

The CHATTER November 2023

Birders Night

Join us on November 16th for a program on the Trumpeter Swan Restoration at Summer Lake. Marty St. Louis, is a biologist and was the former manager of the Summer Lake Wildlife Area for thirty years. He will share his knowledge and expertise on the Trumpeter Swan restoration in this Area.

7pm at the Environmental Center and on Zoom. The link is [Birders Night](#)

Annual Membership Event Recap

The East Cascades Audubon Society held their Annual Event on Sunday October 8th at Worthy Brewing. There was an excellent turnout of ECAS members with good food, beverages, and lots of visiting. Miriam Lipsitz was re-elected to the Board of Directors. Continuing Board members are Duke Tufty, Gordon Wetzel, Wendy Andrick, Aaron Jenkins, Laurel Collins, and Brian MacDonald. New Board officers will be elected at their meeting in January. An enjoyable program on Great Gray Owls was presented by Harry Fuller and Chuck Gates.



by

Great Gray Owl Photo by Jim Greer

The Annual Event is a required yearly business meeting for ECAS members as well as a recognition of and thank you to its volunteers. Outgoing Board member and President Mary Shivell noted several highlights over the past year. The production of a new website was among the most notable with particular thanks to the committee headed by Sheila Timony. Emily Mills is the new Website Manager and everyone is encouraged to take a look at the many features and information on the site. Jan Rising, former Board member, Treasurer and longtime Membership Committee Chair is finally retiring after her many years of service. Also Judy Meredith, Wednesday Birders organizer, educator and all around mentor to many, is also stepping back from that position. Many thanks were given to the project leaders, educational program developers and presenters, Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival volunteer, field trip leaders, Board members and unmentioned others who

gave of their time and energy during the past year. These are the folks who make ECAS such a great organization!

Green Ridge Wraps Up Another Season

David Vick, volunteer Project Manager, reports that this season a total of 590 migrating raptors were counted during 41.5 hours of observation which equals an average of 14.2 birds per hour of effort. Thanks to Bob Wilkinson, Steve Small and Carol Cwiklinski for additional data recorded in our absence, see hawkcount.org. There was a total of 74 visitors/participants which includes field trips by Portland Audubon and Think Wild. From A History of Oregon Ornithology, "Peter Low is the undisputed leader of every count season regardless of who the coordinator is." As always, thanks to all of the volunteers that participated in this important project. Here are the individual specie counts:

19	Turkey Vulture
4	Osprey
51	Bald Eagle
9	Northern Harrier
295	Sharp-shinned Hawk
72	Cooper's Hawk
59	Red-tailed Hawk
6	Golden Eagle
5	American Kestrel
57	Merlin
2	Peregrine
7	Unid. Accipiter
4	Undid. Raptor

Sage-grouse Project Update

Dr. Stu Garrett, another outstanding volunteer project leader, reports that in late October 2023 a group of 15 ECAS volunteers planted over 1000 native wildflower plugs on a cooperating private ranch near Brothers Oregon. The Brothers Project is part of an effort by ECAS to restore the sage-steppe of eastern Deschutes County by concentrating on restoring areas that are now depleted of much of the forb/wildflower understory that wildlife need. Our own investigations and agency data confirm a lack of understory food plants that sage-grouse chicks under 4-6 weeks of age require for survival.

This site is located in the northern part of the Brothers Priority Area for

Conservation and has an extant but declining sage-grouse population. The volunteers planted in a one acre plot that had sagebrush cover of 19%, native perennial grass cover of 16%, perennial native forb cover of 2.6% and under 1% cover of exotic annual grasses. The site has no juniper. The wildflower plugs were grown by local central Oregon nurseries from seeds collected in central Oregon. Planted was Achillea, Antennaria, Crepis, Dalea, Erigeron, Eriogonum, Eriophyllum, Machaeranthera (Dieteria), Phacelia, and Townsendia. The plugs were planted at a density of 2-3 plugs per square yard. They were watered at planting time. In an adjacent plot we have seeded by raking in a mix of locally collected GRSG-preferred native forb seeds similar to the list of plugs. The entire plot will be monitored yearly with livestock grazing excluded for now. We will also monitor for sage-grouse and pronghorn use by camera and pellet counts. No herbicides, mowing, or tilling were used.

Thanks goes to the East Cascades Audubon Society Sage Science Team, the Institute for Applied Ecology, and Terrawest for their support.

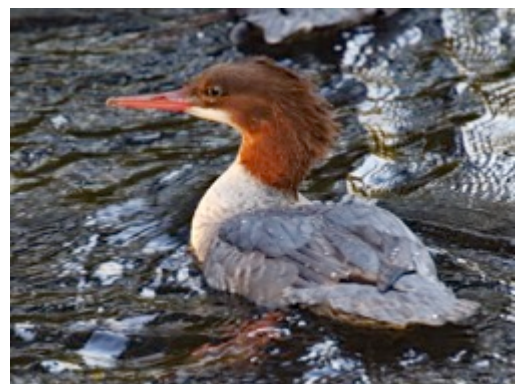


Photos by Hilary Garrett

Crooked River Wetlands Bird Walks

The last Wetlands Walk will be **November 4th**, 9:45am meet/10am start and probably finished by noon. No registration required, a few golf cart ride seats and some loaner binoculars available. 4035 NW Rimrock Acres, Prineville. Due to the cold temperatures, there will not be any walks in December, January or February. The y will resume the first Saturday of March. These walks are sponsored by CRW and Prineville Bird Club.

www.cityofprineville.com/wetlands/page/events



Common Merganser photo by Harry Johnson

Bird-safe Seasonal Gift Ideas

With Halloween in the rear-view mirror, it may now be acceptable to think ahead to the coming season of crafting and gifts. Elise Wolf of Native Bird Care has some bird-safe ideas and caveats that may be important for our avian recipients. Check it out [here](#).

Upcoming Events

Olympic BirdFest, Sequim, WA. April 11-14. Explore the shoreline, woodlands and prairie adjacent to Olympic National Park. Add on 3-day San Juan Island expedition, daytrip around Protection Island Nation Sanctuary, and 3 days to Makah Indian Reservation at Neah Bay, WA. Registration opens online **Jan. 1, 2024** and fills up fast! See olympicbirdfest.org or call 360-681-5636,



GOOD BIRDING!