

2020 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
Friday, 06:45 am - 04:00 pm
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.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center \$70
- 102** All about Bird Banding
Friday, 07:00 am - 10:00 am
Observe mist-netted passerines in Morro Bay State Park with Jodi Isaacs and Regena Orr, Environmental Scientists for California State Parks. Discuss identification, analysis and bird-banding data collection and 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 Same as event #202.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center
- 103** Birds and their Habitat in Morro Bay State Park
Friday, 07:00 am - 12:00 pm
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.
- Birding Field Trip
State Park Marina
- 104** Birding by Careful Observation
Friday, 07:00 am - 12:00 pm
Leisurely in-depth bird observation and ID skills enhancement as facilitated by noted birder and guide Bob Barnes. Whole group discussion at 7AM, then practice in the field. This is not a 'tick and run' birding trip, but a stroll through El Chorro Regional Park sharing observations of bird characteristics - with participants and birds as the stars and Bob as facilitator. Field guides will be checked to verify. This trip is aimed at all level of birders including those who want to teach others how to learn bird ID most effectively. Bring binoculars and a favorite field guide. 15 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Same as #204 and #306.
- Birding Presentation/Field Trip
Community Center B
- 105** Big Day: Close Encounters of the Bird Kind
Friday, 07:00 am - 04:00 pm
Join Jeff Miller and Richard Cimino for A BIG DAY of birding local hot spots starting at Cerro Alto Campground then hitting Atascadero Lake, Atascadero Wastewater Treatment Facility, O'Donovan Road, and Laguna Lake.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center \$70
- 106** Big Day Birding
Friday, 07:00 am - 04:00 pm
See loons to sparrows with Wes Fritz and Peter Gaede 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.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center \$70
- 107** Explore Birds of the Rugged North Coast
Friday, 07:15 am - 02:00 pm
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.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center \$20

- 108** Photographing Grebes and their Friends
Friday, 07:30 am - 10:00 am
Join the "Grebe Whisperer" to discover behaviors and learn photo techniques for grebes and their friends. Krisztina Scheeff has been studying the Grebes for years. Learn about the rushing behavior of grebes and how to photograph them. Trip starts at the community center then moves to the bay in private vehicles. Bring your cameras!
- Birding Presentation/Field Trip
Community Center
- 109** Birding Montaña de Oro for Beginners
Friday, 07:45 am - 12:00 pm
Bird with Bob Revel, State Parks Docent, and Mike Bush 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.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center BY
- 110** Birding Las Cruzitas Ranch on your way to Morro Bay
Friday, 07:45 am - 02:00 pm
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 #406.
- Birding Field Trip
Buellton BW
- 111** Big Day Birding Extravaganza around Santa Margarita Lake
Friday, 07:45 am - 04:00 pm
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. Parking fees will be waived for Bird Festival participants for this event.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center
- 112** Unique Bird Photography Around Beautiful Estero Bay
Friday, 08:00 am - 12:00 pm
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.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center
- 113** Birding Walk along the Bay
Friday, 08:00 am - 12:00 pm
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 and Randy Bello. Moderate pace; distance about 4 miles round trip. Walk back to cars at your own pace afterward. Moderate.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center BY
- 114** Wings Over Wine
Friday, 08:00 am - 01:00 pm
Join international birding guide, Greg Smith, to explore one of the first certified sustainable vineyards on the Central Coast. With native resource enhancement of bird habitat, wildlife corridors, and steelhead trout restoration on boundary creeks, there should be a varied list of different bird species. Vintner, Jean-Pierre Wolff, PhD, will accompany us as we bird along the riparian corridors and to the on-site pond. Approximately 1.5 miles of walking along slightly sloping terrain. Afterwards Jean-Pierre will share a short presentation on the ecology and the goals of
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center

sustainable farming of the Wolff vineyards. We will finish up with an optional wine tasting at Wolff Vineyards (discounted fee of \$10, refundable with bottle purchase), so bring your lunch and enjoy the panoramic view of the Edna Valley and some of Wolff Vineyards award winning wines!

