



## WOODPECKER WONDERLAND

Central Oregon's Cascade Mountains

June 4-9, 2018

\$2,765 single / \$2,485 double

*The eastern slope of the Oregon Cascades epitomizes habitat diversity. Eastward from the Cascades crest, alpine meadows give way to mixed-conifer forests, which yield to ponderosa pine, eventually reaching the expansive juniper and sagebrush of Oregon's high desert. This swath of habitats invites a broad diversity of birds, with nearly 180 species breeding here each summer. One of the best examples of this diversity is depicted in Central Oregon's woodpeckers, with 11 species recorded nesting in the region in startling abundance. From the blackest of burned forests to the magnificent aspen galleries, we invite you to "Woodpecker Wonderland". Join our signature tour to explore not only the bird life, but also the incomparable beauty of the Cascades, and we will send you home with memories to last a lifetime!*

*Stephen Shunk, Owner and Lead Guide*



### TOUR SUMMARY

We will meet you at the Redmond airport, after which we will make the short drive to Bend. Before dinner, we will enjoy some casual birding along the Deschutes River for some of the common resident species.

Over the next four full days, we will explore the broadest diversity of habitats around Sisters and Camp Sherman in search of our 11 nesting woodpecker species. Our adventures will take us through some of the most scenic habitats in North America, from the "fresh" lava flows of McKenzie Pass to the idyllic spring-fed Metolius River. We will wander through recently burned forests in search of American Three-toed and Black-backed woodpeckers; we will scour old-growth aspen and cottonwood galleries for three different sapsuckers; and we'll visit older burns and mature mixed-conifer forest for Lewis's and Pileated woodpeckers. Each day, we will be surrounded by ponderosa pine forest, the realm of the iconic White-headed Woodpecker.

In addition to the abundance of woodpeckers, we will also search for and study nesting *Empidonax* flycatchers—especially Hammond’s, Gray, Dusky, and Pacific-Slope flycatchers—along with an abundance of Western Wood-Pewees and Olive-sided Flycatchers. Red Crossbills will be a regular distraction in the forest canopy, while Vaux’s Swifts occasionally twitter overhead. Other specialty songbirds of the region include Cassin’s Vireo, Western Tanager, MacGillivray’s Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, “Thick-billed” Fox Sparrow, Evening Grosbeak, and Cassin’s Finch. Resident raptors include Bald Eagle, Prairie Falcon, and the elusive Northern Goshawk. We should also encounter Barrow’s Goldeneye, Northern Pygmy-Owl, and American Dipper. Finally, we will delight daily in common species such as Mountain Chickadee, Steller’s Jay, Brown Creeper, and the western nuthatch “trifecta”.



Our itinerary for the final morning will depend on our prior success at finding all 11 woodpeckers. To pick up a species or two, we might head to the Bend area. If we have already found them all, we might instead explore juniper and sagebrush habitats in search of Ash-throated Flycatcher, Sage Thrasher, and desert sparrows. Wherever we go, we can count on great birding and great views of the Oregon Cascades.

## DAILY ACTIVITIES

Each day will begin with a light breakfast, followed by a full morning of birding. Lunches will typically be gourmet picnics in the field, prepared by our marketing and hospitality director, Christine Elder (who also happens to be an outstanding field biologist, educator, and scientific illustrator!). After lunch, we might enjoy more on-site birding, or travel between birding sites. On some days, we will take a break at our motel before dinner; on other nights, we may go straight from the field to dinner. In any case, we will give you ample warning of our daily plans.

We will travel in a large passenger van with comfortable seating for up to six birders and two guides. Almost no birding will be conducted from the vehicle, and each day will involve considerable walking. We may hike up to three or four miles per day, with mostly short walks at a “birdwatcher’s pace,” but a few routes may take us up steep hills or over rough terrain. In these cases, one of the guides will be available to hang back with those who prefer a less vigorous approach.

Note that we have 15.5 hours of daylight in the Central Oregon summer, so will not typically bird from dawn to dusk. Instead, we select lodging sites that offer quality birding on the grounds so that those who wish to fully exploit the long days may enjoy independent early morning and late evening walks.

