

Birding Mono Basin Hotspots



Female Black-headed Grosbeak

Nora Livingston

May 31, 2019 • Nora Livingston

\$110 per person / \$100 for Mono Lake Committee members
enrollment limited to 9 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 we'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 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

Friday, May 31 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. 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) 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