Dear Monterey Audubon supporters,

Happy Fall! It’s been a busy year and I’m excited to share the 2022 Annual Report with you. In this document, you’ll find updates on our conservation projects, new fundraisers, the fall field trip guide, and more. I hope you enjoy the stunning pictures of the local birds that both inspire our work and also play important roles in the local ecosystems. By protecting birds, we are also protecting many other species, including our own.

Since birds are so visible (mainly out during the daytime, colorful and loud) and well studied (monitored by thousands of birders across the globe), they act as a convenient barometer of ecosystem health. By understanding the fluctuations in bird populations and species composition, the state of a region’s plants, insects, and even mammals can be inferred. They are our global canary in the coal mine, alerting us when life-sustaining systems falter.

And unfortunately, what they are telling us is not good. Based on a recent BirdLife International State of the World’s Birds report, nearly half of all bird species are in decline, with more than one in eight at risk of extinction1. Birds are mirroring the breakdown of the ecosystems that they depend on for survival. And, even if it feels indirect, we are also dependent on these ecosystems for survival.

We know what works – protect key habitat, support Native land stewards, organize and push for the protection of biodiversity at every level. And through these efforts, we’ve seen examples of species being saved from extinction, populations recovering, threats being effectively managed and ecosystems being restored. We know it can be done!

All of us working together to protect birds, preserve undeveloped lands, and reduce the effects of climate change are making a difference and moving our society towards the same goal – a thriving, livable planet. Collective action is a powerful weapon against despair. Keep practicing hope and don’t give up.

So thank you for all you do, either by volunteering in the community, directly donating money, or speaking up for those who don’t have a voice. It’s good, honest work, bringing about a brighter future. I’m glad to have you here with me.

With gratitude,
Amanda Prece, Environmental Advocate

For birders both local and worldwide, Monterey Bay has long been recognized as a special place. Since ornithological legend Rollo Beck first tripoded Monterey’s swallows at the dawn of the 20th century—a time when Short-tailed Albatrosses could reliably be seen from our shore—our understanding of Monterey’s seabirds has expanded incrementally, generation by generation. Due to the geography of the coastline, Point Pinos in Pacific Grove is ideally situated for spotting pelagic (open-ocean) species. During windy conditions, the diversity and rarity of species seen from Point Pinos rises significantly above an already impressive baseline. In addition to spotting shearwaters, jaegers, albatrosses, and alcid, even highly pelagic petrel species (which are rarely seen inshore of 30 miles) have been tallied by die-hard seabirders. Monterey Audubon and the local birding community realized that Point Pinos could become a sentry tower not just for Monterey Bay, but for the entire California Current, which flows from the Aleutian Islands in Alaska to the Gulf of California in Mexico. Thus the Point Pinos Seawatch program was developed.

In 2015 Monterey Audubon recruited and funded the retention of one of America’s top bird counters, Tony Leukering of Cape May Observatory fame. His task was to systematically monitor and count seabirds from the Point from dawn to dusk for six weeks, from November 1 to December 15. We chose these dates for convenience’s sake, but they coincided nicely with the Pacific Loon’s peak migration period. Leukering noted roughly a quarter-million loons en route from their Nearctic marshland breeding grounds to coastal and estuarine wintering seas from Central to Baja California.

The Point Pinos Seawatch count has occurred annually since 2015, except for a cancellation in 2020. We have been able to confirm the consistent scale of the Pacific Loon migration, as well as year-over-year declines in migratory Surf Scoters. Through this concerted effort, many new species have been counted at this hotspot, including five booby species (Brown, Red-footed, Blue-footed, Masked, Nazca), Guadalupe Murrelet, Leach’s Storm-Petrel, Great Frigatebird, Black-headed Gull, and also Tundra Swan plus numerous individual songbird species making the trip across the bay.

This year, we welcome seasoned bird counter Alison Vilag, pictured on this page at Whitefish Point Bird Observatory. When Alison Vilag was 6, her parents asked if she wanted to go look for ducks–she did. Ever since, an outstanding portion of Alison’s life has been consumed by looking for ducks (and loons, grebes, and other waterbirds). Bird work has taken Alison to many special places throughout North America. Her favorite seasons, however, have been spent conducting waterbird counts on Lake Superior at renowned migration sites like Whitefish Point Bird Observatory and also at remote islands like Manitou and Michipicoten in Lake Superior. She’s done this for the last 5 years. There’s much that Alison values about counting: she’s drawn to the mental space of existing to observe—to pay attention. She loves the challenge of deciphering the horizon into species and numbers. She’s grateful for the opportunity to share migration’s charisma with anyone curious about such stories. And she considers standardized, long-term monitoring projects to be vital in taking the pulse of bird populations, their cycles, and relationships to weather patterns. She’s excited to become acquainted with the alchemy of weather, flight, and species guild at a new-to-her site – especially one famed for remarkable loon flights, which she’s got a soft spot for.

