

2018 Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival Program

Level of Difficulty: B/Beginner, Y/Youth Encouraged, W/Wheelchair Accessible

\$: Fees for vans or boats, or field trips.

The first number of the event indicates the day of the festival. For example, 1xx events are on Friday, 2xx events are on Saturday, etc.

Nature events are highlighted in turquoise.

Friday, January 12, 2018

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---------|
| 101 | Casual Little Big Day
06:45 am - 02:30 pm | Birding Field Trip
Community Center | \$60.00 |
| <p>Join Maggie Smith and Herb Elliott for a tour of many local birding hot spots. Expect nearly 100 species, including specialties and rarities, with time to discuss the birds and savor them a bit. Travel with leader in van. Bring lunch. Easy but many in/out van stops. Same as event #301.</p> | | | |
| 102 | Big Day
06:45 am - 04:00 pm | Birding Field Trip
Community Center | \$70.00 |
| <p>See loons to sparrows with Ron Melcer on this full day of birding the area. Pace to be determined by the leader based on the desires of the group, but expect a rather fast-paced day, seeing over 100 species including specialties and rarities. Travel with leader in van. Bring lunch. Easy but many in/out van stops. Same as event #206.</p> | | | |
| 103 | Birding the Carrizo Plain
06:45 am - 05:00 pm | Birding Field Trip
Community Center | \$80.00 |
| <p>Join Will Knowlton, biologist, and Peter Gaede, Research Associate at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, for a fast-paced trip to look for Golden Eagles, Merlins, Prairie Falcons, Ferruginous Hawks, Mountain Plovers, Sage and Vesper Sparrows and much more in this unique habitat of semi-desert scrub, open grassland and juniper foothills. Travel with leaders in van. Time includes 4 hours round-trip travel. Bring Lunch. Easy, but many in/out van stops.</p> | | | |
| 104 | Bird Banding in Morro Bay
07:00 am - 10:00 am | Birding Field Trip
Community Center | |
| <p>Observe mist-netted passerines in Morro Bay State Park with Jodi Isaacs, Environmental Scientist for California State Parks. Discuss identification, analysis and bird-banding data collection techniques. Probable species captured include sparrows (maybe a 'large-billed' Savannah Sparrow) and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Rain cancels. 5 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Easy. Same as event #202.</p> | | | |
| 105 | Hiking Half Day in Morro Bay State Park
07:00 am - 12:00 pm | Birding Field Trip
State Park Marina | |
| <p>Take a walking tour of the area around the Morro Bay Museum. Walk about 2.5 miles with Mike Stiles and cover a variety of habitats. You'll view shorebirds around the marina and the edges of Morro Bay and scope waterfowl on the bay. You will visit the golf course and the Heron Rookery. Walking will be slow-paced with many stops on mostly level terrain. Expect good numbers of our local specialties. Meet at the State Park Marina near the Bayside Cafe. Bring a day pack, snacks and water; wear layered clothing and comfortable walking shoes. Moderate.</p> | | | |
| 106 | Big Day Two
07:00 am - 04:00 pm | Birding Field Trip
Community Center | \$70.00 |
| <p>See loons to sparrows with Ray VanBuskirk on this full day of birding the area. Pace to be determined by the leader based on the desires of the group, but expect a rather fast-paced day, seeing over 100 species including specialties and rarities. Travel with leader in van. Bring lunch. Easy but many in/out van stops. Same as event #305.</p> | | | |

- 107 Explore North Coast Birding Birding Field Trip
07:15 am - 02:00 pm Community Center \$20.00
Visit spots along the rugged North Coast with Karen Clarke and Gale Kordowski to look for Surfbirds, turnstones, Snowy Plovers, scoters, mergansers, loons, grebes, gulls and more. Also expect to see a variety of raptors, including Peregrine Falcons, Golden Eagles, Ferruginous Hawks and Burrowing Owls. Stop for a private lunch in Cambria at a quaint seafood restaurant (cost included in trip) before driving back to Morro Bay. 60 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Moderate. Same as event #209.
- 108 Harmony Headlands Birding Field Trip
07:30 am - 12:00 pm Community Center BY
Join leader Steve Griffith for a 3-4 mile beginner-to-intermediate walk from Highway 1 west to the exposed rocky coastline north of Point Estero. Habitat ranges from grasslands to freshwater pond/wetland to rocky shoreline. Expect waterfowl, herons, egrets, raptors, shorebirds, gulls and sparrows. Rain cancels. 24 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Moderate.
- 109 Oso Flaco Lake-Oceano Area Birding Field Trip
07:30 am - 03:00 pm Community Center \$60.00
Bird with Paul Keller. Enjoy close views of waterfowl, and occasional bitterns and rails from the boardwalk over the lake and marsh. Bird two prime willow habitats for wintering warblers. Includes 2-3 miles of slow walking. Travel with leader in van. Bring lunch. Moderate.
- 110 Birding Montana de Oro for Beginners Birding Field Trip
07:45 am - 12:00 pm Community Center BY
Bird with Claudia Freitas and Bob Revel, State Parks Docents, in a rugged coastal park with spectacular shorelines and canyons. Take a gentle walk through a variety of habitats, including coastal scrublands and pine-studded campgrounds. Follow Islay Creek to its outlet to the sea observing possible passerines, raptors and shorebirds. Includes 1-2 miles of easy walking. 20 miles round-trip by personal vehicle. Easy.
- 111 Wildlife Viewing at Piedras Blancas Nature Field Trip
07:45 am - 12:00 pm Community Center BY
Observe and learn about the many different marine mammals that frequent the ocean environment at the area around the Piedras Blancas elephant seal rookery. There will also be many shorebirds to observe. The walk, led by State Parks Docent Phil Adams, will be 3 1/2 hours; it is mostly flat and less than 2 miles. 50 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Same as event #314.
- 112 Las Cruzitas Ranch, Santa Ynez Birding Field Trip
07:45 am - 02:00 pm Buellton BW
Designed for those driving to the Festival from the south. Meet at Albertson's parking lot in Buellton, CA (Hwy 246 east exit from 101). This is 75 miles south of Morro Bay! Leader will have list of registered participants; you may check in at the Festival after this event. Meet Cher Hollingworth (cell 805-588-0252) in Buellton and travel by personal vehicle to Las Cruzitas, a private 1,500-acre cattle ranch including oak grassland and sage-covered canyons. You will be met by Cruz Phillips, the ranch owner, who will lead the trip. Expect to see Yellow-billed Magpies, Vesper and Lark Sparrows, Band-tailed Pigeons, Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Golden Eagles, and possibly Burrowing Owls, Prairie Falcons, Phainopeplas, Red-naped Sapsuckers and Lewis' Woodpeckers. At least 30 species are seen from the ranch house bird feeders alone, so folks who cannot walk far can sit in the yard and have a great time birding. Bring lunch. Easy. Same as event #407.
- 113 Santa Margarita Lake Big Day Birding Field Trip
07:45 am - 04:00 pm Community Center
Join Park Ranger Chuck Woodard and Jan Surbey for an all-day birding extravaganza! A walk along the lakeshore searching for waterfowl and oak woodland species in the morning will be followed by a walk along the Salinas River before it flows into the lake. Bring snacks, water and a picnic lunch. Up to 4 miles of walking. Suitable for all experience

levels. 70-90 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Moderate.

114 Photographic Hot Spots With Birds

Birding Field Trip

08:00 am - 12:00 pm

Community Center

Bring a camera (a point-and-shoot with telephoto capabilities, or a DSLR with 300-mm-plus capability), and a tripod if possible, along with binoculars (spotting scope optional) to photograph and observe local scenic hot spots for birds. You'll travel with Jerry Kirkhart and Don Quintana, who will offer tips on capturing images of birds. You'll visit some uniquely beautiful locations around the bay, then end at Sweet Springs Nature Preserve. Photo opportunities abound. See Jerry's photography at www.flickr.com/photos/jkirkhart35 (birds set or birds in flight set) and Don's at www.donaldquintana.com and www.flickr.com/photos/donaldquintana/. Travel by personal vehicle. Easy.

115 Bay Shore to Salt Marsh Walk

Birding Field Trip

08:15 am - 12:00 pm

Community Center

BY

Travel by personal vehicle from the Community Center to Bayshore Bluffs Park, a small city park. From there walk past the Inn at Morro Bay, the Heron Rookery, a mudflat shore, the Museum and into the salt marsh. Walking along the edge of the bay, you will pass a variety of habitats for viewing many different species of birds; expect a few dozen. For those who wish, you have the option of an informal no-host post-walk lunch at the Bayside Cafe. Leaders: Rouvaishyana, Museum of Natural History Manager; Randy Bello, State Parks Docent; and Louise Bello, State Parks Volunteer. Moderate pace; distance about 4 miles round trip. Walk back to cars at your own pace afterward. Moderate.

116 Basics of Bird ID

Birding Presentation

08:30 am - 11:00 am

Inn at Morro Bay

BYW

Join experienced birder Bill Bouton for this entertaining and informative workshop for new birders. Using many projected images, Bill will share aspects of bird observation for the purpose of determining identification that you may not find in field guides. He will also give you tips on choosing binoculars, field guides and other equipment. This workshop is a prerequisite before participation in an afternoon field experience, event #127, for which you must register separately.

117 South Morro Bay Shoreline

Birding Field Trip

08:30 am - 12:00 pm

Community Center

Join leader Rusty Scalf for a flat 2-3 mile walk birding the diverse shoreline habitats of the Back Bay, including Sweet Springs Nature Preserve, Cuesta Inlet and Pecho Willows. Expect a variety of shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors and passerines. 12 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Moderate. Same as event #325.

118 Bay Birding Photo Cruise

Birding Field Trip

09:00 am - 10:45 am

Sub Sea Tours

B \$30.00

Join local expert photographer Dave Keeling aboard a 34-foot power catamaran and cruise around the ever beautiful estuary. Dave will attempt to spot and help identify birds that are seen. Not all of them are cooperative, but there are always some good photo-ops. Dress warmly. No tripods. Meet at Sub Sea Tours at Marina Square, 699 Embarcadero #9. Easy. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Same as events #223 & #328.

