

# 2025 MORRO BAY BIRD FESTIVAL PROGRAM

Jan. 16-20, 2025

Information Current as of: 11/18/2024



## Thursday

### 101 6:30am - 9:00am **Birding with a Camera**

Field Trip

Leaders Krisztina Scheeff

Seats 12 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Morro Bay State Park Marina

Event Venue: Morro Bay State Park Marina

Fee: \$0

Xport: Self-Drive

Are you a birder and would like to learn more about your camera and how to capture your own photos? Join professional Nature Photographer Krisztina with KS Nature Photography at Morro Bay State Park Marina for a casual session of birding with the added bonus of photography. Open to all ages, birders, photographers, and anyone who would like to learn more about the birds and about basic camera techniques for bird photography. Bring your binoculars and any camera, if you like (point and shoot, DSLR, Mirrorless - and any lens). To read more about Krisztina, please visit [www.KSNaturePhotography.com](http://www.KSNaturePhotography.com) Meets at the Peninsula Trail Head, southeast end of the State Park Marina parking lot, across from Morro Bay State Park Campground.

### 102 7:00am - 4:00pm **Big Day**

Field Trip

Leaders Max Roberts, Reef Comer, Emma Cox

Seats 18 ADA? No

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

Fee: \$105

Xport: Bus

Join Max Roberts, Emma Cox and Reef Comer 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.

### 103 7:30am - 4:30pm **Master Class - Introduction to Bird Photography - Parts 1 & 2**

Master Class

Leaders Jacqueline Deely

Seats 10 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Baywood Inn

Event Venue: Baywood Inn

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 Baywood Inn, 1336 3rd St, Los Osos. Conference Room is adjacent to the parking lot.

**104 7:30am - 12:00pm Santa Margarita Lake Pontoon Boat Birding**

Field Trip

Leaders Scott Stellar

Seats 9

ADA? No

Meeting Site Santa Margarita Lake Ranger Station

Event Venue: Santa Margarita Lake Ranger Station

Fee: \$45

Xport: Boat

Join Captain Scott Stellar on a pontoon boat ride adventure birding Santa Margarita Lake. We'll cruise pretty much the entire lake taking in all the migratory and permanent birds as well as shoreline wildlife that abound. Restrooms are available along the route. Meets at Santa Margarita Lake Ranger Station. 4695 Santa Margarita Lake Road, Santa Margarita.

**105 8:00am - 11:00am Birding by Kayak**

Field Trip

Leaders John Flaherty

Seats 8

ADA? No

Meeting Site MB State Park Kayak Launch

Event Venue: MB State Park Kayak Launch

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.

**106 8:00am - 11:00am Land and Sea Birds at Morro Rock**

Field Trip

Leaders Bettina Eastman

Seats 12

ADA? Yes

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 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.

**107 8:00am - 12:00pm Bird Montana de Oro State Park**

Field Trip

Leaders Mike Bush, Seth Greene, Harnawaz Boparai

Seats 15

ADA? No

Meeting Site Montana de Oro

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 Mike Bush, Seth Greene and Harnawaz Boparai 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 Spooner Ranch House, 3550 Pecho Valley Road, Los Osos. From Los Osos, west on Los Osos Valley Road, becomes Pecho Valley Road. Ranch House is 5.2 miles from Los Osos.

**108 8:00am - 12:00pm Birding Fiscalini Ranch Preserve**

Field Trip

Leaders Van Pierszalowski

Seats 15 ADA? No

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.

**109 8:00am - 12:00pm Harmony Headlands**

Field Trip

Leaders Teodelina Martelli

Seats 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site Harmony Headlands

Event Venue: Harmony Headlands

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Take a walk with Teodelina Martelli through winding hills for 5+ raptor species, wintering waterfowl, and a surprise sea watch. The Harmony Headlands State Park trail is 4 miles roundtrip through open, pretty brush leading down to the rocky Pacific shore where cormorants and gulls contrast with the bluffs' flycatchers and swallows. We'll keep an eye out for brush rabbit, both eagle species, and native bees along the way. Meets at the Harmony Headlands trailhead parking lot, Hwy 1, 5 miles north of Cayucos. Look for Linn's billboard.

**110 8:00am - 12:00pm Hummingbirds and Friends**

Field Trip

Leaders R Rouvaishyana, Michael Mulroy

Seats 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site South Bay Community Center

Event Venue: South Bay Community Center

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Rouvaishyana and Michael Mulroy to explore the Estero Bay Community Garden looking for hummingbirds, songbirds and others species. The walk will continue through Del Mar Park, then along Panorama Drive to see raptors, meadowlarks, and possibly some non-avian wildlife. The trip will end by backtracking along the same route. Spotting scopes not needed, but optional. Meets at the South Bay Community Center, 2180 Palisades Ave, Los Osos.

**111 8:00am - 12:00pm Los Osos Hot Spots**

Field Trip

Leaders Grace Hayes, Kristin Loft, Marin Romero

Seats 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site Sea Pines Golf Resort

Event Venue: Sea Pines Golf Resort

Fee: \$0 Xport: Self-Drive

Join Grace Hayes, Marin Romero & Kristin Loft 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 several birding hotspots including Sweet Springs, Doris Ave Marsh, and Pecho Willows. Meets at Sea Pines Golf Resort. 1945 Solano St, Los Osos.

**112 8:00am - 1:00pm Master Class - The Magic of Bird Sounds - Part 1 of 2**

Master Class

Leaders Roy Poucher

Seats 16 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site SLO Botanical Garden

Event Venue: SLO Botanical Garden Oak Glen Pavili Fee: \$130 Xport: None

Bird songs are Nature's Music. We can experience and enjoy this magical music 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 Master Class by Roy Poucher is to increase our birding enjoyment by improving our skills as auditory birders. Some prior experience trying to identify birds by ear will surely be useful, but all experience levels will gain great value. Explore the principles of describing bird vocalizations in general, plus 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 (#216) or on Sunday (#402). Meets at SLO Botanical Garden (inside El Choro Park), 3450 Dairy Creek Road, San Luis Obispo.

**113 8:15am - 12:00pm Birding Fiscalini Ranch Preserve - Tipton Street**

Field Trip

Leaders Bob Keally, Carmen Keally

Seats 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site Fiscalini Ranch Tipton Street

Event Venue: Fiscalini Ranch Tipton Street Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Bird with Bob & Carmen Keally on Cambria's Fiscalini Ranch on a moderate hike through grassland, and mixed oak/Monterey pine forest. Expect a diversity of birds, including sparrows, birds of prey and Pygmy Nuthatches. Pace will be determined by leader and desires of the group. 50 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Meets at Fiscalini Ranch -Tipton Street entrance. 2680 Tipton Street, Cambria.

**114 8:15am - 12:00pm Smart Phone Bird Recoding**

Presentation/Field Trip

Leaders Tom Graves

Seats 40 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Hampton Inn

Event Venue: Hampton Inn Conference Room 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 two files: <https://morrobaybirdfestival.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Using-Audacity-2025.pdf> and <https://morrobaybirdfestival.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Transferring-recordings-to-computer-2025.pdf>. Meets in the Conference Room at the Hampton Inn, 295 Atascadero Rd, Morro Bay.

**115 8:30am - 11:30am Shark Inlet with Kenn Kaufman**

Field Trip

Leaders Kenn Kaufman, Steve Schubert, Dave Berry

Seats 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site Sea Pines Golf Resort

Event Venue: Sea Pines Golf Resort Fee: \$40 Xport: Self-Drive

Join Kenn Kaufman, Steve Schubert and Dave Berry for a walk adjacent to the coastal sand dunes and southernmost reaches of Morro Bay during a rising tide, 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 and mudflats, 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 Sea Pines Golf Resort. 1945 Solano St, Los Osos.

**116 8:30am - 12:00pm Birding Laguna Lake with David Lindo**

Field Trip

Leaders David Lindo, Mark Mushkat

Seats 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Laguna Lake

Fee: \$90 Xport: Bus

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 David Lindo & Mark Mushkat 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 bus. Easy. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

**117 8:30am - 12:00pm Birding Oso Flaco Lake**

Field Trip

Leaders Rusty Scalf, Richard Neidhardt, Debbie Jo Bird

Seats 14 ADA? No

Meeting Site Oso Flaco Lake

Event Venue: Oso Flaco Lake

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Richard Neidhardt, Rusty Scalf and Debbie Jo Bird 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.

**118 8:30am - 2:00pm Birding Las Cruzitas Ranch**

Field Trip

Leaders Cruz Phillips, Cher Hollingworth

Seats 20 ADA? No

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 Ynez.

**119 9:00am - 10:45am Bay Birding Cruise**

Field Trip

Leaders Claudia Freitas, Karen Watts, Kimberly Kaufman

Seats 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site Sub Sea Tours

Event Venue: Sub Sea Tours

Fee: \$40 Xport: Boat

Join Kimberly Kaufman, Claudia Freitas and Karen Watts 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.

**120 9:00am - 12:00pm Birding by Kayak**

Field Trip

Leaders Virginia Flaherty

Seats 8 ADA? No

Meeting Site MB State Park Kayak Launch

Event Venue: MB State Park Kayak Launch

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.

**121 9:00am - 12:00pm Kern National Wildlife Refuge**

Field Trip

Leaders Russ Namitz

Seats 12 ADA? Yes

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. Meets at the Ranger Station at the Kern National Wildlife Refuge. 10811 Corcoran Rd, Wasco, CA 93280

**122 9:00am - 12:00pm New Birders Go Birding With Erik & Hannah**

Field Trip

Leaders Erik Ostrander, Hannah Buschert

Seats 14 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Morro Rock

Event Venue: Morro Rock

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Whether you're just discovering the joys of birding, seeking to develop your birding skills, or wanting to share your love of birding with your family, these trips with Hannah and Erik are for you! They are happy to answer any and all questions about birds, birding, gear, and more. Expect a slow-paced walk as we look for birds, talk about IDs, and whatever else comes to mind! Meets at Morro Rock. Coleman Drive, Morro Bay. Meet across from bathrooms, next to Morro Rock.

**123 9:00am - 12:00pm Young Birders On Morro Strand**

Field Trip

Leaders Torrey Gage-Tomlinson, Rick Grijalva

Seats 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site Cloisters, Azure Street

Event Venue: Cloisters, Azure Street

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Torrey Gage-Tomlinson and Rick Grijalva at Cloisters Park Azure Street. The coastal scrub to the beach will offer a variety of birds, such as White- and Golden-crowned Sparrows, California Thrasher, Yellow-rumped Warbler and possible Ospreys in the nearby trees. On the beach, expect to see a myriad of shorebirds and waterfowl in the surf line. Further north on the beach, the Alva Paul pond is an excellent birding spot for terns and shorebirds, Two miles from the Community Center. Moderate walk, a short distance through sand. Meets in the parking lot across from 150 Azure Street, Morro Bay.

**124 9:00am - 1:00pm Villa Creek Birding**

Field Trip

Leaders Eric Wier, Steve McMasters

Seats 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Villa Creek

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Eric Wier and Steve McMasters 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.

**125 9:00am - 2:00pm Morro Rock Owls & Falcons - Stop & Scope**

Field Trip

Leaders Bob Isenberg, Jerry Pyle

Seats 40 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Morro Rock

Event Venue: Morro Rock

Fee: \$0 Xport: Self-Drive

Join Bob Isenberg and Jerry Pyle, Peregrine Watch, for a cup of coffee and pastries (while they last) and 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. NOTE: this is a stop and scope event, not a planned walk. Stop by anytime from 9am and 2pm. Meets at Morro Rock. Coleman Drive, Morro Bay. Meet across from bathrooms, next to Morro Rock. Look for Bob's van with awning, scopes and Peregrine statue.

**126 10:00am - 11:30am The Western Snowy Plover**

Field Trip

Leaders Sharon Iranpour

Seats 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site Cloisters, Azure Street

Event Venue: Cloisters, Azure Street

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Learn about the life of the threatened Western Snowy Plover and walk south on Morro Strand Beach. We will then explore more of the beach and examine what else might be found in this sensitive environment. This event requires walking a short distance in soft sand. Walking distance about 1 mile. Meets in the parking lot across from 150 Azure Street, Morro Bay.

**127 10:00am - 12:00pm Easy Birding**

Field Trip

Leaders Dawn Beattie

Seats 10 ADA? Yes

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.

**128 10:00am - 12:00pm Visit the Atascadero Beavers with SLO Beaver Brigade**

Field Trip

Leaders Audrey Taub

Seats 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site De Anza Wastewater Facility

Event Venue: De Anza Wastewater Facility

Fee: \$0

Xport: Self-Drive

After the winter rains and floods, the beaver dams on the Salinas River in Atascadero were all washed away. They have just begun rebuilding their dams and recreating their habitat. Come join us as we explore this new dam and beaver complex and see what changes have happened since our last visit. The walk is a half-mile walk out to the ponds on sandy, rocky trails. It is helpful to wear water shoes or tall boots since we typically walk into the water up to our shins, or old sneakers you won't mind walking with into the water. Restrooms are not available. There is no water or restroom facilities at the site, Home Depot and Starbucks are the closest facilities. Meets at 7973 Gabarda Road, Atascadero.

**129 12:00pm - 2:00pm Los Osos Oaks Reserve Habitat Walk**

Field Trip

Leaders Faylla Chapman

Seats 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site Los Osos Oaks State Preserve

Event Venue: Los Osos Oaks State Preserve

Fee: \$0

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Faylla Chapman for tour of 4 different environments: riparian, oak woodland, marine chaparral and coastal scrub. The plants, fungi, lichens and small animals will be pointed out along the pathway through these areas and some local history will also be described. Poison oak is present in profusion. Meet at the Los Osos Oaks Preserve parking lot, 1.2 miles east (left) of South Bay Blvd. on Los Osos Valley Road. Up and down narrow trails, no restrooms.

**130 1:00pm - 2:00pm How To Help The Birds Workshop**

Presentation

Leaders Erik Ostrander, Hannah Buschert

Seats 25 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Morro Bay Community Center

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Birds around the world need our help. They face so many challenges on migration, in their breeding habitats, and in your backyard. Join Hannah and Erik to learn more about the state of our birds and find out what you can do at home and on the larger scale to help the birds! Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

**131 1:00pm - 2:30pm Exploring Otter Space**

Field Trip

Leaders Sharon Blakely

Seats 15 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site T Pier at Great American Fish Company

Event Venue: T Pier at Great American Fish Compa

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 South T pier next to Great American Fish Company, 1185 Embarcadero, Morro Bay



**132 1:00pm - 2:45pm Bay Birding Cruise**

Field Trip

Leaders Steve Schubert, Marlin Harms

Seats 18 ADA? No

Meeting Site Sub Sea Tours

Event Venue: Sub Sea Tours

Fee: \$40 Xport: Boat

Join Steve Schubert & Marlin Harms 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.

**133 1:00pm - 3:00pm Colombia: South America's Birding Mecca**

Presentation

Leaders Benny Jacobs-Schwartz

Seats 40 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Hampton Inn

Event Venue: Hampton Inn Conference Room

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Get ready for a dive into South America's birdiest country with Benny Jacob-Schwartz! Together we'll explore Colombia's unique ecology, breathtaking scenery, and unparalleled avian diversity! Colombia holds the record with nearly 2,000 bird species and an impressive 80 endemics! During our time together, we'll discuss what has given rise to such incredible diversity. Topics include the country's five regions, how the Andes Mountain Range formed into three distinct cordilleras, the importance of the mighty Rio Magdalena, and national conservation successes. From sloth-eating Harpy Eagles to shy antpittas, and menageries of colorful tanagers and hummingbirds, Colombia's astonishing diversity will leave you wanting more! Meets at the Hampton Inn, 295 Atascadero Rd, Morro Bay.

