

PROGRAM NOTES



Kris Ohlenkamp to speak at Thursday, October 22, SFVAS General Membership Meeting. 7:00 p.m.

Kris Ohlenkamp, past President of SFVAS, spent summer 2008 working at two temporary jobs on bird research projects. This presentation will tell the story of how he discovered those job openings and show his pictures of those adventures. The first job was searching for Sooty Grouse nests in the Sierra Nevada with Dr. James Bland, and the second was trapping and banding migratory song birds with Dr. Jay Carlisle at the Idaho Bird Observatory northeast of Boise. Photos include birds in the hand as well as flowers, insects, and mammals of those regions.

IMPORTANT! Please NOTE: Due to the Thanksgiving/Christmas holidays our normal meeting schedule has been changed. We have scheduled a combined November/December General Membership Meeting for Thursday, December 3, 7:00 p.m.

WORKSHOP: Alan Pollack, our Audubon-at-Home Chair, will be giving his lecture/slide show on Restoring Habitat One Yard at a Time/Creating a Wildlife Friendly Garden at an Extension Division Workshop at Pierce College on Saturday, October 17. In addition, the workshop will feature Art Langton, SFVAS Bird Count Chair, giving a lecture/slide show on birds of the San Fernando Valley, and a lecture/demo by a native plant landscaper. If your lawn is dying due to the new water restrictions, you'll want to learn the sustainable gardening practices discussed in this workshop. For information and registration go to the Website www.PierceCollege.edu, and click on Community, or call/visit the campus extension division office at (818) 347-0551.



Arizona Field Trip: 156 Species Seen - Many Lifers for All by Jim Moore



Saturday, July 25—Eight eager SFVAS birders met their leader Michael McQuerrey in Miller Canyon at 6:30 a.m. to begin eight days of birding throughout southeastern Arizona. First stop was Beatty's Ranch, famous for hummingbirds. What an auspicious beginning. We had good looks at eight hummingbird species including rare White-eared and Berylline. Later that evening we returned to Miller Canyon for nighttime owling and called in a Whiskered Screech-Owl for close looks.

After Beatty's we moved to Mary Jo Parameter's B&B at the foot of Ash Canyon for more hummingbirds. It took two trips to get a look at Lucifer's and increased our hummingbird count for the day to nine species. We also had good looks at Arizona, Ladderback, and Gila Woodpeckers and

our first of many sightings of Sulphur-bellied and Dusky-capped Flycatchers.

The day ended with a stop at Ramsey Canyon where we searched for the Brown-backed Solitaire. Seen earlier by Michael, several heard its call, sounding like breaking glass, but didn't see it. We added the rare Violet-crowned Hummingbird there to bring the day's total to ten species.

Sunday, July 26—We headed out for Patagonia with a stop at the grasslands near Sinaloa. This was our hottest day but birding didn't disappoint. At Sinaloa we had good looks at singing Cassin's, Botteri's, and Rufous-winged Sparrows. What a treat to see all three of these hard to find sparrows with such close views.

We also made stops at the famous Patagonia rest stop, then on to Kino Springs, ending the day at the Nature Conservancy reserve near Patagonia. The rest stop gave us good looks at Black Vulture, Thick-billed Kingbird, and Northern Beardless Tryannulet. Phainopeplas and Vermilion Flycatchers were everywhere. At Kino Springs we had our first look at Gilded Flicker and Bronzed Cowbird. Coup of the day was finding a pair of Rufous-capped Warblers and a nesting Zone-tailed Hawk at the Nature Conservancy, but we only heard the Sinaloa Wren who was calling loudly but always out of sight.



Monday, July 27—We devoted the day to the canyons of Fort Huachuca, looking for the Elegant Trogon and other highelevation birds. The trogon was easy to locate thanks to its barking dog call and the sharp eye of Bonnie Weatherman. At higher elevations we had Buff-breasted Flycatcher and Yellow-eyed Junco. We took the afternoon off for R & R with some visiting nearby Kartchner Caverns.

Tuesday, July 28—This was our last day in the Sierra Vista area as we headed east toward Portal, near the New Mexico border.
The morning was spent at the San Pedro Riparian nature reserve where we had our first good looks at Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Tropical Kingbird, and Abert's Towhee. This is a great place for low impact birders with lots of feeders at the visitor center.

