

The Black Oystercatcher

Masthead Photo by Ron LeValley

Mendocino Coast Audubon Society Newsletter June, 2014

MCAS June Field Trip

COME BIRDING BY KAYAK UP THE LAZY NOYO RIVER



Liquid Fusion Kayaking
Photos by Cate Hawthorne



On our June 14 MCAS field trip we'll take to the waters of Noyo River, where we'll look for Belted Kingfishers, cormorants, Osprey, woodpeckers, grosbeaks, finches, warblers, and more. This is a leisurely kayak adventure for all ages and abilities. We'll escape coastal fog and paddle through estuarine and riparian habitats as well as Bishop Pine and North Coast Coniferous Forests.

Cate Hawthorne and Jeff Laxier will lead the two-hour field trip. No kayaking or birding experience necessary. The cost is \$20 per adult; \$10 for children (18 years old or younger). Kayaks, life jackets, and paddles will be provided.

Launching will be at 9 a.m. from Liquid Fusion Kayaking at the Dolphin Isle Marina on the south side of Noyo River. Space is limited and reservations required. Please call **(707) 962-1623**.

Inside this issue:

MCAS Honors	2
Karen Haolena	
Save Our Shorebirds	3
Donald Shephard	4
It's Membership Renewal Time	6
Join the MCAS Parade Drill Team	6
Calendar	7

Editor's Note: Evening programs will be discontinued over the summer and will resume in September. We have a Family Bird Walk June 21. Our bird-watching walks in the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens will continue without interruption this summer, but field trips will not be held in July and August. The calendar (page 7) is updated frequently on our website:

www.mencodinocoastaudubon.org



Cate Hawthorne

This Mute Swan has been sighted recently near the launching area at Liquid Fusion Kayaking at Dolphin Island Marina.

MCAS HONORS KAREN HAVLENA AT MAY 19 MEETING



At the annual business meeting May 19, 2014, MCAS President Joleen Ossello (left) presented member Karen Havlena with a proclamation honoring Karen's volunteer work for eight years organizing and administering the chapter's pelagic trips along the Mendocino County coast.

Becky Bowen photo

Karen Havlena's earliest bird-watching memories start with her father on Galveston Island, TX. "No need for binoculars," she says, because her dad introduced her to Great and Snowy Egrets, Little Blue and Great Blue Herons, Roseate Spoonbills, Black Skimmers and Osprey.

Her birding skills were inspired by dad on the Gulf Coast and developed on the California Coast, where she grew up in Hermosa Beach and Palos Verdes Estates. In Orange County, Sylvia Ranney Gallagher, of Sea and Sage Audubon, was a mentor to Karen and husband, Jim. In San Luis Obispo County, ornithologist Curtis Marantz filled the mentor role. "I still call him for advice," she says.

She serves on the six-member Mendocino County Bird Records Committee with Robert Keiffer, Dorothy Tobkin, Ron LeValley, Jerry White and George Chaniot. "We review first and second Mendocino County records and sometimes remove old, questionable records from the official county bird list. I also proofread the quarterly submissions to the journal, *North American Birds*, for Robert Keiffer."

In 2007, Karen volunteered to organize an average of two pelagic trips per year off the Mendocino Coast, most of them sponsored by MCAS. "The very busy 'angel,' Charlene McAllister, has been my mentor and liaison with the MCAS board for this ongoing endeavor. Last year, I thought of offering a half-day trip to people unfamiliar with pelagic species, and for birders reluctant to take a full-day trip on the ocean. It was quite popular, so we are offering a repeat trip in September." Details will be published in this newsletter and on the website.

Karen's BA and MFA are from the University of California, Irvine. In "real life," she is a former bank auditor and currently is an accountant working for Jim. But in her "other life" her passion for sea birds has provided lasting memories of bird-watching boat trips along the Mendocino Coast:

- "Watching Jerry White excitedly call out, 'Short-tailed Albatross,' and seeing the huge, bubblegum pink-billed bird flying toward the Telstar's stern!
- Watching a sublimely joyful Becky Bowen snap photos of her beloved Black-footed Albatrosses
- Getting to see some of my favorites: Sabine's Gull, Northern Fulmar, Cassin's Auklet, Arctic Tern and Flesh-footed Shearwater
- Celebrating with birders seeing their 'life bird' sighting of a pelagic species."

