

# MBBF 2018 Events

## Field Trips Descriptions

### FRIDAY EVENTS

#### Field Trips

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

Date/Time: Friday, 9/28/18, 6 a.m.- 6 p.m.

TRIP FEE: \$10 to Cover Park Entrance

Trip Leader: TBA

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 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. **CALL** the festival to alert the leader if you plan to meet at the park entrance: 888-909-7829

Activity: Moderate

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

Date/Time: Friday, 9/28/18, 6:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Trip Leader: TBA

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, 9/28/18, 6:30 a.m. - noon

Trip Leader: TBA

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

### **104 LLAGAS CREEK**

Dates/Time: Friday, 9/28/18, 6:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Trip Leader: TBA

Explore the upper reaches of the Pajaro River watershed on this rare opportunity to bird in a restricted access area. We'll explore Llagas Creek, a tributary of the Pajaro River. A restored native plant corridor borders this creek, which is managed by the Santa Clara County Water District. Paralleling the City of Gilroy's wastewater treatment plant, it consistently offers surprises in any season. Depending on water conditions, San Felipe Reservoir will be included. Participants should pack a lunch, hat, sunscreen, and plenty of water for this trip. Transportation: Car caravan leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza at 6:30 a.m. Please carpool as parking is limited. Activity: Moderate

### **105 BIRDING PAJARO DUNES & RIVERMOUTH**

Dates/Time: Friday, 9/28/18, 7-11:30 a.m.

Leaders: TBA

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.

Transportation: Car caravan leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza at 7:00 a.m.

Activity: Moderate

### **106 UCSC ARBORETUM OBSERVATIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS**

Date/Time: Friday, 9/28/18, 7-11 a.m.

Trip fee: \$5

Trip leader: TBA

The UCSC Arboretum, overlooking the north end of Monterey Bay, has an internationally famous array of "Mediterranean," Australian and South African trees and shrubs. This trip will explore an extraordinary 60-acre habitat. While September is a quiet time for songbirds, some 50 species of them are likely to be in the gardens. We will focus on building a long bird list and honing some of the observational and interpretive skills that lead naturalists into keen perceptions of other creatures' lives.

Transportation: Car caravan leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza at 7 a.m. to meet the leader at 8 a.m. at the Arboretum entrance.

Activity: Easy

### **107 WATSONVILLE SLOUGHS**

Date/Time: Friday, 9/28/18, 7-11 a.m.

Trip Leaders: TBA

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 area is 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

### **108 HATTON CANYON HOT SPOT**

Dates/Time: Friday, 9/28/18, 7:30-11:30 a.m.; Carmel Lagoon optional afternoon activity

Trip Leader: TBA

This may be a half day trip or extended into a full day to include Carmel River Lagoon after lunch. 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; and the sparrows and songbirds, migratory and nonmigratory, who inhabit our forest. Note: Wear a hat and sunscreen, and bring water. Lunch is on your own in Carmel or bring a lunch if continuing on to Carmel River Lagoon.

Transportation: Car caravan meets at Civic Plaza at 7:30 a.m. Please divide into those folks only doing the morning trip and those planning to stay on for the afternoon trip.

Activity: Easy

### **109 PINTO LAKE – AN AREA FAVORITE**

Dates/Times: Friday, 9/28/18, 7:30-11:30 a.m.

Trip Leader: TBA

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

### **110 BEGINNING BIRDING - Morning**

Date/Time: Friday, 9/28/18, 8 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Trip Leader: TBA

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

### **111 WINE AND FLOWERS FOR THE BIRDS**

Date/Time: Friday, 9/28/18, 11 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Trip Fee: \$23 to cover wine tasting and light lunch

Trip Leader: TBA

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, 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 and his trained falcon. Continue on to Sierra Azul Nursery and Sculpture Gardens where you'll enjoy

landscaped gardens suitable for attracting birds to your own garden and drought resistant plants for California's Mediterranean climate. Enjoy a guided tour of the nursery highlighting bird friendly plants.

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

Car caravan leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza at 11 a.m.

Activity: Easy

### **112 BEGINNING BIRDING - Afternoon**

Date/Time: Friday, 9/28/18, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Trip Leader: TBA

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

### **113 OWLS OF ROBINSON CANYON**

Date/Time: Friday, 9/28/18, 8:30 p.m. – Midnight (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, are a 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. or after conclusion of evening program. Meet the leader in the lobby outside of the evening presentation.

