

2024 MORRO BAY BIRD FESTIVAL PROGRAM

Information Current as of: January 9, 2024

Jan. 11 -15, 2024

Thursday

101 8:00am - 11:00am **Birding by Kayak**

Field Trip

Leaders Virginia Flaherty

Meeting Site Morro Bay State Park Marina

Event Venue: Morro Bay State Park Marina

Fee: \$55

Xport: Kayak

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.

102 8:00am - 12:00pm **Birding Fiscalini Ranch Preserve**

Field Trip

Leaders Bob Keally, Van Pierszalowski

Meeting Site Fiscalini Ranch

Event Venue: Fiscalini Ranch

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Bird with Bob Keally and Van Pierszalowski 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.

103 8:00am - 12:00pm **Birding Montana de Oro**

Field Trip

Leaders Mike Bush

Meeting Site South Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Montana de Oro

Fee: \$0

Xport: Self-Drive

Watch birds in a rugged coastal park with spectacular shorelines and canyons. Take a gentle walk with Mike Bush 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.

104 8:00am - 1:00pm Master Class - Plugging into Bird Song Magic - Part 1 of 2

Master Class

Leaders Roy Poucher

Meeting Site Inn at Morro Bay

Event Venue: Inn at Morro Bay

Fee: \$95

Xport: None

Bird songs are Nature's Music. We can plug into this magic no matter how good we are at finding birds with our eyes. These sounds are already coming at us from 360 degrees. The focus of this workshop by Roy Poucher is to increase our birding enjoyment via improving our skills as auditory birders. Some prior experience trying to identify birds by ear will surely be useful, but 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 Master Class workshop is part 1 of a 2-part learning process with part 2 being the Master Class field trip. Attendees should choose either of two field trips on Friday or Monday (trips 203 or 508). Meets at the Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay. Cayucos Room.

105 8:30am - 11:30am Shark Inlet

Field Trip

Leaders Steve Schubert

Meeting Site South Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Los Osos Multiple

Fee: \$0

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Steve Schubert for a walk adjacent to the coastal sand dunes and southernmost reaches of Morro Bay during an extreme high "King tide" event, focusing on upland passerines, raptors in flight, aquatic waterfowl, shorebirds, and long-legged waders. Overview of the natural history, flora and fauna will also be discussed. Habitats will include: estuary, coastal salt marsh, coastal dune scrub and planted eucalyptus trees. Note: hiking in loose sand on gently undulating terrain for 1.5 - 2.0 miles, moderate difficulty. Optional continuation to crest of the dunes overlooking the sandy shore and Pacific inshore waters of Estero Bay. Meets at the South Bay Community Center, 2180 Palisades Ave, Los Osos.

106 9:00am - 11:30am Meander Morro Bay Marina with Jon Dunn

Field Trip

Leaders Jon Dunn, Bettina Eastman

Meeting Site Morro Bay State Park Marina

Event Venue: Morro Bay State Park Marina

Fee: \$25

Xport: Self-Drive

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 Jon Dunn & Bettina Eastman 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.

107 9:00am - 12:00pm Birding by Kayak

Field Trip

Leaders John Flaherty

Meeting Site Morro Bay State Park Marina

Event Venue: Morro Bay State Park Marina

Fee: \$55

Xport: Kayak

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.

108 9:00am - 1:00pm Cayucos Abalone Farm Field Trip

Field Trip

Leaders Eric Wier, Steve McMasters

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Cayucos Abalone Farm

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Eric Wier and Steve McMasters for a tour of the Cayucos Abalone Farm courtesy of Harmony Coast Aquaculture Institute . This trip will include a caravan from the Morro Bay Community Center to the Abalone Farm 4 miles north of Cayucos. Habitats will include wetland, coastal scrub, grassland and eucalyptus. At the Farm, birders will have a chance to check out the access road, the ornamental trees and shrubs and the rocky shoreline from the bluff along with offshore birds. Due to limited parking at the destination, caravan groups will be arranged at the meeting location. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

109 9:00am - 12:00pm Kern National Wildlife Refuge

Field Trip

Leaders Russ Namitz

Meeting Site Kern National Wildlife Refuge

Event Venue: Kern National Wildlife Refuge

Fee: \$0

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Wildlife Biologist Russ Namitz to explore the Kern National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge is a major wintering grounds for thousands of ducks, geese, and other migratory birds. During the winter the waterfowl numbers may peak to 80,000 in December and January. Large concentrations of waterfowl can be seen foraging in the moist soil and seasonal marsh areas. This trip is intended for people traveling to the Festival from the North and East. Meet at the Ranger Station at the Kern National Wildlife Refuge.

110 10:00am - 11:45am Bay Birding Cruise

Field Trip

Leaders Carol Comeau, Marlin Harms

Meeting Site Morro Bay Landing

Event Venue: Morro Bay Landing

Fee: \$40

Xport: Boat

Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary in an open-deck 34-foot power catamaran with Carol Comeau and 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 Morro Bay Landing, 1213 Embarcadero, Morro Bay. Weather conditions may cancel.

111 10:00am - 12:00pm Easy Birding

Field Trip

Leaders Dawn Beattie

Meeting Site Cloisters Park

Event Venue: Cloisters Park

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Dawn Beattie 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.

112 1:00pm - 2:30pm Bay Birding Cruise

Field Trip

Leaders Steve Schubert

Meeting Site Sub Sea Tours

Event Venue: Sub Sea Tours

Fee: \$40

Xport: Boat

Join Steve Schubert for a leisurely boating tour of the bay on the Dos Osos, an open-deck 34-foot power catamaran. 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.

113 1:00pm - 4:00pm Owl Box Building & Wine Tasting at Wolff Winery

Build Bird Box

Leaders Tom Burhenn, Jean Pierre Wolff, Peggy Burhenn, Charlie DeBerry

Meeting Site Wolff Vineyards

Event Venue: Wolff Vineyards

Fee:

Xport: None

The bucolic location for this workshop is at one of the first certified sustainable vineyards on the Central Coast, where you can build an owl box 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, Peggy and Tom Burhenn, will guide us in building an owl box, which can be taken home. Six owl boxes will be built by the twelve participants and will be available for purchase at \$75 each. Toast your new skills with some of Wolff Vineyards award winning wines at 4pm and enjoy the panoramic view of the Edna Valley. The optional wine tasting has a discounted fee of \$10, refundable with bottle purchase. Meets at Wolff Vineyards. 6238 Orcutt Road, San Luis Obispo.

114 1:30pm - 4:00pm Land and Sea Birds at Morro Rock

Field Trip

Leaders Bettina Eastman, Lara Tseng, Claudia Freitas

Meeting Site Morro Rock

Event Venue: Morro Rock

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Morro Rock is home to Peregrine Falcons, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Common Yellowthroat, various sparrows, the elusive Canyon Wren, and sometimes a Burrowing Owl. Join Bettina Eastman, Lara Tseng & 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.

115 2:00pm - 4:00pm Every Small Wonder: How to Capture Your Moments and Memories on Paper

Journaling / Sketching

Leaders Sharon Lovejoy

Meeting Site Inn at Morro Bay

Event Venue: Inn at Morro Bay

Fee:

Xport: None

Come learn how to create your personal nature journal with artist Sharon Lovejoy. Sharon will share her techniques and insights, and show examples of journals from other artists and writers. She will guide participants to record their own unique view of the natural world. Inspirational short video and examples to get your creative juices flowing. Recommended supplies: magnifying glass, large tablet or journal, 2-B pencils, kneaded eraser, small pencil sharpener, waterproof 005 Micron or Gel pen, colored pencils, and a child's sense of wonder. Meets at the Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay. Cayucos Room.

116 2:00pm - 5:00pm Birding San Simeon Creek

Field Trip

Leaders Van Pierszalowski

Meeting Site Washburn Creek

Event Venue: Washburn Creek

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Van Pierszalowski to bird San Simeon Creek. This trip will start at the Washburn Creek parking area with easy access to San Simeon creek lagoon and the beach area. An elevated boardwalk provides access to a riparian area. Meets at Washburn Day Use parking lot, on Hwy 1, 1.8 miles north of last traffic light in Cambria. Right turn into the parking lot with public bathrooms available.

117 3:00pm - 4:45pm Bay Birding Cruise with Jon Dunn

Field Trip

Leaders Jon Dunn, Tom Edell

Meeting Site Sub Sea Tours

Event Venue: Sub Sea Tours

Fee: \$50

Xport: Boat

Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary with Jon Dunn and Tom Edell 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.

Friday

201 6:15am - 5:00pm Birding the Carrizo Plain

Field Trip

Leaders Russ Namitz, Sam Fitton

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Carrizo Plains

Fee: \$120

Xport: Bus

Join expert leaders Russ Namitz and Sam Fitton 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 a unique habitat of semi-desert scrub, open grassland and juniper foothills. Time includes 4 hours round-trip travel many in/out bus stops in comfortable bus. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

202 7:00am - 11:30am Careful Observation in the Field

Presentation/Field Trip

Leaders Bob Barnes

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center Event Venue: Morro Bay Community Center Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Bob Barnes returns to guide a unique, refreshing, & confidence-building approach where absolute beginning & novice birders are the stars; NOT Bob! Helpful, for those experienced birders who take them birding, too. Brief classroom session then extended field trip. As desired, bring binoculars, bird guides, cameras, cell phones, small notebooks/sketch pads, snacks, water. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay, Lounge.

203 7:00am - 11:30am Master Class Field Study - Bird Song Magic in the Field - Part 2A

Master Class

Leaders Roy Poucher

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center Event Venue: Cerro Alto Campground Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Roy Poucher in the field for the hands-on companion to the Bird Sounds Master Class 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 Thursday morning Bird Sounds Master Class Workshop (104) is a prerequisite for this event. Total walking distance will be about 1.2 miles. Easy. Travel by personal vehicle to Cerro Alto Campground. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

204 7:00am - 12:00pm Half Day Pelagic Trip

Field Trip

Leaders Tom Edell, Curtis Marantz, Wes Fritz, Will Knowlton, Peter Gaede

Meeting Site Morro Bay Landing Event Venue: Morro Bay Landing Fee: \$100 Xport: Boat

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 Tom Edell, Curtis Marantz, Will Knowlton, Peter Gaede and Wes Fritz at Morro Bay Landing 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 with 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.

