

Oregon's Malheur Region & Woodpecker Wonderland | Species List May 17 – 26, 2023 | with Naturalist Journeys



**With Steve Shunk and Pat Leuders, and participants:
Julie, Estelle, John, Gary, Sheila, Rebecca, Stephanie, Gene, Mark, and Tom**

Compiled by Steve Shunk

TOUR SUMMARY:

Over 10 days, we explored two of Oregon's most celebrated birding destinations: southeastern Oregon's Malheur region and central Oregon's Woodpecker Wonderland. The complementary habitats of the two regions meant great bird diversity, with 172 species tallied representing 48 different families. We explored high desert, freshwater marsh, montane riparian, and mixed conifer forest. We found 18 waterfowl species at Malheur and 10 of the 11 nesting woodpeckers in the Cascades. Major highlights included Bobolinks, Chats, and a nesting Northern Pygmy-Owl.

Below is a list of the birds and other wildlife we encountered, with descriptions of those encounters and the frequency of each species' occurrence. At the end is a list of the destinations visited, with links to selected eBird lists and the master eBird tour report. Join us next year for our return to Oregon during the peak of migration and the onset of nesting season.

FAMILY COMMON NAME: Family scientific name

Species Common Name *Species scientific name*

GO—Identified by sight or sound by guide(s) only

HO—Heard only and identified by guide(s) and at least one client

Family (##)—Number of birds found in a respective family, only listed if 10 or more species were found

Species (##)—Number of days tallied over the 10-day tour

CPR—Center Patrol Road at MNWR

CSCG—Cold Springs Campground

IFCG—Indian Ford Campground

MNWR—Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

PSCG—Page Springs Campground south of MNWR

SHHRA—Sage Hen Hill Rest Area

WFFH—Wizard Falls Fish Hatchery

WPCG—Whispering Pines Campground

**—New bird for this tour route

BIRDS (172 species recorded, of which 7 were HO or GO):

DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: Anatidae (18)

****Ross's Goose *Anser rossii***—(1) One very late migrate lingering in a field east of Burns, likely injured or ill, but nice clear looks nonetheless.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*—(8) The most abundant and most widespread waterfowl species of the trip, seen daily and in good numbers in the Malheur region, and then a couple of times in the Cascades, at Dark Lake and on the Metolius River.

- Trumpeter Swan** *Cygnus buccinator*—(1) Possibly the same bird seen twice on the same day, once on the Foley Road Loop and once in a flooded field off Hwy. 205.
- Blue-winged Teal** *Spatula discors*—(1) One pair of this rare breeder seen at MNWR, off the CPR south of Benson Pond.
- Cinnamon Teal** *Spatula cyanoptera*—(3) Pairs of this abundant breeder seen daily in the Malheur region, with great looks of 4 up close at PSCG.
- Northern Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*—(4) A few pairs of this fairly common breeder seen in the Malheur region, with the highest numbers on the Foley Rd. loop.
- Gadwall** *Mareca strepera*—(3) Pairs of this common breeder seen daily in the Malheur region.
- American Wigeon** *Mareca americana*—(0) A surprising big miss, left here so that it stays on the list for the future.
- Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*—(4) Another abundant breeder seen across the Malheur region, but surprisingly missed in the Cascades.
- Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta*—(2) Single males seen at a few places in the Malheur region.
- Green-winged Teal** *Anas crecca*—(1) A solo male seen near the pond at MNWR HQ.
- Canvasback** *Aythya valisineria*—(4) Small numbers scattered across the Malheur region.
- Redhead** *Aythya americana*—(2) Normally an abundant breeder at Malheur, we saw pairs only twice, once on Hwy. 205 and again at Buena Vista.
- Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris*—(1) A single male seen on the CPR, south of Benson Pond.
- Lesser Scaup** *Aythya affinis*—(1) Also a single male, seen only on the Foley Rd. loop.
- Bufflehead** *Bucephala albeola*—(1) A solo female seen at Dark Lake in the Cascades.
- Barrow's Goldeneye** *Bucephala islandica*—(1) We got lucky on this one, with an immature male seen very well at the display pond at WFFH.
- Hooded Merganser** *Lophodytes cucullatus*—(2) Two lingering pairs seen off the Foley Rd. loop and then 2 females seen with one male at Dark Lake.
- Common Merganser** *Mergus merganser*—(2) A pair seen on the East Canal at MNWR, and then a single female seen flying upstream on the Metolius River at Camp Sherman.
- Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis*—(3) Several pairs of this fairly common breeder seen in the Malheur region.

