

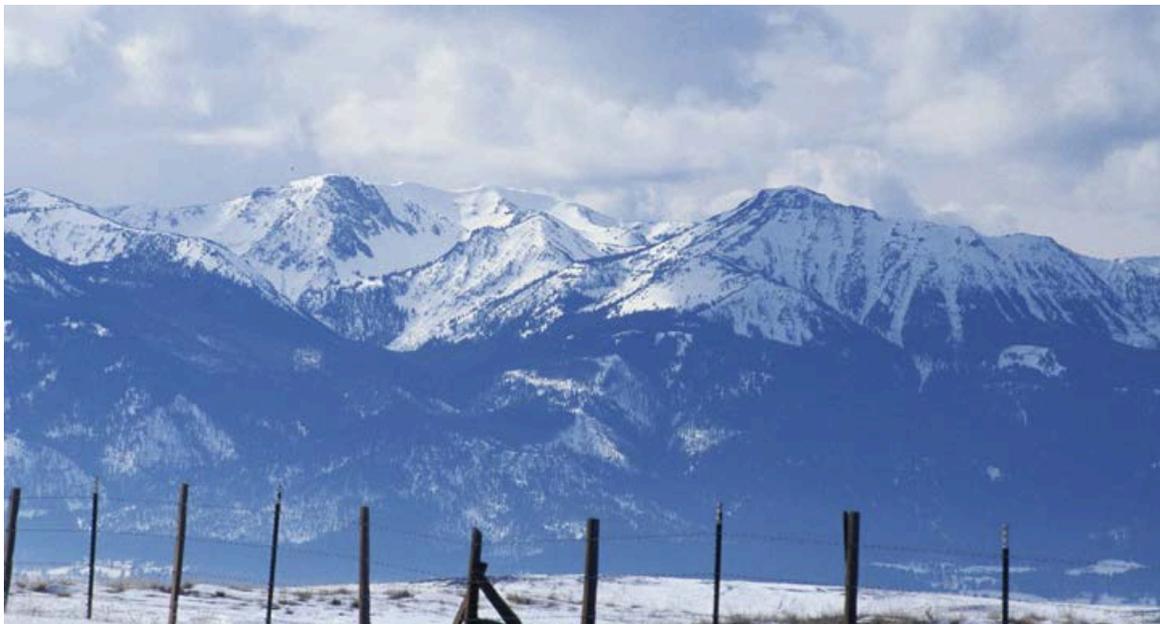


## WALLOWA WINTER WONDERLAND: NE Oregon, 1–5 February 2017

\$1860 single/\$1660 double

*Tucked into the northeastern corner of Oregon lies a little slice of Switzerland. This region surrounding the Wallowa Mountains is one of the most remote and most spectacular in the state. Sharp, craggy peaks peer down on ancient glacial lakes, with endless rolling prairie to the north. In winter, everything is covered with a soft blanket of white. Due to the region's geographical isolation from the rest of the state, the Wallowa Valley harbors some of Oregon's most unique birds. Escape with us to sample Wallowa County's impressive winter spectacle.*

*Your host and lead guide,  
Stephen Shunk*

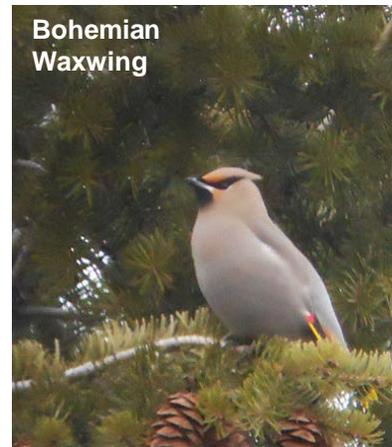


### TRIP SUMMARY

The forbidding arctic winter drives countless northern breeding birds southward to spend the season in milder climes. Dozens of songbird and raptor species make their way south until they reach winter foraging grounds. Those that migrate west of the Rockies run into a formidable barrier in Northeastern Oregon. Here they gather in large concentrations to overwinter in the shadow of the Wallowa Mountains.

