



# The Black Oystercatcher

Photo by Ron LeValley

Mendocino Coast Audubon Society Newsletter, August 2013

## What Did We Do For Summer Vacation?



Mendocino Coast Audubon President Joleen Ossello represented our chapter at the National Audubon Convention July 10-16 at Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, WA. The Convention, titled "Taking Flight Together," brought more than 500 Audubon members together from the Atlantic, Mississippi, Central and Pacific Flyways as well as partners from BirdLife International, Panama, Belize, Mexico and Paraguay. Joleen was recognized as the second youngest Audubon president in the country. She attended programs, workshops and field trips – and took time to pose with an American Bald Eagle (not a prop). *MCAS Facebook page photograph*

**A note from Joleen:** What do you enjoy most about the newsletter? What would you like in addition? Please write to our P.O. Box or email the newsletter chair, Charlene McAllister at [charmac@mcn.org](mailto:charmac@mcn.org)

### This Summer, We:

- Had Fun: Precision Spotting Scope Drill Team* 2
- Got Green and Went Birding: Richard Hubacek* 4
- Got into the Field: Dorothy Tobkin* 5
- Followed Developments at Inglenook Fen-Ten Mile Dunes Preserve* 6
- Renewed Our Membership* 7
- Checked the Calendar* 7
- Congratulated Our New Officers, Board of Directors* 8

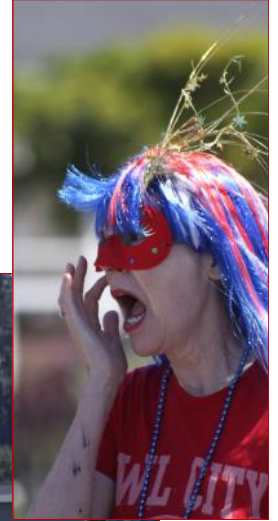


*Adam Hutchins leads MCAS Precision Spotting Scope Drill Team down Main Street at the Mendocino Fourth of July Parade.*

# MCAS Drill Team Cracks Up The Crowd in 4th of July Parade



Larry Knowles (left), Adam Hutchins



The Royal Tern Maneuver



Bill Heil

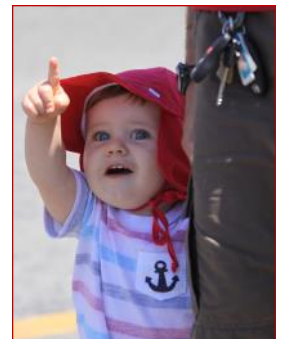


Jessica Morton

Everybody loves a parade, especially the wacky celebration of the 4th of July in Mendocino Village. Here are some parade scenes from 2013, including photos of the MCAS Precision Spotting Scope Drill Team.

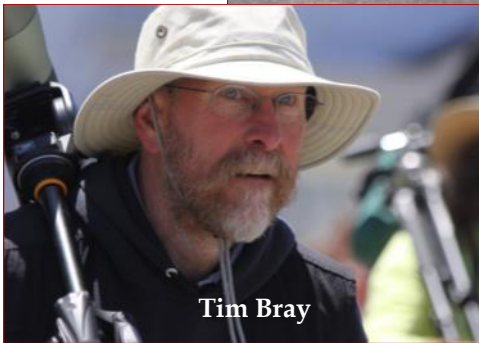


Linda Perkins





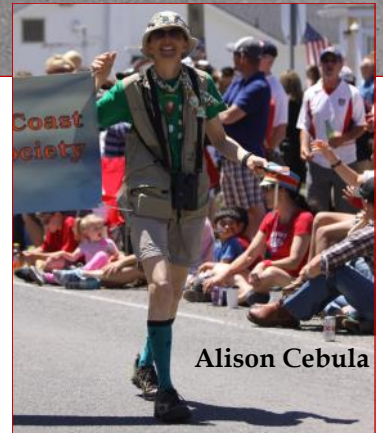
Richard Hubacek



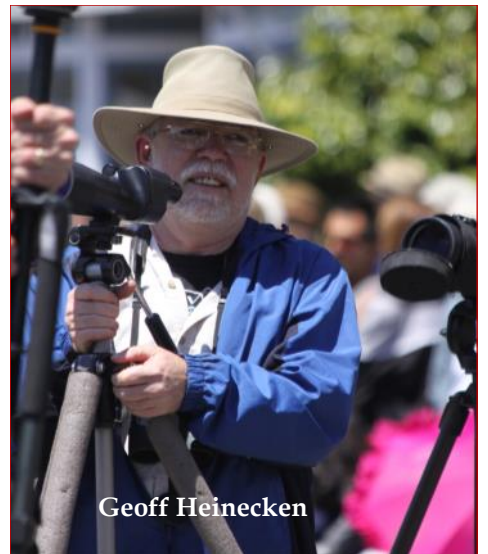
Tim Bray



Sarah Grimes



Alison Cebula



Geoff Heineken

## Save Our Shorebirds

**SOS Volunteer Goes Green for the Birds – and for the Earth**

By Richard Hubacek

These days you might find me on the Mendocino Transit Authority's (MTA) Route 60, the Coaster, heading North, my bike in their bike rack, to do an SOS Survey at Virgin Creek Beach. Or you might find me eating a Subway Sandwich, looking at the Ukiah Wal-Mart parking lot, and waiting for MTA's Route 75 to take me back to the coast after pursuing a Common Gallinule at Mendocino College or a Grasshopper Sparrow at the Ukiah Waste Treatment Plant. What's going on?

