

Volume 39 Issue 9 Morro Coast Audubon Society

March 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"

Western Snowy Plover Watch Volunteer Program

March 1 thru October 31, 2004

Only 1500 Plover still exist in California, Oregon and Washington. You can help this threatened species make a recovery!

What do volunteers do?

Participate in lunch trainings!

- March 26th, 2005 12:30
- Additional dates to come!

Participate in on-site training!

- Meet Volunteer Coordinator on the beach for 2 – 4 hours

“Watch” the beach!

- 4 to 6 hours a month
- 6 months
- Record recreational use data
- Check Plover Beach Signs
- Be present on holiday weekends with high activity
- Ask questions & share information to help the plover program

Enjoy Annual celebration dinner!

Contact Volunteer Coordinator, Chris Coulter 805-459-5397 to sign up!



OFFICERS

President	Dick Parker rsparkkp47@aol.com	528-8272
President-Elect	Henry Pontarelli wisehen@hotmail.com	534-1493
Past President	David Roark	
Treasurer	Jim Johnson jw_johnson@msn.com	hm 528-0446 Fax 528-0922
Stephnie Wald Chapter Administrator	swaldcoho@hotmail.com	489-9840

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Linda Tanner Tannerland@Charter.net	534-9919

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.

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Photos- Dick Boyd

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 *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!

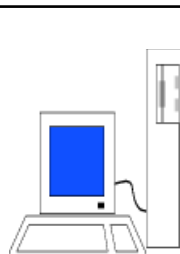
Next General Meeting:

"Meet the Owls"

Jeri Robertspage 3

Seabird Study Boat Trippage 4

NEP Volunteer Monitoring Programpage 8



Our Website
www.morrocoastaudubon.org

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

e-mail:
mcas@morrocoastaudubon.org

MCAS BOARD MEETING

Monday Mar 7 , 2005

6:45 P. M.

The Board Meetings are held at the Los Osos Community Center off of Los Osos Valley Road in Los Osos. All interested members are invited to attend



GENERAL MEETING

Monday, March 21, 2005 – 7:00 PM

Congregational Church
11245 Los Osos Valley Road
San Luis Obispo, CA

“MEET THE OWLS”

With **Jeri Roberts** of **Pacific Wildlife Care**

Meet **“Hootie”**, the Great Horned Owl, and **“Tyto”**, the Barn Owl up close and personal. Take advantage of this unique opportunity to view these nocturnal animals up close. Learn about attributes that make them so special and their challenges coexisting with humans and within human-modified landscapes. Learn why they are gaining popularity with vineyard owners and farmers who understand their value as natural pest-control agents.

Pacific Wildlife Care is an all-volunteer group. We are entirely dependent on membership fees and donations to pay for food and medical expenses as well as supplies needed for the rehabilitation of the animals we see. www.pacificwildlifecare.org

Members and friends are cordially invited. Stay afterward for refreshments and sharing. Raffle.

Rosemary Flamion, Program Chairperson

For further information, contact Rosemary at 528-8193.

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.

Wed, Mar 9, 12:30 pm

Sat. Mar 19, 10:30 am

Fri, Mar 25, 1:30 pm

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

9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

March 12, 2005

More work needs to be done the walking trails in the preserve. The rains have given our struggling oaks and other native plantings a good drink of water. The wild flowers that we planted last fall are coming up. Come on out and give the “regulars” a helping hand. In addition to doing a little light maintenance on the trails the weed warriors will remove some exotics such as veldt grass.

Meet at the main entrance to the preserve on the 600 block of Ramona in the community of Los Osos. We'll do a little birding after wards, rain cancels. For more information contact John at 528-0540.

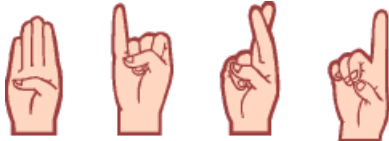
John Perkins
Chairman, Land Committee



MARCH 2005 FIELD TRIPS

MAR 5th (Saturday): BIRDING BY SIGN LANGUAGE

Do you have hearing loss and rely on your vision for birding? Join Rosemary Flamion for a Beginning Birding Sign Language field trip at Montana de Oro campground. We will explore at least a dozen easy bird signs as well as fingerspelling (bird).



