

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD SEMINARS

LEARN ♦ EXPLORE ♦ ADVENTURE

A BIRD ON THE PAGE

JULY 20, 2008

COURSE LEVEL: I COURSE #: 08-033

FEE: \$85

INSTRUCTOR: MARY TAYLOR YOUNG



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LOCATION: UPPER BEAVER MEADOWS IN RMNP, THE PARKING AREA AT THE END OF THE ROAD

TIME: **Sunday:** 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Discover the private lives of tanagers, bluebirds, hummingbirds, woodpeckers and other feathered creatures that make their homes in Rocky Mountain National Park; then spend the day writing about them! Learn to make thorough records of your observations; then work on a creative piece about what you see and feel. Think you've looked at birds? Writing about them makes you really look.

The first part of the day will involve identifying and observing birds and recording observations in a journal. Looking closely and really observing details will be stressed. The last part of the day will focus on using those observations to write a creative piece.

COURSE LEVEL: I

The seminar will include short-distance walks on maintained trails and/or indoor classroom sessions in accessible buildings.

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

Award-winning and best-selling nature writer Mary Taylor Young has been writing about the wildlife, plants and landscape of the West for more than 20 years. She is author of nine books, including *Land of Grass and Sky: A Naturalist's Prairie Journey*, *The Guide to Colorado Birds* and *On the Trail of Colorado Critters: Wildlife Watching for Kids*. She has published hundreds of newspaper and magazine articles, and many readers know her "Words On Birds" column, running in the *Rocky Mountain News* since 1993. This is Mary's twentieth year teaching with the Rocky Mountain Nature Association. Her love of nature began with childhood summers spent exploring the Rocky Mountains from her grandparents' cabin in Estes Park, where elk peered in the windows and hummingbirds buzzed around the feeders. Her attachment to the natural world led to a degree in zoology from Colorado State University and a life devoted to nature, wildlife and the environment. Mary lives in Castle Rock, Colorado, with her husband, nine-year-old daughter and many feathered and four-legged neighbors.

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 Field seminars 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:

Sunday

9:00 AM Meet at the Upper Beaver Meadows parking area, at the end of the road. Class will go birding through the wooded area there and into the adjacent meadow, identifying birds and observing their behavior. Students will work on recording observations and describing in detail what they see.

Noon (or so) Lunch in the field. After lunch, continue observing and writing.

2:00 PM Adjourn

WHAT TO BRING:

- Sack lunch, snacks, energy bars, & **WATER**
- Binoculars
- Notebook
- Camera (optional)
- Birding field guide (optional)
- Pen/pencil
- Light field stool/mat (recommended)

REMEMBER TO BRING THE 10 ESSENTIALS:

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

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

Note: Rocky Mountain Field Seminars 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.

TEACHER RECERTIFICATION CREDIT

Most seminars are eligible for teacher recertification credit through the Centennial Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES). The new fee is \$25.00 per seminar (.5 units) or \$25.00 per series of threaded seminars (1.0 - 3.0 units). A list of threaded seminars can be found in the Field Seminar catalog or online at www.rmna.org. Participants must enroll in all seminars of a threaded series in order to qualify for the \$25.00 multi-unit fee. Please be prepared to pay for this credit with a check, made payable to BOCES, on the first day of a seminar or on the final day of a threaded series of seminars.

This seminar is one of two in Thread D.