

Eastern Washington's Wintering Birds



Northern Cascades, Okanogan Highlands, Waterville Plateau Winter Trip
With Guide Shep Thorp, one of Washington's Best!!

January 24th thru 29th, 2019

Day 1 - Tampa to Seattle – Please arrive at SeaTac no later than 9pm. We will make our way to the hotel, La Quinta Inn, Tacoma and pick up our rentals in Tacoma

Day 2 - We'll head out early for Omak, Washington with Shep Thorp in the lead (See his bio below.), where we will spend 3 nights at the Omak Inn...birding along the way of course and taking in the amazing sights of the Columbia River Basin. The trip will consist of birding by car with short winter walks to explore hot spots-habitat.



Days 3 thru 5 – The HOT spots we'll explore include Havillah, Sno-Park, Hungry Hollow Rd, Nealy Rd, Chesaw, Mary Ann Creek Rd, Pontiac Ridge, Scotch Creek Wildlife Area, Conconully, Cameron Lake Road, Timentwa Flats, Brewster/Bridgeport Area, Mansfield, Waterville Plateau and Waterville, West Foster Creek Wildlife Area (Central Ferry Canyon, Bridgeport Hill Rd).

Target species include: Sharp-tailed Grouse, Gray Partridge, Ruffed Grouse, Chukar, Long-tailed Duck, Northern Goshawk, Golden Eagle, Rough legged Hawk and Great Gray, Long-eared , Northern

Saw-whet, Short-eared, Snowy, Northern Pygmy Owls, as well as American Three-toed and Black-backed Woodpeckers, White-headed Woodpecker, Gyrfalcon, Prairie Falcon, Northern Shrike, Bohemian Waxwing, Pygmy Nuthatch, American Tree Sparrow, two subspecies of Horned Lark, Lapland Longspur, Varied Thrush, Townsend's Solitaire, Red Crossbill, Snow Bunting, Gray-crowned Rosy-finch, Pine Grosbeak, Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Chickadee, California Quail, and Common Redpoll...and those are the highlights!!



Day 5 - Afternoon will include checking out of the inn and making our way back to Seattle...slowly. We will stop for dinner for our last meal with our Guide Shep Thorp. We will then head to our hotel in Seattle.

Day 6 – Fly Home!!! Hotel has shuttle service to SeaTac.

Tour cost: 11 people - \$680 per person. The cost of this tour is based on a minimum group size of eleven participants.

Cost Includes: All transportation while in Washington (4 wheel drive SUVs/gas), hotel fares (double occupancy rate, single occupancy available at an addition cost) park fees and expert guide throughout our trip. Accommodations are based on two persons sharing a two-bedded room. We select good quality motels/hotels convenient to our birding and tour destinations. For those wishing to have a single room the cost will be \$775. We try to find roommates as much as possible, but it isn't always possible. If you cannot find a roommate, you will be charged the added cost of single accommodations.

Cost Does Not Include: your airfare or meals (Breakfast will be provided by the hotels, but if you desire protein with your breakfast please bring it with you.). I have priced 2 different airlines, and it should be approximately \$280 - \$500 round trip if you book soon. Alaska Airlines has a nonstop flight



each way from Tampa to Seattle which arrives at 8:05pm and lands in Tampa at 4:20pm for \$458.

I am taking Southwest flight of which I booked for \$250 **round trip** (Fare goes up as time goes by.) arriving in Seattle at 4:30pm. **You must arrive in Seattle by 9pm on the 24th please. If you arrive late unfortunately you will be responsible for the transportation to our hotel 25 minutes...Uber.** Day 6 our hotel has a shuttle that runs on the half an hour to SeaTac.

Registration: This tour is strictly limited to a maximum of 11 participants. A deposit of \$400 is due when making your reservation to confirm your space. Reservations are taken on a first come first serve basis with priority given to the date received.

Payment balance: \$375 single and \$280 double room (balance after deposit) is due no later than **November 1st.**

Please contact me ASAP if interested: Dale Goebel (727) 510-1462 or sheirah11@verizon.net . You may send me a check made out to CAS or make your payment on our CAS website using PayPal (Please let me know if you use PayPal so that I may alert our Webmaster.). Send all payment communication to me and send checks to 1617 Hamilton Ct. Dunedin 34698.



Shep Thorp bird watcher bio:

I was born and raised in the city of brotherly love, Philadelphia. Raised a Quaker, I'm a long distant member of the Germantown Monthly Meeting and graduated high school from the Germantown Friends School. In elementary, middle, and high school I assisted Joe Cadbury and Ed Marshall in tending mist nets and making measurements for banding local birds.

As a child my parents would take me bird watching in the golden years of the '70's, and I was fortunate to visit Hawk Mountain PA, Brigantine and Cape May in NJ, and Block Island in RI. On one memorable trip I was able to see Roger Tory Peterson in action on a ferry boat ride to Block Island in October to catch the autumnal migration of warblers at this well known migrant trap.

Professional ambitions captured my interest as a young person, and I pursued degrees in biology and veterinary medicine. In 1992 I moved from the eastern seaboard to the Pacific Northwest, and started my veterinary practice in Tacoma WA (little Philly).

In 2008 I rediscovered my love and dedication to birding, and joined the Wednesday Walk at Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually NWR lead by Phil Kelly. A 1000 acre tidal estuary that is wintering grounds for thousands of waterfowl, a shorebird staging area for spring and fall migration, and riparian woodland nursery for passerines in the summer. Nisqually was one of the largest tidal estuary restorative efforts on the west coast in 2009; we continue to enjoy the recovery.

In 2011 I relocated a Black-tailed Gull in Commencement Bay, previously discovered by Charlie Wright 2 years previously, and was known as the guy with the boat who took birders out to the log booms to enjoy this special find.

During this time, I befriended well known local birder Ruth Sullivan, whose collaboration with her deceased son, Patrick Sullivan, were well respected for their efforts to identify species in WA State. Patrick was well mentored by Ken Knittle (founder of WA Bird Lister) in birding the Waterville Plateau and Okanogan Highlands both winter and summer, as this elevational desert and mixed forest highlands provides excellent opportunities to observe arctic species in the winter and eastern and boreal species in the summer. Ruth and I paired up for over 5 years to lead WOS - Washington Ornithological Society - winter trips and enjoyed rekindling our love of finding something good.

In 2014 I sold my emergency veterinary practice to Blue Pearl Veterinary Partners of Tampa, Florida. Now I'm an employee with more responsibilities to my practice and associates towards growth of the referral center. My family time is precious, and I love my Wednesdays at Nisqually and my winter trips to the Waterville Plateau and Okanogan Highlands.

I look forward to sharing my knowledge of these regions with you. Shep (8/12/2018)

