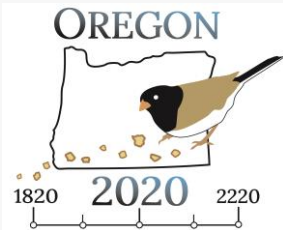


# JEFFERSON COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

**Blitz  
Dates**

Friday, June 24 to  
Sunday, June 26 –  
across the county

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/jefferson/>



## Fast Facts

- All-Time Bird Species Total: **279**
- Breeding Season Bird Species Total: **233**
- Total number of eBird checklists: **2,925**



Photo: Francesco Veronesi

### Jefferson County Species Highlights:

- Green-tailed Towhee
- White-headed Woodpecker
- Lewis' Woodpecker
- Northern Goshawk

### Top Birding Locations in Jefferson County:

- Haystack Reservoir
- Suttle Lake
- Cove Palisades State Park

## Overview of Jefferson County



Above: Jefferson County is located in central Oregon, west of Sale and Mount Jefferson. Its largest city is Madras.

This county has no shortage of protected natural areas; it contains parts of the Deschutes, Mount Hood and Willamette National Forests, as well as the Crooked River National Grassland. This county sees 300 days of sunshine a year. Major tourist activities are fishing, hunting, camping, boating, water-skiing and rock hunting. Jefferson County also contains the Warm Springs Indian Reservation, home to the federally recognized Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

## The Colorful Green-tailed Towhee

The sound of leaves rustling on the ground can be a good indicator of a Green-tailed Towhee foraging for seeds nearby. This behavior is known as bilateral scratching. The Green-tailed Towhee still remains as one of North America's least well-known birds, even though it is widespread. Breeding males are known to perform threat displays that involve puffing out feathers and raising crown feathers. When a predator comes close to the nest, the female towhee leaves the nest and runs on the ground, raising her tail. Naturalists believe this behavior emulates how a chipmunk runs and may lure away predators.

*Dobbs, R.C., P. R. Martin and T.E. Martin. 2012. Green-tailed Towhee (Pipilo chlorurus), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology*



Photo: Nature Pics Online

*Green-tailed Towhees should be a familiar sight throughout the Jefferson Birding Blitz.*

## THE HISTORY OF JEFFERSON COUNTY



OR Historical Archives

Jefferson County owes much of its agricultural prosperity to a railroad that linked Madras with the Columbia River in 1911. Madras has been the county seat since that year. The county is named after Mount

Jefferson, the most prominent geographic feature in the county. Madras itself is named after a city in India. The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs provides many lumber and agriculture jobs to the area. On the reservation, The Museum at Warm Springs houses a large collection of North American Indian artifacts, historic photographs, murals, and rare documents.

## LODGING FOR THE JEFFERSON COUNTY BIRDING BLITZ

**We will gather for a potluck dinner at Calliope Crossing just outside Sisters, Oregon on Saturday, June 25.**

Most lodging options in Jefferson County are near Madras, Oregon. Hotel options range from the budget-friendly Econolodge to the luxurious Inn at Cross Keys Station. There are many places to camp across Jefferson County,



Peter Tiegs

including the Cove Palisades State Park and Haystack Reservoir. Both are also birding hotspots! For more information about visiting the county, visit: <http://www.madraschamber.com>

## An Interview with Local Birder Chuck Gates

**How long have you been birding in Oregon?** 28 years. Started in the fall of 88.

**What is your favorite Oregon bird, and your favorite Jefferson county bird?** Probably Lazuli Bunting for both.

**What are your favorite birding spots in Jefferson county?** Haystack Reservoir, Agricultural fields around Culver, Agency Plains, Suttle Lake, Green Ridge, Old Madras Sewer Ponds (limited access)

**What bird species, if any, are you still hoping to find in Jefferson county?** Trumpeter Swan, Black-crowned Night-heron, Sandhill Crane, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Pectoral Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Franklin's Gull, Common Tern, Barred Owl, Bewick's Wren, Gray Catbird and White-throated Sparrow just to name the easy ones.

**Why should Oregon birders visit Jefferson county?** Like Deschutes County, the range of varied ecosystems provide a birder access to a huge variety of bird species. Jefferson County includes the Crooked R. National Grasslands, the Deschutes National Forest, expansive high desert, canyonlands, farmland and buttes. If it were populated with as many people as Deschutes, I think the Jefferson County bird list would be comparable to Deschutes.



Photo: Nature Pics Online

### FUN FACTS:

**DID YOU KNOW...** The Kah-Nee-Ta Resort has several desert hikes that overlook beautiful red and green hillsides. Mountain views include the Ochocos, Grizzly Mountain, Broken Top, the Three Sisters, and Mount Jefferson. Horseback rides and kayaking trips are available as well.

Don't forget to register for the **Jefferson County Birding Blitz**, June 24-26! Free registration and more information available here: <http://oregon2020.com/jefferson/>