NEW WORLD QUAIL: Odontophoridae

- California Quail** *Callipepla californica*—(5) Seen daily in the Malheur region—especially at HQ—and then again at Shevlin Park in Bend.

PARTRIDGES AND PHEASANTS: Phasianidae

- Ring-necked Pheasant (I)** *Phasianus colchicus*—(3) First HO at Malheur HQ and then seen on the CPR and East Canal.

GREBES: Podicipedidae

- Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps*—(1) A big surprise that this bird was HO once on the CPR; fairly common on the refuge but busy nesting.
- Eared Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*—(2) Two birds seen twice in a flooded field off Hwy. 205 south of Burns.
- Western Grebe** *Aechmophorus occidentalis*—(3) This genus was seen daily at Malheur, but the only birds we analyzed closely were at Knox Pond, where we counted a few of this species and a couple of the next.
- Clark's Grebe** *Aechmophorus clarkii*—(2) As described above, with the only positive ID of 2 birds at Knox Pond on the south CPR.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae

- Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia*—(2) Small numbers seen only in Burns and Bend.
- Eurasian Collared-Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*—(5) Seen across the Malheur region (mostly in town) and then again in downtown Sisters.
- Mourning Dove** *Zenaida macroura*—(5) Widespread and seen mostly in pairs in the Malheur region, and a couple of times in the Sisters area.

HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae

Black-chinned Hummingbird *Archilochus alexandri*—(3) Seen at the feeders at MNWR HQ and again in Frenchglen.

Anna's Hummingbird *Calypte anna*—(1) One bird seen at Shevlin Park in Bend.

Calliope Hummingbird *Selasphorus calliope*—(1) Nice looks at a pair of birds as expected at Calliope Crossing.

RAILS, COOTS, AND ALLIES: Rallidae

Virginia Rail *Rallus limicola*—(1) Two birds seen in a small marshy patch in PSCG.

Sora *Porzana carolina*—(3) HO several times on MNWR.

American Coot *Fulica americana*—(4) Fairly common from Foley Road to MNWR.

CRANES: Gruidae

Sandhill Crane *Antigone canadensis*—(3) Seen daily in the Malheur region, with 8 in one day on the south CPR, including an active nest.

STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*—(3) Only a handful seen in flooded fields north and south of Burns.

American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana*—(3) Same as above but in slightly higher numbers.

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus*—(4) Widespread in fields and pond edges in the Malheur region.

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae

Long-billed Curlew *Numenius americanus*—(3) Several seen in the Malheur region, with 10 on the Foley Rd. loop.

Wilson's Snipe *Gallinago delicata*—(3) Seen only once—on the Foley Rd. loop—and then HO at Malheur.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*—(3) Seen in canals and flooded fields on Foley Rd and south of Burns, and then again at Malheur.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*—(2) Four seen on the Foley Rd. loop, a couple at MNWR, and one at Dark Lake in the Cascades.

Willet *Tringa semipalmata*—(3) Seen daily in the Malheur region but only between Burns and MNWR HQ.

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae

Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan*—(3) First seen well on the Foley Rd. loop, then in flight and in flooded fields from Burns to Buena Vista.

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*—(3) Small numbers seen from Foley Rd to MNWR HQ.

California Gull *Larus californicus*—(1) One bird seen flying over MNWR HQ.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*—(1) One bird seen well at Knox Pond on the south CPR.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*—(3) Small flocks—numbering 20 birds—seen on the Foley Rd. loop, then a couple between Burns and MNWR.

Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri*—(3) Several birds seen on ponds between Burns and MNWR.

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus*—(3) Small numbers seen between Foley Rd and MNWR HQ.

PELICANS: Pelecanidae

American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*—(1) One bird seen on Benson Pond at MNWR.

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae

American Bittern *Botaurus lentiginosus*—(1) Outstanding looks at a single bird in a canal adjacent to south CPR.

