Save the Dates
At this time the Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival is being tentatively planned for June 3-4, 2022. Volunteers are needed and being organized for all positions from Guides to Registration paper work. If you are interested in help make this happen, contact Miriam Lipsitz at ecaudubon@gmail.com

Birding Basics Zoom Course Offered in April 2022 By Lynda Paznokas
Birding isn’t for the birds…it’s all ABOUT the birds. Join Lynda Paznokas on Zoom for Birding Basics to explore the fascinating world of birding. Birding Basics is designed for beginning birders and other birders who want to review the basics. Four class sessions, lasting about an hour each, will be held Wednesdays, April 6, 13, 20, 27 from 7:00-8:00 pm. Although the sessions will be arranged sequentially, participants are welcome to attend all or some sessions as their schedules allow. This is a free course; registration will be required and a Zoom link will be sent to all who register. Registration information will be included in the March Chatter and on the ECAS website. Session 1: Bird Identification: Color, shape, size, and behavior Session 2: Resources: Books, apps, websites, games, equipment, ethics Session 3: Backyard Birding: Houses, baths, feeders, gardening for the birds Session 4: Birding as a Social Activity: Organizations, events, citizen science, bird cams. ECAS is sponsoring Birding Basics but please know that if you have friends who are interested in birding, they are welcome to attend. One of the good things about Zoom is that we can have an audience of any size. And who knows…if your friends become interested in birds, perhaps they will become active in ECAS!

Lake Abert in the News
The area of Lake Abert, one of ECAS’s longtime bird survey projects, was recently highlighted in an article appearing in the Oregonian www.oregonlive.com/environment/2022/01/the-state-must-do-more-lawmakers-weigh-how-to-protect-dry-lake-abert.htm
This area became an area of ECAS interest in 2011. This focus was strictly on scientific discussions associated with Lake Abert’s ecology and the impacts of water levels. Twenty-one people attended the four presentations given in the morning followed by a field trip to the lake in the afternoon. The lakeshore was visited to sample the invertebrates and also to the dam at Rivers End Ranch. Twenty-one people from a range of organizations attended. The star
attraction was Dr. Dave Herbst who is a leading expert on Great Basin salt lakes. In the following years, volunteers from ECAS have done yearly surveys, collecting data on the prevalence of migratory birds using the lake as a stopover on their travels. This area has become a political football in recent years due to the water usage controversy as described in the recent article. For more complete information visit the Lake Abert Project page at www.ecaudubon.org/lake-abert

Birders’ Night, February 17, 7 PM via Zoom

Black-backed Woodpeckers - Survival and Dispersal in Klamath Basin Forests

The Black-backed Woodpecker is a species of concern that is usually rare and often only found in recently burned forests. Mark Kerstens, M.S. student at OSU, will share his findings about his research project in the Klamath Basin. Mark's project has brought him through sooty forests shrouded in smoke and heat to locate and monitor woodpecker nests. He will show us his techniques for finding nests, accessing young chicks for measurements, and applying telemetry tags to track them. His results had some unexpected findings about woodpecker nest success and survival between burned and unburned forests. Mark Kerstens earned a B.S. in Biology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He has since spent several years on avian point count and nest monitoring projects in Oregon, punctuated by teaching outdoor education in southern California. His main research interests are how to manage forests both before and after wildfires to provide habitat for cavity-nesting birds, and to use these species as indicators for ecosystem health. For his M.S. he is studying Black-backed Woodpecker vital rates in fire-prone landscapes. When not chasing birds, Mark likes to spend his time backcountry skiing, mountain biking, climbing, or sewing his own outdoor gear.

Join us via Zoom => us02web.zoom.us/j/83642375469

Positions Available

Portland Audubon is hiring a seasonal Malheur Field Assistant to help with landbird point counts and some outreach. The position is approximately .75 FTE for 16 weeks, starting April 15th and ending July 31st (ish). There's some flexibility inherent in this schedule. For more information contact Teresa Wicks, Eastern Oregon Field Coordinator

Portland Audubon  twicks@audubonportland.org

There is also now 3 years of support for a full-time Coastal Community Science Coordinator (mostly focused on plovers). Below is a link to the job announcement.


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Joe Liebezeit
Staff Scientist & Avian Conservation Manager
Portland Audubon
Golden Eagle by Amanda

GOOD BIRDING!