

KCA Idaho/Montana Birding Trip



Join Kane County Audubon, a chapter of Illinois Audubon, for an exciting trip to Idaho, Montana and Wyoming! We'll bird our way through valleys, mountains, grasslands, and spectacular Yellowstone National Park.

We'll visit as many hotspots as possible in quest of everything from the highly localized Cassia Crossbill to Sprague's Pipit. We'll see some spectacular scenery along the way including a waterfall that is over 200-feet higher than Niagara Falls. We'll also try for some night birds.

This trip runs May 31- June 8, 2024. Participants will need to arrive in Bozeman Montana in time for our kickoff dinner on Friday May 31st at 6 pm.

Cost: approximately \$2,000 per person. Final costs will be determined once registration is closed and final bookings are made. This is based on 8 people maximum excluding John and I. The cost includes all transportation once you are in Bozeman, lodging, entrance fees, breakfasts, snacks and lunches taken in the field, (some lodging will include a free breakfast). All dinners are at your own expense

All participants must be fully vaccinated against Covid.

May 31



Trip begins in Bozeman at 6 pm with a kick-off dinner

Anyone arriving early – we will bird in the afternoon.

Overnight @ Mountain View Lodge & Suites, Bozeman

June 1



We will have an early start as we have a 5.5 hour drive to Twin Falls Idaho.

We'll stop to bird along the way. Once we reach Twin Falls we will visit the iconic falls and bird in the area.

Lodging @ Hampton Inn Twin Falls

Target Birds: Cassia Crossbill, Calliope Hummingbird, Mountain Chickadee, Common Raven, Violet-green Swallow, Cassin's Finch, Western Tanager, Red-naped Sapsucker, Western Wood Peewee, Dusky Flycatcher, Hammond's Flycatcher, Mountain Bluebird

June 2



After breakfast we will head to the Cassia Crossbill spots. We have several hotspots to visit in the area including some hummingbird feeders. Time permitting we have another waterfall to visit. We may come back to the campground area at dusk to try for Flammulated Owl and Common Poorwill.

Lodging at Hampton Inn Twin Falls

Target Birds: California Quail, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Calliope Hummingbird, Rufous Hummingbird, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Lewis's Woodpecker, Green-tailed Towhee, Cassia Crossbill, Red Crossbill

June 3



After breakfast we will start on our drive to Yellowstone National Park.

We should arrive in Gardiner, MT around lunchtime.

After lunch, we'll head out to the park and start our explorations.

Lodging at Travelodge by Wyndham Gardiner

Target Birds: Black-billed Magpie, Cassin's Finch, Brewer's Blackbird, Mountain Chickadee, Mountain Bluebird, Western Meadowlark, Western Tanager

June 4



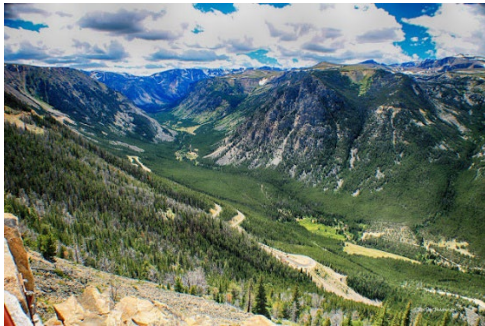
We will get an early start with breakfast on the road as we head directly to the Lamar or Hayden Valley in the hopes of seeing wolves and other wildlife. The rest of the day we will work on our Montana and Wyoming birding lists as we move around the park to spots such as Old Faithful, the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone and Yellowstone Lake.

Lodging at Travelodge by Wyndham Gardiner

Target Birds: Black-billed Magpie, Cassin's Finch, Brewer's Blackbird, Mountain Chickadee, Mountain Bluebird, Western Meadowlark, Western Tanager

Target Mammals: Gray Wolf, Pronghorn, Elk, Moose, Black Bear, Grizzly Bear, Bison, Big Horn Sheep

June 5



Today we will search for two very difficult targets. Greater Sage Grouse and Black Rosy Finch.

After breakfast we will drive around 2.5 hours to Red Lodge, Montana.

Our route will depend on whether the Beartooth Highway is open. If it is, we will drive what has been called the most beautiful road in the US and look for the finches.

Lodging at Quality Inn Red Lodge

Target Birds: Greater Sage Grouse, Black Rosy Finch

June 6



After breakfast we will head for the Judith Gap Grasslands, about a 2 hour drive.

Here we will look for a variety of grassland birds.

Lodging at Lewistown Super 8

Target Birds: American Avocet, Clark's Grebe, Western Grebe, Mountain Plover, Sprague's Pipit, Upland Sandpiper, Long-billed Curlew, Black-billed Magpie, Golden Eagle, Ferruginous Hawk, Burrowing Owl, Lark Bunting, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Thick-billed Longspur, Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Baird's Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird

June 7



After breakfast we will head out for a full day in the grasslands.

In the late afternoon we will head back to Bozeman about a 2-hour drive.

Lodging at Mountain View Lodge & Suites, Bozeman

Farewell dinner

Target Birds: same as June 6th

June 8

Trip ends at breakfast, flights home anytime