205 7:00am - 4:00pm Big Day Birding

Field Trip

Leaders Jeff Miller, Richard Cimino

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center Event Venue: Multiple Sites Fee: \$99 Xport: Bus

Join Jeff Miller and Richard Cimino 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 comfortable bus with leaders and many in/out stops. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

206 8:00am - 10:00am Early Morning Marina Boardwalk Birding & Photo Stroll

Field Trip

Leaders Jacqueline Deely

Meeting Site Morro Bay State Park Marina

Event Venue: Morro Bay State Park Marina

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Jacqueline Deely, Master Class Presenter, 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 Jacqueline 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.

207 8:00am - 11:00am Birding by Kayak

Field Trip

Leaders Virginia Flaherty

Meeting Site Morro Bay State Park Marina

Event Venue: Morro Bay State Park Marina

Fee: \$55

Xport: Kayak

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.

208 8:00am - 12:00pm Birding Along the Bay

Field Trip

Leaders R Rouvaishyana

Meeting Site Bayshore Bluffs Park

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

Fee: \$0

Xport: Self-Drive

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 Bayshore Bluffs Park, 103 Bayshore Drive, Morro Bay.

209 8:00am - 12:00pm Birding by Careful Observation

Field Trip

Leaders Steve McMasters

Meeting Site El Chorro Park

Event Venue: El Chorro Park

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Leisurely in-depth bird observation and ID skills enhancement with a stroll with Steve McMasters 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.

210 8:30am - 12:00pm Birding San Simeon Creek

Field Trip

Leaders Van Pierszalowski

Meeting Site Washburn Creek

Event Venue: Washburn Creek

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Van Pierszalowski to bird San Simeon Creek. This trip will start at the Washburn Creek parking area with easy access to San Simeon creek lagoon and the beach area. An elevated boardwalk provides access to a riparian area. Meets at Washburn Day Use parking lot, on Hwy 1, 1.8 miles north of last traffic light in Cambria. Right turn into the parking lot with public bathrooms available.

211 8:00am - 12:00pm Los Osos Hot Spots with Jon Dunn

Field Trip

Leaders Jon Dunn, Jay Carroll, Ed Harper

Meeting Site South Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Los Osos Multiple

Fee: \$50

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Jon Dunn, Jay Carroll & Ed Harper 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.

212 8:00am - 12:00pm Villa Creek Birding

Field Trip

Leaders Mike Bush, Michael Mulroy

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Villa Creek

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Mike Bush and Michael Mulroy to explore the Villa Creek headlands, beach and estuary, part of Estero Bluffs State Park. This will be a slow-paced walk of 2-3 miles along a beautiful and wild ocean bluff trail along with a sandy beach stroll to Villa Cove. Expect rock-loving shorebirds such as Black and Ruddy Turnstones, Surfbirds, Whimbrels, scoters, terns, gulls. Look for herons and egrets in the estuary created by Villa Creek. Moderate hike due to hiking through sand for 1/2 mile. 21-mile roundtrip carpool from Morro Bay. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

213 8:00am - 2:00pm Birds of the North Coast

Field Trip

Leaders Bob Keally, Terri May, Carmen Keally

Meeting Site Elephant Seal Rookery

Event Venue: Elephant Seal Rookery

Fee: \$25

Xport: Self-Drive

Visit spots along the rugged North Coast with Bob & Carmen Keally and Teri 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. This trip includes lunch at the Sea Chest Restaurant, 6216 Moonstone Beach Drive, Cambria. The Field Trip ends at Noon; the ending time of 2pm accounts for lunch at the Sea Chest. Meets at the Elephant Seal Rookery north of San Simeon. Hwy 1, 7 miles north of San Simeon.

214 8:00am - 4:00pm Big Day

Field Trip

Leaders Ron Melcer

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Morro Bay Multiple

Fee: \$99

Xport: Bus

Join Ron Melcer 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 comfortable bus with leader and many in/out stops. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

215 8:00am - 4:30pm Master Class - Feathers in Focus: Ethical Bird Photography Master Class - Parts 1 & 2

Master Class

Leaders Don Quintana

Meeting Site Inn at Morro Bay

Event Venue: Inn at Morro Bay

Fee: \$130

Xport: None

Step into the captivating world of avian photography with the remarkable master class, "Feathers in Focus: Ethical Bird Photography." Led by a seasoned expert Don Quintana in the field, this hands-on workshop takes participants on an unforgettable journey, unveiling the secrets to capturing breathtaking bird photographs while upholding the highest ethical standards. Through the guidance of a dedicated teacher, attendees will be immersed in a comprehensive curriculum that showcases proven field techniques, emphasizing minimal disturbance to the birds and their delicate ecosystems. From learning the art of blending into the surroundings to utilizing noninvasive approaches, this class equips passionate photographers with the skills to create remarkable images, be it for identification or award-winning pursuits. Immerse yourself in the natural wonders and unlock the true beauty of avian photography in this extraordinary master class. Part 1 will take place from 8:00am to 11:30am; after a lunch break, Part 2 is from 1:30pm to 4:30pm. Lunch is NOT included. Meets at the Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay. Alcove Room.

216 8:30am - 10:00am Condor Recovery

Presentation

Leaders Steve Schubert

Meeting Site Veterans Hall

Event Venue: Veterans Hall

Fee:

Xport: None

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 the Vet's Hall, 209 Surf St, Morro Bay.

217 8:30am - 11:00am Meander Morro Bay Marina

Field Trip

Leaders Penny Principe, Ann Stockert, Kristin Loft

Meeting Site Morro Bay State Park Marina

Event Venue: Morro Bay State Park Marina

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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 Ann Stockert and Penny Principe 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.

218 8:30am - 11:30am Birding for Beginners Workshop

Presentation

Leaders Robbie Revel, Karen Watts

Meeting Site Inn at Morro Bay

Event Venue: Inn at Morro Bay

Fee:

Xport: None

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. The presentation includes slides, videos, demonstrations of Merlin App and a number of bird mounts that will be used to illustrate the criteria for bird identification. You will practice making observations, learn to use binoculars and field guides and learn about resources available for ongoing skill building. Easy, family oriented, but not appropriate for children younger than 9 years of age. Meets at the Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay. Cayucos Room.

219 8:30am - 12:00pm Back Bay Birding

Field Trip

Leaders Richard Neidhardt, Daniel Elting, Rusty Scalf

Meeting Site South Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Los Osos Multiple

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Richard Neidhardt, Daniel Elting and Rusty Scalf for a flat 2-3 mile walk birding the diverse shoreline habitats of the Back Bay, including Sweet Springs Nature Preserve, Cuesta Inlet and Pecho Willows. Expect a variety of shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors and passerines. Meets at the South Bay Community Center in Los Osos. 2180 Palisades Ave, Los Osos.

220 8:30am - 12:00pm Birding Estero Bluffs

Field Trip

Leaders Rick Derevan, Jim Bland

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Estero Bluffs

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join leaders Rick Derevan and Jim Bland 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.

221 8:30am - 1:30pm Casual Little Big Day

Field Trip

Leaders Benny Jacobs-Schwartz

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

Fee: \$70

Xport: Bus

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.

222 8:30am - 2:00pm Birding Las Cruzitas Ranch

Field Trip

Leaders Cruz Phillips, Cher Hollingworth

Meeting Site Las Cruzitas Ranch

Event Venue: Las Cruzitas Ranch

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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, and Cher Hollingworth 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.

223 8:45am - 4:00pm Big Day at Santa Margarita Lake

Field Trip

Leaders Bettina Eastman, Reef Comer

Meeting Site Santa Margarita Lake Ranger Station

Event Venue: Santa Margarita Lake Ranger Station

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Bettina Eastman and Reef Comer 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.

224 9:00am - 10:45am Bay Birding Photo Cruise

Field Trip

Leaders Dave Keeling

Meeting Site Sub Sea Tours

Event Venue: Sub Sea Tours

Fee: \$40

Xport: Boat

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.

225 9:00am - 11:30am Shoreline Birding for Beginners

Field Trip

Leaders Ginger Howard

Meeting Site Baywood Park Pier

Event Venue: Los Osos Multiple

Fee: \$0

Xport: Self-Drive

Seek out raptors, waterfowl, terns/gulls, diving species and shorebirds with Ginger Howard along the beaches of Baywood Park from the pier, to Pasadena beach park, to the 4th St Audubon Overlook. 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, Second Street, Los Osos, CA.

226 9:00am - 12:00pm Birding by Kayak

Field Trip

Leaders John Flaherty

Meeting Site Morro Bay State Park Marina

Event Venue: Morro Bay State Park Marina

Fee: \$55

Xport: Kayak

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.

227 9:00am - 12:00pm Intro to Nature Journaling for Birders

Journaling / Sketching

Leaders Fiona Gillogly

Meeting Site SLO Botanical Garden

Event Venue: SLO Botanical Garden

Fee: \$30

Xport: None

Join avid birder, nature journaler, and artist Fiona Gillogly for this introduction to nature journaling, and learn why keeping a nature journal can be a great practice for birders. Fiona will teach the basics of nature journaling, share some examples of her journal pages, demonstrate techniques, and share tips to help you add this to your birding practice. Participants will have the chance to practice and share their nature journal pages, and should bring journals, sketching supplies, coloring pencils and binoculars. Meets at SLO Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Road, San Luis Obispo.

228 9:00am - 12:00pm The Diverse Birds of Morro Bay

Field Trip

Leaders Dennis Sheridan, Dale Ball

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Morro Bay Multiple

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Dennis Sheridan & Dale Ball 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.

229 10:00am - 11:30am Cachuma Lake Pontoon Boat Cruise

Field Trip

Leaders Rosey Bishop

Meeting Site Cachuma Lake

Event Venue: Cachuma Lake

Fee: \$30

Xport: Boat

This trip is intended for Festival attendees driving to the Festival from Southern California. Join Santa Barbara County Nature Guides for a cruise on Cachuma Lake . Enjoy a 1 & 1/2 hour pontoon cruise aboard the Osprey to view different species of local and migratory birds. White pelicans, geese, bald eagles, osprey, diving and dabbling ducks and shore birds visit Cachuma Lake during late fall and winter months. In addition to great birding on the lake and surrounding trails, there is a nature museum, cafe, market, gas station, fishing and boat rentals, disc golf and bike trails. Los Olivos, Solvang, Santa Barbara, and the old stage coach stop Cold Spring Tavern with resident Steller's Jays are all nearby. Meets at 124 Lakeview Drive, Santa Barbara, CA 93105.

230 10:00am - 11:45am Morro Bay Nature Cruise

Field Trip

Leaders Dean Thompson, Carol Comeau

Meeting Site Morro Bay Landing

Event Venue: Morro Bay Landing

Fee: \$40

Xport: Boat

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 and Carol Comeau 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.

