

# Fall Bird Migration



Red-necked Phalaropes at Old Marina, Mono Lake, July 2004

Bartshé Miller

## **Dave Shuford** **August 18-19, 2007**

**\$140 per person / \$125 for Mono Lake Committee members**  
**enrollment limited to 15 participants**

Welcome to our field seminar on the fall migrations of birds in the Mono Lake region. Beginners as well as experts will enjoy this intimate introduction to the varied birdlife found in a wide variety of habitats from the shimmering shores of Mono Lake to the lofty Sierra peaks.

We will learn to identify about 100 species by plumage and calls, and probe the secrets of their natural history. This seminar will include informal discussions on migration strategies, behavior, and ecology that compliment our field observations.

This seminar will involve easy hiking at elevations ranging from 6,000 to 9,600 feet above sea level. We will hike 3-4 miles a day, mostly on level terrain.

The first stop Saturday morning is at Crowley Lake Reservoir. For those who prefer to meet the seminar at this location (arriving Saturday morning from points south), please contact Elin Ljung at [elin@monolake.org](mailto:elin@monolake.org) or (760) 647-6595 to obtain directions.

Dave Shuford is an expert birder, avid naturalist and teacher, and a full-time ornithologist. Dave's bird research has included over 16 years studying the ecology of Mono Lake's California gull colony and five years compiling an atlas of breeding birds in the Glass Mountain area.

## **ITINERARY**

Meet at **7:00 am, Saturday, August 18** at the Mono Lake Committee Information Center & Bookstore in Lee Vining. After brief introductions, we will travel to Crowley Lake Reservoir where we can expect to see a wide variety of shorebirds, ducks, grebes (perhaps still nesting), gulls, terns, and other waterbirds. Around noon we will break for lunch (please bring a picnic lunch) at Sherwin Creek and then bird riparian, meadow, Jeffrey pine, and sagebrush habitats in the afternoon. The class usually breaks for the day at about 5:00 pm.

On **Sunday, August 19 we will meet at 7:00 am** at a site near Mono Lake designated by the instructor the previous day. We typically explore a wide variety of habitats around Mono Lake or in nearby Sierra canyons. Sites visited often include Mono County Park, DeChambeau Ponds, South Tufa, Lee Vining or Rush Creeks, and Lundy or Lee Vining Canyons. Itinerary may vary with bird activity, weather, or the instructor's whims. The class usually ends about 4:00 pm on Sunday; participants may leave at varying times depending on travel plans.

***Altitude and Dehydration Cautions:*** Remember to bring (and drink!) lots of water because your body loses more water at the higher altitudes of the Mono Basin. Experts recommend that you begin drinking extra water as you drive to higher elevation in order to prevent dehydration and headaches. Also, the sun is rather fierce at high elevations, capable of burning even on cool and cloudy days, so be sure to protect yourself thoroughly using sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat.

## **MEALS**

Please bring a bag/picnic lunch for both days. Also, please bring snacks in case we run behind time for lunch because of good birding.

## **TO BRING**

- binoculars and/or spotting scope
- field guide(s)
- day pack including plenty of water, sun protection, jacket
- picnic lunch



**Mono Lake Committee Field Seminars**

P.O. Box 29 • Lee Vining, CA 93541 • (760) 647-6595 • [www.monolake.org](http://www.monolake.org)