- 115** Meander Morro Bay Marina
Friday, 08:30 am - 11:00 am
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.
- Birding Field Trip
State Park Marina W
- 116** Birding for Beginners
Friday, 08:30 am - 11:30 am
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.
- Birding Presentation/Field Trip
Museum BY
- 117** Back Bay Birding
Friday, 08:30 am - 12:00 pm
Join leader Rusty Scalf with Richard Neidhardt 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 #324.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center
- 118** Bird Photo-ops on a Bay 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 #225, #328, #334, #341, #409.
- Birding Field Trip
Sub Sea Tours B \$30
- 119** Shoreline Birding for Beginners and Families
Friday, 09:00 am - 11:30 am
Join Chris Van Beveren to seek some of the more common gulls and shorebirds, and calling birds, along the beaches of Baywood Park from the pier, to Pasadena beach park, to the 4th St Audubon Lookout. Designed for beginners and lower intermediate adults, and families with children at least 8 years old who are showing an interest in birds. Walk is mostly on damp sand, and under 1 mile.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center BY
- 120** The Diverse Birds of 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
- 121** Stealth Birding by Kayak
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.
- Birding Field Trip
State Park Marina BY \$45

Minimum age is 8 and children 12 years and under must be accompanied by an adult. Same as events #215, #227, #330 & #404.

- 122** Gulls of San Luis Obispo County Identified & Explained Birding Presentation/Field Trip
Friday, 09:00 am - 12:00 pm Inn at Morro Bay
Join Brad Schram, author of ABA's Lane Guide "A Birder's Guide to Southern California", as he shares techniques to help you identify resident and wintering gulls in the area. Discussion of species, distribution, aging and plumages will be presented immediately followed by a fun morning of birding with a focus on our local gulls. You will have a chance to practice identifying, talk a little more about, and aging the various gull species that will be easily viewable on the shore. Binoculars are necessary and scopes are recommended but not required. Travel by personal vehicle.
- 123** Morro Bay Estuary from Black Hill Nature Field Trip
Friday, 10:00 am - 11:30 am Community Center BY
Hike to the top of Black Hill with Morro Bay National Estuary Program Executive 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)
- 124** Morro Bay Up Close Nature Field Trip
Friday, 10:00 am - 11:45 am Morro Bay Landing BY \$30
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 #411.
- 125** Best Birding Apps Birding Presentation
Friday, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Inn at Morro Bay BY
How has technology helped birding? At the very least, you don't have to carry heavy books in the field. In this workshop led by Linda Sewell, you'll learn about the latest BIRDING apps. Learn about eBird and discover how your eBird observations can benefit the scientific community by turning your time in nature into valuable data. We will explore all the "birding ID software" like Sibley V2, iBird, Merlin Bird ID and many others. Bring your iPhone, iPad, Android smart phone, Kindle or whatever device you use!
- 126** Snowy Plovers in the Field Birding Field Trip
Friday, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm Community Center BY
Join Regena Orr, Environmental Scientist for California State Parks, as you explore the beach for Western Snowy Plovers 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 #229.
- 127** Condor Recovery Birding Presentation
Friday, 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](http://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.'

- 128** Basics of Bird ID in the Field
Friday, 01:00 pm - 03:00 pm
Join leaders Rouvaishyana and Claudia Freitas in the field for Basics of Bird ID. Bring binoculars and your field guide. 5 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Easy.
- Birding Field Trip
State Park Marina
BY
- 129** Beginner Birding at El Chorro Park
Friday, 01:00 pm - 04:00 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.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center
BY
- 130** Plugging into Bird Song Magic
Friday, 01:00 pm - 04:30 pm
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 #303 events, Bird Sounds Field Study.
- Birding Presentation
Community Center
- 131** Pacific Wildlife Care Tour
Friday, 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 #337.
- Nature Field Trip
Community Center
BY
- 132** Gardening to Attract Birds
Friday, 01:30 pm - 03:30 pm
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.
- Nature Field Trip
Community Center
B
- 133** Audio is the new Photo! Making your own bird recording collection
Friday, 01:30 pm - 03:30 pm
Norm Pillsbury is enhancing his birding by recording calls and songs. You can too! Some people have a life list of birds sighted, but how about starting your own collection of bird SOUNDS! Techniques examined are for the beginner to the professional. Catch Norm's enthusiasm for bird sounds and join him for a one-hour interactive workshop, immediately followed by one-hour in the field recording birds! Various "how-to" handouts. Field portion is nearby; walking distance or car pool. Bring your cell phone. Optional: Download the app: "Song Sleuth (Auto Bird Song ID)."
- Birding Presentation/Field Trip
Community Center
B
- 134** Finding those Elusive Owls
Friday, 02:00 pm - 03:00 pm
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 owling field trips, participants may take only the workshop. Bus will leave for owling field trip #141 at 3:30 PM, directly after end of workshop. Prerequisite for trip #141, #242, #343.
- Birding Presentation
Veterans Hall
BYW

