

# The Black Oystercatcher

Mendocino Coast Audubon Society Newsletter- December 2021



# **SEABIRDS ON THE BEACHES**

by Tim Bray

In early November I noticed an unusually large number of Northern Fulmars within a mile or two of shore. These are a common pelagic seabird, seen on nearly every offshore trip, sometimes in substantial numbers. More than a million of them breed in the northern Pacific. Normally they are distributed over a fairly wide band of ocean, but this fall a lot of them have been concentrated closer to shore than usual, probably drawn in by the extremely high productivity of the near-shore waters. A high proportion of these will be young-of-year birds, most of which will not survive the winter. According to Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST) data, Northern Fulmar is typically the second- or third-most-common dead seabird encountered on beaches, with a sharp spike every year in late fall. Many people are now encountering sick or dead birds on Mendocino County beaches and asking how to help them.

The bottom line is this is a completely natural phenomenon, and we should not intervene. The relentless mathematics of nature means the birds produce more young each year than the ecosystem can support. In most years we don't see most of the mortality because it happens farther out to sea, so the birds fall apart or or sink before reaching the shore. It's tough to watch a bird struggle and die, and we all feel an urge to do something to help, but this is how evolution works. The best thing to do is leave the birds on the beaches where they can provide nutrition for other creatures who depend on such gifts from the sea.

## Inside This Issue

| <b>Cover Story</b><br>By Tim Bray                                  | 1            |
|--|--------------|
| <b>A Seed Feeder's Tale</b><br>By Dave Jensen                      | 2-3          |
| <b>Save Our Shorebirds</b><br>By Becky Bowen                       | 4            |
| <b>A Tale of Two Visitors</b><br>By Roger Adamson                  | 5            |
| <b>The Bounty of a Burned Fo</b> By Shannon Underhill and Tim Bray | orest<br>6-8 |
| <b>Climate Corner</b><br>By Pam Huntley                            | 8            |
| <b>Raptor Run Report</b><br>By Tim Bray                            | 9            |
| December Events  | 10           |
| MCAS Calendar  | 11           |
| MCAS Board of Directors  | 12           |



Look "who" was spotted on the Early Bird Walk. Photo by Tess McGuire

## A SEED FEEDER'S TALE

By Dave Jensen



Goldfinches at a sock feeder. Photo by Ron LeValley

As we shared in last month's newsletter, this chapter recently worked with the City of Fort Bragg to enact a ban on the indiscriminate feeding of wildlife, primarily to help stem the proliferation of Common Ravens along the city's coastal trail. However, that ordinance expressly allows for the responsible "feeding of birds, except wild turkeys, outdoors on private residential properties using bird feeders."

So much has been written and said about the pros and cons of bird feeders. Like nearly any other topic, you can go onto the internet and find arguments that will support your existing opinion. At the end of this message I will share some links to information that I have found to be helpful in supporting mine. But rather than present a scientific analysis of the matter, I would like to share my personal experiences, the lessons I have learned, and explain why I remain a dedicated feeder.

There is something in the human spirit that attracts us to birds. Unlike the dogs and cats that become our children after our children have left, birds remain our most tangible link to the natural world. Yes, I can go on walks at my favorite places, or travel to distant landscapes to enjoy new sights and songs, but ironically, I gain a deeper joy and understanding from watching the visitors to my back yard. I witness the seasonal ebb and flow of populations. Who arrives first, who leaves last, who spends the summer, who breeds in the neighborhood. I notice the changes in appearance as young birds become adults and as adults shift toward breeding plumage. I have learned that some birds, most notably a one-legged White-crown Sparrow, exhibit site fidelity and will return to my yard each winter. So, Lesson Number One – I mostly feed for my own benefit and pleasure.

