



Special Edition

June 2007

Featuring Save Our Shorebirds Project and Art Show

“Save Our Shorebirds Project”

MCAS's Save Our Shorebirds project is in full swing. We are sending you this special Whistling Swan edition to bring you up to date on all that has happened, what is planned for the next few weeks and to ask for your help. Nathan Cooley began work as SOS Director June 1st.

Volunteer to Count and Observe Shore birds

We are gearing up for the summer's volunteer effort to count and observe shorebirds at Glass Beach, Virgin Creek Beach and Ten Mile Beach. Volunteers will observe and fill out data sheets for the next two summers. At the end of September 2008, our Save Our Shorebirds Director Nathan Cooley will use this data to create a shorebird protection plan. We'll make this plan available to environmental organizations along all coastal areas. National and California Audubons and California State Parks and Recreation are partners in this project, and we are actively seeking participation by high school and college students.

Our observations will be critical contributions to this effort and we need volunteers. We will have volunteers recording data every day of the week beginning June 18 and ending September 30. After that, we will plan as many observations as possible through October (to cover the fall migration).

Training Schedule

Angela Martin Liebenberg, State Parks biologist, has put together a training program for us on these dates:

Friday, June 15, 2007, 3-4:30 p.m. Russian Gulch Meeting Room (classroom presentation)

Saturday, June 16, 2007, 9 a.m.-12 noon. Field trip to Glass Beach, Virgin Creek Beach and Ten Mile Beach (short walkthrough of beaches where volunteers will record data)

If you can't make these first sessions, please let Becky Bowen know by calling 962-1602 or email her at casparbeck@comcast.net. She will work with you on an individual basis.

We'll have calendars and signup sheets at the June training sessions so that you can pick the dates and beaches you would like to observe. The time of day and amount of time you spend at the beaches is your choice. We've put together a data sheet based on the Important Bird Area protocol. It is simple and to the point.

When you observe, simply fill out the data sheet and turn it in to Cowlick's Ice Cream store on Main Street in Fort Bragg. We'll collect the sheets and use them to complete our report and create our protection plan.

To give you an idea of time, we think Glass Beach observations can easily be done during a lunch hour. It is easy terrain. Virgin Creek is more like 1.5 hours. Again easy terrain but some climbing up short bluffs. Virgin Creek is prime birdwatching territory. Ten Mile Beach is a long hike on sand (some eight miles round trip – four if you get a ride or shuttle with another volunteer). We have volunteers signed up who will cover Ten Mile during the week. It is available on the weekends for those intrepid walkers.

Bring your field guide to the training sessions. If you don't have one, contact Becky and she'll give you a list of some of her favorites. We also have binoculars available for anyone who needs them.

Dorothy "Toby" Tobkin will lead additional field trips for shorebird training on these dates:

Sunday, July 8 at 8:30 a.m. Meet at Pudding Creek Overlook

Saturday, July 21 at 8:30 a.m. Meet at Pudding Creek Overlook

List of Predators

White-tailed Kite	Common Raven
Northern Harrier	Gull, Unidentified
Red-tailed Hawk	Fox
American Kestrel	Skunk
Merlin	Raccoon
Peregrine Falcon	Domestic Cat

Essential to protecting shore birds is the local identification of their predators. Each Snowy Plover district along the California Coast has its own particular predators, however the Raven is probably the most universal predator. The volunteers will also note the other forms of disturbance that effect nesting and migrating shore birds – vehicles illegally driving on beaches, dogs off leash, trash on the beach, and any other human activity that threatens the migrating and nesting shorebirds.