- 135 Birding the Bay** Birding Field Trip
 Friday, 02:00 pm - 03:45 pm Virg's Landing/Tackle Shop \$30
 Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary with Bob Revel 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 1:45pm at Virg's Tackle Shop: 1169 Market Avenue, Morro Bay. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.
- 136 Birds of Sea and Land at Morro Rock** Birding Field Trip
 Friday, 02:00 pm - 04:00 pm Community Center BY
 Join State Parks Docent, Robbie Revel, 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 #329.
- 137 The Renowned 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 50-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.
- 138 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.
- 139 Bay Birding Cruise** Birding Field Trip
 Friday, 03:00 pm - 04:45 pm Sub Sea Tours BY \$30
 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 #232 and #241.
- 140 Protecting and Restoring the Morro Bay Estuary** 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.
- 141 Owls by day and night** Birding Field Trip
 Friday, 04:30 pm - 09:30 pm Community Center \$50
 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 #134 is a prerequisite for this field trip. Same as #242 and #343.

- 142** Festival Opening Reception
Friday, 05:00 pm - 06:30 pm
Enjoy wine and cheese and meet fellow birders at the Bird Festival Bazaar. Browse through the vendor booths featuring optics, books, garden art, nature photography and art, woodcarvings, jewelry, conservation and nature organizations and more!
- Special Event
Community Center BW
- 201** Condors Around Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge
Saturday, 06:15 am - 05:15 pm
Ride with Richard Neidhardt and Joseph Belli, longtime volunteers with the Pinnacles National Park condor recovery program, through some of California's primary condor habitat as you make your way to Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge, a release and supplemental feeding site for captive-bred California Condors. Observations of free-flying condors at Bitter Creek 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.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center \$80
- 202** All About Bird Banding
Saturday, 07:00 am - 10:00 am
Observe mist-netted passerines in Morro Bay State Park with Jodi Isaacs and Regena Orr, Environmental Scientists for California State Parks. Discuss identification, analysis and bird-banding data collection and 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. Same as event #102.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center
- 203** Bird Song Magic in the Field
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 #303.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center
- 204** Birding by Careful Observation
Saturday, 07:00 am - 12:00 pm
Leisurely in-depth bird observation and ID skills enhancement as facilitated by noted birder and guide Bob Barnes. Whole group discussion at 7AM, then practice in the field. This is not a 'tick and run' birding trip, but a stroll through El Chorro Regional Park sharing observations of bird characteristics - with participants and birds as the stars and Bob as facilitator. Field guides will be checked to verify. This trip is aimed at all level of birders including those who want to teach others how to learn bird ID most effectively. Bring binoculars and a favorite field guide. 15 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Same as #104 and #306.
- Birding Presentation/Field Trip
Community Center BY
- 205** Wildlife of the Spectacular Point Buchon Coastline
Saturday, 07:00 am - 02:00 pm
Join Sally Krenn, PG&E Biologist, and Eric Wier, 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 # 305, is two hours longer for those who want to walk the entire loop.
- Nature Field Trip
Community Center BY

- 206** Big Day Birding
Saturday, 07:00 am - 04:00 pm
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 #101.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center \$70
- 207** Big Pelagic: Birds & Whales
Saturday, 07:00 am - 04:00 pm
Spend a day at sea with Tom Edell, Curtis Marantz, Peter Gaede, and Will Knowlton 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.
- Birding Field Trip
Morro Bay Landing \$100
- 208** Wintering Water Birds from the Cal Poly Pier
Saturday, 07:15 am - 12:00 pm
Join Elena Keeling and Kelley Boland 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.
- Nature Field Trip
Community Center BW
- 209** Birds of the Rugged North Coast
Saturday, 07:15 am - 02:00 pm
Explore the rugged North Coast with Karen Clarke and Gale Kordowski, looking 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.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center \$20
- 210** Photographing Grebes and their Friends
Saturday, 07:30 am - 10:00 am
Join the "Grebe Whisperer" to discover behaviors and learn photo techniques for grebes and their friends. Krisztina Scheeff has been studying the Grebes for years. Learn about the rushing behavior of grebes and how to photograph them. Trip starts at the community center then moves to the bay in private vehicles. Bring your cameras!
- Birding Presentation/Field Trip
Community Center
- 211** Birding Beautiful Estero Bluffs
Saturday, 07:30 am - 12:00 pm
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.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center BY
- 212** Birding Spectacular Montaña de Oro State Park
Saturday, 07:30 am - 12:00 pm
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.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center BY
- 213** Hidden Delights of Oso Flaco Lake
Saturday, 07:30 am - 03:00 pm
Bird with Tim Ludwick, International birding expert, along with Peggy Burhenn and Wendy Walwyn. 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.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center \$60