Seawatch is in session November 1 – December 15, 2022. Please stop by the Point, say “Hi” to Alison, and witness the grandeur of fall seabird migration!

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Since 2011, Monterey Audubon has been supporting and spearheading the California Central Coast BLOY Monitoring Project in the Monterey Bay region and beyond. We directly monitor two study areas—the Monterey Bay South Coast consisting of 3 monitoring sections (Monterey Peninsula, Pebble Beach, and Point Lobos), and the Monterey Bay North Coast (northern Santa Cruz County coast and southern San Mateo County coast). There are other BLOY monitoring efforts south in San Luis Obispo county and north in San Francisco that we regularly communicate and strategize with. But thanks to funding from our Monterey Audubon members and supporting donors, the project was able to monitor 79 BLOY territories for the 2022 season. Our Volunteer Coordinator, Rick Hanks, helps to guide the work of the many volunteer monitors and our two paid BLOY biologists, Jennifer Parkin and Judith Romero. Additionally, thanks to a Whale Tail Grant procured by the Monterey Audubon Environmental Advocate Amanda Preece, we were also able to fund a paid internship position. We interviewed potential interns from California State University Monterey Bay’s Undergraduate Research and Opportunity Center and were excited to hire Miguel Alvarado as our summer intern. Supporting students from diverse backgrounds in pursuing environmental science, conservation, and policy careers is a key part of Monterey Audubon’s work and we look forward to including internships in more of our conservation projects.

“As a student who has to work two or three jobs to support myself, this was the perfect chance to finally have time for my first research opportunity and be supported for it. As I learned many practical skills I also gained knowledge of wildlife sciences, coastal environment impacts, and even drones. These top three topics have shaped my career path and further cemented my dream career of environmental policy making.”

Our BLOY nesting results for 2022 are as follows: As of the end of September, the 56 nesting attempts, including 12 re-nesting attempts, resulted in 61 chicks; However, 44 chicks (72%) have been lost. Total fledglings (chicks that reach the age where they can fly, ~40 days for a BLOY) is 16 birds. Unfortunately, this low nesting success is not unusual for the BLOY populations we monitor. Generally the North Coast section often has a greater number of fledglings per BLOY pair compared to the South Coast section. Many of the South Coast territories are in areas that are highly trafficked in the summer by people and human disturbance is certainly a driver for the differences in nesting success between these two areas. Seeing these low fledgling numbers year after year is concerning, and we are exploring how to analyze this data, constantly pursuing policy and public outreach options to better support the local nesting BLOYs, and striving to understand if what we are seeing locally is an indicator of the larger California BLOY population.

The Fort Ord Bird Banding effort began in 2017 with a partnership between Monterey Audubon, Ventana Wildlife Society, the Bureau of Land Management. The goal of the project is to assess the bird species composition in a restoration area near the Toro Creek riparian corridor. Located on the southside of Fort Ord National Monument and running parallel to Highway 68 E, the Toro Creek Banding station is managed by MAS board member and wildlife biologist Shawn Wagener and Ventana Wildlife Society wildlife biologist and master bird bander Mike Stake. From the start, Shawn and Mike decided to use MAPS banding protocols at our station. MAPS stands for Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship, and is a continent-wide bird banding program which occurs during the bird breeding season, generally May through August. The banders and volunteers at the station deploy ten nets, 30 minutes before sunrise, and then monitor them for six hours, checking every 30 minutes for birds. Over the past 5 years, we’ve seen species wane, such as the Song Sparrow, who has been virtually non-existent for the last 2 years, presumably because of the drought. Through long-term monitoring, we can begin to hypothesize why particular species are seen in certain years and not others. In 2022, we did get a new sighting at the station—a bird banding intern! For the first time, we hosted an undergraduate student from California State University Monterey Bay’s Undergraduate Research and Opportunity Center (UROC for short) Aleah Adame, a UROC Scholar, had heard about the Oystercatcher internship and wondered if we had other opportunities to work with birds. It was wonderful to have Aleah’s help each week and to support her interests in wildlife biology.
The King City Grasslands Important Bird Area (IBA)

By Blake Matheson, MAS President

The Important Bird Area (IBA) program is a global bird conservation program designed to identify, monitor, and protect landscapes that are most important to birds. IBAs identify essential sites that provide habitat for 1.) rare, threatened or endangered birds, 2.) exceptionally large congregations of shorebirds, or 3.) exceptionally large congregations of waterfowl.

