



OREGON IN SUMMER

JULY 30 – AUGUST 9, 2025

Guide: Steve Huggins
Maximum group size is 7 participants

Price: TBD per person
Based on double occupancy
TBD single room supplement

Check out the trip website here: redhillbirding.com/oregon

To register, fill out the booking form here: redhillbirding.com/bookingform

The Pacific Northwest is an incredible birding destination and a must-stop for the United States birder hoping to see some new species. Scenery abounds in this part of the country. The rugged Pacific coastline with extensive marsh habitat and open shoreline is nestled in next to beautifully lush temperate rainforest with Coastal Mountains looming above. The Eastern Cascades around our base in Sisters is noticeable drier and dominated by ponderosa pine and oak forests, and we will be within close range of much drier valleys, including sagebrush steppe habitat. This tour aims to cover these habitats at a pace that allows us to enjoy each of these them thoroughly while searching for all the expected Pacific Northwest specialty breeders and early migrants including warblers and especially shorebirds. This is a great introduction to the avifauna of the region with unmatched scenery that is not to be missed!



ITINERARY

Day 1, Wed, Jul 30. Arrive to Portland. Night in Portland

Today is a dedicated arrival day. If flights arrive in time, we will do some urban birding around Portland before gathering for an orientation dinner near our airport hotel.

Day 2, Thu, Jul 31. Portland to Astoria. Night in Astoria

After an early breakfast at our hotel, we will begin the nearly two-hour drive to Astoria, breaking up the morning by birding along the way. We might stop at Ridgefield NWR to search local breeding birds including Black-headed Grosbeak, Bewick's Wren, Bullock's Oriole, Cinnamon Teal, Virginia Rail, Sandhill Crane and other waterbirds. In the afternoon we will make our way towards the coast arriving at our hotel in Astoria where we should see our first coastal birds such as Western Gull and Pelagic Cormorant.

Day 3, Fri, Aug 1. Birding the Astoria area. Night in Astoria

After breakfast we'll make our way to the nearby Fort Stevens State Park. A long peninsular with great birding, Snowy Plovers are possible here and we will search for them on the beaches. Here we will search among the returning shorebirds and waterfowl while both Bald Eagle and Osprey soar overhead. Many passerines are possible here too including the western subspecies of Warbling Vireo, Purple Finch, Western Flycatcher, Orange-crowned Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler and more.

In the afternoon we will head to Cannon Beach to bird a few sites including Haystack Rock. Famous for its thousands of breeding seabirds, among the hordes of Common Murre we should be able to pick out a few Tufted Puffin if we are lucky.

Day 4, Sat, Aug 2. Astoria to Newport. Night in Newport

We leave Astoria and make the drive south towards Newport. It's not too far but it will likely take us all day as we stop to bird at various locations on the way. We will make stops searching for Black Oystercatcher on the coast and at a nearby inland site we will head into the forest to search for American Dipper, Hermit Warbler, Chestnut-backed Chickadee and Pacific Wren.

Lunch will be in Tillamook - famous for its cheese! Continuing the drive south along the breathtaking coastal highway we will reach Newport by late afternoon, where we might continue to bird before checking into our hotel and having a nice meal.

Day 5, Sun, Aug 3. Full day birding the Newport area Night in Newport.

After breakfast at our hotel, we will head to Yaquina Head natural area - here we will have closeup views of the seabirds that call this place home including Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorants, Pigeon Guillemot and Common Murre's - searching the rocks below may yield

more Black Oystercatchers and if we are lucky, Wandering Tattler and Harlequin Ducks. Views from the lighthouse are spectacular and we will also scan the ocean here for loons and scoters. We will likely drop into a couple of other coastal spots to search for returning shorebirds as well as local breeding birds. Later in the day we will walk the Mark Hatfield Marine Science Estuary Trail - a lovely trail with great views of the Yaquina River estuary, searching the gulls and shorebirds. We will end the day with a nice meal and the sun setting over the Pacific.