- 214** Hike, not drive, a Big Day with Mike
Saturday, 07:45 am - 04:00 pm
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.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center
- 215** Stealth Birding by Kayak
Saturday, 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 #121, #227, #330, #404.
- Birding Field Trip
State Park Marina BY \$45
- 216** Ranchland Birding
Saturday, 08:00 am - 11:30 am
Tour a portion of the 1,200-acre private Vandenheuvel Ranch with international bird guide Greg Smith. This property, approximately a 30 minute carpool from the Morro Bay Community Center, consists of native chaparral, oak woodland, and grasslands habitat. Opportunity to see raptors (including golden eagles), meadowlarks, bluebirds, woodpeckers, and other species. The property is also used to rehab birds of prey from the Pacific Wildlife Center and contains a flight cage for rehab (possible to see rehabbing Great Horned Owls or Red-tailed Hawks as they recover). Expect about 1 mile or less of slow walking over mostly level terrain and multiple car stops. Wear sturdy shoes, bring a snack and water.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center
- 217** Birding Fiscalini Ranch Preserve
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 #405.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center
- 218** Birding 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 #316.
- Birding Field Trip
Cloisters, Azure Street
- 219** Recording Birds Using your Smart Phone!
Saturday, 08:00 am - 12:00 pm
What? You don't have a birding-by-ear expert with you every time you're out? Learn how to record YOUR OWN bird sound ID's with high-quality recording devices available. You already take pictures, now grow into making recordings! Thomas Graves loves recording bird sounds, and will walk you through field recording basics and how to save and share those recordings on your computer. After the presentation, the class will go outside and record a few sounds and download them to a laptop. Bring your smart phone and your laptop. Prepare for the workshop by downloading: <http://morrobaybirdfestival.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Audio-Recording-Workshop.pdf>.
- Birding Presentation/Field Trip
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. Ella Pennington
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center

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.

- 221** Intermediate Birders Along the Bluffs
Saturday, 08:15 am - 12:00 pm
Join leaders Marlin Harms and Bob Revel for intermediate 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.
- 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. Easy to moderate hiking for advanced beginner to intermediate birders. 5 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Easy.
- 223** Montaña de Oro Natural History Walk
Saturday, 08:30 am - 11:00 am
Join environmental educator Dean Thompson on a pleasant and mostly level natural history walk along the Bluff Trail at Montaña 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** Elfin Forest & Sweet Springs Preserve
Saturday, 08:30 am - 12:00 pm
Bird with Rusty Scalf and Michele Roest, Bird Festival board chair, 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.
- 225** Bird Photo-ops on a Bay Cruise
Saturday, 09:00 am - 10:45 am
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 #118, #328, #334, #341, #409.
- 226** Bird-viewing from SSV Seaview
Saturday, 09:00 am - 11:00 am
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 to see details of many species normally seen 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.
- 227** Stealth Birding by Kayak
Saturday, 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 #121, #215, #330, #404.

- 228** Human Interactions with Raptors through the Centuries Birding Presentation
Saturday, 10:30 am - 11:45 am Veterans Hall BYW
In 2016, UNESCO listed falconry as an "Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity." The oldest record of falconry was found on a carving in Syria, dated more than 5,500 years ago! Originally a method of obtaining food, the practice of falconry has evolved over time and is now associated with nature conservation, cultural heritage and a "green" method of protecting valuable crops humans. Are you fascinated by fast and powerful predators? Join Chris Cameron, Master Falconer and Bird Festival Program Chair, to learn about human interaction through the ages. Live raptors will be present. This workshop is a prerequisite to falconry experience activities #231, #327. Historical discussion will include raptor symbols in religion and politics, raptors as hunting partners in falconry, shifting to present day interaction with raptors. Learn how raptors protect things you care about: wine, blueberries, water, and airports! USFWS and CADFW permits are required to interact with raptors in rehab, education, falconry, abatement, and breeding. Prerequisite to #231 and #327..
- 229** Snowy Plovers in the Field Birding Field Trip
Saturday, 10:30 am - 12:00 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 #126.
- 230** Morro Bay's Fascinating Black Brants Birding Presentation
Saturday, 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 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.
- 231** Experience Falconry with a Master Falconer Birding Presentation/Field Trip
Saturday, 01:00 pm - 02:30 pm Community Center B \$10
Experience a trained raptor in free flight as master falconer, Chris Cameron, flies one of his raptors in a nearby field. Watch the "lure training" exercise routine. Learn about the birds used in falconry and some of the equipment of raptor husbandry including telemetry, hoods, jesses, and lures. Participants may have the opportunity to have the raptor fly to their glove under close supervision. Event #227 is a prerequisite. This event is identical to the offering on Sunday morning, #327. Event #227 is a prerequisite. This event is identical to the offering on Sunday morning, #327.
- 232** Slow & Quiet Bay Birding Cruise Gets Up Close Birding Field Trip
Saturday, 01:00 pm - 02:45 pm Sub Sea Tours BY \$30
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 #139 and #241.
- 233** Beginner Birding from the SSV Seaview Birding Field Trip
Saturday, 01:00 pm - 02:45 pm Sub Sea Tours B \$30
Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay with Dave Keeling 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.