Sign language can also be used to communicate without making noise- a great new tool for birders. Meet at ranger station outside of the campground at Montana de Oro State Park at 8:00 AM. We will spend 2-3 hours signing and birding, finishing before noon. Bring binoculars. Suitable for birders and signers of all skill levels. Rain cancels. For reservations or information contact ROSEMARY FLAMION at RFlameBird@aol.com (preferred) or 805-528-8193.

MAR 19th (Saturday): OSO FLACO

Meet leader Maggie Smith at 8:00 AM at the Oso Flaco Lake parking lot (\$5fee [\$4 age 62+], or Oceano Dunes SVRA pass required). The parking lot is located at the end of Oso Flaco Lake Road, which turns west off of Rte 1 about 6-7 miles south of Oceano/AG. We will take a leisurely (2 mile max) round trip walk, checking the willows at the parking lot and along the road, observing waterfowl and maybe bitterns and rails at the lake boardwalk, and looking for gulls, shorebirds and ocean birds at the beach if time permits. A fun day for birders of all skill levels and **all ages**. Bring: binocs and bird guide, scope if you have one, water and snacks. We will finish before noon. If you have any questions, contact Maggie at milleniummaggs@charter.net.

Seabird Study Boat Trip

MCAS in partnership with Cal-Poly University and the Marine Interest Group (MIG) invite the public out on a Pelagic Boat Trip to observe a Seabird Study conducted by Graduate Student Katie Gordon. Learn how this scientific study is designed to count species and abundance of the ocean birds that come to the waters of Estero Bay. Your guide, Kara Hagedorn, will share natural history information and help with bird and marine mammal identification on this full day ocean adventure.

When: April 9th, 2005 from 6:30 am – 3:00 pm

Where: We'll leave from Port San Luis in Avila Beach and follow the coast north to Estero Bay

Cost \$65 for adults, \$45 for enrolled college students, and for children up to 18 years old.

Limited to 20 people

Call Kara Hagedorn at 805-772-3915 or e-mail karahagedorn@hotmail.com to Register





To Our Newest Members

Arroyo Grande

Bill and Lynn Dorlard
Debra Rowlands

Cambria

John Maynard
Mary McDonald
George Erdeyli

Los Osos

Samuel M and Ellen E Boykin
L. Daitch
Barbara McGee
Dan Reddell
Janne John

Morro Bay

Jenny Brantlee
Clara Gontero
Pat Morrison

Nipomo

Lee Taylor

Oceano

Connie Collier

Pismo Beach

Jim and Carol Dolan

San Luis Obispo

John and Edith Jakes
Barbara Miller
Janet Taylor
Larry Salas
Bill Bouton
Stella Compenra

San Simeon

Paul R Aaron



*****DONATIONS*****



The Morro Coast Audubon Society would like to thank the following for contributions received recently.

MCAS Memorial Fund: In memory of **Gloria Walters**
from: **Douglas Weir**
In memory of **David Roark**
from: **Albemarle Corporaton**, Baton Rouge, LA

MCAS Snowy Plover Fund: from **Susan Grimaud**

MCAS General/Support: from **Marilyn Moore, Sandy Taylor, Douglas Weir, Elisabeth Blake, Duke McPherson, Mary Daly Knorr, Susan & Lee Drocco, Dick Parker, Debra & Herbert Holt, Ron Rasmussen, Joy Gault**

If you would like to contribute to one of our funds (such as Hi Mtn Condor Project or Sweet Springs), please send your check payable to Morro Coast Audubon Society, PO Box 160, Morro Bay, CA 93443-0160. All donations are tax deductible under IRS Code 501(c)(3). THANK YOU!

Hi Mountain Lookout Project 2004 Year in Review

Here is a summary of the activities and accomplishments of the Hi Mountain Lookout Project during 2004:

January-Planning session at Cal Poly- 8 staff and volunteers, revising and updating the Volunteer User Manual (revisions were completed by end of 2004 and the handbook will be distributed to all volunteers).