Lesson Number Two – the dangers of feeding. Before you begin to feed, you need to consider the consequences and act responsibly to minimize potential ill effects. The three biggest dangers of feeding birds are predation, collision and disease. If you or your neighbors have outdoor cats, feeders may lure birds to an early fate. Fortunately, my yard is cat-free, but I feed near trees and shrubs that provide quick refuge from Sharp-shinned Hawks and other threats. Far too many birds are killed by flying into windows. There are stickers and reflective films that can help minimize this risk. Ironically, placing feeders a shorter distance from windows also seems to help. Perhaps the greatest danger of all is disease. Feeding stations can bring birds together in greater density, and I think we all now know the inherent dangers of close gatherings of vulnerable populations and the value of social distancing.

#### continued from page 2

If you feed, you must clean your feeders. Regularly. I have removed my old platform feeder because it was hard to disinfect. Tube feeders are much easier to maintain. When I use sock feeders for feeding Nyjer thistle seed to Lesser Goldfinches or Pine Siskins, I clean, disinfect and dry the feeder sock prior to refilling. Hummingbird feeders are prone to mold and other contaminants, especially in spring and summer.

I carefully remove any residual seed, husks or feces from the feeders, wash them with Dawn soap, then soak them in a 10% bleach solution (1 part household bleach to 9 parts water). Then rinse and dry. If you have hummingbird feeders, pay special attention to the feeding tubes and bee guards.

Lesson Number Three – What seed should I buy? If you watch the birds, they will tell you. I started with a general wild bird mix. I noticed that some seeds were eaten first, some later, and some not at all. After several years, I have finally switched to 100% Black Oil Sunflower seed. It is high in fat and protein and the husks are soft enough for even my smallest birds (Juncos and Chickadees) to break open. Unfortunately, I have to occasionally clean up the leftover husks, but I don't mind. Sunflower hearts are too expensive for the number of birds I support. When the horde of Band-tailed Pigeons descend on my yard in early spring, I will often augment with cracked corn, but not too much. Always keep an eye on what is left, either in the feeder or spilled on the ground, and cut back on that item. As I stated earlier, I will feed Nyjer Thistle seed to Lesser Goldfinches and Pine Siskins. I feed hummingbirds a solution of one-half cup granulated white sugar dissolved in two cups of hot water. I refrigerate any leftover solution. No red dye, please! It is not necessary. Finally, I have a metal suet feeder for store-bought suet cakes. I prefer the suet-seed mix if pure suet is not available, but you can choose your favorite flavor.

Finally, feeding can be a great benefit to birds when winter conditions are harsh. I am reminded of that old Robert Johnson refrain, "you better come on in my kitchen, it's gonna be rainin' outdoors." But 99% of the time it is simply a supplement to their regular winter diet. As I write this, there are Fox Sparrows at my backyard feeder and other ones in my front yard moving the mulch around. If you have sufficient room on your property, consider planting vegetation that provides natural seeds and berries. Due to the limited space in my yard, I have no advice to offer, but there are many sources of information on the internet to help with your planning.

I will leave you with just a few internet links for more detailed information about responsible bird feeding, but remember that bird feeding, like politics, is local. What may be appropriate for December in Michigan may not be so in Mendocino.

#### From the US Fish & Wildlife Service:

fws.gov/refuges/features/to-feed-or-not-to-feed-wild-birds.html

#### From Audubon:

<u>audubon.org/news/11-tips-feeding-backyard-birds</u> audubon.org/news/to-feed-or-not-feed

https://nas-national-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/audubon\_guide\_to\_birdseed.pdf

# **SAVE OUR SHOREBIRDS**

By Becky Bowen

2021 - That Was the Year That Was



When the holidays arrived and the year began to fade away, we asked SOS volunteers to reflect on their 2021 surveys and describe special moments. We'll share those moments in our January, 2002 newsletter.

This was a special year, from spectacular looks at Brown Pelicans to the appearance of Hooded Mergansers and White-faced Ibis at Virgin Creek and Ten Mile River. Something out of the ordinary happened on a gray morning August 28, 2021 on the south bank of Ten Mile River in MacKerricher State Park's Inglenook Fen-Ten Mile Dunes Preserve. Eight American Avocets, escorted by two Greater Yellowlegs, swam slowly down the river, then flew south. Three hours later, the avocets were spotted again at the water's edge near the Ward Avenue ramp. It was a magical moment, and to put it simply, it's why we bird.

