Join us at the 24th Annual Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival

On Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, more than 500 birders will visit Morro Bay, California (a Globally Important Bird Area), to see, photograph, and learn about birds. The next Winter Bird Festival will be January 17-20, 2020. Morro Bay offers panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean, a federally protected estuary, plenty of beaches, parks and museums, and best of all, thousands of birds. 198 species were sighted during the 2019 Festival weekend.

The 2020 Festival features 141 events, including pelagic cruises, birding by boat and kayak, van and car trips throughout San Luis Obispo County, day hikes, and many informative workshops. Birders of all levels are welcome. Nature Track events (highlighted in turquoise on the Festival schedule) emphasize natural history and wildlife interactions, with less emphasis on bird identification.

Youth are encouraged to participate. Young adults and teens are encouraged to register for events on the Bird Festival website, where the registration fee is waived for attendees aged 17 and under. Family Day (for children under 12 accompanied by an adult) will be at the Museum of Natural History on Saturday, January 18th. See the schedule of events in this brochure.

On Thursday, January 16th, 3-7 pm, we offer early check-in at the Inn at Morro Bay located at 60 State Park Road. You can pick up your preordered registration packet and T-shirt. No new registrations or program changes.

On Thursday, January 16th, 3:00 – 7:00 pm, we offer early check-in at the Inn at Morro Bay and under. Family Day (for children under 12 accompanied by an adult) will be at the Museum of Natural History on Saturday, January 18th. See the schedule of events in this brochure.

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Visit our website at morrobaybirdfestival.org to find a complete description of all events and information about the area. Website registration begins Saturday, November 2, 2019, at 8:00 am Pacific Time. For newcomers, practice registration opens on Saturday, November 2, 2019, at 8:00 am Pacific Time. Some events fill up fast, so have a list of your top choices.

2020 BIRD FESTIVAL T-SHIRT

In consideration of rising shirt costs and feedback from our registrants, the T-shirt is offered as a separate item for $15 purchase during online registration. T-shirts will also be for sale in limited quantities at the Festival headquarters. This year, the artwork of René Reyes portrays a crouching green heron on a navy blue T-shirt.

REGISTRATION/CHECK-IN

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<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 3-7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 6:45am-9:30am</td>
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**FESTIVAL HOURS**

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**FESTIVAL HEADQUARTERS:** Morro Bay Community Center, 1001 Kennedy Way in Morro Bay

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**About the Events**

**FIELD TRIP KEY:**

Easy = under 1 mile, usually level ground

Moderate = 1 to 3 miles, mostly level ground

Strenuous = 3 miles or more, difficult terrain, thick sand, many steps, steep

**TRIP CANCELLATIONS:**

Field trips go, rain or shine! Ocean trips may be canceled at discretion of Coast Guard or ship’s captain. Other trips may be canceled at discretion of leader. Alternatives are in place if trips are canceled.

**DEPARTURES & TRAVEL:**

Field trips depart from Morro Bay Community Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay, or as designated in brochure, at times listed. Trip lengths are approximate and include travel time from and to the Community Center unless otherwise indicated in the Festival Program. Van Trips: no private vehicles; efforts are made to rotate seating at each stop.

**GEAR & FOOD:**

Be prepared for rain and chilly weather. Dress in layers. Bring binoculars, scopes, and other essentials. Poison oak, ticks and stinging insects may be encountered on land-based field trips.

**OCEAN TRIPS:**

Dress warmly and bring rain gear. If prone to motion sickness, take appropriate measures beforehand.

**BOX LUNCHES:**

Box lunches must be ordered in advance, and you are responsible for picking them up at the Morro Bay Community Center between 6 am and noon.

**WATER:**

Water is available to fill your own reusable bottles at the Community Center.

**FIELD TRIP ETIQUETTE:**

To make your excursion pleasant for all, please observe the following:

- Turn off cell phones.
- Speak quietly and avoid loud noises.
- Avoid wearing nylon and other “rustling” fabrics.
- Stay behind leader so leader can spot and identify birds.
- Once you have seen the bird, give others a chance.
- Refrain from using scented lotions or perfumes.
- And please, no dogs.

**SPECIAL FESTIVAL EVENTS**

EARLY CHECK-IN:

Thursday, January 16, 3-7 pm – Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road. Beat the Friday morning rush and pick up your preordered registration packet and T-shirt. Enjoy Happy Hour and the sunset in the lounge. We cannot accommodate new registrations or program changes at early check-in.

OPENING RECEPTION:

Friday, January 17, 5:00-6:30pm – Community Center – Enjoy wine and cheer and fellow birders at the Bird Festival Bazaar. Browse the vendor booths featuring optics, books, music, nature art & photography, woodcarvings, jewelry, educational exhibits, and more!