231 10:00am - 12:00pm Bats - California's amazing flying mammals

Presentation

Leaders Lisa Murphy

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Morro Bay Community Center

Fee:

Xport: None

There are more than 1300 species of bats on this planet. Bats have many similarities to birds and many quintessential differences. Lisa will illuminate the adaptations and behaviors of 19 species of bats found here on the Central Coast. We will explore why these creatures are essential elements in the balance of their ecosystems and what we can do to support them. This presentation is a prerequisite for Lisa's Field Trip 254, Bats - A field study of California's amazing flying mammals. Join Lisa at the Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay, Lounge.

232 10:00am - 12:00pm Lazy Birding 101

Field Trip

Leaders Neha Kumar, Vinish Janardhanan

Meeting Site Morro Rock

Event Venue: Morro Rock

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Sit in your car, sip your morning chai, and watch the brown pelicans fly by - that's lazy birding! Join Lazy Birders, Neha and Vinish, at the Morro Bay Bird Festival 2024 as we walk you through our birding experience, nature journaling, and bird photography. Our trip welcomes beginners who want to explore the world of birds and those with some experience who enjoy sharing their birding stories in a relaxed setting. Late risers need not fret; the call isn't for a 6 a.m. wake-up. Instead, join us at (a leisurely) 10am in the Morro Rock parking lot. Expect a stroll around Morro Rock to explore the resident and migratory birds on the rocky habitat and the bayside. Bring your enthusiasm, pair of binoculars, choice of beverage(s). Optionally, bring camera with telephoto zoom or lens, paper and pencil for sketching, portable chair. Meets at Morro Rock. Coleman Drive, Morro Bay. Meet across from bathrooms, next to Morro Rock.

233 10:00am - 12:00pm Marina Boardwalk Birding Stroll

Field Trip

Leaders Chris Cameron

Meeting Site Morro Bay State Park Marina

Event Venue: Morro Bay State Park Marina

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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 Chris Cameron 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.

234 10:00am - 12:00pm The Bird Way with Jennifer Ackerman

Presentation

Leaders Jennifer Ackerman

Meeting Site Inn at Morro Bay

Event Venue: Inn at Morro Bay

Fee:

Xport: None

Jennifer Ackerman's illustrated talk explores a kaleidoscope of fascinating behaviors in the bird world, as described in *The Bird Way*, through the lens of five arenas of daily activity-communication, work, play, love, and parenting. It tells stories about some of the extraordinary ways that birds do these things and the secret, sophisticated intelligence underlying their behavior. The talk also explores the new discoveries that are overturning many of our old, conventional ideas about how birds live their lives, describes how science is making some of these astonishing discoveries, and shows the most stunning examples from each section of the book. The talk ranges from the tropical rainforests of eastern Australia and the remote woodlands of Meets at the Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay. Morro Bay Room.

235 11:15am - 12:45pm Snowy Plovers in the Field

Field Trip

Leaders Connor Jandreau

Meeting Site Cloisters, Azure Street

Event Venue: Cloisters, Azure Street

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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.

236 1:00pm - 2:15pm Rookery Wonders in Windy Cove

Presentation

Leaders Louise Abbott

Meeting Site Inn at Morro Bay

Event Venue: Inn at Morro Bay

Fee:

Xport: None

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. Cayucos Room.

237 1:00pm - 2:30pm A Birder's Brain on Paper: How keeping a nature journaling enriches our birding experiences

Journaling / Sketching

Leaders Fiona Gillogly

Meeting Site SLO Botanical Garden

Event Venue: SLO Botanical Garden

Fee:

Xport: None

Join avid birder, nature journaler, and artist Fiona Gillogly as she shares her experience combining birding and nature journaling. Fiona has found that keeping a nature journal helps her activate her curiosity, notice more detail, have more fun, and build stronger memories of her birding experiences. She will share some examples of her journal pages, demonstrate some techniques, and share tips to help you add this to your birding practice. She will also share how mentors have been central to her development as a birder and an artist. Meets at SLO Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Road, San Luis Obispo.

238 1:00pm - 3:00pm **Basics of Bird ID in the Field**

Field Trip

Leaders R Rouvaishyana, Phylene Wiggins

Meeting Site Morro Bay State Park Marina Event Venue: Morro Bay State Park Marina Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

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.

240 1:30pm - 3:30pm **Gardening to Attract Birds**

Field Trip

Leaders Ken Levine

Meeting Site SLO Botanical Garden Event Venue: SLO Botanical Garden Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

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

241 1:30pm - 4:00pm **Birding Laguna Lake**

Field Trip

Leaders Greg Smith

Meeting Site Laguna Lake Event Venue: Laguna Lake Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

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 Greg Smith 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).

242 1:30pm - 3:30pm **Morro Bay Marina with Jennifer Ackerman**

Field Trip

Leaders Jennifer Ackerman, Lara Tseng, Karen Watts

Meeting Site Morro Bay State Park Marina Event Venue: Morro Bay State Park Marina Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

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 Jennifer Ackerman, Lara Tseng and Karen Watts, 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.

243 1:30pm - 4:00pm Shoreline Birding for Beginners

Field Trip

Leaders Steve McMasters

Meeting Site South Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Los Osos Multiple

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Learn to identify the more common gulls and shorebirds with Steve McMasters 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 Overlook. 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.

244 1:30pm - 5:00pm Morro Bay Hot Spots with Jon Dunn

Field Trip

Leaders Jon Dunn, Steve Schubert

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Morro Bay Multiple

Fee: \$50

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Jon Dunn and Steve Schubert 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.

245 2:00pm - 3:00pm Finding those Elusive Owls

Presentation

Leaders Chris Cameron

Meeting Site Veterans Hall

Event Venue: Veterans Hall

Fee:

Xport: None

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 (252, 354 and 453); 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 the Vet's Hall, 209 Surf St, Morro Bay.

246 2:00pm - 3:45pm Bay Birding Cruise

Field Trip

Leaders Mike Bush, Michael Mulroy

Meeting Site Morro Bay Landing

Event Venue: Morro Bay Landing

Fee: \$40

Xport: Boat

Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary in an open-deck 34-foot power catamaran with Mike Bush and Michael Mulroy. 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.

247 2:00pm - 4:00pm Birding Morro Rock

Field Trip

Leaders Rick Derevan, Nora Livingston

Meeting Site Morro Rock

Event Venue: Morro Rock

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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 and Nora Livingston 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.

248 2:00pm - 4:00pm Birds, Bats, and Beyond: Motus Wildlife Tracking in Coastal California

Presentation

Leaders Laney White, Bob Keally, Carmen Keally, Terri May

Meeting Site Piedras Blancas Light Station

Event Venue: Piedras Blancas Light Station

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Laney White for a presentation on Motus. The Motus Wildlife Tracking System is an international collaborative research network that uses coordinated radio-telemetry arrays to study movements of small flying animals including birds, bats, and insects. These small-bodied animals have been challenging to study in the past because other tracking devices are too large for them to carry. Motus arrays are made up of automated radio telemetry receiving stations that detect signals from tiny tags worn by animals. The stations are deployed and maintained by collaborators around the world. Information collected helps fill critical data gaps on wildlife movement and behavior. Seabird and bat researchers from the USGS Western Ecological Research Center have teamed up to leverage Motus to study how flying animals move through the marine environment. They are in the process of adding 25 remote telemetry stations to the existing global Motus Wildlife Tracking System along the coast and offshore of Central and Southern California. They aim to foster collaboration with a variety of partners to enhance wildlife tracking capacity in the Pacific Region. The new stations will support data-collection efforts on the timing and scale of movements for shorebirds, seabirds, migratory bats, and other taxa. Following the Motus presentation, Festival leaders Bob & Carmen Keally and Terri May will assist in a short (30 minute) birding walk to check out the seabirds around the Light Station. Meets at the Piedras Blancas Light Station, 15950 Cabrillo Hwy (Hwy 1), San Simeon, CA 93452. You must arrive on time as the gates will be closed shortly after the 2pm meeting time.

249 2:15pm - 4:15pm From Sea to Summit: The Marvelous Hummingbird

Presentation

Leaders Benny Jacobs-Schwartz

Meeting Site Inn at Morro Bay

Event Venue: Inn at Morro Bay

Fee:

Xport: None

From Alaska to the high Andes of South America, join Benny Jacobs-Schwartz to explore the magic of hummingbirds! With 360 species recognized globally, he'll discuss their remarkable biology, expansive range, ecological significance, and the best way to attract them to your yard! Mouth-watering media and local hummingbird ID section included! Meets at the Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay Room.

250 2:30pm - 4:30pm An Identification Study of Birds of Prey

Presentation

Leaders Ed Harper

Meeting Site Inn at Morro Bay

Event Venue: Inn at Morro Bay

Fee:

Xport: None

Raptors also known as birds of prey have long fascinated man. Their prowess demands our interest, admiration, and inquiry. But raptors can at times be devilish difficult to identify to species. This offering, presented by Ed Harper, will illustrate raptors one might encounter in California with useful and important identification aid along with their status and distribution. With beautiful images illustrating instructive aspects of raptor identification, this presentation will be very informative. Meets at the Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay. Cayucos Room.

251 3:00pm - 4:45pm Bay Birding Cruise

Field Trip

Leaders Roger Zachary, Robert Lindsay

Meeting Site Sub Sea Tours

Event Venue: Sub Sea Tours

Fee: \$40

Xport: Boat

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.

252 3:30pm - 9:30pm Owling Field Trip

Field Trip

Leaders R Rouvaishyana, Phylene Wiggins

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

Fee: \$80

Xport: Bus

Join leaders Phylene Wiggins and Rouvaishyana for owling. 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 (245) is a prerequisite. Travel with leader in bus with many in/out stops. Heavy rain will cancel field trip. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

253 5:00pm - 6:30pm Friday Opening Reception

Special Event

Leaders Jeanette Stone

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Morro Bay Community Center

Fee:

Xport: None

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 one of Jennifer Ackerman's books during the registration process, Jennifer will be available to sign your book at this event. Takes place at the Morro Bay Community Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

254 5:00pm - 8:00pm Bats - A field study of California's amazing flying mammals

Field Trip

Leaders Lisa Murphy

Meeting Site South Bay Community Center

Event Venue: South Bay Community Center

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

This field trip accompanies Event 231, Bats - California's amazing flying mammals, and is meant as a field portion to that event. We will learn a bit more about our local Central California bats as we wander in the gloaming. A magical moment is to watch the first bats of the evening illuminated against the sky as they forage in the dwindling light as evening sets in. We will do a walking transect acoustical survey of bats using a surface tablet with Sonobat software (<https://sonobat.com/>) and an ultrasonic microphone. At the end of the program, we will have a summary of the evening's bat activity. Meets at the South Bay Community Center in Los Osos. 2180 Palisades Ave, Los Osos.