The King City Grasslands IBA encompasses the best remaining riparian habitat on the middle Salinas River plus extensive and exceptionally large congregations of shorebirds, or 3.) exceptionally large congregations of waterfowl. The King City Grasslands IBA encompasses the best remaining riparian habitat on the middle Salinas River plus extensive

grasses to the east. habitats within the Salinas Valley itself have been highly modified for agriculture, but the majority of these dry grasslands are used for grazing. These grasslands support a wide variety of species that are otherwise rare in the region, including Burrowing Owl, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Loggerhead Shrike, Sage Sparrow, Mountain Plover, Mountain Bluebird, and Bank Swallow. California Condors from both the Pinnacles and Big Sur rocks also forage in this area. None of this IBA is currently protected.

One of Stevenson School's most beloved biology professors, Bob Tintle, was and remains a birder. For many of his students, Bob's deep love for wildlife and indeed all animals was contagious. He had a fiery sense of anger at man's wanton cruelty toward animals and the callow destruction of Earth's biodiversity. He also had a wry and mischievous sense of humor that was invariably delivered with a slight Long Island twang. For me, Bob was the influence that lead toward a life of birding and conservation and a deeper love of the varied habitats of Monterey County from our high seas check-full of albatrosses and storm-petrels, to our lesser known interior grassland valleys with their resplendent eagles and ephemeral bluebirds.

It's certainly true that I was, in many ways, a young birder waiting to happen. I'd been drawn to wildlife from the beginning, like so many kids. And a young life spent wandering our rocky seashore, and the native pine and cypress forests of the Monterey Peninsula had nurtured an appreciation for the inherent value and multi-dimensional beauty of wild animals and our native ecosystems. I had a robust, nerdy, orientation for collecting, be it coins or comic books, which meant the idea of building a list of different species I'd seen, or that I wanted to see, would quickly become second nature.

My first foray into structured birding came when I joined Bob on a fall Big Day fundraiser for PRBO (now Point Blue.) Stumbling around at 4:00 AM looking for owls in Robinson Canyon, marching through the Carmel River Bottom's muck, and spending the sunset with Marsh Wrens at Zmudowski, was profoundly revealing of just how much natural beauty and ecological vitality had surrounded me, my entire life. Before birding, I'd never experienced just how profound that ecology was, how deep it went, and the peace and meaning that could arise from a life spent attuned to its diversity, fragility, and resonance.

That Big Day we hadn't had the time to explore the more easterly reaches of Monterey County, where the slopes of the Gabilans give way to the broad Salinas Valley. That trip came later, in the winter of my senior year. Bob was at the time still an active "chaser" and "lister." Indeed 15 years prior in the 1980s Bob's Monterey County list was longer than anyone's, even our local records compiler and author, Don Roberson. Accordingly, Bob had spent decades learning and falling in love with all the ecoregions and avifauna of our sprawling county. He knew where to find birds as well as anyone else. He knew that winter was the time for anyone who appreciated the beauty of Monterey's birdlife to go east to the Gabilans, and in particular the broad, grassy rangelands and valley oak savannahs east of King City.

In the preceding year, my experience of birds had been tied to willow thickets, mudflats, seashores, and pine forest. I was unprepared for the stark beauty, space, and unbroken vistas of wild grassland. From Lonoak Road, Bob took me east to the Peach Tree Valley, Freeman Flats, and Bitterwater. Coasting to a stop in his mid-eighties vintage Subaru, he'd point out aquamarine- Mountain Bluebirds sallying out from corral fences or the silhouette of a sentry Golden Eagle, black and foreboding against the emerald grass and clean, clear skies. We even glimpsed a lone Tule Elk, striding behind a far Valley Oak, like an apparition coming to us from a wilder, deeper past.