119 Birding Around Morro Bay

Birding Field Trip

09:00 am - 12:00 pm

Community Center

Bird with Marlin Harms and Dennis Sheridan to visit the best birding spots around the estuary, including Morro Rock, the bay, the marina and more. Look for shorebirds, water birds and land birds. 15 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Moderate.

120 Kayaking

Birding Field Trip

09:00 am - 12:00 pm

State Park Marina

BY \$45.00

Go out on a kayak tour of Morro Bay with John and Virginia Flaherty and guides at Central Coast Outdoors. Get an opportunity for an up-close view of White Pelicans, Brant, Common Loons and a host of other migratory waterfowl and shorebirds in their natural habitat. Visit the Heron Rookery, Grassy Island, mudflats and channels of the Back Bay. We will

use double kayaks; no prior kayaking experience needed. Dress in layers with the following guidelines: synthetics or wool, no cotton, windbreaker jacket, hat for sun and wind protection, and shoes that can get wet. Weather conditions may cancel. Meet at the State Park Marina on State Park Road near the Bayside Cafe. Minimum age is 8 and children 12 years and under must be accompanied by an adult. Same as events #215, #224, #331 & #404.

121 View Morro Bay Estuary from Black Hill

Nature Field Trip

10:00 am - 11:30 am

Community Center

BY

Hike to the top of Black Hill with Morro Bay National Estuary Program Assistant Director Lexie Bell for a remarkable view of the bay and watershed. Learn about the history and ecology of the Morro Bay estuary, as well as important conservation actions taking place to protect this special resource. The Morro Bay estuary is one of only 28 National Estuaries and is an Audubon Important Bird Area. The trail is steep in places but less than 1/2 mile in length. 5 miles roundtrip by personal vehicle. Moderate to Strenuous. (www.mbnep.org)

122 Birding and Technology

Nature Presentation

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Inn at Morro Bay

BY

Can technology and birding be friends? At this workshop led by Chris Cameron, you'll learn how to enhance your nature observations by experimenting with a variety of new nature apps. Why would you want to ruin your time in nature by mixing in a smartphone? Because these new apps can help you, find new nature spots, get help with nature ID's, share observations with friends and keep accurate lists. And finally, your observations can benefit the scientific community by turning your time in nature into valuable data points with a simple easy click on your device. We will explore iNaturalist, iBird Pro, Merlin Bird ID and many other new nature apps. Bring your iPhone, iPad, Android smart phone, kindle or whatever device you use! Download as many apps as you can before the workshop. After discussing these apps, we will go outside and try them out!

123 Morro Bay Marina Boardwalk

Birding Field Trip

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

State Park Marina

W

The Morro Bay State Park Marina boardwalk provides opportunities for viewing a variety of shorebirds, ducks, geese, loons, grebes, gulls, terns and herons. Additionally, Peregrine Falcons and other raptors, warblers, sparrows, finches and other local birds are often seen from the boardwalk. Join Dawn Beattie for this slow, level half-mile walk especially suited for photographers and people with wheelchairs and those using walkers and canes. Meet at east end of the State Park Marina parking lot, across from Morro Bay State Park Campground. Easy.

124 eBird: Innovating Citizen-Science, Big Data Research, and Bird Conservation

Birding Presentation

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Museum

What is eBird (www.ebird.org)? A global online bird recording system with more than 300,000 participants and 450 million records, eBird is an internet-based checklist program built for birders by birders, whose goal is to harness the power of both birding and science. eBird allows you to record your bird observations in the field, keep track of your bird records online, and share them with the birding community, while making them available for science and conservation efforts. eBird allows birders to keep life lists, manage their personal records, and explore its vast array of bird information from around the world. This workshop will teach you what eBird is, why it's important to contribute, show you what it can do for you as a birder, and teach you how to get started. Join eBird Project Leader Brian Sullivan for a look at this remarkable tool, and get empowered to make your observations count! We will start out with a quick field trip around the grounds to do some eBirding in the field, then return to the museum auditorium to talk about eBird data.

125 Condor Recovery Program/Hi Mountain Lookout Project

Birding Presentation

12:30 pm - 02:00 pm

Inn at Morro Bay

BYW

The endangered California Condor population, once near the brink of extinction, has been on the recovery the past several decades due to innovative management techniques and dedicated work by staff biologists and volunteers, in coordination with the California Condor Recovery Program. Steve Schubert will give an overview of condor biology and provide an update on the captive breeding and reintroduction program (including a new release site locally in San Luis Obispo County), radio and GPS tracking data, fledgling success from recent nesting in the wild and future management challenges, including reducing exposure to lead poisoning and 'microtrash' ingestion. Steve has been the coordinator of the Hi Mountain Condor Lookout Project (website at www.condorlookout.org and facebook page at

www.facebook.com/condorlookout) since the project's inception in 1996. Located on the summit of the Santa Lucia Mountains within Los Padres National Forest, the lookout is staffed by volunteers and Cal Poly student interns conducting condor tracking and other biological field research projects, in the heart of 'condor country.'

126 Snowy Plovers in the Field

Birding Field Trip

01:00 pm - 02:30 pm

Community Center

BY

Join Regena Orr, Environmental Scientist for California State Parks, as you explore the beach for Western Snowy Plover and learn about their habits. Hear the life history of this small bird and why it is listed as a Federally Threatened Species. (www.westernsnowyplover.org) Up to 20 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Moderate. Same as event #227.

127 Basics of Bird ID in the Field

Birding Field Trip

01:00 pm - 03:00 pm

Community Center

BY

Join Ralph Cass and Rouvaishyana in the field for the second part of the 'Basics of Bird ID' workshop. (See event #116, which is a prerequisite to this event.) Bring binoculars and your field guide. 5 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Easy.

128 Birding by Careful Observation

Birding Field Trip

01:00 pm - 04:00 pm

Community Center

BY

Enjoy birds through leisurely in-depth observation and enhance your ID skills with the help of biologist Michele Roest. This is not a 'tick and run' kind of birding trip, but a stroll through El Chorro Regional Park sharing observations of bird characteristics with the group -- finally checking a guide for positive identification. Be surprised at the variations you see, whether crows or Black Phoebes. Bring binoculars and a favorite field guide. 15 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Easy. Same as event #323.

129 Pacific Wildlife Care Tour

[Nature Field Trip](#)

01:30 pm - 02:30 pm

Community Center

BY

Join long-time volunteers Claudia Duckworth and Jeanette Stone at the Pacific Wildlife Care Center in Morro Bay. Following a brief presentation, they will give a tour of the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center facility. Learn about PWC's work with lead-poisoned birds, fishing hook and line injuries, and the many other causes of illness and injuries treated regularly at the Center. Since PWC is a primary facility under the OWCN (Oiled Wildlife Care Network), emphasis will be placed on the Center's rehabilitation process for oil-affected birds. 2 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Easy. Same as event #337.

130 Gardening to Attract Birds

[Nature Field Trip](#)

01:30 pm - 03:30 pm

Community Center

B

Join Ken Levine for a presentation and docent-led tour of the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden that highlights plants from the five Mediterranean climate zones of the world. The Botanical Garden provides a unique bird habitat. You will see many nectar-producing flowers from these areas of the world, and many ways of pollinating flowers will be demonstrated. Hummingbirds are often seen in the winter-blooming South African aloe garden. 15 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Easy.

131 Bird Sounds Workshop

Birding Presentation

01:30 pm - 04:30 pm

Shoreline Calvary Chapel

Bird songs are Nature's Music. We can plug into this magic no matter how good we are at finding birds with our eyes. These sounds are already coming at us from 360 degrees. The focus of this workshop by Roy Poucher is to increase our birding enjoyment via improving our skills as auditory birders. Some prior experience trying to identify birds by ear will surely be useful, but motivation to learn trumps experience with this; folks of all experience levels are welcome. We will explore the principles of describing bird vocalizations in general as well as become familiar with specific vocalizations of common birds in the Morro Bay area. This workshop is a prerequisite for the Saturday #203 and Sunday #302 events, Bird Sounds Field Study.

132 Owling Workshop

Birding Presentation

02:00 pm - 03:00 pm

Shoreline Calvary Chapel

B

Learn how, with presenter Chris Cameron, to find and watch owls with local maps for your own exploration. Learn field ID, seasonality, vocalizations, range, habitat and owling etiquette. Live and mounted owl specimens will help participants identify and appreciate owls. Review the natural history of local species and learn tips that will give you the best chance of finding owls on your own. While workshop is a prerequisite for the field trip, participants may take only the workshop. Bus will leave for owling field trip at 3:30 PM, directly after end of workshop (#140). Sunday trip #344 is the same as #140.

133 Saving Critical Landscapes

Nature Presentation

02:00 pm - 03:00 pm

Museum

B

Join The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County's Conservation Director, Daniel Bohlman, for a look at how land trusts protect and enhance critical landscapes for the benefit of people and wildlife. You will learn what you can do to help.

134 Birding Up Close

Birding Field Trip

02:00 pm - 03:45 pm

Morro Bay Landing

\$30.00

Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary with Dave Keeling and Captain Stew in a spacious pontoon boat. View a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl, often at very close range. The boat will move slowly enough for you to see details of many species that you normally see only through a scope from shore. Good photo opportunities, but no tripods. Captain Stew will then point out the special sights and activities of this unique working harbor including the fishing industry, pleasure boats and more. There will be opportunities to photograph wintering birds, but the boat will also get close to otters and sea lions that frequent the bay. Easy access for limited mobility. Meet at Morro Bay Landing; address is 1213 Embarcadero, Morro Bay. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Same as event #338.

135 Birds of Sea and Land at Morro Rock

Birding Field Trip

02:00 pm - 04:00 pm

Community Center

BY

Join Claudia Freitas, biologist and State Parks Docent, and Robbie Revel, State Park Docent, at Morro Rock. There you will see cormorants, gulls of various species and age classes, Brown Pelicans and maybe a Common Murre. The Rock is also home to two pairs of nesting Peregrine Falcons, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Common Yellowthroat, various sparrows and the elusive Canyon Wren. 3 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Easy. Same as event #330.

