

MORRO BAY WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL PROGRAM 2011

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 2011

ALL DAY -----

001 Carrizo Plain National Monument

6:30am-4:30pm *Community Center Field Trip* **\$60**

Join **Sam Fitton 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 Little Big Day

6:45am-2:00pm *Community Center Field Trip* **\$60**

Same as our traditional Big Day, but 2 hours shorter. Join **Rich Hansen** on this rather fast-paced tour of many of the local birding hot-spots. Expect nearly 100 species, including specialties and rarities. 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 Hiking Big Day (New)

7:00am-4:00 pm *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**

005 Santa Margarita Lake Big Day (New)

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

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. (No boat charge.) Caravan 70-90 miles round trip. Limited

006 Oso Flaco Lake-Oceano Area

7:30am-3:00pm *Community Center Field Trip* **\$40**

Bird with **Maggie Smith**. 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. **Travel with leader in van.** (www.dunescenter.org/ottoso.htm) **Bring lunch. Moderate. Limited**

007 Las Cruzitas Ranch, Santa Barbara County

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

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-----

008 Bird Sounds in the Field

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

Accompany **Bob Barnes**, Kern River Valley Spring Nature Festival Field Trips Chair, into the field to experience bird sounds while exploring local woodland habitats. Pick up tips for learning vocalizations to enhance your overall bird ID skills and birding enjoyment. **Caravan 15 to 20 miles round trip. Moderate. 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 researcher **Jodi Isaacs**, State Parks Environmental Scientist. 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

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**

011 Hike 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**

012 Field Sketching Shorebirds

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

Learn to make quick field sketches of shorebirds from wildlife artist **John Muir Laws**. Then go out in the field to practice these techniques. Become more observant while documenting your birding experiences. No previous drawing is necessary. *Materials: soft pencil, colored pencils or watercolors, small sketch book (8 ½ x 11”), portable seat, water, carry bag.* **Caravan 30 miles round trip. Easy to moderate. Limited**

013 Birding at Hearst State Beach

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

Bird Hearst State Beach and explore the pier, the park, and the old buildings on SLO-San Simeon Road with **Michele Roest**, formerly with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and **Dave Berry**, retired Park Ranger. Finish at the new Coastal Discovery Center to view exhibits and enjoy the live rainbow trout tank, video voyages to the deep sea, a talking tide pool, and photos of local wildlife. **Caravan 50 miles round trip. Moderate. Limited**

014 Photographic Hot Spots With Birds! (New)

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

Bring a camera along with your binoculars to photograph and observe local scenic hot spots with birds. You'll caravan with **Linda Tanner** who will offer tips on capturing images from birds to panoramas while visiting four uniquely beautiful locations around the bay. Optional coffee/snacks at Baywood Pier; then end at Sweet Springs Nature Preserve. Photo opportunities abound. All locations are easily accessible. See Linda's photography at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/goingslo/>. **Caravan. Easy. Limited**

015 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**

016 Morro Bay Shoreline Walk

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

Walk with **Rouvaishyana**, Museum of Natural History Manager, and **Randy Bello**, Docent, along Bayshore Bluffs Park, past the Inn at Morro Bay, the Heron Rookery, Museum of Natural History, and into the salt marsh. Expect to see 40-50+ species of shorebirds, wading birds, waterfowl, and some birds of prey. Check eucalyptus groves in the Morro Bay State Park campground for songbirds, owl nesting/roosting area (time permitting) and wintering Monarch butterflies. Optional: stop at a café for lunch before heading back to the Community Center. **Caravan 4 miles round trip to first stop**, then walk. **Moderate. Limited**

017 Eco-Friendly Wolff Vineyards

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. Fish habitat is being restored on two boundary creeks. **Steve Griffith** will help with bird ID. **Bring a lunch** and sample a few varietals. **Caravan 45 miles round trip. Easy. Limited**

018 Basics of Bird ID

8:30am-12:00noon *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 #026 (first 20 only). **Limited**

019 Kayaking

8:45am-12:00noon *Community Center 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.* **Caravan <5 miles round trip. Limited**

020 Bay Birding Cruise

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

Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary with leader 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**

021 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, Black-crowned Night-Heron and Sora. 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*