I have been doing SOS Surveys for several years now. After reading an article in the July, 2012 issue of *Birding* called "The Green Big Day," I got to thinking about the way I bird. I also have been reading some disturbing books and reports on the future effects of climate change. I thought that I would be dead before those effects took hold, but it's happening now. Global warming is causing sea levels to rise. I didn't think the shorebirds would like that. I decided to see if I could lower my carbon footprint.

It's 33 miles round trip from my home in Little River to Virgin Creek. I remembered seeing those buses with the big MTA on the side. I checked their schedule and found I could easily take 23 miles off my trip (more if I wanted to brave Little River Airport Road on my bike – but I'm not that brave). I did most of my SOS Surveys last year using that method.

I was asked to write a story about my experience. That got me to thinking about doing an experimental year of seeing how many different bird species I can find in Mendocino County using the MTA, my bike, shoe leather and using my truck as little as possible. So 2013 has

*Continued on Page 5*



*Writer/Rider Richard Hubacek on the MTA bus on an SOS survey.  
Photograph by Jeffrey B. Beard*

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been a year of lowering my carbon footprint, easing my pocketbook, and doing what I love to do: Bird. I'm up to 222 species with more than 1614 truck miles saved.

Members of Audubon probably know 2012 was the hottest year on record for the lower 48 states. Seven of the top 10 hottest years have occurred in the last 15 years. That heat created a massive drought (predicted to continue) across the middle of the country. Rising seas brought disaster to New York and New Jersey. Storms are getting more extreme. Last year Arctic Sea ice was 18% less than the previous record low in 2007. The ice is melting faster than computer models predicted. Last May, carbon dioxide in the atmosphere hit 400ppm, the highest recorded level (350ppm is considered the safe level). All this impacts birds.

I started a blog to document my adventures. It also provides links to reports on the good and mostly bad effects of global warming. One of those links should be especially interesting to the readers of this newsletter. It tells about how our Black Oystercatcher became a "California Bird Species of Special Concern" just because of climate change. My blog is at:

[www.greenbirdingmendo.wordpress.com](http://www.greenbirdingmendo.wordpress.com)

## Notes and Commentary from the Field

By Dorothy Tobkin ("Toby")

I have long considered Becky Bowen's characterization of the short trail from Highway 1 to the Haul Road – the one lying just north of Three Rivers Charter School – as "enchanted" to be hyperbole. An experience on July 18 has brought me into full agreement. At around 9:30 that morning, I saw and/or heard 20 species of land birds in about 15 minutes. I am not including the several species of swallows flying over the area, nor any of the nearby shorebirds, a few of which could be heard calling from the trail. The 20 were:

Anna's Hummingbird, Downy Woodpecker, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Western Scrub-Jay, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Pygmy Nuthatch, Swainson's Thrush, American Robin, Wrentit, Orange-crowned Warbler, Western Tanager, Spotted Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Black-headed Grosbeak, Brown-headed Cowbird, Purple Finch, House Finch, American Goldfinch.

What an amazing few hundred feet!

No explanation for the event – such as a recent storm, or early fall migration (the birds were a mix of resident and migratory species) – comes readily to mind. Since there was some feeding of fledglings, perhaps there is such a thing as post-nesting flock formation? Others' ideas would be most welcome.



Pygmy Nuthatch on Enchanted Trail

*Editor's Note: We hope you enjoyed three newsletter extra editions published during our summer hiatus. Our program meetings resume in September. We will resume our regular publication schedule – and will welcome back our beloved contributors, Donald Shephard and Pam Huntley.*

## What We Did On Our 2013 Summer Vacation – Continued Conservation

Save Our Shorebirds volunteers continue to follow developments of State Parks' plan to restore Inglenook Fen-Ten Mile Dunes Preserve to its natural state. The coastal development permit for this work was approved by the county and there is an appeal that will be heard by the County Board of Supervisors at a public meeting at 10 a.m., Tuesday, August 13, Fort Bragg Town Hall.

This restoration project includes removal of European Beach Grass from Western Snowy Plover habitat, removal of culverts at Inglenook and Fen Creek and removal of the old Haul Road through the dunes north of Ward Avenue, a paved road that has seriously eroded over the last 30 years. Voter-approved Proposition 84 funding has been set aside and earmarked for the work.

Inglenook Fen-Ten Mile Dunes Preserve contains the last remaining coastal fen in the state. It is a unique environment and an example both of wetland biodiversity and a dune ecosystem. The Preserve offers essential habitat for shorebirds and endangered native plants, including pink sand verbena, Menzies' wallflower and Howell's spineflower (found only in MacKerricher State Park).

