

OREGON BIRDING ADVENTURE

Fall Birding in the Pacific Northwest

September 8-15, 2025

A birding tour organized by *Seven Ponds Nature Center* and *Birddash*

Oregon is a state of incredible scenic beauty and geographic diversity – including rocky coastlines, coastal estuaries, lush temperate rain forests, ponderosa pines of the Cascade Mountains, and the sagebrush, juniper, and grasslands east of the mountains. On this tour we will explore the bird life of each of these diverse habitats as we go adventure birding in Oregon!



Join us for a small group trip to Oregon, widely renowned for its natural beauty. Our itinerary will take us through a wide range of habitats, each holding its own unique birds awaiting our discovery. Oregon claims the sixth largest bird list among all Lower 48 U.S. states (only California, Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, and Florida have recorded more birds), and our tour will coincide with fall migration, providing us with a chance of seeing nearly 200 species of birds. Come along on what is sure to be a most memorable birding tour!

TOUR ITINERARY

Our daily activities will be flexible based on species we've seen to date and recent bird reports, but the following daily outline provides a preliminary plan of how we will spend our days. Our plans are subject to change based on weather conditions and road closures. Note: the birds listed are not intended to be an exhaustive list – just a sampling of what may be found at each location.

DAY 1 – Monday, September 8 – Arrival in Portland. Plan your arrival in Portland by mid-afternoon and take the complimentary shuttle from the airport to our hotel for a 3:00 check-in. We'll meet in the hotel lobby at 5:00 and head to dinner. *Night in Portland.*

DAY 2 – Tuesday, September 9 – To the Coast! We'll work our way out through the Willamette/Tualatin Valley lowlands looking for oak-savannah species like **Acorn Woodpecker** and **California Scrub-Jay** plus a host of other common western lowland birds before moving into the Oregon Coast Range about 40 miles west of Portland. Once in the Coast Range, our targets will include birds such as **Band-tailed Pigeon**, **Red-breasted Sapsucker**, **Western Flycatcher**, **Hutton's Vireo**, **Varied Thrush**, **Pacific Wren**, **American Dipper**, **Black-throated Gray Warbler**, **MacGillivray's Warbler**, **Lazuli Bunting**, **Evening Grosbeak**, **Chestnut-backed Chickadee**, **Steller's Jay**, **Spotted Towhee**, **Western Tanager**, and **Northern Pygmy-Owl**. If we're lucky, we might find **Mountain Quail** or **Sooty Grouse**. By late afternoon we'll head to the outer coast. *Night in Astoria.*



DAY 3 – Wednesday, September 10 – Coastal Birding.

Starting in Seaside, we'll visit the Necanicum River estuary for gulls and shorebirds, then check "The Cove" in Seaside for rock shorebirds, gulls, scoters, grebes, and loons. From there, we'll continue south to Cannon Beach (about 10 miles). Stops will include Ecola State Park for a sea watch and some jaw-dropping scenery, and iconic Haystack Rock, which may yield **Heerman's Gull**, **Pigeon Guillemot**, **Common Murre**, **Black Oystercatcher**, **Brandt's** and **Pelagic cormorants**, **scoters**, **Brown Pelican**, and perhaps some additional alcids like

Marbled Murrelet and **Rhinoceros Auklet**. Linger **Tufted Puffin** is also a possibility. On our way south we can stop for lunch and then for ice cream at the Tillamook Creamery, where they make Tillamook cheese and an amazing array of ice cream flavors. We'll bird our way back north along the coast to Astoria, targeting any expected birds we haven't yet seen. *Night in Astoria.*

DAY 4 – Thursday, September 11 – Coast to Mountains. Our drive today will take us from the coast to the mountains – with plenty of birding along the way. We'll start the morning at Astoria Column, where we could find numerous migrants while we enjoy the view from Coxcomb Hill. To break up the five-hour drive, we'll make several stops in search of birds like **Vaux's Swift**, **Violet-green Swallow**, **California Quail**, **Black-billed Magpie**, **American Dipper**, **Mountain Bluebird**, **Lewis's Woodpecker**, **Say's Phoebe**, **Golden-crowned Sparrow**, and more. We'll check into our lodging in Bend and head to dinner. *Night in Bend.*





DAY 5 – Friday, September 12 – Mountain Birding. This is our first of two days exploring the scenic Cascade Mountains west of Bend. Our focus on this day will be the pine-fir forest habitats in the Sisters/Santiam Pass area. We could potentially see 10+ species of woodpeckers, including **Lewis’s Woodpecker**, **White-headed Woodpecker**, **Williamson’s Sapsucker**, **Red-naped Sapsucker**, and **Red-breasted Sapsucker**, plus the more challenging to find **Black-backed Woodpecker** and **American Three-toed Woodpecker**. We expect to see the thick-billed subspecies of **Fox Sparrow**, plus **Townsend’s Solitaire** and **Clark’s Nutcracker** at higher elevations. **Mountain Chickadees**, **Cassin’s Finches**, and **Pygmy Nuthatches** are all common in the pine forests and we’ll do our best to find **Pinyon Jays**. *Night in Bend.*

DAY 6 – Saturday, September 13 – Open Country Birding.

