



The Black Oystercatcher

Mendocino Coast Audubon Society Newsletter- November 2019

PORTIA HALBERT PRESENTS

MARBLED MURRELET RESTORATION, CORVID MANAGEMENT AND CONDITIONED TASTE AVERSION



Marbled Murrelet by Martin Raphael, U.S. Forest Service

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18 AT 7 P.M.
CASPAR COMMUNITY CENTER

Come hear about the natural history of the Marbled Murrelet and a novel approach to help improve their reproduction.

The decline of Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) populations in California, Oregon and Washington has been linked to strong predation pressure on murrelet nests by corvids, especially Steller's jays (*Cyanocitta stelleri*). Jays thrive in the fragmented and recreationally used forests that are also used by murrelets for nesting. A unique management action was implemented to modify jay behavior in central California - called Conditioned Taste Aversion or the bird puke project. Implemented in Santa Cruz area within State and County Parks. Conditioned taste aversion treatment appears to be a promising and cost-effective management technique that can complement other management actions that already implemented to improve reproduction of murrelets on the Pacific coast. (more on page 2)

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Peregrine Falcon by Becky Bowen

Bird Bloopers: a wet Peregrine Falcon dries out on a driftwood perch after it missed its mark and went into the drink. Seen on an SOS survey on October 13 in Inglenook Fen-Ten Mile Preserve.

(continued from page 1)

Portia Halbert is a Senior Environmental Scientist with the Santa Cruz District of California State Parks. For 19 years she has been part of a resource management team who works to manage parkland and restore habitat in the 70,000 acres of Parks in Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties. Her experience is based on a wide variety of restoration work including using heavy equipment for earthmoving, planting, and maintaining large areas with native plants and sensitive species such as the marbled murrelet, California red-legged frog and San Francisco garter snake. She is also a member the statewide burn crew. In her consulting business she conducts inland surveys for the marbled murrelet and eradicates non-native plant species.

HAWK HILL TRIP REPORT

Hayley Ross



Photo by Nicolet Houtz

Thanks to all who participated in this year's Hawk Hill field trip on Monday, October 14. A merry bunch of 12 traveled comfortably aboard Julie's Trips and Tours' bus and enjoyed a lovely day of hawk watching and hawk watcher watching -- it's fascinating to watch the dedicated volunteers of the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory collecting data as part of a 30+ year citizen science tradition. In the morning the birding was a bit sleepy, but we were treated to a welcome from GGRO director Allen Fish and an educational talk by outreach intern, Emma, who was interrupted by some nice views of a juvenile harrier. Every few minutes there was a red-tailed hawk to watch or accipiter to decipher. The afternoon brought the real treats: the first rough-legged hawk of the season, and a dark-morph broad-wing hawk. The broad-wing migration peak had passed so any sighting would have been appreciated. And the rough-leg, an arctic migrant seen only a handful of times per season, is celebrated at the GGRO with pizza for the volunteer team that spots the first one, so we left in a celebratory mood! The migration continues, so stop by the Marin Headlands and head up to Hawk Hill next time you have a chance. You can also read their daily reports at:

<https://www.parksconservancy.org/programs/daily-hawk-count> (scroll to October 14 and you'll see MCAS mentioned). Hope to see you next year!

From the GGRO 10/14/2019:

Total Sightings: 394
Hours Counted: 5.5
HPH: 71.64
Total Species: 12

Species Counts:

Turkey Vulture: 96
Osprey: 1
Northern Harrier: 26
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 39
Cooper's Hawk: 73

