April 2007

“Botswana & Namibia: Birds and Other Wildlife”
A Video Presentation by Buff Corsi
Monday, April 30, 2007  6:00 p.m.*
Gualala Arts Center

WE ARE STILL ACCEPTING RESERVATIONS FOR DINNER

*Appetizers will be available at 5:45 p.m.

Southern Carmine Bee-eater
The Mendocino Coast Audubon Society (MCAS) invites all those interested in Southern African wild life to a Gala Evening at the Gualala Arts Center, Monday, April 30th, when the chapter holds their annual dinner meeting on the South Coast. If you’ve always wanted to visit southern Africa, or if you’d like to be momentarily transported back there, please plan to attend.

You’ll begin the evening experiencing Southern African Cuisine specially prepared by Leslie Bates of Savory Coast Catering. As appetizers are not part of the “Rainbow Cuisine” of southern Africa, Leslie loosened up the criteria and opted for something from further north and we believe many of you will enjoy this Southern African Menu, which we’ve not seen served elsewhere on the Redwood Coast.

The Menu for the evening includes

- Appetizers - Peanuts and Moroccan olive flatbread;
- Entrée - Baboti served with Blatjang and or Vegetable Potjie; with Yellow Rice, South African Sambal, plus Quinoa with dried fruits and peanuts.
- Desert - will be Fresh Fruit.

Appetizers and dinner will be accompanied by South African wines, water and a choice of regular or decaf coffee with dessert.

As this might leave you wondering what you’d be eating, Baboti is a sort of savory bread custard with lots of ground meat (lamb and/beer), curry, fruit and nuts. Blatjang is also a Cape Malay specialty, which like Baboti, migrated to southern Africa with the indentured individuals the British imported to work the cane fields. It has been referred to as a ‘bitingly spicy, pungently aromatic, moderately smooth and very intimately mixed association of ingredients’ that adds zest to curries or braised meat, like a chutney. The Vegetable Potjie is composed of many hardy vegetables layered in a cast-iron pot (the potjie) in which a mixture of onion and garlic has been sautéed in a small amount of oil. These are sprinkled with seasonings and herbs and then covered with stock. This will be the Main Dish for our vegetarians, but everyone is welcome to sample it. Yellow Rice, involves flavoring the rice with turmeric and butter while cooking it. South African Sambal is a zesty (lemon juice, minced garlic and ginger, sugar and vinegar, chopped fresh red chilies, cilantro and fresh ground pepper) grated carrot and apple salad, which is served cold. Quinoa, pronounced ‘keen-wah’ is
not a true cereal grain, but rather the botanical fruit of an herb. It is treated like a grain when cooking, and the small flattened spheres coil into a small ‘tail’ when cooked, producing a pleasant crunch when eaten. Fresh fruit is the most commonly served desert throughout southern Africa and what is served will depend upon what looks GREAT at the market. Both red and white wines from South Africa will be available.

Following announcements and a short business meeting, the general program will be a video presentation entitled “Botswana & Namibia: Birds and Other Wildlife” edited by Buff Corsi from Santa Rosa. It is 50 minutes long and takes viewers along as Buff and her husband, Jerry Corsi, joined by local Sea Ranchers, Rich Kuehn and Dean Schuler, travel through the National Parks of Botswana and Namibia on a month-long safari. The habitats shown include lovely forests, dry thornveld, rocky mountains, several deserts, fantastic red-orange dunes and foggy ocean beaches. Besides the many species of birds, you’ll observe large matriarchal herds of elephants, lion prides on the hunt, a beautiful leopard in a tree plus the hundreds of different animals crowding waterholes. The video is also punctuated by the denizens of the dunes, including poisonous snakes and colorful amphibians. A new feature of this year’s event is a digital slide presentation loop of African birds using photographs provided by Jerry Corsi and Dean Schuler and edited by Buff that will be shown during the dinner.

Please fill out the form in the attached flyer and send to MCAS 14233 Hanson Circle, Mendocino, CA, 95460 or call 707-964-6362 or 707-785-3415. MCAS is still accepting reservations, but after April 15, 2007, please call to make sure there is still space available. The program will start about 7:15 and is open to the general public; however we ask for a donation at the door.