Also, note that each day’s birding stops will not be driven by the need for a bigger bird list. We pride ourselves on offering a broad natural history interpretation experience, and though our daily itinerary will be driven by the birds, we will most definitely take time to “smell the flowers” (and touch the lava rocks, wet our hands in fresh springs, enjoy the antics of chipmunks, etc.). We will review our birds at dinner each evening, but we will also discuss the broader discoveries of the day. We lead these tours to help enhance your appreciation for birds and their habitats, and we hope to send you home with a strong conservation message as it relates to our local ecology.



## CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT

Warm to hot daytime temperatures and very low humidity predominate in Central Oregon, but the daily weather can be quite changeable. Average summer high and low temperatures in the region are generally in the 80s and 40s F, but we occasionally reach the 90s during a warm spell. Mornings can be quite chilly, and we may experience thunderstorms, light rain, or extended periods of sun in a single day. Higher elevations may even receive snow in mid-summer. In addition, we will be prepared to adjust our itinerary in case of any active wildfires in the region. Most of our fires are lightning-caused and are a critical part of the local ecology. However, we also realize that birding in a smoky environment is not a pleasant experience!

You should be prepared to be outside, away from the vehicle or other shelter, for a few hours at a time. Your clothing and personal gear for each day should fit into a large daypack, but please do not compromise your ability to be comfortable in a wide variety of conditions out-of-doors. We will have plenty of room in the van for everyone's personal gear and equipment. We highly recommend sturdy footwear to help you negotiate any rough terrain we may encounter.

We also recommend that you bring your own binoculars and favorite field guide, although we always carry extra binoculars and a birding library for reference and learning. You may bring a spotting scope, although we have at least one scope for the group. Most of our birding activities will occur in forested habitats, when scopes can be more of a barrier than a benefit.

Biting insects do occur in some areas along our route, and we recommend that you take the proper precautions. Very few of our stops host enough mosquitoes to hinder the birding experience, but on these occasions, you may need bug-resistant clothing or repellent to enjoy the birds. Other natural hazards in the region might include the occasional tick, mazes of downed logs, and our sun. Please be prepared with ample sun protection, as most days will involve many hours outside.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

You will spend all five nights at McMenamin's historic Old St. Francis School hotel in downtown Bend, a favorite with our guests. If you are traveling with a birding partner or are willing to room with another solo birder, we will do our best to get you into a double room. However, this may not be possible in all cases. If we are not able to match you with a roommate due to the gender mix of the participants, you will be responsible for the single tour fee.

## MEALS & REFRESHMENTS

Your tour fee includes all meals, snacks, and non-alcoholic beverages from dinner on day 1 through lunch on the last day. One of our goals is to keep you pleasantly fueled and hydrated to help you get the most of the long birding days.

Breakfasts will usually be something light, usually at Starbucks, followed by morning snacks available in the van, including juices and fresh fruit. Picnic lunches will feature fresh local specialty foods. On one or two



days we might have a deli-style lunch that will satisfy most dietary preferences. Throughout the day, we will have cold drinks and water available, along with a broad selection of simple but hearty snack foods.

Dinners in the region are always a treat, as Bend and Sisters are endowed with a plethora of casual restaurants serving high-quality Northwestern cuisine. Alcoholic beverages are not included in your tour fee, but local beers and Northwestern wines will be a common theme for those who wish to enjoy the fine spirits of the region.

Despite our best efforts at selecting meals and snacks with broad appeal, it may be difficult to accommodate the most restrictive diets. If you maintain such a diet, you may wish to bring some foods that will meet your restrictions. Your registration materials ask 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 on the road.

## GENERAL TOUR INFORMATION

Extensive birding experience is not required for this tour. Birders with more advanced skills will be able to identify more of the anticipated species, whereas less experienced birders will delight in higher numbers of life-birds. This tour would even be fine for some beginners, as long as they are prepared for the long birding days and abundance of new information. We are very skilled at and dedicated to helping each participant get good looks at birds, but not everyone will see every bird. Your guides are patient, professional educators, with many years of combined birding experience, and we will work diligently to help each guest learn bird songs and visual identification, as well as general natural and cultural history of the region.