Morro Bay Natural History Museum Condor Exhibit Open House. Hi Mtn. Project volunteers and collaborators were recognized at the evening reception. The Ventana Wilderness Society condor exhibit in the museum auditorium was on display for several months.

8th Annual Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival. 'Condor Country' van field trip and Condor Recovery Program/Hi Mountain Project power point and slide talk presentations.

February- Morro Bay Museum of Natural History Monday morning "Mind Walk" lecture: California Condor Recovery Program and the Hi Mountain Lookout Project slide talk presented by Steve Schubert

March- Work Weekend- 20 staff and volunteers. USFS contractor John Porter completed lookout safety improvements, lightning protection and electrical grounding. MCAS funded the \$2,700 labor and materials costs.

April- Annual Huff's Hole peregrine falcon nesting survey. A condor was found perched at a cave entrance on the cliffs! Note: One evening several months later 8 condors roosted overnight on these cliffs. Possible future nesting attempts here in San Luis Obispo County will be closely monitored.

Cal Poly Ornithology field trip to Hi Mtn., led by Dr. Francis Villablanca

May-Cuesta College Community Programs "Condor Country" field trip to the lookout, led by Steve Schubert

June-VHF Ham Radio Contest and Cal Poly Amateur Radio Club Field Day campout at the lookout.

Hiring of summer interns Jeremy White, Amy Millan, and Jenn Yost. Internship funded by USFS and Cal Poly Bio. Sci. Dept., supervised by Kevin Cooper and Dr. Francis Villablanca. Workday at the lookout- 9 staff and volunteers

July-The Hi Mtn. Lookout interns participated in field training and radio tracking condor movements at Hopper Mountain NWR, assisted by USFWS staff

August-Planning meeting at Cal Poly attended by Hi Mtn. staff and volunteers, USFWS, USFS, VWS, and Pinnacles NM staff

~20 in attendance

October- 3rd Annual Open House event and campout~45 in attendance

Cal Poly Mammalogy field trip and campout at Hi Mtn., led by Dr. Villablanca

December-Completion of storage shed construction and shelving by Kevin Cooper and Tom Murphey, USFS

Past intern Paul Andreano and family spent Christmas at the Lookout, which was strung with x-mas lights run by solar power!

Ongoing activities- The website at www.condorlookout.org continues to be managed, updated, and improved by Paul Andreano. The Hi Mtn. project e-mail listserv is now subscribed to by 130 members.

Staffing of the lookout by volunteers and training sessions for newly recruited volunteers occurs year-round, weather and road conditions permitting.

Cal Poly college students conduct senior project research at Hi Mountain

Look for a description of the Hi Mountain Lookout Project in an upcoming issue of AUDUBON magazine.

The lookout project has also been nominated for a San Luis Obispo County environmental award, submitted by Dick Parker, MCAS President.

The next scheduled volunteer workday at the lookout is Saturday, April 2nd. Contact Steve if you are able to help out."

Thank-you" to all who have contributed to our collaborative efforts!

Steve Schubert, Volunteer Coordinator
s_schub@webtv.net #805 528-6138



Check this out

Is in the current edition of Birding Magazine and it mentions the Hi Mtn. Lookout Project.- Paul Adnreao

Bringing Back the Condor by John Moir [PDF: 736k]
<http://www.projectgutpile.org/archives/pdf/BirdingFeb2005.pdf>

THE MORRO BAY WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL – 2005 – A RECAP

Rosemary Flamion

I asked several participants why they attend the Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival. “I come for the field trips,” said one. “I am a lister and come for rare birds – rare birds to me,” said another from Minnesota. “I’m a beginner and I’m coming for the basics,” said yet another. And they came from all over the United States. And they came from our own backyard – San Luis Obispo County.

Why did 466 participants return or come for the first time and what keeps them returning? Beginning birding events. Old stand-by events. New birding experiences. Adventure. Organized field trips. Great leaders. Knowledge. Presentations. Serious bird listing.

Bill Bouton and Al Schmierer offered two classes especially for BEGINNERS. Participants learned how to bird, what to look for, and the rules of birding in a group.

