



2026 LADD MARSH BIRD FESTIVAL

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Ladd Marsh Dawn Chorus - Sunday May 17th, 4:45 AM – 8:30 AM; meet at [Peach Road Fishing Pond Parking Lot](#) . \$25 per participant

Experience the awakening of Ladd Marsh with a dawn walk. Led by local experienced birders, Steve Clements and Arlene Blumton, we will listen and look for Virginia and Sora Rails, American Bittern, Black-crowned Night Heron, Common Yellow-throat, Marsh Wren and more. You will meet at the Fishing Pond Parking Lot and then walk along gentle terrain at the edge of the wetland. **Accessibility and Difficulty level:** Easy; a mile or less of walking on a gravel road. Participants will drive to the meeting location in their own vehicles. *Limited to 12 participants.*



Rhinehart Canyon and Grande Ronde River

Rhinehart Canyon - Sunday May 17th, 6:00 AM — 10:30 AM; meet at [Union County Senior Center](#). \$25 per participant

Led by professional birder, Trent Bray, we will spend the morning looking and listening for birds along the Grande Ronde River at the famous birding spot, Rhinehart Canyon (about 18 miles north of La Grande). Over 140 species have been seen at this location. We may need to do some carpooling depending upon participant turnout. **Accessibility and Difficulty level:** Moderate, a few miles of walking over uneven and rocky terrain. Participants will drive to the tour location in their own vehicles following a lead car. *Limited to 12 participants.*

MEET FOR YOUR TRIP 15 MINUTES PRIOR TO START TIME. TRIPS WILL DEPART ON TIME.



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Grande Ronde Valley “Hotspots” - Sunday May 17th, 6:30 AM – 11:00 AM; meet at [Peach Road registration trailer](#). \$25 per participant. Songbirds, shorebirds, and birds of prey will be the focus of this field trip. Led by local experienced birder, Laura Mahrt, this field trip focuses on birding “hotspots” in the Grande Ronde Valley, including areas at Ladd Marsh and sites on private property in the Valley. **Accessibility and Difficulty level:** Easy; most birding will be from or near a car or during short walks on level ground. Participants will use their own vehicles. *Limited to 12 participants.*



Morning over the marsh taken from Station 1 looking southeast.

Birds of the Ponderosa Pine Forest - Sunday May 17th, 6:30 AM – 12:30 PM; meet at the [Union County Senior Center](#). \$25 per participant

Led by naturalists, Mike and Susan Daugherty, this half day trip focuses on the fauna of the ponderosa pine forest in the Spring Creek area of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. This area is a good place to see forest habitat birds of the region and is one of the few known nesting areas for Great Gray Owls in Oregon. The owls are reclusive and not often seen. **Difficulty Level:** Moderate; approximately 3 to 5 miles of walking, depending on the route chosen for the day, on uneven ground in forested areas and on secondary roads. Participants will drive to the tour location in their own vehicles following a lead car. *Limited to 12 participants.*



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GROWISER - Sunday May 17th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM; participants will travel to tour location per directions below. \$25 per participant

Enjoy the birds and spring flowers at GROWISER/Grande Ronde Overlook Wildflower Institute Serving Ecological Restoration. This 230 acre native plant preserve is 20 miles north of La Grande. It features both forest and prairie ecosystems. To save travel time, participants will meet at the home of the preserve owner at 69512 Pumpkin Ridge Rd, Summerville, OR 97876; look for a "TOUR" banner. The tour will cover about 2 miles. Restrooms and seating areas are present. Participants should use the following link for directions to the tour location: <https://www.growiser.net/directions.html>. Or email [Karen Antell](mailto:karen@growiser.net). Website: <https://www.growiser.net>.