Day 6, Mon, Aug 4. Newport to Corvallis. Night in Corvallis

We say goodbye to Newport and with an early start we head to Mary's Peak near Philomath. Here we hope to bump into a Sooty Grouse, and we will search and listen for the gorgeous Varied Thrush. Other birds possible will be Western Wood-Pewee, Western Bluebird, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Hermit Warbler, Pacific Wren, Band-tailed Pigeon, Hammond's Flycatcher, Evening Grosbeak and many more. In the afternoon we gain access to a large sewage lagoon near the intermontane valley town of Corvallis, where anything is possible among the over-summering ducks and returning shorebirds.

Day 7, Tue, Aug 5. Corvallis to Sisters. Night in Sisters

We will start the day with another drive up to Mary's Peak in search of any of the birds we have missed before, and we will keep our fingers crossed that we get lucky with a Sooty Grouse if we still need it. Mid-morning, we will begin the long drive west towards the town of Sisters - a town named after the three sister mountain peaks that tower nearby. The climate is distinctly drier here but the temperature average only about 70 degrees. We will stay at a hotel here that keeps its feeders stocked up and hopefully one of the local celebrity White-headed Woodpeckers makes an appearance.

Days 8-9, Wed-Thu, Aug 6-7. Birding the Sisters region. Nights in Sisters.

We will bird various spots over the next two days within striking distance of our base in Sisters. In the vast Deschutes National Forest, we will search for targets such as White-headed Woodpecker, Lewis's Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker, Red-naped Sapsucker, Northern Pygmy Owl, Townsend's Warbler, Cassin's Finch, Pinyon Jay, Mountain Chickadee, Pygmy Nuthatch, Calliope Hummingbird, Dusky Flycatcher, Gray Flycatcher, Townsend's Solitaire, Green-tailed Towhee and so many more.

We will also head southwest beyond Bend to an area of sagebrush habitat - here we will search for Prairie Falcon, Sagebrush & Brewer's Sparrow, Sage Thrasher, Western Meadowlark, Loggerhead Shrike, Swainson's Hawk, and if we are lucky, Ferruginous Hawk. The transitional habitat between the sagebrush and forest is good for Ash-throated Flycatcher, Mountain Bluebird and Black-billed Magpies, and there is a spot we will search for Rock Wren. After lunch in Bend, we will head back to the Sisters area to search for any species we may still be missing.

Day 10, Fri, Aug 8. Sisters to Hood River. Night in Hood River

After some early morning birding around Sister's, we begin our drive towards the highest peak in Oregon - Mount Hood. We will bird along the way, hopefully Tricolored Blackbirds may be around on some of the high mountain marshes. We will search the forest in the Mt. Hood area for species we may have missed so far including Canada Jay and MacGillivray's Warblers and there are some high elevation mountain lakes here that are good for Barrow's Goldeneye. Lunch will be at the Timberline Lodge - famous for its role in Stanley Kubrick's famous thriller, *The Shining*. After lunch, we will continue birding our way down to our lodging along the Hood River, where the river mouth could possibly hold a few more species we might have missed at the start of the tour.

Day 11, Sat, Aug 9. Hood River to Portland. End of tour.

It is about an hour from our hotel to the Portland International Airport, so we will do some morning birding before departure, which could include a stop on the entrance road to Larch Mountain for some last-minute mountain birding. We will plan to arrive at the Portland International Airport by 11:00 AM. Bon voyage!

IMPORTANT NOTES

Contact and registration information

To sign up, each participant should complete the [booking form](#). Once we receive the form, we will send you information about paying the trip deposit. If you have any questions before registering, please contact the office at info@redhillbirding.com.

Timing

The trip will **begin by 5:00 pm at the Portland International Airport (PDX) on Wednesday, July 30, 2025**, and will **end at the Portland International Airport by 11 am on Saturday, August 10, 2025**. We will be birding in a single van with the guide driving.

Physical difficulty

This trip is **physically easy**. Much birding will be done from roads and other easily accessible places. That said, this is a hilly and mountainous region, so we will sometimes be walking over uneven and possibly steep terrain. We will always be walking at a birding pace (that is, very slowly). These walks could last up to a few hours and total several miles by the end of the day.

