); and 22 May, three were at Oso Flaco Lake (MLS)
- Lawrence's Goldfinch – this species was found along the coast where it is typically rare in the breeding season: 20 May, one flew over Henrietta Ave in Los Osos (JSR) and 26 May, seven were at the mouth of Coon Creek and four were at Spooners Cove Campground in Montana de Oro State Park (JSR)

OBSERVERS: Thanks to the many birders that report their sightings. The following people are cited above: Joanne Aasen, Bill A. Bouton, Mark Cassidy, Jamie M. Chavez, Tom M. Edell, Michael T. Hanson, Ron Melcer, Irene Ray, Jim S. Royer, Alan F. Schmierer, Brad K. Schram, Steve C. Schubert, Greg P. Smith, Maggie L. Smith, Doug G. Stinson, Linda Tanner, and Roger H. Zachary. For information about birds mentioned in this report, consult the Morro Coast Audubon publication "The Birds of San Luis Obispo County, California" or contact Tom Edell at (805) 995-1691 or tedell@aol.com....*Tom Edell*

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 _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL(optional) _____

Mail check and coupon to: MORRO COAST AUDUBON SOCIETY, P.O. Box 1507, Morro Bay CA 93443-1507. To check the status of your subscription or request membership changes call 1-800-274-4201

Check box if you are interested in volunteering Check box if you wish to receive special MCAS announcements and alerts by e-mail

Morro Coast Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1507
Morro Bay CA 93443-1507
Return Service Requested

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