**134 1:00pm - 3:00pm Land and Sea Birds at Morro Rock**

Field Trip

Leaders R Rouvaishyana, Van Dees

Seats 20 ADA? Yes

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 Rouvaishyana and Van Dees 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.

**135 1:30pm - 4:00pm Shorebirds of the Morro Bay Marina**

Field Trip

Leaders Dale Ball, Clara Thomas

Seats 10 ADA? Yes

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 Dale Ball and Clara Thomas, 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.

**136 1:30pm - 4:00pm Songbirds in the Pines for Young Birders**

Field Trip

Leaders Eva Moylan, Bettina Eastman

Seats 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Black Hill La Loma

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Eva Moylan & Bettina Eastman 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.

**137 2:00pm - 4:00pm A Naturalist's Journal with Sharon Lovejoy**

Journaling / Sketching

Leaders Sharon Lovejoy

Seats 25 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site SLO Botanical Garden

Event Venue: SLO Botanical Garden Oak Glen Pavili

Fee: Xport: None

Join author, illustrator, and naturalist Sharon Lovejoy for a nature journaling workshop. Her tips and simple techniques will inspire you and give you a strong foundation and a set of wings. The workshop will begin with a video that shares dozens of journals. Basic bird anatomy (hand-out included) will jump-start your bird studies. A focus on birds common in gardens will be sketched along with small illustrations of their nesting materials, feathers, and foods - insects, acorns, berries, larvae, and flowers with nectar. Bring journals, 2 B pencils, kneaded erasers, a pencil sharpener, small watercolor sets, brushes, and a magnifying glass. Meets in the Oak Glen Pavilion at SLO Botanical Garden (inside El Choro Park), 3450 Dairy Creek Road, San Luis Obispo.

**138 2:00pm - 4:00pm Bird Banding: Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship**

Presentation

Leaders Jocelynn Marriott, Jodi Isaacs, Gregor Yanega

Seats 30 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Baywood Inn

Event Venue: Baywood Inn

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join us for an informative and engaging event on avian monitoring through bird banding. Discover the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program, learn how and why we band birds, and enjoy some stunning close-up photos of our local bird species. We'll also showcase our partnerships with the California Central Coast Joint Venture and Cal Poly, including additional MAPS stations operating in the area and types of Cal Poly student involvement. Don't miss this opportunity to learn and ask questions about our efforts! NOTE: Equipment demonstrations will NOT be performed on live birds during this presentation). Meets at the Baywood Inn, 1336 3rd St, Los Osos. Conference Room is adjacent to the parking lot.

**139 2:00pm - 4:00pm Birds of the Elfin Forest**

Field Trip

Leaders Grace Hayes, Kristin Loft, Marin Romero

Seats 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site Elfin Forest

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 Grace Hayes, Marin Romero & Kristin Loft 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 entrance on the north end of 16th Street from Santa Ysabel Avenue in the town of Los Osos. Parking at the street end is very limited, however you can park anywhere along 16th Street as long as you do not block driveways or mail boxes. You can even park on an adjacent street and walk the short distance to the 16th Street entrance.

**140 2:00pm - 5:00pm Birding San Simeon Creek**

Field Trip

Leaders Van Pierszalowski

Seats 15 ADA? No

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.

**141 3:00pm - 4:45pm Bay Birding Cruise with Jon Dunn & David Lindo**

Field Trip

Leaders Jon Dunn, David Lindo, Tom Edell

Seats 17 ADA? No

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, David Lindo 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.

**142 3:30pm - 9:30pm Owling Field Trip**

Field Trip

Leaders R Rouvaishyana, Peggy Burhenn

Seats 18 ADA? No

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

Fee: \$90 Xport: Bus

Join leaders 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. 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.

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

Field Trip

Leaders Russ Namitz, Peter Gaede, Will Knowlton

Seats 18 ADA? No

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Carrizo Plains

Fee: \$130 Xport: Bus

Join expert leaders Russ Namitz, Peter Gaede and Will Knowlton 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 6:30am - 9:00am Birding with a Camera**

Field Trip

Leaders Krisztina Scheeff

Seats 12 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Morro Bay State Park Marina

Event Venue: Morro Bay State Park Marina

Fee: \$0 Xport: Self-Drive

Are you a birder and would like to learn more about your camera and how to capture your own photos? Join professional Nature Photographer Krisztina with KS Nature Photography at Morro Bay State Park Marina for a casual session of birding with the added bonus of photography. Open to all ages, birders, photographers, and anyone who would like to learn more about the birds and about basic camera techniques for bird photography. Bring your binoculars and any camera, if you like (point and shoot, DSLR, Mirrorless - and any lens). To read more about Krisztina, please visit [www.KSNaturePhotography.com](http://www.KSNaturePhotography.com) Meets at the Peninsula Trail Head, southeast end of the State Park Marina parking lot, across from Morro Bay State Park Campground.

**203 7:00am - 4:00pm Big Day**

Field Trip

Leaders Mark Mushkat, Seth Greene, Harnawaz Boparai

Seats 18 ADA? No

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

Fee: \$105 Xport: Bus

Join Mark Mushkat, Seth Greene and Harnawaz Boparai 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.

**204 7:00am - 4:00pm Big Pelagic: Birds & Whales**

Field Trip

Leaders Curtis Marantz, Tom Edell, Wes Fritz, Reef Comer

Seats 31 ADA? No

Meeting Site Morro Bay Landing

Event Venue: Morro Bay Landing

Fee: \$160 Xport: Boat

Join leaders Tom Edell, Curtis Marantz, Reef Comer 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.

**205 7:30am - 12:00pm Birding & Wine at Halter Ranch**

Field Trip

Leaders Roger Zachary, Scott Inman

Seats 20 ADA? No

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

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](http://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/CqwgFubCbSR3XvGb7>

**206 8:00am - 10:00am A Splash of Color: Expressive Bird Art in Watercolor**

Presentation

Leaders Christina Baal

Seats 12 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Sea Pines Golf Resort

Event Venue: Sea Pines Golf Resort

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

We love birds for so many reasons: their beautiful songs, their fascinating behaviors, their incredible life histories. And, of course, their gorgeous plumage! This watercolor workshop led by Christina Baal will focus on capturing the amazing colors and patterns of birds in an expressive, splashy watercolor painting style that is simple to use and requires basic, easy to obtain materials. The class will focus on letting go of anatomical perfection to examine instead a combination of emotion, energy, and color that portrays a bird in a way that is loose and fun. We will learn tips and tricks that make it easy to jump into a painting no matter your skill level! While geared toward beginner/intermediate skill levels, anyone is welcome to attend. Please note that this class can be messy- dress accordingly! All materials required will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own. Meets in the Meeting Room at Sea Pines Golf Resort. 1945 Solano St, Los Osos.

**207 8:00am - 10:30am Women's Morro Bay Marina Excursion**

Field Trip

Leaders Elena Keeling, Peggy Burhenn

Seats 10 ADA? Yes

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. Calling on women birders to join Elena Keeling & Peggy Burhenn 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.

**208 8:00am - 11:00am Birding by Kayak**

Field Trip

Leaders John Flaherty

Seats 8 ADA? No

Meeting Site MB State Park Kayak Launch

Event Venue: MB State Park Kayak Launch

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.

**209 8:00am - 11:00am Shark Inlet**

Field Trip

Leaders Brian O'Kelly, Luke Safford, Rob Ripma

Seats 14 ADA? No

Meeting Site Sea Pines Golf Resort

Event Venue: Los Osos Multiple

Fee: \$0 Xport: Self-Drive

Join Brian O'Kelly, Luke Safford and Rob Ripma for a walk adjacent to the coastal sand dunes and southernmost reaches of Morro Bay during a rising tide, 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 and mudflats, 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 Sea Pines Golf Resort. 1945 Solano St, Los Osos.

**210 8:00am - 12:00pm Bird Montana de Oro State Park**

Field Trip

Leaders Grace Hayes, Marin Romero

Seats 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site Montana de Oro

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 Grace Hayes & Marin Romero 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 Spooner Ranch House, 3550 Pecho Valley Road, Los Osos. From Los Osos, west on Los Osos Valley Road, becomes Pecho Valley Road. Ranch House is 5.2 miles from Los Osos.

**211 8:00am - 12:00pm Birding Along the Bay**

Field Trip

Leaders R Rouvaishyana, Evan Weissman

Seats 12 ADA? No

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 and Evan Weissman! 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.

**212 8:00am - 12:00pm Birding by Careful Observation**

Field Trip

Leaders Doug Stinson, Steve McMasters

Seats 15 ADA? Yes

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 Doug Stinson & 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.

**213 8:00am - 12:00pm Birding Laguna Lake with Kenn Kaufman**

Field Trip

Leaders Kenn Kaufman, Torrey Gage-Tomlinson

Seats 14 ADA? No

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Laguna Lake

Fee: \$95 Xport: Bus

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 Kenn Kaufman and Torrey Gage-Tomlinson 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 bus. Easy. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

**214 8:00am - 12:00pm Birds of the North Coast**

Field Trip

Leaders Bob Keally, Carmen Keally, Terri May

Seats 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site Elephant Seal Rookery

Event Venue: Elephant Seal Rookery

Fee: \$0 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. Meets at the Elephant Seal Rookery north of San Simeon. Hwy 1, 7 miles north of San Simeon.

**215 8:00am - 12:00pm Los Osos Hot Spots with Jon Dunn & David Lindo**

Field Trip

Leaders Jon Dunn, Ed Harper, David Lindo

Seats 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site Sea Pines Golf Resort

Event Venue: Sea Pines Golf Resort

Fee: \$40 Xport: Self-Drive

Join Jon Dunn, David Lindo & 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 Sea Pines Golf Resort. 1945 Solano St, Los Osos.

**216 8:00am - 12:00pm Master Class - The Magic of Bird Sounds - Part 2A**

Master Class

Leaders Roy Poucher

Seats 15

ADA? Yes

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 (#112) is a prerequisite for this event. You must attend that class to join this field trip. 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.

**217 8:00am - 12:00pm Oceano Lagoon Bird Walk**

Field Trip

Leaders Ann Stockert

Seats 12

ADA? No

Meeting Site Oceano Lagoon

Event Venue: Oceano Lagoon

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Ann Stockert for a morning of leisurely birding along the Oceano Lagoon Trail. The lagoon trail is approximately 1.25 miles in length, and located within the Oceano State Parks Campground. The trail will provide the opportunity of observing 60+ species of birds. Commonly found: ducks, grebes, gulls, terns, herons, raptors, kingfisher, woodpeckers, flycatchers, swallows, wrens, sparrows and warblers. There is even the possibility of a rarity of two! Meets in front of the Visitors Center located at 555 Pier Ave., Oceano CA

**218 8:00am - 12:00pm Santa Margarita Lake Birding**

Field Trip

Leaders Scott Stellar

Seats 12

ADA? No

Meeting Site Santa Margarita Lake Ranger Station

Event Venue: Santa Margarita Lake Ranger Station

Fee: \$0

Xport: Self-Drive

Hike beautiful Santa Margarita Lake while birding along its shoreline. Scott Stellar will be your guide who a "shores" us will be entertaining. Hike is easy and will encompass a dirt road and trail. This coastal inland lake hosts numerous migratory and permanent birds. Meets at the Santa Margarita Lake Ranger Station, 4695 Santa Margarita Lake Road, Santa Margarita, CA

**219 8:00am - 3:00pm Bird & Bike the Bob Jones Trail**

Field Trip

Leaders Jim Royer

Seats 10

ADA? No

Meeting Site Bob Jones Trailhead

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

Fee:

Xport: Bicycle

Green Birding, Bob Jones Trail Head to Harford Pier. Join Jim Royer for an 8 mile (mostly flat) round trip, birding by bicycle with possible short walks. The trip begins and ends at the Bob Jones Trailhead Parking Lot. The pace will be slow with frequent stops to discuss bird field marks and vocalizations. Bring multi-speed bicycle, lock, helmet, water, snacks, 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. We will stop at the Harford Pier for lunch at Mersea's Seafood Restaurant. Beginning birders welcome, but not recommended for beginning cyclists. It will be possible to see over 60 species. Rain or high winds cancel. Be present with your bike and ready to go at 7:45 AM. Meets at the Bob Jones Trailhead Parking Lot, 7009 Ontario Road, San Luis Obispo.



**220** 8:00am - 4:30pm **Master Class - Feathers in Focus: Ethical Bird Photography Master Class - Parts 1 & 2** Master Class

Leaders Don Quintana Seats 10 ADA? Yes  
Meeting Site Sea Pines Golf Resort Event Venue: Sea Pines Golf Resort 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 Sea Pines Golf Resort. 1945 Solano St, Los Osos.

**221** 8:30am - 10:00am **Condor Recovery** Presentation

Leaders Steve Schubert Seats 70 ADA? Yes  
Meeting Site St Timothy's Event Venue: St Timothy's 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 St. Timothy's Church, 962 Piney Way, Morro Bay.

**222** 8:30am - 11:30am **Birding for Beginners Workshop** Presentation

Leaders Robbie Revel, Karen Watts Seats 40 ADA? Yes  
Meeting Site Hampton Inn Event Venue: Hampton Inn Conference Room 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 in the Conference Room at the Hampton Inn, 295 Atascadero Rd, Morro Bay.

**223** 8:30am - 12:00pm **Back Bay Birding** Field Trip

Leaders Rusty Scalf, Richard Neidhardt, Debbie Jo Bird Seats 15 ADA? No  
Meeting Site Sweet Springs Event Venue: Los Osos Multiple Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Richard Neidhardt, Rusty Scalf and Debbie Jo Bird 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 Sweet Springs, 660 Ramona Avenue, Baywood-Los Osos.

**224 8:30am - 12:00pm Birding Estero Bluffs**

Field Trip

Leaders Jim Bland

Seats 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Estero Bluffs

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Jim Bland for intermediate birding on a walk of about 2 miles at the north end of Estero Bluffs, where we will visit a wide array of coastal habitats, including coastal bluffs, rocky shoreline, sandy beach, coastal lagoon, and a freshwater pond. If trail conditions permit, we will walk northward along the bluff, cross a sandy beach to a lagoon at the mouth of Villa Creek, then proceed to a fresh water pond adjacent to the lagoon. If trails north of the bluff are not passable due to recent rain, we will proceed south along the bluffs toward Cayucos. Likely species include a variety of turnstones, sandpipers, gulls, cormorants, loons, diving ducks (possibly a Harlequin), dabbling ducks, plovers (Snowy and Semipalmated), birds of prey (Northern Harrier, Golden Eagle), sparrows, phoebes, and meadowlarks. 20 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Moderate. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

**225 8:30am - 12:00pm Condors, Eagles and Hawks of San Simeon Creek Road**

Field Trip

Leaders Van Pierszalowski, Joseph Belli

Seats 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site Washburn Creek

Event Venue: Washburn Creek

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Van Pierszalowski and Joseph Belli to bird San Simeon Creek Road. Search for raptors, songbirds and a chance to see one or more of the California Condors released in the 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. Carpools will be arranged for the trip up San Simeon Creek Road.

