

2019 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.

- 101 Big Day** Birding Field Trip
Friday, 06:45 am - 04:00 pm 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 #206.
- 102 Bird Banding in Morro Bay** Birding Field Trip
Friday, 07:00 am - 10:00 am Community Center
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.
- 103 Hiking Half Day in Morro Bay State Park** Birding Field Trip
Friday, 07:00 am - 12:00 pm State Park Marina
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.
- 104 Explore North Coast Birding** Birding Field Trip
Friday, 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.
- 105 Harmony Headlands** Birding Field Trip
Friday, 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.
- 106 Oso Flaco Lake-Oceano Area** Birding Field Trip
Friday, 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.
- 107 Birding Montana de Oro for Beginners** Birding Field Trip
Friday, 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.
- 108 Wildlife Viewing Near Piedras Blancas** Nature Field Trip
Friday, 07:45 am - 12:00 pm Community Center BY

Observe and learn about the different marine mammals that frequent the ocean environment near the Piedras Blancas elephant seal rookery. Besides elephant seals, we can expect to see Pacific harbor seals and southern sea otters. Gray whales are migrating north at this time. We will also look for shorebirds and raptors. The walk, led by biologist Michele Roest, will be 3 1/2 hours; it is mostly flat and about 2 miles. 70 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Bring water and snacks. Same as trip #312.

109 Las Cruzitas Ranch, Santa Ynez

Friday, 07:45 am - 02:00 pm

Birding Field Trip

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 - 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 #405.

110 Santa Margarita Lake Big Day

Friday, 07:45 am - 04:00 pm

Birding Field Trip

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.

111 Photographic Hot Spots With Birds

Friday, 08:00 am - 12:00 pm

Birding Field Trip

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.

112 Bay Shore to Salt Marsh Walk

Friday, 08:00 am - 12:00 pm

Birding Field Trip

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.

114 Morro Bay Marina Boardwalk

Friday, 08:30 am - 11:00 am

Birding Field Trip

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 Rich Hansen and Eric Brunschwiler 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.

115 Birding for Beginners

Friday, 08:30 am - 11:30 am

Birding Presentation/Field Trip

Museum

BY

Join State Parks Docents Robbie Revel and Karen Watts, and get a jump start for your bird festival experience. Learn the techniques needed to boost your birding skills and get a preview of the birds you are likely to see during the weekend. 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 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. This workshop is a prerequisite before participation in an afternoon field experience, event #127, for which you must register separately.

116 South Morro Bay Shoreline

Friday, 08:30 am - 12:00 pm

Join leader Rusty Scalf with guide Devra Cooper 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 #323.

Birding Field Trip

Community Center

117 Bay Birding Photo Cruise

Friday, 09:00 am - 10:45 am

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 #226 & #325.

Birding Field Trip

Sub Sea Tours

B \$30.00

118 Birding Around Morro Bay

Friday, 09:00 am - 12:00 pm

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.

Birding Field Trip

Community Center

119 Kayaking

Friday, 09:00 am - 12:00 pm

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 #216, #228, #327 & #403.

Birding Field Trip

State Park Marina

BY \$45.00

120 View Morro Bay Estuary from Black Hill

Friday, 10:00 am - 11:30 am

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. Jay Carroll, a longtime local birder, will be on the walk to help identify the large number of birds who hang out on the Hill. 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)

Nature Field Trip

Community Center

BY

121 Morro Bay Up Close

Friday, 10:00 am - 11:45 am

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 #410.

Nature Field Trip

Morro Bay Landing

BY \$30.00

122 Birding and Technology

Friday, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Can technology and birding be friends? At this workshop led by Linda Sewell and 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

Nature Presentation

Inn at Morro Bay

BY

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 Condor Recovery Program/Hi Mountain Lookout Project
Friday, 12:30 pm - 02:00 pm

Birding Presentation
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.'

124 Snowy Plovers in the Field
Friday, 01:00 pm - 02:30 pm

Birding Field Trip
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 #232.

125 Birding The Bay
Friday, 01:00 pm - 03:00 pm

Birding Field Trip
Virg's Landing/Tackle Shop \$30.00

Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary with Dave Keeling, longtime local birder and photographer. 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. 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 12:45 at Virg's Tackle Shop; address is 1169 Market Avenue, Morro Bay. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

126 Birding by Careful Observation
Friday, 01:00 pm - 04:00 pm

Birding Field Trip
Community Center BY

Enjoy birds through leisurely in-depth observation and enhance your ID skills with the help of birder Ella Pennington. 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 #321.

