

## Birds and Other Wonders of the Salton Sea

### Information

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Date/ Time: Friday, January 20, 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Meet at: [Sam's Club Parking Lot, 34200 Monterey Ave, Palm Desert](#)

Instructor: Kurt Leuschner, M.S., Wildlife Ecology, Professor of Natural Resources, College of the Desert

### Overview

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We will spend the day exploring the Salton Sea with a focus on birds and natural history. The Salton Sea is an important migratory stop along the Pacific Flyway and many species choose to spend the winter here. We hope to see hundreds of Snow and Ross's Geese along with Sandhill Cranes and Burrowing Owls. In all, over 400 bird species have been recorded at the Salton Sea! We will try to find as many of them as we can as we car-caravan down the east side of the Sea. Along the way you will also learn about the geology and human history of the Salton Sea including the current status. Bring binoculars, a scope if you have one, a full tank of gas, a lunch, and drinks and snacks to last the day. Radios will be provided for car-to-car communication.

### Itinerary

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Friday, January 20, 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM

*Sam's Club Parking Lot, Monterey Ave, Palm Desert*

- Meet and Car Caravan to the Salton Sea
- Field session
- Lunch, **bring your own food**
- Field session

### What to Bring to the Course

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#### **Optional Equipment**

- Hiking Poles

#### **The 10 Essentials:** *Everyday in the Desert*

- Day pack
- 4 quarts of water
- Hiking boots with traction soles
- Lunch and snacks
- Clothing layers

- Hat
- Sun glasses
- Sunscreen
- Notebook and pencil/pen
- Whistle

### **Fitness Requirements**

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Participants must be in good physical condition for courses/activities in a desert that may be hot, dry, windy, and sometimes surprisingly cold.

### **Hike Level**

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Easy to Moderate

### **Guidelines**

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- You are responsible for your safety.
- Park your car in designated areas only. Parking along the side of the road is dangerous to you and the environment.
- Rattlesnakes are present in the park. Avoid contact with wildlife. Put your hands and feet only where you can see.
- Stay with the group. If you get lost, stay put.
- Drink plenty of water. If you run out, notify the instructor or the Desert Institute Representative.
- Before leaving the class, check out with the Desert Institute Representative.

### **Instructor Biography**

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**Kurt Leuschner**, M.S., Wildlife Ecology, Professor of Natural Resources, College of the Desert. Leuschner's specialties include ornithology, entomology, and desert ecology. He has led hundreds of field trips both locally and as far afield as Africa. He teaches natural history courses for the Desert Institute, UCR Extension, the Desert Studies Center at Zzyzx, the Living Desert, California State Parks, and many other conservation organizations.

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\* The Desert Institute staff/instructors will attempt to accommodate participant's needs; however we reserve the right to deny a student participation in the course due to concerns regarding health and safety issues.