To comment on this project, please contact your County Supervisor at [bos@co.mendocino.ca.us](mailto:bos@co.mendocino.ca.us)

More facts about the approved permit can be found here:

<http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/planning/meetings.htm?type=3>. Click on information about CDP 12-2012

**Thanks to our members who have renewed their membership. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Charlene McAllister at 937-4463 or [charmac@mcn.org](mailto:charmac@mcn.org)**

### *Mendocino Coast Audubon Society*

P.O. Box 2297 • Fort Bragg • CA 95437

#### **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](http://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. Don't let that happen!*

## BIRD WALKS, FIELD TRIPS, and PROGRAMS

for a 2013-2014 calendar and helpful links please visit [www.mendocinocoastaudubon.org](http://www.mendocinocoastaudubon.org)

### August, 2013

- Saturday, 8/3 [MCAS Beginner Bird Walk at MCBG](#) 9AM\* Meet at Joe Moura's lot just south of Gardens parking lot. It is Art in the Gardens event and we may need to make new plans.
- Tuesday, 8/6 [Mendocino Area Parks Association Bird Walk](#) 10AM Join the State Park Interpreter or other docent on a program for beginning birders to look at freshwater, forest and shorebirds. Moderate 90 minute walk. Binoculars can be borrowed at program. Free program meets at Lake Cleone parking lot
- Tuesday, 8/13 [Mendocino Area Parks Association Bird Walk](#) 10AM (for details, please see Tuesday, 8/6 listing above)
- Tuesday, 8/20 [Mendocino Area Parks Association Bird Walk](#) 10AM (for details, please see Tuesday, 8/6 listing above)
- Wednesday, 8/21 [MCAS Bird Walk at MCBG](#) 8AM \*
- Saturday, 8/24 [Great Day in Elk](#) and the return of the MCAS Precision Spotting Scope Drill Team
- Tuesday, 8/27 [Mendocino Area Parks Association Bird Walk](#) 10AM (for details, please see Tuesday, 8/6 listing above)

### September, 2013

- Saturday, 9/7 Beginner Bird Walk 9 AM Meet at [MacKerricher Park meet at the parking lot by Lake Cleone](#)
- Saturday, 9/14 Field Trip 9AM Location To Be Announced
- Sunday, 9/15 [Pelagic Trip for Basic Seabird Identification 8AM](#)
- Monday, 9/16 Meeting [Caspar Community Center](#) 7PM Our speaker: Ron LeValley
- Wednesday, 9/18 Bird Walk [Botanical Gardens](#) 8AM\*

### October, 2013

- Saturday, 10/5 Beginner Bird Walk [Botanical Gardens](#) 9AM\*
- Saturday, 10/12 Field Trip 9AM Location To Be announced
- Wednesday, 10/16 Bird Walk [Botanical Gardens](#) 8AM\*
- Monday, 10/21 MCAS Meeting [Caspar Community Center](#) 7PM Our speaker: [John Muir Laws](#)

### November, 2013

- Saturday, 11/2 Beginner Bird Walk [Botanical Gardens](#) 9AM\*
- Saturday, 11/9 Field Trip 9AM Location To Be Announced
- Monday, 11/18 Meeting [Caspar Community Center](#) 7PM Our speaker: Greg Guisti on the topic of coastal pines.
- Wednesday, 11/20 Bird Walk [Botanical Gardens](#) 8:30AM\*

\*Our MCAS Bird Walks in the Botanical Gardens are free, but there is an admission fee charged by the Gardens for non-members.

### PLEASE HOLD THESE DATES:

- 12/21 [Fort Bragg Circle Christmas Bird Count](#)
- Saturday 1/4 [Manchester Circle Christmas Bird Count](#)

## **MCAS BOARD MEMBERS AND PROGRAM CHAIRS 2013-2014**

<b>President</b>	<b>Joleen Ossello</b>	<b>391-7019</b>	<b>j_ossello@earthlink.net</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>David Jensen</b>	<b>964-8163</b>	<b>djensen@mcn.org</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Cate Hawthorne</b>	<b>962-1623</b>	<b>liquidfusionkayaking@gmail.com</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Open</b>		
<b>SOS Program</b>	<b>Angela Liebenberg</b>	<b>962-9267</b>	<b>liebenbergs@mcn.org</b>
<b>Webmaster</b>	<b>Catherine Keegan</b>	<b>937-4422</b>	<b>keegan@wildblue.net</b>
<b>Membership Programs</b>	<b>Charlene McAllister</b>	<b>937-4463</b>	<b>charmac@mcn.org</b>
<b>Conservation</b>	<b>Open</b>		
<b>Education</b>	<b>Linda Perkins</b>	<b>937-0903</b>	<b>lperkins@mcn.org</b>
<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>Sarah Grimes</b>	<b>937-4322</b>	<b>zewa@mcn.org</b>
<b>Field Trips</b>	<b>Charlene McAllister</b>	<b>937-4463</b>	<b>charmac@mcn.org</b>
	<b>Tim Bray</b>	<b>937-4422</b>	<b>tbray@wildblue.net</b>

## **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**

