



Indiana Audubon 2022 Black Hills Tour

June 7-12, 2022

The Best of the South Dakota Black Hills and Badlands



Join fellow Indiana Audubon members for an early summer birding adventure into the Black Hills area of South Dakota. This six-day birding tour will provide participants a chance to log an immense number of western species without having to travel too far west. The Black Hills is home to many easternmost outposts for some interesting western specialties, including American Dipper and Virginia's Warbler.

This tour will be led by Steve Huggins and Matt Ileski. Participants will be responsible for getting to Rapid City, SD on June 7th and departing on June 12th. Transportation from Rapid City, and for the duration of the trip, will be 12-person passenger vans.

As part of Indiana Audubon's commitment to conservation in areas we visit, a portion of the trip proceeds will be donated towards the Nature Conservancy's conservation work in the Black Hills in protecting natural resources for sustainable economic growth.



- Day 1.** Arrive in Rapid City, SD for evening meet and greet
- Day 2.** Badlands National Park, lodging in Rapid City
- Day 3.** Custer State Park and Wind Cave National Park, lodging in Custer, SD
- Day 4.** Black Hills National Forest, lodging in Custer, SD
- Day 5.** Spearfish Canyon and Black Hills National Forest, lodging in Rapid City
- Day 6.** Departure



Detailed Itinerary

Day 1 (June 7): Participants fly into Rapid City, SD and meet at the hotel by evening. Optional birding to nearby locations for early arrivals. Gather for an orientation that evening in the hotel. Stay the night in Rapid City.

Day 2 (June 8): For the first day of birding, we will head east to drive through Badlands National Park. Possible species include Burrowing Owl, Horned Lark, Lark Bunting, Mountain Bluebird, Swainson's Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Northern Harrier, Loggerhead Shrike, Rock Wren, as well as a few large Bank Swallow colonies. Prairie Falcons are also possible, but uncommon. On the way back to Rapid City we will stop to look for Yellow-headed Blackbird, Eared Grebe, Wilson's Phalarope, Willet, Marbled Godwit, and other shorebirds and waterfowl. Stay the night in Rapid City.



Day 3 (June 9): After an early checkout, we will head towards Custer State Park. We will make a few stops in the higher elevation Sylvan Lake region, and for brief views of Mt. Rushmore (we don't intend to enter the actual memorial park). This leg of the trip will include sections of the famed Needles Highway and its amazing, scenic views. This sub-alpine area hosts Red Crossbills, Cassin's Finch, and Red-naped Sapsucker. We will make our way to the Custer State Park Visitor Center and drive the Wildlife Loop in the park. Lunch in Custer.

After lunch, we will travel through Custer State Park to Wind Cave. Wind Cave contains mixed-grass prairie, with scattered pine groves, pine forest, deciduous shrubbery and thickets. Recent sightings will help determine which areas to target. Target species will include Upland Sandpiper, Black-billed Magpie, Western Meadowlark, Burrowing Owl, and Mountain Bluebird. Check into the hotel and dinner in Custer.



Optional: Nocturnal birding for Common Poorwill after dinner.

Day 4 (June 10): An early start will give us plenty of time to visit Hell Canyon. Hell Canyon will provide an immense selection of western specialties in one long, but doable hike. This rugged canyon system is characterized by sedimentary outcroppings of sandstone, dolomite, gypsum, some shale and limestone. A few of the birds being sought will be White-throated Swift, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Western Wood-Pewee, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Clark's Nutcracker, Canyon Wren, Townsend's Solitaire, and MacGillivray's Warbler. After lunch, the group will drive to Elk Mountain to search for the elusive Lewis's Woodpecker. Additional birds seen may be Western Meadowlark, Rock Wren, and Say's Phoebe. Afterwards, we will explore the dry pine-juniper-shrub habitat of the black hills—a limited habitat type in South Dakota. This terrain is structurally similar to pinyon-juniper habitats of the southwestern United States and contains an interesting assemblage of birds, including the most northeastern breeding population of Virginia's Warblers.

Other birds we may find include Dusky Flycatcher, Violet-green Swallow, Pinyon Jay, Plumbeous Vireo, Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler, and Western Tanager.

Dinner at the famed State Game Lodge in the state park.

