



Birds of the Eastern Sierra

May 24–25

David Lukas

\$95 per person/ \$80 for members

This field seminar will focus on the identification and ecology of birds in the Mono Basin. The class will visit a wide variety of habitats, including desert scrub, marshes, riparian forests, and mountain slopes, in search of breeding and migrating birds. With over 300 species having been observed in the Mono Basin, this course will be of great interest to both beginning and more advanced birdwatchers. The class will intensively explore a number of sites, mixing short leisurely walks with periods of observation and natural history discussion, taking time to learn about birds by watching them closely. Generally walks will be chosen for their accessibility, but participants should be prepared and capable of wandering off-trail in pursuit of special sightings. David Lukas has led over one hundred birdwatching and natural history programs for the Nature Conservancy, Yosemite Association, Audubon Society, Elderhostel, and other groups. He is the author of two books, *Watchable Birds of the Great Basin* and *Wild Birds of California*. He is hard at work on an upcoming field guide on birds of the Sierra Nevada.

Introduction to Flyfishing

June 6–8

Doug Virtue

\$225 per person/ \$200 for members

Rod, reel, and tackle provided for the weekend

Limited to 6 participants

Flyfishing is a subtle and aesthetic way to deepen your appreciation of aquatic landscapes, but it's sometimes fraught with complexity and expense. If you've wanted to learn but found the tackle too costly or the standard courses too intimidating, this seminar offers a simple alternative. This seminar is limited to six participants so everyone gets personal attention. With all tackle provided, you'll learn how to cast, locate feeding fish, and select the right fly. The seminar begins Friday evening with a slide show, and continues on Saturday and Sunday with a combination of casting instruction, classroom study, and on-the-water fishing in the lakes near Tioga Pass and on Hot Creek. An optional Sunday afternoon/evening post-seminar fishing treat is offered to those who don't have to get home Sunday night. Instructor Doug Virtue has been flyfishing since 1975. He has a wealth of experience from operating a remote lodge in Alaska's Iliamna Lake to catching oceanic yellowtail in Baja California. He emphasizes a holistic, appreciative approach to fishing that's perfect for the waters of the Eastern Sierra.

Call (760) 647-6595 to Register

California Gull Research: Chick Banding

July 2-5

Justin Hite/Point Reyes Bird Observatory

\$120 per person per day; overnight; meals included

Join a research team directed by the Point Reyes Bird Observatory and Cornell University to collect data on the California Gull rookery at Mono Lake. Gain hands-on experience in field survey techniques while observing how the lake's changing chemistry affects gull reproductive success. Your help is needed in continuing this important research. The rare adventure of visiting Mono Lake's spectacular Negit Islets and observing at close quarters the second largest California Gull rookery in North America is for the stout of body and heart. Please contact the Field Seminar Desk for more information on this unique Mono adventure. No previous research experience required. Fees underwrite the research program.

Miniature Paiute Burden Basketry

July 11-13

Lucy Parker and Julia Parker

\$175 per person/ \$160 for members

Primitive group campsite included

\$60 materials fee

Crafting miniature baskets became common after Native American contact with European-Americans. Burden baskets were originally made for rough usage and could carry loads such as acorns, pine nuts, and wood. The Paiute utilized only a few materials and willow was the only foundation used. During this three-day seminar students will construct a miniature burden basket using a twining technique, one used traditionally in the most northern part of California. Students will work with split willow and California Red Bud to construct their miniature baskets. You are encouraged (but not required) to camp with the group, and evenings will be spent around the campfire with traditional songs and stories. **This seminar is designed for weavers of all levels, beginning through advanced.**

Lucy Parker is a descendent of the Yosemite Miwok, Mono Lake Kutzadika^a, and Kayasha Pomo Peoples. She learned traditional handiwork from her mother, a master basket weaver, and will pass on some of her knowledge in this special three-day/two-night camping seminar. Julia Parker is Lucy's mother and has dedicated her life to learning and teaching basketry as well as continuing the traditions of her people. Julia is one of the famous basket weavers of California and is the only weaver still practicing who was taught by women that wove in the early 20th century.

