



The Black Oystercatcher

Mendocino Coast Audubon Society Newsletter- March 2019

You are Invited to the

ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION POTLUCK DINNER AND AWARD CELEBRATION

*Hosted by the Dorothy King Young Chapter of the
California Native Plant Society*



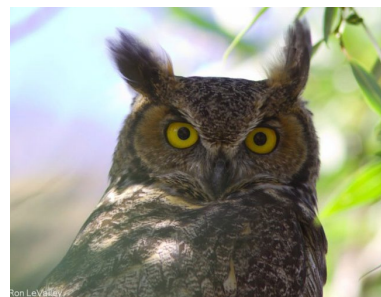
MONDAY, MARCH 18 AT 6 P.M.
Pacific Union College Albion Field Station
34100 Albion St. Albion, CA

For nearly 25 years now, Mendocino Coast Audubon has been proud to be part of the annual Environmental Organization Potluck Dinner and Award Celebration. On this special evening we join with members of the Mendocino Land Trust, the Dorothy King Young Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, and the Mendocino Area Parks Association to share our achievements of the past year and to honor a special person for their hard work and dedication to our shared values. And, of course, to visit with one another over a wonderful array of food.

continued on page 2

Inside This Issue

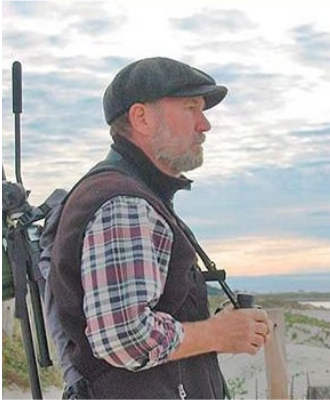
<i>President's Corner</i> <i>By Dave Jensen</i>	2
<i>Matt Coleman Award</i> <i>Winner, Patrick Freeling</i>	3
<i>Annual Environmental</i> <i>Potluck Dinner</i>	4
<i>Save Our Shorebirds</i> <i>By Becky Bowen</i>	5
<i>March / April</i> <i>MCAS Field Trips and Events</i>	6
<i>March / April</i> <i>MCAS Calendar</i>	7
<i>MCAS Board</i> <i>of Directors</i>	8



Who's that? Join us for an owling trip and find out. Learn more on page 6.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERS POTLUCK DINNER



continued from page 1

This is always a lively and friendly affair, a chance to see old friends and make new ones. It should come as no surprise that in our coastal community, where volunteer organizations like ours rely heavily on STP (the same ten people), that many of us belong to two or more of the participating organizations. At this event organizational boundaries dissolve, ideas and support flow freely, and a spirit of community, of common ground, pervades.

The member organizations take turns hosting this annual event, and this year the Dorothy King Young Chapter of the California Native Plant Society will do the honors. Renée Pasquinelli and Teresa Sholars will be the featured speakers, talking about the strengths and potential of collaboration among environmental organizations.

A highlight of each gathering is the presentation of the environmental recognition award. The list of past recipients reads like a "Who's Who" of local environmental leaders. Linda Perkins, Art Morley, Dorothy "Toby" Tobkin, Teresa Sholars, Ron LeValley, Pam Huntley, Becky Bowen, Angela Liebenberg, Warren and Ginny Wade, Mario Abreu, Peter Warner, Lori Hubbard, Joan Curry, the list goes on. Each one a champion for local environmental protection.

In 2012 this award was renamed the "Matt Coleman Environmental Achievement Award" in honor of our dear friend who was dedicated to all that we hold dear. This year's award will recognize the diligent work of Patrick Freeling, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife warden who helped expose the illegal international smuggling of *Dudleya* succulents that had been stolen from the Mendocino and Humboldt coastline. His efforts not only resulted in the conviction and exportation of the smugglers, but also brought heightened awareness of the problem of poaching of native plants to agencies and the public.

I hope you will join us at this year's event, which will be held on Monday, March 18, at the Pacific Union College Albion Field Station on the south side of the Albion River. Look for the sign just beyond the post office. The potluck dinner will start at 6:00 and the presentations should begin around 7:00. Bring a dish to share and whatever you prefer to drink at such events. Please remember to bring a plate and utensils, but don't worry if you forget. We'll take care of you. Parking is limited, so carpooling is advised.