Day 5 (June 11): After an early morning checkout, the group will head north to the spectacular Spearfish Canyon with a few stops along the way. Steep limestone cliffs define the canyon. Ponderosa pine and white spruce line the draws, and riparian shrubs and deciduous trees edge Spearfish Creek. This is the best site for American Dipper, and the trail along the scenic waterfalls can be a great location to find Townsend's Solitaire, Western Tanager, Dark-eyed Junco (White-winged), Pacific Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Swainson's Thrush. We will also target Black-backed Woodpecker and American Three-toed Woodpecker based on recent sightings. Lunch will be in Spearfish. We will then take our time heading back towards Rapid City for the night. Stops on this leg will target species we may have missed during the rest of the trip.



Day 6 (June 12): Wake up and fly out.

Included with the Tour:

- IAS guides coordinating trip logistics before and during the tour
- Van transportation during the entirety of the trip
- 5 nights lodging
- All breakfast and dinners beginning on Day 2, through Day 6 (no dinner on day 6)
- All entrance fees to reserves, state parks, and national parks
- Standard meal tips for restaurant wait staff

Not included with the Tour:

- Airfare to and from Rapid City
- Tips for hotel staff and guides
- Medical expenses, prescription drugs and other items of personal use.
- Alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, and anything else not listed on the menus of restaurants
- Lunch and snacks and dinner on Day 1
- Health and/or trip insurance
- Laundry service
- Souvenirs
- Any other expense not listed as included above

Trip limit is 10 participants max. Prices are based on double occupancy.

\$1,489.00 per person IAS Member. \$1,549.00 per person non-IAS Member.

Single Supplement: \$350

\$75 surcharge for credit card payments



INDIANA AUDUBON TERMS AND CONDITIONS

We believe it is best to begin with a clear written understanding of our respective responsibilities and obligations. Please read the entire document and select “I/we have read and understood these terms and conditions” to continue with the booking process. If you prefer, you can request a paper booking form, fill it out, sign it, and return it by fax or mail. We will not consider your booking confirmed until we receive both your completed booking form and your deposit (or full payment for late bookings). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us by e-mail at bbumgardner@indianaaudubon.org or by phone at (219)-928-6905 (US & Canada) INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY undertakes to create a trip itinerary, to provide a trip leader to guide expeditions, and to arrange for all travel services and accommodation. INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY reserves the right to substitute other suppliers of arranged services, and to alter the itinerary when deemed necessary or advisable. The passage contract used by the airline shall constitute the trip participant’s sole contract regarding international air travel and is not a contract with INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY.

TRIP PRICE

The price of the trip includes all accommodation, ground transport as required by the itinerary, tour materials and the service(s) of a leader, entrance fees to parks and reserves mentioned on the itinerary, as well as meals as indicated on the final itinerary. Exclusions to prices are noted on your itinerary or are designated as optional activities. The price represents a complete package; itemization of individual costs is not available. Not included are flights between your home and the tour’s starting and ending destinations. Travel expenses such as departure taxes, passports, visas, immunizations, insurance, medical costs, evacuation, optional excursions, room service, minibar, laundry, excess baggage, telephone calls and expenses of a purely personal nature are not included. Any expenses arising from the delay, disruption or extension of a trip due to causes beyond INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY’S control are not included. Tips to the Indiana Audubon Society tour leader are not included. If you have questions about what is or is not included in your tour, please do not hesitate to contact us. A special note on trip reports: Our guides write trip reports for many of the tours, but due to time constraints, busy schedules, and other reasons, a trip report cannot be produced for every tour. Indiana Audubon Society cannot guarantee that a trip report will be written for any tour.

TRIP PRICE INCREASE

Due to a variety of possible circumstances beyond our control, the total trip cost is subject to change, although this is only as a last resort. Participants will be notified if any changes to the trip cost will be incurred. INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY tries its best to anticipate the rising costs of service in every country it operates, but when unexpected increases occur we will reserve the right to increase our price by 10% of the tour price. If greater increases are necessary, participants will be allowed to withdraw from the tour without cancellation penalty. If you wish to avoid the cost of a single room (single supplement), we will attempt to find a roommate for you, but please be aware that this is not always possible, and if we are unable to find a suitable roommate for you, you will be required to pay the single supplement. Please note rooming preferences will be honored to the best of our ability, but not guaranteed. In some locations, such as remote field stations or very small lodges, single rooms may not be available, and sharing arrangements need to be accommodated. Whenever INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY is aware of these situations, participants will always be informed prior to booking. When unexpected sharing must occur (particularly in remote locations where communication is difficult) the lack of availability at a particular hotel or lodge is usually not notified to us in advance and is only discovered on arrival.

