

# Field Trip Descriptions

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## Field Trip Details and General Information WFO/WBBA/OFO Joint Meetings Sept 9-12, Ashland Oregon

### General Information

With the exception of the two full-day trips to the Klamath Basin (trip #1 & #20), all transportation will be by carpool. Please be prepared to make your own arrangements as the groups assemble in the morning. We strongly encourage carpooling to minimize the size of the caravan. As mentioned previously, only the Klamath Basin Trip will be by van (up to two vehicles may follow). Full day trips will have a lunch stop for a bagged lunch (sign up with registration or provide your own); half-day trips will return in time for lunch in Ashland before the start of the scientific sessions. Hotels will provide early morning continental breakfasts. The trips are rated in four categories: **Easy-Going, Fine, Tougher, and Hard Going**. These terms reflect relative difficulty and are based on chances to see the target species, length of the drive, as well as the off-road and trail conditions. However, because “car-birding” is the mode, most trips should be quite suitable for the average birder. For the half day trips we shall have at least two leaders on each, selected from the best Oregon and California have to offer. The car pool for the Crater Lake trip leaves the nice option of the return home into Oregon and beyond.

Please stop by the vendor’s room. In addition to vending and exhibits including birding optics, bird books and gear, we will also have a **Field Trip table**. Here you will be able to get additional information on local self-guided destinations. Each morning Pablo Herrera (Redwood Sciences Lab, Arcata) will direct the trips and will assist at the table during the day. Any questions on field trips should be directed towards Pablo.

**Note, there will be two departure areas Parking Lot A, and Parking Lot B. Trip participants should assemble in the Windsor Inn Lobby. Parking Lots A and B will be clearly signed on each side of the building. Trips will have a staggered departure with two leaving each 15 minutes between 6:00 and 7:00 a.m. Full day trips are offered on Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. These trips will return to Ashland around 4:00 p.m. Half-day, morning trips are offered on Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. These will return to Ashland in time for lunch prior to the scientific sessions. All trips go rain or shine, except the nighttime owling trip. For all trips, bring snacks, water, comfortable walking shoes and any field gear you may want.**

### Full Day Trips

#### **TRIP 1 and 20**

**Departs: 6:15 a.m. Lot A**

**The Klamath Basin Refuges Trip.** This all day trip around the Klamath Basin will use vans and is offered Thursday and Sunday. A series of longer stops will be made at the following refuges: Upper and Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge, Tule Lake NWR, Lava Beds National Monument, Klamath State Wildlife Area and Bear Valley NWR. We will also visit three visitor centers, the Petroglyphs, Captain Jack’s Stronghold, Miller Island, the Tule Sump, White Lake, Indian Tom Lake and the Lava tubes. Waterfowl should be coming in, and inland open water can attract anything at this time of year. Add a little wet mud for shorebirds and things could go great. Refuge staff will be on hand to assist with the interpretation of refuge activities. **Rating: Fine** Leaders: Noah Strycker, Charlotte Kisling and Rob Hewitt (Thurs), Rob Fowler and Gjon Hazard (Sun).

#### **TRIP 2 and 21**

**Departs: 6:30 a.m. Lot B**

**Crater Lake/Upper Klamath Lake.** This all day trip has a fair amount of driving, offered Thursday and Sunday will take the car pool east over the Cascade Crest then north past Upper Klamath Lake and onto the Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway. As we climb to the high-elevation caldera, we will search for montane forest and meadow birds. At almost 8000’ elevation the scenery along the rim will be spectacular. If the right snag areas can be found, both American Three-toed and Black-backed Woodpeckers are possible on the slopes down to Upper Klamath Lake. After using the morning for birding the Upper Klamath Lake for waterbirds, ducks, gulls, terns and raptors we will climb up to the natural wonder of Crater Lake. The return to Ashland will follow the river along the Rogue-Umpqua National Scenic Byway. On Sunday, once at Interstate 5 between Medford and Grants Pass, some Oregon and far Northern California participants may want to head north to get home.

**Rating: Drive Fine, Birds Tougher.** Leaders: Joel Wientraub and Joel Grier (Thurs), Kevin Spencer, and Noah Strycker (Sun).

