

Oregon's Malheur NWR & Woodpecker Wonderland Species List | May 20 – 29, 2024 with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by guide Steve Shunk. Our clients included Pamela, Ingeborg, Don, Tracy, Greg, Virginia, and Kenneth.

“Woodpeckers and Waterbirds Galore” could be the name of this tour, which visits two of Oregon’s premier birding locations. Habitat diversity served as a common theme throughout the journey, going from desert and desert oasis to mixed-conifer and fire-scarred forest. Our total of 172 bird species was typical for the season. We had no ‘big misses’ and added a few species not seen every year.

Bird highlights included 18 different waterfowl, 14 raptors, 10 woodpecker species, and 11 flycatchers. We found all the specialty breeding birds at Malheur, including a rare pair of stunning Horned Grebes in bright breeding plumage. Other Malheur nesters included nearly 50 Yellow-headed Blackbirds and a dozen Bobolinks, with several males of the latter performing their entertaining courtship flights. Our Malheur ibis numbers were well above the conservative 665 individuals we tallied in our few days there. The timing of the trip allowed us to observe many active nests. We saw a Ferruginous Hawk nest with four nestlings and watched at least a dozen active woodpecker nests.

Non-bird highlights included many pronghorn in the Malheur region and a parade of squirrels and chipmunks in the Cascades. The marmots and cottontails in Frenchglen also provided some nice entertainment.

The link below will get you to the eBird trip report for the entire tour. Once you have pulled up the report, you will first see the list of species we encountered, in taxonomic order. Clicking on any species will take you to the eBird reference page for that bird. Clicking the green icons to the right will show you the different checklists from the sites where each species was encountered, and these listings link to the checklists themselves. Back on the main page, you can access the complete set of checklists from the tour by clicking the blue box at the top. Enjoy exploring our 172 bird species. We certainly enjoyed finding them!

The eBird link below details the 172 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you’re new to eBird, be sure to click “Show All Details” on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

[Oregon's Malheur NWR & Woodpecker Wonderland | May 20-29, 2024 | eBird Trip Report](#)

MAMMALS (11):

Western Gray Squirrel *Sciurus griseus*—(1) Ponderosa forest

Douglas's Squirrel *Tamiasciurus douglasii*—(2) Heard more than seen

Yellow-bellied Marmot *Marmota flaviventris*—(3) Included “Gordo” seen loafing at Frenchglen school

Belding's Ground Squirrel *Spermophilus beldingi*—(5) East of Cascades
Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel *Spermophilus lateralis*—(3) In the Cascades
Yellow-pine Chipmunk *Neotamias amoenus*—(3) In the Cascades
Least Chipmunk *Neotamias minimus*—(1) Many at Brothers rest area
Mountain Cottontail *Sylvilagus nuttallii*—(4) All at Malheur
Mule Deer *Odocoileus hermionus*—(5) Malheur and Sisters area
Pronghorn *Antilocapra americana*—(4) Lots seen around Malheur
Long-tailed Weasel *Neogale frenata*—(1) Benson Pond at Malheur

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (1):

Western Fence Lizard *Sceloporus occidentalis*—(2) One very dark individual encountered at Malheur