127 Basics of Bird ID in the Field
Friday, 01:00 pm - 05:00 pm

Birding Field Trip
Community Center BY

Join Ralph Cass and Rouvaishyana in the field for the second part of the 'Basics of Bird ID' workshop. (See event #115, which is a prerequisite to this event.) Bring binoculars and your field guide. 5 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Easy.

128 Pacific Wildlife Care Tour
Friday, 01:30 pm - 02:30 pm

Nature Field Trip
Community Center BY

Join long-time volunteers Claudia Duckworth and Pamela Hartmann 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 #333.

- 129 Gardening to Attract Birds** Nature Field Trip
 Friday, 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.
- 130 Bird Sounds Workshop** Birding Presentation
 Friday, 01:30 pm - 04:30 pm Community Center
 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.
- 131 Owling Workshop** Birding Presentation
 Friday, 02:00 pm - 03:00 pm Veterans Hall 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 (#131). Sunday trip #339 is the same as #140 and #244.
- 132 Saving Critical Landscapes** Nature Presentation
 Friday, 02:00 pm - 03:00 pm Community Center 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.
- 133 Birding Up Close** Birding Field Trip
 Friday, 02:00 pm - 03:45 pm Morro Bay Landing \$30.00
 Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary with Jeff Miller, Bob Revel 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 #334.
- 134 Birds of Sea and Land at Morro Rock** Birding Field Trip
 Friday, 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 #326.
- 135 The Peregrine Falcons of Morro Rock** Birding Presentation/Field Trip
 Friday, 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.

- 136** Great Blue Herons, Egrets and Other Rookery Wonders Birding Presentation
Friday, 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.
- 137** Bay Birding Cruise Birding Field Trip
Friday, 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 #233, #242, #331, #337 & #409.
- 138** Gulls of San Luis Obispo County Birding Presentation
Friday, 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 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 #215 field trip, Gulls of San Luis Obispo County Field Study.
- 139** Protecting and Restoring Morro Bay with the Estuary Program Nature Presentation
Friday, 03:30 pm - 04:30 pm Veterans Hall 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
Friday, 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. Leaders for this field trip are Chris Cameron and State Parks Interpreter Rouvaishyana. Presentation #131 is a prerequisite for this field trip. Same as #244, #339.
- 141** Festival Opening Reception Special Event
Friday, 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!
- 201** Condor Country Birding Field Trip
Saturday, 06:15 am - 05:15 pm Community Center \$80.00
Ride with Steve Schubert, from the Hi Mountain Condor Lookout Project (www.condorlookout.org), and Richard Neidhardt 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
Saturday, 07:00 am - 10:00 am
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 #102.
- 203** Birds Sounds Field Study
Saturday, 07:00 am - 11:30 am
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 #130 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
Saturday, 07:00 am - 12:00 pm
Join birder Brad Schram 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
Saturday, 07:00 am - 02:00 pm
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
Saturday, 07:00 am - 04:00 pm
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 #101.
- 207** Big Pelagic: Birds & Whales
Saturday, 07:00 am - 04:00 pm
Spend a day at sea with Tom Edell, Curtis Marantz, Peter Gaede, Will Knowlton and Sunday Speaker Alvaro Jaramillo 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
Saturday, 07:15 am - 12:00 pm
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

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 #119, #228, #327 & #403.

217 Birding Fiscalini Ranch
Saturday, 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 #404.

Birding Field Trip
Community Center

218 Morro Strand Scrub and Shore
Saturday, 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 #314.

Birding Field Trip
Cloisters, Azure Street

219 Audio Recording Using a Smart Phone
Saturday, 08:00 am - 12:00 pm
Having a birding by ear expert with you every time you're out would be great, but with small, high quality recording devices available, you can bring home bird sounds and ID them yourself with careful study. In this workshop, Thomas Graves, who has been recording bird sounds since 1995, will talk about field recording basics and how to manage recordings on your computer. You will go out and record a few sounds, come back to the classroom and download them on your laptop. Bring your smart phones, or a dedicated recording device if you have one, and if you're able, bring your laptop. Copy and paste the following URL into your browser to download tips and to prepare for the workshop: <http://morrobaybirdfestival.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Audio-Recording-Workshop.pdf> - You can also sign up and come to the Topography of Bird Sounds presentation for a discussion on using spectrograms to help in the identification of species.

