

9/19/2011

MORRO BAY WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL PROGRAM 2012

KEY: B=Appropriate for new birders; C=Appropriate for youth; W=Wheelchair accessible

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2012

ALL DAY -----

001 Carrizo Plain National Monument

6:30am-4:30pm *Community Center Field Trip* **\$65**

Join **Greg Smith** and **Kaaren Perry** for a fast-paced trip to look for Golden Eagles, Merlins, Prairie Falcons, Ferruginous Hawks, Mountain Plovers, Sage and Vesper Sparrows, and much more in this unique habitat of semi-desert scrub, open grassland, and juniper foothills. **Travel with leaders in vans. Time includes 4 hours round-trip travel. Bring lunch. Easy, but many in/out of van stops. Limited**

002 Casual Little Big Day (New)

6:45am-2:00pm *Community Center Field Trip* **\$50**

Join **Maggie Smith** for a tour of many local birding hot-spots. Expect nearly 100 species, including specialties and rarities, with time to discuss the birds and savor them a bit. **Travel with leader in van. Bring lunch. Easy but many in/out of van stops. Limited**

003 Big Day

6:45am-4:00pm *Community Center Field Trip* **\$60**

See loons to sparrows with **Ron Melcer** on this full day of birding the area. Pace to be determined by the leader based on the desires of the group, but expect a rather fast-paced day, seeing over 100 species, including specialties and rarities. **Travel with leader in van. Bring lunch. Easy but many in/out of van stops. Limited**

004 Santa Margarita Lake Big Day

7:15am-4:00pm *Community Center Field Trip* **\$15**

Join Park Ranger **Chuck Woodard** and **Jan Surbey** for an all-day birding extravaganza! A walk along the lakeshore searching for waterfowl and oak woodland species in the morning will be followed by either a pontoon boat ride to explore the far side of the lake (weather permitting) or a walk along the Salinas River before it flows into the lake. **Bring snacks, water, and a picnic lunch. Moderate, up to 4 miles of walking. Suitable for all experience levels. Caravan 70-90 miles round trip. Limited**

005 Oso Flaco Lake-Oceano Area

7:30am-3:00pm *Community Center Field Trip* **\$50**

Bird with **Paul Keller**. Enjoy close views of waterfowl, and often bitterns and rails, from the boardwalk over the lake and marsh. Bird two prime willow habitats for wintering warblers. Includes 2-3 miles of slow walking. (www.dunescenter.org/ottoso.htm.) **Travel with leader in van. Bring lunch. Moderate. Limited**

006 Las Cruzitas Ranch, Santa Barbara County

7:45am-2:00pm *Buellton Field Trip* **B W**

9/19/2011

Designed for those driving to the Festival from the south. Meet at Albertson's Parking Lot in Buellton, CA (Hwy 246 east exit from 101). This is 75 miles south of Morro Bay! Leader will have list of registered participants; you may check in at the Festival after this event. Meet **Peter Dullea** (cell 805-350-1304) in Buellton and caravan to Las Cruzitas, a private 1,500-acre cattle ranch including oak grassland and sage-covered canyons. You will be met by **Cruz Phillips**, the ranch owner, who will lead the trip. Expect to see Yellow-billed Magpies, Vesper and Lark Sparrows, Band-tailed Pigeons, Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Golden Eagles, and possibly Burrowing Owls, Prairie Falcons, Phainopeplas, Red-naped Sapsuckers and Lewis' Woodpeckers. At least 30 species are seen from the ranch house bird feeders alone, so folks who cannot walk far can sit in the yard and have a great time birding. **Bring lunch. 175 miles round trip drive from Morro Bay. Easy. Limited**

MORNING-----

007 Hiking Half Day (New)

7:00am-12:00noon *Community Center Field Trip*

Leave the fossil fuels untouched and walk with leader **Mike Stiles** through the Morro Bay area. This morning can make you and the environment feel good. Bird a variety of habitats; 60-70 species are possible. Walking will be slow paced, mostly level with many stops, but **expect to walk about 4 miles. Bring a day pack, snacks, water, and wear layered clothing and your comfortable walking shoes. Limited**

008 Bird Sounds and Careful Observation

7:00am-12:00noon *Community Center Field Trip* *B*

Bob Barnes, noted birder/teacher, returns a third year to guide in class and field. Gain tips for learning bird sounds, enjoy birds through leisurely in-depth observation, enhance ID skills. Equal success for beginner/novice to intermediate/expert birders, teachers, trip leaders. **Caravan 15 to 20 miles round trip. Easy. Limited**

009 Bird Banding in Morro Bay

7:15am-11:00am *Community Center Field Trip*

Observe mist-netted passerines in Morro Bay State Park with **Jodi Isaacs** and **Regena Orr**, State Parks Environmental Scientists. Discuss identification, analysis and bird-banding data collection techniques. Probable species captured include sparrows (maybe a "large-billed" Savannah Sparrow), and Yellow-rumped Warblers. *Rain cancels.* **Caravan <5 miles round trip. Easy. Limited**

010 North Coast Bird Search

7:15am-12:00noon *Community Center Field Trip*

Visit spots along the rugged North Coast with **Karen Clarke** and **Gale Kordowski** to look for Surfbirds, Turnstones, Wandering Tattlers, Mew Gulls, Pacific Loons, Scoters, Snowy Plovers, and more. Also expect a variety of raptors, including Golden Eagles and Ferruginous Hawks. A stop at the Elephant Seal overlook is fun and could reveal terns, Glaucous-winged Gulls, and more. **Caravan 70 miles round trip. Moderate. Limited**

011 Bird the Bob Jones Trail (New)

7:15am-12:00noon *Community Center Field Trip* *W*

9/19/2011

Join **Daniel Bohlman** of The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County for a stroll along San Luis Creek via the paved Bob Jones trail. Expect to see woodpeckers, creepers, chickadees, towhees and much more as you walk through riparian habitat. Includes two miles of slow walking. Wear good walking shoes, windproof gear, bring binoculars or scope and your field guide. **Caravan fifty miles round trip. Easy. Limited**

012 Bird Multiple Habitats

7:30am-12:00noon *Community Center Field Trip*

Observe the different birds found at San Simeon State Park by the creek, wetlands, chaparral, and pine forest habitats, with State Park Docents **Phil** and **Carole Adams**. Expect a variety of land birds including Pygmy Nuthatches. **Caravan 50 miles round trip. Moderate. Limited**

013 Photographic Hot Spots With Birds

8:00am-12:00noon *Community Center Field Trip*

Bring a camera (a P & S with telephoto capabilities or DSLR with 300 mm plus capability), and a tripod if possible, along with binoculars (spotting scope optional) to photograph and observe local scenic hot spots for birds. You'll travel with **Jerry Kirkhart**, who will offer tips on capturing images of birds while visiting some uniquely beautiful locations around the bay, then end at Sweet Springs Nature Preserve. Photo opportunities abound. See Jerry's photography at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/jkirkhart35> (birds set or birds in flight set). **Caravan. Easy. Limited**

014 Montana de Oro Campground, Cove & Bluffs

8:00am-12:00noon *Community Center Field Trip*

Bird with **Dick Boyd** in a spectacular 8,600-acre state park with rugged coastline and coastal uplands. Expect rocky-shore shorebirds, water birds, raptors, and passerines in various habitats. Includes 1-2 miles of slow walking. **Caravan 20 miles round trip. Moderate. Limited**

015 Morro Bay Shoreline Walk

8:15am-12:00noon *Community Center Field Trip*

Caravan from the Community Center to Bayshore Bluffs Park, a small city park. From there we will walk past the Inn at Morro Bay, the Heron Rookery, a mudflat shore, the Museum, and into the salt marsh. Walking along the edge of the bay, we will pass a variety of habitats which give us a vantage point to see many different species of birds: expect a few dozen. For those who wish, we have the option of an informal post-walk lunch at the Bayside Café. Leaders: **Rouvaishyana** and **Randy Bello**. **Moderate pace, distance about 2 miles one-way.** Walk back to cars at your own pace afterward. **Limited**