255 1:30pm - 3:30pm Elephant Seal Rookery at Piedras Blancas

Field Trip

Leaders Jim David

Meeting Site Elephant Seal Rookery

Event Venue: Elephant Seal Rookery

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Friends of the Elephant Seal docent Jim David for a "prime time" tour of the Piedras Blancas Elephant Seal rookery. This is one of the best times to visit the rookery. Mid January is the peak of birthing. The beaches will be full of big bulls, birthing and nursing moms and pups. Be ready to dive deep into their natural history and adaptations. We will meet at the NORTH END of the main Elephant Seal viewpoint, 5 miles north of Hearst Castle.

Saturday

301 6:15am - 5:00pm Birding the Carrizo Plain

Field Trip

Leaders Will Knowlton, Peter Gaede

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Carrizo Plains

Fee: \$120

Xport: Bus

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 7:00am - 11:30am Careful Observation in the Field

Presentation/Field Trip

Leaders Bob Barnes

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Morro Bay Community Center

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Bob Barnes returns to guide a unique, refreshing, & confidence-building approach where absolute beginning & novice birders are the stars; NOT Bob! Helpful, for those experienced birders who take them birding, too. Brief classroom session then extended field trip. As desired, bring binoculars, bird guides, cameras, cell phones, small notebooks/sketch pads, snacks, water... Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay. Lounge.

303 7:00am - 2:00pm Wildlife of Point Buchon

Field Trip

Leaders Sally Krenn, Eric Wier

Meeting Site South Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Point Buchon

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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.

304 7:00am - 4:00pm Big Pelagic: Birds & Whales

Field Trip

Leaders Tom Edell, Curtis Marantz, Wes Fritz, Jeff Miller

Meeting Site Morro Bay Landing

Event Venue: Morro Bay Landing

Fee: \$150

Xport: Boat

Join leaders Tom Edell, Jeff Miller, Curtis Marantz and Wes Fritz 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.

305 7:30am - 12:00pm Bird Montana de Oro State Park

Field Trip

Leaders Jay Carroll, Bert Townsend

Meeting Site South Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Montana de Oro

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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.

306 7:30am - 12:00pm Birding Estero Bluffs with Jon Dunn

Field Trip

Leaders Jon Dunn, Bettina Eastman, Ed Harper

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Estero Bluffs

Fee: \$50

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Jon Dunn, Bettina Eastman and Ed Harper 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.

307 8:00am - 11:00am Birding by Kayak

Field Trip

Leaders Virginia Flaherty

Meeting Site Morro Bay State Park Marina

Event Venue: Morro Bay State Park Marina

Fee: \$55

Xport: Kayak

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.

308 8:00am - 11:30am Ranchland Birding

Field Trip

Leaders Greg Smith

Meeting Site Vandenheuvel Ranch

Event Venue: Vandenheuvel Ranch

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Greg Smith to tour a portion of the 1,200-acre private Vandenheuvel Ranch, a 30-minute drive 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 the Ranch, 1960 Montecito Road, Cayucos.

309 8:00am - 12:00pm Birding by Careful Observation

Field Trip

Leaders Dale Ball

Meeting Site El Chorro Park

Event Venue: El Chorro Park

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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 Dale Ball & friends 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.

310 8:00am - 12:00pm Birding Morro Strand

Field Trip

Leaders Sam Fitton

Meeting Site Cloisters, Azure Street

Event Venue: Cloisters, Azure Street

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Sam Fitton 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.

311 8:00am - 12:00pm Birds and Butterflies

Field Trip

Leaders Jessica Griffiths

Meeting Site South Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Los Osos Multiple

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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.

312 8:00am - 12:00pm Wintering Birds at Cal Poly Pier

Field Trip

Leaders Elena Keeling, Dave Keeling

Meeting Site Cal Poly Pier

Event Venue: Cal Poly Pier

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

The Cal Poly Pier in Avila Beach is normally closed to the public but will be open to us! Join leaders Elena Keeling and Dave Keeling to learn about the research being done here as we walk to the end of the 1-kilometer pier and back for views of water birds and possible marine mammals. Then we will drive a few minutes to the Bob Jones Trail bridge over San Luis Obispo Creek for additional birding. Suitable for beginning birders. Minimum age 14. Total walking distance is under 2 miles, all on hard surfaces. Flat-soled, closed-toed shoes are required; the pier is accessible to people in wheelchairs but not suitable for canes or walkers due to a stretch of metal grating. 50 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Meets at the Cal Poly Pier, 3254 Avila Beach Drive, Avila. Located between the Avila Pier and the Port San Luis Hartford Pier in Avila Beach.

313 8:00am - 2:00pm Birds of the North Coast

Field Trip

Leaders Bob Keally, Terri May, Van Pierszalowski

Meeting Site Elephant Seal Rookery

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

Fee: \$25

Xport: Self-Drive

Visit spots along the rugged North Coast with Bob Keally, Teri May and Van Pierszalowski 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. This trip includes lunch at the Sea Chest Restaurant, 6216 Moonstone Beach Drive, Cambria. The Field Trip ends at Noon; the ending time of 2pm accounts for lunch at the Sea Chest. Meets at the Elephant Seal Rookery north of San Simeon. Hwy 1, 7 miles north of San Simeon.

314 8:00am - 4:00pm Big Day

Field Trip

Leaders Ron Melcer

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

Fee: \$99

Xport: Bus

Join Ron Melcer 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.

315 8:00am - 5:00pm Master Class - Avian Biology for Bird Photographers Parts 1 & 2

Master Class

Leaders Jim Bland

Meeting Site Sea Pines

Event Venue: Sea Pines

Fee: \$130

Xport: None

This class will broaden the participants' knowledge of bird biology in ways that will support obtaining and interpreting bird photographs. Information presented will help participants prepare for photography shoots, as well as describe images after they are in hand. How do you target a species of interest? How do you anticipate an action shot? How do you describe a bird's appearance using established ornithological vocabulary? How do you interpret behaviors in scientifically valid terms? At the end of the day, participants will visit the Morro Bay Marina Boardwalk to observe and discuss bird biology in the field. Bring your camera gear on the walk, but bear in mind that camera use and photography technique are not topics covered in the class. The class will be led by Jim Bland, a retired avian ecologist and experienced wildlife photographer. Lunch is NOT included, but restaurants are available at both venues. Meets at Sea Pines Golf Course. 1945 Solano St, Los Osos. Meeting Room.

316 8:15am - 12:00pm Smart Phone Bird Recoding

Presentation/Field Trip

Leaders Tom Graves

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Morro Bay Community Center

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Not a birding-by-ear expert yet? Learn how to record YOUR OWN bird sounds to help with ID. You already record birds by photo, take the next step by 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. If you like you can prepare for the workshop by downloading: <http://morrobaybirdfestival.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Audio-Recording-Workshop.pdf>. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay. Lounge.

317 8:15am - 12:00pm Songbirds in the Pines

Field Trip

Leaders R Rouvaishyana, Vicky Johnsen

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Black Hill La Loma

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Rouvaishyana and Vicky Johnsen 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.

318 8:30am - 11:00am Meander Morro Bay Marina

Field Trip

Leaders Ann Stockert, Penny Principe, Kristin Loft

Meeting Site Morro Bay State Park Marina

Event Venue: Morro Bay State Park Marina

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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 Ann Stockert, Penny Principe and Kristin Loft, 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.

319 8:30am - 11:30am A Snipe Hunt For Rails?

Field Trip

Leaders Robert Lindsay

Meeting Site Oso Flaco Lake

Event Venue: Oso Flaco Lake

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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. Oso Flaco is located 42 miles south of Morro Bay. Meet at Oso Flaco parking lot, 3004 Oso Flaco Lake Road, Arroyo Grande. State Parks requires a parking fee of \$5.

320 8:30am - 11:30am Land and Sea Birds at Morro Rock

Field Trip

Leaders Jim Royer

Meeting Site Morro Rock

Event Venue: Morro Rock

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Morro Rock is home to Peregrine Falcons, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Common Yellowthroat, various sparrows, the elusive Canyon Wren, and sometimes a Burrowing Owl. Join Jim Royer 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.

321 8:30am - 12:00pm Birding Elfin Forest & Sweet Springs

Field Trip

Leaders Richard Neidhardt, Daniel Elting, Rusty Scalf

Meeting Site South Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Elfin Forest

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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 Richard Neidhardt, Daniel Elting and Rusty Scalf. 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.

322 8:30am - 12:00pm Los Osos Hot Spots by Bike

Field Trip

Leaders Ginger Howard

Meeting Site Sea Pines

Event Venue: Los Osos Multiple

Fee:

Xport: Bicycle

Join Ginger Howard for a birding tour of the area on bicycle and on foot. This is a total 5.8-mile out and back with one moderate hill and short walks, starting and ending at Sea Pines Golf Resort. The pace will be leisurely with frequent stops to identify birds and discuss bird field marks and vocalizations. Bring multi-speed bicycle (tires for one stretch of dirt road), lock, helmet, water, snacks and lunch. Also bring: binoculars, layered clothing (it can be very cold at the beginning and warm by the end). Beginning birders welcome, but not recommended for beginning cyclists. Rain or high winds cancel. Be present with your bike and ready to go at 8:30 AM in the parking lot. Meets at Sea Pines Golf Course. 1945 Solano St, Los Osos.

323 8:30am - 1:30pm Casual Little Big Day

Field Trip

Leaders Benny Jacobs-Schwartz

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

Fee: \$70

Xport: Bus

This is slower paced Big Day for beginning and intermediate birders led by Benjamin Jacobs-Schwartz. 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.

324 8:30am - 3:15pm Big Day at Santa Margarita Lake

Field Trip

Leaders Mark Holmgren

Meeting Site Santa Margarita Lake Ranger Station

Event Venue: Santa Margarita Lake Ranger Station

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Mark Holmgren for a big day of birding at Santa Margarita Lake. 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 hike. Meets at Santa Margarita Lake Ranger Station. 4695 Santa Margarita Lake Road, Santa Margarita.

325 9:00am - 10:45am Bay Birding Photo Cruise

Field Trip

Leaders Jacqueline Deely, Rick Derevan

Meeting Site Sub Sea Tours

Event Venue: Sub Sea Tours

Fee: \$40

Xport: Boat

Join local expert photographers Jacqueline Deely and 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.

