

BIRDING THE LIFE ZONES

JUNE 30-JULY 1, 2018

COURSE LEVEL: III COURSE #: S3041

FEE: \$160 PER ADULT AGES 16 AND OLDER



**Rocky
Mountain
Conservancy**

FIELD INSTITUTE

INSTRUCTOR: JEFF MAUGANS

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**LOCATION: Rocky Mountain Conservancy - Field Institute & Conference Center
1895 Fall River Road, Estes Park, Colorado**

TIME: 7:00 AM - 3:30 PM each day

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Rocky Mountain National Park is a birder's paradise during the nesting season. During this two-day class, we will explore the various ecosystems (life zones) of the park to find 50-70 bird species. We will identify hawks, falcons, eagles, ducks, white-tailed ptarmigan, brown-capped rosy-finches, swifts, broad-tailed hummingbirds, swallows, tanagers, sparrows, warblers, American dippers, wrens, woodpeckers, owls, nuthatches, chickadees, kinglets, jays, common ravens and other corvids, and a number of other members of the area's avifauna. We will discuss the natural history of both the birds and the montane, subalpine, alpine and riparian environments they inhabit.

COURSE LEVEL: III

Moderate hikes of less than five miles per day with elevation gain of less than 1,000 ft. Elevations for exploration will range between 7,500 and 12,000 ft.

BRIEF INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY (additional information available at www.RMConservancy.org):

Jeff worked as a park naturalist for the National Park Service from 1977 to 2009. His special area of interest is birds. He is a Pennsylvania native and has a degree in outdoor education and natural science from Pennsylvania State University. Jeff has worked at Mammoth Cave National Park, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Edison National Historic Site, Gateway National Park, Redwood National Park and Cuyahoga Valley National Park. He came to Rocky Mountain National Park in 1990.

EXPECTATIONS: Professional conduct will be expected from participants at all times. Individual ideas will be respected. Except during course breaks, cellular phones, pagers, and personal entertainment devices are strictly prohibited in the classroom and during field sessions.

CAR-POOLING: Rocky Mountain Conservancy - Field Institute courses utilize car-pooling to limit vehicles traveling into the park. Car-pooling makes it easier to keep the group together, reduces transit time, and allows courses greater access because fewer parking spaces are required at destinations. In addition, it provides an opportunity for participants to discuss course material in small groups during transit. Typically, a few participants from each course volunteer the use of their vehicles for car-pooling to course locations.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:

7:00 AM - Noon	After introductions and a short lecture/PowerPoint, car-pool to field site for exploration.
Noon - 12:30 PM	Lunch
12:30 - 3:30 PM	Continue with field exploration; drive to Field Institute for wrap-up; depart.

WHAT TO BRING:

- Sack lunch, snacks, energy bars, **WATER**

EQUIPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: It is highly recommended that participants bring binoculars and a field birding guide. A spotting scope would also be good to have, but not required. Jeff will have a spotting scope and one extra binocular. The day will involve hiking several miles on mostly level terrain. Be prepared for foul weather. Warm, layered clothing, hat and mittens and boots might make this a more pleasant outing. Also bring snacks, a sack lunch, plenty of water, sunscreen, sunglasses and hiking shoes.

REMEMBER TO BRING THE 10 ESSENTIALS:

Rocky Mountain National Park recommends that hikers always carry the 10 essentials in their daypacks.

- Raingear
- Map and compass
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Sunglasses and sunscreen
- Candles
- Matches or other fire starter
- Pocketknife
- First-aid kit
- Extra layers of clothing
- Sack lunch, snacks, water

Note: Rocky Mountain Conservancy - Field Institute recommends that participants for all courses dress in layers and wear comfortable, sturdy hiking boots/shoes. Participants should be prepared for sudden changes in temperature and weather conditions.

REFUND POLICY:

Cancellations received at least 14 days prior to the start of a class will qualify for a refund minus a cancellation fee of \$25 per participant for a one-day class, \$50 for a multi-day class, \$5 per kid's class and \$15 per half-day class or bus tour seat. Registration money transferred to another class will be subject to a \$10 switch fee.

Cancellations received less than 14 days prior to the start of a class or bus tour will not generate a refund. If the Field Institute cancels a class, every effort will be made to place the participant in another class; otherwise, a full refund will be given.

TEACHER RECERTIFICATION CREDIT:

Most courses are eligible for teacher recertification credit through the Centennial Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES). The fee is \$25 per class (.5 unit) or \$25 per series of threaded classes (1.0 - 3.0 units). A list of threaded courses can be found online at www.RMConservancy.org. Participants must enroll in all courses of a threaded series in order to qualify for the \$25 multi-unit fee. Please be prepared to pay for this credit with a check, made payable to BOCES, on the first day of a class or on the final day of a threaded series of courses.