In addition to kayaking, pontoon cruises of Morro Bay, pelagic and half-day boats, we added a dash more of ADVENTURE. The sunset and evening tour of Hearst Castle in search of the resident bats was certainly an adventure. Hiking to the dune crest of the Morro Dunes National Preserves was awesome. Touring Piedras Blancas Lighthouse grounds and birding the point was an additional highlight.

Participants told me they like the OLD STAND-BY EVENTS. They have gone to Montana de Oro in the past and will continue to go. They see different birds each time.

Several events targeted specific subjects which increased our KNOWLEDGE, including Shorebird Basics, Gull ID, Snowy Plovers, California Condors, Peregrine Falcons. We learned about the Morro Bay-Alaska connection with Mark Herzog. We dabbled with sketching and digital photography. We learned about gardening for birds and bird feeders.

Spectacular PRESENTATIONS. Moose Peterson entertained us with a dramatic digital show and Abe Perlstein awed us with a 3-D slide spectacular. We met live owls and a Red-tailed Hawk named Sunshine. We even touched Dennis Sheridan’s live insects.

We sent off FIELD TRIPS by van or caravan to all points of the compass in San Luis Obispo County, including Carrizo Plain National Monument, Oso Flaco Lake – Oceano, Montana de Oro, North Coast, Morro Rock, Poly Canyon, around the Morro Bay Estuary, Oak and Woodland areas of Atascadero, Santa Maria Valley, Los Osos Oaks Preserve and Elfin Forest.

LEADERS. We had at least 65 leaders who listened to us, talked with us, directed us, and taught us.

We ended with “What did you miss?”, an event for SERIOUS LISTERS as well as out-of-towners who missed species. Participants decided what birds they wanted to see before their stay was over. I led a group of five who wanted rocky shore birds including Black-bellied Plover, turnstones, Wandering Tattler and others on their hit list. We traveled the coast ending up in Montana de Oro campground. Since organizing this event was difficult, I asked participants if they wanted it continued. “Are you kidding? This is the best field trip of the whole four days!”

Can it get any better? You bet.





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
February 8, 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) spring shorebirding effort. The VMP is seeking volunteers with shorebird identification experience for a census on Saturday, April 23rd 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. Observers will be observing from land with spotting scopes, from kayaks or canoes on the water, and from the Sandspit and 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 Chris Long or Ann Kitajima at the NEP office at 772-3834. Please respond by April 8th to participate.

RESTORATION OF ECOSYSTEMS

A Perspective by Henry Pontarelli

In 2001, I started working for the Predatory Bird Research Group (PBRG) on the Santa Cruz Island (SCI) Fox Reintroduction Project, an overwhelmingly comprehensive ecosystem restoration. The cattle and the feral sheep were removed in a massive effort in the 1980s. The Institute for Wildlife Studies (IWS) is reintroducing the Bald Eagle, extirpated by DDT poisoning (eggshell thinning). The Golden Eagles that are speculated to have filled the vacuum left by the Balds, are being relocated. The Golden Eagle, a consummate hunter of small, terrestrial quadrupeds has taken the Island Fox, a federally endangered species, from over 1600 individuals to less than 100. Our national symbol, the Bald Eagle has little or no interest in foxes, preferring sea mammal carrion and fishing. A feral pig eradication project will begin this year and a fennel eradication project is in the works. We may never restore Santa Cruz Island to its former self but we will learn much from our efforts

Restorations are an integral part of the environmental movement and have become an important “business”, boosting local economies, from biologists to heavy equipment operators. Much of the future health of the planet hinges on the success of our collective skills. But “restoration” as a way of life is a losing battle. Only the intelligent and thoughtful use of resources will free our time and money for raising smart, strong children, enjoying the arts, and sharing open space with other species

As Robert Smithson, pioneer of the 1960s Earthworks movement speculated on the concept of “entropy” (Spiral Jetty), we too must look at our “in tact” wilderness. Smithson mused; if a sandbox is filled with white sand in one half and black sand in the other and a child were to walk clockwise circles, dragging their feet in the sand, the mix becomes grey. If the child, in turn, walked as many revolutions counter clockwise, the sandbox will not turn back to its former, black and white configuration.

