

# BIRDING RMNP BY EAR

MAY 31, 2020

**COURSE LEVEL: II COURSE #: S3000**  
**FEE: \$80 PER ADULT AGES 16 AND OLDER**



**Rocky  
Mountain  
Conservancy**  
FIELD INSTITUTE

**INSTRUCTOR: NATHAN PIEPLOW**

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

**TIME: 7:30 AM – 3:30 PM**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Birds are far more often heard than seen but learning to identify them by ear can be a challenge. This course will introduce the most common bird sounds of Rocky Mountain National Park. We will begin with a field trip in the morning to several different habitats, to hear and practice identifying as many birds as possible. In the afternoon, we will reconvene indoors for a class session to reinforce and extend the learning from the morning. Both indoors and out, we will work on learning a standard vocabulary for describing sounds and visualizing sound using spectrograms, so that our eyes can help train our ears.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. Participants will learn the most common sounds of over a dozen of the most common bird species in Rocky Mountain National Park.
2. Participants will learn a shared vocabulary to describe bird sounds.
3. Participants will learn about phone apps and other technologies that can make bird sounds easier to visualize and identify.

## **COURSE LEVEL: II**

Short-distance walks throughout the day primarily on level terrain.

**BRIEF INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY (additional information available at [www.RMConservancy.org](http://www.RMConservancy.org)):** Nathan has spent more than 100 days hiking, camping, and birding inside Rocky Mountain National Park. He is the author of the *Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds*, the proprietor of the bird sound blog [Earbirding.com](http://Earbirding.com), and the former editor of the journal *Colorado Birds*. He teaches writing and rhetoric at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

## **TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:**

7:30 AM – 7:45 AM	Welcome and introduction to Rocky Mountain Conservancy – Field Institute; meet participants; cover class objectives, expected outcomes, and procedures for the class
7:45 AM – 8:15 AM	Car-pool to Upper Beaver Meadows for first field session
8:15 AM – 9:45 AM	Birding Upper Beaver Meadows area on foot
9:45 AM – 10:00 AM	Car-pool to Endovalley picnic area
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Birding Endovalley picnic area on foot
11:30 AM – 11:45 PM	Return to Field Institute
11:45 AM – 12:15 PM	Lunch break
12:15 PM – 1:15 PM	Presentation: <u><a href="#">A Shared Vocabulary for Bird Sounds</a></u>
1:15 PM – 1:30 PM	Break
1:30 PM – 2:00 PM	Apps, websites, and other resources for identifying bird sounds
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	<u><a href="#">The Sounds We Didn't Hear</a></u> : Discussion of common bird sounds not heard during the morning excursion, as well as audience requests
3:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Questions, review, and summary

## **USEFUL EQUIPMENT:**

Participants should bring clothing suitable for outdoor hiking, regardless of the weather. **Binoculars** are strongly recommended, but not strictly necessary.

## **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.*

**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.

## **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 units) or \$25 per series of threaded courses (1.0 - 3.0 units). A list of threaded courses can be found online at [www.RMConservancy.org](http://www.RMConservancy.org). Participants must enroll in all classes 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.