Activity: Limited

Maximum number of participants: 8

## **Workshops and Presentations**

### **114. BIRDS IN THE LANDSCAPE: CAPTURING THE ESSENCE OF BIRDS THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY**

Date/Time: Friday, 7–11 a.m.

Workshop Leader: Lisa Sheridan

This photography workshop will focus on capturing the essence of the bird and its location by using water, the horizon, trees, sticks, and stones to frame shots. Fall is a wonderful time to enjoy colors and water reflections at Lee Road, Pinto Lake and other Santa Cruz County birding areas. Photographers in this workshop will be encouraged to practice the art of sharing, seeing in new ways, and supporting one another. While it's easy to feel outdone by people with bigger and better cameras and lenses, great bird shots are possible with just a few changes in how one sees the bird and landscape. Whether you use a point and shoot or a mega-lens, this workshop is designed to push your creativity to new levels and find some great birds in the county too. All levels of experience are welcome, and bring whatever camera you have. Final Locations will depend on locating recent and special bird sightings and weather conditions. Be prepared to go anywhere!

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

### **115. SCIENTIFIC ILLUSTRATION OF BIRDS**

Date/Time: Friday, 9/28/18, 1:15-3:15 p.m.

Workshop leader: Sophie Webb

Venue: Watsonville Library Classroom

Drawing helps us become better observers. This class will aid both those who want to learn how to take better field notes and those that want to hone their drawing skills. The class will start with a short presentation on bird anatomy and structure followed by a series of exercises using mounts and or projected photos that will help with both drawing and observation skills. The latter half of the class will be devoted to longer more detailed drawings. Materials: pencils and paper, bring color if you want (paint or pencils).

### **116. SEA OTTERS AT ELKHORN SLOUGH**

Date/Time: Friday, 9/28/18, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Workshop leader: Ron Eby

Venue: Council Chambers

Ron will share his research on sea otters and thoughts on how to succeed as a citizen scientist. His observations of sea otters led to a three-year project to tag and implant radio transmitters in 26 otters in Elkhorn Slough in order to document the behavior of individual animals. Ron will discuss the results of this study that began to describe for the first time how southern sea otters utilize an estuarine environment. Ron also designed and installed remote solar powered cameras to monitor otters and share via the Internet. Workshop participants will look in on the Elkhorn Slough sea otters through this live “Otter Cam”.

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

Date/Time: Friday, 9/28/18, 3:30 - 5:15 p.m.

Workshop leader: Jeff Caplan

Venue: Watsonville Library Classroom

*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, cooper's 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.

This workshop is based on the book What the Robin Knows by Jon Young. You will learn:

- The 5 different voices of the 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 skills levels —especially beginners. Great for kids and families!**

### **118. FROM FALCONS TO CONDORS: TWO SPECIES PULLED FROM THE BRINK OF TOXIN-MEDIATED EXTINCTIONS**

Date/Time: Friday, 9/28/18, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Presenter: Zeka Glucs

Venue: Council Chambers

Avian predators and scavengers are vulnerable to toxic effects from many anthropogenic contaminants that enter the food chain. Eggshell thinning driven by exposure to the pesticide DDT caused drastic avian population declines in the mid 20th century, perhaps most famously in the Peregrine Falcon populations of North America. We will examine the success of the Peregrine Falcon recovery effort from the 1970s-1990s, and discuss

differences and similarities with the current conservation challenge of California Condor recovery in a lead-contaminated landscape. What can we learn and how can we maximize our success in the face of future wildlife toxicology crises?

### **119. OPENING RECEPTION, TASTE OF THE PAJARO VALLEY**

Date/Time: Friday, 9/28/18, 5:30 – 7:15 p.m.

Venue: Festival Headquarters

The Festival welcomes 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.

### **120. KEYNOTE FEATURE THINKING LIKE A NATURALIST: RECLAIMING THE ART OF NATURAL HISTORY by JOHN MUIR LAWS**

Date/Time: Friday, 9/28/18, 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Cost: Festival pass *or* \$10 lecture ticket

Venue: 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**

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

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

TRIP FEE: \$10

Trip Leader: TBA

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. **CALL** the festival to alert the leader if you plan to meet at the park entrance: 888-909-7829

Activity: Moderate

#### **122. CALIFORNIA SPECIALTIES**

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/29/18, 6:30-4 p.m.

Trip Leader: TBA

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

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

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/29/18, 6:30-Noon

Trip Leader: TBA

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 is already collecting rarities such as: Blue-winged and Blackpoll plus 8 other warbler species, Eastern Kingbird, and Red-eyed Vireo. The trail, a 3-mile round trip that is flat and mostly paved, meanders through multiple habitat types along the Carmel River.