We can squeeze an “obtainable”, “productive” and many times “measurable” result from our restoration efforts, but we cannot put Humpty-Dumpty back together again. Our goal must be preservation as an ultimate objective. If we do not learn this and act, our projects have failed.

One can argue that ecosystems are in themselves entropic. But they have, under the harsh glare of glacial time, coordinated the dance with their players. We must learn the steps to that dance

The Enigmatic Loons and the Morro Estuary

The last reported Loon nest in the state of California (Common, Red-throated, Yellow-billed or Pacific) was on Lassen Lake in the 1960s. Loons disappeared as a breeder from Oregon and Idaho at the same time. Up to the late 1800s Loons bred as far south as Lake Tahoe, the lower elevation Sierra lakes as well as Shasta and Lassen.

There are now 8 recorded nests in Washington state, all less than 100 miles from the Canadian border. In the 2004 season, less than 10 chicks fledged from those nests. Their breeding range has shrunk by 700 miles. Loon nests are highly susceptible to swamping by personal watercraft and ski boats and they do not double clutch. They are not a game bird and to date have received little attention. Attempts to have the bird “listed” have met with little positive response.

The Morro Coast Audubon is presently assisting the Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI) conduct a wintering study in our estuary. This study follows the birds on their migration, considers winter rafting behavior, plumage progression as well as toxicology and genetics. While juvenile birds will stay through the summer, the breeding adults head north at the end of February.

Also note, Darwin Long, the Lead Field Biologist and BRI employee will address the MCAS on April 18 and discuss this project in detail (with a fantastic photo and sound presentation). You may expect more information and updates on this subject in the “Flyway” and our website.

MCAS will continue to support this study. If you are interested in helping or would like more information or a guided tour of the bay and discussion of Loon population ecology, please call me and I will arrange it. I have trapped and banded more than 10 Loons on our bay and have spent 40-60 hours on this project.

MORRO COAST AUDUBON BOARD HIGHLIGHTS FOR FEBRUARY, 2005 BOARD MEETING

Attending Dominic Perello, John Perkins, Jim Havlena, Henry Pontarelli, Linda Tanner, Dick Parker, Kara Hagedorn, Rosemary Flamion, Ted Pope, Dick Boyd, Steph Wald, Jim Johnson, Kara Hagedorn

Introducing Our New Treasurer – Jim Havlena introduced Jim Johnson told us a bit about himself including that he is retired, at least from IBM and has lived in Los Osos for about 4 years.. Welcome Jim!

Thanks to Jim and Karen Havlena for 18 years of service to MCAS – Dick Parker presented the Havlena's with a certificate of appreciation for their long time service to the organization. Dick also offered a couple of other more artistic items once the Havlena's are settled and know more about their wall space in the new abode.

Central Coast Meeting – John Perkins reported that there is movement toward de-listing the Western Snowy Plover (WSP), that there is likely to be a legislature sponsored proposition, and that Audubon is attempting to raise \$100K for proposition process. He suggests we contribute. Dick P. reported that Glen Olson (Director of Audubon California) and Dave Bonfilio (National Audubon Development Staffer) would be happy to come here for purposes that we determine. At this point an idea was floated for them to come for a combo meeting to educate local CPAs and accountants on planned giving opportunities with Audubon, and to match that with an opportunity to meet with specific or a group of potential donors. Stay tuned. Jill Shirley, Chapter Coordinator for the past 12 years is leaving. A **proposal** to donate \$20 and an MCAS cap (Linda brought them out to show) was made and **passed**, funds to go toward a special gift for Jill that Julia Leven (State Policy Director) is coordinating.

Backyard Bird Count – Rosemary volunteered to be the lead. Ted indicated that Wild Birds Unlimited participates as well. Rosemary pointed out that the idea is to spend a given amount of time in your "greater backyard" counting birds and reporting the outcome as indicated in the brochure.

Distribution List for Central Coast Birding Trail Brochure
Suggestions included all of the Supervisors, Embarcadero Inn, Days Inn, Montana de Oro State Park visitor center, NEP, Natural History Museum.

