

OBA Sherman County Birding Trip
Deschutes River SRA, Cottonwood Canyon - and a Stop in Hood River
March 8, 2025
Jill Punches, Trip Leader

We had terrific weather and a good group for our field trip in Sherman County. Most of the group met at Hood River to observe 2 roosting Black-crowned Night Herons.

Sherman is located in Central Oregon and borders the Columbia River to the north. 279 species have been recorded which ranks the county 31st of Oregon's 36 counties. With that said, it is the easiest county to find Say's Phoebe and Canyon Wren year-round and Barrow's Goldeneye in Winter.

Our main stop was Deschutes River State Recreation Area, Sherman County's top hotspot with 220 species recorded. It's a popular place to camp along the Deschutes River near the mouth of the Columbia River. The area offers a variety of habitat including grassy lawn, willows, tall Cottonwoods and grassy canyonland; a network of trails connects all of it.

After introductions, we walked toward some Cedars and immediately flushed a Barn Owl. We got some good looks and a few got some photos before it disappeared in some willows. We checked the trees along the river for mixed flocks of birds. Barrow's and Common Goldeneyes are easy to see in the faster moving water; We only saw one Barrow's but there were several sets of Common Goldeneyes. We heard a Say's Phoebe and Canyon Wrens as we hiked. A highlight was hearing and then finally seeing a pair of Prairie Falcon's; we observed them hunt and interact for a long time. We hiked a total of 3 ½ miles.

After a quick lunch, we headed to Cottonwood Canyon, Sherman County's 2nd top EBird hotspot with 153 species. Bird highlights include a nesting Great Horned Owl, Say's Phoebe, and a Townsend's Solitaire. We were also thrilled to see 14 Bighorn Sheep!

Attached is the Ebird Trip Report: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/340450>





