

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

**DATES AND TIMES OF MEETING:** October 11, 12, 13, 2013 beginning Friday at 8:00 P.M. and ending Sunday at 3:00 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.

## **Playas to Pines: The Diverse Landscapes and Habitats of the Eastern Mojave Desert**

**DATES AND TIMES OF MEETING:** October 25, 26, 27, 2013 beginning at 8:00 P.M. on Friday and ending at 3:00 P.M. on Sunday

**INSTRUCTOR:** Robert Fulton

The eastern Mojave Desert is characterized by great topographic relief, complex geology, and diverse habitats, yielding a species richness not found in much of the western Mojave. Explore this diversity, from the low-lying remains of Ice Age lakes (playas) to Pinyon Pine forests on the slopes of the higher ranges.

Highlights include the towering Kelso sand dunes, expansive Cima Volcanic Field with its cinder cones, lava flows (and even a subterranean lava tube), the largest and densest Joshua Tree forest in the world on Cima Dome, and the eerily eroded volcanic deposits at Hole-in-the-Wall.