



Morro Bay Bird Festival 2023 Program

PROGRAM CODES:

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

\$: Fees for buses, boats, kayaks, field trips and master classes

Friday, January 13, 2023

- 101** Big Day Birding Friday, 07:00 am - 04:00 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Multiple Sites Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center \$85
Join Jeff Miller for a BIG DAY of birding! Expect a fast-paced day, with the possibility of rapid ID of over 100 species at hot spots in SLO County. Special effort on regional specialties and rarities. Pace to be determined by the leader with input from the group. Travel in bus with leaders and many in/out stops. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.
- 102** Birding Montana de Oro Friday, 07:45 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Montana de Oro Meet@:South Bay Community Center BY
Watch birds in a rugged coastal park with spectacular shorelines and canyons. Take a gentle walk with Mike Bush and John Callender 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. Meets at the South Bay Community Center in Los Osos. 2180 Palisades Ave, Los Osos.
- 103** Birds of the North Coast Friday, 08:00 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Multiple Sites Meet@:Elephant Seal Rookery
Visit spots along the rugged North Coast with Bob Keally and Terri May to look for surfbirds, turnstones, Snowy Plovers, scoters, mergansers, loons, grebes, gulls and more. We always hope to see a variety of raptors, including Peregrine Falcons, Golden Eagles, Bald Eagles, Ferruginous Hawks and Burrowing Owls. 60 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Moderate. Meets at the Elephant Seal Rookery north of San Simeon. Hwy 1, 7 miles north of San Simeon.
- 104** Birding Along the Bay Friday, 08:00 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Bayshore Bluffs Park Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center BY
Enjoy a walk along the edge of the bay with Rouvaishyana! Starting at Bayshore Bluffs Park, we will walk by the Inn at Morro Bay to view the heron rookery, on to the mudflat shore, then State Park Museum, and finally to the salt marsh. By walking along the edge of the bay, you will see a variety of habitats for many different birds. When the hike is completed, you will be near the Bayside Cafe where you can enjoy an informal no-host post-walk lunch with your new friends. Moderate pace; distance about 4 miles round trip from your car at Bayshore Bluffs Park. Walk back to cars at your own pace afterward. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.
- 105** Birding by Careful Observation Friday, 08:00 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: El Chorro Park Meet@:El Chorro Park B
Leisurely in-depth bird observation and ID skills enhancement with a stroll with Ella Pennington through El Chorro Regional Park sharing observations of bird characteristics. 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. El Chorro Park is located at State Hwy 1 @ Dairy Creek Rd. Meets in the SLO Botanical Gardens parking lot.
- 106** Los Osos Hot Spots with Jon Dunn Friday, 08:00 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Los Osos Multiple Meet@:South Bay Community Center Y \$50
Join Jon Dunn, Mike Stiles and Nora Livingston to bird the hot spots in Los Osos. Expect to find birds in a variety of habitats including coastal scrub, beach, tidal marsh, mudflats, open bay, and willow thickets. Explore 6-8 birding hotspots including Elfin Forest, Audubon Overlook, Back Bay, Sweet Springs, Doris Ave Marsh, and Pecho Willows. Meets at the South Bay Community Center in Los Osos. 2180 Palisades Ave, Los Osos.
- 107** Birds and Butterflies Friday, 08:00 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Los Osos Multiple Meet@:South Bay Community Center
Overwintering monarchs clustering together are a magical sight! Join Jessica Griffiths and drive to one or more monarch butterfly overwintering sites in and around Los Osos and/or Morro Bay and learn about monarchs, their ecology, and their migration. These sites may have hundreds or perhaps even thousands of butterflies! Which sites we visit will depend on the numbers of monarchs present. We will also look for birds in and around the monarch groves. We expect to see winter warblers, finches, sparrows, and perhaps roosting owls. Bring your camera, as there may be excellent opportunities for photos of clustered monarchs! Up to two miles of walking, some of it uphill. Up to 20 miles of driving (round trip). Meets at the South Bay Community Center in Los Osos. 2180 Palisades Ave, Los Osos.

- 108** Birding Las Cruzitas Ranch Friday, 08:00 am - 02:00 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Las Cruzitas Ranch Meet@:Las Cruzitas Ranch BW
Designed for those driving NORTH to the Festival from the south. This site is 75 miles SOUTH of Morro Bay! 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. Meets at the intersection of Alisos Road and Happy Canyon Road in Santa Inez.
- 109** Meander Morro Bay Marina Friday, 08:30 am - 11:00 am Birding Field Trip
Venue: MB State Park Marina Meet@:MB State Park Marina W
The Morro Bay State Park Marina boardwalk provides excellent opportunities for viewing a variety of birds on a level half-mile walk especially suited for photographers and people with wheelchairs and those using walkers and canes. Join Claudia Duckworth to view local birds, often seen from the boardwalk include: shorebirds, that include ducks, geese, loons, grebes, gulls, terns and herons, Peregrine Falcons, warblers, sparrows, finches and more! Meets at the Peninsula Trail Head, southeast end of the State Park Marina parking lot, across from Morro Bay State Park Campground.
- 110** Birding for Beginners Workshop Friday, 08:30 am - 11:30 am Birding Presentation/Field Trip
Venue: Inn at Morro Bay Meet@:Inn at Morro Bay BY
Get a jump start for your bird festival experience. Join Robbie Revel and Karen Watts to 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. Meets at the Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay. Cayucos Room.
- 111** Back Bay Birding Friday, 08:30 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Los Osos Multiple Meet@:South Bay Community Center
Join Rusty Scalf and 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. Meets at the South Bay Community Center in Los Osos. 2180 Palisades Ave, Los Osos.
- 112** Birding Estero Bluffs Friday, 08:30 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Estero Bluffs Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center
Join leaders Rick Derevan and Brooke Keeney for intermediate birding on a walk of 1.5-2 miles along the Estero 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. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.
- 113** Casual Little Big Day Friday, 08:30 am - 01:30 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Multiple Sites Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center \$65
Join Benjamin Jacobs-Schwartz for a slower paced Big Day for beginning and intermediate birders. Starting at a reasonable morning hour and getting back right after lunch, you will be in a spacious bus with large windows, visiting local birding hot spots, returning with a new long list of birds! There are many on/off the bus birding spots in a variety of habitats. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.
- 114** Big Day at Santa Margarita Lake Friday, 08:45 am - 04:00 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Santa Margarita Lake Ranger Station Meet@:Santa Margarita Lake Ranger Station BY
Join Ryan Wemple and Bettina Eastman for an all-day birding extravaganza walking along the lakeshore searching for waterfowl and oak woodland species in the morning, followed by a walk along the Salinas River as 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. Meets at Santa Margarita Lake Ranger Station. 4695 Santa Margarita Lake Road, Santa Margarita.

- 115** Bay Birding Photo Cruise Friday, 09:00 am - 10:45 am Birding Field Trip
Venue: Sub Sea Tours Meet@:Sub Sea Tours B \$40
Join expert photographer Dave Keeling to enjoy a leisurely photography focused boating tour of the bay and estuary in an open-deck 34-foot power catamaran. View a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl, often at 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. Meets at Sub Sea Tours, 699 Embarcadero, #9, Morro Bay.
- 116** Bats of California's Central Coast Friday, 09:00 am - 11:30 am Nature Presentation
Venue: Morro Bay Community Center Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center
California's Central Coast hosts 19 species of bats. Learn the many ways that bats benefit natural and human communities alike, but especially locally in support of sustainable agriculture as natural pest control agents. Join Bill Haas, Director, Central Coast Bat Survey, to learn how bat biologists (chiropterologists) study bats to distinguish between species, determine where they roost, how they find and capture their prey and the many specializations they possess that let them fly with aplomb on even the darkest of nights. Bill will highlight the technology he uses to detect and identify bats including ultrasonic detection and infrared videography. Odds are, after this presentation, you will want to become a bat watcher in your own neighborhood. Join Bill at the Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay. Lounge.
- 117** Shoreline Birding for Beginners Friday, 09:00 am - 11:30 am Birding Field Trip
Venue: Los Osos Multiple Meet@:South Bay Community Center BY
Seek out raptors, waterfowl, terns/gulls, diving species and shorebirds with Mark Mushkat 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. Should be great photo opportunities. This loop is mostly on sand and asphalt for a distance of about 1 mile. Meets at the Baywood Park Pier parking lot in Los Osos. 1399 Second St., Baywood-Los Osos.
- 118** The Diverse Birds of Morro Bay Friday, 09:00 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Morro Bay Multiple Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center
Join Dennis Sheridan to visit the best birding spots in Morro Bay, around the estuary, Morro Rock, the bay, the marina and more. Look for shorebirds, water birds and land birds. 15 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Moderate. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.
- 119** Birding by Kayak Friday, 09:00 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: MB State Park Marina Meet@:MB State Park Marina BY \$55
Go on a guided kayak tour of Morro Bay for an up close opportunity to see birds in their natural habitat! You may see: White Pelicans, brant, Common Loons and a host of other migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. Paddle near the Heron Rookery, Grassy Island oyster farm, mudflats and channels of the Back Bay. Using 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. Meets at the Morro Bay State Park Marina Kayak Shop. 10 State Park Road, Morro Bay.
- 120** Gulls of SLO Identified Friday, 09:00 am - 12:00 pm Birding Presentation/Field Trip
Venue: St Timothys Meet@:St Timothys
Learn techniques to identify resident and wintering gulls from leader Brad Schram. 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 and aging the gull species easily viewable on the shore. Binoculars are necessary and scopes are recommended but not required. Meets at St. Timothy's Church, 962 Piney Way, Morro Bay.