All reservations and cancellations must be received by April 21. All reservations not cancelled by April 21 will be billed for the dinner.

Results from the last Bird Walk in March:
Spring migration has already started; many of our spring and summer residents are already back. (The MCBG Bird List indicates when species are most likely to be found during each season.) Toby Tobkin reports that the group saw and/or heard 40 species during the March 21, 2007 bird walk:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pelagic Cormorant</th>
<th>Allen’s Hummingbird</th>
<th>European Starling</th>
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<tr>
<td>Canada Goose</td>
<td>Acorn Woodpecker</td>
<td>Hutton’s Vireo</td>
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<td>Turkey Vulture</td>
<td>Downy Woodpecker</td>
<td>Yellow-rumped Warbler</td>
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<td>Osprey</td>
<td>Hairy Woodpecker</td>
<td>Townsend’s Warbler</td>
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<td>Red-shouldered Hawk</td>
<td>Northern Flicker</td>
<td>Song Sparrow</td>
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<td>Merlin</td>
<td>Steller’s Jay</td>
<td>Lincoln’s Sparrow</td>
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<td>Peregrine Falcon</td>
<td>Western Scrub Jay</td>
<td>White-crowned Sparrow</td>
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<td>Black Oystercatcher</td>
<td>Common Raven</td>
<td>Red-winged Blackbird</td>
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<td>Herring Gull</td>
<td>Chestnut-backed Chickadee</td>
<td>Brewer’s Blackbird</td>
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<td>Western Gull</td>
<td>Pygmy Nuthatch</td>
<td>Brown-headed Blackbird</td>
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<td>Glaucous-winged Gull</td>
<td>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</td>
<td>House Finch</td>
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<td>Morning Dove</td>
<td>American Robin</td>
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Bird Festival:


Up and Coming MCAS Events:

Birdwalks at the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens – Saturday, April 7, 9:00 am; Wednesday, April 18, 8:00 am

Field Trips – Saturday, April 14 at 9:00 a.m. Sea Ranch. Meet at the Knipp-Stengel Barn, westside of Highway 1, milepost 53.71

RESEARCH DIRECTOR WANTED

MCAS is still accepting applications for Director for our SAVE THE SHOREBIRDS project. A description of the project and the qualifications needed for the position follows:

Save Our Shorebirds
Mendocino Coast Audubon Society
Summer 2007 and 2008

Our Goals:

• To observe shorebird activity on three MacKerricher State Beaches in Mendocino County
• To work toward an increase in shorebird activity in this Important Bird Area
• To monitor beach bird activity and work toward eliminating disturbances to shorebirds
• Creation of a shorebird protection plan for Glass Beach, Virgin Creek Beach and Ten Mile Beach using the resources of Audubon volunteers and the resources of California State Parks

Our Method:

• We will contract with a freelance researcher (the Save Our Shorebirds Director) who will work with State Parks and Audubon Society volunteers to meet our goals.

The Time Frame:

• June – September 2007
• June – September 2008
The Contract Terms:
- $7,500 per summer (total of $15,000)

The Requirements:
- Excellent shorebird identification skills
- Ease at gathering and recording daily information about beach activity
- Managerial skills with volunteer organizations
- Willingness to interact with State Parks personnel—especially Resources personnel and Park Rangers
- Skills in dealing with the public
- Knowledge and appreciation of beach wildlife, critical habitat and the Western Snowy Plover Recovery Program

Contact Becky Bowen, Conservation Chair
Mendocino Coast Audubon Society
email: casparbeck@earthlink.net

Announcing the Save Our Shorebird Poster Contest

One of the most important components of our Save Our Shorebirds Project is educating the beach going public about the need for shorebird protection. One of the ways MCAS plans to do this is to sponsor a SAVE OUR SHOREBIRDS poster contest. All elementary schools on the Mendocino Coast will be invited to participate. All posters will be 8.5x11 inch in size and the children can use any type of media – crayon, pastel, paint, etc. The classroom with the most selected posters will receive a $200.00 donation from MCAS. The first runner up will receive $100 and the second runner up $50.00. MCAS will instruct the judges to pick the posters that best convey the need to minimize the impact of people using the beaches on nesting and migrating shorebirds with particular emphasis on the Snowy Plover. This will be a wonderful way to involve children in environmental work that can make a difference. The posters will be copied and laminated before placing them near critical habitat for shorebirds. Another Audubon chapter sponsored a similar project called “Share Our Beaches” three years ago and they found the posters were effective in getting their message across to the beach going public. Over the past few years many local signs aimed at protecting shorebirds have been vandalized. The “Share Our Beaches” project reported no vandalism of the children’s art work.