016 Basics of Bird ID

8:30am-11:00am *St. Timothy's Church Presentation* *B W*

Join expert **Bill Bouton** for his entertaining workshop for novice birders. You will learn the process of bird ID. Using digitally-projected images, Bill will demonstrate what characteristics to look for when identifying a bird and give you tips on choosing binoculars, field guides and other equipment. This workshop is required before joining Bill for field experience. For the field trip, please sign up for event #025 (first 20 only). **Limited**

017 Eco-Friendly Wolff Vineyards

9/19/2011

8:30am-12:00noon *Community Center Field Trip*

Learn from vintner **Jean-Pierre Wolff** how Wolff Vineyards (www.wolffvineyards.com) conserves natural habitat affecting quail, kestrels, raptors and owls. Birders and non-birders alike will admire efforts to restore creek habitat and practice sustainable viticulture. Birding with **Steve Griffith** is incidental to learning about an ecological approach to farming. **Bring a lunch** and sample a few varietals. **Caravan 45 miles round trip. Easy. Limited**

018 Kayaking

9:00am-12:00noon *State Park Marina Field Trip* **\$45**

Go out on a kayak tour of Morro Bay with **John** and **Virginia Flaherty** and guides at Central Coast Outdoors. Get an opportunity for an up-close view of White Pelicans, Brant, Common Loons, and a host of other migratory waterfowl and shorebirds in their natural habitat. Visit the Heron Rookery, Grassy Island, mudflats and channels of the back bay. We will use double kayaks; no prior kayaking experience needed. Dress in layers with the following guidelines: synthetics or wool, no cotton, windbreaker jacket, hat for sun and wind protection, and shoes that can get wet. *Weather conditions may cancel.* **Meet at the State Park Marina, State Park Road next to Bayside Cafe, <5 miles round trip. Limited**

019 Bay Birding Photo Cruise

9:00am-10:45am *Embarcadero Field Trip* **\$30**

Join local expert photographer **Mike Baird** (www.bairdphotos.com) aboard a 34-foot, power catamaran and cruise around the estuary. Birds are often close to the boat. Mike will give pointers on how best to photograph these water and shore birds on the water and in flight. Dress warmly. No tripods. **Meet at Sub Sea Tours at Marina Square, 699 Embarcadero # 9. Easy. Limited**

020 Incidental Birding (New)

9:00am-11:30am *Natural History Museum Presentation/Field Trip* **B**

Do you get left behind when your partner/spouse/friend goes birding? Do you just “not get it” about birds but would like to learn? Join biologist **Claudia Freitas** to learn some of the ‘fun’ things about birds and how to identify them. Start with some basics indoors, then walk with Claudia for a “let’s not get *too* serious outing.” Take an easy walk about one mile near the Museum of Natural History in Morro Bay. **Limited**

021 Photo Editing Workshop (New)

9:00am-12:00noon *Embarcadero, Marina Square, Presentation* **W \$30**

Ok, you just had the best day ever photographing and the pure volume of images is daunting. You need to clean house and edit what you just did. In three hours professional photographer **Bill Shewchuk** will assist you in organizing, sorting, filing and editing images to create a portfolio you will be proud of. Bring the following: laptop (Mac or P.C.), external portable hard drive (thumb stick type is o.k.), photos to work on, and Photoshop CS4 or CS5 (free 30 day download available at adobe.com).

Practice these skills:

- Use histograms to assess deficiencies in digital images and propose corrections;
- Apply image editing tools to correct noise, brightness/contrast, color and sharpen images;
- Practice using layers to apply non-destructive edits to images;
- Apply retouching, cropping and deskwing tools to improve appearance and composition of digital images;
- Assess advantages and disadvantages of editing RAW image files.

This workshop is for all skill levels. Meet at 601 Embarcadero, Suite 1. Limited

9/19/2011

022 Birding Around Morro Bay

9:00am-12:00noon *Community Center Field Trip*

Bird with **Dennis Sheridan** and **Marlin Harms** to visit the best birding spots around the estuary, including Morro Rock, the bay, the marina, and more. Look for shorebirds, water birds, and land birds. **Caravan 15 miles round trip. Moderate. Limited**

AFTERNOON -----

023 Bay and Sandspit Birding (New)

12:45pm-3:00pm *Community Center Field Trip* **\$20**

Cruise the bay with **Mike Stiles** in a covered 30-foot pontoon boat, looking at waterfowl, shorebirds, and other birds from the boat. Go ashore on the Sandspit for a closer look at some of these birds and those that frequent dune habitats. The boat will return to pick you up, returning to the dock amid more birds. Two hours includes your time ashore. **Easy. Limited**

024 Bird Nest Boxes and You

1:00pm-1:45pm *Morro Bay Library Presentation* **B W**

Bird nesting boxes are good for the birds and fun for you as a birder! **Cheryl Lish** has dozens on her property. In this short presentation she will talk about why you should provide nest boxes, what makes a good or a poorly designed bird house, how to place them to attract the birds, how to protect them from predators, and how to clean them. **Limited**

025 Basics of Bird ID in the Field

1:00pm-3:00pm *Community Center Field Trip* **B**

Join **Bill Bouton**, **Dick Boyd**, and **Ralph Cass** in the field for the second part of the "Basics of Bird ID" workshop. (See event #016, which is a prerequisite to this event.) Bring binoculars and your field guide. **Caravan <5 miles round trip. Easy. Limited**

026 Pacific Wildlife Care Tour

1:30pm-2:30pm *Community Center Field Trip* **B C**

Pacific Wildlife Care Center Director **Jeanette Stone** will lead participants to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Morro Bay. Following a brief presentation, Jeanette will give a tour of the facility. Learn about PWC's work with lead-poisoned birds, fishing hook and line injuries, and the many other causes of illness and injuries treated regularly at the Center. Since PWC is a primary facility under the OWCN (Oiled Wildlife Care Network) emphasis will be placed on the Center's rehabilitation process for oil-affected birds. **Caravan <5 miles round trip. Easy. Limited**

027 The Great Blue Herons of Morro Bay

1:30pm-2:45pm *Museum of Natural History Presentation* **B W**

While looking at mounts and photographs, learn about the courtship, nesting habits, anatomy and behavior of the Great Blue Herons, Great and Snowy Egrets, Black-crowned Night-Herons and Double-crested Cormorants with State Park docent **Louise Abbott. Limited**

028 Photo Editing Workshop (New)

1:30pm-4:30pm *Embarcadero, Marina Square Presentation* **W \$30**

9/19/2011

Ok, you just had the best day ever photographing and the pure volume of images is daunting. You need to clean house and edit what you just did. In three hours professional photographer **Bill Shewchuk** will assist you in organizing, sorting, filing and editing images to create a portfolio you will be proud of. Bring the following: laptop (Mac or P.C.), external portable hard drive (thumb stick type is o.k.), photos to work on, and Photoshop CS4 or CS5 (free 30 day download available at adobe.com).

Practice these skills:

- Use histograms to assess deficiencies in digital images and propose corrections;
- Apply image editing tools to correct noise, brightness/contrast, color and sharpen images;
- Practice using layers to apply non-destructive edits to images;
- Apply retouching, cropping and deskwing tools to improve appearance and composition of digital images;
- Assess advantages and disadvantages of editing RAW image files.