We thank and appreciate 2021 Save Our Shorebird surveyors: Peggy Martin, Charlene McAllister, Sandy Schmidt, Jeanette Boyer, Tess McGuire, Linda Perkins, Bill Heil, Shannon Underhill, Barbara Auerbach and Win Bowen. Marissa and Louis Johnston trained for several weeks and became skilled at spotting Wandering Tattlers, not easy for beginning shorebirders. We also thank Alison Cebula and Terra Fuller in the district State Parks Natural Resources Department. 2022 will be our 16th year. We just keep on keeping on—always looking for the magical moments.



# A TALE OF TWO VISITORS

## By Roger Adamson



Orchard Oriole photo by Roger Adamson

Among the many interesting birds observed in Mendocino County this fall were the two following particularly rare visitors.

Lisa Walker-Roseman reported on Oct 3 an Orchard Oriole on the trail to Virgin Creek Beach (the "Enchanted Forest Trail") foraging in blackberry vines. Orchard Orioles breed east of the Rockies and are rare on the west coast during migration. With only seven previous records on eBird for Mendocino County, this was a notable find by Lisa. All these local records are fall migrants. In basic plumage Orchard Oriole looks confusingly like Hooded Oriole; the juveniles and females of the two species can

be difficult to separate. The Hooded Oriole is uncommon near Fort Bragg but does breed in Mendocino County and is mainly known from the Ukiah Valley. Lisa identified this bird as an Orchard due to its smaller size and the soft "chuck" or "chup" it was giving. Due to the light brown primaries and secondaries, we identified this individual as a juvenile.

Orchard Oriole, smallest of the North American orioles, migrates into the southern U.S. starting in April and breeds widely in the eastern U.S. through July. They eat mostly arthropods, small fruit, and nectar. They weave hanging nests made of long blades of grass where they raise typically a clutch of four chicks. The favored breeding habitat is open woodland, hence the association with human orchards. Southward migration begins in late July and by October most birds are on their wintering grounds from southern Mexico to Colombia. While it is a "rare" visitor to the west coast, the total population of Orchard Orioles, estimated at a little over 4 million, is not currently threatened and Orchard Oriole is considered a species of "least concern".

On Nov 12 Mike Curry reported he had found an American Tree Sparrow at his home near Willits. This was an especially rewarding find because this is the first county record of this species in Mendocino County. It breeds in the far north, from east of Hudson's Bay across northern Canada, and on the north slope of Alaska. Such remote breeding means the bird is less well-studied than many other North American sparrows. During winter American Tree Sparrow is found widely across North America where it is most concentrated from the east slope of the Rockies east to New England. It is only rarely seen west of the Sierra Nevada with typically just a handful of sightings each year in California. Given just a casual observation this bird could easily be mistaken for a first-winter White-



American Tree Sparrow photo by Roger Adamson

crowned Sparrow. However, on closer examination, American Tree Sparrow is smaller, with a two-toned bill, and has a usually noticeable "stick-pin" spot on the breast. Tree Sparrow is a misnomer; the bird is a ground nester and makes use of fields, marshes, and open forest areas. Apparently, early European migrants to North American found this species to be similar to Eurasian Tree Sparrow; hence the name. With a breeding population of twenty-two million, American Tree Sparrow is an abundant species and has a conservation status of "least concern".

# THE BOUNTY OF A BURNED FOREST

## Why postfire salvage logging hurts birds and biodiversity

By Shannon Underhill and Tim Bray

This article explores the contested post-fire activity of salvage logging and its effect on birds. The relevance of this topic grew with the passage of the recent federal infrastructure bill which includes billions of dollars to subsidize timber harvest activities on federal lands, including postfire "fuels reduction" activities.

Post fire salvage logging is the act of removing a particular subset of snags: trees killed by wildfire but still standing. This includes both clearcutting high severity burn areas as well as the selective cutting of snags from a moderately burned area with a mix of live and dead trees. The primary justification for this action is recovery of the economic value of the timber and reducing safety risks during reforestation activities.