Treasurer's Report – Jim Havlena formally resigned. The board voted to have Dick appoint Jim Johnson as the next treasurer which passed. Jim Johnson's information is: 1220 Seventh Street, Los Osos, 93402; 528-0446; jw_johnson@msn.com. Jim H. provided signature changes sheet. Dom moved and John seconded a motion to sign a resolution for Jim Johnson as treasurer, Dick Parker as president and Henry Pontarelli as incoming president as signatories on MCAS checking accounts. Passed..

Publicity/Programs – Rosemary reviewed upcoming programs, raffle money earned, and indicated she is considering increasing honorarium to compensate speakers.

Abstracted by the Flyway from them Notes of Steph Wald



GIFTS of LASTING SUPPORT

Remembeng 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 Richard Parker
528-8272 rsparkkp47@aol.com

Eureka!

THE BIRDS OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY – January 2005

The Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival Boat trips sent two boats offshore again this year with a long-range trip on Jan 15 (BKS,DR,TME) and a short four hour trip on Jan 16 (MDH,RH). Two highlights on the long-range trip were a **Buller's Shearwater** that provided the county's first winter record and a Flesh-footed Shearwater. Otherwise, similar seabirds were seen on both trips and included highs of 75 Northern Fulmar, 3-5 Pink-footed Shearwater, one or two Sooty Shearwater, 3,000 Black-vented Shearwater, 15 Red Phalarope, 3 to 4 Pomarine Jaeger, one Parasitic Jaeger, one adult and 2 immature Black-legged Kittiwake, 4 Common Murre, 75 Cassin's Auklet, and 150 Rhinoceros Auklet.

Brown Pelican – 8 Jan, one foraging over ponds on Tank Farm Rd in San Luis Obispo (GPS) was inland where unexpected

White-fronted Goose – 29 Jan, one was at the Bay Pines Golf Course (JSR)

Ross's Goose – 15 Jan, eight were seen on the Carrizo Plain near Bitterwater Road (RHZ)

Cackling Goose – "Aleutian" race birds were at Pismo Creek, 14 Jan (JMC) and at Laguna Lake, 15-16 Jan (JSR,BAB)

Brant – 13 Jan, numbers dropped from around 4,000 to 2,500 following heavy rains in early January (JLR)

Wood Duck – 20 Jan, 10 were at the Atascadero wastewater ponds (RHZ)

Eurasian Wigeon – 5 Jan, up to three were reported on Morro Bay (mob)

Blue-winged Teal – 5-30 Jan, up to 83 have been counted on Baywood Cove in Los Osos (mob); 10 Jan, one was at the SLO wastewater treatment plant (MLS); 17 Jan, two males and two females were at Oso Flaco Lake on (MLS)

Blue-winged Teal x Cinnamon Teal -- 29 Jan, an apparent of these species was at Sweet Springs (JSR)

Green-winged (Common) Teal – 1-30 Jan, the male "Eurasian" race bird found off Sweet Springs in Dec continued (mob)

Redhead – 14-16 Jan, a male at Whale Rock Reservoir was the only one reported (MDS)

Harlequin Duck – 6-29Jan, male along the Estero Bluffs Property north of Cayucos (mob); 20 Jan, north of Hearst Castle a male has been frequenting the cove just north of the Hwy 1 vista point with the cypress tree (GPS)

Black Scoter – 16-23 Jan, female off Atascadero Point (TME)

Long-tailed Duck – 15 Jan, one off the Port San Luis Pier (DR); 30 Jan, one was at the Morro Bay Harbor mouth (RB)

Hooded Merganser – 12-14 Jan, up to two females and a male were at Whale Rock Reservoir (AFS) and on 20 Jan one was at the Atascadero Sewage Ponds (RHZ)

Common Merganser – 9 Jan, a male swimming in the Oceano Campground lagoon (MLS) and at the mouth of Pismo Creek on 14 Jan (JMC) was likely the bird that spent the past year at Oceano County Park; 14 Jan, 2 males and one female were on Santa Rosa Creek at Shamel Park in Cambria (KC)