- 121** Owl Box Building and Wine Tasting at Wolff Winery Friday, 09:00 am - 01:00 pm Birding Build Bird Box
Venue: Wolff Vineyards Meet@:Wolff Vineyards \$40
The bucolic location for this workshop is at one of the first certified sustainable vineyards on the Central Coast, build an owl box, have lunch and sample wine! Wolff Vineyard, under the guidance of expert vintner Jean-Pierre Wolff, has focused on enhancing native resource enhancement for bird habitat, wildlife corridors, and steelhead trout restoration on boundary creeks, which then creates opportunities for a variety of bird species. Expert woodworkers will guide us in building an owl box, which can be taken home or donated to the vineyard. Toast your new skills with some of Wolff Vineyards award winning wines over lunch (bring your own) and enjoy the panoramic view of the Edna Valley. Note that as one box will be built by each pair of participants, bring your partner! The optional wine tasting has a discounted fee of \$10, refundable with bottle purchase. Meets at Wolff Vineyards. 6238 Orcutt Road, San Luis Obispo.
- 122** Master Class - Bird Photography Friday, 09:00 am - 05:00 pm Birding Master Class
Venue: Inn at Morro Bay Meet@:Inn at Morro Bay \$140
Are you the type who will spend hours, days, or even weeks just observing birds, waiting for the perfect shot? Wildlife photographers get unique images which can be vital to science, education, and conservation in addition to being beautiful art. Impactful photographs strike an emotional chord with the viewer. Along with technical skill, patience is required to succeed in this specialty area. Learn from experts how to ethically photograph wildlife without alerting or alarming them. Join Don Quintana and Sarah Killingsworth, professional wildlife photographers, who will take you into the field to capture your own set of photos. The camera and lenses are your primary tools, but creativity and compositional skills are critical components. Both Nikon and Canon equipment will be represented. Explore the mechanics and uses for the different settings on your camera and how to select different options to create the best results. Whether you aspire to work as a commercial photographer, create art, or simply want to enhance your photography skills, this master class will help you grow as a photographer. You will learn to improve your ability to create the best photographs possible. Meets at the Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay. Alcove Room.
- 123** Morro Bay Estuary from Black Hill Friday, 10:00 am - 11:30 am Nature Field Trip
Venue: Black Hill Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center BY
Join Jay Carroll and George Trevelyan to hike to the top of Black Hill for a remarkable view of the bay and watershed. Learn the history and ecology of the Morro Bay estuary, and important conservation actions taking place to protect this special resource, as you also look for a variety of birds that live here. 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. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.
- 124** Morro Bay Nature Cruise Friday, 10:00 am - 11:45 am Nature Field Trip
Venue: Morro Bay Landing Meet@:Morro Bay Landing BY \$35
While you will see birds, the focus of this trip is the natural history of Morro Rock and features of the estuary using photos, diagrams and hands-on materials. Join Dean Thompson for a bay cruise on a pontoon boat and learn the local sights and activities of this working harbor. There will be opportunities to photograph wintering birds, otters and sea lions. Easy access for limited mobility. Meets at Morro Bay Landing, 1213 Embarcadero, Morro Bay. Weather conditions may cancel.
- 125** Master Class - The Basics of Bird ID with David Allen Sibley Friday, 10:00 am - 03:00 pm Birding Master Class
Venue: Inn at Morro Bay Meet@:Inn at Morro Bay \$150
The seemingly simple challenge of identifying a bird actually involves a complex multi-level analysis of probability and pattern recognition. In this workshop David will break down some of the fundamental skills, and frequent pitfalls, that are common to all bird identification scenarios. Using live drawing and slides, he will cover topics like understanding bird topography, the patterns of variation in birds, and the psychology of perception. The goal is to strengthen your foundation of bird identification knowledge, to increase your understanding of the patterns, and to make it easier to identify whatever bird you see next. Meets at the Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay.

- 126** Snowy Plovers in the Field Friday, 11:15 am - 12:45 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Cloisters, Azure Street Meet@:Cloisters, Azure Street BY
 Explore the beach with Connor Jandreau 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. Meets in the parking lot across from 150 Azure Street, Morro Bay.
- 127** Condor Recovery Friday, 12:30 pm - 02:00 pm Birding Presentation
 Venue: St Timothy's Meet@:St Timothy's 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. Join Steve Schubert for an overview of condor biology and 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. Meets at St. Timothy's Church, 962 Piney Way, Morro Bay.
- 128** Basics of Bird ID in the Field Friday, 01:00 pm - 03:00 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: MB State Park Marina Meet@:MB State Park Marina BY
 Join Rouvaishyana and Phylene Wiggins for Basics of Bird ID in the field. Bring binoculars and your field guide. Meets at the Peninsula Trail Head, southeast end of the State Park Marina parking lot, across from Morro Bay State Park Campground.
- 129** Plugging into Bird Song Magic Workshop Friday, 01:00 pm - 04:30 pm Birding Presentation
 Venue: Inn at Morro Bay Meet@:Inn at Morro Bay BY
 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 Ray 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 all experience levels are welcome. Explore the principles of describing bird vocalizations in general and become familiar with specific vocalizations of common birds in the Morro Bay area. This workshop is a prerequisite for Bird Sounds Field Study field trips (202 and 302). Meets at the Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay. Cayucos Room.
- 131** Gardening to Attract Birds Friday, 01:30 pm - 03:30 pm Nature Field Trip
 Venue: SLO Botanical Garden Meet@:SLO Botanical Garden B
 Join Ken Levine for a tour of the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden to highlight plants from the five Mediterranean climate zones of the world providing insight for your own garden bird habitat. See many nectar-producing flowers with various ways of pollination. Hummingbirds are often seen in the winter-blooming South African aloe garden. 15 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Easy. State Hwy 1 @ Dairy Creek Rd. Meets at SLO Botanical Gardens. 3450 Dairy Creek Road, San Luis Obispo
- 132** Bird Recording Friday, 01:30 pm - 03:30 pm Birding Presentation/Field Trip
 Venue: Morro Bay Community Center Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center B
 Enhance your birding by learning how to record calls and songs. Join Norm Pillsbury to learn techniques in an interactive workshop immediately followed by recording birds in the field! Bring your cell phone and download the app: Song Sleuth (Auto Bird Song ID). Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay. Lounge.
- 133** Los Osos Hot Spots Friday, 01:30 pm - 04:00 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Los Osos Multiple Meet@:South Bay Community Center
 Join Jessica Griffiths to bird the hot spots in Los Osos. Expect to find birds in a variety of habitats including coastal scrub, beach, tidal marsh, mudflats, open bay, and willow thickets. This personal vehicle caravan will stop and explore at 6-8 birding hotspots including Elfin Forest, Audubon Overlook, Back Bay, Sweet Springs, Doris Ave Marsh, and Pecho Willows. Meets at the South Bay Community Center in Los Osos. 2180 Palisades Ave, Los Osos.
- 134** Shoreline Birding for Beginners Friday, 01:30 pm - 04:00 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Los Osos Multiple Meet@:South Bay Community Center BY
 Learn to identify the more common gulls and shorebirds with Ella Pennington along the beaches of Baywood Park in Los Osos. The walk begins at the pier, on to Pasadena beach park, and to the 4th St Audubon Lookout. Designed for beginners and lower intermediate adults. Walk is mostly on damp sand, and under 1 mile. Meets at the South Bay Community Center in Los Osos. 2180 Palisades Ave, Los Osos.

- 135** Birding Laguna Lake Friday, 01:30 pm - 04:00 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Laguna Lake Meet@:Laguna Lake BY
Laguna Lake and the surrounding park are a migratory stop and home to many waterfowl, including ducks, gulls, grebes, shorebirds, herons, egrets, Snow Geese. Join Bob Keally and Scott Inman to see these and other birds like House Finch, Goldfinch, meadowlarks, raptors and even a possible Loggerhead Shrike. Beginners welcome! Includes 1 mile of level walking. 30 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Easy. 504 Madonna Rd, San Luis Obispo, meets at the Laguna Lake bathroom parking lot (lakeside, next to playground and picnic area).
- 136** Bird Montana de Oro State Park Friday, 01:30 pm - 04:00 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Montana de Oro Meet@:South Bay Community Center BY
Montana de Oro is a spectacular 8,600-acre state park with untamed coastline and coastal uplands. Join Mark Mushkat to bird the rocky-shore shorebirds, water birds, raptors, and passerines in various habitats. Includes 1-2 miles of slow walking. 8 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Moderate exertion, good for beginning to intermediate birders. Meets at the South Bay Community Center in Los Osos. 2180 Palisades Ave, Los Osos.
- 137** Morro Bay Hot Spots with Jon Dunn Friday, 01:30 pm - 05:00 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Morro Bay Multiple Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center \$50
Join Jon Dunn and Mike Stiles to bird the hot spots in Morro Bay. Explore 4 - 5 birding hotspots including the Marina Boardwalk, Windy Cove, Bayshore Bluffs/ Grassy Island and Morro Rock. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.
- 138** Finding those Elusive Owls Friday, 02:00 pm - 03:00 pm Birding Presentation
Venue: Morro Bay Community Center Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center BYW
Join Chris Cameron to learn how to find those elusive owls. 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. This workshop is a prerequisite for the 3 owling field trips (14, 252 and 347); however, participants may take only the workshop. Friday Owling participants will leave for the first owling field trip at 3:30 PM, directly after the workshop. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay. Multipurpose Room.
- 139** Bay Birding Cruise Friday, 02:00 pm - 03:45 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Morro Bay Landing Meet@:Morro Bay Landing \$35
Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary in an open-deck 34-foot power catamaran with Mike Bush and Nora Livingston. View a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl, often at 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. Meets at Morro Bay Landing, 1213 Embarcadero, Morro Bay. Weather conditions may cancel.
- 140** Birding Morro Rock Friday, 02:00 pm - 04:00 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Morro Rock Meet@:Morro Rock BY
Morro Rock is home to Peregrine Falcons, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Common Yellowthroat, various sparrows, the elusive Canyon Wren, and sometimes a Burrowing Owl.. Join Rick Derevan to see cormorants, various species and age classes of gulls, Brown Pelicans and maybe a Common Murre. Meets at Morro Rock. Coleman Drive, Morro Bay. Meet across from bathrooms, next to Morro Rock.
- 141** Peregrine Falcons of Morro Rock Friday, 02:30 pm - 05:00 pm Birding Presentation/Field Trip
Venue: St Timothys Meet@:St Timothys BYW
Through lecture and observation, you will learn the biology and current status of local resident Peregrine Falcons from Steve Schubert, author of The Peregrine Falcons of Morro Rock. This famous Morro Rock nesting site was a critical link in saving the species from extinction and has been monitored for over 50 years. Easy. Meets at St. Timothy's Church, 962 Piney Way, Morro Bay.
- 142** Rookery Wonders in Windy Cove Friday, 03:00 pm - 04:30 pm Birding Presentation
Venue: Inn at Morro Bay Meet@:Inn at Morro Bay BYW
Join Louise Abbott to learn about courtship rituals and nesting habits of Great Blue Herons, Great and Snowy Egrets, Black-crowned Night-herons and other residents of the rookery in Morro Bay State Park. Meets at the Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay. Morro Bay Room.

143 Bay Birding Cruise Friday, 03:00 pm - 04:45 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Sub Sea Tours Meet@:Sub Sea Tours BY \$40
Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary with Roger Zachary and Robert Lindsay in an open-deck 34-foot power catamaran. View a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl, often at 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. Meets at Sub Sea Tours, 699 Embarcadero, #9, Morro Bay.

