

# 2026 MORRO BAY BIRD FESTIVAL PROGRAM

Jan. 15-19, 2026

Information Current as of: 12/1/2025



## Thursday

### 101 7:00am - 11:30am Careful Observation in the Field

#### Presentation/Field Trip

Leader(s): Bob Barnes

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Morro Bay Community Center

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

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

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

#### Field Trip

Leader(s): Emma Cox, Nora Livingston, Reef Comer

Seats: 17 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

Fee: \$115 Xport: Bus

Join Emma Cox, Nora Livingston 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 - 9:30am Birding with a Camera

#### Field Trip

Leader(s): Krisztina Scheeff

Seats: 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Cloisters, Azure Street

Event Venue: Cloisters, Azure Street

Fee: 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 for a casual session of birding with the added bonus of photography. This program is 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). Specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand. Meets in the parking lot across from 150 Azure Street, Morro Bay.

**104 7:30am - 11:30am Villa Creek Birding****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Janny Tillmann, Steve Tillmann

Seats: 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Villa Creek

Event Venue: Villa Creek

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Janny and Steve Tillmann 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 the Villa Creek parking lot on CA-1 north of Cayucos. The parking lot is the fourth parking area 3.3 miles north of where CA-1 becomes single-lane.

**105 7:30am - 12:00pm Birding Estero Bluffs****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Doug Stinson, Steve McMasters

Seats: 20 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Estero Bluffs - Fig Tree

Event Venue: Estero Bluffs - Fig Tree

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Doug Stinson and Steve McMasters 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 the "Fig Tree" parking lot on CA-1 north of Cayucos. The Fig Tree Parking lot is the third parking area 2.1 miles north of where CA-1 becomes single-lane.

**106 7:30am - 4:00pm Master Class - Introduction to Bird Photography - Parts 1 & 2****Master Class**

Leader(s): 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 7:30am 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 Sea Pines Golf Resort. 1945 Solano St, Los Osos.

**107 8:00am - 11:00am Birding by Kayak****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Virginia Flaherty

Seats: 8 ADA? No

Meeting Site: MB State Park Kayak Launch

Event Venue: MB State Park Kayak Launch

Fee: \$55 Xport: Kayak

Join a guided kayak tour of Morro Bay for an up-close look at birds in their natural habitat. Possible sightings include White Pelicans, Brant, Common Loons, and a variety of migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. Along the way, you'll paddle past the Heron Rookery, Grassy Island oyster farm, expansive mudflats, and winding Back Bay channels. The tour uses stable double kayaks, and no prior kayaking experience is required. Please dress in layers and follow these guidelines: wear synthetic or wool clothing (avoid cotton), bring a windbreaker jacket, a hat for sun and wind protection, and shoes that can get wet. Note: trips may be canceled due to weather conditions. Meets at the Morro Bay State Park Marina Kayak Shop. 10 State Park Road, Morro Bay.

**108 8:00am - 12:00pm Bird Montana de Oro State Park****Field Trip**

Leader(s): 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 and 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.

**109 8:00am - 12:00pm Birding Fiscalini Ranch Preserve with Dorian Anderson****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Dorian Anderson, Van Pierszalowski

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Fiscalini Ranch

Event Venue: Fiscalini Ranch

Fee: \$25 Xport: Self-Drive

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

**110 8:00am - 12:00pm Community Garden and the Edge of Town****Field Trip**

Leader(s): R Rouvaishyana, Michael Mulroy

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Del Mar Park

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

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 Del Mar Park, Morro Bay, north entrance at east end of Island Street. Past 500 Island Street, Morro Bay.

**111 8:00am - 12:00pm Los Osos Big Day****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Ann Stockert, Todd Easterla

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Sweet Springs

Event Venue: Los Osos Multiple

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Ann Stockert and Todd Easterla to explore the birding 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 Sweet Springs, 660 Ramona Avenue, Baywood-Los Osos.

**112 8:00am - 12:00pm Pecho Willows & Cuesta Inlet****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Teodelina Martelli

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Cuesta Inlet

Event Venue: Cuesta Inlet

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Bird with Teodelina Martelli at Pecho Willows and Cuesta Inlet. This small but highly important bay habitat is an ebird hotspot where shorebirds and ducks gather during migration and in the winter. The Pecho Marsh is thick with willows and a special birding spot for locals where a number of rare birds have been seen over the years. Meets in the parking area at the north end of Pecho Road, across from 2 Pecho Rd, Los Osos. If the parking lot is full, park out on Binscarth Road.

**113 8:00am - 1:00pm Master Class - The Magic of Bird Sounds - Part 1 of 2****Master Class**

Leader(s): Roy Poucher

Seats: 16 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Baywood Inn

Event Venue: Baywood Inn Conference Room

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 (#218) or on Sunday (#410). Meets at the Baywood Inn, 1335 3rd St, Los Osos. Conference Room is adjacent to the parking lot.

**114 8:30am - 11:30am Birding for Beginners Workshop****Presentation**

Leader(s): Robbie Revel, Karen Watts

Seats: 14 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Morro Coast Audubon

Event Venue: Morro Coast Audubon

Fee: Xport: None

Get a jump start for your bird festival experience. Join Robbie Revel and Karen Watts to learn the techniques needed to boost your birding skills and get a preview of the birds you are likely to see during the weekend. The presentation includes slides, videos, demonstrations of Merlin App and a number of bird mounts that will be used to illustrate the criteria for bird identification. You will practice making observations, learn to use binoculars and field guides and learn about resources available for ongoing skill building. Easy, family oriented, but not appropriate for children younger than 9 years of age. Meets at Morro Coast Audubon, 601 Embarcadero #14, Morro Bay. The office is on the second floor of the Gallery at Morro Bay.

**115 8:30am - 12:00pm Birding Laguna Lake with Greg Miller****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Greg Miller, Mark Mushkat

Seats: 18 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Laguna Lake

Fee: \$80 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 Greg Miller and 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.

**116 8:30am - 12:00pm Birding Oso Flaco Lake****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Rusty Scalf, Debbie Jo Bird, Richard Neidhardt

Seats: 14 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.

**117 8:30am - 12:00pm Birds of San Simeon with Jon Dunn****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Jon Dunn, Bob Keally

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Washburn Day Use Area

Event Venue: Washburn Day Use Area

Fee: \$35 Xport: Self-Drive

Join Jon Dunn and Bob Keally to observe birds at the Washburn Day Use area of San Simeon State Park. Moderate 1.5- 2 mile walk by riparian areas by creek, wetlands, shoreline, then onto chaparral, and pine forest habitats to discover a variety of land, shore and ocean birds including mergansers, terns, Pygmy Nuthatches, and a variety of raptors. 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.

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

Leader(s): 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**

Leader(s): Dave Berry, Steve Schubert

Seats: 18 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Sub Sea Tours

Event Venue: Sub Sea Tours

Fee: \$40 Xport: Boat

Join Dave Berry and Steve Schubert for a leisurely boating tour of the bay on the Dos Osos, an open-deck 34-foot power catamaran. Identify a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl in winter plumage at very close range as the boat moves slowly to see details of many species normally seen from shore. Good photo opportunities, but no tripods. Dress warmly. Meets at Sub Sea Tours, 699 Embarcadero, #9, Morro Bay.

**120 9:00am - 11:30am Songbirds in the Pines****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Claudia Freitas, Sharon Stiteler, Deborah Crooks

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Black Hill La Loma

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Sharon Stiteler, Deborah Crooks and Claudia Freitas 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.

**121 9:00am - 11:30am Sweet Springs Preserve****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Ed Harper

Seats: 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Sweet Springs

Event Venue: Sweet Springs

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Ed Harper on 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.

**122 9:00am - 12:00pm Birding by Kayak****Field Trip**

Leader(s): John Flaherty

Seats: 8 ADA? No

Meeting Site: MB State Park Kayak Launch

Event Venue: MB State Park Kayak Launch

Fee: \$55 Xport: Kayak

Join a guided kayak tour of Morro Bay for an up-close look at birds in their natural habitat. Possible sightings include White Pelicans, Brant, Common Loons, and a variety of migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. Along the way, you'll paddle past the Heron Rookery, Grassy Island oyster farm, expansive mudflats, and winding Back Bay channels. The tour uses stable double kayaks, and no prior kayaking experience is required. Please dress in layers and follow these guidelines: wear synthetic or wool clothing (avoid cotton), bring a windbreaker jacket, a hat for sun and wind protection, and shoes that can get wet. Note: trips may be canceled due to weather conditions. Meets at the Morro Bay State Park Marina Kayak Shop. 10 State Park Road, Morro Bay.

**123 9:00am - 12:00pm Kern National Wildlife Refuge****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Russ Namitz

Seats: 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Kern National Wildlife Refuge

Event Venue: Kern National Wildlife Refuge

Fee:

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

**124 9:00am - 12:00pm Morro Strand Shorebirds with Scott Weidensaul****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Scott Weidensaul, Rachel Clark

Seats: 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Cloisters, Azure Street

Event Venue: Cloisters, Azure Street

Fee: \$30

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Scott Weidensaul and Rachel Clark 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.

**125 9:00am - 12:00pm New Birders Go Birding With Erik & Hannah****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Hannah Buschert, Erik Ostrander

Seats: 14 ADA? No

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.

**126 9:00am - 12:00pm San Simeon Point Birding****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Harnawaz Boparai, Seth Greene, Griffin Davies

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: William Randolph Hearst Memorial Beac

Event Venue: San Simeon Point

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

San Simeon Point is a scenic coastal promontory with an easy trail offering beautiful ocean views, leading to a small, sheltered cove at the end of the peninsula. Starting at the San Simeon pier, you'll walk the beach for about 1/4 mile to a trail that leads to the bluff above. On the bluff, the trail traverses through beautiful, old eucalyptus trees to San Simeon Point where you have a 360 degree view of the ocean, the sea bluffs along with Hearst Castle. Join Harnawaz Bopari, Seth Green and Griffin Davies to explore the active bird life along with possible sightings of sea otters and elephant seals. Meets at the entrance to the pier in the upper parking lot, 750 Hearst Castle Drive, San Simeon. Enter the parking lot via the State Park kiosk.

**127 9:00am - 12:00pm Shorebirds of the Morro Bay Marina for Women****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Kristin Loft, 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 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 Kristin Loft, the level half-mile walk for women 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.

**128 9:00am - 1:00pm Santa Margarita Lake Pontoon Boat Birding****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Scott Stellar

Seats: 9 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Santa Margarita Lake Marina

Event Venue: Santa Margarita Lake Marina

Fee: \$50 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 the Marina at Santa Margarita Lake, 4695 Santa Margarita Lake Road, Santa Margarita. After checking in at the entry kiosk, drive down to the boat dock and Marina store parking area. Note that there is a \$12 entry fee per vehicle to enter the SML Recreation Area.

**129 9:00am - 2:00pm Morro Rock Peregrine Falcons - Stop & Scope****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Bob Isenberg, Jerry Pyle

Seats: 40 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Morro Rock

Event Venue: Morro Rock

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Bob Isenberg and Jerry Pyle, Peregrine Watch, for 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. NOTE: this is a stop and scope event, not a planned walk. Stop by anytime from 9am and 2pm. Also note that you can schedule a morning and/or afternoon event in addition to this event. 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.

**130 9:30am - 11:00am Jim May Park Birding****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Tony Gayfield

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Jim May Park

Event Venue: Jim May Park

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Jim May Park is an urban park featuring a large fresh water lake. Join Tony Gayfield for this easy, .65 mile walk around the lake taken at a slow to moderate pace, depending on bird activity and sightings along the way. The route follows gentle terrain over flat surfaces, making it accessible for most participants. Winter brings a number of gulls and geese to the area. A few different species of both have been found on the lake, along with a variety of other waterfowl. American White Pelicans may be present. The White-faced Ibis is an occasional visitor. Likely species would include the Great-tailed Grackle. Jim May Park has one of the largest Great-tailed Grackle colonies in the county. Bathrooms are available, and the trip is open to all levels of experience. This trip is intended for Southern California birders traveling northbound to the festival. Meet at Jim May Park, 809 Stanford Drive, Santa Maria, CA 93454.



**131 10:00am - 11:30am The Snowy Plover & Fellow Shorebirds****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Sharon Iranpour

Seats: 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Cloisters, Azure Street

Event Venue: Cloisters, Azure Street

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

The elusive western snowy plover lives and breeds on the sand on only a few of our local natural beaches. A small federally threatened shorebird, this grey/brown and white bird has darker breeding plumage. It blends in well on the sandy beach, making it difficult to spot. Following a short talk by Sharon Iranpour about plover life, a demonstration of a replica nest, and other shorebirds we might see, we'll walk south on the beach to look for them and other shorebirds. If there is time, we can also check out beach drift and some interesting rock formations. This is an easy walk, partially on soft sand and the distance is approximately a mile roundtrip. Bring binoculars, wear sturdy shoes and layer up. Walking distance about 1 mile. Meets in the parking lot across from 150 Azure Street, Morro Bay.

**132 10:00am - 12:00p Easy Birding****Field Trip**

Leader(s): 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.

**133 10:00am - 12:00p Land and Sea Birds at Morro Rock****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Bettina Eastman

Seats: 12 ADA? No

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, and the elusive Canyon Wren. 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.

**134 10:00am - 12:00p Visit the Atascadero Beavers with SLO Beaver Brigade****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Audrey Taub

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: De Anza Wastewater Facility

Event Venue: De Anza Wastewater Facility

Fee: 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.