We drove on with a stop at the ponds near the golf course at Willcox. There we picked up 13 shorebird species including Solitary Sandpiper and numerous sightings of migrating Baird's Sandpiper. Bonnie pointed out a Peregrine Falcon, roosting in the golf course. Onward we went to Portal via New Mexico highway 80 with a brief layover to fix a blown tire on the Weatherman's trailer.

Wednesday, July 29—Portal, with its view of Cave Creek Canyon is one of the most scenic spots in the western USA. We devoted the day to low elevation hot spots including Portal town, Dave Jasper's feeders, the willow pond near State-line Road and Rodeo, New Mexico. Many birds here were not seen in the Sierra Vista area. We enjoyed close looks at Scaled Quail, the three thrashers, Bendire's, Curve-billed, and Crissal. We also got our first look at Hepatic Tanager and close-up feeder looks at Northern Cardinal, Pyrrhuloxia, Black-headed and Blue Grosbeaks, and Black-throated Sparrow. Costa's, Calliope, and Rufous increased our hummingbird species count to 13 for the trip.

Thursday, July 30—We now have 13 in our group thanks to the addition of birders who participated only in the Portal section. This was our day for high elevation birds, with visits to Onion Saddle, Barfoot Park, and Rustler Park. Target birds seen included Mexican Chickadee, Hermit and Grace's Warblers, and Yellow-eyed Junco. We enjoyed the nice cool weather at elevations to 8500 feet and were treated to a long study of a Twin-spot Rattlesnake sleeping on the road.

Friday, July 31—This was our last day together as a group and we decided to explore the Lower Cave Creek area which included a drive from Portal, up to Onion Saddle, down to Paradise, returning to Portal. We also spent some additional time returning to Jasper's feeders, Willow Pond, and Rodeo to pick up birds we missed. While seeing many of the same we found no new birds except for Juniper Titmouse seen at a couple locations and had a staring contest with a Black-tailed Rattlesnake in Paradise.

Saturday, August 1—We all went our separate ways heading home. We took the back road to Willcox, adding Red-faced Warbler to the list. Stops at Madera Canyon, Sweetwater Wetlands in Tucson, and Salton Sea added more birds to the trip list, including a family of Harris's Hawks at Sweetwater.

All said, a great trip, full of birds and fabulous scenery. The complete list of birds seen by the group can be accessed through our website, www.sfvaudubon.org. Many thanks to our leader, Michael McQuerrey, who not only knew where to find the birds, but also was a fun member of the group, and willing to make personal sacrifices for the pleasure of all. Most notable were the many 4:30 a.m. starts from his campsite in Carr Canyon, down the hill in the dark to meet with us moteling birders at our early morning starting point.



Audubon-at-Home Mailbox by Alan Pollack

A reader writes:

Dear Alan,

Recently, we had a question from a listener about landscaping to attract lizards. My initial thought was that a landscape that is attractive to lizards will also be attractive to snakes. I also realize that various lizard species have different distributions. In addition, we have a range of different habitats; what works in one locale for one specific lizard may not work in another.

I wondered if you can recommend any websites about creating backyard habitats that are specific to northern LA County (coastal mountains, western Mojave and Santa Clara river watershed). Thanks.

Yours is the very first question I've ever received about attracting lizards...LOL. My impression is that lizards will appear in most landscapes sooner or later if you have trees for the tree dwellers and brush piles and/or rock piles for the ground dwellers. Other lizard homes are created if, when you build walls of rock or broken concrete, you "dry stack" instead of cementing: the crevices provide homes to all kinds of creepy crawly critters. And letting the leaf litter collect in planting beds not only provide homes and insect food for lizards, it also serves as nature's mulch, keeping the soil moist and inhibiting weed growth. Dry stream beds also provide homes. And yes, lizards are food for snakes if you live where snakes hang out—and also for many bird species.