# Field Trip Descriptions cont.

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## Owling

### TRIP 3

**Departs: 8:00 p.m. Lot A**

**Owl Trip** (Thursday). This nighttime trip will traverse local forest roads looking for owl species, including Spotted and Barred and other smaller owls. We may also have a chance for dusk visuals of Barn Owl and Great-horned Owl around Ashland as the trip takes off. Additionally, we may have a chance to spot some nocturnal mammals, including gray fox, raccoon, and striped skunk. As with all owling there are no guarantees for success. Check in with the field trip table to see what has been scouted out. Bring a headlamp or flashlight. Rain and strong wind will cancel trip. **Rating: Tougher.** *Leaders: Bruce Webb, Keith Slauson (Thurs).*

## Morning, half-day trips

### TRIP 4

**Departs 6:30 a.m. Lot A**

**Bird Banding at Upper Klamath Lake** (Friday). The Klamath Bird Observatory field station will host a banding group during the morning, which will be adjacent to good birding around Upper Klamath Lake and surrounding marshlands. Close to the lake, this special site includes mist nets suspended over water within the lakeside vegetation. Great Basin fall migrants, among others, are monitored at this site. Banding experience is not necessary as banders will be on hand to demonstrate bird-handling techniques. At Upper Klamath Lake will look for waterbirds and raptors on the East side of the Cascade Crest. Mosquito repellent is encouraged. **Rating: Fine.** *Leaders: Bob Frey and Tom Bodey (Fri).*

### TRIP 5 and 14

**Departs: 6:45 a.m. Lot A**

**Birding Transect East.** East of Ashland the Dead Indian Memorial Highway climbs over the lower forested hills and up to the sagebrush plateau that acts as the divide between the Klamath Basin and the Cascade Mountains. This conifer-dominated area should provide siskins, nuthatches, chickadees and corvids. Grey Jays and woodpeckers will be looked for in the early morning. The return drive on Hwy 66 will pass Howard Prairie and Hyatt Lakes. **Rating: Fine.** *Leaders: Kevin Spencer and Tom Ryan (Fri), Rob Fowler and Rich Hoyer (Sat).*

### TRIP 6 and 15

**Departs: 7:00 a.m. Lot A**

**Birding Ashland - Ashland Ponds, Emigrant Lake, Lithia Park.** This **easy-going** trip is designed to provide a relaxed morning of birding. We will search Emigrant Lake for waterbirds, and Lithia Park, the North Mountain Park Nature Center, and Ashland Ponds for landbirds. The riparian habitat should have some lingering residents, and migrant passerines will be passing through. Finish off the morning on the Ashland Loop road in the Siskiyou foothills for higher elevation birding. This trip will allow those participants wishing to, to break away and attend a late morning workshop (10:30 and 10:45). **Rating: Easy-Going.** *Leaders: Noah Strycker and Barbara Massey (Fri), Jim Danzenbaker, Barbara Massey and Paul Sullivan (Sat).*

### TRIP 7 and 16

**Departs: 6:30 a.m. Lot B**

**Birding the Rogue Valley.** We will visit the Kirtland Sewage Ponds, Denman Wildlife Area, Whetstone Pond and Agate Lake as we bird the hotspots north of Medford off Interstate 5. The **easy-going** rating is based on the four easy stops with plenty of car birding in between (FRS Radios are encouraged). **Rating: Easy-Going.** *Leaders: Kimball Garrett and Dennis Vroman (Fri), Mike San Miguel and Dennis Vroman (Sat).*

### TRIP 8 and 12

**Departs 7.00 a.m. Lot A**

**Great-gray Owl.** Note, this is a daytime trip. Join local BLM wildlife biologists who study Great-gray Owls in the Ashland area. It will be a 45-minute drive to the study area where they have several individual owls radio tagged. They will use telemetry to locate the birds so that everyone can try a get a glimpse. Vocalizations and other lures may be used to get better views. With time they will visit historical nest sites and possibly wintering areas. The terrain will be mostly gentle with good road access and short cross-country hikes. **Rating: Fine.** *Leaders: Steve Godwin, Victoria Arthur, Clay Taylor, Rich Hoyer, Dave Krueper and Jon Dunn (Fri), Steve Godwin, Victoria Arthur, Keith Slauson and Gretchen O'Brien (Sat).*