**135 10:00am - 12:30p Ventura Settling Ponds Bird Adventure****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Michael Moss

Seats: 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Ventura Settling Ponds

Event Venue: Ventura Settling Ponds

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Designed for those driving north to the festival from the south, enjoy a birding adventure at the Ventura Settling Ponds. This is an easy walk along dirt paths around the shore of the settling ponds, one of the top birding locations in Ventura County. We'll be looking for ducks, grebes, woodpeckers, overwintering warblers, sparrows, swallows and swifts. Herons, gulls, pelicans, hawks and harriers are likely plus much more. No restrooms or drinking water, nearest public restrooms are at Surfer's Knoll parking lot. Meet at the entrance on Angler Court at 900 am. Take Harbor Blvd to Spinnaker towards Ventura Harbor. Turn left on Angler, and the entrance is immediately on the right before the Water Treatment Plant. Limited parking available on Angler, or free parking on Spinnaker (check the signs) or in the very first village lot. All other lots are paid parking.

**136 12:00pm - 2:00pm Los Osos Oaks Reserve Habitat Walk****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Faylla Chapman

Seats: 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Los Osos Oaks State Preserve

Event Venue: Los Osos Oaks State Preserve

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Faylla Chapman for tour of 4 different environments: riparian, oak woodland, marine chapparal 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. Meets at the Los Osos Oaks Preserve parking lot, 1.2 miles east (left) of South Bay Blvd. on Los Osos Valley Road.

**137 1:00pm - 2:00pm Make Your Home Bird-Friendly****Presentation**

Leader(s): Hannah Buschert, Erik Ostrander

Seats: 25 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Morro Bay Community Center

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Birds face many challenges in their lives and there are lots of things we can do at home to make it more bird-friendly! Join Hannah and Erik to learn the different challenges birds face in their epic migrations as well as different ways you can improve your house, garden and even neighborhood to help birds in their journey. Meets at Morro Bay Community Center Lounge, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

**138 1:00pm - 2:30pm Exploring Otter Space****Field Trip**

Leader(s): 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

**139 1:00pm - 2:45pm Bay Birding Photo Cruise****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Dave Keeling

Seats: 18 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.

**140 1:00pm - 3:00pm Land and Sea Birds at Morro Rock****Field Trip**

Leader(s): R Rouvaishyana, Van Dees

Seats: 20 ADA? No

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.

**141 1:00pm - 5:00pm Master Class - Bird Biology Basics Part 1****Master Class**

Leader(s): Jim Bland

Seats: 14 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Sea Pines Golf Resort

Event Venue: Sea Pines Golf Resort

Fee: \$90 Xport: None

This is a scaled-down version of a college class on Bird Biology. Topics will be presented at an introductory level. The class is comprised of two afternoon sessions: Part 1 will focus on the external appearances of birds, and Part 2 on Friday (Event #255) will focus on bird behaviors. Ornithological vocabulary will be introduced and used throughout. The basic principles of bird identification will also be presented. The class will be presented 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.

**142 1:30pm - 3:00pm Elephant Seal Rookery at Piedras Blancas****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Michael Sheltzer

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 Michael Sheltzer 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.

**143 1:30pm - 4:00pm Shorebirds of the Morro Bay Marina****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Dale Ball, Jamie Ball

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 and Jamie Ball, 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.

**144 2:00pm - 4:00pm A Naturalist's Journal with Sharon Lovejoy****Journaling / Sketching**

Leader(s): Sharon Lovejoy

Seats: 25 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Baywood Inn

Event Venue: Baywood Inn Conference Room

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 at the Baywood Inn, 1335 3rd St, Los Osos. Conference Room is adjacent to the parking lot.

**145 2:00pm - 4:00pm A close look at Sandhill Cranes****Presentation**

Leader(s): Mini Nagendran

Seats: 40 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Hampton Inn

Event Venue: Hampton Inn Conference Room

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Mini Nagendran for her presentation that will introduce you to the cranes of the world and bring you details about Sandhill Cranes, including their biology, their migration routes, natal/breeding and wintering sites, behaviors, calls, and other crane fun facts. Meets at the Hampton Inn, 295 Atascadero Rd, Morro Bay.

**146 2:00pm - 4:30pm Sweet Springs Preserve****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Rachel Clark, Isaiah Woodard

Seats: 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Sweet Springs

Event Venue: Sweet Springs

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Rachel Clark and Isaiah Woodard on 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.

**147 2:00pm - 5:00pm Shark Inlet Birding****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Dave Berry, Steve Schubert

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Sea Pines Golf Resort

Event Venue: Sea Pines Golf Resort

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Steve Schubert and Dave Berry for a walk adjacent to the coastal sand dunes and southernmost reaches of Morro Bay during a falling to a minus 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.

**148 3:00pm - 4:45pm Bay Birding Cruise with Scott Weidensaul****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Scott Weidensaul, Tom Edell, Kevin Zimmer

Seats: 17 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Sub Sea Tours

Event Venue: Sub Sea Tours

Fee: \$60 Xport: Boat

Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary with Scott Weidensaul, Tom Edell and Kevin Zimmer 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.

**149 3:00pm - 4:45pm Marina Board Walk with Greg Miller and Jon Dunn****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Greg Miller, Jon Dunn, Bettina Eastman

Seats: 20 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Morro Bay State Park Marina

Event Venue: Morro Bay State Park Marina

Fee: \$30 Xport: Self-Drive

Join Greg Miller, Jon Dunn and Bettina Eastman for a birding stroll on the Morro Bay State Park Marina Boardwalk. The 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. This is a level half-mile walk especially suited for photographers, wheelchairs and those using walkers and canes. Meets at the Peninsula Trail Head, southeast end of the State Park Marina parking lot, across from Morro Bay State Park Campground.

**150 3:30pm - 9:30pm Owling Field Trip****Field Trip**

Leader(s): R Rouvaishyana, Peggy Burhenn

Seats: 18 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

Fee: \$90 Xport: Bus

Join leader 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**

Leader(s): Russ Namitz, Peter Gaede

Seats: 18 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Carrizo Plains

Fee: \$140 Xport: Bus

Join expert leaders Russ Namitz and Peter Gaede for a bus trip to Carrizo Plain. Possible sightings are: Golden Eagle, Merlin, Prairie Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk, Mountain Plover, Bell's and Vesper Sparrow, Roadrunner, and more. This is a unique habitat of semi-desert scrub, open grassland and juniper foothills. Time includes 4 hours round-trip travel many in/out bus stops in comfortable bus. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

**202 7:00am - 11:30am Careful Observation in the Field****Presentation/Field Trip**

Leader(s): Bob Barnes

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Morro Bay Community Center

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

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

**203 7:00am - 12:00pm Half Day Pelagic Trip****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Tom Edell, Ann Stockert, Curtis Marantz, Wes Fritz, Jeff Miller

Seats: 25 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, Ann Stockert, 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.

**204 7:00am - 4:00pm Big Day****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Torrey Gage-Tomlinson

Seats: 19 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

Fee: \$115 Xport: Bus

Join 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. 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.

**205 7:30am - 9:30am Birding with a Camera****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Krisztina Scheeff

Seats: 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Cloisters, Azure Street

Event Venue: Cloisters, Azure Street

Fee: 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 for a casual session of birding with the added bonus of photography. This program is 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). Specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand. Meets in the parking lot across from 150 Azure Street, Morro Bay.

**206 7:30am - 12:00pm Birding & Wine at Halter Ranch****Field Trip**

Leader(s): 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>

**207 7:30am - 12:00pm Birding Estero Bluffs****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Seth Greene, Harnawaz Boparai, Clara Thomas

Seats: 20 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Estero Bluffs - Fig Tree

Event Venue: Estero Bluffs - Fig Tree

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Seth Greene, Harnawaz and Clara Thomas 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 the "Fig Tree" parking lot on CA-1 north of Cayucos. The Fig Tree Parking lot is the third parking area 2.1 miles north of where CA-1 becomes single-lane.

**208 8:00am - 10:00am A Splash of Color: Expressive Bird Art in Watercolor****Presentation**

Leader(s): Christina Baal

Seats: 12 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Art Center Morro Bay

Event Venue: Art Center Morro Bay

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 at the Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St, Morro Bay.

**209 8:00am - 10:00am Photo Walk with Lazy Birders****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Neha Kumar, Vinish Janardhanan

Seats: 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Cloisters Park

Event Venue: Cloisters Park

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join us for a morning Bird Photo Walk at the beautiful Cloisters Park, Morro Bay. During our relaxed two-hour photo walk, you will have plenty of chances to snap stunning photos of birds in different habitats, portrait shots of Long-billed Curlews, Snowy Plovers in flight, and experiment with compositions in the soft morning light. We'll stay on pavement or boardwalk most of the way, ending with a short stretch of sandy path through the dunes. We aim to build a fun, supportive community where we can learn birding and photography techniques from one another. We will have an optional post-walk online session, allowing everyone to share photos and experiences from the day. 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. 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.

**210 8:00am - 11:00am Birding Cambria Pines****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Van Pierszalowski

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Washburn Day Use Area

Event Venue: Washburn Day Use Area

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Van Pierszalowski to bird the Cambria Pines above Washburn Creek. This is a relatively flat trail through the pines above the San Simeon State Park Campground where you can expect to see nuthatches, creepers, Stellar Jays and other birds that prefer forested habitats. 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. The group will carpool a short distance to the event starting point.



**211 8:00am - 11:00am Birding by Kayak****Field Trip**

Leader(s): John Flaherty

Seats: 8 ADA? No

Meeting Site: MB State Park Kayak Launch

Event Venue: MB State Park Kayak Launch

Fee: \$55 Xport: Kayak

Join a guided kayak tour of Morro Bay for an up-close look at birds in their natural habitat. Possible sightings include White Pelicans, Brant, Common Loons, and a variety of migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. Along the way, you'll paddle past the Heron Rookery, Grassy Island oyster farm, expansive mudflats, and winding Back Bay channels. The tour uses stable double kayaks, and no prior kayaking experience is required. Please dress in layers and follow these guidelines: wear synthetic or wool clothing (avoid cotton), bring a windbreaker jacket, a hat for sun and wind protection, and shoes that can get wet. Note: trips may be canceled due to weather conditions. Meets at the Morro Bay State Park Marina Kayak Shop. 10 State Park Road, Morro Bay.

**212 8:00am - 11:00am Santa Rosa Creek Birds - From The Forest To The Sea****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Janny Tillmann, Steve Tillmann

Seats: 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Shamel Park

Event Venue: Shamel Park

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Janny and Steve Tillmann for a guided adventure along a beautiful coastal and forested route, offering the chance to observe shorebirds, nearshore pelagic species, and woodland birds. This scenic journey stretches from Moonstone Beach Park to the Santa Rosa Creek Trail in the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve. On your way, you may spot alcids and loons offshore, Snowy Plovers and other shorebirds along the beach and in the lagoon, waterfowl like Common and Hooded Mergansers in the creek, and local species such as Stellar's Jay and Pygmy Nuthatch, along with wintering passerines in the forested riparian trail. The 2.5-mile (out-and-back) route features diverse terrain, from sandy dunes and shoreline to a peaceful, tree-lined trail with rolling hills. Meets at the Shamel Park parking lot - 5455 Windsor Blvd, Cambria, CA, just 0.3 miles southwest of Highway 1, where parking and restrooms are available.

**213 8:00am - 12:00pm Bird Montana de Oro State Park****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Dave Berry, Steve Schubert

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 Dave Berry and Steve Schubert 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.

**214 8:00am - 12:00pm Birding Along the Bay****Field Trip**

Leader(s): R Rouvaishyana, Evan Weissman

Seats: 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Bayshore Bluffs Park

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

Fee: 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.

**215 8:00am - 12:00pm Birding Point Buchon****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Aaron Kreisberg, Michael Mulroy

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 Aaron Kreisberg and Michael Mulroy. Expect to see 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.

**216 8:00am - 12:00pm Birds of the North Coast****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Bob Keally, Terri May

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Elephant Seal Rookery

Event Venue: Elephant Seal Rookery

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Visit spots along the rugged North Coast with Bob Keally and Terri May to look for surfbirds, turnstones, Snowy Plovers, scoters, mergansers, loons, grebes, gulls and more. We always hope to see a variety of raptors, including Peregrine Falcons, Golden Eagles, Bald Eagles, Ferruginous Hawks and Burrowing Owls. 60 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Moderate. Meets at the Elephant Seal Rookery north of San Simeon. Hwy 1, 7 miles north of San Simeon.

**217 8:00am - 12:00pm Los Osos Hot Spots with Jon Dunn****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Jon Dunn, Ed Harper, Rusty Scalf

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Sweet Springs

Event Venue: Los Osos Multiple

Fee: \$35 Xport: Self-Drive

Join Jon Dunn, Ed Harper and Rusty Scalf 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 Sweet Springs, 660 Ramona Avenue, Baywood-Los Osos.

**218 8:00am - 12:00pm Master Class - The Magic of Bird Sounds - Part 2A****Master Class**

Leader(s): Roy Poucher

Seats: 15 ADA? No

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 (#113) 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.

**219 8:00am - 12:00pm Oceano Lagoon Bird Walk****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Michael Moss, Isaiah Woodard

Seats: 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Oceano Lagoon

Event Venue: Oceano Lagoon

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Michael Moss and Isaiah Woodard 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

**220 8:00am - 12:00pm Shark Inlet with Scott Weidensaul****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Scott Weidensaul, Grace Hayes, Marin Romero

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Sea Pines Golf Resort

Event Venue: Sea Pines Golf Resort

Fee: \$30 Xport: Self-Drive

Join Scott Weidensaul, Grace Hayes and 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.

**221 8:00am - 3:00pm Bird & Bike the Bob Jones Trail****Field Trip**

Leader(s): 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. (You should have everything to repair a flat tire on your bike.) 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 some birding and an inexpensive lunch at Mersea's Seafood Restaurant before returning back to our starting point. 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.