Poetry from Imagination and Basin

July 19-20

Yedda Morrison

\$95 per person/ \$80 for members

In this seminar participants will explore the breathtaking Mono Basin as writers. Through generative writing exercises, constructive feedback, group discussions, and readings, participants will explore their own creativity in the context of the history, ecology, and mythology of the Mono Basin. Whether you are new to poetry or a writer looking for inspiration, Mono Basin's rich complexity offers the opportunity to deepen one's understanding of the Eastern Sierra, the act of writing, and ultimately, oneself. This seminar will be held at various locations around Mono Lake and will include leisurely poetry walks to areas chosen for their beauty and ability to inspire. Yedda Morrison holds an MFA in Poetry from San Francisco State University. She lives in the Bay Area where she teaches poetry and publishes the internationally distributed literary journal *Tripwire*. *Crop*, a book of Yedda's poems, will be available from Kelsey Street Press in April 2003. Yedda has been exploring the Eastern Sierra for the last ten years.

Identifying High Country Wildflowers

August 1-3

Mark Bagley

\$110 per person/ \$95 for members

At the headwaters of Lee Vining Creek is a rich summer display of wildflowers, shrubs, and trees along cascading creeks, jewel-like lakes, green meadows, and rocky granite slopes. There, amid the towering peaks of the Sierra at the source of Mono Lake's water, learn how to identify this great diversity of plants using Norman Weeden's *A Sierra Nevada Flora*. This is the most complete field guide to Sierra plants and provides identification keys and plant descriptions that minimize the use of special terminology. This weekend seminar will begin Friday evening with a 3-hour hands-on session to introduce you to the basics of plant identification. The class will spend Saturday and Sunday in the field on easily paced 1-2 mile walks at high elevations (generally above 9,000 feet), spending more time stopping and keying out plants than walking. Mark is a consulting botanist in the Eastern Sierra and Mojave Desert who has been leading field seminars in the Mono Basin since 1988. He is well known among past seminar participants for his easy-going pace and engaging teaching style in the field.

Call (760) 647-6595 to Register

Miwok Wincwing Basketry

Aug 8–10

Lucy Parker and Julia Parker

\$175 per person/ \$160 for members (primitive group campsite included)

\$60 materials fee

Crafting miniature baskets became common after Native American contact with European-Americans. Wincwing baskets were used to separate leaves, skins, and hulls from foodstuff. These baskets are constructed in the same manner as seed beaters. A technique of twining will be used. The Paiute utilized only a few materials and willow was the only foundation. Each student will construct a miniature wincwing basket using a twining technique. Students will work with split willow and California Red Bud to construct their miniature baskets. You are encouraged (but not required) to camp with the group, and evenings will be spent around the campfire with traditional songs and stories. **This seminar is designed for weavers of all levels, beginning through advanced.**

Lucy Parker is a descendent of the Yosemite Miwok, Mono Lake Kutzadika^a, and Kayasha Pomo Peoples. She learned traditional handiwork from her mother, a master basket weaver, and will pass on some of her knowledge in this special three-day/two-night camping seminar. Julia Parker is Lucy's mother and has dedicated her life to learning and teaching basketry as well as continuing the traditions of her people. Julia is one of the famous basket weavers of California and is the only weaver still practicing taught by women who wove in the early 20th century.

Introduction to High Country Plants and Habitats

August 15–17

Ann Howald

\$110 per person/ \$95 for members

This class will explore the mosaic of habitats that make up the Eastern Sierra high country—lush flower-filled meadows fed by meandering streams, sagebrush-covered slopes, forests of hemlock, lodgepole and whitebark pines, subalpine lakes bordered by willows, and flowery rock gardens. The class will focus on sight identification of common trees, shrubs and wildflowers, but won't neglect any birds, bugs or critters that come to check us out. With any luck, the group will be zoomed by hummingbirds defending their patches of paintbrush and columbine and see noisy Clark's Nutcrackers collecting and storing whitebark pine seed. This weekend seminar will begin Friday evening with an introductory slideshow session to familiarize you to the basics of plant identification. Walks will be

around the 10,000-foot elevation level with a modest pace over moderate terrain. Ann is a consulting botanist and biology teacher at Santa Rosa Junior College who has taught plant classes in the Eastern Sierra for many years. Ann is a highly regarded, thorough, and dedicated instructor with many repeat seminar participants.