### TRIP 9 and 13

**Departs: 6:15 a.m. Lot B**

**Siskiyou County Loop.** Siskiyou County, California with the Klamath Refuge System and square miles of U.S. Forest Service land has some great birding locations. We will loop down 15 to Yreka and then Grenada we will bird the Shasta Valley State Wildlife Area on our way to Lake Shastina and then up to Indian Tom Lake or the Butte Valley ag-fields depending on the scouting report. The return drive will loop back through the Shasta Valley (Tri-colored Blackbird) and Montague. The **tougher** rating is based on the distance that has to be covered, but if you're a Siskiyou County birder this trip's for you. **Rating: Tougher** *Leaders: Ray Ekstrom, Jim Danzenbaker and Rob Hewitt (Fri), Tristan McKee and Bob Claypole (Sat).*

# Field Trip Descriptions cont.

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## TRIP 10 and 17

**Departs: 6:15 a.m. Lot A**

**High Elevation Siskiyou Crest.** This trip will be to high elevation forest and sub-alpine meadows. Mount Ashland, and the Siskiyou Crest will be traversed as we wind our way into the local mountains looking for White-headed Woodpecker, Cassin's Finch and Green-tailed Towhee. From this border crest, Mount Shasta looms as a sentinel to the south. The **tougher** rating is based on the fact that forested hills can be hit or miss and ear birding will be a big part of the species tally. However, the county's annotated checklist states, "This is an especially good drive to take in August-September when young of the year and migrants throng the mountain meadows." A high clearance vehicle is recommended and the caravan needs to be short to reduce congestion and dust on the narrow, gravel portion of the Siskiyou Crest to Dutchman Peak. Forest Service Hwy 20 then drops down to the Little Applegate River and the lower wooded slopes and valleys around Jacksonville. **Rating: Tougher**  
*Leaders: Mike San Miguel, Tim Janzen and Frank Lospalluto (Fri), Kimball Garrett, Noah Strycker Frank Lospalluto (Sat).*

## TRIP 11 and 18

**Departs: 6:00 a.m. Lot B**

**California Birding.** This trip is just that, a visit "south of the border" to see what there is to offer. Both days will have the benefit of previous birding and scouting to know where some good sightings can be had. Don't forget to fuel up and be prepared to be flexible. We will chase any rarities that have been found to the south during the meetings **Rating: Hard-Going.**  
*Leaders: Gjon Hazard and Keith Slauson (Fri), Rob Hewitt and Keith Slauson (Sat).*

## TRIP 19

**Departs: 6:45 a.m. Lot B**

**Bird Banding on the Rogue** (Sunday only). The Klamath Bird Observatory banding station at Wildlife Images will be visited for this trip. After the banding session there will be a tour of this well run and quite substantial Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. Banding experience is not required as this trip is designed to introduce the topic. Be sure to pick up a Wildlife Images brochure at the field trips table. **Rating: Easy Going.** *Leaders: Keith Larson and Melissa Pitkin at Wildlife Images (Sun).*

## TRIP 22

**Depart 9:00 am from the lobby of the Windmill Inn**

**Wine Tasting-** Join us for a tasting and birding tour in the wine region of Ashland. We will visit 3 wineries, one creamery, and have a picnic lunch together. We expect to see Ashland's year round resident birds. **Rating: Easy Going.** *Leaders Mike San Miguel Robert Waters*

## TRIP 23

**Departs: 6:30 a.m. Lot B**

**Lake Selmac and Josephine County Trip** (Sunday only). This is an additional trip added to the line up by the leader. It will work well as the return trip to Grants Pass or Crescent City. It is described as follows: 45 miles to Whitehorse County Park, west of Grants Pass, then 5 miles back to town and 25 miles south to Selmac Lake. Birds: At Whitehorse County Park we can expect to find Great Blue Herons, Wood Ducks, Common Mergansers, Red-shouldered Hawk, Spotted Sandpipers, perhaps peeps, White-breasted Nuthatches, warblers, swallows. At Selmac Lake we can look for passerines at the inlet, forest species on the adjacent hill, swallows overhead, waterfowl on the lake, and shorebirds along the edge. The trip should wrap up around 2:00 p.m. **Rating: Fine.** *Leader: Paul Sullivan (Sun).*