**222 8:00am - 4:30pm Master Class -Feathers in Focus: Mastering Bird Photography - Parts 1 & 2****Master Class**

Leader(s): Don Quintana

Seats: 12 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 master class, Feathers in Focus: Mastering Bird Photography. Led by seasoned expert Don Quintana, this hands-on workshop takes participants on an unforgettable journey, unveiling the secrets to capturing breathtaking bird photographs. Through the guidance of an experienced teacher, attendees will be immersed in a comprehensive curriculum that showcases proven field techniques - from learning how to blend into natural surroundings to mastering camera settings and composition for dynamic results. Whether your goal is identification shots, portfolio images, or award-winning photographs, this class equips passionate photographers with the skills to elevate their craft. Immerse yourself in the natural wonders around you 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 in the Meeting Room at Sea Pines Golf Resort. 1945 Solano St, Los Osos

**223 8:30am - 11:00am Birding El Chorro Park with Greg Miller****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Greg Miller, Claudia Freitas, Karen Watts

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: El Chorro Park

Event Venue: El Chorro Park

Fee: \$25 Xport: Self-Drive

Enjoy leisurely in-depth bird observation and enhance your ID skills with the help of Greg Miller, Claudia Freitas and Karen Watts. 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.

**224 8:30am - 12:00pm Birding Oso Flaco Lake for Beginning Birders****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Tony Gayfield

Seats: 14 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Oso Flaco Lake

Event Venue: Oso Flaco Lake

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Tony Gayfield 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. Note that this trip is intended for Beginning Birders. Includes 2-3 miles of slow walking. Moderate. Meets at Oso Flaco parking lot, 3004 Oso Flaco Lake Road, Arroyo Grande. State Parks requires a parking fee of \$5.

**225 8:30am - 12:00pm Feathers-a wondrously complex and versatile structure - Part 1****Presentation**

Leader(s): John Schmitt

Seats: 40 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Baywood Inn

Event Venue: Baywood Inn Conference Room

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, 1335 3rd St, Los Osos. Conference Room is adjacent to the parking lot.

**226 8:30am - 12:30pm Santa Rita Ranch Diverse Habitats****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Daniel Elting

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. 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. Meets at Santa Rita Ranch in Templeton. 3520 Old Creek Road, Templeton.

**227 9:00am - 10:30am Optics Demystified****Presentation**

Leader(s): 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 in the Lounge at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay. Lounge.

**228 9:00am - 10:45am Bay Birding Photo Cruise****Field Trip**

Leader(s): 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.

**229 9:00am - 11:30am Birds of Atascadero Lake****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Rachel Clark, Rick Grijalva

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Atascadero Lake

Event Venue: Atascadero Lake

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join leaders Rachel Clark and 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 9100 Morro Road (CA-41) in the parking lot next to the Central Coast Zoo.

**230 9:00am - 11:30am Land and Sea Birds at Morro Rock****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Teodelina Martelli, Sharon Stiteler

Seats: 12 ADA? No

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, and the elusive Canyon Wren. Join Teodelina Martelli and Sharon Stiteler 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.

**231 9:00am - 11:30am Prefumo Creek Nature Journaling Adventure!****Journaling / Sketching**

Leader(s): Anne Marie Bergen, Steven Marx

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: City Farm SLO

Event Venue: City Farm SLO

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Prefumo Creek Restoration Site at City Farm SLO is an important natural corridor in between the Target shopping center and agricultural lands of San Luis Obispo! This small strip of creek, trees, shrubs, and native plants provides important habitat, food, and a safe space for numerous birds and other animals and was an historical spawning site for steelhead trout. Join Steven Marx and Anne Marie Bergen to learn more about its history, discover the many birds along the creek, in the willows and cottonwoods, and learn how to engage with this city treasure through nature journaling. In this session you will be introduced to the Prefumo Creek restoration site by Steven, learn some basic nature journaling strategies with Anne Marie, then select your favorite sit spot along the creek to journal and bird watch! What to bring: Binoculars along with your Notebook or Journal and pencil/pen. What will be provided: 1) high quality watercolor sets and water brushes; 2) watercolor paper you can add to your notebook or journal. Meets in the parking lot BEHIND Dick's Sporting Goods, 11970 Los Osos Valley Rd, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405.

**232 9:00am - 11:30am Sweet Springs Preserve for Beginners****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Deborah Crooks, Kristin Loft

Seats: 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Sweet Springs

Event Venue: Sweet Springs

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Beginning Birders - Join Deborah Crooks and Kristin Loft on 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.

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

Leader(s): 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**

Leader(s): Virginia Flaherty

Seats: 8 ADA? No

Meeting Site: MB State Park Kayak Launch

Event Venue: MB State Park Kayak Launch

Fee: \$55 Xport: Kayak

Join a guided kayak tour of Morro Bay for an up-close look at birds in their natural habitat. Possible sightings include White Pelicans, Brant, Common Loons, and a variety of migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. Along the way, you'll paddle past the Heron Rookery, Grassy Island oyster farm, expansive mudflats, and winding Back Bay channels. The tour uses stable double kayaks, and no prior kayaking experience is required. Please dress in layers and follow these guidelines: wear synthetic or wool clothing (avoid cotton), bring a windbreaker jacket, a hat for sun and wind protection, and shoes that can get wet. Note: trips may be canceled due to weather conditions. Meets at the Morro Bay State Park Marina Kayak Shop. 10 State Park Road, Morro Bay.

**235 9:00am - 12:00pm Cerro Alto Campground Birding with Dorian Anderson****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Dorian Anderson, Reef Comer, Griffin Davies

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Cerro Alto Campground

Event Venue: Cerro Alto Campground

Fee: \$25 Xport: Self-Drive

Join Dorian Anderson, Reef Comer and Griffin Davies for a morning bird walk along the road at Cerro Alto Campground. Along the way, we may encounter a variety of species, including Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Cassin's Vireo, Western Wood-Pewee, Western Flycatcher, Brown Creeper, Purple Finch, and Olive-sided Flycatcher. The walk will primarily follow a paved road, with the possibility of a few short detours onto well-maintained dirt trails. The total distance (out and back) is approximately two miles. Meets at Cerro Alto Campground, just off CA- 41, 8 miles east of CA-1 in Morro Bay.

**236 9:00am - 12:00pm Light, Land & Legends: A Tour of Piedras Blancas Light Station****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Leisyka Parrott

Seats: 20 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Piedras Blancas Meeting Point

Event Venue: Piedras Blancas Light Station

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Just north of Hearst Castle on Highway 1, the Piedras Blancas Light Station has been guiding travelers since 1875. Named for the striking white rocks offshore, this wild coastal point is home to elephant seals, sea lions, seabirds, and more than 70 native plant species. Though earthquakes shortened its tower in 1949, the lighthouse remains a proud coastal landmark. Today it's part of the California Coastal National Monument, cared for as a historic park, wildlife sanctuary, and research station. Join us for a tour to step into history, explore incredible wildlife, and take in breathtaking views of the Monument! Join Leisyka Parrott for a tour of this historic site. Meets at the former Piedras Blancas Motel, 1.5 miles north of the Light Station on Highway 1. After meeting, cars will caravan from this point to the Light Station. The group must pass through the entry gate at the same time.

**237 9:00am - 12:00pm Pasolivo Ranch Birding and Olive Oil Tasting****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Dale Ball, Jamie Ball

Seats: 12 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Pasolivo Ranch

Event Venue: Pasolivo Ranch

Fee: \$25 Xport: Self-Drive

Join Dale and Jamie Ball 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.

**238 9:00am - 12:00pm Pecho Willows & Cuesta Inlet****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Eric Wier, Doug Stinson

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Cuesta Inlet

Event Venue: Cuesta Inlet

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Eric Wier and Doug Stinson for a walk at Pecho Willows and Cuesta Inlet. This small but highly important bay habitat is an ebird hotspot where shorebirds and ducks gather during migration and in the winter. The Pecho Marsh is thick with willows and a special birding spot for locals where a number of rare birds have been seen over the years. Meets in the parking area at the north end of Pecho Road, across from 2 Pecho Rd, Los Osos. If the parking lot is full, park out on Binscarth Road.

**239 9:00am - 12:00pm Shorebirds of the Morro Bay Marina****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Emma Cox, Nora Livingston

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 Emma Cox and Nora Livingston, 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.



**240 9:00am - 12:00pm eBird and Merlin on the Trail****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Hannah Buschert, Erik Ostrander

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! 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 first left (south) on Coral Avenue; in a few blocks enter the parking lot on the right, next to the restrooms.

**241 9:00am - 1:00pm Santa Margarita Lake Pontoon Boat Birding****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Scott Stellar

Seats: 9 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Santa Margarita Lake Marina

Event Venue: Santa Margarita Lake Marina

Fee: \$50 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 the Marina at Santa Margarita Lake, 4695 Santa Margarita Lake Road, Santa Margarita. After checking in at the entry kiosk, drive down to the boat dock and the Marina store parking area. Note that there is a \$12 entry fee per vehicle to enter the SML Campground.

**242 9:00am - 2:00pm Morro Rock Peregrine Falcons - Stop & Scope****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Bob Isenberg, Jerry Pyle

Seats: 40 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Morro Rock

Event Venue: Morro Rock

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Bob Isenberg and Jerry Pyle, Peregrine Watch, for 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. NOTE: this is a stop and scope event, not a planned walk. Stop by anytime from 9am and 2pm. Also note that you can schedule a morning and/or afternoon event in addition to this event. 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.

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

Leader(s): 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 Dave Clendenen 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 - 12:00p Easy Birding****Field Trip**

Leader(s): 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. 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 first left (south) on Coral Avenue; in a few blocks enter the parking lot on the right, next to the restrooms.

**245 10:00am - 12:00p The Snowy Plover & Fellow Shorebirds****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Sharon Iranpour

Seats: 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Villa Creek

Event Venue: Villa Creek

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

The elusive western snowy plover lives and breeds on the sand on only a few of our local natural beaches. A small federally threatened shorebird, this grey/brown and white bird has darker breeding plumage. It blends in well on the sandy beach, making it difficult to spot. Following a short talk by Sharon Iranpour about plover life, a demonstration of a replica nest, and other shorebirds we might see, we'll walk across the grassland to the bluff and down onto the beach to look for them and other shorebirds. If there is time, we can also check out beach drift and some interesting rock formations. This is an easy walk, partially on soft sand and the distance is approximately a mile roundtrip. Bring binoculars, wear sturdy shoes and layer up. This event requires walking a short distance in soft sand. Walking distance about 1 mile. Meets at the Villa Creek parking lot on CA-1 north of Cayucos. The parking lot is the fourth parking area 3.3 miles north of where CA-1 becomes single-lane.

**246 10:00am - 12:00p Visit the Atascadero Beavers with SLO Beaver Brigade****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Audrey Taub

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: De Anza Wastewater Facility

Event Venue: De Anza Wastewater Facility

Fee: 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.

**247 1:00pm - 2:30pm Building California's First Statewide Breeding Bird Atlas****Presentation**

Leader(s): Van Pierszalowski

Seats: 200 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Veterans Hall

Event Venue: Veterans Hall

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Forty-four states have completed Breeding Bird Atlases, globally recognized projects that guide conservation and strengthen biodiversity. California is not one of them. That's about to change. Join Van Pierszalowski to learn about the California Bird Atlas (CBA), a new nonprofit, is leading the first statewide Breeding Bird Atlas, launching January 1, 2026. Over five years, thousands of community scientists and professional field biologists will contribute observations through a new California-specific eBird Atlas Portal created with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The result will be the most comprehensive record of California's breeding birds ever established, a powerful baseline to guide conservation for decades to come. Meets at the Vet's Hall, 209 Surf St, Morro Bay.

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

Leader(s): 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**

Leader(s): Robert Lindsay, Claudia Freitas

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 Robert Lindsay and Claudia Freitas. 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 An Identification Study of Birds of Prey - Part 1****Presentation**

Leader(s): 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.

**251 1:00pm - 3:00pm Basics of Bird ID in the Field****Field Trip**

Leader(s): 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.

**252 1:00pm - 3:00pm Gardening Like the Perfect Host****Journaling / Sketching**

Leader(s): 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.

**253 1:00pm - 3:00pm Marina Boardwalk & Trail Habitat Walk****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Faylla Chapman

Seats: 12 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Morro Bay State Park Marina

Event Venue: Morro Bay State Park Marina

Fee: 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.

**254 1:00pm - 4:30pm Feathers-a wondrously complex and versatile structure - Part 2****Presentation**

Leader(s): John Schmitt

Seats: 40 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Baywood Inn

Event Venue: Baywood Inn Conference Room

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, 1335 3rd St, Los Osos. Conference Room is adjacent to the parking lot.

**255 1:00pm - 5:00pm Master Class - Bird Biology Basics Part 2****Master Class**

Leader(s): Jim Bland

Seats: 14 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Sea Pines Golf Resort

Event Venue: Sea Pines Golf Resort

Fee: Xport: None

NOTE: This is part 2 of a Master Class. YOU MUST SIGN UP FOR PART 1 (Event #141) to attend this class. This is a scaled-down version of a college class on Bird Biology. Topics will be presented at an introductory level. The class is comprised of two afternoon sessions: Part 1 (Event #141) will focus on the external appearances of birds, and Part 2 will focus on bird behaviors. Ornithological vocabulary will be introduced and used throughout. The basic principles of bird identification will also be presented. The class will be presented by Jim Bland, a retired avian ecologist, former college lecturer on Ornithology, and experienced wildlife photographer. Meets in the Conference Room at Sea Pines Golf Resort. 1945 Solano St, Los Osos.

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

Leader(s): 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 Birding Laguna Lake****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Steve McMasters, Todd Easterla

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 Steve McMasters and Todd Easterla 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).

**258 2:00pm - 4:30pm Sweet Springs Preserve with Scott Weidensaul****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Scott Weidensaul, Dave Berry, Steve Schubert

Seats: 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Sweet Springs

Event Venue: Sweet Springs

Fee: \$30 Xport: Self-Drive

Join Scott Weidensaul, Dave Berry and Steve Schubert 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.

