



The CHATTER September 2025

September 11 Birders' Night: Birding Northern Spain

Come join us as we vicariously bird the northern half of Spain through a fast-paced slide show and talk. Chuck and Dorothy Gates spent nearly a month in that country this year and they are excited to share what they found. They will talk briefly about the logistics of getting there and back and give you their impressions of birding and vacationing in Spain. Chuck has chosen 100 of the best bird photos to share with you. This show is probably going to last a full hour. Located at [Worthy Brewing](#), the program will start at 7pm, but feel free to come early for dinner and a beverage. There is typically a nice group there by 6:00pm or so.

Native Bird Care Fire Devastation

The recent Flat Fire was devastating to many in the burn area around Sisters. One victim was Native Bird Care located in the 40 acre Wildlife Conservation property owned by Elise Wolf and her husband Whitney Lowe. In Elise's words, "...in some strange miracle of sorts - our home and one aviary, along with all the beautiful trees around these main structures were spared. We have the dedicated, tirelessly working firefighters to thank for that. On a sadder note, we did lose buildings, aviaries, and other outside facility and personal property. And, of course, the worst tragedy here is the loss of parts of an extraordinary habitat. We will be posting updates and starting restoration as soon as we can. We have had a heartwarming outpouring of support and are so very grateful. Thanks to those who have supported our work to help the many, many incredible but in-need birds over these 15 years. If anyone wants to donate now, our website is where to go: www.nativebirdcare.org."

There is also a [GoFundMe](#) site.

Global Shorebird Counts

The Global Shorebird Counts, held every year around World Shorebirds Day (6 September), is one of the key events of World Shorebirds Day. This program demonstrates the importance of fieldwork, supports observers in improving counting skills, contributes to the increase of the number of birdwatchers and scientists monitoring shorebirds worldwide and pledges new citizen scientists to the world's largest bird database program. If you are interested in taking part, go to the [World Shorebird Day](#) website to see how you can make a difference. Many in our area will be taking part so find a friend and join in.

The Friends of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge Needs Volunteers

The Friends of Malheur is an independent non-profit organization and have many opportunities for volunteers to help with their conservation and stewardship initiatives.

Annually from March – October: Outreach Volunteers are needed in the Visitor Center and Crane’s Nest Store! These volunteers interact with and inform visitors, ensuring that they get the most out of their trip while recreating responsibly. They may be tasked with affiliated on-site duties such as a bird walk, school field trip activity, stocking brochures, but mostly they live and work together at Refuge Headquarters becoming an integral part of the community that *is* our organization.



Photo by Lane Wintermute

Friends of Malheur believe in making these opportunities accessible for as many as possible, so we have reserved dormitory housing at The Malheur Field Station – at NO COST to volunteers. All you need to do is show up eager to contribute!

Would participating in an upcoming event be more appealing to you?

Saturday, September 27th: Find Your Wild walk/run event at Refuge Headquarters. Enjoy special access along the Blitzen River from Sod House bridge fishing access point to Boat Launch Rd all the way to the Boat Launch! Encourage your friends and family to join your or sponsor your Finding Your Wild with donations through the Public Lands Alliance portal for our event!

Whether you have a special interest in an area of stewardship conservation, are looking to get your hands dirty for a weekend or want to get together socially to learn and celebrate Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, the Friends of Malheur are your entry to deeper engagement and advocacy for this place that gives us so very much.

To learn more, become a member, or make a donation today visit www.malheurfriends.org To volunteer or for more information contact director@malheurfriends.org

Malheur Inspired; An Evening With Friends

Friends of Malheur are sponsoring a fund raiser in Bend at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on Saturday October 18, 2025. For more information about his fundraiser visit the [events page](#).

Save the Date

The ECBA Annual Event will be held November 9, 2025, from 4-6 pm at Aspen Hall in Shevlin Park. Plan on joining us for a fun gathering with refreshments and updates on our projects plus elections for the Board of Directors.