Birding Presentation
Inn at Morro Bay BW

220 Bare Naked Birding
Saturday, 08:00 am - 12:00 pm
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.

Birding Field Trip
Community Center

221 Estero Bluffs for Intermediates
Saturday, 08:15 am - 12:00 pm
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.

Birding Field Trip
Community Center

222 Songbirds in the Pines
Saturday, 08:15 am - 12:00 pm
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.

Birding Field Trip
Community Center

223 Coastal Cove, Bluff and Tidepool Ecology
Saturday, 08:30 am - 11:00 am

Nature Field Trip
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.

224 A Morning with the Monarchs

Saturday, 08:30 am - 12:00 pm

Nature Presentation/Field Trip

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.

225 Explore Elfin Forest & Sweet Springs

Saturday, 08:30 am - 12:00 pm

Birding Field Trip

Community Center

BY

Bird with Rusty Scalf and guide Devra Cooper 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.

226 Bay Birding Photo Cruise

Saturday, 09:00 am - 10:45 am

Birding Field Trip

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 #117 & #325.

227 Beginners' Bay Cruise

Saturday, 09:00 am - 11:00 am

Birding Field Trip

Sub Sea Tours

B \$30.00

Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay with State Park docents Claudia Freitas and Robbie Revel on the SSV Seaview, a semi-submersible boat that has a below deck area where you can view bay life from under the water line. Learn to identify 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. Emphasis will be to identify birds in winter plumage with plenty of time to ask questions. 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.

228 Kayaking

Saturday, 09:00 am - 12:00 pm

Birding Field Trip

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 #119, #216, #327 & #403.

229 Field Sketching

Saturday, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Birding Presentation/Field Trip

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.

- 230** Birding the Boardwalk For Beginners
Saturday, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
The Morro Bay State Park Marina boardwalk provides a wonderful place for beginning birders to easily observe a diversity of birds. Join Carol Comeau and Penny Principe for this easy, level half-mile walk for beginning birders. The walk will focus on identification tips and the natural history of birds commonly seen from the boardwalk. Meet at the east end of the State Park Marina parking lot, across from Morro Bay State Park Campground.
- Birding Field Trip
State Park Marina B
- 231** Brant Workshop
Saturday, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Learn about the bird that has earned its place on the Bird Festival logo: the fascinating Black Brant. For over 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.
- Birding Presentation
Inn at Morro Bay BYW
- 232** Snowy Plovers in the Field
Saturday, 01:00 pm - 02:30 pm
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 #124.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center BY
- 233** Bay Birding Cruise
Saturday, 01:00 pm - 02:45 pm
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, #242, #331, #337 & #409.
- Birding Field Trip
Sub Sea Tours BY \$30.00
- 234** Marina Point Boardwalk
Saturday, 01:00 pm - 03:00 pm
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.
- Birding Field Trip
State Park Marina BW
- 235** Pishing and Bird Calls
Saturday, 01:00 pm - 03:00 pm
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.
- Birding Field Trip
State Park Marina BY
- 236** The Otter Truth of Morro Bay
Saturday, 01:00 pm - 03:00 pm
Enjoy a learning experience with the Southern Sea Otters right in Morro Bay. Join Sharon Blakely at 1 or 2 favorite hangouts for a wealth of information about these "Superheroes" of a health kelp forest and the fascinating natural history. 1 – 3 miles round trip by personal vehicle; 20 – 40 minute walk one way. Easy.
- Nature Field Trip
Community Center BY
- 237** The Basics of Bird Photography
Saturday, 01:00 pm - 04:00 pm
- Birding Presentation
Inn at Morro Bay W

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. Leaders for this field trip are Chris Cameron and State Parks Interpreter Rouvaishyana. Presentation #131 is a prerequisite for this field trip. Same as #140 and #339.

245 Saturday Art, Wine & Nibbles
Saturday, 05:30 pm - 06:30 pm

Birding Special Event
Community Center

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. Sponsored by Swarovski, Out of This World Binoculars and Opticron.

246 Birding the Globe with James Currie
Saturday, 07:00 pm - 08:30 pm

Birding Special Event
South Bay Community Center BYW

James takes you on a fantastic video journey around the world to see some of the planet's most sought-after and bizarre bird species. From North and South America to Australia and Africa the diversity of our birdlife is astounding. See strange breeding behaviors, first-time footage of rare species and some humorous insights into the exciting world of wildlife videography.

301 Birding the Carrizo Plain
Sunday, 06:45 am - 05:00 pm

Birding Field Trip
Community Center \$80.00

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.

302 Birds Sounds Field Study
Sunday, 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 #130 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
Sunday, 07:00 am - 12:00 pm

Birding Field Trip
Morro Bay Landing \$65.00

Join Curtis Marantz, Tom Edell, Raymond VanBuskirk and Sunday Speaker Alvaro Jaramillo 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 Morro Bay Landing, 1213 Embarcadero in Morro Bay. 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
Sunday, 07:00 am - 12:00 pm

Nature Field Trip
Community Center BY

Join long-time naturalists and birders Richard Neidhardt and Rusty Scalf 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 Little Sit

Sunday, 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.