144 Owling Field Trip Friday, 03:30 pm - 09:30 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Multiple Sites Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center \$65
Overview: Leaving from the Morro Bay Community Center at 3:30 PM and returning around 9:00 PM, we begin searching for daytime owls 3:30-5:30 PM, then eat dinner together 5:30-6:30 PM, finishing up listening for nighttime owls 6:30-8:30 PM. Details: Daytime owling for Short-eared, burrowing and roosting owls. We will stop for no-host dinner to share stories as we wait for dark. After dark, we listen for nighttime owls. Dress warmly in quiet clothes - no nylon. We will be walking quietly through mud, standing silently in 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. The Finding Those Elusive Owls workshop (138) is a pre-requisite. Travel with leader in bus with many in/out stops. Heavy rain will cancel field trip, but not workshop. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

145 Friday Opening Reception Friday, 05:00 pm - 06:30 pm Birding Special Event
Venue: Morro Bay Community Center Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center BW
Enjoy wine and cheese 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! If you purchased a copy of David Sibley's book, What It's Like to Be a Bird, during the registration process, David will be available to sign your book at this event. Takes place at the Morro Bay Community Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

Saturday, January 14, 2023

201 Early Morning Marina Boardwalk Birding & Photo Stroll Saturday, 07:00 am - 09:00 am Birding Field Trip
Venue: MB State Park Marina Meet@:MB State Park Marina
Join Krisztina Scheeff / KS Nature Photography for a fun morning early walk on the Morro Bay State Park Marina boardwalk to view a variety of birds. If you like, bring your camera as we will be in a perfect spot for the early morning light and bird action. This trip is open to Birders and Photographers. If you are new to Bird Photography, this trip is perfect for you since Krisztina will offer tips and help on bird photography. This trip is also suited for people with wheelchairs and those using walkers and canes. Meets at the Peninsula Trail Head, southeast end of the State Park Marina parking lot, across from Morro Bay State Park Campground.

202 Bird Song Magic in the Field Saturday, 07:00 am - 11:30 am Birding Field Trip
Venue: Morro Bay Community Center Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center
Join Roy Poucher in the field for the hands-on companion to the Bird Sounds Workshop. Solidify the general principles learned with practical experience and field identification of specific local bird songs and calls. We will stand at different locations, silently noting bird sounds, then discuss as a group. Notebooks needed, but binoculars are not! The Friday afternoon Bird Sounds Workshop (129) is a prerequisite for this event. Total walking distance will be about 1.2 miles. Easy. Travel by personal vehicle. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

203 Wildlife of Point Buchon Saturday, 07:00 am - 02:00 pm Nature Field Trip
Venue: Point Buchon Meet@:South Bay Community Center BY
Explore the spectacular scenic coastline at Point Buchon with seasoned leaders Sally Krenn and Eric Wier. 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. Meets at the South Bay Community Center in Los Osos. 2180 Palisades Ave, Los Osos.

- 204** Big Pelagic: Birds & Whales Saturday, 07:00 am - 04:00 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Morro Bay Landing Meet@:Morro Bay Landing \$120
 Join leaders Jeff Miller, Will Knowlton, Curtis Marantz and Peter Gaede to search for albatross, shearwaters, kittiwakes, alcids, jaegers, gray whales and more with experienced leaders. Dress for cold and wind, including gloves. The boat is typically used for fishing; no outdoor seating on deck. 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. Meets at Morro Bay Landing, 1213 Embarcadero, Morro Bay. Weather conditions may cancel.
- 205** Learning To Look Saturday, 07:30 am - 09:30 am Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Morro Bay Community Center Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center W \$20
 Enjoy an intimate setting connecting with nature with author Richard Crossley. Understanding is the key to learning. As you shift your focus to look at birds longer, closer, and from a broader perspective than is typical, a new world of discovery opens up. This program is for those who want to learn how to understand and interpret what they are seeing, observe interesting behaviors, and discover identification tricks of the birding trade. Ideal for beginners or experts alike, come experience bird watching as an open door into the natural world and connect with nature for your overall well-being. Everything in nature is connected and for a purpose. Learn to look like the experts do with Richard. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.
- 206** Birding Estero Bluffs with Jon Dunn Saturday, 07:30 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Estero Bluffs Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center Y \$50
 Join Jon Dun, Bettina Eastman and Nora Livingston 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. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.
- 207** Bird Montana de Oro State Park Saturday, 07:30 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Montana de Oro Meet@:South Bay Community Center BY
 Montana de Oro is a spectacular 8,600-acre state park with untamed coastline and coastal uplands. Join Jay Carroll and Bert Townsend to search for 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. Meets at the South Bay Community Center in Los Osos. 2180 Palisades Ave, Los Osos.
- 208** Birding by Kayak Saturday, 08:00 am - 11:00 am Birding Field Trip
 Venue: MB State Park Marina Meet@:MB State Park Marina BY \$55
 Go on a guided kayak tour of Morro Bay for an up close opportunity to see birds in their natural habitat! You may see: White Pelicans, brant, Common Loons and a host of other migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. Paddle near the Heron Rookery, Grassy Island oyster farm, mudflats and channels of the Back Bay. Using 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. Meets at the Morro Bay State Park Marina Kayak Shop. 10 State Park Road, Morro Bay.
- 209** Ranchland Birding Saturday, 08:00 am - 11:30 am Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Vandenheuvel Ranch Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center
 Join Greg Smith to tour a portion of the 1,200-acre private Vandenheuvel Ranch, a 30 minute carpool from the Morro Bay Community Center. The ranch has native chaparral, oak woodland, and grasslands habitat, providing the opportunity to see various raptors (including golden eagles), meadowlarks, bluebirds, woodpeckers, and more. The property also contains a flight pen to rehabilitate birds of prey from the Pacific Wildlife Center. 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. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.
- 210** Advanced Bird Photography Saturday, 08:00 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Multiple Sites Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center
 Experienced photographers trip led by Don Quintana, Jerry Kirkhart and Sarah Killingsworth. Bring your camera, lenses, tripod, and binoculars (spotting scope optional) to photograph birds at local hot spots with expert photographers who will offer instruction for great images. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

- 211** Wintering Birds at Cal Poly Pier Saturday, 08:00 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Cal Poly Pier Meet@:Cal Poly Pier BW
 The Cal Poly Pier in Avila Beach is closed to the public but open to you! Join leaders Elena Keeling and Dave Keeling to Learn about the research being done here as you walk this manmade 1/2 mile extension into San Luis Bay. Expect to see wintering water birds, and other marine life. Then walk to the mouth of San Luis Obispo Creek for a variety of shorebirds. Total walking distance will be 2 miles, all on paved surfaces, though closed-toed shoes are required. 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. The Cal Poly Pier is located between the Avila Pier and the Port San Luis Hartford Pier in Avila Beach.
- 212** Birds of the North Coast Saturday, 08:00 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Multiple Sites Meet@:Elephant Seal Rookery
 Join Bob Keally to search different hotspots along the rugged North Coast to look for surfbirds, turnstones, snowy plovers, scoters, mergansers, loons, grebes, gulls and more. We always hope to see a variety of raptors, including peregrine falcons, golden eagles, ferruginous hawks and burrowing owls. Sixty miles round trip by personal vehicle. Moderate. Meets at the Elephant Seal Rookery north of San Simeon. Hwy 1, 7 miles north of San Simeon.
- 213** Birding Morro Strand Saturday, 08:00 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Cloisters, Azure Street Meet@:Cloisters, Azure Street
 Join Lucien Plauzoles for a slow paced, level stroll on Morro Strand, past a pond, through coastal scrub, and then onto sandy beach to observe ducks, herons, gulls, terns, grebes and several species of shorebirds including snowy plovers. Moderate 1.5-2 mile walk with some soft sand. Meets in the parking lot across from 150 Azure Street, Morro Bay.
- 214** Smart Phone Bird Recording Saturday, 08:00 am - 12:00 pm Birding Presentation/Field Trip
 Venue: Inn at Morro Bay Meet@:Inn at Morro Bay BW
 Not a birding-by-ear expert yet? Learn how to record YOUR OWN bird sound ID's. You already record birds by photo, take the next step of recording bird songs! Tom 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, if possible, your laptop. Prepare for the workshop by downloading: <http://morrobaybirdfestival.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Audio-Recording-Workshop.pdf>. Meets at the Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay. Cayucos Room.
- 215** Bare Naked Birding Saturday, 08:00 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Multiple Sites Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center
 Naked birding? Sounds exotic and possibly dangerous! But this 'naked' means NO TOOLS - just your eyes...no binoculars, scopes, cameras, or even ID books! Tools are great when you go birding on purpose, but often you are 'out and about,' for non-birding reasons. Ella Pennington will help you enjoy 'accidental birding moments' by training your eyes and ears to identify birds without aids. Just like people have been doing for thousands of years. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.
- 216** Birding by Careful Observation Saturday, 08:00 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: El Chorro Park Meet@:El Chorro Park BY
 Leisurely in-depth bird observation and ID skills enhancement with a stroll through El Chorro Regional Park sharing observations of bird characteristics. Field guides will be checked to verify. This trip led by Ed Harper, Norm Pilsbury and Steve Tillman 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. El Chorro Park is located at State Hwy 1 @ Dairy Creek Rd. Meets in the SLO Botanical Gardens parking lot.
- 217** Los Osos Sweet Springs Preserve Saturday, 08:00 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Los Osos Multiple Meet@:South Bay Community Center
 Join Mark Mushkat for an unhurried walk around the edges and through the heart of the Morro Coast Audubon Sweet Springs Preserve. The group will look for wintering songbirds as well as waterfowl and shorebirds in the nearby estuary. Previous winters have seen hawks, falcons, owls, osprey and kingfishers in this area. The effort will be easy to moderate and the walk should appeal to beginning/moderate birders. Likely excellent opportunities for photography. Meets at the South Bay Community Center in Los Osos. 2180 Palisades Ave, Los Osos.