Salvage logging is also promoted as a fuels reduction strategy, but the value of this strategy is far from clear. Ongoing research attempts to model the outcome of a new fire using a wide range of variables. No study addresses all the relevant variables together, and divergent conclusions are common. Importantly, the frequency of "re-burn" over a recently burned and salvage logged area is very low, so the effects of re-burn in these studies are modeled, not observed. The low probability of re-burn suggests post-fire salvage logging has little value in preventing future fires.<sup>1,2</sup>

Meanwhile, another group of researchers, illustrating the real-world effects of climate change, explain that fires are mainly driven by weather, and that fuels reduction efforts are no match for months of no rain, high temperatures, strong winds and low humidity.<sup>3</sup> Under such conditions a fire's embers blow through clearcuts and eight-lane highways, prescribed burn plots and salvage logging sites, burning treated and untreated areas alike. There is a growing consensus that fighting such fires in wildlands wastes resources and needlessly puts firefighters lives at risk. Some scientists have shown that it is much more effective to establish defensible spaces around our structures and communities.

These differing perspectives are further muddled by a firefighting-centric agency (CalFire) managing timber operations in state forests <sup>4</sup> and the incentives of sometimes massive salvage logging opportunities <sup>5</sup> on public lands.

This growing body of research about "fuels reduction" is evolving quickly with new lines of analysis less constrained by biases toward timber production and more guided by the public's changing relationship with the forest, yet the last few decades of research has produced overwhelming evidence that salvage logging is detrimental to forest ecology. Many Western forests are not just fire adapted but fire dependent. They have been burning, recovering and flourishing over and over again for eons, and the denizens of the forest have evolved to depend on these recurrent processes.

continued on page 7

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Leverkus, et al. 2021. "Tamm Review: Does salvage logging mitigate subsequent forest disturbances." Forest Ecology and Management, Vol 481, 1 Feb 2021, 118721.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Nemens, et al. 2019. "Environmental effects of postfire logging: an updated literature review and annotated bibliography." Gen. Tech. Rep. PNW-GTR-975. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Williams, et al. 2019. "Observed impacts of anthropogenic climate change on wildfire in California." Earth's Future, 7, 892-910.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Wilson et al. 2020. "Why it is time for a 'Calfire Divorce': The case for establishing an independent forest and resource management agency to secure healthy forests in California." 12 Golden Gate U. Envtl. L.J. 1 (2020).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Brower, Kenneth. 2014. "Opinion: Don't Log Burned Forests – Let Nature Heal Them." National Geographic, 13 July 2014.

#### continued from page 6

We have learned, for example, that several beetle species detect and fly toward the heat and smoke of a recent wildfire. As a case in point, Melanophila beetles were known to swarm at football games in the California Memorial Stadium in Berkeley back in the 1940s, landing on patrons and sometimes biting them. Back then, fans were allowed to smoke cigarettes in the stands, and these beetles responded to the heat and smoke of 20,000 lit cigarettes as they would to a wildfire.<sup>6</sup>



Northern Pygmy-Owl by Roger Adamson

The early arrival of beetles to still smoldering stands of snags is followed closely by several woodpecker species. Black-backed woodpeckers are some of the most well studied. They specifically locate nest sites in dense stands of postfire snags that burned at high severity and are located within one mile of lower severity or unburned forest. They prefer to forage on beetles and other insects tunneling in large diameter snags and to nest in medium diameter snags, showing that stands with varied sizes of snags are important. Unsurprisingly, early postfire specialists like the Black-backed Woodpecker and other cavity nesters do not use salvage logged burn areas.7 On the other hand, one study of 108 nests showed an admirable 75% success rate in undisturbed post-fire snag forests.8

