ECAS Field Trip Updates for September 2020

ECAS Field trips resumed starting August 3rd with precautions related to COVID 19 containment including short travel to local hotspots, group size no more than 8, recommended masks and physical distancing.

On August 3, 13 and 27 Tom Lawler led three small groups at Sunriver Nature Center in walks reserved for ECAS members allowing access to areas restricted to the general public. Ebird lists from the most recent trip here: https://ebird.org/checklist/S72872365, https://ebird.org/checklist/S72873726 and https://ebird.org/checklist/S72876242

On August 21, Steve Kornfeld led a group of 8 to Hatfield Lake, which provided its usual bounty for seasonal shorebird migrants and residents. Ebird list and excellent photos by Glenn Cantor here: ebird.org/checklist/S72662304

THANK YOU to Tom and Steve for the gift of their time, and Glenn for the use of your photos and checklist!

What’s Coming Up?
Preparation is underway for two additional field trips planned for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021. Recruitment of leaders is always happening so don’t be surprised if you get an email asking if this is an activity you would like to provide on behalf of ECAS.

***What are the requirements for a field trip leader?

Obviously I have spent some time thinking about this, and here is what I look for: enthusiasm and familiarity with the area chosen for the trip are key
factors, since usually the birders who lead trips like to go to places they love. But a trip can be led as a team if you have a buddy who can do that part for you, so don’t let that stop you!

The fun part about planning trips is thinking about new and flexible ways to make it a process that works for everyone, and here are some trip opportunities members have asked for:

* those who are new to birding, to focus on the basics
* those who want to improve their skills in avian photography
* Kayak birding trips
* Raptor identification
* Your idea goes here!

Do any of these capture your interest? Let’s talk! Email me: mvshivell@gmail.com

Field Trip Registration Reminders

- Registration will open 2 weeks before the scheduled trip date for local field trips and 4 weeks before for multi-day trips. Members will be notified in advance of exceptions, if possible.
- Be sure to read the field trip announcement for requirements and details about the trip.
- If you are an ECAS member or part of a family membership, you will get the invitation via email.
- Trips fill very quickly but all will offer a waitlist and the trip description will give a contact person.
- Be sure to cancel if your plans change, and
- Don’t forget the activity waiver!
- The value of a computerized reservations system is that it provides equal access to all members who want to attend a field trip. Need hands-on help with registration for a trip or a registration problem? Call me at 503-804-4043 (or email, mvshivell@gmail.com, if you want to let me know in advance) and I will assist you!

Have fun out there,

Mary Shivell, Field Trip Coordinator
**Birders Afternoon**

This month we will have the meeting on a Tuesday, **September 29 at 1:30 PM**. It will be via Zoom and will be held in cooperation with Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). A link to the meeting will be sent in a separate email. The topic is:

**Botany meets Biology in the High Desert: the Plight of the Sage-grouse**

Dr. Stu Garrett, sage-grouse coordinator for East Cascades Audubon Society, will talk about the unusual biology of the sage-grouse and how it has adapted to the challenging ecology of the sagebrush steppe. We will look at some of the historical events that have led to the condition of the plant communities on the High Desert today. He will discuss the decreasing grouse population and the threats that changing vegetation and other factors are playing in its possible demise. This should be an interesting and very informative presentation.

A representative of OLLI will give a brief explanation of this organization and the opportunities it offers.

**Stay safe and healthy and GOOD BIRDING!**

original art by Amanda Rogers