136 The Peregrine Falcons of Morro Rock

Birding Presentation/Field Trip

02:30 pm - 05:00 pm

Inn at Morro Bay

BYW

Join Steve Schubert for a presentation on the biology and the current status of our local resident Peregrine Falcons. Steve authored the book 'The Peregrine Falcons of Morro Rock - A History,' documenting a 40-year history of the monitoring and management activities at the famous Morro Rock nesting site. Following the lecture, travel by personal vehicle to Morro Rock - south side parking area - to search for peregrine activity and their recent nesting sites. Easy.

137 Bay Birding Cruise

Birding Field Trip

03:00 pm - 04:45 pm

Sub Sea Tours

BY \$30.00

Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary with Roger Zachary in an open-deck 34-foot power catamaran. View a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl, often at very close range. The boat will move slowly enough for you to see details of many species that you normally see only through a scope from shore. Good photo opportunities, but no tripods. Dress warmly. Meet at Sub Sea Tours, Marina Square, 699 Embarcadero #9. Easy. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Same as events #228, #238, #336, #342 & #411.

138 Gulls of San Luis Obispo County

Birding Presentation

03:00 pm - 05:00 pm

Inn at Morro Bay

W

Join Kaaren Perry, a San Luis Obispo gull expert, as she shares with you some of her favorite secrets that will help you to identify the resident and wintering gulls of San Luis Obispo County. Discussion of species, distribution, aging and plumages will be presented in a comprehensive and fun way. Study sheets for later field study will also be provided. This class is a prerequisite for the Saturday #214 field trip, Gulls of San Luis Obispo County Field Study.

139 About the Morro Bay Estuary Program

Nature Presentation

03:30 pm - 04:30 pm

Shoreline Calvary Chapel BW

The Morro Bay estuary serves as a vital stopover and wintering ground for migratory birds, and is home to many plants and wildlife that cannot be found anywhere else. The U.S. Congress recognized Morro Bay as an Estuary of National Significance in 1995. It is still considered the largest relatively undisturbed wetland in Central and Southern California. Rachel Pass, NEP Communication and Outreach Coordinator, will show you how the Morro Bay National Estuary Program works to protect and restore this special place.

140 Owling Field Trip

Birding Field Trip

03:30 pm - 09:00 pm

Community Center \$50.00

Daytime owls 3:30-5:30 PM. 'Dutch treat' dinner 5:30-6:30 PM. Nighttime owls 6:30-8:30 PM. Bus leaves from Community Center at 3:30 PM and returns 9:00ish PM. Beginning with daytime owling to hunt for Short-eared and Burrowing Owls and any roosting owls. We will stop for dinner to share stories as we wait for dark (everyone pays on their own). After dark, owling in the San Luis Obispo area. Dress warmly in quiet clothes (no nylon) and be prepared get in and out of the van, walk quietly through mud in the dark, then to stand silently for long periods of time, in freezing cold weather, while it is pitch black, listening for owls! Sounds like a good time to me! Possibilities: Great Horned, Western Screech, Saw-whet, Short-eared, Barn Owls, poorwill and more. Travel with leader in van. Moderate with many in/out van stops. Heavy rain will cancel field trip, but not workshop. Leader for this field trip is Chris Cameron. Presentation #132 is a prerequisite for this field trip. Same as #344.

141 Festival Opening Reception

Special Event – Opening Reception

05:00 pm - 06:30 pm

Community Center BW

Enjoy wine and cheese and meet fellow birders at the Bird Festival Bazaar. Browse through the vendor booths featuring optics, books and CDs, garden art, nature photography and art, woodcarvings, jewelry, conservation and nature organizations and more!

Saturday, January 13, 2018

201 Condor Country

Birding Field Trip

06:30 am - 05:00 pm

Community Center \$80.00

Ride with Steve Schubert from the Hi Mountain Condor Lookout Project (www.condorlookout.org) through some of California's primary condor habitat as you make your way to Bittercreek National Wildlife Refuge, a release and supplemental feeding site for captive-bred California Condors. Observations of free-flying condors at Bittercreek NWR are very likely, but of course cannot be guaranteed. You will see a variety of other raptors flying and hunting in and around the grasslands and pinyon pine woodlands of the foothills surrounding the southern San Joaquin Valley; they include eagles, hawks, harriers, falcons and accipiters. The trip will focus on condor biology and the condor recovery program, including radio telemetry tracking demonstrations. Raptors and other wildlife along the way are encountered by traveling from the coast inland through the Cuyama Valley to the rugged mountainous terrain of 'condor country,' possibly returning by way of the Carrizo Plain. Bring lunch. Moderately easy but many in/out van stops and short walks. Not recommended for those prone to carsickness.

202 Bird Banding in Morro Bay

Birding Field Trip

07:00 am - 10:00 am

Community Center

Observe mist-netted passerines in Morro Bay State Park with Jodi Isaacs, State Parks Environmental Scientist. Discuss identification, analysis and bird-banding data collection techniques. Probable species captured include sparrows (maybe a 'large-billed' Savannah Sparrow) and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Rain cancels. 5 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Easy. Same as event #104.

203 Birds Sounds Field Study

Birding Field Trip

07:00 am - 11:30 am

Community Center

Join Roy Poucher in the field for the hands-on companion to the Bird Sounds Workshop on Friday afternoon. The goal is to solidify the general principles explored on Friday, and provide practical experience with field identification of specific Morro Bay bird songs and calls. We will primarily be standing at different locations for short time segments, silently noting on paper what bird sounds we are individually hearing, then, as a group, discussing these sounds. Though useful,

binoculars are not necessary! Notebooks will be needed. The Friday afternoon Bird Sounds Workshop #131 is a prerequisite for this event. Total walking distance will be about 1.2 miles. Easy. Travel by personal vehicle 15 miles round trip from Community Center. Same as event #302.

204 Bird the Oceano Lagoon
07:00 am - 12:00 pm

Birding Field Trip
Community Center B

Join birders Brad Schram and Gary Espiau on an easy morning hunt for birds while strolling around the Oceano lagoon area and through the native plant gardens at Pismo State Beach. Search for that elusive songster or water bird and learn about some of the birds' habits and behaviors while you listen and look. Easy level walk. 60 miles round trip by personal vehicle.

205 Point Buchon Ecology Field Trip
07:00 am - 02:00 pm

Nature Field Trip
Community Center BY

Join Sally Krenn, PG&E Biologist, as you explore the spectacular scenic coastline at Point Buchon. Learn the background of this historic ranch and the efforts to regenerate the Bishop pine forest along the ridges overlooking the ocean. Look for marine mammals, gulls and shorebirds -- maybe even a Peregrine Falcon. Bring your camera to capture the striking sea stacks that dot this coastline and peek into a dramatic sink hole. Be prepared for wind and cool weather. 22 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Active four-mile round trip hike. This trip, while the same as # 304, is two hours longer for those who want to walk the entire loop.

206 Big Day
07:00 am - 04:00 pm

Birding Field Trip
Community Center \$70.00

See loons to sparrows with Ron Melcer on this full day of birding the area. Pace to be determined by the leader based on the desires of the group, but expect a rather fast-paced day, seeing over 100 species, including specialties and rarities. Travel with leader in van. Bring lunch. Easy but many in/out van stops. Same as event #102.

207 Big Pelagic: Birds & Whales
07:00 am - 04:00 pm

Birding Field Trip
Morro Bay Landing \$100.00

Spend a day at sea with Tom Edell, Curtis Marantz, and Raymond VanBuskirk searching for albatross, shearwaters, kittiwakes, alcids, jaegers, gray whales and much more. Dress for cold and wind, including gloves. The boat is typically used for fishing; no outdoor seating. There is seating available in the cabin, as well as snacks and drinks for sale. Bring lunch, liquids and sunscreen, and take motion sickness medication before arriving. Note that the boat does not wait for late arrivals. Participants will meet at Morro Bay Landing, 1213 Embarcadero, Morro Bay. (Phone 805-771-5500.) Weather conditions may cancel.

208 San Luis Creek Mouth and Cal Poly Pier
07:15 am - 12:00 pm

Nature Field Trip
Community Center BW

Join Cal Poly Biology professor Ken Hillers and biologist Michele Roest in Avila Beach to see shorebirds and water birds. You will start by walking to the end of the Cal Poly Pier (normally closed to the public), which extends half a mile into San Luis Bay. There you may expect wintering water birds, as well as other marine life, and you'll learn a little about the research being done by Cal Poly at the Pier. Then walk to the mouth of San Luis Obispo Creek where you can expect to see a variety of shorebirds. Total walking distance will be 2 miles, all on paved surfaces, though closed-toed shoes are a must. Minimum age for trip is 14. The pier is accessible to people in wheelchairs, but not suitable for canes, tripods or walkers. 50 miles round trip by personal vehicle.

209 Explore North Coast Birding
07:15 am - 02:00 pm

Birding Field Trip
Community Center \$20.00

Visit spots along the rugged North Coast with Karen Clarke and Gale Kordowski to look for Surfbirds, turnstones, Snowy Plovers, scoters, mergansers, loons, grebes, gulls and more. Also expect to see a variety of raptors, including Peregrine Falcons, Golden Eagles, Ferruginous Hawks and Burrowing Owls. Stop for a private lunch in Cambria at a quaint seafood restaurant (cost included in trip) before driving back to Morro Bay. 60 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Moderate. Same as event #107.