While the adult woodpeckers prefer dense stands of dead snags for nesting and foraging, the greater cover offered by nearby lower severity or unburned forest is the preferred habitat of their fledglings. Researchers refer to areas with mixed burn severities as showing "pyrodiversity" or having a "mosaic" pattern of fire. This pyrodiversity was common with historical natural fire regimes in much of California <sup>9</sup>, and represents the kind of recurrent fire landscape that most plants and animals evolved to thrive in. Contrary to common forest management policy, protected areas where fires are typically allowed to burn out on their own—such as national parks and wilderness areas—are more pyrodiverse and have lower overall fire severity than areas subject to active management methods such as thinning or salvage logging. These findings hold even though protected landscapes have the highest overall biomass and fuel loading. <sup>10</sup>

For birds, this mosaic of burn patterns is very important. Different species of birds prefer different burn severities and appear in greater or lesser abundance depending on the time since fire, regrowth patterns, and so on. While species like the Black-backed or Hairy Woodpeckers show up early and create cavities both large and small, others like nuthatches and bluebirds arrive later to nest in continued on page 8

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Linsley, Gordon E. 1943. Journal of Economic Entomology, Vol 36, Issue 2, pp 341-342.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Kotliar, et al. 2002. "Effects of fire and post-fire salvage logging on avian communities in conifer-dominated forests of the Western United States." Studies in Avian Biology, vol 25, pp49-64.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Stillman, et al. 2019. "Nest site selection and nest survival of Black-backed Woodpeckers after wildfire." The Condor, Vol 121, 2019, pp1-13.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Stein, et al. 2013. "Wildfire, wildlands and people: understanding and preparing for wildfire in the wildland-urban interface—a Forests on the Edge report." Gen. Tech. Rep. RMRS-GTR-299. Fort Collins, CO. US Dept of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Bradley, et al. "Does increased forest protection correspond to higher fire severity in frequent-fire forests of the Western United States?" Ecosphere 7(10):e01492.

#### continued from page 7

these cavities but forage among adjacent lower severity or unburned areas. Brown Creepers and Chipping Sparrows, among others, exhibited their highest abundance in moderate to high severity burns. Species common in open canopy forests like the Western Tanager or the Townsend's Solitaire find themselves attracted to moderate burns where a mix of new snags and live trees are present.

Besides the well-known serotinous cones of some conifer species, many plants require the chemical signals from smoke and charred plant matter to release their seeds from dormancy. Other plants thrive due to the decreased competition post-fire. These new plants and their flowers attract insects that become food for insectivorous birds like the Olive-sided Flycatcher. This bounty of insects is known to produce significantly greater abundance of birds in burned areas. For example, one study counted quadruple the number of House Wrens in high severity burn sites versus unburned locations. As the safe cover of low shrubs begin to dot the landscape below the snags, ground foraging species like the Fox Sparrow appear, followed by many other songbirds. And as grasses and shrubs, fallen logs and young trees accumulate, small mammals populate the area, attracting owls and raptors to hunt and nest. In one study in the Lake Tahoe Basin, 54 bird species were recorded a year after the fire, and 64 bird species were recorded the following year.

While research continues to explore the relationship between postfire forest areas and wildlife, we already know that these postfire snag stands are necessary parts of a healthy forest. They foster regrowth and increase biodiversity. We also know that salvage logging as presently deployed reduces biodiversity while impairing the natural recovery of the forest ecosystem. As the preservation of ecological processes and wildlife conservation are prioritized, and as the fuels reduction hypothesis is more closely scrutinized, the purpose, methods and extent of salvage logging operations need to be reviewed to ensure healthy forests for birds and other wildlife.

## **CLIMATE CORNER: USE THE SUN!**

By Pam Huntley

Most of us coastal dwellers are super conscious of the sun letting it warm our homes by opening our curtains for its natural heat, then closing them at night to keep the heat in.

Remember on those sunny days to hang the laundry outside. When you have to use the dryer, make sure the lint trap is cleaned and try for longer air dry cycles to reduce heat. Reducing energy for laundry includes washing full loads and using cooler water.

Dishwashers are great for reducing water use and you can add to the energy-saving by selecting to air dry rather than using heat.