This workshop is for all skill levels. Meet at 601 Embarcadero, Suite 1. Limited

029 Gardening to Attract Birds

1:30pm-3:30pm *Community Center Field Trip*

Join **Ken Levine** for a presentation at the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden and a docent-led tour of the garden to highlight plants from the five Mediterranean climate zones of the world that provide a unique bird habitat. You will see many nectar-producing flowers from these areas of the world; hummingbirds are often seen in the winter-blooming South African aloe garden. (www.slobg.org) **Caravan 15 miles round trip. Easy. Limited**

030 The Peregrine Falcons of Morro Rock

2:30pm-5:00pm *Morro Bay Library Presentation/Field Trip* W

Join Peregrine Falcon researcher and author **Steve Schubert** for a presentation on the history and current status of our Peregrine Falcons (www.morrorockperegrines.com). Then travel along the edge of Morro Bay and walk to Morro Rock looking for the Peregrines and their recent nesting sites. **Caravan <5 miles round trip. Easy. Limited**

031 Bay Birding Cruise

3:00pm-4:45pm *Embarcadero Field Trip* **\$30**

Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary with **Roger Zachary** in an open-deck 34-foot power catamaran. View a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl, often at very close range. The boat will move slowly enough for you to see details of many species that you normally see only through a scope from shore. Good photo opportunities, but no tripods. Dress warmly. **Meet at Sub Sea Tours, Marina Square, 699 Embarcadero # 9. Easy. Limited**

032 Gull ID Presentation

3:00pm-5:00pm *Community Center Presentation* W

Join Los Angeles birding expert **Larry Allen** for his informative PowerPoint presentation on gull identification showing plumages from immature to mature. Jump-start your recognition of this notoriously hard-to-identify group. **Limited**

033 Dinner and Owling

3:30pm-11:00pm *Community Center Field Trip* **\$75**

9/19/2011

Join leader **Jim Royer** for daytime owling, Chinese dinner (Dutch treat), and owling after dark in the San Luis Obispo area. Dress warmly in quiet clothes (no nylon) and be prepared for much walking and possible mud. A small quiet group is required. Possibilities: Western Screech-, Saw-whet and Short-eared, Barn Owls, Poor-will and more. Wind or rain will cancel. **Travel with leader in van. Moderate with w/ many in/out of van stops. Limited**

034 Festival Opening Reception

5:00pm-6:30pm

Community Center Special Event

B W

Enjoy wine and cheese and meet fellow birders at the Bird Festival Bazaar. **Jon Dunn** will be available to autograph any of his books that you bring. Browse through the vendor booths featuring optics, books and CDs, native plants and garden art, nature photography and art, woodcarvings, jewelry, conservation and nature organization exhibits and more!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2012

ALL DAY-----

035 Pelagic Birds & Whales

6:45am-4:00pm

Community Center Field Trip

\$75

Meet at the Community Center no later than 6:45am to caravan, or meet at the Patriot Sportfishing office on the pier at Port San Luis no later than 7:30 am. Note that the boat does not wait for late arrivals. Maps available at the check-in desk or at <http://www.morrocoastaudubon.org/scguide.htm#posalu>. Leader will have list of registrants; you must be pre-registered. Spend a day at sea with **Tom Edell, Brad Schram, Jon Dunn, and Curtis Marantz** searching for albatross, shearwaters, kittiwakes, alcids, jaegers, gray whales, and much more. Dress for cold and wind, including gloves! *Weather conditions may cancel. Bring lunch, liquids, sunscreen, and motion sickness medication. Caravan 50 miles round trip. Limited*

036 Big Day

7:00am-4:00pm

Community Center Field Trip

\$60

See loons to sparrows with **Ron Melcer** on this full day of birding the area. Pace to be determined by the leader based on the desires of the group, but expect a rather fast-paced day, seeing over 100 species, including specialties and rarities. **Travel with leader in van. Bring lunch. Easy but many in/out of van stops. Limited**

037 Hiking Big Day

7:15am-4:00pm

Community Center Field Trip

Leave the fossil fuels untouched and walk with leader **Mike Stiles** through the Morro Bay area!! This day can make you and the environment feel good. Bird a variety of habitats. 80+ species are possible. Walking will be slow paced, mostly level, with many stops, but **expect to walk 6-8 miles. Bring a day pack, lunch, water and wear layered clothing and your comfortable walking shoes. Limited**

038 Santa Maria Valley

7:30am-3:00pm

Community Center Field Trip

\$60

Travel with **Jamie Chavez** and **Rebecca Fay** to South County for stops at Oso Flaco Lake, the Santa Maria River mouth at Guadalupe Dunes, and the Santa Maria Waste Treatment Plant. Expect a variety of gulls,

9/19/2011

waterfowl, shorebirds, loons, scoters, and raptors. Time includes 1.5 hours round-trip travel in vans to Santa Maria. **Bring lunch. Moderate with several in/out of van stops. Limited**

MORNING -----

039 Bird Sounds and Careful Observation

7:00am-12:00noon *Community Center Field Trip* *B*

Bob Barnes, noted birder/teacher, returns a 3rd year to guide in class and field. Gain tips for learning bird sounds, enjoy birds through leisurely in-depth observation, enhance ID skills. Equal success for beginner/novice to intermediate/expert birders, teachers, trip leaders. **Caravan 15 to 20 miles round trip. Easy. Limited**

040 Hind River Ranch, Santa Margarita (New)

7:00am-12:00noon *Community Center Field Trip* **\$50**

Join **Kaaren Perry** and bird an 800-acre ranch featuring four unique habitats: foothill, oak woodlands, riparian and chaparral. Expect to see Golden Eagles, Yellow-billed Magpies, sapsuckers, sparrows. An assortment of waterfowl should also be seen as we bird the 10-acre Crescent Lake and along portions of the Salinas River that run through the property. **Travel with leader in van. Bring Lunch. Easy 1-2 miles walk. Limited**

041 Bird Banding in Morro Bay

7:15am-11:30am *Community Center Field Trip*

Observe mist-netted passerines in Morro Bay State Park with **Jodi Isaacs** and **Regena Orr**, State Parks Environmental Scientists. Discuss identification, analysis and bird-banding data collection techniques. Probable species captured include sparrows (maybe a "large-billed" Savannah Sparrow), and Yellow-rumped Warblers. *Rain cancels.* **Caravan <5 miles round trip. Easy. Limited**

042 North Coast Bird Search

7:15am-12:00noon *Community Center Field Trip*

Visit spots along the rugged North Coast with **Karen Clarke** and **Gale Kordowski** to look for Surfbirds, turnstones, Wandering Tattlers, Mew Gulls, Pacific Loons, scoters, and more. Also expect a variety of raptors, including Golden Eagles and Ferruginous Hawks. **Caravan 70 miles round trip. Moderate. Limited**

043 Estero Bluffs for New Birders

7:30am-12:00noon *Community Center Field Trip* *B*

Join leader **Rick Austin** 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. **Caravan 20 miles round trip. Moderate. Limited**

044 Estero Bluffs for Intermediates

7:45am-12:00noon *Community Center Field Trip*

Join leader **Marlin Harms** for intermediate/advanced birding on a 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. **Caravan 20 miles round trip. Moderate. Limited**

9/19/2011

045 Vandenheuvel Ranch: From the Hill - A Birder's Delight

7:45am-12:00noon *Community Center Field Trip*

Art and Kelly Vandenheuvel host this field trip to their 1,200-acre ranch east of Cayucos. The couple will show their aviaries and flight cages, providing a focus on captive bird breeding (Lady Gouldian finches and others) and raptor rehabilitation. In a setting of stunning vistas, leader **Greg Smith** will bird through meadow and oak woodland with approximately 150 feet of elevation change. All participants should bring water and snacks. Rain gear and rubber boots are a must in case of heavy seasonal rains. **Caravan 20miles round trip. Strenuous. Limited**

046 Montana de Oro Campground, Cove & Bluffs

8:00am-12:00noon *Community Center Field Trip*

Bird with **Dick Boyd** and **Bert Townsend** in a spectacular 8,600-acre state park with untamed coastline and coastal uplands. Expect rocky-shore shorebirds, water birds, raptors, and passerines in various habitats. Includes 1-2 miles of slow walking. **Caravan 20 miles round trip. Moderate. Limited**

