

Trip Report for Birding and Photography in the Wallowa Valley January 23 to 26, 2026.



The end of January was celebrated by a semi-traditional field trip in the Wallowa Valley sponsored by the Wallowa Valley Photo Club and the Oregon Birding Association. This trip was a bit different in that it included four afternoons of bird photography workshops, as well as three days of field trips. It began with two days of scouting during beautiful hoarfrosted days. Hoarfrost is formed when water vapor turns to a crystalline or feathery solid creating a beautiful backdrop for bird photography. Fifteen participants, (talented photographers, knowledgeable birders), and four guides (thank you Mike Hansen, Kendrick Moholt, Roblyn Brown, and Janet Hohmann) covered a variety of habitats throughout the county.





Snow Bunting by Merry Crimi



Northern Pygmy Owl by Nicole Lazo



American Tree Sparrow by Nick Viani

Workshops included camera settings, bird photography techniques, artistry and composition, culling, and post processing. The lack of snow gave access to some areas, but limited the number of birds often pushed to the valley. Seventy-two bird species were recorded, notably American Tree Sparrows, Snow Buntings, and possibly a Bohemian Waxwing along with a wide variety of raptors, passerines, and water birds.

Canada Goose
Mute Swan
Bufflehead
Mallard
American Wigeon
Barrow's Goldeneye
Common Goldeneye
Hooded Merganser
Common Merganser
Ring-necked Duck
Pied-billed Grebe
Greater Scaup
Lesser Scaup
Green-winged Teal
Wood Duck

American Coot
Northern Pintail

Northern Harrier
Red-tailed Hawk
American Kestrel
Prairie Falcon
Cooper's Hawk
Rough-legged Hawk
Bald Eagle
Golden Eagle
Great Horned Owl
Northern Pygmy Owl
Northern Shrike

Wilson's Snipe
American Dipper
Great Blue Heron
Belted Kingfisher

Black-capped Chickadee
Mountain Chickadee
Red-breasted Nuthatch
Cedar Waxwing
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Snow Bunting
Horned Lark
Bewick's Wren
European Starling
Townsend's Solitaire

House Finch
American Goldfinch
Lesser Goldfinch
House Sparrow
American Tree Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Song Sparrow
Pine Siskin
Spotted Towhee
American Robin

Canada Jay
Steller's Jay
Clark's Nutcracker
Black-billed Magpie
Common Raven
Red-winged Blackbird
Brewer's Blackbird
Brown-headed Cowbird
Mourning Dove
Eurasian Collared Dove

Rock Pigeon
California Quail
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Western Meadowlark
Wild Turkey
Ring-necked Pheasant
Bohemian Waxwing?