As to your second question regarding creating backyard

habitats specific to certain regions: I don't know of any website that addresses that and that's probably because the basic requirements are the same no matter what region one lives in: food, water, shelter, and places to raise young. One can, wisely, select plants that are indigenous to that specific area and you can determine that either by checking out the indigenous landscape with a friend knowledgeable in California native plants, and/or by going to www.laspilitas.com, entering plant communities by zip code in the search box, and you will get a list of plants native to your zip code. The Santa Clara River watershed would support a riparian habitat and the Western Mojave, a desert habitat which can be copied in one's garden. And if you want to drive me crazy, plant a sod lawn in Mojave—aaaaargh!!!

An update on the DWP's lawn replacement incentive program: Within weeks of announcing the program, it was halted—

I believe because they ran out of funding. Hopefully it will be restored at some future point.

In this now and then column, Alan Pollack, our Audubon-at-Home Chair, will answer your questions about gardening for wildlife and sustainable gardening practices. Please e-mail him with any questions you have regarding creating a wild-life-friendly garden that can be used for publication. Alan also offers free consultation/landscape design to help you make your yard wildlife friendly. He also gives a free, Power-Point slide show/lecture to community groups, high school, and college classes on attracting wildlife to your garden and sustainable gardening practices. He can be contacted at (818) 340-2347 or at alan.pollack@sfvaudubon.org. \neq \tag{

Second Saturday Bird Walks for Families and Beginners, 9:00–11:00 a.m. (FREE)

October through March Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve

San Fernando Valley Audubon will lead FREE, second Saturday of the month, bird walks for families and beginners, October 2009–March 2010. (Saturdays, Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12, Jan. 9, Feb. 13 and Mar. 13.)

Stroll through the lovely Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve, enjoying its trails and lake. Many birds come here in winter. Learn about the birds and why they come here.

These walks are designed for

- -People trying their first bird walk
- -Beginning birdwatchers
- -Families with school-age children

Time and Meeting Place: The Wildlife Area entrance and amphitheater are in the southeast part of Woodley Park. Meet at the amphitheater at 9:00 a.m. sharp.

Directions: Turn north from Burbank Blvd. onto Woodley Ave., which is one-half mile west of the San Diego Freeway (I-405). Travel about one-half mile to the second possible right turn and turn east (right) at the sign for the Wildlife Reserve. Bear right at the fork in the road and go east one-half mile to the Wildlife Area parking. Walk south past the monumental rocks and restroom building to the amphitheater.

Equipment and Clothing: Wear sturdy shoes and layered clothing. A cap or hat with a brim is suggested. We have binoculars to loan or you can use your own.





🖈 Calendar of Events 🕊

Saturday, October 3. Season Opener! Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Bird Walk. 8:00-11:00 a.m. Directions: Exit the Ventura Freeway (U.S. 101) at Las Virgenes Canyon Road and proceed north to the trailhead parking area at the end of the road. Please bring plenty of water and wear proper shoes. No toilets are available on site. Leader: Jim Hardesty (818) 346-6712, Jim.Hardesty@ sfvaudubon.org.

Saturday, October 3. Castaic Lake Bird Walk. 8:00-10:00 a.m. Directions: Take closest freeway to I-5 North and exit at Parker Road. Turn right and proceed to stop sign (Castaic Road), proceed to next stop sign (Lake Hughes Road), proceed to next stop sign (Castaic Lake Drive) and turn right. Entrance to the park is on the right. Parking is in Lot 4, so make a right turn after the kiosk, then an immediate left turn into the lot, parking to the left. Leader: Roger McClure. For information, contact the staff of LA Co Parks at (661) 257-4050.

Sunday, October 4. Sepulveda Basin Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. Directions: Exit the San Diego Freeway (I-405) on Burbank Blvd. Go west about one-half mile to Woodley Avenue and turn right (north). Travel about one-half mile to the second possible right turn (at sign for the Water Reclamation Plant and Japanese Garden). Turn right and go east about one-half mile to Wildlife Area parking at the end of the road. Leader: Kris Ohlenkamp. For more information contact him at (818) 986-7785 or kris.ohlenkamp@sfvaudubon.org.