**226 8:30am - 12:00pm Feathers-a wondrously complex and versatile structure - Part 1**

Presentation

Leaders John Schmitt

Seats 30 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Baywood Inn

Event Venue: Baywood Inn

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 Baywood Inn, 1370 2nd St, Los Osos.

**227 8:30am - 12:30pm Santa Rita Ranch Diverse Habitats**

Field Trip

Leaders Daniel Elting, Ben Kolstad

Seats 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site Santa Rita Ranch

Event Venue: Santa Rita Ranch

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Be one of the first to explore the rolling grass-covered foothills of the Santa Rita Ranch within the Santa Lucia Mountains. You will be joined on your adventure by Daniel Elting & Ben Kolstad. The crown jewel and so focus of this trip is the 234-acre foot lake, the fourth largest privately-owned lake in the county. You will also explore the downstream riparian habitat, chaparral and coastal oaklands. Walking boots are a necessity! Meets at Santa Rita Ranch in Templeton. 3520 Old Creek Road, Templeton.

**228 8:30am - 1:30pm Casual Little Big Day**

Field Trip

Leaders Benny Jacobs-Schwartz

Seats 19 ADA? No

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

Fee: \$75 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.

**229 9:00am - 10:30am Optics Demystified**

Presentation

Leaders Marilyn Rose

Seats 25 ADA? Yes

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.

**230 9:00am - 10:45am Bay Birding Photo Cruise**

Field Trip

Leaders Dave Keeling

Seats 19 ADA? No

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.

**231 9:00am - 11:00am Heron Rookery and Windy Cove**

Field Trip

Leaders Jeff Miller, Max Roberts

Seats 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site Inn at Morro Bay

Event Venue: Heron Rookery Natural Preserve

Fee: \$0 Xport: Self-Drive

Join Jeff Miller & Max Roberts to explore the Heron Rookery Natural Preserve and Windy Cove. During the breeding season, these trees are crowded with nesting herons, egrets and Double-Crested Cormorants. Continue down the trail to Windy Cove for a variety of shorebirds, sea ducks, perhaps a Belted Kingfisher and Osprey. Continue on to the Morro Bay State Park Museum of Natural History for views of the Bay and Grassy Island. Meets at the Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay. Park in the upper parking lot, just after turning into The Inn.

**232 9:00am - 11:30am Shoreline Birding for Beginners**

Field Trip

Leaders Ginger Howard, Eva Moylan

Seats 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site Baywood Park Pier

Event Venue: Baywood Park Pier

Fee: \$0 Xport: Self-Drive

Seek out raptors, waterfowl, terns/gulls, diving species and shorebirds with Ginger Howard & Eva Moylan 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 2 miles. Meets at Baywood Park Pier, Baywood-Los Osos.

**233 9:00am - 12:00pm Birding Azure Street & Morro Strand**

Field Trip

Leaders Bettina Eastman

Seats 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site Cloisters, Azure Street

Event Venue: Cloisters, Azure Street

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Bettina Eastman at Cloisters Park Azure Street. The coastal scrub to the beach will offer a variety of birds, such as White- and Golden-crowned Sparrows, California Thrasher, Yellow-rumped Warbler and possible Ospreys in the nearby trees. On the beach, expect to see a myriad of shorebirds and waterfowl in the surf line. Further north on the beach, the Alva Paul pond is an excellent location for terns and shorebirds. Two miles from the Community Center. Moderate walk, a short distance through sand. Meet at Cloisters Azure Street Park. Meets in the parking lot across from 150 Azure Street, Morro Bay.

**234 9:00am - 12:00pm Birding by Kayak**

Field Trip

Leaders Virginia Flaherty

Seats 8 ADA? No

Meeting Site MB State Park Kayak Launch

Event Venue: MB State Park Kayak Launch

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.

**235 9:00am - 12:00pm Birds of the Elfin Forest**

Field Trip

Leaders Teodelina Martelli

Seats 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site Elfin Forest

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 Teodelina Martelli to see raptors, passerines and shorebirds in this easy-paced walk. Beginners welcome! The magic of the Elfin Forest lies in its beautiful diversity of specialized plants, creating a unique "miniature forest" environment. This trip is accessible to wheelchairs or people using walkers and canes. Total walking distance will be about 1.5 miles. Location easily accessible, 15 miles round-trip by personal vehicle from Morro Bay. Meets at the entrance on the north end of 16th Street from Santa Ysabel Avenue in the town of Los Osos. Parking at the street end is very limited, however you can park anywhere along 16th Street as long as you do not block driveways or mail boxes. You can even park on an adjacent street and walk the short distance to the 16th Street entrance.

**236 9:00am - 12:00pm Elfin Forest Explorations: Nature Journaling in Coastal Chaparral**

Journaling / Sketching

Leaders Gargi Chugh

Seats 12

ADA? No

Meeting Site Elfin Forest

Event Venue: Elfin Forest

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Immerse yourself in the enchanting Elfin Forest, a unique coastal chaparral habitat. In this session, you'll learn to observe and document the resilient plant and critter species that have adapted to this sandy, wind-swept environment. Through nature journaling, you'll explore how environmental factors shape this diverse ecosystem, focusing on techniques like drawing simple maps, recording observations with words, pictures, and numbers, and noting patterns in plant distribution. The session includes a journaling demo, a hands-on activity, and a group discussion to share insights and discoveries from the Elfin Forest. Supplies: for sketching: a pen or a pencil. For coloring, Tombow brush pens/color pencils/watercolor. Nice to have (optional): a ruler for measurements, binoculars, a folding chair. Meets at the entrance on the north end of 16th Street from Santa Ysabel Avenue in the town of Los Osos. Parking at the street end is very limited, however you can park anywhere along 16th Street as long as you do not block driveways or mail boxes. You can even park on an adjacent street and walk the short distance to the 16th Street entrance.

**237 9:00am - 12:00pm Nature Journaling at a Native Plant Nursery w/a Garden Designer**

Journaling / Sketching

Leaders Melissa Gonzalez

Seats 12

ADA? No

Meeting Site Las Pilitas Nursery

Event Venue: Las Pilitas Nursery

Fee: \$0

Xport: Self-Drive

Are you excited to prepare your garden for the spring season with native plants? Join, pollinator garden designer, Melissa Gonzalez who designs and installs habitats by incorporating more native plants by supporting the nurseries that make this possible! From her experience, one of the greatest challenges is finding more native plants that are best suited for pollinators in their region of habitat. Explore this native plant nursery and document in your nature journal native plants that will be discussed and explore on your own in this beautiful haven that provides important essentials for your garden and wildlife friends can benefit from. Bring: portable tripod stool, water and sun hat, your favorite journal and writing supplies (watercolors and brush pen, colored and graphite pencils, pens for drawing). Meets at Las Pilitas Nursery, 3232 Las Pilitas Rd, Santa Margarita. Please allow at least 50 min driving time, preview map prior to driving as cell reception is minimal. There will be an opportunity to shop for plants and an optional BYO Lunch.

**238 9:00am - 12:00pm Sweet Springs Preserve**

Field Trip

Leaders Aaron Kreisberg, Rick Grijalva

Seats 12

ADA? No

Meeting Site Sweet Springs

Event Venue: Sweet Springs

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Aaron Kreisberg & Rick Grijalva for an unhurried walk around the edges and through the heart of the Morro Coast Audubon Sweet Springs Preserve. This trip 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.

**239 9:00am - 12:00pm Technology On The Trail**

Field Trip

Leaders Erik Ostrander, Hannah Buschert

Seats 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site Cloisters Park

Event Venue: Cloisters Park

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Many enjoy birding to escape the constant nagging of your phone - however, there are lots of ways to use it to enhance your birding! Join Erik and Hannah on a Walk/Field Trip to learn how to use the latest birding technology. We will see what birds we can find and use some technology-based tools, like eBird, Merlin, and iNaturalist to help explore the outdoors. So, charge up your phone and join us! 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.

**240 9:00am - 2:00pm Morro Rock Owls & Falcons - Stop & Scope**

Field Trip

Leaders Bob Isenberg, Jerry Pyle

Seats 40 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Morro Rock

Event Venue: Morro Rock

Fee: \$0 Xport: Self-Drive

Join Bob Isenberg and Jerry Pyle, Peregrine Watch, for a cup of coffee and pastries (while they last) and 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. NOTE: this is a stop and scope event, not a planned walk. Stop by anytime from 9am and 2pm. Meets at Morro Rock. Coleman Drive, Morro Bay. Meet across from bathrooms, next to Morro Rock. Look for Bob's van with awning, scopes and Peregrine statue.

**241 9:30am - 12:00pm Land and Sea Birds at Morro Rock**

Field Trip

Leaders Claudia Freitas

Seats 12 ADA? Yes

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 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.

**242 10:00am - 11:30am The Western Snowy Plover**

Field Trip

Leaders Sharon Iranpour

Seats 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site Cloisters, Azure Street

Event Venue: Cloisters, Azure Street

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Learn about the life of the threatened Western Snowy Plover and walk south on Morro Strand Beach. We will then explore more of the beach and examine what else might be found in this sensitive environment. This event requires walking a short distance in soft sand. Walking distance about 1 mile. Meets in the parking lot across from 150 Azure Street, Morro Bay.

**243 10:00am - 11:45am Morro Bay Nature Cruise**

Field Trip

Leaders Dean Thompson, Dave Clendenen

Seats 20 ADA? No

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.

**244 10:00am - 12:00pm Easy Birding**

Field Trip

Leaders Dawn Beattie

Seats 10 ADA? Yes

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.

**245 10:00am - 12:00pm Lazy Birding 101**

Field Trip

Leaders Neha Kumar, Vinish Janardhanan

Seats 12 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Morro Rock

Event Venue: Morro Rock

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Sit in your car, sip your morning chai, and watch the Brants fly by - that's lazy birding! Join Lazy Birders, Neha and Vinish, at the Morro Bay Bird Festival 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) 10 a.m. 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, a pair of binoculars, and your choice of beverage(s). Optionally, bring a camera with a telephoto zoom or lens, paper and pencil for sketching, and a portable chair. Meets at Morro Rock. Coleman Drive, Morro Bay. Meet across from bathrooms, next to Morro Rock.

**246 10:30am - 11:30am Critter Cams for Monitoring Wildlife**

Presentation

Leaders Steve Schubert

Seats 70 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site St Timothy's

Event Venue: St Timothy's

Fee: Xport: None

Wildlife cameras, often called trail or game cameras, are cameras strategically placed on your property to take motion-triggered pictures and videos that document wildlife presence and activity, including your local avifauna, and detects both common or rarely seen and secretive wildlife species. There are fun and educational benefits to setting up a "camera trap" and later viewing the resultant "photo captures", as well as the benefits for wildlife monitoring projects across the globe that assist in rare and endangered species and other wildlife field research projects. This slide show talk is orientated for beginners and novices wanting to know more about the technology and what to consider in selecting different camera model options, choosing customized camera settings such as shooting time intervals and photo file sizes, and recommendations for onsite installation of your critter cams! Meets at St. Timothy's Church, 962 Piney Way, Morro Bay.

**247 11:00am - 12:00pm Digiscoping with a Smartphone**

Presentation

Leaders Randy Parks

Seats 25 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Morro Bay Community Center

Fee: Xport: None

Digiscoping is the technique of capturing images or videos using a smartphone through a spotting scope or binoculars. If you already have a smartphone, you can join Randy Parks with Magview to learn the basics. Enhance your outdoor photography by getting clear, magnified shots of your favorite subjects.

**248 1:00pm - 2:30pm Exploring Otter Space**

Field Trip

Leaders Sharon Blakely

Seats 15 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site T Pier at Great American Fish Company

Event Venue: T Pier at Great American Fish Compa

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 South T pier next to Great American Fish Company, 1185 Embarcadero, Morro Bay

**249 1:00pm - 2:45pm Bay Birding Cruise**

Field Trip

Leaders Teodelina Martelli

Seats 18 ADA? No

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 Teodelina Martelli. 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.



**250 1:00pm - 3:00pm Basics of Bird ID in the Field**

Field Trip

Leaders R Rouvaishyana, Phylene Wiggins

Seats 20 ADA? Yes

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.

**251 1:00pm - 3:00pm Bats - California's amazing flying mammals**

Presentation

Leaders Lisa Murphy

Seats 20 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Sea Pines Golf Resort

Event Venue: Sea Pines Golf Resort

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 268, Bats - A field study of California's amazing flying mammals. Meets in the Meeting Room at Sea Pines Golf Resort. 1945 Solano St, Los Osos.

**252 1:00pm - 3:00pm The Long-billed Curlew: Tracking a Species of Conservation Need**

Presentation

Leaders Heather Hayes

Seats 70 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site St Timothys

Event Venue: St Timothys

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

The Long-billed Curlew is North America's largest shorebird. Research has shown that Long-billed Curlew populations of southwestern Idaho are declining at an alarming rate placing them on Idaho's "Species of Greatest Conservation Need" list. With the use of satellite transmitter technology, the Intermountain Bird Observatory (IBO) is gaining valuable data as to why. Join research biologist Heather Hayes for an engaging presentation on the work conducted by the IBO. You will also learn about "Dozer", a radio-equipped curlew the IBO has been tracking for the past 5 years from his mountain breeding territory of Idaho to his ocean-side wintering grounds of Morro Bay, California. Field trips have been scheduled to search for "Dozer". Meets at St. Timothy's Church, 962 Piney Way, Morro Bay.

**253 1:00pm - 4:00pm Better Birding with Nature Journaling**

Journaling / Sketching

Leaders Melinda Nakagawa

Seats 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site Sweet Springs

Event Venue: Sweet Springs

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

The birder's Nature journal connects you to birds through active curiosity and creativity. It is a useful tool for people of all birding experience levels to increase your capacity to discern differences for identification, record behaviors, track seasonal changes, improve learning and memory of birds. Quick sketching helps to focus our attention and can serve as a sensory scrapbook for continued learning and enjoyment of birds. We can note bird calls, behaviors, shapes, colors and other notes. In this 2-part experience, we'll start indoors where I'll introduce you to easy and effective ways to capture more birds in your journal. Then, we'll travel outdoors to put nature journaling skills into practice with birds that we encounter. We'll slow down to nature's pace to really soak in the experience with birds. Prior drawing or birding experience is not necessary, anyone can learn. Come see how you can boost your birding enjoyment. Supplies for nature journaling with Melinda - you can see some recommended here - <https://www.melindanakagawa.com/supplies> Bring: 1) Sketchbook/journal; 2) Pen (ball point, fountain, felt - your favorite kind); 3) Color media - your favorite: colored pencils, watercolor travel kit with waterbrush (see supplies link), markers, crayons; 4) Folding stool - optional; 5) Binoculars (optional spotting scope); 6) An open, non-judgmental mind and willingness to try something new! Meets at Sweet Springs, 660 Ramona Avenue, Baywood-Los Osos.

**254 1:00pm - 4:00pm Nature Journaling for Newbies: Intro to Nature Journaling**

Journaling / Sketching

Leaders Brooke Morales

Seats 12 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site SLO Botanical Garden

Event Venue: SLO Botanical Garden

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Never nature journaled or just beginning? This is the session for you! This session will be for those who would like to learn how to get started and will focus on the basics of nature journaling. Participants will need a sketchbook, drawing tools of choice (i.e. pencils and/or pens), 2 binder clips (to hold sheets down in case it's windy), and (optional) any convenient color medium of choice (i.e. color pencils, watercolor paints, markers). Meets at the SLO Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Road, San Luis Obispo. Class is outside.