The first realization after a day in such a place, is, of course, its utterly transporting beauty, and the unique, gorgeous, evocative suite of species that thrives there. Quickly after, the second realization is that much of the Salinas Valley indeed, much of California looked and felt this way in centuries past. The maze of plastic agricultural fields, monolith vineyards, and galactic miles of irrigation pipes and ditches convey the scale of the agribusiness' profitable enterprise. And so follows the deep sense of loss and sadness for the wild abundance that once was.

Importantly, the rangelands one travels to in the King City Grasslands are almost entirely privately owned. These are not state, federal, or county park lands. Nor, in many cases, are these vast wildernesses owned by private philanthropists a la Ted Turner's Montana. These are working cattle ranches. Were it not for the decision of a handful of old ranching families, this reservoir of Monterey County's Grassland Biodiversity would be long gone.

Birdlife International and its national and local partners worldwide have banded together in recent years to designate and categorize Important Bird Areas (IBAs) the world over. Of course, not all IBAs are created equal: IBAs might be of local, national, or global significance to conserving what remains of the world's avian diversity. For those who have spent time in the King City Grasslands, it will come as no surprise that it was recognized as being of Global Importance. The birds that winter here are in steep decline across the American West. The ecotype itself is quickly disappearing.

Birders are not the only ones who value and recognize the land's importance. But few outside ranching and birding circles know the area exists, or why they should care if it exists at all. The ultimate protection of what remains of this IBA could come through easements, financial incentives, land acquisition or other flexible partnership strategies with the local ranching community. But, the first step is to assure that more than a handful of devoted Monterey County birders understand how special this resource is and why its fate matters for the birds of the American West. Beginning in 2022 and through 2023 Monterey Audubon is dedicating public education resources toward bringing NGO partners, local politicians, conservationists and ranchers into a deeper awareness and appreciation for this spectacular place and the birds and beasts it sustains.
Giana Buraglio is starting her college journey at UC Davis in Fall 2022 after graduation from Carmel High School. She is planning to major in an environmental science-related field such as Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems or Wildlife, Fish, and Conservation Biology. Before heading off to college, Giana worked at Carmel Valley Ranch as a naturalist and beekeeper for over a year, assisting with tending to over 30 hives and leading guided nature hikes and classes about beekeeping and farm animals. In her free time, Giana enjoys hiking, reading, and writing poetry, and playing music on her guitar and violin. Below is her winning scholarship essay, responding to the prompt “Why I want to pursue a career in the Natural Sciences.”

Jan Scott
Scholarship Chair

There are few things that get me excited to wake up at 7:30 am on a Saturday, but my current job is one of them. I start the day by leading a guided nature hike, followed by teaching classes about bees and working as a beekeeper. I love my job as a naturalist because I have the opportunity to widen peoples’ understanding and appreciation of nature, and it is my belief that a passion for protecting the environment begins with experiencing and enjoying the outdoors, just like it did for me. My experiences working in nature renew me and have inspired me to pursue a career in environmental science.

I have known since I was young that nature and the outdoors were special to me. I grew up in a family that valued outdoor activities, and many of my early memories consist of weekend hikes in Garland Ranch Regional Park and summer vacations to various national parks. As I grew older, I took the foundation of love for the Earth I gained from my parents and ran with it, discovering my own ways to connect with and learn about nature. One summer I took a volunteer opportunity at MEarth Organic Garden where I worked in the garden, learning organic growing methods along with how to manage composting and harvesting fruits and vegetables, which would then be used in sustainable cooking and outdoor education classes for children. Later, I became involved with the Carmel High School Environmental Club, of which I am currently president. This position has given me the opportunity and resources to organize various restorations and projects both on campus and off campus, with the goal of inspiring students to care for the environment by fostering a love for nature.

My junior year of high school I took an AP Environmental Science (APES) class, which, in addition to being one of my favorite courses, I have taken at the school, proved to be excellent preparation for my job. As a nature hike guide, I love to incorporate little tidbits of information I learned in my environmental science class, such as Ichen’s role in the overall ecosystem, or the importance of local keystone species to try to excite people about the world around them. The fact that this knowledge has remained at the forefront of my brain a year later, and the joy I find in educating others has reinforced my commitment to this field.

