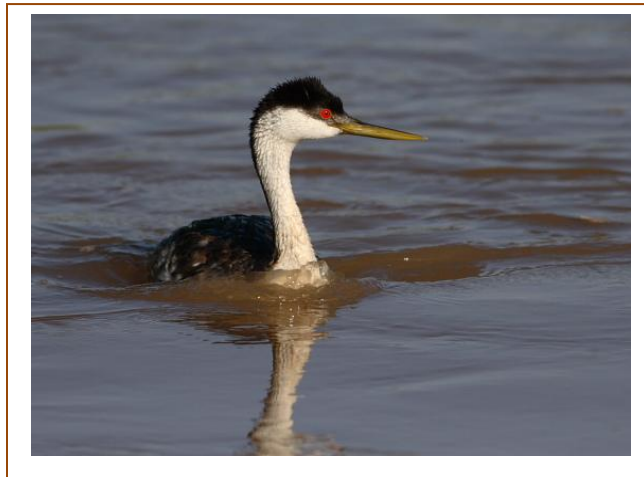


SELECTING YOUR TOUR

With so many destinations and such a variety of birds, wildlife, cultures, and habitats to experience, we'd like to offer some suggestions in choosing a tour. A good way to begin is by searching the **Bird Treks** web site, www.birdtreks.com, for ideas of tour destinations, dates, prices, and unique features that each tour has to offer. Our web site provides easy-to-find information, including detailed itineraries, favorite species and complete species lists from previous tours, many photos, and trip reports by participants and leaders. Feel free to contact BIRD TREKS for additional information or recommendations from past participants. It is often possible for you to participate in a **portion of a tour** if you would rather not go for the entire time. Please inquire and we will work with you on a special arrangement. And we'd like to tell you that nearly 80% of our first-time participants return for their second, third, and fourth tours, so be prepared for lots of enjoyable birding. It's FUN!



Western Grebe - - *John Puschock*

Once you select a tour, registration is simple. All that we need is a deposit of 25% of the tour fee (check, wire transfer, money order, or PayPal) and completed Registration and Release forms, which are accessed by clicking on the **Register Button**, or under **FORMS** on our web site. We typically need 3-4 participants in order to run a US or Canada tour, unless otherwise noted in the itinerary. So, the earlier you register, the sooner we can confirm that your tour will go. Receiving your registration and deposit 6-12 months prior to the tour date is very helpful,

especially when the tour involves a pelagic trip or lodges that are very popular and often require reservations long in advance. We can usually accommodate you if you notify us 2-4 months in advance, but not always. The tour may be full, or we may have already cancelled it due to an apparent lack of participants. In extreme situations, people have contacted our office the **day before a tour is to begin**, and we have been able to make all of the necessary arrangements! So it is never too late to contact us, but the earlier you make your reservation, the better it is for everyone. We have a liberal cancellation policy, and make recommendations on how to obtain trip and cancellation insurance. Both of these are outlined on the last page of the tour itinerary.

One month or more prior to your tour date, we will send you a letter with additional information to help you prepare for your birding experience. We advise you of the weather and conditions, and make suggestions for clothing, accessories, and equipment. We also tell you where you will stay and the names and contact



Snow Buntings - - *Les Eastman*

information of the other participants. BIRD TREKS takes care of all your tour accommodations, reservations, and logistics to help give you the most relaxing, worry-free birding experience possible. Upon your request, we will also arrange your air travel to the city where your tour originates, such as Tucson for the Southeast Arizona Tour. We utilize the services of **Lori Heathcote** of Travel Time/Bailey Travel for all of our arrangements. Lori has 33 years of experience in the travel industry and is a veteran birder; she understands your needs and concerns.

She will obtain the best possible airfare for you, check flights for cost reductions, and take care of many of your pre- and post-tour travel needs. Let us know if you wish Lori to make your arrangements or, if you wish, contact her directly by calling **1-800-224-5399**; Lori's direct phone line is **717-855-2128**. Her e-mail address is lori@trvltime.com . There is a small fee for these services.



Flame-colored Tanager
- - *Jerome Smith*

We meet in the city where the tour begins, typically at about noon on the first day. Some people choose to arrive a day early, just in case of any travel delays. Our leaders almost always arrive a day early. We will meet you at a designated location, usually our first motel. All of these arrangements are finalized in the pre-tour communications. Departure flights at the end of the tour are typically scheduled for mid-afternoon, so that we have some birding time on our final morning. Please contact BIRD TREKS if you intend to make your own airline reservations, to be certain that all of our schedules are coordinated. Also, please check with our office to confirm the proper dates that you are to arrive and depart.

We hope that this helps you in choosing your tour. If you have any additional questions, or would like to help plan a **custom tour**, please contact Bird Treks at **717-548-3303**, or e-mail us at info@birdtreks.com. We have been helping people to plan their bird watching tours for almost 25 years, and we would be extremely happy to help you, in every possible way that we can. We will be thrilled to take you on your next birding adventure!