Wincwing into Autumn

August 21–22

David Lukas

\$95 per person/ \$80 for members

This field seminar will focus on the identification and ecology of both resident and fall migratory birds. We will visit a wide variety of habitats, including marshes, riparian forests, and mountain slopes, in search of migrating birds. This course is appropriate for beginning and more advanced birdwatchers. The class will intensively explore a number of sites, mixing short leisurely walks with periods of observation and discussion, taking time to learn about birds by watching them closely. The natural history and ecology of the bird's habitat will also be discussed. Generally walks will be chosen for their accessibility, but participants should be prepared and capable of wandering off-trail in pursuit of special sightings. David Lukas has led over one hundred birdwatching and natural history programs for the Nature Conservancy, Audubon Society, Elderhostel, and other groups. He is the author of two books, *Watchable Birds of the Great Basin* and *Wild Birds of California*. He is hard at work on an upcoming field guide on birds of the Sierra Nevada.

Fall Bird Migration

August 23–24

Dave Shuford

\$95 per person/ \$80 for members

The east slope of the Sierra Nevada is a major migration route for birds traveling from northern nesting areas to warm southern habitats. As a result, early autumn is the time of year to see the greatest diversity of landbirds, shorebirds, and waterbirds in the Mono Basin and on Crowley Reservoir. Dave Shuford has been a staff biologist at Point Reyes Bird Observatory for twenty years. He has conducted numerous surveys and research projects in the Mono Basin and beyond, and is well acquainted with where to find birds in the Eastern Sierra. This is one of the most popular field seminars so register early for this one!

South Shore Kayak

September 6

Stuart Wilkinson and Mono Lake Committee Staff

\$75 per person/ \$65 for members

Early fall is an ideal time to kayak Mono Lake! Join Stuart Wilkinson and a Mono Lake Committee staff member for a guided naturalist expedition along Mono's south shore. Your leaders are well versed in Mono Lake geology, ecology, history, and politics. This natural history kayak tour will cover a wide variety of topics relating to this unusual Great Basin lake. Plan on four to five hours for the tour. Expect to see underwater tufa towers, birds, and lake-bottom springs. Some kayak experience is helpful, but not necessary. Kayaks and safety equipment are provided. This seminar is offered for the 8th year in a row, and is highly rated by past participants. Space is limited in this popular seminar so register early!

Surviving on the Edge: Sierra Bighorn Sheep in the Mono Basin

September 6-7

John Wehausen and Karl Chang

\$150 per person/ \$130 for members

Controversy surrounds the fate of the Sierra bighorn, one of the most endangered mammals in North America. (The US Fish and Wildlife Service listed the Sierra Bighorn Sheep as Federally Endangered in 1999.) This field seminar will involve discussions of the biology and conservation of these animals with attempts to view them. John Wehausen is a research scientist at White Mountain Research Station in Bishop. He has been investigating various aspects of the Sierra bighorn and working for their conservation since 1974. In the late 1970s he initiated the restoration program that brought bighorn back to the Mono Basin. There is a very good chance of seeing Sierra bighorn sheep in the wild during this seminar, but no guarantee. In the words of one past participant, "this is a high sierra salon experience if there ever was one." A portion of the proceeds from this seminar will benefit the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Foundation. **This seminar involves strenuous hiking at the 10,000-foot elevation and above.**

Drawing Mono

September 13-14

Moira Donohoe

\$105 per person/ \$90 for members

If you enjoy drawing within a magnificent setting, then this seminar offers the opportunity to deepen and preserve your Mono Lake experience while expanding your artistic talent. During this two-day seminar the class will spend most of each day in the field drawing. Moira will cover basic drawing techniques while encouraging individual style. There be will be instructor demonstrations, material discussion, and non-threatening and constructive group/individual critiques. Using the simple materials of charcoal, ink, brush, pencil, and pastel on paper, record your impressions of strange and mysterious Mono. Moira is a professional artist, art instructor, and long-time resident-artist of the Yosemite area. She holds a degree in Fine Art from Northern Arizona University and a Masters Degree in Painting & Drawing from CSU Fresno. She has shown her work professionally since 1983. This seminar is appropriate for the beginner, intermediate, or advanced artists who want to further their skill with an experienced area artist.

