



The CHATTER December2024

No Birders Night in December! Join us at this event instead

We had a great Birders' Night in November with Steve Kornfeld sharing his experiences planning international birding trips. There was a lot of enthusiasm and energy at the event and the house was full! So, we decided to have a Birds & Brews edition of Birders' Night in December, a month when we typically don't have a Birders' Night. There will be no speaker or presentation. Instead, it will be an opportunity to get together and talk about past trips, trip ideas, or whatever strikes your fancy. Come out to spend some time with Central Oregon birders—connect with old friends and make some new ones!

Please join us at the Broken Top Bottle Shop on Thursday December 19th from 5 to 7pm. The bottle shop is at 1740 NW Pence Lane, Ste. 1, Bend, OR 97701. Add it to your calendar [here](#).

We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Join a Christmas Bird Count

Local Christmas Bird Counts will be held on the following dates:

Bend. Saturday December 14th.
Summer Lake. Tuesday December 17th.
Sunriver. Friday December 20th.
Sheldon NWR. Friday December 20th
Madras. Thursday December 26th.
Prineville. Tuesday December 31st.
Redmond. Thursday January 2nd.

For more details please [visit the ECBA website and calendar](#). Also the new ECBA email is ecba@ecbirds.org and the phone is 541.241.2190

For statewide CBCs go to this [link](#).



Photo by Laurel Collins

Pinyon Jay Study

Pinyon Jays have historically been understudied as well as suffering significant long-term population declines. To gather information for a rangewide status review, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the East Cascades Bird Alliance (ECBA) are partnering to set up a volunteer monitoring program to help survey for nesting Pinyon Jays in areas within and surrounding Bend, Sisters and Redmond. ECBA volunteers will be trained by USFWS staff to use specific monitoring protocols and in the use of the Great Basin Bird Observatory (GBBO) Mobile Survey App for Pinyon Jay. ECBA and GBBO trained members on the use of this App in April 2024, and since then, our birders have been using it to collect presence and absence data on Pinyon Jays in Central Oregon.

Birders Night on February 20, 2025 will be about Pinyon Jay conservation followed by volunteer training for the surveys that would likely occur in early or mid-March of 2025.

More information on Pinyon Jays, their status, and conservation (including trend data, monitoring protocols, conservation strategies, and past Pinyon Jay research), can be learned from the Pinyon Jay Working Group at the following link: [PJ Project](#)

If you are interested in this Pinyon Jay project and would like more information, please send an email to: ecba@ecbirds.org Include your name and contact information (phone, email address) and on the subject line, put the words: PJ project.

Membership Chair Still Needed.

The Membership Committee needs a volunteer to oversee its workings but not necessarily be involved in the day-to-day data input keeping the ECBA member lists up to date. There are three volunteers already in place that very ably carry out those functions. The committee needs someone who can be the face of Membership with the Board and public, maybe bringing new ideas and perspective to this very necessary part of any non-profit, its members. Are you that person? If so or if you have questions, contact us at ecba@ecbirds.org

Crooked River Wetlands Walks

There will be a winter break and resume in the spring. We will start the 2025 season on the first Saturday of April. We've changed the schedule around a bunch in the last couple of years trying to find the perfect combination of good birds, good weather, and good fun. We're getting there. [Read more details for these guided bird walks](#) at the Wetlands.



Golden Eagle by Amanda

GOOD BIRDING!