

# OREGON CASCADES BIRDING TRAIL

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OREGON BIRDING TRAILS



**CASCADES**

## GLOSSARY

**Alpine** – treeless region of high mountains, often referred to as tundra

**Bog** – permanent wetland with peat as its base rather than soil

**Clear-cut** – area where the entire stand of trees was removed in one cutting

**Conifer Forest** – also called mixed conifer forest; containing any or all of the following: pine, fir, spruce, hemlock, Douglas-fir, cedar, yew, or larch; often bordered by subalpine above and pine or riparian forest below.

**Developed Areas** – towns, ranches, parks

**Marsh** – ecosystem of more or less continuously waterlogged soil dominated by rushes, reeds, cattails, and sedges, but without peat accumulation as its base

**Mature** – usually defined in economic terms as a forest that has reached harvest age

**Mixed Forest** – mix of deciduous and coniferous trees with a closed canopy

**Montane** – zone of relatively moist, cool slopes below timberline, usually dominated by conifer trees

**Old-Growth** – forest that has not experienced intense or widespread disturbance for many years relative to the life spans of the dominant species

**Portals** – strategic locations where visitors can obtain current information about birds, the birding trail, and/or tourism facilities and amenities in the local area

**Resident** – species occurs year round

**Nesting** – species occurs only during the spring and summer

**Riparian** – habitat associated with the bank or edge of a watercourse, lake or other wetland

**Structures** – bridges, buildings, towers

**Subalpine** – habitat zone just below treeline, usually dominated by conifer trees

**Wet Meadow** – grassland inundated with water during part or most of the year

**Wetland** – seasonally or permanently waterlogged habitat, including lakes, streams, bogs and marshes

**Woodland** – habitat with widely spaced large trees, the crowns of which do not form a canopy; often separated by grass or shrubs

*Adapted from Johnson and O'Neil, [Wildlife-Habitat Relationships in Oregon and Washington](#), Oregon State University Press, 2001.*

### On the cover

Broken Top in the Three Sisters Wilderness.

(PHOTO BY STEVE TERRILL)

# Welcome to...

## Oregon Cascades Birding Trail

If you like to watch birds you are part of the fastest growing outdoor recreational activity in the United States. The Oregon Cascades Birding Trail was created for people just like you! With nearly 200 sites along more than 1,000 miles of scenic roadways, the Oregon Cascades Birding Trail offers outdoor adventure for birders of all skill and interest levels. From the snow-capped summit of Mt. Hood to the marshlands of the Klamath Basin, well over 300 species of birds have occurred in the Oregon Cascades.

This guide is your travel companion to explore the Oregon Cascades Birding Trail. Whether you live in Oregon or are visiting from out of state, the Oregon Cascades Birding Trail provides you the best opportunities for enjoying the birds and the beauty of the Cascade Mountains. For more information on the Oregon Cascades Birding Trail visit our web site: [www.oregonbirdingtrails.org](http://www.oregonbirdingtrails.org).

As you search for birds in the Cascades, explore the alpine meadows, picturesque lakes, mountain streams, and dense conifer forests showcasing some of the largest trees on earth. Enjoy the birds and other wildlife, the seasonal carpets of wildflowers, the towering volcanic peaks, and the beauty of this unique natural area. You will find services and amenities in communities along the trail. Let residents and businesses know why you are visiting and that you support birding and bird conservation. Together, visitors, communities, and businesses are all stewards of Oregon's wildlife and unique natural treasures.

## What is a Birding Trail?

Birding trails are self-guided auto tours that highlight selected sites for observing birds. The Oregon Cascades Birding Trail links a network of observation sites and birding experiences by using existing roads, pull-offs, parking areas, and walking trails to showcase birds in their natural habitats. You may also see other wildlife such as deer, fish, and butterflies living amidst the beauty and wonder of Oregon's natural landscapes.

## Birding Ethics

The Oregon Birding Trails Working Group endorses the American Birding Association's Principles of Birding Ethics (excerpted and summarized below from ABA web page [www.aba.org/about/ethics.html](http://www.aba.org/about/ethics.html)). Everyone who enjoys birds and birding must always respect wildlife, its environment, and the rights of others. In any conflict of interest between birds and birders, the welfare of the birds and their environment comes first.

- Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites.
- Use a blind or hide, and take advantage of natural cover when observing birds.
- Do not feed or attempt to attract birds in the wild.
- Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist; otherwise keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.
- Keep groups to a size that limits impact on the environment and others.
- Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing use of roads and public areas.
- Respect the rights of private property owners.
- Respect the interests, rights, and skills of fellow birders, as well as people participating in other legitimate outdoor activities.