**255 1:00pm - 4:30pm Feathers-a wondrously complex and versatile structure - Part 2**

Presentation

Leaders John Schmitt

Seats 30 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Baywood Inn

Event Venue: Baywood Inn

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 Baywood Inn, 1370 2nd St, Los Osos.

**256 1:30pm - 3:00pm Elephant Seal Rookery at Piedras Blancas**

Field Trip

Leaders Jim David

Seats 12

ADA? Yes

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 Kiosk at the SOUTH END of the main Elephant Seal viewpoint, 5 miles north of Hearst Castle.

**257 1:30pm - 4:00pm Shoreline Birding for Beginners**

Field Trip

Leaders Doug Stinson, Steve McMasters

Seats 12

ADA? No

Meeting Site Baywood Park Pier

Event Venue: Los Osos Multiple

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Learn to identify the more common gulls and shorebirds with Doug Stinson & 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 Baywood Park Pier, 1399 Second St., Los Osos.

**258 1:30pm - 4:30pm Morro Bay Hot Spots with Jon Dunn**

Field Trip

Leaders Jon Dunn, Claudia Freitas

Seats 15

ADA? No

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Morro Bay Multiple

Fee: \$50

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Jon Dunn and Claudia Freitas 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.

**259 2:00pm - 3:45pm Bay Birding Cruise**

Field Trip

Leaders Kaaren Perry

Seats 21

ADA? No

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 Kaaren Perry. 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.

**260 1:00pm - 3:00pm An Identification Study of Birds of Prey**

Presentation

Leaders Ed Harper

Seats 40 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Hampton Inn

Event Venue: Hampton Inn Conference Room

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 in the Conference Room at the Hampton Inn, 295 Atascadero Rd, Morro Bay.

**261 2:00pm - 4:00pm Birding Morro Rock**

Field Trip

Leaders Rick Derevan

Seats 12 ADA? Yes

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 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.

**262 2:00pm - 4:00pm Estero Bluffs State Park Habitat Walk**

Field Trip

Leaders Faylla Chapman

Seats 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Estero Bluffs

Fee: \$0 Xport: Self-Drive

Join Faylla Chapman for a habitat stroll on Estero Bluffs. Follow the bluff-side path from the shipwrecked fishing vessel, Point Estero, to San Geronimo Creek and the restored windmill, looking for birds and whales offshore while walking through dune scrub, native and non-native grasses and wetland. Learn the history of the area, see the amazing offshore rocks and intertidal and possibly make it down to the beach. Meet at the Morro Bay Community Center. Mostly flat terrain, no restrooms.

**263 3:00pm - 4:15pm Rookery Wonders in Windy Cove**

Presentation

Leaders Louise Abbott

Seats 70 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site St Timothy's

Event Venue: St Timothy's

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 St. Timothy's Church, 962 Piney Way, Morro Bay.

**264 3:00pm - 4:45pm Bay Birding Cruise**

Field Trip

Leaders Robert Lindsay

Seats 18 ADA? No

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 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.

**265 3:00pm - 5:00pm Ducks & Geese of the Morro Bay Region**

Presentation

Leaders Jim Bland

Seats 20 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Sea Pines Golf Resort

Event Venue: Sea Pines Golf Resort

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Jim Bland for a presentation on ducks and geese of the Morro Bay region. The lecture/slideshow will cover all waterfowl species that frequent Morro Bay, Estero Bay, and nearby freshwater wetlands. Topics will include waterfowl habitats of the region, taxonomic relationships of the waterfowl "tribes", and the migration patterns, foraging ecology, and reproductive biology of each species. Jim Bland is a retired avian ecologist, former college lecturer on Ornithology, and experienced wildlife photographer. Meets in the Meeting Room at Sea Pines Golf Resort. 1945 Solano St, Los Osos.

**266 3:30pm - 9:30pm Owling Field Trip**

Field Trip

Leaders R Rouvaishyana, Phylene Wiggins

Seats 18 ADA? No

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

Fee: \$90 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. 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.

**267 4:00pm - 5:30pm Friday Welcome Reception**

Special Event

Leaders

Seats 200 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Morro Bay Community Center

Fee: Xport: None

The Festival is presenting two Welcome Receptions, one on Friday and one on Saturday. Enjoy wine, cheese, live music, and visit with fellow birders, VIPs and event leaders. Afterwards, visit the Bazaar to browse the vendor booths featuring optics, books, music, nature art & photography, woodcarvings, jewelry, educational exhibits and Festival Swag. Each Reception attendee will receive a free MBBF logo etched wine glass. Note that you can only attend one of the two receptions and an entry ticket is required. This event takes place in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Morro Bay Community Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

**268 5:00pm - 8:00pm Bats - A field study of California's amazing flying mammals**

Field Trip

Leaders Lisa Murphy

Seats 16 ADA? No

Meeting Site Sweet Springs

Event Venue: Sweet Springs

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

This field trip accompanies Event 251, 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 Sweet Springs, 660 Ramona Avenue, Baywood-Los Osos.

**269 5:30pm - 7:00pm Movie Night - Condor Canyon**

Presentation

Leaders Kelly Sorenson

Seats 230 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Morro Bay Theater

Event Venue: Morro Bay Theater

Fee: \$10 Xport: None

Join us for a special screening of Condor Canyon, a true story about a California Condor living in Big Sur, who survives lead poisoning while her mate raises their chick and her return after treatment. "Traveler", tagged as Red 71, has struggled to lay normal eggs throughout her life due to the past use of the pesticide DDT found in the food she eats. Finally, successful, she and her mate, "Shadow" tagged as Yellow 9, were raising a chick together when she ingested lead from a carcass tainted with lead ammunition. Miraculously, both Traveler and the chick survive giving hope for the recovery of the species in the wild. This documentary was funded by Doris Day and Terry Melcher Foundation and premiered at the Carmel International Film Festival in October 24. Following the movie, Kelly Sorenson, Film Producer and Executive Director of the Ventana Wildlife Society, will be will be sharing details and answering questions about the film and the Ventana Wildlife Society. Meets at Morro Bay Theater, 464 Morro Bay Blvd, Morro Bay. Doors open at 5:15pm.

**Saturday****301 6:45am - 8:45am Photo Walk with Lazy Birders**

Field Trip

Leaders Neha Kumar, Vinish Janardhanan

Seats 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site Cloisters Park

Event Venue: Cloisters Park

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

The Lazy Birders are waking up early for a special treat - you! Join us at 6:45 a.m. for a sunrise Bird Photo Walk at the beautiful Cloisters Park, Morro Bay. We'll be in the perfect spot to photograph various birds, from sparrows and herons to shore birds. Our relaxed two-hour walk will be packed with chances to snap stunning photos of birds in different habitats, portraits, in flight, and displaying unique behaviors. We aim to build a fun, supportive community where we can learn birding and photography techniques from one another. We will offer an optional post-walk online session to edit images and share what we have learned. Our camera and birding gear: Body Sony Alpha 7 II body, Lens Sony FE 200-600mm, Tripod Sirui AM-225 Carbon Fiber Small, and Nocs Provisions Binoculars. Ethical bird photography: We believe in capturing beautiful bird photos while respecting their space, keeping a gentle distance, and ensuring our presence doesn't disturb their habitat. Meets 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 the first left (south) on Coral Avenue; in a few blocks enter the parking lot on the right, next to the restrooms.

**302 7:00am - 12:00pm Half Day Pelagic Trip**

Field Trip

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

Seats 30 ADA? No

Meeting Site Morro Bay Landing

Event Venue: Morro Bay Landing

Fee: \$110 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, Benny Jacobs-Schwartz, Russ Namitz, Jeff Miller 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.

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

Field Trip

Leaders Sally Krenn, Eric Wier

Seats 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site Coon Creek Parking Lot

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. Active 5.5 mile round trip hike. Meets at the Coon Creek Parking Lot in Montana de Oro. From Los Osos, west on Los Osos Valley Road, the road becomes Pecho Valley Road. The Parking Lot is 5.9 miles from Los Osos.

**304 7:00am - 4:00pm Big Day in South County**

Field Trip

Leaders Rick Grijalva, Torrey Gage-Tomlinson

Seats 18 ADA? No

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

Fee: \$105 Xport: Bus

Join Rick Grijalva and Torrey Gage-Tomlinson 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. Destinations include Oceano Lagoon and Oso Flaco Lake. Travel in bus with leader and many in/out stops. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

**305 7:30am - 4:30pm Master Class - Introduction to Bird Photography - Parts 1 & 2**

Master Class

Leaders Jacqueline Deely

Seats 10 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Sea Pines Golf Resort

Event Venue: Sea Pines Golf Resort

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 in the Conference Room at Sea Pines Golf Resort. 1945 Solano St, Los Osos.

**306 7:30am - 12:00pm Bird Montana de Oro State Park**

Field Trip

Leaders Bert Townsend, Mike Bush

Seats 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site Montana de Oro

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 Mike Bush 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 Spooner Ranch House, 3550 Pecho Valley Road, Los Osos. From Los Osos, west on Los Osos Valley Road, becomes Pecho Valley Road. Ranch House is 5.2 miles from Los Osos.

**307 7:30am - 12:00pm Birding Estero Bluffs with Jon Dunn**

Field Trip

Leaders Jon Dunn, Ed Harper, Bettina Eastman

Seats 20 ADA? No

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.

**308 7:30am - 12:00pm Santa Margarita Lake Pontoon Boat Birding**

Field Trip

Leaders Scott Stellar

Seats 9 ADA? No

Meeting Site Santa Margarita Lake Ranger Station

Event Venue: Santa Margarita Lake Ranger Station

Fee: \$45 Xport: Boat

Join Captain Scott Stellar on a pontoon boat ride adventure birding Santa Margarita Lake. We'll cruise pretty much the entire lake taking in all the migratory and permanent birds as well as shoreline wildlife that abound. Restrooms are available along the route. Meets at Santa Margarita Lake Ranger Station. 4695 Santa Margarita Lake Road, Santa Margarita.



**309 7:30am - 4:30pm Big Day Birding by Bicycle**

Field Trip

Leaders Jim Royer

Seats 10 ADA? No

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Morro Bay Multiple

Fee: Xport: Bicycle

Big Green Day Birding by Bicycle in Morro Bay. Join Jim Royer for a birding tour of the area on bicycle and on foot. This has moderate hills by bicycle and short walks of up to a mile. It starts and ends at the Morro Bay 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. You must be able to very comfortably ride 10 hilly miles. We have seen over 100 species on this trip before. 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, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

**310 8:00am - 10:00am A Splash of Color: Expressive Bird Art in Watercolor**

Presentation

Leaders Christina Baal

Seats 12 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Sea Pines Golf Resort

Event Venue: Sea Pines Golf Resort

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

We love birds for so many reasons: their beautiful songs, their fascinating behaviors, their incredible life histories. And, of course, their gorgeous plumage! This watercolor workshop led by Christina Baal will focus on capturing the amazing colors and patterns of birds in an expressive, splashy watercolor painting style that is simple to use and requires basic, easy to obtain materials. The class will focus on letting go of anatomical perfection to examine instead a combination of emotion, energy, and color that portrays a bird in a way that is loose and fun. We will learn tips and tricks that make it easy to jump into a painting no matter your skill level! While geared toward beginner/intermediate skill levels, anyone is welcome to attend. Please note that this class can be messy- dress accordingly! All materials required will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own. Meets in the Meeting Room at Sea Pines Golf Resort. 1945 Solano St, Los Osos.

**311 8:00am - 11:00am Birding by Kayak**

Field Trip

Leaders John Flaherty

Seats 8 ADA? No

Meeting Site MB State Park Kayak Launch

Event Venue: MB State Park Kayak Launch

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.

**312 8:00am - 11:00am Birding Morro Strand with David Lindo**

Field Trip

Leaders Brian O'Kelly, Luke Safford, Rob Ripma, David Lindo

Seats 16 ADA? No

Meeting Site Cloisters, Azure Street

Event Venue: Cloisters, Azure Street

Fee: \$20 Xport: Self-Drive

Join Brian Kelly, David Lindo, Luke Safford and Rob Ripma at Cloisters Park Azure Street. The coastal scrub to the beach will offer a variety of birds, such as White- and Golden-crowned Sparrows, California Thrasher, Yellow-rumped Warbler and possible Ospreys in the nearby trees. On the beach, expect to see a myriad of shorebirds and waterfowl in the surf line. Further north on the beach, the Alva Paul pond is a great birding spot for terns and shorebirds. Two miles from the Community Center. Moderate walk, a short distance through sand. Meet at Cloisters Azure Street Park. Meets in the parking lot across from 150 Azure Street, Morro Bay.

**313 8:00am - 11:00am Peregrine Falcons of Morro Rock**

Presentation/Field Trip

Leaders Steve Schubert

Seats 70 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site St Timothy's

Event Venue: St Timothy's

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. Self-drive field trip to Morro Rock to observe falcon and other wildlife activity following the lecture presentation, with binoculars and spotting scopes viewing opportunities. Easy. Meets at St. Timothy's Church, 962 Piney Way, Morro Bay.

**314 8:00am - 11:30am Birds of Atascadero Lake**

Field Trip

Leaders Aaron Kreisberg, Max Roberts, Peter Gaede

Seats 15 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Atascadero Lake

Event Venue: Atascadero Lake

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join leaders Aaron Kreisberg, Max Roberts and Peter Gaede 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.

**315 8:00am - 12:00pm Birds and Butterflies**

Field Trip

Leaders Jessica Griffiths

Seats 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site Sweet Springs

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 Sweet Springs, 660 Ramona Avenue, Baywood-Los Osos.

**316 8:00am - 12:00pm Point Sierra Nevada Beach birding**

Field Trip

Leaders Van Pierszalowski

Seats 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site Elephant Seal Rookery

Event Venue: Point Sierra Nevada Dunes Beach

Fee: \$0

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Van Pierszalowski for a relaxed half-mile walk along the bluffs to a secluded beach just south of Arroyo De La Cruz. Once at the beach, we'll stroll another quarter mile to the creek mouth, where we'll study La Cruz Rock through Van's scope and survey the area for gulls, ducks, and shorebirds, while remaining on the lookout for any nearshore surprises. Meets at the south end of the Elephant Seal Rookery Parking Lot on Hwy 1, 7 miles north of San Simeon.

**317 8:00am - 12:00pm Wintering Birds at Cal Poly Pier**

Field Trip

Leaders Elena Keeling, Dave Keeling

Seats 20 ADA? Yes

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.

**318 8:15am - 12:00pm Advanced Bird Photography**

Field Trip

Leaders Don Quintana, Jerry Kirkhart

Seats 10 ADA? No

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Morro Bay Community Center

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.

**319 8:15am - 12:00pm Songbirds in the Pines**

Field Trip

Leaders R Rouvaishyana, Vicky Johnsen

Seats 15 ADA? No

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.

**320 8:30am - 11:00am Meander Morro Bay Marina**

Field Trip

Leaders Ann Stockert, Kristin Loft

Seats 12 ADA? Yes

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 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.

