

Summer Birds: The Breeding Season in the Mono Basin



Yellow-headed Blackbird. Photo courtesy of Ben Winger.

David Wimpfheimer
July 21–22, 2012

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

This field seminar will concentrate on the identification and ecology of birds that breed in the Mono Basin and others that migrate by Mono Lake during the summer. In sagebrush meadows and riparian and montane forests, the class will explore a number of sites, mixing short leisurely walks with periods of observation and natural history discussion. Woodpeckers, corvids, flycatchers, warblers, and other passerines display fascinating, varied behaviors. However, a major focus will be Mono Lake and other wetlands where phalaropes and other shorebirds feed.

David Wimpfheimer has been educating and interpreting birds and California's natural history for over 20 years. His seasoned focus and knowledge make for enjoyable and educational outings.

ITINERARY

The itinerary for this seminar will be flexible so that the class can respond to local concentrations of birds and best utilize the time available to us.

Saturday, July 21, 8:00am: We will meet at the Mono Lake Committee and then carpool to birding sites. Today we will visit Lee Vining Canyon, County Park, and possibly Bridgeport Reservoir, finishing the day by 4:00pm.

Sunday, July 22, 8:30am: We will meet at the Mono Lake Committee and then carpool to birding sites. Today we will visit Mono Mills, the June Lake burn, Navy Beach, and possibly Crowley Lake and Deadman Summit. We will finish the day by 3:00pm.

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.

TO BRING

- binoculars
- spotting scope (optional, but recommended, especially for lake stops)
- notebook and pen/pencil
- field guide(s)
- appropriate field clothing: hat, sunglasses, warm layers, raingear
- day pack including plenty of water, sunscreen, mosquito repellent, etc.
- packed lunch for each day

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

- Evens, Jules. *California Birdlife*. UC Press, Berkeley, 2005.
- Laws, John Muir. *The Laws Field Guide to the Sierra Nevada*. Heyday Books, Berkeley, 2007.
- National Geographic Society. *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. Fifth Edition, 2006.
- Storer, Tracy, Robert Usinger, and David Lukas. *Sierra Nevada Natural History*. UC Press, Berkeley, 2004.
- Whitney, Stephen. *A Sierra Club Naturalist's Guide to the Sierra Nevada*. Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, 1979.



Mono Lake Committee Field Seminars

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