Under these circumstances, your leader(s) will do their best to accommodate the group's preferences.

RESERVATIONS and PAYMENTS

To secure your reservation, we require a deposit as well as the signing of the booking form including the assumption of risk and liability release, either electronically or handwritten on a paper form. DEPOSITS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE IF YOU DECIDE TO CANCEL YOUR TOUR. If INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY cancels a tour, deposits are almost always refundable; please refer to the section on CANCELLATIONS below. INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY reserves the right to refuse or decline bookings for any reason whatsoever, at its sole discretion. A booking is accepted only from the date that INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY has confirmed acceptance in writing and received your booking form and payment. Only at this point does the contract between the participant and INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY come into existence. If payments are not received according to the payment schedule outlined in the invoice, INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY reserves the right to treat these bookings as canceled and charge cancellation fees as outlined in this booking form. For tours to all international destinations, the full balance is due 90 days prior to the starting date of the tour. Payments for bookings made less than 90 days prior to departure are due in full at the time of booking. We accept payments by check, bank draft, or bank-to-bank (wire) transfer. Credit cards payments may require additional credit card processing fees and must be paid by participant if this is the preferred method of payment. All checks must be in US dollars and drawn on a US bank. For payments by wire transfer, you must instruct your bank to cover all bank charges involved in sending the wire. In many instances, an intermediary bank will deduct additional charges, which are deducted from the total that is transmitted to our account. If this is a small amount (US\$25 or less), we will absorb it, but if the charges are more than US\$25, INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY will invoice you for the charges.

INSURANCE

All trip participants are responsible for their own personal travel insurance to cover accident, medical expense, evacuation, repatriation, and loss of effects. We suggest you check your health policy to determine if it provides any overseas coverage (most do not). In addition, we strongly recommend trip cancellation/interruption coverage. We cannot stress how important this is to protect your investment. Please note that most traveler insurance companies require policies to be purchased within a short period following booking, depending on the insurer, so bear this in mind when booking and applying for travel insurance.

CHANGE OF ITINERARY or LEADER

INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY reserves the right to make tour changes if the need should arise due to unforeseen circumstances or for safety reasons. If the trip leader/guide determines it is best to deviate from the activities described in the trip program, he/she will make reasonable efforts to substitute an activity of comparable interest and satisfaction to the trip participants. If significant changes are necessary prior to the start of any tour, participants will be informed. If a change of itinerary or operation mode is imposed upon us for any reason, such as airline strikes, weather or political unrest, the additional costs, whatever these may be, shall be the participants' responsibility. Finally, INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY reserves the right to reassign or substitute any of its leaders to any tour.

GROUP SIZE

A suitable maximum group size to enjoy a tour will depend very much upon the location and type of habitats visited. The tour pages on the Indiana Audubon Society website state the maximum group size for each tour, or you may contact us and ask. All but a very few of our tours are limited to 8-12 participants and one leader. When there are more than 12 participants a second leader will be provided at no additional charge.

MEDICAL CARE

All applicants with medical problems that could interfere or limit participation in the tour, or with communicable diseases, are required to make them known to us. The trip leader/guide has the right to disqualify anyone at any time from certain activities, if he/she has reason to believe that the person is not capable of safely participating in the activity. INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY makes no representation that there will be a doctor on any trip, and we assume no liability whatsoever regarding provision of medical care. If a participant is injured or becomes ill, INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY or the trip leader/guide may, at the participant's cost, arrange medical evacuation or other emergency services.

RESTRICTIONS AND PARTICIPATION

Our tours do not normally entail very strenuous activity but, if this cannot be avoided, it will be made clear in the tour details. Nevertheless, participants must be able to complete moderate walks of several miles a day, sometimes on uneven or slippery surfaces, to participate fully in the activities of the tour. To cater for the needs of all clients, our tours sometimes involve long days in the field and traveling long distances.