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

Activity: Moderate

### **124. ELKHORN SLOUGH & MOSS LANDING COASTAL BIRDING**

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/29/18, 6:30-noon

Trip leader: TBA

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

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

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/29/18, 6:30-noon

Trip leader: TBA

Another spectacular destination, including outstanding vagrant traps, rocky shorelines and coastal seabirding. 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 landbirds, 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

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

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/29/18, 6:30-noon

Trip leader: TBA

Located at the border of Santa Cruz & San Mateo County, Rancho Del Oso provides a wealth of birding habitat; 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

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

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/29/18, 6:30-noon

Trip leader: TBA

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

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

Dates/Time: Saturday, 9/29/18, 7-11:30 a.m.

Leaders: TBA

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. Transportation: Car caravan leaves at Watsonville Civic Plaza at 7:00 a.m.  
Activity: Moderate

## **129. WATSONVILLE SLOUGHS**

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/29/18, 7-11 a.m.

Trip Leaders: TBA

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 area is 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

### **130. SALINAS RIVER MOUTH**

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/29/18, 7-noon

Trip Leader: TBA

The mouth of the Salinas River offers an excellent opportunity to find a vagrant shorebird, observe several species of terns, study Snowy Plovers, catch a Northern Harrier or a Peregrine Falcon on the wing, or just enjoy a walk to the Pacific Ocean. Fall is the premier time of the year to visit this locale. Transportation: Car caravan leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza at 7 a.m.

Activity: Moderate. Walk 2 miles on a sandy path.

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

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/29/18, 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. 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 low 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. 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.

### **132. MAGPIES AND RAPTORS OF SAN BENITO COUNTY BACKROADS**

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/29/18, 7:30 a.m.-noon

Leader: TBA

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 sunscreen, water, a hat, and a full tank of gas.

Activity: Easy

### **133. BIRDING FOR TEENS**

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/29/18, 8-11 a.m.

Note: Open to ages 12-18

Trip Leader:

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.

Activity: Moderate

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

### **134. BEGINNING BIRDING**

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/29/18, 8-noon

Trip Leader: TBA

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

### **135. HARKINS SLOUGH**

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/28/18, 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-philies 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.

Activity: Moderate

### **136. BEGINNING BIRDING**

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/29/18, 1-4 p.m.

Trip Leader: TBA

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

### **137. OWLS OF ROBINSON CANYON**

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/29/18, 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, are a 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

## **Workshops and Presentations**

### **138. INTRODUCTION TO DRAWING BIRDS (indoor workshop)**

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/29/18, 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.

### **139. TIPS AND TRICKS FOR BIRDING PHOTOGRAPHY**

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/29/18, 1:00-2:00 pm

Presenter: Seraphina Landgrebe

Venue: Watsonville Library Classroom

Bring all your cameras, lens and tripods for a hands on class on how to photograph birds. Receive individual instruction working with your equipment. Instructional material will be provided to aid you in learning how to photograph birds.

- Learn easy photography techniques on how to set up your camera, lenses and tripod.
- This workshop is focused on learning field techniques with your camera and tripod in a classroom.
- You will practice using your camera and tripod.
- gain a good understanding of your camera; how to set shutter speed, aperture, iso, white balance and focus
- learn how to photograph in the field to get the best bird images
- tips for photographing flying birds, birds in the water
- Learn about LIGHTING.

### **140. OPTICS DEMYSTIFIED**

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/29/18, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Presenter: Marilyn Rose

Venue: Council Chambers

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 differences for yourself!

### **141. WETLAND FIELD SKETCHING BIRDS (out door workshop)**

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/29/18, 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 Introduction to Drawing Birds workshop (138). However, attending Introduction to Drawing Birds is not a requirement. Bring a camp chair or blanket to sit on the ground!

Transportation: Car caravan leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza at 1:00 p.m.

### **142. ART OF COMPOSITION FOR BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY**

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/29/18, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Presenter: Seraphina Landgrebe

Venue: Watsonville Library Classroom

Bring sample photographs to class to help you create images that have the "WOW" factor, even if you think they are not good.

We will look and analyze photographs of birds and show you how the rules of composition apply to the image.

Bring your computer and also prints. I will provide cropping guides for prints.

Instructional material will be provided to aid you in learning the art of composition.

