

# MBBF 2019 Events

## Field Trip & Workshop Descriptions

Travel miles to the start of field trips are estimated as one-way from the Festival headquarters in Watsonville. Carpooling is encouraged and ride share participants are encouraged to share entrance fees when applicable. Listed times are departure times! Please check in 15 minutes prior to the listed time.

### FRIDAY EVENTS

#### FIELD TRIPS

##### **101. BIG SUR RIVERMOUTH and CALIFORNIA CONDORS**

Date/Time: Friday, 9/20/19, 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.

\$10 per car entrance fee, unless you have an annual pass—pay at park

Trip Leader: Eric Feuss

This trip takes you birding in one of the world's most spectacular locations – Big Sur! Field trip leaders will take you to Andrew Molera State Park, a premier vagrant trap on the West Coast. Afterward, we'll spend time looking for condors in likely spots along Highway 1. Participants should bring plenty of water to drink, lunch, and sunscreen for this all-day trip.

Transportation: Carpooling is recommended, as is a full tank of gas. Car caravan leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza at 6 a.m. Andrew Molera State Park is approximately 50 miles from Watsonville. Those not traveling in the caravan may meet at 7:15 a.m. at the Ventana Discovery Center/Andrew Molera State Park. VERY IMPORTANT: PLEASE CALL the festival to alert the leader if you plan to meet at the park entrance: 888-909-7829

Activity: Moderate. Travel: approx. 50 mi. one way to start of trip.

##### **102. CALIFORNIA SPECIALTIES**

Date/Time: Friday, 9/20/19, 6:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Trip Leader: Kamaran Arul

This trip focuses on seeing birds unique to California and the Western United States, such as Yellow-billed Magpie, California Thrasher, Wrentit, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Snowy Plover, California Towhee, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Clark's Grebe, White-tailed Kite, and many more. Ranging from Pacific beaches to the Salinas Valley and beyond, this fast-paced trip will help maximize your list of western birds. Perfect for the out-of-state birder, but fun for anyone. Participants should bring lunch, plenty of water to drink, and sunscreen for this all-day trip. *NOTE: Some locations featured in other trips may be visited on this outing.*

Transportation: Car caravan from Watsonville Civic Plaza leaves at 6:30 a.m. Carpooling recommended. Please have a full tank of gas.

Activity: Moderate

##### **103. VAGRANTS AND MORE ON THE CARMEL RIVER SOUTH BANK TRAIL**

Date/Time: Friday, 9/20/19 6:30 a.m. - noon

Trip Leader: Bill Hill

September and fall migration is the time to head to riparian corridors to search for vagrants and rarities not found in the area at any other time of the year. This Carmel Valley hotspot opened to the public in 2011 and has

already collected rarities such as: Blue-winged and Blackpoll plus 8 other Warbler species, Eastern Kingbird, and Red-eyed Vireo. The trail, is a 3-mile round trip that is flat and mostly paved and meanders through multiple habitat types along the Carmel River. Transportation: Car caravan leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza at 6:30 a.m. Activity: Moderate. Travel: approx. 34 mi.

#### **104. BIRDING PAJARO DUNES & RIVERMOUTH**

Dates/Time: Friday, 9/20/19, 7-11:30 a.m.

Leaders: Lisa Larson

Shorebirds, songbirds, and waterfowl are all likely as we visit the varied habitats of Pajaro Dunes. Pajaro means “bird”, and is the perfect name for one of the best places to look for rarities and migrants. Snowy Plovers nest on the dunes themselves, and the Pajaro River Mouth has long been a premier location for shorebirds, gulls and terns. Stands of Monterey Cypress and willow patches provide habitat for a variety of passerines. This trip highlights some of the richest birding areas of the entire Pajaro Valley.

Nearby Shorebirds Pond may also be a birding destination. Interesting warblers and others have been known to show up there during fall migration.

Transportation: Car caravan leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza at 7 a.m.

Activity: Moderate. Travel: approx. 5 mi.

#### **105. WATSONVILLE SLOUGHS**

Date/Time: Friday, 9/20/19, 7-11 a.m.

Trip Leaders: Earl Lebow

This trip will start at the south part of Lee Road, overlooking the west end of Struve Slough. If there is morning sun, the light is nearly perfect to look over the slough. The areas good for viewing both land and water birds. From Lee Road overlook we may go to Harkins Slough, or various locations overlooking Struve Slough, depending on water levels and recent sightings. The entire Watsonville Slough system is excellent for birding, and its preservation and access trails are the result of grassroots conservation efforts and a responsive City Council.

Transportation: Car caravan leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza at 7 a.m.

Activity: Moderate. Travel 2 mi.

#### **106. HATTON CANYON HOT SPOT**

Dates/Time: Friday, 9/20/19, 7:30-11:30 a.m.; Carmel Lagoon optional afternoon activity

Trip Leader: Robert Horn

Hatton Canyon and the Carmel Mission trail involve a leisurely birding walk on flat trails through riparian and tall pines woodlands. This is a heavily forested area with a large number of bird species. Expected are migrating songbirds and hummingbirds, several varieties of woodpeckers, woodland raptors, nonmigratory birds, and other feathered friends. Regularly seen in Hatton Canyon are: Anna’s Hummingbirds; Red-shouldered and Cooper’s Hawks; Band-tailed Pigeons; Nuttall’s, Acorn, and Downy Woodpeckers; California and Spotted Towhees; California Scrub and Steller’s Jays; Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. Wear a hat and sunscreen, bring water.

Transportation: Car caravan meets at Watsonville Civic Plaza at 7:30 a.m. Those not traveling in the caravan may meet at 8 a.m. at the South end of the Carmel High School parking lot near athletic fields of Highway 1. VERY IMPORTANT: PLEASE CALL the festival to alert the leader if you plan to meet at the high school: 888-909-7829

Activity: Easy Travel: 31 mi.