- 218** Condor Country Saturday, 08:00 am - 05:30 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Multiple Sites Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center
 Explore the foraging, roosting, and historical nesting habitats of the endangered California Condor with Joseph Belli. Travel to San Simeon, which lies below a release site where condors are reintroduced to the wild along the summit of the Santa Lucia Range, high above. A sighting of a free-flying condor is a possibility but on any given day not a guarantee. If condors have not yet been sighted then a long-distance drive north along Hwy. 1 to the rugged Big Sur coast is a possibility, but this field trip option is not a certainty. The trip will focus on condor biology and the Condor Recovery Program, including radio tracking demonstrations. Other possible raptor sightings include eagles, hawks, harriers, kites, falcons, and accipiters. Personal vehicles. Bring lunch or money for a lunch stop. Meets at the Morro Bay Community Center, 1001 Kennedy Way.
- 219** Songbirds in the Pines Saturday, 08:15 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Black Hill La Loma Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center
 Join Rouvaishyana, Karen Watts and Brooke Keeney to explore the 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. Easy to moderate hiking for advanced beginner to intermediate birders. 5 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Easy. Guide is able to present this walk in Spanish. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.
- 220** Montana de Oro Nature Walk Saturday, 08:30 am - 11:00 am Nature Field Trip
 Venue: Montana de Oro Meet@:South Bay Community Center BY
 Enjoy a pleasant and level natural history walk with Dean Thompson along the Bluff Trail at Montana de Oro State Park for magnificent views and a variety of birds. You may see brown pelicans, black oystercatchers, turnstones, cormorants, sparrows and more. You may also see marine mammals: harbor seals, sea otters, and maybe spouting whales! Explore the rocky intertidal/tide pool ecosystem at Coralina Cove. 2-mile walk. Easy. Meets at the South Bay Community Center in Los Osos. 2180 Palisades Ave, Los Osos.
- 221** Meander Morro Bay Marina Saturday, 08:30 am - 11:00 am Birding Field Trip
 Venue: MB State Park Marina Meet@:MB State Park Marina BYW
 The Morro Bay State Park Marina boardwalk provides opportunities for viewing a variety of shorebirds, ducks, geese, loons, grebes, gulls, terns and herons. Peregrine Falcons and other raptors are often seen. Led by Claudia Duckworth, the level half-mile walk is especially suited for photographers, wheelchairs and those using walkers and canes. Easy. Meets at the Peninsula Trail Head, southeast end of the State Park Marina parking lot, across from Morro Bay State Park Campground.
- 222** Young Birders Field Trip in Los Osos Saturday, 08:30 am - 11:30 am Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Los Osos Multiple Meet@:South Bay Community Center Y
 Join Max Taylor and Friends to bird the hot spots in Los Osos. Expect to find birds in a variety of habitats including coastal scrub, beach, tidal marsh, mudflats, open bay, and willow thickets. Explore 6-8 birding hotspots including Elfin Forest, Audubon Overlook, Back Bay, Sweet Springs, Doris Ave Marsh, and Pecho Willows. This trip is specifically for young birders. Meets at the South Bay Community Center in Los Osos. 2180 Palisades Ave, Los Osos.
- 223** Birding with David Allen Sibley Saturday, 08:30 am - 11:30 am Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Multiple Sites Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center \$125
 Join David Allen Sibley and Jessica Griffiths to bird special locations around Morro Bay; expect to see a variety of birds in different habitats. There will be multiple stops with easy in and out access in a luxury limo bus. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.
- 224** A Snipe Hunt For Rails? Saturday, 08:30 am - 11:30 am Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Oso Flaco Meet@:Oso Flaco
 Search for rails in this uniquely rich environment with Robert Lindsay. We might see Virginia Rails and Sora and any other surprise species in the rail family. We will explore the riparian habitat on our walk into the lake and then search for rails on the lake and surrounding areas. Meet at Oso Flaco parking lot, 3004 Oso Flaco Lake Road, Arroyo Grande. State Parks requires a parking fee of \$5.

- 225** Land and Sea Birds at Morro Rock Saturday, 08:30 am - 11:30 am Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Morro Rock Meet@:Morro Rock BY
 Morro Rock is home to Peregrine Falcons, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Common Yellowthroat, various sparrows, the elusive Canyon Wren, and sometimes a Burrowing Owl. Join Claudia Freitas to look for cormorants, various species and age classes of gulls, Brown Pelicans and maybe a Common Murre. Meets at Morro Rock. Coleman Drive, Morro Bay. Meet across from bathrooms, next to Morro Rock.
- 226** Birding Elfin Forest & Sweet Springs Saturday, 08:30 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Elfin Forest Meet@:South Bay Community Center BY
 The Elfin Forest and Sweet Springs Preserve provide a variety of habitats and bay overlooks. Expect to see raptors, passerines and shorebirds in this easy-paced walk led by Rusty Scalf and Richard Neidhardt. 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. Easy. Meets at the South Bay Community Center in Los Osos. 2180 Palisades Ave, Los Osos.
- 227** Santa Rita Ranch Diverse Habitats Saturday, 08:30 am - 12:30 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Santa Rita Ranch Meet@:Santa Rita Ranch
 Be one of the first to explore the rolling grass-covered foothills of the Santa Rita Ranch within the Santa Lucia Mountains. You will be joined on your adventure by Daniel Bohlman, the Deputy-President of The Land Conservancy, a San Luis Obispo land trust and Mike Stiles. The crown jewel and so focus of this trip is the 234-acre foot lake, the fourth largest privately-owned lake in the county. You will also explore the downstream riparian habitat, chaparral and coastal oaklands. Walking boots are a necessity! Meets at Santa Rita Ranch in Templeton. 3520 Old Creek Road, Templeton.
- 228** Casual Little Big Day Saturday, 08:30 am - 01:30 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Multiple Sites Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center \$65
 This is slower paced Big Day for beginning and intermediate birders led by Benjamin Jacobs-Schwartz and John Callender. Starting at a reasonable morning hour and getting back right after lunch, you will be in a spacious bus with large windows, visiting local birding hot spots, returning with a new long list of birds! Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.
- 229** Big Day at Santa Margarita Lake Saturday, 08:30 am - 03:15 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Santa Margarita Lake Ranger Station Meet@:Santa Margarita Lake Ranger Station
 Join Mark Holmgren for a big day of birding at Santa Margarita Lake. Meet at the Park entrance (navigate to 35.32372 -120.49291). Parking fees will be waived for Festival participants. The trip will involve walking, driving, and scoping along the lakeshore, marsh, deciduous woodland, oak woodland, and Salinas River riparian area. It is possible to see over 60 species of birds. Bring snacks, water, and a picnic lunch. Spotting scopes are highly desirable. Up to 4 miles of walking. 70-90 miles round trip by personal vehicle, 45 minutes one-way from the Morro Bay. Moderate. Meets at Santa Margarita Lake Ranger Station. 4695 Santa Margarita Lake Road, Santa Margarita.
- 230** Bay Birding Photo Cruise Saturday, 09:00 am - 10:45 am Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Sub Sea Tours Meet@:Sub Sea Tours B \$40
 Join local expert photographer Rick Derevan and enjoy a leisurely photography focused boating tour of the bay and estuary in an open-deck 34-foot power catamaran. View a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl, often at 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. Meets at Sub Sea Tours, 699 Embarcadero, #9, Morro Bay.
- 231** Basic Bird Art Saturday, 09:00 am - 11:00 am Birding Presentation
 Venue: Morro Bay Community Center Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center
 Have you ever wanted to draw birds, but found it difficult to know how to start? Or maybe you already love drawing birds, but want to learn some new tips and tricks to enhance your practice? This bird drawing workshop led by Christina Baal is designed to break through the trepidation of the 'white page' and get you drawing birds right away. We will learn simple but effective techniques to improve drawing and observation skills that can be easily practiced even alongside hectic daily schedules. Most importantly, this workshop is designed to convince you that drawing is fun and can be a practice to look forward to in order to improve your skills as an artist AND a as a birder. While this workshop is geared toward beginners, all skill levels are welcome! Basic art materials will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own favorites. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay. Lounge.

- 232** Bay Birding Cruise Saturday, 09:00 am - 11:00 am Birding Field Trip
Venue: Sub Sea Tours Meet@:Sub Sea Tours B \$40
Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay on the SSV Seaview, a semi-submersible boat with a below deck area to view life under the water line. Identify a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl in winter plumage at very close range as the boat moves slowly to see details of many species normally seen from shore. Good photo opportunities, but no tripods. Dress warmly. Meets at Sub Sea Tours, 699 Embarcadero, #9, Morro Bay.
- 233** Birding by Kayak Saturday, 09:00 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: MB State Park Marina Meet@:MB State Park Marina BY \$55
Go on a guided kayak tour of Morro Bay for an up close opportunity to see birds in their natural habitat! You may see: White Pelicans, brant, Common Loons and a host of other migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. Paddle near the Heron Rookery, Grassy Island oyster farm, mudflats and channels of the Back Bay. Using 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. Meets at the Morro Bay State Park Marina Kayak Shop. 10 State Park Road, Morro Bay.
- 234** Master Class - Falconry Experience Saturday, 09:00 am - 02:00 pm Birding Master Class
Venue: Camp Ocean Pines Meet@:Camp Ocean Pines \$90
Falconry is the activity of hunting with trained birds of prey. It started around 5,000 BCE and has been in continuous practice worldwide. UNESCO has recognized falconry as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, giving falconry a unique status. Experienced falconers working with wildlife agencies have helped bring raptor population back from the edge of extinction. Present day falconers often provide eco-friendly pest control, using thousands of years of predator/prey relationships to protect things humans care about - like wine grapes, blueberries, and safe air travel! This Master Class led by Chris Cameron will introduce you to the ancient practice. You will be introduced to the practice of falconry, the various birds used, and an opportunity to create a piece of leather gear used in sport. One of the highlights of the day will be experiencing a trained raptor flying to your glove. Come learn what historical and present-day falconry is all about. Meets at Camp Ocean Pines, 1473 Randall Dr, Cambria. Lunch will be included.
- 235** Master Class - Pro Gull ID Saturday, 09:00 am - 03:00 pm Birding Master Class
Venue: Inn at Morro Bay Meet@:Inn at Morro Bay \$80
Gulls are intelligent, adaptable, and beautiful birds, members of a large, widespread family of seabirds. However, they're notoriously difficult to identify. Entire books focus on differentiating one gull from another. This one has a black head. This one has a yellow bill with a black ring. One has a light gray back, and another a medium gray back. How about the yellow bill with a red spot? Did you know many gulls look similar but have different color legs? After this master class, you will be able to spot some of the differences for yourself. Join local expert, Kaaren Perry, to learn the variation within species, in different seasons, and juvenile plumages through the years. Our study group for the workshop will be resident and wintering gull species of SLO County. Although variation in species is easy to overlook, this is a true master class in the subtle differences from one species to another. Meets at the Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay Room. Lunch will be included.
- 236** eBird for Intermediate and Advanced Saturday, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Birding Presentation/Field Trip
Users
Venue: Morro Bay Community Center Meet@:Morro Bay Community BY
Center
Become an eBird expert with Brian Sullivan! Beginning with a workshop in the field to focus on field skills, then moving to the 'classroom' to focus on how to use the online tools. Much of the eBird process is in using the mobile app now in the field. Bonus! Learn about the new Merlin sound ID and all kinds of other things coming out of Cornell. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay. Multipurpose Room.
- 237** Listening and Calling Birds as an Art Saturday, 01:00 pm - 02:30 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Del Mar Park Meet@:Del Mar Park
Practice pishing using Pete Dunne's methods. Leaders will demonstrate how to imitate various birds and give you time to practice, including in the field. You will come away with a sense of how to listen more closely to birds, appreciate their sounds, and create their sounds yourselves. Meets at Del Mar Park, Morro Bay, north entrance at east end of Island Street. Past 500 Island Street, Morro Bay

