



## The CHATTER February 2024

### **Birders Night**

Birders' Night will be on February 15 at 7pm. We have a special treat, a switch from left brain to right. We will go on a musical journey called Birds Imagined in Music. How would you capture the essence of birds in music? Have you ever wondered about this? If so, you're in good company! Rebekah Lambert and Mike Fox (beginning birders, long-time concert-goers, members of the esteemed Prineville Bird Club) will take us through 750 years of classical music inspired by birds. Owls, cuckoos, nightingales! Choral and orchestra music, violin, flute, even a concert band. And, a musical/avian mystery — was the composer imitating a Scarlet Tanager or a Red-Eyed Vireo? You decide.

Join us in person at The Environmental Center, 16 NW Kansas Ave. in Bend, or on Zoom via this link => [Tweet](#). Invite family and friends.

### **Crooked River Wetlands Walks**

From Chuck Gates: There has been some confusion about the Wetlands Walks sponsored by the Prineville Bird Club and the Wetlanders (Crooked River Wetlands Volunteers). Months ago, we decided to forego winter walks because of weather, fewer birds, and lack of demand. That news did not make it to all media outlets so I'm hoping this announcement will help. Go to this [link](#) where you will find the 2024 schedule for guided bird walks at the Wetlands.



## Volunteer Project

**WHO:**

6 or more volunteers

**WHAT/WHY:**

Burrowing Owl Dig in Brothers

ODLT needs 6 people to dig 4 holes as part of creating artificial burrows for Burrowing owls! These holes will be up to 8-in wide and 3-ft deep. Burrowing owl activity has stopped in the area and creating artificial burrows could assist with their return. We will create artificial burrows, which mimic natural burrows, that have proven successful for promoting burrowing owl activity in other areas.

*Tools needed/most helpful: Work gloves, shovels, rake, post hole digger, 5-gallon bucket or storage bin for moving soil.*

*There are no facilities on the property and we will provide snacks, but please bring your preferred food, water, and appropriate clothing for the weather and terrain.*

**WHEN:**

Thursday, February 29th, 10:30 AM-3 PM (Weather dependent. Could be rescheduled for fall.)  
Please notify ODLT of your interest by Thursday, February 22nd

**WHERE:**

[ODLT Brothers-Shaw property](#) (about 50 min east of Bend, just to the north of Brothers)

We'll meet at the [Brother's Oasis Rest Area](#) and then travel 5 min [to this location](#). We'll park on the east side of Coffey Rd and walk about a quarter mile over sagebrush terrain with sand and bowling-ball sized rocks. We'll also climb over/through a barbed-wire fence.

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If you haven't already, please fill out our online forms to participate in opportunities:

[Volunteer Application](#) and [Liability Waiver](#)

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED OR HAVE QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT:**

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## **Kestrel Nest Box Project**

Don McCartney is the Project leader of this important information gathering effort. This coming year is the 27<sup>th</sup> one for this project staffed primarily by ECAS volunteers including the construction of the nest boxes. The valuable data Don collects is sent to the [Peregrine Fund](#) in Boise and used in their national database. Ken Hashagen puts in many hours banding the kestrel chicks as they become available. Don reports that there are now 151 boxes spread over three counties including a very productive one near John Day. There are fifteen monitors with couples counting as one. Soon there will be a Kestrel nest box in the area with a live camera feed supported by ECAS funding and featured on the website. Watch for more news on this exciting event.

## **Fred Meyer Community Rewards**

East Cascades Audubon Society (RY026),

As a way to bring a few dollars to the Audubon treasury, we encourage you to link your rewards card to the ECAS organization. Community Rewards is easy to use. Follow this [link](#) to sign up for the program.

Fred Meyer is committed to carefully protecting their customer's personal information. In order to meet this expectation of privacy, they have adopted a simple policy to never share a customer's personal information. The privacy policy applies to Community Rewards participation as well.

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY - WEBSITE MANAGER**

This volunteer position became available recently, and would be a perfect fit for someone familiar with WordPress. Time commitment per month varies, but on average it is 2-4 hours per month. There is an up to date ECAS website manual with easy to follow guidelines and most important, there are several ECAS members who can help orient a new volunteer. Here's a great way to learn about all the ways our members support our mission to inspire actions to protect wild birds and the places they need to thrive. For questions and more details send an email to [ecaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:ecaudubon@gmail.com)

## **Upcoming Events**

**Harney County Migratory Bird Festival April 11-14** Based in Burns, Oregon, this festival has a long history in the Eastern Oregon area. Originally named after John Scharff, it is now held in his honor and continues a tradition of outstanding birding events in the Harney Basin and adjacent Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

For a complete list of the events go to [migratorybirdfestival.com](https://migratorybirdfestival.com). Registration opens February 14, 2024.

**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](https://olympicbirdfest.org) or call 360-681-5636.



**GOOD BIRDING!**