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 Bird Nest Boxes and You

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

024 Carrizo Plain National Monument

1:00pm-2:15pm *Community Center Presentation* **W**

This vast and fascinating natural area of our east county is one of America's newest national monuments. In an impressive Bureau of Land Management slide show, presented by **Kathy Sharum**, BLM Wildlife Biologist, Carrizo National Monument, and **Greg Smith**, biologist and former State Park Superintendent, you will see the tumultuous San Andreas Fault, the fascinating salty Soda Lake, the spectacular wildflowers and the vast grasslands. Learn about Carrizo Plain's unique and endangered birds and other creatures and how they have adapted to this hostile environment. **Limited**

025 Bay Birding Photo Cruise

1:00pm-2:45pm *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 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**

026 Basics of Bird ID in the Field

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

Join **Bill Bouton, Dick Boyd, Rebecca Fay** and **Ralph Cass** in the field for the second part of the “Basics of Bird ID” workshop. (See event #018, which is a prerequisite to this event.) Bring binoculars and your field guide. **Caravan <5 miles round trip. Easy. Limited**

027 Pacific Wildlife Care Tour

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

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. As 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

028 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**

029 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**

030 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**

031 Bats in the Belfry – Hearst Castle

3:30pm-9:00pm *Community Center Field Trip* **\$100**

Take an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of Hearst Castle (parts of all four public castle tours) with biologist and former State Park Superintendent **Greg Smith** and **Regena Orr**, and learn how nine species of bats use the castle as a roosting and foraging site. Watch the sun set as the van climbs the 1,800-foot elevation gain to the top of the mountain. Bring a flashlight. (Fee includes \$50 donation to Friends of Hearst Castle.) **Travel in a**

van. Boxed dinner provided. (www.hearstcastle.com) **Strenuous, with many steps.**
Limited

032 Dinner and Owling

3:30pm-11:00pm *Community Center Field Trip* **\$60**

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*

033 Festival Opening Reception

5:00pm-6:30pm *Community Center Special Event* **W**

Enjoy wine and cheese and meet fellow birders at the Vendor Fair. 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! Meet artist and field guide author, **John Muir Laws**, who will sign his books. *Limited*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 2011

ALL DAY -----

034 Important Bird Area: Carrizo Plain

6:30am-4:30pm *Community Center Field Trip* **\$60**

Discover why the Carrizo Plain National Monument is listed as a California Important Bird Area, with leader **Andrea Jones**, IBA Program Coordinator for Audubon California. 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*

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 7:30am. 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, Wes Fritz** 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 (New)

7:00am-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 Sketching Waterfowl

7:15am-2:00pm *Community Center Field Trip*

Learn to make quick field sketches of waterfowl at nearby locations with wildlife artist **John Muir Laws**. Become more observant and document your bird experience, maybe for a rare bird sighting. No previous drawing is necessary. *Materials: soft pencil, colored pencils, or watercolors, small sketchbook (8 1/2 x 11"), portable seat, water, carry bag.* **Bring lunch. Caravan 50 miles. Easy to moderate. Limited**

039 Santa Maria Valley

7:30am-3:00pm *Community Center Field Trip* **\$60**

Travel with **Jamie Chavez** 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, 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 -----

040 Bird Sounds in the Field

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

Accompany **Bob Barnes**, Kern River Valley Spring Nature Festival Field Trips Chair, into the field to experience bird sounds while exploring local woodland habitats. Pick up tips for learning vocalizations to enhance your overall bird ID skills and birding enjoyment. **Caravan 15 to 20 miles round trip. Moderate. 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 researcher **Regena Orr**. 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 Cycling and Birding Around Morro Bay (New)

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

Join **Jim Royer** for a birding tour of the Morro Bay area on bicycle and on foot. Length: 8-10 mile loop with a couple of moderate hills, and short walks. Start and end at the Community Center. Bring: multi-speed bicycle, lock, helmet (required), water, snacks, tools, spare tube. 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. *Limited to eight riders.*

043 Estero Bluffs for Beginners

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

Join leader **Rick Austin** for a slow-paced beginner 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*

Similar to #43 but intended for intermediates and advanced birders.