#### **107. PINTO LAKE – AN AREA FAVORITE**

Dates/Times: Friday, 9/20/19, 7:30-11:30 a.m.

Trip Leader: Jeff Manker

Pinto Lake area is home to the Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawk, White-tailed Kite, California Thrasher, woodpeckers, waders, ducks, and songbirds. We'll wander the trails of Pinto Lake County Park searching for these and other birds. This trip is recommended for both beginners and experienced birders as something unusual nearly always shows up.

Transportation: Car caravan leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza at 7:30 a.m.

Activity: Moderate . Travel: 2.7 mi.

### **108. WINE WITH THE BIRDS**

Date/Time: Friday, 9/20/19, 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Trip Fee: **\$28** to cover wine tasting and light lunch

Guide: Debbie Diersch

Drive a short distance to the foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains for a private sampling of five fine wines at one of the area's newest wineries. Named for a Peregrine Falcon, Anatum Winery will host a wine tasting and offer a light lunch to include local artisanal cheeses. Relax on the patio overlooking the vineyard and meet a falconer or two with their trained birds. Hosted by co-owners Aerin Murphy and Christopher Broaddus.

Anatum Winery will offer tour participants a 20% discount off purchased bottles.

Car caravan leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza at 12:30 p.m.

Activity: Easy. Travel: 8 mi.

### **109. BEGINNING BIRDING - Afternoon**

Date/Time: Friday, 9/20/19, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Trip Leader: Bird School Project Instructor

Unsure about how to find birds in your binoculars? Don't know a Great Blue Heron from a Mourning Dove? Or, are you just looking for some tips about how to improve your identification skills? Come join us for an introductory bird walk emphasizing the ABCs of identifying and observing birds in the wild.

Transportation: Car caravan leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza at 1 p.m.

Activity: Moderate. Travel: 4 mi.

### **110. OWLS OF ROBINSON CANYON**

Date/Time: Friday, 9/20/19, 8:30 p.m. – Midnight

Trip Leader: Steve Rovell

These trips always sell out! Robinson Canyon is one of California's most productive owling sites. Western Screech, Great Horned, Barn, and Northern Saw-whet owls are all likely. Northern Pygmy and the endangered Spotted Owl are possibilities. These field trips, limited to 8, area must if you're looking for owls. Bring a flashlight and dress warmly. Please be aware that most owls will only be heard, and not seen.

NOTE: Birding location is approximately 40 miles and a 50 minute drive from the Civic Center Plaza.

Transportation: Car caravan meets at Watsonville Civic Plaza at 8:30 p.m. Meet the leader in the lobby outside of the evening presentation.

Activity: Limited

Maximum number of participants: 8. Travel: 40 mi.

## **FRIDAY WORKSHOPS AND EVENING PRESENTATION**

### **111. OSPREYS OF HARKINS SLOUGH**

Date/Time: Friday, 9/20/2019, 1-2:30 pm

Presenter: Seraphina Landgrebe

Venue: Civic Plaza: Council Chambers

Master photographer, Seraphina Landgrebe, spent five months documenting the life of a pair of Ospreys at Harkins Slough. The result is a spectacular photo journal she captured of the Ospreys' life. In this presentation Seraphina will show the beautiful photos she took and talk about her experience observing and photographing the Ospreys. She took 6,000 images and edited this show into 350 high impact images documenting the life of a pair of Ospreys

Seraphina chose to photograph the lives of the Osprey family because of a growing fascination with their nesting activities. The photo journal tells a story of the trials and challenges of rearing a young chick as the Osprey are attacked by Bald Eagles, other Osprey, and harassed by humans. She states:

“It was a magical experience to photograph and document nature in action. I created this photo journal to illustrate the beauty of nature and the grace of Ospreys. Only through photography can one see the detailed beauty of their wings and feathers.” See more at Seraphina's website [www.seraphina.com](http://www.seraphina.com) Go to this spot to view birds on the web site: <https://seraphinalandgrebe.smugmug.com/Portfolio/Birds>

## **112. INTRODUCTION TO SHOREBIRDS WORKSHOP AND FIELD TRIP**

Friday, 9/20/19, 1-5 pm

Presenter: Melinda Nakagawa

Venue: Civic Plaza: Library AND field trip

Shorebirds always present a challenge, especially to new birders. Participants in this class will get to know some of our local coastal birds better and learn how to find them in nature. You'll be introduced to characteristics for identifying birds, tips to help you remember what you see and skills to improve your watching experience. We will begin with an indoor workshop in the Watsonville Library at the Civic Plaza and continue on to a field trip at Jetty Road in Moss Landing to practice elements that we have learned. Suitable for beginning birders and for those who wish to increase their skills.

Car caravan will leave Watsonville Civic Plaza around 2 p.m.

Activity: Limited. Travel: 8 mi.

## **113. MERLIN and E-BIRD WORKSHOP**

Date/Time: Friday, 9/20/19, 2:30-4 pm

Presenter Dr. Brooke Keeney

Venue: Civic Plaza: Council Chambers

Description: This workshop is designed to help bird lovers of all levels explore the applications and capabilities of eBird, Merlin, and other digital ornithology resources from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. eBird is a free, online database of bird observations providing scientists, researchers, and amateur naturalists with current and up-to-date data about bird distributions and abundance. Merlin is a free bird identification app, which offers help for 3,000+ North, Central, and South American, and European bird species, as well as instant photo ID. Workshop coverage will include details on how to get started with Merlin, Merlin Photo ID, and eBird, as well as how to use eBird's data visualization tools to explore both the small- and large-scale impacts and capabilities of citizen science.

