



Bird Watching Adventures

Birding in the Cariboo Mountains

Located on the Pacific Flyway, British Columbia is a birding paradise so bring your camera and your curiosity and visit us in central British Columbia where over 200 species of birds make their homes in the Cariboo Mountains. Birding comes naturally whether you are bear watching, hiking or drifting on a river. There are huge populations of raptors, migratory and mountain birds in this widespread mountain wilderness area to test birding skills. Some birds are truly unique within this area of the Cariboo - the Chestnut-backed Chickadee which favors the Cedar Hemlock forests, the Varied Thrush which breeds extensively in the Cariboo Mountains down to lake level and the Tennessee Warbler and Magnolia Warbler which are primarily found in this region. Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned birder this is a unique and rare experience – a very special way of getting out, connecting with nature and enjoying the spectacular beauty of the seasons. Anchored by huge Quesnel Lake, deepest fjord lake in the world, with habitat ranging from wetlands to alpine, it sustains many varied bird species. It is also one of the largest migratory staging areas in BC. Hiking through the marshlands and interior rainforest to the alpine you will meet many feathered friends, large and small, and have exceptional photo opportunities. Birds include eagles, owls, osprey, migratory birds – ducks, swans, geese, blue herons, sandhill cranes. Traveling the rivers by boat eagles and belted king fishers keep us company along with a plethora of other birds that call the rivers home like the elegant common loon dressed in its brilliant black and white plumage.

A first rate birding experience in an authentic Canadian wilderness ‘classroom’ led by professional naturalists and birders.

The alpine and subalpine of the Cariboo Mountains region is a birder’s odyssey with a phenomenal selection of hard to find birds. Included in this menagerie of birds is 9 species of owls, jays, song birds, raptors, woodpeckers and hard to find birds*.

Birds you can expect to see –

- * Boreal owls
- Hawk owls
- Tennessee Warblers
- Horned Larks
- Stellar Jays
- Grey Jays (aka “Whiskey Jack” or “Camp Robber”)
- 3 species of Ptarmigans
- * Gray Crowned Rosy Finch
- Rosy Finch
- American Pipit
- Black Backed Woodpecker
- 3 Toed Woodpecker
- Golden Crowned Sparrow
- Boreal Chickadee
- Flycatchers (variety of species)
- Hammond’s Flycatcher
- Caliope Hummingbird
- Rufous Hummingbird
- White Crowned Sparrow
- White Throated Sparrow

In intermediate forest regions (lower to mid-elevations) you can expect to see

- Warblers – including Wilson’s, Magnolia, Yellow Rumped, more....
- Northern Water Thrush
- Fox Sparrow
- Chestnut Backed Chickadee
- 8 – 9 species of warblers
- Juncos
- Flickers
- Ravens
- Crows
- Hermit Thrush
- Swanson’s Thrush
- Varied Thrush
- * Black Swifts
- Vaux’s Swift
- Pine Siskin
- Magnolia Warbler
- Vireo – 3 species
- Grouse
- Hawks – 4 – 6 species
- American Goldfinch
- Owls – 9 species
- Townsend’s Solitaire
- Song Sparrow

Water and Wetlands

- Bald Eagles
- Golden Eagles
- Common Loon
- Grebes – 4 species
- Mergansers – Hooded and Common
- Herons
- Sandhill Cranes
- Hawks
- Water Ousel (aka Dippers)
- Belted Kingfishers
- * Barrows Golden Eye
- Canada Geese
- Ducks

These are just some of the over 250 species of birds in the Cariboo Mountains area.

Birding Packages

We recommend you allow a minimum of 3 days to fully experience the unique qualities of birding in the Cariboo Mountains. More time is better in regards to opportunities for sightings and photo shots. Also we are in an interior rainforest where weather changes quickly. If we have a day of poor weather it can limit viewing opportunities.

Following is a sample Birding Itinerary for 3 full days of bird watching. Itineraries are customizable for specific bird groups or areas of interest. Custom packages and tours available. Please contact us.

Day 1 – Arrival day. Orientation and free time to watch eagles and other birds on the river by the lodge.

Day 2 - Intermediate Forest Birds (low to mid-elevations)

Day 3 - Alpine and Sub-Alpine Forest Birds or Wetlands Birds

Day 4 – Guest Choice – revisit one of your favorite areas or opt for a tour of a historical 1860's Cariboo goldrush sites where you can also see a variety of birds along the way.

Day 5 – Departure day

Minimum – 2 people. Season – Year round. Birds available for viewing vary with the seasons.

Packages Include: Accommodations, meals, guides, necessary motorized equipment (boats, motors, vehicles), orientation and interpretive information. Depending on the trip chosen guests need to bring waterproof rain gear – pants and jacket, waterproof footwear, day pack sack, hat, clothing that can be layered – fleece is best, personal toiletries, cameras (preferably with a telephoto lens), memory cards/film, a good pair of binoculars.

Not Included: International airfares, staff appreciation gratuities, liquor, applicable Canadian taxes (HST 12%), Wilderness Stewardship Fund (1%), ground transport from/to Williams Lake airport is available. (Recommended gratuities for guides – 10% of package cost.)

Payment & Cancellation Policy: Bookings are confirmed with a 50% deposit with the balance due 60 days prior to arrival. In the event of cancellation 60 days prior to your scheduled arrival, and your reserved space can be rebooked, the deposit can be applied for an alternative date in the same season or the following season. All payments are final and nonrefundable. Payments May be made by bank draft, bank transfer, moneyorder or cheque. Prices are subject to change without notice. Bookings confirmed with a deposit are guaranteed.

Notes: Ecotours – BC reserves the right to cancel or modify services as weather and local conditions warrant without notification in the interest of safety of all concerned. We view bird and wild animals in their natural habitat. The birds and animals are totally wild and unhabituated. This is natural wildlife viewing in their natural habitat. There are no viewing platforms and the animals are not enclosed in any wildlife preserve. With natural wildlife viewing there are a numerous variables that are out of our control including weather conditions, natural instincts and movements of the birds/wildlife, and human capabilities. We do not guarantee sightings, but do our best to give guests the best opportunities for viewing birds/wildlife and we have a very high success rate. Guests are required to sign a waiver of liability prior to participation in activities.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING PREPARATIONS FOR TOURS.

It is of vital importance that when you book an outdoor adventure excursion you are properly equipped for the tours in order to get the most enjoyment from it. You must be prepared for all types of weather as it can change within minutes in the mountains of British Columbia. Guests must come equipped with warm weatherproof raingear – jacket, pants and hat, waterproof footwear – hiking boots or shoes, gloves, and clothes you can layer – one piece of which must be a good fleece or wool sweater/jumper. These items are vital to your comfort on the tours. Please see our Equipment List for full details of recommendations of what to bring for tours.

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