Each winter, hundreds of Bohemian Waxwings gorge on mountain-ash and juniper fruits in the Wallowa Valley. Small flocks of American Tree Sparrows fill nearly every gully in the nearby hills. In some years, Common Redpolls swarm the birch and alder trees by the dozens. A few species that breed in the Wallowa Mountains, such as Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, make their way down the north-facing slopes each winter. Huge flocks of rosy-finches may join dozens or even hundreds of Snow Buntings to forage on the rolling, snow-covered fields north of the mountains. Occasionally, Lapland Longspur joins large wintering flocks of Horned Larks, and Northern Shrike patrols the region for easy forage.

Searching for tree sparrows and redpolls along the prairie back-roads typically yields resident coveys of Gray Partridge, and possibly a glimpse of Oregon's only wild population of Sharp-tailed Grouse. Pileated Woodpecker can be found at forest edges. Rough-legged Hawk and Bald Eagle exhibit a commanding presence throughout the region, joining Prairie Falcon and Golden Eagle to highlight dozens of wintering raptors. In some years, a Snowy Owl or Gyrfalcon spends the winter in Wallowa County. And all of this occurs surrounded by some of the most spectacular scenery in North America.



Our tour begins and ends in Portland, Oregon. Soon after leaving the city, we will enter the scenic Columbia River Gorge, where, weather permitting, we may visit the spectacular Multnomah Falls. Here we could see American Dipper cavorting in the stream, Chestnut-backed Chickadee among giant Douglas-firs, or Bald Eagle roosting along the river itself. We will continue eastward along Oregon's northern border with a late afternoon birding stop at the mouth of the Deschutes River.

After crossing the Blue Mountains, we will enjoy our first dinner in La Grande before continuing our journey to Enterprise. If our visit coincides with a storm, we may choose to spend the first night in La Grande to avoid crossing the last icy summit after dark. Weather permitting, we will awake at our base in the town of Enterprise, and will spend the next three days exploring all the accessible habitats on our quest for the region's specialty birds. Each day's itinerary will be driven by local bird reports in the area, as well as our success at finding certain species.

Sunday will take us back along the mighty Columbia River, with additional chances for birding, possibly into the Hood River Valley, depending on the weather and local bird reports. We will return to the Portland airport by 4 p.m. Sunday.

### DAILY ACTIVITIES

Winter birding in Wallowa County often requires a sense of adventure. *Inclement weather will not cancel the tour*, and the birding is often better when it is snowing or very cold. The daily weather conditions will dictate our specific birding routes, as well as the amount of time we spend in or out of the vehicle. Snowy days may be broken up by "warm-up" stops for coffee or hot chocolate, and mild weather may invite us to higher elevations in search of forest birds. Each day typically involves light walking over short distances, and we will often be walking over packed snow or ice. We will start birding after sunrise each morning and will often bird until sunset, but the short winter days allow plenty of time for a relaxed dinner each evening and a review of our day.



Extensive birding experience is not required for this five-day weekend. In fact, the relatively low species count makes this an excellent trip for beginners. Birders with more advanced skills may be able to find and identify more of the anticipated species, while less experienced birders can be guaranteed excellent looks at potential life-birds. Birders of all skill levels will be awed by the endless scenic vistas. Your lead guide, Stephen Shunk, is a patient, experienced educator, and he will work diligently to help each participant learn bird identification, as well as general natural and cultural history of the region.

The group will travel in a large sport-utility-vehicle with easy viewing for all participants, and we will take a maximum of five birders plus one guide. *NOTE: Most of our domestic tours take up to 6 people with 2 guides, but the 4-wheel-drive will only accommodate 6 people total for optimal comfort.* This is a non-smoking tour. We stay in non-smoking rooms and eat in non-smoking areas.

### CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT

Very cold temperatures and low humidity predominate in winter in Northeastern Oregon. The average January temperature in the region sits around 26 degrees F, with an average high of 35 deg. and a low of 17 deg. We could experience everything from bright sunshine with bitter cold to milder temperatures with heavy snow, all in one day. You should be prepared to be outside for short periods in very cold weather.