047 Birding Fiscalini Ranch, Cambria (New)

8:00am-12:00noon *Community Center Field Trip*

Bird with **Eric Brunschwiler** on Cambria's Fiscalini Ranch on a moderate (244 ft elevation gain) 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. **Caravan 50 miles round trip. Moderate. Limited**

048 Birding for the Casual Birder (New)

8:15am-12:00noon *Community Center Field Trip* **B**

Spend time in habitats around the Museum of Natural History with **Rouvaishyana**, Museum Manager and Park Interpreter, focusing on easy-to-moderately-difficult birds. Expect to become more confident in identifying the major bird groups, and begin differentiating some of the finer points of detail. **Caravan <5 miles round trip. Easy. Limited**

049 Gull ID in the Field

8:30am-12:00noon *Community Center Field Trip*

Join expert **Larry Allen** in identifying our local gulls, including the many stages of immature plumages, at a variety of locations. Friday Gull ID workshop recommended: #032. **Caravan <30 miles. Easy. Limited**

050 Birding Stenner Canyon (New)

8:30am-12:00noon *Community Center Field Trip*

Take a creekside walk with **Craig Fiehler** and **Jessica Griffiths** along Stenner Creek through a riparian community and agricultural lands. Expect to see Oak Titmice, Cedar Waxwings, Acorn Woodpeckers, Western Bluebirds, Tricolor Blackbirds, Red-shouldered Hawks and many more species. About 1.5 miles walk, round trip. Visit birding hot spots on Cal Poly campus as time permits. **Caravan 25 miles round trip. Moderate, but with limited restroom facilities. Limited**

051 Bay Birding Photo Cruise

9:00am-10:45am *Embarcadero Field Trip* **\$30**

Join local expert photographer **Dave Keeling** aboard a 34-foot power catamaran and cruise around the estuary. Birds are often close to the boat. Dave will give pointers on how best to photograph these water and

9/19/2011

shore birds on the water and in flight. Dress warmly. No tripods. **Meet at Sub Sea Tours at Marina Square, 699 Embarcadero # 9. Easy. Limited**

052 Kayaking

9:00am-12:00noon *State Park Marina Field Trip* **\$45**

Go out on a kayak tour of Morro Bay with **John** and **Virginia Flaherty** and guides at Central Coast Outdoors. Get an opportunity for an up-close view of White Pelicans, Brant, Common Loons, and a host of other migratory waterfowl and shorebirds in their natural habitat. Visit the Heron Rookery, Grassy Island, mudflats and channels of the back bay. We will use double kayaks; no prior kayaking experience needed. Dress in layers with the following guidelines: synthetics or wool, no cotton, windbreaker jacket, hat for sun and wind protection, and shoes that can get wet. *Weather conditions may cancel.* **Meet at the State Park Marina, State Park Road next to Bayside Cafe, <5 miles round trip. Limited**

053 Photo Editing Workshop (New)

9:00am-12:00noon *Embarcadero, Marina Square, Presentation* **W \$30**

Ok, you just had the best day ever photographing and the pure volume of images is daunting. You need to clean house and edit what you just did. In three hours professional photographer **Bill Shewchuk** will assist you in organizing, sorting, filing and editing images to create a portfolio you will be proud of. Bring the following: laptop (Mac or P.C.), external portable hard drive (thumb stick type is o.k.), photos to work on, and Photoshop CS4 or CS5 (free 30 day download available at adobe.com).

Practice these skills:

- Use histograms to assess deficiencies in digital images and propose corrections;
- Apply image editing tools to correct noise, brightness/contrast, color and sharpen images;
- Practice using layers to apply non-destructive edits to images;
- Apply retouching, cropping and deskwing tools to improve appearance and composition of digital images;
- Assess advantages and disadvantages of editing RAW image files.

This workshop is for all skill levels. Meet at 601 Embarcadero, Suite 1. Limited

054 Snowy Plovers in the Field

9:00am-12:00noon *Community Center Field Trip* **B**

Join **Aurianna Woodson**, Wildlife Biologist, Camp Roberts, California National Guard, and **Taryn Kinney** on the beach to look for Snowy Plovers. Morro Bay area State Parks have the largest concentration of this Federally listed species within the California state park system. Learn about their natural history and why they are listed as Federally Threatened. (www.westernsnowyplover.org). **Caravan <25 miles round trip. Easy. Limited**

AFTERNOON-----

055 Birds in Art at Hearst Castle

12:30pm-5:00/6:00pm *Community Center Field Trip* **B \$60**

Join **Hearst Castle Guides** for a short PowerPoint presentation before touring the Castle. Over 100 birds in European, Chinese and Persian art will delight as you walk through our "aviary" on the hilltop. In nature birds hide in the foliage; at the Castle they are hiding in the art and decor. Bring binoculars and camera to search them out in tiles and tapestries, paintings, and pottery, cabinets and carpets, upholstery and lamps. Learn about the symbolism of various birds, along with descriptions of the

9/19/2011

artists and the importance of birds to the medieval mind. At the conclusion of the tour at 4 pm, you may leave, or are free to stroll and bird the gardens until final hill departure around 5 pm. **Caravan 65 miles round trip. Strenuous, many steps. Limited**

056 Bay and Sandspit Birding (New)

12:45pm-3:00pm *Community Center Field Trip* **\$20**

Cruise the bay with **Steve Griffith** in a covered 30-foot pontoon boat, looking at waterfowl, shorebirds, and other birds from the boat. Go ashore on the Sandspit for a closer look at some of these birds and those that frequent dune habitats. The boat will return to pick you up, returning to the dock amid more birds. Two hours includes your time ashore. **Easy. Limited**

057 Pacific Wildlife Care-Meet the Raptors

1:00pm-2:00pm *Veteran's Hall Presentation* **B C W**

Meet several birds of prey, including a Great Horned Owl, American Kestrel, Red-Tailed Hawk, Merlin, and a Peregrine Falcon and possibly Mr. Handsome, a Turkey Vulture. These birds are educational ambassadors for Pacific Wildlife Care, a nonprofit wildlife rehabilitation center in Morro Bay. During the presentation by **Kathy Duncan** and **Jeri Roberts** 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; \$2 donation to PWC suggested for general public.

058 The California Condor Recovery Program and High Mountain Lookout Project

1:00pm-2:30pm *Morro Bay Library Presentation* **W**

Join **Steve Schubert** of the Hi Mountain Lookout Project, and a representative of the California Condor Recovery Program, who will update your information on condor restoration and the current outlook for the species. Steve will focus on the monitoring of condor activity between release sites. (www.ventanaws.org) (www.condorlookout.org). **Limited**

059 Discover Magnificent Morro Rock

1:00pm-2:45pm *Morro Rock Field Trip* **B**

Join State Park Docents **Rosemary Olszewski** and **Charlene Odekirk** to explore the "Gibraltar of the Pacific" and hear about its history and geology. View the many species living in its shadow and learn what we can do to help them survive. Dress for windy, cool weather. **General public museum field trip. Meet at Morro Rock restroom building. Easy. Unlimited**

060 Sea Otters & the Kelp Forest

1:00pm-4:00pm *Community Center Field Trip*

Learn about the diversity of life within the kelp forest as you join State Park Docents **Phil** and **Carole Adams** for a walk along Estero Bluffs north of Cayucos. Watch for sea otters and learn the role they play in maintaining a healthy kelp forest. **Caravan 20 miles round trip. Moderate. Limited**

061 Elephant Seal-Gull Interaction

1:00pm-4:00pm *Community Center Field Trip* **B**

Join State Park Interpreter **Mike Connolly** to determine if there's friendship or friction between birds and seals at the newly expanded San Simeon State Park, north of Hearst Castle. Participants will visit a secluded vista point north of the Elephant Seal viewing area. Come prepared for chilly winds and a half-mile walk on

9/19/2011

a bluff trail out to a remote beach location. *Adverse weather cancels.* **Caravan 70 miles round trip. Moderate. Limited**

062 Gull ID in the Field

1:00pm-4:30pm *Community Center Field Trip*

Join expert **Larry Allen** in identifying our local gulls, including the many stages of immature plumages, at a variety of locations. Friday Gull ID workshop recommended: #032. **Caravan <30 miles. Easy. Limited**

063 Photo Editing Workshop (New)

1:30pm-4:30pm *Embarcadero, Marina Square, Presentation* **W \$30**

Ok, you just had the best day ever photographing and the pure volume of images is daunting. You need to clean house and edit what you just did. In three hours professional photographer **Bill Shewchuk** will assist you in organizing, sorting, filing and editing images to create a portfolio you will be proud of. Bring the following: laptop (Mac or P.C.), external portable hard drive (thumb stick type is o.k.), photos to work on, and Photoshop CS4 or CS5 (free 30 day download available at adobe.com).