SAVE OUR SHOREBIRDS

Becky Bowen

THE MOST UNCOMMON BEHAVIOR OF COMMON RAVENS



Every once in a while, we see something during a Save Our Shorebirds survey that flabbergasts us. We knew Common Ravens were smart enough to follow humans out of the forests and onto the beaches. They came for the trash and stayed in the coastal strand habitat where they taught themselves how to act and eat like shorebirds (they also consume shorebird chicks and eggs stolen from nests). Surely the raven photographed May 20 (left) on Ten Mile Beach stole the fish from an osprey or gull. It seems inconceivable that the bird could learn how to fish. But consider the raven shown below. We saw it dig up a sand crab on Ten Mile Beach last August—perfectly imitating the Heermann's Gulls and Whimbrels that were foraging nearby.



Becky Bowen Photos

Save Our Shorebirds is a long-term ongoing Mendocino Coast Audubon Citizen Science program in partnership with California State Parks and FLOCKworks. Volunteers survey five areas in Mackerricher State Park year-round and record observations. Data are available on the MCAS website under the Conservation tab and are recorded with Cornell University's e-bird database. To learn more, contact Environmental Scientist Angela Liebenberg @ liebenbergs@mcn.org and please visit us for updated shorebird sightings at

www.facebook.com/SaveOurShorebirds

DONALD SHEPHARD**FLYING HOME**

Join me as I recreate my recent trip to New Zealand and Australia. First, let us visit New Zealand where the volcanic North Island and tectonic South Island provide widely different environments. I should confess that these are not my photographs but much better ones taken by local professionals. Here are some of the birds we saw on the North Island.



Red-billed Gull
Photo by Tony Wills



Variable Oystercatcher
Photo by Tony Wills



Sacred Kingfisher
Photo by
Fir002Flagstaffotos

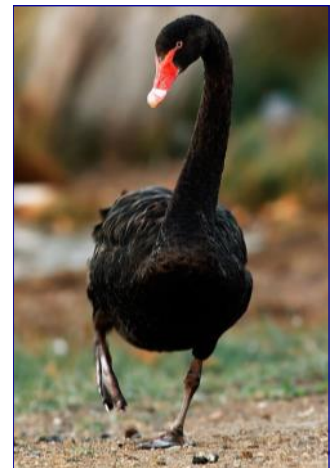
On the mainland, as South Islanders call their home, we found the reintroduced Black Swan; a relative of the nocturnal Kiwi called the Weka; and the curious mountain parrot called Kea.



Weka
Photo by Jörg Hempel



Kea
Photo by Klaasmer



Black Swan
Photo by J J Harrison

FLYING HOME

Continued

More birds enthralled us. In Milford Sound, a fiord on the west coast of South Island, the Yellow-nosed Mollymawks thrilled us. They are albatrosses. We also saw New Zealand Scaup in Queenstown as well as New Zealand Teal on Lake Wakatipu. We experienced a great deal of autumnal rain, but the sun shone brightly on Mount Cook when we flew to the source of the Franz Josef Glacier in a whirlybird helicopter. Ah, the joys of flight in a land of transient waterfalls and rainbows.



Rainbow Lorikeet Photo by Benjamins444



Koala Photo by Donald Shephard

Our fourth jet of the trip whisked us from Wellington to Brisbane, Australia. Flame trees line the broad streets of Ormiston, a Brisbane suburb where we stayed with my niece for a week. Rainbow Lorikeets feed in the trees. A belt of eucalyptus trees enable koala bears to roam among the houses. Some of these supposedly cute creatures have marital problems and create an ear-piercing ruckus at night. Sacred Ibis, Mynah birds, and Kookaburras frequently entertained us. Black-backed Magpies shared sidewalks with us.

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Laughing Kookaburra Photo by J J Harrison



Blue Wren Photo by J J Harrison

Many birds were similar to common birds here, many differed considerably, but the bird I most wanted to see was the Blue Wren also known as the Super Fairy Wren. But I shall have to make another trip down under to see one.

Flying the long trip home, I thought about the rare Hudsonian Godwits or American Whimbrels that find their way from the Arctic to New Zealand traveling the same route – amazing.



Help us celebrate July 4! Please join the MCAS Precision Spotting Scope Drill Team for a repeat of last year's hilarious appearance at the July 4 Parade in Mendocino Village. We've been invited to return to Elk, too, for the Great Day in Elk Parade in August. But we need your help. If you would like to join us, please contact Tim Bray at 937-4422 or tbray@wildblue.net No experience necessary and if you don't have a spotting scope, we'll figure something out. No big time commitment and we guarantee a good time.