SATURDAY KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Stephen Shuck – “How Woodpeckers Can Save the World!” Saturday, January 18, 7:00-8:30 pm at the Cuesta College Performing Arts Center. Call the ‘Grebbe Whisperer’ by many of her students and fellow professional photographers, wildlife and nature photographer Kristztina Scheeff has spent years studying and photographing grebes on Lake Hodges in San Diego County. The unique mating behavior of grebes, pushing, is one of the most photographed of all animal behaviors. Kristztina will take you on a photographic journey into the world of grebes and provide details on why and how they ‘walk on water’ to find a mate. Kristztina will also share stunning photographs of some of her other wildlife favorites.

Based in San Diego, CA, Kristztina provides guided tours, and wildlife and nature photography workshops in Southern California and around the world, including Scotland and Ireland. Her enthusiasm and passion for wildlife photography rubs off on everyone she meets. She has been published as photographer of the month in Wild Planet Magazine and won numerous awards for her photography. Her prints have been on sale at various shows and exhibits and can be seen firsthand at the Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival Bazaar.

**Organization Sponsors:**

California State Parks
Central Coast State Parks Association
City of Morro Bay
Morro Coast Audubon Society
Pacific Wildlife Care

morrobaybirdfestival.org

Bird photos - courtesy of KS Nature Photography
**Schedule of Events – 2020 Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival**

**Codes:**

- **Type of Event:** F/Field Trip, P/Presentation, S/Special Program
- **Meeting Place:** BU/Buellton, CC/Community Center, CP/Cloisters Park, CLAZ/Cloisters Azure St, CPAC/Cuesta College Performing Arts Center, IMB/Inn at Morro Bay, MU/Museum of Natural History, MBL/Morro Bay Landing, OF/Oso Flaco, SM/Santa Maria, SPM/State Park Marina, SST/Sub-Seas Tours, VH/Veterans' Hall, V/Virg's Landing
- **Level of Difficulty:** B/Beginner, Y/Youth Encouraged, W/Wheelchair Accessible
- **Fees:** $: Fees for vans or boats, or field trips. Nature track event numbers are outlined in turquoise

**Register on-line Saturday, November 2, 2019, 8:00 am PT through Tuesday, January, 7, 2020, midnight PT at morrobaybirdfestival.org emailed confirmation.**

1. Pay with MasterCard or Visa on our secure connection. Or,
2. Pay by check to Morro Bay Bird Winter Festival, or MBWBF, and mail to Registrar, MBWBF, P.O. Box 1175, Morro Bay, CA 93443. Registrations will be held for one week pending payment.

**We cannot accept phone or fax registrations.**

**Registration and Event Fees:**

- **All Festival participants must register.**

**General Registration**

- **Adult, age 18 or older, Full Festival, $85**
- **Adult, age 18 or older, One-day, Friday, Saturday or Sunday, $45; Monday, $20.** (One-day registration includes events on that day only.)
- **Youth, age 17 or younger, registration is FREE.** Fees for vans, boats, and kayaks still apply. **Youth, age 12 or younger must be accompanied by a registered adult.**

**Family Day Only**

- **No preregistration is required and attendance is free! Some fees apply to specific events. See the Family Day Schedule Of Events for details.**

**Cancellation and Refund Policy:**

- **Cancellations made prior to January 7, 2020, will result in a refund of fees paid, less $25 administrative fee, for each registrant. Non-PayPal refunds will be processed by the Registrar after the Festival. No refunds will be made for cancellations after January 7, 2020, or for no-shows.**

- **Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival reserves the right to cancel any event for any reason, and you will receive a full refund for any paid event that we cancel.**

- **Need information about brochures, registration and/or closed events? Three choices:**
  1. Visit morrobaybirdfestival.org to download schedule and/or brochure.
  2. Call the Bird Festival hotline 1-805-234-1170.
  3. Email registrar at mbbfregistrar@gmail.com.

**Thank you to our 2020 Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival Sponsor:**

**Morro Bay Tourism - morrobay.org**

**Schedule is subject to change: go to morrobaybirdfestival.org for updates to schedule.**

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**FAMILY DAY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**S A T U R D A Y, J A N U A R Y 18, 2020**

**No pre-registration - First come, first served**

**F: Field Trip, P: Presentation, M: Museum, E: Embarcadero, VH: Veteran's Hall**

**9:30-10:15 & 10:30-11:15**

- **Intro to Birding and Habitat Hike F/M**
- **Intermediate / Teen Birding F/M**
- **Birds in Your Neighborhood F/M**
- **Birds in Your Neighborhood F/M**
- **Kayaking and Canoeing F/E/$10**
- **Rabbing Noses with Reptiles P/M**
- **Learn to Track F/M**
- **How Woodpeckers Can Save The World**

**10:15-11:00**

- **Learn to Track F&M**
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### Field Guide to the Festival

- **Introduction to Birding and Habitat Hike**
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