Consider if you can switch to 100% Green Electricity. The burning of fossil fuels is around two-thirds of global greenhouse gas emissions.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Smucker, et al. 2005. "Changes in bird abundance after wildfire: Importance of fire severity and time since fire." Ecological Applications 15(5): 1535-1549.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Kotliar, et al. 2002. "Effects of fire and post-fire salvage logging on avian communities in conifer-dominated forests of the Western United States." Studies in Avian Biology, vol 25, pp49-64.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> White, et al. 2015. "Avian Community responses to post-fire forest structure: implications for fire management in mixed conifer forests." Animal Conservation 19(2016), pp 256-264.



Field trip participants at Lighthouse Point overlooking the Garcia River estuary. Photo by Barb Skoog

# RAPTOR RUN REPORT - NOVEMBER 14, 2021

by Tim Bray

Our November field trip down the coast from Elk to Point Arena encountered perfect conditions. We found good numbers of Red-tailed Hawks (45, including one dark morph and one "rufous morph"), American Kestrels (20), and Ferruginous Hawks (4). Pairs of adult Bald Eagles were seen at the mouth of Elk Creek, at the end of Kinney Lane (where they were engaged in either courtship or territory dispute), and the mouth of the Garcia River. (Chris also saw the Navarro River pair before the trip started, so he had an eight-Eagle day.) Bird of the Day though was the lone Rough-legged Hawk hover-hunting over the fields just north of Manchester, giving us plenty of time to admire it.

We saw a Peregrine Falcon on Gunderson Rock in Greenwood Cove, and a substantial flock of Brown Pelicans at the mouth of the Garcia; together with the Bald Eagles, these represent one of the great conservation success stories on the 20th century - the remarkable recovery after DDT was banned in the US. The Bald Eagle is the most recently returned to the Mendocino coast, and is clearly re-establishing a population here.

My count for the day was 64 species, and I probably missed a few songbirds. We also spotted two Bobcats just south of the Garcia bridge.







Birders at lighthouse (left) and a pair of Bald Eagles (center) photos by Tess McGuire. Overlook just south of Elk Creek (right) by Barb Skoog

## **DECEMBER EVENTS**

#### **DECEMBER FIELD TRIP**

**Ukiah Wastewater Treatment Plant** with optional lunch in town. **Saturday, December 11, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM** 

We will meet at the wastewater treatment plant at the end of Plant Rd. just south of the airport in Ukiah at 10 am. The drive from Fort Bragg takes about 90 min. Masks will be required inside the office for signing in. The oxidation ponds attract a variety of wintering ducks and gulls. Questions? Email me at <a href="mailto:tmcguire9130@gmail.com">tmcguire9130@gmail.com</a> Rain cancels.

#### WINTER BIRDING THE MENDOCINO COAST

with David Jensen and Tim Bray Monday, December 13, 7:00 PM

via Zoom. Go to www.mendocinocoastaudubon.org

Mild winters and varied habitats make the Mendocino coast a hot-spot for winter birding. On our Christmas Bird Counts we typically find between 130 and 150 species in a single day. David and Tim will review some of the birds that winter here, focusing on those that can be difficult to distinguish or are easily missed, and emphasizing the connection to habitat. Learn to identify those mysterious sounds in the treetops, how to quickly distinguish which "little brown job" is hopping through the bushes, and what to look for when a raptor flies past you. This is always a fun and informative presentation that helps us prepare for the Christmas Bird Count season, but even if you don't take part in the Counts, you are sure to learn something that will help you enjoy the birds around us.

David and Tim are the compilers of the Manchester and Fort Bragg Christmas Bird Counts, and also past and current Presidents of the Mendocino Coast Audubon Society.

#### CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS ON THE MENDOCINO COAST

The Fort Bragg Count is scheduled for Monday December 27 and covers the coast from Big River north to Little Valley Road. If you live anywhere within that region, you can participate simply by counting birds in your yard. Johanna Jensen is coordinating the yard/feeder watch again this year, so contact her for the checklist and information on how to count in your yard: <a href="mailto:johanna@mcn.org">johanna@mcn.org</a>. Field teams are being assembled now. If you intend to join the same team you birded with last year, contact your Area Leader directly. If you are looking for an assignment, contact Tim Bray, <a href="mailto:thray@mcn.org">thray@mcn.org</a> before December 24.