The Story Behind the Land: Geology of the Mono Basin

September 27-28

Tim Tierney

\$95 per person/ \$80 for members

The Mono Basin is a geological showcase, featuring young volcanoes, glaciated landscapes, stark mountains, and weird mineral towers, all set about ancient and saline Mono Lake. Explore this land with geologist Tim Tierney (UC Santa Barbara instructor and author of the Committee's field guide *Geology of the Mono Basin*) and learn how to recognize the geology, know the reasons behind why things have happened, and what the future may hold. The first day of the seminar will be spent gaining an overview of the area via car and short walks. The second day will focus on thoroughly exploring a few select areas with extended hikes. Cool fall weather and brilliant colors will highlight the geologic wonders of this popular field seminar. Tim is an excellent teacher and interpreter of the "hard" languages, and has been a popular seminar leader among geology sleuths and laymen alike.

Reading the Aspen Groves: Arborglyphs and Aspen Natural History

October 4–5

Richard Potashin

\$95 per person/ \$80 for members

Known for their breathtaking fall color displays and distinctive quaking aspens border the high meadows of the Glass Mountains and the Mono Basin. A century of sheep grazing brought many Basque shepherders into these meadows. With their leisure time they left numerous carvings—or arborglyphs—on the aspens. Come along on an enchanting journey into the aspen groves to explore this historic, organic art form and the natural history of the trees themselves. The class will learn about the numerous wildlife, insects, and birds that are drawn to the groves. During leisurely walks the class will discuss the history of the sheep grazing in the Mono Basin, the Basque culture, the cultural significance of the carvings and efforts to document them. Richard Potashin, a.k.a. Alkali Aspenowza, is a long-time Eastern Sierra resident and past Mono Lake Committee intern and canoe guide who has been discovering and documenting aspen carvings for the past five years. He's involved with numerous interpretive activities throughout the Eastern Sierra.

Mono Basin Fall Photography

October 10–12

Richard Knepp

\$195 per person/ \$175 for members

Autumn in the Mono Basin is one of the greatest photographic experiences in the country. Spectacular foliage and skies combine with exceptional light, presenting ample subject matter for photographers in both color and black and white. Join accomplished photographer Richard Knepp to explore varied shoreline locations at sunrise and sunset, and fall color in nearby canyons. Beyond his photographic expertise, Rick is intimately familiar with the Eastern Sierra and Mono Lake locale. Subjects for discussion include composition, exposure techniques, filtration, basic theory of the Zone System, and developing a personal vision. Photographers of all levels are welcome; a fully adjustable camera of any size or format is suggested. This photographic seminar is offered for the 9th year in a row, and is highly rated by past participants.

Field Seminar Registration Information

• Registration •

Call the Mono Lake Committee at (760) 647-6595 and ask for the seminar desk to register. More extensive seminar descriptions are available upon request or online at www.monolake.org.

We accept VISA, MasterCard, and Discover or personal checks payable to the Mono Lake Committee. Sorry, we cannot accept registration by mail or email.

Seminars are limited to fifteen people except where noted. If a seminar receives less than six participants, the seminar will be cancelled two weeks in advance, and full refunds will be given. If you cancel three weeks prior to the seminar start date, we will refund your payment (less a \$10 processing fee). No refunds after that date, but tuition can be applied to another class in 2003.

Participants must sign a liability release form. All seminars operate under permit from the Inyo National Forest.

The Committee works with instructors and field leaders that have received high ratings from past seminar participants. We emphasize a spirit of learning and camaraderie in magnificent outdoor setting for a reasonable cost.

The Mono Lake Committee Field Seminars benefit research and education in the Mono Basin.

• Discounts •

Mono Lake Committee Field Seminars are open to everyone, but Mono Lake Committee members get advance notice and class discounts. If you are not a current member of the Mono Lake Committee, you may receive the discount by joining when you register.