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*—(2) Very surprisingly, only 2 birds seen, with others likely busy nesting; one each on Foley Rd. and south CPR.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*—(3) An interesting concentration of birds seen twice in the flooded flats of Sage Hen Ck., along Hwy 205 south of Burns; 11 seen together on the first day.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*—(1) Two birds seen in flight along the south CPR.

IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi*—A few seen in fields and small flocks in flight, including 50 at MNWR HQ and a small concentration in the Diamond Valley.

NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*—(9) One of the few birds seen daily throughout the trip, with singles and pairs seen most of the time and 4 seen at WPCG.

OSPREY: Pandionidae

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*—(4) Seen on the Blitzen and Silvies Rivers—with 4 at Page Springs—and then an active nest along Candle Creek in the Cascades.

HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*—(2) One bird seen near a historic nest site on s. Harney Rd., and then 2 seen on the Princeton Rd. at Raptor Alley.

Northern Harrier *Circus hudsonius*—(2) Amazingly low numbers for a common breeder in the Malheur region; one seen on the south CPR and one at the Round Barn, with many others likely nesting.

Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus*—(1) Seen by one client on day 7.

Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*—(6) Our most abundant raptor, with a high of 4 birds seen on Raptor Alley and an active nest at P Ranch on MNWR, and then a few seen in the Cascades.

Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni*—(5) Three seen on the Foley Rd. loop, with individuals on Hwy. 205 and at Frenchglen, and a pair at Raptor Alley.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*—(8) Our most widespread raptor, with several seen in the Malheur region and a few in the Cascades.

Ferruginous Hawk *Buteo regalis*—(5) Seen daily in the Malheur region, with an active nest on Hwy. 205, north of the Narrows.

OWLS: Strigidae

Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus*—(2) Family group seen twice at MNWR HQ, with three 'branchers'.

Northern Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium gnoma*—(1) We enjoyed a phenomenal experience with a Pygmy-Owl. We refound a single bird that had been staked out along Canyon Creek, and as we watched it in the conifers, it flew into a nest cavity on a larch snag!

Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia*—(1) Always a big highlight, one bird was seen well at a burrow off Hwy 205, south of Wright's Point.

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon*—(2) Two seen in flight at Shevlin Park, and then one very active bird seen well at WFFH.

WOODPECKERS: Picidae (10)

As a focal part of the tour, we enjoyed many wonderful woodpecker experiences, with several nests staked out and pairs very active around nest sites. We saw 10 of the 11 nesting species, most of them on multiple days.

Williamson's Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus thyroideus*—(2) We had one bird at CSCG and 2 at Dry Creek, with one pair at a nest site on the Scott Pass road.

- Red-naped Sapsucker** *Sphyrapicus nuchalis*—(2) Being one of the rarest of the nesting woodpeckers, we were lucky to have one ‘pure’ female mated to a hybrid Red-naped x Red-breasted at Calliope Crossing. We saw a second bird behind CSCG that also appeared to be ‘pure’ though it was high in a pine snag.
- Red-breasted Sapsucker** *Sphyrapicus ruber*—(5) We saw several ‘pure’ Red-breasteds in the Cascades, some of which were mated to hybrid individuals, including one such active nest at Shevlin Park.
- Lewis’s Woodpecker** *Melanerpes lewis*—(4) We expected more Lewis’s and saw only 2 at Shevlin Park; we also had pairs and individuals in the Sisters area.
- American Three-toed Woodpecker** *Picoides dorsalis*—(0) As the rarest of the local species, we never have high expectations on this tour, and it was another season of scant reports across the region; a big snow year meant we were excluded from a couple of the locally historic spots.
- Black-backed Woodpecker** *Picoides arcticus*—(1) We saw one bird at a known nest site on the eastern slope of Green Ridge.
- Downy Woodpecker** *Dryobates pubescens*—(5) One of the most abundant woodpeckers of the trip, Downies are not always this easy, but we found them at several sites in the Sisters and Camp Sherman areas, and we watched a bird excavating a nest site at Calliope Crossing; also one near an active nest at Shevlin Park.
- Hairy Woodpecker** *Dryobates villosus*—(5) Only slightly more abundant on the trip than the Downies, we also had Hairies widespread in the Cascades, with multiple active nest sites.
- White-headed Woodpecker** *Dryobates albolarvatus*—(3) We found multiple individuals in the Sisters area, with birds at Calliope Crossing, IFCG, and CSCG.
- Pileated Woodpecker** *Dryocopus pileatus*—(2) Not always easy in the region, we enjoyed 2 great experiences with Pileateds. First was a very active and territorial bird in the Dry Creek area; we chased this bird all over a large stand trying to get good looks and finally got it in the scope. The second bird was first seen flying low toward us at Jack Creek; it landed on a big ponderosa pine snag, and we watched it enter a nest cavity. Not quite as exciting as the Pygmy-Owl nest, but a close second!
- Northern Flicker** *Colaptes auratus*—(8) Always the most widespread woodpecker on this tour, we found flickers at many locations and a total of 14 counted.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae

- American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius*—(7) We saw 2 birds at MNWR HQ and one at Raptor Alley, plus one in the Sisters area.
- Prairie Falcon** *Falco mexicanus*—(4) Much to the delight of the group, we saw Prairie Falcons daily in the Malheur region—mostly from the roadside—with 2 seen at Raptor Alley.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (11)

- Olive-sided Flycatcher** *Contopus cooperi*—(4) Widespread in the Cascades, we heard a few and saw several; the second most abundant flycatcher of the trip.
- Western Wood-Pewee** *Contopus sordidulus*—(6) The most widespread flycatcher of the trip; seen at MNWR HQ and PSCG at Malheur and at several spots in the Cascades.
- Willow Flycatcher** *Empidonax traillii*—(1) One bird busy singing and flycatching in the willows at the end of the East Canal Rd. at MNWR.
- Hammond’s Flycatcher** *Empidonax hammondii*—(5) One silent bird seen at MNWR HQ, and then singing birds at at least four spots in the Cascades.
- Gray Flycatcher** *Empidonax wrightii*—(3) Two birds heard but seen poorly at SHHRA, and then one seen much better on the hill behind Frenchglen.
- Dusky Flycatcher** *Empidonax oberholseri*—(4) Widespread individual birds singing on territories in the Sisters area.
- Pacific-slope Flycatcher** *Empidonax difficilis*—(2) One seen well at WPCG and then one HO in downtown Camp Sherman.
- Say’s Phoebe** *Sayornis saya*—(4) After our first bird at SHHRA, we found them daily in the Malheur region.
- Ash-throated Flycatcher** *Myiarchus cinerascens*—(2) We never got to actually see the Ash-throated, though they were HO in Frenchglen and at SHHRA.

Western Kingbird *Tyrannus verticalis*—(4) The most abundant flycatcher of the trip, though only seen in the Malheur region, with high counts of 4 each on the Foley Rd loop and at MNWR HQ.

Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus*—(2) This specialty breeding bird of the region is near its westernmost limits at Malheur; we saw 2 on the south CPR and one at PSCG.

VIREOS: Vireonidae

Cassin's Vireo *Vireo cassinii*—(3) Fairly widespread at our Cascades stops, we had 3 that were HO plus 2 at CSCG and one at WPCG.

Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus*—(5) We had a high count of 5 at MNWR HQ and then single birds at several locations in the Cascades.

SHRIKES: Laniidae

Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus*—(4) Seen along Hwy. 205 south of Burns, then 1 seen at MNWR HQ and good looks at a pair on the S. Harney Rd.

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae

Canada Jay *Perisoreus canadensis*—(1) Just one Canada Jay was seen in a burned area near Sisters.

Pinyon Jay *Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*—(2) One PJ was seen flying over a stand north of Sisters, and then we found 8 off Trinity Way in Sisters.

Steller's Jay *Cyanocitta stelleri*—(5) Seen daily in the Sisters area with a high count of 6 at Dark Lake.

California Scrub-Jay *Aphelocoma californica*—(4) One individual seen by GO in Burns, and then singles seen a few times in Sisters proper.

Black-billed Magpie *Pica hudsonia*—(5) Common and widespread, seen daily in the Malheur region, with a high count of 6 on the Foley Rd. loop.

American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos*—(4) Seen daily in the Burns area, as well as near the south end of MNWR.

Common Raven *Corvus corax*—(9) One of the most widespread and most common birds of the trip, with at least 30 birds seen at 19 locations.

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae (XX)

****Black-capped Chickadee** *Poecile atricapillus*—(1) We scored on this bird that just barely makes it into the Malheur region, when we saw 2 on the Foley Rd. loop.