## **114. MIDWAY ISLAND and LAYSAN ALBATROSS**

Date/Time: Friday, 9/20/19, 4-5 pm

Presenter: Jan Loomis

Venue: Civic Plaza: Library

Jan Loomis will speak about her recent work on Midway Atoll with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Annual Nesting Albatross Census Team. For nearly six weeks she lived and worked among the largest nesting colony of Laysan Albatross in the world. Through humor, story-telling and photographs she will describe her work on Midway

and give her assessment of the situation and prescription for continued good health of the colony. She will share her observations of the slow-moving crises of climate change and plastic pollution impacting one of the largest breeding colonies of seabirds in the world. She will also discuss how to get involved with some great volunteer bird and conservation opportunities, whether locally or out of the area.

### **115. A DUCK THAT BEHAVES LIKE A CUCKOO—obligate brood parasitism in the Black-headed Duck of Argentina**

Date/Time: Friday, 9/20/19, 4-5:30 pm

Presenter: Dr. Bruce Lyon

Venue: Civic Plaza: Council Chambers

One hundred species of birds are obligate brood parasites—all females in these species only lay eggs in the nests of other species. These parasitic birds are unusual because the lifestyle means that a species depends entirely on other species, the hosts, to raise their offspring. Most of these parasitic birds have altricial or helpless young that require enormous amounts of food and care from the host parents. The single glaring exception to this pattern is the black-headed duck of South America—it is an obligate parasite just like cuckoos and cowbirds, but its young fend for themselves after hatching and should impose far less of a burden on their host parent. To learn more about this enigmatic brood parasite, we conducted a four-year study in the amazing pampas wetlands of Argentina. We wanted to know which waterbirds are used as hosts and to understand the nature of the interactions with those hosts. What we found surprised us and raised interesting questions about why parasitism evolved in this duck. The pampas wetlands are extremely rich in birdlife and, in addition to describing our research on the ducks, I will also highlight the natural history of some of the more prominent and charismatic species in these wetlands.

### **116. OPENING RECEPTION, A TASTE OF THE PAJARO VALLEY**

Date/Time: Friday, 9/20/2019, 5:30 – 7:15 p.m.

Venue: Civic Plaza: Community Rooms

The Festival welcomes all attendees! Socialize with fellow birders and enjoy beverages and appetizers from our Valley's growers, producers, and restaurants. Visit vendors and non-profit organization displays.

**PLEASE REGISTER FOR THIS FREE EVENT, SO WE CAN HAVE AN ATTENDANCE COUNT!**

### **117. FRIDAY KEYNOTE PRESENTATION, THINKING LIKE A NATURALIST: RECLAIMING THE ART OF NATURAL HISTORY**

Date/Time: Friday, 9/20/2019, 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Presenter: John Muir Laws

Cost: Festival pass or \$15 lecture ticket

Venue: Civic Plaza: Council Chambers

Did you know that your powers of observation and curiosity are not static traits but skills that you can develop and enhance? How can you get more out of every nature ramble? Developments in neuropsychology have opened doors in our understanding of the brain and cognition and how you can train yourself to see more and to be more curious about what you discover. Naturalist and illustrator John Muir Laws will demonstrate simple and fun techniques you can incorporate into your own recreational nature study, classroom, or family outings. You will learn an adaptable three-step approach that will dramatically increase your memory and observational skills, focus and heighten your curiosity, help you think more creatively, and give you a framework for exploring mysteries in nature.

# SATURDAY EVENTS

## FIELD TRIPS

### 118. BIG SUR RIVERMOUTH and CALIFORNIA CONDORS

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/29/18, 6 a.m.-6 p.m.

TRIP FEE: \$10 per car entrance fee--pay at park

Trip Leader: Phil Brown

This trip takes you birding in one of the world's most spectacular locations – Big Sur! Field trip leaders will take you to Andrew Molera State Park, a premier vagrant traps on the West Coast. Afterward, we'll spend time looking for condors in likely spots along Highway 1. Participants should bring plenty of water to drink, lunch, and sunscreen for this trip.

Transportation: Carpooling is recommended, as is a full tank of gas. Car caravan leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza at 6 a.m. Andrew Molera State Park is approximately 50 miles from Watsonville. Those not traveling in the caravan may meet at 7:15 a.m. at the Ventana Discovery Center/Andrew Molera State Park. VERY IMPORTANT: PLEASE CALL the festival to alert the leader if you plan to meet at the park entrance: 888-909-7829

Activity: Moderate Travel: 55 mi.

### 119. CALIFORNIA SPECIALTIES

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/21/19, 6:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Trip Leader: Nick Levendosky

This trip focuses on seeing birds unique to California and the Western United States, such as Yellow-billed Magpie, California Thrasher, Wrentit, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Snowy Plover, California Towhee, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Clark's Grebe, White-tailed Kite, and many more. Ranging from Pacific beaches to the foothills to the Salinas Valley, this fast-paced trip will help maximize your list of western birds. Perfect for the out-of-state birder, but fun for anyone. Participants should bring plenty of water to drink, lunches, and sunscreen for this all-day trip. *NOTE: Some locations featured in other trips may be visited on this outing.*

Transportation: Car caravan leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza at 6:30 a.m. Carpooling recommended. Please have a full tank of gas.

Activity: Moderate.

### 120. VAGRANTS AND MORE ON THE CARMEL RIVER SOUTH BANK TRAIL

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/21/2019, 7:30 a.m.-Noon

Trip Leader: Rita Carratello

The Carmel River runs through the recently expanded Palo Corona Regional Park which now includes the retired Rancho Cañada Golf Course and South Bank Trail. This is a natural vagrant trap in the fall. The 2018 field trips saw six species of warblers and six species of sparrows among a wider variety of birds. It's also a good place for out-of-towners build their California state list. The trail is a 2-mile loop that is flat, mostly paved, and meanders through multiple habitat types.