**321 8:30am - 11:30am A Snipe Hunt For Rails?**

Field Trip

Leaders Robert Lindsay

Seats 12 ADA? Yes

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.

**322 8:30am - 11:30am Birding Laguna Lake for Beginners**

Field Trip

Leaders Kristina Van Wert, Tyson Baker

Seats 15 ADA? No

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 Kristina Van Wert and Tyson Backer 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).

**323 8:30am - 11:30am Land and Sea Birds at Morro Rock**

Field Trip

Leaders Doug Stinson, Janet Bodle, Richard Cimino

Seats 15 ADA? Yes

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 Doug Stinson, Janet Bodel & Richard Cimino 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.

**324 8:30am - 11:30am Shark Inlet**

Field Trip

Leaders Grace Hayes, Marin Romero

Seats 14 ADA? No

Meeting Site Sea Pines Golf Resort

Event Venue: Sea Pines Golf Resort

Fee: \$0 Xport: Self-Drive

Join Grace Hayes & Marin Romero for a walk adjacent to the coastal sand dunes and southernmost reaches of Morro Bay during a rising tide, 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 and mudflats, 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 Sea Pines Golf Resort. 1945 Solano St, Los Osos.

**325 8:30am - 12:00pm Birding Elfin Forest & Sweet Springs**

Field Trip

Leaders Rusty Scalf, Richard Neidhardt, Debbie Jo Bird

Seats 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site Sweet Springs

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, Rusty Scalf and Debbie Jo Bird. 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 Sweet Springs, 660 Ramona Avenue, Baywood-Los Osos.

**326 8:30am - 12:00pm Condors, Eagles and Hawks of San Simeon Creek Road**

Field Trip

Leaders Bob Keally, Carmen Keally, Terri May

Seats 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site Washburn Creek

Event Venue: Washburn Creek

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Bob & Carmen Keally and Terri May to bird San Simeon Creek Road. Search for raptors, songbirds and a chance to see one or more of the California Condors released in the 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. Carpools will be arranged.

**327 8:30am - 12:30pm Santa Rita Ranch Diverse Habitats**

Field Trip

Leaders Daniel Elting, Griffin Davies

Seats 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site Santa Rita Ranch

Event Venue: Santa Rita Ranch

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Be one of the first to explore the rolling grass-covered foothills of the Santa Rita Ranch within the Santa Lucia Mountains. You will be joined on your adventure by Daniel Elting & Griffin Davies. The crown jewel and so focus of this trip is the 234-acre foot lake, the fourth largest privately-owned lake in the county. You will also explore the downstream riparian habitat, chaparral and coastal oaklands. Walking boots are a necessity! Meets at Santa Rita Ranch in Templeton. 3520 Old Creek Road, Templeton.

**328 8:30am - 2:00pm Los Osos Hot Spots by Bike**

Field Trip

Leaders Ginger Howard

Seats 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site Sea Pines Golf Resort

Event Venue: Sea Pines Golf Resort

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 Resort. 1945 Solano St, Los Osos.

**329 8:30am - 3:15pm Big Day at Santa Margarita Lake**

Field Trip

Leaders Mark Holmgren

Seats 12 ADA? No

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.

**330 9:00am - 10:45am Bay Birding Photo Cruise**

Field Trip

Leaders Rick Derevan, Sarah Killingsworth

Seats 18 ADA? No

Meeting Site Sub Sea Tours

Event Venue: Sub Sea Tours

Fee: \$40 Xport: Boat

Join local expert photographer Rick Derevan & Sarah Killingsworth to enjoy a leisurely photography focused boating tour of the bay and estuary in an open-deck 34-foot power catamaran. View a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl, often at close range. The boat will move slowly enough for you to see details of many species that you normally see only through a scope from shore. Good photo opportunities, but no tripods. Dress warmly. Meets at Sub Sea Tours, 699 Embarcadero, #9, Morro Bay.

**332 9:00am - 12:00pm Birding by Kayak**

Field Trip

Leaders Virginia Flaherty

Seats 8 ADA? No

Meeting Site MB State Park Kayak Launch

Event Venue: MB State Park Kayak Launch

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.

**333 9:00am - 12:00pm Pasolivo Ranch Birding and Olive Oil Tasting**

Field Trip

Leaders Claudia Freitas, Karen Watts

Seats 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site Pasolivo Ranch

Event Venue: Pasolivo Ranch

Fee: \$15 Xport: Self-Drive

Join Claudia Freitas & Karen Watts for a birding walk followed by olive oil tasting at Pasolivo Ranch in Paso Robles. Birding the oaks on the ranch should yield sightings of Yellow-billed Magpies and the resident Acorn Woodpeckers. Meets at Pasolivo Ranch, 8530 Vineyard Drive, Paso Robles.

**334 9:00am - 12:00pm Riparian Rhythms: Streamside Nature Journaling Adventures**

Journaling / Sketching

Leaders Gargi Chugh

Seats 12 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site El Chorro Park

Event Venue: El Chorro Park

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Step into the riparian zone - the lush, dynamic land next to freshwater streams and rivers - and use your nature journaling tools to explore its unique vegetation and interactions. This session focuses on capturing the intricate stories of water's edge and woodland connections. You'll learn techniques for mapping, observing, and documenting the vibrant life in these transitional areas. The session includes a journaling demo, hands-on activity, and a group discussion to reflect on your discoveries. This session is suited for all skill levels, and no prior drawing experience is required. Participants will need a Journal/ Sketchbook, Pen/Pencil or any preferred drawing or writing tools, their choice of coloring medium: Color Pencils / Tombow brush pens / Watercolor Optional but helpful Supplies: a ruler for measurements, binoculars, a folding chair. Meets at El Choro Park, 3450 Dairy Creek Road, San Luis Obispo. Drive past the Botanical Garden office to the end of the road, just past the dog park.

**335 9:00am - 12:00pm Watercolor Windowscapes**

Journaling / Sketching

Leaders Brooke Morales

Seats 12 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site SLO Botanical Garden

Event Venue: SLO Botanical Garden Oak Glen Pavili

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Meditative snapshots to connect and reflect. The ever-present yet constantly changing nature of the sky provides a wonderful backdrop for observing nature intentionally while developing your love for the process-even on days when you can't venture out. Learn how this meditative practice can help you develop a daily nature journaling habit while improving your watercolor skills. Any decent watercolor paper or sketchbook will do, but 100% cotton is preferred. Bring your watercolor palette and be sure to include blues (Cobalt/Ultramarine, Cerulean, Yellow Ochre, and some sort of black/dark grey for clouds), paint brush(es) or waterbrush(es), a water jar for painting if using regular brushes, tissue (i.e. Kleenex or paper towels), and 2 bulldog clips or binder clips for holding down your paper. Optional: Masking tape for clean lines and a small spray bottle for activating/re-wetting your watercolor paints. Meets in the Oak Glen Pavilion at SLO Botanical Garden (inside El Choro Park), 3450 Dairy Creek Road, San Luis Obispo.

**336 9:00am - 2:00pm Morro Rock Owls & Falcons - Stop & Scope**

Field Trip

Leaders Bob Isenberg, Jerry Pyle

Seats 40 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Morro Rock

Event Venue: Morro Rock

Fee: \$0 Xport: Self-Drive

Join Bob Isenberg and Jerry Pyle, Peregrine Watch, for a cup of coffee and pastries (while they last) and 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. NOTE: this is a stop and scope event, not a planned walk. Stop by anytime from 9am and 2pm. Meets at Morro Rock. Coleman Drive, Morro Bay. Meet across from bathrooms, next to Morro Rock. Look for Bob's van with awning, scopes and Peregrine statue.

**337 9:00am - 11:30am How to shoot high quality and engaging wildlife videos**

Presentation

Leaders Emmet Arries

Seats 20 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Baywood Inn

Event Venue: Baywood Inn

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Do you enjoy photography but feel lost when using the video mode? Join local wildlife cinematographer Emmet Arries, who's worked on film projects for National Geographic and PBS, as he shares tips and tricks for shooting compelling wildlife video. You'll learn about video specific camera settings, how shooting video differs from shooting stills, and how to shoot compelling video sequences. This presentation is aimed at beginning videographers with a photography background, and assumes a basic understanding of camera functions as well as photographic exposure using Aperture, Shutter Speed, and ISO. We'll take those concepts and apply them to your camera's video mode. Bring your camera, the class will be split into half presentation and half hands on assistance setting up your camera to shoot the best video possible. Meets at the Baywood Inn, 1336 3rd St, Los Osos. Conference Room is adjacent to the parking lot.

**338 9:30am - 12:00pm Long-billed Curlew and Shorebird Search on Morro Strand**

Field Trip

Leaders Heather Hayes, Rebecca Heisman

Seats 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site Cloisters, Azure Street

Event Venue: Cloisters, Azure Street

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Heather Hayes and Rebecca Heisman on Morro Strand to observe Long-billed Curlews and other shorebirds. Additionally, make a detailed search for Dozer, a radio-tagged curlew who winters on the Morro Bay beaches and returns in the spring to nesting grounds in southern Idaho. Meets in the parking lot across from 150 Azure Street, Morro Bay.

**339 9:30am - 12:00pm Young Birders & the Marina Boardwalk**

Field Trip

Leaders Max Taylor, Eva Moylan &amp; Augie Hazel

Seats 16 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Morro Bay State Park Marina

Event Venue: Morro Bay State Park Marina

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Max Taylor, Augie Hzel & Eva Moylan 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.

**340 10:00am - 11:30am Avian Respiratory System Adaptations**

Presentation

Leaders Erin Naegle

Seats 70 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site St Timothy's

Event Venue: St Timothy's

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Erin Naegle for a presentation on avian respiratory system adaptations. Birds have impressively efficient respiratory systems that help meet the high oxygen demands of flight. Learn about some respiratory adaptations, hypotheses about how they evolved, and some delightfully fun traits like telescopic tracheas! Meets at St. Timothy's Church, 962 Piney Way, Morro Bay.



**341 11:00am - 12:30pm The Western Snowy Plover**

Field Trip

Leaders Sharon Iranpour

Seats 15

ADA? No

Meeting Site Cloisters, Azure Street

Event Venue: Cloisters, Azure Street

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Learn about the life of the threatened Western Snowy Plover and walk south on Morro Strand Beach. We will then explore more of the beach and examine what else might be found in this sensitive environment. This event requires walking a short distance in soft sand. Walking distance about 1 mile. Meets in the parking lot across from 150 Azure Street, Morro Bay.

**342 1:00pm - 2:30pm Exploring Otter Space**

Field Trip

Leaders Sharon Blakely

Seats 15

ADA? Yes

Meeting Site T Pier at Great American Fish Company

Event Venue: T Pier at Great American Fish Compa

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 South T pier next to Great American Fish Company, 1185 Embarcadero, Morro Bay

**343 1:00pm - 2:30pm Listening and Calling Birds as an Art**

Field Trip

Leaders R Rouvaishyana, Vicky Johnsen

Seats 15

ADA? No

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

**344 1:00pm - 2:45pm Bay Birding Photo Cruise**

Field Trip

Leaders Dave Keeling

Seats 19

ADA? No

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 Dos Osos. 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.

**345 1:00pm - 3:00pm Gardening Like the Perfect Host**

Journaling / Sketching

Leaders Sharon Lovejoy

Seats 25 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site SLO Botanical Garden

Event Venue: SLO Botanical Garden Oak Glen Pavili Fee:

Xport: None

Meet with author, naturalist, and life-long gardener Sharon Lovejoy to learn how to plant a garden that will attract and nurture birds, native bees, butterflies, and other critters. Sharon will share an illustrated talk and take participants on a walk through the San Luis Obispo Botanical Gardens for a bird's eye view of what works and how to plan and plant successfully. She will focus on the value of native plants and drought-tolerant species that provide food, nesting materials, larval host plants, and habitat. Meets in the Oak Glen Pavilion at SLO Botanical Garden (inside El Choro Park), 3450 Dairy Creek Road, San Luis Obispo.

**346 1:00pm - 3:00pm Marina Boardwalk & Trail Habitat Walk**

Field Trip

Leaders Faylla Chapman

Seats 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site Morro Bay State Park Marina

Event Venue: Morro Bay State Park Marina

Fee: \$0 Xport: Self-Drive

Join Faylla Chapman for a habitat stroll on the Marina Boardwalk. This habitat encompasses the saltmarsh, Pacific Flyway, and marina habitat, with salt-loving plants, coastal scrub and mud areas that are so attractive to many land and shore birds. The walk is partially on a path in the saltmarsh and then on to the boardwalk, down to the muddy shore and back to the start along the marina, about 1.2 mile round trip. Meets at the Peninsula Trail Head, southeast end of the State Park Marina parking lot, across from Morro Bay State Park Campground. Restroom is available in the park.

**347 1:00pm - 3:00pm Principles and Pitfalls of Bird Identification by Kenn Kaufman**

Presentation

Leaders Kenn Kaufman

Seats 100 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Inn at Morro Bay

Event Venue: Inn at Morro Bay

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

What does it take to develop more skill at bird ID, and to be able to recognize more of the birds that we find? Well, for starters, it's not simply a matter of learning field marks. Often we can memorize all the field marks for a species and still have trouble identifying it, while in other cases we may recognize a bird without seeing any traditional field marks at all. In this program, based on a section from his Kaufman Field Guide to Advanced Birding, Kenn will talk about some basic principles that apply to all birds - principles that make it possible to name birds with more accuracy and confidence. He'll also discuss some surprising pitfalls of ID, and how to avoid being tripped up by them. Meets at the Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay. Morro Bay Room.

**348 1:00pm - 4:00pm Better Birding with Nature Journaling**

Journaling / Sketching

Leaders Melinda Nakagawa

Seats 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site Sweet Springs

Event Venue: Sweet Springs

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

The birder's Nature journal connects you to birds through active curiosity and creativity. It is a useful tool for people of all birding experience levels to increase your capacity to discern differences for identification, record behaviors, track seasonal changes, improve learning and memory of birds. Quick sketching helps to focus our attention and can serve as a sensory scrapbook for continued learning and enjoyment of birds. We can note bird calls, behaviors, shapes, colors and other notes. In this 2-part experience, we'll start indoors where I'll introduce you to easy and effective ways to capture more birds in your journal. Then, we'll travel outdoors to put nature journaling skills into practice with birds that we encounter. We'll slow down to nature's pace to really soak in the experience with birds. Prior drawing or birding experience is not necessary, anyone can learn. Come see how you can boost your birding enjoyment. Supplies for nature journaling with Melinda - you can see some recommended here - <https://www.melindanakagawa.com/supplies> Bring: 1) Sketchbook/journal; 2) Pen (ball point, fountain, felt - your favorite kind); 3) Color media - your favorite: colored pencils, watercolor travel kit with waterbrush (see supplies link), markers, crayons; 4) Folding stool - optional; 5) Binoculars (optional spotting scope); 6) An open, non-judgmental mind and willingness to try something new! Meets at Sweet Springs, 660 Ramona Avenue, Baywood-Los Osos.

**349 1:00pm - 4:00pm Birding By Ear Workshop**

Presentation

Leaders Jessica Griffiths

Seats 30 ADA? No

Meeting Site Baywood Inn

Event Venue: Baywood Inn

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 the Baywood Inn, 1370 2nd St, Los Osos.