Practice these skills:

- Use histograms to assess deficiencies in digital images and propose corrections;
- Apply image editing tools to correct noise, brightness/contrast, color and sharpen images;
- Practice using layers to apply non-destructive edits to images;
- Apply retouching, cropping and deskwing tools to improve appearance and composition of digital images;
- Assess advantages and disadvantages of editing RAW image files.

This workshop is for all skill levels. Meet at 601 Embarcadero, Suite 1. Limited

064 Kayaking

2:00pm-5:00pm *State Park Marina Field Trip* **\$45**

Go out on a kayak tour of Morro Bay with **John** and **Virginia Flaherty** and guides at Central Coast Outdoors. Get an opportunity for an up-close view of White Pelicans, Brant, Common Loons, and a host of other migratory waterfowl and shorebirds in their natural habitat. Visit the Heron Rookery, Grassy Island, mudflats and channels of the back bay. We will use double kayaks; no prior kayaking experience needed. Dress in layers with the following guidelines: synthetics or wool, no cotton, windbreaker jacket, hat for sun and wind protection, and shoes that can get wet. *Weather conditions may cancel.* **Meet at the State Park Marina, State Park Road next to Bayside Cafe, <5 miles round trip. Limited**

065 Morro Bay: Geology & Dynamics of Change

2:00pm-4:00pm *Museum of Natural History Presentation* **W**

Join engineer and Cuesta College Community Programs instructor **John McCabe** to learn about how the Morros and Morro Bay were formed. Topics will include the geological formation of Morro Rock, the coastal erosion and sand drift that formed the sand spit, and how the resulting bay and drainage system nurtured the development of the estuary. Discover why this estuary has become such an important stop on the Pacific Flyway. **General public museum event. <5 miles. Limited**

066 Pacific Wildlife Care-Meet the Raptors

2:30pm-3:30pm *Veteran's Hall Presentation* **B C W**

Meet several birds of prey, including a Great Horned Owl, American Kestrel, Red-Tailed Hawk, Merlin, and a Peregrine Falcon and possibly Mr. Handsome, a Turkey Vulture. These birds are educational ambassadors

9/19/2011

for Pacific Wildlife Care, a nonprofit wildlife rehabilitation center in Morro Bay. During this presentation by **Kathy Duncan** and **Jeri Roberts** 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; \$2 donation to PWC suggested for general public.

067 Fascinating World of Feathers (New)

2:30pm-4:00pm

Community Center Presentation

B W

John Schmitt's work has formed the major artistic contribution to over a dozen books, including the *National Geographic Field Guide to Birds* (4th edition) and the *Field Guide to Raptors of Europe, Middle East and North Africa*. His "A Naturalist's Notebook" is a regular feature in *Living Bird*, the magazine of Cornell University Lab. John will be speaking about FEATHERS--their structure and artistic beauty, how they are constructed and how birds use them. John has a spectacular collection of feathers from all over the world, which he will share with us. This promises to be a fantastic program.

Limited

068 Bay Birding Cruise

3:00pm-4:45pm

Embarcadero Field Trip

\$30

Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary with leader **Marlin Harms** in an open-deck 34-foot power catamaran. View a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl, often at very close range. The boat will move slowly enough for you to see details of many species that you normally see only through a scope from shore. Good photo opportunities, but no tripods. Dress warmly. **Meet at Sub Sea Tours, Marina Square, 699 Embarcadero # 9. Easy. Limited**

069 KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Wood Warblers of North America

7:00pm-8:30pm

MBHS Special Event

B W

Who doesn't get a thrill seeing a bright, colorful warbler flitting among the leaves? Join us for a fascinating evening with **Jon Dunn** and explore the exquisite world of the Wood Warblers of North America. Jon will enrich our understanding of this species by discussing some of the identifying and behavioral characteristics that we can observe in nature. Learn about warblers' fascinating migration routes and when and where to expect them. View beautiful photographs, while we examine closely the colors, shapes and patterns that make this a favorite species among birders around the world. Jon's *Field Guide to Warblers of North America*, co-authored with Kimball Garrett and published in the Peterson series in 1997, is considered the definitive work on this identification topic.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2012

ALL DAY-----

070 Carrizo Plain National Monument

6:30am-4:30pm

Community Center Field Trip

\$65

Discover why the Carrizo Plain National Monument is listed as a California Important Bird Area with **Greg Smith** and **Ron Melcer**. With an abundance of raptors, three globally important species, including the Mountain Plover and Long-billed Curlew, and several endangered mammals, the Carrizo Plain is one of the most carefully managed areas of California. **Travel with leaders in vans.** Time includes 4 hours round-trip travel. **Bring lunch. Easy but many in/out of van stops. Limited**

9/19/2011

071 Condor Country

6:45am-4:30pm

Community Center Field Trip

\$60

Ride with **Steve Schubert** and **Joel Weiss** through some of California's primary condor habitat as we make our way to Bittercreek National Wildlife Refuge. Currently a stronghold for the southern California Condor population, Bittercreek NWR also hosts numerous raptor species. The trip will focus on condor reintroduction history, raptor sightings along the way and radio telemetry demonstrations. Many wildlife viewing opportunities may also be possible. **Bring lunch. Easy but many in/out of van stops. Not recommended for those prone to carsickness. Limited**

MORNING -----

072 Half-Day Ocean Trip

6:45am-12:00noon

Community Center Field Trip

\$60

Meet at the Community Center no later than 6:45am to caravan, or meet at the Patriot Sportfishing office on the pier at Port San Luis no later than 7:30am. Note that the boat does not wait for late arrivals. Maps available at the check-in desk, or at <http://www.morrocoastaudubon.org/scguide.htm#posalu>. Leader will have list of registrants: you must be pre-registered. Join **Rich Hansen, Marlin Harms, and Larry Allen** on this short cruise out of Port San Luis. It offers likely views of whales, sea lions, sea otters, and near-shore Pacific seabirds including several species of shearwaters and auklets. **Bring liquids, lunch, sunscreen, and motion sickness medication. Dress for cold and wind, including gloves. Weather conditions may cancel. Caravan 50 miles round trip. Limited**

073 Cycling and Birding Around Morro Bay

6:45am-1:00pm

Community Center Field Trip

Join **Jim Royer** for a birding tour of the area on bicycle and on foot. Length: about a 10-mile loop with some moderate hills, and short walks. Start and end at the Community Center. The pace will be slow with frequent stops for birding. We will discuss field marks and bird vocalizations as we bird. Bring: multi-speed bicycle, lock, helmet (required), water, snacks, tools, spare tube and patch kit. Also bring: backpack, fanny pack or bike bag; binoculars, camera, field guide, layered clothing. Keep weight manageable for riding. Leader will have a scope. Beginning birders welcome, but not recommended for beginning cyclists. Expect to see 60 species or more: raptors, waterfowl, shorebirds, and passerines. Rain or high winds cancel. **Be present, with your bike and ready to go, at 6:45 am at the front of the Community Center (we will leave at 7 sharp)! We will not wait after 7, for riders "on their way or getting their bikes." Limited to eight riders.**