Transportation: Car caravan leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza at 7:30 a.m., or meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot for Palo Corona Regional Park 4860 Carmel Valley Rd., Carmel Valley. **NOTE: PLEASE CALL** the festival to alert the leader if you plan to meet at the park: 888-909-7829.

Activity: Moderate Travel: 34 mi.

### 121. ELKHORN SLOUGH & MOSS LANDING COASTAL BIRDING

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/21/19, 6:30-noon

Trip leader: Chris Soriano

This half-day trip will find us scouring locations such as the mudflats of Moss Landing, visiting the famous Moon Glow Dairy, or checking the freshwater pond of Zmudowski State Beach for the many migrating and wintering shorebirds, gulls, and waterfowl of the region. Peregrine Falcons and Merlin are often attracted to the large flocks of shorebirds, and California sea otters are usually in the area. Come see why Elkhorn Slough has long been a target destination for birders from around the world. Exact itinerary will be determined based on local conditions. Transportation: Car caravan leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza at 6:30 a.m.

Activity: Moderate Travel: approx. 13 mi.

## **122. POINT PIÑOS AND THE MONTEREY PENINSULA**

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/21/19, 6:30-noon

Trip leader: Amanda Preece

Another spectacular destination, including outstanding vagrant traps, rocky shorelines and coastal sea birding. Point Piños is one of the best locations on the west coast for scoping sea birds from land, and there are often Black Oystercatchers, Black & Ruddy Turnstones and Surfbirds feeding along the rocky shore. Migrant land birds, gulls, and California sea otters are certain to be seen as well. Pacific Grove and the Monterey Peninsula present various options for additional stops and feature pine forest birding in addition to the rocky shoreline. For those wishing to spend the afternoon at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, this is very convenient trip.

Transportation: Car caravan leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza at 6:30 a.m.

Activity: Moderate Travel: approx. 30 mi.

## **123. RANCHO DEL OSO AND THE NORTH COAST**

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/21/19, 6:30-noon

Trip leader: David Sidle

Located at the border of Santa Cruz & San Mateo County, Rancho Del Oso provides a wealth of birding habitat; including sandy beaches, the open ocean, the riparian corridor of Waddell Creek, and serves as the coastal gateway to the redwoods of Big Basin State Park. Possible birds include Marbled Murrelet, Snowy Plover, Townsend's Warbler, Wrentit, Pygmy Nuthatch and a wide selection of migrants and wintering passerines. If time permits, we may stop at various coastal destinations during the return trip back to Watsonville.

Transportation: Located about 30 miles north of Watsonville. Car caravan leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza at 6:30 a.m.

Activity: Moderate Travel: 27 mi.

## **124. NATURAL BRIDGES AND WEST CLIFF DRIVE**

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/21/19, 6:30-noon

Trip leader: Alex Rinkert

Another fine destination for migrating songbirds and coastal access. Famous for spectacular gatherings of monarch butterflies, Natural Bridges is also a great birding destination. After our exploration of the park interior and observing birds like California Thrasher, Pygmy Nuthatch and looking for migrants, we'll scan the adjacent rocky shores and open ocean for birds like Black Oystercatchers and perhaps a Surfbird or two, and look for loons, murrelets, Clark & Western Grebes, and perhaps a few Sooty Shearwaters and marauding Parasitic Jaegers. Time permitting, we might visit other local hotspots like Antonelli's Pond or Bethany Curve Park.

Transportation: Located about 15 miles north of Watsonville. Car caravan leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza at 6:30 a.m.

Activity: Moderate Travel: 14 mi.

### **125. A WALK AMONG HAWKS AT UCSC**

Date/Time: Saturday 9/21/19, 7-11 a.m.

Entrance fee: \$5 per person. Free for Arboretum members.

Trip leader: Zeka Glucs

The fields and forests of the UC Santa Cruz campus are home to a diversity of birds of prey. Our group will learn the basics of where to look for raptors and how to quickly identify birds to family, genus, and species. September is migration season for hawks so we will observe both resident birds and passers through. We will begin our walk in the UCSC Arboretum, an internationally famous collection of plant species from the climatically similar regions in Australia and South Africa, and emerge into the Great Meadow above where hawks and vultures are regularly observed hunting and interacting. We will also stop to observe the plentiful array of other bird species that call this campus home, and grow our bird lists as we go. Children are encouraged to attend.

Car caravan leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza at 7 a.m. Those not traveling in the caravan may meet at 7:30 a.m. at UCSC Arboretum. VERY IMPORTANT: PLEASE CALL the festival to alert the leader if you plan to meet at the Arboretum entrance: 888-909-7829

Activity: Easy. Travel: 21 mi.

### **126. BIRDING PAJARO DUNES & RIVERMOUTH**

Dates/Time: Saturday, 9/21/19, 7-11:30 a.m.

Leaders: Lisa Larson

Shorebirds, songbirds, and waterfowl are all likely as we visit the varied habitats of Pajaro Dunes. Pajaro means “bird”, and is the perfect name for one of the best places to look for rarities and migrants. Snowy Plovers nest on the dunes themselves, and the Pajaro River Mouth has long been a premier location for shorebirds, gulls and terns. Stands of Monterey Cypress and willow patches provide habitat for a variety of passerines. This trip highlights some of the richest birding areas of the entire Pajaro Valley.

Nearby Shorebirds Pond may also be a birding destination. Interesting warblers and others have been known to show up there during fall migration.

