



TOGETHER FOR NATURE

Northern Blues: Washington State's Forgotten Counties May 21-25, 2021

Tentative Trip Itinerary

Friday, May 21

Meet at our departure location in Portland at **6am**. We will make several stops en route to Dayton. Options include Deschutes River Park, Tower Rd for Tricolored Blackbird (if they are around), Boardman for Forster's Terns, and one of the primo stops overall is McNary Wildlife Area.

Saturday, May 22 Dams, rocky cliffs and migrants

Our route today will take us along the Snake River. We will look for migrants at Lyons Ferry, Central Ferry and Washturna. Palouse State Park is a scenic little stop where White-throated Swift and Peregrine Falcon breed. Little Goose Dam is worth a little side trip as well. Canyon and Rock Wren as well as Chukar can be found in the cliffs along the Snake River.

Sunday, May 23 Biscuit Ridge, Coppei Creek

This morning we will bird one of the most iconic roads in Washington State: This the only area in Washington state where Green-tailed Towhee occurs. With lots of luck you can run into a Great Gray Owl in this area. The lower elevations will be fabulously birdy at the end of May, as all the birds are setting up shop for the breeding cycle and will sing non-stop. Gray Catbird, Veery, Yellow-breasted Chat and Lazuli Bunting will have just arrived. In the afternoon, we will look for similar birds along the South Fork of the Coppei Creek

Monday, May 24 Mid-elevation Blues

In the morning we will try for Grasshopper and Brewer's Sparrow in the Peola area, then we will head uphill until we are stopped by snow. In the Ponderosa Pines near Forest Boundary CG, we will search for White-headed Woodpecker, Cassin's Finch, Pygmy Nuthatch. If we can't proceed into wetter high elevation forest, we will double back and bird the Tucannon, a slightly lower elevation and fabulously birdy area. There is always a chance for Northern Goshawk in the higher elevations.

Tuesday, May 25

The mouth of the Walla Walla River is interesting year round. We will also make a brief stop at Millet Pond and Madame Dorian Park. At Umatilla NWR we will be able to walk around a little bit. It's always worth checking in at Riverfront Park in The Dalles, even if it's only for a few minutes.

Note: A Discover Pass and a Northwest Forest Pass will be required for this trip (state parks, F&W accesses, snoparks)