Mendocino Coast Audubon Society

P.O. Box 2297 • Fort Bragg • CA 95437

audubon@mcn.org www.mendocinocoastaudubon.org

IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

The basic membership dues cover the cost of your subscription to the *Black Oystercatcher*. Please consider joining or renewing at a higher level to support the important environmental education and conservation projects critical to the protection of wildlife and the environment. *Note: Membership in Mendocino Coast Audubon does not make you a member of National Audubon and joining NAS does not include membership in MCAS.*

I am a new member I am a renewing member
 Basic membership \$25.00 Low Income/Student \$15.00
 Family \$30.00 \$ _____ Tax Deductible Contribution Amount

Please make your check payable to **Mendocino Coast Audubon Society (MCAS)** and mail to P.O.Box 2297, Fort Bragg, CA 95437. If you wish to pay by credit card, you may use the Pay Pal button on the web site www.mendocinocoastaudubon.org

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

OUR MEMBERSHIP YEAR IS JULY 1- JUNE 30. Renewals not received by 9/1 will result in your being dropped from our membership list. Please don't let that happen!

CALENDAR, BIRD WALKS, FIELD TRIPS

June 2014

Saturday 7 Beginner Bird Walk [Botanical Gardens](#) 9AM*

Saturday 14 Field Trip - Noyo River by Kayak 9 AM Meet at [Liquid Fusion](#) parking lot. Reservations required (see story Page 1)

Wednesday 18 Bird Walk [Botanical Gardens](#) 8AM*

Saturday 21 Family Bird Walk Series

[Lake Cleone, Mackerricher State Park](#) 9AM Meet at the Lake Cleone parking lot. Leaders are Audubon Educators Sue "Magoo" and Sarah Grimes. Family-friendly, educational.

Saturday 28 SOS Shorebird Identification Refresher Class with Ron LeValley 10AM-NOON

Mackerricher State Park Meeting Room. To make reservations, contact Angela Liebenberg at 962-9678 or liebenbergs@mcn.org

July 2014

Saturday 5 Beginner Bird Walk [Botanical Gardens](#) 9AM*

Wednesday 16 Bird Walk [Botanical Gardens](#) 8AM*

August 2014

Saturday 2 Beginner Bird Walk [Botanical Gardens](#) 9AM*

Wednesday 20 Bird Walk [Botanical Gardens](#) 8AM*

September 2014

Saturday 6 Beginner Bird Walk [Botanical Gardens](#) 9AM*

Saturday 13 Field Trip 9AM [Virgin Creek Beach](#)

Monday 15 Meeting [Caspar Community Center](#) 7PM

Speaker: Ed Pandolfino on Birds of the Sierras

Wednesday 17 Bird Walk [Botanical Gardens](#) 8AM*

Saturday 20 [California Coastal Cleanup Day](#) 9AM-Noon

**These walks are free, but there is an entry charge for participants who are not members of the Gardens.*

For updates and useful links, visit: www.mendocinocoastaudubon.org

And please visit us on facebook: www.facebook.com/mendocinocoastaudubon



MEET OUR NEW SECRETARY

Diane Rubin was elected Secretary to the MCAS Board of Directors in May. Diane, a native of Amherst, MA, attended Macalester College in St. Paul where she majored in Biology with a focus on ecology. After graduation, she moved to Fort Bragg. She is an AmeriCorps Adolescent Health Specialist at Mendocino Coast Clinics' Teen Clinic. Her goal is to become a nurse practitioner. She enjoys birding, running, swimming, and cooking.



This White-faced Ibis, listed in Mendocino County records as rare in spring, was spotted by Dorothy Tobkin at Lake Cleone, Mackerricher State Park, and photographed May 3, 2014, by Ron LeValley.

MCAS BOARD MEMBERS AND PROGRAM CHAIRS 2013-2014

President	Joleen Ossello	391-7019	j_ossello@earthlink.net
Vice President	David Jensen	964-8163	djensen@mcn.org
Secretary	Diane Rubin	(413) 658-7105	dianerubin12@gmail.com
Treasurer	Angela Liebenberg	962-9267	liebenbergs@mcn.org
SOS Program	Angela Liebenberg	962-9267	liebenbergs@mcn.org
Webmaster	Catherine Keegan	937-4422	keegan@wildblue.net
Membership	Marybeth Arago	962-0724	mbarago@mcn.org
Programs	Charlene McAllister	937-4463	charmac@mcn.org
Conservation	Linda Perkins	937-0903	lperkins@mcn.org
Education	Sarah Grimes	937-4322	zewa@mcn.org
Newsletter	Charlene McAllister	937-4463	charmac@mcn.org
Field Trips	Tim Bray	937-4422	tbray@wildblue.net

Mendocino Coast Audubon Society e-mail address: audubon@mcn.org

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Mendocino Coast Audubon Society is to help people appreciate and enjoy native birds, and to conserve and restore local ecosystems for the benefit of native birds and other wildlife.

MENDOCINO COAST AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 2297

FORT BRAGG, CA, 95437