- 210 Hiking Big Day Birding Field Trip
07:15 am - 04:00 pm Community Center
Leave the fossil fuels untouched and walk with leader Mike Stiles through the Morro Bay area! This day can make you and the environment feel good. Bird a variety of habitats; 80 species are possible. Walking will be slow-paced, mostly level, with many stops, but expect to walk 6-8 miles. Bring a day pack, lunch, and water; wear layered clothing and comfortable walking shoes.
- 211 Birding Estero Bluffs Birding Field Trip
07:30 am - 12:00 pm Community Center BY
Join leader Rick Austin for a slow-paced walk of 1.5-2 miles along a beautiful and wild ocean bluff trail. Expect rock-loving shorebirds such as Black and Ruddy Turnstones, Surfbirds, Whimbrels, scoters, terns, gulls and maybe a Harlequin Duck. 20 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Moderate.
- 212 Montana de Oro Campground, Cove & Bluffs Birding Field Trip
07:30 am - 12:00 pm Community Center BY
Bird with Jay Carroll and Bert Townsend in a spectacular 8,600-acre state park with untamed coastline and coastal uplands. Expect rocky-shore shorebirds, water birds, raptors, and passerines in various habitats. Includes 1-2 miles of slow walking. 20 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Moderate. Same as events #313 & #409.
- 213 1000mm and More - Supertelephoto with Phone Birding Presentation/Field Trip
08:00 am - 10:00 am Community Center
The latest fun way to document your sightings is with the camera in your smartphone (preferably iPhone). Join Bruce Webb, Swarovski Optik Field Tech, in a two-hour PhoneScoping field workshop to improve your technique. Bruce will have smartphone adapters to fit several kinds of scopes, including Kowa, Leica, etc. He will also have some of Swarovski's latest spotting scopes for you to test. Bring your own phone adapter, manufacturer's earphones and scope if possible. Travel by personal vehicle to a nearby field site to PhoneScope birds. Easy. Same as event #315.
- 214 Gulls of San Luis Obispo County Field Study Birding Field Trip
08:00 am - 10:30 am Community Center
Enjoy a fun morning of birding with Kaaren Perry and focus on the study of our local gulls. Have a chance to practice identifying and talk a little more about aging the various gull species that will be easily viewable from the shore. Binoculars are necessary and scopes are recommended but not required. The Friday afternoon Gulls of San Luis Obispo County workshop #138 is a prerequisite for this event. Easy. Travel by personal vehicle.
- 215 Kayaking Birding Field Trip
08:00 am - 11:00 am State Park Marina BY \$45.00
Go out on a kayak tour of Morro Bay with John and Virginia Flaherty and guides at Central Coast Outdoors. Get an opportunity for an up-close view of White Pelicans, Brant, Common Loons and a host of other migratory waterfowl and shorebirds in their natural habitat. Visit the Heron Rookery, Grassy Island, mudflats and channels of the Back Bay. We will use double kayaks; no prior kayaking experience needed. Dress in layers with the following guidelines: synthetics or wool, no cotton, windbreaker jacket, hat for sun and wind protection, and shoes that can get wet. Weather conditions may cancel. Meet at the State Park Marina on State Park Road near the Bayside Cafe. Minimum age is 8 and children 12 years and under must be accompanied by an adult. Same as events #120, #224, #331 & #404.
- 216 Birding Fiscalini Ranch Birding Field Trip
08:00 am - 12:00 pm Community Center
Bird with Bob Keally on Cambria's Fiscalini Ranch on a moderate (244 feet elevation gain) three-mile hike through grassland, mixed oak/Monterey pine forest and coastal bluffs. Expect a diversity of birds, including sparrows, birds of prey, Pygmy Nuthatches and rocky shore shorebirds. Pace will be determined by leader and desires of the group. 50 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Moderate. Same as event #406.

- 217 Morro Strand Scrub and Shore Birding Field Trip
08:00 am - 12:00 pm Cloisters, Azure Street
Join Lucien Plauzoles of Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society for a level stroll past a pond, through coastal scrub, and then onto sandy beach. Observe ducks, herons, gulls, terns, grebes and several species of shorebirds including Snowy Plovers for a slow-paced stroll on Morro Strand. Moderate 1.5-2 mile walk with some soft sand. Meet in the Azure Street parking lot: from Hwy 1 at the north end of Morro Bay, turn west at the San Jacinto traffic light; at the dead end, make a short jog to the left then right into the parking lot. Same as event #316.
- 218 Bare Naked Birding Birding Field Trip
08:00 am - 12:00 pm Community Center
Naked birding? Sounds exotic and possibly dangerous! But this 'naked' means with NO TOOLS - just your eyes...no binoculars, scopes, cameras, or even ID books! Why should you go on this outing? Because gear is great for a focused trip, but often you are 'out and about,' for non-birding reasons like work or school or dinner. This trip, lead by birder Ella Pennington, will help you enjoy those 'accidental birding moments' by training your eyes and ears to identify birds without aids. Just like people have been doing for thousands of years.
- 219 Estero Bluffs for Intermediates Birding Field Trip
08:15 am - 12:00 pm Community Center
Join leaders Marlin Harms and Bob Revel for intermediate/advanced birding on a walk of 1.5-2 miles along a beautiful and wild ocean bluff trail. Expect rock-loving shorebirds such as Black and Ruddy Turnstones, Surfbirds, Whimbrels, scoters, terns, gulls and maybe a Harlequin Duck. 20 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Moderate.
- 220 Songbirds in the Pines Birding Field Trip
08:15 am - 12:00 pm Community Center
Take a short drive to pine woods on the slopes of Black Hill in Morro Bay, where you will hike trails searching for towhees, finches, woodpeckers and other birds of this habitat with Museum of Natural History Manager Rouvaishyana, State Parks Docent Randy Bello and State Parks Volunteer Louise Bello. Easy to moderate hiking for advanced beginner to intermediate birders. 5 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Easy.
- 221 A Morning with the Monarchs [Nature Presentation/Field Trip](#)
08:30 am - 12:00 pm Inn at Morro Bay BY
Join Jessica Griffiths for a morning with monarch butterflies. Like birds, monarch butterflies embark on an incredible migration, and tens of thousands of them spend the winter on the Central Coast. The morning will start with a short indoor presentation, going over the basics of monarch biology and behavior. The group will then travel by personal vehicle to a monarch butterfly overwintering site and see clustering monarchs. Bring your cameras! While at the overwintering site, Jessica will give a demonstration of how scientists count overwintering monarchs--and participants can give counting a try, too. The group will bird around the monarch grove for raptors, hummingbirds and winter warblers. The field site will depend on where the monarchs are clustering at the time. Travel by personal vehicle 50 miles round trip. Easy.
- 222 Explore Elfin Forest & Sweet Springs Birding Field Trip
08:30 am - 12:00 pm Community Center BY
Bird with Rusty Scalf in area parklands through a variety of habitats including riparian, oak woodland and bay overlooks. We expect to see raptors, passerines and shorebirds in this easy-paced walk. Beginners welcome! The Elfin Forest and portions of the Sweet Springs locations are accessible to people in wheelchairs or using walkers and canes. Total walking distance will be about 1.2 miles. 15 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Easy.
- 223 Bay Birding Photo Cruise Birding Field Trip
09:00 am - 10:45 am Sub Sea Tours B \$30.00
Join local expert photographers Rick Derevan and Rich Hansen aboard a 34-foot power catamaran and cruise around the ever beautiful estuary. Rick will attempt to spot and help identify birds that are seen. Not all of them are cooperative, but

there are always some good photo-ops. Dress warmly. No tripods. Meet at Sub Sea Tours at Marina Square, 699 Embarcadero #9. Easy. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Same as events #118 & #328.

224 Kayaking Birding Field Trip
09:00 am - 12:00 pm State Park Marina BY \$45.00

Go out on a kayak tour of Morro Bay with John and Virginia Flaherty and guides at Central Coast Outdoors. Get an opportunity for an up-close view of White Pelicans, Brant, Common Loons and a host of other migratory waterfowl and shorebirds in their natural habitat. Visit the Heron Rookery, Grassy Island, mudflats and channels of the Back Bay. We will use double kayaks; no prior kayaking experience needed. Dress in layers with the following guidelines: synthetics or wool, no cotton, windbreaker jacket, hat for sun and wind protection, and shoes that can get wet. Weather conditions may cancel. Meet at the State Park Marina on State Park Road near the Bayside Cafe. Minimum age is 8 and children 12 years and under must be accompanied by an adult. Same as events #120, #215, #331 & #404.

225 Field Recording Basics Birding Presentation
10:00 am - 12:00 pm Inn at Morro Bay BW

Having a birding by ear expert with you every time you're out would be great, but with smaller higher quality recording devices, you can bring home bird sounds and ID them yourself with careful study. Or email your recording to an expert if you get stumped. In this presentation, Tom Graves will talk about field recording basics, resources to help with identification, mnemonics to help you get a handle on the sounds and how to manage your recordings. And you'll practice with some of Tom's recordings. Audience participation is a must: share your favorite memory tricks, describe the sounds, mimic the sounds, have fun!

226 Field Sketching Birding Field Trip
10:00 am - 12:00 pm Community Center

Led by artist N. John Schmitt, you will spend time in the classroom with lecture and participating in drawing techniques while looking at mounts. Then go out of doors to sketch from life with instruction and demonstration. Bring #2 pencils, sharpener, eraser, sketchbook (min. 8.5 x 11), some paper towels, plastic bag or stool for sitting on, and binoculars (or spotting scope if available). Easy.

250 Brant Workshop Birding Presentation
11:00 am - 12:00 pm Inn at Morro Bay BYW

Learn about the bird that has earned its place on the Bird Festival logo: the fascinating Black Brant. For 20 years, local biologist John Roser has monitored Morro Bay's Brant population and followed them from Arctic breeding sites to the lagoons of Baja. John will share the life history, amazing migratory feats and population ups and downs of Morro Bay's wintering Black Brant.

227 Snowy Plovers in the Field Birding Field Trip
01:00 pm - 02:30 pm Community Center BY

Join Regena Orr, Environmental Scientist for California State Parks, as you explore the beach for Western Snowy Plover and learn about their habits. Hear the life history of this small bird and why it is listed as a Federally Threatened Species. (www.westernsnowyplover.org) Up to 20 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Moderate. Same as event #126.

228 Bay Birding Cruise Birding Field Trip
01:00 pm - 02:45 pm Sub Sea Tours BY \$30.00

Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary with State Park docents Claudia Freitas and Robbie Revel in an open-deck 34-foot power catamaran. View a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl, often at very close range. The boat will move slowly enough for you to see details of many species that you normally see only through a scope from shore. Good photo opportunities, but no tripods. Dress warmly. Meet at Sub Sea Tours, Marina Square, 699 Embarcadero #9. Easy. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Same as events #137, #238, #336, #342 & #411.