Mountain Chickadee *Poecile gambeli*—(4) Seen daily and widespread in the Sisters and Camp Sherman areas, with high counts of 4 at WPCG and CSCG.

Chestnut-backed Chickadee *Poecile rufescens*—(1) We found 2 of this Pacific-slope species along Candle Creek.

LARKS: Alaudidae

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris*—(3) One bird seen off of Hwy. 205 and then 2 more on the Pine Mtn. Rd., southeast of Bend.

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*—(2) Seen 3 times in the Malheur region, along both the Silvies and Blitzen Rivers.

Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor*—(7) Small numbers seen widespread in the Malheur region and a few in the Cascades, with a high count of 5—all nesting at Calliope Crossing.

Violet-green Swallow *Tachycineta thalassina*—(3) Three seen at Shevlin Park, where they are known to nest in the park buildings; also at Calliope Crossing and in downtown Camp Sherman.

Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia*—(2) Just 2 birds seen along Hwy 205 south of Burns.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*—(3) Widespread in the Malheur region, with high counts of 4 each at the East Canal and Round Barn; surprisingly scarce in the Cascades, where several nest annually in Sisters.

Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*—(3) Nesting colonies seen on the rimrock at Foley Rd. and PSCG.

KINGLETS: Regulidae

Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Regulus calendula*—(2) One migrant seen at MNWR HQ and a single bird HO near Big Lake on Santiam Pass.

Golden-crowned Kinglet *Regulus satrapa*—(1) One territorial male seen on the trail to Jack Creek.

NUTHATCHES: Sittidae

Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta canadensis*—(4) Common and widespread in the Cascades, with a high count of 5 at Dry Creek.

White-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta carolinensis*—(4) Seen twice, at Calliope Crossing and CSCG, then HO twice more.

Pygmy Nuthatch *Sitta pygmaea*—(4) A couple seen at Shevlin Park, and then several in ponderosa pine habitat in the Sisters area.

CREEPERS: Certhiidae

Brown Creeper *Certhia americana*—(3) Seen a few times in the Cascades, with 2 birds at Dry Creek.

GNATCATCHERS: Polioptilidae

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Polioptila caerulea*—(1) One bird seen in the junipers behind Frenchglen.

WRENS: Troglodytidae

Rock Wren *Salpinctes obsoletus*—(3) We found our first bird at the north end of the Foley Rd. loop, then one at Buena Vista and 2 at Diamond Craters.

Canyon Wren *Catherpes mexicanus*—(1) One bird seen and singing up-close-and-personal at Diamond Craters.

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*—(8) Seen and heard throughout the trip, with a high of 4 at Calliope Crossing, where we also saw at least one active nest.

Marsh Wren *Cistothorus palustris*—(2) One bird HO on the Foley Rd. loop, then four counted and one seen very well on the south CPR.

DIPPERS: Cinclidae

American Dipper *Cinclus mexicanus*—(1) Always a favorite, we saw a pair of dippers tending an active nest on the Metolius River in downtown Camp Sherman.

STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae

European Starling (I) *Sturnus vulgaris*—(7) Seen daily in the Malheur region, and then several seen foraging on the ground among Pinyon Jays in downtown Sisters.

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae

Sage Thrasher *Oreoscoptes montanus*—(4) Two birds seen on the Foley Rd. loop and another on Pine Mtn. Rd.; several also seen from the vehicles while driving through the Malheur region.

THRUSHES: Turdidae

Western Bluebird *Sialia mexicana*—(4) Seen at a few locations in the Sisters area, with 3 at Calliope Crossing.

Mountain Bluebird *Sialia currucoides*—(4) Four birds seen well at SHHRA, and a few seen at higher elevations in the Sisters area.

Townsend's Solitaire *Myadestes townsendi*—(3) HO once at SHHRA and again on the Foley Rd. loop, then seen behind CSCG.

Hermit Thrush *Catharus guttatus*—(2) One seen at Dry Ck. and another on the Jack Ck. Trail.

American Robin *Turdus migratorius*—(9) We counted a conservative 35 robins at 17 different locations, with high counts of 4 at Frenchglen, Shevlin Park, and Dry Creek.

