

# MONTANA SNOWY OWL WEEKEND WITH DENVER HOLT

**TOUR I: JANUARY 28 – FEBRUARY 1, 2012**

**TOUR II: FEBRUARY 4-8, 2012**

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*Across much of the northern part of the country Snowy Owls are being seen in record numbers. Stories about this Snowy Owl invasion have been broadcast on NPR and have appeared in many newspapers. Since one of our leaders, Denver Holt, is one of the top Snowy Owl experts in the world, we decided to offer two Snowy Owl Weekend tours offer an opportunity to see these magnificent birds and to learn about their lives.*

*The focus of this short trip is the Snowy Owl, but there will be an opportunity to see other winter birds as well, such as Prairie Falcon, Gyrfalcon, Bald and Golden eagles, Bohemian Waxwing, and finches, including redpolls. Western Montana has the largest roost of Rough-legged Hawks in the world.*

*The marvelous scenery in Western Montana has is an added attraction. We can't imagine a better place to look for Snowy Owls and to learn about their lives.*

**Here are a few links to more information about Snowy Owls and Denver Holt:**

- **NPR January 2012:** <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=144752625>
- **New York Times May 2011:** [http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/24/science/24owl.html?\\_R=2&pagewanted=1&adxnnl=1&ref=science&adxnnlx=1306263614-gXcrfel/CuNust7Hb5QQJQ](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/24/science/24owl.html?_R=2&pagewanted=1&adxnnl=1&ref=science&adxnnlx=1306263614-gXcrfel/CuNust7Hb5QQJQ)
- **National Geographic Magazine:** <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0212/feature6/>
- **The Owl Research Institute:** <http://www.owlinstitute.org/>

## **ITINERARY**

**Day 1: Arrival in Missoula, Montana.** Participants should make arrangements to arrive in Missoula today (airport code MSO) and transfer to the hotel where rooms will be reserved in your name. The DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel offers complimentary shuttle service from the Missoula International Airport. We will meet in the hotel lobby at 6:30 PM for orientation and a get-acquainted dinner.

NIGHT: Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, Missoula

**Days 2-4: Charlo.** We will have three full days looking for Snowy Owls, and other winter birds.

NIGHTS: NinePipes Lodge, Charlo

**Day 5: Departure.** This morning we return to Missoula for return flights home, arriving at the Missoula International Airport around 10:00 A.M. for flights departing after 12:00 noon.

**TOUR SIZE:** Both departures will be limited to 14 participants.

## **TOUR LEADER: Denver Holt and Megan Fyling**

**Denver Holt** is a wildlife researcher and graduate of the University of Montana. He is founder and president of the Owl Research Institute, a non-profit organization located in Charlo, Montana. He is a field researcher and believes in long-term field studies as the primary means to understanding trends in natural history. Denver has researched owls in North and Central America, and in 2000 he was named Montana's Wildlife Biologist of the Year by the Wildlife Society of North America. Since 1978 Denver's particular focus has been researching owls and their ecology. He has published about 80 papers and technical documents, including three species accounts for the *Birds of North America* project. He was also the team leader for the Strigidae (owls) family species accounts for *The Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 5*, covering 189 species of the world's owls. Denver has co-authored, with two elementary school teachers, two children's science books on owls: *Owls: whoo are they?*, and *Snowy Owls*. His Snowy Owl research was featured as the cover story for *National Geographic Magazine* in December 2002. In 2006, he was a chapter author on owls for the book *Arctic Wings*, highlighting the birds of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The foreword was written by former United States President, Jimmy Carter. The book has won the prestigious National Outdoor Book Award for Design and Artistic Merit. Denver's research has been acknowledged in many television programs on ABC, CBS, NBC, and CNN Science News. His research has also been featured in Audubon's *Up-Close* series, Disney, PBS's *Bird Watch*, and David Attenborough's *Life of Birds*, among others. His research on Snowy Owls has been featured in documentaries for National Geographic Explorer, NHK Natural History Unit of Japan, and the Norwegian Broadcasting Company Natural History Unit. Recently, his research has been the focus of the British Broadcasting Company's (BBC) new documentary series, *Frozen Earth*, the sequel to the highly acclaimed *Planet Earth* series. He also has been a keynote speaker at several major bird festivals in the United States.

**Megan Fyling**, a wildlife biologist, received her zoology degree in 2000 before moving to Montana. She has studied birds and their ecology throughout the western United States, and enjoys birding as a hobby. Most recently, she is working for the Avian Science Center at the University of Montana as part of a long-term fire ecology study, and also works for an aquatic invertebrate consulting firm in Missoula. Megan has also performed volunteer work for various organizations including the Owl Research Institute and RaptorView Research. In addition to wildlife and ecology, her interests include botany, reading, skiing, road-racing, and playing hockey.

**FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** The fee for the tour is **\$1230** per person in double occupancy from Missoula, MT. This includes all meals from dinner on Day 1 to dinner on Day 4, accommodations as stated in the itinerary, ground transportation during the tour, gratuities, and guide services provided by the tour leaders. It does not include airfare from your home to Missoula and return, airport departure taxes, alcoholic beverages, special gratuities, phone calls, laundry, or items of a personal nature.

The single supplement for this tour is **\$168**. You will be charged a single supplement if you desire single accommodations, or if you prefer to share but have no roommate and we cannot provide one for you.

**TOUR REGISTRATION:** To register for this tour, please contact the VENT office. Full payment is due at this time. If you prefer to pay your deposit by check, your tour space will be held for 10 days to allow time for the VENT office to receive your deposit and completed registration form. If you prefer to pay your deposit using a credit card, your deposit must be made with MasterCard or Visa at the time of registration. The VENT registration form should then be completed, signed, and returned to the VENT office. Refunds will not be available for cancellations.

**TIPPING:** Tipping (restaurants, porters, drivers, local guides) is included on VENT tours. However, if you feel one or both of your VENT leaders or any local guides have given you exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are not expected and are entirely optional.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc. (VENT) and/or its Agents act only as agents for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, or airplane and assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of defect in any vehicle or for any reason whatsoever, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. VENT and its agents can accept no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. The right is reserved to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. The right is reserved to substitute leaders on any tour. Where this is necessary, notification will be given to tour members. No refund will be made for any unused portion of the tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The prices of the tours are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect January 11, 2012 and are subject to adjustment in the event of any change therein. The right is reserved to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely. The airlines concerned and their agents and affiliates are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their aircraft. The passenger ticket in use by said airlines, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/or passenger. The services of any I.A.T.A.N. carrier may be used for these tours, and transportation within the United States may be provided by any member carrier of the Airline Reporting Corporation.