***Sign up to volunteer for the Children's Art Show
See details on the last page.***

Target bird species that will be observed by SOS volunteers:

Black-bellied Plover
American Golden-Plover
Pacific Golden-Plover
Snowy Plover
Semipalmated Plover
Killdeer
Black Oystercatcher
Greater Yellowlegs
Lesser Yellowlegs
Willet
Wandering Tattler
Spotted Sandpiper
Whimbrel

Long-billed Curlew
Marbled Godwit
Ruddy Turnstone
Black Turnstone
Surfbird
Red Knot
Sanderling
Western Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper
Baird's Sandpiper
Pectoral Sandpiper
Rock Sandpiper
Dunlin

Short-billed Dowitcher
Long-billed Dowitcher
Wilson's Snipe
Red-necked Phalarope
Red Phalarope

White-tailed Kite
Northern Harrier
Red-tailed Hawk
American Kestrel
Merlin
Peregrine Falcon
Common Raven

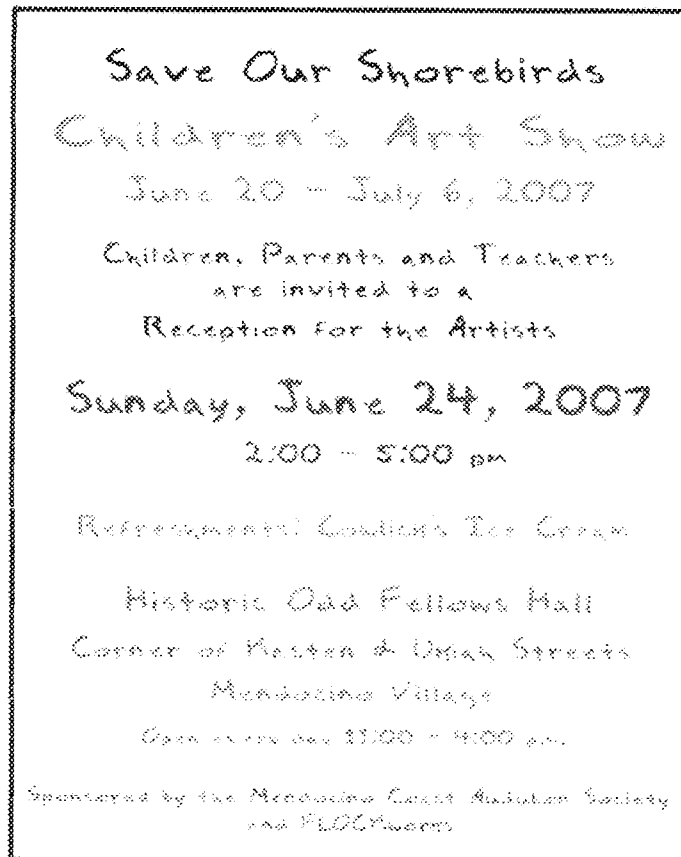
Save Our Shorebirds Trainers at MacKerricher State Park



Angela Martin Liebenberg, Dorothy "Toby" Tobkin, and Becky Bowen

**MCAS is pleased to announce the opening of our
Save Our Shorebirds Children's Art Show
Sponsored by MCAS and FLOCKworks**

