

WASCO COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

Blitz Dates

Weds., May 24 to
Friday, May 26 in
Tygh Valley, 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/wasco/>



Fast Facts

- All-Time Bird Species Total: **258**
- Breeding Season Bird Species Total: **227**
- Total number of eBird checklists: **4,414**



Photo: Frode Jacobson

Wasco County Species Highlights:

- Hermit Warbler
- Warbling Vireo
- Cassin's Vireo
- Mountain Chickadee
- Northern Goshawk

Top Birding Locations in Wasco County:

- The Dalles Riverfront Park
- Deschutes River Landing
- Mayer State Park

Overview of Wasco County



Above: Wasco County is east of Portland and Mt. Hood, along Hwy 97. Its largest city is The Dalles.

Located in the north-central part of Oregon, Wasco county is bordered by the slopes of Mt. Hood, the great Columbia river, the scenic Deschutes River, and the mighty high desert. Its largest city is The Dalles, which sits at the gateway of the Columbia Gorge. The city was considered the end of the Oregon Trail for many pioneers. The county offers many recreational activities such as rafting, boating, fishing, rock climbing, or visiting the local historical ghost towns and Native American petroglyphs.

Warbling Vireo: A Memorable Songster

These small, olive-grey birds can be found nesting in urban parks and neighborhoods throughout most of the U.S. Warbling Vireos are best known for their persistent singing of their complex song, which early twentieth century ornithologist William Dawson described as “fresh as apples and as sweet as apple blossoms.” The mnemonic for their song, “If I sees you, I will squeeze you, and I’ll squeeze you ‘till you squirt,” is certainly memorable. Because characteristics vary greatly across their wide range, there are currently six subspecies of Warbling Vireo, although ornithologists once believed them to be two separate species. *Gardali, T. and Ballard, G. 2000. Warbling Vireo (Vireo gilvus), The Birds of North America Online (P.G. Rodewald, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology.*



Photo: Amado Demesa

Listen for Warbling Vireos singing from the trees during our Wasco County Blitz.

THE HISTORY OF WASCO COUNTY



Photo: Cacophony

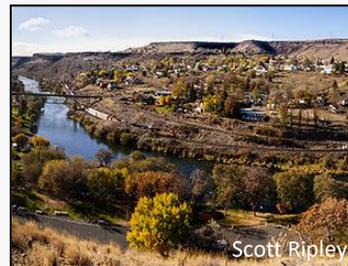
Wasco County, formed in 1854, is named for the Wasco (or Wascopam) tribe of Indians that lived south of the Columbia River. Falls on the Columbia River near The Dalles served as a major trading center for many

tribes, including the Wasco, Paiute, and Warm Springs. The Dalles also served as a way station on the emigrant road to the Willamette Valley. Wasco County quickly became a major transportation hub for both river traffic and inland traffic. The Dalles is designated the county seat. It has been home to three county courthouses, all of which are still standing today.

LODGING FOR THE WASCO COUNTY BIRDING BLITZ

Our headquarters and daily meeting location for the Wasco County Blitz will be in Tygh Valley, Oregon.

Despite its small size, Tygh Valley offers an assortment of lodging options, from budget motels, to the River Run Lodge and Pine Hollow Resort. Local campgrounds like Hunt Park, Bonney Crossing, and White River Falls offer scenic views of the valley, waterfalls, and



Scott Ripley

Mount Hood. Tygh Valley is just north of Maupin, where additional lodging can be found. Participants may also consider staying in The Dalles. For more, visit:

<http://www.thedalleschamber.com/attractions/>

Birding Hotspot: White River Falls State Park

One of Oregon's best-kept secrets, White River Fall State Park includes a waterfall that drops 90 degrees over a basalt shelf. Visitors to the Deschutes River corridor often use the park for its excellent picnicking spots, as well as for a hiking and fishing retreat. Hikers can trek the rugged quarter-mile trail deep into the canyon to observe a historic hydroelectric power plant at the base of the falls, all the while observing the beautiful desert flowers that bloom there every spring. The old hydroelectric power plant provided electricity to Wasco and Sherman counties from 1910 to 1960, and serves as a fascinating example of our ancestors' attempts to harness the raw, natural energy of the Pacific Northwest.



Photo: "Cacophony"

Recently Reported at White River Falls:

- American Dipper
- Lewis's Woodpecker
- Peregrine Falcon
- Black-billed Magpie
- Canyon Wren



Photo: Gary Halvorson

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

FUN FACT:

DID YOU KNOW... Wasco was originally the largest county ever formed in the US? It originally consisted of 130,000 square miles, and stretched from the Cascades to the Rockies, and from California to Washington! 17 other Oregon counties were formed from Wasco.