

# HOOD RIVER COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

**Blitz  
Dates**

Thursday, May 26 to  
Friday, May 27 in  
Hood River, OR

What is a Blitz? Birders from around the state gather in a single county to survey as many birds in as many places as possible in just one weekend. Multiple stationary counts within Oregon2020 Hotspot Squares are encouraged (click [here](#) for our protocol). Participation in Blitzes is free! To register, visit: <http://oregon2020.com/hoodriver/>



## Fast Facts

- All-Time Bird Species Total: **237**
- Breeding Season Bird Species Total: **190**
- Total number of eBird checklists: **2,366**



Photo: Eleanor Briccetti

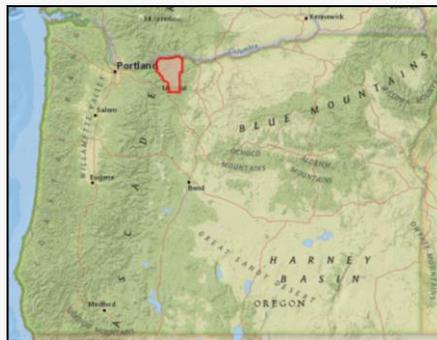
### Hood River County Species Highlights:

- Caspian Tern
- Black-backed Woodpecker
- Williamson's Sapsucker
- American Three-toed Woodpecker

### Top Birding Locations in Hood River County:

- Mt. Hood Cloud Cap Road
- Mt. Hood National Forest
- Hood River Mouth

## Overview of Hood River County



Above: Hood River County is located to the east of Portland along Highway 84 and the Columbia River.

Hood River County is situated along the scenic Columbia Gorge. The city of Hood River, the county seat, is world renowned for wind-surfing due to consistent winds coming through the Columbia River Gorge in the summertime. The entire county has some of the best kayaking, mountain biking, skiing, and hiking areas in the United States. Two famous sites are the famous Mount Hood and Punchbowl Falls, a gorgeous waterfall along the Eagle Creek trail.

## The Fascinating Black-Backed Woodpecker

You walk through coniferous forests, where you see burned bark everywhere. A long, slow, and accelerating drum beat is heard. You turn your head and it's a Black-backed Woodpecker with a wood-boring beetle larvae placed in its beak. This bird often exploits outbreaks of wood-boring beetles in recently burned habitats. During the breeding season, Black-backed Woodpeckers excavate cavities at in mountainous regions above 4000 ft, and can be found by their wood chips on the forest floor. Changes in the forest due to fire and to insect outbreaks attract these opportunistic woodpeckers.

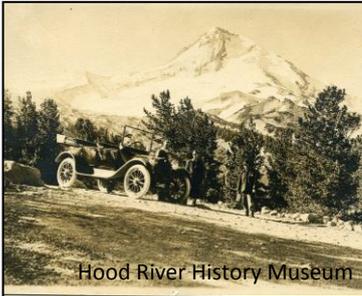
*Dixon R.D. and V.A. Saab. 2000. Black-backed Woodpecker (Picoides arcticus), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology.*



Photo: Francesco Veronesi

Look for Black-backed Woodpeckers and other high-elevation specialties on our Hood River Blitz.

## THE HISTORY OF HOOD RIVER COUNTY



Hood River County was first officially settled in 1854. By the latter part of the nineteenth century was home to farmers of Japanese, Finnish, German, and French ethnicities.

The Columbia River Highway from Portland to The Dalles was completed in 1922, making the towns of the county more accessible for commerce and tourism from throughout the Columbia River Gorge and the state. Visitors can go to the Hood River County Historical Museum to learn more about Hood River County's diverse cultural heritage.

## LODGING FOR THE HOOD RIVER COUNTY BIRDING BLITZ

**Our headquarters and daily meeting location for the Hood River County Blitz will be in Hood River City, Oregon.**

Hotspots in Hood River County are easy to access thanks to a variety of highways and forest roads. Participants are welcome to stay wherever they prefer in the county – or even at their own homes in the



Portland metropolitan area. Hotels and B&Bs can be found in all major Hood River cities including Cascade Locks, Government Camp, and Hood River. For more information, visit: <http://hoodriver.org/stay/>

## The Oregon2020 Birding Blitz Protocol – How We Count Birds

Curious to know what we do on a Birding Blitz? Here's our standard protocol for counting birds.

1. For each day of the blitz, you will be assigned 2-4 Oregon2020 Hotspots to visit. You can see a full map of Hotspots here: <http://goo.gl/P7ivxR>
2. Use the [free Oregon2020 Hotspot App](#) to navigate into a square.
3. Conduct multiple 5-10 minute stationary bird counts. Try to count birds in at least 4 and up to 8 points within the square.
4. For each stationary count: record the GPS coordinates, start and end time of the count, and the number of observers.
5. Repeat in each of your assigned Hotspots, and spend the rest of the day chasing rarities or birding interesting spots in the county.

### What is a stationary count?

Stationary counting means you stand in one location and count all the birds you see or hear for 5-10 minutes. (You can move around to better see or hear birds as needed) *Obtaining actual counts for every bird species is very important – don't estimate!*

### What if I want to walk around?

You're more than welcome to also count birds while travelling, but start a new list whenever you change habitats. We want to associate birds with the habitats in which you found them. If you can, try to conduct several non-travelling counts within the square as well.



Photo: Dick Daniels

## FUN FACT:

**DID YOU KNOW...** the Hood River "Fruit Loop" is a scenic 35-mile loop in the Hood River Valley that winds through wineries, u-pick farms, and fruit stands. Farms along the loop also produce lavender, chestnuts, and alpaca fur. Pear wine is a specialty in this region.

Don't forget to register for the **Hood River County Birding Blitz**, May 25-26! Free registration and more information available here: <http://oregon2020.com/hoodriver/>