Our winning children’s posters will be copied, laminated and hung at Ten Mile, MacKerricher, Glass, Caspar, and Manchester Beaches during nesting and migration time. The judges for the contest are Marilyn Murphy, District Superintendent of the Mendocino District, California Parks and Recreation, and Erica Fielder, a local artist whose works are displayed in our State Parks and at the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens to mention few and another judge to be named later. We are excited and looking forward to involving elementary school children in our project.
Below is a picture of one of the major hazards on Ten Mile Beach. Vehicles illegally drive across Sunset Beach on to MacKerricher Beach. If you look closely at the picture you will see a Snowy Plover walking in the tire tracks.

A Snowy Plover in the midst of tire tracks on Ten Mile Beach

**MCAS Needs To Raise Additional Funds to Supplement Our Grant**

MCAS requested a total of $15,000 to cover the salary of our coordinator for two summers of the Save Our Shorebirds Project, but was awarded $11,739 from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. We now need to raise the additional funds for the salary as well as funds to cover the costs of the poster contest and other incidentals. If you would like to donate to the project, please send a check to MCAS SOS Project, P.O. Box 2297, Fort Bragg, CA 95437. MCAS is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization so your donation is tax deductible. We are grateful to the many members who over the years have supported our efforts in children’s education.

MCAS will soon announce the training dates for shorebird monitors. We need volunteers who can spend some time on the beaches acting as docents to explain the program to the public, and monitor the nests and young of various shorebird species, including the Snowy Plover. If you would like to be a part of this effort, please email Becky Bowen at: casparbeck@earthlink.net.
In Memoriam, Richard F Irvin 1930 – 2006

On March 24, 2007 a group of friends and family members gathered in Berkley, California, to remember Richard Irvin who died in March of 2006. Richard lived on the Mendocino Coast with his wife Kris Carter, a MCAS board member, for a number of years. Richard was a 49 merit badge Eagle Scout, mathematics teacher, skier and mountain climber extraordinaire, and when he no longer could climb mountains, he became an avid birder. Richard’s final life list count was an amazing 6,001 birds. He traveled to the farthest corners of the earth seeking out unusual birds. Just before he and Kris moved away, Richard donated a large pile of lumber to MCAS. All the adults and children who have attended our workshops over the years built bird nest-boxes using kits made from his donated boards. The memorial party was a joyful celebration of his life.

Kris also made significant contributions to the birding world: she wrote and published the first definitive Mendocino County birding book – “A Guide to Finding Birds in Mendocino County”. It was a team effort; Richard provided his support and shared his birding expertise for Kris’ book. The resulting guide was detailed and accurate; using it, you can often still find a Ferruginous Hawk at mile marker 27.30 on Highway One in a field south of Elk!

We are further indebted to Kris Carter as she was the driving force in having Virgin Creek Beach and Ten Mile Beach and Dunes recognized in 1999 as a Nationally Important Bird Area (IBA) by National Audubon Society, California; the American Bird Conservancy; and California Partners in Flight. The IBA designation played a significant role in our obtaining the Save Our Shorebirds grant from the Packard Foundation.