074 Little Big Day

7:00am-12:00noon

Community Center Field Trip

\$50

See loons to sparrows with **Doug Stinson** on this half day of birding the area. Pace to be determined by the leader based on the desires of the group, but expect a rather fast-paced day, seeing over 100 species, including specialties and rarities. Travel with leader in van. **Bring lunch. Easy but many in/out of van stops. Limited**

075 Search for Sparrows with an Expert (New)

7:00am-12:00noon

Community Center Field Trip/Workshop

\$125

Join **Jon Dunn**, one of the world's experts on sparrows of North America, as he shares with us his knowledge and understanding of the wintering sparrows of the Central Coast. The field trip will be to Morro Bay State Park and nearby marina and estuary followed by a 75-minute workshop. The field trip will

9/19/2011

emphasize distribution, field marks and habits. At the workshop participants will review the species expected and seen on the field trip using slides to review the traits of the different sparrows. Status and distribution will be reviewed plus time for questions. With **Kaaren Perry**. **Caravan <10 miles. Limited**

076 Bird Sounds and Careful Observation

7:00am-12:00noon *Community Center Field Trip* **B**

Bob Barnes, noted birder/teacher, returns a 3rd year to guide in class and field. Gain tips for learning bird sounds, enjoy birds through leisurely in-depth observation, enhance ID skills. Equal success for beginner/novice to intermediate/expert birders, teachers, trip leaders. **Caravan 15 to 20 miles round trip. Easy. Limited**

077 Hind River Ranch, Santa Margarita (New)

\$50

7:00am-12:00noon *Community Center Field Trip*

Join **Maggie Smith** and bird an 800-acre ranch featuring four unique habitats: foothill, oak woodlands, riparian and chaparral. Expect to see Golden Eagles, Yellow-billed Magpie, sapsuckers, sparrows. An assortment of waterfowl should also be seen as we bird the 10 acre Crescent Lake and along portions of the Salinas River that runs through the property. **Travel with leader in van. Bring Lunch. Easy 1-2 mile walk. Limited**

078 Oak & Woodland Birds

7:30am-12:00noon *Community Center Field Trip*

Bird beautiful wooded habitat in the Atascadero area east of Morro Bay with **Roger Zachary**. Stops include Cerro Alto Campground, Atascadero Lake and Creek, Salinas River, and nearby oak habitats. Find Acorn Woodpeckers, Yellow-billed Magpies, and others. **Caravan 50 miles round trip. Moderate. Limited**

079 Observing Wildlife at Pt. Piedras Blancas

7:45am-12:00noon *Community Center Field Trip*

Join **Carole** and **Phil Adams** for a close-up view of Northern Elephant Seals in the peak of pupping season and tour the grounds of the Piedras Blancas Lighthouse (www.pelicanetwork.net/sansimeon.html). Expect to see harbor seals, sea otters, and possibly gray whales, as well as a variety of raptors, shorebirds, gulls, and cormorants. **Caravan 70 miles round trip. Easy to moderate. Limited**

080 Estero Bluffs

8:00am-12:00noon *Community Center Field Trip* **B**

Join leader **Eric Brunschwiler** for a slow-paced, beginner/intermediate 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. **Caravan 20 miles round trip. Moderate. Limited**

081 Mushroom Walk

8:00am-12:00noon *Community Center Field Trip* **B**

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. **Caravan 50 miles round trip. Moderate. Limited**

082 Ducks Galore (New)

8:00am-12:00noon *Museum of Natural History Field Trip* **B**

9/19/2011

Waterfowl (ducks, geese and swans) are a fascinating group of birds whether studying the mysteries of their migration, looking at them as a food source or enjoying their beauty. Join biologist **Claudia Freitas** to see these winter visitors to our coast and learn why some species are declining dramatically due to development, water pollution and predators. **Caravan 20 miles. Limited**

083 Birding Stenner Canyon and Nearby Areas (New)

8:15am-12:00noon *Community Center Field Trip*

Take a creekside walk with **Jennifer Moonjian** and **Craig Fiehler** along Stenner Creek through a riparian community and agricultural lands. Expect to see Oak Titmice, Cedar Waxwings, Acorn Woodpeckers, Western Bluebirds, Tricolor Blackbirds, Red-shouldered Hawks and many more species. About 1.5 miles walk, round trip. Visit birding hot spots on Cal Poly campus as time permits. **Caravan 25 miles round trip. Moderate, but with limited restroom facilities. Limited**

084 Montana de Oro Campground, Cove & Bluffs

8:30am-12:30pm *Community Center Field Trip*

Bird with **Eric Wier** and **Ross Schaefer** in a spectacular 8,600-acre state park with untamed coastline and coastal uplands. Expect rocky-shore shorebirds, water birds, raptors, and passerines in various habitats. Includes 1-2 miles of slow walking. **Caravan 20 miles round trip. Moderate. Limited**

085 Sketching Birds from Mounts and in the Field

8:45am-12:00noon *Museum of Natural History Presentation/Field Trip* **\$10**

Led by artist **N. John Schmitt** you will spend time in the classroom with lecture and participating in drawing techniques while looking at mounts. Then go out-of-doors to sketch from life with instruction and demonstration. Bring #2 pencils, sharpener, eraser, sketchbook (min. 8.5" x 11"), some paper towels, plastic bag or stool for sitting on, and binoculars (or spotting scope if available). **Easy. Limited**

086 Introduction to Birding Hot Spots

8:45am-12:00noon *Community Center Field Trip* **B**

This field class is for novice birders. Travel to nearby locations where leader **Rick Austin** will help you identify some of the most beautiful and easy-to-see birds around Morro Bay. Bring your favorite field guide and binoculars. **Caravan <10 miles round trip. Easy. Limited**

087 Bay Birding Photo Cruise

9:00am-10:45am *Embarcadero Field Trip* **\$30**

Join local expert photographer **Dave Keeling** aboard a 34-foot, power catamaran and cruise around the estuary. Birds are often close to the boat. Dave will give pointers on how best to photograph these water and shore birds on the water and in flight. Dress warmly. No tripods. **Meet at Sub Sea Tours at Marina Square, 699 Embarcadero # 9. Easy. Limited**

088 Easy Birding

9:00am-11:00am *Cloisters Park and Pond Field Trip* **B W**

The Cloisters 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. Led by **Joyce Cory**, State Park Docent. Meet at Cloisters Parking Area: drive north on Hwy 1; turn left (west) at the first traffic light (San Jacinto); then take first left (south) on Coral; in a few blocks enter the parking lot on the right. **All paths are wheelchair and limited mobility accessible. <5 miles from Community Center. Easy. Limited**

9/19/2011

089 Kayaking

9:00am-12:00noon

State Park Marina Field Trip

\$45

Go out on a kayak tour of Morro Bay with **John** and **Virginia Flaherty** and guides at Central Coast Outdoors. Get an opportunity for an up-close view of White Pelicans, Brant, Common Loons, and a host of other migratory waterfowl and shorebirds in their natural habitat. Visit the Heron Rookery, Grassy Island, mudflats and channels of the back bay. We will use double kayaks; no prior kayaking experience needed. Dress in layers with the following guidelines: synthetics or wool, no cotton, windbreaker jacket, hat for sun and wind protection, and shoes that can get wet. *Weather conditions may cancel. Meet at the State Park Marina, State Park Road next to Bayside Cafe, <5 miles round trip. Limited*

090 Photo Editing Workshop (New)

9:00am-12:00noon

Embarcadero, Marina Square Presentation

W

\$30

Ok, you just had the best day ever photographing and the pure volume of images is daunting. You need to clean house and edit what you just did. In three hours professional photographer **Bill Shewchuk** will assist you in organizing, sorting, filing and editing images to create a portfolio you will be proud of. Bring the following: laptop (Mac or P.C.), external portable hard drive (thumb stick type is o.k.), photos to work on, and Photoshop CS4 or CS5 (free 30 day download available at adobe.com).

