



The CHATTER MAY 2025

May 15 Birders' Night: Bird Restoration with Oregon Desert Land Trust

The Oregon Desert Land Trust conserves lands in the high desert to benefit wildlife and people. In seven years they've conserved more than 20,000 acres from Brothers to the Owyhee Canyonlands. Their outreach coordinator, Kharli Rose, will share their scope of work and current volunteer restoration projects, including creating artificial burrows for burrowing owls and wetland bird surveys that go from May-July. Learn more to join a count in Fields, Oregon!

Meet at Worthy Brewing 495NE Bellevue Dr. from 7-9pm. Feel free to come early and enjoy a beverage and some food before the meeting

<https://www.oregondesertlandtrust.org/>

<https://www.oregondesertlandtrust.org/bird-surveys/>

First Annual Youth Scholarship Winner Announced



The East Cascades Bird Alliance is pleased to announce the winner of its first annual Youth Scholarship – Mason Jeffries, a student at Trinity Lutheran in Bend, Oregon. The scholarship will cover the cost of the registration for the 2025 Southeast Arizona Birding Festival and a stipend to help cover the costs of traveling to and from the festival, staying in Tucson, and incidentals (up to \$2,500), and a year's membership to ECBA.

Mason has been birding for much of his life and has been contributing to the birding community in Central Oregon by submitting eBird checklists, leading local birding walks in his neighborhood and for Think Wild, and helping to install Kestrel nesting boxes. Mason finds inspiration in Frank Lloyd Wright's quote, "Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you". Mason likes this quote because he always feels connected

to nature wherever he goes. As for many of us, birding gets him outside more and helps him to understand how incredible birds are.

ECBA Weekend Field Trips

- Sunriver Bird Walk - May 10 & May 24

Join us for a free guided bird walk at Sunriver. Meet at the Sunriver Nature Center at 8 am. Walk lasts 3 hours (11am finish). Distance 3-4 miles. Some walking on uneven terrain. Restrooms available midway and at the end. Bring binoculars. Dress for the weather. Walk led by Tom Lawler and Diane Burgess.

- Browns Mountain - June 1

Join us for 5 - 8 miles (up to 6 hours total) of hiking/birding on the flanks of Browns Mountain, along the Deschutes River. We'll search for woodpeckers, warblers, Chestnut-backed Chickadees and whatever the mountain serves up. Moderately challenging terrain at times. Meet at 8am and park on NF 4285 (the road to Browns Mountain Boating Site) at the first forest service gate on the left. Bring lunch, snacks and water. The outing is limited to 5 people (plus guides Susan Zimmerman and Sevilla Rhoads). More details regarding hike and registration on ECBA Calendar.

- Dean Hale Woodpecker Weekend - June 6-8

Join us for three days of field trips the first full weekend in June. In the Sisters area, trips will seek out woodpeckers, flycatchers, warblers, and other exciting birds in hotspots such Calliope Crossing, Cold Springs CG, Green Ridge, Trout Creek Swamp, etc. A few trips will venture east to spend the day in Summer Lake, the Ochocos area, or Fort Rock to Cabin Lake. To round things out, there will be outings to Bend area parks -- Pioneer, Sawyer, and Shevlin. Trip registration will begin the second week of May and more information will be available on the website via a Member Planet message. Trips will be gratis.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY – Summer Lake Shorebird Survey

- Where: Summer Lake Wildlife Area

- What: Volunteers conduct counts of all shorebirds and other waterbirds (excluding waterfowl and American coots) across the entire Summer Lake Wildlife Area.
- When: **Saturday & Sunday, May 31 and June 1, 2025**
- Why: The survey was established in 2009 to monitor breeding shorebird and other waterbird populations and to document bird responses to habitat enhancement and management actions in each of Summer Lake Wildlife Area's habitat management units. The Summer Lake Shorebird Survey has been conducted annually (except in 2020) since 2009.

On average, over 3,100 shorebirds representing the 9 breeding species have been counted. In addition, about 5 non-breeding shorebird species have been found each year.

Since 2009, a total of 22 different shorebird species have been recorded including uncommon or rare species such as red knot, wandering tattler and whimbrel.

Other waterbirds such as waders, gulls & terns, grebes, pelicans & cormorants, sandhill cranes and rails are also counted and average over 1,300 individuals and over 20 species.

- How: Volunteers count from vehicles along roads, and/or by foot hiking along dikes and levees, cross country and/or wading through marsh and shallow ponds to survey all types of wetland habitat.

In the past, bicycles, canoes and kayaks have been used in some areas.

Binoculars are essential and the use of spotting scopes in many area is encouraged.

Volunteers meet at River Campground on Summer Lake Wildlife Area at 7:30 am and are assigned specific areas to survey.

Historically, some volunteers have camped one of the Wildlife Area's four primitive sites. Others have chosen commercial lodging at the Lodge at Summer Lake.

In the past, the group found about 120 species of birds throughout the weekend of counting and birding.

Please contact Marty St. Louis for additional details and information.

PO Box 68, Summer Lake, OR 97640

Cell phone: (541)-219-0879 or email: stlouismartin541@gmail.com



Kildeer

Snowy Plover

Willet

Photos by Marty St. Louis

Calling All Artists!