We will have plenty of room for multiple pieces of luggage; please do not compromise your ability to be comfortable in winter field conditions. You will definitely need warm gloves and hat and insulated footwear in order to focus on the birding. You may even want to bring small instant pocket warmers to have handy on colder days. Prior to the tour, we recommend you check the latest weather forecast for Enterprise, Oregon.

We recommend that you bring your own binoculars and favorite field guide. You also may bring a spotting scope, although we will have at least one spotting scope available for the group. We also carry an extensive birding library for reference and learning. We encourage you to take photos as souvenirs, but this is not a photography tour. If you wish to focus on photographic opportunities, we ask that you remain sensitive to the group's needs. Ensuring that everyone in the group gets their binoculars on a bird will take precedence over shooting photos. That said, you are welcome to bring along any camera you can tolerate carrying, and you may at least want to carry a small camera to capture some of the images of Wallowa County's spectacular scenery.

### LODGING, MEALS & REFRESHMENTS

We will spend all four nights at a comfortable local motel in Enterprise. The tour fees below list lodging at both single and double occupancy. If you are traveling with a birding partner and wish to share a room, we should be able to accommodate you in a double room. If we are unable to place you with a roommate for any reason, you will be responsible for the single tour rate. Your tour fee includes all meals, snacks, and non-alcoholic beverages from dinner on Wednesday, February 1, through lunch on Sunday, February 5. We will eat meals in restaurants that offer the broadest possible variety of foods, but this is not a culinary

We will eat breakfast out each morning, though coffee and tea will be available for early risers in the motel. Most breakfasts will be held around 7:30 a.m. We will eat lunches in local cafes, with dinners held after sunset at casual restaurants. In addition to restaurant meals, we will provide snacks and beverages in the field. One of our goals is to keep you pleasantly fueled and hydrated to help you get the most of your birding days. The survey included in



Snow Bunting



Gyrfalcon

your registration materials asks for your dietary restrictions and preferences. While we cannot honor every food and drink request, the more detailed your response, the better we can serve you.

### TRAVEL ITINERARY

Your trip fee includes round-trip transportation from Portland (PDX airport). We request that you arrive in Portland by noon p.m. on Wednesday, February 1, to allow some birding time en route to Enterprise. If you will originate near our home-base in Central Oregon or if you wish to meet us somewhere along our route, please let us know this well in advance. We will return to Portland by 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. You may wish to stay in one of the airport motels on Sunday night to meet your travel schedule.

Our daily birding will follow the basic itinerary below. Our specific destinations depend on a number of factors, including local bird reports, weather, and our success at finding certain species.

If you have additional questions about the route or certain birding spots, please contact us at your convenience.

*Wednesday, February 1:* Portland to Enterprise

Birding the Columbia Gorge; dinner in La Grande, night in Enterprise.

*Thursday, February 2:* Wallowa Valley

Birding the Wallowa valley and foothills; dinner and night in Enterprise.

*Friday, February 3:* Wallowa Valley

Birding the valley and mountains; dinner and night in Enterprise.

*Saturday, February 4:* Wallowa Valley

Birding the valley; dinner and night in Enterprise.

*Sunday, February 5:* Wallowa Valley to Columbia Gorge and Portland.

