

2004 Field Seminars

California Gull Research: Chick Banding

July 2-5

Justin Hite/PRBO Conservation Science

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

Join a research team directed by PRBO Conservation Science and Cornell University in collecting 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—due to Mono's recent meromictic conclusion—is affecting 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 talk to Bartshé Miller for more information on this unique Mono adventure. No previous research experience required.

The Tao of Flyfishing

July 16-18

Doug Virtue

\$320 per person/ \$300 for members

Rod, reel, and tackle provided for the weekend

Limited to 4 participants

Whatever your level of skill, this unique fly fishing seminar gives you the opportunity to direct your own learning. Instructor Doug Virtue will be contacting each participant prior to the seminar to identify goals and prepare individualized lessons, from fly tying to casting to catching and releasing large fish unharmed. With only four participants, you'll receive an unusually high degree of personal attention. Daily schedules will be developed with the input of participants, but you should plan on starting early and ending late, with mid-day siestas while the sun is too bright for good fishing. The seminar begins Friday night at the Mono Inn with an intimate meal (included) and a slide show. Saturday will be devoted to fishing with a special session on a nearby private pond where you'll have an honest chance of catching and releasing a trout over five pounds. Depending on conditions, the class may also be able to try for Golden Trout at one of the regional lakes. Participants will also be introduced to the ancient fishing philosophy of "making a good day." Although meals aren't included after Friday night, there will be ample time for picnics in the beautiful locales where we'll be fishing. 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 appropriate for the waters of the Eastern Sierra.

Other Winged Wilderness

July 23-25

Verina Bird and Paul McFarland

\$110 per person/ \$95 for members

Not all things that fly have feathers. There is another world at flight during the height of summer, and the Mono Basin provides ideal habitat to observe it all. Join local naturalists Verina Bird and Paul McFarland on an exploration of the varied habitats of flying insects. On leisurely walks through alkali meadows to moraine ridgetops participants will learn the basics of butterflying, the insect lovers counterpart to birding. This seminar will focus on Jeffrey Glassberg's wonderful new field guide *Butterflies through Binoculars*. The class will cover identifying host plants, understanding the life cycle of butterflies, migration, habitat preferences, and their relationship to the entire ecosystem. Throughout this seminar, we will also be keeping an eye out for other creatures including, but not limited to, dragonflies, damselflies, moths, beetles and, of course, the larger winged creatures that eat them all. This seminar begins on a Friday evening and includes a long leisurely day of hiking on Saturday. Sunday will be a shorter day of hiking and the day will wrap up by early afternoon. Verina is a local lepidoptera enthusiast who has spent several summers chasing down butterflies. Paul McFarland, also a Lee Vining resident, is Executive Director of Friends of the Inyo, and is adept at chasing down pupae life stages, host plants, and birds.

Introduction to High Country Plants and Habitats

July 30-August 1

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, we'll be zoomed by hummingbirds defending their patches of paintbrush and columbine, and we'll see noisy Clark's Nutcrackers collecting and

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storing whitebark pine seed. This weekend's seminar will begin Friday evening with an introductory slideshow session to introduce 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 who has taught plant classes in the Eastern Sierra for many years.

Identifying High Country Wildflowers

August 13–15

Mark Bagley

\$110 per person/ \$95 for members

At the headwaters of Lee Vining Creek there's 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 small field guide to Sierra plants and provides identification keys and plant descriptions that minimize the use of special terminology and are suitable for use by beginners. This weekend's seminar will begin Friday evening with a three-hour hands-on session to introduce you to the basics of plant identification. Saturday and Sunday will be spent in the field on easily paced short walks (generally less than a mile) at high elevations (generally above 9,000 feet)—with much 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.

Tule and Cattail Basketry

August 20–22

Lucy Parker and Julia Parker

\$175 per person/ \$160 for members

primitive group campsite included

\$60 materials fee

During this three-day seminar participants will prepare materials and create a small tule and cattail gathering basket. Whole shoot tule and cattail will be used for both foundation and weaving. Participants will learn a plain-twining process with a half wrap around each foundation stick. Tule and cattail fibers are gathered in late spring when flowers begin to show. Participants will have enough time and material to finish a small basket during this seminar. 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. She is one of the famous basket weavers of California, and the only weaver still practicing who was taught by women that wove in the early 20th century.

Fall Bird Migration

August 21–22

Dave Shuford

\$105 per person/ \$90 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 PRBO Conservation Science 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 our most popular field seminars so register early for this one!