306 Bird El Chorro Regional Park

Sunday, 07:30 am - 12:00 pm

Birding Field Trip

Community Center

BY

Bird with Steve Griffith 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.

307 Oak Woodland and Wetland Birds

Sunday, 07:30 am - 12:00 pm

Birding Field Trip

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.

308 Raptors of Sunshine Ranch

Sunday, 07:45 am - 12:00 pm

Birding Field Trip

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.

309 Birding By Ear Field Trip

Sunday, 07:45 am - 12:00 pm

Birding Field Trip

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 #240, Saturday Birding By Ear Workshop, is a prerequisite for this trip.

310 Laguna Lake

Sunday, 07:45 am - 12:00 pm

Birding Field Trip

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.

311 Montana de Oro Campground, Cove & Bluffs

Sunday, 07:45 am - 12:00 pm

Birding Field Trip

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 & #407.

312 Wildlife Viewing Near Piedras Blancas

Sunday, 07:45 am - 12:00 pm

Nature Field Trip

Community Center

BY

Observe and learn about the different marine mammals that frequent the ocean environment near the Piedras Blancas elephant seal rookery. Besides elephant seals, we can expect to see Pacific harbor seals and southern sea

otters. Gray whales are migrating north at this time. We will also look for shorebirds and raptors. The walk, led by biologist Michele Roest, will be 3 1/2 hours; it is mostly flat and about 2 miles. 70 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Bring water and snacks. Same as trip #108.

313 1000mm and More - Supertelephoto with Phone
Sunday, 08:00 am - 10:00 am

Birding Field Trip
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 #214.

314 Morro Strand Scrub and Shore
Sunday, 08:00 am - 12:00 pm

Birding Field Trip
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 #218.

315 Mushroom Walk
Sunday, 08:00 am - 12:00 pm

Nature Field Trip
Community Center BY

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.

316 Birding with James Currie
Sunday, 08:00 am - 12:00 pm

Birding Field Trip
Community Center B \$30.00

Join our Saturday Night Speaker James Currie for a morning of birding while exploring a few birding hotspots around Morro Bay. James is sure to delight you as he shares his insights, knowledge and love of our many wintering species. James will be joined by local birder Jim Royer. Moderate. Travel by personal vehicle.

318 Photograph Birds Where the Locals Go
Sunday, 08:15 am - 12:00 pm

Birding Field Trip
Community Center BY

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.

319 Birding by Bicycle Half Day
Sunday, 08:15 am - 12:45 pm

Birding Field Trip
Community Center

Join Jeff Miller for a half day of birding the Morro Bay area by bicycle. 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). Beginning birders welcome, but not recommended for beginning cyclists. Rain or high winds cancel. Be present with your bike and ready to go at 8 AM at the front of the Community Center; we will leave at 8:15 AM sharp!

320 Highway 1 Corridor Raptor Survey
Sunday, 08:15 am - 02:30 pm

Birding Field Trip
Community Center \$60.00

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.

- 321** Birding by Careful Observation
Sunday, 08:30 am - 12:00 pm
Enjoy birds through leisurely in-depth observation and enhance your ID skills with the help of birder Ella Pennington. 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 # 126.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center BY
- 322** Marina & Campground Birding
Sunday, 08:30 am - 12:00 pm
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.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center BY
- 323** South Morro Bay Shoreline
Sunday, 08:30 am - 12:00 pm
Join leader Dean Thompson 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 #116. Moderate.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center
- 324** Birding Hot Spots for Beginners
Sunday, 08:45 am - 12:00 pm
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.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center BY
- 325** Bay Birding Photo Cruise
Sunday, 09:00 am - 10:45 am
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 #117 & #226.
- Birding Field Trip
Sub Sea Tours B \$30.00
- 326** Birds of Sea and Land at Morro Rock
Sunday, 09:00 am - 12:00 pm
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 #134.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center BY
- 327** Kayaking
Sunday, 09:00 am - 12:00 pm
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 #119, #216, #228 & #403.
- Birding Field Trip
State Park Marina BY \$45.00
- 328** Shorebirds Made Easy
Sunday, 09:00 am - 12:00 pm
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
- Birding Presentation/Field Trip
Museum BY

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.

329 Butterflies at Morro Bay Golf Course

Sunday, 09:30 am - 12:00 pm

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.