**259 3:00pm - 4:45pm Bay Birding Cruise****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Will Knowlton, Morgan Bing, Deborah Crooks

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 Will Knowlton, Morgan Bing and Deborah Crooks 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.

**260 3:00pm - 5:15pm Movie Matinee - The Big Year****Special Event**

Leader(s): Greg Miller

Seats: 230 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Morro Bay Theater

Event Venue: Morro Bay Theater

Fee: \$15 Xport: Self-Drive

Join us for a special screening of "The Big Year", a 2011 based on the 2004 non-fiction book The Big Year: A Tale of Man, Nature and Fowl Obsession by Mark Obmascik. The book follows three men on a quest for a Big Year – a competition among birders to see who can spot and identify the greatest number of bird species in North America (north of Mexico) in a calendar year. The three birders were Sandy Komito, Al Levantin, and Greg Miller, who were chasing Komito's prior record. Greg Miller, played by Jack Black in the movie, will be our featured guest and available for Q & A after the movie.

**261 3:30pm - 9:30pm Owling Field Trip****Field Trip**

Leader(s): 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.

**262 4:00pm - 5:30pm Friday Welcome Reception****Special Event**

Leader(s): #VALUE!

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.

**263 7:00pm - 8:30pm The Courage of Birds by Pete Dunne****Presentation**

Leader(s): Pete Dunne

Seats: 200 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Veterans Hall

Event Venue: Veterans Hall

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Pete Dunne for a description of his latest book, *The Courage of Birds*. From your back yard to the rim of the Arctic Ice sheet, birds have evolved remarkable specializations and strategies that allow them to survive winter's hardships; from diminished hours of daylight, to reduced food supplies, to temperature cold enough to freeze an eider. It is a tale of hardship and survival, nature pushing life's limits of life to its inhospitable rim, and the remarkable adaptations that permit winsome chickadees and hardy Ptarmigan to drive a wedge into winter and win passage to Spring, winter's finish line. It must take great courage to be a bird and this book is a celebration. Come prepared to marvel at the hardiness and ingenuity of birds whose specializations have made them apex denizens of planet earth. Consider: no Emperor Penguin has ever survived a winter in the Alaskan interior but chickadees do so routinely. Find out how. Meets at the Vet's Hall, 209 Surf St, Morro Bay.

**264 9:00am - 12:00pm Cayucos Abalone Farm Birding****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Ben Kolstad, Brian O'Kelly

Seats: 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Estero Bluffs Fig Tree

Event Venue: Cayucos Abalone Farm

Fee: Xport: Self Drive

Join Leader Ben Kolstad and Brian O'Kelly for a mix of walking and driving as we bird along the road from CA-1 to the Abalone Farm on the coast. Note that this area is restricted access and special permission has been granted to the Morro Bay Bird Festival for this event. The terrain is moderate, with several hills—walking sticks are recommended for navigating uneven ground. Once at the farm, the terrain levels out somewhat, though the ground remains uneven. There are good vantage points along flat gravel paths, and we'll bird all accessible areas, including the bluffs. Expect to walk a total of about 2–3 miles. Cameras and scopes are welcome. A restroom is available at the facility.

This trip meets at the Estero Bluffs Fig Tree parking area just north of Cayucos. Once all attendees have arrived, the group will caravan about 1 mile for access to the locked gate onto the property. Please arrive on time - late attendees will miss the trip. The Fig Tree Parking lot is the third parking area 2.1 miles north of where CA-1 becomes single-lane.

**Saturday****301 6:15am - 5:00pm Birding the Carrizo Plain****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Jeff Miller, Ben Kolstad

Seats: 19 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Carrizo Plains

Fee: \$140 Xport: Bus

Join expert leaders Jeff Miller and Ben Kolstad 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.

**302 7:00am - 11:30am Careful Observation in the Field****Presentation/Field Trip**

Leader(s): Bob Barnes

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Morro Bay Community Center

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

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

**303 7:00am - 4:00pm Big Day in South County****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Rick Grijalva, Rachel Clark

Seats: 18 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

Fee: \$115 Xport: Bus

Join Rick Grijalva and Rachel Clark 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.

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

Leader(s): Tom Edell, Curtis Marantz, Reef Comer, Wes Fritz, Todd Easterla, Russ Namitz, Kevin Zimmer

Seats: 25 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Morro Bay Landing

Event Venue: Morro Bay Landing

Fee: \$170 Xport: Boat

Join leaders Tom Edell, Curtis Marantz, Reef Comer, Todd Easterla, Russ Namitz, Wes Fritz and Kevin Zimmer to search for albatross, shearwaters, kittiwakes, alcids, jaegers, gray whales and more with experienced leaders. Dress for cold and wind, including gloves. The boat is typically used for fishing; no outdoor seating on deck. There is seating available in the cabin, as well as snacks and drinks for sale. Bring lunch, liquids and sunscreen and take motion sickness medication before arriving. Note that the boat does not wait for late arrivals. Meets at Morro Bay Landing, 1213 Embarcadero, Morro Bay. Weather conditions may cancel.

**305 7:30am - 12:00pm Birding Estero Bluffs****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Bettina Eastman, Ed Harper

Seats: 20 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Estero Bluffs - Fig Tree

Event Venue: Estero Bluffs - Fig Tree

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join 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 the "Fig Tree" parking lot on CA-1 north of Cayucos. The Fig Tree Parking lot is the third parking area 2.1 miles north of where CA-1 becomes single-lane.



**306 7:30am - 12:00pm Wildlife of Point Buchon****Field Trip**

Leader(s): 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.

**307 7:30am - 4:00pm Master Class - Introduction to Bird Photography - Parts 1 & 2****Master Class**

Leader(s): 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 7:30am to 12 Noon; after a lunch break, Part 2 is from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. 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.

**308 8:00am - 10:00am A Splash of Color: Expressive Bird Art in Watercolor****Presentation**

Leader(s): Christina Baal

Seats: 12 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Art Center Morro Bay

Event Venue: Art Center Morro Bay

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 at the Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St, Morro Bay.

**309 8:00am - 11:00am Birding by Kayak****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Virginia Flaherty

Seats: 8 ADA? No

Meeting Site: MB State Park Kayak Launch

Event Venue: MB State Park Kayak Launch

Fee: \$55 Xport: Kayak

Join a guided kayak tour of Morro Bay for an up-close look at birds in their natural habitat. Possible sightings include White Pelicans, Brant, Common Loons, and a variety of migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. Along the way, you'll paddle past the Heron Rookery, Grassy Island oyster farm, expansive mudflats, and winding Back Bay channels. The tour uses stable double kayaks, and no prior kayaking experience is required. Please dress in layers and follow these guidelines: wear synthetic or wool clothing (avoid cotton), bring a windbreaker jacket, a hat for sun and wind protection, and shoes that can get wet. Note: trips may be canceled due to weather conditions. Meets at the Morro Bay State Park Marina Kayak Shop. 10 State Park Road, Morro Bay.

**310 8:00am - 11:00am Peregrine Falcons of Morro Rock****Presentation/Field Trip**

Leader(s): Steve Schubert

Seats: 80 ADA? No

Meeting Site: St Timothys

Event Venue: St Timothys

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.

**311 8:00am - 12:00pm Bird Montana de Oro State Park****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Rusty Scalf, Debbie Jo Bird, Richard Neidhardt

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 Rusty Scalf, Debbie Jo Bird and Richard Neidhardt 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.

**312 8:00am - 12:00pm Birds and Butterflies****Field Trip**

Leader(s): 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.

**313 8:00am - 12:00pm Oceano Lagoon Bird Walk with Greg Miller****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Greg Miller, Isaiah Woodard, Chris Henry

Seats: 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Oceano Lagoon

Event Venue: Oceano Lagoon

Fee: \$25 Xport: Self-Drive

Join Greg Miller, Isaiah Woodard and Chris Henry 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

**314 8:00am - 12:00pm Wintering Birds at Cal Poly Pier****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Elena Keeling, Dave Keeling

Seats: 20 ADA? No

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.

**315 8:00am - 4:00pm Walking Birding Tour of Los Osos****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Jim Royer

Seats: 10 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Elfin Forest

Event Venue: Los Osos Multiple

Fee: Xport: Walking

Join Jim Royer for a four mile walk exploring the various habitats of Los Osos and Baywood Park. We will likely stop at Pecho Willows, several neighborhood feeders, Cuesta Inlet, Frog Pond, Doris Avenue Coastal Access, Sweet Springs Preserve, Baywood Pier, Pasadena Beach Park, Audubon Overlook, the Elfin Forest, and numerous spots between. Bring lunch, water, sun protection, and layers of clothes as the morning may start frosty cold, but the afternoon can be warm. After we finish birding at the Elfin Forest we will drive back to the starting point so everyone has their cars. We will drop off several cars at the Elfin Forest and then drive to the starting point of our walk near Cuesta Inlet. 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.

**316 8:15am - 12:00pm Advanced Bird Photography****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Don Quintana, Jerry Kirkhart

Seats: 10 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Morro Bay Multiple

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.

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

Leader(s): R Rouvaishyana, Van Dees

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Black Hill La Loma

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Rouvaishyana and Van Dees to explore the pine woods on the slopes of Black Hill in Morro Bay, where you will hike trails searching for towhees, finches, woodpeckers and other birds of this habitat. Easy to moderate hiking for advanced beginner to intermediate birders. 5 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Easy. Guide is able to present this walk in Spanish. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

**318 8:30am - 11:00am Birding El Chorro Park****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Doug Stinson, Steve McMasters

Seats: 15 ADA? No

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 Doug Stinson and Steve McMasters. 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 Phoebe. 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.

**319 8:30am - 11:30am Birding Laguna Lake for Beginners****Field Trip**

Leader(s): 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 Baker 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).

**320 8:30am - 12:00pm Birding Oso Flaco Lake****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Robert Lindsay, Seth Greene

Seats: 14 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Oso Flaco Lake

Event Venue: Oso Flaco Lake

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Join Robert Lindsay & Seth Greene 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. Meets at Oso Flaco parking lot, 3004 Oso Flaco Lake Road, Arroyo Grande. State Parks requires a parking fee of \$5.

**321 8:30am - 12:00pm Birds of San Simeon****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Griffin Davies, Michael Moss

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Washburn Day Use Area

Event Venue: Washburn Day Use Area

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Griffin Davies and Michael Moss to observe birds at the Washburn Day Use area of San Simeon State Park. Moderate 1.5- 2 mile walk by riparian areas by reek, 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.

**322 8:30am - 12:00pm Master Class - Learn to shoot wildlife video from start to finish - Part 1****Master Class**

Leader(s): Emmet Arries

Seats: 8 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Baywood Inn

Event Venue: Baywood Inn Conference Room

Fee: \$100 Xport: Self-Drive

Do you want to learn how to plan for, shoot, and edit wildlife video? You'll leave this masterclass with the knowledge of the video making process from start to finish, and your own short bird video created as part of the class. Join Paso Robles based wildlife cinematographer Emmet Arries, who's worked on film projects for National Geographic and PBS as well as directed his own short film about a red-tailed hawk. In part 1, you'll learn the basics of planning for a video shoot, video specific gear and camera settings, and how to shoot compelling wildlife sequences. We'll then spend time in the field shooting bird footage with your camera while practicing this new way of thinking and receiving personalized assistance. In part 2 (Event #356), we'll return to the classroom with your bird footage and walk through a basic editing process from start to finish. You'll leave with a short bird video (dependent on what birds we find) and the knowledge and confidence to shoot videos on your own. This masterclass is aimed at photographers interested in video, and assumes a basic understanding of camera functions as well as photographic exposure using Aperture, Shutter Speed, and ISO. No prior video or editing experience is necessary. To make the most of the class, bring: your camera, your tripod, your laptop computer with Davinci Resolve installed (free version works), and two external hard drives for storing your footage. Limited to 8 participants so that everyone has time to receive personalized assistance with your camera and questions. Meets at the Baywood Inn, 1335 3rd St, Los Osos. Conference Room is adjacent to the parking lot.

**323 8:30am - 12:30pm Santa Rita Ranch with Scott Weidensaul & Jon Dunn****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Scott Weidensaul, Jon Dunn, Will Knowlton, Morgan Bing

Seats: 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Santa Rita Ranch

Event Venue: Santa Rita Ranch

Fee: \$50 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 Scott Weidensaul, Jon Dunn, Will Knowlton and Morgan Bing. 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. Meets at Santa Rita Ranch in Templeton. 3520 Old Creek Road, Templeton.

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

Leader(s): Peter Gaede

Seats: 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Santa Margarita Lake

Event Venue: Santa Margarita Lake

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Peter Gaede for a big day of birding at Santa Margarita Lake. The trip will involve walking, driving, and scoping along the lakeshore, marsh, deciduous woodland, oak woodland, and Salinas River riparian area. It is possible to see over 60 species of birds. Bring snacks, water, and a picnic lunch. Spotting scopes are highly desirable. Up to 4 miles of walking. 70-90 miles round trip by personal vehicle, 45 minutes one-way from the Morro Bay. Moderate hike. Meets at Santa Margarita Lake Ranger Station. 4695 Santa Margarita Lake Road, Santa Margarita.

**325 8:30am - 4:00pm Big Day - San Simeon Creek Road****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Van Pierszalowski

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Washburn Day Use Area

Event Venue: San Simeon Creek Road

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

San Simeon Creek Road is a country lane that runs from CA-1 into the Santa Lucia mountain range east of San Simeon State Park. The habitats along the road include coastal wetlands, riparian woodlands, Monterey pine and oak forests, and coastal scrub. This diverse habitat supports a variety of wildlife, including threatened and endangered species. eBird data has 147 bird species recorded on this route. Join Van Pierszalowski for a Big Day on San Simeon Creek Road. 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.