### TOUR FEE

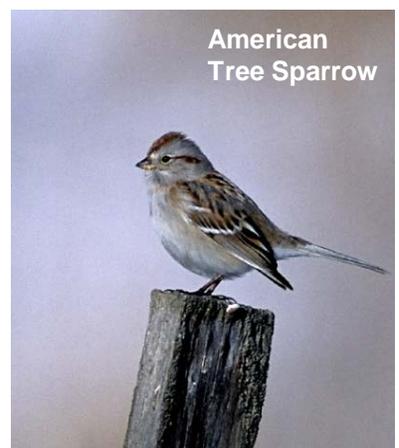
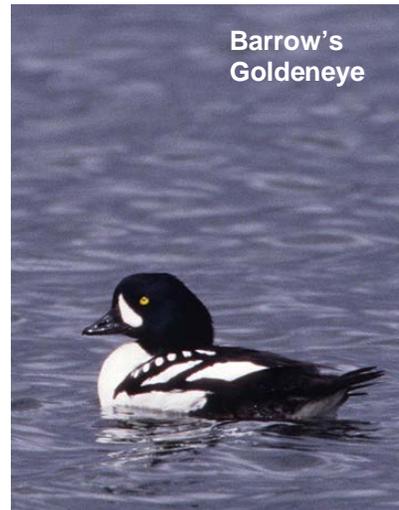
Your tour fee includes all meals, snacks and beverages from Wednesday afternoon through Sunday afternoon; lodging at single or double occupancy; transportation from Portland; permit, and license fees; service-related gratuities; and the instruction and leadership of your guide(s). The fee does not include guides' gratuities, which are never expected but always appreciated based on your satisfaction with our service.

*TOUR FEE:* \$1,860 single/\$1,660 double

*NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT:* \$100

*BALANCE AFTER DEPOSIT:* \$1,760 single/\$1,560 double

*NOTE: Our tour fees are structured to allow the best possible client-to-guide ratio for an optimal birding experience, with a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 5 participants on this tour.*



*REFUND POLICY: Your deposit is non-refundable. If you cancel your reservation more than 90 days prior to the tour, you will be refunded any payments above your deposit. If you cancel between 89 and 60 days prior to the tour, you will receive a 50% refund of fees paid over the deposit. If you cancel less 60 days prior, you forfeit your entire tour fee, unless you can fill your space with another birder. If you cancel at any time, your deposit is transferrable to any Paradise Birding tour at any time in the future.*

#### TOUR REGISTRATION

To reserve your spot, fill out the attached registration/release form and send it in with your non-refundable \$100 deposit to the address below, with the balance due 90 days prior to the start date. For more information, please call 541-408-1753 or e-mail [steve@paradisebirding.com](mailto:steve@paradisebirding.com).

*We look forward to seeing you in Oregon this winter!*

Paradise Birding  
P.O. Box 547  
Sisters, OR 97759

Phone: 541-408-1753  
E-mail: [steve@paradisebirding.com](mailto:steve@paradisebirding.com)





# Paradise Birding Tour Confirmation and Registration

Greetings! This form will confirm your registration on the following tour:

**TITLE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE(S):** \_\_\_\_\_

*Please complete and return to the address below, along with either your nonrefundable \$100 deposit or the complete tour fee. If you have already paid your deposit, your balance is due 90 days prior to the tour for domestic, 120 days for international tours. For your convenience, we happily accept VISA, Mastercard and American Express. Please also complete the Liability Waiver found on page two. THANK YOU!*

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_ Height: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alt. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Paradise Birding T-shirt preference; please circle your size and color. We'll do our best to accommodate you!**

**Size:** Small—Medium—Large—Extra Large—XX Large | **Color:** Unisex (Blue—Green) or Ladies (Lavender—Yellow)

Would you like to receive periodic emailed updates & birding tips from Paradise Birding? Yes  No

Please tell us how you first heard about this Paradise Birding tour: \_\_\_\_\_

**Roommate preference:** *(If you will travel with a birding partner and wish to share a room, or if you are willing to share a room with another birder of the same sex, please indicate this here. If we are unable to match you with another birder, or where only single rooms are available, you will responsible for the single tour fee.)*

**Dietary Preferences:** *(Drink & food preferences. Please be specific. Our tours are often in remote regions without a wide variety of food choices, so we do our shopping for snacks and picnic lunches in advance. Also list any food allergies or dietary restrictions.)*

**Medical Information:** *(Please alert us to any medical or physical conditions that may affect you or your group's activities on an outdoor tour in remote locations; include any history of heart trouble, asthma, diabetes or epilepsy, as well as environmental and medication allergies. Please also include current prescription medications being taken. Use the back of this page or another sheet if necessary. NOTE: Anyone with an existing or potentially serious medical condition should consult a physician before participating in any outdoor or travel adventure.)*

