



## The CHATTER June 2026

### June 11 Birders' Night

#### Harry Fuller on Birding Harney County

Where and when are always crucial elements when seeking that special bird. And Harney County has many birds not found where most birders live. From Bobolink to Common Nighthawk. From Ferruginous Hawk to Franklin's Gull. From White Pelican to Wilson's Phalarope this area is a birder's challenge. Timing, habitat, amount of water in the basin—the variables are many and crucial to understand. Although Malheur NWR is the largest refuge in the 48 states, it is a small parcel of what huge Harney County has to offer—a county larger than Rhode Island, Delaware and Connecticut combined, with fewer than 8000 human residents.

Harry Fuller is a veteran birding guide. He currently leads field trips for the Malheur Field Station in eastern Oregon as well as for Salem Audubon and Polk County Soil Conservation. Baskett Slough and Cornerstone Preserve are favorite birding locations near Salem. He also leads Great Gray Owl trips to Ashland area. He writes occasional bird essays for the Salem Reporter website.

Harry has authored four natural history books: [San Francisco's Natural History: Sand Dunes to Streetcars](#); [Great Gray Owls of CA-OR-WA](#); [Freeway Birding, freewaybirding.com](#); and most recently [Birding Harney County](#).

His bird blog: [ecowise.wordpress.com](http://ecowise.wordpress.com)

He also contributes to "Salem Turkey Tracker" group on Facebook.

The program will start at 6pm. Feel free to come early for dinner and a beverage. There is typically a nice group there by 5:00pm or so. Seating is first come, first serve, so come early! And Worthy Brewing offers a nice Happy Hour Menu from 3-6pm.

### Woodpecker Festival

A reminder that East Cascades Bird Alliance (ECBA) will host the Dean Hale Woodpecker Weekend (DHWW) again this year on June 4-7, 2026. All the field trips are led by local guides and FREE for ECBA members. Some trips are full, but the following trips still have some open spots:

Beginner Birding: First Street Rapids (6/6)  
Summer Lake Day Trip (6/6)  
Suttle Lake (6/6)  
Slow Sunday Birding (6/7)  
Sawyer Park Sight & Sound (6/7)  
ECBA Brothers Project for Sage Steppe Restoration (6/7)

Also, at Skyliner Lodge, author and wildlife photographer Paul Bannick will give presentations on his most recent book "Woodpecker: A Year in the Life of North American Woodpeckers". Tickets are still available for Saturday June 6. In addition, Mr. Bannick will offer a photography workshop 1:30-3:30pm on June 6. Tickets for the presentations are \$10 each and for the workshop are \$50 each. Also please come out to Skyliner Lodge Friday between four and seven and Saturday between three and seven, to check out the table from the Bird Alliance of Oregon.

Descriptions of and links to register for the 2026 field trips and Bannick events can be found at the [ECBA registration page](#). A new Woodpecker Festival tee shirt is now available on the merchandise page. [Check it out](#)

For any questions about the trips or last-minute concerns email [deanhalewood@gmail.com](mailto:deanhalewood@gmail.com)

## Ethical Birding

"As we head into another exciting season outdoors, we encourage all members to read the referenced Audubon article and recommit to the birding code of ethics. Let's be mindful of where we walk so we're never trespassing, give nesting birds the space and quiet they need, avoid using playback, and always work to minimize our presence in sensitive habitats. Every small act of respect helps ensure that the birds we love can continue to thrive where they live." ~Wendy Andrick

Here is a link to [Audubon's guide](#).

## Bluebird Nest Box Project - Volunteers Needed

ECBA's bluebird nest box project is located on USFS land which sustained a forest fire called the "Delicious Fire" that consumed over 2,000 acres in the summer of 1990 between Tumalo Reservoir and Sisters. The ensuing years of slow regrowth have provided an outstanding environment favorable for bluebirds and dozens of nest boxes have been installed over the years to welcome the birds. Presently the project needs one or two volunteers to monitor a section that contains 14 nest boxes starting next spring, 2027 although some preliminary training can begin now. Monitors are needed to **visit each nest box once a week** and take notes from observations throughout the nesting season, and all training will be provided. For additional information go to [bluebird-project](#) and you can leave a message at [ecba@ecbirds.org](mailto:ecba@ecbirds.org) for details. Put "bluebird project" on the subject line.

We have more volunteer opportunities coming up, if you'd like to get involved, send us an email. [ecba@ecbirds.org](mailto:ecba@ecbirds.org)

## Volunteer Thank-yous

A big thank-you to all the volunteers who participated in World Migratory Bird Day at the High Desert Museum with Birding and Breakfast and tabling. Here is a photo of Mary, Kay, Jim, Judy, Erin, Charlotte, Judy, and Wendy. Special thanks to Granite, the Gyrfalcon who drew in the people and to The High Desert Museum for the invitation.



Photo by Erik Frank



An additional volunteer appreciation to Ken M. and Lexi P. in helping take three Elementary School classes birding in Alpenglow Park. What a joy! Absolutely delightful watching twenty children drop to their knees to scope out an American Robin. Thanks to Jewel Elementary for the invitation and engaging education!