**326 9:00am - 10:45am Bay Birding Photo Cruise****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Sarah Killingsworth

Seats: 19 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Sub Sea Tours

Event Venue: Sub Sea Tours

Fee: \$40 Xport: Boat

Join Sarah Killingsworth 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.

**327 9:00am - 11:00am White Point Fog Lichens****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Michael Mulroy

Seats: ADA? No

Meeting Site: Museum - MB State Park

Event Venue: Museum - MB State Park

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join lichen enthusiast Michael Mulroy for a fascinating exploration of the unique maritime lichens at Morro Bay's White Point. During the walk, you'll learn about the charismatic fog lichens, their important ecological roles in coastal habitats, and how to identify several common - and perhaps one or two locally rare - lichen species. The walk involves a short but steep and uneven ascent to the top of White Point Vista, the overlook near the Natural History Museum. This may be challenging for some, so please consider this when registering. Restroom facilities are available. Meets at the Museum of Natural History, 20 State Park Rd, Morro Bay.

**328 9:00am - 11:30am Birds of Atascadero Lake****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Daniel Elting, Eva Moylan, Trevor Wimmer

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Atascadero Lake

Event Venue: Atascadero Lake

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join leader Daniel Elting, Eva Moylan and Trevor Wimmer 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 9100 Morro Road (CA-41) in the parking lot next to the Central Coast Zoo.

**329 9:00am - 12:00pm Birding Azure Street & Morro Strand****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Teodelina Martelli, Clara Thomas, Deborah Crooks

Seats: 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Cloisters, Azure Street

Event Venue: Cloisters, Azure Street

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Teodelina Martelli, Deborah Crooks and Clara Thomas 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.

**330 9:00am - 12:00pm Birding by Kayak****Field Trip**

Leader(s): John Flaherty

Seats: 8 ADA? No

Meeting Site: MB State Park Kayak Launch

Event Venue: MB State Park Kayak Launch

Fee: \$55 Xport: Kayak

Join a guided kayak tour of Morro Bay for an up-close look at birds in their natural habitat. Possible sightings include White Pelicans, Brant, Common Loons, and a variety of migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. Along the way, you'll paddle past the Heron Rookery, Grassy Island oyster farm, expansive mudflats, and winding Back Bay channels. The tour uses stable double kayaks, and no prior kayaking experience is required. Please dress in layers and follow these guidelines: wear synthetic or wool clothing (avoid cotton), bring a windbreaker jacket, a hat for sun and wind protection, and shoes that can get wet. Note: trips may be canceled due to weather conditions. Meets at the Morro Bay State Park Marina Kayak Shop. 10 State Park Road, Morro Bay.

**331 9:00am - 12:00pm Pasolivo Ranch Birding and Olive Oil Tasting****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Roger Zachary, Ruth Zachary

Seats: 12 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Pasolivo Ranch

Event Venue: Pasolivo Ranch

Fee: \$25 Xport: Self-Drive

Join Roger and Ruth Zachary 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.

**332 9:00am - 12:00pm Pecho Willows & Cuesta Inlet****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Ann Stockert

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Cuesta Inlet

Event Venue: Cuesta Inlet

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Ann Stockert for a walk at Pecho Willows and Cuesta Inlet. This small but highly important bay habitat is an ebird hotspot where shorebirds and ducks gather during migration and in the winter. The Pecho Marsh is thick with willows and a special birding spot for locals where a number of rare birds have been seen over the years. Meets in the parking area at the north end of Pecho Road, across from 2 Pecho Rd, Los Osos. If the parking lot is full, park out on Binscarth Road.

**333 9:00am - 12:00pm San Simeon Point Birding****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Bob Keally, Terri May

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: William Randolph Hearst Memorial Beac

Event Venue: San Simeon Point

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

San Simeon Point is a scenic coastal promontory with an easy trail offering beautiful ocean views, leading to a small, sheltered cove at the end of the peninsula. Starting at the San Simeon pier, you'll walk the beach for about 1/4 mile to a trail that leads to the bluff above. On the bluff, the trail traverses through beautiful, old eucalyptus trees to San Simeon Point where you have a 360 degree view of the ocean, the sea bluffs along with Hearst Castle. Join Bob Keally and Terri May to explore the active bird life along with possible sightings of sea otters and elephant seals. Meets at the entrance to the pier in the upper parking lot, 750 Hearst Castle Drive, San Simeon. Enter the parking lot via the State Park kiosk.

**334 9:00am - 12:00pm Shorebirds Made Easy****Presentation/Field Trip**

Leader(s): Claudia Freitas

Seats: 16 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Veterans Hall

Event Venue: Veterans Hall

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

**335 9:00am - 12:00pm Shorebirds of the Morro Bay Marina****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Karen Watts, Sharon Stiteler, Kristin Loft

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 Karen Watts, Sharon Stiteler 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.



**336 9:00am - 12:00pm Sweet Springs Preserve for Beginners****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Linda Signal, Tony Gayfield

Seats: 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Sweet Springs

Event Venue: Sweet Springs

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

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

**337 9:00am - 1:00pm Santa Margarita Lake Pontoon Boat Birding****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Scott Stellar

Seats: 9 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Santa Margarita Lake Marina

Event Venue: Santa Margarita Lake Marina

Fee: \$50 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 the Marina at Santa Margarita Lake, 4695 Santa Margarita Lake Road, Santa Margarita. After checking in at the entry kiosk, drive down to the boat dock and the Marina store parking area. Note that there is a \$12 entry fee per vehicle to enter the SML Campground.

**338 9:00am - 1:00pm Villa Creek Birding****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Torrey Gage-Tomlinson

Seats: 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Villa Creek

Event Venue: Villa Creek

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Torrey Gage-Tomlinson 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 the Villa Creek parking lot on CA-1 north of Cayucos. The parking lot is the fourth parking area 3.3 miles north of where CA-1 becomes single-lane.

**339 9:00am - 2:00pm Morro Rock Peregrine Falcons - Stop & Scope****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Bob Isenberg, Jerry Pyle

Seats: 40 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Morro Rock

Event Venue: Morro Rock

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Bob Isenberg and Jerry Pyle, Peregrine Watch, for 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. NOTE: this is a stop and scope event, not a planned walk. Stop by anytime from 9am and 2pm. Also note that you can schedule a morning and/or afternoon event in addition to this event. 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.

**340 9:30am - 12:30pm Whale Watching Tour****Field Trip**

Leader(s): #VALUE!

Seats: 20 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Lost Isle Adventures

Event Venue: Lost Isle Adventures

Fee: \$55 Xport: Boat

Beginning in December, gray whales make their way past Morro Bay on their epic migration from Alaska to Mexico - a journey of more than 12,000 miles round trip, making them one of the greatest travelers on Earth. Take a break from birding and join Lost Isle Adventures for a three-hour voyage in search of these magnificent giants. Dress in layers, and don't forget your camera and binoculars. While this trip does not include a pelagic birding leader, you can be sure there will still be plenty of birds to spot along the way. Meets at 845 Embarcadero suite D, Morro Bay. When you arrive, identify yourself as an attendee from the Bird Festival.

**341 10:00am - 11:30am The Snowy Plover & Fellow Shorebirds****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Sharon Iranpour

Seats: 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Cloisters, Azure Street

Event Venue: Cloisters, Azure Street

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

The elusive western snowy plover lives and breeds on the sand on only a few of our local natural beaches. A small federally threatened shorebird, this grey/brown and white bird has darker breeding plumage. It blends in well on the sandy beach, making it difficult to spot. Following a short talk by Sharon Iranpour about plover life, a demonstration of a replica nest, and other shorebirds we might see, we'll walk south on the beach to look for them and other shorebirds. If there is time, we can also check out beach drift and some interesting rock formations. This is an easy walk, partially on soft sand and the distance is approximately a mile roundtrip. Bring binoculars, wear sturdy shoes and layer up. Walking distance about 1 mile. Meets in the parking lot across from 150 Azure Street, Morro Bay.

**342 10:00am - 12:00p A Naturalist's Journal with Sharon Lovejoy****Journaling / Sketching**

Leader(s): Sharon Lovejoy

Seats: 25 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: SLO Botanical Garden

Event Venue: SLO Botanical Garden Oak Glen Pavili

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 in the Oak Glen Pavilion at SLO Botanical Garden (inside El Choro Park), 3450 Dairy Creek Road, San Luis Obispo.

**343 10:00am - 12:00p Lazy Birding 101****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Neha Kumar, Vinish Janardhanan

Seats: 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Cloisters Park

Event Venue: Cloisters Park

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

If you're not a morning person, this walk is for you! Join Lazy Birders, Neha and Vinish, at the Morro Bay Bird Festival for birding and bird photography. We welcome beginners curious to explore the world of birds and those with some experience who enjoy sharing their birding stories in a relaxed setting. Enjoy a flat, paved stroll through Cloisters Park toward the beach. We will take a leisurely walk through different habitats: from grassy areas where American Pipits rest, past backyard bird feeders that attract Red-winged Blackbirds and Nuttall's woodpeckers, and finally out to Morro Strand State Beach to see Plovers and foraging Long-billed Curlews against the backdrop of the Morro Rock. We'll stay on pavement or boardwalk most of the way, ending with a short stretch of sandy path through the dunes. 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 first left (south) on Coral Avenue; in a few blocks enter the parking lot on the right, next to the restrooms.

**344 1:00pm - 2:00pm Condor Recovery****Presentation**

Leader(s): Steve Schubert

Seats: 80 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.

**345 1:00pm - 2:30pm Exploring Otter Space****Field Trip**

Leader(s): 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

**346 1:00pm - 2:30pm Listening and Calling Birds as an Art****Field Trip**

Leader(s): R Rouvaishyana

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 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

**347 1:00pm - 2:45pm Bay Birding Cruise with Dorian Anderson****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Dorian Anderson, Emma Cox, Nora Livingston

Seats: 18 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 in an open-deck 34-foot power catamaran with Dorian Anderson, Emma Cox and Nora Livingston. View a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl, often at close range. The boat will move slowly enough for you to see details of many species that you normally see only through a scope from shore. Good photo opportunities, but no tripods. Dress warmly. Meets at Sub Sea Tours, 699 Embarcadero, #9, Morro Bay.

**348 1:00pm - 2:45pm Morro Bay Nature Cruise****Field Trip**

Leader(s): 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 Dave Clendenen 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.

**349 1:00pm - 3:30pm Better Birding with Nature Journaling****Journaling / Sketching**

Leader(s): Melinda Nakagawa

Seats: 12 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Sweet Springs

Event Venue: Sweet Springs

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Discover how a birder's nature journal can deepen your connection to birds through curiosity, observation and creativity. This is designed for those with all levels of birding experience.

Your journal becomes a tool for noticing subtle differences for identification, record behaviors, track seasonal changes, strengthening your learning and memory of birds.

Quick sketching helps sharpen attention and creates a sensory “scrapbook” for ongoing skill development.

You’ll learn simple, effective ways to sketch bird calls, behaviors, and observations , then explore the area, to put your skills into practice with birds that you encounter. You’ll slow down to nature's pace to really soak in the experience. No prior drawing or birding experience is 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.

**350 1:00pm - 4:00pm Birding By Ear Workshop****Presentation**

Leader(s): Jessica Griffiths

Seats: 30 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: SLO Botanical Garden

Event Venue: SLO Botanical Garden Oak Glen Pavili 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 (#423). Meets in the Oak Glen Pavilion at SLO Botanical Garden (inside El Choro Park), 3450 Dairy Creek Road, San Luis Obispo.

**351 1:00pm - 5:00pm Bird Carving Class****Presentation**

Leader(s): Jim Burcio, Ken Nelson

Seats: 11 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Art Center Morro Bay

Event Venue: Art Center Morro Bay 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 miniature Green Heron 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 15 years old or older with parent signature on participation for). 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 at the Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St, Morro Bay.

**352 1:00pm - 5:00pm Master Class - Ducks & Geese of the Morro Bay Region Part 1****Master Class**

Leader(s): Jim Bland

Seats: 20 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Sea Pines Golf Resort

Event Venue: Sea Pines Golf Resort Fee: \$90 Xport: Self-Drive

Join Jim Bland for a deep dive into the ducks and geese of the Morro Bay Region. All waterfowl species that frequent Morro Bay, Estero Bay, and nearby freshwater wetlands will be covered. The class will be comprised of two afternoon lectures, each lavishly illustrated with Jim's high-quality photographs. Topics will include waterfowl habitats of the region, taxonomic relationships of the waterfowl "tribes", tips for distinguishing similar species, 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. This is a two part series; part 2 is event #456 on Sunday. Meets in the Conference Room at Sea Pines Golf Resort. 1945 Solano St, Los Osos.

**353 1:30pm - 2:30pm Meet the Raptors - Pacific Wildlife Care****Presentation**

Leader(s): #VALUE!

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 birds with binocular vision and sharp talons. General public event. Free for Festival attendees. Meets at the Vet's Hall, 209 Surf St, Morro Bay.

**354 1:30pm - 3:00pm Elephant Seal Rookery at Piedras Blancas****Field Trip**

Leader(s): 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.

**355 1:30pm - 4:00pm Birding Laguna Lake****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Aaron Kreisberg, 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 Aaron Kreisberg, Michael Mulroy and Scott Inman to see these and other birds like House Finch, Goldfinch, meadowlarks, raptors and even a possible Loggerhead Shrike. Beginners welcome! Includes 1 mile of level walking. 30 miles round trip by personal vehicle. Easy. 504 Madonna Rd, San Luis Obispo, meet at the Laguna Lake bathroom parking lot (lakeside, next to playground and picnic area).