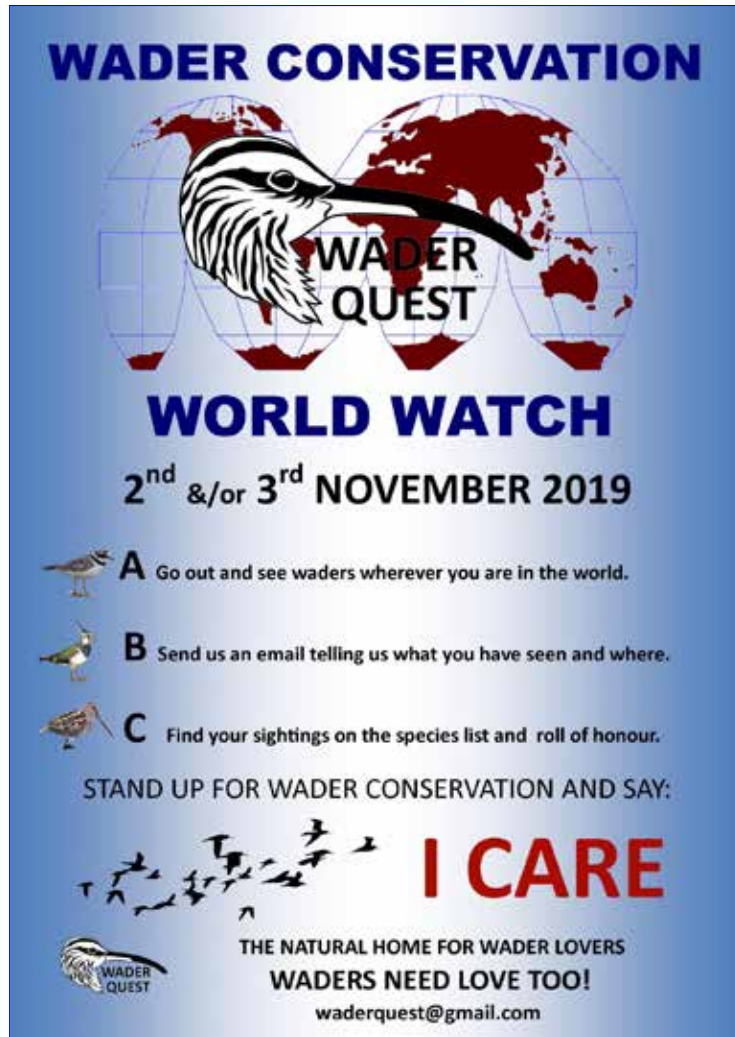
Red-shouldered Hawk: 5
Broad-winged Hawk: 1
Red-tailed Hawk: 121
Rough-legged Hawk: 2
American Kestrel: 4

Merlin: 6
Peregrine Falcon: 5
Unidentified: 15

SAVE OUR SHOREBIRDS

Becky Bowen

A GLOBAL BIRD WATCH THAT'S FREE AND AS EASY AS ONE, TWO, THREE



The poster features a central illustration of a wader bird with a long, curved beak, perched on a globe. The globe is divided into red and white sections, representing land and water. The text on the poster includes: 'WADER CONSERVATION' at the top in large blue letters; 'WADER QUEST' in the center, with the bird's beak pointing to the text; 'WORLD WATCH' below that in large blue letters; '2nd &/or 3rd NOVEMBER 2019' in black; three numbered instructions (A, B, C) each accompanied by a small bird icon; 'STAND UP FOR WADER CONSERVATION AND SAY:' followed by 'I CARE' in large red letters; 'THE NATURAL HOME FOR WADER LOVERS' and 'WADERS NEED LOVE TOO!' in black; and the website 'waderquest@gmail.com' at the bottom. A small Wader Quest logo is also present.

For the past four years, Save Our Shorebirds surveyors have participated in an annual global shorebird watch and you are cordially invited to join us.

We go to an assigned local beach in early November (November 2 and/or 3 this year) and write down the shorebird species we see (shorebirds are better known as “waders” to international birdwatchers). There are more than 300 World Watch participants on six continents who e-mail a list of observations to Wader Quest, a charitable shorebird conservation program headquartered in Buckinghamshire, England.

There, Wader Quest co-founders Rick and Elis Simpson lead an international effort to study and raise awareness about the plight of shorebirds on 9 global flyways. Some 48 per cent of all known shorebird populations are in decline. Six species are extinct and 59 species are critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable, or near-threatened. The World Watch is free, there is no registration, and the final species list is a remarkable snapshot of shorebirds on the planet on this November weekend. All you do is send a list of the species you see to Wader

Quest (see the poster on left). Contact B. Bowen for a local beach assignment (casparbeck@comcast.net). Those who like to keep counts of their sightings also are encouraged to submit those counts to their personal eBird accounts at Cornell University’s international database. To see last year’s results or learn more, please visit <https://www.waderquest.net/wader-conservation-world-watch/>

Some World Watch species recorded are exotic to us (like Senegal Thick-knee, Yellow Wattled Lapwing, or the Far Eastern Curlew). Our observations, on the other hand, are unusual to birdwatchers on other continents: American Black Oystercatcher, Western Snowy Plover, and Black Turnstone. For 13 years, our local SOS data have reflected fluctuations in local shorebird sightings in this small corner of the world. The Wader Quest Bird Watch is an opportunity to connect with people who do the same thing in other corners of a world – a world that has become an increasingly fragile home for birds. We do this because we care. We are not alone – and neither are the birds.

Save Our Shorebirds is an ongoing year-round Mendocino Coast Audubon Society shorebird conservation program. Please visit us at www.facebook.com/SaveOurShorebirds to see what we are finding on SOS surveys.