234 Calling Birds In for Closer Study
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

235 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

236 Basics of Bird Photography
Saturday, 01:00 pm - 04:00 pm
Join wildlife photographer Don 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.

Birding Presentation
Inn at Morro Bay W

237 Pacific Wildlife Care - Meet the Raptors
Saturday, 01:30 pm - 02:30 pm
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. Program at Veterans' Hall in Morro Bay. Same as #240.

Birding Presentation
Veterans Hall BYW

238 Bird Box Building 101
Saturday, 02:00 pm - 04:00 pm
Tom Burhenn has been a woodworker for over 40 years. He will share his knowledge of woodworking to help the participants build a kestrel box. Plans will be shared for the kestrel box as well as other nest boxes that attendees may want to make when they return home. Wendy Walwyn and Peggy Burhenn, both avid birders, will discuss the need for boxes in specific species, as well as the care and placement of boxes in your landscape.

Nature Presentation
Community Center \$25

239 Birding By Ear Workshop
Saturday, 02:00 pm - 04:30 pm
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 the Sunday Birding By Ear field trip, event #312.

Birding Presentation
Inn at Morro Bay W

240 Pacific Wildlife Care - Meet the Raptors
Saturday, 03:00 pm - 04:00 pm
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 #238. Program at Veterans' Hall in Morro Bay. Same as #237.

Birding Presentation
Veterans Hall BYW

241 A Quiet Bay Birding Cruise Gets Up Close
 Saturday, 03:00 pm - 04:45 pm
 Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary with leaders Carol Comeau, Marlin Harms and Dean Thompson 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 #139 and #232.

Birding Field Trip
 Sub Sea Tours BY \$30

242 Owling Field Trip
 Saturday, 04:30 pm - 09:30 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 is State Parks Interpreter Rouvaishyana, and Peggy Burhenn. Presentation #134 is a prerequisite for this field trip. Same as #141 and #343.

Birding Field Trip
 Community Center \$50

243 How Woodpeckers Can Save the World (or at least your local woodland!)
 Saturday, 07:00 pm - 08:30 pm
 Join professional naturalist Steve Shunk to learn how North American woodpeckers perform multiple keystone roles in forest and woodland ecology. More than 40 North American bird species, dozens of mammals, and innumerable invertebrates depend on woodpeckers for their own lifestyles. However, humans need habitat, too, as well as wood products and agricultural resources. By clearing forests, felling snags, and suppressing fire, we have prevented woodpeckers from doing their jobs. Learn the basics of woodpecker natural history, anatomy, and ecology, and prepare to become new ambassadors for forest and woodpecker conservation.

Birding Special Event
 Cuesta College Performing Arts Center BYW

301 Birding the Carrizo Plain
 Sunday, 06:15 am - 05:00 pm
 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, Bell's 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.

Birding Field Trip
 Community Center \$80

302 Shorebirds Made Easy
 Sunday, 07:00 am - 10:00 am
 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.

Birding Presentation/Field Trip
 Museum BY

303 Bird Song Magic in the Field
 Sunday, 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 #203.

Birding Field Trip
 Community Center

304 Half Day Pelagic Trip
Sunday, 07:00 am - 12:00 pm
Join Wes Fritz, Brad Schram, Curtis Marantz and Tom Edell 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.