326 9:00am - 11:30am Young Birders & the Marina Boardwalk

Field Trip

Leaders Max Taylor, Lara Tseng

Meeting Site Morro Bay State Park Marina

Event Venue: Morro Bay State Park Marina

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Max Taylor and Lara Tseng to bird the Morro Bay State Park Marina Boardwalk. This trip is specifically for young birders and provides opportunities for viewing a variety of shorebirds, ducks, geese, loons, grebes, gulls, terns and herons. Peregrine Falcons and other raptors are often seen. Meets at the Peninsula Trail Head, southeast end of the State Park Marina parking lot, across from Morro Bay State Park Campground.

327 9:00am - 12:00pm Birding by Kayak

Field Trip

Leaders John Flaherty

Meeting Site Morro Bay State Park Marina

Event Venue: Morro Bay State Park Marina

Fee: \$55

Xport: Kayak

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.

328 9:00am - 12:00pm Gulls of SLO Identified

Presentation/Field Trip

Leaders Russ Namitz

Meeting Site Veterans Hall

Event Venue: Veterans Hall

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Learn techniques to identify resident and wintering gulls from leader Russ Namitz. 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 the Vet's Hall, 209 Surf St, Morro Bay.

329 9:00am - 12:00pm Nature Journaling-Creating Sacred Moments in Your Own Garden

Journaling / Sketching

Leaders Melissa Gonzalez

Meeting Site SLO Botanical Garden

Event Venue: SLO Botanical Garden

Fee: \$15

Xport: None

In this Nature Journaling experience, you will hear from garden designer Melissa Gonzalez about how the practice of Nature Journaling has changed the way she designs and how to create sacred moments in your own garden to live in harmony with wildlife and nature through the pages of your journal. As our pioneer in Nature Journaling, John Muir Laws explains, what phenomenon are you curious about when out in the beauty of nature? Bring your Nature Journal and favorite writing materials (pens, watercolors, gouache, color pencils, etc.) to create sacred space and time in the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden. Meets at SLO Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Road, San Luis Obispo.

330 9:00am - 12:00pm Peregrine Falcons of Morro Rock

Presentation/Field Trip

Leaders Steve Schubert

Meeting Site Inn at Morro Bay

Event Venue: Inn at Morro Bay

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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 the Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay. Cayucos Room.

331 9:00am - 2:00pm Master Class - Falconry Experience

Master Class

Leaders Chris Cameron

Meeting Site Swallow Creek Ranch

Event Venue: Swallow Creek Ranch

Fee: \$90

Xport: Self-Drive

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. Attendees should bring a lunch. Meets at Swallow Creek Ranch. The Ranch is located north of Cayucos, 2.8 miles past where CA Hwy 1 becomes a 2 lane road (when traveling north).

332 9:00am - 2:30pm Master Class - Pro Gull ID

Master Class

Leaders Kaaren Perry

Meeting Site Inn at Morro Bay

Event Venue: Inn at Morro Bay

Fee: \$80

Xport: Self-Drive

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 the Central Coast. Although variation in species is easy to overlook, this is a true master class in the subtle differences from one species to another. Part 2 of Kaaren's Pro Gull ID will take place on Sunday, 8am to 10am, Trip 410. Lunch is bring your own. Box lunches available through registration. Meets at the Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay. Alcove Room.

333 9:00am - 4:00pm Master Class - Nature Journaling

Master Class

Leaders John Muir Laws

Meeting Site Inn at Morro Bay

Event Venue: Inn at Morro Bay

Fee: \$110

Xport: None

This Master Class features one of the recognized masters of Nature Journaling: John Muir Laws. You will be guided through lessons and exercises based on his book The Laws Guide to Drawing Birds. Jack (his preferred nickname) will be providing instruction, exercises, examples, and one-on-one support for the drawing and sketching of birds as a means of improving ornithological observation skills. All levels of drawing skill are welcome and encouraged to attend. The goal of nature journaling is not to create a portfolio of pretty pictures but to develop a tool to help you see, wonder, and remember your experiences. You can learn to do this. You do not need to be an artist or a naturalist. These are skills you will develop as you go. Attendees should bring journals, sketching supplies, coloring pencils and binoculars. Meets at the Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay. Morro Bay Room.

334 10:00am - 12:00pm Lazy Birding 101

Field Trip

Leaders Neha Kumar, Vinish Janardhanan

Meeting Site Morro Rock

Event Venue: Morro Rock

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Sit in your car, sip your morning chai, and watch the brown pelicans fly by - that's lazy birding! Join Lazy Birders, Neha and Vinish, at the Morro Bay Bird Festival 2024 as we walk you through our birding experience, nature journaling, and bird photography. Our trip welcomes beginners who want to explore the world of birds and those with some experience who enjoy sharing their birding stories in a relaxed setting. Late risers need not fret; the call isn't for a 6 a.m. wake-up. Instead, join us at (a leisurely) 10am in the Morro Rock parking lot. Expect a stroll around Morro Rock to explore the resident and migratory birds on the rocky habitat and the bayside. Bring your enthusiasm, pair of binoculars, choice of beverage(s). Optionally, bring camera with telephoto zoom or lens, paper and pencil for sketching, portable chair. Meets at Morro Rock. Coleman Drive, Morro Bay. Meet across from bathrooms, next to Morro Rock.

335 1:00pm - 2:30pm Listening and Calling Birds as an Art

Field Trip

Leaders R Rouvaishyana, Vicky Johnsen

Meeting Site Del Mar Park

Event Venue: Del Mar Park

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Practice pishing using Pete Dunne's methods. Rouvaishyana and Vicky Johnsen 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

336 1:00pm - 2:45pm Bay Birding Cruise

Field Trip

Leaders Claudia Freitas, Karen Watts

Meeting Site Sub Sea Tours

Event Venue: Sub Sea Tours

Fee: \$30

Xport: Boat

Join Claudia Freitas and Karen Watts 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.

338 1:00pm - 2:45pm How To Look At Shorebirds And Why Fewer Is Better

Presentation

Leaders Jon Dunn, Lara Tseng

Meeting Site Veterans Hall

Event Venue: Veterans Hall

Fee:

Xport: None

Join Jon Dunn and Lara Tseng for a presentation on Shorebirds. Shorebirds are one of the more challenging groups of birds to learn and master. Before getting serious about this difficult group, consider an approach which brings you to a place with fewer birds than say a large lagoon packed with shorebirds, but where you can approach them closely. Take the time to learn the birds in front of you, concentrating not only on their appearance but on other aspects such as behavior. We'll focus on a handful of the smaller species within the genus, the Calidris, the notoriously difficult "peeps." If you can master these species, most of the other species within the shorebird families will be more easily learned. In addition to learning their plumages and behavior, knowing their distribution patterns in advance will prepare you for the "where and when," or paraphrasing what Pasteur famously said in 1854, "chance favors the prepared mind." Meets at the Vet's Hall, 209 Surf St, Morro Bay.

339 1:00pm - 3:00pm **The Otter Truth of Morro Bay**

Field Trip

Leaders Sharon Blakely

Meeting Site Morro Rock

Event Venue: Morro Rock

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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.

340 1:00pm - 4:00pm **Nature Journaling-Creating Sacred Moments in Your Own Garden**

Journaling / Sketching

Leaders Melissa Gonzalez

Meeting Site SLO Botanical Garden

Event Venue: SLO Botanical Garden

Fee: \$15

Xport: None

In this Nature Journaling experience, you will hear from garden designer Melissa Gonzalez about how the practice of Nature Journaling has changed the way she designs and how to create sacred moments in your own garden to live in harmony with wildlife and nature through the pages of your journal. As our pioneer in Nature Journaling, John Muir Laws explains, what phenomenon are you curious about when out in the beauty of nature? Bring your Nature Journal and favorite writing materials (pens, watercolors, gouache, color pencils, etc.) to create sacred space and time in the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden. Meets at SLO Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Road, San Luis Obispo.

341 1:00pm - 4:30pm **Feathers-a wondrously complex and versatile structure**

Presentation

Leaders John Schmitt

Meeting Site Inn at Morro Bay

Event Venue: Inn at Morro Bay

Fee:

Xport: None

Join John Schmitt to explore the world of feathers; John will discuss this incredibly complex integumentary structure and its versatility, and its crucial role in birds surviving beyond the age of dinosaurs and thriving to the present day. Meets at the Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay. Cayucos Room.

342 1:00pm - 4:30pm **Montana de Oro Nature Walk**

Field Trip

Leaders Dean Thompson

Meeting Site South Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Montana de Oro

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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, 2180 Palisades Ave, Los Osos.

343 1:15pm - 3:00pm Bay Birding Photo Cruise

Field Trip

Leaders Dave Keeling

Meeting Site Sub Sea Tours

Event Venue: Sub Sea Tours

Fee: \$40

Xport: Boat

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.

344 1:30pm - 3:30pm El Choro Birding Stroll

Field Trip

Leaders Jay Carroll, Ed Harper

Meeting Site El Chorro Park

Event Venue: El Chorro Park

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join leaders Jay Carroll and Ed Harper for a birding stroll at El Choro Park. Check out the birds near the SLO Botanical Gardens and up the Dairy Creek trail as time permits. Easy trip. El Chorro Park is located at State Hwy 1 @ Dairy Creek Rd. Meets in the SLO Botanical Gardens parking lot.

345 1:30pm - 4:00pm Birding Estero Bluffs

Field Trip

Leaders Steve McMasters

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Estero Bluffs

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Enjoy a slow-paced walk of 1.5-2 miles along a beautiful and wild ocean bluff trail with Steve McMasters. 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.

346 1:30pm - 4:00pm Birding Laguna Lake

Field Trip

Leaders Scott Inman, Michael Mulroy

Meeting Site Laguna Lake

Event Venue: Laguna Lake

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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 Scott Inman and Michael Mulroy 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).

347 1:30pm - 4:00pm Birding Oso Flaco Lake

Field Trip

Leaders Paul Keller

Meeting Site Oso Flaco Lake

Event Venue: Oso Flaco Lake

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Paul Keller 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.

348 1:30pm - 4:00pm **Shorebirds of the Morro Bay Marina**

Field Trip

Leaders Russ Namitz, Reef Comer

Meeting Site Morro Bay State Park Marina Event Venue: Morro Bay State Park Marina Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

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 Russ Namitz and Reef Comer, 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.

349 2:00pm - 4:00pm **The Elfin Forest Wonderland**

Field Trip

Leaders Cindy Roessler

Meeting Site South Bay Community Center Event Venue: Elfin Forest Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

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.

350 2:30pm - 3:30pm **Optics Demystified**

Presentation

Leaders Marilyn Rose

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center Event Venue: Morro Bay Community Center Fee: Xport: None

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.

