

Breeding Birds of the Mono Basin



Brewer's Sparrow

Sandra Noll

June 1, 2019 • Nora Livingston

\$140 per person / \$130 for Mono Lake Committee members
enrollment limited to 9 participants

Late spring and early summer are the best times to find breeding birds in the Mono Basin—they are singing from the top of trees and shrubs to declare their territory to rivals and protect their mates. This one-day seminar will visit birding hotspots in the Mono Basin to learn about the many breeding birds that raise their families here. We will learn to identify these breeders and observe their behaviors as they gather food for their young or gather material to build nests. We will delve into their migration patterns and conservation status, as well as any natural history tidbits that come up. 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 the Mono Lake Committee's Lead Naturalist Guide. She has spent ten 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

Saturday, June 1 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 birding

hotspots. Possible locations include Lee Vining Canyon, County Park, DeChambeau Ponds and Ranch, South Tufa, and a few lesser-known patches. The day's itinerary may vary with bird activity, weather, or the instructor's whims. This class will end around 3:30pm.

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. 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) of your choice (optional)
- notebook and pen/pencil
- sturdy footwear
- appropriate field clothing: hat, sunglasses, warm layers, rain gear
- day pack including **plenty of water**, sunscreen, insect repellent, etc.
- packed lunch and snacks



Mono Lake Committee Field Seminars

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