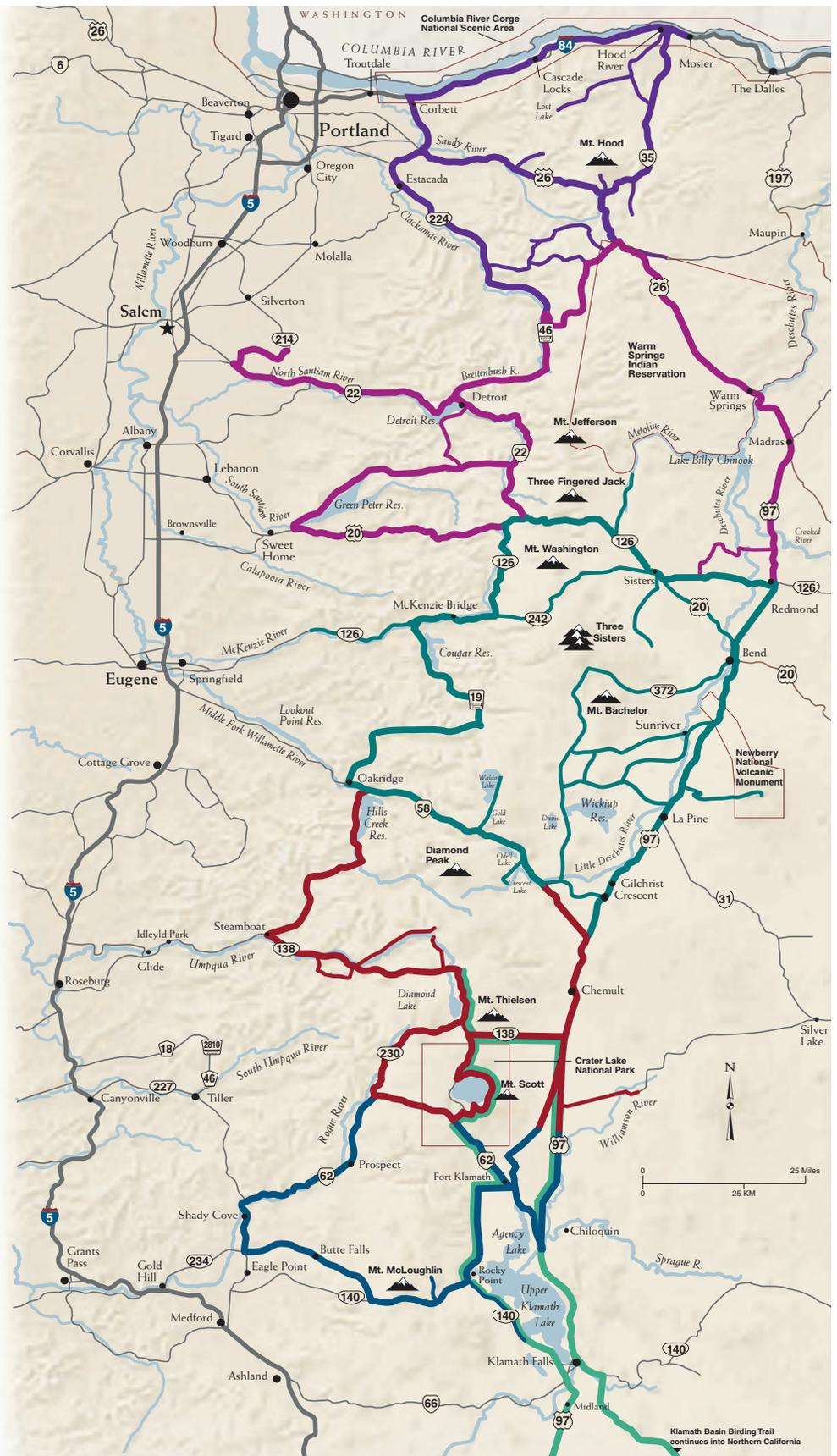
Western Tanager

PHOTO BY U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



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## Using the Trail Guide and Maps

This is your guide to the birds and habitats of the Oregon Cascades Birding Trail as well as other natural and cultural points of interest. The Trail is divided into 5 primary loops. For each loop, a master map indicates the main roads that will guide you between sites. We recommend you use a detailed road map in conjunction with our maps and directions to assist you in getting to Birding Trail sites off the main road. Local forest maps can be purchased at any U.S. Forest Service office or ranger station.