351 2:30pm - 5:00pm **Birding By Ear Workshop**

Presentation

Leaders Jessica Griffiths

Meeting Site Sea Pines Golf Course Event Venue: Sea Pines Golf Course Fee: Xport: None

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 (422). Meets at Sea Pines Golf Course. 1945 Solano St, Los Osos. Conference Room.

352 3:00pm - 4:45pm Bay Birding Cruise

Field Trip

Leaders Marlin Harms, Carol Comeau

Meeting Site Sub Sea Tours

Event Venue: Sub Sea Tours

Fee: \$40

Xport: Boat

Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary in an open-deck 34-foot power catamaran with Carol Comeau and 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.

353 3:30pm - 4:30pm Meet the Raptors - Pacific Wildlife Care

Presentation

Leaders Pacific Wildlife-Care

Meeting Site Veterans Hall

Event Venue: Veterans Hall

Fee:

Xport: None

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.

354 3:30pm - 9:30pm Owling Field Trip

Field Trip

Leaders R Rouvaishyana, Peggy Burhenn

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

Fee: \$80

Xport: Bus

Join Peggy Burhenn and Rouvaishyana for owling. 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 (245) is a prerequisite. Travel with leader in bus with many in/out stops. Heavy rain will cancel field trip. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

355 7:00pm - 9:00pm Keynote with Jennifer Ackerman - What an Owl Knows

Special Event

Leaders Jennifer Ackerman

Meeting Site Cuesta College Performing Arts Center Event Venue: Cuesta College Performing Arts Cent Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

For millennia, owls have captivated and intrigued us. Our fascination with these mysterious birds was first documented more than 30,000 years ago in the Chauvet Cave paintings in southern France. With their forward gaze and quiet flight, owls are often a symbol of wisdom, knowledge, and foresight. But what does an owl really know? And what do we really know about owls? Scientists have only recently begun to understand in deep detail the complex nature of these extraordinary birds. Some 260 species of owls exist today, and they reside on every continent except Antarctica, but they are far more difficult to find and study than other birds because they are cryptic, camouflaged, and mostly active in the dark of night. Jennifer Ackerman pulls back the curtain on the nature of the world’s most enigmatic birds as she explores the rich biology and natural history of owls and examines remarkable new scientific discoveries about their brains and behavior. If you purchased copies of Jennifer's books during the registration process, Jennifer will be available to sign your book(s) 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

401 7:00am - 11:30am Careful Observation in the Field

Presentation/Field Trip

Leaders Bob Barnes

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center Event Venue: Morro Bay Community Center Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Bob Barnes returns to guide a unique, refreshing, & confidence-building approach where absolute beginning & novice birders are the stars; NOT Bob! Helpful, for those experienced birders who take them birding, too. Brief classroom session then extended field trip. As desired, bring binoculars, bird guides, cameras, cell phones, small notebooks/sketch pads, snacks, water. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay. Lounge.

402 7:00am - 12:00pm Half Day Pelagic Trip

Field Trip

Leaders Tom Edell, Curtis Marantz, Wes Fritz, Benny Jacobs-Schwartz, Russ Namitz

Meeting Site Morro Bay Landing Event Venue: Morro Bay Landing Fee: \$100 Xport: Boat

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 Tom Edell, Benjamin Jacob-Schwartz, Curtis Marantz Russ Namitz and Wes Fritz at Morro Bay Landing. 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.

403 7:00am - 12:00pm Wildlife of Point Buchon

Field Trip

Leaders Sally Krenn

Meeting Site South Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Point Buchon

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Explore the spectacular scenic coastline at Point Buchon with seasoned leaders Sally Krenn. 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.

404 7:00am - 4:00pm Big Day

Field Trip

Leaders Jeff Miller

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

Fee: \$99

Xport: Bus

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 leader and many in/out stops. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

405 7:00am - 4:30pm Master Class - Introduction to Bird Photography - Parts 1 & 2

Master Class

Leaders Jacqueline Deely

Meeting Site Inn at Morro Bay

Event Venue: Inn at Morro Bay

Fee: \$130

Xport: Self-Drive

Bird photography is one of the most challenging genres of nature photography, but also one of the most rewarding. Led by professional wildlife photographer and naturalist (Jacqueline Deely), this fun, supportive workshop is designed with entry level bird photographers in mind. Build your confidence and become acquainted with the recommended settings, techniques and post processing procedures used to capture compelling images of birds. Gain an understanding of light, composition, exposure and ethical practices while out in the field, as you are thoughtfully guided along the way. An in-class lecture will provide invaluable tips and advice along with time to discuss and share. Known for her friendly, relaxed style, Jacqueline enjoys teaching and is eager to pass on her knowledge and expertise. If you love birds and want to know how to photograph them, this is the master class for you!

Part 1 will take place from 7:00am to 12 Noon; after a lunch break, Part 2 is from 2:00pm to 4:30pm. Both sessions will involve driving to other locations.

Lunch is NOT included. Meets at the Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay. Alcove Room.

406 7:30am - 12:00pm Oak Woodland and Wetland Birds

Field Trip

Leaders Roger Zachary

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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.

407 7:30am - 4:30pm Big Day Birding by Bicycle

Field Trip

Leaders Jim Royer

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Morro Bay Multiple

Fee:

Xport: Bicycle

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.

408 7:45am - 12:00pm Birding Laguna Lake

Field Trip

Leaders Jay Carroll, Scott Inman

Meeting Site Laguna Lake

Event Venue: Laguna Lake

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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).

409 7:45am - 12:00pm Birding Montana de Oro State Park

Field Trip

Leaders Eric Wier, Steve McMasters

Meeting Site South Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Montana de Oro

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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.

410 8:00am - 10:00am Master Class - Pro Gull ID Field Study

Master Class

Leaders Kaaren Perry

Meeting Site Spencer's Market

Event Venue: Spencer's Market

Fee: \$0

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Kaaren Perry for the Field Study event that is a follow-on to the Pro Gull ID Master Class on Saturday (Trip 332), a prerequisite for this trip. We will begin our morning in the Morro Bay Spencer's Market parking lot at 8:00 with a little local parking-lot birding before heading to the shore. This is typically a great place to observe gulls up close, allowing for careful inspection and discussion. We will be reviewing many of the field marks and tips covered in the class that will help us sort out the different species and ages we will be finding there. We will then drive to the parking area on the south side of Morro Rock with the good chance of finding a few more gull species at the shore to study. If time allows, we will then drive to one more beach nearby where mixed flocks of gulls can often also be found. Rain cancels. Meets at Spencer's Market, 2650 Main St, Morro Bay.

411 8:00am - 11:00am Birding by Kayak

Field Trip

Leaders John Flaherty

Meeting Site Morro Bay State Park Marina

Event Venue: Morro Bay State Park Marina

Fee: \$55

Xport: Kayak

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.

412 8:00am - 11:30am Shorebirds Made Easy

Presentation/Field Trip

Leaders Claudia Freitas

Meeting Site Inn at Morro Bay

Event Venue: Inn at Morro Bay

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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.

413 8:00am - 12:00pm Birding Fiscalini Ranch Preserve

Field Trip

Leaders Van Pierszalowski

Meeting Site Fiscalini Ranch

Event Venue: Fiscalini Ranch

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Bird with Van Pierszalowski 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.

414 8:30am - 12:00pm Birds of San Simeon with Jon Dunn

Field Trip

Leaders Jon Dunn, Bob Keally, Carmen Keally

Meeting Site Washburn Creek

Event Venue: Washburn Creek

Fee: \$50

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Jon Dunn and Bob & Carmen 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. Meets at Washburn Day Use parking lot, on Hwy 1, 1.8 miles north of last traffic light in Cambria. Right turn into the parking lot with public bathrooms available.

415 8:00am - 12:00pm Explore the Mushroom World

Field Trip

Leaders Dennis Sheridan

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Morro Bay Multiple

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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.

416 8:00am - 12:00pm Harmony Headlands

Field Trip

Leaders Evan Weissman

Meeting Site Harmony Headlands

Event Venue: Harmony Headlands

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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.

417 8:00am - 12:00pm Morro Strand Scrub/Shore Birding

Field Trip

Leaders Sam Fitton

Meeting Site Cloisters, Azure Street

Event Venue: Cloisters, Azure Street

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Sam Fitton 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.

418 8:00am - 1:00pm Wings Over Wine

Field Trip

Leaders Greg Smith, Jean Pierre Wolff

Meeting Site Wolff Vineyards

Event Venue: Wolff Vineyards

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join international birding guide, Greg Smith, to explore one of the first certified sustainable vineyards on the Central Coast. With native resource enhancement of bird habitat, wildlife corridors, and steelhead trout restoration on boundary creeks, there should be a varied list of different bird species. Vintner, Jean-Pierre Wolff, PhD, will accompany us as we bird along the riparian corridors and to the on-site pond. Approximately 1.5 miles of walking along slightly sloping terrain. Afterwards Jean-Pierre will share a short presentation on ecology, the goals of sustainable farming and a couple research projects at Wolff vineyards. We will finish up with an optional wine tasting at Wolff Vineyards (discounted fee of \$10, refundable with bottle purchase), so bring your lunch and enjoy the panoramic view of the Edna Valley and some of Wolff Vineyards award winning wines! Meets at Wolff Vineyards. 6238 Orcutt Road, San Luis Obispo.

419 8:15am - 12:00pm Advanced Bird Photography

Field Trip

Leaders Don Quintana, Jerry Kirkhart

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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.

420 8:15am - 2:30pm Raptors Searching on the Central Coast

Field Trip

Leaders Steve Schubert, Dave Berry

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Steve Schubert and Dave Berry to explore a diversity of coastal and inland habitats within a 15 mile radius of Morro Bay, including coastal estuary and salt marsh, streamside and oak woodlands, coastal scrub and chaparral shrublands, grassland and grazing pastureland, rocky outcrops, freshwater lake and ponds. Search for target birds of prey such as Peregrine Falcon, American Kestrel, Merlin, White-tailed Kite, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Accipiters, Northern Harrier, Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle, and daytime roosting Owls. Short walks but possibility of moderate hiking off pavement with some uneven ground. Bring lunch. Moderate. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay. Carpooling is encouraged.

421 8:30am - 11:00am Birding for Beginners at El Chorro Park

Field Trip

Leaders Kristina Van Wert, Tyson Baker

Meeting Site El Chorro Park

Event Venue: El Chorro Park

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Enjoy leisurely in-depth bird observation and enhance your ID skills with the help of Kristina Van Wert and Tyson Baker. 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. El Chorro Park is located at State Hwy 1 @ Dairy Creek Rd. Meets in the SLO Botanical Gardens parking lot.