Osprey – 5-15 Jan, one was on Morro Bay (MLS) and 11 Jan, one was along Meadow Creek west of Hwy 1 (MLS)

Bald Eagle – 5 Jan, an immature was over Morro Bay (DT); several sightings of one the week of 20 Jan at "The Lakes" development in northern Atascadero (fide CC); and there were occasional sightings of an adult along Tank Farm Road in SLO with the last on 25 Jan (fide DS)

Mountain Plover – 21 Jan, a total of ~160 on the Carrizo Plain included 120 near the silver tank on Simmler Road (MLS)

Black-necked Stilt – 17-21 Jan, two on Soda Lake (JLR)

Red Phalarope – 11 Jan, one in Baywood Cove was the only onshore sighting (BAB)

Franklin's Gull – 29 Jan, an adult in Baywood Cove provided one of the few mid-winter adult records in California (RB)

Thayer's Gull – 13-17 Jan, first winter bird at Laguna Lake (AFS)

Black Skimmer – 13-14 Jan, up to two on Morro Bay (JLR)

Allen's Hummingbird – 14 Jan, a male and female at Laguna Lake (MDS) were early arrivals.

Cassin's Kingbird – 6-31 Jan, up to 54 feeding on Algerian ivy berries along Arroyo Grande Creek in the "Village" (BKS)

Lewis's Woodpecker – 17-23 Jan, one about 1.7 miles from Hwy 58 on Pozo Road (AFS)

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – 14-17 Jan, female continued in the pepper trees in front of the Cal Poly Library (mob)

Red-naped Sapsucker – 14-18 Jan, continues in the pepper and sycamore trees at El Chorro Regional Park (MDS)

Northern Flicker – 14 Jan, a "yellow-shafted" race bird was found at Spooners Cove Campground (JG)

Common Raven – 17 Jan, always rare in western SLO County, one seen from west Cuesta Ridge (AFS); 17 Jan, 350 to 400 formed a communal roost on two adjacent high tension electric towers at dusk on the Carrizo Plain (JLR)

Barn Swallow – on 14 Jan, three were along Morro Strand State Beach (AFS), one was seen from the Elfin Forest Overlook (MDS), and four were heading north at the mouth of Pismo Creek (JMC); 17 Jan, one was over Oso Flaco Lake (MLS)

Nashville Warbler – 22 Jan, the bird found at the Oceano Campground in December was still present (MLS)

Black-throated Gray Warbler – 11 Jan, one along Meadow Creek west of Hwy 1 (MLS); 29 Jan, one was seen at the Oceano Campground (JS)

Hermit Warbler – 9 Jan, one at the Oceano Campground (MLS) was probably the same individual found there last month; 14 Jan, one was at Spooners Cove Campground in Montana de Oro State Park (FH)

Wilson's Warbler – 14 Jan, one was at Oceano Campground (JMC)

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow – 10 Jan, two seen along the Morro Bay State Park Marina spit (MLS)

White-throated Sparrow – 17 Jan, one at Atascadero Lake was the sole report of this species (PR)

White-crowned Sparrow – 29 Jan, the partial albino continued at San Simeon Cove (MLS)

Rose-breasted Grosbeak – 24-25 Jan, female at a feeder in Avila Bay Estates (BKS)

Hooded Oriole – 2-9 Jan, a first year male was at a feeder in Cayucos (TME)

OBSERVERS: Thanks to the many birders that report their sightings. The following people are cited above: Ron Beck, Bill A. Bouton, Jamie M. Chavez, Karen Clarke, Claudia Collier, Tom M. Edell, Jessie Grantham, Freeman Hall, Rich Hansen, Marlin D. Harms, Dave M. Lawrence, Don Roberson, John L. Roser, Paul Rosso, Jim S. Royer, Joe Seals, Alan F. Schmierer, Brad K. Schram, Gregory P. Smith, Maggie L. Smith, Mike D. Stiles, Doug Stinson, Dean Thompson, Roger H. Zachary, and many observers (mob). For information about birds or locations mentioned in this report, contact Tom Edell at (805) 995-1691 or tedell@aol.com....*Tom Edell*

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