With Kaaren Perry. Limited

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

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

Art and Kelly Vandenheuvel host this field trip to their 1200-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 20 miles 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 for Beginners

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

048 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: #30. **Caravan <30 miles. Easy. Limited**

049 Birding Cal Poly Canyon

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

Take a creekside walk with **Craig Fiehler** up Poly Canyon through riparian, coastal scrub, and rock outcrop communities. Expect to see Oak Titmice, Cedar Waxwings, Nuttall’s Woodpeckers, Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Band-tailed Pigeons and many more species. About 1.5 miles walk, round trip. Visit other birding hot spots on campus as time permits. **Caravan 25 miles round trip. Moderate, but with limited restroom facilities. Limited**

050 Kayaking

8:45am-12:00noon *Community Center 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.* **Caravan <5 miles round trip. Limited**

051 Bay Birding Cruise

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

Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary with **Steve Griffith** 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**

052 Birding from the Balcony

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

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-----

053 Birds in Art at Hearst Castle (New)

12:55pm-4:55pm *Community Center Field Trip* **\$55**

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. Just like in nature where 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. **Caravan 65 miles round trip. Strenuous, many steps. Limited**

054 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 Falcon, 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.

055 The California Condor Recovery Program

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

056 Bay Birding Cruise

1:00pm-2:45pm

Embarcadero Field Trip

\$30

Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary with **Sam Fitton** 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

057 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**

058 Selection and Care of Binoculars and Scopes

1:00pm-3:00pm

Community Center Presentation

B W

Learn the basics of choosing optics for birding. The session led by **Marilyn Rose** will cover optics nomenclature and design, discussing the differences in size, quality and construction of optics. Designed to help the optical neophyte choose a binocular or spotting scope for birding and general nature viewing, and as a review for the more optically aware. Samples from various manufacturers will be available to illustrate. We can evaluate your optical equipment as time permits. **Limited**

059 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**

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

061 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: #30. **Caravan <30 miles. Easy. Limited**

062 Photoshop for Birders

1:00pm-5:00pm

St. Timothy's Presentation

W

If you are new to digital photography and you want to know more about how to control the process—from recording the image to making corrections—this is a good workshop for you, led by **Marlin Greene**. Specifically focused on how to enhance bird images.

"My approach is to help the photographer understand that the image is an illusion, at best a convincing estimate of what you saw. Photoshop is a daunting program that has many more features than most people will need to enhance a photograph - we will illustrate the use of the tools that are most important for photographers to use in creating better illusions. Every image is comprised of light, color and composition. We will approach the creation of better images by understanding how to manipulate these three basic elements using Photoshop tools."

Topics include: RAW vs JPG, computer color modes - RGB, CMYK, sizing and saving images for print and Internet, correcting exposure - light and shadow control, correcting

color, the tool palette, layers, sharpening, retouching, enhancing shadow and light detail and composition.

A computer is not necessary, but attendees may bring a laptop and follow the demonstrations if they do not interrupt the class with computer-related questions.

Limited

063 Morro Bay Shoreline Walk

1:15pm-4:00pm *Community Center Field Trip*

Walk with **Rouvaishyana**, Museum of Natural History Manager, and **Randy Bello**, Docent, along Bayshore Bluffs Park, past the Inn at Morro Bay, the Heron Rookery, Museum of Natural History, and into the salt marsh. Expect to see many species of shorebirds, wading birds, waterfowl, and some birds of prey. Check eucalyptus groves in the Morro Bay State Park campground for songbirds, owl nesting/roosting area (time permitting) and wintering monarch butterflies. **Caravan 4 miles round trip to first stop**, then walk. **Moderate. Limited**

064 Bird Skeletons: The Inside Story (New)

1:30pm-3:00pm *Community Center Presentation* *B W*

Birds have uniquely modified skeletons. They are shaped by requirements to be light-weight and exist in their present form due to inheritance from ancestors. This program, presented by **Ron Ruppert**, biology professor at Cuesta College, will examine the many bird skeletons in the college collection including fully articulated Ostrich and Brown Pelican. Also learn about skeletal preparation. **Caravan 12 miles round trip. Easy.**

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 Falcon, 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.