The Manchester count is on Sunday January 2, 2022 on the coast from Elk south to Lighthouse Point. Contact David Jensen, <a href="mailto:djensen@mcn.org">djensen@mcn.org</a> for details.

# **CALENDAR**

Our field trips and birdwalks are open to anyone who is fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The Beginner's Birdwalk and the Early Birdwalk at the Gardens are continuing on the regular schedule. Our monthly Chapter presentations continue via Zoom. As always, check our website for the most up-to-date information, and keep up with the postings on our Facebook page.

#### **DECEMBER 2021**

#### Saturday 4 - Beginner's Bird Walk\* 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, 18220 Highway 1, Fort Bragg, CA 95437

#### Wednesday 8 - Audubon Society Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.

Contact Tim Bray for more information.

## Saturday 11 - Field Trip: Ukiah Wastewater Treatment Plant 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Meet at the wastewater treatment plant at the end of Plant Rd. See page 10 for more.

## Monday 13 - Audubon Society Meeting 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. via Zoom

Join us for a presentation on Winter Birds of the Mendocino Coast

#### Wednesday 15 - Early Bird Walk\* 8:30 a.m. - Noon

Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, 18220 Highway 1, Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Saturday 18 - Ukiah CBC

Monday 27 - Fort Bragg CBC

## **JANUARY 2022**

Sunday 2 - Manchester Circle CBC

## Saturday 8 - Beginner's Bird Walk\* 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, 18220 Highway 1, Fort Bragg, CA 95437

## Saturday 15 - Monday 17 - Field trip to the Sacramento Valley

Weather permitting: Sacramento Refuge, Colusa Refuge, Grey Lodge, Leesville Road and more. Contact Dave Jensen for details.

## Wednesday 19 - Early Bird Walk\* 8:30 a.m. - Noon

Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, 18220 Highway 1, Fort Bragg, CA 95437

## \*Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens (18220 Highway 1, Fort Bragg, CA)

The following safety precautions will be required::

- Leave 6 feet of space between you and others not in your party. If passing another visitor on a trail, please announce yourself and provide space for fellow guests to pass.
- Bring your own water and binoculars.

## For complete and current calendar, updates, and useful links, visit:

<u>www.mendocinocoastaudubon.org</u> <u>www.facebook.com/mendocinocoastaudubon</u>

# MCAS BOARD MEMBERS AND PROGRAM CHAIRS 2020-2021

| President         | Tim Bray          | tbray@mcn.org              | (707) 734-0791 |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| Vice President    | David Jensen      | djensen@mcn.org            | (707) 964-8163 |
| Secretary         | Roger Adamson     | radamson@mcn.org           |                |
| Treasurer         | Jim Havlena       | havlenas@fix.net           |                |
| Conservation      | Shannon Underhill | shannon.underhill@gmail.co | om             |
| Education         | Pam Huntley       | pjhuntley@hotmail.com      |                |
| Membership        | Adam Hutchins     | raptorous@me.com           | (707) 734-3470 |
| Zoom Czar         | Nicolet Houtz     | nicolethoutz@gmail.com     |                |
| Programs          | Terra Fuller      | terrafuller74@gmail.com    | (707) 964-4675 |
| Programs          | Hayley Ross       | hayleyhross@gmail.com      | ,              |
| Off-Board Chairs: |                   |                            |                |
| Scholarship Chair | Judy Steele       | judys@mcn.org              |                |
| SOS Coordinator   | Becky Bowen       | casparbeck@comcast.net     | (707) 962-1602 |
| Field Trips       | Tess McGuire      | tmcguire9130@gmail.com     | , ,            |
| Webmaster         | Catherine Keegan  | keegan@mcn.org             |                |
| Newsletter Editor | Megan Smithyman   | mesmithy@gmail.com         |                |
|                   |                   |                            |                |

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

