Project IBiS (from Portland Audubon)
Are you heading out to Harney County between April and September? While there, are you willing to spend a few hours birding in the Silvies Floodplain, between Burns and Malheur National Wildlife Refuge? If so, please consider participating in Portland Audubon's project to inventory birds using the Silvies Floodplain, Project IBiS.

Our Eastern Oregon Field Coordinator, Teresa Wicks will host online trainings in March and April for volunteers interested in participating in this high desert community science project. These 2-hour trainings will include background information about wetland conservation in the Silvies Floodplain and the role of agriculture in this effort, a walk through the protocol, data entry, and an optional habitat assessment. Participants will also have the opportunity to work on bird ID and practicing estimating numbers of birds when they are in large flocks (think thousands of Ross's and Snow Geese in a flock).

We want to honor the non-essential travel restrictions in place during COVID 19. We are not encouraging anyone to travel to Eastern Oregon just to participate in this project. If you are already planning to travel, and/or the restrictions are lifted, please consider volunteering in this area.

Interested? Contact Teresa Wicks, Portland Audubon's Eastern Oregon Field Coordinator at twicks@audubonportland.org

Golden Eagle Nest Camera Is On!
And Petra is on the nest. Here is a link to view the nest and read any comments that have been made. When you go to the site be sure to sort the comments by newest. There is speculation that she is on two eggs.
According to Frank Isaacs of the Oregon Eagle Foundation, the golden eagles using this nest have raised young each year since 2010; 11 years in a row, so far! They are the only nesting pair in Oregon that nested successfully each year of the 10-year Golden Eagle Nest Survey Project (2011–2020).

If you want to help support this effort, you can donate to ECAS using the Donate button on the ECAS website. This will help pay for the broadband usage needed for this unique project.

**ECAS Grant Awarded To Sunriver Nature Center**
A $3000 Laughrige grant was approved by the board to buy a new Trumpeter Swan for the Sunriver Nature Center. This bird replaces the female, Gracie, that was attacked and killed by predators last Fall. The new bird joins male Gus and the hope is that they will mate and produce additional young to help replenish the Trumpeter Swan population at Summer Lake.

**Birders’ Night March 18, 2021 7pm via Zoom**
The topic: A New Look at Raptor Rehabilitation as a Meaningful Conservation Tool presented by John Goodell, Northwest Avian Resources, Portland, Oregon.

John is an avian ecologist with a background in songbird and raptor inventory/monitoring work throughout the intermountain West. He is the former Curator of Natural History at the High Desert Museum and current owner/principal with Northwest Avian Resources in Portland Oregon. He is also past-President of the Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

His talk will focus on how raptor rehabilitation capacity has increased significantly throughout the U.S., yet remains largely overlooked as a plausible conservation tool. Many wildlife professionals consider raptor rehabilitation within an animal welfare ethical framework yet dismiss its conservation benefit beyond increasing public awareness. While no rigorous evaluations of modern rehabilitation exist in North America, analysis of the release data from one Oregon rehabilitation center demonstrates potential for significant benefits. Some rehabilitation operations are treating and releasing significant numbers of raptors and may produce population effects
for some species and/or mitigate human-caused mortality of raptors within discrete areas. We will explore these questions and discuss preliminary findings and next steps.

John will also give an update on the Indian Ford avian monitoring program in Sisters, Oregon. The Zoom meeting link - https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89360846309

Thanks to Gordon Wetzel, Birders’ Night organizer, this popular program has been successfully delivered via Zoom for the past several months. Sixty folks viewed the January program on the Alaskan Tongass. The February Program was in conjunction with the Sunriver Nature Center about Trumpeter Swans. Unfortunately it could not be recorded. However, all of the previous Zoom Birders’ Night programs can be watched from links on the ECAS website’s home page, ecaudubon.org. If you have any suggestions for upcoming programs, Contact Gordon.

GOOD BIRDING!