



The CHATTER March 2024

Birders Night

MARCH BIRDERS' NIGHT: UNDERSTANDING WHERE THE "CLICK-CLICKS" ARE AND ARE NOT IN THE EAST CASCADES

MARCH 21 @ 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Miles Scheuering is a 2nd-year Master's student at Oregon State University, in the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Sciences. He grew up in Portland, Oregon, enjoying his time outside, particularly his time birding. He completed a BS in Wildlife Biology at the University of Montana in 2021 and studied the expansion of shrimp farms in the Gulf of California as part of his undergraduate research. His current project uses automated audio recorders to study where yellow rails breed in Oregon, and the number that are present at a given site. In his free time, he enjoys birding, running, and birding while running. He is excited to present to ECAS members and to share more about his project on the elusive yellow rail!

If you cannot attend in person, [join on zoom.](#)

An update on the vote for a name change for ECAS

Several months have passed since this topic was discussed at the Annual Meeting so the Board would like to update ECAS members on the plan to consider a name change. We are still resolved to ask for a membership vote on whether ECAS should be renamed. We have waited to proceed with this plan until the Portland Audubon Society announced their new name to consider whether there was merit in aligning our name with theirs. As many of you will be aware the new name of that group is Bird Alliance of Oregon. Other Oregon chapters have since announced that they will also incorporate "Bird Alliance" in their new name. We think that it is a good idea to align ECAS with the much larger Portland group as well as other Oregon chapters and will make a proposal for a vote on whether East Cascades Audubon Society should be renamed East Cascades Bird Alliance. There are costs associated with changing our name. We have been offered a \$5,000 donation from an anonymous source to cover our

expenses and reduce impact on ECAS's mission and current projects. The only requirement to receive this donation is that we include "Bird Alliance" in the new name.

As mentioned at the Annual Meeting, we will first hold a vote on a proposal to change the threshold for approval of any future change to the ECAS Constitution from a two thirds majority to 50% +1 of those participating in the vote. We intend to initiate this vote in early March with an announcement when the vote is closed.

In accordance with the ECAS Constitution, both of these votes are designated as Special Meetings of the membership. The Board considers this the best way to maximize member participation in these important issues.

Voting will be online using a third-party voting website called Election Buddy. You will receive an email from this group that contains a link to the actual vote which will be a simple Yes/No choice. Voting is anonymous and you will receive confirmation that your vote has been recorded. No one can find out who voted Yes or No.

In Memorium

Our birding community lost a stalwart with the death of Glenn Cantor in a tragic accident on February 16, 2024. He was active in the Wednesday Birding group as well as participating in other events such as the Christmas Bird Counts and Greenridge Hawk Watch. Universally described as a "wonderful man" and noted by David Vick for his "easy smile, mellow manner, and caring compassion for all living things." A talented photographer, his photos can be viewed at [flickr.com/people/theskepticaloptimist/](https://www.flickr.com/people/theskepticaloptimist/) and his complete obituary at [obituary](#). He will be missed.

Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival

As most of you know, the Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival will occur from May 30th to June 2nd this year. The 2024 Festival is lucky to have Paul Bannick as its keynote presenter. Paul is an award-winning author and wildlife photographer specializing in the natural history of North American with a focus on birds and habitat. He will be sharing his talk entitled the Owl and the Woodpecker Revisited at the festival's keynote dinner on Saturday, June 1st at the Belfry in Sisters, Oregon. Paul will also be offering two photography workshops on Saturday. For more about Paul, see his [website](#).

The festival will offer a variety of tours this year. We are hoping to have the field trips posted no later than March 15th. Online registration opens in April 2024 (currently targeted for April 2nd), and tours typically fill quickly.

We hope that you will consider attending this year's festival!

Intermountain West Shorebird Survey

This important Activity is now accepting volunteers. To register and get more information go to this [link](#).

Crooked River Wetlands Walks

Wetlands Walks will resume on March 1. Go to this [link](#) where you will find more details for the guided bird walks at the Wetlands.

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. Registration opened 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 opened online **Jan. 1, 2024** and fills up fast! See olympicbirdfest.org or call 360-681-5636.



GOOD BIRDING!