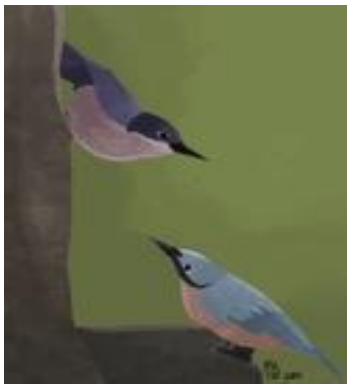




The CHATTER October 2026

October 8 Birders' Night: Stu Garrett: Oregon's Sagebrush Steppe and the Birds That Live There

Stu will present an update on the East Cascades Bird Alliance Brothers Project. The Project's goals are to explore methods to restore the sagebrush steppe in eastern Deschutes County for the benefit of sage-grouse, pronghorn, pygmy rabbits, and other species. Stu is working with a private landowner in this endeavor.

The program begins at 6 pm, but please come early to enjoy good food and conversation and a few beverages. There is typically a nice group there by 5:00pm or so. Seating is first come, first serve. Birders' Night programs are free and open to the public. And Worthy Brewing offers a nice Happy Hour Menu from 3-5pm (note that it recently changed to end at 5pm rather than 6pm). Their regular menu is still solid and not unreasonable. See here for their food and beverage menus:

worthybrewing.com/pub

Hawk Watch on Green Ridge

After a two-year hiatus East Cascades Bird Alliance is resuming our Green Ridge Raptor Survey for 2026. The first count day will be on Saturday, Sept. 19th from 12:00 to 5:00. The rest of the schedule will be on Sept. 26 and 27 and the first three weekends of Oct. from 12:00 until 5:00 (unless it's a big day and raptors continue to pass through.)

If you want to participate, please remember that we need both observers and counters so please contact me to sign up for the days that you will be available. No need to commit if you just want to come up as a visitor as there is always a need for more eyes to the skies to assist in spotting and tracking raptors. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Looking forward to sharing the magic of migration with you! ~

[David Vick](#), Project Coordinator

Save the date for the Birds of a Feather ECBA Annual Event on Sunday November 8, 2026 at 4 pm at Aspen Hall in Shevlin Park. Woodpecker expert Steve Shunk will be the featured guest.

Malheur National Wildlife Refuge Fundraiser

The Friends of Malheur NWR are celebrating National Wildlife Refuge Week with an evening of fun in honor of Malheur NWR and the Friends who promote its conservation. It is YOUR generous support that enables FOMR to focus on Malheur's Future! [REGISTER NOW!](#) The program for the evening will feature a panel discussion addressing Malheur's challenges and how FOMR is positioned to meet those challenges with opportunities! It will be October 10, 2026, at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship from 5-8pm.

Chili Cook-off

Do you have a favorite recipe for chili? If so, consider entering the Get Wild Chili Cook-off on Saturday, November 7. [Here](#) is more information.

Christmas Bird Counts will be here before we know it. If you would like to have more information or be added to a count, contact [ECBA](#).

Bluebird Nest Box Project - Volunteers Needed

ECBA's bluebird nest box project is located on USFS land between Tumalo Reservoir and Sisters This area sustained a forest fire in the summer of 1990. Called the Delicious Fire, it consumed over 2,000 acres. The ensuing years of slow regrowth have provided an outstanding environment favorable for bluebirds. Starting next spring, 2027, this project needs one or two volunteers to monitor a section that contains 14 nest boxes. Monitors are needed to **visit each nest box once a week** from April through July and take notes from observations throughout the nesting season, and all training will be provided. Some preliminary training can begin now. For additional information go to [bluebirds](#) for a description of this project.

You can leave a message at ecba@ecbirds.org for details. Put "bluebird project" on the subject line.

Go Birding!

- **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.

- Crooked River Guided Wetland Walks are finished until Spring. The complex is open for anyone who would like to visit. Sunriver Nature walks are also finished for the season.

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](#)



Golden Eagle by Amanda.

Good Birding