229 Marina Point Boardwalk Birding Field Trip

01:00 pm - 03:00 pm

State Park Marina

BW

The Morro Bay State Park Marina boardwalk provides excellent opportunity for viewing a variety of shorebirds, ducks, geese, loons and grebes, gulls, terns and herons as well as raptors, warblers, sparrows, finch and more. This is an easy, level walk especially suited for photographers and people in wheelchairs or using walkers and canes. Easy use of a spotting scope. Led by State Parks Docent Randy Bello and State Parks Volunteer Louise Bello. Meet at east end of the State Park Marina parking lot, across from Morro Bay State Park Campground. 5 miles round trip from Community Center. Easy.

230 Pishing and Bird Calls

Birding Field Trip

01:00 pm - 03:00 pm

State Park Marina

BY

Learn how birders use 'pishing' and other vocal sounds to attract birds for closer study. There will be an introductory workshop session, followed by a short field trip to try out your new skills, led by Rouvaishyana, Museum Manager and State Parks Interpreter. Suitable for beginners and anyone who wants to learn about this obscure skill. Also suitable for families with children, but not part of Family Day. Meet at east end of the State Park Marina parking lot, across from Morro Bay State Park Campground. 5 miles round trip from Community Center. Easy.

231 The Basics of Bird Photography

Birding Presentation

01:00 pm - 04:00 pm

Inn at Morro Bay

W

Join wildlife photographer Donald Quintana as he guides you through the basics of understanding bird photography. Whether you're capturing images for documentation or for artistic pleasure, you'll want to know what gear is best suited for your needs, how to compose a pleasing image that gives you the best side of the bird and what settings you need to capture them in their best light. If you're interested in bird photography or wondering if it's the next addition to your birding tool kit, this class is for you.

232 Sea Otters & the Kelp Forest

[Nature Field Trip](#)

01:00 pm - 04:00 pm

Community Center

BY

Learn about the diversity of life within the kelp forest as you join State Parks Docents Phil and Carole Adams for a walk along Estero Bluffs north of Cayucos. Watch for sea otters and learn the role they play in maintaining a healthy kelp forest. 20 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Moderate.

233 Pacific Wildlife Care - Meet the Raptors

Birding Presentation

01:30 pm - 02:30 pm

Shoreline Calvary Chapel

BYW

Meet several birds of prey, including a Great Horned Owl, a Long-eared Owl, a Red-tailed Hawk and a Peregrine Falcon. These birds are educational ambassadors for Pacific Wildlife Care, a nonprofit wildlife rehabilitation center in Morro Bay. During the presentation by Kathy Duncan and Jeri Roberts you will learn about the wonderful world of raptors and their important niche in the environment. Bring cameras and questions for this up-close study of birds with binocular vision and sharp talons. General public event. Free for Festival attendees; \$2 donation to PWC for general public. Same as event #237. Program at Veterans' Hall in Morro Bay.

234 Coastal Cove, Bluff and Tidepool Ecology

[Nature Field Trip](#)

01:30 pm - 04:00 pm

Community Center

BY

Join environmental educator Dean Thompson on a pleasant and mostly level natural history walk along the Bluff Trail at Montana de Oro State Park for magnificent views and to see a variety of rocky shoreline birds such as Brown Pelicans, Black Oystercatchers, turnstones, various cormorants and sparrows and more. Expect to observe marine life such as harbor seals and sea otters, and maybe see whales spouting. Weather permitting, explore the rocky intertidal / tide pool ecosystem. 20 miles round trip by personal vehicle. 2-mile walk. Easy.

235 Humanity and Climate Change - The Way We Tell The Future

[Nature Presentation](#)

02:00 pm - 03:00 pm

Shoreline Calvary Chapel

BYW

Biologist Dr. Lars Tomanek will summarize the basic science behind climate change, as well as the observed evidence for a changing global climate along with the evidence that fossil fuel consumption has been responsible for the rapid warming of the last several decades. He will briefly conclude with the global impacts of warming associated with a 'business as

usual' future and the needed reduction in fossil fuel emissions to avoid the more severe of these impacts.

236 Birding By Ear Workshop

02:00 pm - 04:30 pm

Birding Presentation

Inn at Morro Bay

W

Learning bird songs and calls will make you a better birder and enrich your birding experience. But it can be challenging! Jessica Griffiths will provide tips, tricks and mnemonic devices for identifying birds by sound. She will go over how to differentiate different groups of birds (how do you tell a finch from a warbler from a sparrow?) as well as reviewing songs and calls of the most common birds in the Morro Bay area. This workshop will be useful for beginners as well as more experienced birders who want to brush up on their skills. See what a difference it makes on your next field trip! This workshop is a prerequisite for event #311 on Sunday, Birding By Ear field trip.

237 Pacific Wildlife Care - Meet the Raptors

03:00 pm - 04:00 pm

Birding Presentation

Shoreline Calvary Chapel

BYW

Meet several birds of prey, including a Great Horned Owl, a Long-eared Owl, a Red-tailed Hawk and a Peregrine Falcon. These birds are educational ambassadors for Pacific Wildlife Care, a nonprofit wildlife rehabilitation center in Morro Bay. During the presentation by Kathy Duncan and Jeri Roberts you will learn about the wonderful world of raptors and their important niche in the environment. Bring cameras and questions for this up-close study of birds with binocular vision and sharp talons. General public event. Free for Festival attendees; \$2 donation to PWC for general public. Same as event #233. Program at Veterans' Hall in Morro Bay.

238 Bay Birding Cruise

03:00 pm - 04:45 pm

Birding Field Trip

Sub Sea Tours

BY \$30.00

Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary with leader Marlin Harms in an open-deck 34-foot power catamaran. View a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl, often at very close range. The boat will move slowly enough for you to see details of many species that you normally see only through a scope from shore. Good photo opportunities but no tripods. Dress warmly. Meet at Sub Sea Tours, Marina Square, 699 Embarcadero #9. Easy. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Same as events #137, #228, #336, #342 & #411.

239 Saturday Keynote Speaker George Armistead

07:00 pm - 08:30 pm

Special Event – Saturday Keynote Speaker

South Bay Community Center BYW

'My Ornithologist: The Unique Life of the Birder.' Being a birder is hard work. Sure, we see lots of beautiful things, many amazing places and are afforded a unique perspective through our favorite past-time. But as birders we are also the subject of curiosity and bewilderment among much of the rest of society. And when people ask us what we like about birding we struggle to answer, because really what's not to like? George Armistead will explore the idea of being a birder in a largely non-birding world, and discuss the unique space our subculture occupies within American society.

Sunday, January 14, 2018

301 Casual Little Big Day

06:45 am - 02:30 pm

Birding Field Trip

Community Center

\$60.00

Join Maggie Smith and Herb Elliott for a tour of many local birding hot-spots. Expect nearly 100 species, including specialties and rarities, with time to discuss the birds and savor them a bit. Travel with leader in van. Bring lunch. Easy but many in/out van stops. Same as event #101.

302 Birds Sounds Field Study

07:00 am - 11:30 am

Birding Field Trip

Community Center

Join Roy Poucher in the field for the 'hands-on' companion to the Bird Sounds Workshop on Friday afternoon. The goal is to solidify the general principles explored on Friday, and provide practical experience with field identification of specific Morro Bay bird songs and calls. We will primarily be standing at different locations for short time segments, silently noting on paper what bird sounds we are individually hearing, then, as a group, discussing these sounds. Though useful, binoculars are not necessary! Notebooks will be needed. The Friday afternoon Bird Sounds Workshop #131 is a prerequisite for this event. Total walking distance will be about 1.2 miles. Easy. Travel by personal vehicle 15 miles round

trip from Community Center. Same as event #203.

303 Little Pelagic Half-Day Ocean Trip

07:00 am - 12:00 pm

Birding Field Trip

Morro Bay Landing

\$65.00

Join Curtis Marantz, Tom Edell, Will Knowlton, and Peter Gaede on this short cruise out of Morro Bay. It offers likely views of whales, sea lions, sea otters and near-shore Pacific seabirds, including several species of shearwaters and auklets. Meet at the Community Center and travel by personal vehicle to the boat. Bring liquids, lunch and sunscreen, and take motion sickness medication prior to arriving. Dress for cold and wind, including gloves. The boat is typically used for fishing; no outdoor seating. There is seating available in the cabin. Note that the boat does not wait for late arrivals. Boat leaves from Morro Bay Landing, 1213 Embarcadero, Morro Bay. (Phone 805-771-5500). Weather conditions may cancel.

304 Point Buchon Ecology Field Trip

07:00 am - 12:00 pm

Nature Field Trip

Community Center

BY

Join Sally Krenn, PG&E Biologist, as you explore the spectacular scenic coastline at Point Buchon. Learn the background of this historic ranch and the efforts to regenerate the Bishop pine forest along the ridges overlooking the ocean. Look for marine mammals, gulls and shorebirds -- maybe even a Peregrine Falcon. Bring your camera to capture the striking sea stacks that dot this coastline and peek into a dramatic sink hole. Be prepared for wind and cool weather. 22 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Active three-mile round trip hike. Same as event #205.

305 Big Day Two

07:00 am - 04:00 pm

Birding Field Trip

Community Center

\$70.00

See loons to sparrows with Ray VanBuskirk on this full day of birding the area. Pace to be determined by the leader based on the desires of the group, but expect a rather fast-paced day, seeing over 100 species including specialties and rarities. Travel with leader in van. Bring lunch. Easy but many in/out van stops. Same as event #106.

306 Bicycle Birding Big Day Birding Field Trip

07:15 am - 04:30 pm

Birding Field Trip

Community Center

B

Join Jim Royer for a birding tour of the area on bicycle and on foot. Length: a 10-mile loop with moderate hills and short walks (start and end at the Community Center). The pace will be slow with frequent stops. We will discuss field marks and vocalizations. Bring multi-speed bicycle, lock, helmet (required), water, snacks and lunch, tools, spare tube and patch kit. Also bring: binoculars, camera (?), layered clothing (it can be very cold at the beginning and warm by the end). Leader will have a scope. Beginning birders welcome, but not recommended for beginning cyclists. Last year we had over 100 species. Rain or high winds cancel. Be present with your bike and ready to go at 7:15 AM at the front of the Community Center; we will leave at 7:30 AM sharp!