Transportation: Car caravan leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza at 7 a.m.

Activity: Moderate Travel: 8 mi.

### **127. WATSONVILLE SLOUGHS**

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/21/19, 7-11 a.m.

Trip Leaders: Benny Jacobs Schwartz

This trip will start at the south part of Lee Road, overlooking the west end of Struve Slough. If there is morning sun, the light is nearly perfect to look over the slough. The areas good for viewing both land and water birds. From Lee Road Overlook we may go to Harkins Slough, or various locations overlooking Struve Slough, depending on water levels and recent sightings. The entire Watsonville Slough system is excellent for birding, and its preservation and access trails are the result of grassroots conservation efforts and a responsive City Council.

Transportation: Car caravan leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza at 7 a.m.

Activity: Moderate Travel: 2 mi.

### **128. ELKHORN RANCH BIRDING (SPECIAL ACCESS TRIP)**

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/21/19, 7:00-11:00 a.m.

Trip Leader: Hugo Ceja

This is a rare opportunity to bird on the historic Elkhorn Ranch private property in Moss Landing. Birding is superb here, since there is a freshwater pond, as well as grassy hillsides, oaks, willows, conifers, and a stunning overview of Elkhorn Slough with its abundant wildlife. Bring water, sunscreen, and a hat. Take precautions for

ticks.

Transportation: Car caravan departing Watsonville Civic Plaza at 7:00 a.m. Carpooling is essential since parking is limited.

Activity: Moderate. Travel: 11 mi.

### **129. RAPTORS OF SAN BENITO COUNTY BACKROADS**

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/21/19, 6:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Leader: Steve Johnston

Wander the back roads of San Benito County in a drive-stop-drive trip that's especially good for less mobile birders. There should be an excellent array of raptors and residents such as Rock Wren, Oak Titmouse, . White-breasted Nuthatch, the three local woodpeckers, and Yellow-billed Magpies. But as is often the case, the rock stars of birding trips are often birds of prey. Golden Eagle, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks, possibly several species of falcons, and even wannabe raptors like Loggerhead Shrike can be expected. Transportation: Car caravan leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza. Carpooling is essential to cut down on the number of vehicles on road shoulders. Bring lunch, snacks and drinks--there are no facilities on this trip so expect bush stops; bathrooms are scarce or unavailable. Sunscreen, water, a hat, and a full tank of gas are essentials.

Activity: Easy Travel: approx. 75 mi. round trip.

### **130. BEGINNING BIRDING**

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/21/19, 8-11:30 a.m.

Trip Leader: PSB Instructor

Unsure about how to find birds in your binoculars? Don't know a Great Blue Heron from a Mourning Dove? Or, are you just looking for some tips about how to improve your identification skills? Come join us for an introductory bird walk emphasizing the ABCs of identifying and observing birds in the wild.

Transportation: Car caravan leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza at 8 a.m.

Activity: Moderate

### **131. HARKINS SLOUGH**

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/20/19, 8:30-11:45 a.m.

Trip Leader: Earl Lebow

Special access to the inland side of Harkins Slough will take participants to an area that is rarely birded but has produced a nice variety of vagrants and wintering species in past years. Proximity to the Santa Cruz County landfill assures us of a good variety of gulls for the laru-philes in attendance. We'll follow-up by visiting traditional viewing points of the slough, where state specialties like California Thrasher and White-tailed Kites are expected. Bald Eagle and Osprey nest here, and if water levels are favorable to shorebirds, Peregrine Falcon is regularly sighted.

Transportation: Car caravan leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza at 8:30 a.m. Travel: 3 mi.

Activity: Moderate. Travel: 3 mi.

### **132. OWLS OF ELKHORN SLOUGH**

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/21/19, 7-10 p.m.

Trip Leader: Bruce Elliott

An evening on some of the Elkhorn Slough Reserve trail system searching for local owl species. Great Horned, Western Screech-owls, Barn Owls and possibly Short-eared owls will be the center of our efforts. There are a few short moderate grades along some portions of the walking route. This is a rare opportunity to visit the reserve

after hours. Bring a flashlight and dress warmly. Owls are unpredictable and may only be heard.

Transportation: Car caravan leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza at 7 p.m.

Activity: Moderate. Travel: 13 mi.

### **133. OWLS OF ROBINSON CANYON**

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/21/19, 8:30 p.m. (or whenever the evening program concludes) to after midnight

Trip Leader: Steve Rovell

These trips always sell out! Robinson Canyon is one of California's most productive owling sites. Western Screech, Great Horned, Barn, and Northern Saw-whet owls are all likely. Northern Pygmy and the endangered Spotted Owl are possibilities. These field trips, limited to 8, area must if you're looking for owls. Bring a flashlight and dress warmly. Please be aware that most owls will only be heard, and not seen.

**NOTE:** Starting Location is approximately 40 miles and a 50+ minute drive from the Civic Center Plaza.

Transportation: Car caravan meets at Watsonville Civic Plaza at 8:30 p.m. or after conclusion of evening program. Meet the leader in the lobby outside of the evening presentation.

Activity: Limited. Travel: 40 mi.

## **SATURDAY WORKSHOPS AND EVENING PRESENTATION**

### **134. SKETCHING BIRDS (indoor workshop)**

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/21/19, 8:45 a.m.-Noon

Workshop leader: John Muir Laws

Venue: Watsonville Wetlands Watch Classroom

This workshop will introduce fast drawing techniques that will allow you to draw what you see from live birds. John Muir Laws will introduce you to fundamental anatomy that is essential for accurate sketching and art tricks that help you get the form you see down on paper. In this class we will emphasize ducks, shorebirds, and herons and egrets in preparation for the wetlands field sketching field trip. Bring your own sketchbook, pencils, and a small set of colored pencils. No experience necessary. Transportation: Car caravan leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza at 8:45 a.m. for Watsonville Wetlands Watch classroom on the Pajaro Valley High School Campus.