Sign up now for the May MCAS Pelagic Trip

MCAS is taking reservations for the Sunday, May 20, 2007 Pelagic Trip out of Noyo Harbor. We are asking a $95.00 donation per person. Please fill out the enclosed form (or print out the attached form), send a check or money order made out to MCAS, and mail to MCAS, 14233 Hanson Circle, Mendocino, CA 95460. If you would like to pay by credit card, call 707-964-6362. Reservations are on a first come, first serve basis. All those signing up will receive a confirmation letter giving all the details. This is a wonderful opportunity to see pelagic birds and marine mammals. We are always on the lookout for rare birds. Over the years we’ve had wonderful trips with many unusual sightings of birds and mammals.
Here is our **Checklist for Pelagic Trips**:

**Bird Species**
- Red-throated Loon
- Yellow-billed Loon
- Pacific Loon
- Common Loon
- Horned Grebe
- Red-necked Grebe
- Eared Grebe
- Western Grebe
- Clark’s Grebe
- Western/Clark’s Grebe
- Laysan Albatross
- Black-footed Albatross
- Short-tailed Albatross
- Shy Albatross
- Northern Fulmar
- Murphy’s Petrel
- Mottled Petrel
- Dark-rumped Petrel
- Cook’s Petrel
- Pterodroma sp.
- Pink-footed Shearwater
- Flesh-Footed Shearwater
- Buller’s Shearwater
- Sooty Shearwater
- Sooty/Short-tailed Shearwater
- Short-tailed Shearwater
- Manx Shearwater
- Black-vented Shearwater
- Streaked Shearwater
- Wilson’s Storm-Petrel
- Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel
- Leach’s Storm-Petrel
- Ashy Storm-Petrel
- Black Storm-Petrel
- Least Storm-Petrel
- Brown Pelican
- Brandt’s Cormorant
- Double-crested Cormorant
- Pelagic Cormorant
- Surf Scoter
- White-winged Scoter
- Black Scoter
- Red-necked Phalarope
- Red Phalarope
- Red/Red-necked Phalarope
- South Polar Skua
- Pomarine Jaeger
- Parasitic Jaeger
- Long-tailed Jaeger
- Jaeger sp.
- Bonaparte’s Gull
- Heerman’s Gull
- Mew Gull
- California Gull
- Herring Gull
- Thayer’s Gull
- Western Gull
- Glaucous-winged Gull
- Glaucous Gull
- Black-legged Kittiwake
- Sabine’s Gull
- Laughing Gull
- Franklin’s Gull
- Common Tern
- Common/Arctic Tern
- Artic Tern
- Caspian Tern
- Forster’s Tern
- Common Murre
- Pigeon Guillemot
- Marbled Murrelet
- Xantus’s Murrelet
- Ancient Murrelet
- Long-billed Murrelet
- Cassin’s Auklet
- Parakeet Auklet
- Rhinoceros Auklet
- Horned Puffin
- Tufted Puffin

**Other Species**
- Humpback Whale
- Sperm Whale
- Baird’s Beaked Whale
- California Sea Lion
- Steller’s Sea Lion
- Northern Fur Seal
- Northern Elephant Seal
- Harbor Seal
- Gray Whale
- Blue Whale
- Orca (Killer Whale)
- Common Dolphin
- Northern Right-whale Dolphin
- Bottlenose Dolphin
- Risso’s Dolphin
- Pacific White-sided Dolphin
- Harbor Porpoise
- Dall’s Porpoise
- Ocean Sunfish
- Blue Shark
Election of Officers and Board Members for 2007–2008

At the May 21 meeting, the annual elections for MCAS Officers and for the Board of Directors will be held. The nominating committee has presented the following slate for your consideration:

President: David Jensen
Vice President: Tony Eppstein
Acting Secretary: Tanya Smart
Acting Treasurer: Judy Steele

Board Members: Jeanne Coleman
Charlene McAllister
Art Morley
Ginny Wade
Warren Wade

Current Board members Andarin Arvola and Becky Bowen will be retiring after years of heroic service, although they will remain active in committee positions with MCAS. We are obviously looking for two new Board members – if you would be interested in furthering the education and conservation mission of MCAS please call us at 707-964-6362 to put your name up for nomination to the Board. You can get a preview of how we work together by attending the next Board meeting at Tony Eppstein’s home in Surfwood 4: Monday, April 23, at 7:00 p.m. – you can share a glass of wine with us, whether you decide to join the Board or not. Tony’s address is: 44711 Baywood Drive, Mendocino (937-1715).