**351 1:00pm - 4:00pm Nature Journaling with the Monarch Butterflies**

Journaling / Sketching

Leaders Melissa Gonzalez, Peggy Burhenn

Seats 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site Sweet Springs

Event Venue: Sweet Springs

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Are you curious about the migration of the monarch butterfly and the habitats they rely on? Join pollinator garden designer, Melissa Gonzalez and Peggy Burhenn, State Park Docent at the Monarch Preserve, as we "pioneer" through the eucalyptus /pine tree groves to explore this magnificent creature in the field at one of their overwintering sites to observe, draw, write and learn more about the significance of this mysterious phenomenon. Bring: portable tripod stool, water and sun hat, your favorite journal and writing supplies (watercolors and brush pen, colored and graphite pencils, pens for drawing). Meets at Sweet Springs, 660 Ramona Avenue, Baywood-Los Osos.

**352 1:00pm - 4:30pm Montana de Oro Nature Walk**

Field Trip

Leaders Dean Thompson

Seats 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site Montana de Oro

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 Spooner Ranch House, 3550 Pecho Valley Road, Los Osos. From Los Osos, west on Los Osos Valley Road, becomes Pecho Valley Road. Ranch House is 5.2 miles from Los Osos.

**353 1:00pm - 5:00pm Master Class - Bird Biology Basics Part 1**

Master Class

Leaders Jim Bland

Seats 12 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Sea Pines Golf Resort

Event Venue: Sea Pines Golf Resort

Fee: \$90 Xport: None

This class is a scaled-down version of a college course on Bird Biology. Topics will be presented at an introductory level, and limited to those of greatest interest to visual artists (painters and photographers); essentially, what you're looking at when you observe birds or bird behavior. There will be two sessions: Part 1 will emphasize external appearances, and Part 2 will emphasize behaviors. Ornithological vocabulary will be introduced and used throughout. The basics of bird identification will also be presented. The class will be led by Jim Bland, a retired avian ecologist, former college lecturer on Ornithology, and experienced wildlife photographer. Meets at in the Conference Room at Sea Pines Golf Resort. 1945 Solano St, Los Osos.

**354 1:00pm - 5:00pm Shorebird Carving Class**

Presentation

Leaders Jim Burcio, Ken Nelson

Seats 10 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Sea Pines Golf Resort

Event Venue: Sea Pines Golf Resort

Fee: \$35 Xport: Self-Drive

You will be introduced to the art of bird carving and guided through the woodcarving process by three expert wood carvers from the Pacific Flyway Decoy Association. After a day of using hand and power tools, participants will leave with a Ruddy Turnstone that they can then paint on their own. "The Concepts of Woodcarving" will be used as a reference. The small-group setting will provide participants with the attention needed to be successful with their project. This workshop is intended for beginners, but those with all levels of experience may participate, (must be 14 years old or older). This workshop includes a one-year membership in the Pacific Flyway Decoy Association. It is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit art association dedicated to the preservation of wildfowl art through education. To learn more about the association, visit [pacificflyway.org](http://pacificflyway.org). Meets in the Meeting Room at Sea Pines Golf Resort. 1945 Solano St, Los Osos.

**355 1:30pm - 2:30pm Meet the Raptors - Pacific Wildlife Care**

Presentation

Leaders Pacific Wildlife-Care

Seats 125 ADA? Yes

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, and a Red-tailed Hawk. 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 an American Kestrel. 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.

**356 1:30pm - 3:00pm Elephant Seal Rookery at Piedras Blancas**

Field Trip

Leaders David Lawrence

Seats 12 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Elephant Seal Rookery

Event Venue: Elephant Seal Rookery

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Friends of the Elephant Seal docent David Lawrence 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 Kiosk at the SOUTH END of the main Elephant Seal viewpoint, 5 miles north of Hearst Castle.

**357 1:30pm - 3:30pm Sister Species: A Conservation Story**

Presentation

Leaders Teodelina Martelli

Seats 70 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site St Timothy's

Event Venue: St Timothy's

Fee: Xport: None

Join Teodelina Martelli for her lecture on how the California Condor was saved from extinction thanks to its sister species, the Andean Condor. Teodelina will describe a history of the California Condor, the race to develop conservation methods against a genetic bottleneck, and the high bar for scientific collaboration set by this conservation success. The Andean Condor is an important part of the California Condor's survival story, and there will be updates on the status of both unique species. Come hear about her time spent in the field with these charismatic vultures! Meets at St. Timothy's Church, 962 Piney Way, Morro Bay.

**358 1:30pm - 4:00pm Birding Estero Bluffs**

Field Trip

Leaders Doug Stinson, Steve McMasters

Seats 14 ADA? No

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 Doug Stinson & 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.

**359 1:30pm - 4:00pm Birding Laguna Lake**

Field Trip

Leaders Michael Mulroy, Scott Inman

Seats 15 ADA? No

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).

**360 2:00pm - 3:45pm Bay Birding Cruise**

Field Trip

Leaders Mike Bush, Emma Cox

Seats 21 ADA? No

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 & Emma Cox. 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.

**361 2:00pm - 4:00pm El Choro Birding Stroll**

Field Trip

Leaders Ed Harper, Seth Greene, Harnawaz Boparai

Seats 15 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site El Chorro Park

Event Venue: El Chorro Park

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join leaders Ed Harper, Seth Greene and Harnawaz Boparai for a birding stroll at El Chorro 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.

**362 2:00pm - 4:00pm Long-billed Curlew and Shorebird Search on Morro Strand**

Field Trip

Leaders Heather Hayes

Seats 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site Cloisters, Azure Street

Event Venue: Cloisters, Azure Street

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Heather Hayes on Morro Strand to observe Long-billed Curlews and other shorebirds. Additionally, make a detailed search for Dozer, a radio-tagged curlew who winters on the Morro Bay beaches and returns in the spring to nesting grounds in southern Idaho. Meets in the parking lot across from 150 Azure Street, Morro Bay.

**363 2:00pm - 4:00pm The Elfin Forest Wonderland**

Field Trip

Leaders Cindy Roessler, Emily Brown

Seats 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site Elfin Forest

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 Emily Brown 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 entrance on the north end of 16th Street from Santa Ysabel Avenue in the town of Los Osos. Parking at the street end is very limited, however you can park anywhere along 16th Street as long as you do not block driveways or mail boxes. You can even park on an adjacent street and walk the short distance to the 16th Street entrance.

**364 3:00pm - 4:00pm Meet the Raptors - Pacific Wildlife Care**

Presentation

Leaders Pacific Wildlife-Care

Seats 125 ADA? Yes

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, and a Red-tailed Hawk. 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 an American Kestrel. 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.

**365 3:00pm - 4:45pm Bay Birding Cruise**

Field Trip

Leaders Marlin Harms, Bert Townsend

Seats 18 ADA? No

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 Marlin Harms & Bart Townsend. 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.

**366 3:00pm - 5:00pm Wild Stories from the History of Bird Migration Research**

Presentation

Leaders Rebecca Heisman

Seats 100 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Inn at Morro Bay

Event Venue: Inn at Morro Bay

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

We've all heard amazing facts about bird migration - the long distances that birds travel, the ways that they navigate, etc. But did you ever wonder how we figured all of this out? While working for the American Ornithological Society, Rebecca Heisman became fascinated with the varied and creative techniques that scientists have used to study bird migration, and this eventually became the basis for her book *Flight Paths: How a Passionate and Quirky Group of Pioneering Scientists Solved the Mystery of Bird Migration*. In her talk, she'll share some surprising stories from the history of bird migration research and discuss why understanding migration is so crucial for bird conservation. If you purchased copies of Rebecca's books during the registration process, Jennifer will be available to sign your book(s) at this event. Meets at the Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay. Morro Bay Room.

**367 3:30pm - 9:30pm Owling Field Trip**

Field Trip

Leaders R Rouvaishyana

Seats 18 ADA? No

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

Fee: \$90 Xport: Bus

Join 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. 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.

**368 4:00pm - 5:30pm Saturday Welcome Reception**

Special Event

Leaders

Seats 200 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Morro Bay Community Center

Fee: Xport: None

The Festival is presenting two Welcome Receptions, one on Friday and one on Saturday. Enjoy wine, cheese, live music, and visit with fellow birders, VIPs and event leaders. Afterwards, visit the Bazaar to browse the vendor booths featuring optics, books, music, nature art & photography, woodcarvings, jewelry, educational exhibits and Festival Swag. Each Reception attendee will receive a free MBBF logo etched wine glass. Note that you can only attend one of the two receptions and an entry ticket is required. This event takes place in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Morro Bay Community Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.



**369 7:00pm - 9:00pm Keynote Address with David Lindo - A World of Urban Birds**

Special Event

Leaders David Lindo

Seats 400 ADA? Yes

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

Celebrated Urban Birder, David Lindo, takes us around the urban world of birds. Over 20% of the globe's bird species have been recorded within our towns and cities, sometimes without us even noticing. You will be surprised as to some of the variety of species David will be featuring. To see some of these great birds all you have to do is open your eyes, ears, hearts, minds and importantly, look up! If you purchased copies of David's books during the registration process, David 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 6:15am - 5:00pm Birding the Carrizo Plain**

Field Trip

Leaders Jeff Miller, Janet Bodle, Richard Cimino

Seats 18 ADA? No

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center Event Venue: Carrizo Plains Fee: \$130 Xport: Bus

Join expert leaders Jeff Miller, Janet Bodle and Richard Cimino 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.

**402 7:00am - 11:30am Master Class - The Magic of Bird Sounds - Part 2B**

Master Class

Leaders Roy Poucher

Seats 15 ADA? No

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 Master Class Bird Sounds Workshop (#112) is a prerequisite for this event. You must attend that class to join this field trip. 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.

**403 7:00am - 12:00pm Piedras Blanca Light Station - Pelagic Birding for Landlubbers**

Field Trip

Leaders Russ Namitz

Seats 20 ADA? No

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center Event Venue: Piedras Blancas Light Station Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

The Piedras Blancas Light Station, located 6 miles north of San Simeon, offers excellent views of pelagic birds on the offshore rock formations and out to sea. Join Russ Namitz and the Light Station rangers for a tour of the grounds and a birding walk around the property. This trip meets at the Morro Bay Community to arrange carpools to the Light Station; the group must pass through the entry gate at the same time. Likewise, the group will depart together at around 11am for a return to the Morro Bay Community Center (1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay).

**404 7:00am - 12:00pm Wildlife of Point Buchon**

Field Trip

Leaders Sally Krenn, Doug Stinson

Seats 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site Montana de Oro

Event Venue: Point Buchon

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Explore the spectacular scenic coastline at Point Buchon with seasoned leaders Sally Krenn and Doug Stinson. 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 3.5 mile round trip hike. Meets at the Coon Creek Parking Lot in Montana de Oro. From Los Osos, west on Los Osos Valley Road, the road becomes Pecho Valley Road. The Parking Lot is 5.9 miles from Los Osos.

**405 7:00am - 4:00pm Big Day**

Field Trip

Leaders Max Roberts, Rick Grijalva

Seats 18 ADA? No

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

Fee: \$105 Xport: Bus

Join Max Roberts & Rick Grijalva 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.

**406 7:00am - 4:00pm Big Pelagic: Birds & Whales**

Field Trip

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

Seats 30 ADA? No

Meeting Site Morro Bay Landing

Event Venue: Morro Bay Landing

Fee: \$160 Xport: Boat

Join leaders Tom Edell, Curtis Marantz, Peter Gaede 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.

**407 7:30am - 12:00pm Oak Woodland and Wetland Birds**

Field Trip

Leaders Roger Zachary, Dale Ball

Seats 15 ADA? No

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 leaders Dale Ball & 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.

**408 7:30am - 12:00pm Santa Margarita Lake Pontoon Boat Birding**

Field Trip

Leaders Scott Stellar

Seats 9

ADA? No

Meeting Site Santa Margarita Lake Ranger Station

Event Venue: Santa Margarita Lake Ranger Station

Fee: \$45

Xport: Boat

Join Captain Scott Stellar on a pontoon boat ride adventure birding Santa Margarita Lake. We'll cruise pretty much the entire lake taking in all the migratory and permanent birds as well as shoreline wildlife that abound. Restrooms are available along the route. Meets at Santa Margarita Lake Ranger Station. 4695 Santa Margarita Lake Road, Santa Margarita.

**409 7:45am - 12:00pm Birding Laguna Lake**

Field Trip

Leaders Bettina Eastman

Seats 15

ADA? No

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 Bettina Eastman 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).

**410 7:45am - 12:00pm Birding Montana de Oro State Park**

Field Trip

Leaders Eric Wier, Steve McMasters

Seats 15

ADA? No

Meeting Site Montana de Oro

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 Spooner Ranch House, 3550 Pecho Valley Road, Los Osos. From Los Osos, west on Los Osos Valley Road, becomes Pecho Valley Road. Ranch House if 5.2 miles from Los Osos.

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

Field Trip

Leaders John Flaherty

Seats 8

ADA? No

Meeting Site MB State Park Kayak Launch

Event Venue: MB State Park Kayak Launch

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 - 12:00pm Birding Fiscalini Ranch Preserve**

Field Trip

Leaders Van Pierszalowski

Seats 15 ADA? No

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.

**413 8:00am - 12:00pm Explore the Mushroom World**

Field Trip

Leaders Dennis Sheridan

Seats 15 ADA? No

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.

**414 8:00am - 12:00pm Harmony Headlands**

Field Trip

Leaders Evan Weissman

Seats 15 ADA? No

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.

**415 8:00am - 12:00pm Hummingbirds and Friends**

Field Trip

Leaders R Rouvaishyana, Michael Mulroy

Seats 15 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site SLO Botanical Garden

Event Venue: SLO Botanical Garden

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Rouvaishyana and Michael Mulroy to explore the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden. There are some hummingbird-specific plants which we will visit, hoping to see hummers, flycatchers, and probably other songbirds. We will take a trail that climbs out of the garden and crosses a ridge, which should provide good viewing for raptors and other birds. The trail returns to the east end of the Garden on Dairy Creek Road. We'll walk along this road, looking for woodpeckers, songbirds, and more raptors. We will return along Dairy Creek Rd. to our parking area. Spotting scopes not needed, but optional. VERY IMPORTANT: bring rubber mud boots (such as gum boots). If there has been recent rain, the unimproved portion of the trail will be muddy, and it won't be practical to turn back. BE PREPARED for a great experience. Meets in the parking lot at SLO Botanical Garden (inside El Choro Park), 3450 Dairy Creek Road, San Luis Obispo.

**416 8:00am - 12:00pm Oceano Lagoon Bird Walk**

Field Trip

Leaders Ann Stockert, Kristin Loft

Seats 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site Oceano Lagoon

Event Venue: Oceano Lagoon

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Ann Stockert and Kristin Loft for a morning of leisurely birding along the Oceano Lagoon Trail. The lagoon trail is approximately 1.25 miles in length, and located within the Oceano State Parks Campground. The trail will provide the opportunity of observing 60+ species of birds. Commonly found: ducks, grebes, gulls, terns, herons, raptors, kingfisher, woodpeckers, flycatchers, swallows, wrens, sparrows and warblers. There is even the possibility of a rarity of two! Meets in front of the Visitors Center located at 555 Pier Ave., Oceano CA

**417 8:00am - 12:00pm Villa Creek Birding**

Field Trip

Leaders Daniel Elting

Seats 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Villa Creek

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Daniel Elting 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.

