The CHATTER March 2020

Upcoming Events

Birders’ Night March 19, 2020 Friends of Malheur National wildlife Refuge with Executive Director Janelle Wicks and Dan Streiffert

Dan's portion: Birding the vast expanse of Harney County's 10,000+ sq. miles can be daunting as it is thrilling. Which birds are where? and when? Dan Streiffert has been birding and photographing in Harney County for 12+ years. This presentation showcases his approach to taking advantage of particular birding 'routes' that cover the diverse landscape and discovers the array of birds and other wildlife available. Dan will share tips and tricks for seeing particular species at different times of the day or throughout the year.

Janelle's portion: The Friends of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge just celebrated 20 years of promoting conservation and appreciation of the cultural and natural resources on Malheur. Executive Director, Janelle Wicks, will share details on the stewardship endeavors of this member and volunteer supported organization.

Location: The Environmental Center, 16 NW Kansas, Bend, Oregon 97701
Time: Refreshments and Social gathering time is from 6:30-7p.m. Announcements are from 7-7:30pm. Programs begin around 7:30 p.m. and usually last until 8:30 p.m.

Eagle Watch, a Central Oregon tradition, celebrates 25th anniversary this spring

The event returns to Round Butte Overlook on March 28th and 29th, 2020. Last year, historic February snowfall interrupted Eagle Watch 2019, cutting the festivities short by one day. In hopes of better weather, this year's event has moved to later in the spring. The family-friendly fun will take place on March 28th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and March 29th from 10 a.m. to 3:30. The event will take place at Round Butte Overlook Park, a scenic spot 10 miles west of Madras that overlooks Lake Billy Chinook and the Pelton Round Butte Hydroelectric Project. In addition to enjoying the stunning view, attendees can meet organization mascots, build birdhouses, enjoy a presentation from the Quartz Creek Drummers and Dancers, and of course, look for eagles with the help of expert guides and provided birdwatching equipment.
Earth Day April 25th
This fun event will once again be held in downtown Bend with booths along Kansas avenue and in Troy Field. A parade will be held featuring costumes and earth-related entries. ECAS will have a booth with kids’ activities, information about birds and conservation. If you would like to help with booth set-up around 10am or time in the booth, please contact Sherrie at sapierce@bendbroadband.com.

Old Mill Bird Walks
Old Mill Bird walks are scheduled for April 10 & 24, and May 1, 15 & 29, 2020. The Old Mill District and ECAS sponsor these Spring bird walks along the Deschutes River migratory corridor. The walks are from 10am – 12 noon. ECAS volunteers lead these walks and if anyone is interested in helping out on one of the Fridays, please email Sherrie at sapierce@bendbroadband.com.

Deschutes Land Trust and Bird Surveys
Become an official volunteer bird surveyor for the Deschutes Land Trust! Bird surveyors record species and number of birds at our Preserves so that we can monitor avian populations and the effects of our restoration efforts. You don’t have to be an expert at bird ID to be a surveyor, learning to ID birds as you survey is part of the fun!

Surveyors volunteer as many days per year as they wish, but we ask a commitment of at least one survey a month from May–September. We require that surveyors attend a training session so that they can learn our survey protocol and become familiar with the survey areas.
To register, https://www.deschuteslandtrust.org/get-involved/volunteer/volunteer-events/3-18-20-bird-surveyor-training or contact: Rebekah Ratcliff, Outreach Associate, Deschutes Land Trust rebekah@deschuteslandtrust.org

Bird Surveyors Wanted!
Opportunities are available for local birders to help with a significant research project documenting the relationship between climate change and the distribution of birds along an elevation gradient in the Sisters Ranger District. Scientists at OSU-Cascades (Asst. Prof. Matt Orr) and the University of British Columbia organized the project, and East Cascades Audubon has supported the project through a Laughrige
grant for equipment and other expenses. The project is looking for five bird surveyors skilled in bird identification who are available for a training session and four bird surveys between mid-May and Mid-July. Modest compensation ($250–$500) will be available, but the amount is still being determined.

For further information, contact Steve Shunk steve@paradisebirding.com.

Upcoming Bird Festivals

DHWF2020 is coming! Registration will open April 1 at 8am PDT.

2020 marks the tenth year for this festival. Once again ECAS has scheduled many fun outings for participants that come from all over the world! Trip descriptions are now available at ecaudubon.org/tours-and-birds

It is helpful to study these trip offerings before Registration opens. New trips include Sisters Hot Spots, an extended Summer Lake Trip, Crooked River Wetlands, and Sunriver Nature Trails. Several of these are on Friday, June 5 so locals will have more choices.

This year’s Festival will take place June 4 – 7. If you have any questions please email dhwf2020@gmail.com

Harney County Migratory Bird Festival  April 16–19, 2020

Registration will open in February on the website, www.migratorybirdfestival.com/ Kenn Kaufman will be the Saturday Banquet keynote speaker! The Festival dates are April 16–19, 2020

Pacific City Birding & Blues Festival
This great fest will be held Friday April 17 through Sunday April 19, 2020. As always, the weekend will be packed with fun activities like hikes, workshops, field trips, and
live music for all types of birding and nature enthusiasts. Don’t miss out on this fun-filled weekend! Mark your calendars to spend April 17 - 19 in Pacific City! The Birding and Blues Festival is a non-profit community festival celebrating the spring migration of birds and the natural resources of Tillamook County. For more information call 503-842-2672 or email: birdingandblues@gmail.com

**Birding for Pre-schoolers**

Meeting at 10:00 AM Monday mornings in Drake Park in Bend, this is a birding and nature walk geared towards preschoolers but all ages are welcome. Exploration, singing, finger plays, observation, learning, questioning...it’s all part of a fun-filled hour. Meet near the middle of the park by the restrooms. Parent or responsible caretaker is required to accompany child. Come join us for the whole hour or feel free to leave early if necessary for your child’s needs and interest. Contact Mary Yanalcanlin, birdingfun@gmail.com if you have any questions

GOOD BIRDING!