Saturday, October 10. Season Opener! Beginners and Family Bird Walk. 9:00-11:00 a.m. Come on out for a fun bird walk at Sepulveda Basin! The White Pelicans are starting to return why don't you? These popular walks, designed for beginning birders and school-age children, are resuming for the current cool season. Directions: Exit the San Diego Freeway (I-405) on Burbank Blvd. Go west about one-half mile to Woodley Avenue and turn right (north). Travel about one-half mile to the second possible right turn (at sign for the Water Reclamation Plant and Japanese Garden). Turn right and go east about one-half mile to Wildlife Area parking at the end of the road. Meet across the road from the parking lot at the low buildings. Leader(s): Muriel Kotin, (310) 457-5796 or Linda Jones, (818) 831-6061. Reservations are not needed except for large groups. Rain cancels. Please visit our website www.sfvaudubon.org.

Saturday, October 10. Placerita Canyon Nature Center Docents' Bird Walk. 9:00 a.m. Directions: Take the 405 or 5 Freeway north to the 14 Freeway. Exit the 14 at Placerita Canyon. Turn right at the end of the off ramp and continue about 1.5 miles to the park entrance. Turn right and park at the Nature Center. Leader: Bob Fischer. For more information, call the Nature Center at (661) 259-7721.

Sunday, October 11. Descanso Gardens Bird Walk. 8:00 **a.m.** Meet at the first wide place after entering the gardens. Admission is free for early birders. Located at 1418 Descanso Drive, La Cañada. Leader: Karen Johnson or Nancy Herron Knode. For more information, contact Karen at Karen.Johnson@sfvaudubon.org or (818) 790-1687.

Saturday, October 17. Monthly Field Trip to El Dorado Park in Long Beach. 8:00 a.m. Directions: Take the 405 Freeway to the Studebaker Road exit in Long Beach. Go north on Studebaker to Spring Street, then turn east (right) on Spring to the park entrance. The parking fee is \$7. Meet in the Nature Center parking lot. Leader: Richard Barth (310) 276-0342.

Saturday, October 17. Santa Monica Mts. Conservancy Bird Walk at Towsley Canyon. 8:00-10:00 a.m. Directions: Go north on I-5 through Santa Clarita, exit Calgrove and turn west (left) under the freeway and then left again on the Old Road. Watch for the sign, "Ed Davis Park at Towsley Canyon." Turn right and park in the back lot. Meet at the kiosk. Leader: Roger McClure. For further information, call (661) 255-3606.

Sunday, October 18. Malibu Creek State Park Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. Meet at the second (lower) day-use parking lot. Entrance to the park is on the west side of Las Virgenes Road, just south of Mulholland Hwy. Entrance fee is \$12 per car. Leader(s): Muriel Kotin, (310) 457-5796, muriel. kotin@sfvaudubon.org and/or Art Langton, (818) 887-0973.

Tuesday, October 20. O'Melveny Weekday Walk at O'Melveny Park, Granada Hills. 8:30 a.m. Directions: Take the 118/Ronald Reagan Freeway and exit at Balboa Blvd. Turn north, driving two miles to Sesnon, turn left going west .6 mile, turn right at park entrance. Meet in the parking lot. RAIN CANCELS. Contact Carolyn Oppenheimer at, (818) 885-7493, with any questions (before 7 p.m., please) or carolyn.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org.

Thursday, October 22. General Membership Meeting. 7:00 p.m. for social time, 7:30 p.m., meeting begins. Encino Community Center, 4935 Balboa Blvd., Encino. Located between Moorpark and Ventura Blvd., on the west side of Balboa, just south of the Presbyterian Church. Kris Ohlenkamp will discuss recent bird research projects. See "Program Notes" on page one.

Sunday, October 25. Descanso Gardens Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. See October 11 for details.

Sunday, November 1. Sepulveda Basin Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. See October 4 for details.

Saturday, November 7. Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Bird Walk. 8:00-11:00 a.m. See October 3 for details.

Saturday, November 7. Castaic Lake Bird Walk. 8:00-10:00 a.m. See October 3 for details.