Travel: 2.5 mi.

### **135. WETLAND FIELD SKETCHING BIRDS (outdoor workshop)**

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/21/19, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Leader: John Muir Laws

Venue: Meet at Festival Headquarters to carpool

Explore wetlands using field sketching techniques to improve your memory and observation skills. You will discover how much more you see and learn from your own observations with a sketchbook in your hand. John Muir Laws will guide participants in best practices in nature journaling, jump starting your own journal work. Bring binoculars, a spotting scope if you have one, your own sketchbook, pencils, and a small set of colored pencils. No experience necessary but this field trip will allow you to practice the techniques you developed in the Sketching Birds workshop #136. However, attending Sketching Birds is not a requirement. Bring a camp chair or blanket to sit on the ground! Transportation: Car caravan leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza at 1 p.m.

### **136. BIRD PHOTOGRAPHER'S PARADISE! Intermediate and experienced photographers**

Date/Time: Saturday 1:00 to 5:00 P.M.

Entrance Fee: UCSC Arboretum: \$5 per person

Workshop Leader: Lisa Sheridan

Expand your portfolio and knowledge of local and migrant birds in two popular photography hot spots. Our goal is great shots of birds and we will also aim for any target birds you haven't seen yet. Neary lagoon and the UCSC Arboretum will be our locations.

We will start at Neary Lagoon and its enchanting boardwalks over and through the charming, lush vegetated waterway. Easily seen Warblers include Yellow-rumped, Townsend's and Common Yellowthroat as well as Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Wrens. Expect an assortment of close up waterfowl including the photogenic Wood Duck. This lagoon is rich in migrants and resident birds but often brings surprises.

We'll catch the end of the late daylight at the UCSC Arboretum. A favorite location for locals and international visitors where vagrants and wintering species of birds can be seen perched on the magical thrones of colorful African and Australian plants. Crowned Sparrows, Warblers, California Thrashers and Anna's Hummingbirds will easily pose for us. We may see hawks, and possibly a Golden Eagle or White-tail Kites in the vicinity. Tripods are ideal here! Macro lenses are nice too for the rare flowers.

Participants should be familiar with the basic operations of their camera, and should have an advanced point and shoot or DSLR with a telephoto or zoom lens.

Carpool leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza at 1 p.m. Participants may also meet at 1:30 p.m. at Neary Lagoon, at the upper parking lot off California St. (cross street Bay Ave) in Santa Cruz. (near tennis courts). Reach Lisa by cell 831-332-3785 if lost or late. **VERY IMPORTANT: PLEASE CALL** the festival to alert the leader if you plan to meet at the Neary Lagoon: 888-909-7829

Activity: Moderate. Travel: 20 mi.

### **137. BIRD LANGUAGE: A LITTLE BIRD TOLD ME...BUT WHAT WAS IT SAYING?**

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/21/19, 1-2 p.m.

Presenter: Jeff Caplan

Venue: Council Chambers

*The birds are talking all around us... Can we learn what are they saying?* Songbirds are the inter-connected eyes and ears of the forests, the cities and our backyards. They watch and warn other vulnerable animals about the house cat, coopers hawk and curious humans.

Birds build their families, and keep themselves alive through their songs, calls and body language. Research is showing that bird language may contain the roots of the evolution of human language. By learning to interpret bird songs, sounds and movements we can begin to develop a deeper connection with birds and what they see and know. Just back from teaching bird language to guides in the Galapagos and the Amazon jungles of Ecuador, Jeff brings tips and tricks for connecting more deeply with nature on your travels around the world and in your own backyard.

You will learn:

- The 5 different voices of the song birds
- To begin to interpret their communication from sound, movement and alarm
- Skills you can apply in your backyard, on a hike or sitting quietly observing

**Open to all skill levels — especially beginners. Great for kids and families!**

### **138. BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY FOR BIRDERS**

Date/Time: Saturday, 1-2 p.m.

Workshop Leader: Seraphina Landgrebe

Venue: Library

This workshop is all about how to improve, or start bird photography no matter what camera you use. You will learn the fundamentals of bird photography as well as advanced techniques to take you to the next level.

### **139. CREATE BEAUTIFUL WILDLIFE IMAGES – Art of Composition and Light**

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/21/19, 2:30-4 p.m.

Workshop Leader: Seraphina Landgrebe

Venue: Library

Learn about how to create a high impact image that tells a story with emotion.

Expand your photography to go beyond the close-up documentary image. Learn about negative space in a composition to create evocative images.

#### **140. OPTICS DEMYSTIFIED**

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/21/19, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Presenter: Marilyn Rose

Venue: Council Chambers

Description: Thinking about buying your first pair of “real” binoculars or upgrading the ones you have?

Considering taking the leap to buy a spotting scope? Learn all about binoculars and scopes, and how particular products perform in different birding situations. What’s more, try out a range of products to find out what feels right in your hands and to see the difference for yourself!

#### **141. STRUGGLING TO ACCOMMODATE CHANGE: Life as a Colonial Passerine in the 21st Century California**

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/21/19, 3:30-5 p.m.

Presenter Robert J. (Bob) Meese

Venue: Council Chambers

California’s blackbird, the tricolor, is a near-endemic passerine that forms the largest breeding colonies of any songbird in North America. Originally almost exclusively a marsh-dweller, the tricolor now inhabits landscapes that differ fundamentally from those in which it evolved. Due to its gregarious nature and insect-dependence during the breeding season, the tricolor places huge demands upon landscapes around its breeding colonies. Bob will describe the characteristics that make the tricolor unique, show videos of tricolors in semi-natural settings, and identify the risks to the species’ future that result from widespread landscape changes.

