



The Black Oystercatcher

Mendocino Coast Audubon Society Newsletter- March 2023

RECENT SIGHTINGS

by Roger Adamson



*Long-tailed Duck spotted Feb. 19 near the Garcia River mouth.
Photo by Shannon Underhill.*

True to late winter, we had very few rare bird reports. No doubt this is also due to the cold and windy birding weather we have had. The most unusual report was of a Lucy's Warbler in Fort Bragg on Jan 22 (AS). This is a bird decidedly out of its usual range and a great sighting. A House Wren was very early (or over-wintering) on Feb 07 (CV). On Feb 15 two Short-eared Owls were seen well before dusk hunting over the fields at the Noyo Headlands Park in Fort Bragg (RA). Perhaps one of the birds was the one seen last year about the same time. A Chipping Sparrow made an appearance in Van Damme Park on Feb 19 (KU). A Long-tailed Duck was surprised and photographed from close range near the mouth of the Garcia River on Feb 19 (SU). Look closely at its nape – it looks bloodied; the bird may have survived a close encounter of the raptor kind. Finally, three continuing birds were reported: Great-tailed Grackle, both male and female, at the Ukiah Waste Water Treatment Plant; the Slate-colored Dark-eyed Junco on Shafer Road south of Willits; the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at the Rose Memorial Cemetery in Fort Bragg.

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*California Towhee, spotted Feb.17,
on Big River trail. Photo by Roger
Adamson.*

IN THEIR OWN WORDS: Notes from MCAS Scholarship Recipients By Erin Orth

Editor's Note – Erin Orth focused on organic agriculture, soil fertility and diversity preservation during her studies at Mendocino College. She received the Greg Grantham Memorial Scholarship from the college in May, 2021. Erin understands what every birder knows: survival of birds is all about habitat. We reached out to former MCAS scholarship winners and we hope this is the first in a series of stories. We love hearing from the MCAS scholarship recipients, knowing that their stories are part of our story, too.

Hi everyone. I am so honored to be here again and share a little bit about what I've been up to in the last year.

Since I received the Mendocino Coast Audubon Society's scholarship award I have graduated from Mendocino College. I am currently at Sonoma State University working on my bachelor's in Environmental Science with a concentration in geography and environmental planning. We have been working hard in Sonoma County's preserves and at the Bodega Marine Reserve on non-native invasive species identification and removal. It's amazing how many new invasive species that are identified every year. I am hoping to take my specialty into restoration and conservation in our beautiful Mendocino headlands upon graduation.



I have been learning a lot about our watersheds and the amazing diversity that we have the privilege to protect. I hope to someday put my expertise into practice restoring the fascinating ecosystems of the California coast and the many species that call this area home.

Receiving this scholarship was such a huge help to not only myself, but also my family and I am proud to say that my children have watched my educational career and have shown interest in scientific research as well. They are curious and perceptive and often ask how they can help. It is so rewarding to see the next generation take an interest in sustainability and land management. Thank you all for being involved and supporting the research of students like myself out there in the field trying to make a difference!



E. Orth Photographs

In connection with her Environmental Science studies at Sonoma State University, Erin Orth participates in field laboratories at UC Davis Coastal and Marine Sciences Institute Bodega Marine Laboratory
[//marinescience.ucdavis.edu/bml/about](https://marinescience.ucdavis.edu/bml/about)

Mendocino Coast Audubon Society supports funding for two science scholarships at Mendocino College awarded every year. Recipients are selected by science faculty staff based on academic achievement and financial need and have participated in laboratory research at the college Field Station near Point Arena:

(<https://www.mendocino.edu/about/mlccd/our-campus/mendocino-college-coastal-field-station>).

Financial support comes from the society's scholarship program and donations from Audubon members and members of our community. We welcome donations which can be made to either the MCAS Brandon Pill Memorial Scholarship Fund and/or the MCAS Greg Grantham Memorial Scholarship Fund. Please contact MCAS Scholarship Chair Judy Steele for more information judys@mcn.org

PROGRAMS

NATHAN PIEPLOW PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS



Mendocino Coast Audubon welcomes Nathan Pieplow, professor and author of the Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds, published in two volumes, Eastern (2017) and Western (2019) to the Mendocino Coast for two workshops and programs in Caspar and Gualala.

Nathan, an avid bird sound recordist and videographer, is the author of the bird sound blog Farbirding.com, a board member of the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, an author of the Colorado Birding Trail, and former editor of the journal Colorado Birds. Nathan teaches writing and rhetoric at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

Workshop: A Shared Vocabulary for Bird Sounds

In this half-day workshop you will work on advanced listening skills: paying attention to the fine details of a sound. Just as beginning birders learn the different parts of the bird and how to distinguish colors like “buff” and “rufous,” you will learn the different parts of a sound and how to distinguish tone qualities like “burry” and “polyphonic.” In the process, you will learn a common vocabulary for describing bird sounds. You will also study how to visualize sounds and read spectrograms, and what smartphone apps can best facilitate the process. No matter what your level of experience, this workshop will help you listen to sounds more analytically, describe them more accurately, and use them more effectively in identifying birds. The first half of this half-day workshop will be an indoor presentation, and the second half will be at a nearby outdoor venue.