Future Field Trips: (Details later)

November 21. Ventura Harbor and Water Treatment Ponds

(No Field Trip in December due to Christmas Count) \(\forall \)

Monthly Field Trip Report

by Richard Barth

On July 18 our group visited Mt. Pinos, with a side trip to the famous "seep" on nearby Mt. Abel. Whiteheaded Woodpecker, Dusky Flycatcher, Clark's Nutcracker, Green-tailed Towhee, "Thick-billed" Fox Sparrow and Cassin's Finch were among the target species we found at these high elevation venues. Sage Sparrow, a terrific bonus bird in the mountains, was seen this year. We scored well with all three nuthatches-Pygmy, Red-breasted and White-breasted. Brown Creeper, often overlooked, was readily seen. Other expected species of interest were Mountain Chickadee, Steller's Jay, Western Wood-Pewee, Band-tailed Pigeon, Chipping Sparrow and Purple Finch. Western Tanager was tallied, not always found on this trip. Our warblers were Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped; our hawks were Cooper's and Red-tailed. House Wren, Dark-eyed Junco, Western Bluebird, Violet-green Swallow, American Robin, Brown-headed Cowbird and Northern Flicker were also present.

Quite a surprise was seeing a California Thrasher at about 8700 feet, well above its usual haunts. Probably our most memorable sighting of the day was of a honeycolored Black Bear, on Mt. Abel.

We birded the Chilao and Buckhorn areas of the San Gabriel Mountains on August 15 and saw many of the same species featured on our Mt. Pinos trip. Expected and reliably present were White-headed Woodpecker, Dusky Flycatcher, Green-tailed Towhee and "Thick-billed" Fox Sparrow. We enjoyed seeing Pygmy, Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creeper, Mountain Chickadee, Western Wood-Pewee, Spotted Towhee, Bandtailed Pigeon, American Robin and Oak Titmouse plus Wilson's, Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Nice finds were Warbling Vireo, Ash-throated Flycatcher and Black-headed Grosbeak. Cassin's Vireo was a special treat. Steller's Jays, Western Bluebirds and Darkeyed Juncos were abundant. Unusual for this trip was a Downy Woodpecker. Somehow we missed both Purple and Cassin's Finches this year but unexpectedly saw a pair of House Finches. Our "highlight" bird of the day was a juvenile Townsend's Solitaire! \psi

GOOD NEWS

July 17, 2009. The Endangered Species Coalition made the following announcement this week:

We are very pleased to share some good news for endangered species. This week, the Obama Administration announced two decisions to protect the endangered Spotted Owl and Bull Trout. They overturned several Bush Administration rulings that the Endangered Species Coalition and our partners have been working to reverse. This is a victory for endangered species and all those who advocate for them. Thank you for speaking out for strong protections for our nation's wildlife and wild places!

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced today that the agency will overturn the Bush Administration's flawed critical habitat and recovery plan for the Northern Spotted Owl. The Secretary also announced that the Bureau of Land Management will withdraw a controversial Bush Administration logging plan affecting federal forests in Oregon. The plan ignored the advice of federal and independent scientists. This is a great first step to restoring protections for the Spotted Owl, Marbled Murrelet and other threatened species in the Pacific Northwest.

Earlier this week, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that it would revisit critical habitat protections put in place for Bull Trout by the Bush administration. This decision was in response to a lawsuit by environmental groups asserting the Bush Administration had illegally made cuts in the amount of Bull Trout habitat protected under the designation. The Bush administration had reduced by 80 percent the amount of critical habitat proposed for protection by agency scientists.

These are the latest steps to overturn decisions put in place by the Bush Administration that ignored science and weakened endangered species protections. -Submitted by Linda Jones, Scholarship Chair ¥



Sharon Ford August 2009 Friends of LA River Clean-up



Flashlight Bird Walk, August 2009 Photo by Allan Kotin



San Fernando Valley Audubon announces the formation of the College Student Conservation Committee

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES in
Organizational leadership
Community outreach
Habitat restoration
Wildlife surveys
Environmental clean-up

Certificates of recognition will be awarded for participation and leadership!

HELP PROTECT LOCAL WILDLIFE Schedule of Activities

October 24: Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area tour and clean-up work session. Tour: 8:30–9:30 a.m., work session: 9:30–11:30 a.m. Hot dog lunch from 11:30–12:30 p.m. (E-mail RSVP requested for lunch to carolyn.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org). Rain cancels.

November 22: Presentation by Alan Pollack on creating a backyard wildlife habitat followed by a tour of his garden in Woodland Hills. Sandwich lunch. 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. RSVP for attendance to alan.pollack@sfvaudubon.org. Directions will be sent. Rain cancels.