#### **142. RECEPTION: GIVE FOR THE BIRDS**

Date/Time: 5:30-7:15 p.m.

Venue: Watsonville Civic Plaza: Community Room

Monterey Bay Birding Festival loves wild birds. We believe the future of birding depends on our ability to educate the next generation and conserve precious habitat that birds depend on. Join us for an evening reception where your optional donations will benefit local nonprofits that are making a difference in bird education and conservation. Expect food, refreshments, and entertainment highlighting some of the amazing work happening in the Monterey Bay region. Please register for this free event, so we can have an attendance count as space is limited!

#### **143. SATURDAY KEYNOTE PRESENTATION**

**eBird: Innovating Citizen-science, Big Data Research, and Bird Conservation!**

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/21/19, 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Cost: Festival Pass or \$15 lecture ticket

Presenter: Brian Sullivan

Venue: Council Chambers

In our fast-paced world, birds serve as an unrivaled window for studying and assessing environmental change: literal canaries in coal mines. eBird is a network of human observers spread across the planet collecting millions of data points each month, combined with the power of remote sensors that collect real-time environmental data, spun together through innovative computer science and modeling efforts that ultimately achieve real-world conservation outcomes for birds. Today eBird is arguably the fastest-growing biodiversity network in existence.

Find out how we've taken a novel approach to crowdsourcing, and turned the birding community's global passion for birds into a vast data resource for science and conservation.

## SUNDAY EVENTS

### FIELD TRIPS

#### 144. BIG SUR RIVERMOUTH and CALIFORNIA CONDORS

Date/Time: Sunday, 9/22/19, 6-6 p.m.

\$10 per car entrance fee, unless you have an annual pass--pay at park

Trip Leader: Eric Feuss

This trip takes you birding in one of the world's most pristine locations – Big Sur! Field trip leaders will take you to Andrew Molera State Park, a premier vagrant trap on the West Coast. Afterward, we'll spend time looking for condors in likely spots along Highway 1. Participants should bring plenty of water to drink, lunch, and sunscreen for this all-day trip.

Transportation: Carpooling is recommended, as is a full tank of gas. Car caravan leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza at 6 a.m. Andrew Molera State Park is approximately 50 miles from Watsonville. Those not traveling in the caravan may meet at 7:15 a.m. at the Ventana Discovery Center/Andrew Molera State Park. **VERY IMPORTANT: PLEASE CALL** the festival to alert the leader if you plan to meet at the park entrance: 888-909-7829

Activity: Moderate

#### 145. EAST PINNACLES NATIONAL PARK

Date/Time: Sunday, 9/22/19, 6:30-3:30 p.m.

**\$30 per car entrance fee**, unless you have an annual pass--pay at park

Trip Leader: RJ Adams

Join us for a fun carpooling trip to Pinnacles, one of America's newest National Parks. We will go south on Highway 25, entering the park on its east side and from there we will hike the 2.5 mile Reservoir Loop. This hike is listed as "moderately" difficult and does include a fairly steady climb of several hundred feet as well as spots where participants will have to duck under low rock overhangs. In exchange for this, we get to pass through a variety of habitats, including oak woodlands, chaparral, and riparian woodland. Afterwards we will eat our lunch picnic style at the Visitors Center near the campground, which presents one of our best chances for picking up California Condor. Possible birds include a wide variety of raptors including Golden Eagles, Prairie Falcons, and California Condors. Additional possibilities include Yellow-billed Magpies, Acorn and Nuttall's Woodpeckers, California Thrasher, Wrentit, White-throated Swifts, and Bell's Sparrow. Make sure to wear comfortable shoes and hiking clothes, bring plenty of water, and be aware that there is very little in the way of food available for purchase in the park so please make sure to bring your lunch with you in the morning.

Transportation: Car caravan leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza at 6:30 a.m. – have a full tank of gas.

Activity: High – temperatures vary, can be very hot. Travel: 54 mi.

#### 146. RARITY ROUND-UP

Date/Time: Sunday, 9/22/19, 6:30-4 p.m.

Trip Leader: Kumaran Arul

This fast-paced trip will be an effort to view some of the highlights from the Friday and Saturday field trips; specifically, to chase down the rarities and unexpected birds found during the previous few days. The itinerary will be based on the leader's expertise and findings of the previous two days, focusing on the rarest or most-

likely-to-be-re-found species, and those within a reasonable driving route. Some will be re-found, some missed, but that's the nature, thrill (and even disappointment) of rarity chasing. And, we might even find a few new birds that have just arrived.

Transportation: Car caravan leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza at 6:30 a.m. Carpooling recommended. Please have a full tank of gas.

Activity: Moderate

#### **147. NEW BRIGHTON BEACH and PINE FOREST**

Date/Time: Sunday, 9/22/19, 6:30-noon

Trip Leader: Chris Soriano

New Brighton State Beach includes patches of willows, oaks, and a fine Monterey Pine forest, all of which are attractive to both migrating and wintering birds. Townsend's Warblers, Pygmy Nuthatches, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, and Brown Creepers are all likely to be seen. The adjacent waters of Monterey Bay are a good place to view Caspian, Elegant, and Forster's Terns, and sometimes even a Parasitic Jaeger!

Transportation: Car caravan leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza at 6:30 a.m.

Activity: Moderate. Travel: 7 mi.

#### **148. BIRDING QUAIL HOLLOW RANCH**

Date/Time: Sunday, 9/22/19, 6:30-10:30 a.m.