- 238** Bay Birding Cruise Saturday, 01:00 pm - 02:45 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Sub Sea Tours Meet@:Sub Sea Tours BY \$40
Join Claudia Freitas and Robbie Revel to enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary in an open-deck 34-foot power catamaran. View a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl, often at 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. Meets at Sub Sea Tours, 699 Embarcadero, #9, Morro Bay.
- 239** Bay Birding Photo Cruise Saturday, 01:00 pm - 02:45 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Sub Sea Tours Meet@:Sub Sea Tours B \$40
Join Dave Keeling for a leisurely boating tour of the bay on the SSV Seaview, a semi-submersible boat with a below deck area to view life under the water line. Identify a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl in winter plumage at very close range as the boat moves slowly to see details of many species normally seen from shore. Good photo opportunities, but no tripods. Dress warmly. Meets at Sub Sea Tours, 699 Embarcadero, #9, Morro Bay.
- 240** Calling Birds In for Closer Study Saturday, 01:00 pm - 03:00 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: El Chorro Park Meet@:El Chorro Park BY
Learn how birders use 'pishing' and other vocal sounds to attract birds for closer study. After introductory tips by Greg Smith and Jay Carroll, try your new skills on a short field trip. Suitable for beginners and anyone who wants to learn about this obscure skill. Easy. El Chorro Park is located at State Hwy 1 @ Dairy Creek Rd. Meets in the SLO Botanical Gardens parking lot.
- 241** The Otter Truth of Morro Bay Saturday, 01:00 pm - 03:00 pm Nature Field Trip
Venue: Morro Rock Meet@:Morro Rock BY
Enjoy learning about the Southern Sea Otters at their favorite hangouts in Morro Bay! Sharon Blakely will provide fascinating natural history of these marine mammal superheroes of a healthy kelp forest. 3 miles round trip by personal vehicle; 30 minute walk one way. Easy. Meets at Morro Rock. Coleman Drive, Morro Bay. Meet across from bathrooms, next to Morro Rock.
- 242** Build a Kestrel Box Saturday, 01:00 pm - 03:00 pm Birding Build Bird Box
Venue: Morro Bay Community Center Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center BYW \$25
Join the woodworking leader team of Charlie DeBerryk and Tom Burhenn to build a kestrel box from a kit. Plans will be shared for other nest boxes participants may build at home. Leaders will discuss the need for boxes in specific species, as well as the care and placement of boxes in your landscape. Must be 12 years of age or older to participate, if under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Meets at the Morro Bay Community Center, 1001 Kennedy Way. Multipurpose Room.
- 243** Basics of Bird Photography Saturday, 01:00 pm - 04:00 pm Birding Presentation
Venue: St Timothys Meet@:St Timothys W
Tag along with a professional wildlife photographer Don Quintana to be guided 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 and how to capture birds in their best light. Is photography the next step in your birding? Meets at St. Timothy's Church, 962 Piney Way, Morro Bay. Presentation Room.
- 244** Birding By Ear Workshop Saturday, 01:30 pm - 04:00 pm Birding Presentation
Venue: Inn at Morro Bay Meet@:Inn at Morro Bay W
Learning bird songs and calls will make you a better birder and enrich your birding experience. But it can be challenging! Jessica Griffiths will provide tips, tricks and mnemonic devices for identifying birds by sound, going 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 this area. Open to all levels, beginner to advanced, who want to learn bird by ear skills. This workshop is a prerequisite for the Birding By Ear field trip (322). Meets at the Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay. Cayucos Room.
- 245** Birding Estero Bluffs Saturday, 01:30 pm - 04:00 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Estero Bluffs Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center BY
Enjoy a slow-paced walk of 1.5-2 miles along a beautiful and wild ocean bluff trail with Ed Harper. 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. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

- 246** Birding Laguna Lake Saturday, 01:30 pm - 04:00 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Laguna Lake Meet@:Laguna Lake BY
Laguna Lake and the surrounding park are a migratory stop and home to many waterfowl, including ducks, gulls, grebes, shorebirds, herons, egrets, Snow Geese. Join Mark Mushkat and Max Taylor to see these and other birds like House Finch, Goldfinch, meadowlarks, raptors and even a possible Loggerhead Shrike. Beginners welcome! Includes 1 mile of level walking. 30 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Easy. 504 Madonna Rd, San Luis Obispo, meet at the Laguna Lake bathroom parking lot (lakeside, next to playground and picnic area).
- 247** Hawk Migration Association of North America Saturday, 02:00 pm - 04:00 pm Birding Presentation
Raptor Survey pm
Venue: Inn at Morro Bay Meet@:Inn at Morro Bay
Community science has long played an important role in North American conservation efforts with Audubon's Christmas Bird Counts being one of the most notable and persevering. This program, presented by local wildlife biologist Bill Haas, will highlight another such program, the winter raptor survey of the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA). The presentation will explore the raptors that occur on California's Central Coast including their identification (through their flight patterns & silhouettes), natural histories, and current state-wide status. Through the program, you will learn the importance of, protocols for, and data collection methods to prepare you for participation in HMANA winter raptor surveys. On the Sunday following this presentation, you will be able to take part in an actual HMANA winter raptor survey along one of Bill's several SLO County survey routes (see field trip schedule). Attendance will not require you to participate in the Sunday survey; however, participation in the Sunday field trip (Trip 329) does require that you attend this Saturday class. Join Bill at The Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay. Morro Bay Room.
- 248** The Elfin Forest Wonderland Saturday, 02:00 pm - 04:00 pm Nature Field Trip
Venue: Elfin Forest Meet@:South Bay Community Center BY
The Elfin Forest of Los Osos encompasses 7 habitats visible from a boardwalk, with bay overlooks. Join Cindy Roessler and expect to see raptors, passerines and shorebirds in this easy-paced walk. Beginners welcome! The 'Magic' of the Elfin Forest is in the adaptability of the various plant communities with hidden beauty found everywhere. This trip is accessible to wheelchairs or people using walkers and canes. Total walking distance will be about 1.5 miles. 15 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Easy. Meets at the South Bay Community Center in Los Osos. 2180 Palisades Ave, Los Osos.
- 249** Optics Demystified Saturday, 02:30 pm - 03:30 pm Birding Presentation
Venue: Morro Bay Community Center Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center BYW
Thinking about buying your first pair of real binoculars or upgrading the ones you have? Considering taking the leap to buy a spotting scope? Join Marilyn Rose to learn all about binoculars and scopes, and how particular products perform in different birding situations. What's more, try out a range of products to find out what feels right in your hands and to see the difference for yourself! Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay. Lounge.
- 250** Bay Birding Cruise Saturday, 03:00 pm - 04:45 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Sub Sea Tours Meet@:Sub Sea Tours BY \$40
Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary in an open-deck 34-foot power catamaran with Marlin Harms. View a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl, often at 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. Meets at Sub Sea Tours, 699 Embarcadero, #9, Morro Bay.
- 251** Meet the Raptors - Pacific Wildlife Saturday, 03:30 pm - 04:30 pm Birding Presentation
Care Meet@:Veterans Hall BYW
Venue: Veterans Hall
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. Several non-releasable birds of prey will be present including: great horned owl, a long-eared owl, a red-tailed hawk and a peregrine falcon. 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 raptors. 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. Meets at the Vet's Hall, 209 Surf St, Morro Bay.

252 Owling Field Trip Saturday, 03:30 pm - 09:30 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Multiple Sites Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center \$65
 Overview: Leaving from the Morro Bay Community Center at 3:30 PM and returning around 9:00 PM, we begin searching for daytime owls 3:30-5:30 PM, then eat dinner together 5:30-6:30 PM, finishing up listening for nighttime owls 6:30-8:30 PM. Details: Daytime owling for Short-eared, burrowing and roosting owls. We will stop for no-host dinner to share stories as we wait for dark. After dark, we listen for nighttime owls. Dress warmly in quiet clothes - no nylon. We will be walking quietly through mud, standing silently in 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. The Finding Those Elusive Owls workshop (138) is a pre-requisite. Travel with leader in bus with many in/out stops. Heavy rain will cancel field trip, but not workshop. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

253 Keynote Event with David Allen Saturday, 07:00 pm - 09:00 pm Birding Special Event
 Sibley Meet@:Cuesta College Performing Arts W
 Venue: Cuesta College Performing Arts Center
 Center
 From UV vision, to deep diving, navigation, balance, super-efficient breathing, and more - birds have some amazing superpowers, and at the same time nearly every aspect of their anatomy, physiology, and behavior has been shaped in some way by the demands of their ultimate superpower - flight. Using a selection of illustrations and information from his new book What It's Like to be a Bird, David will talk about some of the incredible things birds are able to do, and the adaptations that make those things possible. If you purchased a copy of David Sibley's book, What It's Like to Be a Bird, during the registration process, David will be available to sign your book at this event. The Keynote address and book signing takes place at the Harold J. Miossi Cultural and Performing Arts Center (CPAC) at Cuesta College, Romauldo Road, SLO (CA-1 & Hollister Road).

Sunday, January 15, 2023

301 Birding the Carrizo Plain Sunday, 06:15 am - 05:00 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Carrizo Plains Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center \$95
 Join expert leaders Will Knowlton and Peter Gaede for a bus trip to Carrizo Plain. Possible sightings are: Golden Eagle, Merlin, Prairie Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk, Mountain Plover, Bell's and Vesper Sparrow, Roadrunner, and more. This is unique habitat of semi-desert scrub, open grassland and juniper foothills. Time includes 4 hours round-trip travel many in/out bus stops. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

302 Bird Song Magic in the Field Sunday, 07:00 am - 11:30 am Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Morro Bay Multiple Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center
 Join Roy Poucher in the field for the hands-on companion to the Bird Sounds Workshop. Solidify the general principles learned with practical experience and field identification of specific local bird songs and calls. We will stand at different locations, silently noting bird sounds, then discuss as a group. Notebooks needed, but binoculars are not! The Friday afternoon Bird Sounds Workshop (129) is a prerequisite for this event. Total walking distance will be about 1.2 miles. Easy. Travel by personal vehicle 15 miles round trip. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

303 Wildlife of Point Buchon Sunday, 07:00 am - 12:00 pm Nature Field Trip
 Venue: Point Buchon Meet@:South Bay Community Center BY
 Explore the spectacular scenic coastline at Point Buchon with seasoned leaders Sally Krenn and Brooke Keeney. 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. Active three-mile round trip hike. Meets at the South Bay Community Center in Los Osos. 2180 Palisades Ave, Los Osos.

