



The CHATTER November 2020

Birders' Nights Reimagined

Thanks to ECAS Board Vice-president Gordon Wetzel, the popular ECAS Birders' Nights have been offered through the Zoom format. The September one was Dr. Stu Garret on the topic of the Greater Sage-grouse. In October a slide show presentation of back yard birds from several ECAS members was presented. On November 19, via Zoom, at 7pm, Patty McGill will talk about "A Fascination with Birds: Avian Color and Color Vision". Find out how a bird's vision differs from a human's vision and what this may mean to us birders. A meeting link will be sent in an email the week before the meeting and it will be posted on COBOL the day before the meeting.

Links to previous programs are on the [ECAS website's](#) home page.

Christmas Bird Counts

The traditional Christmas Bird Counts are not an official ECAS undertaking but are fun events sponsored by National Audubon and enjoyed by many of us. This year is different and National Audubon has offered two options:

Option 1: Run a COVID-19 safe and socially distanced CBC, if local rules allow. [Must wait until November 15 at the earliest to choose this option in order to better understand status of COVID outbreak in your region during the CBC.]

Option 2: If option 1 is not possible, cancel this season's CBC for your location.

- If Option 1 is chosen, wait until November 15 at the earliest to confirm CBC will take place, if local regulations allow.
- Cancel all in-person compilation gatherings.
- Social distancing and/or masking are **required** at all times in the field.
- Carpooling may **only** occur within existing familiar or social "pod" groups.
- Activities must comply with all current state and municipal COVID-19 guidelines.

Since Oregon's restrictions are now in place until January, they are in concert with the NA CBC requirements.

National Audubon has also issued re-assurance that *there will be little to no impact on the scientific value of the Christmas Bird Count by missing or altering one count season. So again, we urge you to prioritize your safety and the safety of others when making your decision.*

With that in mind, the Madras and Redmond counts have been cancelled. Also Joel Geier has announced that the Hart Mountain and Sheldon NWR counts are also cancelled. The Antone count is scheduled for December 18th and will follow the guidelines. More information and decisions on other local counts will be communicated through COBOL.

Whiskey Springs Update

The Green Ridge fire wreaked havoc on the popular Whiskey Springs birding site. Over the past two years a group of ECAS volunteers worked very hard to restore and improve vegetation there, but, sadly, Carolyn Rochelle, Board member, reports that there is no vegetation left. That slope burned very hot. The Board would like to request people stay clear of the springs to prevent erosion while we are waiting for the owner to let us know when we might be able to help restore the area in the future. Thank you for respecting this special place. For a photo overview of the area you can go to Jack Williamson's blog at this link - www.jack-n-jill.net/blog/2020/10/central-oregon-hotspot---whiskey-springs-then-and-now

Stay safe and healthy and GOOD BIRDING!