307 Little Sit

07:30 am - 11:30 am

Birding Field Trip

Community Center

A Big Sit is an organized competitive group that attempts to identify (see or hear) as many species as possible from one spot (a 17-foot-diameter circle) in a calendar day. Birders at the Los Osos site overlooking Morro Bay had the highest world-wide total one year in the fall, and the site usually ranks high. Join Mike Stiles, an experienced Big Sitter, for a shorter version during which he will assist in honing your ID skills in stationary birding. The site overlooks the estuary and coastal scrub, riparian and dune habitats. A spotting scope would be helpful, though one will be provided for the group. Travel by personal vehicle 5 miles to the site, then a short walk to the 'spot.' Easy.

308 Bird El Chorro Regional Park

07:30 am - 12:00 pm

Birding Field Trip

Community Center

BY

Bird with Park Ranger Brandon Young in a regional park through a variety of habitats including riparian, oak woodland and open space. Expect to see raptors and passerines. Focus will be on birding by ear as well as by eye. Beginners welcome! Includes 1-2 miles of level walking. 15 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Easy.

309 Oak Woodland and Wetland Birds

Birding Field Trip

07:30 am - 12:00 pm

Community Center

Bird beautiful wooded habitat in the Atascadero area east of Morro Bay with Roger Zachary. Stops include Cerro Alto Campground, Atascadero Lake and Creek, Salinas River and nearby oak habitats. Find Acorn Woodpeckers, Yellow-billed Magpies and others. 50 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Moderate.

310 Raptors of Sunshine Ranch

Birding Field Trip

07:45 am - 12:00 pm

Community Center

BY

Come experience Sunshine Ranch with leaders Kara Hagedorn and Ralph Cass. The ranch is a unique area between Santa Margarita and Atascadero. Meet Sunshine, an injured Red-tailed Hawk, and learn about identification and adaptations of raptors that live in the area. Spend time with Sunshine and then do an easy one-mile walk along the border of the ranch, identifying birds along the way. The grasslands, riparian area and pond always bring surprises. 40 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Easy.

311 Birding By Ear Field Trip

Birding Field Trip

07:45 am - 12:00 pm

Community Center

Most birds are heard, not seen! Learning to identify birds by sound is fun and rewarding, but it takes practice. Join Jessica Griffiths for a morning of birding as we work on identifying birds by song and call. We will use the tips, tricks and mnemonic devices that were presented during the Birding By Ear Workshop. We will search for winter warblers, finches, sparrows, towhees, raptors and any other birds that might be making noise! We will meet at the Community Center and travel to one or more nearby birding locations during the morning. Distance 20 miles maximum round trip by personal vehicle. Easy. Event #236, Saturday Birding By Ear Workshop, is a prerequisite for this trip.

312 Laguna Lake

Birding Field Trip

07:45 am - 12:00 pm

Community Center

BY

Bird with leaders Jay Carroll and Scott Inman at Laguna Lake and the surrounding park, a migratory stop and home to a variety of waterfowl. Expect to see a variety of ducks, gulls, grebes, shorebirds, herons, egrets, Snow Geese and other birds, such as House Finch, goldfinches, meadowlarks, raptors and even a possible Loggerhead Shrike. Beginners welcome! Includes 1 mile of level walking. 30 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Easy.

313 Montana de Oro Campground, Cove & Bluffs

Birding Field Trip

07:45 am - 12:00 pm

Community Center

BY

Bird with Eric Wier and Steve McMasters in a spectacular 8,600-acre state park with untamed coastline and coastal uplands. Expect rocky-shore shorebirds, water birds, raptors and passerines in various habitats. Includes 1-2 miles of slow walking. This is an ideal trip for new birders. 20 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Moderate. Same as events #212 & #409.

314 Wildlife Viewing at Piedras Blancas

Nature Field Trip

07:45 am - 12:00 pm

Community Center

BY

Observe and learn about the many different marine mammals that frequent the ocean environment at the area around the Piedras Blancas elephant seal rookery. There will also be many shorebirds to observe. The walk, led by State Parks Docent Phil Adams, will be 3 1/2 hours; it is mostly flat and less than 2 miles. 50 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Same as event #111.

315 1000mm and More - Supertelephoto with Phone

Birding Field Trip

08:00 am - 10:00 am

Community Center

The latest fun way to document your sightings is with the camera in your smartphone (preferably iPhone). Join Bruce Webb, Swarovski Optik Field Tech in a two-hour PhoneScoping field workshop to improve your technique. Bruce will have smartphone adapters to fit several kinds of scopes including Kowa, Leica, etc. He will also have some of Swarovski's latest spotting scopes for you to test. Bring your own phone adapter, manufacturer's earphones and scope if possible. Travel by personal vehicle to a nearby field site to PhoneScope birds. Easy. Same as event #213.

- 316 Morro Strand Scrub and Shore
08:00 am - 12:00 pm
Join Lucien Plauzoles of Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society for a level stroll past a pond, through coastal scrub, and then onto sandy beach. Observe ducks, herons, gulls, terns, grebes and several species of shorebirds including Snowy Plovers for a slow-paced stroll on Morro Strand. Moderate 1.5-2 mile walk with some soft sand. Meet in the Azure Street parking lot: from Hwy 1 at the north end of Morro Bay, turn west at the San Jacinto traffic light; at the dead end, make a short jog to the left then right into the parking lot. Same as event #217.
- Birding Field Trip
Cloisters, Azure Street
- 317 Mushroom Walk
08:00 am - 12:00 pm
Explore the world of fungi with a fun guy! Join naturalist and photographer Dennis Sheridan in looking down rather than up under the Cambria pines searching for Boletus, Candy Cap, Honey Mushroom, Jack-O'Lantern and Amanita mushrooms. 50 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Moderate.
- Nature Field Trip
Community Center BY
- 318 Birding with George Armistead
08:00 am - 12:00 pm
Join our Keynote Speaker George Armistead for a morning of birding while exploring a few birding hotspots around Morro Bay. George is sure to delight you as he shares his insights, knowledge and love of our many wintering species. George will be joined by local birders Marlin Harms and Kaaren Perry. Moderate. Travel by personal vehicle.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center B \$30.00
- 319 San Luis Lighthouse at Avila
08:00 am - 01:00 pm
Paul O'Connor and the Point San Luis Lighthouse Keepers welcome you to a docent-led interpretive tour of the beautifully restored San Luis Lighthouse, the Hornhouse, and other structures. You will get a glimpse into the lives of the families who were the original keepers of the lighthouse. The historic Light Station Park, built in 1890, enjoys dramatic vistas stretching from Avila to Vandenberg. Birds are abundant at this site. Travel by personal vehicle to the lighthouse tour parking lot at Wild Cherry Canyon and Avila Beach Drive. Leave Community Center at 8:00 AM for arrival at the lighthouse parking lot by 9:00 AM. Lighthouse shuttle returns to parking lot at 12 Noon, so arrival back at Community Center may be earlier than 1:00 PM. 46 miles round trip.
- Nature Field Trip
Community Center BY \$25.00
- 320 Photograph Birds Where the Locals Go
08:15 am - 12:00 pm
Bring a camera along with your binoculars to photograph and observe local scenic hot spots. Don Quintana and Jerry Kirkhart will offer tips on capturing images from birds to panoramas while visiting several uniquely beautiful locations around the bay. Photo opportunities abound. All locations are easily accessible. See Don's photography at www.donaldquintana.com and www.flickr.com/photos/donaldquintana/; see Jerry's at www.flickr.com/photos/jkirkhart35 (birds set or birds in flight set). Travel by personal vehicle. Easy.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center BY
- 321 Highway 1 Corridor Raptor Survey
08:15 am - 02:30 pm
Join biologist Steve Schubert to explore a historic Cayucos area ranch (weather and roads permitting) with varying habitats including streamside woodland, grassland and pastureland, rock outcrops, and a large pond and freshwater marsh. Also search for raptors along the Highway 1 corridor between Morro Bay and San Simeon looking for target birds such as Peregrine Falcon, American Kestrel, White-tailed Kite, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, accipiters, Northern Harrier, Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle and Ferruginous Hawk. Moderately difficult hiking on the ranch on unpaved ranch roads and some uneven ground, about a mile round trip. Travel with leader in van. Bring lunch. Moderate.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center \$60.00
- 322 Birding for Beginners
08:30 am - 11:30 am
Join State Parks Docents Robbie Revel and Karen Watts to learn the skills needed to master birding as a hobby. During the presentation, the resources of the Morro Bay State Park Museum will be used to illustrate the criteria for bird identification. You will practice making observations, learn to use binoculars and spotting scopes and learn about
- Birding Presentation/Field Trip
Museum BY

resources available for ongoing skill building. Following the presentation, participants will put their new skills to use on a birding expedition around the museum and State Park area. Easy, family oriented, but not appropriate for young children. Meet at Morro Bay Museum of Natural History.

323 Birding by Careful Observation

08:30 am - 12:00 pm

Birding Field Trip

Community Center

BY

Enjoy birds through leisurely in-depth observation and enhance your ID skills with the help of biologist Michele Roest. This is not a 'tick and run' kind of birding trip, but a stroll through El Chorro Regional Park sharing observations of bird characteristics with the group -- finally checking a guide for positive identification. Be surprised at the variations you see, whether crows or Black Phoebes. Bring binoculars and a favorite field guide. 15 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Easy. Same as event # 128.

324 Marina & Campground Birding

08:30 am - 12:00 pm

Birding Field Trip

Community Center

BY

Join leaders Mike Bush and Bert Townsend to explore the Morro Bay State Park marina boardwalk and the environs around the State Park. Expect to see shorebirds, ducks, geese, loons, grebes, gulls, terns and herons. Additionally, Peregrine Falcons and other raptors, warblers, sparrows, finches and other local birds are often seen. 5 mile round trip by personal vehicle.