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

Field Trip

Leaders Jean Pierre Wolff, Ben Kolstad, Griffin Davies

Seats 16 ADA? No

Meeting Site Wolff Vineyards

Event Venue: Wolff Vineyards

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Ben Kolstad, Griffin Davies & owner Jean Pierre Wolff 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 - 2:30pm Searching for Raptors on the Central Coast**

Field Trip

Leaders Steve Schubert, Dave Berry

Seats 18 ADA? No

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.

**420 8:30am - 11:00am Birding for Beginners at El Chorro Park**

Field Trip

Leaders Kristina Van Wert, Tyson Baker

Seats 15 ADA? Yes

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.

**421 8:30am - 11:00am Montana de Oro Habitat Walk**

Field Trip

Leaders Faylla Chapman

Seats 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site Montana de Oro

Event Venue: Montana de Oro

Fee: \$0 Xport: Self-Drive

Join Faylla Chapman for a habitat walk on the Montana de Oro Bluff Trail. The Trail is entirely coastal sage scrub inland and rocky intertidal offshore. Many birds make use of the scrub and the cliffs along the trail. Learn the plants and their uses to man and birds, and hear the history of the Spooner family while also seeing the unique coastal geology. Meets at the Spooner Ranch House, 3550 Pecho Valley Road, Los Osos. From Los Osos, west on Los Osos Valley Road, becomes Pecho Valley Road. Ranch House is 5.2 miles from Los Osos. A restroom is available by the Spooner Ranch House. Walk is about 2 miles round trip, on mostly flat trails.

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

Field Trip

Leaders Jessica Griffiths

Seats 16 ADA? No

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 (#349). 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 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 Rusty Scalf, Richard Neidhardt, Debbie Jo Bird

Seats 16 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Oso Flaco Lake

Event Venue: Oso Flaco Lake

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Richard Neidhardt, Rusty Scalf and Debbie Jo Bird 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 - 12:00pm Back Bay Birding**

Field Trip

Leaders Dean Thompson

Seats 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site Sweet Springs

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 Sweet Springs, 660 Ramona Avenue, Baywood-Los Osos.

**425 8:30am - 12:00pm Birding Morro Bay State Park**

Field Trip

Leaders Mike Bush, Bert Townsend, Bill Bouton

Seats 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site Morro Bay State Park Marina

Event Venue: Morro Bay State Park Marina

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Mike Bush, Bert Townsend and Bill Bouton 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.

**426 8:30am - 12:00pm Birds of San Simeon with Jon Dunn**

Field Trip

Leaders Jon Dunn, Bob Keally, Carmen Keally, Terri May

Seats 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site Washburn Creek

Event Venue: Washburn Creek

Fee: \$50 Xport: Self-Drive

Join Jon Dunn, Bob & Carmen Keally and Terri May 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.

**427 8:30am - 12:00pm Condors, Eagles and Hawks of San Simeon Creek Road**

Field Trip

Leaders Torrey Gage-Tomlinson, Aaron Kreisberg, Joseph Belli

Seats 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site Washburn Creek

Event Venue: Washburn Creek

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Torrey Gage-Tomlinson, Aaron Kreisberg & Joseph Belli to bird San Simeon Creek Road. Search for raptors, songbirds and a chance to see one or more of the California Condors released in the area. This trip will meet at Washburn Creek Day use area north of Cambria to arrange carpools.

**428 8:30am - 12:00pm Santa Margarita Trail Stroll**

Field Trip

Leaders Kara Hagedorn, Augie Hazel, Charlie DeBerry

Seats 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site Santa Margarita Lake Ranger Station

Event Venue: Santa Margarita Lake Ranger Station Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Kara Hagedorn, August Hazel and Charlie DeBerry for a leisurely morning walk along the shore of the lake observing migrating waterfowl. Great marshland and open water habitat. Along the road we will also experience Oak woodland and chaparral habitats. Scopes will be available for up-close looks! Meets at Santa Margarita Lake Ranger Station. 4695 Santa Margarita Lake Road, Santa Margarita. Past the Ranger Station, drive to White Oak Parking Lot.

**429 8:30am - 1:30pm Casual Little Big Day with David Lindo**

Field Trip

Leaders David Lindo, Benny Jacobs-Schwartz

Seats 19 ADA? No

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

Fee: \$95 Xport: Bus

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

**430 8:45am - 12:00pm Birding Hot Spots for Beginners**

Field Trip

Leaders Ed Harper, Seth Greene, Harnawaz Boparai

Seats 20 ADA? No

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, Seth Greene and Harnawaz Boparai 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.

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

Field Trip

Leaders Dave Keeling

Seats 19 ADA? No

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 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 California Condors - Back from the Brink**

Presentation

Leaders Maria Montag

Seats 25 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Morro Bay Community Center

Fee: Xport: None

California Condors - Back from the Brink is an introduction to this magnificent, critically-endangered species including a brief overview of the California Condor Recovery Program. Maria Montag's presentation will include natural history details about the critically-endangered California condor from their emergence during the Pleistocene through their decline and their eventual status as "extinct in the wild". The Condor Recovery Program, which has successfully reintroduced California Condors into the wild, will be discussed including captive breeding efforts, how the wild flock is managed, and ongoing threats. Meets at in the Lounge at the Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

**434 9:00am - 12:00pm Birding Azure Street & Morro Strand**

Field Trip

Leaders Clara Thomas, Emma Cox, Karen Watts

Seats 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site Cloisters, Azure Street

Event Venue: Cloisters, Azure Street

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Clara Thomas, Emma Cox and Karen Watts at Cloisters Park Azure Street. The coastal scrub to the beach will offer a variety of birds, such as White- and Golden-crowned Sparrows, California Thrasher, Yellow-rumped Warbler and possible Ospreys in the nearby trees. On the beach, expect to see a myriad of shorebirds and waterfowl in the surf line. Further north on the beach, the Alva Paul pond is a great birding spot for terns and shorebirds. Two miles from the Community Center. Moderate walk, a short distance through sand. Meet at Cloisters Azure Street Park. Meets in the parking lot across from 150 Azure Street, Morro Bay.

**435 9:00am - 12:00pm Birding by Kayak**

Field Trip

Leaders Virginia Flaherty

Seats 8 ADA? No

Meeting Site MB State Park Kayak Launch

Event Venue: MB State Park Kayak Launch

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.

**436 9:00am - 12:00pm Nature Journaling with the Monarch Butterflies**

Journaling / Sketching

Leaders Melissa Gonzalez, Peggy Burhenn

Seats 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site Sweet Springs

Event Venue: Sweet Springs

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Are you curious about the migration of the monarch butterfly and the habitats they rely on? Join pollinator garden designer, Melissa Gonzalez and Peggy Burhenn, State Park Docent at the Monarch Preserve, as we "pioneer" through the eucalyptus /pine tree groves to explore this magnificent creature in the field at one of their overwintering sites to observe, draw, write and learn more about the significance of this mysterious phenomenon.

Bring: portable tripod stool, water and sun hat, your favorite journal and writing supplies (watercolors and brush pen, colored and graphite pencils, pens for drawing).

Meets at Sweet Springs, 660 Ramona Avenue, Baywood-Los Osos.

**437 9:00am - 12:00pm New Birders Go Birding With Erik & Hannah**

Field Trip

Leaders Erik Ostrander, Hannah Buschert

Seats 14 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Morro Rock

Event Venue: Morro Rock

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Whether you're just discovering the joys of birding, seeking to develop your birding skills, or wanting to share your love of birding with your family, these trips with Hannah and Erik are for you! They are happy to answer any and all questions about birds, birding, gear, and more. Expect a slow-paced walk as we look for birds, talk about IDs, and whatever else comes to mind! Meets at Morro Rock. Coleman Drive, Morro Bay. Meet across from bathrooms, next to Morro Rock.

**438 9:00am - 12:00pm Shorebirds Made Easy**

Presentation/Field Trip

Leaders Claudia Freitas

Seats 16 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Baywood Inn

Event Venue: Baywood Inn

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 Baywood Inn, 1336 3rd St, Los Osos. Conference Room is adjacent to the parking lot.

**439 9:00am - 12:00pm The Topography of Bird Sounds**

Presentation

Leaders Tom Graves

Seats 50 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Morro Bay Community Center

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 Meets in the Lounge at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

**440 9:00am - 1:00pm Shorebird Carving Class**

Presentation

Leaders Jim Burcio, Ken Nelson

Seats 10 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Sea Pines Golf Resort

Event Venue: Sea Pines Golf Resort

Fee: \$35 Xport: Self-Drive

You will be introduced to the art of bird carving and guided through the woodcarving process by three expert wood carvers from the Pacific Flyway Decoy Association. After a day of using hand and power tools, participants will leave with a Ruddy Turnstone that they can then paint on their own. "The Concepts of Woodcarving" will be used as a reference. The small-group setting will provide participants with the attention needed to be successful with their project. This workshop is intended for beginners, but those with all levels of experience may participate, (must be 14 years old or older). This workshop includes a one-year membership in the Pacific Flyway Decoy Association. It is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit art association dedicated to the preservation of wildfowl art through education. To learn more about the association, visit [pacificflyway.org](http://pacificflyway.org). Meets in the Conference Room at Sea Pines Golf Resort. 1945 Solano St, Los Osos.

**441 9:00am - 2:00pm Morro Rock Owls & Falcons - Stop & Scope**

Field Trip

Leaders Bob Isenberg, Jerry Pyle

Seats 40 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Morro Rock

Event Venue: Morro Rock

Fee: \$0 Xport: Self-Drive

Join Bob Isenberg and Jerry Pyle, Peregrine Watch, for a cup of coffee and pastries (while they last) and 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. NOTE: this is a stop and scope event, not a planned walk. Stop by anytime from 9am and 2pm. Meets at Morro Rock. Coleman Drive, Morro Bay. Meet across from bathrooms, next to Morro Rock. Look for Bob's van with awning, scopes and Peregrine statue.

**442 9:00am - 4:00pm Intro to Nature Journaling: Focus on Birds!**

Master Class

Leaders Kate Rutter

Seats 15 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site SLO Botanical Garden

Event Venue: SLO Botanical Garden Oak Glen Pavili

Fee: \$50 Xport: Self-Drive

Bring your love of birds and nature to a whole new level with a nature journal. Nature journaling is the act of putting pen (or pencil) to paper to observe aspects of nature with curiosity and attention. It's a magical blend of science and art that leads to curiosity, wonder, and a deep connectedness with the living world. At this in-the-field workshop, you'll learn simple tricks and tips to observe and document terrain, plants, and birds, including sights, sounds, and behaviors. Using basic and accessible tools and techniques, we'll focus on having an active experience and visually expressing our curiosity about birds and nature. This workshop takes place both inside and outside, and welcomes all ages and skill levels to participate. Materials to bring: 1) a pen or pencil; 2) a sketchbook/notebook/journal with unlined pages or about 20 pages of printer paper and a something hard to write on, like a clipboard; 3) colored pencils or watercolors + brush + water container. If possible, also bring 4) a ruler or tape measure; 5) a hand magnifying glass or a loupe. If you already have a sketching practice, a field note-taking practice, or a journaling practice, you can bring any additional tools and materials you like. The instructor will have a limited number of basic kits available for \$5 at the session. The basic kit includes a mechanical pencil, small sketchbook, magnifying glass, ruler, and a set of 12 colored pencils. Meets in the Oak Glenn Pavilion at SLO Botanical Garden (inside El Choro Park), 3450 Dairy Creek Road, San Luis Obispo. Afternoon session will be outside on the Botanical Garden grounds.

**443 9:30am - 12:00pm Long-billed Curlew and Shorebird Search on Morro Strand**

Field Trip

Leaders Heather Hayes

Seats 15

ADA? No

Meeting Site Cloisters, Azure Street

Event Venue: Cloisters, Azure Street

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Heather Hayes on Morro Strand to observe Long-billed Curlews and other shorebirds. Additionally, make a detailed search for Dozer, a radio-tagged curlew who winters on the Morro Bay beaches and returns in the spring to nesting grounds in southern Idaho. Meets in the parking lot across from 150 Azure Street, Morro Bay.

**444 10:00am - 11:45am Bay Birding Cruise with Kenn Kaufman & Rebecca Heisman**

Field Trip

Leaders Kenn Kaufman, Kimberly Kaufman, Rebecca Heisman, Robbie Revel, bob revel

Seats 14

ADA? No

Meeting Site Morro Bay Landing

Event Venue: Morro Bay Landing

Fee: \$50

Xport: Boat

Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay in a spacious boat with the Kaufmans, Rebecca Heisman and the Revel Team. 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.

**445 10:00am - 12:00pm A Naturalist's Journal with Sharon Lovejoy**

Journaling / Sketching

Leaders Sharon Lovejoy

Seats 25

ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Sea Pines Golf Resort

Event Venue: Sea Pines Golf Resort

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join author, illustrator, and naturalist Sharon Lovejoy for a nature journaling workshop. Her tips and simple techniques will inspire you and give you a strong foundation and a set of wings. The workshop will begin with a video that shares dozens of journals. Basic bird anatomy (hand-out included) will jump-start your bird studies. A focus on birds common in gardens will be sketched along with small illustrations of their nesting materials, feathers, and foods-insects, acorns, berries, larvae, and flowers with nectar. Bring journals, 2 B pencils, kneaded erasers, a pencil sharpener, small watercolor sets, brushes, a ruler and a magnifying glass. Meets at SLO Botanical Garden (inside El Choro Park), 3450 Dairy Creek Road, San Luis Obispo.

**446 10:00am - 12:00pm Easy Birding**

Field Trip

Leaders Dawn Beattie

Seats 10

ADA? Yes

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.

**447 10:00am - 12:00pm Grebes walk on Water to find a Mate**

Presentation

Leaders Krisztina Scheeff

Seats 50 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Morro Bay Community Center

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Called the 'Grebe Whisperer' by many of her students and fellow photographers, professional wildlife and nature photographer Krisztina Scheeff has spent years studying and photographing grebes on Lake Hodges in San Diego County. The unique mating behavior of grebes, rushing, is one of the most photographed of all animal behaviors. Krisztina will take you on a photographic journey into the world of grebes and provide details on why and how they 'walk on water' to find a mate. Krisztina will also share stunning photographs of some of her other wildlife favorites. Meets in the Multi-Purpose Room at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

**448 1:00pm - 2:30pm Exploring Otter Space**

Field Trip

Leaders Sharon Blakely

Seats 15 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site T Pier at Great American Fish Company

Event Venue: T Pier at Great American Fish Compa

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 South T pier next to Great American Fish Company, 1185 Embarcadero, Morro Bay

**449 1:00pm - 2:30pm From Anatomy to Function/Flight**

Presentation

Leaders R Rouvaishyana

Seats 25 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Sea Pines Golf Resort

Event Venue: Sea Pines Golf Resort

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 Resort Meeting Room. 1945 Solano St, Los Osos.

**450 1:00pm - 2:45pm Young Birders Bay Birding Cruise**

Field Trip

Leaders Max Taylor, Eva Moylan

Seats 17 ADA? No

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 Eva Moylan. 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.