This tour is for moderately active people in good health. Our guides are certified first aid providers, but we will occasionally be a couple hours from any medical facilities. It is very important that you share any pertinent medical information on your registration forms, including current prescriptions and the best person(s) to contact in case of an emergency. This is a non-smoking tour. Your lodging will be in non-smoking rooms, and we will eat in non-smoking restaurants.

## YOUR GUIDES

Our Cascades tours will be led by professional naturalist and Paradise Birding owner Steve Shunk. Steve started birding in 1989 in the San Francisco Bay Area, and he has lived in Central Oregon since 1997. Steve has extensive woodpecker research and study experience, and he recently completed the *Peterson Reference Guide to Woodpeckers of North America*. Steve's infectious enthusiasm, his legendary birding ear, and his intimate knowledge of the region combine to offer you an incomparable birding experience.

We will also be joined by one of Paradise Birding's local guides, each of whom garners rave reviews from clients for their enthusiasm and birding expertise.

On most days, we will be joined by Steve's partner, field biologist and educator Christine Elder. Christine's broad knowledge of biological and ecological concepts and her enthusiastic approach to education are a perfect complement to Steve's extensive birding experience.



## TRAVEL PLANNING

Your tour fee includes transportation from the Redmond airport (RDM). For those of you who will fly into Redmond, we request that you arrive by 2:00 p.m. on the first day of the tour so that we may enjoy an afternoon of birding before dinner. Please schedule your departure from Redmond no earlier than 1:00 p.m. on the final day of the tour; we will deliver you to the airport by 12:00 p.m. on that day, after our final lunch together. If you have any difficulty meeting this schedule, or if you wish to arrive a day early and/or depart a day late, we will do our best to help you arrange extra nights of lodging and transport to and from the airport.

If you will travel to the region by automobile, we will meet you at our lodging site at approximately 3:00 p.m. Please let us know if you will be driving so we can arrange for you to have an early check-in with lodging management. Directions will accompany your final confirmation materials. If you have any challenges meeting these schedules in any way, please contact us directly.

**Note:** The East Cascades Audubon Society will again run the Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival on the weekend before our tour. Since you are making the trip to central Oregon, you may choose to participate in this small enjoyable festival as a perfect introduction to the region's outstanding birding. It is likely that we will revisit some of the same areas the field trips will see during the festival, but I promise you will not get tired of watching the same woodpeckers! The festival details are forthcoming; stay tuned to the [ECAS website](#) for further information. If you attend the festival, you should reserve your hotel immediately, as they fill up quickly. You may choose to stay in Sisters for the weekend. Sisters has 3 motels: Best Western Ponderosa Lodge, Sisters Inn & Suites, and Sisters Motor Lodge, all of which fill up on most summer weekends. If you prefer to stay in Bend, and if you want to spend the extra nights at McMenamins', tell them you are part of our group so that they will keep you in the same room. If you want to stay elsewhere in Bend or Redmond, we can make some recommendations.

## TOUR FEE

In addition to ground transportation from Redmond, your tour fee includes all food and non-alcoholic beverages; five nights lodging; 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. Note that any gratuities are divided equally between our two guides.

A \$100 *nonrefundable* deposit is required to hold your place on this tour, with the balance due 90 days before departure. If you register less than 90 days before the tour, your tour fee is due in full. We accept checks, money orders, or credit cards (VISA or MasterCard only).

2018 TOUR FEE:	\$2,765 <i>single</i> / \$2,485 <i>double</i>
DEPOSIT:	\$100 <i>per person</i>
BALANCE AFTER DEPOSIT:	\$2,665 <i>single</i> / \$2,385 <i>double</i>

*NOTE: Our tours are structured to offer the best possible guide-to-client ratio for an optimal birding experience, with a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 6 participants, including 2 guides regardless of the group size.*

*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 than 60 days prior, you forfeit your entire*

Woodpecker Wonderland Tour Summary  
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www.paradisebirding.com  
541-408-1753

*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. If we cancel the tour for any reason, you will receive a full refund, including your deposit. We always recommend that you purchase travel insurance.*

To pre-register for the tour, please complete the registration materials attached and return them with your deposit. If you have questions about this tour or any Paradise Birding program, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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

Stephen Shunk  
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 (unless otherwise stated). 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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## 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: \_\_\_\_\_