325 South Morro Bay Shoreline

08:30 am - 12:00 pm

Birding Field Trip

Community Center

Join leader Ron Melcer for a flat 2-3 mile walk birding the diverse shoreline habitats of the Back Bay, including Sweet Springs Nature Preserve, Cuesta Inlet and Pecho Willows. Expect a variety of shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors and passerines. 12 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Same as event #117. Moderate.

326 Sustainable Seafood

08:30 am - 12:00 pm

[Nature Presentation/Field Trip](#)

Inn at Morro Bay

BY

Join Steve Hendricks, Cuesta College biology instructor, for an introduction to sustainable commercial fishing. Steve will cover some key topics in a brief lecture, then head for the docks in Morro Bay to get a firsthand look at various kinds of boats and tackle and learn how they affect the ecosystem. Finish at Dockside restaurant with local commercial fisherman Mark Tognazzini (lunch optional, on your own).

327 Birding Hot Spots

08:45 am - 12:00 pm

Birding Field Trip

Community Center

BY

This field class is for all birding levels. Travel to nearby locations where leader Rick Austin will help you identify some of the most beautiful and easy-to-see birds around Morro Bay. Bring your favorite field guide and binoculars. 10 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Easy.

328 Bay Birding Photo Cruise

09:00 am - 10:45 am

Birding Field Trip

Sub Sea Tours

B \$30.00

Join local expert photographer Dave Keeling aboard a 34-foot power catamaran and cruise around the ever beautiful estuary. Dave will attempt to spot and help identify birds that are seen. Not all of them are cooperative, but there are always some good photo-ops. Dress warmly. No tripods. Meet at Sub Sea Tours at Marina Square, 699 Embarcadero #9. Easy. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Same as events #118 & #223.

329 Easy Birding

09:00 am - 11:00 am

Birding Field Trip

Cloisters Park

BYW

The Cloisters Park, with pond and nearby dunes, offers an interesting variety of birds, such as White- and Golden-crowned Sparrows, California Thrasher, Yellow-rumped Warbler and Black-crowned Night-Heron. The pond also attracts migratory ducks and geese. Meet at Cloisters Park to join leader Dawn Beattie. From Hwy 1 at the north end of Morro Bay, turn west (toward the water) at the San Jacinto traffic light, then take first left (south) on Coral Avenue; in a few

blocks enter the parking lot on the right, next to the restrooms. People in wheelchairs or using walkers or canes will find all paths accessible. Two miles from the Community Center. Easy.

330 Birds of Sea and Land at Morro Rock

Birding Field Trip

09:00 am - 12:00 pm

Community Center

BY

Join Rouvaishyana, Museum Manager and State Park Interpreter, and Van Dees, Docent, at Morro Rock. There you will see cormorants, gulls of various species and age classes, Brown Pelicans and maybe a Common Murre. The Rock is also home to two pairs of nesting Peregrine Falcons, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Common Yellowthroat, various sparrows and the elusive Canyon Wren. 3 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Easy. Same as event #135.

331 Kayaking

Birding Field Trip

09:00 am - 12:00 pm

State Park Marina

BY \$45.00

Go out on a kayak tour of Morro Bay with John and Virginia Flaherty and guides at Central Coast Outdoors. Get an opportunity for an up-close view of White Pelicans, Brant, Common Loons and a host of other migratory waterfowl and shorebirds in their natural habitat. Visit the Heron Rookery, Grassy Island, mudflats and channels of the Back Bay. We will use double kayaks; no prior kayaking experience needed. Dress in layers with the following guidelines: synthetics or wool, no cotton, windbreaker jacket, hat for sun and wind protection and shoes that can get wet. Weather conditions may cancel. Meet at the State Park Marina on State Park Road near the Bayside Cafe. Minimum age is 8 and children 12 years and under must be accompanied by an adult. Same as events #120, #215, #224 & #404.

332 Shorebirds Made Easy

Birding Presentation/Field Trip

09:00 am - 12:00 pm

Museum

BY

Peeps!!!? Little brown birds, oh my. How do you ever tell one shorebird from another? What is a 'shorebird?' Learn how to tell the 10 to 20 most common species apart. Join biologist and State Parks Docent Claudia Freitas for a photo presentation showing the characteristics of our local shorebirds, followed by a walk along the shore to test your new-found knowledge. Easy. Meet at the Museum of Natural History in Morro Bay State Park.

333 Morro Bay Up Close

[Nature Field Trip](#)

10:00 am - 11:45 am

Morro Bay Landing

BY \$30.00

State Parks Docent John McCabe begins this special trip by describing the geologic history of Morro Rock and features of the estuary using photos, diagrams and hands-on materials. Captain Stew will then take you on a bay cruise on his spacious pontoon boat as he points out the special sights and activities of this unique working harbor including the fishing industry, pleasure boats and more. There will be opportunities to photograph wintering birds, but the boat will also get close to otters and sea lions that frequent the bay. Easy access for limited mobility. Meet at Morro Bay Landing; address is 1213 Embarcadero, Morro Bay. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Same as event #412.

334 Butterflies at Morro Bay Golf Course

Birding Field Trip

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Community Center

BY

Come and explore one of the area's largest Monarch Groves along with a former Cal Poly Professor, Dr. Kingston Leong, and San Luis Obispo County's Golf Superintendent, Josh Heptig. Expect to see and nearly touch thousands of Monarch Butterflies while learning of their amazing journey to the Central Coast. Beginners and disabled individuals welcome (golf car transportation is available)! Includes a 0.25 mile uphill hike and back. Easy-moderate.

335 Elfin Forest

[Nature Field Trip](#)

01:00 pm - 02:30 pm

Community Center

BY

Join Vicky Johnsen at the Elfin Forest, which encompasses 7 habitats, all visible from the boardwalk. The 'Magic' of the Elfin Forest is in the adaptability of the various plant communities to a very hostile environment and the hidden beauty found everywhere, despite the 4-year drought! Vicky will stay longer for those who wish to view birds on the back bay from the lookout platforms. Travel by personal vehicle 10 miles.

336 Bay Birding Cruise

Birding Field Trip

01:00 pm - 02:45 pm Sub Sea Tours BY \$30.00

Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary with Mike Stiles in an open-deck 34-foot power catamaran. View a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl, often at very close range. The boat will move slowly enough for you to see details of many species that you normally see only through a scope from shore. Good photo opportunities, but no tripods. Dress warmly. Meet at Sub Sea Tours, Marina Square, 699 Embarcadero #9. Easy. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Same as events #137, #228, #238, #342 & #411.

337 Pacific Wildlife Care Tour Nature Field Trip
01:30 pm - 02:30 pm Community Center BY

Join long-time volunteers Claudia Duckworth and Jeanette Stone at the Pacific Wildlife Care Center in Morro Bay. Following a brief presentation, they will give a tour of the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center facility. Learn about PWC's work with lead-poisoned birds, fishing hook and line injuries, and the many other causes of illness and injuries treated regularly at the Center. Since PWC is a primary facility under the OWCN (Oiled Wildlife Care Network), emphasis will be placed on the Center's rehabilitation process for oil-affected birds. 2 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Easy. Same as event #129.

338 Birding Up Close Birding Field Trip
02:00 pm - 03:45 pm Morro Bay Landing BY \$30.00

Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary with Kaaren Perry and Captain Stew in a spacious pontoon boat. View a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl, often at very close range. The boat will move slowly enough for you to see details of many species that you normally see only through a scope from shore. Good photo opportunities but no tripods. Captain Stew will then point out the special sights and activities of this unique working harbor including the fishing industry, pleasure boats and more. There will be opportunities to photograph wintering birds, but the boat will also get close to otters and sea lions that frequent the bay. Easy access for limited mobility. Meet at Morro Bay Landing; address is 1213 Embarcadero, Morro Bay. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Same as event #134.

339 Feather Workshop Birding Presentation
02:00 pm - 04:00 pm Inn at Morro Bay BYW

John Schmitt's work has formed the major artistic contribution to over a dozen books, including the National Geographic Field Guide to Birds (4th edition) and the Field Guide to Raptors of Europe, Middle East and North Africa. His 'A Naturalist's Notebook' is a regular feature in Living Bird, the magazine of Cornell University Lab. John will be speaking about FEATHERS - their structure and artistic beauty, how they are constructed and how birds use them. John will share with us his spectacular collection of feathers from all over the world.

340 Bird Skulls and Dissection Nature Presentation
02:00 pm - 04:30 pm Museum BW

If you've ever wondered about the muscular and organ systems of birds, this is for you. Rouvaishyana, Manager of the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History, has skinned dozens of birds for mounted specimens. Assisted by Jerry Kirkhart, State Parks Docent and zoologist, he will skin a thawed specimen from the Museum's collection to demonstrate flight and feather positioning muscles, leg movement, skin and some of the incredible adaptations of bird anatomy to a lifetime of flight. Not for the squeamish, but sure to be fascinating. Meet at the Museum of Natural History in the Morro Bay State Park.

341 Dairy Creek Zero-Waste Facility Nature Presentation/Field Trip
02:00 pm - 05:00 pm Inn at Morro Bay BY

Bird and learn the ways of a local golf course's Zero Waste Park with San Luis Obispo Golf Superintendent, Josh Heptig. El Join San Luis Obispo Golf Superintendent, Josh Heptig, for a brief PowerPoint presentation followed by a fascinating tour of Dairy Creek's Zero Waste facilities. Visit the owl boxes and raptor perches, as well as the sheep that assist with the land management of the 'native areas' within the golf course. Dairy Creek strives to be the first golf course in the nation to be considered Zero Waste. Bird through the golf course to view a variety of land birds (without fear of errant golf balls). Easy. Travel 15 miles round trip by personal vehicle.

342 Bay Birding Cruise Birding Field Trip

02:45 pm - 04:30 pm Sub Sea Tours BY \$30.00

Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary with leader Dave Lawrence in an open-deck 34-foot power catamaran. View a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl, often at very close range. The boat will move slowly enough for you to see details of many species that you normally see only through a scope from shore. Good photo opportunities but no tripods. Dress warmly. Meet at Sub Sea Tours, Marina Square, 699 Embarcadero #9. Easy. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Same as events #137, #228, #238, #336 & #411.