Our first stop today will be in the Fort Rock area, searching for open country raptors including **Prairie Falcon**, **Golden Eagle**, **Ferruginous Hawk**, and **Swainson’s Hawk**. At Fort Rock State Park we’ll look for **Canyon Wren** as well as **Green-tailed Towhee**. Next, we’ll visit the Cabin Lake Guard Station guzzler, where there is a water feature and photo blind. It’s great for woodpeckers, finches, crossbills, and various sparrows that come in to get water. This is one of the more reliable places in Oregon to see **Pinyon Jay**. From there we will work our way through sagebrush habitats and agriculture fields (primarily alfalfa) looking for high desert sagebrush species like **Brewer’s Sparrow**,



Lark Sparrow, **Sage Thrasher**, **Gray Flycatcher**, and likely some raptors. Summer Lake Wildlife Management Area is like a miniature version of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge with much more stable water levels and better accessibility to expansive marsh habitats. **Snowy Plovers** breed here and any time after mid-July it attracts lots of southbound shorebirds. **American Avocet**, **Black-necked Stilt**, **Forster’s Tern**, and **White-faced Ibis** should be readily found and there is always the possibility of a rare shorebird. *Night in Bend.*



DAY 7 – Sunday, September 14 – More Mountain Birding.

Today we will focus on the high mountain lakes along the Cascade Lakes National Scenic Byway. Wickiup Reservoir can be very good for migrant ducks, loons, and shorebirds and the surrounding forests will offer additional opportunities to see ponderosa and lodgepole pine forest specialty birds. We’ll also make stops around Hosmer Lake and Elk Lake, which offer our best opportunity for **American Three-toed Woodpecker**. There are dozens of lakes and places we can stop along the Cascades Lakes Byway. By late afternoon we will begin the long drive back to Portland, with a dinner stop along the way. *Night in Portland.*

DAY 8 – Monday, September 15 – Departure from Portland.

Plan your departure for anytime today. Enjoy breakfast at the hotel and take the hotel shuttle to the airport to catch your flight. Hotel checkout is 11:00 AM.

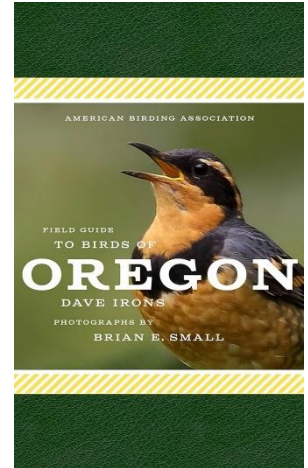
TOUR LEADERS



Dave Irons' parents were birders, so he was looking at birds by age six. By age 17 he connected with other young birders and became fully hooked. Nearly a half century later his passion for birding is sustained by his curiosity about bird vagrancy, along with his keen interest in biogeography and studying the finer points of field identification. Dave loves passing forward what he has learned. He authored the *ABA Field Guide to the Birds of Oregon*, published in 2018.

Dave and his wife Shawneen Finnegan make their home in Beaverton, Oregon. Together they have guided tours and field trips and taught birding classes for many organizations including the Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival, Western Field Ornithologists, Oregon Birding Association, Oregon

Pelagic Tours, the Bird Alliance of Oregon (formerly Audubon Society of Portland), the Siskiyou Field Institute, Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, New Jersey Audubon Eco Travel, and Victor Emanuel Nature Tours. Since retiring, they created Birddash LLC—which offers small private group birding tours around the Pacific Northwest. They are the statewide eBird review coordinators for Oregon and local reviewers for their home county (Washington County, Oregon).



Daryl Bernard is a long-time birder and amateur naturalist who loves being outdoors and embraces every opportunity to share nature with others. He enjoys organizing trips and tours and strives to ensure that every participant has a thoroughly memorable experience. Daryl has organized and led numerous birding field tours throughout North America, many local birding trips in Michigan, and bird walks for Seven Ponds as well as birding festivals. Daryl is the Field Tour Coordinator for Seven Ponds Nature Center in southeast Michigan, and regularly presents birding programs at birding clubs, garden clubs, libraries, and birding festivals.



FEE and REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- Tour Fee: \$2650 per person in double occupancy from Portland, Oregon
- Single Supplement: \$550 (upon request, subject to availability)
- Deposit: \$300 (due upon registration)
- Final Payment: \$2350 due August 1, 2025
- Small group size is limited to **8-12 individuals** and early registration is encouraged

WHAT THE TOUR FEE INCLUDES:

- Full expert guide service – Dave will be with us every step of the way
- Hotel accommodations for seven nights
- All meals from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 8 of the tour
- Ground transportation in a 15-passenger van
- All park entrance fees, parking fees, bridge tolls, highway tolls
- Pre-tour information and a post-tour trip report
- eBird checklist sharing (for those using eBird)

WHAT THE TOUR FEE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Your airfare to/from Portland, Oregon
- Alcoholic beverages
- Laundry
- Other items of a personal nature
- Gratuity for birding guide services (optional)

**ONLINE REGISTRATION WILL OPEN FOR SEVEN PONDS MEMBERS ON
TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2025 at 9:00 AM**

**ONLINE REGISTRATION WILL OPEN FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC ON
TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025 at 9:00 AM (if space remains)**

Registration for this tour will take place online at www.sevenponds.org with a \$300 deposit due at the time of registration. At the Seven Ponds home page, go to Programs then Seven Ponds Field Tours and select the Oregon Birding Field Tour registration button. Upon successfully completing your online registration you should receive an email confirmation immediately. Participants will be sent a registration form to complete and return.