WAXWINGS: Bombycillidae

Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum*—(2) Two birds seen at MNWR HQ and 2 at PSCG.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae

House Sparrow (I) *Passer domesticus*—(9) Seen daily in Burns and at the hotel in Sisters, plus 2 seen at MNWR HQ.

FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae

House Finch *Haemorhous mexicanus*—(4) HO at SHHRA and in Burns, then seen around the hotel in Sisters.

Purple Finch *Haemorhous purpureus*—(2) HO twice in the Sisters area.

Cassin's Finch *Haemorhous cassinii*—(5) Small numbers of Cassin's seen in the Malheur region and around Sisters, with a high of 3 at SHHRA.

Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*—(1) Crossbills were surprisingly scarce in the Sisters area this summer, and our only 2 birds were flyovers at Big Lake.

Pine Siskin *Spinus pinus*—(1) Two migrants seen at MNWR HQ.

Lesser Goldfinch *Spinus psaltria*—(3) Two birds seen at PSCG and another near Sisters.

American Goldfinch *Spinus tristis*—(1) Heard by GO at MNWR HQ.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae (12)

Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina*—(7) Singing birds found at Frenchglen and PSCG, and then many throughout the Cascades, making it the most abundant sparrow of the trip.

Brewer's Sparrow *Spizella breweri*—(5) Several birds found in the Malheur region, and then 3 on Pine Mtn. Rd.

Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus*—(1) One bird seen at SHHRA.

Fox Sparrow *Passerella iliaca*—(5) Widespread—occasionally HO—and seen at several locations in the Cascades, including 3 different campgrounds.

Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis*—(5) Seen at almost the same frequency and at the same locations as Fox Sparrow.

White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys*—(4) Only seen behind WPCG; HO elsewhere a few times.

Sagebrush Sparrow *Artemisiospiza nevadensis*—(2) Distant looks at a pair on S. Harney Rd., and then much better looks on Pine Mtn. Rd., in the Millican Valley.

Vesper Sparrow *Pooecetes gramineus*—(2) Heard by GO in 2 different locations.

Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis*—(2) One heard by GO at Malheur and another outside of Burns.

Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia*—(6) Most widely distributed sparrow of the trip, mostly seen adjacent to aquatic habitats, with many along the CPR at MNWR.

Green-tailed Towhee *Pipilo chlorurus*—(3) First seen at IFCG, then one on the east side of Green Ridge and another near Dry Creek.

Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus*—(2) One HO on Green Ridge, and then one seen on the eastern flank of Black Butte.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Icteriidae

Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens*—(2) Seen twice in the Malheur region; first along the Silvies River at the top of the Foley Rd. loop, and then at least 10 around PSCG and a few on the East Canal trail.

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae

Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*—(4) What a great bird to have as one of the most abundant species of the trip! We tallied over 100 birds, with many in the Silvies flood plain and many more at NWR.

Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*—(2) Another species near the western edge of its range, we enjoyed several Bobolinks in the southern Blitzen Valley, with a few on the CPR and a few on the East Canal trail.

Western Meadowlark *Sturnella neglecta*—(5) Common and widespread in the Malheur region.

Bullock's Oriole *Icterus bullockii*—(3) First HO at SHHRA, and then several seen at MNWR HQ and another at Buena Vista.

- Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus*—(6) The only species seen in higher numbers than the Yellow-headed, with over 130 counted in the Malheur region and a handful at Calliope Crossing.
- Brown-headed Cowbird** *Molothrus ater*—(7) Many in the Malheur region and a few in the Cascades, with a high count of 10 at MNWR HQ.
- Brewer's Blackbird** *Euphagus cyanocephalus*—(8) Similar distribution as the cowbird, with the highest numbers in the Silvies flood plain.

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (11)

