

## **Birds of the Mojave Desert: Natural History & Conservation**

DATES AND TIMES OF MEETING: October 17, 18, 19, 2008 beginning Friday at 8 P.M. and ending Sunday at 3 P.M.

INSTRUCTOR: Kurt Leuschner

Oases in the Mojave Desert are used by a wide variety of bird species every fall as stopping points during their southward migration. You will be amazed by the numbers and kinds of species we will encounter at this time of year. Beginning on Friday evening we will examine the important role of these stopover areas in the conservation of neotropical migrant birds and learn the techniques used to identify the common families of birds found in the vicinity of the Desert Studies Center. As we observe both migrant and resident birds in their natural habitats, we will learn about their ecology, natural history and special adaptations to the harsh desert environment.

## **Exploring the East Mojave: The Afton Canyon Area**

DATES AND TIMES OF MEETING: November 14, 15, 16, 2008 beginning Friday at 8 P.M. and ending Sunday at 3 P.M.

INSTRUCTORS: Norman Meek and Joan Schneider

The Afton Canyon area has everything: a year-round flowing river; Bighorn sheep; spectacular multicolored rock layers that some call The Grand Canyon of the Mojave; remnants of unique prehistoric settlements; historic caves; shorelines of ancient Lake Manix and much more. Join an archaeologist and a geographer, intimately familiar with this unique area, and examine the geological evidence for the rapid formation of the canyon, explore caves and mines, learn where aboriginal groups found stone to make tools, see evidence of prehistoric and historic floods, visit archaeological sites, discuss the uses of plant and animal resources by prehistoric groups, and see the importance of the canyon as a trade and transportation corridor between the Colorado River and the Pacific Ocean from prehistoric times to present.

The class will tour the canyon and adjacent areas by carpooling using personal vehicles. Bring a high clearance vehicle if you have one. There will also be optional strenuous hikes of not more than four miles round-trip. Be prepared to get your feet wet. Bring a flashlight and a camera if you have one.