December 12: Habitat Improvement Project at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area, supervised by Kris Ohlenkamp, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. RSVP for lunch to carolyn.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org. Rain cancels.

For directions and more information visit the San Fernando Valley Audubon Website at www.SFVAudubon.org.

SFVAS is a certified chapter of the National Audubon Society. Learn more about Audubon on the national Website: Audubon.org.

E-mail questions to: Carolyn Oppenheimer, College Student Conservation Committee Chairperson at carolyn.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org



JOIN THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON

To get started with your membership, use the following form and mail to:

SFV Audubon Society Attn: Membership P.O. Box 7769 Van Nuys, CA 91409

Make all checks payable to SFV Audubon.

SFVAS Membership

Regular 1-yr Chapter Membership\$20	\$
Student 1-yr Chapter Membership\$10	\$
Optional First-Class Postage\$5	\$
Contributions to SFVAS	\$
Total	\$
New Member Renewal Schoo	ol
Name	
Address	
City, State, ZIP	
Phone	
Email	
How did you learn about SFVAS?	

The PHAINOPEPLA, published ten times a year, is the newsletter of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, P.O. Box 7769, Van Nuys, CA 91409, 818-347-3205. San Fernando Valley Audubon Society is a chapter of the National Audubon Society, a non-profit conservation/education organization, and is dedicated to "the conservation of wildlife and natural resources."

Articles, letters, drawings, and photographs concerning conservation, the science and ecology, birding, chapter activities, and articles of interest to the membership are welcome for publication in the PHAINOPEPLA.

Material from other newsletters or newspaper should include the source and date. Copy for the PHAINOPEPLA should be in the hands of the editor by the 3rd of the month to be included in the following month's newsletter.

An introductory membership to the National Audubon Society is \$20 and should be sent separately to:

National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center P.O. Box 52529, Boulder, CO 80322. Be sure to write "C12" on the form to assure assignment to our chapter. For renewals, use the form in the National Audubon magazine, "Audubon".

If you have any questions about membership, renewals, change of address or any other membership concerns, please contact Rose Leibowitz at (818) 990-5405

or e-mail her at rose.leibowitz@sfvaudubon.org.

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For Chapter leaders email addresses, see our web site:

www.SFVAudubon.org CHAPTER PHONE (818) 347-3205

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Phainopepla

San Fernando Valley Audubon Society PO Box 7769 Van Nuys, CA 91409-7769

Dated Material

Please visit our website to see this issue in full color! www.sfvaudubon.org

Phainopepla October 2009



INSIDE THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

Arizona Field Trip_pg. 2 $\mbox{}\mb$

Membership

SFVAS is pleased to welcome the following new members. We hope you will get involved with our many field trips and activities. Please contact Rose Leibowitz, Membership Chair, with any questions at rose leibowitz@sfvaudubon.org.

Local: Marietta Ewing National: Tracy Ackerman-Berg Doris Aken John Aldays Gary Alexander Nancy Asner Allan Avril Leif Ball Paula Barmaper Gavlvn Berglund Stacey Bergman Paul Campbell D. Carey Anthony Chau Michael Chavez Leticia Cuellar Melissa Davis

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Come Celebrate Our 14th Annual Festival! Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival, January 15–18, 2010

MORRO BAY, CALIFORNIA – Come to where the birds are and join Morro Coast Audubon Society (MCAS) for our 14th Annual Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival. Located on California's scenic Central Coast, Morro Bay is an important stop on the Pacific Flyway and one of the country's pre-eminent birding spots. The area is recognized worldwide for its diversity of both resident and wintering birds, and at last year's festival, over 200 species of birds were identified!

The Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival is sponsored by MCAS and gives you the chance to join local and national birding experts on a variety of field trips and workshops. Field trip group sizes are limited to maximize spotting and identification opportunities. The Festival also offers workshops aimed at sharpening your birding skills, as well as evening programs with outstanding speakers.

To register and for more information about the Festival, check out our website at www.morrobaybirdfestival. org, or call (805) 772-4677. Both the brochure and online registration will be available in October 1, 2009. The registration deadline is December 31, 2009 but early signups are encouraged as the most popular events fill up quickly.