- **Black-and-White Warbler** *Mniotilta varia*—(1) One bird seen well by all at MNWR HQ, a nice rarity for the trip.
- Orange-crowned Warbler** *Leiothlypis celata*—(1) One bird seen and heard singing near Dry Creek Swamp.
- Nashville Warbler** *Leiothlypis ruficapilla*—(3) First seen above Trout Creek and then HO at Dark Lake and Candle Creek.
- MacGillivray's Warbler** *Geothlypis tolmiei*—(4) Found only in the Cascades, with the first few eluding visuals, and then single birds seen a Dark Lake and Candle Creek.
- Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas*—(4) Several at MNWR and then 2 at Calliope Crossing and 1 at IFCG.
- Yellow Warbler** *Setophaga petechia*—(8) Widespread and abundant in the Malheur region with our highest numbers along the CPR, then several along creeks and lakes in the Cascades.
- Yellow-rumped Warbler** *Setophaga coronata*—(6) One bird seen at MNWR's Buena Vista ponds, then many in the Cascades and a high count of 4 at Jack Creek.
- Black-throated Gray Warbler** *Setophaga nigrescens*—(2) Only seen twice, with the first bird on the hill behind Frenchglen and then second on the eastern slope of Black Butte.
- Townsend's Warbler** *Setophaga townsendi*—(4) One at MNWR HQ, one at Calliope Crossing, and then 3 at WPCG.
- Hermit Warbler** *Setophaga occidentalis*—(2) Visuals included 2 near Suttle Lake Lodge and another near Canyon Creek; also HO at Candle Creek and Big Lake.
- Wilson's Warbler** *Cardellina pusilla*—(3) A couple of migrants seen at MNWR HQ, and then a couple of singing birds along Indian Ford Ck. In the Cascades.

CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS, AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae

- Western Tanager** *Piranga ludoviciana*—(7) Migrants were widespread at MNWR, with a high count of 8 at HQ; then breeding individuals commonly seen in the Cascades.
- Black-headed Grosbeak** *Pheucticus melanocephalus*—(8) Several were seen at MNWR, with several more in the Cascades, some of which were HO.
- Lazuli Bunting** *Passerina amoena*—(3) As many as 4 seen at MNWR HQ, and then one bird HO near Sisters.

MAMMALS (13 species recorded):

- Western Gray Squirrel** *Sciurus griseus*—(1)
- Douglas's Squirrel** *Tamiasciurus douglasii*—(2)
- Yellow-bellied Marmot** *Marmota flaviventris*—(2)
- Belding's Ground Squirrel** *Spermophilus beldingi*—(6)
- Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel** *Spermophilus lateralis*—(4)
- Yellow-pine Chipmunk** *Neotamias amoenus*—(2)
- Least Chipmunk** *Neotamias minimus*—(2)
- Black-tailed Jackrabbit** *Lepus californicus*—(1)
- Mountain Cottontail** *Sylvilagus nuttallii*—(1)
- Coyote** *Canis latrans*—(1)
- Mule Deer** *Odocoileus hermionus*—(6)
- Pronghorn** *Antilocapra americana*—(4)
- American Mink** *Neogale vison*—(1)

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (4 species recorded):

Western Fence Lizard *Sceloporus occidentalis*—(2)

Gopher Snake *Pituophis catenifer*—(1)

Western Yellow-bellied Racer *Coluber constrictor*—(1)

DESTINATIONS VISITED

Click the highlighted sites below to see the checklists for those visits. Click this link to see the [master eBird trip report](#).

Day 1, May 17—Redmond airport to Hines, [Sage Hen Hill Rest Area](#)

Day 2, May 18—[Foley Road Loop](#) (Paiute Reservoir), Hotchkiss Road loop, Hwy 205 to [Malheur HQ](#)

Day 3, May 19—Greenhouse Lane to Hwy 205, South Harney Rd., [MNWR HQ](#), Buena Vista Ponds, Frenchglen, [South Center Patrol Rd.](#)

Day 4, May 20—Hwy 205 to MNWR HQ, [Page Springs](#), E. Canal Rd., Diamond Valley, Diamond Craters, Raptor Alley.

Day 5, May 21—Hwy 20 to Bend, Millican Valley, Pine Mountain Rd., [Shevlin Park](#).

Day 6, May 22—[Calliope Crossing](#), Indian Ford Campground, Cold Springs, [Whispering Pines](#).

Day 7, May 23—Heavenly Acres (Sisters), [Cold Springs](#), Trout Creek, Whispering Pines, Scott Pass, Green Ridge, Black Butte.

Day 8, May 24—[Dry Creek Forest](#), Dry Creek Swamp, Hwy 242, Suttle Lake Resort, Dark Lake.

Day 9, May 25—[Head of Jack Creek](#), Canyon Creek, Camp Sherman, Wizard Falls, Candle Creek

Day 10, May 26—[Big Lake](#), Benson Sno-Park, Cold Springs.