### Site Descriptions

Each site description contains directions on how to get to the site plus information on land ownership or management, the types of habitat, birds to look for, and other unique aspects of the site. The following abbreviations have been used in the site descriptions:

- CO = County Road
- Hwy = highway
- NF = National Forest
- FS = Forest Service
- RD = Ranger District
- N, S, E, W = north, south, east, west
- L, R = left, right
- Rd = road
- MP = milepost
- FR = Forest Road
- mi = mile(s)

Baby Yellow Warbler



PHOTO BY PAT TILLEY

### Site Sponsors

Many sites have a site sponsor listed. This recognition is provided to agencies, organizations, businesses, and individuals that provided financial support to the Oregon Cascades Birding Trail. Site sponsorship does not imply any responsibility for the site, rather it serves as a reminder of the significant contributions of these entities. Contact information for all site sponsors is listed on page 34.

### Services and Facilities

Icons following each site description indicate the presence of some services and facilities at or near the site. Please note that any given site may undergo changes after publication. For more detailed and up-to-date information on services and facilities, contact the respective land owner or manager listed in the site description.

-  trails available at the site
-  camping available at the site (dispersed or maintained)
-  restrooms available at the site
-  fees required for day-use or parking\*
-  lodging available at the site or within 10 miles
-  food available at the site or within 10 miles
-  auto fuel available at the site or within 10 miles

A blue icon indicates that the facility is accessible to those with disabilities.

\*This does not apply to NW Forest Pass.

## Safety Issues and Required Passes

### Seasonal Road Closures

Some Oregon Cascades Birding Trail sites, especially those at higher elevations, will be inaccessible in winter due to the seasonal closure of access roads. Specific opening and closing dates of these routes usually depend on local weather conditions. Occasionally, four-season highways will close due to extreme conditions.

Before crossing the Cascades or visiting any high elevation birding trail site, check current road conditions by calling 1-800-977-6368 (or 1-503-588-2941 outside Oregon) or visit the Oregon Department of Transportation web site at [www.tripcheck.com](http://www.tripcheck.com). You may also check National Forest road conditions at any local Forest Service ranger station.

### Fees and Passes

Many Forest Service trailheads, especially those at improved recreation areas, require possession of a **Northwest Forest Pass**. This vehicle parking permit may be used at National Forests and other designated sites throughout Oregon and Washington. Northwest Forest Pass signs are posted at participating sites. If possible, it is best to obtain the Northwest Forest Pass before your trip. For more information on the program or to purchase a pass call 1-800-270-7504 or visit [www.naturenw.org](http://www.naturenw.org). Additional information can be found at the Forest Service web site at [www.fs.fed.us/r6/feedemo.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/feedemo.html). Federal Golden Eagle, Golden Age, and Golden Access Passports are honored at Northwest Forest Pass sites.

Some State Parks charge a day-use fee. You can purchase a State Park Pass, which will entitle you to entrance and use of any State Park, from any State Park office or over the phone by calling 1-800-551-6949 (credit

card orders only) or from vendors across the state ([www.oregonstateparks.org/dayuse\\_permit\\_vendors.php](http://www.oregonstateparks.org/dayuse_permit_vendors.php)). The Northwest Forest Pass is honored at Oregon State Parks in the Columbia River Gorge from Troutdale to the Twin Tunnels entrances.

Most developed campgrounds on National Forest lands charge a fee for camping. When using dispersed campsites, please take care to minimize your impact, and pack out all waste.

### Safety Tips

- Drive cautiously! Many National Forest roads are single-lane, gravel-surfaced, and require low speeds. Rocks, limbs, trees or ruts may occur randomly on forest roads throughout the Cascades. Be prepared to stop or avoid them, and be prepared to turn around or park if they block the road. Be prepared for approaching logging trucks, especially on blind curves. These trucks always have the right-of-way. Allow for extra stopping distance on downhill gravel grades.
- Food, gas, and lodging are seldom available along forest roads. Carry adequate food, water, and clothing in your vehicle and let someone know your travel plans. Be prepared for sudden inclement weather to impede your progress or prevent your scheduled return. If possible, carry a cellular phone with external antenna in case of back-road emergencies or vehicle failure.
- Lock your vehicle at all parking areas regardless of how safe they appear. Carry all valuables with you when leaving your vehicle.
- Always remember to carry water and drink plenty of water to prevent dehydration, especially on the east side of the Cascades. The high desert and mountain wilderness will take the moisture right out of your body before you see or feel the perspiration.

### Disclaimer

The sponsors and organizers of the Oregon Cascades Birding Trail project and the member organizations of the Oregon Birding Trails Working Group do not guarantee the safety or conditions at or getting to any site listed in this guide. The above organizations also do not assume any responsibility or liability for injuries, etc., suffered as a result of activities associated with the use of this guide.