For more information, contact Nancy Morin:
Nancy.morin@nau.edu, (707) 882-2528.

**MATT COLEMAN ENVIRONMENTAL
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER**

PATRICK FREELING

In recognition of his hard work exposing illegal poaching of native plants



Two unidentified men are photographed by warden Patrick Freeling after he arrested them in connection with the alleged poaching of Dudleya succulent plants, harvested by the men from the Mendocino County coast. (Courtesy Patrick Freeling/CDFW)



Neil Kramer

**Mendocino Environmental Partners
ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER
MARCH 18, 2019
Dinner 6 p.m., Presentation 7 p.m.
Albion Field Station**

You are cordially invited to the Annual Potluck of the Mendocino Environmental Partners. Renée Pasquinelli and Teresa Sholars will be the featured speakers, talking about the strengths and potential of collaboration among environmental organizations.

The Matthew Coleman Environmental Service Award will be given to Patrick Freeling, warden, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, in recognition of his work to bring awareness of the problem of poaching of native plants to agencies and the public.

We will enjoy getting updates on activities from partner organizations.

Please bring your own plate, silverware, beverage, and a potluck dish for 8. Albion Field Station is at 34100 Albion St, Albion. Parking is tricky—carpooling is advised. <https://www.puc.edu/v/puc-life/albion/home>

This year's potluck hosted by the Dorothy King Young Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. Contact Nancy Morin, Nancy.morin@nau.edu, 882-2528



SAVE OUR SHOREBIRDS

Becky Bowen



WHERE THE BLOYS ARE — AND THE PLOVERS, SURFBIRDS, AND TURNSTONES, TOO

Black Oystercatcher (center) with Black-bellied Plovers on Ward Avenue beach loafing rock.

Photograph by Becky Bowen

MacKerricher State Park stretches from Glass Beach north to Ten Mile River. Save Our Shorebirds volunteers survey more than 15 kilometers of the MacKerricher coastline that meanders along bluffs, coastal strand, open beaches, a Bishop Pine forest, coastal prairie, and on-shore rocks.

Bird censuses are conducted along five routes including Ten Mile Beach, Virgin Creek Beach and Glass Beach. In 2014 two routes were added: the Trestle Loop (from the Pudding Creek Trestle in Fort Bragg north to Virgin Creek) and the Lighthouse Loop (from Virgin Creek north to Ten Mile Beach). The Lighthouse Loop was named for the small decorative stucco lighthouse in a backyard along the haul road near Virgin Creek beach. It marks the beginning and end of the survey route.

Each route has something special for people and birds, especially Black Oystercatchers. Their piercing calls can be heard along the entire park coastline, but we've learned that a favorite Black Oystercatcher hangout are rocks along the Lighthouse Loop. Those rocks provide nesting and foraging spots as well as a long, perfectly placed near-shore loafing rock near the southernmost Laguna Point observation platform. The highest count for Black Oystercatchers on one SOS survey occurred twice: 62 in January, 2017 and 62 in January, 2018. Most of them were counted on this Laguna Point loafing rock. Visitors on the viewing platform can watch oystercatchers and whales at the same time.

SOS Black Oystercatcher Total Counts Per Survey Route 2007-2018*

Survey Site	Avg. # BLOY Counted Per Survey	Total # Of BLOY Sightings	Total # Surveys When BLOY Counted
Ten Mile	4.35	1,514	348
Virgin Creek	5.14	5,779	1,125
Glass Beach	4.09	2,752	673
Trestle Loop*	5.15	1,071	208
Lighthouse Loop*	17.50	2,608	149
Totals	5.48	13,724	2,503

*Trestle and Lighthouse Loops added to SOS survey routes in 2014. Source: SOS data sheets, SOS eBird

The loafing spot of Black-bellied Plover choice is north of Laguna Point along the onshore rocks at the Ward Avenue beach. They often are joined by Black Turnstones and Surfbirds. Because this part of the coast is a place for wintering flocks, there is a good chance you can see shorebirds on the Ward Avenue beach any month of the year except June, when the migrating birds head to Arctic breeding grounds. Every once in a blue moon, a Wandering Tattler (in summer) or a Rock Sandpiper (in December or January) will pop up on the same rocks. So if shorebirds are on your birdwatching wish list, go to Laguna Point, listen for the Black Oystercatcher calls and focus your binocs on the rocks.