**356 1:30pm - 4:30pm Master Class - Learn to shoot wildlife video from start to finish - Part 2****Master Class**

Leader(s): Emmet Arries

Seats: 8

ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Baywood Inn

Event Venue: Baywood Inn Conference Room

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

NOTE: This is part 2 of a Master Class. YOU MUST SIGN UP FOR PART 1 (Event #322) to attend this class. Do you want to learn how to plan for, shoot, and edit wildlife video? You'll leave this masterclass with the knowledge of the video making process from start to finish, and your own short bird video created as part of the class. Join Paso Robles based wildlife cinematographer Emmet Arries, who's worked on film projects for National Geographic and PBS as well as directed his own short film about a red-tailed hawk. In part 1, you'll learn the basics of planning for a video shoot, video specific gear and camera settings, and how to shoot compelling wildlife sequences. We'll then spend time in the field shooting bird footage with your camera while practicing this new way of thinking and receiving personalized assistance. In part 2, we'll return to the classroom with your bird footage and walk through a basic editing process from start to finish. You'll leave with a short bird video (dependent on what birds we find) and the knowledge and confidence to shoot videos on your own. This masterclass is aimed at photographers interested in video, and assumes a basic understanding of camera functions as well as photographic exposure using Aperture, Shutter Speed, and ISO. No prior video or editing experience is necessary. To make the most of the class, bring: your camera, your tripod, your laptop computer with Davinci Resolve installed (free version works), and two external hard drives for storing your footage. Limited to 8 participants so that everyone has time to receive personalized assistance with your camera and questions. Meets at the Baywood Inn, 1335 3rd St, Los Osos. Conference Room is adjacent to the parking lot.

**357 2:00pm - 3:30pm Gardening for the Birds****Presentation**

Leader(s): John Chestnut

Seats: 20

ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Los Osos First Baptist Church

Event Venue: Los Osos First Baptist Church

Fee:

Xport: Self-Drive

Los Osos Valley Garden Club presents "Gardening for the Birds: Return of the Natives"; with John Chestnut. Mr. Chestnut will explore the habitat value of Dune Natives and share A Habitat Restoration Recipe for Success. Mr. Chestnut approaches habitat restoration by mixing fundamental ecological processes and food webs with the hands-on experience earned by decades of practice in habitat restoration throughout California. This presentation will highlight important plant-bird relationships in the dune ecosystem. Explore, as a case study, Morro Coast Audubon's coastal dune habitat restoration: a repeatable approach for bird habitat restoration at multiple scales! Meets at 1900 Los Osos Valley Road, Cross Roads of Los Osos Valley Road and Lariat Drive. Drive to the back building of the church and park. Look for Los Osos Valley Garden Club signs as well as a greeter to direct you to the back building entrance. Complimentary coffee, tea and treats will be provided by the Los Osos Valley Gardening Club Hospitality Committee.

**358 2:00pm - 4:00pm The Elfin Forest Wonderland****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Cindy Roessler

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 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.

**359 2:00pm - 4:00pm Windy Cove Mud Habitat Walk****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Faylla Chapman

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Museum - MB State Park

Event Venue: Windy Cove

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Faylla Chapman for a walk to Windy Cove below the Morro Bay State Park Natural History Museum. Learn about the plants, the mud, and the organisms that inhabit the mud and the surrounding rocks. Watch for various shorebirds in the water just off the mud flat. NOTE: you should have boots or shoes that can get very muddy. Park and meet at the parking area at the base of the Museum entrance driveway next to golf course. Restrooms are available at the Natural History Museum. Not ADA accessible.

**360 2:00pm - 4:30pm Cerro Alto Campground Birding****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Eva Moylan, Trevor Wimmer

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Cerro Alto Campground

Event Venue: Cerro Alto Campground

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Daniel Elting, Eva Moylan and Trevor Wimmer for an afternoon bird walk along the road at Cerro Alto Campground. Along the way, we may encounter a variety of species, including Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Cassin's Vireo, Western Wood-Pewee, Western Flycatcher, Brown Creeper, Purple Finch, and Olive-sided Flycatcher. The walk will primarily follow a paved road, with the possibility of a few short detours onto well-maintained dirt trails. The total distance (out and back) is approximately two miles. Meets at Cerro Alto Campground, just off CA- 41, 8 miles east of CA-1 in Morro Bay.

**361 2:30pm - 3:30pm Critter Cams for Monitoring Wildlife****Presentation**

Leader(s): Steve Schubert

Seats: 80 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: St Timothys

Event Venue: St Timothys

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.



**362 3:00pm - 4:00pm Meet the Raptors - Pacific Wildlife Care****Presentation**

Leader(s): #VALUE!

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.

**363 3:00pm - 4:45pm Bay Birding Cruise****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Seth Greene, Harnawaz Boparai

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 Seth Greene and Harnawaz Boparai. 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.

**364 3:30pm - 9:30pm Owling Field Trip****Field Trip**

Leader(s): R Rouvaishyana, Evan Weissman

Seats: 18 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

Fee: \$90 Xport: Bus

Join Rouvaishyana and Evan Weissman 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.

**365 4:00pm - 5:30pm Saturday Welcome Reception****Special Event**

Leader(s): #VALUE!

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.

**366 7:00pm - 9:00pm Keynote Address with Dorian Anderson - A Biking Big Year****Special Event**

Leader(s): Dorian Anderson

Seats: 380 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Cuesta College Performing Arts Center

Event Venue: Cuesta College Performing Arts Cent

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

On January 1st, 2014, Dorian Anderson boarded his bicycle for the adventure of a lifetime. His two-wheeled journey was an eco-friendly twist on the Big Year, a project during which a birdwatcher tries to observe as many species as possible during a calendar year. While his predecessors utilized cars, planes, and boats, Anderson's goal was to replicate their transcontinental travels without the use of petroleum, a herculean challenge no one before him had accepted. He ultimately survived subzero temperatures, drifting snow, gusting winds, lightning storms, mountainous ascents, dog attacks, crumbling roads, and several accidents. By December 31, he'd amassed 618 bird species across 18,000 miles of riding, totals no one imagined possible when he set off with zero cycling experience. Anderson will speak about the genesis of his bike-birding project, provide a thrilling recount of his travels, highlight the birds he saw, and reveal how his adventure changed his life. His personality and enthusiasm are infectious, and his tales of birding, cycling, and self-discovery will inspire others to venture into the outdoors, take note of the birds around them, and make positive changes in their own lives. Prior to the Keynote address, you will be treated the world premiere of Flight Feathers, a short video that documents the life of a Red-Tailed Hawk chick who was raised in a Bald Eagle nest in the spring of 2024. Producer Emmet Arries will be joined by others who participated in this amazing story will be on hand to answer questions from the audience. The Keynote address 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**

Leader(s): Will Knowlton, Morgan Bing

Seats: 18 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Carrizo Plains

Fee: \$140 Xport: Bus

Join expert leaders Will Knowlton and Morgan Bing 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.

**402 7:00am - 11:30am Careful Observation in the Field****Presentation/Field Trip**

Leader(s): Bob Barnes

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Morro Bay Community Center

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

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

**403 7:00am - 12:00pm Half Day Pelagic Trip****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Tom Edell, Curtis Marantz, Peter Gaede, Wes Fritz, Chris Henry

Seats: 25 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, Peter Gaede, Chris Henry 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.

**404 7:00am - 4:00pm Big Day****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Todd Easterla, Ann Stockert

Seats: 18 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

Fee: \$115 Xport: Bus

Join Ann Stockert and Todd Easterla for a BIG DAY of birding! Expect a fast-paced day, with the possibility of rapid ID of over 100 species at hot spots in SLO County. Special effort on regional specialties and rarities. Pace to be determined by the leader with input from the group. Travel in bus with leader and many in/out stops. Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

**405 7:30am - 11:30am Bird Montana de Oro State Park****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Janny Tillmann, Steve Tillmann

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 Janny and Steve Tillmann 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.

**406 7:30am - 12:00pm Wildlife of Point Buchon****Field Trip**

Leader(s): 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. 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.

**407 7:45am - 12:00pm Birding Laguna Lake****Field Trip**

Leader(s): 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).

**408 8:00am - 11:00am Birding by Kayak****Field Trip**

Leader(s): John Flaherty

Seats: 8 ADA? No

Meeting Site: MB State Park Kayak Launch

Event Venue: MB State Park Kayak Launch

Fee: \$55 Xport: Kayak

Join a guided kayak tour of Morro Bay for an up-close look at birds in their natural habitat. Possible sightings include White Pelicans, Brant, Common Loons, and a variety of migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. Along the way, you'll paddle past the Heron Rookery, Grassy Island oyster farm, expansive mudflats, and winding Back Bay channels. The tour uses stable double kayaks, and no prior kayaking experience is required. Please dress in layers and follow these guidelines: wear synthetic or wool clothing (avoid cotton), bring a windbreaker jacket, a hat for sun and wind protection, and shoes that can get wet. Note: trips may be canceled due to weather conditions. Meets at the Morro Bay State Park Marina Kayak Shop. 10 State Park Road, Morro Bay.

**409 8:00am - 11:00am Piedras Blanca Light Station - Pelagic Birding for Landlubbers****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Russ Namitz, Leisyka Parrott

Seats: 20 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Piedras Blancas Meeting Point

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 Leisyka Parrott for a tour of the grounds and a birding walk around the property. Meets at the former Piedras Blancas Motel, 1.5 miles north of the Light Station on Highway 1. After meeting, cars will caravan from this point to the Light Station. The group must pass through the entry gate at the same time.

**410 8:00am - 11:30am Master Class - The Magic of Bird Sounds - Part 2B****Master Class**

Leader(s): Roy Poucher

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Cerro Alto Campground

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 (#113) 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 Cerro Alto Campground, just off CA- 41, 8 miles east of CA-1 in Morro Bay

**411 8:00am - 12:00pm Birding Fiscalini Ranch Preserve****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Eva Moylan, Torrey Gage-Tomlinson, Deborah Crooks

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Fiscalini Ranch

Event Venue: Fiscalini Ranch

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Bird with Eva Moylan, Deborah Crooks and Torrey Gage-Tomlinson 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.

**412 8:00am - 12:00pm Botanical Garden and the ridge trail****Field Trip**

Leader(s): R Rouvaishyana, Michael Mulroy

Seats: 15 ADA? No

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 Chorro Park), 3450 Dairy Creek Road, San Luis Obispo.

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

Leader(s): Dennis Sheridan

Seats: 18 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**

Leader(s): 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 to the cliffs above the rocky coast. Meets at the Harmony Headlands trailhead parking lot, Hwy 1, 5 miles north of Cayucos, across from the Linn's Pies billboard.

**415 8:00am - 12:00pm Oak Woodland and Wetland Birds****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Roger Zachary, Dale Ball

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Atascadero Lake

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Bird beautiful wooded habitats in the Atascadero area east of Morro Bay with leaders Roger Zachary and Dale Ball. Stops include 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 9100 Morro Road (CA-41) in the parking lot next to the Central Coast Zoo.

**416 8:00am - 12:00pm Point Sierra Nevada Beach birding****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Van Pierszalowski

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Elephant Seal Rookery

Event Venue: Point Sierra Nevada Dunes Beach

Fee: 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.

**417 8:00am - 1:00pm Wings Over Wine****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Ben Kolstad, Jean Pierre Wolff

Seats: 16 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Wolff Vineyards

Event Venue: Wolff Vineyards

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Ben Kolstad and 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.

**418 8:00am - 4:30pm Big Day Birding by Bicycle with Dorian Anderson****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Dorian Anderson, Jim Royer

Seats: 10 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Morro Bay Multiple

Fee: \$30 Xport: Bicycle

Big Green Day Birding by Bicycle in Morro Bay. Join Dorian Anderson and 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 7:45 AM at the front of the Morro Bay Community Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

**419 8:00am - 5:00pm Master Class: Soar to a new level: Wildlife Photography tips and tricks****Master Class**

Leader(s): Sarah Killingsworth

Seats: 12 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Baywood Inn

Event Venue: Baywood Inn Conference Room

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, 1335 3rd St, Los Osos. Conference Room is adjacent to the parking lot.

**420 8:15am - 2:30pm Searching for Raptors on the Central Coast****Field Trip**

Leader(s): 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.

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

Leader(s): Kristina Van Wert, Tyson Baker

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: El Chorro Park

Event Venue: El Chorro Park

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Enjoy leisurely in-depth bird observation and enhance your ID skills with the help of Kristina Van Wert and Tyson Baker. This is not a tick and run Big Day, but a stroll through El Chorro Regional Park sharing observations, and checking for positive identification. Be surprised at the variations you see, whether crows or Black Phoebes. Bring binoculars and a favorite field guide. El Chorro Park is located at State Hwy 1 @ Dairy Creek Rd. Meets in the SLO Botanical Gardens parking lot.

**422 8:30am - 11:00am Montana de Oro Habitat Walk****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Faylla Chapman

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Montana de Oro

Event Venue: Montana de Oro

Fee: 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.

**423 8:30am - 11:30am Birding By Ear Field Trip****Field Trip**

Leader(s): 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 (#350). 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.

**424 8:30am - 12:00pm Back Bay Birding****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Dean Thompson, Dave Clendenen

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Sweet Springs

Event Venue: Los Osos Multiple

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Dean Thompson and Dave Clendenen 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 Estero Bluffs****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Isaiah Woodard, Brian O'Kelly

Seats: 20 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Estero Bluffs - Fig Tree

Event Venue: Estero Bluffs - Fig Tree

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Isaiah Woodard and Brian O'Kelly 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 the "Fig Tree" parking lot on CA-1 north of Cayucos. The Fig Tree Parking lot is the third parking area 2.1 miles north of where CA-1 becomes single-lane.

**426 8:30am - 12:00pm Birding Oso Flaco Lake****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Aaron Kreisberg, Scott Inman

Seats: 14 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Oso Flaco Lake

Event Venue: Oso Flaco Lake

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Aaron Kreisberg and Scott Inman 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. Meets at Oso Flaco parking lot, 3004 Oso Flaco Lake Road, Arroyo Grande. State Parks requires a parking fee of \$5.