**451 1:00pm - 3:00pm Technology On The Trail**

Field Trip

Leaders Erik Ostrander, Hannah Buschert

Seats 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site Cloisters Park

Event Venue: Cloisters Park

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Many enjoy birding to escape the constant nagging of your phone - however, there are lots of ways to use it to enhance your birding! Join Erik and Hannah on a Walk/Field Trip to learn how to use the latest birding technology. We will see what birds we can find and use some technology-based tools, like eBird, Merlin, and iNaturalist to help explore the outdoors. So, charge up your phone and join us! 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.

**452 1:00pm - 3:00pm The Elfin Forest Wonderland**

Field Trip

Leaders Cindy Roessler, Emily Brown

Seats 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site Elfin Forest

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 Emily Brown 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 entrance on the north end of 16th Street from Santa Ysabel Avenue in the town of Los Osos. Parking at the street end is very limited, however you can park anywhere along 16th Street as long as you do not block driveways or mail boxes. You can even park on an adjacent street and walk the short distance to the 16th Street entrance.

**453 1:00pm - 4:00pm Drawn into Bird Song**

Journaling / Sketching

Leaders Melinda Nakagawa

Seats 12 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site SLO Botanical Garden

Event Venue: SLO Botanical Garden Oak Glen Pavili

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Drawing songs? How is that possible? It's not about copying sonograms or knowing musical notes. Drawing, listening, discerning, and singing back to birds will profoundly increase your memory and recall of bird songs. Join Melinda as she shares her take on intuitively drawing bird songs. You will practice easy, playful ways to capture the sounds of birds and nature in a journal to develop your auditory ID skills. All levels of drawing or birding skills. Supplies for nature journaling with Melinda - you can see some recommended here - <https://www.melindanakagawa.com/supplies> Bring: 1) Sketchbook/journal; 2) Pen (ball point, fountain, felt- your favorite kind); 3) Color media - your favorite: colored pencils, watercolor travel kit with waterbrush (see supplies link), markers, crayons; 4) Folding stool- optional; 5) Binoculars (optional spotting scope); 6) An open, non-judgmental mind and willingness to try something new! Meets in the Oak Glen Pavilion at SLO Botanical Garden (inside El Choro Park), 3450 Dairy Creek Road, San Luis Obispo.

**455** 8:00am - 5:00pm **Master Class: Soar to a new level: Wildlife Photography tips and tricks Master Class** Master Class

Leaders Sarah Killingsworth

Seats 12 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Baywood Inn

Event Venue: Baywood Inn

Fee: \$100 Xport: None

Are you looking for ways to improve your wildlife photography and take it to the next level? Join award-winning wildlife conservation photographer and filmmaker and California Naturalist Sarah Killingsworth for a day-long master photography course. We'll spend the morning in the field, break for lunch, and have a brief classroom session before returning to the field for the late afternoon light. This workshop is designed for photographers who have some basic experience, and will include tips for camera settings for different species of birds and mammals, how to compose images that evoke emotion, post-processing strategies, and gear. You'll learn tips and tricks for improving your wildlife photography in the field, as well as how to approach your subject with ethics and empathy to capture the most compelling images of natural behavior. Sarah is passionate about wildlife photography and an enthusiastic guide and teacher. There will be plenty of time for questions through-out the day. If you love spending time with wildlife and want to improve your photography, this master class will provide what you need to take it to the next level. Meets at the Baywood Inn, 1336 3rd St, Los Osos. Conference Room is adjacent to the parking lot.

**456** 1:30pm - 5:00pm **Master Class - Bird Biology Basics Part 2** Master Class

Leaders Jim Bland

Seats 12 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Sea Pines Golf Resort

Event Venue: Sea Pines Golf Resort

Fee: \$0 Xport: None

This class is a scaled-down version of a college course on Bird Biology. Topics will be presented at an introductory level, and limited to those of greatest interest to visual artists (painters and photographers); essentially, what you're looking at when you observe birds or bird behavior. There will be two sessions: Part 1 will emphasize external appearances, and Part 2 will emphasize behaviors. Ornithological vocabulary will be introduced and used throughout. The basics of bird identification will also be presented. The class will be led by Jim Bland, a retired avian ecologist, former college lecturer on Ornithology, and experienced wildlife photographer. Meets at Sea Pines Golf Course. Meets in the Conference Room at Sea Pines Golf Resort. 1945 Solano St, Los Osos.

**457** 2:00pm - 3:45pm **Bay Birding Cruise** Field Trip

Leaders Claudia Freitas, Karen Watts

Seats 20 ADA? No

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 & 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.

**458 2:00pm - 4:00pm An Identification Study of Birds of Prey**

Presentation

Leaders Ed Harper

Seats 50 ADA? Yes

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. Multi-Purpose Room.

**459 2:00pm - 4:00pm Birds of Morro Rock**

Field Trip

Leaders Bettina Eastman

Seats 14 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Morro Rock

Event Venue: Morro Rock

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join 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.

**460 2:00pm - 4:00pm Gulls of SLO Identified**

Presentation/Field Trip

Leaders Russ Namitz

Seats 25 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Morro Bay Community Center

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 afternoon 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 in the Lounge at the Morro Bay Community Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

**461 2:00pm - 4:00pm Surprising Secrets of Bird Biology**

Presentation

Leaders Rebecca Heisman

Seats 100 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Inn at Morro Bay

Event Venue: Inn at Morro Bay

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Because they're warm-blooded, it's easy to imagine that birds are basically feathery versions of mammals - but in reality, of course, they're dinosaurs. Birds' anatomy and physiology are wildly different from ours, and Rebecca Heisman promises that you'll learn at least one new and surprising fact in this talk (probably more than one!) as we take a whirlwind tour of what birds are, where they came from, and how they breathe, fly, sing, sense the world around them, and more. It's the ornithology course you never got to take in college, condensed into a single entertaining hour. If you purchased copies of Rebecca's books during the registration process, Jennifer will be available to sign your book(s) at this event. Meets at the Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay. Morro Bay Room.



**462 3:00pm - 4:45pm Bay Birding Cruise**

Field Trip

Leaders Robert Lindsay

Seats 19 ADA? No

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.

**463 3:30pm - 9:30pm Owling Field Trip**

Field Trip

Leaders R Rouvaishyana, Peggy Burhenn

Seats 18 ADA? No

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

Fee: \$90 Xport: Bus

Join Rouvaishyana and Peggy Burhenn 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. 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.

**464 7:00pm - 9:00pm Keynote Address with Kenn Kaufman - The Hidden History of American Shorebirds**

Special Event

Leaders Kenn Kaufman

Seats 400 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Cuesta College Performing Arts Center

Event Venue: Cuesta College Performing Arts Cent

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

The shorebirds - sandpipers, plovers, and their kin - are beautiful, but telling the many species apart can be a confusing challenge for birders. However, the level of confusion was much greater in the early 1800s, when naturalists were struggling to classify all these birds for the first time. Some species were described to science over and over, under different names, while some other species were overlooked completely for decades. And for many years, everyone underestimated the amazing migrations of these long-distance travelers. In this program, based on a chapter from his most recent book, Kenn Kaufman will describe the misadventures of early shorebird-watchers, and how those events are reflected in our experience of birding today. If you purchased copies of Kenn's books during the registration process, Kenn will be available to sign your book(s) at this event. The Keynote address and book signing takes place at the Harold J. Mioosi Cultural and Performing Arts Center (CPAC) at Cuesta College, Romauldo Road, SLO (CA-1 & Hollister Road).

**Monday**

**501 7:30am - 12:00pm Birding & Wine at Halter Ranch**

Field Trip

Leaders Roger Zachary, Scott Inman

Seats 20 ADA? No

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

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](http://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/CqwgFubCbSR3XvGb7>

**502 7:30am - 12:00pm Half Day Big Day on Final Day**

Field Trip

Leaders Dave Berry, Mark Mushkat

Seats 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Dave Berry & Mark Mushkat for a half day big day on closing day. Starting at 7:30am, you will be visiting local birding hot spots to hopefully add new birds to your Festival life list. Birding hotspots will depend on weekend birding reports and also inputs from the group consensus, with a goal of a variety of habitats. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

**503 8:00am - 11:00am Birding by Kayak**

Field Trip

Leaders John Flaherty

Seats 8 ADA? No

Meeting Site MB State Park Kayak Launch

Event Venue: MB State Park Kayak Launch

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.

**504 8:00am - 12:00pm Birding by Careful Observation**

Field Trip

Leaders Bettina Eastman

Seats 15 ADA? Yes

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. El Chorro Park is located at State Hwy 1 @ Dairy Creek Rd. Meets in the SLO Botanical Gardens parking lot.

**505 8:00am - 12:00pm Birding Fiscalini Ranch Preserve**

Field Trip

Leaders Bob Keally, Carmen Keally, Terri May

Seats 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site Fiscalini Ranch

Event Venue: Fiscalini Ranch

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Bird with Bob & Carmen Keally and Terri May on Cambria's Fiscalini Ranch on a moderate three-mile hike through grassland, mixed oak/Monterey pine forest and coastal bluffs. Expect a diversity of birds, including sparrows, birds of prey, Pygmy Nuthatches and rocky shore shorebirds. Pace will be determined by leader and desires of the group. 50 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Meets at Fiscalini Ranch south end, 2799 Windsor Blvd, Cambria.

**506 8:00am - 12:00pm Harmony Headlands**

Field Trip

Leaders Evan Weissman

Seats 15 ADA? No

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.

**507 8:15am - 12:00pm Birds and Plants at Coon Creek**

Field Trip

Leaders R Rouvaishyana

Seats 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site Coon Creek Parking Lot

Event Venue: Coon Creek Parking Lot

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 Coon Creek Parking Lot in Montana de Oro. From Los Osos, west on Los Osos Valley Road, the road becomes Pecho Valley Road. The Parking Lot is 5.9 miles from Los Osos.

**508 8:30am - 11:30am Birding Oso Flaco Lake**

Field Trip

Leaders Tom Slater, Owen Slater

Seats 15 ADA? No

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.

**509 8:30am - 2:00pm Birding Las Cruzitas Ranch**

Field Trip

Leaders Cruz Phillips, Cher Hollingworth

Seats 20 ADA? No

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 Ynez.

**510 8:45am - 11:30am Birding Hot Spots for Beginners**

Field Trip

Leaders Seth Greene, Harnawaz Boparai, Clara Thomas

Seats 15 ADA? No

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 Clara Thomas, Seth Greene and Harnawaz Boparai 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.

**511 9:00am - 10:45am Bay Birding Photo Cruise**

Field Trip

Leaders Rick Derevan

Seats 19 ADA? No

Meeting Site Sub Sea Tours

Event Venue: Sub Sea Tours

Fee: \$40 Xport: Boat

Join local expert photographer Rick Derevan to enjoy a leisurely photography focused boating tour of the bay and estuary in an open-deck 34-foot power catamaran. View a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl, often at close range. The boat will move slowly enough for you to see details of many species that you normally see only through a scope from shore. Good photo opportunities, but no tripods. Dress warmly. Meets at Sub Sea Tours, 699 Embarcadero, #9, Morro Bay.

**512 9:00am - 11:30am Birds of Atascadero Lake**

Field Trip

Leaders Claudia Freitas, Rick Grijalva

Seats 15 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Atascadero Lake

Event Venue: Atascadero Lake

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join leader Claudia Freitas & Rick Grijalva 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.

**514 9:00am - 11:30am Sweet Springs Preserve**

Field Trip

Leaders Grace Hayes, Marin Romero

Seats 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site Sweet Springs

Event Venue: Sweet Springs

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Grace Hayes & Marin Romero for an unhurried walk around the edges and through the heart of the Morro Coast Audubon Sweet Springs Preserve. This trip 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.

**515 9:00am - 12:00pm Birding by Kayak**

Field Trip

Leaders Virginia Flaherty

Seats 8 ADA? No

Meeting Site MB State Park Kayak Launch

Event Venue: MB State Park Kayak Launch

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.

**516 9:00am - 12:00pm Kern National Wildlife Refuge**

Field Trip

Leaders Russ Namitz

Seats 12 ADA? Yes

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. 10811 Corcoran Rd, Wasco, CA 93280

**517 9:00am - 12:00pm Let's Make Maps!**

Journaling / Sketching

Leaders Kate Rutter

Seats 12

ADA? Yes

Meeting Site SLO Botanical Garden

Event Venue: SLO Botanical Garden Oak Glen Pavili Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Maps are a wonderful way to explore landscapes and to remember the places and stories you encounter. In this session, you'll capture your nature observations through hand-drawn maps. Using techniques such as simple iconography, relief, and topography symbols to depict landscape form and structure, you'll also learn to document the dynamic behaviors of animals and birds. After a brief introduction to basic cartographic principles, we'll venture outdoors to apply these skills in field journaling. You'll come away having crafted a collection of maps that reflect your experiences, serving as a means to revisit moments of awe and reconnect with nature's wonders. Materials to bring: 1) a pen or pencil; 2) a sketchbook/notebook/journal with unlined pages or about 20 pages of printer paper and a something hard to write on, like a clipboard; 3) colored pencils or watercolors + brush + water container. If possible, also bring 4) a ruler or tape measure; 5) a hand magnifying glass or a loupe. If you already have a sketching practice, a field note-taking practice, or a journaling practice, you can bring any additional tools and materials you like. The instructor will have a limited number of basic kits available for \$5 at the session. The basic kit includes a mechanical pencil, small sketchbook, magnifying glass, ruler, and a set of 12 colored pencils. Meets in the Oak Glen Pavilion at SLO Botanical Garden (inside El Choro Park), 3450 Dairy Creek Road, San Luis Obispo.

**518 9:00am - 12:00pm Nature Journaling in the Marsh: Uncovering Wetland Wonders**

Journaling / Sketching

Leaders Gargi Chugh

Seats 12

ADA? No

Meeting Site Morro Bay State Park Marina

Event Venue: Morro Bay State Park Marina

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Discover the unique saltwater marsh habitat of Morro Bay and learn how to observe and document the diverse flora and fauna that thrive in this environment. This session focuses on using nature journaling techniques to understand the ecological factors influencing the distribution of species in salt marshes. Participants will learn to create simple maps, geological block diagrams, and use words, pictures, and numbers to record their observations. The session includes a journaling demonstration, a guided activity, and a group discussion to share insights and findings. This session is suited for all skill levels, and no prior drawing experience is required. Participants will need a Journal/ Sketchbook, Pen/Pencil or any preferred drawing or writing tools, their choice of coloring medium: Color Pencils / Tombow brush pens / Watercolor Optional but helpful Supplies: a ruler for measurements, binoculars, a folding chair. Meets at the Peninsula Trail Head, southeast end of the State Park Marina parking lot, across from Morro Bay State Park Campground.

**519 9:00am - 12:00pm New Birders Go Birding With Erik & Hannah**

Field Trip

Leaders Erik Ostrander, Hannah Buschert

Seats 14

ADA? Yes

Meeting Site Morro Rock

Event Venue: Morro Rock

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Whether you're just discovering the joys of birding, seeking to develop your birding skills, or wanting to share your love of birding with your family, these trips with Hannah and Erik are for you! They are happy to answer any and all questions about birds, birding, gear, and more. Expect a slow-paced walk as we look for birds, talk about IDs, and whatever else comes to mind! Meets at Morro Rock. Coleman Drive, Morro Bay. Meet across from bathrooms, next to Morro Rock.

**520 10:00am - 11:45am Bay Birding Cruise**

Field Trip

Leaders Kaaren Perry

Seats 21

ADA? No

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 Kaaren Perry. 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.