The East Cascades Bird Alliance art contest is still open to artists of all ages and skill levels! We are seeking your creative vision to design captivating merchandise that celebrates the vibrant and diverse avian life of the East Cascades. Whether you're inspired by the majestic flight of a golden eagle or the delicate beauty of a mountain bluebird, we invite you to share your artistic interpretation with us. Your design could be featured on T-shirts, mugs, and more, helping to support our mission of conservation and education. So, grab your brushes, pencils, or digital tools, and let your imagination take flight! Kindly no photography. Submit your final designs to ecba@ecbirds.org, and be part of this incredible journey to protect and celebrate our winged wonders. Good luck, and we can't wait to see your amazing artwork!

Merchandise Portal Coming

A link to purchase **new** ECBA merchandise is in the works. Stay tuned!

Member Reminders

1. Volunteers are needed as Sisters High School Biology class mentors. Their spring birding dates are:
5/28 & 5/29 at SHS 12:55-3:20.
6/4 at PMR 12:45-3pm. (We need 12 mentors ideally for this day.)

Folks can contact Rima or Heidi Dixon for information.

rima.givot@ssd6.org

heidi.dixon@ssd6.org

2. We are looking for someone with some treasury skills and an interest in joining the Board. Please let us know if you or someone you know has the interest and skills we need to fill this spot this year.

3. We are also looking for folks to volunteer at LaPine State Park this summer. Please contact Stephanie Swift if you're interested in hosting a table or leading a bird walk.

phnie@yahoo.com

4. Reminder to save the dates for members only **Dean Hale Woodpecker Weekend** June 6, 7 and 8. More information to follow. Watch for Member Planet emails and check the [ECBA website calendar](#).

Earth Day Tweet and Greet

Jim Sternberg, a volunteer for The Black Butte Conservancy, invited the East Cascades Bird Alliance to collaborate on a program at Black Butte Ranch on April 22, Earth Day. Sixty-five participants enjoyed a program by Wendy Andrick and Sevilla Rhoads and then went on bird walks led by ECBA volunteers. Jim extended his thanks to all and hopes to continue with more events in the future.



Thank You, Earth Day Volunteers

A big shout out to Miriam, Jan, Aaron, Charlotte, Laura, Laurie, Erin. and Wendy for their help in making the ECBA Earth Day Booth a fun event.

Volunteers make it happen!



Also a big "Thank-you" to volunteer David Vick (on the left with participant David on the right) for leading a trip at Smith Rock on April 25 as part of the [City Nature Challenge](#) cosponsored by ECBA and Think Wild.



"Climate's Toll: Birds on the Brink," by Elise Wolf (Source Weekly, March 19, 2025)

In June 2021, a devastating heat wave scorched the Pacific Northwest, with temperatures soaring from 108° to 121°F. In Central Oregon, Pelton Dam on the Deschutes River reached 119°F. The impact devastated wildlife, with birds among the hardest hit. Babies leaped from nests in droves, overwhelming wildlife rehabilitation centers across the region.

As climate patterns shift, birds across North America face challenges reshaping their lives in both subtle and dramatic ways. The rhythms of nature that birds have relied on for millennia are changing, creating new challenges for species already navigating a complex world. (Continue reading this article at <https://www.bendsource.com/outside/climates-toll-birds-on-the-brink-22860524>)

Birding By Ear continues on Tuesdays

Dave Tracy will be leading Birding by Ear walks in Sawyer Park starting Tuesday March 11. No Registration fee is required, and all ages and birding abilities are welcome. You do need to fill out a waiver for participation in the walks. The link for this can be found below.

Location: Sawyer Park parking lot

Time: 8:00 am on Tuesdays running from March through early June

Duration: Typically, 1-1.5 hours depending on bird activity

The walk usually covers about 1-1.5 miles over mostly flat trails. Depending on the weather, be prepared to dress for cool, breezy conditions. Wear suitable clothing & footwear in case of snow, rain & muddy trails.

Feel free to contact Dave if you have any questions.

dctracy03@gmail.com

541 390-9931

Waivers - Need To Sign Once Per Year.

***If you are taking part in any ECBA activity, you need to have a waiver on file. You can [fill out the waiver online](#).

***If you plan on visiting the Redmond Sewer Ponds for birding, you can [fill out a different waiver online](#).

Catch Peak Bird Watching Time in Oregon

Here is a link to an article in the Bend Bulletin that may be of interest.

https://bendbulletin-or.newsmemory.com/?publink=0e06d2e30_134f95f

Birders' Nights

Birders' Nights in 2025 will be held at Worthy Brewing on the second Thursday of each month. [Check the ECBA calendar](#) for current scheduling and potential scheduling changes.

Crooked River Wetlands Walks

In 2025, Wetlands Walks will be held on the first and third Saturdays of the month starting in April and running through September. The first walk will be April 5, 2025 and the last walk of the year will be September 20, 2025.

We gather in the CRWC Parking lot at 7:45AM. Walks will begin at 8:00AM and conclude at 10:00AM. The walks are approximately 2 miles long and last about 2 hours. There is no drinkable water at this facility so bring water and dress for Central Oregon weather. A 4-person golf cart is available to carry those who can't walk the distance. Email Chuck Gates (cgates326@gmail.com) if you would like a seat(s) on the cart.

Details:

- First and third Saturday of every month
- April thru September 7:45 am-10:00 am
 - May 3 and May 17
 - June 7 and June 21
 - July 5 and July 19
 - August 2 and August 16
 - Sept 6 and Sept 20
- Meet at the Wetlands pavilion - 4035 NW Rimrock Acres Loop
- For more information, [email Chuck Gates](mailto:cgates326@gmail.com) or [visit the Crooked River Wetlands website](#).
- Sponsored by Prineville Bird Club and Crooked River Volunteers



Golden Eagle by Amanda

GOOD BIRDING!