Difficulty level: Moderate; walking up or down gentle to steep grades on gravel trails and dirt paths. *Limited to 15 participants.*

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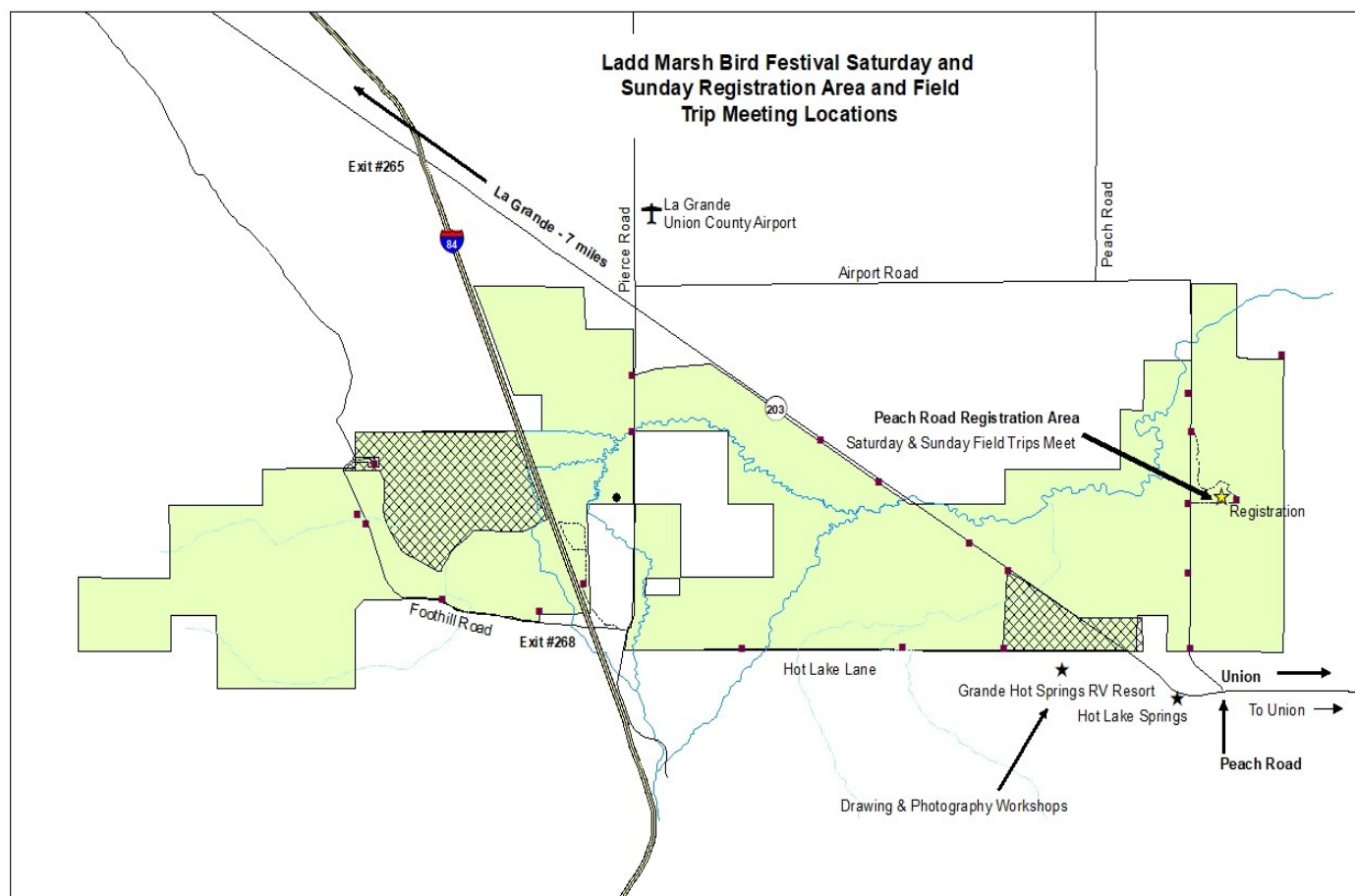


Trips meet at a variety of locations so be sure to check the descriptions for the trip you register for.

Please meet at the designated location to travel with the group. Trip leaders may make unscheduled stops or change final destinations in response to bird presence or weather.

Consider bringing the following items: a camera, binoculars, spotting scope, hiking boots, clothing appropriate for the weather, insect repellent, something to drink and food to snack on.

Please leave pets at home or make other arrangements.



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