067 Bay Birding Cruise

3:00pm-4:45pm

Embarcadero Field Trip

\$30

Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary with leader 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**

068 KEYNOTE SPEAKER: John Muir Laws, "Finding Connection in Nature"

7:00pm-8:30pm

MBHS Special Event

W

John Muir said "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe". Join us for an exciting evening of appreciation of some of the most astounding and unappreciated species in the Sierra Nevada. In this illustrated lecture, John (Jack) Muir Laws (no relation to the other John Muir) will help us follow a series of astounding relationships between plants and animals from coastal California. You will be delighted and amazed by the subtle and essential threads that connect species. Jack will also discuss some of the conservation challenges in the region and what stewards of nature are doing to confront them. Whether you're a botanist, birder or hiker, don't miss this great opportunity to enrich your next exploration in the Golden State!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 2011

ALL DAY-----

069 Carrizo Plain National Monument

6:30am-4:30pm

Community Center Field Trip

\$60

Discover why the Carrizo Plain National Monument is listed as a California Important Bird Area with **Sam Fitton** 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**

070 Condor Country

6:45am-4:30pm

Community Center Field Trip

\$60

Ride with **Steve Schubert** or **Nick Todd** 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**

071 Big Day

7:00am-4:00pm

Community Center Field Trip

\$60

See loons to sparrows with **Wes Fritz** and **Cher Hollingworth** 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**

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. 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 Bird Sounds in the Field

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

Accompany **Bob Barnes**, Kern River Valley Spring Nature Festival Field Trips Chair, into the field to experience bird sounds while exploring local woodland habitats. Pick up tips for learning vocalizations to enhance your overall bird ID skills and birding enjoyment. **Caravan 15 to 20 miles round trip. Moderate. Limited**

074 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**

075 Morro Bay State Park Walk (New)

7:45am-11:00am *Community Center Field Trip*

Caravan to the Morro Bay State Park Marina then walk to bird six different habitats with naturalist **Greg Smith**. Scope mudflats, open water and salt marsh for wintering shorebirds, waterfowl and other water birds. Then head into the campground to bird through coastal scrub, pine forest and along the golf course edges. Linger for lunch at a nearby cafe if time permits. **Caravan <5 miles. Moderate. Limited**

076 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.pelicannetwork.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**

077 Estero Bluffs

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

Join leaders **Maggie Smith** and **Eric Brunschweiler**, or **Kaaren Perry** 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**

078 Mushroom Walk

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

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**

079 Birding Cal Poly Campus & Nearby Areas

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

Visit birding hot-spots on Cal Poly Campus with **Jennifer Moonjian** and **Craig Fiehler** looking for a variety of birds, including the hard-to-find Tri-colored Blackbird. As time permits, visit nearby El Chorro Regional Park and Cuesta College Campus. **Caravan 30 miles round trip. Moderate. Limited**

080 Montana de Oro Campground, Cove & Bluffs

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

Bird with **Linda Tanner** 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**

081 Introduction to Birding

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

This field class is for novice birders. Caravan 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**

082 Kayaking

8:45am-12:00noon *Community Center 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.* **Caravan <5 miles round trip. Limited**

083 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, slow-moving 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**

084 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, Black-crowned Night-Heron and Sora. 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**

085 Snowy Plovers in the Field

9:00am-12:00noon

Community Center Field Trip

Join **Aurianna Woodson** as you explore the beach for Western Snowy Plovers and learn about their habits. Hear the life history of this small bird and why it is listed as a Federally Threatened species. (www.westernsnowyplover.org). **Caravan <25 miles round trip. Easy. Limited**

086 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**

087 Birding from the Balcony

10:00am-12:00noon

Museum of Natural History Presentation B C W

Join State Park Docent **Jerry Kirkhart** 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.** **<5 mile round trip. Easy. Unlimited**

AFTERNOON -----

088 Birds in Art at Hearst Castle (New)

12:55pm-4:55pm *Community Center Field Trip* **\$55**

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. Just like in nature where 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. **Caravan 65 miles round trip. Strenuous, many steps. Limited**