- Learn how to take high impact images using the art of composition.
- Learn how your eye travels through an image
- \*Become aware of the balance and movement in images
- Learn to use photojournalist techniques of cropping to create the desired composition.
- Adjust your point of view with creative cropping
- Understand perspective and how to use it to your advantage.

### **143. WHAT FLIGHT PERFORMANCE CAN TEACH US ABOUT ECOLOGY, EVOLUTION, AND BEHAVIOR**

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/29/18, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Presenter: Paolo Segre

Venue: Council Chambers

The ability to fly has allowed birds to diversify, radiate, and become one of the most successful taxa of vertebrates on earth. In many ways, birds are defined by their ability to fly – hummingbirds hover to drink nectar from flowers, frigate birds spend months in the air, and many rail species have lost their flight after arriving on predator-free islands. In this talk we will take a look at how technological innovations have made the detailed study of avian flight possible. We will examine how the study of wing movements may have broken a 150 year-old impasse in the debate over the evolution of avian flight, and we will look at how form influences function in the maneuvering performance of tropical hummingbird species, helping them find food, defend territories and escape predators.

### **P144. KEYNOTE FEATURE SEABIRDS: THEIR BEAUTY, THEIR AMAZINGNESS, THEIR PLIGHT**

Date/Time: Saturday, 9/29/18, 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Cost: Festival Pass *or* \$10 lecture ticket

Presenter: Jonathan Franzen

Venue: Council Chambers

The world of seabirds encompasses two-thirds of our planet but is mostly invisible to us. Until recently, invisibility was an advantage for seabirds, a cloak of protection. But now, as invasive species and commercial fishing threaten their existence, they need people to protect them. In his presentation, Jonathan Franzen will

discuss the beauty and value of Californian seabirds, the threats that seabirds face elsewhere in the world, and the people who are doing inspiring work to save them.

## SUNDAY EVENTS

### Field Trips

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

Date/Time: Sunday, 9/30/18, 6-6 p.m.

Trip Fee: \$10

Trip Leader: TBA

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 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 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. **CALL** the festival to alert the leader if you plan to meet at the park entrance: 888-909-7829

Activity: Moderate

#### 146. EAST PINNACLES NATIONAL PARK

Date/Time: Sunday, 9/30/18, 6:30-3:30 p.m.

Trip Fee: \$15

Trip Leader: TBA

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.

#### 147. RARITY ROUND-UP *New!*

Date/Time: Sunday, 9/30/18, 6:30-4 p.m.

Trip Leader: TBA

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

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

Date/Time: Sunday, 9/30/18, 6:30-noon

Trip Leader: TBA

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

#### **149. BIRDING QUAIL HOLLOW RANCH**

Date/Time: Sunday, 9/30/18, 6:30-10:30 a.m.

Trip Leader: TBA

Description: 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

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

Date/Time: Sunday, 9/30/18, 7:00-11 a.m.

Trip Leader: Hugo Ceja

Description: 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.

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

Dates/Time: Sunday, 9/30/18, 7:30-11:30 a.m.

Trip Leader: TBA

Description: This may be a half day trip or extended into a full day to include Carmel River Lagoon after lunch. 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; Western-scrub and Steller's Jays; Blue-gray Gnatcatchers; and the sparrows and songbirds, migratory and non-migratory, who inhabit our forest. Wear a hat and sunscreen, bring water, and avoid wearing white. Lunch is on your own in Carmel or bring a lunch if continuing with to Carmel River Lagoon.

Transportation: Car caravan meets at Civic Plaza at 7:30 a.m. Please divide into those folks only doing the morning trip and those planning to stay for the afternoon trip.

Activity: Easy

### **152. BIRDING FOR TEENS**

Date/Time: Sunday, 9/30/18, 8-11 a.m.

Note: Open to ages 12-18

Trip Leader:

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

### **153. BEGINNING BIRDING**

Date/Time: Sunday, 9/30/18, 8-noon

Trip Leader: TBA

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

### **154. EXPLORING ELKHORN SLOUGH RESERVE**

Date/Time: Sunday, 9/30/18, 8:15-Noon

Trip Leader: TBA

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

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

Date/Time: Sunday, 9/30/18, 11:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Materials Fee: \$30

Presenter: Jim Burcio

Venue: Watsonville Wetlands Watch

Description: 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 female California Quail. 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.

Transportation: Car caravan leaves Watsonville Civic Plaza at 11:30 a.m. for Watsonville Wetlands Watch classroom on the Pajaro Valley High School Campus.