**427 8:30am - 12:00pm Birds of San Simeon****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Bob Keally, Terri May

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Washburn Day Use Area

Event Venue: Washburn Day Use Area

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Bob 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 reek, 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.

**428 8:30am - 12:30pm Santa Rita Ranch Diverse Habitats****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Daniel Elting

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. 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. Meets at Santa Rita Ranch in Templeton. 3520 Old Creek Road, Templeton.

**429 8:30am - 1:00pm Rock Walk, Bay Cruise & Lunch with Scott Weidensaul****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Scott Weidensaul, Mark Mushkat

Seats: 33 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Morro Rock

Event Venue: Morro Rock

Fee: \$78 Xport: Boat

Join VIP Scott Weidensaul and Mark Mushkat for a special birding experience that combines a morning walk with a scenic bay cruise and lunch. The outing begins at Morro Rock, where Scott and Mark will lead the group in search of Peregrine Falcons, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, sparrows, and the elusive Canyon and Rock Wrens. Additional sightings may include cormorants, Brown Pelicans, a variety of gull species and age classes. After birding at Morro Rock, participants will drive a short distance to the Chablis Cruises loading ramp. The Chablis, a distinctive 50-foot, two-story riverboat, features panoramic windows and a rooftop deck - an ideal setting for observing the bay's birdlife. Lunch is included and features homemade clam chowder, a turkey croissant sandwich, and Caesar salad. Meets at Morro Rock. Coleman Drive, Morro Bay. Meet across from bathrooms, next to Morro Rock.

**430 8:30am - 1:30pm Casual Little Big Day with Jon Dunn****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Jon Dunn, Emma Cox, Nora Livingston

Seats: 17 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 Jon Dunn, Emma Cox and Nora Livingston. Starting at a reasonable morning hour and getting back right after lunch, you will be in a spacious bus with large windows, visiting local birding hot spots, returning with a new long list of birds! Meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

**431 8:45am - 12:00pm Birding Hot Spots for Beginners****Field Trip**

Leader(s): 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.

**432 9:00am - 10:45am Bay Birding Cruise****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Mike Bush, Jeanne Miller

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 Mike Bush and Jeanne Miller. 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.

**433 9:00am - 11:30am Birds of Atascadero Lake****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Griffin Davies, Teodelina Martelli, Clara Thomas

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Atascadero Lake

Event Venue: Atascadero Lake

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join leader Griffin Davies, Teodelina Martelli and Clara Thomas 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 9100 Morro Road (CA-41) in the parking lot next to the Central Coast Zoo.

**434 9:00am - 11:30am Prefumo Creek Nature Journaling Adventure!****Journaling / Sketching**

Leader(s): Anne Marie Bergen, Steven Marx

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: City Farm SLO

Event Venue: City Farm SLO

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Prefumo Creek Restoration Site at City Farm SLO is an important natural corridor in between the Target shopping center and agricultural lands of San Luis Obispo! This small strip of creek, trees, shrubs, and native plants provides important habitat, food, and a safe space for numerous birds and other animals and was an historical spawning site for steelhead trout. Join Steven Marx and Anne Marie Bergen to learn more about its history, discover the many birds along the creek, in the willows and cottonwoods, and learn how to engage with this city treasure through nature journaling. In this session you will be introduced to the Prefumo Creek restoration site by Steven, learn some basic nature journaling strategies with Anne Marie, then select your favorite sit spot along the creek to journal and bird watch! What to bring: Binoculars along with your Notebook or Journal and pencil/pen. What will be provided: 1) high quality watercolor sets and water brushes; 2)watercolor paper you can add to your notebook or journal. Meets in the parking lot BEHIND Dick's Sporting Goods, 11970 Los Osos Valley Rd, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405.

**435 9:00am - 12:00pm Birding Azure Street & Morro Strand****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Jeff Miller

Seats: 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Cloisters, Azure Street

Event Venue: Cloisters, Azure Street

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Jeff Miller 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.

**436 9:00am - 12:00pm Birding and Wine Tasting at La Lomita Ranch****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Claudia Freitas, Karen Watts

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: La Lomita Ranch

Event Venue: La Lomita Ranch

Fee: \$30 Xport: Self-Drive

La Lomita Ranch sits nestled between Islay Hill - the southernmost peak in the chain of volcanic cones known as the Nine Sisters - and the Edna Valley Wine Region. Once part of the historic Mexican land grant Rancho Corral de Piedra, La Lomita was originally developed as a ranch and breeding facility for Arabian horses. Still a working ranch today, it has grown to include a wedding venue, a charming Bed and Breakfast, and a vineyard on Islay Hill. Visitors can enjoy the beauty of its large pond, grand oaks, and lush gardens, while wine enthusiasts will savor the elegant estate wines crafted exclusively from its vineyard. Join Claudia Freitas and Karen Watts for a birding adventure around the ranch followed by wine tasting. Note that La Lomita does not serve lunch; you are welcome to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy. Meets at La Lomita Ranch, 1985 La Lomita Way, San Luis Obispo.

**437 9:00am - 12:00pm Birding by Kayak****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Virginia Flaherty

Seats: 8 ADA? No

Meeting Site: MB State Park Kayak Launch

Event Venue: MB State Park Kayak Launch

Fee: \$55 Xport: Kayak

Join a guided kayak tour of Morro Bay for an up-close look at birds in their natural habitat. Possible sightings include White Pelicans, Brant, Common Loons, and a variety of migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. Along the way, you'll paddle past the Heron Rookery, Grassy Island oyster farm, expansive mudflats, and winding Back Bay channels. The tour uses stable double kayaks, and no prior kayaking experience is required. Please dress in layers and follow these guidelines: wear synthetic or wool clothing (avoid cotton), bring a windbreaker jacket, a hat for sun and wind protection, and shoes that can get wet. Note: trips may be canceled due to weather conditions. Meets at the Morro Bay State Park Marina Kayak Shop. 10 State Park Road, Morro Bay.

**438 9:00am - 12:00pm New Birders Go Birding With Erik & Hannah****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Hannah Buschert, Erik Ostrander

Seats: 14 ADA? No

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.

**439 9:00am - 12:00pm Pecho Willows & Cuesta Inlet****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Grace Hayes, Marin Romero

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Cuesta Inlet

Event Venue: Cuesta Inlet

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Grace Hayes and Marin Romero for a walk at Pecho Willows and Cuesta Inlet. This small but highly important bay habitat is an ebird hotspot where shorebirds and ducks gather during migration and in the winter. The Pecho Marsh is thick with willows and a special birding spot for locals where a number of rare birds have been seen over the years. Meets in the parking area at the north end of Pecho Road, across from 2 Pecho Rd, Los Osos. If the parking lot is full, park out on Binscarth Road.

**440 9:00am - 12:00pm San Simeon Point Birding****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Rick Grijalva

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: William Randolph Hearst Memorial Beach Event Venue: San Simeon Point

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

San Simeon Point is a scenic coastal promontory with an easy trail offering beautiful ocean views, leading to a small, sheltered cove at the end of the peninsula. Starting at the San Simeon pier, you'll walk the beach for about 1/4 mile to a trail that leads to the bluff above. On the bluff, the trail traverses through beautiful, old eucalyptus trees to San Simeon Point where you have a 360 degree view of the ocean, the sea bluffs along with Hearst Castle. Join Rick Grijalva to explore the active bird life along with possible sightings of sea otters and elephant seals. Meets at the entrance to the pier in the upper parking lot, 750 Hearst Castle Drive, San Simeon. Enter the parking lot via the State Park kiosk.

**441 9:00am - 12:00pm Santa Margarita Trail Stroll****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Kara Hagedorn, Charlie DeBerry, Augie Hazel

Seats: 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Santa Margarita Lake

Event Venue: Santa Margarita Lake

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Kara Hagedorn, Charlie DeBerry and Augie Hazel 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.

**442 9:00am - 12:00pm Shorebirds of the Morro Bay Marina****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Elena Keeling, Dave Keeling

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 Elena and Dave Keeling, 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.

**443 9:00am - 12:00pm Sweet Springs Preserve****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Rusty Scalf, Debbie Jo Bird, Richard Neidhardt

Seats: 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Sweet Springs

Event Venue: Sweet Springs

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Rust Scalf, Debbie Jo Bird and Richard Neidhardt 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.

**444 9:00am - 1:00pm Bird Carving Class****Presentation**

Leader(s): Jim Burcio, Ken Nelson

Seats: 11 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Art Center Morro Bay

Event Venue: Art Center Morro Bay

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 miniature Green Heron 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 15 years old or older with parent signature on participation for). 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 at the Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St, Morro Bay.

**445 9:00am - 1:00pm Santa Margarita Lake Pontoon Boat Birding****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Scott Stellar

Seats: 9 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Santa Margarita Lake Marina

Event Venue: Santa Margarita Lake Marina

Fee: \$50 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 the Marina at Santa Margarita Lake, 4695 Santa Margarita Lake Road, Santa Margarita. After checking in at the entry kiosk, drive down to the boat dock and the Marina store parking area. Note that there is a \$12 entry fee per vehicle to enter the SML Campground.

**446 9:00am - 1:00pm Villa Creek Birding with Greg Miller****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Greg Miller, Doug Stinson, Steve McMasters

Seats: 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Villa Creek

Event Venue: Villa Creek

Fee: \$25 Xport: Self-Drive

Join Greg Miller, Doug Stinson 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 the Villa Creek parking lot on CA-1 north of Cayucos. The parking lot is the fourth parking area 3.3 miles north of where CA-1 becomes single-lane.

**447 9:00am - 2:00pm Morro Rock Peregrine Falcons - Stop & Scope****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Bob Isenberg, Jerry Pyle

Seats: 40 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Morro Rock

Event Venue: Morro Rock

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Bob Isenberg and Jerry Pyle, Peregrine Watch, for 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. 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.

**448 9:30am - 12:30pm Whale Watching Tour****Field Trip**

Leader(s): #VALUE!

Seats: 20 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Lost Isle Adventures

Event Venue: Lost Isle Adventures

Fee: \$55 Xport: Boat

Beginning in December, gray whales make their way past Morro Bay on their epic migration from Alaska to Mexico - a journey of more than 12,000 miles round trip, making them one of the greatest travelers on Earth. Take a break from birding and join Lost Isle Adventures for a three-hour voyage in search of these magnificent giants. Dress in layers, and don't forget your camera and binoculars. While this trip does not include a pelagic birding leader, you can be sure there will still be plenty of birds to spot along the way. Meets at 845 Embarcadero suite D, Morro Bay. When you arrive, identify yourself as an attendee from the Bird Festival.

**449 10:00am - 12:00p Easy Birding****Field Trip**

Leader(s): 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. 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 first left (south) on Coral Avenue; in a few blocks enter the parking lot on the right, next to the restrooms.

**450 10:00am - 12:00p The Snowy Plover & Fellow Shorebirds****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Sharon Iranpour

Seats: 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Villa Creek

Event Venue: Villa Creek

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

The elusive western snowy plover lives and breeds on the sand on only a few of our local natural beaches. A small federally threatened shorebird, this grey/brown and white bird has darker breeding plumage. It blends in well on the sandy beach, making it difficult to spot. Following a short talk by Sharon Iranpour about plover life, a demonstration of a replica nest, and other shorebirds we might see, we'll walk across the grassland to the bluff and down onto the beach to look for them and other shorebirds. If there is time, we can also check out beach drift and some interesting rock formations. This is an easy walk, partially on soft sand and the distance is approximately a mile roundtrip. Bring binoculars, wear sturdy shoes and layer up. This event requires walking a short distance in soft sand. Walking distance about 1 mile. Meets at the Villa Creek parking lot on CA-1 north of Cayucos. The parking lot is the fourth parking area 3.3 miles north of where CA-1 becomes single-lane.

**451 1:00pm - 2:30pm Exploring Otter Space****Field Trip**

Leader(s): 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

**452 1:00pm - 2:45pm Bay Birding Cruise****Field Trip**

Leader(s): 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.

**453 1:00pm - 2:45pm Grebes Walk on Water to find a Mate****Presentation**

Leader(s): Krisztina Scheeff

Seats: 200 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Veterans Hall

Event Venue: Veterans Hall

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 her filming project with the BBC Natural History Unit. In January 2024 she spent 3 weeks with the BBC in San Diego to film the Grebes. Meets at the Vet's Hall, 209 Surf St, Morro Bay.

**454 1:00pm - 3:00pm eBird and Merlin on the Trail****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Hannah Buschert, Erik Ostrander

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! 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 first left (south) on Coral Avenue; in a few blocks enter the parking lot on the right, next to the restrooms.



**455 1:00pm - 3:30pm Drawn into Bird Song****Journaling / Sketching**

Leader(s): 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.

**456 1:00pm - 5:00pm Master Class - Ducks & Geese of the Morro Bay Region Part 2****Master Class**

Leader(s): Jim Bland

Seats: 20 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Sea Pines Golf Resort

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

NOTE: This is part 2 of a Master Class. YOU MUST SIGN UP FOR PART 1 (Event #352) to attend this class. Join Jim Bland for a deep dive into the ducks and geese of the Morro Bay Region. All waterfowl species that frequent Morro Bay, Estero Bay, and nearby freshwater wetlands will be covered. The class will be comprised of two afternoon lectures, each lavishly illustrated with Jim's high-quality photographs. Topics will include waterfowl habitats of the region, taxonomic relationships of the waterfowl "tribes", tips for distinguishing similar species, 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 Conference Room at Sea Pines Golf Resort. 1945 Solano St, Los Osos.

**457 1:30pm - 3:00pm Elephant Seal Rookery at Piedras Blancas****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Reinhard Hohensee, Van Dees

Seats: 12 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Elephant Seal Rookery

Event Venue: Elephant Seal Rookery Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Friends of the Elephant Seal docents Reinhard Hohensee and Van Dees 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.