Winging into Autumn

August 28–29

David Lukas and Simone Whitecloud

\$105 per person/ \$90 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. We 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 *Watchable Birds of the Great Basin*, *Wild Birds of California*, and the revised *Sierra Nevada Natural History*. He is hard at work on an upcoming field guide to birds of the Sierra

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Nevada. Simone Whitecloud is a Bay Area naturalist with a biology degree from University of San Francisco. In addition to leading many popular classes in the Bay Area, she has conducted research on the birds of the Eastern Sierra for PRBO Conservation Science and co-led bird walks at last year's Chautauqua.

Thin Air and Steep Slopes: Sierra Bighorn Sheep in the Mono Basin

September 11–12

John Wehausen and Karl Chang

\$150 per person/ \$130 for members

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 on foot. 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-safarisalon experience if there ever was one." Some 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.**

South Shore Kayak

September 12

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 being offered for the 9th year in a row, and is highly rated by past participants. Please note that this year's kayak seminar is on a Sunday. Space is limited in this popular seminar so register early!

Paiute Coil Basketry

Sept 17–19

Lucy Parker and Julia Parker

\$175 per person/ \$160 for members

primitive group campsite included

\$60 materials fee

In this seminar participants will gather and create a miniature Paiute coil basket. Crafting miniature baskets became common after Native American contact with European-Americans. The Paiute utilized only a few materials, and willow was the only foundation used. During this three-day seminar students will prepare willow fibers—learning to split materials for strings. California Red Bud will be added for design. Willow, gathered in fall and spring, and Red Bud, gathered in winter, will be provided. Participants will be able to finish a miniature basket during this seminar. Participants 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. She is one of the famous basket weavers of California, and the only weaver still practicing who was taught by women that wove in the early 20th century.

Reading the Aspen Groves: Arborglyphs and Aspen Natural History

October 2–3

Richard Potashin and Nancy Hadlock

\$105 per person/ \$90 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. Join us for an enchanting journey into the aspen groves to explore this historic, organic art form and the natural history of the trees themselves. We'll learn about the numerous wildlife, insects, and birds that are drawn to the groves. During our leisurely walks we'll 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, aka 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 many years. He's involved with numerous interpretive activities throughout the Eastern Sierra. Nancy Hadlock has her BS from the University of Nevada at Reno, her MS from California State University, Sacramento and has worked as an Interpretive Ranger since 1982. She has participated in UNR's Basque Studies Program and has been a passionate student of Basque culture, history and stories for over 20 years.

Mono-Bodie Fall Photography

October 8-10

Richard Knepp

\$250 per person/ \$225 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. **And, for the first time, the class will spend Saturday in Bodie!** 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. In Bodie, Rick will be joined by Bodie expert, photographer, and good friend Jill Lachman. Jill has taught photo workshops in Bodie for many years. It is quite a special treat to have the opportunity to photograph *inside* some of the buildings. 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 10th year in a row, with a new Bodie twist for 2004!

Late Fall Photography at Mono Lake: Finding Personal Vision

October 23-24

Claude Fiddler

\$365 per person/ \$345 for members

October is the time of year when the Mono Basin and surrounding High Sierra come alive with fall color. Claude Fiddler will guide participants to a grand and intimate landscape and help each workshop participant develop their personal photographic vision. All types of camera and photographer are welcome at this workshop. Especially unique to this workshop will be Claude's thorough demonstration of the use of a large format, 4x5 camera. The workshop will begin with a personal portfolio review and reception. Field time will emphasize the role of personal photographic goals and how these influence photo composition. Camera technique will focus on the essentials needed for the creative photographic process. Participants will review their photos each day by recording compositions with a digital camera and displaying them at a workstation. Famous for making large format photographs of the remote and wild High Sierra, Claude Fiddler is also renowned for his climbing and skiing exploits from the West Ridge of Mount Everest to a winter ski of the John Muir Trail. He is the author/photographer of Sierra classics: *The 100 Best Climbs in the Sierra Nevada*; *The High Sierra: Wilderness of Light*; *A Vast and Ancient Wilderness: Images of the Great Basin*; and *Yosemite Once Removed, Portraits of the Backcountry*.

Optional: on Monday, October 25th Claude will lead a photo excursion trek into the High Sierra open to seminar participants for an additional fee of \$115.00. Register at the time of the seminar.

Field Seminar Registration Information

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 (certain seminars excepted), 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 2004.

Participants must sign a liability release form. All seminars

operate under permit from the Inyo National Forest; some operate under additional permits from the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

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.

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.