The older I became and the more I learned about our world, the more I realized just how fragile our natural world and resources are. I became a vegetarian in elementary school to avoid harming animals, but over time the reason for excluding meat shifted to a greater environmental purpose: cutting out meat from one’s diet greatly decreases one’s carbon footprint, or the amount of greenhouse gases emitted by the lifestyle, activities, and habits of a particular person. One study estimates that cutting out meat can decrease a person’s carbon footprint by 21%, with other studies placing this number closer to 30%.1 For this reason, remaining a vegetarian became important to me because it meant that I could do my part to combat climate change.

In my APES class and through my own research, I began to learn about and become invested in environmental tragedies occurring all around the world. For instance, the Amazon Rainforest, which produces 20% of the world’s freshwater, is being destroyed at an alarming rate.2 The rainfall also holds a vital role in the global water system, pulling water up from the ground that will eventually become rain. Scientists worry that this water cycle may be permanently damaged, and might be at the so-called “tipping point,” the point at which large portions of the rainforest will be lost in an unstoppable spiral, resulting in a savanna or grassland type biome where there was once a forest. This tipping point is estimated to be when the rainforest is about 20-25% destroyed. In 2019, the percentage of rainforest lost was already 17%.3 The threat to the Amazon Rainforest is another reason for my dedication to vegetarianism, as around two-thirds of all deforestation in Brazil is for the purpose of raising cattle for food.4

My concern for environmental issues focused on local problems as well. Growing up in Carmel, the ocean is a very integral part of the local ecosystem, and the problems we are facing surrounding the ocean demand our attention. I was alarmed when I learned that the Carmel City Council was debating either building a seawall or retracting development in anticipation of rising sea levels. I grew up swimming in that ocean; Carmel Beach taught me to love ocean life, and the thought of future generations possibly not being able to experience that due to a seawall frightened me. Additionally, climate change and rising sea levels are often discussed conceptually, but being faced with the effects of climate change on such a local and personal scale made me want to pursue learning about how to protect the environment even more. Living near the ocean, I also grew up conscious of the fact that overfishing and unsustainable fishing procedures are the number one immediate and preventable threat to our oceans, which became another reason why I am passionate about plant-based diets.5 Because of my desire to help the planet, I made a number of changes in my own life: starting an organic garden to source my own herbs and vegetables, buying second-hand clothing, using old coffee grounds for plant fertilizer, and switching from Keurig coffee pods to a waste-free refillable coffee pod, to name a few. The changes I made influenced my family to adopt the same changes, and seeing how my own modifications helped others become more environmentally friendly has inspired me to want to help people do the same on a larger scale.

Growing up in such a beautiful area, along with my love for nature and passion for my job, has made me want to pursue a career related to environmental science so I can continue to learn about and protect the

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2 “Perpetual Planet: Amazon Expedition.” National Geographic. 12 April 2022.
3 Sandy, Matt. “The Amazon Rainforest is Almost Gone. We Went to the Front Lines to See if It Could Be Saved.” TIME. Sept 2019.
4 Brown, Sarah. “Cattle Boom in Brazil’s Acre Spells Doom for Amazon Rainforest, Activists Warn.” Mongabay. 7 Jan 2022.
One of the highlights in this past fiscal year has been reaching a financial milestone. By growing our financial assets to over $400,000 Monterey Audubon Society (MAS) reached a point where the board of directors felt confident we could fund an Environmental Advocate staff position to more fully engage the public and inform them of our ongoing activities. Amanda Preece began in this role in October 2021. To facilitate this endeavor, in the middle of calendar year 2021, we sold some of our financial holdings to strategically supplement our cash position in anticipation of increased expenses due to the hiring of a full time employee. This resulted in a substantial realized capital gain and is thus reflected in our investment income (as seen in the accompanying graphics.)

This move has produced new challenges for us as we navigate our way with a full time person on the payroll and a concomitant increase in expenditures. We are starting to expand our outreach programs, increase equipment purchases, and pursue grants and other sustaining opportunities. We have been heartened by the fact that many of our local members have stepped up to the challenge as we took in over $10,000 in lifetime membership donations and continue to receive a generous yearly donation for our Black Oystercatcher monitoring program in the amount of $15,000 from an anonymous benefactor. Several other grants have already been approved and some of the funds are already flowing into our coffers such as the Coastal Commission Whale Tail Grant and a California Fish and Wildlife propagation/conservation grant. In hiring Amanda Preece as our Environmental Advocate, these positive developments in our income stream would not have been possible without her skillful management of the sometimes cumbersome grant writing rules and regulations.