Workshop Fee: \$36. Registration is limited to 15 and is closed once filled!

Two Mendocino County Workshop Venues:

South Coast - Saturday May 13, 2023, at 7:00AM
Mill Bend house, 46902 Old Stage Rd, Gualala 95445
Please contact Cheryl Harris cheryleharris@sbcglobal.net

North Coast - Sunday May 14, 2023, at 7:00AM
Russian Gulch State Park CA-1, Mendocino
Please contact Hayley Ross hayleyhross@gmail.com

Free and Open to the Public Presentations:

South Coast - Friday May 12, 2023 at 7:00PM
Location TBD

North Coast - Monday May 15, 2023 at 7:00PM
Lions Club 430 East Redwood, Fort Bragg 95437

EVENTS

FIELD TRIP - OWLING IN ELK WITH MIKE STEPHENS & TIM BRAY Saturday, March 11 from 5:45 PM - 9:00 PM

Meet in Elk at the parking lot across from the store at 5:45 PM. We will carpool and head up the ridge, returning around 9 pm. The variety of habitats along Philo-Greenwood Road hold several species of owls, and in March they can be quite vocal. Carpooling is necessary for this trip because the turnouts on the road are small and only a few cars will fit.



*Western Screech-owl
photo by Tim Bray*

2023 ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP POTLUCK Sunday, March 26 from 12:00-3:00 p.m. at the Greenwood Community Center, Elk

Four organizations dedicated to the Mendocino environment - Dorothy King Young Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, Mendocino Coast Audubon, Mendocino Land Trust, and Mendocino Area Parks Association (now known as MendoParks) - began meeting in the late 1990s to share information and provide mutual support. Ginny and Warren Wade, Joan Curry, Pat Howard, Binah Polay, and Sally Malby were the original organizers of those collaborations. By 2002 the meetings had formalized to the extent of agreeing to meet annually, rotate hosting the meeting, and present an award each year to a person or organization whose efforts on behalf of the environment have made a difference in our community. In 2011 this award was renamed the Matt Coleman Environmental Service Award in honor of our dedicated fallen friend. At last year's meeting, for the first time, a new organization was added: the Noyo Center for Marine Science.

You are invited to attend this year's Environmental Partnership Potluck and hear about the good work all five nonprofits are doing. We will then celebrate the work of this year's Matthew Coleman Award winner, Mr. Peter Baye, naturalist, botanist, and conservationist extraordinaire. Please come and celebrate this recognition of his work to protect native habitats in Mendonoma.

On Sunday, March 26, the doors of the Greenwood Community Center will open at 11:00 a.m. to set up (you are welcome to help if you can), and lunch will start at noon. Bring a dish to share, a beverage of your choice, and utensils. Once everyone has selected their desserts, the partners will offer a brief update of their activities and plans for the coming year, followed by the award to Peter. This is a great opportunity to rekindle old friendships and to appreciate the cumulative effect of these dedicated organizations.

For more information contact David Jensen at 707-326-8815 or djensen@mcn.org. Greenwood Community Center is located at 6129 S. Highway One (look for the sign, take the dirt drive to the back). There is no charge for this event.

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Thanks to these birders for their reports. Asa Spade (TB), Chuck Vaughn (CV), Roger Adamson (RA), Karin Uphoff (KU), Shannon Underhill (SU).

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. As always, check our website for the most up-to-date information, and keep up with the postings on our Facebook page.

MARCH 2023

Saturday 4 - *Beginner's Bird Walk* 9:00 AM - Noon

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

Tuesday 7 - *Mendocino Coast Audubon Society Board Meeting* 6:00 PM

Saturday 11 - *Owling in Elk with Mike Stephens & Tim Bray* 5:45 PM - 9:00 PM

Meet at the Elk Store parking lot. Carpooling is required. See page 4 for more details.

Wednesday 15 - *Early Bird Walk* 8:30 AM - Noon

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

Sunday 26 - *Environmental Potluck* 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Greenwood Community Center, Elk. See page 4 for more details.

APRIL 2023

Saturday 1 - *Beginner's Bird Walk* 9:00 AM - Noon

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

Tuesday 4 - *Mendocino Coast Audubon Society Board Meeting* 6:00 PM

Monday 17 - *Mendocino Coast Audubon Society Chapter Meeting* 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Join us for an in-person presentation of eBird by Chuck Vaughn.

Wednesday 19 - *Early Bird Walk* 8:00 AM - Noon

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

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

www.mendocinocoastaudubon.org

www.facebook.com/mendocinocoastaudubon

MCAS BOARD MEMBERS AND PROGRAM CHAIRS 2022-2023

President	Tim Bray	tbray@mcn.org	(707) 734-0791
Vice President	David Jensen	djensen@mcn.org	(707) 964-8163
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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