Birding Field Trip
Morro Bay Landing \$65

305 Wildlife of the Spectacular Point Buchon Coastline
Sunday, 07:00 am - 12:00 pm
Join long-time naturalist and birder Sally Krenn 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 #205, but shorter in duration.

Nature Field Trip
Community Center BY

306 Birding by Careful Observation
Sunday, 07:00 am - 12:00 pm
Leisurely in-depth bird observation and ID skills enhancement as facilitated by noted birder and guide Bob Barnes. Whole group discussion at 7AM, then practice in the field. This is not a 'tick and run' birding trip, but a stroll through El Chorro Regional Park sharing observations of bird characteristics - with participants and birds as the stars and Bob as facilitator. Field guides will be checked to verify. This trip is aimed at all level of birders including those who want to teach others how to learn bird ID most effectively. Bring binoculars and a favorite field guide. 15 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Same as #104 and #204.

Birding Presentation/Field Trip
Community Center BY

307 Big Day: Twitchers Anonymous
Sunday, 07:00 am - 04:00 pm
Join Jeff Miller for a fast-paced BIG DAY hitting hot spots throughout SLO County, focusing on regional specialties and rarities. Pace to be determined by the leaders. Expect a fast-paced day, seeing over 100 species, Travel with leader in van. Bring lunch. Easy but many in/out van stops.

Birding Field Trip
Community Center \$70

308 So Many Birds at the 'Little Sit' in the Elfin Forest
Sunday, 07:30 am - 11:30 am
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.

Birding Field Trip
Community Center

309 Raptors of Sunshine Ranch
Sunday, 07:30 am - 12:00 pm
Come experience Sunshine Ranch with leaders Kara Hagedorn and Charlie DeBerry. 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.

Birding Field Trip
Community Center BY

310 Oak Woodland and Wetland Birds
Sunday, 07:30 am - 12:00 pm
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.

Birding Field Trip
Community Center

- 311 Big Day Bicycle Birding** Birding Field Trip
 Sunday, 07:30 am - 04:30 pm 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!
- 312 Birding By Ear Field Trip** Birding Field Trip
 Sunday, 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 #239, Saturday, Birding By Ear Workshop, is a prerequisite for this trip.
- 313 Birding Wonders of Laguna Lake** Birding Field Trip
 Sunday, 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.
- 314 Beginner Birding in Montaña de Oro State Park** Birding Field Trip
 Sunday, 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 & #407.
- 315 Birding at El Chorro Park - Beginners Welcome** Birding Field Trip
 Sunday, 08:00 am - 11:00 am Community Center BY
 Join leaders Kristi VanWert and Tyson Baker and enjoy birds through leisurely in-depth observation and enhance your ID skills. 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.
- 316 Birds of the Morro Strand Scrub and Shore** Birding Field Trip
 Sunday, 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 #218.
- 317 Explore the Mushroom World with a Fun-Guy** Nature Field Trip
 Sunday, 08:00 am - 12:00 pm 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.

- 318** Birding with The Keynote Speaker
 Sunday, 08:00 am - 12:00 pm
 Join our Saturday Night Speaker Steve Shunk for a morning of birding while exploring a few birding hotspots around Morro Bay. Steve is sure to delight you as he shares his insights, knowledge and love of our many wintering species. Steve will be joined by local birder Marlin Harms. Moderate. Travel by personal vehicle.
- Birding Field Trip
 Community Center B \$30
- 319** The Diverse Habitats and Birds of San Simeon
 Sunday, 08:00 am - 12:00 pm
 Bird the Washburn area near San Simeon with Tim Ludwick, an international birding expert, and local birders Wendy Walwyn and Peggy Burhenn. Observe the different birds found at San Simeon by the creek, wetlands, shoreline, chaparral, and pine forest habitats. Expect a variety of land, shore and ocean birds including Hooded Mergansers and a variety of raptors. 50 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Moderate.
- Birding Field Trip
 Community Center
- 320** Secret Photography Hot Spots
 Sunday, 08:15 am - 12:00 pm
 Want to know where to photograph birds? 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 for Raptors
 Sunday, 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
- 322** Beginners' Birding Exploration of Sweet Springs and Cuesta Inlet
 Sunday, 08:30 am - 11:30 am
 Join Carol Comeau and Penny Principe in Los Osos for an easy 1-2 mile beginning birder walk exploring Sweet Springs Nature Preserve and Cuesta Inlet. The walk will focus on identification tips and the natural history of birds commonly seen in the back bay. Bring binoculars. 12 miles roundtrip by personal vehicle. Meet Carol and Penny at the main entrance of the Morro Coast Audubon Sweet Springs Nature Preserve, Ramona Avenue, Los Osos.
- Birding Field Trip
 Community Center BY
- 323** Exploring Morro Bay State Park
 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
- 324** Back Bay Birding
 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. Moderate. Same as #117.
- Birding Field Trip
 Community Center
- 325** Sustainable Seafood: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly!
 Sunday, 08:30 am - 12:30 pm
 Join Cuesta Biology professor Steve Hendricks for a two hour presentation about sustainable seafood. We will discuss different harvesting methods and the environmental impacts of each on the environment. We will consider mariculture as a possible solution, but also describe several impacts mariculture has on the environment. Once we learn the background and basics of seafood harvesting, we'll go on a two hour field trip to the docks of Morro Bay. We will examine fishing boats and gear and learn why the Central Coast has some of the best seafood in the
- Nature Presentation/Field Trip
 Community Center

