

Birding Mono Basin Hotspots



Female Black-headed Grosbeak

Nora Livingston

June 4, 2017 • Nora Livingston

\$75 per person / \$65 for Mono Lake Committee members
enrollment limited to 15 participants

Mono Basin creeks and canyons are hidden jewels for breeding and migrating songbirds in a region where high desert habitat dominates. This half-day birding seminar will explore lush riparian areas that are hotspots for bird activity. Expect to see warblers, sapsuckers, pewees, buntings, sparrows, towhees, vireos, and if you're lucky, an American Dipper or Townsend's Solitaire.

This seminar will involve easy hiking at elevations ranging from 6,400 to 9,600 feet above sea level. We will hike 1–2 miles over the course of the day, mostly on level terrain.

Nora Livingston is our very own Lead Naturalist Guide. She has spent nine years birding the Basin and is an expert on Mono Basin birding locations. Before moving to Lee Vining permanently, she bounced around California for eight years as a field biologist, studying birds on the Channel Islands, the Farallon Islands, and in the Eastern Sierra.

ITINERARY

Sunday, June 4 at 7:30am: Meet at the Mono Lake Committee Information Center & Bookstore in Lee Vining. After brief introductions, we will carpool to the first of several Mono Basin hotspots. Locations include Lee Vining Canyon, County Park, DeChambeau Ponds and Ranch, South Tufa, and

a few lesser known patches. Itinerary may vary with bird activity, weather, or the instructor's whims. This class will end around 11:30am.

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 and/or spotting scope
- field guide(s)
- sturdy footwear
- day pack
- rain jacket, hat
- sunscreen, sunglasses
- plenty of drinking water



Mono Lake Committee Field Seminars

P.O. Box 29 • Lee Vining, CA 93541 • (760) 647-6595 • monolake.org/seminars