Birding Field Trip

Golf Course Club House BY

330 Easy Birding

Sunday, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

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.

Birding Field Trip

Cloisters Park BYW

331 Bay Birding Cruise

Sunday, 01:00 pm - 02:45 pm

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, #233, #242, #337 & #409.

Birding Field Trip

Sub Sea Tours BY \$30.00

332 Elfin Forest

Sunday, 01:00 pm - 03:00 pm

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. Bring a spotting scope if you have one. Travel by personal vehicle, park at the 14th Street entrance. 10 miles.

Nature Field Trip

Community Center BY

333 Pacific Wildlife Care Tour

Sunday, 01:30 pm - 02:30 pm

Join long-time volunteers Claudia Duckworth and Pamela Hartmann 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 #128.

Nature Field Trip

Community Center BY

334 Birding Up Close

Sunday, 02:00 pm - 03:45 pm

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 #133.

Birding Field Trip

Morro Bay Landing BY \$30.00

335 Feather Workshop

Sunday, 02:00 pm - 04:00 pm

Birding Presentation

Inn at Morro Bay BYW

John Schmitt will be speaking about FEATHERS - their structure and artistic beauty, their various shapes and how birds use them. John will share with us his spectacular collection of feathers from all over the world as he describes their appearance and function.

336 Bird Skulls and Dissection

Sunday, 02:00 pm - 04:30 pm

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.

Nature Presentation

Museum

BW

337 Bay Birding Cruise

Sunday, 02:45 pm - 04:30 pm

Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary with leader Robbie 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, #233, #242, #331 & #409.

Birding Field Trip

Sub Sea Tours

BY \$30.00

338 The Topography of Bird Sounds

Sunday, 03:00 pm - 05:00 pm

Just as it is essential to know the topography of a bird to distinguish between male and female, juvenile and mature, and different species, it is also essential to be able to describe bird sounds in a systematic way to aid in identification. Using an approach written about by Nathan Pieplow on his website Earbirding, and in Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds of Eastern North America, with presenter Tom Graves you will listen to western birds and look at their spectrograms. Using this systematic approach will help you to remember the sounds, to build your skills as a listener, and to convince someone of your ID using sound reasoning. We describe plumage well, so we should have that ability with sound as well.

Birding Presentation

Museum

W

339 Owling Field Trip

Sunday, 03:30 pm - 09:00 pm

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. Leaders for this field trip are Chris Cameron and State Parks Interpreter Rouvaishyana. Presentation #131 is a prerequisite for this field trip. Same as #140, #244.

Birding Field Trip

Community Center

\$50.00

340 The World's Most Amazing Birds – Seabirds, and why is California such a hotspot for them.

Sunday, 07:00 pm - 08:30 pm

Alvaro Jaramillo's talk might as well be about aliens! A creature so foreign we have a hard time understanding. Imagine never touching land for 5 years, as some albatross do. Or think about flying thousands of feet up, crossing the oceans as you "surf" the pressure wave of a tropical storm as frigatebirds can do. How about to be able to identify your mate by the way they smell as many seabirds do? Because seabirds are out there in the ocean, and we are landlubbers, we do not get to experience the full breadth of amazing behavior that these birds do. They may indeed be the most interesting birds in the world. They also are diverse, from albatross and puffins, to storm-petrels and murrelets and shearwaters and penguins. This talk is an appreciation of seabirds, with a focus on California and what makes it one of the world's seabird hotspots. This will be a fun exploration of our offshore environment, touching on the ecology of the ocean including how there are actually different habitats out there, and how you can use all of this information to have a more fun exploration of seabirds when you next go out on a boat to see our great Pacific Ocean.

Birding Special Event

South Bay Community Center

BYW

- 401** Birding & Wine Tasting at Halter Ranch
Monday, 07:30 am - 12:00 pm
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 varietals. There is a \$20 tasting fee, waived with 2 bottle purchase. 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.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center
- 402** Birding at Lopez Lake
Monday, 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
- 403** Kayaking
Monday, 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 #119, #216, #228 & #327.
- Birding Field Trip
State Park Marina BY \$45.00
- 404** Birding Fiscalini Ranch
Monday, 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 #217.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center
- 405** Las Cruzitas Ranch, Santa Ynez
Monday, 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 - 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 #109.
- Birding Field Trip
Buellton BW
- 406** Riparian Habitats of Montana de Oro
Monday, 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
- 407** Montana de Oro Campground, Cove & Bluffs
Monday, 08:30 am - 12:00 pm
Bird with Jeff Miller and Bob Revel 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 & #311.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center BY