Photo by Wendy Andrick

## Upcoming Events

Paulina Springs Books will host acclaimed author Robert Macfarlane for a special event on Wednesday, June 3, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at The Belfry. The evening will feature Macfarlane in conversation with Oregon Poet Laureate Ellen Waterston discussing his newest book, The Book of Birds, and the paperback release of Is a River Alive?. More information is in this [article](#).

## Go Birding!!

Spring has sprung and with it has brought several opportunities to get out and go birding.

- **Birding By Ear**

It's that time of year again. Birding By Ear walks at Sawyer Park started on Tuesday March 11<sup>th</sup> and will continue on Tuesdays through early June. Join

Dave Tracy, no registration fee and all ages and birding abilities are welcome. ECBA would like all BBE participants to sign their activity waiver, available here at [fill out the waiver online](#). It only takes a minute and can be filled out on your phone when you arrive or you can fill out in advance. The waiver only has to be filled out once a year.

Location: Sawyer Park parking lot

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

Duration: 1-1.5 hours depending on bird activity

We usually cover 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. Contact Dave if you have any questions.

Dave Tracy 541 390-9941 [dctracy03@gmail.com](mailto:dctracy03@gmail.com)

- **Crooked River Wetland Walks**

The 2026 Wetlands Walks schedule is now complete. Come join us as we walk the paved paths of the Crooked River Wetlands. These walks are essentially bird tours, so we go slowly and talk about the birds we see. Wear appropriate clothes for the current weather and remember, "Bring Your Own Water!!" If you are not walking too well these days, we have 3 seats available on a golf cart so everyone can enjoy the walk. If you want to join us, the address is 4035 NW Rimrock Acres Loop Prineville, OR. We meet at 7:45AM and start the walk at 8:00AM. We are usually done by 10:00AM. The walk covers about 2 miles. Walks occur on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the warm months (Apr. through Sept.). For more information (including reserving space on the golf cart), contact Chuck Gates at 541-280-4957 or [cgates326@gmail.com](mailto:cgates326@gmail.com).

- **Wednesday Birders**

[Wednesday Birders](#) is a group of birders, birding, but not a traditional field trip with a named leader who always provides a guided field experience. Everyone helps everyone else, shares, learns and enjoys birding together. Usually, some advanced birders are there and are so helpful. All are welcomed. We carpool when possible.

Please remember to read [COBOL](#) by Tuesday mornings for last minute details and changes to plans in case of adverse weather, road conditions or detours, bird news or better birding opportunities. Watch COBOL (COBOL is Central Oregon Birders Online and free to join.) for meeting and carpooling times and places or for changes in the plan. Remember to dress for the weather. Be prepared with food, sunscreen, etc. and bring a pair of binoculars. Spotting scopes are helpful on many trips.

- **Survey Birds with Deschutes Land Trust!**

Love to bird? Excited about birds, but don't know where to start? Looking to connect with the land in a new way? Become a Land Trust bird surveyor! Volunteer with Deschutes Land Trust to conduct bird surveys year-round at Land Trust protected lands. Surveyors help monitor local bird populations and participate in global efforts to track birds. Complete the [initial bird surveyor orientation steps online](#), then join the Land Trust for a site orientations this spring. [Learn more!](#)

## Three Nest Cameras to Watch

- The ECBA supported [Golden Eagle Camera](#), streaming live footage of the nest at Whychus Creek Canyon, is focused on Petra and Rocky who have returned for their twelfth year to, hopefully, raise some young. This year there were two eggs. Both hatched but only one chick survived. This is the only Golden Eagle cam in North America. One other is in Latvia! There is background information and a chance to donate to this project on the ECBA [website](#).
- There is an American Kestrel [nest box camera](#) to watch located in a rural area outside of Redmond. The nest box was built by ECBA member Dick Tipton and is maintained by the property owners. The chicks have hatched!
- A new site to watch is the [Elshoff Osprey Nest Camera](#) at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. It is named in honor of long-time Central Oregon Birders and naturalists Cal and Alice Elshoff, According to the Friends of [MNWR recent newsletter](#), "this camera allows us a privileged view of wild birds and other wildlife going about their daily lives without disturbance." It also provides background of the project.

## ECBA Merchandise is Now Available

ECBA is again offering custom t-shirts and hats for sale. These would make great gifts for any time of the year! Designed by our long-time friend and talented artist, Don Sutherland, we are pleased to make them available online. You can order merchandise from a local small business, Our Personal Touch, and you can either pick up your order in the store or have it sent to your home. Ordering information is at the top of [the ECBA home web page](#)

**Don't forget there is a new Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival T-shirt available as well!**



**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 the list serves: Central Oregon Birders Online, COBOL and Oregon Birders Online, OBOL. Go to [this page](#).

Want to know where to go to bird in Oregon? Check out this amazing [collection of information](#).

Are you a social media user? The ECBA Facebook page is administered by Chuck Gates and Don Sutherland. This page has many great bird photos and links to interesting information.

If you are a Fred Meyer Rewards participant, consider [linking your account](#) to their Community Rewards program, specifically the East Cascades account and search for East Cascades Audubon Society. (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