MCAS FIELD TRIPS AND EVENTS

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2019 **OWLING with Mike Stephens**

5:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Meet in Elk, at Greenwood Beach SP parking lot, across from the Elk Store.

We will carpool up the Philo-Greenwood Road, stopping at selected turnouts to listen and call for owls. The variety of habitats along Philo-Greenwood Road hold several species of owls and in March they can be quite vocal.

Owling involves standing very still in the darkness and listening intently. Dress warmly and bring a flashlight.



Great grey owl by Ron LeValley

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2019 **HENDY WOODS STATE PARK**

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

18599 Philo Greenwood Rd, Philo, CA 95466

Led by Adam Hutchins

Meet at the bridge on Philo-Greenwood Road. We will bird from the bridge and nearby areas, then go into the park and walk a loop trail. Swallows and Purple Martins, Black-headed Grosbeaks, and Black-throated Gray Warblers are regularly seen; sometimes Western Tanager, Hermit Warbler, and Green Heron. Barred Owls roost in the campground and are sometimes heard calling even in daytime. Please bring water and a picnic lunch.



Purple Martin 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



120 North Harbor Drive
Fort Bragg, California 95437

1-800-643-2700

CALENDAR

MARCH 2019

Saturday 9 - Owling Field Trip 5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Elk - Greenwood Beach SP
We will carpool up the Philo-Greenwood Road, stopping to listen and call.

Monday 18 - Environmental Partners Potluck Dinner and Award Presentation 6:00 p.m.
Pacific Union College Albion Field Station. 34100 Albion St. Albion, CA

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

Sunday 24 - Coastal Trail Bird Walk 10a.m. - Noon North Coastal Trail, Fort Bragg
Meet near the rest room at east end of parking lot at the foot of Elm Street.

Join Ron LeValley for BLOY and Cormorant training the last week in March.
Contact ron@levalleyphoto.com for details.

APRIL 2019

Save Our Shorebirds training for summer surveys will be held in April and May.
Contact B. Bowen. (707) 962-1602 or casparbeck@comcast.net

Saturday 6- Beginner's Bird Walk* 9:00 a.m. - Noon Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens
18220 Highway 1, Fort Bragg, CA

Wednesday 10 - Audubon Board Meeting - 6:00 p.m - 8:30 p.m.
All members are welcome. Contact David Jensen for the location. (707) 964-8163

Saturday 13 - BioBlitz* 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens
18220 Highway 1, Fort Bragg, CA. Join MCBG for our very first BioBlitz, an event where the community documents as many species as possible.

Monday 15 - Audubon Society Meeting - 7:00 p.m - 9:00 p.m. Caspar Community Center
Presentation by Lisa Owens-Viani, director of Raptors Are The Solution (RATS).

Wednesday 17 - Early Bird Walk* 8:30 a.m. - Noon Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens
18220 Highway 1, Fort Bragg, CA Leader: Tim Bray
Meet in the parking lot. Wear comfortable shoes and bring a hat and water.

Saturday 20 - Hendy Woods Field Trip 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Hendy Woods State Park
18599 Philo Greenwood Rd, Philo, CA 95466. Led by Adam Hutchins.
Meet at the bridge on Philo-Greenwood Road at 9a.m. See page 6 for more details.

Sunday 28 - Coastal Trail Bird Walk 10a.m. - Noon North Coastal Trail, Fort Bragg
Meet near the rest room at east end of parking lot at the foot of Elm Street.

**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	David Jensen	djensen@mcn.org	(707) 964-8163
Vice President, Field Trips	Tim Bray	tbray@mcn.org	(707) 734-0791
Secretary	Nicolet Houtz	nicolethoutz@gmail.com	
Treasurer	Jim Havlena	havlenas@fix.net	(707) 964-1280
SOS, Conservation Chair	Becky Bowen	casparbeck@comcast.net	(707) 962-1602
Education	Sarah Grimes	zewa@mcn.org	
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

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