Trip Leader: David Sidle

Quail Hollow Ranch hosts a great diversity of habitats, including the endemic Santa Cruz sandhills, offering a good opportunity to see many of the western birds and California specialties. We will likely encounter Nuttall's Woodpecker, California Thrasher, Wrentit, and more. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn about Quail Hollow nest box projects for Western Bluebirds, Ash-throated Flycatchers, and other cavity nesters. Transportation: Car caravan leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza at 6:30 a.m. Carpooling and full gas tanks recommended; winding road.

Activity: Moderate. Travel: 16 mi.

#### **149. ELKHORN RANCH BIRDING (SPECIAL ACCESS TRIP)**

Date/Time: Sunday, 9/22/19, 7:00-11 a.m.

Trip Leader: Hugo Ceja

This is a rare opportunity to bird on the historic Elkhorn Ranch private property in Moss Landing. Elkhorn Native Plant Nursery, located on the property and open to the public on Fridays, originally produced California native grass seed for the ranchland's restoration. The nursery now produces seed for restoration projects throughout the area. You'll be able to go beyond the nursery on this trip to walk the hills. Birding is superb here, since there is a freshwater pond, as well as grassy hillsides, oaks, willows, conifers, and a stunning overview of Elkhorn Slough. Bring water, sunscreen, and a hat. Spray beforehand for ticks.

Transportation: Car caravan departing Watsonville Civic Plaza. Carpooling is essential since parking is limited.

Activity: Moderate. Travel 11 mi.

#### **150. HATTON CANYON + CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AFTERNOON OPTION**

Dates/Time: Sunday, 9/22/19, 7:30-11:30 a.m.

Trip Leader: Robert Horn

Hatton Canyon and the Carmel Mission trail involve a leisurely birding walk on flat trails through riparian and tall pines woodlands. This is a heavily forested area with a large number of bird species. Expected are migrating songbirds and hummingbirds, several varieties of woodpeckers, woodland raptors, nonmigratory birds, and

other feathered friends. Regularly seen in Hatton Canyon are: Anna's Hummingbirds; Red-shouldered and Cooper's Hawks; Band-tailed Pigeons; Nuttall's, Acorn, and Downy Woodpeckers; California and Spotted Towhees; California Scrub and Steller's Jays; Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. Wear a hat and sunscreen, bring water. Transportation: Car caravan meets at Watsonville Civic Plaza at 7:30 a.m. Those not traveling in the caravan may meet at 8 a.m. at the South end of the Carmel High School parking lot near athletic fields of Highway 1. **VERY IMPORTANT: PLEASE CALL** the festival to alert the leader if you plan to meet at the high school: 888-909-7829

Activity: Easy Travel: 31 mi.

### **151. BIRDING FOR TEENS**

Date/Time: Sunday, 9/22/19, 8-11 a.m.

Note: Open to ages 12-18

Trip Leader: Bird School Project Instructor

Are you a young birder, or would you like to be? Here's the perfect chance to bird with other teens and be guided by leaders who are experienced helping young birders. Whether you're just beginning or have some birding experience, this trip is for you. A variety of bird species will be likely in the various locales chosen by the leaders. Bring a hat, sunscreen, and water. If you are a licensed driver, you may drive yourself, otherwise a parent must drive.

NOTE: there is no fee to enroll in this field trip. Registration is necessary.

Activity: Moderate

### **152. BEGINNING BIRDING**

Date/Time: Sunday, 9/22/19, 8-noon

Trip Leader: Bird School Project Instructor

Description: Unsure about how to find birds in your binoculars? Don't know a Great Blue Heron from a Mourning Dove? Or, are you just looking for some tips about how to improve your identification skills? Come join us for an introductory bird walk emphasizing the ABCs of identifying and observing birds in the wild.

Transportation: Car caravan meets at Watsonville Civic Plaza at 8 a.m.

Activity: Moderate

### **153. EXPLORING ELKHORN SLOUGH RESERVE**

Date/Time: Sunday, 9/22/19, 8:15-Noon

Trip Leader: Dave Feliz

Description: Join us in exploring the Coast Live Oak woodland at Elkhorn Slough Reserve. Oak specialties such as Hutton's Vireos, Oak Titmice, White-tailed Kites, and maybe a Barn Owl or two will be looked for. Acorn Woodpeckers will put on a good show while stocking and defending their granary trees, and, depending on tidal conditions, we'll be able to oversee some of the interior tidal wetlands of "the Slough" proper. And our eyes should be constantly on the alert for raptors such as Golden Eagles and Peregrine Falcons.

Transportation: Car caravan meets at Watsonville Civic Plaza at 8:15 a.m.

Activity: Moderate Travel: 13 mi.

### **154. BIRD CARVING WORKSHOP FOR BEGINNERS**

Date/Time: Sunday, 9/22/19, 9-2 pm

Materials Fee: \$30

Presenter: Jim Burcio

Venue: Watsonville Civic Plaza

Join Jim Burcio and Master Carvers from the Pacific Flyway Decoy Association to learn how to carve a bird from wood. All of the necessary materials, including a study guide and carving knives, will be provided. Short lectures with lots of hands-on carving time and personalized instruction will enable you to complete a nearly life-size Killdeer. Suitable for ages 16 and older, class size is limited to 12. Additional carving knives for purchase will be available during the workshop. The Pacific Flyway Decoy Association is a non-profit art association dedicated to the preservation of wildfowl art through education. Decoy carving is an original American art form beginning with the functional, hand-carved hunting decoy. What started out as functional has evolved to include artistic renditions of birds worldwide. The association hosts an annual show held at the Double Tree Hotel in Sacramento, and teaches carving seminars at birding festivals throughout Northern California.