089 The Great Blue Herons of Morro Bay

1:00pm-2:15pm *Museum of Natural History Presentation* **W**

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**

**090 The Peregrine Falcon Recovery -
An Opportunity for Conservation Education (New)**

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

Glenn Stewart will discuss and take questions on the natural history and population recovery of the Peregrine Falcon plus the recent emergence of "fledge-watch" activities at urban nest sites where SCPBRG has falcon nest cameras. Glenn is a program manager for SCPBRG (Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Recovery Group) and a professor at UC Santa Cruz. **Limited**

091 Butterflying: A Perfect Complement to Birding

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

092 Bay Birding Cruise

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

Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary with leader **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

093 Photoshop for Birders

1:00pm-5:00pm *St. Timothy's Presentation* **W**

If you are new to digital photography and you want to know more about how to control the process—from recording the image to making corrections—this is a good workshop for you, led by **Marlin Greene**. Specifically focused on how to enhance bird images.

"My approach is to help the photographer understand that the image is an illusion, at best a convincing estimate of what you saw. Photoshop is a daunting program that has many more features than most people will need to enhance a photograph - we will illustrate the use of the tools that are most important for photographers to use in creating better illusions. Every image is comprised of light, color and composition. We will approach the creation of better images by understanding how to manipulate these three basic elements using Photoshop tools."

Topics include: RAW vs JPG, computer color modes - RGB, CMYK, sizing and saving images for print and Internet, correcting exposure - light and shadow control, correcting color, the tool palette, layers, sharpening, retouching, enhancing shadow and light detail and composition.

A computer is not necessary, but attendees may bring a laptop and follow the demonstrations if they do not interrupt the class with computer-related questions.

Limited

094 Pacific Wildlife Care Tour

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

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. As 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

095 Anatomy of a Bird (New)

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

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. 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**

096 Bay Birding Cruise

2:45pm-4:30pm

Embarcadero Field Trip

\$30

Enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary with leader 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

FESTIVAL WRAP-UP

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

097 SPEAKER: Kara Hagedorn: "Sunshine's Mothering Miracle- Lessons Learned from a Red-tailed Hawk"

7:00pm-8:30pm

MBHS Special Event

B C W

Join raptor biologist **Kara Hagedorn** and **Sunshine**, an injured Red-tailed Hawk, for an entertaining and informative story about raptor adoption. Every year Sunshine builds a nest and lays infertile eggs. In April, 2008, Kara and Sunshine were given a two-day old Red-shouldered hawk chick and a peeping egg. Hear Sunshine's story and learn the details of raptor reproduction, development and behavior.

MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 2011

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

098 Kayaking

7:15am-10:30am

Community Center 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. Caravan <5 miles round trip. Limited*

099 Pontoon Boat Ride on Lopez Lake

7:15am-12:00noon

Community Center Field Trip

\$20

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**

100 Bird Search - Last Chance

7:15am-12:00noon

Community Center Field Trip

This event is especially designed for the out-of-state or out-of-the-area birder. Great for intermediate and advanced birders wanting to add to their "life list", "California list", etc,

or just to look for some of the area's rarer birds, but open to all. Meet with leaders **Wes Fritz, Mike Stiles, Craig Fiehler** and others to get specific directions and strategy to find the birds on your "wish list". Participants will then caravan with leaders to search for as many of the "wish list" birds as time and distance permit. **Caravan variable distances. Generally easy. Limited**

101 Birds in Art at Hearst Castle (New)

7:30am-11:30am *Community Center Field Trip* **\$55**

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. Just like in nature where 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. **Caravan 65 miles round trip. Strenuous, many steps. Limited**

102 Hike 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**

103 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 learn how vineyard owners conserve natural habitat to preserve birds and other wildlife. **Bring a lunch** and sample a few varietals. **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**

104 Estero Bluffs

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

Join leader **Tom Edell** or **Maggie Smith** for a slow-paced, beginner 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**

105 Las Cruzitas Ranch, Santa Barbara County

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

106 Montana de Oro Campground, Cove & Bluffs

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

Bird with **Greg Smith** 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**

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

108 Bird/Plant Connection – Coon Creek

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

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**

109 Whale-Watching Whiffet

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

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**

110 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**

111 Mind Walk: How Will California Birds React to Climate Change?

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

What is the prospect for California birds during a period of climate change? Audubon California has identified 145 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) that provide more than 10 million acres of essential habitat for breeding, wintering and migrating birds. Analysis of future climate models indicates that most IBAs will protect many sensitive bird species, but some species will not prosper. **Andrea Jones**, Audubon California's IBAs program director, will discuss the most resilient species and how IBAs provide critical habitat and how habitats or bird species may adapt in the future.