AUTHORITY OF TRIP LEADER/GUIDE

Please let the trip leader/guide know of any problems or dissatisfaction; he/she will usually be able to remedy the situation. If a schedule change is necessary, he/she will ordinarily consult with trip participants. However, on matters relating to the safety and proper conduct of the trip, the leader's decision is final. INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY accepts no responsibility for a participant who breaks the laws or regulations of any country visited, who is judged detrimental to the safety or welfare of others on the trip, or whose behavior impedes the operation of the trip or the rights, welfare or enjoyment of other trip participants. Such a person may be asked to leave the trip and INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY shall not be liable for any additional expenses incurred by a person excluded from further participation on a trip, including, but not limited to, ground costs and airfares.

TRAVELER'S RESPONSIBILITY

Trip participants' responsibilities include: selecting a trip appropriate to their interests and abilities; determining that destinations and activities are appropriate for them; determining that they are in sufficient health and fitness to undertake the trip and activities along the way; acquiring necessary passports, visas and immunizations; securing adequate insurance coverage; bringing appropriate clothing and equipment; passing through customs. Participants are responsible for the fate of all personal belongings they choose to bring on the trip.

DOCUMENTATION

For tours outside of your country of citizenship, a passport valid for six months after the date of completion of your international travel is required for all trips. Many countries require foreign visitors to obtain a visa before they can enter the country. It is the responsibility of the traveler to determine their visa requirements for all destinations and countries visited within a tour, though INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY can help you with this upon request.

CANCELLATION BY TRAVELER

We require written notice of cancellation (email or fax), which is effective upon receipt by us. If you need to cancel your booking, you must inform us immediately via email or fax and we will confirm your cancellation. Based on the date that we acknowledge your cancellation notice, cancellation fees will apply per person. This policy and fee schedule also applies to pre-trip and post-trip extensions as well as any transfers from one tour extension to another. For cancellations of all other tours received 90 days or more prior to the first day of the tour, your cancellation fee will be your deposit. For cancellations of all other tours received 89 days or less prior to the first day of the tour, your cancellation fee will be the full cost of the tour. Please note that bank charges

may be deducted from the refund you receive. INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY cannot waive or reduce cancellation fees, so it is highly recommended that you purchase trip cancellation/interruption insurance.

CANCELLATION BY INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY

We always try to run a tour, and sometimes at a loss, even if few people have signed up. Certain tours are designated as “guaranteed departures” which means they will never be cancelled due to insufficient bookings. Trip cancellations by Indiana Audubon Society are a matter of last resort. However, we simply cannot run some tours without a minimum number of bookings, and if we fail to reach that number we will be forced to cancel the tour. If this should happen, you will receive a full refund of any payment made. Participants should note that the cancellation of a pre- or post-tour extension due to insufficient participation, or any other reason, does not alter your rights and obligations with respect to the main tour. INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY’S responsibilities are limited to ground services only. Airfares may not be refundable from airlines, so we strongly advise tour participants to obtain travel insurance.

TOUR ANNULMENT DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY’S CONTROL

If a tour cannot commence due to circumstances beyond our control, including but not limited to technical or maintenance problems with transport, changes imposed by rescheduling or cancellation by air or sea carriers, government action, industrial dispute, war or threat of war, civil strife, terrorist activity, riot, natural or man-made disaster, severe weather conditions, or any situation considered threatening to the safety of our participants and/or staff, the tour will be annulled. In the event of an annulment, then INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY will refund all payments minus all expenses incurred by us. Where non-refundable prepayment has been made by INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY, most of the tour costs will not be refundable. In these instances, documentation will be provided by Indiana Audubon Society to allow participants to make a claim on their travel cancellation/interruption insurance. Keep in mind that many travel insurance policies will not cover civil unrest however. Also note that we cannot be responsible for any airline cancellation fees or other travel expenses you may face if the tour you signed up for is disrupted. For this reason, we strongly advise tour participants to obtain travel insurance.

IAS International Trip Terms and Conditions Acknowledgement

Name

Date

Name

Date