

## NAS--REGIONAL BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATE STATEMENT

Jess Morton

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Dear Chapter Leader and Audubon Member,

As your regional NAS Board member for the last two years, it has been my primary goal to advocate for the chapter grass roots network, which is critical to the effectiveness of Audubon's environmental work. To this end, I have worked to form a cohesive caucus of Regional Directors to see that chapters are given their proper place as a top priority in Audubon's strategic planning. I have also worked to build partnerships between chapters and national programs, such as the International Alliances Program (IAP). It is my intent to continue this work and, if re-elected, pursue the following objectives over the next four years.

- 1) Strengthen the Regional Board caucus to advance chapter interests.
- 2) Make the chapter network a top priority in the next strategic plan update.
- 3) Integrate Audubon YES! into Audubon's youth programming.

My qualifications for Board membership, aside from current service, arise from my 30-year commitment to Audubon as chapter leader, activist and program innovator, in recognition of which I received the Charles H. Callison Award.

**CHAPTER LEADERSHIP:** As founding president of the Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society, long-time newsletter editor and spokesperson, I understand chapter needs. I have always stressed the importance of good chapter-NAS relations to Audubon's success. That is a role I have continued to play as a Board member.

**AUDUBON YES! (Youth Environmental Service) Program:** Audubon YES! is the most important of the new chapter programs I have developed. Audubon YES! puts young people together with nature and conservation, enabling for tomorrow the strong sense of environmental responsibility that today's students have. Some 300 students have earned the Audubon YES! Award in recognition of their work. Audubon YES! is a chapter-based program, but I believe NAS has a role to play in its ultimate effectiveness. As a Board member, I can promote this program.

**PARTNERSHIPS:** The many elements of Audubon gain strength through partnerships to achieve common goals. One that I will continue to work for is between chapters and the IAP to save critical bird habitat in Baja California.

In light of the above qualifications, I ask for your vote. Thank you!