FAMILY DAY: SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 2011

All ages are welcome: family groups must include at least one adult. Each child five years old or younger must be accompanied by an adult on all events and field trips. The cost is \$35 per family group, or is included with regular Festival registration. An extra charge \$10 is charged for Kayaking for families.

All events and field trips originate at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History in the State Park unless otherwise noted. Field trips go weather permitting.

F01 Beginning Birding

9:30am-10:15am *Field Trip* **B C**

Learn to use binoculars and field guides during a short birding walk from the Museum. With Audubon leaders **Stephanie Little, Jen Moonjian, Jared Bigler**.

F02 Why Here?

10:15am-11:00am *Field Trip* **B C**

Practice using binoculars while searching for specific birds in different habitats from the Museum to the top of nearby White Point. With State Park Docent **Chuck Mills**.

F03 Kayaking in the Bay

10:30am-12:00noon *Embarcadero Field Trip* **B C** **\$10**

Paddle around the bay in search of birds and other wildlife. Participants under the age of 10 must be accompanied by an adult. Meet at Sub Sea Tours at Marina Square, 699 Embarcadero #9, \$10 per person kayak rental fee. With Camp Ocean Pines staff: **Tyler Korte, Chris Cameron, Robyn Irwin**.

F04 Bird-For-A-Day

11:00am-12:00noon *Activity* **B C**

Acquire a bird "name" during this 3 part program which will rotate participants

through 3 different stations: fun with bird history and IDs, fun with bird mouth parts, and fun with feathers and bird colors, the common threads being FUN and BIRDS!" With State Park Docents **Jerry Kirkhart, Karen Watts, Chuck Mills.**

F05 Rubbing Noses with Reptiles

11:00am-12:00noon

Activity

B C W

Up close and hands-on experiences with reptiles. With biologist **Dennis Sheridan.**

F06 Picnic Lunch and Recess

12:00noon-12:45pm

Bring your own lunch or order a box lunch in advance from the Festival.

F07 Puppet Show

12:45pm-1:10pm

Presentation

B C W

Relax and enjoy this "all ages" show featuring Great Blue Herons. With State Park Docent **Linda Winters.**

F08 PWC - 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 Falcon, 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 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.

F09 Critter Crawl

1:10pm-2:00pm

Field Trip

B C

Crawl, creep, or slither along searching for bugs, insects, spiders, reptiles (and maybe some birds) around the State Park grounds. With County Park Ranger **Chuck Woodard.**

F10 Birds and their Tool Kits

1:10pm-2:00pm

Presentation

B C W

Enjoy close-up views of mounted birds that will show how their bills, feet, and feathers enable them to live in their part of the world. With State Park Docent **Tony Krause.**

F11 Learn to Track

1:10pm-2:00pm

Field Trip

B C

Attune yourself to animal movements by following tracks and signs with retired State Park Ranger **Dave Berry.** After a short orientation, the group will proceed to the shoreline area of the State Park to search for fresh "tracks". *Limited*

F12 PWC - 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 Falcon, and a Peregrine Falcon. These birds are educational ambassadors for Pacific Wildlife Care, a nonprofit wildlife rehabilitation center in Morro Bay. During the presentation 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.

FAMILY SPECIAL EVENT: SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 2011

F13 "Sunshine's Mothering Miracle-Lessons Learned from a Red-tailed Hawk".

7:00pm-8:30pm

MBHS Special Event

B C W

Join raptor biologist **Kara Hagedorn** and **Sunshine**, an injured Red-tailed Hawk, for an entertaining and informative story about raptor adoption. Every year Sunshine builds a nest and lays infertile eggs. In April, 2008, Kara and Sunshine were given a two-day old Red-shouldered hawk chick and a peeping egg. Hear Sunshine's story and learn the details of raptor reproduction, development and behavior.