ECBA Merchandise is Now Available

Because of many requests, ECBA is again offering custom t-shirts for sale. Hats will also be available very soon. Designed by our long-time friend and most talented artist, Don Sutherland, we are pleased to make them available online. Displaying Don’s talent

at capturing nine of the locally nesting woodpeckers, these shirts are one of a kind commemorating the Dean Hale Woodpecker Weekend. Utilizing a local small business, Our Personal Touch, the shirts can be ordered online and have an option of being picked up in the store or sent to your home. Ordering information is at the top of [the ECBA home web page](#). And rumor has it that hats are soon to come!



Orchard Park Hummingbird Garden

We would welcome more volunteers once a month for routine maintenance of the Hummingbird Garden at Orchard Park. The next regular gardening maintenance for our Hummingbird Garden at Orchard Park in Bend will be Friday September 19, 2025, at 9:00am. If you are interested in volunteering some time with this garden, send an email to ecba@ecbirds.org and put Hummingbird Garden on the subject line.

Hawkwatch is Coming

Join on Oct. 1st with Wednesday Birders and/or Sat. Oct. 4th for an afternoon of hawk watching up on Green Ridge. Although we no longer conduct formal counts, this week has produced some big days in the past, but it all depends on favorable conditions. We will start at 12:00 when afternoon winds and thermals have had a chance to develop. Bring a lawn chair and keep an eye out for Varied Thrush and Sooty Grouse on the way up.

Directions: Turn off on the 11 Road at Indian Ford Campground and continue north until the pavement ends at about 8 miles. Stay left on the dirt roads for about 8 miles following the USFS signs for Green Ridge Fire Lookout. I will have additional signs posted at the intersections. There are several potholes and a couple of high spots near the end, but any passenger will be fine if driven judiciously. Carpooling is encouraged as parking is limited. Hope to see you up there!

David Vick
Terrebonne

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](#).

Crooked River Wetlands Walks

In 2025, Wetlands Walks will be held on the first and third Saturdays of the month running through September. 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:

- September 6 and 20 7:45 am-10:00 am
- Meet at the Wetlands pavilion - 4035 NW Rimrock Acres Loop
- For more information, [visit the Crooked River Wetlands website](#).
- Sponsored by Prineville Bird Club and Crooked River Volunteers

Sunriver Bird Walks

Please join us for the Sunriver Bird Walk on Saturday, September 13. Meet at the Nature Center at 7:30 am. Walk lasts 3 - 4 hours. Distance 3 - 4 miles. Some walking on uneven terrain. Restrooms available midway and at the end. Bring binoculars. Dress for the weather. Bug spray is advised for a portion of the walk. Leaders are Tom Lawler and Diane Burgess.

Are you a Birder? These might be of interest

The best resource for all things birdy is the [East Cascades Bird Alliance website](#). If you are interested in knowing what is going on locally and as well as the state, sign up for one of these. Here are links to signing up for the list serves Central Oregon Birders Online, COBOL and Oregon Birders Online, OBOL. Go to this page <https://ecbirds.org/birder-resources-2/birders-connect/>

Want to know where to go to bird in Oregon? Check out this amazing collection of information, <https://ecbirds.org/birding-locations/>

Are you a social media user? The ECBA Facebook page is administered by Chuck Gates and Don Sutherland. Chuck recently posted that ECBA had 608 members and he hopes we can get to 1000. Even if you are not a FB fan this site provides many great bird photos and links to interesting information.

Also, in the realm of media, the Wednesday Birders communicate on a What's App site. If you don't have the app, it is [easily installed](#) from wherever you get your apps. If you would like to get their messages about upcoming locations and real time meet-ups, please send a request to ecba@ecbirds.org. You will then be sent an invitation to join the WhatsApp "Wednesday Birders Carpool Chat".

If you are a Fred Meyer Rewards participant you might consider [linking your account](#) to their Community Rewards program, specifically the East Cascades account and search for East Cascades Audubon Society, (Sorry, it is still listed under the old name) The organization number is RY026. That will allow a contribution from Fred Meyer be made to ECBA on a quarterly basis based on what you have spent, nothing more than that. There are several non-profits that are linked to this so you may find more than one that you would like to help.



Golden Eagle by Amanda

GOOD BIRDING!