Practice these skills:

Use histograms to assess deficiencies in digital images and propose corrections;

- Apply image editing tools to correct noise, brightness/contrast, color and sharpen images;
- Practice using layers to apply non-destructive edits to images;
- Apply retouching, cropping and deskwing tools to improve appearance and composition of digital images;
- Assess advantages and disadvantages of editing RAW image files.

This workshop is for all skill level. Meet at 601 Embarcadero, Suite 1. Limited

091 Snowy Plovers in the Field

9:00am-12:00noon

Community Center Field Trip

B

Join state park's Western Snowy Plover program manager, **Regena Orr**, on the beach to look for Snowy Plovers. Morro Bay area State Parks have the largest concentration of this Federally listed species within the entire State Park System. Learn about their natural history and why they are listed as Federally Threatened. (www.westernsnowyplover.org). **Caravan <25 miles round trip. Easy. Limited**

092 Birds of Sea and Land at Morro Rock

9:00am-12:00noon

Community Center Field Trip

Walk with **Rouvaishyana**, Museum Manager and Park Interpreter, and **Cynthia Hartley**, at Morro Rock to watch cormorants, gulls of various species and age classes, Brown Pelicans, and maybe a Common Murre or other surprise. The Rock is also home to two pairs of nesting Peregrine Falcons, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Common Yellowthroat, various sparrows and the elusive Canyon Wren. **Caravan <5 miles round trip. Easy. Limited**

093 Birding from the Balcony

10:00am-12:00noon

Museum of Natural History Presentation

B W

9/19/2011

Join State Park Docent **Tony Krause** on the Museum balcony overlooking the Morro Bay Estuary to watch birds around the Bay through a scope. This **drop-in session** is geared to families and the casual birdwatcher and is **open to the general public. Easy. Unlimited**

AFTERNOON -----

094 Birds in Art at Hearst Castle

12:30pm-5:00pm *Community Center Field Trip* *B* **\$60**

Join **Hearst Castle Guides** for a short PowerPoint presentation before touring the Castle. Over 100 birds in European, Chinese and Persian art will delight as you walk through our "aviary" on the hilltop. In nature birds hide in the foliage; at the Castle they are hiding in the art and decor. Bring binoculars and camera to search them out in tiles and tapestries, paintings, and pottery, cabinets and carpets, upholstery and lamps. Learn about the symbolism of various birds, along with descriptions of the artists and the importance of birds to the medieval mind. At the conclusion of the tour at 4 pm, you may leave, or are free to stroll and bird the gardens until final hill departure around 5 pm. **Caravan 65 miles round trip. Strenuous, many steps. Limited**

095 Butterflying: A Perfect Complement to Birding

1:00pm-2:30pm *Museum of Natural History Presentation* *B W*

With the advent of inexpensive close-focusing binoculars and a new generation of field guides, many people, especially birders, are discovering the joys and rewards of butterfly-watching. Since birds are most often active early and late in the day, while butterflies are generally most active in the middle of the day, butterflying perfectly complements birding. During this entertaining, beautiful, and informative digital presentation, **Bill Bouton** will explain techniques for finding and enjoying butterflies, describe fascinating life cycles, illustrate butterfly predators in action, and whet your appetite for discovering these beautiful and fascinating creatures for yourself. **Limited**

096 California Raptors Up Close (New)

1:00pm-2:30pm *Community Center Presentation* *W*

Ed Harper's interest in birds of prey goes back many years. He has studied and photographed these birds extensively in North America and Africa as well as having taught classes in raptor identification at the college level. This workshop will focus primarily on birds of prey in California and will provide techniques and methods for field identification. Included are learning key characters and important field marks, discussion of aging techniques and plumage transitions, habitats, specialized characteristics of behavior, and vocalizations.

097 Bay Birding Cruise

1:00pm-2:45pm *Embarcadero Field Trip* **\$30**

Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary with **Tom Edell** in an open-deck 34-foot power catamaran. View a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl, often at very close range. The boat will move slowly enough for you to see details of many species that you normally see only through a scope from shore. Good photo opportunities, but no tripods. Dress warmly. **Meet at Sub Sea Tours, Marina Square, 699 Embarcadero # 9. Easy. Limited**

098 Pacific Wildlife Care Tour

1:30pm-2:30pm *Community Center Field Trip* *B C*

9/19/2011

Pacific Wildlife Care Center Director **Jeanette Stone** will lead participants to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Morro Bay. Following a brief presentation, Jeanette will give a tour of the facility. Learn about PWC's work with lead-poisoned birds, fishing hook and line injuries, and the many other causes of illness or injuries treated regularly at the Center. Since PWC is a primary facility under the OWCN (Oiled Wildlife Care Network) emphasis will be placed on the centers rehabilitation process for oil-affected birds. **Caravan <5 miles round trip. Easy. Limited**

099 Identifying Shorebirds for Beginners (New)

1:30pm-4:00pm *Community Center Field Trip* **B**

Join **Larry Allen** for an afternoon of shorebird watching. We will search for representatives of all the species present at Morro Bay, but will pay particular attention to those whose plumages are quite similar at this time of year (dowitchers and peeps), when vocalizations become particularly important as distinguishing characteristics. We will also learn that despite limits to the visual distinctions among some species, there are heuristic methods based on statistical differences that can provide clues.

Caravan 20 miles. Easy. Limited

100 Photo Editing Workshop (New)

1:30pm-4:30pm *Embarcadero, Marina Square Presentation* **W** **\$30**

Ok, you just had the best day ever photographing and the pure volume of images is daunting. You need to clean house and edit what you just did. In three hours professional photographer **Bill Shewchuk** will assist you in organizing, sorting, filing and editing images to create a portfolio you will be proud of. Bring the following: laptop (Mac or P.C.), external portable hard drive (thumb stick type is o.k.), photos to work on, and Photoshop CS4 or CS5 (free 30 day download available at adobe.com)

Practice these skills:

- Use histograms to assess deficiencies in digital images and propose corrections;
- Apply image editing tools to correct noise, brightness/contrast, color and sharpen images;
- Practice using layers to apply non-destructive edits to images;
- Apply retouching, cropping and deskwing tools to improve appearance and composition of digital images;
- Assess advantages and disadvantages of editing RAW image files.

This workshop is for all skill levels. Meet at 601 Embarcadero, Suite 1. Limited

101 Bird Skulls and Dissections

2:00pm-4:30pm *Museum of Natural History Talk/Demonstration* **B**

If you've ever wondered about the muscular and organ systems of birds, this is for you. **Rouvaishyana**, Manager of the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History, has skinned dozens of birds for mounted specimens. Assisted by **Jerry Kirkhart**, he will skin a thawed specimen from the Museum's collection to demonstrate flight and feather positioning muscles, leg movement, skin, and some of the incredible adaptations of bird anatomy to a lifetime of flight. Not for the squeamish, but sure to be fascinating.