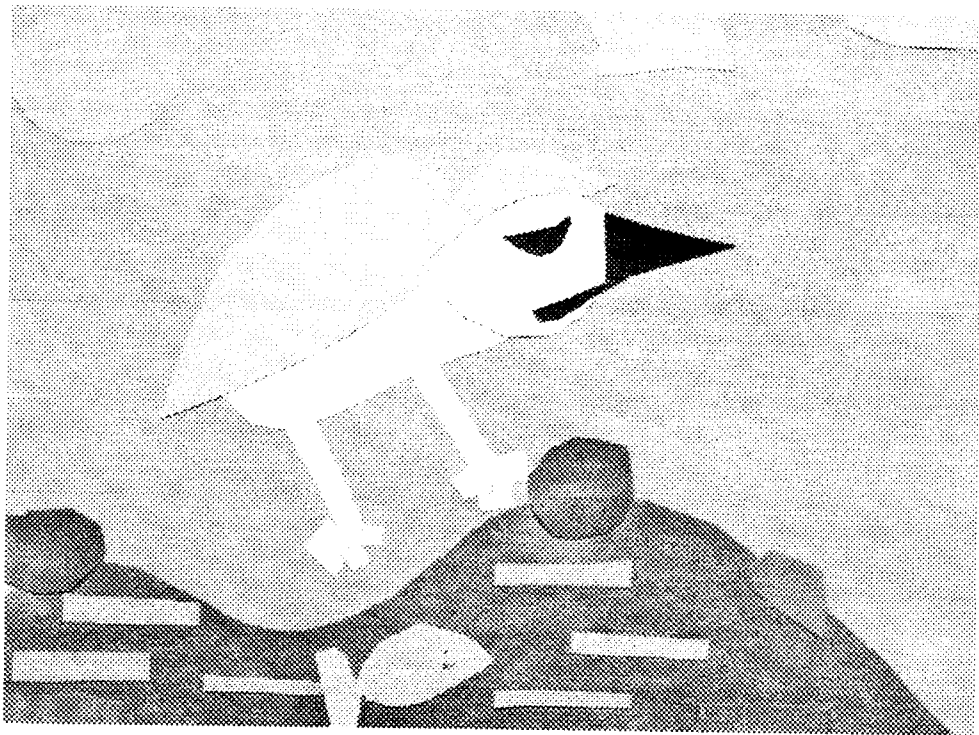
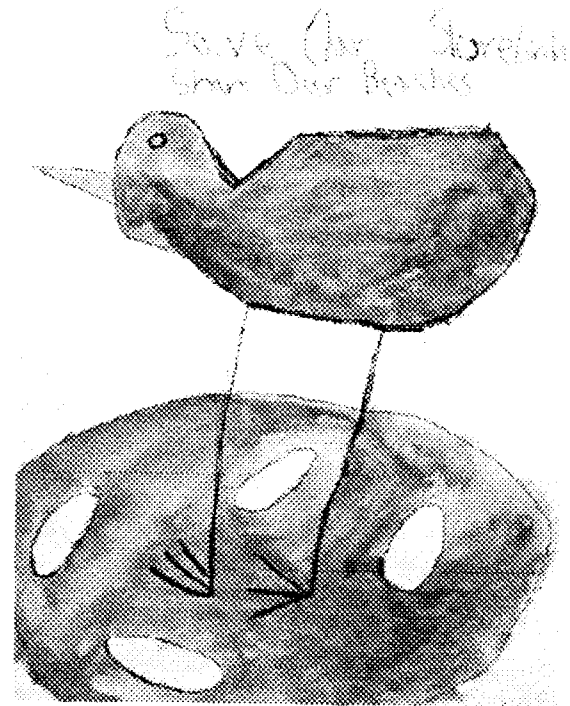
The response to our Art Poster "Contest" was beyond expectations – 18 teachers participated and have submitted over 300 pieces of amazing artwork done by the children in the Fort Bragg, Mendocino, and Point Arena school systems. We are pleased to sponsor the show in Odd Fellows Hall, Mendocino, to showcase the children's artwork.



Each participating elementary classroom was given a bird book, art paper, information on Pink Lady (a Snowy Plover) and other migrating and nesting birds. We had MCAS volunteers and State Parks employees visit many of the classrooms. MCAS would like to thank Becky Bowen, Pam Huntley, Angela Martin Liebenberg and Ranger Natalie Lohi who shared their expertise about shorebirds with the children. We are particularly grateful to Janet Self creator of FLOCKworks, a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing an appreciation of life, art and learning to the coastal communities, for arranging with Van Phillips to have the show in the Odd Fellows Hall.

MCAS would like to thank the two wonderful artists for their expertise and creative hanging of the children's Artwork – Janet Self of FLOCKworks and Becky Bowen, SOS Project Coordinator.

Pictures from the Art Show



Art Show Volunteer Sign Up

The SOS Children's Art Show will be open every day for 15 days, starting June 20th and ending on July 6th. We need people to sit the gallery from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day. If you can give only an hour or two, we can work you into the schedule. If you want to sign up or have questions, call Ginny Wade at 964-6362. As you can see from the enclosed copies of three posters, the children, their families and teachers, visitors and volunteer sitters are in for a treat. There are dozens and dozens of wonderful posters.

**We thank all the children and their teachers
who participated in the
Save Our Shorebirds Art Poster Project.**



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