**458 2:00pm - 3:30pm Gardening for the Birds****Presentation**

Leader(s): John Chestnut

Seats: 20 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Los Osos First Baptist Church

Event Venue: Los Osos First Baptist Church

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Los Osos Valley Garden Club presents "Gardening for the Birds: Return of the Natives" with John Chestnut. Mr. Chestnut will explore the habitat value of Dune Natives and share A Habitat Restoration Recipe for Success. Mr. Chestnut approaches habitat restoration by mixing fundamental ecological processes and food webs with the hands-on experience earned by decades of practice in habitat restoration throughout California. This presentation will highlight important plant-bird relationships in the dune ecosystem. Explore, as a case study, Morro Coast Audubon's coastal dune habitat restoration: a repeatable approach for bird habitat restoration at multiple scales! Meets at 1900 Los Osos Valley Road, Cross Roads of Los Osos Valley Road and Lariat Drive. Drive to the back building of the church and park. Look for Los Osos Valley Garden Club signs as well as a greeter to direct you to the back building entrance. Complimentary coffee, tea and treats will be provided by the Los Osos Valley Gardening Club Hospitality Committee.

**459 2:00pm - 4:00pm An Identification Study of Birds of Prey - Part 2****Presentation**

Leader(s): Ed Harper

Seats: 25 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Sea Pines

Event Venue: Sea Pines

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 Meeting Room at Sea Pines Golf Resort. 1945 Solano St, Los Osos.

**460 2:00pm - 4:00pm Flight Lessons - Peregrine Falcons Folk Opera****Special Event**

Leader(s): Deborah Crooks

Seats: 200 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: South Bay Community Center

Event Venue: South Bay Community Center

Fee: \$20 Xport: Self-Drive

ased on a true story about Peregrine Falcons and humans living at the intersection of wild and urban habitats, "Flight Lessons" is a two-act, six-character, 17-song folk opera exploring themes of home, adaptation, recovery and intra and interspecies relationships in an urban environment. The narrative-in-song follows an urban wildlife biologist ("Lenny"), who monitors the lives of a breeding pair of once-endangered Peregrine Falcons ("Haya" and her mate "Hiko) who nest on a bridge between two cities, and how their lives intersect with each other and those of the other human ("Daniel", a subsistence fisherman), and falcon inhabitants ("Evvie," a floater falcon) of the neighborhood after Haya is shot by a pigeon fancier ("Hank"). When Haya goes into a long-term rehabilitation center, Hiko returns to the nest territory and eventually chooses a new mate in Evvie. Drawing on the author/composer Deborah Crooks's studies of natural history and experiences with raptor conservation, the story both celebrates the wonder of the avian world while highlighting the threats to its existence. Meets at the South Bay Community Center, 2180 Palisades Ave, Los Osos. Doors open at 1:30pm.

**461 2:00pm - 4:00pm The Elfin Forest Wonderland****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Cindy Roessler

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 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.

**462 3:00pm - 4:45pm A Photographic Journey around Costa Rica, a birder's paradise****Presentation**

Leader(s): Krisztina Scheeff

Seats: 200 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Veterans Hall

Event Venue: Veterans Hall

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Costa Rica, a birder's paradise! For birders and photographers alike, the incredible avifauna of Costa Rica is certain to inspire. Come join Krisztina as she takes you on a photo journey of this amazing country, through a diverse range of ecosystems and elevations to spot some of the hundreds of bird species that call Costa Rica home. Of course besides birds there are many other wildlife species to see! Meets at the Vet's Hall, 209 Surf St, Morro Bay.

**463 3:00pm - 4:45pm Bay Birding Cruise****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Sharon Stiteler, Teodelina Martelli, Trevor Wimmer

Seats: 18 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Sub Sea Tours

Event Venue: Sub Sea Tours

Fee: \$40 Xport: Boat

Join Sharon Stiteler, Teodelina Martelli and Trevor Wimmer 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.

**464 3:00pm - 5:00pm Gulls of SLO Identified****Presentation/Field Trip**

Leader(s): Russ Namitz

Seats: 50 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 Multi-Purpose Room at the Morro Bay Community Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

**465 3:30pm - 9:30pm Owling Field Trip****Field Trip**

Leader(s): 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.

**466 7:00pm - 9:00pm Keynote Address with Scott Weidensaul - A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds****Special Event**

Leader(s): Scott Weidensaul

Seats: 390 ADA? Yes

Meeting Site: Cuesta College Performing Arts Center

Event Venue: Cuesta College Performing Arts Cent

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Even as scientists make astounding discoveries about the navigational and physiological feats that enable migratory birds to cross immense oceans or fly above the highest mountains, go weeks without sleep or remain in unbroken flight for months at a stretch, humans have brought many migrants to the brink. Based on his bestselling book "A World on the Wing," author and researcher Scott Weidensaul takes you around the globe -- to the shores of the Yellow Sea in China, the remote mountains of northeastern India where tribal villages saved the greatest gathering of falcons on the planet, and in the field with researchers using the latest tracking tools to follow even the smallest travelers -- to learn how people are fighting to understand and save the world's great bird migrations. Prior to the Keynote address, you will be treated to the world premiere of Flight Feathers, a short video that documents the life of a Red-Tailed Hawk chick who was raised in a Bald Eagle nest in the spring of 2024. Producer Emmet Arries will be joined by others who participated in this amazing story will be on hand to answer questions from the audience. The Keynote address takes place at the Harold J. Miossi Cultural and Performing Arts Center (CPAC) at Cuesta College, Romauldo Road, SLO (CA-1 and Hollister Road).

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

Leader(s): Roger Zachary, Scott Inman, Ruth Zachary

Seats: 20 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Halter Ranch

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Roger and Ruth Zachary and Scott Inman for birding and wine at Halter Ranch. Drive through oak woodlands and vineyards along Vineyard Road to Halter Ranch. Look for Raptors, Wild Turkeys, and Yellow-billed Magpies on the way. Park in the barnyard parking lot. We will bird the barnyard area, along Los Tablas Creek, and observe birds near the agriculture pond next to the vineyard. Wine tasting is optional, and no outside food is allowed. You must make an online reservation if you are interested in wine tasting and food. Check the website (halterranch.com) for tasting fees, menu, location, and reservations. This trip meets at Morro Bay Comm. Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay at 7:30am. As an option, attendees may meet the group at the intersection of Hwy 46 and Vineyard Drive just west of Templeton at 8am. The group will carpool from that location to Halter Ranch. Hwy 46 and Vineyard Drive map link: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/CqwgFubCbSR3XvGb7>

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

Leader(s): Dave Berry, Mark Mushkat, Chris Henry

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Morro Bay Community Center

Event Venue: Multiple Sites

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join Dave Berry, Mark Mushkat and Chris Henry 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**

Leader(s): Virginia Flaherty

Seats: 8 ADA? No

Meeting Site: MB State Park Kayak Launch

Event Venue: MB State Park Kayak Launch

Fee: \$55 Xport: Kayak

Join a guided kayak tour of Morro Bay for an up-close look at birds in their natural habitat. Possible sightings include White Pelicans, Brant, Common Loons, and a variety of migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. Along the way, you'll paddle past the Heron Rookery, Grassy Island oyster farm, expansive mudflats, and winding Back Bay channels. The tour uses stable double kayaks, and no prior kayaking experience is required. Please dress in layers and follow these guidelines: wear synthetic or wool clothing (avoid cotton), bring a windbreaker jacket, a hat for sun and wind protection, and shoes that can get wet. Note: trips may be canceled due to weather conditions. Meets at the Morro Bay State Park Marina Kayak Shop. 10 State Park Road, Morro Bay.

**504 8:00am - 12:00pm Birding El Chorro by Careful Observation****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Bettina Eastman

Seats: 15 ADA? No

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 walk through El Chorro Regional Park. She will share observations of bird behaviors and characteristics to enhance your ID skills. Field guides will be checked to verify. This trip is aimed at all levels of birders including those who want to teach others how to learn bird ID most effectively. Bring binoculars and a favorite field guide. El Chorro Park is located at State Hwy 1 @ Dairy Creek Rd. Meets in the SLO Botanical Gardens parking lot.

**505 8:00am - 12:00pm Harmony Headlands****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Evan Weissman, Phylene Wiggins

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Harmony Headlands

Event Venue: Harmony Headlands

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

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

**506 8:00am - 12:00pm Los Osos Hot Spots with Jon Dunn****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Jon Dunn, Reef Comer

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Sweet Springs

Event Venue: Los Osos Multiple

Fee: \$35 Xport: Self-Drive

Join Jon Dunn and Reef Comer to explore 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 Sweet Springs, 660 Ramona Avenue, Baywood-Los Osos.

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

Leader(s): 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**

Leader(s): Tom Slater, Owen Slater

Seats: 15 ADA? Yes

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. Meets at Oso Flaco parking lot, 3004 Oso Flaco Lake Road, Arroyo Grande. State Parks requires a parking fee of \$5.

**509 8:30am - 12:00pm Condors, Eagles and Hawks of San Simeon Creek Road with Dorian Anderson****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Dorian Anderson, Bob Keally, Todd Easterla

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Washburn Day Use Area

Event Venue: Washburn Day Use Area

Fee: \$25 Xport: Self-Drive

Join Dorian Anderson, Bob Keally and Todd Easterla 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.

**510 8:30am - 2:00pm Birding Las Cruzitas Ranch****Field Trip**

Leader(s): 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.

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

Leader(s): Ben Kolstad, Bob Revel

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Sub Sea Tours

Event Venue: Sub Sea Tours

Fee: \$40 Xport: Boat

Join local expert photographer Ben Kolstad and Bob Revel 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**

Leader(s): Dale Ball, Jamie Ball

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Atascadero Lake

Event Venue: Atascadero Lake

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Join leaders Dale and Jamie Ball 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 9100 Morro Road (CA-41) in the parking lot next to the Central Coast Zoo.

**513 9:00am - 11:30am Sweet Springs Preserve****Field Trip**

Leader(s): 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.

**514 9:00am - 12:00pm Birding by Kayak****Field Trip**

Leader(s): John Flaherty

Seats: 8 ADA? No

Meeting Site: MB State Park Kayak Launch

Event Venue: MB State Park Kayak Launch

Fee: \$55 Xport: Kayak

Join a guided kayak tour of Morro Bay for an up-close look at birds in their natural habitat. Possible sightings include White Pelicans, Brant, Common Loons, and a variety of migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. Along the way, you'll paddle past the Heron Rookery, Grassy Island oyster farm, expansive mudflats, and winding Back Bay channels. The tour uses stable double kayaks, and no prior kayaking experience is required. Please dress in layers and follow these guidelines: wear synthetic or wool clothing (avoid cotton), bring a windbreaker jacket, a hat for sun and wind protection, and shoes that can get wet. Note: trips may be canceled due to weather conditions. Meets at the Morro Bay State Park Marina Kayak Shop. 10 State Park Road, Morro Bay.

**515 9:00am - 12:00pm Kern National Wildlife Refuge****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Russ Namitz

Seats: 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Kern National Wildlife Refuge

Event Venue: Kern National Wildlife Refuge

Fee: 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

**516 9:00am - 12:00pm New Birders Go Birding With Erik & Hannah****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Hannah Buschert, Erik Ostrander

Seats: 14 ADA? No

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.



**517 9:30am - 11:00am Jim May Park Birding****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Linda Signal, Tony Gayfield

Seats: 15 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Jim May Park

Event Venue: Jim May Park

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Jim May Park is an urban park featuring a large fresh water lake. Join Linda Signal and Tony Gayfield for this easy, .65 mile walk around the lake taken at a slow to moderate pace, depending on bird activity and sightings along the way. The route follows gentle terrain over flat surfaces, making it accessible for most participants. Winter brings a number of gulls and geese to the area. A few different species of both have been found on the lake, along with a variety of other waterfowl. American White Pelicans may be present. The White-faced Ibis is an occasional visitor. Likely species would include the Great-tailed Grackle. Jim May Park has one of the largest Great-tailed Grackle colonies in the county. Bathrooms are available, and the trip is open to all levels of experience. This trip is intended for Southern California birders traveling southbound from the festival. Meet at Jim May Park, 809 Stanford Drive, Santa Maria, CA 93454.

**518 1:00pm - 3:00pm Carpinteria Salt Marsh Birding Adventure****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Michael Moss

Seats: 12 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Carpinteria Salt Marsh Nature Park

Event Venue: Carpinteria Salt Marsh Nature Park

Fee: Xport: Self-Drive

Designed for those driving south from the festival, enjoy a stopover at the Carpinteria Salt Marsh. Known as El Estero, the marsh is a rare salt wetland in Southern California. Winter birding is known for an abundance of waterfowl, raptors, and shorebirds, including species like the Northern Pintail, Blue- and Green-winged Teal, Yellow and Black Crowned night herons, Gadwall, and the Belding's Savannah Sparrow. You can also expect to see resident and migratory birds of prey like Ospreys and White-tailed Kites, and various waders such as the Great Blue Heron. Directions: Located near the beach Carpinteria Salt Marsh Park has plenty of parking and restrooms located at the southern end of Ash Lane in Carpinteria. Exit off Highway 101 at Linden Ave, take all the way to the beach and take a right at Sandy Lane and follow until it ends at Ash Lane and park anywhere along Ash Lane. We will meet at the south end of Ash Lane.

**519 9:00am - 1:00pm Santa Margarita Lake Pontoon Boat Birding****Field Trip**

Leader(s): Scott Stellar

Seats: 9 ADA? No

Meeting Site: Santa Margarita Lake Marina

Event Venue: Santa Margarita Lake

Fee: \$50 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 the Marina at Santa Margarita Lake, 4695 Santa Margarita Lake Road, Santa Margarita. After checking in at the entry kiosk, drive down to the boat dock and the Marina store parking area. Note that there is a \$12 entry fee per vehicle to enter the SML Campground.