422 8:30am - 11:30am Birding By Ear Field Trip

Field Trip

Leaders Jessica Griffiths

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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 (351), is a prerequisite for this trip. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

423 8:30am - 11:30am Birding Oso Flaco Lake

Field Trip

Leaders Richard Neidhardt, Daniel Elting, Rusty Scalf

Meeting Site Oso Flaco Lake

Event Venue: Oso Flaco Lake

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Richard Neidhardt, Daniel Elting and Rusty Scalf 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.

424 8:30am - 11:30am Morro Strand Beginner Beach Stroll

Field Trip

Leaders Penny Principe, Carol Comeau

Meeting Site Cloisters, Azure Street

Event Venue: Cloisters, Azure Street

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Penny Principe and Carol Comeau for a Beginning birders introduction to wintering shorebirds. After a short walk in heavy sand, the Morro Strand beach is packed for easy walking. Bring binoculars. Meets in the parking lot across from 150 Azure Street, Morro Bay. 2 miles.

425 8:30am - 12:00pm Back Bay Birding

Field Trip

Leaders Dean Thompson

Meeting Site South Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Los Osos Multiple

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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.

426 8:30am - 12:00pm Birding Morro Bay State Park

Field Trip

Leaders Mike Bush, Bert Townsend

Meeting Site Morro Bay State Park Marina Event Venue: Morro Bay State Park Marina Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

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.

427 8:30am - 12:00pm Raptors of Sunshine Ranch

Field Trip

Leaders Kara Hagedorn, Charlie DeBerry, August Hazel

Meeting Site Sunshine Ranch Event Venue: Sunshine Ranch Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Kara Hagedorn, Charlie DeBerry and August Hazel 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.

428 8:30am - 1:00pm Casual Little Big Day

Field Trip

Leaders Bettina Eastman

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center Event Venue: Multiple Sites Fee: \$75 Xport: Bus

This is slower paced Big Day for beginning and intermediate birders led by Bettina Eastman. 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.

429 8:45am - 12:00pm Birding Hot Spots for Beginners

Field Trip

Leaders Ed Harper

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center Event Venue: Morro Bay Multiple Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

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.

430 9:00am - 10:45am Bay Birding Cruise

Field Trip

Leaders Dave Keeling

Meeting Site Morro Bay Landing

Event Venue: Morro Bay Landing

Fee: \$40

Xport: Boat

Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary with Dave Keeling. 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.

431 9:00am - 10:45am Bay Birding Cruise

Field Trip

Leaders Chris Cameron

Meeting Site Sub Sea Tours

Event Venue: Sub Sea Tours

Fee: \$40

Xport: Boat

Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary in an open-deck 34-foot power catamaran with Chris Cameron. 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.

432 9:00am - 11:00am Search for Owls & Falcons at Morro Rock

Field Trip

Leaders Jennifer Ackerman, Robbie Revel, Bob Isenberg

Meeting Site Morro Rock

Event Venue: Morro Rock

Fee: \$0

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Jennifer Ackerman, Robbie Revel and Bob Isenberg to search for owls and Peregrine Falcons at Morro Rock. Morro Rock is home to two pairs of breeding Peregrine Falcons. For several years, a Burrowing Owl has also been seen on the Rock. Meets at Morro Rock. Coleman Drive, Morro Bay. Meet across from bathrooms, next to Morro Rock.

433 9:00am - 12:00pm Birding and Sketching with John Muir Laws

Journaling / Sketching

Leaders John Muir Laws

Meeting Site Sweet Springs

Event Venue: Sweet Springs

Fee: \$75

Xport: Self-Drive

John Muir Laws is an expert in nature observation and recording through journals. Join up for a unique opportunity to observe and sketch birds in the field with this acclaimed expert. Attendees should bring journals, sketching supplies, coloring pencils and binoculars. Meets at Sweet Springs, 660 Ramona Avenue, Baywood-Los Osos.

434 9:00am - 12:00pm Birding by Kayak

Field Trip

Leaders Virginia Flaherty

Meeting Site Morro Bay State Park Marina

Event Venue: Morro Bay State Park Marina

Fee: \$55

Xport: Kayak

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.

435 9:00am - 12:00pm Land and Sea Birds at Morro Rock

Field Trip

Leaders R Rouvaishyana, Van Dees

Meeting Site Morro Rock

Event Venue: Morro Rock

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Morro Rock is home to Peregrine Falcons, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Common Yellowthroat, various sparrows, the elusive Canyon Wren, and sometimes a Burrowing Owl. With leader Rouvaishyana, and Van Dees, 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.

436 9:30am - 11:30am Transitioning from birding to ornithology: college, research, and next steps

Presentation

Leaders Lara Tseng

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Morro Bay Community Center

Fee:

Xport: None

Lara Tseng will share her story on how she became interested in birds and how this led to her passion for avian research and conservation. She will be discussing her pathway to early college, her past and current research, and possible next steps towards evolutionary research and graduate school. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay. Multi-Purpose Room.

437 10:00am - 12:00pm Easy Birding

Field Trip

Leaders Dawn Beattie

Meeting Site Cloisters Park

Event Venue: Cloisters Park

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Dawn Beattie 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.

438 10:00am - 12:00pm **Every Small Wonder: How to Capture Your Moments and Memories on Paper**

Journaling / Sketching

Leaders Sharon Lovejoy

Meeting Site SLO Botanical Garden

Event Venue: SLO Botanical Garden

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Come learn how to create your personal nature journal with artist Sharon Lovejoy. Sharon will share her techniques and insights, and show examples of journals from other artists and writers. She will guide participants to record their own unique view of the natural world. Inspirational short video and examples to get your creative juices flowing. Recommended supplies: magnifying glass, large tablet or journal, 2-B pencils, kneaded eraser, small pencil sharpener, waterproof 005 Micron or Gel pen, colored pencils, and a child's sense of wonder. Meets at SLO Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Road, San Luis Obispo.

439 10:00am - 12:00pm **Lazy Birding 101**

Field Trip

Leaders Neha Kumar, Vinish Janardhanan

Meeting Site Morro Rock

Event Venue: Morro Rock

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Sit in your car, sip your morning chai, and watch the brown pelicans fly by - that's lazy birding! Join Lazy Birders, Neha and Vinish, at the Morro Bay Bird Festival 2024 as we walk you through our birding experience, nature journaling, and bird photography. Our trip welcomes beginners who want to explore the world of birds and those with some experience who enjoy sharing their birding stories in a relaxed setting. Late risers need not fret; the call isn't for a 6 a.m. wake-up. Instead, join us at (a leisurely) 10am in the Morro Rock parking lot. Expect a stroll around Morro Rock to explore the resident and migratory birds on the rocky habitat and the bayside. Bring your enthusiasm, pair of binoculars, choice of beverage(s). Optionally, bring camera with telephoto zoom or lens, paper and pencil for sketching, portable chair. Meets at Morro Rock. Coleman Drive, Morro Bay. Meet across from bathrooms, next to Morro Rock.

440 1:00pm - 2:30pm **From Anatomy to Function/Flight**

Presentation

Leaders R Rouvaishyana

Meeting Site Sea Pines Golf Course

Event Venue: Sea Pines Golf Course

Fee:

Xport: None

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 from the Museum's collection 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 Sea Pines Golf Course. 1945 Solano St, Los Osos.

441 1:00pm - 2:45pm Young Birders Bay Birding Cruise

Field Trip

Leaders Max Taylor, Lara Tseng

Meeting Site Sub Sea Tours

Event Venue: Sub Sea Tours

Fee: \$40

Xport: Boat

Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay in a spacious pontoon boat with Max Taylor and Lara Tseng. 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.

442 1:00pm - 3:00pm The Elfin Forest Wonderland

Field Trip

Leaders Cindy Roessler

Meeting Site South Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Elfin Forest

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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.

443 1:00pm - 3:00pm The Otter Truth of Morro Bay

Field Trip

Leaders Sharon Blakely

Meeting Site Morro Rock

Event Venue: Morro Rock

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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.

444 1:00pm - 3:00pm The Genius of Birds by Jennifer Ackerman

Presentation

Leaders Jennifer Ackerman

Meeting Site Inn at Morro Bay

Event Venue: Inn at Morro Bay

Fee:

Xport: None

In a multimedia presentation, explore the brilliance of birds and delve into the mysteries of the avian brain as described in Jennifer Ackerman's international bestselling book, The Genius of Birds. Join Ackerman and experience her adventures firsthand, from the beaches of Barbados to the rainforests of New Caledonia, as she shares stories and stunning photos and videos from her journey to better understand the feathered geniuses around us. Learn how birds make and use their own tools, teach one another new skills, count, navigate, exercise astonishing feats of memory, create works of art, communicate in ways that resemble language, and even pass along cultural traditions. Meets at the Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay. Morro Bay Room.

445 1:30pm - 3:30pm **Taken Under Their Wings, "How Mentors Can Support Young Birders": A conversation with John Muir Laws and Fiona Gillogly** Journaling / Sketching

Leaders John Muir Laws, Fiona Gillogly

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center Event Venue: Morro Bay Community Center Fee: Xport: None

Join author, educator, and artist John Muir Laws (aka Jack) and avid birder and nature journaler Fiona Gillogly for a discussion of the power of mentoring in the birding community. Jack and Fiona have been friends and birding/sketching buddies since 2016, and their friendship has been a powerful learning experience for both of them. In this conversation, Fiona and Jack will discuss some key early experiences that encouraged Fiona, how mentors have had a profound impact on her, how mentors can learn from those they mentor, and how birders can help encourage and support the next generation of birders. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay. Multi-Purpose Room.

446 2:00pm - 3:45pm **Bay Birding Cruise** Field Trip

Leaders Claudia Freitas, Karen Watts

Meeting Site Morro Bay Landing Event Venue: Morro Bay Landing Fee: \$40 Xport: Boat

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.

447 2:00pm - 4:00pm **An Identification Study of Birds of Prey** Presentation

Leaders Ed Harper

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center Event Venue: Morro Bay Community Center Fee: Xport: None

Raptors also known as birds of prey have long fascinated man. Their prowess demands our interest, admiration, and inquiry. But raptors can at times be devilish difficult to identify to species. This offering, presented by Ed Harper, will illustrate raptors one might encounter in California with useful and important identification aid along with their status and distribution. With beautiful images illustrating instructive aspects of raptor identification, this presentation will be very informative. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay. Lounge.

