



# OREGON COAST

## WINTER WEEKEND

February 20–23, 2014

*We have been based in Oregon for 16 years now, and we have explored all corners of the state. One of the places to which we frequently return is the spectacular Oregon Coast, where the winter birding can be nothing short of outstanding. After two amazingly successful trips to the north coast in 2013, we are pleased to make this extended weekend a regular part of our tour calendar.*

*In this season, sea ducks, loons, and alcids flock to the protected bays and the relatively calm waters inside the Columbia River, and a host of resident and wintering land-birds make a perfect complement to the abundance of water birds. Combine the outstanding birding with warm northwestern hospitality and some of North America's finest wines and freshest seafood, and you too will return again and again to the amazing Oregon Coast.*

*Your host and guide,  
Stephen Shunk*

### TRIP SUMMARY

From the mouth of the Columbia River southward along spectacular rocky bluffs and into rich tidal estuaries, the northern Oregon Coast offers some seriously productive winter birding. For those who do not have to time to join our longer winter tour to NW Washington and SW British Columbia, this weekend escape offers an outstanding introduction to winter birds of the Northwest.

For starters, we will enjoy an abundance of sea ducks, with excellent chances to view Harlequin and Long-tailed ducks and all three scoter species. We could find up to 4 loon species, with Yellow-billed Loons annual in the region. Wintering "rockpipers" will include plenty of Surfbirds and Black Turnstones, and we could easily find a Rock Sandpiper among them. The area's productive agricultural lands will host large collections of dabbling ducks, which always include a few Eurasian Wigeon, and we should easily see Tundra Swan and "Aleutian" Cackling Goose, with an excellent chance for a wintering Emperor Goose. Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon are conspicuous on the shores and fields of the region, and we should easily see all three western cormorants, as well as up to six different Alcids. Shorelines will be littered with Glaucous-winged and Mew gulls, with Glaucous and Thayer's gulls often mixed in. And though raptors and waterbirds may appear dominant, we will also enjoy a number of special resident and wintering passerines, including North America's northernmost Wrentits.



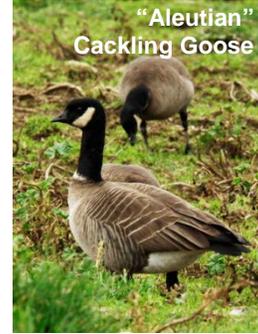
We will begin and end our tour in Portland, Oregon, heading west from the airport toward the mouth of the Columbia River. After a couple productive stops along the Columbia River estuary, we will arrive in Astoria, where we will spend all three nights of the trip, perfect situated to explore Oregon's northwest corner. Depending on local bird reports and our success at finding certain species, the weekend may also take us south into Tillmook County or across the Columbia into Washington to explore Ilwaco and Cape Disappointment.

In addition to the birds mentioned above, we will also keep watch for the following winter and resident specialties of the region:

"Black" Brant	Gyrfalcon	Pacific Wren
Tundra Swan	Black Oystercatcher	American Dipper
Greater Scaup	Ancient Murrelet	Townsend's Warbler
Red-throated Loon	Northern Shrike	"Sooty" Fox Sparrow
Red-necked Grebe	Varied Thrush	Golden-crowned Sparrow
ROUGH-legged Hawk	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	Snow Bunting

## DAILY ACTIVITIES

Extensive birding experience is not required for this extended weekend trip. In fact, this particular tour will appeal to birders with a wide range of skill and ability levels. Those with more advanced skills may be able to identify more of the anticipated species, while less experienced birders can be guaranteed excellent looks at many potential life-birds. Your 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.



This tour is for moderately active people in good health. Each day will involve plenty of light walking, although the weather may force us to do some birding from the vehicle. We will occasionally walk over rugged terrain, but individual walks will be short and at a "birdwatcher's pace," allowing each participant equal chance to view birds from all angles. We will eat breakfast at about 7:30 a.m. each morning, and we will often bird until sunset, although the short winter days will allow us plenty of evening time for relaxation and a review of our day.

The group will travel in a large passenger van or a minivan, depending on the group size, and we will take a maximum of seven participants, allowing everyone their own window seat. We will repeatedly enter and exit the vehicle from an entrance that is high off the ground, although a step-stool will be provided if we use the large van. This is a non-smoking tour. We will stay in non-smoking hotels and eat in non-smoking restaurants.

## CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT

Cold to mild temperatures predominate in the Northwest winter, but the daily weather can be quite changeable. We may experience fog, rain, or extended periods of sun, all on the same day. You should be prepared to be outside for short periods in cold, wet winter weather. Please pack conservatively, but do not compromise your ability to be comfortable in a wide variety of conditions.

We recommend that you bring your own binoculars and 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 and the tour schedule. Ensuring that everyone in the group gets their binoculars on a bird will take precedence over shooting photos, and it may not be practical to stop just for photographs.

## LODGING, MEALS & REFRESHMENTS

We will spend all three nights in Astoria, OR. The tour fees below include lodging for both single and double occupancy. If you are traveling with a birding partner and wish to share a room, we will do our best to accommodate you. If we are unable to place you with a roommate, you will be responsible for the single tour rate.

Your tour fee includes all meals, snacks and non-alcoholic beverages from dinner on Thursday, February 20, through lunch on Sunday, February 23. We will eat most meals in restaurants that appeal to a wide variety of food preferences, but it may be difficult to accommodate the most restrictive diets. If you maintain such a diet, remember that appropriate foods may not be available at restaurants or even in local grocery stores. To prepare for these contingencies you may wish to bring some foods that will satisfy your personal preferences.



We will eat breakfast out on most mornings, though coffee and tea will be available for early risers in the hotel lobbies. We will typically eat lunches in local cafes, and dinners will usually be eaten together at casual local restaurants, often at dusk. We typically choose restaurants that showcase the best local specialty foods, so seafood and local wines will usually be on the menu. We also typically provide foods and beverages for snacks in the field. The survey included in 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 transportation from Portland. If possible, please arrive at Portland Airport by noon on Thursday, February 20, to allow time for some afternoon birding en route to the coast. We will return to Portland by 2:00 p.m. Sunday for 4 p.m. or later departures. If this schedule is difficult for you, let us know and we will do our best to help with your travel plans. If you need assistance with travel, we recommend DTR Travel, based in Colorado: [www.dtrtravel.com](http://www.dtrtravel.com).

Our daily route will remain open and flexible, and each day's birding will depend on the weather, the tides, local bird reports, and our success at finding certain species. If we have at least 5 participants, we will hire a second local guide to show us some favorite birding nooks. If you have additional questions about the route or certain birding spots, please contact us at your convenience.

### TOUR FEE

Your tour fee includes all meals, snacks and beverages from Wednesday afternoon through Saturday afternoon; lodging at single or double occupancy; transportation from Portland; facility, 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 your entire tour fee is due 60 days prior to start date.

TOUR FEE:	\$1,360 single/\$1,120 double
NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT:	\$95
BALANCE AFTER DEPOSIT:	\$1,265 single/\$1,025 double

*NOTE: We structure our tour fees for the best possible client-to-guide ratio and an optimal birding experience, with a minimum of 4 and maximum of 7 participants on this tour.*

*REFUND POLICY: Your deposit is non-refundable. If you cancel your reservation more than 60 days prior to the tour, you will be refunded any payments above your deposit. If you cancel between 60 and 30 days prior to the tour, you will receive a 50% refund of fees paid over the deposit. If you cancel less than 30 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. If we cancel the trip for any reason, your deposit will be refunded.*



You may send your non-refundable \$95 deposit to the address below to hold your spot, with the balance due 60 days prior to trip 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!*

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