- 304** Half Day Pelagic Trip Sunday, 07:00 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Morro Bay Landing Meet@:Morro Bay Landing \$80
 A short cruise out of Morro Bay offers likely views of whales, sea lions, sea otters and near-shore Pacific seabirds, including several species of shearwaters and auklets. Meet your leaders Brad Schram, Curtis Marantz and Benjamin Jacobs-Schwartz 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. Meets at Morro Bay Landing, 1213 Embarcadero, Morro Bay. Weather conditions may cancel.
- 305** Big Day Sunday, 07:00 am - 04:00 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Multiple Sites Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center \$85
 Join Jeff Miller and Norm Pillsbury for a BIG DAY of birding! Expect a fast-paced day, with the possibility of rapid ID of over 100 species at hot spots in SLO County. Special effort on regional specialties and rarities. Pace to be determined by the leader with input from the group. Travel in bus with leader and many in/out stops. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.
- 306** Learning To Look Sunday, 07:30 am - 09:30 am Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Morro Bay Community Center Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center W \$20
 Enjoy an intimate setting connecting with nature with author Richard Crossley. Understanding is the key to learning. As you shift your focus to look at birds longer, closer, and from a broader perspective than is typical, a new world of discovery opens up. This program is for those who want to learn how to understand and interpret what they are seeing, observe interesting behaviors, and discover identification tricks of the birding trade. Ideal for beginners or experts alike, come experience bird watching as an open door into the natural world and connect with nature for your overall well-being. Everything in nature is connected and for a purpose. Learn to look like the experts do with Richard. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.
- 307** Oak Woodland and Wetland Birds Sunday, 07:30 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Multiple Sites Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center
 Bird beautiful wooded habitat in the Atascadero area east of Morro Bay with leader 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. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.
- 308** Big Day Birding by Bicycle Sunday, 07:30 am - 04:30 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Morro Bay Multiple Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center B
 Join Jim Royer for a birding tour of the area on bicycle and on foot. This is a 10-mile loop with moderate hills and short walks, starting and ending at the Community Center. The pace will be slow with frequent stops to discuss bird field marks and vocalizations. Bring multi-speed bicycle, lock, helmet, water, snacks and lunch, tools, spare tube and patch kit. Also bring: binoculars, 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. It is possible to see 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; leaving at 7:30 AM sharp! Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.
- 309** Birding Laguna Lake Sunday, 07:45 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Laguna Lake Meet@:Laguna Lake BY
 Laguna Lake and the surrounding park is a migratory stop and home to many waterfowl: ducks, gulls, grebes, shorebirds, herons, egrets, Snow Geese. Join Jay Carroll and Scott Inman to see these and other birds like: 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. 504 Madonna Rd, San Luis Obispo, meet at the Laguna Lake bathroom parking lot (lakeside, next to playground and picnic area).
- 310** Birding Montana de Oro State Park Sunday, 07:45 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Montana de Oro Meet@:South Bay Community Center BY
 Montana de Oro is a spectacular 8,600-acre state park with untamed coastline and coastal uplands. Join leaders Eric Wier and Steve McMasters to search for 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. Meets at the South Bay Community Center in Los Osos. 2180 Palisades Ave, Los Osos.

- 311** Birding & Photography at El Chorro Park Sunday, 08:00 am - 11:00 am Birding Field Trip
 Venue: El Chorro Park Meet@:El Chorro Park BY
 Join Krisztina Scheeff for a leisurely walk looking for birds and photograph them if possible through El Chorro Regional Park. This trip is aimed at all level of birders including those who want to learn bird ID most effectively. Bring binoculars, camera and a favorite field guide. You can also bring your camera for pointers on bird photography. El Chorro Park is located at State Hwy 1 @ Dairy Creek Rd. Meets in the SLO Botanical Gardens parking lot.
- 312** Shorebirds Made Easy Sunday, 08:00 am - 11:30 am Birding Presentation/Field Trip
 Venue: Inn at Morro Bay Meet@:Inn at Morro Bay BY
 How do you ever tell one shorebird from another? What is a 'shorebird?' Learn how to tell the most common species apart. Join 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. Meets at the Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay. Cayucos Room.
- 313** Morro Strand Scrub/Shore Birding Sunday, 08:00 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Cloisters, Azure Street Meet@:Cloisters, Azure Street
 Join Lucien Plauzoles and John Callender for a level slow-paced stroll on Morro Strand, past a pond, through coastal scrub, and then onto sandy beach, to observe ducks, herons, gulls, terns, grebes and several species of shorebirds including snowy plovers. Moderate 1.5-2 mile walk with some soft sand. Meets in the parking lot across from 150 Azure Street, Morro Bay.
- 314** Explore the Mushroom World Sunday, 08:00 am - 12:00 pm Nature Field Trip
 Venue: Morro Bay Multiple Meet@:Morro Bay 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. Trip will be cancelled for lack of recent rain. Moderate. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.
- 315** Birds of San Simeon with Jon Dunn Sunday, 08:00 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Washburn Creek Meet@:Washburn Creek \$50
 Join Jon Dunn and Bob Keally to observe birds at the Washburn Day Use area of San Simeon State Park. Moderate 1.5- 2 mile walk by riparian areas by creek, wetlands, shoreline, then onto chaparral, and pine forest habitats to discover a variety of land, shore and ocean birds including mergansers, terns, Pygmy Nuthatches, and a variety of raptors. Hwy 1, 1.8 miles north of last traffic light in Cambria.
- 316** Harmony Headlands Sunday, 08:00 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Harmony Headlands Meet@:Harmony Headlands
 Join Evan Weissman for a long walk (4 miles round trip), to bird various habitats beginning at a riparian zone, moving through grasslands, past vernal pools, and down to the rocky coast. Meets at the Harmony Headlands trailhead parking lot, Hwy 1, 5 miles north of Cayucos. Look for Linn's billboard.
- 317** Advanced Bird Photography Sunday, 08:15 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Multiple Sites Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center BY
 Want to know where the professionals photograph birds? Bring a camera along with your binoculars to shoot in local hot spots. Don Quintana and Jerry Kirkhart will offer tips on capturing images, from birds to panoramas, while visiting several uniquely beautiful locations. All locations are easily accessible. Travel by personal vehicle. Easy. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.
- 318** Highway 1 for Raptors Sunday, 08:15 am - 02:30 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Multiple Sites Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center
 Join Steve Schubert and Dave Berry to explore a historic Cayucos ranch (weather and roads permitting) with varying habitats including streamside woodland, grassland and pastureland, rocky outcrops, and a large pond and freshwater marsh. 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. Moderate hiking on unpaved ranch roads with some uneven ground, about a mile round trip. Bring lunch. Moderate. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

- 319** Birding at El Chorro Park Sunday, 08:30 am - 11:00 am Birding Field Trip
Venue: El Chorro Park Meet@:El Chorro Park BY
Enjoy leisurely in-depth bird observation and enhance your ID skills with the help of Kristina Van Wert. This is not a tick and run Big Day, but a stroll through El Chorro Regional Park sharing observations, and checking for positive identification. Be surprised at the variations you see, whether crows or Black Phoebes. Bring binoculars and a favorite field guide. State Hwy 1 @ Dairy Creek Rd. Meet at SLO Botanical Gardens. 3450 Dairy Creek Road, San Luis Obispo.
- 320** Birding Oso Flaco Lake Sunday, 08:30 am - 11:30 am Birding Field Trip
Venue: Oso Flaco Meet@:Oso Flaco
Join Rusty Scalf and Richard Neidhardt to enjoy close views of waterfowl and occasional bitterns and rails from the boardwalk over Oso Flaco Lake and marsh. Bird two prime willow habitats for wintering warblers. Includes 2-3 miles of slow walking. Moderate. Meet at Oso Flaco parking lot, 3004 Oso Flaco Lake Road, Arroyo Grande. State Parks requires a parking fee of \$5.
- 321** Birding By Ear Field Trip Sunday, 08:30 am - 11:30 am Birding Field Trip
Venue: Multiple Sites Meet@:Morro Bay 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 to work on identifying birds by song and call. Use the tips, tricks and mnemonic devices learned in Birding By Ear Workshop prerequisite. We will search for winter warblers, finches, sparrows, towhees, raptors and any other birds that might be making noise! We travel in personal vehicles to one or more nearby birding locations with a distance of 20 miles max round trip. Easy. Birding By Ear Workshop (244), is a prerequisite for this trip. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.
- 322** Bird Sweet Springs & Cuesta Inlet Sunday, 08:30 am - 11:30 am Birding Field Trip
Venue: Los Osos Multiple Meet@:South Bay Community Center BY
Join Penny Principe for an easy 1-2 mile beginning birder walk exploring Sweet Springs Nature Preserve and Cuesta Inlet in Los Osos. The focus is on natural history and ID tips of birds commonly seen in the back bay. Bring binoculars. Meets at the South Bay Community Center in Los Osos. 2180 Palisades Ave, Los Osos.
- 323** Birding with David Allen Sibley Sunday, 08:30 am - 11:30 am Birding Field Trip
Venue: Laguna Lake Meet@:Laguna Lake \$125
Join David Allen Sibley and Mark Mushkat for birding at Laguna Lake and the surrounding park. This area is a migratory stop and wintering home to many species, including waterfowl, pelicans, gulls, grebes, shorebirds, herons, and egrets, Other targets will include finches, bluebirds, sparrows, meadowlarks, raptors and even a possible Loggerhead Shrike. Beginners welcome! Includes 1 mile of level walking. There will be multiple stops with easy in and out access in a luxury limo bus Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.
- 324** Raptors of Sunshine Ranch Sunday, 08:30 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Sunshine Ranch Meet@:Sunshine Ranch BY
Join Kara Hagedorn and Charlie DeBerry to experience Sunshine Ranch, a rich birding area between Santa Margarita and Atascadero. With an array of visual aids, you will learn about raptor identification, anatomy, molting and the unique adaptations of this powerful group of birds. Learn the legacy of Sunshine, a Red-tail Hawk, who with Kara's care lived to be 28 years old. Walk an easy mile along the border of the ranch, identifying birds along the way. The grasslands, riparian area and pond always bring surprises. Easy. Meets at the Ranch, 17400 Oak Ave, Atascadero.
- 325** Birding Morro Bay State Park Sunday, 08:30 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: MB State Park Marina Meet@:MB State Park Marina BY
Join Mike Bush and Bert Townsend to explore Morro Bay State Park marina boardwalk area to see a wide variety of birds: shorebirds, ducks, geese, loons, grebes, gulls, terns, herons, raptors, warblers, sparrows, finches. Meet at the Peninsula Trail Head, southeast end of the State Park Marina parking lot, across from Morro Bay State Park Campground.
- 326** Back Bay Birding Sunday, 08:30 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Los Osos Multiple Meet@:South Bay Community Center
Join 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. Meets at South Bay Community Center, 2180 Palisades Ave, Los Osos.

