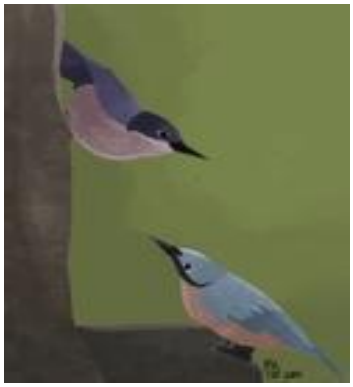


The CHATTER November 2026

On Sunday, November 8, please join East Cascades Bird Alliance for its 2026 **Birds of a Feather** Annual Event from 3-5pm at Aspen Hall in Shevlin Park.
(Aspen Hall, 18920 NW Shevlin Park, Bend, OR)

Guest speaker will be Steve Shunk, Author of the Peterson Reference Guide to Woodpeckers of North America. His talk will be on "Hummingbirds: Humming Across the Americas: Evolution of the World's Smallest Birds". This event will be a zero waste one so please bring your own filled water bottle and a sharable snack if you so choose. No alcoholic beverages are allowed at this venue. There will also be a raffle featuring graciously donated bird-related items.

This is the occasion to elect Board members replacing those leaving or those continuing for an additional term. A slate of candidates will be available at the door of the event.

November 12 Birders' Night: Marina Richie will introduce us to her new book Feathered Forest: Aloft with Birds in Ancient Trees

Marina Richie will give a photo-filled tour of her new book, featuring birds as guides to a life-filled, vertical world of old-growth forests. Set mostly in Oregon, Feathered Forest weaves in memoir, as well as places and people familiar to birders of the Bend area. From Varied Thrushes in the understory to Great Gray Owls in the midstory and Vaux's Swifts in the overstory, birds lead to what they need to thrive in a warming world. Feel the coolness of climate refugia on a hot day when entering a wild grove. "Messy" forests filled with dead and downed trees, multiple layers, ages, and species are vital for their survival. Her presentation will include ways birders can help protect threatened forests. Marina will have books for purchase ($30) and will be signing before and after the program.

Bio: Marina Richie is an award-winning nature writer. Her newest book is Feathered Forest: Aloft with Birds in Ancient Trees (September, 2026). Halcyon Journey: In Search of the Belted Kingfisher won the 2024 John Burroughs Medal, a National Outdoor Book Award (gold), and a Foreword Indies award. Educated at the University of Montana (MA, Journalism) and the University of Oregon (BA, Biology), she has led

conservation initiatives as a communications director, authored two children's nature books (Bird Feats of Montana and Bug Feats of Montana) under a prior name, penned award-winning wayside exhibits, and now dedicates her time to writing books, poetry, and advocating for wildlands and wildlife. See her website at www.marinarichie.com.

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 Wraps Another Season

Project Manager David Vick sends a big "Thank You" to the 66 birders that participated in this year's count especially to Judy Meredith and Clay Crofton for their dedication to the project. (David also deserves many thanks for his effort organizing and recording the results of this this project.)

A big shout out to qualified observer, Emily Pierce, for so freely sharing her vast raptor knowledge and for her positive energy. Best wishes to her as she pursues an advanced degree. ECBA also thanks Bird Alliance of Oregon for picking up the tab for the porta potty.

In 43.5 hours of observation, we counted 1,082 raptors for an average 25 per hour of effort. As weekend warriors we missed the big flights of Accipitrines and redtails this year but still had some great days. All data has been archived in HawkCount.org

723 Turkey Vultures
7 Osprey
93 Bald Eagles (141 in 2021, let's hear it for Rachel Carson!)
1 Northern Harrier
71 Sharp-shinned Hawk (647 in 2018)
51 Cooper's Hawk
4 American Goshawk
53 Red-tailed Hawk (256 in 2018)
1 Rough-legged Hawk
3 Swainson's Hawk (a record number)
21 Golden Eagle
13 Merlin
4 Peregrine
1 Prairie Falcon
10 Unid. Accipitrine
6 Unid. Buteo
20 Unid. Raptor

Even though this project has come to an official end the best hawk watching site in our state will still be there and the raptors will continue their fall journeys. When the colors of fall grace the forest and favorable winds are predicted, birders will still go up to Green Ridge to witness the magic of migration.



Green Ridge Raptor Survey 2026
Left to right, Emily Pierce, Monica Tomosy, Nancy Boever, Aaron Jenkins, Joel Tinsley, David Vick, and Nancy and Satch

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

CBC season will be here before we know it. If you would like to have more information or be added to a count, contact the organizer listed with each one. New birders are welcome and will be paired with an experienced participant. This is a great learning opportunity so don't be shy about signing up. Here are the local counts.

- December 15th. Summer Lake. Please contact Marty St. Louis for more information at stlouismartin541@gmail.com.
- December 15th. Tygh Valley. Please contact Joe Blowers for more information at josephblowers@ymail.com.
- December 16th. Madras. Please contact Annette Hildebrand for more information at Lange69Annette@gmail.com.
- December 19th. Bend. Please contact Tom Crabtree for more information at tc@empnet.com.
- December 27th. Sunriver. Please contact Lexie Houchins-Park for more information at volunteers@snco.org.
- December 31st. Prineville. Please contact Mark Gonzalez for more information at gonzobend@icloud.com.
- January 2nd. Redmond. Please contact Mike Golden for more information at gardenbug38@gmail.com

For information about all the statewide CBCs visit this Oregon Birding Association's page. Also, for more information from National Audubon go to their site. There are links there with detailed information on preparation and activities for a count.

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