Limited

102 Bay Birding Photo Cruise

2:45pm-4:30pm *Embarcadero Field Trip* **\$30**

Join local expert photographer **Mike Baird** (www.bairdphotos.com) aboard a 34-foot, slow-moving power catamaran and cruise around the estuary. Birds are often close to the boat. Mike will give pointers

9/19/2011

on how best to photograph these water and shore birds on the water and in flight. Dress warmly. No tripods. **Meet at Sub Sea Tours at Marina Square, 699 Embarcadero # 9. Easy. Limited**

103 All About Migration (New)

3:00pm-4:15pm

Community Center Presentation

B W

Every year, millions of birds migrate incredible distances. How and why do they do it? Join **Jessica Griffiths**, who has worked as a field ornithologist for over 10 years, for a fascinating and in-depth look at the phenomenon of bird migration. Learn all about the remarkable adaptations birds have for long-distance travel as we answer such questions as: How do birds know where to go? How do their bodies change to prepare for the journey? How many miles per gallon would a migrating warbler get? The presentation will cover anatomy, physiology, and behavior, and will make use of skeletons, specimens, and the latest scientific research. **Limited**

FESTIVAL WRAP-UP

***SPECIAL EVENT -----**

104 SPECIAL PROGRAM: Stump the Experts

7:00pm-8:30pm

MBHS Multi-Purpose Room

B W

What better way to learn about the finer points of bird identification than by listening to the experts go through the process? Our illustrious panel will include **Jon Dunn** and local experts and will be moderated by **Ed Harper**. The panel will be presented with slides of difficult-to-identify bird groups (such as Golden-Plovers, winter plumage loons, female goldeneyes, etc.), and then each will mention what features they use to aid in clinching an ID.

MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2012

MORNING--PLEASE NOTE: The Community Center will be closed after 9:30am!-----

105 Pontoon Boat Ride on Lopez Lake

7:15am-12:00noon

Community Center Field Trip

\$15

Join Park Ranger **Chuck Woodard** and **Jan Surbey** aboard a pontoon boat to look for Bald Eagles, Osprey and migratory waterfowl. Bring binoculars and a warm jacket but leave the scope behind. **Caravan 80 miles round trip. Limited**

106 Bird Multiple Habitats

7:30am-12:00noon

Community Center Field Trip

Observe the different birds found at San Simeon State Park by the creek, wetlands, chaparral, and pine forest habitats, with State Park Docents **Phil** and **Carole Adams**. Expect a variety of land birds including Pygmy Nuthatches. **Caravan 50 miles round trip. Moderate. Limited**

107 Eco-Friendly Halter Ranch

7:30am-12:00noon

Community Center Field Trip

Drive through oak woodland along North County back roads with **Roger Zachary** to Halter Ranch for a tour of an environmentally sensitive vineyard. See raptors and Yellow-billed Magpies as you drive, and

9/19/2011

learn how vineyard owners conserve natural habitat to preserve birds and other wildlife. **Bring a lunch** and sample a few varieties. **Caravan 75 miles round trip; or for those en route north toward home the Ranch is 18 miles round trip from Rte 101 in Paso Robles. Easy. Limited**

108 Kayaking

7:45am-11:00am *State Park Marina Field Trip* **\$45**

Go out on a kayak tour of Morro Bay with **John** and **Virginia Flaherty** and guides at Central Coast Outdoors. Get an opportunity for an up-close view of White Pelicans, Brant, Common Loons, and a host of other migratory waterfowl and shorebirds in their natural habitat. Visit the Heron Rookery, Grassy Island, mudflats and channels of the back bay. We will use double kayaks; no prior kayaking experience needed. Dress in layers with the following guidelines: synthetics or wool, no cotton, windbreaker jacket, hat for sun and wind protection, and shoes that can get wet. *Weather conditions may cancel. Meet at the State Park Marina, State Park Road next to Bayside Cafe, <5 miles round trip. Limited*

109 Harmony Headlands (New)

7:45am-11:45am *Community Center Field Trip*

Join leader **Tom Edell** for a 3-4 mile beginner to intermediate walk from Highway 1 west to the exposed rocky coastline north of Point Estero. Habitat ranges from grasslands to freshwater pond /wetland to rocky shoreline. Expect waterfowl, herons, egrets, raptors, shorebird, gulls, and sparrows. Rain cancels. **Caravan 24 miles round trip. Moderate. Limited**

110 Las Cruzitas Ranch, Santa Barbara County

7:45am-2:00pm *Buellton Field Trip* **B W**

Designed for those driving home from the festival toward the south. Meet at Albertson's Parking Lot in Buellton, CA (Hwy 246 east exit from 101). This is 75 miles south of Morro Bay! Meet **Peter Dullea** (cell 805-350-1304) in Buellton, and at 7:45am SHARP the caravan leaves for Las Cruzitas, a private 1,500-acre cattle ranch including oak grassland and sage-covered canyons. You will be met by **Cruz Phillips**, the ranch owner, who will lead the trip. Expect to see Yellow-billed Magpies, Vesper and Lark Sparrows, Band-tailed Pigeons, Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Golden Eagles, and possibly Burrowing Owls, Prairie Falcons, Phainopeplas, Red-naped Sapsuckers and Lewis' Woodpeckers. At least 30 species are seen from the ranch house bird feeders alone, so folks who cannot walk far can sit in the yard and have a great time birding. **Bring lunch. 175 miles round trip drive from Morro Bay. Easy. Limited**

111 Montana de Oro Campground, Cove & Bluffs

8:00am-12:00noon *Community Center Field Trip*

Bird with **Steve Griffith** in a spectacular 8,600-acre state park with untamed coastline and coastal uplands. Expect rocky-shore shorebirds, water birds, raptors, and passerines in various habitats. Includes 1-2 miles of slow walking. **Caravan 20 miles round trip. Moderate. Limited**

112 Spectacular Bishop Peak–Feldsman Loop

8:00am-12:00noon *Community Center Field Trip*

On a clear day, from the Feldsman Loop Trail of Bishop Peak, hikers can see all the way to Morro Rock, including the volcanic peaks between. Join ECOSLO's **Jodee Bennett**, and **Eric Brunschwiler** for breathtaking scenery and birding through oak woodland, grassland, chaparral, and riparian willow

9/19/2011

habitats (but not to the top of Bishop Peak). **Caravan 25 miles round trip. Strenuous hike of 3 miles. Limited**

113 Bird/Plant Connection–Coon Creek

8:15am-12:00noon *Community Center Field Trip* **B C**

Travel with State Park Interpreter **Rouvaishyana** and State Park Environmental Scientist **John Sayers** down the Coon Creek trail to discover the interrelationship between birds and plants. Learn how native plants support bird life with habitat, protection from predators, shelter, food and nesting material. In return, birds aid plants with seed dispersal, seed coat scarification and other services. **Caravan 20 miles round trip. Moderate. 1-3 mile walk. Limited**

114 Bay and Sandspit Birding (New)

8:30am-10:45am *Community Center Field Trip* **\$20**

Cruise the bay with **Maggie Smith** and **Ross Schaefer** in a covered 30-foot pontoon boat, looking at waterfowl, shorebirds, and other birds from the boat. Go ashore on the Sandspit for a closer look at some of these birds and those that frequent dune habitats. The boat will return to pick you up, returning to the dock amid more birds. Two hours includes your time ashore. **Easy. Limited**

115 Whale-Watching Whiffet

8:30am-12:00noon *Montana de Oro Field Trip* **B**

The gray whales are now in their long migration from Alaska to Baja California. The first to pass are pregnant females. Join State Park Docent **Tony Krause** at a vantage point near Point Buchon where you should be able to view them. **Meet at the end of the road in Montana de Oro State Park. Moderate 1 mile walk. General public museum event. Unlimited**

116 Bay Birding Cruise

9:00am-10:45am *Embarcadero Field Trip* **\$30**

Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary with leader **Kaaren Perry** in an open-deck 34-foot power catamaran. View a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl, often at very close range. The boat will move slowly enough for you to see details of many species that you normally see only through a scope from shore. Good photo opportunities, but no tripods. Dress warmly. **Meet at Sub Sea Tours, Marina Square, 699 Embarcadero # 9. Easy. Limited**

117 Mind Walk: Power and Pitfalls of Reliable Bird Counts

10:15am-12:00noon *Museum of Natural History Presentation* **W**

It's hard enough to find a bird even when you know it's there. So many conservation and management decisions are based on estimates of bird abundance. How good are these estimates? How can we make them better? What are the issues anyway? Come find out from **Dr. Francis Villablanca**, biology professor at Cal Poly University, San Luis Obispo, who has had to answer these exact questions.