327 Santa Rita Ranch Diverse Habitats Sunday, 08:30 am - 12:30 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Santa Rita Ranch Meet@:Santa Rita Ranch
Be one of the first to explore the rolling grass-covered foothills of the Santa Rita Ranch within the Santa Lucia Mountains. You will be joined on your adventure by Daniel Bohlman, the Deputy-President of The Land Conservancy, a San Luis Obispo land trust and Mike Stiles. The crown jewel of this trip is the 234-acre foot lake, the fourth largest privately-owned lake in the county. You will also explore the downstream riparian habitat, chaparral and coastal oak woodlands. Walking boots are a necessity! Meets at Santa Rita Ranch in Templeton. 3520 Old Creek Road, Templeton.

328 Casual Little Big Day Sunday, 08:30 am - 01:00 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Multiple Sites Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center BY \$65
This is slower paced Big Day for beginning and intermediate birders led by Bettina Eastman and Nora Livingston. Starting at a reasonable morning hour and getting back right after lunch, you will be in a spacious bus with large windows, visiting local birding hot spots, returning with a new long list of birds! There are many on/off the bus birding spots in a variety of habitats. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

329 Raptors of East San Luis Obispo County Sunday, 08:30 am - 02:00 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Multiple Sites Meet@:Shandon Rest Stop
This trip is for attendees of the "Hawk Migration Association of North America Raptor Survey" (HMANA) presentation. Participants will meet presenter Bill Haas at the Shandon rest stop (Hwy 46 East, approximately 40 miles from Morro Bay) in order to take part in an official HMANA survey. Teams of two, three, or four (minimally one driver and one spotter per vehicle) should car pool to the meeting site where Bill will review the survey procedures and protocols and distribute the survey forms. The nearby 10-mile survey route has in recent years yielded as many as 12 species of raptors including buteos, eagles, falcons, harriers, and kites. After departing the rest area, there are no amenities (bring food and drink sufficient for a 4-hour survey) and cell phone service is spotty. This survey will involve virtually no hiking although participants will spend some time outside of their vehicles when identifying and counting target species. Field glasses, a writing implement, and a clipboard are the basic necessities for each team; a GPS receiver, spotting scope, and camera are optional. During the survey, photographic opportunities will be limited due to the progressive nature of the survey and correspondingly, the trip is not geared to those interested in general birding. Public health factors and/or weather conditions may result in amended instructions and/or cancellation.

330 Birding Hot Spots for Beginners Sunday, 08:45 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Morro Bay Multiple Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center BY
This field class is for beginners, but all birding levels are welcomed. Travel to nearby locations where Ed Harper will help you identify some easy-to-see birds around Morro Bay. Bring your favorite field guide and binoculars. 10 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Easy. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

331 Bay Birding Photo Cruise Sunday, 09:00 am - 10:45 am Birding Field Trip
Venue: Sub Sea Tours Meet@:Sub Sea Tours B \$40
Join expert photographer Sarah Killingsworth to enjoy a leisurely photography focused boating tour of the bay and estuary in an open-deck 34-foot power catamaran. View a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl, often at 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. Meets at Sub Sea Tours, 699 Embarcadero, #9, Morro Bay.

332 A Splash of Color: Expressive Bird Art in Watercolor Sunday, 09:00 am - 11:00 am Birding Presentation
Venue: Morro Bay Community Center Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center

We love birds for so many reasons: their beautiful songs, their fascinating behaviors, their incredible life histories. And, of course, their gorgeous plumage! This watercolor workshop led by Christina Baal will focus on capturing the amazing colors and patterns of birds in an expressive, splashy watercolor painting style that is simple to use and requires basic, easy to obtain materials. The class will focus on letting go of anatomical perfection to examine instead a combination of emotion, energy, and color that portrays a bird in a way that is loose and fun. We will learn tips and tricks that make it easy to jump into a painting no matter your skill level! While geared toward beginner/intermediate skill levels, anyone is welcome to attend. Please note that this class can be messy- dress accordingly! All materials required will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay. Lounge.

- 333** Bay Birding Cruise Sunday, 09:00 am - 11:00 am Birding Field Trip
Venue: Sub Sea Tours Meet@:Sub Sea Tours BY \$40
Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary in an open-deck 34-foot power catamaran with Kaaren Perry and Robbie Revel. View a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl, often at 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. Meets at Sub Sea Tours, 699 Embarcadero, #9, Morro Bay.
- 334** Land and Sea Birds at Morro Rock Sunday, 09:00 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Morro Rock Meet@:Morro Rock BY
Morro Rock is home to Peregrine Falcons, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Common Yellowthroat, various sparrows, the elusive Canyon Wren, and sometimes a Burrowing Owl. With leaders Rouvaishyana and Dave Keeling, you will also see cormorants, various species and age classes of gulls, Brown Pelicans and maybe a Common Murre. Meets at Morro Rock. Coleman Drive, Morro Bay. Meet across from bathrooms, next to Morro Rock.
- 335** Birding by Kayak Sunday, 09:00 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: MB State Park Marina Meet@:MB State Park Marina BY \$55
Go on a guided kayak tour of Morro Bay for an up close opportunity to see birds in their natural habitat! You may see: White Pelicans, brant, Common Loons and a host of other migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. Paddle near the Heron Rookery, Grassy Island oyster farm, mudflats and channels of the Back Bay. Using 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. Meets at the Morro Bay State Park Marina Kayak Shop. 10 State Park Road, Morro Bay.
- 336** Easy Birding Sunday, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Cloisters Park Meet@:Cloisters Park W
Join Dawn Beatie at Cloisters Park; the 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. People in wheelchairs or using walkers or canes will find all paths accessible. Two miles from the Community Center. Easy. Meet at Cloisters Park. 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.
- 337** From Anatomy to Function/Flight Sunday, 01:00 pm - 02:30 pm Nature Presentation
Venue: Morro Bay Community Center Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center BW
An inside look into the muscular and organ systems of birds, this is for you. Expert Rouvaishyana is experienced in preparing birds for museum specimens. A thawed specimen will be skinned 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. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay. Lounge.
- 338** Bay Birding Cruise Sunday, 01:00 pm - 02:45 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Sub Sea Tours Meet@:Sub Sea Tours \$40
Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay in a spacious pontoon boat with Mark Mushkat and Max Taylor. 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. The captain may point out special sights and activities of our working harbor including the fishing industry, pleasure boats and more. There will be opportunities to photograph wintering birds, otters, and sea lions that frequent the bay. Easy access for limited mobility. Meets at Sub Sea Tours, 699 Embarcadero, #9, Morro Bay.
- 339** The Elfin Forest Wonderland Sunday, 01:00 pm - 03:00 pm Nature Field Trip
Venue: Elfin Forest Meet@:South Bay Community Center BY
The Elfin Forest of Los Osos encompasses 7 habitats visible from a boardwalk habitats and bay overlooks. Join Cindy Roessler to see raptors, passerines and shorebirds in this easy-paced walk. Beginners welcome! The 'Magic' of the Elfin Forest is in the adaptability of the various plant communities with hidden beauty found everywhere. This trip is accessible to people in wheelchairs or using walkers and canes. Total walking distance will be about 1.5 miles. Easy. Meets at the South Bay Community Center in Los Osos. 2180 Palisades Ave, Los Osos.

- 340** The Otter Truth of Morro Bay Sunday, 01:00 pm - 03:00 pm Nature Field Trip
Venue: Morro Rock Meet@:Morro Rock BY
Enjoy learning about the Southern Sea Otters at their favorite hangouts in Morro Bay! Sharon Blakely will provide fascinating natural history of these marine mammal superheroes of a healthy kelp forest. 3 miles round trip by personal vehicle; 30 minute walk one way. Easy. Meets at Morro Rock. Coleman Drive, Morro Bay. Meet across from bathrooms, next to Morro Rock.
- 342** Bay Birding Cruise Sunday, 02:00 pm - 03:45 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Morro Bay Landing Meet@:Morro Bay Landing BY \$35
Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay in a spacious pontoon boat with Claudia Freitas and Karen Watts. 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. The captain may point out special sights and activities of our working harbor including the fishing industry, pleasure boats and more. There will be opportunities to photograph wintering birds, otters, and sea lions that frequent the bay. Easy access for limited mobility. Meets at Morro Bay Landing, 1213 Embarcadero, Morro Bay. Weather conditions may cancel.
- 343** Birds of Morro Rock with Jon Dunn Sunday, 02:00 pm - 04:00 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Morro Rock Meet@:Morro Rock \$50
Join Jon Dunn and Bettina Eastman to view the birds at Morro Rock. Morro Rock is home to Peregrine Falcons, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Common Yellowthroat, various sparrows, the elusive Canyon Wren, and sometimes a Burrowing Owl. You will also see cormorants, various species and age classes of gulls, Brown Pelicans and maybe a Common Murre. Meets at Morro Rock. Coleman Drive, Morro Bay. Meet across from bathrooms, next to Morro Rock.
- 344** Build a Blue Bird Box Sunday, 02:00 pm - 04:00 pm Birding Build Bird Box
Venue: Morro Bay Community Center Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center BYW \$25
Build a blue bird box from a kit. Plans will be shared for other nest boxes as well. Bob Keally and Charlie DeBerry will discuss the need for boxes in specific species, as well as the care and placement of boxes in your landscape. Must be 12 years of age or older to participate, if under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Meets at the Morro Bay Community Center, 1001 Kennedy Way. Multipurpose Room.
- 345** Shape & Structure of Bird Song Sunday, 02:00 pm - 05:00 pm Birding Presentation
Venue: Inn at Morro Bay Meet@:Inn at Morro Bay BYW
Just as it is essential to know the colors and shapes of birds to distinguish male/female, juvenile/mature, and different species, it is also important to learn bird sounds for accurate ID. Using an approach called Earbirding, Tom Graves will introduce you to a systematic method to understand and describe sound, improving your bird ID skills and adding to your birding enjoyment. Meets at the Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay. Cayucos Room.
- 346** Bay Birding Cruise Sunday, 03:00 pm - 04:45 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Sub Sea Tours Meet@:Sub Sea Tours BY \$40
Join Robert Lindsay for a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary in an open-deck 34-foot power catamaran. View a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl, often at 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. Meets at Sub Sea Tours, 699 Embarcadero, #9, Morro Bay.
- 347** Owling Field Trip Sunday, 03:30 pm - 09:30 pm Birding Field Trip
Venue: Multiple Sites Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center \$65
Overview: Leaving from the Morro Bay Community Center at 3:30 PM and returning around 9:00 PM, we begin searching for daytime owls 3:30-5:30 PM, then eat dinner together 5:30-6:30 PM, finishing up listening for nighttime owls 6:30-8:30 PM. Details: Daytime owling for Short-eared, burrowing and roosting owls. We will stop for no-host dinner to share stories as we wait for dark. After dark, we listen for nighttime owls. Dress warmly in quiet clothes - no nylon. We will be walking quietly through mud, standing silently in 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. The Finding Those Elusive Owls workshop (138) is a pre-requisite. Travel with leader in bus with many in/out stops. Heavy rain will cancel field trip, but not workshop. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