448 2:00pm - 4:00pm **Birds of Morro Rock with Jon Dunn** Field Trip

Leaders Jon Dunn, Bettina Eastman

Meeting Site Morro Rock Event Venue: Morro Rock Fee: \$50 Xport: Self-Drive

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.

449 2:00pm - 4:00pm **Build a Blue Bird Box**

Build Bird Box

Leaders Bob Keally, Charlie DeBerry

Meeting Site SLO Botanical Garden

Event Venue: SLO Botanical Garden

Fee: \$25

Xport: None

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 SLO Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Road, San Luis Obispo.

450 2:00pm - 5:00pm **The Topography of Bird Sounds**

Presentation

Leaders Tom Graves

Meeting Site Inn at Morro Bay

Event Venue: Inn at Morro Bay

Fee:

Xport: None

Every field guide goes into depth labeling the "topography of a bird", but they have not done so with sounds until recently with the Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds of Eastern (and Western) North America by Nathan Pieplow. Today, with easy access to recorders and spectrogram software, birders can now delve deeper into this fascinating topic using this field guide, other online resources, and apps. In this presentation Tom Graves will help you to learn how to listen for, and to describe the pitch patterns and tone qualities of individual notes, and how to describe collections of notes in a way that will help identify species and to increase your enjoyment of the topography of bird sounds. Meet at the Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay. Cayucos Room.

451 2:30pm - 4:30pm **Feathers and Flight: A Journey to the New World Tropics**

Presentation

Leaders Benny Jacobs-Schwartz

Meeting Site Veterans Hall

Event Venue: Veterans Hall

Fee:

Xport: None

Join Benny Jacobs-Schwartz to delve into topics of migration, tropical speciation, and biodiversity; this media-rich journey will share some of the fascinating and unique birds that inhabit the new world tropics. Sure to both educate and entertain, this presentation will leave you with a deeper understanding of tropical ecology, and knowledge about where some of our backyard birds spend their winters! Meets at the Vet's Hall, 209 Surf St, Morro Bay.

452 3:00pm - 4:45pm **Bay Birding Cruise**

Field Trip

Leaders Robert Lindsay

Meeting Site Sub Sea Tours

Event Venue: Sub Sea Tours

Fee: \$40

Xport: Boat

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.

453 3:30pm - 9:30pm Owling Field Trip

Field Trip

Leaders R Rouvaishyana, Scott Inman

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

Fee: \$80

Xport: Bus

Join Rouvaishyana and Scott Inman for owling. 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 (245) is a prerequisite. Travel with leader in bus with many in/out stops. Heavy rain will cancel field trip. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

454 6:30pm - 9:00pm Banquet with John Muir Laws

Special Event

Leaders John Muir Laws

Meeting Site Madonna Inn

Event Venue: Madonna Inn

Fee: \$105

Xport: Self-Drive

Please note that Registration for the John Muir Laws Address and Madonna Inn Dinner is list under Dinner & Merchandise Pre-Orders (Step 2.2) in the Registration Process.

Join us on Sunday night for a culminating Celebration Dinner with our Keynote Speakers 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, John Muir Laws will deliver a presentation: How to be a better birder. How can you get more out of every observation? Learn how to notice details, sounds and behavior with the help of a notebook. Doors open at 6:30 pm, Dinner starts at 7:00pm. Madonna Inn is at 100 Madonna Road, San Luis Obispo.

Monday

501 7:00am - 1:00pm On the Prowl for Rare Birds

Field Trip

Leaders Jim Royer

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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.

502 8:00am - 11:00am Birding by Kayak

Field Trip

Leaders John Flaherty

Meeting Site Morro Bay State Park Marina

Event Venue: Morro Bay State Park Marina

Fee: \$55

Xport: Kayak

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.

503 8:00am - 11:00am Young Birders at Sweet Springs Preserve

Field Trip

Leaders Max Taylor

Meeting Site Sweet Springs

Event Venue: Sweet Springs

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Max Taylor for an unhurried walk around the edges and through the heart of the Morro Coast Audubon Sweet Springs Preserve. This trip is tailored for young people, and will look for wintering songbirds as well as waterfowl and shorebirds in the nearby estuary. Previous trips have seen hawks, falcons, owls, osprey and kingfishers in this area. The effort will be easy to moderate and the walk should appeal to all birding levels. Meets at Sweet Springs, 660 Ramona Avenue, Baywood-Los Osos.

504 7:30am - 12:00pm Birding & Wine at Halter Ranch

Field Trip

Leaders Roger Zachary, Scott Inman

Meeting Site Halter Ranch

Event Venue: Halter Ranch

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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.

This trip meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay at 7:30am. As an option, attendees may meet the group at the intersection of Hwy 46 and Vineyard Drive just west of Templeton at 8am. The group will carpool from that location to Halter Ranch. Hwy 46 and Vineyard Drive map link: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/1fARVDAha1xruffM6>

505 8:00am - 12:00pm Birding by Careful Observation

Field Trip

Leaders Bettina Eastman

Meeting Site El Chorro Park

Event Venue: El Chorro Park

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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.

506 8:00am - 12:00pm Birding Fiscalini Ranch Preserve

Field Trip

Leaders Bob Keally, Terri May, Carmen Keally

Meeting Site Fiscalini Ranch

Event Venue: Fiscalini Ranch

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Bird with Bob & Carmen Keally and Teri 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.

507 8:00am - 12:00pm Harmony Headlands

Field Trip

Leaders Evan Weissman

Meeting Site Harmony Headlands

Event Venue: Harmony Headlands

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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.

508 8:00am - 12:00pm Master Class Field Study - Bird Song Magic in the Field - Part 2B

Master Class

Leaders Roy Poucher

Meeting Site El Chorro Park

Event Venue: El Chorro Park

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Roy Poucher in the field for the hands-on companion to the Bird Sounds Master Class 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 Thursday morning Master Class Bird Sounds Workshop (104) is a prerequisite for this event. Total walking distance will be about 1.2 miles. Easy. Meets at El Chorro Park, located at State Hwy 1 @ Dairy Creek Rd. Assemble in the SLO Botanical Gardens parking lot.

509 8:15am - 12:00pm Birds and Plants at Coon Creek

Field Trip

Leaders R Rouvaishyana

Meeting Site South Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Montana de Oro

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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

510 8:30am - 11:30am Bird Sweet Springs & Cuesta Inlet

Field Trip

Leaders Mike Bush

Meeting Site South Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Los Osos Multiple

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Mike Bush 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.

511 8:30am - 11:30am Birding Oso Flaco Lake

Field Trip

Leaders Tom Slater, Owen Slater

Meeting Site Oso Flaco Lake

Event Venue: Oso Flaco Lake

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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.

512 8:30am - 12:00pm Shoreline Birding in Los Osos

Field Trip

Leaders Greg Smith

Meeting Site Sweet Springs

Event Venue: Los Osos Multiple

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Learn to identify the more common gulls and shorebirds with Greg Smith along the beaches of Baywood Park in Los Osos. The trip begins at Pecho4th Willows, continues to Sweet Springs and concludes at the 4th St Audubon Lookout. Designed for all birding levels. Meets at Sweet Springs, 660 Ramona Ave, Los Osos.

513 8:30am - 2:00pm Birding Las Cruzitas Ranch

Field Trip

Leaders Cruz Phillips, Cher Hollingworth, Wes Fritz

Meeting Site Las Cruzitas Ranch

Event Venue: Las Cruzitas Ranch

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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, Cher Hollingworth and Wes Fritz 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.

514 8:45am - 11:30am Birding Hot Spots for Beginners

Field Trip

Leaders Ed Harper

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Morro Bay Multiple

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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.

515 9:00am - 10:45am Bay Birding Photo Cruise

Field Trip

Leaders Rick Derevan, Jim Bland

Meeting Site Sub Sea Tours

Event Venue: Sub Sea Tours

Fee: \$40

Xport: Boat

Join local expert photographer Rick Derevan and Jim Bland 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.

516 9:00am - 11:00am Shorebird Habitats

Field Trip

Leaders Robbie Revel, Karen Watts

Meeting Site Morro Strand Campground

Event Venue: Morro Strand Campground

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

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.

517 9:00am - 11:30am Birds of Atascadero Lake

Field Trip

Leaders Claudia Freitas

Meeting Site Atascadero Lake

Event Venue: Atascadero Lake

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join leader Claudia Freitas 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. Meets at 9305 Pismo Ave, Atascadero, CA 93422.

518 9:00am - 12:00pm Birding by Kayak

Field Trip

Leaders Virginia Flaherty

Meeting Site Morro Bay State Park Marina

Event Venue: Morro Bay State Park Marina

Fee: \$55

Xport: Kayak

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.

519 9:00am - 12:00pm Kern National Wildlife Refuge

Field Trip

Leaders Russ Namitz

Meeting Site Kern National Wildlife Refuge

Event Venue: Kern National Wildlife Refuge

Fee: \$0

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Wildlife Biologist Russ Namitz to explore the Kern National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge is a major wintering grounds for thousands of ducks, geese, and other migratory birds. During the winter the waterfowl numbers may peak to 80,000 in December and January. Large concentrations of waterfowl can be seen foraging in the moist soil and seasonal marsh areas. This trip is intended for people traveling to the Festival from the North and East. Meet at the Ranger Station at the Kern National Wildlife Refuge.

520 10:00am - 11:30am Cachuma Lake Pontoon Boat Cruise

Field Trip

Leaders Kristin Loft

Meeting Site Cachuma Lake

Event Venue: Cachuma Lake

Fee: \$30

Xport: Boat

This trip is intended for Festival attendees driving from the Festival to Southern California. Join Santa Barbara County Nature Guides for a cruise on Cachuma Lake . Enjoy a 1 & 1/2 hour pontoon cruise aboard the Osprey to view different species of local and migratory birds. White pelicans, geese, bald eagles, osprey, diving and dabbling ducks and shore birds visit Cachuma Lake during late fall and winter months. In addition to great birding on the lake and surrounding trails, there is a nature museum, cafe, market, gas station, fishing and boat rentals, disc golf and bike trails. Los Olivos, Solvang, Santa Barbara, and the old stage coach stop Cold Spring Tavern with resident Steller's Jays are all nearby. Meets at 124 Lakeview Drive, Santa Barbara, CA 93105.

521 10:00am - 11:45am Morro Bay Up Close

Field Trip

Leaders Kaaren Perry

Meeting Site Morro Bay Landing

Event Venue: Morro Bay Landing

Fee: \$40

Xport: Boat

Join Kaaren Perry for a bay cruise on a pontoon boat. 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. In addition, our boat captain will point out 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.