343 Great Blue Herons, Egrets and Other Rookery Wonders Birding Presentation
03:00 pm - 04:30 pm Museum BYW

Enjoy a talk about Great Blue Herons, Great and Snowy Egrets, Black-crowned Night-Herons and other residents of the rookery in Morro Bay State Park. Learn about courtship rituals and nesting habits, and see photos of adults caring for their young. Meet in the auditorium at the Museum of Natural History with State Parks Docent Louise Abbott.

344 Owling Field Trip Birding Field Trip
03:30 pm - 09:00 pm Community Center \$50.00

Daytime owls 3:30-5:30 PM. 'Dutch treat' dinner 5:30-6:30 PM. Nighttime owls 6:30-8:30 PM. Bus leaves from Community Center at 3:30 PM and returns 9:00ish PM. Beginning with daytime owling to hunt for Short-eared and Burrowing Owls and any roosting owls. We will stop for dinner to share stories as we wait for dark (everyone pays on their own). After dark, owling in the San Luis Obispo area. Dress warmly in quiet clothes (no nylon) and be prepared get in and out of the van, walk quietly through mud in the dark, then to stand silently for long periods of time, in freezing cold weather, while it is pitch black, listening for owls! Sounds like a good time to me! Possibilities: Great Horned, Western Screech, Saw-whet, Short-eared, Barn Owls, poorwill and more. Travel with leader in van. Moderate with many in/out van stops. Heavy rain will cancel field trip, but not workshop. Leader for this field trip is Richard Neidhardt. Presentation #132 is a prerequisite for this field trip. Same as #140.

345 Sunday Keynote Speaker David Pereksta Special Event – Sunday Keynote Speaker
07:00 pm - 08:30 pm Shoreline Calvary Chapel BYW

'Drawn to the Sea: The Lives of Seabirds and Those that Pursue Them.' While the majority of the earth is covered by oceans, the lives of the birds that inhabit those waters still hold a number of mysteries that science is only just starting to unravel. Many seabirds come ashore only to breed and then spend the majority of their lives ranging around the world's oceans; some travel incredible distances during foraging trips and migratory movements. Remote breeding locations and unpredictable distributions at sea make seabirds a challenge for birders to find without investing significant time and travel to get to the places where these enigmatic birds live. If your goal is to have a competitively large life list, it is tough to do so without spending a lot of time on boats pursuing seabirds.

Monday, January 15, 2018

401 Back Bay Birding Birding Field Trip
07:00 am - 12:00 pm Community Center B

Join expert birder Jim Royer to bird the southern end of Morro Bay, between Pecho Willows and the Audubon Overlook. We should see a variety of shorebirds, waterfowl and passerines (well over 60 species, weather allowing). Expect a quick paced, but enjoyable morning of birding. We will walk a little over a mile in sand, on pavement and dirt. This trip should be an introduction to the birds of the Morro Bay Back Bay for beginning birders, and a good way for more experienced birders to work on birding by ear and other ID challenges. Travel by personal vehicle 12 miles.

402 Birding & Wine Tasting at Halter Ranch Birding Field Trip
07:30 am - 12:00 pm Community Center

Drive through oak woodland along North County back roads with Roger Zachary and Scott Inman to Halter Ranch for a tour of an environmentally sensitive vineyard. See raptors and Yellow-billed Magpies as you drive, and learn how vineyard owners conserve natural habitat to preserve birds and other wildlife. Bring a lunch and sample a few varieties. 75 miles round trip by personal vehicle; or, for those enroute north toward home, the Ranch is 18 miles round trip from Highway 101 in Paso Robles. Easy.

- 403 Birding at Lopez Lake
07:45 am - 12:00 pm
Designed for those driving home from the festival toward the south. From Highway 101, exit Grand Avenue East in Arroyo Grande and merge to Lopez Lake Road to arrive at Lake Lopez, 12 miles east of Arroyo Grande. Join Park Ranger Chuck Woodard and Jan Surbey on a pontoon boat ride to bird along the shoreline and in the coves of the lake looking for waterfowl and oak woodland birds. Bring binoculars and a warm jacket. Travel by personal vehicle.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center BY \$15.00
- 404 Kayaking
08:00 am - 11:00 am
Go out on a kayak tour of Morro Bay with John and Virginia Flaherty and guides at Central Coast Outdoors. Get an opportunity for an up-close view of White Pelicans, Brant, Common Loons and a host of other migratory waterfowl and shorebirds in their natural habitat. Visit the Heron Rookery, Grassy Island, mudflats and channels of the Back Bay. We will use double kayaks; no prior kayaking experience needed. Dress in layers with the following guidelines: synthetics or wool, no cotton, windbreaker jacket, hat for sun and wind protection and shoes that can get wet. Weather conditions may cancel. Meet at the State Park Marina on State Park Road near the Bayside Cafe. Minimum age is 8 and children 12 years and under must be accompanied by an adult. Same as events #120, #215, #224 & #331.
- Birding Field Trip
State Park Marina BY \$45.00
- 405 Guadalupe Dunes & River Mouth
08:00 am - 11:30 am
Designed for those driving home from the festival toward the south. Meet at Denny's parking lot, 1019 E. Main Street, in Santa Maria, CA (exit 171 from 101). This is 45 miles south of Morro Bay! Travel with Melissa Kelly, Santa Barbara County Parks Naturalist, to view birds at the Santa Maria River Estuary at Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve. Expect to see a variety of gulls, waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors and perhaps some pelagics offshore. A feeder in the riparian habitat also regularly sports Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Hermit Thrush, Golden-crowned Sparrows and sometimes a Fox Sparrow or two. Expect to walk along the beach about 1/4 mile. Easy.
- Birding Field Trip
Santa Maria
- 406 Birding Fiscalini Ranch
08:00 am - 12:00 pm
Bird with Bob Keally on Cambria's Fiscalini Ranch on a moderate (244 feet elevation gain) three-mile hike through grassland, mixed oak/Monterey pine forest and coastal bluffs. Expect a diversity of birds, including sparrows, birds of prey, Pygmy Nuthatches, and rocky-shore shorebirds. Pace will be determined by leader and desires of the group. 50 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Moderate. Same as event #216.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center
- 407 Las Cruzitas Ranch, Santa Ynez
08:00 am - 02:00 pm
Designed for those driving home from the festival toward the south. Meet at Albertson's Parking Lot in Buellton, CA (Hwy 246 east exit from 101). This is 75 miles south of Morro Bay! Meet Cher Hollingworth (cell 805-588-0252) in Buellton at 8:00 AM SHARP to continue on to Las Cruzitas, a private 1,500-acre cattle ranch including oak grassland and sage-covered canyons. You will be met by Cruz Phillips, the ranch owner, who will lead the trip. Expect to see Yellow-billed Magpies, Vesper and Lark Sparrows, Band-tailed Pigeons, Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Golden Eagles, and possibly Burrowing Owls, Prairie Falcons, Phainopeplas, Red-naped Sapsuckers and Lewis' Woodpeckers. At least 30 species are seen from the ranch house bird feeders alone, so folks who cannot walk far can sit in the yard and have a great time birding. Bring lunch. 175 miles round trip drive from Morro Bay. Easy. Same as event #112.
- Birding Field Trip
Buellton BW
- 408 Riparian Habitats of Montana de Oro
08:15 am - 12:00 pm
Travel with State Parks Interpreter Rouvaishyana and State Parks Environmental Scientist John Sayers for a walk through the riparian habitat in Montana de Oro State Park to discuss how birds interact with their surroundings. They will help identify birds as they talk about the habitats birds are occupying and the plants they are utilizing. 20 miles round trip by personal vehicle. 2-3 mile walk. Moderate.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center BY
- 409 Montana de Oro Campground, Cove & Bluffs
Birding Field Trip

08:30 am - 12:00 pm

Community Center

BY

Bird with Steve Griffith in a spectacular 8,600-acre state park with untamed coastline and coastal uplands. Expect rocky-shore shorebirds, water birds, raptors and passerines in various habitats. Includes 1-2 miles of slow walking. 20 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Moderate. Same as events #212 & #313.

410 Oso Flaco Lake Area

Birding Field Trip

08:30 am - 12:00 pm

Oso Flaco

BY

Bird with Tom and Owen Slater. Enjoy close views of waterfowl, and often bitterns and rails, from the boardwalk over Oso Flaco lake and marsh. Bird two prime willow habitats for wintering warblers. Includes 2 miles of slow walking. Moderate. This trip meets at Oso Flaco Lake, 45 miles south of the Morro Bay Community Center. Meet at the Oso Flaco parking lot at 8:30 AM; allow one hour driving time from Morro Bay.

411 Bay Birding Cruise

Birding Field Trip

09:00 am - 10:45 am

Sub Sea Tours

BY \$30.00

Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary with State Parks Docents Claudia Freitas and Bob Revel in an open-deck 34-foot power catamaran. View a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl, often at very close range. The boat will move slowly enough for you to see details of many species that you normally see only through a scope from shore. Good photo opportunities but no tripods. Dress warmly. Meet at Sub Sea Tours, Marina Square, 699 Embarcadero #9. Easy. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Same as events #137, #228, #238, #336 & #342.

412 Morro Bay Up Close

[Nature Field Trip](#)

10:00 am - 11:45 am

Morro Bay Landing

BY \$30.00

State Parks Docent John McCabe begins this special trip by describing the geologic history of Morro Rock and features of the estuary using photos, diagrams and hands-on materials. Captain Stew will then take you on a bay cruise on his spacious pontoon boat as he points out the special sights and activities of this unique working harbor including the fishing industry, pleasure boats and more. There will be opportunities to photograph wintering birds, but the boat will also get close to otters and sea lions that frequent the bay. Easy access for limited mobility. Meet at Morro Bay Landing; address is 1213 Embarcadero, Morro Bay. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Same as event #333.

413 Monday Mind Walk-Condors at Pinnacles National Park

Birding Presentation

10:15 am - 11:30 am

Veteran's Hall

BYW

Richard Neidhardt has monitored condors at Pinnacles National Park for many years. His presentation will focus on the history and goals of the California Condor Recovery Program as well as the volunteer's role in assisting in the management of the Central California condor flock.