Dinner with David Allen Sibley and Friends

Sunday, 06:30 pm - 09:00 pm

Special Event

Venue: Madonna Inn

Meet@:Madonna Inn

\$125

Registration add on feature: Join us on Sunday night for a culminating Celebration Dinner with our Keynote Speaker and the Morro Bay Bird Festival Committee. This dinner buffet will be held at the World-Famous Madonna Inn Garden Room. Festivities begin with hors d'oeuvres and camaraderie with Festival Trip Leaders and attendees. Your meal includes hors d'oeuvres, entrees of Filet of Salmon and a Prime Rib Carving Station accompanied by a variety of salads, vegetables, side dishes, bread, tea and coffee. Vegan and vegetarian options will be available as side dishes. Finish this meal with one of Madonna's iconic desserts. There will be a no host bar available during the event for purchase of alcoholic beverage. Following dinner, a short program will highlight the festival birding results, introduce the 2023 Festival Committee and include a special presentation to our Keynote Speaker, David Allen Sibley. Doors open at 6:30 pm, Dinner starts at 7:00pm.

Monday, January 16, 2023**401 On the Prowl for Rare Birds**

Monday, 07:00 am - 01:00 pm

Birding Field Trip

Venue: Multiple Sites

Meet@:Morro Bay Community Center

Hop in your car and follow Jim Royer to multiple local spots for rarities. We will have light to moderate walking to look for birds in the area that are rare for Central California. With luck, participants may see many local rarities. To increase our chances of finding the birds and getting good sightings, local experts will be up-to-date and scout out ahead of time. Be prepared for muddy conditions and variable weather. Take water, snacks or lunch, binoculars, camera, and a scope if you have one. Bad weather may cancel the trip. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

402 Birding by Kayak

Monday, 08:00 am - 11:00 am

Birding Field Trip

Venue: MB State Park Marina

Meet@:MB State Park Marina

BY \$55

Go on a guided kayak tour of Morro Bay for an up close opportunity to see birds in their natural habitat! You may see: White Pelicans, brant, Common Loons and a host of other migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. Paddle near the Heron Rookery, Grassy Island oyster farm, mudflats and channels of the Back Bay. Using 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. Meets at the Morro Bay State Park Marina Kayak Shop. 10 State Park Road, Morro Bay.

403 Harmony Headlands

Monday, 08:00 am - 12:00 pm

Birding Field Trip

Venue: Harmony Headlands

Meet@:Harmony Headlands

Join Evan Weissman for a long walk (4 miles round trip), to bird various habitats beginning at a riparian zone, moving through grasslands, past vernal pools, and down to the rocky coast. Meets at the Harmony Headlands trailhead parking lot, Hwy 1, 5 miles north of Cayucos. Look for Linn's billboard.

404 Birding & Wine at Halter Ranch

Monday, 08:00 am - 12:00 pm

Birding Field Trip

Venue: Halter Ranch

Meet@:Halter Ranch

Join Roger Zachary and Scott Inman for birding and wine at Halter Ranch. Drive through oak woodlands and vineyards along Vineyard Road to Halter Ranch. Look for Raptors, Wild Turkeys, and Yellow-billed Magpies on the way. Park in the barnyard parking lot. We will bird the barnyard area, along Los Tablas Creek, and observe birds near the agriculture pond next to the vineyard. Wine tasting is optional, and no outside food is allowed. You must make an online reservation if you are interested in wine tasting and food. Check the website (halterranch.com) for tasting fees, menu, location, and reservations. The ranch is following present Covid-19 recommendations. 75 miles round trip by personal vehicle. For those en route north toward home, the Ranch is 18 miles round trip from Highway 101 in Paso Robles. 8910 Adelaida Rd, Paso Robles

405 Birding Fiscalini Ranch Preserve

Monday, 08:00 am - 12:00 pm

Birding Field Trip

Venue: Fiscalini Ranch

Meet@:Fiscalini Ranch

Bird with Bob Keally and Terri May on Cambria's Fiscalini Ranch on a moderate 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. Meets at Fiscalini Ranch south end, 2799 Windsor Blvd, Cambria.

- 406** Birding by Careful Observation Monday, 08:00 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: El Chorro Park Meet@:El Chorro Park B
 Join Bettina Eastman for in-depth bird observation and ID skills enhancement with a stroll through El Chorro Regional Park sharing observations of bird characteristics. 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. State Hwy 1 @ Dairy Creek Rd. Meet at SLO Botanical Gardens.
- 407** Birding Las Cruzitas Ranch Monday, 08:00 am - 02:00 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Las Cruzitas Ranch Meet@:Las Cruzitas Ranch BW
 Designed for those driving SOUTH, home from the Festival. 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. Meets at the intersection of Alisos Road and Happy Canyon Road in Santa Inez.
- 408** Birds and Plants at Coon Creek Monday, 08:15 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Montana de Oro Meet@:South Bay Community Center BY
 Join Rouvaishyana for a walk through the riparian habitat in Montana de Oro State Park to identify and discuss how birds interact with the surrounding plants they are utilizing. 2-3 mile walk. Meets at the South Bay Community Center in Los Osos. 2180 Palisades Ave, Los Osos
- 409** Birding Oso Flaco Lake Monday, 08:30 am - 11:30 am Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Oso Flaco Meet@:Oso Flaco BY
 Join Tom and Owen Slater for close views of waterfowl and occasional bitterns and rails from the boardwalk over Oso Flaco Lake and marsh. Bird two prime willow habitats for wintering warblers. Includes 2-3 miles of slow walking. Moderate. Great trip to join if you're heading home going south. Meet at Oso Flaco parking lot, 3004 Oso Flaco Lake Road, Arroyo Grande. State Parks requires a parking fee of \$5.
- 410** Los Osos Hot Spots Walking Tour Monday, 08:30 am - 12:00 pm Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Los Osos Multiple Meet@:South Bay Community Center
 Join Jeff Miller and Norm Pillsbury for a four-mile perambulation on foot around Los Osos and the edge of the Morro Bay estuary. You will find birds in a variety of habitats including coastal scrub, beach, tidal marsh, mudflats, open bay, and willow thickets. The walk will stop and explore at 6-8 birding hotspots including Elfin Forest, Audubon Overlook, Back Bay, Sweet Springs, Doris Ave Marsh, and end up at Pecho Willows. Meets at the South Bay Community Center in Los Osos. 2180 Palisades Ave, Los Osos.
- 411** Bay Birding Photo Cruise Monday, 09:00 am - 10:45 am Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Sub Sea Tours Meet@:Sub Sea Tours BY \$40
 Join local expert photographer Rick Derevan to enjoy a leisurely photography focused boating tour of the bay and estuary in an open-deck 34-foot power catamaran. View a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl, often at 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. Meets at Sub Sea Tours, 699 Embarcadero, #9, Morro Bay.
- 412** Shorebird Habitats Monday, 09:00 am - 11:00 am Birding Field Trip
 Venue: Morro Strand Campground Meet@:Morro Strand Campground
 Morro Bay is on the Pacific Flyway and is a favorite stop for migrating birds. During the height of migration, there are literally thousands of birds on the beach! They can be seen poking at the sand and piles of rotting seaweed. What are they finding to eat? Sandy beaches may look bare, but they host a rich assortment of living organisms. Sand traps detritus and provides a surface for algae and bacteria to grow. Piles of wrack are made of rotting seaweed, plants, and animals. Both environments provide food for invertebrates that become tasty meals for birds. Join Robbie Revel and Karen Watts to explore these environments and find out what is attracting all of our wonderful shorebirds. We will be walking 1 -2 miles along hard pack and soft beach sand. Meets at the entrance to the Morro Strand State Park Campground. Highway 1 north of Morro Bay, exit west on Yerba Buena St. Turn left on Trinidad.

413 Birds of Atascadero Lake Monday, 09:00 am - 11:30 am Birding Field Trip
Venue: Atascadero Lake Meet@:Atascadero Lake

Join leaders Claudia Freitas and Jeanette Stone for this bird walk around Atascadero Lake which will be approximately one mile long, at a slow to moderate pace, depending on where and how often we are seeing birds. The terrain is gentle, over flat surfaces. Expect to see numerous species in a variety of habitats, with likely sightings of: Red-shouldered Hawk, California Quail, California Scrub-Jay, Woodpeckers and a variety of Waterfowl.

414 Morro Bay Up Close Monday, 10:00 am - 11:45 am Nature Field Trip
Venue: Morro Bay Landing Meet@:Morro Bay Landing BY \$35

While you will see birds, the focus of this trip is the natural history of Morro Rock and features of the estuary using photos, diagrams and hands-on materials. Join Nora Livingston and Bob Revel for a bay cruise on a pontoon boat and learn the local sights and activities of this working harbor. There will be opportunities to photograph wintering birds, otters and sea lions. Easy access for limited mobility. Meets at Morro Bay Landing, 1213 Embarcadero, Morro Bay. Weather conditions may cancel.