Pace

The **pace** of the trip is **moderate**. A typical day will have us up early to take advantage of early morning bird activity, and we will have a break for lunch before continuing birding in the afternoon. We will have some longer drives between locations, but for much of the trip, we will be staying at a location for more than one night. Some of our mornings will be quite early to allow us to arrive at locations for peak bird activity. We will sometimes take breakfast or lunch

into the field with us to maximize our time birding. There will be some optional nighttime outings to look for owls and other nocturnal creatures.

Price

The price of the trip is **\$TBD** and the single room supplement is **\$TBD**. This price **includes** all meals (excluding alcoholic beverages) from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 11; all transportation and accommodation during that period; an expert Red Hill Birding guide with a scope and audio equipment; all entrance fees; and a bound checklist to keep track of sightings during the trip. It **does not include** alcoholic beverages, travel insurance, airport transfers, optional activities, snacks, laundry, tips (apart from meals), or other items of a personal nature.

A deposit of \$TBD per person and the submission of the [booking form](#) will secure your place on the trip. Upon receiving your booking form, we will send you deposit details. Final payment is due by April 30, 2025. We accept payment by Zelle, check, and bank transfer. We also accept payment by credit card with an additional 3% processing fee.

Hotels

Accommodations are good throughout. We will be staying in nice motels in Astoria, Newport, Corvallis and Hood River. In Sisters, our excellent lodge even has feeders that regularly attract White-headed Woodpeckers! Generally, there will be free wireless internet. We favor hotels that are convenient to our birding sites whenever possible.

Photography

The **photographic opportunities** are **good**. Photography could be especially good in open areas, around feeders and at shoreline locations. Photography in the forested areas and mountains can be difficult with poorer lighting and shy birds. Although this is primarily a birding tour and we will not be making special accommodations for photographers, any photographers in the group could go home with many excellent images.

Weather

The weather in Oregon in late summer is varied given the different habitats we are visiting, each affected by elevation and moisture. Temperatures along the coast can reach the upper 60's and low 70's and has higher humidity and more cloud cover than along the western edge of the Cascade Range. In Sisters, temperatures can be in the upper 70s (and even warmer in the desert), and it is noticeably drier. At higher elevations, weather can change rapidly, and it is significantly colder in the mornings with temperatures starting in the 40s. Although we are visiting at a time of year with less rain, the chance for precipitation is possible on all parts of this tour.

Packing considerations

You will generally want to wear comfortable, light-weight clothing. Long sleeves and long pants are recommended for sun protection. A midweight jacket, and possibly gloves and a hat, are

useful for when it gets cool at night and for early morning birding at higher elevations or along the more humid coast. A good pair of walking shoes and/or hiking boots will be needed for this tour. Waterproof footwear is best, but not required on this tour, as we will generally be on trails or roadside the entire time.

In terms of gear, you will want to bring the usual binoculars, field guide, hat, camera, and other gear you are accustomed to going birding with. It is critical to stay well-hydrated, so please bring a reusable water bottle. For coffee drinkers, a travel coffee mug is a nice thing to have along in the morning. It can be quite sunny in Oregon at this time of year, so bring sunscreen and a hat as well. A flashlight (preferably a headlamp) will be useful during our nighttime outings. For anyone with balance concerns, collapsible walking poles are handy on some trails in the mountains.

Tipping

We aim to provide **exceptional service**, using guides that are knowledgeable, interesting, personable, and experienced. While tipping is never expected, if you feel that your guides went above and beyond, you are welcome to leave them a gratuity. Tips at restaurants are included in the cost of the tour.

Travel insurance

We do not require travel insurance for domestic trips. However, we recommend purchasing it to help protect you against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer travel protection through Travelex Insurance Services. For more information on the available plans or to enroll, go to www.travelexinsurance.com or contact Travelex Insurance Services at 800-228-9792 and reference location number 13-0441.

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Note that to be eligible for some benefits, travel insurance must be purchased within 1-2 weeks of paying the trip deposit.