In the coming months, one of our biggest financial challenges will be to raise sufficient funding to allow us to retain this full time staff position and support personnel on our payroll while still cultivating growth and stability in our financial base. Through donations, estate bequests, grants, increased membership participation, and sound investment strategies, we look forward to continuing to pursue our mission.

Thank you to the Scholarship Committee - Jan Scott (Chair), Brian Weed, Rita Carratello, Bob Tintle, and Paul Fleischman.
Mindful Birding

Birds are one of the most visible and accessible elements of nature, and people truly benefit from learning about, observing, and appreciating the birds in their neighborhood and local environment. Research has shown that engaging with nature helps people both mentally and physically, creating a space for mindfulness, sparking the imagination, and exercising mental faculties. Cultivating this nature connection helps support our mission to create a populace that understands the inherent importance of birds and nature and will help with its conservation.

Monterey Audubon is now offering bird walks that are accessible to folks who might want or need to take it slow. Birding at a slower pace doesn’t necessarily reduce your species count, but it can certainly provide more opportunities for observing subtle bird behavior, training your ear to bird calls and songs, and creating time for deep appreciation of the wider natural world. A group called Birdability, whose mission is to create a more welcome and diverse birding community, has helped inspire us. They provide tips and tools to help people with varying mobility challenges get out into nature and enjoy birds. If you have friends or family members who thought that recreating outdoors and watching birds was out of their reach, encourage them to sign up for our monthly Mindful Birding walks. These walks are held at fully accessible locations, usually with ADA rated trails or similar, binoculars are provided, and many participants bring small stools or chairs to use for the longer stretches of mindful sitting and listening.

We have also started outreach to senior living centers and other community centers. We’ve hosted a mini-class called “Birding Together” which demonstrates the many resources that can be used to learn about birds (including apps and books) and goes over binoculars and adaptive optical accessories that are helpful for bird watching. A short birding field trip to a nearby park to put our skills into practice follows the class. We have even gone birding around the grounds of the facility, as birds are usually present if there’s landscaped areas. So far we have hosted Birding Together at the Meals on Wheels Community Center in Pacific Grove, Pacific Meadows Senior Living Center in Carmel Valley, and the Cottages of Carmel Assisted Living Facility in Carmel. If you know of other community centers or senior living facilities that might appreciate a class on bird watching, please let us know!

There’s really no better feeling than sharing a moment with a wily little bird, who might look up and see you as it goes through its daily routine. We want to help everyone have that experience and give people the skills to continue this enriching and joyful hobby!
MONTREY COUNTY GIVES!

I am excited to share that we’ve been accepted to participate in the Monterey County Gives! campaign. MC Gives! is a year-end campaign that inspires local philanthropy and we are one of 202 local non-profits that have been selected to participate. The campaign runs from November 10th to December 31st, and every size donation is appreciated! 100% of the donations through MC Gives! go to our organization, and the funds get an added boost from this campaign, with a partial match of 10-15% for all donations.

The Community Foundation for Monterey County manages all the donations for this campaign. Donations can be made:

- By credit card online via our MC Gives! website at this link: https://www.montereycountygives.com/audubon
- Checks may be mailed to the Community Foundation but MUST be made payable to “Community Foundation for Monterey County” (or CFMC, or CFMC/MCGives) with Monterey Audubon Society listed in the memo line.
- Donors aged 70 1/2 or older can make an IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) from their IRA directly to the MCGives! campaign.
- Plus Wire, ACH, and stock gifts. Please contact the Community Foundation of Monterey County at (831) 375-9712 for more details.

Monterey Audubon is a 501(c)3 tax-deductible charity and we rely entirely on membership dues and additional donations. These donations support our specialized conservation, advocacy, and environmental education work that advances our mission of conserving and celebrating the birds of our region.

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<td>Scott Billets</td>
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**Become a Member**

- Individual - $20
- Annual membership dues: Individual - $20
- Supporting level - $40
- Lifetime member - $500
- You may become a MAS member or renew your membership by mailing a check using the provided envelope. Be sure to include your email address as well as your mailing address and please write in your check’s memo if it’s for a membership or separate donation. Please use the MC Gives! donation instructions above if you wish to join or donate during the fundraising campaign.

If you have questions about joining our chapter as a member, please contact our membership coordinator, Jan Scott, at niniscott75@gmail.com.