



## The CHATTER December 2023

### Birders Night

There will be no Birders Night in December. Do a Christmas Bird Count instead and join us in January for a special program, details to come.

### Christmas Bird Counts

The Annual Audubon-sponsored Christmas Bird Count season starts December 14, 2023 and ends January 5, 2024. All state-wide counts can be found on the Oregon Birding Association's [website](#). Birders of all levels are welcome but it is always fun to be paired with a more experienced birder and a great way to get to know a new area. Coordinators will be happy to accommodate your needs. The local count dates and contact information are as follows:

December 16 - Bend Contact Tom Crabtree [tc@empnet.com](mailto:tc@empnet.com)

December 19 - Summer Lake Contact Marty St. Louis 541.219.0879  
[stlouismartin541@gmail.com](mailto:stlouismartin541@gmail.com)

December 20 – Sunriver hosted by the Sunriver Nature Center. [bird@snco.org](mailto:bird@snco.org) for questions. You must register online [SRNC CBC Register](#)  
(More SR info from Sevilla Rhodes. “Everyone is welcome to join us for the Sunriver 'Christmas' Bird Count on December 20th. This event is generously hosted by the Sunriver Nature Center with support from the Sunriver Resort. Our goal is for an inclusive and accessible community event. We will have two stationary counts for those using wheelchairs, walkers or have other mobility needs better suited to a fixed location count.”)

December 27 – Madras Contact Annette Lange Hildebrand 503-750-2567  
[lange69annette@gmail.com](mailto:lange69annette@gmail.com)

(More info from Annette - “If you volunteer, I will do my best to find a route that you would be able to do and enjoy. \*\*\*\*\* Hikers and separate shuttle person/s needed for unique and great section along the Deschutes. 7 miles follows an old railroad graded Section Path starting from Mecca Campground and ending at Trout Creek Campground on the Deschutes. Shuttle would bird the road back out to bridge, then drive back up the grade, over and down through to Gateway, then down to Trout Creek for pick up of hikers. (Area to bird will be arranged later depending on

#people etc.)

Two other areas have never been walked or tallied as far as I know, would require walkers

1. Part of Juniper Hills Park just east of town and the Willow Creek area in town that has a paved path.

2. Official Willow Creek trail that starts in Madras, heads west under the Railroad bridge and along down the trail to bridge near The Deschutes, Lake Simtustus area.\* Most other areas can be birded by car.”)

December 31 – Prineville Contact Mark Gonzalez [towhee@bendbroadband.com](mailto:towhee@bendbroadband.com)  
541-233-3359

January 3 – Redmond Contact Mike Golden 541.420.5814  
[gardenbug99@bendbroadband.com](mailto:gardenbug99@bendbroadband.com)

There are a few counts that are within the purview of Eastern Oregon. - Antone, Sheldon NWR, Hart Mountain. Contact Joel Geier [clearwater@peak.org](mailto:clearwater@peak.org) for more information.

## **Important News from ECAS’s Membership Committee**

ECAS’s online credit card payment process has recently changed. Member Planet, our membership software program, is no longer offering PayPal as a method of payment.

You will be able to join or renew your membership using either your credit card or debit card.

As always, you will be able to join or renew your membership by regular USPS mail following the instructions on our website.

If you have any questions, let us know at [ecasmp@ecaudubon.org](mailto:ecasmp@ecaudubon.org)

A big thanks to ECAS volunteers Jan Clark, Bonnie Thompson, and Gordon Wetzel for doing this work.



Snow Bunting at CRW 2023 (Photo: Harry Johnson)

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY - WEBSITE MANAGER**

This volunteer position became available recently, and would be a perfect fit for someone familiar with WordPress. Time commitment per month varies, but on average it is 2-4 hours per month. There is an up to date ECAS website manual with easy to follow guidelines and most important, there are several ECAS members who can help orient a new volunteer. Here's a great way to learn about all the ways our members support our mission to inspire actions to protect wild birds and the places they need to thrive. For questions and more details send an email to [ecaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:ecaudubon@gmail.com)

## **Bird-safe Seasonal Gift Ideas**

With Christmas on the horizon, we can think ahead to the coming season of crafting and gifts. Elise Wolf of Native Bird Care has some bird-safe ideas and caveats that may be important for our avian recipients. Check it out [here](#).

## **Upcoming Events**

**Olympic BirdFest, Sequim, WA. April 11-14.** Explore the shoreline, woodlands and prairie adjacent to Olympic National Park. Add on 3-day San Juan Island expedition, daytrip around Protection Island Nation Sanctuary, and 3 days to Makah Indian Reservation at Neah Bay, WA. Registration opens online **Jan. 1, 2024** and fills up fast! See [olympicbirdfest.org](http://olympicbirdfest.org) or call 360-681-5636.



**GOOD BIRDING!**