world!!! Then we finish up the trip with a visit to Tognazzini's Dockside II Restaurant and a presentation by Mark Tognazzini where he'll serve us some fresh locally caught seafood!

- 326** Birding Hot Spots for Beginners
Sunday, 08:45 am - 12:00 pm
This field class is for beginners, but all birding levels are welcomed. 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
- 327** Experience Falconry with a Master Falconer
Sunday, 09:00 am - 10:30 am
Experience a trained raptor in free flight as master falconer, Chris Cameron, flies one of his raptors in a nearby field. Watch the "lure training" exercise routine. Learn about the birds used in falconry and some of the equipment of raptor husbandry including telemetry, hoods, jesses, and lures. Participants may have the opportunity to have the raptor fly to their glove under close supervision. Event #227 is a prerequisite. This event is identical to the offering on Saturday at 1pm, #231.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center \$10
- 328** 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 #118, #225, #334, #341, #409.
- Birding Field Trip
Sub Sea Tours B \$30
- 329** 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 #136.
- Birding Field Trip
Community Center BY
- 330** Stealth Birding by Kayak
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 #121, #215, #227, #404.
- Birding Field Trip
State Park Marina BY \$45
- 331** Monarch 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
- 332** MOTUS: an Exciting New Way to Track Birds, Bats and Insects
Sunday, 10:00 am - 11:15 am
The Motus Wildlife Tracking System (Motus, Latin for 'movement') is an international collaborative research network that uses a coordinated automated radio telemetry array to track the movement and behaviour of small flying organisms. Motus tracks animals (birds, bats, and large insects) affixed with digitally-encoded radio transmitters that broadcast signals several times each minute. These signals are detected by automated radio telemetry stations that scan for signals 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. When results from many stations are combined,
- Birding Presentation
Community Center

the array can track animals across a diversity of landscapes covering thousands of kilometers. Come and learn what the experts are discovering!

333 Easy Birding Birding Field Trip
Sunday, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm 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.

334 Bird Photo-ops on a Bay Cruise Birding Field Trip
Sunday, 01:00 pm - 02:45 pm Sub Sea Tours BY \$30
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 #118, #225, #328, #341, #409.

335 The Elfin Forest Wonderland Nature Field Trip
Sunday, 01:00 pm - 03:00 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/ 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 15th Street entrance. 10 miles.

336 From Anatomy to Function and Flight Nature Presentation
Sunday, 01:00 pm - 03:00 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.

337 Pacific Wildlife Care Tour Nature Field Trip
Sunday, 01:30 pm - 02:30 pm 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 #131.

338 Climate Change and its Effects on Birds Worldwide Birding Presentation
Sunday, 01:45 pm - 03:00 pm Community Center BYW
Dave Weeshoff has first hand experience observing how climate change/global warming has affected birds all over the world. Dave lives in La Crescenta and has been active as a wildlife rescue worker, and a leader in the San Fernando Valley Audubon chapter for many years. Learn about the effect of global climate change on birds, and participate in the conversation.

339 Nature Apps That Help You Enjoy Nature! Really. Nature Presentation
Sunday, 02:00 pm - 03:00 pm Inn at Morro Bay BY
It is a sad fact - your phone is smarter than you! It knows plants, animal tracks, bugs, and birds better than the best naturalist! So use your phone for something better than political arguments. Free nature apps can help you inspire your kids and grandkids to love the outdoors. In this workshop, Chris Cameron will discuss and demonstrate a few

of the best nature apps like SEEK by iNaturalist. Don't miss out on the fun nature based activities that you can discover and enjoy with your smart phone.