FIELD TRIPS AND EVENTS

FIELD TRIP - STORNETTA LANDS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

9:00 A.M. - 12 P.M.

Meet at 9:00 A.M. at Point Arena City Hall parking lot. From there we will make our way to The Stornetta Lands, a recent addition to the California Coastal National Monument and the only part of it that is on the mainland. Come join us for a morning of birding and hiking. We should see early-arriving wintering raptors and a wide variety of resident and migrant songbirds.



photo from the Friends of Point Arena-Stornetta Lands

FIELD TRIP - SOUTH COAST HAWKS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

9:00 A.M. - 4 P.M.

Meet at 9:00 A.M. in the Navarro River parking area (just south of the bridge) to carpool. This is an all-day trip; bring lunch. We drive along Highway 1 and stop at a number of pullouts to scan the fields between Elk and Point Arena. These are wintering grounds for a large number of raptors, including the spectacular Ferruginous Hawk.



Ferruginous Hawk by Ron LeValley

Our programs are brought to you with the support of Harbor Lite Lodge, offering discount lodging for Mendocino Coast Audubon Society guest presenters.

www.HarborLiteLodge.com

Harbor Lite
LODGE

130 North Harbor Drive
Fort Bragg, California 95437

1-800-643-2700

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2019

Saturday 2 - Beginner's Bird Walk* 9:00 a.m. - Noon Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens
18220 Highway 1, Fort Bragg, CA
Meet in the parking lot. Wear comfortable shoes and bring a hat and water.

Saturday 9- Stornetta Lands Trip 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Meet at 9:00 A.M. at Point Arena City Hall parking lot for a morning of birding.

Monday 18 - Audubon Society Meeting 7:00 p.m. Caspar Community Center
Marbled Murrelets and Conditioned Taste Aversion of their Predators:
Steller's Jays by Portia Halbert

Wednesday 20 - Early Bird Walk* 8:30 a.m. - Noon Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens
18220 Highway 1, Fort Bragg, CA
Meet in the parking lot. Wear comfortable shoes and bring a hat and water.

DECEMBER 2019

Saturday 7 - Beginner's Bird Walk* 9:00 a.m. - Noon Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens
18220 Highway 1, Fort Bragg, CA
Meet in the parking lot. Wear comfortable shoes and bring a hat and water.

Monday 9 - Southcoast Christmas Bird Count Meeting 7:00 p.m - 9:00 p.m.
Gualala Community Center, 47950 Center St, Gualala, CA 95445

Wednesday 11 - Audubon Board Meeting 6:00 p.m - 8:00 p.m.
Contact Tim Bray for more information: tbray@mcn.org (707) 734-0791

Saturday 14- South Coast Hawks 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Meet in the Navarro River parking area (just south of the bridge) to carpool.
This is an all-day trip; bring lunch.

Monday 16 - Christmas Bird Count Meeting 7:00 p.m - 9:00 p.m.
Caspar Community Center, 15051 Caspar Rd, Caspar, CA 95420

Wednesday 18 - Early Bird Walk* 8:30 a.m. - Noon Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens
18220 Highway 1, Fort Bragg, CA
Meet in the parking lot. Wear comfortable shoes and bring a hat and water.

Sunday 29 - Christmas Bird Count - Fort Bragg Circle 9AM-Noon,
Join fellow bird-watchers and nature enthusiasts from Little Valley Road to Big
River as part of the 117th annual Christmas Bird Count.

**These walks are free, but there is an entry charge for participants who are not Garden members.
Those who are not MCBG members can request a "Guest of Audubon" discount.*

**For complete calendar, updates, and useful links, visit: www.mendocinocoastaudubon.org
And please visit us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/mendocinocoastaudubon**

MCAS BOARD MEMBERS AND PROGRAM CHAIRS 2018-2019

President	Tim Bray	tbray@mcn.org	(707) 734-0791
Vice President, Field Trips	David Jensen	djensen@mcn.org	(707) 964-8163
Secretary	Nicolet Houtz	nicolethoutz@gmail.com	
Treasurer	Jim Havlena	havlenas@fix.net	
SOS, Conservation	Becky Bowen	casparbeck@comcast.net	(707) 962-1602
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Membership	Adam Hutchins	raptorous@me.com	(707) 734-3470
Programs	Terra Fuller	fullerterra@hotmail.com	(707) 964-4675
Programs	Hayley Ross	hayleyhross@gmail.com	

Off-Board Chairs:

Webmaster	Catherine Keegan	keegan@mcn.org	
Newsletter Editor	Megan Smithyman	mesmithy@gmail.com	
Scholarship Committee	Judy Steele	judys@mcn.org	

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