**Emergency Contact:** *(Please include detailed contact information for the person or persons we should contact in case of an emergency.)*

Name(s) and relationship(s) to you: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ or Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Charge/Check Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Paradise Birding LLC | Stephen Shunk, Owner & Lead Guide**

P.O. Box 547 | Sisters, OR 97759 | PH: 541-408-1753 | E-MAIL: [steve@paradisebirding.com](mailto:steve@paradisebirding.com)



## HIKING AND BIRD WATCHING PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT and RELEASE and ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK

In consideration of the services of PARADISE BIRDING LLC, their officers, agents, employees, volunteers, advertisers, and stock holders, and all other persons or entities associated with this business (hereinafter collectively referred to as PARADISE BIRDING LLC) I agree as follows:

Although PARADISE BIRDING LLC has taken reasonable steps to provide you with appropriate equipment and skilled guides so you can enjoy an activity for which you may not be skilled, we wish to remind you this activity is not without risk. Certain risks cannot be eliminated without destroying the unique character of this activity. The same elements that contribute to the unique character of this activity can be causes of loss or damage to your equipment or accidental injury, illness, or in extreme cases, permanent trauma, paralysis, or death. We do not want to frighten you or reduce your enthusiasm for this activity, but we do think it is important for you to know in advance what to expect and that you be informed of the inherent risks. The following describes some, but not all, of those risks:

- 1.) Accidents can occur on land. You could slip or fall during a hike, causing damage to equipment, personal injury, or even death. You could also otherwise be injured while hiking or visiting other land-based phenomena.
- 2.) You could suffer injuries or trauma during the land and air transportation portions of the trip, in vehicles or aircraft.
- 3.) Exposure to the natural elements can be uncomfortable or harmful. You should be aware that this exposure could cause hypothermia, sunburn, illness from drinking water or food, and/or dehydration.
- 4.) You will be staying at accommodations not owned or operated by PARADISE BIRDING LLC. You could suffer injury, damage to equipment, trauma, or even death while staying at these places.
- 5.) Errors on the part of PARADISE BIRDING LLC and its employees, including insufficient instruction or assistance.

I am aware that this birding tour, including related transportation and activities, entails risks of injury or death to myself. I understand the description of these risks is not complete and that other unknown or unanticipated risks may result in injury or death. I agree to assume responsibility for the risks identified herein and other risks inherent to a birding trip. My participation in this activity is purely voluntary and I elect to participate in spite of the risks.

I certify that I am fully capable of participating in this activity. Therefore, I assume full responsibility for myself, including my minor children, for bodily injury, death, and loss of personal property and expenses thereof as a result of those inherent risks and dangers and of my negligence in participating in this activity.

I agree that if any portion of this agreement is found to be void or unenforceable, the remaining portions shall remain in full force and effect. In the event that I file a lawsuit against PARADISE BIRDING LLC, I agree to do so solely in the state of Oregon, and I further agree that the substantive law of that state shall apply in that action without regard to the conflict of law rules of that state.

I have read, understood, and accepted the terms and conditions stated herein and acknowledge that this agreement shall be effective and binding upon myself, my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and estate for all members of my family including any minors accompanying me. I acknowledge I am not relying on any oral, written, or visual representations or statements made by PARADISE BIRDING LLC, including those made in its brochure and other promotional material, to induce me to go on the birding tour. I also acknowledge that in any and all promotional material the use of the word "safe," "safe as possible," or the like does not mean, imply or suggest that this trip is without risk. I have also read and agree to comply with the PARADISE BIRDING LLC cancellation policy.

Photographic Release: PARADISE BIRDING LLC reserves the right to take photographs or film records of any PARADISE BIRDING LLC tour, program, or activity, and each trip member hereby agrees that PARADISE BIRDING LLC may use such photographs or film records for promotional, commercial, or any other marketing purposes, including Internet use.

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

If under 18, parent or guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell/Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alt. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Trip: \_\_\_\_\_ Trip Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Paradise Birding LLC | Stephen Shunk, Owner & Lead Guide**

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