340 Bay 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 #135.

Birding Field Trip
Morro Bay Landing BY \$30

341 Bird Photo-ops on a Bay Cruise
Sunday, 03:00 pm - 04:45 pm
Beginning birders will enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary in an open-deck 34-foot power catamaran. Ella Pennington will point out beginner aspects of identifying 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 #118, #225, #328, #334, #409.

Birding Field Trip
Sub Sea Tours BY \$30

342 Listening to Shape & Structure of Bird Song
Sunday, 03:00 pm - 05:00 pm
Just as it is essential to know the bird body to distinguish male / female, juvenile / mature, and different species, it is also important to systematically describe bird sounds for accurate ID. Using an approach called "Earbirding", Tom Graves will help you listen to western birds and understand spectrograms. This will help you to remember sounds and build your skills. Just as we can describe plumage, so should we be able to understand and describe sound.

Birding Presentation
Museum BYW

343 Owling Field Trip
Sunday, 04:30 pm - 09:30 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. Leader for this field trip is State Parks Interpreter Rouvaishyana. Presentation #134 is a prerequisite for this field trip. Same as #141 and #242.

Birding Field Trip
Community Center \$50

344 Dancing with the Grebes and their Friends
Sunday, 07:00 pm - 08:30 pm
Wildlife & Nature Photographer Krisztina Scheeff spent years studying and photographing the Grebes on Lake Hodges. Their unique mating behaviour called "rushing" is one of the most photographed animal behaviors. Called the "Grebe Whisperer" by many of her clients and fellow professional photographers, Krisztina will take you on a photographic journey tonight in the world of Grebes and their friends and give you all the details on why and how these birds "walk on water" to find a mate. You will also get to experience some of her other favorites like the Atlantic Puffins.

Special Event
Cuesta College Performing Arts BYW

401 On the Prowl for Rare Birds
Monday, 07:00 am - 01:00 pm
This van trip to multiple local spots will have light to moderate walking - to look for birds are in the area that are rare for Central California. With some luck, we should see most of the rarities present. Last winter's local wintering rarities included Ross's Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Tropical Kingbird, Vermillion Flycatcher, Palm Warbler, White-throated Sparrow and Clay-colored Sparrow. Jim Royer and another local birder will co-lead: to increase our chances of re-finding the birds and making sure that participants have good looks. Be

Birding Field Trip
Community Center \$50

prepared for possible muddy conditions and either cold or warm weather. Take water, snacks or lunch, binoculars, camera, and a scope if you have one. Bad weather may cancel the trip.

402 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 en route north toward home, the Ranch is 18 miles round trip from Highway 101 in Paso Robles. Easy.

Birding Field Trip
Community Center
BY \$15

403 Lopez Lake Birding on Your Way Home
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 walk 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

404 Stealth Birding by Kayak
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 #121, #215, #227, #330.

Birding Field Trip
State Park Marina
BY \$45

405 Birding Fiscalini Ranch Preserve
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 #217.

Birding Field Trip
Community Center

406 Birding Las Cruzitas Ranch, Santa Ynez, on Your Way Home
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 #110

Birding Field Trip
Buellton
BW

407 Riparian Habitats of Montaña 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 Montaña 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

- 408** Birding Wonders of Oso Flaco Lake
Monday, 08:30 am - 12:00 pm
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.
- Birding Field Trip
Oso Flaco BY
- 409** Bird Photo-ops on a Bay Cruise
Monday, 09:00 am - 10:45 am
Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary with State Parks Docents Claudia Freitas 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 #118, #225, #328, #334, #341.
- Birding Field Trip
Sub Sea Tours BY \$30
- 410** Monday Mindwalk: Black Oystercatchers of SLO Coast
Monday, 10:00 am - 11:30 am
Learn about Black Oystercatchers along San Luis Obispo Coast and the balance of protecting their intertidal habitat and recreation. Jodi Isaacs, Environmental Scientist for California State Parks, will discuss life history, behavior, and the statewide Citizen Science program monitoring Black Oystercatcher nest success as part of the "Mindwalk" lecture series. Fee for the general public is \$3.
- Birding Presentation
Inn at Morro Bay
- 411** Morro Bay Up Close
Monday, 10:00 am - 11:45 am
John McCabe and Captain Stew begin 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 #124.
- Nature Field Trip
Morro Bay Landing BY \$30