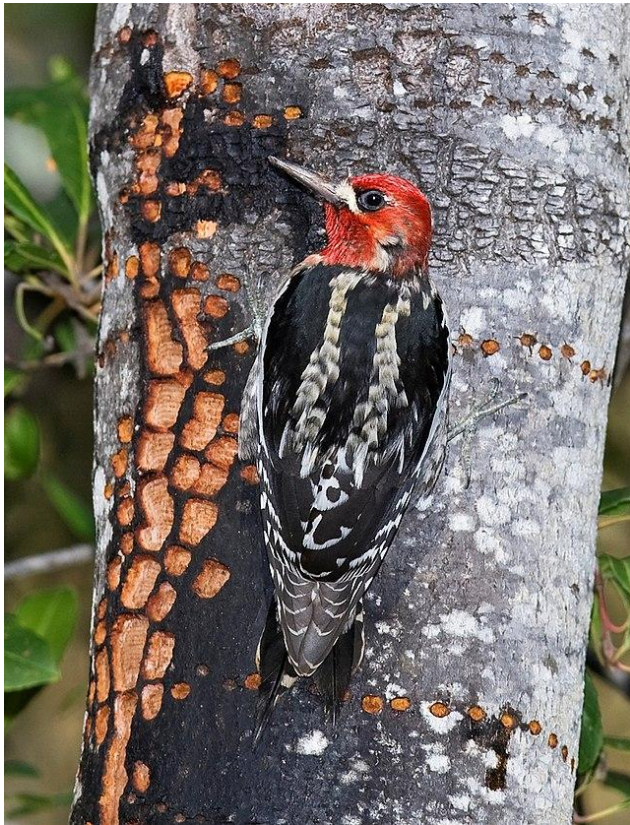
For more information, contact Daryl Bernard at (810) 796-3200 or (989) 513-5195 (cell)
or via e-mail at dbernard@sevenponds.org

Oregon Target Birds

Greater White-fronted Goose
Cackling Goose
Cinnamon Teal
Harlequin Duck
Surf Scoter
White-winged Scoter
Mountain Quail
California Quail
Sooty Grouse
Band-tailed Pigeon
Eurasian Collared-Dove
Vaux's Swift
Black-necked Stilt
American Avocet
Black Oystercatcher
Snowy Plover
Whimbrel
Marbled Godwit
Red-necked Phalarope
Wandering Tattler
Black Turnstone
Surfbird
Western Sandpiper
Rhinoceros Auklet
Tufted Puffin
Marbled Murrelet
Pigeon Guillemot
Common Murre
Heerman's Gull
Short-billed Gull
Western Gull
California Gull
Glaucous-winged Gull
Eared Grebe
Western Grebe
Clark's Grebe

Red-throated Loon
Pacific Loon
Brandt's Cormorant
Pelagic Cormorant
White-faced Ibis
American White Pelican
Brown Pelican
Golden Eagle
Swainson's Hawk
Ferruginous Hawk
Western Screech-Owl
Northern Pygmy-Owl
Williamson's Sapsucker
Red-naped Sapsucker
Red-breasted Sapsucker
Lewis's Woodpecker
Acorn Woodpecker
Am. Three-toed Woodpecker
Black-backed Woodpecker
White-headed Woodpecker
Prairie Falcon
Western Wood-Pewee
Hammond's Flycatcher
Gray Flycatcher
Dusky Flycatcher
Western Flycatcher
Black Phoebe
Say's Phoebe
Hutton's Vireo
Cassin's Vireo
Canada Jay
Pinyon Jay
Steller's Jay
California Scrub-Jay
Black-billed Magpie
Clark's Nutcracker

Mountain Chickadee
Chestnut-backed Chickadee
Oak Titmouse
Violet-green Swallow
Bushtit
Wrentit
Pygmy Nuthatch
Rock Wren
Canyon Wren
Pacific Wren
Bewick's Wren
American Dipper
Sage Thrasher
Western Bluebird
Mountain Bluebird
Townsend's Solitaire
Varied Thrush
Evening Grosbeak
Cassin's Finch
Red Crossbill
Lesser Goldfinch
Brewer's Sparrow
Lark Sparrow
Golden-crowned Sparrow
Green-tailed Towhee
Spotted Towhee
Yellow-breasted Chat
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Western Meadowlark
Brewer's Blackbird
MacGillivray's Warbler
Black-throated Gray Warbler
Western Tanager
Black-headed Grosbeak
Lazuli Bunting



All bird photos courtesy of Wiki Commons